

by the application of a rule deduced long ago from considerations in regard to old fashioned hand-writing similar to those spoken of by Mr. J. P. Collier, in his "Account of Early English Literature," (ii. 259.) He is observing on the couplet from a now forgotten writer—Barnaby Rich :

"To what impression I have wrought it now,
The wise may judge, for fools feare not how."

After pointing out that in the second line, both sense and measure detect a misprint, and that "I care not how" ought manifestly to be read instead of "feare not how;" he adds, "When we recollect that in manuscript of the time (1613) the pronoun *I* was constantly carried below the line, it is easy to understand how 'I care' came to be misprinted 'feare.' This mode of detecting errors in old books has never been sufficiently attended to; and editors of Shakspeare have often preserved blunders, because they did not consider, or perhaps did not know, how words would look in writing of the period."

1. In Act iii., sc. 2. of *Romeo and Juliet*, the beginning of the sixth line (the *locus conclamatus*) should, I think, read:—

"That *Erinnys*' eyes may wink."

It is quite in Shakspeare's way to put into the mouths of his characters mythological names well-known through the translations in vogue in his day, of Homer, Virgil, Ovid, &c. In line 2, of this scene, we have 'Phœbus;' in line 3, 'Phaethon.' The fury '*Erinnys*,' familiar from Virgil's

"In flammas et in arma feror, quo tristis *Erinnys*,
Quo fremitus vocat, et sublatus ad æthera clamor—"

is here conceived of as promoting the fierce family feuds which were distracting Verona, and rendering adventures, like that of *Romeo*, exceedingly dangerous. In Act ii., sc. 2., line 70, *Juliet* says to *Romeo*, "If they (any of the *Capulets*) see thee, they will murder thee."—The name '*Erinnys*,' with similar associations, is employed by Shakspeare in line 5 of *1 Hen.*, iv. 1. 1.

"The thirsty *Erinnys* of this soil."

That is to say, it is highly probable (as Mr. Monk Mason suggested) that '*Erinnys*' is the right reading here, also; and, accordingly, the word is given in the Concordance of Mrs. Cowden Clarke, with this one reference. But the idea of '*Erinnys*' occurred to me as the proper lection in the place referred to in *Romeo and Juliet*, while considering one of the lines in the Latin invocation which, in the "Tra-