the glorious freedom that distinguishes him. To an orator or a writer of genius the university course is not without its perils. It is significant that in the plays of Shakespeare there are many ridiculous blunders that indicate that they were written by an "inexact" scholar; and these inaccuracies form an unanswerable argument against those who maintain that the plays were written by a finished scholar such as Bacon. The plays were evidently written by some one who had just a moderate education as we know Shakespeare to have had, but supplemented by the divinest poetic genius.

## Shakespeare's Early Environment.

It was ideal. In saying this my statement will be fully substantiated by a glance through the beautiful pictures that have been collected by the editor of SUNSHINE, and which accompany this monograph. The scenery surrounding Stratford was such as to store his receptive mind with a wealth of just such metaphors and similes as are poured out in his writings. Wandering in boyhood and youth through beautiful forests, over luxuriant meadows and by lovely streams, he accumulated that wonderful treasury of Nature-know-

ledge that he uses in his poetry. True, his botany was not scientific, but it was all the more living and real for that very fact.

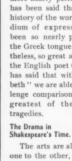
" I know a bank whereon the wild thyme blows, Where ox-lips and the nodding violet grows; Quite over-canopied with lush woodbine, With sweet musk-roses, and with eglantine : There sleeps Titania, some time of the night, Lull'd in these flowers with dances and delight."

The scenery of his great play, "As You Like It," might all be, probably was, sketched from the country surrounding Stratford-on-Avon. Taken altogether, we may say that the results of his literary labors in after life are entirely consistent with what we know his early education and environment to have been.

## Shakespeare's English.

It is to be carefully noted that Shakespeare lived just at that time when the English language, the medium of his art, had reached its perfection. The English language, as all m readers know, is the most composite in the world. There are in it British, Roman, Saxo and Norman elements. When Shakespeare b gan to write, these elements had just reache a state of perfect fusion, so that the Elizabeth writers had a most plastic and expressive m dium in which to work. Two centuries before Chaucer, the father of English poetry, had d monstrated the fact that our language w capable of being wrought into a great literatur From his time to Shakespeare's, however, a

thing notable had be done, but the language h in the interval become more nearly perfected. has been said that in the history of the world no m dium of expression h been so nearly perfect the Greek tongue. Neve theless, so great a critic the English poet Campb has said that with "Ma beth" we are able to chi lenge comparison with t greatest of the Gree tragedies.



The arts are all relate one to the other, but ea artist finds certain mod of expression more cong nial than others. Shakespeare's genius w

essentially dramatic; that is, he could expri himself more adequately through a play th through any other form of literature. The being true, it was essential for him that the should have been a sufficiently complete de lopment of the drama in his day. In this was very fortunate. Just as the English guage had become complete and perfect when Shakespeare "happened along," so i the drama, too, reached such a degree of p fection that he had no pioneer work to do.

It seems to me that one does not require be very piously disposed to see the hand Providence at work in bringing Shakespe into the world just at the time and under conditions that obtained when he did appe If it were necessary, another curious fact ini be cited to prove this divine interventi Under Puritan influence, there came.

(Continued on page 30.)

