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*Romeo and
Juliet*

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

WITH DETAILED NOTES

FROM THE WORLD'S

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SHAKESPEARE STUDIES

EDITED BY BARBARA A. MOWAT
AND PAUL WERSTINE

「ACT 1」

「Scene 1」

*Enter Sampson and Gregory, with swords and bucklers,
of the house of Capulet.*

SAMPSON Gregory, on my word we'll not carry coals.

GREGORY No, for then we should be colliers.

SAMPSON I mean, an we be in choler, we'll draw.

GREGORY Ay, while you live, draw your neck out of
collar. 5

SAMPSON I strike quickly, being moved.

GREGORY But thou art not quickly moved to strike.

SAMPSON A dog of the house of Montague moves me.

GREGORY To move is to stir, and to be valiant is to
stand. Therefore if thou art moved thou runn'st
away. 10

SAMPSON A dog of that house shall move me to stand. I
will take the wall of any man or maid of Montague's.

GREGORY That shows thee a weak slave, for the weak-
est goes to the wall. 15

SAMPSON 'Tis true, and therefore women, being the
weaker vessels, are ever thrust to the wall. There-
fore I will push Montague's men from the wall and
thrust his maids to the wall.

GREGORY The quarrel is between our masters and us
their men. 20

SAMPSON 'Tis all one. I will show myself a tyrant.
When I have fought with the men, I will be civil
with the maids; I will cut off their heads.

27. **what sense:** whatever meaning
28. **They . . . sense:** i.e., the women must be the ones who feel what I do to them
32. **poor-john:** dried, salted fish, of poor quality;
tool: sword
37. **Fear:** mistrust
38. **marry:** i.e., indeed; **fear:** am afraid of
39. **take . . . sides:** have the law on our side
42. **list:** please
43. **bite my thumb:** a gesture of defiance



A gentleman with sword and buckler. (1.1.0 SD)
From Cesare Vecellio, *Habiti antichi et moderni* (1598).

- GREGORY The heads of the maids? 25
SAMPSON Ay, the heads of the maids, or their maiden-
heads. Take it in what sense thou wilt.
GREGORY They must take it ⁱⁿ sense that feel it.
SAMPSON Me they shall feel while I am able to stand,
and 'tis known I am a pretty piece of flesh. 30
GREGORY 'Tis well thou art not fish; if thou hadst, thou
hadst been poor-john. Draw thy tool. Here comes
of the house of Montagues.

Enter Abram with another Servingman.

- SAMPSON My naked weapon is out. Quarrel, I will back
thee. 35
GREGORY How? Turn thy back and run?
SAMPSON Fear me not.
GREGORY No, marry. I fear thee!
SAMPSON Let us take the law of our sides; let them
begin. 40
GREGORY I will frown as I pass by, and let them take it
as they list.
SAMPSON Nay, as they dare. I will bite my thumb at
them, which is disgrace to them if they bear it.
He bites his thumb.
ABRAM Do you bite your thumb at us, sir? 45
SAMPSON I do bite my thumb, sir.
ABRAM Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?
SAMPSON, *aside to Gregory* Is the law of our side if I
say "Ay"?
GREGORY, *aside to Sampson* No. 50
SAMPSON No, sir, I do not bite my thumb at you, sir,
but I bite my thumb, sir.
GREGORY Do you quarrel, sir?
ABRAM Quarrel, sir? No, sir.
SAMPSON But if you do, sir, I am for you. I serve as 55
good a man as you.
ABRAM No better.

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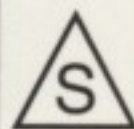


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