NOTES

Comments on Poems In Appendix I

I

In all respectes that nature may commend

This poem is an acrostic on Jane Fleming. A comparison with other poems in AH which were probably written by the elder John Harington suggests that this is another of his compositions. See Nos. 2, 21, 23, 177, 232, 246, 262. Several years ago Professor William R. Parker called my attention to the use of acrostics in poems presumably written by the elder Harington.

II

Of how right faire, a face both good and sweete

This sixain, an acrostic on Osborn, was perhaps addressed by John Harington to Mistress Anne Osborne, the wife of his friend Peter Osborne (1521-92), a strong supporter of the Reformation and Keeper of the Privy Purse to King Edward VI. He married Anne Blythe, niece of Sir John Cheke, who died at their home in 1557 (D.N.B.). John Harington collected some of Osborne’s letters. The compliment is turned in a manner similar to the preceding.

III

Now to the myndes of twelve it is — referd

Implications here of the snares placed about the person to whom the poem is addressed would accord with John Harington’s attitude about the fall of Thomas Seymour, Baron Sudeley. See the Introduction (pp. 63-64) and Notes on Nos. 2 and 3. The last two lines suggest that the poem was written three days after the death of the person, with the clearly implied meaning that vengeance for an innocent death would be given later by the Lord. It is obvious that there is a parallel in the poem to the trial and death of Christ.

IV

The Sonne hath twysye brought forthe — —

See the Note on No. 74.