

**SHAKESPEARE.  
A LECTURE**

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Shakespeare. A Lecture by Robert G. Ingersoll

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**SHAKESPEARE.  
A LECTURE**



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1895

# Shakespeare.

## A LECTURE



BY

### ROBERT G. INGERSOLL.

SHAKESPEARE.—An intellectual ocean, whose waves touched all the shores of thought.

NEW YORK,

C. P. FARRELL, PUBLISHER,

1895.

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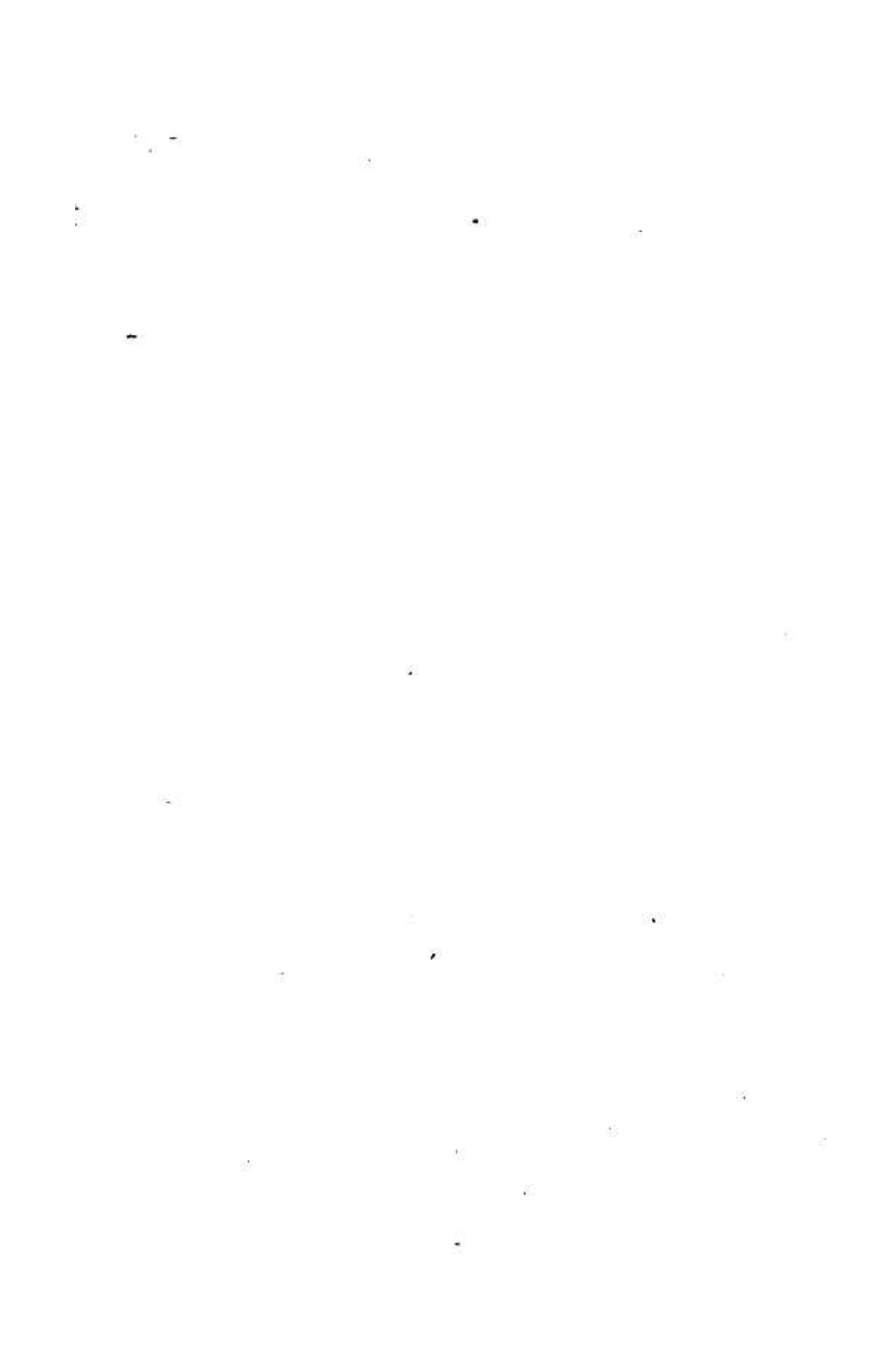
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SHAKESPEARE.

From the Kesselstadt Death Mask.

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## SHAKESPEARE.

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### I.

**W**ILLIAM SHAKESPEARE was the greatest genius of our world. He left to us the richest legacy of all the dead—the treasures of the rarest soul that ever lived and loved and wrought of words the statues, pictures, robes and gems of thought. He was the greatest man that ever touched this grain of sand and tear, we call the world.

It is hard to overstate the debt we owe to the men and women of genius. Take from our world what they have given, and all the niches would be empty, all the walls naked—meaning and connection would fall from words of poetry and fiction, music would go back to common air, and all the forms of subtle and enchanting Art would lose pro-

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