

**A DIALOGUE OF THE
EFFECTUAL PROVERBS IN
THE ENGLISH TONGUE
CONCERNING MARRIAGE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649561803

A dialogue of the effectual proverbs in the English tongue concerning marriage by John Heywood & John S. Farmer

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JOHN HEYWOOD & JOHN S. FARMER

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[Reduced Facsimile of Portrait of John Heywood, the Frontispiece to "Three Hundred Epigrammes upon Three Hundred Proverbs," London, 1562.]

A Dialogue
of
THE EFFECTUAL PROVERBS
in the English Tongue
CONCERNING MARRIAGE
BY
JOHN HEYWOOD

EDITED BY
JOHN S. FARMER

London
GIBBINGS & Co., 18, BURY STREET, W.C.

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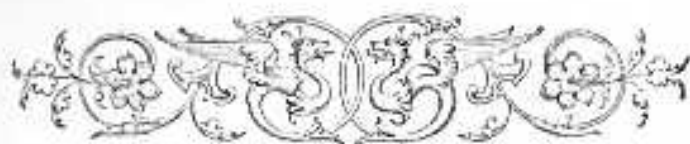
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INTRODUCTION

- * Art thou Heywood, with thy mad merry wit?
Yea, forsooth, master, that name is even hit.
Art thou Heywood, that appliest mirth more than
thrift?
Yes, sir, I take merry mirth a golden gift.
Art thou Heywood that hast made many mad plays?
Yea, many plays, few good works in my days.
Art thou Heywood that hath made men merry long?
Yea, and will, if I be made merry among.
Art thou Heywood, that wouldest be made merry now?
Yes, sir, help me to it now, I beseech you."

So, of himself, wrote John Heywood, the author of this work, which, 360 years after it was first published, is again given to the world. It ran through at least ten editions during the first fifty years, and was then neglected until the Spenser Society, in 1867, issued a collated reprint of the editions of 1562 and 1566. The number of copies issued of this reprint was limited. The Society dissolved itself, its publications were dispersed, and copies are now very rare. Nine years later, in 1876, Mr. Julian Sharman issued a very imperfect reprint of the edition of 1598, line after line being omitted.

The present text, modernised in spelling (with but few exceptions), is based on the Spenser Society reprint, a few obvious misprints having been rectified. These, however, are comparatively few in number, and the work of the Society has been found to have been most faithfully done.

Hitherto an index to the proverbs and colloquialisms has been wanting. It is made a special feature of the present edition. This index is based (but greatly enlarged and extended) on the materials collected for the Spenser Society, which were never utilised, as the manuscript disappeared, coming incidentally to light again, after a lapse of nearly forty years, when bought at a public sale for the Manchester Free Libraries. Mr. C. W. Sutton, the librarian of the Manchester Corporation, very courteously placed the volume, amongst others, at my disposal, to very great purpose and advantage.

A present-day orthography has been adopted; the punctuation has likewise been modernised. Quite recently, and more than once, I have been censured for the former and commended for the latter. Setting aside the obvious inconsistency of differentiating between these two departures from an original text—one is just as defensible or indefensible as the other—it may help to a better understanding if I add a word or two of explanation.

In my own view there is no object whatever in placing unnecessary difficulties in the way of the ordinary student of English literature. Such students are becoming an ever-increasing