

"General English Dictionary," under the title of "A New World of Words," with direct allusion probably to Florio's book.) When the volume now before us was "imprinted at London by Arnold Hatfield," and offered for sale by Edward Blunt, "at his shop over against the great north dore of Paules Church," Florio himself, doubtless, might still often be seen exploring the contents of Mr. Blunt's shelves. The "World of Words" was dedicated by the compiler to "Roger, Earle of Rutland, Henrie, Earle of Southamton, and Lucie, Countesse of Bedford." The reason why he named three patrons, and in this order, is, that he likens his book to a "bouncing boie" of his own, who now, "after some strength gathered to bring it abroad," requires, "as the manner of the countrie is" that there should be two male witneses and one female to his "entrie into Christendom." He therefore entreats the three personages named, as sponsors to the "young springall;" to take him under their protection and "avowe him theirs." Henrie, Earle of Southamton, by whose "paie and patronage" in particular, Florio here frankly says he has lived some years and "to whom he owes and vows the yeares he has to live," was the well-known friend of Shakspeare. In Southamton's circle, a good deal of quiet joking went on at the expense of "resolute John Florio," as he styled himself; and quiet a little feud seems to have sprung up between him and the great dramatist. In 1591, in a work entitled "Second Fruits," Florio had ventured the remark that "the plays that they play in England are neither right comedies nor right tragedies, but representations of Histories without decorum." As being certainly a glance at himself, Shakspeare remembered this observation of Florio's; and in 1597, when "Love's Labour's Lost" appeared Florio was immediately recognized in Holofernes—Florio, of course, grotesquely overdrawn. In the Preface to the reader, in this very book, the "world of words," we have Florio endeavouring to retort by recalling the fact that aforetime Aristophanes