A HAND-LIST OF THE DRAWINGS AND ENGRAVINGS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF SHAKESPEARE, PRESERVED AT HOLLINGBURY COPSE, NEAR BRIGHTON

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A Hand-List of the Drawings and Engravings Illustrative of the Life of Shakespeare, Preserved at Hollingbury Copse, near Brighton by J. O. Halliwell-Phillipps

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J. O. HALLIWELL-PHILLIPPS

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Recipients of this little Volume would confer a great favour on the Compiler by informing him of any other old Views of Stratford-on-Avon and its neighbourhood, or of the various localities herein mentioned.

A HAND-LIST

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The Brawings and Engravings

ILLUSTRATIVE OF

THE LIFE OF SHAKESPEARE,

PRESERVED AT

HOLLINGBURY COPSE, NEAR BRIGHTON,

That quaint wigwam on the Sumer Downs which has the honour of sheltering more variaties connected with the personal and literary history of the Great Dramatist than are elsewhere to be found mouth of the Metropolus.

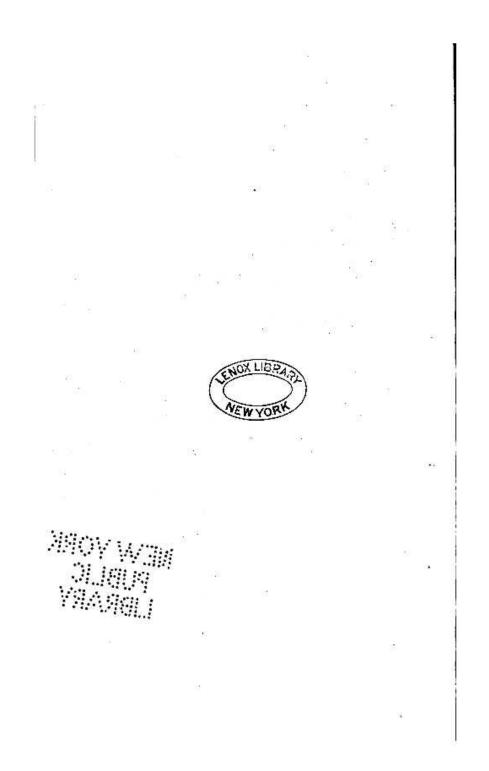
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PREFACE.

It is very difficult to meet with pictorial illustrations of the Life of Shakespeare that belong to even a small antiquity. With the exception of two or three found in periodicals, and which are sufficiently common, any of the kind which were executed more than seventy years ago are of exceedingly rare occurrence. The Bodleian Library, so rich in English topography, has none; while in that enormous literary warehouse, the British Museum, there are hardly any of the slightest interest.

There are, indeed, only two large and important collections of drawings and engravings illustrative of Shakespearean biography. One of these, that now preserved at the Birth-Place, was formed by the late Mr. W. O. Hunt and myself in years gone by, when we ransacked Stratford-upon-Avon and its neighbourhood for every relic of the kind. The other, that now at Hollingbury Copse, is the result of purchases from other localities. Each collection is, at present, of unique interest, and is likely to remain so. It is not probable that another, of equal value to either, could now be formed.

But although this is not probable, there is no telling what the accidents of discovery may

bring forth-in some forgotten portfolio, or in a find revealed by the disturbance of interior plasters. It is only about twelve years since that I purchased from my old friend, Mr. Joseph Lilly, the well-known bookseller of Garrick Street, a volume the inclusion of which, in itself alone, would have conferred a distinction on any such collection as that now briefly calendared. It was a copy of the first edition of Dugdale's Antiquities of Warwickshire, 1656, which had belonged to Richard Greene of Lichfield, a person who was intimately connected with Stratford-upon-Avon, and who had illustrated that fine old work with original drawings made by himself and others between the years 1760 and 1769. It was thus that I became possessed of the inestimable earliest representation of the Birth-Place known to exist, and of various sketches executed during that period, all of which are unique and most of extreme interest.

Amongst these and other noticeable articles may be mentioned,—Nos. 1 to 6 and 570 to 577, Fisher's original drawings of the paintings in the Guild Chapel, taken at the time of their discovery in 1804, and valuable as being more accurate than the engraved copies; Nos. 7 to 11, the London Arches of Triumph, 1604; Nos. 17, 18, 75, 150, 151, 155, 207, last century

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drawings and views of Stratford Church ; Nos. 28, 245, 545, Braun's plan of London, 1574; No. 35, Collier's rare plan of Windsor, 1742, showing Herne's Oak; No. 45, a view of Charlecote, 1722; No. 65. Norden's original plan of Middlesex, c. 1593; Nos. 67, 666, 1069 to 1071, plans and drawings by John Jordan, a Stratfordian who died in 1809; Nos. 193, 737, the earliest known engravings of Shakespeare's Cliff near Dover, sketches by Hollar, c. 1640; No. 195, the oldest view of Herne's Oak ; No. 433, an early view of Charlecote; No. 455, Winter's plan of Stratford, c. 1760; No. 506, a view of Stratford bridge, c. 1762; No. 563, a ground-plan of Stratford College, temp. Hen. 8, a remarkably curious relic preserved on the cover of a valuable early manuscript of local collections purchased in London at the sale of the Wheler library; No. 652, a view of Stratford College taken in 1765; and No. 979, the rare contemporary engraved portrait of Shakespeare's friend, Lord Southampton. The collection is peculiarly rich in engraved views of the Shakespearean localities, especially in those of the Birth-Place and the Church.

But the gem of my collection is the engraving of Shakespeare by Droeshout, 1623,

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