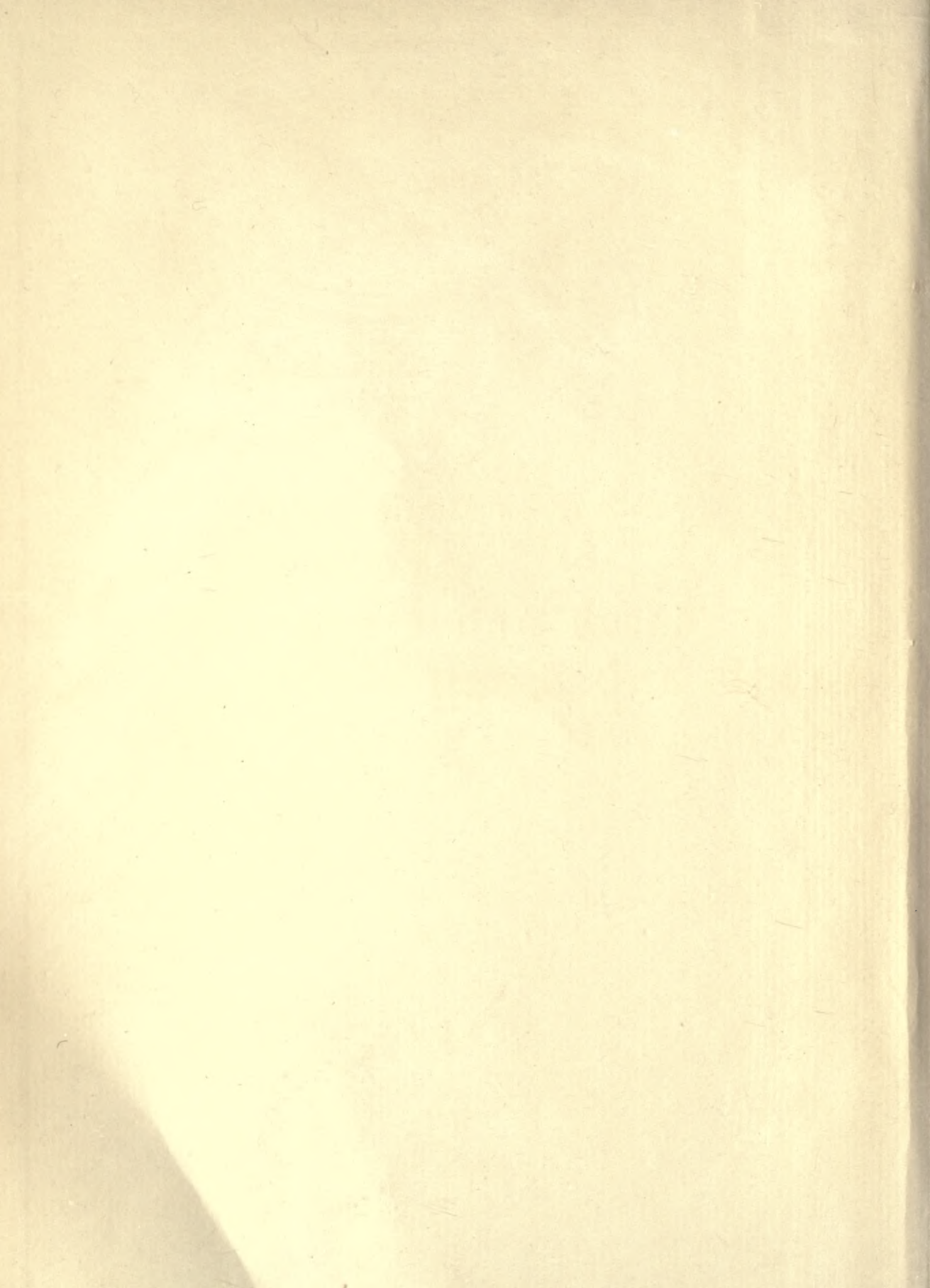


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The Tudor Facsimile Texts

Jacob and Esau

Jacob and Esau

Date of earliest known Edition, 1568

Reproduced in Facsimile, 1908

JACOPO AND
FRANCESCO

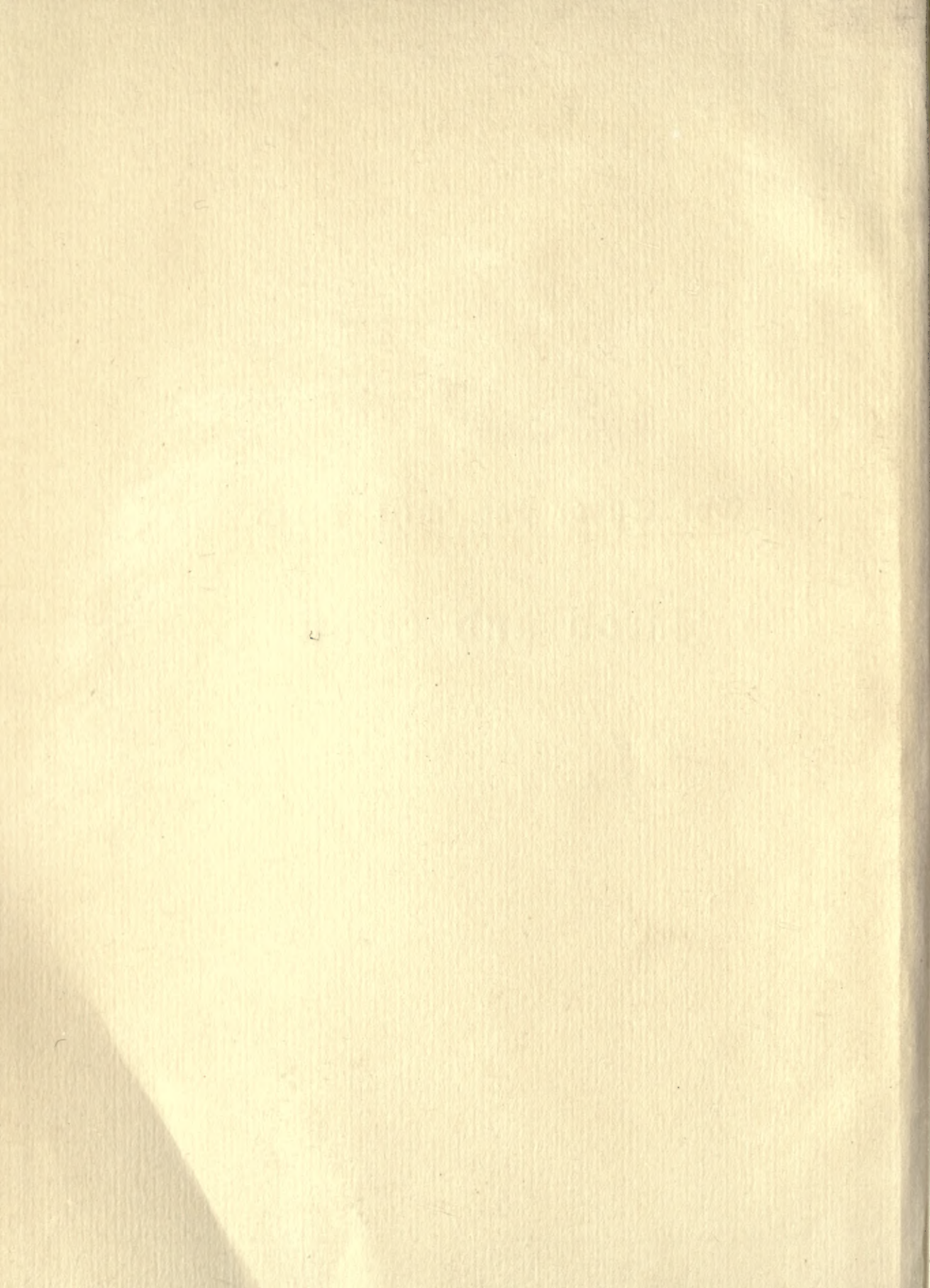
The Tudor Facsimile Texts

Jacob and Esau

Licensed in 1557-8

Date of earliest known Edition, 1568

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The Tudor Facsimile Texts

[Vol. 57]

Under the Supervision and Editorship of

JOHN S. FARMER

Jacob and Esau

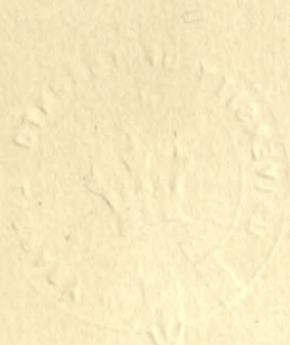
1568

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Jacob and Esau

The original of this facsimile is in the British Museum (Press-mark, C. 34, b. 25).

“Jacob and Esau” was licensed in 1557–8, and was probably printed soon afterwards, so that the 1568 edition is not likely to be the first one, but no other impression is extant. Other copies of this play are at Chatsworth and Bridgewater House.

“Jacob and Esau” was first reprinted in modern times by Hazlitt in his edition of “Dodsley’s Old Plays,” but never before now in facsimile.

Mr. J. A. Herbert, of the Manuscript Department of the British Museum, after comparing this reproduction with the original copy, reports it to be “a first-rate facsimile, practically faultless.” Special points of criticism are:—

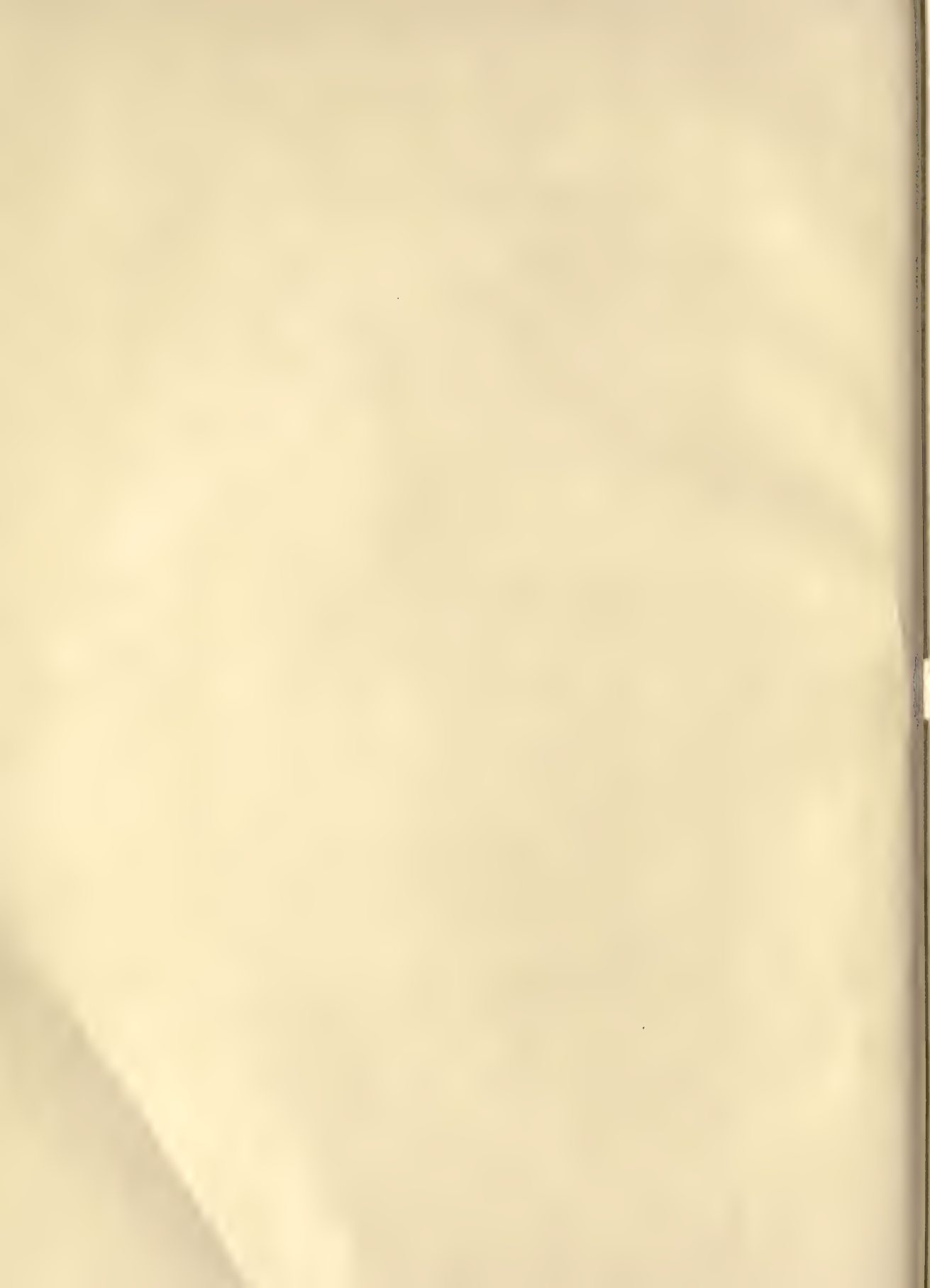
(1) *B.j.*, verso, foot of page, the “s” of “Actus” is more blurred than in original.

(2) *C.iiij.*, verso, line 28, last word, rather clearer in original, “potte.”

(3) *F.j.*, recto, line 11, the stroke under “apparailed” is not in original.

JOHN S. FARMER.





A newve mery and wittie
 Comedie or Enterlude, newly
 imprinted, treating vpon the Historie of
 Iacob and Esau, taken out of the xxvij.
 Chap. of the first booke of Moses
 entituled Genesis.

The partes and names of the Players
 who are to be considered to be Hebrews
 and so should be apparailled with attire.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 The Prologe, a Poete. | 7 Baran, a neighbour
to Isaac also. |
| 2 Isaac, an olde man, fa-
ther to Iacob & Esau. | 8 Kagan, seruaunt vnto
to Esau. |
| 3 Rebecca an olde womā,
wife to Isaac. | 9 Mido, a little Boy,
leading Isaac. |
| 4 Esau, a yong man and a
hunter. | 10 Deborra, the nurse
of Isaacs Lente. |
| 5 Iacob, a yong mā of gods
ly conuersation. | 11 Abza, a little wench,
seruat to Rebecca. |
| 6 Zethar a neighbour. | |

Imprinted at London by Henrie

Bynneman, dwelling in Knightrider streete,
 at the signe of the Mermaid.

Anno Domini 1568.

c. 7159

The Prologue of the play.

In the Booke of Genesis it is exprested,
That whē God to Abrahā made sure promis
That in his sēde al nations shold be blessed:
To send him a son by Sara he did not misse,
Then to Isaac (as there recorded it is)
By Rebecca his wife, who had lōg time tē va
Whē pleased him, at one birth he sent sons twaine. (rain)

But befoze Jacob and Esau yet bozne were,
Oz had eyther done god, oz yll perpetrate:
As the prophete Malachie and Paule witnessse beare,
Jacob was chosen, and Esau reprobate:
Jacob I loue (sayde God) and Esau I hate,
Foz it is not (sayth Paule) in mans renning oz will,
But in Gods mercy who choseth whome he will.

But now foz our comming we shal exhibite here
Of Jacob and Esau holwe the stoze was,
Wherby Gods adoption may plainly appeare:
And also, that what euer Gods ozdinance was,
Nothng might defeate, but that it muste come to passe.
That if this stoze may your eyes oz eares delite,
We pray you of pacience, while we it recite.





The Historie of Jacob

and Esau.

Actus primi, Scæna prima.

Ragau the seruant. Esau a yong man his maister.

Now lette me see what tyme it is by the starre light :
Gods for his grace man, why it is not yet midnight,
We might haue slept these four houres yet I dare well
But this is our god Esau his common play :
What the dyuell apleth him : now truly I thinke plaine,
He hath either some woymes or bottes in his braine.
He scarcely slepeth .xij. god houres in two wakes.
I wote wel his watching maketh me haue leane cheekes.
For there is none other life with hym day by day,
But by Ragau. by drouisy hogges head I say :
Why when : Ap, will it not be : Ap. I come anon.
Ap. or I shall reyle you in sayth ye drouisy hoze son.
Why, when : shall I sette you : I come sʒ by and by.
Ap with a wilde wenpon, how long wilt thou lie :
Ap I say, by at once, Ap by, let vs goe hence,
It is tyme we were in the sozrest an houre sence.
Howe the deuill stoppe that same pallyng throte (thinke I)
Somtwhiles. For from he call, farewell all winke of eye.
Begin he once to call, I slepe no moze that sfounde,
Though half an houres slepe wer worth .x. thousand possid.
Anon when I come in, and bydde him god mozo to :
Ah sʒ, by at last, the deuill gyue thee sozo to.
Howe the diuell bzeake thy necke (thinke I by and by)
That hast no witte to scape, noz in thy bedde to lye.
Then come on at once, take my quiuer and my bowe,
Sette Louell my hounde, and my hozne to blowe.
Then sozth goe we fastyng an houre or two ere day,
Besoze we may well see either our handes or way,

A.ij.

And

Ragau entrech
with his horn
at his back, and
his huntynge
staffe in hys
hande, and lea-
deth. iij. grey-
hounds or one
as may be got-
ten.

Here he coun-
terfaiteth howe
his maister cal-
leth hym vp in
the mornings,
and of his an-
swers.

501102 55 The Historie of

And there raunge we the wilde forest, no crumme of bread
 From morning to starck night coming within our head,
 Sometime Esaus selfe will saynt for drinke and meate:
 So that he would be glad of a dead horse to eate.
 Yet of freshe the next morow forth he will againe,
 And somtime not come home in a whole night or twaine:
 For no delite he hath, no appetite nor minde
 But to the wilde Forest, to hunt the Harte or Hinde,
 The Roebucke, the wilde boze, the fallow Dære, or Hare:
 But howe poore Ragau shall dine, he hath no care,
 Poore I, must eate Acornes or Bearies from the Tree.
 But if I be founde slacke in the sute following,
 Or if I do sayle in blowing or hallowing,
 Or if I lacke my Staffe, or my Horne by my syde:
 He will be quicke inough to fume chase, and chide.
 Am I not well at ease suche a mayster to serue,
 As must haue such seruice, and yet will let me serue?

Here Esau ap-
 pereth in sight,
 and bloweth
 his Horne, ere
 he enter.

But in faith his fashions displease mee than me,
 And will haue but a madde ende one day we shall see.
 He passeth nothing on Rebecca his mother,
 And much lesse passeth he on Jacob hys brother.
 But peace, manne, no more: I see maister Esau.

Esau.

Howe nowe, are we all ready seruant Ragau?
 Art thou by for all day man? art thou ready now?

Ragau.

I haue ben here this halfe houre sye waiting for you.

Esau.

And is all thing ready as I bad, to my mynde?

Ragau.

We haue no cause, that I know, any fault to fynde:
 Except that we disease our tent and neighbours all
 With rising ouer early eche day when ye call.

Esau.

Oh thou drouly drasselacke, wouldst thou rylse at none?
 Nay I trow the sirth booke with thee were ouersone.

Ragau.

Nay I speake of your neighbours being men honest,
 That labour all the day, and would faine be at rest:
 Whom with blowing your Horne ye disease al aboutes.

Esau.

What care I for waking a sozte of clubbische loutes?

And

Jacob and Esau.

And I speake of Rebecca your mother, our dame.
Lutte I passe not whether she doe me prayse or blame.
And I speake of your god father, olde Isaac.
Peace foliſhe knaue : As for my father Isaac,
In case he be a ſleepe, I doe him not diſeaſe,
And if he be waking, I knowe I do him pleaſe,
For he loueth me well from myne natiuitie,
And neuer ſo as now, for myne actiuitie.
Therefore haue at it, once moze will I blow my Horne
To giue my neighbour loutes an haile peale in a mozne.
How my maſter Lightfoote, how ſay you to this geare,
Will you do your duetie to redde or fallow Deare ?
And Swan mine owne good curre, I do think in my minde,
The game ſhal runne apace, if thou come farre behinde :
And ha Takepart, come Takepart, here, how ſay you child
Wilt not thou do thy part : yes, elſe I am beguilde.
But I ſhewe your cheekes, they haue had too much meat.
I blame not dogges to take it, if they may it geat :
But as for my parte, they coulde haue pardie,
A ſmall releuant of that that ye giue me.
They may runne light enough for ought of me they got,
I had not a god meales meate this weeke that I wot.
If we haue lucke thys day to kill Hare, Leg, or Doe,
Thou ſhalt eate thy belly full, tyll thou cryeſt hoe.
I thanke you when I haue it, maſter Esau.
Well, come on, let vs goe nowe ſeruant Ragau.
Is there any thing moze, that I ſhoulde ſay or do ?
For perhaps we come not againe this day or two.
I know nothing maſter, to God I make a bolw,
Except you woulde take your byother Jacob with you :
I neuer yet ſawe hym with you an hunting goe,
Shall we proue hym once whether he will goe or no ?
No, no, that were in vaine : Alas god ſimple mome.
Pay, he muſt carrie and ſucke mothers dugge at home :
Jacob muſt keepe home I trow, vnder mothers wing,

Ragau.
Esau.
Ragau.
Esau.

Here Esau bloweth his horn agayne.

Here he ſpeaketh to hys Dogges.

Ragau.

Esau.

Ragau.
Esau.

Ragau.

Esau.

The Historie of

To be from the Tentes he loneth not of all thing.
Jacob loueth no huntynge in the wyld be forest :
And would feare if he shoulde there see any wyld beaust.
Pea to see the game runne, Jacob would be in feare.

Ragau. In god soth I wene he would think eche Hare a Beare.

Esau. What brother myne, what a worde call ye that ?

Ragau. Hy? I am scarce waked : I spake ere I wyl what.

Esau. Come on your ways my childe, take the lawe of the game.
I will wake you I trowe, and set your tongue in frame.

Ragau. Oh what haue you done maister Esau, Gods apcs.

Esau. Why can ye not yet refraine from lettynge such scapes ?
Come on, ye must haue thre iertes for the nonce.

One.

Ragau. Oh, for Gods loue sy? haue done, dispatche at once.

Esau. Nay there is no remedy but hyde it, there is twaine.

Ragau. O ye rent my cheuereil, let me be past my paine.

Esau. Take hede of Huting termes fro beniforth, there is thre;

Ragau. Withoup. Howe a mischief on all mopyng soles for me.

Jacob shall keepe the Tentes tenne yeare for Ragau,

Ere I mone agayne that he hunt wyth Esau.

Esau. Come on, now let vs goe. God sende vs game and lucke,
And if my hande serue me well,

Ragau. We wyl kill a Ducke. Excant ambo.

Actus primi, Scæna secunda

Hanan. Zethar. two of Isaacs neighbors.

Hanan. A sy?, I see I am an early man thys mozne,
I am once moze beggide with Esau his hozne.

But there is no suche stirrer as Esau is :

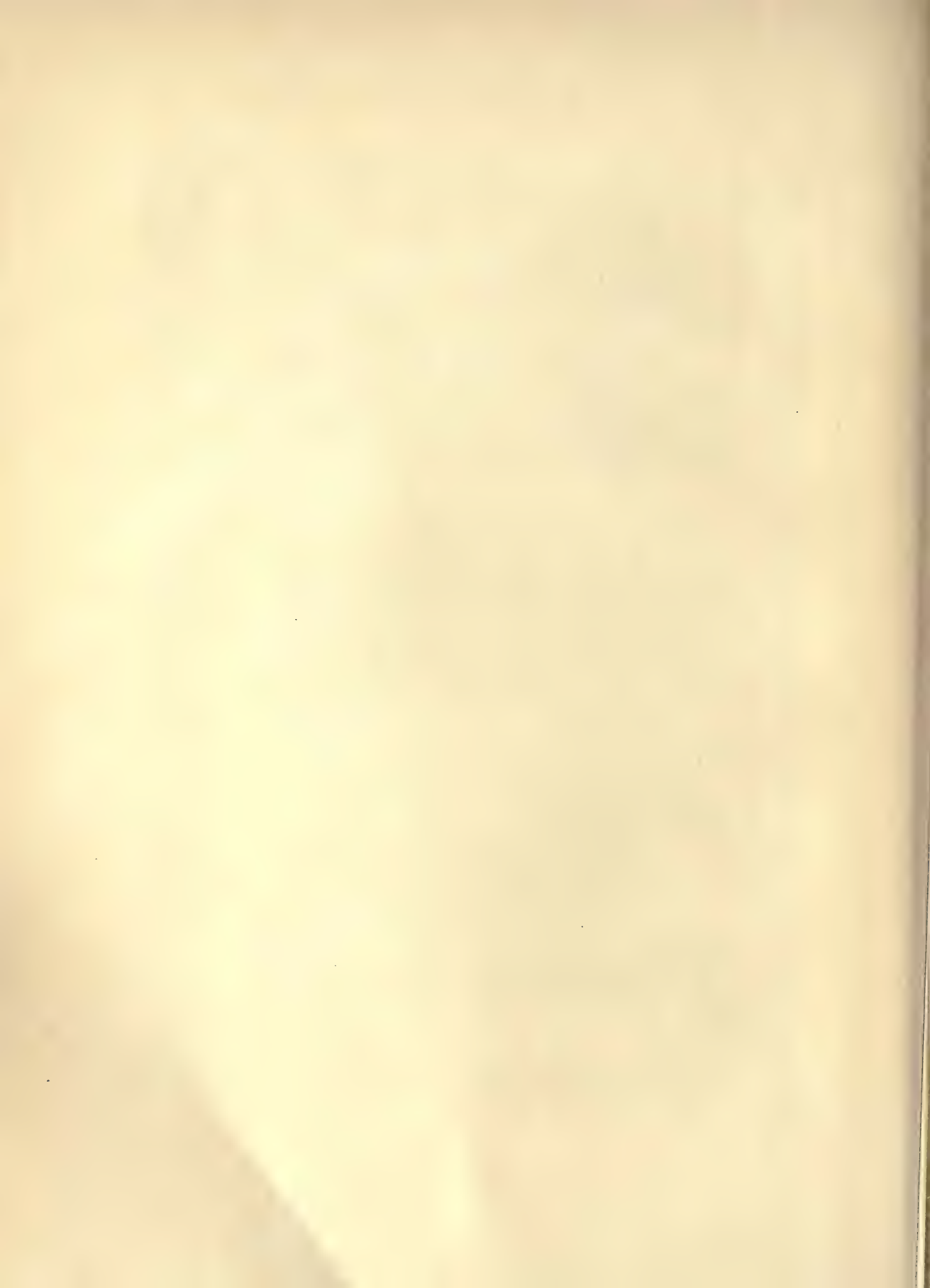
He is by day by day befoze the Crowe vis :

Then maketh he with his Hozne such tosyng and blowing

And with his wyde throate such thonting and hailowing,

That no neighbour shall in his Tent take any rest,

From



Jacob and Esau.

From Esau addresseth hym to the Forrest.
So that he maketh vs together we will or no,
Better husbandes than we woude be, abroade to go,
Eche of vs about our businesse and our warke.
But whome doe I see yonder commyng in the darke?
It is my neyghbor Zethar, I perceyue hym nowe.
What neighbour Hanan, well met, god morrow to you. Zethar.
I see well nowe I am not beguiled alone:
But what boote to lye still? for rest we can take none.
That I meruayle much of olde father Isaac,
Beyng so godly a man, why he is so slacke
To byng hys sonne Esau to a better way.
What shoulde he do in the matter I you pray?
Oh it is no small charge to fathers afoze God,
So to traine their children in youth vnder the rod,
That when they come to age they may vertue ensue,
Wicked pranks abhorre, and all leudnesse eschue.
And me thinketh Isaac, being a man (as he is)
A chosen man of God, shoulde not be slacke in this.
Alack god man, what shoulde he do more than he hath done? Hanan.
I dare say no father hath better taught his sonne,
Nor no two haue giuen better example of life:
Unto their children, than bothe he and his wife:
As by their yonger sonne Jacob it doth appeare:
He lyueth no loose life, he doth God loue and feare,
He kepeth here in the Tentes lyke a quiete man:
He geneth not hymselfe to wildnesse any whan.
But Esau enermore from his yong childehode
Hath ben lyke to proue yll, and neuer to be good.
Yong it pricketh (folkes do say) that wyll be a thorne,
Esau hath ben nought euer since he was borne.
And wherof commeth this, of Education?
Say it is of his owne yll inclination.
They were brought by bothe vnder one tuition,
But they be not bothe of one disposition.

Esau

The Historie of

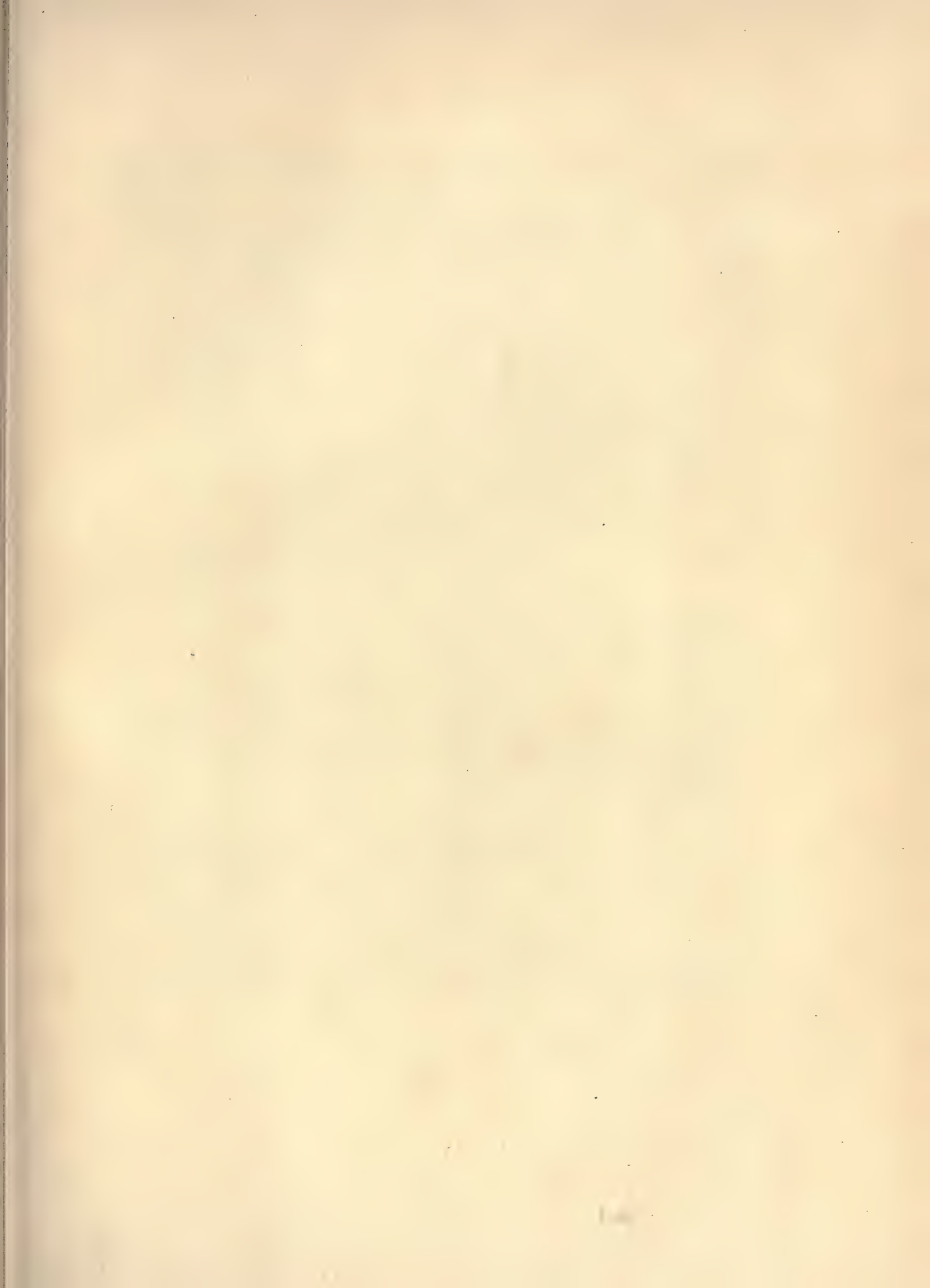
Clau is gyuen to loce and leude liuing.
Zethar. In sayth I warrant him haue but shende thziuing.
Hanan. Neither se I any hope that he will amende.
Zethar. Then let hym enen loke to come to an yll ende.
For youth that will solow none but theyz owne bzidle,
That leadeth a dissolute lyfe and an ydle,
Youth that refuseth holsome documentes,
Do to take example of theyz godly parentes,
Youth that is retchelesse, and taketh no regarde,
What become of them selfe, nor which ende goe sozwarde,
It is great meruaile and a spectall grace,
If euer they come to godnesse all theyz life space.
But why doe we consume this whole mo:nyng in talke,
Of one that hath no recke ne care what way he walke,
We had bene as god to haue kept our bedde still.
Hanan. Oh it is our parte to lamente them that doe yll,
Lyke as very Nature, a godly heart dothe moue
Others god procedings to tender and to loue:
So suche as in no wise to godnesse will be brought:
What god ma but wil mourn, since god vs al hath wrought
But ye haue some busynesse, and so haue I.
Zethar. And we haue ben long, farewell neighbour heartily.

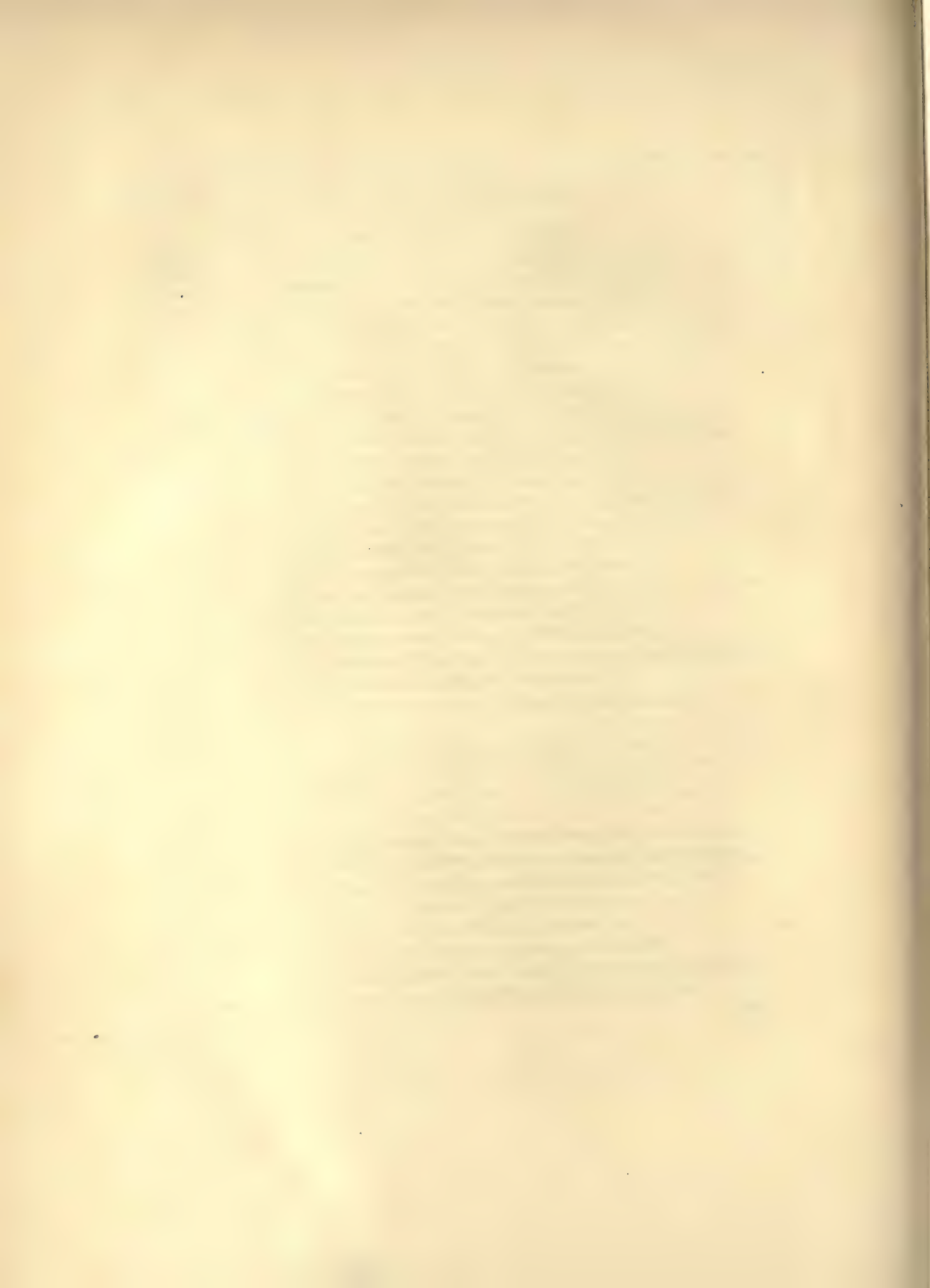
Actus primi, scæna tertia.

Rebecca the Mother. Jacob the Sonne.

Rebecca. Come forth sonne Jacob, why carriest thou behinde?
Jacob. Forsoth mother, I thought ye had sayd al your minde.
Rebecca. Nay, come I haue yet a worde or two moze to say.
Jacob. What soeuer pleaseth you, speake to me ye may.
Rebecca. Seyng thy brother Clau is suche an one,
Why rebukest thou hym not when ye are alone?
Jacob. Why doest thou not gyue him some god sab wyse counsaile?
He lacketh not that mother, if it woulde auaille.

But





Jacob and Esau

But when I doe him any thing of his fault tell,
He calleth me foolish proude boy with him to mell.
He will sometime demaunde by what authoritie,
I presume to teache them which mine elders be.
He will sometime aske if I learne of my mother,
To take on me teaching of mine elder brother.
Sometime when I tell hym of his leude behauiour,
He will sende me a mocke or twaine for my labour:
And sometime for anger he will out with his purse
And call me as please hym, and sweare he will doe worse.
Oh Lorde, that to beare such a sonne it was my chance. Rebecca.
Mother, we must be content wpyth Gods ordinaunce. Jacob.
Oh, if I shoulde nedes haue Esau to my sonne,
Would God thou Jacob haddest the Eldership wonne. Rebecca.
Mother, it is to late to wishe for that is past: Jacob.
It will not be done now with ye neuer so fast.
And I woulde not haue you to wish agaynst Gods wyll:
For both it is in vaine, and also it is ill.
Why did it not please God, that thou shouldest as wele Rebecca.
Creade vpon his crowne, as holde hym fast by the hele?
What soener mysterie the Lorde therein ment, Jacob.
Must be referred to his vnterched iudgement.
And what soener he hath pointed me vnto,
I am his owne vessel his will with me to do.
Well, some strange thing therein of God intended was, Rebecca.
And what he hath decreed, must sure come to passe. Jacob.
I remember when I had you both conceived, Rebecca.
A voyce thus saying from the Lorde I receiued:
Rebecca, in thy wombe are now two nations,
Of vnlke natures and contrary fashions.
The one shal be a mightier people elect:
And the elder to the yonger shall be subiect.
I knowe this voyce came not to me of nothing:
Therefore thou shalt folow my counsell in o thing.
So it be not displeasing to the Lorde I must. Jacob.

B. I.

I feare

The Historie of

- Rebecca. I feare the lorde eke, who is mercifull and iust:
And loth would I be, his maiestie to offende,
But by me (I doubt not to worke he doth intende,
Asay if thou canst, at some one tyme or other,
To buie the right of elder ship from thy brother:
So thou buye the birthright that to hym doth belong,
So mayst thou haue the blessing, and doe hym no wrong.
What thou hast once bought, is thine owne of due right.
- Jacob. Mother Rebecca, if withouten fraude I might,
I would your aduise put in vze wpth all my hart,
But I may not attempt any such guilefull part:
To buie my brothers elder ship and hys birthright,
I feare woulde be a great offence in Gods sight.
Which thyng if I will, to redeme I ne woloe,
Though I might get therby ten millions of golde.
- Rebecca. God, who by his worde and almightifull decre,
Hath appoynted the Elau his lorde to be,
Hath appointed some way to haue it brought about,
And that is thys way, my spyte doth not doute.
- Jacob. Upon your worde mother, I will assay ere long,
Yet it grudgeth my heart to doe my brother wrong.
- Rebecca. Thou shalt do no wrong sonne Jacob, on my perill.
- Jacob. Then by Gods leaue once assay I wil.
- Rebecca. Then farewell dere son, Gods blessing & mine with thee.
- Jacob. I will againe to the Tent. Well you be. Exeat Jacob.
- Rebecca. Ah my swete sonne Jacob, god fortune God thee sende.
The most gentle pong man aliu, as God me mende.
And the moſte naturall to father and mother:
That such a meke spirite were in thy brother,
Or thy spye loued thee as thou hast merited,
And then should Elau sone be disherited.

Actus





Jacob and Esau.

Actus primi, Scæna quarta.

Isaac the husbände, Rebecca, the wife,
Mido, the ladde that leadeth blinde Isaac.

WHere art thou my boy Mido, when I doe thee lacke? Isaac.
Who calleth Mido? here good maister Isaac. Mido.
Come leade me forth of doores a little I thee pray. Isaac.
Lay your hande on my shoulder, and come on this way. Mido.
Now O Lorde of heauen, the fountaine of all grace, Rebecca.
If it be thy good will that my will shall take place:
Sende successe to Jacob, according to thy worde,
That his elder brother may serue hym as his lorde.
Sp?, whyther would ye goe, now that abroade ye be? Mido.
To myse Rebecca. Isaac.
Ponder I doe hir se. Mido.
Lorde, thou knowest Jacob to be thy seruant true, Rebecca.
And Esau all frowarde thy wayes to ensue.
Ponder she is speaking, what euer she doth say:
By holdyng by hir handes, it seemeth she doth pray.
Where be ye wife Rebecca? where be ye woman?
Who is that calleth? Isaac my good man?
Where be ye wyfe Rebecca, lette me vnderstande?
She commeth to you apace. Mido.
Here my lorde, at hande. Rebecca.
Saying that what so euer God doth is all right, Isaac.
So small grieffe it were so: a man to lacke his sight.
But what the Lord doth sende o: worke by his high will,
Can not but be the best, no such thing can be yll. Rebecca.
All bodily panishment: o: infirmitie, Isaac.
With all mannes of nature, what euer they be,
Pea and all other afflictions tempo:all:
As losse, persecution, o: troubles mo: tall,
Are nothing but a triall o: probation.
And what is he that firmly trusteth in the Lord;

The Historie of

Whom steadfastly beleueth his promise and worde,
And knoweth him to be the God omnipotent,
That seeth and governeth all that he hath sent:
Protecting his faithfull in euery degree,
And them to relieue in all their necessitie:

What creature (I say) that both this vnderstande,

Will not take all thing in gods parte at Gods hande:

Shall we at Gods hand receiue prosperitie,

And not be content likewise with aduersitie:

We ought to be thankfull what euer God doth sende,

And our selues wholly to his will to commende.

Rebecca. So should it be, and I thanke my lord Isaac,

Suche daily lessons at your hande I doe not lack.

Isaac. Why then should not I thanke the Lorde, if it please him

That I shall nowe be blynde, and my sight waie all dim.

For who so to olde age will here liue and endure,

Must of force abide all such defects of nature:

Blind. Why must I be blinde too, if I be an olde man:

How shall I grope the way, who shall leade me than:

Isaac. If the Lorde haue pointed thee such olde payes to see,

He will also provide what shall be meete for thee.

Blind. I trowe if I were blinde, I coulde goe well inough,

I coulde grope the way thus, and goe as I do nowe,

I haue done so ere now both by day and by night,

As I see you grope the way, and haue hitte it right.

Rebecca. Yea my boy, will ye play any suche childishe knack:

As to counterfalte your blinde maister Isaac:

That is but to mocke him for his impediment.

Blind. Nay I neuer dyd it in any suche intent.

Rebecca. Nay it is to tempt God before thou haue neede:

Wherby thou mayst prouoke hym in very deede,

With some great misfortune or plague to punish thee.

Blind. When will I neuer more do so while I may see:

But against I be blinde, I will be so per sight,

That though no man leade me, I will goe at midnight.

Howe

Jacob and Esau:

Howe wife, touching the purpose that I sought for you. Isaac.
What sayth my lord Isaac to his handemayde now? Rebecca.
Ye haue ofte in conuerte wordes ben right earnest Isaac.
To haue me graunt vnto you a boune and request:
But ye neuer tolde me yet plainly what it was,
Therfoze I haue ener yet lette the matter passe.
And now of late by ofte being from me absent,
I haue halfe suspected you to be scarce content.
But wife Rebecca, I woulde not haue you to mourne,
As though I did your honest petition wourne.
For I neuer ment to denie in all my life
Any lawfull or honest request to my wyfe.
But in case it be a thing vnreasonable,
Then must I nades be to you vntractable.
Now therfoze say on, and tell me what is your case.
I woulde, if I were sure in your heart to fynde grace: Rebecca.
Else sy? I woulde be lothe.
To speake do not refraine, Isaac.
And if it be reasonable ye shall obtaine:
Otherwise, ye must pardon me gentle swete wife.
Sir, ye knowe ybur sonne Esau, and see his life, Rebecca.
Howe lone it is, and howe kiffe he is and stabberne,
Howe retchelesly he both him selfe misgouerne:
Heggeueth him selfe to hunting out of reason,
And serueth the Lorde and vs at no time or season.
These conditions can not be acceptable
In the syght of God, nor to men allowable.
Howe his brother Jacob your yonger sonne and mine,
Dothe more applle his heart to seke the wayes diuine.
He liueth here quietly at home in the Tent,
There is no man nor childe but is with him content.
Oh wife, I perceiue ye speake of affection, Isaac.
To Jacob ye beare loue, and to his brother none.
I deede sy?, I can not leue Esau so well Rebecca.
As I doe Jacob, the plaine truth to you to tell.

The Historie of

For I haue no comfozte of Esau God wot :
I scarce know where I haue a sonne of hym or not.
He goeth abroade so early before day light,
And returneth home againe so late in the night,
And vneth I sette eye on hym in the whole weeke :
So sometime not in twaine, though I doe for hym sake.
And all the neighbours see him as seldome as I.
But when they would take rest, they heare hym blow & cry.
Some see him so seldome, they aske if he be sicke :
Somtimes some demaunde whether he be dead or quicke.
But to make short tale, such his conditions be,
That I wishe of God he had nere bene borne of me.

Isaac. Well wyse, I loue Esau, and must for causes twaine,
Rebecca. Surely your loue is bestowed on him in vayne.
Isaac. First aaine he is, as any yong man can be :

And many a good morsell he bringeth home to me.
Then he is myne eldest and first begotten sonne.

Rebecca. If God were so pleased, I woulde that were so done.

Isaac. And the eldest sonne is called the fathers might.

Rebecca. If yours rest in Esau, God giue vs god night.

Isaac. A prerogative he hath in euery thing.

Rebecca. More pitie he shoulde haue it without deseruing.

Isaac. Of all the godes his porcion is greater.

Rebecca. That the worthy shoulde haue it, I thinke much better.

Isaac. Among his byetherne, he hath the preeminence.

Rebecca. Where Esau is chiefe, there is a gay presence.

Isaac.ouer his byetherne he is soueraigne and lozde.

Rebecca. Such dignitie in Esau doth yll accorde.

Isaac. He is the head of the fathers succession.

Rebecca. I woulde Esau had losse that possession.

Isaac. And he hath the chiefe title of inheritaunce.

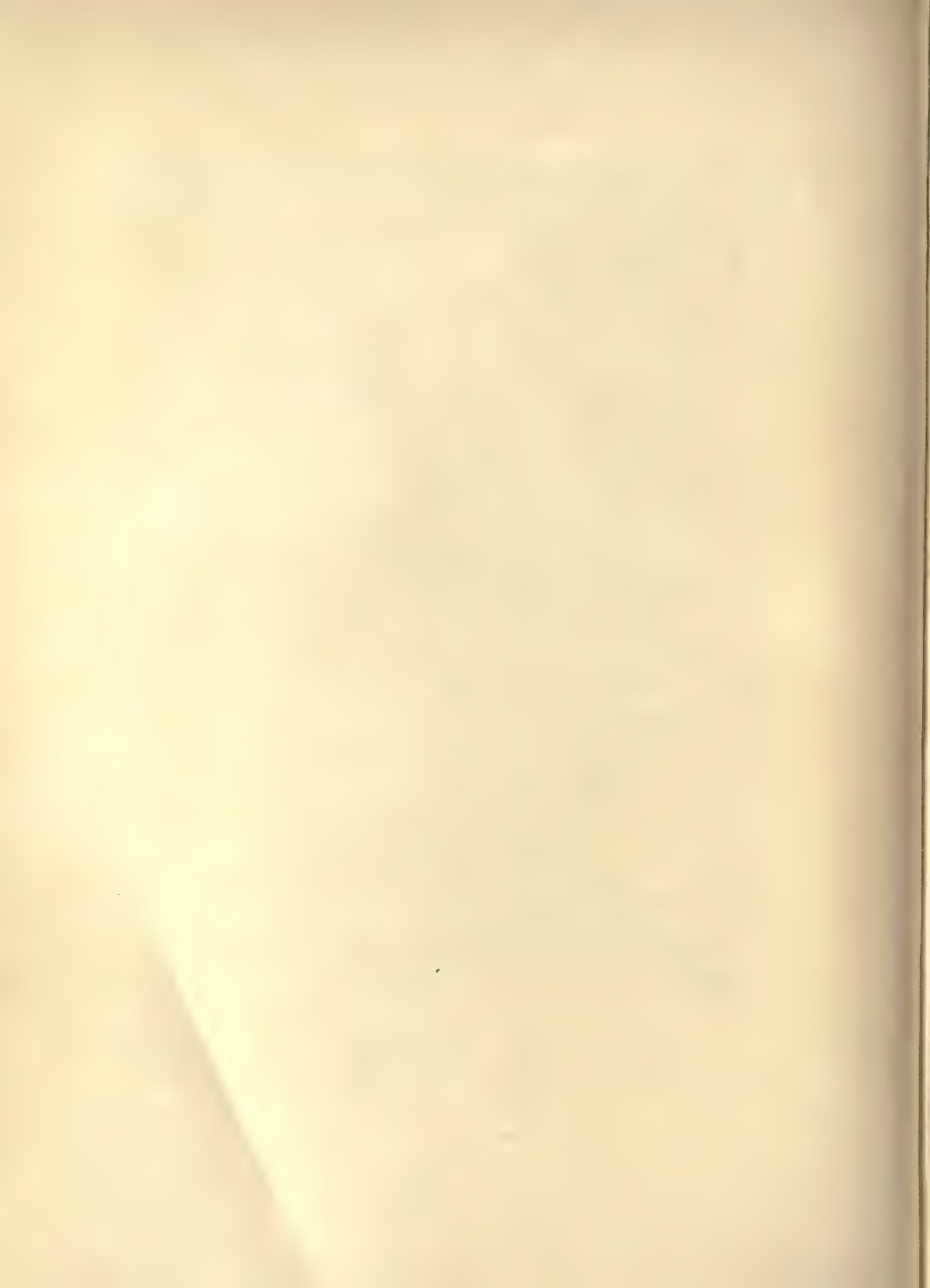
Rebecca. Wisedome woulde in Esau chaunge that ordinaunce.

Isaac. To the eldest sonne is due the fathers blessing.

Rebecca. That shoulde be Jacobs, if I might haue my wishing.

Isaac. And the chiefe endowment of the fathers substance.

Which



Jacob and Esau.

Which will thryne well in Esau his governance.
By title of Eldership he hath his birthright.
And that would I remove to Jacob if I might.
He must have double portion to an other.
That were moze fitte for Jacob bys yonger brother,
In all maner of things diuided by a rate.
Well gyuen goodes to him that the Lorde both hate.
Why say ye so of Esau mine eldest sonne?
I say true, if he procede as he hath begonne.
Is he not your sonne too, as well as he is myne?
Wherfore do ye then against him thus soze repine?
Bicause that in my spirite verily I know,
God will set by Jacob, and Esau downe throuwe.
I haue shewed you many a tyme ere this day,
What the Lorde of them beyng in my wombe dyd say,
I vse not soz to lye: And I beleue certayne,
That the Lorde spake not these wordes to me in vaine.
And Jacob it is (I know) in whome the Lorde will
His promises to you made, and to your seede fulfill.
I doubt not his promise made to me and my seede,
Leaning to his conueyaunce howe it shall procede.
The Lorde after his way change thinerheritance,
But I may not wetingly bzeake our ordinance.
Some woulde God, I coulde persnade my lorde Isaac,
Jacob to preferre, and Esau to put backe.
I may not do it wise, I pray you be content.
The title of birthright that cometh by descent,
Or the place of eldership comming by due course
I may not chaunge nor shift, for better nor the worse.
Natures lawe it is, the eldest sonne to kinde blage,
And in no wise to barre hym of his heritage.
And ye shall of Esau one day haue comfozte.
Set a good long day then, or else we shal come short.
I warrant you, he will doe well inough at length.
You must nedes comend him being your might & strength.
Rebecca.
Isaac.
Rebecca.
Well,

The Historie of

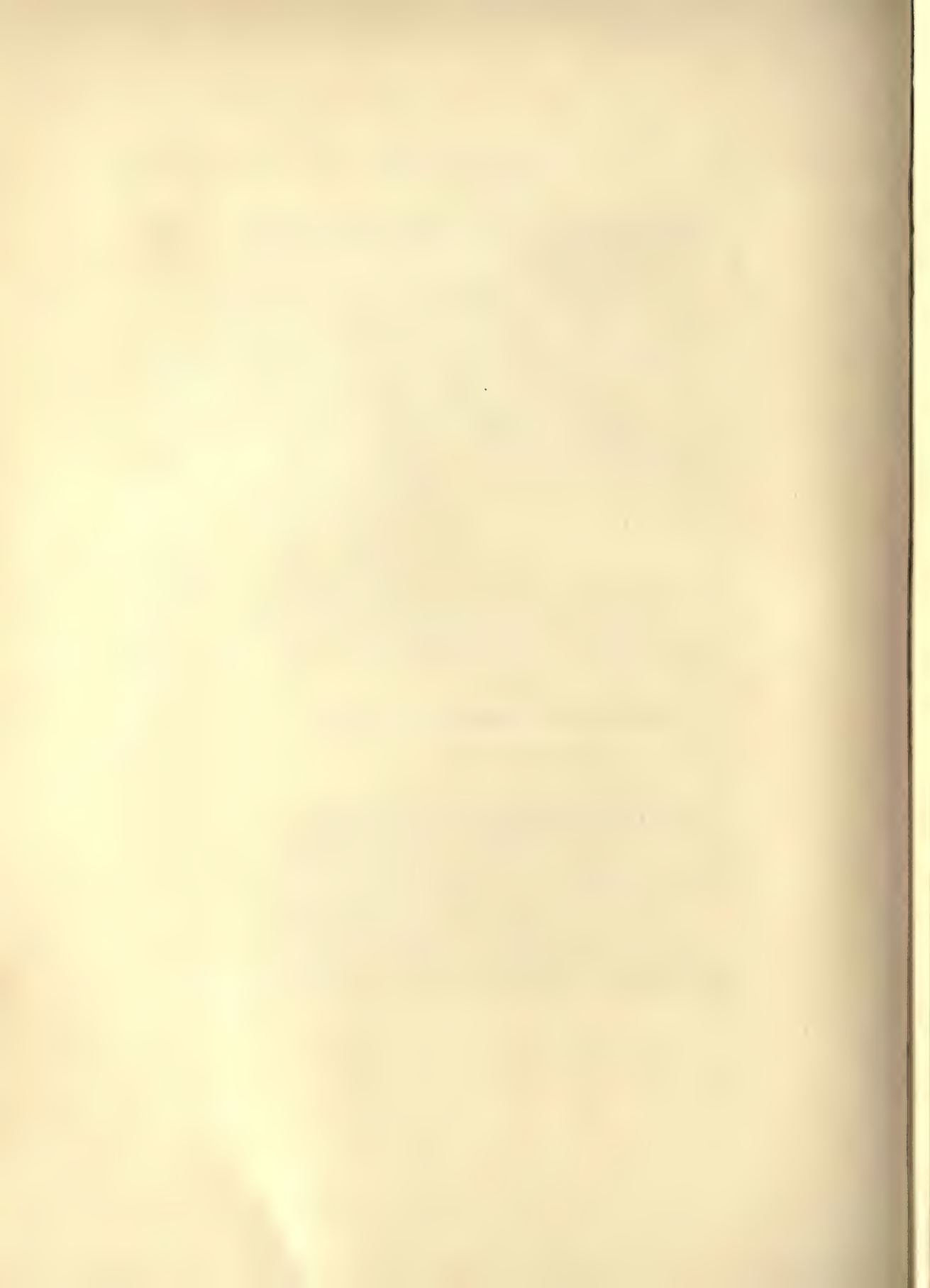
- Isaac.** Well, nowe go we hence, little **Ysido** where art thou?
Ysido. I haue stode here all thys while, listning howe you
And my Dame **Rebecca** haue bene laying the lawe,
But she hath as quicke answeres as euer I sawe,
Ye coulde not speake any thing vnto hir so thicke,
But she had hir answeres as ready and as quicke.
Isaac. Yea, womens answeres are but fewe times to seeke.
Ysido. But I did not see **Esau** neither all this same worke:
For I do lone your sonne **Esau** so well,
As I do lone your sonne **Jacob** by a great deale.
Isaac. So doest thou **Ysido**, and tell me the cause why?
Ysido. Why? for I doe not: And none other cause knowe I:
But euery hody as well one as other,
Doe wish that **Jacob** had bene the elder brother.
Isaac. Well, come on, let vs goe.
Ysido. And who shall leade you?
Rebecca. No, it is my office as long as I am by:
And I woulde all wiues, as the worlde this day is,
Woulde vnto their husbandes likewise do their office.
Ysido. Why dame **Rebecca**, then al wedded men shold be blind.
Rebecca. What thou foolish laode, no such thing was in my minde!

Actus secundi, scæna prima.

Ragau. the Seruant of **Esau**.

- Ragau.** I haue hearde it ofte, but nowe I feele a wonder,
In what grievous paine they die, that die for hunger.
Oh my greedie stomache holde it both bite and gnawe:
If I were at a racke, I could eate heu or strawe,
Mine emptie gutts doe frette, my maue doth euen teare,
Woulde God I had a piere of some horsehead here,
Yet is master **Esau** in worse case than I,
If he haue not some meate the soner he will die:
We hath sonke for faintnesse twice or thrice by the way.

And



Jacob and Esau.

And not one stely bitte we got since yester day.
All that euer he hath, he woulde haue ginen to day
To haue had but thre mofels his hunger to allay.
Oz in the fielde to haue mette with some hoggs,
I coulde scarsely kepe him from eating of these doggs.
He hath sent me afoze some meate soz to pzouide,
And comneth crēeping after, scarce able to stride.
But if I knowe where to get of any man,
Foz to ease myne owne selfe, as hungry as I am,
I pzap God I thinke : but if any come to me,
Die who die will, soz sure I will first serued be.
I will se if any be ready here at home :
Oz whether Jacob haue any that peakishe nome.
But first I must put all my dogges by,
And lay by thys geare, and then God sende vs the cup.

Actus secundi, scēnā secunda.

Esau the maister.

Ragau the seruant.

O what a grieuous pain is hunger to a man
Take all that I haue soz meate, helpe who that can.
O Lozde, some god body soz Gods sake gyue me meate.
I soze not what it were, so that I had to eate.
Meate oz drinke, saue my life, oz breade, I recke not what.
If there be nothing else, some man giue me a cat.
If any god body on me will doe so much cost,
I will teare and eate hir rawe, she shall nere be rost,
I promise of honestie I will eate hir rawe.
And what a nody was I, and a howeson dawe,
To let Ragau goe with all my doggs at ones :
A shoulder of a dogge were nowe meate soz the nones.
Oh what shall I doe : my teeth I can scarsely charme,
From gnawoyng away the braine of my very arme.
I can no longer stande soz saynt, I must nedes lie.
And except meate come sone, remedillesse I die.

Esau.

Commeth in
so faint that he
can scarce go.

C. 1.

And

The Historie of

And where art thou Ragau tohome I sent befoze?
Unlesse thou come at once, I neuer see thee moze.
Where art thou Ragau, I heare not of thee yet?

Ragau.

Here as fast as I can, but no meate can I get.
Not one draught of drinke, not one pize morsel of bread
Not one bit or crum though I shold streight way be dead.
Therefore ye may nowe see how much ye are to blame,
That wil thus serue your self so; solotwing your game.

Esau.

Ah thou villain, tellest thou me this now?
If had thee, I woulde eate thee, to God I bolue,
Ah, meat thou ho; son, why hast thou not brought me meat?

Ragau.

Would you haue me bring you that I can nowhere geat.

Esau.

Come hither, let me tell thee a worde in thine eare.

Ragau.

Day, speake out aloud: I will not come a foote nere,
Fall ye to snatching at folkes? adieu I am gone.

Esau.

Pay so; gods loue Ragau, leaue me not alone:
I will not eate thee Ragau, so God me helpe.

Ragau.

No, I shall desire you to chose some other tohelpe.
Being in your best lust I woulde topple with ye,
And plucke a god crowe ere ye brake your fall with me.
What? are you mankene now? I reckon it best I,
To bind your handes behind you euen as ye lye.

Esau.

Day haue mercy on me, and let me not perishe.

Ragau.

In faith nought could I get wher with you to cherishe.

Esau.

Was there nothing to be had among so many?

Ragau.

I coulde not finde one but Jacob that had any,
And no grantt would he make so; ought that I could say,
Yet no man aline with fairer wo;des coulde him pray.
But the best redde pottage he hath that euer was.

Esau.

Go pray him I may speake with him once ere I passe.

Ragau.

That message by Gods grace shall not long be vndone.

Esau.

Die thee go apace, and returne againe soone.
If Jacob haue tue brotherly compassion,
He will not see me fainte after this fashion,
But I dare say, the w;etche had rather see me th;ost,

Then





Jacob and Esau.

Can he would finde in his harte to do so muche cost :
For where is betwene one fremman and an other,
Lesse loue found than now betwene brother and brother?
Will Jacob come forth to shewe comforte vnto me?
The horefon hypocrite will as sone hanged be.
Yet peace, me thinketh Jacob is comming in dede:
And my minde geueth me at his hande I shall speke.
For he is as gentle and louing as can be,
As full of compassion and pitie.
But let me see, doth he come? no I warrant you.
He come quod I : tush, he come? then hang Esau.
For there is not this daye in all the worlde rounde,
Suche an other hodypeake wretche to be founde.
And Esau my man, is not that a fine knaue?
Haue any mo maisters suche a man as I haue?
So idle, so loytring, so trifling, so toying?
So prattling, so fratling, so chiding, so boying?
So iesting, so wrestling, so mocking, so mobing?
So nipping, so tripping, so cocking, so crowng?
So knapping, so snapping, so eluishing, so froward?
So crabbed, so wrabbed, so stiffe, so vntowarde?
In play or in pastime, so iscarde, so mery?
In worke or in labour so dead or so weary?
Oh that I had his eare betwene my teeth now,
I should shake him euen as a dog that lulleth a sow.
But in faith if euer I recouer my selfe,
There was neuer none trounced as I shal trounce that elf.
He and Jacob are agreed I dare say, I,
Not to come at all, but to suffre me here to die.
Whiche if they do, they shall finde this same word true,
That after I am dead, my soule shall them pursue.
I wyll be auenged on all foes till I dye.
Pea and take vengeance when I am deade to I.
For I mistrust against me agreed they haue:
For thone is but a soyle, and thother a starke knaue.

The Historie of

- Ragau. I assure you Jacob, the man is very weake.
Esau. But hearken once again, me thinke I heare them speake.
Ragau. I promise you I feare his lyfe be alreadie past.
Jacob. Mary God forbidde.
Esau. Doe notwe they come at last.
Ragau. If ye beleue not me, see your selfe where he is.
Jacob. If ye brother Esau, what a soly is this?
About vaine pastime to wander abroade, and peake,
Til with hunger you make your selfe thus faint & weake.
Esau. Brother Jacob, I pray you chide notwe no longer,
But giue me somewhat wherewith to slake mine hunger.
Jacob. Alack brother, I haue in my little cotage,
Nothing but a mease of grosse and homely pottage.
Esau. Kefreshe me therewithall, and boldly aske of me,
The best thing that I haue, what soeuer it be.
I were a very beast, when thou my life doest saue,
If I shoulde sticke with thee for the best thyng I haue.
Jacob. Can ye be content to sell your birthright to mee?
Esau. Holde, here is my hande, I doe sell it here to thee.
With all the profittes thereof henceforth to be thine,
As free, as full, as large, as euer it was mine.
Jacob. Then sweare thou hand in hande befoze the lyuing Lord,
This bargaine to fulfill, and to stande by thy worde.
Esau. Befoze the Lord I sweare, to whom eche heart is known
That my birthright that was, from henceforth is thine owne.
Jacob. Thou shalt also with me by this promise indent,
With this bargaine and sale to holde thy selfe content.
Esau. If eche penie therof might be worth twentie pounce,
I willingly to thee surrender it this sounce.
And if eche cicle might be worth a whole talent,
I promise with this sale to holde me content.
Jacob. Come, let vs set him on sote that he may goe sup.
Ragau. Pay, first I will knowe a thing, ere I helpe him vp.
Sirra, will ye eate folke when ye are long fasting?
Esau. No, I pray thee helpe me vp, and leaue thy resting.

Jacob and Esau.

So trotw, eate your bzother Jacob nowe if you luff. **Ragau.**
Fo you shall not eate me, I tell you, that is iust.
Come, that with my pottage thou mayst refreshed be. **Jacob.**
There is no meate on earth that so wel liketh me. **Esau.**
Yet I may tell you, it is potage dearely bought. **Ragau.**
So not a whitte, fo; my bargaine take thou no thought. **Esau.**
I desye that birthright that shoulde be of moze price,
Than helping of ones selfe, I am not so vnwise.
And how then sir, shall poze Ragau haue no meate?
Yes, and if thou canst my bzother Jacob intreate. **Ragau.**
God graunt I haue inough fo; Esau alone. **Esau.**
Why then I perceyue poze Ragau shall haue none. **Ragau.**
Well, much god do it you with your potage of Rice: **Esau** entring
I woulde fast and fare yll, ere I eate of that price. into Jacobs
Woulde I sell my birthright beyng an eldest sonne? shaketh Ra-
Fosoth then were it a faire threde that I had sponne. gau off.
And then to lette it goe fo; a meale of pottage,
What is that, but bothe vnthriftinesse and dotage?
Alack, a lack, god blessed father Isaac,
That euer sonne of thine, shoulde play such a leude knacke.
And yet I doe not thinke but God this thyng bath wrought,
Fo Jacob is as good as Esau is nought.
But forth commeth Mido, as fast as he can trot:
Fo a cicle, whether to call me in o; not?

Actus secundi, scæna tertia

Mido the boy.

Ragau.

HA, ba, ba, ha, ha, ha,
Howe who saue ere suche an other as Esau?
By my truthe I will not lie to thee Ragau,
Since I was bozne, I neuer see any man
So greedily eate rice out of a potte o; pan.
He woulde not haue a dishe, but take the pot and sup.

Mido cometh
in clapping
his hands, and
laughing.

The Historie of

He neuer sawe hungry dogge so slabbe potage by.
 Why howe did he suppe it? I pray thee tel me howe
 Mary even thus, as thou shalt see me do now.
 Oh I thanke you Jacob: with all my hart Jacob.
 Gently done Jacob: A frendely parte Jacob.
 I can suppe so Jacob.
 Yea than wyl I suppe too Jacob.
 Here is god meate Jacob.
 As ere was cate Jacob.
 As ere I sawe Jacob.
 Can a dawwe Jacob.
 Swete rice pottage Jacob.
 By Claus dotage Jacob.
 Foily god chere Jacob.
 But bought full deere Jacob.
 I was hungry Jacob.
 I was an unthrift Jacob.
 He will none nowe Jacob.
 I can not for you Jacob.
 I will eat all Jacob.
 The devyll go withall Jacob.
 Thou art a god sonne Jacob.
 And would he never haue done Jacob?
 No, but still cogge in like Iache daw that cries ha hob.
 That to be kylde I coulde not langhyng forbear:
 And therfore I came out, I durst not abide there.
 Is there any pottage left for me that thou wotte?
 No, I left Claus about to lick the pottage.
 Lick quod thou: now a shame take him that can all lick.
 The pottage shall nede no washing, he will it so lick.
 And by this he is sitting downe to bread and drinke.
 And shal I have no part with hym, doste thou thinke?
 No, for he praide Jacob ere he did begin,
 To shutte the tent fast that no mo gesses come in.
 And made he no mention of me his servant?



Jacob and Esau:

He sayd thou were a knave, and bad thee hence, quant. Pido.
So thist where thou couldest, thou gottest nothing there.
God yelde you Esau, with all my Romachere. Ragau.
I must in againe, lest perhaps I be shent, Pido.
For I asked no body licence when I went. Excat.
Say it is his nature, do what ye can for him, Ragau.
Do thanke at his hand but chose you sinke or swim.
Then reason it with him in a mete time and place,
And he shall be ready to see straight in your face.
This proverbe in Esau may be vnderstande
Clawe a churle by the taylor, and he will file your hand.
Well ytwisse Esau, ye did knowe well ynou
That I had as muche neede to be meated as you.
Haue I trotted and trudged all night and all day,
And now leaue me without doze, and so go your way.
Haue I spent so muche labour for you to prouide,
And you nothing regarde what of me may betide.
Haue I runne with you while I was able to go,
And now you purchase sode for your selfe and no more.
Haue I taken so long paine you truly to serue,
And can ye be content that I famishe and sterue.
I must lackey and come lugging grehound and honde,
And carry the weight I dare say of twentie pounde.
And to helpe his hunger purchasse grace and fauour,
And now to be shutte out fasting for my labour.
By my faith I may say, I serue a god maister,
Say nay, I serue an ill husband and a wasser,
That neither profite regardeth nor honestie,
What meruaile I then if he passe so light on me?
But Esau nowe that ye haue solde your birthright,
I comennde me to you, and god geue you god night.
And let a friend tell him his faute at any time,
Ye shall heare him chase beyonde all reason or rime.
Except it were a fiende or a verie helhounde,
Ye neuer salve the matche of him in any grounde.

When

The Historie of

When I shewe him of god will what others do say,
He wil fall out with me, and offer me a fray.
And what can there be a woiser condition,
Than to doe yll, and refuse admonition?
Can luche a one prosper, or come to a good ende?
Then I care not howe many children God me sende.
Once Esau shall not beguile me, I can tell:
Except he shall fortune to amende, or doe well.
Therefore why doe I about hym walk thus much talke,
Whome no man can induce ordinally to walke?
But some man perchance doth not a little wonder,
Howe I who but right nowe did roze out for hunger,
Have nowe so muche vacant and voyde time of leasure,
To walke and to talke, and discourse all of pleasure.
I tolde you at the first, I woulde provide for one:
My mother taught me that lesson a good while ago.
When I came to Jacob his friendship to require,
I dzelve nere and nere tyl I came to the fyre.
There harde besyde me stode the potage pot,
Euen as God would haue it, neither colde nor hot,
God simple Jacob coulde not tourne his backe so thicke,
But I at the labell got a goulpe or a liche.
So that ere I went I made a very good meale.
And dynde better cheape than Esau a good deale.
But here commeth nowe maister Esau forth.

Actus secundi, Scæna quarta,

Esau, and Ragau.

Esau.
He cometh
forth wiping
his mouth.

Asir, when one is hungry, god meat is much worth.
And well fare a god brother yet in time of neede,
The wayde is now metely well amended in deede.
By my truth if I had bidden from meate any longer,
I thinke my very nawe would haue scette asonder.

Then

Jacob and Esau.

Then had I bene dead and gone I make God a bolue,
Surely then the world had had a great losse of you. Ragau.
For where should we haue had your felow in your place?
What should I haue done with my birthright in this case. Esau.
Kept it still, and ye had not bene a very asse. Ragau.
But the best pottage it was yet that ever was. Esau.
It were sinne not to sell ones soule for such geare.
Ye haue done no lesse in my conscience I feare. Ragau.
Who is this that standeth clattering at my backe?
A poore man of yours sir, that doth his dinner lacke. Esau.
Dinner whoreson knaue? dinner at this time a day?
Nothing with thee, but dinner and mouching alway. Esau.
Why thou whoreson villain slaue, who is hungry now?
In dede sye (as seemeth by your wordes) not you. Ragau.
A man were better fyll the bellies of some twelue,
Than to fill the gutte of one such whoreson else. Esau.
That doth none other good but eate and drinke and slepe.
He shall do some thing els whom ye shall haue to kepe. Ragau.
And that maketh thee so slouthfull and so lyther,
I dare saie he was sixe houres comming hither, Esau.
When I sent him to make prouision afoze,
Not passing a mple hence or very litle more.
And yet being so farre past the houre of dining,
See and the knaue be not for his dinner whining.
Fast a while, fast with a mischiefe greedy slaue,
Must I prouide meate for enery glutton knaue?
I may fast for any meate that of you I haue. Ragau.
Or deserue thy dinner before thou do it crane. Esau.
If I haue not deserued it at this season, Ragau.
I shall nener deserue it in mine owne reason.
Ye promised I should eate tyll I cried hoe.
Yea that was if we toke either hare, segge, or Doe. Esau.
But when your selfe wore hungry, ye said I wot what. Ragau.
What thou villaine slaue, tellest thou me now of that? Esau.
Then, helpe, runne apace, Ragau my god seruant. Ragau.

D. J.

Dea

The Historie of

- Esau. Hea then was then, now is it otherwise: anaunt.
Haue I nothing to do but prouide meate soz you?
- Ragau. He might haue genē me som part when ye had ynough.
Esau. What, of the red rice pottage with Jacob I had?
Why, the crow would not geue it hir bird, thou art mad
Is that meate soz you? nay it would make you to ranke.
Nay soft byotter mine, I must kepe you moze lanke.
It hath made me euen since so lusty and freshe,
As though I had eaten all delicates of fleshe.
I fele no maner faintnesse wber of to complaine.
- Ragau. Yet to mozow ye must be as hungry againe,
Then must ye and will ye wishe againe soz god there:
And repent you that euerye bought this so dere.
- Esau. Repent me? wherefore, then the Lorde geue me sozow,
If it were to do, I would do it to mozow.
Foz thou foolish knaue, what hath Jacob of me bought?
- Ragau. But a matter of a strawe, and a thing of nought.
Esau. My birthright and whole title of mine elder ship.
Maye sir I pray God much god do it his maship,
If I die to mozow, what god would it do me?
If he ple to mozow, what benefite hath he?
And soz a thing hanging on suche casualtie:
Better a mease of pottage than nothing pardy.
If my father liue long, when should I it enioye?
If my father die sone, then is it but a toy.
Foz if the time were come, thinkest thou that Jacob,
Should finde Esau such a loute oz such a lob,
To suffer him to enioy my birthright in rest?
Nay, I wil fyrt tolle him and trounce him of the beste,
I thinke to finde it a matter of conscience,
And Jacob first to haue a fart syz reuerence.
When my father Isaac shall the matter know:
He will not let Jacob haue my birthright I trow.
Oz if he should kepe it as his owne, I pray you,
Wight not I liue without it and do wel pnowe?

Jacob and Esau.

Do none but mennes eldest sonnes prosper well ?
How liue yonger brethren then, I beseeche you tell ?
Once, if any thing be by the sword to be got :
This salchion and I will haue part to our lot.
But now come on, go we abroade a while and walke,
Let my birthright go, and of other matters talke.

Who ? I walke: may I trow not, til I haue better dinde. Ragau.
It is moze time to seeke where I may some meate finde.

What saist thou bratwlatch ? come forth with a mischeef. Esau.
Wilt thou not go with me ? on forward whoson thaf.
Shall it be as pleasest you, or as pleasest me ?

Ray as pleasest you say, me thinke it must be. Ragau.

And where be my dogs ? and my hound ? be they all wel ? Esau.

Better than your man, for they be in their kennell. Ragau.

Then go see all be well in my parte of the tent. Esau.

With a right god will say, I go incontinent. Ragau.

And I will to my felde the which I densed last, Esau.

To see what hope there is, that it will yelde fruite faste.

Actus secundi, scæna quarta

Jacob. Mido. Rebecca. Abra, the handmaydo.

You knowest litle Mido where my mother is. Jacob.

I can go to hir as streight as a threde, and not misse. Mido.

So cal hir, and come againe with her thine owne selfe. Jacob.

Yes, ye shall see me scude like a litle else. Mido.

Where I haue by the enticement of my mother, Jacob.

Bargained and boughte the birthrighte of my brother :

Tourne it all to god D Lozde, if it be thy wyll :

Thou knowest my heart Lozde, I did it so; no ill.

And what euer shall please the to worke or to do,

Thou shalt finde me prest and obedient therto.

But here is my mother Rebecca now in place.

How say you master Jacob, ranne not I apace ? Mido.

Yes, and a god sonne to go quicke on your errand. Jacob.

D.ij.

Sonne

The Historie of

- Rebecca. Sonne how goeth the matter: let me vnderstand.
Jacob. Forsooth mother, I did so as ye me bade,
Esau to sell me all his birthright persuaide.
Rebecca. Hast thou bought it in dede, and he therewith content?
Jacob. Yea, and haue his promise, that he will neuer repent.
Rebecca. Is the bargaine thorough: hast thou paid him his price?
Jacob. Yea that I haue, a mease of red pottage of rice,
And he eate it by euery whit well I wotte.
Mido. When he had supte by all, I sawe him licke the potte.
Thus he licked, and thus he licked, and this way.
I thought to haue lickt the potte my selfe once to say.
But Esau beguilde me, I shew him for that,
And left not so muche as a licke for posse our catt.
Rebecca. Sonne Jacob, sozasmuche as thou hast so well sped,
With an himne or psalme let the Lord be praised.
Sing we all together, and geue thanks to the Lord,
Whose promise and performau nce do so wel accord.
Mido. Shal we sing thesame himne that at our house doth sing?
For Abraham and his seede to geue God praising.
Rebecca. Yea the very same.
Mido. Then must we all knele downe thus,
And Abra our maide here muste also sing with vs,
Knele downe Abra, what I say, will ye not knele downe?
Knele when I bid you, the slackest wench in this towne.

Here they knele doune to sing all foure, sauing that
Abra is slackest, and Mido is quickest.

The first
song.

Blessed be thou, O the God of Abraham,
For thou art the Lord our God, and none but thou:
What thou workest to the glory of thy name,
Passeth mannes reason to searche what way or how.
Thy promise it was Abraham should haue seede,
More than the starres of the skie to be tolde,
He belened and had Isaac in deede,

When

Jacob and Esau.

When both he and Sara seemed very olde.

Isaac many yeres longed for a sonne,
Rebecca thy handmaid long time was barraine,
By prayer in thy sight such favour he wonne,
That at one birth she brought him forth sons twaine,
Wherefore O Lorde, we do confesse and beleue,
That both thou canst and wilt thy promise fulfill:
But how it shall come we can no reason geue,
Save all to be wrought according to thy will.

Blessed be ihou O God of Abraham. &c.

Now dout not Jacob, but God hath appointed thee
As the eldest sonne vnto Isaac to bee:
And now haue no dout, but thou art sure elected,
And that vnto thee Esau of God reiected,
And to sell thee his birthright since he was so madde,
I warrant thee the blessing that he should haue had.

Rebecca.

Dea: how may that be wrought?

Jacob.

Yes, yes, let me alone.

Rebecca.

Ones god olde Isaac is blinde, and can not see,
So that by policie he may be beguiled bee.
I shall deuise howe, for no yll intent, ne thought,
But to bring to passe that I know god wil haue wrought
And I charge you twaine, Abza, and litle Bido.

Pay ye should haue set Bido besoze Abza, trow.
For I am a man toward, and so is not she.

Bido.

No but yet I am more woman toward than ye.

Abza.

I charge you both that what euer hath bene spoken,
Ye do not to any liuing body open.

Rebecca.

For my parte it shall to no body vttered be.

Abza.

And sit my tongue, if euer it come out for me:

Bido.

But if any tell, Abza here, will be prattling.

For they say, women will euer be clattering.

There is none here that prattleth so much as you.

Abza.

So mo words, but hence we altogether now, exeat omnes.

Rebecca.

The Historie of
Actus tertij, scæna prima.

Esau. Isaac. Mido.

Esau. **N**ow since I last saw mine olde father Isaac,
Both I do thinke it long, and he will iudge me slack
But he commeth forth, I will here lissen and sit,
Whether he shall chaunce to speake any worde of me.

Isaac. On leade me forth Mido, to the benche on this hand,
That I may sitte me downe, for I can not long stand.

Mido. Here say this same way, and ye be at the benche now,
Where ye may sit doune in gods name if please you.

Isaac. I maruel where Esau my sonne doth become,
That he doth now of daies visite me so seldome.
But it is oft sene whome fathers do best fauour,
Of them they haue lest loue againe for their labour.
I thinke since I saw him it is a whole weeke.
In faith little Mido I would thou wouldst him seeke.

Mido. Forsoth maister Isaac, and I knew it where,
It should not be very long ere I would be there.
But shall I at aduenture go seeke where he is?

Esau. Seeke no farther Mido, already here he is.

Isaac. He thinketh I haue Esau his voice perceiued.

Esau. He gesse truly father, ye are not deceiued.

Mido. Here he is come now inuisible by my soule:
For I saw him not till he spake harde at my poule,

Isaac. Now go thou in Mido, let vs two here alone.

Mido. Sir if ye commaund me, full quickly I am gone.

Isaac. Yet and if I call thee, see thou be not slacke.

Mido. I come at the first call, god maister Isaac.

Isaac. Sonne Esau.

Esau. Here father.

Isaac. Is none here but we?

Esau. None to herken our talke father, that I doe see.

Isaac. Sonne Esau, why hast thou bene from me so long?

Esau. I cry you mercy father, if I haue done wrong.

But

Jacob and Esau.

But I am loth to trouble you hauing nothing
To present you withall, noz venison to bring.

Sonne Esau, thou knowest that I do thee lone.

I thancke you for it father as doth me behoue.

And now thou seest my dayes draw towardes an ende.

That is to me great ruth if I coulde it amende.

I must go the way of all mortall fleshe.

Isaac.

Esau.

Isaac.

Esau.

Isaac.

Therefore while my memozy and witte is yet freshe,

I woulde thee endow mine heritage to succede:

And blisse thee, (as I ought) to multiply my seede.

The God of my father Abraham, and of me,

Hath promised, that our seede as the sande shal be.

He is a God of truth, and in his wordes iust.

Therefore in my working shal be no faute I trust.

Now therefore sonne Esau, get thee forth to hunte,

With thy bowe and quiver, as erst thou hast bene wont,

Bring me of thy venison that is good.

We shall haue of the best that runneth in the wood.

When thou comest home, to dresse it, it shal behoue:

And to make for mine owne tooth such meate as I loue.

Thus do mine owne dere sonne, and then I shal thee kisse

With the kisse of peace, and thee for ever blisse.

How will I accomplishe molke dere father Isaac,

With all good hast and speede, I shal not be found slack.

Then helpe lead me home, in my tente that I were set.

And then go when thou wilt.

I shal withonten lette.

Esau.

Isaac.

Esau.

Isaac.

Esau.

Actus tertij, scæna secunda.

Rebecca.

This talke of Isaac in secreete haue I heard.

And what end it should come to my hert is afeard.

Here had I so moche ado to forbear to speake.

But the Lorde (I trust) will Isaacs purpose bzeake.

Rebecca.

¶ god

The Historie of

Here she kneeleth
downe and prayeth.

O God of Abraham, make it of none effecte :
Let Jacob haue the blessing whom thou hast elect.
I for my parte shall worke what may be wrought,
That it may to Jacob from Esau be brought,
And in will I go to see what I can deuise,
That Isaacs intent may sayle in any wise.

Actus tertij, Scæna tertia.

Ragau.

Esau.

Ragau.

Here he cometh forth
with his hunting staffe and
other things
and a bag of
vitailes.

Nay, we must on hunting go, yet once moze again
And neuer com home now except we speede certair
But I trowe for hunger I haue prouided here :
That what euer befall, I Ragau shall haue chere.
I haue no time to tell what delicatens here be,
But thinke this to be true) for better men than me.
And what ? shall Esau hereof haue any parte ?
Nay I trust to conueigh it by such pety arte,
That till the bag be clere, he shall it neuer see.
I shall, and if he saunt, feede him as he fedde me.
I shall requite his shutting me out of the doze.
That if he bidde me runne to get him meat afoze,
I shall runne as fast as my feet were made of leade,
And tell him, there is none, though I may wel be spead.
I will be euen with him for my fare last day
When he was with Jacob.

Esau.

Ragau.

What is it that thou doest say ?
Sir on your behalfe I earnestly withe and pray,
That if like neede chaunce, ye may fare as last day
When ye were with Jacob.

Esau.

Ragau.

Well, come on, let vs go.
Euen when ye will, is there let in me or no? Excāt ambo.

Actus

Jacob and Esau.

Actus quarti, scæna prima.

Rebecca. Jacob.

Sonne Jacob euen now is come the very houre,
That if thou haue any grace or hearte or power,
To play thy parte well, and sticke vnto it throughout,
Esau his blessing will be thine without dout. Rebecca.

Wother I know your god will to be vnfained : Jacob.
But I see not which waye the thing may be attained.

I haue it contriued how all thing shall be done, Rebecca.
Do thou as I shall bid thee, and it will be wonne.

Wother in me shall be no faulte or negligence. Jacob.

Then herken very well vnto this my sentence. Rebecca.

I hearde olde Isaac in a long solempne talke,
Bid thy brother Esau to the felde to walke,
And there with his bowe to kill him some venison,
Which brought and dressed, he to haue his benison.

For I am aged (sayd Isaac) truly :
And wou'd blesse thee dere sonne befoze that I dye.

Now is Esau gone to do it euen so.

But while he his away, I would haue thee to go,
Abroade vnto the flocke, and set me kiddes twain.

Of which I shall with a trice make such meate certain,
As shall say come eate me, and make olde Isaac
Like his lippes therat, so toothsom shall it smacke.

I shall make him therof such as he doth loue,
Which in thy brothers stæde to blisse thee shall him moue. Jacob.

O swete and dere mother, this deuise is but vaine,
For Esau is rough, and I am smothe certaine.

And so when I shall to my father bring this meate,
Perchaunce he will seele me, befoze that he will eate.

Old men be mistrustfull : he shall the matter take,
That I went about my father a soyle to make.

Wother by such a prauent the matter will be worse :
And I in steede of blessing shall purchase me his curse.

On me be thy curse my sonne, let it light on me. Rebecca.

C. j.

Only

The Historie of

Only set thou the kiddes hither, as I bid thee.
Do thou thy true deuoir, and let God worke therein.

Jacob.

Upon your worde mother, I will the thing begin,
Send me litle Mido to helpe me beare a kidde.

Rebecca.

He shall come by and by, for so I shall him bidde.
For lozd, & if thou please, that this thing shall take place,
Further this our enterpryse, helping with thy grace.

Actus quarti, scæna secunda.

Mido.

Are ye here maister Jacob? I came you to loke:
And here dame Rebecca hath sent you your shep-crooke
And hath commaunded me to wayle on you this day,
But wherfore oz why, she woulde nothing to me say.

Jacob.

Come on then, soloto me Mido a litle wayes.

Mido.

Whether ye shall leade me, I am at all assayes.

Jacob.

And art thou able to beare a kidde on thy backe?

Mido,

I am able (I trowe) to beare a quarter sacke.

How say you to this cozps? is it not fat and round?

How say ye to these legges? come they not to the ground?

And be not here armes able your matter to speede?

Be not here likely shoulders to do such a dedde?

Therfore come maister Jacob, if this your dout be,

For bringing home of kiddes, lay the biggest on me,

So that if we make a feast, I may haue some parte.

Jacob.

Yes that shalt thou Mido, right worthy thou art.

Actus quarti, scæna tertia.

Rebecca.

Abra.

Rebecca.

Come to see if Jacob be gone a fielde yet,
A litle slacking may all our purpose let.

But now that he is gone, he will be here at once.

Therfore I will call my maide Abra for the nonce,

That all thing within may be in a redinesse.

Abra, where be ye Abra?

Abra.

Here within maistresse.

Rebecca.

Come sozth: when? Abra, what Abra I say.

Anone

Jacob and Esau.

Anone.	
Must I call so oft? why come ye not by and by?	Abza.
I was washing my vessel forsooth maistresse I.	Rebecca.
And in very deede, looke that all your vessel be cleane.	Abza.
There is not one soule peece in all our tent I wene,	Rebecca.
Then make a great fyre, and make redy your pot	Abza.
And see there be plenty of water colde and hotte.	Rebecca.
And see the spitte be scoured as cleane as any pearle.	
If this be not quickly done cal me noughtie gyle.	Abza.
Day, saft, whither away? I haue not yet all done.	Rebecca.
I thought ye would haue had me as quicke to be gone,	Abza.
As when ye call Abza, ye would haue me to come.	
Then see ye haue made redy cloanes, mace, and snamom	Rebecca.
Peper and saffron, then set hearbes for the potte,	
We will haue the best that by me can be got.	Abza.
And let no foule corner be about all the tent.	Rebecca.
If ye find any fault, hardly let me be shent.	Abza.
Is there any thing else but that I may go now?	
I thought, but that when I come I finde no fault in you.	Rebecca.
So I warrant you, I will not let my matters slepe.	Abza.
Any god wenche will at hir dames bidding take kepe.	Rebecca.
Now God of Abraham, as I trust in thy grace,	
Sende Jacob the blessing in Esau his place.	
As thou hast ordeyned right so must all thing be.	
Performe thine owne wordes lord which thou speakest to me.	
Now will I go in to see that mine olde husband,	
May of my secreete working nothing vnderstand.	
Or in case he smell what we haue thus farre begonne,	
We may thinke it all for Esau to be done.	

Actus quarti, scæna quarta.

Abra the mayde, Deborra, the nurse,

HE that were now within, should find all thing I wene. Abza.
 As trimme as a trécher, as tricke, as swete, as cleane.
 And seing that my dame prepareth suche a scall,
 I will not I trow be found such a stuttishe beast,
E.ij. That

The Historie of *Honor*

That there shall any filthe about our tent be kepte,
But that both within and without it shall be swepte.

The second song.

It hath bene a proverbe before I was borne,
Yong doth it pricke that wyll be a thorne.

Who will be euill, or who will be good,
Who geuen to truth or who to falshood,
Eche bodie youth sheweth a great likelihood.

Then let her
sweepe with
a brome, and
while she doth
it, sing this
song, and when
she hath song,
let her say thus

For yong doth it pricke that will be a thorne.
Who so in youth will no goodnesse embrace,
But folow pleasure, and not vertues trace,
Great meruaile it is if such come to grace.

For yong doth it pricke that will be a thorne.
Suche as in youth will refuse to be taught,
Or will be slacke to worke as he ought,
When they come to age, their prooffe will be nought.

For yong doth it pricke that will be a thorne.
If a childe haue bene giuen to any vice,
Except he be guided by such as be wyse,
He will therof all his lyfe haue a spice.

For yong doth it pricke that will be thorne.
It hath bene a proverbe. &c.

Abza.

Now haue I done, and as it should be for the nonce,
My sweeping and my song are ended both at once.
Now but for setting mine herbes I might go play.
Debozra nurse Debozra, a worde I you pray.

Debozra.
Abza.

What is the matter? who calleth me Debozra?
Forsoth gentle nurse euen I little Abza,
I pray you swete Debozra take in this same brome,
And loke well to all thing till I returne home:
I must to the gardine as fast as I can trotte,
As I was commaunded to set hearbes for the potts.
But in the meane time, I pray you nurse loke about
And se well to the syze that it go not out,
I will aumble so fast, that I will sone be there,
And here again I trow, ere an hoyle lick his eare.

There



Jacob and Esau.

There is not a pretier gytle within this mile,
Than this Abza will be within this litle while.
As true as any stele: ye may trust her with gold.
Though it were a bushell, and not a peny tolde.
As quicke about her woꝝke that must be quickly spread
As any wenche in twenty mile about her head.
As fine a pæce it is as I knowe but a few,
Yet perchauce her husbände of her maye haue a shewe.
Cat astor kinde (saith the pꝛouerbe) swete milke will lap,
If the mother be a shew, the daughter can not scape.
Once our marke she hath, I maruell if she slippe:
For hir nose is growing aboute hir ouer lippe.
But it is time that I into the tent be gone.
Lest she come and chide me, she will come now anon.

Deboꝝra.

Actus quarti, scæna quinta.

Abra.

How say ye: haue not I dispatched me quickly?
I straw soꝝ that wenche that doth not somewhat likely,
I haue brought here god herbes, & of them plenty
To make both bꝛoth and sarning, and that full deinty,
I trust to make such bꝛoth, that when all things are in,
God almighty selse may wet his finger therein.
Here is time and percelle, spinache, and rosemary.
Endiue, suckozie, lacteur, violette, clary,
Liuertwoꝝte, marigolde, sozell, hartes tong, and sage:
Penitryal, purlane, buglesse and boꝝage,
With many very god herbes mo than I do name.
But to tary here thus long, I am muche to blame.
For, if Jacob should come, I not in readinesse:
I must of couenaunt be shent of our maistresse.
And I would not soꝝ twenty pounde I tell ye,
That any pointe of default should be found in me.

Abza.

Actus quarti, scæna sexta.

Rebecca. Mido. Iacob.

E.ij.

I come

The Historie of

Rebecca.

I Come to see if Jacob do not returne yet,
I can not maruell enough what should be his lot,
And greatly wonder he is away thus long.
I feare much of his absence, lest som thing be wrong.
As well as hearte can wishe all thing is ready here.
And now to me eche moment seemeth a whole yere.
But hearke, me thinketh I here a yong kidde blee
It is so in dede, I see Jacob, well is mee.

Mido.

Hearke maister Jacob, hearde ye ever kidde blea so?
I wene she knoweth afoze hande wher to she shall go.

Jacob.

I would not my father Isaac should heare :

Mido.

Pay, she will scarly be stil, when she is dead, I do feare.

Jacob.

But loe I see my mother stande befoze the tent.

Rebecca.

O Lord, me thinketh long sonne Jacob since thou went

Jacob.

And me thinketh mother, we haue hyed vs well :

Mido.

I haue made many serte to solowe, I can tell.

Rebecca.

Geue me thy kidde my sonne, and nolue leat me alone,
Bring thou in thine Mido, and see thou be a stone.

Mido.

A stone? howe shoulde that be maistresse? I am a lad:
And a boy aline, as good as ere ye had:
And nolue in bzingyng home this kyd I haue I trow,
Tried my selfe a man, and a preatie fellow,

Rebecca.

I ment thou shouldest nothing saye.

Mido.

One warning is enough, ye bad vs so last day.

Rebecca.

Well let me go in, and venison hereof make :

Jacob.

And hearest thou Mido? see that god hede thou take,
In any wise to come in my fathers sight.

Mido.

Why he saeth no better at none than at midnight.
Is he not blinde long since, and doth his eyes lacke?
Therefore go in dame, I beare an heauy packe.

Rebecca.

I leaue you here Jacob, and hartely you pray,
That when neede shall require, you be not farre away.

Jacob.

I shall be ready mother, when so ere you call.

Actus quarti, scæna septima.

Jacob.

Mido.

D hoto

Jacob and Esau.

O How happy is that same daughter or that sonne,
Whome the parentes loue with hartie affection.

Jacob.

And among all others howe fortunate am I,
Whome my mother Rebecca tendreth so greatly?
If it lay in her to do any good ye see,
She would do her earnest deuoure to pzeferre me.
But as for this matter which she doth now intende,
Without thy aide O Lorde, howe should it come to ende.
Nevertheless forasmuche as my said mother,
Wozketh vpon thy worde O Lorde, and none other,
It shall become me to shewe mine obedience,
And to thy promise O Lorde, to giue due credence.
For what is so possible to mans iudgement,
Which thou canst not with a becke perfozme incontinent?
Therefore thy will O Lord, be done for euermoze.

O Jacob, I was never so asfearde afoze.

Ido.

Why what newe thing is chaunced Ido, I pray thee?

Jacob.

O Isaac your father, hearde your yong kidde blea.

Ido.

He asked what it was, and I said, a kidde.

Who brought it from the folde, I said you did.

For what purpose? forsoth syz saide I,

There is some matter that Jacob would remedy:

And where hast thou ben so long litle Ido, quod he,

That all this whole houre thou wert not once with me?

Forsoth (quod I) when I went from you last of all,

You bade me be no moze but be ready at your call.

But of the kiddes bleapng he did speake no moze.

Jacob.

No, but and if he had called me afoze,

Ido.

I must haue told him al, or els I must haue made a lye,

Which woulde not haue bene a god boyes part truely.

But I will to him, and no longer here remaine,

Lest he should happen to call for Ido againe.

Actus quarti, scæna octaua.

Jacob. Rebecca. Deborra.

I Were best also to get me into the tent,

Jacob.

That

The Historie of

- That if my mother neede me, I may be present.
But I see hir come forth, and nurse Debozra also,
And bring geare with them what so ere it shall do.
- Rebecca. Where is my sonne Jacob? I do him now espie.
Come apace Debozra, I pray thee let vs hie,
That a'l thing were dispatched somewhat to my minde.
- Debozra. It is happy that Jacob ready here ye finde.
Jacob. Mother, what haue ye brought? & what things are those?
Rebecca. Geare that I haue prepared to serue our purpose.
And bicause that Esau is so rough with beare:
I haue brought skues of kid next to thy skin to weare.
They be made glouelike, and for eche finger a skall:
So that thy fathers seeling some beguile they shall.
Then haue I brought a collar of roughe kiddes beare,
Fast vnto the skinne round about thy necke to weare.
- Here she doth
the skues vpon
Jacobs armes.
- Rebecca. Come, let me do it on, and if Isaac seele,
He shall therewith be beguiled wondrous wele.
- Jacob. And what shall this geare do, that ye haue brought?
Rebecca. It shall serue anon I warraunt you, take no thought.
Now, thzoughly to rauishe thy father Isaac,
Thou shalt here incontinent put vpon thy backe,
Esau his best apparell, whose fragraunt flavour,
Shall coniuere Isaac to beare thee his sauiour.
- Debozra. Mary sir now is maister Jacob trimme in dæde,
That is all trikkie and gallaunt so God me speede,
Now I see apparell setteth out a man.
Doth it become Esau so? nay beshrew me then.
- Rebecca. He may now go in nurse, and leaue lookyng on him.
Debozra. I go, mary sir Jacob is now gay and trim.
Jacob. No forsooth mother, this raiment liketh not me.
I could with mine owne geare better contented be.
And but so; satisfying of your minde and will,
I would not weare it, to haue it so; mine owne still.
I loue not to weare an other birdes feathers.
Mine owne poze homely geare will serue for all wethers.
- Rebecca. Well content thy selfe, and solow my minde this day.
Now

Jacob and Esau.

Now the meate by this time is ready I dare say.
Before that with to much enough it be all spilt,
Take thy time, and assaile thy father when thou wilt.

Yea, but haue ye provided mother I you pray,
That no body within may your counsaile betwzay?

I warrant the matter all safe from uttering,
I haue stopped all monthes for once muttering.
Therefore while the tyme serueth, I the warne,
To slacke when all thinges are ready may do harme.

Goe before, & I follow: but my chekes will blushe red,
To be sene among our folke thus apparaild.

Jacob.

Rebecca.

Jacob.

Actus quarti, scæna nona.

Isaac. Mido. Jacob.

Come Mido, for without thee I can nothing do.
What is it say, that yo would haue my helpe vnto?
Nothing but to sitte abrode, and take th' open aire.

That shalbe well done, the weather is very faire,
Praised be the God of my father Abraham.

Who sendeth all thing needefull for the vse of man,
And most tenderly provideth he for me Isaac,
Better than I can feele or perceiue what I lacke.

Where is my most dere father? as I would haue it,
Taking the open ayre, here I see him sitte.

O my most déere father Isaac, well thou be.

Here I am my swéets sonne, and who art thou tell me?

Dere father, I am Esau thine eldest sonne,

According as thou baddest me, so haue I done.

Come in dere father, and eate of my venison,

That thy sou'e may gene vnto me thy venison.

But how hast thou sped so sone? let me vnderstande.

The Lorde thy God at the first brought it to my hande.

And art thou Esau mine elder sonne in déede?

To aske that question father, what doth it néede?

Come nere that I may feele whether thou be he or not,

For Esau is rough of heare as any goate.

Isaac.

Mido.

Isaac.

Mido.

Isaac.

Jacob.

Isaac.

Jacob.

Isaac.

Jacob.

Isaac.

Jacob.

Isaac.

F. J. Let

The Historie of

Let me see thy hande, right Esau by the beare,
And yet the voice of Jacob soloneth in mine eare.
God blesse thee my sonne, and so will I do anone,
As soone as I haue tasted of thy venison.
Come on, leade me in, I will eate a pittance.
A little thing God wotte to me is suffisance,
I may now go play, Jacob leadeth Isaac.
But I neuer saw such a pretty knacke,
How Jacob beguiled his father, how slightly.
Now I see it true the blinde eate many a flye.
I quaked once for feare lest Jacob would be caught,
But as hadde was, he had his lesson well taught.
But what will Esau say, when he cometh home
Chose him, but for me to go in it is wisedom.

Ido.

Actus quarti, scæna decima.

Rebecca. Abra.

Rebecca.

Now I beseeche the Lorde prosper Jacob my sonne,
In our hardy enterprize which we haue begonne.
Isaac is eating such meate as he doth lone,
Which thing to blesse Jacob I dout not will him moue:
If he obeyne the blessing as I trust he shall,
Then shall my soule geue to God laude perpetuall.
But I will in to harken how the thing doth frame.

Ido.

Rebecca.

Abra.

Rebecca.

Come in dame Rebecca,
Who is it that doth me name?
My maister Isaac is conning south streight way.
He shall not finde me here in no wise if I may.

Actus quarti, scæna vndecima.

Isaac. Jacob.

Isaac.

Set me down on the bench wherethou didst me first find:
Sooth I haue eate meate euen to my minde.
It hath refreshed my soule wonderfully well.
For neuer dranke I better wine that I can tell.
If it were to your liking I am very glad.

Jacob.

Jacob and Esau.

It was the best meat and wine that ever I had.
Come kysse me sonne Esau with the kysse of peace,
That my loue towwardes thee may the more increace.
I blesse thee here for euer my sonne in this place,
The Lorde my God of might endue thee with his grace.
What swete flauour my sonnes raiment doth yelde,
Euen the fragrant smell that commeth from a fielde.
Which the Lorde hath blessed, and the same lorde blesse thee :
With the dewe of heauen, the Lorde thy ground encrease
That the fatnesse of the earth may neuer cease.
The Lorde send thee abundaunce of cozne and wine,
And prosper continually all thing that is thine.
The Lorde make great people seruants vnto thee :
And nations to do homage and fealty.
And here to succede my place, mine heyre I thee make,
Of all things that I haue, possession to take.
Lorde and ruler be thou ouer thy bythern all,
And bolue to thee as head, thy mothers children shall.
Curfed be that man that shall thee curse or mistay :
And who that blesseth thee, blessed be he for aye.
Thus here haue I made my last will and testament,
Which the Lorde God ratifie neuer to repent.
Serue the Lorde our God, and then wel shalt thou speede,
And he shall kepe promise to multiply thy seede.
My day draweth on, for olde and feeble I am.
When I dye, put me to my father Abrahams.
Now kisse me once again my sonne, and then depart,
And enter vpon all, wherof now Lorde thou art.

The Lorde God reward your fatherly tenderresse.
Which ye haue here shewed me of your mere godnesse.
Go in peace my dere sonne, leaving me here alone :
And send little Pido to leade me in anone. Exeat Jacob.
Lorde God when thou shalt see time as thou thinkest best,
Dissolue this feeble carnesse, and take me to thy rest.

How do ye maister Isaac? I am here now.
For my maister Jacob did bid me come to you.

Jacob kisseth
Isaac: and the
kneleth downe
to haue his
blesing.

Jacob.

Isaac.

Pido.

The Historie of

Isaac.
Dido.
Isaac.

May hope, it was not Jacob, I dare well say so.
Forsooth it was Jacob, if my name be Dido.
If that be a true tale, some body is come slacke,
But lord that I haue done, I will not now call backe.
But yet I will go see if I be deceiued:
For in deede me thought Jacobs voyce I perceiued.

Actus quarti, scæna duodecima.

Rebecca.

Rebecca.

Then she spea-
keth kneeling,
and holding
vp her handes.

O Lozde, the God of Isaac and Abraham,
I render thanks to thee though a sinfull woman,
Because of thy worde and promise true arte thou,
In sending Jacob the blessing of Esau,
And so; thus regarding a sinner as I am,
I esteemes thanke thee O Lozde God of Abraham,
Thy mercy and wisedome shall I sing euermore:
And magnifie thy name, for Gods there is no more:
But I will to my husbände Isaac, and see,
That so; this matter he take no gréepe at me.

Actus quinti, scæna prima.

Ragau.

Ragau brin-
geth venison at
his backe.

Now at last we haue well sped I warrant you:
God lucke is not euermore against Esau.
He coursed and coursed again with his dogges here:
But they could at no time take either hare or dere.
At last he killed this with his bowe as God wold.
And to say that it is fatte venison be bolde.
But drest it must be at once in all the haste,
That olde father Isaac may haue his repast.
Then without delay Esau shall blessed be,
Then saith cock on houpe, al is ours, then who but he?
But I must in that it may be drest in time likely,
And I trow ye shall see it made ready quickly.

Actus quinti, scæna secunda.

sp100.

Jacob and Esau.

Mido.

Nay now olde maister Isaac (I warrant you)
Hath blessed Jacob in the place of Esau.
At tome here with vs it is iudged no small change
But a case wonderfull, and also very strange.
The yonger byother is made elder, and againe,
The elder must now serue the yonger as his swayne.
And from hensforth we must all make curtesie and bow,
Vnto maister Jacob, and not to Esau now:
And Esau him selfe must vnder Jacob bee,
At his commandement euen as well as we.
But I care not I warrant you: for our householde
Loue Jacobs better than Esau twenty folde.
None loueth Esau but for his fathers sake:
But all good folkes are glad Jacobs parte to take.
And now by Esau no man wyll sette a pinne,
But ponder he commeth now, I will gette me in.

Mido.

Actus quinti, scæna tertia.

Esau.

Trow I haue now wonne my spures for euer,
For once better venison killed I neuer.
And though it wer somewhat long er I coulde it take,
Yet the godnesse therof doth some recompence make.
My father Isaac shall therof haue suche meate,
As in all his life he hath not the better eate.
Wherbyon I doubt not, after tender kysling,
To be streight endowed with his godly byssing.
As his full and true heire in his place to succede,
And t'eniope the promise that God made to his sède,
And when I am once in my place of succession,
And haue all maner thinges in full possession:
I shall wyng all loutes and make them stoupe (I trowe)
I shall make the slaues couche as lowe as dog to bow.
I shall ruffle among them of an other sort,
Than Isaac hath done, and with an other port.

Esau.

F. iij.

But

The Historie of

But nowe will I go see what haſt within they make
That part of my hunting my olde father may take.

Actus quarti, ſcena quarta.

Isaac. Mido. Esau.

Isaac.
Mido.
Isaac.
Mido.
Isaac.

Mido, come Mido, where art thou litle Mido?
Here ready maister Isaac, what shall I do?
Come leade me to mine old place, that I may sit downe
That can I as well as any boy in this towne.

O Lord my God, how deepe and vnſercheable
Are all thy iudgements, and how immutable?
Of thy iustice, whom it pleaseth thee, thou doest reiect,
Of thy mercy, whome pleaseth thee, thou doest electe.
In my two sonnes O Lord, thou hast wrought thy will,
And as thy pleasure hath wrought, so shall it stand still.
Hence thou hast set Jacob in Esau his place:
I committe him to the gouernance of thy grace.

Esau.

Now where is Isaac that he may come and eate?
Lo where he is sitting abroade vpon his seate.
Deare father Isaac, the Lord thy God thee saue.

Isaac.
Esau.

Who art thou my son? & what thing woldest thou haue?
I am your eldest sonne Esau by my name,
Fewe come home from hunting, where I had ioyly game,
I haue made meate therof for your owne appetite,
Meate for your owne tooth, wherin ye will much delite.
Come eate your part, dere father, that when ye haue don,
Your soule may blesse me as your heire and eldest son.

Isaac.

Ah Esau, Esau, thou comest to late,
An other to thy blessing was predestinate,
And cleane gone it is from thee Esau.

Esau.

Alas,
Then am I the unhappiest that euer was,
I would the saluage beastes had my body tozue.

Isaac.
Esau.
Isaac.

The blessing that thou shouldest haue had, an other hath
Alas, what wretched villaine hath done me such scath?
Thy brother Jacob came to me by subtiltie,

And

Jacob and Esau.

And brought me venison, and so prevented thee.
I ate with him ere thou camst, and with my god will,
Blessed him I haue, and blessed he shall be still.

Ab Jacob, Jacob, well may he be called so : Esau.
For he hath vndermined me times two.
For first mine heritage he toke away me fro,
And see, now hath he awaye my blessing also.
Ab father, father, though Jacob hath done this thing :
Yet let me Esau also haue thy blessing.
Shall all my god huntings for thee be in vaine ?

That is done and past, can not be called againe. Isaac.
Mine act must now stand in force of necessitie.

And hast thou neuer a blessing then left for me ? Esau.

Behold, I haue made thy brother Jacob thy Lord. Isaac.

A most poynant sworde vnto my heart is that word. Esau.

All his mothers childzen his seruantes haue I made. Isaac.

That worde is to me sharper than a rasers blade. Esau.

I haue also stablished him with wine and cozne. Isaac.

Who be the day and houre that euer I was bozne. Esau.

What am I able to do for thee my sonne ? Isaac.

Ab Jacob, Jacob, that thou hast me thus vndone. Esau.

Oh vnhappy happe : oh misfortune, well away,

That euer I should liue to see this wofull day.

But hast thou one blessing and no mo my father ?

Let me also haue some blessing god swete father.

Well, nature pricketh me some remorse on thee to haue. Isaac.

Behold, thy dwelling place the earthes fatnesse shall haue,

And the dew of heauen whiche doune from above shall fall :

And with dinte of sworde thy lining get thou shall.

And to thy brother Jacob thou shalt be seruant.

Oh, to my yonger brother must I be seruant ? Esau.

Oh, that euer a man should be so oppressed.

Thine owne fault it is that thou art dispossessed. Isaac.

Father, chaunge that piece of thy sentence & iudgement. Esau.

Things done can not be vndone, therfore be content, Isaac.

Let me be in quiet, and trouble me no moze.

Come

The Historie of

Esau.

Come Mido, in goddes name leade me in at the doze.
Oh woulde not this chase a man, and fret his guts out?
To liue as an vnderling vnder such a loute?
Ah hypocrite, ah hedgecreeper, ah sembling wretche:
I will be euen with thee for this subtil fetch.
O God of Abraham, what reason is herein,
That to sea ones enemy it should be made sinne?
Were not one as god his part of heauen forgoe,
As not to be reuenged on his deadly foe?
God was angry with Cain for killing Abell:
Els might I kill Jacob meruellously well.
I may fortune one day him to dispatche and ride:
The Lord will not see all things, some thing may be hid.
But as for these misers within my fathers tent,
Which to the supplanting of me put their consent,
Not one, but I shal cople them till they stinke for pain,
And then for their stinking, cople them of freshe again.
I will take no daies, but while the matter is hotte,
Not one of them shall scape but they shall to the potte.

Actus quinti, scæna quinta.

Ragau.

Where are we now become: marie for here is arape,
With Esau my maister this is a blacke daye.
I told you, Esau one day woulde bite a ragge,
Haue not we well hunted, of blessing to come lagge?
Nay I thought euer it would come to suche a passe,
Since he solde his heritage like a very asse.
But in faith some of them I dare icopard a grote,
If he may reache them, will haue on the petticote.

Actus quinti, scæna sexta.

Esau. Ragau. Abra. Mido.

Esau.

Ragau.

Esau.

Come out whores & theues, come out, come out I say.
I told you, did I not? that there would be a fray.
Come out litle whoreson ape, come out of thy denne.
Take

Iacob and Esau.

Take my lyfe for a peny, whether shall I renne? Dido.
Come out thou litle sende, come out thou skittish Gill. Esau.
Out alas, alas, Esau will vs all kill. Abra.
And come out thou mother Mab, out olde rotten witche, Esau.
As white as midnightes arsehole, or virgin pitche.
Where be ye? come together in a cluster.
In faith and these thre wil make a noble muffer. Ragau.
Ere ye escape my fingers, ye shall all be tought. Esau.
For these be they which haue all this against me wrought.
I wrought not a stroke this day but led Isaac. Dido.
If I wrought one stroke to day, lay me on the iacke.
Hence then, get thee in, and do against me no moze. Esau.
I care as muche for you now, as I did befoze. Dido.
What sayest thou litle theefe? if I may thee catche, Esau.
Ye shall runne apace then I wene, so God me snatche. Dido.
How to go Dido, or thou art caught in a trippe, Ragau.
Pay for his sake, Abra, ye shall drinke of the woppipe. Esau.
Pay for Gods loue god swete maister Esau, Abra.
Hurt not me for Dido: speake for me Ragau.
Sir spare litle Abra, she hath done none euill. Ragau.
A litle fiende it is, and will be a right deuill. Esau.
And she is one of them that loue not me a deale.
If ye let me go, I will loue you very welc.
And neuer any moze ado against me make:
Ragau shalbe surety.
Sir I vndertake. Abra.
Then hence out of my sight at once, and get thee in. Esau.
Adew, I set not a strawe by you nor a pinne. Abra.
What saiest thou thou Tib? once ye shal haue a rappe. Esau.
The best ende of suretiship is to get a clappe, Ragau.
How come on thou olde beg, what shal I say to thee? Esau.
Say what ye lust, so ye do not touche me. Deborah.
Yes, and make powder of thee, for I dare say, thou, Esau.
Hast bene the cause of all this feast to Esau.
So it was Jacobs feast that I did helpe to dresse. Deborah.
C. j. Pay

The Historie of

Esau. Nay I thought such a witche would do such businesse.
Rebecca. But by my truth if I should dye incontinent,
I knew not of the purpose wherfoze it was ment.
Esau. But wilt thou tell me truth if I do fozeue thee?
Deborra. Yea if I can maister Esau, beleue me.
Esau. Is it true that when I and my bzother were first bozne,
And I by Gods ordinaunce came sozth him befozne,
Jacob came sozthwith, holding me fast by the hele?
Deborra. It is true, I was there, and saw it very wele.
Esau. Is it true? well Jacob I pray God I be dead,
But for my heles sake, I will haue thee by the head.
What diuel was in me, that I had not the grace
With kicking backe my hele to marre his moyses face?
But my father Isaac will not long liue nowe,
If he were gone, Jacob I would soone mate with you.
For my soule hateth Jacob euen to the death,
And I will nere but hate him while I shall haue bzenth.
I may well dissemble vntill I see a day:
But if euer I heare that thou speake worde of this,
I shall cut out thy tongue, I will not mysse.
But come on Ragau with me, so mote I thine,
I will get a good sworde, for therby must I liue.
Ragau. Liue quod you? we are like to liue God knoweth how.
Esau. What ye saucie merchaunt, are ye a prater now?

This he spea-
keth to De-
borra.

Ragau.
Esau.

Actus quinti, scæna septima.

Deborra.

Rebecca.

Deborra.

I Am glad that Esau is now gone certes.
For an euill disposed man he is doutlesse.
Yet am I no gladder of his departure hence,
Than I am that Rebecca is come in presence.

Rebecca.

Deborra, what dost thou tarying here so long?
I came full ill asfeard least some thing had ben wrong
For Apido and Abza tolde me of Esau.

In dede

Jacob and Esau.

In dede here he was, and departed hence but nowe: Debozra.
And one thing I tell you dame, let Jacob beware,
For Esau to mischiefe Jacob dothe prepare,
Call Jacob hyther, that I may shew him my minde. Rebecca.
Sende him hyther quickly, and tary ye behinde.
That he geue place atwhyle, it is expedient,
And howe he may be sure, I wyll the way inuent.

Actus quinti, scæna octaua.

Jacob. Rebecca.

Mother Rebecca, did ye sende for me hyther? Jacob.
Yea and the cause is this, thou must go somwhither, Rebecca.
To hyde thee from thy brother Esau a space.
In dede to mens malice we must somtyme geue place. Jacob.
He lieth in awayte, to slea thee if he can. Rebecca.
Thou shalt therfoze by my rede slea hence to Haran,
And lye with my brother Laban a man aged,
Tyll Esaus wraoth be somewhat asswaged.
When all thinges are forgotten, and his fury pass,
I shall sende for thee again in all godly haste.
Yea, but howe wyll my father herewith be content? Jacob.
Thou shalt see me wyne hym thereto incontinent. Rebecca.
And here he commeth happily, Jacob heare me,
Make a signe to Dido, that he do not name thee,
Then gette thee in priuely tyl I do thee call.
As ye commaunde me mother Rebecca, I shall. Jacob.

Actus quinti, scæna nona.

Isaac. Mido. Rebecca. Jacob.

Where be ye good wyfe? Isaac.
My dame Rebecca is here. Mido.
I am glad swete husband that I see you appere, Rebecca.
For I haue a worde or two vnto you to say. Isaac.
Whatsoeuer it be, tell it me I you pray.
Sir ye know, that now our life dates are but short Rebecca.
G.ij. And

The Historie of

And we had neuer so great néede of comfort,
Now Esau his wiues being Hethites both,
Ye know to please vs are much vntwilling and loth.
That if Jacob eke would take any Hethite to wife,
Small ioy should we both haue or comfozte of our life.

Isaac. Wife ye speake this well, and I will prouide therfore,
Call Jacob quickly, that he appeare me before.

Mido. I can runne apace for him if ye bidde me go.

Rebecca. Go hie thé at once then like a god sonne Mido.

Isaac. O Lorde saue thou my sonne from miscarrying.

Mido. Come maister Jacob, ye must make no tarrying,
For I it is that shall be shent if you be slacke,
Here is your sonne Jacob now, maister Isaac.

Isaac. Sonne Jacob, make thé ready as fast thou can,
And in all hast possible get thé vnto Laban.

He is thine owne vnckle, and a right godly man,

Marry of his daughters, and not of Canan.

In Mesopotamia shalt thou leade thy life.

The lorde prosper thé there, without debate or strife.

And the God of Abzaham prosper thé in peace,

He multiply thy sède, and make it to encrease,

Nowe kisse me deare sonne Jacob, and so go thy way.

Rebecca. Kisse me also swéte sonne, and hence without delay.

Jacob. Now most tender parents, as wel with heart and word,

I bid you well to fare, and leaue you to the Lord.

Mido. Nay maister Jacob, let me haue an hande also.

Jacob. Cuen with all my heart farewell litle Mido.

Isaac. Now will I departe hence into the tent againe.

Rebecca. As pleaseth God and you, but I will here remaine.

Actus quinti, scæna decima.

Esau. Ragau. Rebecca. Isaac. Mido.

Ad is he gone in déede to mine vnckle Laban,

In Mesopotamia at the toune of Haran?

And is Jacob gone to the house of Bethuel?

The

Jacob and Esau.

The whirlewynd with him, and flyngng sende of hel.

But I shall mete with him yet one daye well enough.

And who is this? my mother, whom I see here now?

She stode here at this while sir, did ye not her see?

Ragan.

Didst thou see her stand here, & wouldest not warne me?

Esau.

Sonne Esau, afore God thou art much to blame,

Rebecca.

And to do as I heare of thee, is a foule shame.

Mother what is it ye heard of me of late?

Esau.

That thou doest thy brother Jacob deadly hate.

Rebecca.

Hate Jacob? I hate him and will do till I dye.

Esau.

For he hath done me both great wrong and bilanny.

And that shal he well know if the Lord geue me lyfe.

I fe vpon thee to speake so like a letwde captife.

Rebecca.

My maister Esau is of nature much hote,

Ragan.

But he will be better than he saith, feare not.

My birthright to sell did he not make me consent?

Esau.

But the same to do were not thy selfe content?

Rebecca.

There is no man to blame for it but thine owne selfe.

Yea mother, see that ye holde with that mopishe else.

Esau.

It is your deinty dearyng, your princkore, your golpoll,

He can neuer be praised enough of your soule,

He must euer be extolled aboue the Moone,

It is neuer amisse that he hath said or done.

I would he were rocked or dandied in your lappe:

O? I would with this fauchon I might geue him pay.

I meruail why ye should so loue him, and me not?

We groned as well for the one as thother I wotte.

But Jacob must be aduanced in any wyse:

But I shall one day handle him of the new guise.

Both on thy fathers blessing and mine I chatge thee,

Rebecca.

That thy soule entend neuer such iniquitie,

Beware by the example of Caym I thee rede,

That thou bring not the Lordes curse vpon thy head.

And what should I take all this wrong at Jacobs hande?

Esau.

For geue, and the Lord shall prosper thee on the lande.

Rebecca.

The Historie of

- My sonne Esau heare me, I am thy mother :
For my sake let passe this grudge against thy brother.
- Ragau. Sp^r, your mothers request is but reasonable,
Which for you to graunt shal be muche commendable.
- Esau. Mother, though it be a great thing that ye require :
Yet must all malice passe at your desire.
And for your cause mother, this mine angre shall stake.
- Rebecca. I thanke thee my sonne, that thou dost it for my sake
- Esau. For your sake with Jacob I will be at accorde.
- Rebecca. And shall I call thy father to be as recorde ?
- Esau. As pleaseth you mother, I can be well content.
- Rebecca. Then wyl I go call hym hither incontinent.
And where he doth already loue thee very well,
This wyl make hym to loue thee better a greate deale.
- Ragau. Cruely sp^r, this is of you a right gentill part :
At least yf it come from the bottome of your harte.
- Esau. It must nowe be thus, but when I shall Jacob synde,
I shall then do, as God shall put into my minde.
- Rebecca. He hath at my woꝛde remitted all his quarele:
- Isaac. Forsooth I loue him the better a great deale.
And if he be here, I woulde commende his doing.
- Isaac. All pꝛest here father to tary on your comming.
- Esau. Sonne Esau, thou haste thy selfe well acquitted.
That all quarell to Jacob thou haste remitted.
It was the Loꝛdes pleasure that it should thus be,
Against whose ordinaunce to stande is not for thee :
But nowe to the entent it may please the Loꝛde,
To knitte your hartes one day in a perfect concoꝛde,
We shall first in a song geue laude vnto his name,
And than with all gladnesse, within confirme the same.
- Rebecca. As ye thinke best dere husbände I agræe therto.
- Esau. W^he ye may commaunde to what ye will haue me to do :
And so maye ye do also Ragau my man.
- Isaac. I see none, but praise we the Loꝛde the best we can.
Cal soꝛth all our household that with one accoꝛd,

Jacob and Esau:

We may all with one voyce syng vnto the Lorde.

Ragau called
al to syng.

This song must be song after the prayer.

O Lorde the God of our father Abraham,
Howe deepe and vnsearcheable are thy iudgementes
Thy almightifull hande did create and frame,
Both heauen and earth and all the elementes.

Man of the earth thou haste formed and create,
Some do thee worship, and some stray awrye,
Whome pleaseth thee, thou doste choose or repr obate,
And no fleshe can aske thee wherfore or Why?

Of thine owne Will thou didst Abrahams electe,
Promising him seede as sterres of the skie,
And them as thy chosen people to protecte,
That they might thy mercies praise and magnifie.

Performe thou O Lorde, thine eternall decree,
To me and my seede the sonnes of Abraham,
And whom thou haste chosen thine owne people to bee,
Guide and defende to the glorie of thy name. FINIS.

Then entrech the Poete, and the rest stand
still, til he haue done.

Whan Adam for breakyng Gods commaundement
Had sentence of death, and all his posteritie:
Yet the lorde our God who is omnipotent,
Had in his owne selfe by his eternall decree,
Appointed to restoze man, and to make him free,
He purposed to saue mankynde by his mercie,
Whome he once had created vnto his glozie.
Yet not all fleshe did he then predestinate,
But onely the adopted children of promise:
For he forknewe that many would degenerate,
And wylfully giue cause to be put from that blisse:
So on Gods behalfe no maner default there is,

The Poete
sith.

But

The Historie.

But where he chooseth, he sheweth his great mercy:
And where he refuseth, he doth none iniury,
But thus farre surmounteth mans intellectiō,
To attaine or conceiue, and much moze to discusse:
All must be referred to Gods election,
And to his secret iudgement, it is meete for vs,
With Paule the Apostle to confesse and say thus:
Oh the deepnesse of the riches of Gods wisdomē,
How vnsearchable are his wayes to mans reason?
Our parte therfoze is first to beleue Gods worde,
Not doubtyng but that he wil his elected saue:
Then to put full trust in the goodnesse of the Lorde,
That we be of the number which shall mercy haue:
Thirdly so to liue as we may his promise craue.
Thus if we do, we shall Abrahams chyldren be:
And come with Jacob to endlesse felicitie.

All the rest of the actours answer Amen.

Then foloweth the prayer.

Isaac.

Now vnto God let vs pray for all the whole clergy,
To geue them grace to auance gods honoꝝ and gloꝝy.

Rebecca.

Then for the Quenes matelty let vs pray,

Isaac.

Vnto God to kepe her in helth and welth night and day,

Rebecca.

And that of his mere mercy and great benignitie,

He will defend and maintaine hir estate and dignitie,

That she beeing graued with any outward hostilitie,

May against her enimies, alwaye haue victorie.

Jacob.

God saue the Quenes counsaillers most noble and true,

And with all goodnesse their noble heartes endue.

Esau.

Lord saue the nobilitie and preferue them all:

And prosper the Quenes subiects vniuersall.

Amen.

Thus endeth this Comedie or Enterlude
of Iacob and Esau.



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Jacob and Esau
Jacob and Esau

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