THE FAMOUS HISTORIE OF TROYLUS AND CRESSEID, excellently expressing the beginning of their loves, with the conceited wooing of Pandarus Prince of Licia. Written by William Shakespeare.

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*London, Imprinted by G. Eld for R. Bonian and H. Walley, and are to be sold at the Spread Eagle in Paules Churchyard, over against the great North doore.* 1609.

"This beautifully clean perfect copy of the *first edition* of Troilus and Cressida, *with the preface*, has never been in any sale, and is perfectly genuine throughout, having been cut out by myself from a volume of tracts collected and bound at the period. This first edition is very rare in any state, but is most particularly so when quite complete with the prose preface, which is omitted in all copies of the second edition of the same year, and is only found in some copies of the first. Not more than three complete copies are known to exist. The present copy has the reading, *thrice-repured*, considered by Mr. Collier to be peculiar to the Duke of Devonshire's." —*MS. Note.*

This precious volume may be considered the gem of the collection, superior in condition and perfection, nearly equal in rarity and value to the first Hamlet.

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# A neuer writer, to an euer reader. Newes.

*ETernall reader, you haue heere a new play, neuer ſtal'd with the Stage, neuer clapper-clawd with the palmes of the vulger, and yet paſſing full of the palme comicall; for it is a birth of your braine, that neuer vnder-tooke any thing commicall, vainely: And were but the vaine names of commedies changde for the titles of Commodities, or of Playes for Pleas; you ſhould ſee all thoſe grand cenſors, that now ſtile them ſuch vanities, flock to them for the meere grace of their grauities: eſpecially this authors Commedies, that are ſo fram'd to the life, that they ſerue for the moſt common Commentaries, of all the actions of our liues. ſhewing ſuch a dexteritie, and power of witte, that the moſt diſpleaſed with Playes, are pleaſd with his Commedies. And all ſuch dull and heauy-witted worldlings, as were neuer capable of the witte of a Commedie, comming by report of them to his repreſentations, haue found that witte there, that they neuer found in them-ſelues, and haue parted better wittied then they came: feeling an edge of witte ſet vpon them, more then euer they dreamd they had braine to grinde it on. So much and ſuch ſauored ſalt of witte is in his Commedies, that they ſeeme (for their height of pleaſure) to be borne in that ſea that brought forth* Venus. *Amongſt all there is none more witty then this: And had I time I would comment vpon it, though I know it needs not, (for ſo*

*much as will make you thinke your testerne well bestowd) but for so much worth, as euen poore I know to be stuft in it. It deserues such a labour, as well as the best Commedy in* Terence *or* Plautus. *And beleeue this, that when hee is gone, and his Commedies out of sale, you will scramble for them, and set vp a new English Inquisition. Take this for a warning, and at the perrill of your pleasures losse, and Iudgements, refuse not, nor like this the lesse, for not being sullied, with the smoaky breath of the multitude; but thanke fortune for the scape it hath made amongst you. Since by the grand possessors wills I beleeue you should haue prayd for them rather then beene prayd. And so I leaue all such to bee prayd for (for the states of their wits healths) that will not praise it.*

Vale.

# The history of *Troylus* and *Cressida*.

*Enter* Pandarus *and* Troylus.

*Troy.* CAll heere my varlet, Ile vnarme againe,
Why should I warre without the walls of Troy:
That finde such cruell battell here within,
Each Troyan that is maister of his heart,
Let him to field *Troylus* alas hath none.

*Pan.* Will this geere nere be mended?

*Troy.* The Greeks are strong and skilfull to their strength
Fierce to their skill, and to their fiercenesse valiant,
But I am weaker then a womans teare;
Tamer then sleepe; fonder then ignorance,
Lesse valiant then the Virgin in the night,
And skillesse as vnpractiz'd infancy:

*Pan.* Well, I haue told you enough of this; for my part ile not meddle nor make no farther; hee that will haue a cake out of the wheate must tarry the grynding.

*Tro.* Haue I not tarried?

*Pan.* I the grinding; but you must tarry the boulting.

*Troy.* Haue I not tarried?

*Pande.* I the boulting; but you must tarry the leauening.

*Troy.* Still haue I tarried.

*Pan.* I, to the leauening, but heares yet in the word hereafter, the kneading, the making of the cake, the heating the ouen, and the baking, nay you must stay the cooling too, or yea may chance burne your lippes.

*Troy.* Patience her selfe, what Godesse ere she be,
Doth lesser blench at suffrance then I do:
At *Priams* royall table do I sit
And when faire *Cressid* comes into my thoughts,
So traitor then she comes when she is thence.

*Pand.* Well shee lookt yesternight faire: then euer I saw her looke, or any woman els.

*Troy.* I was about to tell thee when my heart,