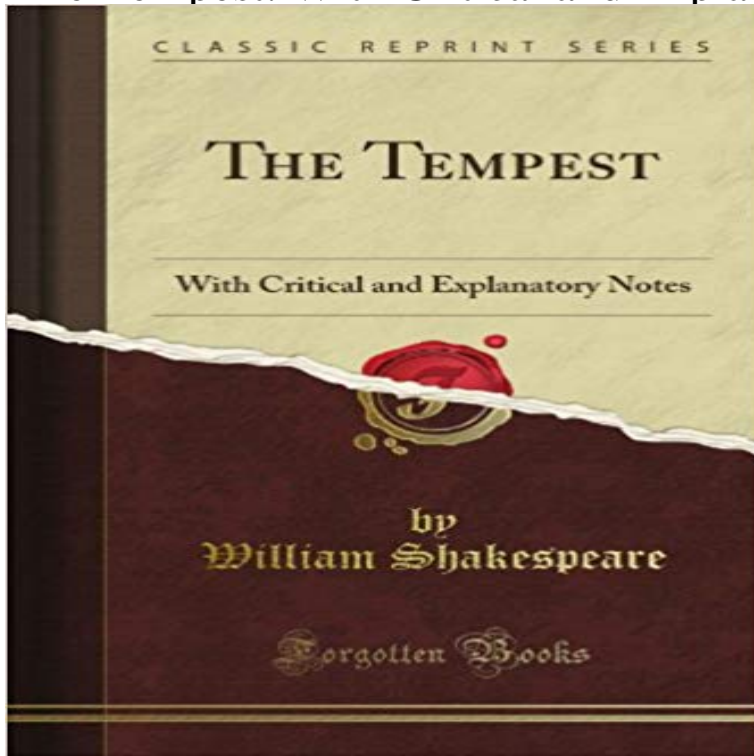


## The Tempest: With Critical and Explanatory Notes (Classic Reprint)



The plot of *The Tempest* stands first in the folio collection of 1623, and no earlier copy of it is known but probably its first production was in 1610 or 1611. In 1603 was first printed Florio's translation of Montaigne's essays, a copy of which having Shakespeare's autograph on the fly-leaf is in the library of the British Museum; and as in the present play there is a speech of Gonzalo unquestionably founded on a passage in Florio's Montaigne, we may be sure that *The Tempest* was not written before 1603, unless Shakespeare had earlier access to Florio's translation in manuscript. That it was written not later than 1611 is evident from Accounts of the Revels at Court, preserved in the Audit Office, which contain a memorandum of a play called *The Tempest* having been presented before King James on Halloween Night (Nov. 1), 1611. Probably *The Tempest* was then a new play, as the still-vexed Bermoothes, to which it refers, had recently become notorious from a narrative, published in 1610, of the shipwreck of Sir George Somers on the coast of Bermudas in 1609. In this and in other accounts the Bermudas were said to be inhabited only by witches and devils; and as earlier voyagers had reported the stormy dangers of the Bermudas, the recent relation of the disaster of 1609 might naturally suggest to Shakespeare the epithet vexed. Probably no actually existing island was intended by Shakespeare as the scene of this play. (Typographical errors above are due to OCR software and do not occur in the book.) About the Publisher Forgotten Books is a publisher of historical writings, such as: Philosophy, Classics, Science, Religion, History, Folklore and Mythology. Forgotten Books Classic Reprint Series utilizes the latest technology to regenerate facsimiles of historically important writings. Careful attention has been made to accurately preserve the

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