

"A Wonderful Prognostication" (1591)

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Source: *The Modern Language Review*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (Jan., 1918), pp. 84-85

Published by: [Modern Humanities Research Association](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3714306>

Accessed: 25/06/2014 06:44

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from the Laws: *fōn hī ealle on*, 'let them all set to work,' and *fō hē on mid fultume*. The pp. of *onfōn* appears to be always *onfangen*. The meaning then is: 'Then he said to me that he could not easily make a division, for he had already attempted it full often.'

III. *The Stolen Belt.*

(Kemble II, 133, Thorpe 169, Birch II, 236, Earle 162, Harmer 30.)

This intensely interesting document, to which my attention was first drawn by Dr Henry Bradley, has an annoying double hiatus due to a hole in the MS. The sentence runs: *ond cwæð ðæt him wære leofre ðæt he.....alde ðonne se að forburste oððe hit æfr.....æde*. In each gap there is room for about a dozen letters. The first lacuna has been successfully filled up, I think by Earle. I venture to fill up the second in the hope that someone will do it better, as I am sure is possible: *ond cwæð ðæt him wære leofre ðæt he [ðæt land me se]alde ðonne se að forburste oððe hit æf[*e mon unriht s*]æde*.

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'A WONDERFULL PROGNOSTICATION' (1591).

A Wonderfull, strange and miraculous, Astrologically Prognostication (1591) is well known to bibliographers as a work attributed without evidence to the pen of Thomas Nashe. It was one of a group of three pamphlets belonging to the same year¹, all issued in ridicule of contemporary almanac-makers—'they that lie all the year long.' The existence of a second edition of *A Wonderfull...Prognostication* has escaped the notice of bibliographers. This is not surprising, as the only known copy was entered in the Bodleian Catalogue under 'Astrologia².' The copy is unfortunately imperfect, lacking all after sig. D₁. It is curious that a second edition of such an ephemeral publication should have been found necessary. There may have been more point in the satire than is now apparent. The title-page is as follows³:

► A Wonderfull, | *strange and miraculous Astro-* | *logically*
Prognostication for | this yeere 1591. | . . . | *Newly corrected.* |
By Adam Fouleweather, Student | in Astronomy. | [ornament as in A] |
Imprinted at London by *Thomas* | *Scarlet*.

¹ Cf. *Works of Thomas Nashe* (ed. R. B. McKerrow), iv, 476.

² The shelf-mark is G. Pamph. 2156.

³ Words omitted are the same in both editions.

Some of the more obvious literal errors of the first edition (A) are corrected in the second (B), but others are permitted to remain. The chief difference between the two editions is in the paragraph arrangement. In B there are 84 paragraphs to the end of sig. D₁^v: in A the same matter is divided into 17. The compositor of B compensates for the additional space required for this division by closer printing, by a freer use of contractions, by changes in spelling, and by the omission of unimportant words¹. The collation is the same as that given for A by Dr M^oKerrow², except that the Bodleian copy lacks all after sig. D₁, that the B of sig. B₃ is turned, and that the catch-word on sig. D₁ is 'The'³. Sig. D₁^v ends with the following line⁴: 'diuerse Bakers and the pillorie, for making'. The catch-word is 'theyr'.

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SHAKESPEARE, 'LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST,' IV, i, 105.

Here, sweet, put up this, 'twill be thine another day.

P. A. Daniel, in the *Athenæum*, 13 Oct. 1883, explains the words 'twill be thine another day⁵' to mean 'it will be of use to you; you will find the *benefit* of it hereafter.' This explanation Daniel derived from a number of examples of this expression found in the works of Shakespeare's contemporaries⁶. But this meaning, as Daniel noted, gives rise to an expectation with regard to a future use of Armado's letter that is not fulfilled. The putting up, or pocketing, of Armado's letter, in other words, results in no benefit to Rosaline at another time, contrary to the Princess's statement. H. C. Hart, to avoid this difficulty, gives to this expression the meaning of 'it will be your *turn* another day.'

Daniel, and not Hart, however, is right. Daniel's interpretation is correct, as proven by other examples of this expression which I have

¹ So 'Venus beeing congregated' (III, 389. 3) becomes 'Venus cōgregated', 'shall be counted as' (393. 7) becomes 'shal be as'. The compositor of B resolutely ignores the pun in 'Student in Asse-tromony', and prints 'Astronomy' or 'Astrology' consistently, both on the title-page and elsewhere.

² III, 377.

³ Sig. D₁^v begins 'The knightes of...' (cf. III, 393. 2).

⁴ Cf. III, 393. 20-21.

⁵ This expression does not occur again in Shakespeare.

⁶ The value of Daniel's explanation has not been generally recognized. Furness and Hart (Dowden text edition) refer to Daniel's note, but do not give it their approval. See *New Variorum* edition of *L.L.L.*, Furness, p. 125 note, for the four examples given by Daniel to substantiate his interpretation, and for Furness' comment upon this interpretation.