

Early English Dramatists

“LOST” TUDOR
PLAYS WITH
SOME OTHERS

Three hundred and fifty copies printed.

Early English Dramatists

Recently Recovered

“LOST” TUDOR PLAYS

WITH SOME OTHERS

H $\frac{579}{153}$

COMPRISING

Mankind—Nature—Wit and Science
Respublica—Wealth and Health
Impatient Poverty—John the Evangelist
Note-Book and Word-List

EDITED BY

JOHN S. FARMER



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P R E F A C E

UNQUESTIONABLY the chief interest of this volume will centre in the three recently recovered "lost" Tudor Plays: *Wealth and Health*, *Impatient Poverty*, and *John the Evangelist*. It was, in truth, a unique and notable "find" — one that gladdened the world's scholarship. In June 1906 it was announced that no fewer than seventeen of the rarest pre-Shakespearean interludes, including three "lost" plays and four apparently unknown or unrecorded editions, had been unearthed in an Irish country house. Yet the owner of this quarto volume of old plays, the hammer value of which ultimately proved to be over £2600, thought so little, or knew so little, of its value that it was sent over to the London auctioneers without a cover!

It is a matter of surmise, perhaps idle enough, how these old plays got so far afield from the usual centres of early dramatic interest and effort. Still it shows that we need not despair of further "recoveries"; in the most unlikely quarters and when least expected other lost plays of the Tudor period may turn up; and, it must be confessed, if only a tithe of known plays not now traceable are restored, the gain to scholarship will be invaluable.

Public interest in this recent recovery was