

**LONGMANS' ENGLISH  
CLASSICS.  
SHAKESPEARE'S  
AS YOU LIKE IT**

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Longmans' English Classics. Shakespeare's as You Like It by Barrett Wendell & William Lyon Phelps

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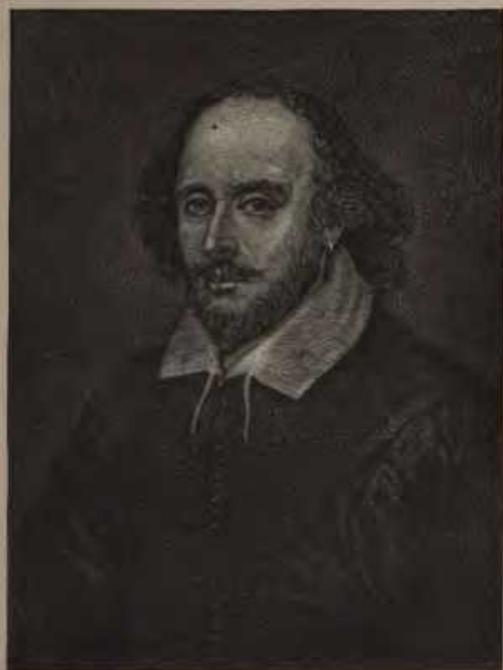
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**BARRETT WENDELL & WILLIAM LYON PHELPS**

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WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE

(From the picture in the possession of His Grace the Duke  
of Buckingham, at Stowe)

Longmans' English Classics

SHAKSPERE'S  
AS YOU LIKE IT

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY

BARRETT WENDELL

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH IN HARVARD COLLEGE

AND NOTES

BY

WILLIAM LYON PHELPS

INSTRUCTOR IN ENGLISH LITERATURE IN YALE COLLEGE



NEW YORK  
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LONDON AND BOMBAY  
1896

At a time when such differences as declare themselves between the two oldest colleges of New England are unduly emphasized, it is a singular pleasure to bear part in any work which shall help to show how truly Harvard and Yale are at one.

B. W.

W. L. P.

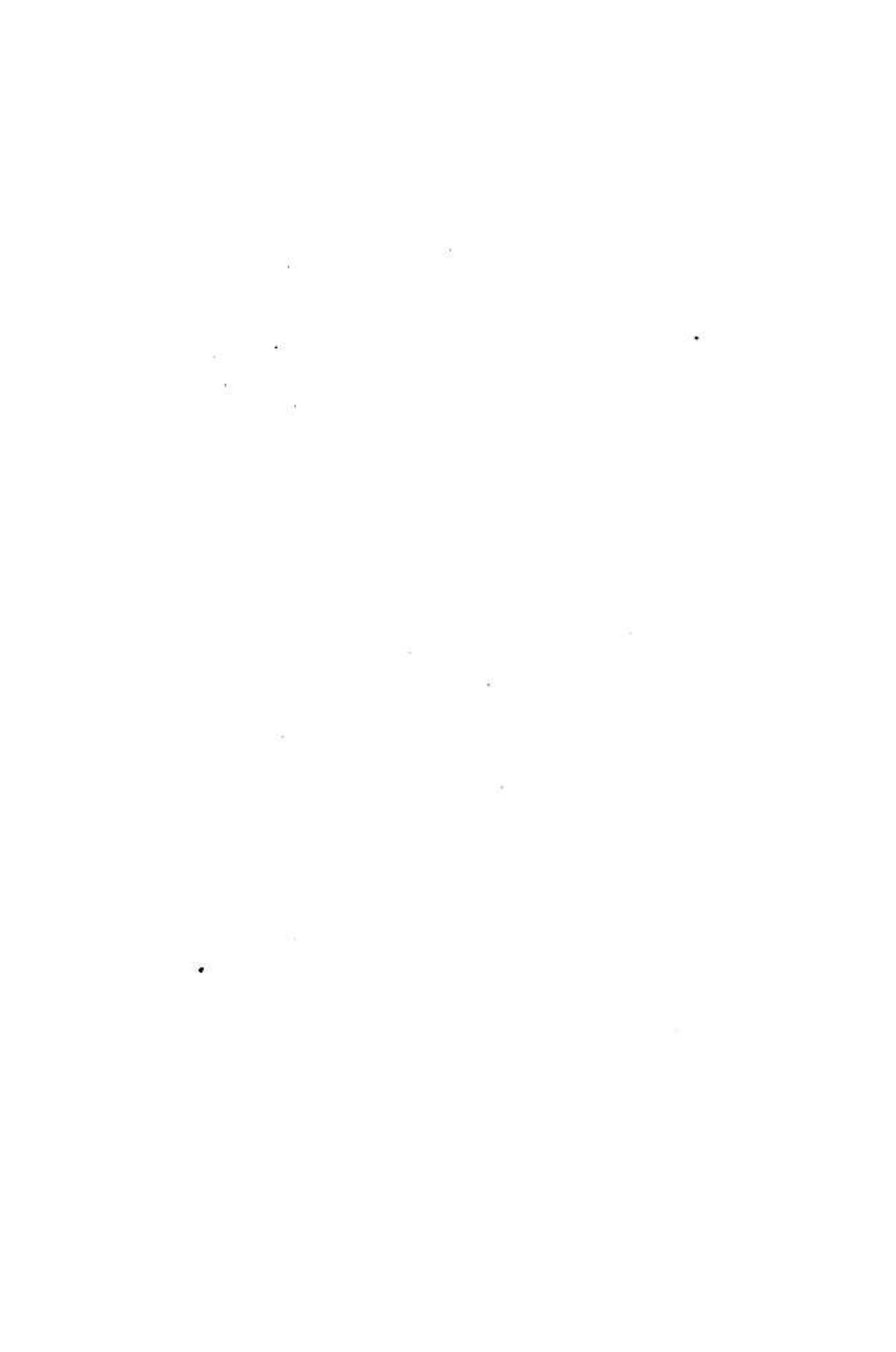
*February, 1896.*





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## INTRODUCTION

### I.

"AS YOU LIKE IT" is a play written some three hundred years ago for public performance in a London theatre. Unlike most plays of its time, and, indeed, rather more than most plays of its author, it is still popular. People who read Shakspeare are apt to read this play among the first, and to turn back to it very often; when it is given at the theatre, the house is still apt to be a good one. All of which means that "As You Like It" has given people a remarkable amount of pleasure. If readers did not enjoy it, they would not read it unconstrained; if audiences did not enjoy it, they would not give their time and money to see it on the stage. Really to understand it, then, one must somehow or other enjoy it.

The first thing to do is to read it through. Unlike a long novel or an epic poem, a play is always meant, originally, to be seen at a single sitting. One goes to the theatre before any of it is begun, and one does not come away until it is all over. To get the impression which any writer of plays means to produce, then, one must, in the first place, get it all at once; just as one would get the impression of any short story, such as modern magazines are full of.

What distinguishes plays, and books, and other things which survive in literature from those which do not, is that the lasting ones are capable of giving a more constant and various pleasure than the others. In "As You Like