THE LAMB SHAKESPEARE FOR THE YOUNG. AS YOU LIKE IT

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The Lamb Shakespeare for the Young. As You Like It by William Shakespeare & L. E. Wright

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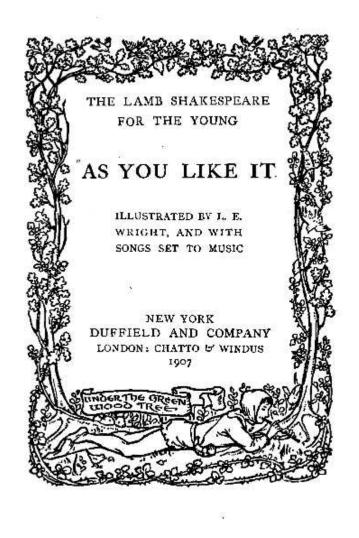
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & L. E. WRIGHT

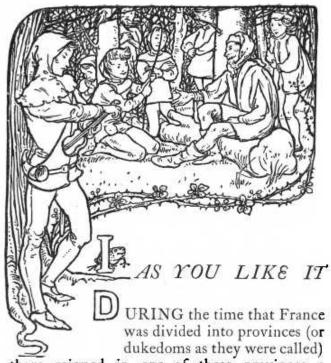
THE LAMB SHAKESPEARE FOR THE YOUNG. AS YOU LIKE IT





"GENTLEMAN, WEAR THIS FOR ME"





there reigned in one of these provinces a usurper, who had deposed and banished his elder brother, the lawful duke.

The duke, who was thus driven from his dominions, retired with a few faithful followers to the forest of Arden; and here the

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good duke lived with his loving friends, who had put themselves into a voluntary exile for his sake, while their land and revenues enriched the false usurper; and custom soon made the life of careless ease they led here more sweet to them than the pomp and uneasy splendour of a courtier's life. Here they lived like the old Robin Hood of England, and to this forest many noble youths daily resorted from the court, and did fleet the time carelessly, as they did who lived in the golden age. In the summer they lay along under the fine shade of the large forest trees, marking the playful sports of the wild deer; and so fond were they of these poor dappled fools, who seemed to be the native inhabitants of the forest, that it grieved them to be forced to kill them to supply themselves with venison for their When the cold winds of winter made the duke feel the change of his adverse fortune, he would endure it patiently; indeed, he would draw a useful moral from everything that he saw.

Let us watch a scene in the forest of Arden:—

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Duke. Now, my co-mates, and brothers in exile,

Hath not old custom made this life more sweet Than that of painted pomp? Are not these woods

More free from peril than the envious court? Here feel we not the penalty of Adam, The seasons' difference; as the icy fang And churlish chiding of the winter's wind, Which, when it bites and blows upon my body, Even till I shrink with cold, I smile, and say "This is no flattery,—these are counsellors That feelingly persuade me what I am." Sweet are the uses of adversity, Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous, Wears yet a precious jewel in his head; And this our life, exempt from public haunt, Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,

Sermons in stones, and good in everything. I would not change it.

Amiens. Happy is your grace That can translate the stubbornness of fortune Into so quiet and so sweet a style.

Duke. Come, shall we go and kill us venison?

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And yet it irks me the poor dappled fools,— Being native burghers of this desert city,— Should, in their own confines, with forked heads Have their round haunches gored.



THE MELANCHOLY JAQUES

Lord. Indeed, my lord, The melancholy Jaques grieves at that; And, in that kind, swears you do more usurp Than doth your brother that hath banish'd you. To-day, my lord of Amiens and myself Did steal behind him, as he lay along Under an oak whose antique root peeps out

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Upon the brook that brawls along this wood: To the which place a poor sequester'd stag, That from the hunter's aim had ta'en a hurt, Did come to languish; and, indeed, my lord, The wretched animal heav'd forth such groans, That their discharge did stretch his leathern coat Almost to bursting; and the big round tears Coursed one another down his innocent nose In piteous chase: and thus the hairy fool, Much marked of the melancholy Jaques, Stood on the extremest verge of the swift brook, Augmenting it with tears.

Duke. But what said Jaques?

Did he not moralize this spectacle?

Lord. O, yes, into a thousand similes.

First, for his weeping into the needless stream;

"Poor deer," quoth he, "thou mak'st a testament
As worldlings do, giving thy sum of more
To that which had too much." Then being
there alone,

Left and abandon'd of his velvet friend;
"Tis right," quoth he; "thus misery doth part
The flux of company." Anon, a careless herd,
Full of the pasture, jumps along by him,
And never stays to greet him; "Ay," quoth
Jaques,