AN
APOLOGY
For Actors.
Containing three briefe
Treatises.
1 Their Antiquity.
2 Their ancient Dignity,
3 The trews of their quality.
Written by Thomas Heywood.
Ex postscriptis et litteris—

LONDON,
Printed by Nicholas Okes.
1612.
TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE, EDWARD, EARL OF WORCESTER.

Nowing all the vertues and endowments of Nobility, which flourisht in their height of eminence in your Ancestors, now, as by a divine legacy, and lineall inheritance, so furth in you, and so consequently from you, to your truly ennobled issue. (Right Honourable) I presumed to publish this unworthy worke under your gracious patronage: first, as an acknowledgment of that duty I am bound to you in, as a servant. Next, assured that your most judicious suffrere is able to approve what therein is authentic and good, as your Noble and...
The Epistle Dedicatory.

accustomed modestly will charitably concur if there be any thing therein unworthy your learned approbation. I have striu’d (my Lord) to make good a subject, which many through envy, but most through ignorance, have sought violently, (and beyond merit) to oppose; in which, if they have either wandered through spleene, or erred by non-knowledge, I have (by my power) plainly and freely illustrated, propounding a true, direct, and faithful discourse, touching the Antiquity, the ancient Dignity, and the true use of Antiquity and their quality. If my industry herein be by the common Adversary hastily received, but by your Honour charitably censor’d, I have from the injudicious (whom I esteem not) but what I expect; but from your Lordship (whom I owe reverence) more then I can merit.

Your Honours humbly denoted,

Thomas Heywood.
TO THE CITY-Actors.

Dear Gentiles, and others, whose opinions and appro
ved arguments are not omitted; because I am loath to be taxed in
borrowing from others; and besides, their works being extant to the world, offer themselves freely to every
man's perusal. I am preferr'd adversary to none, to arrive at
peace, reconciliation, then opposition, nor proceeds this
my labours from any envy in me, but rather in the
wherein they err. So wishing you judiciall Audience,
honest Poets, and true Gatherers, I commit you all to the
substance of your best wishes.

Yours ever,

T. H.

TO THE JUDICIALL READER.

Have undertooke a subject (curteous Reader) not of sufficient coun
tenance to bolster it selfe by his
owne strength; and therefore have
charitably reached it my hand to
import it against any succeeding
Adversary. I could willingly have committed this
workes to some more able then my selfe; for the
weaker the Combattant, the needeth the stron
ger Armes. But in extremities, I hold it better
to weare ruyly Armour, then to goe naked:
yet if these weake habiliments of warre, can but
buckler it from part of the rude buffets of our Ad
teraries, I shall hold my paines sufficiently guar
doned. My pen hath seldom appeared in Prece
till now, I have bee noe ever too lesious of mine
owne weaknesse, willingly to thrust into the Prece:
not had I at this time, but that a kind of necessity
enjoyed me to so hidden a businesse. I will neither
flew my selfe over-presumptuous, in scorning thy fa
vour, nor too importuntate a beggar, by too furtily
instructing it. What thou art content to bestow upon
my
To the Reader.

my pains, I am content to accept; if good thoughts, they are all I desire: if good words, they are more than I desire: if bad opinion, I am sorry I have incurred evil language, I know not how I have merited it: if anything, I am pleased: if nothing, I am satisfied, contenting myself with this: I have done no more then (had I been called to account) owed what I could say in the defence of my own quality.

Thine,

T. Heywood.

Al. 19.

In laudem, nec Operis, nec Authoris.

Aller, en hoc facie non fuisse gratia Thaurisi,
(Esperate facie quam quam dedita Thaurisi)
Magna fed in Sacro veste sibi gratia Temporis,
Passus Lector: petit hanc invidia Parentis.
Diiquam nos, in libris de plebe Sacros.
(Copia Verborum eum est, non copia Rerum)
Materiis, tantum perit longo quantum nec in uno,
Pretium Menippe potest, nec in uno fere anno.
Da quamvis Textibus, saltat de Novo locutus,
Prostatis excerptat (Nostro pacificat) in ordine.

(Protolacer) Impietas molat, frena vagat, Ecce Thauri (Frater). Damanda Authore, Sedita Rejorum, nec Sat vidit, nec Vitas Ipsa.

Herculis nauxus composuerit, quippe Thauri
Mensis legis uersus lamentis (et Temporal) ludent.
Litteras et postes, Memochum, Memochum Cautum.
Sacro quis Laudes quam Nomina Thauri.

Repperit in C A N O N E 1.1.2.3. 1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.9.10.11.12.13.14.

Nunc CANONEM Fagi brevisigit, sed Apocryphon, Inde
(Zymaphum attonitum possit in mandato Populis)
Et vacuam quosque caput mustum, vacuam
Sine multa vacuo intelectus judice Persus:

Quod
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to the eyes of all famous and judicious readers, as well to
satisfie the reqests of some of our well qualified suauers,
as to stop the envious exclamations of those who challenge
to them selves a priviledge Insuectue, and against all free
eftates a railing liberty: Loath am I (I protest) being
the youngest and weakest of the Neft wherein I was hatched,
to forese this pitch before others of the fame brood more
fledge, and of better winges then my felie: but though they
whome more especialy this taske concerns, both for
their ability in writing and sufficiency in judgement (as
their worke generally wittnesse to the world:) are content
to overslip so necessary a subject, and have left it as to mee
the most unworthy: I thought it better to hammer out my
mind, then not to speake at all; to set forke downe a markt
in the head of writing a name, and to stumble on the way,rather
to fland full and not to procede on so necessary
a journey. Now erat, & famosus laetus suboest occasus.
It was about that time of the night when darknesses had al-
ready overspread the world, and a buffer and generaly
sulphence posseft the face of the earth, and mens bodyes were
with the businell of the day, beraking themselfes to their
belt repose, their newe sleeping foules labored in ve-
ooth dreams and visions, when suddenly appeared to me
the tragick Mule Medpomene

--- animae Tragediae.

--- mortis pilis imita Cato naso

Denium Calum, tergum quaterque Cupid;

Her heyre rudely dtheiced, her chaperet withered, her
village with tears flyned, her brow sored, her eyes
detected, nay her whole complexion quite faded and alter-
ated; and perusing her habit, I might behold the colour of
her freeth roade all Cymen, breathed, and with the inun-
dedum juice off some prophane splitt ink in every place flain-
ed: nay more, her busken of all the wonted jewels and
ornaments, vestily deisposed: about which in manner of a
guster I might behold these letters written in a playne and

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large

large Character.
Behold my Tragick Mule in rant and torne,
Which Kings and Emperors in their states have wore.

This I no sooner had perus'd, but suddenly I might per-
ceive the ingrate Mule, cast vp her scornfull head: her eye-
bolks sparkled, & a fuddain flight of disdain,intermixt with
rage, purple her cheeks. When pacing with a mischievick
gate & rowing vp her freeth spirits with a lively and quaint
action, shee began in thebe or the like words.

Grande sententias tragicas, tragico decet Ira Cato naso.
Am I Medpomene the buckskinned Mule,
That held in arms the tyrants of the world,
And phante three times in publicke I teeter,
Making them fear to sinne, since futilles I

Prepar'd to write their lines in Cymen's language,
And all their flames in eye of all the world?
Have not I wriggle Dice with a swarme of fleete,
Famously borne in th' harshest; soundly Lucacius's Loft,
Pinn'd of the violets from gormesse Tragedie face,

And made the Summe point at their ugly point?
Hast not this powerfull hard tawd of fury Rage,

Kild pyracious Enemy with her own keen dart,
Closest up the Concordious mouth with mouten gold,
Burnt the violets mouth of eating Gluttony,
And durned the Dromeko gall in juice of grapes?
I have sawed Pryde the pillar on a aage,

Laid on the quizzesPlate his fleete-glasses bid,
And made hem pass silence meekly: In stude dates

When Emperors with their prestige grace my sence,
And thought whose worthy to present themselves

Some Emperors to delight Embursemen,
Then dishing galand flourish, then my Roade
Was of the deepf Cymen, the bell dyse:
Cura Ducum fuerunt olim regumque poetae.

Pretiique Antiqui magna tulere Chori
Who lodge them with the honors of great Kings,

--- Sum
For Actors.

Some be that had a grace Calumbrate Muses,
A stately verse in an lambrch files
Became a Key to mouths. Oh these were times
For you Bacchus went your golden Rynse,
Then did I tread on Aris, Cloth of Tissus,
Hung round the fore front of my stage the pillows
This did support the Roof of my large frame
Double apparelld in faire Ophir gild.
Would the round Circle of my spicuous orb
Was through with Prince, Dukes and Senators.
Nunc Hoderz fine Homor tacent.
But now’s the true age, and black-mouthed Curtes,
Bark at the wretches of the former world.
Such with their breath have blaz’d my fresh roade,
Plunge at my flamy Chaplet, round my trestler.
May some whom for their baserffe half and skorn’d
The Stage, as loathsome, but long-sinse speedous,
Have watch their turne to cast in memor’d Take
To frayse my garments with. Ob Seneca
Thou tragedie Peet, besh thet thor thee soos
This outrage done to sad Melno newe
With such sharpe systeme thou wouldst rememb my blis,
As Armed Ovid against this war.
With that in rage free left the place and I my dreame, for
at the instant I awaked, when having perused this vision
over and over again in my remembrance, I suddenly be-
thought mee, how many antient Poets, Tragick and
Comick, dying many ages agoe live full amongst us in
their works, as amongst the Greeks, Euripides, Alexander,
Sophocles, Eschylus, Aristophanes, Apollonius, Anacre-
derus, Scipio, Macedonius, Alexius, Terence and others, so among the
Lattins, Aesop, Ovid, Metallus, Plautus, Terence, &c others
whome for breuiety sake I omit.
Hos Edificis & hos in thespis Theatre
Spellet Roma potens habet hot, numen agnum Poetas;
These potens Roma acquirres and beholds her.

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And in their round Theaters flutters to ears:
These or any of these had they lusted in the afternoone of the world,
as they dyed even in the morning, I assure my
selfe would have left more memorable trophies of that learn-
ed Muse, where in their golden numbers they so richly
adorned. And amongst our moderne poets, who have beene
industrious in many an elaborate and ingenious poem, even
they whose penes haue had the greatest trafficke, with the
Stage, haue bene in the execuse of thefe Muses most forget-
full but leasting there, left I make too large a head to a
small body and do misplace my subiect, I will begin with
the antiquity of Acting Comedies, Tragedies, and HYDIE-
ries. And first in the golden world.

In the first of the Olimpiads, amongst many other affine
exercizes in which Hercules euer triumphed as villor, there
was in his race presented unto him by his Tuor in
the fifteenth of a Histore, acted by the choyse of the nobility
of Greece, the worthy and memorable acts of his father
Jupiter. Which being perfonated with lively and well-spirited
action, wrought such impression in his noble thoughts,
that in mere emulation of his fathers valor (not at the
behest of his Stephane same), he performed his twelve labours
Him valiant Theseus followed, and Achill, Theseus, which
bred in them such hasty and magnanimitous attempts, that
every succeeding age hath recorded their worths, unto
fresh admiration. Aristeo that Prince of Philosophers,
whose booke was of such credit, even in these our univers-
ities, that to say lysis in a sufficient Aristoxeno, by hau-
ing the tuition of young Alexander, caused the de-
troyation of Troy to be setted before his pupill, in which the
valor of Achilles was so naturally expert, that it imprell
the hart of Alexander, in so much that all his succeding actions
were meerly shapat after that patterne, and it may be
imagined had Achilles never lived, Alexander had never
conquered the whole world. The like asfertion may be
made of that euer-renowned Roman Julius Caesar, Who...
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after the like representation of Alexander in the Temple of Hercules standing in Gades was never in any peace of thoughts, till by his memorable exploits, he had purchas'd to himselfe the name of Alexander: as Alexander till he thought himselfe of defects to be called Achilles; Achilles Theban, Theseus till he had sufficiently imitated the acts of Hercules, and Hercules till he had himselfe worthy to be called the son of Jupiter. Why should not the liues of these worthyes, prented in these our days, effect the like wonders in the Princes of our times, which can no way bee so exquisinly demonstrat'd, nor so liuely portrayed as by action: Oration is a kind of a speaking picture, therefore may some say, it is not sufficient to discourse to the ears of princes the fame of these conquerors: Painting like wife, is a dumbe oratory, therefore may we not as well by some curious Pigmaleons, draw their conquests to work the like love in Princes towards these Worthyes by shewing them their pictures drawn to the life, as it wou'd on the pover painter to bee inamor'd of his owne shadow, I answer this.

Non magis expressi vultus per abhesia signa
Legum per extus opus, mores animique tormentum
Clorurum apparent, —

The vantage is no better out in brasse,
Now on the Corner, I express the base
As dots the Poets pen with the arts surpass'd,
To esteem men liues and vertues their due grace.

A Description is only a shadow receiv'd by the care but not perciev'd by the eye: so liuely portraiture is merely a forme scene by the eye, but can neither shew action, passion, motion, or any other geuthre, to mooue the spirits of the beholder to admiration: but to see a fouldier shap'd like a fouldier, walk, speake, ait like a fouldier; to see a Hector all blemish'd in blood, vampling vpon the bulker of King's. A Trojan returning from the field in the light of his father. Perseus, as if man and horse even from the steeds rough fetlocks to the plame in the champions helmet had bene together:

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together plunged into a purple Ocean: To see a Pompey ride in triumph, then a Caesar conquer that Pompey: labouring Flambeul alue, hewing his passage through the Alpes. To see as I have scene, Hercules in his owne shape hunting the Bore, knocking downe the Bull, taming the Hart, fighting with Hydra, murdering Geryon, laugh'ting Dismas, wounding the Centaurs, phasing the Lion, surraining the Dragon, dragging Cepheus in Chaynes, and lastly, on his high Pyramids writing Nithur, On these were fights to make an Alexander.

To turne to our dometickke hyistories, what English blood feasting the perfom of any bold English man prefent'd and doth not hugge his fame, and besege as his valor, pursuying him in his enterprise with his best wishes, and as beeing wrapt in contemplation, offers to him in his b'are all prosperose performance, as if the Personator were the man Perfomated, so bewitching a thing is lively and well spirited action, that a harre power to new mold the harts of the spectator and fashion them to the shape of any noble and notable attempt. What coward to see his contrayman valiant would not bee ashamed of his owne cowardise?

What English Prince should see beheld the true portraiture of that amous King Edward the third, foraging France, taking to great a King captive in his owne country, quartering the English Lyon with the French Flower-de-lyce, and would not bee suddenly inflam'd with so royal a spectacle, being made apt and fit for the like achievement. So of Henry the fift: but not to bee tedious in any thing. Ovid in one of his poems holds this opinion, that Romulus was the fift that brought plates into Italy, which he thus sets downe:

Primum fiscitos fecit Romule Ludos,
Camem in urbis nuptas raptas abina viros
Tunc neque marmores pendebant velia Theatro, &c,
Which wee English thus,
Then noble Romulus first players conteries,
To get thy widowed souerd Sarins wyes.
For Actors.

In those days from the marble house did many
No gifts, no fire, flagge, or engine brave.
Then was the tragedy stage not panted red,
Or any mixed flames on pillars sped.
Then did the Scaene want art, th' oratory Stage
Was made of graves and earth in that rude age:
A snuffe from the which were corycæan branches placed,
Nor did the Actors but themselves disgraced
Of surf and beards had to make their vesture,
From this in degree of earth, and mossy priests.
This plac'd in order, every Roman pr'y'd
Into her face that late next by his side.
And clapping with her, generally even none,
The innocent Sabine women in their tune:
And whistling the pipe Thucius rudely plaid'd,
And by thrice flapping with his footes had made
All goose unto the sky, there was a shout.
Whose fowl respect piercing all the aire about.
Now was a signe of rape taken from the King.
Round through the bow the lufy Roman sung,
Leaving no corner of the same unfought.
Till every one a frighted wond'ring caught.
Look no at the trembling Dais the Eagle spott,
On a yong Lamb whom the Wofull slippers
So ran the poor gaiters, staining there with sorrows,
Enquiries of all the colour there pale cheeks.
One shore pottle them all, but not one looks,
This steals her bairre, shee hath her was forsoaks.
Some call'd for some on their mothers call'd,
Some clapp'd, some fley, some flay, but frighted all.
Thus were the nafin'd Sabine slaving fed
(Their cunning flame) unto each Roman child.
If any fryst against it, freidly to her man.
Would take her out of there (whom face made w.m.)
And as, why steepeth how sweet what wades my decree?
Dry up these drops, these clouds of sorrow clear.

For Actors.

Hebe to that from thy griefs with mother,
Such as thy father was unto thy mother.
Full well could Romulus his Souldiers please,
To give them such faire munifencies as those.
If rich wages showeth wise to me,
Great Romulus, thy souleilder I will.
Romulus having erected the walls of Rome, and leading
Under him a warlike Nation, being in continual warre
With the Sabines, after the choyce selection of a place, fit
For so famous a City, and not knowing how to people
The fame, his train wholly confining of Souldiers, who
Without the company of women (they not having any in
Their Army) could not multiply, but so were likely that
Their immortal names should dye illuslfe with their mort-
Dally bodys. Thus therefore Romulus accutized; After a pause
And atonement made with the neighbour Nations, he
Built a Theatre, plaine, according to the time; yet large, fit
For the entertainment of so great an Assembly, and there
Were they whose famous issue peopled the Cittie of Rome,
Which in after ages grew to such height, that not Troy,
Founded by Dardanus, Carthage layed by Dido, Tyre built
By Agamem, Memphis made by Ogis[?i]3, Thebes [?e]d by Cid-
Bach, nor Babylon teared by Semiramis, were any way equal
To this fruition grounded by Romulus: to which all the
Discovered kingdoms of the earth after became tributary.
And in the noone-tide of their glory, and height of
All their honor, they edified Theaters, and Amphitheaters:
For in their flourishing Common-wealth, their publick Car-
Comedians and Tragedians most flourished, inomuch that the
Tragicke and Comicke Poets, were all generally ad-
Mired of the People, and particularly every man of his private
Merit:
In the reigne of Augustus Christ was borne, and as well
In his days as before his birth, thefes solemnities were held
In the greatest effusion. In ibidem Coetes time, recorded
For to Augustus, the famous honon-long'd Orator Caesar
have excusws.
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That policy is not lookt for at our hands, being mortall and humane, that is required of the Angels, being celestiall and divine, God made vs of earth, men; knowes our nature, dispositions and imperfections, and therefore hath limited vs to a time to rejoyce, as hee hath enjoyned vs a time to mourn for our transgredions. And I hold them more scrupulous than well advised, that goe about to take from vs the use of all moderate recreations. Why hath God ordained for man, variety of states, dainties and delicacies, if not to taste thereof; why doth the world yeild choice of honest pastimes, if not decently to vs them? Was not the Hare made to be huntted? the Stagge to be chased; and of all other beasts of game in their several kinds? since God hath provided vs of these pastimes, why may we not use them to his glory? Now if you ask me why were not the Theaters as gorgeously built in all other Cities of Italy as Rome? And why are not Play-houses maintained as well in other Cities of England, as London? my answere is: It is not meet every manne Elsewhere should carry the part belonging to one of the Nobility, or for a Noble-man to vifurce the efface of a Prince. Rome was a Metropole; a place whither all the nations knowe under the Sunne, reformed: to is London, and being to receie all Eliters, all Princes, all Nations, therefore to afoord them all choice of pastimes, sports, recreations yet were there Theaters in all the greatest Cities of the world, as we will more largely particularize hereafter.

I never yet could read any History of any Commonweale, which did not thrive & prosper whilst there publike solemnities were held in adoration. Oh but (say some) Marcus Aurelius banish'd such triuall exercizes beyond the confines of Italy. Indeed this Emperrour was a Philosopher of the Fece of Diogenes, a Cynicke, and whether the hand of Diogenes would become a scepter, or a root better, I leave to your judgments. This Aurelius was a great & sharpe re

For Actors.

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For Actors,

barring the base Mechanickes so worthy employment; for none but the yong Heroes were admitted that prattled, to embolden them in the delivery of any forraigne Embassy. These wise men of Greece (as called by the Oracle) could by their industry, finde out no warmer or directed course to plant humanity and manners in the hearts of the multitude then to instruct them by moralized mysteries, what virtues to attend, what ventures to embrace; what enormities to abandon, what ordinances to object; whole lives (being for some speculall endowments in former times honord) they should admire and follow, whole vicious actions (perfonated in some licentious lusts) they should deteste & shunne; which borne out as well by the wisdom of the Poet, as supported by the word of the Actors, wrought such impression in the hearts of the plebe, that in short space they excelled in civility and government, insomuch that from them all the neighbour Nations drew their patterns of Humanity, as well in the establishing of their Lowes, as the reformation of their manners. Thence, Muses and Gym-

naphiles, that lu'd (as I may say) in the childhood and infancy of the world, before it knew how to speake perfectly, thought even in those days, that Aion was the neerest way to plant understanding in the hearts of the ignorant. Yea (but say some) you ought not to confound the habits of either sex, as to let your boys wear the attire of Virgins, &c. To which I answer: The Scriptures are not always to be expounded merely according to the letter; (for in such estate stands our magie Sacramental Controversie) but they ought exactly to be confered with the purpose they handle. To do as the Sodomites did, repute preposterous lusts in preposterous habits, is, in that text flatly and severely forbidden: nor can I imagine any man, that bath in him any taint or reli of Christiinity, to be guilty of so abhorred a sinne. Besides, it is not probable, that Player were meant in that text, because we read not of any Player knowne in that time that Deteremmon was wrote, among

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among the Children of Israel, nor do I hold it lawful to beguile the eyes of the world in confounding the shapes of either sex, as to keep any youth in the habit of a virgin, or any virgin in the shape of a lad, to shroud them from the eyes of their fathers, tutors, or protectors, or to any other sinister intent whatsoever. But to see our youths attired in the habit of women, who knows not what their intents be? who cannot distinguish them by their names, assuredly knowing, they are but to represent such a Lady, at such a time appointed?

Do not the Universities, the fountains and well-springs of all good Arts, Learning and Documents, admit the like in their Colledges? and they (I assure my selfe) are not ignorant of their true use. In the time of my residence in Cambridge, I have seene Tragedyes, Comedyes, Historyes, Pastoralls and Sheues, publickly acted, in which Graduates of good place and reputation, have been specially partied; this is held necessary for the emboldening of their Junior scholars, to arm them with audacity; against they come to be employed in any publicke exercise, as in the reading of the Dialetcick, Rhetorick, Ethicke, Mathematicke, the Phy sicke, or Metaphysicke Lessons. It retrenches audacity to the bashfull Grammarian, being newly admitted into the private Colledge, and after matriculated and entered as a member of the University, and makes him a bold Sophister, to argue pro et contra, to compose his Ciclogismes, Cat hegonick, or Hypotheticke(simple or compound) to reason and frame a sufficient argument to prove his questions, or to defend any axioms, to distinguish of any Dilemmata, &c be able to moderate in any argumentation whatsoever.

To come to Rhetorick, it is not only emboldeneth a scholar to speake, but instructeth him to speake well; and with judgement, to observe his comma's, colon's, & full points, his parembs, his breathing spaces, and inflections, to keepe a decorum in his countenance, neither to frownne when he should smile, nor to make vnseemly and disfigured faces in the delivery of his words, nor to säre with his eyes, draw swly his mouth, confer his voice in the hollow of his throat, or tear his words hastily betwixt his teeth, neither to buffer his desk like a mad-man, nor stand in his place like a lusselie image, demurely plodding, & without any smooth & formal motio. It instructeth him to fit his phrasis to his action, and his action to his phrase, and his pronunciation to them both.

To be in his bookes ed Continuance, requires sev'n things in an Orator: Emotio, Dissuasion, Elucidation Memory, and Pronunciation. yet all are imperfect without the first, which is a Action: for be his inuicion never so fluent and exquisit, his disposition and order never so composed and formall, his eloquence, and elaborate phrases never so materiall and pithy, his memory never so firm & retentive, his pronunciation never so musicall and plaiusie, yet without a comliny and elegant gesture, a gracious and a bewitching kind of action, a natural and a familiar motion of the head, the hand, the body, and a moderate and fit countenance suitable to all the rest, I hold all the rest as nothing. A delivery & sweet action is the grace & beauty of any discourse that belongs to a Scholar. And this is the action beuoyfull in any that professeth this quality, not to vfi any impudent or forced motion in any part of the body, no rough, or other violent gesture, nor on the contrary, to stand like a stiffe stanch man, but to qualify every thing according to the nature of the person perswaded: for in over-acting tricks, and toyling too much in the anticke habit of humors, men of the ripest dehert, greatest opinions, and best reputations may breake into the most violent absurdities. I take not upon me to teach, but to advise: for it becomes my humilitie other to pabilit my selfe, then to instruct others.

To proceed, and to look into those men that professeth themselves aduersaries to this quality they are none of the gravelest, and most ancient Doctors of the Academy, but
OF ACTORS, AND
their ancient Dignitie.

THE SECOND BOOK.

V.L.I.V.S.C.A.S.A.R., the famous Conqueror, dis coursi ng with Marcus Cicero, the as famous Orator, amongst many other matters debated, it pleased the Emperor to ask his opinion of the Historiones, the players of Rome, pretending some cutell against them, as men whose employment in the Common-wealth was unnecessary; to whom Cicero answered thus: Content thee Caesar, there bee many heads buffeted & bewitched with these pastimes now in Rome, which other wise would be laziest after thee and thy greatnesse. Which answered, how sufficiently the Emperor approved, may bee conjectured by the many gifts bestowed, and pensions and charters after granted to men of that quality. Such was likewise the opinion of a great statesman of this kind, about the time that certaine books were called in question. Doubtless there bee many men of that temper, who were they not carried away, and weaned from their own corrupt and bad disposition, and by accidentall means remoted and altered from their dangerous and sullen intendments, would be found apt and prone to many notorious and trayterous practices. Kings & Monarches are by God placed and anointed super nobis, above vs, & we are to regard them as the Sun from whom we receive the light to light yonder, whose beauty & bright-nesse we may onely admire, not meddle with: Ne ludens sim.
OF ACTORS, AND
the true vie of their quality.

THE THIRD BOOKE.

Ragesies and Comedies, faith Douetis,
as their beginning are from the divine sacrifices, they differ thus: In Comedies, turbulenta scena, transtilla ubica,
In Tragedyes, tranmaxilla prima, turbulenta ubica,
Comedies begin in trouble, and end in peace; Tragedies begin in calnest, and end in tempest. Comedies there be three kinds, mowing Comedies, called Musacic, standing Comedies, called Saturae, or mixt betwixt both, called Mufica: they are distributed into four parts, the Prologue, that is, the preface; the Proza-
phi, that is, the proposition, which includes the first Aet,
and presents the Actors; the Episode, which is the businesse and body of the Comedy; the last the Catastrophe, and conclusion: the definition of the Comedy, according to the Latins: a discourse consisting of divers institutions, comprehending civil and domestike things, in which is taught, what in our lines and manner is to be followed, what to bee avoided, the Grecians define it thus: Θρασυχας τις ἐφανεροῦσας τοὺς πόλεμους τοὺς δικές. Comment, a Comedy is the imitation of life, the glasse of customs, and the image of truth, in Actors they had their first original. The ancient Comedians whoso to attire their Actors thus: the old men in white, as the most ancient of all, the young men in party-coloured garments, to note their diversity of thoughts, their flaws and furtuants in thin and

For Actors:

For Actors, either to note their povertie, or that they might run the more lighter of their affaires: their Parasites were robes that were turned in, and intricately wrapped about them; the fortunate in white, the discontented in decayed vesture, or garments, grown out of fashion, the rich in purple, the poore in crimson, loudiers wore purple jackets, hand-maid the habits of strange victualls, bawds, purse coates, and Cuttezans, garments of the colour of mud, to denote their couetousnesse: the flages were hung with rich Arras, which was first brought from King Cestius into Rome, his state-hangings were so costly, that from him all Tapezeries, and rich Arras were called Cestia. This being a thing ancient as I have prooved it, next of dignity, as many arguments have confirmed it, and now euen in these days by the bell, without exception, honourably tolerated, why should I yeeld my censure, grounded on such forme and ephemerall sufficiency, to any Tower, founded on sand, any castle built in the air, or any trivial vserr, and mere imaginary opinion.

I hope there is no man of so inconsiderable a spirit, that can mislike against the true and direct vie of this quality: Oh but they, the Romanes in their time, and some in these days have abused it, and therefore we voley out our exclama-
tions against the vie. Oh shallow! Because such a man had his house burnt, we shall quite condemn the vie of fire, because one man gave poxion, we must so bear to drink, because some have benne shipwreck, no man shall hereafter traffique by sea. Then I may as well argue that the cut his finger, therefore mufte I wear no knife, a good man fell from his horse, therefore mufte I travell a foot; that man forfeited, therefore dare not I eat. What can appear more absurd than such a groafe and fenecelefe afferent? I could turne this weaponed weapon against his breast that smites it at mine, and reason thus: Regulus had a large pension allowed him by the Senate of Rome, why should not an Actor

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of the like defect, have the like allowance now' or this, the
most famous City and Nation in the world, held plays in
great admiration: Engr, but it is a rule in Logique, Expres-
sions, what fit. These are not the Basset we must build
upon, nor the columns that must support our architecture.

Et Lice, sit caentus, praequantur enim veris.
His sedebit sine filiiportal openere.
Both the more and true men, weapons more alike.
To be to defend, the other come to fight.

Let vs set fire to warre vs, not to fasten, or to make ready our necessities, not to burne our houses; let vs drink to quench our thirst, not to surfeite; and ease to satiate nature, nor to gormandize.

Comedie arets fimile teguntur.
Consil�다 multis ipse necore
Players are in life as they are under foot.
Spectatores eyes may make them bad or good.

Shall we condemn a generality for any one particular misconception? Give me a time to argue thus: Amongst Kings have there not beene some tyrants? yet the office of a King is the Image of the Majesty of God. Amongst true subjects have there not crept in some false traitors? even amongst the humblest there was one Judas, but shall we for heresie, confine worfe of the eleuent God for bid: art thou Prince or Peasant? art thou of the Nobility, or Commonalty? Art thou merchant or Soullier? of the City or Country? Art thou Preacher or Auditor? Art thou Tutor or Pupil? There haue beene of the function bad and good, prophan and holy. I induce these instances to confirm this common argument, that the use of any generall thing is not for any one particular abuse to be condemned: for if that affriction food farms, wee should run into many notable inconveniences.

Quod locum tempus magis optimo quod scelerum
Intulitum fortasse digerat ornam.

To the

For Actors.

To proceed to the matter: First, playing is an ornament
to the City, which strangers of all Nations, repairing hither,
report of in their Countries, beholding there now
with some admiration: for what variety of entertainment
can there be in any City of Christendome, more than in
London? But come will say, this distm might be very well pa-
red out of the banqet: to him I answer, Dogovan, how
ted too seesd of routes, cannot reth a March-pone. Se-
ondly, our Englishe tongue, which hath ben the most hyth,
venem, and broken language of the world, part Dutesh,
past Ingh, Saxon, Scotch, Welch, and indeed a gallimardy of
many, but perfect in none, is now by this necessidy means of
playing, continually refined, every writer finning in
hicidie to add a new spirit unto it; so that in proccede,
from the most rude and unpolished tongue, it is grown to
a most perfect and composd language, and many excellent
writers, and elaborate Poems writ in the fame, that
many Nations grow inamored of our tongue (before despised.)
Neither Sapthicke, Ionick, Lambicke, Phaleunicke, Adon-
icke, Gliconicke, Hexameter, Tettamiter, Pentamiter, Ade-
tepediceke, Choriamticeke, nor any other measured verie
wied amongst the Greckes, Lattes, Italiens, French, Dutch, or
Spanishe writers, but may be expresd in Englishe, he it be in blanke
verse, or meeter, in Didichon, or Hexachon, or in what
forme or feet, or what number you can desire. Thus you
see to what excellency our refined Englishe is brought, that
in these ages we are ashamed of that Empoln & eloquence
which within these 60 years, the best tongues in the land
were proud to pronounce. Thirdly, players hate made
the ignorant more apprehensive, taught the unlearned
the knowledge of many famous histories, instruced such as
are not read in the discouery of all our Englishe Chronicles: &
what man have you now of that wekte capacity, that cannot
discours of any notable thing recorded even from Wili-
low the Conqueror, may from the landing of Bruce, untill
this day, being possest of their true vfe, Foe, or because

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Players are writ with this syme, and carried with this methode, to teach the subject obedience to their King, to shew the people the vanity and end of such as have moved tumults, commotions, and insurrections, to prevent the with the flourishing estate of such as live in obedience, exhorting them to allegiance, dehorting them from all treacherous and felonious stratagems.

Of Tragedies.

If we present a Tragedy, we include the fallacy and abortive ends of such as commit notorious murders, which is aggravated and added with all the Art that may be, to terrorize men from the like abhorred crimes. If we present a forretigne History, the subject is so intended, that in the lines of Romane, Cretees, or others, either the virtues of our Country-men are extolled, or their vices reproved, as thus, by the example of Cesar to shew foudriers to valour & magnanimity: by the fall of Pompey, that so man trust in his owne strength: we present Alexander, killing his friend in his rage, to reprooue rashness: Ajax, choked with his gold, to shew cunctoenixie: Nero against tyranny: Sardanapulus against luxury: Nyxus, against ambition, with infinite others, by sundry instances, either animating men to noble enterprize, or attaching the confidences of the spectators, finding themseles toucht in presenting the vices of others. If morall, it is to persuade men to humanity and good life, to instruct in civility and good manners.

Of Comedy.

Thus have them the fruits of honesty, and the end of villany. Thus have we entreated Comical music, Againe, Horace, Aris. Poet. Et nonnisi praevius Plautus et numerus et Lanuviores. If a Comedy, it is pleasantly contrived with merry accidents, and intermixt with apt and witty jests, to present before the Prince at certain times of solemnity, or else merily fitted to the stage. And what is then the subject of this harmelesse might? either in the shape of a Clowne, to shew others.
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boldly and plainly courag'd all such abuses as in their ages were generally practis'd, to the tainting and blasmishing of a fire and beautifull Common-wealth. Likewise a learned Gentleman in his Apology for Poetry, speaks thus: Tragedies well handled be a mean wiry kind of Poetry, Comedies make men fee and flame at their faults, and proceeding further amongst other University-players, he remembers the Tragedy of Richard the third, acted in Saint John in Cambridge, to effectuall, that had the torrent Plutus beheld his bloody proceedings, it had mollified his heart, and made him relent at sight of his inhumane massacres. Further, he commendeth Comedies, the Cambridge Pedantius, and the Oxford Bilson Grammaticals; and leaving them pass on to our publicke players, speaking liberally in their praise, and what commendable vfe may bee gathered of them. If you peruse Margarita Poetica, you may see what excellent vyes and sentences he hath gathered out of Terence his Androcles, Emerolus, and the rest. Likewise out of Plutus his Amphitryon, Alcestis, and morevover, Ex Comediam Philostacei, Caroli Aemestii: De multis Hypothesis; et multo Mercurio, Renty tractennis; Ex Comediam Philemona Egyptum para meum, all reuerend scholars, and Comick Poets, reside eter the 4 Tragedies, Philemona, Petruch, Aman Katharina, Claudius Rodetii Blumus: But I should tire my selfe to reckon the names of all French, Roman, German, Spanish, Italian, and English Poets, being in number infinite, and their labours extense to approve their worthinesse.

Is thy minde Noble and wouldst thou be further thir'd up to magnanimity? Behold, upon the stage thou must see Hercules, Achilles, Alexander, Cesar, Adonis, Silastrius, Scythes, Hanboll, Antiques, Philip of Maced, Menestrides of Pontus, Tyrants of Egypt, Age damn amongst the Macedonians, Ephesians amongst the Thraces. Sculde lone entering the armed tents of Parthenos: Ionians Chores alone withstanding the whole army of the Anacodes of Sparta, choosing a Lybion to lead a band of Deere, rather than one Deere to conduct an army of Lyons, with infinite others in their owne persons qualities, & shapes, animating thee with courage, deterring thee fro cowardice. Hast thou of thy Country well defended? and art thou of thy labour eft so content? to associate thee thou mayest see the valiant Roman Marcellus purue Humilis at Nola, conquering Syracuse, vanquishing the Gauls, all Padas, and presently (for his reward) banish his Country into Greece. There thou mayest see Scipio Africanus, now triumphing for the conquest of all Africa, and immediately exild the confines of Romania. Art thou inclined to lyfe behold the fall of the Icarus, in the rape of Lorece: the gudement of luxury in the death of Sarapambus: Appius destroyed in the ruuishing of Circeana, and the destruction of Troy in the lust of Helena. Art thou proud? our Scene presents the with the fall of Phaethon, Narcissus pineing in the loue of his shadow ambitious Lydon, now calling himselfe a God, and by and by shrueless amongst the Disnel. We present men with the vigilance of their vices, to make them the more to abhorre them, as the Parthian was, who alone all sinneres, loathing drunkenne, acuised in their solemne feasts, to make their servaunts and captives extremeley overcome with wine, and then call their children to view their naughty and lothsome behaviours, making them hate that sin in themselves, which shewed so groffie and abominable in others. The like vfe may be gathered of the drunkards so naturally imitated in our plays, to the applaus of the Actor, content of the auditor, and reproving of the vife. Art thou courteous go no further then Plutus his Comedy called Encola.

Dom falle fereus, dabur pater, improba lena
Fiscorius, & mercifrochus, Menandrocr crut.

White thou's fallis servaunt, or obsidate fire,
Sly baud, imbrach where, Menandrocr we'admire.

To end in a word, Act thou addicted to prodigally lentury? or unseely peristy? flattery? or rage? our Scenes afford thee
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done for all men to shape your lives by, who be frugal, loving, gentle, truly, without fothing, and in all things temperate. Wouldst thou be honourable? just, friendly, moderate, devout, merciful, and loving concord? thou mayest see many of their fates and ruines, who haue bene dishonourable, inaults, slates, gluttenery, sacrilegeous, bloody-minded, and brothets of diuision. Women likewise that are chaste, are by vs terrified, and encouraged in their vertues, being inflamed by Diana, Blistaha, Matilda, Lucrece and the Countesse of Sulbury. The vnchaste are by vs scoured their errors, in the persons of Phoebe, Lucie, Flora, and amongst vs, Infamed, and Michelle Shone. What can sooner print modesty in the foules of the wasen, then by discovering unto them the monstrous sense of their sin? It follows that we prove these execrables to have bee to the discoverers of many notorious mirrers, long concealed from the eyes of the world. To omit all faire-fetcht influences, we will proue it by a donethike, and home-borne truth, which within these few yeares happened. At Lin in Norwolke, the then Earl of Suffolk players acting the old History of Frier Francis, & presenting a woman, who instantly dying on a young gentleman, did (the more securely to enjoy his affection) murtherously and secretly murdered her husband, whose ghost haunted her, and at divers times in her most solitary and private contemplations, in most horrid and fearfull shapes, appeared, and stood before her. As this was acted, a towns-woman (till then of good estimation and report) finding her presence (at this presentation) extremely troubled, suddenly shrieked and cryed out. Oh my husband, my husband! I see the ghost of my husband fiercely threatening and menacing me. At which thrill and respected one-cry, the people about her, mooned to a strange amazement, inquired the reason of her clamour, when presently vs-urged, she told them, that fourteen years ago, there to be possessed of such a Gentleman (meaning him) had payed for her husband, whose fearfull image persona-
ed

For Actors,

red it felle in the shape of that ghost: whereupon the multitude was apprehended, before the Justices further examined, by her voluntary confession after condemned. That this is true, as well by the report of the Actors as the records of the Towne, there are many eye-witnesses of this accident yet living, vocally to confirm it.

As strange an accident happened to a company of the Strangers at Amsterdam as the same quality some 15 yeares ago, or not so much, who playing late at night at a place called Perin in Cornhill, certaine Spaniards were landed the same night, unexpectaued, and undiscouered, with intent to take in the town. Ioyled and burned it, when suddenly, even upon their entrance, the players (ignorant as the towns-men of any such attempt) presenting a battle on the stage with their drum and trumpets, stroke up a loud alarme, which the enemy hearing, and fearing they were discovered, amazedly retired, made some few idle shot in a brando, and do in a hurly-burly fled disorderly to their boats. At the report of this tumult, the towns-men were immediatly armed, and purfued them to the sea, praying God for their happy deliverance from so great a danger, who by his prouidencie made these strangers the instrument and secondary means of their escape from such imminent mischief, and the tyranny of so remorseful an enemy.

Another of the like wonder happened at Amsterdam. In a strange accident, a company of our English Comedians (well knowne) travelling those Countries, as they were before a play, the Burgers and other the chief inhabitants, acting the last part of the 4 oaks of Aesop, towards the last act of the history, where penitence Renomed, like a common labourer, lived in disquise, vowing as his last penance, to labour & carry burdens to the structure of a godly Church there to be erected: whole diligence the labourers enyuing, since by reason of his stature and strength, he did visibly perfect more worke in a day, then a dozen of the beef (the worke for his consciencet, they for their desire.) Whereupon

by
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by reason his industry had so much disparaged their living, 
conspired amongst themselves to kill him, waiting some 
opportunity to seize him asleep, which they might eaily 
due, since the forest labourers are the foundl fasteners, and 
industri the best preparative to rest, Haing spy'd their 
opportunity, they dace a nail to his temple, of which 
would immediately he dyed. As the Actors handled this, 
the audience might on a sudden understand an out-cry, 
and loud shrike in a remote gallery, and prelting about the 
place, they might perceive a woman of great gravity, 
frangelly smazed, who with a distracted & troubled braine 
of fugid out these words: Oh my husband, my husband! 
The play, without further interruption, proceeded; the wo-
man was to her owne house conducted, without any appa-
rent satisfaction, every one conjecturing as their fancies led 
them. In this agony the some few dayes languisht, 
and on a time, as certaine of her well disposed neighbours came 
to comfort her, one amongst the real being Church-ward-
ner, to him the Sexton poars, to tell him of a strange thing 
 happenning him in the rippin of a grave; see here (quoth 
he) what I have found, and floor them a faire skull, with 
a great nailie pierf quite through the braine-pan, but we 
cannot contenture to whom it shold belong; nor how long 
 it hath lain in the earth, the grave being confuted, and the 
flieh consumed. At the report of this accident, the wo-
man, out of the trouble of her afflicted conscience, 
discouered a former murder. For 12 years ago, by dri-
ting that nailie into that skull, being the head of her hu-
band, she had treacherously slaine him. This being publick-
ly confes, she was arraigned, condemned, adjudged, and 
burnt. But I draw my subiect to greater length then I 
purposed: these therefore out of other infinites, I have 
colllected, both for their familaresse and laneous of me-
mory.

Thus our Antiquity we have brought from the Graces 
in the time of Horace: from the Macedonians in the age of 
Alexander.

For Actors.

Alexander from the Roman long before Julius Caesar, and 
from him, through the reigns of 3 Emperors succeeding, 
were Marcus Aurelius: after him they were supported by 
the Montanus, Ctesianus, Valerianus, Ninfeianus, the Flau-
istanius, and others: since the German Princes, the Pallas-
graen, the Landgrave, the Duke of Saxony, of Brunswick, 
&c. The Cardinal of Brussels, hath at this time in pay, a 
company of our English Comedians. The French King al-
lows certaine companies in Paris, Orleans, besides other 
Cities: so doth the King of Spain, in Cadiz, Seville, and oth-
er provinces. But in no Country they are of that emi-
nence that ours are: for our most royal, and everyone
enroned fosterelde, hath licencd wv in London to do his pree-
ence, for the three vertuous virgin, Queene Elizabeth, and be-
fore her, her sister, Queene Mary, Edward the fifth, and 
their father, Henry the eighth: and before these in the tenth 
year of the reigne of Edward the fourth, Anno 1500. John 
Stow, an ancient and graue Chronicler, recordeth (amongst 
other varieties tending to the like effect) that a play was 
acted at a place called Skinner's well, by Clerkenwell, 
which continued eighte dayes, and was at first from 
Adam and Eve, (the first creation of the world.) The specu-
ators were no worse then the Royall of England. And a-
mongst other commendable exercises in this place, the 
Company of the Skinner's of London held certaine yearly 
solemne plays. In place whereof, now in these latter daies, 
the wraftling, and such other palettes have been kept, and 
Times is still held about Barbolman-side. Also in the yerre 1590. 
kepeth the 24 yeares of the reigne of Richard the second, the 16. 
Of Italy, were the like Englishes recorded of at the same place, 
which continued 3 daies together, the King and Queene, 
and Nobility being there present. Moreover, to this day, in 
divers places of England, there be townes that hold the pri-
ileged of their Faires, and other Charters by yearly fayle-
players, as at Marmegies in Suffolke, Kendall in the North, 
& others. To let these p a s e , as things familly knowne to
An Apology

all men. Now to speake of some abuses lately crept into the quality, as an inuieging against the State, the Court, the Law, the City, and their governments, with the particularizing of private men's harms (yet above) Noble-men, & others. I know it diffisses many, neither do I any way approve it, nor dare I by any means excuse it. The liberty which some arrogate to themselves, committing their bitterness, and liberal iniquities against all estates, to the mouths of Children, supposing their innocency to be a privilege for any raving, be it never so violent, I could advise all such, to curb and limch this presumed liberty within the bands of discretion and government. But wise and judicious Censurers, before whom such complaints shall at any time hereafter come, wil not (I hope) impute these abuses to any transgression in vs., who have ever been careful and prudent to shun the like. I undertake to prosecute this any further, left my good meaning be (by some) misconstrued: and fearing likewise, left with tedious solicitude I tire the patience of the favourables Reader, here (though abruptly) I conclude my third and last
TREATISE.

SUBHIBEMANENT IOannes Willinsocks

TO

To my approved good Friend, Mr. Nicholas Oker.

HE infinite faults escaped in my book of Britaine: Troy, by the negligence of the Printer, as the misquotations, mistaking of syllables, misplacing halfe lines, coming of stanz and neuer heard of words. The being without number, when I would have taken a particular account of the Errata, the Printer answered me, hee would not publish his owne disworke:manship, but rather let his owne fault ly upon the necke of the Author: and being careful that others of his quality, had beene of the same nature, and condition, and finding you on the contrary, so careful, and industrious, so serious and laborious to doe the Author all the rights of the preffe, I could not choose but gratulate your honest industry with this short remembrance. Here likewise, I must necessarily infer a manifest injury done me in that worke, by taking the two Epistles of Pariss to Helen, and Helen to Paris, and printing them in a leffe volume, under the name of another, which may put the world in opinion I might itate them from him: and hce to doe himselfe right, hath since published them in his owne name: but as I must acknowledge my
The Author to the Printer.

my lines not worthy his patronage, bynder whom he hath publi[s]h'd them, so the Author I know much offended with M. Jaggard (that altogether vnknowne to him) presumed to make so bold with his name. These, and the like dishonesties I know you to bee cleare of; and I could with but to bee the happy Author of so worthy a worke as I could willingly commit to your care and workmanship.

Yours ever

Thomas Heywood