

## N O T E S

UPON SOME OF

## SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS





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## ON THE STAGE.



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## ON THE STAGE.

THINGS dramatic and things theatrical are often confounded together in the minds of English people, who, being for the most part neither the one nor the other, speak and write of them as if they were identical, instead of, as they are, so dissimilar that they are nearly opposite.

That which is dramatic in human nature is the passionate, emotional, humorous element, the simplest portion of our composition, after our mere instincts, to which it is closely allied, and this has no relation whatever, beyond its momentary excitement and gratification, to that which imitates it, and is its theatrical reproduction ; the dramatic is the *real*, of which the theatrical is the *false*.