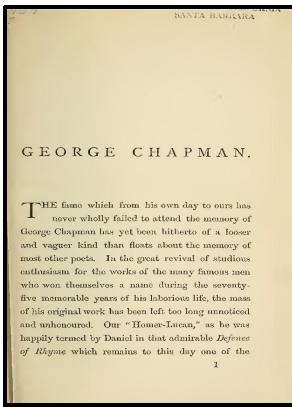


George Chapman - a critical essay

Norwood Editions - Page:George Chapman, a critical essay (IA georgechapmancri00swin).pdf/143

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 Selma and Meridian Railroad Company.
 Chapman, George, 1559?-1634 -- Criticism and interpretation.George Chapman - a critical essay
 -George Chapman - a critical essay
 Notes: Reprint of the 1875 ed. published by Chatto and Windus, London.
 This edition was published in 1976



Filesize: 26.83 MB

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9781297358005

The" editor of the first and by no means the worst English anthology has gathered from these poems, and especially from OvicPs Bamqueb of Sense, large handfuls of fine verses, which when thus culled out and bound up into separate sheaves make a better show than in the text where they lay entangled among weeds and briars. His style reels and struggles under the pressure ; he snorts and heaves as Typhoeus beneath Etna, sending up at each huge turn and convulsion of his uneasy bulk some shower of blinding sparkles or volume of stifling vapour.

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Towards the end indeed there is a profuse waste of good points and promising possibilities; the humorous ingenuity of the devices so well contrived to wind up together and in order the double thread of the main plot is stinted of room to work in and display its excellent quality of invention, and the final scene, which should have explained and reconciled all doubts and errors at large with no less force and fulness of careful dramatic capacity than was employed upon their exposition, is hastily patched up and slurred over to leave place for a last superfluous exhibition of such burlesque eloquence as had already been admitted to encumber the close of another comedy, more perfect than this in construction, but certainly not more interesting in conception.

George Chapman A Critical Study

. In his next play Chapman reassumed the more poetical style of comedy which in Eastward Ho had been put off for the plainer garb of realism. Please do not remove it.

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It appears that in the same year which gave to the press this loose and slipshod effort at a comedy, the most perfect of Chapman's plays, though not published till six years later, was completed for the I stage.

George Chapman A Critical Study

Frontispiece engraving for The Whole Works of Homer 1616 attributed to Born c.

Odyssey

That these earlier adventurers were succeeded by fresh companies in 1604 and 1605, and again forty years later, at an unpropitious date for actors in England, eleven years after the death of Chapman, I further learn from an article in the Athenæum Sept.

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