

causing him to put the alternative: "Wilt drink up Nile, *or* eat a crocodile?"

The mad challenge of Hamlet is to drink up even *Nilus*, a household word for a stream extravagant in its overflowings. The name, *Nilus*, thus given at full length, occurs elsewhere in Shakspeare; as, for example, in *Titus Andronicus*, iii., lines 70-1:—

"My grief was at its height, before thou camest;
And now, like Nilus, it disdaineth bounds."

3. My third correction is in the eighth line of the Hundred-and-Twelfth Sonnet. I read—

"That steel'd am I 'gainst censure, right or wrong."

The editors confess that this line, as usually printed, yields but little meaning:—

"That my steel'd sense or changes right or wrong."

Like some other portions of the Sonnets and plays of Shakspeare, this line has, I think, first been taken down wrongly, from dictation, and then inaccurately printed; not only with particular letters, points, and marks of elision mistaken, but with a confusion of order in the words. By printing, as I have suggested, we recover the excellent Shakspearean term "censure," and get rid of the expression "sense;" which is not likely to have been written here, when it occurs so immediately afterwards, at the end of the tenth line of the Sonnet.*

As a final remark, I add that I think there ought to have been admitted, without further hesitation, into the Globe edition, the following corrections: "Seamews," for "seamels" (ells), in l. 176, Act ii. sc. 2, *Tempest*; "bollen bag-pipe," for "woollen bag-pipe," in l. 56, Act iv., sc. 1, *M. of Venice*; and, "Ethics" (ickes), for "checks" (eckes), in l. 32, Act i., sc. 1, *T. of the Shrew*.

* In regard to the apparent violation of grammar, in the eleventh line, where the nominative to "are" is "sense" in the preceding line, the reader is to observe that "adders' sense," in this place, having the meaning of "ears," is to be taken as a noun of multitude. Thus, "power," as an equivalent to "forces," is used as a plural, in *K. John*, v. 6. 39—41:—

"Half my power, this night,
Passing the flats, are taken by the tide—
These Lincoln Washes have devoured them."

The above proposed amendment in Sonnet cxii, has been once before suggested by me, in the little publication entitled "Shakspeare—the Seer—the Interpreter." *Vide* Note x., p. 69.