CONTENTS

I. Ancestry ........................................ 1
II. Parentage ....................................... 13
III. Boyhood and Early Environment .............. 33
IV. Schooling ...................................... 48
V. Apprenticeship and Marriage ................... 61
VI. Departure from Stratford ...................... 79
VII. The Rise of Professionalism in the Drama ... 97
VIII. Arrival in London, and Labors for the Pembroke's Company .... 123
IX. Period of Non-Dramatic Composition .......... 145
X. With the Lord Chamberlain's Company ......... 184
XI. London Residences and Actor Friends .......... 197
XII. Labors for the Chamberlain's Men, 1594–98 .... 207
XIII. Rise in Fame and in Social Dignity .......... 237
XIV. The Erection of New Playhouses; the Globe .... 262
XV. Joyous Comedies; Hamlet ........................ 289
XVI. The Essex Rebellion, and the War of the Theatres .... 315
XVII. The Passionate Pilgrim and Love's Martyr .... 332
XVIII. Worcester's Men; Troilus and Cressida .... 343
XIX. The Coming of James; Royal Favor .......... 355
XX. Personal Affairs, 1602–07 .................... 378
CONTENTS

XXI. Dramatic Labors, 1607–09; Acquisition of Blackfriars 398
XXII. Tragi-Comedy and Romance 409
XXIII. Last Labors for the King's Men 422
XXIV. Retirement to Stratford 440
XXV. Death and Burial 460
XXVI. Descendants 481
XXVII. The Making of the Playhouse Manuscripts 489
XXVIII. The Printing of the Quartos 510
XXIX. The Attempted Collection of 1619 525
XXX. The First Folio 533
Index 545
ILLUSTRATIONS

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Profile of the portrait bust, from the monument erected in the Stratford Church shortly after the poet's death.

Photogravure frontispiece

MAP OF THE REGION ABOUT STRATFORD 8
THE SNITTERFIELD CHURCH 10
PLAN OF STRATFORD-ON-AVON 14
GROUND PLAN OF THE SHAKESPEARE HOUSES IN HENLEY STREET 15
THE SHAKESPEARE HOME IN HENLEY STREET 18
THE MARKS OF MARY AND JOHN SHAKESPEARE 19
STRATFORD-ON-AVON 34
OLD HOUSES IN STRATFORD 36
Reproduced by permission of Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co. from J. O. Halliwell-Phillipps's Outlines of the Life of Shakespeare.

CLOPTON BRIDGE, STRATFORD 40
THE STRATFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL (EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR) 50

ANNE HATHAWAY'S COTTAGE 66
THE SITE OF THE THEATRE AND THE CURTAIN 114
THE ROSE PLAYHOUSE 120
MAP OF LONDON, 1593 126

THE EARL OF SOUTHAMPTON 150
From a painting at Welbeck Abbey, reproduced by special permission of His Grace the Duke of Portland.

TITLE-PAGE OF VENUS AND ADONIS, 1593 154
DEDICATION OF THE SONNETS 178
EDWARD ALLEYN 192
RICHARD BURBAGE 202
SIR JOHN FALSTAFF AND THE HOSTESS OF THE BOAR'S HEAD TAVERN 228

[ xv ]
ILLUSTRATIONS

The Chandos Portrait of Shakespeare  240
   From a painting in the National Portrait Gallery, London.

A Section from the Second Draft of a Grant of Arms to Shakespeare  250

The Site of New Place  254

The Swan Playhouse  266

The Interior of the Swan Playhouse  268

The Lord High Admiral, the Lord Chamberlain, Lord Cobham, and Others  272
   From a painting representing the procession of Queen Elizabeth to the marriage of Lord Herbert and Anne Russell at Blackfriars, June 16, 1600.

Ben Jonson  276
   From a unique early impression of the engraving by Robert Vaughan, in the library of Mr. Beverly Chew; reproduced by permission.

The First Globe  280

Conjectural Reconstruction of the Globe: Plan  282

Conjectural Reconstruction of the Globe: Elevation  284

Conjectural Reconstruction of the Interior of the Globe  286

Title-Page of the First Authorized Edition of Hamlet  310

Title-Page of The Passionate Pilgrimage, 1599  332

King James I  356
   From a painting in the National Portrait Gallery, London.

Entry in the Lord Chamberlain’s Books of the Grant of Red Cloth to the King’s Company of Players, March, 1604  358

The Somerset House Conference, 1604  366
   From a painting in the National Portrait Gallery, London.

Signature of John Hall  396

The Site of the Blackfriars Playhouse  406

[ xvi ]
ILLUSTRATIONS

FRANCIS BEAUMONT 414
From a painting at Knole Park, reproduced by special permission
of the Rt. Hon. Lord Sackville, G.C.M.G.

JOHN FLETCHER 418
From a painting in the National Portrait Gallery, London.

HALL'S CROFT 446

SIGNATURE OF SUSANNA HALL 446

SIGNATURE OF JOHN COMBE 449

SIGNATURE OF THOMAS QUINEY 458

MICHAEL DRAYTON 460

SHAKESPEARE'S SIGNATURE TO HIS WILL 461

TRINITY CHURCH, STRATFORD-ON-AVON 472

INSCRIPTION ON FLAGSTONE OVER SHAKESPEARE'S GRAVE 473

THE CHANCEL, TRINITY CHURCH 478

SIGNATURE OF THOMAS NASH 482

SIGNATURE OF ELIZABETH NASH 483

THE SHIELD ON THE TOMB OF THOMAS NASH 484

A PORTION OF FOLIO 9 FROM SIR THOMAS MORE, POSSI-
BLY IN THE AUTOGRAPH OF SHAKESPEARE 498

THE OFFICIAL LICENSE OF THE MASTER OF THE REVELS,
SIR GEORGE BUC, PLACED AT THE END OF THE STAGE
MANUSCRIPT OF "THE SECOND MAIDEN'S TRAGEDY" 502

THE VELLUM COVER OF A PROMPT-BOOK FROM THE STORE-
ROOM OF SHAKESPEARE'S COMPANY 506

WILLIAM HERBERT, EARL OF PEMBROKE 526
From the engraving by Simon Pass, 1617.

THOMAS PAVIER'S TITLE-PAGE FOR HIS 1619 ISSUE OF
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE 530

THE DROESHOUT PORTRAIT OF SHAKESPEARE, 1623 540

PHILIP HERBERT, EARL OF MONTGOMERY 542
From a painting in the National Portrait Gallery, London.