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The Henry Irving Shakespeare

VOLUME 3

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
EDITED BY HENRY IRVING
AND FRANK A. MARSHALL



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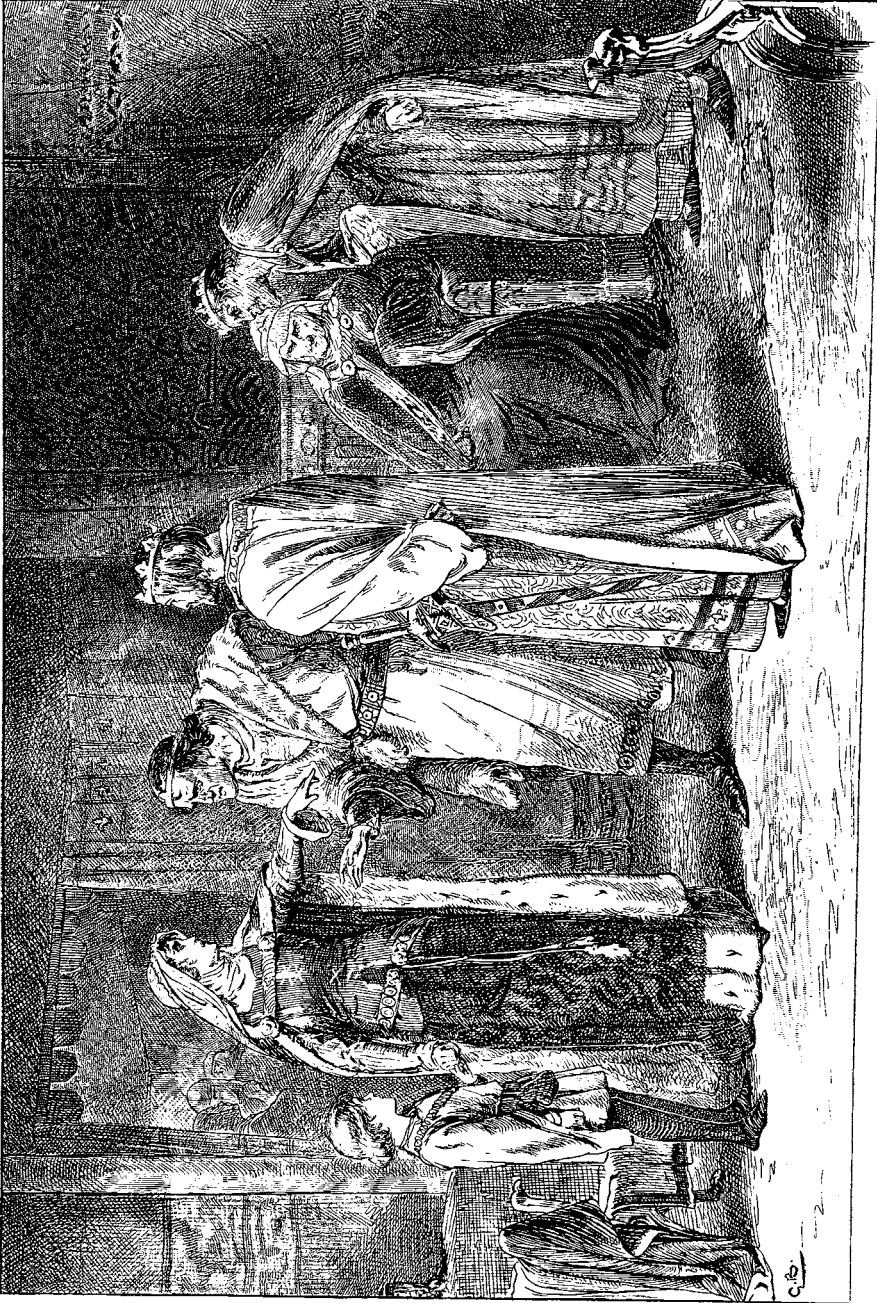
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THE WORKS
OF
SHAKESPEARE.





KING JOHN

Act III. Scene I. line 112

Aust.
Const. War! war! no peace! peace is to me a war

THE HENRY IRVING SHAKESPEARE.

THE WORKS
OF
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

EDITED BY
HENRY IRVING AND FRANK A. MARSHALL.

WITH
NOTES AND INTRODUCTIONS TO EACH PLAY BY F. A. MARSHALL
AND OTHER SHAKESPEARIAN SCHOLARS,

AND
NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS BY GORDON BROWNE.

VOLUME III.



LONDON:
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1888.

PREFATORY NOTE.

The plays in this volume, with the exception of *Richard III.*, belong to what is generally called Shakespeare's Second Period. In *King John* we find a great advance in characterization; in the *Merchant of Venice* we have the first of Shakespeare's best comedies; and in the two parts of *Henry IV.* Shakespeare reaches the climax of excellence in his historic plays. The first play in this volume, *Richard III.*, occupies a disproportionate space owing to the immense number of differences between the Quarto and Folio readings, and to the difficulty of deciding, in many instances, between these two authorities on the text.

In this volume the plan of co-operation, as far as the editing is concerned, has been put to a practical test. The difficulty of securing uniformity in the plan of the work has been considerable in the case of plays edited at a distance—the two last plays having been chiefly edited in America. But I hope that the object which we set before us in commencing this edition has been attained, namely, while preserving all the characteristic features of the edition, to allow the co-editors of the various plays perfect liberty of opinion.

I have again to thank many kind friends for their valuable help; and I trust that the very moderate amount of fault-finding, in which some of the critics and private individuals have indulged, will not be found to have been wasted. Some slips have been made in spite of all the care that has been exercised; but I defer giving a list of errata till the work is farther advanced.

F. A. MARSHALL.

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