

CONTENTS

<i>Introduction</i>	13
<i>General Criticism of Shakespeare</i>	
Francis Meres	
<i>Shakespeare and the Ancients (from Palladis Tamia, 1598).</i>	31
Gabriel Harvey	
<i>Shakespeare's Public (from a manuscript note in a copy of Speght's Chaucer 1598).</i>	32
Francis Beaumont	
<i>Shakespeare and the Light of Nature (from a verse-letter to Ben Jonson, of about 1615).</i>	32
Ben Jonson	
(i) <i>'To the memory of my beloved . . . William Shakespeare' (from his commendatory verses in the First Folio, 1623).</i>	33
(ii) <i>This Side Idolatry (from Timber, or Discoveries, 1641).</i>	35
John Heminges and Henry Condell	
<i>Preface to the First Folio (1623).</i>	36
Leonard Digges	
(i) <i>To the Memorie of . . . Shakespeare (commendatory verses from the First Folio, 1623).</i>	37
(ii) <i>A Poet Born, Not Made (commendatory verses from the 1640 edition of Shakespeare's Poems).</i>	38
John Milton	
<i>On Shakespear, 1630 (commendatory verses from the Second Folio, 1632).</i>	40
Thomas Fuller	
<i>Shakespeare and Jonson (from Worthies of Warwickshire, 1662).</i>	41
Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle	
<i>A Letter on Shakespeare (from CCXI Sociable Letters, 1664).</i>	42

John Dryden	
(i) <i>Shakespeare and Nature</i> (from <i>Of Dramatick Poesie</i> , 1668).	43
(ii) <i>Shakespeare's Characterization</i> (from <i>Preface to Troilus and Cressida</i> , 1679).	44
Nicholas Rowe	
<i>Virtues and Faults of Shakespeare</i> (from <i>Some Account of the Life, etc., of Mr. William Shakespear</i> , 1709).	49
John Dennis	
<i>The Genius of Shakespeare</i> (from <i>On the Genius and Writings of Shakespear</i> , 1711).	60
Alexander Pope	
(i) <i>Excellencies and Defects of Shakespeare</i> (from the <i>Preface to his edition of Shakespeare</i> , 1725).	64
(ii) <i>For Gain, Not Glory</i> (from <i>Epistle to Augustus</i> , 1737, 11.69-72).	72
Voltaire, François Marie Arouet de	
<i>Shakespeare's Monstrous Farces</i> (from <i>Letters Concerning the English Nation, originally in Lettres Philosophiques</i> , 1734).	72
Samuel Johnson	
<i>Shakespeare</i> (from the <i>Preface to his edition of Shakespeare</i> , 1765).	74
Richard Farmer	
<i>Shakespeare's Learning</i> (from his <i>Essay on the Learning of Shakespeare</i> , 1767).	100
Elizabeth Montagu	
<i>Against Voltaire</i> (from <i>An Essay on the Writings and Genius of Shakespeare</i> , 1769).	105
A. W. Schlegel	
<i>Our Shakespeare</i> (from his <i>History of Literature</i>).	108
S. T. Coleridge	
(i) <i>The Genius of Shakespeare</i>	112
(ii) <i>The Characteristics of Shakespeare</i>	113
(iii) <i>Shakespeare's Achievement</i> (from <i>lecture notes in Coleridge's papers</i>).	117

William Hazlitt

- (i) *The Plastic Imagination* (from 'On Shakespeare and Milton,' Lectures on the English Poets, 1818). 118
- (ii) *Shakespeare—A Political Issue* (from the Letter to William Gifford, 1819). 129

John Keats

- (i) *Negative Capability* (from letter to George and Tom Keats, December 1817). 133
- (ii) *Shakespeare's Life of Allegory* (from letter to George and Georgiana Keats, 13 March, 1819). 133

Thomas Carlyle

- Shakespeare as Hero* (from 'The Hero as Poet,' in Lectures on Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic and History, 1841). 134

R. W. Emerson

- Shakespeare, or, The Poet* (from Representative Men, 1841). 141

Herman Melville

- Hawthorne and Shakespeare* (from a review of Hawthorne's Mosses from an Old Manse, in The Literary World, Aug. 17-24, 1850). 145

William Maginn

- Shakespeare and Ovid* (from 'The Learning of Shakespeare,' in The Shakespeare Papers of the Late William Maginn, LL.D., 1856). 149

Hippolyte Taine

- Shakespeare's Style* (from History of English Literature, 1863). 152

George Santayana

- The Absence of Religion in Shakespeare* (from Interpretations of Poetry and Religion, 1900). 158

Benedetto Croce

- Shakespeare's Ideal Development* (from Ariosto, Shakespeare and Corneille, translated by Douglas Ainslie, 1921). 170

- E. E. Stoll
Shakespeare's Characterisation (from Shakespeare Studies, 1927). 174
- G. Wilson Knight
Shakespeare Interpretation (from The Wheel of Fire, 1930). 177
- L. C. Knights
Shakespeare's Dramatic Poems (from 'How Many Children Had Lady Macbeth?' in Explorations, 1947; originally published in 1933). 182
- Alfred Harbage
The Quality of Shakespeare's Audience (from Shakespeare's Audience, 1941). 186
- S. L. Bethell
Conventionalism and Naturalism in Shakespeare (from Shakespeare and the Popular Dramatic Tradition, 1944). 198
- F. P. Wilson
Shakespeare's Reading (from Shakespeare Survey 3 (1950)). 208
- The Comedies and The Phoenix and the Turtle
- William Hazlitt
On Shakespeare's Comedy (from Lectures on the English Comic Writers, 1819). 221
- C. L. Barber
 (i) *The Saturnalian Pattern* 231
 (ii) *May Games and Metamorphoses on a Midsummer Night (from Shakespeare's Festive Comedy, 1959).* 234
- W. H. Auden
Love and Usury in The Merchant of Venice (from 'Brothers and Others,' in The Dyer's Hand (1963) and Selected Essays (1964)). 240
- Theophile Gautier
Sex in As You Like It (from Mademoiselle de Maupin, 1835). 252

Peter Ure

Troilus and Cressida (from *Shakespeare: The Problem Plays*, 1962). 257

Walter Pater

Measure for Measure (from *Appreciations*, 1889). 268

J. P. Brockbank

History and Histrionics in Cymbeline (from *Shakespeare Survey 11* (1958)). 277

S. T. Coleridge

(i) *Notes on The Winter's Tale and Othello* (from *lecture notes in Coleridge's papers*). 289

J. V. Cunningham

The Phoenix and the Turtle (from *Tradition and Poetic Structure*, 1960). 293

The History Plays

S. T. Coleridge

On the Histories (from a report of a lecture given at Bristol late in 1813). 300

M. M. Reese

Introduction to the Histories (from *The Cease of Majesty*, 1961). 301

Ernst H. Kantorowicz

Shakespeare: King Richard II (from *The King's Two Bodies*, 1957). 309

Maurice Morgann

Shakespeare and Falstaff (from *An Essay on the Dramatic Character of Falstaff*, 1777). 330

J. I. M. Stewart

The Rejection of Falstaff (from *Character and Motive in Shakespeare*, 1949). 343

The Tragedies

Charles Lamb

On the Tragedies (from *On the Tragedies of Shakespeare*, 1811). 356

- A. C. Bradley
Construction in Shakespeare's Tragedies (from Shakespearean Tragedy, 1904). 366
- Harry Levin
Form and Formality in Romeo and Juliet (from Shakespeare Quarterly XI 1960)). 386
- T. J. B. Spencer
Shakespeare and the Elizabethan Romans (from Shakespeare Survey 10, 1957). 400
- Hamlet*
- Hamlet in the Novel
- Henry Fielding
from Tom Jones, 1749—Partridge on Garrick's Hamlet 419
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
from Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship, 1795-6—Wilhelm Heister on Hamlet 423
- James Joyce
from Ulysses, 1922—Stephen Dedalus on Hamlet 427
- Boris Pasternak
from Doctor Zhivago, 1958: A New Soliloquy 430
- S. T. Coleridge
On Hamlet (from a lecture in the series on Shakespeare and Milton given in London in the winter 1811-1812). 431
- Ernest Jones
Hamlet Diagnosed (from Hamlet and Oedipus, 1949). 437
- G. D. F. Kitto
Hamlet as Religious Drama (from Form and Meaning in Drama, 1959). 452
- Othello*
- Thomas Rymer
Against Othello (from A Short View of Tragedy 1693). 461

- The Earl of Shaftesbury
A Woeful Tale (from Characteristicks, 1711). 469
- William Hazlitt
Mr. Kean's Othello (from The Times, October 27, 1817). 470
- Ronald Bryden
Olivier's Moor (from The New Statesman, May 1 1964). 472
- William Empson
Honest in Othello (from The Structure of Complex Words, 1951). 475
- King Lear*
- Samuel Johnson
On King Lear (from the edition of 1765). 490
- A. W. Schlegel
On Macbeth and King Lear (from Lectures on Dramatic Art and Literature, 1811), translated by John Black. 493
- Enid Welsford
The Fool in King Lear from The Fool, 1932). 501
- George Orwell
Lear, Tolstoy and the Fool (from Collected Essays, 1961). 514
- John Holloway
The Resolution of King Lear (from The Story of the Night, 1962). 531
- Macbeth*
- S. T. Coleridge
On Macbeth (from a report of a lecture given in Bristol in 1813). 536
- Thomas De Quincey
On the Knocking at the Gate in Macbeth (1823). 539
- G. Wilson Knight
The Pilgrimage of Hate: an essay on Timon of Athens (from The Wheel of Fire, 1930). 544