

lived in our age, and in our country". These remarks especially fit in with stage-versions of foreign plays. Even "customs and ceremonies" of another age and place will have to be modified so that the play may be fully enjoyed by the audience.

It is now time to come to the main business of this dissertation—a general consideration of the adaptations of English plays in western India. A start may suitably be made with Shakespeare's comedies, some of which are among the most popular pieces of the Indian stage.⁸ These are dealt with here in the order of the generally accepted canon of Shakespeare's works.⁹

(1) Both the Marathi and the Urdu versions of *The Comedy of Errors*¹⁰ seem to have been successful on the western Indian stage. In a short preface to the first edition of 1877, it is mentioned that "the adaptation was undertaken for production"; and that "the play was extremely well received". Instead of Ephesus, the scene is laid at Sarangapur, a town in Deccan. Necessary changes in names, manners and customs were effected to suit the new environment. Otherwise this prose rendering follows the original very

8. All stage-versions are dealt with here, but literal translations and academic exercises are of course omitted.

9. *Love's Labour's Lost* was translated into Urdu, but is not known to have been staged in any part of India.

The Two Gentlemen of Verona was not only adapted into Marathi as *Kāntipuracā Don Gṛhastha* (*Two Gentlemen of Kantipur*), but was also certainly staged by the Shahu company as early as 1880 (cf. *The Marathi Actors* (in Marathi), Poona, 1919, p. 16), but, unfortunately, the version has not yet seen the light.

10. M. *Bhrāntikṛta Camatkāra* (*A Miracle of Confusion*). By R. B. Jathar and B. R. Pradhan, Icchalkaranjekar Company, Akola, 1877.

U. *Gorakhadhandā* (*A Labyrinth*). By Narayana Betab, The Parsi Alfred Company, Quetta and Bombay, 1912.

G. **Rāmā-Ratana* (Names of Characters). By N. K. Vaidya, Subodha Gujarati Company, Bombay, 1903.

B. **Bhrāntivilāsa Nāṭaka* (*Comedy of Errors*)? Based on Vidyāsāgar's story with dialogue. Staged in Calcutta on August 25, 1888.