

**CONCEITS, CLINCHES, FLASHES,
AND WHIMZIES: NEWLY
STUDIED, WITH SOME
COLLECTIONS, BUT THOSE NEVER
PUBLISHED BEFORE IN THIS KINDE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649363117

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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ROBERT CHAMBERLAIN & JOHN TAYLOR

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CONCEITS, CLINCHES, FLASHES,
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Conceits, Clinches, Flashes, and Whimsies. Newly studied, with some Collections, but those never published before in this kind. London. Printed by R. Hodgkinsonne for Daniel Frere, and are to be sold at the signe of the red Bull in little brittain. 1639. 12°.

Of this volume, a recent discovery in this class of literature, only one edition, and of that edition only one copy, is known. Until the book accidentally fell into the hands of Mr. Halliwell, it had never been seen by bibliographers; but in 1860, Mr. Halliwell reprinted six and twenty copies of the new literary curiosity, and thus it became to a certain extent accessible to those, who are interested in the existing remains of early English literature. The collection is remarkable in two respects, first on account of the previously unnoticed mention of Shakespeare, at p. 49, and secondly because the bulk of the anecdotes here brought together are original, which is hardly ever the case in such compilations.

Of the Author of these facetiæ nothing whatever is known; from the commendatory verses prefixed to the book he appears to have been a friend of Thomas Rawlins, the poet and dramatist; but beyond this we have no clue. From the Address to the Reader it is perhaps allowable to infer that the following pages represent a selection from the Table Talk of the Author and his friends.

It is just possible that the anonymous compiler was John Taylor, the Water Poet, who published a collection entitled: "Bull, Beare, and Horse, Cut, Curtaile, and Longtaile. With Tales of Bulls, Clenches, and Flashes, as also here and there a touch of our Beare-Garden." Lond. 1638, 8°. Although there are several anecdotes reported in the follow-

ing pages which can scarcely be new to the reader, it is to be recollected that they are here found in their original shape and, in many cases, for the first time.

The edition of this work issued by Mr. Halliwell (London, 1860, 4^{to}) is a reproduction of the old text without any improvements, and with very numerous errors. In the present edition, both the text and the pointing have been considerably amended, the original having, apparently, been very carelessly got up, and exhibiting several corruptions in the language, and a punctuation more than usually negligent and faulty. A few notes have also been added. It is necessary to state that the copy used (which is, as the reader is already aware, the only one known) is deficient of two leaves between Jestis 231 and 232; but in a publication, where each paragraph is complete in itself, this *hiatus* is of far less importance than in the case of a connected or continuous narrative.

TO THE READER.

GENTLE Reader, I here present thee with the productions of some vaporeing houres, purposely intended to promote harmlesse mirth; I wish thee as merry in the reading as I and some other of my friends were in speaking of them; do but laugh at them, and I am satisfied, for to that (and no other purpose) they were intended.

Adieu.

To the Author on his Conceits.

FRIEND, thy conceits, flown from the downey nes
Of thy rich fancy, lighted on my brest;
Where (let me tell thee true, for 'twere a sin
To flatter any, much morz flatter him
I hold my friend) I found such ample store
In thy pure mine of gold and silver ore,
I became conscions that I sure was bound
Now to disclose to th' world what I had found,
And render to the readers; no close end
Could stop me from being theirs or thy true friend.

T. RAWLINS.

Conceits, Clinches, flashes and
Epigrams.

1.

AN idle justice of Peace is like the picture of
Saint George upon a signe-post with his
sword drawne to no purpose.

2.

Hee that speakes great gunpowder words may
be compared to a deepemouth'd Dogge, or bee
sayd to have a tympany in his tongue.

3.

A Souldier said hee had been in so many battels
and had been so battered with bullets, that hee
swore hec thought hee had a mine of lead in his
belly.

4.

Lovers oathes are like marryners prayers ; when
once the heate is over, they are not the same men.