Shakespeare, "Troilus and Cressida," III, III, 161-3

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ostio.' Again (p. 436), we have 'O beata visio dei & gaudiorum celi!' We are told (I, p. 417) that 'contemplacion is a sight, & þai see in til heuen with þaire gasteli iee'; and (II, p. 75), 'with his ghostly eyen than may he se in to the blysse of heuen.'

It is difficult also to accept Dr Bradley's suggestion that 'Actio,' another character in the interlude, is the same as 'Idelnesse' and a corruption of 'Accid' an abbreviation of 'Accidia.' At l. 541, 'Idelnesse' and 'Yuell Counsayle' go out together and 'Actio' enters, having 'ben longe awaye.' (In l. 630, 'Ambo' is a misprint for 'Actio.') I take 'Actio' to be the representative of the active as opposed to the contemplative life (*βίος πρακτικός* and *θεωρητικός*). Cf. the description of the active life (R. R., I, p. 268), 'actyf lyf alon longeþ to worldly men & wymmen which are lewed, fleschly, & boistous in knowyng of gostly occupacion, ffor þei fele no sauour ne deuocion be feruour of loue as oþur men don, þei can no skile of hit, and ȝit neuerþeles þei han drede of god & of þe peynes of helle & þerfore þei fle synne, and þei haue also desyre for to plesse god & for to come to heuene.' How far the former part of this description applies to 'Actio' may readily be seen by reading the interlude. The latter part accounts for the rather sudden conversion of 'Eugenio' and 'Actio' under the preaching of John the Evangelist.

W. H. WILLIAMS.

SHAKESPEARE, 'TROILUS AND CRESSIDA,' III, iii, 161—3.

Or like a gallant horse false in first ranke,
Lie there for pavement to the abject, neere
O'errun and trampled on.

'Neere' is the reading of the First and Second Folios. These lines are not in the Quarto. The correction 'reare,' which is generally accepted, was introduced by Hanmer. In the first place, 'the abject rear' must be understood as 'the rabble in the rear,' for it is plain that the whole rear cannot be pronounced 'abject,' and in the second place, it is not clear why the idea of a horse should have occurred to the speaker in the preceding line, rather than that of a soldier. Just as the abject soldiers who lay in the rear might have been opposed to the gallant warrior in the front rank, so the gallant steed ought to have been set over against the abject horse. Now 'neere,' read phonetically—and those used to the spelling of the time will not raise an objection, unless it be founded on the condemnation by Holofernes in *Love's*

Labour's Lost, v, i, 25, of those 'rackers of orthography' who abbreviate 'neigh' into 'ne'—would answer the purpose. The 'gallant horse' is opposed to the 'abject neighbor,' the brute that can do no better than neigh.

J. DEROCQUIGNY.

SHAKESPEARE, 'ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA,' III, xiii, 158—167.

Ant. Cold-hearted toward me?
Cleo. Ah, dear, if I be so,
 From my cold heart let heaven engender hail,
 And poison it in the source; and the first stone
 Drop in my neck: as it determines, so
 Dissolve my life! The next Caesarion smite!
 Till by degrees the memory of my womb,
 Together with my brave Egyptians all,
 By the discandying of this pelleted storm,
 Lie graveless, till the flies and gnats of Nile
 Have buried them for prey.

(*Globe Edition.*)

The commentators and editors have altered the punctuation of the First Folio, which is nearly correct, and made nonsense of the passage, and have then written notes and explanations endeavouring to make sense of it. Furness in his Variorum Edition of this play gives the following notes:

'next] In deciding the question of Cleopatra's sincerity or insincerity in this scene, has full weight been given to the pathetic tenderness of this word?—Ed.

the next Caesarian] *Steevens*: Caesarion was Cleopatra's son by Julius Caesar. *Irving Edition*: Cleopatra appears to apply the name to Antony's offspring as an indirect compliment; as if she had said, this second Caesar's son. [Or, rather, is it not a wilful and artful oblivion that she had ever had any children of whom Antony was not the father?—Ed.]'

The First Folio gives:

Ant. Coldhearted toward me?
Cleo. Ah (Deere) if I be so,
 From my cold heart let Heauen ingender haile,
 And poyson it in the sourse, and the first stone
 Drop in my neck: as it determines so
 Dissolue my life, the next Caesarian smile,
 Till by degrees the memory of my wombe, etc.

'Caesarion smite' for 'Caesarian smile' is Hanmer's obviously correct emendation. A comma after 'determines,' a semicolon after 'life,' and a comma after 'next' would make the meaning perfectly apparent: 'Let