

Singing," may be taken as a beautiful illustration of her own life :—

O, how beautiful is Morning!
I'm going forth to battle,
And life's uplands rise before me,

O, how glorious is the Noonday!
I am conquering—I shall conquer
In life's battle field impetuous:

O, how grandly cometh Even!
Like a good King near his end :—
I have labored, I have governed,
Now I feel the gathering shadows
Of the night that closes all things.

Of the death of Lady Brassey we simply know that she died on board the "Sunbeam," and was buried at sea. It seems a fitting resting place for her, who loved the water and from whose pen we have such fine descriptions of her cruising.

* THE lectures on Biblical History, by the Principal, are becoming quite popular. Several citizens are availing themselves of the opportunity to profit by them, and others have signified their intention of doing so. Dr. Burns is well known as an authority on Biblical History, and his lectures indicate great research and deep thought. The Bible is a book that very few people have any knowledge of whatever. The mysteries that are contained in this Book of books are like nuts to be cracked, and sometimes require a good deal of hammering; but when the shell is broke, one is well paid for his efforts. All the great problems of the day find sound maxims and guiding principles in it, and the day is not far distant when all perplexing questions will be settled in the light of the Bible.

Authorship of Shakespeare.

* THE biography of William Shakespeare may now be considered as in the main settled and fixed for all time. Modern research has explored every corner for new facts; all dusty repositories of lost books, old manuscripts, all discoverable archives, have

been ransacked, every known record, monument and relic of the age in which he lived has been thoroughly questioned even to the last trace and tradition of his name and family; and, falling short of genuine data, the most consummate forgeries have been attempted. He is thus delivered down to us as essentially an uneducated man, whether we speak of education in the sense of modern time, or of the sixteenth century, or of the ancient schools. There are some educated men in all times; but the vast difference, however, between the learning and philosophy which the same genius will attain to, in a given time, in any age, with the aid of existing helps, and which he may read without such aid, no man needs to be informed.

It is pretty certain that William Shakespeare had no learning from institutions beyond the primary instruction of the free grammar school of Stratford-on-Avon. His father was so illiterate that he could not write his own name, and executed written instruments by making his mark; and this was the case with his mother.

Apparently attracted by the theatre to London, he went there and took a humble position in it. All the circumstances of his life here exclude the the idea of study and no written composition of his is in existence, belonging to this time, and no proof that he wrote the lampoon on Sir Thomas Lucy, except from tradition. No authentic reference to his connection with the theatre occurs until 1598, when his name is mentioned by Meres as the reputed author of several plays and two of them are printed with his name as author on the title page in that year. No original manuscript of any play, poem, letter or prose composition, in the handwriting of Shakespeare has ever been preserved within the reach of the remotest tradition. He makes no mention of his manuscripts or literary property in his will; nor is there traces of evidence that they ever came into the possession of his executors, or any member of his family.

For the learning of Shakespeare, his knowledge of history and the manners,