

Chapter VII

The Age of Shakespeare

The Drama.

The Elizabethan Romantic Drama:

After the production of 'Gorboduc' there was a great confusion in the English drama during this period. There was temporary battle between the humanists, like Sackville, Norton and Sir Philip Sidney who stood for classical tradition and the writers who wrote to satisfy the demand of the people. The humanist tried to impose the decorous Senecan conventions among the people of England. But the people had the taste for exciting plots and vigorous action. The Senecan type of drama failed to withstand the national taste of the English public. This led to establishment of new kind of drama called 'romantic drama'. The romantic drama was established by a group of university men who were called as University wits. These group of writers read the classics and learned so many things about dramatic Craftmanship. Eventhough they are familiar with classics and special principles of composition they adhered to the free tradition of writing which the Elizabethan Stage was waiting for. Of course, these University wits prepared the Elizabethan Stage for Shakespeare, the immediate successor.