

**SHAKESPEARE'S
COMEDY OF MUCH
ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

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Shakespeare's Comedy of Much Ado about Nothing by William Shakespeare

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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COMEDY OF MUCH
ADO ABOUT NOTHING**



SHAKESPEARE'S COMEDY
OF
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING





"and look, the gentle day,
Before the wheels of Phœbus, round about
Dapples the drowsy east with spots of grey" (v. 3. 25).

Willie - SHAKESPEARE'S

COMEDY OF

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

EDITED, WITH NOTES,

BY

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WITH ENGRAVINGS.



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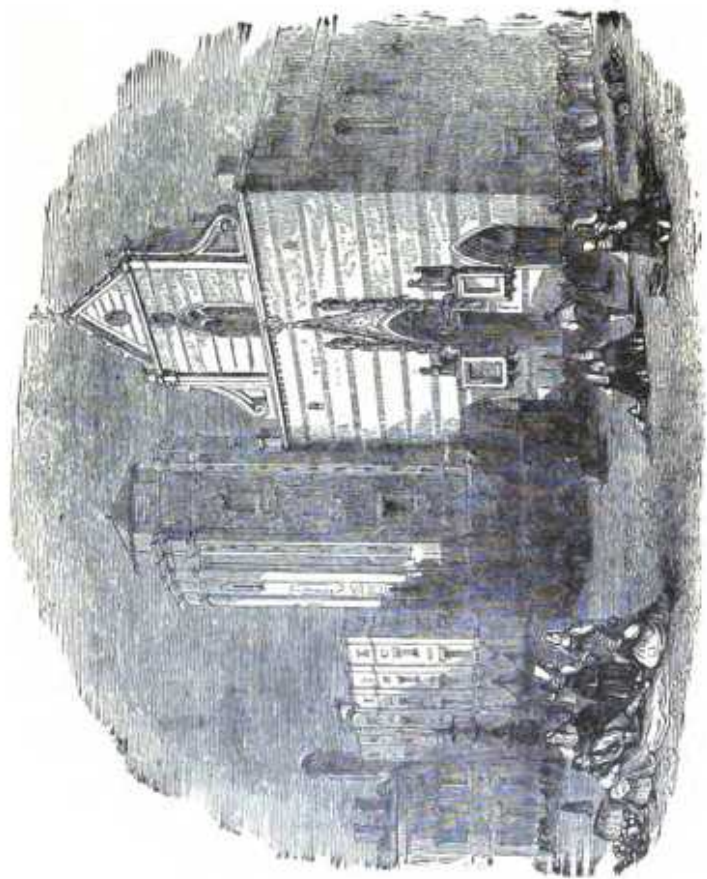
Much Ado about Nothing.

W. P. 12

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EXTERIOR OF THE CATHEDRAL OF MESSINA.



MESSINA, FROM THE SEA.

INTRODUCTION
TO
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

I. THE HISTORY OF THE PLAY.

THE first edition of *Much Ado About Nothing* was a quarto, published in 1600 with the following title-page:

Much adoe about | Nothing. | *As it hath been sundrie times
publikely* | acted by the right honourable, the Lord | Cham-
berlaine his seruants. | *Written by William Shakespeare.*
London | Printed by V. S. for Andrew Wise, and | William
Aspley. | 1600.

The earliest known reference to the play is in the Registers of the Stationers' Company, among some miscellaneous memoranda at the beginning of Volume C.* The memorandum follows one dated May 27th, 1600, and is thus given by Arber:

* See our ed. of *As You Like It*, p. 10.