

*The Henry Irving Edition of Shakespeare* (1) is one on which all concerned may be heartily congratulated. It is difficult to see what more is required in an issue of the works of our great poet. Mr. Irving has written a pleasant introductory essay upon Shakespeare as a playwright, which he undoubtedly was, we may say, first of all. Mr. Irving is also joint editor with Mr. F. A. Marshall, upon whose capable shoulders most of the burden, however, seems to have fallen. Each play has an introduction treating of its literary history, its stage history, and concluding with critical remarks which are always learned, judicious, and suitable. The text followed is that of the Folio Edition of 1623, except in a few instances; such parts of the plays as are not really necessary to the story, and which the length of the original makes it desirable to omit, are enclosed in brackets and marked in the margin; and so we have a complete edition of Shakespeare's plays so arranged that it forms an acting edition or one suitable for public recitation and reading; while private students will here find almost all the help they require to a good understanding of the author. The meanings of difficult words are put at the foot of the page, and so the turning over to a glossary, which is often so tiresome, is avoided. Every play is furnished with a sketch map to show its locality; and there are notes written and arranged with great care, which will be found most useful. In order that nothing should be wanting, there are notes even to the tables of *dramatis personæ*; and Mr. Gordon Brown has exercised his art in giving abundant illustrations which are spirited and striking. This edition of Shakespeare is a very complete one, and ought to find an honoured place on the shelves of all who take a pride, and find pleasure and profit (and who does not?), in the works of our great national poet.

In *Fifteen Hundred Facts and Similes* (2) Mr. Tinling has furnished forth a volume similar to many others, and no better or worse than its predecessors. Such books are useful to preachers and other speakers who desire to embellish their addresses with "wise saws and modern instances," and as they speedily become used up—for the more striking a simile or fact is the less often can it be quoted—there will always be room for fresh collections. Some of Mr. Tinling's facts do not seem to us to be very striking, and his similes at times are far-fetched. If they are, as the author claims, new, they are not always novel and not in all cases to the point. The volume is furnished with very full indexes, so that if one seeks in it for any fact or simile he may wish for, he can hardly fail to find it, if it happens to be there.

(1) *The Works of William Shakespeare*. Edited by Henry Irving and Frank A. Marshall. London: Blackie & Son, 1888.

(2) *Fifteen Hundred Facts and Similes*. By J. F. B. Tinling, B.A. London: Hodder & Stoughton. 1889. Price 6s.