
The Preface

that *excellencie*, wherein the *Art* is now to be found, and in divers other particulars tending to the same effect.

But now in the meane time, let the *Affector* shew his *Disposition*, and the *Professor* his *Art*, to both whome I promise, that when e're I proceed in it, I will be free and impartiall, as Rule and Reason onely giues me, laying my Obseruations, and so desiring (if it may be) the restitution of our Science, to Due, and ancient Honour.

And till then (if at all they loue the *Art*) they shall well accept of my good will, and (with me) take in good worth, these *various Sprightfull, Delightfull Harmonies*, which now I bring them. Their *Composure* I dare warrant, 'tis not onely of *Ayre*, made for some small tickling of the outward Sence alone, but a great deale more solide, and sweetly vnited to *Number, Measures, and Nature* of the *Ditty*. The earnest affections which a man hath, in the vse of such *Recreations* as they are made for, are so fully exprest in them, for *Tact, Prolation, and Diminution*, that not onely the *Ignorant* Eare must needs be pleased with them, for their *Variety* of *sweet Straynes*, and the *Humorous Fantastick* eare satisfied, in the *Iocundity* of their many *Changes*, but also the *Judicious* hearer will finde that in them, which passes the *Outward* sence, & strikes a *rare delight*: of *Passion* vpon the *Mind* it selfe, that attends them.

I will take so much *Judgement* vpon me, as to affirme, I finde a *great* part of them so, though (without any tryall) the very *Naming* of those *two Worthies* in their *Art, and Times*, (and especially in these *kinds*) who first *Composed* that part I now speake of, is warrant inough for such a Beleeefe of them. Maister *Edward Pearce* the first, sometimes Maister of the Children of *Saint Paules* in London, and there my Maister, a man of singular eminency in his *Profession*, both in the *Educating* of *Children* for the ordering of the *Voyce* so, as the *Quality* might afterward *credit* him and *pre-*