

News Letter

The SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP

— AMERICAN BRANCH —

VOL. I

DECEMBER, 1939

NO. 1

To Members of The Shakespeare Fellowship:

With the July number of THE SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP NEWS-LETTER, there was enclosed a brief statement to the effect that Captain B. M. Ward (Reserve Officer, K. D. Gds) had been notified that he would shortly be called up for military duties. The statement further said that Mr. Percy Allen had kindly consented to carry on as Honorary Secretary of the Fellowship until the Annual General Meeting in London, when a new Honorary Secretary would be elected.

Events have moved with great rapidity since the July NEWS-LETTER was issued and all of England's men and women have been mobilized for war emergencies. In view of this stern fact, Mr. Allen has issued the following statement:

"With the concurrence of our President, it has been decided, regretfully, that the activities of THE SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP be suspended until further notice. Members' Subscriptions, normally due November next, need not be sent; but the Acting Hon. Sec. will be pleased to receive any sums that members voluntarily forward to him, towards the reserve funds of the FELLOWSHIP. It is intended to continue publication of the NEWS-LETTER, delivery of lectures, etc., as soon as international circumstances permit. (Signed) Acting Hon. Sec. Percy Allen, 99, Corringham Road, London, N.W. 11."

Knowledge of the temporary suspension of the activities of THE SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP, together with the lamentable circumstances which have forced this decision, has been received by American members of the FELLOWSHIP with sorrow and concern.

The interest that has been aroused in the question of the authorship of the Shakespeare Plays must not be allowed to sleep—it will not die—for

lack of a publication to keep members of the Fellowship informed of what is transpiring in the way of research in the field.

The example of the officers of THE SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP, whose untiring devotion to the literary problem for the solution of which the society was organized, has been an inspiration to members on this side of the Atlantic. As a tribute to these officers and to the cause for which they stand, it is the desire of the American members of the FELLOWSHIP to "carry on."

Toward this end, a meeting was called for November 10th of those members of the society living in this country. At this meeting THE SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP (American Branch) was organized and the following officers were elected: President, Dr. Louis P. Bénézet; Vice-Presidents, James Stewart Cushman and Mrs. Eva Turner Clark; Secretary and Treasurer, Charles Wisner Barrell. The chief objects of the American Branch will be research in the field of Shakespearean literature and history, with special attention to the claims made for the Seventeenth Earl of Oxford as author of the Plays, and the publication of the bi-monthly NEWS-LETTER, by means of which members may be kept informed of what is going on in the field.

The officers of the American Branch hope they may have the co-operation of all American members and that those members of THE SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP in England who are free to do so in such troublous times will keep us informed of developments there in the field of our literary problem.

—Eva Turner Clark

NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.
November 21, 1939

President Bénézet's Message

To the Members of the American Branch of The Shakespeare Fellowship,
and to open-minded students of Shakespeare everywhere:

As war raises its ghastly figure among the most enlightened and cultured peoples of the earth, art and literature flee into hiding places. The pages of European magazines are full of pictures of men burying priceless stained glass in the earth, hiding rare statues and paintings in underground vaults, and covering the delicate stone carvings of historic cathedrals with shapeless bags of sand.

Education must yield to the need for building up morale, and the thoughts of all citizens must be devoted to nothing but defeating the enemy.

So only is victory to be achieved in modern conflicts.

Thus it is not surprising that our parent organization, THE SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP of Great Britain has suspended operations for the duration of the war.

However, it becomes all the more incumbent upon the American members to carry on the torch which Mr. Looney, Professor Lefranc, Captain Ward, Admiral Holland, Professor Slater, Col. Douglas, Canon Rendell, the Brothers Allen and others have kept alive in England and France, but are now compelled to drop.

Much has been gained already. Anti-Stratfordian articles and letters are appearing in increasing numbers in magazines and newspapers.

If we all put forth our best efforts now, while people are beginning to ask questions and to express their doubts regarding the Stratford story, we shall not only consolidate our gains but push on into new territory. It is surprising how many people become keenly interested as soon as the theory that only a scholarly aristocrat could have written the Shakespeare works is broached to them.

Startling new testimony will soon be in print. The advocates of the orthodox version of the Bard's identity are due to find themselves distinctly on the defensive. They will be unable any longer loftily to ignore the accumulated evidence against them. Papers will be eager to print letters that contain reasonable arguments, to pose questions that our Stratfordian friends can not answer satisfactorily. United effort is needed. Let each of us do his bit. It is time that this "Greatest of Literary Problems" as James Phinney Baxter called it, should be moving toward a solution.

Louis P. Bénézet

To Pluck the Heart of the Mystery

This journal is primarily dedicated to the task of solving the most unusual mystery in the whole realm of English literature, to wit:

Identification of the personality of the one unique creative genius that our race has produced, whose works appear to have been published under the pen-name of "William Shakespeare."

There are today several thousand people in the British Empire and the United States who believe that the most logical solution of this age-old puzzle was worked out some twenty years ago by J. Thomas Looney of Gateshead-on-Tyne, England, in his remarkable book, "*Shakespeare Identified in Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford.*"

But, as frequently happens to pioneers in all fields, Looney's theory has been pointedly ignored by most of the representatives of orthodox Shakespearean scholarship. Many of these authorities, like members of certain medieval cults, are intolerant of dissent from popularized canons, no

matter how logically founded such dissent may be. Moreover, they have a recognized vested interest to protect, as the authors of that hilarious recent work, *This Shakespeare Industry*, so thoroughly prove.

It remains, therefore, for those of us who prefer truth to fundamental conjecture to present the Oxfordian point of view to the widest circle of mystery-lovers that can be reached. Also, to draw attention to all newly discovered evidence which tends to corroborate Looney's original findings.

Although some thirty volumes and a hundred or more special articles, pamphlets and reviews have already been published on both sides of the Atlantic since "*Shakespeare Identified*" came from the press in 1920, many additional facts about Edward de Vere, his family and their associates and their relationship to the Shakespearean arcana still await public presentation. These facts have been recovered as a result of painstaking research

TO MISS MRS. J. T. LOONEY
1917

among public documents, private correspondence, contemporary publications and art collections dating from the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods.

Forthcoming issues of the NEWS-LETTER will outline and digest this new material as occasion offers. It is the hope of the editors that other research workers will be stimulated to enter the same field, and our readers generally should feel free at all times to use these columns for expressions of opinion. We offer a new perspective to all who have found themselves unconvinced by the basic inconsistencies and suppositions of the Stratford legend. Conjecture is no longer sufficient to account for the achievements of peerless genius. This realistic age demands factual logic. Despite the adage, no real tempest ever originated in a teapot. Neither did great intellectual art spring untrained

from a background of illiteracy and triviality, as the professional Stratfordians would have the world believe. Bram Stoker, the keen-witted author of *Dracula*, says in one of his historical essays:

"The only way to arrive at probability is to begin with fact."

No open-minded scholar, no intelligent reader with a flair for the dynamics of detection can any longer afford to ignore the implications of the Oxfordian evidence.

Our inquiry, already successfully developed, seems destined to bring into the light of day at last the true answers to the long-acknowledged mystery behind the creation of the outstanding masterpieces of our language.

Charles Wisner Barrell

Underdowne's Translation Which Shakespeare Had Read

"Like to the Egyptian thief."

TWELFTH NIGHT, V. I. 121.

Of the above line, Singer says: "This Egyptian thief was Thyamis. The story is related in the *Aethiopics* of Heliodorus. He was the chief of a band of robbers. . . . This romance was translated by Thomas Underdowne, and had been published before 1587, in which year it was reprinted, and again in 1602."

The first edition of Underdowne's translation is undated, according to *The Abbey Classics*, but "it is conjectured to be the end of the 10th Book of Heliodorus' *Aethiopian History*, which Francis Caldecke obtained a license to print in 1569."

This first edition, says B. M. Ward, was dedicated "To the Right Honourable Edward de Vere, Lord Bulbeck, Earl of Oxenford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England," in the following words: "I do not deny but that in many matters, I mean matters of learning, a nobleman ought to have a sight; but to be too much addicted that way, I think it is not good. Now of all knowledge fit for a noble gentleman, I suppose the knowledge of histories is most seeming. For furthering whereof I have Englished a passing fine and witty history, written in Greek by Heliodorus; and for

right good cause consecrated the same to your honourable Lordship. For such virtues be in your honour, so haughty courage joined with great skill, such sufficiency in learning, so good nature and common sense that in your honour is, I think, expressed the right pattern of a noble gentleman. . . . Therefore I beseech your honour favourably to accept this my small travail in translating Heliodorus, which I have so well translated as he is worthy, I am persuaded that your honour will like well of . . ."

Lord Oxford was then nineteen years old and many besides Thomas Underdowne commented upon his devotion to learning. As a royal ward, the young Earl lived in the home of Lord Burghley for several years during his minority where he must have become familiar with the ancient classics, for Lord and Lady Burghley were notable Greek scholars.

The fact that the line quoted from *Twelfth Night*, "Like to the Egyptian thief," has been traced to Underdowne's translation of Heliodorus' *Aethiopian History*, and the further fact that this history was dedicated by the translator to the Earl of Oxford, thus proving his familiarity with it, combine to form a bit of evidence to add to the thousand other bits which indicate the Earl as the author of the Shakespeare plays.

Eva Turner Clark

NEWS-LETTER
THE SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP
AMERICAN BRANCH

VOLUME I DECEMBER, 1939 NUMBER 1

Pending resumption of activities by THE SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP in England, the NEWS-LETTER will be issued in New York by THE SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP—American Branch. American members of the English organization formed this American Branch on November 10, 1939, and elected the following officers:

President

Louis P. Bénétet, A.M., Ph.D.

Vice-Presidents

James Stewart Cushman

Mrs. Eva Turner Clark

Secretary and Treasurer

Charles Wisner Barrell

Occasional meetings of the American Branch will be held, for which special notices will be sent to members. Dues for membership in the American Branch are \$2.50 a year, which sum includes one year's subscription to the NEWS-LETTER.

The officers of the American Branch will act as an editorial board for the publication of the NEWS-LETTER, which will appear every other month, or six times a year, beginning with the December issue.

News items, comments by readers and articles of interest to all students of Shakespeare and of the acknowledged mystery that surrounds the authorship of the plays and poems, are desired. Such material must be of reasonable brevity. No compensation can be made to writers beyond the sincere thanks of the Editorial Board. Articles and letters will express the opinions of their authors, not necessarily of the editors. They may be sent to Charles Wisner Barrell, 17 East 48th Street, New York, N. Y.

A Field to Cultivate

During the past year, James Stewart Cushman, one of the most active members of THE FELLOWSHIP, has delivered talks on the Oxford—"Shakespeare" question at Princeton University, at the Rockford College for Women, Rockford, Illinois and at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut. It is Mr. Cushman's belief that appreciative audiences await well-grounded speakers on the new authorship theory in most American schools. We expect to present his views on this subject in our next issue.

Youthful Minds Are Open

After many attempts to convert friends of mine who are professors of English to at least a position of open mindedness on the question of the authorship of the Shakespeare plays, I have come to the conclusion that such efforts pay small dividends.

The group of people who are willing to listen, to give the matter the benefit of a doubt, to investigate and think for themselves are the students in our high schools, colleges and universities. In the past two years I have lectured before student audiences at State Teachers Colleges in four different states, and I never fail to find an eager and excited group among them. "If anyone had told me that this whole student body would sit with their mouths open, on the edge of their seats for a full hour listening to a lecture on Shakespeare, I would have said he was crazy," said a student to me after a lecture in Connecticut.

"I'm thoroughly convinced," said a senior in a New Hampshire college, "but if I go out next year and teach a group of high school seniors that Shakespeare did not write Shakespeare, what is my school board going to say to me?"

"You'll have to send for me to come over and convert your school board," I laughed.

My most enthusiastic audience of late was at the Ball State Teachers College at Muncie, Indiana. Here the fourteen hundred young people, soon to be grammar and high school teachers, listened attentively for a full hour, and kept me afterwards in an adjourned meeting, answering questions for another forty-five minutes. This was on September 19th, and followed an informal talk to members of the faculty the night before.

Professor Van Cleve of the English Department was the man responsible for the lecture, and he tells me that he still hears echoes of the talk.

Some ten months ago, after a lecture to the Hathaway Shakespeare Society of Philadelphia, I had a most interesting evening at the home of my classmate, Professor H. A. Miller of Bryn Mawr, expounding the Oxford theory to a group composed of members of the faculties of that college and Haverford. Again it was the members of the English Department who clung tenaciously to the old faith. The teachers of other subjects were keenly alive to the possibility that the ancient story, after all, might be a fable.

Thus the process of "selling" the idea goes on, gaining impetus as it goes.

Louis P. Bénétet

Origin and Achievements of The Shakespeare Fellowship

THE SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP was formed in London in 1922 for the purpose of uniting in one organization all lovers of Shakespeare who were dissatisfied with the prevailing Stratfordian theory, and who wished to see the principles of scientific historical criticism applied to the problem of Shakespearean authorship, to encourage research among parish registers, wills, and other documents likely to throw light on the subject.

The founders of the FELLOWSHIP were Sir George Greenwood and Colonel B. R. Ward. Sir George Greenwood, London barrister and famous Shakespeare controversialist, became the first President, which office he held until his death in 1928. Among the tributes paid to him at that time is the following:

"As a controversialist he was merciless to his opponents, but his gift of humour always made him interesting, and his literary style made his fencing bouts a joy to onlookers. From his first book, *The Shakespeare Problem Restated*, published in 1908, to his last book, *The Shakespeare Signatures and 'Sir Thomas More'*, published in 1924, we find the same finished style, and no diminution in the flashes of humour that conceal the ruthlessness of the attack."

J. Thomas Looney, author of "*Shakespeare Identified as the Seventeenth Earl of Oxford*", paid his tribute in the following lines: "It is quite safe to say that but for the works of Sir George Greenwood my own books would not have come into being."

Colonel B. R. Ward, C.M.G., was the first Honorary Secretary of the Fellowship and, until his death in 1933, was untiring in his devotion to the cause that he had made his own. Colonel M. W. Douglas said of him at the time:

"Attracted by Mr. Looney's arguments in 1920, he (Col. Ward) collected his friends, myself included, and founded the FELLOWSHIP, with Sir George Greenwood as President. Since then, mainly owing to his exertions, it has grown from more to more. He and his son, Captain B. M. Ward, have been tireless in research; and Colonel Ward's literary contributions, notably his book, *The Mystery of 'Mr. W. H.'*, are second to none in importance. Colonel Ward's intellectual powers covered a wide range of subjects. Besides writing many books on military matters, he was a competent poet, his songs including among others, the Regimental Song of the Rifle Brigade, 'Colonel Cootie Manningham.' Poetry was his chief delight, and

among the poets, Shakespeare, especially the *Sonnets*, took first place."

During the Great War, 1914-1918, Colonel Ward was placed in charge of the defense of London from the air and many medals given him by a grateful Government testify to the skill with which he fulfilled that onerous assignment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Montagu W. Douglas, C.S.I., C.I.E., was made the second President of THE SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP, which office he still holds. Perhaps the most important of his writings on the Oxford theory of authorship is the volume published in 1934, *Lord Oxford Was Shakespeare*, a clear, succinct and convincing outline of evidence, simply expressed and easy of comprehension.

In December, 1936, Colonel Douglas stated, "The wide-world nature of the Shakespeare Fellowship movement may be judged by the fact that, outside the United Kingdom, we have members in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, U. S. A., France, Germany, Switzerland, and Holland. We have even had a letter of inquiry from a University Professor in Korea."

Captain B. M. Ward followed his father as the second Honorary Secretary. The research carried on by Captain Ward has been unequalled by any other member of the Fellowship. His first book, *A Hundred Sundrie Flowers: from the original edition of 1573, with an Introduction and notes*, was published in 1925, and is fascinating as a piece of literary detective work. *The Seventeenth Earl of Oxford*, published in 1928, is a biography based on five years' research among original records and is absolutely indispensable to all students of the Oxford theory. Captain Ward has written a number of valuable literary articles which have appeared in well-known magazines, at least four in *The Review of English Studies*. Those members who have had occasion to keep in touch with the work of the FELLOWSHIP by correspondence know how patiently and how promptly he has replied to their queries. Due to the war emergency in which his country now finds itself, Captain Ward has been called up for military duty. His country's gain is a very great loss to the SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP!

Vice-Presidents of the FELLOWSHIP have for several years been the following: Percy Allen. Mrs. Eva Turner Clark, Professor Abel Lefranc (Institut de France), J. Thomas Looney, and Rev. Canon G. H. Rendall, B.D., D.Litt., LL.D. About these active members more will be heard later.

Ernest Stirling Allen

Noted Oxford Advocate
Passes Away In England

Born October 13, 1872
Died on his Birthday, 1939

The editors of the NEWS-LETTER regret to report the death of Ernest Allen, Esq., of London, a distinguished member of the British bar and twin brother of Percy Allen, the well-known dramatic critic, lecturer and writer of several books on the Oxford-Shakespeare authorship theory, including *The Life Story of Edward de Vere as "William Shakespeare."*

Ernest Allen passed away early in October, following a surgical operation. Like his brother, he became convinced of the soundness of the evidence connecting Lord Oxford with the creation of the plays and poems only after a long period of intensive study. During the past ten years, he had devoted more and more of his leisure to writing and speaking on this subject. A gentleman of energy and enthusiasm, he made many converts to the cause that was nearest his heart, sometimes in unexpected places.

An American scholar and collegiate lecturer (who shall be known as U. S. Smith in the present instance) tells the following anecdote on himself:

Prof. Smith was visiting at a well-known English provincial town one summer and had made himself known to some of the authorities there. One day he was asked to take part in a debate devoted to some such proposition as "Resolved: that William Shakspeare of Stratford did not write the plays ordinarily attributed to him."

Soundly orthodox in his point of view, Prof. Smith was glad to represent the negative side of such an argument. Feeling a little sorry for the opponent who had been selected as his victim, the American asked who he might be.

"Oh, only a London barrister by the name of Allen," he was told. "If he can't keep up his end, you can quote from the plays to fill in the extra time at your disposal."

So Smith didn't bother to brush up much on historical or biographical data. Instead he learned a few extra pages of *The Merchant of Venice* by heart so as to be able to signalize his impending romp-away with a fine flourish.

Came the evening of the debate.

"I have never felt quite so foolish in public before or since," says Smith. "I was supposed to be the Shakespearean authority with all the facts on my side. But the London barrister 'by the name of Allen' with the amateur rating proceeded to riddle my side of the argument before I could get started. I thought I knew the plays, but he even had me there for he had acted in many of them. He quoted a man named Looney I had never heard of and a whole list of other works that I had to admit, put an entirely new light on questions I had been taught to accept as closed to argument. Allen won, hands down, though I've forgotten the official verdict. Anyway, I know when I've had the worst of it.

"After the debate, we took supper together and I kept him talking until early morning about Edward de Vere, the literary Lord Chamberlain of England who had lost his good name and social prestige by turning public playwright. No, indeed, I'll never forget Ernest Allen! He gave me an entirely new point of view on the background of the Shakespearean age. And for that I shall always remember him with gratitude."

Ernest Allen collaborated with his brother Percy in writing the hard-hitting *Reply to John Drinkwater* (1933) after Drinkwater had gone out of his way to heap ridicule on the Oxford theory of authorship without taking the trouble to investigate said theory very carefully beforehand. In his family, Ernest Allen represented the fourth generation who had practiced law successfully in the metropolis of London. He was, therefore, well equipped to present evidence in an effective manner.

Another pamphlet from his pen that aroused much interest two years ago was a study of evidence relating to the deaths and burials of William Shakspeare at Stratford and Lord Oxford at Hackney and Westminster Abbey. It was called *When Shakespeare Died*. Two or three trenchant articles bearing his name have appeared in the East Anglian Magazine of Ipswich during the past year or so. Previous to that, Mr. Allen frequently wrote on the Oxford-Shakespeare question for *The Shakespeare Pictorial*, a monthly published by the former Lord Mayor of Stratford-on-Avon.

It is to be hoped that the best of Ernest Allen's various papers on the identity of the real Bard will be brought together in permanent form. His spirited and articulate personality will be sorely missed by his many friends and associates. To his immediate family and to Percy Allen, his surviving twin brother and intimate, life-long companion, all members of THE SHAKESPEARE FELLOWSHIP will join in offering sincere sympathy.

Baseless Fabric

One of the diverting chapters in *This Shakespeare Industry*, the recent expose of Stratford-on-Avon as a synthetic creation of commercial interests, has to do with the final selection of "Shakespeare's birthplace" about the middle of the last century.

The Illustrated London News, Sept. 18, 1847, contains a contemporary account of the sale of the property to the promoters of the "Birthplace" enterprise.

Mr. Robins the auctioneer, ascended the rostrum at one o'clock. He then addressed the company, telling the reason for the auction of the property and giving conditions of the sale, etc. He "explained that the title to the property would descend to the purchaser or purchasers, from the will of the Great Poet. (We quote!)"

"A person here interposed, and called upon Mr. Robins to prove that the house he was about to sell was the identical one in which the Poet was born.

"Mr. Robins replied that tradition pointed out this house as that of Shakespeare's birth. His father lived in it, and there could be no doubt that the great Poet was born in the house, and spent the greater period of his life in it. (Cheers.) They must take it as a matter of course. He wished that those who were skeptical on the point would stay away, instead of starting doubts which had no foundation to rest upon (!) . . . (for) as many as 7,000 visited it in the course of one year, a proportion of whom were Americans. . . Mr. Robins then stated his desire that the bidding should commence, and 1,500 guineas were immediately offered. . . A letter was then handed to Mr. Robins by Mr. Peter Cunningham, as Treasurer of the London Committee for raising subscriptions for the purchase of the house, offering 3,000 pounds."

In addition to Mr. Peter Cunningham, a Mr. John Payne Collier was active in raising money for the purchase of the "Birthplace."

Some years after this, Collier was proven to have forged many references to Shakespeare in ancient MSS. collections over which he had supervision. And Cunningham got into even more serious trouble. It was shown that he had extracted priceless records from the Revels' files which he later tried to sell to officials of the Public Record Office as his own property.

Yet most biographers of the Bard speak of the "Birthplace" as one of England's authentic shrines!

Judith the Illiterate

Rummaging through a Victorian library the other day, we came across a novel published in 1884 by the then popular story-teller, William Black. It is entitled *Judith Shakespeare* and represents careful research into the contemporary documentation and local color of Stratford-on-Avon in the early 17th century.

Dealing mainly with the love affairs of the younger daughter of the alleged Bard, the narrative repays attention at this time for the realistic way in which it points up some of the striking incongruities that no orthodox biographer has ever been able to explain.

Judith is pictured at the age of twenty-five, her father's favorite, a beautiful and by no means slow-witted minx—but hopelessly illiterate. The latter characteristic is fully corroborated by land conveyances of the day which bear her "mark" in lieu of a written signature.

Black goes on to depict Judith as fascinated by her father's masterpieces and executing various subterfuges to obtain copies of the plays which she wheedles her girl friends into reading to her.

In such wise, Black struggles valiantly to make his characterizations react understandably to their known environment. But the elements simply will not fuse plausibly.

For instance, if Judith's companions could read and write, why should she, the favorite daughter of a well-to-do literary leader, be denied such ordinary accomplishments? That is, if she really were the favorite daughter of the man recently described by Professor Ernest Weekley, author of *The English Language*:

"Of Shakespeare it may be said without fear of exaggeration that his contribution to our phraseology is ten times greater than that of any writer to any language in the history of the world."

To muddle things worse for his readers, Black shows poor Judith as more than ordinarily eager for knowledge. And her father's stock response to her pleas for enlightenment are:

"To your needle, wench, to your needle!"

The true explanation of all this is unquestionably the obvious one. Judith was not the daughter of Shakespeare, the great teacher. For it is simply unbelievable that the playwright who hated illiteracy above most other human imperfections would allow a favorite child to grow to maturity so needlessly handicapped.

Charles Wisner Barrell

Essential Evidence

Connecting Lord Oxford With the Writings
of "William Shakespeare"

Is to be Found in these Books:

"SHAKESPEARE" IDENTIFIED In Edward de Vere the Seventeenth Earl of Oxford. By J. THOMAS LOONEY. Cecil Palmer (1920) London; Frederick A. Stokes, New York.

John Galsworthy hailed this work as "the best detective story I've ever read." He purchased many copies and distributed them among his friends.

Dr. Sigmund Freud declared that Looney's work had changed his whole point of view regarding the personality of the Bard, and that he should like to re-write every reference he had ever made in his own works to Shakespeare, the man, to conform to the new and obviously correct theory.

Frederic Taber Cooper, in a signed review, challenged Shakespearean scholarship to answer "*Shakespeare*" Identified and disprove its masterfully presented thesis. Up to date, such orthodox champions as Prof. E. E. Stoll and John Drinkwater, who have been rash enough to enter the lists against Looney and his retainers have had anything but the best of the argument.

Long out of print in this country, copies of "*Shakespeare*" Identified are not easy to obtain, but the Secretary of THE FELLOWSHIP will endeavor to help readers secure the best second-hand copies available. A new edition may be gotten out, if sufficient demand materializes.

THE SEVENTEENTH EARL OF OXFORD—1550-1604,
From Contemporary Documents. By B. M. WARD. John Murray (1928), London.

Following Looney's discoveries, this book is the first complete documentary history of Edward de Vere, poet, nobleman and leader in the development of the Elizabethan drama. It represents five years work among the public records, collections of private correspondence and contemporary literary material, heretofore strangely neglected by authorities in the field of Elizabethan literature and biography.

While copies are not readily obtainable, efforts will be made to help students locate such as may still be available.

THE MAN WHO WAS SHAKESPEARE. By EVA TURNER CLARK. Richard R. Smith (1937), 120 East 39th Street, New York, N. Y. \$3.50.

The only comprehensive book on the Oxford theory of authorship now generally available to American readers. Contains the essential facts discovered by Looney and much of the contemporary documentation unearthed by Ward, with valuable additional evidence which Mrs. Clark has been the first to bring to light.

Orders may be placed directly with the publisher, or through the Secretary of THE FELLOWSHIP.

Discovery!

No student of the Shakespeare authorship mystery should fail to put in a reservation at once for a copy of the January issue of the *Scientific American* (out December 20th).

Consistent with its 95-year policy of printing news of general interest with a scientific background, *Scientific American* will publish an extensive article by Charles Wisner Barrell, copiously illustrated, in which evidence of a truly astounding nature will be presented for the first time, corroborating—from a new and fascinating angle—the theory held by most members of THE FELLOWSHIP regarding the real personality behind the Stratfordian camouflage.

Copies of the January *Scientific American* can be ordered through your newsdealer. Better still, send 35 cents (stamps accepted) to the Circulation Manager, *Scientific American*, 24 West 40th St., New York City, and receive a copy direct by mail. Do not disappoint yourself by waiting until the edition containing this article of far-reaching import has been exhausted. Get your order in at once!

"Shakespeare's" Tutor

A Shakespearean department under the editorial supervision of F. Lingard Ranson is published each month in the East Anglian Magazine of Ipswich, England. It contains articles, book reviews and news items relating to the disputed authorship of the plays and poems.

At present the magazine is running a series of four articles by Charles Wisner Barrell, detailing the intimate role that Arthur Golding, uncle and tutor of Edward de Vere, played in the development of "William Shakespeare's" creative genius. The series contains new research material previously overlooked by authorities.