

**TALES FROM  
SHAKSPERE; IN TWO  
VOLUMES, VOL. I**

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Tales from Shakspere; In two Volumes, Vol. I by Mr. Lamb & Miss Lamb & William Shakespeare

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**MR. LAMB & MISS LAMB & WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

**TALES FROM  
SHAKSPERE; IN TWO  
VOLUMES, VOL. I**



# TALES FROM SHAKSPERE.

BY MR. AND MISS LAMB.

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A NEW EDITION.

TO WHICH ARE NOW ADDED,  
SCENES ILLUSTRATING EACH TALE.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. I.

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LONDON:  
CHARLES KNIGHT AND CO.,  
LUDGATE-STREET.

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THE 'Tales from Shakspeare,' by Mr. and Miss Lamb, were originally designed for the use of Young Persons. But, like several others of the best books so addressed, they have become as attractive to adults as to those for whose use they were originally intended. There is a constant exchange going on between the best books for those of mature years, and the best books for young readers. 'Robinson Crusoe' and the 'Arabian Nights' were not written for children; but what books can compete with them in the delight which they afford to children? On the other hand the most successful writers of books for the young have constantly had the satisfaction of finding their performances affording instruction and amusement to the maturest understandings. Who attempts to

limit the perusal of Miss Edgeworth's stories, or Scott's 'Tales of a Grandfather,' by the years which a reader has numbered?

The authors of the 'Tales from Shakspeare,' in their Preface state, that "The following Tales are meant to be submitted to the young reader as an introduction to the study of Shakspeare, for which purpose his words are used whenever it seemed possible to bring them in; and in whatever has been added to give them the regular form of a connected story, diligent care has been taken to select such words as might least interrupt the effect of the beautiful English tongue in which he wrote: therefore, words introduced into our language since his time have been as far as possible avoided."

It is as "an Introduction to the study of Shakspeare" that we offer a re-publication of these Tales, to a more numerous class than that for which they were written. But looking at this their purpose of an introduction to the study of this greatest of poets, we have now added to each Tale a few *Scenes*, which may be advantageously read after the perusal of the Tale, to furnish some notion of the original excellence of the wonderful dramas upon which the Tales are founded. No extract,

indeed, of single scenes can give a complete notion of the powers of Shakspeare; for his dramatic art—that of managing a plot with the most masterly skill, so as to develop the incidents in the fittest order, and exhibit the characters through their actions—is amongst his highest excellences. But to those who are unfamiliar with Shakspeare these extracts will excite a natural desire for a complete acquaintance with his works. The wish with which the authors of the *Tales* conclude their Preface, is repeated by the present Editor, addressing ALL READERS:—

“What these *Tales* shall have been to the *young* readers, that and much more it is the writers’ wish that the true Plays of Shakspeare may prove to them in older years—enrichers of the fancy, strengtheners of virtue, a withdrawing from all selfish and mercenary thoughts, a lesson of all sweet and honourable thoughts and actions, to teach courtesy, benignity, generosity, humanity: for of examples, teaching these virtues, his pages are full.”

It is the hope of the Editor of this Series that he may speedily be enabled to complete a companion work to these ‘*Tales*,’ for which he has made



some preparation, entitled 'HISTORIES FROM SHAKSPERE.' A celebrated German critic says, "Happy for England that she possesses a poet who so many years since has spoken to her people as the highest and most splendid teacher! The full consequences of his teaching have not yet been sufficiently revealed; they may perhaps never wholly be exhibited. We, however, know that in England a praiseworthy zeal for their country's history prevails among the people. But who first gave true life to that history?"

C. K.

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