A SATIRYCALL DIALOGUE, OR, A SHARPLYE-INVECTIVE CONFERENCE BETWEENE ALLEXANDER THE GREAT AND THAT TRUELY WOMAN-HATER DIOGYNES; FROM A UNIQUE COPY IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649385300

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WILLIAM GODDARD

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Satirycall Dialogve

OR A SHARPLYE-INVECTIVE CONFER-ENCE BETWEENE ALLEXANDER THE GREAT AND THAT TRUELY WOMAN-HATER DIOGYNES

[BY WILLIAM GODDARD]

Imprinted in the Lowcountryes [? Dort? 1615] for all such gentlewomen as are not altogeather Idle nor yet well

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FROM A UNIQUE COPY IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

EDITED BY

JOHN S. FARMER

LONDON PRIVATELY PRINTED FOR SUBSCRIBERS ONLY MDCCCXCVII

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UR knowledge of WILLIAM GODDARD, the satirist, is scanty, even as his books are scarce. Internal evidence is likewise, for the most part, want-

ing; his satires being in general of an impersonal character.

Flourishing in the reign of King James the first Goddard is thought to have belonged to the Middle Temple; he also appears to have lived for some time in Holland holding there an appointment in a civil capacity. At all events two of his books were "imprinted in the Lowcountryes"; one of them "A Neaste of Wasps," most certainly at Dort in the year 1615, and the other, the present reprint, was also probably issued from the same press.

Beyond these facts nothing is certain. There was (says The National Dictionary of Biography),

in July 1634, one William Goddard, "Doctor of Physic at Padua," who was incorporated in the same degree at Oxford; but his identity with the satirist seems doubtful.

GODDARD's known books are three in number, and are as follows:---

- A Satyricall Dialogue, or a sharphye invective conference between Allexander the Great and that truelye woman-hater Diogynes... Imprinted in the Lowcountryes for all such gentlewomen as are not alltogeather Idle nor yet well occupyed. [? Dort? 1615.]
- A Neaste of Wasps latelic found out and discovered in the Law [Low] Countreys yealding as sweete hony as some of our English bees. [At Dort... 1615.]
- A Mastif Whelp, with other ruff-Island-lik Currs fetcht from among the Antipedes. Which bite and barke at the fantasticall humorists and abusers of the time... Imprinted at the Antipedes, and are to be sould where they are to be bought. [1598.]

Curiously enough, all seem to have been issued without the name either of printer or publisher;

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a fact which would seem to indicate that they failed to obtain the usual license. The title page of "A Mastif Whelp" informs us that the book was "Imprinted at the Antipedes and are to bee sould where they are to be bought." A further clue may possibly be found in the first dedication [Sat. Dia. A2], in the last four lines of which a reference is seemingly made to the burning of Marston's "Satires." This, however, is a mere surmise; and if censorship was really exercised over Goddard's productions it is difficult to see the reason why; for, though his satire would now-a-days be counted gross, his diction was no coarser than that of most of his contemporaries. His second dedication " to the senceless censurer " seems also to point in the direction I have indicated.

At all events, such a fact, could it be established, would go far to explain the extreme rarity of Goddard's works. Of "A Satyricall Dialogue," the present reprint, only one copy is known to exist, that being in the British Museum; whilst two copies are extant of "A Neaste of Wasps." One is n the library of Worcester College, Oxford, and another in the private collection at Bridgewater House. His "Mastif Whelp" is only to be found in the Bodleian.

Goddard's satire was almost entirely levelled

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against women, and in not a few instances his pen was dipped in the bitterest invective and scorn. Especially is this noticeable in "A Satyricall Dialogue" which he doubly dedicates to the "bewteous... most puissaunt creatures of the Earth, Woemen," and " to the 'senceless' Censurer," the argument of which I will briefly outline.

Alexander the Great comes in disguise from his court to ask Diogines why he is for ever a recluse, and never seen in the busy haunts of men. Diogines replies that courts and courtiers are not to his taste: he is no wine-bibbing. gluttonous sycophant, but an honest man. Alexander contends that such disdain comes but of lack of travel and want of knowledge of the world. "Not so : all sorts and kinds of men and women, " says Diogines, has he seen. " But, " quoth Alexander, "does not Diogines at least care for the delights that come of women?" at court he may "take viewe of ladies trymm." All in vain Alexander pleads; for, says the recluse, "all woemen I haue seene; all are wanton, all are badd," and he would

> " rather dwell A thousand tymes, a single man in hell"

than married be; it "galls his gutts" a woman's tongue to hear. Alexander retorts :---

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"Oh harsh-sowre, crabby Cynnick, still I see, To gentle creatures thou wilt stubborne bee: If with a girle th'ast neuer slept a night, Thy soule hath neuer tasted sweet delight """, ", ", (a Virgins grace), Which tripps lavaltoes in each maydens face, When men's fowle tongues o're-flowes with ribaldery, Should make thee houe maidens, for their modestie."

Maids modest? "Nay, Maids can feign modesty, yet by themselves their tongues do wag in all too broad talk." And then Diogines relates "The Three Wanton Sisters Wanton Dreams" wherein he shows :--

"what modest chat Young maids will have when by themselves they're got."

Still Alexander is unconvinced; "ill is done to accuse so generally," so Diogines continues his experiences—how once he feigned to be a married wife, and overheard the counsel of one Madam Will "in various guise to women wronged "—shall he the story tell? "Why, yes," and so the cynic proceeds to narrate the advice the old bawd gave concerning (a) an old wife's complaint of her young husband; (b) a young wife wedded to a jealous old man; and (c) the churlish spouse of a gossipping wife. And so the two discuss the whole range of women's ills, Alexander

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