

about 1523, which was reprinted in 1570. Bercley also thinks most highly of the work. Embroidering the original, he says,

Wherefore olde Curius / and Cato most morall
 With Senecke sad and sage / Tully and Petrarke
 Pontane / And other most noble auctours all
 Whiche in tymes passed / were vsed in lyke warke
 All these may well knowlege / them selfe diffuse or darke
 Them both and theyr warke / submytting to Mancyne
 Whiche this frutefull treatyse / composed in latyne.⁵

George Turberville tried his hand at translating the work so late as 1568 under the title *A plaine path to perfect vertue*. Ben Jonson had a copy of the Latin Mancinus, which passed to Sir Kenelm Digby, and thence before 1668 to the Earl of Bristol.⁶ Mancinus was by 1668 "out of print," but he had enjoyed a long vogue.

Shakspeare has been at least once connected with the translation of Mancinus. In *Much Ado* occurs the sentence, "it is a world to see."⁷ White notes,

And, in *The Myrroure of Good Manners* compyled in Latyn by Domylike Mancyn and translate into Englyshe by Alexander Bercley prest. Im-
 prynted by Rychard Pynson, bl. l. no date, the line "*Est operae pretium*
doctos spectare colonos"—is rendered "*A world it is to se wyse tyllers of the*
grounde."⁸

I take it that White considered this merely a verbal parallel and not an evidence of borrowing.

I know, therefore, of nothing to indicate that Shakspeare had read Mancinus, but Mantuan receives the highest praise from Holofernes. As Sir Nathaniel is glancing over Berowne's letter, Holofernes is keeping himself at ease.

Fauste, precor gelida quando pecus omne sub umbra Ruminat,—and so forth. Ah, good old Mantuan! I may speak of thee as the traveller doth of Venice;

Venetia, Venetia,
 Chi non ti vede non ti pretia.

Old Mantuan, old Mantuan! who understandeth thee not, loves thee not.⁹

⁵ *Myrroure of Good Maners*, U. M. *1468 from B. M., G. 11565; S. T. C. 17242.

⁶ Denham, John, *Poems and Translations* (1668), preface to a translation of the first two cardinal virtues from the Latin of Mancinus, p. 145. See Bentley, G. E., *Huntington Library Quarterly*, Vol. V, p. 93. Says Denham, "The Author was a Person of Quality in Italy, his name Mancini, which Family matched since with the Sister of Cardinal Mazarine; he was contemporary to Petrarch, and Mantuan, and not long before Torquato Tasso; which shews, that the Age they lived in, was not so unlearned, as that which preceded, or that which followed." Denham's ignorance here is only surpassed by his patronizing tone.

⁷ *Much Ado*, III, 5, 38. ⁸ Malone, *Variorum* (1821), Vol. VII, p. 104.

⁹ *Love's Labor's Lost*, IV, 2, 95-102. See Baldwin, *Petty School*, pp. 155 ff.