

HOW TO STUDY SHAKESPEARE

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

POPULAR STUDIES IN SHAKESPEARE

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XIII. HOW TO STUDY SHAKESPEARE.

BY HAMILTON W. MARIE.

He would be a bold man rather than a wise one who should attempt to lay down a system of rules from which to trace a path which should be equally applicable to persons of all conditions of intelligence, previous preparation and taste. There are almost as many ways of studying as there are students.

It is a matter of prime importance to become interested in the subject which one is to study. When one has become interested he may know that the mind has been held, and after that the process of perception, assimilation and digestion goes on rapidly and almost automatically. In the study of Shakespeare it is best to begin by making one's acquaintance in the most direct and familiar fashion. It is impossible to begin to study a man intelligently until you are fairly well acquainted with him. To study his environment before you have seen him, or his general characteristics before he has revealed himself to you in familiar intercourse, is to begin at the wrong end and waste your time.

to be found in the word character, as the keynote of the book. It was to be found in the word destiny. Shakespeare believed profoundly in the moral order of the world. He believed also in social and political order; he believed in order in individuals, in the balance of qualities, in the subordination of the lower to the higher. It is easy to see that he was not a cynic; that he had not an impure mind, although the coarseness of his lines or sometimes reflects in his work that he was not a morbid man. In a word, it is not difficult to find the spiritual man behind the work. The order in which the plays were entered at the stationer's is known, therefore possible to trace the growth of his mind. Many facts about his personal life are known, in spite of statements to the contrary. Stratford is full of Shakespearean associations. All the material can be found in a few good books. Like the study of Shakespeare, "Professor Barrett Wendell's 'William Shakespeare,' Professor Dowden's 'Mind and Art of Shakespeare,' and George Brandes' 'William Shakespeare: A Critical Study.'" Having gotten the image of Shakespeare in one's mind the student will do well to take up the plays and study them more critically.

With the aid of a good text, and introductions he ought to understand the background of the play, that is to say, the sources from which it was derived, the time in Shakespeare's life in which it was written, and any peculiar circumstances attending either its creation or its production. This knowledge is not difficult of access. It is for the man who does not intend to be a Shakespearean scholar to attempt to master all the Shakespearean literature. The general student needs to put himself in possession of such facts as will enable him to group the plays in the order of their production with reference to the growth of Shakespeare's mind, to understand the sources from which the plots of the plays were derived, and the immediate historical background. When he has done this, in addition to the other things which have been enumerated, he is in a position to read and enjoy the plays of Shakespeare to the full. From this point he may go on indefinitely to study the philosophy of life behind the plays, which he may discover for himself, or which he may take from half a dozen authorities, among them Mr. Denton Snider, whose very suggestive commentaries have been wholly accepted in order to be thoroughly enjoyed. After all, the best way to know Shakespeare is to possess a good edition in small volumes; such an edition, or the parts of it, should always be handy to carry a volume in one's pocket; to cut down one's newspaper reading, and to devote one's time, as one travels in street cars, railway trains and ferries to the reading of Shakespeare.

H. W. Marie New York city.

THE NEW TESTAMENT.

Quotations from Many Sources to Attest its Credibility.

EUGENE. — 4.—(To the Editor)—If not trespassing too much on the patience of your readers, I would like to submit evidence to show connection between the MSS. of the New Testament and the original writings. Ecclesiastical assemblies, in their acts against heresy, have not only come to be considered to be the true word of God. This inquiry is only made to show that what was thereby adopted existed at that time.

As the council of Carthage, meeting A. D. 397, catalogued the books of the Bible in the following language: "It was also determined that, beside the canonical scriptures, nothing be read in the churches under the title of Divine scriptures; four books of the Gospels, one book of Acts, 13 epistles of the Apostle Paul, one of the same to the Hebrews, two epistles of the Apostle Peter, three of John, one of James, one of Judas, one book of the Apocalypse." These are the books which we have received from our fathers, that these are to be read in the churches. This assembly esteemed these books to be "divine scriptures, from Apostle," and this estimation came to them from their "fathers" who must have lived in the beginning of the fourth century. Athanasius was bishop of Alexandria from 356 A. D. He was a noted Greek writer of his time. He mentions in his books of the New Testament as we have them, and said these books were "delivered to the fathers" by those who were "apostles and ministers of the word." In the list of the books of the New Testament he mentions that he who thirsts may be satisfied with the oracles contained in them; in these alone the doctrine of religion is taught; he no one add to them or take away from them. Cyril was bishop of Jerusalem part of the time that Athanasius was bishop of Alexandria. He lived from 335 to 386 A. D. He composed lectures for candidates for the church. He mentions in his books of the New Testament the books which we have today, and says that these books were delivered to the fathers by those who were "apostles and ministers of the word."

There was such a man as Shakespeare, and there were plays recorded of him. When the student has felt the charm of his work and has learned something about it, he may wish to know more of the man; he has already, if he is intelligent, found a good deal about him in his work. It is often said that as that work is dramatic and therefore impersonal there is no revelation of the dramatist himself. This is a great mistake. The dramatist is to be found in his work in the same sense in which the lyrical poet is generally to be found; the sentiments which are put upon the lips of his actors must not be put upon his own lips; he does not reveal himself in the direct, definite and concrete fashion in which the makers of some other kinds of literature often reveal themselves; but no one can study the plays of Shakespeare without becoming aware that they disclose a general conception of life; that they are constructed on the theory that certain results follow certain causes. The keynote of those plays is

MADE FASTEST PASSAGES

COLUMBIA RIVER GRAIN FLEET LEADS ALL OTHERS.

Remarkable Advantages of a Fresh Water Harbor—Steamer Homer Molested—Marine Notes.

The last issue of London Fairplay contains a list of record passages of sailing vessels. As usual, vessels leaving the Columbia river made fastest passages than those from other coast ports. The fastest passage made between San Francisco and Europe was by the American clipper Roseport, in 98 days. Although the Columbia river made fastest passages than those from other coast ports, the fleet from the Columbia makes a much more favorable showing than the California port. From San Francisco, the two longest passages of the year were made by the Brussels and the F. S. Clampus in 150 and 178 days respectively. From the Columbia, the Cambrian Queen secured long passage honors with a voyage of 173 days, the Les Dalphines in second with 167 days, both of the Columbia river ships sailing over 500 miles farther in eight days less time than those from San Francisco.

This saving in time is almost entirely due to the fact that 84 days from Wash water of the Willamette and Columbia on the hulls of the ships. After lying a few days in the fresh water of the river, all kinds of marine life is extinguished and the hulls, leaving the vessel sleek and clean, are in the best condition for her best. This advantage is so well known to masters visiting this part that some of them who are given quick dispatch, ask to have their vessels steered out of the channel in good weather, down the river in order to give the ship an additional smoothing down.

In the list of record passages as given by Fairplay, the names of quite a number of well-known traders out of this port are given in connection with the various parts of the world. The Englishs and the Sutherlandshires were 84 and 89 days from New Caledonia to Greenock. The Southsick 75 days from Lyttleton to London. The Australian 78 days from Wellington to Lyttleton. From Wash coast port, the Ardnamurchan was 74 days, the Copella to Dungeois, Flery Cross 71 days from Tallal to Pwllie. Between Liverpool and Newcastle, the Acreatic, Euphrosyne and Calcutta were successful in making the run in 56 and 56 days. The Marion Inglis sailed from Liverpool to Adelaide in 89 days, and the Province from Liverpool to San Francisco in 111 days. The American ship Kennerly made the fastest run from the Atlantic coast to San Francisco, being out but 103 days from New York.

The Colony, which left Portland yesterday morning, tied with the Mozambique in a 56-day run to Rio de Janeiro. The Marion Balantyne was 72 days from Pwllie to Rio, and the Scottish Isles, which left Portland a few days ago, was 41 days from Cardiff to Rio.

New Year Opens With a Highly Satisfactory Showing. The report of the collector of customs for the month of January, 1900, shows that Portland exported over \$1,000,000 worth of domestic products. A summary of the transactions for the month is as follows: Vessels entered from foreign ports, 2. Cleared for foreign ports, 2. Entered from domestic ports, 13. Cleared for domestic ports, 13. Entries of merchandise for duty, 16. Entries for warehouse, 4. Entries for export to adjacent British provinces, 4. Entries for warehouse for consumption, 27. Entries for immediate transportation to adjacent British provinces, 1. Entries for immediate transportation to adjacent British provinces, 1. Licenses for consoling trade granted, 7. Value of exports, \$1,008,528. Receipts from all sources, \$2,382,330. Pinned and unattached, 1,530. Miscellaneous customs receipts, 180. Official fees, \$7.70. Total, \$4,379,710. Returns and drawbacks paid, 1,918.30.

AGAINST THE HOMER. Seattle Ship Carpenter Secures Heavy Judgment for Injuries. Judge Hanford, of the United States district court at Seattle last Saturday rendered a decision in an admiralty awarding Charles H. Newman judgment for \$12,000 in his suit against the steamer Homer to recover damages for personal injuries.

One day last April the bark Blakeley lay at Schwabacher's dock. The steamer Homer, which had been at Moran's dock, steamed up to Schwabacher's to take on cargo. The wind and tide placed the Homer in such a position that she was unable to get into the dock and put her bow and stern hard to port to avoid this she collided with the Blakeley. The force of the collision jarred loose a block of the bark aloft, and falling it struck Newman and he was killed.

Newman, as a result of his injuries, lost control of his body below the hips, and claims to be disabled for life. He brought suit against the Homer, and the judgment yesterday is the result.

Steamboat Inspectors Busy. Steamboat inspectors Edwards and Fuller have been quite busy since the first of the year. They returned last week from an official trip to Newport, Idaho, where they inspected the new steamer tugboat, last Saturday they inspected the tug Roberts at Astoria, and on Sunday they inspected the tugboat at The Dalles. Yesterday they looked over the Mascot and pronounced her in A condition after extensive repairs, which were needed on account of her disaster in Lewis river. The inspectors go to Astoria Saturday to look over a boiler which is to go in the steamer North Star, being fitted out for Alaska. While there they will also inspect the little steamer Brick.

Fast Time on the River. The Goldeborow made a very good run down the river Monday afternoon, going through Astoria in a little less than 44 hours. Her time on the various important points on the river was as follows: Steel bridge, 1:16. Mouth of Willamette river, 2:26. Waldor, 3:16. Mount Coffin, 4:39. Oak Point, 5:26. Foot Puget island, 6:21.

Over 30 miles of the run was made under a slow bell, and the wind was blowing a living gale during the latter part of the run.

Marine Notes. Lib Curtis, son of Captain Eben Curtis, of the American ship Thilo E. Starbuck, and for several years a resident of this city, is now filling the position of quartermaster on the steamship China, running between San Francisco and the Orient.

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The British ship Colony left down yesterday morning. The Jules Verne finished loading yesterday and will leave down the river tomorrow.

The steamer Spokane, a Pacific coast record, made one of the fastest runs on record on her last trip across the Pacific. She was out 21 days from Kobe to Port Townsend.

Domestic and Foreign Ports. San Francisco, Feb. 6.—Arrived—Barbentine North Bend, schooner; Nettie Sundberg, from Gray's harbor; schooner Del Norte, from Seattle; schooner W. F. Jewett, for Columbia river.

Seattle, Feb. 6.—Arrived—Steamer Columbia, from San Francisco; steamer Rosalia, from Skagway.

Port Angeles, Feb. 6.—Sailed—Steamer Mattawan, for San Francisco, with steamer Washnetaw in tow.

Bremen, Feb. 6.—Sailed—Phoenicia, for Hamburg for New York.

Philadelphia, Feb. 6.—Arrived—Wassland, from Liverpool.

VANCOUVER'S NEW PAVEMENT To Be Brick, at \$1.50, or Plank, at 75 Cents, Per Square Yard. VANCOUVER, Wash., Feb. 6.—The question of the repavement of Main street came up for discussion before the city council at a meeting held last night.

The committee on the subject, after a long session, recommended the plank pavement, but the council has decided in favor of brick.

LAW WITHOUT A PENALTY. Such is Washington's Compulsory School-Attendance Act.

TACOMA, Wash., Feb. 6.—An Olympia special to the Ledger says: Judge Linn, in the superior court today, handed down an opinion in the case of T. N. Henry, county superintendent, plaintiff, vs. John McDonald et al., defendants. The action was brought by the county superintendent to compel the attendance of the defendant's children at the sessions of the common schools, to which the defendant had refused to send them.

Charitable Liquor Dealers. Philadelphia Record. "The most charitable class of people I know are those who deal in liquor," says a Methodist minister.

A Rare Painting Discovered. Chicago Record. A painting of Goethe, believed to be one of Jagmann's original, has been discovered in a second-hand shop at Halle, where it had been for more than 90 years. It is at present in the possession of Dr. Vaillinger, who has permitted it to be exhibited in a museum for a short time.

Foreign minister. "I have always on the sharp watch for the subtle and insidious subjects of their respective countries who may possess interesting correspondence of more or less value to the state. Thus, when the late French minister died in Paris, at the request of the Italian embassy the French authorities placed his

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THE PALATIAL OREGONIAN BUILDING

The Pinkham Remedies. For disorders of the feminine organs have gained their great renown because of the permanent good they have done and are doing for the women of this country.

If all ailing or suffering women could be made to understand how absolutely true are the statements about Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, their sufferings would end.

Mrs. Pinkham counsels women free of charge. Her address is Lynn, Mass. The advice she gives is practical and honest. You can write freely to her, she is a woman.

Howed the Caller Out. Chicago Tribune. "I am sorry to disappoint you, young man," said the great railway magnate to the reporter who had called in for the purpose of writing him up, "but I did not begin to know that you were a reporter. I never blacked the boots of the engineers and never carried beer for the janitor of the roundhouse. I was kicked through college by my father, inherited a fortune, which I invested in railroad shares, and I hold this job because I have votes enough to control it. It is too bad, my young friend, but we can't all be self-made millionaires and become tycoons."

Pears' To keep the skin clean is to wash the excretions from it off; the skin takes care of itself inside, if not blocked outside. To wash it often and clean, without doing any sort of violence to it, requires a most gentle soap, a soap with no free alkali in it. Pears', the soap that clears but not exoriates.

The English War Office. Has selected the world-known Lebig Company's Extract as being the best and most suitable for use in the Field Hospitals of the British Army Corps in South Africa.