

**SHAKESPEARE'S BONES. THE PROPOSAL  
TO DISINTER THEM, CONSIDERED IN  
RELATION TO THEIR POSSIBLE BEARING  
ON HIS PORTRAITURE: ILLUSTRATED BY  
INSTANCES OF VISITS OF THE LIVING TO  
THE DEAD**

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Shakespeare's bones. The proposal to disinter them, considered in relation to their possible bearing on his portraiture: illustrated by instances of visits of the living to the dead by C. M. Ingleby

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**C. M. INGLEBY**

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"Let's talk of graves, of worms, and epitaphs."

*Richard II*, a. iii, s. 2.

**This Essay**

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

TO

THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON,  
AND THE VICAR  
OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY THERE,

BY THEIR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE,

THE AUTHOR.

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*THE PROPOSAL TO DISINTER THEM,*

CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO THEIR POSSIBLE BEARING  
ON HIS PORTRAITURE:

ILLUSTRATED BY INSTANCES OF

VISITS OF THE LIVING TO THE DEAD.

BY

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1883.

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Schiller. in-law Wolzogen was away from home. Frau von Wolzogen was with her sister, but seems to have been equally ill-fitted to bear her share of the load that had fallen so heavily upon them. Heinrich Voss was the only friend admitted to the sick-room; and when all was over it was he who went to the joiner's, and, knowing the need of economy, ordered 'a plain deal coffin.' It cost ten shillings of our money.

In the early part of 1805, one Carl Leberecht Schwabe, an enthusiastic admirer of Schiller, left Weimar on business. Returning on Saturday the 11th of May, between three and four in the afternoon, his first errand was to visit his betrothed, who lived in the house adjoining that of the Schillers. She met him in the passage, and told him, Schiller was two days dead, and that night he was to be buried. On putting further questions, Schwabe stood aghast at what he learned. The funeral was to be private and to take place immediately after midnight, without any religious rite. Bearers had been hired to carry the remains to the churchyard, and no one else was to attend.

Schwabe felt that all this could not go on; but to prevent it was difficult. There were but eight hours left; and the arrangements, such as they were, had already been made. However, he went straight to the house of death, and requested an interview with Frau von Schiller. She replied, through the servant, 'that she was too greatly overwhelmed by her loss to be able to see or speak to any one; as for the funeral of her blessed husband, Mr. Schwabe must apply to the Reverend Oberconsistorialrath Günther, who had kindly undertaken to see done what was necessary; whatever he might direct, she would approve