SHAKESPEARE'S COMEDY OF THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649517961

Shakespeare's Comedy of the Two Gentlemen of Verona by William Shakespeare & William J. Rolfe

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

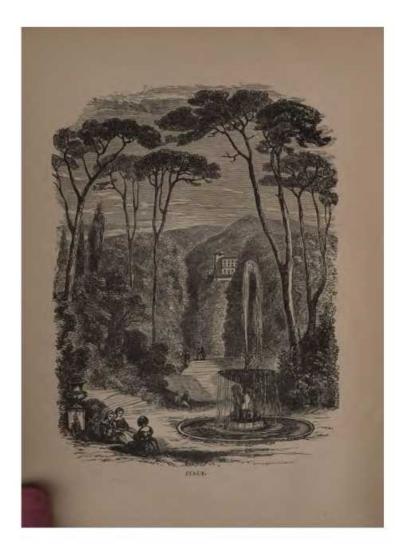
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & WILLIAM J. ROLFE

SHAKESPEARE'S COMEDY OF THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

Trieste



SHAKESPEARE'S

COMEDY OF THE

TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA.

EDITED, WITH NOTES,

.

BT

WILLIAM J. ROLFE, LITT. D., FORMERLY HEAD MASTER OF THE HIGH SCHOOL, CAMERIDGE, MASS.

WITH ENGRAVINGS.

.



NEW YORK: HARPER & BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS, PRANKLIN SQUANE 1895.

FROM THE LIBRARY OF SEORGE RICHARD BLINK par ag Burger Star Sept 10, 1926 ENGLISH CLASSICS.

**

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

EDITED BY WM. J. ROLFE, LITT. D. Illustrated. 16mo, Cloth, 56 cents per volume : Paper, 40 cents per volume. SHARBEPE The Morchant of Venice. Othella. Julius Cosar. A Midsunuer-Night's Dream. Macbeth. Hamlet. Much Ache about Nothing. Romeo and Juliet. As You Like It. The Tempest. Twelfth Night. The Winter's Tale. King John. Henry IV. Part I. Henry VI. Part II. SHAKESPEARE'S WORKS. 5 Works. Richard III. Honry VIII. King Lear. The Taming of the Shrew. All 's Well that Ends Well. Coroldsup: The Comedy of Errors. Cymbeline: Antony and Cleopatra. Measure for Measure. Measure for Measure. Measure for Neasure. Measure for Neasure. The Centlemen of Verona. Timon of Athena. Troilins and Cressida. Perickes. Fince of Tyre. Pericles. Prince of Tyre. The Two Noble Kinsmen. Venus and Adonis, Lucrece, etc. Someta. Titus Andronicus. GOLDSMITH'S SELECT POEMS. BROWNING'S SELECT POEMS. GRAY'S SELECT PORMS. BROWNING'S SELECT DRAMAS. MINOR PORMS OF JOHN MILTON. MACAULAY'S LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME WORDSWORTH'S SELECT POEMS. PUBLISHED BY HARPER & BROTHERS, NEW YORK. The above verte are for sale by all booksuffers, or they will be sent by HARVER & RHOTHERS to any address on receipt of price as quoted if ordered tent by mail, so per cent, should be added to the price to cover cau of postage.

.....

Copyright, 1882, by HARPER & BROTHERS.

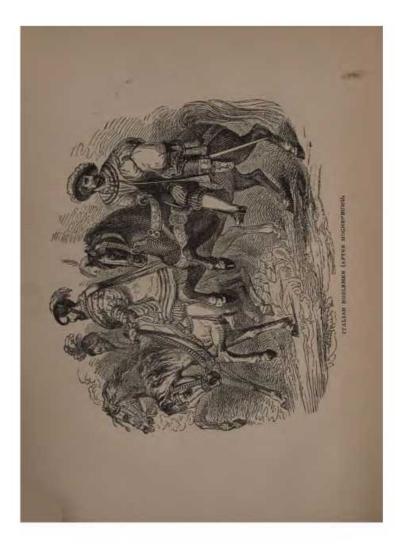
e transformation and the

CONTENTS.

.

ж Ж 22

| | FACE | | |
|---|------|-------|---|
| INTRODUCTION TO THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA | 9 | | |
| I. THE HISTORY OF THE PLAY | 9 | | |
| II. THE SOURCES OF THE PLOT | 10 | | |
| IIL CRITICAL COMMENTS ON THE PLAY | 11 | | |
| THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA | 41 | | |
| Act L | 43 | | |
| * II | 56 | | ļ |
| " III | 77 | ja sa | 3 |
| « IV | 92 | | |
| " V | 108 | | |
| NOTES | 119 | | |





INTRODUCTION TO THE

TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA.

I. THE HISTORY OF THE PLAY.

The Two Gentlemen of Verona first appeared in the folio of 1623, where it occupies pages 20-38 in the division of "Comedies." The earliest reference to it that has been discovered

ŧ

INTRODUCTION.

is in Meres's list of 1598 (see C. of E. p. 101), in which it is the first of the six comedies mentioned. There can be no doubt that it was one of the earliest of the plays. Malone at first dated it in 1595, but afterwards in 1591, which cannot be far from the truth. Collier, White, and Delius are disposed to place it even earlier. Furnivall makes it 1591-2 (cf. A. Y. L. p. 25), immediately after the Midsummer-Night's Dream. Dowden is doubtful whether it preceded or followed that play, but inclines to the former view. Fleay, in his Manual (p. 28), assigns the first two acts to 1593, the rest to 1595; in his more recent Introduction to Shakespearian Study (p. 21), he dates it "circa 1595."*

The play is well printed in the folio, and the textual difficultics are comparatively few.

II. THE SOURCES OF THE PLOT.

Some of the incidents in the play are identical with those in the Story of the Shepherdess Felismena in the Diana enamorada of Jorge de Montemayor, a Portuguese poet and novelist (though this romance was written in Spanish), who was born in 1520. The Diana was translated by Bartholomew Yong (or Young) as early as 1583, though his version was not printed until 1598. The tale appears to have been dramatized in 1584, when a play called the History of Felix and Philomena was acted at Greenwich. Shakespeare is also supposed to have borrowed incidents or expressions from Bandello's novel of Apollonius and Sylla, which was translated in 1581, and from Sidney's Arcadia. He was, however, but slightly indebted to any of these sources, and some of the coincidences that have been pointed out are probably accidental.

IO

[•] In his Chronicle History of Shakesteare, published in 1886, Fleay says (p. 188): "I believe... that the play was produced in 1591, with work by a second hand in it, which was cut out and replaced by Shakespeare's own in 1595," For an interesting discussion of Fleay's first opinion, see Trans. of New Shake, Soc. for 1874, p. 319 fol.