

must be sung; and that is (say they) 3. to one. True; but then askethem *what three to one?* and they will tell you, 3. *Minimes* to one *Semi-breue*; O most *Vnproportionate Customable Compositors*, whose Art serues them not so much as to distinguish *Prolation* from *Proportion*! For *Prolation* is, when 3. *Minimes* goe to one *Semi-breue*, and *Triple Proportion* is, when 3. *Semi-breues* to one *Semi-breue*, as being a *Proportion of the Greater Inequality*, and (as wee terme it) *Multiplicis generis*, that is when a *Greater Number* is compar'd with a *Lesser*, and containeth the *Lesser* many Times as  $\frac{3}{1}$  &c. It is euident then, that this single *Ternary Number* cannot stand for a *Triple Proportion*, seeing it wants a *Lesser Number* to bee compar'd with all; and beside that, were there a *Number* adioyn'd, yet the signe of the *Imperfect Time*, the *Perfect Prolation*,<sup>(1)</sup> (and *Number* cannot work vpon *Prolation* <sup>(2) Ornitho. lib. 2. cap. 8.</sup>) so long as the *Circle* retains the *Poynt*,) the *Charactering* of the *Note* in white, the breaking of the *Measur'd Notes*, and the *Measure* of a *Lesser Quantity* and *Quality* to the *Tact*, would all resolue vs, 'tis no *Triple Proportion*.

Others then being beaten from that opinion, and yet not doubting but to hit the marke, make answer; Some, that the *Number* is there set to signifie, that 3. *Minimes* went to a *Semi-Breue*, in their idle conceites neuer remembering that the *Poynt* in the *Semi-Circle* signifies that sufficiently: Some, that it is to signifie the *Moode*, not regarding that the *Measure* it selfe confutes them, in as much as this *Ternary Number* signifieth *Perfection*, and the *Moodes* in this *Measure* are *Imperfect*. And lastly, Some (rather then faile) will haue it signifie *Time*, quite forgetting (as good *Authors* obserue) that 'tis the *Circle* which signifies it, which being broken in this *Measure*, makes it therefore *Imperfect*.

May I not then wel conclude, that seeing this *Number* signifieth neither *Proportion*, nor *Prolation*, nor *Imperfect moodes*,