

**JULIUS CAESAR. A
TRAGEDY. EDITED,
WITH NOTES**

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Julius Caesar. A Tragedy. Edited, with Notes by William Shakespeare & Edwin L. Miller & Eva May Kinney

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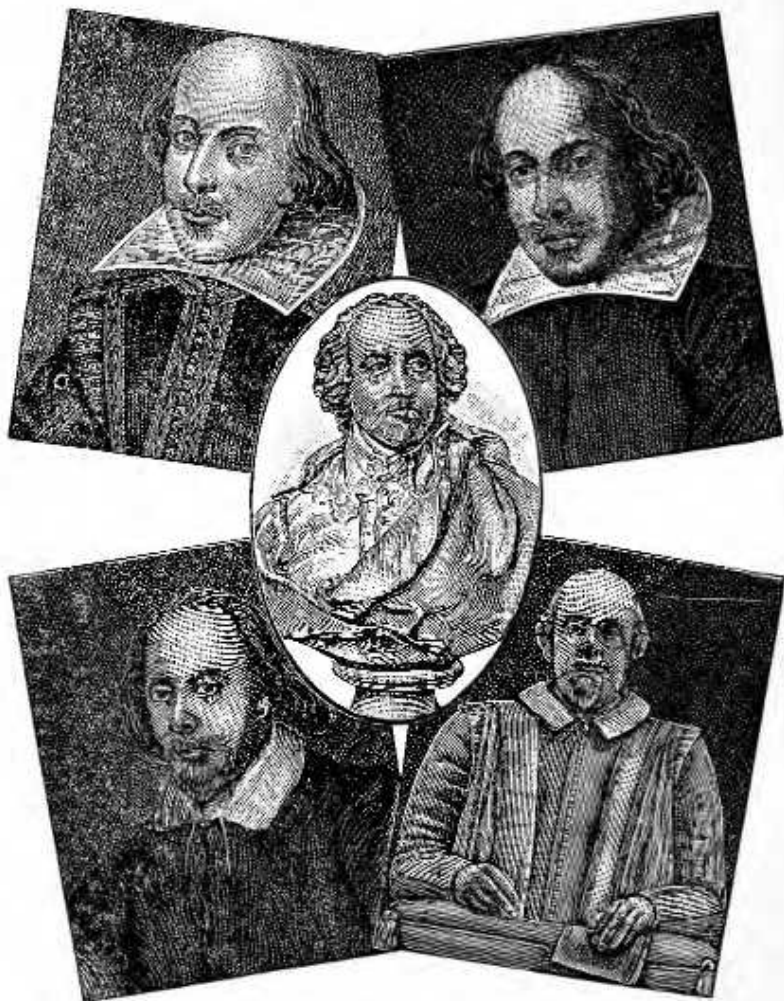
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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & EDWIN L. MILLER & EVA MAY KINNEY

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SHAKESPEARE

THE DROESHOUT ENGRAVING

MEMORIAL PAINTING

THE D'AVENANT BUST

THE CHANDOS PORTRAIT

THE STRATFORD BUST

JULIUS CAESAR

A Tragedy

By *WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE*

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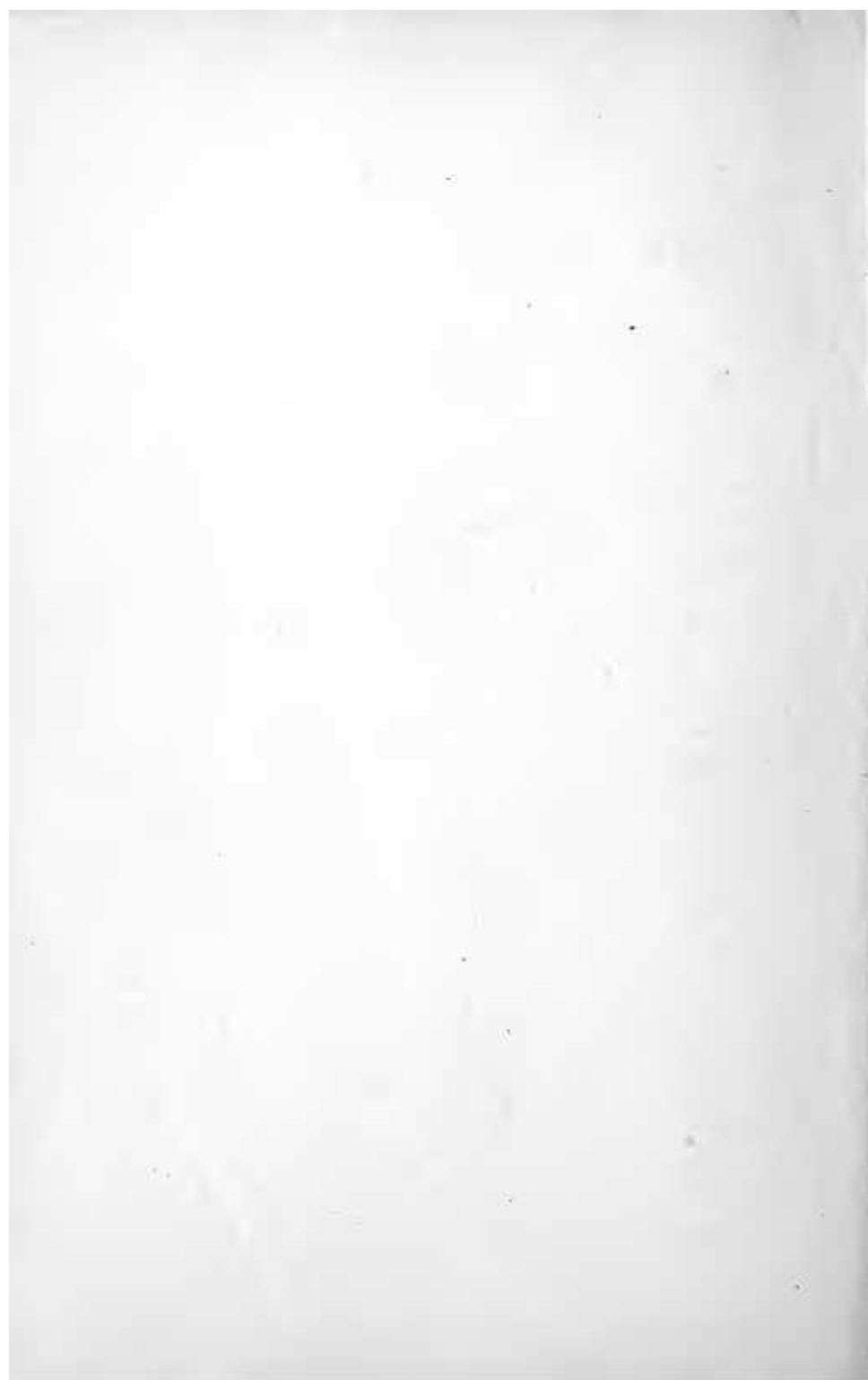
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INTRODUCTION

I

THE LIFE AND WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Authentic information concerning the life of Shakespeare is decidedly meager; but perhaps we voice the real significance of his life and dramatic achievement if with DeQuincey we say that he lived and that he died, and that he was a little lower than the angels. It matters little when, where, why, or by whom the plays were written; the all-important fact for us is that the plays themselves form a glorious portion of our literary heritage.

The greatest of dramatists was born at Stratford-on-Avon, in the county of Warwick, England, in 1564. His father, John Shakespeare, was a prosperous tradesman and a citizen of such consequence that he finally secured the office of high bailiff or mayor of Stratford in 1564. His mother, Mary Arden, belonged to a good old Warwickshire family. It was probable that Shakespeare was sent to the free Grammar School at Stratford and there received all the regular schooling he ever had. Even in later life he never became a great scholar or bookish man; he read men instead, and so became a powerful interpreter of human character. In 1582, when he was only eighteen, he married

Anne Hathaway, a woman eight years his senior. It was very likely with a view to seeking his fortune that in 1586 he went to London, where he began his career as an actor. In this profession he won little fame; but he soon gained distinction as a playwright. The financial prosperity which accompanied his literary successes enabled him to purchase New Place, the largest house in Stratford, for, in spite of the honors bestowed upon him in London, he still regarded Stratford as his home. In 1611, therefore, he settled down in his native town to spend his declining years in peaceful retirement, and there he died, April 23, 1616.

Shakespeare's literary life may be divided into four periods as follows:

- I. *The period of apprenticeship*, before Shakespeare had reached his full power. In this period belong King Henry VI, Parts I, II, III; Titus Andronicus; Love's Labor Lost; The Comedy of Errors; The Two Gentlemen of Verona; A Midsummer Night's Dream; Romeo and Juliet; Richard II; Richard III; King John.
- II. *The period of great histories and sunny comedies*. The Merchant of Venice; The Taming of the Shrew; King Henry IV, Parts I and II; King Henry V; Twelfth Night; Much Ado About Nothing; Merry Wives of Windsor; As You Like It; All's Well That Ends Well; Troilus and Cressida; Measure for Measure.