

**SIR THOMAS
MORE, A PLAY**

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Sir Thomas More, a Play by William Shakespeare & Alexander Dyce

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & ALEXANDER DYCE

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A PLAY;

NOW FIRST PRINTED.

EDITED BY

THE REV. ALEXANDER DYCE.



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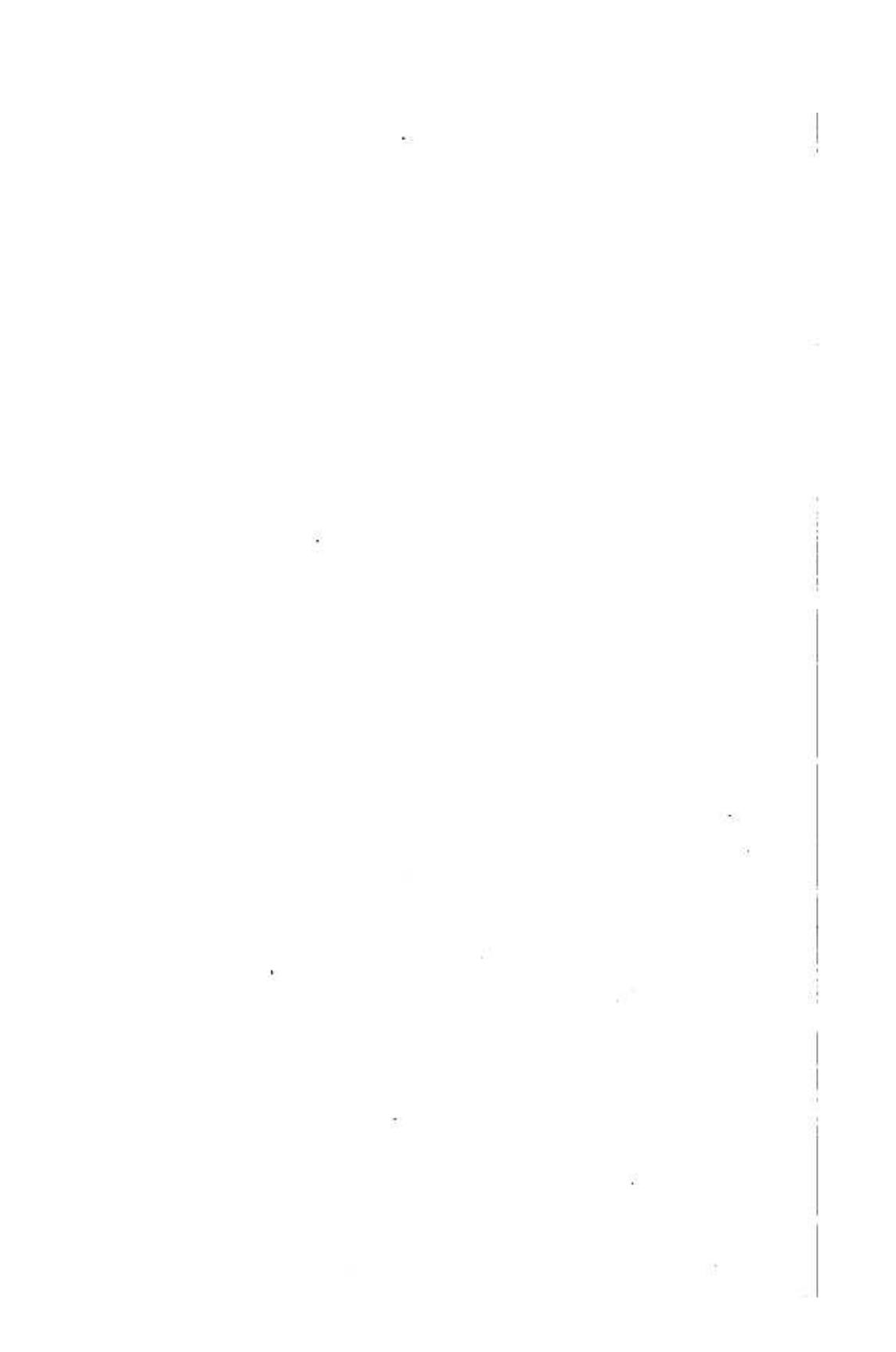
P R E F A C E.

The only extant MS. of the following play,—*Harleian* 7368,—is written in several hands,¹ a portion of it appearing to have belonged to a playhouse transcript: in some places it is slightly mutilated; and in others it presents so much confusion from the scenes having been re-modelled and the leaves misplaced, that considerable difficulty has been experienced in preparing a copy for the press.

Concerning the author of this tragedy nothing is known. It would seem to have been composed towards the close of the sixteenth century (about 1590, or perhaps a little earlier); but there are some grounds for supposing that a few additions were made to it at a later period.

A. D.

¹ Hence in the present edition the inconsistency in the use of *u* and *v*.



ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE EARLIER SCENES
OF THE PLAY.

I.

From Hall's *Chronicle*, fol. lix. (b), ed. 1548.

[The VIII. yere of Kyng Henry the VIII.]

In this ceason, the Genowayes, Frenchemen and other straungiers sayde and boasted themselves to be in suche fauour with the kyng and hys counsayll, that they set naughte by the rulers of the citie; and the multitude of straungers was so great aboute London, that the poore Englishe artificers coulde skace get any lyuyng; and, moost of all, the straungers were so proude, that they disdayned, mocked and oppressed the Englishemen, whiche was the beginnyng of the grudge. For, amonge all other thynges, there was a carpenter in London called Willyamson, whiche bought two stockdoues in Chepe, and as he was aboute to paye for them, a Frencheman tooke them oute of hys hande, and sayde they were not meate for a carpenter. "Well," sayde the Englishman, "I haue bought them and now payd for them, and therefore I will haue them." "Naye," sayde the Frencheman, "I will haue thaim for my lorde the ambassador;" and so, for better or worse, the Frencheman called the Englisheman knaue, and went awaye with the stockdoues. The straungiers came to the Frenche ambassadour, and surmysed a complaynt agaynste the poore carpenter: and the ambassadour came to my lorde Mayre, and sayde so muche, that the carpenter was sent to pryson; and yet not contented with this, so complayned to the kynges counsail, that the kynges commaundement was layde on hym. And when Syr Ihon Baker knyght and other worshipfull persones sued too the ambassadour for hym, he aunswered, by the body of God, that the English knaue shoulde lose his lyfe; for, he sayde, no Englishe-
The pride of Frenchemen.