The Authorship of Shakespeare. Extreme credulity was formerly considered the certain mark of a fool, but, as Sterne writes, we have changed all that. "What a great man he is," says a value of some self-important personage,

in French comedy, "nothing pleases him." "What a wise man he is," is now the criticism of the unthinking, "ne believes in nothing." Scepticism is the character istic of the period, and the more mischief it accomplishes the better pleased its votaries are. Opinions that have prevailed for centuries, and have received the sanction of the wisest and best, are especially obnoxious to them. Like death, they "love a shining mark," and

are never so happy as when discharging their little arrows at the sun. The tendency to scepticism is ce truc tive, but not so much as we might-sup-**REGULAR AND DIRECT** pose; for, with an inconsistency that marks all its movements, it is often as Steam Communication between Glasgow. don. Liverpool, and St. John, N. F marks all its movements, it is often as constructive as destructive. Given a character which the world has agreed to consider ignoble and infamous, it delights to rehabilitate it. "The devil is not so black as he is painted" is its motto, and he is but a sorry advocate who can-not say a good word for him and his children. Take Nero, for example; he was much misunderstood and maligned. So was Judas Iscariot, so was Lucretia Borgia, and Henry the Eighth, and other historical "black-sheep," whom scepti-THE ANCHOR LINE OF Trans-Atlantic Steam Packet Ships, Anglia Australia, A Castalla, I & Italia, Alexandria, Ethiopia, Olympia, Bolivia, Elysta, O 30 Viotoria, Cattornia, H Baropa, O 30 Viotoria,

bistorical "black sheep," whom scepti-cism has busied itself of late with white washing. There appears at the first sight to be something generous in this attempt to reverse the judgment of mankind, but the closer one follows it, the more cause he has to think it mere perverse ingenuity. It affects a judicial fairness towards male-factors, in order to turn it against bene-factors, when its destructive fit comes on It is convulsed with this at present in a mild way, and its object is the majestic shape of Shakespeare. Ohe of our great dallies recently attempted to revive the absurd notion that he was an intellectual impostor. "Shakespeare! Shakespeare! who wrote it?" inquires one of the ser-vants in "High Life Below Stairs." "Ben Jonson," is the reply of a more literate historical "black-sheep," whom scepti-cism has busied itself of late with white turday, Feb. 27th. do Mar. 13th. do do 27th. do April 10th. do do 24th. do May 8th. is the reply of a more literate

Wednesday, March 3rd. do do 17th. do do 31st. do April 14th.* do do 28th. do May 12th. Jonson," is the reply of a more literate member of the company. The authorship of Shakespeare, which is was thrown out as a jest in Garrick's day, has been gravely discussed in ours, and by those who pretend to knowledge in regard to the man and his time. "We know all about Shakespeare." the series To be followed by first class steamships at for nightly intervals, for the remainder of the sea son. We would direct especial attention to the pro-posed sailing of the splendid steamship, in regard to the man and his time. "We know all about Shakespeare," they say, "and it is inconceivable that he should have written the plays which have come down to us with his name attached to them." We might say that we know not thing about him, which is true in a certain sense; but as it is sometimes advised to the sonse; but as it is sometimes a drive attached to the sonse; but as it is sometimes a drive attached to the sonse; but as it is sometimes a drive attached to the sonse; but as it is sometimes a drive attached to the sonse; but as it is sometimes a drive attached to the sonse; but as it is sometimes a drive attached to the sonse; but as it is sometimes a drive attached to the sonse; but as it is sometimes a drive attached to the sonse; but as it is sometimes a drive attached to the sonse is plays then?" "Hord Bacon" the sonse is plays then?" "Tord Bacon" the sonse is plays then?" "Hord Bacon". "Hord attached the sonse is bakespeare could not have written them INDIA, 2300 tons,



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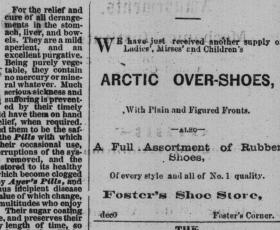
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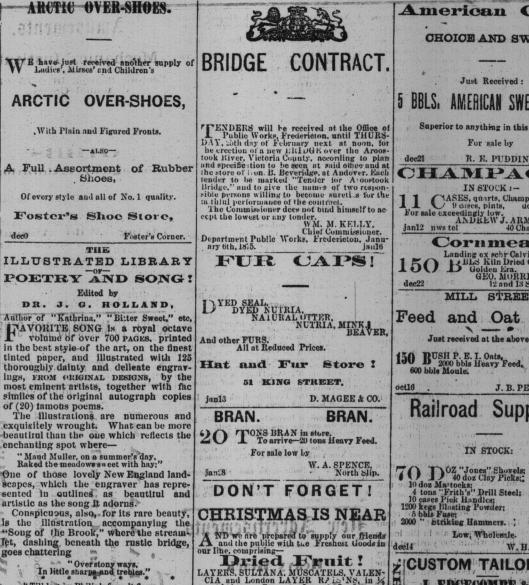
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