

well acquainted with Ovid through this medium,¹ and to his familiarity with it is due a very large proportion of his mythological references, a fact which would have secured its modern publication as a part of "Shakespeare's Library," one would have supposed, before the year 1904. It may be of interest here to notice some of the many sixteenth century encomiums that were pronounced upon Golding's work. In 1566—before the publication of the complete translation—a certain T. B. in a poem prefixed to John Studley's English version of Seneca's *Agamemnon*, ranks Richard Edwards, a contributor to *The Paradise of Dainty Devices*, with Phaer, Jasper Heywood, Gooze and other translators of the period, but especially with Golding :

"With him also, as seemeth me,
Our Edwards may compare ;
Wao nothing gyuing place to him
Doth syt in egall chayre."²

and again

"Nor Goldinge can haue lesse renoume,
Whych *Ouid* dyd translate ;
And by the thondryng of hys verse
Hath set in chayre of state."³

In 1577 Thomas Blener Hasset in the Induction to his *Complaint of Cadwallader* in his *Second Part of the Mirror for Magistrates* laments the contemporary use of rhyme, and holds it responsible for the fact that there is a great difference between the work of the modern translator and that of his original—"betwixt Buehurst and Homer ; betwixt Phaer and Virgill ; betwixt Turberville and Tibullus ; betwixt Golding and Ovid ; betwixt George Gascon and Seneca."⁴ Abraham Fleming in the list affixed to his *Bright burning Beacon forwarning all wise Virgins to trim their lampes against the comming of the Bridegroome*,—a tract on the earthquake of

¹ V. an interesting note in Rouse's introduction on an *Aldine Ovid* (1502) now in the Bodleian, which may possibly have belonged to Shakespeare (p. ii).

² Warton's *History of English Poetry*, ed. W. C. Hazlitt, vol. iv, p. 217.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. iv, p. 275.

⁴ Quoted by Schelling in *Poetic and Verse Criticism of the Reign of Elizabeth*, p. 24.