

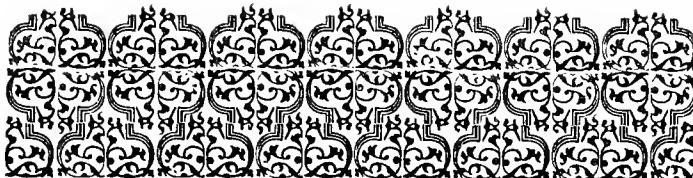
GREENES  
Newes both from  
*Heauen and Hell.*

Prohibited the first for writing of  
Bookes, and banished out of the laſt for  
displaying of *Conny-  
catchers.*

*Commended to the Preſſe*  
By B. R.



AT LONDON,  
Printed, Anno. Domini.  
1593.



To the renowned *Gregory Coolle*,  
chiefe Burgermaister of the Castle of *Clonarde*,  
Marquesse of merry conceits, and Grande *Caualier* amongst  
Boune companions and all good fellowship; At his  
5 chaste Chamber at *Dublyne* in Irelande,  
*B. R.* sendeth greeting.

10

15

I

T was my fortune (Sir) not long since, to trauaile between *Pancredge Church* & *Pye-corner*, beeing somewhat late in the Eue-ning, about an houre after the setting of the Sunne: and castynge vp mine eyes towardes the skyes, to beholde the twinckling starres that had then but newly discouered themselfues, I might see how the Man of the Moone was beating of his dogge. Thys fearefull aspect did wonderfullie daunt mee, with doubt of some angry accident that might shortly betide me; And I had not paced many steppes, but 20 directly in the path before me, there appeared a most griflie ghoſt wrapt vp in a sheete, his face onely discouered, with a penne vnder his eare, and holding a scrowle of written paper in his hande. I crossed the way of purpose to shunne him, but crosse as I could he was euer-more before mee, that passe I 25 might not, vnlesſe I should runne ouer him; I remembred my ſelfe how old Fathers were wont to ſay, that Spirits in ſuch caſes, had no power to ſpeake to any man, vntill they were firſt ſpoken vnto, and therefore taking vnto me a conſtrained courage, I asked him what he was, & what was his meaning

A 2

to

## The Epistle.

to trouble mee in my passage? who aunswered thus. I am (faide he) a Spirite, yet feare thou nothing, for my comming is not to doe thee any manner of harme, but to request a matter at thy handes which thou maist not denay me, for thou must vnderstand, I am the spirite of *Robert Greene*, not vn- 5 knowne vnto thee (I am sure) by my name, when my wry- tings lately priuiledged on euery post, hath giuen notice of my name vnto infinite numbers of people that neuer knewe me by the view of my person.

The matter that I would request thee to performe, is the 10 committing of these papers to the Presse, wherein, because I haue there manifested the very drift of mine owne deuise, I may therefore be the more sparing vnto thee, in relating the circumstances: thys may suffise, nor faile not thou to doe as I haue willed thee. 15

Heere-withall, popping the papers into my hand, I can not tell what account I should make of his departure, or whe- ther I might say he flew into the ayre, or funck into the earth, he was so suddainly vanisht out of my sight, but I was gladde I was ridde of his companie, and home-wards I went hastilie 20 to my lodging: where calling for a light, I began by my selfe to peruse ouer these lynes, wherein I founde such a messe of altogether, that I knew not what I should make of the med- lie.

Spyced it was heere and there with *Myflin*, a kinde of 25 graine that is made of Knaue and Rye, mixed both together, pleasurable it was in many places to be read, and therefore fit- test for melancholie humors. And bethinking mee of my freendes to whom I might commend it, in the end I resolued of your owne good selfe: and the rather finding it to be de- 30 lightfull and pleasant, I thought it a fit restorative to recall you from that melancholie conceite, that hath so long pesterd your braines, for the losse of a Myll, dismembred and shaken downe by the rage of a pelting paffe of winde, but such aaultry tempest should not dismay a man of your spyrite, 35 when it is well knowne to every Gamster, that although the knaue of trumpes be the seconde Carde at *Mawe*, yet the fие-finger

## The Epistle.

fiue-finger may commaunde both him and all the rest of the pack. I could tel you a tale (Maister *Gregory*) of an Asse, who leauing the place where he was first foald, fortuned to stray into a strange Forrest, and finding the beastes of that Desart 5 to be but simple, and had neuer seene the maiestie of the Lyon, neyther had they felt the cruelty of the Tygar, nor had any manner of wayes beene wronged by the oppresions of the Leopard, the Beare, the Panther, or any other deuouring or rauening beastes.

10 Thys paltry Asse, seeing their simple plainnesse, founde meanes to wrap himselfe in a Lyons skinne, and then with proude lookes and loftie countenaunce, raunging among the Heardes, he would stretch out his filthy throate, bellowing and braying (as nature had taught him) with so hideous and 15 horrible a noyse, that the poore beastes that were within hys hearing beganne already to tremble & shake for feare. Then he began to tyrannise, commaunding what himselfe pleased amongst them, and not contenting himselfe with that obeyfance, which had beene fit for an honorable beast, and more 20 then was due to an Asse, would many times take vpon him some duties proper to the person of the Lyon himselfe: and in the end became a notable sheepe-byter, worrying and deuouring whole flockes of poore sheepe, that happened within his precincte or iurisdiction.

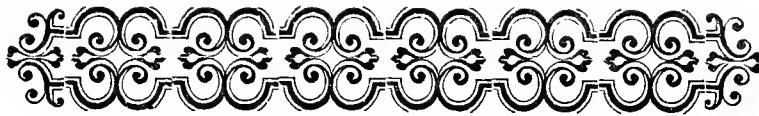
25 The Wolfe that had layne all this while close amongst the Mountaines, and hauing gotten vnderstanding of the nature and disposition of this Asse, thought him a fit companion for his consorthyppe, and combyned with him in such a freendly league, that betweene them, the one taking opportu- 30 nity to filch and steale in the night, the other vsing his tyranny to rauen and deuoure in the day, the poore hameleſſe Cattle that liued within their reach, were stil opprefſed, & neuer free frō perril. The Asse grew to that greatness that he was furna- 35 med *Tarquinus superbus*, not that *Tarquine* that rauished *Lucretia* of her honour, but it was that *Tarquine* that rauished a Church of her lyuings: and an Asse I founde him, and so I will leaue him.

## The Epistle.

Peraduenture (Ma. *Gregory*) you expected a wiser conclusion, but what would you looke to come from a man that hath beene lately so skarred with sprites, that he hath not yet recouered the right vfe of his fences : it may be true that deuils are afraid to passe by a crosse, but I am sure knaues are 5 not afraide to shroude themselues behinde a Condite. You may perceiue (Syr) my wits are sette a wandering, but knowing your discretion enough to conceiue my meaning, I will trouble you no further, but with this abrupt conclucion will bid you hartily farewell. 10

Your assured freend.

B. R.



## ¶ Greenes newes both from Heauen and Hell.

5 B E not dismayed (*my good freends*) that a deade man shoulde acquaint you with newes, for it is I, I per se I, Robert Greene, in Artibus Magister, he that was wont to sollicite your mindes with many pleasant conciets, & to fit your fancies at y<sup>e</sup> least euery quarter of the yere, with strange & quaint deuises, best beseeming the season, and 10 most answerable to your pleasures. Hauing therfore so many times taken the true measure of your appetites, & finding the very height of your dispositions inclined to nouelties, that you might the rather see howe willing I am to satisfie your humors, I haue sent you heere the whole discourse of my ad- 15 ventures, what hath betyde mee since I left the terrestiall worlde, with a very true report of my infernall trauailes. Strange peraduenture for you to vnderstand of, but for the truth of the matter, if you shall any where stand in doubt, doo but compare the place with that golden volume of *Legenda 20 Aurea*, or with the workes of that famed wise man Syr Thomas More, in his Booke of *Quoth I to your freend, and quoth your freend to me*, in his discourse of *Eutopia, & The supplication of soules in Purgatory*. If your conscience be yet scrupeld, and that these authentike authorities will not 25 fully satisfie you: turne ouer then to the *Remish Testament*, and leauing the Chapters and wordes of the Euangelistes, looke into the notes inserted by that holy fraternitie of *Ie- 30 suites*, and that blessed broode of *Seminaries*, and tel me then if you do not find matter seeming more incredible the any by me here alleaged, and yet I dare boldly auouch it, (and that without blushing) if you consider duly of the circumstances, you

## Greenes newes

you shall finde no leſſe cause to laugh at the one, then to beleeue the other. Hauing thus prepared your mindes to receiue the certaintie of my discourse, now likewise ſette open your eares, and be attentiuē to the reſt, for thus it foloweth.

When pittiles *Death* had ſommoned my ſoule to leaue his 5 transitory eſtate, infuſing his froſty humouer through all the parts of my body, leauing my breathles corps a fitte pray for the ſepulcher, my deceaſed ghoſt wandring now to and fro in many obſcure & vnknoſt waies, deſirous to find a place of reſt, at the length lighted into a ſtraight and narrow tract, ſo 10 ouergrowne with bryers & brambles, that there was almoſt no paſſage left, and as it ſhould ſeeme vnto me, did lead vnto ſome ruined place, where all former trade & traffique was decayed, the ſolitarines wherof (me thought) was beſt beſetting & anſwerable to my humor: ſo that with great diſſiculty 15 ſcratching through the buſhes, it brought me at the length to the foote of a mighty ſteepe Hil, whose height I was not able to diſcern, but by the vnpleafantnes of y path, leading ouer monſtrous Rocks craggy & ill fauoured to paſſe, I perceiued it to be the high way to Heauen. But ſhould I tel you heere 20 the toile y I had to climbe this Mountaine, with what laſor I attained it, how many breathings I tooke by the way beſore I could reach it, what folly I found in my ſelfe to vnder-take it, and ſhould I diſcribe vnto you at large howe many inconueniences they finde that vndertakes thys paſſage to 25 Heauen, peraduenture I might ſo diſcourage you, that a great number would neuer deſire to come there at all, but thys I can affiur you for your better comforts, he that hath a willing minde to vndertake thys trauaile, let hym bring with hym a pottle of that lyquour, which I was wont to 30 drinke with my Hosteffe, at the Redde latteſſe in *Tormoyle ſtreete*, and hee ſhall finde it more auailable in the furthering of hys iourney, then a whole poke full of the Popes pardons.

When I was gotten vp to the toppe of the Hill, after 35 that I had a little panted for breath, looking forwarde ouer a fayre greene, (as my high way did direct mee) I myght perceiue

## both from Heauen and Hell.

perceiue (a little distant from mee) where two were fast together by the eares: weapons they had none, more than their bare fistes, but with them they laide on such load, that I perceiued the one was loath to remayne in the others debt; 5 and I somewhat mending my pace, when I was come vnto them, presently knew them both to be of mine olde acquaintance, the one *Veluet breeches*, the other *Cloth breeches*, betweene whom I had (not long before) beene a sticke, and (as I supposid) had taken a quyet order betweene them for 10 ending of all controuersies. But they neuer the more vpon my ariuall forbare the one the other, but sometimes with downe-right blowes, enough to haue feld a Bullocke: sometime with bobbes at the lippes, able to haue dasht out theyr teeth: otherwhiles lugging one an other by the eares, as if 15 they had committed some offence in listning too lightly after foolish speeches: but *Veluet breeches* being in the French fashion, with a goodly locke hanging downe his left cheeke, wherin *Cloth breeches* had so snarled his fingers, that when I thrust in betweene them to haue parted them, I could not 20 pluck away his hand, tyll he had pluckt away hayre and all that he had holde on: but hauing once put them a funder, I wild them as they were men to hold their hands, why (qd. I) doo you know what you doo, or doo you remember the place where you are? I am sure wee be not farre from Heauen 25 gates, and if S. Peter should vnderstand of your abuse, I knowe he would commit you both to the Porters Lodge.

*Veluet breeches*, who was so farre out of breath that hee was not able to speake, in the end, when he had a while well blustred and blowne, deliuuered mee these words.

30 This base fellowe, whom I haue euer disdayned, and al- though in our late controuersie, by the inconsideration of a partiall Iurie, he preuayled against me, sentence being giuen on his side, the which I thinke dooth incourage him the rather in his presumption toward mee, but I euer scorning 35 him, denying him (as he is) vnworthy to conuerse with a Gentleman of any quallitie or trayning vp: and as I was yerwhiles quyety, trauelling all alone in a solitarie muse,

B

how

## Greenes newes

how I might behaue my selfe when I came to heauen, what salutations I might render to the Saincts, with what grace I might giue the *Baseles manes* to the Monarchs and great Princes that had raigned in the world, and what countenance I might carry, best beseeming a Gentleman of my reputation & calling, newly comming amongst so many strangers of al sorts, amongst whom I was altogether vnknown, and had no manner of acquaintance: as I was painfully and with great difficultie trauelling vp the hill, in these & other like cogitations, this barbarous fellow (whose rude training 10 vp hath better inabled him to indure labour & toile, than those that haue lyued in pleasure & ease) was followed hard at my heeles before I was aware of him, which in truth at the first made me halfe afraide, but looking back & seing who it was, my feare was turned into disdaine, and my stomacke mer- 15 uailously began to swell against him: but without any manner of word speaking vnto him I kept my way, the which being so straight (as you know) that there can passe but one at once, I held him behinde me, till I was gotten vp to the very height of the hill, where the passage growing more spacious, 20 he makes no more adoe at the matter, but without any word speaking stpes afore, & began to hold on his way as though I had beene but his man, and should haue waited on him in his iourney, the which my stomacke not able to brooke, I repro- ued his malipart fauincesse; he by and by began to grow in- 25 to comparisons, both of my selfe and my petegree, when it is well knowne that *Veluet breeches* was neuer lesse than a Gentleman, and *Cloth breeches* neuer more than a Pesant, and that I haue euer kept company, where such a vassell as he is might be ashamed to shew his face, and therefore holde 30 it in great scorne, that he should take the way of me, now trauelling to so glorious a presence. *Cloth breeches*, that stood all this while with his head hanging on the one side, and by- ting of his nether lyppe, aunswered him thus.

*Veluet breeches*, touching thy parentage, from whence 35 thou art descended, what thou maist claime for thy gentilitie, and how thou maintaynest thy brauery, thou knowest hath beene

## both from Heauen and Hell.

beene already sufficiently disputed vpon betweene vs, and by the verdict of a Iury, (whom thou falsly accusest of inconsiderat partiality) they haue pronounced against thee, and decreed on my side, the which sentence, vntill by a new tryall  
5 thou doost seeke to auerre, thou art not till then able to auoid: I wil not therfore reitterate any matter already handled and fully concluded, but briefly to aunswere thy passed speeches; Thou saydst thou wert halfe afraide when I first ouertooke thee, and I beleue thee, for I perceiued by thy blushing, that  
10 either thou wast in doubt of a *Cunstable*, that had followed thee with Hue and crye, or of a *Bayliffe*, with a writ out of the Kings Bench, that had come to arrest thee: for the geneeositie thou braggest of, acknowledging thy selfe to be a gentleman, & accounting me for a pefant, I will deale plainly  
15 with thee in that: there be some fooles in deede like thy selfe, that doo cal thee Master *Veluet breeches*, & mee they call goodman *Cloth breeches*, but looke generally through al the parts of *England*, and you shall see the goodman *Cloth breeches* at home keeping good Hospitalitie, when Ma. *Veluet breeches*  
20 sels away his house, or keepes his doores shut and will not be spoken withall: for the company which thou sayst thou hast kept, wher I might be ashamed to shew my face, I know not wher it shold be, vnlesse in some brothel house, for those be the places where thou most frequenteſt: wherin thou hast truely  
25 ipokē, for there in deed I would be much ashamed to be feene.

*Veluet breeches* would faine haue replyed, but that I interrupted him in these words, saying.

My Maſters and very good friends both, I perceiue you haue not read al my bookeſ, which I haue purpoſly put forth  
30 for the benefite of my Countrymen, for if you had but ſeene *Greenes farewell to folly*, me thinkes the bare ttle, without turning ouer leafe to looke further into the matter, might haue moued you to this conſideration, that the very ground of your contention is meere folly and flat foolishnes, the which  
35 you ſhould haue shaken hands withall, and ſo to haue bid it adieu, taking a faire farewel of a foule ouersight: and in one other of my bookeſ, called *Greenes groats worth of wit*: why, if there were but one peny worth of wit equally diſtributed

## Greenes newes

betweene you both, you would neuer vse to quarrell, & fal together by the eares as you trauell by the way: blame me not my good Countrymen, though I vse bitter expulsives to expel your grosse errors, you are trauelling I perceiue to a place of blessed peace & quiet rest, what wold you think to enter with 5 malicious mindes? no, the Porter is circumspect, & can looke narrowly into mens dispositions. You Maister *Veluet breeches*, you are a Gentleman, and you are brauely futed & gallantly apparrelled, and you peraduenture will looke for preheminence: but doo you think that either your great tytle 10 or gay clothes will any thing at all stand you in steede: no, for S. *Peter* will first looke into your Scutchine, (for if you be a Gentleman you must shewe your armes, otherwise you will be proued but a counterfeit, and those S. *Peter* cannot abide) and if there shall be found either in the coate or crest, 15 any bloody or cruell beast, any rauenous or deuouring foule, or any other marke or token whatsoeuer, whereby it may appeare, that your gentry hath beene aduaunced by rape, by rauen, by bribery, by deceipt, by oppression, by extortion, by vsury, by periury, and to make short, by any manner of fraud 20 and subtilitie, you are vtterly vndoone, he will locke the gates against you, hee will not suffer you to enter. And you good-man *Cloth breeches*, peraduenture you vnder your simple attyre and homely habit, you thinke to find so much the more fauour: but I can tell you it will not serue the turne, for S. 25 *Peter* shuts out fortie false knaues in a yeere, that come creeping thether in Fryers coates, and Monkes Coules.

I am now to put you in mind of an other of my Bookes, called *Greenes neuer too late*: O that you had but read ouer that Booke in time, but nowe it is too late for me to spend 30 such wishes, and more later for you to redresse your former follyes, it resteth then that we agree together like friends, and trauell together like louing Countreymen: let vs not exhibite complaints one against an other, for you shall finde we shall be charged with matters more than we shall well 35 be able to aunswere.

Truely said *Veluet breeches*, your wife perfwasions hath  
fo

## both from Heauen and Hell.

so lenefied my cholloricke passion, that I am contented for this present iourney, to admit of *Cloth breeches* as a companion: neither is it himselfe that I doe so much dispise, but his meane and simple attyre.

5 And for my part (answering *Cloth breeches*) I can be contented to passe in friendly maner with *Veluet breeches*: neyther is it his gay apparrell that I find fault withall, but with his feuerall and fundry abuses.

Well then (said I) I hope the greatest part of this quarrel is at an end for the prefent, let vs therfore spend no longer time with any further discoursings, but let vs goe forwards till wee haue likewise ended our iourney: agreede said they, and forwardes wee went, and within a very small distanse we might perceiue a farre more cleere and radient light, than euer before till that present wee had beholden, and immediatly wee might beholde the tops of the heauenly buildings, whose towers and turrets were of such exceeding brightnes, that our eyes dazed, we were not able directly to looke vpon them, which gaue vs so great comfort, that we mended our pace, tyll at the last we might heare the most sweete and delectable melody, that euer (I thinke) happened to any eares, the harmony not possible to bee descrybed; and by this time we were come hard to heauen gates, which we found shutte and fast locked, and at the leaft, a hundredth persons walking vp and downe with sad and heauie countenances, conferring now and then by two or three together, making semblance by the shewe of their behauour, that their mindes were perplexed with some distressed griefe. This spectacle made mee wonderfully to muse, what I might think of the matter, but we three holding still in company, passed too and fro by them, and they lykewise by vs, we knowing none of them, nor they knowing none of vs: at the last meeting with one al alone by himself, whose graue & sober aspects, argued a stayed and discrete mind, and leauing my company for the time, I singled him out, first saluting him with a courteous *Conge*, the which he as kindly returning me agayne, I began in this sort to enter parle with him.

## Greenes newes

Courteous Syr, if a strangers boldnesse might not breed offence, I would request you to satisfie mee but in this one demaund, I am (as you may perceiue) vnacquainted in this place, hauing taken a tedious and painfull trauell, and being now arriued, would be glad to vnderstand the successe of my 5 iourney, and I haue walked too & fro heere this long hower, and in all this space I could neuer see any one passe either in or out, nor the gate so much as opened, which seemeth strange vnto mee, considering the multitude which doo frequent the place, it makes me iealous, that all should not be well in hea- 10 uen, and to growe into suspcion of I know not what.

Truely my good friend (answering this graue sir) it should seeme you haue neuer bin a futer, that wold looke for so quick a dispatch, you haue walked vp and down (you say) heere this hower, and there be heere in this company that haue trauel- 15 led as farre as you, and haue walkt vp and downe heere this moneth, peraduenture a yeere, perhaps more, and would bee glad if they might be dispatched yet, within a weeke, a fortnight, or a moneth, yea, if it were somwhat more, they would be glad euen then to come to an end of their futes, you must 20 (Syr) therefore be contented to stay your time, & to take your fortune, and thinke you came hether in a very happy houre, if you be dispatched in a quarter of a yeere. Your news sir (said I) doth not a little make me wonder, but if without offence I might but deale thus much farther with you, what might be 25 the cause I beseech you, that there is no more regard to ſ dispatching of poore futers, that haue laboured & tyred theſelues many wayes in hope to haue heere a ſpeedy release, aſwel for ſ redrefſe of their ſustained wrōgs, as alſo to be rewarded as they ſhalbe found worthy by defart? for as it is ſuppoſed, this 30 is the very place where Iuſtice & right is moſt duely admiſtred, & therfore is accounted the only place of comfort: but can there be any greater wrong, than for a man to be ſo long deferred from his right? or may there be a more diſcomfort, than when a man ſhall neuer hope to haue end of his futes? 35

My good friend (answered the other againe) although you haue ſaid no more than is truth: but yet ſomething for your better ſatiſfaction, your conſideration muſt haue ſome refer-

both from Heauen and Hell.

rence to þy time, for one of þy greatest matters that doth hinder the forwarding of futes at this instant, ouer it hath beene in times past, is this, in briefe to be spoken, the wonderfull affayres of great importance, and the continuall busines that

5 S. Peter is dayly troubled withall.

What I pray sir (sayd I) is S. Peter more troubled with businesse now, than in times past he hath beene?

O fir (said the other) you neede not doubt of that, & there is great reason for it, that it can not otherwise be, he hath so many affaires to run through, that it is almost thought impossible how he shoulde execute þe all: for first, he is Knight Porter heere of heauen gates, a place I warrant you of no lesse charge than trouble: then, he is constituted the Prince of the Apostles, & confirmed in that authority by all the Popes for

15 this three or foure hundreth yeere, so that al the rest of the Apostles can doo nothing without this allowance, and whatsoeuer he dooth they cannot recall: then, he is the Popes Factor, & hath the handling & determining of all causes for him, and hath lately bin more troubled with his brablements, for the holding vp of S. Peters

20 chayre, than with all the Kings & Princes again in Christendom: fourthly, he is the Master of the Requests, chosen by the papists to present their prayers to God, and they ply him every day with moe pelting peticions, than his leyfure will permit to looke ouer in a moneth after: these & so many other matters hee hath still to

25 looke into, that if he had sixe able bodies, they were all too little to run through his other affayres.

Why (saide I) this is a pitteous case, that hauing such infinite busines, as I perceiue by your speeches, that he hath not some assistants to helpe him, & that so many troubles should not lye all on

30 one mans necke.

Well (said he) this is your opinion, you haue gyuen your verdit, but haue you not learned, *Quod supra nos, nihil ad nos.* it is not for you & me to say what is behouefull for Saints, they knowe their times & what is necessary, better than you or I can instruct

35 þe, & therfore not to be found fault withal in any of their dealings.

These speeches ended, giuing him great thankes for his curtesie, I returned againe to my two Companions, *Veluet breeches* and *Cloth breeches*, to whom I imparted all my newes

## Greenes newes

newes, which strooke them both into a fuddain dumpe, but especially *Cloth breeches*, whose trayning vppe had not beene accustomed much to giue attendance, but it fell out, the very same after noone, that our *Lady*, with the eleauen thousand Virgins, had beene walking in the garden to take 5 the ayre, & in her comming backe, fortuning to looke out at a Cafement, she sawe vs altogether as we were walking, and calling to her Gentleman vther, shee demaunded what wee were. He aunswered, that we were Suters, which there did giue our attendance. Alas poore soules (said shee) I did per- 10 ceive in deede by their pittious lookes, that their minds were troubled with sorrowe and grieve, and without any other wordes speaking, she departed, and causing all other busines to be for the time set a part, shee tooke order that all futers should presently be dispatched. 15

The next morning someting early, S. *Peter* came foorth to a place where he vseth to sit for the hearing of causes, for that there is a custome, that if any man doe but once get hys feete within heauen gates, hee is neuer after thrust out, and therefore hee taketh assured order that none may enter, but 20 such as shall be thought worthy for their defarts to continue the place. S. *Peter* hauing nowe seated himselfe, order was taken that euery futer shoulde successiuelie bee heard, he that had remayned longest to be first called, and so to proceede to the second in due course accordingly. I and my two compa- 25 nions were the latest that were there arriued, and therefore the last to be dispatched: the rest were examined by one and one, and that in such feuere and straight manner, that a- mongst euery ten, there were scarce one admitted to haue entrance into heauen, the Articles that were obiectet against 30 them, were too many in this place to bee rehearsed, but one thing I noted well, which was, there were some that shewed him the Popes Pasport, sealed with lead vnder his priuie Sygnet, but Iesus how S. *Peter* did be foole them, to shewe him such a writing, being not confirmed vnder the handes 35 of the foure *Euangelists*, he commaunded them presently to a- uoyde and to come no more in his sight.

Our

## both from Heauen and Hell.

Our turnes being now come to say for our selues, I was the first of the three that was called for: S. *Peter* demaunded of me what might be my name, and what trade I had vsed. I tolde him my name was *Robert Greene*, by profession 5 a Scholler, and commenced *Maister of Artes*. O (quoth S. *Peter*) I haue heard of you, you haue beene a busie fellowe with your penne, it was you that writ the Booke of *Conny-catching*, but firra, could you finde out the base abuses of a company of petty varlets that liued by pilfering cosonages, 10 and could you not as well haue discryed the subtil and fraudelent practises of great *Conny-catchers*, such as rides vpon footeclothes, and sometime in Coatches, and walkes the streetes in long gownes and velvet coates: I am sure you haue beene in *Westminster Hall*, where you haue seene poore 15 Clyants animated to commence actions, and to prosecute futes till they haue brought themselues to beggery, & when all is spent they are turned off like fooles, and sent home by weeping-crosse. And let me see now if any of your *Crosbyters*, your *Lyfters*, your *Nyppers*, your *Foysters*, or any other 20 of the whole rabblement of your *Conny-catchers*, cal him by what name you list, be like vnto these, or more mischiusous in a Common-wealth. Then haue you couitous Landlords, that dooth daily so exact and cheate of their poore Tennants, that they were better light into the laps of a Cutpurse, then 25 to dwell within the precincts of a Cut-throte. Yet haue you a proude kinde of *Conny-catchers*, that hauing but a Penner and ynckhorne hanging at his gyrdle, yet creeping into some great mans fauour to become his Clarke or Secretary, by plaine *Conny-catching*, within very fewe yeeres, will pur- 30 chase three or foure hundred pound land a yeere.

Or shoulde I put you in mind of great *Conny-catchers*, placed in Offices, who are continually building of houses, and still purchasinge of reuenewes to leaue to theyr heyres, perhaps by deceiuing the Prince, or cosoning the Subiect, 35 but how shoulde they compasse so great abouundance, but by some practise in *Conny-catching*: vnlesse they be such which the Prince dooth fauour, of whom she bestoweth many gra-

C.

cious

## Greenes newes

cious and liberall gyfts: I will not say there bee *Conny-catchers* amongst Clergy men, that will catch at a Benefice sometime before it falles, and nowe and then by Simonie or other corruption hauing catched two or three, can be contented likewise to catch their Tythes from their poore flock, 5 but very feldome to feede them, or to catch any of their soules to the kingdome of heauen. But now my freend take this for your answer, you that coulde busie your selfe to fable out so many follies without indifferency, and to become a wryter with such partialitie, I must tell you truth, heauen is no ha- 10 bitation for any man that can looke with one eye and wincke with the other, for there must none rest there that dooth vse to haulte, but such as be plaine and true dealing people.

I woulde very faine haue replyed in mine owne excuse, but S. *Peter* cut me off, telling me that I was aunswere, 15 and that hauing mine aunswere, I shoulde trouble him no further. And foorthwith speaking to hym that stood next mee, asked hym his name. Who told hym that he was called *Vel-uet breeches*. S. *Peter* asked hym further, what Countrey- man he was. He aunswere an *Englishman*. I cannot think 20 you to be a naturall *Englishman*, sayd S. *Peter*, for that I neuer heard of any of your name in that Country. Yes Syr (if it please you) said *Velvet breeches*, my auncesters came in with the Conquest, and my predeceffours haue still continued Gentlemen both of Worship and credite. 25

As *Velvet breeches* had ended these words, there happened to come by, diuers Princes that had raigned Kinges of *England*, all of them mounted vpon great Horffes, and had beene abroade vppon the greene running at the Ring: the which Princes being espyed by S. *Peter*, he called vnto thẽ, 30 requesting them a little to stay: and then poynting to *Vel-uet breeches*, he demaunded if any of them did knowe hym, or any of hys name remaining in *Englande*, in the tyme of theyr raignes and gouernments? But they denayed altogether that euer they had seene hym, or euer known any Gentleman of English byrth that was of his name.

Amongst this royll troupe, was King *Henry* the thyrd,  
and

both from Heauen and Hell.

and he confidently protested, y<sup>e</sup> in the time of his raigne, there was no such person to be found, for said hee, I sent one of my seruants to buy me a payre of hōse, and hee returned againe with a payre that was but of sixe shillinges and eyght pence 5 the price: wherewith I being displeased, tolde him that I would haue had hym bestowed a marke of a payre, but hee said there were none such to be gotte. But as for the other *Cloth breeches* that standeth by hym, I know him very wel by his lookes, he dooth so much resemble his auncesters, and 10 hath the very liuely picture of his Predecessours, the which were very honest plaine dealing men, without any manner of falsehood or deceite.

S. *Peter* thanked them of their paines, and thus the Princes departed, who beeing gone, S. *Peter* saide: You haue 15 heard Ma. *Veluet breeches* what hath passed, but yet because you haue auouched your selfe to be a Gentleman, you shall haue thys fauour, we will examine some other of later time, who peraduenture may better call you to remembraunce. There stooode a Messenger by, whom S. *Peter* willed pre- 20 fently to goe fetch hym some *Englishman*, that was but of some tenne or twenty yeeres residence in the place, charging hym to goe with speede, and to make a quicke returne. The Messenger met with a company that were newe come out of a Tennis courte, amongst whom was a Mearcer, that 25 within these tenne yeeres had dwelt in *Cheapside*, hym the Messenger brought to S. *Peter*, who demaunded of him, if he did know a Gentleman in *England*, called by the name of Ma. *Veluet breeches*. Yea marry sayde the Mearcer, I know him to my cost, for thys is he that standes by me, and 30 heere I auouch it before his face that hee is no Gentleman, but a proude dissembler, and a cosoning counterfeite: which if it shal please you to giue me leauue, I will proue before this holy companie. Saint *Peter* aunswered, we doo not onelie giue you leauue, but also doe straightly commaunde you to 35 speake a truth, and withall, to speake no more then is truth, what you are able to charge him withall, and howe you are able to proue your words.

## Greenes newes

The Mearcer aunswered, it were too much impiety for a man in my case to raiſe any ſlander, or maliciously to accufe any man wrongfully: but to the end the trueth of the matter might more euidently appeare, I muſt craue pardon a little to vſe circumſtances, and thus it followeth.

5

About fourteene or fifteene yeeres ſince, when I kept a ſhop in *Cheapside*, following there my trade, this counterfeſt Gentleman, being conforſted with another of his owne pitch; a byrde of the ſame feather, althoſh in times paſt, his onely familiaritie was but with Dukes, Earles, Lordes, and ſuch 10 other worthy perfonages, yet at this day an ordinary companion, and conuerfant with euery ſkypiaſke, and himſelfe of baſe condition and a common Cofoner, his name caſted *Silke ſtockings*. These two copeſmates, *Veluet breeches* and *Silke ſtockings* changing theyr names, and becauſe I 15 will not be offenſive to other Gentlemen, that peraduenture be of the ſame name which they then tooke to themſelues, I will call *Veluet breeches* maiftre *White*, and *Silke ſtockings*, he ſhall be maiftre *Black*, theſe two counterfeite Gentlemen, maiftre *White* and maiftre *Black*, prouiding them- 20 felues of Lodgings, Maiftre *White* as it miſt be in *Graties ſtreete*, in a house where no body kneue him, and Maiftre *Blacke* in *Fanchurch ſtreete*, faſt by where he found as little acquaintance. Theyr Lodgings being thus prouided, Maiftre *White* walking into *Poules*, and ſeeing many bils ſette 25 vp on the West doore by ſuch as wanted Maifters, peruſing the bylles, and finding one that he thought miſt be fitte for his purpoſe, (and in truthe was as coſoning a knaue as hee himſelfe) gaue notice vnder the bill, that he ſhoulde repaire into *Graties ſtreete*, and at ſuch a ſigne enquire for Maiftre 30 *White*.

The fellow finding his bill ſubſcribed, (and hoping now to light vpon ſome cheate) made haſt the ſame night, & came to Ma. *Whites* Chamber: Sir (ſaith hee) I perceiue your Worſhip wants a ſeruant, and I am the party whose byll 35 it hath pleaſed you to ſubſcribe, and would be glad to take any paines with a good Maiftre to pleaſe him. O ſayes Ma.

*White*

both from Heauen and Hell.

*White* art thou he? Marry it is truth, I would giue enter-  
tainement to a young fellowe that woulde be diligent and  
trusty. If it please you sir, (answering the party that meant  
nothing but deceite) I will finde you suerties for my trueth  
5 and good behauisour. Thou sayest well (saying Ma. *White*,)  
but trust me, I like thy lookes well, mee thinkes thou haft a  
good honest face: but tel me if thou wilt be with me, I must  
haue thee immediatly.

Sir, answere the other, if it please you to giue me leaue  
10 till the Morning, that I might fetch some few things that I  
haue to shifte me withall, I will then attend your Worshyp.  
Very well (saies Ma. *White*) thou maist doo so, and till then  
farewell.

Heere was now a Maister and a man well met, for the  
15 Maister meant to vse his man but to serue his turne for a  
poynt of cosonage, and the man meant to vse his Maister, til  
he might finde oportunity, to runne away with his purse or  
some other of his apparrell, as he had doone before with ma-  
ny others. But according to appointment, in the Morning  
20 trusty *Roger* came, and was receiued of hys Maister, who  
now with his man at hys heeles, frequented his freend Ma.  
*Blacks* Chamber for a day or two, and the one of them could  
not be without the others companie, but maister *Black* must  
dyne with maister *White* at his Chamber, and Ma. *White*  
25 must suppe wyth maister *Blacke* in his Chamber: but the  
se-  
quell was, maister *White* with his seruaunt attending of  
hym, walking into *Cheapside*, and lighting into my shoppe,  
demaunded of my seruaunts where their Maister was, they  
told him that I was within, & that if it pleased him to haue  
30 any thing with me, they would call me. Yes marry would I  
(saying he,) I pray you call him, for I wold speake with him.  
One of them telling me that there was a Gentleman in the  
shoppe that would speake with me, I came downe, and Ma.  
*White* first curteously saluting me, began in this sort to dis-  
35 course with me.

Sir, I am a Gentleman, belonging to such a Noble man  
in the North parts of *England*, and in trueth the Steward of

## Greenes newes

hys houfe, and hauing now some busines for my Lord heere in the City, which I am come to dispatch, I must disburse some mony vpon Veluets & other Silkes both for my Lorde and Lady, and I tell you trueth they are such wares as I haue little skyl to make choyce of: the matter why I was 5 desirous to speake with you, was but to commit that trust to your selfe which I durst not aduenture with your man, and my request is, that you would deale so honestly with me, as I might not be deceiued in the choyce of my stiffe, the bene- 10 feite that you shall winne by your good vſage is, you shall re- ceiue ready mony for such wares as I meane at this present to buy, and you shall winne a customer, of whom heereafter you may take greater summes.

I hearing his smooth speeches deliuered vnder pretence of honesty, and seeming otherwife, both in the shew of his ap- 15 parrell and the dutifull attendance of his man, that hee had beene (indeede) some Gentleman of reputation and good re- coning, desirous so much the rather to win such a customer, I tolde him that I woulde not onely fitte him with as good stiffe as any man in *London* should shew hym, but also in 20 the price I would vſe him with such reason, as in any other place they were able to afforde him: the which promise (in very deede) I meant faithfully to performe.

Heere-withall, he drew a paper foorth of his pocket, wherin he began to reade: Item for my *Lord*, two yardes and a 25 halfe of Blacke veluet, and two yardes and a halfe of Russel veluet, for two payre of Hose, with three yards and a halfe of Black fattine, and as much of Russel for dublyting. Item for my *Lady*, fourteene yardes of the best three pylde velvet for a loose Gowne, with sixe yards of Peach-coloured satine 30 for her Petticoate. Item for Mistris *Jane* & Mistris *Fraunces*, fourteene yards of double turffed Taffita for each of the a Gowne: and twelue yardes of Coronation satine for theyr Petticoates. To cõclude he brought me out so many Items, that the prices of the wares amounted to 50. and od pounds, 35 the which when I had sorted him out, he began to find fault that they were too high rated, praying me to sette my lowest price,

both from Heauen and Hell.

price, for that he meant to pay ready money, and therefore if I would not be reasonable, hee must be driuen to seeke some other shoppe. I very loath to driue him away, pitcht him a price so reasonable, as in truth I was not able better cheape 5 to affoord them: but hys mind being onely sette vpon cofonage, told me he durst not aduenture to gyue so much mony, and thus away he went.

Within an houre after, hauing sent away his man, which of purpose he had doone, he returned againe, and finding me in my shop, he asked me if I would abate no money in my stiffe: I thinking hee had beene some other where to cheapen, told him I had rated them so reasonably, as I was able to affoord them: and that I was sure, in anie shoppe where he had since beene, he had not found the like wares for 15 the like price.

Nay truelie, (sayde hee) I haue not beene in any other place to cheapen any such stiffe, but yet since I left your house I haue disbursed fortie poundes in other thinges, that I haue sent to my Lodging by my man: but I see you are 20 hard, and yet sith I haue dealt thus farre with you, I will not forfake you, come therefore and cutte me of the parcels. The which accordingly I did, and laying them together, hee desired me to cast the totall summe, the which as before I haue sayd, amounted to fifty and od pounds.

25 Syr, (sayd hee) I must craue to borrow one of your seruaunts, to helpe me home with thys stiffe, and hee shall bring you your money: I haue sent mine owne man about busines, and haue no body heere nowe to helpe mee. Very well Syr sayd I, my man shall waite vpon you, or doe any 30 other curtefie.

And thus willing one of my men to take vp the stiffe and follow him, I deliuered him a note what mony he was to receiue. Together they goe, til they came to his Chamber in *Graties streete*, where they found hys man remaining, 35 who (indeed) was somewhat perplexed in hys mind, because there was nothing there of hys Maisters, that was woorth the carrying away, vnlesse he should haue taken the sheetes from

## Greenes newes

from the bedde, but that he deferred, hoping shortly to lyght of a better cheate. But Ma. *White* demaunded of his man, if Maister *Black* had not beene there fince his comming into the Chamber? who answered him no, neither had hee seene him all that day. 5

Maister *White* with that seemed as though he began to be angry, and willed his man presently to haft to his Chamber, and to will him withall spedde, to bring away the two hundred pounds  $\hat{y}$  he was to receiue, or at the leaft to bring one of them with hym immediatly, for that hee was to pay <sup>10</sup> the greatest part of it to one that staied in hys Chamber for it. Away went hys man, and in the meane time Ma. *White* entertained my man in this manner. He asked him if he had any acquaintance with some Goldsmith in the row that was his freend, and would vse him well in the buying of a Chaine <sup>15</sup> and a payre of Bracelets, and not to exact too much of him for the fashion. My man told hym, that he was well acquainted with two or three that woulde deale very reasonably wyth hym.

Hee seemed to gyue my man great thanks, and told him, <sup>20</sup> that so soone as hys man was returned, and that he had payd hym his money, he would himselfe goe backe with hym and buy them. Hys owne man in thys meane space, was come to Maister *Blacks* Chamber, whom hee founde within, prouided for the purpouse, and was as busie with a Standishe, a <sup>25</sup> great many of papers lying before hym, and a whole sette of Counters in hys hand, as though he had been casting vppe of as huge summes as the King of *Spayne* receiueth from the *Indyes*. He had likewise lying before hym, a great bagge full stuffed, making shew as if it had beene a great bagge of <sup>30</sup> mony: the sight whereof gaue the Messenger so good an appetite, that he wished the bagge and hymselfe tenne myles out of the place. But dooing hys Maisters message, maister *Black* answered hym that he was so full of present busines, that he could not stirre foorth from hys Chamber, but (sayth <sup>35</sup> he, the money thou seest where it lyeth, and if he will come hymselfe, or send some other to tell it and receiue it. Why

Syr

## both from Heauen and Hell.

Syr (sayde the other) if you please to deliuer me the money, I can carry it. Yea (sayes Maister *Black*) but your Maister I perceiue is in such haste, as hee would be offended if you should stay the telling of it, but goe your wayes to him and 5 tell him what I haue said, and then let him choose whether he will come or send, the money is heere ready for him, away goes this companion, comforting him with the assured hope, that the carrying of this bagge would haue lighted to his lot, which if it had, he ment to haue giuen them all the flypp, or his 10 cunning should haue fayled him: but comming to his Maister, hee tolde him that Maister *Black* was so busie in his Chamber casting vp of accounts, that he could not come, but Syr (saide he) the money I did see lying vpon the Table ready for you, and he would haue delyuerged it vnto me, but that 15 I feared my long staying in the telling of it might haue offended you.

Why then (saide Maister *White*) goe your waiers backe agayne, and I will intreate this good fellow to goe with you, (meaning by my man) to whom he further said: I pray thee 20 my good friende doe so much as goe with my man, and first pay your selfe according to your note, and helpe him then to tell out the rest, for I thinke his skill will scarce serue him to tell so much money, and drawing out of hys pocket, a payre of gold weights, which he delyuerged to my man, he sayd, and 25 I beseech you if any part of his payment be in gold, see that it be neither crackt nor crafed, and that it carries weight, and I pray you in your comming backe againe with my man, doo so much as call in heere, and I in the mean time will dispatch a little busines, and will by that time be ready to goe with 30 you vnto the Goldsmythes rowe, where I must craue your helpe for the buying of this Chayne and Bracelets. My man suspecting no manner of deceipt, went a long with hys man: but comming to Maister *Blacks* Chamber, there was no body to be founde, neyther coulde any of the Seruants 35 of the House, faye whither hee was gone, they sawe him goe foorth but a little before their comming in, but whither he went they could not tell; whereupon, they both toge-

D

ther

## Greenes newes

ther returned backe againe to certifie Maister *White*: but comming to his Chamber, he was likewise gone, and had carryed away all the same stiffe which my Seruant had left with him: my man begynning but nowe to suspect, when it was too late, immediatly caused the Officers 5 to lay holde of Maister *Whites* man, and hee was carried directly to the *Counter*, where hee beganne to curse the time that euer hee mette with such a seruice, confessing that hee had coosoned many Maysters before, but nowe hee had met with a Mayster that had a little ouer-reached 10 him. But I vpon my mans returne, came to the places where they had beene lodged, and made what inquiry I coulde, but there was no body that had any manner of knowledge of them, for they came thether not aboue foure or fife dayes before, making shewe that they were newe 15 come foorth of the Countrey, and that the Carryers were not yet come with theyr Trunckes and apparell, and during the time of theyr aboade, had neuer spent peny in the house, for meate, drinke, nor lodging, which made them protest, it shoulde bee a warning vnto them, what guestes 20 they receiued againe so long as they kept houise, and heere was all the remedy that I could haue, but in the ende I had intelligence of many other like coofonages, they had committed in the Cittie, and the parties were well knowne to bee Maister *Veluet breeches* & Maister *Silke stockings*, two 25 counterfeit Gentlemen, that to maintain their brauery, practised such deceipts, and would not stikk many times to rob by the high way: for the Varlet cōmitted to the *Counter*, whom I could no waies charge with any practise towards mee, I released him freely, but for some other villainies which before 30 he had committed to others, and by himselfe confessed, he was whipped at a Cartes arse, and after burnt through the eare, and so commaunded to auoyde the Cittie.

Thus much (as it hath pleased you to commaund me) I haue truely signified, what knowledge I haue had of thy Gentleman, Maister *Veluet breeches*.

S. Peter standing vp, saide: *Veluet breeches*, thou hast heard

both from Heauen and Hell.

heard what hath beene auouched against thee, and I wonder  
howe thou durst presume to present thy selfe in this place,  
knowing the guiltinesse of thine owne conscience: but I see  
thou art shamelesse, and for such persons as thou art there is  
5 an other place prepared, to the which thou must depart, for  
heere thou mayst not bide: then speaking to *Cloth breeches*  
he said, and for thee *Cloth breeches*, of whom I haue heard so  
good report, thou maist seperat thy selfe from thy two compa-  
nions, & enter into that blisse, where thou shalt find a happy  
10 reward for an honest life; and thus as hee was (by seeming)  
ready to depart, he espyed where one was comming alone by  
himselfe, within a little distance, whom S. *Peter* perceyuing  
to be a straunger, stayed his comming, and then speaking vnto  
him, he demaunded of him what he was: who aunswere, 15  
that he was a poore *Yorkeſhyre* man, a *Brick-layer* by his occu-  
pation, and one that had truely laboured for his lyuing all  
the dayes of his life: and (sayde he) our Maister *Vicar* hath  
many times tolde vs, that if we get our lyuings honestly  
with the sweat of our browes, wee shall goe to heauen, and  
20 there we shold haue such peace, such quyet, such ioy, such com-  
fort, such pleasure, and so many God morrowes, I cannot tel  
what, but (of his words) I haue had but an ill-fauoured iour-  
ney hether, and what I shall find I cannot tell yet.

S. *Peter* seeing his simplicitie, sayde, why then my freind  
25 come and followe me, and tell me heereafter howe thou likeſt  
of the place.

The fellowe hastily replyed, saying: I pray fir let mee  
firſt aske you a queſtion, doo vſe to let any women come into  
Heauen amongſt you?

30 Why not (ſaide Sainct *Peter*) what ſhould make thee to  
doubt of that?

Why then I pray fir (ſayde the other) did there not a  
woman come hether about a fix weekes a goe, with a bleare  
eye, a ſnottie noſe, a blabber lippe, a ſtincking breath,  
35 her voyce was very ſhrill, and her ſpeech thiſke and ſhort.

But how dooſt thou call her name (ſayde S. *Peter*) whom  
thou haſt deſcribed, with ſo many louely tokens?

## Greenes newes

Her name (saide the other) is called *Margery Sweete*, but yet more oftner called by the name of *Mannerly Margery*.

Why she is in heauen (saide S. *Peter*) and if thou haft any thing to say to her, thou mayst there finde her?

Mary God blesse me from thence (saide the other) if shee 5  
be there, I knowe her fashions too well, to come any more  
where she is, shee was my wife, and I was married to her  
sixteene or feuenteene yeeres, and I faith all heauen would be  
too little for her and mee, and if we should once meete againe,  
but I am now ridde of her, and I hope I will keepe mee so, 10  
she shal not cast it in my teeth, that I was so far in loue with  
her to follow her, as she hath many times doone: telling me,  
that if I had not beene she might haue had a Minstrell, that  
would haue got more money in a weeke with his Fiddle,  
than I could get in a moneth, with laying of Brick. 15

S. *Peter*, with the rest of the company, hearing the mad  
disposition of the fellowe, departed, leauing behinde him, my  
selfe, *Veluet breeches*, and this *Brick-layer*, who forsooke to  
goe into heauen because his wife was there; you may easily  
gesse, *Veluet breeches* and I were perplexed with sorrowe 20  
enough, but it was too late nowe for vs to bethinke our selues  
what we should haue doone, and rested onely for vs to deter-  
myne what we must doo, & the further wee found our selues  
bereaued of all possibilite, to recouer agayne what wee had  
lost, the neerer approached the horror of our grieve and tor- 25  
ment: but we had receiued our finall sentence, and there was  
no place longer for vs to stay in, the comfort that was left  
vs, was to see if wee could finde meanes to gette into Pur-  
gatorie, hoping there to finde some release, by the prayers  
and charitable deuotions of good people, and with this refo- 30  
lution we set forward of our iourney: the *Brick-layer* ouer-  
taking vs, desired vs to accept of hys company, protesting  
that he would be a partaker of our fortunes, whatsoeuer did  
betide vs.

*Veluet breeches* demaunded of him what was his name: 35  
The other tolde him that before he was marryed, they called  
him *Ruffling Richard*, but after that he was marryed, they  
neuer

both from Heauen and Hell.

neuer vsed better addition than playne *Dick*. Truely friend *Richard* (saide *Veluet breeches*) me thinkes you are too plain, and more simple, to forfake heauen because your wife is there. I pray you sir (saide *Richard*) were you euer marryed?

5 Yes mary was I, (sayde *Veluet breeches*) but what of that? I doo not vnderstand you saide *Richard* for I demaund of you, if euer you had a wife? And I tell thee I had a wife, (saide *Veluet breeches*) why doost thou aske me that? Good Lord (saide *Richard*) I neuer heard a wife man make so foolish an aunswere, for I aske you if you were marryed? and you say yes: and when I demaunde if euer you had a wife, you aunswere, I mary had I, and what then? And doost thou call that a foolish aunswere (saide *Veluet breeches*) what, wouldst thou haue mee say, yes foorsooth?

15 No sir, no, (saide *Richard*) but I will teach you some wit how to aunswere to such a question; when a man dooth aske you if you haue a wife, you must say, yes I thanke God, or, yes I cry God mercy, for so a man shall directly vnderstand you: for if you say, yes I thanke God, by that we may vnderstand

20 you haue a good wife, for the which you are bound to thanke God highly, because fewe men dooth happen of the like: but if your aunswere be, yes I cry God mercy, *Sub intelegitur*, such a wife as mine was, and then you would neuer haue accounted mee simple, to leaue heauen to shunne her compa-

25 nie, because a man shall liue more quietly amongst all the diuelles of hell, than it is possible for him to doo, that lights on such a wife.

Hearing these pleasant speeches in this manner deliuered by *Richard*, I could not choose but smile, notwithstanding

30 my cause of grieve: and taking it to bee a benefit of fortune, that had vouchsafed to fauour vs with the company of this merry conceited *Brick-layer*, whereby to beguile our pensiue thoughts with his pleasant discourses, in this our tedious trauell. I questioned with him of his wife, what shee was

35 when hee marryed her, whether a widdowe or a mayde, by what meanes hee came acquainted with her, and howe shee became so vnruly. *Richard* in this fort began to discourse.

## Greenes newes

When I was young (saide he) I was as hanſome a fellowe, as any was in the parish where I was borne: and for my valour, I durſt haue trauelled into any Gentlemans Butterie, when all the Barrels had beene full, without ei-ther fworde or dagger about me: for my resolution, if I had 5 once gotten vnder a maydens Chamber windowe, I would neuer haue ſtarthed, till they had emptied a Camber pot on my heade: for my courage, I durſt haue gone into a-ny baudy house, and woulde haue come out agayne as honest a man, as when I went firſt in: for my credit, 10 I might haue runne on the ſkore for ſix pottes, wyth any Alewife that kept house within fiue myles where I dwelt: for my quallities every manner of way, I had the preheminenſe amonſt all the youthes that were in our quarters, for at *May-tyde*, who was the ring-lea- 15 der for the fetching home of a *May-pole*, but I: at Midſommer, I was chofen the Sommer Lorde: at euerie Bridall, who muſt daunce with the Bryde, but *Ruffling Richard*: Thus for a pleaſant life, the *Cunſtable* of the Parish liued not more merrily than I, and for my reputati- 20 on, I was almoſt as muſh reuerenced as our Church-war-dens: but, as the stoutest Stond of Ale, at laſt is ſet a tilte, and the fatteſt Goose comes ſooner to the ſpitte; ſo, my for-mer fortunes were drawne to their laſt date, and my prime of pleaſures concluded with miſhappe: but oh loue, O 25 cruell loue, that waſt the firſt frunte to my felicities; But who can refiſt loue, if it be once crept into the bottome of a mans belly? O what a rumbling it makes in his guttes, and howe it bethrobs him about the heart: and ſee nowe the ſequel of my miſhap. I fortuned to be at a ſheepeſhearing, 30 where I met with *Margery*, ſhe that was my wife, in a fine red petticoate, with damaske vpper bodies, a white apron be-fore her, & vpō her head a broad felt hat, with a braue braunch of roſemary ſticking in her bosom, appointed amonſt þ̄ reſt with a payre of ſheeres, to helpe ſheare Sheep, and I hauing 35 brought forth a luſty young Ramme, would haue laid him in her lap, but ſhe refuſing to take him, ſaid vnto mee: now good friend

## both from Heauen and Hell.

friend *Richard* if you loue mee, bring mee none but poulde sheep, for of al things in the world, I cannot away with these horned beastes. When I heard these milde words, thus gently spoken, & howe kindly she pronounced this sentence (Good 5 friend *Richard* if you loue me) O heauens (thought I) what a sweete charme is this: then noting her modesty, that shee could not abide the sight of a horned beast, I began to thinke with my selfe, how happy might that man be accounted, that could light of such a wife, & hauing but a little thus giue scope 10 to mine own affectiōs, Loue, that had his tinder box ready to strike fire, by this time had set my fansie of such a flame, that not longer able to endure the heate without a cup of Sack, I saide vnto her; *Margery*, your manner of phrase hath wonderfullly troubled mee, for in your first speeches you call mee 15 your good friend *Richard*, and then you come in with a doubtfull demaund, in these words, (if you doe loue me) as though I coulde bee your good friende and yet did not loue you: but *Margery*, sith you haue popt mee such a doubfull question, if you and I were alone by our selues, I would poppe you such 20 an aunswere, that you should well find that I loued you, and that heereafter you might leaue out your if, and say, *Richard* asse you loue me.

With these words pretily casting her head at one side, she gaue me such a learing looke, that might as well haue daunted me with dispaire, as giuen mee comfort & hope of grace: for the one of her eyes was bleard, and seemed as though she wept, the other was a pretty narrowe pinckeny, looking euer as though she smyldē, so that in her very countenance at one instant, you might behold pleasure and paine, pitty and ry- 30 gor, curtesie and crueltie, loue and disdayne: and then wyth a sweete voyce, lyke one that were asking an almes, shee sayde.

*Richard*, if you loue mee as you saye, your loue shall not bee lost, but men are so crafty nowe a dayes 35 before they are marryed, that they will make a mayde beleeue they loue her, tyll they haue gotte vppe her bellie, and then they will not sticke to denye their owne children, and

## Greenes newes

and that makes women when they be once marryed, to play their husbands such a cast, that they shall not knowe their own children: but if your loue be no such loue *Richard*, you shal not finde me vnkinde. When I heard the wisdom of the wench, it made my pulses so to beate, that I had thought my 5 codpisse point would haue fallen a funder: but for aunswere I faide.

*Margery*, your sober speeches so wisely deliuered, together with your sweet countenance so louely placed, hath so preuayled with your good friend *Richard*, that for the better 10 confyrmation of my loue, receiue here this token, as a pledge of my good will: and taking then a two peny peece which I had in my purse, I bowed it and gaue it to her, the which when she had receyued, she said.

Well *Richard*, nowe I doo account you as mine owne, 15 and at night when my Mother is gone to bed, if you will come home, we will there talke farther of this matter: & for your welcome, I will bestowe of you a messe of Creame.

*Margery* (faide I) looke you keepe your promise, for I wil be there, and because you will be at so much cost with a messe 20 of Creame, I will bring with mee a peny worth of spycakes: And although we had thus referred ouer farther speeches till our next meeting, yet during the time that wee remayned there in place, O how many amorous glaunces and louing countenances there passed still too and fro betweene 25 vs: but at night my appointed time being come, thether I went, and *Margery* was at the windowe watching for my comming, who hauing once espyed mee, she opened the doore, where shee receiued mee with such a sweete kisse, as if her breath had been lately perfumed for the purpose, whose dain- 30 ty smell was as sauery, as if it had beene a red herring that had beene newly roasted: her louely lippes pleasant and soft, like a locke of wooll that was but then come out of the seame basket: but should I tel you of all the other loue tricks that passed betweene her and me that night, I might either 35 oppresse your stomack to thinke of it, or otherwise perhaps make you ashamed to heare it: but let thys suffyce, before I departed

## both from Heauen and Hell.

departed, our marriage day was appointed, and *Margery* in time made her Mother acquainted with the matter, who nothing misliking of her Daughters choyce, gaue her her blessing, with many other good helps to furnish forth her bridall 5 day, the which when time had drawne to be solemnized, and that the lustie youthes of the Parrish were gathered together to goe with vs to Church, & the young Damofels were flocked on a heape to waite on the Bride, attending her coming foorth. The good old woman her Mother, who had been 10 euer chary of the louely Chickin her daughter, and euen at the very instant when we were ready to goe to Church, shée was scolding of her with this exhortation.

*Margery*, (sayd shē) the day is nowe come for the which you haue so much longed after, it is twenty yeeres agoe since 15 you first wished for a Husband, and byr Lady daughter you were then feauenteene or eyghteene yeeres of age, so that at this present you want not aboue two or three of forty: nowe if wit went by yeeres, you are olde enough to be wife, but I being your Mother, besides my many yeeres which might 20 aduaunce my skill, so I haue buried foure feueral husbands, (the heauens be praised for it) which hath so much the more confirmed my experiance in the dispositions of men, and can the better iudge of their naturall inclinations: and by all that I haue gathered by mine owne prooфе and practise, I 25 haue found it still by tryall, that the fantasies of men, are euermore best fitted with the follies of women. But leauing generalities, and to come to so much as concerneth but thy selfe, that art now to be married to a husband, who in respect of his age thou mightest be his Mother: and couldest thou 30 now but consider, what a comfort it is for an olde Woman, to be louingly embraced by a yoūg man, O daughter daughter, thy mothers mouth begins to water, but with the verie imagination to thinke of the pleasure, and therefore happie maiest thou deeme thy selfe, that art so likely to enjoy it.

35 But heere is now a great peece of discretion to be vsed, for as age conceiueth such contentment with the societie of fresh and pleasant youth, so youth will quickly fall a loathing

## Greenes newes

of cold and crooked age, if the parties be not wise to enforce that by arte, that they are otherwise denaied by nature: which is, to shew a youthfull disposed minde, how farre so-  
euer they be spent in yeeres: for it is a tyred Iade that can-  
not cry weehee, and a sorry Mare that cannot wag her taile. 5  
Thou art nowe to consider the inequalitie of the yeeres be-  
tweene thy selfe and thy husbande, and therefore a little to  
whet him on to make him to like of thee the better, it shal not  
be amisse for thee to shew some youthfull conceite, especially  
being thy bridall day, it is tollerable for thee a little to play 10  
the wanton.

I can tell thee daughter, men are well pleased to see theyr  
Wiues youthfully gyuen, and there is nothing y<sup>e</sup> doth more  
delight them, then to see them wantonly disposed: and thys  
is the meane to winne your husbands liking, and to drawe 15  
him to y<sup>e</sup> appetite, which your many yeeres might quenche:  
remember therefore what I haue told you, and fayle not for  
your aduantage, to shew some youthfull tricke.

*Margery* making a mannerly curtifie, said: Yes forsooth  
Mother, I will remember all that you haue told me. 20

By this time all things being prepared, to Church we  
went, where the Priest hauing once doone his office, we re-  
turned againe, and were accompanied with our neighbours  
and freendes that went home to dinner with vs: for whom  
there was prouided Fyrmentie and Minced Pyes, besides 25  
other good meate both roste and sodde: the which being all  
ready, *Margery* was placed at the vpper end, between two  
of the most substanciall honest men, according to the custome  
of the Parrish, and my selfe likewise, (as the manner was)  
did waite that day at the Table, with a napkin hanging on 30  
my shoulder.

But O what a comfort it was vnto me, to see how dain-  
tily *Margery* fedde of euery dish that came neere her, and  
how lustily she laid about her for her victuales And (thought  
I) if it be true as some will say, that a good feeding Horse 35  
will goe through with his labour, then I warrant if I gyue  
*Margery* her meate, I neede not feare to ryde her where I  
lyft.

## both from Heauen and Hell.

lyft. But Dinner beeing almost at an ende, and the Cake-bread and Cheese ready to be sette on the Table, the good old Woman her Mother, who had likewise beene very busie that day in taking paynes to fill the pottes, and to carrie 5 away emptie dishes, beganne to cheere vppe the companie, bidding them welcome, and telling them she was sorry there was no better cheere for them.

Margery presently vpon the sight of her Mother bethought herselfe what she had to doo, and calling now to minde what 10 lesson she had gyuen her, and howe shee had willed her that day to shewe some youthfull tricke, thereby to purchase the fauour of her husband, and picking out at that very instant a fitte opportunity to performe it, she called to her Mother in thys youthfull manner, *Munna, vppe and cacke.* The 15 olde Woman hearing her Daughter, sayd: Why how now *Margerie?* Fie for shame, will you speake bugges wordes? Could you not pretily haue saide: I pray you Mother haue me vppe to picke a Rose, nay nowe I see you play the wan-ton too much.

20 Then speaking to the company that fate by, she sayde: I pray you beare with my Daughters childishnes, for I know it is the Firmentie that dooth so much annoy her, for euen from her very infancie, if she had taken any spoone meate, she was still troubled in the bottome of her back-side with a 25 great ventositie.

The neighbours seeing the clenlinesse of the wench, did euer after that call her by the name of *Mannerlie Margerie.* Thus much to answer your former demaund concerning my wife, whether she were a widdow or a mayd: by the circum-30 stances wherof, you may perceiue she was a maid, although a very old one, and yet not so far spent in yeeres but she was able to play a youthfull trick. And now for the rest y' concerneth but the tragedy of mine own mis-fortune: to signify the matter at large, would be tedious for you to heare, & fearefull 35 for me to declare, the very memory wherof were enough to make me tremble, but that I know I am farre enough from her that was the minister of my woe.

## Greenes newes

Let thys suffise, within a very fewe Monethes after I was married, *Margery* beganne to grow ielous, for if shee had once beeene thirsty, and that I wanted money to fende to the Ale-houfe, she wold tell me that I spent away my thrift amongst some other young Queanes: heere began our first 5 falling out, and to set forward the matter, there dwelt at the very next house by me, a Tayler, who had a wife ſ̄ was ſure once a day to measure the breadth of her husbands ſhoulders with his owne mete-yard.

*Margery* and this Taylors wife grew to be acquainted, 10 and amongst other conculusions it was agreed between them, that to preuent diseafes, and to preferue them in health, they would euery morning next their harts, take a phisical dyet, which was, a full quarte of the quintinfence drawne from an Ale-tub, warmed by the fire, with a grated Nutmeg, halfe 15 a yarde of Black-pudding roſted on a grydyron, a quantitie of falte, with a meaſure of fine Wheate-flower, firſt made into paſte, and after baked in a loafe of breade: theſe ingre- diences, after they had incorporated altogether, they would afterwards lightly fast till noone. And they founde ſuſh a 20 commoditie in uſing this Medicine, that if the Tayler and I had not euery morning giuen them mony to pay for the ſimples, it had not beeene good for vs to haue come that day af- ter in their fights: for the Taylors wife, ſhee could handle a mete-yard or a cudgel paſſing nimblly, but *Margery* had got- 25 ten the practiſe of all manner of weapons. For beſides that ſhe had ſ̄ uſe of her nayles, which ſhe imploedyed many times about my face, ſhe could likewiſe handle a payre of bellowes about my pate, a payre of tonges a thwart my ſhins, a fire- brand ſometimes ſhould flye at my head, a ladle full of ſcal- 30 ding liquour other-whiles in my bosome, a three footed ſtoole, a pot, a candleſtickle, or any other thing what ſoeuer came next her hand, all was one to her: and ſhee had learned ſuſh a dexteritie in the deliuerie, that they ſhould haue come whir- ling about mine eares.

In the ende, deuifing with my ſelfe a remedy for theſe miſchieues, I found the meaneſ to be made the *Cunſtable*,  
hoping

35

## both from Heauen and Hell.

hoping that mine Office woulde haue beene a protection to me for a yeere, and that she durst not haue striken her Maiesties Officer. But within a day or two, it was my fortune to hit on a pot of strong Ale, which shee had sette vp in a corner 5 for her owne drinking, and I (beeing thirsty) gaue it such a soupe, that I left very little behind. The which afterwarde when she came to feeke for, and founde her store so pittifullie impaired, against my comming home at night, she prouided her selfe of a waster, and I was no sooner entred the doores, 10 but foorth she comes with her cudgell in her hand, and wyth such a terrible countenaunce, that were able to affright anie man that should behold it.

Richard, sayd shee, I had thought you would neuuer haue gyuen me occasion to be ielous of you, but now I see you loue 15 a cuppe of strong Ale better then you loue me, and do you not thinke then that I haue great reason to be displeased wyth your vnkindnes towards me, and to beate out that lacke of loue that dooth make you so lightly to regard me.

Margery, sayd I, take heede what you doo, for you know 20 that I am her Maiesties Officer, and heere I charge you in the Queenes name, that you holde your handes. What Maister Cunstable, said she, haue you gotten an enchauntment for me, or doo you thinke that your charme shal serue to excuse you? No sir no, for nowe you haue deserued double 25 punishment: first, you being an Officer if you offer wrong, your punishment must be so much the more greeuous, and is it not meere iniustice to take that which was not prouided for you: next, you haue deserued to be well punished, for the little reuerence you haue vsed in the execution of your office: 30 commaunding me in the Queenes name to hold my handes with your cap on your head, nor vsing any other duty or reuerence: but Maister *Cunstable*, I will teach you howe to vs an Office, and with that she let flye at my heade, at my shoulders, at my armes, and stll she would cry, remember 35 heereafter how you doo your Office, remember your duty to the Queene, remember when you commaund in her Maiesties name, that you put off your cap, and doo it with reue-

## Greenes newes

rence: and such a number of other remembraunces she gaue mee, as I thinke there was neuer poore *Constable* before nor since, so instructed in an office as I was. To tell you of many other like remembrances which at other times shee bestowed on me, I shold but trouble you, but the conclusion is, 5 I am now ridde of her, and they say that the distaunce betweene Heauen and Hell is great, but if they were a funder fiew times further then they be, if I might vnderstand where shee were in the one, I woulde neuer rest till I were gotte to the other.

10

*Richard* hauing thus discoursed the whole course of hys life, of his lyking, of his loue, of his pleasure, of his paine, although the subiect of the matter were scarce worth the hearing, yet considering the place whether we were going, it kept a fitte *Decorum* with the iourny we had in hande: and 15 as the tale it selfe was tedious, so by this time we were ouer passed a long and wearisome way: the best commoditie, the tract was large and spacious, and still discended downe a Hill into the bothome of a Valley, glooming and melancholy to behold, where we might espie one with a Waxe Candle 20 lighted in his hand, who was walking by himselfe, prying and tooting in euery corner, and many times stumbling, and ready to fall where the way was plaine and smooth, that we tooke him to be some blind man that had lost his way, wher- at we began to wonder what he shold doo with candle light, 25 that could not see to guide his steppes at high noone dayes. But we keeping on our way, were drawn so neere him that we might perceiue he had the vse of his eyes, yet hee neuer perceiued vs, till I saluted him, and bade him God speede. Whereat he fuddainly started, as if he had beene halfe in a 30 fright, but when he had awhile taken the gaze on vs, hee demaunded of vs how farre we had come that way. I tolde him that we were come from Heauen, and that we were going to seeke out the place of *Purgatory*, desiring hym that if he were acquainted in thos quarters, that he would direct 35 vs the ready way to goe thither.

Alas Gentlemen (said he) that is the place that I haue  
beene

## both from Heauen and Hell.

beene seeking for this long Moneth together, and I thinke there is no corner betweene thys and Hell that I haue lefte vnsearched: and were it not for thys holy Candle, whose vertue is able to defend me from the inchauntment of anie 5 spirit or deuill, I would thinke I were *Goblyn* lead, I haue wandered so farre about, euermore hitting into daungerous high wayes that leadeth to Hell, and coulde neuer finde out the path that should bring me to Purgatory.

Truly my freend (said I) if I be not deceiued, the lyght 10 which you carry in your hand (wherin you repose your greatest confidence) is the very meane of your mistaking, & hath so much dimmed your sight and dazeled your eyes, that you cannot see the right way, but makes you thus to run stumblung about, and to wander to and fro, that you your selfe 15 knowes not whether, I would wish you therefore to leaue it, and you shall see so much the better howe to direct your steps. What said he, would you haue mee leaue my holy Candle, marry God and good S. *Frauncis* blesse me out of that mind: but if you be of that Religion, I would be sorry to tarrie in 20 your company, vnlesse I might induce you by perswasion to thinke more reuerently of holy things.

Truely (sayde I) a lyttle inducement shal suffise to per-  
swade me to any reasonable matter, and good counsell is e-  
uermore to be embraced, but especially at this instant, my 25  
cafe being now as it is.

Why then (said he) I will tell you a true tale, wherein you shall perceiue the wonderfull effect that Holy water hath in working against the deuill, and this it is. There was not not long since, a very proper young woman, that was pos- 30 fessed of a fiend, who did so torment & vexe her, that although she would not goe to any Sermons, nor would euer receiue the Communion, yet she would sometimes goe to Church, and say her *Pater noster* in English, and now and then eate flesh on Fridaies, and would commit many other heresies, 35 which thys deuill tempted and led her to doe. But you shall see now, there was a good honest holy Priest that was a *Seminarie*, who beeing in place where thys Woman was, and

## Greenes newes

and lyking her very well, did begin to pitty her case, and of meere deuotion prickt forward by a sanctified loue, he deuised with himselfe, how he might fully reclaime her to the holie Church: and hauing attempted many practises in vaine, and finding that neyther perswasion, charme, nor any manner of coniuration, was able to remooue the wicked spryrite from her, his last helpe was, hee gaue her a glister of holie Water, the which hee had no sooner put vp into her bodie, but the deuil immediatly forsooke her, that she after became a most Catholique vessell, and was able to reason so profoundly in that Religion, that but with a little blast of her back fide, she wold haue made the proudest Protestant that stooode next her to stop his nose.

An other like miracle I am able to protest of mine owne knowledge, and this is it. There was a Gentleman that is liuing at this present houre, whose name and dwelling place if I list I coulde deliuer: thys Gentleman had beene married full out tenne yeeres, during which space he neuer had issue, although both himselfe and his wife were very desirous to haue chyldren. But it fell out that a holy Father a *Iesuite* was priuily harboured in thys Gentleman's house, who seeing the Gentlewoman to be a lusty and well-lyking wench to beare chyldren, did minister vnto her the holy sacrament of extreme vncion, anoyling her partes of generation with holy oyle, and laying the signe of the croffe ouer her as she lay on her bed, and thys Gentlewoman for three yeeres together that thys holy father lay in her house, had euery yeere a childe: and therfore most happy may those people thinke themselues, that doth retaine and foster such holie guestes nowe in these dangerous tymes, if it were but to haue theyr Wiues hallowed, and to be made holy vessells.

But if I shoulde heere enlarge further, what miracles hath beene wrought, by *Holie Water*, *Holy Candles*, *Holy Ashes*, *Holy Oyles*, *Holie Lambes*, and many other holy Reliques, I knowe I shoulde minister so much contentment to your conceite, as the pleasure would make you hartily to laugh.

Sir,

both from Heauen and Hell.

Syr sayde I, your myracles are strange, and they may be true, but yet I am of opinion, that for the casting out of diuelles, the name of God is of greater authoritie, than a whole tubbe full of holy water, and for a woman to be made 5 fruitefull in children, is likewise the blessing of God, and I doo thinke that for the attayntment of any thing that is good, it is rather to be requested in the name of the Creator, then otherwise to be sought for, by the meanes of the creature.

The other aunswere againe, but men that bee of your 10 Religion, are not able to looke into theyr owne errors: for if they were not wilfully blinde, they should finde it in com- mon experiance, that hee that will looke to preuaile in hys futes, shall sooner bee dispatched by the mediation of the Saincts, than if he presumed to preferre his cause to GOD 15 himselfe, and should finde more grace by the meanes of the creature, then if he requested in the name of the Creator: and because I would bee glad to confirme you the better, I will shewe you you an example.

Admitte nowe that your selfe were in a Princes Court, 20 and had some fute, that might not onely concerne your own, but that it stetcheth so farre, as to the aduaancement of Gods glory, the profite of the Prince, and the generall bene- fite of the whole Countrey. You are nowe to preferre thys fute: what, will you goe to the Prince himselfe? (who in 25 this place representeth God) why you shall attende a longe while before you shall come to his presence, and then, al- though he be milde, affable, gracious, and full of clemencie, and in deede with as many royll vertues as appertayneth to a godly Prince, yet he will turne you of to some one graue 30 Counsailer, or some other great personage that is about him, to looke into your cause and to consider of it: (who in this place dooth represent the holy Saincts, which must bee your Mediator:) Now this Counsayler is so troubled with so many other affayres, and such busines of great impor- 35 tance, that he hath no leyfure in the world to remember you: then must you ply his Secretary, or some other that is neere about him, and you come to him (whith your cappe in your

F hand

## Greenes newes

hand and lowe courtesie) and say, I beseech you Syr reme-  
ber my sute to your Maister, I haue lyen long heere, and I  
haue spent all that I am able to make, and I pray you Syr  
euen for Christes sake, and for the tender mercy of God, get  
me an aunswere: (heere you come in the name of the Crea- 5  
tor:) Nowe sir, I will (for example sake) make my selfe an  
aduerse against you, and I will come to the same partie, and  
say vnto him, Syr, I vnderstand that such a one (meaning  
you) hath presented such a sute, and I beseech you Syr, euen  
as you loue an hundredth Angels, (I come heere in the name 10  
of the creature) procure me your Maysters lets against him,  
and let mee haue your assistance for the stay of his sute: tell  
mee nowe your owne conscience, will not these visibile crea-  
tures, glistering in this mans eyes, worke a quicker expedi-  
tion, than the bare name of your inuisible Creator but foun- 15  
ding in his eares? I am sure you will neuer make question  
of the matter: for the very presence of an hundredth angels  
but looking him in the face, will make him to enter into any  
attempt, yea, and sometimes to abuse his Maister, be he ne-  
uer so wise, be he neuer so graue, or be he neuer so honorable, 20  
and to make him by his information perhappes to commit  
some error.

Syr (saide I) if the matter were worth the reasoning, I  
could easilly aunswere your fond comparissons, but I am not  
disposed to argue of these matters, & wil therfore let them rest 25  
with this conclusion, that God is God, and onely good, & men  
are men, & no man without fault, nor free from offence. This  
is very true (answering *Richard*) for the *Vicar* of our parish in  
a Sermon that he made on Midlent Sunday, did speake so  
much in Latine and sayde, *Nemo sine briberi viuit*: I re- 30  
member his words well enough, and brought so much of hys  
Sermon away.

*Richard* had no sooner thus added his finatiue conclusion,  
but we might sodainly heare a loud & pitteous skrike, which  
by the shrilnes of the noise, seemed to be some womans voice, 35  
that was put into some feare, or offered some vvolence: and  
bending both our eyes and our steppes, towardes the place  
from

## both from Heauen and Hell.

from whence the noice resounded to our eares, we might see a woman hastily comming towards vs, with a trusse or fardle vnder her arme, to whom I saide; Good woman, it seemeth you shold be distressed, although I know not for what cause, 5 but say, what is the matter of this your hasty flight? Alas fir, (said she) as I was trauelling towards hell, with certaine wares that I haue heere in my fardle, which I am sent with all to shewe them to *Proserpina*: fast by heere in the high way, there encountered with mee the most deformed and 10 yll-fauoured Monster, that euer I did sette myne eyes on, whose ougly countenaunce dyd so afright mee, that it maketh mee in this sort to retyre, not daring to holde on my course.

I pray thee goodwife (saide I) what wares should they be, 15 that thou art carrying to hell? or doost thou carry them to sell? or be they sent as a present?

Syr sayde shee, I haue heere Perewigs of the newe curle, Roules, and other attyres for the heade of the new fashion, Ruffes of the newe sette, newe Cuttes, newe 20 Stitches, newe gardes, newe imbroyders, newe deuyfed French Verdingales, newe French bodyes, newe bumbafting, newe bolstering, newe vnderlayings, and twentie newe deuyses more than I haue nowe spoken of, which I am carrying to hell amongst the Ladyes 25 and Gentlewomen that are there, who when they lyued in the worlde woulde let slippe no fashion: and I am sure nowe they bee there, would be right glad of the fashions nowe in vse, both to see them and to haue them.

In good faith (said I) they be wares fit for such customers, 30 for from hell they came, and thether they will, there they were first deuised, and therefore fitteſt to ferue that Market.

You are much deceyued fir (sayd she) for I haue fashions heere that neuer a Lady nor Gentlewoman that is in hell, euer sawe the like, nor neuer a Curtyſan, or any other 35 ftrumpet that liued in the world, did euer weare the like, ſuch perewigs, curled and firifled by art, ſuch roules of hayre perſumed and platted by proportion, ſuch ruffes as will alſe one

## Greenes newes

whole day to wash and starch, and an other daies labour but to pinne them in the fashion, that (alas poore women) they are faine to take great paynes to goe to the diuell: but I beseech you Gentlemen, if your occasions be not the greater, doo so much as condnct mee a lyttle part of the way, tyll I bee 5 past this ill fauoured Monster that hath so affright me. We yeelding to her request, had not gone farre but we might discerne a most deformed creature, with a monstros payre of hornes, growing from the vppermost part of his Fore-head, the tippes whereof turned round into his eyes, and growing 10 there agayne into his head, had made him starke blinde, that he had no manner of fight; Our Companion so confidently perswaded in the vertue of his holy Candle, that he thought no spirite was able to hurt him, stepping forward sayde, *In nomine Patris*, what art thou that walkest in this sort, thus 15 disturbing the High wayes.

The other aunswered, What I am thou mayst see very well, but howe I came to bee thus perplexed, that thou must vnderstand by a further cyrcumstaunce. Knowe then that I was a Myller, sometimes dwelling in Kent, where I kept a 20 Mill, which (as it seldome tymes wanted water, so at no time it wanted grift) for that it had the custome of the Countrey, at the leaft fve or six myles about: It fortuned that a very wealthy and substancial Farmer, dwelling two or three miles frō me, sent a sache of Corne to my Mill by his daugh- 25 ter, which came on horse-backe to haue her corne grownd, intending to haue gone backe againe with it before night: which might very well haue beene doone, sauing that wee Myllers are tyed to this custome, which is, when any young women dooth fortune thus to come to the Mill, wee vse as 30 well to take toule of themselues, as of their saches: and I, fixing mine eyes vpon the wench, seeing her to be a very han- some young Mayden, not aboue nineteene or tweentie yeeres of age, was very loath to let her escape toule-free, and therefore set downe a plot howe I might acquainte her with our 35 custome: the which I could not by any meanes perfourme, but by making her to stay all night, wherefore I purposly put

## both from Heauen and Hell.

put my Myll out of temper, and spent all the after noone in reparyng and trimming of my Myll, and brought her corne to the hopper, whē the day was so far passed, that it was not possible it could bee grownd off, tyll it were very late in the 5 night; But the young Mayden seeing her Corne vpon the Myll, and desirous to haue it home with her, stayed with the better will, the which being once grownd off, notwithstanding the euening was very farre spent, yet shee woulde haue departed home: but I, pretending much good will to her Fa-  
10 ther, tolde her that if a dogge of her Fathers, were in my house at this time of the night, I would not shutte him forth of the doores for his Maisters sake, much leſſe your Fathers daughter: wherefore I will intreate you to stay this night in my house, and you shall haue a homely bed, and a cleane  
15 paire of sheetes, with such fare as I hope shall content you, and for your horse, hee shall likewife bee turned into a good pasture fast by my Mill, and in the morning all things shall be ready for you to depart so ſoone as you please.

The maiden being well perfwaded by my faire speeches, 20 seemed content, and I went to my wife, & tolde her that for as much as my Mill had beene out of temper all the day, I must ſit vppe all night to grinde, willing her further to make ready a ſpare Chamber, for the young Maiden my Neighbours daughter: who had stayed ſo long for the grinding of her  
25 Corne, that it was too late for her to goe home, & willed her, to better our ſupper with a capon or a dish of chickins, as ſhe her ſelfe thought good; But my wife, who many times before had taken the true measure of my foote, and had picked out at her fingers endes the whole drift of my pretence,  
30 winking a little with one of her eyes, aunſwered ſmoothly, Husband all ſhall be doone as you haue willed: & although I had beene ſufficiently inſtructed in this olde *Axiome*, which ſayth, *Trust not an olde queane, if ſhe once begins to winke*: yet by my wiues ſmooth demeanure, I was free from all fu-  
35 picion, and contemplating my ſelfe in hope of my nights hap- pinesſe, I neuer had leysure to bethinke me of any precepts of good counſaile: but my wife hauing made all things ready,

F 3 and

## Greenes newes

and that we were called in to such cates as shee had prouided, & we likewise hauing ended our supper, I told the young wench, that when she were disposed to take her rest, my wife should bring her to her Chamber, and wild my wife likewise at her owne leyisure to get her to bed, for that I was to 5  
watch all night, that I might bee ready in the morning to serue my customers according to my promise: and thus lea-  
uing them twayne together, I departed about my busines;  
but, my wife that had conceiued the very depth of my deuise,  
lodged the mayde in her owne bed, and hauing but one other 10  
Chamber, which I alwayes reserued for a friend, and where  
I thought the mayde should haue beene placed, there my  
wife slyly & cunningly lodged her selfe: but I that was more  
doubtfull of mine own fortune, than suspiciois of my wiues  
practise, perceyuing euery body to bee in bedde, did thinke 15  
it nowe high time to make tryall of my pretence, and con-  
ueying my selfe feathly into the Chamber, and then comming  
to the bedde side (with a soft and lowe voyce) I beganne to  
perfwade thys young Mayden (as I had thought) that shee  
shoulde not stande in doubt or feare of him who was come 20  
vnto her onely for good will, whom loue and liking had  
made bolde and hardie, to request some curtesie and kind-  
nesse at her handes, and heere-withall, throwing one of  
mine armes ouer her, I beganne to hunte after her lyppes,  
and to haue bestowed of her a louing kisse. 25

But my wife, whose cunning had serued her to traine  
me into this mistaking, could tell howe to behauie her selfe in  
the rest, to confirme mee in mine error: for, although she  
would render me no manner of speeches, whereby I might  
discouer her by her voice, yet in the rest of her demeanure she 30  
counterfeited so cunningly, such a kind of maydenly nycitie,  
that a man would rather haue taken her for some young ig-  
norant puny, that had neuer dealt the cardes, than for an old  
beaten gamster, that knewe well enough howe to make the  
stakes: for although shee knewe what it was whereat I le- 35  
uelled, and was most desirous to haue had me hit the marke,  
yet she delayed mee off with a counterfeit kinde of striuing,  
and

## both from Heauen and Hell.

and would neuer yeelde, tyll seeming for want of breath shee  
was not able to resist, and then panting (as it were to take  
the ayre) shee seemed to bee ouercome (as it were) by force:  
and I, that was not better able to discerne of Cats in the  
5 darke, but that they were all gray, feasted my selfe with a  
fulsome repast, in steede of a dayntie dish, for blinde con-  
ceit had gyuen mee an appetite to feede on that dyet, which  
if I had feene, woulde quickly haue cloyed my stomacke:  
but hauing well satif-fied my selfe, and that I was now  
10 at leyisure to looke into mine owne fortune, and confi-  
dering what perrill might ensue for a little pleasure past,  
if the wench shoulde fortune to complayne of that one  
nights lodging fortie weekes after, the which would not  
onely redounde to my great shame and reproch, but lyke  
15 enough to fall out to my wracke and vtter vndooring, her  
Father beeing an able and wealthye man, that woulde  
not let to seeke reuenge; to preuent these and other mis-  
chieves, I did bethinke me of this deuise.

I had a lusty young fellowe to my man, called *Rafe*,  
20 about the age of foure or fife and twentie yeeres, whom  
I had left to see to my Myll nowe in myne absence; this  
Companion I knewe woulde be pat for my purpose, and  
one I was sure that woulde neuer flynch, to spende hys  
fix pence at his drinke or his drabbe: and calling to minde  
25 an olde president, drawne from one of myne owne coate, I  
meane, from the Miller that had taught hys man to counter-  
feite so long, tyll hee was hanged vp in hys Maysters roome,  
I determined with my selfe likewise, to make mine own  
man the instrument that should stand betweene mee and  
30 all future mischieves.

Heere-uppon fayning an occasion to goe looke to my  
Mill, and taking my leaue for the instant with a kisfe,  
I came where my man was, and questioning with him  
of many idle matters, amongst the rest I demaunded of him  
35 how he lyked of the young mayden?

Mary Mayster (sayne hee) I doo lyke so well of her,  
that I woulde thinke it a most happie turne for men of  
our

## Greenes newes

our occupation, if all the diuelles of hell were such as she is, because there are very few Millers that doo vse to goe to heauen: and then if hell were no worse furnished than with such, I wold not care if I did take my iourney thether-wards to morrowe so soone as it were day.

5

Why *Rafe* (sayd I) thou knowest where she lyeth in the guest Chamber, & what wilt thou giue me if I turne thee in to her, and giue thee instruction howe thou shalt behaue thy selfe, that shee shall not refuse to render courtesie for thy kindnesse. I coulde scarce make an ende of my wordes, but 10 my man, as if he had stayed too long, hastily aunswered.

Maister, I haue nothing in the world, but a sheepe and a Lambe, which (as you knowe) doo goe in the Mill close, per-15 fourme your words, and I will giue you them both, and that with all my heart.

15

I reioycing in mine owne conceit, to thinke howe kindly I had coosoned my man, would needes clappe handes wthy him for the better confirmancye of the bargaine: the which beeing thus agreeed on betweene vs, I wylled him to goe into the Chamber, and without any feare to get to the maydes 20 bed, and there to vse no manner of speeches, but to worke all his enterpris, but onely by dumbe perswafions.

But will you see howe cunning was heere caught in his owne nette: I had thought to haue coosoned my man, but he kist me kindly for my acquaintance, and (according as I had 25 directed him) into the Chamber he went, where my wife in the darke could no better discerne betweene me and my man, than I was able before to iudge betweene her and the maid: but he, vsing no wordes because I had so instructed him, and she forbearing to speake for marring her owne Market, but 30 thus in sylence betweene them, I was coosoned on both fides, for they agreeed so well together, that I thinke they were loath to part, for my man seemed to like so well of hys entartaynment, that the day was ready to breake, before hee would leaue his game. My wife on the other fide, in condi-35 tion like vnto those, that when they haue sped well, cannot keepe their owne counsaile: shee gat her selfe vp immediatly after,

## both from Heauen and Hell.

after, and then calling the young maiden, who had slept qu-  
etly all night, knowing nothing how matters had passed a-  
mongst vs, and the day light being by this time a little clea-  
red vp, between my man and I we fette her vpon her horse,  
5 with her sacke of meale vnder her: and she gyuing me harty  
thanks for my curtesie, departed thus towards her Fathers  
house.

Heere beganne *Rafe* and I againe to recreate our felues  
with the remembrance of our nights pleasure, I smild in my  
10 sleeve to think how I had cosoned my man: my man laugh-  
ed to remember how he had deceiued the maide: and beeing  
thus together in the midft of our sports, in comes my Wife,  
seeming by her countenaunce to be as merry as the best, and  
taking me by the hand, she prayed me to goe in with her, I  
15 thinking she had somewhat to say, comming into the house,  
shee had prouided for my breakefast a warme caudle dainti-  
lie made, with a couple of Chickins rosted, and stoode hote  
vpon the Table. I that sawe this extraordinary diet, mer-  
uailing what conceite was gotte into her head: asked her  
20 what myght be the cause of thys her suddaine kindnesse: she  
that lookt me in the face as wantonly as if she had come late-  
ly where the frolike had runne rounde about the house, aun-  
swered me thus.

Byr lady husband you haue taken paynes to night, and  
25 I perceiue you are not yet so farre ouer spent, but that you  
are worth the cherishing: you haue deserued a better break-  
fast then thys: for he that hath watcht as you haue doone all  
night, had neede be well comforted in the morning. These  
suspicious words thus deliuered by my wife, brought mee  
30 well neere into the fitte of an Ague: but beeing desirous to  
be better satif-fied in her meaning, I said.

And what paynes haue I taken thys night, more then I  
haue doone at other tymes? I haue watched manie a night  
before thys, when I found no such kindnes at your hande in  
35 the morning.

Husband (said shee) how so euer you haue watched in  
times past, I know not, but this nights labor hath deserued

## Greenes newes

no leſſe then a comfortable restoratiue, and in ſteed of *Potato* rootes, I haue made you a warme Caudle next your hart: be not afraide man of that you haue doone, for it was I that ſupplyed the young wenches place to night in the gueſt Chamber, and it was you that came thether and playde the 5 propper man. But I thinke husband, how ſoeuer you haue ouer-reached me before, I haue cryed quittance with you to night. And nowe comfort your ſelfe whilſt your meate is warme, plucke vppe your ſtomake and fall to your break-  
fast. 10

I that was not able with patience to endure her words, burſting out in choller, ſaide. The deuill take thee and thy breakefast, for thou haſt giuen me a breakfast and a dynner to, that will ſtik in my ſtomacke whilſt I liue. And going my way in this chafe into my Myll, where my man percei- 15 uing my ſuddaine paſſion, demaunded of me the cauſe of my vnquietnes? Vilaine (ſaid I) thy ſelfe art the cauſe why I am thus perplexed, for thou haſt lyne with my Wife: I Maifter (ſayd he) you are much deceiued, and I protest I would not doo you ſo much wrong, for ſo much corne as wold 20 fill the Hopper.

Thou haſt doone it (ſayd I) for ſhe hath confeſt it vnto me, and it was ſhe that did lye to night in the outer Chamber in the young wenches roome. That was more then I knew of (ſayd my man,) but ſith it was ſo, I will haue my ſheepe 25 and my Lambe againe, for the bargaine was beſtweene vs, that you ſhould haue ſent me in to the Maide, and I vpon thys condition, promiſed you my ſheepe & my Lambe, but ſith you haue broke your promiſe, by Saint *Anne* I will not ſtand to my bargaine. 30

These ſpeeches of thys varlet, dyd more vexe and grieue me then before: and yet I wifte not how I ſhould be reuengeted, nor better remedy could I deuife, but after I had freated my fill, I commaunded the knaue to take his ſheepe and his Lambe, and preſently to gette him out of my ſeruice, nor 35 neuer after to come within my doores, nor into any other place in my wiues company.

Thys

both from Heauen and Hell.

Thys gaule of griefe continually fretting and gnawing  
in my conscience, myght haue beene thought a sufficient pu-  
nishment though *Rigore* hymselfe had pronounced the sen-  
tence: but my terrestiall penaunce not enough to appease  
5 the angry Goddes, they haue decreed thys finall conclusion:  
that as I was the author of myne owne harmes by myne  
owne blindnesse, so mine owne hornes shall for euermore  
so grow in myne owne light, that beeing not able to discerne  
which way or how to direct my steppes, I should wander in  
10 this solitary place, bereft of all other societie, and so to conti-  
nue world without end.

The Woman that stooode by all thys whyle, and had gy-  
uen attentiuе eare to thys discourse, striken as it shold seeme  
into some remorse, vpon what consideration I know not, but  
15 thus she sayd.

Alas poore Myller, if thy punishment be so greeuous  
for a small escape ignorantly committed, woe is mee to  
be-thinke what shall betide to an infinite number y<sup>e</sup> are dai-  
lie infected with thys common calamitie, this horne-plague  
20 I meane, the generall sicknes of our time: a maladie that  
hath so much infected both Citty, Towne, and Country, that  
there are few places free, which are not spiced heere & there,  
with this forked generation: amongst the which there be a  
number of honest Gentlemen, some of them my verie good  
25 freends and customers, whose hornes doth hang so much in  
theyr own lights, that they are well contented to suffer theyr  
wiues to pranke themselues vp in euery new fashion, wher-  
by to set theselues to sale, & to make open shew how lightly  
they are disposed: but the horne-plague shal neuer depart his  
30 house, that hath his wife so garishly inclined.

But alas for pitty, what shall become of a number of  
kind harted *Wittoles*, that will not onely be contented to  
hoode-winke themselues from theyr Wiues adulteries,  
but also to become Bawdes and Brokers, yea and some-  
35 times will not sticke to keepe the doores, whilst their Wiues  
shall bee within, playing the harlots wyth theyr custo-  
mers.

## Greenes newes

Blame not me that am touched with some remorse, for these be the people that I doe liue by, for what shoulde I doe with my new-fangled trashe, if there were not as lycencious Women to buy them? And why should they deck them-selues so Curtisan-like to the view of the world, but to manifest their vnchaft appetites, that they might be the rather desired of men. 5

The woman had no sooner ended these speeches, but she as suddainly burst out into such a vehement laughter, that for the time, she was not able to deliuer a word: but in the 10 end, with much a doe, recouering the vse of her tongue, shee sayd: Now truely I cannot chuse but laugh to think of my husbande, howe ill fauoured he will looke with such a payre of spectakles hanging ouer hys browes as thys Myller hath gotte. 15

Wee that stoode by, and were more mindfull to see an end of our trauailes then disposed to prolong the time in idleness: I asked of the Miller if he did knowe where abouts the place of Purgatory was, or if he could giue vs any direction which way we myght gette thither, he answered thus. 20

My good Freendes, what soeuer you be, you shall vnderstante, that thirtie yeeres and odde are already ouer paſſed ſith I firſt frequented theſe infernall patheſ, in which meane ſpace, though I haue not beene able to diſcern mine owne footeſteppes, yet by the reports of ſundry trauailers 25 that hath paſſed theſe waies, I haue learned thus much concerning Purgatory.

The perſons that were the firſt founders of the place, were not perfectly fighted, but like as the Owle which can- not abide the light of the Sunne, flyeth euermore in y night, 30 ſo those men, not able to endure that excellent brightneſſe which is the onely true light to euery perfect vnderſtanding, framing all theyr platformes in obſcuritie and darkneſſe, a- mongſt other idle inuentions, woulde needes take vpon them the building of Purgatorie. The place where they 35 had ſeated it, was ſo obſcured with ſuch fogges and filthy myfies, that no man that had the perfect vſe of hys wittes, was

## both from Heauen and Hell.

was euer able to find the situation. The foundation wheron it was layd, was lyes and foolish fantasies, the rest of the vpper buildings, was dreames and doting deuises. All the whole edifice, was of such lyght and rotten stiffe, that after 5 they had beene two or three hundred yeeres patching & pee-  
cing it together, a poore silly Swaine naked and thred bare, called *Trueth*, blowing against the building but with a little blast of breath, the gale was of such force against it, that the whole matter & substance, together with the Founders, Pa-  
10 trons, Proctors, Protectors & Defenders, were al blown immediatly into Hell: so that who soeuer he be that seeketh for Purgatory, there hee shall be sure to finde it: and for these thirty yeeres that I haue wandred in these places, there neuer came any to enquire after it but madde men and fooles.

15 Why then sayd I (to our companion that stoode by with hys Candle,) I perceiue you had some reason to bring light with you when you came to seeke Purgatory, sith the place is so darke and so daintie to be found. But nowe you know assuredly where you may finde it, your Candle will stand 20 you in some steede to light you to Hell.

Hee breaking out into sundry passions, some-times raging against the Myller, saying that he was but an ignorant and a lying Heretique: then calling to his memory the long tyme he had spent in seeking of Purgatory, hee beganne as 25 vehemently to rayle against the Pope, and as bitterly to exclaime against hys *Iefuites* and *Seminaries*, that had promised to instruct hym in the high way to Heauen, and directlie sent him the verie next way to Hell.

In these angry fittes hee blewe out hys Candle, and 30 throwing it from him, was contented to hold vs companie in the rest of our iourny.

Whilst we were wandering thus together, we had not paced the distance of a furlong, but we might heare the sounde of a Horne, which was blowne with such shrilnesse, 35 that the Eccho redoubled againe in the ayre, and looking about vs, we might perceiue a farre of, where one came ryding post all in black as fast as his horse was able to fling,

G 3 and

## Greenes newes

and with his quicke speede immediatly passing by vs, wee knewe him by his balde pate and his Coule hanging at hys backe, that he was a fatte squaddy Monke, that had beene well fedde in some Cloyster, who with his great haste was suddainly out of our sights: and we had not trauailed farre, 5 but we might see Hell gates standing wide open, with a boundaunce of people that were flocking out of all quarters, preasing in as thicke, as if in the Terme time they were thronging to *Westminster Hall*. And presently we might behold a cleere auoydance in the gates, and a multitude coming foorth, with Belles, with Banners, with Torches, with Croffes and with Copes, in a very solemne manner of Procescion, singing *Salve festa dies*.

Wee standing still in a gaze as they passed by, I demanded of one of the traine what myght be the meaning? Who 15 answere mee that there was a Post newly come frō *Rome*, with newes that the Popes Legate was hard at hand, with some great Embassage: and that solemnitie was onely to entertaine him, to shew what reuerence they dyd beare to hys Maister. The thronge that followed was so exceeding, 20 that we were mightily shouldeled to and fro amongst the company, but *Veluet breeches* & I, determining to see what would follow, we tooke the one the other by the hand, folowing in the prease til at length this holy Legate was seene where he was cōming, so that it was not long but they met. 25 The Legate ȳ was a chuffe-headed Cardinall with a paire of fulsome cheeke, strecthed out like one that were playing on a bag-pipe, alighted from his palfry, and presenting himselfe before *Lucifer*, who was there in place to receiue him, he fel down vpon his knees, praying the Prince of darknesse, to 30 bestow his fatherly benediction vpon the Popes holines, hys chiefe Vicar & Vizegerent vpon earth: the only man that he was especially beholding vnto, who sent him from time to time whole Millions of soules for the increasing of his kingdome: from whom I am sent with matters of much import- 35 tance to be heere confidered of, and whose person in this place I doo now reprezent.

*Lucifer*

both from Heauen and Hell.

*Lucifer* lyfting vp one of hys pawes, and waging it ouer the Legates head, sayd: That blessing that God gaue vnto *Caine* for the killing of hys Brother *Abel*, lyght vpon thy Maister and hys successours for euer. Then taking hym by 5 the arme, he sayd.

Stand vppe, for considering whose Embassadour thou art, it were an embacing to thine estate, if thou shouldest shew any signe of humility or lowlines. Thou doost heere represent the person of *Antechrist*, whose pride coulde neuer 10 yet surrender it selfe to any manner of obedience, I will not therefore in this place y any thing be imbeiseled, that might derogate the least dignity from that Chayre of pestilence, I meane the holy Sea of *Rome*.

Then was there brought foorth a most stately Chayre, 15 which was prepared of purpose, in which Chayre *Ambition* and *Pryde* hauing placed the *Cardinall*, olde *Ignorance* and young *Obstinacy*, (the one blind, the other froward,) taking it vpon theyr shoulders, as if the Pope himselfe were carried in his *Pontificalibus*, and then a rich & sumptuous Canapie 20 beeing spred ouer him, and borne by foure supporters, which were, *Idolatry*, *Hipocrisie*, *Heresie*, and *Blasphemy*, thus in this pompious manner (beeing placed in the Proceffion next *Lucifer* himselfe) they returned to Hell, whose gates I noted to be so large and spacious, that a Princes Army though 25 it were martialed in any proportion of battayle, with Fyllets, Troupes and Winges, might well haue marched in without any manner of dyforder. And although the inner roomes did so excede in greatnes, that it paffeth humaine reason to conceiue of them aright, yet he that should behold 30 the abundance of people that resorte thether daily, and the infinite number that are there to be seene flocking in euerie corner therof, wold more wonder to thinke what place could so containe them.

Beeing thus come into Hell, they went to the Chappel, 35 where Pope *Hildebrand* the first founder of *Transubstantiation* was ready to say *Masse*, the which beeing ended, *Sathan* (who can in no wise endure the deferring of matters that

## Greenes newes

that dooth concerne his owne estate, went immediatly into the Conuocation house, where calling about him a most abominable company of Popes, Cardinals, Bishops, Pryors, Abbots, and other Clergy men, that hath beene for this foure or fife hundred yeeres, stll of his priuie Counsaile, the 5 Legate was willed to deliuer the effect of his message, who making hys entrance with a breefe Oration, tending to the commendation of the Popes carefulnesse, how many stragemes he had endeououred against *Englande, Fraunce, and Ireland*, for the better establishing of the Kingdome of *Ante- 10 chrift* in those places: and he was nowe to let them vnderstand, first for *England*. Where he had thought to haue accomplished hys purposes by the meanes of his *Iesuites* and *Seminaries*, whom he sent thether in flockes, to withdrawe the people from theyr obedience, to styrre them to sedition, 15 rebellion and vprore: to practise treasons against theyr Soueraigne, yea and to vndertake many horrible enterprisest against the person of the Prince, whom God hath stl migh-tilie defended, not onely preseruing her from their traiterous practis, but likewise hath so reuealed the conspiracies of 20 the practisers, that from time to time they haue been stll apprehended, and so sent to *Tyburne*, to say *In manus tuas*.

Beeing therefore exempted from all manner of hope to find any good successe in these former platformes, his Holiness craueth your Hellish instructions, what course hee 25 might now follow for the recouery of that Country.

For *Fraunce*, it would aske a long time heere to be dy-  
coursed, what trecheries, what treasons, what mischieues,  
what murthers, and what massacres hys Holines hath there  
from time to time effected: and although hee hath now stir- 30  
red vppe hys vassaile the King of *Spayne*, who hath from the  
dignitie of a magnificent Prince, surrendred himselfe to be-  
come a slau to the Pope, to come and goe as he appoints  
him, and to be the executor of all his damnable deuises, and  
hath hys forces nowe in that Countrey, in the assistance of 35  
Traytors and Rebels, against theyr naturall Prince and  
lawfull King: yet hys Holines can haue no assured hope  
to

## both from Heauen and Hell.

to supprese the light of the Gospell retayned amongst them, or vtterly to subuert the professors of it, without some diuelish deuise, platted and contriued from this infernall pitte of hell.

5 Nowe lastly for *Ireland*, if that Countrey might still bee continued in that state as it now standeth, there were many hopes to be expected, not necessary in this place to bee openly reuealed: for although the naturall people of that Countrey, (yea euen in the most barbarous places) be of theselues very  
10 zealously inclyned, & without all peraduenture, would easilly be drawn to the true knowledge and worship of God, if they had such a Minister amongst them, as might instruct them, awell in wholesome doctrine, as in good example of life: but  
15 the Pope hath so well prouided for the place, that the whole Country dooth swarne with *Iesuits*, *Seminaries*, and massing Priests, yea, and Fryers, that haue recourse into *Dublyne* it selfe, and these doo keepe such a continuall and daylie buzzing in the poore peoples eares, that they are not onely ledde from all duety and obedience of theyr Prince, but also drawne  
20 from God by superstitious Idolatrie, and so brought headlong by heapes into hell: for through the whole Countrey, the people are so confidently perswaded in the doctrine of *Antechrist*, that they thinke our Lord will doo nothing without the mediation of our Lady, of *Mary*, or of *John*. And to  
25 speak truly of the Clergy of that Realme, if there be one that feeketh to vpholde the glory of God, there is ten for that one that feeketh to vpholde the kingdome of *Antechrist*; neyther is it to be doubted, but that there be some fewe, which both in preaching and lyuing sheweth all sinceritie and godlynesse of  
30 life: but there be a number of others, which neither say nor doo, neither preach well, nor liue well. Some other there be that now and then will get vp into a Pulpit, and there they will spend an howre, chyding against the Pope in the course of their speaking, and they are no sooner come down but they  
35 will defie God himselfe halfe a yeere after, in the manner of theyr lyuing: and this example of theyr vngodly behauisour, is no little corrasiuie to weake consciences, that doo beholde

H

their

## Greenes newes

their wickednes. For what is it for a Clergy man, be he *Parson*, be he *Vicar*, be he *Deacon*, be he *Archdeacon*, be he *Byshop*, be he *Archbishop*, or let him be what he wil, if he be one that will rather endeouour himselfe to fleece his flocke than to feed it, that hath not so much care of the children of God, com- 5 mitted to his charge, which he suffereth dayly to perish: as he hath to proude marriages for his own children, in theyr very infancie, and when they are vnder age: that dooth builde houfes, and purchase rents by corruption, extortion, and briberie, that dooth eat and drinke the finnes of the igno- 10 rant people dayly at his table: that will not admit of a pardon from the Pope, yet dares not bee without ffe or six seuerall pardons from the Prince, for treason, for murther, for theft, for robbery, for confspyracy, for confederacy, for rafyng, for forging, for extortion, for bryberie, and for many other 15 filthy matters, shamefull to be spoken off, were it not before this haggish assembly: and what though from a base and beggerly parentage, he could shewe himselfe lofty in minde, lofty in lookes, and lofty in all the rest of his demeanures: Would not such a Prelate be fit for the deuilles Chappell? 20 The Legat had no sooner made an end of these latter words, but in comes *Dick Tarlton*, apparrelled like a Clowne, and singing this peece of an olde song.

*If this be trewe as true it is,*

*Ladie Ladie:*

25

*God send her life may mend the misse,*

*Most deere Ladie.*

This suddaine iest brought the whole company into such a vehement laughter, that not able agayne to make them keepe silence, for that present tyme they were faine to breake 30 vppe: and as *Veluet breeches* and I were walking arme in arme through the preafe, wee fortuned to meeete with *Commens*, one that some fewe yeeres agoe, had beene a Sargeant in *London*, who no sooner espyed *Veluet breeches*, but hee got vp a fire-brand, wherewith he gaue hym such a stroake 35 ouer the shoulders, that the coales flewe all about the place. *Veluet breeches* againe vppe with his fist, and gaue hym such

both from Heauen and Hell.

such a blowe vnder the eare, that had lyke to haue stryken  
him ouer: with this they closed, and beganne to pommell  
one an other as fast as theyr fists coulde walke, the compa-  
ny that stoode by beganne to cry Clubbes, Clubbes, Clubbes,  
5 and immediatly they came rushing in about vs, wyth  
flesh-hookes, with Coale rakes, wyth Fyre-forckes, and  
with such other furniture, as a man would haue thought  
were all come out of a Kytchin: and wyth some little a-doe  
they parted the fray, and the partieys were presently by  
10 the Officers brought before *Lucifer*, and I beeing a  
straunger in the place, was lykewife carried with them  
for company: where *Commens* beeing charged to bee  
the first Authour of the broyle, in his owne excuse ren-  
dered this reason.

15 I was (sayde hee) sometimes an Officer vnder the  
Sheriffes of *London*, and beeing feede by a Towns man to  
arrest *Veluet breeches*, I was brought vnto him where hee  
was in a *Barbers* shoppe, fitting with a Bafon before hym,  
full of sopia water, wherewith the *Barber* was rubbing hys  
20 cheeke, and dashing of hym about the lippes, and I seeing  
hym thus in trymming, thought of curtesie to forbeare the  
dooing of myne offyce, tyll the *Barbar* had ended his bu-  
finesse, and setting my selfe downe without any worde  
speaking, *Veluet breeches* by chaunce espying my Mace  
25 vnder my Gowne, suspecting a-ryght the cause of my  
comming, fuddaynelie (before I was a-ware of hym) threwe  
all the water so directly in my face, that the  
Sope getting into myne eyes, did so smart and grieue  
mee, that for my life I was not able to holde them o-  
30 pen: But whilst I stoode starke blinde for the tyme,  
wyping and rubbing of myne eyes, *Veluet breeches*  
packt himselfe out of the doores, that I could neuer after  
come where hee was tyll thys present, and I vowed then  
to bee reuenged of him the next time that euer I sawe him:  
35 and I am now to craue the priuiledge of the place, for it is di-  
rectly against our auncient custome, that there should be any  
quarrels or controuersies taken vp heere, or that there should

## Greenes newes

be found any peace-makers in hell: with this the whole multitude began to growe into an vprore, and they fell immediatlie to taking of parts: and first there stood vp in *Commens* behalfe, a great number of cruell creditors, crafty Lawyers, Merchants, Retaylers, Scriueners, Broakers, and a most 5 shamefull and filthy company of vsurers.

*Veluet breeches* on the other side, he wanted no friends, for there were a great many that knew him: and those that tooke hys part, were fwashers, fwearers, whore-maisters, theeues, robbers, ruffyans, roysters, and coofoners. 10

As they were growing into this commotion amongst themselues, there were gathered together an infinite number of *Cony-catchers*, which came to take part with *Veluet breeches*: who seeing me to stand by, they beganne to growe into confused exclamations against mee, some faide, let vs 15 teare the villaine in peeces, that hath written so many bookees against vs: other sayde, let vs fley of his skinne, and cut the the flesh from his bones in small gobbets, that hath so manifested the secrets of our trade and profession, to the world: some other sayde, let vs cut the tongue out of his head, and 20 put out both his eyes, that hath beene an enemie to the arte of *Cony-catching*, and hath so shamefully inueyed against the practisefes; Then came there foorth an infinite number of wo- men *Cony-catchers*, and they sware they would geld me, for marring theyr Market, and hindering them of theyr taking. 25 Thus was I threatned on all sides, euery man stooide wondering at mee, no man to take my part: But *Lucifer* perceiving the cause of their griefes, by the manner of their clamors, & willing to appease their passions with any punishment, commaunded mee presently to bee thrust foorth of hell 30 gates and charging me so to remaine a restlesse spirite, wan- dering through the world, and neuer after to make any re- turne agayne to that place.

Thus for the writing of bookees, I was first banished frō Heauen for my ouer much parciallitie, and nowe exiled from 35 hell, for my too much plainnesse: I remayne now (as I haue tolde you) a walking spyrite, restlesse and remedilesse to wan- der

## both from Heauen and Hell.

der through the world; I woulde therefore wish my friends to beware howe they walke late a nights, for I will bee the maddest *Gobline*, that euer vsed to walke in the Moone-shine. For I will sometimes bee a spirite of the Buttery,  
5 and I will so intoxicate their heades, that doo frequent the places of my haunt, that at night they shall not be able to find the way to their beds, tyll they haue taken their first sleepe on the flore.

Sometimes I will bee *Robin Goodfellowe*, and will  
10 meete with a wanton wench in a darke corner, and let her blesse and crosse her selfe as well as she can, I will put her in such a bodily feare, that for fortie weekes after, shee shall thinke that young bugges are crawling in her belly.

Sometimes I will shew such dreames & vysions to wo-  
15 men whilst they be sleeping, that they shall make theyr Huf-  
bands Cuckolds when they are waking.

Sometimes I will trans-forme my selfe into diuers shapes, and will walke through all trades, all Sciences, and all occupations, and some I will infect with the spirite of *A-  
20 uarice*, some with miserie, some with deceipt and all manner of subtiltie, that they shall leaue no practise vnsought for, whereby to rake and gather pelfe, to leaue to theyr heyres, that the olde Prouerbe might bee verified: *Happy are those children, whose Fathers goe to the deuill.*

25 In the Tearme time, I will be in *Westminster hall* amongst the Lawyers, whome I will make so capable in the quyllityes of the Lawe, that they shall coosen twentie Cly-  
ents of theyr coyne, before they will bring one to an ende of hys cause; and will not sticke nowe and than to get me vp  
30 to the bench, amongst the Judges themselues, to let them tast a little of the sweetnesse of corruption.

You may easily thinke that I meane to frequent the Court, where I will oppose my selfe a professed enemie a-  
gainst *Good desart*, and let him come thether and pleade his  
35 many yeeres seruice in the warres: let him shew his wounds and maymes, gotten in his Countreys defence: let him sig-  
nifie his time and patrimony spent in his Princes quarrell,

H 3 to

## Greenes newes

to maintayne himselfe, and to releue such as were about him: or let him pretend many other indeuours, in the seruice of hys Soueraigne, that might worthily mooue a fauourable consideration, if there shall bee founde one that will afforde him a fauourable looke, or a comfortable speech, there shall be 5 two for that one to requite him with disdainfull countenance, and churlish checkes.

I will not tell all, howe grieuous I will be to *Largeffe* and *Lyberallitie*, nor how miserable I will shew my selfe in shutting vp of the Princes bountie: Let this suffice, hee that 10 shall become a Suter at the Court, without golde in his purse to fee a brybing Groome, let him looke for small grace in his futes: for I will strike such a deafenesse into the eares of the Clarkes and Secretaries, appertayning to great men, that when a penylesse Suter comes vnto them with cap and 15 curtesie, they shal not vnderstand what the foole meaneth, nor be able to heare one worde that he speaketh, without a bribe. I might marre all if I should tell all, how I ment to bestirre my selfe amongst the Courtiers of all sorts, but they say, Enough is as good as a Feast. 20

The Cleargy must not think to escape me scotfree, for I must needs be acquainted with these double beneficed men, and wil many times conuerse with such as be *Non residents*; and sometimes I will get vp into the Pulpit and preach, but you may easilly discerne mee, for my text shall be, *Doo as I 25 say, but not as I doo*; My conclusion is, Good friends take heede how you come in those places where I walke, for you may perceiue I am bent vpon mischiefe, I can but therefore wish you to looke to your felues: and so fare you well.

*FINIS.*