

128 Cymbeline [ACT IV.
Clo. Soft, what are you 70
That fly me thus? Some villain mountaineers?
I have heard of such. What slave art thou?
Gui. A thing
More slavish did I ne'er than answering
A slave without a knock.
Clo. Thou art a robber,
A law-breaker, a villain: yield thee, thief. 75
Gui. To who? to thee? What art thou? Have not I
An arm as big as thine? a heart as big?
Thy words I grant are bigger: for I wear not
My dagger in my mouth. Say what thou art:
Why I should yield to thee.
Clo. Thou villain base, 80
Know'st me not by my clothes?
Gui. No, nor thy tailor, rascal,
Who is thy grandfather: he made those clothes,
Which (as it seems) make thee.
Clo. Thou precious varlet,
My tailor made them not.
Gui. Hence then, and thank
The man that gave them thee. Thou art some fool,
I am loath to beat thee.
Clo. Thou injurious thief, 86
Hear but my name, and tremble.
Gui. What's thy name?
Clo. Cloten, thou villain.
Gui. Cloten, thou double villain, be thy name,

80. *thee.*] *thee?* F. 82. *grandfather:*] F2, *Grandfather?* F.

74. *A slave*] This word, like "churl" and "peasant," was a common term of abuse. Mason's suggestion that the two words should be italicized, as being a mere repetition of Cloten's "slave" in line 72, is wholly fanciful.

76-9. *Have I . . . mouth*] Cloten is challenged in terms similar to those in which he himself challenged Rome at III. i. 35-47.

81. *clothes*] Cloten is so foolish that he has doubtless forgotten that

they are not his clothes but Posthumus's. Some commentators think that Shakespeare was guilty of an oversight, but the point is an academic one. Cloten may, after all, simply mean: do not my clothes tell you that I am from the Court? There is no reason for supposing that he is clad in Posthumus's "meanest garment."

84. *My tailor*] "My" is emphatic.

89. *Cloten . . . villain*] "Does Guiderius jestingly take 'Cloten, thou villain' as the name, and improve

SC. II.] Cymbeline 129
I cannot tremble at it, were it Toad, or Adder, Spider,
'Twould move me sooner.
Clo. To thy further fear, 91
Nay, to thy mere confusion, thou shalt know
I am son to th' queen.
Gui. I am sorry for't: not seeming
So worthy as thy birth.
Clo. Art not afeard?
Gui. Those that I reverence, those I fear: the wise: 95
At fools I laugh: not fear them.
Clo. Die the death:
When I have slain thee with my proper hand,
I'll follow those that even now fled hence:
And on the gates of Lud's town set your heads:
Yield, rustic mountaineer. [Exeunt, fighting. 100

Re-enter BELARIUS and ARVIRAGUS.

Bel. No company's abroad?
Arv. None in the world: you did mistake him sure.

100. Re-enter . . .] Capell, Enter F.

on it by his 'Cloten, thou double villain?' Or is 'thou double villain' only a retort for 'thou villain?'" (Dowden).

90. *Toad . . . Spider*] This dubious line has been variously emended: "toad, adder, spider" (Pope): "Toad, Adder or spider it would" (Hanmer). Capell omits "or Adder, Spider" altogether. Dowden ingeniously but unconvincingly suggests, "Toad, or atter-spider". It might be argued that the compositor's eye caught the *ad* of "Toad," that he then set up "Adder" in mistake for "Spider," and finally covered his tracks by tacking "Spider" on to the end of the line, but the toad-adder-spider triplet is found elsewhere in Shakespeare, and is presumably correct in *Cymbeline*. The possibility that "Spider" is a direct term of abuse (were it Toad, or Adder, thou mere Spider) may be noted. Similar

terms of abuse are common in Jonson's *Volpone* which was a recent play. The simplest and most satisfactory explanation, however, is that Guiderius means: Were your name Toad, or Adder, or even Spider (i.e. the smallest and meanest of poisonous creatures).

92. *mere*] absolute, complete.

97. *proper*] own.

99. *And . . . heads*] The heads of traitors were impaled and exhibited on London Bridge in Shakespeare's day.

100+. Re-enter . . . Arviragus] Pope begins a new scene here and is followed by Warburton, Hanmer and Johnson. The probability is, however, that Belarius and Arviragus entered at one door as Guiderius and Cloten went out through the other, so that the alleged "cleared stage" was more apparent than real.