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THE BIRTH OF HERCULES

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This edition of the *Birth of Hercules* has been prepared by R. Warwick Bond with the assistance of the General Editor.

Jan. 1911. W. W. Greg.

The manuscript of the *Birth of Hercules*, now classed as Addit. 28722, was bought by the British Museum, on 13 May 1871, from Mr. W. C. Hazlitt, who had acquired it for the sum of £1. 9*s*. at the sale of Joseph Lilly's books at Sotheby's in the preceding March. On that occasion it appeared in the catalogue as no. 1313 of part i, and the description ran as follows:

Hercules. The Birthe of Hercules, a Comedye. Manuscript of the XVIth Century, with directions for the actors in Latin and English on margins. Sæc. xvi (circa 1595)

In all probability this is the first part of Martin Slaughter's Play of Hercules, said to have been acted in 1598 by the Lord Admiral's Servants, but of which no copy is now known.

A cutting from the catalogue, containing this item, is inserted in the manuscript itself, and by the side of it has been written, perhaps by Hazlitt: 'No other MS. known. Not printed. It seems earlier than 1595.' Again in Hazlitt's *Collections and Notes* (I. p. 210) is the entry: 'Hercules. The Birth of Hercules. A MS. on paper, written about 1590. Folio, 33 leaves. In five acts. Br. Museum. Lilly, part 1, No. 1313, the same.'

The play, however, is manifestly of academic origin and can have had no connection with the public stage. It is assigned in the British Museum catalogue to the early seventeenth century. Sir George Warner would place it quite early in the century, and points out that the watermark of the paper is Briquet's No. 15745, Hague 1597. Still the styles of composition and writing agree in placing a date before 1600 out of the question.

The manuscript, a thin folio, measuring $13 \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ inches, is enclosed in a contemporary wrapper of limp vellum. At each end a sheet of a different

paper was stitched in to form fly leaves. The first of the two leaves at the beginning, however, has been cut away. It is improbable that this leaf contained any writing, since it would normally have been pasted down on to the cover. The second leaf (now fol. 1) has on the recto the sign ∃·4 in faded red ink in the right top corner: probably an old press-mark. The body of the book originally consisted of five gatherings of four sheets each, making five quires in eights, but certain changes were subsequently made in the first of these. The first leaf, namely, was cut out, and a cancel containing the Prologus Laureatus pasted on its remaining edge. The third leaf was also cut out, its jagged edge being still visible between the present fols. 3 and 4. It is just possible that the cancel above-mentioned is this missing third leaf, and that it was transferred simply to bring the Prologus Laureatus into its present more correct position. Since the cancelling of the original first leaf was clearly intentional, it is unlikely that it contained any information, e. g. about the author or performance. The present first leaf (fol. 2) has been badly soiled, apparently before the volume was bound.

The whole five quires are ruled in red ink, two lines being drawn across near the top and one line near the bottom, while two lines are drawn down close together about the centre and one near the inner margin of each page. In the narrow central column thus formed are inserted the letters indicating the speakers. In the broad inner column of each page is written the text. Thus the speakers' names appear to the right of their speeches on each recto, to the left on each verso page. The slightly narrower outer column is reserved for stage directions, of which all those in the original hand are in Latin, and

has also been used for certain alterations and additions to the text. Between the head rules on fols. 2^a and 4^a has been written the title, while on 2^b and $3^{a,b}$ the space is blank. On subsequent pages the act number has been inserted: thus we find *Actus Primus* from 4^b to 12^b (except 11^b and 12^a accidentally left blank), *Actus Secundus* from 13^a to 19^a, *Actus tertius* from 19^b to 23^b, *Actus Quartus* (or *quartus*) from 24^a to 30^a, and *Actus Quintus* from 30^b to 32^b. The text of the manuscript fills the first four only of the five quires ; that is, allowing for the missing leaf in the first, thirty one leaves or sixty two pages. A modern pencil numbering of the folios has been introduced at the British Museum, which begins on the single fly-leaf and extends to the end of the fourth quire, thus running from 1 to 32. It is this numbering that is reproduced in the present edition.

The manuscript is written in the hand of a professional scribe (referred to as S in the notes) which is neat and on the whole very legible. The writing is fairly fine, and the ink is of a rich dark brown. English and Italian forms are carefully distinguished, though the use is not always consistent. In the titles on 2^a and 4^a, and again in ll. 2513–4 and 2519–21, the scribe has imitated black-letter type. He is responsible for the numerous small corrections or alterations in the text, to the number of some sixty or seventy, which are recorded in the notes to the present edition without particular ascription.

There are probably three other hands traceable in the manuscript. One of these, the most obviously distinguishable, is a rather untidy one belonging to the person, perhaps the Peleus of the Testamentum (and referred to as P) who prepared the play for performance. It adds nothing but marginal stage

directions in English, six in number (ll. 726, 780, 1023, 1240, 2319, 2499, the last two cases including a reference mark in the text). It is worth remarking with regard to *Alcmena* in the direction to l. 2319 that this is the only instance of that spelling in the manuscript. The ink of these additions is of a much lighter brown.

Much greater difficulty attaches to the remaining hand or hands. That of a corrector who is almost certainly the author is seen in the deleted Testamentum at the end and in the list of dramatis personae on 3^b. The writing (mainly Italian) is rather thicker and more upright than that of the scribe. Both are good hands, but the author's, while lacking some of the scribe's fluency and firmness, possesses greater character and beauty. The ink used is thinner and much greyer in colour. Longer additions or substitutions in the same hand and ink occur on fols. 5^b, 9^a, 22^a, 23^b, 25^b, 29^b, while numerous smaller changes and deletions are found, all of which are recorded and specifically assigned to the corrector (referred to as C) in the notes.

There are however a few alterations which, though in the same ink, appear to be by a different hand. The pen is finer, the writing less firm. The corrections in question are as follows: l. 354 Iupiter, l. 532 *euery*, l. 1013 bee, l. 1246 bid *Ragazzo* come to., l. 1543 *Ragazzo* where are you? (these are the only passages in which this character is mentioned), l. 1939 this is (altered from 'tis', ascription doubtful). These alterations form a fairly distinct group, and have been assigned to a second corrector (designated by D in the notes). It cannot, however, be regarded as absolutely certain that the two correcting hands are really distinct, and in any case it should be observed that, if they are, many of the minor touches assigned

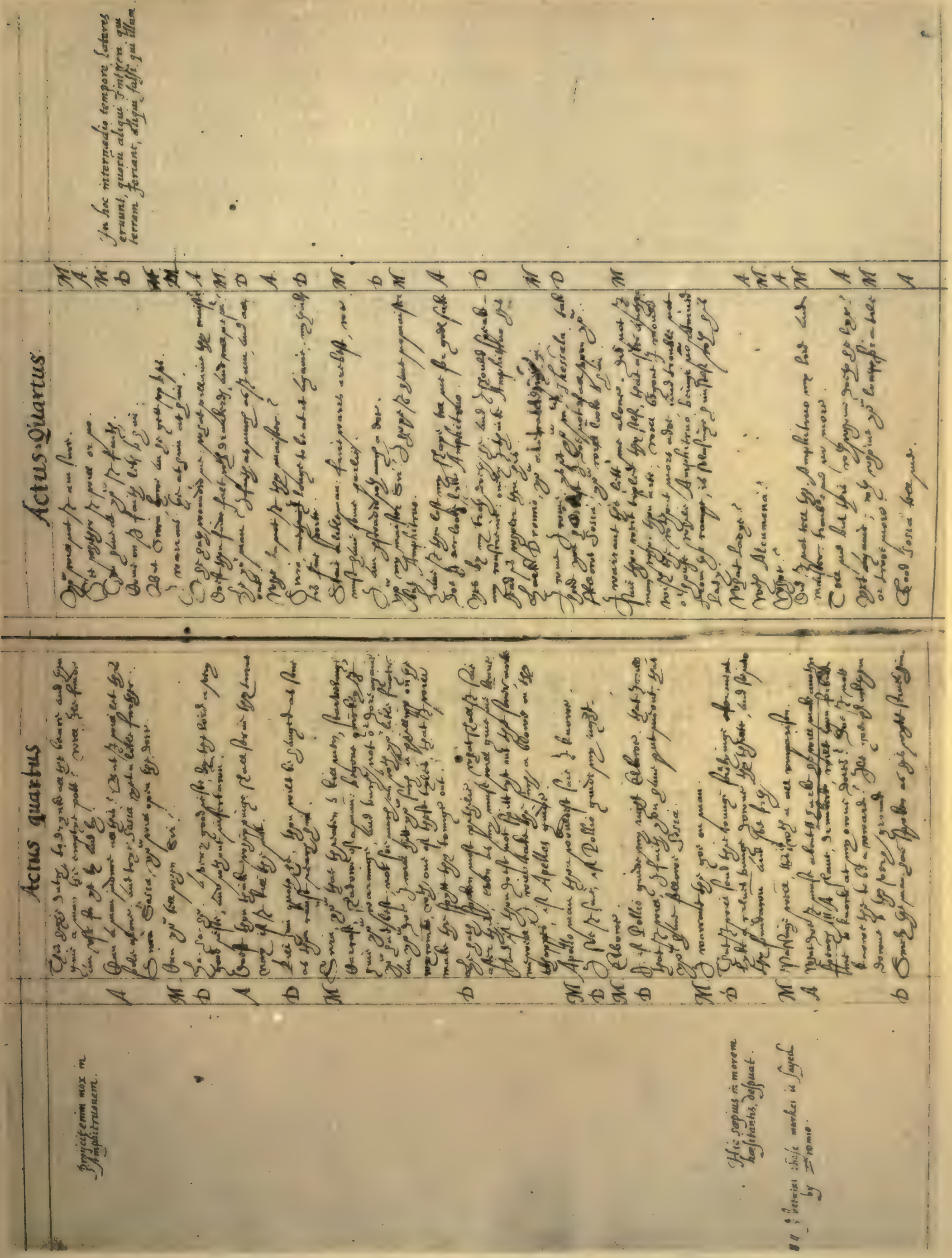
in the notes to C may, since there is no distinction of ink, be equally well the work of D.

The number of lines on a page of the MS. varies from 42 to 49; and since it was therefore impossible to reproduce the original page for page, all attempt at preserving the general arrangement has also been abandoned. Thus page-headings have been discarded, speakers' initials have been placed on the left of their speeches throughout, and all marginalia have been placed at the foot of the page, their position in the original being indicated in the present edition by circled reference-numbers in the left margin. Below these marginalia, and in smaller type, have been added footnotes giving the necessary information on textual points. The text has been printed so as to preserve exactly the number of lines in each speech, thus comprising a total of 2532 lines from *Actus primus* on fol. 4^a to *videatur* on fol. 32^b, as does the MS.; but in a very few cases some crowding in the latter has made it necessary to disturb the line-for-line arrangement within a speech by carrying a word or so over to the next line. Mere deletions are printed in the text within square brackets, while room has been found in the text for mere interlineations, notice being directed to them in the footnotes. Where, however, interlineations have been written to take the place of words deleted in the text it was not possible to find room for both without unduly disturbing the line divisions: in these cases therefore the interlineation has been printed in the text and the deleted words relegated to the footnotes. On the other hand, in cases where substitutions have been written in the margin, these have been treated in the same manner as other marginalia and printed at the foot of the page, the deleted passage being retained in the text, within brackets. All marginalia,

in whatever hand, are written in Italian style, while interlineations are usually English. The capitalization and word-division of the original have been followed as closely as was possible. With regard to the latter, however, cases must always arise in which it is necessary to follow what seems to be the scribe's general habit; while with regard to the former likewise doubtful points constantly occur. The majuscule form of C is quite distinct from the minuscule and has been retained even, in one case (l. 2249), in the middle of a word: on the other hand, the minuscule and majuscule forms of L merge imperceptibly into one another, and an upper-case letter has only been used where the majuscule form was quite certain. Many speeches and lines of verse begin with minuscules: on the other hand, the scribe has a preference for beginning a fresh page with a majuscule form. The letters u and n are indistinguishable. The punctuation of the original is neither very consistent nor very clear; it seems also to have been revised, possibly more than once: the practice of this edition is to print what appears to have been the final intention and to take no notice of the seeming alteration and duplication of points. The ends of a few lines are filled with flourishes, which have been ignored. The only clear instance of a catchword is on fol. 5^a, with a probable second on fol. 4^b. The scribe has written Mercury's prologue, obvious prose, as if it were verse.

The *Birth of Hercules* is a pretty close adaptation, or even translation, of the *Amphitruo* of Plautus, increased in bulk nearly one third by the addition of the second servant, Dromio, and by some development of the bare part assigned to Thessala in the original: additions probably suggested by the *Comedy of Errors*. The corrections by C make it practically

certain that the Prologus Laureatus is by the same writer as the play itself; while the allusions therein to Plautine comedies not yet translated (l. 43), to the parallel between the myth of Hercules and the birth of Christ (l. 55), the Latin stage-directions throughout and the Testamentum at the close, all point to the author's being a university man sending his comedy to a friend, at college or school, for performance should he see fit, as he apparently did.



Actus quartus

Proijcit enim mox in Amphitruonem.

Hic saepius in morem haesitantis, despuat.

‖ ‖ betwixt these markes is sayed by Dromio.

Actus Quartus

In hoc intermedio tempore lateres eruunt, quorū aliqui sint veri qui terram feriant, aliqui falsi qui illum.

FOL. 25b AND FOL. 26a (REDUCED)

FOL. 5b (UPPER PORTION)

a. tis an odd number. that same mine
tis ten to one and I see not taken up
to make it even.

Actus Primus

Qt. It is some pittifull gentleman that knowing my
Mr hath made me water for the one half of the night, I
wilbe so good as lay me a stoop for the other. I do
not like his look: for the Loue of god, what a stander-
knave yt is to stand to.

M In good time Q. were no more left to advance my boyes
a kyles that I may stand out. In faith, gentle
Dudgill you shut out my seruice (to speak of) this
monthe. mutter about that time yt past, vsed you
lard mine a stoop altogether.

S This Dudgill and I are both familiar, as yt seems;
I pray god I be not drawn into the arquaintance
to. Let me see, yt has lard mine a stoop, (as I
saith) altogether; a I ~~should take me to be a knight~~
~~prest or else, to make up the tale~~.

M. I were: I were stand no longer.

S It is then as I said. what I will call I do.

M I had neuer scrape my fingers.

S Respect doth I meane thinke you.

M Respecter towards mine my walke I shall shut

Gy Father? did not my father stand upon gittyr? doth
it not stand upon before our house? & must it not a
Lutorium at my Gate? doth it not stand? can it
not a rise? & must it not be rudgelled?
what should let us hye to yon straight into our house?

M. Your house?

S. Our house: see I have got what you will.

M. Dreame you yet lyd yittyrto in dowry wordes
you yet spoke. for it can that Sofia, that robbed
my Amphitruo from Jove: that was presented at
his arrow, saved the towne delivered: throwe that
my lord kyeld kynge Pterelas with his crowne & lands.

S. Lyes upon, Nay you it cannot be lyeve me that
it can Sofia, can it get you tyed a lytle fyrstyr.
but I praie you Sir (an a man may speake my
out rotworrow) you saie you were by at the delivery
still yet brown; can you see a man what present was
y ven Amphitruo by yet Teleborians?

M. Yet I say that kynge Pterelas & mistresse was mount to
drinke up.

S. It yate stood yt. but (an you were not be hungrie
for a kynge Sir) wyne might hyde up be?

M. This stalled up in a basket, with Amphitruo gyb orout
Stale.

S. O infinite. I bestrye you Sir but yet Stale?

M. Yet Some wynge, drawne in the Myrrt boatos
with fowre flaunt colored yorsts.

S. By ~~yonderd~~ Jupiter yet yate put me downe by plaine
Argumente; I must be faine to yet yett me do

Tut yt was not I. Did I rouguite his Taphians? bringe bud his Cullarods? Kill kings Uterelas, rob my owne kindred? And now suffer my self to be Cockolded by my wife? flouted by my friends? braued by a stranger at mynè owne doores? Worse and ist I put up all this quietly, yl was not I.. I am not Amphitruo. But ist I yoo in the Grow doue all in points as my friends do reporte. then I was I, I then am Amphitruo. But Sarah, what say ye to that poyne?

Actus Quintus

Scen. 1.

Bromia. Amphitruo. Dromio

Alas, Alas, what a daie is this: my heart is sore ab I ramot till I see my, would not our Gaud Hymen that Gaudy and Sarah would Gaue round together? my head aches yet poor Hist moist. I he will I shall not be rule his mistris ahame. Lord what strange things art falne out in our house? Old Mary Sadyr rob in trauell, she raised upon his grey b a Neste here. then was there prisoner fright midwiues and Lyghtermyn. ab poor in the house shall b the ground fri Bart. then I knowe

post clamorem parientis tonitru ingens quod aliquam diu continuetur oportet.

Alcmena Phrikes out wo him, and presently together with the Drum for thunder.

Durante tonitru aperiente se ostio cum impetu, Dromio excurrens, ex aedibus in herum iacentem titubet, & iuxta concidat, totus stupefactus.

The birthe of hercules FOL. 2a

Prologus Laureatus.

I am A Prologue, should I not tell y[o]u soe
Youu would scarse knowe me; tis soe longe agoe
Since Prologues were in vse: men put behinde
now, that they were wont to put before.
Thepilogue is in fashion; prologues no more.
But as an ould Cyttye woman well
Becomes her white capp still: an ould preist
His shaued crowne: A crosse, an ould church dore:
Soe well befyttꝯ a Prologue an ould plaie: 10
And this is ould, soe ould as none is more,
ffirst plaide in *Athens* in the græcian tonge:
Since fiue tymes plaid in lattin, and in *Rome*:
There t'has bene Clapt by Consullꝯ and Emperorꝯ:
Then if yt lyke not youu, blame not the Comedie,
But the Poet, th'actorꝯ, yor selues, or all three.
And marke youu that it is a Comedie,
Or tragicke Comedye, call yt wch youu will.
Tis no historie: Ballett, nor Boccas tale:

N.B.—In these notes S indicates the hand of the original Scribe, C and D those of two (?) Correctors, one of whom is presumably the author, P that of the Prompter or playhouse reviser. All changes not otherwise ascribed are to be taken as due to S. A query-mark implies that the reading of the MS. is doubtful. The word 'read' introduces a proposed emendation: '? read' one less confidently advanced. The abbreviation 'marg.' refers to stage-directions, corrections, and additions standing in the margin of the original, but given below the text in this edition. The position of these notes is indicated by circled numerals, which, of course, do not appear in the original. Thus in the notes '2 marg.' means second marginal note. The word 'deletion' refers to words or letters deleted in the original but printed in the text within brackets.

2 deletion by C.

No pleasant newe Interlude, no pretty toye: 20
No pestered deuise, wth Actorꝯ, crowded in
Drumbes, Ensignes, phiphes, targetꝯ & rusty swordꝯ
As farre from hence as deuillꝯ or inkhorne wordꝯ:
But all was saide, when it was said t'was ould;
The wurse saies some: he is not ould that saies soe,
The better he must saie, that would be soe.
And whie the wurse? bycause ould thinges are stale,
Weomen phapps, houses, garmentꝯ, and ould Ale.
But what saie yo^u^ to ould gould; what to ould honesty
Ould faith and troth, better then twentie bondes: 30
Ould charitie: ould harty sporte and meryment.
O had yo^u^ sene the world, when Grandame Ione
did call yor Grandsire Iohn, & he was well content,
Some will not lyke these same translated thinges,
meaninge by plaies; for a translated sute
Will lyke them wondrous well: but let them knowe,
Our Poetꝯ Aucthor himself translated it.
Some for addinge to yt, and alteringe yt,
must be offended: wch for yor sake
Our Poet did; yet no Iniustice neither 40
Vnto his Aucthor; who hath done the lyke
himself; to others in many Comedies.
In his *Asinária: Cásina: Mercátor: Epídicus.*
And after him *Terence* in *Phormio* & *Eunuchus.*
Besides, french and Italiens doe the same.
Some will Condempne as vnfyttinge heathen mouth FOL. 2^b^
the vse of Christian asseueracions
W^ch^ vse, let vse excuse. Soe in this playe
Our Aucthor somtymes yeeldinge to forme,
Sweres by *Hercules*, ere *Hercules* was borne, 50

27 *stale*,] comma doubtful. 47 *asseueracions*] *i* interlined by C.
48 *playe*] *y* altered? 49 *somtymes*] *som* altered from *often* by C.

But o^r Poet lookes not to doe more
Then Ioue himself: who raine he or hould he vpp
pleases not all: tis enough if he please som̃e,
And soe much might this Comedye more pleasinge be
bycause yt patternes out a highe mistery.
But one thinge he bad me tell yo^u: ꝑdone him this,
And he craues no ꝑdon for his next amysse. /

52 The last letter in this line, and again in l. 56, is only partly present, the extreme margin of the leaf having been covered by an overlying piece of paper when the text was written. 54 *be*] altered. 55 *out*] interlined by C.

Mercurius Prologus

You would thinke yt were daie
Now, I am sure: noe: it is night, 60
Or at least, an yo^{u} be good fellowes,
thinke soe, for this once: Soe phapps
Yo^{u} would take me for a man,
But yo^{u} are deceiued, for I am a god;
And that by this good night: yet I doe not wond^{r}
Yo^{u} should mistake me: ffor unles yt be
the maskinge god *Cupid*, yo^{u} may well
Haue heard of the ould Goddeς, but I thinke
It is a good while since yo^{u} see any of vs.
Well yo^{u} are lyke to see twoe of vs to night, 70
An yo^{u} will at least: an yo^{u} will not
Yo^{u} may chuse. My father Iupiter & my self,
Merry *Mercury*, wth one of the maddest prankeς
that euer my father and I plaied, and yet
If yo^{u} will beleue in the Poetς gospell
We haue plaied a hundreth in our daies.
The place where we no^{w} are, is *Thebes*
This is *Amphitruo* his [his] house.
A great lord of this Countrie, vnd^{r} kinge *Creon*
And no^{w} at this instant, his deputy generall 80
Of his Armye against the *Teleboians*.
Vpon whome he hath gotten a notable victory.
In this meane tyme, my father Iupiter
haveinge taken vpon him his shape,
Plaies his deputy speciall here at home
wth his wyef faire *Alcumena*
Who verylie takes him for her husband.

63 *man*] *a* altered. 78 deletion by S.

And he by thadvantage of the night,
Makes her beleiue, that for her sake
He stole awaie of purpose from his Armye 90
But must be gone againe in any wise
to be there by breake of daie.
Indeed he could not staie longer bycause of
Amphitruo his comeing home.
In this meane while *Amphitruo* sendꝭ home
To his lady, a messenger of his good successe:
And after him another for faile.
And by to morowe will be here himself.
But this is my office to send them backe againe.
As wise as they came, for disturbing of my father, 100
and to doe him such other ꝭruiceꝭ as yo^u^ shall see
hereaft^r^, till his busines be dispatcht./.
To this purpose haue I made my self FOL. 3^b^
As lyke *Sosia* the first of these messengerꝭ,
As ys possible, and am taken here in the house
for the very same. And I can but smile
to see how kinde *Alcumenas* waytingwoman
Thessala, is to me: thinking suerly
that I am her loue *Sosia*. But that
yo^u^ may knowe vs a sunder, I will 110
were in my hatt a peice of a fether
for a difference: and the same difference
shalbe betwixt my father and *Amphitruo*.
W^ch^ none elꝭ shall ꝑceaue but yo^u^.
And here comes in my Image to begin w^th^all
Now mark the sequell, and tell me
When we haue done, whither I and my
ffather, plaie[s] o^r^ ꝑtes well or noe./.

118 deletion by C.

Dramatis personæ.

Sosia. servus Amphyt. 120
Mercurius.
Dromio. alter ser. Amphyt.
Iupiter.
Alcumena. vxor Amphyt.
Thessala. pedissequa Alc.
Amphytruo Imperator exercit^{o}.
Blepharo nauclerus.
Bromia. altera e pedissequis Alc. 9.

119-28 added by C.

The birthe of hercules FOL. 4a

(1) *Actus primus*

(2) *Scęna. i.*

(3) *Sosia: Mercurius.*

Am not I a bould slaue, that knowinge fashions as I doe, dare alone adventure abrode thus late in the night? what if I should meete wth ye watch, and m^{r} Constable should coḿe and examyne me what are yo^{u} S^{r}? A gentleman saye I at the least. well, he makeꝯ no question of yt. And yet I make a question whither I shall fare the better for yt. Then from whence come yo^{u}? I tell him, and he beleues me not: Or saie I tell him not, but giue the base fellowe crosse language: and aske him, what skilt yo^{u}? how dare yo^{w} be soe boulde as examyne any of the kinges servaũtes (for soe I may make him beleiue). then he (meaninge m^{r} Constable) laies the kinges s3rũnte (meaninge me) in the gaole.

M Where thou wilt wish the twice I beleue, to be from hence, yet eare thou goest.

S. I and that wch is wurse: what if the pesant havinge

---

(1) *Ad comœdiæ magnificentiam apprime conferet, vt cœlum Histrionium sit luna & stellis perspicue distinctum.*

(2) *Notæ marginales inseruiant dirigendæ histrionæ*

(3) *Mercurius exeat cum Scipione in manu.*

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1 marg. *Histrionium*] second *i* interlined. 2 marg. *histrionæ*] read *histrionicæ* 14 *skilt*] presumably a contraction for *skills it*

a knavish skonce lyke myne, come and floute me when he hath done, and aske me where the kinges s3ru^{a}nte should be lodged, but in the kinges owne house? I faith then I haue made a fayre trauell of yt: yet forsooth I must needes be goñe by night, and might not be suffred to staie till morninge. This it is to serve great men. they knowe much w^{t} labour is; and they regard as much what thine is; and yet there is ever about them somethinge to doe, & done yt must be there is no remedie.

M. It were a wonder to see a base serũnte at anye tyme Contented, or ever to heare him speake well of his M^{r}.

S Well, yet it is some ease to my mynde, that my m^{r} would rather Counten^{a}nce me wth ye message then that ill fac'et Rascall *Dromio*: who had more need to be well Counten^{a}nced then I, though I saie yt my self.

M. As good as yor Couñten^{a}nce is, I doubt not but to see the coppie of yt altered, eare yo^{u} and I parte.

(1) *S* Tis late night; and me thinkes I feele in my self more then ordinarie devotion. I had not a better mynde to my praiers a great while: And I must needes confesse I praie soe seldome, that if a mischeif should befall me to night, yt is no more then I haue well deserued. FOL. 4^{b}

(2) *M* I now the vylleine is afraied, now he remembers God. This is iust the fashion of men. [now a daies,] yet it is well he can acknowledge what he is worthie of:

(1) *Meticulose*

(2) *In morem orantis.*

28 *w^{t}*] used for *what*, cf. ll. 831, 1888, 2022, 2216, 2318. 29 *thine*] ? read *tyme* 34 *M^{r}.*] superior letter doubtful. 35 *it*] *t* altered from *s* 37 *fac'et*] *e* probably inserted. 50 deletion by C, who has added period.

S Tut. *Sosia*, pluck vp a good harte, doest thou not come from the warrs. Is not victorie on thy side. I such victorie as who could ever haue hoped for. Our Enymies whoe were in nomber aboue vs, vtterly overthrowñe, by the good conducte of o^r^ noble gen'all: The Story of wch overthrowe I am to deliuer to his lady and my mistres: wch is the cause of my comeinge hither at this tyme. But I had best first call yt to minde by my self, that yt be done w^th^out haglinge before her, least soe I disgrace my self in the presence of my best beloved and most sweet *Thessala.* After we came on lande, An Ambassador was dispatcht to the Enymie to require restytucõn of such thinges as they had taken from vs: And on that condicõn, to offer them peace; otherwise warre. They denied restytucõn, herevpon followed warre: The Armies Were brought forth on both sides; I stood a quarter of a mile of behinde a hill, from whence I might easily discouer what was doñe, and that wth double advantage. ffor if we gott the daie: I was sure to be one of the first at ransackinge the teñtes, while others were occupied in pursuynge them that fledd: If we lost yt, I had a faire starte of the rest for runynge awaie. But (by the masse) I must take heed of stumblinge vpon this before my lady and mistres; soe were I quite shamed for ever: No, I was by (Madame) an eye wytnes, though not a very nighe wytnes of all. The signe beinge given, and the Alarum sounded: both Armies ioyned together: There was heavinge and shovinge: killinge and slayinge. But in a small time the Enymie began to flye soe fast: that where I was a fightinge I found not one man to resyste me. All this while I am sure I lye not.

52 *not*] *o* altered. 54 *as*] altered. 68 *Were*] *W* altered from beginning of *b*

M. Noe, I dare answere for the.

S As they fledd in the chace, *Amphitruo* my lord, our worthie generall, killed kinge *Pterelas* himself hand to hande. The fight lasted from morninge till night, well fare all good tokens, for that daie I went w^th^out my dynner; and wth the aproach of night, the [fig] pursute 90
Pursuite ended. The next daie, the whole Cyttie came FOL. 5^a^
out barefoote and bareheaded, to yeeld themselues and all they had into our handes. And to o^r^ Lord *Amphitruo* for his specyall desarte, they presented a goodlie Cupp, the same that their kinge he slewe was wonte to drinke in. And soe no^u^ I see I am readie in my tale; I will hasten home while yt is freshe in my memorie, least I forget yt againe. /.

M. Now is he Comeinge hither, I will meet him half waie: An if he come anie nearer these dores at this 100
tyme, let *Mercury* be beleived on his word no more. I must haue a lytle sport wth him: And as I am lyke him in Shape: soe will I for this once be content to become lyke him in manners to: I meane as craftie a Iybinge knave as he; for there is the credytt, to put a man downe at his owne weopen. But me thinkes he standes gazinge vp soe earnestlie he hath spied some wonder in the Element. I will laie my lief yt is the man in the Moone.

S Is the moone and the starrs sleepe drunke to nighte 110
trowe we. The seauen starrs, Charls wayne, ye planetts move not a whytt: and daie seemes as farre of now, as yt did. eight houres agoe.

M. Goe on night, goe on, and favour my fathers pleasure still, thou canst not doe seruice good night to a better man.

S I haue found the reason no^u^, Ile laye my lief on't:

90 *pursute*] crowded in at end of line, probably as catchword.
115 *seruice*] first *e* altered from *3* by C.

And the Moone and her companie be not drunke no^{w}: at the least the Sonñe was drunke yesternight, and that makes him lye in bedd soe longe this morninge. 120

M. This vylleine thinkes the iḿortall Gods to be lyke himself: but tis all one: that is: he shall haue one reckoninge for all a none.

S Ha where are those good fellow̃es no^{w} that lye alone, bycause they cannot chuse, for want of a bedfellowe. This were no night for a man to lye wth a wench in.

M. The fellowe speakes wysely: and accordinge to his Councell, my father hath chozen this night to lye wth his Mistres in.

① *S* Well: I will home. But whats he me thinkes I 130 see at the dore at this tyme of night. I doe not lyke yt.

M. As fainte harted a villeine as lyves againe.

S Who can tell, whither I no^{w} wantinge a lodginge, he be one of those that will interteine a man of free cost, at the signe of the Cudgell: Or yt may Be, he is some pittifull gentlemañ that knowinge my FOL. 5^{b} m^{r} hath made me watch for the one half of the night, he wilbe soe good as laie me a sleep for the other. I doe not lyke his looke: for the loue of god what a sturdie 140 knave yt is to see to.

M In good time S^{r}. well no^{u} will I advance my voyce a lytle that he maie heare me. In faith gentle Cudgell yo^{u} haue done me s3ruice (to speake of) this moneth. mutch about that time yt was, when yow laid nyne asleepe altogether.

S His Cudgell and he are verie familiar, as yt semes; I praie god I be not drawne into ther acquaintance

① *Obnixé circumspectans*

128 *chozen*] *h* altered from *o* 136 after this line *be* added as catchword. 148 *ther*] *er* altered.

(1) to. Let me see, yt has laid nyne asleepe (as he saies) alreadie; [a] [if he should take me vp for a tythed goose or soe, to make vpp the tenth.]

M I will: I will staie no longer.

S It is even as I saide. what the deuill shall I doe?

M He shall never scape my fingers.

S Whome doth he meane think yee?

M Whosoeuer comes next in my walke, he shall haue Cudgellinge his bellie full.

S I doe not loue to eate thus late in the night: he may doe well to bestowe his Almēs on them that be hungrie.

M Ha tis a Cudgell for the nonce, tis not a haire lighter then yt should be.

S Nowe he hath waied yt; the next thinge he has to doe, is to measure yt vpon my shoulders.

M What if I giue him but a gentle blowe to cast him in a slumber

S. Then he saues my lief. for I want nothinge but Sleepe.

M But what talke I of this. my Cudgell I knowe cannot giue a gentle blowe; yt neuer toucht man yet, but yt marde the fashion of his face.

S. Thats well. then belyke I am to haue a new face: I had even as live keepe my ould still, thoughe yt be none of the best. This were the onely fellowe in the world for *Dromio* to meet w^th^all, he is sure

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(1) *a. tis an odd number. that same nine*
tis ten to one and I bee not taken vp
to make it euen.

150–1 deletion by C, who adds reference letter. 1 marg. added by C: *tis ten to one and* altered from *I praye God* 172 *face:*] colon added to replace original comma. Such alterations are frequent.

he cannot haue a wurse: At a venture would he were no^{w} in my rome.

M [Coṁe, my Cudgell is wood madd to bee at him.]

S [Ant' be soe madd, would yo^{u} wold tame yt a lytle on the wallꝯ first, eare yt byte my shoulderꝯ.] 180

M. Is there not a voice come flyinge to my eares. FOL. 6^{a}

S Has my voice winges then? an I had knowne soe much before, I would haue clipt them, by my voices leave.

M. It is some villeine sure, that I must be faine to lade wth blowes.

S A good iest: I can scarse goe emptie, I am soe wearie, how shall I doe thinke yee when I am laden?

M [Harke, me thinkes I heare some sawcie fellowe talkinge.]

S. [An his name be Sawcie, good enough, my name is *Sosia.*] 190

M O I see him no^{u} heare he coṁes towardes me.

S I begin to feele my self in a monstrous evill takinge, I must needes confesse I can scarse tell where I am. As for my lordes message, thatꝯ scard out of my head by this time: But yet I will set a good face ont', and speake as well as my hart will giue me leave to make him the more vnwillinge to medle wth me.

M. Sirra whither walke yo^{u} there, yo^{u} wth the horne & the lanterne? 200

(1) *S* A man might breake a ieste now (an yt were soe Convenient) and saie horne an yo^{u} will, but lanterne in yor face: But I will forbeare for this once, yet he shall not goe vnanswered neyther. Si-Si

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(1) *Inuersio ex pauore.*

178–80 deletion by C. 189–91 deletion by C. 204 *for*] interlined. 205 *Si-Si*] read *Si-Si-*

Sir what haue yo^{u} to doe that are a maker of newe faces.

M. Sirra tell me in fewe wordes, from whence yo^{u} come, whose yo^{u} are and whither yo^{u} goe.

S In as fewe as yo^{u} would wish Sir: I come from thence Sir: I am my maiſters man, and am goeinge hether. I thinke yo^{u} are answered. 210

M. Answered indeed after a fashion; but I will bridle that tounge of yo^{rs} an yee answere me no hansom̃er

S Yo^{u} seeme to mistake me Sir, I am no horse that my tounge should be bridled.

M I beleive I shall make yo^{u} a horse or some such thinge (yo^{u} knowe my meaninge) yet ere yo^{u} and I parte.

S Ha. Ha. He. I dare saie you meane an Asse S^{r}. 220

M. I am gladd yo^{u} are mery Sir: but yo^{u} will tell I am sure for all this what busines yo^{u} haue heare

S Nay then S^{r} what busines haue you heare?

M. I will not sticke to tell yo^{u} Sir, I ame one of ye watch appointed here for this night.

S Tis well done: when Enimies are abroade, watch and ward should be kept at home. But I faith M^{r} watchman an yow be a good fellowe, tell them wthin that one of their famylie is come. FOL. 6^{b}

M. I knowe not how yo^{u} meane S^{r}, one of their familie, but an yo^{u} be not gone the soner, I feare me, I shall vse you somewhat to familiarlie. 230

S Begone (quoth he) whie I tell yo^{u} man, here I dwell and here I am s3ru^{a}nte

M And I tell yo^{u}: staie but a lytle longer I'le make yo^{u} be carryed awaie as if yo^{u} were maister.

S How meane yo^{u} that Sir.

206 *newe*] altered from *mens* 209 *whose*] *o* altered. 220 *you*] interlined by C.

M Mary wth state: vpon mens should^{r}ſ, if I but once lifte vp this cudgell.

S Doe what yo^{u} will Sir: but I saie still & will mainteine that I am one of this houshould. 240

M. Yow wilbe gone.

S Will yow let one from Comeinge into their owne house?

M: Is this your house?

S It is, I will stand to yt.

M: I praie the whoe is thy maister, canst thou tell?

S *Amphitruo* the generall of the *Theban* Army husband to *Alcumena.*

M. *Amphitruo* thy maister, tell me then whatſ thy name? 250

S I am called at home *Sosia*, ould *Dauus* was my father.

M Out vpon the villeine, comest thou hither with soe many lies patcht together.

S. Indeed my Coate maie be patcht, but I knowe not what yo^{u} meane by patchinge of lyes.

M. Yo^{r} cote may be face't to, maie yt not? well for yor patchinge and faceinge, I will giue yo^{u} a bombastinge to, to teach yo^{u} to speake truelye hereafter. 260

S But how an a man will not be bombasted?

M. But how an a man cannot chuse?

S Hei heu hoi. I beseech yo^{u} Sir.

M. Darest thou saie to me villeine thou art *Sosia*? when I my self am *Sosia.*

S Alas what shall I doe. FOL. 7^{a}

M Naie this is but a lytle of the best, to that that is behinde. Now S^{r} (an a man may aske yo^{u}) whose are yo^{u} I praie yo^{u} 270

255 *patcht*] *p* altered from *s*?

S. O yours Sir, youres, I were yor colors heare, none but yours Sir, yo^{u} haue taken me, me thinkes into yor owne handes

M. Tell me then, wherefore are yow cõme?

S. Tis plaine Sir, I marvell yo^{u} will aske ye question. yow see yor self; to be beaten.

M. Ile beate yo^{u} better yet, an yo^{u} answere me not the sõner: whose man are yo^{u}, once againe?

S. An I will tell yo^{u} once againe I am *Amphitruo* his man *Sosia.* 280

M. What againe *Sosia.*

S. Murder, murder, some honest *Theban* come helpe me.

M. Yo^{r} bawlinge shall not helpe yo^{u}. I tell the yet againe, I am *Sosia.*

S An yo^{u} be not would yo^{u} were eis for me, that yow might be as suerly Cudgelled as *Sosia* is.

M. Now tell me once more, whoe is yor maister.

S. Even whome yo^{u} will Sir.

M. And what might be yor name. 290

S Nay, be yo^{u} my godfather Sir, I praie yo^{u} giue me what name yo^{u} will. I think yo^{u} had best call me Stockfish in stead of *Sosia,* for yow seeme to take me for no lesse.

M. This ys yo^{u} that said even now yo^{u} were *Sosia,* yow *Amphitruo* his man.

S. I confesse Sir my tonge tript I would not haue said *Sosia,* I would haue said, Soe as yo^{u} saie

M. I knew he had no seruñte *Sosia* but my self, I thinke thou wert not well in thy wyttes. 300

S May a man but speake to yo^{u} Sir by yor good leaue a word or twoe of free cost, wthout payinge for yt?

279 *An*] ? read *And*

M. Goe to, I am content to make truce wth the for a tyme.

S Sweare yo^{u} will not touch me then.

M. Trust me of my word I will not.

S And soe I may (no^{u} I remember me) for hither to yo^{u} haue kept yt wth me: but how if yow breake yt now? 310

M. Then let *Mercury* be *Sosia* his mortall Enimy. FOL. 7^{b}

S. Well now I maie speake what I list, I am *Amphitruo* his man *Sosia.*

M. Yo^{u} are Sir.

S Sir yo^{u} haue made truce wth me, and are bound by yor worde, and I speak nothinge but truth.

M. I care not for that.

S Nay vse me as yo^{u} please, I confesse yo^{u} are the better man: yet I will neuer deny while I liue, but that I am *Sosia*, one of the s3ruñtes of this house: 320 who wth my fellowe *Dromio* went from hence wth o^{r} lord *Amphitruo.*

M. Out of doubt I see no^{w} thou art not well in thy wyttꝯ.

S Good lord Sir that yo^{u} will deny that I am my Maisterꝯ *Sosia*: did not o^{r} ship come this night from the Haven? did not my m^{r} send me hither? doe I not stand no^{u} before our house? haue I not A lanterne in my hande? doe I not speake? am I not awake? haue I not bene well cudgelled? 330 what should let me then to goe straight into o^{r} house?

M. Yo^{r} house?

S. I o^{r} house: soe I saie: doe what yo^{u} will.

M. Villeine thou hast lyed hitherto in every worde thou hast spoken. for I am that *Sosia*, that went wth *Amphitruo* from hence; that was present at

308 *hither*] read *hither-* 321 *Dromio*] final *o* altered.

the accõn, sawe the towne deliuered: knowe that my lord killed kinge *Pterelas* wth his owne handꝯ.

S How no^u^? Nay then I will not beleve my self that I am *Sosia*, an he goe on thus a lytle further. 340 but I praie yo^u^ Sir (an a man may speake wth out correccõn) yo^u^ saie yo^u^ were by at ye deliuery vp of the towne; can yo^u^ tell a man what present was giuen *Amphitruo* by the *Teleboians*?

M. The Cup that kinge *Pterelas* himself was wonte to drinke in.

S. He hath tould yt. but (an you will not be angrie for askinge Sir) where might this Cupp be?

M. Tis sealed vp in a Caskett, w^th^ *Amphitruo* his owne Seale. 350

S O infynite. I beseech yo^u^ Sir but the Seale?

M. The Sonñe rysinge, drawne in an Azure Coatch wth foure flame colored horses.

S By Iupiter he hath put me downe by plaine Argumentꝯ; I must be faine to goe gett me a Newe name, for any thinge I see. Yet I cannot FOL. 8ª Imagine where he should learne all this. But no^u^ I Remember my self; I will aske him one thinge he shall never be hable to tell me while he liues: that I did alone in the tente when no Cristian mañ 360 was by me. Sir, if yow be *Sosia*; when the legions had bene a good while in Chace of the Enimy: what did yo^u^ alone when yo^u^ came to yor Lordꝯ tente tell me but that, and I yeeld for ever.

M. I Ran to a hoggshead of wyne and filled a botle.

S. He is in the waie alreadie.

M. Then sat me downe vpon a feildebedd by, & drunke yt of every dropp.

341 *yo^u^*] superior letter altered. 343 *vp*] interlined. 354 *Iupiter*] interlined by D to replace *the lord* deleted. 363 *tente*] read *tente?* (query-mark).

S. True by the lord, true: vnles he were then in the bottom of the bottle, I cannot gesse how the devill he should knowe yt.

M. Now Sir, haue I Convinced yo^u^ by sufficient proofes that I am *Sosia.*

S. You Saie you are Sir.

M. And haue reason to, I thinke.

(1) *S.* But I durst be sworne, by *Iupiter* that I am *Sosia.*

M. And I dare sweare by *Mercury*, that *Iupiter* will beleeve me of my worde, before he will beleue the on thy othe.

S I beseech yo^u^ Sir, doe but tell me, whoe should I be as you thinke: if I be not *Sosia*?

M. Sir, when I leaue to be *Sosia*, yo^u^ maie be he for any thinge I knowe: in the meane time, be gone presently, or els yo^u^ knowe what will followe.

S. As I liue, when I looke vpon him he is soe lyke me, that my thinkes I see my self in a glasse: His hatt, his clothes, are lyke myne: His legge, his foote his stature; his nose. his lippes. his cheekes. his beard. every pte of him: what should I saie. more?

(2) if he haue as manie blowes on his shoulders as I haue to, there was never twoe egges lyker one another. And yet me thinkes, on the other side, when I Remember my self, I was neuer that I can call to mynde, but the same man. I remember my maister, I knowe his house. I am not a sleepe. I am not drunke: whie then should not I be *Sosia.* I am *Sosia.* & I will goe into o^r^ house that I will.

M. Whither now Sir.

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(1) *lachrymanter.* (2) *iterum lachrymanter.*

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370 *devill*] *v* altered. 390 *more?*] added.

S. To our house. 400

M. Yet againe o^r^ house? get yo^u^ gone quicklie w^th^out more wordes, you had best, or elꝭ Ile make yor Skynne of more colors then the wallꝭ of yor house.

S May not I goe tell my Mistres what my M^r^ badd me. FOL. 8^b^

M. Goe tell yor mistres what yo^u^ liste. As for her y^t^ dwellꝭ here, she is my mistres: and if yo^u^ see her to daie, yt shall cost yo^u^ dearlie.

S Nay Ile be gone first. t'has cost me enough already would yo^u^ bare ꝑte of my charges. Lord in heuen what a thinge is this? whatꝭ become of me trowe yee? when did I loose my self? when was I chaunged? did I leaue my self yonder, & ꝑhapps forgett yt? for he hath all the shape I haue heare, as iust as a heyre. well I will returne to my maister, and let him knowe of all that hath past. if he hath forgotten me to, I will even to the ffonte, and vnchristen my self againe./. 410

Scen. ii. 420

Mercurius Solus.

(1) Hitherto o^r^ busines goes forward well, and I thinke I haue done my father good seruice. But all is not done yet: there is another blocke to remoue. ffor *Amphitruo* longinge to comforte his wief wth these gladd tydinges of his vyctorie: dispatches

(1) *Hilariter.*

417 *hath*] *ha* altered from *is* 1 marg. *Hilariter*] *H* over erasure.

his man *Dromio* presentlie after *Sosia* in another Shipp; that if one should chance to miscarry; the other might happilie aryve in time. *Sosia* arryued as yo^u^ see in an evill houre, and wth a flea in his 430 eare is sent backe againe. Now *Dromio* his shipp by a sodene tempest was brought into such distresse that hardlie the villeine escaped shipwracke. But this was my fathers doeinge: least if one hadd to sodenly arryved after the other, yt might haue bredd some disturbance to our busines. Now is he cõmeing hard by, as Iocund as maie for his escape: And especyallie bycause he bringes a ringe for a token from his maister to his mistres, and *Sosia* had none. whome his hope is yet to preuent and gett the 440 maidenhead of his mistresses thankes, for his good tydinges. But this ringe of his must I haue by some deuise from him; and then send him after his fellowe *Sosia.* and here he comes. /.

Scen. iij.

(1) *Dromio.* *Mercurius.*

Goe to Sea (quoth he) an ever I goe to Sea againe, Ile saie nothinge, but let me be hang'd, as sone as I come on land. trust the water who will for all *Dromio*; an they trust yt neuer soe longe I am 450 sure of one thinge, they shall finde yt but a Slippery thinge in the ende. Well there was neuer mañ FOL. 9^a^

(1) *Dromio in habitu nautico, quó difficilius videri possit a socio cognosci.*

of my place as yt were a kinde of Bassiter now from a generall, that skape't drowninge soe narrowlie as I did. And yet no^u I am on lande methinkes I could even all most laugh at the fine sporte the winde made wth o^r shipp vpon the water: We had dauncinge I faith o^r bellies full somẽe of vs; I neuer see the lyke w^thout minstrells in my lief. They talke of the backe tricke; I faith our Shipp fetcht the backe trick backward and forward to, I hope neuer to see the lyke againe. The mayepole sinke-pace otherwise called the wheelinge galyard was a thinge of nothinge. tryckes of .15. or .16. score and vpwarde, twoe or thre furlonge hie, but a tryfle. And this was shire dauncing besides tumblinge and other strange feats of Artillery. In the meane time, we in the shippe practized the Amonde leape, from one ende to the other. But I must needes confesse, all did yt not alyke. ffor somẽe pytcht on their feete, somẽe on their handes; others of the better wyttes thought yt not amys to light on theire (1) heades. some on their backes; others on their should^rs.[a] As for o^r sayles poore Sailes, they were blowne in peices (2) for all the world lyke wafer cakes. And the maine maste snapt in twoe,[(b)] as I would snapp a rushe. I faith, I. and then blowne quite out of sight, how saie yo^u by that, for indeed yt was soe darke we could not see one another.

(1) *a. and one did I take it the Somersetshire trick fairly ouer: but indeed he near cam back againe.*

(2) *(b) Actione hoc exprimat contraria sz. lignum aliquod aut simile tractans pro scirpo.*

453 *Bassiter*] Dromio's blunder for Ambassador. 466 *Artillery*] for Agility. 467 *Amonde*] for Almond, i.e. Almain. 471 reference letter inserted by C. 1 marg. added by C. 472 *Sailes*] for Soules. 474 reference letter inserted by C. 2 marg. reference letter and *contraria . . . scirpo.* added by C.

Nay, and howe we were Cozoned? I would not haue said once god a marcy to him that would haue said to me, *Dromio*, what wilt thou giue me if I will carry the quicke to heauen. Whie, we were descended once 480 soe neare the verye skye, look ye, or the ferment it self, that if o^r^ shipp had had but hir mast still to haue made a whole there, lord, yt had bene ye easiest leape in the worlde. But see the deserte of pride, pride will haue a fall saith the poet. Soe had we. We despised to heaven, what came on't; marry we came downe againe wth a vengeance into such a horrible vntestable abominacõn, fye on't, I am afraide to thinke on't (mark ho^u^ I quiuer yet good people) such an vglie black, bottomeles [femynine] hole, that I wold 490 willinglie haue growne to exposicõn wth the devill and giuen the foule fien my hinder quarterȝ wth all my hart, soe he would haue lefte me my head and my fore quarterȝ still. But the mortall godȝ did resigne me though vnworthie no doubte to better misfortune. And what a comfort were yt to me now to knowe that *Sosia* that slaue were sowst as well as I. But me thinkes this is a pestilence longe night; a man might haue bene hanged and drowned to this night, 500 and aliue and drye againe by the morninge. I doe not Remember that ever I sawe soe longe A night, but one: when I was once whipt all FOL. 9^b^ night: that night was indeed a rodd or twoe long^r^ then this. What should a man saie, to yt; Are y^e^ .9: planettȝ out of their waie twowe wee? let me see, the .7. muses are iust in the same place

481 *ferment*] for firmament. 482 *hir*] *h* altered from *o^r^* 486 *despised*] for aspired. 489 *ho^u^*] *h* altered from *y* 491 *exposicõn*] for composition. 492 *fien*] sic. 505 *then*] *en* altered from *is* 506 *twowe*] read *trowe*

still, where they were at midnight, iust in the same place, I mary are they. But what doe I forget all this while? I am almost at home, and yet I haue not pondered wth my self, how when I am come before my mistres, in most vnsemely manner, in fewe wordeꝭ to dylate my message vnto her.

M. I will here him speake his mynde, bycause I haue nothinge elꝭ to doe. Yet I meane to ease him of this labor.

D. It were not amisse thus. I thus. or thus for the most ꝑte. I what and thus altogether?

Madame I Dromio am the thrise welcome messenger of my Lord and maisters, your Lord and husbands, most outragious victory. which was detayned, partly indeed by ye policy of the Comon souldier: but most specially by the worthy induct of my Lord and maister, your Lord and husband our most Vincible generall. who most valyantly and a ——— wisely put to the sword, kinge Perilous himselfe, with his owne hands. I meane Madame, and the sword in them. I would not haue you take me otherwise. After wch most a ——— strange fact, o^r^. Enymies were slaine, doe yo^u^ marke; o^r^. foes seduced: and our Aduersaries slautered, euery man woman and childe, and all the rest taken prisoners.

M. What and all slaine to? that was hard Iustice.

D. I this will serue passinge well: and litle will she thinke, when I can tell her thus much, but that I was as knuckle deepe in the Accõn as the rest; when god knowes I stood faire and farre of.

M. I god is thy wytnes.

513 *in*] altered from *wi*, *th* deleted. 520 *Madame*] added by C in margin. 532 *euery*] interlined by D. 534 *was*] *a* altered.

D where I spied that Coward *Sosia*, lurking behind 540
a moule hill, that I was even ashamed to see him.
Now if he h'as not ꝑuented me, I am a made man.
And yet saie he has: Alas he comes in the plaine
beaten highe waie, of after my harty cõmendacõns.
But I haue here the verie signet wth one of my
maisterꝭ owne pretious stones that cannot be but
welcome to my m^ris^ besides, a spetiall most singuler
message, that this hoope he sendeꝭ as a signe of
his spotted faith. the gould should present his crowne FOL. 10^a^
of victorie. 550

M. This is iust quite contrarye.

D Well here is our house. But whoe is that before o^r^
dore thus late in the night? Ile lay my lief t'is
Sosia, and he is not yet gott in. O that I knewe
that, how I should laugh at him: But no^u^ I
remember me Ile put vp my ringe, for t'is such
a Craftie Iacke that if he sett but his eye ont
once, he would haue it, he would haue yt he, or
he would Cozen me of finger and all: I will
make as though I did not knowe him. What art 560
thou good fellowe, that art here at this time of
night?

M. What Sawceboxe is he that askes me this question.

D. Sawcebox quoth he at the first dash? by the
masse I am vildly affraid, I am in a wronge
boxe: By the phrase, marke ye, this should
not be he: can a man tell whither I had best
ꝑceed or noe? Tis night, and if a man shold
chaunce to quarrell he might as sone strike
doe yo^u^ see, his freind as his foe. well I am 570
dissolued to be ciuill for this once, what somere
come ont. None but a freind of yourꝭ.

542 *h'as*] *s* altered from *d* *made*] *e* altered from *d* 544 *waie,*] read *waie* (no comma). 566 *phrase*] *r* altered. 568 *ꝑceed*] read *ꝑceed*

M. ffreind me no freindꝭ. an he be his owne freind he had best spend his time some where elꝭ and not trouble me that haue other thinges to thinke on.

D Tis he I faith, I knowe by that. there be otherꝭ haue somethinge to thinke on to, aswell as he. I see by this tyme how I shall put him downe anone. Yo^r^ freind and fellowe S^r^, goe to. 580

M. My fellowe?

D. He is affraied of me alreadie; I see the slaue would not be knowne. I your fellowe, soe I saie, an yor name be *Sosia*; I knowe yo^u^ well enough.

M. Are yo^u^ sure you knowe me?

D O lord Sir, ys it not yo^u^ that laye skulkinge behinde a moule hill all the time we were a fighting?

M Ile hould a wager, tis *Dromio.* all the time we were a fightinge (quoth he) by that same token 590 thou ranst awaie soe fast, that thou lokedst but once behinde the till the battell was done. I faith fellowe *Dromio*, yo^u^ are soe muffeld vp, I shold scarce haue knowne yo^u^ in the darke, had not FOL. 10^b^ yo^u^ discouered yor self. But yo^u^ are come in good tym̃e; for I haue bene a vilde while lokinge for yo^u^ and after yo^u^.

D ffor me? and whie for me? a man would thinke yo^u^ had some what els to doe.

M What man? 600

D To lyver a certeine message to my lady *Alcumena*

M Why man, that message was deliuered. fiue houres agoe, at least. and I haue bene wth my lord since, to desire a token from him to my lady, for w^th^out she will not beleiue me.

D Marry I cannot blame her, she has reason I thinke:

603 *haue*] interlined. 606 *blame*] *bl* altered by C.

believe the, that saist thou hast bene here & there and there and there againe, and all in fiue houres what a monstrous lye is that. ffellowe *Sosia*, in fewe wordes, I am ashamed to heare the, but as 610 concerninge the foresaid token, sure some rare token, may a man see yt?

M. Whie, I was tellinge of yo^{u}. if yo^{u} would haue let me gone on, he badd me make hast to ouertake yo^{u}: and (1) take of yo^{u}. a certeine ringe he gaue yo^{u} to deliuer her.

D A ringe of me? you take a ringe of me? I shall never digest yt; yo^{u} take a halter, I take my lief first. what should I doe then, can yo^{u} tell?

M. Yo^{u} presentlie should returne, as I take yt, to haue certeine prisonnerȝ Comytted to yor charge. 620

D I lyke enough to be a Iailor; I am fitt for nothinge elȝ I. If I haue the ringe no^{u}; I doe not finde in my self, but that I shall kepe yt, kepe yo^{u} the prisonerȝ an yo^{u} will, I skorne the trade. I.

M. Alas fellowe *Dromio*, be not offended wth me; I doe but my m^{r}ȝ. message.

D. A ringe of me? god forgiue me, I shall neuer forgett yt. I doe not thinke he knowes I haue a ringe for all this sayinge, an he were well examyned.

M. Yes, and can tell yo^{u} the markes of it to: or elȝ let 630 me not haue it.

D No, yo^{u} shall not, Ile warrrant yo^{u}. But yo^{u} can tell the markeȝ, yo^{u}, Ile try that by and by. If

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(1) *Subita animi consternatio appareat in Dromione.*

---

608 *there againe*] ? read *here againe* 632 *warrrant*] sic.

y^{t} haue a stone no^{u}, as parenter I parent^{r} no: what manner of stone maie yt be.

M Whie a faire pointed dyamond.

D A faire pointed dyamond? ha. ha. he. FOL. 11^{a}

M. Whie what aile yo^{u} man?

D. A faire pointed dyamond? ha. ha. he. nay yo^{u} are in the right, yo^{u} are in the right; yo^{u} haue hit it. a 640 faire pointed Diamond quoth he. But that I am Angry wth him for lyinge, how Could I laugh at him: A faire pointed dyamond. And first, tis an Adamant, for soe my lord said himself when he lyuered it to me. Or saie, an Adamant and a Dyamond be all ont, as I doe not greatlie stand vpon that. He saies tis faire, and the stone is a plaine baie or a sheepes russett wch yo^{u} will; and he saies tis pointed, and the deuill a pointe is there at yt. 650

M Whie thou mistakes me man: let me see it, and I will shewe the how I meane:

D. I It maie be soe [Sir], but I doe not meane to let yo^{u} see yt for all that. vnles yo^{u} can tell me one thinge, bycause yo^{u} saie yo^{u} were bidden to take yt. tell me that goe to, and take yt. he will as sone be hanged as he can tell yt.

M. Whats that?

D. The message that is to be liuered wthall.

M. This is a strange thinge that we fellowes shold 660 soe mistrust one another.

D. Nay neare goe about to synuate by we fellowes, but tell yt, and take yt.

M. An yo^{u} will needes knowe; he badd me tell her,

634 *parenter*] for paraunter, i.e. peradventure. 646 *ont*] *t* altered: read *one* 653 *I*] prefixed by C. deletion by C.

the hoope represented his garland of victorie, the gould his spotles affeccõn.

(1) *D.* I must needes confesse, t'was much thereabouts: and yet yt cannot sinke into my heade that he could possiblie be there and heare, and heare and there, againe in fiue houres. well since I haue giuen my word, here take yt. I stand vpon my worde, I tell yo^u^ fellowe *Sosia.*

M. I see yo^u^ doe, and I comend yo^u^ for yt.

D And to saie the truth, tis more to ones imputacõn to haue the custodie of prisoners doe yo^u^ see, then to lyver a message that euery simple fellowe can doe. ffellowe *Sosia,* I giue yo^u^ the ringe wth all my harte. But doe yo^u^ heare, yo^u^ are sure you were bidden to take yt.

M. Make you a question of yt?

D Noe, I doe not neither. nay take yt. I faith wth all my harte. but yo^u^ saie yo^u^ are sure [m] my lords honors wurships pleasure is, it should be soe. FOL. 11^b^

M. Nay then.

D Nay I beleiue yo^u^. I speak not for that. I truely yo^u^ haue it wth all my harte.

M. I knowe yo^u^ haue.

D I indeed haue yo^u^, for yo^u^ saie he badd yo^u^ take yt. but thats all one. But for those same prisoners, can yo^u^ tell what men of qualities are amonge them

M. O great men certeine.

D I faithe?

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(1) *dolenter & cum suspirio*

---

670 *there, againe*] read *there againe,* (comma). 688 *yo^u^*] read *I*

M. I, I maie tell yo^{u} theres not one of them̃ but since the last kinges death is next to the crowñe.

D Awaye, awaye! fellowe *Sosia*, that same ringe.

M What of that?

D I faith thou haste yt wth all my harte.

M. I make no question on't. 700

D But sirra, euery one next the crowne?

M. Euery one.

D O rare: and they shall finde me as mylde and seveare a Comaunder as they would wish.

M. I am assured of yt.

D Well fellowe *Sosia*, farewell; and thou knowest what I saide, wth all my harte.

M. What needes that, I more then beleiue the.

D Adiew good fellowe *Sosia*.

M. Adiew good fellowe woodcocke; Soe, no^{u} we are on 710
cleare bord. Now this foole is sent awaie to, here wilbe no sturre a none for poore *Amphitruo* what wth his men and what wth his wief: Never was vyctorious generall soe welcomed home. But since yt soe falls out for my fathers pleasure, he that can doe all, will in the ende make all good wth a gen'all contentm^{t}; especyally to *Amphitruo*, whome he will enrich for amendes wth twoe worthie, but one incomparable sonñe whoe shalbe named *Hercules*: both shalbe borne at a time, 720
though they were not conceiued at a tyme. But Soe it is, my fathers will to make *Alcumenas* FOL. 12^{a}
labour but single, for a double birth. In ye meane tyme must I goe on as my duety is, to doe my father seruice to the end.

708 *the*] *e* altered from *at*

(1) *Scen. iiii.*

Iupiter, Alcumena. Mercurius.

I. farewell my best beloued *Alcumena*, I praie the looke well to thy self, thy time thou seest, drawes on a pace. And that that god sends vs sweet harte make much ont, I must be gone. 730

A. Alas my lord, whats the reason of this, that yo^u^ are gone soe sone againe.

I. Not my loue, that I am weary of thee, or of beinge at home: but how can all goe well wth soe greate an Army when t'is wth out a generall?

M My father is excellent at this counterfeytinge, marke him I praie yo^u^, how queintlie he comes in w^th^ *Alcumena.*

A I may see by this, how litle yo^u^ care for me. 740

I It is enough, if there be none vnder the sonne I care for soe much.

A I had rather see this, then here of yt. Our bed is scarse warme, yet, tw'as midnight when yo^u^ came, and yo^u^ are gone alreadie; [I] could this be, if yo^u^ loued me as yo^u^ saie?

M. I thinke I had best stepp in and help my father. Madame; I doe not thinke (if I should be put to swere) that euer man in this world, loued woman soe well as my m^r^ doth yo^u^. 750

I. Now Sir, who sent for yo^u^? yo^u^ must be prating

---

(1) *Remember*
That ye cup be heere in
readines.

---

1 marg. added by P. *in*] altered.
735 *goe*] *g* altered from *d* by C.
734 *thee*] second *e* added.
744 *yet,*] comma added by C.

A Good my lord, I praie yo^{u} doe not.

I Mumble yo^{u} had best.

M. I doe not lyke this begining half well.

I But my deerest *Alcumena*, what reason hast thou to be angrie wth me? did I not steale this tyme from my whole Army, to bestowe yt on y^{e}, that by my owne mouth, thou mightest first vnderstand how all hath succeeded: would I haue done thus thinkes thou, if I did not loue the. 760

M. Could a man deuise to flatter more coniñgly?

I. Now I must needes priuilie Convey my self backe FOL. 12^{b}
againe, as I stole awaie, that it be not knowne, wch I would not for any thinge.

A. I knowe not how yo^{u} will goe: I am sure yo^{u} make me weepe to see yo^{u} gone soe sone.

I. I pray the be contente, I will presently returne againe.

A. I that presently will be to longe. 770

I Doest thou thinke yt pleas[ur]es me to part from the, if I could chuse.

A. No yt is not lykely, when yo^{u} goe awaie the same night yo^{u} came.

I Whie doest thou hould me, I must needes be gone? before the daie appeare.—In the meane time, for a pawne of my speedie returne, and a remembrance while I am awaie, I will giue the, the same Cuppe Kinge *Pterelas* himself dranke in, whome I
(1) slewe 780

A. I had rather haue yo^{u} staie.

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(1) *Cupp.*

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763 *must*] *mu* has one minim too many. 771 deletion by C.
1 marg. added by P.

I. Thou seest I cannot. Sirra, bringe the cupp hither I gaue yo^{u} to keepe.

M. Here Sir

I How now *Alcumena*; how lyke yo^{u} this?

A This is a guift indeed lyke him that gaue yt.

M Or rather madame lyke her t'is giuen vnto.

I Sirra, will yo^{u} neuer hould yor peace?

A. Good *Amphitruo*, be not angrie wth *Sosia*, for my sake. 790

I. I am Content for this once.

M Lord how fearce my father is growne wth this same loue

I Haste thou any thinge no^{u} to Comaunde me?

A. I would intreat yo^{u} Sir to loue me still, when yo^{u} are gone, though I be absent:

M Sir, tis more then time we were gone; for daie begins to peepe.

I Goe yo^{u} before S^{r}: Ile come aft^{r} yo^{u}. what wilt thou els? 800

A Nothinge but that yo^{u} returne as sone as yo^{u} can *(a)*.

(1) *I* I warrant the I wilbe here eare thou lokest for me. farewell. now night thou hast staied my leasure thus longe, I giue the leaue to giue place to daie, and soe much as thou wert longer then thou shouldest be, soe much shorter be the next daie, that order may be kept still. Now I followe *Mercury*. ./.

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(1) *Illa dolenter incedit*

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796 *absent*] *t* altered. 801 reference letter added by C to correct the position of S's marginal note.

Actus Secundus

Scen. i.

Alcumena. *Thessala* 810

A They talke of pleasure, but the pleasure of a womans lief I am sure is litle enough if yt be compared wth her crosses. The seueare stricktnes of o^r^ educacõn. the bondage after, if o^r^ husbandes be not better: The wrongfull suspicions, and accusations, to, now and then we passe through in o^r^ lief time. The paine we endure before we haue children, the care after: the generall weaknes of o^r^ Sexe; these be ordinary complaintes of all weomen. But there is one crosse that mostely attendes, though not onely 820 vpon vs that are the greater: and it is the greater crosse: the ordinarie absence of o^r^ husbandes: wch in the manner is dobled to. ffor were they absent onely in Ambassage: or as traueylers: or as m'chantes: yet they might leaue vs hart easinge hope at home to accompanie vs till their returne. But beinge absent as sould^r^s they leaue vs pale feare: a passion that we are lesse hable to endure then greif. they might as well quite leave vs: for o^r^ greatest greif is to feare, and tis feare thats death to vs. If we 830 be dead once what can sorowe doe vs harme? w^t^ saiest thou *Thessala*, is not this true: I knowe thou louest not *Sosia* soe litle, but thou hast hadd a taste of eich of these since he was last wth the.

T Indeed madame, I must needes confesse the truth, I haue. And though we be not married together, I am sure his absence (beinge in soe daungerous an ymployment especyallie) hath gone as neare my

814 *if*] *i* altered from *o* 835 *confesse*] *c* altered. 838 *neare*] *a* altered.

hart, as if we had bene. And if I durst when
yor ladiship hath sighed some times, I could haue 840
found in my harte to haue borne yo^u companie.
O there cannot be such a crosse in the world
to a woman, as to parte from her husband. Whie
M^ris. he is the husband of her bosome: when he is
gone, alas how can she but be naked. He is her
propp and vphoulder: take him awaie, she cannot
chuse but fall. Besides, a souldier is to his wief
a sheild and a buckler to, remoue him and she
will lye open [to] straight to all assaultes.

A T'were pitty but thou haddest a husband *Thessala*, 850
thou coulest pswade him soe well to staie at home.

T I, and t'were not for *Sosia*, and my maist^r. (I
cry yo^u mercy mistres) my m^r and *Sosia*, I
should haue saide, I would not care if all these
Souldiers were hanged, to giue example
To others to keepe better at home wth their wiues. FOL. 13^b

A That were to hard *Thessala*. rather thou shouldest
wish them lamed, soe they should be sure to staie at
home. She makes me merry to heare hir how
ernest she is: and yet I cannot put awaie the 860
thought of my lordes so sodeine depture. *Thessala*
goe yo^u in, I will followe you. To staie but
one poore night, nay had it bene all that, that
were some thinge. But one peice of a night? I
and that a litle peice to. Now am I more dis-
contented wth his departure, then me thought I
was ioyed wth his comeinge. yet this I must needs
saie comforts me not a litle; the hono^r my lord hath
gotten by his victorie. To heare him soe well spoken
of by every bodie. And if we weomen loue hono^r 870
soe well as men saie we doe, then must this needs

849 *straight*] *st* altered from *all* 851 *coulest*] read *couldest*

be pleasinge vnto vs, to heare them magnified, whoe beinge pte of vs, cannot chuse but part their honor wth vs. Yet me thinkes to, honor, to saie the truth is but a shadowe: and shadowes please childreñ and fooles in deed: But giue me the substance. The eye is the truest harbinger of loue. I had rather see my lord still I. then heare of him. But nou I must be content, t'will not be longe ere he returne, I soe he said to please me. Well, I see walkinge will not put out this melancholie, out of my heade: I will goe in and trye another while [and trie] what working can doe.

Scen. ii.

Amphitruo. *Sosia.*

A. Come yor waies after me.

S I will followe yor Sr. I warrant you, hard at the heeles.

A I doe not thinke there was ever yet such a villeyne harde of as this

S Whie soe sir, I beseech you.

A Whie. thou wouldest make me beleiue that, that neither is, nor was, nor can bee.

S This is yor ould wont not to beleue yor poore sꝛruñtꝯ, speake they neuer so truely.

A. Sirra, doe not iustifie this, you had best. an you doe.

S Nay the lawe is in yor handeꝯ. vse me as you thinke good: yet you shall neuer make me affraied to tell you what I see wth these eyes.

A. Why thou shameles slaue, darest thou saie to me yt thou art nou at home that art here. FOL. 14a

882 *and trye*] interlined by C. deletion by C. 887 *yor*] read *you*

S Sir I dare saie it, and will stand to it, that it is most true.

A Doest thou longe for a beatinge?

S ffor that, as yt please yo^{u} Sir, I am yours, yet I must not nor will not be affraied to speake ye truth.

A Doest thou but think what it is to floute thy maister? darest thou affirme to me for certeinty that wch yet neuer man sawe. that one man should be in twoe places? 910

S Sir, as I haue tould yo^{u}, soe yo^{u} shall finde yt.

A What, that thou art here and there to man, wilt thou stand to this?

S And yo^{u} proue me a lyer, then speake yor pleasure, in the meane tyme would yo^{u} would not thinke of me otherwise then I haue deserued.

A. Out of doubt this fellowe is drunke.

S Would I were elȝ for my owne sake.

A Nay I warrant the thou hast thie wish.

S. Haue I Sir? 920

A I, and yo^{u} had best tell me to, where yo^{u} drunke last.

S It may be yo^{u} will not beleiue me, but Ile be sworne I drunk not since I was last in yor tent.

A. What might this meane?

S Alas Sir, I haue tould yo^{u} often enough, and will tell yo^{u} againe, an yt will doe yo^{u} anie good: I *Sosia* am now at home, and I the same am here wth yo^{u}, this is plaine enough, I thinke.

A. Well I see then thou art made, it is no more 930 dealinge wth the

S Sir, I am well in my wyttȝ, whatsoeuer yo^{u} thinke, and knowe what I saie well enough.

A Then shalt thou be hanged for lyinge. Tis a plaine case, thou hast neclected to doe my com-

930 *made*] read *madd*

maundem^{t}; and no^{u} thou thinkest to come & flapp me in the teeth wth such a lye: as thou doest me more wronge in thinkinge I will beleiue yt, then in bare tellinge of it to excuse thie self: confesse the truth yo^{u} had best. 940

S Can a poore s3ruñt endure greater misery then this, when he tells the truth. to be ouerborne by force?

A Whie I praie the come and reason the matter wth me a lytle; if ꝑchance thou hast any reason. ho^{w} doest thou thinke yt can possiblie be, that thou shouldest no^{u} be both here and at home at the same time FOL. 14^{b}

S Tis enough Sir that I knowe I am both here and there: And yo^{u} may maruell as much as yo^{u} will, and when you haue done, yo^{u} maruell not more then I maruell at it my self. 950

A How?

S Marry I saie I maruell at yt as much as yo^{u}: ffor by this good light I did at the first beleiue this *Sosia* my self, vntill I my self that am there did make me beleiue him, he did soe ꝑfytlie tell me whatsoeuer was done here. Besides, he ha's my shape aswell as my name. And Sir proue that one dropp of milke be lyker an other then he and I are together, and take this head from my should^{rs}. Whie I will tell yo^{u} Sir when yo^{u} sent me from the haven would yo^{u} think yt? 960

A What?

S I was at home a great while before I came there.

A Doest thou vnderstand thy self well what thou saiest?

S Me thinkes I speake soe plainlie sir, that any man may vnderstand me.

A I cannot tell what to make of this: sometimes me thinkes he should be drunck; sometimes madd: or

937 *lye :*] read *lye*, (comma). 958 *proue*] *o* altered from *e*

phapps he is bewitcht. hath not some vnlucky hand 970
light vpon the.

S Yes that there hath a Couple; on my word. for I was neuer better beaten since my name was *Sosia.*

A. Who should beat the?

S I sir, that am at home beat my self.

A Can a man endure this any longer. sirra, answere me a question or twoe; and se yo^u^ speak not a word but as I ask yo^u^. ffirst this same *Sosia* you speak of, what should he be?

S. He is your man. 980

A My man villeine, whie I haue to many of the name by the alreadie, and but the, I had neuer any in my lief.

S Well this *Sosia* is yor man, and soe yo^u^ shall finde him when yo^u^ come home. I, he is *Dauus* his sonñe: he has my face: he is of my yeares: In a word Sir yor *Sosia* is no longer a single, but a double *Sosia.*

A Thou tellst me strange thinges, but did'st thou se my wief?

S How could I see hir when I could not be suffred to come in. / 990

A. Whoe let the? FOL. 15^a^

S. That same *Sosia* I tould you of.

A. What *Sosia* man?

S. I my self Sir, how often shall I tell yo^u^, I would haue beleiued yo^u^ in half this time.

A Tell me, didst thou not sleepe latelie?

S Not I Sir.

A Art thou sure ont? phaps in a dreame thou mightest see all this

S Tis not my wont Sir soe sleepilie to doe your 1000
busines. I tell yo^u^ I was watchinge when I see him, and he was watchinge when he watcht me a good turne, and beat me almost a sleep for watchinge soe late.

A Whoe beate the?

S Nay then we shall neuer haue done: In fewe words Sir I beat my self, doe yo^u^ not yet vnderstand me?

A Vnderstand the? who could vnderstand such a madd foole as thou art? that talkest thus Idlely of thinges impossible. 1010

S Be content a while Sir, and you shall see how impossible they. bee

A What shall I see?

S The fore said *Sosia* yor man.

A Well come yor waies after me, yo^u^ haue brought that I badd yo^u^ out of the ship?

S. I haue yt here readie for yo^u^ Sir.

A. We shall see anone I hope, what this geare will come to. 1020

Scen. iii.

Alcumena. *Amphitruo:*

(1) *Sosia:* *Thessala.*

Al. This workinge makes me thinke of *Penelope*, how prettie a deuice she found good lady to preserue her self against soe manie temptations, in soe longe absence of her beloued *Vlisses*; No doubt she wrought lyke a workwomañ haveinge accustomed her hand to it. I make wise worke now my mynde is of a nother matter: 1030

---

(1) *Remember*
That ye Casket be in readines.

1013 *bee*] added by D. 1 marg. added by P.

Am. It ioyes me to thinke how kinde a welcome I shall haue of my faire and lovinge *Alcumena* after my longe absence: poore soule I dare saie she has thought it longe. But the good successe I bringe wth me, and the hono^{r} of my victory, y^{t} shall plead my excuse. FOL. 15^{b}

S I hope we shall finde them, will bidd vs welcome to:

Al. Is not yon my husband?

Am. Sirra se yo^{u} followe me. 1040

S I doe not meane Sir to goe before yo^{u}.

Al. What might the cause be of his soe suddeine returñe? I hope he doth yt but to trie me, how much I desire his presence: and well maie he think he shalbe welcome.

S Sir, I thinke yt were even best for vs to goe backe againe to our shipp:

Am. And whie soe Sir.

S ffor we are lyke to haue no dynner here: I see my ladies belly yonder is full alreadie. 1050

Am Indeed yt should be soe: for I lefte her quicke when I went last from hence.

Al. It is my duety to goe towards him.

Am. *Amphitruo* salutes his welbeloued wief, whome all *Thebes* reporte of for her vertue; What saies *Alcumena*, am I welcoṁe?

Al. I hope Sir yo^{u} make no doubte of yor welcoṁe, though yo^{u} please to aske me the question.

Am. It doth me good to see this faire bellie soe well risen, since I see the last. 1060

Al. It semes (my lord) yo^{u} are disposed to be merry; and ys it soe longe (I praie yo^{u}) since yo^{u} see me last?

1032 *faire*] *i* altered from *r* 1059 *Am.*] the beginning of *l* appears above *m*

Am. Even since I set forth out of *Thebes* wth o^{r} Army, tis soe longe.

Al Whie saie yo^{u} soe Sir?

Am. Bycause I haue learned of a boye to speake truth wief; wouldest thou haue me tell a lye?

Al. Sir, yo^{u} doe well to keep thatt lesson still: But would I might be soe bould as to ask yo^{u} in ernest what makes yo^{wr} returne soe speedie. yo^{u} tould me but even no^{u}, yo^{u} must in all hast be gonne back to yor Armye.

Am. How, even now?

Al. Doe yo^{u} this to try Me. even very no^{u} but a while since. FOL. 16^{a}

Am. How doest thou meane but a while since?

Al. Sir, though it please yo^{u} to make me yor playe fellowe at other tymes: I am now in good ernest. And doe yo^{u} make strange of yt, that I saie yo^{u} went but euen now from hence?

Am. Out of doubte this woman[s] dotes.

S O t'is nothinge Sir but want of sleepe in impatience for yor absence, staie but till she hath slept a litle, and Ile warrant yo^{u}, she wilbe better come to her self.

Al Truely I thank ye godes I need no sleepe but am well aduised what I saie: and well knowe that both he and yo^{u} were here wth me this night and gone againe by breake of daie.

Am. In what place?

Al. Here in yor house where you dwell.

Am. Doe not saie soe, for we were neuer here.

S O Sir yo^{u} maie be deceiued; what if o^{r} shipp brought vs hither a sleepe, and we neuer knewe of yt?

1068 *thatt*] *att* altered. 1081 deletion by C. 1086 *ye godes*] *y^{e}* and *es* inserted by C.

Am. Must you helpe the matter to?

S I helpe her (quoth he) I faith tis but in Charytie: she is madd alreadie, and doe but crosse her a lytle, it is the next waie to put her quite out of her wittȝ. 1100

Am. I cannot take this in good ꝑte, that returninge but no^{u}: where I expected soe much kindnes after soe longe absence: she would not soe much as salute me. wief, I praie the tell me one thinge.

Al. What Sir I praie yo^{u}?

Am. Is it pride this in yo^{u}, or extremitie of folly?

Al. What meane yo^{u} to aske me this Sir?

Am. Bycause yo^{u} were wonte ever when I hadd bene abroade, kindelie to welcome me at my 1110 comeinge home, me thinkes that fashion is quite forgotten no^{u}.

Al I am sure Sir I did salute yo^{u} at yor firste Comeinge as kindely as I could.

S Did yo^{u} salute him Madame, when I praie you?

Al. I, and yo^{u} to *Sosia,* tis not soe longe since that yo^{u} should forgett yt.

S Well m^{r}, I am sory for no thinge but for yor FOL. 16^{b} Childe there. 1120

Am Whie for my Childe man.

S T'will proue a madd childe and ' take after the mother

Al. Whatȝ that sir that yo^{u} saie after the mother?

S Nothinge I madame, but that I wish yor childe may no take after the mother.

Al. And whie not after the mother?

S O madame! bycause my lord hath soe often wisht for

1096 *to?*] *t* altered from query-mark. 1122 *and ' take*] i.e. and it take. 1125 *no*] ? read *not*

a boye, yt should be a girle an it should take after yo^{u}.

Am. Sirra, hould yor pratinge: tell me wief, are yo^{u} sure yo^{u} see me here yesternight? 1130

Al. Sir, I did, and marvell much whie yo^{u} should soe often aske me the question.

Am. In yor dreame phapps.

Al. Even as broade awake as I see yo^{u} now.

Am. Alas what shall I doe?

S Whie? what aile yo^{u} Sir?

Am. My wief questionles is madd.

S Doe but let her bloud a litle in the braine, and of my word she wilbe sober straight. 1140

Am. Woman tell me, where didst thou feele this humor first seaze vpon the.

Al. I cannot tell what humor yo^{u} meane. I am sure I never found my self better then at this present: Savinge my greif to finde soe strange vsage at yor handes, where I haue litle deserued yt.

Am. What shall I saie? I am angrie to heare her talke, and yet yt greues me to see her weepe.

S O let her weepe m^{r}, this is the lettinge of her braine bludd: tis the onely waie to make her 1150 come to her self againe.

Am Well weepe or weepe not, I must enquire further into this matter, that^{s} certeine: Can yo^{u} saie that I was here yesternight that came but this night into the haven? where I supt, where I slept all night: and set not foote on shore till this morninge.

Al. I saie yo^{u} supt and slept wth me to night.

Am Nay, then let that be true yet that I supt wth the, but for the loue of god, doe not saie I slept wth 1160 the.

1137 *yo^{u}*] superior letter altered.

Al. yes: and soe sone as it was daie, yo^{u} returned backe to yor Army Againe. /

S Iust: this is the first ꝑte of her dreame: Madam, I faith when yo^{u} awaked did you not thanke god for yor sweet dreame? FOL. 17^{a}

Al. I hope, though it please my lord to vse me as he thinkes good: he will not allowe yo^{u}. Sirra to controule me. I haue sene him angrie with yo^{u} in my time, for a lesse matter then this. 1170

Am Sir, an I bidd yo^{u} hould yor peace againe! say yo^{u} that I did goe awaie from yo^{u} this morninge?

Al. I, and before yor goeinge tould me yor self, the whole manner of yor victorie.

Am. Are yo^{u} sure you knowe yt?

Al. If it be as yo^{u} tould me, I am sure.

Am. As howe? let vs heare som̃e ꝑte of yt.

Al. ffirst how yo^{u} put them to flight, and in ye execucõn kild the kinge your self, and after tooke them that remained aliue, to mercy. 1180

Am. Did I tell you this?

Al. Sir yo^{u} did; how should I knowe it els! besides he was by when yo^{u} tould me it.

Am. How saie yo^{u} Sir? did yo^{u} here me tell her this?

S. Where should I heare yo^{u} tell it?

Am. Nay aske her.

S I will not flatly deny yt, bycause she hath said yt, but if it were soe, t'is more then I can Remember. 1190

Al. Indeed yt were a mervell if he would saie any thinge to crosse yo^{u}

Am. Sirra, looke hither, looke me full in the face.

S. I thinke this is full Sir.

1189 *t'is*] *s* altered from *ll*: apostrophe presumably added.

Am. Sir leaue yor knavery yo^{u} had best, and tell me truely, neuer speake to please me. did I in yor hearinge tell any of these thinges to yor m^{ris}.

S. Sir, I praie yo^{u}, are yo^{u} in as good case as she, that you aske me this question?

(1) *Am.* Sirra tell me directlie, wthout more adoe, did I or no? *(a)* 1200

S Noe Sir, no, not I. I hard yo^{u} quoth he? nor any bodie elꝭ thatꝭ wise, I thinke.

Am. Doe yo^{u} heare what he saies?

Al. I heare him well.

Am. And will yo^{u} neither beleiue him nor me?

Al. Saveinge my duetie to yo^{u} Sir, I will beleiue none before my owne eyes. FOL. 17^{b}

Am. Doe yo^{u} saie still that I came hither yester night?

Al. Doe yo^{u} still deny Sir, that yo^{u} went from hence this morninge 1210

Am. I saie and swere yt to, by the kinge of heauen; this is the first houer of my Arryuall here; since I went from hence wth our Army.

Al. And will yo^{u} denye to, what yo^{u} lefte me for a remembrance at yor partinge.

Am. What was that?

Al. A standinge Cupp of gould, wch as yo^{u} said was giuen yo^{u} for a present.

Am. I neyther gaue yo^{u} one, nor ever said soe much to yo^{u} that I would. Indeed it hath bene my purpose to giue yo^{u} such a one: But who tould yo^{u} thus much? Ile laie my lief *Dromio* hath bene wth 1220

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(1) *(a) minanter, offerendo alapam*

1201 *did I*] interlined by C to replace *haue yo^{u}* deleted. *no?*] query-mark doubtful. reference letter added by C to correct the position of S's marginal note. 1 marg. reference letter prefixed by C. 1206 *Am.*] the beginning of *l* appears above *m* 1207 *yo^{u}*] ^{u} altered from ^{r} 1213 *houer*] *er* doubtful.

yo^{u}, for I sent him out time enough to haue bene here by this time, and I neare see him since.

S Ile warrant yo^{u} Sir, tis none but he that hath plaide the knaue wth yo^{u} in all this. I think I haue spoken for him

Al I knowe not when yo^{u} sent him, but I am sure I see him not yet. And if he had bene here, yo^{u} knowe 1230 best whither he could giue me the cupp or no.

Am Staie a litle for gods loue. Thys makes me wonder yet of all the rest, vnles yo^{u} Sirra haue plaied the villaine wth me, and priuilie acquainted her wth this before my comeinge; and then come and tell me I cannot tell what deuises of yor owne.

S Nay an eare yo^{u} proue that Sir, yo^{u} said yo^{u} would hange me before, then let me be quartered to.

Am. What shall I saie to this?

(1) *Al.* Shall I cause my woman to fetch yt 1240

Am. Let me see yt.

Al yow shall Sir. *Thessala.*

T Whats yor will Madame?

Al. Bringe me the cupp hither I tould yo^{u} my lord
(2) gaue me at his goeinge awaie. whie doe yo^{u} not make more hast. bid *Ragazzo* come to.

T Presentlie Madame.

Am. Come hither yo^{u}, where is yor minde Sir? whie this would make me wonder of all the rest if she should chance to haue this cupp. 1250

S Lord will yo^{u} beleiue that when yo^{u} knowe FOL. 18^{a}

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(1) *Casket.*

(2) *Hic signis agunt mutuis inter se, Sosia & Thessala*

1238 *then*] interlined. 1 marg. added by P. 1246 *bid . . . to.*] added by D: cf. l. 1543.

tis here fast vnder locke and key, and vnder yor owne seale.

Am. Let me see, is the seale whole?

S Looke I praie yo^{u} sir that you may be sure

T Here yt is madame.

S Howe now?

Al. Now sir see yor self whither this be it or noe.

Am. O heauens, what doe I see, tis the verie same.

S Well I am sure of one thinge, either she is a witch, or elȝ the cupp must be here still in the Caskett 1260

Am Goe to, let vs see, open yt quicklie.

S Yo^{u} can beare me wytnes Sir, the seale is whole.

Am. Very well Sir.

(1) *S* This is fine sporte. I haue found an other *Sosia.* my maister he heares of another *Amphitruo*, and there be another cupp here to I faith then we are all dubled. *Iupiter* ô *Iupiter.* 1270

Am. Whatȝ the matter?

S O Iupiter, Iupiter, not a peice of a cupp is there, here.

Am. But yo^{u} had best Sir finde me a cupp there.

Al. Whie, you see tis heare.

Am. But how came yo^{u} by yt then?

Al. Euen by him that askes me the question

S I faith m^{r}, I beleiue yo^{u} are disposed to plaie the noble man wth me: yo^{u} haue bene here before me and taken yt out yor self and sealed vp the Casket againe and now yo^{u} aske me whatȝ become of yt. 1280

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(1) *Hæc inter aperiundum*

1255 *you*] *y* altered.

Am Villeine doest thou helpe her forward to in her frensie? doe yo^{u} saie still that I was here yesternight.

Al. I saie yo^{u} were here.

S. And how did yo^{u} interteine him then?

Am. Indeed that were a question.

Al. But sone answered. how should a wief interteine
(1) her husband? when you came in, first I gaue 1290
yow a kysse.

Am Beshrowe me, I lyke not this beginninge; but goe on I praie you.

Al. Then yo^{u} washt. FOL. 18^{b}

Am. What then?

(2) *Al.* You satt downe to supper.

Am And what after supper.

S I maister aske hir forwarde, yo^{u} shall haue good stuff anone I warrant yo^{u}.

Am. Sir, doe not yo^{u} interrupt vs. 1300

Al. After supper, yo^{u} found yor self some thinge weary, and yo^{u} went to bedd.

S I thinke she will come neare yo^{u} anone.

Am Where laye you.

Al. Where should I lye, but in the same bedd wth yo^{u}.

Am. In the same bedd? thou vndoest me if thou saiest soe.

S Alas Sir what ayle yo^{u}?

Am. She hath wounded me, she hath stabbed me to ye hart.

Al Whie are yo^{u} thus out of ord^{r} Sir? yo^{u} make me at my wytts end. 1310

S Thats a small matter, they were at an end a good while agoe.

---

(1) + (2) +

1287 *S.*] altered from *Am.* *him*] altered from *me* 1311 *at*] possibly *al*

Am What doe I reckon of my hono^{r} gotten abroad? when my honor at home is stained: my bedd defiled.

Al. Alas my lo: whie shold yo^{u} vse these wordꝯ to me?

Am. Awaie from me: I your lord? thou shameles woman doest thou not blush to call me soe.

Al. Sir, lytle haue I deserued these reproaches at yor handes. the Goddꝯ knowe how wrongfully yo^{u} accuse me, and I hope they will doe me right. 1320

Am. O immortall goddꝯ. what may this meane? I pray the *Sosia*, art thou sure thou knowest me?

S I think I had best looke well vpon yo^{u} to be sure. I, yo^{u} are my maister *Amphitruo*, sure as I take yt.

Am. Did I supp in the shipp yesternight or did I not?

S Surely yo^{u} did, or one very lyke yo^{u}. But a man can hardly tell what to saie of truth as no^{u} the world goes. I haue found another *Sosia*, belyke there is another *Amphitruo*: wch of yo^{u} supt there 1330 I cannot tell: I am sure one of yo^{u} did.

Am My bedd dishonored!

(1) *Al* Then let the vnspotted *Diana* plague me for my disloyaltie, if euer man but *Amphitruo* came in my bedd /

Am Would yt were true. FOL. 19^{a}

Al. Tis true my lord, will yo^{u} not take myne othe

Am Tut, yo^{u} are a woman, yo^{u} will sweare bouldlie enoughe. well, I am soe distraught wth this, that I scarce knowe my self. 1340

S I warrant yo^{u} Sir, yo^{u} are *Amphitruo* yet. or one of them at least. and yo^{u} loose nor yor self. good enough.

---

(1) *Lachrymanter.*

Am Neuer weep woman, thatꝯ no amendeꝯ for such a fault as this: what doe yo^{u} saie? If I goe backe to the ship and bringe hither yor Cousin *Naucrates*, that was there wth me, to disproue all yo^{u} haue said to yor face. doe I wronge yo^{u} then if I put yo^{u} from me?

Al. If I be found false, I am Contented: 1350

(1) *Am* Then we are agreed. Sirra, staie yo^{u} here still, I will my self goe backe and fetch *Naucrates*, Ile trust no bodie.

S Madame, an yo^{u} be a good ladie, no^{u} tell me one thinge, an there be not a nother *Sosia* no^{u} wthin besideꝯ me.

Al. Sir, yo^{u} will never leaue your Iybinge.

S Nay, an yo^{u} be angrie, I am gone, and soe I hope is my fellowe *Sosia* to, or elꝯ I would not goe in to daie. 1360

Al. This is strange to me, that haue liued thus longe vntainted in the opinion of the worlde: now to be challenged by my lord and husband. The goddꝯ I trust, that are wytnesses of myne Innocency will deliuer me out of this distresse.

(2) It cannot be other wise. I knowe my cousin *Naucrates* is honorable and loues me. He must needes be wytnes of my side.

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(1) + (2) *post pausam*

1360 *to*] *t* altered. 1361 *that*] *th* altered?

Actus Tertius

Scen. i. 1370

Iupiter Solus:

I am that *Amphitruo* who ame Iupiter when I liste, and my man is eyther *Sosia*, or *Mercury* as I will; I am no^n stollen from *Iuno*, and come downe hither againe Seinge the conflicte betwixt poore *Alcumena*, and FOL. 19^b her husband; to helpe the weaker; indeed to ease the Innocent of the burthen of my faulte. This seconde comeinge of myne in *Amphitruo* his lykenes, will breed yet a litle more confusion, wch I doe to please 1380 my self. But I will make all good in the ende, when the truth shalbe knowne. And *Alcumena* for her Recompence shall w^thout paine be deliuered of twoe braue boyes: the one begotten by her husband, the other by me. But here she comes: iust in the humor of a womañ, in these cases. ffor her husband lefte her in greif: But her greif by this time is turned into Cholere. But I that haue pacified *Iuno* the Angred Queene of heauen soe often; doubt not but I shall pacyfie her againe well enoughe. 1390

Scen. ii.

Alcumena. *Iupiter*

A. I cannot haue patience to staie longer in my house, when I thinke how Iniuriouslie I haue bene handled by my husband. Haue I liued wth him thus longe in the reputacõn of a true wief, to be now accused of shame,

1389 *Angred*] possibly *Angr'de* 1393 *longer*] *r* added by C.

and dishonor? to be vsed lyke a lunatyke womañ? as if I were besides my self. That that he did, he denyes; and affirmes yt to my face that neuer was done. yet he thinkes I will endure all this: but 1400 he is deceaued. Indeed such was my loue vnto him as no meane wronge could haue preueyled against yt: But myne honor is more pretious to me then my lief. It would trie a kinde wief to haue her bloud attempted by her husband: I had rather he had done soe, then as he has done: therefore he hadd not need to threaten to put me awaie, for I meane not to staye wth him, vnles he make Me the better satisfaccõn.

I That y^t^ she meanes to put *Amphitruo* to, that I see must I faine to doe; if I meane to get any fauor 1410 at her handes at this tyme. And since my love hath bene the cause of her wronge, I must doe my self iustice and be contente to beare the bruñte

(1) of her revenge.

Al. Se where he comes, the most Iniuryous lord aliue to his true wief

I How now ladie. what, turne yo^u^ awaie from me?

A It is the nature of vs weomen not williñglie to looke vpon our Enymies. 1420

I. What open warrs ladye, plaine Enymies?

A I would yo^u^ would let me alone sir, me thinkes FOL. 20^a^ a man of yor worth should not abase himself to medle wth soe vilde and dishonest a woman as I am

I. Nay then I see yo^u^ can be angrie ladie, I would not haue thought yt possible.

A T'were much I should be well pleased, to be toucht in that is dearer to me then my lief.

---

(1) +

1408 *Me*] *M* altered from *t*

I. Whie beleiue me woman, I spake not as I thought, I did but this to trie the. 1430

A. If I had euer giuen yo^{u} cause to mistrust me; yet a gentler tryall then this might haue serued.

I But I knewe the soe kinde, as no small matter would haue moued thy patience: now I see thou takest yt soe euill; trust me ladie I am sorry I began: wilt thou forgiue me?

A I knowe yo^{u} set much by my forgiuenes. I expected yo^{u} should bringe my cosen *Naucrates* wth yo^{u}; but he is no such mañ, as soe easilie to be brought to wronge an Innocent. 1440

I. Whie I praie the good *Alcumena* beleiue me, I was but in iest all this while. *Sosia* can beare me wytnes.

A I know not how yo^{u} were Sir. I am sure yt proued ernest to me, for yt has gone as neare me as my harte.

I. Sweet *Alcumena,* if euer thou didst loue me, for-
(1) giue me but this once.

A Sir if it please yo^{u} to giue me that wch is myne: hereafter (if I be false) yo^{u} shalbe sure I shall not 1450 be false to yo^{u}. Or if not, if yo^{u} will but allowe me one to attend me home to my fathers house: or if yo^{u} will not, yet I hope to goe accompanied wth my honor in spight of them that would take yt from me.

I. Nay *Alcumena* staie a litle, let vs haue a worde yet ere we part; if there be no other remedie. And tell me this I faith in equity. if the first fault that euer I comitted against the in my lief can deserue soe hard iustice as straight to be forsaken? 1460

---

(1) +

A I knowe I cannot please yo^{u} better. tis that yo^{u} haue sought. no^{u} yo^{u} shall haue yor desire.

I Nay then let *Iupiter* hate me for euer, if yt be not soe farre from my desire, that it would greiue me to the harte.

A Let *Iupiter* be yor freind I beseech him whatsoeuer FOL. 20^{b} become of me.

I Well ladye, this is once, yo^{u} saie yo^{u} will be gone, theres no stayinge of yo^{u}: Then will I to sea out of hand: ffare well *Thebes*, I hope to see heauen ere I see 1470 the againe, after I am gone once.

A The godds forbidd, that for my sake yo^{u} should wronge yor Countrie soe much.

I Noe, noe, I see tis yor desire it should be soe. I could but once iest in my lief, and to be taken then at the hardest: well lady, since I see yor hart is soe hardened against me that yo^{u} purpose to leaue me, I will begin first; And for a proof I mistrusted yo^{u} not, I leaue yo^{u} what I haue. Ile to my shipp and see her furnisht, and then I am goñe 1480

A Alas I see he will be gone, indeed if I staie him not. My lord, good my lord beare wth a womans weaknes: I knowe yo^{u} were but in iest wth me, I make no doubte of yt.

I. Nay I am indifferent no^{u}, thinke what yo^{u} will.

A Indeed my lord, I will neuer be angrie wth you againe.

I. Doest thou forgiue me then?

A Doe yo^{u} make a question of yt?

I. How shall I knowe thou doest. 1490

(1) *A.* Harke and I will tell you.

---

(1) +

1481 *gone, indeed*] read *gone indeed,* (comma).

I May I beleiue the?

A. I hope you will Sir.

I Not unles yo^u^ tell me againe. Now I beleiue the, and am gladd Ladye we are become soe good freindes againe. I sweare yt shalbe the last tyme of our fallinge out. What *Sosia*, I will send him to *Blepharo* my Shipmaister to bidd him come to dynner to me. But I meane to haue some sport wth him and *Amphitruo* to, 1500 yet ere I dyne.

A. I maruell whatꝯ that he talkeꝯ alone to him self.

I. What *Sosia* I saie.

Scen: iii.

Sosia. *Iupiter.* *Alcumena.* FOL. 21^a^

S Here Sir, here: you tooke me even in my caste Sir. a litle more. I hadd slaked my thirst pretilie well [since I went in.]

I. Sirra, doe you heare? 1510

(1) *S* I sir I. O lord are you twoe freindes againe, truely I am gladd to see yt, I thinke yo^u^ were but in iest all this while, for if you hadd bene in ernest yo^u^ could not I thinke haue bene freindes by this tyme.

I. Did not I saie that *Sosia* could beare me wytnes, I did but iest wth the?

---

(1) *Videt nempe prendentes invicem manus*

1508 *a litle more.*] interlined by C to replace *I thinke* deleted. *hadd*] *dd* altered from *ue* by C. 1509 deletion by C. 1 marg. *invicem*] *v* altered from *u* by C.

A Sir I beleiue it, what needes more of y^{t}. But Sirra, how chance yo^{u} were soe sawcye, could not yor maister iest, but yo^{u} must iest to: 1520

S O lord Madame, the onelie iestinge in the world, is to iest wth good companie: my maister should haue had [noe] sporte alone els.

A And was not yor maister thinke yo^{u} odds enough for me but yo^{u} must be twoe to one?

S Why Madame and all lytle enoughe; for one womañ is hable to take downe a great many men. I hope yo^{u} will ꝑdon me Madame for my bouldnes.

A. Well *Sosia* well. now my lord and I are freinds take heed I helpe yo^{u} not to a beatinge one of these 1530 daies, an yo^{u} leaue not yor knauery.

I. Sirra, soe yt is: I haue a matter of Religion to ꝑforme, a certeine vowe I made to Iupiter before my vyctorie.

S. Soe Sir.

I I would haue you goe fetch hither from the Shipp, *Blepharo* my Shipmaister, that after the solempnitie done, he and I may dyne together.

S. Ile be there and here againe wth a tryce sir.

I. See yo^{u} bee. 1540

A In the meane time, if yo^{u} please, I will goe in, and commaund the vessells you are to vse,
(1) to be in a readynes: *Ragazzo* where are you?

I I praie the goe, and thou shalt make me beholding to the. Thus haue I deceaued both the mistres & the man together: But a good end shall make a mends for all. Now as I am sacrifysinge

---

(1) +

1525 *me*] interlined to replace *me one* deleted. *but*] *b* altered from *f*? 1542 *commaund*] *mm* has one minim too many. 1543 *Ragazzo . . . you?*] added by D: cf. l. 1246. 1544 *thou*] perhaps *then*

will *Amphitruo* returne hom̃e from seekinge of *Naucrates*, whome he cannot finde: But I will haue *Mercury* keepe him out from Comeinge 1550
In here, by his leaue yet; whome he will take for FOL. 21[b]
his man *Sosia*: and to make vp the matter, there will be *Dromio*, his other man, to helpe to keepe out his owne maister to. And *Dromio* is comeinge here: as sone as he sees me, he will make noe question but I am his maister, and soe I am like to be troubled wth him: ffor he comes full in a conceyte to haue at my handes a charge of certeine prisonnerꝯ Comytted to him, as my *Mercury* made him beleiue, when he gott his ringe from him. 1560
And prisonerꝯ here are none y[t]ꝯ. once. therefore I must salue vp the matter aswell as I can, for the present, that we may not want his companie anone, in helpinge to keepe his right maister out, of dores. /. And here he is.

Scen. iiii.

Dromio. *Iupiter.*

And they should be vnruly no[n] as these younge nobles are wagges, I would indeed speake somethinge bigge to them; as my honorable subiectes, I must not haue 1570
yo[u] doe soe: But I doe not depute yt best to smyte them at any hand. Soe if one of them should chance to come to the crowne afterward, and I come in his fingers, he might make me hopp w[th]out my crowne and my head to. No Ile none of that; but an they be my faithfull

1564 *out,*] read *out* (no stop). 1572 *at any*] interlined by C to replace *w[th] my* deleted.

prisoners, Ile be their most duetefull gouernour: I faith what a credytt it wilbe as I walke in ye street now, to here the voice of the comon people. There goes monsier le gouerneur saith one; 1580 There goes his wurship saith another: ffor indeed the base name of a Iailor, is fytt for such as keepe theiues, not for him that hath true nobilitie in his keepinge. But yond^r^ I haue spied my m^r^. *Amphitruo*, whome I hae bene seekinge of soe longe. A man would thinke that seeth him, he is not soe litle, but that he might haue bene found by this time. Truely I cannot tell wth what face to looke vpon him, I am soe bashfull now I am towards this same p^r^ferment. 1590 And indeed, shamelesnes in an officer is a notorious thinge; well I will sett before, the best face I haue. Lord Sir, I haue bene to seeke you, I think all the world ouer. I doe not thinke when I am in place once, it wilbe FOL. 22^a^ fytt for me to stande wth my hatt of any longer.

I. And where hast thou bene seekinge of me?

D Marry there and here, and here and there, & there and here againe, in twoe words, where not Sir? 1600

I I can tell the in fiue: not there where I was, for then thou hadest found me.

(1) *D* [Let me see: / not: / there / where / I / was / for / then / thou / hadest / found / me. / .] they be iust fiue indeed. I praie yo^u^ what was y^t^ yo^u^ said Sir?

---

(1) *numerat in digitos dum ille loquitur.*

1595 *when*] *h* altered. 1603-4 deletion by C. 1 marg. *dum . . . loquitur*] added by C.

I Must I tell yo^{u} twise. I saie yo^{u} sought me not where I was, for then you had found me

D Thatʒ true indeed Sir. Soe a man may saie, an he had knowne that, he had neare sought for yo^{u}. But I was vildlie affraid if I had not at last founde yo^{u} by lande, I should haue bene put to haue sought yo^{u} by water.

I And whie wert thou affraide of that?

D You would not aske me the question, and yo^{u} kne^{w}. ① as much as I knowe. Whie I tell yo^{u} Sir, he that hath bene condempned, brougth to the place of ꝑsecution; had the hangman by the hande; the halter about his necke; made his profession. Songe, god blesse vs, the eleuen and fyftie psalme. said good people praie for me. Nay, had one legge alreadie of, of the ladder, and was then saued; neuer scapet hanginge nearer then I scapet drowninge.

I I am gladd ont *Dromio.*

D What that I was almost drowned Sir?

I. Noe, I mean that thou escapest man.

D Thatʒ a nother matter indeed.

I And by what tyme came yo^{u} to yor mistres then?

D. Tyme enough for any thinge I saide to her.

I Whie, spake yo^{u} not wyth her?

D No, nor she wth me neyther.

I. Wheres my Ringe then?

D. As though yo^{u} knewe not: I se you are in iest Sir.

I. What doe yo^{u} meane by that?

D I meane yo^{u} are not in ernest sir. FOL. 22^{b}

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① *Omnia hæc singillatim agi oportet.*

1615 *yo^{u}*] possibly *yor* 1617 *brougth*] read *brought*

I I hope sir yo^{u} haue not cozoned me of my ringe

D Cozen yo^{u} quoth he: marry would I hadd the grace to Cozen yow. 1640

I. I thanke yo^{u} sir, this it is to comytt any thinge to a fooles charge.

D I knowe he meanes that by the prisoners. Nay maister never saie soe: Doe but try me once, and yo^{u} finde me wantinge eyther in vice or negligence, neare trust me wth charge againe.

I Trye the once? and nere trust the wth charge againe? what charge doest thou meane man?

D Yo^{u} need not make it soe strange an yt please yo^{u}; if I looke not to them as I should doe, then put me out of office, and put *Sosia* in my Rome. 1650

I. I praie the what doest thou meane by this, I pceaue the not.

D Will yo^{u} haue me speake louder sir?

I Speake lowder yo^{u} asse? speake me plainer: whome wouldest thou looke to? whie doest thou not answere me?

(1) *D* Nay tis, no matter Sir. though yo^{u} doe not. I am not greatlie disoffended. 1660

I But wilt thou tell me what thou meanest?

D Whie those same prisoners, yo^{u} sent me worde by *Sosia*, I should keepe: by that token yo^{u} badd him take the ringe from me, yo^{u} gaue me to deliuer my ladye.

I Thou wilt neuer be but a foole.

D Naye lyke enough soe Sir.

I Whie I haue neyther prisoners, nor ever badd *Sosia* take any ringe of the.

---

(1) *Lachrymanter.*

1659 *Nay tis, no*] read *Nay, tis no* 1662 *worde*] *d* altered from *k*

D Then belyke I am cozoned for any thinge I see. 1670
and yet let me see; how should he come to knowe I had
the ringe, if yo^u^ tould him not.

I How? whie thou art such an asse, as if I hadd
bene as he, I would haue seene it in thy
face.

D A ringe in my face? a ringe in a hoggꝯ face:
and my face be well loke't into, t'has as fewe
ringes, as other folkes faces.

I Whie neare make soe much of that man. Ile tell
the by thie face, Ile laie my lief, anie thinge y^u^ 1680
hast done. and soe a man may doe by any fooles face in
the world.

D Tell me any thinge I haue done by my face? then FOL. 23^a^
will I neare owne yt againe, an it were fiue times
better then tis.

I. Whie come hither, looke vpon me; a litle, that thou
maist beleiue me another time. Let me see: when
o^r^ Armyes were hard a fightinge, I knowe what
thou didest by thy face.

D Nay nere stand lokinge soe, for and my face saye 1690
otherwise then well by me, I defye my face, I:

I When we were hard in fightinge, then thou, lett
me see.

D O face, face, and thou beest a good face, be true
to thy maister now face.

I Then thou for a hundreth pound wert ruñinge away.

D I am the wurse for my face while I liue: Thou
Iudas misbegotten face: that art a traitor to thy
owne maister: thou monster of faces. I will hier
some wildcatt, some hagg of hell: or some fernall 1700
furye to Capperclawe the: or elꝯ I will remoue
the hither: and wth the wurst peice, here make

1671 *I had*] interlined. 1686 *me;*] read *me* (no stop). 1702 *peice, here*] read *peice here,* (comma).

a truer, a more disloyall and honest face then euer thou werte: yet had thou but betraiterd me to my maister, and not lyke a swynes face shewed the ringe to *Sosia*, yt would neuer haue greiued me soe much. Well I will about the translatinge of the presentlie for yt.

I What quite out of loue wth thie face by this time? tis pitty, tis soe good a one: But I will haue yo^{u} freindes againe for all that. 1710

D Naie then.

I. Sweare not man.

D. Nay an I bee.

I Whie I haue but iested wth the all this while.

D I much iestinge. And yet it maie be soe to: for I knowe my face could neare tell yo^{u} that I Ranne awaie.

I. It needed not man: for I see yt my self; as I loket about me to breath me when we were in fight. 1720

D An I praie yo^{u} Sir, an I maie be soe bould, is yor eyesight soe transparent, that yo^{u} might not be ouerseene in such a duste, as was then?

I. It may be soe indeed, *Dromio*

D Tis a plaine case, you were greatly mistaken.

I Indeed *Amphitruo* dares not sweare he see the.

D I may tell yow, *Amphitruo* does the wiser.

I And for the ringe, yt was not wthout my consent that *Sosia* tooke yt of the. But the prisoners are yet to come. When they come, challenge me of my worde, and if I faile the, then blame me. FOL. 23^{b} 1730

D I faith I knewe yo^{u} were in iest all this while. a litle more I had giuen my face the remoue I warrant it. But doe yo^{u} heare maister, when will these prisoners come think yo^{u}.

1704 *betraiterd*] *te* altered from *ed* and *rd* added by C.

I Neare thinke yt longe. As sone as they are come, theile be heare.

D Thatꝯ well: and when a man has them now: what were yt best for a man to be called thinke yo^u^.

I Whie what thou wilte. 1740

D As yt were, Monsier le Gouerneur; or soe sir, for I would not be called a Iailor, for all the

(1) world: that were Cozen germañ to a hangmañ once remoued[a] from the gallowes.

I. Thou shalt, thou shalt, be called monsier le gou'neur, and he that callꝯ the not soe, I will turne him out of my house.

D What *Sosia* , and all maister?

I I *Sosia*, or ten *Sosiaes*

D Then will I see, if *Sosia*, or ten *Sosiaes* dare saie 1750 to me. *Dromio*, blacke is thine eye.

Scen. v.

Mercurius solus.

(2) Now ys it my fathers will that I shall keepe *Amphitruo* from comeinge in here: whoe will presentlie returne from seekinge of *Naucrates*: And to this end will I put a garlande on my head and make my self lyke one of [the] Bacchus knightꝯ, as if I were drunke, the better to couer the matter. Then will I and *Dromio* vp to the house toppe to- 1760

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(1) *a. interposita pausa.*

(2) #

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1 marg. added by C. 1744 reference letter inserted by C. 1745 *Thou shalt*] *t* altered from *l* 1757 *garlande*] *la* and *de* altered. 1758 deletion by C.

geather: I doubt not but we shall keepe him out well enough as longe as the toles last. As for *Dromio*, yt will be the least pte of his thought that he keepes out his maister, for he verilie takes my father for him, whome he shall leaue w^th^in. And all that I doe, shall after light vpon *Sosia* his necke; what care I for that. tis my fathers Will it should be soe, and the truth wilbe discouered eare longe. Well I will about it straight, for *Amphitruo* is heare at hand. litle loking 1770 for such Interteignemt at his owne house:./.

Actus Quartus FOL. 24[a]

Scen. i.

Amphitruo. *Mercury.* *Dromio.*

A. I cannot finde *Naucrates* by no meanes: he was not in the Shipp nor in his owne house, nor could any man tell me what was become of him: Now will I home therefore, and never leaue, vntill I bringe my wief her self to confesse who hath couckolded me, for if I let yt passe thus, let me suffer death: But softe, the dores 1780 me thinkes are shutt. How now? this is even much after the reste. Who is w^th^in here? Who comes to open me the dore

(1) *M.* Whoe is at the dore?

D Whoe is that soe lustie at our dore?

A. T'ys I.

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(1) *Mercurius interloquendum modo oscitet, modo ructet.*

1762 *toles*] read *tiles*

D Whoe, my maister, this is braue, haue I one maister wythin and a nother wythout: I am sure I lefte one wthin doeinge of his Collacõn to the Goddes: by the masse, Ile goe see whither he be wthin still or no. 1790

A That ʒ *Dromio,* he is gone downe to let me in: but what did he there trowe wee. And is not *Sosia* yonder still, wth a garland about his heade, I maruell what time of daie tis wth him. Sirra whatt make yo^{u} there? whie goe not yo^{u} downe to open ye dore?

M. Whiw, whiw, whiw.

A Whie doe not yo^{u} answere me Sirr?

M. Whome Sir?

A Mee. 1800

M. Whie whatt are you?

A. What am I sir; doe yo^{u} aske the question?

M. I marry doe I sir. a plague on yo^{u}, what doe yo^{u} rappinge soe hard at our dore.

A. How ys that?

M. Tis even soe, as if yor head were broken for'te, yo^{u} hadd but yor due.

A *Sosia.*

M. Indeed that ʒ my name: how then?

A Vylleine, doest thou aske me how then? 1810

M I marry doe I sir. never stand faceinge of me, What wouldest thou fellowe? what art thou?

A Thou base cowardlie villeine: doest thou aske [aske] what I am̃, whome for this daies worke will I haue whipte, till thou hast not a iote of Skynne lefte vpon any ꝑte of thy bodie. I see FOL. 24^{b} thou art drunke now, but thou shalt paie for yt, when thou arte sober.

M. ffreinde, yo^{u} should haue bene very prodigall in yor youth. 1820

1790 *Ile*] *l* altered from *t*? 1814 deletion by C.

A. And whie Sir?

M. That no^{u} yo^{u} are ould come a begginge to me for a mischeif.

A Dearly shalt thou abide villeine this wronge; if eare I get the into my handes.

M. Doe yo^{u} heare sir, doe I not coole yo^{u} to much to keepe yo^{u} wthout dores all this while?

A I doubt not but eare longe I shall heat yo^{u} for it.

D Sirra, fellowe *Sosia*, my lord is wthin

M. Thou needes not haue tould me that, I knewe soe much before: but what haste thou brought there? 1830

D What haue I brought (quoth he) as though a man could trauell wythout his liquor into these high Countries

M. I faith god haue marcy, thou art ould suersby.

D I, let me alone for a forecaste. But sirra, what a slaue is yon, doest thou not see, he hath stollne my maisters face vp and downe, and his apparell, and how lyke a villeine he lookes.

M. Whie thou saiest he lookes lyke thy maister. 1840

D Thats true; but soe he does not looke lyke a villeine, but as he is a theif man, soe he lookes lyke a villeine Yo^{u} haue wytt fellowe *Sosia* an t'were a maister of an hospitall.

M. How is that I praie the?

D. Yo^{u} will take a man vp for haltinge straight.

M. Well stumbled I faith, vpon a good iest.

D Sirra, how the slaue leares this waie. an yo^{u} mark him he hath the very forfeyture of a theif. 1850

M Well, willt thou helpe me to keepe him out?

D To keepe him out? I, and more then that to: doe

1831 *there?*] query-mark added, probably by C. 1841 *villeine,*] read *villeine:* (colon). 1842 *villeine*] read *villeine.* (period). 1847 *I*] altered from *v* 1848 *leares*] *r* altered from *n* by C. 1852 *I*] altered from *a*

but thou goe downe and take him and binde him, and if I helpe the not to beate him to, neuer trust me againe.

A Yonder is *Dromio* againe; tis he: Ile laye my lief no^{u}, it is some plotte of my wiefes, and he is one of the confederacy to. I will trye him: Sirra, Dromio?

D In good time sir, what then? FOL. 25^{a}

A. Did not I tell yo^{u} soe; hark how sawcilie the varlet answeres me. Sirra, did not yo^{u} heare me knocke? 1861

D Yes marry did I, and hope to see yo^{u} knockt to by and by, an yo^{u} get yo^{u} not awaie the soner.

A. Whie villeine I saie whie doest thou not open ye dore?

D Open the dore sir; Alas thatς but hard by, bycause yo^{u} seeme as yt were to be one of my acquaintance. good fellowe, I giue the leaue to open it thie self, if thou canst; and take yt for a fauo^{r}. haue I not flouted him thinkest thou? 1870

M Yes faith, hast thou: yo^{u} are such another, yo^{u} need much to talke of other mens good wyttes.

D Awaie, Awaie fellowe *Sosia*, I faith yo^{u} will make me blush by and by.

A Was euer man thus wretched but I, to liue to be flouted, by those he hath brought vp.

D Goe yor waies, thatς a lye. I will be sworne I was brought vpp by the ladder here, I had neare bene here to daie elς. Sirra fellowe *Sosia*, Ile tell the what comes into my head no^{u}. 1880

M I praie the doe. I knowe ti$\tilde{s}$ some speciall matt^{r}.

D Were not this an Incony place to take a pipe of *Tobacco* in? o! an o^{r} house had a chymney, a man might take yt, out of the chymney, most plentifully.

1867 *by*,] read *by :* (colon). 1868 *acquaintance.*] read *acquaintance*, (comma). 1869 *it*] interlined by C. 1873 *talke*] *l* inserted. 1882 *ti$\tilde{s}$*] read *t'is*

M. But sirra, for want of *Tobacco*, what if we take a litle liquor in the meane time?

D A good motion, a very good motion I faith: But w^t^ wilt thou giue me if I floute yonder slaue no^u^ in high dutch? 1890

M. What will I giue the? thou shalt haue a kysse of *Thessala*, how saiest thou?

D Shall I i faith, o braue: but where shall I kisse her Sirra?

M What a question is that: where thou wilt, chuse thy place.

D Remember what yo^u^ saie; I shall chuse my place, then haue at him: heare yo^u^, *mein herr, ich bringe euch vnndt heng euch selbes.* I thinke I haue dutcht him. 1900

M Very good fustian I faith.

D Here fellowe *Sosia.*

M Me danck yo^u^ good fellowe *Dromio*, call yo^u^ This highe dutch, to drynke all the beare and then FOL. 25^b^
(1) giue a man the emptye pott? well, Ile finde an vse for yt by and by.

A Can a man indure all this? But I will let this foole alone; and trye *Sosia* yet a litle further: Sirra *Sosia*, yo^u^ will open the dore.

M. Can yo^u^ tell when Sir? 1910

D Ha—ha—he. a very good ieste, by the lord a very good ieste; and w^th^out infectacõn.

A Doest thou thinke whippinge shall serue thy turne nay if I kill the not.

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(1) *proijcit enim mox in Amphitruonem.*

1899 *bringe euch*] *ch* altered from *es*? *vnndt*] i.e. und. *selbes*] *b* altered. 1913 *turne*] read *turne?* (query-mark).

D Kill him quoth he, thou wilt be hanged as soñe as thou canst reach him.

M Sirra, yo^{u} that threaten to kill men, starvelinge, Carcase, shadowe of a mañ: begone quickly I giue yo^{u} warninge, and touch not o^{r} dore againe, yo^{u} had best, not soe much as wth yor litle finger: an yo^{u} doe, I will hitt yo^{u} such a phillipp on the coxcoñbe, wth one of these tyleš, that I will make the spytt thy tounge out.

D He hath spoken most pithilie; what shall I saie after this; even as my muse will giue me leaue. And if thou doest not spitt yt out the soñer, marke me well, I will take the such a blowe on thy Chappes, if *Apelles* guide:

M *Apollo* man thou wouldest saie I knowe.

D I soe I saie, if *Pollio* guide my right—

M. Elbowe.

D I, if *Pollio* guide my right Elbowe. that I will, that I will, I faith you haue put me out, that yo^{u} haue fellowe *Sosia.*

M. I warrant the, goe on man.

(1) *D* That I will send thie tounge for a lyinge efterment lyke a calues tounge downe thy throte, and soe into thy foundacõn and soe forth.

M. Passinge well, this is wth in all comparison.

(2) *A* What doe I muse about; || harke he will make another

---

(1) *Hic sæpius in morem*
hæsitantis, despuat.

(2) ||| *y^{t} betwixt these markes is sayed*
by Dromio.

1915 *soñe*] i.e. soon. 1922 *coxcoñbe*] *x* altered from *c* 1936 *a*] interlined by C. *efterment*] first *e* altered from *a* and *n* altered from *a*: possibly Dromio's blunder for affirmation. 1939 *this is*] *h* inserted and *is* interlined by D? 1940–1 reference marks and underlining by C. 1 marg. added by C.

speach.‖ *A* slaue, drunkerd, wilt thou forbidd me to knocke at my owne dores? doe I nott knowe the to be a coward? Ile goe pluck them downe to the very ground.

D Surely the man has spoken as his wytt serues him.

M. Yo^u^ will not I am sure. FOL. 26^a^

A. See whither I will or no.

① *M.* Then haue at yo^u^ I faith.

D Come on I faith lets to him.

[*M.*]But Sirra, howe an he gett vp to vs. 1950

M. I warrant the, at him at him.

A O he hath wounded me: what villaine thy maist^r^?

M. Doest thou finde falt wth drunkerds, and call me m^r^?

D He yor man? I faith as much as I am, and all one.

A. Whie am not I thy maister?

D Sirra, [me thin] I longe to be at it againe; my thinks tis fine sporte.

M. Staie a litle man: faire warrs are best, we must haue some parlie. 1960

D I am pswaded wth much a doe.

M. Yo^u^ my maister Sir? I hope I haue no maister but *Amphitruo.*

A Haue I then lost my shape, tell me for gods sake doe I not looke lyke *Amphitruo.*

D. Yes by my troth doeth he, and I should speake my conscience: onely I thinke *Amphitruo* his head is wholer then his.

M. Harke *Dromio*, yo^u^ are called w^th^in.

---

① *In hoc intermedio tempore, lateres eruunt, quorũ aliqui sint veri qui terram feriant, aliqui falsi, qui illum.*

1941 *A*] speaker. 1950 deletion by C. *howe*] *h* altered from *a* 1951 *M.*] altered from *D.* by C. 1953 *me*] read *the* (thee). 1963 *but*] *b* altered.

D I come I come: ys it yo^{u} m^{ris}. *Thessala*, take heed you had best I doe not fall vpon yo^{u}: ffellowe *Sosia*, yo^{u} will looke to him. 1970

M I warrant the lett me alone. did not I saie thou wert tipled thy self, that askes a nother man whoe thou arte; well begone I would wish the wthout more adoe, and trouble not o^{r} house while *Amphitruo*, beinge no^{u} returned from the campe, is solasinge himself wth his lady.

A What ladye? 1980

M. Wth *Alcumena.*

A Whoe?

M Did I not tell the; *Amphitruo* my lord and Maister: trouble me no more.

A Tell me but this: wth whome doeth he lye?

M Yet againe; wth whome yo^{u} longe for a tile or twoe more.

A Good *Sosia* tell me.

M Did I not tell yo^{u}: most louinglie wth *Alcumena* FOL. 26^{b}

A In the same Chamber? 1990

M. I and the same bedd to.

A Then I am vndone.

M. I think yt gaine, that he calls vndoeinge, to haue a mans ground sowed to his hande[s].

A *Sosia.*

M What a murreyne wilte thou haue wth *Sosia.*

A Raskall doest thou knowe me?

M. I slaue that I doe, for a troublesome fellowe: wilt thou begone?

A I tell the I am thy Maister *Amphitruo.* 2000

M I tell the my m^{r} *Amphitruo* is no^{u} in bedd wth

1986 *whome*] read *whome?* (query-mark). *longe*] *nge* altered from *ue:* by C. 1994 deletion by C. 2001 *M*] added by C.

my mistres: and if thou beest not gone the soner, I will fetch him hither to trye himself

A. ffor Godds loue let me but see him.

M. Thou shalt wthin a while bycause thou art soe desyrous: But in the meane time se yo^{u} medle not wth o^{r} dores, least no^{u} he hath [he] done his other sacryfice, he come out and sacrifice yo^{u}.

Scen. ii.

Amphitruo. Blepharo. Sosia. 2010

A O Immortall goddes, what desastrus chance hath enwrapt my house since I went last from hence: tis even here I feare me as it was in Arcadie where men were changed into beastes and neuer returned to their former shape againe. well here will I pause a while vntill I may see this newe *Amphitruo.*

B Yo^{u} tell me wonders *Sosia,* that yo^{u} should finde at home an other iust such a one as yor self. 2020

S But here ye me, when I am found another *Sosia,* and *Amphitruo* another *Amphitruo,* w^{t} will yo^{u} saie and yo^{u} finde a nother *Blepharo*? would he might I faith and finde as good a Cudgellinge as I did to, and then be turned home againe wthout his dynner.

B. Yo^{u} tell me strange thinges. But let vs goe fast^{r} least *Amphitruo* staie for vs.

A I thinke yt is the destinye of great men to haue FOL. 27^{a}
semblable crosses to their good successe. Soe stories 2030
Recoumpt of others, and soe yt is fallne out wth me

2012 *enwrapt*] interlined by C to replace *befallne* deleted.

S. St. Blepharo.

B Whatꝯ the matter.

S I am affraide all goes not well; looke yo^{u}, yond^{r} standes my Maister wthout and the dore fast shutt.

B Thatꝯ nothinge. phapps he takes the ayre to gett him a stomacke.

S. It maie be soe: and soe he shuttꝯ the dore, that his hunger when yt comes, goe not in and eat vpp the meate before him: marke him for godꝯ sake, ho^{w} he standes mumblinge of somethinge to himself, as though he were castinge vp of his Accoumptes. And he should call vpon me nowe I should make him a faire Reckoninge: doe not goe soe faste. I praie the let vs listen to him what he saies. 2040

A I am affraied the goddꝯ are Angrie wth me, and meane to take from me againe the glory they haue giuen me by this victorie. All my family is in a confusion: and that wch is my greatest greif, my wief hath dishonored my bedd. But of all wonderꝯ, yet I maruell most to finde my cup in her custodie the seale remayninge still vnbroken. Besides, could she not tell me directlie of ye pticulerꝯ of the battell? Out of doubte this could not be, but *Sosia* his doeinge; that villeine who besides hath wronged me soe much. 2050

S He speakes of me.

B I that that I am sorie to heare.

S Whither had I best goe to him or noe?

B As good sone as signe man: and the better no^{u} before he growes further into Choller. 2060

S Thinke you soe?

A Yet it wilbe some ease to me if I maye but Revenge my self of that villeine.

2032 *St.*] interjection. 2045 *to*] interlined by C.

S Doe yo^{u} heare him? for the loue of god let me be gonne.

B Whither wouldest thou goe man, thou wilt not Runne awaie I am sure.

S I am indifferent whither I doe or noe.

B I warrant the man, pluck vpp a good harte. 2070 thou a souldier?

S All this while I see plainly he is contryving some mischeif against me: But what reason has he?

A Doe I not see *Blepharo*? I muse what busines FOL. 27^{b} has brought him hither: But tis well he is come; he may doe that for me, that *Naucrates* should haue done, and helpe to Convince my wief of her forgeries to her face. What good newes wth yo^{u} *Blepharo*? 2080

B Haue yo^{u} forgott yor self so sone, Sir did not yo^{u} send *Sosia* to me this morninge to the shipp to bidd me come to yo^{u} to dynner?

A Not I in good faith: but where is that villeyne?

B Whome doe yo^{u} meane?

A *Sosia.*

(1) *B* He was here even now.

A What he was not: whither is the villeine gone? if I kill him not, let him vpbraid me hereafter wth the base wronges he hath done me. Haue I 2090 gott yo^{u} at last Sir?

B I beseech yo^{u} Sir haue patience.

A Let me alone *Blepharo*; for he shall never scape my handes.

B Heare me sir but a word first.

---

(1) *hic nutu agit Sosia*

2095 *B*] ? read *S*.

A Speake quickly for I will endure no longe delaye.

S Why sir, I could come no sooner I am sure vnles yo^{u} would haue had me flye, aud that a man cannot doe lightlie wthout winges.

A. By heauens Ile forbeare him no longer. 2100

B I praie yo^{u} Sir hould yor hands: we could possibly come no faster.

A What tell yo^{u} me of faster or softlier: doe yo^{u} see the house, the tyles, my head broken?

S The house, the tyles, my head broken? quoth he? Why had I yor head in keepinge; that I should answere for the breakinge of yt?

A Harke to this villeine. *Blepharo*, yo^{u} doe me wronge to staie my hande: think yo^{u}. that these thinges are to be put vpp at a slaues hand? 2110

B Whie *Sosia*, what saie yo^{u} to this?

S I praie yo^{u} sir, when should this be done?

A Doest thou aske me villeine: doest thou not knowe. twas even now wthin this houre.

S Lawe ye now: I thought soe much; and did not you send me out in the morninge, to fetch *Blepharo* to Dynner to yo^{u}, and haue not I bene wth him eare since? FOL. 28^{a}

A. Lyinge villeine, whoe sent the?

S Marry even you sir. 2120

A Does thy drinke worke in the still?

S I mutch drinke [god wott haue I seene yet since I came home home:] for as sone as I was come yo^{u} set me presentlie to looke to the cleansinge of ye vessells against yor sacrifice: and as sone as that was done, yo^{u} sent me abroad to fetch him here.

B Sir, let me pswade yo^{u} a litle: by this I no^{u} here of yo^{u}, comparinge it wth that he hath tould me

2122 *I mutch*] interlined by C to replace *Lytle* deleted. 2122–3 deletion by C. 2127 *let*] *l* altered. 2128 *here*] *h* altered from *t*

I feare some vilde magitian hath enchaunted yor whole famylie. It were best in my poore aduise to enquire further into the matter, before you ꝑsecute any revenge vpon him whome ꝑhapps yo^{u} might after finde Innocent, and then yt would greiue yo^{u} to late. I doe not thinke he durst haue attempted this against yo^{u}.

A He saies true, and I care not if I followe his councell. Well *Blepharo* thou hast half ꝑswaded me: but thou shalt goe in wth me, that I may trie whither my wief will face the and me downe to, as she hath done him and me already.

Scen. iii.

Iupiter: Amphitruo: Sosia: Blepharo:

I Whatꝯ he that hath kept such a sturre at o^{r} doore to daie? I thinke he hath al most remoued yt of of the hinges: would I might see him that hath plaied these reakes, I trust I should teach him better mannerꝯ: I maruell *Blepharo* is soe longe a comeinge, I sent *Sosia* out tyme enough to haue brought him by this time.

S *Blepharo*, he that is no^{u} come out of the house, he is my Maister thatꝯ certeine, and this fellowe here is a Iuggler.

B O Iupiter, what doe I see? this is not certeine, yonder is *Amphitruo.*

I O, are yo^{u} come sir, I am gladd ont, for of my word my stomack was vpp a good while agoe.

S Did not I saie that he is a Iuggler.

A What should myne be then, that haue not eaten

2133 *yt*] or *y^{t}* 2137 *Blepharo*] *Bl* inked over. 2146 *reakes*] i. e. tricks. 2153 *certeine*] probably adverb.

yet since my arryuall: he may haue refresht him self by this tyme an it please him, out of my store. 2160

S Sir an yo^{u} be hungrie, yond^{r} is a hartichoke for yo^{u}. FOL. 28^{b}

A Villeine haste thou neuer done?

S Villeine in yor face: yor trickes shall not serue yo^{u} now my maister is come.

A My trickes slaue?

I How now sir, what are yo^{u} that menace my s3ruñte in my presence

S I beleiue m^{r} Iuggler yo^{u} haue mett wth one will Coniure yo^{u} now. 2170

A Yo^{r} s3ruñte sir

I I my seruñte, soe I saie

A Tis a lye, he is myne.

I Sirra goe yo^{u} in and get dynner readie; in the meane time Ile dresse him [c]heare.

S Doe but dresse him as my fellowe *Sosia* dreste me. But Ile goe make dynner readie, tis the best worke I went yet aboute since my comeinge home 2180

I Now Sir is it yo^{u} that saie I lye.

A I saie thou liest lyke a damned sorcerer as thou arte, that hast by thy charmes abused me and my whole famylie.

(1) *I* for this reproach, will I here presently hange the vpp.

A O helpe me *Blepharo*, helpe me or I am vndone.

---

(1) *Suppluntat & evaginat*
ei gladium simul

2170 *Iuggler*] *gg* altered from *dg* or *de* 2176 deletion probably by C. 1 marg. *Suppluntat*] read *Supplantat*

B They are soe lyke that I cannot tell wch of them hath the wronge. yet I will doe what I can to take vp the matter betwixt them: *Amphitruo*, doe not 2190 kill *Amphitruo*, spare his lief.

I. Callest thou him *Amphitruo*?

B If *Amphitruo* were as he was wont to be, and as other men be, a single *Amphitruo*: I might then possibly wronge yo^{u}: but no^{u} the fashion of doublinge is come vp: I knowe no more reason whie one should be *Amphitruo* then the other.

A. O what doest thou to me.

B Good *Amphitruo*, strangle him not.

I Whie tell me, doeth he seme to be *Amphitruo*? 2200

B Both of yo^{u} seeme no lesse to me.

A O Almighty Iupiter, where haue I loste my shape: let me aske him: Are yo^{u} *Amphitruo*?

I. Doe yo^{u} deny yt. FOL. 29^{a}

A Be yo^{u} a goddȝ name as yo^{u} seeme to be, a better man then *Amphitruo*. but I knowe y^{t} there is no other *Amphitruo* in *Thebes* but I.

I And I saie, there is none but I: let *Blepharo* be Iudge.

A Wth all my harte, I desire no better. 2210

B Alas, how can I iudge betwixt yo^{u}. yo^{u} are soe lyke: yet I will doe the best I can: how saie yo^{u}? will yo^{u} stand to my Iudgment?

A I am Content.

I. And I.

B Then tell me you, be fore the battell began, w^{t} specyall charge gaue you me?

A To keepe my shipp still in readines.

I That if I were put to the wurse, I might recouer her for a refuge. 2220

A Besides, to haue specyall care to the truncke y^{t} carryed my treasure

I But howe much was in yt?

B Nay let me aske that question, can yo^{u} tell yor self.

I twenty thousand crownes.

B As iust as can be.

A I cannot denie yt.

B And yo^{u}, how many ducketts?

A ten thousand: and thre thousand double pistoletts. 2230

B Both of them haue answered as right as is possible: I cannot tell what to saie to yt: if one of them were not lockt in the truncke.

I Hark yee a litle further. yo^{u} knowe with this hand I killed kinge *Pterelas*: tooke a waie his spoiles: got the daie of o^{r} enymies: was p'sented after the battell wth the cupp the kinge was wont to drinke in: wch I brought home in a Caskett: gave yt my wief, wth whome I washt, supt, and laye this last night. 2240

A Alas what doe I heare? I am scarse my self. thats right: he saies I am not *Amphitruo*: I finde I am not my self: wherein is o^{r} difference. Is not this to sleepe wakinge? to dye beinge aliue? I am out of doubte, *Amphitruo*. Well may Enchantments seaze vpon my flesh, or the baser pt of my soule, my affeccõns: but as for my vnderstandinge, yt is a brighter light then can be eClipst by all the blacknes of the blackest arte. I knowe I am *Amphitruo*, I the captaine FOL. 29^{b} of the *Thebans*, who conquered the *Taphians*, and 2251 lefte there noble *Cephalus* my liefetenñte.

I And I that *Amphitruo* that slewe those outlawes, the dreadfull foragers of my Country, whoe wth theire pyracie awed all *Archaia*:

2249 *eClipst*] *C* altered from *l* 2255 *Archaia*] read *Achaia*

Ætolia; *Phocis*: the *Ionian*, *Ægæan*, and Cretick Seas.

A O Imortall godꝯ, I no longer beleiue my self: farewell vnderstandinge and all: if he thus pfectlie recount my storie. Nowe I am not 2260 *Amphitruo* the captaine; nor *Amphitruo* the conqueror, enricht wth soe many spoiles; honored wth soe many victories: But I am *Amphitruo* the miserable: Sir yo^u^ shall not take this from̃ me. I am poore, vnfortunate, abiect *Amphitruo*, you haue noe Interest in all this. I am *Amphitruo* the dishonored; the disgraced: will yo^u^ fight wth me for these tytles. I am *Amphitruo*, that am wronged by my wief, and my s3ru^a^ntes: saie? are yo^u^ he? I am *Amphitruo* that am robde 2270 of my wief and my s3ruñtes? I yo^u^ can beare me wytnes I am hee. O *Blepharo* looke to yt.

B I will doe my best, and there is but one thinge lefte to helpe me: If that be in yo^u^ both yo^u^ must even be faine to be twoe still for me, tis more then I can doe to make yo^u^ one.

I. I knowe what yo^u^ meane: the scarre in my right shoulder, that remaines of the wound kinge *Pterelas* gaue me.

B The same. 2280

A ffor godꝯ sake looke vs both well.

(1) *I* Doest thou see yt or noe.

B Vnbrase yor self, lett me looke on yo^u^ to: O heauens, what doe I see? they haue yt both

---

(1) *Quid si similia appareant*
subucula cũ defibulantur.

2256 *Ægæan*] *æa* altered from *en* and *n* added by C. 2266 *you . . . all th*] written by C over erasure (the *is* of *this* is original). 2284 *see*] *ee* altered from *aie* by C.

in the same place: of the same length: the scarre yet fresh in them; and the skynne betwixte redd and blue; for all the world alyke. I haue done. let them that haue more wytt then I giue Iudgment in this matter. I can saye nothinge to soe nice a difference: even take yt vp betwixt yo^u^ for me. I must be gone. I haue busines. I neare sawe the like to this before. 2290

A Whie *Blepharo*, wilt thou then forsake me at this pinche?

B I cannot tell wch of yo^u^ I forsake: bycause Ile displease neyther, Ile forsake yo^u^ both.

I And I will to *Alcumena*, whoe is no^u^ vpon ye point of beinge deliuered. FOL. 30^a^

A What will become of me now; haue all forsaken me? my wief, my s3ruñtes, my freindes? whither shall I goe? into the house, to be controuled where I am Commaunder? into the Cyttie to be subiecte to their tounges, whose heades not longe since were vnder my girdle? To the kinge, to be highly skorned and royallie laught at? was yt the will of the Iḿortall goddes I should survyve soe many daungers in my youth, to reape disgrace for my ages porcõn? were my flaxen haires soe often adorned wth laurell? and shall my siluer lockes be incircled wth nettles? Tut yt was not I. did I conquer the *Taphians*? bringe vnd^r^ the Outlawes? kill kinge *Pterelas* wth my owne handes? And no^u^ suffer my self to be Cockoulded by my wief? flouted by my s3ruñtes? braued by a stranger at myne owne dores? well, and if I put vp all this quietlie, yt was not I. I am not *Amphitruo*. But if I goe in, & hewe them all in peices wth my sworde for revenge. then 2300 2310

2315 *vp*] altered from *pu* 2316 *&*] over erasure of *he*

(1) twas I, I then am *Amphitruo*‡. But harke, w^t
(2) crye is that w^thin?

Actus Quintus

Scen. i.

Bromia. Amphitruo. Dromio

(3) *B* Alas, Alas, what a daie is this: my feare is such as I cannot tell where I am; would not one haue thought that heauen and earth would haue come together? my head akes yet wth the noise. I thinke I shall not be well this moneth againe. Lord what strange thinges are fallne out in our house? As my ladye was in traueyll, she called vpon the godds to assyste her. Then was there presentlie such a thunderinge and lighteninge as we in the house fell flatt to the grounde for feare. Then I knowe not whoe, but some bodie wth a huge voyce cried out *Alcumena*, feare not. the goddes haue hard thy praie^rs, and their Cheif Comaunder wilbe ꝑpitious to the.

(1) *post clamorem parientis, tonitru ingens quod aliquam diu continuetur oportet.*
(2) ‡ *Alcmena shrikes out within, and presently together with her ye Drums for thunder.*
(3) *Durante tonitru: aperiente se ostio, cum impetu, Dromio excurrens, ex ædibus, in herum iacentem titubet; & iuxta concidat, totus stupefactus.*

2318 reference mark inserted by P. *w^t*] i.e. *what* 2 marg. added by P. *out*] *o* altered from beginning of *w* 2329 *my*] altered.

And yo^{u} that are fallne, rise vp and be not affraied, wth that I rose vp but durst scarse open myne eyes for feare. But as sone as I had opened them, I was wurse affraied then I was before; for our house did shyne soe all over as I verylie thought 2340 yt had bene on a light fier. Then my ladye called to me to come to her, and when I was come I ꝑceaued she was deliuered of twoe braue boyes even by the grace of the godds wthout helpe of Mydwief or maide; But who be these that FOL. 30^{b} lye here? Alas, som̃e out of doubte that haue bene smytten wth thunder. Yonder lookes lyke *Dromio*, and I should knowe this ould gentlemã. I feare me yt is my lord. Out alas tis he in deed. Dead, or aliue trowe we. Sir, my 2350 lord./

A O now my time is come.

B Arise my lord, arise, if yo^{u} be aliue.

A What wilte thou doe wth me?

B Giue me yor hand, I will helpe yo^{u} vpp.

A Whoe takes me by the hande.

B Your handmaide *Bromia.*

A I am all in a could sweate for feare, since Iupiter hath threatned me. but howe durst yo^{u} come abroade? 2360

B Alas we were as much scared wthin as yo^{u} were abroade. O the lord, the wonders that we haue seene in o^{r} house, they doe yet soe amase me as I can scarslie speake.

A But tell me wench I praie the, doest thou knowe me for certeine to be thy maister *Amphitruo*?

B What should ayle me, but to knowe yo^{u}.

A I praie the marke me well, be sure.

B I am sure, whie doe yo^{u} make yt a question.

A This wench alone is well, of all my houshould 2370

B Nay all are well wthin, thankeꝭ to the goddꝭ.

A Would I were soe to; but my wief hath taken order wth me for my wellfare.

B You wilbe of another minde by that time yo^{u} haue heard all I can tell yo^{u} and finde she is yor chaste and loyall wief.

A Why what canst thou saie?

B ffirst, she is deliuered of twoe twynnes.

A Twoe twynnes?

B Twoe twynnes. 2380

A Then I liue againe.

B Let me tell yo^{u} on, that yo^{u} may knowe the Imortall goddꝭ meane yo^{u} and yor lady well

A Speake on.

B When she was vpon the pointe of her deliuery expecting the ordinary panges and daungerꝭ that doe accompanie weomen in such case, she lifted vp her handes to heauen, and bareheaded called FOL. 31^{a} deuoutly vpon the goddꝭ for their Assystance: where vpon presentlie came soe mightie a thunder clapp 2390 as we verilie thought the house would haue fallne vpon our heades. The thunder contynued as yo^{u} heard, and in the meane time o^{r} house shined all over wthin, as if yt had bene colored wth the beames of the sonne settinge.

A I praie the wench if thou comest to abuse me make an end quicklie and hould me not longe in this fooles paradice.

B Sir, remove this suspiciousnes of yo^{r}ꝭ, I speake nothinge but truth 2400

A Then goe forwarde:

B In this time was she deliuered; and besideꝭ one shryke at the first, rather for feare then for any thinge elꝭ, we neuer ꝑceaued anie token of Anguishe in her deliuery.

A I am gladd to heare this, howsoeuer she hath desꝛrued of me.

B Sir let that alone, and but heare me on. aftr[r] she was deliuered, she badd vs washe the babes as we did, but that childe I washt, lord what 2410 a choppinge boye it is. whie sir tis half a man already. I am sure twas more then thre of vs could doe to binde him in his swadelinge cloutes; and yet we had *Sosia* to help vs.

A These thinges thou tellest me be strange. they be signes indeed that the goddꝭ are on her side.

B Nay this is nothinge to that that is behinde. aftr we had laide them in the cradle, there came glydinge in out of the base courte, twoe huge highe crested serpentes, and they came aduancinge 2420 their heades dyrectlie into the Nursery.

A What then?

B ffeare not Sir I warrant yo[u].

Beinge come in, they caste their heades everye waie towardꝭ every corner; at last they moued towardꝭ the cradle: I pluc't it still from them̃ as well as I could, beinge affraied both of the babes and my self: They made the more still after yt, till at laste, this childe I tould yo[u] that is soe great alreadie, espyinge them, lept out 2430 of the cradle, assaulted them, caught one in one hand, and the other in the other

A Thou makeꝭ me tremble to heare the. for goddꝭ sake what become of them, did they not hurt him?

B Hurt him, alas. he crusht them both as if they FOL. 31[b] had bene twoe flyes, vntill he lefte them for deade. Presently after that, one spake to my ladye wth a mightie voice, whoe as he said was

2408 *aftr[r]*] [r] added by C, treating *r* as *e* 2434 *become*] read *became*

Iupiter himself, and badd my lady be of good cheare, and tould her this boy was his. 2440

A Is this possible? were it soe, I should hould yt no disgrace to haue *Iupiter* my Coptner. Well *Bromia* goe in and I will followe the. But whoe lyes here, as if he were dead? out of doubt ty's *Dromio*: howe came he hither. I will raise him. Sirra *Dromio.*

D Oh. oh. oh.

A What *Dromio.*

D What shalbe come of me nowe?

A Why *Dromio*, I saie arise man. 2450

D An yo^u^ be a godd of yor handes, spare my lief and take that that I haue.

A I maruell not to see this villeine soe much affraied when I my self even no^u^ was in the lyke case. What *Dromio* I saie, tis I.

D An yt be sir, thats all one. I haue not great hast to heauen yet; an yt please yo^u^ to let me alone, I am aswell here.

A Whie tis I man thy maister.

D I knowe yo^u^ are maister sir, to better men then I 2460 am, yet had I as liue not serue yo^u^ at this time.

A What an Asse is this, to feare when there is no cause. I tell the tis I, thy maister *Amphitruo.*

D An yo^u^ haue my maister *Amphitruo* sir, yo^u^ may the better spare me.

A Haue him quoth he, I tell the I am he.

D It may be soe sir, but how shall a man knowe that?

A Whie loke vpon me man.

D I, I thought soe, no^u^ ones eyes are smytten out of his heade wth a thunderboult, yo^u^ would haue 2470 me looke vpon yo^u^.

A Whie I warrant the, doe but looke vpp.

2445 *ty's*] sic.

D Yo^{u} are sure Sir, yo^{u} se no more thund^{r} sturringe.

A I warrant the.

D Well I will venture; giue me yor hand: can a man tell whither I see or no? Let me see, doe I see, or am I ouerseene? By this Light I see indeed, who would haue thought FOL. 32^{a} yt. O maister, where haue yo^{u} bene all this while, are yo^{u} here still? 2480

A Whie where should I be elſ?

D Where quoth he, by heauen I thought yo^{u} hadd bene in heauen. I.

A I praie the howe should I come thither?

D I doe not meane yo^{u} should haue gone thither, but that yt should haue come to yo^{u}: why whoe would not haue thought but heauen and earth by this time had come together?

A Thou seest I am here yet.

D I, and am glad to see yt to, I maie tell yo^{u}; for I 2490 nere thought to haue seene yt wth these eyes, againe. But maister, wott yo^{u} what, I haue hadd the strangest dreame I thinke that euer yo^{u} hard.

A Whye what was that.

D That yt should raine soe longe till o^{r} house were of a light fyre, and then my mistres should be deliuered, god blesse vs, of twoe boyes and twoe serpentes, and one of the serpentſ should kill y^{e} (1) twoe boyes, and one of the boyes should kill ye twoe serpentes. 2500

A This is a strange dreame indeed. ‡

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(1) ‡ *The soft musick with the song begun by Iupiter.*

2501 reference mark added by P, correcting the position of his marginal direction. 1 marg. added by P.

(1) *D* O harke maister, more thunder; more thunder, in, and yo^u^ loue yor self.

Scena. ii.

Iupiter. *Amphitruo.*

I Amphitruo.
(2) *A* This voyce is from heauen, I must doe
(3) Reuerence.

Scen. iii.

Iupiter. solus. 2510

Amphitruo, feare not, but take thy wief againe,
The boyes she is deliuered of, one of them was
(4) begotten by the, the other by me: whome I wyll haue called Hercules.

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(1) *Audiatur quasi incipiens musica, vel buccinarum, vel organorum, de cælo histrionio.*
(2) *Iterum sonet musica cælestis aliquod insterstitium.*
(3) *Procumbit in faciem Amphitruo.*
(4) *hic Chorus audiatur cantans quasi de cælo, Vltima Verba Iovis.*

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1 marg. *histrionio*] read *histrionico* added in different ink, perhaps by C. 4 marg. *Vltima Verba Iovis.*]

Scen. iiii.

Iupiter solus.

Amphitruo, the confusion of thy house was wrought by me, for my owne pleasure. In Recompence wherof, I haue giuen the—A
(1) Sonne that shall crowne thy mortall 2520
heade wyth Immortalytie.

Scen: v.

Iupiter *Amphitruo.*

Amphitruo. be freindes therefore wth *Alcumena* for she is true and nere toucht man but thou.
(2) *And soe be happie Alcumena, be happie Amphitruo.*
(3) *A* All rulinge Iupiter, yt shalbe as thou Comaundest.

Postremo, audiatur prima illa cœlestis musica, ita vt sonus paulatim ascendere videatur. 2530

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(1) *hoc etiam decantet Chorus.*
(2) *hoc deniquè decantet Chorus.*
(3) *finito Choro.*

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1 marg. *hoc*] *o* altered from *i* by C.

[*Testamentum*
poetæ, ad peleum.
Comœdarum pariter & histrionum
princeps Peleu, tuo pro iudicio, volo
hanc meam Comœdiam, vel recitari,
vel reticeri: hoc est: aut vivere, aut
mori.
Scripsi, nec poeta, nec 2540
moriens: & tamen poeta moriens.]

2533–41 added and deleted by C. 2535 *Comœdarum*] read *Comœdorum* (?) 2537 *meam*] altered from *nostram*

The birth of Hercules