VIII. Sir Robert Ker, Earl of Ancrum.

[In the printed Catalogue of Drummond's Donations to the College of Edinburgh, 1627, is a Manuscript entitled "Psalms in English verses, to the measures of the French and Dutch, by Sir Robert Kerre," but which is not now to be found in that Library. Among the Society's Manuscripts are transcripts by Drummond which answer that description, with the copy of a letter prefixed "To my Sonne William Karr, in Paris, 1624," signed "S. Ro. Karr," and dated "London, 24 of Apryle 1624." In this he says, that "the occasion of hearing in the Low Countries the Dutch men and French sing in their several languages to one tune," had induced him to try if he could suit English words "to their measure." One specimen may suffice of these translations, which include Psalms 1, 37, 49, 62, 90, 91, 103, 116, 130, and 145.]

Psalme 130, out of Buchanann.

To the French measure.

1. Thy words (myne onlye hope)
   Sustaines my watering mynd,
   And in that faithfull prop
   All confidence I find.

2. No watchman of the night
   More lesteth for the day,
   Than I do for the light
   Which Thy grace doth display.

3. If like a judge severe
   To punish Thou be bent,
   No flesh can be so cleere
   As to prove innocent.

4. But mercifull Thou art,
   And from all passion free;
   That doe him feare and know,
   For it is only Hee
   That helps the weake and low.

5. DEEPE suncke in flouds of griefe,
   Unto the Lord I prayed
   That Hee would send reliefe;
   And thus my sad heart sayd :
   Lord, heare the sighs and grimes,
   That I before Thee power;
   Listen unto my moanes,
   And help me at this hower.

6. If like a judge severe
   To punish Thou be bent,
   No flesh can be so cleere
   As to prove innocent.

Note to EPISTAH, page 110—Robert Crichton Lord Sunderland was hanged at Westminster on the 26th of June 1613, for the murder of a fencing-master named Turner. (See Chronicle of Perth, pp. 19, 103, &c.)
dergo this project either in malice or mockery of Master Benjamin Jonson," to whom he professes he was "so much obliged for many undeserved courtesies." In fact Taylor came more as a feat, upon the performance of which various bets depended (as he was to proceed on his journey without carrying money with him, or begging by the road); and he met Jonson at Leith about the end of September, from whom he received a mark of liberality, which may be best stated by quoting his own words:—*"Now the day before I came from Edinborough [on his return to England] I went to Leeth, where I found my long approued and assured good friend Master Benjamin Jonson, at one Master John Stuarts house: I thanke him for his great kindnesse towards me; for at my taking leaue of him, he gaue me a piece of gold of two and twenty shillings to drink his health in England; and withall willed me to remember his kind commendations to all his friends: So with a friendly farewell, I left him as well as I hope neuer to see him in a worse estate: for he is amongst Noblemen and Gentlemen that knowe his true worth, and their oune honours, where with much respectiue loue he is worthily entertained."*

Jonson remained four months longer in Scotland, as Drummond informs us that "He took his departure from Leith on the 25th of January 1619." He returned as he came, on foot,—a mode of travelling which excited some surprise; and the Reader will observe the fine compliment of the Lord Chancellor Bacon, when he said to Jonson as he was about to set out on his excursion, "He loved not to see Poesy goe on other feet than poeticall dactylus and spondaeus." He had reached London May 10, 1619, the date of a letter addressed to Drummond, in which he says: "I am arrived safely, with a most catholick welcome, and my reports not unacceptable to his Majesty. He professed (thank God) some joy to see me, and is pleased to hear of the purpose of my book." This alludes to Jonson's intention to write an account of his pilgrimage to Scotland, to be called a Discovery, but which in his own time was unfortunately destroyed by fire.

As Drummond's Notes of Jonson's Conversations are in many places brief and obscure, an attempt is made, in the notes, to explain the persons or works referred to. Without making any remarks in this place on the misrepresentations respecting this paper, by the late Editor of Jonson's Works, it may be observed, that it neither comes to us in the form of a regular publication by Drummond, nor makes any pretension of giving a full view of Jonson's critical opinion of the merits of his several contemporaries; for it will be seen, that it consists of a series of detached remarks and anecdotes, recorded without any apparent intention of ever being made public. Much as Drummond has been blamed for committing to writing such recollections, it would have been singular, considering his habits, had he not availed himself of such an occasion to preserve some memorial of conversations held with a person then in the zenith of his reputation, who was regarded as the most distinguished author of his time.

We could indeed have wished that Jonson either had been more communicative, or that Drummond had been more curious in inquiring into the personal history of those master-spirits whose writings have given a character to that age. But either Drummond was more disposed to hear of those poets who, like himself, were writers of sonnets, madrigals, and courtly compliments, or Jonson, with a natural degree of vanity, was more accustomed to speak of the gay and high-born courtiers, and of persons of rank, than of those who, like himself, lived by their wits; which may explain his silence respecting several of the witty and learned frequenters of the Mermaid. Still, the following paper is one of no ordinary interest in the Curiosities of Literature; and if it says but little of Shakspeare, Fletcher, Raleigh, Bacon, Selden, Sidney, and the gentle Spenser, and of various other eminent contemporaries, it at least furnishes us with a variety of authentic notices of Jonson's own life and manners, and gives us an insight into the kind of discourse which seasoned the repasts and potations of two persons of unequal yet of distinguished genius.

D. LAING.

2 Jonson died August 6th, 1637; Drummond survived till December 4th, 1649; and no portion of these Notes were made public till 1711, or 02 years after Drummond's death, and 74 after Jonson's, which renders quite nugatory all Gifford's accusations of Drummond's having published them 'without shame.' As to 'Drummond's decoying Jonson under his roof,' with any premeditated design on his reputation, as Mr Campbell has remarked, no one can seriously believe it.
 CERTAIN INFORMATIONS AND MANNERS OF BEN JOHNSON'S TO W. DRUMMOND.  

1. THAT he had one intention to perfect an Epick Poeme intituled Herolo-
gis, of the Worthies of this Country rowed by Fame; and to dedicate it
to his Country: it is all in couplets, for he detesteth all other rimes. Said he
had written a Discourse of Poesie both against Campion and Daniel, especi-
ally this last, where he proves couplets to be the bravest sort of verses, especially
when they are broken, like Hexameters; and that crosse rimes and stanzaes
(because the purpose would lead him beyond 8 lines to conclude) were all forced.

2. He recommended to my reading Quintillian, who (he said) would tell me
the faults of my verses as if he lived with me; and Horace, Plinius 2dus
Epistles, Taticus, Juvenall, Martiull; whose Epigrame Vitam qiux faciunt
beatiorem, &c. he hath translated.

3. HIS CENSURE OF THE ENGLISH POETS WAS THIS:
That Sidney did not keep a decorum in making every one speak as well as
himself. Spenser's stanzas pleased him not, nor his matter; 6 that
Michael Drayton's Polyolbion, if [he] had performed what he pro-
mised to write (the deeds of all the Worthies), had been excellent: his long
verses pleased him not.

That Silvester's translation of Du Bartas was not well done; (and that he
wrote his verses before it, ere he understood to conferr) : 7 then
that Fairfax

1 The above title is also repeated in words quoted at the head of this article.
2 Thomas Campion's "Observations in the Art of English Poesie," were first printed in 1602,
and Daniel's answer in 1603. The title of this last is "A Defence of Ryme, agaynst a
pamphlet entitled, Observations in the Art of English Poesie: wherein is demonstratively
published in 1617.
3 Edward Sharpham, a member of the Middle Temple, published The Faire, a comedy, in
1610; and John Day wrote several plays, the titles of which will be found in the Biographia
Art and sometimes Sense;
4 That next himself, only Fletcher and Chapman could mate a mask.
5 That Shakespeare wanted arts. 13 that Minshew was one.
6 Allying to Fairfax's beautiful version of Tasso's Jerusalem Delivered, first printed in the
year 1606. Jonson entertained particular notions in regard to poetical translations, which led
him to underrate some of those that still continue to be justly admired. Fairfax's Jerusalem,
Mr Campbell emphatically says, "was inscribed to Queen Elizabeth, and forms one of the glo-
ries of her reign."
7 Referring evidently to Chapman's Homer's Iliad, and to Phaer and Twyne's Virgil.
8 Warner's poem under the title of Albion's England, which had passed through several
editions, and of which "A Continuance" appeared in 1600.
9 In the printed selections 1711, this remark is very improperly connected with Jonson's
subsequent observation in regard to The Tempest, as follows:—"He said, Shakspear
wanted Art and sometimes Sense; for in one of his plays he brought in a number of men saying they
had suffered ship-wrack in Bohemia, where is no sea near by 100 miles." One would think
that Jonson's own words (where he freely states, with much judgment and good sense, his opi-
inion of Shakspear) should have silenced the idle but long-continued cry of his envy and ma-
"I LOVED THE MAN, AND DO HONOR
his memory, on this side too lately, as much as any." (Works, vol. ix. p. 176.)
11 Edward Sharpham, a member of the Middle Temple, published The Faire, a comedy, in
1610; and John Day wrote several plays, the titles of which will be found in the Biographia
Dramatica. Thomas Dekker is a still more voluminous author, and his history is better known,
partly in consequence of Jonson's Poetaster, in which he has ridiculed Dekker under the
character of Demetrius, and Marston under that of Crispinus; and which the former retorted
upon Jonson as Young Horace, in his Satyro Mastix, or the Untrussing a Humourous Poet.
12 Minshew is chiefly known as the author of a Polyglot Dictionary, in eleven languages, pub-
ished in 1617.
That Abram Francis, in his English Hexameters, was a fool.

4. His Judgment of Stranger Poets was:
That he thought not Barthe a poet, but a verser, because he wrote not fiction. He cursed Petrarch for reducting Verses to Sonnets; which said he were like the Tiran's bed, wher some who were too short were racked, others too long cut short.

That Guarini, in his Pastor Fido, kept not decorum, in making Shepherds speak as well as himself could.

That Lucan, taken in parts, was good divided; read altogether, meriteth not the name of a poet.

That Bonefonius' Vigilium Veneris was excellent.

That he told Cardinall de Perron, at his being in France, anno 1613, who shew him his translations of Virgill, that they were naught.

That the best pieces of Ronsard were his Odes.

All this was to no purpose, for he (Jonson) neither doeth understand French nor Italiane.

5. He read his translation of that Ode of Horace, Beatus ille qui procul negavit, &c. and admired it. Of ane Epigramme of Petronius—

To me he read the preface of his Arte of Poesie, upon Horace Arte of Poesie,

6. His Censure of my Verses was:
That they were all good, especialy my Epitaph on the Prince, save that they

Notes of Ben Jonson's Conversations at Hawthornden.
smelled too much of the Schooles, and were not after the fanie of the tymne: for a child (says he) may write after the fashion of the Greeks and Latine verses in running; yet that he wished, to please the King, that piece of Forth Feasting had been his owne.59

7. He esteemeth John Done the first poet in the world in some things: his verses of the lost Chaine he hath by heart, and that passage of the Calme, That dust and feathers doe not stirr, all was so quiet. Affirmeth Done to have written all his best pieces err he was 25 years old. Sir Edward Wotton's verses of a hoppy lyfe60 he hath by heart; and a piece of Chapman's translation of the 18 of the Iliads, which he thinketh well done. That Done said to him he wrot that Epitaph on Prince Henry, Look to me, Faith,61 to match Sir Ed: Herbert in obscurenesse. He hath by heart some verses of Spencer's Calender, about wyne, between Coline and Pertye.

8. The conceit of Done's transformation, or Metempsychosis,62 was, that he sought

59 Drumsmond's Teares for the Death of Mollades appeared in 1618; and his Forth Feasting, written on occasion of the King's visit to Scotland, in 1617. The writer of an excellent article on Drumsmond's Poetry, in the Retrospective Review, in reference to the current but unfound-ed tradition of Jonson's object in visiting Scotland, quotes the above words, and says, "Truly if this be admiration enough for a pilgrimage, and by such a man as Jonson, there is much less tradition of Jonson's object in visiting Scotland, quotes the above words, and says, "Truly if this be admiration enough for a pilgrimage, and by such a man as Jonson, there is much less

60 The poem here mentioned, is "The Character of a Happy Life," by Sir Henry Wotton, and is so beautiful that we may be excused quoting the first two and last verses.

   How happy is he born and taught
   Whose passions not his masters are,
   That serveth not another's will;
   Whose soul is still prepared for death;
   And simple truth his utmost skill?

   This Man is freed from servile bands,
   Of publick fame, or private breath.

61 Donne's Poems were not collected and published till after his death in 1631. Izaac Walton says of him, that "the recreations of his youth were Poetry;" and "of those pieces which were facetiously composed and carelessly scattered," most of them were written before the twentieth year of his age. He adds, "It is a truth, that in his penitential years, viewing some of those pieces which were loosely scattered in his youth, he wish't they had been abortive, or so short-

62 Donne's Elegy on the Prince was first printed in 1613. His "Metempsychosis, the Progress of the Soul," bears the date August 16, 1601, in the collection of his Poems, p. 886. The fragment extends to 52 stanzas of ten lines.—It may be added, that Donne appears to have still better claims than either Bishop Hall or Marston to be considered the first English Satirist. In Drumsmond's transcript, Donne's Fourth Satire is dated "Anno 1604," three years previous to the publication of Hall's.
11. HIS ACQUAINTANCE AND BEHAVIOUR WITH POETS LIVING WITH HIM.

Daniel was at jealousies with him. Drayton feared him, and he esteemed not of him. That Francis Beaumont loved too much himself and his own verses. That Sir John Roe loved him; and when they two were ushered by my Lord Suffolk from a Mask, Roe wrote a moral epistle to him, which began, "That next to plays, the Court and the State were the best." God threateneth Kings, Kings Lords, and Lords do us.

He beat Marston, and took his pistol from him.

Sir W. Alexander was not half kinde unto him, and neglected him, because a friend to Drayton.

That Sir R. Aiton loved him dearly.

Ned Field was his schollar, and he had read to him the Satyres of Horace, and some Epigrames of Martial.

That Markam (who added his English Arcadia) was not of the number of the Faithfull, i.e. Poets, and but a base fellow.

and some Epigrames of Martial.

That Sir John Roe loved him dearly. He would have been content to destroy many of his.

12. PARTICULARS OF THE ACTIONS OF OTHER POETS: AND APOTHEGMS.

That the Irish having robbed Spenser's goods and burnt his house and a little child new born, he and his wife escaped, and after, he died for lack of bread in King Street, and refused 20 pieces sent to him by my Lord of Essex, and said, He was sorry he had no time to spend them. That in that paper S. W. Raughly had of the Allegories of his Fyrie Queen, by the Bliting beast the Puritans were understood, by the false Duessa the Q. of Scots.

That Southwell was hanged, yet so he had written that piece of his, the Burning Babe, he would have been content to destroy many of his.

Notes of Ben Jonson's Conversations at Hawthornden. 251

Notes of Ben Jonson's Conversations at Hawthornden.

The stair with his tears were breed: To wash them in his blood. Which with his toges were breed:

... that it was Christmas Day.
Franc. Beaumont died ere he was 30 years of age.25
Sir John Roe was an infinit spender, and used to say, when he had no more
to spende he could die. He died of the pest, and he [Jonson] furnished his charges 20 lb. ; which was given him back.26
That Drayton was challenged for intitling one book Mortimerides. That
S. J. Davies played in an Epigram on Drayton's, who in a sonnet concluded
his Mistresse might bee the ninth Worthy, and said, he used a phrase like Da-
metas in Arcadia, who said for wit his Mistresse might be a gyant.27
Dones grandfather on the mother's side was Heywood the Epigrammatist.
That Done himself, for not being understood, would perish.
That S. W. Raugby esteemed more of fame than conscience. The best wits
of England were employed for making his historie. Ben himself had written
a piece to him of the Punick warre, which he altered aud set in his booke.
S. W.26 had written the lyfe of Queen Elizabeth, of which ther is [are]
copies extant.
25 Beaumont died in the beginning of March 1616, and was buried on the ninth of that month,
in Westminster Cathedral. Jonson's lines How I do love thee, Beaumont, and thy Muse,
prove his great regard for his young friend.
26 Jonson, in more than one copy of verses, embellished his memory (See Jonson's Works by
Gifford, vol. viii. pp. 165, 168, 196), and in particular in the following beautiful lines:
In place of Scutcheons that should deck thy herse,
Take better ornaments, my tears and verse.
If any sword could save from Fates, ROE'S could;
If any pious life ere lifted man
That the morne thereafter he discorded with Overburie, who would have him
to intend a sute yr was unlawful. The lines my Lady keep'd in remembrance,
To heaven,—his hath: O happy state! wherein
We, sad for him, may glory and not sin.

Sir P. Sidney had translated some of the Psalms whict went abroad under
the name of the Countesse of Pembroc.29
Marston wrott his Father-in-Lawes preaching, and his Father-in-Law his
Commodies.30
Shakespeare, in a play, brought in a number of men saying they had suffered
shipwrack in Bohemia, wher y'r is no sea neer by some 100 miles.31
Daniel wrott Civill Warres, and yett hath not one battle in all his book.32
The Countess of Rutland was nothing inferior to her Father Sir P. Sidney
in poesie. Sir Th: Overburie was in love with her, and caused Ben to read his
Wyff to her, which he, with ane excellent grace, did, and praised the author.
That the morne thereafter he discarded with Overburie, who would have him
to intend a sute yr was unlawful. The lines my Lady keep'd in remembrance,
Wenceslas, or the Christian king, is a rare narration.33

Chapman had translated Munusse, in his verses, like his Homer.34
29 The metrical version of the Psalms, begun by Sir Philip Sidney, and completed by his
sister Lady Pembroke, was first published in 1593, but had probably been extensively circu-
lated in manuscript.
30 Little is known of Marston's personal history, and nothing of his father-in-law; except-
ing that Mr Gifford has shown, that the latter probably was William Wilken, Chaplain to
King James; and that Marston died June 25, 1634. (Vol. i. p. cxxin'I. note.)
31 See above, Note 11. In justice to the author, Mr Gifford's note on this passage should be
here added: "This (he says) is the tritest of all our author's observations. No one ever read
the play without noticing the ' absurdity,' as Dr Johnson calls it; yet for this simple,
that Marston wrote his Father-in-Law's preaching, and his Father-in-Law his
Commodies.
32 This is too Harsh a sentence, as any one will perceive who looks into Owen's book.
33 The allusion is to Daniel's narrative poem of the Civil Wars.
34 " Another and a more celebrated Lady kept this line in remembrance. See Lady M. W.
Montague's Poems, where this maxtie is printed as her own." (MS. note by Charles K.
Sharpe, Esq.)
35 Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Philip Sidney, and widow of Roger, fifth Earl of Rutland, died
in August 1612. (See the Elegy in Beaumont and Fletcher's works, vol. xiv. p. 411.)
36 This is too harsh a sentence, as any one will perceive who looks into Wm's book.
37 The poem of Hero and Leander, here alluded to, was begun by Marlowe and finished by
Chapman, and printed at London, 1606, 4to.
Fletcher and Beaumont, ten years since, hath written the Faithful Shepherdess, a Tragicomedia, well done. Dyer died unmarried. Sir P. Sidney was no pleasant man in countenance, his face being spoilt with pimples, and of high blood, and long; that my Lord Lisle, now Earl of Worcester, his eldest son, resembleth him.  

13. OF HIS OWN LIFE, EDUCATION, BIRTH, ACTIONS.  

His Grandfather came from Carlisle, and, he thought, from Anandale to it: he served King Henry 8, and was a gentleman. His Father losed all his estates under Queen Marie, having been cast in prison and forfeited; at last taken from it, and put to ane other craft after his father’s decease; he himself was posthumous born, being in prison and forfeitted; at last 5 years he had not bedded with her, but remained with my Lord Aulbanie.  

He was dilated by Sir James Murray to the King, for writting something against the Scots in a play Eastward Hoe, and voluntarily imprisoned with Chapman and Marston, who had written it amongst them. The report was that they should then [have] had their ears cut and noses. After their delivery since his coming to England, being appealed to the fields, he had killed his adversary, which [who] had hurt him in the arm, and whose sword was 10 inches longer than his; for which he was imprisoned and almost at the gallows. Then took he his religion, by trust, of a priest who visited him in prison. Thereafter he was 12 years a Papist. He was Master of Arts in both the Universities, by their favour, not his study. He married a wife who was a shrew, yet honest: 5 years he had not bedded with her, but remained with my Lord Aulbanie. In the time of his close imprisonment, under Queen Elizabeth, his judges could get nothing of him to all their demands but I and No. They placed two damn’d villains to catch advantage of him, with him, but he was advertised by his keeper: of the spies he hath ane epigram.  

When the King came in England at that time the pest was in London, he being in the country at Sir Robert Cotton’s house with old Cambden, he saw in a vision his eldest son, then a child and at London, appear unto him with the mark of a bloody crosse on his forehead, as if it had been cutted with a sword, at which amazed he prayed unto God, and in the morning he came to Mr Cambden’s chamber to tell him; who persuaded him it was but ane apprehension of his fantase, at which he should not be disjected; in the mean time comes these letters from his wife of the death of that boy, in the plague. He appeared to him (he said) of a manlie shape, and of that growth that he thinks he shall be at the resurrection.  

He was dilated by Sir James Murray to the King, for writing something against the Scots in a play Eastward Hoe, and voluntarily imprisoned with Chapman and Marston, who had written it amongst them. The report was that they should then [have] had their ears cut and noses. After their delivery
he lanqueted all his friends; there was Camden, Selden, and others; at the midst of the feast his old Mother drank to him, and shew him a paper which she had (if the sentence had taken execution) to have mixed in the poison among his drinke, which was full of lustie strong poison, and that she was no churle, she told she minded first to have drunk of it her self.

He had many quarrels with Marston, beat him, and took his pistoll from him, wrote his Poetaster on him, the beginning of them were, that Marston represented him in the stage, in his youth as given to venerie. He thought the use of a maide nothing in comparison to the wantoness of a wyfe, and would never have another mistress. He said two accidents strange befel him; one, that a man made his own wyfe to court him, whom he enjoyed two yeares ere he knew of it, and one day finding them by chance, was passingly delighted with it; see other, lay divers tymes with a woman, who shew him all that he wished, except the last act, which she would never agree unto.

S. W. Raulighe sent him Governour with his Son, anno 1612, to France. This youth being knauishly inclined, among other pastimes, as the setting of the favoure of damesells on a cod piece, caused him to be drunken, and dead drunk, so that he knew not wher he was, therafter laid him on a carr, which made to be drawen by pioners through the streets, at every corner showing the use of a maide nothing in comparison to the wantoness of a wyfe, and would not flatter though he saw Death.

The Poetaster was brought out in 1601, and in it he ridicules Marston and Dekker under the respective names of Crispinus and Dometrius. (See before, note 12.)

The story of Ben Jonson's visit to France as Governor of Sir Walter Raleigh's son is discredited by Mr Gifford, proceeding on the inaccuracy in the date, 1593, given by Aubrey, which is indeed two years before the date of 1613, which is given by Aubrey as the date when young Raleigh was in the 16th year, correponds with the previous note of Jonson's conversation with Cardinal du Perron, while at Paris.

in a longe gowne and a whyte beard at the light of dimm burning candells, up in a little cabinet reached unto by a ladder.

Every first day of the new year he had 20th. sent him from the Earl of Pembroke to buy bookes.

After he was reconciled with the Church, and left of to be a recusant, at his first communion, in token of true reconciliation, he drank out all the full cup of wyne. Being at the end of my Lord Salisburyes table with Inigo Jones, and demanded by my Lord, Why he was not glad? My Lord, said he, you promised I should dine with you, but I doe not, for he had none of his meate; he esteemed only that his meate which was of his own dish.

He hath consumed a whole night in lying looking to his great toe, about which he had seen Tartars and Turks, Romans and Carthaginians, feight in his imagination.

Northampton was his mortall enemie for beating, on a St Georges day, one of his attenders: He was called before the Counsell for his Sejanus, and accused both of poperie and treason by him.

Several times he hath devoured his bookes, i. e. sold them all for necessity.

He hath a minde to be a churchman, and so he might have favour to make one sermon to the King, he careth not what therafter sould befall him: for he would not flatter though he saw Death.

At his hither conming, St Francis Bacon said to him, He loved not to see Poesy goe on other feet than poetical dactylus and spondaics.


He never esteemed of a man for the name of a Lord.

Queen Elizabeth never saw her self after she became old in a true glass; they painted her, and sometymes would vermilion her nose. She had always about Christmas evens set dice that threw sixes or five, and she knew not they
were other, to make her win and esteem herself fortunate. That she had a membrana on her, which made her incapable of man, though for her delight she had tried many. At the coming over of Monsieur, ther was a French chirurgion who took in hand to cut it, yet fear stayed her, and his death. King Phillip had intention by dispensation of the Pope to have married her.

Sir P. Sidney's Mother, Leicesters sister, after she had the little pox, never showed herself in Court thereafter but masked.

The Earl of Leicester gave a bottle of liquor to his Lady, which he willed her to use in any faintness; which she, after his return from Court, not knowing it was poison, gave him, and so he died.

Salisbury never cared for any man longer nor he could make use of him. My Lord Liales daughter, my Lady Wroth, is unwarily married on a jealous husband.

Notes of Ben Jonson's Conversations at Hawthornden.

Ben one day being at table with my Lady Rutland, her Husband comming in, accused her that shee kept table to poets, of which she wrote a letter to him, which he answered. My Lord intercepted the letter, but never challenged him.

My Lord Chancelor of England wringeth his speeches from the strings of his hand, and other Counsellours from the pyking of their teeth.

Pembrok and his Lady discounting, the Earl said, The women were mean shadows, and she maintained them. Both appealing to Johnson, he affirmed it true, for which my Lady gave a penance to prove it in verse; hence his epigram.

Essex wrote that Epistle or preface before the translation of the last part of Tacitus, which is A. B. The last book the gentleman durst not translate for the evil it contains of the Jews.

The King said Sir P. Sidney was no poet. Neither did he see ever any vers in England to the scullors: It were good that the half of the preachers of England were plain ignorants, for that either in their sermons they flatter, or strive to shew their own eloquence.

15. His OPINIONE OF VERSES. That he wrott all his first in prose, for so his Master, Cambden, had learned him.

That verses stood by sense without either colours or accent, which yet other tymes he denied.

A great many epigrams were ill, because they expressed in the end what

61 "This impediment is mentioned in a letter from our Queen Marie, addressed to her sister Queen, printed in the Bergkley Papers. I have read somewhere that the epistle was supposed to be a forgery, in order to irritate Queen Elizabeth against Queen Marie. It appeared to me long ago to be a trick of Queen Marie's, to enrage Elizabeth against Lady Shrewsbury. I think there is something about this in Lord Orford's Royal and Noble Authors." (MS. note by Charles K. Sharpe, Esq.) Appendix to Hume's History. See also Seward's Anecdotes.

62 Jonson has "an Epigram to the Small-pox," which may have allusion to the Lady above mentioned. (Works, vol. viii. p. 399.)

63 Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, died September 4, 1588. It had been suspected he died of poison, and that his Lady served him as he is said to have served others; but the above statement goes so far to prove that it was unintentional. In Drummond's MSS. is the following Epigraph, "Of the Earl of Leicester," probably communicated by Ben Jonson:

Here lies a valiant warrior, who never drew a sword; Here lies a noble curiour, who never kept his word; Here lies the Earl of Leicester, who govern'd the Estates; Whom the Earth could never living love, and the just Heaven now hates.

64 Jonson dedicated his Alchemist, in 1612, to Lady Mary Wroth, who was daughter to Robert Earl of Leicester, and consequently niece to Sir Philip Sidney. She wrote a pastoral romance called Urania, in imitation of her uncle's Arcadia, printed in 1621, which contains some very pretty verses. Her husband was Sir Robert Wroth of Durance, in the county of Middlesex. See notes in Gifford's Jonson, vol. iv. p. 5, and vol. viii. p. 391.

65 Jonson wrote that Epigram, or "Song" as it is called, in his Works, vol. viii. p. 265. See this Epigram, or "Song" as it is called, in his Works, vol. viii. p. 265.

66 There are two old translations of parts of Tacitus into English, one by Richard Greenway, dedicated to the Earl of Essex; the other, by Sir Henry Savile, dedicated to Queen Elizabeth, contains the address "A. B. To the Reader," to which Jonson alludes.

67 King James, in his youth, wrote a Sonnet on Sir Philip Sidney's death, in which he calls upon Mars, Minerva, Apollo, and 'the Sisters who dwell on Parnassus,' to labour for him who declar'd service you off.

This Sonnet was not only translated into Latin by the King himself, but was honored in a similar manner by several of his courtiers, namely, by Patrick afterwards Lord Gray, Sir John Maitland afterwards Lord Thirlestane, and Alexander Seton afterwards Earl of Dunfermline, besides two different versions "per Cornulium Ja. Halkerston," the person mentioned at pages 192 and 226. The Sonnet and these different versions are inserted in the volume entitled "Academie Castabrigiensis Lachrymes tumulati Nobilitatus Equites, Phillipi Sidneyi spectat, per Alex. Nevillius," Londini, 1597, 4to.
could have been understood by what was said. That of S. Joh. Davies, 'Some loved running verses;/plus mihi comptacet, He imitated the description of a night from Bonefonius his Vtgilium Generis.

He scorned such verses as could be transposed. Wher is the man that never yett did hear
Of faire Penelope, Ulisses Queene?
Wher is the man that never yett did hear?

16. OF HIS WORKES: That the half of his Comedies were not in print. He hath a pastorall intitled The May Lord.69 His own name is Alkin, Ethra the Countesse of Bedford's, Mogibell Overberry, the old Countesse of Suffolk ane inchanteress; other names are given to Somerset's Lady, Pembrook, the Countesse of Rutland, Lady Wroth. In his first storie, Alkin commeth in mending his broken pipe. Contrary to all other pastoralls, he bringeth the clownes making mirth and foolish sports.

He hath intention to writt a fisher or pastorall play, and sett the stage of it in the Lommond lake.70 That Epithalamium that wants a name in his printed Workes was made at the Earl of Essex' manage.70 He is to writt his foot pilgrimage hither, and to call it a Discoverie.

In a poem he calleth Edinborough, the part of Scotland, 'Britaines other eye.' A play of his, upon which he was accused, The Divell is ane Ass,71 accordingly to Comedias Vetis, in England the Divell was brought in either with one Vice or other: the play done the Divel caried away the Vice, he brings in the Divel so overcome with the wickedness of this age that thought himself ane Ass. 72 Antegno is discoursed of the Duke of Drouland : the King desired him to conceal. He hath commended and translated Horace' Art of Poesie: it is in dialogue wayes; by Criticus he understandeth Dr Done.73 The old book that goes about, The Art of English Poesie, was done yern since, and kept long in wrytt as a secret.

He had ane intention to have made a play like Plautus' Amphitrio, but left it of, for that he could never find two so like others that he could persuade the spectators they were one.74

17. OF HIS JESTS AND ANTHEMGES.75 At what tyme Henry the 4th turn'd Catholick Pasquill had in his hand a book, and was asked by Morphorius What it was? he told him, It was Gramer. Why doe ye studie Gramer, being so old ? asked Morphorius. Because, answered he, I have found a positive that hath no superlative, and a superlative that wants a positive. The King of Spain is Rex Catholicus, and is not Catholiciissimus; and the French King Christianus, yett is not Christianus.

When they drank on him he cited that of Plinie that they had call'd him Ad prandium, non adpoenam et notam.

And said of that Panegyriste who wrott panegyriques in acrostics, windowes crosses, that he was Homo miserissime patiente.

He scorned Anagrams; and had ever in his mouth
Turpe est difficiles amare nugas,
Et stultus labor est ineptiarum.

afterwards, and during that interval may have undergone alterations by the Author in consequence of the accusation referred to above. The 'Vice' was the buffoon in the old Mysteries and Moralties of the English stage.

7 See before, Note 17.
7 If the spectators were so persuaded, they could not possibly relish the play.
7 Of these 'Jests and Anphemges' several are found repeated by Drummond in his 'Democritus; a Labyrinth of Delight,' or worke preparative for the apologie of Democritus: containg needles, passells, anagrams, &c. which is preserved among the Hawthornden Manuscripts in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. See page 78.
A Cook who was of an evil life, when a minister told him, He would to hell; askt What torment was there? Being answered Fire. Fire (said he), that is my play-fellow.

A Lord playing at Tennis, and having asked those in the gallery Whither a stroke was Chase or Loss? A Brother of my Lord Northumberland’s answered it was Loss. The Lord demanded If he did say it? I say it, said he, what are you? I have played your worth! said the Lord. Ye know not the worth of a gentleman! replied the other. And it proved so, for ere he died he was greater than the other. Ane other English Lord lost all his game, if he had seen a face that liked him not he stroke his balls at that gallery.

Ane Englishman who had maintained Democritus’ opinion of atomes, being old wrot a book to his son (who was not then six years of age), in which he left him arguments to maintain and answer, objections for all that was in his book; only, if they objected obscuritie against his book, he bid him answer that his Father above all names in the world hated most the name of Lucifer, and all open writters were Luciferi.

Butler excommunicat from his table all reporters of long poems, wilfull disputers, tedious discourses: the best banquets were those when they mistered no musitians to chaunt tym.

The greatest sport he saw in France was the picture of our Saviour with the Apostles eating the Pascall lamb, that was all larded.

At a supper wher a gentlewoman had given him unsavoury wild-fowl, and therefter, to wash, sweet water; he commended her that she gave him sweet water, because her flesh stinked.

He said to Prince Charles of Inigo Jones, that when he wanted words to express the greatest villain in the world, he would call him Ane Inigo.

Jones having accused him for naming him behind his back, A foe, he denied it; but, says he, I said he was an arrant knave, and I avouch it.

Notes of Ben Jonson’s Conversations at Hawthornden.
A certain puritan Minister would not give the Communion save unto 13 at once. (Imitating as he thought our Master.) Now, when they were sett, and one bethinking himself that some of them must represent Judas, that it should not be he returned, and so did all the rest, understanding his thought.

A Gentlewoman fell in such a phantasie or phreusie with one Mr Dod a puritan preacher, that she requested her Husband that for the procreation of ane Angel or Saint he might lye with her; which having obtained, it was but ane ordinary birth.

Scaliger writtes ane epistle to Casaubone, wher he scorns the English speaking of Latin, for he thought he had spoken English to him.

A Gentleman reading a poem that began with

``Wher is the man that never yet did hear
Of fair Penelope, Ulysses Queene ?``
calling his Cook, asked If he had ever heard of her? Who answering, No, demonstrate to him,

``Lo ther the man that never yet did hear
Of fair Penelope, Ulysses Queene !``

A Judge comming along a hall, and being stopped by a throng, cried

``Do-minum cognoscite vestrum.``

One of them ther said, They would, if he durst say the beginning of that verse (for he had a fair wyfe):

``Actceon ego sum,``
cryed he, and went on.

A packet of letters which had fallen over board was devored of a fish that was tane at Flushing, and the letters were safely delivered to him to whom they were written at London.

He scorned that simplicitie of Cardan about the pebble stone of Dover, which he thought had that vertue, keeped betweene one's teeth, as to save him from being sick.

A scholar expert in Latin and Greke, but nothing in the English, said of liott broath, that he would make the danger of it: for it could not be ill English that was good Latine,

``facere periculum.``

A translatour of the Emperours lyves, translated Antoninus Pius, Antonie Pye.

The word Harlott was taken from Arlotte, who was the mother of William the Conquerour; a Rogue from the Latine, Erro, by putting a G to it.

St' Galaine Piercy asked the Maior of Plimmouth, Whether it was his own beard or the Town's beard that he came to welcome my Lord with? for he thought it was so long that he thought every one of the Town had eked some part to it.

That he stroke at St' Hierosme Bowes breast, and asked him If he was within.

An epitaphe was made upon one who had a long beard, ``Here lyes a man at a beard's end;'' &c.

He said to the King, his Master, M. G. Buchanan, had corrupted his eare when young, and learned him to sing verses when he should have read them.

St' Francis Walsingham said of our King, when he was Ambassadour in Scotland, His nunquam regnabit supernis.

Of all his Playes he never gained two hundreth pounds.

He had oft this verse, though he scorned it:

``So long as ive may, let us enjoy this breath,``

``Par nouth dought kill a man so soon as Death.``

Heywood the Epigramatist being apparellled in velvet by Queen Mary, with his cap on in the presence, in spight of all the Gentlemen, till the Queen herself asked him what he meant? and then he asked her, If he was Heywood? for she had made him so brave that he almost had misknown himself.

His Impressa was a compass with one foot in center, the other broken, the word

``Deeat quod duceret orbem,``

Essex, after his brother's death, Mr D'Evreux, in France, at tilt had a black shield void, the word

``Par nullajigura dolori.``

Ane other tyme, when the Queen was offended at him, a diamond with its own ashes, with which it is cutt, about it,

``Dum farinas minuis.``

He gave the Prince,

``Fax gloria mentis honesta.``

He said to me, that I was too good and simple, and that oft a man's modestie made a fool of his witt.

His armes were three spindles or rhombi; his own word about them, Percunc-tator or Persecutator.

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79 See note by Gifford, to a passage in Jonson's Volpone, vol. iii. p. 311.
80 See this Epitaph, printed at page 78.
81 Old John Heywood the Epigramatist was among the earliest of the English dramatic writers, and his works possess a good deal of wit and coarse humour. Jonson introduces his name in his Tale of a Tub.
82 This is the motto of the badge which our Nova Scotia Baronets now bear, but it runs,—

``Fax mentis honesta gloria.``

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His epitaph, by a companion written, is,
Here liyes Benjamin Johnson dead,
And hath no more wit than a goose in his head;
Yet as he was wise, so dought he still,
Live by his wit, and evermore still.  
Ane other.
Here liyes honest Bus,
That had not a beseed on his chin.

John Stow had monstrous observations in his Chronicle, and was of his craft a tailour. He and I walking alone, he asked two cripples, what they would have to take him to their order.
In his Spianus he hath translated a whole oration of Tacitus: the first four bookes of Tacitus ignorantly done in English.

J. Selden liveth on his owne, is the Law book of the Judges of England, the bravest man in all languages; his booke Titles of Honour written to his chamber-fellow Heyward.
Tailor was sent along here to scorn him.

Notes of Ben Jonson’s Conversations at Hawthornden.

Camden wrote that book Remaines of Breteyn.  
Joseph Hall the harbenger to Done’s Anniversarie.
The epigram of Martial, Fir vestigum he vantes to expone.
Lucan, Sidney, Guarini, make every man speak as well as themselves, forgetting decorum; for Damaas sometymes speaks grave sentences. Lucan taken in parts excellent, altered also naught.
He dissuaded me from Poetrie, for that he beggerol him, when he might have been a rich lawyer, physician, or merchant.
Questioned about English, them, they, those. They is still the nominative, those accusative, them neuter; collective, not them man, them trees, but them by itself referred to many. Which, Who, be relatives, not That. Flouds, hilles, he would have masculines.
He was better versed, and knew more in Greek and Latin, than all the Poets in England, and quintessence their brains.
He made much of that Epistle of Plinius, wheu Ad praedinum non ad notam is; and that other of Marcellinus, who Plinie made to be removed from the table, and of the grosse turbat.
One wrote one epigramme to his father, and wanted that he had slain ten, the quantity of deceum being false. An other answered the epigramme, tolling that deceum was false. S. J. Davies Epigrame of . . . . . compared to a coule.
Of all stiles he loved moast to be named Honest, and hath of that nue hundredth letters so naming him.
He had this oft,—
Thy flattering picture, Phrenee, is lyke thee
Only in this, that ye both painted be.
In his merry humor he was wont to name himself the Poet.
He went from Lieth homeward the 25 of January 1619, in a pair of shoes which he told lasted him since he came from Darton, which he minded to

60 In the Antiquarian Society MSS. these lines are also found, with some verbal alteration, entitled “B. Jonson’s Epitaph, told to mee by himselfe: not made by him.” See page 78.
61 In the introductory note it has been remarked that Taylor vindicates himself from such an imputation. His own words are so striking that the passage may be quoted at full length, from the dedication to “The Pennyles Pilgrimage, or the Moneylesse Perambulation of John Jonson his Epitaph, told to mee by himselfe: not made by him.” See page 78.
take back that far againe: they were appearing like Coriats. The first two
days he was all excoriate.
If he died by the way, he promised to send me his papers of this Country,
heuen as they were.—I have to send him descriptions of Edinbrough, Borrow-
lands, of the Lownond.
That piece of the Pucelle of the Court was stolen out of his pocket by a
gentleman who drank him drouzie, and given Mistress Boulstraid, which
brought him great displeasure."

19. He sent to me this Madrigal:

[TO THE HONOURING RESPECT,
BORN
TO THE FRIENDSHIP CONTRACTED WITH
THE RIGHT VIRTUOUS AND LEARNED
MR WILLIAM DRUMMOND,
AND THE PERPETUATING THE SAME BY ALL OFFICES OF LOVE
HEREAFTER,
I BENJAMIN JOHNSON,
WHOM HE HATH HONORED WITH THE LEAVE TO BE CALLED HIS,
HAVE WITH MINE OWN HAND, TO SATISFY HIS REQUEST,
WRITTEN THIS IMPERFECT SONG.]

ON A LOVERS DUST, MADE SAND FOR ANE HOURE GLASSE."

Doe but consider this smal dust here running in the glasse
by atomes moved,
Could thou believe that this the bodie ever was
of one that loved?
And, in his Mistresse flaming playing like the flye,
turned to cinders by her eye?
Yes, and in death, as lyfe unblest
and be have it resaent
Even ashes of Lovers find no rest.

his having heard from Court, that Jonson's "absence was regretted: such applause (he adds)

91 As this was undoubtedly written in 1619, and not in 1619-20, as Mr Gifford states,
(ante i. p. 313), it would place Jonson's birth in the year 1573, and not in the subsequent year,
the date usually assigned.

93 After these words the following interpolations first appeared in Gibber's Lives of the
English Poets: "He was for any religion, being versed in all;
his inventions were smooth
and easy, but above all he excelled in translation. In short, he was in his personal character
the very reverse of Shakespeare, as sullen, ill-natured, proud, and disagreeable, as Shakespeare,
and deeds often to the worst. Oppressed with fantasie, which hath ever mastered his reason, a general disease in many poets. His inventions are smooth and easy; but above all he excelleth in a translation. When his play of a Silent Woman was first acted, there was found verses after on the stage against him, concluding that that play was well named the Silent Woman, there was never one man to say Plaudite to it.

The summing up of Jonson's character remains indeed as unqualified as ever, and it is by no means a flattering picture. The only question however is, whether Drummond was a competent and an unprejudiced observer?—and whether the impression left on his mind, after several days social intercourse, be a correct delineation of Jonson's personal character and disposition?—points which need not be here discussed. Mr Gifford admits, "that forbearance was at no time our Poet's (Jonson's) virtue," while Drummond's testimony was not required in order to satisfy us of Jonson's overweening vanity, of his occasional arrogance, and his spite and jealousy of some of his contemporaries; but, on the other hand, he possessed many redeeming qualities, and a warm-hearted humanity, which had been sacrificed to an imaginary envy of Shakspeare. His character cannot be better drawn than in the words of Mr Campbell, with part of which we may conclude. "It is true that he [Jonson] had lofty notions of himself, was proud even to arrogance in his defence of censure, and in the warmth of his own praises of himself was scarcely surpassed by his most envious admirers; but many fine traits of honour and affection are likewise observable in the portrait of his character, and the charges of malice and jealousy that have been heaped on his name for an hundred years turn out to be without foundation. In the quarrel with Marston and Dekker his culpability is by no means evident. He did not receive benefits from Shakspeare, and did not sneer at him in the passages that have been taken to prove his ingratitude; and instead of envying that great poet, he gave him his noblest praise; nor did he trample on his contemporaries, but liberally commended them." (Specimens of the British Poets, vol. iii. p. 142.)

Jonson himself and his friends maintained that his translations were the best parts of his works; a conclusion in which Gifford and other modern critics are by no means disposed to acquiesce. See Works, vol. ii. p. 474, note.

HAVING had occasion lately to visit some of the remains of antiquity in Strathern, generally ascribed to the Picts, I was led to consult the few authorities we possess on this subject, with a view to ascertain the accuracy of the traditions relating to them; and these investigations have led to the remarks which I now take the liberty of submitting to this Society.

There are few traditions which have obtained more universal belief than that, at some unknown period, Abernethy was the metropolis of the Pictish dominions. This fact has been confidently stated by our earlier Scottish historians, and repeated again and again by an innumerable host of imitators and followers.