

**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**



SHAKESPEARE'S
COMEDY OF THE
TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA.

EDITED, WITH NOTES,
BY
WILLIAM J. ROLFE, LITT. D.,
FORMERLY HEAD MASTER OF THE HIGH SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

WITH ENGRAVINGS.



NEW YORK:
HARPER & BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS,
FRANKLIN SQUARE

1895.

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
FROM THE LIBRARY OF
GEORGE RICHARD BLINN

Sept 10, 1926

ENGLISH CLASSICS.

EDITED BY WM. J. ROLFE, Litt. D.

Illustrated. 16mo, Cloth, 56 cents per volume; Paper, 40 cents per volume.

SHAKESPEARE'S WORKS.

The Merchant of Venice.	Richard III.
Othello.	Henry VIII.
Julius Cæsar.	King Lear.
A Midsummer-Night's Dream.	The Taming of the Shrew.
Macbeth.	All 's Well that Ends Well.
Hamlet.	Coriolanus.
Much Ado about Nothing.	The Comedy of Errors.
Romeo and Juliet.	Cymbeline.
As You Like It.	Antony and Cleopatra.
The Tempest.	Measure for Measure.
Twelfth Night.	Merry Wives of Windsor.
The Winter's Tale.	Love's Labour's Lost.
King John.	Two Gentlemen of Verona.
Richard II.	Timon of Athens.
Henry IV. Part I.	Troilus and Cressida.
Henry IV. Part II.	Pericles, Prince of Tyre.
Henry V.	The Two Noble Kinsmen.
Henry VI. Part I.	Venus and Adonis, Lucrece, etc.
Henry VI. Part II.	Sonnets.
Henry VI. Part III.	Titus Andronicus.

GOLDSMITH'S SELECT POEMS.

BROWNING'S SELECT POEMS.

GRAY'S SELECT POEMS.

BROWNING'S SELECT DRAMAS.

MINOR FORMS OF JOHN MILTON.

MACAULAY'S LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME

WORDSWORTH'S SELECT POEMS.

PUBLISHED BY HARPER & BROTHERS, NEW YORK.

The above works are for sale by all booksellers, or they will be sent by HARPER & BROTHERS to any address on receipt of price as quoted. If ordered sent by mail, 10 per cent. should be added to the price to cover cost of postage.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION TO THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA.....	9
I. THE HISTORY OF THE PLAY.....	9
II. THE SOURCES OF THE PLOT.....	10
III. CRITICAL COMMENTS ON THE PLAY.....	11
THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA.....	41
ACT I.....	43
" II.....	56
" III.....	77
" IV.....	92
" V.....	108
NOTES.....	119



ITALIAN NOBLES (AFTER HUGHES)



VERONA: VIEW ON THE ADIGE.

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

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 difficulties 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.

* In his *Chronicle History of Shakespeare*, 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 Shaks. Soc.* for 1874, p. 319 fol.