

Requies 23 June / 15

## SHAKSPEARE.

### HIS HOME AND HOMELAND.

The final of a series of three lectures on the subject of "Shakspeare's home and homeland" was delivered by Professor G. C. Henderson, M.A., in the Prince of Wales Theatre, at the Adelaide University, on Tuesday night. Notwithstanding the unpleasant weather, the audience was fairly large.

The lecturer traced Shakspeare's associations with London. He stated that the portion of the metropolis in which Shakspeare lived, the neighbourhood of St. Paul's Cathedral, was one of the oldest, and at that time one of the busiest, parts. About 200 yards behind St. Paul's Cathedral was the corner of Monkwell and Silver streets, where the poet resided.

#### —Shakspeare's Companions.—

An old map showed the neighbourhood, which had been frequented by the literary minds of the age. This document bore out the traditions associated with the poet. There were plenty of Italians, Dutchmen, Frenchmen, and sailors from the Mediterranean, whom Shakspeare would probably have met, and made companions of, and he would probably have got information from them with regard to their countries. A refreshment house, the Cooper's Arms, now stood on the site of Shakspeare's dwelling. Depositions in a law suit which was presented in 1612 were important, as they proved Shakspeare's place of residence in London—the place close to "Melancholy More-ditch," so ravaged by the plague. When the Shakspeare-Bacon controversy was pondered on, the preface to the first folio by John Heminge and Henri Condell, who had collected and given the plays to the world, should be considered. Such a testimony from men living in the same district, and written seven years after Shakspeare's death, was important.

#### —The Site of the Globe.—

There was a great controversy in London with regard to the site of the Globe—Shakspeare's theatre. One early map (1611) showed the Globe to be near the river, but not so close to the water as the Bearhouse. A map published in 1616 was the most reliable, and this showed the Globe to be an octagonal building, on a line with the Bearhouse, with only two rows of houses separating it from the water. There was a dispute as to whether the Globe had stood on the north or south of what was now called Park street. The early maps were not likely to be incorrect in a considerable degree with regard to the position of a place.

#### —Early Theatrical Profits.—

George Pycroft's picture showing the Globe Theatre, illustrated the pit, where the "groundlings" stood, and the gallery. Those who occupied places in the pit had to pay 1d., and the occupants of the gallery paid 2d. or 3d., according to position. On royal nights the charge would be 1/ (equivalent to 6/ or 7/ now), but that was the highest charge recorded. The theatres were cheaper in those days, but they paid better than the modern theatres, one reason being that not so much was spent in scenery. Very little scenery was used. There might have been a tombstone or a rock. The change of scene was indicated by the raising of a curtain screening a small section of the stage, and by the display of a sign naming the supposed scene. To make up for the lack of scenery descriptive passages were written. A letter to the Lord Chamberlain from Burbage, the actor, written, he thought, in 1628, indubitably proved the association of Shakspeare with the Globe. It was on record that one man interested in a theatre had made the equivalent of £70,000, according to modern values, but it was not known whether this was entirely the result of theatrical venture.

#### —Shakspeare's Prominence.—

A document giving details of the accounts of the royal household proved that in March, 1604, Shakspeare was one of the King's players. He was first on the list of those players who received four yards of red cloth—a custom obtaining—on that occasion. A further document, dated August, 1604, showed that Shakspeare had been a groom of the chamber. The year was evidently an important one for the poet, as he was one of the men instructed to wait upon the Ambassador of Spain. In conclusion, Professor Henderson summed up the points in favour of Shakspeare in the controversy. There was no room, he held, for such a theory as that advanced by those who supported the contention that Bacon was the author of the plays.

The lecture was illustrated by a series of lantern slides, reproducing old maps and documents, and showing views in Shakspeare's London.







# SHAKESPEARE IN LONDON

## FINAL UNIVERSITY LECTURE.

The last of a series of three lectures was delivered by Professor Henderson at the Adelaide University last night to an attentive audience. By the aid of lantern slides of old maps and other views he pointed out the position of the house in London where Shakespeare lived, and also the probable position of the Globe Theatre and other notable places. Shakespeare lived on the corner of Silver street and Monkwell street from 1533 until about 1612. This was one of the oldest and busiest parts of London, where resided folk of all occupations and nationalities. On his way from his lodgings to the Globe he would probably go through Bread street, where Milton lived, and also the locality in which lived most of his actor friends. St. Paul's stands about 200 yards from Shakespeare's lodgings, and a fact worthy of notice is the number of churches round about this district. Some of them were burnt down in the great fire, but the places where they stood are still preserved. An old map of London dated 27 years before Shakespeare went there shows places where actors famous in his time and some of his best friends lived. The original house in which he lived was burnt down, and the Cooper's Arms now occupies the site. It is interesting to note that while Shakespeare was living here nearly all the time he was in London, and was no doubt a rich man, he very seldom went out of London. At St. Giles—which is only a few yards from Shakespeare's lodgings—there are records of two plagues, one in 1603 and one in 1665. The one in 1603 was in Shakespeare's time, and in the records for July there are 14½ columns, comprising 579 names of persons buried there.

An old map dated 1611 was reproduced showing London Bridge with houses built all along it, these, of course, are now done away with. The professor said that London was in rather an excitable state about the position of "the globe" and also its shape, whether round or octagonal. He produced evidence to show the most probable position of "the globe" and also its most probable shape. A picture of the inside of "The Globe," painted in 1872, after Shakespeare's time, was shown. It was seen that the people in the pit had to stand, and the price they had to pay for admission was 1d.—which would be about 6d. of our money—and the price of admission to the gallery would be about 2d. or 3d. The theatre would hold about 3000 people and was a paying concern. There was no elaborateness in the plays at that time. What they lacked in scenery was made up in descriptive poetry, which is the reason why there are such beautiful passages in Shakespeare's plays.

Views of St. Xavier's Cathedral were shown, and also a view of the memorial window to Shakespeare in the cathedral. The Shakespeare memorial, with the recumbent figure of the poet and portraits of his fellow-actors and authors, was shown. In March, 1604, he was one of the King's players, and his name appears first in the list of members of the King's Company. He was also a groom of chamber to James I., and was one of those sent to attend on the Spanish Ambassador, which shows that he was an important person at that time. John Hemming and Henry Condell, fellow-actors of Shakespeare, and shareholders in The Globe Theatre, published the first folio of Shakespeare's plays about seven years after his death, and it is to these men we are indebted for his plays, as most of the original manuscript was burnt in the great fire. These men, the professor said, were most probably the two leading financial members of the theatre. In conclusion, the lecturer said that all the scenery, trees, parks, &c., mentioned in Shakespeare's works related to Warwickshire, where was to be found some of the most beautiful scenery in England.

*Mail 20.6.15*

## UNIVERSITY GATHERING.

### BRILLIANT VOLUNTEER PRAISED.

About 60 members of the Arts and Economics Societies of the Adelaide University were present at the annual combined meeting on Friday night. Professor Mitchell occupied the chair.

A discussion ensued on "The value of small States." Mr. Robinson dealt with the matter from an economic standpoint, and Mr. Frank Williams, B.A., argued from the aspect of their value to civilisation.



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## SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR IDEAS.

### Views of a School Inspector.

Inspector C. R. Long, of the Victorian Education Department, has come to South Australia to teach and to be taught. He will be a prominent figure at the sessions of the Teachers' Congress, and will deliver an address to-day on phases of self-activity on the part of the scholar. Mr. Long is not a stranger to this State. This is his third visit, and he frankly admits, although himself an educationist of considerable experience and authority, that he always goes back to Melbourne with a notebook full of new ideas. He arrived on Saturday morning, but he has several pages filled already. Mr. Long is editor of the departmental publications in Victoria, and these include *The School Paper*, corresponding to our *Children's Hour*, and *The Education Gazette*. He has been invited to the congress by the executive of the Public School Teachers' Association. His remarks to-day will deal with the development of State education in Victoria, with special reference to the work accomplished during the past 10 or 12 years.

#### —Memories of Mr. Hartley.—

"When I first came to South Australia towards the end of 1893," remarked Mr. Long in the course of a chat on Monday afternoon, "Mr. Hartley had developed the primary educational system much in advance of any of the other States. He was himself editing *The Children's Hour* and *The Education Gazette*, and he kindly took me to his home and explained fully how he did the work and what he thought of the value and influence of these magazines. I pushed the ideas in Victoria, and our department introduced *The School Paper*, following on the lines of your *Children's Hour*. I was given the editorship of it, and also later on of *The Education Gazette*, and have occupied those positions ever since. Similar papers, all copied from South Australia, have been made a feature in other parts of the Commonwealth. I have been in receipt of your *Children's Hour*, and I am delighted to find that the best traditions of Mr. Hartley are being followed, and new ideas introduced, by the present editor, Mr. B. S. Roach. I think he is the right man in the right place.

#### —Tilling the Soil.—

"My second visit here was in company with other members of the Royal Commission on Technical Education. At the head of that commission, as Chairman, was Mr. Theodore Fink, who at that time was an active member of Parliament. His work in connection with education was so excellent that he received the thanks of Parliament, and he has been placed on the council of the University, and on that of Public Education. One of the main results of that visit was the introduction into Victoria of the school garden and the agricultural plot, which were adopted by the elementary schools. So persuaded is the Education Department of our State of the value of this training to boys and girls, that we have an organizing inspector of horticulture and of agriculture. We have men who are devoting their whole time to seeing how they can get educational value out of tilling the soil. Valuable experimental operations are being conducted in the small schools.

#### —More Ideas.—

Professor Henderson, referring to Mr. Williams, said he knew of no young man with brighter prospects for a brilliant career. Mr. Williams, who had gained the Rhodes scholarship, was sacrificing his career to the Empire's call, and was going to the war, not as an officer, but as a private soldier. Australia was a small nation, and it was such men as those who conclusively proved the value of small nations. The British Empire, so added, was fortunate in possessing the "right kind" of men.