A Herrick Reading

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intrusive *s* of the two French words *reistre* and *rustre* is to be explained by the influence of such Renaissance spellings as *maistre*, *traistre*, etc. It is true that in such words the *s* does not usually affect the sound, but we have a parallel to the sounded *s* of *reistre*, *rustre* in Fr. *fibustier*, earlier *fribustier*, from Du. *vrybuiter*, freebooter.

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A HERRICK READING.

Herrick's 'Dean-bourn, a rude River in Devon by which sometimes he lived' is one of the best known of the *Hesperides* poems, but what is by no means so well known is that almost every modern editor of Herrick's works, from Hazlitt and Grosart onwards, has seen fit to tamper with the text. As a consequence, Professor Boas in his otherwise most friendly review of my life of Herrick (*Mod. Lang. Rev.* vol. VII, p. 382) took me rather severely to task for introducing what seemed to him a grotesque misquotation of the poem,—in reality a restoration of the original text. In the original edition the first two verses read as follows:

Dean-bourn, farewell; I never look to see
Deane, or thy warty incivility.

In modern editions 'watry' or 'watery' is substituted for 'warty', and the force of the whole poem is thereby impaired. A study of the succeeding verses will, I think, make this clear. They read as follows:

Thy rockie bottome, that doth teare thy streams,
And makes them frantick, ev'n to all extreames;
To my content, I never sho'd behold,
Were thy streames silver, or thy rocks all gold.
Rockie thou art; and rockie we discover
Thy men; and rockie are thy wayes all over.

It will be seen that what Herrick objects to in Dean Burn is its rockiness. The whole poem turns upon this, and with the rockiness of the stream's bed he compares the rockiness of the ways of the people who live by it. Now the use of the word 'warty,' in the sense of rocky, in l. 2, seems to me not only justifiable, but highly characteristic of the poet. Moreover, 'watry incivility,' if read in the light of the poem as a whole, is meaningless. The incivility of the stream in Herrick's eyes consists, not in its wateriness, but in its 'wartiness': what he would have liked would have been more water and fewer 'warts.' And I, who have known Dean Burn since my childhood, am inclined to agree with him.

F. W. MOORMAN.

LEEDS.