

all ways and means of getting at the *Seal*, and had in mind the method in vogue in the halcyon days of Lord Chancellor Bacon! If so, and he remembered that one of the parties in the case of *Hody v. Hody* "fetched" the Lord High Chancellor of England with a sum of £50 (see Cobbett's State Trials, vol. ii., p. 1106), it was not, perhaps, irrational for him to think £5 an adequate *argumentum ad crumenam* for a colonial Chief Justice. If so, he, doubtless, emerged from gaol, after his week's confinement for contempt of court, a confirmed *laudator temporis acti*!

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I do not know whether the advocates of the Baconian theory in relation to the authorship of the Shakespearian plays, who made so much ado in the literary world a short time ago, have ever perused "The Humble Confession and Submission of Me the Lord Chancellor," to be found in the volume of the State Trials above referred to; but scanty support for the opinion of Mr. Ignatius Donnelly, et al., that it was "the all-compassionate Bacon whose paramount interest was in humanity; whose whole life was avowedly and admittedly devoted to 'the relief of the human estate,'" rather than the "vagabond play-actor," who created the immortal characters of Hamlet, Miranda, Cordelia, Lear, etc., is to be had in this unique historical document. Space only permits me to make one or two extracts from it, as follows: "As to the second article of the charge, viz., 'He received from Edward Egerton £400'—I confess and declare that soon after my first coming to the Seal, being a time when I was *presented by many*, the £400 mentioned in the said charge was delivered to me in a purse, and, as I now call to mind, from Mr. Edward Egerton; but, as far as I can remember, it was expressed by them that brought it that it was for favors past, and not in respect of favors to come!" As to the third article of the charge, viz., "In a cause between the Lady Wharton and the co-heirs of Sir Francis Willoughby, he received of the Lady Wharton £310'—I confess and declare that I did receive of the Lady Wharton, at two several times, as I remember, in gold £200 and 100 pieces, and this was certainly *pendente lite*. But (he naively adds) I had a