

alone: he, I say, hath since that time laboured very much in this kinde, and purposeth very shortly to publish what he hath further added, and (I doubt not) done more exactly in this course.⁷

We have already had occasion to notice that Brinsley adapts the Merchant Taylors' system.⁸ From all these sources, Brinsley had developed his own solution of double-translation guided by the golden rule. If the reader will compare Hayne's introductory sketch of his system and his construes with the similar work of Brinsley, he will see that in fact Brinsley has built on Hayne's foundation. Brinsley was only one of several schoolmasters working along similar lines. He had visited the others, had garnered their ideas, and from these had formulated his own system. Brinsley's work is the systematized result of researches extending over many years, and embodying the results of others along similar lines. It is not mere arid theorizing uncontrolled by experience.

But Shakspeare would have been like Spoudeus, who says to Philoponus,

For the golden rule of construing, and the Grammaticall translations which you mention, I know not what you meane: Neither haue I euer heard of any such. Haue you any other rule of construing, then our Grammar teacheth?⁹

Philoponus explains,

howsoever this rule be vnknowne of most, who neuer heard of any such particular rule of construing, but only of such directions, as may be gathered here and there, out of our Accedence and Grammar, where they are dispersed thorow all, very hardly to be discerned; yet it is set downe by sundry learned Grammarians.¹⁰

While Shakspeare would probably have had to content himself with the less compact instructions of the rules under constructions in the authorized grammar, yet it may be well to quote Brinsley's version of Leech's statement of the "golden rule" of construing.

Q. What order will you obserue in construing of a sentence?

A. If there be a Vocatiue case, I must take that first: then I must seek out the principall Verbe & his Nominatiue case, and construe first the Nominatiue case: and if there be an Adiectiue or Participle with him, then I must English them next, and such words as they gouerne; then the Verbe: and if there follow an Infinitiuue moode, I must take that next; then the

⁷ Hayne, *Certaine Epistles of Tolly* (1611), [G8]r.

⁸ See above, p. 403.

⁹ Brinsley, *Ludus Literarius* (1627), pp. 91-92.

¹⁰ Brinsley, *Ludus Literarius* (1627), p. 92.