

A WORLDE OF WORDES, 1598.
TO THE READER

I knowe not how I may again adventure an Epistle to the Reader, so are the times or, readers in theses times, most part sicke of the sullens, and peevish in their sicknes and conceited in their peevishnes. So should I fear the fire who have felt the flame so lately, and flie from the sea, that have yet a vow' to pay for escaping my last ship wracke. Then what will the world say for ventring againe? *A suo danno*, will one say. *E a torto si lamenta del mare, chi due volte ci vuoi tornare* will another say. Good counsel! Indeede, but who followeth it? Doe we not daily see the contrarie in practise? Who loves to be more on the sea, than they that have bin most on it? Whither for change if they have kept at a stay: or for amends if they have lost: or for increase if they have gotten. Of these there are ynow, and wise-ynough to excuse me. Therefore I have put forward at aventure: But before I recount unto thee (gentle reader) the purpose of my new voyage: give me leave a little to please my selfe, and refresh thee with the discourse of my olde danger. Which because in some respect it is a common danger, the discoverie thereof may happily profit other men, as much as it please my selfe. And here might I begin with those notable Pirates on this our paper-sea, those sea-dogs, or lande-Critickes, monsters of men, if not beastes rather than men; whose teeth are Canibals, their tooongs adder-forkes, their lips aspes- poyson, their eies basiliskes, their breath the breath of a grave, their wordes the swordes of Turkes, that strive which shall dive deepest into a Christian lying bound before them. But for these barking and biting dogs they as well knowne as Scylla and Charybdis. There is another san of leering curs that rather snarle then bite, whereof I could instance in one, who lighting upon a good sonnet of a gentlemans, a friend of mine, that loved better to be a poet, than to be counted *SO*, called the auctor a rymer, notwithstanding he had more skill in good Poetrie, then my slie gentleman seemed to have in good manners or humanitie. But my quarrell is to a roorh-lesse dog that hateth where he cannot hurt, and would faine bite, when he hath no teeth, His name is H.S. Doe not take it for the Romane H.S. for he his not of so much worth, unlesse it be as H.S. is twice as much and a halfe, as halfe an As. But value him how you will, I am sure he highly value himselfe. This fellow, this H.S. reading (for I would you should knowe he his a reader and a writer too), under my last epistle to the reader I.F. made as familiar a word of F. as if I had been his brother, Now *Recte sit oculis magister tuis*, said an ancient writer to a much-like reading grammarian pedante: God save yom eie-sight, sir, or at least your in-sight. And might not a man that can do as much as you (that is, reade) finde as much matter out of H.S. as you did out of I.F.? As for example. H.S. why may it nor stand as well for *Haeres Stuititiae*: as for *Homo Simplex*? as for *Hara Suillina* as for *Hostis Studiosorum*? or for *Hircus Satiricus* as well as for any of them? And this in Latine, besides *Hedera Seguace*, *Harpia Subata*, *Humore Superbo*, *Hipocrito SimuLatore* in Italian. And in English world without end. *Huffi Snuffi*, *Horse Stealer*, *Hob Sowter*, *Hugh Sot*, *Humfrey Swineshead*, *Hodge Sowgelder*. Now Master H.S. if this doe gaule you forbear kicking hereafter and in the meane time you may make you a plaister of yom dride Marioram. I have seene in my dies an inscription, harder to finde out the meaning, and yet easier for a man to picke a better meaning out of it, if he be not a man of H.S. condition. There is a most excellent preface to the excellently translated booke signed A.B. which, when I sawe, I eftsoones conceived could I in perusing the whole A.B.C omit the needlesse and well order the requisite letters, I should finde some such thing as *Admirabilis Bonitas*, or *Amantum Beatissimus*. But how long tinke you would H.S. have been rooting and grunting ere he could have found as lie is *Hominum Simplicissimus*, or would have pickt out as he is *Hirudo Sanguisuga*, so honest a meaning? Trust me I can not but marvell at the disposition of these men, who are so malicious as they will not spare to stab others, though it be through their own bodies, and wrong other men with their owne double harme. Such mens wordes a wise man compares to boltes shot right-up against heaven, that come not neare heaven, but downe againe upon their pates that shot them: or a man may compare them to

durt flung at another man, which besides it defiles his handes that flings it, possibly itt is blowne backe againe upon his owne face: or to monie put out usurie, that returnes with increase, SO they delivered with hatred, are repaide with much more: or to be blasring Sereno in hot countries, rising from puddles, dunghills, carions, putrified dampes, poisoned lakes, that being detestable itselfe. Makes that much more detested from whence it comes. On the orher side a good word is a deaw from heaven to earth: it is a precious balme, that has sweetnesse in the boxe, whence it comes, sweetnesse and vertue in the bodie, whereto it comes: it is a golden chaine, that linkes the tongs, and eares, and harts of writers and readers, each to other, They hurt not God (saith Seneca) but their owne soules, that overthrowe his altars: Nor harme they good men, but thernselves, that turns their sacrifice of praises into blasphemie. They that rave, and rage, and raile against heaven, I say not (faith be) they are gultie of sacrilege but at least they loose their labour. Let *Aristophanes* and his comedians make plaies and scowre their mouthes on *Socrates*; those very mouthes they make to vilifie, shall be the meanes to amplifie his vertue. And as it was not easie for Cato to speake evill, so was ir not usuall for him to hear evill: It may be *Socrates* would not kicke againe, if an asse did kicke at him. yet some that cannot be so wise and will not be so patient as *Socrates* willr, for such jadish tricks, give the asse his due burthen of bastonadas Let H.S. hisse, and his complices quarrell and al! breake their gals, I have a great faction of good writers to bandie with me

*Thinke they to set their teeth on tender stuffe?
But they shall marre their teeth and find me tough.*

Conantes ftangere ftangam, said Victoria Collonna:

Those that to breake me strive,
I'll breake them if I thrive.

Yet had not H.S. so causelessly so witlesly provoked me, I coulde not have bin hired or induced against my nature, my manner thus far to have urged him: though happily heereafter, I shall rather contemne him, then farther pursue him. He is to blame saith Martial (and further he brandes him with a knavish name) that will be wittie in another man's booke. How then will scoffing readers scape this marke of a maledizant? Whose wits have no other worke, nor better worth then to flout, and fall our? It is foule blemish that Paterculus findes in the face of the Gracchi. They had good wits, but use thern ill. But a fouler blot then a Jewes letter is it in the foreheads of Caelies and Curio, that he sers, Ingeniose nequam, they were wittily wicked. Pitie it is but evermore wit should be virtuous, vertue gende" gentrie studious, students gracious. Let follie be dishonest, dishonestie unnoble, ignobili ti e scandalous, and scandal slanderous. Who then are they that misspend all their leisure, yea take their cheefe pleasure in back biting welldeservers? I see and I am sorie to see a sort of men, whose death damnation, whose daies are surfeiting, whose nights lecherie, yea such as *Nanna* could never teach *Pippa*, nor *Comare* and *Balia* discourse of and whose couches are Spintries; whose thrift is usurie, meales gluttonie, exrcise cousenage, whose valour bragardrie, *Astolpheidas*, or *Rodomontadas*, or if it come to action, crueltie: whose communication is Atheisme, contention, detraction, or Paillardise, most of lewdness, seld of vertue, never of charitie; whose spare-time is vanitie or villanie: yet will I not deale by thern, as they doe by others, I like not reproofe where it pertaines not to me: But if they like to see their owne pictures in lively colours of their own ornaments, habillements, attendants, observances, studies, amours, religions, games, travels, imployments, furnitures; let them as gentlemen (far so I construe *Nobiles*, and more rhey be not, if they be no lesse) goe to the Painters shop, or looking-glasse of *Ammianus Marcellinus*, an unpartiall historian, in his 28 booke about the middle, and blush, and amend, and think, that thence, and out of themselves I might well draw a long declamation: they that understand him, will agnise this: they that do no t, let thern learne: let both conceive, how they conforme, and both reforme their deformities; or if they will nar, at least let thern forbear to blur others because they are blacke thernselves, least it be saide to thern, as *Seneca* saide to one not unhtely, *Te fora scabies*

depascitur; tu naeuos rides pulchriorum? This let them construe, and take to them the meaning of their labour. And though I more than feare much detracting: for I have already tasted some, and that extraordinarie though in an ordinarie place, where my childe was beaten ere it was borne: some divining his imperfections for his English part some fore-speaking his generall weakenes, and very gently seeming to pitie his fathers. And one averring that he could beget a better of his owne, which like ynough he can, and hath done manie a one, God forgive him. But the best is, my sonne with all his faultes shall approve himself no misse-begotten. And for those exceptions, knowing from whom they come, I were very weake-minded if they coulde anything move me. And that husbandman might be counted very simple, that for the ominous shreekes of an unluckie, hoarce-voist, dead-devouring night-raven or two, or for feare of the malice of his worst conditioned neighbors, would neglect either to rill and sowe his ground, or after in due time to reape and thresh out his harvest, that might benefite so many others with thar, wich both their want might desire, and their thankfulness would deserve. So did I intend my first seede, so doe I my harvest. The first fruites onely reserved to my Honorable Patrones, the rest to every woorthie Ladie and gentleman that pleases to come and buy; and though I doubt not that ravens and crows both will have a graine or two now and then in spite of my teeth, especially H.S. who is so manie graines too light: yet I am well content to repay good for evill, thinking it not impossible that by the taste of the come those very soules may in ti me have their mouthes stopt for speaknig evill against the husbandman. And let this cornparisòn of a labouring man by the way put you in mind (Gentle Reader) of his labours, that hath laboured so much and so long to save you labour, which I doubt not but he may justly stand upon in this toong-work, as in Latin *SIR THOMAS ELIOT*, *BISHOP COOPER* and after them *THOMAS THOMAS*, and *JOHN RIDER* have done amongst us: and in Greeke and Latin both the *STEPHANS* the father and the sonne, who notwithstanding the helpes each of them had, yet none of them but thought he might challenge speciall thanks for his speciali travel, to better purpose than anie before him. And if they did so in those toongs where they had so many, and so great helpes, and in toongs which were helpes to one another; they that understande, will easily acknowledge the difference berwixt my paines and theirs: yet I desire no pre-eminence of thanks: but either equall thanks, or equall excuse. And well may I make that comparison betwixt our labours, that *ALLESSANDRO CITTOLINI* maketh in his *Tipocosmia*: we all fared indeed like sea- faring men (according to my first comparison) and launched fonh into a deepe and dangerous sea, but they had this advantage of me, that they were many to steere a passage-boate; I was but one to turne and winde the sailes, to use rhe oare, to sit at sterne to pricke my carde, to watch upon the upper decke, boate-swaine, pilot, mate, and master, all offices in one, and that in a more unruly, ore unweildie, and more roome-some vessel, then the biggest hulke on Thames, or burthen-bearing Caracke in Spaine; or slave-tiring Gallie in Turkie, and that in a sea more divers, more dangerous, more stormie, and more cornfortlesse then any oceano If any, think that I had great helpes of *ALUNNO*, or of *VENUTI*, let him confer and knowe I have in two, yea almost in one of my letters of the Alphabet more wordes, than they have in all their twentie; and they are but for a few auctors in the Italian toong, mine for most that write well, as may appeere in the Catalog ofbookes that I have read through of purpose for the accomplishing of this Dicrionarie. I would not meddle with their defects and errors, nor yet amplifie the fulnesse or perfection of my owne worke, farther than upon a just ground to satisfie his good desire that wisheth the best helpe. If any man aske whether all Italian words be here? I answeere him it may be no: and yet I think here be as many, as he his likely to finde (that askes the question) within the compasse of his reading; and yet he may have read well too.

I should think that very few wordes could escape rhose auctors I have set downe, which I have read of porpose to the absolute accomplishing of this worke, being the most principall, choicest, and difficult in the toong; especially writing in such varietie not onlie of matters, but of dialects: but what if I aske him againe, how many hundred words he, and possibly his teachers too were gravelled in? which he shall finde here explained? If no other bookes can be so well perfected, but still some thing may be added, how much lesse a Word-booke? Since daily borh new wordes are invented; and bookes stili found that make a new supplie of olde. We see the experience in Latin a

limited toong, that is at his full growth: and yet if a man consider the reprinting of Latin Dictionaries, ever with addition of new store, he would thinke it were stili increasing. And yet in these Dictionnaires as in all other that is printed stili is reputed perfect. And so it is no doubt after the customarie and possible perfection of a Dictionarie, which kinde of perfection if I challenge to mine (especially considering the yearly increase, which is as certainly in this, in French, in Spanish in Dutch &c., as we find by experience it is in Englishe: and I thinke r may well saie more in this, then in the rest; yea, and in the rest, mosdy from this) I Hope no man that shall expend the woorth of this work in impartiall examination, will think I challenge more then is due to it. And for English-gendemen me thinks it must needes be a pleasure to them, to see so rich a toong out-vide by their mother-speech, as by the manie-falde Englishes or manie wordes in this is manifest? The want whereof in England heretefore, I might justly say in all Europe, might endeare the woorth. Though without it some knew much, yet none knew all Italian, as all may do by this. That well to know Italian is a grace of all graces without exception, which I ever exemplifie in her gracious Highnes; whose due-deserved-praises set foorth aright I may righdy say, as a notable Italian writer saide earst of his most-renowned father of famous memorie, *Che per capir le giuste lodi della quale converrebbe o che il cielo s'inalzasse o che il mondo s'allargasse*; or as the modern Italian Homer saide of a Queen far inferiour to her thrice-sacred Majestie, *Che le glorie altrui si esprimono scrivendo e parlando, quelle di sua Serenissima e sacratissima Maesta si possono solo esprimere marauigliando e tacendo*. Of whose innumerable excellencies: if not the foremost, is not the foremost, yet most famous I have heard, and often have had the good hap and comfort to see, that no. Ambassador or stranger hath audience of hir Majestie, but in his native toong; and none hath answere but in the same; or in the common toongs of Greeke and Latin, by hir sacred lips pronounced. That the best by hir pattern desire to doe as much, I doubt no t; but I doubt how they can wirhout such helpe and that such helpe was to be had till now. I denie: yet doe I understand that a gentleman of worshipful account, well travel!ed, well conceited, and well experienced in the Italian, hath in this very kind taken great pains, and made as great proofes of his inestimable worth. Glad would I be to see that work abroad: some sight whereof, gave me twenty years since the first light to this. But since he suppresseth his, far private respects, or further perfection, nor he nor others will (I hope) prize this the lesse. I could here enter into a large discourse of the Italian toong, and of the teachers and teaching thereof and show the ease and facilities of it, with setting downe some few, yea, very few observations whereunto the Italian toong may be reduced: which some of good sort and experience have merrily compared to juggling-tricks, all which afore a man know or discover how they are done, one would judge to be very hard and difficult; but after a man hath seene and known them, they are deemed but slight and easie. And I was once purposed for the benefit of all learners to have done it, and to have shewed why through my Dictionarie I have in all verbs of the first conjugation onely set downe the Infinitive moode, except it be fewer irregular verbes, and wherefore in all of the seconde and thirde conjugations I have noted besides the Infinitive moode, the first person singular of the present-tence of the Indicative moode, the first person singular of the first preterperfect-tence of the Indicative, and the participle. And why in the verbes of the fourth conjugation, I have besides the Infinitive moode, the participle, the first person singular of the present-tence of the Indicative moode of some very few, and not of all, and how by those few onely one may frame all the persons of all tences of all the verbes in the Italian toong; without the knowledge of which, and of those few observations glanced at before, no man can or shall ever learne to speake or write true Italian in England: Bur that I understand there be some that are persuaded, yea and affirme, that nothing can be set downe either by me, or anie else that they have not or knowe not before; and I am informed, that some would not be ashamed to protest they knewe as much before: and therefore contrarie to my first resolution I forbear to doe it, grieving that for their sakes the gentle reader and learner shall be barred of so necessarie a scale of the Italian toong. If these or others think this is no such paines, little price or less profit than I talk of, I onely wish they felt bur half of my paines for it; or let them leave this, and tie themselves to the like taske and then let the fruites of our labours, and the reapers of the fruites judge betwixt us whose paines hath sorted to best perfection: which, ere long (if God send me life and blesse these labors) I

meane to perfect with addition of the French and Latine, and wirh the wordes of some twenty good Italian auctors that I could never obtaine the sight of, and hope shortly to enjoy: And I intend also to publish and annexe unto rhis, an Alphabeticall English Dictionarie, that anie man knowing bur the English word, shall presently finde the Italian for it. Meane-while I wish to thee as of me thou shalt deserve, and wish of thee as I knowe of thee I have deserved.

Resolute JOHN FLORIO.