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*infl. Seneca in yorvoduc Schmidt M.L.N.
ii. 28. 35*

ENGLISCHE
SPRACH- UND LITERATURDENKMALE

DES 16. 17. UND 18. JAHRHUNDERTS

HERAUSGEGEBEN

VON

KARL VOLLMÖLLER

1

G O R B / O D U C

*in die
Gorb.*

OR

FERREX AND PORREX

A TRAGEDY

BY

THOMAS NORTON AND THOMAS SACKVILLE

A. D. 1561.

EDITED

BY

L. TOULMIN SMITH



HEILBRONN

VERLAG VON GEBR. HENNINGER

1883

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INTRODUCTION.

At the beginning of Elizabeth's reign before the birth of Shakespeare (A. D. 1558) there was an English Drama and there was an English stage, but both were in a state of transition. The English people of old loved shows and plays, and the clergy here as elsewhere had skillfully turned this natural taste to account by encouraging and permitting the representation of Biblical history. For ages the religion of the nation informed poetry and literature, and thus sought to make felt its human and picturesque elements, to the glory of God or of the Virgin; hence we have the *Cursor Mundi* and the collections of Mystery plays, without which there would not have been in later times a Milton's *Paradise Lost* or perhaps even a George Herbert's *Temple*.

The religious plays so popular down to the time of the Reformation, were dramas with actors, scenes, and a stage. We know less perhaps of the origin of their literary form than of the manner of their production, but they had some influence upon other forms of the dramatic genius, though (as is contended) what is called the regular English drama did not immediately grow out of them. The desire for show and personified ideals, animated by the new stirrings of Wycliffe, which had inspired the *Vision of Piers Plowman*, when touched by the increasing moral sense of the Reformation spirit,

which could not brook the weight of mere traditional religion, broke out for a time in the morality plays of the 15. and 16. centuries. The old light, and the new, these were represented side by side in the religious and the morality plays; but the latter did not betoken all the new light and learning. Men were going back to the antiquities of another race, were eagerly studying the human nature and the dramatic literature of Greece and Rome; and, warmly enthusiastic in the pursuit of ancient civilization, carried some of its form into their own. Young University students translated the comedies and tragedies they found,¹ and out of their earnest admiration, shaped new dramas for the English stage on the old classic models. The learned school-master Udall did not deem it unworthy to provide amusement for his boys by writing comedies after Plautus and Terence for them to perform. Fitting in to the fondness for show and pageant, the source of dramatic representations was shifted from one class of society to another, and scholastic learning took up the production of plays at Court, the Universities, and the Inns of law.

Udall died in December 1556, *Ralph Royster Doyster* (the only one of his comedies now known) was written before 1553.² About this time the tragedies of Seneca were being studied and translated,³ these studies bore fruit in the tragedy of *Gorboduc*, the first original piece (so far as is known) in which English pens tried their flight in dramatic tragedy. The Queen's proclamation of 16. May, 1559, had forbidden plays which touched religion or politics to be performed, „beyng“, it proceeded,

¹ Alexander Nevyle was but sixteen, he tells us himself, when he translated Seneca's *Oedipus*, A. D. 1560.

² See Collier's reprint, Introduction, p. 6.

³ English translations of seven of Seneca's tragedies were published between 1559 & 1566. Collier's Hist. Dramatic Poetry, ed. 1879, II, 400.

„no meete matters to be wrytten or treated vpon, but by menne of auctoritie, learning, and wisdom, nor to be handled before any audience but of graue and discreete persons.“ It is clear that this proclamation, while seeking to stamp out the old and common plays in use among the people generally, — perhaps prompted by alarm at the success of Sir D. Lindsay's political satire, „Three Estates“ in Scotland, — stimulated the production of a higher drama by men of another and a higher class of education. Plays had to be provided for the entertainment of the best society in London, as well as of the Queen and her court; „matters of religion or of the governance of the estate of the common weale“ might be treated by those who were fit to do so, and thus it was that, in less than three years after the proclamation, two able and clever young men of good family and wits joined at writing a tragedy which closely touched the subject of „the governance of the common weale“, to be performed by the gentlemen of the Inn at a grand Christmas entertainment given at the Inner Temple. The play must have been a success, for Queen Elizabeth had it performed before her shortly afterwards (18. January) at Whitehall, in which too she may have wished to favour her young kinsman Sackville, one of the authors. See the words of the printer Daye, after, p. 5. This performance was recorded by Henry Machyn, a citizen of London, as follows, „The xvii day of January was a play in the quen[']s hall at Westmynster by the gentyll men of the Tempull, and after a grett maske, for ther was a grett skaffold in the hall, with [as] grett tryhumpe as has bene sene“ (Machyn's Diary, ed. by J. G. Nichols from MS. Cott. Vit. F. v. for the Camden Society, 1848, p. 275).

The Inner Temple was (and is still) one of the four great Colleges of Law in London known as „Inns of Court“. Thomas Norton (aged 29 in 1561) and Thomas Sackville (aged 25), a future lawyer and a future

statesman, were both famous for their attainments in Latin and for their English verse; Norton had entered the Inner Temple in 1555, and was publishing his chief work, the translation of Calvin's *Institutes*, in this very year 1561; Sackville, a kinsman to the Queen through her mother, and frequently about her from his youth, having distinguished himself at Oxford and Cambridge, had also some connection with the Inner Temple; he probably studied there though he may not have belonged to it (his name is not found on the books of the Inn)¹, his father was governor of the Inner Temple in 1561, and lived close by, at Sackville House in Salisbury Court. Jasper Heywood, in some verses prefixed to his translation of Seneca's *Thyestes* in 1560, refers to the repute of Sackville's sonnets and Norton's ditties; one each of these has come down to us, both of them are commendatory verses according to the fashion of the time; a sonnet of Sackville's² prefixed to a translation by Sir Thomas Hoby, printed 1561; and a ditty by Norton prefixed to a tract against the Pelagian heresy called „A preservative or triacle“, by a doctor of physic, William Turner, in 1551.³ Sackville, already married, an active member of parliament and popular at court, and Norton the young lawyer and severe puritan, also in parliament, were thus men fitted by their training, associations, and aspirations to produce a new and scholarly drama for the entertainment „of grave, and discrete persons“. Both were at the outset of their career, and in the midst of literary excer-

¹ W. D. Cooper, *Royster Doyster and Gorboduc*, edited for the old Shakespeare Society, 1847, p. LX.

² Printed by W. D. Cooper, p. LXII; and in *Poetical Works of Thomas Sackville* (C. Chapple), London, 1820, Biog. Sketch, p. VIII. Cooper also prints two other ditties by Norton, p. XXXIX.

³ As these verses are less known than others written by Norton, and are worthy of notice on account of their style, even then archaic and harking back to the old alliteration, I print them at the end of this Introduction.

cise; following on the acting of *Gorboduc* in 1561, Norton translated twenty-eight of the psalms into English metre, published in 1562, (of no great merit, part of Sternhold and Hopkins' version); while the share which Sackville contributed to the „*Mirroure for Magistrates*“, on which his literary fame rests, was published in 1563, in the Second Part of that work.¹

It has been doubted by Warton, Ashby, and others whether Norton wrote any part of *Gorboduc*, some editors even ignoring him altogether as concerned in it.² But there is no good ground for this. The printers of both the first and second editions declare the dual authorship, and there is no reason to doubt their good faith, indeed the one proves the other. In the first instance, like other early plays, the piece seems to have been written, not to be printed but to be shown; and several copies must have been in use among the „gentlemen of the Inner Temple“ who „shewed“ it.³ Tragedies (not all necessarily dramas) were then in vogue among men of letters, the *Mirroure for Magistrates*, the first Part of which came out in 1559, the second (to which Sackville contributed) in 1563, consisted of a series of „tragedies“ in verse; Seneca's dramatic tragedies, as mentioned, above were being translated and printed; and some „young man“, probably one of the gentlemen players, who had a copy

¹ For a fuller account of Thomas Norton and his writings, see the excellent Memoirs by W. Durrant Cooper, prefixed to the (Old) Shakespeare Society edition of *Gorboduc*, 1847; and in Messrs. Cooper's *Athenae Cantabrigienses*, (1858), I, 485, 569; also Wood's *Athenae Oxon.* Vol. I, p. 186. Mr. W. D. Cooper also gives a succinct Memoir of Sackville, as to whom see, further, Warton's *Hist. Eng. Poetry*, ed. 1871, Vol. IV, p. 162. In Cooper's *Athen. Cant.*, Vol. II, p. 484, is a long account of Sackville, with authorities. The main facts in the life of each will be found tabulated on pp. XXIV, XXV, after.

² Joseph Spence in the edition of 1736; Chapple's print of 1820.

³ See Title page of 1565, p. 1.

of this new tragedy of *Gorboduc*¹ took it to the well-known printer William Griffith, who got it licenced and published it, September 22, 1565,² without the knowledge of the authors. This „young man“ must have known who were the writers, and moreover if he wished to make money by the transaction, as Day insinuates, he would have suppressed the name of Norton in favour of a man so much higher in social rank as Mr. Sackville, kinsman to the Queen. The whole affair in that age of somewhat lax morality for printing was perhaps not so irregular as Day makes it out. — At this time, 1565, Norton was at Oxford, Sackville was traveling abroad. The latter was created Baron Buckhurst in 1567, and was on the road to political eminence; Norton entered into religious and political controversy, the printer of many of his pamphlets being John Day. Nothing was done about the unauthorized play till 1570. No licence for *Gorboduc*³ appears on the Stationer's Register from 1569 to 1571; but Sackville was a rising star and an old ally, and Norton set his printer Day to work to bring their play again to light in 1570. It is evident that he wished to make it agreeable to Sackville, as the name of the latter is placed first when the names of the writers are mentioned;⁴ but Day neither denies the authorship of Norton, nor contradicts the part assigned to him on Griffith's title-page. Twenty years later (1590), when Norton was dead, but Sackville was near the zenith of his prosperity, a third edition was issued by another printer, Allde, in which assuredly if it had been false Norton's name as author

¹ See Daye "to the Reader", 1570, p. 5.

² 1565—66, "Receved of Wylliam greffeth for his lycense for pryntinge of a Trag[e]die of Gorboduc where ij actes were wretten by Thomas Norton and the laste by Thomas Sackvyle etc., mjd." Arber's Reprint of Stationer's Registers, I, 296.

³ We are told that Norton was appointed licencer of books by the Bishop of London; W. D. Cooper p. XLIV, Wood, I, 186.

⁴ See p. 5.

would have been suppressed. And if Sackville had cared so much about the alleged corruptions attaching to Griffith's edition as Day pretends, Alde would hardly have dared to follow Griffith's issue, even the very title,¹ as he actually did instead of Day's. We may therefore safely admit Norton's claim. And if in point of style his translations of the psalms do not advance that claim, on the other hand his verses commendatory of Turner are well worthy of it. (See Note, p. xxix.)

Gorboduc marks a departure in English drama by the introduction of three novelties, 1. it is the first historical play, founded on a story drawn from ancient British history (as then believed):² 2. the treatment of the subject as well as the form of the play, are partly moulded on the classic model: 3. blank verse, previously only tried in the verse of Surrey and Grimoald, is employed for the first time in drama.³

1. The story is taken from Book II, chap. XVI, of Geoffrey of Monmouth's "British History", in the preceding four chapters of which Shakespeare afterwards found the plot for his tragedy of Lear. Gorboduc, king of Britain, was sixth in succession from Cunedagius, son of Regan and her husband the duke of Cornwall. The outline of the tale is seen in the "Argument" on p. 4, read together with the descriptions of the personages on p. 6. In the civil war which is the climax of the horrors told, Fergus, the descendant of Lear's

¹ See the title of edition 1590, p. xvii.

² Bishop Bale's *King John*, though partly historical, contains many allegorical personages. Miss Aikin points out that *Gorboduc* "was the first piece composed in English on the ancient tragic model, with a regular division into five acts, closed by lyric choruses. It offered the first example of a story from British history, or what passed for history, completely dramatized and represented with an attempt at theatrical illusion". *Memoirs of the Court of Queen Elizabeth*, 1818, Vol. I, p. 333.

³ Gascoigne's *Jocasta* was the second play in blank verse, it was acted at Gray's Inn in 1566. *Ward's Hist. Dram. Lit.*, I, 114.

other daughter Goneril and the duke of Albany (Scotland), tries with some show of right to seize upon the crown (See pp. 83, 88), but Arostus, one of the nobles, treats him as a foreigner and urges the lords to choose a new king in Parliament (pp. 91, 92). Eubulus, the dead king's secretary, finishes with a long despairing speech, pointing out the failure of the royal line, the dreadful effects of civil war and the incompetence of Parliament. Connexion with the previous history¹ is kept up in the reference to former divisions of the kingdom (ll. 230—235, 338—350, 962); the reduction of the kingdom to unity by Dunwallo Molmutius (p. 76; chap. 17 of Geoffry); as well as in the expectation of the vengeance of the Gods on the British line for the Trojan war (ll. 750, 784—793).

The choice of the story may have been suggested by a resemblance between the unnatural murders and civil strife and those of the tragic tales of Oedipus or Thyestes, as well as by its belonging to heroic times; Gorboduc being supposed to have flourished in the 7th century B. C. Part of the same tale is used by Warner, in his *Albion*, Book III, chap. 15 (A. D. 1589).

2. As in the plays of Seneca, much of the action of the piece is told in the long speeches of some of the characters; the murders, the rebellions, the battles do not appear on the stage;² the most realistic scene being that in which Marcella describes the murder of Porrex by his mother. The language is high-sounding and dignified, as beseemed awful deeds. The chorus³ of the

¹ The use of the name "Great Britaine" (l. 1508) is consistent with this. In a poem of 14. century we find mention of "Artus", "Qui rois fu de la grant Bretaingne".

Li Regret Guillaume Comte de Haynau. l. 3297. (Louvain, 1882).

² „Murders are announced by messengers, a Greek device which constantly re-appears in our early tragic drama“ Ward, I, 108.

³ Prof. Ward points out that the execution of *Gorboduc* was based most nearly on Seneca's *Thebais*. *Hist. Eng. Dram. Lit.*, Vol. I, p. 108.

Greek plays is introduced in the form of "four ancient and sage men of Brittain" who, at the end of each of the first four Acts appear and moralise upon the subject of the preceding Act. The chorus has nothing to do after the fifth Act. These utterances are in rhymed stanzas,¹ and together with the dumb show, formed a kind of interlude between the blank verse Acts. Before every Act came in a "dumb show", i. e. acting without words, but accompanied with music, of which both the "order" or arrangement and the meaning are given. This, which however was not of classic origin, must have been an essential part of the performance, it foreshadowed the spiritual meaning of what was coming next. In the show before the fourth act six kings and queens of antiquity who were guilty of unnatural murder were personified, together with the three furies. Such a scene as there described (see p. 56) may recall the scene of the silent incantations of the three witches at the beginning of Macbeth, in which indeed it is highly probable that Shakespeare utilized the old custom of prophetic dumb show, peculiarly valuable in tragedy upon the stage.²

The musical instruments used, it will be noted, were violins, cornets, flutes, hautboys and drums. The armed men in the dumb show before the fifth act also discharged their pieces on the stage.

Gorboduc thus owes much to the classic drama, and consequently nearly every modern writer upon the subject insists that the modern English tragedy was a new invention, the child of Greek tragedy, but in no way the development of the older English Drama. Professor Ward points out that the "frequent change

¹ They are somewhat irregular, normally consisting of six lines, some have but four.

² The tragedy of *Tancred and Gismund* put together by five writers (probably of the Inner Temple, and performed in 1568, has also dumb shows, as well as the Chorus. Collier's Hist. Dram. Poetry II, 399; Ward I, 117.

of scene“ caused by the variety of incidents in *Gorboduc* is “a licence borrowed not of course from ancient, but possibly from contemporary Spanish models“. ¹ We know that about this period Spanish literature had considerable influence in England, but the authors of *Gorboduc* had precedents for the usage of varying scenes even upon a less convenient stage, nearer home. In several of the old religious plays a change of scene, though not marked by the writer, is required by the differing subject; no division is written, but the altered scenes must have been indicated in some way to the spectators. Thus in the Towneley collection, ² the play, “*Secunda Pastorum*“, which contains the comic episode of Mak and his wife, clearly require distinct scenes to be understood. So too in the York Plays, those which treat of Abraham and Isaac, and of the Adoration by the Kings, each shew change of scene. The latest editor of the Digby Mysteries ³ has, accordingly, divided the plays into scenes, as the subject requires, see for example “the Killing of the Children of Israel“ and “*Mary Magdalene*“.

In discussing what portions of this play descend from the older English plays it should be noted that the old arrangement of the stage or pageant, in which the lower story represented hell, is made use of in the dumb show before the fourth Act, in which the furies and the bad kings and queens “came from under the stage, as though out of hell“ (p. 56). ⁴

3. The translators of classic poetry in Italy and Spain had but twenty or thirty years before begun to

¹ Hist. Eng. Dram. Lit. I, p. 108.

² Published by the Surtees Society, 1836.

³ New Shakspeare Society, ed. by F. J. Furnivall. 1882.

⁴ Reminding us of Sir P. Sidney's complaint as to the imaginary scenes in the plays of his time, — there “comes out a hideous monster with fire and smoke, and then the miserable beholders are bound to take it for a cave“. *Apologie for Poetrie*. 1595. Arber's Reprint. p. 64.

discard ryme and to employ blank verse; the accomplished Earl of Surrey (died 1547) introduced the measure into English verse in his translation of Virgil's *Æneid*, N. Grimoald, lecturer on rhetoric at Christchurch, Oxford, about the same time (1547—1557) composed two heroic poems in English blank verse, (as Warton thinks for the benefit of his pupils). What the wise Roger Ascham thought of the new attempts is seen in his "Scholemaster"¹ (published 1564), where he says that „ryming hath bene long misliked of many“. "The noble lord Thomas Earle of Surrey, first of all Englishmen in translating the fourth [and second] booke of Virgill; and Gonsalvo Periz, that excellent learned man and Secretarie to king Philip of Spaine, in translating the *Ulisses* of Homer out of Greke into Spanish, have both by good judgement avoyded the fault of ryming. . . . The spying of this fault now is not the curiositie of English eyes, but even the good judgement also of the best that write in these dayes in Italie." Whether Sackville had as a young lad heard Grimoald lecture we know not,² Norton could not have done so; but to such students boldly striking out in new paths the dignified measure, free but adapted to serious subjects, commended itself to be tried for the first time in serious English drama. It was a courageous attempt, and must have had considerable influence on the subsequent use of iambic blank verse, shortly afterwards brought to such splendid perfection in English hands.³

Occasional ryming couplets occur, as in lines 702—3 and 947—8, perhaps slips of the pen, relics of the old habit of ryming; for they do not appear to mark emphasis. Alliteration, which was often used in the high-

¹ Arber's edition, *English Reprints*, p. 147, 148.

² Grimoald was appointed lecturer in 1547, his pieces in blank verse were published in Tottel's miscellany in 1557.

³ On the first use of blank verse in plays for the public theatres see Collier's *Hist. Eng. Dram. Poetry*, 1879, Vol. II, p. 487. See note on Gabriel Harvey, after, p. xxix.

sounding speeches of dignified personages in the old plays, is here employed with good effect in several emphatic lines, e. g. 350, 365, 395—6, 480, 776, 919, 1625—6. But for the most part the verse moves along smoothly, with a stately, even monotonous pace. There is but little variety, the lines are nearly all masculine with strong endings, and the measure for the greater part preserves the same grave accentuation. A few feminine (double) endings occur in ll. 948, 1383, 1427, 1707, 1744; and some few changes in accentuation, by the use of a trochaic foot at the beginning of the line, as in ll. 995, 1026, 1038, 1041, 1043, 1149, 1220, 1248, 1254, 1270, 1272, 1277, 1303 and others. But though the verse had not yet attained its finer polish, the mastery which the young writers had over it is shown by the large number of interrupted lines — or those in which the sense runs on from one to the other without a pause at the end, breaking off in the midst or at the end of the next.

„But now o happie man, whom spedie death
Deprives of life, ne is enforced to see
These hugie mischiefes and these miseries“.

ll. 1789—1791.

The proportion of these to the end-stopt lines, or those in which the sense pauses with the end of the line, is greater than the student who observes the starting point of Shakespeare and the progress he made in this particular, would have been led to expect at the initiation of dramatic blank verse.¹

The play, thus partly the result of old traditions, partly the result of eager new culture and learning bursting old bonds, could not abide by all the old classic rules as a true child of the Greek drama should have

¹ The proportion of unstopt lines to end-stopt is in *Love's Labour's Lost*, 1 in 18.14, in *The Winter's Tale*, 1 in 2.12. Dowden's Shakespeare Primer, p. 40.

done. Sir Philip Sidney, while praising *Gorboduc*, "as it is full of stately speeches, and well sounding phrases, clymyng to the height of Seneca his stile, and as full of notable moralitie, which it doth most delightfully teach, and so obtayne the very end of Poesie": goes on to lament that "it is very defectious in the circumstances; which greeveth me, because it might not remaine as an exact model of all Tragedies. For it is faulty both in place, and time, the two necessary companions of all corporall actions. For where the stage should alwaies represent but one place, and the uttermost time presupposed in it should be, both by Aristotle's precept and common reason, but one day; there is both many dayes and many places inartificially imagined. . . . Doe they not knowe that a Tragedie is tied to the lawes of Poesie and not of Historie? . . . Againe, many things may be told which cannot be shewed, if they know the difference between reporting and representing."¹ This last requirement, as has been shown, is fulfilled. The time covered is vague, but it must intend several months, perhaps years, from the first council held by the king to take advice as to the division of his kingdom till the final slaughter of the king and quecn and the rebellion of the people against the nobles. The places too are but vaguely indicated, but there appear to be at least five or six intended to be represented, as follow.

| | | |
|-------|-------|--|
| Act I | sc. 1 | The Palace, Videna's room. |
| " I | " 2 | The king's Council chamber. |
| " II | " 1 | Court of prince Ferrex (see l. 850). |
| " " | " 2 | Court of prince Porrex. |
| " III | " | The king's Council chamber. |
| " IV | " 1 | The Palace (ll. 979—981). |
| " " | " 2 | The King's Court (l. 1055). |
| " V | " 1 | Council of lords after murder of King and Queen. |

¹ *Apologie for Poetrie*, Arber's Reprint, pp. 63, 64.

Act V sc. 2 Same place.

The Greek unities therefore were not pretended to be kept.

Sidney's praise of the style has been followed by several writers who admire the "pure and perspicuous language" of *Gorboduc* (Aikin [Biography], Warton, Pope). It gains conciseness from two peculiarities; the frequent use of words ending with the suffixes *less* and *full*, each of which stands for a phrase, as for example in lines 524, 784, 950, and 762, 1629—1631; "doubtless heir" = an heir to whose claim there is no doubt, "guideless realm" = realm without a guide, "endless storms" = storms without end. The second is the use of participles which retain much verbal feeling, as in ll. 590, 684, 712, 774, often aided by the inversion of the sentences in a manner frequent among Elizabethan writers.¹ Examples of this transposition of adjectival phrases are in ll. 200, 433, 970. So in Jasper Heywood,

"Not ritches makes a king or high renowne,
Not *garnisht* weed with *purple Tyrian dye*"

(Translation of Seneca's *Thyestes*, London, 1581, p. 26).

There is not much by which to distinguish Sackville's part from Norton's, perhaps Videna's passionate speech at the opening of Act IV, with its subtle alliteration and repetition of phrases, is the most distinctive portion of the whole; several words, such as "hugie", "sithens" (instead of since) seem to be favoured by Sackville, but this may be accidental.

The play has long been put side, or regarded only as a curiosity; yet there are several passages in it worthy of a better fate. The king, weak as Lear, whose history he repeats, spends himself in plaints (ll. 784, 1244), and shows himself vengeful and passionate, when the consequences of his own folly come to

¹ See Abbot's *Shakespearian Grammar*, § 419 a.

pass (l. 873, etc.); though he hears the defence of Porrex for murdering his brother (Act IV, sc. 2), he bemoans his fate and is quite unable to see his own share in bringing it on, petulantly replying to the admonitions of his counsellor Arostus. The speech of Videna just mentioned, and the wailing accounts by Marcella of the death of the unfortunate Porrex (Act IV, sc. 2) contain much natural force and pathos; while the lines describing a fair abounding realm (498—505) and the acts of a raging mob (1413—1425) display observation. The dominant idea of the whole seems to be that the laws of *kind*, i. e. human nature, must be obeyed, and that due control or restraint is necessary for all, whether youths, subjects, or rulers; in the midst of the darkest days comes the repeated conviction that

“Right will always live, and rise at length,
But wrong will never take deepe root to last“.

(ll. 1681, 1795).

Various Editions. The play has been reprinted several times, more or less correctly since the first two editions.

1565. Printed by William Griffith. (Unauthorized). Contains eight lines (1389—1396) which were suppressed in the next edition. Hereinafter referred to as A; the full title is printed on p. 1.

1570. Printed by John Daye. (Authorized). See the title on p. 3. This bears no date, but the statement “about nine years past, vz. 1561” on the title and in the address “to the reader”, p. 5, fixes it. Hereinafter referred to as B. Day’s address “to the reader” is omitted in most subsequent editions.

1590. Printed by Edward Alde. This for the most part follows the edition of 1565, the principal differences lying in altered spelling. The title runs, “The Tragedie of Gorboduc, whcreof three Actes were written by Thomas Norton, and the two last by Thomas Sackuyle. Set forth as the same was shewed before

the Queenes most excellent majesty, in her highnes Court of Whitehall, by the Gentlemen of the Inner Temple”.

1736. No reprint seems known for nearly 150 years. Mr. Warton's father possessed a copy of the 1570 edition, which he gave to the poet Pope, from which R. Dodsley reprinted it, edited, with a prefatory letter, by Joseph Spence in 1736.¹

1744. R. Dodsley reprinted it in the first edition of his *“Old Plays”*, Vol. II. It is also in the 2nd ed., 1780, and 3rd ed., 1825–27, but not in 4th ed., 1874.

1773. Thomas Hawkins in his *“Origin of the English Drama”*, from the print of 1570.

1810. Messrs. Ballantyne of Edinburgh, in *“Ancient British Drama”*, Vol. I, from print of 1570.

1820. C. Chapple, in *“Poetical Works of Thomas Sackville, Earl of Dorset”*, from 1570 edition, with its “inaccuracies and defects” supplied from the edition of 1590. As the “evident words of the author have been restored”, it is not very trustworthy.

1847. The Shakespeare Society, edited by W. Durrant Cooper from the 1565 edition, with a facsimile of the title-page.

1859. Mr. Sackville-West, in J. R. Smith's *“Library of Old Authors”*, *Works of Thomas Sackville*, from 1570 edition: very incorrectly.

All these editions were printed in London except that of 1810.

The edition of 1590 was printed as an annex to a tract called *“The Serpent of Division. Wherein is conteined the true history or Mappe of Rome's ouerthrowe”*. This prose account of the wars of Julius Cesar and of his death had been previously printed² in 1559; in the colophon which remains in a fragment

¹ See Warton, IV, p. 256; Dodsley's *Old Plays*, 1744, Vol. II, p. 2.

² By Owen Rogers. Ritson, *Bibliog. Poetica*, 1802. p. 70.

of a still earlier edition, (undated, printed "by me Peter Treuerys") it is entitled "The Damage and Destruccon in Realmes". The tract is anonymous, but is attributed to John Lydgate;¹ in the "catalogue of translations and poetical devises" by that poet printed as the end of Speght's edition of Chaucer, which extends to 113 pieces, the fifth piece from the end is "The Serpent of Division". Finally, proving the true connexion of the title, the tract, and the writer, I have fortunately found a copy in a hand of 15. century among the Yelverton manuscripts, belonging to Lord Calthorpe,² which shows that the "Serpent of Division" was written in December 1400 "by me Danne John Lidgate". It underwent alterations in the different editions, especially in the conclusion. As the piece whether in manuscript or print is rare, it may be interesting to give the author's closing words from the manuscript.

"Thus be recorde of my wise prudent maistir [Chaucer, whom he has just quoted.] taforseide the froward and the contrarious lady dame fortvne the blinde and perilous goddessse, with here gory and vnware violence, spareth nother Emperoure ne king to plunge him downe subdenly from the higheste prikke of here vnstable wheele: Alas! lete euey man lifte vp his herte and prudently aduerte the mutabilitie and subden chavnce of the fals worlde. And lete the wise gouvernaunce of every Region and londe make a myrroure in theire mynde of this manly Julius, and considre in theire hertis themportable³ harmes of division. Thefourseide division so to schewe I have remembered

¹ Mr. J. H[aslewood] in Brydges' *Censura Literaria*, 1809, Vol. 9, p. 369. Messrs. Cooper in *Athen. Cantab.* attribute it to Norton, which is evidently an error.

² Yelverton Mss. Vol. 35, fos. 146 v^o. — 156. I beg here to acknowledge the kindness of Lord Calthorpe in giving me access to this volume.

³ Treuerys has "irrecuperable harmes".

this forsaide litill translacion, the moneth of decembre the firste yere of oure souvereigne lorde that now ys, king Henry the vj^{te}.

A. Lenvoye¹ } J. V.
lidgate }

Here endeth the cronycule of Julius Cesar Empe-
roure of Rome tyme, specifying cause of the ruyne and
destruccion of the same, and translated by me, Danne
John lidgate, Monke of Bury seint Edmund, the yer
of our lord god M^l III^c.

The matter is not without interest here, for the
„Mirroure for Magistrates”, in which Sackville had a
considerable hand, was designed as a continuation in
idea of Lydgate’s “Fall of Princes”, and this tract, in
which “the wyse gouernours of every land” were ex-
horted to “make a myrroure in theyr mynde of this
manly man Julius” and the “harmes of dyuysyon”, was
probably in the hands of the writers of *Gorboduc*, the
political allusions of which are evident. This play,
“enforcing the advantages of peace and settled govern-
ment, the evils of popular risings and a disputed suc-
cession”,² expressed pretty forcibly what the best poli-
ticians at the beginning of Elizabeth’s reign were aiming
at, the establishing the queen’s undivided supremacy
and the suppression of rebellion, and above all to pro-
vide for a sure succession. To avoid disputed claims
the people already desired the queen should marry; Sackville (Act V) describing the horrors caused by the

¹ The Yelverton Ms. does not give Lydgate’s *Envoye*, but Peter Treuerys printed three 8-line stanzas at the end of his (the earliest) edition, which are evidently the *Envoye*; they are given in *Censura Literaria*. The edition of 1590 omitted the verses and otherwise modernized the whole.

² Tho. Arnold’s *Manual of English Literature*, 1877, p. 193. On the political import of passages in *Gorboduc*, see *Notes and Queries*, 2. Series, Vol. X, p. 261.

"depainted there we found
 Deadly debate, all full of snaky heare
 * * *
 Out brething nought but discord every where".

It may therefore have been no fortuitous reason that induced Alde in 1590, when men's minds were still uneasy about the succession, to revive and bring together under one title - page two works between which there were links of authorship and of subject.

Present re-print. In this reprint the edition of 1570 has been reproduced, scrupulously preserving the old spelling and punctuation.¹ It has been collated with the editions of 1565 (A) and of 1590 (C), the full collations² being placed at the bottom of each page. These collations however for the larger part concern no more than alterations of spelling; but all instances of *difference of text* may be found by the] which separates the word of text B from the collations. Thus in line 1114 the word *To* of text B is replaced by *Should* in A and C. Five passages,³ which all occur in the first three acts, those attributed to Norton, are marked by inverted commas, in the edition of 1570 only, but not in the others; possibly these lines were written by Sackville and thus distinguished by Norton from his own. This seems a reasonable explanation; these marks seem to have been indifferently used at that period to denote emphasis, or the quotation of some special maxim or proverbial phrase. A friend suggests that the lines

¹ The punctuation is, however, often faulty. In a few cases where it obscures the sense I have altered it, but have placed the original stop, with its word, in a foot-note. All these will be seen at a glance in the notes ending B. The () in lines 1180, 1181 are not in the original.

² No account has been taken of punctuation or of capital initials in these collations.

³ Lines 608—613, 744—747, 794, 922—926. Also lines 588—591, where unfortunately our printer has omitted them.

may be translations from Greek or Latin authors; e. g. with l. 794 cf. *Andromache*, ll. 100—102.

There are very few stage-directions in the original, in those inserted I have followed Mr. Sackville-West's edition, except in two instances, those after ll. 1066 and 1255. I must beg the reader also to add [*Exeunt*] after line 1478; it is evident that the lords all go out here to take their measures against the rebels, leaving Fergus to develop his secret desigus; and coming in after his exit to tell Eubulus of their success.

With regard to the difference between the three first editions; Day (1570) omitted eight lines found in the others (p. 79), it is hard to guess why, except by inadvertence, for exactly the same sentiments occur in lines 1364—1379, which were untouched, and they are sentiments which must have been agreeable to personages in power. The 1565 edition is quite as well printed as that of 1570, and bears no marks of haste, the corruptions of which Day complains (see p. 5, l. 6) being remarkably few. I recollect but four, l. 358, *unpaied* for upraised; l. 479, *Tantalus* for Tantaless; l. 1291, *preparacion* for proportion; and l. 1548, *terroure* for error. As 1565 and 1590 eds. are nearly the same, the] of the collations really show the differences between 1565 and 1570 editions. The third edition, 1590, is interesting as showing occasional changes of forms (e. g. l. 1008, *eigre* to *eager*); and systematic doubled vowels in the spelling, the A is *thee* in C, *to* A is *too* C; *fede*, *gredie*, of B are *feede*, *greedy*, in C; *doth*, *do* of A are *dooth*, *doo* in C, and so on, while the final e is often dropped, and the old *d* (representative of *ḍ*) in A becomes *th* (e. g. *furder* l. 383). Several fresh corruptions occur, as in ll. 666, 1025, 1566.

My thanks are due to the Earl of Ellesmere for kindly lending his valuable copy of the edition of 1565 for collation, and to Mr. W. G. Stone, Dr. George

Kingsley, and my cousin Mr. C. H. Herford for other kind assistance.

*Principal dates in the lives of Norton
and Sackville.*

Thomas Norton, of Sharpenhoe, Bedfordshire,
afterwards Mr. Solicitor Norton.

1532 Born.

Oct. 1550 Translated Peter Martyr's letter to the Protector Somerset".

1551 Verses to Turner's "Preservative or triacle".

1555 Entered as student of Inner Temple.

1557—8 Returned to Parliament.

1561 Translated and published Calvin's "Institutions of the Christian Religion".

1561 *Gorboduc* acted, of which three acts written by him.

1562 The Psalter in English metre published, to which twenty-eight contributed by Norton. Appointed Counsel to the Stationer's Company. Again in Parliament.

1565 Entered at Pembroke Hall, Oxford.

1567—1578 Published several polemical pamphlets and letters.

1570 Translation of Dean Nowell's Catechism. Appointed Remembrancer to City of London. Licensor of books. Zeal and cruel action against the Papists.

1582 Papers on the licence and privileges of printing (W. D. Cooper, pp. LIV—LVI). Eminent in legal attainments.

1583—4 Imprisonment (*Athen. Cant.* I, 487).

1584 Death.

Thomas Sackville, afterwards Lord Buckhurst and Earl of Dorset.¹

1536 Born, at Buckhurst, Sussex.

Went to Oxford, then to Cambridge.

1554—55 Marriage.

1557—8 Returned to Parliament.

1560 "Sonnets sweetly saust" about this date (Jasper Heywood's *Thyestes*).

1561 *Gorboduc* acted.

1563 *Induction* and *Duke of Buckingham* in the "Mirror for Magistrates", Part II.

1563—1566 Tour in France and Italy.

1567 Created Baron Buckhurst. Henceforth devoted to state affairs. Twice ambassador abroad. Three times sat on great State Trials.

1591 Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

1599 Lord High Treasurer.

1603 Created Earl of Dorset.

1608 Died, at the Council table at Whitehall.

He published no more after 1563, but such writers as Bacon and Spenser, Lambard and T. Campion, invoked his name as a patron of poetry and learning. Sir Fr. Bacon sent him a copy of his "Advancement of Learning", as "one that was excellently bred in all learning, which I have ever noted to shine in all your speeches and behaviours" (Cooper's *Athen. Cant.*, II, 487).

¹ His grand-mother was aunt to Anne Bulleyn, mother of Queen Elizabeth.

"Thomas Norton to the reder.¹

Wee may wyte, if wee wyll, by holy writ
 The lore of the lorde, that ledeth to lyfe:
 Wee may see, if wee seche, and fynde in it
 The fall of falshed, the stenching of strife:
 The tryall of trewth: the guide of our gate:
 Calbemesse² of hart: what to loue, or to hate.

"Yea and so may wee see, that it alone
 Should be sought, to finde that wee ought to seche,
 No mynde of man to bee buylded on:
 No counsell, no custome can bee our leche,
 To purge the poyson: gyue salue for the sore:
 Or hathe helth for the harmed hart in store.

"They more the mischief: they prolong the payne:
 Ad more force to the fier, for the want
 Of water of the word: and worke in vayne,
 Let us hye to hym whoes skill is not scant
 Whoes will dothe not [want] to better our bale:
 To lesse our losse, yea to quit vs of all.

"A pestilent plage, a poysonous ill
 Hath sowen sores in certaigne now of late:
 A wood sprited hart: with a wayward wyll:
 A stubborne stomache, to nourishe debate:
 Blered, yea blynded eyes; a brasen brest:
 A leden brayne: I reckon not the rest.

"Agaynst these euell ayres thou mayst haue here
 (Take it and taste it, yea let none be left)
 A tryed triacle, to kepe the clere.
 Lechecraft not only restoreth the reft,
 But also preserueth vnharmed helth.
 This physike is free and esy God welth.

¹ Among the commendatory verses prefixed to "A preservative, or triacle, agaynst the poyson of Pelagius, lately renued, and styrred up agayn by the furious secte of the Annabaptistes, deuysed by Wyllyam Turner, Doctor of Physick", 1551. (See p. vi). Norton also wrote some French and Latin verses.

² This word seems to be a mis-print for *calmnesse*.

“And euen as lerned leches do oftentimes.
 (Triall techeth dayly tofore our eyes)
 Put in poyson, to make for medecines
 So make their bale thy boote their losse lyke wyse
 Thy game, to warne the how thou ought to wyrche
 To glory of God, and help of the Churchē”.

L. Toulmin Smith.

Highgate, London, N.

N O T E.

Since the fore-going pages were written Mr. E. J. L. Scott has kindly pointed out to me the following note, written about 1578, in the Letter-Book of Gabriel Harvey (Sloane MS. 93, fo. 52) in which Gorboduc is referred to. “In the nexte seate to thes Hexameters and Iambicks I sett those that stande upon ther meter, not in meter sutch as my Lorde of Surrey is sayde first to haue putt forthe in prynte, and my lorde Buckhurste and M. Norton in the Tragedye of Gorboduc, M. Gascoigne’s Stele Glasse, etc.” The passage is disconnected with what comes before and after it. Harvey does not appear to set blank verse in the first rank, but he evidently took for granted that Norton was joint author of the play with Sackville.

ERRATA AND ADDENDA.

- p. 3, Title of 1570; read *Ferrex* for *Feerex*.
p. 35; note to l. 574, read *on* for *ou*.
p. 36; insert " before lines 588, 589, 590, 591.
p. 48; note, for 820 read 821.
p. 60; ll. 1044—1047, add note; *Reed compares the idea in these lines with the Æneid, IV, 365—367 (Dodsley's "Old Plays", ed. 1780).*
p. 66; ll. 1175, 1176, add note; *Chaucer affords a parallel to these lines, „The smyler with the knyf under his cloke“. Knightes Tale, l. 1141.*
p. 74; l. 1327, read *Ioue* for *Joue*.
p. 79; note to l. 1399, read *through* for *though*.
p. 82; at end of l. 1478 insert [*Exeunt*].
p. 96; l. 1784 read *obedience* for *obedienhos*.
-

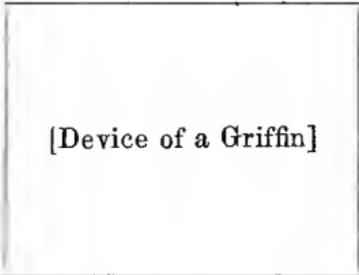
[Title-page to the First edition, 1565.]

THE
TRAGEDIE OF GORBODVC,

Where of three Actes were wrytten by

Thomas Nortone, and the two laste by
Thomas Sackuyle.

Sett forthe as the same was shewed before the
QVENES most excellent Maiestie, in her highnes
Court of Whitehall, the .XVij. day of January,
Anno Domini .1561. By the Gentlemen
of Thynner Temple in London.



[Device of a Griffin]

IMPRYNTE D AT LONDON

in Flete strete, at the Signe of the

Faucon by *William Griffith*: And are

to be sold at his Shop in Saincte

Dunstones Churchyarde in

the West of *London*.

Anno. 1565. *Septemb*. 22.

[Title-page to the second edition, 1570]

The Tragidie of Feerex and Porrex,

set forth without addition or alteration but altogether as the same was shewed on stage before the Queenes Maiestie, about nine yeares past, *vz.* the xvij. day of Ianuarie 1561.
by the gentlemen of the
Inner Temple.

Seen and allowed &c.

Imprinted at London by
Iohn Daye, dwelling ouer
Alderfgate.

THE ARGUMENT OF THE
TRAGEDY.

GORBODUC king of Brittain, diuided his realme in his life time to his sonnes, *Ferrex* and *Porrex*. The sonnes fell to discention. The yonger killed the elder. The mother that more dearely
5 loued the elder, for reuenge killed the yonger. The people moued with the crueltie of the fact, rose in rebellion and slew both father and mother. The nobilitie assembled and most terribly destroyed the rebels. And afterwarde for want of issue
10 of the prince, whereby the succession of the crowne became vncertaine, they fell to ciuill warre, in which both they and many of their issues were slaine, and the land for a long time almost desolate and miserably wasted.

At the foot of this page in *A* are two ornamental letters *W G*, and between them a device of a griffin rampant bearing a flower in his left hind paw.

l. 10 prince,] prince *B*.

Title Thargument *A* Tragedie *AC*.

1. 1 Brytaine *C* deuided *AC*. 2 lyfe *A*. 3 to dyuision and discention *A* deuision and dissention *C*. 4 kylled *A*. 5 thelder *A* kylled *A*. 6 facte *A* slewe *A*. 8 destroyed *C*. 9 afterwards *C* wherby *A*. 10 vncertayne, They *A*. 11 whiche *A*. 12 slayne Lande longe tyme almoste *A*. 13 lande *C* miserablye *A*.

THE P[rinter] TO THE READER.

Where this Tragedie was for furniture of part of the grand
Christmasse in the Inner Temple first written about niue yeares
agoe by the right honourable Thomas now Lorde Buckherst, and
by T. Norton, and after shewed before her Maiestie, and neuer
intended by the authors therof to be published: yet one W. G.
getting a copie tberof at some yongmans hand that lacked a
litle money and much discretion, in the last great plage, an.
1565. about v. yeares past, while the said Lord was out of Eng-
land, and T. Norton farre out of London, and neither of them
both made priuie, put it forth exceedingly corrupted: euen as if
hy meanes of a broker for hire, he should haue entised into his
house a faire maide and done her villanie, and after all to
hescratched her face, torne her apparell, herayed and disfigured
her, and then thrust her out of dores dishonested. In such plight
after long wandring she came at length home to the sight of
her frendes who scant knew her but by a few tokens and markes
remayning. They, the authors I meane, though they were very
much displeased that she so ranne abroad without leaue, wherehy
she caught her shame, as many wantons do, yet seing the case
as it is remedillesse, haue for common honestie and shame-
fastnesse new apparelled, trimmed, and attired her in such forme
as she was before. In which hetter forme since she hath come to
me, I baue harbored her for her frendes sake and her owne,
and I do not dout her parentes the authors will not now be dis-
content that she goe abroad among you good readers, so it be
in honest companie. For she is by my encouragement and
others somewhat lesse ashamed of the dishonestie done to her
because it was by fraude and force. If she be welcome among
you and gently entertained, in fauor of the house from whence
she is descended, and of her owne nature courteously disposed
to offend no man, her frendes will thanke you for it. If not,
but that she shall be still reproched with her former missehap,
or quarelled at by enuious persons, she poore gentlewoma[n]
wil surely play Lucreces part, and of her self die for shame,
and I shall wishe that she had taried still at home with me,
where she was welcome: for she did neuer put me to more
ccharge, but this one poore hlacke gowne lined with white that
I baue now geuen her to goe abroad among you withall.

ll. 12, 13 *to-bescratched*, scratched to pieces, very much
scratched. Cf. "let them all to-pinch the unclean knight". Merry
Wives, Act IV, sc. 4, l. 58; and K. John, Act V, sc. 2, l. 37—39.

THE NAMES OF THE SPEAKERS.

- Gorboduc*, King of Great Brittain.
- Videnu*, Queene and wife to king *Gorboduc*.
- Ferrex*, elder sonne to king *Gorboduc*.
- Porrex*, yonger sonne to king *Gorboduc*.
- 5 *Clotyn*, Duke of Cornewall.
- Fergus*, Duke of Albany.
- Mandud*, Duke of Loegriss.
- Gwenard*, Duke of Cumberland.
- Eubulus*, Secretarie to the king.
- 10 *Arostus*, a counsellor to the king.
- Dordan*, a counsellor assigned by the king to his eldest sonne, *Ferrex*.
- Philander*, a counsellor assigned by the king to his yongest sonne *Porrex*.
- 15 Both being of the olde kinges counsell before.
- Hermon*, a parasite remaining with *Ferrex*.
- Tyndar*, a parasite remaining with *Porrex*.
- Nuntius*, a messenger of the elder brothers death.
- Nuntius*, a mesenger of Duke *Fergus* rising in armes.
- 20 *Marcella*, a lady of the Queenes priuie-chamber.
- Chorus*, foure auncient and sage men of Brittain.

1. 1 king is kynge throughout this page in *A Brittain* *A* *Brytaine C.* 5 *Cloyton B.* 6 *Albany C.* 7 *Loegriss] Leagre AC.* 8 *Cumperlande A.* 9 *king] king Gorboduc AC.* 10 *to the king] of king Gorboduc AC.* 10, 11, 13 *counsellour A.* 13 *yongest] yonger AC.* 15 *beynge A old kings C.* 16, 17 *Parasyte remaynyng A.* 18 *thelder deth A.* 19 *rysnyng A.* 20 *Ladye A priuy chamber C.* 21 *Brittain A Brytaine C.*

[A ii] THE ORDER OF THE DOMME SHEW
BEFORE THE FIRST ACT, AND THE
SIGNIFICATION THEROF.

First the Musicke of Violenze began to play, during which came in vpon the stage six wilde men, clothed in leaues. Of whom the first bare in his necke a fagot of small stickes, which they all both seuerally and together assayed with all their strengthes to breake, but it could not be broken by them. At the length one of them plucked out one of the stickes and brake it: And the rest plucking out all the other stickes one after an other, did easely breake them, the same being seuered: which being conioyned, they had before attempted in vaine. After they had this done, they departed the stage, and the Musicke ceased. Hereby was signified, that a state knit in vnitie doth continue strong against all force. But being divided, is easely destroyed. As befell vpon Duke Gorboduc diuiding his land to his two sonnes which he before held in Monarchie. And vpon the discention of the brethren to whom it was diuided.

Title. shewe A dumbe shewe C firste Acte A thereof C.

1. 1 Firste A musike C playe A. 2 duryng whiche A. vppon A six C 3 whome C. 4 on C smal A. 5 whiche thei A seuerallie A seuerallye C 6 together assaied A strengths C. 8 plucked] pulled C. 10 pluckinge oute A. 11 another C easilie A easilie C omit them AC. 12 beyng A. 13 vayne A. 15 Musike C. 16 vnytie A dooth C. 17 stronge A force, but C beyng A. 18 deuyded A deided C easily C destroyed A. 19 deuiding AC Lande AC. 20 helde C. 21 dissention C. 22 Brethrene A whome A deided AC.

[V.] ACTUS PRIMUS. SCENA PRIMA.

VIDENA. FERREX.

VIDENA.

The silent night, that bringes the quiet pawse,
 From painefull trauailes of the wearie day,
 Prolonges my carefull thoughtes, and makes me
 blame

The slowe *Aurore*, that so for loue or shame
 5 Doth long delay to shewe her blushing face,
 And now the day renewes my griefull plaint.

FERREX.

My gracious lady, and my mother deare,
 Pardon my grieffe for your so griued minde,
 To aske what cause tormenteth so your hart.

VIDENA.

10 So great a wrong, and so vniust despite,
 Without all cause, against all course of kinde!

FERREX.

Such causelesse wrong and so vniust despite,
 May haue redresse; or at the least, reuenge.

VIDENA.

Neither, my sonne; such is the froward will,
 15 The person such, such my missehappe and thine.

1. 11 *kind*, that is, nature.

1. 1 pause *C*. 2 Daie *A* weary Daye: *C*. 2 thoughts *C*.
 4 Aurora *C*. 5 Dooth *C* longe delaye *A* shew *C* blusshing *A*.
 6 nowe Daie *A* plainte *AC*. 7 Lady and Mother *AC* deere *C*.
 8 greefe *C* greued *C*. 9 harte *A*. 10 wronge *A*. 11 cause
 against *AC*. 12 suche causeles *A*. 13 Maye *A* least reuenge *AC*.
 14 suche frowarde *A*. 15 suche *A* mishap *AC* thyne *A*.

FERREX.

Mine know I none, but grief for your distresse.

VIDENA.

Yes: mine for thine my sonne. A father? no:
In kinde a father, not in kindliness.

FERREX.

My Father? why? I know nothing at all,
Wherein I have misdono vnto his grace. 20

VIDENA.

Therefore, the more vnkinde to thee and mee.
For, knowing well (my sonne) the tender loue
[A ⁱⁱⁱⁱ] That I haue euer borne, and beare to thee,
He greued thereat, is not content alone, 25
To spoile thee of my sight, my chiefest ioye,
But thee, of thy birthright and heritage,
Causelesse, vnkindly, and in wrongfull wise,
Against all lawe and right, he will bereaue:
Halfe of his kingdome he will geue away.

FERREX. 30

To whom?

VIDENA.

Euen to *Porrex* his yonger sonne,
Whose growing pride I do so sore suspect,

1. 17 sonne.] sonne: B.

18 This line exemplifies the Elizabethan meaning of *kind*, i. e. *nature*, as well as the secondary meaning for which it stands in modern use. Cf. Shakespeare's play on the word „A little more than kin, and less than kind.“ Hamlet I sc. 2, l. 65.

25 sight,] sight B.

26 heritage,] heritage B.

1. 16 myne A grieffe A greefe C. 17 myne thyne A. 18 kynde A but not in kindlynes A kyndelynes C. 19 whie A knowe nothyng A. 20 wherin AC misdoone C. 21 Therefore AC me C. 22 knowynge A tendre A. 23 haue borne and C. 24 therat A greeu'd therat C. 25 spoyle AC cheefest C. 27 Causeles A vnkindely C. 28 law C. 29 kyngdome A giue C awaye A. 30 whome AC younger A. 31 growinge A doo C suspecte A.

That being raised to equall rule with thee,
 Mee thinks I see his envious hart to swell,
 Filled with disdain and with ambitious hope.
 35 The end the Goddes do know, whose altars I
 Full oft haue made in vaine, of cattell slaine
 To send the sacred smoke to heauens throne,
 For thee my sonne, if thinges do so succede,
 As now my ielous mind misdemeeth sore.

FERREX.

40 Madam, leaue care and carefull plaint for me,
 Just hath my father bene to euery wight:
 His first vniustice he will not extend
 To me I trust, that geue no cause therof:
 My brothers pride shall hurt him selfe, not me.

VIDENA.

45 So graunt the Goddes: But yet thy father so
 Hath firmly fixed his vnmoued minde,
 That plaintes and prayers can no whit auaille,
 For those haue I assaied, but euen this day,
 He will endeouour to procure assent
 50 Of all his counsell to his fonde deuise.

FERREX.

Their ancestors from race to race haue borne

1. 34 hope.] hope, B.

38 *Jelous* mind, i. e. suspicious. Cf. „nor dare I question with my jealous thought where you may be“. Shaks. Sonnet LVII, 9.

40 *Carefull*, full of care or sorrow. This is the rarer meaning of the word in Shakespeare.

50 *Fonde*, foolish, silly.

1. 32 beyng raised A. 33 harte A. 34 Fyllde A Filde C. hope] pride AC. 35 ende A Gods doo knowe C Aulters AC. 36 slayne A. 37 sende A smoake C. 38 omit do AC succede C. 39 Ielious AC misdemeeth C. 40 Madame A plainte C. 41 ben A. 42 firste AC extende A. 43 truste A give C. 44 mee A. 46 mynde A. 47 plaintes praiers A. 48 assaied daie A daye C. 51 auncestours AC.

True fayth to my forefathers and their seede:
I trust they eke will beare the like to me.

VIDENA.

[V^o] There resteth all. But if they faile there of,
And if the end bring forth an ill successe, 55
On them and theirs the mischief shall befall,
And so I pray the Goddes requite it them,
And so they will, for so is wont to be.
When lordes, and trusted rulers ynder kinges,
To please the present fancie of the prince, 60
With wrong transpose the course of gouernance,
Murders, mischief, or ciuill sword at length,
Or mutuall treason, or a iust reuenge,
When right succeeding line returnes againe,
By *Ioue's* iust iudgement and deserued wrath, 65
Bringes them to cruell and reprochfull death,
And rootes their names and kindredes from the
earth.

FERREX.

Mother, content you, you shall see the end.

VIDENA.

The end? thy end I feare, *Ioue* end me first!

l. 53 *Elke*, also.

55 *Successe*,] *successe*: *B*. Used in the dative of consequence, cf. l. 38.

l. 53 *truste thei lyke A*. 54 all, but *AC* *faile A*. 55 *ende bringe A ill] euill AC*. 56 *mischiefe C*. 57 *praie A Gods requit C*. 58 *woont C bee A*. 59 *kynges A*. 60 *fancy C*. 61 *gouernaunce AC*. 62 *mischiefe C ciuill sworde A*. 64 *succe- dinge A*. 65 *wrathe A*. 66 *cruell] ciuill AC reprochfull AC*. 67 *kinreds C*. 68 *ende A*. 69 *ende thie ende A feare AC*.

ACTUS PRIMUS. SCENA SECUNDA.

GORBODUC. AROSTUS. PHILANDER. EUBULUS.

GORBODUC.

70 My lords, whose graue aduise and faithful aide
 Haue long vpheld my honour and my realme,
 And brought me to this age from tender yeres,
 Guidyng so great estate with great renowme:
 Nowe more importeth mee, than erst, to vse
 75 Your fayth and wisdom, whereby yet I reigne:
 That when by death my life and rule shall cease,
 The kingdome yet may with vnbroken course
 Haue certayne prince, by whose vndoubted right
 Your wealth and peace may stand in quiet stay;
 80 And eke that they whome nature hath preparte,
 In time to take my place in princely seate,
 [B] While in their fathers tyme their pliant youth
 Yeldes to the frame of skilfull gouernance,
 Maye so be taught and trayned in noble artes,
 85 As what their fathers which haue reigned before
 Haue with great fame deriued downe to them,
 With honour they may leaue vnto their seede:
 And not be thought, for their vnworthy life,

1. 70 aide] aide, B.

74 *Erst*, formerly, once.

77 course] course, B.

78 right] right, B.

79 stay;] stay, B.

86 *Derived*, drawn or brought down: „what friend of mine that had to him *derived* your anger“, Hen. VIII, II, sc. 4, l. 32.

88 thought,] thought B.

1. 70 Lordes faithfull A. 71 vphelde C. 72 to] from AC.
 from] and C yeeres. 73 Guidyng A renowne C. 74 me C
 than] the AC. 75 faith A wherby AC. 76 liefe A. 77 maye
 A. 78 certaine C. 79 in] at C staie A. 80 thei A. 81 Prin-
 celie A. 83 Yeeldes C gouernaunce AC. 84 may C trained C.
 85 whiche A raignde C. 87 maye A. 88 thought] taught AC
 Avnworthie vnwoorthy C.

And for their lawless swaruyng out of kinde,
 Worthy to lose what lawe and kind them gaue; 90
 But that they may preserue the common peace,
 The cause that first began and still mainteines
 The lyneall course of kinges inheritance,
 For me, for mync, for you, and for the state,
 Whereof both I and you haue charge and care. 95
 Thus do I meane to vse your wonted fayth
 To me and myne, and to your natiue lande.
 My lordes be playne without all wrie respect
 Or poysonous craft to speake in pleasyng wise,
 Lest as the blame of yll succedyng thinges 100
 Shall light on you, so light the harmes also.

AROSTUS.

Your good acceptance so (most noble king)
 Of suche our faithfulnesse as heretofore
 We haue employed in dueties to your grace,
 And to this realm whose worthy head you are, 105
 Well proues that neyther you mistrust at all,
 Nor we shall neede in boasting wise to shewe
 Our trueth to you, nor yet our wakefull care
 For you, for yours, and for our natiue lande.
 Wherefore (O kyng) I speake as one for all, 110
 Sithe all as one do beare you egall faith:

1. 95 care.] care, *B*.

98 *Wrie respect*, without crookedly seeking to favour me.
(*Wrie*, adj. from *v. writhe*.)

111 *Sithe*, since. Both *sithe* and *sithens* are frequently used
in *Gorboduc*. See lines 157, 647, 1081 etc.

1. 89 *Laweles* *A* lawlesse swaruyng *C* kinde *A*. 90 *Worthie*
A *Woorthy* to loose *C*. 93 *Lineall* *C* inheritaunce *A* enheri-
taunce *C*. 95 *Wherof* *AC*. 96 *doo* *C* wonted *C*. 97 *natyue*
A land *C*. 98 *wrye* *C*. 99 *poysonous*] *poysons* *C* *crafte* *A*.
100 *Least* *C* ill *C* succedyng *A*. 102 *acceptaunce* *AC* kinge *A*.
103 *our*] *your* *AC* *faithfulnes* *AC* *heertofore* *C*. 104 *employed* *C*.
105 *realme* *A* *worthie* *A* *woorthy* *C*. 106 *mistruste* *A*. 107 *nede*
A in] *no* *AC* *shew* *C*. 110 *Wherefore* *AC* *kyng* *A* king *C*
as one for] for one as *AC*. 111 *Sith* *C* *doo* *C*.

Doubt not to vse our counsellis and our aides,
Whose honours, goods, and lyues are whole auowed,
To serue, to ayde, and to defende your grace.

GORBODUC.

- 115 My lordes, I thanke you all. This is the case.
[V^o] Ye know, the Gods, who haue the soueraigne care
For kings, for kingdomes, and for common weales,
Gaued me two sonnes in my more lusty age,
Who nowe in my decayeing yeres, are growen
120 Well towards ryper state of minde and strength,
To take in hande some greater princely charge.
As yet they lyue and spende hopefull daies
With me and with their mother here in courte.
Their age nowe asketh other place and trade,
125 And myne also doth aske an other change:
Theirs to more trauaile, myne to greater ease.
Whan fatall death shall ende my mortall life,
My purpose is to leaue vnto them twaine
The realme diuided into two sondry partes:
130 The one *Ferrex* myne elder sonne shall haue,
The other shall the yonger, *Porrex*, rule.
That both my purpose may more firmly stande,
And eke that they may better rule their charge,
I meane forthwith to place them in the same:

l. 118 age,] age *B*.

124 *Trade*, occupation, intercourse. „Have you any further trade with us?“ Hamlet III sc. 2, l. 346.

131 Yonger *Porrex* rule *B*.

132 *Both* is here co-relative conj. with *and* in l. 133, not a pronoun, as at first appears. Cf. ll. 135, 136.

l. 112 our] their *AC* counsellis *A* counsailes *C* our] their *AC*. 113 honors *C*. 114 aide *C*. 117 kingdomes *C* commen *A*. 18 lustie *A*. 119 decayeing] dceyuyng *A* deceiuing *C* yeeres *C*. 120 Towards *C*. 121 hand *C*. 122 liue *C* spende their hopefull *A*. 123 heere *C*. 125 mine *C* dooth *C* change *C*. 126 mine *C*. 127 When *C* end *C* lyfe *A*. 128 vnto] betweene *C*. 129 deuided *AC* sondrie *A* sundry *C*. 130 mine *C*. 131 yonger] other *AC*. 132 firmly] framlie *A*. 134 foothwith *C*.

That in my life they may both learne to rule, 135
 And I may ioy to see their ruling well.
 This is in summe, what I woulde haue ye wey:
 First whether ye allowe my whole deuise,
 And thinke it good for me, for them, for you,
 And for our countrey, mother of vs all: 140
 And if ye like it, and allowe it well,
 Then for their guydinge and their gouernaunce,
 Shew forth such meanes of circumstance,
 As ye thinke meete to be both knowne and kept.
 Loe, this is all; now tell me your aduise. 145

AROSTUS.

And this is much, and asketh great aduise,
 But for my part, my soueraigne lord and kyng,
 This do I thinke. Your maiestie doth know,
 How vnder you, in iustice and in peace,
 Great wealth and honour long we haue enioy'd, 150
 [B ij] So as we can not seeme with gredie mindes
 To wisse for change of Prince or gouernaunce
 But if we lyke your purpose and deuise,
 Our lyking must be deemed to proceede
 Of rightfull reason, and of heedefull care, 155
 Not for ourselues, but for the common state,
 Sithe our owne state doth neede no better change.
 I thinke in all as erst your Grace hath saide.
 Firste when you shall vnlode your aged mynde
 Of heuye care and troubles manifolde, 160
 And laye the same vpon my Lordes your sonnes,

1. 149 you,] you B

1. 135 maye A. 136 ioye A rulyng A. 137 somme A.
 138 allow C deuice C. 139 think C. 140 Country C. 141
 lyke A. 142 Than AC guiding C gouernance C. 143 Shewe
 forthe suche A circumstance A.. 146 muche A 147 parte A
 king C. 148 doe C dooth C knowe A. 149 Howe A 151
 minds A. 152 change AC governance C. 153 we]ye AC
 like C. 154 lykyng A proceede A. 156 the]our A commen
 A. 157 Sith C nede A dooth need C change AC. 158 earst C.
 159 minde C. 160 heaue C manyfolde A. 161 lay C Lords C.

Whose growing yeres may beare the burden long
 (And long I pray the Goddes to graunt it so),
 And in your life while you shall so beholde
 165 Their rule, their vertues, and their noble deedes,
 Suche as their kinde behighteth to vs all,
 Great be the profites that shall growe therof,
 Your age in quiet shall the longer last.
 Your lasting age shalbe their longer stay,
 170 For cares of kynges, that rule as you have ruled,
 For publike wealth and not for priuate ioye,
 Do wast mannes lyfe, and hasten crooked age,
 With furrowed face and with enfeebled lymmes,
 To draw on creepyng death a swifter pace.
 175 They two yet yong, shall beare the parted reigne
 With greater ease than one, nowe olde, alone
 Can welde the whole, for whom muche harder is
 With lessened strength the double weight to beare.
 Your eye, your counsell, and the graue regarde
 180 Of Father, yea, of such a fathers name,
 Nowe at beginning of their sondred reigne,
 When is the hazarde of their whole successe,
 Shall bridle so their force of youthfull heates;
 And so restreine the rage of insolence,
 185 Whiche most assailes the yonge and noble minds,
 [V.] And so shall guide and traine in tempred stay
 Their yet greene bending wittes with reuerent awe,

1 163 (And—so)] And—so *B*.

166 *Behight*, to promise, intend, AS. *behatan*.

176 ease, alone, *B*.

1. 162 yeeres *C* bere *A*. 163 longe praye *A*. 164 lyfe *A*
 behold *C*. 166 kind *C*. 167 profites *C* there of *C*. 169 lastyng
 welth *C* ioy *C*. 172 waste mans life *C*. 173 lymmes *C*. 174
 creepyng *A* creeping *C*. 175 yonge *A* yoong *C* parted] partie
AC. 176 now *C*. 177 much *C*. 178 doubled *C*. 179 regard
C. 180 Father] fathers *AC* suche *A*. 181 now *C* sundred
C. 183 is the] it is *A*. 185 yong *C*. 186 staie *A*. 187
 wits *C*.

As now inured with vertues at the first,
 Custome (O king) shall bring delightfulnessse,
 By vse of vertue, vice shall growe in hate. 190
 But if you so dispose it, that the daye
 Which endes your life, shall first begin their reigne,
 Great is the perill what will be the ende,
 When such beginning of such liberties
 Voide of suebe staves as in your life do lye, 195
 Shall leaue them free to randon of their will,
 An open prairie to traiterous flatterie,
 The greatest pestilenee of noble youthe.
 Whiche perill shalbe past, if in your life,
 Their tempred youthe with aged fathers awe, 200
 Be brought in vre of skilfull stayednesse.
 And in your life their liues disposed so,
 Shall length your noble life in ioyfulnessse.
 Thus thinke I that your graee hath wisely thought,
 And that your tender care of common weale, 205

1. 189 delightfulnessse, *B*.

190 hate, *B*.

191 daye, *B*.

195 *Stay*, a prop or support; it also bears the sense of restraint. here and in ll. 186, 376: "tempred stay" = regulated firmness. Spenser has "stayed steps", Shep. Cal., June, St. 5., and Drayton "his stay'd faith". (Wedgwood).

199—201 *ure*, use, practice; „*mis en ure*“, put in use or effect, a term of law-French.

201 *Stayednesse*, gravity, firmness. „There will be no danger if during your life, their youth, tempered by awe of you, be enured to reasonable firmness.“ The idea is repeated in ll. 186, 376. Compare the transposed construction of ll. 186, 200, 433.

202 so, *B*.

1. 188 As] And *AC* iworde *C*. 189 delightfulness *AC*.
 190 grow *C*. 191 day *C*. 192 ends *C* shal *A* their] the *C*
 reign *A*. 193 will] shall *C*. 194 suche *A*. 195 staves] states
AC liefie *A* lye *A* doolie *C*. 196 free to] to free *AC* raudom *C*
 197 pray *C*. 198 youth *C*. 199 Which *C* shall be *C*. 200
 youth *C*. 201 staidnes *A* stayednes *C*. 203 liefie *A* ioyfulness
AC. 204 wiselie *A*.

Hath bred this thought, so to diuide your lande,
 And plant your sonnes to beare the present rule,
 While you yet liue to see their rulinge well,
 That you may longer lyue by ioye therein.
 210 What furder meanes behouefull are and meete
 At greater leisure may your grace deuise,
 When all haue said, and when we be agreed
 If this be best to part the realme in twaine,
 And place your sonnes in present gouernement.
 215 Whereof, as I haue plainely said my mynde,
 So woulde I here the rest of all my Lordes.

PHILANDER.

In part I thinke as hath bene said before,
 In parte agayne my minde is otherwise.
 As for diuiding of this realme in twaine,
 220 And lotting out the same in egall partes,
 [B iii] To either of my lordes your graces sonnes,
 That thinke I best for this your realmes behofe,
 For profite and aduancement of your sonnes,
 And for your comforte and your honour eke.
 225 But so to place them, while your life do last,
 ar. To yelde to them your royall gouernaunce,
 fain To be aboue them onely in the name
 re Of father, not in kingly state also,
 th' I thinke not good for you, for them, nor vs.
 230 This kingdome since the bloudie ciuill felde
 m. Where *Morgan* slaine did yeld his conquered parte
 ing.

1. 210 *Furder*, the AS ð was often retained by the early printers as d. It frequently so occurs in edition A.

1. 206 *deuide* A. 208 *rulynge* A *ruling* C. 209 *lyue* ioy C. 210 *furder*] *further* C *behoovefull*. 211 *greater*] *great* A *maye* A. 213 *parte* A. 214 *gouernment* C. 215 *saide* A *minde* C. 216 *would* C *heare* C. 217 *parte* A *haue* ben A *saide* AC. 218 *part* C *againe* AC *mind* C. 219 *deuiding* AC. 222 *behoofe* C. 223 *aduancement* C. 224 *comfort* C. 225 *do*] *doth* C. 226 *yeeld* *gouernance* C. 230 *bloodie* A *bloody* C *field* C. 231 *yeeld* *part* C.

Unto his cosins sworde in *Camberland*,
 Conteineth all that whilome did suffice
 Three noble sonnes of your forefather *Brute*.
 So your two sonnes it maye suffice also. 235
 The moe, the stronger, if they grec in one.
 The smaller compasse that the realme doth holde,
 The easier is the swcy thereof to welde,
 The nearer justice to the wronged poore,
 The smaller charge. and yet ynoughe for one. 240
 And whan the region is diuided so,
 That brethren be the lordes of either parte,
 Such strength doth nature knit betwene them both,
 In sondrie bodies by conioyned loue;
 That not as two, but one of doubled force, 245
 Eche is to other as a sure defence.
 The noblenesse and glory of the one
 Doth sharpe the courage of the others mynde,
 With vertuous enuie to contende for praise.
 And suche an egalnesse hath nature made 250
 Betwene the brethren of one fathers seede,
 As an vnkindly wrong it seemes to bee.
 To throwe the brother subiect vnder feete

232 Morgan and Cunedagius, sous to Regan and Gonerilla, ousted and imprisoned Cordcilla Queen of Britain, and divided the kingdom between themselves. Then Morgan, listening to insinuations that by right he ought to have the whole kingdom, attacked his cousin and was slain with his men. Geoffrey of Monmouth, bk. II c. 15.

1. 234 The three sons of Brute were Loocrin, Albanach, and Kamber; they „reigned in peace together“. Ib. bk. II c. 1.
 250 made, *B*.

1. 232 cosyns *A* Coosens sword *C* Cumberland *C*. 233 suffice *C*. 235 may also suffice *AC*. 236 moe]mo *C* thei *A*. 237 dooth *C*. 238 sway *C* therof *A*. 239 neerer. 240 inough *C*. 241 when *C* deuided *AC*. 242 Brethrene *A* lords *C* part *C*. 243 dooth *C*. 244 sundry *C*. 246 Eeh. 247 noblenes *AC* glorie *AC*. 248 Dooth mind *C*. 249 contend *C*. 250 such *C* eagalnes *C*. 251 Betweene *C*. 252 vnkindlie wronge *A*. 253 throw *C* brother]other *AC*.

- Of him, whose peere he is by course of kinde,
 255 And nature that did make this egalnesse,
 [V^o] Ofte so repineth at so great a wrong,
 That ofte she rayseth vp a grudginge grieffe
 In yonger brethren at the elders state:
 Wherby both townes and kingdomes haue ben
 rased,
 260 And famous stockes of royall bloud destroyed:
 The brother, that shoulde be the brothers aide,
 And haue a wakefull care for his defence,
 Gapes for his death. and blames the lymgering yeres
 That draw not forth his ende with faster course:
 265 And oft impacient of so longe delays,
 With hatefull slaughter he preuentes the fates,
 And heapes a iust rewarde for brothers bloode,
With endlesse vengeance on his stocke for aye.
 Suche mischiefes here are wisely mette withall,
 270 If egall state maye nourishe egall loue,
 Where none hath cause to grudge at others good.
 But nowe the head to stoupe beneth them bothe,
 Ne kind, ne reason, ne good ordre beares.
 [And oft it hath ben seene, where natures course
 275 Hath ben peruerted in disordered wise,
 When fathers cease to know that they should rule,
 The children cease to know they should obey.
 And often ouerkindly tendernesse

i. 266 *Preuentes*, anticipates.

278 i. e. tenderness beyond nature.

i. 255 egalnes *AC*. 256 oft *C* wronge *A*. 257 raiseth *C*
 grudgyng *A* greefe *C*. 259 towns *C* kingdoms *AC* been *C*.
 260 stocks *C* blood *AC* destroyed *A*. 261 should *A* 263 linge-
 ring *C*. 264 draw] brings *AC* fourth *C*. 265 long *C*. 266
 preventes] presentes *A* presents *C*. 267 heapes] keeps *AC*
 blood *C*. 268 endles *A* vengeance *C* 269 Such mischiefes
 heere *C* met *C*. 270 may nourish *C*. 272 now *C* beneath *C*
 both *C*. 273 order *C*. 274 been *C* where natures course] that
 where Nature *AC*. 275 bene *C* peruerted *AC* disordred *AC*.
 276 shuld *A*. 277 The] And *AC* knowe *A*. 278 ouerkindly]
 our vnkindly *AC* tendrenes *A* tendernes *C*.

Is mother of vnkindly stubbornnesse
 I speake not this in enuie or reproche, 280
 As if I grudged the glorie of your sonnes,
 Whose honour I beseeh the Goddes encrease:
 Nor yet as if I thought there did remaine
 So filthie cankers in their noble brestes,
 Whom I esteeme (whiche is their greatest praise) 285
 Undoubted children of so good a kyng.
 Onelie I meane to shewe by eerteine rules,
 Whiche kinde hath graft within the mind of man,
 That nature hath her ordre and her eourse,
 Whiche (being broken) doth eorrupt the state 290
 [Bⁱⁱⁱ] Of myndes and thinges, euen in the best of all.
 My lordes your sonnes may learne to rule of you.
 Your owne example in your noble courte
 Is fittest guyder of their youthfull yeares.
 If you desire to see some present ioye 295
 By sight of their well rulynge in your lyfe,
 See them obey, so shall you see them rule:
 Who so obeyeth not with humblenesse
 Will rule with outrage and with insolenee.
 Longe maye they rule I do beseche the Goddes, 300
 But longe may they learne, ere they begyn to rule.
 If kinde and fates woulde suffre, I would wisse
 Them aged prinees, and immortall kinges.
 Wherefore, most noble kyng, I well assent,
 Betwene your sonnes that you diuide your realme, 305

1. 283 remaine, *B*.

297 rule, *B*.

304 Wherefore kyng *B*.

1. 279 stubbornnes *AC*. 280 reproch *C*. 282 beseche *A*
 beseech *C* Gods to in-crease *C* to encrease *A*. 285 Whome *A*
 esteme *A* whiche *A*. 286 kyng *A*. 287 by]my shew *AC*.
 288 mind *C*. 289 order *C*. 290 whiche *A* dooth *C*. 291 min-
 des *C*. 294 guider *C* yceres *C*. 295 see]seeke *AC*. 296 ruling
C life *C*. 298 humblenes *AC*. 300 Long may *C* doo beseech
C Gods *C*. 301 long *C* begin *C*. 302 fates]saies *C* suffer *C*
 wish *C*. 304 well]will *C*. 305 between *C* deuide *AC*.

And as in kinde, so match them in degree.
 But while the Goddes prolong your royall life,
 Prolong your reigne: for therto lyue you here,
 And therefore haue the Goddes so long forborne
 310 To ioyne you to them selues, that still you might
 Be prince and father of our common weale.
 They when they see your children ripe to rule,
 Will make them roume, and will remoue you hence,
 That yours in right ensuyng of your life,
 315 Maye rightly honour your immortall name.

EUBULUS.

Your wonted true regarde of faithfull hartes
 Makes me (O kinge) the bolder to presume,
 To speake what I conceiue within my brest,
 Although the same do not agree at all
 320 With that which other here my lordes haue said,
 Nor which yourselfe haue seemed best to lyke.
 Pardon I craue, and that my wordes be demde
 To flowe from hartie zeale vnto your grace,
 And to the safetie of your common weale.
 325 To parte your realme vnto my lordes your sonnes,
 I thinke not good for you, ne yet for them,
 But worste of all for this our natie lande.
 Within one land, one single rule is best:
 Diuided reignes do make diuided hartes,

1. 313 *Will make them roume*, the old dative construction;
 „the Gods will make place for them“.

316 hartes, *B*.

327 lande, *B*.

329 hartes. *B*.

1. 306 *matche A*. 307 Gods *C* *prolongue A* Royal *A*. 308
Prolongue A *liue C* *heere C*. 309 Gods *C* *longe A* 312 *se A*.
 313 *roume C* *wil A*. 314 *ensuing C*. 315 *may C* *rightlie A* *im-*
mortall | mortall AC. 316 *woonted C*. 317 *king C*. 318 *speak*
C. 319 *althoughe A* *doo C* 320 *whiche A* *heere C* *Lords A*.
 321 *whiche A*. 322 *deemde AC*. 323 *harty C*. 325 *lords AC*.
 326 *think C*. 327 *woorst C* *land C*. 328 *Within | For with AC*.
 329 *Deuided AC* *reignes | Regions C* *doo C* *deuided AC*.

But peace preserues the countrey and the prince. 330
Suche is in man the gredy minde to reigne,
 So great is his desire to climbe alofte,
 In worldly stage the stateliest partes to beare,
 That faith and iustice, and all kindly loue,
 Do yelde vnto desire of soueraignitie, 335
 Where egall state doth raise an egall hope
 To winne the thing that either wold attaine.
 Your grace remembreth how in passed yeres
 The mightie *Brute*, first prince of all this lande,
 Possessed the same and ruled it well in one, 340
 He thinking that the compasse did suffice,
 For his three sonnes three kingdoms eke to make,
 Cut it in three, as you would now in twaine.
 But how much *Brittish* blood hath since bene spilt,
 To ioyne againe the sondred vnitie! 345
 What princes slaine before their timely houre!
 What wast of townes and people in the lande!
 What treasons heaped on murders and on spoiles!
 Whose iust reuenge even yet is scarcely ceased,
 Ruthefull remembraunce is yet rawe in minde. 350
 The Gods forbyd the like to chaunce againe:
 And you (O king) geue not the cause therof.
 My Lord *Ferrex* your elder sonne, perhappes
 Whome kinde and custome geues a rightfull
 hope

l. 339 See note before to l. 234.

350 This.

355 *Succede*. Succede in this sense now takes direct object only of persons, „you succeed the king“; for abstract or common nouns we now use a preposition, e. g. „succeed to your reign“.

l 330 Countrey C. 331 such C gredie A greedy C raigne C. 334 kindly C. 335 Doo yelde C. 337 would atteine C. 338 yeeres C. 339 mighty C. 342 kingdoms C. 343 nowe A. 344 Brittish] Brutish AC blood C since | sithence AC ben A been C. 345 sondred C. 346 houre] honour AC. 347 wast land C. 348 spoyles C. 349 scarsely C. 350 rawe] had AC. 351 forbid C. 352 giue therof C. 354 giues C.

- 355 To be your heire and to succede your reigne,
 Shall thinke that he doth suffre greater wrong
 Than he perchaunce will beare, if power serue.
Porrex the younger so vpraised in state,
 Perhappes in courage will be rayseed also.
- 360 If flatterie then, whiche fayles not to assaile
 [C.] The tendre mindes of yet vnskillfull youth,
 In one shall kindle and encrease disdaine,
 And enuie in the others harte enflame,
 This fire shall waste their loue, their liues, their land,
- 365 And ruthefull ruine shall destroy them both.
 I wishe not this (O kyng) so to befall,
 But feare the thing, that I do most abhorre.
 Geue no beginning to so dreadfull ende.
 Kepe them in order and obedience:
- 370 And let them both by now obeying you,
 Learne such behauiour as beseemes their state;
 The elder, myldenesse in his goneruance,
 The yonger, a yelding contentednesse.
 And kepe them neare vnto your presence still,
- 375 That they restreyned by the awe of you,
 May liue in compasse of well tempred staye
 And passe the perilles of their youthfull yeares.
 Your aged life drawes on to febler tyme,
 Wherin you shall lesse able be to beare
- 380 The trauailes that in youth you haue susteyned,

1. 361 *Vnskillfull*, wanting in knowledge.

376 See note to l. 195, 201.

385 youth, *B*.

1. 355 succede *A*. 356 think dooth *C* suffer *C* wronge *A*.
 357 then *C*. 358 yonger *C* vpraised] vnpraised *AC*. 359 raised
C. 360 flattery *C* failes *C*. 361 tender *C* youthe *A*. 363
 And] In *C* hart *C*. 365 rutheful *A* shal *A*. 366 wish *C* wishe
A king *C*. 367 doo *C*. 368 Giue *C* ende *C*. 369 keepe *C*.
 370 nowe obeyinge *A*. 371 suche *A*. 372 myldenes *A* mil-
 denes *C*. 373 younger *A* yeldyng *A* yeelding *C* contentednes *AC*.
 374 keepe *C* neere *C*. 375 restreined *AC*. 376 staie *AC*. 377
 perrilles yeeres *C*. 378 feebler time *C*. 380 susteined *AC*.

Both in your persones and your realmes defence.
 If planting now your sonnes in furder partes,
 You sende them furder from your present reach,
 Lesse shall you know how they them selues
 demeane:

Traiterous corrupters of their plyant youth 385
 Shall have vnspied a muche more free accesse,
 And if ambition and inflamed disdaine
 Shall arme the one, the other, or them both,
 To ciuill warre, or to vsurping pride,
 Late shall you rue, that you ne recked before. 390
 Good is I graunt of all to hope the best,
But not to liue still dreadlesse of the worst.

So truste the one, that the other be foresene.
 Arme not vnskilfulnesse with princely power.
 But you that long haue wisely ruled the reignes 395
 [v^e] Of royaltie within your noble realme,
 So holde them, while the Gods for our auayles
 Shall stretch the thred of your prolonged daies.
 To soone he clambe into the flaming carre,
 Whose want of skill did set the earth on fire. 400
 Time and example of your noble grace,
 Shall teach your sonnes both to obey and rule,
 When time hath taught them, time shal make
 them place,

l. 390 *Reck*; to heed, to care for „And little reckes to find the way to heaven.“ As you Like It, II se. 4 l. 81.

395—397 Thero is here a play on the word reins, in the sense of guiding them (*rego*) or holding in (*retineo*).

403 See note on l. 313 dative construction, „Time shall make place for them“.

l. 381 persons *C*. 382 nowe *A* further *C*. 383 send *C* reache *A*. 384 shal *A* demeane] demaund *AC*. 385 pliant *AC* youthe *A*. 386 much *C*. 387 if] of *AC*. 388 bothe *A*. 389 cyuill *AC* vsurpinge *A*. 392 dreadles *AC* woorst *C*. 393 trust *C* foreseene *C*. 394 vnskilfulnes *AC*. 395 longe *A*. 397 auailles *C*. 398 strethe *A* threde *A* threed *C*. 399 too *C* clamme *AC* flamyng *A* Carte *AC*. 400 skylle *A*. 402 teache *A*. 403 Whan *A* Shall *AC* place] pace *AC*.

The place that now is full: and so I pray
 405 Long it remaine, to comfort of vs all.

GORBODUC.

I take your faithful harts in thankful part.
 But sithe I see no cause to draw my minde,
 To feare the nature of my louing sonnes,
 Or to misdeme that enuie or disdaine,
 410 Can there worke hate, where nature planteth loue:
 In one selfe purpose do I still abide.
 My loue extendeth egally to both,
 My lande suffiseth for them both also.
Humber shall parte the marches of theyr realmes:
 415 The Sotherne part the elder shall possesse:
 The notherne shall *Porrex*, the yonger rule:
 In quiet I will passe mine aged dayes,
 Free from the trauaile and the painefull cares,
 That hasten age vpon the worthiest kinges.
 420 But lest the fraude, that ye do seeme to feare,
 Of flattering tongues, corrupt their tender youth,
 And wrythe them to the wayes of youthfull lust,
 To climyng pride, or to reuenging hate,
 Or to neglecting of their carefull charge,
 425 Lewdely to lyue in wanton recklessnessesse
 Or to oppressing of the rightfull cause,
 Or not to wreke the wronges done to the poore,

l. 411 *Selfe*, same. „I am made of that self metal as my sister.“ Lear I sc. 1 l. 72.

414 *Marches*, borders.

422 *Wrythe*, to twist, turn.

l. 404 nowe *A* praie *A*. 405 Longe *A* comforte *A*. 406
 faithfull hartes thankfull parte *AC*. 407 sith *C* drawe *A*. 408
 louyng *A*. 409 misdeeme *C*. 410 woork *C*. 411 doo *C*. 412
 bothe *A*. 414 their *A*. 415 parte *AC*. 416 northerne *AC*.
 417 daies *A*. 419 woorthiest *C*. 420 least *C* doo *C*. 421 flat-
 teryng *A* tunges *C*. 422 wrieth *AC* waies *AC*. 423 climyng *C*
 reuengyng *A*. 425 Lewdelye liue rechlessnessesse *C* recklessnessesse *A*.
 426 oppressinge *A*. 427 doone *C*.

To treade downe truth, or fauour false deceite:
 I meane to ioyne to eyther of my sonnes
 Some one of those, whose long approued faith 430
 And wisdome tryed, may well assure my harte: [C ij]
 That mynyng fraude shall finde no way to crepe
 Into their fensed eares with graue aduise.
 This is the ende, and so I pray you all
 To beare my sonnes the loue and loyaltie 435
 That I haue founde within your faithfull brestes.

AROSTUS.

You, nor your sonnes, our soueraign lord shal
 want,
 Our faith and seruice while our liues do last.
[Exeunt.]

CHORUS.

When settled stay doth holde the royall throne
 In stedfast place, by knowen and doubtles 440
 right,
 And chiefly when discent on one alone
 Makes single and vnparted reigne to light:

l. 433 The play contains several examples of this peculiar construction; the noun is placed after the participle of the adjective-phrase, instead of before it, we now should read, "Into their ears, fenced with grave advice". See l. 200; and Abbott's Shak. Gram. § 419 a.

439 There is no separation of stanzas in the Chorus in *B*, and the lines are placed evenly, as in the blank verse. The speeches of persons are printed with space between.

In *A* the speeches are printed as in *B* with space between, and the stanzas of the Chorus are separate, as printed above.

In *C* there is no separation of speeches, or of stanzas in the chorus, but the first line of each stanza is set back.

l. 428 tread *C* trueth *AC*. 429 either *C*. 430 longe *A*.
 431 art *C*. 432 myning *C* creepe *C*. 434 praye *A*. 436
 found *C* faithful breasts *A* brests *C*. 437 soueraigne *A* soue-
 reigne *C* shall *AC*. 438 doo *C*. 439 settled *C* staie *A* dooth
 hold *C*. 440 knowne *C*. 441 cheefely *C* whan *AC*. 442 dis-
 cent *AC*.

Eche change of course vnioynts the whole estate,
And yeldes it thrall to ruyne by debate.

445 The strength that knit by faste accorde in one,
Against all forrein power of mightie foes,
Could of it selfe defende it selfe alone,
Disioined once, the former force doth lose.
The stickes, that sondred brake so soone in twaine,
450 In faggot bounde attempted were in vaine.

Of tender minde that leades the parciall eye
Of erring parentes in their childrens loue,
Destroyes the wrongly loued childe therby.
This doth the proude sonne of *Apollo* proue,
455 Who rashely set in chariot of his sire,
Inflamed the parched earth with heauens fire.

And this great king, that doth deuide his land,
And change the course of his discending crowne
And yeldes the reigne into his childrens hande,
460 From blisfull state of ioye and great renoune
A myrrour shall become to Princes all,
To learne to shunne the cause of suche a fall.

END OF THE FIRST ACT.

l. 442 make AC. 443 Ech C vnioints C. 444 yeeldes C.
ruine C. 445 fast]laste A last accord C. 447 defend C. 448
disioyned AC dooth C. 449 sticks C sundred C. 450 fagot
bound C. 451 mind C perciall A. 452 erringe A parents.
453 Destroies AC wrongfull AC thereby C. 454 dooth C
proud C. 455 rashly C. 456 Inflamde C perched A. 457
dooth lande C. 458 changed A chaungde C discending C. 459
yeelds C raigne C hand C. 460 ioy C. 461 mirroure C. 502
such C.

[C ij v.] THE ORDER AND SIGNIFICATION
OF THE DOMME SHEW BEFORE THE
SECOND ACTE.

First the Musicke of Cornettes began to playe, during which came in vpon the stage a King accompanied with a nombre of his nobilitie and gentlemen. And after he had placed him self in a chaire of estate prepared for him, there came and kneled before him a graue and yged gentelman, and offred up a cuppe unto him of wyne in a glasse, which the king refused. After him commes a braue and lustie yong gentleman and presentes the King with a cup of golde filled with poyson, which the King accepted, and drinking the same, immediatly fell downe dead vpon the stage, and so was carried thence away by his Lordes and gentelmen, and then the Musicke ceased. Hereby was signified, that as glasse by nature holdeth no poyson, but is clere and may easely be seen through, ne boweth by any arte: So a faythfull counsellour holdeth no treason, but is playne and open, ne yeldeth to any iudis-

1. 2 dumbe C shewe A. 4 musike C cornets C play C.
5 whiche kinge A. 6 number C nobylitie A. 7 himselfe C
selfe A. 9 kneled C. 10 Gentilman A Gentleman C offered
C hym A. 11 wine C whiche A kynge A. 12 comes C yoong
C Gentelmann A. 13 presentes C of omitted C. 14 poison A.
15 drinkinge A immediatly C down A. 16 awaye A. 17 Gent-
lemen C. 18 thecreby C. 19 cleare C maye A. 20 easly C
senee AC. 21 faythfull AC. 22 yeeldeth C anie AC.

25 *crete affection, but geueth holosome counsell, which
 the yll aduised Prince refuseth. The delightfull
 golde filled with poyson betokeneth flattery, which
 vnder faire seeming of pleasaunt wordes beareth
 30 deadly poyson, which destroyed the Prince that
 receyueth it. As befell in the two brethren,
 Ferrex and Porrex, who refusing the holosome
 32 aduise of graue counsellours, credited these yong
 Paracites, and brought to them selues death and
 destruction therby.*

ACTUS SECUNDUS. SCENA PRIMA.

FERREX. HERMON. DORDAN.

FERREX.

I meruaile much what reason ledde the king
 My father, thus without all my desert,
 465 To reue me halfe the kingdome, which by course
 [C. iiij] Of law and nature should remayne to me.

1. 23 *Holsome*, or as we now spell it „wholesome“, is the exact opposite of the world *noisome*, see l. 773. The modern corrupt spelling „wholesome“ appears to have been brought into use by writers accustomed to local English dialects in which this word among others was pronounced as though beginning with a w. It is therefore a true, though a local, phonetic spelling. See Mr. Bradley, in „The Academy“ Sept. 24, and Prof. Zupitza, *ib.* Oct. 8, 1881.

465 *reue me*, the preposition is suppressed, compare l. 513.

1. 23 *geueth*] *guieth* any C *wholsome* C *whiche* A. 24 *ill* C. 25 *Flatterie* C *whiche* A. 26 *words* A. 27 *whiche* *destroieth* A *destroyeth* C. 28 *receiueth* A *brethrene* A. 29 *whole some* C. 30 *yonge* A *young* C. 31 *to*] *vnto* C. 32 *thereby* C.

1. 463 *muche* A *leade* AC *kynge* A. 464 *desarte* AC. 465 *reaue* C. 466 *lawe* AC *shuld* A *remaine* C.

HERMON.

If you with stubborne and vntamed pryde
 Had stood against him in rebelling wise,
 Or if with grudging minde you had enuied
 So slow a slidyng of his aged yeres, 470
 Or sought before your time to haste the course
 Of fatall death vpon his royall head,
 Or stained your stocke with murder of your kyn:
 Some face of reason might perhaps haue seemed,
 To yelde some likely cause to spoyle ye thus. 475

FERREX.

The wrekeful Gods powre on my cursed head
 Eternall plagues and neuer dying woes,
 The hellish prince adiudge my dampned ghost
 To *Tantales* thirste, or proude *Ixions* wheele,
 Or cruell gripe to gnaw my growing harte, 480
 To during tormentes and vnquenched flames,
 If euer I conceyued so foule a thought,
 To wisse his ende of life, or yet of reigne.

DORDAN.

Ne yet your father (O most noble Prince)
 Did euer thinke so fowle a thing of you. 485
 For he, with more than fathers tendre loue,
 While yet the fates do lende him life to rule,
 (Who long might lyue to see your ruling well)
 To you my Lorde, and to his other sonne:

1. 474 seemed, *B*.

478 prince, *B*.

480 *Gripe*, a vulture or griffin.

1. 467 pride *C*. 468 stode *C* rebellious *AC*. 469 enuyde
C. 470 slowe *A* slidyng *A* sliding *C* yeeres *C*. 473 stainde *C*
 kinne *C*. 475 yeeld *C*. spoile *AC*. 476 wrekefull *C* heade *C*.
 478 damned *C* ghoste *A*. 479 Tantalus *AC*. 480 gnawe *A*
 groaning hart *C*. 481 duryng *A* tormentes *C*. 482 conceiued
C. 483 wish *C*. 486 tender *C*. 487 doo lend *C*. 488 liue *C*
 se *A* rulyng *A*.

490 Lo he resignes his realme and royaltie:
 Which neuer would so wise a Prince haue done,
 If he had once misdemed that in your harte
 There euer lodged so vnkinde a thought.
 But tendre loue (my Lorde) and settled truste
 495 Of your good nature, and your noble minde,
 Made him to place you thus in royall throne,
 And now to geue you half his realme to guide,
 Yea and that halfe which in abounding stoue
 [V.] Of things that serue to make a welthy realme,
 500 In stately cities, and in frutefull soyle,
 In temperate breathing of the milder heauen,
 In thinges of nedefull vse, which frendly sea
 Transportes by traffike from the forreine partes,
 In flowing wealth, in honour, and in force,
 505 Doth passe the double value of the parte,
 That *Porrex* hath allotted to his reigne.
 Such is your case, such is your fathers loue.

FERREX.

Ah loue, my frendes! loue wrongs not whom he
 loues.

DORDAN.

Ne yet he wrongeth you, that geueth you
 510 So large a reigne, ere that the course of time
 Bring you to kingdome by discended right,
 Which time perhaps might end your time before.

l. 502 sea, *B*.

508 who *B*.

l. 491 whiche *A* doone *C*. 492 ones *A* misdeemde *C* hart.
 493 vnkind *C*. 494 trust *C*. 497 giue *C* halfe *C*. 498 which
 in] within *AC*. 499 welthie *AC*. 500 statelie *A*. 502 things *C*
 needfull *C* frendlie *A*. 503 Transportes *C* forraine *C* portes *AC*.
 504 welth *C*. 505 Dooth *C* part *C*. 507 suche *A*. 508
 frends *C*. 509 giueth *C*. 510 tyme *A*. 511 bringe *A* des-
 cended *C*.

FERREX.

Is this no wrong, say you, to reave from me
 My natue right of halfe so great a realme?
 And thus to matche his yonger sonne with me 515
 In egall power, and in as great degree?
 Yea and what sonne? the sonne whose swelling
 pride

Woulde neuer yelde one point of reuerence,
 Whan I the elder and apparaunt heire
 Stoode in the likelihode to possesse the whole, 520
 Yea and that sonne which from his childish age
 Enuieth myne honour, and doth hate my life.
 What will he now do. when his pride, his rage,
 The mindfull malice of his grudging harte
 Is armed with force, with wealth, and kingly state? 525

HERMON.

Was this not wrong? yea, yll aduised wrong,
 To giue so mad a man so sharpe a sworde,
 To so great perill of so great missehappe
 Wide open thus to set so large a waye?

DORDAN.

Alas my Lord, what griefull thing is this, 530
 [C iii] That of your brother you can thinke so ill?
 I neuer saw him vtter likelie signe,
 Whereby a man might see or once misdeme
 Such hate of you, ne such unyielding pride.

1. 524 *Mindfull*, unforgetful; i. e. malice that bears in mind. See ll. 750, 784.

528 *missehappe*, *B*.

1. 513 *saie A*. 515 *match yonger C*. 517 *swellyng pryde A*. 518 *would C yeeld C point C*. 519 *When C apparant C*. 520 *Stood C likelyhood C likelihode A*. 521 *childishe A*. 522 *mine A dooth C*. 523 *nowe A doo C*. 524 *mindefull A hart C*. 525 *armde C welth C*. 526 *ill C*. 528 *mishappe A mishap C*. 529 *way C*. 530 *Lorde A*. 532 *sawe AC likely C*. 533 *misdeeme C*. 534 *Suehe A vnyeldinge A vnyelding C*.

- 535 Ill is their counsell, shamefull be their ende,
 That raying such mistrustfull feare in you,
 Sowing the seede of such vnkindly hate,
 Trauaile by treason to destroy you both.
 Wise is your brother, and of noble hope,
 540 Worthie to welde a large and mightie realme.
 So much a stronger frende haue you therby,
 Whose strength is your strength, if you gree in one.

HERMON.

- If nature and the Goddes had pinched so
 Their flowing bountie, and their noble giftes
 545 Of princelie qualities, from you my Lorde,
 And powrde them all at ones in wastfull wise
 Upon your fathers yonger sonne alone:
 Perhappes there be that in your preiudice
 Would say that birth should yeld to worthinesse.
 550 But sithe in eche good gift and princelie arte
 Ye are his matche, and in the chiefe of all
 In mildenesse and in sobre gouernaunce
 Ye farre surmount; And sith there is in you
 Sufficing skill and hopefull towardnesse
 555 To weld the whole, and match your elders prayse:
 I sce no cause why ye should loose the halfe.
 Ne would I wisse you yelde to such a losse:
 Lest your milde sufferance of so great a wronge,
 Be deemed cowardishe and simple dreade:
 560 Which shall geue courage to the fierie head
 Of your yonge brother to inuade the whole.

1 536 raising *AC*. 537 suche *A*. 538 treason] reason
AC. 540 weeld *C*. 541 muche *A* frend *C* thereby *C*. 543
 Gods *C*. 544 gifts *C*. 545 princely *C* qualities *A* Lord *C*.
 546 once *C*. 547 younger *A* yoonger *C*. 548 Perhaps *C*. 549
 saie *A* shuld *A* yeeld *C* worthines *A* woorthines *C*. 550 Sith
C each *C* Princely *C* Acte *AC*. 551 match *C* cheefe *C*. 552
 mildenes *AC* sober *C*. 553 far *C* sithe *A*. 554 suffising *C*
 towardnes *A*. 555 praise *AC*. 556 whie *AC*. 557 wold *A*
 wish *C* yeelde *C* suche *A*. 558 Least *C* Sufferance *C* wrong *C*.
 559 cowardise *C* dread *C*. 560 Whiche *A* guie *C* fiery *C*. 561
 yonge *C*.

While yet therfore stickes in the peoples minde
 The lothed wrong of your disheritaunce;
 And ere your brother haue, by settled power,
 [V.] By guilefull cloke of an alluring showe, 565
 Got him some force and fauour in the realme,
 And while the noble Queene your mother lyues,
 To worke and practise all for your auaille,
 Attempt redresse by armes, and wreake your self
 Upon his life, that gayneth by your losse, 570
 Who nowe to shame of you, and grieffe of vs,
 In your owne kingdome triumphes ouer you.
 Shew now your courage meete for kingly state,
 That they which haue auowed to spend theyr
 goods,
 Their landes, their liues and honours in your 575
 cause,
 May be the bolder to mainteyne your parte,
 When they do see that cowarde feare in you,
 Shall not betray ne faile their faithfull hartes.
 If once the death of *Porrex* ende the strife,
 And pay the price of his vsurped reigne, 580
 Your mother shall perswade the angry kyng,
 The Lords your frends eke shall appease his rage.

1. 568 *Practise*, to contrive, to plot. Compare Lear II,
 sc. 1, l. 73 and Hamlet IV, sc. 7, l. 68,

„But even his mother shall uncharge the practice
 And call it accident“,

see ll. 1164 and 1516.

574 *Auowed* = a-vowed. promised on oath. n

578 *Faile*, to beguile, delude (Lat. fallere).

1. 562 whiles *AC* sticks *C* mynde *A*. 563 loathed *C*
 wronge *A*. 564 settled *C*. 565 guylefull *A* eloake *C* allu-
 rynges *A*. 566 the]this *AC*. 567 liues *C*. 568 woorke *C*
 practice *A*. 569 wreak *C* selfe *A*. 570 gaineth *AC*. 571
 now *C* greefe *C*. 573 meet *C* kinglye *C* estate *AC*. 574 auowd
C thei *A* their *AC*. 575 honors *C*. 576 maye *A* mainteine *A*
 maintain *C*. 577 whan thei *A* doo *C*. 578 betraye *C* auile *AC*.
 579 ones *A* end *C*. 580 paie *A*. 581 kynges *A* king *C*. 582
 shal *C*.

For they be wise, and well they can foresee,
 That ere longe time your aged fathers death
 585 Will bryng a time when you shall well requite
 Their frendlie fauour, or their hatefull spite,
 Yea, or their slackenesse to auance your cause.
 Wise men do not so hang on passing state
 Of present Princes, chiefly in their age,
 590 But they will further cast their reaching eye,
 To viewe and weye the times and reignes to come.
 Ne is it likely, though the kyng be wrothe,
 That he yet will, or that the realme will beare,
 Extreme reuenge vpon his onely sonne:
 595 Or, if he woulde, what one is he that dare
 Be minister to such an enterprise?
 And here you be now placed in your owne,
 Amyd your frendes, your vassalles and your
 strength:
 We shall defende and kepe your person safe,
 600 [D.] Till either counsell turne his tender minde,
 Or age, or sorrow end his werie dayes.
 But if the feare of Goddes, and secrete grudge
 Of natures law, repining at the fact,
 Withholde your courage from so great attempt:
 605 Know ye, that lust of kingdomes hath no law.
 The Goddes do beare and well allow in kinges,

1. 600 *Tender*, pliant. cf. l. 778.

603 *Repining at the fact*, i. e. Nature turns with pain, or shrinks, from the deed of killing a brother. See l. 256. "Repining courage", Spenser, *Faerie Queene*, I, c. 2, 17. *Fact* = evil deed or crime, in this play, as in Shakespeare.

1 583 thei *A* foresee *C*. 584 longe *C*. 585 brynge *A*
 bring *C* 586 freendly *C*. 587 slackenes *A* slacknes *C*. 588
 doo *C* hange *A* passyng *A*. 589 cheefely *C*. 590 reachinge *A*.
 591 weigh *AC*. 592 lykely *A* thoughte *A* kinge *A* king *C* wrath
C. 594 onelye *A*. 596 ministre *A* suche *A*. 597 heere *C*
 nowe *A*. 598 Amid *C* freends *C* vassailles *C*. 599 defend *C*
 keepe *C*. 600 Tyll *A*. 601 sorowe *A* ende *A* weary *C* daies
A. 602 Gods *C* secret *C*. 603 lawe *AC* repynnyng *A* facte *A*.
 604 attempte *C*. 605 knowe *A* Lawe *AC*. 606 doo *C* allowe *A*.

The thinges they abhorre in rascall routes.

“When kinges on slender quarrells runne to warres,

“And then in cruell and vnkindely wise.

“Commaund theftes, rapes, murders of innocentes, 610

“The spoile of townes, ruines of mighty realmes:

“Thinke you such princes do suppose them selues

“Subiect to lawes of kinde, and feare of Gods?”

Murders and violent theftes in priuate men

Are hainous crimes, and full of foule reproch; 615

Yet none offence, but deckt with glorious name

Of noble conquestes, in the handes of kinges.

“But if you like not yet so hote deuise,

Ne list to take such vauntage of the time,

But, though with perill of your owne estate, 620

You will not be the first that shall inuade;

Assemble yet your force for your defence,

And for your safetie stand vpon your garde.

DORDAN.

O heauen! was there euer heard or knowen,

So wicked counsel to a noble prince? 625

Let me (my Lorde) disclose vnto your grace

This hainous tale, what mischiefe it containes,

Your fathers death, your brothers and your owne,

Your present murder and eternall shame.

1. 614 men, *B*.

624 heauen, *B*.

1. 608 slender *A* quarrells *AC* ron *A* run *C*. 609 than *A*.
610 murder *AC* Innocents *C*. 611 The } To *AC* spoyle *C* ruines]
and reignes *AC* realms *C*. 612 Think *C* doo *C* suppose] sup-
presse *AC*. 615 heynous *A* heinous *C* crymes *A* reproche *AC*.
616 decked *AC*. 617 Conquests *C* Liucs 616, 617 are misplaced
in *A* and *C*, put before line 614. 618 hotte *C*. 619 suche *A*.
620 thoughe *AC* with—estate] with great perill of your state *AC*.
621 wil *A*. 623 stande *A* 624 harde *A* knowne *C*. 625 coun-
sell *AC*. 627 heynous *A* heinous *C* mischeefe *C* conteynes *A*
containes *C*.

630 Heare me (O king) and suffer not to sinke
So high a treason in your princely brest.

FERREX.

The mightie Goddes forbid that euer I
Should once conceaue such mischiefe in my hart.
[v.] Although my brother hath bereft my realme,
635 And beare perhappes to me an hatefull minde:
Shall I reuenge it, with his death therefore?
Or shall I so destroy my fathers life
That gaue me life? The Gods forbid, I say:
Cease you to speake so any more to me:
640 Ne you my frend with answere once repeate
So foule a tale. In silence let it die.
What lord or subiect shall haue hope at all,
That vnder me they safely shall enioye
Their goods, their honours, landes and liberties,
645 With whom, neither one onely brother deare,
Ne father dearer, could enioye their liues?
But, sith I feare my yonger brothers rage,
And sith perhappes some other man may geue
Some like aduise, to moue his grudging head
650 At mine estate; which counsell may perchance
Take greater force with him, than this with me,
I will in secrete so prepare myselfe,
As if his malice or his lust to reigne

l. 647 But sith, *B.*

659 *Defend*, keep off.

l. 630 suffre *AC.* 631 highe Princelie *A.* 632 Gods *C*
forbyd *A.* 633 shuld *A* conceiue *AC* suche *A* mischeefe *C* harte
A. 634 Although *A.* 635 mee *C* an | and *A* 636 therefore
AC. 637 lyfe *A.* 638 forbyd *A* saye *A.* 640 friende *A* freend
C aunswere *AC.* 641 scilence *A* dye *C.* 642 Lorde *A.* 643
enioy *C.* 644 lands *C.* 645 whome *A* deere *C.* 646 deerer
C coulede *A* enioy *C.* 647 sithe *A* younger *A.* 648 sithe *A*
perhaps *C* gyue *A* giue *C* 650 whiche *A.* 561 then *C.* 652
secret *C.* 653 mallice *C* raigne *C.*

Breake forth in armes or sodeine violence,
 I may withstand his rage and keepe mine owne. 656
 [*Exeunt FERREX and HERMON.*]

DORDAN.

I feare the fatall time now draweth on,
 When ciuil hate shall end the noble line
 Of famous Brut. and of his royall scede.
 Great Ioue, defend the mischiefes now at hand.
 O that the Secretarics wise aduise 660
 Had erst bene heard, when he besought the king
 Not to diuide his land, nor send his sonnes
 To further partes from presence of his court,
 Ne yet to yelde to them his gouernaunce.
 Lo, such are they now in the royall throne 665
 As was rashe Phaeton in Phœbus carre.
 Ne then the fiery stedes did draw the flame
 [D] With wilder randon through the kindled skies,
 Than traitorous counsell now will whirle about
 The youthfull heades of these vnskilfull kinges. 670
 But I hereof their father will enforme.
 The reuerence of him perhappes shall stay
 The growing mischiefes, while they yet are greene.
 If this helpe not, then woe vnto them selues,
 The prince, the people, the diuided land. 675
 [*Exit.*]

1. 661 heard *B.*

665 Lo *B.*

1. 668 *Randon*, rashness, unsteady course. (O. Fr.) The word has here the older use as a noun. As a verb it occurs in l. 759. See Skeat's Etymol. Dictionary.

1. 654 Break foorth *C* in] with *AC*. 655 with stande *A* kepe myne *A*. 657 cyuill *AC* ende *AC* lyne *AC*. 658 famouse *A*. 659 defende *A* mischeefes *C* nowe hande *A*. 661 earst *C* ben *A* beene *C* harde whan *A* kynge *A*. 662 deuide *AC* lande. *A* sende *A*. 663 courte *AC*. 664 yeelde *C*. 665 Loe *C* suche *A*. nowe *A*. 666 rashe] that *C*. 667 stedes *C* drawe *AC*. 669 Then *AC* counsell *AC* wherle *A*. 670 heads *AC*. 671 heereof *C*. 672 perhaps *C* staye *A*. 673 mischeefes *C* thei grene *A*. 674 wo *A*. 675 deuided *AC* lande *A*.

ACTUS SECUNDUS. SCENA SECUNDA.

PORREX. TYNDAR. PHILANDER.

PORREX.

And is it thus? and doth he so prepare,
 Against his brother as his mortall foe?
 And now while yet his aged father liues?
 Neither regardes he him? nor feares he me?
 680 Warre would he haue? and he shall haue it so.

TYNDAR.

I saw myselfe the great prepared store
 Of horse, of armour, and of weapon there,
 Ne bring I to my lorde reported tales
 Without the ground of seen and searched trouth.
 685 Loe secrete quarrels runne about his court,
 To bring the name of you my lorde in hate.
 Ech man almost can now debate the cause,
 And aske a reason of so great a wrong,
 Why he so noble and so wise a prince,
 690 Is as vnworthy reft his heritage?
 And why the king, misseledde by craftie meanes
 Diuided thus his land from course of right?
 The wiser sort holde downe their griefull heades.
 Eche man withdrawes from talke and company
 695 Of those that haue bene knowne to fauour you.
 [V^o] To hide the mischiefe of their meaning there.

1. 676 dooth *C*. 678 nowe whyle *A* lyues *A*. 679 regards *C*. 681 sawe *A*. 682 armours *AC* weapons *AC*. 683 brynge *A* Lord *C*. 684 seene *AC* serched *A* trouthe *A* troth *C*. 685 quarrelles *AC* ronne *A* Courte *AC*. 686 bringo *A* Lord *C*. 687 Eche *AC* nowe *A*. 688 wronge *A*. 689 Why] while *AC*. 690 vnworthie *A* vnwoorthy *C*. 691 whie *A* kinge *A* mislead *AC*. 692 deuided *AC* lande *A*. 693 sorte *C*. 694 Ech *C* companie *A*. 695 ben *A* beene *C* knowen *A*. 696 meaninge *A*.

Rumours are spread of your preparing here.
 The raseall numbers of vnskillfull sort
 Are filled with monstrous tales of you and yours.
 In secrete I was counselled by my frendes, 700
 To hast me thence, and brought you as you know
 Letters from those, that both can truely tell,
 And would not write vnlesse they knew it well.

PHILANDER.

My lord, yet ere you moue vnkindly warre,
 Send to your brother to demaund the eause. 705
 Perhappes some traitorous tales haue filled his
 eares
 With false reportes against your noble grace:
 Which once diselosed, shall end the growing strife,
 That els not stayed with wise foresight in time
 Shall hazarde both your kingdomes and your liues. 710
 Send to your father eke, he shall appease
 Your kindled mindes, and rid you of this feare.

PORREX.

Ridde me of feare! I feare him not at all:
 Ne will to him, ne to my father send.
 If danger were for one to tary there, 715
 Thinke ye it safetie to returne againe?
 In mishiefes, such as *Ferrex* now intendes,
 The wonted courteous lawes to messengers
 Are not obserued, which in iuste warre they vse.

1. 697 Rumors *C* spred *AC* preparynge *A* heere *C*. 698
 nombres *A* of the *C* sorte *A*. 699 monstrous *A* of] of the *C*.
 700 secret *C* counsailed *AC* friendes *A* frends *C* 701 knowe *C*.
 702 truly *C*. 703 knewe *A*. 704 Lorde *A* moue] nowe *A* now
C vnkindely *A*. 705 sende *A* demaunde *A*. 706 Perhaps *C*
 trayterous *A*. 707 reports *AC*. 708 disclosde *C* shal ende *A*.
 709 staided *A* staided *C*. 710 hazard *C* kingdoms *C* lyues *A*. 711
 Sende *A*. 712 minds *C*. 713 Rid *C*. 714 sende *A*. 715
 daunger *AC* tarye *A* tarrie *C* 716 safely *AC* retourne *A*. 717
 suche *A* nowe *A* intends *C*. 718 woonted *C*. 719 whiche *A*.

- 720 Shall I so hazard any one of mine?
 Shall I betray my trusty frendes to him,
 That haue dislosed his treason vnto me?
 Let him entreate that feares, I feare him not.
 Or shall I to the king my father send?
 725 Yea and send now, while such a mother liues,
 That loues my brother, and that hateth me?
 Shall I geue leasure, by my fonde delays,
 To *Ferrex* to oppresse me all vnware?
 I will not, but I will inuade his realme,
 730 [D ij] And seeke the traitour princee within his court.
 Mischiefe for mischiefe is a due reward.
 His wretched head shall pay the worthy price
 Of this his treason and his hate to me.
 Shall I abide, and treate, and send and pray,
 735 And holde my yelden throate to traitours knife,
 While I with valiant minde and eonquering force,
 Might rid myselfe of foes: and winne a realme?
 Yet rather, when I haue the wretches head,
 Then to the king my father will I send.
 740 The bootelesse ease may yet appease his wrath:
 If not, I will defend me as I may.

[*Exeunt* PORREX and TYNDAR.]

1. 728 *Oppresse*, to overpower, to subdue. The Elizabethan sense of the word was nearer the Latin original than the modern use. See ll. 982, 1567.

735 *Yelden throate*. An example of the inverted sentence used in this play. See ll. 200, 590, 970. See the participle *yelden* in l. 992. knife? B.

1. 720 *hazarde* A *anie* C *myne* A. 721 *betraie* A *trustie* C *friende* A *frend* C. 722 *hath* AC *dislosed* C. 723 *intreat* C. 724 *kinge* A *sende* AC. 725 *sende* A *nowe* A *suche* A *lynes* A. 726 *mee* A. 727 *giue* *leysure* C. 728 *all* | *at* AC. 731 *rewarde* A. 732 *paie* A *worthie* A *pryce* A. 734 *and treate* | *entreate* A *intreat* C *sende* A *praie* A. 735 *yeelden throate* C. 736 *valiaunt* A *mind* C. 739 *Than* A *sende* A. 740 *booteles* C. 741 *maye* A.

PHILANDER.

Lo, here the end of these two youthful kings,
 The father's death, the ruine of their realmes.
 "O most vnhappy state of counsellors,
 "That light on so vnhappy lordes and times, 745
 "That neither can their good aduise be heard,
 "Yet must they beare the blames of ill successe".
 But I will to the king their father haste,
 Ere this mischiefe come to the likely end,
 That if the mindfull wrath of wrekefull Gods, 750
 Since mightie Ilions fall not yet appeased
 With these poore remnantes of the Troian name,
 Haue not determined by vnmooued fate
 Out of this realme to rase the Brittishe line,
 By good aduise, by awe of fathers name, 755
 By force of wiser lordes, this kindled hate
 May yet be quentched, ere it consume us all.

CHORUS.

When youth not bridled with a guiding stay
 Is left to randon of their owne delight,
 And welds whole realmes, by force of soueraign 760
 sway,
 Great is the daunger of vnmaistred might,

752 *The Trojan name.* It will be remembered that according to Geoffry of Monmouth, Brute, who founded Britain, was great grandson of Æneas.

1. 742 Loe *A* heere *C* ende *A* youthfull *C*. 743 deth *A* realms] reigne of their two realmes *AC*. 744 vnhappy *C* counsellours *A* counsellors *C*. 745 vnhappy Lords *C*. 746 harde *A*. 747 thei *A* yll *A*. 748 haste] hast *C*. 749 mischeefe *C* the] that *AC* ende *AC*. 750 mindefull *A*. 752 remnant *AC* Troians *AC*. 753 determinedlie *A* determinedly vnmooued *C*. 754 race *C* Brutish *AC*. 757 maye *A* quencht *C*. 758 whan *A* guyding staic *A*. 759 random *C*. 760 realms *C* soueraigne *AC* sway] fraie *A* fray *C*.

[v.]Lest skillesse rage throwe downe with headlong
fall

Their lands, their states, their liues, them selues
and al.

When growing pride doth fill the swelling brest,

765 And gredy lust doth rayse the climbing minde,
Oh hardlie maye the perill be represt,

Ne feare of angrie Goddes, ne lawes kinde,
Ne countries care can fiered hartes restrayne,
Whan force hath armed enuie and disdaine.

770 When kinges of foresette will neglect the rede
Of best aduise, and yelde to pleasing tales

That do their fansies noysome humour feede,

Ne reason, nor regarde of right auailles.

Succeeding heapes of plagues shall teach, to late,

775 To learne the mischiefes of misguided state.

Fowle fall the traitour false, that vndermines

The loue of brethren to destroye them both.

l. 762 *skillesse*, unreasoning, A. S. *scyl*, reason.

767 *kinde*, B.

770 *Fore sette*, pre-determined. Cf. Ger. *vorsetzen*. *Rede*,
advise, counsel.

772 *noisome*, hurtful, disgusting.

"The seeing these effects will be

Both *noisome* and *infectious*." *Cymbeline*, Act I,
sc. 6, l. 25;

"Foul breath is *noisome*." *Much Ado*, V, sc. II, l. 53.

l. 762 Least *C* *skilles* *A* throw *C* fal *A*. 763 all *AC*.
764 fil *A*. 765 greedie *C* raise *AC* clymbynge *A* mind *C*. 766
hardly may *C*. 767 Gods *C*. 768 countrie *A* Country *C* fired *C*.
769 When *C*. 770 Whan *A* foreset *AC* wyl neglecte *A* reede *C*.
771 yeeld *C* pleasinge *A*. 772 doo *C* fancies *C*. 773 regard *C*.
774 Succeedinge *A* Succeeding *C* teache *A* too *C*. 775 misguy-
dinge *A* misguiding *C*. 777 Brethrene *A* destroy *C* bothe *A*.

Wo to the prince, that pliant eare enclynes,
 And yeldes his mind to poysonous tale, that
 floweth
 From flattering mouth. And woe to wretched land 780
 That wastes it selfe with ciuil sworde in hand.
 Loe thus it is, poyson in golde to take,
 And holsome drinke in homely cuppe forsake.

Woe to the prince
And yeldes his mind
to poysonous tale
that floweth
From flattering mouth
And woe to wretched land
That wastes it selfe
with ciuil sworde
in hand
Loe thus it is
poyson in golde
to take
And holsome drinke
in homely cuppe
forsake

END OF THE SECOND ACT.

1. 778 Woe pliaunt inclines C. 779 yeeldes C minde AC
 poisenous C. 780 flatteryng A wo A land C. 781 wasts AC
 ciuyll A ciuill C sword C hande AC. 782 poison C. 783
 wholesome C.

THE ORDER AND SIGNIFICATION
OF THE DOMME SHEWE BEFORE THE THIRDE ACT.

5 *Firste the musicke of flutes began to playe, during
which came in vpon the stage a company of
mourners all clad in blacke betokening death and
sorowe to ensue vpon the ill-aduised misgouerne-
ment and discention of bretherne, as befell vpon
the murder of Ferrex by his yonger brother.
10 After the mourners had passed thryse about the
stage, they departed, and than the musicke ceased.*

ACTUS TERTIUS. SCENA PRIMA.

[D iij] GORBODUC. EUBULUS. AROSTUS.*

GORBODUC.

O cruel fates, O mindful wrath of Goddes,
785 Whose vengeance, neither Simois stayned streames
Flouing with bloud of Troian princes slaine,
Nor Phrygian fieldes made ranck with corpses dead
Of Asian kynges and lordes, can yet appease,

1. 7 murderer *B.*

* In the original, the names of Philander and Nuntius are set here, instead of in their proper entries, after lines 841 and 937.

1. 2 dumbe third Acte *C.* 3 First musike *C* Fluites *AC* beganne *C* play *C.* 4 vppon *C* companye *A* companie *C.* 5 betokeninge *A* sorowe *C.* 6 yll *A.* 7 Brethren *C.* 9 thrise *C.* 10 thei *A* [ben *C* ceased] caused *A.*

1. 784 Cruell *AC* mindfull *AC* Gods *C.* 785 streined *AC.* 786 Flowing *AC* blood *AC.* 787 fieldes *C* rancke *A.* 788 kings *C* Lords *C.*

Ne slaughter of vnhappie Pryams race,
 Nor Ilion's fall made leuell with the soile, 790
 Can yet suffice: but still continued rage
 Pursues our lyues, and from the farthest seas
 Doth chase the issues of destroyed Troye.
 "Oh, no man happie, till his ende be seene".
 If any flowing wealth and seemyng ioye 795
 In present yeres might make a happy wight,
 Happie was Hecuba, the wofullest wretch
 That euer lyued to make a myrroure of,
 And happie Pryam, with his noble sonnes.
 And happie I. till nowe alas I see 800
 And feele my most vnhappye wretchednesse.
 Beholde my lordes, read ye this letter here.
 Loe it contains the ruine of our realme,
 If timelie speede prouide not hastie helpe.
 Yet O ye Goddes, if euer wofull kyng 805
 Might moue ye kings of kinges, wreke it on me
And on my sonnes, not on this gittlesse realme.
Send down your wasting flames from wrathful skies,
To reue me and my sonnes the hatefull breath.

1. 790 soile. *B.* 797 Hecuba the *B.* 805 (O ye Goddes).
 808 frö *B.* 809 *To reave*, to rob, to deprive; the verb takes
 indirect as well as direct object. cf. *bereft*, l. 634.

"Though no part of his worth to reave him."

Heywood, *Troia Britanica*. 1609.

1. 798 *Myrroure*, show, exemplar. Used with this sense in
 Shakespeare, *Hen. V*, 2, *Chor.* 6, and in the titles of several
 early books, as "*Mirroure of Justiees*", „*Mirroure of Princely*
Deedes", 1598, etc.

1. 791 suffice *C.* 792 Pursue *AC* liues *C.* 793 Dooth *C*
 chast *AC* distroyed *A* destroyed Troy *C.* 794 tyll *A* end *C.*
 795 flowyng *A* seemyng *A* ioy *C.* 796 yeeres *C* happie *C.* 797
 wretehe *A.* 798 liued *C* mirroure *C.* 801 vnhappie *AC* wret-
 chednes *AC.* 802 Behold *C* Lords *C* reade *A* heere *C.* 803
 Lo *C* conteines *AC* ruyne *A* our] this *C.* 804 timely speed *C*
 hastie *A.* 805 Gods *C* kyng *A* king *C.* 806 ye] you *AC*
 wreake *C.* 807 gittles *AC.* 808 sende *A* downe *C* wrathfull *C.*
 809 reave *C* hateful *A.*

810 Read, read my lordes: this is the matter why
I called ye nowe to haue your good aduysse.

[V.] *The letter from DORDAN, the Counsellour of the
elder prince.*

EUBULUS readeth the letter.

My soueraigne lord, what I am loth to write,
But lothest am to see, that I am forced
By letters nowe to make you vnderstande.

815 My lord *Ferrex* your eldest sonne misledde
By traitorous fraude of yong vntempred wittes,
Assembleth force agaynst your yonger sonne,
Ne can my counsell yet withdrawe the heate
And furyous panges of hys enflamed head.

820 Disdaine (sayth he) of his disheritance
Armes him to wreke the great pretended wrong,
With ciuyll sword vpon his brothers life.
If present helpe do not restraine this rage,
This flame will wast your sonnes, your land,
and you.

*your maiesties faithfull and most
humble subiect DORDAN.*

AROSTUS.

825 O king, appease your grieffe and stay your plaint,
Great is the matter, and a wofull case.
But timely knowledge may bring timely helpe.
Sende for them both vnto your presence here.

1. 820 *Pretended*, i. e. offered, put forth.

1. 810 reade *A* whie *A*. 811 aduise *C*. 812 souereigne *C*.
814 Leters *C* now *C* vnderstand *C*. 815 mislead *AC*. 816 traitorous fraude] traitours framde *AC* yong *C*. 817 against *C* yonger *C*. 818 withdraw *C*. 819 furious pang *C* his *AC* enflamed *C*. 820 saieth *A* saith *C* inheritaunce *AC*. 821 wronge *A*. 822 sword *C*. 823 doo *C*. 824 waste *C* subiecte *A*. 825 grieffe *A* greefe *C* staie *A*. 827 maye *A* bringe *A* timely] manly *C* help *AC*. 828 send *C* heere *C*.

The reuerence of your honour, age, and state,
 Your graue aduice, the awe of fathers name, 830
 Shall quicklie knit agayne this broken peace.
 And if in either of my lordes your sonnes,
 Be suche vntamed and vnyelding pride,
 As will not bende vnto your noble hests:
 If *Ferrex* the elder sonne can beare no peere, 835
 Or *Porrex* not content, aspires to more
 (E.) Than you him gaue aboute his natuie right;
 Joyne with the iuster side, so shall you force
 Them to agree, and holde the lande in stay.

EUBULUS.

What meaneth this? Loe yonder comes in hast 840
Philander from my lord your yonger sonne.

[Enter PHILANDER.]

GORBODUC.

The Goddes sende ioyfull newes.

PHILANDER.

The mightie Joue
 Preserue your maiestie, O noble king.

GORBODUC.

Philander, welcome: but how doth my son?

PHILANDER.

Your sonne, sir, lyues, and healthie I him left. 845
 But yet (O king) the want of lustfull health

1. 834 *Hests*, commands.

"O my father

I have broke your hest to say so".

Tempest III, sc. 1, l. 37.

1. 830 advise *A*. 831 quickelie *A* quickly *C* againe *AC*
 peece *A*. 833 vnyeelding *C*. 834 bend *C* hestes *AC*. 837
 Then *AC*. 839 staie *A*. 840 haste *C*. 842 Gods *C*. 843 kinge *A*.
 844 dooth *C* sonne *AC*. 845 liues *C*. 846 kinge *A* the] this *AC*.

Could not be halfe so griefefull to your grace,
As these most wretched tidynges that I bryng.

GORBODUC.

O heauens, yet more? not ende of woes to me?

PHILANDER.

- 850 *Tyndar*, O king, came lately from the court
Of *Ferrex*, to my lord your yonger sonne,
And made reporte of great prepared store
For warre, and sayth that it is wholly ment
Agaynst *Porrex*, for high disdayne that he
855 Lyues now a king and egall in degree
With him, that claimeth to succede the whole,
As by due title of discending right.
Porrex is nowe so set on flaming fire,
Partely with kindled rage of cruell wrath,
860 Partely with hope to gaine a realme thereby,
That he in hast prepareth to inuade
His brothers land, and with vnkindely warre
Threatens the murder of your elder sonne,
Ne could I him perswade that first he should
865 Send to his brother to demaunde the cause,
Nor yet to you to staie this hatefull strife.
[V.] Wherefore sithe there no more I can be hearde,
I come my selfe now to enforme your grace,
And to beseche you, as you loue the life
870 And safetie of your children and your realme,
Now to employ your wisdome and your force
To stay this mischiefe ere it be to late.

1. 847 half *A* greefefull *C*. 848 tidynges *C* brynge *A*
bring *C*. 849 no end *AC*. 850 Courte *AC*. 851 Lorde *A*.
853 For] Of *AC* saith *AC* whollie *A*. 854 Against *AC* highe *A*
disdaine *AC*. 855 Liues *C* nowe *A* kynge *A*. 856 succede *C*.
857 discendinge *A*. 858 now *C* flamyng *A* fier *C*. 859 wrathe
A. 860 therby *AC*. 861 haste *AC*. 862 lande *A*. 864 coulde
A. 865 sende *A*. 866 stay *A* this] his *AC*. 867 sith *C* harde
A heard *C*. 868 nowe *A*. 869 beseche *C* liefe *A*. 871 Nowe
A emploie *A*. 872 staie *A* staye *C* mischeefe *C* too *C*.

GORBODUC.

Are they in armes? would he not sende to me?

Is this the honour of a fathers name?

In vaine we trauaile to asswage their mindes, 875

As if their hartes, whome neither brothers loue,

Nor fathers awe, nor kingdomes cares, can moue,

Our counsels could withdraw from raging heat.

Ioue slay them both, and end the cursed line.

For though perhappes feare of such mightie force 880

As I my lordes, ioyned with your noble aides,

Maye yet raise, shall repress their present heate,

The secret grudge and malice will remayne,

The fire not quenched, but kept in close restraint,

Fedde still within, breakes forth with double flame, 885

Their death and myne must peaze the angrie Gods.

PHILANDER.

Yelde not, O king, so much to weake dispeire.

Your sonnes yet lyue, and long I trust, they shall.

If fates had taken you from earthly life,

Before beginning of this ciuyll strife: 890

Perhaps your sonnes in their vnmaistered youth,

Loose from regarde of any lyuing wight,

Would runne on headlong, with vnbridled race,

To their owne death, and ruine of this realme.

l. 875 *Assuage*, soften. "The good gods assuage thy wrath". Coriolanus V, sc. 2, l. 83.

886 *Peaze*, appease.

894 death *B*.

l. 873 *thei A* send *C* to] for *AC*. 877 care *A*. 878 counsells *C* withdrawe *AC* raying *A* heate *C*. 879 slaye *AC* ende *A* Lyne *A*. 880 perhaps *C* mighty *C* suche *A*. 881 Lords *A*. 882 May *C* repress] expresse *C*. 883 secrete *A* malyce *A* remaine *C*. 884 fier *C* quenched *A* restraunte *C*. 885 Fead *A* Fed *C* stil *A* fourth *C*. 886 mine *AC* pease *C* angry *C*. 887 Yeelde *C* dispaier *A* dispaire *C*. 888 liue *C*. 889 Yf *A*. 890 begynning *A*. 892 Lose *AC* lyuyng *AC*. 893 Wolde ronne *A* headlonge *A* vnbrideled *C*.

- 895 But sith the Gods, that haue the care for kinges,
 Of thinges and times dispose the order so,
 That in your life this kindled flame breakes forth,
 While yet your lyfe, your wisdome, and your
 power,
 May stay the growing mischiefe, and repress
 900 The fierie blaze of their inkindled heate:
 [E ij] It seemes, and so ye ought to deeme thereof,
 That louyng Ioue hath tempred so the time
 Of this debate to happen in your dayes,
 That you yet lyuing may the same appeaze,
 905 And adde it to the glory of your latter age,
 And they [y]our sonnes may learne to liue in peace.
 Beware (O king) the greatest harme of all,
 Lest by your waylefull plaints your hastened death
 Yelde larger rounge unto their growing rage.
 910 Preserue your life, the onely hope of stay.
 And if your highnes herein list to vse
 Wisdome or force, counsell or knightly aide:
 Loe we, our persons, powers and lyues are yours,
 Use us tyll death, O king, we are your owne.

EUBULUS.

- 915 Loe here the perill that was erst foresene,
 When you, (O king) did first deuide your lande,
 And yelde your present reigne vnto your sonnes,
 But now (O noble prince) now is no time

1. 895 kinges. *B.*
 898 power. *B.*
 917 sonnes *B.*

1. 898 life *AC.* 899 maye staie *A* mischeefe *C.* 900
 fiery *C* vnkindled *C.* 901 therof *AC.* 902 louing *C.* 903 daies
AC. 904 liuing *C* lyuyng *A* maye *A.* 905 glorie *A.* 906 your
C maye *A.* 907 kyng *A.* 908 Least *C* wayleful *A* wailefull
C. 909 Yelde *C* roome *C* growyng *A.* 910 lyfe *A* only *C*
 staie *A.* 911 heerin *C.* 913 liues *C.* 914 till *C.* 915 heere
 foreseene *C.* 918 heere *C* foreseene *C.* 916 Land *C.* 917 yelde
C raigne *AC.* 918 nowe *A.*

To waile and plaine, and wast your wofull life.
 Now is the time for present good aduise. 920
 Sorow doth darke the iudgement of the wytte.
 "The hart vnbroken, and the courage free
 "From feble faintnesse of bootelesse despeire,
 "Doth either ryse to safetie or renowme
 "By noble valure of vnuanquisht minde, 925
 "Or yet doth perishe in more happy sort."
 Your grace may send to either of your sonnes
 Some one both wise and noble personage,
 Which with good counsell and with weightie name,
 Of father, shall present before their eyes 930
 Your hest, your life, your safetie and their owne,
 The present mischiefe of their deadly strife.
 And in the while, assemble you the force
 Which your commaundement and the spedy hast
 [v°] Of all my lordes here present can prepare. 935
 The terrour of your mightie power shall stay
 The rage of both, or yet of one at lest.

[Enter] NUNTIUS.

O king the greatest grieffe that euer prince dyd
 heare,
 That euer wofull messenger did tell,
 That euer wretched lande hath sene before, 940

1. 919 Compare with this Chaucer's line

"And let him care, and wepe, and wringe, and waile"
 Clerkes Tale, last line.

922 vnbroken B.

1. 919 wayle A lyfe A waste C. 920 nowe A aduice C.
 921 sorowe A Sorrow C dooth C wit C. 923 feeble C faintnes
 A faintenes C booteles AC dispaier A dispaire C. 924 rise C
 renowne A. 925 valour C vnuanquisshed A vnuanquished C.
 926 dooth C. perrish C happie sorte AC. 927 maye sende
 A. 929 counsel A counsell C weightye C. 931 liefe A. 932
 mischeefe C deadlie A. 934 Whiche A spedie A speedy C haste
 C. 935 heere C. 936 mighty C steye A staye C. 937 bothe
 A least C. 938 greefe C here A. 940 land AC seene AC.

I bryng to you. *Porrex* your yonger sonne
 With soden force inuaded hath the lande
 That you to *Ferrex* did allotte to rule,
 And with his owne most bloody hand he hath
 945 His brother slaine, and doth possesse his realme.

GORBODUC.

O heauens send down the flames of your reuenge,
 Destroy I say with flash of wrekefull fier
 The traitour sonne, and then the wretched sire.
 But let vs go, that yet perhappes I may
 950 Die with reuenge, and peaze the hatefull gods.
[Exeunt].

CHORUS.*

The lust of kingdome knowes no sacred faith,
 No rule of reason, no regarde of right,
 No kindly loue, no feare of heauens wrath.
 But with contempt of Goddes, and mans despite,
 955 Through blodie slaughter doth prepare the waies
 To fatall scepter and accursed reigne.
 The sonne so lothes the fathers lingering daies,
 Ne dreads his hand in brothers blode to staine

l. 942 force, *B*.

* The stanzas in this Chorus are not separate in any of the editions.

l. 950 *Hatefull gods*, i. e. "the gods who are full of hate towards, me". The modern use of the word (also found here. e. g. l. 1245) conveys the opposite sense, viz. that "I hate the gods".

955 slaughter, *B*.

959 *Recorde*, remember, recall.

"I thank you, princes, for my daughter's death:
 Record it with your high and worthy deeds."

Much Ado. Act V, sc. 1. l. 278.

l. 941 brynge *A* bring *C*. 942 sudden *C* land *C*. 943
 alotte *C*. 944 bloudie hande *A*. 945 dooth *C*. 947 Destroie
A saie *A* flasshe *A* wreakefull *C*. 948 than *A*. 949 goe *C*
 perhaps *C* maye *A*. 950 Dye *C*. 951 kingdomes *AC* faithe *A*.
 953 kindlie wrathe *A*. 954 Gods *C*. 955 bloodye *C* dooth *C*.
 957 sonnes *C* loathes *C* lingerynge *A* lingring *C*. 958 bloud *C*.

O wretched prince, ne doest thou yet recorde
 The yet fresh murthers done within the lande 960
 Of thy forefathers, when the cruell sworde
 Bereft Morgan his life with cosyns hand?
Thus fatall plagues pursue the giltie race,
Whose murderous hand, imbrued with giltlesse
blood,
 Askes vengeance still before the heauens face, 965
 With endlesse mischiefes on the cursed broode.
 [E ij] The wicked childe thus brings to wofull sire
 The mournfull plaintes, to wast his very life.
 Thus do the cruell flames of ciuyl fier
 Destroy the parted reigne with hatefull strife. 970
 And hence doth spring the well from which doth flow
 The dead black streames of mourning, plaints
 and woe.

END OF THE THIRD ACT.

1. 959 doost C. 960 fresshe A doone C lands C. 961
 thie A sword C. 962 liefe A Cozins C hande A. 963 guiltie
 C. 964 giltles AC bloud C. 965 vengeance C still omitted in
 AC. 966 endles AC brood C. 967 child C thus] this AC brings
 C sier A. 968 plaints C very | wery A weary C. 969 doo
 ciuill fire C. 970 Destroye A. 971 dooth C dooth floe C flo
 A. 972 blacke streams C mournings AC

THE ORDER AND SIGNIFICATION
OF THE DOMME SHEW BEFORE THE FOURTH ACT.

First the musick of Howboies began to plaie, during
which there came from vnder the stage, as
5 though out of hell three furies, Alecto, Megera,
and Ctesiphone, clad in black garmentes sprink-
led with bloud and flames, their bodies girt with
snakes, their heds spred with serpentes in stead
of heare, the one bearing in her hand a Snake,
10 the other a whip, and the third a burning Fire-
brand: ech driuing before them a king and a
queene, which, moued by furies vnnaturally had
slaine their owne children. The names of the
kings and queenes were these, Tantalus, Medea,
15 Athamas, Ino, Cambises, Althea; after that the
furies and these had passed about the stage
thrise, they departed and than the musicke ceased.
Hereby was signified the vnnaturall murders to
follow, that is to say, Porrex slaine by his owne
20 mother, and of king Gorboduc and queene Viden,
killed by their owne subiectes.

1. 1 begā B.

3 *Howboies*, Fr. hautbois, hautboy a wind instrument
sounded through a reed, with three pieces besides. The ancient
English name was wayght, which became transferred to the
men who played it. Many towns in former times kept their waits
or pipers, who provided music at the public expense; money paid
to the "town waits" often appears on old municipal accounts.

17 ceased: hereby ABC.

19 say. AB 20 mother. And ABC.

1. 2 dumbe C shewe AC Acte AC. 3 Musike C Howe-
boies AC playe C duringe A. 4 whiche A came forth A fourth
C. 5 thoughe A. 6 blacke garmentes AC. 8 heads C spread
A serpentes AC steade A steed C haire C. 9 bearinge hande A.
10 thirde A Firebrande A eche AC driuyng A. 11 eche C
kyng A whiche A moued C. 12 vnnaturallye A. 15 aboute
A. 16 then C musike C Heereby C. 19 followe AC saie A.

ACTUS QUARTUS. SCENA PRIMA.

VIDEN *sola*.

Why should I lyue, and linger forth my time
 In longer life to double my distresse?
 O me most wofull wight, whom no mishappe, 975
 [v^o] Long ere this day could haue bereued hence.
 Mought not these handes by fortune, or by fate,
 Haue perst this brest, and life with iron reft?
 Or in this palace here, where I so long
 Haue spent my daies, could not that happie houre 980
 Once, once haue hapt in which these hugie frames
 With death by fall might haue oppressed me?
 Or should not this most hard and cruell soile,
 So oft where I haue prest my wretched steps,
 Sometime had ruthe of myne accursed life, 985
 To rende in twayne, [and] swallow me therin?
 So had my bones possessed now in peace
 Their happie graue within the closed grounde,
 And greadie wormes had gnawen this pyned hart
 Without my feeling payne: so should not now 990
 This lyuing brest remayne the ruthefull tombe,

l. 980, 981 A play on the words *happie* and *hapt*, i. e. "O that the chance hour had come". *Hugie*, for huge, "the hugie hosts", *Mirror for Magistrates*, Sackeville's Induction, ed. 1571, fo. 110 v^o. See also, l. 1626 etc.

989 *Pined*, grieved: pine, grief or sorrow.

l. 973 *lyue C lynger A fourth C.* 974 *liefie A.* 975 *mee C whome AC mishap AC.* 976 *Longe A daie A bereued C.* 977 *Might C,* 978 *pearst C.* 979 *pallaice A pallace C longe A.* 981 *ones, ones A.* 983 *soyle C.* 985 *sometyme A sometimes C ruth C liefie A.* 986 *rend C twaine C and AC not in B swallowe A therein C.* 987 *nowe A.* 988 *ground C.* 989 *greedie C gnawne C.* 990 *feelynge A paine AC shulde A nowe A.* 991 *lyuyng A liuing C remaine C ruthfull C.*

Wherin my hart yelden to death is graued:
Nor driery thoughts, with panges of pining grieffe
My dolefull minde had not afflicted thus.

995 O my beloued sonne: O my swete childe,
My deare *Ferrex*, my ioye, my lyucs delyght.
Is my beloued sonne, is my sweete childe,
My deare *Ferrex*, my ioye, my lyues delight,
Murdered with cruell death? O hatefull wretch,

1000 O heynous traitour both to heauen and earth.
Thou *Porrex*, thou this damned dede hast
wrought,

Thou *Porrex*, thou shalt dearely bye the same.
Traitor to kinne and kinde, to sire and me,
To thine owne fleshe, and traitour to thy selfe.

1005 The Gods on thee in hell shall wreke their wrath,
And here in earth this hand shall take reuenge,
On thee *Porrex*, thou false and caitife wight.

If after bloud so eigre were thy thirst,
And murderous minde had so possessed thee,

1010 If such hard hart of rocke and stonie flint

[E iii] Liue in thy brest, that nothing els could like
Thy cruell tyrantes thought but death and bloud:

Wilde sauage beasts, mought not their slaughter
serue

1. 998 delight, *B*.

1002 *Bye*, shortened form of *abye*, to pay for, make amends
(*A. S.* *abicgan*).

1006 reuenge, *B*.

1008 bloud, *B*. *Eigre*, eager; sharp, sour (*Fr.* *aigre*).

1. 992 Wherein *C* yeelden *A*. 993 pangs *C*. 994 mind
hath *C*. 995 sweet child *C*. 996 ioy *C* liues *A* delight *AC*.
997 beloued] welbeloued *AC* sweet child *C*. 998 ioy *C* liues
C. 999 Murdered *C* wretche *A*. 1000 hainous *C* traytour *A*
bothe *A*. 1001 deed *C*. 1002 bye] *abye AC*. 1004 thyne
fleshe *A* flesh *C*. 1005 the *A* wreake *C*. 1006 heere *C*. 1007
thee] the *A* caytife *A*. 1008 blode *A* eager *C*. 1009 mind *C*.
1010 suche *A*. 1011 lyued *A* liued *C* elles *A*. 1012 tyrantes
C bloode *A*. 1013 Wilde *AC* might *C* their] the *AC*.

To fede thy gredie will, and in the middest
 Of their entrailles to staine thy deadly handes 1015
 With bloud deserued, and drinke thereof thy fill?
 Or if nought els but death and bloud of man
 Mought please thy lust, could none in Brittain land,
 Whose hart betorne out of his panting brest
 With thine owne hand, or worke what death thou 1020
 wouldest,

Suffice to make a sacrifice to peaze
 That deadly minde and murderous thought in thee,
 But he who in the selfesame wombe was wrapped,
 Where thou in dismall hower receiuedst life?
 Or if nedes, nedes, thy hand must slaughter make, 1025
 Moughtest thou not haue reached a mortall wound,
 And with thy sword haue pearsed this cursed
 wombe

That the accursed *Porrex* brought to light,
 And geuen me a iust reward therefore?
 So *Ferrex* yet sweete life mought haue enioyed, 1030
 And to his aged father comfort brought,
 With some yong sonne in whom they both might
 liue.

But whereunto waste I this ruthfull speche,
 To thee that hast thy brothers bloud thus shed?
 Shall I still thinke that from this wombe thou 1035
 sprong?

1 1022 thee? *B.*

1035 frō *B.*

1. 1014 feede *C* greedy *C* myddest *A.* 1015 deadlie *A.*
 1016 blode *A* blood *C* therof fyll *A.* 1017 blood *C.* 1018 might
C Bryttain *A* Britaine *C.* 1019 panting]louyng *A* louing *C.*
 1020 own *C* worke *A* woldest *A* wouldst *C.* 1021 Suffise *C*
 appeaze *A* appease *C.* 1022 deadlie *A* thee]the *A.* 1023
 self *A.* 1024 houre *C.* 1025 nedes *C* thy]thie *A* this *C*
 must]might *C.* 1026 Mightest *C* reacht *C.* 1027 sworde *A*
 persed *A* pierst *C* womb *A.* 1028 lyght *A.* 1029 giuen *C*
 rewarde therefore *A.* 1030 yet]if *AC* swete *A* sweet *C.* 1031
 might *C.* 1032 whome *C* thei *A.* 1033 wast *A* ruthefull *A.*
 1034 the *A.* 1035 stil thinke *A* womb *A* sproong *C.*

That I thee bare? or take thee for my sonne?
 No traitour, no. I thee refuse for mine,
 Murderer I thee renounce, thou art not mine.
 Neuer, O wretch, this wombe conceiued thee,
 1040 Nor neuer bode I painfull throwes for thee.
 Changeling to me thou art, and not my childe,
 Nor to no wight, that sparke of pitie knew.
 Ruthelesse, vnkinde, monster of natures worke,
 Thou neuer suckt the milke of womans brest,
 1045 But from thy birth the cruell Tigers teates
 [v.] Haue nursed thee, nor yet of fleshe and bloud
 Formde is thy hart, but of hard iron wrought;
 And wilde and desert woods bredde thee to life.
 But canst thou hope to scape my iust reuenge?
 1050 Or that these handes will not be wrooke on thee?
 Doest thou not know that *Ferrex* mother liues,
 That loued him more dearly than her selfe?
 And doth she liue, and is not venged on thee?

1. 1041 *Changeling*. Videna supposes that the fairies stole her real son and that the Porrex she now addresses is a bad fairy child left in his stead. Spenser says

“From thence a fairy thee unweeting reft,
 There as thou slepst in tender swadling band
 And her base elfin brood there, for thee, left:
 Such, men do changelings call, so changed
 by fairies theft.”

Fairie Queen I, x, 65.

1. 1037 Traytour *A* the *A*. 1039 wretche *A* conceued *A*.
 1040 painefull *C*. 1041 Changeling *C*. 1042 pytie *A* pittie
C knewe *AC*. 1043 Rutheles *A* Ruthles *C* vnkind *C*. 1044
AC suckte *A* breaste *A*. 1045 Tigres *AC* flesshe *A* flesh *C*.
 1046 thee omitted in *AC*. 1048 breade *A* bred *C* lyfe *A*. 1050
 handes *C* wrooke] wrekte *C*. 1051 Dooest *C* knowe *AC* lyues
A. 1052 dearelie *A* dearely *C* then *A*. 1053 dooth *C* lyue *A*.

ACTUS QUARTUS. SCENA SECUNDA.

GORBODUC. AROSTUS.*

GORBODUC.

We marvell much wherto this lingring stay
 Falles out so long: *Porrex* vnto our court 1055
 By order of our letters is returned,
 And *Eubulus* receaued from vs by hest,
 At his arrivall here, to geue him charge
 Before our presence straight to make repaire,
 And yet we haue no worde whereof he staves. 1060

AROSTUS.

Lo where he commes and *Eubulus* with him.

[Enter EUBULUS and PORREX.]

EUBULUS.

According to your highnesse hest to me,
 Here haue I *Porrex* brought euen in such sort
 As from his weried horse he did alight,
 For that your grace did will such hast therein. 1065

GORBODUC.

We like and praise this spedy will in you,

* In the original, the names of Eubulus, Porrex and Marcella, are also placed here, instead of at their proper entries.

l. 1054 *Stay* is used in this act in the sense of *delay*, see ll. 1060, 1084 etc. In the previous acts it usually signifies *support*, *firmness* or *restraint* see l. 195, 201; except ll. 825, 872, 899.

l. 1054 marueyle *A* meruaile *C* mucho *A* whereto *C* lingeryng *A* lingering *C* staie *AC*. 1055 courte *A*. 1056 retourned *A*. 1057 receyued *A* receiued *C*. 1058 arriual *C* giue *C*. 1059 streight *AC*. 1060 haue] heare *C* word *C* wherof *A* staies *AC*. 1061 loe *A* comes *C* hym *A*. 1062 accordynge *A* highnes *AC*. 1063 Heere *C* suche *A*. 1064 wearied *C* alighte *A*. 1065 suche *A*. 1066 spedie wyl *A* speedie *C*.

To worke the thing that to your charge we gaue.

[To PORREX.]

Porrex, if we so farre should swarue from kinde,
 And from those boundes which lawe of nature sets,
 As thou hast done by vile and wretched deede,
 1070 In cruell murder of thy brothers life
 Our present hand could stay no longer time,
 But straight should bathe this blade in bloud of
 thee
 [F.] As iust reuenge of thy detested crime.
 No: we should not offend ~~the lawe of kinde~~,
 1075 If now this sworde of ours did slay thee here:
 For thou hast murdered him, whose heinous death
 Euen natures force doth moue vs to reuenge
 By bloud againe; and iustice forceth vs
 To measure death for death, thy due desert.
 1080 Yet sithens thou art our childe, and sith as yet
 In this hard case what worde thou canst alledge
 For thy defence, by vs hath not bene heard,
 We are content to stayer our will for that
 Which iustice biddes vs presently to worke,
 1085 And geue thee leaue to vse thy speche at full
 If ought thou haue to lay for thine excuse.

PORREX.

Neither O king, I can or will denie
 But that this hand from *Ferrex* life hath reft:

l. 1067 woorke C. 1068 shulde A. 1069 these C
 bounds A lawes AC. 1070 doone C. 1072 hande could stae
 A lenger tyme A. 1073 streight AC shuld bath C the A 1074
 cryme A. 1075 shuld A offende A. 1076 nowe A sword C
 slaie A heere C. 1078 dooth C. 1079 and]but A. 1080 deserte
 AC. 1081 sithe A. 1082 harde A word C. 1083 ben A beene
 C harde A. 1084 stae wyll A. 1085 whiche A bids C woorke
 C. 1086 giue C the A speache A speech C. 1087 laye AC.
 1088 kyng wyll A deny C. 1089 hande A lyfe A

Which fact how much my dolefull hart doth waile, 1090
 Oh would it mought as full appeare to sight,
 As inward grieffe doth poure it forth to me.
 So yet perhappes if euer ruthefull hart
 Melting in tears within a manly brest,
 Through depe repentance of his bloody fact, 1095
 If ever grieffe, if euer wofull man
 Might moue regreite with sorrowe of his fault,
 I thinke the torment of my mournefull case
 Knownen to your grace, as I do feele the same,
 Would force euen wrath her selfe to pitie me. 1100
 But as the water troubled with the mudde
 Shewes not the face which els the eye should see;
 Euen so your irefull minde with stirred thought,
 Cannot so perfectly discerne my cause.
 But this vnhappy, amongst so many happes, 1105
 I must content me with, most wretched man,
 That to my selfe I must reserue my woe,
 [V.] In pining thoughtes of mine accursed fact,
 Since I may not shewe here my smallest grieffe
 Such as it is, and as my brest endures, 1110
 Which I esteeme the greatest miserie
 Of all missehappes that fortune now can send.
 Not that I rest in hope with plaint and teares

ll. 1090, 1095 *Fact*, a bad deed or action, the ordinary sense of the word at this date. See l. 603 note.

1102 see. *B*.

1105 heapes *B*.

1112 send, *B*.

l. 1090 doleful *A*. 1092 inwarde *A* greefe *C* dooth *C* powre *A* foorth *C*. 1093 perhaps *C*. 1094 teares *AC* manlie *A* breast *AC*. 1095 Throughe *A* deepe *C* repentaunce *A* bloudie facte *A*. 1096 greefe *C* men *C*. 1097 sorowe *A* sorrow *C* faulte *C*. 1099 doo *C*. 1100 woulde *A* pytie *A* pittie *C* mee *C* 1102 whiche *A* shulde *A*. 1105 vnhappy *C* amongst *A* happes] heapes *AC*. 1107 reserue] referre *AC*. 1108 pynnyng thoughts *A* myne *A* facte *A*. 1109 Sithens *A* sithence *C* heere *C* greefe *C*. 1110 breast *AC*. 1111 Whiche *A* esteme *A* myserie *A*. 1112 mishappes *AC* nowe *A* sende *A*. 1113 plainte *AC*.

To purchase life: for to the Goddes I clepe
 1115 For true recorde of this my faithfull speche,
 Neuer this hart shall haue the thoughtfull dread
 To die the death that by your graces dome
 By iust desert, shall be pronounced to me:
 Nor neuer shall this tongue once spend the speche
 1120 Pardon to craue, or seeke by sute to liue.
 I meane not this, as though I were not touchde
 With care of dreadfull death, or that I helde
 Life in contempt: but that I know, the minde
 Stoupes to no dread, although the fleshe be fraile,
 1125 And for my gilt, I yelde the same so great
 As in my selfe I finde a feare to sue
 For graunt of life.

GORBODUC.

In vaine, O wretch, thou shewest
 A wofull hart, *Ferrex* now lies in graue,
 Slaine by thy hand.

PORREX.

Yet this, O father, heare:
 1130 And then I end. Your majestie well knowes,
 That when my brother *Ferrex* and my selfe
 By your owne hest were ioyned in gouernance
 Of this your graces realme of Brittain land,
 I neuer sought nor trauailed for the same,

1. 1114 *clepe*, appeal.

1116 *Thoughtfull*, i. e. full of care, anxious. Cf. l. 1312.

1. 1114 To] Should *AC* Gods *C*. 1115 speache *A* speech
C. 1116 harte *A* dreade *C*. 1117 dye *C* doome *C*. 1118
 desarte *AC* shalbe *AC* mee *A*. 1119 shal *A* tung *C* ones *A*
 the] this *AC* speech *C*. 1120 lyue *A*. 1121 toucht *C*. 1123
 Lyfe *A* knowe *A* mynde *A*. 1124 dreade *A* flesh *AC*. 1125
 gilt *A* guilte *C* yeelde *C*. 1126 graunte *A* vayne *A* wretche
A. 1128 harte *A* nowe *A* lyes *AC*. 1129 hande *A*. 1130 than
 ende *A*. 1131 whan *A*. 1132 gouernaunce *A*. 1133 Brittain
 lande *A*. 1134 trauaylled *A* trauailed *C*.

Nor by my selfe, nor by no frend I wrought, 1135
 But from your highnesse will alone it sprong,
 Of your most gracious goodnesse bent to me.
 But how my brothers hart euen then repined
 With swollen disdaine against mine egall rule,
 [Fv]Seing that realm, which by discent should grow 1140
 Wholly to him, allotted halfe to me!
 Euen in your highnesse court he now remaines,
 And with my brother then in nearest place,
 Who can recorde what prooffe thereof was shewde,
 And how my brothers enuious hart appearde. 1145
 Yet I that iudged it my part to seeke
 His fauour and good will, and loth to make
 Your highnesse know the thing which should
 haue brought
 Grief to your grace, and your offence to him,
 Hoping my earnest sute should soone haue wonne 1150
 A louing hart within a brothers brest,
 Wrought in that sort that for a pledge of loue
 And faithful hart, he gaue to me his hand.
 This made me thinke, that he had banisht quite

1. 1135 This line is a good example of the repetition of negatives for emphasis formerly so frequent, when the modern rule that "two negatives make an affirmative" was unknown.

1142 *He now remaines*, i. e. there is still the man in your highness' court, who was at that time in my brother's confidence, who can recall, etc. The "he" seems to refer to Dordan, who gave Ferrex loyal counsel in Act I, sc. 1.

1144 *recorde*, B.

1145 *know*, B.

1152 *Wrought in that sort*, i. e. I wrought in such a way, that he gave me his hand.

1135 *nor*] or *AC* freend *C* frende *A*. 1136 *highnes* *AC*.
spronge *A* sprung *C*. 1137 *goodnes* *AC*. 1138 *howe* *A* than
A. 1140 *realme* *AC* discent *AC* growe *C*. 1141 *Whollie* *A*
wholy *C*. 1142 *highnes* *A* Courte *C* nowe remaynes *A*. 1143
than *C* nearest *C*. 1144 *therof* *AC*. 1145 *appeerde* *C*. 1146
parte *AC*. 1147 *lothe* *A*. 1148 *highnes* knowe *A* shuld *A*.
 1149 *Greefe* *C*. 1150 *hopying* *A* my] by *AC* suite *A* shuld *A*.
 1151 *louynge* *C*. 1152 *sorte* *AC* pleadge *A*. 1153 *faithfull*
AC hande *A*. 1154 *think* *C* banished *AC*.

- 1155 All rancour from his thought and bare to me
Such hartie loue, as I did owe to him.
But after once we left your graces court,
And from your highness presence liued apart,
This egall rule still, still, did grudge him so
1160 That now those enuious sparkes which erst lay raked
In liuing cinders of dissembling brest,
Kindled so farre within his hart disdainie,
That longer could he not refraine from prooffe
Of secrete practise to depriuie me life
1165 By poysons force, and had bereft me so,
If mine owne seruant hired to this fact
And moued by truth with hate to worke the same,
In time had not bewrayed it vnto me.
Whan thus I sawe the knot of loue vnknitte,
1170 All honest league and faithfull promise broke,
The law of kinde and truth thus rent in twaine,
His hart on mischiefe set, and in his brest
Blacke treason hid. then, then did I despeire
That euer time could winne him frend to me.
1175 [v.] Then saw I how he smiled with slaying knife
Wrapped vnder cloke, then saw I depe deceite

l. 1160 *That now* — *brest*. These two lines refer to the custom, still in nightly use in some parts of the country, of covering up a fire with ashes or cinders to keep it alive. The ashes are scraped or swept together for the purpose (AS. *racan*, to scrape), the whole process is called *r king* the fire.

1164 *Practice*, see note to l. 568.

1168 *Bewrayed*, disclosed, divulged. Compare 'Lear', Act II, sc. 1, "He did bewray his practice."

l. 1156 *Suche A hartie C.* 1158 *highnes A highnesse C.*
aparte A. 1160 *owwe A rakte C.* 1161 *lyuing C dissemblynge*
A. 1162 *hartes A.* 1164 *secrete C me] my C.* 1166 *myne A*
seruaunt A. 1167 *trouthe A troth C woorke C.* 1168 *In] If C.*
bewraied AC mee A. 1169 *When C vnknit C.* 1171 *Lawe AC*
kind A trothe A troth C. 1172 *mischeefe C.* 1173 *black C*
dispaier A dispaire C. 1174 *tyme coulde wynne A frende A*
freend C. 1175 *Than sawe howe A smyled A.* 1176 *cloak C*
sawe A deepe C.

Lurke in his faee and death prepared for me:
 Euen nature moued me than to holde my life
 More deare to me than his, and bad this hand,
 (Since by his life my death must nedes ensue, 1180
 And by his death my life to be preserued,)
 To shed his bloud, and seeke my safetie so.
 And wisdome willed me without protraet
 In spedie wise to put the same in vre.
 Thus haue I tolde the cause that moued me 1185
 To worke my brothers death; and so I yeld
 My life, my death, to iudgement of your graee.

GORBODUC.

Oh eruel wight, should any cause preuaile
 To make thee staine thy hands with brothers bloud?
 But what of thee we will resolute doe, 1190
 Shall yet remaine vnknown: Thou in the meane
 Shalt from our royall presence banisht be,
 Untill our princely pleasure further shall
 To thee be shewed. Depart therefore our sight
 Accursed ehilde. [*Exit PORREX*] What eruell destenie, 1195
 What froward fate hath sorted us this chaunce,
 That euen in those where we should comfort find,
 Where our delight now in our aged dayes
 S[h]ould rest and be, euen there our onely grieffe
 And depest sorrowes to abridge our life, 1200
 Most pyning cares and deadly thoughts do grow!

l. 1184 *Ure*. See note to l. 201.

1186 death and *B*.

1195 No stage-direction in the original here.

l. 1177 mee *A*. 1178 then *C* lyfe *A*. 1179 deere *C* then
C hande *A*. 1180 lyfe *A*. 1181 lyfe *A*. 1183 wisdome *AC*
 protracte *A*. 1184 speedy *C*. 1186 woork *C* yelde *A* yeelde *C*.
 1187 lyfe *A*. 1188 shulde *A*. 1189 thee]the *AC* handes *C*
 blod *A* blood *C*. 1190 doo *C*. 1191 Shal *A*. 1192 banyshed
A banisht *C*. 1194 the *A* departe therfore *A*. 1195 destiny?
C. 1196 frowarde *A*. 1197 shuld *A* finde *C*. 1198 nowe *A*
 daies *AC*. 1199 Shulde *A* onelie *A* only *C* greefe *C*. 1200
 deepest *C* liefe *A*. 1201 pynyng *A* pinyng *C* deadlie *A* doo *C*
 grow] graue *AC*.

AROSTUS.

Your grace should now in these graue yeres of
 yours,
 Haue found ere this the price of mortall ioyes;
 How short they be, how fading here in earth,
 1205 How full of chaunge, how brittle our estate,
 Of nothing sure, saue onely of the death,
 To whom both man and all the world doth owe
 Their end at last, neither should natures power
 [F ij] In other sort against your hart preuaile,
 1210 Than as the naked hand whose stroke assayes
 The armed brest where force doth light in vaine.

GORBODUC.

Many can yelde right sage and graue aduise
 Of pacient sprite to others wrapped in woe,
 And can in speche both rñle and conquere kinde,
 1215 Who if by prooffe they might feele natures force,
 Would shew them selues men as they are in dede,
 Which now wil nedes be gods. But what doth
 meane
 The sory chere of her that here doth come?

l. 1213 *Wrapped in woe.* Compare the line

"In wayling and weping in woo am I wapped"

(York mysteries, the Weavers' Pageant, Ashburnham MS. fo. 231).
 For the connection in meaning between *wrap* and *wap* see
 H. Wedgwood's 'Etymological Dictionary' v. wrap, and 'Promp-
 torium Parvulorum', v. wappyn.

1218 *Sorry chere*, sorrowful countenance or behaviour.
 "With dreadfull eheare", Sackville's 'Induction' ed. 1571 fo. 107 v°.

l. 1202 shuld *A* yeeres *C*. 1203 founde *A*. 1204 howe
A shorte *AC* howe fadyng *A* heare *A* heere *C*. 1205 Howe *A*
 change *C* howe *A*. 1206 nothyng *A*. 1207 whome *AC* worlde
AC dooth *C*. 1208 ende *A* should } shall *AC*. 1209 sorte *AC*
 harte *A* preuayle *A*. 1210 Then *C* hande *A* assaies *C*. 1211
 breast *AC* dooth *C*. 1212 yeelde *C* graue and sage *AC* aduice
C. 1214 speache *A* speech *C*. 1216 Wold shewe *A* thei *A* in-
 dede *C*. 1217 needes *C* dooth *C*. 1218 sorry cheere that heere
 doath come *C*.

[Enter] MARCELLA.

Oh where is ruth? or where is pitie now?
 Whither is gentle hart and mercy fled? 1220
 Are they exiled out of our stony brestes,
 Neuer to make returne? is all the world
 Drowned in bloud, and soncke in crueltie?
 If not in women mercy may be found,
 If not (alas) within the mothers brest, 1225
 To her owne childe, to her owne fleshe and bloud,
 If ruthe be banished thence, if pitie there
 May haue no place. if there no gentle hart
 Do liue and dwell, where should we seeke it then?

GORBODUC.

Madame (alas) what meanes your woful tale? 1230

MARCELLA.

O sillie woman I, why to this houre
 Haue kinde and fortune thus deferred my breath,
 That I should liue to see this dolefull day?
 Will euer wight beleue that such hard hart
 Could rest within the cruell mothers brest, 1235
 With her owne hand to slay her onely sonne?
 But out (alas)! these eyes behelde the same,
 They saw the driery sight, and are become
 Most ruthfull recordes of the bloody fact.

l. 1220) whether *B*.

1231 *Silly*, simple, weak.

1237 (alas) these *B*. Compare out, as interjection, in Shakespeare's Sonnet 33, and in old Miracle Plays.

l. 1219 ruthe *AC* pytie *A* pittie *C*. 1220 Whether *AC* harte *A* mercie *A*. 1221 breasts *A* brestes *C*. 1222 retourne *A* worlde *AC*. 1223 bloode *A* suncke *C*. 1224 mercie maye *A* founde *A*. 1225 brest *A*. 1226 childe *A* flesshe *A* flesh *C* blood *A*. 1227 banished *A* pytie *A* pittie *C*. 1228 maye *A* harte *A*. 1229 lyue *A* shuld *A* than *A*. 1230 Madam *C* wofull *C*. 1231 silly *C* howre *AC*. 1232 kind *C* breathe *A*. 1233 shuld lyue *A* daye *AC*. 1234 beleue *C* such harde harte *A*. 1235 coulede *A* hreaste *A* breast *C*. 1236 hande *A* slaye *AC*. 1238 sawe *C*. 1239 ruthfull *C* bloudie facte *A*.

1240 *Porrex* (alas) is by his mother slaine,
 And with her hand, a wofull thing to tell,
 [v.] While slumbring on his carefull bed he restes
 His hart stabde in with knife is reft of life.

GORBODUC.

O *Eubulus*, oh draw this sword of ours,
 1245 And pearce this hart with speed. O hatefull light,
 O lothsome life, O sweete and welcome death.
 Deare *Eubulus*, worke this we thee besech.

EUBULUS.

Pacient your grace, perhappes he liueth yet,
 With wound receued, but not of certaine death.

GORBODUC.

1250 O let us then repayre vnto the place,
 And see if *Porrex* liue, or thus be slaine.

MARCELLA.

Alas, he liueth not, it is to true,
 That with these eyes of him a perelesse prince,
 Sonne to a king, and in the flower of youth,
 1255 Euen with a twinke a senselesse stocke I saw.

[*Exeunt* GORBODUC and EUBULUS.]*

1. 1242 *Carefull bed*, i. e. bed of cares.

1244—47. These weak exclamations of the miserable king recall the ranting ejaculatory speech of Pyramus, in which Shakespeare ridicules the common plays. *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act V, sc. 1, l. 171.

1. 1240 slayne *A*. 1241 thyng *A*. 1242 slomberinge *A*.
 1243 stabde | stalde *AC* kniefe *A*. 1244 drawe *A* sworde *A*
 sword *C*. 1245 perce *A* pierce *C* speede *C*. 1246 loathsome
C lief *A*. 1247 Dere *A* dcero *C* woorke *C* besече *A* beseeche
C. 1248 Patient *AC* perhaps *C*. 1249 wounde receued *A* re-
 ceued *C* certayne *A*. 1250 than repaier *A* repairo *C*. 1251
 if that Porrex *AC* liue omitted *AC*. 1252 too *C*. 1253 eies *A*
 peereles *C*. 1255 censeles *A* senceles stock *C*.

* The original does not give this stage direction. Mr. Sackville-West makes Gorboduc and Eubulus go out after

AROSTUS.

O damned deede.

MARCELLA.

But heare hys ruthefull end.
 The noble prince, pearst with the sodeine wound,
 Out of his wretched slumber hastely start,
 Whose strength now fayling, straight he ouerthrew, 1260
 When in the fall his eyes euen new vnclosed
 Behelde the Queene, and cryed to her for helpe.
 We then, alas, the ladies which that time
 Did there attend, seing that heynous deede,
 And hearing him oft call the wretched name
 Of mother, and to crye to her for aide, 1265
 Whose direfull hand gaue him the mortall wound,
 Pitying, alas, (for nought els could we do)
 His ruthefull end, ranne to the wofull bedde,
 Dispoyled straight his brest, and all we might
 Wiped in vaine with napkins next at hand, 1270
 The sodeine streames of bloud that flushed fast
 Out of the gaping wound. O what a looke,
 [F iij] O what a ruthefull stedfast eye me thought
 He fixt vpon my face, which to my death

l. 1250, but it seems to me that he was meant to hear the reply of Marcella Mr W. G. Stone would place it next after l. 1279.

1258 *start*, past tense of 'start'.

1259 *Overthrew*, intransitive, i. e. *fell over*. fayling B.

1267 Pitying (alas) for B.

1269 *Dispoil*, to undress.

l. 1256 dampned A his] this AC ende A. 1257 perst A pierst C sodaine wounds C wounde A. 1258 slombre A hastelie A hastilie C starte A. 1259 failyng A failing C streight AC. 1260 newe A now C. 1261 Beheld C quene A. 1262 whiche A tyme A. 1263 attende A seyng A seeing heinous C 1265 erie AC. 1266 mortal A. 1267 Pitieng AC doo C. 1268 rufull C ende AC bed C. 1269 streight AC. 1270 Wyped A napkyns A hande AC. 1271 sodaine C blood A flusshed A. 1272 wounde A. 1274 fixed AC whiche A deathe A.

1275 Will neuer part fro me, when with a braide
 A deepe fet sigh he gaue, and therewithall
 Claspig his handes, to heauen he cast his sight.
 And straight pale death pressing within his face
 The flying ghost his mortall corpes forsooke.

AROSTUS.

1280 Neuer did age bring forth so vile a fact.

MARCELLA.

O hard and cruell happe, that thus assigned
 Unto so worthy a wight so wretched end:
 But most hard cruell hart, that could consent
 To lend the hatefull destenies that hand,
 1285 By which, alas, so heynous crime was wrought.
 O Queene of adamant, O marble brest.
 If not the fauour of his comely face,
 If not his princely chere and countenance,
 His valiant actiue armes, his manly brest,
 1290 If not his faire and seemely personage,
 His noble limmes in such proportion cast

1. 1275 *With a braide*, a start or sudden movement.

"The woman being afraid. gave a braid with
 her head, and ran her way".

'Scoggins Jest', (first published 1565—6) quoted in Halliwell's
 Dictionary.

1276 *Fet*, past participle from Mid. Eug. *fecchen*, to fetch.

1292 There seems a confusion here between *wrap* and
rap; *rapt*, i. e. struck, transported, is the word intended. "More
 daunces my rapt heart", Coriolanus, IV, sc. 5, l. 122.

1. 1275 parte AC from C. 1276 sighe A. 1277 Claspinge
 A. 1278 streight AC pressyng A. 1279 flyinge ghoste A corpe
 AC. 1280 fourth C facte AC. 1281 harde A hap C. 1282
 worthie AC. wighte A ende AC. 1283 harde A harte A
 coule A. 1284 lende A hande AC. 1285 whiche A cryme A.
 1286 Adamante A breaste A. 1287 comelie A. 1288 Princelie
 A cheare C countenance A. 1289 valiaunt C breaste A. 1290
 faier A semelie A. 1291 Lymmes A suche preparacion caste A.

As would have wrapt a sillie womans thought;
 If this mought not haue moued thy bloody hart,
 And that most cruell hand the wretched weapon
 Euen to let fall, and kiste him in the face, 1295
 With teares for ruthe to reauē such one by death:
 Should nature yet consent to slay her sonne?
 O mother, thou to murder thus thy childe!
 Even Ioue with iustice must with lightning flames
 From heauen send downe some strange reuenge 1300
 on thee.

Ah noble prince, how oft haue I behelde
 Thee mounted on thy fierce and traumpling stede,
 Shining in armour bright before the tilt,
 And with thy mistresse sleue tied on thy helme,
 And charge thy staffe to please thy ladies eye, 1305
 That bowed the head peece of thy frendly foe!
 [V^o] How oft in armes on horse to bend the mace!
 How oft in armes on foote to breake the sworde,
 Which neuer now these eyes may see againe.

AROSTUS.

Madame, alas, in vaine these plaints are shed, 1310
 Rather with me depart, and helpe to swage
 The thoughtfull griefes that in the aged king
 Must needes by nature growe, by death of this
 His onely sonne, whom he did holde so deare.

1. 1293 hart. *B*.
 1300 Frū *B*.
 1311 swage, *B*.
 1312 See note to l. 1116.

1. 1292 wrapped *AC* silly *C*. 1293 might *C* moued *C*
 the *AC* bloodie *AC* harte *A*. 1294 hande *A*. 1295 kist *C*.
 1296 ruth *C* suche *A*. 1297 slaye *A*. 1298 thie *A*. 1299
 lightning *A*. 1300 down *C* straunge *C*. 1301 beheld *AC*.
 1302 trampling steede *C*. 1303 Shyning *A* Tylte *A* Tilte *C*.
 1304 mistrisse sleue *C* sleaue *A*. 1305 eie *A*. 1307 Howe *A*
 bende *A*. 1308 Howe *A* foot *C*. 1309 Whiche nowe *A*. 1311
 departe *A* swage] asswage *AC*. 1312 kings *A*. 1313 nedes *A*.
 1314 onelie *A* whome *A*.

MARCELLA.

- 1315 What wight is that which saw that I did see,
 And could refraine to waile with plaint and teares?
 Not I, alas, that hart is not in me.
 But let vs goe, for I am greued anew,
 To call to minde the wretched fathers woe.

CHORUS.

- 1320 Whan greedy lust in royall seate to reigne
 Hath reft all care of Goddes and eke of men,
 And cruell hart, wrath, treason, and disdaine
 Within ambitious brest are lodged, then
 Beholde how mischiefe wide her selfe displayes,
 1325 And with the brothers hand the brother slayes.

When bloud thus shed, doth staine the heauens
 face,

Crying to Joue for vengeance of the deede,
 The mightie God euen moueth from his place,
 With wrath to wreke: then sendes he forth
 with spede

- 1330 The dreadfull furies, daughters of the night,
 With Serpentes girt, caryng the whip of ire,
 With heare of stinging Snakes, and shining bright
 With flames and bloud, and with a brand of fire.
 These for reuenge of wretched murder done,
 1335 Do make the mother kill her onely sonne.

l. 1315 whiche *A* sawe that *AC*. 1316 plainte *A*. 1317 harte *A*. 1318 go *C* greued *C* anewe *AC*. 1320 Whan greedie *C* greedie *A*. 1321 Gods *C*. 1222 wrathe *A*. 1323 Within the *AC* ambitious *C* breast *A*. 1324 Behold *C* howe *A* displaies *A*. 1325 hande *A* slaies *A*. 1326 blood *A* dooth *C* the] this *AC*. 1327 vengeance *A*. 1329 wrathe *A* fourth *C* spede *C*. 1331 serpents *A* carryng *C*. 1332 haire *C*. 1333 blood *A* brande *A*. 1335 Do make] Dooth cause *C* onelie *A*.

Blood asketh blood, and death must death requite.

Ioue by his iust and euerlasting dome

Justly hath euer so requited it.

[G.] The times before recorde, and times to come

Shall finde it true, and so doth present prooffe 1340

Present before our eyes for our behoofe.

O happy wight that suffres not the snare

Of murderous minde to tangle him in blood.

And happy he that can in time beware

By others harmes, and turne it to his good. 1345

But wo to him that fearing not to offend

Doth serue his lust, and will not see the end.

END OF THE FOURTH ACT.

1. 1345 harmes and *B*.

1. 1336 Bloud *C*. 1337 doome *C*. 1339 The] These *AC*
 record *C* tymes *A*. 1340 find *C* dooth *C*. 1341 eies *AC*. 1342
 happie *AC* suffers *C*. 1343 mind *C* bloode *A*. 1344 happie *AC*.
AC. 1345 tourne *A* goode *A*. 1346 woe *C* offende *A*. 1347
 Dooth *C* ende *A*.

**THE ORDER AND SIGNIFICATION
OF THE DOMME SHEW BEFORE THE FIFTH ACT.**

5 *First the drommes and fluites began to sound, du-
ring which there came forth vpon the stage a
company of Hargabusiers, and of Armed men
all in order of battaile. These after their peeces
discharged, and that the armed men had three
times marched about the stage, departed, and
then the drommes and fluits did cease. Hereby
10 was signified tumults, rebellions, armes and ciuill
warres to follow, as fell in the realme of great
Brittayne, which by the space of fiftie yeares and
more continued in ciuill warre betwene the nobi-
litie after the death of king Gorboduc, and of
15 his issues, for want of certayne limitacion in
[the] succession of the crowne, till the time of
Dunwallo Mollmutius, who reduced the land to
monarchie.*

1. 1 fluites, B.

1. 2 dumbe C shewe AC fift A fift C Acte AC. 3 Drum-
mes C beganne A sounde AC duryng A. 4 whiche A fourth C
vpon C. 5 companie C Harquebushers C. 8 tymes A aboute
A. 9 Drummes C Fluites C Heereby C. 10 Tumultes C ciuill
A. 11 folowe A followe C fel A. 13 ciuill A betweene C
nobylytie A. 14 wante A certaine C. 16 the in AC. 17
lande A monarchie A.

ACTUS QUINTUS. SCENA PRIMA.
 Cornwall Loegrís Cumberland Albany

CLOTYN. MANDUD. GWENARD. FERGUS. EUBULUS.

CLOTYN.

Did euer age bring forth such tirants harts?
 The brother hath bereft the brothers life,
 The mother she hath died her cruell handes 1350
 In bloud of her owne sonne, and now at last
 The people loe forgetting trouth and loue,
 [G j v.] Contemning quite both law and loyall hart,
 Euen they haue slaine their soueraigne lord and
 queene.

MANDUD.

Shall this their traitorous crime vnpunished rest? 1355
 Euen yet they cease not, caryed on with rage,
 In their rebellious routes, to threaten still
 A new bloud shed vnto the princes kinne,
 To slay them all, and to vproote the race
 Both of the king and queene, so are they moued 1360
 With *Porrex'* death, wherin they falsely charge
 The giltlesse king, without desert at all,
 And traitorously haue murdered him therfore,
 And eke the queene.

GWENARD.

Shall subjectes dare with force
 To worke reuenge vpon their princes fact? 1365

1. 1365 *Fact*, action.

1. 1348 fourth tyrants *C* hartes *A*. 1349 lyfe *A*. 1350
 dyde *C* hands *C*. 1351 nowe *A*. 1352 forgethyng trouthe *A*
 truth *C*. 1353 Contemnyng *A* Lawe *AC* harte *A*. 1354 slayne
A souereigne *C* Quene *A*. 1355 trayterous *A* traiterous *C*. 1356
 carried *C* on]out *AC*. 1357 stil *A*. 1358 newe bloode *A*
 shedde *AC*. 1359 slaie *A* slaye *C*. 1360 kyng *A*. 1361 deathe.
 1362 giltles *A* guiltelesse *C* desarte *A* desert *C*. 1363 traiterous-
 lie *A* traiterously *C*. 1365 worke *C* facte *A*.

Admit the worst that may, as sure in this
The deede was fowle, the queene to slay her
sonne,

Shall yet the subiect seeke to take the sworde,
Arise agaynst his lord, and slay his king?

1370 O wretched state, where those rebellious hartes
Are not rent out euen from their liuing breastes,
And with the body throwen vnto the foules
As carrion foode, for terrour of the rest.

FERGUS.

There can no punishment be thought to great
1375 For this so greuous cryme: let spede therfore
Be vsed therin, for it behoueth so.

EUBULUS.

Ye all my lordes, I see, consent in one
And I as one consent with ye in all.

I holde it more than neede with sharpest law
1380 To punish this tumultuous bloody rage.
For nothing more may shake the common state,
Than sufferance of vproares without redresse,
Wherby how some kingdomes of mightie power,
After great conquestes made, and flourishing
1385 [G ij] In fame and wealth, have ben to ruine brought,
I pray to Ioue, that we may rather wayle
Such happe in them than wisse in our selues.
Eke fully with the duke my minde agrees,

1. 1366 Admyt *A* woorst *C* maye *A*. 1367 deede *A* foule
C Quene *A* slaie *A* slaye *C*. 1368 subiecte *A* sword *C*. 1369
Lorde *A* slaie *A* slaye *C* kynge *A*. 1371 lyuyng *A* breasts *A*.
1372 bodie *A* fowles *AC*. 1374 punisshement *A* too *C* greate *A*.
1375 greuous crime *C* speede *C*. 1379 nede *A* with the *AC*
Lawe *AC*. 1380 punissh *A* punishe *C* this] the *AC* bloodie *A*
bloody *C*. 1381 nothyng *A* maye *A* comen *A*. 1382 then
C sufferance *A*. 1383 mighty *C*. 1384 Conquests *C* flouri-
shing *A* flourishing *C*. 1385 beene *C* ruyne *A*. 1386 praie *A*
waile *A*. 1387 suche *A* hap *C* then *C* wites *AC*. 1388 fullie *A*.

That no cause serues, wherby the Subiect maye
 Call to accompt the doynge of his Prince, 1390
 Muche lesse in bloode by sworde to worke reuenge,
 No more then maye the hande cut of the heade,
 In Acte nor speache, no: not in secrete thoughte
 The Subiect maye rebell against his Lorde,
 Or Judge of him that sittes in Cæsars Seate, 1395
 With grudging mind to damne those he mislikes.
Though kinges forget to gouerne as they ought,
Yet subiectes must obey as they are bounde.
 But now my lordes, before ye farder wade,
 Or spend your speach, what sharpe reuenge shall fall 1400
 By iustice plague on these rebellious wightes,
 Me thinkes ye rather should first search the way,
 By which in time the rage of this vproare
 Mought be repressed. and these great tumults ceased.
 Euen yet the life of Brittainy land doth hang 1405
 In traitours balaunce of vnegall weight.
 Thinke not my lordes the death of *Gorboduc*,
 Nor yet *Videnaes* bloud will cease their rage:
 Euen our owne lyues, our wiues, and children deare,
 Our countrey dearest of all, in daunger standes, 1410
 Now to be spoiled, now, now, made desolate,

Lines 1389—1396 are not in *B* (ed. of 1570), they are supplied in the text from *A* (ed. 1565) and collations are given with *C* (ed. 1590) in which they are also found.

l. 1396 *With grudging mind*, with grumbling, or murmuring.
 1399 *Wade*, to go, to make way, *A. S. wadan*. "Vertue gives herself light though darkness for to wade". Spenser's *Fairie Queen*, I, 1, 12.

l. 1389 may *C*. 1390 account dooinges *C*. 1391 Much blood sword worke *C*. 1392 may hand head *C*. 1393 speech secret thought *C*. 1394 may Lord *C*. 1395 sits *C*. 1396 minde *C* to] do *A* doo *C* Hemislikes *AC*. 1398 subiects *AC* bound *C*. 1399 nowe *A*. 1400 speach *C* sharp *A* shal fal *A* 1401 wights *AC*. 1402 searche *AC* waye *A*. 1403 whiche *A*. 1405 Brittainy *C* lande *A* dooth hange *A*. 1406 Ballaunce *C* vnequall *C* 1407 Think *C* lords *C*. 1408 bloode *A* blood *C*. 1409 deare omitted *AC*. 1410 Cuntry *C* deerest *C*. 1411 nowe *A* spoiled *C*.

And by our selues a conquest to ensue.
 For geue once swey vnto the peoples lustes,
 To rush forth on, and stay them not in time,
 1415 And as the streame that rowleth downe the hylle,
 So will they headlong ronne with raging thoughtes
 From bloud to bloud, from mischiefe vnto moe,
 To rüine of the realm, them selues, and all;
 So giddy are the common peoples mindes,
 1420 So glad of change, more wauering than the sea.
 Ye see (my lordes) what strength these rebelles haue
 What hugie nombre is assembled still,
 For though the traiterous fact, for which they rose
 Be wrought and done, yet lodge they still in field;
 1425 So that how farre their furies yet will stretch
 Great cause we haue to dreade. That we may seeke
 By present battaile to repressse their power,
 [V.] Speede must we vse to leuie force therfore.
 For either they forthwith will mischiefe worke,
 1430 Or their rebellious roares forthwith will cease.
 These violent thinges may haue no lasting long.
 Let us therfore vse this for present helpe,
 Perswade by gentle speach, and offre grace
 With gift of pardon, saue vnto the chiefe,
 1435 And that vpon condicion that forthwith
 They yelde the captaines of their enterprise,
 To beare such guerdon of their traiterous fact,

1. 1412 *To*, too, also; we shall also be conquered.

1418 all, *B*.

1424 field *B*.

1437 *Guerdon*, reward, recompense.

1. 1412 too *AC*. 1413 giue *C* ones *A* sweye *AC* lusts *A*.
 1414 russhe *A* foorth *C* staye *AC*. 1415 hill *C*. 1416 wil *AC*
 thei *A* run *C*. 1417 bloode *A* mischeefe *C*. 1418 ruyne *A*.
 1419 giddie *AC*. 1420 change *C* waueryng *A*. 1421 rebelles
C. 1422 number *C*. 1423 traiterous *AC* thei *A*. 1424 doone
 feeelde *C*. 1425 howe *A* wyll *A* stretche *A*. 1426 dreade, that
AC. 1428 mischeefe *C* woorke *C*. 1431 londe *AC*. 1433
 speeche *A* speech *C* offer *C*. 1434 gifte *AC* cheefe *C*. 1435
 forthewith *AC*. 1436 yeelde *C* enterpryse *AC*. 1437 suche *A*
 querdon *A* traiterous *AC* facte *A*.

As may be both due vengeance to them selues,
 And holosome terrour to posteritie.
 This shall, I thinke, scatter the greatest part 1440
 That now are holden with desire of home,
 Weriend in field with cold of winters nightes,
 And some (no doubt) striken with dread of law.
 Whan this is once proclamed, it shall make
 The captaines to mistrust the multitude, 1445
 Whose safetie biddes them to betray their heads,
 And so much more bycause the rascall routes,
 In thinges of great and perillous attemptes,
 Are neuer trustie to the noble race.
 And while we treate and stand on termes of grace, 1450
 We shall both stay their furies rage the while,
 And eke gaine time, whose onely helpe sufficeth
 Withouten warre to vanquish rebelles power.
 In the meane while, make you in redynes
 Such band of horsemen as ye may prepare. 1455
 Horsemen (you know) are not the commons strength,
 But are the force and store of noble men,
 Wherby the vnchosen and vnarmed sort
 Of skillesse rebelles, whome none other power
 But nombre makes to be of dreadfull force, 1460
 With sodeyne brunt may quickly be opprest.
 And if this gentle meane of proffered grace,
 [G. 1.] With stubborne hartes cannot so farre auayle,

i. 1453 power *B*.

i. 1438 vengeance *A*. 1439 holesome *C*. 1440 think *C*
 scatter] flatter *AC* parte *AC*. 1441 nowe *A*. 1442 Weriend *C*
 feelde *C* could *A* colde *C*. 1443 Lawe *AC*. 1444 When *C*
 ones *A* proclaymed *A* proclaimed *C*. 1445 mistruste *A*. 1446
 bids *C* betraye *AC*. 1447 muche *A* because *C*. 1450 treat *C*
 tearmes *C*. 1451 shal *A* staie *A*. 1452 only *C* suffiseth *C*.
 1453 vanquisshe *A* vanquishe *C* rebels *C*. 1454 readines *A*.
 1455 Suche bande *A* maye *A*. 1456 comons *AC*. 1458 sorte
AC. 1459 skillishe *A* skillish *C* Rebelles *AC*. 1460 number *C*.
 1461 soddeine *AC* maye *A* quickly *C* oppreste *A*. 1463 auaile *C*.

As to asswage their desperate courages,
 1465 Then do I wish such slaughter to be made,
 As present age and eke posteritie
 May be adrad with horroure of reuenge,
 That iustly then shall on these rebelles fall.
 This is my lords the sum of mine aduise.

CLOTYN.

1470 Neither this case admittes debate at large,
 And though it did, this speach that hath ben sayd
 Hath well abridged the tale I would haue tolde.
 Fully with *Eubulus* do I consent
 In all that he hath sayd: and if the same
 1475 To you my lordes, may seeme for best aduise,
 I wish that it should streight be put in vre.

MANDUD.

My lordes than let vs presently depart,
 And follow this that liketh vs so well.

FERGUS, *solus.*

Exeunt

If euer time to gaine a kingdome here
 1480 Were offred man, now it is offred mee.
 The realme is reft both of their king and queene,
 The ofspring of the prince is slaine and dead,
 No issue now remaines, the heire vnknowen,
 The people are in armes and mutynies,

1. 1464 courages *B.*
 1467 *Adrad*, afraid.
 1469 lord *B.*

1. 1465 Than *A* doo *C* wissehe suche *A.* 1467 maye *A.*
 1468 than *A.* 1469 Lordes *AC* somme *A* summe *C.* 1470
 neyther *A.* 1471 speache *A* speeche *C* beene *A* saide *A* sayde
C. 1472 wel *A.* 1473 Fullie *A* doo *C* consente *A.* 1474 saide
AC. 1475 aduisse *C* 1476 wissehe *A* shoulde *A* straight *C.*
 1477 Lordes *A* Lords then *C* departe *AC.* 1478 folowe *A* lyketh
A. 1479 Heere *C.* 1480 nowe *A.* 1481 bothe *A* kyng *Quene*
A. 1482 ofspringe *A.* 1483 nowe *A* vnknowne *C.* 1484 mu-
 tinies *C.*

The nobles they are busied how to cease 1485
 These great rebellious tumultes and vproares,
 And Brittainye land, now desert left alone
 Amyd these broyles vncertayne where to rest,
 Offers her selfe vnto that noble hart
 That will or dare pursue to beare her crowne. 1490
 Shall I that am the Duke of *Albanye*,
 Discended from that line of noble bloud,
 Which hath so long florished in worthy fame,
 Of valiaunt hartes, such as in noble brestes
 Of right should rest aboue the baser sort, 1495
 [v.] Refuse to venture life to winne a crowne?
 Whom shall I finde emnies that will withstand
 My fact herein, if I attempt by armes
 To seeke the same now in these times of broyle?
 These dukes power can hardly well appease 1500
 The people that already are in armes.
 But if perhappes, my force be once in field,
 Is not my strength in power aboue the best
 Of all these lordes now left in Brittainye land?
 And though they should match me with power of 1505
 men,

1. 1491 *The Duke of Albany*. Read in the light of the old story which passed as history, there was strong reason in this play for making Fergus, the Duke of Albany, attempt to gain the throne. His "line of noble blood" was descended from Albanact, one of Brute's three sons, whose portion of Britain was Albania. or Scotland (Geoffrey of Monmouth, Book II, c. 1).
 1505 mē B.

1. 1485 thei howe A. 1486 vproars A. 1487 Brittainye
 C Lande nowe A deserte AC. 1488 Amid C vncertaine AC.
 1489 harte A. 1490 wyll A. 1492 Lyne A bloode A. 1493
 Whiche A longe A floorished A flourished C worthie A woorthy
 C. 1494 valiaunt C suche A breasts AC. 1495 shulde A sorte
 AC. 1496 venture] adventure AC liefe A. 1497 Whome A
 enemies AC withstande A. 1498 facte A heerin C attempte A.
 1499 same] Fame AC nowe A. 1500 hardlie A. 1501 alredie
 A. 1502 perhaps C ones A fiede A. 1504 lords C nowe A
 Britaine C Brittainye Lande A. 1505 shuld A.

Yet doubtfull is the chaunce of battailles ioyned.
 If victors of the field we may depart,
 Ours is the scepter then of great Brittain;
 If slayne amid the playne this body lye,
 1510 Mine encmics yet shall not deny me this,
 But that I dyed geuing the noble charge
 To hazarde life for conquest of a crowne.
 Forthwith therefore will I in post depart
 To Albanye, and raise in armour there
 1515 All power I can: and here my secret friendes,
 By secret practise shall sollicite still,
 To seeke to wyne to me the peuples hartes.
[Exit.]

1. 1508 *Great Brittain*. If we may take these words together, this use of the term in 1561 — forty three yeares before the proclamation by James I (who first united the sovereignty of the two kingdoms in one person) ordering that the names of England and Scotland should be merged in that of Great Britain, 20 Oct. 1604, — shows that the idea of the union and the name had been familiar for many years; perhaps since the marriage of Henry VII's daughter Margaret to king James of Scotland in 1503. In the Act 1 James I c. 2 (1604) appointing Commissioners to consider of the Union, the name Great Britain is not mentioned, but Bacon, then Solicitor General, uses it in a famous argument spoken in 1608. (Lord Bacon's Works, Vol. VII, edited by Spedding and Heath, p. 641.) The Act of Union was not finally passed till 1706 (6 Anne c. 11) in which the two kingdoms were joined by the name of Great Britain.

Spencer in the *Fairie Queene* (published 1590) Bk. III, c. 11, 7, speaks of "the Greater Brittain", probably in distinction from the "little Brytaine" of Arthurian romance.

1. 1513 *In post*, i. e. in haste, as though going with post-horses, the swiftest means of conveyance.

1516 See Note to l. 508.

1. 1507 *felde A departe A*. 1508 *than A Brittain A Britaine C*. 1509 *slaine plain C bodie C lye } be AC*. 1510 *denie C*. 1511 *died AC gyuyng A giuing C*. 1512 *hazard C*. 1513 *therfore A poste A*. 1515 *secrete AC frends C*. 1516 *secrete AC*. 1517 *winne C hartes A*.

ACTUS QUINTUS. SCENA SECUNDA.

EUBULUS [*solus*].*

O Ioue, how are these peoples harts abuse!
 What blind fury, thus headlong carries them?
 That though so many bookes, so many rolles, 1520
 Of auncient time recorde what greuous plagues
 Light on these rebelles aye, and though so oft
 Their eares haue heard their aged fathers tell,
 [G. 1521] What iuste reward these traitours still receyue
 Yea though them selues haue sene depe death 1525
 and bloud,
 By strangling cord, and slaughter of the sword,
 To such assigned. yet can they not beware,
 Yet can not stay their lewde rebellious handes,
 But suffering too fowle treason to distaine
 Their wretched myndes, forget their loyall hart, 1530
 Reiect all truth, and rise against their prince.
 A ruthefull case, that those, whom duties bond,
 Whom grafted law by nature, truth, and faith,
 Bound to preserue their countrey and their king,
 Borne to defend their common wealth and prince, 1535

* *Eubulus solus*] In the original (all editions, A, B, C) the six names all stand here, Eubulus, Clotyn, Mandud, Gwenard, Arostus, Nuntius.

1. 1518 *Abusde*, deceived.
 1520 rolles *B*.
 1521 recorde, *B*.

1. 1518 howe hartes *A*. 1519 furie *AC* carries *C*. 1520 bokes *A*. 1521 time of record *C* greenons *C*. 1522 rebelles *C* thoughte ofte *A*. 1523 hard *A*. 1524 iuste *AC* rewarde *A* receiue *C*. 1525 seene deepe *C* blod *A*. 1527 assignde *C*. 1528 Yet can they not stae their rebellious handes *A*: *C* has the same, but stay, hands. 1529 suffering too *C* to *A* loe *B*. 1530 minds *C* harte *A*. 1531 reiecte *A* trueth *A*. 1532 whome *A* bounde *A* bound *C*. 1533 whome *A* lawe *AC* trueth *A*. 1534 Bounde *A* country *C*. 1535 defende *A* welth *C*.

Euen they should geue consent thus to subuert
Thee Brittain land, and from thy wombe should
spring

(O native soile) those, that will needs destroy
And ruyne thee, and eke them selues in fine.

- 1540 For lo, when once the dukes had offred grace
Of pardon sweete, the multitude missledde
By traitorous fraude of their vngracious heades,
One sort that saw the dangerous successe
Of stubborne standing in rebellious warre,
1545 And knew the difference of princes power
From headlesse nombre of tumultuous routes,
Whom common countreies care. and priuate feare,
Taught to repent the error of their rage,
Layde handes vpon the captaines of their band,
1550 And brought them bound vnto the mightie dukes.
And other sort not trusting yet so well
The truth of pardon, or mistrusting more
Their owne offence than that they could conceiue
Such hope of pardon for so foule misdede,
1555 Or for that they their captaines could not yeld,
Who fearing to be yelded fled before,
Stale home by silence of the secret night,

l. 1539 *In fine*, in the end at last.

1543 *Successe*, consequence.

1547 *Common countries care*, i. e. thought for their common country. The same old use of the possessive, now only applied with persons, is in ll. 876, 877.

1557 night, *B*.

l. 1536 shulde *A* giue *C* subuerte *A*. 1537 The *AC* Brittain *C* thy | the *AC* shuld *A* spring] bring *AC*. 1538 natyue *A* nedes *A* nedes *C* destroye *A*. 1539 ruine *C*. 1540 ones *A* Duke *AC* offered *C*. 1541 sweet *C* (the *AC* mislead *A* misled *C*. 1542 traiterous *AC* fraud *C* vngratious heads) *C* heades) *A*. 1543 sorte *A* sawe *AC* daungerous *A*. 1544 standynge *A*. 1545 knewe *A*. 1546 headles *AC* number *C*. 1547 countries *C*. 1548 error | terrour *AC*. 1549 Laid hands *C* laide *A* Capatines *A* bande *A*. 1551 And other] an other *A* Another *C* sorte *A*. 1552 trueth *A*. 1553 then *C* thei *A* could] should *C*. 1554 Suche *A* fowle misdeede *C*. 1555 yeld *C*. 1556 fearinge *A* yelded *C* fled *A*. 1557 Stale *C* scilence *A* secrete *AC*.

The thirde, vnhappy and enraged sort
 [v.] Of desperate hartes, who stained in princes blood,
 From trayterous furour could not be withdrawn 1560
 By loue, by law, by grace, ne yet by feare,
 By proffered life, ne yet by thrcatned death,
 With mindes hopelesse of life, dreadlesse of death,
 Carelesse of countrey, and awelesse of God,
 Stoode bent to fight as furies did them moue, 1565
 With violent death to close their traiterous life.
 These all by power of horsemen were opprest,
 And with reuenging sworde slayne in the field,
 Or with the strangling cord hangd on the tree,
 Where yet their carryen carcasses do preach 1570
 The fruites that rebelles reape of their vproares,
 And of the murder of their sacred prince.
 But loe, where do approche the noble dukes,
 By whom these tumults haue ben thus appeasde.

[*Enter* CLOTYN, MANDUD, GWENARD *and* AROSTUS.]

CLOTYN.

I thinke the world will now at length beware 1575
 And feare to put on armes agaynst their prince.

MANDUD.

If not? those trayterous hartes that dare rebell,
 Let them beholde the wide and hugie fieldes
 With blood and bodies spread of rebelles slayne,

1. 1558 vnhappy AC vnraged AC. 1559 harts staind C
 blood A 1560 traiterous C withdrawne C. 1561 lawe AC.
 1562 lyfe A threatened A. 1563 minds A hopeles A liefe A
 dreadles A. 1564 careles AC countrey C aweles AC. 1565
 stode C bente A fighte A. 1566 valiant C lyfe A. 1568
 sword C slaine C. 1569 hangd A trees AC. 1570 their] the
 AC carryen A carriem C doo C preach] proche AC. 1571 fruits
 C rebels C vproars AC. 1573 doo approach C. 1574 beene C.
 1575 worlde A wyll A. 1576 agaynst C. 1577 traiterous harts
 C dare] doo C. 1578 behold C fields A. 1579 bloode A bodie
 AC spred C of] with AC rebels slaine C.

1580 The lofty trees clothed with the corpses dead
That strangled with the corde do hang theron.

AROSTUS.

A iust rewarde, such as all times before
Haue ever lotted to those wretched folkes.

GWENARD.

But what meanes he that commeth here so fast?

[Enter] NUNUIUS.

1585 My lordes, as dutie and my trouth doth moue,
And of my countrey worke a care in mee,
That if the spending of my breath auailed
To do the seruice that my hart desires,
I would not shunne to imbrace a present death:
1590 So haue I now in that wherein I thought
[H J] My trauayle mought performe some good effect,
Ventred my life to bring these tydinges here.
Fergus the mightie duke of Albany
Is now in armes and lodgeth in the fielde
1595 With twentie thousand men, hether he bendes
His spedy marche, and mindes to inuade the
crowne,
Dayly he gathereth strength, and spreads abroad
That to this realme no certeine heire remaines,
That Brittain land is left without a guide,
1600 That he the scepter seekes, for nothing els

1. 1596 *mindes*, intends, "has a mind to".

1. 1580 lofty] lustie AC the omitted AC. 1581 cord doo
C hange therin A therein C 1582 reward C suche A tymes A.
1585 lords AC troth C mooue C. 1586 Country C a] and AC.
1587 spendyng A auaille A. 1588 doo C harte A. 1589 shun
C. 1590 nowe A. 1591 trauaile C perfourme AC effecte A.
1592 liefe A bringe A tidings C heere C. 1594 nowe A field
C. 1595 hither C bends A. 1596 spedie A speedie march C
minds C. 1597 Daily C abroad C. 1598 certaine C. 1599
Britaine C Laude A guyde A.

But to preserue the people and the land,
Which now remaine as ship without a sterne.
Loe this is that which I haue here to say.

CLOTYN.

Is this his fayth? and shall he falsely thus
Abuse the vauntage of vnhappy times? 1605
O wretched land, if his outrageous pride,
His cruell and vntempred wilfulnesse,
His deepe dissembling shewes of false pretence,
Should once attaine the crowne of Brittain land.
Let vs, my lordes, with timely force resist 1610
The new attempt of this our common foe,
As we would quench the flames of common fire.

MANDUD.

Though we remaine without a certain prince,
To weld the realme or guide the wandring rule,
Yet now the common mother of vs all, 1615
Our natiue land, our countrey, that containes
Our wiues, children, kindred, our selues and all
That euer is or may be deare to man,
Cries vnto vs to helpe our selues and her.
Let us aduance our powers to repress 1620
This growing foe of all our liberties.

GWENARD.

Yea let vs so, my lordes, with hasty speede.
And ye (O Goddes) send vs the welcome death,
[v.] To shed our bloud in field, and leaue us not

l. 1601 Lande A. 1602 Whicho A shippe C. 1603
whiche A hereto AC saide A said C. 1604 faith C falsly C.
1606 Lande A. 1607 wilfulnes AC. 1608 dissemblinge A. 1609
Brittayne A Britaine C. 1610 Lords AC tymely A. 1611 newe
A. 1612 quenche A. 1613 certaine C certayn A. 1614 weld
C. 1615 nowe A cōmen A. 1616 lande AC country C containes
A. 1617 kyndred A. 1618 maye A. 1621 growynge A. 1622
Lords C hastie A speede A. 1623 Gods C sende AC. 1624
bloode A felde A.

1625 In lothesome life to lenger out our dayes,
 To see the hugie heapes of these vnhappes,
 That now roll downe vpon the wretched land,
 Where emptie place of princely gouernaunce,
 No certaine stay now left of doubtlesse heire,
 1650 Thus leaue this guidelesse realme an open pray,
 To endlesse stormes and waste of ciuill warre.

AROSTUS.

That ye (my lordes) do so agree in one,
 To saue your countrey from the violent reigne
 And wrongfully vsurped tyrannie
 1635 Of him that threatens conquest of you all,
 To saue your realme, and in this realme your selues,
 From forreine thraldome of so proud a prince,
 Much do I prayse, and I besech the Goddes,
 With happy honour to requite it you.
 1640 But (O my lordes) sith now the heauens wrath
 Hath reft this land the issue of their prince,
 Sith of the body of our late soueraigne lorde
 Remaines no moe, since the yong kinges be slaine
 And of the title of discended crowne
 1645 Uncertainly the diuerse mindes do thinke
 Euen of the learned sort, and more vncertainly
 Will parciall fancie and affection deeme:
 But most vncertainly will climbing pride
 And hope of reigne withdraw to sundry partes

l. 1626 see note to l. 981.

l. 1625 linger *C* dayes] lyues *A* liues *C*. 1626 misbaps *C*.
 1627 nowo *A* lande *AC*. 1628 Princelie *A*. 1629 certayne *A*
 doubtles *AC*. 1630 guideles *C*. 1631 ciuill *A*. 1632 Lords
C doo *C*. 1633 country *C* raigne *C*. 1634 wrongfullie *A* Tir-
 rannie *A*. 1637 forreyne *A* forraine *C* proude *C*. 1638 mucho
A doo *C* besече *A* beseech *C* Gods *C*. 1639 happie *AC*. 1640
 Lords *A* sith *A*. 1641 lande *AC*. 1642 Sithe *A* bodie *C*
 soueraino *A*. 1643 mo *AC* yoong kings *C*. 1644 the descen-
 ded *C* the *A*. 1645 Vncerteynly *A* diuers doo *C*. 1646 sorte
C vncertainlye *A* vncertainlie *C*. 1647 perciall *A* partiall *C*.
 1648 vncertenlye wyll clymbynge *A*. 1649 withdrawe *A* to]
 from *AC* sondrie *A* sundrie partes *C*.

The doubtfull right and hopefull lust to reigne: 1660
 When once this noble seruice is atchieued
 For Brittain land the mother of ye all,
 When once ye haue with armed force represt
 The proude attemptes of this Albanian prince,
 That threatens thraldome to your natiue land, 1655
 When ye shall vanquishers returne from field,
 And finde the princely state an open pray
 [H. 6.] To gredie lust and to vsurping power,
 Then, then (my lordes) if euer kindly care
 Of auncient honour of your auncesters, 1660
 Of present wealth and noblesse of your stockes,
 Yea of the liues and safetie yet to come
 Of your deare wiues, your children, and your selues,
 Might moue your noble hartes with gentle ruth,
 Then, then, haue pitie on the torne estate; 1665
 Then helpe to salue the welneare hopelesse sore
 Which ye shall do, if ye your selues withholde
 The slaying knife from your owne mothers throate.
 Her shall you saue, and you, and yours in her,
 If ye shall all with one assent forbear 1670
 Once to lay hand or take vnto your selues
 The crowne, by colour of pretended right,
 Or by what other meanes so euer it be,
 Till first by common councill of you all
 In Parliament the regall diademe 1675
 Be set in certaine place of gouernaunce;
 In which your Parliament, and in your choise,

I. 1678 with B.

I. 1651 ones A atchieued C. 1625 Brittain A lande A.
 1653 ones A. 1654 proud C attemptes C. 1655 Lande A. 1656
 retourne A feelde C. 1657 praye A. 1658 greedy C. 1659
 kindly AC. 1660 ancient C auncestours C auncestoures A.
 1662 lyues A. 1663 deere C wyues A. 1664 ruthe AC. 1665
 pytie A pittie C. 1666 well neere C hopeles AC. 1667 Whiche
 A doo C. 1668 sleaying A sleaing C owne A throate A. 1671
 Ones A laye hande A. 1674 Tyll A comen A councill C. 1675
 Diadem C. 1676 certayne A. 1677 whiche A.

- Preferre the right (my lordes) with[out] respect
 Of strength or frendes, or what soeuer cause
 1680 That may set forward any others part.
 For right will last, and wrong cannot endure.
 Right meane I his or hers, vpon whose name
 The people rest by meane of natiue line,
 Or by the vertue of some former lawe,
 1685 Already made their title to aduance.
 Such one (my lordes let be your chosen king,
 Such one so borne within your natiue land,
 Such one preferre, and in no wise admitte
 The heauie yoke of forreine gouernaunce:
 1690 Let forreine titles yelde to publike wealthe.
 And with that hart wherewith ye now prepare
 Thus to withstand the proude inuading foe,
 [v.] With that same hart (my lordes) keepe out also
 Unnaturall thraldome of strangers reigne,
 1695 Ne suffer you against the rules of kinde
 Your mother land to serue a forreine prince.

EUBULUS.

- Loe here the end of Brutus' royall line,
 And loe the entry to the wofull wracke
 And vtter ruine of this noble realme.
 1700 The royall king, and eke his sonnes are slaine,

l. 1681. Compare ll. 1795—6, at the end.

l. 1691 and 1693. It is worth notice that in his English ardour and patriotism Arostus is made to use the English "heart" instead of the ordinary "courage" (brought in by Chaucer), and talks of the "mother land".

l. 1702 longes, i. e. belongs.

l. 1678 Prefer *C* respeeete *A*. 1679 or] of *AC*. 1680 maye *A* forwarde *A* parte *AC*. 1683 lyne *A*. 1685 Alreadie *AC*. 1686 Suehe *A* Lords *C* kynge *A*. 1687 Suehe *A* natiue lande *A*. 1688 Suche *A* admit *C*. 1689 yoake *C*. 1690 yeelde *C* wealthe *A*. 1691 wherwith *C* nowe *A*. 1692 withstande *A* inuadynge *A*. 1693 harte *A* kepe *A*. 1694 straungers *A*. 1695 suffre *A*. 1696 lande *A*. 1697 heere *C* Lyne *A*. 1698 entrie *AC*. 1699 ruyne *A*.

No ruler restes within the regall seate,
 The heire, to whom the scepter longes, unknowen.
 That to eche force of forreine princes power,
 Whom vauntage of our wretched state may moue
 By sodeine armes to gaine so riche a realme, 1705
 And to the proud and gredie minde at home,
 Whom blinded lust to reigne leades to aspire,
 Loe Brittainne realme is left an open pray,
 A present spoyle by conquest to ensue.
 Who seeth not now how many rising mindes 1710
 Do feede their thoughts, with hope to reach a realme?
 And who will not by force attempt to winne
 So great a gaine, that hope perswades to haue?
 A simple colour shall for title serue.
 Who winnes the royall crowne will want no right, 1715
 Nor such as shall display by long discent
 A lineall race to proue him lawfull king.
 In the meane while these ciuil armes shall rage,
 And thus a thousand mischiefes shall vnfolde,
 And farre and neare spread the (O Brittainne land). 1720
 All right and lawe shall cease, and he that had
 Nothing to day, to morrowe shall enioye
 Great heapes of golde, and he that flowed in wealth,
 Loè he shall be bereft of life and all,
 And happiest he that then possesseth least. 1725
 The wiues shall suffer rape, the maides defloured,

1. 1715 *Want*, i. e. lack.
 1720 land, *B*.
 1725 least *B*.

1. 1700 kinge *A*. 1703 eche]the *C*. 1704 whome *C*
 our]your *AC* may moue *omitted AC*. 1705 sodaine *AC*. 1706
 greedy *C*. 1707 whome *AC*. 1708 praye *AC* 1709 spoile *A*.
 1710 seeeth *C* nowe howe *A*. 1711 feed *C* realm *A*. 1715
 crown *AC* wil *A*. 1716 such *A* displaye *AC* longe *A*. 1717
 lyneall *A* lyniall *C* lawfull]selfe a *AC* kyng *A*. 1718 cyuill *AC*.
 1719 mischeefes *C*. 1720 far neere thee *C* Brittainne *A*. 1721
 Law *C*. 1722 Nothyng *A* daye *AC* morowe *A* morrow *C* enioy
C 1723 golde]good *AC* 1724 bereft]reft *AC* lyfe *A*. 1725
 than *A*, least]leath *C*. 1726 wyues suffre *A* maydes *A* maidens *C*.

- [H. iii] And children fatherlesse shall weepe and waile,
 With fire and sworde thy natiue folke shall perishe,
 One kinsman shall bereaue an others life,
 1730 The father shall vnwitting slay the sonne,
 The sonne shall slay the sire and know it not.
 Women and maides the cruell souldiers sword
 Shall perse to death, and sillie children loe,
 That play[ing] in the streetes and fieldes are found,
 1735 By violent hand shall close their latter day.
 Whom shall the fierce and bloody souldier
 Reserue to life? whom shall he spare from death?
 Euen thou (O wretched mother) halfe aliue,
 Thou shalt beholde thy deare and onely childe
 1740 Slaine with the sworde while he yet suckes thy
 brest.
 Loe, giltlesse bloud shall thus eche where be shed.
 Thus shall the wasted soile yelde forth no fruite,
 But dearth and famine shall possesse the land.
 The townes shall be consumed and burnt with fire,
 1745 The peopled cities shall waxe desolate,
 And thou, O Brittain, whilome in renowme
 Whilome in wealth and fame, shalt thus be torne,
 Dismembred thus, and thus be rent in twaine,
 Thus wasted and defaced, spoyled and destroyed.
 1750 These be the fruites your ciuil warres will bring.

l. 1734 play *B*.
 1749 destroyed, *B*.

l. 1727 Fatherles *AC* wayle *A*. 1728 fier *C* sword *C*
 perishe *A*. 1729 other *A*. 1730 vnwittynge *A* slaye *A* 1731
 slea *AC* knowe *A*. 1732 souldiours *A* sword *C*. 1733 perse
A pearce *C*. 1734 playnge *A* streates *A* feeldes *C* founde *A*.
 1735 hande *A* daye *A*. 1736 Whome *AC* feree *A* bloudie *AC*.
 Souldier *C* Souldiour *A*. 1737 liefe *A* whome *AC*. 1738 half
 alyue *A*. 1739 deere only *C*. 1740 sword *C*. 1741 giltles
 bloode *A*. 1742 soyle yeelde foorth. 1743 derth *A* famyne *A*
 shal *A* lande *A*. 1744 shal *A* brent *A* fier *C*. 1745 Citties
AC. 1746 (O Brittain Land) *AC* whilom *A* renowne *C*. 1748
 twayne *A*. 1749 spoiled *A*. 1750 fruits *A* cyuill *C* wil *A*.

Hereto it commes when kinges will not consent
 To graue aduise, but followe wilfull will.
 This is the end, when in fonde princes hartes
 Flattery preuailles, and sage rede hath no place.
 These are the plages, when murder is the meane 1755
 To make new heires vnto the royall crowne.
 Thus wreke the Gods, when that the mothers wrath
 Nought but the bloud of her owne childe may swage.
 These mischiefes spring when rebells will arise,
 To worke reuenge and iudge their princes fact. 1760
 This, this ensues, when noble men do faile
 [V.] In loyall trouth, and subiectes will be kinges.
 And this doth growe when loe vnto the prince,
 Whom death or sodeine happe of life bereaues,
 No certaine heire remaines, such certaine heire, 1765
 As not all onely is the rightfull heire
 But to the realme is so made knowen to be,
 And trouth therby vested in subiectes hartes,
 To owe fayth there where right is knowen to rest.
 Alas, in Parliament what hope can be, 1770
 When is of Parliament no hope at all?
 Which, though it be assembled by consent.
 Yet is not likely with consent to end,
 While eche one for him selfe, or for his frend,
 Against his foe, shall trauaile what he may. 1775
 While now the state left open to the man,

1. 1768 hartes. *B.*

1762, 1768 *Trouth*, faith, fidelity to country and law.

1772 *Consent*, agreement. Compare l. 1751.

1. 1751 Heerto *C* comes *C.* 1752 aduice *C* folowe *A.*
 1753 ende *A* fonde | yonge *A* yong *C.* 1755 plagues *C.* 1756
 newe *A.* 1757 wreak *C* the | y^e *AC.* 1758 own *C.* 1759 mis-
 cheefes springes *C* springs *A* Rebelles *A* wil *A.* 1760 woork *C*
 facte *A.* 1762 trouthe *A.* 1763 dooth grow *C.* 1764 Whome
AC sodeyne *AC* hap *C* liefte *A.* 1765 certayne *A* suche *A* cer-
 taine heire | certentie *A* certentie *C.* 1766 only *C.* 1767
 knowen | vnknownen *A* vnknowne *C.* 1768 troth *C* 1769 faith
AC. 1770 bee *A.* 1772 Whiche thoughte *A.* 1773 ende *A.*
 1774 frende *A* freend *C.* 1775 maye *A.* 1776 nowe *A.*

That shall with greatest force inuade the same,
 Shall fill ambitious mindes with gaping hope;
 When will they once with yelding hartes agree?
 1780 Or in the while, how shall the realme be vsed?
 No, no: then Parliament should haue bene holden,
 And certeine heirs appointed to the crowne,
 To stay the title of established right,
 And in the people plant obedientios *CC.*
 1785 While yet the prince did liue, whose name and
 power
 By lawfull sommons and authoritie
 Might make a Parliament to be of force,
 And might haue set the state in quiet stay.
 But now O happie man, whom spedie death
 1790 Depriues of life, ne is enforced to see
 These hugie mischiefes and these miseries,
 These ciuil warres, these murders and these wronges
 Of iustice. Yet must God in fine restore
 This noble crowne vnto the lawfull heire:
 1795 For right will alwayes liue, and rise at length,
 But wrong can neuer take deepe roote to last.

THE END OF THE TRAGEDY.

l. 1792 wronges. *B.*

1793 justice, yet *B.*

1795 See l. 1681.

l. 1778 ambitious *C* Gapyng *A.* 1779 yeelding *C* ones
A. 1780 howe *A.* 1781 ben *A* bene *C.* 1782 certaine *AC*
 appoynted *A.* 1783 staie *A* the]their *AC* established righte
A. 1784 plant the people in *AC.* 1786 summons *C* auctorytie
A. 1788 state]Realme *C* stave *AC.* 1789 nowe *A* happie *A*
 whome *A* whom]what speedy *C.* 1790 lyfe *A.* 1791 mischeefes
C. 1792 cyuill *AC* wars *A* wrongs *A.* 1793 God]Joue *AC*
 fyne *A.* 1795 alwaies *C* lengthe *A.* 1796 wronge *A.*

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