
Apologie.

And although very many of them were *Defectiue* in their Composition when they came to my hands: yet according to my knowledge then, I *corrected* them and *commended* them to the world, and had the *Printer* and *Press-Corrector* discharg'd their office with care, they had appear'd without any defect in their *Cliffes*, *Notes*, and *Ditties*, though most part of their *Measures* in the *Prolation* and *Diminutions* (following the *Common Practise*) are falsely *Character'd*; the which, by this fourth and last worke of *Ionick Harmonies*, may be corrected.

The *Forraine Artift* saith, that an *Englishman* is an excellent *Imitator*, but a very bad *Inuentor*; and indeed it should so appeare; for we obseruing such *Inuentions* which they ensample to vs, as *Madrigalls*, *Pastorals*, *Neapolitanes*, *Ballads*, and diuers other light *Harmonies*, doe bend our courses onely to surpass the *tuning* of such *Strings*; Among whome if diuers excellent *Composers* haue exceeded their *Ensamples*, why should not we (seeing our *Art* is as copious and ample, our *Clymate* not exceeding moist, and our *Artists* (as they confesse) farre surpass them in the accuratenes thereof, which is vpon the *Plaine song*, and *multiplicity of Parts*, wherein they doe admire vs,) finde some *Inuention* to set them on worke? Surely the fault is in our slothfull *Natures*, either not aiming at the foresaid *Perfection*, or not making *Vse* of those knowledges for *Inuention*, which they would direct vs vnto.

Wherefore let vs for the honour of our *Art*, of our *Selues* and *Countrey*, (especially those whome she maintaines) endeaour to bring *Her* vnto that *Life*, *Reputation*, *Estimation* and honour, which she formerly did sustaine; so shall wee acknowledge our selues her *True-borne Children*, and knowe *Her selfe* to be a vertuous *Mother* and *Nurse*, and the *World* will esteeme *Her* according to her *Desire*, and reward vs according to our *Deserts*, and all receiue *Comfort* and *Contentment*, according to that power, which she affoordeth.

