

of the Ladie, nor forgetting any thing, of the nobilitie of her kinne, nor of her fathers high stile; as who would saie, that she was of suche an excellent beaultie, and of so high a parentage, that almoste no king or Emperour, was worthy to be her make. Although this mariage pleased well the kyng, and diuerse of his counsaill, and especially suche as were adherentes, and fauours to the erle of Suffolke, yet Humfrey duke of Gloucester, Protector of the realme, repugned and resisted as muche as in him laie, this new alliance and contrined matrimonie" (p. 204).

266. Lines 25-29 Gloucester's reasons for opposing the marriage are the same as those given by Hall (p. 204): "that it was neither consonant to the lawe of God nor man, nor honorable to a prince, to infringe and breake a promise or contracte, by hym made and concluded, for the vtilitie and profite of his realme and people, declaring, that the kyng, by his Ambassadors, sulliciently instructed and authorised, had concluded and contracted, a marriage betwene his hiekinde, and the daughter of thierle of Arminacke, vpon conditions, bothe to hym and his realme, as muche profitable as honorable. Whiche offers and conditions, the said erle sith his coming out of his captiuitie and thralldome, is redy to yelde and performe, sayng: that it was more conueniente for a Prince, to marie a wife with riches and frendes, then to take a make with nothing, and disherite himself and his realme of olde rightes and auncient seignories. The duke was not heard, but the Erles doynges, were condescended vnto, and allowed. Whiche facte engendered suche a flame, that it neuer wente oute, till bothe the parties with many other were consumed and slaine, to the great vniquietnes of the kyng and his realme."

267. Line 46: *Beside, his wealth doth warrant liberal dower.*—This is the reading of F. 2. F. 1 reads "a liberal dower," which Dyce prefers on the ground that *warrant* is usually a monosyllable in our early poets. This may be so in one or two instances; but certainly, in the majority of passages in which Shakespeare uses the word, it cannot be anything but a dissyllable. For instance, in the Comedy of Errors, i. 1. 69, the Two Gent. of Verona, ii. 4. 102; in Richard II. iv. 1. 235, and again in this very play, v. 3. 143. So, upon the whole, we are justified in preferring to follow F. 2.

268. Line 56: *Than to be dealt in by ATTORNEY-SHIP.*—Or as we should say, "by attorney." Shakespeare is

rather fond of this legal similitude: e.g. in Richard III. iv. 4. 413:

*Be the attorney of my love to her;*

and again in same play, v. 3. 83:

*I, by attorney, bless thee from thy mother.*

Shakespeare would certainly seem, at one period of his life, to have had some practical acquaintance with the technicalities of the law. (See Mid. Night's Dream, note 11.)

269. Line 60: *It most of all these reasons bindeth us.*—It is omitted in F. 1; first inserted by Rowe.

270. Line 61: *Whereas the contrary bringeth FORTH bliss.*—This is the reading of F. 2, F. 3, F. 4. F. 1 has *bringeth bliss*, which some editors defend upon the ground that *contrary* is here used as a quadrisyllable; but as there does not seem to be, in Shakespeare, any instance of the use of the word as a quadrisyllable; and as, in two passages, namely, Timon of Athens, iv. 3. 141: "Be quite contrary;" and Hamlet, iii. 2. 221:

*Our wills and fates do so contrary run,*

Shakespeare uses it with the accent on the second syllable (where the word cannot possibly be a quadrisyllable), it seems better to adopt the alteration of F. 2.

271. Line 72: *Will answer hope in issue of a king.*—F. 1 have:

*Will answer our hope in issue of a king.*

The omission of *our* was first suggested by Stevens.

272. Line 90: *Across the seas to England, and be crown'd.*—F. 1 have *To cross*; the emendation is Walker's.

273. Line 108: *But I will rule both her, the king, and realm.*—Whether this play was written before or after those two plays now known as The Second and Third Parts of Henry VI., it certainly ends at the very best point that could be chosen with regard to the two other plays. Henry's marriage seems to have been the turning-point of his fortunes. From that moment nothing seems to have prospered with him or his army. The discontent which the cession of Anjou and Maine excited in the minds of the people, as well as amongst the nobles, was increased by the uniform ill success which the English met with in France after that event. Had Henry not been linked to a woman of so ambitious, resolute, and fierce a character as Margaret, he might, perhaps, have been suffered to conclude his reign in peace; or, at least, to have yielded up the crown of his own accord, and retired into that life of quiet contemplation and religious devotion for which he was most adapted by nature.