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SHAKSPERE'S THE
MERCHANT OF VENICE**

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Logman's English Classics: Shakspere's The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare & Francis B. Gummere

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & FRANCIS B. GUMMERE

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EDITED BY

GEORGE RICE CARPENTER, A.B.

PROFESSOR OF RHETORIC AND ENGLISH COMPOSITION IN COLUMBIA COLLEGE

WILLIAM SHAKSPERE

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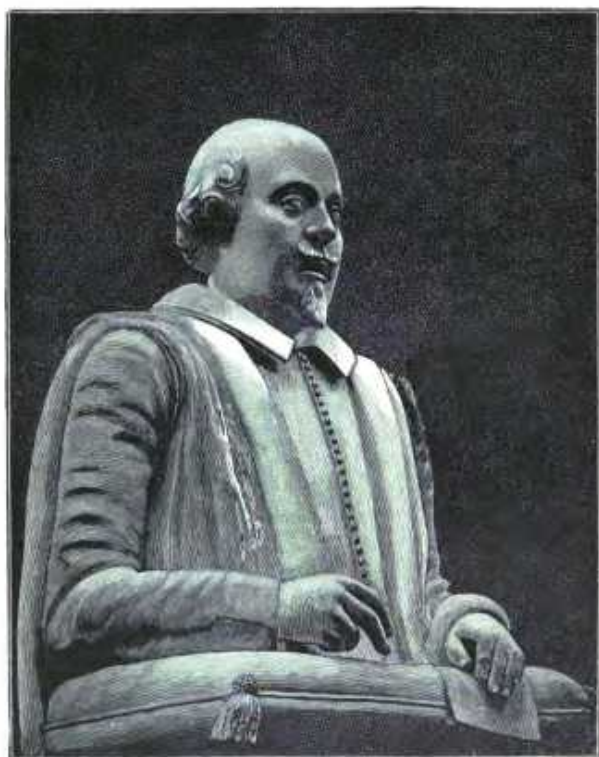
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WILLIAM SHAKSPERE

(From the bust on his tomb at Stratford-on-Avon)

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SHAKSPERE'S
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

EDITED

WITH NOTES AND AN INTRODUCTION

BY

FRANCIS B. GUMMERE, PH. D.

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PREFACE

THE "Merchant of Venice" is one of those books which are to be studied,—mastered by dint of hard work, and made to serve the ends of mental discipline, as well as to lure the pupil into a love of good reading. The present editor has tried to help teacher and pupil in their work, and has kept his eye neither on intellectual beer and skittles, nor yet on that pretty pretence of labor which takes all (subjective) knowledge for its province and seeks to train the mind by the example of Mr. Brooke of Middlemarch. Since the Introduction was written, these words of Professor Dowden have come under the editor's notice, and should be added to the Suggestions for Teachers: "Some persons seem to fear that a close attention to textual difficulties, conjectural emendations, obsolete words, allusions to manners and customs, and suchlike, will quench an interest in the higher meanings of the play. I have not found it so" (On the Teaching of English Literature, "New Studies in Literature," p. 423). No editor of Shakspeare, however humble his desire, or however ambitious, can close his work without a word of thanks to Dr. Furness for the manifold help afforded by the Variorum edition.

From the Harvard University Library

F. B. G.

Haverford College, February 12, 1896.

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