



TO THE READER.



READER, I haue once more aduentured to aske thy counsell, whether I haue doone well, or no; in taking thus much paines to please thee. All that I will say for my selfe, is: My intent towards thee was good, yet because perhaps I know thee not; and I as yet am not growne so confident to warrant my endcuours against all men: I hold it no shame to craue uprightnesse in thy censure, as I meane not to accuse my selfe of negligēce by begging thy fauour; wherein I chuse rather to descriue thy commendations, then by my owne praises, to set my labours out to sale. The truth is, although I was not so idle when I composed these Ayres, that I dare not stand to the hazard of their examination: Yet I would be glad (if it might be) that thy friendly approbation might giue me encouragement, to sound my thankfulness more sweetely in thine eares hereafter. If the Ditties dislike thee, 'tis my fault that was so bold to publish the priuate contentments of diuers Gentlemen without their consents, though (I hope) not against their wils: wherein if thou find anie thing to meete with thy desire, thanke me; for they were neuer meant thee. I know not how the vulgar esteeme of trauell, but me thinkes there should be no Gentleman (when he may buy so much paines, for so little money) that will not conclude, he can at least be no looser by the bargain. If anie Musicion will out of the bride of his cunning disdain me and these my beginnings, as things not worth his enuie. These are to desire him (if he be not growne past alcharitie,) that he would accept the subscription of my Name, as a sufficient Testimonie, that I am not ashamed of instruction, wherein soeuer I may appeare to haue out-run my Justification. As for the rest that would saine informe men, they know some thing by their generall dislike of euerie thing; I will not so much as desire them to be silent, least I should hereby teach them at least how they might seeme wise. For the Booke I will saie onely thus much; there hath not yet beene anie extant of this fashion, which if thou shalt pronounce to be but worth thy hearing, I rest satisfied, if not thy debtor. Farewell.

Least anie man should seeme to accuse me of singularitie for expressing the time of my songes, by pricke-song Notes neuer heretofore vsed: I haue for his better instruction hereunto indeuoured to satisfie him.



A Semibreue, Minnum, Chrochet, Quater.