

**NOTES OF BEN JONSON'S
CONVERSATIONS WITH
WILLIAM DRUMMOND OF
HAWTHORNDEN: JANUARY
M.DC.XIX**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649408917

Notes of Ben Jonson's Conversations with William Drummond of Hawthornden: January
M.DC.XIX by Ben Jonson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

BEN JONSON

**NOTES OF BEN JONSON'S
CONVERSATIONS WITH
WILLIAM DRUMMOND OF
HAWTHORNDEN:
JANUARY M.DC.XIX**

NOTES
OF
BEN JONSON'S CONVERSATIONS

WITH

WILLIAM DRUMMOND, 1585-1649.

OF HAWTHORNDEN.

JANUARY, M.DC.XIX.

Then will I dress once more the faded bower,
Where JONSON sat in DRUMMOND's classic shade.

COLLINS.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR THE SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY, 3.

1842.

1069-29

Orig. Lib. ~~2156~~

11484.5 (8)

BOUND. JUN 24 1911

LONDON :

P. SHOBBEL, JUN., 51, RUPERT STREET, HAYMARKET,
PRINTER TO H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT.

COUNCIL
OF
THE SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY.

President.

THE MOST NOBLE THE MARQUESS OF NORMANBY.

Vice-Presidents.

RT. HON. LORD BRAYBROOKE, F.S.A.

RT. HON. LORD F. EGERTON, M.P.

RT. HON. THE EARL OF GLENGALL.

RT. HON. EARL HOWE.

RT. HON. LORD LEIGH.

RT. HON. THE EARL OF POWIS.

AMYOT, THOMAS, ESQ., F.R.S., TREAS. S. A.

AYRTON, WILLIAM, ESQ., F.R.S., F.S.A.

BOTFIELD, BERIAH, ESQ., M.P.

BRUCE, JOHN, ESQ., F.S.A.

COLLIER, J. PAYNE, ESQ., F.S.A., DIRECTOR.

CRAIK, GEORGE L., ESQ.

CUNNINGHAM, PETER, ESQ., TREASURER.

DYCE, REV. ALEXANDER.

FIELD, BARRON, ESQ.

HALLAM, HENRY, ESQ., F.R.S., V.P.S.A.

HALLIWELL, J. O., ESQ., F.R.S. F.S.A., &c.

HARNESS, REV. WILLIAM.

MACREADY, WILLIAM C., ESQ.

MILMAN, REV. HENRY HART.

OXENFORD, JOHN, ESQ.

PETTIGREW, T. J., ESQ., F.R.S., F.S.A.

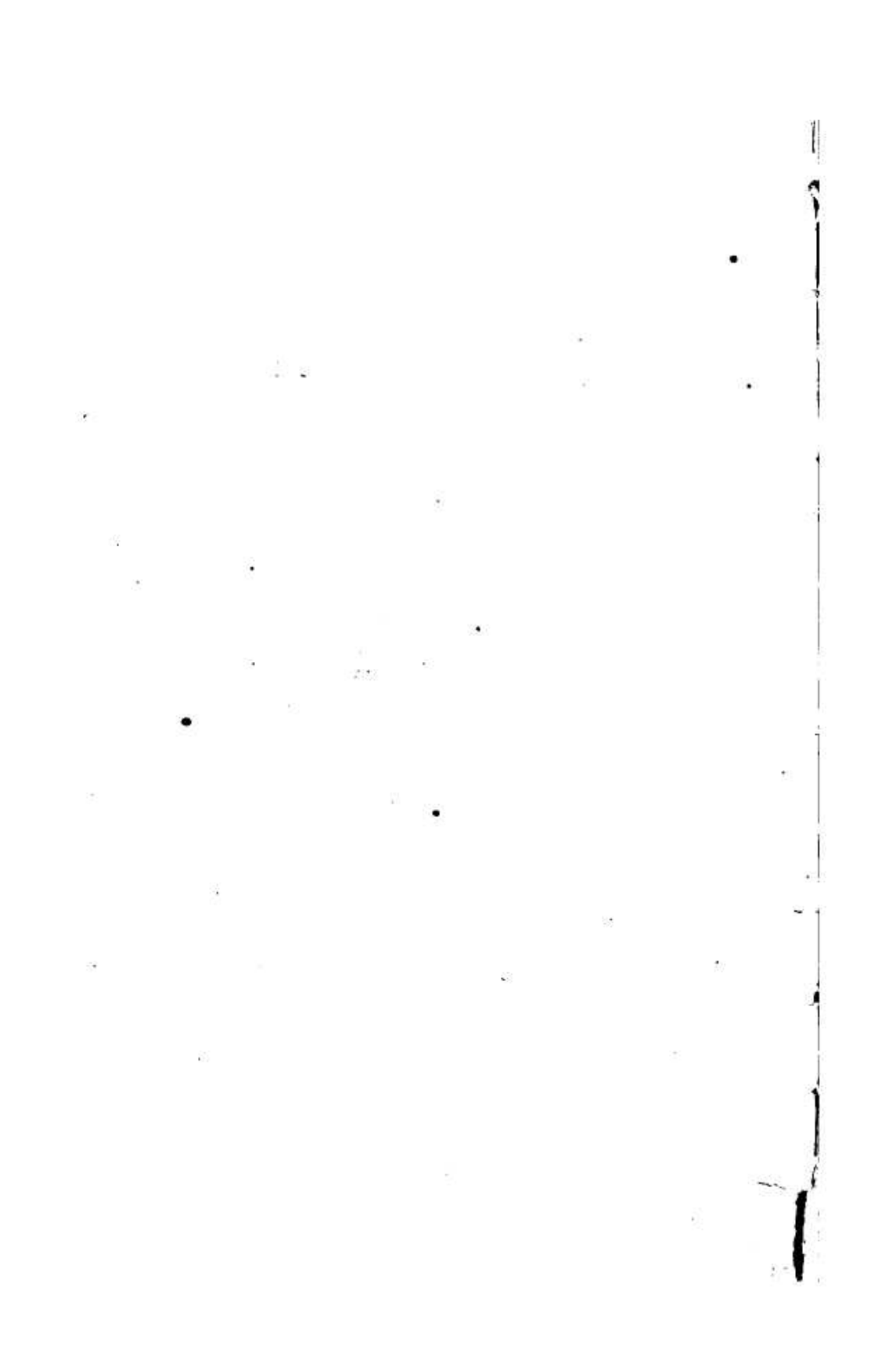
PLANCHÉ, J. R., ESQ., F.S.A.

THOMS, WILLIAM J., ESQ.

TOMLINS, F. GUEST, ESQ., SECRETARY.

WATSON, SIR FREDERICK BEILBY, K.C.H., F.R.S.

WRIGHT, THOMAS, ESQ., F.S.A.



PREFACE.

Few documents connected with literary history have recently occasioned greater, and, at the same time, more useless and unprofitable controversy, than Drummond of Hawthornden's Notes of Conversations with Ben Jonson. In submitting to the Members of the Shakespeare Society, for the first time in a substantive form, what is presumed to be a full and genuine copy of Drummond's manuscript, it may be necessary to prefix a few remarks on two points. The first is, in regard to the purpose of Jonson's Visit to Scotland; the second, as to the imputations that have been liberally bestowed on the Poet of Hawthornden, in connection with these Notes of Conversations, by inquiring whether they are well founded, and to what extent.

It is, perhaps, vain to inquire what motives induced the great English dramatist to undertake, as it was then viewed, a long and toilsome journey. The editor of Drummond's Works, in 1711, asserts, indeed, that Jonson "came down to Scotland on foot, in the year 1619, on purpose to visit him [Drummond], and stayed some three or four weeks with him at Hawthornden." This statement has been currently repeated for more than a

century. It is, however, apparently nothing but a gratuitous assumption, there being no kind of evidence to shew that any acquaintance existed betwixt the two poets till some months after Jonson had reached Edinburgh. That he was induced to visit Scotland by any supposed admiration of Drummond's genius, may be safely denied, judging from what he himself records of Jonson's "censure of my verses," that "they smelled too much of the schools," and that, *merely to please the King*, he wished he had been the author of *Forth Feasting*, a congratulatory poem, written by Drummond on occasion of King James's visit to his native kingdom in May 1617.

Jonson, when he commenced his journey, was well advanced in life, having reached the forty-fifth year of his age. He was at the time in special favour at the English court; and the desire of visiting some of his noble friends in the course of his travels may have strengthened his resolution to spend some time in what in one sense he might regard to be his native country, although Jonson could not have felt the same "salmon-like instinct" with his Royal master, (to use his own words) when he announced his long-deferred intentions to revisit Scotland, having "had (he says) these many years a great and naturall longing to see our native soyle and place of our birth and breeding." But "this desire of ours, proceeding from a naturall man," having been accomplished, it might possibly suggest to the English poet a similar journey during the year that followed the King's return. We know at least that, with that sturdy independence which marked his character,

Jonson set out with the resolution to walk all the way both going and returning. This must have been in the summer of 1618. John Taylor, "the Water-Poet," about the same time undertook what he termed his "Pennylesse Pilgrimage" to Scotland—in other words, that he should carry no money with him; and as Jonson, while in Scotland, was impressed with the belief that Taylor, who left London on the 14th of July 1618, and reached Edinburgh on the 13th of August, "had been sent hither to scorn him," this implies that he must have followed, not preceded, Jonson. But the Water-Poet, in 1623, published a rambling account, in verse and prose, of his "Pennylesse Pilgrimage," showing, "how he travailed on foot from London to Edenborough in Scotland, not carrying any money to or fro, neither begging, borrowing, or asking meate, drinke, or lodging," and he there indignantly repels the aspersion of his having been actuated by such a motive, and vows, "by the faith of a Christian," that the insinuations of "many shallow-brained criticks" were wholly unfounded. The address in which this is stated is too curious in itself not to be quoted at full length.

*"To all my Loving Adventurers, by what name or title soever, my
Generall Salutation.*

"Reader, these Trauailles of mine into Scotland, were not undertaken, neither in imitation, or emulation of any man, but onely devised by myselfe, on purpose to make triall of my friends, both in this Kingdome of England, and that of Scotland, and because I would be an eye-witnes of diuers things which I had heard of that Country; and whereas many shallow-brain'd Critickes, doe lay an aspersion on me, that I was set on by others, or that I did undergoe this project, either in malice or mockage of Master BENJAMIN IONSON,