

**GAY GODS AND MERRY
MORTALS: SOME
EXCURSIONS IN VERSE**

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Gay Gods and Merry Mortals: Some Excursions in Verse by Robert J. Shores

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ROBERT J. SHORES

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and
MERRY MORTALS

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BY ROBERT J. SHORES



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Gay Gods and Merry Mortals

PROEM.

S*OME ancient tales of Pagan days
The author of this book relates
Explaining how in divers ways
The gods displayed their human
traits;
And how they oft in other years
Set human beings by the ears.*

*Belike these rhymes recall to you
The jingles of the poet Saxe;
The poet here is Saxon, too,
And so must needs relate his facts
In such a way that they are clear
And suited to the Saxon ear.*

*Some anecdotes which Homer told
You'll miss in this; but reader, pray
Consider, what was good of old
Would never pass the mails to-day.
And hence this history belated
Has been—well, slightly expurgated.*

GAY GODS, AND

ACTÆON.

*"He saw her charming, but he saw not half
The charms her downcast modesty con-
cealed."*

—Thomson.

ACTÆON, with the winding horn,
Pursued the Chase in ardent
youth
And what he wore when he was
born;
(And little else, to tell the truth,
For in those days of which I speak
They just changed sandals once a
week!)

And as he wandered from the path,
Chanced on Diana in her bath.

All trembling, like a startled fawn,
Upstarted then the Goddess chaste,
Sprang from the pool the bank upon
And donned her crescent in great haste,
(For, to her credit be it said,
She *did* wear something on her head,)
Then, the conventions satisfied
Gazed on Actæon, haughty-eyed.