

English prose the last five books of the *Metamorphoses*,¹ but the work does not seem to have been printed until 1819, when it appeared in quarto form—from a MS. in the Pepysian collection (No. 2124) at Cambridge, and was presented to the members of the Roxburghe Club by George Hibbert, Esq.² A black letter quarto, published by Wynkin de Worde in 1513, contained *The Flores of Ovide de Arte Amandi, with theyr Englyssh afore them*.³ In 1560 appeared *The Fable of Ovid treating of Narcissus, translated out of Latin into Englysh Mythe, with a Moral thercunto, very pleasaunte to rede*, printed by Thomas Hackette in quarto form. At the end is the signature: "Quod T. H.," which Ritson confidently interprets as Thomas Howell.⁴ In 1565, the year in which Golding's edition of the first four books appeared, Thomas Peend or De La Peend published *The Pleasant Fable of Hermaphroditus and Salmacis*, London, 8vo., from the fourth book of the *Metamorphoses*. The volume was printed by Thos. Colwell, and in the preface the author asserts that "he had translated a great part of the *Metamorphosis*, intending to complete a version of *Ovid*, but was led to relinquish his design on finding that Golding was engaged on the same undertaking."⁵ Before the end of the century practically all of Ovid's works had been translated into English: Turberville's *Heroides* appeared in 1567; Underdowne's *Ibis* in 1569; Churchyard's *Tristia* in 1580; Marlowe's *Elegies* and the *Amores* in 1597, and Browne's *Remedie of Love* in 1599.

Golding's work was immediately recognized by his contemporaries as a notable piece of translation, as is evidenced by the many commendations it called forth; its popularity is attested by its frequent re-publication, in 1575, 1576, 1584, 1587, 1593 (by two different publishers), 1603, 1612, and 1675. Until the appearance of Sandys' version in 1626 (he had published the first five books before 1621) the pre-eminence of Golding's translation was not disputed. Shakespeare was

¹ Not the whole work, however, as Mr. Rouse seems to state. *Vop. cit.*

² *Ibid.*

³ Lowndes, *op. cit.*

⁴ *Ibid.* *ibid.*

⁵ Corser's *Collectanea Anglo-Poetica* (Chetham Society, vol. cl, pp. 9-17.)