

# **A STUDY OF HAMLET**

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A Study of Hamlet by Frank A. Marshall

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**FRANK A. MARSHALL**

**A STUDY  
OF HAMLET**



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A  
STUDY OF HAMLET.

BY  
FRANK A. MARSHALL.



LONDON:  
LONGMANS, GREEN, & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW.

1875.

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H'GOWAN AND CO., LIMITED, STEAM PRINTERS  
GREAT WINDMILL STREET, W.



**Medication.**



ON THE TOMB OF HIM,

WHO WAS AT ONCE

ENGLAND'S AND MANKIND'S GREATEST POET,

I LAY THIS HUMBLE OFFERING:

WELL KNOWING THAT IT LACKS MUCH IN MERIT,

BUT HOPING THAT SOME OF ITS FAULTS MAY BE ATONED FOR

BY THE LOVE AND REVERENCE WHICH INSPIRED IT.

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## PREFACE.

—o—

"WHAT! another book on 'Hamlet!'" I seem to hear many, both critics and students of Shakespeare, exclaim with somewhat of a jaded air. "What can you have that is new to say about 'Hamlet?'" they ask—not unreasonably. My answer is that I hope I have something to say which is worth hearing, whether it be quite new, or whether it be old truths presented in a new guise; though I must confess I have not hazarded any theories, or indulged in any criticisms, simply because I thought they were new. To those who seek for abstruse verbal commentaries, or for ingenious, but, to my mind, paltry attempts to nibble away our greatest poet's reputation, this book will not be welcome. I leave to others the task of treating our author like a prisoner arrested for felony, of turning his pockets inside out, and stripping him to the skin, in order to see if they can discover a rag or two which might have belonged to some one else.

Those I would fain have as my readers are those who love Shakespeare as one who has added to the beauty and happiness of life; who reverence his mind as one of those precious gifts of God to this world, whence beings, born of Fancy indeed, but none the less real in their nobleness and purity, may spring, to gladden the hearts of those whose earthly lot it is to find few friends save in the realms of imagination. These persons