Marlowe and Lucian

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

THE OLD ENGLISH GOSPEL OF NICODEMUS.

In his edition of a homily from the margin of Corpus Christi College, MS. 41 (formerly 2), pp. 295–301, in *Modern Philology*, I ('The Old English Gospel of Nicodemus,' pp. 579–614), William H. Hulme prints the following passage on p. 612 (34): 'þa deman and ða ealdor-men þenu earmra manna æhta nidinga nimað and gegripað [and] his worc cettaþ and hate eþiað and fnæstniað.' As it stands, the passage is devoid of sense, and Hulme's introduction of 'and' is by no means an improvement. I propose to read: 'þa deman and ða ealdormen þe nu earmra manna æhta nidinga nimað and gegripað, hi sworettaþ and hate eþiað and fnæstniað.'

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MARLOWE AND LUCIAN.

I do not know if it has been pointed out before that the famous line in Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, XIII, 91,

Was this the face that launch'd a thousand ships,

may have been suggested by a passage in the *Dialogues of the Dead* of Lucian (18), in which Menippos asks Hermes to show him the fair ones of olden times:

MEN. "Ὅμως τὴν Ἑλένην μοι δείξον· οὐ γὰρ ἂν διαγνοίην ἔγωγε.

EPM. Τουτὶ τὸ κρανίον ἢ Ἑλένη ἐστίν.

MEN. Εἰτα διὰ τοῦτο αἱ χίλιναι νῆες ἐπληρώθησαν ἐξ ἀπάσης τῆς Ἑλλάδος καὶ τοσοῦτοι ἔπεσον Ἕλληνές τε καὶ βάρβαροι καὶ τοσαῦται πόλεις ἀνάστατοι γεγόνασιν;

Cf. 2 *Tamburlaine*, ii, 4:

Helen, whose beauty summoned Greece to arms,
And drew a thousand ships on Tenedos.

W. H. WILLIAMS.

HOBART, TASMANIA.