

ures, guesses, and we are interested if any one of them serves even as an illusive link by which we can connect our common life with him. So it is that association with the mighty confers dignity on trifles. We might safely say that every form of genius may be found in the genius of Shakespeare, concentrated and condensed, with a truthful insight it reaches the life of all classes and conditions of men, and presents every one according to his proper manner and estate. He is equally careful to discriminate the character of men as it is influenced by their country and their time. Owing to this innate catholicity of genius, Shakespeare yearly grows into a wider fame, and may be regarded as the supreme poet of modern civilization. The universality of his genius is marvellous, and we may truly say of him,

“He touched nothing, which he did not adorn.”

Our desire is to bring together a few extracts from the writings of Shakespeare, which abound with allusion to coins ; curious striking and appropriate.

In “Julius Cæsar,” Brutus declares :—

“By Heaven, I had rather coin my heart,
And drop my blood for *drachmas*, than to wring
From the hard hands of peasants their vile trash,
By any indirection.”

And further on, he speaks of these *drachmas* as, “rascal counters.”

In “The Merchant of Venice,” we have frequent mention of the “*ducat* ;” in Act 2, we find :—

“My daughter ! O my *ducats* ! O my daughter !
Fled with a Christian ? O my Christian *ducats* !—
Justice ! the law ! my *ducats* and my daughter !
A sealed bag, two sealed bags of *ducats*,
Of *double ducats*, stolen from me by my daughter.”