

**SHAKSPERE AND SIR WALTER  
RALEGH, INCLUDING ALSO  
SEVERAL ESSAYS PREVIOUSLY  
PUBLISHED IN THE NEW  
SHAKSPEAREANA**

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Shakspeare and Sir Walter Raleigh, including also several essays previously published in the New Shakspeareana by Henry Pemberton & Susan Lovering Pemberton & Carroll Smyth

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**HENRY PEMBERTON & SUSAN  
LOVERING PEMBERTON & CARROLL SMYTH**

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BY  
HENRY PEMBERTON, JR., M.A.

EDITED AFTER THE AUTHOR'S DEATH BY  
SUSAN LOVERING PEMBERTON  
FROM AN UNFINISHED MANUSCRIPT, WITH  
KINDLY REVISION BY HER HUSBAND'S FRIEND  
CARROLL SMYTH



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To THE MEMORY OF  
THE GREAT RALEGH

THIS UNFINISHED WORK IS FAITHFULLY DEDICATED,  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXPRESSED  
WISH AND INTENTION OF THE AUTHOR





## PREFACE

IN 1905, I began a careful study of the Shakspeare plays and poems with the determination to permit myself to be restricted by no preconceived theory of authorship. If the evidence showed William Shakspeare to be the author, well and good. If it showed Francis Bacon to be the author, again well and good. And if it indicated some one other than these as the author—still well and good. The inductive study of the works in question has been my only guide. To this method of inquiry I have been accustomed in the study of physical sciences. It involves the proposition that the investigation should be entirely neutral towards so-called authority, that it should be pursued without any regard for the antiquity of that authority, or the conservative interests supporting it.

Instead of Sir Francis Bacon, my investigations led me toward the picturesque and tragic figure of his great contemporary, Sir Walter Raleigh—that imprisoned and martyred knight, whose brilliant achievements are written into the history of the American Continent, and whose name is spelled by all school children from their maps of North Carolina.

The object of this book is therefore to present the evidence that has led me to connect the name of the great Raleigh with the Shakspeare plays and poems.

The evidence consists in a series of topical allusions in these works and is presented in Part II of this volume. It is only necessary to state here that the allusions in question refer directly to Sir Walter's career, and are substantiated by the known

## PREFACE

facts in his biography. I believe that he has written into his dramas his character and attainments, and has portrayed therein his environment and, to a considerable degree, his life-story as a courtier, statesman, mariner, discoverer, and prisoner in the Tower. The allusions, chronologically, are in their proper places. In a number of instances the dates of composition of certain Plays are thus determined, or at least confirmed. In one case a date given in the *Dictionary of National Biography* is proved to be incorrect by the evidence furnished.

In many quarters worship of William Shakspeare has amounted almost to idolatry; it is in fact a religion. To question his authorship, therefore, may seem to many but little short of sacrilege. I have thought it desirable, accordingly, to present in the first part of this book an account of the true personality of the man, as shown by the recorded facts of his life.

From the days of Rowe to the writer of yesterday the study of the works of the world's greatest dramatist has involved the consideration of problems that have perplexed and nonplussed the brightest minds. Hence the prodigious literature which has accumulated concerning these problems. If the laurel is to be bestowed on one of England's greatest heroes, numerous lines of inquiry of a nature varied and important will at once be opened up. In the following pages I have made no effort to pursue such lines of inquiry, but have confined myself to the presentation of the evidence itself.

HENRY PEMBERTON, JR.