



TO THE RIGHT VERTVOVS  
AND WORTHY KNIGHT, SIR  
HENRY LEONARD.



WORTHY Sir, and my Honourable friend: I giue you this *Child*, I praie you bring it vp, because I am a poore man and cannot maintaine it: it may suffer much aduersitie in my name: your Fortune maie alter his starres, and make him happie. Though his Father be aliue, I maie call him an *Orphane*, for poore mens *Children* are *Orphanes* borne, and more to be pittied then they that haue changed their fathers for their lands; such maie raise themselues in due time: we haue no waie to heighten our being, but by another power. As Gentlewomen peece themselues with Tires and Coronets, to appeare more personable and tall: so must we adde vnto our littlenes (if we will not be scorned for dwarfes) the crowne of gentle persons more eminent and high. Our statures are not set aboue danger; wee lie lowe, fit for euerie foote to tread vpon: our place is the ground, there is nothing beneath vs, and yet detraction will pull vs lower, if wee haue not good aspects. They will find meanes to digge and let vs downe into the earth, and burie vs before our time: This is the cause of patronage, and this is the persecution of them that would ingrosse all Glorie into their owne hands. But see the rage of these men, they bite the fruites themselues should feede vpon. Vertue would bring forth manie *Children* but they hold them in the wombe that they dare not come out. As the couetous man besiegeth all the land about him, with statutes, fines, and bands, and other such like ciuill warre: so doth the ambitious intrap the little portion of anie commendations that maie fall besides him. And like the mercilesse Souldiers; the Castles they cannot take, they blow vp. They are as sparing of euerie small remnant of credit, as if it were laide vp in common-banke; and the more were giuen awaie, the lesse would come to their shares. They are miserable men, I will only brand them with this marke, and let them goe. They were Eagles, if they did not catch flyes, as they are; they are great things, much lesse then nothing. For my part, I will not contend with them, I desire no applause or commendations: let them haue the fame of Ecchoes and sounds, and let me be a Bird in your Cage, to sing to my selfe and you. This is my content, and this is my ambition: if I haue this, I faile not in my expectation, if more for your sake, that is my aduantage, and I will owe you duetie for it: in the meane time I rest,

*At your Worships seruices*

ROBERT IONES.

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