

take advantage of my shaking hands with you at the Garrick Club a few weeks ago, nor must you trouble me with any more letters on the subject upon which you have 'set your mind.' Besides, you should have stated your views to the publishers—decidedly not to me.—Yours truly, W. M. THACKERAY."

To the Shakspearean group, I add volumes once the property of several distinguished Shakspearean commentators or editors, as shewing inscriptions from the hands of each of their former owners: (1) Joseph Ritson's copy of "Miscellaneous Pieces relating to the Chinese," collected by Thomas Percy, afterwards Bishop of Dromore. In his "Observations on the Ancient English Minstrels," Ritson coarsely criticised Percy's "Reliques;" but Ritson coarsely criticised everybody. Sir Walter Scott says of Ritson that he was "a man of acute observation, profound research, and great labour. These valuable attributes were unhappily combined with an eager irritability of temper which induced him to treat antiquarian trifles with the same seriousness which men of the world reserve for matters of importance." (Ritson died mad.) (2) Isaac Reed's copy of "Ozell's Translation of the *Lutrin* of Boileau." Reed edited Shakspeare twice: first in ten, and secondly in twenty-one volumes. At his death, in 1807, the sale of his library occupied thirty-nine days. (3) Alexander Dyce's copy of his own "Translation of Quintus Smyrnaeus's continuation of the *Iliad*"—a presentation copy from himself "to his friend J. J. Eyton." Besides Shakspeare, Mr. Dyce edited the plays of the early English dramatists Peele, Greene and Webster. (4) Robert Chambers' copy of J. Payne Collier's edition of the "Notes and Emendations to the text of Shakspeare's Plays, from early manuscript corrections in a copy of the folio, 1632." Besides the autograph of R. CHAMBERS, in this volume, there is at the end a MS. note from the same hand on the word "flote," in scene 2, act 1, of the *Tempest*, corrected to "float" in the "Emendations," with the change of the preceding "all" into "are," making the passage read thus:

"They all have met again,  
And all upon the Mediterranean float."

The editor of the "Emendations" remarks on this: "'Float' in fact is a verb, used by everybody, and not a substantive, used by no other English writer." To this R. Chambers in his MS. note rejoins: "'Flote' is used as a noun for 'fleet' in a letter of King James VI.,