

**KEMPES NINE DAIES
WONDER, PERFORMED
IN A JOURNEY FROM
LONDON TO NORWICH**

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Kempes nine daies wonder, performed in a journey from London to Norwich by William Kemp & Edmund Goldsmid

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WILLIAM KEMP & EDMUND GOLDSMID

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LONDON TO NORWICH**

COLLECTANEA ADAMANTÆA.—II.

... Kempes
Nine Daies Wonder,

PERFORMED IN A JOURNEY FROM
LONDON TO NORWICH.

*Wherein every dayes journey is pleasantly set down,
to satisfie his friends the truth against all lying
Ballad-makers; what hee did, how he was
welcome, and by whom entertained.*

EDITED

From the Original MS

BY

EDMUND GOLDSMID, F.R.H.S.



PRIVATELY PRINTED.

EDINBURGH.

1884.



1594
1595
1596

INTRODUCTION.

WILLIAM KEMPE, about whom we know but little, seems, from the drama of *A Knack to know a Knave*, to have belonged to the company of Edward Allen, or Alleyn,¹ and afterwards to have joined the Lord Chamberlain's servants who played at the Globe and at Blackfriars. In 1596, we find, from a petition to the Lord Chamberlain, that the chief actors in the company were: Thomas Pope, Richard Burbadge, John Hemings, Augustine Phillips, William Shakespeare, William Kempe, William Slye, and Nicholas Tooley.² Like his predecessor Tarlton, who died in September 1588, he played the

¹ The title page is "*A most pleasant and merrie new comedie, intituled, a Knacke to knowe a Knave. Newlie set foorth, as it hath sundrie tymes bene played by Ed. Allen and his companie. With Kempes applauded merriments of the men of Goteham, in receiving the king into Goteham.*" 4to, 1594.

² Collier's *Hist. of Engl. Dram. Poet.*, i. 297, 298.

clown, and was celebrated for his performance of the Jig.¹ The Jig was an entertainment that concluded the performance, but as no specimen has survived to our time, we can only conjecture it to have been a ludicrous metrical composition spoken by the clown to the accompaniment of dancing and playing on the pipe. Amongst the parts which Kempe played are those of Peter and Dogberry in *Romeo and Juliet* and *Much Ado about Nothing*.² He also played Launce in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Touchstone in *As you Like It*, the gravedigger in *Hamlet*, Justice Shallow in the second part of *Henry IV.*, and Launcelot in the *Merchant of Venice*. In 1599, Kempe undertook to dance the morris from London to Norwich, and in the following year published the very curious pamphlet here reprinted. The text is literally that of the original 4to preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, to which it was presented by Robert Burton. It is the only copy known, and Gifford, the author of the *Maviad and Baviad*, declared it to be "a great curiosity, and, as a rude picture of national manners,

¹ In a tract by Nash, *An Almond for a Parrat*, published circa 1589, the dedication is "To that most comicali and conceited cavalaire Monsieur du Kempe, jest monger and vice-gerent generall to the ghost of Dicke Tarlton."

² In the second 4to of *Romeo*, 1599, and in the 4to of *Much Ado*, 1600, "*Kemp*" is prefixed to some speeches of Peter and Dogberry.

extremely well worth reprinting." Blomefield erroneously terms it a manuscript.¹

In 1840, the Rev. Alexander Dyce issued an edition for the Camden Society, to which I am indebted for most of the notes I have appended; but to the general reader I believe the *Nine Daies Wonder* will prove an interesting novelty, if such a term can be applied to a work more than two hundred years old. In the burial register of St. Saviour's, Suffolk, is the following entry: "1603, November 2d. William Kempe, a man." And as Kempe's name does not appear in the licence granted by King James I. in that year to the Lord Chamberlain's company, it has been presumed that the entry refers to our author. He may have been carried off by the plague in that year.

EDMUND GOLDSMID.

¹ *History of Norfolk*, ii. 250.





Kemps nine daies vvonder.
Performed in a daunce from
London to Norwich.

*Containing the pleasure, paines and kinde entertainment
of William Kemp betweene London and that Citty
in his late Morrice.*

Wherein is somewhat set downe worth note ; to reprocue
the flauanders spred of him : many things merry,
nothing hurtfull.

Written by himselfe to satisfie his friends.



LONDON

Printed by *E. A.* for *Nickolas Ling*, and are to be
solde at his shop at the west doore of Saint
Pauls Church 1600.

