

favour of Shakespeare's legal acquirements upon this and other expositions of the law found in his plays, without enquiring into the sources from which he appropriated, not only the subject matter but, oftentimes, the very language used. Holinshed is, again, the source from which he derived the material for his famous exposition of the Salic Law, as will appear from a comparison of the language on the subject, quoted from the two authors, in parallel columns :

HOLINSHED.

" Herein did he much envie against the surmised and false fained law Salike which the Frenchmen alledge over against the Kings of England in barre of their just title to the crowns of France. The verie words of that supposed law are these, In terram Salicam muliereo ne succedant that is to saie, into the Salike land let not woman succeed. Which the French glossers expound to be the realme of France, and that this law was made by King Pharamond; whereas yet their owne authors asfirme that the land Salike is in Germanie between the rivers of Elbe and Sala, and that when Charles the Great overcame the Saxons, he placed there certaine Frenchmen, which havin, in disdeine the dishonest mouners of the Yeomans women, made a law, that the females should not succeed to any inheritanee within that land, which at this day is called Meisen, so that if this be true, this law was not made for the realme of France, nor the Frenchmen possessed the land Salike, till foure hundred and one and twentie years after the death of Pharamond, the sup-

SHAKESPEARE.

" There is no bar
 " To make against your high-
 ness' claim to France
 " But this, which they produce
 from Pharamond.
 " 'In terram Salicam mulieres
 ne succedant ;'
 " No woman shall succeed in
 Salique land :
 " Which Salique land the
 French unjustly gloze
 " To be the realm of France,
 and Pharamond
 " The founder of this law and
 female bar.
 " Yet their own authors faith-
 fully affirm
 " That the land Salique is in
 Germany,
 " Between the floods of Sala
 and of Elbe ;
 " Where Charles the Great, hav-
 ing subdued the Saxons,
 " Who, holding in disdain the
 German women
 " For some dishonest manners
 of their life,
 " Establish'd then this law :
 to wit no female
 " Should be inheritrix in
 Salique land ;
 " Which Salique, as I said, 'twixt
 Elbe and Sala,
 " Is at this day in Germany call'd
 Meisen.