

Wordsworth's "Happy Warrior": A Seventeenth Century Parallel

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'RICHARD THE REDELESS,' III. 105—6.

These lines are printed by Skeat (E.E.T.S. edition, 1873) as follows:

þe[y] monside þe marchall · ffor his myssedede,
þat euell coude his Craft · whan he cloped þe stede.

In his notes Skeat gives a curiously far-fetched explanation for 'cloped,' and the passage is quoted in the Oxford Dictionary as an example of the verb *clothe*. There can however be no doubt that 'cloped' is a scribal error for *cloyed*. The verb *cløy*, in the sense 'to lame (a horse) with a nail in shoeing,' is not exemplified in the Dictionary before 1530, but the Trinity and Ilchester MSS. of *Piers Plowman* read *cløye* in C xxi. 296, where other MSS. have *acloye*, *encloye*; the sense, however, is not exactly the same. It is curious that Thomas Wright misread the word in the *Richard the Redeless* passage as 'cloped,' which he translated 'clipped.'

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WORDSWORTH'S 'HAPPY WARRIOR': A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY PARALLEL.

In Cartwright's translation of Hugo Grotius's *Elegy on Arminius* (in *Comedies Tragi-Comedies, With other Poems, by Mr William Cartwright late Student of Christ-Church in Oxford, and Proctor of the University...* London, for Humphrey Moseley, 1651, pp. 250—253) there is a curious likeness in one passage to the movement and thought of Wordsworth's 'Character of the Happy Warrior.' There is no proof of verbal imitation, but the idea and the verse-rhetoric in which it is conveyed strongly suggest to the reader both the manner and subject of the later poem. The passage in question runs:

And happy he, who free from all By-ends,
Gapes not for filthy Lucre, nor intends
The noise of Empty Armour, but rais'd high
To better Cares, minds Heaven; and doth try
To see and know the Deity only there
Where he himself discloseth; and with fear
Takes wary steps in narrow waies, led by
The Clew of that good Book that cannot ly;
Who in the midst of Jars walks equall by
An even freedom mix'd with Charity:
Whose pure refined Moderation
Condemn'd of all, it self condemneth none;

Who keeping Modest Limits now doth please
 To speak for truth, now holds his Tongue for Peace ;
 These things in Publike, these in private too,
 These neer thine end, thou Counsaill'dst still to do.

The resemblance is at least as close as any that can be pointed out between the style of Daniel and that of Wordsworth, although whether the latter was acquainted with Cartwright's poems I cannot say. Perhaps the catalogue of the poet's library might show whether this volume was in his possession or not. Possibly because it suggests one of the most familiar and beloved of Wordsworth's poems, Cartwright's style in this translation seems to me much superior to his ordinary manner.

JOHN PURVES.

PRETORIA.

'THE FAUSE KNIGHT UPON THE ROAD.'

'The Fause Knight upon the Road' is the name of a ballad which was first printed by Motherwell in his *Minstrelsy*¹. It was reprinted later by Child in his *English and Scottish Ballads* (Boston, 1864)², and in his *English and Scottish Popular Ballads* (Boston, 1882—98)³. Motherwell gave a version in the introduction to his *Minstrelsy*, and a fragment also was given in the appendix to the same work. In printing the ballad in his later collection Child added to these versions a fragment which he received from Mr Macmath, of Edinburgh⁴. The ballad, as we know it, is thus both scarce and incomplete; and it is interesting therefore that an Irish version should be found to exist. This version was probably known to an old woman of Irish birth who lived near Blarney in the County Cork. My immediate informant learnt it as a child some fifty years ago in that locality. The ballad is obviously fragmentary, and I try to offer in this note an explanation for the lack of the climax in the ballad as it is given. That it was otherwise known in Ireland is suggested by the fact that it possibly influenced a poem which was printed in Dublin in 1888, and which is called 'The False Baron of Bray'⁵. The opening lines of this poem are:

'And where are we going?' said the fair young child
 To the false false Baron of Bray.

¹ Motherwell, *Minstrelsy*, Introd. p. lxxiv ; Appendix, p. xxiv.

² *English and Scottish Ballads*, Vol. viii, p. 269 (Boston, 1864), ed. Child.

³ *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads*, Vol. i, pp. 20—22 (5 Vols. Boston, 1882—98), ed. Child.

⁴ *Ib.*, Vol. i, p. 485.

⁵ *Poems and Ballads*, p. 30 (Dublin, 1888, Gill and Son). Poem signed H. S.