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LIFE AND WORKS

OF

ROBERT GREENE, M.A.

, VOL. VIII.

GREENES NEUER TOO LATE.

AND

FRANCESCOS FORTUNES.

1590.



WHAT man does good, but he consumes thereby But thou wert loved for good, held high, given show; Poor virtue loathed for good, obscured, held low: Do good, be pined, be deedless good, disgraced; Unless we feed on men, we let them fast, Yet Hero with these thoughts her torch did spend: When bees make wax. Nature doth not intend It should be made a torch; but we, that know The proper virtue of it, make it so, And when 'tis made, we light it: nor did Nature Propose one life to maids; but each such creature Makes by her soul the best of her true state, Which without love is rude, disconsolate, And wants love's fire to make it mild and bright, Till when, maids are but torches wanting light. Thus 'gainst our grief, not cause of grief, we fight, The right of nought is gleaned, but to delight.

MARLOWE, Hero and Leander (Cunningham's edn. of Works, 1870, p. 224).



ELIZABETHAN-JACOBEAN

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Edited with Introductions, Notes and Allerations, etc BY THE Rev Alexander B. Grosart, LLD F.S.A.

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THE

LIFE AND COMPLETE WORKS

IN

PROSE AND VERSE

OF

ROBERT GREENE, M.A.

CAMBRIDGE AND OXFORD.

IN TWELVE VOLUMES.

FOR THE FIRST TIME COLLECTED AND EDITED, WITH NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS, ETC.,

BY THE REV.

ALEXANDER B. GROSART, LL.D. (EDIN.), F.S.A., St. George's, Blackburn, Lancashire.

VOL. VIII.-PROSE.

GREENES NEUER TOO LATE.

AND

FRANCESCOS FORTUNES.

1590.

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1881-83.

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ORDEALS.

Faith owns the rude magnificence of thought,
Wherewith those venturous ages, in the dearth
Of homage due to law, as umpire brought
The Hand of Heaven to show the right on earth,
And so for God's interposition pined,
That they, in weal or woe, were quick to find
Footprints of marvel. Better to make sure
Of earth in Heaven, by training love and awe
To supernatural heights, than so to draw
Our Heaven within the maze of life obscure.
Yet oh! how far beneath both moods are we,
Who from our place of exile fain would strike
As an intrusive Presence we dislike,
The sweet forebodings of eternity!

F. W. FABER, D.D. (Poems, 1857, p. 526).

XVII.

GREENES Neuer too late.

1590.



NOTE.

The exemplar of "Greenes Nener too late," including the second part of "Francescos Fortunes", from which our text has been taken, is a very fine one. Apparently the original edition (of 1590) was kept standing as set up and impressions continuously issued as required, and still bearing the date of 1590. Of three copies examined by me two seemed much more worn in the type than that transcribed, which is in the British Museum.—G.

GREENES Neuer too late.

Or

A Powder of Experience:

Sent to all youthfull Gentlemen; to roote out the infectious follies, that ouer-reaching conceits foster in the spring time of their youth.

Decyphering in a true English hiftorie, those particular vanities that with
their frostie vapours nip the blossoms of euerie ripe braine, from atteining to his intended perfection.

As pleasant, as profitable, being a right pumice stone, apt to race out idlenesse with delight, and follie with

Rob. Greene in artibus Magister.

Omne tulit punctum,

LONDON

Printed by Thomas Orwin for N. L. and Iohn Busbie. 1590.



To the right Worshipfull Thomas Burnaby Esquire, Robert Greene wisheth encrease of al honorable vertues.

Vch (right Worshipfull) as coueted to decke the Temple of Delphos, adorned the shrine eyther with greene bayes, or curious instruments, because Apollo did as well patronize Musicke as Poetrie. When the Troyans sought to pacifie the wrath of Pallas: the peoples presents were books and launces, to signifie her deitie, as well desended by letters as armes. And they which desired to be in the fauor of Alexander, brought him either wise Philosophers or hardy Souldiours: for hee sought counsellors like Aristotle, and captaines like Perdycas. Seeing then how giftes are the more gratefullie accepted, by how much the more they sit the humor of the party to whome they are presented: desirous a long time to gratise

your Worship with something that might signifie, how in al bounden duetie I have for fundry fauors bin affected to your Worship, and finding my ability to be vnfit to present you with any thing of woorth: at last I resolved so farre to presume as to trouble your Worship wyth / the patronage of this Pamphlet, knowing you are such a Mæcenas of learning, that you will as soone youch with Augustus a few verses, giuen by a poor Greeke as of the Arabian Courfer, presented by Tytinius. The Booke is little, vet drawen from a large principle, Nunquam sera est ad bonos mores via: wherin I have discovered so artificially the fraudulent effects of Venus trumperies and so plainly as in a platforme, laid open the preiudiciall pleasures of loue, that Gentlemen may see. that as the Diamond is beauteous to the fight, and yet deadly poyson to the stomacke, that as the Bacan leafe containeth both the Antidote, and the Aconiton, so loue (vnlesse only grounded vpon vertue) breedeth more disparagement to the credit than content to the fancy. If then (right Worshipfull) out of this confused Chaos Gentlemen shall gather any principles, whereby to direct their actions, and that from rash and resolute mainteners of Venus herefies they become reformed champions to defend Vestaes philosophies. Then all the profit and pleafure that shall redound to them by this Pamphlet shall be attributed to your Worship, as to the man,

by whose meanes this Nunquam sera came to light.

Hoping therfore your Worship wil with a fauorable insight enter more into the mind of the giuer than the woorth of the gift, I commit your

Worship vnto the

Almightie.

Your Worships humbly to commaund, Rob. Greene. /

To the Gentlemen Readers.

Vch Gentlemë as had their eares filld with the harmony of Orpheus harp, could not 2. abide th' arsh musick of Hiparchions pipe: vet the Thessalians would allowe the poore fidler license to frolick it among shepheards. Though no pictures could goe for current with Alexander, but such as past through Apelles pensill, yet poore men had their houses shadowed with Phidias course colours. Ennius was called a Poet as well as Virgil, and Vulcan with his polt foote friskt with Venus as well as Mars. Gentlemen, if I presume to present you as hethertoo I have done with frivolous toyes; yet for that I stretch my strings as hie as I can; if you praise me not with Orpheus, hisse me not out with Hipparchion: if I paint not with Apelles, yet scrape not out my shadowes with disgrace; if I stirre my stumpes with Vulcan. though it bee lamely done, yet thinke it is a daunce: so if my Nunquam sera est please not; yet I pray you passe it ouer with patience, and say tis a booke. So hoping I shall finde you as euer I have done, I end.

Robert Greene. /



A Madrigale to wanton Louers.

Y Ou that by Alcidalions silver brookes
Sit and sigh out the passions of your loves,
That on your Goddesse beauties feede your lookes,
And pamper up sweete Venus wanton Doves,
That seeke to sit by Cupids scorching sire,
And dally in the fountaines of desire.

You that accompt no heaven like Venus spheare,
That thinke each dimple in your Mistresse chin
Earths paradice, that deeme her golden haire
Tresses of blisse wherein to wander in:
That sigh and court suppliant all to prove,
Cupid is God, and theres no heaven but Love.

- Come see the worke that Greene hath slilie wrought,
Take but his Nunquam sera in your view:
As in a myrrour there is deeply taught
The wanton vices of prowd fancies crew:
There is depainted by most curious art,
How loue and follie iumpe in euery part.

There may you see repentance all in blacke,
Scourging the forward passions of fond youth,
How fading pleasures end in dismall wracke,
How louers ioyes are tempred all with ruth,
Sith then his Nunquam sera yeeldes such gaines,
Reade it, and thanke the Author for his paines.
Ralph Sidley.

πολακι και κηπορος ανηρ μαλα καιρια ειπε.

I F Horace satyres merit mickle praise,
For taunting such as liu'd in Paphos Ile,
If wise Propertius was in elder dayes
Laureat for figuring out fond Venus wile:
If Rome applauded Ouids pleasing verse,
That did the salues that medicine love rehearse.

Then English Gentles stoope and gather bayes,

Make coronets of Floraes proudest slowers,

As gifts for Greene, for he must have the praise,

And taste the deawes that high Parnassus showers.

As having leapt beyond olde Horace straine,

In taunting lowers for their fruitlesse paine,

His Nunquam sera more conceits combines,
Than wanton Ouid in his art did paint,
And sharper satyres are within his lines,
Than Martial soong prowd Venus to attaint.
Reade then his art, and all his actions proue,
There is no follie like to foolish loue.

Richard Hake, Gent.



GREENES Nunauam sera est.

Eing resident in *Bergamo*, not farre distant from *Venice*, sitting vnder a coole shade that the shrowded me from the extreme violence of the meridionall heate, having neuer a

booke in my hand to beguyle tyme, nor no patheticall impression in my head to procure any secret meditation, I had stat fallen into a slumber, if I had not espied a traueller weary and desolate, to have bended his steppes towards me. Desirous to shake off drowsinesse with some companie I attended his arrivall; but as hee drewe neere, he seemed so quaint in his attire, and so conceited in his countenaunce, as I deemed the man eyther some penitent pilgrime that was very religious, or some despayring louer that had bin too too affectionate: For thus take his description.

An Ode.

Downe the valley gan he tracke, Bagge and bottle at his backe,

In a surcoate all of gray, Such weare Palmers on the way, When with scrip and staffe they see Iesus graue on Caluarie. A hat of straw like a swaine ! Shealter for the sonne and raine, With a scollop shell before: Sandalls on his feete he wore. Legs were bare, armes unclad, Such attire this Palmer had. His face faire like Titans shine, Gray and buxome were his eyne, Whereout dropt pearles of forrow: Such sweete teares Loue doth borrow, When in outward deawes she plaines Harts distresse that Louers paines: Rubie lips, cherrie cheekes, Such rare mixture Venus seekes. When to keepe hir damsels quiet Beautie sets them downe their diet: Adon' was not thought more faire. Curled lockes of amber haire: Lockes where Loue did fit and twine Nets to snare the gazers eyne: Such a Palmer nere was seene, Lesse loue himselfe had Palmer been. Yet for all he was so quaint Sorrow did his visage taint.

Midst the riches of his face, Griefe decyphred his disgrace: Euerie step straind a teare, Sodaine sighes shewd his feare: And yet his feare by his sight, Ended in a strange delight. That his passions did approue, Weedes and sorrow were for loue.

Thus attired in his trauelling roabes and leueld out in the lineaments of his Phisnomie, not seeing me that lay close in the thicket, hee sate him downe vnder a Béech tree, where after he had taken vp his seate, with a sigh he began / thus to point out his passions.

Infortunate Palmer, whose weedes discouers thy woes, whose lookes thy forrowes, whose sighes thy repentance: thou wandrest to bewayle thy sinne, that heretofore hast not wondred at the greatnesse of sinne; and seekest now by the sight of a strange Land, to satisfie those follies committed in thy Natiue home. Why, is there more grace in the East than in the West? is God more gracious in Iewrie, than mercifull in England? more fauourable to Palmers for their trauell, than pitifull to sinners for their penaunce? No, bee not so superstitious, least thou measuring his fauour by circumstaunce, hee punish thy faultes in seueritie. Ah but the

déenest vicers haue the sharpest corasiues, some fores cannot be cured but by Sublimatum, and fome offences as they beginne in content fo they ende in fackcloth: I weare not this Palmers gray to challenge grace, nor féeke the holy Land to counteruaile the Lawe, nor am a Pilgrime to acquittance sinne with penaunce: but I content mee in this habite to shewe the meeknes of my hart, and trauel through many countries to make other men learne to beware by my harmes: for if I come amogst youth, I will shew them that the finest buds are foonest nipt with frosts, the sweetest slowers forest eaten with cankars, & the ripest & yongest wits foonest ouergrowen with follies: if I chance among Courtiers, I wil tel the, that as the flar Artophilex is brightest, yet setteth soonest; so their glories being most gorgeous, are dasht with sodainest ouerthrowes: if amog schollers, I wil proue that their Philosophicall axiomes, their quiddities of Logicke, their aphorisms of art, are diffolued with this definit period Omnia sub sole vanitas. If amongst Louers, and with this the teares fell from his eyes, and the fighes flew from his hart, as if all should split again: If quoth he, (and he doubled his words with an Emphasis) I fall amogst Louers, I will decypher to them that their God is a boy, as fond as he is blinde; their Goddesse a woman, inconstant, false,/ flattring, like the windes that rife in the shoares of

Lepanthus, which in the morning fend forth gusts fro the North, and in the Euening calmes from the West; that their fancies are like Aprill showers, begun with a Sunne shine, & ended in a storme; their passions déep hels, their pleasures Chimeraes portraitures; fodaine ioves that appearing like *Iuno*, are nothing when Ixion toucheth them but duskie & fading clowdes. Here he stopped, and tooke his scrip from his backe, and his bottle from his fide, and with fuch cates as he had, as limons. apricocks and oliues, he began a palmers banquet, which digesting with a cup of wine well tepred with water, after euerie draught he fighed out this Nunquam sera est ad bonos mores via. When he had taken his repast, casting vp his eyes to heauen, as beeing thankfull for his benefites and forrowfull for his finnes, falling into a déepe meditation, after hee had a while lien as a man in a Traunce, he started vp fodainly, and with a halfe chéered countenance fong out this Ode.

The Palmers Ode.

OLde Menalcus on a day,
As in field this shepheard lay,
Tuning of his oten pipe,
Which he hit with manie a stripe;
Said to Coridon that hee
Once was yong and full of glee,

Rlithe and quanton was I then; Such defires follow men. As I lay and kept my sheepe, Came the God that hateth fleepe, Clad in armour all of fire, Hand in hand with Queene Desire: And with a dart that wounded nie, Pearst my heart as I did lie: That when I wooke I gan [weare,] Phillis beautie palme did beare. Vp I start, foorth went I, With hir face to feede mine eye: There I faw Defire fit, That my heart with Loue had hit. Laying foorth bright Beauties hookes To intrap my gazing lookes. Loue I did, and gan to woe, Pray and high; all would not doe: Women when they take the toy Couet to be counted coy. Coy she was, and I gan court, She thought Loue was but a sport. Profound Hell was in my thought: Such a paine Defire had wrought, That I sued with sighes and teares: Still ingrate she stopt hir eares, Till my youth I had spent. Last a passion of Repent,

Tolde me flat that Desire,
Was a brond of Loues fire,
Which consumeth men in thrall,
Vertue, youth, wit, and all.
At this sawe backe I start,
Bet Desire from my hart,
Shooke of Loue, and made an oth,
To be enemie to both.
Olde I was when thus I sted,
Such fond toyes as cloyde my head.
But this I learnd at Vertues gate,
The way to good is neuer late.

Nunquam fera est ad bonos mores via.

As foone as he had ended his Ode, he fell to his old principle Nunquam fera eft: and confirming it with a figh, he / rose vp, & was ready to depart towards Bergamo to take vp his lodging, for the sunne was declining towardes the West.

But I desirous to search further into this passionate Palmer, crost him the way with this salutation: Palmer (for so thy apparell discouers) and penitent, if thy inward heart agrée with thy outward passions: if my questions may not aggrauate thy griefe, nor my demaund be tedious to thy trauels, let me craue of curtesie whither thou dost bend the end of thy pilgrimage, that if thou beest stept awry, I may direct thee, or if thou

knowest the countrey, I may wish boone fortune to thy iourney; for I have all my life time coueted to be faithful to my friends and curteous to strangers? The Palmer amazed at my sodaine salutation stept backe and bent his browes, as if he feared some prejudice, or were offended at my presence; but when hee saw me weaponlesse, and without companie, and yet so affable in words, and debonaire in exterior curtesses as might importe a Gentleman, he deuoutly mooved his bonnet of gray, and made this reply.

Gentleman (for no leffe you feeme) if the flower may be knowen by fmel, or the man by his words. I am a Palmer, discouered by my gray, and a penitent, if you note my griefe, which forrow is as effectuall as my attire is little counterfeite. direction of my iourney is not to Ierusalem: for my faith telles me, Christ can deaw as great fauour downe in England as in Iericho: and prayers are not heard for the place, but in the behalfe of the person hartilie repentant. My native home is England, the ende of my journey is Venice, where I meane to visit an olde friend of mine, an Englishman, to whome I have beene long time indebted, and nowe meane partely to repay with fuch store as I have bought with hard experience. This night I will rest in the next village, and thus I hope fir you rest satisfied.

This answere of the Palmer made mee the more desi/rous to enquire into his state, that I entreted him I might be hoste to such a guest: and seeing I was resident in *Bergamo* where that night he meant to harbour, such lodging as a country Gentleman could affoord, and such cheere as such a village might on the sodaine yeelde, should be at his commaund.

Well coulde this Palmer skill of courtesie, and returning mee many thankes, youcht of my proffer, and was willing to take my house for his Inne. As wee past on the way, we chaunced to fall into prattle thus. Sir (quoth I) if I might with many questions not be offensiue, I would faine be inquisitiue to knowe, as you have passed along France, Germanie, the Rine, and part of Italie, what you haue noted woorthie of memorie. Moouing his cappe as a man that was passing courteous, he answered thus: I tell you fir (quoth he) as a foolish question merites filence, so a familiar demaunde craues a friendly replie of duety, although Zeno the philosopher counted it more honour to be a filent naturallift, than an eloquent Oratour. But as I am not a Gymnosophist to iangle at euery Sophisticall Obiection, so I am not a seuere Stoicke to answere but by Syllables, and therfore thus to your question.

After I had cut from Douer to Calice, I re-

membred what olde Homer writte of Vlysses, that he coueted, not onely to fée strange Countries, but with a déepe infight to haue a view into the manners of men: fo I thought as I passed through Paris, not onlie to please mine eie, with the curious Architecture of the building, but with the diverse disposition of the inhabitantes. I founde therfore the Court (for I aime first at the fayrest) to haue a King fit for fo royall a Regiment, if hee had beene as perfect in true Religion, as pollitique Martiall Discipline: the Courtiers, they as Aristippus fawnde upon Dyonisius, turning like to the Cameleon into the likenesse of euerie Object that the King proffered to / their humorous conceipts, for if the king fmiled euery one in the Court was in his iollitie, if he frownd, their plumes fell like the peacocks feathers, fo that their outward presence depended on his inward passions. Generally so, but particularly thus; the French Gentlemen are amorous, as foone perfwaded by the beauty of their mistresse, to make a braule, as for the maintenance of religion, to enter armes: their eves are like Salamander stones, that sier at the fight of euery flame; their hearts as queafie as the mineralls of Ætna that burne at the heate of the funne, and are quencht with the puffe of euery winde. They count it Courtlike to spende their youth in courting of Ladies, and their age

in repenting of finnes, yet more forward in the one, than devout in the other. They bandy glaunces vpon euery face, and as though they would approoue euery passion for a principle, they fet downe the period with a déepe figh: vet as the breath of a man voon steele no sooner lighteth on but it leapeth off, is the beginning and ending of their loves. Thus much for their amours. Now for their arms, they be hardy fouldiors and resolute. For their faith, friendship, religion, or other particular qualities, for there is a league betwixt vs & them: I wil spare to speak, least in being Satyricall, I should plod too far with Diogenes, or in flattering their faults or their follies. I shold claw a fooles shoulder with Dauus in Terence: skipping therefore from them to the Nay stay sir (quoth I) before you Germans. passe the Alpes, give me leave to holde you an houre still in Lions: for though you be a Palmer and religious, yet I hope fuch deepe deuotion rested not in you, but an ounce of Venus fauours hung in your eies, and when you had spent the morning in orifons, you could in the afternoone lend a glaunce to a faire Lady. The egle foares not so hie in the aire, but he can spie a little fish in the fea, the funne in Cancer goes retrog[r]ade, the coldest clime hath his summer, and Apollo was neuer fo stoicall, but semel in anno he could let fall

Pilgrim or Palmer hath an eye as well as a hart, and a looke to lende to beauty, as a thought to / bend to Theologie: therefore I pray you, what thinke you of the Frenchwomen? At this question, although his grauitie was great, yet with a plefant countenance he made this reply: Although fire is hote as well in the coldest region of the North as in the furthest Southerne paralell, the grasse of the same colour in Egipt as it is in Iewrie, and women wherefoeuer they be bred, be mala necessaria, vet though their generall effence bee all one as comming from Eua, and therefore froward, inconstant, light, amorous, deceitfull, and quid non, better decyphered by Mantuan then I can make description of: yet as v Diamonds in India bee more hard then the Cornish stones in England: as the Margarites of the West are more orient then the Pearles of the South: fo womens affections affected after the disposition of the clime wherein they are borne: although Auicen in his Aphorismes sets downe this conclusion, that thornes no / where grow without pricks, nor nettles without stinges: but leaving off this preamble, thus to your question. The Women in France generally as concerning v exterior lineaments of their outward

^{*} A leaf missing in exemplar. Here follow the two pages from Edition of 1600, in the Bodleian Library.—G.

perfection, are beautifull, as beeing westernly seated neere great Brittaine, where Nature fittes and hatcheth beautious Paramours: yet although natura naturans hath shewed her cunning in their portraitures, as women that think nothing perfect that Arte hath not polished, they have drugges of Alexandria, minerals of Egypt, waters from Tharlus, paintings from Spaine, and what to doe forfooth? To make them more beautifull then vertuous, and more pleasing in the eyes of men then delightfull in the fight of God: this is but their exteriour vanity that blemisheth their inward vertues: if they have any. But more to their interiour inclination. Some, as if they were votaries vnto Venus, and at their nativities had no other influence. take no pleasure but in amourous passions, no delight but in madrigals of Loue, wetting Cupids wings with rofewater, and tricking vp his guiuer with sweete perfumes, that set out their faces as Foulers doe their daring glaffes, that the Larkes that foare highest, may stoope soonest, and assoone as the poore louing fooles are wrapt within their nets, then they fue with fighes, & plead with Sonnets, faine teares, and paynt out passions to winne her, that féeming to bée coy, comes at the first / lure: for when they sée young nouices intrapt, then the French dames are like to the people Hyperborei, that spurneth liquorice with

their feete, fecretly flake their hunger with the iuyce thereof; fo they outwardly féeming to contemne their futors motions, stand in deadly feare. least they should leave off theyr amorous passions: fo that they have love in their eye-liddes fo flenderly tacked on by fancy, as it drops off with euery dreame, and is shakte off with euery vaine flumber. Some of them are as Sapho was, fubtile to allure, and flippery to deceiue, hauing their hearts made of waxe ready to receive every impression, not content till they have as many louers as their hearts have entrances for love, and those are like to pumice stones that are light and full of holes. Some are as inconstant as Cressida, that be Troylus neuer fo true, yet, out of fight out of mind: and as soone as Diomede begins to court. shée like Venetian traffique is for his penny, currant á currendo, sterling coyne passable from man to man in way of exchange. Others are as Lidia. cruell, whose harts are hammered in the forge of pride, thinking themselues too good for all, and none woorthy of them, and yet oft times nestling all day in the Sunne with the Béetle, are at night contented with a cowsherd for shelter. These have eyes of Basiliskes, that are prejudiciall to euery obiect, and hearts of Adamant not any way to be pierced: and yet I thinke, not dying maides, nor leading Apes in hell: for Vestaes sacrifice ceased

long fince in Rome, & virgins are as rare as black Swans: opportunity is a fore plea in Venus court, able. I tell you, to ouerthrow the coyest she that is. I could inferre more particular inflances, and diffinguish more at large of the French Gentlewomen: let me leave them to their humorous vanities, and resolue our selues, that Ireland doth not onely bring forth wolves, nor Egypt Crocodiles, nor Barbarie Leopards, nor France such qualified women, but as the earth véeldes wéedes as wel in the lowest vallevs. as in the highest mountains, so women are vniuerfally mala necessaria, wheresoeuer they be eyther bred or brought vp. With this conclusive period he breathed him: & I could not but smile to see the palmer shake his head at the fondnesse of women as a man that had bin galled with their ingratitude. Well, after he had pawfed a little, he left France, and began to talke of Germany, and that was thus: After I had left Lions, I passed by the Alpes and coasted into Germany, where, as I found the Country feated vnder a cold clime, so I perceived the people high-minded and fuller of wordes than of courtesie, given more to drincke than to deuotion: and vet fundry places stuffed with schismes and herefies, as people that delight to be factious: there might you fee their interior vanities more

^{*}We return now to exemplar in B. M., 1590.—G.

than their outward apparell did importe, and oft times their vaunts more than their manhoode: for loue, as I faw Venus of no great accompt, yet shee had there a temple, and though they did not beautifie it with iewels, they plainely powred foorth fuch Orizons as did bewray, though they could not court it as the French did with art, yet their lust was no leffe, nor their liues more honest. the people were little affable. I grewe not fo farre inquisitiue into their manners and customes, but ficco pede past them ouer, so that I travelled vp as farre as Vienna, where I faw a thing worthie In a Valley betweene two high of memorie. mountaines topt with trees of marueilous verdure, whereby ran a fountaine pleafant as well for the murmure of the streames, as for the sweetenesse of waters, there was scituated a litle lodge artificialy built, and at the doore, a man of verie great grauitie and no lesse age, sate leaning vpon his staffe, so to take the / benefit of the aire & the funne: his haires were as white as the threeds of filke in Arabia, or as the Palme trees on the mount Libanus; many yeeres had made him furrows in his face, where experience fate and feemed to tel forth oracles: deuotion apeared in his habite, & his outward cloth discouered his inward heart, that the old Hermit seemed in the world a resolute despifer of the world: standing a while, and wondring at this olde man, at last al reuerence doone that his yeeres did require, or my youth was bound vnto, after falutatios, I questioned him of the order of his life, who answered me with such curtesie and humilitie as I perceived in his words the perfit Idea of a mortified man: after fundry questions broken with pro & contra, at last he tooke me by the hand & caried me into his cell, where I found not those Vtensilia which Tully saves are necessary to be in euery cottage, but I found books and that of Theologie, a drinking cup, and that was full of water: a dead mans scul, an houre glasse, and a Bible, thus only was his house garnished. After he had fate downe a litle, he looked me very earnestly in the face, as a man that had some skil in phisiognomy, to censure of the inward qualities by the outward appearace: at last in rough hie Dutch verses he thus breathed out his opinion, which I drew thus into blancke verse.

The Hermites first exordium.

Here looke my sonne for no vaineglorious shews
Of royall apparition for the eye;
Humble and meeke besitteth men of yeeres.
Behold my cell, built in a silent shade,
Holding content for pouertie and peace,
And in my lodge is fealtie and faith,
Labour and loue, vnited in one league.

I want not, for my minde affordeth wealth; I know not enuie, for I climbe not hie: Thus do I liue, and thus I meane to die.

Then hee flept to his shelfe, and takes downe a deaths head, whereon looking as a man that meditated vpon some déepe matter, he shooke his head, and the teares standing in his eyes, he prosecuted his matter thus.

If that the world presents illusions,
Or Sathan seekes to puffe me vp with pompe,
As man is fraile and apt to follow pride:
Then see my sonne where I have in my cell,
A dead mans scull, which cals this straight to mind
That as this is, so must my ending be.
When then I see that earth to earth must passe,
I sigh, and say, all slesh is like to grasse.

After he had thus explained the reason why he kept the dead mans scull in his Cell, he reacht to his hower glasse, and vpon that he began thus to descant.

If care to liue, or sweete delight in life,
As mans desire to see out manie daies,
Drawes me to listen to the flattering world:
Then see my glasse which swiftly out doth runne,
Comparde to man, who dies ere he begins.
This tells me, time slackes not his poasting course,

But as the glasse runnes out with euerie hower, Some in their youth, some in their weakest age, All sure to die, but no man knowes his time. By this I thinke how vaine a thing is man, Whose longest life is likened to a span.

Laftly, he tooke his Bible in his hand, wherevpon leaning his arme he amplified thus.

When Sathan seekes to sift me with his wiles, Or proudly dares to give a sierce assault, To make a shipwracke of my faith with seares: | Then armde at all points to withstand the foe With holy armour: heres the martiall sword: This booke, this bible, this two edged blade, Whose sweete content pierceth the gates of hell: Decyphring lawes and discipline of warre, To overthrowe the strength of Sathans iarre.

Thus the Hermite discouered to mee the secrets of his Cell: and after, that I should be privile to all his Patheticall conceipts, he brought foorth a sewe rootes, and such simple diet as he had, to consirme that he tyed Nature everie waye within hir limits: wondring at the methode he vsed in his Cell, after I had taken my repast with him, as we met courteouslie, we parted friendly; he with exhortations to beware of youths follies; I with thankes and reverence to his aged yeares, for his grave and fatherly perswasion: so I went from his Cell to

Vienna, and from thence coasted vp into the borders of Italy.

The Palmer had scarce named Italy, but wee were come to my house, where I gaue him such intertainment, as either the abilitie of my substaunce, the plentie of the Countrey, or the shortnesse of the time could affoord: and because I would everie way grace him. I brought downe my wife to give him a royall welcome; a fauour feldome shewed in Italy: yet because hee was a Palmer and his profession valued beautie at a light price, I did him that grace. To be short, at last we sate downe to supper, and there past the time with such pleasing chatt, as the pleasant Palmer pleased to conferre vpon. Supper done, I defired the Palmer to discourse (if it were not offenfiue) what reason mooued him to direct his Pilgrimage onely to Venice? Rifing himselfe vp with a smiling countenaunce he made this reply.

Courteous Gentleman, for so much your affable and liberall disposition doth approoue. *Iupiter* when hee was / interteined by poore *Baucis* accounted ingratitude so heynous, as hee turnde their cottage to a Temple, and made them Sacrificers at his Altars: Hospitalitie is so precious, as no price may value. Then, if I should not graunt anie lawful demaund, I might seeme as little pliant to humanitie, as you lyable to courtesse: and therefore

if the Gentlewoman your wife and you will fit vp to heare the discourses of a traueller, I will first rehearse you an English Historie acted and euented in my Countrey of England: but for that the Gentleman is yet liuing I will shadowe his name, although I manifest his follies; and when I have made relation I will shew why I directed the course of my Pilgrimage onely to Venice.

My Wife by her countenaunce seemed to be merueilous content, and my selfe kept silence: Whereupon the Palmer began as followeth.

The Palmers Tale.

King of great Britaine, famoused for his déedes of Chiualrie, there dwelled in the Citie of Caerbranck; a Gentleman of an ancient house, called Francesco, a man whose parentage though it were worshipfull, yet it was not indued with much wealth: in so much that his learning was better than his reuenewes, & his wit more beneficiall than his substance. This Signor Francesco desirous to bend the course of his compasse to some peaceable Port, spread no more cloath in the winde than might make easie saile, least hoysting up too hastely aboue the maine yeard,

fome fodaine gust might make him founder in the déep. Though he were yong yet he was not rash with Icarus to soare into the skie, but to crie out with olde Dedalus. Medium tenere tutissimum: treading his shooe without anie slip. He was so generally loued of the Citizens, that the richest Marchant or grauest Burghmaster would not refuse to graunt him his daughter, in mariage, hoping more of his infuing fortunes, than of his present substance. At last, casting his eve on a Gentlemans daughter that dwelt not far fro Caerbranck, he fell in love, and profecuted his fute with fuch affable courtefie, as the maide confidering the vertue and wit of the man, was content to fet vp her rest with him, so that her fathers consent might be at the knitting vp of the match. Francesco thinking himselfe cocksure, as a man that hoped his credite in the Citie might carrie away more than a country Gentlemans daughter, finding her father on a day at fit opportunitie, he made the motion about the grant of his daughters / marriage. The olde churle that liftened with both eares to fuch a question, did not in this in vtramuis aurem dormire: but leaning on his elbow, made present aunswere, that hir dowrie required a greater feoffment than his lands were able to affoord. And vpon that, without farther debating of the matter, he rose vp, and hied him home, whether as soone

as he came, he called his daughter before him. whose name was Isabel, to whom he vttered these words; Why, Huswife quoth he are you so idle tasked, that you stand uppon thornes while you haue a husband? are you no sooner hatched with the Lapwing, but you will runne away with the shell on your head? Soone prickes the trée that will proue a thorne, and a Girle that loues too soone, wil repent too late. What a husband? Why the Maides in Rome durst not looke at Venus temple till they were thirtie, nor went they vnmasked till they were maried; that neither their beauties might allure other, nor they glaunce their eves on euerie wanton. I tell thée fond Girle, when Nilus overfloweth before his time, Ægipt is plagued with a dearth: the trées that blossom in Februarie are nipped with the frosts in May: vntimely frutes had neuer good fortune, & young Gentlewomen that are wooed and won ere they be wife, forrow and repent before they be olde. What féest thou in Francesco, that thine eye must choose, and thy heart must fancie? Is he beautifull? Why fond Girle, what the eye liketh at morne, it hateth at night: Loue is like a bauyn, but a blaze; and Beautie, why how can I better compare it than to the gorgeous Cedar, that is onely for show and nothing for profite; to the apples of Tantalus, that are precious to the eye,

and dust in the hand; to the starre Artophilex, that is most bright, but fitteth not for anie compasse; fo yong men that stand voon their outward portraiture. I tel thée they are prejudicial: Demophon was faire, but how dealt he with Phillis? was a braue man but a dissembler: fond girle, all are but little worth, if they be not welthie. I pray thée, what substance hath Frā/cesco to endue Hast thou not heard, that want breakes amitie, that loue beginneth in golde and endeth in beggerie; that fuch as marie but to a faire face, tie thefelues oft to a foule bargain? And what wilt thou doo with a husband that is not able to maintain thée? buy forfooth a dram of pleasure with a pound of forrowe, and a pint of content with a whole tunne of prejudiciall displeasures? But why doo I cast stones into the aire, or breath my words into the winde; when to perswade a woman from her wil is to roll Sisiphus stone; or to hale a headstrong Girle from loue, is to tie the Furies againe in fetters. Therefore huswife, to preuent all misfortunes I will be your Iayler. And with that, he carried her in and shut her vp in his owne chamber, not giuing her leaue to depart but when his key gaue her license: yet at last she so cunningly diffembled, that she gat thus farre libertie, not to bee close prisoner, but to walke about the house; yet euerie night hee shut

vp her cloathes, that no nightly feare of her escape might hinder his broken slumbers.

Where leaving her, let vs returne to Francesco; who to his forrowe heard of all these hard fortunes: and beeing penfiue was full of manie passions, but almost in despayre; as a man that durst not come nigh her Fathers doore, nor fend anie letters whereby to comfort his Mistresse, or to lay anie plot of her libertie: for no fooner anie stranger came thether, but hee suspitious they came from France/co, first sent up his Daughter into her chamber; then as watchfull as Argus with all his eyes, he pried into euerie particular gesture and behauiour of the partie; and if anie ielous humour tooke him in the head, he would not onely bee verie inquisitiue with cutting questions, but would straine courtesies and search them very narrowly, whether they had anie letters or no to his Daughter Isabel.

This narrow inquisition made the poore Gentleman almost franticke, that he turned ouer Anacreon, Ouid de Arte amandi, and all books that might teach him any sleights / of loue: but for all their principles, his own wit serued him for the best shift, and that was happely begun & fortunately ended thus; It chaunced that as hee walked thus in his muses, fetching the compasse of his conceipt beyonde the Moone, he met with a poore woman

that from dore to dore fought her liuing by charitie. The woman as her custome was, began her exordium with I pray good Master, & so foorth, hoping to finde the Gentleman as liberall, as hee was full of gracious fauours: neither did she misse of her imagination; for he that thought her likely to be drawen on to the executing of his purpose, conceipted this, that golde was as good as glew to knit her to anie practife whatfoeuer, & therefore out with his purse, and clapt her in the hand with a French This vnaccustomed reward made her more frank of her curtiles, that euerie rag reacht the Gentleman a reuerence with promise of many prayers for his health. He that harped on another string tooke the woman by the hand, & sitting down vpon the gréen grasse, discourst vnto her from point to point the beginning & fequell of his loues, and how by no meanes (except by her) he could conuay anie letter. The begger defirous to do the Gentleman anie pleasure, said shee was readie to take anie paines that might redound to his content. Whereupon he replied thus: Then mother, thou shalt goe to yonder Abbey which is her fathers house, & when thou commest thether vse thy wonted eloquence to intreate for thine almes: if the master of the house be present, shewe thy pasport, and séeme verie passionate: but if he be absent or out of v way, then, oh then mother, looke about if thou seest Diana masking in the shape of a Virgin, if thou spiest Venus, nay one more beautifull than loues goddesse, & I tell thée she is my loue faire Isabel, whom thou shalt discerne from her other fifter, thus: her vifage is faire, conteining as great resemblance of vertue as liniaments of beautie. & yet I tell thee she is ful of fauour, whether thou respects the outward portraiture or inward perfection: her eve like the diamond. & fo / pointed that it pearceth to the quick, yet so chast in the motion as therein is séene as in a myrrour courtesie tempred with a vertuous disdaine: her countenance is the verie map of modestie, and to giue thée a more neere marke, if thou findest her in the way, thou shalt see her more liberall to bestow, than thou pitifull to demaund: her name is Isabel: to her from me shalt thou carrie a letter, foulded vp euerie way like thy pasport, with a greafie backfide, and a great feale. If cunningly and closely thou canst thus conuey vnto her the tenure of my minde, when thou bringest mee an answere, I wil giue thée a brace of Angels. poore woman was glad of this proffer, and therevppon promised to venter a joynt, but shee would further him in his loues: wherevoon she followed him to his chamber, & the whiles he writ a letter to this effect.

Signor Francesco to faire Isabel.

WHen I note faire Isabel the extremitie of thy fortunes, and measure the passions of my Loue. I finde that Venus hath made thée constant to requit my miseries; and that where the greatest onset is given by fortune, there is strongest defence made by affection: for I heard that thy father fuspitious, or rather ielous of our late vnited simpathie, dooth watch like Argus over Io, not fuffring thee to passe beyonde the reach of his eye, vnles (as he thinkes) thou shouldest ouerreach thy selfe. His minde is like the Tapers in Ianus Temple, that fette once on fire, burne till they cofume themselues; his thoghts like the Sunne beames, that fearch euerie fecrete. Thus watching thée hee ouerwaketh himselfe; and yet I hope profiteth as little as they which gaze on the flames of Aetna, which vanish out of their fight in smoake.

I have heard them fay (faire Isabell) that as the Diamondes are tryed by cutting of Glaffe, the Topace by byding the force of the Andueile. the Sethin Woode / by the hardnesse, so womens excellence is discouered in their constancie. if the periode of all their vertues confift in this, that they take in loue by months, and let it flip by minutes, that as the Tortoise they créepe pedetentim, and when they come to their rest, will hardly be remooued. I hope thou wilt confirme in thy loues the very patterne of femenine loyaltie, hauing no motion in thy thoughts, but fancie, and no affection, but to thy Francisco. In that I am stopped from thy fight, I am depriued of the chiefest Organ of my life, having no sense in my felfe. perfect, in that I want the viewe of thy perfection, ready with forrow to perish in dispayre, if resolued of thy constancie. I did not triumph in hope. Therefore nowe restes it in thee to falue all these fores, and prouide medicines for these daungerous maladies, that our passions appealed, we may end our harmony in the faithfull vnion of Thou feeft loue hath his shifts, and two hearts. Venus quiddities are most subtill sophistry, that he which is touched with beauty, is euer in league with opportunitie: these principles are prooued by the messenger, whose state discouers my restlesse thoughts, impatient of any longer repulse. I have therefore fought to ouermatch thy father in pollicie, as he ouerstraines vs in ielousie, and seeing hee feekes it, to let him find a knot in a rush; as therefore I have fent thee the fumme of my passions in the forme of a pasport, so returne mee a reply wrapt in the same paper, that as wee are forced to couer our deceits in one shift, so hereafter we may vnite our loues in one Simpathie: Appoint what I shall doe to compasse a private conference. Thinke I will account of the feas as Leander, of the wars

as Troylus, of all dangers as a man resoluted to attempt any perill, or breake any preiudice for thy sake. Say, when, and where I shall meete thee, and so as I begunne passionately, I breake off abruptly. Farewell.

Thine in fatall resolution Seigneur Francisco. /

A Fter hee had written the letter, and dispatcht the messenger, hir mind was so fixed on the brace of Angels, that she stirred her old stumpes till she came to the house of Seigneur Fregolo, who at that instant was walkt abroad to take view of his pastures. She no sooner beganne her methode of begging with a solempne prayer, and a pater noster. But Isabell, whose deuotion was euer bent to pity the poore, came to the doore, to fee the necessity of the party, who beganne to falute her thus. Mistresse, whose vertues exceede your beauties, and vet I doubt not but you deeme your perfection equivolent wyth the rarest paragons in Brittaine, as your eye receives the object of my miserie, so let your heart haue an infight into my extremities, who once was young, and then fauoured by fortunes. now olde and croffed by the destinies, driven when I am weakest to the wal, and when I am worst forst to holde the candle. Seeing then the faultes of my youth hath forst the fall of mine age, and I am driuen in the winter of mine veeres to abide the brunt of al stormes, let the plenty of your youth pity the want of my decrepite state: and the rather. because my fortune was once as hie as my fall is nowe lowe: for proofe, sweete Mistresse, see my pasporte, wherein you shall finde many passions and much patience: at which period, making a courtefie, her very ragges feemed to give Isabell reverence. She hearing the beggar infinuate with fuch a fenfible preamble, thought the woman had had fome good partes in her, and therefore tooke her certificate, which as foone as fhe had opened, and that she perceived it was Franciscoes hand, she smiled, and vet bewrayed a passion with a blush. stepping from the woman, she went into her chamber, where shee read it ouer with such patheticall impressions ass euery motion was intangled with a dilemma: for on the one fide, the love of Francisco grounded more on his interiour vertues than his exteriour beauties, gaue such fierce assaults to the bulwarke of her affection, as the / Fort was ready to bee yeelded vp, but that the feare of her fathers displeasure armed with the instigations of nature draue her to meditate thus with her felfe.

Now *Ifabell*, Loue and Fortune hath brought thee into a Labyrinth, thy thoughts are like to *Ianus* pictures, that present both peace and warre, and thy mind like *Venus* Anuile, whereon is ham-

mered both Feare and Hope. Sith then the chance lieth in thine own choice, do not with Medea fee and allow of the best, and then follow the worst: but of two extremes, if they be Immediata, choose that may have least prejudice and most profite. Thy father is aged, and wife, and many yeeres hath taught him much experience. The olde Foxe is more fubtile than the young Cub, the buck more skilfull to choose his foode than the vong fawnes. Men of age feare and foresee that which youth leapeth at with repentance. If then his graue wisdome exceedes thy greene wit, and his ripened frutes thy fprowting bloffoms, thinke if he fpeake for thy auaile, as his principles are perfect, so they are grounded on Loue and Nature. It is a neere collop, faies he, is cut out of the owne flesh, and the stay of thy fortunes, is the staffe of his life: no doubt he fees with a more piercing judgement into the life of Francesco: for thou ouercome with fancie, censurest of all his actions with partialitie. Francesco, though hee be young and beautifull, vet his reuenewes are not answerable to his fauours: the Cedar is faire, but vnfruitfull, the Volgo a bright streame, but without fish: men couet rather to plant the Olive for profite, than the Alder for beautie, and young Gentlewomen shoulde rather fancie to liue, than affect to lust: for loue wythout Landes, is like to a fier wythout fewell, that for a

while sheweth a bright blaze, and in a moment dveth in his owne cinders. Dooft thou thinke this Isabell, that thine eye may not surfeit so with beautie, that the minde shall vomite vp repentaunce: yes, for the fairest Roses have prickes, the purest Lawnes / their moles, the brightest Diamonds their crackes, and the most beautifull men of the most imperfect conditions, for nature having care to pollish the body so farre, ouerweenes her selfe in her excellencie, that shee leaves their mindes imperfect. Whither now Isabell, into abfurd Aphorismes? what can thy father perswade thee to this, that the most glorious shelles have not the most orient margarites, that the purest flowers have not the most perfect fauours, that men, as they excell in proportion of bodie, so they exceede in perfection of minde? Is not nature both curious and absolute. hiding the most vertuous mindes in the most beautifull couertures. Why what of this fonde girle? fuppose these premises be granted, yet they inferre no conclusion: for suppose hee be beautifull and vertuous, and his wit is equall with his parentage, yet hee wantes wealth to maintaine loue, and therefore fayes olde Fregole not worthy of Isabels loue. Shall I the tie my affection to his lands or to his liniamets? to his riches or his qualities? are Venus altars to be filled with gold or loialty of harts? Is the Simpathie of Cupids confistorie vnited

in the abundance of coyne? Or the absolute persection of constancie? Ah Isabell, thinke this, that loue brooketh no exception of want, that where fancie displayes her couloure there alwayes eyther Plentie keepes her Court, or else Patience so tempers euery extreame, that all desectes are supplied with content. Vpon this, as having a farther reach, and a deéper insight, she stept hastely to her standish, and writte him this answere.

Isabell to Francisco, health.

A Lthough the nature of a father, and the duetie of a childe might mooue me resolutely to reiect thy letters, yet I receyued them, for that thou art Francisco and I Isabell, who were once private in affection, as now we are distant in places. know, my father, whose / commaund to me is a law of constraint, settes downe this censure, that love without wealth is like to a Cedar tree without frute, or to corne fowen in the fands that withereth for want of moisture: and I have reason Francesco to deeme of fnow by the whitenesse, and of trees by the blossoms. The olde man whose wordes are Oracles tells me that loue that entreth in a moment, flieth out in a minute, that mens affections is like the deawe vpon a christall, which no sooner lighteth on, but it leapeth off: their eyes with euery glaunce make a newe choice, and euery looke can com-

maunde a figh, having their heartes like Saltpeter, that fiereth at the first, and yet prooueth but a flash, their thoughts reaching as high as Cedars, but as brittle as rods that breake with euery blaft: had Carthage beene bereft of fo famous a Virago: if the beauteous Troian had beene as constant as he was comely? Had the Oueene of Poetry beene pinched with fo many passions, if the wanton Ferriman had beene as faithfull as he was faire. Francesco, and therefore seeing the brightest blossoms are peftred with most caterpillers, the sweetest Roses with the sharpest prickes, the fairest Cambrickes with the fowlest staines, and men with the best proportion, have commonly least perfection. I may feare to fwallowe the hooke, least I finde more bane in the confection, than pleasure in the baite. But here let me breath, and with fighes foresee mine owne follie. Women, poor foules, are like to the Harts in Calabria, that knowing Dictannum to be deadly, yet bruse on it with greedinesse, resembling the fish Mugra, that seeing the hooke bare, yet swallowes it with delight, so women foresée, yet doo not preuent, knowing what is profitable, yet not eschewing the prejudice: so Francesco I see thy beauties, I knowe thy want, and I feare thy vanities, vet can I not but allowe of all, were they the woorst of all, because I finde in my minde this principle; in Loue is no lacke. What should I

Francesco couet to dally with the Mouse when the Cat / stands by, or fill my letter full of needlesse ambages when my father like Argos setteth a hundred eies to ouerpry my actions: while I am writing thy messenger stands at the doore praying. Therefore least I shoulde holde her too long in her orisons, or keepe the poore man too long in suspence; thus briessy. Be vpon Thursday next at night hard by the Orchard vnder the greatest Oake, where expect my comming, and provide for our safe passage: for stood all the worlde on the one side, and thou on the other, Francesco should be my guide to direct me whither hee pleased. Faile not then, vnlesse thou bee false to her that would have life faile, ere she falsise faith to thee.

Not hir owne, because thine, If a bell.

As foone as shee had dispatcht her letter, shee came downe, and deliuered the letter folded in forme of a pasport to the messenger, giving her after her accustomed manner an almes, and closely clapt her in the fist with a brace of Angelles, the wooman thanking her good Maister, and her good mistresse, giving the house her benison, hied her backe againe to Francesco, who she found sitting sollitary in his chamber: no sooner did he spie hir, but slinging out of his chaire, he changed coulour

as a man in a doubtfull extaffe what should betide: vet concevuing good hope by her countenaunce. who smiled more at the remembrance of her rewarde than at any other conceit, he tooke the letter and read it, wherein he found his humour fo fitted, that he not only thanked the messenger, but gaue her all the money in his purse. so that fhe returned fo highly gratified, as neuer after she was founde to exercise her old occupation. But leauing her to the hope of her huswifrie, againe to France/co, who feeing the constant affec/tion of his mistresse, that neither the sower lookes of her father. nor his hard threats could afright her, to make chaunge of her fancie, that no disaster fortune could drive hir to make shipwracke of her fixed affection, that the bluftering ftormes of aduersitie might affault, but not facke the forte of her constant resolution, hee fell into this pleasing passion: Women (quoth he) whie as they are heavens wealth, fo they are earthes myracles, framed by nature to despight beauty, adorned wyth the fingularitie of proportion, to shrowde the excellence of all perfection, as farre exceeding men in vertues as they, excell them in beauties, resembling Angells in qualities, as they are, like to gods in perfectnesse, being purer in minde than in mould, and yet made of the puritie of man: iust they are, as giuing loue her due; constant, as holding Loyaltie more pretious

than life; as hardly to be drawen from vnited affection, as the Salamanders fro the cauerns of Ætna. Tush quoth Francesco, what should I say they be women? and therefore the continents of all excellence. In this pleasant humour he passed away the time, not slacking his businesse for prouision against thursday at night; to the care of which affaires let vs leave him and returne to Isabell, who after shee had sent her letter fell into a great dumpe, entring into the consideration of mens inconstancie, and of the sicklenesse of their fancies, but all these meditations did fort to no effect; whereupon sitting downe, she tooke her Lute in her hand, and sung this Ode.

Isabells Ode.

Sitting by a river side,
Where a filent streame did glide,
Banckt about with choice slowers,
Such as spring from Aprill showers,
When faire Iris smiling sheaws |
All her riches in her dewes:
Thicke leaved trees so were planted,
As nor arte nor nature wanted:
Bordring all the broke with shade,
As if Venus there had made
By Floraes wile a curious bowre
To dally with her paramoure.

At this current as I gazde. Eies intrapt, mind amazde, I might see in my ken, Such a flame as fireth men: Such a fier as doth frie. With one blaze both heart and eie: Such a heate as dooth proue No heate like to heate of loue. Bright the was, for twas a the That tracde hir steps towards me: On her head she ware a bay, To fence Phoebus light away: In hir face one might descrie The curious beauty of the skie: Her eies carried darts of fier, Feathred all with swift desier, Yet foorth these fierie darts did passe, Pearled teares as bright as glasse, That wonder twas in her eine Fire and water should combine: If th' old faw did not borrow, Fier is love, and water forrow. Downe she sate pale and sad, No mirth in hir lookes she had, Face and eies shewd distresse, Inward sighes discourst no lesse: Head on hand might I see Elbow leaned on hir knee:

Last the breathed out this saw, ! Oh that love hath no law: Loue inforceth with constraint. Loue delighteth in complaint, Who so loues hates his life: For loues peace is mindes strife. Loue doth feede on beauties fare. Euerie dish sawst with care: Chiefly women, reason why, Loue is hatcht in their eye: Thence it steppeth to the hart, There it poysoneth euerie part: Minde and heart, eye and thought, Till sweete love their woes hath wrought. Then repentant they gan crie, Oh my heart that trowed mine eye. Thus she said and then she rose, Face and minde both full of woes: Flinging thence, with this faw, Fie on love that hath no law.

Hauing finished her Ode, she heard that her father was come in; and therefore leauing hir amorous instruments, she fell to her labour, to confirme the olde prouerbe in her fathers ielous head, Otia si tollas, periere Cupidinis arcus: but as warye as she was, yet the old goose could spie the gosling winke, and woulde not by anie

meanes trust her, but vsed his accustomed manner of restraint: vet as it is impossible for the smoake to be concealed, or fire to be suppressed; so Fregoso coulde by no fubtill driftes fo warely watch his transformed Io, but she found a Mercurie to release For youn the thursday lying in her bed with little intent to sléepe, she offered manie sighes to Venus that she would be Oratresse to Morpheus, that some dead slumbers might possesse all the house; which fel out accordingly, so that at midnight she rose vp & finding her apparell shut vp, she was faine to goe without hose, onely in her smocke / and her peticoate with her fathers hat and an old cloake. Thus attired like Diana in her night géere, shee marcheth downe foftly: where she found Francesco readie with a private and familiar frend of his to watch her comming forth, who casting his eye aside, & féeing one in a hat and a cloake, suspecting some treacherie drew his fword, at which Isabel smiling, fhe incountred him thus.

Gentle sir, if you be as valiant as you seeme cholaricke, or as martiall as you would be thought hardie: set not vpon a weaponlesse woman, least in thinking to triumph in so meane a conquest, you be prejudicte with the taint of cowardise. Twas neuer yet read, that warlicke *Mars* drew his faulchion against louely *Venus*, were her offence neuer so great, or his choller neuer so much. Therefore

Gentleman if you be the man I take you, *Ifabels Francesco*, leave off your armes and fall to amours, and let your parlée in them be as fhort, as the night is filent, and the time dangerous.

Francesco séeing it was the Paramour of his affections, let fall his sword, and caught her in his armes, readie to fall in a swound by a sodaine extasse of ioy: at last recouering his senses, he encountred her thus.

Faire Isabel. Natures overmatch in beautie, as you are Dianas superior in vertue: at the fight of this attire, I drew my fword, as fearing some privile foe: but as foone as the view of your perfection glaunced as an object to mine eye, I let fall mine armes, trembling as Acteon did, that he had dared too farre in gazing against so gorgeous a Goddesse: yet readie in the defence of your sweet selfe, and rather than I would loofe fo rich a prize, not onely to take vp my weapons, but to incouter hand to hand with the floutest champion in the world. Sir (quoth she) these protestations are now bootlesse: and therefore to bee briefe, thus (and with that the teares trickled downe vermilion of her chéeks, and she blubbred out this passion) O Francesco, thou maist see by my attire the depth of my fancie, and in these homely roabes maift thou noate the rechlesnesse of my fortunes, / that for thy loue have straind a note too

high in loue. I offend nature as repugnant to my father, whose displeasure I have purchast to please thée; I have given a finall farewell to my friends, to be thy familiar: I have loft all hope of preferment, to confirme the simpathie of both our defires: Ah Francesco, see I come thus poore in apparell, to make thee rich in content. Now if hereafter (oh let me figh at that, least I be forced to repent too late) when thy eye is glutted with my beautie, and thy hotte loue prooued foone cold, thou beginst to hate hir that thus loueth thee, and proue as Demophon did to Phillis, or as Aeneas did to Dido: what then may I doo reiected, but accurfe mine owne folly, that hath brought me to fuch hard fortunes. Give me leave Francesco, to feare what may fall: for men are as inconstant in performance, as cunning in practifes. could not fully discourse what she was about to vtter; but he broke off with this protestation. Ah Isabel although the windes of Lepanthos are euer inconstant, the Chriseroll euer brittle, the Polype euer changeable; yet measure not my minde by others motions, nor the depth of my affection by the fléeting of others fancies: for as there is a Topace that will yeeld to euerie stamp, fo there is an Emerald that will yeeld to no impression. The selfe same Troy, as it had an Aeneas that was fickle, so it had a Troylus that was constant. Greece had a Piramus, as it had a Demophon; and though some haue been ingratefull, yet accuse not al to be vnthankful: for when Francesco shall let his eye slip fro thy beauty, or his thoughts from thy qualities, or his heart from thy vertues, or his whole selfe from euer honouring thee: then shall heauen cease to haue starres, the earth trees, the world Elements, and euerie thing reuersed shall fall to their former Chaos.

Why then (quoth Isabel) to horsebacke, for feare the faith of two fuch Louers be impeached by my fathers wakefull iealouzie. And with that (poore woman) halfe naked as fhe was, she mounted. and as fast as horse would / pace away they post towards a towne in the faid Countrey of Britaine called Dunecastrum. Where let vs leave them in their false gallop, and returne to old Fregoso, who rifing early in the morning, and missing his Daughter, asked for her through the whole house: but féeing none could discouer where she was, as affured of her escape, he cried out as a man halfe Lunaticke, that he was by Francesco robde of his onely iewell. Whereupon in a defpayring furie he caused all his men and his tenaunts to mount them, and to disperse themselues euerie one with hue and crie for the recouerie of his daughter, he himself being horst, and riding the readie way to Dunecastrum. Where hee no sooner came, but fortune meaning to dally with the old doteard, and to prefent him a boane to knaw on, brought it fo to passe that as he was riding downe the towne, he met Francesco and his daughter comming from the Church, which although it piercte him to the quicke, and strainde euerie string of his heart to the highest noate of forrow, yet he concealed it till he tooke his Inne: and then stumbling as fast as he could to the Mayors house of the towne, he reuealed vnto him the whole cause of his distresse. requiring his fauour for the clapping vp of this vnruly Gentleman, and to make the matter the more hainous, hée accufed him of felonie, that he had not onely contrarie to the custome bereft him of his daughter against his wil, but with his daughter had taken away certaine plate. This euidence caused the Mayor straight garded with his Officers to march downe with Fregolo to the place where Isabel and her Francesco were at breakfast, little thinking poore foules fuch a fharp storme should follow fo quiet a calme: but fortune would have it so. And therefore as they were carrowsing each to other in a fweete frolick of hoped for content, the Mayor rusht in, and apprehended him of felonie; which draue the poore perplexed louers into fuch a dumpe, that they stood as the pictures that Perseus with his shield turnde into stones. Francesco presently with a sharpe insight entred into the cause, / and perceived it was the drift of the olde foxe his father in lawe: wherefore he tooke it with the more patience. But Isabel seeing her new husband so handled, fell in a swownd for sorrow which could not prevaile with the Serieants, but they conveyed him to prison, and her to the Mayors house. As soone as this was done, Fregoso as a man carelesse what should become of them in a straunge Countrey, tooke horse and rode home, hee past melancholy, and these remained sorrowfull, especially Isabel: who after shee had almost blubbred out her eyes for griese, fell at length into this passion.

Infortunate *Ifabel*, and therefore infortunate because thy forrowes are more than thy yeares, and thy distresse too heavie for the prime of thy youth. Are the heavens so vniust, the starres so dismal, the planets so inivious, that they have more contrarie oppositions than favourable aspects? that their influence doth insuse more prejudice than they ca inferre profite? Then no doubt if their motions be so maligne, *Saturne* conspiring with all his balefull signes, calculated the hower of thy birth full of disaster accidents. Ah *Isabel*, thou maist see the birds that are hatched in Winter are nipt with everie storme; such as slie against the Sunne are either scorched or blinded; & those that repugne again nature, are ever crost

by fortune. Thy father foresaw these euills, and warned thee by experience; thou reiectedst his counsaile, and therefore art bitten with repentance: such as looke not before they leape, ofte fall into the ditch; and they that scorne their parents, cannot auoyd punishment. The yong Tygers followe the braying of their olde sire, the tender Fawnes choose their soode by the olde Bucke: These brute beasts and without reason stray not from the limits of nature; thou a woman and endued with reason, are therefore thus sorrowfull, because thou hast been vnnaturall.

Whether now Isabel? What, like the shrubbes of India parched with euerie storme? Wilt thou refemble the / brookes of Caruia, that drie vp with euerie Sunne-shine? Shall one blast of Fortune blemish all thy affection? one frown of thy father infringe thy loue toward thy husband? Wilt thou bee so inconstant at the first, that hast promised to bee loyall euer? If thou béest daunted on thy marriage day, thou wilt be fléeting hereafter-Didst thou not choose him for his vertues, and now wilt thou refuse him for his hard fortunes? Is hée not thy hufband? yes: and therefore more déere to thée than is thy Father. I Isabel, and vpon that refolue, least having so faithfull a Troilus, thou prooue as hatefull a Cressyda: forrowe Isabel. but not that thou hast followed Francesco: but

that Francesco by thee is fallen into such missortunes: seeke to mitigate his maladies by thy patience, not to incense his griefe with thy passions: courage is known in extremities, womanhood in distresse: and as the Chrisolite is prooued in the fire, the diamond by the anuill; so loue is tried, not by the sauour of Fortune, but by the aduersitie of Time. Therefore Isabel, Feras, non culpes, quòd vitari non potes, and with Tully resolue thus:

Puto rerum humanarum nihil esse firmum: Ita nec in prosperis lætitia gestes, nec in aduersis dolore concides.

With this she held her peace and rested filent, so behauing her felfe in the Mayors house with fuch modestie and patience, that as they held her for a paragon of beautie, so they counted her for a spectacle of vertue: thinking her outward proportion was farre inferiour to her inward perfection: fo that generally she wan the hearts of the whole house, in that they pitied her case, and wished her libertie. Infomuch that Francesco was the better vsed for hir fake: who being imprisoned, gréeued not at his owne finister mishap, but forowed for the fortune of Isabel, passing both day and night with manie extreame passions, to thinke on the distresse of his beloued paramour. Fortune who had wrought this tragedie, intending to shewe that her frunt is as full of fa/uours as of frownes; and that shee

holdes a dimple in her chéeke, as she hath a wrinckle in her brow, began thus in a Comicall vaine to bee pleasant. After manie daies were passed, and that the Mayor had entred into the good demenor of them both, noting that it procéeded rather of the displeasure of her father, than for anie special desart of felonie, séeing vouth would have his fwinge, and that as the mineralls of Aetna stoone fire, as the leaves in Parthia burnt with the Sunne; so yong yeares are incident to the heate of loue, and affection will burst into fuch amorous parties. He, not as Chremes in Terence, measuring the flames of youth by his dead cinders, but thinking of their present fortunes by the follies of his former age, called a Conuenticle of his Brethren, and féeing ther was none to giue anv further euidence, thought to let Francesco lose. Hauing their frée consent, the next day taking Isabel with him, hée went to the Iayle, where they heard fuch rare reports of the behauiour of Francesco, that they forrowed not so much at his fortunes, as they wondred at his vertues: for the Iayler discourst vnto them, how as he was greatly passionate, so he vsed great patience; having this vers oft in his mouth.

Fortiter ille facit, qui miser esse potest.

That he was affable and courteous, winning al, and offending none, that all his house as they

greeued at his imprisonment, would be forrie at his enlargement; not for enuie of his person, but for sorrowe of his absence. The Iaylour thus commending the Gentleman, conducted them to the chamber doore where Francesco lay, whom they found in secret meditation with himselfe: therefore they stayed, and were silent auditors to his passions. The first word they heard him breath out with a sigh was this,

Soafrir me plaist, cur l'espoir me conforte. And with that taking a Citterne in his hand, faying this note.

Pour paruenir l'endure: He warbled out this Ode. /

Francescos Ode.

When I looke about the place
Where sorrow nurseth vp disgrace,
Wrapt within a folde of cares,
Whose distresse no heart spares:
Eyes might looke, but see no light,
Heart might thinke but on despight,
Sonne did shine, but not on me:
Sorrow said it may not be,
That heart or eye should once possesse
Anie salue to cure distresse:
For men in prison must suppose
Their couches are the beds of woes.

Seeing this I fighed then, Fortune thus should punish men. But when I calde to minde her face For whose love I brooke this place: Starrie eyes whereat my fight Did eclipse with much delight: Eyes that lighten and doo shine, Reames of love that are divine, Lilly cheekes whereon behide Buds of roses shew their pride, Cherrie lips which did speake Words that made all hearts to breake: Words most sweete, for breath was sweete, Such perfume for love is meete. Precious words, as hard to tell Which more pleased, wit or smell: When I saw my greatest paines Grow for hir that beautie staines. Fortune thus I did reproue. Nothing grieuefull growes from loue. /

Hauing thus chanted ouer his Ode, he heard the chamber doore open; whereupon he grew melancholie, but when he faw the goddesse of his affection, on whose constant loyalty depended, the essence of his happines, he started vp as when louesticke Mars saw Venus entring his pauilion in triumph, entertaining them all generally with such

affabilitie. & her particularly with fuch courtefie, that he shewed himselfe as ful of nurture as of nature. Interchange of intertainment thus past betweene these two louers, as well with emphasis of words as extafie of mindes, concluding with ffreams of patheticall teares. The Mayor at last entred parlee, & told France/co, though his father in law had alledged felony against him, yet because he perceived that it rather procéeded of some secret reuege, than any manifest trueth, and that no further euidence came to cenfure the allegation, he was content to fet him at libertie, conditionally, Francesco should give his hand to be answerable to what hereafter in that behalfe might be obiected against him. These conditions accepted, Francesco was fet at libertie, and he and Isabell, iountly together taking themselues to a little cottage, began to be as Eyceronicall as they were amorous; with their hands thrift coueting to fatisfie their hearts thirst, and to be as diligent in labours, as they were affectionate in loues: fo that the parish wherin they lived, so affected them for the course of their life, that they were counted the very myrrours of a Democraticall methode: for hee being a Scholler, and nurst vp in the Vniuersities, resolued rather to liue by his wit, than any way to be pinched with want, thinking this olde fentence to be true, that wishers and woulders were never

good housholders, therefore he applied himselfe to teaching of a Schoole, where, by his industry he had, not onelie great fauour, but gote wealth to withstand fortune. Isabel, that she might seeme no lesse profitable than her husband careful, fell to her needle, and with her worke fought to prevent the injurie of necessitie. Thus they laboured to / mainetaine their loues, being as busv as bées, and as true as Turtles, as desirous to fatisfie the worlde with their defert, as to féede the humours of their owne defires. Liuing thus in a league of vnited vertues, out of this mutuall concorde of confirmed perfection, they had a fonne answerable to their owne proportion, which did increase their amitie, so as the fight of their young infant was a double ratifying of their affection. Fortune and Loue thus ioyning in league to make these parties to forget the stormes that had nipped the bloffomes of their former yeers, addicted to the content of their loues this conclusion of bliffe. After the tearme of five yeares, Seigneur Frego/o hearing by fundry reports the fame of their forwardnesse, howe Francesco courted to be most louing to his daughter, and she most dutifull to him, and both striue to excéede one an other in loyalty, glad at this mutuall agréement, he fell from the furie of his former melancholie passions, and fatisfied himfelfe with a contented patience,

that at last he directed letters to his sonne in lawe. that he should make repayre to his house with his daughter. Which newes was no fooner come to the eares of this married couple; but prouiding for all things necessary for the furniture of their voyage, they posted as fast as they coulde towardes Caerbranke, where spéedily arriving at their fathers house they found such friendly intertainement at the olde mans hand, that they counted this fmile of Fortune able to countervaile all the contrarie stormes, that the adverse planets had inflicted vpon them. Seated thus, as they thought, fo furely, as no finister chaunce, or dismall influence might remoue, she that is constant in nothing but inconstancie, beganne in faire skie to produce a tempest thus.

It so chanced that Francesco had necessarie businesse to dispatch certaine his vrgent affaires at the chief city of that Iland called Troynouant; thither with leave of his father, and farewell to his wife, he departed after they / were married seven yéeres: where after he was arrived, knowing that he should make his abode there, for the space of some nine weeks, he solde his horse and hired him a chamber, earnestlie endeavouring to make spéedie dispatch of his affaires, that he might the sooner enioy the sight of his desired Isabel: for did he sée any woman beautiful, hee viewed her with a sigh,

thinking how farre his wife did furpasse her in excellence: were the modesty of any woman well noted by her qualities it gréeued him, hee was not at home with his *Isabel*, who did excell them all in vertues.

Thus hee construed all to her perfection, having no vacant time, neither day nor night wherein he did not ruminate on the perfection of his Isabell. As thus his thoughts were divided on his bufinesse, and on his wife, looking one day out at his Chamber windowe hee espied a voung Gentlewoman which looked out at a casement right opposite against his prospect, who fixed her eies vpon him with fuch cunning and artificiall glaunces. as she shewed in them a chaste disdaine, and vet a modest desire. Where (by the way Gentlemen) let me fay this much, that our curtizans of Trovnouant are far superiour in artificiall allurement to them of all the world, for although they have not the painting of Italie, nor the charms of France, nor the iewelles of Spaine, yet they have in their eyes adamants that wil drawe youth as the let the strawe, or the fight of the Panther the Ermly: their lookes are like lures that will reclaime, and like Cyrces apparitions, that can represent in them all motions: they containe modesty, mirth, chastity, wantonnes, and what not; and she that holdeth in her eie most civility, hath oft in hir heart most

dishonestie, being like the pyrit stone, that is, fire without and frost within. Such a one was this mery minion, whose honestie was as choice as Venus chastitie, being as faire as Helena and as faithlesse, as wel featured as Creshda, and as craftie: having an eie for every passenger, a sigh for everie louer, a smile for every one that vailde his bonnet: and because shee loued the game well, a quiuer for euerie woodmans arrowe. This courtifan feeing this countrey Francesco was no other but a meere nouice, & that fo newly, that to vse the old prouerb, he had scarce séene the lions. thought to intrap him, and fo arrest him with her amorous glances that shee would wring him by the pursie: wherevpon euery day she would out at hir casement stand, and there discouer her beauties. Francesco, who was like the Flie that delighted in the flame, and coueted to feed his eie on this beauteous Courtifan tilted at her with interchange of glaunces, and on a day to trie the finesse of his wit, with a poeticall fury, began thus to make a Canzone.

Canzone.

As then the Sun sate lordly in his pride, Not shadowed with the vale of any cloude: The Welkin had no racke that seemd to glide, No duskie vapour did bright Phæbus shroude:

No blemish did eclipse the beauteous skie From setting foorth heavens secret searching eie. No blustering winde did shake the shadie trees, Each leafe lay still and filent in the wood, The birds were musicall, the labouring Bees That in the sommer heapes their winters good, Plied to their hives sweete hony from those flowers. Whereout the serpent strengthens all his powers. The lion laid and stretcht him in the lawnes. No storme did hold the Leopard fro his pray, The fallow fields were full of wanton fawnes. The plough-swaines never saw a fairer day. For every beast and bird did take delight To see the quiet heavens to shine so bright. ! When thus the windes lay sleeping in the caues, The ayre was filent in her concaue sphere, And Neptune with a calme did please his slaves, Ready to wash the neuer drenched Beare: Then did the change in my affects begin, And wanton love affaid to snare me in. Leaning my backe against a loftie pine, Whose top did checke the pride of all the aire, Fixing my thoughts, and with my thoughts mine eine, Vpon the sunne, the fairest of all faire: What thing made God so faire as this, quoth I? And thus I musde vntill I darkt mine eie. Finding the sunne too glorious for my fight,

I glaunst my looke to shun so bright a lampe:

With that appeare[d] an object twice as bright,
So gorgeous as my fenses all were dampt.

In Ida richer beauties did not win When louely Venus shewd her silver skin.

Her pace was like to Iunoes pompous straines, When as she sweeps through heuens brasse paued way: Hir front was powdred through with azurde vaines, That twixt sweet Roses and faire Lillies lay;

Reflecting such a mixture from her face, As tainted Venus beautie with disgrace.

Artophilex the brightest of the stars
Was not so orient as her christall eies:
Wherein triumphant sat both peace and wars,
From out whose arches such sweete fauours slies,
As might reclaime Mars in his highest rage,
At beauties charge his fury to assuage.

The diamond gleames not more reflecting lights
Painted with fiery pyramides to shine,
Than are those flames that burnish in our sights,
Darting fire out the christall of her eine,
Able to set Narcissus thoughts on fier
Although he swore him foe to sweete desier. |
Gasing upon this lemman with mine eie,
I felt my sight vaile bonnet to her lookes:
So deepe a passion to my heart did slie,
As I was trapt within her luring lookes,
Forst to confesse before that I had done,
Her beauty farre more brighter than the Sunne.

Francesco having thus in a poeticall humour pleased his fancie, when his leisure served him. woulde to make proofe of his constancie interchange amorous glaunces with this faire curtifan, whose name was Infida, thinking his inward affections were fo furely grounded on the vertues of an Isabel. that no exterior proportion could effect any passion to the contrary: but at last he found by experience, that the fairest blossomes, are soonest nipt with frost, the best fruite soonest touched with Caterpillers, and the ripest wittes most apt to be ouerthrowen by loue. Infida taught him with her lookes to learne this, that the eie of the Bafiliske pierceth with prejudice; that the juice of Celidonie is swéete, but it fretteth deadly; that Cyrces cuppes were too ftrong for all antidotes, and womens flatteries too forceable to refift at voluntarie: for shee so snared him in the fauours of her face, that his eie beganne to censure partially of her perfection, infomuch. that he thought her fecond to Isabel, if not superiour. Dallying thus wyth beautie as the flie in the flame: Venus willing to shewe how forceable her influence was, so tempred with opportunitie, that as Francesco walked abroad to take the ayre, he met with Infida gadding abroad with certaine hir companions, who like blazing starres shewed the markes of inconstant minions: for the no fooner drew neere Francesco, but dying her face with a Vermillion blush, and in a wanton eie hiding a fained modesty, shee saluted him with a lowe courtefie. Seigneur Francesco that coulde well skill to court all kinde of degrees, least he might then be / thought to haue little manners. returned, not onely her courtefies with his bonnet. but taking Infida by the hand beganne thus. Faire mistresse, and if mine eie be not deceived in so bright an object, mine ouerthwart neighbour: having often seene with delight, and coueted with defire to be acquainted with your fweete felfe: I can not now but gratulate fortune with many thankes that hath offered fuch fit opportunitie to bring me to your presence, hoping I shall finde you fo friendly, as to craue that wee may be more familiar. She that knewe howe to entertaine fuch a young nouice, made him this cunning replie. Indeede fir, neighborhoode craues charitie, and fuch affable Gentlemen as your felfe deserues rather to he entertained with courtefie than rejected with disdaine. Therfore fir, what private friendship mine honour or honestie may affoord you aboue all (that hitherto I haue knowne) shall commaund. Mistres (quoth hee) for that euery man counts it credite to haue a patronesse of his fortunes, and I am a meere straunger in this Citie: let mee finde fuch fauour, that all my actions may be shrowded vnder your excellence, and carrie the name of your feruant, ready for requitall of fuch gratious countenaunce to vnsheath my fworde in the defence of my patronesse for euer. She that had her humour fitted with this motion, answered thus, with a looke that had beene able to have forced Troylus to haue beene trothlesse to his Cressida: How kindly I take it Seigneur Francesco, for so I vnderstand your name, that you proffer your feruice to fo meane a Mistresse, the effectuall fauours that shall to my poore abilitie gratifie your curtefie shall manifest how I accompt of such a friend. Therfore from henceforth Infida intertains Francesco for her feruant: & I (quoth he) accept of the beauteous Infida as my Mistresse. Vpon this they fell into other amorous prattle which I leave off, and walked abroad while it was dinner time. Fracelco still having / his eie vpon his new mistresse, whose beauties he thought, if they were equally tempered with vertues, to exceede all that yet his eie had made furuey of. Doating thus on this newe face with a new fancie, hee often wroong her by the hand, and brake off his fentences, with fuch deepe fighes, that she perceived by the Weather-cocke where the winde blewe: returning fuch amorous passions, as she seemed as much intangled, as he was enamoured. Well, thinking now that she had bayted her hooke, shee would not cease while she had fully caught the fish, she beganne thus to lay the traine. When they were come neere to the

City gates, she stayed on a sodaine, & strayning him hard by the hand, and glauncing a looke from her eies, as if she would both shew fauour, and craue affection, she began thus smilinglie to assault him.

Seruant, the Lawyers fay the assumptit is neuer good, where the partie giues not somewhat in confideration: that feruice is voide, where it is not made fast by some fée. Least therefore your eie should make your minde variable as mens thoughts follow their fights, and their lookes waver at the excellence of new objects, and fo I loofe fuch a feruant: to tie you to v stake with an earnest, you shall this day be my guest at dinner. heereafter you forget your mistresse, I shal appeale at the barre of Loyaltie, and so condemne you of lightnes. Francesco that was tied by the eies, & had his hart on his halfpeny, could not deny her, but with many thaks accepted of hir motion, fo that agréed they went all to Infidaes house to dinner; where they had fuch cheere as could vpon the fodaine be prouided. Infida giuing him fuch friendly & familiar intertainement at his repast. aswel with swéet prattle as with amorous glances, that he rested captive within the laborinth of hir After dinner was done, that she might flatteries. tie him from starting, she thought to set all her wits vpon Ela. Therfore she tooke a Lute in her

hand, and in an angelicall harmonie warbled out this conceited dittie. /

Infidas song.

Sweet Adon' darst not glaunce thine eye
N' oseres vous, mon bel amy,
Vpon thy Venus that must die,
Ie vous en prie, pitie me:
N' oseres vous, mon bel, mon bel,
N' oseres vous, mon bel amy.

See how fad thy Venus lies,

N' oferes vous, mon bel amy,

Loue in heart and teares in eyes,

Ie vous en prie, pitie me:

N' oferes vous, mon bel, mon bel,

N' oferes vous, mon bel amy.

Thy face as faire as Paphos brookes, N' oferes vous, mon bel amy,
Wherein fancie baites her hookes
Ie vous en prie, pitie me.
N' oferes vous, mon bel, mon bel,
N' oferes vous, mon bel amy.

Thy cheekes like cherries that doo growe N' oferes vous, mon bel amy,
Amongst the Westerne mounts of snowe,
Ie vous en prie, pitie me:

N' oferes vous, mon bel, mon bel, N' oferes vous, mon bel amy.

Thy lips vermilion, full of loue,

N' oferes vous, mon bel amy,

Thy necke as filuer, white as doue,

Ie vous en prie, pitie me:

N' oferes vous, mon bel, mon bel,

N' oferes vous, mon bel amy.

Thine eyes like flames of holie fires,

N' oferes vous, mon bel amy,

Burnes all my thoughts with fweete defires,

Ie vous en prie, pitie me:

N' oferes vous, mon bel, mon bel,

N' oferes vous, mon bel amy.

All thy beauties sting my hart,

N' oferes vous, mon bel amy,
I must die through Cupids dart,
Ie vous en prie, pitie me:
N' oferes vous, mon bel, mon bel,
N' oferes vous, mon bel amy.

Wilt thou let thy Venus die,
N' oferes vous, mon bel amy,
Adon were vnkinde fay I,
Ie vous en prie, pitie me:
N' oferes vous, mon bel, mon bel,
N' oferes vous, mon bel amy.

To let faire Venus die for woe,

N' oferes vous, mon bel amy,

That doth loue fweete Adon fo,

Ie vous en prie, pitie me:

N' oferes vous, mon bel, mon bel,

N' oferes vous, mon bel amy.

While thus Infida fung her fong, Francesco sate, as if with Orpheus melodie he had been inchaunted, hauing his eyes fixed on her face, and his eares attendant on her Musicke, so that he véelded to that Syren which after forst him to a fatall shipwrack: Infida laying away her lute after fell to other prattle. But because it grew late in the afternoone, Francesco that was called away by his vrgent affairs, tooke his leaue: whereat Infida féemed verie melancholie, which / made our young scholler half mad, yet with a solempne conge departing, he went about his busines: whereas our cunning Curtizan, féeing her nouice gone, began to fmile, and faid to her companions, that shée had made a good market that had caught fuch a tame foole. Alas poore yong Gentleman, (quoth she) he is like to the leaves in Ægipt, that as they spring without raine, so they burne at the fight of the fire: or to the swallowes, that thinke euerie Sunne shyne a Summers daye. Hee was neuer long wayter in Venus Court, that counts euerie smile a fauour, and

euerie laugh to be true loue: but tis no matter, he hath store of pence, & I will fell him manie passions, vntill I leave him as emptie of covne, as my felfe is void of fancie. And thus leaving hir iesting at her new intertained servant, againe to Francesco, who after he had made dispatch of his businesse, got him home to his lodging: where fitting folitarie in his chamber, he began to call to remembrance the perfections of his new Mistresse. the excellent proportion of her Phisnomie, her stature, voyce, gesture, vertues (as he thought) ruminating vpon euerie part with a plaudite. last, as he was in this pleasing suppose, he remembred his fwéete Isabel, whose beautie and vertue was once fo precious, that between his old loue, and his new fancie, he fell into these passions. Ah Francesco, whether art thou caried with new conceits? Shall thy fruites be more subjects to the Northern blafts, than thy bloffomes? shal thy middle age be more ful of folly, than thy tender yeres? wilt thou loue in thy youth, and lust when thy dayes are halfe fpent? Men fav. that the Cedar, the elder it is, the straighter it growes: that Narcissus flowers the higher they spring, the more glorious is their hiew: and fo shoulde Gentlemen as they excéede in veres excell in vertues: but thou Francesco are like to the Halciones, which being hatcht white as milke, grow to be as blacke as

Ieate; the yong storkes have a musical voyce, but the old a fearfull found. When thou wert of fmall age, men honored thée for thy qualities, & now in yeares, shall / they hate thee for thy vices? But to what end tends this large preamble to checke thy fondnesse, that must leave to loue, and learne to lust? What leave to love Isabel, whose beautie is deuine, whose vertues rare, whose chastitie lovall, whose constancie vntainted? And for whom? for the love of some vnknowen Curtizan Consider this Francesco, Isabel for thy fake hath left her parents, forfaken her friends, rejected the world, and was content rather to brook pouertie with thee, than possesse wealth with her father. Is shee not faire to content thine eye, vertuous to allure thy minde? nay, is she not thy wife, to whom thou art bound by lawe, loue, and conscience: and yet wilt thou ftart from her? what fro Isabel? Didst thou not vowe that the heavens should be without lampes, the earth without beafts, the world without Elements, before Isabel should be forsaken of her Francesco? And wilt thou proue as false as she is faithfull? Shall she like Dido crie out against Aeneas? like Phillis against Demophon? like Ariadne against Theseus? and thou be canonized in the Chronicles, for a man full of periurie. Oh consider Francesco whome thou shalt lose if thou losest Isabel, and what thou shalt gaine, if thou winnest Infida: the one being a louing wife, the other a flattring Courtifan. Hast thou read *Aristotle*, and findest thou not in his Philosophie, this sentence set downe.

Omne animal irrationale ad sui similem diligendum natura dirigitur.

And wilt thou that art a creature indued with reason as thou art, excelling them in wisedome, excéede them in vanities? Hast thou turned ouer the liberall sciences as a scholer, and amongst them all hast not found this general principle, that vnitie is the essence of amitie, and yet wilt thou make a diuision in the greatest simpathie of all loues? Nay Francesco, art thou a Christian, and hast tasted of the sweet fruites of Theologie, and hast not read this in holy writt, pend downe by that miracle of wisedome Salomon, that he which is wise should reiect the strange woman, and / regard not the sweetnesse of hir slatterie:

Defire not the beautie of a strange woman in thy heart, nor be not intrapped in her eye liddes:

For through a whorish woman, a man is brought to a morsell of bread, and a woman will hunt for the precious life of a man.

Can a man take fire in his bosome, & not be burnt? Or can a man tread upon coales, and not be scorched? So he that goeth to his neighbors wife, shall not be innocent, whosoeuer toucheth her.

Men do not despise a theefe when hee stealeth to satisfie

his soule: but if he be found he shall restore seuen folde or give all the substaunce of his house.

But he that committeth adultrie with a woman, he is destitute of understanding: he that dooth it, destroyeth his owne soule.

He shall finde a wounde and dishonour, and his reproach shall never be put away.

If then Francesco, Theologie tells thée such axiomes, wilt thou striue against the streame? and with the déere féede against the winde? Wilt thou fwallow vp finne with gréedines, that thou maist be punished without repentance? No Francesco, home to the wife of thy youth, and drinke the pleafant waters of thine owne well. And what of all these friuolous circumstances? Wilt thou measure everie action with philosophie, or euerie thought with Divinitie? Then shalt thou live in the world, as a man hated in the world. What Francesco, hée that is afraid of euerie bush, shal neuer proue good huntsman, and he that at euerie gust puts to the Lee shall neuer be good Nauigator. Thou art now Francesco to be a Louer, not a Diuine; to measure thy affections by Ouids principles, not by rules of Theologie: and time prefent wills thee to loue Infida, when thou canst not looke on Isabel: distance of place is a discharge of dutie, and men haue their falts, as they are ful of fancies. What, the blind eates manie a flie, and much runnes by the / mill

that the Miller neuer knowes of: the euill that the eve fées not the heart rues not. Caste si non caute: Tush Francesco, Isabel hath not Lynceus eyes, to fee to farre. Therfore while thou art resident in Lodon, enjoy the beautie of Infida: and when thou art at home onely content thee with Isabel: fo with a small fault shalt thou fully satisfie thine own Thus Francesco soothed himselfe. and did In vtramuis aurem dormire, caring little for his good, as long as he might please his newe Goddesse: and making no exception of a wife, so he might bee accepted of his paramour. To effect therfore the defired end of his affects, he made himselfe as neate and quaint as might be, and hied him to his newe Mistresse house, to put in practise that which himselfe had purposed; whether in the afternoone ariuing, he vnderstood by her chamber maide that she was at home and solitarie: by her therefore hée was conducted to Infidas closet, wher he found her féeming melancholy, and thus awaked her from her dumpes.

Fair Mistres, haile to your person, quiet to your thoghts, and content to your desires. At my first comming into your chaber, seeing you sit so melancholy, I thought either *Diana* sate musing on the principles of her modestie, or *Venus* malecontent dumping upon her amours; for the shewe of your vertues represents the one, & the excellence of

your beauties discouers the other: but at last when the glister of your beautie surpassing the both, reslected like the pride of *Phæbus* on my face, I perceiued it was my good Mistres, that discontented sate in her dumpes; wherefore as your bounden seruant, if either my word or sword may frée you from these passions, I am here readie in all actions howsoeuer preiudiciall, to shew the effect of my affection. *Insida* glad to see her Louer in this Laborinth; wherein to binde him sure, she taking him by the hand, made this wilie aunswere.

Swéete servant, how discontent soeuer I séeme, difmay not you; for your welcome is fuch as you can wish, or / the sinceritie of my heart afford: womens dumps growe not euer of a prejudicial mishap, but oftimes of some superficial melancholy, inforced with a frowne, and shaken off with a fmile; having forrow in their faces, and pleafure in their heart; refembling the leaves of the liquorice, that when they are most full of deaw without, are then most dry within. I tell you feruant, women are wily cattle, & therefore haue I chosen so good a heardsman as your selfe, that what our wantonnes offends, your wisedome may amend. But trust me Francesco, were I wronged by Fortune, or injured by anie foe, the promise of fuch a Champion were fufficient to arme me with disdaine against both: but rest satisfied, your

presence hath banished all passions: and therefore you may see servant, you are the Loadstone, by whose vertue my thoughts take all their direction. Beeing thus pleasant, she sate Francesco downe by her, & hand in hand interchanged amorous glaunces. But he that was abasht to discouer his minde, in that some sparkes of honestie still remained in his heart, sate tormented with loue and seare, prickt forward by the one to discourse his desires, kept backe by the other from vttring his affections. Thus in a quandarie, he sate like one of Medusaes changlings, till Insida seeing him in this sodaine amaze, began thus to shake him out of his passions.

Now Signor Francesco, I sée the olde adage is not alwayes true, Consulenti nunquam caput doluit: for you that earst alledged persuasions of mirth, are now ouergrowen with melancholy. When a extreame Storme followes a pleasant calme, then the effectes are Metaphusicall, and where such a violent dumpe of cares is sequence to such an extasse of ioyes, either I must attribute it to some apoplexy of senses, or some strange alterations of passions. Francesco the ouen dampt vp hath the greatest heate, sire suppress is most forceable, the streames stopt, either break through or ouerslow; and sorrowes concealed as they are most passionate, so they are most peremptorie.

What Francesco? spit on thy hand, and lay holde on thy hart, one pound of care payes not an ounce of debt, a friend to reueale is a medcine to reléeue: discouer thy griefe, and if I be not able to redresse with wealth, although what I have, is at thy commaund, vet I will attempt with counfaile, either to perswade thée from passions, or intreat thée to patience: fav Francesco and feare not, for as I will be a friendly counfeller, so I will be a faithfull concealer. Our young Gentleman hearing Infida apply fuch lenative plaisters to his cutting corafiues, thought the patient had great hope when the phifition was fo friendly: he therefore with a demure countenance beginning louer like his preamble with a déepe figh, courted her thus.

Faire Mistresse (quoth hee) if I faile in my speaches; thinke it is, because I faint in my passions, being as timorous to offend as I am amorous to attempt: when the object is offered to the sense, the sight is hindred, Sensibile sensui oppositum, nulla sit sensatio: Mars could never play the Orator when he wroong Venus by the hands: nor Tullie tell his tale when his thoughts were in Terentiaes eyes: Louers are like to the Heban blossomes that open with the deawe, and shut with the sunne: so they in presence of their Mistresse have their tongues tied, and their eies open, plead-

ing with the one, and being filent in the other, which one describeth thus.

Alter in alterius iastantes lumina vultus, Quærebant taciti noster vbi esset amor.

Therefore fwéete Infida, what my tongue vtters not, thinke conceited in my hart, and then thus: fince first my good fortune, if thou fauourest me, or my aduerse destinies, if I finde the contrary, brought me to Troynouant, and that these over daring eies were intertained into those gorgeous objects, knowe that Cupid lying at advantage for fnared mee in thy perfections, that euer fince euery fense / hath rested impersect. For when I marked thy face, more beauteous than Venus, I furueid it with a figh, and mine eie purtrayed it with a passion, when I noted thy vertues, then my mind rested captiue, when I heard thy wit, I did not onely wonder, but I was fo wrapt in the laborinth of thine excellece, that no starre but Infida could be the guide whereby to direct my course. Sith then, faire Mistresse, you, and none but you, have robd me of mine affections, harbour not in such a fweete body a hard heart, but doe mee justice, let me haue loue for loue, least I complaine my destinies not to be equivalent to my desires, and thinke my fortunes to be sharper than my loues. Thinke Infida falts in affections, are but fleight follies: Venus hath shrines to shadow her trewants.

and Cupids wings are shelters for such as venter farre to content their thoughts. Sins vnséene are halfe pardoned; and Loue requires not chastitie, but that her fouldiours be charie. Then thinke (fwéete Infida) if thou graunt my defire, how carefull I will be of thy honour, rather readie to abide the prejudice of life, than to brooke the disparagement of thy fame: In lieu therefore of my lovall feruice, grant me that fwéete gift, which as it begins in amitie, can no way take ende but in death: otherwife I shall be forced to accurfe my fortunes, accuse thy frowardnesse, and expect no other hap, but a life full of miseries, or a death full of martyrdome. With this passion ending his plea, he dissolved into such fighes, that it discovered his inward affection not to be leffe than his outward protestation. Infida noting the perplexitie of her Louer, conceited his griefe with great joy, yet that she might not be thought to forward, she séemed thus froward; and although her thoughts were more than his defires, and that her mind was no leffe than his motion, yet pulling her hand from his, she made this frowning replie.

What Francesco, when the Tygre hunteth for his pray, doth he then hide his clawes? Is the pyrit stone then most hote, when it looketh most colde? Are men so subtile / that when they seem most holy, they are farthest from god? can they

vnder the shadow of vertue couer the substance of vanitie. & like Ianus be double faced, to present both faith & flattery. I had thought (feruant) whe I entertained thee for thy courtesie, I should not have had occasion to shake thee off for thy boldnes: nor when I likte thée for thy affable fimplicity, I should have misliked thee for thy fecret fubtilty: What Francesco, to defire such a grant as may, if thou wert wife, neither stand with thy honesty to inted, nor with my honor to effect. Tel me Francesco, hath either my coutenaunce bin fo ouercurteous, that it might promise such small curiofity, or my looks fo lasciulous that thou mightest hope to find me so lauish, or my actions fo wavering, or my disposition so ful of vanitie that my honor might seeme soone to be assaulted. & foon facked? If I have (Francesco) bin faulty in these follies, then wil I seek to amend wherin thou faiest I have made offence: if not, but that thou thinkest, for that I am a woman, I am easie to be wonne, with promifes of loue and protestations of loyaltie, thou arte (fweet feruant) in a wrong box, and fittest far beside the cushion; for I passe of my honor more than life, & couet rather to haue the title of honestie, than the dignitie of a diademe: cease then, vnlesse thou wilt surcease to have my fauor, and content thee with this, that Infida allowes of thee for love, not for luft: & yet if she

should treade her shoo awrie, would rather yeeld the spoile of her honor to her servant, than to the greatest prince of the world. Francesco, though he was a nouice in these affaires, and was nipped on the head with this sharp repulse, yet he was not so to take the showre for the first-storme, nor fo ill a woodman to give over the chace at \$ first default, but that he profecuted his purpose thus. I am fory (faire goddesse of my deuotion) if my prefumption hath giue any offence to my fweet mistresse, for rather than I should but procure a frown in hir forhead, I would have a deep wound in my own hart: coueting rather to suppres my passions with death, than to disparage my credite / with so good a patronesse. Therfore although my destinies be extreame, my affection great, and my loues such as can take no end, but in your fauours, yet I rest vpon this, Infida hath commanded me to cease, and I will not dare so much as to profecute my fute, although euerie passion should be a purgatorie, and euerie dayes deniall a moneths punishment in hell: with that he set downe his period with fuch a figh, that as the Marriners fay, a man would have thought all would have split againe. This cunning Curtizan beeing afraid, with this checke to have quatted the queazie stomacke of her louer, desirous to draw to her that with both hands, which she had thrust

away with her little finger, began to be pleafant with Francesco thus.

What feruant, are you fuch a fresh water fouldier, that you faint at the first skirmish? feare not man, you have not to deale with Mars, but with Venus: and her darts of deniall as they pricke sharpe, so they pierce little, and her thuderbolts doo afright not prejudice. Feare not man, a womans heart and her tongue are not relatives; tis not euer true, that what the heart thinketh the tongue clacketh. Venus stormes are tempred with Rose water, and when shee hath the greatest wrinkle in her browe, then shee hath the sweetest dimple in her chin: be blithe man, a faint heart neuer wonne faire Ladie. Francesco hearing his Mistresse thus pleasant, tooke opportunitie by the forhead, and dealt fo with his Infida, that before hee went all was well: shee blusht not, nor hee basht, but both made vp their market with a faire of kisses: which sympathie of affections, bred the poore Gentlemans ouerthrow; for he was fo fnared in the wily tramels of her alluring flatterie, that neither the remembrance of his Isabel, the care of his childe, the fauor of his friendes, or the feare of his difcredit, coulde in anie wife hale him from that hell, whereinto through his owne follie, he was fallen.

Where, by the way (Gentlemen) let vs note the

fubtilitie of these Syrens, that with their false harmonie per/fwade, and then prejudice; who bewitch like Caliplo, and inchaunt like Circe, carving a showe as if they were Vestalls, and could with Amulia carry water in a fiue, when they are flat Curtizans, as farre from honestie, as they are from deuotion. At the first they carrie a faire shew, resembling Calisto, who hid hir vanities w Dianas vail, having in their lookes a cov disdaine, but in their hearts a hote defire, denying with the tongue, and enticing wyth their lookes, rejecting in wordes, and alluring in gestures: and such a one (gentlemen) was Infida, who so plied Francesco with her flattering fawnes, that as the vron follows the adamant, the straw the Iet, and the Helitropion the beames of the funne, fo his actions were directed after her eie, and what she saide stoode for a principle, infomuch, that he was not onely readie in all submisse humours to please her fancies, but willing for the least worde of offence, to draw his weapon against the stoutest champion in al Troynouant. Thus feated in her beauty hee liued a long while, forgetting his returne to Caerbrancke, till on a day fitting musing with himselfe, he fell into a déepe confideration of his former fortunes and present follies: whereupon taking his Lute in his hand he foong this Roundley.

Francescoes Roundeley.

Sitting and fighing in my secret muse,
As once Apollo did surprisde with love,
Noting the slippery wayes young yeeres do use
What fond affects the prime of youth doth move,
With bitter teares despairing I do crie,
Wo worth the faults and follies of mine eie.

When wanton age the blossoms of my time
Drewe me to gaze vpon the gorgeous sight
That beauty pompous in her highest prime,
Presents to tangle men with sweete delight, |
Then with despairing teares my thoughts do crie,
Wo worth the faults and follies of mine eie.

When I surveid the riches of her lookes,
Whereout flew flames of never quencht desire,
Wherein lay baites, that Venus snares with hookes,
Oh where proud Cupid sate all armde with fire:
Then toucht with love my inward soule did crie,
Wo worth the faultes and follies of mine eie.

The milke-white Galaxia of her brow,
Where love doth daunce la voltas of his skill.
Like to the Temple where true lovers vow
To follow what shall please their Mistresse will,
Noting her inorie front, now do I crie,
Wo worth the faults and follies of mine eie.

Hir face like filuer Luna in hir shine,
All tainted through with bright Vermillion staines,
Like lillies dipt in Bacchus choicest wine,
Powdred and interseamd with azurde vaines,
Delighting in their pride now may I crie,
Wo worth the faults and follies of mine eie.

The golden wyers that checkers in the day,
Inferiour to the tresses of her haire,
Hir amber tramells did my heart dismay,
That when I lookte I durst not ouer dare:
Prowd of her pride now am I forst to crie,
Wo worth the faults and follies of mine eie.

These fading beauties drew me on to sin
Natures great riches framde my bitter ruth,
These were the trappes that love did snare me in,
Oh, these, and none but these have wrackt my youth,
Misled by them I may dispairing crie,
Wo worth the faults and follies of mine eie.

By these I slipt from vertues holy tracke,
That leades vnto the highest christall sphere,
By these I fell to vanitie and wracke,
And as a man forlorne with sin and feare,
Despaire and sorrow doth constraine me crie,
Wo worth the faults and follies of mine eie.

Although this Sonnet was of his ready invention, and that he vttered it in bitternesse of minde, yet

after he had past ouer his melancholy, and from his folitarie was fallen into companie, he forgate this patheticall impression of vertue, and like the dogge did redire ad vomitum, and fell to his owne vomite, refembling those Gretians, that with Vlysses drinking of Cyrces drugges, loft both forme and memorie: Wel his affaires were done his horse folde, and no other businesse now rested to hinder him from hving home, but his Mistresse, which was fuch a violent deteyner of his person and thoughts, that there is no heaven but Infidaes house: where, although hee pleafantly entred in with delight, yet cowardly he flipt away with repentance. Well, leaving him to his new loves, at last to Isabell, who daily expected the comming home of her best beloued Francesco, thinking euery houre a yeare, till fhe might fée him, in whome rested all her content. But when (poore foule) shee coulde neither feede her fight with his presence, nor her eares with his letters, she beganne to lower and grew so discontent, that shee fell into a feuer. /

Fortune that meant to trie hir patience thought to prooue her with these tragicall newes: It was tolde her by certaine Gentlemen her friends, who were her husbands private familiars, that he meant to soiorne most part of the yeere in *Troynouant*: one blunt fellowe amongest the rest that was playne and wythout falshoode, tolde her the whole cause of

his refidence, howe hee was in loue with a most beautifull Gentlewoman called Infida, and that fo deepely, that no perswasion might reuoke him from that alluring curtizan. At this Isabell made no accompt, but tooke it as a friuolous tale, and thought the woorse of such as buzzed such fantasticall follies in her eares, but when the generall report of his misdemeanours were bruted abroad throughout Caerbrancke, then with blushing chéekes the hid hir head, & greening at his follies, and her owne fortunes, imothered the flames of her forrows with inward conceit, but outwardly withstood such in fatyricall tearmes as did inueigh against the honestie of Francesco so that she wonne great commendations of all for her lovaltie and constancie yet when she was gotten secret by hir selfe, her heart full of forrowfull passions, and her eies full of teares, she beganne to meditate with her selfe of the prime of her youth vowed to Francesco: how the forfooke father, friendes, and Countrey to bee paramour vnto her hearts paragon. The vowes hee made, when he carried her away in the night, the folempne promifes and protestations that were vttered. When shee had pondred all these things, then she called to minde Eneas, Demophon and Theseus, and matcht them with Dido, Phillis and Ariadne, and at last fighed thus: And shal it be so betweene Isabel and Francesco? No, thinke not so

(fond woman) let not ielousie blinde thee, whome loue hath indued with such a piercing insight: for as there is no content to the sweetenesse of loue, so there is no despaire to the presudice of Ielousie: whereupon to shake off all fancies, she tooke / her Cittern in her hand, and soong this verse out of Ariosto.

Che piu felice é pui iocondo stato,
Che viuer piu dolce é piu beato
Sarui diseruire vno amoroso cuore,
Che d'esser in seruitu d'amore,
Se non susse huomo sempre stimulato,
Da quella rio timore, da quella frenezia,
Da quella rabbia, della ielozia.

Yet as women are constant, so they are easie to belieue, especially trueth, and so it fell out with Isabell, for shee (poore soule) could take no rest, so was her head troubled with these newes, hammering a thousand humours in her braine how she might know the certaintie of his follies, and how she might reclaime him from his newe intertained affection. She considered with her self, that men allure Doues by the beauty of the house, and reclaime hawkes by the fairnesse of the lure, and that loue ioyned with vertue, were able to recall the most stragling Aeneas to make sayles againe to Carthage. Tush quoth she to her selfe, suppose he

be falne in Loue with a curtizan, and that beautie hath given him the braue: what shall I vtterly condempne him? No. as he was not the first, so he shall not be the last: what, youth will have his fwindge, the briar will bee full of prickles, the nettle will have his sting, and youth his amours: men must loue and will loue, though it be both against law and reason: a crooked sien will proue a straight trée, the Iuniper is sower when it is a twigge, and fweete when it is a trée: time changeth manners, and Francesco when hee entreth into the conditions of a flattring Curtizan, will forfake her, and returne penitent and more louing to his Isa | bel. Thus like a good wife she construed all to the best, vet she thought to put him in minde of his returne, and therefore she writ him a letter to this effect

Ifabel to Francesco

F Penelope longde for her Vlyss, thinke Isabel wisheth for her Francesco, as loyall to thee as she was constant to the wily

Greeke, and no lesse desirous to sée thee in Caerbranck, than she to enioy his presence in Ithaca, watering my chéekes with as manie teares, as she her face with plaints, yet my Francesco, hoping I have no such cause as she to increase her cares: for

I have fuch resolution in thy constancie, that no Circes with all her inchantments, no Caliplo with all her forceries, no Syren with all their melodies could peruert thée from thinking on thine Isabel: I know Francesco so déeply hath the faithful promise and lovall vowes made & interchanged betweene vs taken place in thy thoughtes, that no time how long foeuer, no distance of place howsoeuer different may alter that impression. But why doo I inferre this néedlesse infinuation to him, that no vanitie can alienate from vertue : let me Francesco perswade thée with other circumstances. First my Swéete. thinke how thine Isabel lies alone, measuring the time with fighes, & thine absence with passions; counting the day difmall, and the night full of forrowes; being euerie way discontent, because shee is not content with her Francesco. The onely / comfort that I have in thine absence is thy child, who lies on his mothers knee, and smiles as watoly as his father when he was a wooer. But when the boy faves: Mam, where is my dad, when will hée come home? Then the calme of my content turneth to a present storme of piercing sorrowe, that I am forced fometime to fay: Vnkinde Francesco, that forgets his Isabell. I hope Francesco it is thine affaires, not my faults that procureth this long delay. For if I knewe my follies did any way offend thée, to rest thus long absent, I woulde punish my selfe both with outward and inward penaunce. But howsoeuer, I pray for thy health, and thy speedie returne, and so *Francesco* farewell.

Thine more than her owne Isabel.

SHe having finished her letters, conveied them speedelie to Troynouant, where they were delivered to Francesco: who receiving them with a blush, went into his study, and there vnript the feales with a figh, perceiuing by the contents that Isabell had an inckling of his vnkinde loues, which driue him into a great quandarie, that déepely entring into the infight of his lasciulous life, hee beganne to feele a remorce in his conscience, howe grieuously hee hath offended hir, that had so faithfullie loued him. Oh, quoth hee, shall I be fo ingrate as to quittance affection with fraud? So vnkinde as to weigh downe loue with discourtesie, to give her a weede that prefents me a flower, and to beate her with nettles that perfumes me w roses: confider with thy felfe Francesco, / how deeply thou dooft finne: First, thou offendest thy God in choosing so wanton a goddesse; then, thou doost wrong thy wife, in preferring an incoftant curtizan before so faithfull a paramour: yet Francesco, thy haruest is in the grasse, thou maiest stoppe at the brimme, because thou hast never touched the

bottome. What? men may fall, but to wallowe in wickednesse is a double fault. Therefore recall thy felfe, reclayme thy affections: Is not thine Isabell as faire? Oh, if shee be not, yet shee is Is not Isabell fo wittie as Infida? more vertuous. Oh but shee is more constant, and then art thou so madde, to preferre drosse before Golde, a common Flint before a choice Diamond, vice before vertue. fading beautie before the excellence of inward qualities: No, shake off these follies, and say, both in mouth & in hart: None like Isabell. This he faide by himselfe, but when he went foorth of his Chamber, and spied but his Mistresse looking out of her windowe, all this geare chaungde, and the case was altered: shee calde, and in hée must, and there in a iest scofft at his Wives Letters, taking his Infida in his armes, and faving, I will not leave this Troy for the chaftest Penelope in the world

Thus hee foothed himselfe in the sweetenesse of his sinne, resembling the Leopardes that seede on Marioran while they die, or the People Hyperborei, that sit so long and gaze against the Sunne till they become blinde; so hee doated on the persection of Insida, till it grewe to his vtter prejudice: for no reason coulde divert him from his damned intent, so had he drowned himselfe in the dregges of lust insomuch that hee counted it no sinne to offend

with fo faire a Saint: alluding to the faying of the holy Father.

Consuetudo peccandi, tollit sensum peccati.

Thus did these two continue in the Simpathie of their finnes, while poore Isabel rested her at home content in this, that at last he would bee reclaimed, and till then shee wold vse patience, feeing Nunquam sera est ad bonos mores via. lowing thus in the foldes of their owne follies, Fortune that meant to experience the force of Loue, dealt thus conceiptedly; After these two Louers had by the space of three yeares securely flumbred in the sweetnesse of their pleasures, and drunke with the furfet of Content, thought no other heauen, but their owne supposed happinesse; as euerie storme hath his calme, and the greatest Spring-tide the deadest ebbe, so fared it with Francesco: for so long went the pot to the water, that at last it came broken home; and so long put he his hand into his pursse, that at last the emptie bottome returned him a Writt of Non est inuentus; for well might the Divell dance there, for euer a crosse to keepe him backe.

Well, this Louer fuller of passions than of peace, began (when hee entred into the consideration of his owne estate) to mourne of the chyne, and to hang the lippe as one that for want of sounding had stroke himselfe uppen the Sands; yet he

couered his inward forrowe with outward fmiles, and like *Ianus* prefented his Mistresse with a merrie looke, when the other side of his visage was full of forrowes. But she that was as good as a touch-stone to trye mettalls, could straight spie by the laste where the shooe wringde him: and seeing her *Francesco* was almost foundred, thought to see if a skilfull Farrier might mend him; if not, like an vnthankefull Hackney-man shee meant to tourne him into the bare leas, and set him as a tyrde iade to picke a fallet.

Vopon which determination, that shee might doo nothing rashly, shee made enquirie into his estate. what Liuings he had, what Landes to fell, howe they were eyther tyed by Statute, or Intailde? At last, thorough her secret / and subtill inquisition, fhe found that all his corne was on the floore, that his sheepe were clipt, and the Wooll solde; to be short, that what he had by his Wife coulde neither be folde nor morgaged, and what he had of his owne was spent vppon her, that nothing was lefte for him to liue vppon but his wits. This newes was fuch a cooling Card to this Curtizan, that the extreame heate of her loue was alreadie growen to bee luke warme: which Francesco might easely perceiue; for at his arrivall, his welcome was more straunge, her lookes more coy, his fare more flender, her glaunces leffe amorous: and shee

féemed to bee *Infida* in proportion, but not in wonted passions.

This vncouth distaine made Francesco maruell, who yet had not entred into her deceiptes, nor (beeing simple of himselse) had euer yet experienst a strumpets subtilitie; he imputed therefore his Mistresses coynesse to the distemperature of her bodie, and thought that being not well, it was no wonder though shee gaue him the lesse welcome.

Thus poore nouice did he conster euerie thing to the best, vntill Time presented him with the truth of the worst: for in short time, his hostesse calde for money, his creditors threatened him with an arrest, his cloathes waxt thredbare, and there was no more coyne in the Mynte to amende them. Whereupon on a day, sitting in a great dumpe by his *Insida*, who was as solempne as he was forrowfull, hee burst foorth into these speaches.

I have read fwéete Loue in the Aphorismes of Philosophers, that heate suppressed is more violent, the streame stopt makes the greater Deluge, and passions concealed, procure the déeper sorrowes. Then if Contrariorum Contraria est ratio, there is nothing better than a bosome friend with whome to conferre vpon the / iniurie of sortune. Finding my selfe (my Insida) full of Pathemas as stung to the quicke, invented with the Tarantula of heart sicke torments, I thinke no medicine sitter

for my maladie, than to be cured by the muficall harmonie of thy friendly counfaile. Knowe then Infida that Trovnouant is a place of great expence, like the Serpent Hidalpis, that the more it fuckes the more it is a thirst, eating men aliue as the Crocodile, and being a place of as daungerous allurement, as the feate where the Syrens fit and chaunt their prejudiciall melodie. It is to young Gentlemen, like the Laborynth, whereout Theseus could not get without a threed, but here be such monstrous Minotaures as first devour the threed. and then the person. The Innes are like hotehouses, which by little and little sweate a man into a confumption; the hoste he carries a pint of wine in the one hande to welcome, but a poniard in the other to stab; and the hostesse she hath smiles in her forhead, and prouides good meate for her guests, but the sauce is costly, for it far excéeds the cates. If covne want, then either to Limbo, or els clap vp a commoditie (if so much credite be left) where he shall finde such knots, as he will neuer be able without his vtter prejudice to vntie. Brokers, I leave them of, as too course ware to be mouthde with an honest mans tongue. Minotaures faire Infida, haue so eaten mee vp in this Laborinth, as to bee plaine with thee that art my fecond felfe, I want, and am fo farre indebted to the Mercer and mine Hostesse, as either thou must stand my friend to disburse so much money for me, or els I must depart from Troynouant, and so from thy sight, which how precious it is to mee, I referre to thine owne conscience; or for an Vltimum vale take vp my lodging in the counter, which I know, as it would be vncouth to me, so it would be gréeuefull to thee; and therfore now hangs my welfare in thy wil.

How loth I was to vtter vnto thee my want and forrowe, measure by my loue; who wish rather death than thy discontent.

Infida could scarce suffer him in so long a Periode, and therefore with her forehead full of furrowes. shee made him this answere. And would you haue me (fir) buy an ounce of pleasure with a tunne of mishappes, or reach after repentaunce with fo hie a rate: have I lent thee the bloffoms of my youth, and delighted thee with the prime of my yeares? hast thou had the spoile of my virginitie, and now wouldest thou have the facke of my substaunce? when thou hast withered my person, aymest thou at my wealth? No sir, no; knowe, that for the loue of thee, I have crackt my credite, that neuer before was stained. I cannot looke abroad without a blush, nor go with my neighbours without a frump, thou, and thy name is euer cast in my dish, my foes laugh, and my friends forrow to sée my follies: wherefore seeing

thou beginnest to picke a quarrell, and hereafter, when thine owne base fortunes have brought thee to beggarie wilt fav, that *Infida* cost thee fo many Crownes, and was thine ouerthrowe: auaunt nouice. home to thine owne wife, who (poore Gentlewoman) fits and wants what thou confumeft at Thou hast had my despoyle, and I feare I beare in my bellie the token of too much loue I ought thée. Yet content with this discredite. rather than to runne into further extremitie: get thée out of my doores, for from henceforth thou shalt neuer be welcome to Infida. And with that fhee flung vp, and went into her Chamber: Francesco would have made a replie, but shée woulde not heare him, nor holde him any more chat: Whereupon with a flea in his eare, hee went to his lodging. There ruminating on the number of his follies, and the hardnesse of his fortunes, feeing his skore great, / his covne little, his credite leffe: weighing how hardly he had vsed his Isabell: at last leaning his head on his hand, with teares in his eies, he beganne to be thus extremely passionate. Nowe Francesco piscator ictus fapit, experience is a true mistresse, but shee maketh her Schollers treade vpon Thornes: hast thou not leaped into the ditch, which thou hast long foreféene, and bought that with repentance which thou hast so gréedily desired to reape. Oh now thou feeft the difference betweene love and luft: the one ful of contented pleasure, the other of pleasing miseries: thy thoughts were feathered with fancie, and whether did they flie fo farre that they fréeed themselves, and thou rest consumed? Francesco, what are women? If they bee honest Saints, the puritie of nature, the excellence of vertue, the perfection of earthly content. Oh let me if they bee curtifans and strumpets. breath before I can vtter the depth of fuch a monstrous description. They be in shape Angels, but in quallities Deuilles, painted Sepulchres with rotten bones their foreheads are Kalenders of misfortunes, their eies like comets, that when they sparkle foretell some fatall disparagement, they allure with amourous glaunces of luft, and kill with bitter looks of hate, they have dimples in their cheekes to deceive, and wrinckles in their browes to betray, their lippes are like honie combes, but who tasteth the droppes is impoisoned; they are as cleare as Christall, but bruse them, and they are as infectious as the Diamond, their teares are like the Aconiton, that the Hidra wept; they present as Deianiea shirts for presents, but who so puts them on, confumes like Hercules, they lay out the foldes of their haire, and intangle men in their treffes, playing the horse-leach, that fucketh while they burst; betweene their breasts is the vale of destruction, and in their beds oh there is forrow, / repentance, hell & despayre. They consume man aliue, and ayme at his substance not his perfection; like eagles, that onely flie thither where the carrion is, they leade man to hell, and leave him at the gates. To be briefe, they are ingrateful, periured. vntrue, inconstant, fléeting, full of fraud, deceitfull. and to conclude in one worde, they be the very refuse of natures excrements. Oh Francesco, what a Satyricall inuective hast thou vttered? I may best, quoth hee, for I have bought every principle with a pound: What now rests for thee poor infortunate man? Thou hast yet left a meanes to ende all these miseries, and that is this. Drawe thy rapier and fo die, that with a manly resolution thou mayest preuent thy further misfortunes. although thou hast sinned, yet despaire not, though thou art Anathema, vet proue not an Atheist: the mercie of God is aboue all his workes, and repentaunce is a pretious balme. Home to thy wife, to the wife of thy youth Francesco, to Isabell; who with her patience will couer all thy follies: remember this man, Nunquam sera est ad bonos mores via.

Thus hee ended, and with verie griefe fell in a flumber. At this the Palmer breathed, and made a ftop and a long periode. His hoste desirous to heare out the end of *Francescoes* fortunes, wished him to goe forwarde in his discourse. Pardon mee

Sir, quoth the Palmer, the night is late, and I have trauelled all the day; my bellie is full, and my bones would be at rest. Therefore for this time, let thus much suffice, and to morrowe at our vprising, which shall be with the Sunne, I will not onlie discourse vnto you the ende of Francescoes amours, of his returne home to his wise, and his repentaunce, but manifest vnto you the reason whie I aymed my pilgrimage to Venice.

The Gentleman and his Wife verie loath to bee tedious to the good Palmer, were content with his promife; and so taking vp the candle lighted him to bedde, where we leave him. And therefore assone as may bee Gentlemen, looke for Francescoes further fortunes, and after that my Farewell to follie, and then adieu to all amorous Pamphlets.

FINIS.

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XVIII.

FRANCESCOS FORTUNES.

1590.



FRANCESCOS FORTUNES:

Or,

The fecond part of Greenes

Neuer too late.

VVherein is discoursed the fall of Loue, the bitter fruites of Follies pleasure, and the repentant forrowes of a reformed man.

Sero, fed ferio.

Robertus Greene in Artibus Magister.



Imprinted at London for N. L. and Iohn Busbie. 1590.



To the right Worshipfull Thomas Burnaby Esquier, Robert Greene wisheth increase of all honorable vertues.

He Athenians coûted such men vnworthie their Common wealth as were ingratfull: and Plato seeing an vnthankefull man prosper, said, see men of Greece the Gods are prooued vniust; for they have laden a thistle with fruite. VVhen (right VVorsbipfull) these reasons entred into my reach, and that I fawe how odious in elder time ingratefull men were to all estates and degrees; least I might be stained with such a hatefull blemish, having received many friendly, nay fatherly favours at your hands, I resolved to indevour how I might shewe the depth of my affection towards your VVorship, I found my abilitie was not answerable to my desires to l proportionate equall requitall to your deferts, so that I onely thought to make thankes my pay mistris, and so passe over your good turne with the old proverb,

God and Saint Francis thank you. Yet when I perceiued great men had taken little gifts. I tooke heart at graffe, and imboldened my selfe to present you with a Pamph[Net of my penning, called my Nunquam sera est: which your VVorship so gratefully accepted, measuring my will more than the worth: that having made my second part, wherein is discoursed the sequell of Francescoes further fortunes, I thought to shrowde it under your patronage: I have discovered herein the other follies of his youth, and how at last, repentance stroke in him such a remorse, that his sorrowe for his sinnes were more than the pleasures conceipted in his vanities. I have from the love of a lascivious Curtizan brought him to the VVife of his youth: the storie necessarie for yong Gentlemen, and not offensive vnto grave eares: for the most severe Stoick of all that seekes a knot in a rush, may herein finde some sentence woorth the marking. And though you as Virgill hold Ennius, yet you may out of his drosse gather / some golde. They which thinke there is no God to their Goddesse, may here finde that wanton loues are the readie paths to prejudice, and that effeminate follies are the efficient causes of dyre disparagement, and that there is no Iewel like the gift of an honest wife. But whatsoeuer it is, all is shrowded under your fauour: which hoping you will as gratefullie patronage as the former, I wish your VVorship as manie good fortunes as your self can desire, or I imagine.

Your Worships adopted fonne in all humble dutie to commaund.

Robert Greene.



To the Gentlemen Readers

health.

further discourse of Francescos fortunes, this Pamph[l]et had not come to the presse: but seeing promise vvas debt, and sundrie made challenge at the Stationers shoppe, that I should bee a man of my word. To satisfie therefore al my well wishers, I haue written what befell Francesco after he had forsaken his Insida, no great aduentures, but you may see plotted downe many passions full of repentant sorrowes, and reade many of his Sonnets that hee made in remorse of minde; such as they bee they are yours, or what my pen can doo, but looke for it in more deeper matters.

Yours Robert Greene. /



In laudem Authoris.

Though wanton Horace writ of Loues delite,
And blythlie chaunted of his lasse,
Bonny and bright as any glasse:
Yet did the Poet Odes and Satyres write,
Wherein he taught fond youth
That follie hatcheth ruth,
And with his toyes
Mixt vertues ioyes:
So by his workes he reapt immortall praise.

Let him that writes the fall of Louers fits,
Of beautie and her scortching fires,
And fancie and her fond desires:
If wnto vertues lore he wrest his wits,
And pen downe follies fall,
Whereto yong youth is thrall,
Haue honor then
To grace his pen:
But enuie liues too much in these our daies.

Richard Hake.

Vertutis comes inuidia. /
R. S.



The Bee is praise for labour, not for ease,
The more she workes the richer is her hiue:
The little Ant that teacheth men to striue,
Is fam'd for that her labours neuer cease.

The more the fruite, more precious is the tree; The more the fish, more valued is the streame; The sweetest night when many stars doo gleame; The better ground that brings most graine we see.

The more it workes, the quicker is the wit; The more it writes, the better to be steemed: By labour ought mens wills and wits be deemed, Though dreaming dunces doo inueigh against it.

But write thou on, though Momus sit and frowne, A Carters ligge is sittest for a Clowne.

Bonum quo communius, eo melius. /



Greenes Neuer too late.

Nunquam sera est ad bonos mores via.

O fooner did *Phæbus* burnish the heauen with his brightnesse, and deckt in a glorious diadem of chrisolites, had mounted him on his Coach to lighten the Lampe that makes Flora beauteous, but the Palmer was vp and at his Oryfons, beeing as deuoute in his thoughts as hee was mindfull of his trauels: walking in the garden all alone, and feeing the Sunne new peeping out of the East, he began to meditate with himselfe of the state of man, comparing his life to the length of a spanne, or the compasse of the Sunne, who rifing bright and orient, continueth but his appointed course, and that ofttimes shadowed with so many Clowdes, and strainde with a fable vale of fuch thicke fogges, that he is more darkened with stormes than beautified with light: and if it fortune his shine is without blemish, yet he setteth and that more oft

in a folde of Clowdes, than in a cléere Skie: fo man borne in the pride of beautie or pompe of wealth, bee his honors equall with his fortunes, and hee as happie as Augustus: vet his life hath but his limittes, and that clogged with fo many cares and crosses, that his daies are more full of miseries than of pleasures, and his disaster mishaps are more than his prosperous fortunes: but if the starres grace him with all fauourable aspects, and that hée / liue full of content in many honours and much wealth, yet his prime hath his Autum, his faire blossomes turnes to tawnie leaves, age will shake him by the shoulder, and nature will have his due, that at last he must set with the Sunne, and perhaps in fuch a clowde of finne, as his rifing may be in a storme of forrowes. Thus did the Palmer meditate with himselte, béeing penitent for the follies of his youth, that at last thinking to be as muficall to himselfe, as the birds were melodious, he chaunted out this Ode.

The penitent Palmers Ode.

Whilome in the winters rage

A Palmer old and full of age,

Sat and thought upon his youth,

With eyes, teares, and harts ruth:

Being all with cares yblent,

When he thought on yeares mispent.

When his follies came to minde. How fond love had made him blinde, And wrapt him in a field of woes, Shadowed with pleasures shoes. Then he sighed and said alas. Man is hnne and flesh is grasse. I thought my mistris haires were gold. And in their lockes my heart I folde: Her amber tresses were the sight That wrapped me in vaine delight: Her yuorie front, her pretie chin, Were stales that drew me on to fin: Her starrie lookes, her Christall eyes, Brighter than the Sunnes arise: Sparkling pleasing flames of fire, Yoakt my thoughts and my defire, That I gan crie ere I blin, Oh her eyes are paths to fin. / Her face was faire, her breath was sweete, All her lookes for loue was meete: But love is follie this I knowe, And beautie fadeth like to snowe. Oh why should man delight in pride, Whose blossome like a deaw doth glide: When these supposes toucht my thought, That world was vaine and beautie nought, I gan figh and fay alas, Man is sinne and flesh is grasse.

The Palmer having ended this Ode, fat in a great dump in the garden, when his Host accompanied with his wife, defirous to heare out Francescos fortune, were come into the place, and gaue him the bon iorno thus. Courteous Palmer. a kinde falute to waken you from your mornings meditation. I fee you keepe the prouerbe for a principle, to bed with the Bee and vp with the Larke: no fooner the Sunne in the Skie but you are at your Orysons, either ruminating passions or penance, either fome old remembrance or fome Howfoeuer (gentle Palmer) tis no newe reperfe. manners to enter too farre into your thoughts, and therefore leaving your fecrets to your felfe, Come stata la vostra Signoria quest a matina. The Palmer that had learned a little broken Italian, feeing his honest host in such a merie moode made this Io sto ben signior diu merce, ringratiandoui sonnamenti di vostra grande cortesia, holding it fit for my fortunes to haue many cares and little fleepe, that my pennance may be great fith my finnes are many: long flumbers are for idle perfons, not for penitent Palmers; and sweete dreames are no instances of hartie deuotion: therefore doo I watch with the mouse to argue my selfe miserable, and enioyne my felfe to much paines, because I am combred with many passions. This morning entring into this garden, I fawe by the workes of nature the course of the world: for when I sawe Floras glorie shut vp in the foldes of Iris / from es. I began to consider that the pride of man was like the pompe of a flower, that to day glories in the field and to morrowe is in the furnace: that we be like the flies Hemeræ, that take life with the Sunne and dve with the deaw; that our honors are compared to the bloffomes of a Cedar, which vanish ere they begin to burnish, and al our triumphs like caracters written in snowe, that printed in a vapour, at the least Sunne shine discouer our vanitie, for they are as soone melted as our pleafures are momentarie. Tied by Fates to this fickle state, wee haue nothing more certaine than to dve, nor nothing more vncertaine than the houre of death: and therefore when I call to minde the follies of my youth, how they have been tickled with vice. I couet in the flower of mine veares to repent and amend: for

Nunquam sera est, ad bonos mores via.

You do well fir (quoth the Gentleman) in al your actions to confider the end; for he that fore repents, foresees many perrills. Had I wist is a great fault, and after wits are bitten with many forrowes: therefore such as greeue at their follies, & couet to preuent dangerous fortunes, they which take an antidote of grace against the deadly aconiton of sinne, and with present remorse preuent

ensuing vanities: such indeed, as they liue well, shall dye blessed. But leaving this humour till another time, you may see by our earely rising how my wife and I were delighted with your evenings parlie: for trust me sir, desire of Francescos surther fortunes made vs thus watchfull, and therefore seeing the morning is gray and our longing great, and yet a good while to breakefast, if your leisure may affoord so much, I pray you sit downe and tell vs what was the ende of his loues, and the effects of his repentance. The Palmer verie willing to pleasure his courteous host, sat him downe in an Arbour and began thus.

The Palmers tale of Francesco.

A S foone as Francesco awakt from his slumber, and began to enter further into the consideration of Insidas cousenage, his heart throbd at his follies, and a present passion of his great misfortunes so payned him, that all perplexed he began againe to sing his former song, and to say that womens thoughts were like to the leaves of a Date tree that change colours with the winde, in a moment siguring out sorrowe with teares, and in that instant deciphering pleasure with smiles: neither too resolute with the Stoickes to yeeld to no passions, nor too absolute with the Essential

with ouer much chastitie: their desires (quoth he) resemble Æolus forhead, that next every storme contains a calme: their deedes are like Almanacks that decipher nothing but vncertaintie; either too scrupulous with Daphne to contemne all, or too voluptuous with Venus to defire all, and straight neither flesh nor fish as the Porpus, but time pleasers, to content themselves with varietie of fancies. In this humorous melancholie hee arose vp and raunged about the Citie, despayring of his estate as a man pennylesse, and therefore impatient because he knewe not how to redresse his miseries: to relie vppon the helpe of a Curtizan, he fawe by experience was to hang hope in the ayre: to stand vpon the fauour of friends, that was bootelesse; for he had fewe in the Citie, as being but a straunger there, and such as he had were wonne with an Apple, trencher friends, and therefore to bee left with the puffe of the least blast of aduerfities. To goe home to his wife to faire Isabel, that was as hard a censure as the sentence of death; for shame of his follies made him ashamed to shewe his face to a woman of so high defarts. In this perplexitie he passed ouer three or foure daies till his purfe was cleane emptie, / his fcore great, and his hostesse would trust him for no more money, but threatened him, if present payment were not made, to lay him in prison.

This newes was hard to Francesco, that knewe not how to auoyd the prejudice, only his refuge was to prevent such a misfortune to carrie his apparell to the Brokers, and with great losse to make money to pay for his diet: which once discharged. he walkt vp and downe as a man forlorne, having neither covne nor credite. Necessitie v stingeth vnto the quick, made him fet his wits on the tenter, and to stretch his braines as high as Ela, to see how he could recouer pence to defray his charges by any finister meanes to falue his forrowes: the care of his parents and of his owne honor perfwaded him from making gaine by labour: he had neuer been brought vp to any mechanicall course of life. Thus every way destitute of meanes to liue, he fight out this old fayd fawe, Miserrimum est fuisse beatum: yet at last, as extremities search very farre, he calde to minde that he was a scholler. and that although in these daies Arte wanted honor, and learning lackt his due, yet good letters were not brought to so lowe an ebbe, but that there might some profite arise by them to procure his maintenance. In this humour he fell in amongst a companie of Players, who perswaded him to trie his wit in writing of Comedies, Tragedies, or Pastorals, and if he could performe anything worth the stage, then they would largelie reward him for his paines. Francesco glad of this motion, seeing

a meanes to mittigate § extremitie of his want, thought it no dishonor to make gaine of his wit, or to get profite by his pen: and therefore getting him home to his chamber writ a Comedie, which so generally pleased all the audience, that happie were those Actors in short time that could get any of his workes, he grewe so exquisite in that facultie. By this meanes his want was releeued, his credit in his hosts house recoursed, his apparell in greater brauerie then it was, and his purse well lined with Crownes

At this discourse of Francesco the Gentleman tooke his / guest by the hand and broke off his tale thus. Now gentle Palmer, feeing we are fallen by course of prattle to parlie of Playes, if without offence, doo me that fauour to shewe me your iudgement of Playes, Playmakers and Players. Although (quoth the Palmer) that some for being too lauish against that facultie, haue for their satiricall inuectives been well canuafed, yet feeing here is none but our felues, and that I hope what you heare shall be troden under foote, I will flatlie fay what I can both euen by reading and experience. The invention of Comedies were first found amongst the Greekes, and practifed at Athens: some thinke by Menander whom Terence so highlie commends in his Heautontimorumenon. The reason was, that vnder the couert of fuch pleafant and Comicall

euents, they aymed at the ouerthrowe of many vanities that then raigned in the Citie: for therein they painted out in the persons the course of the world, how either it was graced with honor, or discredited with vices: There might you see leveld out the vaine life that boasting Thrases vse, smoothed vp with the selfe conceipt of their owne excellence: the miferable estate of couetous parents, that rather let their sonnes tast of any misfortunes, than to releeue them with the superfluitie of their wealth: the pourtraiture of parafiticall friends and flattering Gnatos, that only are time pleafers and trencher friends, which footh yong Gentlemen fubtellie in their follies as long as they may: Ex corum sullo viuere was fet out in liuely colours. Comedies the abuse of Bawdes that made sale of honest virgins, and lived by the spoyle of womens honors, was deeply discouered. To be short, Lecherie, Couetousnesse, Pride, selfe-loue, disobedience of parents, and fuch vices predominant both in age and youth were shot at, not onely with examples, and inflances to feede the eye, but with golden fentences of morrall works to please the eare. Thus did Menander win honor in Greece with his works, & reclaime both old & yong for their vanities, by v pleasant effects of his Comedies. After him this facultie grew to be famous in Rome, practifed / by Plautus, Terence, and other that excelled in this qualitie, all avming as Menander did in all their workes to suppresse vice and advance vertue. Now, fo highlie were Comedies esteemed in those daies, that men of great honor and graue account were the Actors, the Senate and the Confuls continuallie present, as auditors at all such sports, rewarding the Author with rich rewards, according to the excellencie of the Comedie. Thus continued this facultie famous, till couetousnesse crept into the qualitie, and that meane men greedie of gaines did fall to practife the acting of fuch Playes, and in the Theater presented their Comedies but to fuch onely, as rewarded them well for their paines: when thus Comedians grewe to bee mercinaries, then men of accompt left to practife such pastimes, and disdained to have their honors blemisht with the staine of such base and vile gaines: in fo much that both Comedies and Tragedies grew to lesse accompt in Rome, in that the free fight of fuch fports was taken away by couetous defires: yet the people (who are delighted with fuch nouelties and pastimes) made great resort, paide largely, and highly applauded their doings, in fo much that the Actors, by continuall vse grewe not onely excellent, but rich and infolent. Amongst whome in the daies of Tully one Roscius grewe to be of such exquisite perfection in his facultie, that he offered to contend with the Orators of that time in gesture,

as they did in eloquence; boasting that he could expresse a passion in as many fundrie actions, as Tully could discourse it in varietie of phrases: yea so prowde he grewe by the daylie applause of people, that he looked for honour and reuerence to bee done him in the streetes: which selfe conceipt when Tully entred into with a pearcing insight, he quipt at in this manner.

It chanced that Roscius & he met at a dinner, both guests vnto Archias the Poet, where the prowd Comedian dared to make comparison with Tully: which insolencie made the learned Orator to growe into these termes; why Roscius, / art thou proud with Elops Crow, being pranct with the glorie of others feathers? of thy felfe thou canst say nothing, and if the Cobler hath taught thee to fay Aue Cæfar, disdain not thy tutor, because thou pratest in a Kings chamber: what fentence thou vtterest on the stage, flowes from the censure of our wittes, and what fentence or conceipte of the invention the people applaud for excellent, that comes from the fecrets of our knowledge. I graunt your action, though it be a kind of mechanical labour; yet wel done tis worthie of praise: but you worthlesse, if for fo small a toy you waxe proud. Roscius waxt red, and bewraied his imperfection with filence: but this check of Tully could not keepe others from the blemish of that fault, for it grew to a generall vice amongst the Actors, to excell in pride as they did exceede in excellence, and to braue it in the streets, as they bragge it on the stage: so that they reueld it in Rome in such costly roabes, that they seemed rather men of great patrimonie, than such as lived by the favour of the people. Which Publius Seruilius very well noted: for hée being the sonne of a Senatour, and a man very valiant, met on a day with a player in the streetes richly apparrelled, who so farre forgat himselfe, that he tooke the wall of the young noble man, which Seruilius taking in disdaine, countercheckt with this frump: My friend (quoth hee) bee not so bragge of thy filken roabes, for I sawe them but yesterday make a great shew in a broakers shop. At this the one was ashamed, and the other smilde, and they which heard the quip, laught at the folly of the one & the wit of the other. fir haue you heard my opinion briefly of plaies, that Menander deuised them for the suppressing of vanities, necessarie in a common wealth, as long as they are vsed in their right kind; the play makers worthy of honour for their Arte: & players, men deferuing both prayle and profite, as long as they wax neither couetous nor infolent. I have caused you fir (quoth y gentlemã) to make a large digressió, but you haue resolued me in a matter that I long doubted of: and therefore I pray you /

againe to Francesco. Why then thus quoth the Palmer: After he grew excellent for making of Comedies, he waxt not onely braue, but full of Crownes: which Infida hearing of, and having intelligence what course of life he did take; thought to cast foorth her lure to reclaime him, though by her vnkindnesse he was proued haggard; for she thought that Francesco was such a tame foole that he would be brought to strike at any stale: decking her felfe therefore as gorgiously as she could, painting her face with the choyce of all her drugges, the walkt abroade where the thought Francesco vsed to take the ayre. Loue and Fortune iovning in league fo fauoured her, that according to her defire she met him. At which incounter I gesse, more for shame than loue she blusht; and fild her countenaunce with fuch repentant remorfe (yet having her lookes full of amorous glaunces) that she seemed like Venus, reconciling her selfe to froward Mars. The fight of Infida was pleafing in the eves of Francesco, and almost as deadly as the basilisk: that had hee not had about him Moly as Vlisses, he had been inchaunted by the charmes of that wylie Circes; but the abuse so stucke in his flomack that she had profered him in his extremitie. that he returned all her glaunces with a frowne, and fo parted. Infida was not amated with his angry moode, as one that thought loues furnace of force to heate the coldest Amatist, and the sweete words of a woman as able to draw on defire, as the Syrens melody the passengers. What quoth shee, though for a while he be cholerick. Beautie is able to quench the flame, as it fets hearts on fire; as Helens faultes angred Paris, so her fauours pleased Paris: though she were false to Menelaus, vet her faire made him brook her follies: Women are priviledgd to have their words and theyr wils, and whome they kill with a frowne they can reuiue with a fmile. Tush, Francesco is not so froward. but he may bee wonne, hee is no Saturnist to beare anger long, hee is foone hot and foone colde. cholerick and kinde harted; who though he be scolded away with bitter words, he will be reclaimed / againe with fweete kisses; a womans teares are Adamant, and men are no harder than Iron, and therefore may bee drawne to pitie their passions. I will faine, flatter, and what not, to get againe my Francesco; for his purse is ful, and my coffers wax emptie. In this humor taking pen and paper, she wrote a letter to him to this effect.

Infida to Francesco, wisheth what he wants in health or wealth.

IF my outward penaunce (Francesco) could discouer my inward passions, my sighes bewray my forrowes, or my countenaunce my miseries, then

should I looke the most desolate of all, as I am the most distrest of all: and the furrowes in my face bee numberlesse, as the griefes of my heart are matchles: But as the feathers of § Halciones glifter most against the forest storme, and Nylus is most calme against a deluge: so the forrowes of my minde are so great that they smother inwardly, though they make no outward appearance of mishap. All these miseries Francesco grow from the confideration of mine owne discurtesses: for when I thinke of thy constancie, thy faith, thy feature, and thy beautie, and weigh with my felfe how all these vowed vnto Infida, they were lost by the disloyaltie of Infida: I call it in question, whether I had better dispaire and die, or in hope of thy fauour linger out my life. Penaunce of free will merits pardons of course, and griefes that grow from remorse, deferue to bee falued with ruth. I confesse Francesco that I wrongd thee, and therefore I am wroong at § heart: but so doth the Idea of thy perfection, & the excellence of thy vertues frame a reftles passio in my heart, that although thou shouldest now to loath me, I cannot cease to loue thee. consider, women haue their faults and their follies, & act t in an houre which they repet al their life after. Though Mars & Venus brabled, they were friends after brawls, for a louers iar ought not to bee a perpetuall discord but like a sunshine shower,

y be it neuer so sharp is accounted no storme: forgiue / and forget Francesco then hartelie, that I repent so deepely: grace thy Insida againe with one smile, ease her impatient passions with thy sweete presence: and assure thy selfe shee will satisfie with loue, what shee hath offended with sollie. Bones that are broken & after set again, are the more stronger: where the Beech Tree is cut, there it growes most hard: reconciled friendship is the sweetest amitie. Then be friends with thy Insida: looke on her, and but visite her: and if she winne not thy loue with her wordes, and shewe her selfe so penitent, that thou shalt pardon: then let her perish in her owne missortunes, and die for the want of thy sauour. Farewell.

Thine euer,
dispayring Infida.

This letter shee sealed vp and sent it by a secret friend to Francesco: who at the first, knowing from whence it came, would scarcely receive it; yet at last willing to heare what humor had made the Curtizan write vnto him; hee broke ope the seales and read the former contents: which when he had throughly perused; hee found himselfe perplexed: for the cunning of her slatterie made § poore man passionate. In so much that sitting down with

the letter in his hand; he began thus to meditate with him selfe.

Why dooft thou youchfafe Francesco to looke on her letters that is so lewd, to view her lines that are powdred with flatterie, to heare her charmes that feekes thy prejudice, to liften to fuch a Calipso that aimes onely at thy substace, not at thy person? While thou wert poore her forhead was full of frowns, and in her looks fate the flormes of disdaine: but when she sees thou hast fethred thy nest, & hast crowns in thy purse, shee would play the horf-leach to fuck awaie thy wealth: & now would shee be thy harts gold, while she left thee not one dram of golde. Oh Francesco she hides her clawes, but lookes for her pray with the Tyger, she weepes / with the Crocodile, and smiles with the Hiena, and flatters with the Panther, and vnder the couert of a fugred baite, shrowdes the intent of thy bane. Knowest thou not that as the Marble dropps against rayne, so their teares forepoynt mischiefe, that the fauours of a Curtizan are like the fongs of the Grashoper, that euer foretel some fatal disparagement. Beware then Francesco (Piscator iEtus sæpit) shee hath once burnt thee, feare fire with the Childe: shee hath crost thee with disdaine, couet not her with desire: hate her, for in loathing such a one thou louest thy God. Returne not with the dog to the vomit, wallow not with fwine in the myre, foresee not the best & follow the worst. And yet Francesco trust me shee is faire, beautifull and wise: I but with that a Curtizan: perhaps she will now loue thee faithfully; if she doe, fond man, is not her hartie liking, hatefull lust? dangerous to thy bodie, and damnation to thy Soule. Tis a faying not so common as true, that he which looketh continually against the Sunne shall at last be blinde; that whoso handleth pitch must needes be defiled, the tree that abideth many blasts, at last falleth by the Carpenters axe, the bird v striketh at every stale cannot long escape the snare, so long goeth the pitcher to the brooke, that at last it comes broken home, and hee that fecurely swimmeth in finne shall furely be drowned in iniquitie: who so bindeth two fins together shall neuer be vnreuenged in the one, and he that delighteth to offend in youth, shall no doubt feele the punishment. Quod defertur non aufertur. Though God for a time fuffer a man to wallow in his owne wickednesse, and to fay vnto his foule, Tush the Lord regardeth not the way of finners, nor suspecteth the misdeedes of men, he is flow to wrath and proane to pittie: vet the Lord at last looketh downe from heauen and reuengeth all his grieuous finnes with a heavy plague, yea hee rooteth him out from the face of the earth and his place is no more seene. Consider

then Francesco, if the Lord suffer thee in thy iniquitie and defer present punishment, it is because his mercie may / feeme the more, and thy finne the greater. He that hath the dropfie drinketh while he bursteth, and yet not fatisfied; the Horseleach hath two daughters that neuer crie enough; who so is stung with the Serpent Diplas, burneth, but can neuer be cooled: and who so is inflamed with finne, thirsteth continuallie after wickednes, vntill he hath supped the dregges of Gods displeasure, to his owne destruction. Beware by this, fall not into the trap, when thou feest the traine: for knowing the sinne, if thou offendest against thine own conscience; the Lord will fend voon thee curfing, trouble, and shame, in all that thou fettest thy hand vnto, and will not cease to revenge vntill thou perish from off the face of the earth. Oh hast thou not at home an Isabel that is the wife of thy youth and the onely friend of thy bosome, indued with such exquisite beautie and exceeding vertue, that it is hard to iudge whether the pure complexion of her bodie, or the perfect constitution of her minde, holds the fupremacie. And is not a peaceable woman and of a good heart, the gift of the Lord? There is nothing so much worth as a woman well instructed: a shamefast and faithfull woman is a double grace. and there is no treasure to bee compared to her

continent mind: but as the gliftering beames of v fun when it ariseth, decketh the heaven: so the beautie of a good wife adorneth the house: & as golden pillers doe shine vpon the fockets of filuer, so doth a faire face in a vertuous minde. Shall the feare of God then Francesco be so farre from thine eyes as to leave thine owne wife and imbrace a Curtizan, to leave the law of God, and fuffer thy heart to be fubuerted by luft. The Lvon fo abhorreth this crime, as he killeth the Lyonesse for committing this fact. The Storke neuer medleth but with his mate. The Jacinth stone wil not be worne on the finger of an adulterer, nor the Olive grow, if plated by one that leadeth his life in vnlawfull lusts: and wilt thou shew thy felf more careles in this crime than bruit beafts. more reckles than vnreasonable creatures, more senseles than stones: yea far lesse in vertue than a man, & far more in / vice tha a beast. The wil the Lord look down from heaven, and plague thee with a heavy curse. At this clause standing a great while in a maze, at last hee stept to his standish, and wrote this answere.

Francesco wisheth to Insida remorse of conscience, & regard of honesty.

I Haue read thy letters Infida, wherein I hoped to haue found more honesty and lesse vanity; a

figne of better thoughtes and lines of more remorfe: else had I left them sealed, as I couet to leave thee vnfeene. But I perceive as no time wil alter the Panther from his spots, the Mouse from hir feare, nor the Tyger fro his fiercenes: fo neither date nor reason will change the conditios of a Curtizan: Thou writest thou art penitent, so I think, but it is not for thy finnes; but that thou hast not libertie enough to fin, enjoyed by some ouerthwart neighbour to be more honest than thou wouldst be, which is as great a penace to one of thy trade, as a long pilgrimage to a forrowful Palmer. A teare in a stropets eie, is like heat drops in a bright funshine: as much to be pittied, as the Crocadile when she weeps: a Curtezans laughter is like to lightning, v beawtifies the Heaue for a blaze but forerus stormes and thunder. Art thou in loue with Francesco, marrie gippe Giglet, thy loue fits on thy tonges end, readie to leape off assoone as thy mouthe opens: and thine honestie hangs at thine eye, which falls away with euerie wink: thou art enueigled with my beawty, that is because thou hearest I have a rich purse. not a faire face: for thou valewest as much of beautie without pence, as a horse of a fayre stable without proueder. Thou art entifed by my vertues, I wonder how that word vertue comes in thy mouth, when it is so far from thy heart, and yet

no maruaile, for the most infectious Serpents haue sweetst breathes: and the commonest Curtezans, the most curteous speeches.

Thou wouldest have mee grace thee with my presence, and renew our olde friendshippe: so I will, when I / meane to give my bodie to § Surgeon, & my Soule to the Divell: for in louing thee, I must needes graunt this Legacie. Thy reason is, that bones once broken, vnited againe, are the strongest: I would thy neck might make the experience, and then I would trust the instance. But why pester I so much paper to so lewd a person? as I sound thee at the sirst, I leave thee at the last, even empty gordgde to baite at a full purse, incontinent, false, periured; as far from God as thou art friend to the Divell: and so adieu.

Francesco penitent, and therefore a persecutor of curtizans.

A Fter hee had written this letter he fent it to Infida, who reading it, and feeing shee could get no fauour at the hands of Francesco; that wrought she neuer so subtillie, yet her traines were discouered, that her painted luers could not make him stoop, so had he with reass refelled his former sollie: whe she perceived (I say) that all her sweet potions were sound to bee poysons, though shee covered them neuer so clarkly: she

fel not in dispaire with ouermuch loue, but swore in her selfe to intend him some secrete preiudice, if euer it lay in her by any meanes to procure it: but leauing her to the Iustice of him that poyseth the deedes of such impenitent persons in his ballance, and committing Francesco to the making of some strange comedie, I will shew you how Fortune made an assault to the vnfained affection of sayre Isabel.

The discourse of Isabels Fortunes.

I Sabel living thus pensive in that shee wanted the presence of her Francesco, yet for her patience and vertue grew fo famous that all Caerbranck talked of her per/fections: her beautie was admired of euerie eye, her qualities applauded in euerie mans eare, that she was estéemed for a patterne of vertuous excellence throughout the whole Citie. Amongst the rest that censured of her curious fauours, there was one Signor Bernardo, a Bourgomaster of the Citie, who chauncing on a time to passe by the doore where Isabel soiourned; feeing fo fweete a Saint, began to fall enamoured of fo faire an object: and although he was olde, yet the fire of luft crept into his eyes and fo inflamed his heart, that with a difordinate defire he began to affect her: but the renowne of her chastitie was fuch, that it almost quatted those sparkes that heated

him on to fuch lawlesse affection. But yet when he calde to minde that want was a great stumbling blocke, and fawe the necessitie that Isabel was in. by the absence of Francesco, he thought gold would bee a readie meanes to gaine a womans good will, and therefore dispayred not of obtaining his purpose. After that this Signor Bernardo had well noted the exquifite perfection of her bodie, and how she was adorned with most speciall gifts of nature, he was so fnared with the fetters of lasciujous Concupiscence. as reason could not redresse what lust had ingrafted; his aged yeares yéelded vnto vanitie, fo that he turned away his minde from God, and durst not lift vp his eyes vnto heauen, least it should be a witnesse of his wickednesse, or a corasiue to his ouiltie conscience: for the remembrance of God is a terrour to the vnrighteous, and the fight of his creatures is a sting to the minde of the reprobate. He therefore feeling his diuellish heart to bee perplexed with fuch hellish passions, carelessie cast off the feare of God from before his eyes, neither remembring that hée was an Elder to give good counsaile, nor a Judge in the citie to minister right: his hoarie haires could not hale him from finne, nor his calling conuert him from filthinesse, but he gréedilie drunke vp the dregges of vnrighteousnesse, and carefullie bussed his braines to oppresse the fimple: and to obtaine his purpose laide his plot

thus. Being the chiefe / Bourgomaster in all the citie, he determined to make a privile fearch for fome fuspected person; and being master of the watch himselfe, to goe vp into her chamber, and there to discouer the depth of his desire: so he thought to iovne loue and opportunitie in one vnion, and with his office and his age to wipe out all fuspition. Age is a crowne of glorie when it is adorned with righteousnesse, but the dregges of dishonor when tis mingled with mischiefe: for honourable age confifteth not in the tearme of veares, nor is not measured by the date of a mans daies, but godlie wisedome is the gray haire, and an vndefiled life is olde age. The Herbe grace the older it is, the ranker fmell it hath: the Sea starre is most blacke being olde: the Eagle the more yeares, the more crooked is her bill; and the greater age in wicked men, the more vnrighteousnesse: which this Signor Bernardo tried true; for defire made him hate delay, and therefore within two or three nights, picking out a watch answerable to his wish, hee himselfe (as if it had been some matter of great import) went abroade, and to colour his follie with the better shadowe, hee searched divers houses, and at last came to the place where Isabel lay, charging the host to rise and to shewe him her chamber; for (quoth he) I must conferre with her of most secret affaires. The good man of the house obeyed willinglie, as one that held Bernardo in great reuerence, and brought him and the watch to the chamber doore. Bernardo taking a candle in his hand, bad them all depart till he had talked with the Gentlewoman: which they did, and he entring in shutting the doore, found her fast on fleepe; which fight draue the olde Lecher into a maze; for there feeing nature in her pride, lust inueagled him v more, that he fat on the bed fide a great while viewing of her beautie: at last starting vp, he awakte her out of a sweete slumber. Isabel looking vp, and feeing one of the Bourgomasters in the chamber (for Bernardo was knowne for his grauitie and wealth of euery one in the Citie) she was amazed; yet gathering her wits together, rayfing her felfe vp on her pil-* / low. she did him all the dutifull reverence shée might, wondring what winde should drive him into v place: at last the old Churle began to assaile her thus.

Bernardos discourse to Isabel.

B^E not amazed (faire Gentlewoman) to fée me thus fuddainly and fecretly arrived, neither let my prefence appale your fences: for I come not cruelly as a foe, but curteoufly as a friende. If my

^{*} Some leaves missing here in B. M. exemplar; the following taken from the Bodleian Library edition, n. d.

comming séeme strange, the cause is as straight, and where necessitie forceth, there it is hard to striue against the streame: hée that séeketh to way against his owne will, oftentimes kicketh against the prick: and he that striueth to withstand loue hoppeth against the hill. These things considered (Mistresse Isabel,) if I offend in beeing too bold, your beauty shall beare the blame, as the / onely cause of this enterprise: for to omit all circumstances, and to come to the matter, so it is, that since first mine eye fed of vour fwéet fauour, I haue béene so perplexed with the passions of loue, and haue been so deeply drowned in the defire of your person, that there is no torment fo terrible, no paine fo pinching, no woe fo grieuous, as the griefe that hath griped me fince I burnt in loue of your swéet selfe : sith therefore my liking is fuch, let my liking be repaide againe with loue: let my firme fancie be requited with mutuall affection, and in lieu of my good will confent vnto mée, & be my Paramour. That sin which is fecretly committed is halfe pardoned: shée liueth chastly enough that liueth charily. chamber doore is shut, no man either can detect vs of any crime or dare fuspect vs of any folly. credit which I carry in the Cittie shall be sufficient to shrowde you from shame: my office shall be able to defend you from mistrust, and my gray haires a pumice stone to race out all suspition, and

by this small offence (Isabel) thou shalt both content mée, and purchase to thy selfe such a dutiful friend, as in all service thou maist command, not only readie to countenance thée with his credite, but to surnish all thy wants with his coyne: for what treasure and gold I have shall be thine to vse. Isabel hearing this subtile serpent to breathe out such wile reasons, wondred to sée a man of his calling so blinded with the vale of lascivious lust, as to blaspheme so divelishly against hys owne conscience, insomuch that for a good space shée sate astonished, vntill at last gathering her wits together, she burst forth into these speeches.

Isabels reply to Bernardo.

TIs a faying (Signor Bernardo) both olde and true, that who so sinneth against his conscience, sinneth against his owne soule: and he that knoweth the lawe and wilfully disobeyeth, is worthy to be beaten with many stripes: which sentence of holy Writ I wish you to consider, and it will be a sufficient cooling carde to your inordinate desire. Hath God placed you as a Burgomaster of this Citty, and so a Iudge ouer his people to punish sinne, and will you maintaine wickednesse? Is it your office to vpholde the Law, and will you destroy it? Nay are you comaunded to cut off this sinne with insamie, and yet will you perswade a

woman to defile her husbands bed? Is it your dutie to drive vs / from all vncleane luft, and will you draw mée to fuch follie? Is this the office of a Burgomaster, or beseemeth such thoughtes to the minde of an Elder? Doth the fommons of death appeare in your gray head, and yet fleshly desires raigne in your hart? Doth thine olde age impart a cleére conscience, and vour inward appetite fraught with concupiscence? Oh howe pleasant a thing is it where gray headed men minister judgment, and the Elders can give good counfaile: but how perilous a thing is it for the ruler to be vnrighteous, or the Iudge of the people to delight in finne? Such a man shall have coales heaped vpon his head, & the wrath of the Lord shall consume his heritage. Thrée forts of men the Lord hateth, and he vtterly abhorreth the life of them, a poore man that is proude, a rich man that is a lver, and an old adulterer that doateth and is vnchast. Hast thou then (Signor Bernardo) fo fold thy felfe vnto finne and fworne to worke wickednesse, that thou wilt prefer fading pleafure before lasting paine: and for the fulfilling of thy filthy luft, purchase perpetuall damnation. But put-case I were so carelesse of mine honour and honestie to veelde to thy request, shoulde not thy selfe be a witnesse of my dislovaltie? would not mine owne workes cry out for vengeance to plague my wickednesse? Yes no doubt, after thou hadst glutted thy fancie with the lothsomnesse of the finne, and the Spirit of God had toucht thy heart with the pricke of thy offence, thou wouldest both detest me as a mirrour of immodestie, and account mée for euer as a common harlot : for the Lord fuffereth not the wicked to goe vnrewarded. She (faith the wiseman) that is common, & not content in her loue, and yeeldeth that which is proper to her husband into the possession of another man, disobeveth the Law, maketh breach of her plighted troth, and lastly plaieth the whore in most hellish adultery: her children shall not take roote. nor her branches bring foorth no frute, her name shall be forgotten. And shall I then knowing this. wilfully worke mine owne woe? Shall I repay the troath my husband reposeth in mée, with such treacherie? Shal fuch guileful discurtesie bée a guerdon for his good will? No the feare of God is a fortresse against such folly: the loue that I beare to my husband is a shield to fence me from fuch shamelesse fancie: and the care of mine owne honor is a coferue against such lawlesse concupiscence. When as you fay that / finne fecretly committed is halfe pardoned, and that she liueth caste that liueth caute: that the chamber doore is shut, that no man can efpy our folly, and the place fo fecret that the offence cannot be prejudiciall to my good name: I answere, that I more estéeme the wrath of God than the words of men: that I dread more to commit fuch a fact before the fight of the Almighty, then before the eyes of all the world.

Man judgeth but the body, but God the foule: the one being but a small pinch, the other a perpetuall paine. He that breaketh wedlocke, and thinketh thus in his heart, who féeth mée, the misty clouds have covered me, and I am compassed about with a fogge of darknes: my offence shall not be an object to any mans eyes, neither can my doing be discouered, for I am shrowded within the walls, whom néede I to feare: and as for the Lord he is mercifull, and will not remember any mans finnes: he is flow vnto wrath, and promifeth spéedily to pardon the faults of the wicked. Such a one as feareth more the eye of mortal man then the fight of an immortal God, and knoweth not that the lookes of the Lord are ten thousand times brighter, then the beames of the Sunne, beholding the very thoughts of men, and fearthing the heart and the revnes, the same man shalbe punished with earthly plagues, he shall sodainly be taken in his owne trap, and shall fall before the face of euery man, because he preferred his owne pleasure before the feare of the Lorde. But alas, it is vnfit for the young Fawn to lead the old buck: for a blind man to be guide to him that hath his fight: and as vnméete for a fimple woman to instruct a Bourgomaister and Elder of the Citty. Is it my part to exhort you vnto vertue, or rather is it not your duety to perswade mee from vice: but I hope this proffer is but a tryall to make proofe of mine honesty, and to fift at my secret intent : if otherwife, your will and your words be one, ceafe your fuite, for you may long gape and yet neuer gaine that you looke for. Signor Bernardo hearing Isabel fo cunningly to confute his conclusive arguments, féeing she had infringed their reasons by the power of the law, thought to wrest her vpon a higher pinne, and to lay fuch a blot in her way as fhe fhould hardly wipe out: for*.... although he knewe she did rightly refell his follie, and partly perceiued her counsaile cooled the extreame of his defires, yet the feare of God was so farre from him, that he profecuted his intent thus.

Signor Bernardos answer to Isabels replie.

Why Ifabel (quoth he) thinkest thou thy painted speaches, or thy hard denialls shall prevaile against my pretended purpose? No, he is a coward that yéeldeth at the first shot, and he not worthie to weare the bud of beautie that is daunted with the first repulse. I have the tree in my hand and meane to enioy the fruite: I have beaten the bush and now will not let the birds

^{*} Here return to exemplar in B. Museum.

flie: and feeing I have you here alone, your sterne lookes shall stand for no sterling: but if you confent, bee affured of a most trustie friend: if not, hope for no other hap but open infamie. For thou knowest (Isabel) that a womans chiefest treasure is her good name, & that she which hath crackt her credite is halfe hanged; for death cuts off all miseries, but discredit is § beginning of all forrowes. Sith then infamie is worse than losse of life, assure thy selfe I will sting thee to the quicke; for I will prefentlie fend thee to prison, and cause fome Ruffian in the citie to sweare, that since v absence of thy husband Francesco, he hath lien with thee, and for coyne vsed thée as his concubine: fo shall I blemish thine honour, tve thee to some open punishment, and make thee a laughing stocke to the world, odious to thy friends, and to liue hated of thy husband: mine office and authoritie, my age and honour shall shadow my pretence, and helpe greatly to frame thy prejudice. Séeing then (faire Isabel) thou shalt by consent keepe the report of thy chastitie, & by deniall gaine shame & reproach, shewe thy selfe a wife woman, and of two euils chuse the least. Isabel hearing the mischieuous pretence of this subtill Lecher, and feeing he had fo cunningly laid the fnare that she could not avoid the trap, but either she must incurre the daunger / of the bodie or the destruction

of the foule, was fo driven into fuch a passionate dilemma that she burst foorth into teares, sighes, and plaints, which she blubbred foorth on this wise.

Alas (quoth she) most vile and vniust wretch, is the feare of God fo farre from thy minde, that thou feekest not only to sacke mine honour, but to fucke my bloud? Is it not injurie enough that thou feekest to spoyle mine honestie, but that you long to spill my life? Hath thy sweete loue pretended fuch bitter tast? Is this the fruite of your fained fancie? No doubt the cause must bee pernicious when the effect is fo pestilent. Flatter not your felfe in this thy follie, nor footh not thy thoughts in thy finnes; for there is a God that feeth and will reuenge, and hath promifed that who bindeth two finnes together shall not be vnpunished in the one. But what availeth it to talke of wisedome to a foole, or of the wrath of God to a wilfull reprobate? The Charmer charme hee neuer fo wifely, charmes in vaine if the Adder be deaffe: and he casteth stones against the winde that feeketh to drawe the wicked from his follie: let me therefore (poore foule) more narrowlie consider mine owne case. I am perplexed with divers doubtfull passions, and gréeuous troubles affaileth me on euerie side: if I commit this crime though neuer fo fecretly, yet the Lord

is Καρδιογνωστης, and pearceth into the verie thoughts, and mine owne conscience will be a continuall witnesse against me of this wickednesse: Stipendium peccati mors, then what other hap can I hope for but perpetuall damnation, fith the Lord himselfe hath promised to bee a swift witnesse against all wilfull adulterers: And if I consent not vnto this vnrighteous wretch, I am like to be vniustlie accused of the like crime, and so shall I being guiltlesse, haue mine honour euer blemisht with infamie. By this meanes what a discredite shall I bring to my parents, to my husband and my children: the hoarie haires of my father shall be brought with forrowe vnto the graue, Francesco shall be ashamed to shewe his face in the streates / of the Citie, and my poore babes shall bee counted as the feede of an harlot: and vet alas I my felfe altogether facklesse. Why, my secret offence shall preuet al this open shame: The Lord is slow to wrath, and his mercie exceedeth al his workes: hee wisheth not the death of a sinner; and heartie repentance pacifieth his displeasure. But oh vile wretch that I am, why doe I blaspheme thus against the Lord and his Law? why doe I breathe out these hellish speeches? Can I say I will repent at my pleasure? or shall I therefore sinne in hope because the Lorde is mercifull? No no, it is better for me to fall into thy handes and not commit the offence, than to finne in the fight of the Lord: shal I not rather feare God than man; and dread him more that killeth both foule and body, than him that hath power but to kill the bodie only? Yet his feare shall be my defence. And with that shee rayled her felfe vp, spitted in his face, and wished him to doe his worst: whereupon he called vp the watch, and commanded her to make her readie, for shee should to prison. Her Host wondring what the cause should bee, as a man priuie to her actions and the vertue of her life; would haue giuen his word for her, that she should the next day answere whatsoeuer should be obiected against her: but his worde would not be taken: for Bernardo was full of furie, & caried her away to prison; where deepely grieued, and vet fmothering her forrow with patience, she laie the rest of the night: the next morrow assoone as day brake, she cald for pen and inck and wrote this mournfull Sonnet.

Isabels Sonnet that she made in prison.

Veritas non quærit Angulos.

No storme so sharp to rent the little Reede, For fild it breakes though every way it bend: The fire may heat but not consume the Flint, The gold in surnace purer is indeede. Report that fild to honour is a friend, May many lies against true meaning mynt:

But yet at last,
Gainst slaunders blast,
Truth doth the filly sackles soule defend.

Though false reproach seeks honour to distaine,
And enuy bites the bud though nere so pure,
Though lust doth seek to blemish chast desire:
Yet truth that brookes not falshoods slaunderous staine,

Nor can the spight of enuies wrath indure: Will trie true loue from lust in Iustice fire:

And maulger all
Will free from thrall
The guiltles foule that keepes his footing fure.

Where innocence triumpheth in her prime, And guilt cannot approach the honest mind; Where chast intent is free from any misse, Though enuie striue, yet searching time With piercing insight will the truth out finde, And make discouerie who the guiltie is:

For time still tries

The truth from lies:

And God makes open what the world doth blinde.

Veritas Temporis filia.

I Sabel wetting her fonnet with teares, and pronouncing euery line with a figh, fate in a dump. Whilest the fame of this fact was spread abroad throughout al Caerbrack, euery man began fundrie conjectures as affection led them; her friendes forrowing suspected the cankred mind of the Burgomaster; yet for his calling durst not discouer their fuspition: hir foes laughing saide, that disfembled holynes was a double finne, and that the holiest countenaunce hath / not alwaies the honestest conscience: Both friend and foe notwithstanding wondring at the straunge chaunce, seeing her outward actions did manifest so many vertues. Well, to bee briefe, Signor Bernardo affembling the other Burgomasters of the towne into the common Hall, fent for Isabel thither; at whose comming (as the nature of man is defirous of nouelties) a great prease of people was present, to heare y matter throughly canvased: When Isabel was brought before the bar, Signor Bernardo (who had fuborned a young man in the Citie, folemnly to depose that hee had lyen with Isabel;) began his inuective thus. I am forie grave Citizens and inhabitants of Caerbranck, that this day I am come to accuse Isabel, whose vertues hitherto hath won her many fauours, and the outward shew of her good qualities hath been highly applauded of al men: but my conscience costraines me not to coceale such haynous sin, nor to smother vp so great an offence without rebuke. I am one of the Iudges & Elders of the people, appoynted by God, chosen by the multitude, and constrained by the law, to have no respect of persos, neither to be too rigorous to my foe, nor too partiall to my friend; but with the ballance of equitie to measure every man according to his merite, and with the sword of Iustice to vpholde vertue, and beate downe vice: This considered, I am forced to discover a wicked deede that this Isabel hath committed: and that is this.

This young man here present, for a certaine fumme of money; compounded to lie with Isabel, and for pence had his pleasure on her; she alluring him with fuch wylie amorettes of a Curtizan, that in her companie he hath confumed all his fubstance: The young mans friends feeing his follie, and that no perswasions could disswade him from affecting her, made complaint vnto me: whereupon I examined him, and found him not onely guiltie of the crime, but tractable to be reclaimed from his follie: feeing then Citizens of Caerbranck, fuch a Curtizan as this may vnder y colour of holines shrowd much prejudice, & allure many of our youth to / mischiefes, I thought it my duety to bring her into open infamie, that she may be punished for her fault, knowen for a harlot, and

from hencefoorth liue dispised and hated of all. For proofe that shee hath lived long in this leawd kinde of life, this young man shall here before you all make prefent deposition: and with that he reacht him a hible; whereon he fwore that hee had long time converst dishonestly with Isabel, ever fince the departure of her husband. At which oath the people that were Iurours in the cause, beleeuing the protestation of Bernardo, and the deposition of the youth, presently found hir guiltie: and then Bernardo and the rest of the Burgomasters gaue iudgement, that she should presently haue fome open and feuere punishment. & after be banished out of the town. Assoone as Isabel heard the censure, she appeald for no mercy, nor bashed any whit, as one defirous of fauour; but lifting vp her eves to heauen, onely favd thus. O God which feeft the fecrets of all hearts, and knowest all things before they come to passe, which descernest the very inward thoughts, and triest the heart and the reines: Thou knowest that because I would not confent vnto the filthie luft of this doting lecher; nor agree by defiling my husbands bed to fulfil his fleshly desires, that he hath flandred me with that crime wherof I was neuer guilty, that he hath produced this young man by finister subornation to periure himself in a fault wheras not so much as in thought I comited such

a fact: he hath to fatisfie his malicious mind without cause denised this false crime I confesse O Lord to be a most grieuous offender, and to deserve farre greater punishment, but not for this deede. Heare then O Lord my prayer, and let the innocence of my case plead before thy deuine maiesty: if it be thy will, preuent his practises, confound his counfels, and let him which hath digged the pit for others, fall into the fnare himfelfe. Thou hast neuer as yet O Lorde left the fuccourles without helpe, but hast delivered them which feare thee fro al adversitie: thou didest fet free *loseph* from the handes of his brethren which fought to spill his / bloud, and didst preuent the practifes of Saul, intended against thy feruant Dauid: Elizeus being besieged within Dotham was not onely freed from his foes, but also guarded about with a troupe of holy Angels: Elias was preserved from the crueltie of Iesabel, and fed with Rauens. But chiefly in my case; howe mightily didst thou shrowde Sulanna from the treacherie of the two Elders in rayfing vp young Daniel to maintaine her right? Nay who hath trusted in thy mercie, which hath come to mishappe? or who hath put his hope in thee, and hath fuffered harme? So O Lord, if it be thy will thou canst disclose the deuise of this Signor Bernardo, and vnfoulde the follyes of this

false witnesse; helpe then O LORD, for in thee is my trust.

The people hearing the folemne protestation of forrowful Isabel, thought she had spoken these words to excuse her fault, but not that shee was guiltles of the fact; giuing more credite to the reuerend age of Bernardo, and the oath of the young man countenanst out by the Burgomaster; than to the young yeares of a simple woman, fuppoling her speaches were more of custome to cloak her follies, than of conscience to cleare her of that crime; and therefore they would have returned her back againe vnto prison, till the day affigned for her further punishment. As shee was readie to be caried away, hee which had accused Isabel start vp as a man lunaticke, and cried out vnto the people: Thus I have finned men of Caerbranck, I have finned: the thought of my present periurie is a hell to my conscience: for I haue fworne falfly against the innocent, and haue confented to condemne Isabel without cause: and with that he discourst at the barre how Signor Bernardo had fuborned him against the Gentlewoman, and how in all his life before he neuer was in her companie. Vppon which confession of the young man, the Burgomasters examined the matter more effectually, and found that Isabel was cleare, chaft, honest and vertuous, and Bernardo

was a doting lecher: whereupon / they not onely amersed him in a great fine, to bee payde to *Isabels* but put him for euer after from bearing any office in the Citie.

Thus was Isabel delivered from her enimies, and reckoned more famous for hir chastitie through al Caerbranck. This strange euent spread abroad through all the countrey, and as fame flies swift and far. so at last it came to the eares of Francesco: for he fitting in Troynouant at an ordinarie amongst other Gentlemen, heard this fortune of Isabel reported at the table for straunge newes, by a Gentleman of Caerbranck, who brought in Isabel for a myrrour of chastitie, and added this more, that fhe was married to a Gentleman of a ripe witte, good parentage, and well skild in the liberall Sciences, but (quoth he) an vnthrift; and one that hath not beene with his wife this fixe yeares. At this all the table condemned him as passing vnkinde; that could wrong fo vertuous a wife with absence: He was silent and blusht, feeling the worme of his conscience to wring him; and that with fuch a fharpe sting, that assoone as he got into his chamber, he fell to meditate with himselfe of the great abuses he offered his wife, the excellence of her exteriour perfection, her beautie, vertue, and other rare ornaments of nature prefented themselues into his thoughts, that he began not onely to be passing passionate; but deepely penitent, forrowing as much at his former follies, as his hope was to joy in his enfuing good fortunes: Now he faw that Omnia sub sole vanitas: that beautie without vertue was like to a glorious flower without any operation, which the Apothecaries fet in their shoppes for to be seene, but assoone as it withereth, they cast it into the furnace as an vnprofitable weede: that the imbracings of a Curtizan feeme they neuer fo fweete, yet they were the paths to destruction: that their lookes were stales vnto death, and the foldes of their handes are fetters to fnare men in finne. Now hee fawe that pride was extreame folly, for fuch as lookt most high against the Sunne grew foonest blinde: that Icarus caught / his fall, by foring high: that time ill fpent in vanitie, in rvotous companie, amongst a crew of carelesse Caualiers, that would boast it in the towne, not braue in the field: was neither to bee recalled nor recompenst. Oh Francesco (quoth hee) how fond hast thou beene lead away with euery looke. fed vppon with Trencher flies, eaten aliue with flatterers, given to look at a Goddesse more than thy God, more readie to a Bowle than thy Booke, fquaring in the streetes when thou shouldest bee meditating in thy chamber. If thou knowest these to be extreame parts of follie, repent and amend: The Deare knowing Tamarisk is deadly to his nature, scornes to come near the tree. The Vnicorne will not brook to rest vnder a Cytron tree, for that hee holdes it mortall: The Elephant will slie out of the companie of a murtherer. These brute beasts avoide what nature tells them is perilous: thou huntest after those harmes with greedinesse, that thou knowest are prejudiciall.

Well Francesco, then now or else neuer, away with such follies; stoppe at the bottom, and then it is Sero, yet let it bee Serio: home to thy wise of thy youth, reconcile thy selfe to her, she will forgiue and forget thy former fondnesse, and entertaine her penitent paramour, with as great kindnesse as he comes home with penaunce: What man, Nunquam sera est ad bonos mores via. With that Francesco tooke pen and paper, and wrote this Sonnet.

Francescoes Sonnet, made in the prime of his penaunce.

With sweating browes I long have plowde the sands
My seede was youth, my croppe was endlesse care:
Repent hath sent me home with emptie hands
At last, to tell how rife our follies are: |
And time hath left experience to approve:
The gaine is griefe to those that traffique love.

The filent thought of my repentant yeeres
That fill my head, have cald me home at last:
Now love vnmaskt a wanton wretch apeares:
Begot by guilefull thought with over hast.
In prime of youth a rose, in age a weede,
That for a minutes ioye payes endlesse neede.

Dead to delights, a foe to fond conceipt,
Allied to wit by want, and forrow bought:
Farewell fond youth, long fostred in deceipt:
Forgiue me Time disguisde in idle thought.
And Loue adew, loe hasting to mine ende;
I finde no time too late for to amend.

Hauing framed this fonet, he gaue the coppy to fome of his friends: making manifest to them his resolution to leaue Troynouant, and to go home, and by their help who furnished him with such necessaries as he did want, he in short time tooke his iourney. The day of his departure was ioyfull to all his friends, insomuch that as many as knew of his Iurney, gathered themselues togeather, and made him a banquet; where (verie merie and pleasant) they karoust to the health of his Isabel: One amongst the rest who loued Francesco so tenderlie, tooke a cuppe of wine in his hand, & with teares in his eies, said thus: Francesco, I haue nothing to giue thee, being my selfer pinched with want: but some preceptes of witte that I haue

bought with much experience, those shalt thou have at my handes, which if thou put in practise, think I have given much treasure.

The farewell of a friend.

- Let gods worship be thy mornings work, and his wisedome the direction of thy daies labour. |
- 2 Rise not without thankes, nor sleepe not without repentance.
- 3 Choose but a fewe friends and trie those; for the flatterer speaks fairest.
- 4 If thy wife be wife make her thy Secretarie, else locke thy thoughts in thy heart, for women are fildome filent.
- 5 If she be faire, bee not iealous; for suspition cures not womens follies.
- 6 If she be wise wrong her not: for if thou louest others she will loath thee.
- 7 Let thy childrens nourture be their richest portion: for wisedome is more precious than wealth.
- 8 Be not proude amongst thy poore neighbours: for a poore mans hate is perilous.
- 9 Nor too familiar with great men: for presumption wins distaine.
- 10 Neither bee too prodigall in thy fare, nor die not indebted to thy bellie, but enough is a feast.

- II Bee not envious, least thou fall in thine owne thoughts.
- 12 Vse patience, mirth and quiet: for care is enemie to health.

And Francesco (quoth his friend) that thou maist remember my precepts I drinke to thee. Vpon this he pledged him, and so in pleasant chat they past away the time till breakfast was done, and then he gat him to horse, and then brought him a mile out of the Citie. At last, although they playd loth to depart, yet Francesco must away; but before he departed, when they were readie to shake hands, he puld out of his sleeue a Sonnet that he had made and gaue them it. The effects were these.

Francescos Sonnet cald his parting blow.

Reason that long in prison of my will Hast wept thy mistris wants and losse of time: Thy wonted siege of honour safely clime, To thee I yeeld as guiltie of mine ill.

So (fettered in their teares) mine eyes are prest To pay due homage to their native guide, My wretched heart wounded with bad betide, To crave his peace from reason, is addrest. My thoughts ashamd since by themselves consumd, Have done their duetie to repentant wit:

Ashamde of all sweete guide I sorie sit,

To see in youth how I too farre presumde.

Thus he whom love and errour did betray, Subscribes to thee, and takes the better way.

Sero sed serio.

Assoone as hee had delivered them the Sonnet, shaking hands, he put spurres to his horse and roade onward on his iourney: within five daies hee arrived at Caerbrancke, where assoone as he was lighted he went to the house where his wise soiourned, and one of the maides espying Francesco, yet knewe him for all his long absence, and ranne in and tolde it to Isabel that her husband was at the doore: she being at worke in her chamber, sat at this newes as one in an extasse; vntill Francesco came vp, who at the first sight of his wise, considering the excellencie of her beautie, her vertues, chastitie, and other persections, and measuring her constancie with his disloyaltie, stoode as a man metamorphosed: at last he began thus.

Ah Ifabel, what shal I say to thy fortunes or my follies? what exordium shall I vse to shewe my penance, or discouer my sorrowes, or expresse my present ioyes? For I tell thee I conceiue as great pleasure to see thee well, as griefe in that I have wronged thee with my absence. Might sighes, (Isabel) teares, plaints, or any such exteriour pasfions pourtray out my inward repentance, I would thew thee the Anatomie of a most distressed man: but amongst many forrowing thoughts there is such a confusion, that superfluitie of griefes stops the fource of my discontent. To figure out my follies or the extremitie of my fancies, were but to manifest the bad course of my life; and to rubbe the fcarre by fetting out mine owne fcathe: and therefore let it suffice, I repent heartelie, I sorrowe deeplie, and meane to amend and continue in the fame constantlie. At this Francesco stoode and wept, which Isabel seeing, conceived by his outward griefes his fecret passions, and therefore taking him about the necke, wetting his cheekes with the teares that fell from her eyes, she made him this womanlie, and wife answere.

What Francesco comest thou home ful of woes, or seekest thou at thy returne to make me weepe? Hast thou been long absent, and now bringest thou me a treatise of discontent? I see thou art penitent, and therefore I like not to heare what follies are past. It sufficeth for Isabel that henceforth thou wilt loue Isabel, and vpon that condition without any more wordes welcome to Isabel. With that she smiled and wept, and in doing both

together sealed vp all her contrarie passions in a kisse. Many lookes past betweene them, many odde fancies and many fauours: but what they did, or how they agreed in secrete that I cannot tell, but foorth they came great friends out of the chamber, where Francesco was welcomed home of his wifes host with great cheare: who to shewe his kindnesse the more, had prouided a sollemne banquet, having bidden many of his neighbours to supper, that they might accompanie Francesco. /

Well, supper being done and they sitting by the fire, the host seeing them all in a dumpe, sayd, that to drive them out of their melancholie he would tell them a tale, which they al desirous of, sat silent, and he began thus.

The Hosts tale.

In Thessalie, where Nature hath made the soyle proude with the beautie of Shepheards, there dwelled a swayne called Selador; ancient, as having age seated in his haires: and wealthie, as infeassed with great possessions; and honest, as being indued with many vertuous qualities. This Selador had to iou him in his age, a daughter of great beautie, so exquisite in her exteriour feature, as no blemish might eclipse the glorie that Nature bestowed in her liniaments. As thus she was faire, so was she wise, and with her wit iound vertue, that to behold,

she was Helena; to heare, Pallas; and to court, a Daphne. This Damosell whose name was Mirimida, kept her fathers shéepe, & in a scarlet peticoate, with a chaplet of flowers on her head, went euery day to the fields, where she plide the care of her fathers foldes with fuch diligence, that she seemed with Labour to enter armes against Loue, & with her hands thrift to preuent her hearts gréefe. Vfing thus daylie the playnes of Thessalie, the Shepheards delighted at the gaze of so excellent an object, and held their eyes fortunate when they might behold her feature, estéeming him happie that could lay his flocks néerest to her foldes. Amongst the rest of all the swaynes that fed their thoughts on her fauours, there was one called Eurymachus, a voung youth that had the pride of his yeares triumphing in his countenance, wittie, and full of pleafant conceipts, and that Fortune might iumpe with loue, and make him gracious in womens eyes he was wealthie; for gold is the Chrisocoll of loue. This Eurymachus alwaies so plotted the course of his shéepe / walke, that he was next neighbour to Mirimida, in so much that to discouer his fancie hée did her often fauours; for when any of her Lambes went aftray, or any thing grewe amisse, then Eurymachus was the fwayne that indeuoured by his labour to redresse every losse. By this meanes hée waxed private and familiar with Mirimida,

which was the meanes that wrought him into a prejudiciall laborinth; for he did fo neere accedere ad ignem, that hée did calescere plus quam satis: for as none comes néere the fume of the Miffelden but he waxeth blind, nor any touch the Salamander but he is troubled with the palfie; fo none could gaze on the face of Mirimida but they went away languishing. This did poore Eurymachus experience: for although he knewe Loues fires were fatall, and did not warme but fcortch; yet he loued with the bird to flie to the flame though he burnt his wings and fell in the bush; he would not with Vlisses stop his eares, but fit and fing with the Syrens; he feared no inchantment, but carouft with Circes, till his ouerdaring drewe him into a passionate danger, and fo long fuckt in the beautie of Mirimida with his euer thirstie eyes, till his hart was fuller of passions, than his eyes of affections: yet discouer his thoughts he durst not, but smoothered vp his inward paynes with outward filence; having the Ouen the hotter within for that it was damd vp, and his gréefes the deeper for that they were concealed. To manifest his maladie to her he durst not he thought himselfe too homely a patient for such a Phisition: to vtter his loues to another and make any his Secretarie but himselfe, he supposed was to drawe in a riuall to his loues. Thus was Eurymachus perplexed, till at last to giue a little vent to

the flame, fitting on a day on a hill, hée puld foorth pen and incke, and wrote this fancie. /

Eurymachus fancie in the prime of his affetion.

When lordly Saturne in a sable roabe
Sat full of frownes and mourning in the West,
The evening starre scarce peept from out her lodge,
And Phæbus newly gallopt to his rest:

Euen then

Within my boate fit in the filent streames, All voyd of cares as he that lies and dreames.

As Phao so a Ferriman I was, The countrie lasses sayd I was too faire: With easie toyle I labourd at mine oare, To passe from side to side who did repaire:

> _And then Did I

For paines take pence, and Charon like transport Associate five five as men of high import.

When want of worke did give me leave to rest, My sport was catching of the wanton sish: So did I weare the tedious time away, And with my labour mended oft my dish: For why I thought

That idle houres were Calenders of ruth, And time ill spent was prejudice to youth.

I scornd to loue, for were the Nimph as faire
As she that loued the beauteous Latmian swayne,
Her face, her eyes, her tresses, nor her browes
Like Iuorie could my affection gaine.

For why
I said

With high disdaine, Loue is a base desire, And Cupids slames, why the are but watrie sire.

As thus I sat disdayning of proud love, Have over Ferriman, there cried a boy, And with him was a paragon, for hue, A lovely damosell beauteous and coy,

And there
With her

A maiden, couered with a tawnie vale, Her face vnseene for breeding louers bale.

I stird my boate, and when I came to shoare
The boy was wingd, me thought it was a wonder:
The dame had eyes like lightning, or the flash
That runnes before the hot report of thunder;

Her smiles
Were sweete,

Louely her face: was neere so faire a creature, For earthlie carkasse had a heavenly feature.

My friend (quoth she) sweete Ferriman behold, We three must passe, but not a farthing fare, But I will give (for I am Queene of love)
The brightest lasse thou lik'st vnto thy share:

Choose where Thou louest,

Be she as faire as Loues sweete Ladie is, She shall be thine if that will be thy blisse.

With that she smiled with such a pleasing face, As might have made the marble rocke relent:
But I that triumpht in disdaine of love,
Bad sie on him that to fond love was bent, |
And then
Said thus,

So light the Ferriman for love doth care, As Venus passe not, if she pay no fare.

At this a frowne sat on her angrie brow, She winkes upon her wanton sonne hard by: He from his quiuer drew a bolt of fire, And aymd so right as that he pearst mine eye: And then Did she

Draw downe the vale that hid the virgins face, Whose heavenly beautie lightned all the place.

Straight then I leande mine arme vpon mine oare, And lookt vpon the Nymph (if so) was faire: Her eyes were starres, and like Apollos locks Methought appeard the tramels of her haire.

Thus did
I gaze

And suckt in beautie till that sweete desire Cast fuell on and set my thought on sire.

When I was lodgd within the net of loue, And thus they saw my heart was all on flame, The Nymph away, and with her trips along The winged boy, and with her goes his dame.

Oh then

I cried

Stay Ladies stay and take not any care, You all shall passe and pay no penny fare.

Away they fling, and looking coylie backe They laugh at me: oh with a loud distaine. I send out sighes to ouertake the Nimphs, And teares as lures to call them back againe: But they
Flie thence:

But I sit in my boate, with hand on oare, And feele a paine, but know not whats the sore.

At last I feele it is the stame of loue,
I strive but bootlesse to expresse the paine:
It cooles, it fires, it hopes, it feares, it frets,
And stirreth passions throughout every veine.
That downe

I fat,

And sighing did faire Venus lawes approoue, And swore no thing so sweete and sowre as loue.

Et florida pungunt.

Hauing made this Canzon, he put it in his bosome, and oft when he was by himselfe would reade it, easing his passion with viewing the conceipts of his owne fancie: on a day hauing brought downe his sheepe he espies Mirimida, and to her he goes, and after his wonted salute sat downe by her, and fell to such chat as occasion did minister, intermedling his passion with so many sighes, and sixing his eye so effectually vpon her face without remooue, that she perceived the Shepheard had swallowed Aconiton, and that there was none but she that bore the Antidote. As

thus she noated his passions, she espied a scrole of paper sticking out of his bosome, which she snatcheth foorth and vnfoldeth, and perceiuing it was a Sonnet she read it, and then looking earnesslie on *Eurymachus* hee blusht: and she with a friendly smile began to crosse him with this frumpe.

What Eurymachus, cannot wonted labours wipe away wanton amours, nor thy sheepes care preuent thy hearts loue? I had thought fancie had not troad on thy héele, nor affection presented any object to thine eye, but now I sée as the Camelion cannot liue without ayre, nor the Salamander without fire: so men haue no quiet in their life, vnlesse / they acquaint them with loue: I see swaynes are not such swads but they haue thoughts and passions, and be they neuer so lowe they can looke at beautie. Corydon in his gray cassocke had his faire Phillis, and Menalcus could court Galatea in his Shepheards cloake, and Eurymachus be he neuer so homely will hazarde: but at whome there lies the question.

At whom (quoth Eurymachus) ah Mirimida, at one that is too high for my thoughts, and too beauteous for my fortunes: fo that as I have foared with the Hobby, I shall bate with the Bunting; & daring with Phaeton, I shall drowne with Icarus: mine eye was too proude, my thoughts to forward; I have stared at a starre, but shall

stumble at a stone, and I feare because I have ouerlookt in loue. I shal be ouerlaid in loue. With that he fighed, and Mirimida smiled and made this replie. Why Eurymachus, a man or a mouse? what is there any Cedar so high but the flowest snavle will créepe to the top? any fortune fo base but will aspire? any loue so precious but hath his prize? What, Eurymachus, a Cat may looke at a King, and a fwaynes eye hath as high a reach as a Lords looke. Vulcan in his leather futes courted Venus in her filkes: the fwavne of Latmos woed Luna: both dared, and both had their defires. What? Loue requires not wealth but courage, & parentage is not fo high prizd by fancie as personage: feare not man, if thou hast lookt hie, followe thy thoughts, and trie loues fauours, for deniall is no dishonour. Eurymachus hearing Mirimida in fuch an amorous humour, incouraged by her perswasions, thought now to firike while the vron was hot, and therefore taking her by the hand began thus.

Trueth Mirimida, Venus lawes are bounded with constraint, and when loue leadeth the eye, defire kéepes no compasse. When Paris courted Helena, though she were coy and denied, yet was she not discourteous & disdained; for she answered thus mildly: Nemo etenim succenset amanti. This (Mirimida) makes me hardie to take thée by the

hand, and / to fay I loue Mirimida; for thou art the Sunne that hath eclipst mine eves, and thy beautie haue I fo long gazed on, that as they which were wounded with Achilles Launce, could not be healed but by the fame truncheon: fo thine excellence hath fettered Eurymachus, that thy courtesse must free Eurymachus. I confesse I haue lookt too high, but I excuse my presumption by thine owne principles; and if I have dared too much, why loue allowes it. Then favre Nymph, if thou beest as beautifull as Venus, yet looke at blacke Vulcan; lowe fortunes have high defires; if thou beeft as lowly as Luna, stoope to Endymion; a swayne may bée as constant as a king; shepheards loues are loyall, for their eyes are like Emeralds that receive but one impression, and their hearts like Adamants that will turne no way but to one poynt of the heauen. Mirimida frowning at the follie of the Shepheard, cut him off thus.

If thou knewest how bad § corne is Eurymachus (quoth she) thou wouldest not put thy sickle so farre in: and seeing your haruest is like to be so little, spare labour & work not so hard: if you have lookt at my beautie, your aime is not beyond compasse, your high straines are but frumps, and so I take them; for he that cals a Faulcon a Phenix, is but a slatterer, and such as tearme their

loues Saints, are thought but to vtter words of course. Well, howsoeuer if you loue me I like you, but so as Dianas fancie was to Apollo, to be his friend in the field & his foe in the chamber: to fauour him as hee was a huntsman, but to hate him when hee chatteth of loue: fo Eurymachus, fo long as thou foldest thy flockes with Mirimida thou art welcome to Mirimida; but if thou casteth foorth thy lure to have Mirimida loue, then I will leave thee to thy follie, as one that hates to bée drawne to fancie: for knowe, that as the Oliue tree will brook no touch of fteel: the Agyte no heate of fire: fo Mirimidas eares are not capable of any amorous perswasions, and therefore friend Eurymachus, anything but loue: and fo I leave you. /

Nay (quoth Eurymachus) and hee tooke her fast by the arme, if I were sure you had power as Diana had to plague me with Acteons punishment, you passe not without a little more prattle; if I anger you, tis first a preparation to a good stomacke, for choller is a friend to digestion: secondly, as the Chrisocoll and the gold by long striuing together growe to bee one mettall; so by our falling out we shall be better friends: for

Amantium iræ amoris redintegratio est.

Therefore (faire Mistris) sit still and graunt some

fauour to him that is so pained with fancie: I will loue you though I am poore, and a King can doo but so much: if you thinke my degrée be too lowe for fo high beautie, thinke of all parts the meane is the merrieft, and that the Shepheards gray hath leffe griefe than the Lordly effates: I knowe women must be cov, because they are women, and they must have time to be wonne, or else they would be thought to be wantons: therefore whatfoeuer vou fav now I holde it not authenticall, vet for that I would have fome hope, good Mirimida let me see thee laugh. She could not but smile to fee the Shepheard fo pleafant, and fo Eurymachus rested content, and from amorous chat they fell to talke of other matters till evening drewe on, and then they folded their sheepe and with a friendly farewell parted.

Eurymachus was not alone thus enamoured of the faire Mirimida, but all the Shepheards of Thessalie writ Poems and Ditties of her beautie, and were sutors to her for fauour; she like Daphne held loue in disdaine, and yet was courteous to all in any other kinde of conference. Amongst the rest, Venus (belike) willing to bee pleasant had wrapt one in the laborinth of loue, called Mullidor, a fellowe that was of honest parents, but very poore, and his personage was as if he had been cast in Esops mould: his backe like a Lute, and his

face like Thirfites, his eyes broad and tawny, his haire harsh and curled like a horse maine, his lips were of the largest sife in folio, able to furnish a Coblers shoppe with clowting leather: the onely good part that he had to grace his vifage was his nose, and that was conquerour like, as beaked as an Egle: Nature having made fo proper a stripling, thought his inward qualities should not blemish his outward excellence, and therefore to keepe proportion into his great head she put little wit, that he knewe rather his sheepe by the marke than the number, for he was neuer no good Arithmetician, and yet he was a proper scholler and well feene in Ditties. This ruffling Shepheard amongst the rest, and more than any of the rest was enamoured of Mirimida, so that he would often leaue his shéepe at randon to passe by the fields where she fat, only to feede his eye with her fauours. Well, as fooles haue eyes fo they haue hearts, and those oft harbour fond desires: Loue fometimes lookes lowe, and will stumble on a cottage as well as on a pallace: fooles are in extremities not eafilie to bee perfwaded from their bable, and when they begin to loue, follie whets them on to restlesse thoughts. So fell it out with Mullidor, for after he had tasted of the beautie of Mirimida he grewe passionate, but with great impatience, and wasted away in the despaire of

his owne defires, that he was waxen pale and wan: which his olde mother espyed, marueiling to fee her fonne fo malecontent, for she loued him tenderlie, and thought him the sweetest youth and the brauest young man in all Thessalie. Crowe thinkes her foules the fairest, and the Ape accompts of his young as well featured darlings: fo Callena (for fo was the olde womans name) thought Mullidor no lesse, though his eares were greater than an Asse, but held him of a sweete personage and a rare wit. Well, the poore olde wife when her fonne came home at night, feeing how ill he lookt, marueiled what should bee the cause of this suddaine change; yet because she would follow v principles of countrie phisick, she thought to passe ouer speaking to him til supper were done, to try what stomack he had. Well. the cloath was laid, and the browne loafe fet on the board: Mullidor full of passions / fat downe to his pottage and eate off his boale full: the old woman stumbles to the pot againe for a fresh messe. Ah mother (quoth hee with a great figh) no more broath to night: with that shee clapt her hand on her knee, and fwore her boy was not well that hée forsooke his supping, yet hée fell to a peece of bacon that stood on the board, and a tough barley pudding: but he rose before the rest and gat him into a corner, where folding his armes together he fat thinking on his loue. Assoone as the rest of the swaynes were vp from the table and turning Crabbes in the fire, she tooke her sonne into the seller, and sitting downe in her chaire began thus.

Sonne Mullidor, thy cheekes are leane, and thou lookest like lenton, pale & wanne: I sawe by thy stomacke to night thou art not thine owne man: thou hadst alate (God saue thée) a louely fat paire of chéekes, and now thou lookest like a shotten herring: Tell me Mullidor, and seare not to tell me, for thou tellest it to thy mother, what aylest thou? Is it griefe of bodie or of minde that keepes thée on holidaies from frisking it at the sooteball? Thou art not as thou wert wont, & therefore say what thou aylst, and thou shalt see old women haue good counsaile.

At these speeches of his mother, Mullidor setcht a great sigh, and with that (being after supper) he brake winde; which Callena hearing, oh sonne (quoth she) tis the Collick that troubles the; to bed man, to bed, and wee will have a warme potled. The Collick mother, no, tis a disease that all the cunning women in the Countrie cannot cure, and strangely it holdes me; for sometimes it paynes me in the head, somewhiles in mine eyes; my heart, my heart, oh there mother it playes the divell in a morter; somewhile it is like a frost,

cold; fometimes as a fire hot: when I should sleepe then it makes me wake; when I eate it troubles my stomacke; when I am in companie it makes me figh; and when I am alone it makes me crie right out, that I can wet one of my newe Lockeram napkins with weeping. It came to me by a great chaunce: for as I lookt on a faire slower, a thing I knowe not what crept in at mine eyes, and ranne round about all my vaynes, and at last gat into my heart, and there euer since hath remained, and there mother euer fince so wrings me, that Mullidor must dye: and with that he fell on weeping.

Callena feeing her fonne shed teares, fell to her hempen apron and wipt her bleared eyes, and at last demaunded of him if it were not loue. that question he hung downe his head and fighthed. Ah my fonne (quoth she) now I see tis loue; for he is fuch a fneaking fellowe, that if he but leape in at the eylid and diue downe into the heart, and there rests as cold as a stone, yet touch him and he will scrike: for tell me Mullidor, what is she that thou louest and will not love thee? If she bee a woman as I am, she cannot but fancie thée: for mine eye though it bee now olde (and with that vp went her apron and she wipt them cléere) hath béen a wanton when it was young, and would haue chosen at the first glance the properest springall in the Parish: and trust me Mullidor, but bée not proude of it, when I looke on thee I finde thee so louely, that I count her worse than accurst would not choose thee for her Paramour. With these woordes *Mullidor* began to smile, and troubled his mother ere she had halfe ended her tale on this manner.

Mother, I may rightly compare the Church to a looking glasse; for as man may see himselfe in the one, and there see his proportion: so in the other the wenches eyes are a testificate; for vppon whome you fee all the girles looke, hée for foote and face carries away the bell, and I am fure for these two yeares I neuer come into the Church and was no fooner fet, but the wenches began to winke one on another to looke on mee and laugh. Oh ware mother when a dogge wagges his taile hée loues his master, / and when a woman laughs, for my life she is ouer the head & eares in loue. Then if my fortune serue me to be so well thought on, why should I not venter on her I loue? (mother) Seladors daughter Mirimida. Now Gods bleffing on thy heart (quoth Callena) for louing fuch a fmugge lasse: marrie her (my sonne) and thou shalt have my benizon in a clowte. Mirimida? marie tis no maruell if thy chéekes are fallen for her: why, she is the fairest blossome in all the towne: to her fonne, to her, tricke thy felfe vp in thy best reparrell, & make no bones at it but on

a woing: for womens defires, I may tell thee boy, are like childrens fancies, won oft with an apple when they refuse an Angell, and Mulidor take this with thee and feare not to speede: A womans frowne is not ever an instance of choller: if she refuse thee outwardlie, she regards thee inwardly: and if she shake thee vp and bid thee be packing, haue the better hope. Cats and Dogs come together by fcratching: if she smile, then sonne say to thy felfe, she is thine; and yet women are wylie cattel, for I have seene a woman laugh with anger, and kiffe him she hath defired to kill: she will be cov (Mullidor) but care not for that, tis but a thing of course; speake thou faire, promise much, praise her highly, commend her beautie aboue all, and her vertue more than all, figh often, and shewe thy felfe full of passions, and as sure as thy cap is of wooll, the wench is thine.

Mullidor hearing his mother giue fuch good counfaile, fayd he would ieopard a ioynt, and the next day haue a fling at her. With that he fayd his heart was eafed, and his flomacke fomewhat come downe with her good perfwasions: whereupon the Ambrie was opened, and he turned me ouer the cantle of a Chéese and went to bed. The next morning vp he rose, and his holy day roabes went on, his standvppes newe blackt, his cappe faire brusht, and a clean Lockeram band.

Thus attyred, away flings Mullidor to the field, and carried away his sheepe & led them into the playnes where Mirimida fought to feede her flockes: comming there, he / met her all alone, fitting vnder a Beech Tree, weauing of Nets to catch birds: assoon as Mullider spied her, his heart leapt for joy; & she seeing him, laught: which was a great help to his courage, that rushing roughly towards her, he fayd thus. Mistres Mirimida, here is wether that makes graffe plentie, & sheepe fatte; by my troth there neuer came a more plenteous yeare: & yet I haue one sheepe in my folde thats quite out of liking; & if you knew the cause vou would maruell. The other day as hee was grafing, he spied a spotted eaw feeding before him; with that he fell to gaze on her, and that fo long, that he wagd his tayle for very jove: hee came to her, and with a sheepish curtesie courted her: the eaw was cov, and butted him, which strooke him so to the heart, that casting a sheepes eye at hir, away he goes; and euer fince he lies by himselfe & pines away: I pray you Mistris Mirimida what think you of this Eaw? Mirimida perceiuing by his Simile, that little witte had oft fancies, & fooles were within the compasse of Loues warrant: whereupon thinking to bring him into a paradife, she made this answere. I am an ill Iudge Mullidor, and yet because I am a shepheardize, and this is a sheepish question; that the Eaw should bee the first that should be fatted in all the flock: and in revenge of her crueltie. folde to the Butcher. For I tell thee Mullidor. shee that is cruell in loue, is like to a Rose, that prickes when it should be gathered. Say you so Mirimida (quoth he) then may I be the bolder to break out my minde vnto you: for furely I am the sheepe, that euer fince I markt your beautie, haue beene inflamed with your fweete lookes: and not daring boult out my affection; have pined away, as you may fee by my cheekes; and refuse my foode: and you Mirimida are the Eaw that hath fo caught Mullidor captive. Therefore now that I vtter howe I loue, and couet that you should loue againe; take heede you refuse not, for if you doe, by my judgement you shall be fold to the Butcher for your crueltie. Mirimida hearing the affe ruffle in his rude eloquence, imiled to her felfe, and thought / that Venus fires as well warme the poore as the rich, and that deformitie was no meanes to abridge fancie: wherevpon she replied thus. Why Mullidor are you in loue, and with me? is there none but Mirimida that can fit your eve. being so many beautifull damzels in Thessalie; take heede man, looke before you leap least you fall in the ditch: I am not good enough for fo proper a man as your felfe, especially being his mothers

onely fonne: what Mullidor, let me counfaile you. there are more maides than Malkin, and the countrey hath fuch choice as may breede your better content: for mine own part at this time I meane not to marry. Tis no matter quoth Mullidor what you fay: for my mother tolde me. that maides at first would bee coy when they were wooed, and mynfe it as twere a mare ouer a mouth full of Thiftles, and vet were not a whit the worse to be likte, for twas a matter of custome. Well then Mullidor quoth Mirimida, leave off for this time to talke of loue; and hope the best: to morrow perchaunce it will bee better: for women are like vnto children, that will oft refuse an Apple, and straight crie for the paring: and when they are most hungrie, then for sullennesse fast. This Mullidor quoth she, is the frowardnesse of loue: Marie then quoth he, if they have childrens malladies, twere good to vse childrens medicines, and thats a rod: for be they neuer fo froward, a ierck or too will make them forward: and if that would bring women to a good temper; my mother hath a stiffe cudgell, and I have a strong arme.

Thus these two passed away the day, till presently they espied a farre off a Gentleman with a Hauke on his fist, to come riding towards them: who drawing nie and seeing so faire a Nimph, raind his horse, and stoode still, as Atteon when he gazed at

Diana: at last hee alighted, and comming towards her, faluted her thus curteously. Faire virgin, when I faw fuch a fweete Saint with fuch a crooked Apostle, I straight thought Venus had been walking abroad to take the avre with Vulcan; but affoone as mine eyes be / gan narrowly to make furuey of thy beautie, I found Venus blemisht with thy rare excellencie: happy are these sheepe that are folded by fuch a parragon; and happy are these shepheards that enjoy the presence of such a beauteous creature: no marueile if Apollo became a fwaine, or Mercury a Neatheard, when their labours are recompenft with fuch loues. My felfe faire damofell, if either my degree were worthy, or my deferts any, would craue to have entertainemet to become your dutiful feruant. Al this while Mirimida held downe her head and blusht. At last, lifting vp her eyes full of modeftie, and her face full of chaft colours: fuch as florish out the fronts of Dianas virgins: she made the Gentleman this answere. My feruant fir (quoth shee) no, your worth is far aboue my wealth, and your dignity too high for my degree, poore cuntrie Damosels must not ayme too hie at fortune. nor flye too fast in desires, least looking at their feete with the Peacock they let fall their plumes, and so shame at their owne follies: but if my gree were so great as to enterteine such servants, I must bestow vpon them some changable liuorie, to shew

the varietie of their minds: for mens hearts are like to the Polipe, that will change into all colours but blew, and their thoughtes into all affects but constancie: In that fir, your eve dazled and mistooke me, for Venus, vou gazde against the sune, and so blemisht your fight, or els you haue eaten of the rootes of Hemlock, that makes mens eyes conceipt vnseene obiects: howsoeuer (as I take vou for a Gentleman) so I take your praise for a frumpe; and fo your way lies before you; we must folde our flocks and you may be gone when you pleafe. In faith quoth he, Oenone chose Paris for her Phere in her labours, & her fellow in her loues: thinking the fweetest face the best fayring for a gentlewomans eye: But you contrary haue gotte a smoakie Vulcane as Venus, to set out your excellencie: for as Christall placed by Ieate, seemes the more pure: fo a beauteous Paragon shewes the more favre, joyned with a deformed Peafaunt. Mullidor hearing the / Gentleman thus abuse his patience, as a man conceipted in his owne propernesse, and especially afore Mirimida, thwarted him thus: You master meacock that stand vpon the beauty of your churnmilke face; as brag with your Buzzard on your fift, as a Sow vnder an apple tree: know that wee countrey swaines as we are not beholding to Nature for beautie, fo we little accompt of Fortune for any fauour: Tush man,

my crooke back harboureth more honest conditions, can fetch more pence than thy silkes: for I believe thou makst a sconce of the Mercers booke: thou hast made such sure entrance there, that thou wilt never from thence till thou beest come out by the eares. Goodman courtier, though we have backes to beare your frumps; yet we have queasie stomacks that will hardly brooke them: and therefore fine foole, be gone with your foule, or I wil so belabour you, as you shall feele my singers this fortnight: And with that Mullidor heaved vp his sheephook & bent his browes, so that the Gentleman giving Mirimida the adieu, hee put spurs to his horse, and went his way.

At this manly part of Mullidor, Mirimida laught heartilie; and he tooke a great conceipt, that hee had shewd himselfe such a tall man: Vpon this, Mirimida gaue him a Nosegay which stuck in her bosome for a fauour; which hee accepted as gratefully, as though another had giuen him a tunne of golde. Night drew on, and they folded their sheepe and departed, shee to her Father, and hee towardes olde Callena, as ioyful a man as Paris, when he had the promise from Venus: hee plodded on his way with his head full of passions, and his heart full of new thoughts, and still his eye was on the Nosegay, in so much that he stoode in a doubt whether it were Loue or some other fury worse than Loue,

that thus hincht him & pincht him: at last he fel with himselfe into this meditation. Now doe I perceive that Loue is a purgation, and fearcheth euery veine: that though it enter at the eye, yet it runnes to the heart, and then it keepes an / olde coyle, where it worketh like a juglers box. Loue thou art like to a flea which bitest fore, and yet leapest away and art not to be found: or to a pot of strong ale, that maketh a man cal his Father whorefon: fo both them bewitch a mans wits that he knoweth not a B. from a Battildore. Infortunate Mullidor, and therefore infortunate, because thou art ouer the eares in Loue; and with whome? with Mirimida: whose eyes are like to sparks of fire. and thine like a pound of butter, like to be melted with her beauty, and to cosume with the frieng flame of fancie. Ah Mullider her face is like to a red & white Daify growing in a greene meddow, & thou like a bee, that commest and suckest honie from it, and cariest it home to \$\foats \text{ hiue with a heave} & hoe: that is as much to fay, as with a head full of woes, & a heart full of forrowes and maladies. Be of good cheare, Mirimida laughes on thee, & thou knowest a womans smile is as good to a louer, as a funshine day to a Haymaker: she shewes thee kind looks, & casts many a sheeps eye at thee: which fignifies that shee counts thee a man worthie to iumpe a match with hir: nay more Mullidor,

shee hath given thee a Nosegav of flowers wherin as a top gallant for all v rest, is set in Rosemary for remembrance: Ah Mullidor cheere thy felfe, feare not: loue & fortune fauors lufty lads, cowards are not friends to affection: therefore venter, for thou hast wonne her: els had she not giuen thee this And with this remembring himselfe, he flart vp. left off his amorous passions, and trudgeth home to his house: where comming in, olde Calena flumbles to fee in what humour hir fonne came home: frollick he was. & his cap on the one fide, he askt if supper were ready: his mother seeing his stomack was good, thought there was some hope of her Sonnes good fortunes, and therefore fayd there was a pudding in the pot that is almost enough: but sonne, quoth she, what newes? what successe in thy loues? how doth Mirimida like thee? Ah, ah, quoth Mullidor, and he fmiled, how should I be yied: but as one that was wrapt in his mothers Can the funne want fmock when hee was borne. heat, and the winter cold: or a proper / man be denied in his fuites? No mother, affoone as I began to circumglaze her with my Sophistrie & to fetch her about with 2 or three venies: fro mine eves I gaue her fuch a thup on the brest, that she would fcarce fay no: I told her my mind & fo wrapt her in the prodigallitie of my wit that she said an other time shoulde: but then wee parted laughing, with

fuch a fweete fmile that it made mee loofe in the haft like a dudgin dagger: she gaue me this nosegay for a fauour, which how I esteemed it gesse you: thus have I vsed her in kindnesse, and she vsed me in curtesie; & so I hope we shal make a friendly conclusion. By my troth sonne quoth she & I hope no leffe, for I tell you, when maids give gifts, they meane well; and a woman if she laugh with a glauncing looke wisheth it were neither to do nor vndone: she is thine my sonne seare not: and with that she laid the cloth, and set victuals on the borde, where Mullidor tried himselfe so tall a trencher man, that his mother perceived by his drift he would not die for loue. Leauing this passionate lubber, to the conceipt of his loues: let vs returne to the young courtver called Radagon, who trotting a foft pace vpon his courfer, feeing the funne now bright and then ouershadowed with clouds, began to copare the state of the weather fantastically to the humor of his Mirimidas fancies: faving, when Phabus was eclipft with a vapour, then she lowred: when hee shewd his glorie in his brightnesse, then she smiled. Thus hee dallied in an vncoth motion fo long, that at last hee began to feele a fire that fretted to the heart. Ryding thus in a quandarie he entred into the confideratio of Mirimidas beauty, wherupon frolickly in an extemperat humor he made this fonnet.

Radagons Sonnet.

No cleare appeard vpon the azurd Skie,
A vale of stormes had shadowed Phœbus face,
And in a sable mantle of disgrace:
Sate he that is ycleaptd heavens bright eye,
As though that he,
Perplext for Clitia, meant to leave his place. I
And wrapt in sorrowes did resolve to die;
For death to lovers woes is ever nie:
Thus folded in a hard and mournfull haze

A mistie fogge had thickned all the ayre, Iris sate solemne and denied her showers, Flora in taunie hid up all her slowers And would not diaper her meads with faire,

Distrest sate hee.

As though that shee
Were armd upon the barren earth to lowre:
Vnto the founts Diana nild repaire,
But sate as overshadowed with dispaire,
Solemne and sad within a withered bower
Her Nymphes and shee.

'Mars malecontent lay fick on Venus knee, Venus in dumps sat muffled with a frowne, Iuno laid all her frollick humors downe, And Ioue was all in dumps as well as she: Twas Fates decree. For Neptune (as he ment the world to drown)
Heaud up his surges to the highest tree,
And leagu[e]d with Eol, mard the Seamans glee
Beating the Cedars with his billows downe:
Thus wroth was hee.

My mistris degrees to shew hir sunbright face, The agre cleard up, the clowds did fade away: Phoebus was frollick when she did display The gorgious bewties, that her frunt do grace. So that when shee

But walkt abroad, the stormes then sted away:
Flora did checker all her treading place,
And Neptune calmde the surges with his mace,
Diana and hir Nimphs were blithe and gaie,

When her they see. |

Venus and Mars agreed in a smile:

And iealous Iuno ceased now to lowre,

Ioue saw her face and sighed in his bowre:

Iris and Eol laugh within a while

To see this glee:

Ah borne was she within a happy howre
That makes heaven, earth, & Gods and all, to smile:
Such wonders can her beauteous lookes compile
To cleare the world from any froward lowre:
Ah blest be shee.

WHen Radagon had framd this fancie, he began with fundrie infeeing thoughts to confider, that the was beautifull & of a base countrey breede, where vertue affoone dwelleth, as in high dignities: that her witte was sharp, and nature had done her part, to make her euery way excellent, as wel in exterior perfection, as in inward qualities: though her fortunes were lowe, vet her defires were modest: & proud she could not be. as being poore: to be peeuish were bootlesse, in that her hope did not aspire: her looks bewraid fhe was no wanton; and her blushing, that she was bashfull: euery way she seemed vertuous, as the was heautiful. The confideration of this excellencie, so pierced the hart of Radagon, that from liking he fel to loue, fro small praises to great passios. Tush quoth he, though wedlock be a thing fo doubtful & dangerous to deale withal. as to feek rofes amongst thornes, eeles amongst Scorpions: and one pure potion amongst a thoufand boxes of confection: vet nature doth establish it as necessary: Law as honest, & reason as profitable. Some Cynick, as Diogenes will thwart it with a dilemma & fay, that for yong men tis too foone, for olde men too late to marry: cocluding fo enigmatically, it were not good to marry at al: other wil fay as Arminius a ruler of Carthage faid, who being importunatly perswaded

to marry, answered, no faid he, I dare not, for if I chace vpon one that is wife, she wil be wilful: if welthy, the wanto; if poore, the pecuish; if beautiful, the proud; if deformed the loathfom: & the left of these is able / kil a thousand men. Indeed I cannot denie but oft sub melle latet venenum, that beautie without vertue is like a boxe of Iuorie containing some balefull Aconiton. or to a faire shooe that wrings the foote; such loue as is laid vpon fuch a foundation is a fhort pleasure full of payne, and an affection bought with a thousand miseries; but a woman that is faire and vertuous maketh her husband a joyfull man; and whether he be rich or poore, yet alwaies he may have a joyfull heart. A woman that is of a filent tongue, shamefast in countenance, sober in behaujour, and honest in condition, adorned with vertuous qualities correspondent, is like a goodly pleafant flower deckt with the colours of all the flowers of the garden: and fuch a one (quoth he) is Mirimida, and therfore though she be poore I will loue her and like her; and if she wil fancie me I wil make her my wife. And vpon this he resolued to prosecute his sute towards her, in so much that affoone as he came home and had refted himself a while, he stept to his standish and wrote her a letter.

Radagon was not more pained with this paffionate

maladie than poore Eurymachus, who could take no rest, although every day in her presence he sed his eye with y beautie of her face: but as the Hidaspis the more he drinkes the more thirstie he is, so Eurymachus the more he looked the more he loued, as having his eye deeply enamoured of the object; reveale any more his sute he durst not, because when he began to chat of loue she shakt him off, and either slung away in a rage, or else forst him to fall to other prattle, in so much that he determined to discourse his mind in a letter, which he performed as cunningly as he could & sent it her.

Mullidor that affe, rapt out his reasons divers times to Mirimida, until she was weary of the groomes importunate sooleries, and so with a sharpe word or two nipt him on the pate: whereupon asking his mothers counsaile, she perswaded him to write vnto Mirimida, although he and a pen were as fitte as an asse and a harpe; yet he bought him paper, and stealing into the Churchyard vnder an Appletree, there in his muses he framed a letter and sent it her.

Thus had Fortune (meaning to be merrie) appoynted in her secret synod that all these three should vie one meanes to possesse their loues, & brought it so to passe that the three letters from these three rivals were delivered at one instant:

which when Mirimida faw, she sat her downe and laught, wondring at the rarenes of the chance y should in a moment bring such a conceipt to passe; at last (for as then shee was leading foorth her sheepe) shee sate her downe, and looking on the superscription saide to her selfe; what Adamants are faire saces that can draw both rich, poore & sooles to lodge in the laborinth of their beauties: at this she sighed, and the first letter she broake open, because he was her first louer, was Eurymachus. The contents whereof were these.

Eurymachus the Shepheard to Mirimida the Goddesse of Thessale.

When (Mirimida) I sit by thy sweet selfe & wonder at thy sight, séeding as the Bee vpon the wealth of thy beauties, the conceipt of thine excellencie driues me into an extasie, that I became dumme with ouer much delight; for Nature sets downe this as an authenticke principle:

Sensibile sensui suppositum nulla fit sensatio.

If the flower be put in the nostrill, there is no smell; the colour clapt close to the eye blemisheth the sight: so a louer in presence of his mistris hath y organs of his speech tied, that he conceales with silence, and sighs out his smoothered passions with sorowes. Ah Mirimida consider y loue is such a

streame as will either have his course, or break through the bankes & make a deluge, or els force their hart strings crack with secrecy. The Mirimida. if I be lauish in my pen, blame me not t am so laden with loue; if I be bold, attribute it to thy beautie, not my impudencie, & think what I ouer dare in, it growes through the extremitie of lovall affection, which is fo déeply imprinted in my thoughts, as neither time can diminish nor misfortune blemish. I aime not (Mirimida) at thy wealth, but at thy vertues; for the more I confider thy / perfection, & more I grow passionate, & in such , an humour, as if thou denie, there is no meanes to cure my maladie but that falue which healeth all incurable fores. & that is death. Therefore (fweet Mirimida) confider of my loues & vse me as my lovaltie deserues: let not my pouertie put in any barre, nor the basenesse of my birth bee any excuse of thy affection; weigh my desires, not my degrees, & either fend me a speedie plaister to salue my despairing passions, or a corasiue to cut off my lingering forowes, either thy fauour with life, or thy deniall with death, betwéene which I rest in hope till I heare thine answer.

> Thine, who can be no others but thine, the Shepheard Eurymachus.

To the end of this letter (for that he would

runne descant vpon his wit) he set downe a Sonnet written in the forme of a Madrigale, thus.

Eurymachus in laudem Mirimidæ.

his Motto Inuita fortuna dedi vota concordia.

When Flora proude in pompe of all her flowers

Sat bright and gay,

And gloried in the deaw of Iris showers,

And did display

Her mantle checquered all with gawdy greene:

Then I
Alone

A mournfull man in Erecine was seene.

With folded armes I trampled through the graffe,
Tracing as he

That held the Throane of Fortune brittle glasse,

And love to be

Like Fortune fleeting, as the restlesse wind Mixed With mists.

Whose dampe doth make the cleerest eyes grow blind.

Thus in a maze I spied a hideous flame:

I cast my sight,

And sawe where blythly bathing in the same:
With great delight,

A worme did lye, wrapt in a smokie sweate:

And yet

Twas strange

It carelesse lay and shrunke not at the heate.

I stood amazed and wondring at the sight,

While that a dame

That shone like to the heavens rich sparkling light,

Discourst the same:

And sayd, my friend this worme within the fire

Which lies

Content,

Is Venus worme, and represents desire.

A Salamander is this princely beaft,

Deckt with a crowne,

Giuen him by Cupid, as a gorgeous creft

Gainst fortunes frowne:

Content he lies and bathes him in the slame,

And goes

Not foorth:

For why he cannot live without the same.

As he: fo louers lie within the fire

Of feruent loue,

And shrinke not from the flame of hot desire,

Nor will not mooue

From any heate, that Venus force imparts:

But lie

Content

Within a fire, and wast away their harts. |

Vp flew the dame and vanisht in a cloude,

But there stood I,

And many thoughts within my mind did shrowde

Of love: for why,

I felt within my heart a scortching fire,

And yet
As did

The Salamander, twas my whole desire.

Mirimida having read this Sonnet, she straight (being of a pregnant wit) conceipted the drift of his Madrigale, smiled and layd it by, and then next tooke vp Radagons letter, which was written to this effect.

Radagon of Thessalie to the faire Shepherdize Mirimida health.

I Cannot tell (faire Mistris) whether I should praise Fortune as a friend, or curse her as a foe, having at vnwares presented me with the view of your perfection, which sight may be either the sunne of my blisse, or the beginning of my bale: for in you rests the ballance either to weigh me

downe my due with courtesie, or my deniall with extreame vnkindnes. Such as are prickt with the boanes of the Dolphin, heare musicke, and they are presently healed of their maladie: they which are enuenymed with the Viper, rubbe the sore with Rubarb and seele a remedie; and those which drinke Aconiton are cured by Antidotes. But loue is like the sting of a Scorpion, it must be salued by affection; for neither charme, hearbe, stone, nor mynerall hath vertue to cure it: which made Apollo exclaime this passion.

Hei mihi quod nullis amor est medicabilis herbis.

With the same distresse (sweete Mirimida) am I pained, who lighting by chance as Paris did in the vale of Ida vpon Venus, have seene a brighter Dame than Venus; but I feare me lesse courteous than Venus. I have no golden / apple (faire Nymph) to present thee with, so to proove thee supreme of beautie; but the devotion of my thoughts is offered humblie at thy seete, which shall ever confesse none so beauteous as Mirimida. Then as Venus for reward gave Paris Helena, so courteous Nymph bee prodigall of thy savours and give me thy heart, which shall bee to me more deare than a hundred Helens.

But here perhaps thou wilt obiect that mens pleas are the Painters penfels, which drawe no

fubstance but shadowes, that to the worst proportions give the richest colours, and to the coursest pictures the finest glasses, that what wee write is of course, and when wee faine passions, then are wee least passionate, having forrowfull pens when wee haue secure hearts, and louring lookes when wee haue laughing thoughts. I cannot denie (sweete Mistris) but that hot loues are like a bauins blaze, and that men can promife more in a moment than they will performe in a moneth. knowe there was a Demaphon that deceived Phillis. an Æneas that falfified his faith to Dido, a Theseus that forfooke his Ariadne: vet measure not all by fome mens minds; of a fewe particular inftances, conclude not generall axiomes; though fome haue been fleeting, thinke not all to be false; trie me, I referre your passions to my proofe, and as you finde me lovall fo reward me with loue. I craue no authenticall graunt, but a superficiall fauour: fay (Mirimida) that Radagon shall bee welcome if he bee faithfull, and then my hope shall comfort my heart. In which suspence I rest confused, at the barre of your courtefie. Farewell.

Mirimidas Radagon, though she will not be Radagons Mirimida.

This she read ouer twise and blusht at it, as féeling a little heate, but straight she sighed and

fhakt it from her heart, and had laid it by, but that turning ouer the next / page she espied certaine verses, which was a Canzon pend thus.

Radagon in Dianem.

Non fuga Teucrus amat: quæ tamen odit habet.

It was a valley gawdie greene,
Where Dian at the fount was seene:
Greene it was,
And did passe
All other of Dianas bowers,
In the pride of Floras slowers.

A fount it was that no Sunne sees,
Circled in with Cipres trees,
Set so nie,
As Phæbus eye
Could not doo the Virgins scathe,
To see them naked when they bathe.

She sat there all in white,
Colour fitting her delite:
Virgins so
Ought to go:
For white in Armorie is plast
To be the colour that is chast.

Her tafta Caffocke might you see
Tucked vp aboue her knee,
Which did show
There below
Legges as white as whales bone:
So white and chast was neuer none.

Hard by her vpon the ground,
Sat her Virgins in a round |
Bathing their
Golden haire,
And finging all in notes hye,
Fie on Venus flattring eye.

Fie on love, it is a toy,

Cupid witlesse and a boy,

All his fires

And desires

Are plagues that God sent downe from hie,

To pester men with miserie.

As thus the Virgins did disdaine
Louers ioy and louers paine,
Cupid nie
Did espie,
Greeuing at Dianas song,
Slylie stole these maides among.

His bow of steele, darts of fire, He shot among st them sweete desire, Which straight slies In their eyes.

And at the entrance made them start, For it ran from eye to hart.

Calisto straight supposed Ioue

Was faire and frolicke for to loue:

Dian shee

Scapt not free:

For well I wot hereupon

She loued the swayne Endimion.

Clitia Phæbus, and Cloris eye
Thought none so faire as Mercurie: |
Venus thus
Did discusse
By her sonne in darts of fire,
None so chast to checke desire.

Dian rose with all her maids,
Blushing thus at loves braids:
With sighs all
Shew their thrall.
And slinging hence pronounce this saw,
What so strong as Loves sweete law?

Mirimida having read the letter of Radagon, perceived that love was in his eyes, and perhaps had slylie toucht his heart: but she that was charie of her choyce, and resolute not to fetter her selfe with fancie, did passe over these passions, as men doo the shadowes of a painters pensell, which while they view they praise, and when they have praised, passe over without any more remembrance: yet she could not but enter into the humorous reach of his conceipt, how hee checkt the coy disdaine of women in his Sonnet: she blusht, and her thoughts went away with her bloud, and so she lighted on the letter that Mullidor had sent her, which drove her into a pleasant vaine. The effects of his passions were these.

Mullidor the malecontent, with his pen clapt full of loue, to his Mistris Mirimida greeting.

A Fter my heartie Commendations remembred, hoping you be in as good health as I was at the making hereof. This is to certifie you, that loue may well bee compared to a bottle of hay, which once fet on fire wil neuer be quenched, or to a cup full of strong ale, which when a man hath once tasted, he neuer leaues till he hath drunke it all vp: so Mi-/stris Mirimida, after the surious slames of your two eyes had set my poore heart on the coales of loue, I was so scorched on the

grediron of affection, that I had no rest till I was almost turned to a coale, and after I had tasted of the liquour of your fweete phisnomie, I neuer left fupping of your amiable countenance, till with loue I am almost readie to burst. Consider with your felfe faire Shepheardize, that poore men feele paine as well as Princes; that Mullidor is ficke of fuch a malladie, as by no meanes can be cured, vnleffe your felfe lay a fearecloth to draw away my forrowes: then be pitifull to me least you bee counted disdainful, to put so trustie a louer out of his right wits: for theres no ho but either I must haue you, or els for very plaine loue runne mad. It may be (Mirimida) you thinke me too base for vour beautie: why? when you have married me I am content to serue you as a man, and to doo al those indeuours that belongs to a servant, and rather to holde you for my Mistris than my wife. Then feeing you shall have the soueraintie at my hands, which is the thing that all women defire. loue me sweete Mirimida, and thinke this, if you match with mee, olde Callena my mother hath that in a clowte that will doo vs both good. Thus hoping you wil ponder my passions in your minde, and be more courteous than to cast away a young man for loue. Farewell.

Yours halfe mad because he would bee yours, Mullidor the malecontent.

Such a poetical furie tooke *Mullidor* in the braines, that he thought to shewe his vaine in verse, and therefore annexed to his letter this pleasant Dittie. /

Mullidors Madrigale.

Dildido dildido, Oh loue, oh loue, I feele thy rage romble below and aboue.

In sommer time I sawe a face,

Trope belle pour moy helas helas,

Like to a stoand horse was her pace:

Was euer yong man so dismaid.

Her eyes like waxe torches did make me afraid,

Trop belle pour moy voila mon trespas.

Thy beautie (my Loue) exceedeth supposes,
Thy haire is a nettle for the nicest roses,
Mon dieu aide moy,
That I with the primrose of my fresh wit,
May tumble her tyrannie under my feete
He donque ie sera un ieune roy.
Trope belle pour moy helas helas,
Trope belle pour moy voyla mon trespas.

Mirimida having read this humorous fancie of Mullidor, began thus to meditate with her felfe.

Listen not fond wench to love, for if thou doest thou learnest to loose, thou shalt finde griefe to bee the gaines, and follie the paymistris that rewards all amorous trauells. If thou wed thy felfe to Radagon, thou aimest beyond thy reach; and looking higher than thy fortunes, thou wilt repent thy defires: for Mirimida affects beyond compaffe. haue offtime infortunate effects: rich roabes haue not euer fweete content, and therefore the meane is the merriest honour. What then, must Eurvmachus of all these three bee the man that must make vp the match; he is a shepheard and harbours quiet in his cottage, his wishes are not aboue his wealth, nor doth his conceipt climbe higher than his deferts. He hath fufficiet / to shrowde thée from want, and to maintaine the state of an honest life. Shepheards wrong not their wives with fuspition, nor doo countrie Swaynes estéeme lesse of their loues than higher degrees. But Mirimida, meane men haue frownes as well as kings; the least haire hath his shadow, the Flye her spléene, the Ant her gall, and the poorest Peasant his choller. Peasants can weld a cudgell better than a great Lord, and diffention will have a fling amongst the meanest. fore mariage must have her inconvenience, better golden gyues than yron fetters. What faiest thou then to Mullidor? that he is Mullidor, and let that fuffice to shake him off for a foole: for it were thy discredite to have onely a woodcock to keepe the woolfe from the doore. Why then, meanest thou not to love? No fond lasse if thou bee wife: for what is fweeter than libertie? and what burthen heavier than the fift of a froward husband. Amongst many Scorpions thou lookest for one Eele; and amongst a hedge full of nettles for one flower; amongst a thousand flatterers for one that is faithfull; & yet when thou hast him, thy thoughts are at his will, and thy actions are limited to his humours. Beware Mirimida, strike not at a stale because it is painted; though honey be fweete Bées haue stings; there is no fwéeter life than chastitie, for in that estate thou shalt live commended and vncontrold.

Vpon this she put vp the letters, and because she would not leade her Louers into a laborinth of hope, she appoynted them all to meete her at the Shéepfolds on one day and at one houre, where the Woers that stood vpon thornes to heare her censure met without faile. After salutes past between Mirimida and them, she began to parley with them thus.

Gentlemen, all riualls in loue and aimers at one fortune, though you three affect like defire to haue *Mirimidas* fauour, yet but one of you can weare the flower, and perhaps none, for it is as my fancie

censures: therfore are you content that I shall set downe which of you, or whether none of / you shall enjoy the ende of your futes, and who so is forfaken, to part hence with patience and neuer more to talke of his passions. To this they all agreed, and she made this answere. Why then Radagon and Eurymachus weare you two the Willowe Garland, not that I hold either your degrees or deferts worthlesse of a fairer than Mirimida: but that the destinies doo so appoynt to my defires, that your affects cannot worke in me any effects. At this, Radagon and Eurymachus frowned, not so much that they were forsaken, but that so beautifull a creature would wed her selfe to such a deformed affe as Mullidor, and the foole he fimpered it in hope to haue the wench. Now (quoth she) Mullidor may hope to bee the man: but trust me as I found him I leave him, a dolt in his loues, and a foole in his fortunes. At this they laught, and he hung the head, and she left, them all. Radagon taking his hawke to goe flie the Partridge: Eurymachus marching with his shéephooke to the folds; Mullidor hying home to his mother to recount his mishaps, and Mirimida finging that there was no Goddesse to Diana, no life to libertie, nor no loue to chastitie.

Francesco, Isabel, and all the rest of the guests applauded this discourse of the pleasant Host: and

for that it was late in the night they all rose, and taking their leave of *Francesco* departed, he and his wife bidding their Host good night, and so going to bed, where wee leave them to leade the rest of their lives in quiet.

Thus (quoth the Palmer) you have heard the discourie of youths follies, and a true discourse of a Gentlemans fortunes.

But now courteous Palmer (quoth the Gentleman) it rests that we craue by your owne promise the reason of your pilgrimage to Venice. (quoth the Palmer) is discourst in a word: for knowe fir, that enjoyning my felfe to penance for the follies of my youths passions having lived in loue, and therefore reapt all my losse by loue; hearing that of all the Cities in Europe, Venice hath most semblance of Ve | nus vanities. I goe thether not onely to fee fashions, but to quip at follies, that I may drawe others from that harme that hath brought me to this hazard. The Gentlewomen of Venice, your neighbours, but vnknown to me, have more favours in their faces than vertue in their thoughts; and their beauties are more curious than their qualities be precious, caring more to be figured out with Helen, than to bee famozed with Lucrece; they striue to make their faces gorgeous, but neuer feeke to fit their minds to their God, and couet to have more knowledge

in loue than in religion: their eves bewray their wantonnesse, not their modestie: & their lookes are lures that reclaime not Hawkes, but make them onely bate at dead stales: As the Gentlewomen so are the men, loofe livers and straight lovers, such as hold their conscience in their purses and their thoughts in their eyes, couting that houre ill spent that in fancie is not mispent. Because therefore this great Citie of Venice is holden Loues Paradize. thether doo I direct my pilgrimage, that feeing their passions, I may being a palmer, win them to penance, by showing the miseries that Venus mixeth with her momentarie contents: if not, yet I shall carrie home to my countrimen falues to cure their fores; I shal see much, heare little, and by the infight into other mens extreames, returne both the more warie and the more wife. What I fee at Venice (fir) and what I note there, when I returne back, I meane to vifite you and make you privile to all.

The heedfull Host having indiciallie vnderstoode the pitifull report of the palmer, giving truce to his passions with the teares he spent, and resolved to requite that thankfullie which he had attended heedfullie, gave this Catastrophe to his sad and sorrowfull discourse. Palmer, thou hast with the Kistrell foreshewed the storme ere it comes, painting out the shapes of love as lively, as the Grapes in

Zeuxis Tables were pourtraied cunningly; thou hast lent youth Egle eyes to behold the Sunne; Achilles sword to cut and recure, leaving those medicines to salue others, that hath / lost thy selfe, and having burnt thy wings with the stye by dallying too long with the fire, thou hast bequeathed others a lesson with the Vnicorne to prevent poyson by preserves before thou tast with the lippe. The onely request I make in requitall of my attention, is, that thou leave certaine testimonies on these walles, whereon whensoever I looke, I shall remember Francescos sollies and thy foresight.

The Palmer estéeming the courteous replie of his host, and desirous to satisfie his request, drawing bloud from the vaine *Cephalia*, (on an arch of white Iuorie erected at the end of an Arbour, adorned with Honysuckles and Roses) he wrote thus with a pencell.

In greener yeares when as my greedie thoughts
Gan yeeld their homage to ambitious will,
My feeble wit that then preuailed noughts,
Perforce presented homage to his ill:
And I in follies bonds fulfild with crime,
At last vnloosd: thus spide my losse of time.

As in his circuler and ceaseles ray The yeare begins, and in it selfe returnes Refresht by presence of the eye of day,
That sometimes nie and sometimes farre soiournes:
So love in me (conspiring my decay)
With endles fire my heedles besome burnes,
And from the end of my aspiring sinne,
My paths of error hourely doth begin.

Aries.

When in the Ram the Sunne renewes his beames, Beholding mournfull earth araid in griefe, That waights reliefe from his refreshing gleames, The tender flockes reioycing their reliefe Doo leape for ioy and lap the silver streames. So at my prime when youth in me was chiefe, All Heifer like with wanton horne I playd, And by my will my wit to love betrayd.

Taurus.

When Phæbus with Europas bearer bides,
The Spring appeares, impatient of delaies:
The labourer to the fields his plow swaynes guides,
He sowes, he plants, he builds at all assaies.
When prime of yeares that many errors hides,
By fancies force did trace ungodly waies,
I blindfold walkt disdayning to behold,
That life doth vade, and yong men must be old.

* Gemini.

When in the hold whereas the Twins doo rest, Proud Phlægon breathing sire doth post amaine: The trees with leaues, the earth with slowers is drest:

When I in pride of yeres with peeuish braine Presum'd too farre and made fond love my guest; With frosts of care my slowers were nipt amaine. In height of weale who beares a careles hart, Repents too late his over foolish part.

₩ Cancer.

When in Æstivall Cancers gloomie bower,
The greater glorie of the heavens dooth shine;
The aire is calme, the birds at everie flowre
To tempt the heavens with harmonie divine.
When I was first inthrald in Cupids powre,
In vaine I spent the May-month of my time,
Singing for ioy to see me captive, thrall
To him, whose gaines are griefe, whose cofort smal.

E Leo.

When in the height of his Meridian walke
The Lions holde conteines the eye of day:
The riping corne growes yeolow in the stalke,
When strength of yeares did blesse me euerie-way.

Maskt with delights of follie was my talke, Youth ripened all my thoughts to my decay: In lust I sowde, my fruite was losse of time; My hopes were proud, and yet my bodie slime.

W Virgo.

When in the Virgins lap earths comfort sleepes, Bating the furie of his burning eyes, Both corne and frutes are firmd, & cofort creepes On euerie plant and flowre that springing rise: When age at last his chiefe dominion keepes, And leades me on to see my vanities; What love and scant foresight did make me sowe In youthfull yeares, is ripened now in woe.

Libra.

When in the Ballance Daphnes Lemman blins
The Ploughman gathers frute for passed paine:
When I at last considered on my sinnes,
And thought upon my youth and follies vaine;
I cast my count, and reason now begins
To guide mine eyes with indgement, bought with
paine,
Which greating with a better your to fact

Which weeping wish a better way to finde, Or els for euer to the world be blinde.

Scorpio.

When with the Scorpion proud Apollo plaies,
The wines are trode and carried to their presse,
The woods are feld gainst winters sharp affraies:
When grauer yeares my iudgments did addresse,
I gan repaire my ruines and decaies:
Exchanging will to wit and soothfastnesse:
Claiming from Time and Age no good but this,
To see my sinne, and sorrow for my misse.

Sagittarius.

When as the Archer in his Winter holde
The Delian Harper tunes his wonted love,
The ploughman sowes and tills his labored molde;
When with advise and indgement I approve,
How Love in youth hath griefe for gladnes solde,
The seedes of shame I from my heart remoove,
And in their steads I set downe plants of Grace
And with repent bewailde my youthfull race.

Capricornus.

When he that in Eurotas filuer glide
Doth baine his treffe, beholdeth Capricorne,
The daies growes short, then hasts the winter tide.
The Sun with sparing lights doth seem to mourn,
Gray is the green, the slowers their beautie hides:
When as I see that I to death was borne,

My strength decaide, my graue alreadie drest, I count my life my losse, my death my best.

Aquarius.

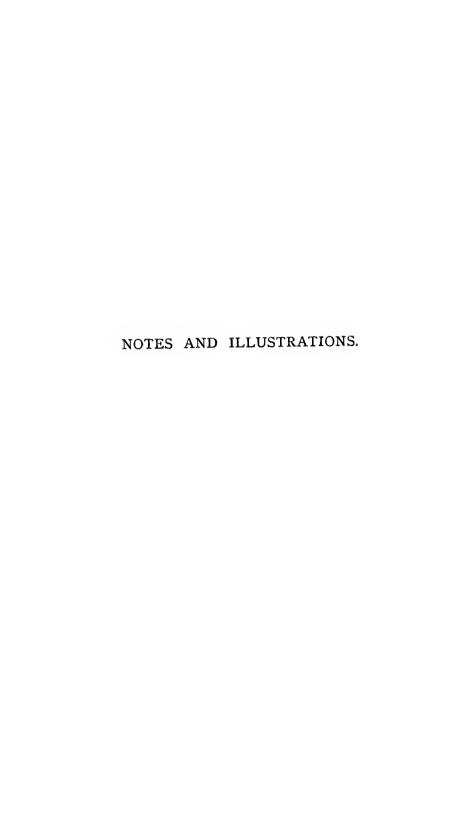
When with Aquarius Phoebes brother staies,
The blythe and wanton windes are whist & still,
Colds frost and snow the pride of earth betraies:
When age my head with hoarie haires doth fill,
Reason sits downe, and bids mee count my dayes,
And pray for peace, and blame my froward will:
In depth of griefe in this distresse I crie,
Peccaui Domine, miserere mei.

Pisces.

When in the Fishes mansion Phoebus dwells,
The dayes renew, the earth regaines his rest:
When olde in yeares, my want my death foretells:
My thoughts & praiers to heaue are whole addrest,
Repentance youth by follie quite expells,
I long to be dissolved for my best,
That yong in zeale, long beaten with my rod,
I may grow old to wisedome & to God.

The palmer had no fooner finished his circle, but the Host ouer read his conceipt, and wondering at the excellencie of his wit, from his experience began to suck much wisedome, & beeing verie loath to detaine his guest too long: after they had broken their fast, and the goodman of the house courteouslie had given him thankes for his fauor, the Palmer set forward towards *Venice*: what there he did, or howe hee lived, when I am advertised (good Gentlemen) I will send you tidings. Meane while let everie one learne (by *Francescoes* fall) to beware, least at last (too late) they be enforced to bewaile.

FINIS.



I. NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

** See general explanatory remarks prefixed to Notes and Illustrations in Vol. II., pp. 301-2.

NEUER TOO LATE.

- Title-page, l. 7, 'ouer-reaching conceits' = conceipts, too much love-passion, albeit used somewhat vaguely: l. 9, 'Decyphering'—see Glossarial-Index, s.v., for various prior examples: l. 15, 'pumice stone' = the volcanic, etc., spuma or ash—still used to erase scratches on copper, and to remove stains on hands, etc.: l. 16, 'race' = raze: l. 22, 'N. L.' = Nathanael Ling.
- Page 5, 'Thomas Burnaby'—see Index of Names after Glossarial-Index, as before: l. 18, 'party' = person, ut frequenter, and not to be noted again except in Glossarial-Index,
 - ", 6, l. 8, 'vouch' = vouchsafe, as onward: l. 13, 'artificially' = (Latinate) workman-like: l. 17, 'Bacan leafe'—not known to the Editor. Could it be an error for 'Baccal,'

a kind of laurel mentioned by Pliny? He elsewhere speaks of a decoction of the laurel leaf, applied as a liniment, as singular good for the prick or sting of wasps, hornets and bees; and likewise against the poison of serpents, especially of the viper, etc.—Holland's Plinie, B. xxiii., c. 18: l. 14, 'Aconiton' = a poison, hemlock. Here, et frequenter, Greene, led by the alliteration, has used a particular poison generally for all poisons.

Page 8, l. 4, 'th' arsh'—this example of elision of the 'h' is to be noted; but it is taken away because of the 'h' in 'th,' and that there might be no hindrance to the monosyllabic pronunciation: l. 9, 'shadowed' = painted (or covered with a thin covering). This is the second time Greene speaks of Phidias as a painter. Apparently used generically for 'masons,' as aconiton for poison, above: l. 11, 'polt foot'—see Glos-

sarial-Index, s.v., as before.

"
10, l. 7, 'Ralph Sidley': p. 11, last l., 'Richard Hake'—see Index of Names, s.n., as before.

"
11, l. 17, 'attaint'—from the Latin attingere, to stain. We have the two verbs in English to 'taint' and 'attaint'—the former more usually = stain, while the latter is used in the derivative sense (as here) to accuse or

convict. Cf. p. 14, last l., 'taint.'

" 13, l. 10, 'flat' = downright: l. 15, 'quaint'—

proof that it was also used in our present

sense, and not merely as 'spruce, neat,' as says Minsheu; but Greene uses it in the latter sense as well, p. 82, l. 14, etc.: l. 18, 'too too'—an emphasis found frequently contemporarily and in Shakespeare.

- Page 14, l. 12, 'buxome'—this word calls for notice because Greene seems in the very next line to contradict it, saying that "pearles of sorrow dropt from them." Cotgrave gives its French equivalent as 'gailliard,' and Minsheu says—'or merry:' l. 26, 'Lesse' = 'less or unless.
 - " 15, l. 4, 'sighes'—here (as in Spenser) requires to be pronounced as a dissyllable, albeit the measure is irregular elsewhere: l. 8, 'Weedes' = mourning garments as at present, as shown by l. 15. As = garment, the following occurs in Bellenden's Scotch translation of Boethius' History of Scotland. Speaking of the weird sisters who met Macbeth and Banquo, he says, they were "in elrage and uncouth weid" (elrage = elriche) or Burns's eildrich.
 - " 16, l. 2, 'Sublimatum' = corrosive sublimate, hydr. perchloridum: l. 5, 'countervaile' = to act with equal force against, to counterpoise—an odd phrase, but readily understood on remembering the supposed efficacy of these journeys: l. 13, 'cankars' = worms that prey upon blossoms. So Shakespeare—"loathsome cankar lives in sweetest bud," et freq.: l. 15, 'Artophilex' = Arctophylax,

Arcturus; i.e. Bootes, a star of the bear's tail, near the North Pole: l. 19, 'quiddities' = subtleties, as p. 41, l. 14: l. 23, 'all should split again'—nautical—from the violence of the wind-storm.

- Page 17, l. 10, 'limons' = lemons: l. 11, 'apricocks' = apricots. Even so late as Cowley it was so spelt: l. 20, 'song' = sung: l. 25, 'with many a stripe'—Did Greene misunderstand the 'oaten pipe'? Scarcely. Probably 'pipe,' enforced by the rhyme of 'stripe,' = the stopping and unstopping of the holes with the fingers, or swift running touches.
 - " 18, l. 11, 'start' = started—as before in verbs ending in 't.' So p. 19, l. 5; but see p. 17, l. 19: l. 17, 'woe' = woo: l. 27, 'youth' seems used as a dissyllable, as in p. 19, l. 4. So 'desire,' in p. 19, l. 1, seems a trisyllable, and 'Loues' l. 2 and 'sawe' l. 5 dissyllables. See on Greene's versification annotated Life in Vol. I.
 - past tense of 'beat': l. 9—comma not needed after 'fled.'
 - ", 21, l. 10, 'voucht' = vouchsafed or agreed to:

 1. 16, 'Rine' = Rhine: l. 28, 'cut'—an
 example of what is now a vulgarism or
 cant phrase = I went over, etc.
 - " 22, 1. 5, 'with'—misprinted 'which' in the original: 1. 9, 'Regiment' = rule: 1. 23, 'Salamander stones'—see separate lists,

- as before: l. 24, 'queasie' = sickish, or as here, delicate.
- Page 23, l. 15, 'claw'—here used as in the proverbial saying 'Claw me and I'll claw thee' = to scratch as when one itches: l. 19, 'Lions' = Lyons.
 - " 24, l. 18, 'orient . . . Pearles'—here and further on, Greene uses 'orient pearles' apparently in the sense of fairer or fairest pearls.
 - sense. Cf. p. 45, l. 14, and p. 70, l. 12:
 l. 6, 'drugges'—qy. = ointments? l. 20,
 'daring glasses'—a mode of fowling was
 to daze or dazzle birds with mirrors: also
 to 'dare' or terrify them with hawks, bells,
 etc. See Henry VIII., III. ii. 282. So
 in 'Measure for Measure,' IV. ii., this
 sense best explains the passage: l. 23,
 'they sue'—'they' refers to 'fooles,' not
 to the possessors of their nets.
 - , 26, l. 26, 'Adamant'—another example where it cannot possibly mean 'loadstone' but a diamond.
 - ", 27, l. 1, 'as rare as black swans'—the 'black swan' of Australia was then and long after unknown: l. 4, 'inferre' = bring in: l. 14, 'conclusive' = concluding: ibid., 'period' = sentence: l. 16, 'fondnesse' = foolishness.
 - " 28, l. 17, 'artificially'—see on p. 6, l. 13.
 - " 29, l. 16, 'censure' = judge: l. 19,—these further examples of 'blancke verse' to be

noted, as well as the rhyming (as in Shakespeare) of the closing two lines.

- Page 32, 1. 8, 'a fauour seldome,' etc.—shows Greene knew Italian customs.
 - " 33, l. 3, 'euented' = fallen out or happened.
 - , 35, l. 4, 'while' = until—excellent example:
 l. 14, 'fond' = foolish: l. 24, 'bauyn' =
 brushwood, or a bundle or faggot of brushwood, as before: l. 25, 'but' = only.
 - 36, 1. 8, 'endue,' as still; but the verbs 'endow' and 'en' or 'indue' seem to have been confounded frequently.
 - " 38, l. 10, 'French crown' = a gold coin value 6s. 8d.: l. 12, 'euerie rag,' etc. = she curtseyed so reverently that every rag on her curtsied. Cf. p. 43, l. 8: l. 27, 'pasport'—beggars were then as it were licensed. Cf. p. 39, l. 18.
 - "39, l. 21, 'tenure' = tenor: l. 21, 'angels' = gold coin so called, value 11s.: l. 26, 'the whiles' = meanwhile.
 - anvil. Florio, Cotgrave, Minsheu, all spell it 'anduil' or 'anduile': l. 22, 'Sethin wood' = shittim wood. See Exodus c. xxv., and Batman c. 150, l. 17.
 - " 41, l. 6, 'perfect'—read [im]perfect. The context suggests this, while 'perfect' makes nonsense: l. 14, 'quiddities' = subtleties, as before, et freq.: l. 26, 'pedentim' = by little and little.
 - " 42, l. 4, 'begunne' = began.

- Page 44, l. 16, 'the owne'—read 'thy owne' or 'thine owne': l. 20, 'censurest' = judgest, ut freq.
 - 45, l. 6, 'moles' = spot or stain, as before. Cf.
 p. 47, l. 3, and see Glossarial-Index, s.v.:
 l. 17, 'curious' = careful or painstaking:
 but see Glossarial-Index, s.v.
 - " 46, l. 9, 'standish' = stand that held pens, ink, sand, etc., ut freq.: l. 21, 'deeme' = judge.
 - word in a good sense? It is hard to see how Dido could properly be called 'Virago' as we use the word: 1. 7, 'Queene of Poetry ... Ferriman' = Sappho and Phaon: 1. 19, 'Dictannum' = Dictamnum or dictanus, i.e. dittanie: 1. 20, 'bruse' = browse.
 - ", 48, l. 3, 'ambages' = ambiguities of words, evasions, circumlocutions: l. 21, 'closely' = slily, hiddenly.
 - " 49, l. 14, 'disaster fortune' = disastrous fortune, as before. So p. 58, l. 24: l. 25, delete comma after 'are.'
 - ", 50, l. 2, 'fro'—either = frō, i.e. from, or simply 'fro': l. 4, 'continents' = the things or persons containing: l. 10, 'dumpe' = sorrow: l. 24, 'broke' = brook.
 - ", 51, ll. 2 and 3 are unrhythmical—read 'intrapped' and '[with]in.' Had they been rhyming lines one might have admitted two-feet lines, but each is the line of a different couplet, and their corresponding lines are each three feet and a syllable: l. 11, 'bay' = branch of bay or laurel.

- Page 52, 1, 8, 'sawst' = sauced: 1, 16, 'that trowd' = 'Oh my heart! that [thing] my eye knew.' 53. l. 4, 'driftes' = forceful courses? Cf. p. 58. 1. 1: 1. 8. 'Oratresse' = pleader (oratrix). Orator is still used in legal forms = one who prays: l. 12. 'without hose' -if the 'hose' be stockings, it is a curious part of her garments to pitch upon when all were wanting — recalls Miss Isabella adventure in suddenly coming upon a venerable Japanese busy over a newspaper and wearing only—a pair of spectacles. The passage seems to show that such ladies slept in their smock and petticoat. See also 'night geere,' l. 14:
 - fresh examples of the former good meaning of the word in opposition to its deteriorated one; albeit Greene, as well as his contemporaries, uses the word in its ill sense. See Glossarial-Index, s.v.: 1. 7, 'swound' = swoon: 1. 22, 'bootlesse' = useless: 1. 27, 'rechlesnesse' = recklessness.

1. 20. 'incountred.' Cf. p. 54, l. 9.

", 55, l. 4, 'familiar' = friend or of thy family, thy co-mate: l. 21, 'Chriseroll'—an error—as its use twice in this tale shows—for 'Chrisocoll.' See Pliny, l. 33, c. 5. The following is from Holyoke's Rider, "Chrysocolla χρυσος, aurum, and κολλα, gluten A kind of minerall found like sand in veines of brasse, silver, or gold;

one kind of it is called boras [not borax], or greene earth, with which the goldsmiths solder gold: a kinde of painters greene, a kind of stone": l. 25, 'Topace': l. 26, 'Emerald'—see separate lists, as before.

- Page 56, l. 17, 'false gallop'—Does Greene play on the phrase and mean that she in her 'gallop' was 'false' to her father, and her lover an accomplice in it?
 - " 57, l. 6, 'euerie string,' etc.—an example proving that 'stretching a string'—a phrase before noted—was a musical metaphor.
 - " 58, l. I, 'drift.' We should say 'What was the drift?' etc. Cf. p. 53, l. 4: l. 2I, 'inferre' = bring in, ut freq.: l. 24, 'disaster' = disastrous, ut freq.: last l., 'again' = against.
 - from the double apparent nominatives, "woman and [a person] endued with reason": l. 15, 'Caruia'—see Index of Names, as before: l. 18, 'infringe' = break in upon: l. 25, 'I' = ay.
 - qy. error for 'stoode'? l. 15, 'Conventicle' = assembly.
 - " 62, l. 10, 'cur'—error for 'car.'
 - " 64, l. 11, 'censure' = judge : l. 18, 'Eyceronicall' —error for 'Eyconomicall,' or perhaps for an adjective from οικουρημα = care at home.
 - " 65, l. 19, 'addicted' = (Latinate) delivered or appointed (or granted).

- Page 66, l. 14—in the original 'remoue. She'—corrected: l. 19, 'Troynouant' = London, ut freq.
 - " 67, ll. 14, 18, 'artificiall' = artful—with an equivoque: l. 22, 'adamants'—here = load-stones, not diamonds: l. 23, 'Ermly' = ermine.
 - " 68, l. 7, 'vailde'—a nautical phrase = lowered, i.e. doffed: l. 12, 'he had scarce seen the lions'—a London saying = he had had barely time to see the lions in the Tower, one of the first London sights he would be taken to: l. 26, 'vale' = veil: l. 27, 'no racke' = cloud—an example which confirms this interpretation being given to The Tempest, IV. i.
 - ,, 69, l. 2, 'secret searching' = secret-searching:
 l. 10, 'fro'—see in p. 50, l. 2.

 - " 71, l. 19, 'censure' = judge, ut freq.

- Page 72, l. 1, 'wanton eie'— This phrase might possibly be justified; but did not Greene intend to write 'a fained modestie hiding a wanton eie'? l. 21, 'affoord you'—punctuate 'affoord.'.
 - ", 73, 1. 26, 'while' = until, ut freq.: 1. 28, 'traine' = lure, i.e. the train of seed, etc., laid up to the trap.
 - , 74, 1. 28, 'set all her wits vpon Ela' = upon their highest, this note being the highest on the gamut. The metaphor was common.
 - , 76, l. 5, 'siluer, white '-qy. silver-white?
 - ", 77, l. 17, 'solempne'—the 'p' to be again noted: ibid., 'conge' = bow, adieu: l. 18, 'whereas' = whereat.
 - we may take it that Greene used the word in the sense of 'made a canon or law of,' i.e. made an example of. Perhaps, however, he used it loosely as = enshrined.
 - "80, l. 17—in the original 'not' is also inserted by error before 'regard': l. 19, 'Desire not,' etc. From Proverbs vi. 25—33, but I know not from what translation. This is a good example of italics being used to mark a quotation, e.g., all the supposed quotations of madrigals, etc., are in italics.
 - , 81, l. 13, 'wife,' etc.—almost the words of Proverbs v. 18.
 - present-day sense. Cf. p. 99, l. 27: l. 13, 'affects' = affections, desires. So p. 92,

- l. 5: l. 14, 'quaint' = spruce, neat (Minsheu, s.v.). For present-day meaning see on p. 13, l. 15: l. 27, 'dumping' = moping.
- Page 84, l. 12, 'changlings,' i.e. as stone: l. 20, 'Metaphusicall' = metaphysical, as before, i.e. beyond what is natural: l. 23, 'apoplexy' = such a disorder or quelling of the senses as occurs in apoplexy.
 - "85, l. 1, 'spit on thy hand'—for the purpose of taking a firmer hold—a common practice with artizans, etc.: l. 3, 'reueale,' i.e. to reveal a secret to.
 - , 87, 1. 4, '*charie* ' = careful.
 - " 88, l. 13, 'curiosity' = carefulness: l. 23, 'passe' = account of.
 - " 89, l. 23, 'period' = conclusion: l. 26, 'quatted' = set down—a word used for the squatting or lying down of a chased animal in order to escape detection.
 - ", 90, 1. 19, 'basht' = abashed: 1. 22, 'tramels' = nets. So p. 93, 1. 9.
 - ", 91, l. 6, 'flat' = mere: l. 15, 'adamant' = loadstone, once more: l. 19, 'submisse' = submissive.
 - " 92, l. 20, 'Galaxia' = transition-form of 'galaxy,' i.e. as a still foreign word = milky way: l. 21, 'la voltas' = lively kind of waltz, celebrated in Sir John Davies's 'Orchestra': l. 27, 'front' = brow or forehead. It is noteworthy that the lamented young poetess of India, Toru Dutt,

seems to have elected it as the most expressive word for the thing, e.g.

- "Warmly they greet the modest bride With her dark eyes and front sublime."
- Savitri, Pt. ii. p. 14 (Ancient Ballads and Legends of Hindustan: London, Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co., 1882).
- Page 93, l. 2, 'tainted' = tinted: ibid., 'staines—
 misprinted in the original 'straines': l. 7,
 'checkers'—the golden wyers bring the
 bright rays, they 'chequer' or diversify the
 morning sky. Cf. Romeo and Juliet II. v.
 - , 94, l. 20, 'lower' = lour: l. 25, 'familiars' = intimates.
 - , 96, l. 18, 'head' misprinted 'hand': ibid., 'hammering' = thinking over doubtfully and anxiously; but whence came this frequent metaphor? See Glossarial-Index, s.v.
 - ", 97, l. 2, 'braue' = challenge or vaunt: l. 3, 'condempne'—the 'p' to be also noted here: l. 6, 'swindge' = swing.
 - or I am too resolved of thy constancie, etc.: l. 17, 'content' = contented by possessing—a mild pun = content with [the absence of] her Francesco.
 - 99, l. 17, 'quittance' = requite. Cf. p. 16, l. 6:
 l. 26, punctuate 'yet,'.
 - " 100, l. 10—misprinted in the original 'qualities': l. 22, 'while' = until, ut freq.: ibid., 'Marioran' = marjoram.

- Page 101, l. 10, 'experience' = try: l. 22, 'chyne' = chin—we still say 'to drop the chin.'
 - " 102, l. 20, 'morgaged' = mortgaged: l. 23, 'cooling Card'—see Glossarial-Index, s.v., for prior examples.
 - ", 103, l. 3, 'vncouth' = strange. So p. 105, l. 6:
 l. 10, 'conster' = construe: l. 26, 'Pathemas'
 = (Greek) παθημα, suffering or calamity.
 As a foreign word it is printed in italics:
 ibid., 'stung'—misprinted 'sting' in the original.
 - ", 104, l. 8, 'preiudicial'—a singularly chill and inept word here in present-day meaning, but then = harmful. Greene uses it as = hurt, p. 20, l. 5; p. 26, l. 25; p. 36, l. 16: l. 20, 'commodite'—he probably so called it because, as he well knew, they were obliged to take commodities—even brown paper in lieu of money: but qy. = accommodation bill?
 - 105, l. 12, 'Periode' = sentence. Cf. p. 27,
 l. 14: l. 26, 'frump' = flout or mock. So
 p. 133, l. 13, and p. 180, l. 6, etc., etc.
 - old Vulgar Error: l. 23, 'Aconiton'—an clear proof that Greene used the word as poison generally, as before noted, and so p. 125, last l.: l. 24, 'Deianiea'—read Deinaei[r]a.
 - " 108, l. 4, 'eagles'—Greene is wrong in his ornithology—he should have said 'vultures'; but the original error is from

the Vulgate: 1. 16, 'preuent' = anticipate. So p. 125, last 1.

FRANCESCO'S FORTUNES.

- Page 115, l. 1, 'Thomas Burnaby'—see Index of Names, as before: l. 5, 'ingratful' = ungrateful. So l. 11.
 - " 116, l. 18, read—'And though [you hold the writer as]'?
 - " 119, l. 20, 'Richard Hake' see Index of Names, as before.
 - " 120, l. 11, 'deemed' = judged: l. 14, 'ligge'—
 qy. misprint for 'jigge'?
 - " 121, l. 6, 'lighten' = make light or kindle—usual 'en' form.
 - , 122, 1. 11, 'prime' = spring-time.
 - ", 123, l. 4, 'shoes' = shows: l. 10—rhythm and the measure of the rhyming line require 'wrapped' as a dissyllable: l. 12, 'stales' = decoys, and so p. 134, l. 9, et freq.: l. 17, 'blin' = to cease.
 - 124, 1.2, 'dump' = sorrow.
 - " 125, l. 24, 'after wits' = wits behindhand.
 - " 126, l. 26, 'deciphering'—see Glossarial-Index for prior examples.
 - " 127, l. 7, 'Porpus' = porpoise: l. 18, 'apple' = gift. Possibly the phrase was an ill remembrance of the story of Paris and the apple.
 - , 128, 1. 9, as high as Ela' = to the highest

- note of the gamut, as before: l. 16, 'sight' = sighed: ll. 23-28 an auto-biographical passage to be noted.
- Page 129, l. 7, 'exquisite' = perfect: l. 20, 'canuased'
 —see Glossary, s.v., on this peculiar word,
 with additional examples: l. 22, 'troden
 vnder foote' = kept secret: ibid.. 'flatlie' =
 - plainly.

 " 130, l. 6, 'Thrases'—error for Thrasos (pl.):

 l. 12, 'Gnatos' = Gnathos, the classical commonplace name for parasites: ibid.,
 'trencher friends' = eaters and drinkers at
 - others' expense, or as long as hospitality is shown, on 'mahogany,' not 'deal.' There are here autobiographic touches again: l. 14. 'corum'— error for 'eorum'—
 - 'sullo' can't be misprint for 'exemplo':

 1. 25, 'for'—qy. error for 'from' or 'frō'?
 - , 132, l. 8, 'quipt' = spoke sarcastically: l. 13, 'termes' = phrases: l. 19, 'censure' = judgment: l. 27, 'check' = stop or reproof.
 - " 133, l. 14, 'bragge' = boastful: l. 17, 'quip' = wittie taunt.—Baret.
 - ", 134, l. 3, 'braue' = bravely accounted: l. 7, 'haggard' = a wild or untamed hawk: l. 27, 'amated' = dreaded, daunted, dismayed (Fr. mat).
 - " 135, l. 1, 'Amatist' = lover: but it is to be noted that 'amethyst' was often so spelt, as in Batman: l. 12, 'Saturnist' = saturnine man: l. 17, 'Adamant' = magnet (probably).

- Page 136, l. 11, 'feature' = person, ut freq. See Glossarial-Index, s.v., for a full Note.
 - " 139, l. 22, ' Tush,' etc.—a quotation the italics would seem to show.
 - " 140, l. 6, 'Horseleach'—Proverbs xxx. 15.
 - " 141, l. 11, 'fact' = act. So p. 152, l. 2: p. 162, l. 1. It was often used for a grievous act, fault, or sin, as in these two references.
 - ", 142, l. 18, 'gippe'—qy. contraction for 'gee up'
 get along—a term of encouragement or
 admonition to a horse.
 - ", 143, l. 14, 'empty gordgde' = empty throated:

 l. 23, 'luers' = lures: l. 28, 'clarkly' = scholarly.
 - " 144, l. 18, 'censured' = judged: l. 19, 'curious' = careful, inasmuch as carefully bestowed: l. 27, 'quatted'—This word, repeatedly used by Greene, appears to have been taken from the Italian quattare, to squat, and may originally have been a hunting term, though this is more doubtful. Hence by a figure = put out.
 - " 146, l. 19, 'tried' = proved: l. 24, 'shadowe' = covering.
 - " 147, l. 24, 'appale' = appal.
 - " 148, l. 3, 'way' = [make] way: l. 20, 'Paramour'
 —the next sentences show that the word
 is here used in its ill sense, and not simply
 as that of 'lover.' So p. 166, l. 14: l. 27,
 'race' = raze.
 - " 149, l. 9, 'vale' = veil: l. 19, 'stripes'—Luke

xii. 47: l. 21, 'cooling carde'—see Glossarial-Index. s.v., for prior examples.

Page 152. l. 2. 'fact'—see on p. 141. l. 11.

- ", 153, l. 5, 'sift' = search after: l. 10, 'infringed' = broken in upon: l. 21, 'pretended' = intended. So p. 155, l. 11.
- ", 156, l. 4, 'Stipendium,' etc.—The Vulgate of Romans vi. 23 is "Stipendia enim peccati, mors." Italics, as before, show a quotation, though this, except they be in Latin, etc., is not always observed by Greene:

 1. 18, 'sacklesse' = innocent, as before;
 i.e. not worthy of the sack. So p. 158,
 1. 5.
- ,, 157, 1. 24, 'sild' = seldom.
 - , 158, l. 2, 'mynt' = coin: l. 11, 'trie' = prove, ut freq.: l. 12, 'maulger' = maugre.
- examples: l. 18, 'prease' = press: l. 19, 'canvassed'—see Glossary, s.v., as before.
 - , 160, l. 16, 'amorettes'—here = love tricks, blandishments (from Fr.).
- 2 Peter ii. 7, where our Auth. Vers. 'conversation' may be compared with v. 8, and the Rev. Vers. 'lascivious life': l. 23, 'doting lecher' = foolish through age: last l., 'wheras' = whereas.
- ,, 162, l. 7, 'preuent' = anticipate and neutralize:
 l. 17, 'Dotham' = Dothan. The Vulgate
 in Genesis xxxvii. 17 has Dothain twice,
 though Dothan in 2 Kings vi. 13.

- Page 163, l. 16, 'start'—'t' = 'ed,' as before in verbs ending in 't,' though Greene does not always keep the rule.
 - " 164, l. 19, 'passing' = surpassing.
 - " 165, l. 20, 'braue' = brave [it]: l. 22, 'fond' =
 foolish: l. 23, 'Trencher flies.' See on
 p. 130, l. 12 = table followers: l. 26,
 'squaring'—Its now Devonian use of
 strutting or swaggering about, best agrees
 with its use here.
 - " 166, l. 1, 'Deare' = deer—see separate lists, as before: l. 13, 'fondnesse' = foolishness.
 - " 168, l. 8, 'trie' = prove, ut freq.
 - " 169, l. 24, 'betide' = betidings, happēnings.
 - " 172, l. 12, 'dumpe' = melancholy mood, ut freq.
 - ", 173, l. 18, 'iumpe' = agree, ut freq.: l. 20, 'Chrisocoll'— see on p. 55, l. 21. So p. 183, l. 23.
 - ,, 174, 1. 4, 'Misselden' = mistletoe.
 - " 175, l. 20, 'import' = position.
 - " 176, l. 12, 'the' are' = th' are: l. 20, 'for' = on account of, lest she should heed.
 - ", 178, l. 8, 'tramels' = nettings—metaphorical for the curlings of her hair: l. 24, 'fling' = go off quickly. Cf. 'flie thence.'
 - ", 179, l. 23, 'intermedling' = intermixing: l. 26, 'Aconiton' — see Glossarial-Index, s.v., freq.
 - , 180, l. 16, 'swads'—a swad in the North is a pescod-shell: thence used for an empty shallow-headed fellow"—Blount: l. 18,

- 'Menalcus' = Menalcas: l. 25, 'Hobby'—
 a very small and inferior hawk, given by
 hawking rules to the "young man": l. 26,
 'Bunting' = bird, or different species of.
 birds so called: ibid., 'too,' and l. 27, 'to'
 —excellent examples of the arbitrary
 spelling of 'too' and 'to.'
- Page 181, l. 2, 'ouer-lookt' = looked too high: ibid., 'ouerlaid' = laid over; i.e. oppressed or crushed: l. 5, 'truncheon'—formerly used as a synonym for a spear (and not the 'haft' only): l. 15, 'personage' = the appearance of the person.
 - Greene where 'adamant' is unequivocally a magnet: l. 26, 'frumps' = mocks or sarcastic taunts, sometimes lies, ut freq.
 - , 183, l. 13, 'Agyte' = agate : l. 14, 'Chrisocoll' = see on p. 55, l. 21.
 - 184, l. 5, 'meane' = medium: l. 10, 'authenticall' = authorized or established by (your saying): l. 24, 'wrapt . . . Mullidor' = wrapt one called Mullidor in the labyrinth of love, etc.
 - though it were schollar [in]: l. 14,
 'ruffling' = swaggering: l. 17, 'randon'
 = random, as before.
 - ", 186, l. 2, 'espyed' misprinted in original 'espying': or qy. read 'espying, marueiled'?: l. 10, 'than an Asse' such words as Venus, Phillis, Jesus, etc., had no

mark of genitive, the 's' being apparently

- Page 187, l. 3, 'turning Crabbes in the fire' = roasting crab-apples to put in ale. Cf. Mid. N. Dr. II. i.: l. 7, 'lenten' = Lenten: l. 9, 'alate' = lately: l. 22, 'potled'—probable error for 'pottle,' i.e. pottle of ale: l. 28, 'the divell in a morter = the devil in a Lord Chancellor's, etc., cap; or it may be in a chamber-light (Fr. Mortier).
 - ,, 188, l. 5, 'Lockeram'—a cheap linen of more or less coarseness: last l., 'springall' = youth.
 - " 189, l. 10, 'testificate'—used like 'reparrell' (l. 28) as showing their rusticity = testimonial: l. 23, 'smugge' = spruce, neat (Cotgrave gives it as one of the synonymes of Fr. Net): last l., 'reparrell' = apparel—see on l. 10.
 - 190, l. 24, 'ambrie' = cupboard or pantry:
 l. 25, 'cantle' = a corner, i.e. a piece:
 l. 27, 'standvppes' = shoes, or possibly
 boots: l. 28, 'Lockeram band' = fall. See
 on p. 188, l, 5.
 - .. 101, 1, 15, 'eaw' = ewe.
 - ", 193, l. 17, 'Marie' = marry: l. 26, 'raind' = rein'd.
 - ", 194, l. 7, 'blemisht' = stained: l. 19, 'fronts' = faces. See on p. 92, l. 27: l. 25, 'gree' = favour, desire (the verb 'agree')
 - ", 195, l. 3, 'affects' = affections: l. 7, 'rootes of Hemlock'—see separate lists, as before: l. 12, 'Phere' = associate: l. 22, 'afore'

- = before: l. 23, 'meacock' = effeminate, silly fellow.
- Page 196, l. 3, 'sconce' = fort or bastion—a rather far-fetched application explained by the next clause: l. 17, 'tall' = manful or manly. So p. 199, l. 12.
 - " 197, l. 1, 'hincht'— cannot find this word anywhere. Cotgrave has, under Pinse morille [Pinch, the (small red) Mushroom]. 'The game called 'hinch, pinch, and laugh not': l. 5, 'old coyle'—then a common expression for a great coyle or tumult: l. 28, 'iumpe' = agree to, ut freq.
 - or sail in a vessel; now we have the 'royal' above it: l. 8, 'start vp' = 'ed,' as before: l. 13, 'circumglaze' probably Mullidor's attempt at a fine word, like 'testificate' and 'reparel.' To 'gleg' (according to Mr. J. O. Halliwell-Phillipps, is Northern for to glance aslant or slyly, and Glag Lanch is to see. If not the first of these, he may mean polish her around, i.e. smooth her down; or else circumdaze = addle her senses. Cf. 'so wrapt her,'
 - " 199, l. 2, 'dudgin dagger'—the common kind of daggers were hafted with dudgeon or box wood. A wooden handle would be liable to become loose: l. 12, 'tried' = proved, ut freq.: l. 23, 'vncoth' = strange, ut freq.: l. 27, 'extemperat' = extemporaneous.

etc.: 1. 24, 'venies' = bouts in fencing.

- Page 200, l. 3, 'vale' = veil: l. 18, 'nild' = nould, i.e. would not.
 - " 202, l. 21, 'confection'—seems to be used, as elsewhere = a mixture of drugs or poisons as of a mixture containing these.
 - " 203, l. 3, 'peeuish' = overthwart, perverse, arrogant: l. 5, 'able kil'; and p. 206, l. 3, 'strings crack'—these are excellent examples of the elision of 'to' before the infinitive. This is not so frequent in Greene as in others: l. 8, 'Aconiton,' and l. 25, 'standish'—see Glossarial-Index, s.v., for many examples.
 - , 205, l. 6, 'Adamants' = loadstones—see on p. 182, l. 17.
 - ", 207, l. 13, 'Erecine' must have been in Thessaly: l. 15, 'tracing' = tracking, following.
 - ", 211, l. 9, 'bauins'—as before. See Glossarial-Index, s.v.: l. 9, 'blaze' = a sudden and quick-lasting 'blaze.' Hence the phrase is a double intensitive: l. 22, 'confused' = in doubt or bewildered.
 - but the bones of a whale cleaned and polished and exposed to the sun as we see them in England.
 - stantive use of a word the adjective form of which has caused much discussion lately, ended by the discovery of other examples.

"Since Frenchman are so braid"

- means, since they are so deceitful. Here it is = deceit.
- Page 215, l. 21, 'bottle of hay' = bundle of hay—probably of fixed size. Qy. sufficient for a meal?
 - ", 216, l. 9, 'searecloth' = cere-cloth, i.e. a waxed cloth or plaster: l. 12, 'no ho' = no whoa, no stop—the carter's term to his horse.
 - , 217, l. 11, 'stoand' = entire.
 - ", 218, l. 4, 'trauells' = travails: l. 22, 'weld' = wield, as in Spenser.
 - ", 219, l. 2, 'woodcock' = silly fellow: l. 4, 'fond'

 = foolish, ut freq.: l. 6—delete one

 'than': l. 13, 'stale' = decoy—formed and
 painted in shape of the real animal. So
 p. 222, l. 4, ut freq.: l. 26, 'weare'—

 misprinted in the original (or variant)

 'were.' Cf. p. 220, l. 7.
 - , 220, l. I, 'affects' = affections, ut freq.

- 'Kistrell'—misprinted in the original 'Kitrell.'
- Page 223, l. 3, 'Achilles sword'—a slip—elsewhere Greene correctly attributes the power to his lance: l. 8, 'preserves' = preservatives. Greene probably chose this because the two preceding words are dissyllabic. 'Mithridates' were generally complex and made up in a paste or 'preserve' form: l. 24, 'fulfild' = filled full, ut freq.
 - series of poor little woodcuts of the twelve Signs of the Zodiac—not at all worthy of reproduction. But we furnish the twelve Signs in type-ornament form: 1. 19, 'plow swaynes'—as the chief is the 'labourer,' not the 'farmer,' one doubts its meaning as = plough labourers. Qy.—misprint for 'plow shares'?
 - "" 225, l. 2, 'whereas' = whereat: l. 16, 'vaine'—
 misprinted in the original 'vaine': l. 22,
 'riping' = ripening: ibid., 'yeolow'—note
 the spelling, as Spenser in the 'Ruines
 of Time,' l. 10—" Rending her yeolow
 locks..." (my edn. Works, Vol. II. p. 11).
 - " 225, l. 15, 'Lemman'—here Apollo the man lover, not the female: ibid., 'blins' = stops, stays, delays, as elsewhere,
 - ", 227, l. 11, 'When as' = when at, as whereas is whereat: l. 18, 'repent' = repentance: l. 20, 'glide' = gliding (stream): l. 21, 'baine = bathe (Fr. bain): l. 22, 'daies growes

short' = time grows short: i.e. collective plural: and so l. 24, 'flowers . . . hides.' My good friend Dr. Brinsley Nicholson writes me here—"an attempt to excuse Greene's inaccuracy which is overthrown by dozens of examples in him, in Shakespeare, and in contemporaries." I doubt the alleged inaccuracies. Greene, at least was a scholar-" Master of Arts in both Universities," and I, for one, hold it extremely unlikely that any scholar would. or could, perpetrate grammatical 'inaccuracies.' I find, if we think deeply and patiently enough, accuracy underlies all, even the most startling forms. Of course I none the less admit that technically our later forms are more exact: but this concession leaves untouched the inward accuracy of Greene and other contemporaries. See more on this in annotated Life in Vol. I.

Page 228, l. 5, 'whist' = hushed: l. 17, 'youth by follie'—qy. a misprint for 'youthly,' seeing that the sense requires 'Repentance' to be the nominative to 'expells'?

II. PROVERBS, PROVERBIAL SAYINGS, PHRASES, ETC.

- Page 8, l. 13, 'I stretch my strings'—a musical metaphor.
 - " 16, l. 23, 'as if all should split again'—a nautical metaphor, from the effect of a wind-tempest on a ship's sails.

- Page 23, l. 13, 'plod too far'—we say 'go too far':

 l. 15, 'clawe a fooles shoulder' = flatter.
 - ", 26, l. 15, 'out of sight out of mind': l. 17, 'like Venetian traffique . . for his penney'

 = Venetian harlotry: last l., 'leading apes in hell.'
 - 34, l. 5, 'treading his shoe without anie slip':
 l. 14, 'set vp her rest with him.'
 - ypon thornes while you have a husband?':

 1. 5, 'no sooner hatched, with the Lapwing,'
 etc. Cf. Hamlet V. ii.
 - " 36, l. 9, 'want breakes amitie' . . . 'loue beginneth in golde and endeth in beggerie' . . . 'such as marrie but to a faire face tie themselues oft to a foule bargain': l. 19, 'persuade a woman from her will'.
 - , 37, 1. 27, 'fetching the compasse of his conceipt beyond the Moone.'
 - ,, 38, l. 14, 'He that harped on another string.'
 - " 39, 1. 24, 'venter a ioint, but shee would further him in his loues.'
 - ,, 41, l. 21, 'find a knot in a rish.'
 - ", 42, l. 10, 'stirred his stumps'—still used: l. 26, 'weakest to the wal'...' when I am worst forst to holde the candle.'
 - " 44, l. 15, 'It is a neere collop... is out of the own flesh,' i.e. out of the very or inner flesh.
 - ,, 47, last 1., 'Loue is no lacke.'
 - " 52, 1. 27, 'the old goose could spie the gosling winke.'

- Page 54, l. 28, 'straind a note too high in love'—another musical metaphor.
 - .. 57, l. 2, ' present him a boane to knaw on.'
 - " 59, 1. 4, 'such as looke not before they leape, oft fall into the ditch': 1. 8, 'Fawnes choose their foode by the olde Bucke.'
 - ,, 64, last 1., 'wishers and woulders were neuer good householders.'
 - " 68, l. 11, 'the old prouerb, he had scarce seen the lions'—see Notes and Illustrations on the place.
 - ,, 71. l. 9, 'fairest blossomes are soonest nipt with frost,' etc.
 - ", 73, 1. 22, 'perceived by the Weather-cocke where the winde blewe.'
 - " 74, l. 18, 'his hart on his halfpeny'— This example affords a capital illustration of the meaning of this frequent proverb in Greene, and also suggests its origin, viz., a reference to the joy and care of a child when he holds his unaccustomed halfpenny. Every one has noticed this: l. 27, 'set all her wits vpon Ela'—see Notes and Illustrations.
 - "81, 1. 9, 'wilt thou strive against the streame?'
 and with the deere feede against the winde?'
 1. 18, 'hee that is afraid of everie bush, shal never prove good huntsman,' and 'he that at everie gust puts to the Lea shall never be good Navigator': 1. 27, 'the blind eates manie a flie, and much runnes by the mill that the Miller never knowes of.'

- Page 82, 1. 1, 'the euill that the eye sees not the heart rues not.'
 - "83, l. 22, 'women are wily cattle': l. 24, 'what our wantonnes offends, your wisdom may amend.'
 - "84, l. 24, 'the ouen dampt vp hath the greatest heate'—'fire supprest is most forceable'—'the streames stopt, either break through or overflow; and sorrowes concealed,' etc.
 - "85, l. 1, 'spit on thy hand, and lay holde on thy hart.' The former done still in Scotland before shaking hands as pledge of closing a bargain: l. 2, 'one pound of care payes not an ounce of debt': l. 3, 'friend to reueale is a medicine to releeue': l. 20, 'when the object is offered to the sense [of touch], the sight is hindred.'
 - , 86, l. 11, 'Cupid lying at advantage': l. 27, 'falts in affections, are but sleight follies.'
 - "when the Tygre hunteth for his pray, doth he then hide his clawes?"—"Is the pyrit stone then most hote, when it looketh most colde?"—see separate list of names, etc., after Glossary.
 - "88, l. 20, 'I am a woman, I am easie to be wonne': l. 22, 'Thou arte (sweet seruant) in a wrong box, and sittest far beside the cushion'—This looks as though the 'box' of the proverb was not a chest, but a seat in a coach.
 - , 89, l. 1, 'treade her shoo awrie': l. 4, 'nipped

on the head': 1. 6, 'take the showre for the first storme': 1. 7, 'so ill a woodman to give over the chace at ý first default': 1. 21, 'a moneths punishment in hell': 1. 22, 'as the Marriners say, a man would have thought all would have split againe.'

- Page 90, l. 3, 'such a fresh water souldier that you faint at the first skirmish': l. 9, 'a womans heart and her tongue are not relatives': l. 10, 'tis not ever true, that what the heart thinketh the tongue clacketh' [or clinketh, as over and over I've heard it in Scotland]: l. 14, 'a faint heart never wonne faire Ladie': l. 19, 'both made vp their market with a faire of kisses.'
 - " 97, l. 8, 'a crooked sien [sion or scion] will proue a straight tree.'
 - ", 99, l. 19, 'give her a weede that presents me a flower': l. 26, 'thy harvest is in the grasse,' i.e. in the unseeded stem or herb.
 - " 101, l. 16, 'the greatest spring-tide the deadest ebbe': l. 17, 'so long went the pot to the water that at last,' etc.: l. 22, 'well might the Diuell dance there,' etc.—punning on the cross then stamped on various coins, and on the devil's dislike to the cross—a commonly used pun.
 - ", 102, l. 5, 'spie by the laste where the shoe wringde him': l. 9, 'set him as a tyrde iade to picke a sallet': l. 16, 'she found that all his corne was on the floore': l. 17, 'his sheepe were clipt, and the Wooll solde.'

- Page 103, l. 20, 'heate suppressed is more violent, the streame stopt makes the greater Deluge.'
 - " 105, l. 15, 'an ounce of pleasure with a tunne of mishappes': l. 26, 'thou, and thy name is ever cast in my dish'—figure from the beggar's dish.
 - , 106, l. 16, 'with a flea in his eare': l. 24, 'experience is a true mistresse': l. 25, 'hast thou not leaped into the ditch which thou hast long foreseene.'
 - 116, l. 1, 'God and Saint Francis thank you':
 l. 2, 'I tooke heart at grasse': l. 17, 'a
 knot in a rush.'
 - , 124, 1.8, 'to bed with the Bee and vp with the Larke': 1.24, 'I watch with the mouse to argue my selfe miserable.'
 - , 125, l. 23, 'Had I wist is a great fault.'
 - " 127, l. 17, 'such as he had were wonne with an Apple, trencher friends.'
 - , 128, l. 16, 'this old sayd sawe, Miserrimum est fuisse beatum.'
 - ", 137, l. 2, 'forgive and forget': l. 6, 'Bones that are broken & after set again are the more stronger; where the Beech Tree is cut, there it growes hard; reconciled friendship is the sweetest amitie.'
 - " 138, l. 19, 'as the Marble dropps against rayne, so their teares forepoynt mischiefe': l. 25, 'feare fire with the Childe': last l., 'Returne not with the dog to the vomit.'
 - ", 139, l. 1, 'wallow not with swine in the myre': ibid., 'foresee not the best & follow the worst'

—the common-place classical phrase, in later day pathetically associated with Byron, as everybody knows: l. 10, 'Whoso handleth pitch must needes be defiled': l. 11, 'the tree that abideth many blasts, at last falleth by the Carpenter's axe; the bird y striketh at every stale cannot long escape the snare; so long goeth the pitcher to the brooke, that at last it comes broken home': l. 16, 'who so bindeth two sins together shall never be unrevenged in the one.'

- Page 142, l. 18, marrie gippe Giglet' = gee up, Giglet, " 148, l. 1, 'it is harde to strive against the streame': l. 5, 'love hoppeth against the hill': l. 20, 'shee liveth chastly that liveth
 - charily.'
 150, l. 23, 'put case I were so carelesse.'
 - " 152, l. 24, 'it is vnfit for the young Fawn to lead the old buck; for a blind man to be guide to him that hath his sight.'
 - " 153, l. 11, 'wrest her vpon a higher pinne'—a musical phrase: l. 24, 'I have the tree in my hand and meane to inioy the fruite; I have beaten the bush and now will not let the birds flie,'
 - , 154, l. 1, 'your sterne lookes shall stand for no sterling': l. 6, 'she which hath crackt her credite is halfe hanged': l. 23, 'of two euils chuse the least.'
 - " 168, last l., 'enough is a feast.'
 - ,, 169, l. 9, 'playd loth to depart'—qy. name of a tune?

- Page 174, l. 10, 'he loued with the bird to flie to the flame,' etc.
 - ", 180, 1.9, 'fancie had not troad on thy heele':

 1. 24, 'I shall bate with the Bunting' = unquiet fluttering.
 - , 181, l. 20, 'strike while the yron was hot.'
 - " 182, l. 4, 'wounded with Achilles Launce, could not be healed but by the same truncheon': l. 12, 'lowe fortunes have high desires.'
 - " 185, l. 3, 'furnish a Cobler's shoppe with clowting leather' = patching leather (qy. for the soles?): l. 10, 'into his great head she put little wit.'
 - ,, 186, l. 5, 'The Crowe thinkes her foules the fairest,' etc.
 - , 187, l. 8, 'to night thou art not thine owne man':

 l. 26, 'it playes the diuell in a morter'—
 see Notes and Illustrations on the place.
 - " 189, l. 12, 'carries away the bell': l. 16, 'when a dogge wagges his taile hee loues his master': last l.. 'make no bones at it.'
 - Dogs come together by scratching': 1. 13, 'a thing of course': 1. 20, 'ieopard a ioynt.'
 - " 191, l. 10, 'here is wether that makes grasse plentie': l. 20, 'casting a sheepes eye at hir.' What is the origin of this saying? Qy. because the sheep is innocent looking? l. 25, 'thinking to bring him into a paradise'—i.e. of Fools.
 - ,, 192, l. 17, 'hearing the asse ruffle': l. 25, 'looke before you leap.'

- Page 193, l. 2, 'there are more maides than Malkin':

 1. 8, 'mynse it as twere a mare ouer a mouth
 full of Thistles.'
 - " 195, l. 23, 'as brag, with your Buzzard on your fist, as a sow under an apple tree.'
 - , 196, l. 5, 'till thou beest come out by the eares.'
 - worketh like a iuglers box': l. II, 'he knoweth not a B from a Battildore': l. 20, 'cariest it home to y hive with a heave & hoe'—still a nautical phrase.
 - 198, l. 18, 'wrapt in his mothers smock when hee was borne' = one taken care of and worth the taking care.
 - " 199, l. 1, 'made mee loose in the haft like a dudgin dagger.'
 - " 204, l. 17, 'nipt him on the pate': l. 19, 'he and a pen were as fitte as an asse and a harpe.'
 - ", 218, l. 20, 'the least haire hath his shadow':
 l. 25, 'better golden gyues than iron fetters.'
 - for one Eele'—more foolish than looking for a needle in a bundle of hay.
 - ,, 220, l. 7, 'weare you two the Willowe Garland'.
 - " 226, l. 19, 'I cast my count'—we now say 'I cast [up] my count.'
- *** See annotated Life in Vol. I., for critical notices of emendations herein suggested by Dyce.

A. B. G.

END OF VOL. VIII.

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