

Review June 16/15

## SHAKSPEARE'S HOMELAND.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR  
HENDERSON.

The second of a series of three lectures on "Shakspeare's home and homeland," by Professor G. C. Henderson, M.A., attracted a large audience to the Prince of Wales Theatre, at the Adelaide University, on Tuesday evening. The speaker dealt with what he termed the more uncertain period of Shakspeare's history before he became famous. The Stratford country, in Warwickshire, he said, was one of the most picturesque parts of England. The references to it in the poet's works showed that his intimate knowledge of Nature was first hand, and not the result of book reading. Shakspeare's love of Nature was in born. In his earliest poems and plays the scenery and sports referred to were those of Warwickshire. A visit to the master's native country was of great assistance in a study of his works.

—Anne Hathaway's Cottage.—

With the aid of lantern views the lecturer described places in the neighbourhood of Stratford which were associated with "the immortal bard." Bidford, its bridge, church, and the site of the Falcon Inn, so celebrated for the drinking reputed to have proceeded there, were illustrated. The embree legend concerning Shakspeare, embracing the "Toper" and "Sipper" drinking societies, was narrated. In showing a view of Anne Hathaway's cottage at Shottery, and the interior, the professor said the house remained almost the same as formerly. The furniture and fittings, however, although alleged to be associated with Shakspeare, gave reason for doubt.

—Facts and Theories.—

There was no known record of Shakspeare's marriage, proceeded Professor Henderson, but two or three places claimed to have witnessed the ceremony. A rather important document had been discovered in the diocesan registry of Worcestershire, which purported to be the marriage licence bond of Shakspeare and Anne Hathaway, dated November 28, 1582. With regard to the story of the episode which credited Shakspeare with having stolen a deer from Charlecote, the deer park of Sir Thomas Lucy, he thought the fact of the matter was that the animal was stolen from a neighbouring estate. Lucy was not the ignorant boor as hinted at in Shakspeare's plays, out of revenge for the treatment meted out to him as punishment for the deer episode. According to history, Lucy was a man of truth and diligence, conscientious in intention, and upright in action. There may have been other reasons for the hostility between the Shakspeares and Lucy. The latter was a vigorous Puritan, and the Arden family were Roman Catholics. One of the Ardens was concerned in a conspiracy against the life of Queen Elizabeth. He was executed in 1575.

—Life in London.—

From 1577 the fortunes of John Shakspeare, the poet's father, began to decline. He may have been a recusant. There were many fine specimens of architecture in the country, of which no mention was made in Shakspeare's works. Concluding, the lecturer said more decisive conclusions regarding Shakspeare's life had been gained by research in London, and he would deal with them in his next discourse.

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## SHAKESPEARE'S HOMELAND

LECTURE AT UNIVERSITY.

The second of a very interesting and educative series of lectures was given by Professor G. C. Henderson, M.A., at the Prince of Wales Theatre on Tuesday evening. Every available seat in the hall was taken up, and the professor was listened to very attentively. At the outset the professor said that he would deal mainly with Shakespeare's environment, part of his life, and the different aspects of the country in which he lived. Stratford-on-Avon, said the professor, was one of the most picturesque parts of England, and situated round about were some of the most beautiful parks he had ever seen. Shakespeare in some of his works makes reference to the beauties of the landscape. His youth was spent in outdoor life, and his observations of Nature were first hand, the result of which was found in some of his works. A visit to the country was very helpful to the student of Shakespeare's works. In his early youth Shakespeare was addicted to drink, and used to visit the Falcon Inn in company with a band of friends. These bands used to have drinking bouts to see which could stand on longest. The "Toppers" (the recognised champions) challenged the "Stratfords" (the band to which Shakespeare belonged) to a bout at the Falcon Inn, but when the Stratfords arrived there they found the Toppers had gone to fulfil a more important engagement elsewhere, so they had a bout with the "Sippers" who happened to be at the Inn at the time. The result was the "Stratfords" were easily beaten and Shakespeare with a friend left the inn before they had quite lost the use of their legs. They proceeded about a mile, when, unable to go any farther, they sank to rest under a crab tree. Another interesting item was a picture of the inside of Ann Hathaway's cottage, which, of course, was associated with Shakespeare. In the picture was shown the seat on which Shakespeare is supposed to have made love to Ann Hathaway. An item of interest was a framed photograph facsimile of "Shakespeare's Marriage Licence Bond." According to this bond Shakespeare is supposed to have married Ann Hathaway, but this marriage, the professor said, was irregular. He married when he was 18½ years old, and his wife was eight years his senior. The marriage appears to have been a very unhappy one, as Shakespeare made references pointing to that conclusion in some of his writings, and also in his will in which he practically ignores his wife and leaves all his property, &c., to his children. Clopton House, in which the Gunpowder Plot conspirators met before carrying out their plot to blow up Parliament, was shown and was very similar to the house that Shakespeare bought on his return from London. Several other views were shown of Norman architecture, and beautiful villages which Shakespeare had the opportunity of seeing, but of which he makes no mention in his works. The professor said that Shakespeare could have had one of the best social positions in London if he had chosen.

Professor Henderson's next lecture will be entitled "Shakespeare's London," and will deal with Shakespeare's life at London and his associations with the "Globe Theatre."

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Several law clerks have already enlisted for the front, and at the Full Court on Tuesday morning (before Mr. Justice Gordon, Mr. Justice Murray, and Mr. Justice Buchanan) two further applications for exemption from rules of legal volunteers were made. Mr. R. Cruickshank asked for an order for exemption to be made, in the case of Errol Cruickshank, a law student, and that the period of his absence on active service, on account of the war, and the period occupied on his return therefrom, should be counted as part of the terms of his service under the articles. The applicant served in the Naval Force, and was transferred to the military forces, and left South Australia with the 1st Expeditionary Force in October of last year. So far as Mr. Cruickshank knew the applicant was at present in the Dardanelles. Exemption was granted, and Mr. Justice Gordon remarked that he hoped Mr. Cruickshank's son would return safe and sound. Another application on behalf of William Varley, was made by Mr. C. J. B. Symon. Mr. Symon intimated that Mr. Varley intended to leave South Australia on Thursday for England, and, on his arrival there, to enlist. Exemption was granted. Mr. Justice Gordon—"I see Mr. Varley is here. I hope that he will return safe and sound after the battles." Mr. Varley—"Thank you, sir."

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The following list has been supplied of teachers of the South Australian Education Department who have volunteered for active service:—Messrs. F. C. Beech, H. R. Oborn, J. S. Blackburn, S. W. Coombe, J. A. W. Kayser, W. J. F. McCann, C. R. McLaren, J. E. Pearce, L. M. Gellert, L. G. W. Caust, C. E. Padman, C. S. Mugford, F. S. Jeffery, E. A. Munro, V. K. Dickinson, J. A. Blacket, W. L. F. Taylor, E. B. Silver, N. C. E. Currie, A. V. Bawden, B. M. Francis, J. H. Curtis, A. A. Verran, P. R. Bignell, T. W. Ridler, C. F. Rogers, A. R. Morcom, R. T. Wells, G. S. McDonald, E. L. Roesler, and L. E. W. Schmidt.

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#### CAPT. A. C. V. MELBOURNE.

Among the South Australians who are fighting for King and country at the Dardanelles is Capt. A. C. V. Melbourne, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Melbourne, of Hastings street, Glenelg. Capt. Melbourne has been twice wounded. His parents received word on the first occasion on May 14, and on the second on June 10, which was the twenty-seventh anniversary of the soldier's birthday. He has had a brilliant career as a student, having won a State school exhibition while attending the Norwood State School in 1901. After passing the Junior, Senior, and Higher Public Examinations of the Adelaide University in the next three years, he joined the Education Department, and was for three years on the staff of the Unley Public School, under Mr. C. Charlton. While at the Adelaide University, Mr. Melbourne gained the first Tinline scholarship, and graduated in 1910 with the honours degree of B.A. In 1913 he accepted the position of lecturer in history and economics at the Queensland University, Brisbane. On the outbreak of the war he volunteered for active service, and was appointed to the command of D Company, 9th Battalion, Queensland. He began his military career in 1907, when he was appointed Lieutenant to A Company of the old 10th Regiment in Adelaide. He was promoted to the rank of captain in 1912. He is an enthusiastic rifle shot, and fired in the Adelaide University team in several Empire university matches.