

AN UNREPORTED SEVENTEENTH
CENTURY USE OF MILTON'S
EIKONOKLASTES

Among the books advertised in the Easter 1669 *Mercurius Librarius*¹ by R. Royston was *A Continuation of a Friendly Debate*, the anonymously published work of Simon Patrick,² afterwards Bishop of Ely. This work contains a hitherto unreported use of Milton's *Eikonoklastes*, copying about a page with a few changes and additional sentences to fit his argument. This quotation, which acknowledges Milton only indirectly, was noticed by a seventeenth century reader who annotated his copy of the 1649 (first) edition accordingly. This copy is now one of the two in the Milton Collection of the Turnbull Library.

On the flyleaf is a note which reads:

'see page 206: where Milton hath filched a whole page from another author without nameing of him, & yett accuseth y^e late king page 12 of stealing y^e prayer of Pamela word for word out of S^r Philip Sidneyes Arcadia — or it may bee they are Miltons own words cited by y^e author of y^e ffriendly debate 2^d Part, pages 127: 128: &c.'

On page 206 there is a marginal note reading:

'x all this passage to y^e letter A in y^e next page is filched from a popish booke cited in y^e 2^d Part of y^e ffriendly debate pag: 127: 128: 129'

An 'x' has been written in the text at 'drowth' (three lines from the bottom of p. 206) and an 'A' at 'cogitations' (line 25 on p. 207).

There are two editions of Patrick's *Continuation* published in 1669, both octavo but one with 455p. and the other with 248p. Wing does not distinguish between them but the British Museum catalogues the 455p. edition as the earlier. It is this edition the annotator refers to. (Neither is held by Turnbull.)

Although the annotator was making his comparison with the 1649 edition of *Eikonoklastes* it seems probable that Patrick actually drew his quotation from the 1650 edition which differs slightly from the first at this point, in spellings and more significantly in phrasing.³ Although Turnbull does not hold a copy of the second edition the Scolar Press facsimile of the Bodleian copy⁴ is a convenient substitute and a comparison of the two passages, from *Eikonoklastes* and from the *Continuation*, shows the striking similarity between them. The italics are in the original.