

Payne Collier says of this edition: "That where the mechanical skill of the shorthand writer failed, he filled in the blanks badly from memory."

We might also mention a few instances of difference met with in Hamlet. "I have heard of your *prattlings*, too, well enough,—God hath given you one *pace*." While another rendition is: "I have heard of your *paintings*, too, well enough—God hath given you one *face*." In Romeo and Juliet, where Juliet snatches Romeo's dagger, and as she stabs herself, says: "This is thy sheathe; there *rest*, and let me die"; the shorthand reporter making it; "This is thy sheathe; there *rust*, and let me die. Or, again: "It is not alone my inky cloak, *good mother*"; "It is not alone my inky cloak *could smother*."

Many other instances might be quoted, but these are sufficient. In Shakespeare's time there was a desire to prevent people becoming acquainted with plays that were produced, except by representation on the stage, and as these plays created quite an impression at the time, it can be readily seen why shorthand writers were employed to secure them for publication. It is now conceded that the plays of Romeo and Juliet, Henry V., and Hamlet, were secured and published in this way.

Not only were Shakespeare's plays obtained by reporters, but others as well. Thomas Heywood, who was a dramatist of considerable note, and a contemporary of Shakespeare, wrote a prologue, in which he says, they, the shorthand writers,

"Did throng the seats, the boxes, and the stage,
So much, that some by stenography drew
The plot; put it in print; scarce one word true."

In Act 4, Scene 3, of the play called "The Devil's Law Case," by John Webster, occur these lines, which show the early use of shorthand:

"Do you hear, officers?
You must take great care that you let in
No brakigraphy-men to take notes."

"Brakigraphy" was a name given to stenography, consequently the allusion to "brakigraphy-men," or stenographers.

Beaumont and Fletcher, also noted dramatists of this age, likewise suffered from these piratical publications. The shorthand reporter in "The Pilgrim," act 4, scene 3, made it read:

"I dizen'd him
And pinned a *plum* in his forehead."