THE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE: THE LAMENTABLE TRAGEDY OF TITUS ANDRONICUS

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The Works of Shakespeare: The Lamentable Tragedy of Titus Andronicus by William Shakespeare & H. Bellyse Baildon & W. J. Craig

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THE ARDEN SHAKESPEARE GENERAL EDITOR: W. J. CRAIG

TITUS ANDRONICUS

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THE WORKS

OF

SHAKESPEARE

THE LAMENTABLE TRAGEDY OF TITUS ANDRONICUS

EDITED BY

H. BELLYSE BAILDON



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INTRODUCTION

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In discussing the authorship of a play attributed to Shakespeare, especially one so much in dispute as Titus Andronicus, it is necessary to confine ourselves as far as possible to views which have some reasonable amount of probability, and not to spend strength and space in fighting mere phantoms. It will not, for instance, be necessary to deal here with the Baconian theory in general, because I take it that the least sober Baconian would neither claim nor wish to claim a play of this character, so startlingly replete with horrors, for Francis, Lord Verulam. For the Baconian theory, or the anti-Shakespearian theories generally are founded on the supposed impossibility of Shakespeare having had the learning, the knowledge, and the philosophic cast of mind displayed in his greater plays; whereas the argument against his having written this particular play is entirely founded on what we moderns conceive to be its faults. The Baconian would think-if one dare guess at Baconian thought-that the beauties of the play, which are really great, would argue against Shakespeare; while the crudities, or indeed barbarities, it contains might well be set down to the credit, or discredit, of this supposed Warwickshire ignoramus. I may candidly say I am not a Baconian, because in the first place there are to my mind such