

**THE WORKS OF WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARES: COMEDIES,
HISTORIES, TRAGEDIES &
POEMS. VOL. XII**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649653119

The Works of William Shakespeares: Comedies, Histories, Tragedies & Poems. Vol. XII by
William Shakespeare

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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THE WORKS
OF
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

MR. WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARES

COMEDIES,
HISTORIES,
TRAGEDIES, &
POEMS

VOL. XII

LONDON
J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA

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PERICLES,
PRINCE OF TYRE

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

ANTIOCHUS, king of Antioch.
PERICLES, prince of Tyre.
HELICANUS, } two lords of Tyre.
ESCANES, }
SIMONIDES, king of Pentapolis.
CLEON, governor of Tarsus.
LYSIMACHUS, governor of Mytilene.
CERIMON, a lord of Ephesus.
THALIARD, a lord of Antioch.
PHILEMON, servant to Cerimon.
LEONINE, servant to Dionyza.
Marshal.
A Pandar. BOULT, his servant.
The Daughter of Antiochus.
DIONYZA, wife to Cleon.
THAISA, daughter to Simonides.
MARINA, daughter to Pericles and Thaisa.
LYCHORIDA, nurse to Marina.
A Bawd.

Lords, Ladies, Knights, Gentlemen, Sailors, Pirates,
Fishermen, and Messengers.

DIANA.

GOWR, as Chorus.

SCENE: Dispersedly in various Countries.

PERICLES,
PRINCE OF TYRE

ACT I.

Enter Gower.

Before the Palace of Antioch.

To sing a song that old was sung, (of old
From ashes ancient Gower is come,
Assuming man's infirmities,
To glad your ear, and please your eyes.
It hath been sung at festivals,
On ember-eves and holy-ales* ; (Embley)
And lords and ladies in their lives
Have read it for restoratives ;
The purchase* is to make men glorious ; (of old)
Et bonum quo antiquius, eo melius.
If you, born in these latter times,
When wit's more ripe, accept my rimes,
And that to hear an old man sing
May to your wishes pleasure bring,
I life would wish, and that I might
Waste it for you like taper-light.
This Antioch, then, Antiochus the Great
Built up, this city, for his chiefest seat,
The fairest in all Syria,
I tell you what mine authors say :
This king unto him took a fere,* (of old)
Who died and left a female heir,
So buxom, blithe, and full of face*

Pericles

*As heaven had lent her all his grace ;
With whom the father liking took,
And her to incest did provoke.
Bad child, worse father ! to entice his own
To evil should be done by none,
But custom what they did begin
Was with long use account no sin.
The beauty of this sinful dame
Made many princes thither frame,* [wend
To seek her as a bedfellow,
In marriage-pleasures playfellow :
Which to prevent he made a law,
To keep her still, and men in awe,
That whose ask'd her for his wife,
His riddle told not, lost his life :
So for her many a wight did die,
As you grim looks do testify.
What now ensues, to the judgment of your eye
I give, my cause who best can justify. [Exit.*

SCENE I.—Antioch. A Room in the Palace.

Enter Antiochus, Pericles, and Attendants.

Ant. Young Prince of Tyre, you have at large
receiv'd

The danger of the task you undertake.

Per. I have, Antiochus, and, with a soul
Embolden'd with the glory of her praise,
Think death no hazard in this enterprise.

Ant. Bring in our daughter, clothed like a bride,
For* the embracements even of Jove him-
self ;

At whose conception, till Lucina reign'd,
Nature this dowry gave, to glad her presence,—
The senate-house of planets all did sit,
To knit in her their best perfections.