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Shakespeare, Bacon, Jonson and Greene†

A STUDY

BY

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Miracles are ceast:
And therefore we must needs admit the meanes,
How things are perfected.

Folio 1625.—Hen. V. Act I. Sc. 1.

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PREFACE.



§ I HAVE had some doubts whether I should publish this book.

The world does not like to have its established beliefs questioned; but so much has already been said and written on the "Bacon theory," and so many attempts have been made to unseat Shakespeare entirely, that I hope more good than harm may be done if we can ascertain the exact relations which existed between Shakespeare and Bacon.

The only question which is necessary to be decided in order to effect this purpose is, I think, whether or not my distinction between the "non-legal" and "legal plays" is well founded? For if Shakespeare personally had not the education of a lawyer, then I think it must be admitted he must have received assistance in some of his plays from one who had. There are a number of

side issues which have been raised in the course of the inquiry, but this is really the only one we have to decide.

In these days of critical research, when from hour to hour our fund of information is being continually added to, it may be shown that I have made mistakes in collateral matters. I have discovered some such mistakes myself, which have been altered; others, no doubt, may still be found out. I however hope that, though the position I have taken up may not be accepted by all, I have at least given some novel and interesting facts concerning our great poet.

E. J. C.

TEMPLE,

February, 1897.

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