

**NATURAL HISTORY OF
SHAKESPEARE; BEING
SELECTIONS OF FLOWERS,
FRUITS, AND ANIMALS**

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Natural history of Shakespeare; being selections of flowers, fruits, and animals by William Shakespeare & Bessie Mayou

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & BESSIE MAYOU

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NATURAL HISTORY
OF
SHAKESPEARE

ALL the Quotations in this book are taken from the text of Johnson and Stevens, and the "Handy Volume" edition of Shakespeare.

1877.

B. M.

NATURAL HISTORY

OF

SHAKESPEARE

BEING SELECTIONS OF

FLOWERS, FRUITS, AND ANIMALS

ARRANGED BY

BESSIE MAYOU

One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin.

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA, Act iii. Scene 3.

EDWIN SLATER

(BOOKSELLER AND PUBLISHER TO H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES)

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PREFACE.



IN publishing the present work, I feel that some short explanation is necessary. I was first led to take up the Natural History of Shakespeare from a short paragraph I saw in the "Garden" a few years ago, and was struck with the very large number of flowers, fruits, vegetables, etc., mentioned; as we must remember Shakespeare's object was not to write of trees and plants, but to use them as illustrations, and also that, three centuries ago, very little was known of botany, more especially of English wild flowers. With regard to the Animal Kingdom, it is merely a continuation of the former, as I had no idea of ever completing my work when I commenced it two years ago.

In conclusion, let me say that love, not presumption, prompted me throughout, and let Shakespeare speak for me—

“He that of greatest works is Finisher,
Oft does them by the weakest minister.”

BESSIE MAYOU.

CHEETHAM HILL.





GARDEN FLOWERS.

Here's a few flowers.

CYMBELINE, Act iv. Scene 2.

ROSE.

Oberon. Quite over-canopied with lush woodbine,
With sweet musk roses, and with eglantine :

Titania. Come, sit thee down upon this flowery bed,
While I thy amiable cheeks do coy,
And stick musk roses in thy sleek smooth head,
And kiss thy fair large ears, my gentle joy.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, Act ii. Scene 1 ;

Act iv. Scene 1.

Don John. I had rather be a canker in a hedge
than a rose in his grace ;

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, Act i. Scene 3.

Duke. . . . let thy love be younger than thyself,
Or thy affection cannot hold the bent :
For women are as roses ; whose fair flower,
Being once display'd, doth fall that very hour.

TWELFTH NIGHT, Act ii. Scene 4.