

**BACON VS. SHAKSPERE.
BRIEF FOR PLAINTIFF.
SEVENTH EDITION**

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Bacon vs. Shakspere. Brief for Plaintiff. Seventh Edition by Edwin Reed

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EDWIN REED

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FRANCIS BACON.

BACON vs. SHAKSPERE

Brief for Plaintiff

BY

EDWIN REED

Member of the Shakespeare Society of New York

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TO
The Honorable Richard Cutts Shannon
ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE REPUBLICS OF
NICARAGUA, SALVADOR, AND COSTA RICA
THIS BOOK IS INSCRIBED
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INTRODUCTORY.

IN the following Brief for the Plaintiff, Bacon *vs.* Shakspeare, in an action of ejectment, now on trial, it is intended to cite such facts only as are generally agreed upon by both parties, or which can be easily verified, and, in the main, to let those facts, trumpet-tongued, speak for themselves. Like the lines that mark the sea-coast on our maps, each separate proof shades off in a thousand fine corroborating circumstances, which are often very interesting as well as important for a full knowledge of the subject. The question of ciphers is, for the present purpose at least, clearly beyond soundings.

For further information, the reader is respectfully referred, in behalf of Bacon, to 'The Authorship of Shakespeare,' by Nathaniel Holmes, 2 vols. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1887; and to 'The Great Cryptogram' (first part), by Ignatius Donnelly, Chicago, R. S. Peale & Co., 1888; and, on the side of Shakspeare, to 'The Bacon-Shakespeare Question Answered,' by Charlotte C. Stopes, London, Trubner & Co., 1889; to 'Studies in Shakespeare,' by Richard Grant White, Chap. VI., Boston, Houghton,

Mifflin & Co., 1886; and to 'Wit, Humor, and Shakespeare' by John Weiss, Chap. VIII., Boston, Roberts Bros., 1876; not to mention numerous others, on either side, which it is to be feared the world will soon be too small to contain.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

WE may say of improbabilities, as we do of evils, "Choose the least." It is antecedently improbable that the "Shake-speare" plays, for which the whole domain of human knowledge was laid under contribution, were written by William Shakspeare of Stratford, for he was uneducated. It is also antecedently improbable that Francis Bacon, whose name for nearly three hundred years has been a synonym for all that is philosophical and profound, who was so great in another and widely different field of labor that he gave a new direction for all future time to the course of human thought, was the author of them. And yet, to one or the other of these two men must we give our suffrage for the crowning honors of humanity.

In the claim for Shakspeare, the improbability is so overwhelming that it involves very nearly a violation of the laws of nature. No man ever did, and, it is safe to say, no man ever can acquire knowledge intuitively. One may be a genius, like Burns, and the world be hushed to silence while he sings; but the injunction, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat