SHAKESPEARE'S PLUTARCH. VOL. I.: CONTAINING THE MAIN SOURCES OF JULIUS CAESAR

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Shakespeare's Plutarch. Vol. I.: Containing the main sources of Julius Caesar by C. F. Tucker Brooke & B. Litt

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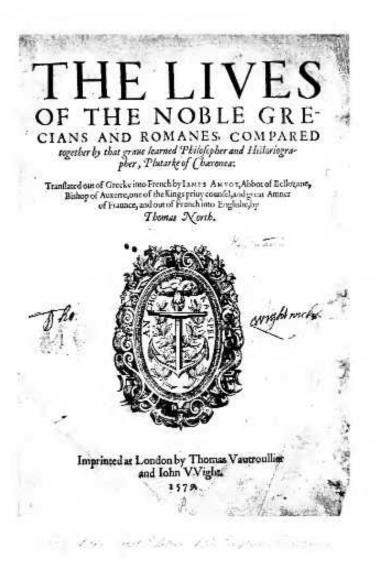
S H A K E S P E A R E'S PLUTARCH : EDITED BY C. F. TUCKER BROOKE B.Litt. : Vol. I. : containing THE MAIN SOURCES OF JULIUS CAESAR

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SHAKESPEARE'S PLUTARCH





THE LIFE OF JULIUS CAESAR

Ar what time Sylla was made Lord of all, he would have had Caesar put away his wife Cornelia, the daughter of Cinna Dictator : but, when he saw he could neither with any promise nor threat bring him to it, he took her jointure away from him. The cause of Caesar's ill-will unto Sylla was by means of marriage : for Marius th' elder married his father's own sister, by whom he had Marius the younger, whereby Caesar and he were cousin Cacsar germans. Sylla being troubled in weighty matters, joined putting to death so many of his enemies, when Cinna and Marius he came to be conqueror, he made no reckoning of Caesar : but he was not contented to be hidden in safety, but came and made suit unto the people for the Priesthoodship that was void, when he had scant any hair on his face. Howbeit he was repulsed by Sylla's means, that secretly was against him. Who when he was determined to have killed him, some of his friends told him that it was to no purpose to put so young a boy as he to death. But Sylla told them again, that they did not consider that there were many Marians in that young boy. Cacsar, understanding that, stale out of Rome, and hid VOL. I.

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JULIUS CAESAR

himself a long time in the country of the Sabines, wandering still from place to place. But one day, being carried from house to house, he fell into the hands of Sylla's soldiers, who searched all those places, and took them whom they

found hidden. Caesar bribed the captain, whose Caesar name was Cornelius, with two talents which he took sea and went After he had escaped them thus, he unto Nico- gave him. medes, went unto the seaside and took ship, and sailed king of Bithynia. into Bithynia to go unto King Nicomedes. When Caesar he had been with him a while, he took sea again, taken of pirates. and was taken by pirates about the Isle of Pharma-

cusa ; for those pirates kept all upon that sea-coast, with a great fleet of ships and boats. They asking him at the first twenty talents for his ransom, Caesar laughed them to scorn, as though they knew not what a man they had taken, and of himself promised them fifty talents. Then he sent his men up and down to get him this money, so that he was left in manner alone among these thieves of the Cilicians (which are the cruellest butchers in the world), with one of his friends, and two of his slaves only : and yet he made so little reckoning of them, that, when he was desirous to sleep, he sent unto them to command them to make no noise. Thus was he eight-and-thirty days among them, not kept as prisoner, but rather waited upon by them as a prince. All this time he would boldly exercise himself in any sport or pastime they would go to. And other while also he would write verses, and make

orations, and call them together to say them before them : and if any of them seemed as though they had not understood him, or passed not for them, he called them blockheads and brute beasts, and, laughing, threatened them that he would hang them up. But they were as merry with the matter as could be, and took all in good part, thinking that this his bold speech came through the simplicity of his youth. So, when his ransom was come from the city of Miletus, they being paid their money, and he again set at liberty, he then presently armed, and manned out certain ships out of the haven of Miletus, to follow those thieves, whom he found yet riding at anchor in the same island. So he took the most of them, and had the spoil of their goods, but for their bodies, he brought them into the city of Pergamum, and there committed them to prison, whilst he himself went to speak with Junius, Janius

who had the government of Asia, as unto whom pressor of the execution of these pirates did belong, for that

he was Practor of that country. But this Praetor, having a great fancy to be fingering of the money, because there was good store of it, answered, that he would consider of these prisoners at better leisure. Caesar, leaving Junius there, returned again unto Pergamum, and there hung up all these thieves openly upon a cross, as he had oftentimes promised them in the isle he would do, when they thought he did but jest. Afterwards, when Sylla's power began to decay, Caesar's friends wrote unto him, to pray him to come