

erment when he first saw Miranda, for he was nearly prostrated with grief at the supposed death of his father and the rest of the King's company, and he thought himself an only survivor on a barren and desolate island, but to behold this beautiful maiden was indeed Heavenly and her first words to him were sweet words of compassion and sympathy, and they affected him so that he almost instantly fell in love with her and offered to make her the queen of Naples.

It was in truth the veriest case of "love at first sight." Prospero is very much pleased of what he terms "The fair encounter of two most rare affections," and proceeds to carry out rapidly his other plans, leaving Ferdinand and Miranda to themselves.

The story of the loves of Ferdinand and Miranda, told in the few short scenes in which they appear, is very beautiful.

The open heart of the maiden in the first part shows her innocence of the world and we can expect nothing else from one who had lived on this uninhabited island all her life.

Miranda had never beheld one of her own sex, and therefore there is nothing artificial or unitated in her actions, and to my mind this simplicity combined with purity is the highest grace a woman can have.

It seems Shakespeare has purposely refrained from bringing any other female character into the play, that we might thoroughly enjoy the beauties of Miranda without the alloy or contamination of any other of her own sex.

Where we next see Ferdinand and Miranda, Ferdinand is at work at the task which her father has required him to do, and I suppose Ferdinand is working on the plan that "faint heart ne'er won fair lady" as he seems to be conscientiously doing the work as required of him.

Miranda implores him to let her help him with his task, but of course he says no.

So they sit and talk and she tells him in her innocent way that "I would not wish any companion in the world but you" and he speaks to her in terms equally endearing and