

# **THE EARLY LIFE OF LORD BACON**

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The Early Life of Lord Bacon by Parker Woodward

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**PARKER WOODWARD**

**THE EARLY LIFE  
OF LORD BACON**



**THE EARLY LIFE**  
**OF**  
**LORD BACON.**

**NEWLY STUDIED**  
**BY**  
**PARKER WOODWARD.**

LONDON:  
GAY AND BIRD,  
22, BEDFORD STREET, STRAND, W.C.  
—  
MCMII.

## PREFACE.

THIS little work is mainly argumentative, and in all prolonged arguments some points may be strong and others weak, yet the general case presented may be powerful enough to carry *prima facie* conviction to the unprejudiced.

That is all I ask. As to such copies as my publishers may think fit to send to the Press, let me say I do not seek a review, unless my reviewer is first willing to read the book from cover to cover and deal mainly with the strong points. I am not prepared to acquiesce in mere flippant abuse exceeding the limits of fair criticism. While I trust by the sale of some copies of this little work to recoup the expense of research and publication, my primary object is not to make money by it; so I request any critic not prepared to write fairly, to let this pamphlet alone. To the scholarly man some apology is due. My poor style and grammatical and constructional weaknesses may cause occasional irritation. For this may I be excused. I have neither the time nor the capacity for literary achievement and it is no pleasure to me to come into the open and face the prepossessions of a great many literary men. I take up the subject because of my keen interest and belief in the unpopular side of the question. Have we or have we not yet known our greatest Englishman?

Many expressions of doubt, uncertainty, and speculation must necessarily be found in my sketch, though, perhaps, not more than in Mr. Sydney Lee's speculations concerning the life of William Shakespeare, which has been called the best book of its year.

Lastly, may I remind Baconians and everybody else of the fact that Lord Bacon had a youth as well as an old age. To test the authorship of early Elizabethan writings by comparison with works written by his Lordship after his fiftieth year is not a final disposition of the matter. I have followed the lead of Dr. Rawley, Stephens, Pope, Lord Macaulay, and later writers in entitling him "Lord Bacon" instead of "Francis Bacon, Baron Verulam, Viscount St. Alban." The title is convenient even if not correct.

PARKER WOODWARD.

*King Street, Nottingham.*

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# The Early Life of Lord Bacon.



## ERRATA.

PAGE 66.

"Faerie Queen, Book  
II., Canto 13," should  
read "Book II., Canto 8."

PAGE 73.

"On the occasion of his  
marriage in 1603, etc.,"  
should read "in 1606."

PAGE 83 (Thomas Nashe.)

"In November, 1667 "  
(third line), should read  
"In November, 1567."

P.W.

## Epistle Dedicatory.

TO THE GENTLE READER.  
THE ONLIE BEGETTER OF THESE INSUING  
GLEANINGS—ALL HAPPINESS  
PROMISED  
BY  
OUR EVER LIVING POET  
WISHETH  
THE WELL WISHING ADVENTURER  
IN SETTING FORTH.

**B**Y the "gentle reader" I mean the bustling journalist, who has necessarily and quickly to apply smatterings of knowledge and his prepossessions to the discussion of many subjects involving research and thought, for which time will not admit. I also include the expert who, with the best intentions, has steeped himself in traditional views, and whose disposition, unless he can summon sufficient strength of mind, is to waive new studies of his favourite subject.

Mainly, however, I want to appeal to every man and woman of reasonable culture who may feel interested and desirous of hearing whatever may be fairly advanced on a subject of much difficulty.

An American gentleman, and, more recently, an American lady, have successively assured us, though not to demonstration, that they have discovered and deciphered certain communications from a deceased Lord Chancellor of England, whose memory is burdened with a savoury name and a somewhat unsavoury reputation.

The story communicated has for certain of its objects the dispossession of the name and clearance of the reputation.

But its chief importance to us at the present day consists in a claim to literary authorship, vast in extent and

### Epistle Dedicatory.

significance; one which, if true, will involve the re-writing of several biographies and the re-distribution and sorting of a great deal of literary matter.

For the moment critics, upon whose veracity and care we have hitherto relied, have alleged that they have found sufficient corroborative indications of the existence of a cipher as to amount to a *prima facie* proof, and they are calling upon the lady to complete her proofs to demonstration.

Eminent critics, on the other hand, assert that they have carefully tested and find no corroboration, and impeach either the honour or the intellectual soundness of the discoverers.

The majority of us need not concern ourselves with the technical question at issue. It will very promptly be settled one way or another.

In the meantime, as a matter of intellectual pastime, I want to take Mrs. Gallup upon her honourable assurance that the story she writes has been genuinely deciphered, and to see how the biography of Lord Bacon for the first thirty-six years of his life may be re-written, having regard to the alleged new facts and circumstances we are to take into account.

I have for mental recreation during some years taken much interest in one of the disputed claims of authorship, which, if the cipher be shewn to be a hallucination or a literary fraud, will still remain for settlement. I have read and possess many volumes of criticism containing an accumulation of strong points for what is known as the Baconian theory, accompanied by others which are probably untenable. One curious fact about these writings is that they are largely independent protests which have been raised and shaped from time to time against the titular notion, and are not the result of organized working or collaboration.

I refer more particularly to the works of Messrs. Wigston, Reed, Theobald, White, Donnelly and James, of Mrs. Pott, and of many others whose scattered writings appear in the publications of the Bacon Society. These works have never