

PASSAGES IN THE PLAYS

(As Illustrative Notes to Vol. II.)

IN RELATION TO
 FACTS, NAMES, AND SENTIMENTS,
 WITH WHICH IT WAS REQUISITE THE TALES SHOULD ACCORD.

TALE VI.

- Page 1,
line 20. Foot-racing is an ancient Viennese custom, on the first of May.
- Page 51,
line 6. Her brother Claudio says of her:—
 * * * * * “She hath prosperous art
 When she will play with reason and discourse,
 And well she can persuade.”—MEASURE FOR MEASURE, Act i., s. 3.
- Page 52,
line 3. *Duke.* “What is that Barnardine, who is to be executed in the
 afternoon?
Provost. A Bohemian born; but here nursed up and bred: one that
 is a prisoner nine years old.”—*Ibid.*, Act iv., s. 2.
- Page 54,
line 29. *Duke.* “Unfit to live, or die: O, gravel heart!”—*Ibid.*, Act iv., s. 3.
- Page 56,
line 6. See her vehement language in reply to her brother's sophistical
 pleading:—
 “Sweet sister, let me live:
 What sin you do to save a brother's life,
 Nature dispenses with the deed so far,
 That it becomes a virtue.”—*Ibid.*, Act iii., s. 1.
- Page 59,
line 30. “Have you not heard speak of Mariana, the sister of Frederick, the
 great soldier, who miscarried at sea?
Isab. I have heard of the lady, and good words went with her name.
Duke. Her should this Angelo have married; was affianced to her
 by oath, and the nuptial appointed; between which time of the contract,
 and limit of the solemnity, her brother Frederick was wrecked at sea,
 having in that perish'd vessel the dowry of his sister.”
 Ibid., Act iii., s. 1.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00127-4 - The Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines: In a Series of Fifteen Tales, Volume 2

Mary Cowden Clarke

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

ii.

ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES.

- Page 67,
line 22. Shakespeare, in his large charity and wisdom, has given us this one redeeming particular in the odious character in question. His profound knowledge of humanity, as well as profound sympathy with it, has not suffered him to give us a single instance of unredeemed wickedness; and he has accordingly put a few words into Mrs. Overdone's mouth, which relieve our entire abhorrence. When she is being carried to prison, we find that she owes her arraignment to the heartless, despicable Lucio. She adds:—"His child is a year and a quarter old, come Philip and Jacob: *I have kept it myself*; and see how he goes about to abuse me."—MEASURE FOR MEASURE, Act iii., s. 2.
- Page 69,
line 4. "Here in the prison, father,
There died this morning of a cruel fever
One Ragozine, a most notorious pirate,
A man of Claudio's years; his beard, and head,
Just of his colour."—*Ibid.*, Act iv., s. 4.
- Page 70,
line 7. For the ground-work of the Duke's character, see the short scene with friar Thomas, early in the play; from which we learn his habits, and "how he hath ever lov'd the life removed."—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 4.
- Page 71,
line 5. In the second scene of the play, we find that Lucio, and the 'two gentlemen,' are Claudio's companions.
- Page 76,
line 21. *Lucio.* "Is she your cousin?
Isab. Adoptedly; as school-maids change their names,
By vain though apt affection."—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 5.
- Page 87,
line 15. * * * * * "She is fast my wife,
Save that we do the denunciation lack
Of outward order: this we came not to,
Only for propagation of a dower
Remaining in the coffer of her friends;
From whom we thought it meet to hide our love,
Till time made them for us."—*Ibid.*, Act 1., s. 3.

TALE VII.

Page 94,
line 9. 'Bollitura' is a kind of thin drink, or decoction, for sick people.

Page 96,
line 13. "Signor Baptista may remember me,
Near twenty years ago, in Genoa."—TAMING OF THE SHREW, Act iv., s. 4.

Page 104,
line 10. We are told that "Saint Macarius happened one day inadvertently to kill a gnat that was biting him in his cell; reflecting that he had lost the opportunity of suffering that mortification, he hastened from his cell to the marshes of Scetê, which abound with great flies, whose stings pierce even wild boars. There he continued six months, exposed to those ravaging insects; and to such a degree was his whole body disfigured by them, with sores and swellings, that when he returned, he was only known by his voice." Of St. Simeon Stylites we learn, that "he erected a pillar 6 cubits high, and on it he dwelt four years; on another, 22 cubits high, ten years; and on another, 40 cubits high, built for him by the people, he spent the last twenty years of his life."

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00127-4 - The Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines: In a Series of Fifteen Tales, Volume 2

Mary Cowden Clarke

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

iv.

ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES.

- Page 223,
line 1. The stratagems of sending Ophelia to Hamlet, and of placing himself, the king, and the queen, where they may witness the interview unseen; with the one of hiding behind the arras to overhear what passes between the prince and his mother in her closet, are both devised by Polonius.
- Page 225,
line 31. * * * * “we here despatch,
You, good Cornelius, and you, Voltimand,
For bearers of this greeting to old Norway;”—HAMLET, Act i., s. 2.
- Page 242,
line 15. The reader will remember Hamlet's banter of Osric's affected style of speech and pronunciation, in the fifth Act. The word 'impawned' is spelt 'imponed,' in the folio edition. “Why is this imponed, *as you call it?*”
- Page 256,
line 13. *Laertes.* “My dread lord,
Your leave and favour to return to France;
From whence, though willingly, I came to Denmark,
To show my duty in your coronation;
Yet now, I must confess that duty done,
My thoughts and wishes bend again towards France,
And bow them to your gracious leave and pardon.”—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 2.

TALE IX.

- Page 262,
line 9. For Audrey's obsequious swain, William, see the scene at the commencement of the fifth Act, in the play of AS YOU LIKE IT.
- Page 268,
line last. The duke says to Orlando :—
* * * “the residue of your fortune,
Go to my *cave* and tell me.”—AS YOU LIKE IT, Act ii., s. 7.
- Page 270,
line 23. *Cel.* * * * “know'st thou not, the duke
Hath banish'd me his daughter?
Ros. That he hath not.
Cel. No? hath not? Rosalind lacks then the love
Which teacheth thee that thou and I am one:
Shall we be sunder'd? Shall we part, sweet girl?
No; let my father seek another heir.
Therefore devise with me, how we may fly,
Whither to go, and what to bear with us:
And do not seek to take your change upon you,
To bear your griefs yourself, and leave me out;
For by this heaven, now at our sorrows pale,
Say what thou canst, I'll go along with thee.”—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 3.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00127-4 - The Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines: In a Series of Fifteen Tales, Volume 2

Mary Cowden Clarke

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES.

v.

- Page 276,
line 1. The classical colouring given to the diction of both Rosalind and Celia, by the poet, is striking. It is in exquisite keeping with the tone of the drama; and forms a tasteful and natural characteristic of these two charming heroines. Instances might be multiplied, to a remarkable extent, of the mythological allusions that occur in their speeches. To cite one of the first that occurs,—where Celia asks her cousin what she shall call her in her man's disguise, Rosalind replies:—
“I'll have no worse a name than Jove's own page,
And therefore look you call me Ganymede.”
AS YOU LIKE IT, Act i., s. 3.
- Page 277,
line 20. We hear of Rosalind and Celia in the first scene, “never two ladies loved as they do;” and afterwards:—“their loves are dearer than the natural bond of sisters.”—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 2.
- Page 280,
line 20. *Ros.* “But, cousin, what if we assay'd to steal
The clownish fool out of your father's court?
Would he not be a comfort to our travel?
Cel. *He'll go along o'er the wide world with me;*
Leave me alone to woo him.”—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 3.
- Page 281,
line 23. The duke addresses Amiens thus:—“good *cousin*, sing.”
Ibid., Act ii., s. 7.
- Page 281,
line 30. Duke Frederick says to Orlando, youngest son of Sir Rowland de Bois:—
“The world esteem'd thy father honorable,
But I did find him still mine enemy.”
And Rosalind says:—
“My father lov'd Sir Rowland as his soul,
And all the world was of my father's mind.”—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 2.
- Page 288,
line last. “There's no news at the Court, sir, but the old news; that is, the old duke is banished by his younger brother, the new duke; and three or four loving lords have put themselves into voluntary exile with him, whose lands and revenues enrich the new duke; therefore he gives them good leave to wander.”—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 1.
- Page 292,
line 17. Le Beau says to Orlando, when he announces to him Duke Frederick's displeasure against him:—
* * * * “Sir, fare you well!
Hereafter, in a better world than this,
I shall desire more love and knowledge of you.”—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 2.
- Page 313,
line 10. “Merelles, or as it was formerly called in England, nine-men's morris, and also five-penny morris, is a game of some antiquity. Cotgrave describes it as a boyish game, and says it was played here commonly with stones, but in France with pawns, or men made on purpose, and they were termed merelles; hence the pastime itself received that denomination.”—STRUTT'S SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00127-4 - The Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines: In a Series of Fifteen Tales, Volume 2

Mary Cowden Clarke

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

vi.

ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES.

TALE X.

- Page 347,
line 1. " Even or odd, of all days in the year,
Come *Lammas-Eve* at night, shall she be fourteen."
ROMEO AND JULIET, Act i., s. 3.
- Page 351,
line 2. ' Polenta ' is a boiled mash ; sometimes made of chesnut-flour, but
mostly of maize. ' Su di sopra ' is a common Italian idiom for up-stairs.
- Page 352,
line 2. We learn lady Capulet's christian name, from her fussy lord's words,
where he is pottering about, giving orders for hastening the wedding-
feast. Among other injunctions, he says :—
" Look to the bak'd meats, good *Angelica* ;
Spare not for cost."—*Ibid.*, Act iv., s. 4.
- Page 358,
line 26. From several passages in the play we trace that Capulet is an elderly
man. That his wife must be considerably his junior, we find from what
she says to her daughter, just after we have learned that Juliet is
scarcely fourteen :—
* * * * * " by my count,
I was your mother, much upon these years
That you are a maid."—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 4.
- Page 362,
line 13. At the period when the Veronese date the events of Romeo and
Juliet's history, the Scaligers ruled over Verona ; and Shakespeare has
given the prince the name of Escalus.
- Page 362,
line 7. Capulet's early gallantries may be inferred from his gossiping talk
with a kinsman, at the commencement of the masquerade scene ; and
afterwards, from those few words between him and lady Capulet,—
which also furnish hints for her jealousy, as wrought out in the tale :—
Cap. * * * * * " What ! I have watch'd ere now
All night for lesser cause, and ne'er been sick.
La. Cap. Ay, you have been a mouse-hunt in your time ;
But I will watch you from such watching now.
Cap. A jealous-hood, a jealous-hood !"
Ibid., Act iv., s. 4.
- Page 369,
line 19. *La. Cap.* " Tybalt, my cousin ! *O my brother's child !*"
Ibid., Act iii., s. 1.
- Page 371,
line 25. A custom that obtains in Italy to this very day.
- Page 377,
line 25. See the nurse's speech of reminiscence, in the third scene of the play.

ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES.

vii.

- Page 380,
line 7. We have Tybalt's fencing-school proficiency, together with his fiery pride of spirit, hit off in Mercutio's humorous description:—"The very butcher of a silk button, a duellist, a duellist; a gentleman of the very first house,—of the first and second cause: Ah, the immortal passado! the punto reverso!"
- Page 382,
line 23. They, to whom lady Capulet's conduct may appear over-coloured in the tale, are referred to the passage in the play, where she betrays her vindictive Italian nature by the deliberate proposal of despatching the "villain, Romeo," who has killed her nephew Tybalt:—
 "We will have vengeance for it, fear thou not:
 Then weep no more. I'll send to one in Mantua,—
 Where that same banish'd runagate doth live,—
 That shall bestow on him so sure a draught,
 That he shall soon keep Tybalt company.
 * * * * *
 Find thou the means, and I'll find such a man."
 ROMEO AND JULIET, Act iii., s. 5.
- Page 385,
line 6. 'Prender chiesa' is a common idiom for taking sanctuary.
- Page 402,
line 15. For a description of 'pazienzi,' see Tale VII., p. 133.
- Page 408,
line 22. "Three civil brawls, bred of an airy word,
 By thee, old Capulet, and Montague,
 Have thrice disturb'd the quiet of our streets;"—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 1.
- Page 408,
line 30. Into the mouth of Capulet himself is put this testimony to the fair reputation of Romeo,—heir of the rival house:—
 "He bears him like a portly gentleman;
 And, to say truth, Verona brags of him,
 To be a virtuous and well-govern'd youth."—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 5.
- Page 409,
line 5. Romeo speaks thus of Mercutio:—
 "This gentleman, *the prince's near ally,*
My very friend, hath got his mortal hurt
 In my behalf."
 And afterwards, Benvolio, addressing the prince, says:—
 "There lies the man, slain by young Romeo,
 That slew *thy kinsman,* brave Mercutio."—*Ibid.*, Act iii., s. 1.
- Page 420,
line 30. Among the written list of Capulet's friends, invited to his entertain-
 ment, occurs:—"the lady widow of Vitruvio."—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 2.
- Page 446,
line 7. Juliet's observant delight in Nature's beauties, may be inferred from one line alone that she utters:—
 "It was the nightingale, and not the lark,
 That pierc'd the fearful hollow of thine ear;
 Nightly she sings on yon pomegranate tree."—*Ibid.*, Act iii., s. 5.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00127-4 - The Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines: In a Series of Fifteen Tales, Volume 2

Mary Cowden Clarke

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

viii.

ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES.

- Page 447,
line 32. In the list before alluded to, of Capulet's invited guests, her name thus appears:—"My fair *niece*, Rosaline." Her identity with Romeo's first love is to be traced from Benvolio's saying to him, immediately after it is read aloud:—
"At this same ancient feast of Capulet's
Supps the fair Rosaline, whom thou so lov'st."
The hints for her character are taken from what we hear of her from Romeo himself, from friar Laurence, and from Mercutio; the last of whom calls her "that same pale hard-hearted wench, that Rosaline."
ROMEO AND JULIET, Act ii., s. 4.
- Page 448,
line 34. "She hath forsworn to love; and, in that vow,
Do I live dead, that live to tell it now."—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 1.
- Page 449,
line 32. That Juliet has never beheld Romeo previously to the commencement of the play, the poet has conveyed to us in the passage:—
Jul. "What's he, that follows there, that would not dance?
Nurse. I know not.
Jul. Go, ask his name:—if he be married,
My grave is like to be my wedding-bed.
Nurse. His name is Romeo, and a Montague;
The only son of your great enemy.
Jul. My only love sprung from my only hate!
Too early seen unknown, and known too late!"—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 5.
- Page 452,
line 6. See those exquisite lines of Benvolio's in reply to his friend's mother, Lady Montague:—
"Madam, an hour before the worshipp'd sun,
Peer'd forth the golden window of the east,
A troubled mind drave me to walk abroad;
Where,—underneath *the grove of sycamore*,
That westward rooteth from the city's side,—
So early walking did I see your son:
Towards him I made; but he was 'ware of me,
And stole into the covert of the wood."—*Ibid.*, Act i., s. 1.
- Page 452,
line 10. For Benvolio's repute in fence, see Mercutio's banter, at the commencement of the third act of the play.