

and is so fortunate as to attain the good old age of his saintly father, he may be able to finish what at first seemed too vast an undertaking for one man to accomplish. If he does, it will be the grandest achievement in the history of Shakespearian literature.

The Restoration of the Stratford Church.

The vicar of Stratford-on-Avon has lately sent out a fresh appeal for money to be applied to the restoration of Holy Trinity Church; and this has led to renewed complaints in regard to the manner in which the repairs and alterations have thus far been conducted. It is asserted that "needless and injurious changes have already been made in the church and churchyard, all tending to the despoliation of an ancient literary monument;" that there has been "too much modernizing" of the venerable and venerated edifice; and much more to the same effect. So far as the church is concerned, our own impression is that the restoration has been skillfully and judiciously managed. We do not see that there has been anything that can fairly be called "modernizing." The general effect of the interior has been much improved, without the least marring or mutilation of the old work. As to the charge that ancient monuments have been needlessly destroyed or removed, we cannot speak so positively. Some of the changes which have been criticised may be only temporary. We certainly hope that there is no foundation for the rumor that the monument of John-a-Combe is to be removed from the chancel. The vicar must be a bold, bad man indeed, if he can do a deed like this, against which the whole civilized world would protest.

Mr. Hilderic Friend's "Flowers and Flower-Lore."

Mr. John B. Alden of New York has brought out an edition of *Flowers and Flower-Lore*, by Hilderic Friend, F.L.S. It is an octavo volume of 704 pages, with many illustrations, printed from duplicate plates of the London edition, by special arrangement, and sold at the very low price of \$1.50. The work is exhaustive and authoritative, and will be invaluable for students and readers of Shakespeare, as of our literature generally, to say nothing of its interest to botanists and all lovers of flowers. The titles of the chapters will indicate the scope of the work: The Fairy Garland; from Pixy to Puck; The Virgin's Bower; Bridal Wreaths and Bouquets; Flowers for Heroes, Saints, and Gods; Traditions about Flowers; Proverbs of Flowers and Plants; Flowers and the Seasons; The Magic Wand; Superstitions about Flowers; Flowers and Showers; Curious Beliefs of Herbalists; Sprigs and Sprays in Heraldry; Strange Facts about Plant Names; The Language of Flowers; Rustic Flower Names; Peculiar uses of Flowers and Plants; Witches and Their Flower-Lore; Flowers and the Dead; Wreaths and Chaplets. A good bibliography of the subject is given, and indexes of names, topics, and illustrations, add to the value of the book for reference purposes.

Mr. Geo. A. Smith's "Compendium and Concordance of Shakespeare." This is a duodecimo of about four hundred pages, published by Messrs. Gebbie & Co. of Philadelphia. About half of it is filled with a brief history of each play, an outline of the plot, and a few comments on the leading characters. The historical matter is in some cases woefully behind the times; as when we are told that Shakespeare's part of *Pericles*, now known to belong to his latest period, was "his earliest dramatic effort, being assigned to the year 1590." The Concordance, the preface tells us, "embodies all the familiar phrases most currently quoted—treated by *catch words*, leading to the quotations, alphabetically arranged." The selection, as may be inferred from the size of the book, is meager, and yet some of the quotations are far from "familiar" or famous; like "For this relief much thanks" (*Hamlet*, i. 1) and "Speak, I'll go no further" (*Id.* i. 5). Rosalind's "Wear this for me" (*A. Y. L.* i. 2) and Bottom's "Masters, spread yourselves" (*M. N. D.* i. 2) may be "gems" (as our editor calls his excerpts) to be set in a choice cluster of Shakespeare's "jewels five-words-long" or less, but they are not the ones we should have culled out. We note some misprints; as "I hope there be truths" for "I hope here be truths" (*M. for M.* ii. 1), which is "five-words-long," if not a bright, particular "jewel."

Another feature of this book, likely to be more useful for reference than the Concordance, is an Index to the Characters in the Plays. The editor believes that this is the first complete list of the kind ever printed, and he may be right, though we have the impression that something similar is given in a one-volume edition of Shakespeare that we saw several years ago. (\$1.50.)

Another Volume of Dr. Furness' "New Variorum." It is an agreeable surprise to learn that *As You Like It*, the eighth volume of the "New Variorum" Shakespeare, edited by Dr. Horace Howard Furness, is now in press and will soon be issued by the Lippincotts. The *Merchant of Venice* was published little more than a year ago, about two years after its predecessor, *Othello*, had appeared. Six years had then elapsed since the issue of *King Lear* in March, 1880; but in the mean time the long and fatal sickness of Mrs. Furness had occurred. The preceding plays in the series had been *Romeo and Juliet* (1871), *Macbeth* (1873), and *Hamlet* (2 vols., 1877). Let us hope that the work is to go on as rapidly as this announcement of *As You Like It* appears to promise. If Dr. Furness can give us a volume annually,