

**ANNALS OF THE LIFE AND WORK  
OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE:  
COLLECTED FROM THE MOST  
RECENT AUTHORITIES**

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Annals of the Life and Work of William Shakespeare: Collected from the Most Recent Authorities by Joseph Cundall

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**JOSEPH CUNDALL**

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ANNALS  
OF THE  
LIFE OF SHAKESPEARE



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH,  
STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

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COLLECTED FROM THE MOST RECENT AUTHORITIES



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## PREFACE.

THE STORY contained in these pages is collected from a great variety of sources, most of which have been well known for many years. It is an attempt to arrange in an intelligible way all the information that has been bequeathed to us by many generations of writers, and, following only the most trustworthy authorities, to make a concise narrative of the LIFE OF SHAKESPEARE as clear as possible from conflicting doubts.

The first trustworthy account of the great poet was written by Nicholas Rowe, a dramatist, in the beginning of the last century. In 1766 George Steevens published his celebrated commentaries, to which Edmond Malone added his notes in 1790. Since then, many eminent scholars have devoted half their days to the doubtful points in his plays, and the collection of facts relating to the poet's life. Foremost among these we must rank Mr. Halliwell-Phillipps, to whose labours all students of Shakespeare must be ever grateful. He has gathered together a mass



of materials, the result of many years' researches, that wholly surpasses the labours of previous writers; and unless some fortunate discovery should hereafter be made, it is scarcely conceivable that any brighter light will ever illumine our path in quest of new memorials of the poet.

We have to acknowledge, gratefully, the assistance which his *Outlines of the Life of Shakespeare* has rendered us.

In this little book we have given a record, year by year, of the most important events in the history of Shakespeare after he left Stratford. The evidence in most cases is trustworthy, but we cannot sufficiently regret the complete disappearance of his correspondence and the manuscripts of his plays and poems. Whether this was due to the fires at the Globe and the Blackfriars theatres, or to the puritanical asceticism of his executors, it is now too late to inquire.

The illustrations, some of which are from drawings made at Stratford a few years since, will, it is hoped, add to the value of our Annals.

WALLINGTON,  
September, 1886.

J. C.

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