The Masque of Blacknesse.

Ben Jonson.

Note: this Renascence Editions 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 Ladies,

1605. and 1608.

at White-Hall:

and

Inuented by B E N: I O N S O N.
The Masque of Blacknesse

Ouid. —Salve 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.

THE

Q V E E N E S

M A S Q V E S.

The first, of Blacknesse: personated at the Court, at WHI T E-H A L L, 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.

—Plinie, Solinvs, Ptolemaee, and of late Leo d the African, remember vnto vs a riuier in Ethiopia, famous by the name of Niger; of which the people were called Negrite, now Negro's: and are the blackest nation of the world. This e riuier 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 Tritons, 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 Nilas, which is by Lucan called Melas, signifying Niger. Howsoever, Plinie, in the place aboue noted, hath this: Nigri fluuiu eadem natura, que Nilo, calamum, papyrum, & easdem gignit animantes. See Solin. aboue mentioned.

f The forme of these Tritons,
their Musique made out of wreathed shells. Behinde these, a paire of Sea-
Maides, for song, were as conspicuously seated; betweene which, two great Sea-
horses (as bigge as the life) put forth themselues; the one mounting aloft, &
writhing his head from the other, which seemed to sink forwards; so intended
for variation, & that the Figure behind, might come of[f] better; 8 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 Ethiope; 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 wreath 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 Oceanae, which were their
Light-bearers.

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 hauing their lights burning out of Whelks, or
Murex shells.

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 scrolle and antique dressing of
Feathers, and Jewels 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, waued about the skirts with gold and siluer; [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 Prospectue, 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 trebless.

SONG.

S

Ound, sound aloud
The welcome of the orient Floud,
Into the West;

Fayre, Niger, k sonne to great Oceanvs,
Now honor'd, thus,
With all his beauteous race:
Who, though but blacke in face,
Yet, are they bright,
And full of life, and light.
To prove that Beauty best,
Which not the colour, but the feature
Assures into the creature.

OCEANVS.

BE silent, now the Ceremonies done,
And NIGER, say, how comes it, lovely Sonne,
That thou, the ÆTHIOPEs Riuers, so farre East,
Art seene to fall into the extreme West
Of me, the King of floods, OCEANVS,
And, in mine Empires heart, salute me thus?
My ceaselesse current, now, amaz'd 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-equal'd skies
This squared Circle of celestiall bodies.

NIGER.

Diuine OCEANVS, tis not strange at all,
That (since the immortall soules of creatures mortal,
Mixe with their bodies, yet reserve for euer
A powre of seperation) I should seuer
My fresh streames, from thy brackish (like things fixed)
Though, with thy powerfull saltines, thus far mixed.
Vertue, though chain'd to earth, will still liue free;
And Hell it selfe must yeeld to industry.

OCEANVS.

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

NIGER.
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 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 Judge, and most formall cause
Of all Dames beauties) in their firm hiewes, drawes
Signes of his fervent'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 clymes, yea our purity;

As of one P H A E T O N, that fir'd the world,
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 ieadous of their beauties) feare, and care
Possess'd them whole; yea, and beleeuing them,
They wept such ceaseles teares, into my streame,
That it hath, thus far, ouerflow'd his shore
To seeke them patience: who haue since, ere more
As the Sunne riseth, 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
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 't never 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 never rise, or set,
But in his Journey 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, haue 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 Albion the faire;
So call'd of Neptunes son, who ruleth here:
For whose deare guard, my selfe, (foure thousand yeere,
Since old Deucalion's daies) haue walk'd the round
About his empire, proud, to see him crown'd
Aboue my waues.

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.

NIGER.

—O see, our siluer Starre!
Whose pure, auspicious light greetes vs, thus farre!

Great Æthiopia, Goddess 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.

ÆTHIOPIA.

I G E R, be glad: Resume thy natuie cheare.
Thy Daughters labors haue 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 recover’d for her name;
Where raigne those Beauties, that with so much fame
The sacred MVSES Sonnes haue 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, diuided 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 ÆTHIOPE, and reuiue a Cor’s.
His light scientiall is, and (past mere nature)
Can salue the rude defects of every creature.
Call forth thy honor’d Daughters, then;
And let them, for the Brittaine men,
Indent the Land, with those pure traces
They flow with, in their natuie graces.
Inuite them, boldly, to the shore,
Their Beauties shalbe scorch’d no more:
This Sunne is temperate, and refines
All things, on which his radiance shines.

Here the Tritons sounded, & they daunced on shore, euery couple (as they advanc’d) seuerally presenting their Fans: in one of which were inscrib’d their mixt Names, in the other a mute Hieroglyphick,
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 haue brought from the Æthiopians.

Did. Sicul. Herod.

The Names. The Symboles.

The Queene. 1. {E V Phoris. 1. {A golden Tree, la-den with fruict.
Co: of Bedford. [A G L a i a .
La: Herbert. 2. {D i a Phane. 2. {The figure Icosae-dron of crystall.
Co: of Derby [E V C a m p s e .
La: Rich. 3. {O c y t e . 3. {A payre of naked feet, in a Riuer.
Co: of Suffolke. [K a t h a r e .
La: Beuill. 4. {N o t i s . 4. {The Salaman-der simple.
La: Effingham. [P s y c h r o t e .
La: El. Howard. 5. {G l y c y t e . 5. {A clowd full of raine, dropping.
La: Sus: Vere. [M a l a c i a .
La: Wroth. 6. {B a r y t e . 6. {An vrne[,] spheared with wine.
La: Walsingham [P e r i p h e r e .

The names of the O C E A N I A E were. Hesiod in Theog.

D o r i s . C y d i p p e . B e r o e . I a n t h e .
P e t r a e a . G l a v c e . A c a s t e . L y c o r i s .
O c y r h o e . T y c h e . C l y t i a . P l e x a v r e .

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.

S O N G.

C Ome away, come away,
We grow iealous of your stay:
If you do not stop your eare,
We shall haue 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.

S O N G.
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 giue this little hope, to gaine you.
   1. Ecch. { Gieue 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 obserue 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 V E N V S, Beauties Queene,
Is sayd to haue begotten beene,
You shall your gentler limmes ore-laue,
And for your paines, perfection haue.
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.

N
Ow 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 haue 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 Masque of Beauty, which was published in the same quarto.
The Masque of Beauty.

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THE

SECOND

MASQUE.

Which was of Beauty; was presented in the same Court, at WHITE-HALL, 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 limitts, 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 puffs; his feet a ending in serpents tayles; and in his hand a leauels Branch, laden with icycles.

But before, in midst of the Hall; to keepe the State of the feast, and season; I had placed bJanuary, in a throne of Siluer: His robe of Ash-colour, 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.

B O R E A S.

WHich, among these is Albion, Neptunes Sonne?

I A N V A R I V S.

WHat ignorance dares make that question?
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 loue, then feare.

B O R E A S.

WHat Power art thou, that thus informest me?

I A N V A R I V S.
Ost thou not know me? I, to well, know thee
By thy 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 January;
Because by me Ianus the yeare doth vary,
Shutting vp warres, proclayming peace, & feasts,
Freedome, & triumphes: making Kings his guests.

B O R E A S.

O thee then, thus, & by thee, to that King,
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 waues to leaue
Theyr blacknesse, and true beauty to receaue.

I A N V A R I V S.

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 other 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.

B O R E A S.

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, 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. 1.
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
Upon theyr Sisters, by bright Albion,
Had followed them to seeke Britania forth,
And there, to hope like favor, as like worth.
Which Night envy'd, as done in her despight,
And (mad to see an Æthiopie 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, lost
The Nymphes at Sea; as they were almost lost,
Till, on a lland, they by chance arriu'd,
That 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)
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 loue of my 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 haue done.

IANVARIVS.

Ould thou hadst not begun, vnluckie 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, Plin
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, VVLTVRNVNVS, in a blew coulored robe & mantle, pufft as the former, but somewhat sweeter, his face blacke, and on his c head, a red Sunne, shewing he came from the East; his wings of seuerall coullors; his buskins white, and wrought with Gold.

VVLTVRNVNVS.

A 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 charms 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 rayesed 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 mowing 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 haue excell’d in c knowledge musicall; Where, set in Arbor made of myrtle, and gold, They liue, 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 eecho what they sing.
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'Island should, & soone
Would fixe it selfe vnto thy continent,
As being the place, by Destiny fore-mend,
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.

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 deuised, 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 pilasters. In these Squares the sixteene Masquers were plac'd by couples: behind them, in the center of the Throne was a traluent 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 [a] Roses, a white, and a red. The next to her was

**SERENITAS.**

In a garment of bright skye colour, a long tresse, & wauid 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 b Christall, cut with seuerall angles, and shadow'd with diuere colours, as causd by

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[a] The *Rose* is call'd, elegantlie, by *Achil. Tat. lib. 2. the splendor Ἀκλαώμα, 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 Myrtle. Her socks of greene, and Gold. The fourth was

LAETITIA.

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

TEMPERIES.

IN a garment of Gold, Siluer, and colours weaued: In one hand shee held a 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

VENSTAS.

IN a Siluer robe, with a thinne subtle vaile ouer her haire, and it: Pearle about her neck, and forhead. Her socks wrought with pearle. In her hand shee bore seuerall colour’d Lillies. The seauenth was

DIGNITAS.

IN 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 Golden rod. The eight

PERFECTIO.

IN a Vesture of pure Gold, a wreath of Gold vpon her head. About her
body the 2 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

H A R M O N I A.

A 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, having in it a 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 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 throwd each at other, whilst on the ground Leuereuts 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 Hebes, the other 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 Orangetawny, 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]r 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. Illa. M. vndersta[n]ds by Orientalia mundi: by Aristepa, Occidentalia. The steps, wheron the Cupids sate, 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.
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'cils. 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.

S O N G.

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 for Beauty, that the World was made,
And where she raignes, Loues lights admit no shade.
Ecch. Loues lights admit no shade.
Ecch. Admit no shade.

Which ended, Vulturnus the Wind, spake to the Riuer Thames 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.

V V L T V R N V S.

Ise aged Thames, and by the hand
Receive these Nymphes, within the land:
And, in those curious Squares, and Rounds,
The Masque of Beauty

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.

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 Riuere receiu'd them into the Land, by couples & founes, their Cupids comming before them.

Their persons were,

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

Their persons were,

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,

S

(When Loue had i 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, k 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.

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.

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.

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.

A 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:
SONG.

Ad those, that dwelt in error foul
And hold b that women haue no soule,
But seene these moue; they would haue, then
Sayd, Women were the souls of Men.
So they do moue 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;
Iough my Feasts haue prou'd your thankfull flames.
Now use your Seate: that seate which was, before,
Thought stray'ing, vncertayne, floting to each shore,
And to whose hauing evry Clime laid clayme,
Each Land, and Nation vrged as the ayme
Of their ambition, Beauties[d] perfect throne,
Now made peculiar, to this place, alone;
And that, by'impulsion of your destinies,
And his attractuie beames, that lights these Skies:
Who (though with th'Ocean compass'd) neuer wets
His hayre therein, nor weares a beame that sets.
Long may his light adorn these happy rites,
As I renew them; and your gratious sights
Enjoy that happinesse, eu'en to enuy, as when
Beauty, at large, brake forth, and conquer'd men.

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

SONG.
Till turne, and imitate the Heauen
    In motion swift and even;
    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.