

NEW READINGS AND NEW RENDERINGS

OF

SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGEDIES

VOL. I.

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NEW READINGS & NEW RENDERINGS
OF
SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGEDIES

BY

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'Conjectural criticism demands more than
humanity possesses; and he that exercises it
with most praise has very frequent need of
indulgence'

JOHNSON, *Preface to Shakespeare*

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This Work is Inscribed
TO
ADELINE MARIA VAUGHAN
IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF
SERENE DOMESTIC HOURS

P R E F A C E.



IN the final form which the following notes assume, their gradual method of growth, and my constant residence in the country out of the reach of libraries, have left some traces which may seem to need explanation.

I have for many years been accustomed to read Shakespeare's Plays in Reed's edition of twenty-one volumes, and for my own behoof to inscribe with a pencil on its margin such interpretations and amendments as suggested themselves, where I could not fully approve any of the classical comments collected in that publication. All my sources of information were accordingly for a long time limited to the notes printed in those volumes. After some years however I added Dyce's second edition to my stock as a book of reference. The reprint by Steevens of twenty quarto copies; the photographic reprint of the first folio by Staunton; Halliwell's photographic impression of all quarto editions issued during Shakespeare's life; and the fourth folio itself, followed one the other into my possession at distant intervals, and were more or less often consulted after I had obtained them. It was