

**THE SHAKESPEARE
SOCIETY'S
PAPERS. VOL. II**

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**THE SHAKESPEARE
SOCIETY'S
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September, 1845.

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P R E F A C E.

In issuing the second volume of "The Shakespeare Society's Papers," the Council has much satisfaction in referring to the number and variety of the contributions, to the importance of most of them (as illustrative of the works of our great dramatist and early stage-literature), and to the manner in which all tend to carry out the general objects of the Society. They show also the wide interest taken in inquiries of the kind, extending even to some of our remoter colonies.

Another gratifying point, more fully established by the present volume, is the active and persevering spirit of research generated by the continued labours of the Society. Individuals who have old books or documents in their hands have thus been induced to explore their dusty depositories; and the result has been, among other things, the discovery of several highly curious and valuable tracts by dramatic contemporaries of Shakespeare, which have hitherto remained in utter concealment. Two of these, a Pageant by Thomas Middleton, and a poem by Robert Greene (the only entire work in verse he perhaps ever wrote) are included in the ensuing pages, as too brief to form separate publications. They have never been heard of before.