

RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

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Faulstone, Wiltshire

1610

Edited by C. E. McGee

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1610

Bill of Complaint in Barrowe et al v. Paige et al TNA: STAC 8/61/21

mb 1

To the Kinges moste excellente Maiestie

In moste humble wise sheweth and enformeth your moste excellente Maiestie your faithfull Loyall and obediente Subiecte Thomas Barrowe of ffullstone in the < ... > Iohn Bowles of ffullston aforesaide gentleman and Thomas ffullston of ffallston aforesaide yeoman That whereas your saide Subiecte Thomas ffullstone about the Monethe of March< ... > sixe hundred and seaven became Suitor to one dorothe WhiteMershe of the Cittie of Newe Sarum beinge of full age and fytt for marriage to whome on or aboute the sixteenth daie < ... > of twoe Credible wittnesses he was lawfullie contracted with her good likeinge and Consente After whiche Contracte your saide Subiecte Thomas ffullston and the said Dorothe by < ... > space of two yeares or thereaboutes hopinge in the meane time to procure and obtaine the Consente of the saide Dorothes frindes But shortlie after the saide Dorothe (livinge with one le< ... > together in the saide Cittie of Sarum and beinge much discontented with her saide ffather and mothers harde vseage towarde her ymportuned and entreated your saide subiecte Thomas < ... > contracted) to connvey her awaie & marrie her without further delaie Wherevpon your saide subiecte Thomas ffullston beinge desirous to giue the saide Dorothe all the Contentment < ... > her intended to acquainte the saide Paige and Katherine his weife beinge her mother with the saide Contracte hopinge to obtaine there Consent for there marriage, whiche the said

dorotheie ... > Convey her the saide dorotheie to the Countie of *Somersetshire* & to procure a licence out of the Consistorie Courte at Winton to be married vnto her But afterwarde your saide subiecte Thomas ffullston happ< . . . > lawfull minister agreed with the saide Morgan to marrie hime to the saide Dorotheie and therevpon wente to Sarum aforesaide and acquainted the saide Dorotheie there With whereas shee beinge verie glad < ... > on or aboute the three and twentieth daie of Auguste in the Yeare of our Lorde god One thousande sixe hundred and eighte willinglie and of her owne voluntarie disposicion came alone from the saide Paiges < ... > of Sarum when and where your said subiecte Thomas ffullston and the saide Dorotheie were by the saide Mr. Morgan (beinge a lawfull minister) lawfullie and solempnie in the presence of Credible witnesses < ... > accordinge to your Maiesties Cannons in that behaulfe After whiche marriage the saide Thomas ffullston and Dorotheie his weife lived and laie together in love and all other respectes as lawfull husbande a< ... > ytt is yf yt maie please your moste excellent Maiestie that the saide lesse Paige and Katherine his weife beinge therewith displeased out of their mallice and yevell mindes indeavoringe to procure and breede a < ... > your saide subiecte Thomas ffullston and his saide weife vnknowne howe they mighte Contrarie to the lawes of god & man moste Corruptlie & wyckedlie disioyne and separate the settled & mutuall affections of your said subiecte Thomas & Dorotheie the lawfull wife ca < ... >¹ practized and Combined with one Iohn Rice sometimes Register to the high Commissioners for the diocesse of Sarum and diuers other persons of like wor< ... > [...]² and accordinglie the saide Iohn Rice by the direction intreatie and procurement of the saide Paige and his weife & therevnto drawn by the saide Paige and his saide Weife bie lardge giftes and promisses of rewardes framed a certen < ... > authoritie of the high Commissioners of the saide Diocesse of Sarum (the saide Commission beinge then determined and vtterlie voided) and subscribed sundrie of the saide Commissioners names to the saide War< ... > used for the saide determined Commission and by force thereof caused the vsuall Messenger sometimes ymployed in the saide Courte of high Commission to bringe the saide Dorotheie your saide Subiectes Lawfull wyfe before the Reverende ffath< ... > By color of whiche warrante the saide Dorotheie was broughte before the saide Lorde Bisshoppe accordinglie on or about the seaven and twentieth of Auguste aforesaide at whiche time your saide subiecte Thom< ... > Iohn Rice did then and there soe Reville raile at and threaten your saide subiecte Thoms ffullston tellinge him he muste goe to the goale³ or be bounde in Recognizaunce with sufficient suerties both to soe be< ... > appears the nexte daie of the saide pretended Courte whervnto your saide subiecte (not then knowinge that the authoritie of the saide Courte was determined) submitted himselfe and was bounde by < ... > the saide Iohn Rice beinge drawne on bie diuers giftes bribes and rewardes of the saide lesse Paige and Katherine his weife without any Lawfull authoritie & merelie by Cullours of the voide of the Commission aforesaid contrary to the < . . . > and others their Confederacies he the saide Iohn Rice at the time and place af< . . . > the saide dorotheie from your saide subiecte Thomas ffullston her saide lawfull husbande and Commaunded her to be sent backe to her mothers keepinge for that the saide ffullston mighte not have a < ... > saide Dorotheie did then and there before the saide Lorde Bishoppe and diuers other Worthie personages then and there openlie Confesse & affirme that shee was lawfullie married to the saide Tho < ... > that shee woulde not foresake hime duringe her liffe Yet after the same sequestracion the saide Iohn Rice by the meanes and procurement aforesaide menaced and threatned your saide subiecte Thomas < ... > hime further to enter into a newe Recognizaunce of ffower skoare poundes with sufficient suerties altogether to forbear and not to come in Companie with his saide weife vntill he should < ... > sequestracion and

Recognizaunces the saide Iohn Rice soe caused to be made & entered into by the vnlawfull and wicked meanes instigacon and procuremente of the saide Paige and his saide < ... > for greedines & desire of his secrete brybery & vnlawfull gaine) vnder Color of the pretended authoritie of the saide determined Courte of highe Commission to the greate losse greife and ve< . . . > beinge soe wrongfullie debarred and excluded from his saide lawfull weife bie such lewde and wicked practizes And the saide Katherine Paige not therewith satisfied but still persistinge in h< ... > possible meanes to procure a further dislike betweene the saide Dorothee and her saide lawfull husbnde whoe coulde not haue accesse vnto her for feare of forfeitinge his saide Recognizaunces pr< ... > lesse Paige and diuers others by your saide subiectes vnknown whose names soe soone as they maie be known your saide subiectes humblie praie maie be hereinⁱⁿ certed howe to withdrawe th< ... > from her saide husbnde, and accordinglie shee the saide Katherine from time to time labored by faire promisses and lardge offers to dissuade the saide Dorothee from her saide hus< ... > tellinge her she woulde provide her another husbnde and that she shoulde be endowed with her saide ffathers and mothers estate, yet the saide dorothee did still constantlie affirme that she was lawfullie married to your saide subie< ... > had layen with her, and that for better for worse shee woulde contente herselfe with hime. But the saide lesse Paige and Katherine his weife and their Complices never ceasinge by restles ympportunitie to persuade the saide < ... > by Castinge vpon hime all the ffowle blemishes infamies and slaunders reproaches they coulde possible Invente or devise and partlie by violente meanes of Correction and threatninges vrginge her therevnto shee < ... > forsake and disclaime the saide Thomas ffullston her lawfull husbnde and to sende *lettres* of defiaunce vnto hime thereby verie slaundersolie chardginge hime the saide^{Thomas} ffullston with ffelonious stealinge of diuer< ...> *lettres* beinge Libelles were published by the saide lesse Paige and Katherine his weife to diuers persons and your saide Subiecte hath the same here readie to be shewed By Color of whiche slaunder the saide lesse Paige < ... > broughte before your highenes Iustices of the peace about Christmas laste paste at the Quarter Sessions then holden for the Cittie of Sarum where by reason that the saide Paige had nothinge to chardge him wi< ... > satisfied they the saide lesse Paige and Katherine his weife by thadvise Combinacion Counsell and procuremente of the saide Iohn Rice and others to your saide Subiectes vnknown whose names he prayeth mai <...> of Ianuarie laste paste practized and Combined with one Margerie Clerke of^{South} Brente in the Countie of Somersett a verie lewde and needie weoman, and persuaded suborned and allured her with guiftes bribes < ... > both to her and to her children to sweare a precontracte betweene her the saide Margerie and your saide Subiecte Thomas ffullston wherevnto the saide Margerie consented, and accordinglie the saide Margerie < ... > by the saide Paige ridd from Brente aforesaide to the Quarter Sessions at Sarum aforesaide, & there on or aboute the thirteth daie of Aprill laste paste the saide Margerie Clerke (by the subornacion advise < ... > Paige and Katherine his weife Iohn Rice and the saide other vnknown persons whoe beinge known your saide subiectes praie their names maie be incerted) did on the or aboute the said^{Thirteth} daie of Aprill last past in < ... > as a wittnes to proue in a Cause falslie and Corruptlie depose and take her Corporall oathe that shee was lawfullie Contracted to the saide Thomas ffullston for the space of ffive yeares then laste paste < ... > fullston had not seene the saide Margerie for the space of Seaven Yeares before vntill that presente tyme, and in trewth was never contracted to the saide Margerie, by whiche false and Corrupte dep < ... > procuremente aforesaide committed willfull and Corrupte periurie

And *your* subiectes further shewe and enforme *your* moste Excellent Maiestie that whereas *your* saide Subiecte Honnor Barrowe hath bine < ... > & hath lived all her liffe tyme beinge aboute three skoare and seaventeene yeares of age in good Creditt and estimacion amonge her neighbours & acquaintauntes as did well beseeme a weoman of her < ... > Iohn Bowles hath hitherto lived in good Creditt & estimacion amongste his freindes neighbours and kinsfolkes and all others & hath bine well trained vpp in learninge and good educacion in Greemm< ... > alwaies behaued himselfe in all respectes as was fittinge a man of his degree and callinge And where alsoe *your* saide Subiecte Thomas ffullston hath all his liffe tyme lived in Civill behaiour < ... > his Condicion and degree / Soe ytt is yf ytt maie please *your* moste excellent Maiestie that the saide Dorotheie fullston *alias* White Mershe beinge of late drawn awaie from her dutie towards her husband < ... > infamy and reproache vpon *your* saide Subiectes by the instigacion abettmente advise and procurement of the saide lesse Paige & Katherine his weife & diverse others their Confederates to *your* saide subject< ... > be knowen *your* saide subiectes praie they maie be herein incerted in this bill on or aboute the ffourteenth⁴ daie of Marche laste paste with her owne hande write a verie slaunderous & disf < ... > the superscripcon whereofe was, deliver this *lett*re to Iohn Bowles (meaninge *your* saide subiecte) at Woodfforde I praie *you*. where the saide Iohn Bowles then dwelte whiche *lett*re or libell followeth < ... > companion doste thou & thie Consortes thincke to discreditte mee with *your* foule and filthie tounge, Noe I woulde rather they were pulde out all of *your* mouthes then that shoulde be trewe whiche thou < ... > my Creditt is well knowen to thie betters & for the most parte what saith everie bodie like will to like saith the divill to the Colliar but *you* cannot [be cannot] be contented the olde < . . . gg>, and that < ... > they make their table talke of the villanye they thoughte to haue caste me in, yet sett *your* hartes at reste and *your* malicious tounge for *you* shall never share one penny of mine amongste youe. But I < ... > that hath knowen *your* man soe longe, yet youe cannot remember to make reportes howe manie bastardes the Rascowlle hath whiche is more trewar then that[e], whiche thou haste reported of me but forsooth *you* lov hyme < ...> faste Raskoll thou was not ashamed to make thie bragges in London that thou were a gentleman borne & thou hadest ffiftie pounce lande a yeare, & I as thou & thie Consortes saith that I was a poore Tailours daughte<r ... > as thou art which hath bine bredd vpp by the Almes of the parishe tell thou were able to goe about the Countrie Piping and taberinge for a peces of breade and Chese and soe this gentlemans lande was cleane lo< ... > guglinge, O tis a what peces of serves that *you* haue donn yet all will not serve, ytt is like watter and papper ytt will not holde togeather but for a little tyme, and soe I will make an end, I deffie and denie < ... > thee to let me haue my klothess & other goodes that thou haste filched out of my fathers houses from time to time, but thou like a forsworne varlatt hath not bine ashamed to make reportes that I did deliuer yt to thee, but < ... > pins woorthe in dede yt was that I did see seartain of my fathers goodes in Bowles house but howe thou cameste by them & what atorrithie thou haste to keepe ytt my freindes & I will see howe thou cans< ... > with thie dissemblinge villanie, yet thou moste not thincke to share my fathers goodes amongste youe & to excuse thie plat of villanie thou doste ^{not} sticke to saie that I am thie weife & that thou were married < ... > I was never married, yet doe not thou thincke that thou canste discreditte me with thie foul filthie tounge for I cann & will showe my selfe before thie betters, but indeede yt is the manner of all Raskolls when tis < ... > them, yet I woulde haue thee to thincke that thou shalte aunswere for some of thie lies that thou haste spoken of me,

thou Raskoll base Companion, thou ouglie ffilthie Roage and soe I leaue for this tyme from London < ... > Norredge the ffourteenth of Marche thou squitetinge RasseCowlie, thou saiste thou haste laien with me but thou doste mistake tis like twas with thie tittifaces at home & nowe her teeth doth ake with saide lible < ... > maie appeare & the same was dated from London or some where ells, and againe (as yf shee had had mistaken) she dated the said libell from Norwich the ffourteenth daie of March whereas in trewth at the writinge & sendin<g ... > saide Pages house aforesaide, and the saide Dorotheie, lesse, Paige and Katherine his weife haue oftentimes in iesting and scoffinge manner read published & repeated the same libell to the reproache of your saide subiectes & con < . . . > & by the vnlawfull publishinge thereof shee the saide Dorotheie hath caste and ymposed greate infamie reproach and shame vpon your saide subiectes to their greate disgrace & preiudice of their good names Credittes & rep < . . . > before shee sente the saide infamous libell to the said Iohn Bowles on or about the saide ffowrteenth daie of Marche aforesaide together with and by vnlawfull instigacion advise and procuremente of the < ... > [by] ^{to} your subiectes vnknownen at Sarum aforesaide openlie reade and published the saide diffamatorie Libell to diuers and sundrie persons then & there & made iestes & sportes with the same to the greate infamie & disgrace of < . . . > Nineteenth daie of March aforesaide the saide Dorotheie sent the saide libell by an vnknownen person to the howse of a servaunte of the saide Iohn Bowles dwellinge at Dichington further distant from Sarum then W< . . . > saide libell the saide vnknownen person desired the weife of your saide subiectes servaunte speedilie to convey to your saide subiecte Iohn Bowles tellinge her that yt concerned a matter of greate ymportance, & therevpon he instantlie departed T< . . . > satisfied but still persistinge in their lewde and wicked practizes & endeauoringe by all possible meanes to laie a perpetuall Scandall & disgrace vpon your saide subiectes by the advise instigacion & procuremente of others their Confederates & < ... > slaundersous bill into this honorable Courte in Easter Terme laste paste againste your saide subiectes & diuers others therebie chardginge & wrongfullie taxinge them with diuers Cosonages, combinacions & misdemeanours to the greate losse & hinder< . . . > appeareth To which saide Bill the saide Iohn Bowles & other defendauntes appeared and aunswerde, & procurde a Commission to take the aunswere & examinacions of the saide Honor Barrowe Thomas ffullston and others defendauntes in the Countrie w< . . . > the insufficiencie of their saide Cause wente aboute and practized by thadvise of diuers other their Confederates with bribes rewardes & lardge offers to allure and corrupte some of the persons appointed for thexecucion of the saide Commissi< . . . > of Iustice. And accordinglie they the saide lesse Paige & Katherine his weife on or about the eighte daie of [this instant] Iune ^{laste paste} came to the house of Thomas Sadler esquire scituate in Sarum aforesaid one of the saide Commissioners in the < . . . > much vehemencie & ymportuntie entreated the saide Mr: Sadler to fauor there Cause in the execucion of the saide Commission, and that he would be ill affected towards your saide subiectes wherevnto the said Mr: Sadler aunswered that he< . . . > Nevertheles they still continewed with much vehemencie ymportuninge the saide Mr Sadler in yt behaulfe, and then & there verie wickedlie attempted with bribes guiftes and rewardes to corrupte and allure the saide Mr. Sadler and then and < . . . > Sadler diuers peeces of goulde which they then had in their handes in Consideracion that he shoulde & woulde fauor and Countenance them in their saide Cause & that the saide Mr. Sadler shoulde endeauor to intrapp your saide subiectes < . . . > But the saide Mr Sadler beinge a man of approved honestie & integritie sharplie reprehended them the saide lesse

Paige & Katherine his weife for the same, & vtterlie condempned their saide wicked Courses & much Condemp < . . . > saide lawfull husbände and for sufferinge her to be at divers vnlawfull howers in suspicious places of lewdnes amongste divers suspicious persons of ill behaiour and Carriage fforasmuch as all the saide practizes wronges Thre< . . . > subornacion of periurie diffamacions, Libellinge wrongfull vexacion bribinge & all other the misdeameanours & offences in the saide Bill mencioned were Committed and donne sithence your Maiesties laste free and generall par< . . . > contrarie & repugnant to your Maiesties moste wholsome lawes & Statutes of this Realme in that Case prouided & hurtfull & preiudiciall to your highnes peace and quiett goverment, but alsoe tende to the preiudice, losse and hinderan <...> in others of like misbehaiour & inclinacion to Committ the like or more heynous offences yfe the offendours in that kinde shoulde escape without Condigne punishment/ Maie yt therefore please your moste excellent Maiestie (the premisses < . . . erla) . . . > subiectes your Maiesties moste gracious writtes of Subpena to be directed to the saide lesse Paige Katherine Paige, Dorothie White mershe *alias* ffulston Iohn Rice./

and the saide other persons to your saide subiectes vnknown whose names when the⁵ maie be knowne your saide subiectes praie they maie be here in incerted & everie of them, therie Commaundinge them and euerie of them at a cer < ... > paine therein to be limited to be & personallie appeere before your Maiestie and your highnes moste honorable privie Counsell in your Maiesties highe Courte of Starchamber then and there to aunswere the premisses vpon their seuerall Corporall < ... > stande to and abide such order and Condigne punishement for their saide misdeamenours and offences as by your Maiestie and your highes said moste honorable priuie Counsell shall seeme fitt and Convenient And your saide subiectes shall dailie < ... > boundon dewties praie to god for your Maiesties longe and prosperous [Reige] Raigne

Notes

¹exactly where the interlineation is to begin is not indicated

²five or six words crossed through

³goale *for* gaole

⁴followed by four marks shaped like cedillas, perhaps to fill a space

⁵the *for* they

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

Barrowe et al v. Paige et al

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, STAC 8/61/21; 1610; English; vellum; 1 membrane; from 57mm to 694mm x 686mm; torn along the right side so that only the last short line is complete; stained across the top 14 lines; endorsed '3^o Iulij Anno septimo Iacobi Regis/ Edward Iones'.

