

HE'S AFTER BACON'S SECRET

AMERICAN DOCTOR DIGGING IN THE RIVER WYE'S BED.

There Proofs of Strange Things Are Hidden, Dr. Owen Is Sure—Bernard Shaw Champions Runaway Motorists—Making African Elephants Work—Massage for Naughty Children—New Requisites for the English Well-Bred Girl—Cinematograph Parties—The Honest People of Europe.

LONDON, March 1.—For the last five months the quiet old town of Chepstow, on the river Wye, has been the headquarters of Dr. Orville Ward Owen, doctor of medicine of Michigan, U. S. A. Dr. Owen is a Baconian. Compared with other Baconians who merely wish to convince the world that Francis Bacon wrote the plays attributed to William Shakespeare, Dr. Owen is the super-Baconian. He is digging under the mud of the river Wye to find the incontrovertible proofs of facts that are already well known to himself.

Briefly Dr. Owen is going to prove that Francis Bacon, Baron Verulam, of St. Albans, Lord High Chancellor of England, philosopher and man of letters, was far more than any Baconian has yet suspected. To begin with he will show that this same Francis Bacon was a prince of royal blood, being the son of that great Elizabeth whom we still call the Virgin Queen. Moreover he will show that this royal man of letters was the most stupendous literary genius that the world has ever produced.

He was the real author, Dr. Owen maintains, of the classic works of William Shakespeare. That should be fame enough for one man, even for the son of the great Elizabeth, but Bacon, we are told, can claim much more. It was his prolific and magic pen that wrote Spenser's "Faerie Queene," Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholie" and all the works attributed to Sir Philip Sidney, Ben Jonson, Marlowe and Peole. In fact Bacon was responsible for practically all the glorious work of the most splendid period in the history of English letters.

We are told that he has hitherto been robbed of his proper fame because his royal parentage and exalted position precluded him from publishing under his own name, that he led a curious double existence and did not die in 1626, as history records, but lived on until 1642.

The proofs of all this are buried under the mud of the river Wye at Chepstow. There they were hidden by Francis Bacon himself and there Dr. Owen is digging for them, guided by directions left by Francis Bacon, carefully wrapped up in a cipher in the "Arcadia," which has so long been attributed to Philip Sidney.

When Dr. Owen first came to Chepstow he asked for Wasp Hill. There, according to the cipher instructions of the "Arcadia," he would find his treasure. Only one old man of the neighborhood, who is now known as Castle Wood was once called Wasp Hill.

Dr. Owen set to work, but all that rewarded his labors was an ancient iron box handle. The cache had been moved. But the "Arcadia" proved equal to the occasion. The trail was picked up again and the hiding place was traced to the bed of the Wye.

The directions in the "Arcadia" are evidently minute and accurate. A well was traced running down the precipitous cliff to the river and gave one end of a base for measuring a certain angle. But a tower was lacking. There are the ruins of many towers hereabout that were used as watch towers against the Welsh.

"It should be here," said Dr. Owen. The picks at once struck into the bank and the foundations of a building were found. Then the digging in the river bed began. The tide here in the Wye is one of the highest in the world. It rises and falls sometimes as much as forty feet and rushes in and out like a millrace. But for a couple of hours or so between tides the river shrinks into a stream some twenty yards in width flowing between banks of the shiniest, stickiest mud imaginable.

About one-third of the way across this stream Dr. Owen and his laborers are working between tides. Night does not interfere with their labors. Then they dig by the light of naphtha flares hung on the branches of neighboring yew trees or stuck upon poles in the mud.

Half a dozen timbered shafts were driven through the mud in vain for the gravelly bed of the river was reached with no sign of the hidden boxes. But measurements were corrected, variation of the compass was allowed for and a fresh start was made. Right under the stake that had been thrust into the mud to mark the approximate spot the diggers came upon piles of yew and oak. These, of course, are the piles belonging to the coflerdam made when the treasure house was constructed. Then they came upon boards such as were spoken of in the cipher, "oak boards wrapped with camlet and covered with tar." Finally the picks struck the same kind of concrete as that which had been found some yards away on the bank, covered with earth and moss-grown.

At this interesting point the story for the time being comes to a finish, "to be continued in our next." Tides are awkward and work has been suspended.

It should be mentioned that Bacon was actually more or less intimately connected with Chepstow. He owned a wire works a few miles up the river at Tintern and Dr. Owen suggests that the slag from the smelted iron used in making the wire was used for the concrete which covers the treasure house in the Wye.

The death of James Mortimer, journalist, playwright, linguist and chess player, removes from the world of bohemia a once prominent figure. Few people have lived a more crowded life than Mortimer.

Mortimer by birth, he left his country at the age of 25 to take a post as attaché in the United States Legation in Paris. In the course of his life in Paris Mortimer had confidential relations with Napoleon III. He was the last to speak with the deposed Emperor before the fatal elevation at Chislehurst in 1873. That Napoleon went to live at Chislehurst was due to a fortuitous meeting of Mortimer with a chess player friend of his named Strode.

When the Empress Eugenie arrived at Hastings in September, 1870, Mortimer

was the first person to whom she telegraphed. As he was hastening down the Strand to take a train to Hastings he met Strode, who asked him to dinner. Mortimer replied by showing him the Empress's telegram, explaining to him the Empress's flight and homeless condition.

"My house, Camden Place, Chislehurst, is empty," said Strode. "Couldn't you ask the Empress to honor me by going there as my guest?"

And so it came about that Camden Place, Chislehurst, sheltered the exiled Imperial family, who took the house as Mr. Strode's tenants. Napoleon died there two years later, but the Empress stayed on for another eight years, until she removed to her present residence at Farthingborough Hill.

An editor of the London *Figaro* Mortimer stamped his personality on a bright and prosperous journal quite unlike anything else. A prosecution for libel, Mortimer going to prison rather than disclose the name of a contributor, was the ruin of the paper. To the last Mortimer was a delightful conversationalist, with an astonishing memory for facts, dates, references and quotations even after he had passed his eightieth year.

Chess was his ruling passion and he was at St. Sebastian for the chess tournament when there came to him all unexpectedly the final summons.

A blue book has just been issued giving vital statistics for the principal European countries for the ten years ended 1902. The figures relating to population show the following totals of the countries named in 1902:

Germany	65,872,000
France	38,276,000
Italy	34,270,000
Spain	19,935,000
Belgium	7,422,000
Netherlands	5,911,000
Portugal	5,549,000
Switzerland	2,742,000
Austria	4,426,000
Denmark	2,092,000
Norway	1,770,000
Austria-Hungary 1900	49,855,000
Russia 1900	127,500,000
United Kingdom June 29, 1901	37,969,000

For some of the countries outside Europe the following figures are given:

United States	83,266,000
Japan	49,407,000
Argentina	5,881,000

The populations of the world's great cities show some interesting comparisons with London, the figure for which is the last census, 1901, was over 6,500,000.

New York 1900	2,147,000
Paris 1900	2,750,000
London 1901	4,750,000
Berlin 1900	2,040,000
Canton 1900	1,500,000
Chicago 1900	1,750,000
Philadelphia 1900	1,200,000
St. Petersburg 1900	1,200,000
Osaka 1900	1,270,000
Moscow 1900	1,000,000
Buenos Aires 1900	1,000,000

Comparison of the respective growth of populations in the ten years 1895 to 1905 works out as follows:

Great Britain	1,084,000
France	8,577,000
Germany	10,811,000
United States	12,222,000
Japan	2,088,000
Austria-Hungary	1,001,000

A gentleman whose pet dog had been run over by a motor car, the occupants of which drove on without halting to make inquiries, complains of their conduct and describes them as "heartless cads." George Bernard Shaw comes forward as the champion of the disappearing motorists, whose conduct he upholds for

reasons which occupy two columns of an automobile journal.

Shaw confesses that he has more than once run over a dog and driven on as though nothing had happened. On each occasion there was a lady in the car with him. In the circumstances, asks Shaw, what is to be done? (He answers his own question by saying:

"I take it that a good deal depends on the lady. If she is a heartless cad, no doubt the correct thing is to stop the car, so that she may enjoy the 'ghastly business of some minutes duration,' and perhaps laugh at the distress of the dog's owners."

"But suppose she is a humane and sensitive person, very fond of dogs, and likely to suffer acute distress for some days after witnessing the ghastly business. What then?"

But Shaw has other reasons to justify going ahead after running over a dog besides that of sparing a lady's feelings. He has found that "apologizing is much more likely to lead to a painful and undignified scene than to be of much comfort. The man who can say the right thing at the right moment under agitating and probably provocative circumstances is one in ten thousand, and the safest rule is: If you can do no good, hold your tongue and clear out. You stop to apologize, and you end by arguing."

According to Shaw, public sympathy is not always with the dog. As an example of this he says:

"I may mention that when my driver by a miracle of address saved the life of a huge black collie in an Irish village last year the inspector of police reproached him strenuously for losing an opportunity of extirpating a brute that flew at everything and was a terror to the whole place."

In ancient times, as is well known, the African elephant was domesticated by the Carthaginians, who employed it in their wars with Rome. No African race has since succeeded in reclaiming this highly intelligent and naturally docile animal, a fact which is often cited in proof of the general inferiority of the negro race.

A successful experiment in taming the African elephant was made some years ago in the French Congo, while out of eight captured in Kamerun in 1900 three were successfully tamed. European officials generally, however, have been very unsuccessful in their attempts at taming the beast. But the Belgian officials in the Congo now seem to have succeeded where so many have failed.

Although no details are available as to the methods employed, there seems to be no doubt whatever that African elephants are now daily engaged in hauling carts containing mails and goods between Buta (on the Rubi River) and Bambili (marked in some maps as Bomorandi), on the Welle, a distance of about 100 miles.

Will Crooks, the well known Labor member of Parliament, in the course of a lecture the other night gave some reminiscences of the late King Edward. He described Edward VII. as not only a king but the personal friend of everybody in the empire and said that it was characteristic of the English royal family always to make those with whom they came in contact at home. The late King, said the Labor member, was a very good friend to him on many occasions in matters he could not mention; then he told the following story:

"It was once at a court function, when King Edward suddenly turned to me

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39c. to 69c. Val. Laces, 25c. a piece. Our own importation, German Val. Laces and Insertions, matching exactly in different widths. \$1.00 to \$5.00 Colored Novelty Bands, 49c. to \$2.00 Yard. Handsome assortment we have ever shown at these prices. All colors, combined with tinsel, bands, galloons and medallions; greatest values anywhere. \$10.50 Lawn Robes, \$6.00. We have sold great quantities of these Robes at \$7.00. Special reduction of a dollar more for this sale. Open and blind combinations; flouncings and insertions all matching exactly. Main floor, center, Central Building.

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\$1 Black Costume Suiting, 39c. Yd. Excellent quality of imported Suiting, substantially woven, yet a pleasing light weight for Spring; absolutely pure wool; 41 inches wide and a perfect black. 85c. Black English Mohair Steiffian, 49c. Yard. Bright and lustrous quality from one of the best mills of Bradford, England, direct. 48 inches wide and perfect black. \$1.10 Black Chiffon Panama, 69c. Yd. One of the most popular materials of the season—desired light chiffon weight and finish—soft and clinging—rich luster and best shade of black. Main floor, rear, Central Building.

WOMEN'S DRESSES.

\$6.00 Lawn Dresses, \$3.98. Black and white, trimmed with black lace and black piping; also small red buttons, Dutch neck and three-quarter sleeves. Stripe Gingham Dresses, \$1.98. With plain deep fold at bottom of skirt; waist also trimmed with straps of plain material. Second floor, Central Building.

SPORTING GOODS.

25c. Junior League Baseballs, 15c. 50c. High School League Baseballs, 30c. \$1.00 National Association Baseballs, 65c. \$1.00 Baseball Gloves, 69c. \$1.98 Roller Skates, \$1.69. Ball bearing Roller Skates, adjustable to all sizes. Fourth floor, West Building.

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14,600 Handkerchiefs for Men and Women, 10c. Each. Initial Handkerchiefs that have been 12 1/2c. to 25c. Assortments incomplete, but all the usual letters in some styles; many of these we have sold thousands of at 25c. All of them less than a plain Handkerchief will cost to-day. Women's mull crossbar hem-stitched Handkerchiefs, the kind sold at 12 1/2c. last season, 5c. Main floor, rear, Central Building.

MILLINERY TRIMMINGS.

69c. large muslin Rose and Bud, with foliage combined, 30c. 59c. Violet Bouquet, 35c. 29c. Rose foliage, large sprays, 19c. Main floor, East Building.

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80c. to \$1.00 Curtains, 49c. a Pair. Colored ruffled muslin Curtains. \$2.50 Nottingham Lace Curtains, \$1.49 a Pair. 75c. to \$1.00 Colored Cross Stripe Curtains, 49c. Pair. Third floor, Central Building.

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Bar Harbor Chair at \$3.75. No need to tell you that this is a record price for this famous, easy, comfortable willow Arm Chair, so admirable for porch or summer home or sitting room in city. \$20. Woodrube Cedar Couches, \$15. Deep box, with cedar lining to preserve against moth; with opening attachment; well upholstered and covered with cretonne or denim. \$5.50 Chiffoniers, \$3.95. Golden oak, with five large drawers and wood gallery top. Fourth floor, Central and East Building.

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MISSES' WEAR.

Misses' \$22.00 Suits, \$18.98. Of excellent serge, coat 25 inches long; lined throughout with good quality peau de cygne, elaborately trimmed with satin, gun metal buttons; skirt gored model; sizes 14 and 16 years. Misses' \$15.00 Coats, \$10.98. Full length Coats, in fancy mixtures, semi-fitted, finely tailored; notch collar of satin, gun metal buttons. Girls' \$1.50 Dresses, 98c. Of figured percale, trimmed in contrasting colors; low neck, three-quarter sleeves; full plaited skirts; sizes 6 to 14 years. Second floor, center, Central Building.

MEN'S UNDERWEAR.

Men's 35c. Underwear, 23c. BALBRIGGAN Underwear, superfine Egyptian cotton yarn, long clean fiber; Shirts have self fronts, French necks, long or short sleeves; Drawers have double seats strap backs, coutil facings and pearl buttons. Subject to slight mill imperfections. Main floor, Men's Building.

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