

**THE TUDOR
SHAKESPEARE; THE LIFE
OF TIMON OF ATHENS**

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The Tudor Shakespeare; The Life of Timon of Athens by William Shakespeare & Robert Huntington Fletcher

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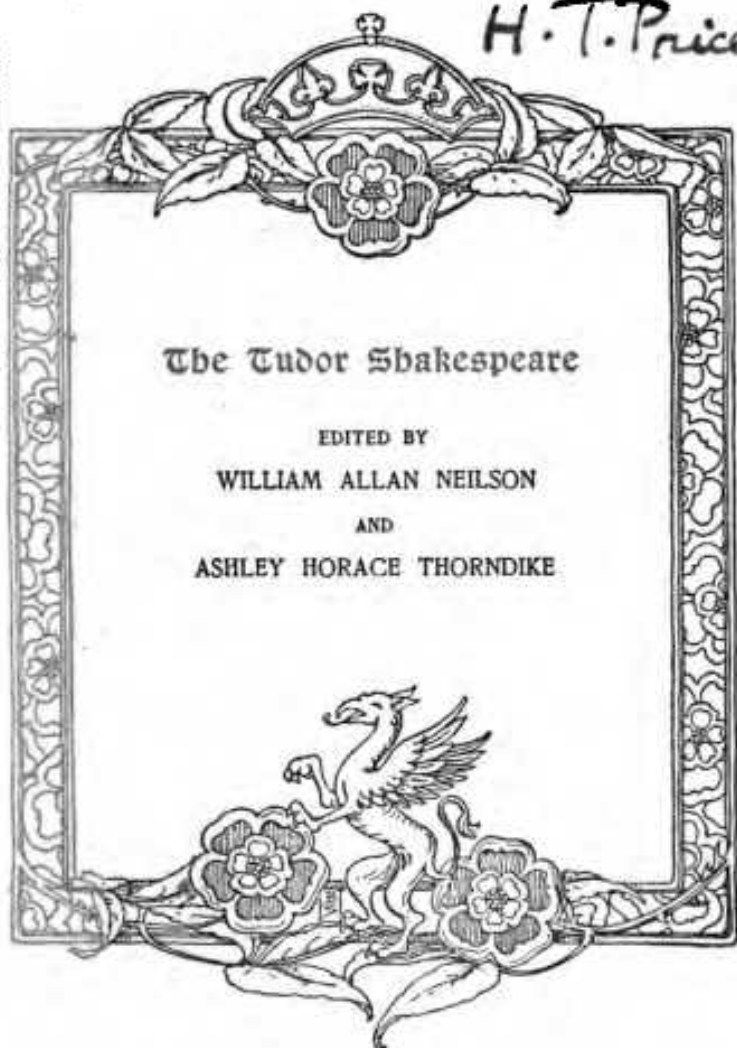
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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & ROBERT HUNTINGTON FLETCHER

**THE TUDOR
SHAKESPEARE; THE LIFE
OF TIMON OF ATHENS**

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The Tudor Shakespeare

EDITED BY

WILLIAM ALLAN NEILSON

AND

ASHLEY HORACE THORNDIKE



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THE TUDOR

SHAKESPEARE

The Life of
Timon of Athens

EDITED BY

ROBERT HUNTINGTON FLETCHER, Ph.D.

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
IN GRINNELL COLLEGE, IOWA



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Introduction

Text. — *Timon of Athens* was apparently first printed in the First Folio of Shakespeare's plays, 1623, for no quarto is known, and the play was recorded on the Stationers' Register on November 8, 1623, to Jaggard and Blount (who were among the publishers of the First Folio) as one of the plays of that volume "not formerly entred to other men." The Folio is therefore the only authority for the text. Certain irregularities in the pagination and make-up of the Folio prove that *Timon* was inserted in the place originally intended for *Troilus and Cressida*, but these facts cannot be shown to bear on the questions of date and authorship.¹

Authorship. — In printing, the text is one of the worst in the Folio. It presents much impossible punctuation, considerable confusion of verse and prose — verse printed as prose and *vice versa* — and many difficult or unintelligible readings. But these faults were no doubt chiefly caused by the printers' haste and bungling, or by imperfections in the manuscript. The main difficulty goes deeper. In the light of the results of modern scholarship it is clear, as was first pointed out by Charles Knight in 1838, that large portions of the play are not by Shakespeare. About half of it, or a little less, is in his peculiar style, and shows

¹ See Introduction, *Troilus and Cressida*, viii, ix; and Joseph Quincy Adams, "Timon of Athens and Irregularities in the First Folio," *Journal Eng. and Germ. Phil.*, 1908.