

Shakespeare Study.

Among the many solemn humbugs by which the world is fooled, there is not one more shallow than the pretense of some tragic actors to be considered what are called "students of Shakespeare." If this claim means anything, it presumes that the works of this poet are of such mystic and misty profundity that deep research and kindred inspiration are required to discover his hidden meaning, and these actors are ordained to expound this bible of the stage. Humbug! A tragedy is a great literary effort designed, not to be read or meditated upon, but to be represented before a mixed audience. Its language, therefore, should be clear and unmistakable as it flows from the mouths of the speakers; its action should be clear and perspicuous. If it is not so, then the poet is all at fault. He is not a prophet; his business is not to tell lies about what is to be; so he has no reason to be obscure. There are no two ways about him; he has no reason for misleading or for mystifying the people.

The so-called student of Shakespeare is a narrow-minded fellow who seeks to torture the palpable meaning of trivial passages into what are termed "new readings" for the purpose of rendering himself conspicuous at the expense of the poet, to whom he imputes obscurity, the very worst fault a dramatist can exhibit. If such fellows could arouse the sleeping spirit of the grand old man, recall him like the ghost in "Hamlet" to revisit the glories of the moon, and then submit to him their new readings, I can imagine his reply.

"What on earth does it matter? Either interpretation will serve. I cannot remember which I intended. My dramas were written under the spur of necessity to meet the crying needs of the theater of which I was one of the managers. They will be found to contain errors and blemishes. Let them be so, and do not encourage infatuated worshippers to turn defects into beauties. Nature is full of imperfections, and if it pleased the great author to leave this work so to eternity, why seek perfection in every miserable little heap of dust? These trivial details you bring to my notice do not affect the purpose and shape of my play; and if they concern neither the action nor the passion nor the characters, why make so much ado about nothing? I am neither honored nor flattered by the blind worship bestowed upon my works by some writers. If my existence had depended upon these text grubbers, I should have been shelved two centuries ago between Ben Jonson and Massinger, or buried with Beaumont and Fletcher. I owe my existence to the stage, to the actor. No dramatic poet has any existence in the closet. Out of my thirty-six plays, about a dozen survive. The rest are preserved for the admiration of those who never read them. Each of the dozen will be found to afford a conspicuous and all-absorbing character for the great actor or actress. Whenever a well-written play affords such an opportunity, it will hold its life on the stage.

"The 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' and 'Love's Labor Lost' are read as a matter of duty to the author of 'Hamlet' and 'Othello.' I owe my existence to such actors as Edmund Kean and Garrick, who joined spirits with me, embraced my passion, and embodied my characters. They changed my language and reshaped my work to fit their qualities, and they did it well. This is the way to study Shakespeare."

The actor's power to represent a passion is a gift, not a deliberate artistic effort obtained by study. It is a faculty, to be developed and improved by practice. The poet only affords the actor an opportunity to display his powers; one is the complement of the other in the grand result. The actor who is built on a poet—such is the so-called student—is merely a mouthpiece, not an artist, for he should obtain his inspiration as the poet gets his, out of his inner gifts. I, who say this, am both an actor and a poet, and I speak of what I know.

Then—may I be forgiven for saying so—there are some young women whose education has stopped short somewhere between writing and spelling, who are thrust up into conspicuous positions on the stage, and taking refuge behind their good looks, profess to be students of Shakespeare.

O, the humbug of it all! and how the poor world is fooled by it!—*Dion Boucicault.*

The Purpose of Reading.

Every reader should know the purpose for which he reads. Usually this purpose is either rest, amusement, or what may be called improvement. A boy or girl, tired by work in the shop or house, takes up Hawthorne's "Wonder Book,"—that is reading for rest. Fretted by low marks at school, one becomes absorbed in "Swiss Family Robinson,"—that is reading for amusement. Eager to instruct the mind, you read Bancroft's "History of the United States"—that is reading for improvement.

The three purposes are frequently combined. One may find in reading Macaulay's "Essay on Bacon," rest, amusement, and improvement.

Of these purposes that of improvement of mind and heart is most important. In all reading whose immediate aim is either recreation or pleasure, the remote aim should be the formation of a noble character. No one should read a book without resolving to be aided by it in every right endeavor.

The purpose for which one reads determines the choice of the book. If you are in doubt what to read, form a clear idea of the reason of your reading, and the selection of a proper book is made easy.—*Morgantown Press.*



LACTATED FOOD

Possesses many Important Advantages over all other prepared Foods.

BABIES CRY FOR IT.

INVALIDS RELISH IT.

Makes Plump, Laughing, Healthy Babies. Regulates the Stomach and Bowels.

Sold by Druggists. 25c, 50c, \$1.00.

WELLS, RICHARDSON & CO., BURLINGTON, VT.

Baby Portraits.

A Portfolio of beautiful baby portraits, printed on fine plate paper by patent photo process, sent free to Mother of any Baby born within a year. Every Mother wants these pictures; send at once. Give Baby's name and age.

WELLS, RICHARDSON & CO., Props., Burlington, Vt.

It's Easy to Dye

WITH

DIAMOND DYES

Superior in Strength, Fastness, Beauty, AND Simplicity.

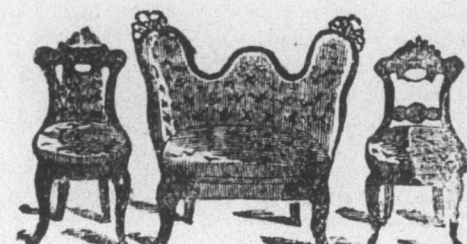
Warranted to color more goods than any other dyes ever made, and to give more brilliant and durable colors. Ask for the Diamond, and take no other. 36 colors; 10 cents each.

WELLS, RICHARDSON & CO., Burlington, Vt.

For Gilding or Bronzing Fancy Articles, USE

DIAMOND PAINTS.

Gold, Silver, Bronze, Copper. Only 10 cents.



JAY W. WILLIAMS

—DEALER IN—

FURNITURE

WILLIAMS-STOCKTON BLOCK,

THIRD DOOR WEST OF MAKEEVER HOUSE, RENNSLAIE, INDR

Rensselaer Marble House



HENRY MACKEY, PROPRIE

—Dealer In—

American and Italian Marble, MONUMENTS, TABLETS, HEADSTONES, SLABS, SLATE AND MARBLE MA

URNS AND VASES.

Front Street, Rensselaer Indiana.

PAINT YOUR BUGGY FOR ONE DOLLAR

By using COIT & CO'S ONE-COAT BUGGY PAINT. Paint Friday, run it to Church Sunday. Eight Fashionable Shades: Black, Maroon, Vermilion, Blue, Yellow, Olive Lake, Brewster and Wagon Greens. No Varnishing necessary. Dees hard with a "shine." One Coat and job is done. Tip top for Lawn Seats, Flower Pots, Baby Carriages, Curtain Poles, Front Doors, Furniture, Screen Doors, Mantels, Iron Fences, in fact everything. Just the thing for the ladies to use about the house.

COIT'S HONEST HOUSE PAINT.

Don't buy a paint containing water or benzine when for the same money you can procure COIT & CO'S PURE PAINT that is warranted to be an HONEST, GENUINE LINED-ON PAINT and free from water and benzine. Demand this brand and take no other. Merchants handling it are authorized by us, in writing, to warrant it to wear 5 YEARS with 3 COATS or 8 YEARS with 2 COATS. See the Latest Styles used in the East now becoming so popular in the West, and up with the times. Try COIT'S HONEST PAINT. You will never regret it. This is the wise is sufficient.

COIT'S FLOOR PAINT WON'T DRY STICKY.

Ever buy Floor Paint that never dried beyond the sticky point, waste a week, spoil the job, then swear? Next time buy COIT'S FLOOR PAINT, 4 suitable shades, warranted to dry hard as a rock over night. No trouble. No swearing.

CAUTION Be suspicious when substitutes are offered by Dealers, stating that "they are as good" as ours. Our paint is the best and most economical. It costs less and gives more profit. Buy COIT & CO., 21 CHICAGO, ILL.

Don't Experiment.

You cannot afford to waste time in experimenting when your lungs are in danger. Consumption always seems at first, only a cold. Do not permit any dealer impose upon you with some cheap imitation of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, but be sure you get the genuine. Because he can make more profit he may tell you he has something just as good, or just the same. Don't be deceived, but insist upon getting Dr. King's New Discovery, which is guaranteed to give relief in all Throat, Lung and Chest affections. Trial bottle free at F. B. Meyer's Drug store. Large Bottles \$1

RICELY REWARDED are those who read this and then act they will find honorable employment that will not take them from their homes and families. The profits are large and sure for every industrious person, many have made and are now making several hundred dollars a month. It is easy for any one to make \$5 and upwards per day, who is willing to work. If her sex, young or old; capital not needed; we start you. No special ability required; you reader, can do it as well as any one. Write to us at once for full particulars, which we mail free. Address Stinson & Co., Portland, Maine.

BEATTY'S

CELEBRATED

Organs and Pianos.

For Catalogues, address, DANIEL F. BEATTY, WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY

\$500,000.—BEATTY'S Organs at gains For particulars, catalog address DANIEL F. BEATTY, Washington, New Jersey.

BEATTY'S ORGANS...Are the Best. Write Daniel F. Beatty, Washington, New Jersey.

BEATTY'S PIANOS...In use Everywhere. Address, Daniel F. Beatty, Washington, New Jersey

LADIES!

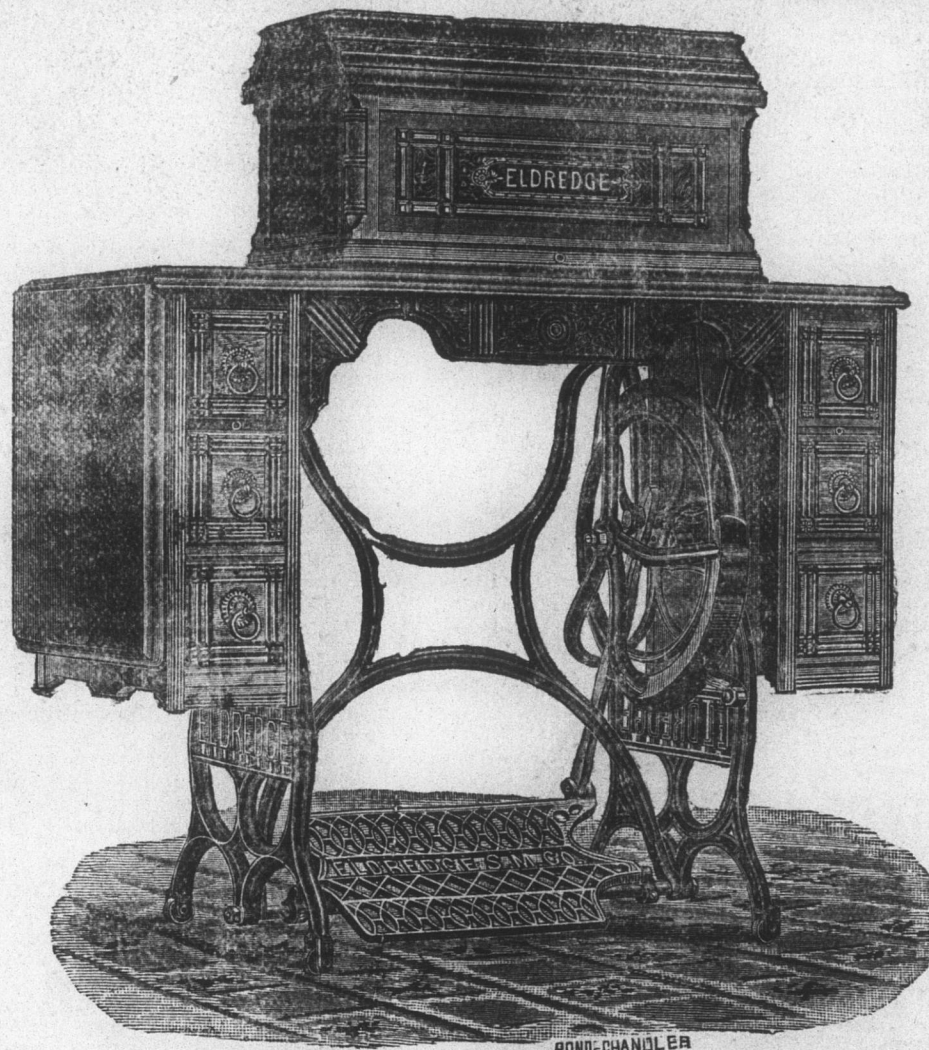
Do YOUR OWN DYING, AT HOME, WITH

Peerless Dyes

They will dye everything. They are sold every where. Price 10c a package.—40 colors. They have no equal for Strength, Brightness, Amount in Packages or for Fastness of Color, or non-fading Qualities. They do not crack or smut.—For sale by FRANK E. MEYER, Rensselaer, Ind. March 23, 1888-19.

INVENTION has revolutionized the world during the last half century. Not least among the wonders of inventive progress is a method and system of work that can be performed all over the country without separating the workers from their homes. Pay liberal; any one can do the work either sex, young or old; no special ability required. Capital not needed; you are started free. Cut this out and return to us and we will send you free something of great value and importance to you, that will start you in business that will bring you in more money right away, than anything else in the world. Grand outfit free. Address True & Co., Augusta, Maine.

THE ELDREDGE LEADS THE WORLD!



MRS. JAS. W. McEWEN, Agent, Rensselaer, Ind.

THE WRIGHT UNDERTAKING ESTABLISHMENT.



WRIGHT, PROPRIE

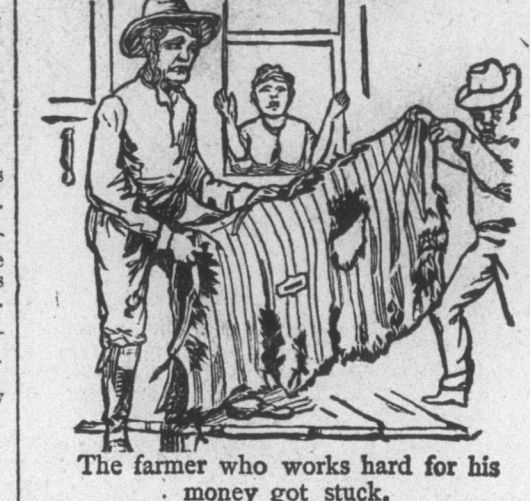
SEA WONDERS exist in thousands of forms, but are surpassed by the marvels of invention. Those who are in need of profitable work that can be done while living at home should at once send their address to Hallet & Co., Portland, Maine, and receive free, full information how either sex, of all ages, can earn from \$5 to \$26 per day and upwards while they live. You are started free. Capital not required. Some have made over \$50 in a single day at this work. All succeed.

Who Got Stuck?

Not the wholesale dealer, Horse Blankets don't tear in his store.

Not the retail dealer, Horse Blankets don't tear there either.

HORSE BLANKETS



The farmer who works hard for his money got stuck.

You need not get stuck if you will ask your dealer for one of the following 5/A Horse Blankets:

- 5/A Five Mile.** Has Five Miles of Warp Threads.
- 5/A Boss Stable.** Strongest Horse Blanket Made.
- 5/A Electric.** Just the thing for Out-Door Use.
- 5/A Extra Test.** Something New, Very Strong.
- 30 other styles** At prices to suit everybody.

[Copyrighted 1888, by WM. AYRES & SONS.]