

Secretary that the young nobleman should marry a grand-daughter of his, the Lady Vere. But Southampton finally preferred the Lady Elizabeth Vernon, cousin of the Earl of Essex—a match which, for some reason, greatly offended Elizabeth, and brought trouble on Southampton. It is Shakspeare's familiarity with Southampton, and his perfect knowledge of the young Earl's likes and dislikes, and the entanglements into which these had brought him, that explain some of the otherwise enigmatical sonnets, as Geruld Massey has convincingly shown. The cue was probably taken from Southampton when Shakspeare ventured to bring Burleigh in some sort on the stage, in the person of Polonius. Burleigh probably was not wont to treat playwrights with much consideration. We know that his insensibility to poetry occasioned loss in the pocket to Spenser. A latent feeling against Burleigh would be very apt to spring up among men of literary tastes.

The Robert Cecil who signs above was afterwards Secretary of State to Queen Elizabeth, and it was he who carried post-haste the news of her death to James, her successor.

Sir Thomas Mildmay was the immediate blood-relation of the founder of Emmanuel College, in Cambridge. In the document above given, short as it is, the orthography of the proper names that recur therein is not constant. The name Burleigh reads Burghley and Burghleigh. The name Cecil is written Cecyll, Cicill, Ceycill. (Another form, and the earliest, as Lower informs us, was Seysell.) Mildmay is Mildemaye and Myldmaye and Mildmay. Waldegrave is Waldgrave as well. I am hence moved to observe: What folly it is, on the strength of a chance-variation which may be discovered, to meddle with the orthography of an historical name, when it has become fixed in the language and literature of a people! What folly it is, for example, to attempt the transformation of the noble word Shakspeare, or Shakespeare, into another which the eye scarcely recognizes! We see this done now and then, to this day, by virtue, as it is asserted, of a stray signature or two, by no means distinctly written. Several publications on the poet's life and writings, and several editions of his whole works, are considerably lowered in commercial value by the exhibition of this very useless caprice; on the further propagation of which, nevertheless, a new society lately instituted in London has set its mind. Is it expected that the new rendering of the name will really supersede the old one? I remember