

17/12/90

K, Natsume.

(a)

5. 'Who to advance and who to trash for overstepping?'
 'Who is used for whom; 'to trash' means to check: it
 is a term in hunting meaning to check a hound for
 over-stripping. 'overstepping' is usually used as a term
 in cultivating trees, but here it is equivalent to
 overstripping. The phrase means: - 'whom to advance
 (in his position or office) and whom to chastise for
 his forwardness.'

(b) 'From the still-vexed Bermoothes'

'still-vexed' = constantly tormented: 'Bermoothes' for
 Bermudas. 'From the Bermoothes which is
 constantly tormented with storm.'

(c) 'The red plague rid you.'

The red plague = a visible token of a terrible
 disease.
 rid = ride on & destroy.

may the red plague ride on you & destroy you!

(d) 'They have changed eyes' = They have exchanged
 their eyes (the token of their having fallen in
 love.)

(e) 'I fear you have done yourself some wrong'

= I fear you have made some false
 statements.

(1)

- 1. Prospero. The exiled duke of Milan, having
 some magical power. He is marked by his fondness for books
 he neglects ~~for~~ his government, his large heart for
 generosity & his old experience.
- 2. Miranda. His daughter, marked by her
 tenderness & beauty and above all by her chastity.
- 3. Alonso. The King of Naples who assists
 Antonio ^{Antonio} Sebastian for expelling the right duke of Milan.
- 4. Sebastian, brother to Alonso. He always
 makes fun of Gonzalo & attempts to assassinate
 his brother at Gonzalo.
- 5. Antonio the usurping duke of Milan & brother
 to Prospero, marked by his selfishness & ingratitude.
- 6. Gonzalo, an old sober counsellor of the
 King of Naples.
- 7. Adrian } Lord
 Francisco } deformed
- 8. Caliban, a gross, warty, slave of
 Prospero, the chief of the wild ^{deformed} Sycorax.
- 9. Ariel, an airy spirit, attendant on
 Prospero, marked by his nimbleness & his
 cleverness, but impetuous to become free.

GL 5/6

10. Trinculo. a jester.
 11. Stephano a drunken butler.
 12. master of a ship
 Boatswain }
 Mariners
 13. Iris
 Nymphs }
 Fairies } spirits.

(2.) The play is supposed to be based on an account about the wreck near the Bermudas, written by Silvester Joudan. The fleet of Sir George Somers was wrecked near the Bermudas in the Atlantic, ~~the above~~ in 1609. The admirals' ship was driven on shore, but strange to say, without any loss of those on board the ship. This is one of Shakespeare's latest plays & is supposed to be written in 1611 or 1612, when the poet was about forty seven years of age.

(3) 'Blow till thou burst thy wind, if soon enough!' This is an address to the storm by the boatswain. It means that let the storm rage as fierce as he will, if there be sea room enough. Mariners do not care

not afraid of the storm, but they are extremely anxious to have enough sea room, or to get as far as possible from a lee shore, lest they should be driven ashore.

'Bring her to try with the main course.' 'her' refers to the ship: the main course is the main sail: to lie at try is the seaman's language, to keep meaning to keep as close to the wind as possible. The whole sentence therefore means: ~~that~~ let the ship keep as close to the wind as possible, by making use of the main sail.

'Lay her a-hold' A-hold is also the seaman's language meaning to keep toward the windward. Therefore the sentence means: — let the ship keep towards the wind, lest we should be driven ashore.

(4) The allusion is from a common proverb, ~~that~~ 'he who is born to be hanged, can not be drowned.' Gonzalo, seeing that the boatswain was so insolent and rash that he was certainly a man destined to be hanged, says: 'I have great comfort from this fellow (the boatswain), because he is not a man to be drowned & wherefore our care is not utterly hopeless. ~~I will answer that~~ warrant him against drowning, because he is a perfect-gallows.'