

THREE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTH

MANY CITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES ARE PLANNING FITTING CELEBRATIONS OF THE GREAT PLAYWRIGHT'S BIRTH.

The coming year will be one of great interest to all lovers of good literature. On April 23, 1916, just three hundred years ago, there ended the life of the greatest bard of modern times. And in commemoration of the immortal work he accomplished in his thirty-three years of labor we are to celebrate the tercentenary of his death.

A number of cities throughout the United States are already at work preparing various demonstrations. New York City is planning an impressive masque which will be given in May under the direction of Percy MacKaye. Hundreds of students and actors will participate and thousands of dollars will be spent for scenery, costumes, etc. St. Louis will also have a very noteworthy celebration. They are to build a sort of stadium or amphitheater and turn it over to Miss Margaret Anglin, a talented actress, who has produced a number of Greek plays at Berkeley, Cal. She will be supported by a large company and several Shakespearean plays will be revived. Other cities and communities will organize plays, pageants, masques, lectures, and similar exhibitions to stimulate an interest in the works of the Bard of Avon.

Although the plays and sonnets of Shakespeare have existed for three centuries, it has been during only the last fifty years that they have been appreciated in a measure commensurate to their real value. Of course some of his plays have always been more or less popular with various men of letters, but it has been in recent years that his thoughts have come to be read and studied so universally. Perhaps no dramatist has ever been able to put himself in the hearts of all classes and nationalities so completely as has Shakespeare. At any rate, it is certain that no man has had a greater effect upon the literature of the world than he. In all forms of present-day literature one can see the shining truths that were first given expression by the great Englishman.

One of the great things about the writings of Shakespeare is their appeal to all sorts and conditions of people. One never is too young or too old to read him. Kings get no more pleasure than the peasant; a Russian finds his characters as interesting as does a cultured Mexican. This is not merely because he was such a great poet, but because he knew and understood human nature and because the fundamental passion that stands out in all his characters is love. Human nature will be the same for all time, and love will be the greatest passion for all time, therefore the works of William Shakespeare will live for all time.

For sometime educators and students in America, England, Germany, and other countries have recognized the benefit to be derived from the study of such plays as Hamlet, Macbeth, The Merchant of Venice, etc. For that reason Shakespeare is fast coming to be appreciated by all people in general. To-day there is hardly a school throughout the land that does not study his philosophy. A number of his plays have been produced at various periods, and hundreds have found great pleasure in seeing them. But the fact is evident that Shakespeare is not read or studied by as many as he should be. Only a few can go to college, and only a fortunate few of us ever have the opportunity to witness one or more of his plays on the stage. But there is no reason why all of us cannot study him in our homes. Books cost very little nowadays, and by systematic application anyone of average intelligence can soon thrill under the spell of his golden thoughts.

One does not need to go to very much trouble to find that our great

writers are not read as much as they should be. A perusal of our magazines will offer ample proof. But the magazine editors are not to blame. They know as well as the educators that an hour's reading of Shakespeare will give the mind more real, clean food than a week's rummaging through one of the popular periodicals. However, magazines are edited to sell, and whatever the readers demand, it is up to the editors to furnish. But whatever their excuses may be for catering to the sensational school of writers, 1916 will be a year in which they can do much to raise the standards of our literature and put an end to yellow journalism. And there is no way they can do more than to publish interesting information about Shakespeare, and get their readers interested in his works. For, as Emerson so wisely remarks: "What point of morals, of manners, of economy, of philosophy, of religion, of taste, of the conduct of life has he not settled? What mystery has he not signified his knowledge of?"

What office or function, or district of man's work, has he not remembered? What king has he not taught? What maiden has he not found him finer than her delicacy? What lover has he not outloved? What sage has he not outseen?"

Shakespeare is like the bible—you can read him again and again, and each time discover new truths which you did not find before. The best way to understand him is to take a certain one of his plays and read and study it a short time each day. Take your family and friends into confidence and read aloud to them. By doing this you will get the pleasing effect of his rhythm, and each time you re-read the passage you will find a greater pleasure. And as you progress note his unrivaled sagacity, his genuine wit, his exceptional power of dramatic construction and character portrayal. There is a world of knowledge and enjoyment to be gained in this way, and its effect upon the development of your own character will be pronounced.

There is no doubt but that this year will bring forth a revival of interest for all things Shakespeare. Not only will there be demonstrations and celebrations in his honor, but there will be many people take up the study of the great dramatist who knew little about him before. It is a sad thing that Europe is at war and unable to take part in the anniversary. But as such is the case, it will be up to America to lead the world. The time is now ripe to create a great interest in him, as we find Emerson saying, "You cannot see the mountain near. It took a century to make it suspected; and not until two centuries had passed after

Shakespeare's death did any criticism begin to appear." This is quite true, and for that very reason 1916 should be a banner Shakespearean year. By using a number of excellent books of reference which are found in most libraries, every man and woman in America can spend a pleasant twelve months in studying this great poet who has found his way into the hearts of all mankind for all time. Frank Boyd O'Connell.

HANKINSON FIREMEN URGE COUNCIL TO PUT NEW BONDING ISSUE UP

Hankinson, N. D., March 16.—The fire department of Hankinson, at a special meeting, adopted resolutions urging the city council to make provision for the construction of a new

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waterworks system. A total of \$10,000 has already been provided for the proposed system, but about \$10,000 more is necessary, and a bonding election to vote on the question is suggested.

IF HAIR'S YOUR PRIDE USE HERPICLEDE.

STEELE BUSINESS MEN SEE ADVANTAGES IN COMMERCIAL CLUB

Steele, N. D., March 15.—It is probable that a commercial club will be organized in this city, a number of business men being strongly in favor of the project. They have for some time urged such action.

RENNVILLE COUNTY TO VOTE ON BONDS FOR ERECTION OF JAIL

Mohall, N. D., March 18.—In the forthcoming election, Renville county will vote on the question of constructing a \$20,000 county jail. The matter has been placed before the voters in the form of a bonding election.

GOES AS DELEGATE.

Dickinson, N. D., March 18.—Fred W. Turner of this city leaves next week for Spokane, Wash., as delegate of the National Parks Highway association from North Dakota to Wash-

ington State Highway Association meeting, to be held the last of March. Mr. Turner attended the Washington annual meeting last year, when he presented the cause of the Red Trail auto route, via Fargo, Valley City, Jamestown, Bismarck, Mandan, Dickinson and Glendive.

TO RECOVER \$4,000.

Dickinson, N. D., March 18.—Another chapter in the Stark county

forgery cases will be enacted in district court at Dickinson the last of this month, when suits will be tried against two local banks for the recovery of about \$4,000 each, claimed to belong to the city. These poor warrants were turned in by the city treasurer, who afterwards proved to be a forger and giving worthless warrants to the banks. As soon as discovered the banks charged the warrants back to the city.

ADDRESSED TO WOMEN

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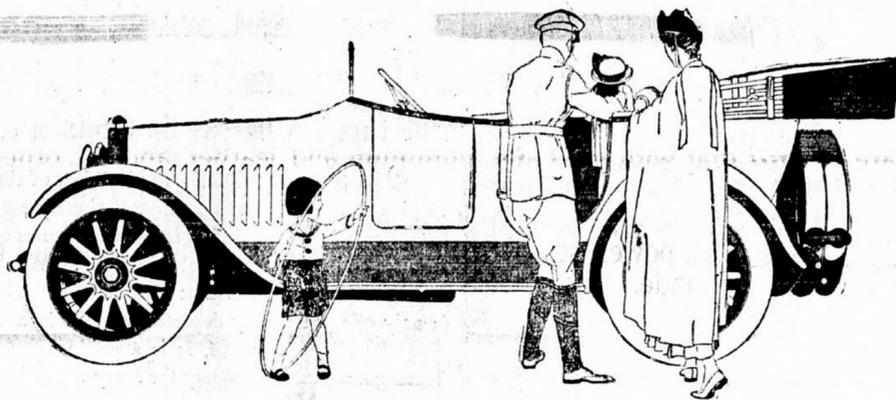
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This able Six is heavy enough and so finely poised that its four wheels stay always on the ground, with direction as straight as a bullet.

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