I hereby certify that the impression of the following Catalogue of Antiquities, &c., illustrating the Life and Works of Shakespeare, has been most strictly limited to eighty copies.

[Signature]
Some Account of the Antiquities,
Coins, Manuscripts, Rare Books,
Ancient Documents, and
other Reliques,
Illustrative of the Life and Works of
Shakespeare,

In the Possession of
James Orchard Halliwell, Esq., F.R.S.

Brixton Hill:
Printed for Private Circulation only.

m.dcc.liii.
PREFACE.

Bearing in mind that collectors are too often inclined to place an extreme value on what has cost great time, labour and expense to bring together, it has been my endeavour, in the following pages, to avoid in every case an undue appreciation of either rarity or importance; feeling convinced every lover of Shakespeare will be enabled, from the brief descriptions here given, to estimate the degree of consequence attached to the collection, which is the only one of any magnitude yet formed, really illustrative of the life and works of our great dramatic poet. In fact, with the exception of the few but precious documents in the possession of Mr. Wheler of Stratford-on-Avon, and the museum of supposititious Shakespeare reliques in the same town, I am not acquainted with any collection specially formed for a similar
purpose. Our public libraries and museums are remarkably deficient in the department of Shakespearian curiosities; and although England derives much of her moral renown from being the birth-place of the greatest of all un-inspired authors, no one yet seems to have considered it worth while to have completed a series of authentic materials in illustration of his life and writings.

It is almost unnecessary to say there were many difficulties in the way of accomplishing such a design; and so few are the opportunities of procuring genuine Shakespearian relics, my pursuit commenced rather from an intense regard of the importance of the subject, than from a hope of accumulating a collection worthy, in any respect, to be considered appropriate to the greatness of its object. Such a hope would unquestionably have been futile, but still the partial success has surpassed all expectation; and if I can neither produce letters nor autographs, there are yet recorded in the following pages a sufficient number of important illustrative objects to render the whole
well deserving the attention of every Shakespearean student. The formation of the collection has occupied my earnest attention for several years, and I believe scarcely any article of real importance to the series, which has occurred in the market, has escaped my notice.

A fatality seems to have passed over all the contemporary memorials of Shakespeare. Not a single autograph of his exists even in the place of his nativity, and of the five indisputable signatures known to exist, three are appended to his will at Doctors' Commons, and only one of the other two is in private hands. Not a solitary line of his handwriting is known to be preserved, and the present collection contains (No. 112) the only manuscript fragment of any of his works, indubitably written in his life-time, which has yet been discovered. On these accounts, the early MS. copies of some of his writings, described in the following pages, and which are more numerous here than in any other library, public or private, may fairly be considered of high interest. In connexion with these, the MS. of the *Merry Wives of Windsor*
(No. 49), and the play-house copy of *Twelfth Night* (No. 91), may be noticed as curious illustrations of Shakespearian literature in the age succeeding the era of the poet himself.

The Catalogue is sufficiently descriptive to render any further indication of its contents unnecessary. It will suffice to say that every article has been selected with the profoundest regard to authenticity, and that, in cases where any doubt can possibly arise, it has been honestly stated. The majority, however, are beyond the reach of scepticism.

The woodcuts, with the exception of those at pp. 53 and 71, are from the careful pencil of F. W. Fairholt, Esq., F.S.A., and the very faithful facsimile at the commencement of the volume was made by Mr. F. Netherclift, whose accuracy is deserving of all praise.

*Avenue Lodge,*

*Brixton Hill.*

*May 6th, 1852.*
A Catalogue
of
Shakspearian Reliques.

1.
A jetton, or counter, used for the purposes of calculation, especially in cases of complex and difficult adjustment. All reckonings were anciently adjusted among the illiterate and vulgar, by the help of these small circular pieces of base metal.

Iago, in contempt of Cassio, calls him a counter-caster; and the clown in the Winter's Tale cannot manage without its assistance. "What comes the wool to? I cannot do't without counters."

2.
A half-faced groat, in silver, of the reign of Henry VIII. This coin, which was seldom issued before the time of Henry VII, is thus alluded to by Shakespeare.—

With that half-face would he have all my land:
A half-fac'd groat five hundred pound a year!
3.

A silver penny and a silver twopence of the period of Queen Elizabeth.

These become illustrative of Shakespeare, and are engraved as such by Mr. Knight. It is useful to bear in mind that the penny of Shakespeare's time, instead of being a large copper coin, was a very small silver one.

4.

Pleasant Caunts, Merry Tales, Moderne Jests, and Witty Spectacles, part of a jest-book printed about the year 1620, presumed to be unique, no copy being mentioned by any bibliographer. 12mo.

This work enters into the Shakesperian collection, as it contains a curious notice of Shakespeare at p. 157, which shows how early Stratford on Avon was distinguished as his birth-place. Some of the jests are extremely curious, and illustrative of manners and customs. One, at p. 57, relates to Kempe, the actor; and another, at p. 64, to William Rowly at the Curtaine Theatre.

A few extracts from this very rare and curious little volume, may not be unacceptable to the reader:

28. A Boy that Cryed Fire. An unhappy Boy lying in the streets on a cold winter night, cryed, Fire, Fire: the people lookt out of their windowes, and cryde, Where, where? Marry, quoth the Boy, I would I knew myselfe, for I would gladly warme me.

50. The Marriage of Arts. The play called the
Marriage of the Arts being presented before King James at Woodstocke, hee, in regard that it was somewhat tedious, and hismelfe weary with so long sitting, offered twice or thrice to go away, which being observed by an ingenious scholler of the other University, he writ these verses:

When Christ Church shew'd their Marriage to the King,
Lest that their match should want an offering,
The king himselfe did offer: what, I pray!
He offered twice or thrice to goe away.

62. A cleanly lye. Will. Kempe, by a mischance, was with a sword run quite through the legge; a countrey gentleman, comming to visite him, asked him how he came by that mischance: he told him, and withall, troth, saith he, I received this hurt just eight weekes since, and I have line of it this quarter of a yeare, and never stirr'd out of my chamber.

102. A sleepy drawer. A drawer, sleeping under the Pulpit, the Preacher beat his deske so hard, that he, being suddenly awaked, start up, and cryed openly in the Church, Anon, anon, sir. (See Shakespeare’s Henry IV., First Part, Act ii, sc. 4.)

159. Stratford upon Avon. One travelling through Stratford upon Avon, a towne most remarkable for the birth of famous William Shakespeare, and walking in the Church to doe his devotion, espyed a thing there worthy observation, which was a tombestone laid more than three hundred yeares agoe, on which was engraven an
epitaph to this purpose: I Thomas such a one, and Elizabeth my wife here under lye buried, and know, reader, I, R. C. and I, Christoph. Q, are alive at this houre to witnesse it.

171. *One beg'd for a fool.* A Knight, held to be a very wise man in his life, left behind him a sonne and heyre that was none of the best witted, to inherit his land, who was beg'd for a fool, and summoned into the Court of Wards for his answer: When question was made unto him what hee could say for himselfe, why his lands should not be taken from him, hee said, It is reported that my Father was a wise man, and begot a fool to inherit his estate after his death; who can tell but that I, a fool, may beget a wise man to inherit after me. His answer caried it, and he and his remaine in possession of the same revenues unto this day.

This anecdote is a good illustration of the "fool-begg'd patience", Comedy of Errors, Act ii, sc. 1.

5.

Original Impression of the Seal of John Shakespeare of Stratford on Avon, Father of the Great Dramatist, in most perfect preservation, attached to a slip of parchment; a most singular and unique Shakespearean relique.

Only one other impression from John Shakespeare's seal, and that damaged, is known to exist, and is now preserved in the archives of Stratford, having lately been presented to the corporation by Mr. Shirley, attached
to a deed respecting property in Warwickshire. On the whole, it would be difficult to name a similar relique connected with Shakespeare's family of more interest than the present. The "boy Shakespeare" may have been present when this seal was impressed with due formality in the parlour at Henley Street.

6.

An Apostle's Spoon, the handle of silver, and the bowl of wood; a fine specimen of the time of Queen Elizabeth.

It was the custom, long before the time of Shakespeare, for the sponsors at christenings to offer spoons as a present to the child. These spoons were called apostle spoons, because the figures of the apostles were carved on the tops of the handles. Such as were at once opulent and generous, gave the whole twelve; those who were either more moderately rich or liberal, escaped at the expense of four, or even sometimes contented themselves with presenting one spoon only, which exhibited the figure of any saint, in honour of whom the child received its name. Apostle spoons are alluded to in Henry VIII, Act v, sc. 2.
7.

Polimanteia, or the meanes lawfull and unlawfull to judge of the fall of a commonwealth against the frivolous and foolish conjectures of this age. Printed by John Legate, and are to be sold at the signe of the Sunne in Pauls Church-yard in London, 1595. 4to.

** This work is curious as containing the first printed notice of Shakespeare by name to be found in English literature. It occurs in a marginal note on the reverse of sig. R. 2, "All praise worthy Lucrecia, sweet Shakespeare". The present is not a bad copy of this interesting volume, but it wants sheet C. The part relating to Shakespeare and the other English writers is quite perfect.

8.

Manuscript Poems, Temp. Charles I., Upon Mistris Mallet, by R. C.,—Upon the Mislike of Christ-Church Mariage of the Artes at Woodstock.—Upon an houreglasse.—A Godly Exhortation to Mr. John Haymond, Minister of the Word in the Parish of Beudly, for the battering downe of those vanities of the Gentiles, which are comprehended in a May-Pole, written by a zealous Brother from the Black-friers.—The Distracted Puritan, to the Tune of Tom of Bedlam.—A very curious ballad on the visit of King James I. to Oxford.—Early Copies of Two Poems in Shakespeare's Passionate Pilgrim.—On a Gentleman looking in a Glass.—Upon a faire Ladyes Picture.—On the Recovery from the tooth-ach by a kiss
from a faire Lady.—Ben Jonson’s “Drinke to me, Cælia, with thine eye.”—And many others of great curiosity and interest, fol.

*** The two songs from the “Passionate Pilgrim” have numerous variations from all the printed editions. The first is the one commencing, “Venus and young Adonis sitting by hir”. The second is, “Faire Citherea sitting by a brooke”. As an example of the variations, we may select the following four lines from the last-mentioned poem:

But whether unripe years did want conceit,
   Or he refus’d to take her figur’d proffer,
The tender nibbler would not touch the bait,
   But smile and jest at every gentle offer.

The Passionate Pilgrim, Collier’s edition.

But whether unripe yeares did want conceite,
   Or he did scorne to take her figur’d proffer,
The tender nibbler wold not take the baite,
   But blusht and smil’d at every gentle offer.

Copy in the present MS.

A small poetical MS. containing an earlier copy of only one poem in the Passionate Pilgrim, sold at the sale of Mr. Bright’s Library of MSS. in 1844, No. 239, for £12.

9.

A gold memorial ring, dated 1592, with the following curious posy inside,—

The cruell seas, remember,
Took him in November.
On the top under a pebble is a death's head and a skeleton. This curious relic thus becomes a double illustration of Shakespeare, of the posy of a ring, and of "a death's face in a ring" mentioned in Love's Labour's Lost.

10.

Lucy. Autographs and original seals of the second Sir Thomas Lucy, son of the magistrate that condemned Shakespeare for deer-stealing, and of a relative, Elizabeth Lucy, with a perfect impression of Sir T. Lucy's seal containing the three luces, interesting as being alluded to in the following passage.

Slen. All his successors, gone before him, have done't; and all his ancestors, that come after him, may: they may give the dozen white luces in their coat.

Shal. It is an old coat.

Eva. The dozen white louses do become an old coat well; it agrees well, passant; it is a familiar beast to man, and signifies love.

—Merry Wives of Windsor, Act i, sc. 1.

The anecdote of Shakespeare and Lucy, explaining the reason of this satirical allusion, is too well known to be repeated. The Lucys of Charlecote will ever be connected with Shakespeare's personal history.

11.

The broad shilling of Edward VI, the "shove-groat
shilling” of Falstaff, and the “Edward Shovel-Board” of Master Slender in the Merry Wives of Windsor. A tolerably fine specimen.

12.

A Boke or Counsell against the Disease commonly called the Sweate, or Sweatynge Sickness, made by Iohn Caius, Doctour in Phisicke. 12mo. 1552.

It is supposed that only two other copies are known of this extremely rare book, and, till lately, the copy in the library of the College of Physicians was believed to be unique. One other, however, has since been discovered, wanting, I am told, the last leaf containing the woodcut. It is of interest in connexion with Shakespeare, as being the only English medical work by Dr. Caius, the character who is introduced in the Merry Wives of Windsor.

It is dedicated “to the Righte Honourable William Earle of Pembroke, Lorde Harbert of Cardife, knight of the honourable ordre of the Garter, and president of the Kynges highnes counsell in the Marches of Wales, Jhon Caius wisheth helth and honour”. He says at fol. 5, b, he was born at Norwich, and that, at one time, “I beganne a chronicle of the citie of Norwiche, of the beginninge therof, and thinges done ther from time to time, the materie wherof, yet rude and undigested, lyeth by me, which at laisure I minde to polishe, and to make an end of that I have begunne. And, to be shorte, in phisicke diversè thynges I have made and sette furth in print bothe in Greke and Latine, not mindyng to do
otherwise, as I have before said, al my life; for which cause al these thinges I have rehersed, els superfluous in this place. Yet see, meaning now to counsell a little agaynst the sweateyng sickenes for helpe also of others, notwithstanding my former purpose, two thynges compell me, in writynge therof, to returne agayne to Englishe, necessite of the matter, and good wyl to my countrie, frendes, and acquaintance, which hereto have required me, to whome I thinke myselfe borne”.

There is rather a curious allusion to the sports of the age at fol. 28,—“For consuming of evel matter within, and for making our bodies lustye, galiard, and helthful, I do not a little commend exercise, whiche in us Englishemen I allowe quick and livishe: as to runne after houndes and haukes, to shote, wrastle, play at tennes and weapons, tosse the winde balle, skirmishe at base, (an exercise for a gentlemanne muche used among the Italianes), and vaughting upon an horse. Bowling, a good exercise for women: casting of the barre and camping I accompt rather a laming of legges than an exercise.” On the last leaf but one, it is stated to be “Imprinted at London by Richard Grafton, Printer to the kynges Majestie, Anno Di. 1552”; and on the last leaf is a large woodcut of the sciences.

This work is not mentioned by Ames or Herbert, nor is it in the large collection of this author’s works in the Bodleian Library. On this account, the reader may be interested in the accompanying facsimile of the title-page.
A boke, or coun-
seill against the disease
commonly called the
sweate, or swea-
tyng sickness.

Made by Iohn Caius
doctor in physicke.

Very necessary for every
personne, and suche requi-
site to be had in the handes
of al sortes, for their better
instruction, preparation and
defence, against the sudden
coming, and fear-
ful assailing of the
same disease.

1552.

13.

Joannis Caii Britanni Opera aliquot et versiones, partim jam nata, partim recognita atque aucta. Eorum Catalogum versa pagina exhibet. Lovanii, 1556. Svo.

This work is chiefly interesting as having a portrait of Dr. Caius, "ætatis sue 43". A copy of this portrait should unquestionably be given in any future illustrated edition of the Merry Wives of Windsor.
A very interesting and curious collection of the original forgeries of W. H. Ireland, prefaced by the following note.—

"These Specimens of my Shaksperian Productions were presented to Mrs. Ireland at her particular request in 1805, the period when I published my Confessions, in which will be found a full account of every document herein contained, W. H. Ireland."

The volume contains the following papers:—

(a) Four tracings from well-known and authentic signatures of Shakespeare.

(b) Three of Ireland's original fabricated signatures of Shakespeare.

(c) Tracing from an original autograph of Elizabeth, and a spurious signature introduced as the Queen's sign manual.

(d) Original forgery of the following note attached to the letter, purporting to be from Elizabeth to Shakespeare,—

Thys Letterre I dydde receyve fromme
mye moste gracousy Ladye Elyzabethe
ande I doe requeste itte maye bee
kepte withe alle care possyble

Wm Shakspeare

(e) Original Forgery of the playhouse receipt for money paid in consequence of playing before Lord Leicester:
Inne the Yeare o Chryste
FORRE oure Trouble inne goynge
toe Playe before the Lorde Leycesterre
ats house and oure greate
Expennees thereupponne 19 poundes
Receyvedde ofs Grace the Summe
o 50 Poundes  Wm Shakspeare

(f) Receipt for money paid and memorandum concerning disbursements in having plaid before Lord Leicester, signed "Wm. S."

(g) Fabricated document, purporting to be a promissory note of hand from Shakespeare to Heminges for services performed by the latter.

(h) A tracing from the original signature of Heminges, and his fabricated signature.

(i) The original forgery of the celebrated love-letter from Shakespeare to Anne Hathaway:

Dearesste Anna

AS thou haste alwaye founde mee toe mye Worde moste trewe soe thou schalte see I have stryctlye kepte mye promyse I praye you perfume thys mye poore Locke withe thyte balmynye Eysses forre thenne indeede shalle Kynges themmeselves bowe ande paye homage toe itte I doe assure thee no rude hande hath the knottedde itte thyte Willys alone hath the done the worke Neytherre the gyldedde bawble thatte enyronnes the heade of Majestye noe norre honourres moste weyghtye wulde give mee
halfe the joye as didde thysse mye lyttle worke forre thee
The feelinge thatte dydde neareste approache untoc
itte was thatte whiche commethe nygheste untoc God
meeke ande Gentle Charytye forre thatte Virtue O
Anna doe I love doe I cherieshe thee inne mye hearte
forre thou arte ass a talle Cedarre stretchynge forthe
its branches ande succourynge smaller Plants fromme
nyppynge Winneterre orr the boysterouse Wyndes
Farewelle toe Morrowe bye tymes I wille see thee tille
thenne Adewe sweete Love Thyne everre

Anna Hatherrewaye

(k) The original forgery of Shakespeare's verses to
Anne Hathaway, and the fabricated copy of the letter
purporting to be from Shakespeare to Lord Southampton.

Verses to Anna Hatherrewaye.

1.

IS there inne hevenne aught more rare
Thanne thou sweete Nymphe of Avon fayre
Is there onne Earthe a Manne more trewe
Thanne Willy Shakspeare is toe you

2.

Though fyckle fortune prove unkynde
Stille dothe she leave herre wealthe behynde
She neere the hearte canne forme anew
Norre make thye Willys love unnetrue
3.
Though Age withe witherd hand doe stryke
The forme moste fayre the face moste bryghte
Stille dothe she leave unmetouchedde ande trewe
Thy Willys love ande freynshyppe too

4.
Though deathe with neverre faylynge blowe
Dothe Manne ande babe alyke brynge lowe
Yette doth he take naughte butte hys due
Ande strikes notte Willys hearte stille trewe

5.
Synce thenne norre forretune deathe norre Age
Canne faythfulle Willys love asswage
Themne doe I live ande dye forre you
Thy Willye syncere ande moste trewe

Letter to the Earl of Southampton.

Copye of mye Letter toe hys grace offe Southampton

Mye Lorde

DOE notte esteeme me a sluggarde nor tardye for thus havyngge delayed to answerre or rather toe thank you for youre greate Bountye I doe assure you my graciouse ande good Lorde that thryce I have essayed toe wryte and thryce mye efforts have benne fruitlesse I knowe notte what toe saye Prose Verse alle all is naughte gratitude is alle I have toe utter and that is tooe greate ande tooe sublyme a feeling for poore mortalls toe
expresse O my Lord itte is a Budde which Blossommes Blooms butte never dyes itte cherishes sweete Nature ande lulls the calme Breaste toe softe softe repose Butte mye goode Lorde forgive thyts mye departure fromme mye Subjecte which was toe retturne thankes and thankes I Doe retturne O excuse mee mye Lorde more at present I cannotte

Yours devotedly and withe due respecte

Wm Shakspeare

(l) Fabricated signature attached to the letter of Lord Southampton.

(m) The original forgery of the celebrated Profession of Faith, and the jocular letter from Shakespeare to Cowley the player.

Profession of Faith.

I BEYNGE nowe offe sounde Mynde doe hope thatte thyts mye wyshe willte atte mye deathe bee acceeded toe as I nowe lyve in Londonne ande as mye soule maye perchance soone quitte thyts poore Bodye it is mye desire thatte inne suche case I maye bee carryed to mye native place ande thatte mye Bodye bee there quietlye interred wythe as little pompe as canne bee ande I doe nowe inne theese mye seyriouse Moments make thyts mye professione of fayth and whiche I doe moste solemnlye believe I doe firste looke toe oune lovyngge and greate God ande toe hys gloriouse sonne Jesus I doe alseoe beleyve thatte thys
mye weake ande frayle Bodye wilte retturne toe duste
butte forre mye soule lette God judge thatte as toe
 hymselfe shalle seeme meete O omnipotente ande greate
God I am fulle offe Synne I doe notte thinke myselfe
worthye offe thy grace ande yette wille I hope forre
evenes the poore prysonerre whenne bounde with gallyng
Irons evenne hee wille hope for Pittye ande whenne the
teares offe sweete repentance bathe hys wretched pillow
he then looks ande hopes forre pardonne thenne rouze
mye Soule ande lette hope thatte sweete cherisher offe
alle afforde thee conforte alsoe O manne whatte arte
thou whye considereste thou thyselfe thus greatlye
where are thy greate thyre boasted attrbyutes buryed
loste forre everre inne colde Death. O Manne whye
attemptest thou toe searche the greatenesse offe the
Almyghtye thou deste butte loose thyre labourre more
thou attempteste more arte thou loste tille thyre poore
weake thoughts arre elevated toe theyre summite ande
thence as snowe fromme the leeffe Tree droppe ande
disstylle themselves tille theyre are noe more O God
Manne as I am frayle bye Nature fulle offe Synne yette
greate God receye me toe thyre bosomme where alle is
sweete contente ande happynesse alle is blysse where
discontente isse neverre hearde butte where oune Bonde
offe freyndshippe unytes alle Menne Forgive O Lorde
alle our synnes ande withe thyre grete Goodnesse take
usse alle to thyre Breaste O cherishe usse like the sweete
Chickenne thatte under the covert offe herre spreaddynghe
Wings Receyves herre lyttle Broode ande hoveringe
oerre themme keepes themme harmlesse ande in
safetye

Wm Shakspeare

Letter to Richard Cowley.

Worthy Freynede
HAVYNGE alwaye accountedde thee a Pleasaynte ande
wittye Personne ande oune whose Companye I doe muche
esteeme I have sente thee inclosedde a whymyscaele
conceyte whiche I doe suppose thou wilt easylye
discovere butte shoudst thou notte whye themne I shalle
sette thee onne mye table offe loggerre heades
Youre trewe Freynede

Marche
ynythe

Wm Shakspeare

Toe Masterre Richard Cowleye
dwellynge atte oune Masterre
Holliss a draperre inne
the Wattlynge Streete
Londonne

(n) The Witty Conundrum.
(o) The Jug water-mark.
(p) Print of the house in Butcher Row, in which was
purchased the drawing subsequently converted into
a representation of Shylock, and Shakespeare as he
appeared in the character of Bassanio.
(q) Fabricated signature to the deed between Shakespeare and John Lowin.
(r) Signature to the deed purporting to be between Shakespeare and Henry Condel.
(s) Signature to the first deed purporting to be a mortgage from Shakespeare to Michael Fraser.
(t) Signature to the Fraser deed and representation of the Quintin Seal.
(u) Signature to the deed of trust from Shakespeare to John Heminges.
(v) Acrostic on Earl Rivers, the great patron of Caxton, and portrait of Caxton.
(w) Fabricated acrostics on the Earl of Warwick, Sir Robert Dudley, and Henry Prince of Wales.
(x) Signature of Shakespeare to the deed of gift to W. H. Ireland.
(y) Notes on Vortigern in the autograph of Samuel, father of W. H. Ireland.
(z) Various original papers by members of the Ireland family, private plate representing A. M. Ireland and Miss Jane Linley, sister of the first Mrs. Sheridan.
(a b) First leaf of the transcript of King Lear, the original forgery.

Isse fromme Massterre Hollinneshedde I have
inne somme lyttle deparretedde fromme
hymne butte thatte Libbertye will notte
I truste be blamedde bye mye gentle
Readerres

Wm Shakspeare
(a c) Specimen of alterations introduced in the transcript of King Lear.

(a d) "Ballad introducedde ynne mye Playe of Vortigerne," and another leaf of fabricated verses from that play, including the original of the celebrated line,—

Ande whenne this solemn mockerye is oore.

It is said that when Kemble arrived at this line, the audience applied it to the piece itself, and commenced the strong marks of disapprobation under which the curtain fell. Vortigern was represented at Drury Lane on the 2nd of April (surely a day too late), 1796, to a most crowded and respectable audience. All the avenues leading to the theatre were filled at an early hour, and thousands were compelled to return, not having been able to gain admittance into any part of the house. This impertinent attempt to deceive the public at once settled the fate of the "Shakespeare Papers", which must ever be considered as the results of one of the most extraordinary efforts in literary forgery, and perhaps the greatest "Curiosity of Literature".

15.

Two specimens of ancient knives, engraved with verses. The first, the blade of which is probably nearly as old as the time of Shakespeare, (a bone handle having been given to it at a comparatively recent period) is slightly illegible at the commencement, but may be read as follows,—
Lend mee not, least wrong'd bee I,
But let all borrowers gooe and buye.

The other, which is old but more recent than the first,
is a small clasped knife in the form of a boot, with the lines,—

Hear is a leg and foot,
And a good blade too't.

The blade of this specimen is rusted, and one side is broken, but, on the whole, it is in tolerable preservation, and the verses are distinctly legible.

The custom of cutlers' inscribing poetry on knives is alluded to by Shakespeare, but specimens are now of great rarity, these being the only ones I have heard of during a search of several years' duration.
About a hoop of gold, a paltry ring
That she did give me; whose poesy was
For all the world, like cutlers’ poetry
Upon a knife, “Love me, and leave me not.”

*Merchant of Venice, Act v, sc. 1.*

16.

The Eglogs of B. Mantuan turned into English verse
by George Turbervile, 12mo. *Imprinted at London in
Pater Noster Rove at the signe of the Marmayde, by
Henrie Bynneman, 1567.*

** The first English translation of Mantuan, of
excessive rarity. The first few leaves have been un-
fortunately damaged, apparently gnawn by a mouse or
rat. Bright’s copy, which was damp-stained, produced £6.

“Ah, good old Mantuan! I may speak of thee as the
traveller doth of Venice,—Old Mantuan, old Mantuan!
who understandeth thee not, loves thee not.”—*Love’s
Labour’s Lost.*

17.

* A Table-Book, or memorandum book on prepared
paper, for the facility of erasures, 12mo. 1701-2.

** Some of the memoranda have evidently been
rubbed out to make way for fresh entries. Old table-
books are of the greatest rarity. The late Mr. Douce
possessed one, but only two others appear in private
museums. Shakespeare alludes several times to these
little memoranda books, in the Winter’s Tale and in
Hamlet. In one place he speaks figuratively, also referring to them,—

Yea, from the table of my memory
I'll wipe away all trivial fond records.

The boke of good Maners. Here endeth and finysshed the boke named and Intyted good maners. Enprynted at London in ye Flete Strete at the sygne of the Sonne by Wynken de Worde. In ye yere of our lorde M. ccccc. and vii. The x. daye of December. The xxiii. yere of the regne of our souerayn lorde kyng Hary the seuenth. 4to.

The present copy of this most rare work belonged to Herbert, and is described by him in his edition of Ames, vol. i. p. 145. It has no title-page, or signature L, the latter of which, according to Herbert, is omitted by mistake. The only other copy known, that in the Public Library at Cambridge, is still more imperfect, wanting several leaves at the commencement. The work treats of vertues and vices; of churchmen and their duties; of princes, lords, and knights; of the duties of commoners; of death. An extract of one of the chapters will be sufficient to shew the nature of the work.
How no man ought to stryue ne engendre noyses.

Capitulo viii.

By stryfe maye come noo good, but it engendreth noyses, whiche oftymes may not well be appeased. And therfore Cathon sayth to his sone, my sone thou outhest to feele noyses and stryues. For moche people have had harme by spekynge but by beyng styl and not to speke feewe or none haue had ony harme. And to this purpose sayth Juuenall in his iii. boke that stryuynge langage bereth venym in hymselfe and corrupteth good maners and empresseth and letteth frendshyp. And me semeth that who that may haue pease by his lytel spekynge or beyng stylle hath not gretely cause to speke. For for to speke well is a grete maystry, but for to be stylle and saye lytell is noo grete payne, and oftyme scylence causeth to haue pease. And this wytnesseth Ouyde in his boke of the arte of loue. Moreover by reason it well appereth that contencyon ne stryfe is no thynge worth. For if thou stryue for to susteyne trouthe and bounte, it is no grete wysedom. For trouthe and bounte susteyne themself wherfor it suffiseth to knowe without ony thyng to stryue for who y^i^ understandeth trouthe and wyll not consente therto, by his stryue he shall not chaunge his purpose. And yf thou stryue for false hede and for euyll, the synne is moche grete and so lesest y^n^ thy payne, for of so moche as thou the more stryvest of so moche thy false hede more clerely shewethe and this wytnesseth a philosophre named Exenophon. And Seneca in his fyrste epystle to Lucylle sayth that a man sholde not stryue
agaynst a folke. And to a wyse man for to stryue it is
a folye. For the wyse man hateth noyse and stryue,
and empresseth the pease of hertes and conscyences.
Therfore sayth ye wyse man that sayre and swete
spekyng maketh a man to haue pease and frendes.
Thenn is good to enqyure fro whens comen the noyse
and stryues, and me semeth ye they be ofte engendred of
pryde. For we rede how Amalech made warre agaynst
the chyldeyn of Israel for fere that he had to lose his
seygnourye, as it appereth in the xvii chapytre of Exodye.
And somtyme the noyse comen by Impacyence nd (sic)
by fyers wordes as it is aboue sayd, by whiche it appereth
that nothyng or lytel to speke is soureayne moyen for to
haue pease and flee noyse. Allso we rede how Saull
dyssymed of theym ye myssayde or spaken euyl of hym,
as it appereth in ye fyrst boke of kynes the xi chapytre.
And Thoby sayd not a worde to his wyfe whan she sayd
many injuryes to hym, as it appereth the seconde and
thyrde chapytre of Thoby. In lyke wyse ought the wyse
man to doo in herynge without ony struyynge.

This work is alluded to by Shakespeare in As You
Like It, Act v, sc. 4: “O, sir, we quarrel in print by the
book, as you have books for good manners”. The com-
mentators quote no book under this exact title, and were
do doubt unacquainted with the present one.

19.
Shaksperian Sketches by James W——e, B.A., late of
Christ College in the University of Cambridge, author of Savillon's Elegies or Poems, &c. London, Printed by Hookham and Carpenter, New Bond-Street, for the Author's Private Use, 1795. 8vo.

This privately printed work is not mentioned by Shakspearian bibliographers.

20.

A Pilgrimage to Stratford-upon-Avon, the Birthplace of Shakspeare, 8vo. 1850. Large Paper, only twenty-five copies printed, with autograph letter of the publisher, stating that all the copies were sold, and that £4 could not purchase another.

21.

Grange (John) Poetical Miscellanies, temp. Charles I., a MS. very neatly written, containing, Mr. John Grange his Ballet.—On a faire Child.—On the Lady Harrington who dyed of the small pox.—Upon the death of Hobson. —An Eclogue to his worthy Father, Mr. Ben. Johnson, by T. Randolph.—A commendation and censure of beards. —An Expostulation with Inigo Jones.—An Imitation of, Come, live with mee, and bee my love, the celebrated Sonnet quoted in the Merry Wives of Windsor; and various other pieces of interest, 8vo.

Come, live with mee, and bee my love,
And wee will some sweet pleasures prove
In guilded sands and silver brooks,
With silken lynes and silver hooks.
There will the river murmuring runn,
Warm’d by thyne eye more then the sunn.
And there the enamor’d fish will play,
Begging themselves they may betray;
If thou wilt swim in that cleare bath,
Each fish that every channell hath
Will amorously to thee swimme,
Gladder to catch thee then thou him.
Nor to be seen, sweet, be thou loath
By Sun or Moone. Thou darken’st them both!
And if myselfe have leave to see,
I need not their light, haveing thee;
Lett others freeze with angling reeds,
And hurt their legs with shells and weeds,
Or trecherously poore fish besett
With strangling snare, or wynding nett;
Lett course bold hands from slymic nest
The bedded fish from banks out wrest;
With curious traiterous sleath silke flyes,
Bewitch poore fishes’ wandring eyes.
Ffor thee, thou need’st noe such deceit,
Thou to thyselfe art thyne owne baite;
That fish which is not caught thereby,
Alas! is wiser far then I.

22.

Ode to Shakespear, in honor of the Jubilee. By
Henry Jones, Author of the Earl of Essex, Kew Garden,
and Isle of Wight. 1769. 8vo.

This tract, of three leaves only, is probably unique. It
was privately printed, and no mention of it occurs in any
collection of Shaksperiana, nor is it even given in the list of works of this author in the Bibliotheca Britannica.

23.


This very curious volume, which contains much valuable information respecting the history of the early English stage, was probably written late in Dennis's life, when he was so embarrassed by debt. One sheet of the MS. is endorsed, "Copies of Mr. Dennis, lodg'd for money borrow'd." It contains interesting notices of Shakespeare, and other dramatists. Dennis, it will be remembered, was one of the earliest critics on Shakespeare, and author of a critique on Rymer, published in 1693. He was a member of Caius College, Cambridge.

24.

Miniature image in silver of a domestic fool, with the winged cap, a curious relic of the time of Queen Elizabeth.

25.

A silver medal of Shakespeare's House at Stratford-on-Avon, with a copy of the monumental bust on the reverse; a fine impression, struck in 1842.

26.

Another impression, in bronze.
27.

A very curious and interesting collection of manuscript poetry of the time of Charles I., containing upwards of two hundred poems, epigrams, epitaphs, pieces of wit and humour, by F. Atkins, Ben Jonson, Derrick, Corbet, Dr. Juxon, Dr. Donne, W. Stroud, Warmestry, Dr. Lewis, Randolph, and other wits of the day, many unpublished, 12mo.

A neatly written volume, rendered interesting to the Shakspearian collector as containing a copy of Corbet's poem on Bosworth Field, differing from the printed editions, and what is, perhaps, of greater literary interest, a long epitaph on Burbage, mentioning the characters he performed in Shakespear's plays, varying materially from that printed by Mr. Collier from the Heber MS. This latter poem is sufficiently curious to be given entire.

*On Mr. Richard Burbidge an excellent both player and painter.*

Some skillful limmer aid mee; if not so,
Som sad tragedian helpe to express my wo:
But, oh! hee's gone, that could the best both limme
And act my greif; and it is only him
That I invoke this strang assistance to it,
And on y' point intreat himself to doe it;
For none but Tully Tully's prais can tell,
And as hee could no man could doe so well
This part of sorrow for him, nor here shew
So truly to the life this mapp of woe,
That greifs true picture with his loss hath bred,
Hee's gone, and with him what a world is dead,
With hee reviv'd; to bee revived so
No more: Young Hamlet, old Hieronimo,
And Leir, the greived Moor, and more beside,
That livd in him, have now for ever died.
Ought (of?') have I scene him leape into ye grave,
Suiting the person (that hee seemd to have)
Of a sad lover with so true an eie,
That then I would have sworn hee meant to die
So lively, that spectators and the rest
Of his sad crew, whilst hee but seemd to bleed,
Amazed thought ev'n that hee died indeed.
And did not knowledg cheke mee, I should sweare
Even yet it is a fals report I heare,
And think that hee that did so truly faine
Is still but dead in jest, to live againe:
But now hee acts this part, not plaies, tis knowne;
Others hee plaid, but acted hath his owne.
Poets, whos glory whilome twas to heare
Yo' leines so well expresd, from henc forbear
And write noe more, or, if you doe, let't bee
In Comick sceneanes, scince tragick parts you see
Dy all in him: Nay, rather sluce your cies,
And henceforth write nought els but tragedies,
Or dirges, or sad elegies, and those
Mournfull laments that least accord to prose.
Englands great Roscius (for what Roscius
Was unto Roome, that Burbidg was to us)
How did thy speech become thee? and thy place
Sute with thy speech, and every action grace
Them both alike, whilst not a word did fall
With out just weight to ballast it with all.
Hadst thou but spak to death, and usd thy power
Of thy enchanting toung at the first hower
Of his assault, hee had let fall his dart,
And quite beene charm'd by thy all-charming art:
This hee knew well, and, to prevent the wrong,
Hee theirfor first made seizure of thy toung
Then on the rest most easily by degrees;
The tendrest ivy tops the fairest trees.
Blurr all yo' leaves with blotts, ye all you write
May bee one sad black, and then upon it
Draw marble leines, that may outlast the sunne,
And stand like trophies when the world is done,
Turne all yo' ink to blood, yo' pens to speares,
To peirce and wound ye' hearers hearts & eares.
Enragd, write stabbing leines, that every word
May bee as apt to mutther as a sword,
That noe man may survive after this fact
Of ruthless death, either to hear or act.
And you, his sad companions, to whom Lent
Becomes more Lenten by this accident,
Henceforth yo' waving flag no more hang out;
Play now no more at all: when round about
Wee look, and miss the Atlas of yo' sphere,
What comfort have wee, think you, to bee there?
And how can you delight in playing, when
Such mourning so affecteth other men?
Or if you still will put it out, let't weare
No more light colours, but death's livery beare;
Hang all yo' round with blacks ye' eaves it bears
With Isicles of ever melting tears;
And if you ever chance to play again,
Let nought but tragedies afflict yo' scene!
And thou, deare earth, that must enshrine that dust,
By heaven now committed to thy trust,
Keepe it as precious as the richest mine,
That lies intomb'd in that rich womb of thine,
That after times may know that much lov'd mold
From other dust, and cherish it as gold:
On it be laid some soft but during stone,
With this short epitaph endoss'd theron,
That every cie may read, and reading weepe,
Tis ENGLANDS ROSCIUS, BURBIDGE, THAT I KEEPE.

Exit Burbidge.

The copy printed from the Heber MS. in Collier's Memoirs of the Principal Actors in the Plays of Shakespeare, p. 52, will be well corrected in several readings by means of the above.

There is much interesting unpublished poetry in this little volume.

28.

A manuscript collection of early English poetry, systematically arranged, part of the volume being in a handwriting of the beginning of the reign of Charles I; the other portion of the volume in English and Latin, in verse and prose, was written during the latter part of the Commonwealth, and in the reign of Charles II. The following notice of the volume (made by Mr. Evans, the
well known auctioneer) is extracted from the sale catalogue:—

"OLD ENGLISH POETRY. A Manuscript Collection of early English poetry, systematically arranged, part of the volume is in a handwriting of the beginning of the reign of Charles I, the other portion of the volume in English and Latin, in Verse and Prose, is written during the latter part of the Commonwealth.

"This most curious Manuscript contains a Collection of Poems arranged under the heads of "Epitaphs Laudatory", "Epitaphs Merry and Satyrical", 'Love Sonnets', 'Pangyricks', 'Satyrs' and 'Miscellanea'. It is in a handwriting of the early part of the reign of Charles I; it appears probable that it was compiled by a person educated at Winchester School and the University of Oxford. The Epitaphs Laudatory commence with Epitaphs on Queen Elizabeth, Queen Anne (wife of James I), Prince Henry. Immediately after an Epitaph on Sir W. Raleigh follows one 'On Mr. William Shakespeare by Basse', but the Collection possesses extraordinary interest and curiosity by containing two Epitaphs, one, 'Epitaph on Sir Edward Standy, Ingraven on his Tomb in Tong Church', with the name of Shakespeare affixed, followed by another 'On Sir Thomas Standy' also with the name of Shakespeare affixed. We have here a testimony, a quarter of a Century earlier than that of Dugdale, to these Poetical Epitaphs being the Productions of Shakespeare. Among the Satires are Verses on the Countess of Somerset, who assisted in the poisoning of Overbury: and
on Sir Giles Mompesson, the Sir Giles Overreach of Massinger. The Volume contains poems by Sir W. Ralegh, Donne, Corbet, St. Clive, Strowd of Christchurch, Cole of King's College, Cambridge, &c. &c. &c. The Compiler has carefully marked the names of the Writers when he was acquainted with them."

The copy of the epitaph on Shakespeare by Basse is evidently very early, and on that account I give a copy of it in the exact form in which it appears in the MS.

_Mr. Basse._

_On Mr. William Shakspeare._

Renowned Spencer lie a thought more nigh
To learned Beaumont, and rare Beaumont ly
A little nearer Chawcer, to make rome
For Shakspeare in your threfold, fourfold tombe.
To lodge all four in one bed make a shifte
Untill domes day, for hardly will (a) fifte
Betwixt this day and that by fate bee saine,
For whom the curtains shal bee drawne againe.
But if Precedencie in death doe barre
A fourth place in your sacred Sepulcher,
In this vncarved marble of thy owne,
Sleepe, brave Traiedian, Shakspeare, sleepe alone;
Thy unmolested rest, unshared cave,
Possesse as lord, not tenaunt, to thy grave,
That unto others it may counted bee
Honour heereafter to bee layd by thee.
The most important feature, however, in the volume, is the very early copy of the epitaphs in Tonge church, which are here ascribed to Shakespeare long before the publication of Dugdale’s work. This evidence, which has not been accessible to any of the Editors of Shakespeare, is so valuable, that a facsimile of it is here presented to the reader.

Shakespeare. An Epitaph on St. Edward Standly.

Not monumental stones preserve our name,
Not stony pillars brandish our name;
The memory of him for whom this stantles
Shall out live marble and devour hands.
When all to times consumption shall be given.
Stand on for whom this stantles shall stand in heaven.


Athe who lies here but does not wheepe;
Here is not daue, Hac deth but glaudee.
This stone farthe is for his bones,
His fame is more geometraillo than these stanes.
And his own euedon, on him, else being gone,
Shall life when Earthly monument is none.

A collection of “Epitaphs merry and satyrical” follow the first portion of the volume. Amongst the persons enumerated are Sir Walter Rawley, Sir John Spencer, the Porter of Winchester, Owen Butler of Christ Church, Sir Anthony Benn, Sir John Calfe, Mr. John Dav’nant, “who died on Thursday Aprill the 18, 1622, being then Major of Oxford, dedicated to the worthlesse and witlesse
townsmen”, Sir Stephen Some, &c. After these follow a large number of “Love Sonnets”, including several (I believe unpublished) by Sir Walter Raleigh, and other poets. The volume is, indeed, of great literary interest, independently of its Shaksperian illustrations.

29.

A volume of tales of the seventeenth century, written in the year 1670, entitled, “A Collection of divers and remarkable Stories tragical and comical”, containing an exceedingly curious assemblage of short stories, some perhaps abridged from printed books, but including many obtained from sources not now known, or from private relation. It commences with the following account of Macbeth and the witches:

“When Duncan was King of Scotland, A° 1034, he had 2 principal noblemen whom he employ’d in all matters of importance, called Macbeth and Banquo; these two travelling togetherness a forrest, were met by 3 witches, or Wierds, as the Scots call them; The first whereof making obeysance to Macbeth, saluted him, Thane of Glamis, (a title to wh that of Earl succeeded afterward) the second, Thane of Cowder, the third, King of all Scotland. This, said Banquo to them, is unequall dealing to give all the honours to my friend, and none to me. To whom one of the weirds in answer to him, said, That he indeed should not be king, but out of his loines should come a race of kings, that should rule Scotland for ever;
and having said thus, they all 3 suddenly vanished. Upon their arrival at Court, Macbeth was immediately created Thane of Glamis; and not long after, some new services of his requiring further recompence, he was honour'd with the Title of Thane of Cawder; Seeing then how happily the prediction of the 3 weirds fell out in the 2 former, he was resolv'd not to be wanting to himself in fulfilling the third, and therefore he kill'd the King, and after, by reason of his command among the soldiers and the populass, he succeeded in his Throne. Being scarce warm in his seat, he called to mind the prediction given to his companion Banquo, whom hereupon suspecting as his supplanter, he caus'd him with his whole Kinred to be murder'd, onely one son he had, named Fleance, escaped with much difficulty into Wales. King Macbeth, freed of this fear, built Dunsinane Castle, making it his ordinary residence; But afterward on new fears consulting with certain wizzards about his future estate, he was by one told, that he should never be overcome, till Birnam Wood (with was some few miles distant) did come to Dunsinane Castle: And by another, That he should never be slain by any man born of a woman. Secure then, as he thought, he omitted no kind of libidinousness or cruelty, for the space of 18 yeers, for so long he tyrannously reign'd. At last Mackduff, Governour of Fife, joyning to himself some few patriots, with had not as yet felt the Tyrants sword, privately met one night in Birnam Wood, and early in the morning, march'd toward Dunsinane Castle, every man bearing a bough in his
hand before him, the better to keep themselves from discovery, by wth stratagem they presently took the Castle by scalado. Macbeth escaping, was pursu'd, over-taken & urg'd to fight by Macduff, to whom y' tyrant half in scorn reply'd, That in vain he attempted his death, for it was his destiny never to be slain by any man born of a woman; Now then, said Macduff, is thy fatal hour come, for I was never born of a woman, but violently cut out of my mother's belly, she dying before her delivery; Which words so daunted the tyrant, that he was easily slain, & Malcolm Canmoir, the true heyre to the crown, was seated in the throne. In the mean time, Fleance the son of Banquo thrived so well in Wales, that falling in love with a Welsh Prince his daughter, and she not rejecting his affection, he begot a son on her named Walter. This Walter, flying out of Wales for a murther, was entertained in Scotland, and his descent once known, he was preferr'd to be Steward to King Edgar, A° 1100, from which office the name of Steward became as the surname of all his family. From this Walter descended that Robert Steward, who in right of his wife, that was the sister of David Bruse, King of Scotland, was King thereof, A° 1371. And this Robert, being descended from ye Princes of Wales that were of ancient times, thereby restor'd the Brittish blood to the Scottish Throne. Since wth time, there hath bin 11 sovereigns of this name in Scotland, this present yeer of our Lord 1670 successively; Wth is answerable to the prediction of the Wierd, who told Banquo that his race should rule Scotland for ever."
The forty-eighth tale is that of Romeo and Juliet, which here appears for the first time in brief English prose, without any notice of Shakespeare's play. A facsimile from the first two lines of this will enable the reader to judge of the date of the MS.

"In Verona, a famous City of Italy, lived a young Gentlewoman named Julietta, of the Noble house of the Montacutes. Her father being not willing that she should marry, when the aptness of her yeers made tender of itselfe for the disposal of her in that way. She therefore (in her fairest flower) espous'd herself secretly, and unknown to her parents, to a gallant gentleman call'd Romeo, of the family of the Capelets, who were and long time had bin, mortal enemies to the Montacutes. But this unhappy marriage was in conclusion the lamentable and tragical death of both the Lovers, in this manner.

"It happen'd on a day, that a gentleman, uncle to Julietta, meeting Romeo by chance in the street, drew upon him and made at him, and it was his hap, in defence of himself, to kill the said uncle, Whereupon he was forret to fly, and to absent himself from Verona. Now there was a certaine franciscan frier, who was privy to the private amours of these lovers, and a man expert in the mysteries of Love, who in the infancy and whole progress of their affection and espousal, had great compassion and reall sentiments of the torments they reciprocally
endur'd. To this honest minded frier the most woful gentlewoman went to mak her moan under the colour of going to confession, how irksome and dolorous the absence of her best esteemed friend was unto her. The frier then advis'd her to take a stupeactive potion when she went to bed, w\textsuperscript{th} would cause her to sleep for above 30 hours, so that she should be verily suppos'd to be dead. This counsel of the frier, Julietta boldly advenitur'd on, and taking the potion, it wrought so effectually, that her parents, immagining her to be dead indeed, caus'd her to be buried in a vault belonging to the family of the Montacutes her ancient predecessors; from thence the friyer purpos'd to fetch her, at a certain houre in the night, and to conduct her himself (in the habit of a Novice) to banish' Romeo, who lived in the Land of another jurisdiction not far from Verona. All this was possible, and easy to be perform'd, for it was the common custom in Veron, not to bury the deceased bodies of ye Nobility in graves in the earth, but in arched vaults. While these things were framing according to the honest complotment of the frier for the poor lovers behoofe, it fortuned that a trusty servant belonging to Romeo came to Verona, at that instant that Julietta's supposed dead corps was laid in the vault, w\textsuperscript{th} letters from his Master to her, w\textsuperscript{th} the servant having seen, he return'd forthwith to him, and reported the certainty of Julietta's death, as that himself was present at her interring. Romeo, confounded w\textsuperscript{th} grief and overruling passions at this news, found the means (in a disguise) to
enter into the City of Verona, before the shutting up of
the Gates. In the dead time of the night he was
conducted to the Church in w\textsuperscript{ch} was the Vault wherein
his dearest was laid, by his trusty servant w\textsuperscript{th} a torch in
his hand, by whose help he got the door of the Church
open, and also forc'd an entrance into the Vault where
Julietta lay. Having then the torch in his own hand,
and commanding the absence of his servant, he entred
into the Vault, and after infinite kisses bestow'd by him
on Julietta, whom he conceited was really dead, he drank
a deadly poison w\textsuperscript{th} he brought w\textsuperscript{th} him, which imme-
diately siezing on his vital spirits, operated so effect-
ually and fatally, that he fell down dead by Julietta's
side, and there slept for ever. Julietta, after the potion
had wrought its full power, awoke, and by the light of
the burning torch, perceiving her dear Romeo to be lying
by her side quite dead; she, enrag'd with grief, started
up, and snatching a dagger that hung at his girdle, she
presently sent it on a fatal errand to her heart, and so
died. The honest frier came, and (as he thought) at
such a convenient houre, as Julietta should awake out of
her artificial sleep, that truly represented the Image of
Death; but when he beheld that tragical and woful
sight, let his sorrow be express'd by such as have
judgment and elocution to do it; on the morrow after,
the death of the two lovers was discover'd, and all
matters related amply by frier Lawrence, for so was
the Franciscan call'd. All which tragical and mournful
disaster happen'd because Julietta's father would not
suffer her to marry, when both her yeers and reason requir'd."

I have some suspicions the present manuscript was composed by a member of the Archer family, the 140th story relating to Mr. Henry Archer, and the papers and manuscripts of that family having been dispersed in various channels during the last few years. The writer's name, however, was not Archer, for there are in the British Museum (MSS. Harl. 4728-4730) several other volumes written by the same hand, who there signs himself by the initials R. D. The following is a copy of the “Table of the Stories contained in this Booke”.

Table of the Stories contained in this Booke.

A strange story of 2 Scottish Noblemen and 3 wierds.
A wonderful story of the Countess of Henneberg.
A strange and Tragical Story of Alboinus and Rosmunda.
A very wonderfull Story.
A pleasant story of a duke of Brunswick.
A strange story of Herais Transmutation.
Two pleasant stories of the Duke of Ossuna.
A strange story of an old Lord and his Lady.
Two notable stories of 2 courageous women.
A notable story of a king of Meth in Ireland.
A very sad story of one Master Duncomb.
A strange story of the Pied piper of Halberstad.
A remarkable story of Panionus and Hermotinus.
A pleasant story of the king of Spain and a Captain.
A story of the Spaniards Cruelty in India.
A story of the Murder of Turner by the Ld Sanquar.
A very notable story of one Harman.
A tragical story of Sir George Rodney.
A sad story of the cruelty of Francesco Severino.
A story of Anna, Empress of Constantinople.
A Lamentable story of Sign[za] Cenci, and his children.
A memorable story of Captain Coucy and his Mistress.
A notable story of Cornelius Agrippa.
A strange story of a Frenchman and a succubus.
A tragical story of Sextus Marius and his daughter.
A story of Fausta, Empress of Constantinople.
A very fine story of John Teutonicus.
Two stories of 2 courageous women.
A tragical story of the Jesuites at Aken.
A notable story of the Princess of Imola and Furli.
A memorable Story of a blasphemous Frenchman.
A sad story of the rape of Lucretia.
A story of an Athenian Courtezan,
A notable story of a lascivious Spanish fryer.
A very lamentable story of Andrea Casale.
A tragical story of Don Julian and his daughter.
A very pleasant story of some of the priests in China.
A story of Magdalena Crucia's Imposture.
A story of Flexio's fidelity to his Soveraign.
A story of the Love of an eagle to a virgin.
A story of the Imposture of some Jesuits.
A pleasant story of a sacrilegious accident.
A story of the betraying a fair Roman lady.
A story of a daughter's affection to her mother.
A story of a Spectrum.
A story of 2 enemies notably reconcil'd.
A very lamentable story of Romeo and Julietta.
A notable story of 2 lovers.
A story of Charles 8th, King of France.
A pleasant story of a Buffon.
A tragical story of Floris, 5th Earl of Holland.
A story of a conspiracy strangely overthrown.
A sad story of Philodamus and his daughter.
A tragical story of a lascivious Lieut.
A strange story of a fond lover.
A tragical story of Ladislaus King of Naples.
A very sad story of Theoxena and her children.
A story of a graceless son.
A remarkable story of an Indian king.
A wonderful story of an ape.
A notable story of a blasphemer.
A pleasant story of Elpis and a lion.
A very tragical story of 3 Frenchmen.
A strange story of a spectrum.
A tragical story of a cruel tyrant.
A sad story of an Italian Gentleman.
A story of a young man falsely accus'd.
A tragical story of a kind husband.
A wonderful story of one Antonio.
A story of Agrippina's murder.
A sad story of Signio Braggadino; also the heroyick act of a virgin
A story of Candaules his death.
A lamentable story of a K. of Navarr.
A sad story of a boasting Italian.
A very wonderfull story.
A story of the death of the Marquess de Ancre.
A strange story of an apparition.
A story of King Pedro's Cruelty.
A tragical story of Philip K. of Macedon.
A strange story of a converted Jew.
A sad story of Sophonisba.
A tragical story of Cardinal Beton.
A story of a popish Miracle.
A notable story of a sagacious Chinese.
A wonderful story of a Spanish Traytor.
A strange story of Arius y heretick.
A remarkable story of a Scotch king.
A very tragicall story.
A sad story of y Dutchess Romilda.
A story of Mr. Davil's murther.
A notable story of a popish prelate.
A tragical story of a Bassa.
A very remarkable story.
A story of a popish practise.
A pleasant story of 2 Drs. of Phisick.
A remarkable story of a pope.
A notable story of Boutevile.
A sad story of Mr. Hoyle's self murther.
A tragicall story of St. Winifrid.
A story of Caeser Borgia's Craft and Cruelty.
A notable story of 2 grateful slaves.
A remarkable story of the D. of Schwaben.
A tragical story of a Hector.
A very strange story.
A story of Aladine, and his Paradise.
A notable story of Stephano Porcari.
A story of a Traytor justly rewarded.
A tragi-comical story.
A story of an Arabian Princess.
A remarkable story of a Venetian Gentleman.
A notable story of a pious son.
A memorable story of Antonio Perez.
A story of Picardus ffoolery.
A tragical story of th' empero Henry 4th.
A story of Caius Piso's Cruelty.
A remarkable story of a Pope.
A notable story of Boylas, a Traytor.
A story of a villainous practise of y' Franciscans.
A fabulous story.
A remarkable story of a wicked Queen.
A story of a lascivious king.
A story of a sleeping preacher.
A notable story of an ingrateful person.
A story of a citizens wife.
A tragical story of 3 favourites.
A very pleasant story.
A memorable story of 2 pious persons.
A sad story of Blanca Rubea.
A tragical story of the Bassa Jonusis.
A story of Santabarinus mischievous cunning.
A memorable story of witches.
A story of a facetious Gentlewoman.
A sad story of Aristoclea.
A pleasant story of an old man.
A story of an hypocritical Courtier.
A strange story of two witches' practises in transforming men into beasts.
A notable story of Mr. Bull and a Lion.
A tragical story of Arria and her husband.
A miraculous story.
A story of a demoniack.
A sad story of a Spanish ffryer.
A pleasant story of a popish Miracle.
A story of an Irish Miracle.
A memorable story of a Non-Conformist.
A very wonderful story of an Incubus.
A story of a Gentleman and a specter.
A fine story of Dioclesianus.

Parasitaster, or the Fawne, as it hath been divers times presented at the Blacke Friars by the Children of the Queenes Majesties Reuels, and since at Powles, written by Iohn Marston, And now corrected of many
faults, which, by reason of the Authors absence, were let slip in the first edition. At London, Printed by T. P. for W. C. 1606. 4to.

This very rare play contains a curious allusion to Shakespeare’s Richard III,—“O yes, the confusion of tongues at the large table is broke vppe, for see, the presence fillis; a foole, a foole, a foole, my coxcombe for a foole!” Lowndes cites only two copies of this edition.

31.

A copy of Basse’s Epitaph on Shakespeare, written about the year 1690, erroneously entitled, “An Epitaph upon Shakespeare, by J. Donne”.

32.

Sir John Fastolf. Grant of certain lands, &c. in Castre, from John Bray to Sir John Fastolf, kn.t., John Fitzralph, John Fastolf of Olton, and John Kyrting, dated at Castre die Lunae prox: post festum Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptistæ, anno regni regis Henrici Sexti post Conquestum duodecimo, (June, 1434.)

This interesting original document, on vellum, is from Thorpe’s Catalogue of Manuscripts, 1850, No. 143, £2 : 2.

33.

Original MS. receipt of the time of Queen Elizabeth, “To make aquavitæ.”

“Take of strong ale or strong wyne, or the lees of strong wyne and ale together, a gallon or 2 as y” please,
and take half a pound or more of good liquorice and as much annise seedes: scrape off the barke from the liquorice, and cutt it into thin slices, and punne the annise seedes grosse, and steep altogether close covered 12 hours: then distill it with a limbeck or carpentyne, and of every gallon of the liquor y° may draw a quarte of reasonable good aquavitæ, that is, of 2 gallons 2 quarts; but see that yo° fyre be temperate, and that the head of yo° limbeck be kept cold continually with fresh water, and that the bottome of your limbecke be fast luted with rye dowgh, that no ayre issue out. The best ale to make aquavitæ of is to be made of wheate malte, and the next cleane barley malte, and the best wyne for that purpose is sacke."

This aquavitæ is several times alluded to by Shakespeare. The present receipt appears to have been written about the year 1580.

34.

A very closely written volume of Sermons and theological collections, by P. Hathaway, commencing Anno Domini 1690; 12mo.

Some of these sermons were preached at Tewkesbury, and other places in the neighbourhood. There can, therefore, be little doubt of the volume having been compiled by a lineal descendant of "Sweet Anne Hathaway," for it is well known that part of the family settled in Tewkesbury at an early period. The author's Signature is in a diminutive hand, as the above
facsimile will sufficiently show. The volume also contains a few verses, medical receipts, &c.

35.

Memorable Conceits of Divers noble and famous personages of Christendome of this our moderne time. London, Printed for James Shaw, 1602; 12mo.

This very rare little work is not even mentioned by Lowndes. It enters into the Shakspearian series as containing two stories, one bearing a slight resemblance to the tale of the caskets, the other the same story as the Merchant of Venice:

Of the Emperour Sigismund and a Page of his chamber.

The Emperour Sigismond, and one of the Pages of his chamber, passing over a certaine river at a foord on horseback: when they were in the middest of the river, the Emperour's horse stood still and began to stale; which the Page seeing, he said unto the Emperour, Most sacred Prince, your horse is ill taught, and resembleth you very well. The Emperour answered never a word, but rode on towards his lodging: where being come, and in pulling off his bootes, he demanded of his Page, why he had likened his horse unto him. Because (quoth the Page) the river had no need of any water, yet your horse in . . . . . there, did adde water unto water: and so do you: For you give wealth and riches to them which have plenty, but to such as have none you give not any. It is
now a long time that I have bene in your service, and yet did I never tast of your liberality. The next morning the Emperour tooke two little iron Coffers, both of a greatnesse and like weight, the one of them being full of duckets, and the other of lead: and putting them upon a table, he said unto his page: here be two coffers, make thy choise of the two which thou shalt like best, and take it for thy wages and recompence of thy service. The Page chusing that which was full of lead, The Emperour said, Now open it, and see what is within it; which he did, and found it to be but lead. Then said the Emperour, now thou knowest thy fortune: the fault was none of mine, that thy choise was no better, and that thou wert not made rich: for thou hast refused thy good fortune, when it was offered thee.

Some are poore through their owne default, because when occasion is offered to enrich themselves, they know not how to take their time, and to lay hold of it.

The judgement of Sultan Soliman, the great Seigneur or Emperour of Turkes.

In the citie of Constantinople, a certaine Christian desired to borrow of a Jew the some of five hundred duckets. The Jew lent them unto him with condition, that for the use of the money lent, he should at the end of tearme, give him two ounces of his flesh, cut off in some one of the members of his bodie. The day of payment being come, the Christian repayed the five hundred duckets to the Jew, but refused to give him any
part of his flesh. The Jew not willing to loose his interest, convented the Christian before the Grand Seigneur: who having heard the demand of the one, and the answer of the other, and judging of the matter according to equitie, commanded a razor to be brought, and to be given to the Jew, to whome he said: Because thou shalt know that justice is done thee, take there and cut off the flesh of this Christian, the two ounces which thou demandest: but take heed thou cut neither more nor lesse, for if thou doe, thou shalt surely dye. The Jewe holding that to be a thing impossible, durst not adventure, but acquitted the Christian of his interest.

36.

The Lamentable and Tragical History of Titus Andronicus, with the Fall of his sons in the Wars of the Goths, with the Manner of the Ravishment of his daughter Lavinia, by the Empress's two Sons, through the means of a bloody Moor, taken by the Sword of Titus in the War: with his Revenge upon their cruel and inhumane Act. To the Tune of, Fortune my Foe, &c. London, Printed by T. Norris at the Looking-Glass on London bridge, and sold by J. Walter at the Hand and Pen in High Holborn.

This curious sheet ballad is quite perfect and in fine condition, an unusual circumstance with reliques of this description. The large and hideous woodcut is not, however, a good impression, and the facsimile has been
selected from another copy of the woodcut, attached to a ballad preserved in the Chetham Library, Manchester.

37.

An impression of the Chandos portrait of Shakespeare, taken after the plate was defaced. Only fifteen copies were struck off, exclusively for members of the Council of the Shakespeare Society.

38.

Philippi Galtheri Poetæ Alexandreidos libri decem, nunc primum in Gallia Gallicisque characteribus editi. Lugduni, Excudebat Robertus Granton typis propriis, m. v°. Iviii. 4to.

This poem contains the celebrated line alluded to in Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice:—

Incidis in Scyllam, cupiens vitare Charybdim.

39.

An original rental of the manor of Berwick in Sussex, of the fifteenth century, with a note in old English addressed "To the Lord of the Maner and Court of Berwycke in the Shire of Sussex, and to his Stuard of the same".

This document is very interesting, as containing the name of Shakespeare, in one of the old orthographies cited by Dr. Drake. It has always been supposed that the name, at this early period, was confined to Warwickshire and the neighbouring counties. Mr. Hunter, who
is a very good authority in a question of this kind, is quite of this opinion. The present document, however, which was written in the reign of Henry VI, shows a branch of the family to have been then living in Sussex, the following entry occurring in the rental,—

Nicholas Saxper pro reddit: per annum, ijs. iiiijd.

40.

A milled sixpence of Queen Elizabeth, dated 1562. A fine specimen.

"Ay, by these gloves, did he, (or I would I might never come in mine own great chamber again else,) of seven groats in mill-sixpences, and two Edward shovel-boards."

—Merry Wives of Windsor.

The mill-sixpences coined in 1561 and 1562 were the first milled money used in this kingdom. An engraving of one like the present, of the same year, is given by Mr. Knight from a specimen preserved in the British Museum.

41.

The silver Jubilee Medal, engraved by Westwood. On one side is a head of Shakespeare, "We shall not look upon his like again". On the reverse is, "Jubilee at Stratford in Honour and to the Memory of Shakespeare. Sept. 1769, D. G. Steward."

42.

Warwickshire halfpennies, 1791 and 1792, each having a bust of Shakespeare.
43.

The Shakespeare halfpenny, 1790. On one side is the head of Shakespeare, with his name, "Shakespeare"; and on the reverse is the date, and an allegorical figure. This token is rare.

44.

A silver counter of the time of James I, with a head of the king on one side, and the prince on the other. On one side, "Give thy judgements, O God, unto the king"; and on the other, "And thy righteousness unto the king's sonn". A fine and curious specimen. See p. 1.

45.

Another silver counter, dated 1638.

46.

Malone’s Inquiry into the Authenticity of the Shakespeare Papers, 8vo. 1796.

This copy belonged to T. Park, and is enriched by many curious and valuable manuscript notes, insertions, cuttings from newspapers, &c., collected by that industrious antiquary. In a MS. note on the first leaf, he says, "Mr. Malone, in this volume, gave the finishing blow to Ireland’s Shakespeare; though, as Mr. Steevens observed to me, it was somewhat like Falstaff killing the dead". A few drawings are also inserted.
Now the wall where his monument erected
Lyeth a plain four stones, undenomarked. His body is
Buried with his Epitaph, made by himself a little
Before his death.

Good friend, for Jesus’ sake forbear
To dig the dust enclosed here;
Blessed be he that spares these stones;
And cursed be he that moves my body.

The spot that shoves me, this Church is above.
So you old to say that this Shakespeare was formerly
in this towne Court appointed to a Bulker; but that
he run from his mayor to London & there was hid
into the play house of a Jew where, by thy means
had an opportunity to outdo his afterward proud. He
was the best of his family but the male line is extinguisht
Not one for years of the Curse above! Darest thou

Count his grave stone the his wife and daughters &
Earnestly desire to be laid in the same ground with him.

J.Netherd. Esq. Marson. 1625
47.

The Original Manuscript Account of Travels in Warwickshire in the Year 1693, containing the earliest authentic notices of Shakespeare's early life. 460.

This most important and curious volume came into the hands of the late Mr. Redd, upon the dispersion of the papers of the family of Lord de Clifford, which were sold by auction in the year 1694. It is in the form of a letter addressed to Mr. Edward Southall, and is endorsed by him, '10 April, 1693, from Mr. Dowdall, Description of several places in Warwickshire'. This Mr. Dowdall was clearly a barrister, as appears from the signature at the end, and from several legal phrases that occur in the letter; and there can be very little doubt but that he was the W. Dowdall, who published a collection of Statutes relating to the revenue of Ireland, 8vo. 1710.

There is, indeed, internal evidence of authenticity in all he relates, which may fairly be considered to be truthfully reported; and the author is the first person who has expressed Stradford's position respecting Shakespeare. His evidence, therefore, is of high value; however it may stand or users to be taken from the last and earliest authority known, the parish clerk who must have been well acquainted with Shakespeare's immediate descendants, asserts that the poet was apprenticed to a butcher. It must be recollected, there was nothing in the circumstances of John Shakespeare, to render such an engagement for his son an improbable circumstance.
47.

The Original Manuscript Account of Travels in Warwickshire in the Year 1693, containing the Earliest Authentic Notices of Shakespeare's Early Life. 4to.

This most important and curious volume came into the hands of the late Mr. Rodd, upon the dispersion of the papers of the family of Lord de Clifford, which were sold by auction in the year 1834. It is in the form of a letter addressed to Mr. Edward Southwell, and is endorsed by him, "10 April, 1693, from Mr. Dowdall, Description of several places in Warwickshire". This Mr. Dowdall was clearly a barrister, as appears from the signature at the end, and from several legal phrases that occur in the letter, and there can be very little doubt but that he was the W. Dowdall, who published a collection of Statutes relating to the revenue of Ireland, 8vo. 1710.

There is, indeed, internal evidence of authenticity in all he relates, which may fairly be considered to be truthfully reported; and the author is the first person who has recorded Stratford traditions respecting Shakespeare. His evidence, therefore, is of high value, however it may shock our fancy to be told that the best and earliest authority known, the parish clerk who must have been well acquainted with Shakespeare's immediate descendants, asserts that the poet was apprenticed to a butcher. It must be recollected there was nothing in the circumstances of John Shakespeare, to render such an engagement for his son an improbable circumstance.
This MS. was printed by Mr. Rodd in 1838, under the title of, "Traditionary Anecdotes of Shakespeare, collected in Warwickshire in the year 1693". The old orthography, however, which is at least some part of the evidence of authenticity, is not preserved, and many grave errors have been committed. On this account, I am here induced to offer the reader a faithful transcript of the whole manuscript, bearing in mind that the accuracy of the portion respecting Shakespeare will be confirmed by the exactness of the other accounts, that can admit of being more easily tested.

*Butler’s Mervoe, in Warwickshire, Aprill y’ 10th, 1693.*

*Mr* Cousin,

The letter I sent you last post was but short in comparison with my former; and indeed, if I should follow your example, it ought to be much shorter: but 'tis folly to expect a *free-farme* of joys in this world; we must downe on our marrow-bones, and thanke heaven for affording vs one single glance. This epistle (I suppose) you may justly call Mr. D——l’s Travells into Warwick-shire, for herein you shall have such particulars as I can at p’sent call to minde, and by this prolix relation I shall partly (tho’ not deseignedly) revenge the brevity of your’s.

On Freyday, the 10th of March last, I sett out from London, and lay y’ night at Aylesbury. The next day
I came hither to Butler’s-Merstone, wth is eight miles from Warwicke, six miles from Stratford-super-Avon, and one mile from Kineton. My friend’s manshion house is verie pleasantly situated, being on the browe of an hill, and from it, downe the valley, are regular walkes of lime, chesnutt, and walnutt trees. In the extreme partes of this are two noble fish-ponds, and a verie large dove-house, from whence we are, as often as we please, plentifully furnished wth creatures of both elements, of water and ayre. The gardens, urchards, meadows, and pastures are suitable: apples and peares are here still as delicious as in the moneth of August, of wth we haue (since the last yeare) good store remaneing. The house is large enough for its desmesnes, being an ancient, strong-built peice of architecture, wth all the conveniences of our modern buildings. To comfort and solace ourselves, we haue all those necessaries that beautifie and adorne the kitchin and cellar; and in the stables there be as stately a number of horses as a man can wish or desire to ride on.

Hauing come soe farr, I may now venture to informe you off our advances abroad; and in ordre to that, I must acquaint you first that there is a knott in those partes that meeet at Kineton everie Saturday in the afternoone, whoe are one and all, of wth number my friend is one; and they are as true and sincere as they are generous and hospitable.

The first I shall name shall be Charles Newsham of Chadshunt, an ancient justice of the peace (tho’ but 58
yrs old), one that is everie way a compleat gentleman. He is an excellent schollar, and as good an historian; he is a greate admirer of your Royall-Society-learning, but not to be infatuated with the itch of experimentall discoveries, &c.; but aboue all, he has made the reasons of our municipall laws his owne, especially that part which relates and appertaines to the crowne-side; with whose conversation you may imagine I take noe smale delight. In short, he has soe cleare an ensight, soe quicke an apprehension, and soe sollid a judgment, that one would haue thought he practised never any other thing but law, and [had] been all his life imployed in antiquities, &c. This gentleman liues within 2 miles of vs, haueing a paternall estate of 1,000l. per annum, besides a large addition by his owne industry, &c.

The next is one Mr. Peeres, of an antient family in this country, whose estate is 800l. per annum. He liues at his manor of Alveston, lyeing on the banks of ye river Avon, within 5 miles of this place; he maried one of the aboue Mr. Newsham's daughters. He has a verie fine house built lately, &c.

Another of the fraternity is Justice Bentley, an honest true-harted gent. He is verie fatt and verie rich, haueing an inheritance of 1,300l. per annum, and besides a vast personall estate, especially in mony. He has one wife, one only son, and one maiden daughter of the age of 24. He liues at Kineton, within one mile of vs. This is he that tould me ye story of ye Buff Gloves, &c.

A 4th is Mr. Loggins, a neere neighbour of ours. He
has a pretty estate of 700l. per annum, all contiguous about his house; he is excellent company, and keeps as excellent scyder.

To these I may add my friend and his father, whose characters I dare not take upon me to describe, fearing least I should come short of their merit: but thus much I may say of you, that that which makes even poverty comfortable they enjoy with plenty, and that is, unity and concord at home; and to add to their happiness, they have 2 handsome prattling boys, each as pretty as Phyllis, but not quiet so old. They are in coates, and yet are in their granniers. And now I think of these children, pray speake to my cousin Betty (whose knows the art of pleasing) to doe me the favour to buy some little odd thing or other to send them with. She shall be paid as soon as I come to London, with a million of thanks.

From all these gentl. I have had particular invitations, at whose respective houses I have rec'd soe many favours, and soe much obliging civility, that are sufficient to binde my gratitude to a perpetuall remembrance and acknowledgment; and as a mark of their kindness and esteem, they have admitted me of their society. And thus you may observe that a man may be excluded from one body politick, and immediately incorporated into another; and, in truth, 'tis but justice that a man returne without complaint what he rec'd gratis, and all that.

Now I proceed to informe you what antiquities I have observed, and now and then, if I should prove tedious by telling stories relating to these matters, you will, I hope,