SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS; EDITED, WITH NOTES

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Shakespeare's Sonnets; Edited, with Notes by William Shakespeare & William J. Rolfe

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & WILLIAM J. ROLFE

SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS; EDITED, WITH NOTES

Trieste



Full many a glorious morning have I seen. Flatter the mountain tops with sovereign eye, Kinning with golden face the meadows green, Gilding pale sireams with heavenly alchemy (Sonm. 33). Ken K. Mil

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SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS.

EDITED, WITH NOTES,

BY

WILLIAM J. ROLFE, LITT. D.,

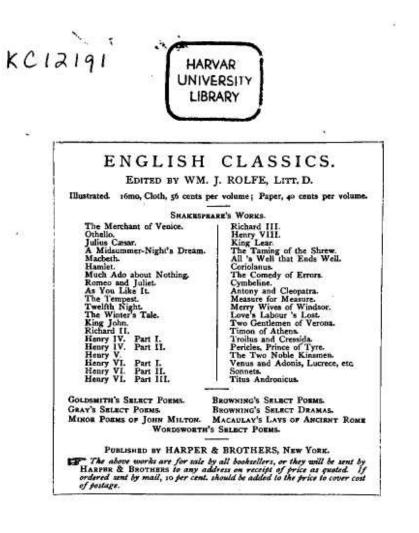
FORMERLY HEAD MASTER OF THE HIGH SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

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1893.



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PREFACE.

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In this volume, as almost every page of the Introduction and the Notes bears witness, I have been under special obligations to Professor Dowden's excellent editions of the Sonnets. I have not, however, drawn at all from Part II. of the Introduction to his *larger* edition (see the footnote on p. 11), which condenses into some seventy-five pages the entire literature of the Sonnets. For the critical student this careful *r/num/* answers a double purpose : as a bibliography of the subject, directing him to the many books and papers that have been written upon the Sonnets, if he is moved to read any or all of them ; and as a compact and convenient substitute for these books and papers, if he wants to know their gist and substance without the drudgery of wading through them. I doubt not that the majority of students will be thankful that Professor Dowden has relieved them of the drudgery by compressing many a dull volume or magazine article into a page or a paragraph.

I will only add that the text of the Sonnets, like that of the Poems, is given without omission or expurgation.

NOTE TO REVISED EDITION OF 1890.

For new matter, giving the substance of the latest researches in the history of the Sonnets, see "Addenda," p. 184 fol. Certain changes have also been made in the Introduction (pp. 10, 11, 12) and here and there in the Notes.



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STATUE OF MARY FITTON.

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Nor that full star that ushers in the even Doth half that glory to the sober west As those two mourning eyes become thy face (Sown, 132).

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