



Shakespeare's Life and Work.

One of the most valuable works of his kind published in recent years is "William Shakespeare: His Times, His Works, and His World" by Hamilton Wright Hallowell. Mr. Hallowell has for some time been known as a scholarly and careful writer on this and other literary subjects, and this volume evidently contains the product of several years' study and research. It is a book of considerable size, and is fully illustrated with facsimiles of old portraits and prints, old documents, and inscriptions, and with reproductions of photographs taken in and about Stratford.

The reader discovers, in the very first chapter, which is entitled "The Forerunners of Shakespeare," that the author is in close touch with his subject. He is friendly to those who believe that the first occupants of the English stage, and with the more elaborate, but still incomplete, work of Marlowe and other precursors of the master of drama. It is all interesting, but a few paragraphs are especially well worth reading.

In 1583 he reached London, without means, in the condition of a poor boy, and in that year he began to write. He was fortunate in his first success, for he had a powerful patron, the Earl of Pembroke, who had been his friend since childhood. The reader discovers, in the very first chapter, which is entitled "The Forerunners of Shakespeare," that the author is in close touch with his subject.

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themselves to Shakespeare's vivid, sane, and powerful imagination, as they do to every other great writer, and in fact, to every naturally and without warping of view. That is one secret of the power which the dramas had over thinkers in all ages. They deal with fate and the human will in many phases, no two alike. The analysis of this critic gives of the character of Hamlet is eminently sensible, simple, and lucid, and may serve as an example of his general style in this kind of discussion:

Sensitive alike in intellect and in his moral nature, he was placed in a corrupt society, in which every relation was tainted. The thought of his mother, which ought to have been a quiet, sacred, and strong, was his terrible burden. He was surrounded by false friends and paid spies. Upon him was laid the appalling task of rearing a moral order in a house, once household and a demoralized kingdom, and the only way open to him was by the perpetration of a deed of violence. The tragic situation drew back to him. The tragic situation was created by the conflict against the State and the family to which was committed by the knowledge of his father's death, his uncle's crime, and his mother's lust and revenge and the horror of bloodshed. It is to these considerations that the poet has given a deep and a deep, a possible tragedy to the mediation and subtle speculation which he has advanced all the possibilities of acting being almost unbearable, the character of Hamlet seems intelligible, if not entirely explicable.

The book is a valuable acquisition to Shakespearean literature, not so much for what is original in it as for the author's novel and fresh way of saying things. (New York: The Macmillan Company.)

Recent Fiction. "Nell Gwynn of Old Drury," by Hall Douglas, is a romance of the time of Charles II, and one of the clearest bits of light literature in the English language. It is a story of a young girl who is brought to London from a remote village, and who, through a series of adventures, becomes a favorite of the king. The author's style is clear and simple, and the story is well told.

"The Masque of Judgment," by William Vaughn Moody, is a slender volume in which the author essays to revive the old-fashioned drama. The story is set in a remote village, and is a tale of love and tragedy. The author's style is clear and simple, and the story is well told.

"The Ethics of Evolution," by James Thompson Ripley, dealing as the title implies with the ethical aspects of the theory of evolution, is a book of considerable interest. The author's style is clear and simple, and the book is well written.

"The World a Department Store," by Bradford Peck, is a story intended to operate the conditions of the modern world. The author's style is clear and simple, and the story is well told.

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LITERARY NOTES.

In connection with Chatto & Windus, the A. Wessex Company will publish early in March "Robert Louis Stevenson: A Life Study in Criticism," by Mr. H. B. Baldwin, at present lecturer on English literature in the University of Vienna. He was a very old schoolmate of Stevenson.

A very pretty Valentine volume of love stories has just been issued by McClure, Phillips & Co., under the title "Love." The stories are selected from McClure's Magazine and this volume will form one of a series of love stories, including "The Other titles are 'Comedy,' 'Poetry,' 'Youth,' and 'The Railroad.'

The imperative demands of commerce, and its insomniacal spirit are rapidly destroying the old landmarks of New York, and the city is being transformed by the various patriotic societies, many of the historic spots of old Manhattan would have been obliterated and left unmarked. The city's early days some very interesting and graphic stories, not only of important events, but of the characters and careers of these individuals that have figured prominently in the development of the city.

D. Appleton & Co. will publish "The Private Life of King Edward VII.," by a member of the royal household, uniform with "The Private Life of the Queen." The book is a volume of the character and career of the king, and is a very interesting and graphic story.

F. M. Lupton Publishing Company will issue at an early date "Gwyneth of Thornhaugh," a romance by Frederick W. Howland. The story is set in a remote village, and is a tale of love and tragedy.

The immediate and continuous success of "The Joy of Cap. Ribot," from the Spanish master of fiction, Valdes, published last year, has encouraged Bantam to follow with a still more powerful work, to follow with a still more powerful work, to follow with a still more powerful work.

Frederick Harrison says of the style of Maurice Hewlett: "Mr. Hewlett's style is at any rate his own, and it is not of his very best, and as complete as any of his work. The style of the book is clear and simple, and the story is well told."

"Wen de Colored Man Comes Ma'chins' Down de Street," by a member of the royal household, uniform with "The Private Life of the Queen." The book is a volume of the character and career of the king, and is a very interesting and graphic story.

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NOTES AND QUERIES.

Who is Governor General of Canada? G. R. The Earl of Minto. On what day of the week was the Declaration of Independence signed? A. M. Thursday.

Are cottonwood and tulip trees true poplars? The cottonwoods are poplars; tulip trees are of the magnolia family. Is the phrase "To the manner born" correct, or is the word "manners" right? From what does the saying come? C. P. Your quotation is correct, and is from "Hamlet"—act I, scene 4.

Has the Thirty-third Regiment left the Philippines for home? About when will it arrive in the States? The command is still in the Philippines, but is expected to return to the States to start "soon" for the States. Has the population of England increased or decreased in the past ten years? It has increased. The last general census was taken in 1891, so an answer must depend on an estimate of the present population, but careful estimates indicate an increase of between 3 and 4 per cent.

How many coats of iron-like fibre are recognized in a grain of wheat? Four; two of woody fibre, then the "clear" coat, woody, but in the form of a network of tubes and fibres, and last, a very thin covering, mostly woody fibre, and coming next the nutritious kernel. Was not Mason and Dixon's line re-surveyed at the time of the late President? Yes, because the stone marking the northeast corner had been removed accidentally. The work of the previous surveyors was confirmed, however, Maryland gaining less than two acres.

What of the Order of the Garter? It is the highest of British orders of knighthood. The Order of the Garter is a matter of dispute, but it is commonly placed at 1344. Women were admitted late in the reign of Edward IV, but the sovereign has retained the order. There are about fifty knights of the order altogether.

Is there a law giving to Union Veterans of the civil war a reduction of civil service examinations? Yes, veterans who were discharged for disabilities resulting from wounds or sickness incurred in the service are preference claimants under the laws. They are released from maximum age limitations, are eligible if they obtain the grade of 65, and are given preference in the order of appointment.

The important chemical agent ordinarily is anhydrous ammonia, which boils at 27 degrees Fahrenheit below zero. To make ice cream, ammonia is used in cans that are immersed in cold brine. Coils within the brine contain the ammonia, which it boils, the resultant vapour, absorbing heat from the brine until the latter is cold enough to cause the water in the cans to freeze.

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