

Who Wrote Shakespeare?

Hamlet overheard *Julius Caesar* tell *King Lear* on the *Twelfth Night* after the *Tempest* that *Antony and Cleopatra* had told *Coriolanus* that *Two Gentlemen of Verona* were the authors of Shakespeare's plays. *Lear* said, "You may say it, *As You Like It*, but I do not believe it, for I heard *Romeo and Juliet* say *Love's Labor was Lost* when *Troilus and Cressida* stole the *Comedy of Errors* and sold it to the *Merchant of Venice*, for forty bottles of old bourbon and a package of checks." *Timon of Athens* and *Cymbeline* were parties to the theft, and after drinking *Measure for Measure* with the *Merry Wives of Windsor* told *King John* all about it.

Richard III, a competent critic, said, "Bacon could not write even a *Winter's Tale*," and *Henry XIV* says, "that settles it," so why so *Much Ado About Nothing*?

Othello was busy conversing with the *III, V, and VI Henrys*, and *Richard I* was absent *Taming the Shrew*, so I could get no further information as to who wrote Shakespeare, but, *All's Well that Ends Well*.

Literary Notes.

George Washington once acted as a book agent.

Emily Lawless has written a story of an island, entitled, "Grama."

Mrs. Orr's "Handbook to Robert Browning's Works" has reached its sixth edition.

The New Testament has just been translated into the Motu language of New Guinea. This tribe is the last that has become subject to England.

During the month of May, at the World's Fair, the congresses of Music and the drama, public press, and medicine will be held. The congresses of literature, science, philosophy, and education takes place in July.

"Himalayan Journals, or Notes of a Naturalist," by Sir Joseph D. Hooker has been reprinted. This is a most valuable and interesting work, as being an accurate description of the region of the Himalayas—a region seldom visited, and of which so little is known.

Mr. Froude has been appointed successor of Mr. Freeman in the chair of history at Oxford. This appointment has caused great commotion in England, partly because it had a political coloring, and partly because Mr. Froude's inaccuracy in historical writings has been proven.

W. C. Ford celebrates a man that never posed as an author in his, "The Writings of George Washington." This book opens with the speech to congress, or the inaugural address of the president of the United States on December 8, 1790, and closes with a letter to John Jay, December 18, 1794.

It is often claimed that Washington Irving was more of an English than an American writer. Such does not seem to be the case. Murray, the famous English publisher, once offered him the editorship of a projected monthly magazine, agreeing to pay him liberally for his contributions, besides giving him a salary of \$5000 a year. Irving refused, because such a position would involve his residing abroad.

The title page is of modern use. In manuscripts and in the first printed books any information of the book was written at the end, in what is called the colophon. According to Mr. A. W. Pollard in his "History of the Title Page," it was not till 1740 that the title page was introduced. The first one to appear in England was about 1490, when W. DeMarchiline issued one of his little books on "The Pestilence." At the beginning of the sixteenth century they were the most elaborate and interesting. Even school books had an ornamented title page which generally consisted of a picture of master and pupil and

a formidable birch. The frontispiece of religious books was most often illustrated with pictures of devils. France and Italy excelled in making brilliant title leaves. After the sixteenth century, the desire for ornament wearied, and the title pages have become simply useful.

Lieutenant Frederick Schwatka, the noted explorer of frozen Siberia, is writing a series of very interesting letters for the *New York Ledger*. The first appeared March 19th. The letters describe his strange experiences and remarkable discoveries in the remote and wild depths of Alaska, while conducting the *New York Ledger* Alaskan expedition. The fascination which clothes every arctic exploration, invest the many-voyaged young lieutenants narrative with breathless romantic interest. The letters are illustrated with photographs taken by Lieutenant Schwatka.

Harvard university has some indefatigable workers. One of these is Professor John Fiske. His fifteenth publication is one of his most important. It consists of two volumes entitled, "The Discovery of America." The writer is no mere compiler or critic. He is a comprehensive, thorough student. His reasoning is independent, and his writings indicate that he is a positive as well as a suggestive contributor to the stock of probable conclusions. The work includes a study of the aboriginal Americans and describes the many different voyages of discovery to our shores. Primarily, the work is descriptive; secondarily, it is a work of criticism and comment. The author does not accept the opinion of Professor Horsford, that the Northmen probably made a settlement on our shores. Neither does he agree with Mr. Justin Winsor in his discussion of the character of Columbus. He defends Americus Vesputius from the accusation that he sought to attack his own name to this western continent, and thus celebrate his own deeds at the expense of Columbus and others. The style is clear and forcible, and the work will be popular with students interested in such subjects.

EXCHANGE.

The lilies of the field have pistels and every citizen of Texas is "arrayed like one of these."—*Ex.*

The Earlhamites' gymnasium exhibition seems to have been quite a successful event. Their girls are just right and "strictly in it," as the picture of those who took part in the hoop drill shows.

A plan is on foot whereby the university quartette will canvas the state during the coming vacation. It is thought that by this means, the institution will be advertised in a way to do much good. The students are not the least opposed to the plan.—*Portfolio.*

The trustees of the Iowa Agricultural college appointed a committee to see about building a society hall for the different societies. The U. of N. also needs such a building. What are we going to do in the future? How are our societies going to take in all the students next year?

The *Messenger* of Richmond college is a regular and pleasant visitor. The April number has a very well written piece of poetry by L. R. Hamberlin. It seems to be patterned after Browning's poems. The literature as a whole shows the effect of the English literature and Shakespeare classes, as the titles "Chaucer," "Hamlet was Insane," "The Poet's Poet," etc. show.

In one of the lectures in chemistry the gas gave out. As the instructor was absent, and the assistant, not knowing what to do in such an emergency, dismissed the class. At the next lecture the instructor was present. In referring t