Voiture and Steele

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verrucosa loca (wrongly ascribed to Persius) as 'Rough places full of knappes or hillockes.'

In any case Herrick would never have hesitated to use a word in a novel sense. But while 'warty' is exactly suitable to 'knappes or hillockes,' it seems to me much less appropriate to rocks in rushing water. 'Watry incivility' is almost echoed in 'streams...frantick' in the next two lines, and, as support is given to this reading by the Phinn copy, the question of the correct text must, I think, be considered an open one.

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VOITURE AND STEELE.

So far as I know, attention has not been called to Steele's indebtedness to Voiture for the subject-matter as well as for many details of the *Spectator*, Nos. 78 and 80 (last portion of each).

The letter of Voiture is the famous one on *car*¹, and is numbered 101 in his Letters (*Oeuvres*, I, p. 293). It is addressed to Mademoiselle de Rambouillet, in reply to one received from her, and is dated 1637 (without month or day).

Steele's letters are dated respectively Wednesday, May 30 and Friday, June 1, 1711. The sub-titles of the portions in question are: *The humble Petition of WHO and WHICH* (No. 78); and *The just Remonstrance of affronted THAT* (No. 80).

The points of resemblance between the letters are evident; the main differences between Voiture and Steele are, aside from the 'galant' attitude of the former, that Voiture writes in his own name, taking up the cudgels for *car*, while Steele makes the words themselves conduct the attack and defence. Steele has also spun out the material into two letters.

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E. 'GROUSE,' F. 'GREUCE.'

'Of unknown origin' in the *N.E.D.*

F. *greuce* occurs, obviously as an article of food, though with no other clue to its precise meaning, in the following enumeration (in a foot-note on p. 19 of the 1st vol. of the *Inventaires mobiliers et*

¹ For the famous 'affaire du car,' cf. F. Brunot, *Histoire de la langue française*, t. III, p. 385, also p. 102.