

**THE YALE
SHAKSPEARE. MUCH
ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

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The Yale Shakspeare. Much ado about Nothing by William Shakespeare & Tucker Brooke & Wilbur L. Cross

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & TUCKER BROOKE & WILBUR L. CROSS

**THE YALE
SHAKSPEARE. MUCH
ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

THE YALE SHAKESPEARE

EDITED BY

WILBUR L. CROSS TUCKER BROOKE
WILLARD HIGLEY DURHAM

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The Yale Shakespeare

MUCH ADO ABOUT
NOTHING

EDITED BY
TUCKER BROOKE



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE TEXT	1
NOTES	107
APPENDIX A. Sources of the Play .	124
APPENDIX B. The History of the Play	128
APPENDIX C. Suggestions for Collat- eral Reading . . .	130
APPENDIX D. The Text of the Present Edition	131
INDEX OF WORDS GLOSSED	132

The facsimile opposite represents the title-page of the Elizabethan Club copy of the only early quarto edition. Fifteen copies of this edition are known to survive.



Much adoe about
Nothing

*As it hath been sundrie times publikely
acted by the right honourable, the Lord
Chamberlaine his seruants.*

Written by William Shakespeare.



L O N D O N
Printed by V. S. for Andrew Wise, and
William Aspley.
1600.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

- DON PEDRO, *Prince of Arragon*
LEONATO, *Governor of Messina*
DON JOHN, *Bastard Brother to Don Pedro*
CLAUDIO, *a young Lord of Florence, Favourite to Don Pedro*
BENEDICK, *a young Lord of Padua, favour'd likewise by Don Pedro*
ANTONIO, *Brother to Leonato*
BALTHASAR, *Servant to Don Pedro*
BORACHIO, *Confidant to Don John*
CONRADE, *Friend to Boruchio*
DOGBERRY, *a constable,* } *two foolish Officers*
VERGES, *a headborouyh,* }
FRIAR FRANCIS
(INNOGEN, *Wife to Leonato*)
HERO, *Daughter to Leonato and Innogen*
BEATRICE, *Niece to Leonato*
MARGARET, } *two Gentlewomen attending on*
URSULA, } *Hero*
A Sexton, a Boy in attendance on Benedick,
Messengers, members of the Night Watch,
and other Attendants

SCENE: *Messina in Sicily.*

Much Ado About Nothing

ACT FIRST

Scene One

[*Before Antonio's Orchard*]

Enter Leonato, Governor of Messina; Innogen, his wife; Hero, his daughter; and Beatrice, his niece; with a Messenger.

Leon. I learn in this letter that Don Pedro of Arragon comes this night to Messina.

Mess. He is very near by this: he was not three leagues off when I left him. 4

Leon. How many gentlemen have you lost in this action?

Mess. But few of any sort, and none of name.

Leon. A victory is twice itself when the achiever brings home full numbers. I find here that Don Pedro hath bestowed much honour on a young Florentine called Claudio. 11

Mess. Much deserved on his part and equally remembered by Don Pedro. He hath borne himself beyond the promise of his age, doing in the figure of a lamb the feats of a lion: he hath indeed better bettered expectation than you must expect of me to tell you how. 17

Leon. He hath an uncle here in Messina will be very much glad of it.

Mess. I have already delivered him letters, and there appears much joy in him; even so