

of precious stones the larger and more beautiful rise to the top, obscure the darker and meaner ones, and thus illumine and beautify the world. Again, it gives me a feeling of disgust when sometimes is found a precious little gem hidden deeply in the rubbish or when the mass below pretends above the coating bearing upon its highest point a fine beautiful stone almost hidden by mean and dirty trash. In the latter position some are wont to place Shakespeare, a crew of grumblers, running, howling and snapping, like a pack of curs at the heels of a noble mastiff. I cannot think of the eugolist without remembering the first paragraphs of Washington Irving's "Boars Head Tavern." It is needless to say, like the Catholic devotee, I come to burn my candle at the shrine of the great, if not the greatest of all literature and ages—Wm. Shakespeare.

A thorough review of any part of his works would be too great a task for me; I will only endeavor to give some of my thoughts and impressions concerning his well known and matchless characters of the play of love, Romeo and Juliet.

The great popularity of Shakespeare is due to his correct expression of sentiment. Many have argued to show him a doctor, lawyer, or a man of almost every profession. This must be erroneous: Shakespeare saw life of every shade and grade, and easily and naturally expressed what he saw. He had imagination and word painted vividly but it was the normal imagination of nature in strong contrast with brilliant but diseased and abnormal imaginations of some of his successors. He is passionate; no dry philosopher but argumentative; he is humorous, no idiotic clown but genuine human wit and humor; he is pathetic, naturally expresses the griefs of the human soul but never artificial or hypocritical.

No where is passion, the passion of youth and love, hate and revenge, and grief, the bitter grief of failure and disappointment displayed so well as in this masterpiece of Romeo and Juliet. As for the two "star crossed lovers," they are probably in name only fictitious. The plot was taken from a romance of Painter's Palace of Pleasure, viz. Romeus and