The Works of William Shakespeare [Cambridge Edition] [Vol. 5 of 9]

William Shakespeare

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THE WORKS
OF
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

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OF
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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PREFACE.

The First Part of King Henry the Sixth was printed for the first time, so far as we know, in the Folio of 1623. The same edition contained also for the first time in their present form, ‘The second Part of King Henry the Sixt, with the death of the Good Duke Humfrey,’ and ‘The third Part of King Henry the Sixt, with the death of the Duke of Yorke.’

The play upon which the Second part of Henry the Sixth was founded was first printed in quarto (Q1), in 1594, with the following title:

The | First part of the Con- tention betwixt the two famous houses of Yorke | and Lancaster, with the death of the good | Duke Humphrey: | And the banishment and death of the Duke of | _Suffolke_, and the Tragicall end of the proud Cardinall | of _Winchester_, with the notable Rebellion | of _Iacke Cade:_ | _And the Duke of Yorkes first claime vnto the_ | _Crowne_. | LONDON | Printed by Thomas Creed, for Thomas Millington, | and are to be sold at his shop vnder Saint Peters | Church in Cornwall. | 1594. |

The only copy known of this edition is in the Bodleian Library

(Malone, Add. 870), and is probably the same which was once in Malone's possession, and which he collated with the second Quarto printed in 1600. Mr Halliwell, in the preface to 'The first sketches of the second and third parts of King Henry the Sixth,' edited by him for the Shakespeare Society, is inclined to doubt this, on the ground that Malone quotes, from the copy in his possession, a reading which does not exist in that now in the Bodleian. The passage in question is in Scene IX. line 12, p. 370 of the present volume, 'Honouring him as if he were their king:' on which Mr Halliwell in his note observes, 'Malone, who has collated his copy of the edition of 1600, "printed by W. W.," with a copy of the 1594 edition formerly in his possession, distinctly writes--

"_Thinking_ him as if he were their king,"

as the reading of his copy of the first edition. If so, it must have been a different copy from that now in the Bodleian, from which the present text is reprinted, and another instance of the curious variations in different copies of the same editions, which were first discovered by Steevens (Boswell's _Malone_, Vol. X. p. 73), and recently applied to good use by Mr Collier.' Mr Halliwell has here inadvertently fallen into error. Malone's collation is made in a copy of the edition of 1600, in which the line stands thus:

'Honouring him as if he were _a king_.'

At the foot of the page he wrote 'their king,' which is the reading of the edition of 1594 for the two last words, but which Mr Halliwell misread 'thinking' and regarded as a various reading for 'Honouring.' It is still possible, therefore, that Malone's copy and that at present in the Bodleian may be identical.

The second edition (Q2) of the First Part of the Contention appeared in quarto in 1600, with the following title:

The | First part of the Con-|tention betwixt the two famous hou-|_ses of Yorke and Lancaster, with the_ | death of the good Duke | Humphrey: | And the banishment and death of the Duke of | Suffolke, and the Tragical end of the prowd Cardinall | _of Winchester, with the notable Rebellion of_ | _Iacke Cade_: | _And the Duke of Yorkes first clayme to the_ | _Crowne_. | LONDON | Printed by Valentine Simmes for Thomas Millington, and | are to be sold at his shop vnder S. Peters church | in Cornewall. | 1600. |

Copies with this title are in the Library of the Duke of Devonshire, and in the Bodleian (Malone, 867). An imperfect copy, wanting the last seven leaves, is in the Capell collection. Another impression bearing the same date, 'Printed by W. W. for Thomas Millington,' is said to exist, but we have been unable to find it. The MS. title quoted by Mr Halliwell from a copy in the Bodleian (Malone, 36) is prefixed to what appears to us unquestionably the same edition as the above. The minute correspondence of misplaced and defective letters between this copy and Capell's, with which, as well as with the other copy in the Bodleian, we have compared it, proves beyond question that all three must have been printed from the same form, and that the MS. title inserted in Malone's copy is out of place. So far therefore from Capell's imperfect copy of this edition being unique, as Mr Halliwell states, there are at least two other perfect copies in existence, besides one which only wants the title-page. In Lowndes's _Bibliographer's Manual_ (ed. Bohn, p. 2281), another is said to be in the possession of Mr Tite. The late Mr George Daniel is stated, on the same authority, to have had the editions printed by Valentine

Simmes and by W. W. in one volume, but they were not sold at his sale, and we have been unable to trace them.

In 1619, a third edition (Q3) without date, printed by Isaac Jaggard, and including also 'The True Tragedy of Richard Duke of York,' appeared with the following title:

The | Whole Contention | betweene the two Famous Houses, LANCASTER and | YORKE. | _With the Tragicall ends of the good Duke_ | Humfrey, Richard Duke of Yorke, | _and King Henrie the_ | _sixt_. | Diuided into two Parts: And newly corrected and | enlarged. Written by _William Shake-_|_speare_, Gent. | Printed at LONDON, for T. P. |

On the title-page of his copy of this edition, Capell has added in MS. the date '1619.--at the same time with the Pericles that follows; as appears by the continuation of the signatures.' The signatures of 'The whole Contention' are from A to Q in fours, while in _Pericles_, 'Printed for T. P. 1619,' the first page has signature R, which shows that the two must have formed part of the same volume.

'The True Tragedy of Richard Duke of York,' which formed the ground-work of The Third part of King Henry the Sixth, was first printed in small 8vo. in 1595, with the following title:

The | true Tragedie of Richard | _Duke of Yorke, and the death of_ | good King Henrie the Sixt, | _With the whole contention betweene_ | the two Houses Lancaster | and Yorke, as it was sundrie times | acted by the Right Honoura-|ble the Earle of Pem-|brooke his seruants. | Printed at London by P. S. for Thomas Milling-|_ton, and are to be sold at his shoppe vnder_ | _Saint Peters Church in_ | _Cornwal_, 1595. |

A unique copy of this edition is in the Bodleian Library (Malone, 876). Although printed in 8vo. we have quoted it as Q1, in order to avoid introducing a new notation.

The second edition (Q2) was printed in 1600, with the following title:

The | True Tragedie of | Richarde Duke of | Yorke, and the death of good | King Henrie the sixt: | With the whole contention betweene the two | Houses, Lancaster and Yorke; as it was | sundry times acted by the Right | Honourable the Earle | of Pembrooke his | seruantes. | Printed at London by _W. W._ for _Thomas Millington_, | and are to be sold at his shoppe vnder Saint | Peters Church in Cornewall. | 1600. |

Copies of this edition are in the Duke of Devonshire's Library, the Bodleian (Malone, 36), and the British Museum. In Malone's Shakespeare (ed. 1790, Vol. I. Pt. I. p. 235), among the 'Dramatick Pieces on which plays were formed by Shakespeare,' an edition of The True Tragedy is mentioned, bearing date '1600, V. S. for Thomas Millington,' but in a note to the 'Third Part of King Henry VI.' (Vol. VI. p. 261) he confesses, 'I have never seen the quarto copy of the _Second_ part of The whole Contention, &c. printed by _Valentine Simmes_ for Thomas Millington, 1600;' and it is extremely doubtful whether such a one exists. A copy of The True Tragedy, and not, as stated in Bohn's Lowndes, of The First Part of the Contention, printed by W. W. 1600, was sold at Rhodes's sale in 1825 (No. 2113). The only authority therefore for the existence of an edition of The First Part of the Contention, printed by W. W. in 1600, is the MS. title-page of Malone's copy in the Bodleian Library. Capell merely quotes it on the authority of Pope, and all that Pope says in the Table

at the end of his first edition, after giving the title of The Whole Contention printed in 1619, is, 'Since Printed under the same Title by _W. W._ for _Tho. Millington_, with the true Tragedy of _Richard_ D. of _York_, and the Death of good King _Henry_ the 6th, acted by the Earl of Pembroke his servants 1600.' This clearly refers to the second Quarto of The True Tragedy, not to that of The First Part of the Contention, and appears to us to be the origin of the error†.

——————— † This view is further confirmed by a manuscript note at the back of the title-page of Steevens's copy of The True Tragedy, ed. 1600, now in the British Museum. It shews that Pope is the only authority for the statement, and is as follows: 'This is only the _third_ part of K. Henry VI. The _second_ part, according to Pope, was likewise printed in 1600, by W. W. for Thos. Millington. MALONE.'

The third edition (Q3) of The True Tragedy formed the second part of The Whole Contention described above. It has no separate title-page, but merely the heading:

The Second Part. | Containing the Tragedie of | Richard Duke of Yorke, and the | _good King Henrie the_ | Sixt. |

We have reprinted the text of The First Part of the Contention and of The True Tragedy from the first edition of each, giving in notes at the foot of the page the various readings of the second and third editions. For this purpose we collated Mr Halliwell's reprint for the Shakespeare Society with the originals in the Bodleian Library. The accuracy of Mr Halliwell's work materially facilitated our labours, and we can only hope that the errors of our own reprint may be as few and as unimportant as those we have discovered in his. For the

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