

**THE ENGLISH SCHOLAR'S LIBRARY ETC.
NO. 10. RICHARD STANYHURST.
TRANSLATION OF THE FIRST FOUR
BOOKS OF THE AENEIS OF P. VERGILIUS
MARO: WITH OTHER POETICAL DEVICES
THERETO ANNEXED [JUNE] 1582**

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The English Scholar's Library Etc. No. 10. Richard Stanyhurst. Translation of the First Four Books of the Aeneis of P. Vergilius Maro: With Other Poetical Devices Thereto Annexed [June] 1582 by Edward Arber

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EDWARD ARBER

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The English Scholar's Library etc.

No. 10.

Æneis I.-IV., with other poetical Devices.

[June] 1582.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY.



THE AUTHOR'S ORIGINAL TEXT, PRINTED AT LEYDEN.

ISSUE IN THE AUTHOR'S LIFETIME.

1. [June] 1582. Leyden, 4to. See title at p. 1.

After a long enquiry among the public Libraries of Holland and England, no information could be gained as to the existence of any copy of this impression. The only two copies now known are in private Collections: one at Ashburnham Place, Sussex; the other, at Britwell, in Bucks—each is slightly imperfect. By the great kindness of their possessors, Earl ASHBURNHAM and S. CHRISTIE-MILLER, Esq., it has been possible herein to give a perfect Text.

ISSUE SINCE HIS DEATH.

2. August, 1880. Willesden, London, N.W. 8vo. The present impression.



BINNEMAN'S REVISED TEXT, PRINTED BY HIM AT LONDON.

ISSUE IN THE AUTHOR'S LIFETIME.

2. [January] 1583. London, 8vo. See title at p. 159; and BINNEMAN'S Address at p. 160. [Entered at Stationers' Hall on 24 January, 1583.]

ISSUE SINCE HIS DEATH.

3. 1836. Edinburgh, 4to. *The first four Bookes &c.* Edited by J[AMES] M[AIDMENT]. Fifty copies only printed.

Mr. MAIDMENT states at p. xv. that "no copy of" the Leyden Edition "has hitherto been traced."

* All former Editions were issued as separate Publications.





INTRODUCTION.

I.



Y the kindness and public spirit of Earl ASHBURNHAM and S. CHRISTIE-MILLER, Esq., we are able to give back to the world, what is virtually the lost text of a work of great importance in our literary history, and especially in the history of English Verse.

For this translation of the *Æneid*, as it is one of the most audacious attempts at English hexameters, so it is among the very earliest printed specimens of them that appeared in our printed literature.

Dr. GABRIEL HARVEY writing, in his *Four Letters &c.* (on the 5th September 1592), with evident reference to his joint work with E. SPENSER which was registered at Stationers' Hall on 30 June 1580, and appeared under the title of *Three proper, and witty, familiar Letters passed between two Vniuersitie men &c.*, exclaims.

If I neuer deserue anye better remembrance, let mee rather be epitaphed. The Inuentour of the English Hexameter: whom learned M. Stanihurst imitated in his *Virgill*, and excellent Sir Philip Sidney disdained not to follow in his *Arcadia*, and elsewhere.

p. 19.

Two years after to the very day, on the 30th June 1582, STANYHURST dedicates, at p. 10, this work to his brother-in-law Lord DUNSBANY. So that HARVEY in the same *Four Letters &c.*, thus mentions him, on the 8 September 1592, with other English hexametrist.

I cordially recommend to the deere Louers of the Muses: and namely to the professed Sonnes of the same; *Edmond Spencer, Richard Stanihurst, Abraham France, Thomas Watson, Samuell Daniell, Thomas Nash*, and the rest: whome I affectionately thancke for their studious endeouours, commendably employed in enriching, and polishing their natue Tongue, neuer so furnished, or embellished, as of late.

p. 45.

I I.



HE best contemporary account we have met with of our Author, is from the bitterly hostile pen of that out and out Protestant, BARNABY RICH. It occurs, at p. 2, of his twenty-sixth book, *The Irish Hubbub*, [Preface dated 14 May] 1617.

And as the Irish are thus pleasantly conceited to jest and to scoffe, when they finde occasion, so they haue as great facility in weeping, as they haue in laughing, insomuch that one of their owne writers *Rychard Stanihurst* by name, a man of great esteeme among the Irish, famed for his learning and for his wisdome, they doe equal him to the seuen Sages of Greece, and doe think him worthy to be reputed for the eight[h] wise man.

It is truth, hee hath runne through diuers professions, first, for a lying learned Historiographer, hee hath shewed it in his *Irish Chronicle*.

After that he professed Poetry, and among other Fictions, he tooke vpon him to translate *Virgill*, and stript him out of a Veluet gowne, into a Fooles coate, out of a Latin Heroicall verse, into an English riffe raffe.

After that, I knew him at *Antwerp*, and there he professed Alchymy, and took vpon him to make Gold: from thence hee went to *Spaine*, and there hee became a Physition.

Now, I vnderstand, hee is in the Low Countries about the Arch Duke, and is there become a Massing Priest.

As we shall presently see that it was not till 1592, ten years after the appearance of these Poems, that STANYHURST went to Spain; we must dissociate from *them* any idea of the Romish priesthood. At the time he wrote them, our Author was a learned Irish gentleman, liuing for his pleasure in the Low Countries. Presumably he was present at the death of his wife JANET on the 16th of August 1579 at Knightsbridge, p. 150. But if so, he must have soon gone ower to the Netherlands; and of these, to the Protestant Province of Holland: *i.e.*, to the Hague, where resided the brunette MARY, his platonic Mistress, whose "*vertu* meriteth more prayse, than parlye can vtter," pp. 141-143, 138-140; and to Leyden (eight years after its famous siege in 1574) during the printing of this book; as PATES, at p. 157, pleading "the absence of the author from perusing soom proofes," implies his presence at other times, which must have been a manifest necessity, on account of the extraordinary spelling.

Later on, he resided chiefly at Antwerp: and apparently never set foot again in either Ireland, the land of his birth; or England, the home of his early manhood and brief married happiness.

III.

IN the Seventh Chapter of his *Description of Ireland* in HOLINSHED'S *Chronicles*, 1577, in enumerating *The names or surnames of the learned men and authors of Ireland*, our Author gives the following account of his parentage.

Nicholas Stanihurst; he wrote in latine, *Dietam Medicorum*. lib. 1. He dyed in the yeare 1554.

James Stanihurst, late recorder of Dublyn, ouer hys exact knowledge in the common lawes, he was a good oratour, and a proper deuine.

He wrote in Englishe, beyng speaker in the parlamentes.

An oration made in the beginnyng of a parliament holden at Dublyn before the right honourable Thomas Erle of Sussex, &c., in the third and fourth yere of Philip and Mary [1557].

An oration made in the beginnyng of the parliament holden at Dublyn, before the right honourable Thomas Erle of Sussex, in the second yere of the raigne of our soueraigne lady Queene Elizabeth [1560].

An oration made in the beginnyng of a Parliament holden a Dublyn, before the right honourable sir Henry Vidney Knight, &c in the 21. yeare of the raigne of our soueraigne Lady Queene Elizabeth [1568.]

He wrote in Latin,

Pias Orationes.

Ad Coraciensem decamem, epist. plures.

He deceased at Dublyn, the 27 of December [1573], being 51 yeres olde. Vpon whose death, I, as nature and duty bound me, made this epitaph. [See it at p. 148.]

Walter Stanihurst, sonne to James Stanihurst (and brother to the writer), he translated into English. *Innocent. de contemptu mundi.*

There flourished before any of these a Stanihurst, that was a scholer of Oxford, brother to Genet Stanihurst, a famous and ancient matrone of Dublyn, she lieth buried in S. Michaels church. *Circa annum dom. 1506.* [p. 27.]

None of these several writings appear to have been printed.

I V.



ANTHONY A WOOD's account of our Author's education is as follows:—

RICHARD STANYHURST, son of JAMES STANYHURST, Esq., was born within the city of Dublin in Ireland (of which city his father was then recorder), educated in grammar learning under PETER WHYTE, became a commoner of University College [Oxford] in 1563, where improving those rare natural parts that he was endowed with [in 1565], wrote "Commentaries on PORPHYRY." [*Harmonia seu Catena Dialectica in Porphyrum. Londini, 1570 and 1579 fol.; Ludguni, fol.; and Parisus, 4to. Sir J. WARE, Works ii. 98. Ed. 1745. fol.*] at two years standing, being then 18 years of age, to the great admiration of learned men and others. After he had taken [on 7 June 1567, see *Fasti Oxon.* ii. 179. *Ed.* 1815] one degree in arts, he left the college, retired to London, became first a student in Furnival's Inn, where spending some time in the study of the common law, he afterwards went into the country of his nativity for a time.

Principles of Cath. Religion.—This I have not yet seen, and therefore I cannot tell you when, or where it was printed. . .

But as for the epitaph of our author, (which he should have made while living) none doth appear at Dublin, neither at Brussels, (as I can yet learn,) where he died in 1618. *Athena Oxon.* ii. 252. *Ed.* 1815.

V.



OUR Author only published three English works. The *Description of Ireland*, and the *History of Ireland*, lib. iii. (that is, during the reign of HENRY VIII. only, referred to at pp. 146-147); both of which appeared in the First Volume of RAMPAEL HOLINSHED's *Chronicles* in 1577: and the present volume of Poems and Translations. Everything else, apparently, he wrote in Latin.

As his style is almost a matter of wonderment, it will be useful to give the first piece of his English ever published; his *Epistle* to Sir HENRY SIDNEY, the Lord Deputy of Ireland before his *Description*, in 1577. It will also show that the peculiar oddities of thought were natural to him from the first, and were not specially studied for this Volume, which did not appear till five years later, in 1582.

MY VERY GOOD LORDE,



Here haue beene diuers of late, that with no small toyle, and great commendacion, haue throughly imployed themselues, in culling and packing together the scrapings and fragments of the Hystorie of