

**SHAKESPEARE
ILLUSTRATED BY THE LEX
SCRIPTA. THE FIRST PART**

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Shakespeare Illustrated by the Lex Scripta. The First Part by William Lowes Rushton

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WILLIAM LOWES RUSHTON

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SHAKESPEARE ILLUSTRATED

Huic versatile ingenium sic pariter ad omnia fuit, ut natum
ad id unum diceret, quodcumque ageret.—Lrvv, xxxix. 40.

©

SHAKESPEARE

ILLUSTRATED BY THE LEX SCRIPTA

BY

WILLIAM LOWES RUSHTON

OF GRAY'S INN, BARRISTER-AT-LAW

Corresponding Member of the Berlin Society for the Study of Modern Languages:

Author of 'Shakespeare a Lawyer,' 'Shakespeare's Legal Maxims,'

'Shakespeare Illustrated by Old Authors,' 'Shakespeare's
Testamentary Language,' &c.

And every statute coude he plaine by rote—Chaucer

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THE FIRST PART  
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NOTICE.

MANY of these illustrations were contributed to the Berlin Society for the Study of Modern Languages, and afterwards published in the 'Archiv für das Studium der neueren Sprachen und Literaturen.'

5 ESSEX COURT, TEMPLE:
Michaelmas Term, 1869.

SHAKESPEARE ILLUSTRATED

BY THE

LEX SCRIPTA.

—♦—

I THINK I shall be able to illustrate and explain many obscure passages and words and expressions of doubtful meaning in the works of Shakespeare by extracts from ancient English statutes.

Suf. Lord cardinal, the king's further pleasure is,
Because all those things you have done of late,
By your power legatine, within this kingdom,
Fall into the compass of a *præmunire*,
That therefore such a writ be sued against you ;
To forfeit all your goods, lands, tenements,
Chattels, and whatsoever, and to be
Out of the king's protection. This is my charge.

Henry VIII., Act iii. Sc. 2.

In this passage Shakespeare uses the exact letter of the statute law.

A Præmunire (so called from the words of the writ *Præmunire facias*, or *Præmoneri facias*, signifying the writ and the offence on which the writ is grounded), is an offence whereby we shall incur the same punishment which is inflicted upon those who transgress the 16 Richard II., cap. 5, which ordained and established :—

Que si ascun purchace ou pursue, ou face purchacer ou persuer en la courte de Rome ou aillours ascuns tieux translations, processés & sentences de escomegementz, bulles, instrumentz, ou autre chose queconque qe touche le Roi nostre Seigneur encoutre luy, sa corone & regalie ou son Roialme come devant est dit, & ceux qe les porte deinz le Roialme ou les receiue ou facent notification ou autre execution queconque deinz mesme le Roialme ou dehors, soient ils leur notairs, procuratours, meintenours, abbettours, fautours et conseilours mys hors de la protection nostre dit Seigneur le Roy et leurs terres et tene-mentz, biens et chatieux forfaitz au Roi nostre Seigneur, et qils soient attachez par leur corps ils parront estre trovez et amesnex devaunt le Roy et son conseil pur y respondre es cases avaunditz ou qe processe soit fait devers eux par premunire facias en manere come est ordeigne en autres estatutz des provisours et autres qui seuent en autry courte en derogation de la nostre Seigneur le Roy.—
16 *Richard II.*, cap. v.