

THE SHAKESPEARE PROBLEM (2)

3574

S. M. BAYLIS  
208 UNIVERSITY STREET  
MONTREAL, QUE.

of courts and palaces, and set in a frame of exquisite beauty by the skilled hand of the perfect craftsman!

No! "Genius", poor overworked jade, which jauntily carries the impoverished Lady Clara to the hunt on Saturday and wearily drags her in the old family coach to church on Sunday, cannot account for the anomaly. Genius may inspire natural or acquired gifts but it cannot impart knowledge, nor can Inspiration move an irresponsible clod.

If, as it is held, this illiterate "rural yokel" who rose to ~~an~~ affluence by the profits of his theatrical ventures and invested his money in London and Stratford property, did, in some unexplained way unknown to history, acquire this learning, knowledge, technique and craftsmanship and really is the super-man of all time, let the student read his life-story laboriously compiled by indefatigable researchers, which, shorn of all its imputations, conjectures and assumptions, from his lowly birth, riotous youth, forced marriage and unlovely death, ~~is~~ is a sordid tale, then compare it with his alleged achievements in literature and enquire with Emerson if they "match".

It's a lonesome road to travel with little sympathy for the wayfarer. Our libraries are poorly supplied with informative literature, and such evidence as I wanted I had to procure for myself. Our Professors of Literature, unlike their adventurous colleagues in Science and Medicine, are steeped in traditionalism and wedded to preconceived opinion, discourage enquirers, and suppress discussion of opposing view-points. Writers have alleged that even custodians of records and sources of information have gone so far as to place obstacles in the way of their researches. Others have declared that they were warned that anything which they might write would either be distorted or refused publication, or informed that friendships might be severed and a career impaired if further study of this "closed question" tainted with charlatanism were persisted in!

I myself, with the tacit acquiescence of the Editor, had procured from an eminent English writer a specially written, non-controversial, 3000-word article on Ben Jonson, with reference to his Shakespearian connection, but it was returned to me with the information that his over-lords of the Editing Board of the collegiate publication for which it was intended had refused to print it!

I am happy to say that my own communications have received generous welcome in your columns and elsewhere; but a section of the Press, unsympathetic to the modern view, except to poke fun at, or heap ridicule upon, those who advocate it, are keen to seize upon and feature contributions and drawings, however fantastic, supporting the traditional.

Beyond and behind this, moreover, it is alleged, is the weighty influence of a certain widely-known Brotherhood in fostering opposition, some of whose carefully guarded, if perhaps unimportant, "secrets", might, if they were divulged, be useful in clearing up if not solving the question. Some personal observations of my own would seem to lend this idea some support, as in conversations with eminent members of the Fraternity, I find that the mention of a certain ~~XXXXX~~ NAME is received in silence - whether of reverence or aversion it is impossible to say - that the conversation is diverted and direct questions met with evasive answers, not, "I do'nt know!", but in the accepted for-

Cut out  
by the  
Editor