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Anne C. Moreau 1880 1494

some of his stage business has endured - John Barnard (1737-1823) provides, as to Bensley, the note of detraction which invariably is sounded relative to every person of distinction, in whatever period and whatever walk of life. "The system to which he belonged," - so wrote Barnard, - "considered dignity to consist a good deal in cutting the stage at right angles, with the head up and the brows down; a coldly correct enunciation, and a full-flowing wig." James Boaden (1762-1839) the biographer of J. P. Kemble and Mrs Jordan, said of Bensley, as Malvolio, that "his sliding, zig zag advance and retreat of this figure fixed the attention to his stockings and his garters"; that "his constrained smile, his hollow laugh, his lordly assumption, and his ineffable contempt of all that opposed him in the way to greatness were irresistably diverting"; and in another place, that "his stage walk eternally reminded you of the one, two, three, hop of the dancing master: this scientific progress of legs in yellow stockings, most villainously cross-gartered, with a horrible laugh of ugly concert to top the whole, rendered him Shakespeare's Malvolio at all points.