

# The Middleburgh Post.

Published every Thursday.

Geo. W. Wagenseller,  
Editor and Proprietor.

Subscription \$1.50 per year.

which must be paid in advance when sent outside the county.

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Thursday, Nov. 12, 1896.

### Shakespeare vs. Bacon.

Shakespeare rightly has claim to the authorship of the famous drama which the friends of Bacon are claiming for the latter. Bacon's friends in claiming that Shakespeare was not well educated are establishing a strong point in favor of Shakespeare's authorship. These plays show no originality of research in the line of tales. All the plots are taken from older romances and certainly it required no great skill to arrange them. The fables may all be traced as follows:

(a.) *The Two Gentlemen of Verona.* The writer of this play is indebted for many of its incidents to the *Academy of Sidney* and the *Diana of Montemayor*.

(b.) *The Merchant of Venice.* Whoever wrote this play is indebted for a portion of it to *Pecorone of Giovanni Fiorentino* and for another portion to *Gesta Romanorum*.

(c.) *Romeo and Juliet.* The story of this play was first related by a novelist of *Vicenza* as early as 1535. It was also the subject of a novel by *Blandell* in 1544, *Bristeau*, *Brooke*, and *Painter* all used this tale before it was used in these plays.

(d.) *Hamlet.* With the exception of the grave digger's scene the foundation of the play is to be found in *Sano Grammaticus*. Even the famous soliloquy, "To be or not to be," is a literal translation from *Plato*.

(e.) *As you like it.* This play has no greater originality than *Romeo and Juliet*. Its fable has its source in *Thomas Lodge's Rosalinde*.

(f.) *Mid-summer Night's Dream.* *The Taming of the Shrew.* *Loves Labor Lost.* *The Comedy of Errors.* *Julius Caesar* and nearly every one can be traced to a former production for its fable.

A varied and perfect knowledge of science and art and the habits and customs of different classes of society which these dramas exhibit can best be explained by the foregoing exposition. This is certainly a satisfactory answer to the question, "Was Shakespeare a lawyer, or surgeon, or botanist, or sailor, or artisan, or soldier, or linguist, or historian, or only a poet, priest or a monk?" We are approaching the truth. We know he was an actor and knew what kind of plays he wanted on his boards. As for the original scientific ideas and technical information found in the plays, this small amount could have been acquired with very little exertion. All the vulgarity and obscenity in these plays, no one doubts, belongs to *William Shakespeare*.

The Latin and French quotations are imperfect and incorrect, clearly showing that no mastery mind such as *Bacon* possessed could have been connected with their authorship. Shakespeare's connection with the stage and his knowledge of its requirements inspired him to a careful study of what the people wanted. This course of thinking led to the long list of plays now presented everywhere the English language is spoken.

The claim of *Baconians* that the plays were never claimed by Shakespeare and were not attributed to him until nearly half a century after his death can be met by the fact that *Milton*, in his sonnet, in 1632, 16 years after the death of Shakespeare, acknowledged the latter as the writer of dramas.

To meet the claim that *Bacon* wrote the plays, it is but necessary to cite the fact that *Bacon* possessed a mastery mind whose fondness for pleasures existed in the pursuit of scientific researches. His time and energy were ever spent in philosophical investigations and even gave his life for the science he sought to develop. *Bacon* was entirely too busy and too much enraptured in philosophy to be found in the lower calling of writing dramas for the amusement of a fun-loving and vulgar people.

It has been proved that the author of Shakespeare had a keen insight into the philosophy of *Montaigne*, whom *Bacon* is known to have studied. This, however, is no argument against Shakespeare, for he as well as *Bacon* may have studied that

French thinker, against whose theory Shakespeare wrote his *Hamlet*.

The striking agreement between Shakespeare and Bacon in respect to their philosophy and conception of ideas can but indicate that Shakespeare as a friend and favorite of Bacon has been led into many mysteries by this statesman. Moreover it is just as likely that Shakespeare has of his own accord studied *Bacon*, for in the work of this accomplished scholar and statesman we find not a word mentioned about Shakespeare—a new proof of the indifference with which high-learned ignorance passes by the truly great.

In brief, all such arguments are presented by a narrow, vague, school-intelligence, which will not understand that a man of genius can, without any academic training, attain to the highest knowledge of things by the intuition of his genius which is clinging with a thousand nourishing threads to the great and noble in this life. But this highest knowledge of things which we ascribe to Shakespeare must be understood in a far different, in a far higher sense, than that which high-learned pedantry knows. For what of real learning, of fundamental knowledge and of the principle of things, those exact scholars have pointed out to us in Shakespeare, is all vain lumber full of conscious purpose. Most unpleasant seems that idea to those mechanical scholars, especially to those who are members of the professors' guild, those educated fools, that the higher acknowledged genius was an educated man in the sense of their narrow-minded jargon; that this all-comprehensive genius was never a disciple of their stiff, unerring rules.

Let them cherish envy and jealousy: Shakespeare has many companions in this misfortune. It is now generally acknowledged that *Dante*, *Tasso*, *Calderon*, *Musset*, *Rousseau*, etc., etc., had like Shakespeare, but little schooling: while the German poets of the Middle ages, *Motiere*, *Burns*, and many others, rose to eminence without any school preparation. *Schiller's* education was but superficial, and *Goethe*, as modern scholars claim, had but little Greek. Whence was *Byron's* knowledge of history, and his manifold learning of antiquity, of which we can here and there find pedantic traces? In school, he was the most ignorant scholar and scarcely attended college. We regret that we cannot number among these the Greek classic writers. They of course were highly learned by nature, for they understood—Greek. A peculiar race, these Hellenes, endowed with uncommon mind for their children could speak the Ionic dialect?

In Shakespeare, we can observe, unfortunately, no more than the keen-eyed observer, which is the characteristic of every great poet. The knowledge he is said to have had of natural science, is the same as that of *Robert Burns*. To every experienced and unbiased mind it is evident that Shakespeare put forth the same effort to attain a general knowledge in every department of learning, as he did in collecting from chronicles, from the ballads of all nations, and from every possible translation, the materials for his dramas. The wonderful intelligence of Shakespeare increases our reverence for him, for it throws into clear light, the lofty opinion he had of his calling, and how keenly sensible he was of the dignity of his mission. Those fine critics on the authorship of Shakespeare have presented us another most amusing argument wherein they allude to a passage in "Troilus and Cressida" according to which Shakespeare knew, or at least anticipated *Newton's* law of gravitation. The latter would of course prove of prophetic genius. In regard to the other, *Galileo's* scientific discoveries were surely not long a secret to Shakespeare, since they doubtless made their way to England as speedily as through all other parts of Europe. But even for this scientific knowledge the assertion, that *Bacon* is the author of the Shakespearean dramas, is most absurd, for he would by no means have kept his discoveries of the laws of gravitation secret before the world!

Further, the author of the Shakespearean dramas is by his critics proclaimed as the one who long before *Harvey* knew the circulation of blood. Quite true; for if Shakespeare was a butcher boy—and his fine critics admit that his knowledge in that trade was unrivalled—we believe that that important point did not remain unnoticed by the keen-eyed Shakespeare, and as such, he well knew, every time he butchered a ram what about that point there may once be found in Shakespeare's work. But had *Bacon* observed that fact, he would have announced it as a scientific discovery,

but would never have made of it such grand poetical applications. For if *Lord Bacon*, as *Pope* calls him, the "wisest, brightest, meanest of mankind," had been this great poet, he would have given us besides the Shakespearean drama something poetical about the manners and customs of the court of his time. But the few lines of poetry which we truly know to have been produced by him are a miserable pedantic chattering.

It is also confirmed by every psychologist that as mean and contemptible a character as *Bacon* could never have been the author of this sublime poetry; of a creation that breathes forth the breath of the very highest. There has lately appeared an article by *Eugene Reichel*, in which the statesman, *Lord Chancellor Bacon*, is denied the authorship of "Novum Organum." Here it would now be for us to assert that *Bacon*, since he was so intimate with Shakespeare, is for his philosophy indebted to the great poet.

### An Enigma to be Solved.

All through this late campaign the familiar saying was that *Franklin* township was the hot-bed for the Free silverites. Let us see. There were 181 votes for *McKinley* and 64 votes for *Bryan*. The claim right along was that 50 to 75 republicans would vote for *Bryan*. The stupidity of such a claim is apparent. There were more democrats voting for *McKinley* than republicans voting for *Bryan* or the would-be leaders counted their chickens before they were hatched. In 1892 Harrison received 197 votes in *Franklin* township and *Cleveland* 61 just 3 votes less than *Bryan*. Who can explain what became of the Free Silver votes in *Franklin* township?

Wonderful are the cures accomplished by Hood's Sarsaparilla and yet it is only because Hood's Sarsaparilla, the one true blood purifier, makes pure, rich, healthy, life-giving blood.

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Pennsylvania Deitsch.

Mauch Chunk Democrat

Schiffelstown, October 21, 1896.  
Mister Dooker:—Ich mus confessa os ich net orrick uff in der kaer-rich net, awer's shpite nich now os ich net genga bin geshter, weil der Porra Mohler, according tzu de leiter opinion dsh in sbteldle, hat'n ivver uns gooty peddlich delivered, un si Potter Unser, sawzt der Johny Honnaberger, war'n first raty delusion uf der subject fun der laction, Der Porra Muhler is'n ivver us-sharter mon, un ar is about so goot of gapost in der politics bisness os in der shrifft, wo sell is ordlich feel'gsawt. Un now will ich der's nei Fodder Unser gevva, wardt for wardt, according tzu'm Johany si cheografiek report:

"Unser Fodder dar du bist in Englund, Rodekindt is di grosser hawna. Luss di koenig reich aw cooma noch America. Di willa mus gadu waerr in der United States so we in Englund; geb uns aw'n chance for'n shave fun de guld bender, geb de commona leit orders so uf unser side shittinna missa yusht for guld.

Un oh! Fodder Rodekindt, mer missa's aw confessa os mer uns ols fersinduet hen un de shafflet un dawg-lehner gahumbud un garaw-bit onn orders direct fun diner English headquarters.

Awer now gookts orrick dudder-ich doh in America, un oh! lever Fodder Rodekindt, mer missa uns uf dich ferlussa for hilf, mer du'n all unser beshta un prowera de dumma commona schafflet tzu kittza un yoomer, un humbugga we mer ols hen awer so gevva nix mae un uns, lausha uns hushd uns un blackgarda uns ols yusht diek keppicha guld-bugs. Un now du gooter grooser Fodder Rodekindt, si mit uns, un by uns un help uns now hushd des ea mohl, un wan mer de lection gawinna, ei don, sell settled de gons bis-ness un dut de Democraetich-Republicawshin humbug politics ob-wiekla un uf usa for net wennicher os a hoonert yohr, un tzu deer, oh! lever Fodder Rodekindt, gevva mer all de ear, un donk un hartliekheit for immer un for immer, Awmen!"  
Sell is now ordlich good, is's now net? Anyhow, es du'ts for desmohl.  
PIT SCHWEFELBENNER.

### County Endeavor Convention

The first annual Christian Endeavor Convention of Snyder county was held in Selingsgrove, November 5 and 6, 1896, commencing on Thursday at 9.30 a. m. with registration of delegates.

10.00—Moved and seconded that Rev. Barb be elected chairman pro. tem. Moved and seconded that a nominating committee be appointed consisting of one delegate from each society represented. Adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Thursday Afternoon.  
2.00—Song Service led by A. S. Wagenseller.

2.30—Convention in the hands of the chairman. Moved and seconded that the organization of county union be postponed until Friday. Carried.

3.00—Reports of societies.  
3.25—Music, Solo Miss Ida Snyder.

3.30—What Christ will do for us as a County Union, Rev. Haas.

4.00—Adjournment.

Thursday Evening.  
Prayer service for Armenia led by C. R. Botsford.

7.30—Address of Welcome by C. B. Harman. Response to the address of welcome by Rev. Hilbish.

8.30—Address: Despening of the Spiritual Life, Rev. Barb.

Music: Solo, Miss Anna Phillips.

Friday Morning.  
6.30—Sunrise Praise and Promise Service, James Moyer presiding.

9.30—Prayer service led by Miss Mayne Romig.

10.00—Open Parliament, "Committee," Miss O. Schure.

10.00—Question Box, Rev. D. E. McLain, Middleburgh.

11.00—Ten minutes talks on the relation of the Christian Endeavorer to Missions, F. R. Wagner, G. O. Ritter.

Friday Afternoon.  
2.00—The following were elected as officers: Pres., Rev. Barb; V. P., Rev. D. E. McLain; Rec. Sec., Rev. Hilbish; Cor. Sec., W. B. Moyer; Treas., Cyril H. Haas.

2.30—Do you keep your pledge with joy? C. R. Botsford.  
3.00—Music, Solo, Miss Anna Phillips.

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**Marriage**—Married persons, or young men contemplating marriage, beware of Physical Weakness, Loss of Vital Powers, or any other disqualifications, speedily relieved. He who places himself under our care may confide in our honor as gentlemen, and confidently rely on our skill as physicians.

**Varicocele**—positively cured by a new and never failing method, and a cure guaranteed in every case treated.

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W. H. BOYER

### JURY LIST

List of Grand and Petit Jurors for the Court of Oyer and Terminer and Jail Delivery and Quarter Sessions for the year ending December term, commencing Dec 14, 1896:

GRAND JURORS.  
Beaver, Jerome, Blacksmith, Bucks, John H., Farmer, Ebright, H. A., Merchant, Ferster, Adam, Farmer, Garman, P. G., Farmer, Graybill, T. R., Carpenter, Gift, Austin, Laborer, Gangler, Jacob R., Farmer, Heintzelman, J. R., Laborer, Hoover, Z. T., Well Driller, Hubster, H. B., Carpenter, Laudenslager, J. V., Carpenter, Manbeck, H. D., Farmer, Ronig, William, Laborer, Reitz, Jerome, Farmer, Roush, Jas. H., Farmer, Riegle, John R., Mason, Row, Jacob, Blacksmith, Springman, J. Bert, Farmer, Schrover, R. L., Teacher, Smith, L. G., Laborer, Stauffer, Daniel, Farmer, Steingiger, Geo., Grain Dealer.

PETIT JURORS.  
Abergast, W. A., Merchant, Borch, C. E., Shoemaker, Blecker, P. K., Conchmaker, Burns, Hiram P., Laborer, Bowersox, H. A., Farmer, Dreese, Charles, Farmer, Entertine, Jas. B., Sawyer, Erdley, M. E., Farmer, Freed, Philip M., Merchant, Freyman, Ephraim, Saddler, Gilbert, Isaac N., Farmer, Fisher, Oscar, Cigar-maker, Gross, Anis, Farmer, Gangler, Hiram S., Farmer, Hummel B. F., Farmer, Ocker, Phillip J., Farmer, Pick, Levi, Gentleman, Price, Jeremiah, Farmer, Rafter, Frank, Mason, Ramer, John, Laborer, Smith, Allen R., Farmer, Stoen, S. P., Merchant, Stetler, Noah, Laborer, Stetler, Samuel, Farmer, Saunders, H. K., Gentleman, Stahl, D. G., Farmer, Ulsch, Howard, Farmer, Wendt, W. H., Miller, Wagner, J. F., Farmer, Walter, Isaiah, Farmer, Weikle, Thomas, Mason, Walter, A. C., Farmer, Walter, Laphenus, Farmer, Zechman, J. F., Undertaker.