

Chambers 1930 E. K. Chambers, William Shakespeare --
a study of facts and problems (Oxford, 1930), vol. 2,
appendix D, pp. 337--9.

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[From Simon Forman's Booke of Plaies (Bodl. Ashm. MS. 208, ff. 200--13). The manuscript is composite and Mr. Strickland Gibson kindly ascertained for me from the Bodleian binder that Forman's book is a separate section of seven folio sheets, folded into a single gathering. On f. 200 is the title 'The Booke of plaies and Notes hereof & formans for Common pollicie'; the v/o is blank. The notes on Rich. II and Wint. Tale successively occupy 201 to 202; the v/o of 202 and 203, 204, 205 are blank. The note on Cymb. occupies 206 as bound and the v/o is blank. That on Macb. occupies 207 and 207/v. But Liddell showed in his edition of the play that April 20 was not a Saturday in 1610. It was in 1611, and Forman must have written '1610' in error. I think that the sheet forming ff. 206 and 207 has clearly been folded the wrong way round, and that Cymb., which begins 'Remember also', must have been written after Macb. Presumably also this sheet, which contains the earliest notes made, was gathered inside the others later. The remaining leaves are blank, except that on 213/v 'On mund' appears inverted at the bottom right-hand corner. This was presumably the beginning of an abandoned entry, and the sheet has been turned the other way up, to serve as a cover. Forman died on 12 Sept. 1611, possibly (cf. F. L. Lucas in T.L.S. for 7 Apr. 1927) by suicide, as he had foretold the day.]

(a) <207r> In Mackbeth at the Glob, 1610 (1611), the 20 of
Aprill h (Saturday), ther was to be obserued, firste, howe
Mackbeth and Bancko, 2 noble men of Scotland, Ridinge
thorowe a wod, the(r) stode before them 3 women feiries
or Nimphe, And saluted Mackbeth, sayinge, 3 tyms vnto
him, haille Mackbeth, king of Codon; for thou shalt be
a kinge, but shalt beget No kinges, &c. Then said Bancko,
What all to Mackbeth And nothing to me. Yes, said the
nimphes, haille to thee Bancko, thou shalt beget kinges,
yet be no kinge. And so they departed & cam to the
Courte of Scotland to Dunkin king of Scotese, and yt was
in the dais of Edward the Confessor. And Dunkin bad
them both kindly wellcome, And made Mackbeth forth
with Prince of Northumberland, and sent him hom to his
own castell, and appointed Mackbeth to prouid for him,
for he would sup with him the next dai at night, & did soe.
And Mackebeth contrived to kill Dunkin, & thorowe the
persuasion of his wife did that night Murder the kinge in
his own Castell, beinge his guest. And ther were many
prodigies seen that night & the dai before. And when

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Mack Beth had murdred the kinge, the blod on his handes
could not be washed of by Any meanes, nor from his wiues

handes, which handled the bloddi daggers in hiding them,
By which means they became both moch amazed &
Affronted. The murder being knowen, Dunkins 2 sonns
fled, the on to England, the (other to) <207v> Walles, to saue
them selues, they being fled, they were supposed guilty
of the murder of their father, which was nothings so.
Then was Mackbeth crowned kinge, and then he for feare
of Banko, his old companion, that he should beget kinges
but be no kinge him selfe, he contriued the death of
Banko, and caused him to be Murdred on the way as he
Rode. The next night, beinge at supper with his noble
men whom he had bid to a feaste to the which also Banco
should haue com, he began to speake of Noble Banco, and
to wish that he wer ther. And as he thus did, standing
vp to drinke a Carouse to him, the ghoste of Banco came
and sate down in his cheier behind him. And he turninge
About to sit down Again sawe the goste of Banco, which
fronted him so, that he fell into a great passion of fear
and fury, Vtteryng many wordes about his murder, by
which, when they hard that Banco was Murdred they
Suspected Mackbet.

Then MackDove fled to England to the kinges sonn,
And soe they Raised an Army, And cam into Scotland,
and at Dunston Anyse overthruwe Mackbet. In the mean-
tyme while Macdouee was in England, Mackbet slewe
Mackdouses wife & children, and after in the battelle
Mackdoue slewe Mackbet.

Obserue Also howe Mackbetes quen did Rise in the
night in her slepe, & walke and talked and confessed all,
& the docter noted her wordes.

(b) <206r> Of Cimbalin king of England.

Remember also the storri of Cymbalin king of England,
in Lucius tyme, howe Lucius Cam from Octauus Cesar
for Tribut, and being denied, after sent Lucius with a
greate Arme of Souldiars who landed at Milford hauen,
and Affter wer vanquished by Cimbalin, and Lucius taken

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prisoner, and all by means of 3 outlawes, of the which
2 of them were the sonns of Cimbalin, stolen from him
when they were but 2 yers old by an old man whom
Cymbalin banished, and he kept them as his own sonns
20 yers with him in A cave. And howe (one) of them
slewe Clotan, that was the quens sonn, goinge to Milford
hauen to sek the loue of Innogen the kinges daughter,
whom he had banished also for louinge his daughter, and

howe the Italian that cam from her loue conveied him selfe into A Cheste, and said yt was a chest of plate sent from her loue & others, to be presented to the kinge. And in the depest of the night, she being aslepe, he opened the cheste, & cam forth of yt, And vewed her in her bed, and the markes of her body, & toke awai her braslet, & after Accused her of adultery to her loue, &c. And in thend howe he came with the Romains into England & was taken prisoner, and after Reueled to Innogen, Who had turned her self into mans apparrell & fled to mete her loue at Milford hauen, & chanced to fall on the Caue in the wodes wher her 2 brothers were, & howe by eating a sleping Dram they thought she had bin deed, & laid her in the wodes, & the body of Cloten by her, in her loues apparrell that he left behind him, & howe she was found by Lucius, &c.