

SHAKESPEARE v. SHAKESPEARE

the biographical side he had the inevitable Sidney Lee, and Halliwell-Phillipps' *Outlines* and Mrs Stopes' *Shakespeare's Environment*. Bacon was represented chiefly by the seven-volume edition of the Works, edited by Spedding, Ellis and Heath (1878-89), which has Rawley's *Life* in the first volume, and by one or two seventeenth century editions of which the best are the second issue of the *Novum Organum* (1620) and a nice little copy of the first edition of *Baconiana* (1679) which has the portrait frontispiece, missing in both the British Museum copies.

On the authorship question, however, Mr Turnbull had only a handful of books. Probably he was in the first stage of thinking on the subject; moreover the Baconians were only just getting into their stride when he was collecting, and the De Vere theory had not yet been born. His small group included Mark Twain's *Is Shakespeare Dead?* and *Is it Shakespeare*, by Walter Begley (a Cambridge graduate) and also Andrew Lang's *Shakespeare, Bacon and the Great Unknown*, and one or two others. The Library added to the group as occasion offered, often by donations. From the Atkinson Bequest, for instance, came the *Eldest Son of Queen Elizabeth*, by Isabella Nicholls, R. M. Theobald's *Dethroning Shakespeare*, and *Francis Bacon . . . versus Phantom Captain Shakespeare*, by W. F. C. Wigston. To these were added Bertram G. Theobald's *Exit Shakespeare, Enter Bacon*, and *Francis Bacon Concealed and Revealed*, presented to the Library by the author.

Then with the Kinsey collection, which came to the Library in 1937, there came a copy of T. J. Looney's *Shakespeare Identified*, which claims the authorship of the plays on behalf of Edward de Vere, seventeenth Earl of Oxford. The author, starting off with an anti-Shakspeare bias, but none in favour of anybody else, began by comparing the Shakespearean sonnets with other Elizabethan literature, and, much to his surprise, arrived towards the end of a long trail, at the Earl of Oxford. Although the book had been published several years before, there had not previously been a copy in the library, and this theory, together with the acquisition of the Theobald books, aroused interest in the whole business of Shakespeare authorship. Just before the