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THE
PHILOSOPHY OF "HAMLET."

BY

THOMAS TYLER, M.A.

Of the University of London,

AUTHOR OF "ECCLESIASTES; A CONTRIBUTION TO ITS INTERPRETATION,"
ETC. ETC.

"To hold, as 'twere, the mirror up to Nature."

Hamlet, Act iii. Sc. 2.

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PREFACE.

SINCE books are commonly appraised, like wool and tallow, according to their weight and bulk, some apology may be necessary for offering to the public so small a treatise on so great a subject as “The Philosophy of *Hamlet*.” I have, however, no great liking for big books; and, besides, the opinions set forth in the following pages are likely to be so distasteful to a good many worthy people, that I am afraid they would not readily concede to me the praise of excellence, even if I should bury what I have to say in extraneous matter of fifty times its bulk. It should be premised, however, that my position is simply that of an interpreter. With the truth or falsity of the philosophical sentiments contained in *Hamlet*, I am not at present concerned. It is sufficient if I succeed in showing what these sentiments are, adducing on that behalf valid and conclusive evidence.

T. T.

November, 1874.