

yielded much new information. As the materials thus collected increased it became evident that my original intention of dealing only with the provincial companies would have to be abandoned, and both the London and the provincial companies would have to be treated. In the case of the London companies this involved a complete reworking of the existing knowledge on the subject in the light of the new materials.

So far as the London sources are concerned, I can lay claim to no new find of importance except the Inner Temple MS., given in vol. ii. as Appendix F. This document Collier mentions, but neither he nor Mr. Fleay seems to have examined it carefully. At any rate they did not transcribe it into their works nor use the details in it. As these details are important this document is worth special notice.

The new material collected from the provincial records has considerably modified the history of almost every known dramatic company of the Elizabethan period, has brought to light a large number of new companies and many hitherto unknown actors, has given much new information about the methods of licensing companies, the relations of the London and provincial companies, the plays acted in the provinces, the places of acting, the attitude of the people toward the players, their earnings and their relation to their patrons. Of these details it has been impossible in this book to treat fully those referring more especially to the customs of the companies. This, I hope to do in a