

went to sit and dream. To the right is the Museum, in which are stored valuable documents and relics relating directly or indirectly to Shakspeare, as, e. g., rare copies of his works. The room on the other side of the kitchen is used as a Record Room for the Corporation of Stratford. Winding up the quaint stairway, we come to the Library on whose shelves are found the works of the Master and those of his most famous interpreters. Adjoining the Library is the Birth-Room, adorned with many likenesses of the poet. In it too are Albums in the latest of which the visitor may inscribe his name and be written down with multitudes of every sort and condition, many of whose names are written large in the literature and life of many lands. Behind the house is a well-kept garden where grows every plant mentioned in the poet's works and blooms every flower.

But let us verify for ourselves the fact that he lived and died in Stratford. Let us go to the Parish Church and see the Records. The Church is beautifully situated on the banks of the Avon, "and is one of the most perfect types of rural and architectural combination in all England. The tall heaven-pointing spire, the graceful avenue of dense overhanging lime-trees by which it is approached, the gently flowing river reflecting the fine old church windows, the quaint old grave stones, the quiet beauty and the venerable antiquity of the whole scene render the place attractive, without the special interest attached to it as the burial place of the great poet."

Passing within, there are the customary objects of interest the colours of a regiment, the chapels and tombs of departed worth and greatness. But here is something out of the ordinary, an old chair Bible,—out of which, no doubt, Shakspeare heard the lessons read,—with a portion of the chain still attached to it: the old font in which William Shakspeare was baptized, and the old church Register under glass, open at the pages containing the records of his baptism and of his death,—"1564, April 26,1616, April 23."

On the north wall of the chancel is the famous bust of Shakspeare with its original colouring now restored. "It is coarse and rude in execution, but there is no reason for doubting that it gives at least a general idea of his personal appearance. Ac-