

**A NEW AND MERRIE
PROGNOSTICATION: BEING A
METRICAL SATIRE, SUPPOSITIOUSLY
ASSIGNED TO WILL SUMMERS, THE
JESTER, AND THREE OTHERS**

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A New and Merrie Prognostication: Being a Metrical Satire, Suppositiously assigned to Will Summers, the jester, and three others by James O. Halliwell

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JAMES O. HALLIWELL

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A NEW
AND
MERRIE PROGNOSTICATION:

Being a Metrical Satire,

SUPPOSITITIOUSLY ASSIGNED TO

WILL SUMMERS, THE JESTER,
AND THREE OTHERS;

NOW FIRST REPRINTED FROM THE VERY RARE EDITION
OF 1628.

EDITED BY

JAMES O. HALLIWELL, Esq., F.R.S.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY THOMAS RICHARDS.

—
1860.

PREFACE

THE little book, reprinted in the following pages, appears to be of singular rarity. Lowndes mentions it, p. 1508, col. 2, but without any reference to a copy. It is not in the rich collection of early English literature preserved in the Bodleian Library, nor do I trace a copy in any collection excepting in the rich one of Heber, where it occurs in the fourth part of the *Bibliotheca Heberiana*, No. 2250. It was purchased by Thorpe, and is now, I believe, in the Miller collection.

These mock prognostications had been very long in vogue, and the prototype of the one now published may be sought for in one printed as early as 1544, entitled, "A Mery Prognostication," written in ridicule of those false prognostications against which Henry the Eighth considered it

necessary or advisable to level a proclamation. It commences as follows, with lines very similar to those in the first stanza of the address of "the Author to the Reader," in the following pages,

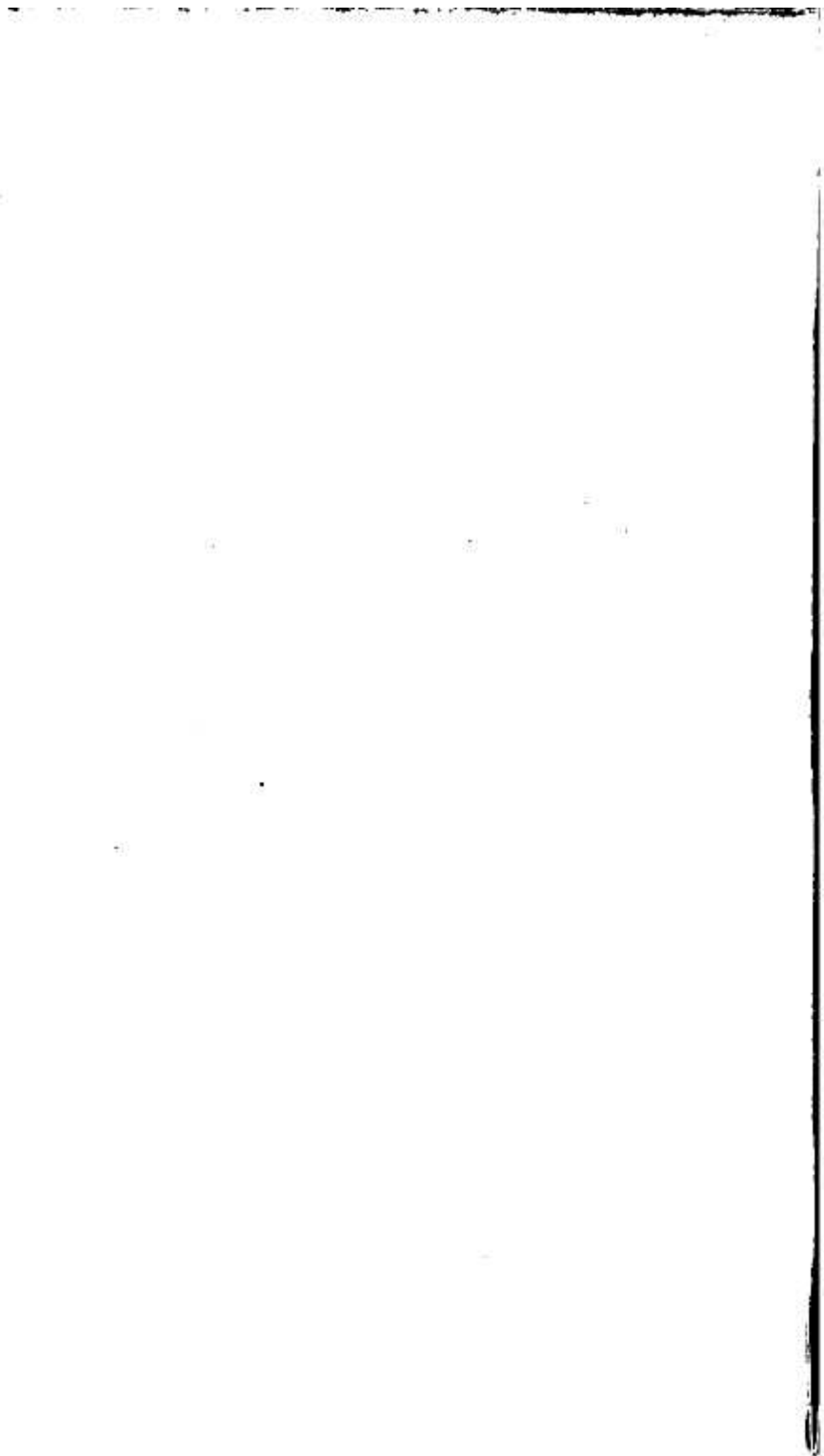
For the yere of Chrystes incarnacyon,
 A thousande fyve hundreth fortye and foure,
 This to pronostycate I may be bolde,
 That when the newe yere is come, gone is the olde.

Dr. Whoball, one of the four doctors mentioned in the original title, is celebrated in Bernard's translation of Terence, 1598: "*Se deludi facile hard patitur*; you cannot easily make him a foole; he is none of John Whoball's children; hee will be abused at no man's hands if he may." I have not met with any other notice of this personage. Will Summers is, of course, the celebrated jester to king Henry the Eighth. The two other made-up names are probably of the author's own invention.

The original edition of this satire is ornamented, or, as some might say, disfigured, by a series of woodcuts evidently borrowed from some contem-

porary almanac, consisting of figures intending to represent the signs of the zodiac. A small one, Cancer, is on the title page, and seven others are in the body of the work.

Two or three very coarse lines and words have been necessarily omitted. In other respects the following pages represent an accurate copy of the original.



A New and Merrie
PROGNOSTICATION :

Devised

AFTER THE FINEST FASHION.

*Made and written for this present yeare,
By foure witty doctors, as shall appeare,
Spendall, Whoball, and Doctor Dewe-ace,
With them Will Sommer takes his place.
They have consulted all indeede,
To solace them, that this shall reede.*

AT LONDON :

Printed by *Edward All-de*, and are to be sold by
John Tapp, at his Shop at Saint Magnus
corner. 1623.

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