

**THE GLOBE THEATER SHAKESPEARE. THE
MERCHANT OF VENICE. AS ORIGINALLY
PERFORMED BY SHAKESPEARE'S
COMPANY. EDITED FOR THE STUDENT
WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES**

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The Globe Theater Shakespeare. The Merchant of Venice. As Originally Performed by Shakespeare's Company. Edited for the Student with Introduction and Notes by Daniel Homer Rich & William Shakespeare

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DANIEL HOMER RICH & WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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COMPANY. EDITED FOR THE STUDENT
WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES**



Marlton, Greatport, July 2nd, London.

W. D. ⁵ illms Shakespeare
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE GLOBE THEATER SHAKESPEARE

Shakespeare's Works

THE
MERCHANT OF VENICE

AS ORIGINALLY PERFORMED
BY SHAKESPEARE'S COMPANY

EDITED FOR THE STUDENT
WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES
BY
DANIEL HOMER RICH
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, NEWARK, N. J.



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TO THE TEACHER

The object of this edition is twofold: first, to afford the pupil help of a very practical kind in solving the language problem inevitably connected with Shakespeare; and second, to present the play consistently as a performance on the stage of the Elizabethan theater rather than as a mere story in verse. It is in the first respect more elementary and in the second more advanced than previous editions intended for the use of the grade school or high school student.

With regard to the propriety of approaching the plays of Shakespeare from the standpoint of the acted drama little difference of opinion is found among teachers of the present generation. Doubtless an increasing number are coming to recognize that students deprived of a knowledge of Shakespeare's stage and audience, his dramatic aims and devices, the obvious laws of the drama which have held good from that day to this, and the principles which guided his poetic utterance, are cheated from the first of any opportunity to read the great dramatist aright. The present edition aims to provide such teachers with a simple working manual to guide, as far as may be, the study of the average pupil when not under the teacher's personal direction. It is hoped for the method taken that *The Merchant of Venice* will be made more than ever interesting in the class-room, better adapted to amateur

performance, and more useful as a guide to the other plays.

The text, except for obvious deletions and a few standard emendations, is that of the First, or Roberts Quarto of 1600, with stage directions from the Heyes Quarto of the same year. For convenience the scene-division, spelling, and place-indications of most modern texts have been retained where they are not misleading or contradicted by the early editions.

INTRODUCTION

I.—TO THE STUDENT

(To be read before beginning the study of the play.)

Use of Notes and Questions. If you will turn to the first page of *The Merchant of Venice* you will see that some of Shakespeare's words are followed by little circles (°), and others by the numerals 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. The circles mean that the words they follow have peculiar meanings; and it will be well to look them up, either in an unabridged dictionary, or in the notes, before attempting to read the scene as a whole. The numerals correspond to other numerals at the bottom of the page, where suggestions for study are made and questions asked which should prepare you to answer intelligently the questions of the recitation. A careful reading of the pages of this Introduction will put you in possession of most of the necessary information.

How to Use a Large Dictionary. In reading Shakespeare it is necessary to make frequent use of a large dictionary such as *Webster's*, the *Century*, or the *Standard*, if one is to get at the dramatist's real meaning. Many of Shakespeare's words are no longer used, and so do not appear at all in the smaller dictionaries. Others are still in good use, but in a later and therefore misleading sense, the meaning of Shakespeare's day having been practically forgotten. The more difficult