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[CLUB LAW]

(The fragments give the beginnings of lines on the recto sides, and the ends of lines on the verso sides of the leaves.)

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2 *Club Law* [ACT I
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for our may day, that ever you heard, but I must p. 7
 about my busines, I must tell my master, the Serjeants
 will come, and the brome man will be here on Sater-
 daye, they that are bound must obey.

5 ACTUS I^{us}. SCENA 4^a.

Nipbill. Tavie.

Nip. Before god Tavie, wellfare thy good heart,
 I had not thought welshmen had hyn so honest, shee
 was a bouching wench, a smoker effaith.

10 *Tavie.* her ferie glad her arships turne her as

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SCENE 4] *Club Law* 3

never taught no forsooth, may her arships tell her as her holesome ?

Nip. ffaith as sweete as a nutt, a good naturd girle I tell thee Tavie, I had as leve as an 1ool. my wife were of as good constitution. 15

Tav. Her hope her arships as tinke ferie well of her. and her shance to be Mr Burgomaster, an ples cod her will, will let her be shefe Shergeant ?

Nip. Tush make no question of it. but sirra, if I need I must have one readie at call and commaund. 20

Ta. Call and Commaund ? her may be assured hee shall not find her unprovided of a prance gallant wench, cod be plesed and prayed for it.

Nip. well hereafter wee will consider of it. here comes your old Master Brecknock. (*Enter Brecknocke.*) 25

Breck. Ôh is hee gone, in good sooth, I was afraid hartely of this gentle Athenian. surely wee will take some course for this Clubb lawe. ô Mr Niphell god morrow to you, you are welcome. Tavie wee have stayed from the Court hall this houre for the Ser- 30
 geants. Is it not a shame Mr Niphell that knaves, that are maineteined by our table shall give noe better attendance ?

Tavy. Her as come as soone as her can.

Bre. No, I am now goeing out of my office, you 35
 never regard mee. but I'le speake a good word for you.

Nip. Nea, good Mr Burgomaster, be not offended with him, lay the blame upon mee, I had some reason to employ him.

11 may MS. 'nay'

25 Master MS. 'Mr'

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40 *Brec.* Nea, Mr Niphill, the matter is not great
 betwixt you and mee. goe sirra, runne for the rest of
 your fellowes.

Tav. Nay, her as fetch her with a poxe.

Bre. I am now rendring up of my office. I pray
 45 god hee that comes after mee, may performe the duetic
 no better then I have done, | god send you good p. 8
 shipping this yeare. I thanke god I have passed the
 billowes of the sea, I leave my office.

Nip. I hope sir if it be bestowed upon mee ;
 50 so to carry my selfe, that I will not onely follow your
 good proceedings, but also if it may be, goe before
 you in government.

Bre. I, I doubt not but you will. but how doe
 your good bedfellowe ?

55 *Nip.* By my troth sir shee is troubled with the
 trembling of the tongue.

Brec. It pleaseth you to saye so sir. but I
 wonder these knaves sargeants come not away. wee
 must be their men, and waite upon their honours,
 60 ôh here they come. your worships be welcome.

Sar. Small worships sir.

Brec. Come, come, where be the rest of our
 societie? mee thinks it is the finest sight to see us
 goe cheeke by gole together. but Tavy, runne to
 65 Mr Spruce our Towne Clarke, stay here hee comes.
 Puffe presently Puffe fetch Mr Romford, tell me of
 such a dwarfe, I never sawe such a long fellow. God
 morrow Mr Spruce.

52 you MS. 'your'

66 me MS. 'him'

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SCENE 4] *Club Law* 5

Spruce. Good morrow Gentlemen, when shall this our duety be performed to putt offe the pristine head? 70

Nipp. Putt offe, t'is pittie such a pretie head should off.

Spru. Tush, you misconceive mee.

Nip. No, no, my wife never mist conceyving in her life. (Enter Cricket.) 75

Cricket. And effaith, Loggerhead are you there, I would these aples were balls of lead, that they might but brayne one of you. but take this as it is.

(*Cricket bitts Mr Burgomasters head with an aple.*)

Nip. Hô is there no officers? such wrong? some 80 gentle Athenian, after him Sargeants, after him. (*The Sargeants runne after him, a noyse within, hold, keepe, stopp.*)

Nip. This is strange they will offer us this indignitie being in this showe. 85

Spr. They dare doe any thing they thinke to offer us any ronge.

Bre. I even now a litle Ape, as bigg as my boy Jacke strocke at mee with his Club, and I could not come within him for feare of his knife. 90

Spr. By our Ladie but wee must have some remedie against this Club law, but who was it?

Puffe. A litle Ape, I thinke as hie as my knee, hee tooke mee such a riprapp on the head and told mee t'was Club law, and away hee gott betwene my leggs, 95 and gave mee such a pestilent fall.

Nip. Why, what a company of bobies were yee? could you not catch him?

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[ACT I

Tavy. As take her lodging | and teare the gentle p. 9
 100 Athenians keepe her there till her as not have
 her.

Brec. well let us away unles wee be troubled with
 more of them. why Puffe hast thou forgott thy selfe?
 call Mr Rumford (*Puffe goes.*) Mee thinks this
 105 Burgomastershipp sitts heavier upon mee then my
 head upon my shoulders. Come letts begone, and
 fetch Mr Colbie and returne presently.

Puff. Mr Rumford comes sir, he'le meete you at
 Mr Colbies house.

110 *Breck.* well.

ACTUS 1^{us}. SCENA 5^a.*Enter Cricket.*

Crick. Are yee gone? god speed you well. ôh
 [if] the welsh Rogue would have but followed mee into
 115 the hall, that wee might but had the villaine to the
 pompe, wee would have given him skulls punishment
 effaith. ô Lord that I could but save mee as much
 money, as would buy mee a Scottish dagger to pricke
 the villaines. I have a huge great Dictionarie as bigg
 120 as my selfe almost, Il'e sell that, and buy mee a dagger.
 It shall be even so. I would I durst I faith, I could
 find in my heart but for my Tutor. These Tutors
 are such troublesome things. By the masse, hee hath

117 as much MS. 'as' ('much' written in the margin).

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SCENE 5] *Club Law* 7

one, Ile steale that and save the money. But here comes gravities, I'le give them the cringe. (*Enter* ¹²⁵ *Philenius and Musonius.*)

Pbi. But Musonius didst thou heare it of a certeintie ?

Muso. make no question of it. see this litle vil-laine; twentie to one, but hee hath committed some ¹³⁰ good jeast or other.

Cric. Ô Mr Philenius how doe you, Mr Musonius how fares your bodie ?

Pbi. you litle Rakehell, how chanceth it you are not at your study ? ¹³⁵

Muso. Thou wantest but a litle brechinge.

Cric. Good Lord breching, nothing but breching and studie. why they are the two worst things in the world. meethinks it is the Childest thinge to be breched, so schooleboylike, as for the other, it is not ¹⁴⁰ so good as they saye it is.

Muso. well Sirra, what busines have you heere ?

Pbi. Some Rakelly tricke or other.

Cric. Ô Lord Sir no, but a litle mirth with the sir reverence of the towne. I'le tell you Sirs Mr Breck- ¹⁴⁵ nock the Chandler, the Burgomaster I meane, and I have had a full meete, but I got the wall of him, and hee came to catch mee, but I was for him, but even now if you had seene what a race wee had.

Pbi. A race, may I entreate you upon what oc- ¹⁵⁰ casion ?

Cric. Ô Lord Sir, the Aplewench used mee very

138 the MS. 'the the'

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[ACT I

hardly, and I in a choller (as | men are subject unto p. 10
 passions) hurld them away and by good fortune hitt
 155 Mr Burgomaster on the head, after came the Sergeants,
 away goe I, there was hold, stopp, keepe, here, there,
 but I out ran the fatt Sargeant at a playne race, and
 turned short againe and gave him such a knocke, that
 I brake his head the dayntelest, that you could not
 160 chowse but laugh.

Muso. well sirra you are a wagg.

Pbi. you must come over.

Cric. Come over againe, ô god that I were but as
 you are, I would have it better with these Clownes.

165 *Mus.* Clownes sir boy.

Crick. I, Clownes, nea if wee have breching, studye,
 comming over againe, Sir boy, Ile leave you. the world
 will never be better, so long as such stayed gravities
 have any thing to doe, wee can doe nothing for them,
 170 but Il'e about more knaveries, Il'e persecute them.

(Exit Cricket.)

Pbi. ffaith musonius this boy hath a good nimble
 witt, do'st thou not see how hee is moved with
 these things, whereof wee seeme carelesse. why
 175 could a man behould such a rable of Loggerheads
 with patience?

Mus. Why Philenius these are fitter to move pittie
 then procure patience, to see a heard of Asses, thinking
 themselves a troupe of sages, I would never wish a
 180 better object to my sences then these.

Pbi. why, but canst thou be well pleased to see

170 persecute See note on 2382.

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SCENE 5] *Club Law* 9

such sepulchers the Image of divine authoritie, and them governe others which can scarcely mannage their owne affaires ?

Muso. As well as see Venus shrine presented with 185
 base mould. when there is sufficient matter wanting,
 you must accept that which is most proporcionable to
 perfection.

Pbi. I durst have sworne that this place where the
 muses be so conversant and the good Arts so nourished 190
 could not have byn so voyd of humanitie. I thought
 it unpossible that ignorance should have nestled where
 knowledg is so powerfull. but now I see my conjecture
 falsified. for if I should point out the true visage of
 Clownerie, I would accept of this for a true Idea. 195

Muso. ffaith to speake truely thou maist goe further
 and speed worse. Minerva our foundresse in my conceit
 was very provident in adjoyning herselfe to such
 druggs, how else should wee have them serviceable ?

p. 11 *Pbi.* Thou seest experience | hath shewed the con- 200
 trarie, in stead of our servants they seeme to be our
 masters, their power is too absolute, they muddy slaves
 [thinke them selves] to good to be our servants.

Muso. I, and will retaine that thought, except some
 true spirited Gent[lemen] make them feele our stripes 205
 for their disobedience, and renewe the ancient Club-
 lawe. had I but authoritie, I would curbe their foming
 mouthes, and shewe them by nature to be mere
 drudges.

Pbi. Alas poore yonge brayne what couldest thou 210

208 mere MS. 'more'

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[ACT I

effect more then those who have managed their actions by experience, and have had wisdome written in the furrowes of their face?

Muso. Experience hath made them too wise, but
 215 sirra shall wee bestowe some time to bringe them to their ancient duetie? I durst presume to effect it.

Pbi. I, you may presume, yet you will hardly assume any thing by this presumption. But Musonius, I will follow thee, I am at thy service.

220 *Muso.* Now is the time of their Eleccion, when they will be plotting some villanie against us. I durst lay my head, the Bakerlie, lecherous, petifogging Niphle will be chosen Burgomaster, hee hath bought him a satten sute all readie, hee must have a fling at us, now
 225 if wee could but be partakers of their Counsell they were our owne.

Pbi. why, that is easie, if wee could but humore their wives, they are such good kind loving gossips, that all theirs is ours, I knowe they will not conceale
 230 their owne thoughts much lesse their husbands secrets, either this way wee must worke, or else be ignorant.

Muso. ffaith Philenius thy Counsell is allowable, but mens Censurs will passe hardly upon us for conversing with such unconstant gossips.

235 *Pbi.* Never regard their Conjectures, but our owne intents. Lead on, Ile followe you.

ffinis Act 1. Scen. 5.

217 hardly MS. 'harly'