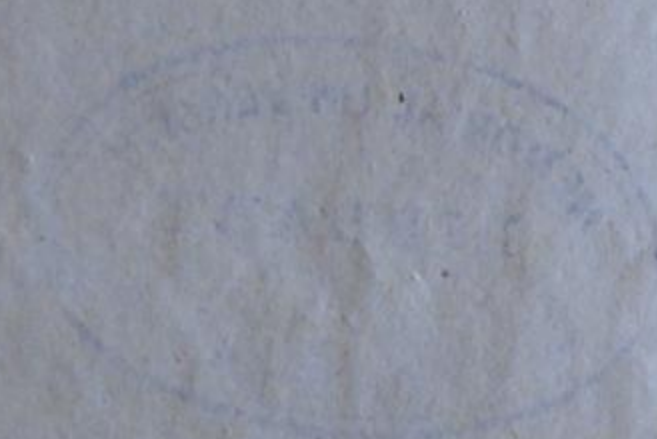


W. B. S.  
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THE  
PLAYS AND POEMS  
OF  
WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE.

VOLUME THE SECOND.

*Matthew Murray Jr.*

THE  
PLAYS AND POEMS

OF  
WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE.

VOLUME THE SECOND.

CONTAINING  
MEASURE FOR MEASURE.  
THE COMEDY OF ERRORS.  
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.  
LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST.  
A MIDSUMMER-NIGHT'S DREAM.

LONDON: PRINTED BY H. BALDWIN,  
For J. Rivington and Sons, L. Davis, B. White and Son, T. Longman,  
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and Whitaker, T. and J. Egerton, C. Stalker, J. Barker, J. Edwards,  
Ogilvie and Speare, J. Cuthell, J. Lackington, and E. Newbery.

M DCC XC.

Mrs Ann & Harry Sewe

Persons Represented,

Vincentio, *duke of Vienna.*  
Angelo, *lord deputy in the duke's absence.*  
Escalus, *an ancient lord, joined with Angelo in the deputation.*  
Claudio, *a young gentleman.*  
Lucio, *a fantastick.*  
*Two other like gentlemen.*  
Varrius\*, *a gentleman, servant to the duke.*  
Provost.  
Thomas, } *two friars.*  
Peter, }  
*A justice.*  
Elbow, *a simple constable.*  
Froth, *a foolish gentleman.*  
Clown, *servant to Mrs. Over-done.*  
Abhorson, *an executioner.*  
Barnardine, *a dissolute prisoner.*  
  
Isabella, *sister to Claudio.*  
Mariana, *betrothed to Angelo.*  
Juliet, *beloved by Claudio.*  
Francisca, *a nun.*  
Mistress Overdone, *a bawd.*

Lords, gentlemen, guards, officers, and other attendants.

SCENE, Vienna.

\* Varrius might be omitted, for he is only once spoken to, and says nothing. JOHNSON.

MEASURE for MEASURE.

ACT I. SCENE I.

*A room in the Duke's Palace.*

Enter Duke, ESCALUS, Lords, and Attendants.

Duke. Escalus,—

Escal. My Lord.

Duke. Of government the properties to unfold,  
Would seem in me to affect speech and discourse;

<sup>1</sup> The story is taken from Cinthio's *Novels*, Decad. 8. Novel 5. POPE.  
We are sent to Cinthio for the plot of *Measure for Measure*, and Shakspeare's judgment hath been attacked for some deviations from him in the conduct of it, when probably all he knew of the matter was from Madam Isabella, in the *Heptameron* of Whetstone, Lond. 4to. 1582.— She reports, in the fourth dayes Exercise, the rare *Historie of Promos and Cassandra*. A marginal note informs us, that *Whetstone* was the author of the *Comedie* on that subject; which likewise had probably fallen into the hands of Shakspeare. FARMER.

There is perhaps not one of Shakspeare's plays more darkened than this by the peculiarities of its authour, and the unskillfulness of its editors, by distortions of phrase, or negligence of transcription. JOHNSON.

Shakspeare took the fable of this play from the *Promos and Cassandra* of G. Whetstone, published in 1578. See Theobald's note at the end.

A hint, like a seed, is more or less prolifick, according to the qualities of the soil on which it is thrown. This story, which in the hands of Whetstone produced little more than barren infidelity, under the culture of Shakspeare became fertile of entertainment. The curious reader will find that the old play of *Promos and Cassandra* exhibits an almost complete embryo of *Measure for Measure*; yet the hints on which it is formed are so slight, that it is nearly as impossible to detect them, as it is to point out in the acorn the future ramifications of the oak.

The reader will find the argument of G. Whetstone's *Promos and Cassandra*, at the end of this play. It is too bulky to be inserted here. See likewise the piece itself among *Six old Plays on which Shakspeare founded* &c. published by S. Leacroft, Charing-crois. STEEVENS.

*Measure for Measure* was, I believe, written in 1603. See an Attempt to ascertain the order of Shakspeare's plays, ante. MALONE.

## LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST.

obscene and most preposterous event, that draweth from my snow-white pen the ebon-colour'd ink, which here thou viewest, beholdest, surveyest, or seest: But to the place, where, — It standeth north-north-east and by east from the west corner of thy curious-knotted garden: There did I see that lewd-spirited swain, that base minnow of thy mirth<sup>1</sup>,

Cost. Me.

King. — that unletter'd small-knowing soul,

Cost. Me.

King. — that shallow rascal,

Cost. Still me.

King. — which, as I remember, bight Costard,

Cost. O me!

King. — sorted and consorted, contrary to thy established proclaimed edict and continent canon, with — with<sup>2</sup> — O with — but with this I passion to say where-with.

Cost. With a wench.

King. — with a child of our grandmother Eve, a female; or, for thy more sweet understanding, a woman. Him I (as my ever-esteemed duty pricks me on) have sent to thee, to receive the meed of punishment, by thy sweet Grace's officer, Anthony Dull; a man of good repute, carriage, bearing, and estimation.

Dull. Me, an't shall please you; I am Anthony Dull.

King. For Jaquenetta, (so is the weaker vessel called, which I apprehended with the aforesaid swain,) I keep her as a vessel of thy law's fury; and shall, at the least of thy sweet notice, bring her to trial. Thine, in all compliments of devoted and heart-burning heat of duty,

Don Adriano de Armado.

<sup>1</sup> — base minnow of thy mirth,] The base minnow of thy mirth, is the contemptibly little object that contributes to thy entertainment. Shakspeare makes Coriolanus characterise the tribunitian insolence of Sicinius, under the same figure:

" — hear you not

" This Triton of the minnows?"

Again, in *Have with you to Saffron Walden* &c. 1596: "Let him denie that there was another shewe made of the little minnow, his brother", &c. STEEVENS.

<sup>2</sup> — with — with —] The old copy reads — which with. The correction is Mr. Theobald's. MALONE.

Bir.

## LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST.

Bir. This is not so well as I look'd for, but the best that ever I heard.

King. Ay, the best for the worst. But, sirrah, what say you to this?

Cost. Sir, I confes the wench.

King. Did you hear the proclamation?

Cost. I do confes much of the hearing it, but little of the marking of it<sup>3</sup>.

King. It was proclaim'd a year's imprisonment to be taken with a wench.

Cost. I was taken with none, fir; I was taken with a damofel.

King. Well, it was proclaim'd damofel.

Cost. This was no damofel neither, fir; she was a virgin.

King. It is so varied too; for it was proclaim'd, virgin.

Cost. If it were, I deny her virginity; I was taken with a maid.

King. This maid shall serve your turn, fir.

Cost. This maid shall serve my turn, fir.

King. Sir, I will absolve your sentence; You shall fast a week with bran and water.

Cost. I had rather pray a month with mutton and porridge.

King. And Don Armado shall be your keeper. —

My lord Biron, see him deliver'd o'er. —

And go we, lords, to put in practice that

Which each to other hath so strongly sworn.

[Exeunt King, LONGAVILLE, and DUMAIN.]

Bir. I'll lay my head to any good man's hat,

These oaths and laws will prove an idle scorn. —

Sirrah, come on.

Cost. I suffer for the truth, fir: for true it is, I was taken with Jaquenetta, and Jaquenetta is a true girl; and therefore, Welcome the four cup of prosperity! Affliction may one day smile again, and till then, Sit thee down, sorrow!

[Exeunt.]

<sup>3</sup> I do confes much of the hearing it, but little of the marking of it.] So *Falstaff*, in *K. Henry IV. P. II*: "—it is the disease of not listening, the malady of not marking, that I am troubled withal." STEEV.

SCENE

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