



Robert Graves. sculp.

S. HAKSPEARE.

H  $\frac{624}{33}$  SHAKSPEARE

AND HIS

CONTEMPORARIES;

TOGETHER WITH

THE PLOTS OF HIS PLAYS,

THEATRES AND ACTORS.

“When he speaks,  
The air, a charter'd libertine, is still,  
And the mute wonder lurketh in men's ears  
To steal his sweet and honeyed sentences.”

—*King Henry V.*

BY WILLIAM TEGG, F.R.H.S.,

AUTHOR OF

“Posts and Telegrams,” “Meetings and Greetings,”  
“The Knot Tied,” &c.

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## PREFACE.

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ALTHOUGH this little book is principally intended for the use of youthful students of Shakspeare, it is, we think, by no means necessary to warn off maturer admirers of the genius of our mighty poet, to whom it may not have occurred that their appreciation and enjoyment of his works might be materially enhanced by an acquaintance with the general character of the other dramatic authors of his day, and the measure of their ability, or to gather from contemporary chronicles the manner of the production of Shakspeare's Plays, their chronological order, and the derivation of their plots.

Thus carrying the mind of the reader, step by step, by a concise account of Shakspeare and his times, to a fairly complete knowledge of the work he accomplished, we have included the Original Preface and Dedication to the Players' Edition of 1621, a brief account of the

Elizabethan Stage and the actors thereon, and other minor matters connected with the poet's life, his will, epitaphs, &c. It has been justly said of Shakspeare,—  
“His excellences compelled even his *contemporaries* to seat him on that throne, although there were giants in those days contending for the same honour.”

WILLIAM TEGG, F.R.H.S.

PANCRAS LANE,  
1879.