

Backare

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achtzehn Jahren hatte der junge Sharpham seine juristischen Studien beendet und begab sich nach London.' (It will be observed that Dr Nibbe not only credits Sharpham with an Oxford course, for which there is no evidence, but informs us further that he did not read for the B.A. degree in the ordinary way, but pursued the study of law, like a German student of to-day who was to make law his profession.)

All this might have been spared us if Dr Nibbe had consulted Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses* and the original records of the University, in which Sharpham's name has not yet been found. But, if he was not an Oxford man, he was clearly not the 'Ed. Sharpell' who wrote the Sonnet.

G. C. MOORE SMITH.

SHEFFIELD.

'BACKARE.'

Let us, that are poor petitioners, speak too :
Baccare! you are marvellous forward. *Taming of the Shrew*, II, I, 73.

The *New English Dictionary* and *Webster* echo Nares' conjecture that this Elizabethan expression for 'retire,' 'stand back' was intended originally to ridicule someone pretending to knowledge of Latin. In Lyly's use,

The masculine gender is more worthy than the feminine, therefore *Licio*, *backare*.
Midas, I, II, 4,

there might be suspected some connotation of pedantry, but hardly in the earlier quasi-proverbial use by Udall :

Backare, quoth Mortimer to his sow.

A hitherto uncited passage in Grange's *The Golden Aphroditis* (I. 1577, D iij) suggests rather a military signal to retreat, and Italian rather than Latin. Udall, Lyly and Shakespeare will admit without difficulty this interpretation :

Yet wrested he so his effeminate hand to the siege of backward affection, that both trumpe and drumme sounded nothing for their Larum, but *Baccare*, *Baccare*.

PERCY W. LONG.

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