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THE BOOKMAN

A MAGAZINE OF LITERATURE AND LIFE

MARCH, 1916

CHRONICLE AND COMMENT

WE give fair warning, those who look to the April BOOKMAN with the idea that it is to be a Shakespeare number will be disappointed.

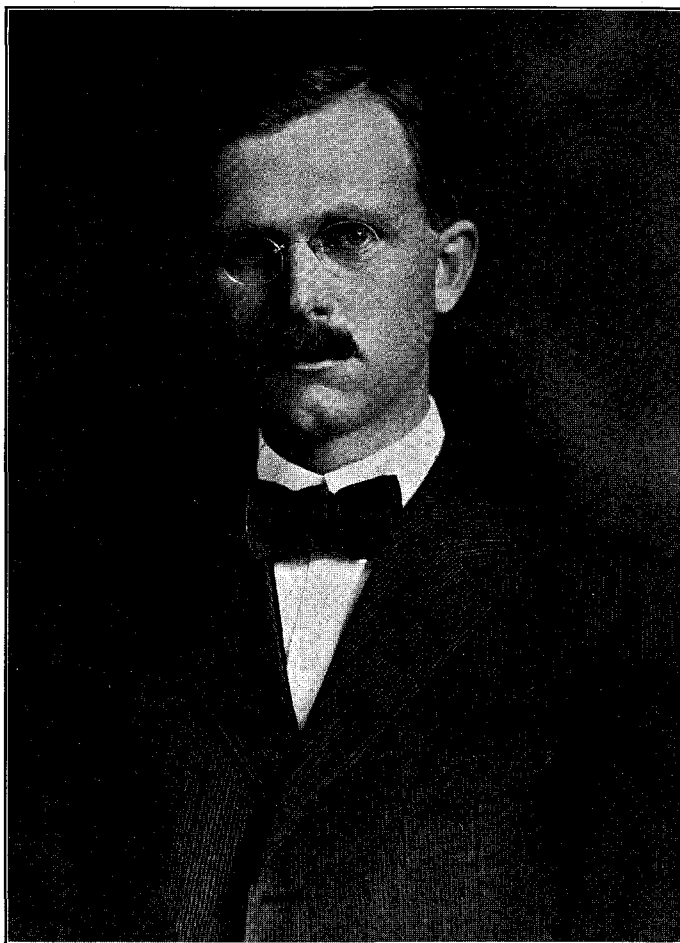
In the first place we have an idea that by the time the twenty-fifth of March arrives most readers will be surfeited with Shakespeareana. In the second place we hold that the only use for a centenary, or a bicentenary, or a tercentenary is that occasionally it gives an excuse for writing about someone who has been rather unfairly neglected. That is certainly not the case with Shakespeare. Then, in the vast amount of material that will be printed next month there is likely to be very little, if anything new. We forget how many tens of thousands of books and articles have been written about Shakespeare; how many thousands about the play of *Hamlet* alone. Every phase, real or imaginary, of the life, work, and genius of the great poet and the comparatively great playwright has been covered over and over again. Also it must not be forgotten that April 23d is the tercentenary, not of Shakespeare's birth, but of his death. The three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of his birth came in April, 1914, and was unnoticed. Of course, there is always a measure of uncertainty about the exact date, but April 23, 1564 is near enough for all practical purposes.

David Grayson, the author of *Adventures in Friendship*, *Adventures in Contentment*, *The Friendly Road*, and *Hempfield*, is in reality Mr. Ray Stannard Baker. Mr.

Baker was born in Lansing, Michigan, in April, 1870. He studied at the Michigan Agricultural College and later at the University of Michigan. For five years, from 1892 to 1897, he was connected with the *Chicago Record*. Then for a year he was managing editor of the McClure Syndicate, and afterward, for six years, he was associate



"BOTH HANDS UP." DAVID GRAYSON SURRENDERS HIS ANONYMITY



RAY STANNARD BAKER (DAVID GRAYSON)

editor of *McClure's Magazine*. Since 1906 he has been one of the editors of the *American Magazine*. Over his own name he has published *The Boy's Book of Inventions*, *Our New Prosperity*, *Seen in Germany*, *The Second Boy's Book of Inventions*, *Following the Colour Line*, *New Ideals in Healing*, and *The Spiritual Unrest*.

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For some time we have been urging Mr. Baker to allow us to use his name in connection with the David Grayson books. For one reason there have been stories of persons in various parts of the country claiming to be the real David

Grayson. One man in the west married under that name, although he already had a wife living and undivorced, and complacently accepted all tributes based on the supposition that he was the author of the *Adventures in Contentment* and the rest. When discovery came he calmly said that it was his neighbours and not himself who had insisted upon the authorship and that he had not wished to disappoint them by too strenuous a denial. Then in Atlanta, Georgia, there is a very estimable gentleman, a lawyer, whose name happens really to be David Grayson. Nothing that he can say seems to convince peo-