

**SHAKESPEARE'S HISTORY
OF THE LIFE AND DEATH
OF KING JOHN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649161362

Shakespeare's history of the life and death of King John by William Shakespeare & William. J. Rolfe

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & WILLIAM. J. ROLFE

**SHAKESPEARE'S HISTORY
OF THE LIFE AND DEATH
OF KING JOHN**



KING JOHN

SHAKESPEARE'S
HISTORY OF
THE LIFE AND DEATH
OF
KING JOHN.

EDITED, WITH NOTES,
BY
WILLIAM J. ROLFE, A.M.,
FORMERLY HEAD MASTER OF THE HIGH SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

WITH ENGRAVINGS.



NEW YORK:
HARPER & BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS,
FRANKLIN SQUARE.
1887.

ENGLISH CLASSICS.

EDITED BY WM. J. ROLFE, A.M.

Illustrated. 16mo, Cloth, 56 cents per volume; Paper, 40 cents per volume.


SHAKESPEARE'S WORKS.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| — The Merchant of Venice. | The Taming of the Shrew. — |
| — Othello. | All's Well that Ends Well. |
| — Julius Cæsar. | Coriolanus. |
| — A Midsummer-Night's Dream. | The Comedy of Errors. — |
| — Macbeth. | Cymbeline. |
| — Hamlet. | Antony and Cleopatra. |
| — Much Ado about Nothing. | Measure for Measure. |
| — Romeo and Juliet. | Merry Wives of Windsor. |
| — As You Like It. | Love's Labour's Lost. |
| — The Tempest. | Two Gentlemen of Verona. |
| — Twelfth Night. | Timon of Athens. |
| — The Winter's Tale. | Troilus and Cressida. |
| — King John. | Henry VI. Part I. |
| — Richard II. | Henry VI. Part II. |
| — Henry IV. Part I. | Henry VI. Part III. |
| — Henry IV. Part II. | Pericles, Prince of Tyre. |
| — Henry V. | The Two Noble Kinsmen. |
| — Richard III. | Venus and Adonis, Lucrece, etc. |
| — Henry VIII. | Sonnets. |
| — King Lear. | Titus Andronicus. |

GOLDSMITH'S SELECT POEMS.

GRAY'S SELECT POEMS.

PUBLISHED BY HARPER & BROTHERS, NEW YORK.

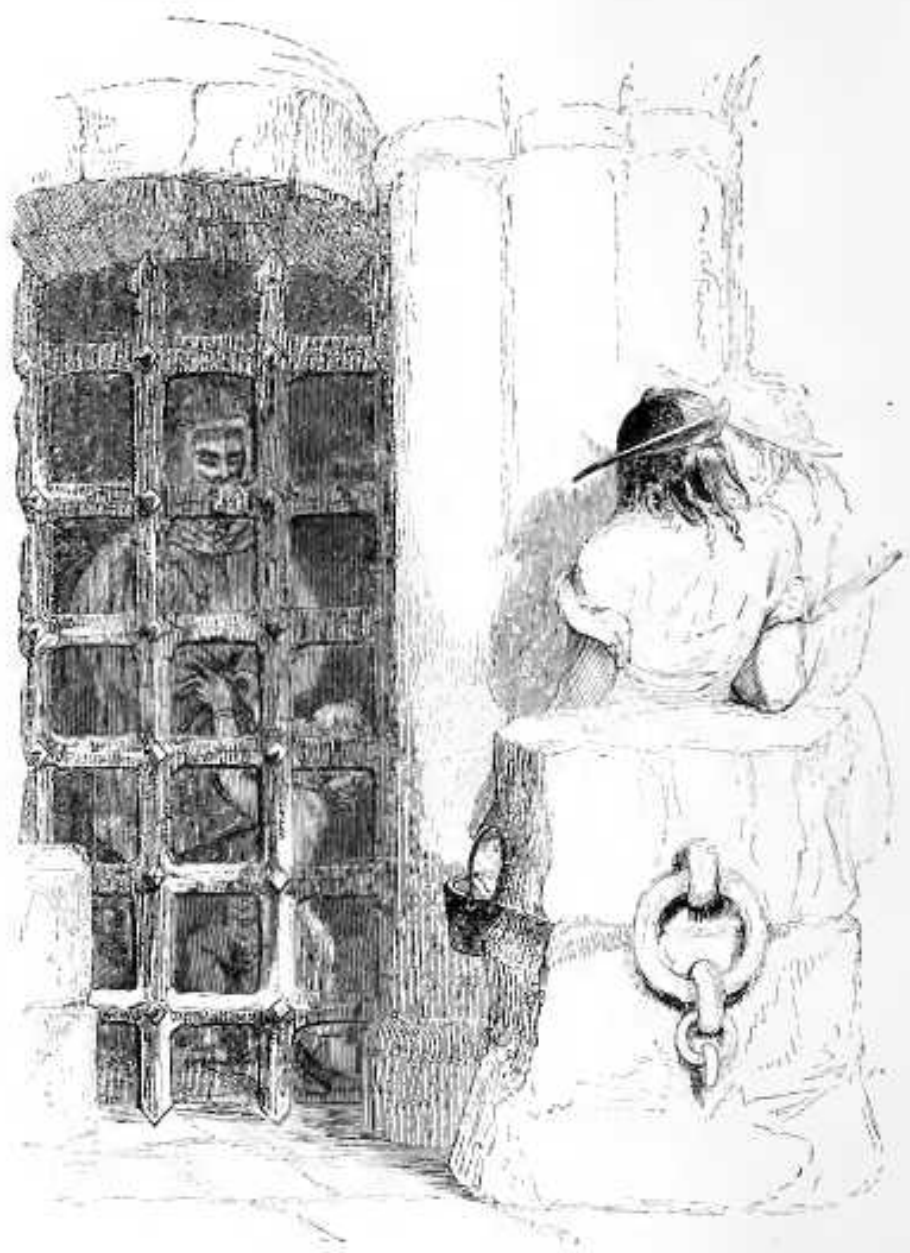
 Any of the above works will be sent by mail, postage prepaid, to any part of the United States, on receipt of the price.

PL
2217
A256
1887

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION TO KING JOHN.....	9
I. THE HISTORY OF THE PLAY.....	9
II. THE SOURCES OF THE PLOT.....	10
III. CRITICAL COMMENTS ON THE PLAY.....	13
KING JOHN.....	39
ACT I.....	41
" II.....	51
" III.....	71
" IV.....	92
" V.....	111
NOTES.....	129

473559





KING JOHN.

INTRODUCTION

TO

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN.

I. THE HISTORY OF THE PLAY.

King John was first printed in the folio of 1623, where it is entitled "The life and death of King Iohn," and occupies pages 1-22 in the division of "Histories." It is the only one of the undoubted works of Shakespeare which is not entered in the Registers of the Stationers' Company. Internal evidence shows pretty clearly that it was written at about the same time as *Richard II.*; and it is probable that it

followed rather than preceded that play. We cannot be far wrong if, with Furnivall, we assign it to the year 1595. Dowden (*Shaks. Primer*, p. 90) also says: "The chief point of difference with respect to form is that *Richard II.* contains a much larger proportion of rhymed verse, and on the whole we shall not perhaps err in regarding *Richard II.* as the earlier of the two." Prof. Ward (*Eng. Dram. Lit.* vol. i. p. 368) remarks that "the play evidently belongs to the same period of Shakspeare's productivity as *Richard II.*, and may be dated about the same time; probably before the body of those in which he mainly followed Holinshed." Fleay makes the date 1596, seeing in i. 2. 66-75, as certain other critics have done, an allusion to the fleet sent against Spain in that year. He believes also that "the laments of Constance for Arthur's death (iii. 4) were inspired by Shakespeare's sorrow for his heir and only son, Hamnet, whom he lost August 12, 1596." As it is included in Meres's list in his *Palladis Tamia* (see *M. N. D.* p. 9), it must have been put upon the stage before the publication of that book in September, 1598.

II. THE SOURCES OF THE PLOT.

King John varies from the facts of history more than any other of the "Histories," being founded upon an earlier play published in 1591 with the following title-page, of which Halliwell gives a fac-simile:

THE | Troublesome Raigne | of *John King of England*,
with the dis- | couerie of King Richard Cordelions | Base
sonne (vulgarly named, The Ba- | stard Fawconbridge): also
the | death of King *John* at *Swinstead* | Abbey. | As it was
(sundry times) publikely acted by the | *Queenes Maiesties Play-*
ers, in the ho- | nourable Citie of | London. Imprinted at
London for *Sampson Clarke*, | and are to be solde at his shop,
on the backe- | side of the *Royall Exchange*. | 1591.

In the year 1611 this play was reprinted "by Valentine Simmes for John Helme," with "Written by W. Sh." added