

Fun with Grammar:

entitled

poem some assumed local colour. I doubt if Zouche had any actual school in mind: New
Colleg convened in the space between the
west end of the chapel and the east range of the cloister; as a young boy Anthony Wood
attended it. It is now the SCR bike shed.

William Poole
Fellow Librarian

There are

Adverbs of place were thrown down lofty stories,
 As ubi , ibi , llic , intus , foris ,
 Conjunctions so disjoined as you would wonder
 No coupling there but it was burnt asunder.
 The prepositions knew not where to be,
 The interjections cried hei !
 For the due joining of which words again
 A neighbour called *Qui mihi*¹⁰ came amain,
 Else sure the fire had into flames them turned
 Both gods and men and all the rest had burned.

supellex I number;¹¹
 Of verbs there had been scarce left one in twenty
 Had not there come by chance -as in praesenti ¹²

Finis Dr Zouch

Vpon y^e burning of a schole/

w^t heat of learning kindled yo^r desire
 (yee muses sonnes) to sett yo^r house on fire
 w^t loue of learningⁱ in yo^r breasts did burne
 those sparks of vertue into flames to turne
 Venusⁱⁱ & Vulcaneⁱⁱⁱ (old friends) now^{iv} at ods
 If y^t they^v be so,^{vi} then neuer lett the dolt
 thunder bolt^{vii}
 let poets penns paint^{viii} only his disgrace
 his cubby^{ix} foot hornd brow and sooty face^x
 What ere was cause sure ill was the event
 w^{ch} iustly all the Muses^{xi} may lament
 but aboute all for name sakes Polyhymnie
 bewaile the down fall of y^{exii} learned chimney
 there might^{xiii} you see where wth out^{xiv} speech or sence
 lay the sad ashes of an accidente
 What number then of nouns to wracke did goe
 As Domus Liber and a great sort moe^{xv}
 a^{xvi} wofull case! no case the flame did spare
 each gender in this losse had common share^{xvii}
 There might^{xviii} you see the ruefull declinations
 y^e 15 pronounes & foure conjugations
 some gerunds Di &^{xix} Do were^{xx} ouercome
 wth heat and smoake was quite struck dumbe^{xxi}

¹⁰ I.e. *Qui mihi discipulus*

Carmen de moribus.

¹¹ *Supellex*, being a heteroclite, changes its gender in the plural, in this case from feminine to neuter (example).

¹²

supines lay gasping upwards void of senses
the moodes grew mad to see imperfect tenses

re a printed copy. This MS is the notebook of the
schoolmaster and poet Christopher Wase (1627-90).
Oxford, Corpus Christi Library:
MS 328, fol. 8v

USA:
Folger Library
MS V.a.160, p. 25

- The burning of

Huntington Library
HM116, p. 14

HM198.1, p. 124

on...or a

Yale University, Osborn Library
MS b. 62, p. 60r

MS b 205, fol. 51v

MS fb 142, p. 26

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showing that the original MS did continue the poem.

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xxvi B1: left scarce