

from a critic more competent than Mr. King. At p. 198 of his *Lives of the Poets* (Edit. 1861, revised by Peter Cunningham), the poet Campbell writes: "The charges of malice and jealousy that have been heaped on his name turn out to be without foundation. *He did not receive benefits from Shakspeare, and did not sneer at him in the passages that have been taken to prove his ingratitude; and instead of envying that great poet, he gave him his noblest praise.*" The Rev. Alexander Dyce, who had a thorough knowledge of all the Elizabethan literature, expresses himself in similar terms, and declares that "after Gifford's *Life of Jonson* no one can ever doubt that a *sincere friendship animated the two poets.*" So, also, Mr. Minto, at p. 443 of his *Characteristics of English Poets*—a valuable critical work, lately published by Blackwood—: "*Gifford, who makes a good many mistakes in the course of his rabidly one-sided memoir of Jonson, is certainly right in saying that he was not an envious man. There is no evidence to support his alleged jealousy of Shakspeare.*" As a final paragraph on the subject, we extract the following testimony from the well-known *Life of Shakspeare* by Byron's school-fellow and friend, the Rev. William Harness: "It is certain that an intimacy the most sincere and affectionate subsisted between these two distinguished men. On the part of Jonson, indeed, the memorial of their attachment has been handed down to us in expressions as strong and unequivocal as any which the power of language can combine. *No hint of the existence of any difference or unkindness between these celebrated individuals is to be found in any contemporary author.* Rowe, in the first edition of his *Life of Shakspeare* insinuated a doubt of the sincerity of Jonson's friendship; but, before the publication of his second edition, he found cause to reject a suspicion so injurious to the reputation of Jonson, and had the honesty to erase the passage from the work. The words, however, did not escape the vigilance of Malone; they were reprinted and the sentiment readopted. For years the friend and eulogist of Shakspeare *was aspersed as envious and ungrateful; but the judicious exertions of Gilchrist*