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.

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.

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CRES loves, Licia.

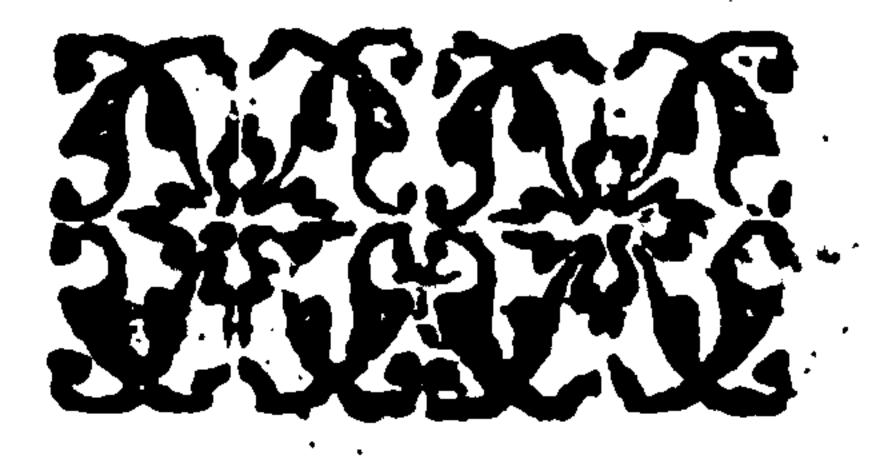
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## A neuer writer, to an euer reader. Newes.



Ternallreader, you have heere a new play, never stal'd with the Stage, neuer clapper-clawd with the palmes of the vulger, and yet passing full of the palme comicallifor it is a birth of your braine, that never under-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 maine 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 lives. hewing such a dexteritie, and power of witte, that the most despleased with Playes, are pleased with his Commedies. And all such dull and heavy-witted worldlings, as were neuer capable of the witte of a Commedie, comming by report of them to his representations, have found that witte there, that they never found in them-selves, and have parted better wittied then they came: feeling an edge of witte set upon them, more then ever 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 uponit, though I know it needs not, (for so

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### THE EPISTLE.

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

The history of Troylus and Cresseida.

Enter Pandarus and Troylus.

Troy. C All 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 mailter of his heart,

Let him to sield 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 siercenesse valiant,
But I am weaker then a womans teare;

Tamer then sleepe; sender then ignorance, Lesse valiant then the Virgin in the night,

And skillesse as unpractiz'd infancy:

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

Tro. Haue I not tarried?

Pan. I the grindin z; but you must tarry the boulting.

Troy. Haue I not tarried?

Paude. I the boulting; but you must tarry the leauening.

7roy. Still haue I tarried.

Pan. I, to the leavening, 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, Pacience her selte, what Godesse ere she be,

Doth lesser blench at suffrance then I do:

At Priams royall table do l'st

And when faire Cressideomes into my thoughts, So traitor then she comes when she is thence.

Pand. Wellssie kookt yesternight faire: then euer I saw her looke, or any woman els.

Tray. I was about to tell thee when my heart,

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