

OCCASIONAL PAPERS ON SHAKESPEARE.

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OCCASIONAL PAPERS

On Shakespeare:

Being the Second Part of

Shakespeare the Man and the Book.

BY

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Contents.

	PAGE
Note - - - - -	vii
SHAKESPEARE THE BOOK.	
I.—The Tongue of Shakespeare - - - - -	I
II.—Tests of Authorship - - - - -	41
III.—Metrical Tests applied to Shakespeare - - - - -	50
(By F. G. Fleay, M.A.)	
(Tables on which Mr. Fleay's Essay is founded - - - - -)	99-141
IV.—The Literary Career of a Shakespeare Forger - - - - -	142
SHAKESPEARE THE MAN.	
V.—The Elegy on Burbadge - - - - -	169
VI.—Shakespeare's Play-work - - - - -	183

Note.

THESE Occasional Papers are intended to complete the series entitled *Shakespeare the Man and the Book*. The entire collection includes such of my smaller writings as I have deemed worthy of preservation. That which here stands first had been deliberately excluded from the first Part ; and it owes its appearance here to an after-thought, as having still a purpose to serve by its uncompromising protest against the spirit of emendation, which Mr. Swinburne allows to be one of the three banes of modern criticism.* In order, however, to make it serve a less ephemeral purpose than that for which it was originally written, it was found necessary to make some considerable omissions and insertions, which are here indicated by the stars and the square brackets. The third paper was most generously written for this book to supply the place of my own fragmentary and unsatisfactory notes on Metrical Tests (referred to in Part I, p. 70), of which I have retained the portion constituting the second paper, as a suitable vestibule to Mr. Fleay's edifice. It must not be supposed, however, that I accept all his conclusions, though it is my conviction that whatever of permanent value may be effected in this minor

* *A Study of Shakespeare*. 1880. Page 3.