

AN IGNORANT PLAY-ACTOR.

A Beer-Drinking Son of a Wool-Picker, a Fraud, and a Cheat Who Couldn't Write.

Such Is Ignatius Donnelly's Very Blunt Opinion of the Bard of Avon.

[Chicago special.]

Hon. Ignatius Donnelly lectured Monday night in Central Music Hall to an audience that was fair in point of size and fine in point of appearance and intelligence. The author of the cryptogram was introduced by ex-Gov. Gross, of the Chicago Tribune, in a few felicitous phrases, and Ignatius pitched into his topic. Following is a summary of his lecture:

He did not doubt, Mr. Donnelly said, that many of the audience came to listen to a crank, because it has come to be accepted that whatever the bulk of mankind believes is always right, and the few who differ are always wrong. But the reader of history will not agree with this view, because he knows that the path of



human progress is marked by the tomb of the dead opinions of the majority. No one will be poorer if it shall be proved that there is no foundation for the claims of the Shakespearians.

Shakespeare used a coat-of-arms and claimed gentle blood, but Hon. H. C. Phillips set him right on the subject, and said that he did both fraudulently, having no right to either. His father was a wool-picker in Stratford, and he was the only one of his race that could read or write, his father and mother and their fathers and mothers making crosses for their signatures, not because they were religious, but for the reason that that was as near as they could come to writing their names. Even Richard Grant White, who said that the man who claimed that Shakespeare did not write the plays should be in a madhouse, conceded that the plays could not have been written by a man of brains, and could not be read without a great library, and could not be read without a great library.

The plays bore evidence of the fact that their author was familiar with the literature of Italy, France, and Spain in the original, while books have been written by lawyers to prove that this author must have been a profound lawyer. Lord Justice Campbell says that whenever a layman brings law into his writings he is apt to fall into error, but that from Shakespeare's law there is no appeal.

There wasn't an English grammar in existence until Shakespeare had finished his education. In the school at Stratford-upon-Avon even the English language was not taught. The first record of Shakespeare shows him figuring in a beer-drinking bout. Then he became a poacher, was frequently arrested, and finally fled to London, after marrying under discreditable circumstances a woman several years his senior, whom he had compromised. There wasn't a book in his house; and in Shakespeare's will, while there are bequests of a bed, a sword, a goblet, and other things, there is not a bequest of a book or of anything else of a literary character. The family of Shakespeare held the original property until the beginning of the present century, but not a scrap of his writing has come down to the world except four signatures—three on his will and one on a deed to some property. There isn't a letter from him, and but one to him, and that was written by a fellow who wanted to borrow some money. There are manuscripts of plays in the British museum from 200 years before his time, but not one from him.

In contrast to Shakespeare's plebeian origin and alleged illiteracy, he argued that Bacon was a patrician and a scholar of gifts commensurate to the task of producing the plays, and in conclusion assured the audience that his position was not a matter of belief, but one which he had proved, and which his book would prove to the world, he was right in assuming.

FREDERICK III.

A Letter to Bismarck in Which the Man of Iron Is Summoned.

The Son Declares that the Policy of the Father Shall Be Continued.

[Cable dispatch from Berlin.]

Emperor Frederick has addressed the following letter to Chancellor Bismarck:

MY DEAR PRINCE: At the commencement of my reign it is necessary for me to turn to you, for many years the trusted chief servant of my late father, who now rests in God. You are a true and courageous counselor, who gave to his policy its aim and form and secured its complete fulfillment. You I am in duty bound to warmly thank for the maintenance of my house. You have, therefore, the right before all others to know what are the standpoints which will be the guiding principles for upholding my Government, the welfare of the empire, constitution, and rights of the Empire and of the states, which before all, be consolidated in veneration and the customs of the nation. Concessions which frequent changes in state regulations and measures cause should be avoided as much as possible. The advancement of the administration of the Imperial Government must be left undisturbed on the firm foundation wherein the Prussian state hitherto rested in security in the Empire. The constitutional rights of all federal governments must as consistently be respected as those of the Reichstag but from both similar respect for the rights of the Emperor must be expected at the same time. We must keep before our eyes that these mutual rights must only serve for promoting the public welfare, and which remain the supreme law of the land, and which must always be employed in fully satisfying any further and undoubted national requirements which may arise. As the necessary and surest guarantee of unimpeded execution of these tasks, I believe in the unabated maintenance of the warlike power of the country, of my well-tried and tested army, growing up, for which important duties have arisen in the acquirement of our transoceanic possessions. Both must at all times be maintained by the full completion of their organization, which has already formed the foundation for their fame, and which insures their further effective services.

"I am resolved to conduct the Government, both in the Empire and in Prussia, with a conscientious observation of the provisions of the constitutions of each. These have been founded by my predecessor on the throne on wise recognition of irrefutable necessities and the settlement of difficult tasks arising in the social and official life of the country, and must be observed

on all sides in order to insure their force and sufficient efficiency. I desire that the bases of religious toleration, which for centuries past were held sacred by my house, shall continue to be extended to all my subjects of whatever religion, community or creed. Every one of the proposals of financial reform shall be assured in advance, unless long-proved economy in Prussia will not permit the avoidance of the imposition of fresh burdens and affecting an alleviation of the demands hitherto made upon the country.

"Self-government granted to the greater and lesser communities in the state I consider beneficial. On the other hand, I would suggest for examination the question whether the right of levying taxes conferred upon these communities, which is exercised by them without sufficient regard for the burden simultaneously imposed by the empire and the state, may not weigh unfairly upon individuals. In like manner it will have to be considered whether in simplifying matters a change might not be made in organizing the authorities whereby a more exact knowledge of the conduct of officials would permit an increase of their emoluments, should we succeed in maintaining in their strict basis the basis of the state and social life. It will specially gratify me to bring to its full development the blossom which German art and science show so rich a measure for realizing.

"These are my intentions, and, counting upon your well-proved devotion and on the support of your tried experience, may it be vouchsafed me thus, with the unanimous cooperation of the organs of the empire and the people, and with the support of the states, as well as of all officials and the trusted co-operation of all classes of the population, to lead Germany and Prussia to new honors in the domain of peaceful development. Careless of the splendor and glorious achievement, I shall be content if it can hereafter be said of my Government that it has been beneficial to my people, useful to my country, and a blessing to my empire. Your affectionate

"FREDERICK."

THE AGE OF TRUSTS.

A Gigantic Watch Trust Which Controls a Capital of \$30,000,000.

A Monster Grocers' Combine—And There Is a Coffin Trust, Too.

A recent telegram from Minneapolis contains the following:

Within the last few days every wholesale grocer of Minneapolis has received a circular letter looking to the formation of what on its face appears to be an iniquitous trust. "Union" is what it is proposed to call the new pool, but under any name the idea is the same, and is an organization of the wholesale grocers of the United States for the purpose of manipulating prices. A prominent Minneapolis grocer pronounced it a new "combine" that would surpass in power and extent any monopoly ever yet formed. It proposes, in short, to increase the profits on sugar that the amount of the deposit required will be small in comparison. "How much will the deposit be?" "At least \$20,000,000." A wholesale grocer said that the wholesale trade of the United States in that line is at least \$2,000,000,000, figuring on a population of 60,000,000, and an annual expenditure of \$35 each. One per cent of this, or \$20,000,000, is to be deposited.

A Coffin Trust.

A telegram from New York tells how undertakers are made to pay tribute to the manufacturers:

"A 'trust' among the coffin manufacturers of the country! What? Yes; a syndicate exists that is more dictatorial and oppressive upon the poorer classes than any that have yet engaged the attention of legislators. All the large manufacturers of coffins and coffin furniture in the country are members of the trust, which is almost absolutely controls the sale and manufacture of these very necessary articles. A New York undertaker explains how the pool operates. 'It imperatively refuses,' said he, 'to sell to an undertaker unless he be a member of the city association, and no matter if he offered quadruple the list prices he would be unable to purchase a stock of goods. To ascertain the power of the trust, a friend of mine in the firm wrote to a number of firms in different States and in each case received a curt reply that his order could not fill. Of course there is no use to kick against this. You must calmly submit or go out of the trade. Prices are actually forced up over 100 per cent. Caskets that cost the manufacturers certainly not more than \$25 or \$30 are sold to the trade for from \$75 to \$125. Black coffins, so generally bought, for which the retailers are compelled to charge something like \$175, the 'trust' men can produce for \$50 to \$60. The cheapest hardwood broadcloth casket is sold to the undertakers and funeral directors for \$125. The manufacturer's price of the most expensive hardwood coffin—and it is only cedar—climbs together at that—is \$300 and more. The cheapest metallic casket is sold for \$125, and the retail price is fixed in the neighborhood of \$200. The dearest metallic caskets are sold for \$325, for which \$15 would be a more reasonable figure. In most cities the liverymen are in league with the Undertakers' Association."

A Watch Combine.

There is a "trust" in watches—a gigantic trust—and it was formed somewhat as follows:

About three years ago the watch-case manufacturers of the United States formed an association for mutual protection, and a out the same time the watch-movement manufacturers did likewise. Then the jobbers in American watches combined, their association being known as the National Association of Jobbers in American Watches. The capital controlled by these three associations is \$20,000,000, divided up as follows: National Watch-case Manufacturers' Association, \$5,000,000; National Watch-Movement Manufacturers' Association, \$5,000,000; and National Association of Jobbers in American Watches, \$2,000,000.

The Great Copper Trust.

The Chicago Morning News of a recent date remarks editorially:

European journals, received by last mail, give reviews of the status and proportions of the great French copper trust. It is called the Metal Company. Paris trade journals say that the following companies are in the coalition. Cape Copper Company, Namaka, Bel's Cove, Vigorons, Rio Tinto, Almaden, Mass., Barry, Calumet and Hecla, Boston and Montana, Anaconda, Tamarack, Quebrada, Arizona, Panucillo.

The United product is 127,500 tons, of which the American mines in the combine produce 78,500 tons.

Porte Crayon.

The death of Gen. D. H. Strother ("Porte Crayon") removed a popular and familiar figure from the field of periodical literature. His facile pen and pleasing pencil have not been as active of late, since he became a pensioned veteran, as they were years ago. Born at Martinsburg, Va., in 1816, he passed his youth in that picturesque locality; in 1845 he moved to New York and began to ally his cunning in drawing on wood with literary work. His first important venture in this line was in 1853, when he began the publication of "A Narrative of an Expedition into the Land of Canaan." This was followed by most successful series, "Virginia Illustrated." His "Recollections of the War" served to increase his popularity, and among his last articles were "Virginia Revisited."

"Porte Crayon" found a field of unfailing interest in the picturesque woodlands of Virginia, its pretty maidens and stalwart mountaineers. He opened up the Southern field that has since been developed by Charles Egbert Cradock, Amelia Rives, and other new lights of current literature.

TARIFF FIGURES.

The Duties on Necessaries outrageously High Under Our Present System.

All the Way from 50 to 164 Per Cent.—How the People Are Tax-Ridden.

Some Figures to Which Every Consumer Ought to Give Careful Attention.

To the American People:

Those of you who for more than a score of years have been accustomed to read my letters on tariff reform will do well to read and study the tariff table I give below, compiled from official returns of 1886. This table is indeed a pyramid. My object is to show the enormous high duties exacted by the American tariff on articles of necessity, and then you may judge whether Macaulay's answer to Malcolm does not exactly fit our "untitled tyrant, bloody-sceptered" tariff system:

ARTICLES ON WHICH A DUTY OF 100 PER CENT. AND OVER WAS EXACTED IN 1886.

Per cent.

On tannic and tannin..... 103.75

Acetate of lead..... 103.07

Santonin..... 106.13

Common window-glass over 24x30 inches..... 100.83

Plate glass over 24x60 inches..... 107.43

Iron beams, girders, and joists..... 113.91

Ingots, cogged, blooms, or blanks..... 121.89

Wire cloth smaller than No. 16 and not over 100.00

Wire cloth smaller than No. 16 and not smaller than No. 25..... 103.34

Wire cloth smaller than No. 26..... 100.13

Horseshoe nails..... 103.81

Varnish of spirit..... 103.23

Scoured clothing wool..... 119.43

Cleaned rice..... 112.46

ARTICLES THAT PAID A DUTY OF 90 PER CENT. AND OVER AND NOT 100 PER CENT. IN 1886.

Copperas..... 91.27

Common window-glass, 16x24 inches..... 92.89

Hot-iron, 16x24 inches or less in width..... 98.97

Cone or potato starch..... 95.58

Sugar above No. 13 and not above No. 16..... 91.95

Common woolen cloth costing 6 cents per pound..... 91.95

Woolen manufactures costing not over 80 cents per pound..... 91.47

ARTICLES THAT PAID A DUTY OF 80 PER CENT. AND OVER AND NOT 90 PER CENT.

Bicarbonate of soda..... 88.03

Common cylinder window-glass, 10x16 inches, used in the cheapest houses..... 80.73

Sheet-iron, No. 20 wire gauge..... 85.81

Litharge (a lead paint)..... 89.1

Whiting and Paris white..... 81.24

Woolen dress goods costing 21 1/4 cents a square yard abroad..... 82.18

Woolen shawls costing 67 1/2 cents a pound abroad..... 87.00

Manufactures of wool or worsted valued not over 30 cents per pound..... 83.82

Steel rails at the average cost of 1886..... 87.00

ARTICLES THAT PAID A DUTY OF 70 PER CENT. AND OVER AND NOT 80 PER CENT.

Boracite acid in crude state..... 70.13

Bleached cotton cloth costing 5 cents a square yard..... 70.13

Colored cotton cloth costing 6 cents a square yard..... 76.88

Iron less than one inch wide..... 76.88

Sheet-iron thinner than No. 25 and not No. 25..... 76.50

Sheet-iron thinner than No. 20 and not No. 24..... 74.55

Sheet-iron, Anaker cloth sheet-iron..... 77.81

Big-lead steel railway wheels..... 72.84

Lead-pipes, sheet, and shot..... 74.05

Uncleanned rice..... 71.73

Raw sugar up to No. 13..... 70.00

Washed clothing wool..... 74.97

Scoured combing wool..... 73.58

Woolen blankets costing 26 cents per lb. 73.39

Woolen blankets costing 65 cents per lb. 71.64

Common druggists..... 71.40

Woolen cloaks and dolmans..... 71.84

Flannels costing not over 30 cents per lb. 70.62

Flannels costing over 40 cents per lb. 71.12

Flannels costing over cents 80 per lb. 72.66

Woolen hosiery costing not over 30 cents a pound..... 70.00

Woolen yarns valued above 60 cents and not over 80 cents per pound..... 70.04

ARTICLES THAT PAID A DUTY OF 60 PER CENT. AND OVER AND NOT 70 PER CENT.

Blue vitriol (sulphate of copper)..... 65.29

Glycerine, refined..... 66.40