

**SHAKESPEARE'S LEGAL  
ACQUIREMENTS  
CONSIDERED**

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Shakespeare's Legal Acquirements Considered by John Campbell

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**JOHN CAMPBELL**

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SHAKESPEARE'S  
LEGAL ACQUIREMENTS

*Henry*  
CONSIDERED.

*Campbell*  
BY  
JOHN LORD CAMPBELL, LL.D., F.R.S.E.

IN  
A LETTER TO J. PAYNE COLLIER, Esq., F.S.A.

"Then art cleriky, thou art cleriky!"  
*Merry Wives of Windsor.*

NEW YORK:  
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY,  
346 & 348 BROADWAY.  
M.DCCC.LIX.



04-22-06 RSM

P R E F A C E .

WHEN my old and valued friend, Mr. Payne Collier, received the following Letter, which I wrote with a view to assist him in his Shakespearian lucubrations, he forthwith, in terms which I should like to copy if they were not so complimentary, strongly recommended me to print and publish it in my own name,—intimating that I might thus have “the glory of placing a *stone* on the lofty CAIRN of our immortal bard.” If he had said a “*pebble*,” the word would have been more appropriate. But the hope of making any addition, even if infinitesimally small, to this great national monument, is enough to induce me to follow my friend’s advice, although I am aware that by the attempt I shall be exposed to some peril. In

pointing out Shakespeare's frequent use of law-phrases, and the strict propriety with which he always applies them, the CHIEF JUSTICE may be likened to the COBBLER, who, when shown the masterpiece of a great painter, representing the Pope surrounded by an interesting historical group, could not be prevailed upon to notice any beauty in the painting, except the skilful structure of a slipper worn by his Holiness.

Nevertheless I may meet with kinder critics, and some may think it right to countenance any effort to bring about a "fusion of Law and Literature," which, like "Law and Equity," have too long been kept apart in England.

STRATHEDEN HOUSE, *Jan. 1, 1859.*



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# SHAKESPEARE'S

LEGAL ACQUIREMENTS CONSIDERED.

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*To J. Payne Collier, Esq.,*

*Riverside, Maidenhead, Berks.*

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HARRISGE, JEDBURGH, N. B.

*September 15th, 1858.*

MY DEAR MR. PAYNE COLLIER,

Knowing that I take great delight in Shakespeare's plays, and that I have paid some attention to the common law of this realm, and recollecting that both in my 'Lives of the Chancellors,' and in my 'Lives of the Chief Justices,' I have glanced at the subject of Shakespeare's legal acquirements, you demand rather peremptorily my opinion upon the question keenly agitated of late years, whether Shakespeare was a clerk in an at-