THE FAMOUS HISTORIE OF TROYLUS AND CRESSEID, excellently expressing the beginning of their loves, with the conceited wooing of Pandarus Prince of Licia. Written by William Shakespeare.

London, Imprinted by G. Eld for R. Bonian and H. Walley, and are to be sold at the Spread Eagle in Paules Churchyard, over against the great North doore. 1609.

"This beautifully clean perfect copy of the first edition of Troilus and Cressida, with the preface, has never been in any sale, and is perfectly genuine throughout, having been cut out by myself from a volume of tracts collected and bound at the period. This first edition is very rare in any state, but is most particularly so when quite complete with the prose preface, which is omitted in all copies of the second edition of the same year, and is only found in some copies of the first. Not more than three complete copies are known to exist. The present copy has the reading, thric-reprised, considered by Mr. Collier to be peculiar to the Duke of Devonshire's."
—MS. Note.

This precious volume may be considered the gem of the collection, superior in condition and perfection, nearly equal in rarity and value to the first Hamlet.
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A neuer writer, to an euer reader. Newes.

Ternall reader, you haue heere a new play, neuer sat’d with the Stage, neuer clapper-clawd with the palmes of the vulgar, and yet pasting full of the palmecomials; for it is a birth of your braine, that neuer under-tooke any thing commicall, vainely: And were but the vaine names of comedies chang’d for the titles of Commodities, or of Playes for Pleas; you should see all those grand censors, that now stile them such vanities, flock to them for the maine grace of their grauties: especially this authors Comedies, that are so fram’d to the life, that they serve for the most common Commentaries, of all the actions of our lives. Shewing such a dexterise, and power of witte, that the most displeased with Playes, are pleasd with his Comedies. And all such dull and heavy-witted worldlings, as were never capable of the witte of a Comedie, comming by report of them to his representations, have found that witte there, that they never found in them-selues, and have parted better wittied then they came: feeling an edge of witte set upon them, more then ever they dreamd they had braine to grinde it on. So much and such favored falt of witte is in his Comedies, that they seems (for their height of pleasure) to be borne in that sea that brought forth Venus. Amongst all there is none more wisty then this: And had I time I would comment upon it, though I know it needs not, (for so much
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THE EPISTLE.
much as will make you thinke your testern well
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slowd, but so much worth, as even poore I know to be
mighty in it. It deserves such a labour, as well as the best
Comedies in Terence or Plautus. And believe this,
that when he is gone, and his Comedies out of sale,
you will scramble for them, and set up a new English
Inquisition. Take this for a warning, and at the perill
of your pleasures loose, and Judgements, refuse not, nor
like this the leffe, for not being sullied, with the smoky
breath of the multitude; but thinke fortune for the
scape it hath made amongst you. Since by the grand
posserssors will I believe you should have praved for them
rather then beene praved. And so I leave all such to bee
praved for (for the states of their wits healths)
that will not praise it.

Vale.

The history of Troylus
and Cressida.

Enter Pandatus and Troylus.

Troy. Call here my valet, Ile vnarme ageine,
Why should I warre without the walls of Troy:
That finde such cruel battell here within,
Each Troyan that is matter of his heart,
Let him to field Troylus alas hath none.
Pand. Will this Leere nere be mended?
Troy. The Greeks are strong and skillull to their strenght
Fierce to their skill, and to their fiercecensse valiant,
But I am weaker then a waman's tearre;
Tamer then sleepe; fender then ignorance,
Leffe valiant then the Virgin in the night,
And skilless as vnpractized infancy:
Pand. Well, I haue told you enough of this; for my part I
not meddle nor make no farther; see that will have a cake
out of the wheate must tarry the grundyng.
Troy. Haue I not tarried?
Pand. I the grundyng; but you must tarry the boulting,
Troy. Haue I not tarried?
Pande. I the boulting; but you must tarry the leauninge
Troy. Still haue I tarried.
Pand. I to the leauninge, but heeres yet in the word here-
after, the kneading, the making of the cake, the heatinge the
oven, and the baking, say you must stay the cooling too, or
yea may chance burne your lippes.
Troy. i' accente her selue, what Godesse ere she be,
Doth lester blench at suffrance then I do:
At Priams royall table do I sit
And when faire Cressid comes into my thoughts,
So trystor then she comes when she is thence.
Pand. Well thine looke and yealmight faire; then ever I saw her
looke, or any woman els.
Troy. I was about to tell thee when my heart,