

Milford Times, Dec. 1, 1900

THE BACONIAN CIPHER

Mrs. Elizabeth Gallup and Miss Kittie Wells are home from London, England, where they have been spending several months at the British Museum studying the original works of Bacon and unraveling the story of his life which they believe to be hidden in his writings. An Interview in Saturday's News gives an interesting account of their researches, from which we make the following extracts:

"Being armed with letters of introduction from people of high social and literary attainments, I was given a free hand to examine everything the museum contained," Mrs. Gallup told The News, "and a private room was set aside for the use of my sister, Miss Wells, and myself. To this cozy corner we brought the literary treasures of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and were successful in unfolding the very first secret cipher writing Bacon ever invented. This was issued in 1579, and others rapidly appeared, until by 1790 there had been placed on the market quite a number of books, each containing a part of the secret story of Bacon's life. It was one of the most fascinating studies I have ever known, but the light was often poor, and the print, after all those years, not so plain as one could wish, so that I come back with a weary pair of eyes.

"The way Sir Francis Bacon starts out with his secret writing is different from what I had anticipated. He begins with the bold declaration that he is the son of Queen Elizabeth, born in lawful wedlock, but that she had refused to acknowledge him her heir, though his rightful title is the prince of Wales. To tell the story of his life would be to end it, and so, says Bacon, while in France, a young man not yet 20 years old, he had invented two ciphers, in which he proposed to relate everything of importance coming under his observation, in order that future generations, if not his own, might know the truth.

"One of the ancient volumes in the museum had a few pages missing, I found, and it made a break in my decipherings; but later, while a guest at the house of Sir Edwin Lawrence, I saw in his magnificent library, which he is endeavoring to have contain one copy of all the old English writers, and for that reason is invaluable, a perfect copy of the mutilated book in the museum. Sir Edwin Lawrence kindly allowed me to copy from the missing pages, and I was able to demonstrate to him, and to the others present, the absolute correctness of the cipher.

"The papers treated me very kindly, the Court Journal reviewing my work in three articles. After considering the hypothesis of 'fraud' and 'illusion', the writer of the articles concludes: 'We are driven by the inexorable force of logic to the only remaining conclusion: That Francis Bacon did put a cipher in his printed works; that Mrs. Gallup has discovered it, and has translated it.' I feel quite elated at such a favorable criticism.

"Another of my experiences while in London seems to me a wonderful corroboration of the fact that Bacon was the son of Queen Elizabeth, and as such entitled to the throne of England. In the north of London there is still standing a square building of red brick, and in recent research of the public libraries by someone who desired to obtain new matter for a biography of Bacon, I am told, he discovered that Bacon took a lease of this building for 99 years, and that he lived there part of the time. I was told that in a dark corner of a passage to the tower was printed a list of the sovereigns of England, beginning with William the Conqueror and ending with Charles I.

"I wanted to see this inscription, and although there is generally a vast amount of red tape necessary to gain admission to the building, in my ignorance I went there and the keepers took pity on me and laid bare the treasures of the house. After considerable hunting we found the passage and the inscription. The names were mostly abbreviated, and with one exception follow each other in the order generally recognized. This exception was an interpolation between the names of Elizabeth and James of the letters "Fr.," the first two letters of the name "Francis." No explanation of this interpolation has ever appeared until the deciphering of Sir Francis Bacon's word cipher by Dr. O.W. Owen, in this city, brought to light the fact that Bacon claimed that he was the lawful son of Queen Elizabeth and the Earl of Leicester, who were secretly married. Did Bacon put the 'Fr.' in that list of sovereigns? If not, who did?

"I am glad to get back to Detroit, and hope to be able to take a good long rest before beginning

another investigation, if it should be deemed necessary by V.K. Moore, under whose supervision the work has thus far been done.”