

RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

Pre-publication Collections

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Grovely Forest, Wiltshire

1610

Edited by C. E. McGee

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1609

Bill of Complaint in Garrett v. Perkins et al TNA: STAC 8/152/11

mb 1

To the kinges most excellent Maiestie

In most humble manner Complaining sheweth vnto your highnes your Maiestes most obedient subiect Edward Garrett of Groveley in the County of Wiltes yeoman That wheras your said Subiect is (and for the space of almost one yere past hath bene) one of the right *honorable* the now Erle of Pembrokes keepers of his lordshippes game of deane within his fforest of Groveley in the County aforesaid Wherin which fforest your said subiect walking and dewly executing his office of keepershipp then during the tyme aforesaid your said subiect about the beginning of Iune last past¹ found and discovered diverse and sundry night hunters Ryoters and distroyers of his honors game of deane within the fforest aforesaid whose names and tymes of huntinges your said subiect (according to his bounden dutye) revealed and made knowne vnto Iohn Younge *gentleman* (The said *honorable* Erle of Pembrokes Ranger of the fforest aforesaid) And the said Iohn ^{younge} proposed thervpon to bring in question (amongst diverse other night hunters and Rioters and spoylers of the game in the said fforest) ffrancis Perkins the younger and Edward Perkins *gentleman* (two of the sonnes of ffrances Perkins of Battington² in the said County of Wiltshire esquier) and one Edward Cooke servant of the said Perkins (being three of the night hunters Rioters and spoylers aforesaid) for and about the seuerall night huntinges Riottes and spoiles by them and others committed and discovered by your said subiect as aforesaid Whervpon they the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke vnderstanding (or strongly

suspecting) that they and others their fellowe hunters Riotors and spoilers aforesaid were thus discovered by the Care and industrie of *your* said subiect and were Complained on by *your* said subiect Edward Garrett and by meanes herof they were like to be brought in question and troble for the same huntinges ryotes and spoiles They the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke well knowing that *your* said subiect (according to his said dutye and office aswell by night as by day) did walk aloane vpon and over such groundes within the said fforest as were within *your* said subiectes Chardges And well knowing that *your* said subiect was a man of Civill and honest behaviour and of good reputacon and accompt amongst his neighbours and ffrendes about the three and twentieth day of lune in the seventh yere of *your* maiestes raigne ouer this *your* kingdome of England at Battington aforesaid did vnlawfully Combine Consult and Confederatt themselues with divers others like evill disposed persons to work some wicked and mischeivous Course & basser villany vnto and against *your* said subiect And thervpon they the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke and diverse others their Complices Counsellors and Confederattes on the ffowre & twentieth day of lune last past ^{att Battington} aforesaid (not havinge the feare of god before their eies nor regarding *your* maiesties lawes) did vnlawfully Imagin frame devise make and sett downe in writing against *your* said subiect and against³ his lawfull wife a most false slanderous and infamous libell the Tenor whereof folloeth in these wordes *videlicet* Garrett noe man, what then? an oxe: his wife she hath what? the ffrench pox: a lovely Cople and a brave, a pockie queene and an horned knave, Garrett doth take Tobacco still, the drith wherof his hornes doth spill hinders their growth but not amisse for he shewes pollicye in this [yf he befor] yf he before had worn awaye his hornes in euerye bush would stay, where now most frely yt may passe not like an oxe but like an asse/ And they the said ffrancis Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke did on the said fowre and twentieth day of lune aforesaid at Battington aforesaid vnlawfully publish the same libell And not soe satisfied They the said ffrancis Perkins the Younger Edward Perkins & Edward Cooke (oft propose to offer and to doe further wrong and disgrace to *your* said subiect did on the said xxiiijth daye of lune in the seventh year of *your* maiestes raigne aforesaid at Battington aforesaid vnlawfully Conspire Conclude and agree together to arme themselves in Riotous and vnlawfull manner with long pike staves forrest Billes and other offensive weapons and being so armed to enter into and vpon the said fforest in the night season and there vnlawfully to hunt Course kill & destroye with Gray houndes the Game of Deane ^{then and} there being And they further agreed Conspired and Concluded together on the same night not only to lay in Wache for *your* said subiect within the fforest aforesaid and to kill and Carie away the deare then and there to be founde and also then and there to assault wounde beate and mayme *your* said subiect But also then and there to take and to bynde him *your* said subiect hande and foote and after to shave and Cut of all the haire of the Berde hedd and Bodye of *your* said subiect in most malitious ridiculous disgraceful and vnlawfull manner Contrary to *your* maiestes Lawes And *your* said subiect Edward Garrett further sheweth and informeth vnto *your* highnes That they the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke and diverse other their vnknowne Confederattes to the number of tenn persons at the least (whose names so soone as they be knowne *your* subiect humbly prayeth may be inserted within this bil) according to their former wicked Complott and designment on the saide fowre and twentieth day of lune aforesaid at Battington aforesaid according to their former Confederacy did againe publish the said most false sclanderous and wicked libell and in mocking and taunting manner ^{did} reade & sing the same libell aswell to the great disgrace Infamy & reproch

of *your* said subiect As also to the daunger of vtter devyding of *your* said subiect from his lawfull wife and to the daungerous example of others, & to the great perill of Breach of *your* maiestes peace & against *your* highnes Crowne and dignitye And *your* said subiect sheweth further vnto *your* highness that after this libell aforesaid was thus written and published as aforesaid They the said ffrancis Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke and others yet vnknown vnto *your* said subiect (whose names *your* said subiect praieth may be herin inserted when they shalbe discouered) on the saide four and twentieth day of lune aforesaid at Battington aforesaid and at diverse other dayes and places did vnlawfully publish and read the same Libell and did make sundry sportes and lestes heratt aswell between and amongst themselves As to and among diverse other persons at sundry tymes being among them and presente , And *your* said subiect further sheweth vnto *your* highnes That after that they the said ffrancis Perkins the younger Edward Perkins Edward Cooke and others their Confederattes [had] thus framed written redd iested at and often tymes published the sclanderous libell aforesaid they the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke and others their Complices (according to their former combinance and confederacy All being armed with long pikes staves forest billes & other offensiue weapons & being furnished likewise with Gray houndes for the hunting and Chacing of Dear on the fowr and twentieth day of lune aforesaid in the night season of the same day in most riotous and vnlawfull manner did enter into and vpon the said fforest and did then and their being with them diverse barbers tooles to haue shaven and abused *your* said subiect as aforesaid And then and their in the night season of the same xxiiijth of lune did hunt and kill a Buck & one other deare their and the same did then and there vnlawfully Cary away And after that they the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins Edward Cooke and others their riotous Companions had in these vnlawfull huntinges spent most parte of the same night of the said xxiiijth day of lune in the said seventh yere of *your* maiestes raigne and could not fynde *your* said subiect (whome according to their former Conspiracy aforesaid they proposed to haue riotously assaulted beaten and wounded And then to haue bound him and after to haue Cutt of and shaven all the haire of his Body and [manner as aforesaid] bringing with them Barbers tooles for the same purpose as aforesaid) They the said ffrancis Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke and other their said Confederattes Came to a place within the said fforest Called the high wood on the night of the said xxiiijth day of lune aforesaid (which place Called the high wood is very neare the Centre or middle part of the said fforest And then and their they the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke and others their Complices did vnlawfully riotously and disorderly set vp on the topp of a post of certaine Railes wherwith the said high wood is enclosed (the same post standing and being in a most eminent place of the same forest and loining to a high Way that passeth thorough the same fforest) The false and sclanderous libell aforesaid to be seene and redd by all passengers that way wherby the same libell was presently seene and redd by a great number of *your* maiestes subiectes to the great infamie disgrace and reproch of *your* said subiect and to the daunger of deviding of *your* said subiect from his ^{said} lawfull wife as aforesaid and Contrary to *your* maiestes lawes/ And after they had thus made and sett vp and redd the said libell They the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke and other (their ^{yet} vnknowne Consortes) returned to Battington aforesaid making sundry lestes sportes and scoffes therat aswell by the way returning As also at Battington aforesaid after they were returned And did make write and publish sundrey Copies of the said libell and did make songes and Rymes thervpon to the great disgrace of *your* said subiect and contrary to *your* maiestes Lawes And they

the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins, Edward Cooke and other their Confederattes at sundry tymes [did make dyverse and vnlawfull sportes iestes and scoffes there and thervpon] aswell by reading Copies of the same libell and by pronouncing the same by hart As by teaching the same libell to others haue sported themselves to the daunger of vtter vndoing of your said subiect and Contrary to your maiestes lawes / Ffor asmuch as the fframinge makinge writing and publishing of the said libell doe not only touch your said subiect in *particuler* but may tende to the encouragement of others like ill disposed persons to Commit the like offence and Misdemeanors if [Condigne] Condigne punishment be not had and taken on thoffendors aforesaid and are Contrary to your maiestes Lawes and Statutes in that case had made & provided And fforasmuch as thoffences aforesaid were done and Comitted since your maiestes last generall and ffree pardon and deserve sharp punishment May it therefore please your maiestye premisses Considered to grant vnto your said subiect your maiestes most gracious writtes of Subpena to the said ffrauncis Perkyns the younger Edward Perkins/ and Edward Cooke to be directed thereby comanding them and euerye of them att a certeine day and vnder a certeine payne therein to be lymitted personally to appeare before your highes & your most honorable privy Councill in your highnes most honorable Court of Starrechamber then & there to answere the premisses vpon their oathes and to stand to & abide such order punishment & decree in & touching the premisses as to your Maiestie & your highness most honorable privy Councill shall seeme agreable with iustice And your highnes said subiect according to his bounden duty shall daily pray to god for your Maiestes long & prosperous Raigne over vs.

Laurence Hyde

Notes

¹June last past: *June 1609*

²Battington: *variant form of Bathampton*

³against: *followed by a blank space for the name*

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

Garrett v. Perkins et al

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, STAC 8/152/11; 1610; English; vellum; 1 membrane; 430mm x 350mm; very good condition; dated on the dorse 'Vener Secundo ffebruarij Anno Septimo Regni Iacobi Regis &c' and signed 'Th. Mynott' (or perhaps 'Alynott'). Contains plaintiff's bill of complaint.