

Dédicace de Hippolytus

Auteur : Prestwich, Edmund

Voir la transcription de cet item

Les folios

En passant la souris sur une vignette, le titre de l'image apparaît.

7 Fichier(s)

Mots clés

[jugement](#)

Informations éditoriales

Titre complet de la pièce *Hippolitus, translated out of Seneca by Edmund Prestwich, together with divers other Poems of the Same Authors*

Auteur de la pièce Sénèque

Date 1651

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Éditeur

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- Dexter, George

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TO THE
NOBLE and MOST
VERTUOUS LADY,
Mrs. ANNE LEEDES.

Madam,

HEre you see, what diligence I have used to involve my self into a Lab'rinth, out of which, my judgement is not clew sufficient to conduct me. I blush when I remember, how I have betrayed mine own weaknesse to the publike view ; and like *Cæcrops* Daughter , tempted my Mi-

A 3

NERVA

The Epistle

NERVA to mine owne ruine, for
daring to discover an Infant with
such deformed feet. I have reason
to feare, 'that those knowing spi-
rits, the right heires to all those
sacred fountaines within the Di-
ocesse of the Myter'd Hill ; those
profest Champions of Poesie,
who are so jealous of the Muses
Honour, will be strict in their
examinations, severe in their cen-
sures, and where they find an in-
truder , whose follies are stript
thus naked as are mine, liberally
use that lash which was justly put
into their hands. But when they
shal know, I am not so wedded to
self-love , but that (were I per-
mitted to cast my bean into the
Urne) I should bee as ready to
condemn

Dedicatory.

condemne my self, as expect my sentence from another ; Perhaps, so ingenious a confession might in noble minds quite pluck out the sting of Anger, and make their reprehensions rather arise from pitty, or a Fatherly affection, then Revenge : but then I tremble to thinke how I stand engaged amongst all that ignorant and censorious Rabble, who because Nature (foreseeing how lavish they would be of that little which they had) durst not trust them with any considerable stock of wit, beleeve they are priviledg'd to cry it down in others ; Men, that, conscious of their owne basenesse, obstinately arme against truth and knowledge, and by custome of

A 4

Malice

The Epistle

Malice are grown so barbarous,
as they will vindicate a Prostitute,
or set a spurious birth upon the
highest point of Honour; but
endeavour to stab their forked
tongues into the bosome of the
most chaste and noble Virgin; my
meaning is, that they will cherish
common and shallow fancies;
Births so infamous, that they can
only speak their Parents shame;
when a Legitime Poem often
falls a sacrifice to the many-head-
ed and no brained Multitude.
From the rage of these, I fly to
you for Protection, as confident
(how desperately soever other-
wise bent,) they dare not violate
so holy a Sanctuary. Nor doe I
doubt, but you will guard
me

Dedictory.

me from so treacherous and unjust an Enemy, as pretends to reprove my Faults ; but indeed acts his own Malice, and would have persecuted me worse , had this been better. Neither am I so impudent, as to desire you should, against the equity of your own Conscience, defend a trifle, and approve to others what you your self dislike : No (Madame) I request you to be my Judge as well as Patron ; as well to punish where you finde me faulty, as to protect me Innocent ; and if after due examination had , my whole Book shall appeare guilty of cheating my Readers out of so much time for nothing, sentence it to the fire ; and beleeve me, I
would

The Epistle.

would not bewaile mine owne
sufferings, if condemned by so
Legall a Proceſs. But if you ſhall
be pleaſed to receive it into any de-
gree of Favour, I ſhall be ſecure,
that it is not altogether to be de-
ſpiſed, and in that confidence,
dare, both vindicate my ſelf unto
the world, and make my owne
revenge of ſuch as ſhall provoke
me. Your wiſdome, Juſtice, and
ſingular affection to the MUSES,
(to wrong whom, I beleeve you
eſteem, as well as I, a ſinne next
Sacriledge) may ſufficiently war-
rant all men, that your Judgment
will be unbias'd. Therefore as
that ſhall determine of me, I will
either quietly ſubmit my ſelfe to
all cenſures, or riſe up in defence
of

Dedicatory.

of my Innocence. In the meane time, I will not speake one word in mine own behalfe ; onely if this shall faile your expectation, and prove unworthy this Honour it is advanced to; I beseech you exercise both your Justice and Mercy, burne it, but forgive him, who will ever esteeme it his greatest happinesse to be reckn'd amongst the number of

Your Servants,

EDMUND PRESTWICH.