

THE HISTORY OF CORIOLANUS

THE OREGONIAN'S HOMESTUDY CIRCLE DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON

POPULAR STUDIES IN SHAKESPEARE

X. CORIOLANUS.

Contributors to this course: Dr. Edward Dowden, Dr. William J. Rolfe, Dr. Hamilton W. MacLellan, Dr. Charles G. Loring, Dr. Isaac N. Denton, Dr. Vida D. Scudder and others.

The play as an Acting Drama. The play "Coriolanus" is never acted as Shakespeare wrote it. To begin with, it is much too long for the exigencies of the modern stage.

was again brought out by him in Covent Garden in 1888. It was also the great play in his repertoire in his last year upon the stage (1897), when, however, the part of Volturna (Mrs. Siddons having retired from the stage) was taken by Mrs. Faucit, the mother of Helen Faucit. Also it was the play he chose for his last appearance in Covent Garden, in his "ever-memorable farewell to the stage," June 28, 1897.

Of that last appearance John Howard Payne, the dramatist and player (author of "Home, Sweet Home"), wrote: "I can never forget Kemble's Coriolanus. His entrance was the most brilliant I ever witnessed. His person derived a majesty from a scarlet robe, which he



THE THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.

It is evident, then, that the full measure of enjoyment which "Coriolanus" affords as a play can rarely be obtained from seeing it acted.

The honors of "Coriolanus" as an acting play belong to John Philip Kemble and his sister, the great Mrs. Siddons. It is doubtful if ever an actor has appeared upon the stage whose impersonation of the Roman character in the "Coriolanus" as given by Kemble and Siddons was so perfect as theirs.

managed with admirable dignity. The Roman energy of his deportment, the serene grace of his gesture and the noble grandeur of his bearing displayed the great mind, daring to command, and disdainful to solicit admiration.

Mr. Kemble took his leave of the stage on Monday night, in the character of Coriolanus. On his first coming forward to pronounce his farewell address, he was received with a shout like thunder.

and Barrett the part was not of primary importance. But with Forrest Coriolanus was one of his best roles. Other than Coriolanus, says Lawrence Barrett, "were Forrest's greatest Shakespearean parts." But while other Lear and other Othellos have been "Coriolanus" Mr. Barrett goes on to say, "died with him, the last of all the Romans."

1. What are the characteristics of the citizens of a political city? What is their importance as compared with the same class in "Julius Caesar"?

2. What great political problem does the play present? What evidences of Shakespeare's political wisdom and knowledge of political motives?

3. Do we get our knowledge of Coriolanus, early in the play, mainly from what he says and does, or from what others say of him?

4. Does Menenius in act 2, scene 1 underestimate the power of the tribunes to intrigue and bring things to pass? What is their character?

5. What is foreshadowed in the words of Coriolanus (act 3, scene 1), "I wish I had a cause to seek them there?"

6. What must have taken place at the home of Coriolanus between scenes 1 and 2, act 3?

7. Does Coriolanus understand the people as well as Volturna does in act 3, scene 2? Is her reasoning sound?

8. How is our judgment held in suspense between policy and integrity throughout the play?

9. Does Menenius at any point in act 4, scene 6, lose the thread of his argument? What is his most characteristic speech in act 5, scene 1?

10. Why does Shakespeare cause us to lose some of our respect for Aufidius in act 4, scene 2?

11. What is probably contained in the letter which Coriolanus gives to Menenius in act 5, scene 2? Does Menenius (in act 5, scene 2) fulfill former conceptions of his character?

12. Which character seems of superior strength in act 5, scene 3—Coriolanus or Volturna? As a man would Volturna have proved greater than Coriolanus? Does she win him to her will by presenting the same kind of motive as in act 2, scene 2?

13. What previous contrasting scene does act 5, scene 3, recall to mind?

14. Is the death of Coriolanus necessary to the play? As necessary as the death of Lear or Othello?

15. What impression as to strength of character does Virgilia produce? How does her husband must Coriolanus have been?

16. "Thinkst thou it honorable for a noble man still to remember wrongs?" Is this the meaning of the play?

J. F. Denney, Ohio State University.

John Philip Kemble as Coriolanus.

yet how short the interval seems. The impression seems to me to have been yesterday. We forget numberless things, but not the first time we saw Mrs. Kemble, nor shall we easily forget the last. Coriolanus, the character in which he took his leave of the stage, was one of the first in which we remember to have seen him, and it was one in which we wished to see him appear like himself to the last. Not was he wanting to himself on this occasion. He played the part as well as he ever did—with as much freshness and vigor. There was no abatement of spirit and energy, none of grace and dignity. His look, his action, his expression of the character were the same as they ever were. They could not be better."

The Kembles—John, Charles and Mrs. Siddons—were frequently called "the Three Graces." Both the brothers possessed much of the classical beauty of their greater sister. When John Kemble first appeared on the London stage the general remark was "How very like his sister!" But Charles Kemble was handsomer even than his brother. Leigh Hunt said of him that "his face and figure were ideal" and that "he was the nearest approach to Shakespeare's gentleness and heroism of romance" he had ever seen. The three constituted a trio such as no other family has ever given to the stage.

"Coriolanus" was first brought out by John Kemble in Drury Lane in 1783. It was wholly used, but Coriolanus was not one of Keen's successes. It was much less meritorious than his Brutus. For one thing, Keen's inferior figure was not suited to the part. Macready also played Coriolanus, and played it well. Barry Cornwall, the poet, declared of it, "a noble Roman of them all!" Macready also played it in an elaborate revival of the play in Drury Lane in 1838, when very much attention was given to the scenery and staging. The first night of this revival was the great dramatic event of the time. Dickens and Bulwer Lytton, warm friends of Macready, both of them were present. Samuel Phelps also presented the play in Sadler's Wells in 1848, as one of his series of revivals of Shakespearean plays, he himself taking the part of Coriolanus. Charles Kemble, then a veteran of 73, was present on the first night of this revival, and several times during the play pronounced Phelps acting "very fine."

In America the great performers of Coriolanus have been Edwin Forrest, Edwin Booth, John McCullough and Lawrence Barrett. With Booth, McCullough

fight arm" after the death of "Stonewall" Jackson. There were many doubters in both of those heroic old armies. What were "Pap" Thomas and "Pap" Cutler, "Uncle" John Sedgwick and "Uncle" Jim Wadsworth, and so on and so on.

J. A. WATROUS.

If you wake in the morning with a bitter taste in the mouth, coated tongue, perhaps headache, your liver is torpid. You need Carter's Little Liver Pills.

FARMING IN ALASKA

REPORT ON THE SUBJECT OF EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—A. C. TRUE, the chief of the experiment stations under the agricultural department, has submitted a report on the subject of experimental stations in Alaska.

The appropriation "To enable the secretary of agriculture to investigate the resources of Alaska, with special reference to the desirability and feasibility of the establishment of agricultural experiment stations in that territory" was obtained in the government building there, but this did not prove feasible.

On June 7, 1898, Dr. W. H. Evans, botanist of the territory in Alaska, and continued the botanical survey of the coast region, which he had begun the previous summer.

First—Experiments in growing different varieties of cereals, forage plants, flax and buckwheat, and other crops suitable for disposal by citizens of Sitka. In spite of the late planting, oats, barley, flax, potatoes and a number of different kinds of vegetables were cultivated. Mr. Barrett goes on to say, "died with him, the last of all the Romans."

Second—Experiments similar to those at Sitka, but more extensive, with the aid of Mr. George Sexton, a resident of that place.

Third—Observations and records of the soil temperature in Sitka and Skagway, and arrangements for similar observations were made at a few other places.

Fourth—Samples of soils were collected at Sitka and at Kenai, in Cook inlet, of which moisture and other determinations were made under the direction of the chief of the division of soil of this department.

Fifth—Circulars of inquiry regarding agricultural conditions in different parts of Alaska, including both the coast and the interior, were sent out, and a number of replies were received and reported.

Sixth—A number of places in the coast region of Alaska were visited, and surveys and reservations of land for experimental purposes were made at Sitka, Kodiak island, and Kenai, in Cook inlet.

The botanical survey conducted by Dr. Evans was of shorter duration than that of the previous year, and owing to the lack of transportation facilities, comparatively few places were visited.

As a result of these investigations were sufficiently favorable to justify the continuance of agricultural investigations in Alaska, congress made a third appropriation for this work for the current fiscal year, increasing the amount from \$10,000 to \$12,000, of which sum \$7000 was made immediately available.

Reports on their work were prepared by Professor Geogerson, by Dr. Evans, and the supervision of the director of this office, and were transmitted to congress in January, 1899.

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DEMOCRATS EXPECT GAINS

COUNTING CONGRESSIONAL CHECKS BEFORE HATCHED. Factors They Overlook in Making Their Hopeful Estimates—Party That Visited the Southwest.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—The democrats are making every calculation for the victory in the congressional campaign this year, and have stated their hope of carrying the next house of representatives, or at least having a fusion majority in that body.

The following extracts from the progress report made by Professor Geogerson under date of August 17, 1899, will serve to show what is being done in these lines during the present season: "I arrived at Sitka April 6, with my two assistants, one laborer, four work oxen, and the implements purchased for use here.

"I arrived at Sitka April 6, with my two assistants, one laborer, four work oxen, and the implements purchased for use here. At that date there was still snow on the ground everywhere, except upon having a southern exposure, and occasional snow storms continued to occur until the end of the month of May.

"The crops consist of many varieties of barley, oats, spring wheat and spring rye, buckwheat, flax, field peas, vetches, grasses and other forage crops. We have also growing an extended list of vegetables, but only a sample, so to speak, of each variety.

"The land occupied by these crops consists of garden patches scattered all over town. At Sitka, we occupy 12 acre patches. They have with two exceptions, been tendered rent free by the people who own them. Some of them are new ground, others had been in seed for several years, since they were cultivated; in other case the soil could not be put in the best condition for cropping the present year.

"The meager growth on new soil which was observed last year is again shown, but a decrease of about two tons to the acre improved the growth of barley, oats, buckwheat and peas materially.

"The writing of the prospectus for that all the barley, flax, buckwheat and peas and several of the earlier varieties of oats will mature, but wheat and spring rye are uncertain."

"Much difficulty was experienced in obtaining suitable laborers to assist in the work at Sitka, and the task of clearing and draining the land proved more formidable than was expected. Some four acres of new ground, which had been cleared, have, however, been cleared and partially drained.

"In spite of the fact that new ground is not favorable to the growth of crops, the vegetables and grasses were doing well. The grains were short but healthy, and they will probably mature seed. The season has been unusually dry there this year, and the crops were in need of rain.

"A complete and satisfactory report of operations in Alaska during the present season can be made only at a later date. At this time, but our present advice indicate that the work is proceeding in a satisfactory manner and that no greater difficulties have been encountered than might have been expected. Necessarily a relatively large amount of time has been given to the erection of buildings and clearing of land during the present season.

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at Boise, Idaho, and for the purchase of a burglar and fireproof safe for use in that institution. The present safe is an old fashioned one, while the entrance to the vault is closed by a wooden door only. It is stated that there are at all times large quantities of bullion on hand at that assay office, and proper facilities should be furnished to insure its safety as well as that of the office records.

The state supreme court has held that any person divorced in Oregon who marries again in either this or any other state within the period of six months, is not, so far as the laws of Oregon are concerned, legal in matrimony.

The decision was rendered in the case of McLennon vs. McLennon, 13 Oregon, page 83. This was a case of marriage in Vancouver by one of the parties to a divorce in Oregon before the expiration of the six months specified in the statute.

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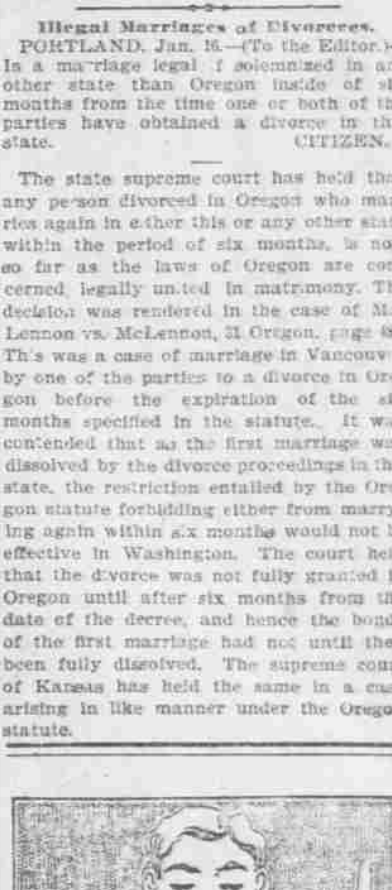
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