

William Kempe

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Brewer should have borrowed from a writer who in his turn borrowed from Beaumont and Fletcher. I believe we may assume that Brewer's play was written some seven or eight years later than I suggested, if the date of Beaumont and Fletcher's play is 1610-11 (Prof. Moorman's conjecture), or two or three years later if it was written in 1607 (Mr Macaulay's date).

A. E. H. SWAEN.

GRONINGEN.

WILLIAM KEMPE.

It has been generally supposed by recent writers that Kempe was the 'Will, my lord of Lester's jesting plaier' referred to in Sir Philip Sidney's letter to Sir Francis Walsingham of March 24, 1586, from Utrecht (*Harl. MS.* 287, f. 1) as carrying despatches from the Low Countries to London; and, if so, this is the earliest notice of the famous actor hitherto upon record. I think, however, that he is to be found in the following passage of a letter of Thomas Doyley to the Earl of Leicester himself from Calais on November 12, 1585 (T. Wright, *Queen Elizabeth and her Times*, ii, 268 from *Cotton MS. Galba, C. viii*):—

'There remayneth in Dunkerk...also Mr Kemp, called Don Gulihelmo.'

E. K. CHAMBERS.

LONDON.

'MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR,' i, iii, 93.

There is a curious mistake in the Cambridge *Shakespeare* and many other modern editions. The First Quarto has

'*Fal.* Here sirrha beare me these letters titely,
Saile like my pinnice to the golden shores :
Hence slaves, avant. Vanish like hailstones, goe.
Falstaffe will learne the humor of this age,
French thrift you rogue, my selfe and scirted Page.

Exit Falstaffe, and the Boy.'

The First Folio also has 'skirted *Page*'; but the editors substitute 'skirted page,' apparently supposing that Falstaff was thinking, not of his intended mistress, but of the boy Robin. Robin, however, did not wear skirts.

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LONDON.