

Cæsar "stopping a hole to keep the wind away"? or "patching a wall to expel the winter's flaw?"

If it were even probable to find the Poet's bones intact, would there not be something ignoble in taking his skull from the coffin and placing it in position,—posing it after the manner of a photographer, with the altar cloth for a background, to get the light to fall upon it at the proper angle of incidence—which no sooner done, when lo! the skull crumbles into dust before the camera is properly adjusted?

Does Mr. Norris imagine that the skull of Shakespeare will be found in such a durable condition that he will be enabled to measure with scientific accuracy the angles both of the facial line, and of the line intermediate between the cranium and the face, by poising it upon a perpendicular rod, and passing the point through the foramen magnum into the interior of the skull, so that the upper part of the cranium will rest on the point: and by shifting the skull till the rod is exactly betwixt the condyles of the occipital bone, and in the centre of the foramen magnum, that he will procure a facial line which has reference to the whole form and proportion of the head? ¹¹

Stands it within the prospect of belief that the skull will be found in such a condition that a plaster mould of it may be taken with perfect success? True, that such an operation was performed with the skull of Raphael, but then his coffin was hermetically sealed, and immediately after sepulture, *walled in*.¹²