## Renascence Editions

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Renascence Editions

### The Masque of Blacknesse.

Ben Jonson.

Masque of Blacknesse | Masque of Beauty

Note: this <u>Renascence Editions</u> text was transcribed by R.S. Bear, May 2001, from the 1608 quarto (STC number 14761). Where the page is illegible in the source text, the Cambridge edition of 1941 has been consulted. Any errors that have crept into the transcription are the fault of the present publisher. The text is in the public domain. Content unique to this presentation is copyright © 2001 the editor and The University of Oregon. For nonprofit and educational uses only. Send comments and corrections to the Publisher.

# THE CHARACTERS

of

Two royall Masques.
The one of BLACKNESSE,
The other of BEAVTIE.

personated
By the most magnificent of Queenes

#### **ANNE**

Queene of great Britaine, &c.

With her honorable Ladyes,

1605. and 1608.

at White-Hall:

and

Inuented by B E N: I O N S O N.

Imprinted at London for *Thomas Thorp*, and are to be sold at the signes of the Tigers head in Paules Church-yard.

## Q V E E N E S M A S Q V E S.

The first, of Blacknesse: personated at the Court, at WHITE-HALL, on the Twelu'th night.

1605.



He honor; and splendor of these Spectacles was such in the performance, as could those houres haue lasted, this of mine, now; had beene a most vnprofitable worke. But (when it is the fate, euen of the greatest, and most absolute births, to need, and borrow a life of posterity) little had beene done to the study of *magnificence* in these; if presently with the rage of the people, who (as a part of greatnesse) are priuiledged by Custome, to deface their *carkasses*, the *spirits* had also perished. In dutie, therefore, to that *Maiestie*, who gaue them their authoritie, and grace; and, no lesse then the most

royall of predecessors, deserues eminent celebration for these solemnities: I adde this later hand, to redeeme them as well from ignorance, as enuie, two common euills, the one of *Censure*, the other of *Obliuion*.

<sup>a</sup>PLINIE, <sup>b</sup>SOLINVS, <sup>c</sup>PTOLEMAEE, and of late LEO<sup>d</sup> the *African*, remember vnto vs a riuer in *Æthiopia*, famous by the name of *Niger*; of which the people were called *Negritæ*, now *Negro*'s: and are the blackest nation of the world. This <sup>e</sup> riuer taketh spring out of a certaine *Lake*, east-ward; & after a long race, falleth into the westerne *Ocean*. Hence (because it was her Maiesties will, to haue them *Black-mores* at first) the inuention was deriued by me, & presented thus.

First, for the *Scene*, was drawne a *Landtschape*, consisting of small woods, and here and there a voide place filld with huntings; which falling, an artificiall Sea was seene to shoote forth, as if it flowed to the land, raised with waues, which seemed to moue, and in some places the billow to breake, as imitating that orderly disorder, which is common in nature. In front of this Sea were placed sixe fritons, in mouing, and sprightly actions, their vpper parts humane, saue that their haires were blue, as partaking of the Sea-colour: their desinent parts, fishe, mounted aboue their heads, and all varied in disposition. From their backs were borne out certaine light pieces of Taffata, as if carried by the winde, and

- a Natu. Hist. l. 5 cap. 8.
- b Poly. hist. cap. 40. & 43.
- c Lib 4. cap. 5.
- d Descrip. Afric.
- e Some take it to be the same with Nilus, which is by Lucan called Melas, signifying Niger. Howsoeuer, Plinie, in the place aboue noted, hath this: Nigri fluuio eadem natura, quæ Nilo, calamum, papyrum, & easdem gignit animantes. See Solin. aboue mentioned.

f The forme of these Tritons,

Light-bearers.

their Musique made out of wreathed shells. Behinde these, a paire of Sea-Maides, for song, were as conspicuously seated; betweene which, two great Seahorses (as bigge as the life) put forth themselues; the one mounting aloft, & writhing his head from the other, which seemed to sinck forwards; so intended for variation, & that the Figure behind, might come of[f] better: g vpon their backs. OCEANVS & NIGER were advanced.

OCEANVS, presented in a humane forme; the colour of his flesh, blew; and shadowed with a robe of Sea-greene; his head grey; & h horned; as he is described by the Antients: his beard of the like mixt colour: hee was gyrlonded with *Alga*, or Sea-grasse; and in his hand a *Trident*.

NIGER, in forme and colour of an Æthiope; his haire, and rare beard curled, shadowed with a blue, and bright mantle: his front, neck, and wrists adorned with Pearle, and crowned, with an artificiall wreathe of Cane, and Paper-rush. These induced the *Masquers*, which were twelue *Nymphs*, *Negro*'s; and the daughters of NIGER; attended by so many of the i OCEANAE, which were their

The *Masquers* were placed in a great concaue shell, like mother of Pearle, curiously made to moue on those waters, and rise with the billow; the top thereof was stuck with a *cheu'ro[n]* of lights, which, indented to the proportion of the shell, strooke a glorious beame vpon them, as they were seated, one aboue another: so that they were all seene, but in an extravagant order.

On sides of the shell, did swim sixe huge *Sea-monsters*, varied in their shapes, and dispositions, bearing on their backs the twelue *Torch bearers*; who were planted there in seuerall graces; so as the backs of some were seene; some in purfle, or side; others in face; & all having their lights burning out of Whelks, or Murex shels.

The attire of the *Masquers* was alike, in all, without difference: the colours, Azure, and Siluer; [their hayre thicke, and curled vpright in tresses, lyke Pyramids,] but returned on the top with a scrole and antique dressing of Feathers, and Iewels interlaced with ropes of Pearle. And, for the front, eare,

neck, and wrists, the ornament was of the most choise and orient Pearle; best setting of[f] from the black. For the Light bearers, Sea-greene, waved about the skirts with gold and silver; [th]eir hayre loose, and flowing, gyrlanded with Sea-grasse, and that stuck with branches of Corall.

These thus presented, the *Scene* behind, seemed a vast Sea (and vnited with this that flowed forth) from the termination, or *horizon* of which (being the leuell of the *State*, which was placed in the vpper end of the Hall) was drawne, by the lines of *Prospectiue*, the whole worke shooting downe-wards, from the eye; which decorum made it more conspicuous, and caught the eye a farre of[f] with a wandring beauty. To which was added an obscure and cloudy night-piece, that made the whole set of[f]. So much for the bodily part. Which was of master Y N I G O I O N E S his designe, and act.

By this, one of the *Tritons*, with the two *Sea-Maides*, began to sing to the others lowd Musique, their voyces being a tenor, and two trebles.

SONG.

Ound, sound aloud

The welcome of the orient Floud, Into the West:

Fayre, NIGER, k sonne to great OCEANVS,

with their trumpets, you may read liuely describ'd, in Ouid. Metamor. l. 1. Cæruleum Tritona vocat, &c. and in Virgil. Æneid. l. 10. Hunc vehit immanis Triton & sequent.

g Lucian. in

PHTOP. Adar. presents Nilus so. Equo fluuiatili insidentem. And Statius Neptune, in Theb. h The ancients induc'd Oceanus alwayes with a Bulls head: propter vim ventorum, à quibus incitatur, & impellitur: vel quia Tauris similem fremitum emittat, vel quia tanquam Taurus furibundus, in littora feratur, Euripid. in

> 'Axéav@ év rαυρέχρανος *άγχαλα*ις έλισσων, κυκλεί χθονα.

Oreste.

And riuers somtimes were so called. Looke Virg. de Tiberi, & Eridano. Geor. 4. Æneid. 8. Hor. Car. l. 4. Ode. 14. and Eurip. in Ione.

i The daughters of Oceanus and Tethys. See Hesiod. in Theogon. Orphe. in Hym. and

Virgil. in Georg.

http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~rbear/jonson1.html (3 of 10)4/6/2005 8:03:48 AM

Now honord, thus,
With all his beauteous race:
Who, though but blacke in face,
Yet, are they bright,
And full of life, and light.
To proue that Beauty best,
Which not the colour, but the feature
Assures vnto the creature.

#### OCEANVS.

B silent, now the Ceremonies done,
And NIGER, say, how comes it, louely Sonne,
That thou, the ÆTHIOPES River, so farre East,
Art seene to fall into the extreamest West
Of me, the King of flouds, OCEANVS,
And, in mine Empires heart, salute me thus?
My ceaselesse current, now, amazed stands!
To see thy labor, through so many lands,

1 Mixe thy fresh billow, with my brackish streame;
And, in thy sweetnesse, stretch thy diademe,
To these farre distant, and vn-equall'd skies
This squared Circle of cælestiall bodies.

#### NIGER.

Diuine O C E A N V S, tis not strange at all,
That (since the immortall soules of creatures mortal,
Mixe with their bodies, yet reserve for ever
A powre of seperation) I should sever
My fresh streames, from thy brackish (like things fixed)
Though, with thy powerfull saltnes, thus far mixed.
"Vertue, though chain'd to earth, will still live free;
"And Hell it selfe must yeeld to industry.

#### OCEANVS.

B Vt, what's the end of thy Herculean labors, Extended to these calme, and blessed shores?

NIGER.

k All riuers are said to be the sons of the Ocean: for, as the Ancients thought, out of the vapours, exhaled by the heat of the Sunne.riuers, and fountaines were begotten. And both by Orph. in Hymn. & Homer Iliad § Oceanus is celebrated tanquam pater, & origo, dijs, & rebus, quia nihil sine humectatione nascitur, aut putrescit.

1 There wants not inough, in nature, to authorize this part of our fiction, in separating Niger, from the Ocean, (beside the fable of Alpheus, and that, to which Virgil alludes of Arethusa in his 10. Eclog. Sic tibi, cum fluctus subterlabere Sicanos, Doris amara suam non intermisceat *vndam*) examples of Nilus, Iordan, and others, whereof see Nican. lib. 1. de flumin. & Plut. in vita Syllæ, euen of this our riuer (as some thinke) by the name of Melas. T O do a kind, and carefull Fathers part, In satisfying euery pensiue heart Of these my Daughters, my most loued birth:

Who though they were the <sup>m</sup> first form'd Dames of earth, And in whose sparckling, and refulgent eyes, The glorious Sunne did still delight to rise; Though he (the best Iudge, and most formall cause Of all Dames beauties) in their firm hiewes, drawes Signes of his feruent'st Loue; and thereby shewes That, in their black, the perfectst beauty growes; Since the fix't colour of their curled haire, (Which is the highest grace of dames most faire) No cares, no age can change; or there display The fearefull tincture of abhorred Gray; Since Death hir selfe (hir selfe being pale & blue) Can neuer alter their most faith-full hew; All which are arguments, to proue, how far Their beauties conquer, in great Beauties warre; And more, how neere Divinity they be, That stand from passion, or decay so free. Yet, since the fabulous voices of some few Poore brain-sicke men, stil'd Poets, here with you, Haue, with such enuy of their graces, sung The painted Beauties, other Empires sprung; Letting their loose, and winged fictions fly To infect all clymates, yea our purity;

m Read *Diod*. Sicul. lib. 3. It is a coniecture of the old *Ethnicks*, that they, which dwell vnder the *South*, were the first begotten of the earth.

And, that, before his heedles flames were hurld About the Globe, the Æthiopes were as faire, As other Dames; now blacke, with blacke dispaire: And in respect of their complections chang'd, Are each where, since, for lucklesse creatures rang'd. Which, when my Daughters heard, (as women are Most iealous of their beauties) feare, and care Possess'd them whole; yea, and beleeuing p them, They wept such ceaseles teares, into my streame, That it hath, thus far, overflow'd his shore To seeke them patience: who have since, ere more *As the* Sunne *riseth*, <sup>q</sup> *charg'd his burning throne* With volleys of reuilings; 'cause he shone On their scorch'd cheekes, with such intemperate fires, And other Dames, made Queenes of all desires. To frustrate which strange error, oft, I sought, (Though most in vaine, against a setled thought As women are) till they confirm'd at length

As of one <sup>n</sup> P H A E T O N, that fir'd the world,

n *Notissima* fabula. Ouid. *Met.* lib. 2.

o Alluding to that of *Iuuenal*, *Satir*. 5. *Et cui per mediam nolis occurrere noctem*. p The *Poets*.

q A custome of the *Aethiopes*, notable in *Herod*. and *Diod*. *Sic*. See *Plinie*. *Nat*. *Hist*. *lib*. 5. *cap*. 8.

By miracle, what I, with so much strength Of argument resisted; els they fain'd:

For in the Lake, where their first spring they gain'd, As they sate, cooling their soft Limmes, one night, Appear'd a Face, all circumfus'd with light; (And sure they saw't, for Æthiopes <sup>r</sup> neuer dreame) Wherein they might decipher through the streame, These words.

That they a *Land* must forthwith seeke, Whose termination (of the *Greeke*) Sounds T A N I A; where bright *Sol*, that heat

Their blouds, doth neuer <sup>s</sup> rise, or set, But in his Iourney passeth by, And leaues that *Clymat* of the sky, To comfort of a greater *Light*, Who formes all beauty, with his sight.

In search of this, have we three Princedomes past, That speake out Tania, in their accents last; Blacke Mauritania, first; and secondly, Swarth Lusitania; next, we did descry Rich Aquitania; and, yet, cannot find The place vnto these longing Nymphes design'd. Instruct, and ayde me, great O C E A N V S, What land is this, that now appeares to vs?

#### OCEANVS.

This Land, that lifts into the temperate ayre

His snowy cliffe, is <sup>t</sup> Albion the faire; So call'd of <sup>u</sup> Neptunes son, who ruleth here: For whose deare guard, my selfe, (foure thousand yeere, Since old Deucalion's daies) have walk'd the round About his empire, proud, to see him crown'd Aboue my waves.

At this, the *Moone* was discouered in the vpper part of the house, triumphant in a *Siluer* throne, made in figure of a *Pyramis*. Her garments *White*, and *Siluer*, the dressing of her head antique; & crown'd with a *Luminarie*, or *Sphære* of light: which striking on the clouds, and heightened with *Siluer*, reflected as naturall clouds doe by the splendour of the *Moone*. The heauen, about her, was vaulted with blew silke, and set with Starres of *Siluer* which had in them their seuerall lights burning. The suddaine sight of which, made NIGER to interrupt O C E A N V S, with this present passion.

r *Plin*. ibid.

s Consult with Tacitus, in vita Agric.and the Paneg. ad Constant.

> name of their princedomes: so is he still *Albion*, and *Neptunes* sonne that gouernes. As also his being deare to *Neptune*, in being so imbrac'd by

him.

t Orpheus in his *Argonaut*. calls

it Λευκάνον χέρσου.

u Alluding to the

rite of stiling princes, after the

NIGER.

—O see, our siluer Starre!

Whose pure, auspicious light greetes vs, thus farre!

Great Æthiopia, Goddesse of our shore, Since, with particular worshippe we adore Thy generall brightnesse, let particular grace Shyne on my zealous Daughters: Shew the place, Which, long, their longings vrg'd their eyes to see. Beautifie them, which long haue Deified thee.

The Aethiopians worshipd the Moone, by that surname. See Stepha. See Stepha in voce AIOIOIION and his reasons.

#### ÆTHIOPIA.

I GER, be glad: Resume thy native cheare.
Thy Daughters labors have their period here, And so thy errors. I was that bright Face Reflected by the Lake, in which thy Race Read mysticke lines; (which skill PITHAGORAS First taught to men, by a reuerberate glasse) This blessed Isle doth with that TANIA end, Which there they saw inscrib'd, and shall extend Wish'd satisfaction to their best desires. BRITANIA, which the triple world admires, This Isle hath now recouered for her name; Where raigne those Beauties, that with so much fame The sacred M V S E S Sonnes have honored, And from bright HESPERVS to EOVS spred. With that great name BRITANIA, this blest Isle Hath wonne her ancient dignitie, and stile, A World, divided from the world: and tri'd The abstract of it, in his generall pride. For were the world, with all his wealth, a Ring, Britania (whose new name makes all tongues sing) Might be a Diamant worthy to inchase it, Rul'd by a SVNNE, that to this height doth grace it: Whose Beames shine day, and night, and are of force To blanch an Æ THIOPE, and reviue a Cor's. *His light scientiall is, and (past mere nature)* Can salue the rude defects of euery creature. Call forth thy honor'd Daughters, then; And let them, 'fore the Brittaine men, Indent the Land, with those pure traces They flow with, in their native graces. Inuite them, boldly, to the shore, Their Beauties shalbe scorch'd no more:

Here the *Tritons* sounded, & they daunced on shore, euery couple (as they aduanced) seuerally presenting their Fans: in one of which were inscribed their mixt *Names*, in the other a mute *Hieroglyphick*,

This Sunne is temperate, and refines All things, on which his radiance shines.

La: Herbert.

*Co: of Derby* 

Co: of Suffolke.

La: Effingham.

La: El. Howard.

La: Walsingham

La: Sus: Vere.

La: Wroth.

La: Rich.

La: Beuill.

expressing their mixed quallities. Which manner of *Symbole* I rather chose, then *Imprese*, as well for strangenesse, as relishing of antiquity, and more applying to that originall doctrine of sculpture, which the *Ægyptians* are said, first, to have brought from the *Æthiopians*.

Did. Sicul. Herod.

The Names.
------------

The Queene. 1. {E VPHORIS. Co: of Bedford. {AGLAIA.

2. {DIAPHANE. {EVCAMPSE.

3. {O C Y T E. {K A T H A R E.

4. {NOTIS. {PSYCHROTE.

5. {GLYCYTE. {MALACIA.

6. {BARYTE. {PERIPHERE.

The Symboles.

1.{A golden Tree, la-{den with fruict.

2. {The figure *Icosae*-{*dron* of crystall.

3. {A payre of naked {feet, in a Riuer.

4. {The Salaman-{der simple.

5. {A clowd full of {raine, dropping.

6. {An vrne[,] spheared {with wine.

The names of the OCEANIAE were.

Hesiod in Theog.

DORIS. CYDIPPE. BEROE. IANTHE.

PETRAEA. GLAVCE. ACASTE. LYCORIS.

OCYRHOE. TYCHE. CLYTIA. PLEXAVRE.

Their owne single *Daunce* ended, as they were about to make choice of their Men: One, from the Sea, was heard to call 'hem with this *charme*, sung by a *tenor* voyce.

SONG.

C Ome away, come away,
We grow iealous of your stay:
If you do not stop your eare,
We shall have more cause to feare
Syrens of the land, then they
To doubt the Syrens of the Sea.

Here they daunc'd with their men, seuerall *measures*, and *corranto's*. All which ended, they were againe accited to sea, with a *Song* of two *Trebles*, whose cadences were iterated by a double *Eccho*, from seuerall parts of the Land.

SONG.

Aughters of the subtle Flood,
Doe not let Earth longer intertayne you;
1. Ecch. { Let Earth longer intertaine you.

2. Ecch. { Longer intertaine you.

Tis to them, inough of good,
That you give this little hope, to gaine you.

1. Ecch. { Give this little hope, to gaine you.

2. Ecch. Little hope, to gaine you.

If they loue,

You shall quickly see;

For when to flight you mooue,

They'll follow you, the more you flee.

- 1. Ecch. { Follow you, the more you flee[.]
  - 2. Ecch. *The more you flee*.

If not, impute it to each others matter; They are but Earth, & what you vow'd was Water.

 1. Ecch: but earth,
 }{
 1. Ecch. And what you vow'd was Water.

 2. Ecch: earth
 }{
 2. Ecch. You vow'd was }

 }{
 Water.

#### AETHIOPIA.

Nough, bright Nymphes, the night growes old, And we are grieu'd, we can not hold You longer light: But comfort take. Your Father, onely, to the Lake Shall make returne: Your selues, with feasts, Must here remayne the Ocean's guests. Nor shall this vayle, the Sunne hath cast Aboue your bloud, more Summers last. For which, you shall observe these rites. Thirteene times thrise, on thirteene nights, (So often as I fill my Sphære With glorious light, throughout the yeere) You shall (when all things els do sleepe Saue your chast thoughts) with reuerence, steepe Your bodies in that purer brine, And wholesome dew. call'd Ros-marine: Then with that soft, and gentler fome,

Of which, the Ocean, yet, yeelds some, Whereof bright VENVS, Beauties Queene, Is sayd to have begotten beene, You shall your gentler limmes ore-lave, And for your paines, perfection have. So that this night, the yeare gone round, You doe againe salute this ground; And, in the beames of yond' bright Sunne, Your faces dry, and all is done.

At which, in a *Daunce* they returned to the Sea, where they tooke their Shell; and, with this full *Song*, went out.

SONG.

Now Dian, with her burning face,
Declines apace:
By which our Waters know
To ebbe, that late did flow.
Back Seas, back Nymphes; but, with a forward grace,
Keepe, still, your reuerence to the place:
And shout with ioy of fauor, you have wonne,
In sight of Albion, Neptunes Sonne.

So ended the first *Masque*, which (beside the singular grace of *Musicke* and *Daunces*) had that successe in the nobilitie of performance; as nothing needes to the illustration, but the memory by whome it was personated.

Continue on to the <u>Masque of Beauty</u>, which was published in the same quarto.



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# THE CHARACTERS

of
Two royall Masques.
The one of BLACKNESSE,
The other of BEAVTIE.

personatedBy the most magnificent of Queenes

ANNE

Queene of great Britaine, &c.

With her honorable Ladyes,

1605, and 1608.

at White-Hall:

and

Inuented by B E N: I O N S O N.

Ouid. —Salue festa dies, meliorque reuertere semper.

Imprinted at London for *Thomas Thorp*, and are to be sold at the signes of the Tigers head in Paules Church-yard.

# SECOND MASQVE.

Which was of Beauty; was presented in the same Court, at W H I T E-H A L L, on the Sunday night, after the twelfth Night.

1608.

Two yeares being now past, that her *Maiesty* had intermitted these delights, and the third almost come; it was her *Highnesse* pleasure againe to glorifie the *Court*, & command that I should thinke on some fit presentment, which should answere the former, still keeping the[n] the same persons, the Daughters of NIGER; but their beauties varied according to promise, and their time of absence excus'd, with foure more added to their Number.

To which limits, when I had adapted my inuention, and being to bring newes of them, fro [m] the Sea, I induc'd *Boreas*, one of the windes, as my fitest Messenger; presenting him thus.

In a robe of *Russet*, and *White* mixt, full, and bagg'd: his haire, and beard rough: and horrid; his wings gray, and ful of snow, and icycles. His mantle borne from him with wires, & in seueral puffes; his feet <sup>a</sup> ending in serpents tayles; and in his hand a leaueles *Branch*, laden with icycles.

But before, in midst of the *Hall*; to keepe the State of the feast, and season; I had placed <sup>b</sup>*Ianuary*, in a throne of *Siluer*: His robe of *Ash-collour*, long, fringed with *Siluer*, a white mantle. His winges white, and his buskins; in his hand a *Laurell* bough, vpon his head an *Anademe* of *Laurell*, fronted with the signe *Aquarius*, and the *Character*. Who as *Boreas* blusterd forth, discouer'd himselfe.

a So
Paus. in
Eliacis
reports
him to
haue, as
he was
carued in
arcâ
Cipselli.

#### BOREAS.

W Hich, among these is Albion, Neptunes Sonne?

b See, Iconolog. di Cesare Ripa.

#### IANVARIVS.

Would any aske, who Mars were in the wars?
Or, which is Hesperus, among the starres?
Of the bright Planets, which is Sol? Or can
A doubt arise, 'mong creatures, which is man?
Behold, whose eyes do dart Promethian fire
Throughout this all; whose precepts do inspire
The rest with duty; yet commanding, cheare:
And are obeyed, more with love, then feare.

BOREAS.

W Hat Power art thou, that thus informest me?

IANVARIVS.

D Ost thou not know me? I, to well, know thee By thy a rude voyce, that doth so hoarely blow,

Thy haire, thy beard, thy wings, ore-hil'd with snow, Thy Serpent feet, to be that rough North-winde, Boreas, that, to my raigne, art still vnkinde.

I am the Prince of Months, call'd Ianuary;

Because by me b Ianus the yeare doth vary,

Shutting vp warres, proclayming peace, & feasts,

Freedome, & triumphes: making Kings his guests.

#### BOREAS.

That doth thee present honors, do I bring
Present remembrance of twelue Æthiope Dames:
Who; guided hither by the Moones bright flames,
To see his brighter light, were to the Sea
Enioyn'd againe, and (thence assign'd a day
for their returne) were in the waves to leave
Theyr blacknesse, and true beauty to receave.

#### IANVARIVS.

Hich they receau'd, but broke theyr day: & yet
Haue not return'd a looke of grace for it,
Shewing a course, and most vnfit neglect.

Twise haue I come, in pompe here, to expect
Theyr presence; Twise deluded, haue bene faine
With cother rites my Feasts to intertayne:
And, now the Third time, turn'd about the yeare
Since they were look'd for; and, yet, are not here.

#### BOREAS.

T was nor Will, nor Sloth, that caus'd theyr stay, For they were all prepared by theyr day, And, with religion, forward on theyr way:

When Protevs, d the gray Prophet of the Sea

a Ouid.
Metam. lib. 6.
neere the end
see--horridus
irâ, quæ solita
est illi,
nimiumque
domestica,
vento, &c.

b See the offices, and power of *Ianus, Ouid. Fast.* I.

c Two marriages; the one of the *Earle* of *Essex*, 1606. the other of the *Lord Hay*, 1607.

Met them, and made report, how other foure *Of their blacke kind, (whereof theyr Sire had store)* Faithfull to that great wonder, so late done Vpon theyr Sisters, by bright Albion, Had followed them to seeke BRITANIA forth, And there, to hope like fauor, as like worth. Which Night envy'd, as done in her despight, And (mad to see an Æthiope washed white, Thought to preuent in these; least men should deeme Her coulor, if thus chang'd; of small esteeme. And so, by mallice, and her magicke, tost The Nymphes at Sea; as they were almost lost, Till, on a Iland, they by chance arriu'd, That f floted in the mayne, where, yet, she' had giu'd Them so, in charmes of darknes, as no might Should loose them thence, but theyr chang'd Sisters sight. Whereat the Twelue (in piety mou'd, & kind) Streight, put themselues in act, the place to finde; Which was the Nights sole trust they so will do, That she, with labor might confound them too. For, euer since, with error hath she held Them wandring in the Ocean, and so quell'd Their hopes beneath their toyle, as (desperat now Of any least successe vnto their vow: Nor knowing to returne to expresse the grace, Wherewith they labor to this Prince, and place) One of them, meeting me at Sea, did pray, That for the love of my a ORYTHIA, (Whose very name did heate my frosty brest, And make me shake my Snow fill'd wings, & crest) To beare this sad report I would be wonne, And frame their iust excuse: which here I have done.

#### IANVARIVS.

Winde,
That neuer yet blew'st goodnes to mankind;
But with thy bitter, and too piercing breath,
Strik'st b horrors through the ayre, as sharp as death.

d Read his description, with Virg.
Geor. 4. Est in Carpathio
Neptuni gurgite vates, Cæruleus Proteus.

e Because they were before of her complexion.

f To giue authoritie to this part of our fiction, Pline hath a chap. 95. of his 2. booke. Nat. Hist. de Insulis fluctuantibus. & Card. lib. 1. de rerum variet. cap 7. reports one to be in his time knowne, in the Lake of Loumond, in Scotland. To let passe that of Delos, &c.

a The daughter of *Erectheus*, King of *Athens*, whome *Boreas* rauish'd away, into *Thrace*, as she was playing with other virgins by the floud *Ilissus*: or (as some will)

H Ere a second Wind came in, *VVLTVRNVS*, in a *blew* coulored robe & mantle, pufft as the former, but somewhat sweeter, his face blacke, and on his <sup>c</sup> head, a red *Sunne*, shewing he came from the East; his winges of seuerall coullors; his buskins *white*, and wrought with *Gold*.

#### VVLTVRNVS.

LL horrors vanish, and all name of Death, Bee all things here as calme as is my breath. A gentler Wind, Vulturnus, brings you newes The Ile is found, & that the Nymphs now vse Their rest, & ioy. The Nights black charmes are flowne. For, being made vnto their Goddesse knowne, Bright Æthiopia, the siluer Moone, As she was a Hecate, she brake them soone: And now by vertue of their light, and grace, The glorious Isle, wherein they rest, takes place Of all the earth for Beauty. b There, their Queen Hath raysed them a Throne, that still is seene To turne vnto the motion of the World, Wherein they sit, and are, like Heauen, whirld About the Earth, whilst, to them contrary, (Following those nobler torches of the Sky) A world of little Loues, and chast Desires, Do light their beauties, with still mouing fires. And who to Heauens consent can better moue, Then those that are so like it, Beauty and Loue? Hether, as to theyr new Elysium, The spirits of the antique Greekes are come, Poets, and Singers, Linus, Orpheus, all That have excell'd in c knowledge musicall; Where, set in Arbor made of myrtle, and gold, They live, againe, these Beautyes to behold. And thence, in flowry mazes walking forth Sing hymnes in celebration of their worth. Whilst, to theyr Songs, two Fountaynes flow, one hight Of lasting Youth, the other chast Delight, That at the closes, from theyr bottomes spring, And strike the Ayre to eccho what they sing.

by the Fountaine *Cephisus*.

b The viole[n] ce of *Boreas*, Ouid excellently describes in the place aboue quoted. *Hâc* nubila pello, hâc freta concutio, nodosaq robora verto, *Indurog niues,* & terras grandine pulso.

c According to that of Vir. -- Denuntiat igneus Euros.

in Helena, which is Lucifera, to which name we here presently

allude.

a She is call'd

b For the more full and cleare vnderstanding of that which followes, haue recourse to the succeeding pages; where the *Scene* presents it

But, why do I describe what all must see?
By this time, nere thy coast, they floating be;
For, so their vertuous Goddesse, the chast Moone,
Told them, the Fate of th'Iland should, & soone
Would fixe it selfe vnto thy continent,
As being the place, by Destiny fore-ment,
Where they should flow forth, drest in her attyres:
And, that the influence of those holy fires,
(First rapt from hence) being multiplied vpon
The other foure, should make their Beauties one.
Which now expect to see, great Neptunes Sonne,
And loue the miracle, which thy selfe hast done.

selfe.

c So *Terence* and the Ancients calld *Poesy, Artem musicam.* 

Here, a Curtine was drawne (in which the *Night* was painted.) and the *Scene* discouer'd. which (because the former was *marine*, and these, yet of necessity, to come from the Sea) I deuisd, should bee an *Island*, floting on a calme water. In the middst therof was a Seate of state, cal'd the *Throne* of *Beautie*, erected: diuided into eight *Squares*, and distinguish'd by so many *Ionick piliasters*. In these *Squares* the sixteene *Masquers* were plac'd by couples: behind them, in the center of the *Throne* was a tralucent *Pillar*, shining with seuerall colour'd lights, that reflected on their backs. From the top of which *Pillar* went seuerall arches to the *Pilasters*, that sustained the roofe of the *Throne*, which was likewise adorn'd with lights, and gyrlonds; And betweene the *Pilasters*, in front, little *Cupids* in flying posture, wauing of wreaths; and lights, bore vp the *Coronice*: ouer which were placed eight *Figures*, representing the *Elements* of *Beauty*; which advanced vpon the *Ionick*; and being *females*, had the *Corinthian* order. The first was

#### SPLENDOR.

In a robe of *flame* colour, naked brested; her bright hayre loose flowing: She was drawne in a circle of clowdes, her face, and body breaking through; and in her hand a branch, with two <sup>[a]</sup> *Roses*, a *white*, and a *red*. The next to her was

#### SERENITAS.

In a garment of bright *skye* colour, a long tresse, & waued with a vayle of diuers colours, such as the golden skie some-times shewes: vpon her head a cleare, and faire *Sunne* shining, with rayes of gold striking downe to the feete of the figure. In her hand a <sup>b</sup> *Christall*, cut with seuerall angles, and shadow'd with diuerse colours, as causd by

a The *Rose* is call'd, elegantlie, by *Achil. Tat. lib.*2. the splendor of Plants, and is euery where taken for the *Hieroglyphick*, of *Splendor*.

b As this of *Serenity*, applying to the

refraction. The third

#### GERMINATIO.

In greene; with a *Zone* of golde about her Wast, crowned with *Myrtle*, her haire likewise flowing, but not of so bright a colour: In her hand, a branch of <sup>r</sup> *Myrtle*. Her socks of greene, and *Gold*. The fourth was

Opticks reason of the Rainbow, & the Mythologists making her the Daughter of Electra.

#### LAETITIA.

N a Vesture of diuerse colours, and all sorts of flowers embroidered thereon. Her socks so fitted. A <sup>s</sup> *Gyrland* of flowers in her hand; her eyes turning vp, and smiling, her haire flowing, and stuck with flowers. The fift

#### TEMPERIES.

N a garment of *Gold*, *Siluer*, and colours weaued: In one hand shee held a <sup>t</sup> burning *Steele*, in the other, an *Vrne* with water. On her head a gyrland of flowers, Corne, Vine-leaues, and Oliue branches, enter-wouen. Her socks, as her garment. The sixth

#### VENVSTAS.

N a Siluer robe, with a thinne subtle vaile ouer her haire, and it: <sup>u</sup> Pearle about her neck, and forhead. Her socks wrought with pearle. In her hand shee bore seuerall colour'd <sup>x</sup> *Lillies*. The seauenth was

#### DIGNITAS.

N a dressing of State, the haire bound vp with fillets of gold, the Garments rich, and set with iewells, and gold; likewise her buskins, and in her hand a *yGolden rod*. The eight

#### PERFECTIO.

N a Vesture of pure Gold, a wreath of Gold vpon her head. About her

r So Hor. lib. i. Od. 4. makes it the ensigne of the Spring. Nunc decet aut viridi nitidum caput impedire myrto, aut flore, terræ quem ferunt solutæ &c.

s They are euery where the tokens of gladnesse, at al feasts, sports.

t The signe of temperature, as also her girland mixed of the foure *Seasons*.

body the <sup>z</sup> Zodiack, with the Signes: In her hand a Compasse of gold, drawing a circle.

On the top of all the *Throne*, (as being made out of all these) stood

#### HARMONIA.

Personage, whose dressing had something of all the others, & had her robe painted full of *Figures*. Her head was compass'd with a crowne of *Gold*, hauing in it <sup>a</sup> seauen iewells equally set. In her hand a *Lyra*, wheron she rested.

This was the Ornament of the *Throne*. The ascent to which, consisting of sixe steppes, was couered with a <sup>b</sup> multitude of *Cupids* (chosen out of the best, and most ingenuous youth of the *Kingdome*, noble, and others) that were the *Torch-bearers*; and All armed, with *Bowes*, *Quiuers*, *Winges*, and other *Ensignes* of *Loue*. On the sides of the *Throne*, were curious, and elegant *Arbors* appointed: & behind, in the back part of the *Ile*, a *Groue*, of growne trees: laden with golden fruict, which other little *Cupids* plucked, and threw each at other, whilst on the ground <sup>c</sup> *Leuerets* pick'd vp the bruised apples, and left them halfe eaten. The Ground-plat of the whole was a subtle indented *Maze*; And, in the two formost angles, were two *Fountaines*, that ranne continually, the one <sup>d</sup>*Hebes*, the other <sup>e</sup> *Hedone*'s: In the *Arbors*, were plac'd the *Musitians*, who represented the *Shades* of the old *Poets*, & were attir'd in a *Priest*-like habit of *Crimson*, and *Purple*, with *Laurell* gyrlonds.

The colours of the *Masquers* were varied; the one halfe in *Orange-tawny*, and *Siluer*: the other in *Sea-greene*, and *Siluer*. The bodies and short skirts of *White*, and *Gold*, to both.

The habite, and dressing (for the fashion) was most curious, and so exceeding in riches, as the *Throne* wheron they sat, seem'd to be a Mine of light, stroake fro[m] their iewells, & their garme[n]ts.

This *Throne*, (as the whole *Iland* mou'd onward, on the water,) had a circular motion of it[s] owne, imitating that which we cal *Motum mundi*, from the *East* to the *West*, or the right to the left side. For so *Hom. Ilia. M.* vndersta[n]ds by *Orientalia mundi*:

had a motion contrary, with Analogy, admotum Planetarum, from the West to the East: both which turned with their seuerall lights. And with these three varied Motions, at once, the whole Scene shot it selfe to the Land.

u Pearles, with the auncients, were the speciall Hieroglyphicks of louelinesse, in quibus nitor tantum & læuor expetebantur.

x So was the *Lilly*, of which the most delicate Citty of the *Persians* was called *Susæ*: signifying that kind of flower, in their tongue.

y The signe of *honor*, and dignity.

z both that, & the *Compasse* are known ensignes of *perfection*.

a She is so describ'd in *Iconolog. di Cesare Ripa*, his reason of 7. iewels in the crown, alludes to *Pythagoras* his comment, with *Mac. lib*. 2. *Som. Sci.* of the seuen

Aboue which, the *Moone* was seene in a *Siluer* Chariot, drawne by *Virgins*, to ride in the cloudes, and hold them greater light: with the *Signe Scorpio*, and the *Character*, plac'd before her.

The order of this *Scene* was carefully, and ingeniously dispos'd; and as happily put in act for the *Motions*) by the *Kings* master Carpenter. The Paynters, I must needes say, (not to belie them) lent small colour to any, to attribute much of the spirit of these things to their pen'cills. But that must not bee imputed a crime either to the inuention, or designe.

Here the loud *Musique* ceas'd; and the *Musitians*, which were placed in the *Arbors*, came forth through the *Mazes*, to the other Land: singing in this full *Song*, iterated in the closes by two *Eccho*'s, rising out of the Fountaines.

#### SONG.

## W Hen Loue, at first, did mooue

From out of Chaos, brightned.
So was the world, and lightned,
As now! Ecch. As now! Ecch. As now!
Yeeld Night, then, to the light,
As Blacknesse hath to Beauty:
Which is but the same duety.
It was g for Beauty, that the World was made,
And where she raignes, h Loues lights admit no shade.

Ecch. Loues lights admit no shade. Ecch. Admit no shade.

Which ended, *Vulturnus* the Wind, spake to the Riuer *Thamesis* that lay along betweene the shores, leaning vpon his Vrne (that flow'd with water,) and crown'd with flowers; with a blew cloth of *Siluer* robe about him: and was personated by Maister THOMAS GILES, who made the *Daunces*.

#### VVLTVRNVS.

Receive these Nymphes, within the land:
And, in those curious Squares, and Rounds,

f So he is faind by *Orpheus*, to haue appear'd first of all the *Gods*: awakened by *Clotho*: and is therefore call'd *Phanes*, both by him, and *Lactantius*.

g An agreeing opinion, both with *Diuines* and *Philosophers*, that the great *Artificer* in loue with his owne *Idæa*, did, therefore, frame the world.

Planets and their Sphaeres.

b The inducing of many Cupids wants not defence, with the best and most received of the Antients. besides *Prop*. Stat. Claud. Sido. Apoll. especially Phil. in Icon. Amor. whom I haue particularly followed, in this description.

c They were the notes of Louelinesse and sacred to Venus. See Phil. in that place, mentioned.

d Of youth.

e Of pleasure.

Wherewith thou flow'st betwixt the grounds, Of fruictfull Kent, and Essex faire, That lend thee gyrlands for thy haire; Instruct their siluer feete to tread, Whilst we, againe to sea, are fled.

With which the *Windes* departed; and the *River* receiu'd them into the *Land*, by *couples & foures*, their *Cupids* comming before them.

Their persons were,

| La. ANNE WINTER. The QVEENE. La. ARABELLA. | La. WINSORE. Co. of ARVNDEL. | La. ANNE Co. of DERBY. CLIFFORD. Co. of BEDFORD. | La. MARY NEVILL. La. ELIZ. HATTON. Co. of MONTGOMERY. | La. ELIZ. GARRARD. La. ELIZ. GILFORD. | La. CHICHESTER. La. KAT. PETER. La. WALSINGHAM.

h Alluding to his name of *Himerus*, and his signification in the name, which is *Desiderium post aspectum:* and more then *Eros*, which is onely *Cupido*, *ex aspectu amare*.

The[se] dancing forth a most curious *Daunce*, full of excellent deuice, and change, ended it in the figure of a *Diamant*, and so, standing still, were by the *Musitians* with a second *Song* (sung by a loud *Tenor*) celebrated.

O Beauty on the waters stood,

(When Loue had <sup>i</sup> seuer'd earth, from flood! So when he parted ayre, from fire, He did with concord all inspire! And then a Motion he them taught, That elder than himselfe was thought. Which thought was, yet, <sup>k</sup> the child of earth, For Loue is elder then his birth.

The *Song* ended; they *Daunced* forth their second *Daunce*, more subtle, and full of change, then the former; and so exquisitely performed, as the King's *Maiestie* incited first (by his owne liking, to

i As, in the Creation, he is said, by the *Antients*, to haue done.

k That is, borne since the world, and out of those duller apprehensions that did not that which all others there present, wish'd) requir'd them both againe, after some time of dauncing with the *Lords*. Which time, to giue them respite, was intermitted with [a] *Song*; first, by a *treble* voyce, in this manner.

I F all these Cupids, now, were blind
As is a their wanton Brother;
Or play should put it in their mind
To shoot at one another:
What pretty battayle they would make
If they their objects should mistake
And each one wound his Mother!

Which was seconded by another *treble*; thus.

I T was no policy of Court,
Albee' the place were charmed,
To let in earnest, or in sport,
So many Loues in, armed.
For say, the Dames should with their eyes,
Vpon the hearts, here, mean surprize,
Were not the men like harmed?

To which a *tenor* answered.

Y Es, were the Loues or false, or straying;
Or Beauties not their beauty weighing:
But here no such deceit is mix'd,
Their flames are pure, their eyes are fix'd:
They do not warre, with different darts,
But strike a musique of like hearts.

Fter which *Songs*, they danc'd *Galliards* and *Corranto*'s; and with those excellent *Graces*, that the Musique, appointed to celebrate them, shew'd it could be silent no longer: but, by the first *Tenor*, admir'd them thus:

thinke hee was before.

a I make these different from him, which they fayne, cæcum cupidine, or petulantem, as I expresse beneath in the third song, these being chaste Loues, that attend a more diuine beauty, then that of Loues commune parent.

#### SONG.

Ad those, that dwelt in error foul
And hold b that women have no soule,
But seene these move; they would have, then
Sayd, Women were the souls of Men.
So they do move each heart, and eye,
With the Worlds soule, true Harmonie.

H Ere, they daunc'd a third most elegant and curious *Daunce*, and not to be describ'd againe, by any art, but that of their own footing: which ending in the figure, that was to produce the fourth; *January* from his state saluted them, thus,

#### IANVARIVS.

Our graceis great, as is your Beauty, Dames; **Y** *Inough my* Feasts have prou'd your thankfull flames. Now vse your Seate: that seate which was, before, Thought stray'ing, vncertayne, floting to each shore, And to whose having every Clime laid clayme, Each Land, and Nation vrged as the ayme Of their ambition, Beauties<sup>[d]</sup> perfect throne, Now made peculiar, to this place, alone; And that, by impulsion of your destinies, And his attractive beames, that lights these Skies: Who (though with th'Ocean compass'd) neuer wets His havre therein, nor weares a beame that sets. Long may his light adorne these happy rites, As I renew them; and your gratious sights Enioy that happinesse, eu'en to enuy, as when Beauty, at large, brake forth, and conquer'd men.

b There hath beene such a profane Paradoxe published.

c The *Platonicks* opinion. See also *Mac. lib.* 1. and 2. *Som. Scip.* 

d For what countrey is it thinks not her owne beautie fayre, yet?

At which, they daunc'd theyr last *daunce*, into their *Throne againe*: and that turning, the *Scene* clos'd with this full *Song*.

S Till turne, and imitate the Heauen
In motion swift and euen;
And as his Planets goe,
Your brighter lights doe so:
May Youth and Pleasure euer flow.
But let your State, the while,
Be fixed as the Isle.
Cho. {So all that see your Beauties sphære,
{May know the Elysian fields are here.}
Echo. {Th'Elysian fields are here.}
Echo. {Elysian fields are here.}

