

PROSE AND VERSE

BY

JOHN DICKENSON,

VIZ:

- I. THE SHEPHEARDES COMPLAINT. *n.d.*
- II. ARISBAS, EUPHUES AMIDST HIS SLUMBERS:
OR CUPID'S IOURNEY TO HELL, Etc. 1594.
- III. GREENE IN CONCEPT. NEW RAISED FROM
HIS GRAUE TO WRITE THE TRAGIQUE
HISTORIE OF VALERIA OF LONDON, Etc.
1598.

EDITED, WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS,
AND FAC-SIMILE,

BY THE

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ST. GEORGE'S, BLACKBURN, LANCASHIRE.

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1878.

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INTRODUCTION.

JOHN DICKENSON is known only, in so far as he is known at all, to a "fit audience though few," by his books. Biographical and bibliographical authorities have been consulted in vain for information about himself. Like result has attended enquiries made through Dr. J. G. Van Oosterzee in Holland. I had indulged a hope of eliciting something about him there, inasmuch as he dedicated his *Speculum Tragicum Regum*, &c. (1601), to George Gilpin — younger brother of the ever-venerable Bernard Gilpin, "the Apostle of the North" — Elizabeth's ambassador and representative in "the Low Countries," as himself a resident, and as his *Miscellanea ex Historiis Anglicanis Concinnata* (1606), was also printed at Leyden. Some lucky chance may bring us the needed and much-wished light on the personality of a notable and scholarly Englishman.

For the present, at least, I must very much content myself with notes of and on his successive books, as just named, *id est*, besides those now reproduced :

(a) *Deorum concessus*, Siue Apolinis ac Mineruæ querela summum legentibus voluptatem nec minorem vtilitatem præbens. Auctore, I. Dickenson. Est labor in minimis : habet & scintilla calorem Londini Excudebat Eduardus Allde 1591. 8vo, pp. 24.

A solitary exemplar of this has been preserved in the Bodleian. 'I have not chanced on the record of another. There is Virgilian grace and melody in the *Deorum Concessus*. Let three brief quotations witness :

Nox erat, et mœstus neglecto munere Phœbus
Perpetuas misero tenebras indixerat orbi:
Surgit inauratum repetitq; Aurora cubile;
Phosphorus expectat frustra tandemq; recedit:
Et Phæbe subitos fratris mirata dolores,
Descendit vacuumq; relinquit lumine cœlum.

Iamq; vices senas suppleuerat ordine iusto
 Totq; quiescebat: nam deficientia sensit
 Cornua fulgentis priuari lumine Solis.
 Nereides madidæ tepidis latuère sub vndis
 Coeruleusque senex redeuntia sidera cernens
 Flumine tam sero miratur mersa profundo.
 Defectum soliti iam sensit Vesta caloris,
 Attollensq; caput viridi surgebat amicta
 Veste, et stelliferi splendentia limina cæli
 Mœsta petens, mœsto processerat auxia passu.
 Iupiter in thalamo curis et amore solutus
 Immotus iacuit:

Bina per æthereas proles Saturnia plagas
 Vndique quadrata protenderat atria forma:
 Fundamen crystallus erat, fulcitq; columnas
 Circuitu vasto declinans sphaera per vmbras:
 Hac super ardescens muniuit circulus arcem,
 Erectus spatio quasi murus alieneus amplo,
 Ignipotentis opus: radiabat porticus auro,
 Splenduit et varijs pellucida ianua gemmis.
 Inde per ascensus varios insomnis habetur
 Armiger, excelsæq; sedens in culmine turris,
 Atq; Dei seruans insignia, prospicit altè.
 Interiora domus obscura luce coruscant
 Fulminis, estq; tuus Priamo fate lectulus illic.

Audijt inuitus, requiturq; inuitus euntem
 Latona genitus, metuitq; minacia patris
 Dicta, sed vt potuit placida spem fronta serenat:
 Incedunt pariter Ioue nati, limen vterq;
 Intrat: Mercurius primo, tum tristis Apollo:
 Quem simul ac vidit, concussit terq; quaterq;
 Concitus Omnipotens solium: tum talia fatur.

On submitting these to a literary friend, his enthusiasm made the first and third ‘speak English.’ It was for their Latinity I thought of using them ; but I gladly avail myself of the excellent translations so kindly sent me, as follows :

Twàs night. Sad Phœbus, shining not, had laid
 On all the wretched earth perpetual shade :
 Aurora rises, and lifts up her head,
 But quickly seeks again her golden bed.
 The morning star hangs out his punctual fire,
 And waits and waits, but only to retire.