

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-63440-4 - The Seuen Deadly Sinnes of London: Drawne in Seuen Seuerall
Coaches, Through the Seuen Seuerall Gates of the Citie: Bringing the Plague
with them: Opus Septem Dierum

Thomas Dekker

Frontmatter

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THE SEVEN DEADLY SINNES
OF LONDON
BY THOMAS DEKKER

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Through the seuen seuerall Gates of the
Citie*

Bringing the Plague with them.

Opus septem Dierum.

Tho: Dekker.

At London

Printed by *E. A.* for *Nathaniel Butter*, and are to bee sold
at his shop neere Saint Austens gate.

1606.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107634404

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First published 1905
First paperback edition 2013

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-107-63440-4 Paperback

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accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in
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The 1905 edition of this publication was printed on hand-made paper
using the Cambridge type. 225 copies were made available for sale.

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Reader,

IT is as ordinarie a custome (for vs that are Bookish) to haue a bout with thee, after wee haue done with a Patron, as for Schollers (in the noble Science) to play at the wooden Rapier and Dagger at the ende of a Maisters prize. In doing which we know not vpon what Speeding points wee runne, for you (that are Readers) are the most desperate and fowlest players in the world, you will strike when a mans backe is toward you, and kill him (if you could for shame) when he lies vnder your feete. You are able (if you haue the tokens of deadly Ignorance, and Boldnes at one time vpon you) to breede more infection on in Pauls Church-yard, then all the bodies that were buried there in the Plague-time, if they had beene left still aboue ground. You stand somtimes at a Stationers stal, looking scuruily (like Mules champing vpon Thistles) on the face of a new Booke

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bee it neuer so worthy: and goe (as il fauouredly) mewng away: But what get you by it? The Booke-seller euer after when you passe by, pinnes on your backes the badge of fooles to make you be laught to scorne, or of sillie Carpers to make you be pittied: Conradus Gesner neuer writ of the nature of such strange beasts as you are: for where as we call you Lectores, Readers, you turne your selues into Lictores, Executioners, and tormenters. I wold not haue him that writes better than I, to Reade this, nor him that cannot doe so well, to Raile, or if hee cannot chuse but Raile, let him doe it to my face: otherwise (to me being absent) it is done cowardly: for Leonem mortuum mordent etiam Catuli: Cats dare scratch Lions by the face when they lie dead, and none but Colliers will threaten a Lord Maior when they are farre enough from the Cittie. I haue laide no blockes in thy way: if thou findest Strawes,
(Vade, vale,) caue ne titubes.

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The names of the Actors in this
old Enterlude of Iniquitie.

1 Politike Banke-
ruptisme.

2 Lying.

3 Candle-light.

4 Sloth.

5 Apishnesse.

6 Shauing.

7 Crueltie.

Seuen may easily play
this, but not without
a Diuell.