

One may take the highway in a cab, and some do that: but we'll take the low way with William. O yes! Shakspeare's foot-path for us. It is there still, the path his feet helped to deepen: and along it since his day have pressed the feet of many thousands.

We cross the broad green sloping meadows traversed by Shuttery Brook which gurgles along in the same old key, winding its way between a perfect avenue of ancient trees that whisper still the same secrets as were caught by the ears of Shakspeare. The birds still sing and "the lover and his lass" are there to hear. We pass them on our way, indifferent to our presence, responsive only to that of *Natura Benigna*.

The way is not long. After less than a mile of a walk, we come to a little hamlet, turn a corner and find ourselves within sight of Anne's cottage. There on the crest of a gentle slope by the side of the high way nestles the quaint old cottage that Shakspeare knew so well. It is low and timber framed, with a thatched roof; even yet the typical home of a peasant family: not by any means so pretentious as the home of Shakspeare, when he lived with his father, a burghess of Stratford town.

The room in which Anne was born is reached by a steep stair-case. In it is preserved a carved oak bedstead of the Elizabethan period, said to have been an heirloom in the Hathaway family since the 16th century.

For many years the cottage had been in charge of Mrs. Baker, an interesting old lady full of years and reminiscences. But an English paper of recent date intimates her death a few weeks ago. She was a descendant of the Hathaway family. Her visitors' books—and they are many—are engrossed with the names of the great ones of the earth. "That's where Charles Dickens sat," she said to me in the spring of 1897, pointing to a block of wood at her door step, "when he wrote his name in my book. . . . And here is the photo of Miss Terry that she gave me with her own hand." An so forth as long as one has time to listen. The walls of her rooms are covered with photos of famous poets, artists, actors and actresses, mementos of their visits.