

Classic Poetry Series

Thomas Ford
- poems -

Publication Date:

2004

Publisher:

Poemhunter.com - The World's Poetry Archive

Thomas Ford(1580 - 1648)

Thomas Ford, lutenist and composer, was born in England in 1580.

Not much is known about Ford, though it is known that he was appointed the position of musician to Prince Henry in 1611, and from 1625 to the civil war, appointed the same position to Charles I.

He was remember principally as a composer of 'ayres', a type of composition developed by Dowland, a melodic prominence is given to the upper voice.

Ford's works includes, *Musicke of Sundrie Kindes* (1607), the first part in which contained several songs, eleven of them ayres, for example; *Faire Sweet Cruell*, and *There is a Ladie Sweet and Kind*.

Ford also wrote several anthems, one of which being *Miserere My Maker*, and the famous unaccompanied vocal composition, *Since first I saw your Face*. He is also noted for his piece in Leighton's *The Teares and Lamentations of a Sorrowful Soule*.

Thomas Ford died, November 17, 1648 in London, England .

There Is A Lady Sweet And Kind

There is a lady sweet and kind,
Was never face so pleas'd my mind;
I did but see her passing by,
And yet I love her till I die.

Her gesture, motion, and her smiles,
Her wit, her voice, my heart beguiles,
Beguiles my heart, I know not why,
And yet I love her till I die.

Her free behaviour, winning looks,
Will make a lawyer burn his books;
I touch'd her not, alas! not I,
And yet I love her till I die.

Had I her fast betwixt mine arms,
Judge you that think such sports were harms,
Were't any harm? no, no, fie, fie,
For I will love her till I die.

Should I remain confined there
So long as Phoebus in his sphere,
I to request, she to deny,
Yet would I love her till I die.

Cupid is winged and doth range,
Her country so my love doth change:
But change she earth, or change she sky,
Yet will I love her till I die.

Thomas Ford

Yet If His Majesty Our Sovereign Lord

Yet if his majesty our sovereign lord
Should of his own accord
Friendly himself invite,
And say "I'll be your guest to-morrow night."
How should we stir ourselves, call and command
All hands to work! "Let no man idle stand.
Set me fine Spanish tables in the hall,
See they be fitted all;
Let there be room to eat,
And order taken that there want no meat.
See every sconce and candlestick made bright,
That without tapers they may give a light.
Look to the presence: are the carpets spread,
The dazie o'er the head,
The cushions in the chairs,
And all the candles lighted on the stairs?
Perfume the chambers, and in any case
Let each man give attendance in his place."
Thus if the king were coming would we do,
And 'twere good reason too;
For 'tis a duteous thing
To show all honour to an earthly king,
And after all our travail and our cost,
So he be pleas'd, to think no labour lost.
But at the coming of the King of Heaven
All's set at six and seven:
We wallow in our sin,
Christ cannot find a chamber in the inn.
We entertain him always like a stranger,
And as at first still lodge him in the manger.

Thomas Ford