
The Dramatic Works and Poems of James Shirley

Shirley James

Title: The Dramatic Works and Poems of James Shirley

Author: Shirley James

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THE
DRAMATIC WORKS AND POEMS
OF
JAMES SHIRLEY,

NOW FIRST COLLECTED;

WITH NOTES

BY THE LATE WILLIAM GIFFORD, Esq.

AND

ADDITIONAL NOTES, AND SOME ACCOUNT OF SHIRLEY
AND HIS WRITINGS,

BY THE REV. ALEXANDER DYCE.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. IV.

CONTAINING

THE LADY OF PLEASURE.
THE ROYAL MASTER.
THE DUKE'S MISTRESS.
THE DOUBTFUL HEIR.
ST. PATRICK FOR IRELAND.
THE CONSTANT MAID.
THE HUMOROUS COURTIER.

LONDON:
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.
MDCCCXXXIII.



LONDON :

PRINTED BY W. NICOL, CLEVELAND-ROW, ST. JAMES'S.

THE
LADY OF PLEASURE.

VOL. IV.

B

THE LADY OF PLEASURE.] This comedy was licensed in October, 1635, and printed in 1637. The title of the first and only edition is, "*The Lady of Pleasure. A Comedie, as it was Acted by her Majesties Servants, at the private House in Drury Lane. Written by James Shirly.*"

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
RICHARD LORD LOVELACE,
OF HURLEY.¹

MY LORD,

I cannot want encouragement to present a poem to your lordship, while you possess so noble a breast, in which so many seeds of honour, to the example and glory of your name obtained, before your years, a happy maturity. This comedy, fortunate in the scene, and one that may challenge a place in the first form of the author's compositions, most humbly addresseth itself to your honour; if it meet your gracious acceptance, and that you repent not to be a patron, your lordship will only crown the imagination, and for ever, by this favour oblige,

My Lord,

The most humble services of your honourer,

JAMES SHIRLEY.

¹ Sir Richard Lovelace was created Lord Lovelace of Hurley in Berkshire, in 1627. The honour became extinct in 1736, on the death of Nevil, the sixth lord.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Sir Thomas Bornwell.
Lord.
Sir William Scentlove,
Master Alexander Kickshaw, } gallants.
Master John Littleworth,
Haircut, a barber.
Master Frederick, nephew to lady Bornwell.
Steward to sir Thomas Bornwell.
Steward to Celestina.
Secretary to Lord.
Servants, &c.

Aretina, sir Thomas Bornwell's lady.
Celestina, a young widow.
Isabella, } friends of Celestina.
Mariana, }
Decoy, a procuress.
Gentlewoman.

SCENE, the Strand.

THE
LADY OF PLEASURE.

ACT I. SCENE I.

A Room in sir Thomas Bornwell's House.

Enter lady BORNWELL, and Steward.

Stew. Be patient, madam ; you may have your pleasure.

Lady B. 'Tis that I came to town for. I would not

Endure again the country conversation,
To be the lady of six shires ! The men,
So near the primitive making, they retain
A sense of nothing but the earth ; their brains,
And barren heads standing as much in want
Of ploughing as their ground. To hear a fellow
Make himself merry and his horse, with whistling
Sellinger's Round!^a To observe with what solemnity
They keep their wakes, and throw for pewter candlesticks !

How they become the morris, with whose bells
They ring all in to Whitsun-ales ; and sweat,
Through twenty scarfs and napkins,^b till the hobby-horse

^a *Sellinger's Round* !] This popular tune is mentioned, together with *Pagginton's Pound*, by Broome, and others of our old poets. Both tunes were adapted to country dances.

^b For a full account of the *Morris*, &c. see Jonson, vol. ii. p. 50.