THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 1870. JANLARY 17, 1870

SHAKESPEARE | love him fell at once into the snare.

The "True Story" of Her Life, Done Up in the Stowe Style.

[This is the clover production of an anonymons English magazine writer, who has dal to exercise his power of satire, to display his knowledge of Shakespeare, and to show his wit, by torturing the words of the great poet into self-accusations of secret crime. It. has always been supposed that the domestic relations of William Shakespeare and Anne

Hathaway were of the pleasantest sort; and whether or not the reader of this brochure remain of that opinion, they will certainly smile at the plausibility of the author's theory to the contrary. It is amusing as a literary curiosity; and the oritical reader will find in it enough merit to condone for the erroneous imputation as to the motives of the author of the "True Story of Lord and Lady Byron."] the "True Story of Lord and Lord and Lord pyton." Although it cannot be denied that the im-proved tasks and higher moral sense of the more educated classes, both in England and America, have completely driven the plays of William Shakespeare from the stage, yet this advance is unfortunately more than counter-

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tractive language; and the editors of these dangerous works, not content with exalting dangerous works, hot content with exacting to the skies a genius only too likely to en-chant and enthral the unwary, endeavor to blind the judgment of the unthinking reader by unblushingly repeating as truth the ful-some adulation lavished upon Mr. Shake speare by the boon companions of the tavem wherein he was accustomed to seek oblivion of the dark thoughts by which his soul was haunted, in the wildest excesses of madden-

that brilliant and seductive genius, which it was hoped they had escaped.

In order still further to ensnare and allure

the thoughtless, these cheap editions are too

often garnished with biographical notices of

the author's life, described in garish and at-

from

ing intoxication. Thus it is upon the authority of his fellow-rioters that we are repeatedly told that he

was a "Centle spirit, from whose pen Large streams of honey and sweet needar flow."

"The man whom Nature's self had made

To mock herself, and Truth to initiate With kingly counter, under minic shade; Our pleasant Willy."

Our pleasant Willy." Truth to imitate ! we shall presently see with fell intent. Again, it has been said :-

"A gentler shepherd nowhere may be found."

Such is the magic of genius, even when the life of its possessor is known to have been one of lewd and unhallowed riot, that it is a fact that the poet's personality, fate, and hap-piness have had an interest for the whole civilized world, which we will venture to say was unparallelled. It is within the writer's recol-lection how, in the obscure mountain town where she spent her early days, the life of William Shakespeare had penetrated, and the belief in the gentleness of "fancy's child" was

aniversal. All this while it does not appear to occur to the thousands of unreflecting readers that they are listening merely to the story of his 77-866 (17 88-861 (208) fellow-mummers, and that the one witness whose evidence would be best worth having

answer was a frank, ontopoken avowal of her love for him -giving herself to him heart and tressure of affection he had hand. The secured was like a vision of a lost heaven to a soul in hell. But he could follow his own maxim, he could

"Look like the innocent dower, But be the scrpent under it."

Before the world, therefore, and to his intimates, he was the successful fiance, con-scious all the while of the deadly secret that lay cold at the bottom of his heart. Not all at once did the full knowledge of

the dreadful reality into which she had enthe dreadful reality into which she had en-tered come upon the young wife. She knew vaguely, from the wild avowals of the first hours of their marriage, that there was a dreadful secret of gnilt; that Mr. Shake-speare's soul was torn with agonies of re-motse. In one of her moonlight walks near the crab-tree, which, from Mr. Shakespeare's being so frequently seen near it, tradition, though unans-picious of the dreadful truth—has connected with his name, there came an hour of revels. with his name, there came an hour of revelation-an hour when, in a manner which left no kind of room for doubt, she beheld her husband interring the corpse of one of those unfortunate minor playwrights, whom he had a morbid passion for destroying, after parloin-ing the plots of their inferior dramas, which genius then rendered immortal, and saw full depth of the abyss of infamy which the her marriage was expected to cover, and un-derstood that she was expected to be the advance is unfortunately more than counter-balanced by the enormous increase of cheap editions of his works, daily issuing from a corrupt and venal press; thus bringing the unreflecting populace and guileless youth of both countries again under the power of cloak and the accomplice of this villary. It was to their lonely country house in Warwickshire that the victims were one by one enticed by him, when he returned there from the wild orgies of his tavern life in London; and there can be no doubt that a dark suspicion of the dreadful truth had flashed across the mind of the unhappy Robert Greene, when he wrote his dying exhortation to his friends, warning them sgainst the "painted monsters" of whom Shakespeare's troop was composed:-"Yes, trust them not: for there is among them an

trust them not: for there is among them an upstart crow, beautified with our feathers, that with his tiger's heart wrapped in a player's hide," etc.; and even Dr. Johnson, though he appears to have been too careless or too obtase to penetrate farther into the mystery, admits that "he fied to London from the terror of a criminal prosecution."

The hasty marriage of a youth scarcely nineteen with a woman of twenty-six is thus explained. He required an accomplice, a clock; a gentle, uncomplaining wife to dwell in retirement in the lonely country house this London roisterer was compelled to maintain at a distance from the scene of his dramatic

triumphs. We have said that the young wife now beheld the full depths of the infamy her mar-riage was to cover. It was then that he bade her in his own forcible and terrible words:-

And see a fearful sight of blood and death.

All on a heap like to a slaughtered lamb In this detested, dark, blood-drinking pit, ng receptacle

As kateful as Cocytus' misty month. Look for thy reward Among the nettles at the elder tree Which overhangs the mouth of this same pit."

The evidences of an agonized conscience are so thickly strewn throughout his works, that we might almost quote at random:---

"I, as his host Not bear the knife myself."

"Oh, my offense is rank, it smells to Heaven, It hath the primal eldest curse upon it." "Now doth he feel His secret murders sticking on his hands."

"Better be the dead Whom we, to gain our peace, have sent to peace. "And all our yesterdays, Have lighted fools to dusty death."

for which the only possible charity on her part was the supposition of insanity. He himself alludes to it, with his usual sophis-try, where he speaks of "his eye in a fine try, where he speaks of "his sye in a fine frenzy rolling." Rows sheds a significant light on these periods, by telling us that about those times Shakespeare was drunk day after day with Ben Jonson, Marlowe, etc. A day or two after the birth of her first child, Susanna, Mr. Shakespeare's room, and told her that her mother, good Mistrees Hathaway was dead. A day of

Mistress Hathaway, was dead. A day or two after the birth of the second child, Hamnet, he came with still greater suddenness into her room, and told her that her father, the vene-rable Master Hathaway, was dead; and a day or two after the birth of the third child, Judith, he came with greater suddonness than ever into the chamber, and harrowed her feelings by announcing the death of worthy Mas-ter John a Combe.

ter John a Combe. Never has more divine strength of love ex-isted in a woman. Her conduct in these try-ing circumstances displays the breadth of Mrs. Shakespeare's mind, and, above all, her clear divining, moral discrimination: never mistaking wrong for right in the slightest degree; fully alive to the criminality of Mr. Shakespeare and his guilty daughter's mur-derous proceedings; yet with a moreifulness that made allowance for every weakness and pitied every sin. On one occasion, after their removal to New Place, she came upon him, sitting with the partner of his guilt, beneath the fatal mulberry tree. She went up to the fatal mulberry tree. She went up to them, and he, looking down upon the grave among the nettles, with a sarcastic smile, said: "When will those three down there meet us again ?"

She answered, "Not in Heaven, I fear." During all this trial, strange to say, her be-lief that the good in Mr. Shakespeare would finally conquer, remained unshaken. She forgave him even the cruelty with which he strove to make her ridiculous in the eyes of forgave the world, by his constant allusions to her being older than himself, and his false and unmanly attacks upon her disposition :---

"Too old, by Heaven! still let the woman take An elder than herself." "Crabbed age and youth cannot live together."

"Age, I do abhor thee! Age, I do defy thee."

"O spite! too old to be engaged to young !" "Curster than she: why, 'tis impossible!" "As old as Sibyl, and as curst and shrewd As Socrates' Xantippe, or a worse."

All these and more ribald and unmanly insults and obscenity fell at her pitying feet

It has been thought by some friends who have read the proof sheets of the foregoing pages, that the author should give more specifically her authority for these statements.

The great-great-grandmother of the present writer was one of those pilgrim mothers, devoted companion of certain less widely known but surely not less deserving pilgrim fathers, who were despatched at the expense of an effete mother country to assist in colonizing the British possessions of the American continent. The writer's venerable ancestor and namesake, Mistress H- B. Cherstow, had occasion, before quitting her native land, to visit Warwickshire, and the circumstances which led her there at that time originated a friendship and correspondence with Mistress Shakespeare, which was always regarded as one of the greatest acquisitions of that visit. She there received a letter from Mrs. Shakespeare, indicating that she wished to have some private, confidential communication upon important subjects, and inviting her for that purpose to spend a day with her at her country-seat near Stratford.

Mrs. H- B. Cherstow went, and spen day with Mrs. Shakespeare alone, and object of the invitation was explained to Mrs. Shakespeare was in such a state of he that her physician, worthy Dr. Hall (the l band of the abnormal offspring "born bitterness and nurtured in convulsion"), warned her that she had very little time live. She was engaged in those duties retrospections, which every thoughtful per fin is necessary when coming deliberately with open eyes to the boundaries of mortal life,

and clearly the mixture of ferocity and hypo-orisy characterizing the internal life of the youth in his father's slaughter-house, where, as old Aubrey tells us. 'he exercised his father's trade, and when he killed a calf would do it in high style, and make a spe dwelt on the account given by Davis of his being "much given to all unluckiness in stealing venison and rabbits," and showed how habits which, with less susceptible fibre and coarser strength of nature, were tolerable for his companions, were deadly to him; unhinging his nervous system, which she considered might have been still further unhinged, when Sir Lucy, whose venison ho stole, "often had him whipped, and some-times imprisoned," and she recalled to the listener's mind how the same chron-ieler adds, "but his revenge was great," quoting his own terrible description of the state of mind to which he had gradually been brought by unrestrained indulgence in every description of criminality and excess:-welt on the account given by Davis of his

Art thou not sorry for these heinous deeds ?"

aron.--Ay, that I had not done a thousand more, Even now I curse the day (and yet I think Few come within the compass of my curse) Wherein I did not some notorious ill: As kill a man or, else devise his death."

As kill a man or, else decise his death." Mrs. H.— B. Cherstow was so impressed and excited by the whole scene and the recital, that she beggd for two or three days to delibe-rate before forming an opinion. She took the memorandum with her to London, and gave a day or two to the consideration of the sub-ject. She wrote to Mrs. Shakespeare that while this act of consideration for the morals of the people of England did seem to be called for, yet if these dreadful disclosures were published during the lifetime of Mistress Susannah Hall, her husband, or relations, some steps might probably be taken to vindi-cate her reputation and Mr. Shakespeare's cate her reputation and Mr. Shakespeare's memory: but that by waiting until they should all have been called to their account, there would be no possibility of refuting the charges contained in the memorandum, which would thus become a document of considerable marketable value.

There is no doubt that the present writer's venerable ancestor was influenced in making these remarks by that prudent forethought for the worldly advancement of her family which regulated her course through life, and has caused her memory to be gratefully revered by whole generations of Cherstows; she probably foresaw that, if published at a fitting moment, these dreadful disclosures might be made instrumental, under Providence, in providing meat for those infant blossoms of the Cherstow family she was about to conduct to America. After the death of the first H-B. Cher-

stow, her descendants sought eagerly among her papers for the important memorandum in question; but failed to discover it, and, indeed, it had long been supposed to be irrevocably lost or destroyed, when the providential fall (through dry rot) of the house inhabited by the first generation of Cherstows brought the missing document to light, when it was at once appropriated by the present writer, as an invaluable means of doing justice to the an invaluable means of doing justice to the memory of one whom she considers the most remarkable woman the sixteenth century has produced. No such memoir has appeared on the part of her friends, and Mr. Shakespeare's editors have the ear of the public; sowing far and wide those poisonous effusions of his genius, which are eagerly gathered up and read by an undiscriminating community. However, Anne Hathaway Shakespeare has

an American name, and an American exist-ence, and reverence for pure womanhood is,

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the contractor. Bidders are notified that the Department will quire, as a condition of the contract, that the velopes and wrappers shall be manufactured stored in such manner as to ensure security aga loss by fire or theft. The manufactory must at times be subject to the inspection of an agent of Department, who will require the slipulations of contract to be faithfully observed. The dies for embossing the postage scamps on satisfaction of the Postmaster-General, in the style, and they are to be provided, renewed, kept in order at the expense of the contractor. dopartment reserves the right of requiring new for any stamps, or denominations of stamps not made without extra charge. Becimens of the stamped envelopes and wr pers now in use may be seen at any of the princ partice as the style and quality fixed by the depar-ment as a standard for the pew contract; bid ment as a standard for the pew contract; bid ment as a standard for the namufactured velopes, wrappers, and boxes, and make their scored being and boxes, and make their accordingly.

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ceived at this Bureau until 13 o'clock noon, Jana at, 1870. In the argregate there are about 390 Guns, 354 C risges, and 26 157 Projectiles. Echedules in detail the at fields at each yard will be furnished on ap cation to this Bureau. Bidders will state the number of guns, carriag implements, and projectiles they desire to purch at each yard separately, specifying the calibre-gun, kind of carriage, whether broadside or piv and the kind of projectiles. The gins, etc., will be delivered at the resp tive navy yards, and must be removed by the pi-chaser or purchasers within ten days after the contance of his or their bid. But no deliveries w be made of any article until the parties purchased shall have deposited with the paymaster of the ma-yard the full amount of the purchase money in ea-case.

case. Many of the guns are new, and all are served able. Bidders will therefore offer accordingly, offer for these articles as old from or wood with

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has never spoken at all. Nay, more, this wit-ness, this unhappy but devoted wife, who was a being possessed of an almost supernatural power of moral divination, and a grasp of the 60°E15.AU 8 very highest and most comprehensive things. that made her lightest opinions singularly that made her lightest opinions singularly impressive, has been assumed to have been nnworthy of her accomplished husband; and the artless Mr. Moore, in his life of the lately-unmasked demon, Lord Byron, thus 00 617,303 28-070-03 49.000.0 alludes to this angelic woman:—" By whatever austerity of temper or habits the poets Dante and Milton may have drawn upon themselves such a fate, it might be expected 80 007.11 80.802.0 \$8.47.72 60 635.9 that the 'gentle Shakespeare' would have stood exempt from the common calamity of 80 603.24 his brethren. But amongst the very few facts of his life that have been transmitted to 60/260.1 us there is none more clearly proved than the 60.010.00 unhappiness of his marriage." It was of this one witness, whose faithful

lips were sealed by affection, and of her terri-ble existence while her husband was rioting in London, shut up in the lonely country home made hideous to her by her knowledge of the dark and guilty secret hidden within its walls, that the post was evidently thinking when he wrote the awful lines:---

"But that I am forbid To tell the secrets of my prison house, I could a tale unfold, whose lightest word Would harrow up my soul;"

but she remained silent, even to her own parents, whose feelings she magnanimously spared.

The veil which has hitherto covered this dark history may now be withdrawn. The time has come when the truth may be told. All the actors in the scene have long disap-peared from the stage of mortal existence, and passed, let us have faith to hepe, into a world where they would desire to explate their faults by instituting-did not the lapse of time unfortunately render all scientific investigation useless - a coroner's inquest upon the remains which, several centuries carlier, would have been found beneath a certain crab and a certain mulberry tree, in the vicinity of Stratford-upon-Avon. From the height at which he might have

been happy as a most successful dramatist, and the insband of an almost divine woman. Mr. Shakespeare fell into the depths of secret criminal homicide, assisted; in the latter part of his career, by a blood relation—discovery must have been utter ruin and expulsion from rivilized society. From henceforth this guilty, damning

ecret became the ruling force of his lifefilling him with remorse and anguish and in-sane dread of detection. His various friends, seeing that he was wretched, pressed marriage upon him, In an hour of rackless desperation, he pr

posed to Anne Hathaway. The world well knows that Mr. Shakespears had the gift of expression, and will not be surprised that he wrote a very beautiful letter. It ran thus:-"To the celestial, my soul's idol, the most

beatified Anne Hathaway. In her excellent white bosom, these:---

"Doubt that the stars are fire," Doubt that the sun doth mover Doubt truth to be a flar, But never doubt I love.

O dear Anne, I am ill at these numbers; have not art to reckon my groans; but that I love thee best, O! most best, believe it. Thine ever, most dear lady, while this machine is to him. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE."

"What if this cursed hand Were thicker than itself with brother's blood."

"Oh, wretched state, Oh, bosom black as death," etc. etc. Any one who reads the tragedies of Mac-

beth, Hamlet, Titus Andronicus, etc., with this story in his mind, will see that it is true. Many women would have been utterly crushed by such a disclosure: some would have field from him immediately and errors. have fied from him immediately, and exposed and denounced the crime. Mrs. Shakespeare did neither. She would neither leave her husband nor betray him; nor would she for one moment justify his sin; and hence came thirty-two years of convulsive struggle, in which sometimes for a time the good angel appeared to cam ground and then the soul appeared to gain ground, and then the evil one returned with sevenfold vehemence.

His eldest daughter, Susanna, for whom his preference is so plainly shown in his will, became the partner of his guilt. Mr. Shake-spears argued his case with her, with his noble wife, and with himself, with all the sophistries of his powerful mind:—

"Do what you will, to you it doth belong Yourself to pardon of self-doing crime." " Tis better to be vile, than vile esteemed."

"I will acquaintance strangle, and look strange." "I will acquaintance strangle, and look strange." "No more be grieved at that which thou-hast done: Roses have thorns, and sliver fountains mud; Cloud and eclipses stain both moon and sun, And loathsome canker lives in sweetest bud, All men make faults, and even I in this, Authorizing thy trespass with compare, Myself corrupting, salving thy amiss, Excusing thy sins more than thy sins are." These devilish sophistries, though unable to shake his lofty-minded wife, were ruinous to the unfortunate child of sin, born with a curse upon her, over whose wayward nature

curse upon her, over whose wayward nature Mrs. Shakespeare watched with a mother's tenderness; though the task was a difficult one, from the strange, abnormal propensity to murder inherited by the object of her cares. But though he could thus warp this young soul, his divine wife followed him through all his sophistical reasonings with a keener reason. She besought and implored him in the name of his better nature and by all the glorious things he was capable of being and doing; and she had just power enough to convulse and agonize, but not power enough to subdue.

These thirty-two years, during which Mrs. Shakespeare was struggling to bring her husband back to his better self, were a series of passionate convulsions. Towards the last she and her husband saw less and less of each other, and he came more decidedly under evil influences, and seemed to acquire a sort of hatred to her.

a sort of hatred to her. "If ere I loved her, all that love is gone: My heart to her but as in guest-wize sojourned." He had tried his strength with her fully; he had attempted to confuse her sense of right and wrong, and bring her into the ranks of those convenient women who regard mar-riage as a sort of friendly alliance to cover murder on both sides. When her husband described to her the Continental cities where wide the sense institute the set of the set described to her the Continental cities where midnight assassinations were habitual things, and the dark marriages in which complaisant couples mutually agreed to form the cloak for each other's murders, and gave her to under-stand that in this way alone could she have a peaceful and friendly life with him, she simply said, "Master Shakespeare, I am too truly thy friend to do this." Mr. Shakespeare's treatment of his wife during the sensitive periods that preceded the births of her three children was always marked by paroxysms of unmanly brutality.

The woman who had already learned to marked by parorysms of unmanly brutality,

At that period some cheap performance Mr. Shakespeare's plays at the Globe The were in contemplation, intended to bring works before the eyes of the masses. Un these circumstances, some of Mrs. Sha peare's friends had proposed the question her whether she had not a responsibility society for the truth; whether she did r to allow those dramas to gain influence the popular mind, by giving a silent con to what she knew to be utter falsehoods. Mrs. Shakespeare's whole life had I passed in the most heroic self-abnegation

elf-sacrifice, and she had now to con whether one more act of self-denial was required of her before leaving this wor namely, to declare the absolute truth. matter at what expense to her feelings. For this reason it was her desire to rec the whole history to a person wholly ou the sphere of theatrical or local feeli which might be supposed to influence the belonging to the county, or to the profest in life in which the events really has in order that he might she helped by happ person's views in making up an opinion ; her own duty.

The interview had almost the solemnity death-bed avowal. Mrs. Shakespeare st the facts which have been embodied ab and gave to the writer's revered ancest the first to bear the henceforth immo-name of H-B. Cherstow-a brief me randum of the whole, with the dates affi-

The words and actions of Mrs. Shakesp during the last part of her life seemed n like those of a blessed being, detached f earth, than those of an ordinary mo-What impressed Mrs. H- B. Chen more strongly than anything else, was Shakespeare's conviction that Mr. Si speare was now a redeemed spirit, and he looked back with shame and regret on immense destruction of human life of he had been guilty; and that, if he co speak or act in the case, he would desire prohibit the representation of those dan ous dramas, the seductive poetry of which had made the vehicle of his morbid loy. slaughter, and unworthy passion for h

berry tree. Mrs. Shakespeare's strongly philosoph mind had become satisfied that Mr. Sh speare was one of those unfortunately stituted persons in whom the balance of

stituted persons in whom the balance of ture is so critically hung that it is always danger of dipping towards insanity, and in certain periods of his life he was so under the influence of mental disorder as to be fully responsible for his actions. She went over, with a brief and clear an sis, the history of his whole life as she thought it out in the lonely musings of widowhood. She went through the mism agement of his infancy—how he was allo to mule and puke in his nurse's arms; of neglected childhood, whining, and creep like snail unwillingly to school; yet so pur cious in deceit, as when there to sho shining morning face. She sketched bo shining morning face. She sketched boldly

we think American more to of the pr of pure publicati	a reverence for pure woma , proved, by these pages, a characteristic; and, what the point, there can be lit off likely to accrue to one American womanhood thro on by, it is hoped, a not	to be an is even the doubt specimen ugh their unworthy	First Cab Those v which the All lett No Bill signed. J before go Specie
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