

CORRESPONDENCE.

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GLAMIS OR CAWDOR—WHICH?

Editor Canadian Bar Review:

Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. Wears, says that, in stating that Shakespeare has made Glamis Castle, in Forfarshire, Scotland, the scene of one of his greatest tragedies, I “have drawn a conclusion for which there does not seem to be any justification.” Mr. Wears may be right, but at least I sin in fairly good company. Nelson’s Encyclopædia, in an article on Glamis, says:—

“In the parish is Glamis Castle, the seat of the Earl of Strathmore. Shakespeare associates the thanage of Glamis with Macbeth by the murder of Malcolm II. in the castle (1034).”

It is true that, according to the Encyclopædia Britannica, Cawdor Castle “was the scene, according to tradition which Shakespeare has perpetuated, of the murder of King Duncan by Macbeth, Thane of Cawdor, in 1040,” but it is difficult to see what ground there is for this statement. At the opening of the play Macbeth is thane of Glamis and is created thane of Cawdor only on the former thane being condemned to death for treason in the second scene of Act 1. In scene 5 of the same Act Lady Macbeth is reading a letter from her husband announcing his advancement, an attendant enters to inform her that “The King comes here to-night,” and on his heels Macbeth himself appears. Obviously Shakespeare is not perpetuating a tradition that the murder took place at Cawdor Castle. He makes the scene of the tragedy Macbeth’s own home, and “the thaneship of Glamis was the ancient inheritance of Macbeth’s family. The castle where they lived is still standing; and was in late years the residence of the Earl of Strathmore.” (Cassell’s Illustrated Shakespeare, edited by Charles and Mary Cowden Clarke).

Shakespeare, it is true, makes Inverness the place of Macbeth’s residence. “Inverness—a room in Macbeth’s castle” is the heading over Act 1, scene 5; but Shakespeare was occasionally careless in his geographical allusions. Thus, in “The Winter’s Tale” he makes Bohemia border on the sea and

places the oracle of Apollo at Delphi on the "island" of Delphos!

If Inverness is to be rejected, as is assumed by both the works of reference above mentioned, then the evidence is entirely in favour of Glamis Castle, as I hope no son of Forfarshire will care to deny.

R. W. SHANNON.

Regina, June 18, 1923.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

LAW AND FICTION.

* * * The trial in "Pickwick" is, of course, a caricature, but that at the Old Bailey in the "Tale of Two Cities," is accurate. George Eliot made "Felix Holt" turn on a rare but good point of law, and a few years ago, when "Perlycross" appeared, Mr. Blackmore was specially praised for his legal accuracy. On the other hand, in "Wuthering Heights," by Emily Bronte there is a deal of bad law.

Mr. Justice Gazalee, as is well known, is the original of Dickens' Mr. Justice Stareleigh (Gase—Gaze—Stare) who presided at the trial of "Bardell v. Pickwick." Apropos of this *cause célèbre* Dickens' students may like to know that there is a reported case in 1827, namely *Brooke v. Pickwick* (4 Bingham, 218), where the defendant was a well-known coach proprietor of Bath, Mr. Pickwick, from whom Dickens avowedly took the name of his immortal papers. The action was to recover damages for the loss of a trunk and one of the judges was Gazalee, J. Here we have two of the chief figures in the great scene meeting in actual life in the same capacities as in the better known book. In Mr. Stanley Weyman's novel "Chippinge" which turns upon the great Reform Bill of 1832, Sir Charles Wetherell, Attorney-General, plays a great part. In the riots in 1831, at Bristol, of which he was Recorder, he barely escaped with his life by night. He was not remarkable for personal propriety, and when some one asked how he escaped, the answer was, "disguised in a clean shirt." There are two other modern novels which from a legal as well as literary point of view are well worth perusal. One is "The Witness for the Defence," by A. E. W. Mason, and the other bears the curious title of "The Honest Lawyer," by Miss C. V. McFadden, and turns on the old law regarding Wills, and the odd crime of injuring a bridge