

gedy of Locrine," a piece already referred to as, possibly, a juvenile essay of Shakspeare's, Albanact is supposed, somewhat unnaturally, to utter as he dies:—

"Nox cœci regina poli, furialis Erinny's."

Act ii., sc. 7.

The word that causes the trouble in the received text, as possessing in the place no tolerable meaning, is 'runaways.' I account for the appearance of such a singular expression in some such way as this: By the careless blunder or provincial pronunciation of an ill-educated reader or prompter, 'Erinny's,' or, perhaps, as it ought to be, "Erinny's's," was, on some occasion, made to sound as though it had been 'runaways.' As such, or rather, according to the old mode of spelling, as 'runawaies,' it was committed to paper, in jest or in earnest; which paper unfortunately became, at last, part of the 'copy' from which the Folio of 1623 was printed.—The suggestion of the Manuscript corrector of the Folio of '632 is 'enemies,' which will give a certain sense, especially if 's' be attached to the preceding particle 'that:': "That's enemies' eyes," for "That his enemies' eyes." But 'Erinuys,' to my thinking, was the word employed here by Shakspeare. Let the passage, read with this correction, speak for itself.

2. The two hundred-and-ninety-ninth line in Scene 1. of the Fifth Act of Hamlet, is one of the 'still-vest' places of Shakspeare. I feel sure that it should be read,

"Woo't drink up Nilus? eat a crocodile?"

Indistinctness of writing, perhaps the wrong orthography of a *y* for an *i*, and an accidental transposition of syllables in the printing-office, have, together, converted the original word (as I believe) *Nilus*, into *Eysell*, *Eisil*, or *Esil* (in these several ways the modern text is given) conjectured, by the commentators, to be, variously, *esil* (that is, perhaps, *vinegar* in the sense of *poison*), or *vessels* (that is, huge caldrons), or, inasmuch as the word, from its being printed in Italics in the Folio, and beginning with a capital letter, must needs be a proper name, Yssel, Issell, Oesil, Weisel, all names so humored in the writing as to denote rivers which a Prince of Denmark might be supposed to know.—One editor, however (Hammer), came very near the truth in suggesting *Nile*; but *Nilus* did not strike him. He was, consequently, obliged to cke out the line with an "or" in addition, and so he marred the characteristic abruptness of Hamlet's rapid queries, by