

THE PROVERBS AND EPIGRAMS

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The Proverbs and Epigrams by John Heywood

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JOHN HEYWOOD

**THE PROVERBS
AND EPIGRAMS**

THE
P R O V E R B S
AND
EPIGRAMS

OF
JOHN HEYWOOD
(A. D. 1562).

*REPRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL (1562) EDITION, AND
COLLATED WITH THE SECOND (1566) EDITION;
WITH AN
APPENDIX OF VARIATIONS.*

PRINTED FOR THE SPENSER SOCIETY.
1867.

MANCHESTER
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NOTICE.

BOTH of the Editions of this Work which have been employed for the present Reprint are in ~~Black Letter~~. In accordance however with the terms of the original Prospectus issued by the SPENSER SOCIETY, and influenced by considerations of uniformity and convenience, Roman Type is here used.

A Glossary to the present Volume has been prepared, and is in MS.; but the Council, hoping ultimately to place the *complete* Works of John Heywood in the hands of the Members, have decided upon deferring its issue until it can be given, enlarged so as to comprehend the whole of his Works, with the last Volume, when they purpose that it shall be preceded by a full Biographical and Bibliographical Account of the Author and his Writings.

OCTOBER, 1867.

**John Heywoodes
woorkes.**

**So A dialogue conteynng the
number of the effectuall pouerbes in
the Englishe tounge, compact in
a matter concernynge
two maner of ma-
nyages.**

**With one hundred of Epigrammes : and
three hundred of Epigrammes
vpon three hundred pro-
uerbes : and a fifth
hundred of E-
pigrams.**

**Wherunto are now newly added
a firt hundred of Epigrams
by the sayde John
Heywood.**



L O N D I N I .
ANNO christi.

1562.

The Preface.

Among other thinges profytyng in our tong
Those whiche muche may profyete both olde and yong:
Suche as on their fruite wyll séede or take holde
Are our common plaine pithie prouerbes olde.
Some sence of some of whiche beyng bare and rude:
Yet to fyne and fruitefull effect they allude.
And their sentenſes include ſo large a reache,
That almoſt in all thinges good leſſons they teache.
This write I not to teache, but to touche: for why,
Men know this as well or better then I.
But this and this reſt, I wryte for this.
Remembryng and conſydering what the pyth is,
That by remembraunce of theſe prouerbes maie grow
In this tale, erſt talked with a fréend, I ſhow
As many of them as we could fytly fynde,
Fallyng to purpoſe, that might fall in minde.
To thentent that the reader redily may
Finde them and minde them, whan he wyll alway.

Finis.

The fyrst parte.

The. i. chapter.

OF mine acquayntance a certaine yong man
(Beyng a reforter to me now and than)
Reforted lately, showing him selfe to bée
Defyrous to talke at length alone with me.
And as we for this, a méete place had woon,
With this olde prouerbe, this yong man begon.
Who so that knew, what wolde be dere,
Should neede be a marchant but one yeere.
Though it (quoth he) thing impossible bée,
The full sequele of present things to forefée:
Yet doth this prouerbe prouoke euery man
Politykely (as man possible can)
In things to come after to cast cie before,
To caste out or kepe in things for fore store.
As the prouision maie féeme most profytable,
And the commoditée most commendable
Into this confyderacion I am wrought
By two thyngis, whiche fortune to hands hath brought.
Two women I know, of whiche twayne the tone
Is a mayde of flowryng age, a goodly one.
Thother a wydow, who so many yeres beares,
That all hir whiteneffe lythe in hir whyte heares.
This mayde hath fréendis ryche, but riches hath shee none,
Nor none can hir handes geat to lieue vpon.
This wydow is very ryche, and hir fréendis bare,
And both thefe, for loue to wed with me fond are.
And both would I wed, the better and the wurs.
The tone for hir perfon, the tother for her purs.
They woo not my substance, but my selfe they wooe.
Goodes haue I none and smalle good can I dooe.
On this poore maid hir riche fréendis I cléerely know,
(So she wed where they wyll) great gyfts will bestow,

A ij

But