

# ALTHAM.

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## CHAPTER I.

" Beshrew me but I love her heartily ;  
For she is wise, if I can judge of her ;  
And fair she is, if that mine eyes be true ;  
And true she is, as she hath proved herself ;  
And therefore like herself, wise, fair, and true,  
Shall she be placed in my constant heart."

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MERCHANT OF VENICE.

HALIFAX is proverbially gay and hospitable at all times—more particularly during war ; but never was it more remarkably so than on the Shannon's arrival. It required all Jonathan's previous bragging to give such zest to so usual an occurrence then, as that of an enemy's frigate of slightly superior force being brought in ; but the American navy of the day consisted of only a few frigates, to which, however, we had scarcely one of anything like equal force to oppose. Had Captain Brooke captured a Frenchman of the