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**THE BARD OF AVON**  
Now It Is Alleged That Shakespeare Was Illiterate.

**COULD NOT WRITE, IT IS SAID.**

An Expert In Such Things Claims That an Analysis of the Signatures Left by the Immortal William Strips Him of All Literary Credit.

The question of who did "write Shakespeare" does not concern William McConway, who has written a monograph on his Shakespeare theories, so much as "could William Shakespeare of Stratford-on-Avon write at all?" Mr. Conway is convinced that, whoever did write the plays, it was not the bard of Avon, so called. He bases his belief on evidence presented by certain existing signatures made by William Shakespeare and which seem to prove him to have been an illiterate man.

Mr. McConway admits that, though so evidently illiterate, Shakespeare possessed native ability, manifested by his money getting faculties, and adds the fact that as a theatrical manager Shakespeare secured to himself the plays that he did and thus stamped himself a competent man of business and a judge of public taste. But in regard to certain deficiencies exhibited by his signature Mr. McConway, after having made a study of the characteristics of signatures, says:

"Observations of the efforts and performances of illiterate men in the laborious production of signatures has led me to the conclusion that here was a man ashamed of his inability to write, made so by his associations and the rise in his condition of life, seeking to cover his intellectual nakedness with a garment provided by a sympathizing friend.

"The sympathizing friend in this instance floated into the imagination in the form of some scrivener who 'set the copy' so laboriously reproduced in the form of the signatures to the deed and mortgage of 1613 and to the will of 1618."

Mr. McConway refers to the original documents unearthed by Professor Wallace in 1910, and his theory is that the solicitor who drew up the papers of the mortgage and of the will is the man who made for Shakespeare a copy of his name, which the illiterate Shakespeare then followed in screwing, uncertain imitation to make the signatures to the documents. This saved him from the humiliation of having to make "his X mark."

A second document put in evidence by Mr. McConway is a fragment relating to litigation in respect to certain money interests in the Globe theater. In this fragment appears, in two places, the name "Wilm. Shakespeare," written by the professional scrivener who prepared the case. Mr. McConway points out that Shakespeare's own signature appended is a laborious imitation, performed by a man who could not read his chirography when he had written it.

Mr. McConway is convinced that this scrivener is the man who made the copy which enabled "Wilm. Shakespeare" to execute legal papers without the humiliation of the "X mark." The rule of legal procedure required the evidence to be written out and signed by the witness before leaving the presence of the court.

"Special attention is called to this signature," says Mr. McConway, "as it is much abbreviated. The 'great dramatist,' who had at his command, as evidenced by his putative works, a wealth of words measuring five times the number gathered into the dictionary of the time, uses but a moiety of the characters which he had been taught to use as the ideograph to represent his name.

"We are told that he was instructed to appear later before the court for a further examination, but the record nowhere shows that he ever appeared, although the other witnesses appeared a second time. Would they be considered cynical who might surmise that the position in which Shakespeare of Stratford found himself when called upon to attach his signature to the record in open court was one of extreme embarrassment in that he could not without some exposure of ignorance use his 'copy' to guide his pen?"

**FINANCIAL ECONOMY.**  
One Man's Scheme When He Found His Capital Was Shrinking.

What one man did when he discovered his capital was shrinking is told in the American Magazine:

"A friend let me into a secret of his financial economy which strikes me as valuable. He is of middle age, with a small family, and has an income of \$3,500 a year. He has put by a few thousand dollars. His investments are in gilt edged securities.

"At the end of every six months he figures out exactly the value of his property. Each share of stock, each bond is reckoned at its present market price, and the sale value of his house is placed at the lowest figure. To the current value of his estate he adds his life insurance. The result is the capital which would be available for the support of his wife and children should he suddenly die.

"At the last three reckonings my friend found that his capital was shrinking. There had been declines in certain stocks and bonds and a falling off in the value of his real estate. What did he do? Commiserate himself? Not at all. He went to a life insurance company and took out a policy large enough more than to cover the shrinkage in his capital. Comparatively speaking, it cost him very little, but it added a neat sum to the value of his estate and guaranteed an unimpaired income to his wife."

**PENS OF THE PAST.**  
The Old Time Quill and the Art of Putting a Point on It.

Quill pens are no longer used except in rare old fashioned instances, but people still use "penknives"—you can see the name any day in the cutlery store windows—but they do not use them to make or mend pens. In fact, where is there a man or woman who knows how to put a point on a quill? It was once an art which every man had to master, though women were generally bad at it, as they are now at sharpening pencils.

In the old days the first question asked of a schoolmaster was the one whether he was skillful in pointing quills, for he had to sharpen the pens of his whole school and incidentally instruct his pupils in the art. Alas! There is no modern pen of steel or gold that is so smooth, so swift, so alluring as a good quill pen. The writer is very sure of that, for his father used to tell him so.

The art of handwriting has certainly declined since the quill pen went out of use. The old fellows could really write. We still pay them an unconscious tribute by calling a writer a "quill driver" and picturing the pen, whenever we have to make an abstract representation of it, as a quill.

**A Diplomatic Official.**

During the reign of Emperor Napoleon III, he and the empress visited Normandy and had arranged to spend a couple of days at Evreux. M. Janvier de la Monte, who was the prefect, learned that the revolutionaries intended to hiss the sovereigns as they passed, and so he summoned the leaders of the movement and told them that he knew of their plot. "If you carry out your plan," said he to them, "you will get six months in prison. If you do not your friends will accuse you of cowardice and treason. As a way out of the difficulty I propose to lock you up at once until the emperor has gone." The conspirators accepted the terms offered them, and so the emperor was greeted only by cheers, as the revolutionaries, frightened at the arrest of their chiefs, had not dared to utter a sound.

**The Tail of a Fish.**

A fish's tail is its wings. Owing to the machinery of muscle set along its spine and to its cleaving form a trout or salmon can dart through the water at a tremendous pace, though its rapid flights, unlike the bird's, are not long ones. It is soon tired. The water is not so friendly to flight as the air. The stroke of the fish's tail is one of great power, and by means of it and the writhing, snake-like flexion of the body a high speed is reached. The strength behind this speed is shown in the way a fish or sea mammal out of the water will raise its tail and strike the ground or boat.

**VIRGINIA FARMER**  
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Atlee, Va. — I was weak, run-down, no appetite, my blood was poor, I could not sleep nights and was rapidly losing flesh, but I am a farmer and had to work. Medicines had failed to help me until I took Vinol. After taking three bottles my appetite is fine, I sleep well, my blood is good and I am well again.

—ORLANDO W. BORKEY.

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THE NEWEST  
DISCOVERY IN CHEMISTRY

This is a recent discovery of Doctor Pierce, who is head of the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute at Buffalo, N. Y. Experiments at Doctor Pierce's Hospital for several years proved that there is no other eliminator of uric acid that can be compared to it. For those easily recognized symptoms of inflammation—as backache, scalding urine and frequent urination, as well as sediment in the urine, or if uric acid in the blood has caused rheumatism, it is simply wonderful how surely "Anurigi" acts. The best of results are always obtained in cases of acute rheumatism in the joints, in gravel and gout, and invariably the pains and stiffness which so frequently and persistently accompany the disease rapidly disappear.

Go to your nearest drug store and simply ask for a 50-cent package of "Anurigi," manufactured by Dr. Pierce, or send 10 cents to Dr. Pierce for a large trial package. If you suspect kidney or bladder trouble send him a sample of your water and describe symptoms. Doctor Pierce's chemist will examine it, then Dr. Pierce will report to you, without fee or charge.

Note:—French scientists affirm that "Anurigi" is thirty-seven times more active than lithia in eliminating uric acid, and is a harmless but reliable chemical compound that may be safely given to children, but should be used only by grown-ups who actually wish to restore their kidneys to perfect health, by conscientiously using one box—or more in extreme cases—as "Anurigi" (thanks to Doctor Pierce's achievement) is by far the most perfect kidney and bladder corrector obtainable.

Dr. Pierce's Pellets are the original Little Liver Pills. One little Pellet for a laxative—three for a cathartic.

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**H. Schlemmer**  
Feb 15

**Addressing of Mail**

In order to facilitate the handling of mail at the front and to insure prompt delivery it is requested that all mail be addressed as follows:—  
(a) Regimental Number.  
(b) Rank  
(c) Name.  
(d) Squadron, Battery or Company.  
(e) Battalion, Regiment, (or other unit) Staff appointment or Department.  
(f) CANADIAN CONTINGENT.  
(g) British Expeditionary Force.  
(h) Army Post Office, LONDON, England.

Unnecessary mention of higher formations, such as brigades, divisions, is strictly forbidden, and causes delay.

Mothers and their babies go together to the Montclair (N. J.) evening schools. Kentucky has 26 women county superintendents of schools.

**The Guide-Advocate**  
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**DEPARTMENT**

**YOUR ORDER SOLICITED**  
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The death occurred at Blenheim of Andrew Denholm, formerly publisher of the Blenheim News-Tribune and father of the present publishers of that paper. Mr. Denholm was well known throughout Western Ontario and was prominently identified with various organizations of a public and fraternal nature.

**SCIENTISTS HAVE PLEDGED THEIR AID TO THE KING** by devoting all their energies to the task of bringing the war to a victorious conclusion. In the meantime, the health and nerves of our brave soldiers and their friends at home is suffering, and TAKE is the one perfect remedy for nerves. Fifty cents at your druggist's, or by mail from the Georgian Mfg. Co., Collingwood, Ontario.

**Conquers Asthma.** To be relieved from the terrible suffocating due to asthma is a great thing, but to be safeguarded for the future is even greater. Not only does Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Asthma Remedy bring prompt relief, but it introduces a new era of life for the afflicted. Systematic inhaling of smoke or fumes from the remedy prevents re-attacks and often effects a permanent cure.

Samuel Allen, a brother of Mrs. John Ginn and Mrs. Geo. Ranks, Arkona, and an uncle of Mrs. Jas. Broughton of Forest, died at his home in Port Huron, last week, aged 59 years. Deceased was born in Warwick township, and resided there until he became married. He is survived by his wife, Josephine McLean, two daughters and one son. The funeral took place Saturday in Port Huron.

**Queen Mother.**  
"Isn't that perfectly ridiculous?" exclaimed Mrs. Binks. "That young Mrs. Upstart who lives around the corner actually has the audacity to claim that she is of royal lineage!"

"Well," said the head of the house, stroking his gray mustache as he thought of bygone days, "she may not be so far wrong at that. I remember her mother when she was a girl, and believe me, she was some queen."