



THE PREFACE.



*M*usicke in ancient times, was held in as great *Estimation*, *Reuerence*, and *Honour*, by the *Best understandings* and *Noblest Bloods*, as any *Science Liberall* whatsoeuer. The *Grane Philosophers* reputed it an *Inuention* of the *Gods*, which they had bestowed on *Men*, to make them *better condition-*

ed, then bare *Nature* afforded: And the *Wise Grecians* therefore educated their children in *it*, that by meanes of *it*, they might *temper* their mindes, and fully settle therein, the *Vertues* of *Modestie* and *Honesty*: and, (in a word) *all of worth* euer held it, a very *Direct* and *Necessary* course, for the best *Institution of Life*, and *Correction of ill manners*.

The *Causes* then of that *Disrepute*, and *ouer lowe Estimation*, which *Musicke* in these dayes, (for the most part) sustaines, and whether they proceed from *Corruptions of Nature*, or *Art*, or both, as long since I began to meruaile at, so had I now vttered some obseruations thereabout, had not counsaile, and discretion perswaded me a while for a further exact suruay.

I had then (amidst other things) vnfolded on the one side, both the *Naturall*, and also the *Polittick Affect*or and
A *Entertayne*ment