

it, and the vexed question of the Poet's portraiture be determined.

Mr. Norris says much can be said as to the probability of finding anything but dust in Shakespeare's grave, and assumes that because the Poet and his family were persons of importance, their bodies being laid immediately in front of the rail separating the altar from the remainder of the chancel, that the Poet was buried in an hermetically-sealed leaden coffin and placed in a regular brick or stone vault, properly cemented. Here, again, is conjecture—something as hypothetical as the current stories of the Poet's life and death, of which we know comparatively nothing, though every muniment room, every public and private library in Great Britain has been almost microscopically examined to get materials for his biography. His last words are not recorded, his dying wishes are unknown.

Of the solemnities and ceremonies attendant upon his funeral we are ignorant; there may have been "no hatchment o'er his bones, no noble rite nor formal ostentation;"—My Lords Southampton, Pembroke, and Leicester may not have sent their equerries or representatives to attend his solemn obsequies, in company with those of Sir Knights Raleigh, Lucy, and Clopton; but the Mayor and Corporation may have walked in state from New Place, passing the Chapel of the Guild and the Grammar School, and thence through the Lime Avenue or pleached alley leading to the northern entrance of Holy Trinity Church; Drayton, Jonson,