

105-14. Quince puts the stops in the wrong places, so that he says just the opposite of what he really means. When properly punctuated the speech should read as follows :

"If we offend, it is with our good will
That you should think we come not to offend,
But with good will to show our simple skill ;
That is the true beginning of our end.
Consider then. We come; but in despite
We do not come. As minding to content you,
Our true intent is all for your delight.
We are not here that you should here repent you.
The actors are at hand; and by their show
You shall know all that you are like to know."

115. stand upon points. Pay any attention to pauses.

120. a recorder. A kind of flute or flageolet.

not in government. Not properly controlled, hence without any tune.

135. hight. Is called.

142-3. Shakespeare is, no doubt, ridiculing the excessive use of alliteration which was common in his time.

143. broach'd. Stabbed.

150. sinister. Left-hand.

165. grim-look'd. Grim looking.

172. eyne. Eyes.

177. sensible. Capable of feeling.

181. pat. Exactly.

188. an. If.

192. Limander. Leander (not Limander) was a youth of Abydos, who, according to legend, used to swim across the Hellespont every night to visit Hero of Sestos, with whom he was in love.

193. Helen. He means Hero. One night Leander was drowned, and on learning of his death Hero threw herself into the sea.

194. Cephalus ("Shafalus"), a Greek youth, was beloved by Eos, the Dawn; he did not return her love, however, but remained true to his wife Procris ("Procrus").

199. 'Tide life, 'tide death. Whether life or death comes to me (betides).