

To most of the quarto editions the name of William Shakespeare was attached during his life.

Yet, in spite of these direct evidences, we are asked, largely by Americans let it be remarked, to renounce Shakespeare as the real author, and to believe that he allowed Lord Bacon to use his name as a cloak to cover the noble identity!

The man who could connect himself with such a fraud would hardly be likely to keep such a rascally secret to himself for so many years. It must have leaked out at some time or other. He could not have maintained so false a fame among his brother-actors, many of whom were scholars, wits and dramatists, accustomed to meet together and no doubt discuss new plays. Under such critical and jealous eyes the jackdaw sooner or later would have surely been seen beneath the borrowed peacock-plumes.

To accuse a living man of such infamous conduct would be a serious affair, and if the charge proved unfounded would be a criminal matter. How utterly base then is it to attack a man who has been dead and buried nearly 300 years in order to satisfy a whimsical fancy. The lapse of time adds to the enormity of the offence, which the very silence of the grave condemns.

The latest attempt—the so-called cryptogram, so energetically constructed by the ingenious and imaginative author of "Akantis" and "Ragnarok," is about as elucidating and satisfactory as are those other theories offered by a very fanciful author to a circle of credulous fools. The Shakespearean dramas did not conceal the personal history of Lord Bacon in cipher in order that the peculiar Pinkerton propensities of Mr. Ignatius Donnelly should unravel it three centuries later. Mr. Donnelly moreover displays great want of intimate acquaintance with Elizabethan language, and the cipher story is not only told in a style not belonging to the period, but actually contains two or three modern Americanisms. It is a cleverly concocted story from hap-hazard phrases. As to the secrets of state supposed to be hidden in its depth, Lord Bacon knew better the worth of the *Arcana Imperii* to bury them in such a strange quarter. Mr. Donnelly has promised further instalments. The result of his great and wasted labor is doomed to be epitomized within a short page of some future "Curiosities of Literature," and its title should be "A Literary Burglary."

Attempts to dethrone Shakespeare may be continued till the crack of doom; but they will be about as successful as Voltaire's mad efforts to suppress the influence of our poet's works in France. It will little matter whether Palmerston's, Smith's or Donnelly's fire their critical squibs against his sacred memory or not—such small cannon do but little hurt—for the man is enshrined in the very core of England's heart, and homage will be rendered to his honor from all corners of the earth until the English language itself shall be unknown among the nations.

Statistics of Membership.

Cash Received and Expended for the year ending Feb. 1st, 1889.

Initiated during year.....	1,070
Honorable members.....	117
Present membership.....	6,300
Deceased during year.....	31
Paid for sick dues.....	\$6,204 70
Surgeons paid for.....	5,421 81
Supplies paid for.....	2,286 71
Liabilities.....	1,395 20
Cash in Bank.....	31,223 98
Cash in hands of treasurer.....	3,974 97
Total fund of lodges.....	35,254 52
Lodge furniture and property.....	5,028 89
Capital tax paid for.....	1,575 60
Funeral benefits paid for.....	3,354 35

Facts About the Navy.

Anchors were invented by the Tuscans. The second tooth, or fluke, was added by Anacharsis 501 B. C.

Chain cables were introduced into the navy about 1812. Rope making machines were invented by Richard March in 1784.

Compasses are said to have been known to the Chinese 1115 B. C., and were brought to Europe by Marco Polo, a Venetian, 1260 A. D.

Copper sheathing was first applied to the bottom of vessels in 1761, when the English naval vessel Alarm was so sheathed at Woolwich.

Admiral, derived from the Greek almyros. The title was adopted in England about 1300, but was previously in use in France, the French admiral being appointed about 1284.

Captain is said to be derived from the eastern military term katapan, meaning "over everything," but the term capitano was in use among the Italians nearly 200 years before Basilius II. appointed his katapan of Apulia and Colobria, A. D. 984.

Capstans have been used from the earliest times as a mechanical power. It was in use by the English, French, and Spanish as early as the Fifteenth century, and the drum capstan, in nearly its present form, was invented by Sir Thomas Moreland in 1661.

Great guns were introduced into fighting ships in 1402. At first a few cannons or other pieces of ordnance were mounted on the deck of the galley en barbette, to be fired over the sides, which were very low. Soon after the top sides were raised and port holes were cut through them.

LONDON'S POPULATION.—The extent of London, Eng., is variously estimated, and therefore, according to the census of 1881, the population is variously given at from 4,000,000 up to 4,250,000. The latter number is based on the metropolitan police district, and is for all practical purposes the most useful. At the rate of increase from 1871 to 1881 the population of this district should now be about 5,000,000, or about the same population as the Dominion of Canada. The population of England at present is estimated at 26,370,000, of Wales at 1,400,000, Scotland at about 4,000,000, and Ireland at about 5,200,000. The national debt of Great Britain and Ireland on the 5th April of last year was about \$3,527,875,000.

Thursday, the 7th of February, was the anniversary of the birth of that great Englishman, Charles Dickens. He was born in 1812, and died 9th June, 1870.

The family vault of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, in Chichester Cathedral, has as the motto over its door: *Domus ultima*, or the Last House. On this the following epigram has been written: Did he who thus inscribed this wall, nor read or not believe St. Paul, who says there is (where'er it stands) *another house*—not built with hands? or may you gather from these words, that house is not—a House of Lords?

The Duke of Wellington, as is well known, stood as god-father to the Duke of Connaught. On the Prince's birth the warrior received an odd rebuff from the nurse. He asked simply enough, "Is it a boy or a girl?" and received the crushing reply, "It is a Prince, your Grace."

CANADA'S MILITIA.—The total strength of the active militia of Canada, on 31st December last, was 37,494, of which 1,079 belong to the Royal Military college and schools. The remainder 36,395, is divided among the provinces as follows: Ontario, 16,988; Quebec, 11,600; New Brunswick, 2,461; Nova Scotia, 3,645; Manitoba, 831; British Columbia, 270, and Prince Edward Island, 617. The various arms are as follows: Cavalry, 1,987; field artillery, 1,440; garrison artillery, 2,360; engineers, 179, and infantry, 31,506.