

ORCHESTRA [2]
OR
A Poeme of Daun-
cing.

Judicially proving the
true obseruation of time and
measure, in the Authentick
and laudable vse of Daun-
cing.

Ouid. Art. Aman. lib. 1.

*Si vox est, canta : si mollia
brachia, salta :*

*Et quacunq; potes deo
placere, place.*

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¶ To his very Friend, Ma.
Rich: Martin.

*To whom shall I this danncing Poeme send,
This suddaine, rash, halfe-capred of my wit?
To you, first mouer and sole cause of it
Mine-owne-selues better halfe, my deereſt friend.
O would you yet my Muſe ſome Honny lend
From your mellifluous tongue, whereon doth ſit
Suada in maieſtie, that I may fit
Theſe harſh beginnings with a ſweeter end.
You know, the modeſt Sunne full fiſteene times
Bluſhing did riſe, and bluſhing did deſcend,
While I in making of theſe ill made rimes,
My golden howers vnthriftily did ſpend.
Yet if in friendship you theſe numbers prayſe,
I will miſpend another fiſteene dayes.*



ORCHESTRA.
OR
A Poeme of Dauncing.

I

WHere liues the man that neuer yet did heare
Of chaste *Penelope*, *Ulysses* Queene?
Who kept her faith vnspotted twenty yeere
Till he returnd that far away had beene,
And many men, and many townes had seene:
Ten yeere at siege of *Troy* he lingring lay,
And ten yeere in the Midland-sea did stray.

2

Homer, to whom the *Muses* did carouse
A great deepe cup with heauenly Nectar filld,
The greatest, deepest cup in *Ioues* great house,
(For *Ioue* himselfe had so expressly willd)
He dranke of all, ne let one drop be spilld;
Since when, his braine that had before been dry,
Became the wellspring of all Poetry.

A 3

Homer

A POEME

3

Homer doth tell in his abundant verse,
The long laborious trauailes of the man,
And of his Lady too he doth reherse,
How shee illudes with all the Art she can,
Th'vngratefull loue which other Lords began;
For of her Lord false Faine long since had sworne,
That *Neptunes* Monsters had his carcasse torne.

4

All this he tells, but one thing he forgot,
One thing most worthy his eternall song,
But he was old, and blind, and saw it not,
Or else he thought he should *Vlisses* wrong,
To mingle it, his Tragick acts among.
Yet was there not in all the world of things,
A sweeter burden for his Muses wings.

5

The Courtly loue *Antinous* did make,
Antinous that fresh and iolly Knight,
Which of the gallants that did vndertake
To win the Widdow, had most wealth and might,
VVit to perswade, and beautie to delight.
The Courtly loue he made vnto the Queene,
Homer forgot as if it had not beene,

Sing

OF DAUNCING.

6

Sing then *Terpsichore*, my light Muse sing
His gentle Art and cunning curtesie:
You Lady can remember euery thing
For you are daughter of *Queene* *Memorie*,
But sing a plaine and easie Melodie:
For the soft meane that warbleth but the ground,
To my rude care doth yield the sweetest sound.

7

One onely nights discourse I can report,
VVhen the great Torch-bearer of heauen was gone
Downe in a maske vnto the Oceans Court,
To reuell it with *Tethis* all alone;
Antinous disguised and vnknowne
Like to the spring in gaudie Ornament
Vnto the Castle of the Princesse went.

8

The soueraigne Castle of the rocky Ile
VVherein *Penelope* the Princesse lay,
Shone with a thousand Lamps, which did exile
The dim darke shades, & turn'd the night to day,
Not *Ioues* blew Tent what time the Sunny ray
Behind the bulwarke of the earth retires
As scene to sparkle with more twinckling fiers.

That

A POEME

9

That night the *Queene* came forth from far within,
And in the presence of her Court was scene,
For the sweet singer *Phenias* did begin
To praise the Worthies that at Troy had beene;
Somewhat of her *Plisses* she did weene
In his graue Hymne the heau'nly man would sing,
Or of his warres, or of his wandering.

10

Pallas that houre with her sweet breath diuine
Inspir'd immortall beautie in her eyes,
That with coelestiall glory she did shine,
Brighter then *Venus* when she doth arise
Out of the waters to adorne the skies;
The wooers all amazed doe admire,
And check their owne presumptuous desire.

11

Onely *Antinous* when at first he view'd
Her starr bright eyes that with new honour shind,
Was not dismayd, but there-with-all renew'd
The noblest and the splendour of his mind;
And as he did sit circumstances find,
Vnto the Throne he boldly gan aduance,
And with faire manners, wooed y^e *Queene* to dance.
God.

OF DAVNCING.

12

Goddesse of women, sith your heau'nlinesse
Hath now vouchsaf't it selfe to represent
To our dim eyes, which though they see the lesse
Yet are they blest in their astonishment;
Imitate heau'n, whose beauties excellent
Are in continuall motion day and night,
And moue thereby more wonder and delight.

13

Let me the moner be, to turne about
Those glorious ornaments that Youth and Loue
Haue fixed in you, euery part throughout,
Which if you will in timely measure moue,
Not all those precious Iemms in heau'n above
Shall yield a sight more pleasing to behold,
VWith all their turnes and tracings manifold.

14

With this, the modest *Princesse* blusht and smil'd,
Like to a cleare and rosie euentide;
And softly did returne this answer mild,
Fare Sir; you needs must fairely be denide
VWhere your demaund cannot be satisfied.
My fate, which onely nature taught to goe,
Did neuer yet the Art of footing know.

But

A POEME

15

But why perswade you me to this new rage?
(For all disorder and misrule is new,)
For such misgouernment in former age
Our old diuine Forefathers neuer knew,
VWho if they liu'd, and did the follies view (saies,
Which their fond Nephews make their chiefe af-
Would hate themselues that had begot such heires.

16

Sole heire of Vertue, and of Beautie both,
VWhence commeth it (*Antinome* replies)
That your imperious vertue is so loth.
To graunt your beautie her chiefe exercise?
Or from what spring doth your opinion rise
That Dauncing is a frenzie and a rage,
First knowne and vs'd in this new-tangled age?

17

Drap:ing (bright Lady) then began to be,
When the first seedes whercof the world did spring
The Fire, Ayre, Earth, and water did agree,
By Loues perswasion, Natures mighty King,
To learne their first disorderd combating;
And in a daunce such measure to obserue,
As all the world their motion should preferue.

Since

OF DAUNCING.

18

Since when they still are carried in a round,
And changing come one in anothers place,
Yet doe they neyther mingle nor confound,
But euery one doth keepe the bounded space
VWherein the daunce doth bid it turne or trace:
This wondrous myracle did Loue deuise
For Dauncing is Loues proper exercise.

19

Like this, he fram'd the Gods eternall bower,
And of a shapelesse and confused masse
By his through-piercing and digesting power
The turning vault of heauen framed was:
VWhose starrie wheelles he hath so made to passe,
As that their mouings doe a musick frame
And they themselues, still daunce vnto the same.

20

Or if this (All) which round about we see
(As idle *Morpheus* some licke braines hath taught)
Of vndeuided motes compacted bee,
How was this goodly Architecture wrought?
Or by what meanes were they together brought?
They erre that say they did concur by chaunce,
Loue made them meete in a well-ordered daunce.

As

A POEME

21

As when *Amphion* with his charming Lir
 Begot so sweet a Syren of the ayre,
 That with her Rethorike made the stones conspire
 The ruines of a Citty to repayre,
 (A worke of wit and reasons wise affayre) (taught
 So Loues smooth tongue, the mores such measure
 That they ioyn'd hands, & so y world was wrought.

22

How iustly then is Dauncing termed new
 VWhich with the world in point of time begun?
 Yea Time it selfe (whose birth *Ioue* neuer knew
 And which is far more auncient then the Sun)
 Had not one moment of his age outrunne
 When our leapt Dauncing fro the heape of things,
 And lightly rode vpon his nimble wings.

23

Reason hath both their pictures in her Treasure,
 VWhere Time the measure of all moving is;
 And Dauncing is a moving all in measure,
 Now if you doe resemble that to this
 And think both one, I think you think amis:
 But if you iudge them Twins, together got,
 And Time first borne, your iudgment erreth not.
 Thus

OF DAUNCING.

24

Thus doeth it equall age with age inioy,
 And yet in lustie youth for euer flowers,
 Like Loue his Sire, whom Paynters make a Boy,
 Yet is he eldest of the beau'nly powers;
 Or like his brother Time, whose winged howers
 Going and comming will not let him dye,
 But still preserue him in his infancie.

25

This sayd; the Queene with her sweet lips diuine
 Gently began to moue the subtile ayre,
 VWhich gladly yielding, did it selfe incline
 To take a shape betweene those rubies fayre
 And being formed, softly did repayre
 With twenty doublings in the emptie way,
 Vnto *Antinous* cares, and thus did say.

26

W^Hat eye doth see the beau'n but doth admire
 When it the movings of the beau'ns doth see?
 My selfe, if I to beau'n may once aspire,
 If that be dauncing, will a Dauncer be:
 But as for this your frantick iollitie
 How it began, or whence you did it learne,
 I neuer could with reasons eye discern.

Antinous

A POEME

27

Antinous answered : I well of the Earth
Worthie you are that heavenly Daunce to leade :
But for you think our dauncing base of birth
And newly borne but of a brainfick head
I will forthwith his antique Gentry read,
And for I love him, will his Herault be
And blaze his armes, and draw his Petigree.

28

Whē Loue had shapt this world, this great faire wight
That all wights else in his wide womb contains
And had instructed it to daunce aright,
A thousand measures with a thousand straines,
VVhich it should practise with delightfull paines
Vntill that fatall instant should reuolue,
VVhen all to nothing should againe resolue :

29

The comly order and proportion faire
On euery side did please his wandring eye,
Till glauncing through the thin transparent aire
A rude disordered rout he did espie
Of men and women, that most spightfullie
Did one another throng, and crowd so sore,
That his kind eye in pittie wept therefore.

And

OF DAUNCING.

30

And swifter then the Lightning downe he came,
Another shapelesse Chaos to digest,
He will begin another world to frame,
(For Loue till all be well will neuer rest)
Then with such words as cannot be exprest
He cutts the troupes, that all a sunder fling,
And ere they wist, he casts them in a ring.

31

Then did he rarifie the Element
And in the center of the ring appeare,
The beames that from his forehead shining went,
Begot an horreur and religious feare
In all the soules that round about him weare,
VVhich in their eares attentiuely procure
While he with such like sounds their minds allures.

32

How doth Confusions Mother, headlong Chance
Put reasons noble Squadron to the rout?
Or how should you that haue the gouernance
Of Natures children, heauen and earth throughout
Prescribe them rules, and liue your selues without?
VVhy should your fellowship a trouble be,
Since mans chiefe pleasure is societie?

If

A POEME

33

If sence hath not yet taught you, learne of me
A comly moderation and discreet,
That your assemblies may well ordered be
VVhen my vniting power shall make you meet,
VVith heau'nly tunes it shall be tempered sweet:
And be the modell of the worlds great frame,
And you Earths children, Dauncing shall it name.

34

Behold the world how it is whirled round,
And for it is so whirl'd, is named so;
In whole large volume many rules are found
Of this new Art, which it doth fairely show:
For your quick eyes in wandring too and fro
From East to West, on no one thing can glaunce,
But if you marke it well, it seemes to daunce.

35

First you see fixt in this huge mirrour blew
Of trembling lights a number numberlesse,
Fixt they are nam'd, but with a name vntrue,
For they are moued, and in a Daunce expresse
That great long yeare that doth containe no lesse
Then threescore hundredths of those yeares in all
Which the Sunne makes with his course naturall.
What

OF DAVNCING.

36

VVhat if to you these sparks disorderd seeme
As if by chaunce they had been scattered there?
The Gods a solemne measure doe it deeme
And see a iust proportion euery where,
And know y points whence first their movings were;
To which first points when all retorne againe,
The Axeltree of Heau'n shall breake in twaine.

37

Vnder that spangled skye, five wandring flames,
Besides the King of Day, and Queene of Night,
Are wheel'd around, all in their sundry frames,
And all in sundry measures doe delight:
Yet altogether keepe no measure right.
For by it selfe, each doth it selfe chaunce,
And by it selfe, each doth a Galliard daunce.

38

Venus the Mother of that bastard-Tour
Which doth vsurpe the worlds great Marshalls name,
Iust with the Sunne her dainty seete doth moue
And vnto him doth all her iestures frame:
Now after, now afore, the flattering Dame
VVith diuers cunning passages doth erre,
Still him respecting that respects not her.

B.

VVhat

POEME

39

For that braue Sunne the Father of the Day,
Doth loue this Earth the Mother of the Night,
And like a reuellour in rich aray
Doth daunce his Galliard in his Lemmans fight,
Both back, and forth, and side-ways passing lights,
His gallant grace doth so the Gods amaze,
That all stand still and at his beautie gaze.

40

But see the Earth, when she approacheth neere,
How she for ioy doth spring and sweetly smile;
But see againe her sad and heauie cheere
When changing places he retires a while:
But those black clouds he shortly will exile,
And make them all before his presence flye
As mists consum'd before his cheerfull eye.

41

VVho doth not see the measures of the Moone
Which thirteene times she daunceth euery yeare?
And ends her pauine thirteene times as soone
As doth her brother, of whose golden heire
She borroweth part and proudly doth it weare.
Then doth she toylic turne her face aside,
That halfe her cheek is scarce sometimes discide.

Next

OF DAVNCING.

42

Next her, the pure, subtile, and cleansing fire,
Is swiftly carried in a circle even:
Though *Vukan* be pronounst by many a lyer
The onely halting God that dwells in heauen.
But that foule name may be more fitly giuen
To your false fier that far from heau'n is fall
And doth consume, wast, spoile, disorder all.

43

And now behold your tender Nurse the ayre
And common neighbour that ay runs around,
How many pictures and impressiõs faire
Within her emptie regions are there found,
Which to your senses Dauncing doe propound?
For what are breath, speech, Echhos, musick, winds,
But Dauncings of the ayre in sundry kind?

44

For when you breath, the ayre in order moues,
Now in, now out, in time and measure trew;
And when you speake, so well the dauncing loues,
That doubting oft, and oft redoubling new,
With thousand formes she doth her selfe endew:
For all the words that from your lips repaire,
Are naught but tricks and turnings of the aire.

B 2

Hence

POEMS 10

44

Hence is her prating daughter Echo borne,
That daunces to all voyces she can heare;
There is no sound so harsh that she doth scorne,
Nor any time wherein she will forbear
The aery pauement with her feete to weare.
And yet her hearing sence is nothing quick
For after time she endeth every trick.

45

And thou sweet Musick, Dauncings onely life,
The eares sole happines, the ayres best speech,
Loadstone of fellowship, charming rod of strife,
The soft minds Paradise, the sick minds Leech,
With thine owne tongue y trees & stones canst teach
That whē the Aire doth daunce her finest measure,
Then art y borne the Gods & mens sweet pleasure.

47

Lastly, where keepe the winds their reuelry
Their violent turnings and wild whirling hayes?
But in the Ayres trahucant gallery?
Where she her selfe is turnd a hundreth wayes,
While with those Maskers wantonly she playes;
Yet in this misrule, they such rule embrace
As two at once encombe not the place.

If

OF DAUNCING.

48

If then fier, ayre, wandring and fixed lights
In every prouince of th'imperiall skye,
Ycold perfect formes of dauncing to your sights,
In vaine I teach the eare, that which the eye
With certaine view already doth descrie.
But for your eyes perceiue not all they see
In this I will your senses maister bee.

49

For loe the Sea that fleets about the Land,
And like a girdle clips her solide wast,
Musick and measure both doth vnderstand:
For his great Christall eye is alwayes cast
Vp to the Moone, and on her fixed fast.
And as she daunceth in her pallid spheere,
So daunceth he about the Center heere.

50

Sometimes his proud greenie waues in order set,
One after other flow vnto the shore,
Which when they haue with many kisses wet,
They ebb away in order as before;
And to make knowne his Courtly Loue the more,
He oft doth lay aside his three-forkt Mace,
And with his armes the timorous Earth embrace.

B 3

Onely

A POEME

§ 1

Onely the Earth doth stand for euer still,
Her rocks remoue not, nor her mountaines meeke,
(Although some wits enrich with Learnings skill
Say heau'n stands firme, & that the Earth doth flee
And swiftly turneth vnderneath their feete)
Yet though the Earth is euer stedfast scene,
On her broad breast hath Dauncing euer beene.

§ 2

For those blew vaines that through her body spread,
Those saphire streams which frō great hills do spring,
(The Earths great duggs: for every wight is fed
With sweet fresh moillure from them issuing)
Obserue a daunce in their wild wandering:
And still their daunce begets a murmur sweete,
And still the murmur with the daunce doth meeke.

§ 3

Of all their wayes I loue *Meanders* path,
Which to the tunes of dying Swans doth daunce,
Such winding sleights, such turnes and tricks he hath,
Such Creekes, such wrenches, and such daliaunce,
That whether it be hap or heedlesse chaunce,
In his indented course and wringling play
He seemes to daunce a perfect cunning Hay.

But

OF DAUNCING.

§ 4

But wherefore doe these streames for euer runne?
To keepe themselves for euer sweet and cleare:
For let their euerlasting course be donne
They straight corrupt and foule with mud appeare.
O yee sweet Nymphs that beauties losse doe feare,
Contemne the Drugs that Phisick doth deuise,
And learne of Loue this dainty exercise.

§ 5

See how those flowers that haue sweet Beauty too
(The onely Jewels that the Earth doth weare
VWhen the young Sunne in brauery her doth woo)
As oft as they the whistling wind doe heare,
Doe waue their tender bodies here and there;
And though their daunce no perfect measure is,
Yet oftentimes their musick makes them kis,

§ 6

VWhat makes the Vine about the Elme to daunce
With turnings, windings, and imbracements round?
What makes the Load-stone to the North aduaunce
His subtile point, as if from thence he found
His chiefe attractiue Verrue to redound?
Kind Nature first doth cause all things to loue,
Loue makes them daunce and in iust order moue.

Harke

57

Hecke how the Birds doe sing, and marke then how
 Iumpe with the modulation of their layes,
 They lightly leape, and skip from bow to bow;
 Yet doe the Cranes deserue a greater prayse
 Which keepe such measure in their aynewayes,
 As when they all in order ranked are,
 They make a perfect forme triangular.

58

In the chiefe angle flies the watchfull guide,
 And all the followers their heads doe lay
 On their forgoers backs, on eyther side,
 But for the Captaine hath no rest to stay
 His head forweari'd with the windy way,
 He back retires, and then the next behind,
 As his Lieutenaut leads them through the wind.

59

But why relate I euery singular
 Since all the worlds great fortunes and affaires
 Forward and backward rapt and whirled are,
 According to the musick of the spheres:
 And Chaunce her selfe, her nimble feete vpbears
 On a round slipperie wheele that rowleth ay,
 And turnes all states with her impetuous sways I
 Learne

60

Learne then to daunce you that are Princes borne
 And lawfull Lords of earthly creatures all;
 Imitate them, and thereof take no scorne,
 For thys new Art to them is naturall
 And imitate the starres celestiall.
 For when pale Death you vitall twist shall seuer,
 Your better parts must daunce with the for euer.

61

Thus Loue perswades, and all the crowne of men
 That stands around doth make a murmuring;
 As when the wind loold from his hollow den,
 Among the trees a gentle base doth sing,
 Or as a Brooke through pebbles wandering:
 But in their lookes they vttered this plaine speech,
 That they wold learn to daunce if loue wold teach.

62

Then first of all, hee doth demonstrate plaine
 The motions seauen that are in nature found,
 Vpward, and downward, forth, and back againe,
 To this side, and to that, and turning round:
 VVhereof, a thousand brawles he doth compound,
 VVhich he doth teach vnto the multitude,
 And euer with a turne they must conclude.

As

63

As when a Nymph arising from the Land
Leadeth a daunce with her long watery traine
Downe to the Sea, she wries to every hand
And euery way doth crosse the fertile plaine:
But when at last she falls into the maine
Then all her trauerses concluded are,
And with the Sea her course is circulare,

64

Thus when at first Loue had them marshalled
As earlt he did the shapelesse masse of things,
He taught them rounds and winding Heyes to tread,
And about trees to cast themselves in rings.
As the two Beares whom the first mouer flings
With a short turne about heauens Axeltree,
In a round daunce for euer wheeling bee.

65

But after these, as men more ciuill grew
He did more graue and solemne measures frame,
With such faire order and proportion trew
And correspondence euery way the same,
That no fault finding eye did euer blame:
For euery eye was moued at the sight
With sober wondring, and with sweet delight.

Not

66

Not those old Students of the heauenly booke,
Atlas the great, *Prometheus* the wise,
VVhich on the Starres did all their lyfe-time looke
Could euer find such measures in the skies,
So full of change and rare varieties;
Yet all the feete whereon these measures goe,
Are onely Spondeis, solemne, graue, and slow.

70

But for more diuers and more pleasing show,
A swift and wandring daunce she did inuent,
VVith passages vncertaine to and fro,
Yet with a certaine aunswere and consent
To the quick musick of the Instrument.
Five was the number of the Musicks feete,
Which still the daunce did with five paces meete:

71

A gallant daunce, that liuely doth bewray
A spirit and a vertue Masculine,
Impatient that her house on earth should stay
Since she her selfe is fierie and diuine:
Of doth she make her body vpward flyne,
With lustie turnes and capriols in the ayre,
Which with the lustie tunes accordeth sayre.

What

A POEME

69

VWhat shall I name those currant trauases
That on a triple Dactyle foote doe run
Close by the ground with flying passages,
VWherein that Dauncer greatest prayse hath won
VWhich with best order can all orders shun:
For euery where he wantonly must range,
And turne, and wind, with vnexpected change.

70

Yet is there one the most delightfull kind,
A lofty jumping, or a leaping round,
VWhere arme in arme, two Dauncers are entwind,
And whirle themselves with stricke embracements
And still their feet an Anapest do sound: (bound,
An Anapest is all their mulicks song,
VWhole first two feet are short, & third is long.

71

As the victorious twinns of *Leda* and *Ioue*
That taught the Spartans dauncing on the sands,
Of swift *Eurotas* daunce in Heau'n aboue,
Knit and vnied with eternall hands;
Among the Starres their double Image stands,
VWhere both are carried with an equall pace
Together jumping in their turning race.

Thys

OF DAUNCING.

72

Thys is the Net wherein the Sunns bright eye
Venus and *Mars* entangled did behold,
For in thys Daunce, their ames they so imply
As each, doth seeme the other to entold:
VWhat if lewd wits another tale haue told
Of ieaious *Vulcan*, and of yron chaynes,
Yet this true sence that forged lye containes.

73

These various formes of dauncing, *Loue* did frame,
And beside these, a hundred millions more,
And as he did inuent, he taught the same
VWith goodly iecture, and with comly shew,
Now keeping state, now humbly honoring low.
And euer for the persons and the place
He taught most fit, and best according grace.

74

For *Loue*, within his fertile working braine
Did then conceiue those gracious Virgins three,
VWhose ciuill moderation did maintaine
All decent order and conueniencie,
And faire respect, and seemlie modestie:
And then he thought it fit they should be borne,
That their sweet presence dauncing might adorne.
Hence

A POEME

75

Hence is it that these Graces painted are
With hand in hand dauncing an endlesse round:
And with regarding eyes, that still beware
That there be no disgrace amongst them found;
VVith equall foote they beate the flowry ground,
Laughing, or singing, as their passions will,
Yet nothing that they doe becomes them ill.

76

Thus Loue taught men, and men thus learmed of Loue
Sweet Musicks sound with teete to counterfaite,
VVhich was long time before high thundering Ioue
VVas lifted vp to heau'ns imperiall seate.
For though by birth he were the Prince of Crete,
Nor Crete, nor Heau'n, should y' yong Prince haue
If Dancers with their Timbrels had not been. (seen

77

Since when all ceremonious misteries,
All sacred Orgies and religious rights,
All poms, and triumphs, and solemnities,
All Funerals, Nuptials, and like publike fights,
All Parliaments of peace, and warlike fights,
All learned Arts, and euery great affaire
A luely shape of Dauncing seemes to beare.

For

OF DAUNCING.

78

For what did he who with his ten-tong'd Lute
Gave Beasts and blocks an vnderstanding care?
Or rather into bestiall minds and brute
Shed and infus'd the beames of reason cleare?
Doubtlesse for men that rude and sauage were
A ciuill forme of dauncing he deu's'd,
VVherewith vnto their Gods they sacrific'd.

79

So did *Musæus*, so *Amphion* did,
And *Linus* with his sweet enchanting song,
And he whose hand the earth of monsters rid
And had mens eares fast chayned to his tong:
And *Thesew* to his wood-borne slaues among
Vs'd dauncing as the finest pollicie
To plant religion and societie.

80

And therefore now the Thracian *Orpheus* Live
And *Hercules* him selfe are stilled;
And in high heau'n amidst the starry Quire
Dauncing their parts continually doe slide:
So on the Zodiacke *Ganimede* doth ride,
And so is *Hebe* with the Muses nine
For pleasing *Ioue* with dauncing, made diuine.
VVhere-

81

VWherefore was Proteus sayd himselfe to change
Into a streame, a Lyon, and a tree,
And many other formes fantastique strange
As in his fickle thought he wist to be?
But that he daunc'd with such facilitie.
As like a Lyon he could pace with pride,
Ply like a Plant, and like a River slide.

82

And how was Ceneus made at first a man,
And then a woman; then a man againe
But in a Daunce? which when he first began
Hee the mans part in measure did sustaine:
But when he chang'd into a second straine
He daunc'd the womans part another space,
And then return'd into his former place.

83

Hence sprang the fable of Tiresias
That he the pleasure of both sexes tryde:
For in a daunce hee man and woman was
By often change of place from side to side:
But for the woman easily did slide
And smoothly swim with cunning hidden Art,
Hee took more pleasure in a womans part.

So

84

So to a fish *Venus* herselfe did change,
And swimming through the soft and yeelding waue,
VVith gentle motions did so smoothly range
As none might see where she the water draue:
But this plaine truth that falsed fable gaue
That she did daunce with flyding easines,
Plyant and quick in wandring passages,

85

And merry *Bacchus* practis'd dauncing to,
And to the Lydian numbers rounds did make:
The like he did in th'Easterne India doo,
And taught them all when *Phæbus* did awake,
And when at night he did his Coach forsake:
To honor heau'n, and heau'ns great roling cie
VVith turning daunces, and with melodie.

86

Thus they who first did found a common-weale,
And they who first Religion did ordaine,
By dauncing first the peoples harts did steale,
Of whom we now a thousand tales doe faine.
Yet doe we now their perfect rules retaine,
And vie them still in such deuises new
As in the world long since their withering grew.

C.

For

87

For after Townes and Kingdomes founded were
Betweene great States arose well-ordered war,
VVherein most perfect measure doth appeare
VVhether their well-set ranks respected are
In Quadrant forme or Semicircular:
Or else the March, when all the troupes aduance
Vnto the Drum, in gallant order daunce.

88

And after warrs, when white-wing'd victory
Is with a glorious triumph beautified,
And euery one doth *Io Io* cry,
VVhiles all in gold the Conquerour doth ride,
The solemne pompe that fills the Citty wide
Obserues such ranke and measure euery where,
As if they altogether dauncing were.

89

The like iust order Mourners doe obserue,
(But with vnlike affection and attire)
VVhen some great man that nobly did deserue
And whom his friends impatiently desire
Is brought with honour to his latest fire:
The dead corps too in that sad daunce is mou'd,
As if both dead and liuing, dauncing lou'd.

90

A diuerse cause, but like solemnitie
Vnto the Temple leades the bashfull bride,
VVhich blusheth like the Indian Iuorie
VVhich is with dip of Tyrian purple died:
A golden troope doth passe on euery side
Of flourishing young men and Virgins gay,
Which keepe faire measure all the flowry way.

91

And not alone the generall multitude,
But those choise *Nestors* which in counsell graue
Of Citties, and of Kingdomes doe conclude,
Most comly order in their Sessions haue:
Wherefore the wise Thessalians euer gaue
The name of Leader of their Countries daunce
To him that had their Countries gouernaunce.

92

And those great Maisters of the liberall Arts
In all their seuerall Schooles doe Dauncing teach:
For humble Grammer first doth set the parts
Of congruent and well-according speach:
Which Rhetorick whose state y clouds doth reach,
And heau'nly Poetry doe forward lead,
And diuers Measures, diuersly doe tread.

C 2

For

A POEME

93

For Rhetorick clothing speech in rich aray
In looser numbers teacheth her to range,
VVith twentie tropes, and turnings euery way,
And various figures, and licentious change:
But Poetry with rule and order strange
So curiously doth moue each single pace,
As all is mard if she one foote misplace.

94

These Arts of speech the guides and Marshals are,
But Logick leadeth Reason in a daunce,
(Reason the Cynosure and bright Load-star
In this worlds Sea t'auoid the rock of Chaunce)
For with close following and continuance
One reason doth another so ensue,
As in conlusion still the daunce is true.

95

So Musick to her owne sweet tunes doth trip
VVith tricks of, 3, 5, 8, 15, and more:
So doth the Art of Numbring seeme to skip
From eu'n to odd in her proportion'd score:
So doe those skils whose quick eyes doe explore
The iust dimension both of earth and heau'n
In all their rules obserue a measure eu'n.

Loe

OF DAUNCING.

96

Loe this is Dauncings true nobilitie.
Dauncing the child of Musick and of Loue,
Dauncing it selfe both loue and harmony,
VVhere all agree, and all in order moue;
Dauncing the Art that all Arts doe approue:
The faire Character of the worlds consent,
The heau'ns true figure, and th'earths ornament.

97

THE Queene, whose dainty cares had borne too
The tedious praise of γ she did despise, (long
Adding once more the musick of the tongue
To the sweet speech of her alluring eyes,
Began to aunswer in such winning wise
As that forthwith *Antinous* tongue was tyde,
His eyes fast fixt, his cares were open wide.

98

Forsooth (quoth she) great glory you haue won
To your trim Minion Dauncing all this while,
By blazing him Loues first begotten sonne;
Of euery ill the hatefull Father vile
That doth the world with sorceries beguile:
Cunningly mad, religiously prophane,
Wits monster, Reasons canker, Sences bane.

C 3

Loue

A POEME

99

Loue taught the mother that vnkind desire
To wash her hands in her owne Infants blood;
Loue taught the daughter to betray her Sire
Into most base vnworthy seruitude;
Loue taught the brother to prepare such foode
To feast his brothers, that the all-seeing Sun
Wrapt in a clowd, that wicked sight did shun.

100

And euen this selfe same Loue hath dauncing taught,
An Art that sheweth th'*Idea* of his mind
VVith vaineſſe, frenzie, and miſorder fraught;
Sometimes with blood and cruelties vnkind:
For in a daunce, *Tereus* mad wife did finde
Fit time and place by murtherring her ſonne,
T'auenge the wrong his trayterous Sire had done.

101

What meane the Mermayds when they daunce and
But certaine death vnto the Marriner? (ſing
VVhat tydings doe the dauncing Dilphins bring
But that ſome dangerous ſtorme approacheth nere?
Then ſith both Loue & Dauncing lyueries beare
Of ſuch ill hap, vnhappy may they proue,
That ſitting free, will either daunce or loue.

Yet

OF DAUNCING.

102

Y Et once againe *Antinous* did reply,
Great Queene, condemne not Loue the innocent,
For this miſchieuous Luſt, which traiterouſly
Vſurps his Name, and ſteales his ornament:
For that true Loue which dauncing did inuent,
Is he that tun'd the worlds whole harmony,
And linkt all men in ſweet ſocietic.

103

He firſt extracted from th'earth-mingled mind
That heau'nly fire, or quinteſſence diuine,
VVhich doth ſuch ſimipathy in beauty find
As is betweene the Elme and fruitfull Vine,
And ſo to beautie euer doth encline.
Liues life it is, and cordiall to the hart,
And of our better part, the better part.

104

Thys is true Loue, by that true *Cupid* got
VVhich daunceth Galliards in your amorous eyes,
But to your frozen hart approacheth not,
Onely your hart he dares not enterprize.
And yet through euery other part he flies,
And euery where he nimble daunceth now,
That in your ſelfe, your ſelfe perceiue not how.

For

A POEME

105

For your sweet beauty daintily transfus'd
VVith due proportion throughout euery part,
VVhat is it but a daunce where Loue hath vs'd
His finer cunning, and more curious Art?
VWhere all the Elements themselues impart,
And turne, and wind, & mingle with such measure,
That th'eye that sees it, surfeits with the pleasure.

106

Loue in the twinckling of your eyelids daunceth,
Loue daunceth in your pulses and your vaines,
Loue whe' you sow your needles poynt aduanceth,
And makes it daunce a thousand curious straines
Of winding rounds, whereof the forme remains,
To shew, that your faire hands can daunce y' Hey,
VVhich your fine feet would learne as wel as they.

107

And when your Tuory fingers touch the strings
Of any siluer-sounding instrument,
Loue makes the daunce to those sweet murmurings,
VVith busie skill, and cunning excellent:
O that your feet those tunes would represent
With artificiall motions to and fro,
That Loue this Art in euery part might shew.

Yet

OF DAVNCING.

108

Yet your faire soule which came from heau'n above,
To rule thys house, another heau'n below,
VVith diuers powers in harmony doth moue,
And all the vertues that from her doe flow,
In a round measure hand in hand doe goe.
Could I now see as I conceiue thys Daunce,
VVonder and Loue would cast me in a traunce.

109

The richest Iewell in all the heau'nly Treasure
That euer yet vnto the Earth was showne,
Is perfect Concord, th'onely perfect pleasure
That wretched Earth-borne men haue euer knowne,
For many harts it doth compound in one:
That what so one doth will, or speake, or doe,
VVith one consent they all agree thereto.

110

Concords true picture shinneth in thys Art,
VWhere diuers men and women ranked be,
And euery one doth daunce a seuerall part,
Yet all as one, in measure doe agree,
Observing perfect vntormitie:
All turne together, all together trace,
And all together honor and embrace.

If

A POEME

111

If they whom sacred Love hath link't in one,
Doe, as they daunce, in all theyr course of life
Neuer shall burning griefe nor bitter mone,
Nor factious difference, nor vnkind strife,
Arise betwixt the husband and the wife.

For whether forth or back, or round he goe,
As the man doth, so must the woman doe.

112

VWhat if by often interchange of place
Sometime the woman get the vpper hand?
That is but done for more delightfull grace,
For on that part shee doth not euer stand:
But as the Measures law doth her commaund
Shee wheeles about, and ere the daunce doth end,
Into her former place shee doth transcend.

113

But not alone this correspondence meet
And vniforme consent doth dauncing praise,
For Comlines the chyld of order sweet
Enamels it with her eye-pleasing raies:
Faire Comlines, ten hundred thousand waies
Through dauncing sheds it selfe, & makes it shine
VVith glorious beauty, and with grace diuine.

For

OF DAUNCING.

114

For Comlines is a disposing faire
Of things and actions in fit time and place,
VVhich doth in dauncing shew it selfe most cleere,
VVhe troopes confus'd which here & there do trace
VVithout distinguishment or bounded space,
By dauncing rule, into such ranks are brought,
As glads the eye, and rauisheth the thought.

115

Then why should reason iudge that reasonles
VVhich is wits of-spring, and the worke of Art,
Image of concord, and of comlines.
VVho sees a clock moouing in euery part,
A sayling Pinnesse, or a wheeling Cart,
But thinks that reason ere it came to passe
The first impulsue cause and mouer was?

116

VVho sees an Armie all in ranke aduance
But deemes a wise Commander is in place
Which leadeth on that braue victorious daunce?
Much more in dauncings Art, in dauncings grace
Blindnes it selfe may reasons footstep trace:
For of Lones Maze it is the curious plot,
And of mans fellowship the true-love knot.

But

A TOEME

117

But if these eyes of yours, (Load-starrs of lone
Shewing the worlds great daunce to your minds eye)
Cannot with all theyr demonstrations moue
Kind apprehension in your fantasie
Of Dauncings vertue, and nobilitie:
How can my barbarous tongue win you thereto
which heau'n & earths faire speech could neuer do?

118

O Loue my King: if all my wit and power
Hauē done you all the seruice that they can,
O be you present in this present hower,
And helpe your seruant and your true Leige-man
End that perswasion which I earst began:
For who in praise of dauncing can perswade
With such sweet force as Loue, & dauncing made.

119

Loue heard his prayer, and swifter then the wind
Like to a Page, in habit, face, and speech,
He came, and stood *Antinous* behind,
And many secrets to his thoughts did reach.
At last, a christall Mirrour he did reach
Vnto his hands, that he with one rash view,
All formes therein by Loues reuealing knew.
And

OF DAVNCING.

120

And humbly honoring, gaue it to the Queene
With this faire speech: See fairest Queene (quoth he)
The fairest sight that euer shall be scene,
And th'onely wonder of posteritie,
The richest worke in Natures treasury;
VVhich she disdaines to shew on this worlds stage,
And thinks it far too good for our rude age.

121

But in another world deuic'd far,
In the great, fortunate, triangled Ile,
Thrice twelue degrees remou'd from the North Star
Shee will this glorious workmanship compile
Which shee hath been conceiuing all thys while
Since the worlds birth, & will bring forth at last,
When sixe and twenty hundreth yeeres are past.

122

P Enelope the Queene when she had view'd
The strange-eye-dazeling-admirable sight,
Faine would haue prais'd the state and pulchritude,
But she was ströken dumbe with wonder quite,
Yet her sweet mind retayn'd her thinking might:
Her ravisht minde in heau'nly thoughts did dwel,
But what she thought, no mortall tongue can tell.
You

A POEME

123

You Lady Muse, whom *Ioue* the Counsellour
Begot of Memorie, wisdoms Treasureffe,
To your diuining tongue is giuen a power
Of vitering secrets large and limitleffe:
You can *Penelopes* strange thoughts expresse
Which she conceiu'd, & she would faine haue told,
VWhen shee the wondrous Christall did behold.

124

Her winged thoughts bore vp her minde so hie
As that shee weend shee saw the glorious throne
VWhere the bright Moone doth sit in maiestie,
A thousand sparkling starres about her shone,
But she herselfe did sparkle more alone
Then all those thousand beauties would haue done
If they had been confounded all in one.

125

And yet she thought those starres mou'd in such mea-
To doe their Soueraigne honor & delight, (sure
As sooth'd her minde w sweet enchanting pleasure
Although the various change amaz'd her sight,
And her weake iudgement dyd entangle quite:
Beside, theyr mouing made the shine more cleere,
As Diamonds mou'd, more sparkling do appeare.
This

OF DAVNCING.

126

Thys was the Picture of her wondrous thought;
But who can wonder that her thought was so,
Sith *Vulcan* King of fire, that Mirrour wrought
(Which things to come, present, & past doth know)
And there did represent in liuely show;
Our glorious English Courts diuine Image
As it should be in this our golden age.

127

Away *Tersichore*, light Muse away,
And come *Frame*, Prophetesse diuine;
Come Muse of heaurn, my burning thirst allay,
Euen now, for want of sacred drinke I tine.
In heau'nly moysture dip thys Pen of mine,
And let my mouth with Nectar ouerflow,
For I must more then mortall glory show.

128

O that I had *Homers* abundant vaine,
I would heereof another *Ilias* make,
Or els the man of *Mantua* charmed braine
In whose large throat great *Ioue* the thunder spake.
O that I could old *Gefferies* Muse awake,
Or borrow *Colins* sayre heroike stile,
Or smoothe my rimes with *Delias* seruants file.

O

A POEME.

129

O could I sweet Companion, sing like you,
VWhich of a shadow, vnder a shadow sing;
Or like faire *Salues* sad louer true,
Or like the Bay, the Marigolds darling,
VWhole full daine verie Loue couers with his wing:
O that your braines were mingled all with mine,
T'inlarge my wit for this great worke diuine.

130

Yet *Astrophell* might one for all suffice,
VWhole supple Muse Camelion-like doth change
Into all formes of excellent deuise:
So might the Swallow, whose swift Muse doth range
Through rare *Ideas*, and inuentions strange,
And cuer doth enioy her ioyfull spring,
And sweeter then the Nightingale doth sing.

131

O that I might that singing Swallow heare
To whom I owe my seruice and my loue,
His sugred tunes would so enchant mine eare,
And in my mind such sacred fury moue,
As I should knock at heau'ns great gate aboue
With my proude times, while of this heau'nly state
I doe aspire the shadow to relate.

FINIS.