



THE DESCRIPTION,

SPEECHES, AND SONGS, OF

THE LORDS MASKE, PRESENTED IN

the Banqueting-house on the marriage night
of the high and mightie Count Palatine,
and the royally descended the Ladie

ELISABETH.

(* *)
* *



Have now taken occasion to satisfie many, who long since were desirous that the Lords maske should be published, which (but for some private lets, had in due time come forth. The Scene was divided into two parts from the roose to the floore, the lower part being first discovered (upon the sound of a double consort, exprest by seuerall instruments, plac't on either side of the roome) there appeared a Wood in prospectiue, the innermost part being of releaue, or whole round, the rest painted. On the left hand from the seate was a Caue, and on the right a thicket, out of which came Orpheus, who was attired after the old Greeke manner, his haire curled, and long; a lawrell wreath on his head; and in his hand hee bare a siluer bird, about him tamely placed seuerall wild beasts, and upon the ceasing of the Consort Orpheus spake.

ORPHEVS.

A Gen, agen, fresh kindle *Phæbus* sounds,
T'exhale *Mania* from her earthie den;

C

Allay

What fair dames wish, should swift as their own thoughts
 appear,
To louing & to longing harts euey houre seemes a yeare.

2

See how faire: O how faire they shine,
 What yeelds more pompe beneath the skies?
Their birth is yet diuine,
 And such their forme implies.

Large grow their beames, their nere approach afford the so
By nature sights that pleasing are, can not too amply show,
O might these flames in humane shapes descēd this place,
How louely would their presence be, how full of grace!

*In the end of the first part of this Song, the vpper part of the
Scene was discovered by the sodaine fall of a curtaine, then in
cloudes of seuerall colours (the vpper part of them being fierie,
and the middle heightned with silver) appeared eight Starres of
extraordinarie bignesse, which so were placed, as that they seemed
to be fixed betweene the Firmament and the Earth; in the front
of the Scene stood Prometheus, attyred as one of the ancient
Heroes.*

Enth. Patron of mankinde, powerfull and bounteous,
Rich in thy flames, reuerend *Prometheus*,
In *Hymens* place aide vs to solemniize
These royall Nuptials, fill the lookers eyes
With admiration of thy fire and light,
And from thy hand let wonders flow to night.

Prem. *Entheus* and *Orpheus* names both deare to me,
In equall ballance I your *Third* will be
In this nights honour, view these heau'n borne Starres,
Who by my stealth are become Sublunars.
How well their natiue beauties fit this place,
Which with a chorall dance they first shall grace;
Then shall their formes to humane figures turne,
And these bright fires within their bosomes burne.

Orpheus

The description, speeches, and songs,

Orpheus apply thy musick for it well
Helps to induce a Courtly miracle.

Orp. Sound best of Musicks, raise yet higher our sprights,
While we admire *Prometheus* dancing lights.

A Song.

1

A Duance your Chorall motions now
You musick-louing lights,
This night concludes the nuptiall vow,
Make this the best of nights,
So brauely Crowne it with your beames,
That it may liue in fame,
As long as *Rhenus* or the *Thames*
Are knowne by either name.

2

Once moue againe, yet nearer moue
Your formes at willing view,
Such faire effects of ioy and loue,
None can expresse but you,
Then reuell midst your ayrie Bowres
Till all the clouds doe sweat,
That pleasure may be powr'd in showres
On this triumphant Seat.

3

Long since hath louely *Flora* throwne
Her Flowers and Garlands here,
Rich *Ceres* all her wealth hath showne,
Prowde of her daintie cheare.
Chang'd then to humane shape descend,
Clad in familiar weede.
That euey eye may here commend
The kinde delights you breede.

of the Lords Maske.

According to the humour of this Song, the Starres mooued in an exceeding strange and delightfull maner, and I suppose fewe haue euer seene more neate artifice, then Master Innigoe Iones shewed in contriuing their Motion, who in all the rest of the workmanship which belong'd to the whole inuention, shewed extraordinarie industrie and skill, which if it be not as liuely exprest in writing as it appeared in view, robbe not him of his due, but lay the blame on my want of right apprehending his instructions for the adoring of his Arte. But to returne to our purpose; about the end of this Song, the Starres suddainely vanished, as if they had beene drowned amongst the Cloudes, and the eight Maskers appeared in their habits, which were infinitely rich, befitting States (such as indeede they all were) as also a time so farre heightned the day before, with all the richest shew of Solemnitie that could be inuented. The ground of their attires was massie Cloth of Siluer, embossed with flames of Embroidery, on their heads, they had Crownes, Flames made all of Gold-plate Enameled, and on the top a Feather of Silke, representing a cloude of smoake. Vpon their new transformation, the whole Scene being Cloudes dispersed, and there appeared an Element of artificiall fires, with seuerall circles of lights, in continuall motion, representing the house of Promctheus, who then thus applies his speech to the Maskers.

They are transformed.

Prometh. So, pause awhile, and come yee fierie spirits,
Breake forth the earth-like sparks t'attend these Knights.

Sixteene Pages like fierie spirits, all their attires being alike composed of flames, with fierie Wings and Bases, bearing in either hand a Torch of Virgine Waxe, come forth below dauncing a liuely measure, and the Daunce being ended, Prometheus speakes to them from aboue.

The

The description, speeches, and songs,

The Torch-bearers Daunce.

Pro. **V**Vait spirits wait, while through the clouds we
And by descending gaine a hier place. (pace,

The Pages returne toward the Scene, to giue their attendance to the Maskers with their lights: from the side of the Scene appeared a bright and transparant cloud, which reached from the top of the heauens to the earth: on this cloud the Maskers led Prometheus, descended with the musicke of a full song; and at the end of their descent, the cloud brake in twaine, and one part of it (as with a winde) was blowne ouerthwart the Scene.

While this cloud was vanishing, the wood being the vnder-part of the Scene, was insensibly changed, and in place thereof appeared foure Noble women-statues of siluer, standing in seuerall nicces, accompanied with ornaments of Architecture, which filled all the end of the house, and seemed to be all of gold-smithes work. The first order consisted of Pillasters all of gold, set with Rubies, Saphyrs, Emeralds, Opals, and such like. The Capitels were composed, and of a new inuention. Ouer this was a bastard order with Cartouses reuerfed, comming from the Capitels of euery Pillaster, which made the upper part rich and full of ornament. Ouer euery statue was placed a history in gold, which seemed to be of base releaué; the conceits which were figured in them were these. In the first was Prometheus, embossing in clay the figure of a woman, in the second he was represented stealing fire from the chariot-wheele of the Sunne: in the third, he is exprest putting life with this fire into his figure of clay; and in the fourth square, Iupiter enraged, turnes these new made women into statues. Aboue all, for finishing, ran a Cornish, which returned ouer euery Pillaster, seeming all of gold and richly carued.

The description, speeches, and songs,

Eu'ry one fetch out your *P*heare,
Whom chiefly you will honor heere,
Sights most pleasure breed,
When their numbers most exceed:
Chuse then, for choice to all is free,
Taken or left, none discontent must bee.

CHORVS.

Now in thy Reuels frolicke-faire delight,
To heape Ioy on this euer honored night.

The Maskers during this Dialogue take out others to daunce with them, men women, and women men, and first of all the Princely Bridegroome and Bride were drawne into these solemne Reuels, which continued a long space, but in the end were broken off with this short Song.

A Song.

CEase, cease you Reuels, rest a space,
New pleasures presse into this place,
Full of beautie and of grace.

The whole scene was now againe changed, and became a perspective with Porticoes on each side, which seemed to go in a great way, in the middle was erected an Obeliske, all of siluer, and in it lights of severall colours, on the side of this Obeliske, standing on Pedestals, were the statues of the Bridegroome and Bride, all of gold in gracious postures. This Obeliske was of that height, that the toppe thereof touched the highest cloudes, and yet Sybilla did draw it forth with a threed of gold. The graue Sage was in a Roabe of gold tuckt up before to her girdle, a Kirtle gathered full, and of siluer; with a vaile on her head, being bare neckt, and bearing in her hand a scrole of Parchment.