**Contents**

TITLE

ABSTRACT ii

DEDICATION iii

CONTENTS iv ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS v

ABBREVIATIONS AND REFERENCES vi

INTRODUCTION

 Introduction to *The Vow Breaker*  1 In search of William Sampson 5 Performance 21

 Synopsis of the play 30 The story of a siege 36

 Navigation of the Trent 70

 Significance of the Fair Maid of Clifton 75

 Hans Wallrath 105

 The Influence of Shakespeare on *The Vow Breaker* 110

John Norton, and the probable nature of the text 121

COLLATION AND TEXTUAL VARIANTS 125

EDITORIAL PROCEDURES 140

*THE VOW BREAKER, OR THE FAIR MAID OF CLIFTON* 144

COMMENTARY 286

BIBLIOGRAPHY 385

INDEX 393

APPENDICES

 Map of area relevant to William Sampson 423

*The Vow Breaker, or The Faire Maide of Clifton* (1636)

 Facsimile text, Bodleian Library 424