



Bodleian Libraries

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

This book is part of the collection held by the Bodleian Libraries and scanned by Google, Inc. for the Google Books Library Project.

For more information see:

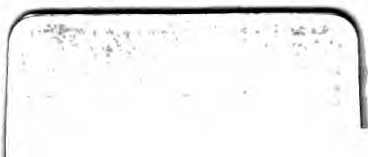
<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/dbooks>



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.0 UK: England & Wales (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0) licence.

ENGLISH FACULTY LIBRARY

St. Cross Building, Oxford



3685

H 40

Oxford University
ENGLISH FACULTY LIBRARY
Manor Road, Oxford OX1 3UQ
Telephone: (01865) 271050

Full term Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 7 pm
 Saturday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm
Vacation Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 5 pm
 Saturday CLOSED

This book should be returned on or before the latest date below:

2 FEB 1999	
CANCELLED 27 MAR 1999	
CANCELLED 12 FEB 2002	
CANCELLED 16 DEC 2004	

Volumes which are lost, defaced, or damaged must be paid for.

damaged, may have to be replaced by the Reader responsible.



300081360L







The South Library

OR

ELIZABETHAN-JACOBEAN

Unique or Very Rare

BOOKS

IN

VERSE AND PROSE

LARGELY

From the Library of



James F. Johnson, Esq.

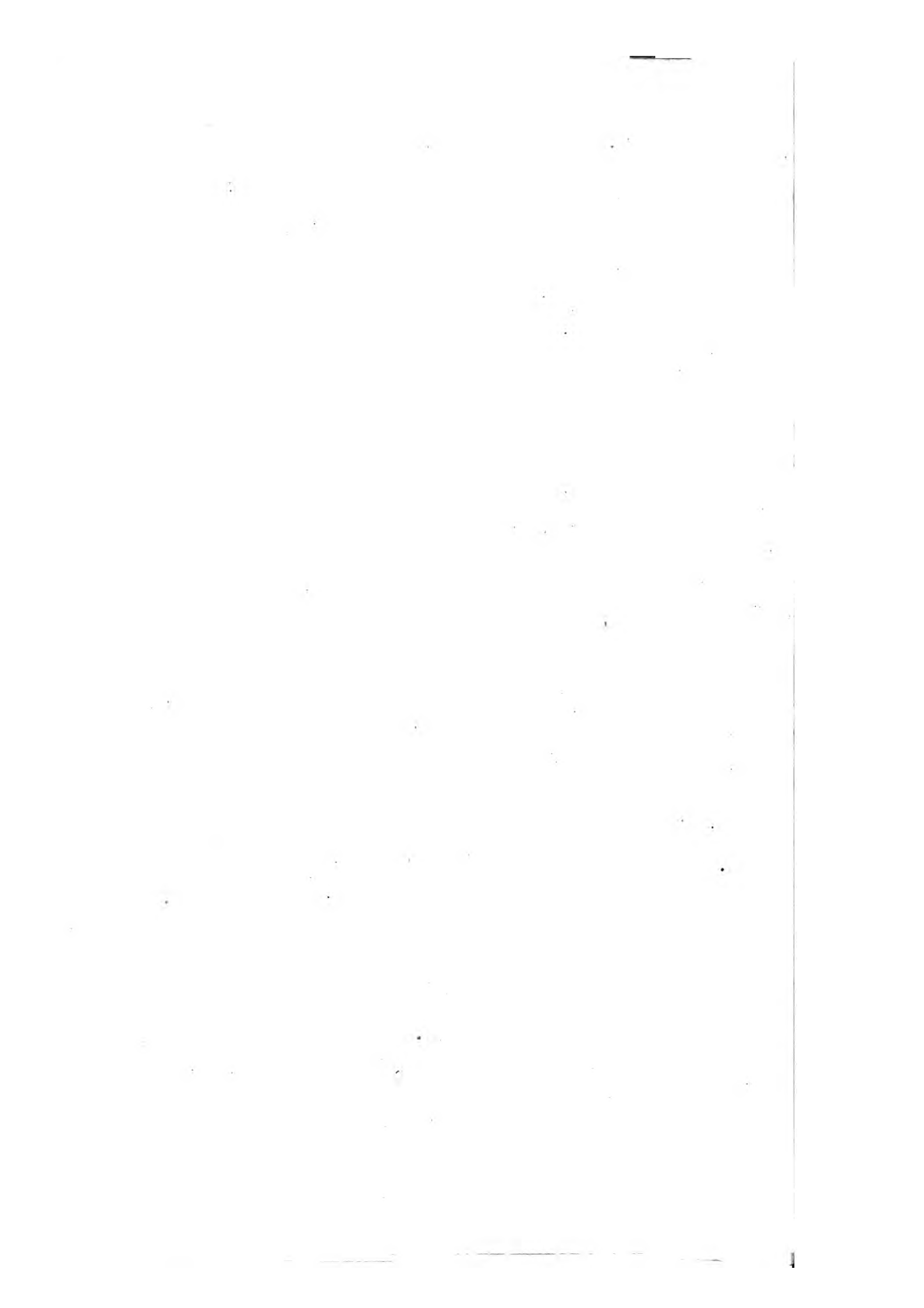
Emerson to the University of Cambridge

Edited with Introductions, Notes and Illustrations, etc.

BY THE

Rev. Alexander P. Grosart, LL.D., F.S.A.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY



The Huth Library.

THE
LIFE AND COMPLETE WORKS
IN
PROSE AND VERSE
OF
ROBERT GREENE, M.A.

CAMBRIDGE AND OXFORD.

IN TWELVE VOLUMES.

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

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

VOL. X.—PROSE.

A NOTABLE DISCOUERY OF COOSNAGE.
THE SECOND PART OF CONNY-CATCHING.
THE THIRDE AND LAST PARTE OF CONNY-CATCHING.
AND
A DISPVTTATION BETWEENE A HEE AND SHEE CONNY-CATCHER
1591—1592.

PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.

1881—83.

50 Copies.]

Printed by Hazell, Watson, and Vinny, London and Aylesbury.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
✓ A NOTABLE DISCOVERY OF COOSNAGE	1
SECOND PART OF CONNY-CATCHING	63
THE THIRDE AND LAST PARTE OF CONNY-CATCHING .	135
A DISPUTATION BETWEENE A HEE AND SHEE CONNY- CATCHER	193
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS, ETC.	281

THOU shalt not laugh, in this leafe, Muse, nor they
Whom any pity warms. He which did lay
Rules to make Courtiers, he being understood
May make good courtiers, but who courtiers good ?
Frees from the sting of jests all who in extreme
Are wretched or wicked ; of those two a Theam
Charity and liberty give me. What is he
Who Officers' rage and Suitors misery
Can write in jest?
O wretch, that thy fortunes should moralize
Æsop's fables, and make tales, prophesies.
Thou art the swimming dog, whom shadows cozeneth,
Which div'st, near drowning, for what vanisheth.

DEAN DONNE (' Fuller Worthies' Library,' 2 vols. : vol. i. pp. 45, 48).

C42



THE HUTH LIBRARY.

LIFE AND WORKS
OF
ROBERT GREENE, M.A.

VOL. X.

A NOTABLE DISCOUERY OF COOSNAGE.
THE SECOND PART OF CONNY-CATCHING.
THE THIRDE AND LAST PARTE OF CONNY-CATCHING.
AND
A DISPVATATION BETWEENE A HEE AND SHEE CONNY-CATCHER.
1591—1592.



WHEN the sword glitters ore the judge's head
And fear has coward churchmen silenced,
Then is the poet's time, 'tis then he drawes,
And single, fights forsaken Vertue's caus .
He, when the wheel of empire whirleth back
And though the world's disjointed axle crack,
Sings full of ancient rights and better times,
Seeks wretched good, arraigns successful crimes.

ANDREW MARVELL (' Fuller Worthies' Library,' 4 vols.: vol. i. p. 239).



XXII.

A NOTABLE DISCOUERY
OF COOSNAGE.

1591.



NOTE.

'A Notable Discouery of Coofnage' was the first of a singularly popular group of books of the same type. They are brought together now for the first time. The 'Notable Discouery' I reproduce from the original edition of 1591; but in Notes and Illustrations I add certain Various Readings from a second edition of 1592 in the Bodleian. Throughout the quaint woodcut illustrations are very much repetitions of the 'Cony' or 'Rabbit.' I furnish in facsimile—in all the forms of the 'Huth Library'—all of these in any way characteristic, or as are required for understanding of the text. See annotated Life in Vol. I.—G.

A
Notable Discouery of Coofnage
*Now daily practised by sundry lewd per-
sons, called Connie-catchers, and
Croffe-biters.*

Plainely laying open those pernicious sleights that hath brought many ignorant men to confusion.

Written for the general benefit of all Gentlemen, Citizens, Apprentises, Countrey Farmers and yeomen, that may hap to fall into the company of such coofening companions.

With a delightfull discourse of the coofnage of Colliers.

Nascimur pro patria. By R. Greene, Maister of Arts.



LONDON.

Printed by Iohn Wolfe for T. N. and are to be sold ouer
against the great south doore of Paules. 1591.



TO THE YONG GEN-
tlemen, Marchants, Apprentifes,
Farmers, and plain Countrey-men
Health.

Diogenes, Gentlemen, from a counterfeit
Coiner of money, became a currant corrector
of manners, as absolute in the one, as disso-
lute in the other: time refineth mens affects, and their
humors grow different by the distinction of age. Poore
Ouid that amorously writ in his youth the art of loue,
complained in his exile amongst the Getes, of his wantō
follies. And Socrates age was vertuous thogh his
prime was licentious. So, Gentlemen, my younger
yeeres had uncertaine thoughtes, but now my ripe
daies cals on to repentant deedes, and I sorrow as
much to see others wilful, as I delighted once to be
wanton. The odde mad-caps I haue beene mate too,
not as a companion, but as a spie to haue an insight
into their knaueries, that seeing their traines I might

eschew their snares: those mad fellowes I learned at last to loath, by their owne gracelesse villenies, and what I saw in them to their confusion, I can forewarne in others to my countreis commodity. None could decipher Tyranisme better then Aristippus, not that his nature was cruell, but that he was nourtured with Dionisius: The simple swaine that cuts the Lapidaries stones, can distinguish a Ruby from a Diamond onely by his labour: though I haue not practised their deceits, yet conuersing by fortune, and talking vppon purpose with such copes-mates, hath geuen mee light into their conceiptes, and I can decipher their qualities, though I vtterly mislike of their practises. To be brieffe Gentlemen, I haue seen the world and rounded it, though not with trauell, yet with experience, and I crie out with Salomon, Omnia sub sole vanitas. I haue smyled with the Italian, and worne the vipers head in my hand, and yet stopt his venome. I haue eaten Spanishe Mirabolanes, and yet am nothing the more metamorphosed. Fraunce, Germanie, Poland, Denmarke, I knowe them all, yet not affected to any in the fourme of my life; onlie I am English borne, and I haue English thoughts, not a deuill incarnate because I am Italianate, but hating the pride of Italie, because I know their peeuishnes: yet in all these Countreyes where I haue trauelled, I haue not seene more excessse of vanitie then wee Englishe men practise through vain

glory: for as our wits be as ripe as any, so our willes are more ready then they all, to put in effect any of their licentious abuses: yet amongst the rest, letting ordinary sinnes passe, because custome hath almost made them a law, I will onely speake of two such notable abuses, which the practitioners of the shadow with the name of Arts, as neuer have been heard of in any age before. The first and chiefe, is called the Art of Cunny-catching; the second, the Arte of Cros-biting; two such pestilent and preiudiciall practises, as of late haue been the ruine of infinite persons, and the subuersion and ouerthrow of many Marchaunts, Farmers, and honest minded yeomen. The first is a deceit at Cardes, which growing by enormitie into a Coosenage, is able to draw (by the subtill shewe thereof) a man of great iudgement to consent to his owne confusion. Yet Gentlemen when you shall reade this booke, written faithfullie to discouer these coosening practises, thinke I goe not about to disproue or disalow the most auncient and honest pastime or recreation of Card play, for thus much I know by reading: when the Cittie of Thebes was besieged by them of Lacedemonia, being girt within strong fenced walles, and hauing men enough, and able to rebat the enemie, they found no inconuenience of force to breed their ensuing bane but famine, in that | when victuals waxed scant, hunger would either make them yeeld by a fainting composition, or a miserable death. Where vppon to wearie

the foe with wintering at the sledge, the Thebanes deuised this pollicie, they found out the Method of Cards and Dice, and so busied their braines with the pleasantnesse of that new inuention, passing away the time with strange recreations and pastimes, beguyling hunger with the delight of the new sports, and eating but euery third day, and playing two, so their frugall sparing of viētuals kept them from famine, the Cittie from sacking, and rayseed the foe from a mortall sledge. Thus was the vse of Cards and Dice first inuented, and since amongst Princes highly esteemed, and allowed in all common wealths, as a necessarie recreation for the mind: But as in time and malice of mans nature hatcheth abuse, so good things by ill wits are wrested to the worse, and so in Cardes: for from an honest recreation it is grown to a preiudiciall practise, and most high degree of coosenage, as shalbe discovered in my Art of Cuny-catching, for not onely simple swaines: whose wits is in their hands, but yoong Gentlemen, and Marchants, are all caught like Cunnies in the hay, and so led like lambs to their confusion.

The poore man that commeth to the Tearme to trie his right, and layeth his land to morgadge to gette some Crownes in his purse to see his lawyer, is drawn in by these diuelish Cunny-catchers, that at one cut at Cardes loofeth all his money, by which meanes, he, his wife and children, is brought to vtter ruine and

miserie. The poore Prentice, whose honest minde aymeth only at his Maisters profites, by these pestilent vipers of the commonwealth, is smoothly intised to the hazard of this game at Cardes, and robd of his Maisters money, which forceth him oftentimes eyther to run away, or banckrout all, to the ouerthrow of some honest and wealthy Cittizen. Seeing then such a daungerous enormity groweth by them, to the discredite of the estate of England, I would wishe the Iustices appoynted as seuerer Censors of such fatall mis|chiefes, to shew themselues patres patriæ, by weeding out such worms as eat away the sappe of the Tree, and rooting this base degree of Cooseners out of so peaceable and prosperous a cuntry, for of all diuelish practises this is the most preiudicial. The high Lawyer that challengeth a purse by the highway side, the foist, the nip, the stale, the snap, I meane the pick-pockets and cut-purses are nothing so daungerous to meete with all, as these Coosening Cunny-catchers. The Chetors that with their false Dice make a hande, & strike in at Hazard or Passage with their Dice of aduauntage, are nothing so daungerous as these base minded Caterpillers. For they haue their vies and their reuies vppon the poore Cunnies backe, till they so ferrette beate him, that they leaue him neither haire on his skin, nor hole to harbour in. There was before this many yeeres agoe a practise put in vse by such shifting companions, which was called the Barnards Law,

wherein as in the *Arte of Cunny-catching*, four persons were required to perform their coofning commodity. The taker-up, the *Verfer*, the *Barnard* and the *Rutter*, and the manner of it indeed was thus. The *Taker up* seemeth a skilful man in all things, who hath by long trauell learned without Booke a thousand pollicies to insinuate himself into a mans acquaintance: Talke of matters in law, he hath plenty of *Casis* at his fingers ends, and he hath seene, and tryed, and ruled in the *Kinges Courtes*: Speake of *grasing* and *husbandry*, no man knoweth more shires then hee, nor better which way to raise a gainefull commodity, and how the abuses and ouerture of prices might be redressed. Finally, enter into what discourse they list, were it into a *Brommemans facultie*, hee knoweth what gaines they haue for olde *Bootes* and *Shoes*. Yea, and it shall scape him hardly, but that ere your talke breake off, hee will be your *Countrey man* at least, and peradventure either of kinne, aly, or stale sib to you, if your reach farre surmount not his. In case hee bring to passe that you be glad of his acquaintance, then doeth hee carry you to the *Tauernes*, and with him goes the *Verfer*, a man of more worshippe then the *Taker up*, and hee hath the countenance of a landed man. As they are set, comes in the *Barnard* stumbling into your companie, like some aged *Farmer* of the *Countrey*, a straunger vnto you all, that had beene at some market *Towne* thereabout,

buying and selling, and there tipled so much Malmesie, that he had neuer a ready woord in his mouth, and is so carelesse of his money, that out he throweth some fortie Angels on the boords end, and standing somewhat aloofe, calleth for a pint of wine, and saith: Masters, I am somewhat bold with you, I pray you be not grieved if I drinke my drinke by you: and thus ministers such idle drunken talke, that the Verser who counterfeited the landed man, comes and drawes more near to the plaine honest dealing man, and prayeth him to call the Barnard more neare to laugh at his follie. Betweene them two the matter shal be so workemanly conueied and finely argued, that out commeth an olde paire of Cardes, whereat the Barnard teacheth the Verser a new game, that hee saies cost him for the learning two pots of Ale not two houres agoe: the first wager is drinke, the next two pence or a groat, and lastly to be briefe they vse the matter so, that he that were an hundred yeere olde, and neuer played in his life for a penny, cannot refuse to be the Versers halfe, and consequently at one game at Cardes hee loofeth all they play for, be it a hundred pound. And if perhaps when the mony is lost (to vse their word of Arte) the poore Countrey man beginne to smoake them, and sweares the drunken knaue shall not get his money so, then standeth the Rutter at the doore and draweth his sword and picketh a quarrell at his owne shadowe, if he lacke an Osler or a Tapster

or some other to brabble with, that while the streete and company gather to the fray, as the manner is, the Barnard steales away with all the coine, and gets him to one blinde Tauerne or other, where these Cooseners had appointed to meete.

Thus Gentlemen I haue glaunst at the Barnardes Lawe, which though you may perceiue it to bee a preiudiciall insinua|ting coosenage, yet is the Art of Cunny-catching so farre beyond it in subtiltie, as the deuill is more honest then the holiest Angell: for so vnlikelie is it for the poore Cunny to leese, that might he pawn his stake to a pound, he would lay it that he cannot be crosbitten in the cut at cards, as you shall perceiue by my present discouerie. Yet Gentlemen am I sore threatned by the hacksters of that filthie facultie, that if I set their praētises in print, they will cut off that hande that writes the Pamphlet, but how I feare their brauadoes, you shall perceiue by my plaine painting out of them, yea, so little doe I esteeme such base minded braggardes, that were it not I hope of their amendment, I would in a schedule set downe the names of such coosening Cunny-catchers. Well, leauing them and their course of life to the honourable and the worshipfull of the lande, to be censors of with iustice, haue about for a blowe at the Art of Cros-biting: I meane not Cros biters at dice, when the Chetor, with a langret, cut contrarie to the vantage, will cros-bite a Card cator tray: Nor I meane

not when a broaking knaue crof-biteth a Gentleman with a bad commoditie: nor when the Foist, the pick-pockets (fir reuerence I meane) is crof-bitten by the Snap, and so smoakt for his purchase: nor when the Nip, which the common people call a Cut-purse, hath a crof-bite by some brybing officer, who threatening to carry him to prison, takes away all the mony, and lets him slippe without any punishment: But I meane a more dishonourable Arte, when a base Rogue, eyther keepeth a whore as his friende, or marries one to be his mainteyner, and with her not onely crof-bites men of good calling, but especially poore ignoraunt countrey Farmers, who God wotte be by them ledde like sheep to the slaughter. Thus gentle Readers, haue I giuen you a light in briefe, what I meane to profecute at large, and so with an humble sute to all Iustices, that they will seeke to root out these two roagish Artes, I commit you to the Almighty.

Yours Rob. Greene. /



THE ART OF CON- ny-catching.



Here be requisit effectually to act the Art of Cony-catching, thrée feveral parties : the Setter, the Verfer, and the Barnackle. The nature of the Setter, is to draw any person familiarly to drinke with him, which person they call

the Conie, & their methode is according to the man they aime at : if a Gentleman, Marchant, or Apprentice, the Connie is the more easly caught, in that they are soone induced to plaie, and therefore I omit the circumstance which they vse in catching of them. And for because the poore countrie farmer or Yeoman is the marke which they most of all shoote at, who they know comes / not emptie to the Terme, I will discover the means they put in practise to bring in some honest, simple & ignorant men to their purpose. The Conny-catchers, apparalled like honest ciuil gentlemen, or good fellows, with a smooth face, as if butter would not melt in their mouthes, after dinner when the clients are come from Westminster hal, and are at leasure to walke vp and downe Paules, Fléet-stréet, Holborne, the sttrond, and such common hanted places, where these cosning companions attend only to spie out a praie : who as soone as they see a plaine cuntry fellow well and cleanly apparalled, either in a coat of home spun ruffet, or of fréeze, as the time requires, and a sive pouch at his sive, there is a connie, faith one. At that word out flies the Setter, and ouertaking the man, begins to salute him thus: Sir, God faue you, you are welcom to *London*, how doth all our good friends in the countrie, I hope they be al in health? The countrie man seeing a man so curteous he

knowes not, halfe in a browne study at this strange salutation, perhaps makes him this aunswere. Sir, all our friends in the countrie are well, thankes bee to God, but truly I know you not, you must pardon me. Why fir, faith the fether, gessing by his tong what country man hee is, are you not such a cuntry man? : if he says yes, then he créeps vpon him closely : if he say no, thē straight the fether comes ouer him thus : In good sooth fir, I know you by your face & haue bin in your companie before, I praie you (if without offence) let me craue your name, and the place of your abode. The simple man straight tels him where he dwels, his name, and who be his next neighbors, and what Gentlemen dwell about him. After he hath learned al of him, then he comes ouer his fallowes kindly : fir, though I haue bin somewhat bold to be inquisitiue of your name, yet holde me excused, for I tooke you for a friend of mine, but since by mistaking I haue made you slacke your bufines, wele drinke a quart of wine, or a pot of Ale together : if the foole be so readie as to go, then the Connie is caught : but if he / smack the fether, and smels a rat by his clawing, and will not drinke with him, then away goes the fether, and discourseth to the verfer the name of the man, the parish hee dwels in, and what gentlemen are his near neighbours : with that away goes he, & crossing the man

at some turning, meets him full in the face, and greetes him thus.

What Goodman *Barton*, how fare al our friends about you? you are well met, I haue the wine for you, you are welcome to town. The poore countryman hearing himselfe named by a man he knows not, maruels, & answers that he knowes him not, and craues pardon. Not me Goodman *Barton*, haue you forgot me? Why I am such a mā's kinsman, your neighbor not far off: how doth this or that good gentleman my friend? good Lord that I should be out of your remembrance, I haue béene at your house diuers times. Indeede fir, faith the farmer, are you such a mans kinsman? surely fir if you had not chalenged acquaintance of me, I should neuer haue knowen you, I haue clean forgot you, but I know the good gentleman your cofin well, he is my very good neighbor: & for his sake, faith y^e verfer, wéel drink afore we part: haply the man thanks him, and to the wine or ale they goe: then ere they part, they make him a cony, & so feret-claw him at cardes, y^e they leaue him as bare of mony, as an ape of a taile. Thus haue the filthie felows their subtile fetches to draw on poor men to fal into their cofening practises: thus like confuming moths of the common welth, they pray vpon the ignorance of such plain soules, as measure al by their own honesty, not regarding

either conscience, or the fatal reuenge thats threatened for such idle & licentious persons, but do imploy all their wits to ouerthrow such as with their handy-thrifte satisfie their hartly thirst: they preferring cofenage before labor, and chusing an idle practise before any honest form of good liuing Wel, to y method again of taking vp their conies. If the poore countreyman smoake them still, and will not stoupe vnto either of their lures: then one, either / the verfer, or the setter, or some of their crue, for there is a general fraternity betwixt them, steppeth before the Cony as he goeth, and letteth drop twelue pence in the high way, that of force the cony must see it. The countreyman spying the shilling, maketh not daintie, for *quis nisi mentis inops oblatum respuit aurum*, but stoupeth very mannerlie and taketh it vp: then one of the cony catchers behind, crieth halfe part, and so chalengeth halfe of his finding. The countriman content, offreth to change the money. Nay faith frend, faith the verfer, tis ill luck to keepe found mony, wele go spend it in a pottle of wine, or in a breakefast, dinner or supper, as the time of day requires: If the conye fay he wil not, then answeres the verfer, spende my part: if stil the cony refuse, he taketh halfe and away. If they spy the countriman to be of a hauing and couetous mind, then haue they a further policie to draw him on: another

that knoweth the place of his abode, méeteth him and faith Sir, wel met, I haue run hastely to ouertake you, I pray you dwel you not in *Darbishire*, in such a village? Yes marry doe I frend faith the cony : then replies the verfer, truely fir I haue a fute to you, I am going out of town, & must fend a letter to the parson of your parish: you shall not refuse to do a stranger such a fauor as to cary it him, haply, as men may in time meet, it may lie in my lot to do you as good a turn, and for your paines I will giue you XII pence. The poor cony in meer simplicity faith, fir, Ile do so much for you with al my hart : where is your letter? I haue it not good fir ready written, but may I entreate you to step into some tauern or alehouse? wele drink the while, and I wil write but a line or two : at this the cony stoupes, and for gréedines of the mony, and vpon courtesie goes with the fetter into the tauerne. As they walke, they méet the verfer, and then they all thrée goe into the tauern together.

Sée Gentlemen what great logicians these cony-catchers be, that haue such rethoricall perfwasions to induce / the poor cuntrye man to his confusion, and what varietie of villany they haue to strip the poore farmer of his mony. Wel, imagine the conny is in the tauern : then sits down the verfer, and faith to the fetter, what firrha, wilt thou geue mee a quart of wine, or shall I geue thee one?

wele drink a pint faith the fetter, & play a game at cards for it, respecting more the sport then the losse : content q^d. the verfer, go cal for a paire : and while he is gone to fetch thē, he faith to the cony, you shall see me fetch ouer my yong master for a quart of wine finely, but this you must do for me, when I cut the cards, as I will not cut aboue fiue off, mark then of al the greatest pack which is vndermost, & when I bid you cal a card for me, name that, and you shall see wele make him pay for a quart of wine straight : truly faith the cony, I am no great player at cards, and I do not wel vnderstand your meaning : why, faith he, it is thus : I wil play at mum-chance, or decoy, that hee shal shuffle the cards, and I wil cut : now eyther of vs must call a card : you shal call for me, and he for himselfe, and whose card comes first, wins : therefore when I haue cut y cards, then mark the nethermost of the greatest heap, that I set vpon the cards which I cut off, & always cal that for me. O now faith the cony, I vnderstand you, let mee alone, I warrant Ile fit your turne : with that in comes the fetter with his cards, and asketh at what game they shal play. Why faith the verfer, at a new game called mum-chance, that hath no policie nor knauerie, but plain as a pike staf : you shal shuffle and Ile cut, you shal cal a card, and this honest man, a stranger almost to vs both, shal cal

another for me, and which of our cards comes first, shal win: contēt faith the fetter, for thats but méer hazard, & so he shuffels the cards, and the verfer cuts of some four cards, and then taking vp the heape to set vpon them, geueth the conny a glance of the bottom card of that heap, and faith, now fir, call for me. The cony to blind the setters eyes, asketh as though he were not made priuy to the game, what shal I / cut? what card faith the verfer? why what you wil, either hart, spade, club or diamond, cote-card or other. O is it so, faith the connie? why then you shal haue the four of harts, which was the card he had a glaunce of: and faith the fetter (holding the cards in his hand, and turning vp the vppermost card, as if hee knew not wel the game) Ile haue the knaue of trumpes. Nay faith the verfer, there is no trump, you may cal what card you wil: then faith he Ile haue the ten of spades. With that he draws and the four of harts comes first: wel faith the fetter, tis but hazard, mine might haue come as wel as yours, fwe is vp, I fear not ȳ fet: so they shuffle and cut, but the verfer winnes. Well faith the fetter, no butter wil cleaue on my bread, what, not one draught among fwe: drawer, a freshe pinte, Ile haue another bout with you: but fir, I beleue, faith he to the cony, you see some card, that it goes so cros on my side. I faith the cony, nay I

hope you think not so of me, tis but hazard and chance, for I am but a meere stranger vnto the game: as I am an honest man I neuer saw it before.

Thus this simple cony closeth vp smoothly to take the verfers part, only for gréedines to haue him winne the wine: wel answeres the setter, then Ile haue one cast more, and to it they go, but he loseth all, and beginneth to chafe in this maner: were it not quoth he, that I care not for a quart of wine, I could swear as many othes for anger, as there be haire on my head: why shoulde not my luck be as good as yours, and fortune fauor me as wel as you? what, not one cald card in ten cuttes, Ile forswear the game for euer. What, chafe not man faith the Verfer, séeing we haue your quart of wine, Ile shew you the game: and with that discourseth all to him, as if he knew it not. The setter, as simply as if the knaue were ignorant, faith, I mary, I thinke so, you must néedes winne, whē he knowes what card to cal. I might haue plaid long enough before I had got a fet. Truely saies the cony, tis a pretie game, for tis not possible for him to lose that cuts / the cardes: I warrant the other that shuffles may loose Saint Peters cope if he had it. Wel, Ile carrie this home with me into the cuntrie, and win many a pot of ale with it. A fresh pint, sayth the Verfer, and then wele away: but séeing sir, you are going homeward, Ile learne

you a trick worth the noting, that you shall win many a pot with in the winter nights: with that he culls out the four knaues, & prickes one in the top, one in the midft, and one in the bottome. Now fir, faith he, you fee thefe thrée knaues apparently, thruft them downe with your hand, & cut where you will, & though they be fo far afunder, Ile make them all come together. I praie you lets fee that trick, fayth the connie, me thinkes it should be impoffible. So the Verfer drawes, and all the thrée knaues comes in one heap: this he doth once or twice, then the connie wonders at it, and offers him a pint of wine to teach it him. Nay faith the verfer, Ile do it for thanks, and therefore marke me where you haue taken out the four knaues, lay two together aboue and draw vp one of them that it may be féene, then prick the other in the midft, & the third in the bottome, fo when any cuts, cut he neuer fo warily, three knaues muft of force come together, for the bottom knaue is cut to lie vpon both the vpper knaues. I marrie, faith the fetter, but then the 3. knaues you fhewed come not together. Truth faith the verfer, but one among a thousand marke not y, it requires a quick eie, a fharp wit, and a reaching head to spy at the firft. Now gramercie fir for this trick, faith the connie, Ile dominere with this amōgft my neibors. Thus doth the verfer and the fetter feine

friendship to the conie, offering him no shew of cofnage, nor once to draw him in for a pint of wine, ſ̄ more to shadow their vilany, but now begins the ſporte: as thus they ſit tipling, comes the Barnacle and thruſts open the doore, looking into the roome where they are, and as one baſhfull ſteppeth back againe, and ſaith, I crie you mercie gentlemen, I thought a friend of mine had bin here, pardon my boldnes. No harme ſaith / the Verſer, I praie you drinke a cup of wine with vs, and welcome: ſo in comes the Barnacle, and taking the cup, drinks to the Connie, and then ſaith, what, at cards gentlemen? were it not I ſhould be offenſive to the company I would play for a pint till my friend come that I looke for. Why ſir, ſaith the Verſer, if you will ſit downe you ſhalbe taken vp for a quart of wine. With all my heart, ſaith the Barnackle, what will you play at, at Primero, Primo viſto, Sant, one and thirtie, new cut, or what ſhall be the game? Sir, ſaith the Verſer, I am but an ignorant man at cards, & I ſee you haue them at your fingers end, I will play with you at a game wherein can be no deceit: it is called mumchance at cardes, and it is thus: you ſhall ſhuffle the cards and I will cut, you ſhal cal one, and this honeſt countrie yoman ſhal call a card for me, and which of our cards comes firſt ſhal win: here you ſee is no deceit, and this Ile play. No truly, ſaith

the Connie, me thinkes there can be no great craft in this: well faith the barnacle, for a pint of wine haue at you: so they play as before, fiue vp, and the verfer wins. This is hard luck, sayth the Barnacle, and I beléeue the honest man spies some carde in the bottom, and therefore Ile make this, alwais to prick the bottom card: content faith the verfer, and the Connie to cloak the matter, faith: fir, you offer me iniury to think that I can call a card, when I neither touch them, shuffle, cut, nor draw them: Ah fir, faith the barnacle, giue loofers leaue to speak: wel, to it they go againe, and then the barnacle knowing the game best, by chopping a card winnes two of the fiue, but lets the verfer win the set: then in a chafe he sweareth tis but his ill luck, and he can see no deceit in it, and therefore he will play xii. d. a cut. The verfer is content, & wins ii. or iii. s. of the barnacle: whereat hee chafes, and faith, I came hether in an ill houre: but I will win my monie again, or loofe al in my purse: with that he draws out a purse with some thrée or four pound, & claps it on the bord: the verfer asketh the conie secretly by signs / if he will be his halfe, he saies I, and straight seeks for his purse: well, the barnacle shuffles the cards throughly, and the verfer cuts as before. The Barnacle when he hath drawen one card, faith, Ile either win something or loofe something, therefore Ile vie and reuie

euery card at my pleasure, till either yours or mine come out, and therefore twelue pence vpon this card, my card coms first for twelue pence: no faith the Verfer, I faith the Connie, and I durft holde twelue pence more. Why I holde you, faith the Barnacle: and so they vie and reuie till some ten shillings bee on the stake: and then next comes forth the verfers card, that the Connie called, and so the Barnacle loseth: wel, this flesheth the Conny, the sweetnes of gaine maketh him frolike, and no man is more readie to vie and reuie then he. Thus for three or four times the barnacle loofeth: at last to whet on the Connie, he striketh his chopt card, and winneth a good stake. Awaie with the witch, cries the Barnacle, I hope the cards will turne at last. I much, thinketh the connie, twas but a chance that you askt so right, to aske one of the fiue that was cut off, I am sure there was forty to one on my side, and ile haue you on the lurch anone. So stil they vie and reuie, and for once that the barnacle winnes, the conie gets fiue: at last when they mean to shaue the conie cleane of all his coine, the barnacle chafeth, and vppon a pawne borroweth some monie of the Tapster, & sweares he wil vie it to the vttermost. Then thus he chops his card to cros-bite the connie: he first lookes on the bottome Carde, which he knowes to be vppermost, then sets he downe the cards, and

the Verfer to encourage the Connie, cut of but three cards, whereof the barnacles card must needs be the vppermost. Then shewes he the bottome carde of the other heape cut off to the connie, and sets it vpon the barnacles card which he knowes, so that of force the carde that was laide vppermost, must come forth first, and then the barnacle calles that carde. They drawe a carde, and then the / Barnacle vies, and the countriman vies vpon him : for this is the law, as often as one vies or reuies, the other must see it, els he loseth the stake. Wel, at last the barnacle plies it so, that perhaps he vies more mony then the cony hath in his purse. The cony vpon this, knowing his card is the third or fourth card, and that hee hath forty to one against the Barnacle, pawnes his rings if hee haue any, his sword, his cloke, or els what he hath about him, to maintaine the vie, and when he laughs in his fléeue, thinking he hath fléeft the barnacle of all, then the barnacles card comes forth, and strikes such a cold humor vnto his heart, that hee sits as a man in a traunce, not knowing what to doe, and fighting while his hart is redy to breake, thinking on the mony that he hath lost. Perhaps the man is very simple and patient, and whatsoeuer he thinks, for feare goes his way quiet with his losse, while the conny-catchers laugh and deuide the spoyle, and being out of the dores, poore man, goes to his

lodging with a heauy hart, pensiue & sorrowful, but too late, for perhaps his state did depend on that mony, and so he, his wife, his children, and his familie, are brought to extream miserie. Another perhaps more hardy and subtil, smokes the cony-catchers, and smelleth cofenage, and faith, they shal not haue his mony so, but they answere him with braues, and thogh he bring them before an officer, yet the knaues are so fauored, that the man neuer recouers his mony, and yet he is let flippe vnpunished.

Thus are the poore conies robbed by these base minded caterpillers: thus are seruing men oft entised to play, and lose al: thus are prentises induced to be Connies, and so are cofened of their masters mony, yea yoong gentlemen, merchants, and others, are fetcht in by these damnable rakehels: a plague as ill as hell, which is, present losse of money, & ensuing miserie. A lamentable case in england, when such vipers are suffred to breed and are not cut off with the sword of iustice. This enormity is not onely in *London* but now generally disperfed through all / england, in euery shire, city, and town of any receipt, and many complaints are heard of their egregious cofenage. The poore farmer simply going about his busines, or vnto his attorneys chamber, is catcht vp & cofened of all. The seruing-man sent with his Lordes treasure,

loseth ofttimes most part to these worms of the commonwelth: the prentice hauing his masters mony in charge, is spoiled by them, and from an honest seruant either driuen to run away, or to liue in discredit for euer. The gentleman loseth his land, the marchant his stock, and all to these abhominable conny-catchers, whose meanes is as ill as their liuing, for they are all either wedded to whores, or so addicted to whores, that what they get from honest men, they spend in bawdy houses among harlots, and consume it as vainly as they get it villanously. Their eares are of adamant, as pitiles as they are trecherous, for be the man neuer so poore, they wil not return him one peny of his los. I remember a merry iest done of late to a welchman, who being a méere stranger in *Londō*, and not wel acquainted with the English tongue, yet chaunced amongst certaine cony-catchers, who spying the gentleman to haue mony, they so dealt with him, that what by signes, and broken english, they got him in for a cony, and fléest him of euery peny that he had, and of his sword: at last the mā smoakt them, and drew his dagger vpon them at *Ludgate*, for thereabouts they had catcht him, and would haue stabde one of them for his mony: people came and stopt him, and the rather because they could not vnderstand him, though he had a card in one hand, and his dagger in the other, and

faid as wel as he could, a card, a card, Mon dieu. In the mean while the conny-catchers were got into Paules, and so away. The welchman folowed them, féeking them there vp and down in the church, stíl with his naked dagger and the card in his hand, and the gentlemen marueld what he meant thereby: at last one of his countrimen met him, and enquired the cause of his choler, and then he told / him how he was cofened at cards, and robbed of all hys mony: but as his losse was voluntary, so his féeking them was meer vanity, for they were stept into some blind ale house to deuide the shares.

Neere to *S. Edmunds Burie* in *Suffolk*, there dwelt an honest man a Shomaker, that hauing some twenty markes in his purse, long a gathering, and neerly kept, came to the market to buy a dicker of hides, and by chaunce fel among cony-catchers, whose names I omit, because I hope of their amendment. This plain countriman drawn in by these former deuises, was made a cony, and so straight stript of all his xx. marke, to his vtter vndoing: the knaues scapt, and he went home a sorowful man. Shortly after, one of these cony-catchers was taken for a suspected person, and laid in *Bury* gaole. The fessions comming, and he produced to the bar, it was the fortune of this poore shomaker to be there, who spying this roage to be arained, was glad, and

faid nothing vnto him, but lookt what would be the iffue of his appeeraunce. At the lafte hee was brought before the Iuftices, where he was examined of his life, and being demanded what occupation he was, faid none: what profeffion then are you of, how liue you? Marry quoth he, I am a gentleman, and liue of my friends. Nay, that is a lie quoth the poor fhoomaker, vnder correction of the worfhipful of the bench, you haue a trade, and are by your art a Cony-catcher. A cony-catcher faid one of the Iuftices, and fmiled, what is he a warriner felow? whofe warren keepeth hee, canft thou tel? Nay fir, your worfhip miftaketh me q^d. the fhoomaker, he is not a wariner, but a conny-catcher. The bench, that neuer heard this name before, fmilde, attributing the name to the mans fimplicities, thought he meant a warriner: which the fhomaker fpying, aunfwered, that fome conies this felow catcht were worth twenty mark a peece, and for proof quoth he, I am one of them: and fo discourft the whole order of the art, and the basenes of the cofening: wherevpon the Iuftices looking into his life, ap / pointed him to be whipt, and the fhomaker defired that he might geue him his paiment, which was graunted. When he came to his punifhment, the fhomaker laught, faying, tis a mad world when poor conies are able to beate their catchers, but he lent him fo frendly

lashes, that almost he made him pay an ounce of bloud for euery pounce of siluer. Thus we see how the generation of these vipers increase, to the confusion of many honest men: whose practises to my poore power I haue discovered and set out, with the villanous sleights they vse to intrap the simple: yet haue they clokes for the raine, and shadowes for their vilanies, calling it by the name of art or law: as cony-catching art, or cony-catching law. And herof it riseth, y^e like as law, when the terme is truly considered signifieth y^e ordinance of good men, established for the commonwelth, to repress al vicious liuing, so these cony-catchers turne the cat in the pan, geuing to diuers vile patching shiftes, an honest & godly title, calling it by the name of a law, because by a multitude of hateful rules, as it were in good learning, they exercise their villanies to the destructiō of sundry honest persons. Herevpon they geue their false conueyance, the name of cony-catching law, as there be also other lawes; as high law, facking lawe, figging law, cheting law and barnards law. If you maruail at these misteries and queynt words, consider, as the Carpēter hath many termes familiar inough to his prentices, that other vnderstand not at al, so haue the cony-catchers, not without great cause: for a falshood once detected, can neuer compass the desired effect. Therefore will I presently

acquaint you with the signification of the termes, in a Table. But leauing them til time and place, coming downe Turnmil street the other day, I met one whom I suspected a cony-catcher: I drew him on to y^e tauern, and after a cup of wine or two, I talkt with him of the maner of his life, & told him I was sory for his frends fake, y^e he tooke so / bad a course, as to liue vpon the spoile of poore men, and specially to deserue the name of cony-catching, disswading him from that base kind of life, that was so ignominious in the world, and so lothsome in the sight of God. Tut sir, quoth he, calling me by my name, as my religion is smal, so my deuotion is lesse: I leaue God to be disputed on by diuines: the two ends I aime at, are gaine and ease, but by what honest gaines I may get, neuer comes within y^e compasse of my thoughts. Thogh your experience in trauaile be great, yet in home matters mine be more, yea, I am sure you are not so ignorant, but you know that fewe men can liue vprightly, vnlesse hee haue some prety way, more then the world is witnes to, to helpe him withall: Think you some lawyers could be such purchasfers, if all their pleas were short, and their proceedinges iustice and conscience? that offices would be so dearely bought, and the buiers so soone enriched, if they counted not pilage an honest kind of purchase? or do you think that men of

hãdie trades make all their commodities without falshood, when fo many of them are become daily purchafers? nay what wil you more? who fo hath not fome finifter way to help himfelfe, but foloweth his nofe alwaies ftraight forward, may wel hold vp the head for a yeare or two, but ȳ third he muft néeds fink, and gather the wind into begers hauen: therefore, fir, ceafe to perfwade me to the contrarie, for my refolution is to beat my wits, and spare not to bufie my braines to faue and help me by what meanes foeuer I care not, fo I may auoide the danger of the lawe: whervpon, feeing this cony-catcher refolued in his forme of life, leauing him to his lewdnes I went away, wondering at the basenes of their minds, that would fpend their time in fuch deteftable fort. But no maruell, for they are geuen vp into a reprobate fence, and are in religion méere atheifts, as they are in trade flat difsemblers. If I fhoude fpend many fhéets in deciphering their shifts, it were friuelous, in that they be many, and ful of variety: for euery / day they inuent new tricks, and fuch queint deuifes as are fecret, yet paffing dangerous, that if a man had *Argus* eyes, he could fcant prie into the bottom of their praëtifes. Thus for the benefit of my countrey I haue briefly difcouered the law of Cony-catching, defiring all Iuftices, if fuch cofeners light in their precinct, euen to vfe *summum ius* againft

them, because it is the basest of all villanies. And that *London* prentices, if they chance in such conny-catchers companie, may teach them *London* law, that is, to defend the poore men that are wronged, and learn the caterpillers the highway to *Newgate*: where if *Hind* fauour them with the heauiest irons in all the house, & giue thē his vnkindest entertainment, no doubt his other pety finnes shalbe halfe pardoned for his labour: but I woulde it might be their fortune to happen into *Nobles*, Northward in white chappel: there in faith round *Robin* his deputie, would make them, like wretches, féel the waight of his heauiest fetters. And so desiring both honourable and worshipful, as well Iustices, as other officers, and all estates, from the prince to the beggar, to rest professed enemies to these baseminded cony-catchers, I take my leaue.

Nascimur pro patria.

A table of the words of art, vsed in the effecting
these base villanies.

*Wherein is discovered the nature of euery terme, being
proper to none but to the professors thereof.*

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 High law | <i>robbing by the highway side.</i> |
| 2 Sacking law | <i>lecherie.</i> |
| 3 Cheting law | <i>play at false dice.</i> |
| 4 Cros-biting law | <i>cofenage by whores.</i> |

- 5 Cony-catching law *cofenage by cards.*
6 Verfing law *cofenage by false gold.*
7 Figging law *cutting of purses, & picking
of pockets.*
8 Barnards law *adrunken cofenage by cards. |*

The Art of Conny-catching.

These are the eight lawes of villanie, leading the
high waie to infamie.

The Theefe is called a High lawier.
He that fetteth the Watch, a Scrippet.
He that standeth to watch, an Oake
He that is robd, the Martin
When he yeeldeth, stouping.

In High
Lawe.

The Bawd if it be a woman, a Pander
The Bawd, if a man, an Apple squire
The whoore, a Commoditie
The whoore house, a Trugging place.

In Sacking
Law.

Pardon me Gentlemen for although no man
could better then myself discover this lawe and his
tearmes, and the name of their Cheats, Barddice,
Flats, Forgers, Langrets, Gourds, Demies, and
many other, with their nature, & the crosses and
contraries to them vpon aduantage, yet for some
speciall reasons, herein I will be silent.

In
Cheating
law.

The whore, the Traffique

In
Crof-biting
lawe.

The man that is brought in, the Simpler.

The villaines that take them, the Cros-biters.

The partie that taketh vp the Connie, the Setter.

In
Coni-catch-
ing law.

He that plaieth the game, the Verfer

He that is coofned, the Connie,

He that comes in to them, the Barnackle

The monie that is won, Purchase.

In Verfing
law.

He that bringeth them in, the Verfer

The poore Countrie man, the Coofin

And the dronkard that comes in, the Suffier

He that bringeth him in, a Nip

He that is halfe with him, the Snap

The knife, the Cuttle boung

In Figging
law.

The picke pocket, a Foin

He that faceth the man, the Stale

Taking the purfe, Drawing

Spying of him, Smoaking

The purfe, the Bong

The monie, the Shels

The Act doing, ftriking

He that fetcheth the man, the Taker

In Barnards
lawe.

He that is taken, the Coofin

The landed man, the Verfer

The dronken man, the Barnard

And he that makes the fray, the Rutter.

Cum multis aliis quæ nunc præscribere longum est.

These quaint termes do these base arts vse to shadow their villanie withall; for, *multa latent quæ non patent*, obscuring their filthie crafts with these faire colours, that the ignorant may not espie what their subtilltie is: but their end will be like their beginning, hatcht with *Cain*, and consumed with *Iudas*: and so bidding them adue to the deuil, and you farewell to God, I end. And now to the art of Cros-biting.

The art of Cros-biting.

THE Cros-biting law is a publique profession of shameles cofenage, mixt with incestuous whoredomes, as il as was practised in *Gomorha* or *Sodom*, though not after the same vnnatural manner: for the method of their mischieuous art (with blushing chekes & trembling hart let it be spoken) is, that these villanous vipers, vnworthy the name of men, base roagues (yet why doe I tearme them so well?) being outcasts from God, vipers of the world, and an excremental reuerfion of sin, doth consent, nay constrayne their wiues to yeeld the vse of their bodies to other men, that taking them together, he may cros-bite the party of all the crownes he can presently make: and that the world may see their monstrous practises, I wil briffly fet downe the manner.

They haue fundry praies that they cal simplers,

which are men fondly and wantonly geuen, whom for a penaltie of their lust, they fleece of al that euer they haue: some marchants, prentices, seruing-men, gentlemen, yeomen, farmers, and all degrées, and this is their forme: there are resident in *London* & the suburbes, certain men attired like Gentlemen, braue fellowes, but basely minded, who liuing in want, as their last refuge, fal vnto this cros-biting law, and to maintein themselues, either marry with some stale whore, or els forfooth kéep one as their fréd: and these persons be cōmonly men of the eight lawes before rehearsed: either high Lawiers, Verfers, Nips, Conny-catchers, or / such of the like fraternitie. These when their other trades fail, as the Cheater, when he has no cofin to grime with his stop dice, or y high lawier, when he hath no set match to ride about, and the Nip when there is no tearme, faire, nor time of great assemblie, then to maintaine the maine chance, they vse the benefite of their wiues or friends, to the cros-biting of such as lust after their filthie enormities: some simple men are drawen on by subtill meanes, which neuer intended such a bad matter. In summer euenings, and in the winter nightes, these trafickes, these common truls I meane, walke abroad either in the fields or stréetes that are commonly hanted, as stales to drawe men into hell: and a farre of, as attending apple squires, certaine cros-biters stand aloofe, as if

they knew them not: now fo many men fo many affections. Some vnruly mates that place their content in luft, letting flippe the libertie of their eies on their painted faces, féede vpon their vnchast beauties, till their hearts be fet on fire: then come they to thefe minions, and court them with many fwéet words: alas their loues néeds no long futes, for they are forthwith entertained, and either they go to the Tauerne to feale vp the match with a pottle of Ipcoras, or ftraight ſhe carries him to ſome bad place, and there picks his pocket, or elſe the Cros-biters comes ſwearing in, & fo out-face the difmaied companion, that rather then hee would be brought in queſtion, he would diſburſe all that he hath preſent. But this is but an eaſie coſnage. Some other, méeting with one of that profeſſion in the ſtréet, wil queſtion if ſhe will drinke with him a pint of wine? theyr trade is neuer to reſuſe, and if for manners they doe, it is but once: & then ſcarce ſhall they be warme in the roome, but in comes a terrible fellow, with a ſide haire, & a fearefull beard, as though he were one of *Polyphemus* cut, & he comes frowning in & ſaith, what haſt thou to doe baſe knaue, to carrie my ſiſter or my wife to the tauern? by his ownes you whore, tis ſome of your cōpanions: I wil haue / you both before the Juſtice, Deputie, or Conſtable, to bee examined. The poore ſeruingman, appren-

tife, farmer, or whatsoever he is, seeing such a terrible huffe snuffe, swearing with his dagger in his hand, is fearefull both of him and to be brought in trouble, and therefore speakes kindly and courteously vnto him, and desires him to be content, he meant no harm. The whore, that hath teares at commaund, fals a weeping, and cries him mercy. At this submission of them both he triumphs like a bragard, and will take no compassion: yet at last, through intreaty of other his companions comming in as strangers, hee is pacified with some forty shillings, and the poor man goes sorrowful away, sighing out that which *Salomon* hath in his proverbs. *A shameles woman hath hony in her lippes, and her throte as sweet as hony, her throte as soft as oyle: but the end of her is more bitter then Aloes, and her tongue is more sharp then a two edged sword, her feet go vnto death, and her steppes leade vnto hell.*

Again these truls when they haue got in a nouice, then straight they pick his purse, and then haue they their cros-biters redy, to whom they conuey the mony and so offer themselues to be searcht: but the poore man is so out faced by these cros-biting Ruffians, that hee is glad to goe away content with his losse: yet are these easie practises. O might the Iustices send out spials in the night, they shold see how these street walkers wil iet in rich garded gowns, queint periwigs, rufs

of the largest size, quarter and halfe déep, gloried richly with blew starch, their cheekes died with surfuling water : thus are they trickt vp, and either walke like stales vp and down the streets, or stande like the deuils *Si quis* at a tauern or ale house, as if who shoulde say, if any be so minded to fatisfie his filthie lust, to lende me his purse, and the deuil his soule, let him come in and be welcome. Now fir comes by a countrey farmer, walking from his inne to perform some busines, and seeing such a gorgeous damzel, hee wondring at such a braue wench, stands staring her on the face, or perhappes doth but cast a glance, and bid her good spéed, as plain simple fwains haue their lustie humors as well as others : the trull straight beginning her *exordium* with a smile, faith, how now my friend, what want you? would you speake with anie body here? If the fellow haue anie bolde spirit, perhaps he will offer the wine, & then he is caught : tis inough, in he goes, and they are chamberd : then sends she for her husband, or hir friend, and there either the farmers pocket is stript, or else the cros-biters fall vpon him, and threaten him with bridewill and the law : then for feare he giues them all in his purse, and makes them some bill to paie a summe of monie at a certaine daie. If the poore Farmer bee bashfull, and passeth by one of these shamelesse strumpets, then will she verse it with him, and

claime acquaintaunce of him, and by some pollicie or other fall aboard on him, and carrie him into some house or other: if he but enter in at the doores with her (though the poore Farmer neuer kist her) yet then the cros-biters, like vultures, will pray vpon his purse, and rob him of euerie pennie. If there bée anie yong gentleman that is a nouice and hath not séene theyr traines, to him will some common filth (that neuer knew loue) faine an ardent and honest affection, till she and her cros-biters haue verft him to the beggers estate. Ah gentlemen, marchants, yeomen and farmers, let this to you all, and to euerie degré else, be a caueat to warn you from lust, that your inordinate desire be not a meane to impouerish your purses, discredit your good names, condemne your soules, but also that your wealth got with the sweat of your browes, or left by your parents as a patri-
monie, shall be a praie to those coofning cros-biters. Some fond men are so farre in with these detest-
able trugs, that they consume what they haue vpon them, and find nothing but a Neapolitan fauor for their labor. Reade the seuenth of *Salomons* pro-
uerbs, and there at large view the description of a shameles and impudent curtizan. Yet is there an
/ other kind of cros-biting which is most pestilent, and that is this. There liues about this towne certaine houfholders, yet méere shifTERS and coofners,

who learning some insight in the ciuill law, walke abrode like parators, sumners and informers, beeing none at all either in office or credit, and they go spying about where any marchant, or marchants prentise, citizen, wealthie farmer, or other of credit, either accompany with anie woman familiarly, or else hath gotten some maide with child, as mens natures be prone to sin: straight they come ouer his fallows thus: they send for him to a tauern, & there open the matter vnto him, which they haue cunningly larned out, telling him he must be presented to the Arches, & the scitation shalbe peremptorily serued in his parish church. The partie afraid to haue his credit crackt with the worshipfull of the Citie, and the rest of his neighbors, & grieuing highly his wife should heare of it, straight takes composition with this cosner for some twentie markes, nay I heard of forty pound cros-bitten at one time, & thē the cosning informer or cros-biter promifeth to wipe him out of the booke, & discharge him from the matter, when it was neither knowen nor presented: so go they to the woman, and fetch her off if she be married, and though they haue this grosse sum yet oft-times they cros-bite hir for more: nay thus do they feare citizens, prentises, & farmers, that they find but any waie suspitious of the like fault. The cros-biting bauds, for no better can I tearme them, in that for lucre

they conceale the fin, and smoothen vp luft, do not onely enrich themfelues mightily thereby, but alfo difcredite, hinder, and preiudice the court of the Arches, and the Officers belonging to the fame. There are fome pore blinde patches of that facultie, that haue their Tenements purchafed, and their plate on the boorde verie solemnly, who onely get their gaines by cros-biting, as is afore rehearfed. But leauing them to the deepe infight of fuch as be appointed with iuftice to correct vice, againe to the crue of my for / mer cros-biters, whofe fee fimple to liue vppon, is nothing but the folowing of common, difhoneft and idle truls, and thereby maintain themfelues braue, and the ftrumpets in handfome furniture. And to end this art with an English demonftration, ile tel you a pretie tale of late performd in bishopgate ftréet: there was there fiue traffiques, pretty, but common hufwiues, that flood faft by a tauern dore, loking if fome pray would paffe by for their purpofe. Anone the eldeft of them, and moft experienced in that law, called *Mal B.* fpied a mafter of a fhip comming along: here is a fimpler quoth fhe, Ile verfe him, or hang me. Sir, fayde fhee, God euen, what, are you fo liberal to beftow on three good wenches that are drie, a pint of wine? In faith, faire women qd. he, I was neuer nigard for fo much, and with that he takes one of them by the hand, and

caries them all into the tauern: there he bestowed cheare and ipocras vpon them, drinking hard til the shot came to a noble, so that they iii. carousing to the gentleman, made him somewhat tipsy, and then *Et venus in vinis, ignis in igne fuit.* Wel, night grew on, and hee would away, but this mistres *Mall B.* stopt his iorney thus: gentleman, qd. she, this vnderferued fauor of yours makes vs so déeplie beholding to you, that our abilitie is not able any way to make sufficient satisfaction, yet to shew vs kind in what we can, you shall not deny me this request, to see my simple house before you go. The gentleman a litle whited, consented, & went with them, so the shot was paid, & away they goe: Without the tauern dore stood two of their husbands, J. B. & J. R. and they were made priuy to the practise. Home goes the gentleman with these lustie hufwiues, stumbling: at laste hee was welcome to *M. Mals* house: and one of the three went into a chamber, and got to bed, whose name was A. B. After they had chatted a while, the gentleman would haue been gone, but she told him that before he went, hee shoulde see al the roomes of her house, and so ledde him vp into the chamber where the party lay in bed. Who is here saide the / Gentleman? Marie faith *Mal*, a good pretie wench sir, and if you be not well, lie downe by her, you can take no harm of her: dronkennes

desires luft, and so the Gentleman begins to dallie, and awaie goes she with the candle, and at last he put of his clothes and went to bed: yet he was not so dronke, but he could after a while remember his mony, and féeling for his purse, all was gone, and three linkes of his whistle broken off: the sum that was in his purse was in gold and siluer, twentie nobles. As thus hee was in a maze, though his head were well laden: in comes J. B. the goodman of the house, and two other with him, and speaking somewhat loud, peace husband quoth she, there is one in bed, speak not so loud. In bed, faith he, gogs nownes, ile go fee: and so will I, faith the other: you shall not faith his wife, but stroue against him, but vp goes he and his cros-biters with him, & seeing the Gentleman in bed, out with his dagger, and asked what base villain it was that there fought to dishonest his wife? well, he sent one of them for a constable, and made the gentleman rise, who halfe dronk yet had that remembrance to speake faire, and to intreate him to keep his credit: but no intreatie could serue, but to the Counter he must, & the Constable must be sent for: yet at the last one of them intreated that the gentleman might be honestly vsed, and caried to a Tauerne to talke of the matter till a constable come. Tut, faith J. B. I wil haue law vpon him: but the base cros-biter at last stoopt, and to the

Tauerne they go, where the Gentleman laide his whistle to pawne for mony, & there bestowed as much of them as came to ten shillings, and fate drinking and talking vntill the next morrow. By that, the Gentleman had stolen a nap, and waking it was daie light, and then seeing himselfe compassed with these cros-biters, and remembring his nights worke, soberly smiling, asked them if they knew what he was : they answered, not wel. Why then quoth he, you base coofning rogues, you shall ere we part : and with that drawing his sword, kept them into the chamber, desiring that the constable might be sent for : but / this braue of his could not dismay *M. Mall*, for shee had bidden a sharper brunt before : witnes the time of her martirdome, when vpon her shoulders was engrauen the history of her whorish qualities : but she replying swore, sith he was so lusty, her husband should not put it vp by no meanes. I will tel thee thou base cros-biting baud, quoth he, and you coofening companions, I serue a nobleman, & for my credit with him, I refer me to the penaltie hee will impose on you, for by God I wil make you an example to al cros-biters ere I ende with you : I tel you villaines, I serue, and with that he namde his Lord. When the guilty whores and cofeners heard of his credite and seruice, they began humbly to intreat him to be good to the : then quoth he, first deliuer me my

mony: they vpon that gladly gaue him all, and restored the linkes of his chaine. When hee had all, he smiled, and sware afresh that he would torment them for al this, that the feueritie of their punishment might be a caueat to others to beware of the like coofenage: and vpon that knockt with his foote, and sayde hee would not let them go till he had a constable. Then in general they humbled themselues, so recompencing the partie, that he agréed to passe ouer the matter, conditionallie beside, that they would pay the sixtéene shillinges hee had spent in charges, which they also performed. The Gentleman stept his way, and said, you may see the olde prouerbe fulfilled, *Fallere fallentem non est fraus.*

Thus haue I deciphered an odious practise, not worthy to be named: and now wishing al, of what estate soeuer, to beware of filthy lust, and such damnable stales as drawes men on to inordinate desires, and rather to spend their coine amongst honest companie then to bequeath it to such base cros-biters as praie vpon men, like rauens vpon dead carcases, I end with this praier, that Cros-biting and Conny-catching may be as little knowen in England, as the eating of swines-flesh was amongst the Jewes. Farewel.

Nascimur pro patria.

FINIS.



A PLEASANT DISCOVERY OF

the coofenage of Colliars.

Although (courteous Readers) I did not put in amongst the lawes of cofening, the law of *legering*, which is a deceit wherewith colliers abuse the commonwelth, in hauing vnlawful facks, yet take it for a pettie kinde of craft or myftery, as preiudicial to the poore, as any of the other two, for I omitted diuers other diuelifh vices; as the nature of the *lift*, the *black art*, & the *curbing law*, which is the *filchers* and *theeues* that come into houfes or fhops, & lift away anything: or picklocks, or hookers at windowes, thogh they be as *species* and branches to the table before rehearfed. But leauing them, again to our law of *legering*. Know therefore, that there be inhabiting in & about *London*, certaine caterpillers (coliers I fhould fay) that terme thefelues

(among themselves) by the name of *legers*, who for that the honorable the L. Maior of the citie of *London*, & his officers, looke straitly to the measuring of coales, doe (to prevent the execution of his iustice,) plant themselves in & about the suburbs of *London*, as *Shorditch*, *White-chappel*, *Southwark*, & such places, and there they haue a house or yard, that hath a back gate, because it is the more convenient for their cosening purpose, and the reason is this ; the *Leger*, the crafty collier I meane, riseth very early in the morning, and either goeth towards *Croyden*, *Whetstone*, *Greenwitch*, or *Romford*, and there meeteth the countrey Colliers, who bring coles to serue the markette : there, in a forestalling manner, this *leger* bargayneth / with the Countrey Collier for his coales, and paieth for them nineteene shillings or twentie at the most, but commonly fifteene and sixteene, and there is in the load 36 sackes : so that they paie for euerie couple about fourteen pence. Now hauing bought his coales, euerie sacke containing full foure bushels, he carrieth the Countrey Collier home to his legering place, and there at the backe gate causeth him to vnloade, and as they saie, shoote the coales downe. As soone as the Countrey Collier hath dispatcht and is gone, then the *Leger* who hath three or foure hired men vnder him, bringeth forth his own sackes, which be long and narrow, holding at the

most not three bushels: so that they gaine in the change of euerie sacke a bushell for their pains. Tush, yet this were somewhat to be borne withal, although the gaine is monstrous, but this sufficeth not, for they fill not these sackes full by far, but put into them some two bushels & a halfe, laying in the mouth of the sacke certaine great coles, which they call fillers, to make the sack shew faire, although the rest be small wilow coles, and halfe dros. Whē they haue thus not filled their sacks, but thrust coles into thē, that which they lay vppermost, is best filled, to make the greater shew: then a tall sturdie knaue, that is all ragd, and durtie on his legs, as thogh he came out of the Countrie (for they durtie theyr hose and shoos on purpose to make themselues seem countrie colliers:) Thus with two sacks a peece they either go out at the back gate or steal out at the street side, and so vp and downe the suburbs, & sel their coales in summer for fourteene and fixteenepence a couple, and in winter for eighteene or twentie. The poore cookes & other citizens that buy them, thinke they be countrie colliers, that haue left some coles of their load, and would gladly haue monie, supposing (as the statute is) they be good and lawfull sackes, are thus coofned by the legers, & haue but two bushels and a halfe for foure bushels, and yet are extreamlie rackt in the price, which is

not onely a great hinderance to her Maiesties poore cōmons, but greatly preiudiciall to the master Colliers, that bring true sacks & measure out of the countrie. Then consider (gentle readers) what kind of coofnage these legers vse, that make of thirty sacks some 56. which I haue seen, for I haue set downe with my pen how many turnes they haue made of a load, and they make 28., euerie turne being two sacks, so that they haue got an intollerable gains by their false measure. I could not be silent seeing this abuse, but thought to reueal it for my countries commoditie, and to giue light to the worshipfull Iustices, and other her Maiesties officers in *Middlesex*, *Surrey*, and elswhere, to looke to such a grosse coofnage, as contrarie to a direct statute, doth defraud & impouerish her Maiesties poore cōmōs. Well may the honorable and worshipful of *London* flourish, who carefully looke to the countrie coales, & if they finde not 4 bushels in euerie sacke, do sell thē to the poore as forfeit, & distribut the mony to them that haue need, burning the sacke, & honoring or rather dishonoring the pillarie with the Colliers durty faces: & wel may the honorable & worshipfull of the suburbs prosper, if they loke in iustice to these legers who deserue more punishment than the statute appoints for them, which is whipping at a carts taile, or with fauor the pillorie. /

A plaine Discouerie.

For fewell or firing being a thing necessary in a commonwealth, and charcoal vsed more then any other, the poore not able to buy by the load, are fain to get in their fire by the sacke, & so are greatly coofned by the retaile. Seeing therefore the carefull lawes her Maieftie hath appointed for the wealch of her commons, and succor of the poore, I would humbly entreat all her Maiefties officers, to looke into the life of these legers, and to root them out, that the pore feele not the burden of their incōfcionable gaines. I heard with my eares a pore woman of *Shorditch* who had bought coles of a leger, with weeping teares cōplain and raile against him in the streete, in her rough eloquence calling him coofning knaue, & saying, tis no maruell, villain (quoth she) if men compare you colliers to the deuill, seeing your consciences are worfer then the deuilles, for hee takes none but those souls whom God hates: and you vndo the poore whome God loues.

What is the matter good wife (quoth I) that you vse such inuectiue words against the collier: a collier fir (saith she) he is a theefe and a robber of the common people. Ile tel you fir, I bought of a Countrie collier two sackes for thirteene pence & I bought of this knaue three sackes, which cost me

22. pence: and fir, when I meafured both their fackes, I had more in the two fackes by three pecks, then I had in the three. I would (quoth ſhe) the Iuſtices would looke into this abuſe, and that my neighbors would ioyn with me in a ſupplication, and by God I would kneele before the Queene, and intreate that ſuch cooſening Colliers might not onlie bee puniſhed with the / bare pillerie, (for they haue ſuch blacke faces, that no man knowes them again, and ſo are they careles) but that they might leaue their eares behind them for a forfet: & if that would not mend them, that *Bul* with a faire halter might root them out of the world, that liue in the world by ſuch groſſe and diſhoneſt cooſnage. The collier hearing this went ſmiling awaie, becauſe he knew his life was not loſt into, & the womã wept with anger that ſhe had not ſome one by that might with iuſtice reuenge her quarrell.

There be alſo certaine Colliers that bring coles to *London* in Barges, and they be called Gripers: to theſe comes the leger, & bargens with him for his coles, & ſels by retaile with the like cooſnage of fackes as I rehearſed before. But theſe mad Legers (not content with this monſtrous gaine) do beſides mix among their other fackes of coales, ſtore of ſhruffe duſt and ſmall cole, to their great aduantage. And for prooſe hereof, I will recite

you a matter of truth, lately performed by a Cookes wife vpon a coofning Collier.

How a Cookes wife in London did lately serue a Collier for his coofnage.

IT chanced this Summer that a load of coles came forth of *Kent* to *Billin[g]sgate*, and a Leger bought them, who thinking to deceiue the Citizens, as he did those in the suburbs, furnisht himfelfe with a couple of fackes, and comes vp *Saint Marie* hill to fell them. A Cookes wife bargained with the collier, and bought his coales, and they agreed vppon fourteene pence for the couple: which beeing done, hee carried the coales into the houle, and shot them: and when / the wife sawe them, and perceiuing there was scarce fiue bushels for eight, she cals a little girle to her, and bad her go for the Constable: for thou coofening rogue, quoth she, (speaking to the collier) I wil teach thee how thou shalt coofen me with thy false facks, whatsoever thou doest to others, and I wil haue thee before my Lord Maior: with that she caught a spit in her hand, and swore if he offered to stir, shee would therewith broach him. At which words the Collier was amazed, and the feare of the pillerie put him in such a fright, that he said he would go to his boat, & returne againe

to answere whatsoeuer she durst obiekt against him, and for pledge heereof (quoth the Collier) keepe my sackes, your mony, and the coales also. Wherupon the woman let him go: but as soone as the collier was out of doores, it was needles to bid him runne, for downe he gets to his boate, & awaie he thrusts from *Billin[g]sgate*, and so immediatly went downe to *Wapping*, and neuer after durst returne to the Cookes wife to demand either monie, sackes, or coales.

*How a Flaxe wife and her neighbours used a coof-
ning Collier.*

*N*Ow Gentlemen by your leaue, and heare a merry iest: There was in the suburbes of London a Flaxe wife that wanted coles, and seeing a leger come by with a couple of sackes, that had before deceiued her in like sorte, cheaped, bargained & bought them, & so went in with her [to] shoote them in her cole-house. As soone as she saw her coles, she easily gest there was scarce fixe bushels, yet dissembing the matter, she paid him for thē, and bad him bring her two sackes more: the Collier went his waie & in the mean time the flax wife measured the coles, and there was iust five bushels and a peck. Herevpon she cald to her neighbours, being a companie of women, that before time had also bene pincht in their coles, and

shewed them the cofnage, & desired their aide to her in tormenting the Collier: which they promist to performe, & thus it fell out. She conueid them into a back roome (some sixteen of them) euerie one hauing a good cudgell vnder her apron; straight comes the Collier, and saith, Mistres, here be your coles: welcome good Collier, quoth she, I praie thee follow me into the backe side, & shoot them in an other roome. The Collier was content, and went with her: but as soone as he was in, the good wife lockt the doore, and the Collier seeing such a troupe of wiues in the roome, was amazed, yet said God speed you all shrews: welcome, quoth one iolly Dame, being appointed by them all to giue sentence against him: who so soon as the collier had shot his sacks, said Sirrha collier, know that we are here all assembled as a grād Iurie, to determine of thy villanies, for selling vs false sackes of coales, & know that thou art here indited vpon cofnage, therefore hold vp thy hand at the bar, & either saie, guiltie, or not guiltie, and by whom thou wilt be tried, for thou must receiue condigne punishment for the same ere thou depart. The Collier who thought they had but iested, smiled & said Come on, which of you shall be my Iudge? Marry, quoth one iolly Dame, that is I, and by God you knaue, you shall finde I will pronounce sentence against you seuerely, if you be founde guiltie. When the Collier saw they were in earnest, he said, Come come, open the doore, and let me

go: with that fue or six started vp, and fell vpon the Collier, and gaue vnto him halfe a score of sound lambeakes with their cudgels, and bad him speake more reuerently to their Principall. |

The Collier feeling it smart, was afraid, & thought mirth & courtesie would be the best mean to make amends for his villany, and therefore said he would be tried by the verdit of the smock. Vpon this they panneld a iurie, and the flax-wife gaue euidence; and because this vnaccustomed iury required witnes, she measured the coles before the colliers face, vppon which he was found guilty, & she that sat as principal to giue iudgement vpon him, began as followeth.

Collier, thou art condemned here by prooffe, of flatte cofenage, and I am now appointed in conscience to giue sentence against thee, being not only moued therevnto because of this poor woman, but also for the general commodi[ti]e of my countrey, and therefore this is my sentence: we haue no pillery for thee, nor cart to whip thee at, but here I do award that thou shalt haue as many bastinadoes as thy bones will beare, and then to be turned out of dores without sacks or mony. This sentence being pronounced, she rose vp, and gaue no respit of time for th' execution, but according to the sentence before expressed, al the women fel vpo him, beating him extremely, among whom he lent some lusty buffets. But might ouercomes right, and therefore Ne Hercules contra duos. The women so crusht

him, that he was not able to lift his handes to his head, and so with a broken pate or two, he was paid, & like Iack Drum, faire and orderly thrust out of doores.

This was the reward that the collier had, and I pray God all such colliers may be so serued, and that good wiues when they buy such sacks, may geue them such payments, and that the honorable and worshipful of this land may look into this gros abuse of Coliers, as well for charity sake, as also for the benefit of the poore. And so wishing colliers to amende their deceitfull and disordered dealings herein, I end.

FINIS.







XXIII.

SECOND PART OF CONNIE
CATCHING.

1591.



NOTE.

The 'Second Part of Connie Catching' is *rar. rar.* I am indebted for it to the Huth Library. I have not traced another exemplar, though other two are believed to be in existence. See annotated Life in Vol. I.—G.

THE SECOND PART
of Connie-catching.





THE
S E C O N D
part of Conny-catching.

*Contayning the discouery of certaine wondrous
Coofenages, either superficialie past ouer, or
vtterlie vntoucht in the first.*

As the nature of	{	The blacke Art,	{	Picking of lockes.
	{	The Vincents Law,	{	Coofenage at Bowls.
	{	The Prigging Law,	{	Horfe stealing.
	{	The Courbing Law,	{	Hooking at windows.
	{	The Lifting Law,	{	Stealing of parcels
	{	The Foift,	{	The pickepocket.
	{	The Nippe,	{	The cut purfe.

With fundrie pithy and pleafant Tales worthy the reading of all e-
ftates, that are ennemies to fuch bafe and difhoneft praçtifes.

Mallet non esse quam non prodesse patrie.

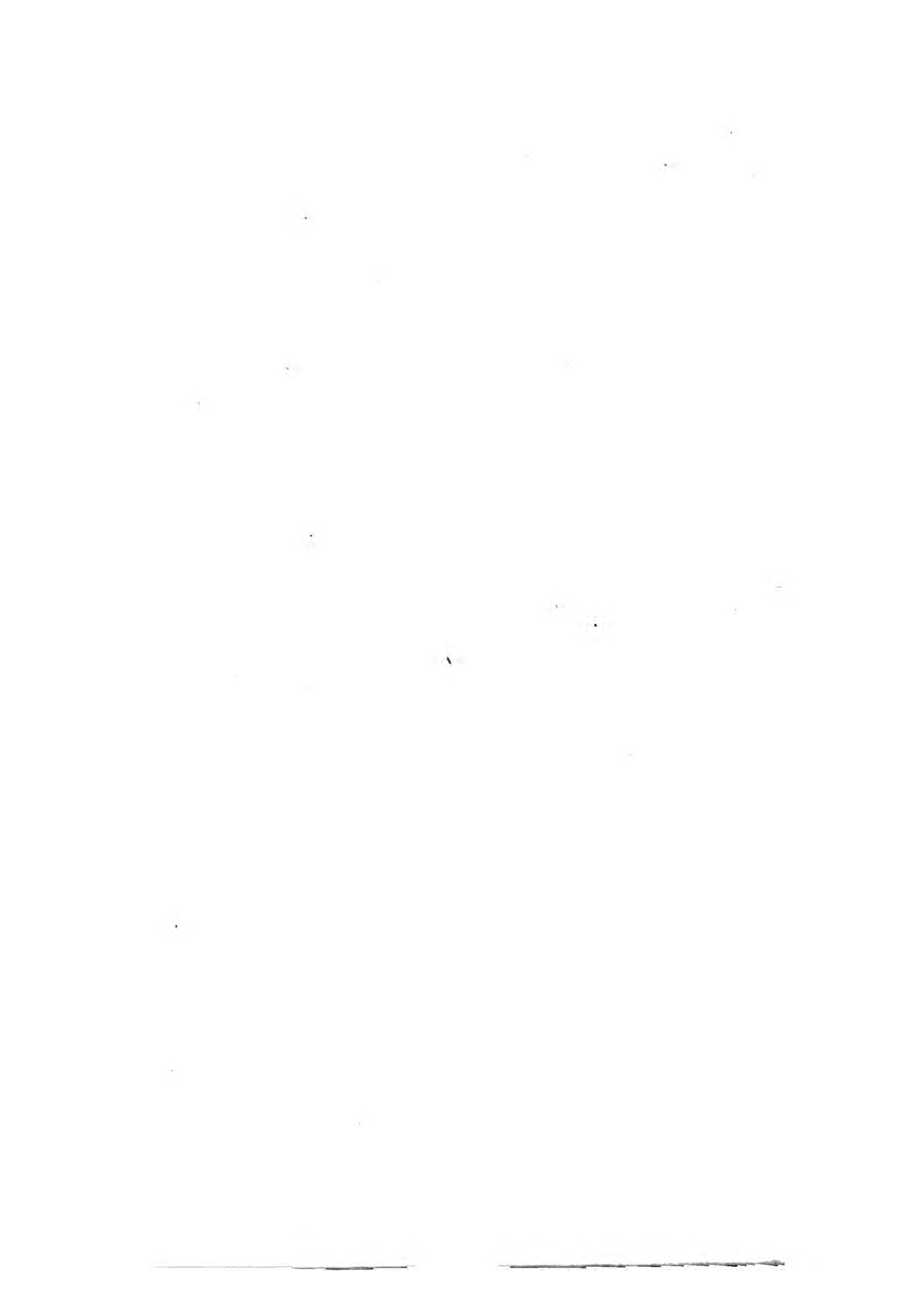
R. G.



LONDON

Printed by Iohn Wolfe for William Wright, and
are to be fold at his fhop in Pauls Church
yard, neare to the French schoole.

1591.





TO ALL YOONG GENTLEMEN,
marchants, citizens, apprentices, yeomen,
and plaine countrey farmers,
Health.

When *Sceuola*, Gentlemen, saw his native citie besieged by *Porfenna*, and that *Rome* the mistresse of the world, was readie to be maistred by a professed foe to the publicke estate: hee entred boldly into the enemies camp, and in the Tent of the king (taking him for the king) slew the kings Secretarie: whereupon condemned, brought to the fire, he thrust his right hand into the flame, burning it off voluntarie, because it was so infortunat to misse the fatal stab he had intended to his coutries enimies, and then with an honourable resolution, breathd out this, *Mallet non esse quā non prodesse patriæ.* This instāce of *Sceuola* greatly hath emboldened mee to thinke no pains nor danger too great that groweth to the benefit of my countrie, & though I cannot

as he mannadge with my courtlax, nor attempt to vnleager *Porfenna*: yet with my pen I will indeuor to display the nature and secrets of diuers coofenages more preiudiciall to *England* then the inuasion of *Porfenna* was to *Rome*. For when that valiant king saw the resolutiō of *Sceuola*: as one dismaid at the honour of his thoughtes, he sorrowed so braue a man had so desperatly lost his hand, and there-upon grewe friends with the Romans. But gentlemen these Conny-catchers, these vultures, these fatall Harpies, that putrifie with their infections this flourishing estate of *England*, as if they had their consciences / seared with a hot iron, & that as men deliuered vp into a reprobate sence, grace were vtterly exild from their harts, so with the deafe Adder they not only stop their eares against the voice of the charmer, but dissolutely without any sparke of remorse, stand vpon their brauados, and openly in words & actions maintain their palpable and manifest coofenages, swearing by no lesse then their enemies bloud, euē by God him selfe, that they will make a massacre of his bones, and cut off my right hand, for penning downe their abhominable practises: but alas for thē, poore snakes, words are wind, & looks but glances: euery thunderclap hath not a bolt, nor euery Conny-catchers oath an execution. I liue still, & I liue to display their villanies, which, gentlemen you shal see set down

in most ample maner in this smal treatise: but heere by the way, giue me leaue to answere an obiection, that some inferred against me, which was, that I shewed no eloquent phrascs, nor fine figuratiue conueiance in my first booke as I had done in other of my workes: to which I reply that *το προπον*, a certaine decorum is to bee kept in euerie thing, and not to applie a high stile in a base subiect: beside the facultie is so odious, and the men so feruile and flauish minded, that I should dishonor that high misterie of eloquence, and derogate from the dignitie of our English toonge, eyther to employ any figure or bestow one choyce English word vpon such disdained rakehels as those Conny-catchers. Therefore humbly I craue pardon and desire I may write basely of such base wretches who liue onely to liue dishonestly. For they seeke the spoyle and ruine of all, and like droanes eate away what others labor for. I haue set downe diuers other laws vntoucht in the first, as their Vincents law, a notable coosenage at bowles, when certain idle companions stand and make bettes, being compacted with / the bowlers, who looke like honest minded citizens, either to win or loofe, as their watch-ворde shall appoint: then the Prigger or Horfestealer, with all his ginnes belonging to his trade, and theyr subtill cawtels to amend the statute: next the curbing law, which some call but

too basely hookers, who eyther diue in at windows, or else with a hook, which they call a curb, doe fetch out whatfoeuer, either apparell, linnen, or wollen, that be left abroad. Beside, I can fet downe the subtiltie of the blacke Art, which is picking of lockes, a coofenage as preiudiciall as any of the rest, and the nature of the Lift, which is he that stealeth any parcels, and slyly taketh them away. This (Gentlemen) haue I searcht out for your commodities, that I might lay open to the world the villanie of these coofening caterpillers, who are not onely abhorred of men, but hated of God, liuing idly to themselues, & odiously to the worlde : they be those foolish children that *Salomon* speakes of, that feedes themselues fatte with iniquitie, those vntamed heifers, that will not breake the yoke of labor, but get their liuinges by the painfull thrift of other mens hands. I cannot better compare them, then vnto Vipers, who while they liue are hated & shunned of all men as most preiudiciall creatures: they feed vpon hemlocke and Aconiton, and such fatall & im-poisoned herbs, but the learned apothecaries takes them, cuts off their heades, and after they be imbowelled of their flesh, they make the most pretious Mithridate: so these Conny-catchers, Foists, Nips, Priggers, & Lifts, while they liue are most improfitable members of the common-wealth: they

glut themfelues as Vipers vpon the moft lothfome and deteftable finnes, feeking after folly with greedineffe, neuer doing any thing that is good, till they be truft vp at *Tiburn*: and then is a moft wholefome Mithridate made of thē, for by their deaths others / are forewarned for falling into the like enormities. And as the Gangrena is a difeafe incurable by the cenfure of the Chirurgians, vnleffe the member where it is firft be cut off: fo this vntoward generation of loofe Libertines, can by no wholefome counfailes, nor aduifed perfwafions be diffwaded from their lothfom kind of life, till by death they be fatally, and finally cut off from the commonwealth, whereof fpake *Ouid* well in his *Metamorphofis*.

Immedicabile vulnus,

Enfe refecandum eſt ne pars ſincera trahitur.

Sith then this curfed crue, theſe Machaulians, that neither care for God nor deuill, but fet with the Epicures gaine, and eaſe, their *ſummum bonum*, cannot be called to anie honeſt courſe of liuing: if the honorable and worſhipfull of this land looke into their liues, and cut off ſuch vpſtaring fuckars that confume the ſap from the roote of the Tree: they ſhall neither looſe their reward in heauen, nor paſſe ouer anie day wherein there wil not be many faithful praiers of the poore, exhibited for their

prosperous successe and welfare: so deeply are these monstrous coofeners hated in the common wealth. Thus Gentlemen I haue discovered in briefe, what I meane to profecute at large: though not eloquently, yet so effectually, that if you be not altogether carelesse, it may redownd to your commoditie: forewarned, forearmed: burnt children dread the fire, and such as neither counsaile, nor other mens harmes, may make to beware, are worthie to liue long, and still by the losse. But hoping these secrets I haue set abroach, and my labours I haue taken in searching out those base villanies, shall not be onely taken with thankes, but applied with care: I take my leaue with this farewell. God either confound, or conuert such base minded Coofeners.

Yours R. G.

The Second Part
of Conny-catching.



*The discovery of the Prigging Law or nature
of horse stealing.*

To the effecting of this base villany of Prigging or horse stealing, there must of necessity be two at the least, and that is the Priggar and the Martar. The Priggar is

he that steales the horse, and the Martar is he that receiues him, and chops and chaungeth him away in any Faire, Mart, or other place where any good vent for horses is: and their methode is thus. The / Priggar if he be a Launce man, that is, one that is already horst, then he hath more followers with him, and they ride like Gentlemen, and commonly in the fourme of Drouers, & so comming into pasture grounds or inclosures, as if they ment to suruey for Cattle, doe take an especiall and perfect view where Prankers or horses be, that are of worth, and whether they be trameld or no, that is whether they haue horselocks or no: then lie they houering about till fit oportunity ferue, and in the night they take him or them away, and are skilfull in the blacke Art, for picking open the tramels or lockes, and so make haft til they be out of those quarters. Now if the Priggars steale a horse in *Yorkshire*, commonly they haue vent for him in *Surrey*, *Kent*, or *Suffex*, and their Martars that receiue them at his hand, chops them away in some blind Faires after they haue kept them a moneth or two, till the hue and cry be ceast and past ouer. Now if their horse be of any great valure and fore fought after, and so branded or eare markt, that they can hardlie sell him without extreame daunger, either they brand him with a croffe brand vpon the former, or take away his

eare mark, and so keep him at hard meat til he be hole, or else sell him in *Cornwall* or *Wales*, if he be in *Cumberland*, *Lincolnshire*, *Northfolke* or *Suffolke*: but this is if the horse bee of great valour and worthy the keeping: Marry if he bee onely coloured and without brands, they will straight spotte him by fundry pollicies, and in a blacke horse, marke saddle-spots, or starre him in the forehead and change his taile, which secretes I omit, leaft I shoulde giue too great a light to other to practife such lewd villanies. But againe to our Launce men Priggars, who as before I said, cry with the Lapwing farthest from their nest, and from their place of residence, where the[ir] most abode is, furthest from thence they steal their horses, and then in another quarter as farre of they make sale of them by the Martars meanes, without it be some base / Priggar that steales of meere necessity, and beside is a Trailer. The Trailer is one that goeth on foote, but meanely attired like some plaine gran of the Countrey, walking in a paire of bootes without spurres, or else without bootes, hauing a long staffe on his necke, and a blacke buckram bag at his backe, like some poore Client that had some writing in it, and there he hath his saddle, bridle and spurs, stirhops and stirhop leathers, so quaintly and artificially made that it may bee put in the slop of a mans hose, for

his faddell is made without any tree, yet hath both cantle & boulsters, only wrought artificially of cloth and bombaſt, with foulds to wrap vp in a ſhort roome: his ſtirhops are made with vices and gins that one may put them in a paire of gloues, and ſo are his ſpurreſ, and then a little white leather headſtal and raines with a ſmall Scotiſh brake or ſnaffle: all ſo feately formde, that as I ſaid before they may be put in a buckram bag. Now this Trailer he beſtrides the horſe which he priggeth, and faddles and bridles him as orderly as if he were his own, and then carries him far from the place of his breede, and there ſels him. Oh will ſome man ſay, it is eaſier to ſteale a horſe then to ſell him, conſidering that her Maieſty and the honourable priuy Counſaile, hath in the laſt Act of Parliament made a ſtrikt Statute for horſe ſtealing, and the ſale of horſes, whoſe Prouiſo is this: That no man may buy a horſe vntould, nor the toule be taken without lawfull witneſſes that the party that ſelleth the horſe is the true owner of him, vpon their oath and ſpecial knowledge, and that who buieth a horſe without this certificate or prooffe, ſhall be within the natu[r]e of Felony, as well as the party that ſtealeth him. To this I aunſwere that there is no Act, Statute, nor Lawe ſo ſtrickt conueyed, but there be ſtraight found ſtaring holes to auoide it, as in this. The Prigger when

he hath stollen a horfe and hath agreede with his Martar, or with any other his confederate, or with any honest person to sell the horfe, bringeth / to the toulter, which they call the rifler, two honest men, eyther apparelled like citizens, or plain country yeomen, and they not onely affirm, but offer to depose, that they know the horfe to be his, vpon their proper knowledge, although perhaps they neuer saw man nor horfe before: and these periurd knaues be commonly old knightes of the post, that are foisted off from being taken for bale at the kings bench, or other places, and seeing for open periuries they are refused there, they take that course of life, and are wrongly called Querries: but it were necessarie and verie much expedient for the common wealth, that such base roagues should be lookt into, and be punisht as well with the pillorie, as the other with the halter. And thus haue I reuealed the nature of Priggars, or horfe-stealers briefly, which if it may profit, I haue my desire: but that I may recreate your mindes with a pleasant historie, marke the sequeale.

A pleasant storie of a horse-stealer.

Not farre from *Tenro* in *Cornewall*, a certaine Priggar, a horse-stealer being a lance-man, surueying the pastures thereabouts, spied a fayre blacke horfe without any white spot at all about

him: the horſe was ſo faire and luſtie, wel proportioned, of a high creſt, of a luſty countenance, well buttockt, and ſtrongly truſt, which ſet the Priggars teeth a water to haue him: well he knew the hardeſt happe was but a halter, and therefore hee ventered faire, and ſtoll away the prancer: and ſeeing his ſtomack was ſo good as his limmes, he kept him well, and by his pollicie ſeared him in the forehead, and made him ſpotted in the backe, as if he had been ſaddle bitten, and gaue him a marke in both eares, whereas he had but a mark in one. Dealing thus with his horſe, after a quarter of a yeere, that all hurly burly was paſt for the horſe, hee came / riding to *Tenro* to the market, and there offered him to be ſold. The Gentleman that loſt the horſe, was there preſent, and looking on him with other Gentlemen, likte him paſſing well, and commended him: infomuch that he bet the priſe of him, bargained, & bought him: and ſo when he was tould, and that the horſe-ſtealer clap[t] him good lucke: Well my friend quoth the gentleman, I promiſe thee I like the horſe the better, in that once I loſt one as like him as might be, but that mine wanted theſe ſaddle ſpots, and this ſtarre in the forehead. It may be ſo fir, ſaid the Priggar, and ſo the Gentleman and he parted: the next day after, he cauſed a letter to be made, and ſent the Gentleman word

that he had his horse againe that he lost, onely he had giuen him a mark or two, and for that he was wel rewarded, hauing twentie marke for his labour. The gentleman hearing how he was cosened by a horse-stealer, and not onely robd, but mockt, let it passe till he might conueniently meete with him to reuenge it. It fortun'd not long after, that this lanceman Priggar was brought to *Tenro* Gayle for some such matter, and indeede it was about a Mare that he had stolne: but as knaues haue friends, especially when they are wel monied, he found diuers that spake for him, and who saide it was the first fault: and the party plaintife gaue but slender euidence against him, so that the iudge spake fauourably in hys behalfe: the gentleman as then, sat in the bench, and calling to minde the Priggars countenance, howe hee had stolne his horse and mockt him, remembred hee had the letter in his pocket that he sent him, and therefore rising vp, spake in his behalf, and highly commended the man, and desired the iudges for one fault he might not be cast away, and besides, may it please you (quoth hee) I had this morning a certificate of his honestie and good behauior sent me: and with that he deliuered them the letter, and the iudge and the rest of the bench smiled at this conceite, and askt the fellow if he neuer stoll a horse from / that Gentleman: no quoth the Priggar, I know

him not : your honors mistakes me, said the gentleman, he did but borrow a blacke horse of me, and markt him with a star[r]e in the forehead, and askt twenty marke of me for his labour, and so discourst the whole matter: whereupon the quest went vpon him, and condemned him: and so the Priggar went to heauen in a string, as many of his facultie had done before.

The Vincents law, with the discouery therof.

The Vincents Law is a common deceit or cofenage vsed in Bowling-allies amongst the baser sort of people, that commonly haunt such leud and vnlawful places: for although I will not discommend altogether the nature of bowling, if the time, place, persons, and such necessary circumstances be obserued: yet as it is now vsed, practised & suffred, it groweth altogether to the maintenāce of vnthrifts that idley and disorderly make that recreation or cofenage. Nowe the manner and forme of their deuise is thus affected: the Bawkers, for so are the common haunters of the Alley termed, apparelled like very honest and substantial citizens come to bowle, as though rather they did it for sport then gains, & vnder that colour of carelesnes, doe shadow their pretended knauery: well, to bowles they goe, and then there resort of all fortes of people to beholde them: some simple men

brought in of purpose by some cofening companions to be stript of his crownes, others, Gentlemen or Marchants, that delighted with the sport, stand there as beholders to passe away the time: amongst these are certaine old fokers, which are lookers on, and listen for bets, either euen or odde, and these are called grypes: and these fellows will refuse no lay if the ods may grow to their aduantage, for the Gripes and the Baukers are confederate, and their fortune at play euer sorts according as the Gripes haue placed their bets, for the Bawker / he marketh how the laies goes, and so throes his casting: so that note this, the bowlers cast euer booty, and doth win or loofe as the bet of the Gripe doth lead them, for suppose seauen be vppe for the game, and the one hath three and the other none, then the vincent, for that is the fimple man that stands by & is not acquainted with their cofenage, nor doth so much as once imagine that the Bawkers that carry such a countenance of honest substantiall men, would by any meanes, or for any gaines be perfwaded to play booty. Well, this vincent, for so the Coofeners or Gripes please to terme him, seeing three to none, beginneth to offer ods on that side that is fairest to win: what ods faies the gripe? three to one faies the vincent: no faies the Gripe it is more, and with that they come to foure for none: then the vincent offers to

lay four to one: I take fix to one faies the Gripe, I lay it faies the vincent, and fo they make a bet of fome fix crownes, fhillings, or pence as the vincent is of ability to lay, & thus will fundry take their ods of him: well then, the Bawkers go forward with their bowles, and winne another caft which is fiue, then the vincent grows proud, & thinks both by the ods and goodnes of the play, that it is impoffible for his fide to loofe, and therefore takes and lais bets freely: then the Bawkers fortune begin to change, and perhaps they come to three for fiue, and ftill as their luck changes, diuerfitie of bets growes on, til at laft it comes to fiue and fiue, and then the Gripe comes vpon the vincent and offers him ods, which if the vincent take he lofeth al, for vpon what fide the Gripe laies, that fide euer winnes, how great foeuer the ods bee at the firft on the contrary part, fo that the cofenage grows in playing bootie, for the Gripe and the Bawker meet at night, & there they share what foeuer tearmage they haue gotten: for fo they call the money that the poore vincent loofeth vnto them: Now to fhadow the matter the more, the bawker that winnes and is afore-hand with the game, will lay franckely that hee fhall win, and will bet hard and lay great / ods, but with whom? either with them which play with him that are as crafty knaues as himfelfe, or els with the Gripe,

and this makes the poore innocent vincent stoope to the blow, and to loose all the money in his purse: Besides, if any honest men that holdes themselves skilful in bowling, offer to play any set match against these common bawkers, if they feare to haue the woorfe or suspect the others play to be better then theirs, then they haue a tricke in watering of the alley to giue such a moisture to the banke, that hee that offers to strike a bowle with a shoare, shal neuer hit it whilst he liues, because the moisture of the bank hinders the proportion of his aiming. Diuers other practises there are in bowling tēding vnto coosenage, but the greatest is booty, and therefore would I wish al men that are carefull of their coine, to beware of such coseners, and not to come in such places, where a haunt of such hel-rakers are resident, & not in any wise to stoope to their bets, least hee bee made a vincent, for so manifest and palpable is their cosenage, that I haue seen men ston-blind offer to lay bets franckly, although they can see a bowle come no more then a post, but onely hearing who plaies, and howe the olde Gripes make their laies: seeing then as the game is abused to a deceit, that is made for an honest recreation, let this litle be a caueat for men to haue an insight into their knauery. /

A Table of the Lawes contay-
ned in this second part.

1	Blacke arte.	Picking of lockes.
2	Combing Law.	Hooking at windowes.
3	Vincent's Law.	Coofenage at Bowls.
4	Prigging Law.	Horfe stealing.
5	Lifting Law.	Stealing of any parcels.

*The discovery of the wordes of Art used
in these Lawes.*

In blacke Art.	{	The Pickelocke is called a Charme.
		He that watcheth, a Stond.
		Their engins, Wrefters.
		Picking the lock, Farfing.
		The gaines gotten, Pelfrey.
In Comb- ing Law.	{	He that hooks, the Comber.
		He that watcheth, the Warpe.
		The hooke, the Combe.
In Lifting Law.	{	The good, Snappings.
		The gin to open the windowe, the Trickar. /
		He that first stealeth, the Lift.
		He that receiues it, the Markar.
		He that standeth without and carries it away, the Santar.
	{	The goods gotten, Garbage.

	{	They which play booty, the Bankars.
In Vincents	{	He that betteth, the Gripe.
Law.	{	He that is coofened, the Vincent.
	{	Gaines gotten, Termage.
	{	The horfe stealer, the Priggar.
In Prigging	{	The horfe, the Prancar.
Law.	{	The towling place, All-hallowes.
	{	The towler, the Rifler.
	{	The fuertees, Querris.

For the Foift and the Nip, as in the firft Booke. /

The Second Part
of *Conie-chatching*.



The professors of this Law, being somewhat dasht, and their trade greatlie impouerished by the late editions of their secret villanies, seeke not a newe meanes of life, but a newe methode how to fetch in their

Connies and to play their pranckes: for as greeuous is it for them to let flippe a Countrey farmer come to the tearm that is well apparelled, and in a dirtie pair of boots (for that is a token of his newe comming vp, and a full / purse) as it was for the boyes of *Athens* to let *Diogenes* passe by without a hisse. But the country men hauing had partly a caueat for their coosenage, feare their fauorable speeches and their courteous salutations, as deadlie as the Greekes did the whistle of *Poliphemus*. The Conie-catcher now no sooner commeth in company, and calleth for a paire of cards, but straight the poore Conie smokes him, and saies: maisters, I bought a booke of late for a groate that warnes me of Card-play, leaft I fall amongst Conie-catchers: What, doest thou take vs for such saies the Verfer? no Gentlemen saies the cony, you may bee men of honest disposition, but yet pardon me, I haue forsworne cards euer since I read it: at this replie God wot, I haue many a cofening curse at these Connie-catchers handes, but I solempnly sticke to the old prouerbe: the Foxe the more he is curst, the better hee fares: but yet I will discouer some of their newest deuises, for these caterpillers resemble the nature of the *Syrens*, who sitting with their watching eies vpon the rockes to allure Sea-passengers to their extreame preiudice, found out most heauenlie melodie in such pleasing cords, that who

fo listens to their harmony, lends his eare vnto his owne bane and ruine : but if anie warie *Vllisses* passe by and stop his eares against their enchantments, then haue they most delightfull iewels to shewe him, as glorious obiectes, to inueagle his eie with such pleasant vanities, that comming more nie to beholde them, they may dash their shippe against a rocke and so vtterly perish. So these Conie-catchers, for that I smoakt them in my last booke, and laid open their plots and policies, wherewith they drew poore Connies into their laie, seeking with the Orators / *Beneuolentiam captare*, and as they vse rethoricall tropes and figures, the better to drawe their hearers with the delight of varietie : so these moathes of the Common-wealth, apply their wits to wrap in wealthy farmers with straunge and vncoth conceits. Tush, it was so easie for the Setter to take vppe a Connie before I discouered the cosenage that one stigmaticall shamelesse companion amongst the rest, would in a brauerie wea[r]e parsly in his hat, and said he wanted but *Aqua vitæ* to take a Connie with, but since, he hath lookt on his feet, and valed his plumes with the Peacocke, and sweares by all the shooes in his shop, I shall be the next man hee meanes to kill, for spoyling of his occupation : but I laugh at his brauadoes, and though he speaks with his Eunuches voice, and weares a long fworde

like a morrice pike, were it not I thinke hee would with *Batillus* hang himselfe at my inuectiue, his name should bee fet downe with the nature of his follies: but let him call himselfe home from this course of life and this cosenage, and I shall bee content to shadow what he is with pardon: but frō this digression againe to the double diligence of these Connie-catchers, whose new sleights, because you shall the more easly perceiue, I will tell you a story pleasant and worth the noting.

A pleasant tale of the Connie-chatchers.

Not long since, certaine *Exceter* marchants came vp to *London* to traffick such wares as their Citty commodities affords, & one of them whose name I conceale, called maister F., hauing leasure at will, walked about the / Citie, to visite his friendes, and by chance mette with two or three conny-catchers: amongst whome was one of his old and familiar acquaintance. This gentleman at that time taking the Setters office vpon him, seeing such a fat Connie so fit for his purpose, began to pitch his haie with this courteous and clawing gratulation. What maister F. (quoth he) welcome to *London*, and well are you mette: I see time may draw friends together, little did I thinke to haue seene you heere, but sith oportunitie hath granted me such a fauour to meete with such an vnlookt-

for man, wele at the next Tauerne drinke a pint of wine together, to your welcome, and the health of our friendes. The Marchant hearing the gentleman ply him with such plausibile entertainment, stoopt as a poore Connie, and granted to take his courtesie, and with them went the Verfer, a lustie fellow, well appavelled, and as smooth toonged as if euery worde came out of an Orators inck-horne: this iolly squire that plaied the Verfer, when hee came at the Tauerne doore, would needs drop away, and offered to be gone: but the Setter said to him, nay I pray you fir stay, and drink with this friend of mine, for I haue not a more familiar acquaintance in *Exeter*. The Marchant simply also intreated him, and with few wordes he was satisfied, and as three of them went in together, and asked for a roume, the boy shewed them vp into a chamber, and affoone as they came to, the Verfer, hauing a payre of Cardes in his pocket, for they thought it too suspitious to call for a payre, stept to the window, and clapt his hand on the ledge, and laught, Gogs wounds (quoth he) a man can neither come into Tauerne, nor Alehouse, but he shall find a payre / of Cardes in the window: Here hath beene some praying, and haue left their bookes behinde them. Boy (quoth he) throw me a couple of fagots on the fire, and set a pottle of Secke too, and burne it, and fir he sayes to the

Setter, thou and I will play at Cardes who shall pay for it. Content saies the Setter, so you will plaie at a game that I can play at, which is called Mum-chance. I knowe it well, saies the Verfer: haue with you for a pottle of burnt Secke, and so to it they go, as before in my first part I describe it vnto you: the poore Marchant the simple honest Connie, calling the Card: well the Verfer lost, and at last they reueale the pollicie to the Conny, who wondered at the strange deuise, and solemnly fwore it was impossible for him eyther to loofe, or the other to winne: As thus they sat drinking, the Setter shewed him diuers trickes at Cardes, to passe away the time, because theyr Barnacle staied ouerlong: who at last, attiered like a Seruing-man, came and thrust open the doore, and saide, maisters by your leaue, I looke for a grey-hound that hath broken my slip, & is run into this house. In faith friend, quoth the Setter, heere is none, nor did we see any: Then by your leaue gentlemen (quoth he) and sit you merrie, I had rather haue giuen fortie shillinges then haue lost the dog: Nay staie fir (quoth the Verfer) and drinke a cup of Secke with vs: at that the Barnacle came in, and courteously tooke it of them, and made sore lament for his dogge, saying he durst scarce looke his maister in the face: but I hope (quoth he) he is run to the farmers house, where hee was brought vp, and

therefore Ile seeke him no where to day : with that he called for a pint of wine, to requite theyr courtesies / withall, and the Verfer answered that they would take none of him as a gift, but if he would play for a pint or a quart, hee should be welcome into their companie: at this he fate down, and said hee woulde: then they induced him to play at mum-chance, and the Conny cald the Card, so the Barnacle lost all: who being in a great chafe, curst his lucke, and the Cards, and offered to play three games, xii. pence: the Setter tooke him vp, and secretly askt the Cony if he would be his half, or play with him himselfe. In faith saies the marchant, I dare play with him, as long as fve shillinges last, and so much I will venter: with that the Barnacle drew out a purse with some three or foure pence in it, and to this game they go, with vie and reuie, till the Barnacle had lost all his money: then hee blasphemed the name of God mightily, and laide his sword and his cloke to pawne to the good man of the house, and borrowed money of it, to the value of some xx. shillings. The Conny smiled at this, for he counted all his own, & winkt vpon the Verfer, and the Setter: againe they go to it, and they make fve games for ten shillinges, and euery Card to be vied at the loofers pleasure: the Conny wonne three of them, and the Barnacle neuer a one: then he exclaimed

against Fortune, and swore hee would make short worke, and of a ring he borrowed thirtie shillings more, and vied hard: wel that game he woon, and got some twentie shillings of the Conny, who thought it was but a chance, that coulde not hit in feuen yeares againe, and the next game they vied, and laid some five pound by on the belt, so that the vie and call, came to some feuen pound: then the Barnacle stroke in his chopt Card, and wipe[d] the Connies / mouth cleane for trobling his purse, with any of those crowns, yea he so handled y^e poore marchaunt, that of nine pound he had in his purse, these three base Conny-catchers left him neuer a penny: although he was fore nipt on the head, with this hard Fortune, yet he brookt it with patience, and little suspected that his Countreyman the Setter had sifted him out of his money, and therefore druncke to him frendly, and tooke his leaue without smoaking them at all, and went quiet though discontent to his lodging. The Conny-catchers they shard the purchase, and went singing home as winners doe that haue leaue and leifure to laugh at the spoile of such wealthie and honest marchants. Not long after this, the cony chanced to come to my chamber to visit me for old acquaintance, where he found a book of Conny-catching new come out of the presse, which when he had smilde at, for the strangeness of the title: at last

he began to reade it, and there saw how simplie hee was made a conny, and stript of hys crownes: with that he fetcht a great sigh, and sayd: fir, if I had seene this booke but two dayes since, it had faued me nine pound in my purse, and then hee rehearst the whole discourse, howe kindly hee was made a conny. Thus you may see that these base conny-catchers spare not their owne acquaintance nor familiar friends: but like Vultures seek to pray vpon them, and like the Harpie, infectes that house wherein they harbour: so odious is their base and detestable kind of cosenage, that the very Nips, the cut-purses I meane, desire to smoake them, and haue them in as great contempt, as they themselues are despised of others: holding the conny-catcher for their inferiour: for say the Nips, I disdaine to vse my / occupation against any friend, or to drawe a purse from him that I am familiarly acquainted with: whereas the conny-catcher praieth moste vpon his countrey men and friendes, and at the first hand comes with a smiling face to embrace that man whome presently he meanes to spoyle and coosen. Againe, the Nip vseth his knife, and if he see a Bounge lie faire, strikes the stroke, and venters his necke for it if he be taken, which is a certaine point (say they) of resolution, though in the basest degree: but the conny-catcher, like a coward, keepes himself within compasse of lawe,

as the picture of a faint hearted coofener : like a fawning curre waggēs hys tayle vppon him hee meanes moſt deadly to bite. Then let this be a caueat for all men, and all degrees, to take heede of ſuch preiudiciall peſants : who like wormes in a nut eat the kernell wherein they are bred, and are ſo venomous minded, that like the Viper they deſparage whomſoeuer they light on : I know I ſhall haue many braues vttered againſt me for this inuectiue : but ſo I may profit my countrimen, I will hazard my ſelfe againſt their deepeſt villanies : and therefore ſleeping neuer a whit the worſe for their brauado, I commit ſuch enemies of the flouriſhing Eſtate of *England*, to the conſideration of the Juſtices : who I hope will looke into the looſe life of bad, baſe and diſhoneſt caterpillers. /



*A pleasant Tale of a Horfe, how at Vxbridge, hee
coofened a Conny-catcher, and had like to [haue]
brought him to his Neckuerfe.*

It fortuned that not long fince certaine Conny-
catchers met by hap a Prancar or horf-ftęale[r]

at *Vxbridge*, who took vp his inne where those honest crues lodged, & as one vice follows another, was as redy to haue a cast / at cardes as he had a hazard at a horfe: the Conny-catchers who fupt with him, feeling him pliat to receiue the blow, began to lay the plot how they might make him stoope all the money in his purse, & so for a pint of wine drew him in at cards by degrees, as these rakehels do, *Lento gradu*, measure all things by minutes: he fell from wine to money, and from pence to pounds, that hee was stript of all that euer he had, as well Crownes [and] apparell as Jewels, that at last to maintain the main and to checke vies with reuies, he laide his horfe in the hazard, and lost him. When the Priggar had smoakt the game, and perceiued he was bitten of all the bite in his bung, and turned to walke penyleffe in Marke lane, as the old prouerbe is, he began to chafe, and to sweare, and to rap out goggs Nownes, and his pronouns, while at voluntarye he had sworne through the eight parts of speech in the Accidence, auowing they had coofened him both of his money and horfe. Whereuppon the grosse Affe more hardy then wise, vnderstanding the Conny-catchers were gone, went to the Constable and made hue & cry after them, saying: They had robde him of his horfe: at this the head Boroughs followed amaine, and by chaunce met with an other

hue and cry that came for him that had stollen, which hue and cry was serued vpon the horse-stealer, and at that time as farre as I can either coniecture or calculate, the Conny-catchers were taken suspicious for the same horse, and the rather for that they were found loose liuers & could yeeld no honest methode or meanes of their maintenance: vpon this for the horse they were apprehended, & bound ouer to the Sessions at *Westminster*, to aunswer what might / be obiected against them in her maiesties behalf. Well, the horse-stealer brake from his keepers and got away, but the rest of the rascall crue, the Conny-catchers I mean, were brought to the place of iudgement, and there like valiaunt youths they thrust twelue men into a corner, who founde them guiltlesse for the fact, but if great fauor had not bin shoven they had ben condemned & burnt in the ears for rogues. Thus the horse stealer made hue & cry after the Conny-catchers, and the man that had lost the horse he pursued the horse-stealer, so that a double hue and cry passed on both sides, but the Conny-catchers had the worse, for what they got in the bridle they lost in the saddle, what they coofened at cardes had like to cost them their necks at the Sessions, so that when they were free and acquitted, one of the Conny-catchers in a merry vaine, said, he had catcht many Connies, but now a horse had like to

[haue] caught him, and so deeply quoth he, that *Miserere mei* had like to haue beene my best mattins. Thus we may see *Fallere fallentem non est fraus*, euery deceipt hath his due, he that maketh a trap falleth into the snare him selfe, and such as couet to coosen all, are crost them selues often times almost to the crosse, and that is the next neighbor to the gallows. Well Gentlemen thus I haue bewraied much and gotten little thankes, I mean of the dishonest fort, but I hope such as measure vertue by her honours, will iudge of me as I deserue. Marry the good men Conny-catchers, those base excrements of dishonesty, they in their huffes report they haue got one () I wil not bewray his name, but a scholler they say he is, to make an inuectiue against me, in that he is a faouurer of those base reprobates, but let / them, him, and all know, the proudest peasant of them all, dare not lift his plumes in disparagement of my credit: for if he doe, I will for reuenge onely appoint the Jakes farmers of *London*, who shall cage them in their filthy vesselles, and carrye them as dung to manure the barrain places of *Tibourne*; and so for Conny-catchers an end.

A discourse, or rather discovery of the Nip and the Foist, laying open the nature of the Cut-purse and Picke-pocket.



Now Gentlemen, Marchants, Farmers, and termers, yea who soever he be, that vseth to carrie money about him, let him attent / tiuely heare what a peece of newe fond Philosophie, I will lay open to you, whose opinions, principles, Aphorismes, if you carefully note and retain in

memorie, perhappes faue fome crownes in your purse ere the yeare passe, and therefore thus: The Nip & the foist, although their subiect is one which they worke on, that is, a well lined purse, yet their manner is different, for the Nip vseth his knife, and the Foist his hand: the one cutting the purse, the other drawing the pocket: but of these two scuruie trades, the Foist holdeth himselfe of the highest degree, and therefore, they tearme themselues Gentlemen foists, and so much disdaine to be called cut-purses, as the honest man that liues by his hand or occupation, in so much that the Foist refuseth euen to weare a knife about him to cut his meat withal, least he might be suspected to grow into the nature of the Nippe, yet as I said before is their subiect and haunt both alike, for their gaines lies by all places of resort and assemblies: therefore their chiefe walks is Paules, Westminster, the Exchange, Plaies, Beare garden, running at Tilt, the Lorde Maiors day, any festiual meetings, fraies, shootings, or great faires: to be short, where so euer there is any extraordinarie resort of people, there the Nippe and the Foist haue fittest opportunity to shewe their iugling agillitie. Commonly, when they spie a Farmer or Marchant, whome they suspect to be well monied, they followe him hard vntill they see him drawe his purse, then spying in what place he puts it vppe, the stall or

the shadowe beeing with the Foist or Nip, meets the man at some straight turne & iustles him so hard, that the man marueling, and perhaps quarrelling with him, the whilest the foist hath his purse and / bids him fare-well. In Paules (especiallie in the tearme time) betweene ten and eleuen, then is their howers, and there they walke, and perhaps, if there be great presse, strike a stroke in the middle walk, but that is vpon some plaine man that stands gazing about, hauing neuer seene the Church before: but their chieftest time is at diuine seruice, when men deuoutly giuen doe go vp to heare either a sermon, or els the harmonie of the Queere and the Organes: their the Nip, and the Foist as deuoutly as if he were some zealous parson, standeth soberlie, with his eies eleuated vnto heauen, when his hand is either on the purse or in the pocket, surueing euerie corner of it for coyne: then when the seruice is done and the people presse away, he thrusteth amidst the throng, and there worketh his villanie. So like wife in the markets, they note how euery one putteth vp his purse, and there either in a great presse, or while the partie is cheapning of meat, the Foist is in their pocket and the Nip hath the purse by the strings, or some times cuts out the bottome, for they haue still their stals following them, who thrusteth and iustleth him or her whome the Foist is about to draw: So

likewise at plaies, the Nip standeth there leaning like some manerly gentleman against the doore as men go in, and there finding talke with some of his companions, spieth what euerie man hath in his purse, and where, in what place, and in which sleue or pocket he puts the boung, and according to that so he worketh either where the thrust is great within, or els as they come out at the dores: but suppose that the foist is smoakt, and the man misseth his purs, & apprehendeth him for it, then straight he either conuaieth it to his stall, or els dropeth / the boong, and with a great braue hee defieth his accuser: and though the purse be found at his foote, yet because he hath it not about him, hee comes not within compasse of life. Thus haue they their shifts for the law, and yet at last, so long the pitcher goeth to the brooke that it commeth broken home, and so long the Foists put their villanie in practise, that west-ward they go, and there solemnely make a rehearfall sermon at *Tibourne*. But againe, to their places of resort, *Westminster*, I marie, that is their chieft place that brings in their profite: the Tearme-time is their haruest: and therefore, like prouident husbandmen they take time while time serues, and make hay while the Sunne shines, following their clients, for they are at the Hall verie early and there they worke like bees, haunting euerie Court, as the

Exchequer chamber, the Starre-chamber, the Kings-bench, the Common-pleas, and euerie place where the poore Client standeth to heare his Lawyer handle his matter, for alasse the poore Countrey Gentleman or Farmer is so bufied with his causes, and hath his mind so full of cares to see his counsell and to plie his Attorney, that the least thing in his thought is his purse: but the Eagle-eyed Foist or Nip he watcheth, and seeing the Client draw his purse to pay some charges or fees necessarrie for the Court, marketh where he putteth it, and then when he thrusteth into the throng, either to answer for himselfe, or to stand by his Counseller to put him in minde of his cause, the Foist drawes his pocket and leaues the poore client penniless. This do they in all courts, and go disguised like Seruing-men, wringing the simple people by this iugling subtel[t]ie: well might therefore the honorable & worship / full of those courts doe to take order from suche vilde and base minded cutpurses, that as the lawe hath provided death for them if they be taken, so they might be rooted out especially from *Westminster*, where the poore clients are vndone by such rogish catchers. It boots not to tell their course at euerie remoue of her Maiestie, when the people flock together, nor at Bartholomew faire, or the Queens day, at the Tilt-yard and at al other places of assemblie: for let this suffice, at any great

preſſe of people or meeting, there the Foift and the Nippe is in his kingdome: Therefore let all men take this caueat, that when they walke abroad amid anie of the fore-named places or like aſſemblies, that they tak[e] great care for their purſe how they place it, and not leaue it careleſſe in their pockets or hoaſe, for the Foift is ſo nimble handed that hee exceeds the iugler for agility, and hath his *legier de maine* as perfectly: therfore an exquisite Foift muſt haue three properties that a good Surgion ſhould haue, and that is an Eagles eie, a Ladies hand, and a Lyons heart: an Eagles eie to ſpie a purchaſe, to haue a quicke inſight where the boong lies, and then a Lyons heart not to feare what the end will bee, and then a Ladies hand to be little and nimble, the better to diue into the pocket. Theſe are the perfect properties of a Foift: but you muſt note that there be diuerſities of this kind of people, for there be cittie Nips & cuntry Nips, which haunt from faire to faire, and neuer come in *London*, vnleſſe it be at Bartholomewe faire, or ſome other great and extraordinarie aſſemblies: Nowe there is a mortall hate betweene the Cuntry Foift and the Cittie Foift, for if the citie Foift ſpie one of the connies in *London*, ſtraight he ſeekes / by ſome meanes to ſmoake him, and ſo the Cuntry Nip if he ſpie a Cittie Nip in any faire, then hee ſmoakes him ſtraight, and

brings him in danger, if he flee not away the more speedilie: beside there be women Foists and women Nips, but the woman Foist is most daungerous, for commonlie there is some olde hand, or mout[h]fair strumpet, who inueigleth either some ignorant man or some yoong youth to folly: she hath straight her hãd in his poket, and so foists him of all that hee hath: but let all men take heed of such common harlots, who either sit in the streets in euenings, or els dwel in baudy houses and are pliant to euery mans lure: such are alwaies Foists and Pickpockets, and seeke the spoile of all such as meddle with them, and in cosening of such base minded leachers as giue thēselues to such leud companie, are woorthy of what so euer befals, and sometime they catch such a Spanish pip, that they haue no more hair on their head then on their nails. But leauing such strumpets to their soules confusion and bodies correction in Bride-well: Againe, to our Nips and Foists, who haue a kind of fraternity or brother-hood among them, hauing a hall or place of meeting, where they confer of waightie matters, touching their workemanship, for they are prouident in that: euerye one of them hath some trustie friend whom he calleth his treasurer, and with him he laies vp some ratable portion of euery purse hee drawes, that when need requires, and he is brought in danger, he may haue money to make

composition with the partie: But of late, there hath bene a great scourge fallen amongst them, for now if a purse bee drawn of any great valew, straight the partie maketh friends to some one or other of the Counsell or other / inferior her Maiesties Justices, and then they send out warraunts if they cannot learne who the Foist is, to the keepers of *Newgate* that they take vp all the Nips and Foists about the cittie, and let them lie there while the money be reanswerd vnto the party, so that some pay three pound, nay five pound at a time, according as the same losse did amount vnto, which doth greatly impouerishe their trade, and hinder their figging law. Therefore about such causes grows their meeting, for they haue a kinde of corporation, as hauing wardens of their company, and a hall: I remember their hall was once about *Bushops gate*, neere vnto fishers follie, but because it was a noted place, they haue remooued it to *Kent-street*, and as far as I can learne, it is kept at one *Laurence Pickerings* house, one that hath bene if he be not still, a notable Foist. A man of good calling he is, and well allied, brother in law to *Bull* the hangman: there keepe they their feasts and weekely meetings, fit for their company. Thus haue I partyle set downe the nature of the Foist, and the Nip, with their speciall haunts, as a caueat to al estates to beware

of fuch wicked perfons, who are as preiudiciall to the Common-wealth as anie other faculty what foeuer, and although they be by the great difcretion of the Judges and Iuftices dailie truſt vp, yet ſtill there ſpringeth vppe yoong that grow in time to beare fruit fit for the gallowes: let then euery man be as carefull as poſſibly hee may, and by this caueat take heed of his purs, for the pray makes the theefe, and there and end.

*A merry tale how a Miller had his purſe cut
in New gate market.*

IT fortun'd that a Nip and his ſtaul drinking at the three Tuns in Newgate market, fitting in one of the roomes next to the ſtreete, they might perceiue wher a meale man ſtood ſelling of meale, and had a large bag by his ſide, where by coniecture there was ſome ſtore of money: the old Coole, the old cut purſe I mean, ſpying this, was delighted with the ſhew of ſo glorious an obiect, for a full purſe is as pleaſing to a Cut purſe eie, as the curious Phifnomy of *Venus* was to the amorous god of war, and entring to a merry vaine as one that counted that purchaſe his own, diſcouered it to the Nouice and bad him goe & nip it: the young toward ſcholler although perhaps he had ſtriken ſome few ſtroks before, yet ſeeing no great preſſe

of people, and the meale-mans hande often vppon his bagge, as if hee had in times past smoakte some of their faculty, was halfe afraide and doubted of his owne experience, and so refused to doe it. Away villaine faith the old Nippe, art thou fainte harted? belongs it to our trade to despaire? If thou wilt onely doe common worke, and not make experience of some harde matters to attempt, thou wilt neuer be maister of thine occupation, therefore try thy wits and doe it: at this the young stripling stalkes me out of the Tauern, and feeling if his Cuttle bough were glibbe and of a good edge, went to this meale-man to enter combate hand to hand with his purse, but seeing the meale-mans eye was still abroad, and for want of other sport that he plaied with his purse, he was afraide to trust eyther to his witte or Fortune, and therefore / went backe againe without any act atchieued. How now faith the olde Nip, what hast thou done? nothing quoth he, the knaue is so wary, that it is vnpossible to get any purchase there, for he stands plaing with his purse for want of other exercise. At this his fellowe lookes out and smiles, making this reply. And doest thou count it impossible to haue the meale-mans bough? lend me thy knife, for mine is left at home, & thou shalt see me strike it straight, and I will shew thee a Methode, how perhaps hereafter to doe the like after my example, and to

make thee a good scholler : and therefore goe with me and doe as I shall instruct thee : begin but a fained quarrell, and when I giue thee a watche woord, then throwe flower in my face, and if I misse his purse let me be hanged for my labour : with that he gaue him certaine principles to obserue, and then paide for the wine and out they went together. As soon as they were come to the mealeman, the olde Nippe began to iest with the other about the Millers sacke, and the other replied as knauishlye : at last the elder called the younger Roague: Roague thou Swaine, quoth hee, doest thou or darest thou dishonour mee with such a base title? And with that, taking a whole hand full of meale out of the sacke, threw it full in the olde Nippes necke and his brest, and then ranne away. Hee being thus dusted with meale, intreated the meale man to wipe it out of his necke, and stoopte downe his head: the meale man laughing to see him so rayed and whited, was willing to shake off the meale, and the whilst, while hee was busie about that, the Nippe had stroken the purse and done his feate, and both courteously thanked the meale man and closely / went away with his purchase. The poore man thinking little of this Cheate, began againe to play with his purse stringes, and suspected nothing till he had solde a pecke of meale, and offered to change money, and then hee found his purse

bottomlesse : which strooke such a colde quandary to his stomack, as if in a frosty morning hee had druncke a draught of small beere next his heart : hee began then to exclaime against such villaines, and called to minde how in shaking the dust out of the Gentlemans necke, he shakte his money out of his purse, and so the poore meale man fetch[ed] a great sigh, knit vp his sacke and went sorrowing home.

*A kinde conceipt of a Foist performed in
Paules.*

While I was writing this discouery of foisting, & was desirous of any intelligence that might be giuen mee, a Gentleman a friend of mine, reported vnto me this pleafant tale of a Foist, & as I well remember, it grew to this effect. Ther walked in the middle walk a plain countrey farmer, a man of good wealth, & that had a well lined purse, onely barely thrust vppe in a round flop, which a crue of Foists having perceiued, ther harts were fet on fire to haue it, and euey one had a fling at him, but all in vaine; for he kept his hand close in his pocket, and his purse fast in his fist like a subtil churle, that either had been forwarnd of Paules, or else had afore time smoakt some of that faculty: well how so euer it was vnpossible to doe any good with him, he was so wary. The Foists spying this, strained their wits to the higheft string how to cōpasse this bounge, yet could not all their polliticke conceipts fetch the farmer ouer, for iustle him, chat with him, offer to shake him by the hand, all would not serue to get his hand out of his pocket. At last one of the crue that for his skil might haue bin Doctorat in his mistery, amongst them all chose out a good Foist, one of a nimble hand & great agility, and said to the

rest thus : Masters it shal not be said such a base peasaunt shall slip away from such a crue of Gentlemen Foistes as wee are, and not haue his purse drawen, and therefore this time Ile play the staule my selfe, and if I hitte him not home, count me for a bungler for euer : and so he left them and went to the farmar and walkt directly before him & next him three or foure turnes : at last standing still hee / cryed alas honest man helpe me, I am not well : and with that funcke downe suddently in a sowne : the poor Farmer seeing a proper yong gentlemã (as he thought) fall dead afore him, stept to him. helde him in his armes, rub'd him and chafte him : at this there gathered a greate multitude of people about him, and the whilst the Foiste drewe the Farmers purse and awaye : by that the other thought the feate was done, he began to come something to himselfe again, and so halfe staggering, stumbled out of Poules, and went after the crue where they had appointed to meete, and there boasted of his wit and experience. The Farmer little suspecting this villanye, thrust his hand into his pocket and mist his purse, searcht for it, but lynig and shelles and all was gon, which made the country man in a great maze, that he stood still in a dump so long, that a gentleman perceiuing it asked what he ayld : what aile I fir quoth he, truely I am thinking how men may long as well as women :

why doost thou coniecture that honest man quoth he? marry fir answers the Farmer, the gentlemã euen now that sownd here I warrant him breeds his wiues child, for the cause of his sodaine qualme that he fell downe deade grew of longing: the gentleman demãded how he knew that: well inough fir quoth he, and he hath his longing too, for the poore man longed for my purffe, and thankes be to God he hath it with him. At this all the hearers laught, but not so merrilye as the Foifte and his fellowes, that then were sharing his money. /

A quaint conceite of a Cutler & a cutpurffe.

A Nippe hauing by fortune lost his Cuttle boung or hauing not one fit for his purpose, wente to a cunning Cutler to haue a newe made, and prescribed the Cutler such a method and forme to make his knife, and the fashon to be so stronge, giuing such a charge of the finenes of the temper and well setting of the edge, that the Cutler wondered what the gentlemã would do with it, yet because he offred so largely for the making of it, the Cutler was silent and made fewe questions, onely he appointed him the time to come for it, and that was three daies after: Well, the time beeing expired, the Gentleman Nip came, and seeing his knife liked it passing well, and gaue him his

money with aduantage. The Cutler defirous to know to what vse hee woulde put it, saide to the Cutpurffe thus, fir quoth he, I haue made many kniues in my dayes, and yet I neuer sawe any of this forme, fashion, temper or edge, & therefore if without offence, I pray you tell me how or to what will you vse it? While thus he stood talking with the Nippe, he spying the purffe in his aprone, had cut it passing cunningly, and then hauing his purchase close in his hand, made answer, in faith my friend to dissembles is a folly, tis to cut a purffe withall and I hope to haue good hanfell: you are a merry gentlemã quoth the Cutler: I tell true saide the Cutpurffe and away he goes. No sooner was he gone from the stalle, but there came an other and bought a knife and should haue single money againe: the Cutler thinking to put his hand in his bagge, thrust it quight through at the bottom: all his money was gone, & the purffe cut /: perceiuing this, and remembering how the man praide he might haue good hanfell, he fetcht a great sigh and saide, now I see he that makes a snare, first falles into it himselfe: I made a knife to cut other mens purffes and mine is the first hanfell: well, reuenge is fallen vpon me, but I hope the roape will fall vpon him: and so he smoothed vp the matter to himselfe, least men should laugh at his strange fortune.

The discovery of the Lifting Law.

The Lift, is he that stealeth or prowleth any Plate, Juells, boulttes of Satten, Veluet, or such parcels from any place, by a slight cōueyance vnder his cloke, or so secretly that it may not be espyed: of Lifts there be diuers kindes as their natures be different: some base roges that lift when they come into Alehouses quart potts, platters, clokes, swords, or any such paltrie trash, which commonly is called pilfering or petulacerie: for vnder the cullour of spending two or three pots of ale, they lift away any thing that commeth within the compasse of their reache, hauing a fine & nimble agilitie of the hand as the Foist had: these are the common and rascall sortes of Lifts, but the higher degrees and gentlemen Lifts haue to the performance of their faculty three parties of necessitie: the Lift, the Markar and the Santar: the Lift attired in the forme of a ciuell Country gentleman, comes with the Marker into some Mercers shop, Haberdashers, Goldsmiths, or any such place where any particular parcels of worth are to be conuaid, and there he calles to see a boulte of Satten, Veluet or any such commoditie, and not liking the pyle, culler or bracke, he calles for more, and the whiles he begins / to resolue which of them most fitly may be lifted, and what Garbage (for so he calles the goods stolne)

may be moſt eaſily conuaid, then he calles to the Mercers man and ſayes, firrha reach me that peece of veluet or fattē, or that Juel, chaine or peece of Plate, and whilſt the fellow turnes his backe, he commits his Garbage to the Marker : for note, the Lift is without his cloke, in his dublet & hoſe, to auoide the more ſuſpicion : the Marker which is the receiuer of the Lifts luggage, giues a winke to the Santar that walkes before the windowe and then the Santar going by in great haſt, the Marker calſ him & ſaies, fir a worde with you, I haue a meſſage to do vnto you from a very friend of yours, and the errand is of ſome importaunce : truely fir ſaies the Santar I haue very vrgent buſines in hand, and as at this time I cannot ſtaye: but one worde and no more ſaies the Marker, and then he deliuers him whatſoeuer the Lift hath conuaide vnto him, and then the Santar goes his way, who neuer came within the ſhop, and is a man vnknowne to them all : ſuppoſe he is ſmoakte and his liſtinge is lookt into, then are they vpon their pantophles, becauſe there is nothing found about them : they deſie the world for their honeſtie, becauſe they be as diſhoneſt as any in the world, and ſweare as God ſhall iudge thē they neuer ſawe the parcell loſt : but Oathes with them are like winde out of a bellows, which being coole kindleth fier : ſo their vowes are without conſcience and ſo they call for

reuenge: Therefore let this be a caueat to all occupacions, sciences and misteryes, that they beware of the gentleman Lift, and to haue an eye to such as cheapen their wares and not when they call to see new stufte to leaue the olde behinde them: for the fingers of Lifts are fourmed / of Adamant, though they touche not yet they haue vertue attractiue to drawe any pelfe to them as the Adamant dooth the Iron. But yet these Lifts haue a subtill shift to blinde the worlde, for this close kind of cofonage they haue when they want money: one of them appanelles him selfe like a Country Farmer, & with a Memorandū drawen in some legall forme, comes to the chamber of some Counsayler or Sargeant at Law with his Marker and his Santar, and there tells the Lawyer his case and desires his Counsaile, the whilest the Marker and the Santar lay the platforme for any Rapier, dagger, cloake, gowne or any other parcell of worth that is in the withdrawing or vtter chāber, and assoone as they haue they goe their way: then when the Lawyer hath giuen his opiniō of the case the Lift requires, then he puts in some demurre or blinde, and saies he will haue his cause better discouered and then he will come to his worship againe, so taking his leaue without his ten shillings fee, he goes his waies to share what his companyons had gotten: the like method they vse with Scriueners, for comming

by the shop and seeing any Garbage worth the lifting on, starteth in to haue an Obligation or Bill made in haste, and while the Scriuener is busie, the Lift bringeth the Marker to the blow, and so the luggage is carried away. Now, these Lifts haue their speciall receiuers of their stolne goods, which are two fundrye parties, either some notorious Bawdes in whose houses they lye, and they keep commonly tapping houses and haue yong trugges in their house, which are confortes to these Lifts and loue them so deere, that they neuer leaue them till they come to the gallowes, or else they be Brokers, a kind of idle sort of liuers as pernicious as the / Lift, for they receiue at their handes whatsoever Garbage is conuayed, be it linnen, wollen, plate, Juells: and this they do by a bill of faile, making the bill in the name of Iohn a Nokes or Iohn a Styles, so that they shadow the Lift & yet keepe them selues without the danger of the law. Thus are these Brokers and Bawdes as it were, efficient causes of the Lifters villany, for were it not their alluring speeches and their secret consecretings, the Lift for wante of receiuers should be faine to take a new course of life, or else be continually driuen into great extreames for felling his Garbage: and thus much breiefely for the nature of the Lift.

The discovery of the Courbing Law.

The Courber, which the common people call the Hooker, is he that with a Curbe (as they tearme it) or hooke, do pull out of a windowe any loofe linnen cloth, apparell, or else any other household stufte what soeuer, which stolne parcells, they in their Art call snappings : to the performance of this law there be required, onely two persons, the Courber and the Warpe: the Courber his office is to spye in the day time fit places where his trade may be practised at night, and comming to any window if it be open, then he hath his purpose, if shut, then growing into the nature of the blacke Art, hath his trickers, which are engines of Iron so cunningly wrought, that he will cut a barr of Iron in two with them so easlye, that scarcelye shall the standers by heare him : then when he hath the window open and spies any fat snappings worth the Courbing, then streight he sets the Warp to watch, who hath a long cloak to couer whatsoever he gets, then / doth the other thrust in a long hooke some nine foote in length (which he calleth a Curbe) that hath at the end a crooke with three tynes turned contrary, so that tis vnpossible to misse if there be anye snappings abroad: Now this longe hooke they call a Curbe, and because you shall not wonder how they carry it for being espyed, know this that

it is made with ioyntes like an angle rod, and can be conuaid into the forme of a trunchion & worne in the hand like a walking staffe, vntill they come to their purpose and then they let it out at the length and hooke or curbe what foeuer is loofe and within the reache, and then he conueyes it to the Warpe, and from thence (as they list) their snappings goes to the Broker or to the Bawd, and there they haue as ready money for it as Merchants haue for their ware in the Exchange: beside, there is a Dyuer, which is in the very nature of the Courber, for as he puts in a hooke, so the other puts in at the windowe some little figging boy, who playes his parte notably, and perhaps the youth is so well instructed that he is a scholler in the blacke Arte, and can pick a locke if it be not to[o] crosse warded, and deliuer to the Dyuer what snappings he findes in the chamber. Thus you heare what the Courber doth and the Dyuer, and what inconuenience growes to many by their base villanyes: therefore I do wish all men seruants and maids, to be carefull for their Masters commodities, and to leaue no loose endes abroad, especially in chambers where windowes open to the streete, leaft the Courber take them as snappings, and conuaye them to the coufeninge Broker.

Let this suffice, and now I will recreate your wits with a merry Tale or two. / -

Of a Courber, & how cūningly he was taken.

It fortun'd of late that a Courber & his Warpe, went walking in the dead of the night, to spy out some window open for their purpose, & by chance came by a Noble mans house about *London* and saw the windowe of the porters lodge open, and looking in, spyed fatte snappings, and bad his Warpe watch carefully, for there would be purchase, & with that took his Courb and thrust it into the chamber, and the Porter lying in his bed was awake & sawe all, and so was his bedfellow that was yeoman of the wine seller: the Porter stole out of his bed to marke what would be doone, and the firste snapping the Courber light on, was his Liurye coate: as he was drawing it to the windowe, the Porter easlye lifted it off and so the Courber drew his hook in vaine, the whilste his bedfellow stole out of the chamber and rayfed vp two or three more and went about to take them, but still the rogue he plyed his busines and lighted on a gowne that he vsed to fit in in the Porters lodge, and warily drew it, but when it came at the windowe, the Porter drew it off so lightly that the hooker perceiued it not: then when he saw his Courbe would take no holde, he swore and chafte and tolde the Warp he had holde of two good snappes and yet mist them both and that the fault

was in his Courb: then he fell to sharpning and hammering of the hook to make it keep better hold, and in againe he thrusts it and lightes vpon a paire of buffe hose, but when he had drawen them to the windowe the Porter tooke them off againe, which made the Courber almost mad, & swore he thought the deuill was abroad to night he had such hard fortune : / naye sayes the yeoman of the feller, there is three abroad, and we are come to fetch you and your hookes to hell : so they apprehended these base rogues & carried them into the Porters lodge and made that their prison. In the morning a crue of Gentlemen in the house, fatte for Judges (in that they would not trouble their Lord with such filthy Caterpillers) and by them were found guiltie, and condemned to abide forty blowes a peece with a bastinado, which they had sollempnly paide, and so went away without any further damage.

Of the subtilty of a Curber in coofoning a Maide.

A Merrye iest and as subtile, was reported to me of a cunning Courber, who had apparreld him selfe maruelous braue, like some good well-fauoured yong Gentleman, and in stead of a man had his Warpe to waite vpon him : this smoothe faced rogue comes into More Feelds, and caused his man to carry a pottell of Ipocras vnder his

cloak, and there had learnd out amongst others that was drying of clothes, of a very well fauoured maide, that was there with her Flasket of linnen, what her Maister was, where she dwelt, and what her name : hauing gotten this intelligēce, to this maide he goes, and courteously salutes her, and after some pritty chatte, tels her how he sawe her fundry times at her Maisters doore, and was so befotted with her beauty, that he had made inquiry what her qualities were, which by the neighbours he generally heard to be so vertuous, that his desire was the more inflamed, and therevpon in signe of good will, and in further acquaintance, he had / brought her a pottle of Ipocras : the maid seeing him a good proper man, tooke it very kindlye, and thankt him, and so they drunke the Wine, and after a little Louers prattle, for that time they parted.

The Maids hart was fet on fire, that a Gentleman was become a futer vnto her, and she began to think better of her selfe then euer she did before, and wexed so proud that her other futers were counted too base for her, and there might be none welcome but this new come gentleman her loue. Wel, diuerse times they appointed meetings, that they grew very familiar, and he oftentimes would come to her Maisters house, when all but she and her fellow maides were a bed, so that he and the

Warpe his man did almost know euerye corner of the house: It fortun'd that so long he dallied, that at length he meant earnest, but not to marrye the Maide whatsoeuer he had done els, and comming into the Feeldes to her on a washing daye, sawe a mightie deale of fine Linnen, worth twenty pound as he coniectured: whereupon he thought this night to set downe his rest, and therefore he was very pleasant with his Louer, and tolde her that that night after her Maister and Mistres were to bed, he would come and bring a bottell of Sacke with him and drinke with her: the maide glad at these newes, promised to sit vp for him and so they parted: till about tenne a clock at night, when he came and brought his man with him, and one other Courber with his tooles, who should stand without the doores. To be breef, welcome he came, and so welcome as a man might be to a maide: he that had more minde to spie the clothes, then to looke / on her fauour, at last perceiued them in a Parlour that stood to the street ward, and there would the maid haue had him fit: no sweeting quoth he, it is too neere the streete, we can neither laugh nor be mery but euery one that passeth by must heare vs: vpon that they remoued into another roome, and pleasant they were, and tipp'd the Sacke round, till all was out, and the Gentleman swore that he would haue another

pottle, and so sent his man, who tolde the other Courber that stoode without, where the window was he shold worke at, & away goes he for more Sacke and bringes it verye orderly, and then to their cuppes they fall againe, while the Courber without had not left one ragge of Linnen behinde. Late it grew, and the morning began to wax graye, and away goes the Courber and his man, leauing the maid very pleasant with his flattering promises, vntill such time as poore soule she went into the Parlor, and mist all her Maisters Linnen : then what a sorrowful hart she had, I refer to them that haue greeued at the like losse.

The Discoverie of the Blacke Art.

The Black Arte is picking of Lockes, and to this busie trade two persons are required, the Charme and the Stand : the Charm is he that doth the feate, and the Stand is he that watcheth : There be more that belong to the burglary for conuaying away the goods, but only two are imploide about the lock : the Charme hath many keyes and wrefts. which they call picklocks, and for euery fundry fashion they haue a fundry term, but I am ignorant of their words of art, and therefore I omit them, onely this, they haue such cunning in opening a Lock, that they will vndoo the hardest Lock though neuer so well warded, euen while a man

may turne his backe: some haue their instruments from *Italie* made of steele, some are made heere by Smiths, that are partakers in their villanous occupations: but howsoeuer, well may it be called the blacke Art, for the Deuil cannot doo better then they in their facultie. I once sawe the experience of it my selfe, for being in the Counter vpon a commaundement, there came in a famous fellow in the blacke art, as strong in that qualitye as *Samson*: The partie now is dead, and by fortune died in his bed: I hering that he was a charm, began to enter familiaritie with him, and to haue an insight into his art: after some acquaintance he tolde me much, and one day being in my Chamber I shewed him my Deske, and askt him if he could pick that little lock that was so well warded, and too little as I thought for any of his ginnes. Why sir saies he, I am so experienced in the blacke Art, that if I doo but blowe vpon a Lock it shall fly opē, and therefore let me come to your Deske, and doo but turne fve times about, and you shall see my cunning: with that I did as he bad me, and ere I had turned fve times, his hand was rifling in my Deske verye orderlye. I wondred at it, and thought verily that the Deuill and his Dam was in his fingers: much discommodity growes by this black Art in shops and noble mens houses for their plate: therefore are they most feuerely to be lookt into

by the honourable and worshipfull of *England*; and to end this discourse as pleasantly as the rest, I will / rehearse you a true tale done by a most worshipfull Knight in *Lancashire*, against a Tinker that professed the Black Art.

*A true and merry Tale of a Knight, and a Tinker
that was a pick-locke.*

Not far off from *Bolton* in the Mores, there dwelled an auncient Knight, who for curtesie and hospitallitie was famous in those partes: diuers of his Tennantes making repaire to his house, offred diuers complaintes to him how their lockes were pickt in the night and diuers of them vtterly vndoon by that meanes: and who it should be they could not tell, onely they suspected a Tinker that went about the Country and in all places did spend verve lauishlye: the Knight willing, heard what they exhibited, and promised both redresse and reuenge if he or they could learne out the man. It chaunced not long after their complaintes, but this iollye Tinker (so experte in the black arte) came by the house of this Knight, as the olde gentleman was walking afore the gate, and cryed for worke: the Knight straight coniecturing this should be that famous rogue that did so much hurt to his Tennantes, cald in and askt him if they had any worke for the Tinker: the Cooke

answered there was three or foure old Kettles to mend, come in Tinker: so this fellowe came in, laide downe his budget and fell to his worke: a black Jacke of beere for this Tinker sayes the Knight, I know tinkers haue drye soules: the Tinker he was pleasant and thankt him humblye, the Knight fate down by him and fell a ranfacking his budget, and asked wherefore / this toole serued and wherefore that: the tinker tolde him all: at last as he tumbled amongst his old brasse, the Knight spyed three or fower bunches of pick-lockes: he turnd them ouer quickly as though he had not seene them and said, well tinker I warrant thou art a passing cunning fellow & well skild in thine occupacion by the store of tooles thou hast in thy budget: In faith if it please your worship quoth he, I am thankes be to God my craftes maister. I, so much I perceiue that thou art a passing cunning fellowe quoth the Knight, therefore let vs haue a fresh Jacke of beere and that of the best and strongest for the Tinker: thus he past away the time pleasantlye, and when he had done his worke he asked what he would haue for his paines? but two shillinges of your worship quoth the Tinker: two shillinges sayes the Knight, alas Tinker it is too little, for I see by thy tooles thou art a passing cunning workeman: holde there is two shillinges, come in, shalt drinke a cup of wine before thou

goest: but I pray tell me which way trauailest thou? faith fir quoth the Tinker all is one to me, I am not much out of my way wherfoeuer I goe, but now I am going to *Lancaster*: I praye thee Tinker then quoth the Knight, carry me a Letter to the Jaylor, for I sent in a fellow thither the other day and I would fend word to the Jaylor he should take no bale for him: marry that I will in most dutifull manner quoth he, and much more for your woorship then that: giue him a cup of wine quoth the Knight, and firrha (speaking to his Clarke) make a Letter to the Jaylor, but then he whispered to him and bad him make a *mittimus* to fend the Tinker to prifon: the Clarke answered he knewe not his name: Ile make / him tell it thee him selfe sayes the Knight, and therefore fall you to your pen: the Clarke began to write his *mittimus*, and the Knight began to aske what Countryman he was, where he dwelt, & what was his name: the Tinker tolde him all, and the Clarke fet it in with this *prouiso* to the Jaylor, that he should keep him fast bolted, or else he would break awaye. Assone as the *mittimus* was made, sealed and subscribed in forme of a Letter, the Knight took it and deliuered it to the Tinker and said, giue this to the cheefe Jaylor of *Lancaster* & heres two shillings more for thy labour: so the Tinker tooke the Letter and the money and with many a cap &

knee thanked the olde Knight and departed: and made haste til he came at *Lancaster*, and staid not in the town so much as to taste one cup of nappy ale, before he came at the Jailor, and to him very briskly he deliuered his letter: the iailor took it and read it and smilde a good, and said tinker thou art welcom for such a Knights sake, he bids me giue thee y best entertainment I may: I fir quoth the tincker the Knight loues me wel, but I pray you hath y courteous gentlemā remembred such a poore man as I? I marry doth he tincker, and therefore firra q. he to one of his men, take y tinker in y lowest ward, clap a strong pair of bolts on his heeles, and a basil of 28. pound weight, and then firra see if your pick lock wil serue the turne to bale you hence? at this the tinker was blank, but yet he thought the iailor had but iested: but whē he heard the *Mittimus*, his hart was colde, and had not a word to fay: his conscience accused: and there he lay while the next seshions, and was hangd at *Lancaster*, and all his skil in the black art could not serue him.

FINIS./





XXIV.

THE
THIRDE AND LAST PARTE
OF
CONNY-CATCHING.

1592.



NOTE.

The 'Thirde Part of Conny-catching,' 1592, is also extremely rare. Our text is from the British Museum. See annotated Life in Vol. I.—G.

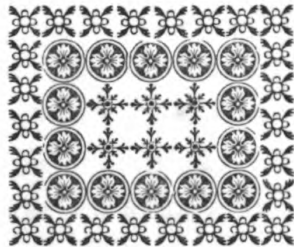
THE
T H I R D E

and laft Part of Conny-
catching.

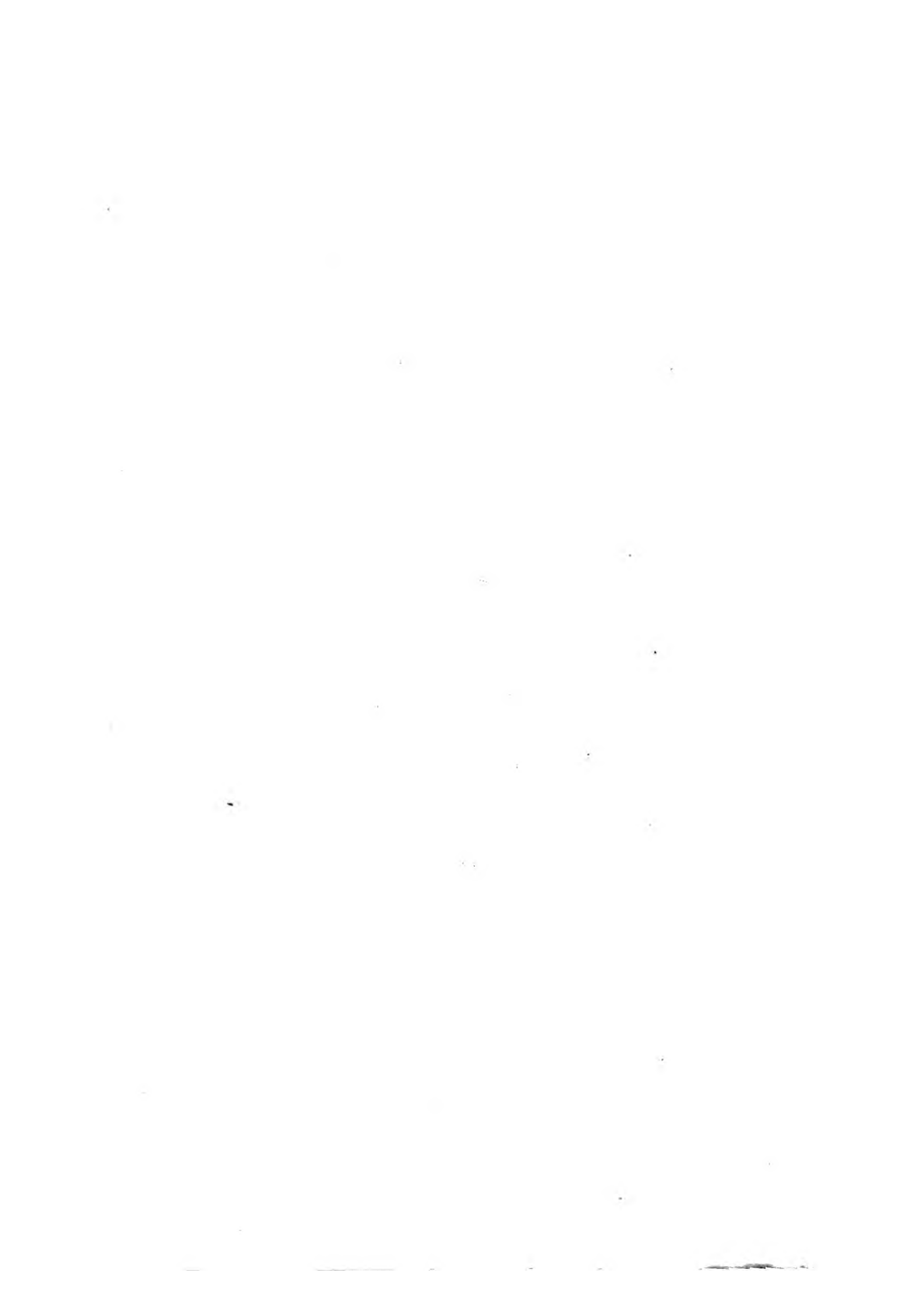
WITH THE NEW DEVISED
knauiſh Art of Foole-taking.

*The like Cofenages and Villenies neuer before
diſcouered.*

By R. G.



Imprinted at London by *Thomas Scarlet*, for
Cutberd Burbie, and are to be folde at his ſhoppe in the
Poultrie, by S. Mildreds Church. 1592.





✠ TO ALL
SVCH AS HAVE

receiued either pleasure or profit
by the two former published bookes of this
Argument, and to all beside, that desire
to know the wonderful flie de-
uises of this hellish crew of
Cony-catchers.

IN the time of king Henrie the fourth,
as our English Chronyclers haue kept in
remembrance, liued diuerse sturdie and loose
companions, in sundrie places about the Citie of
London, who gaue themselues to no good course of
life, but because the time was somewhat troublesome,
watched diligently, when by the least occasion of
mutinie offered, they might praie vpon the goods of
honest Citizens, and so by their spoile inrich them-
selues. At that time likewise liued a worthie Gentle-
man, whose many very famous deedes (whereof I | am
sorie I may here make no rehearsal, because neither

time nor occasion will permitte me) renowne his name to all ensuing posterities : he being called sir Richard Whittington, the founder of Whittington Colledge in London, and one that bare the office of Lord Maior of this Citie three seuerall times. This worthie man wel noting the dangerous disposition of that idle kinde of people, tooke such good and discreete order (after hee had sent diuers of them to serue in the kings warres, and they loath to doe so well, returned to their former vomite) that in no place of or about London they might haue lodging, or entertainment, except they applied themselues to such honest trades and exercises, as might witnesse their maintaining was by true and honest meanes. If any to the contrarie were founde, they were in iustice so sharply proceeded against, as the most hurtfull and dangerous enemies to the commonwealth.

In this quiet and most blissefull time of peace, when all men (in course of life) should shew themselues most thankfull for so great a benefit, this famous citie is pestered with the like, or rather worse kinde of people, that beare outward shew of ciuill, honest, and gentlemanlike disposition, but in very deed their behaiour is most infamous to be spoken of. And as now by their close villanies they cheate, cosen, prig, lift, nippe, and such like tricks now vsed in their Conie-catching Trade, to the hurt and vndoing of many an honest Citizen, and other : So if God should in iustice be

angrie with vs, as our wickednesse hath well deserued, and (as the Lorde forfend) our peace should be molested as in former time, euen as they did, so will these be the first in seeking domesticall spoile and ruine: yea so they may haue it, it | skilles not how they come by it. God raise such another as was worthie Whittington, that in time may bridle the headstrong course of this hellish crew, and force them liue as becommeth honest Subiects, or els to abide the reward due to their loosenesse.

By reading this little treatise ensuing, you shall see to what marueylous subtill pollicies these deceiuers haue atteyned, and how daylie they praētise driftes for their purpose. I say no more, but if all these forewarnings may be regarded, to the benefite of the well minded, and iust controll of these carelesse wretches, it is all I desire, and no more then I hope to see.

Yours in all he may
R. G.





The third and laſt part of Conny- CATCHING WITH THE NEW

*deuiſed knauifh Arte of Foole-
taking.*



Being by chance invited to ſupper, where were preſent diuers, both of worſhip and good accompt, as occaſion ſerued for entercourſe of talke, the preſent trecheries and wicked deuifes of the world was called in queſtion. Amongeſt other moſt hatefull and well worthy reprehention, the woondrous villanies of looſe and lewd perſons, that beare the ſhape of men, yet are monſters in condition, was ſpecially remembred, and not only they, but their complices, their confederates, their baſe natured women and cloſe compacters were noted : Namely, ſuch as tearne

themselues Conny-catchers, Croffe-biters, with their appertayning names to their feuerall coofening qualities, as alreadie is made knowne to the worlde, by two feuerall imprinted books, by meanes whereof, the present kind of conference was occasioned. Quoth a Gentleman sitting at the Table, whose deepe step into age deciphered his experience, and whose grautie in speeche reported his discretion, quoth he, by the two published bookes of Conny-catching: I haue séene diuers things wherof I was before ignorant, notwithstanding, had I béene acquainted with the author: I could haue giuen him such / notes of notorious matters that way intenting, as in neither of the pamphlets are the like set downe. Beside, they are so necessarie to be knowne, as they will both fore arme anie man against such trecherous vipers, and forewarne the simpler sort from conuersing with them. The Gentleman being knowne to be within commission of the peace, and that what hee spake of either came to him by examinations, or by riding in the circuits as other like officers do: was intreated by one man aboue the rest (as his leifure serued him) to acquaint him with those notes, and hee would so bring it to passe, as the writer of the other two bookes should haue the sight of them, and if their quantitie would serue, that hee should publishe them as a third, and more necessarie part then the

former were. The Gentleman replied, all fuche notes as I speake, are not of mine owne knowledge, yet from fuche men haue I receiued them, as I dare assure their truth: and but that by naming men wronged by such mates, more displeasure would ensue then were expedient, I could set downe both time, place, and parties. But the certaintie shall suffice without anie such offence. As for such as shall see their iniuries discovered, and (byting the lip) say to themselues, thus was I made a Conny: their names being shadowed, they haue no cause of anger, in that the example of their honest simplicitie beguiled, may shield a number more endangered from tasting the like. And seeing you haue promised to make them knowne to the author of the former two Bookes, you shall the sooner obtaine your request: assuring him thus muche vpon my credite and honestie, that no one vntrueth is in the notes, but euerie one credible, and to be iustified if neede serue. Within a fortnight, or thereabout afterward, the Gentleman performed his promise, in seuerall papers sent the notes, which heere are in our booke compiled together: when / thou hast read, say, if euer thou heardest more notable villanies discovered. And if thou or thy friends receiue anie good by them, as it cannot be but they will make a number more carefull of themselues: thanke the honest Gentle-

man for his notes, and the writer that published both the other and these, for generall example.



A pleasant tale how an honest substantiall Citizen was made a Connie, and simply entertained a knaue that carried awaie hys goods very politicckely.

WHat lawes are vsed among this hellish crew, what words and termes they giue themselues and their copesmates, are at large set downe in the former two bookes: let it suffice yee then in this, to read the simple true discourfes of fuche as haue by extraordinarie cunning and trecherie beene deceiued, and remembring their subtile meanes there, and slye practises here, be prepared against the reaches of any such companions.

Not long since, a crewe of Conny-catchers meeting together, and in conference laying downe such courses as they seuerally should take, to shunne suspect, and returne a common benefit among them: the Carders receiued their charge, the Dicers theirs, the hangers about the court theirs, the followers of Sermons theirs, and so the rest to their offices. But one of them especiallie, who at their

woonted méetings, when reporte was made how euerie purchafe was gotten, / and by what pollicie eache one preuailed: this fellowe in a kind of priding fcorne, would vfuallie faye.

In faith Maifters, thefe things are pretily done, common fleights, expreffing no déep reach of wit, and I wonder men are fo fimple to be fo beguiled. I would fain fee fome rare artificiall feat indéed, that fom admiration and fame might enfue the doing thereof. I promife ye, I difdaine thefe bafe and pettie paltries, and may my fortune iumpe with my refolution, ye fhall heare my boies within a day or two, that I will accomplifh a rare ftrata-geme indeed, of more value then forty of yours, and when it is done fhall cary fome credit with it. They wondring at his wordes defired to fee the fucceffe of them, and fo difpering themfelues as they were accuftomed, left this frolicke fellow pondering on his affaires. A Cittizens houfe in *London*, which he had diligently eied and aimed at for a fortnights fpace, was the place wherein he muft performe this exploit, and hauing learned one of the feruant maids name of the houfe, as alfo where fhee was borne, and her kindred: Vpon a Sondag in the afternone, when it was her turne to attend on her maifter and miftres to the garden in *Finsbury fields*, to regard the children while they fported about, this craftie mate hauing dylie

watched their comming foorth, and ſeeing that they intended to goe downe S. Laurence lane, ſtepped before them, euer caſting an eie back, leaſt they ſhould turn ſome contrarie way. But their following ſtill fitting his owne deſire, néere vnto the Conduit in Alderman-bury, hée croſſed the waye and came vnto the maid, and kiſſing her ſaid: Coſen *Margaret*, I am very glad to ſee you well, my vnckle your father, and all your friends in the Countrey are in good health God be praifed. The Maid hearing herſelfe named, and not knowing the man, modeſtly bluſhed, which hée perceiuing helde way on with her amongſt her fellowe Apprentiſes, and thus began a / gaine. I ſee Coſen you knowe mee not, and I doe not greatlie blame you, it is ſo long ſince you came forth of the Countrey: but I am ſuch a ones ſonne, naming her Vnckle right, and his ſonnes name, which ſhee very well remembred, but had not ſeene him in eleuen yeares. Then taking foorth a bowed groat, and an olde pennie bowed, hée gaue it her as being ſent from her Vnckle and Aunt, whome hee tearmed to bee his Father and Mother: Withall (quoth hee) I haue a Gammon of bacon and a Chéeſe from my Vnckle your Father, which are ſent to your Maiſter and Miſtreſſe, which I receiued of the Carrier, becauſe my Vnckle enioynde mee to deliuer them, when I muſt intreat your miſtres, that at Whit-

fontide next shée will giue you leaue to come downe into the Countrey. The Maide thinking simplie all hee sayd was true, and as they so farre from their parents, are not onely glad to heare of their welfare, but also reioyce to see any of their kindred: so this poore Maid, well knowing her Vncle had a sonne so named as hée called himselfe, and thinking from a boy (as he was at her leauing the Countrey) hée was now growen such a proper handsome young man, was not a little ioyfull to see him: beside, shée seemed proud that her kinsman was so neat a youth, and so shée helde on questioning with him about her friendes: hée soothing each matter so cunningly, as the maide was confidently perswaded of him. In this time, one of the children stepped to her mother and sayd, Our *marget* (mother) hath a fine coosen come out of the Country, and he hath a Chéese for my Father and you: wherevpon shée looking backe, said: maid, is that your kinsman? Yea forfooth mistres, quoth shée, my Vncles son, whome I left a little one when I came forth of the countrey.

The wily Treacher, being maister of his trade, woulde not let slippe this opportunitie, but courteously / stepping to the Mistresse, (who louing her maid well, because indeed shée had bene a very good seruant, and from her first comming to *London* had dwelt with her, tould her husband

thereof) coyned such a smooth tale vnto them both, fronting it with the Gammon of Bacon and the Chéeſe ſent from their maides Father, and hoping they would giue her leaue at Whitfontide to viſite the countrey, as they with verie kinde wordes entertained him, inuiting him the next night to ſupper, when he promiſed to bring with him the Gammon of bacon and the cheeſe. Then framing an excuſe of certaine buſines in the town, for that time hee tooke his leaue of the Maiſter and Miſtreſſe, and his newe Coſen *Ma[r]garet*, who gaue manie a looke after him (poore wench) as hee went, ioying in her thoughts to haue ſuch a kinſeman.

On the morrow hee prepared a good Gammon of bacon, which he cloſed vp in a foiled linnen cloath, and ſewed an old card vpon it, whereon he wrote a ſuſcription vnto the Maiſter of the Maide, and at what ſigne it was to be deliuered, and afterward ſcraped ſome of the letters halfe out, that it might ſeeme they had bene rubd out in the carriage. A good Chéeſe hee prepared likewise, with inſcription accordingly on it, that it could not bee diſcerned, but that ſome vnſkilfull writer in the Country had done it, both by the groſſe proportion of the letters, as alſo the bad Ortographie, which amongſt plaine huſband-men is verie common, in that they haue no better inſtruction. So

hiring a Porter to carrie them, betwéene fíue and fixe in the euening hée comes to the Cittizens house, and entring the shop, receiues them of the Porter, whom the honest meaning Cittizen would haue paied for his paines, but this his maids new found Cofen saide hée was satisfied alreadie, and so straining courtesie would not permit him: well, vp are carried the Bacon and the Cheefe, where God knowes, *Margaret* / was not a little bufie, to haue all things fine and neat against her Cofens comming vp, her mistresse likewise, (as one well affecting her seruauant) had provided verie good chéere, set all her plate on the Cubboorde for shewe, and beautified the house with Cusheons, Carpets, stools and other deuises of needle worke, as at such times diuers will doo, to haue the better report made of their credite amongst their seruants friends in the Countrey, albeit at this time (God wot) it turned to their owne after-sorrowing. The maister of the house, to delay the time while Supper was readie, hée likewise shewes this dissembler his shop, who seéing things fadge so pat to his purpose, could question of this sort, and that wel enough I warrant you, to discern the best from the worst and their appointed places, purposing a further reach then the honest Cittizen dreamed of: and to bée plaine with ye, such was this occupiers trade, as though I may not name it, yet thus

much I dare vtter, that the worft thing he could carry away, was worth aboue 20 nobles, becaufe hee dealt altogeather in whole and great fale, which made this companion forge this kindred and acquaintaunce: for an hundred pound or twaine was the very leaft hée aimed at. At length the miftrefse fendes worde fupper is on the Table, where vpon vppe hee conducts his gueft, and after diuers welcomes, as alfo thanks for the Cheefe and Bacon: To the Table they fit, where let it fuffice, hee wanted no ordinarie good fare, wine and other knackes, befide much talke of the Countrey, how much his friendes were beholding for his Cofen *Margaret*, to whome by her miftrefse leaue hée dranke twife or thrife, and fhee poore foule dooing the like againe to him with remembrance of her Father and other kindred, which he ftill smoothed very cunningly. Countenaunce of talke made them careles of the time, which flipped from them [fwifter] then they were aware of, nor did the deceiuer haften his departing, becaufe he expected what indeed followed, which was, that being paff tenne of the clocke, and hee feigning his lodging to be at Saint *Gyles* in the field, was intreated both by the good man and his wife, to take a bed there for that night: for fashions fake (though verie glad of this offer) hée faid he would not trouble them, but giuing thē many thanks, would to his lodging

though it were further. But woonderfull it was to see howe earnest the honest Citizen and his wife laboured to perswade him, that was more willing to stay then they could bee to bidde him, and what dissembled willingnesse of departure hee vsed on the other side, to couer the secret villanie intended. Well, at the length, with much adoe, he is contented to stay, when *Margaret* and her mistresse presently stirred to make ready his bed, which the more to the honest mans hard hap, but all the better for this artificiall Conny-catcher, was in the same rounge where they supped, being commonly called their hall, and there indeede stoode a verie faire bed, as in such fightly rounes it may easily bee thought, Citizens vse not to haue anie thing meane or simple. The mistresse, leaft her guest should imagine she disturbed him, suffered all the plate to stand still on the cupbord: and when she perceiued his bed was warmed, and euery thing els according to her mind, she and her husband bidding him good night: tooke themselues to their chamber, which was on the same floore, but inward, hauing another chamber betweene them and the hall, where the maides and children had their lodging. So desiring him to call for anything hee wanted, and charging *Margaret* to looke it should be so, to bed are they gone: when the Apprentises hauing brought vp the keyes of the street

dore, and left them in their maisters chamber as they were woont to do, after they had said praier, their euening exercife, to bed go they likewise, / which was in a Garret backward ouer their maisters chamber. None are nowe vp but poore *Margaret* and her counterfeit coosen, whom she loth to offend with long talke, because it waxed late: after some fewe more speeches, about their parentes and friendes in the countrey, she seeing him laid in bed, and all such thinges by hym as shee deemed needfull, with a low courtesie I warrant ye, commits him to his quiet, and so went to bed to her fellowes, the maidservantes. Well did this hypocrite perceiue the keyes of the doores carried into the good mans chamber, whereof he being not a little glad, thought now they would imagine all things sure, and therefore doubtlesse sleep the founder: as for the keyes, hee needed no helpe of them, because such as he go neuer vnprovidid of instrumētts fitting their trade, and so at this time was this notable trecher. In the dead time of the night, when found sleep makes y^e eare vnapt to heare the verie least noyse, he forsaketh his bed, & hauing gotten all the plate bound vp together in his cloke, goeth downe into the shop, where well remembring both the place and percels, maketh vp his pack with some twenty pounds-worth of goods more. Then fetling to his engin, he getteth

the doore off the hindges, and being foorth, lifteth close to againe, and so departes, meeting within a dozen paces, thrée or foure of his companions that lurked therabouts for the purpose. Their word for knowing ech other, as is said, was *Quest*, and this villaines comfortable newes to them, was *Twag*, signifying he had sped: ech takes a fleece for easier carriage, and so away to *Bellbrow*, which, as I haue heard is as they interpret it, the house of a théefe receiuer, without which they can do nothing, and this house with an apt porter to it, stands redie for them all houres of the night: too many such are there in *London*, the maisters whereof beare countenance of honest substantiall men, but all their liuing is / gotten in this order, the end of such (though they scape awhile) will be sayling westward in a Cart to *Tiborn*. Imagine these villaines there in their iollitie, the one reporting point by point his cunning deceit, and the other (fitting his humour) extolling the déede with no meane commendations. But returning to the honest Citizen, who finding in the morning how déerly he paid for a gammon of Bacon, and a chéefe, and how his kinde courtesie was thus trecherously requited: blames the poore maid, as innocent herein as himselfe, and imprisoning her, thinking so to regaine his owne, grieffe with ill cherishing there shortens her life: And thus ensueth

one hard hap vpon another, to the great grieffe both of maister and mistresse, when the trueth was knowne, that they so wronged their honest seruant. How [this] may forewarne others, I leaue to your own opinions, that see what extraordinarie deuises are now adayes, to beguile the simple and honest liberall minded.

Of a notable knaue, who for his cunning deceiuing a Gentleman of his purse: scorned the name of a Conny-catcher, and woulde needes be termed a Foole-taker, as master and beginner of that new found Arte.

A Crew of these wicked companions being one day met together in Pauls Church, (as that is a vsuall place of their assembly, both to determine on their driftes, as also to speede of manie a bootie) seeing no likelihood of a good afternoone, so they tearme it, either forenoon or after, when ought is to be done: some disperfed themselues to the plaies, other to the bowling Allies, and not past two or three stayed in the Church: Quoth one of them, I haue vowed not to depart but something or other Ile haue before I go: my minde / giues me, that this place yet will yeelde vs all our suppers this night: the other holding like opinion with him, there likewise walked vp and downe, looking when occasion would serue for

some Cash. At length they espied a Gentleman toward the lawe, entring in at the little North doore, and a countrey Clyent going with him in very hard talke: the Gentleman holding his gowne open with his armes on either side as verie manie doe, gaue sight of a faire purple veluet purse, which was halfe put vnder his girdle: whiche I warrant you the resolute fellow that woulde not depart without some thing, had quickly espied. A game, qd. he to his fellows, marke the stand, and so separating themselues walked aloofe, the Gentleman going to the nether steppe of the staires that ascend vp into the Quire, and there he walked still with his clyent. Oft this crew of mates met together, and said there was no hope of nipping the bounge because he held open his gowne so wide, and walked in such an open place. Base knaues, quoth the frolicke fellowe, if I say I will haue it, I must haue it, though hee that owes it had sworne the contrarie. Then looking aside, hee spied his trugge or queane comming vp the Church: Away, quoth he to the other, go looke you for some other purchase, this wench and I are sufficient for this. They go, he lessons the drab in this sorte, that shee should to the Gentleman, whose name she verie well knew, in that shee had holpe to coosen him once before, & pretending to be sent to him frō one he was well acquainted with for his councill, should giue him

his fee for auoiding fuspition, and fo frame some wrong done her, as well inough ſhe coulde: when her mate (taking occaſion as it ſerued) would worke the meane, ſhe ſhould ſtrike, & fo they both preuaile. The queane well inured with ſuch courſes, becauſe ſhe was one of y^e moſt ſkilfull in that profeſſion, walked vp and downe alone in the / Gentlemans fight, that he might diſcerne ſhee ſtaied to ſpeake with him, and as he turned tooward her, he ſaw her take money out of her purſe, whereby he gathered ſome benefite was toward him: which made him the ſooner diſpatch his other clyent, when ſhee ſtepping to him, tolde ſuch a tale of commendations from his verie friend, that he had ſent her to him as ſhee ſaid, that hee entertained her very kindly, and giuing him his fee, which before her face he put vp into his purſe, and thruſt it vnder his girdle againe: ſhe proceeded to a verie ſound diſcourſe, whereto he liſtened with no litle attention. The time ſeruing fit for the fellows purpoſe, he came behind the Gentleman, and as many times one friend will familiarly with another, claps his handes ouer his eyes to make him gueſſe who he is, ſo did this companion, holding his handes faſt ouer the Gentlemans eyes, ſaide: who am I? twiſe or thriſe, in whiche time the drab had gotten the purſe and put it vp. The Gentleman thinking it beene ſome merrie friend of his,

reckened the names of three or foure, when letting him go, the craftie knaue difsembling a bashfull shame of what he had done, said: By my troth fir I crie ye mercy, as I came in at the Church doore I tooke ye for fuch a one (naming a man) a verie friend of mine, whome you very much resemble. I beseech ye be not angrie, it was very boldly done of me, but in penance of my fault, so please you to accept it, I will bestow a gallon or two of wine on ye, and so laboured him earnestly to go with him to the tauerne, still alledging his sorrow for mistaking him. The Gentleman litle suspecting how who am I, had handled him, seeing how sorie he was, and seeming to be a man of no such base condition: tooke all in good part, saying: No harme fir, to take one for another, a fault wherein any man may easily erre: and so excusing the acceptation of his wine, because he was busie there with a Gentlewoman his friend: the Trecher with courtesie departed, and the drab (hauing what shee would) shortning her tale, he desiring her to com to his chamber the next morning, went to the place where her copes-mate & shee met, and not long after, diuers others of the crue, who hearing in what manner this act was performed, smiled a good thereat, that shee had both got the Gentlemans purse, her owne money againe, and his aduise for iust no thing. He that had done

this tall exploit, in a place so open in view, so hardly to be com by, and on a man that made no mean esteeme of his wit : bids his fellowes keepe the woorthlesse name of a Conny-catcher to themselves : for hee hence-foorth would be tearmed a Foole-taker, and such as could imitate this quaint example of his (which hee would fet downe as an entrance into that art) should not thinke scorne to become his schollers.

Night drawing on apace, the Gentleman returned home, not all this while missing his purse, but being fet at supper, his wife intreated a pint of Secke, which hee minding to fend for : drewe to his purse, and seeing it gone, what straunge looks (beside sighs) were betwene him and his wife, I leaue to your supposing, and blame them not : for as I haue heard, there was seuen pound in Golde, beside thirty shillings and odde white money in the purse. But in the midst of his griefe hee remembered him that said, who am I? Wherewith hee brake forth into a great laughter, the cause whereof his wife being desirous to know, hee declared all that passed betwene him and the deceiuer, as also how sone afterward the queane abreuiated her discourse and followed : so by troth wife (quoth he) betwene who am I and the drab, my purse is gone : let his losse teach others to looke better to theirs. /

An other Tale of a coofening companion, who would needs trie his cunning in this new inuented art, and how by his kuauery (at one instant) he beguiled half a dozen and more.

OF late time there hath a certaine base kind of trade been vsed, who though diuers poor men, & doubtles honest apply themselues to, only to relieue their need : yet are there some notorious varlets to the same, béeing compacted with such kind of people, as this present treatise manifesteth to the worlde; and what with outward simplicitie on the one side, and cunning close trechery on the other, diuers honest Cittizens and day-labouring men, that resort to such places as I am to speake of, onely for recreation as opportunity serueth, haue bin of late fundry times deceiued of their purses. This trade, or rather vn-sufferable loytring qualitie, in singing of Ballets and songs at the doores of such houses where plaies are vsed, as also in open markets and other places of this Cittie, where is most resort : which is nothing els but a sly fetch to draw many togeather, who listning vnto an harmeleffe dittie, afterward walke home to their houses with heauie hearts : from such as are heereof true witneses to their cost, do I deliuer this example. A subtill fellow, belike imboldned by acquaintance with the former

deceit, or els béeing but a beginner to practife the fame, calling certaine of his companions together, would try whether he could attaine to be maifter of his art or no, by taking a great many of fools with one traine. But let his intent and what els beside, remaine to abide the cenfure after ſ̄ mater is heard, & come to Gracious ſtréet, where this villanous pranke was performed. A roging mate, & ſuch another with him, were there got vp̄ a ſtal finging of balets, which belike was ſom prety toy, for very many gathered / about to heare it, & diuers buying, as their affections ſerued, drew to their purfes, & paid the fingers for thē. The ſlye mate and his fellowes, who were diſperſed among them that ſtoode to heare the ſonges: well noted where euerie man that bought, put vp his purſe againe, and to ſuch as would not buy, counterfeit warning was fundrie times giuen by the rogue and his affociate, to beware of the cut-purſſe, and looke to their purſſes, which made them often feel where their purſſes were, either in ſléecue, hoſe, or at girdle, to know whether they were ſafe or no. Thus the craftie copesmates were acquainted with what they moſt deſired, and as they were ſcattered, by ſhouldring, thruſting, feigning to let fall ſomething, and other wilie tricks fit for their purpoſe: heere one loſt his purſe, there another had his pocket pickt, and to

fay all in briefe, at one instant, vpon the complaint of one or two that sawe their purffes were gone, eight more in the same companie, found themfelues in like predicament. Some angrie, others sorrowfull, and all greatly discontented, looking about them, knewe not who to suspect or challenge, in that the villaines themfelues that had thus beguiled them, made shewe that they had sustained like losse. But one angrie fellow, more impacient then al the rest, he falles vpon the ballade finger, and beating him with his fists well faoueredly, faves if he had not listened his finging, he had not lost his purse, and therefore woulde not be otherwise perswaded, but that they two and the cut-purses were compacted together. The rest that had lost their purses likewise, and saw that so ma[n]y complaine[d] together: they iumpe in opinion with the other fellow, & begin to tug & hale the ballad fingers, when one after one the false knaues began to shrinke awaie with y^e purffes. By meanes of some officer then being there presēt, the two roges wer had before a Iustice, and vpon his discrēete examination made, it was found / that they and the Cut-purses were compacted together, and that by this vn suspected villanie, they had deceiued many. The fine Foole-taker himselfe, with one or two more of that companie, was not long after apprehended: when I doubt not but they had their

reward aunfwerable to their deseruing: for I heare of their iourney westward, but not of their returne: let this forewarne those that listen finging in the streets.

Of a craftie mate, that brought two young men to a Tauerne, where departing with a Cup, he left them to pay both for the wine and Cup.

A Friend of mine sent me this note, and assuring me the truth thereof, I thocht necessary to set it downe amongst the rest: both for the honest simplicitie on the one side and most cunning knauerye vsed on the other; and thus it was. Two young men of familiar acquaintaunce, who delighted much in musicke, because themselves therein were somewhat expert, as on the virginals, Bandora, Lute and such like: were one euening at a common Inne of this town (as I haue heard) where the one of them shewed his skill on the Virginals, to the no little contentment of the hearers. Nowe as diuers guests of the house came into the room to listen, so among the rest entered an artificiall Conny-catcher, who as occasion serued, in the time of ceiffing betwéene the feural toyes and fancies hée plaid: very much commended his cunning, quicke hand, and such qualities praiseworthy in such a professour.

The time being come, when these young men craued leaue to depart, this politique varlet stepping to them, desired that they would accept a quart of wine at his hand, which he would, most glad-ly he would, bestow vpon them : besides, if it liked him that played on the Virginals to instruct, he would helpe him to so good a place, as happily might aduauntage him for euer. These kind words, deliuered with such honest outward shew, caused the young men, whose thoughts were free from any other opinion, than to be as truly and plainly dealt withall as themselues meant, accepted his offer, because he that played on the Virginalles was desirous to haue some good place of seruice, and here vpon to the Tauerne they goe, and being set, the wily companion calleth for two pintes of wine, a pinte of white, and a pinte of claret, casting his cloake vpon the Table, and falling to his former communication of preferring the young man. The wine is brought, and two cuppes withall, as is the vsuall manner : when drinking to them of one pinte, they pledge him, not vnthankfull for his gentlenesse. After some time spent in talke, and as he perceiued fit for his purpose, hee takes the other cup, and tastes the other pinte of wine : wherewith he finding fault, that it dranke somewhat harde, sayde, that Rose-watar and Sugar would do no harme: whereupon he leaues his seate,

faying he was well acquainted with one of the seruants of the house, of whom he could haue two pennywoorth of Rosewater for a peny, and so of Sugar likewise, wherefore he would step to the barre vnto him: so taking the cup in his hand, he did, the young men neuer thinking on any such treachery as ensued, in that he seemed an honest man, and beside left his cloke lying on the table by them. No more returns the yonker with Rosewater and Sugar, but stepping out of doores, vnseene of any, goes away roundly with the cup. The young men not a little wondering at his long tarrying, by the comming of the seruants to see what they wanted, who tooke no regarde of his sudden departure, find themselues there left, not onlie to / pay for the wine, but for the Cuppe also, beeing rashly supposed by the maister and his seruantes to be copartners with the treacherous villaine: but their honest behauiour well knowen, as also their simplicitie too much abused, well witnessed their innocencie: notwithstanding they were faine to pay for the cuppe, as afterward they did, hauing nothing towards their charge but a threed bare cloake not woorth two shillings. Take heede how you drinke wine with any such companions.

*Of an honest houſholder which was cunningly deceyued
by a ſubtill companion, that came to hire a
Chamber for his Maiſter.*

NOT farre from Charing croſſe dwelleth an
honest yoong man, who béeing not long
ſince married, and hauing more roomes in his
houſe than himſelfe occupyeth, eyther for terme
time, or the Court lying ſo néere, as diuers do, to
make a reasonable commoditie, and to eaſe houſe-
rent, which (as the worlde goeth now is none
of the cheapeſt) letteth foorth a chamber or two,
according as it may be ſpared. In an euening but
a while ſince, came one in the manner of a Seruing
man to this man and his wife, and he muſt néeds
haue a Chamber for his Maiſter, offering ſo largely,
as the bargaine was ſoone concluded betwéene
them. His intent was to haue fingered ſome
bootie in the houſe, as by the ſequele it may be
likeliest gathered: but belike no fit thing lying
abroad, or hee better regarded then happily he
woulde be, his expectation that way was fruſtrate:
yet as a reſolute Conny-catcher indeede, that ſcorneth
to attempt without ſome ſucceſſe, and rather / will
pray vpon ſmall commodity, then returne to his
fellows diſgraced with a loſt labour: he ſummons
his wits together, and by a ſmooth tale ouer-reached
both the man and his wife. He tels them, that

his Maister was a captaine late come from the Sea, and had costlly apparell to bring thither, which for more easie carriage, he entreats them lend him a sheet to bind it vp in: they suspecting no ill, because hee required their boy should goe with him to helpe him cary the stufte, the good wife steppes vnto her Chest, where her linnen lay finelie fwéetned with Rose-leaues and Lauender, and lends him a very good sheet in déed.

This succeffe made him bolde to venter a little further, and then he tels them, his Maister had a great deal of broken Sugar, and fine spices that lay negligently abroad in his lodging as it was brought from the Shippe: all which hee was assured his Maister would bestow on them, so hee could deuise howe to get it brought thither.

These liberall promises, preuailing with them that lightlie beléued, and withall were somewhat couetous of the Sugar and spices: The woman demaunded if a couple of pillow-béeres would not ferue to bring the Sugar and spices in? Yes marry (quoth hee) so the Sugar may best be kept by it selfe, and the spices by themselues. And (quoth hee) because there are many craftie knaues abroad, (gréeuing that any should hee craftier then himselfe) and in the euening the linnen might quicklie bee snatched from the boy: For the more safety, hee would carry the sheet and pillow-béeres him-

felfe, and within an hower or little more, returne with the boye againe, becaufe he would haue all things ready before his Maifter came, who (as hee faid) was attending on the Councell at the court. The man and his wife crediting his fsmooth fpéeches, fend their boy with him, and fo along toward / Iuie-bridge goe they. The Conny-catcher féeing himfelfe at frée libertie, that hée had gotten a very good fheet, and two fine pillow-beeres: fteps to the wall, as though he would make water, bidding the boy go faire and foftlie on before. The boy doubting nothing, did as hée willed him, when prefently he ftept into fome houfe hard by fit to entertaine him: and neuer fince was hee, his Maifter, the Sugar, fpices, or the linnen heard off. Manie haue béene in this manner deceiued, as I heare: let this then giue them warning to beware of any fuch vnprofitable guefts.

Of one that came to buy a knife, and made firft prooffe of his trade on him that folde it.

ONe of the Conning Nippes about the Towne, came vnto a poore Cutler to haue a Cuttle made according vnto his owne mind, and not aboue three inches would hee haue both the knife and the haft in length: yet of fuch pure mettall, as poffible may be. Albeit the poore man neuer made the like before, yet being promifed foure

times the value of his stufte and paines, he was contented to doe this, and the day béeing come that hée should deliuer it, the partie came, who liking it exceedingly, gaue him the mony promised, which the poore man gladly put vp into his purse, that hung at a button hole of his wascoat before his brest, smiling that he was so wel paid for so small a trifle. The party perceiuing his merry countenance, and imagining hee gest for what purpose the knife was, sayde, honest man, whereat smile you? By my troth sir (quoth the Cutler) I smile at your knife, because I neuer made one so little before: and were it not offensiue vnto you, I / would request to knowe to what vse you will put it too: Wilt thou keepe my counsaile (quoth the Nip?) yea on mine honestie (quoth the Cutler.) Then hearken in thy eare, saide the Nip, and so rounding with him, cut the poore mans purse that houg at his bosome, he neuer feeling when hée did it: with this knife (quoth the Nippe) meane I to cut a purse: marry GOD forbid (quoth the Cutler) I cannot thinke you to be such a kind of man, I see you loue to iest; and so they parted.

The poore man, not so wise as to remember hys owne purse, when by such a warning he might haue taken the offendour dooing the deede, but rather proud (as it were) that his money was so easly earned: walkes to the Alehouse, which was

within a house or two of his owne, and finding there were thrée or foure of his neighbors, with whome hee began to iest very pleasantly : fweares by cocke and pie hée would spend a whole groat vpon them, for hée had gotten it and more, cléerly by a good bargaine that morning.

Though it was no maruel to see him so liberall, because indéede hee was a good companion : yet they were loth to put him vnto such cost: notwithstanding he would néeds doe it, and so farre as promise stretcht, was presently fild in and set vpon the boord. In the drinking time often he wisht to méet with more such customers as hée had done that morning, and commended him for a verie honest Gentleman I warraunt you. At length, when the reckoning was to be paied, hée drawes to his purse, where finding nothing left but a péce of the string in the button hole: I leaue to your iudgement, whether hée was now as forie as he was merrie before.

Blancke and all amort fits the poore Cutler, and with such a pittifull countenance, as his neighbours did not a little admire his solemne alteration, & desirous to know the cause thereof, from point to point he discourseth / the whole maner of the tragedie, neuer naming his new customer, but with such a farre fetcht sigh, as soule and body would haue parted in funder. And in midst of all his

griefe, he brake forth into these tearmes. Ile beleue a man the better by his worde while I knowe him: the knife was bought to cut a purse indeed, and I thank hym for it he made the first prooffe of the edge with me. The neighbours, greewing for his losse, yet smiling at his folly to be so ouerreached, were faine to pay the groat the cutler called in, because he had no other money about him, and spent as much more beside to driue away his heauineffe.

This tale, because it was somewhat misreported before, vpon talke had with the poore Cutler himselfe, is fet downe now in true forme and maner howe it was done, therefore is there no offence offered, when by better confideration, a thing may be enlarged or amended, or at least the note be better confirmed. Let the poore Cutlers mishap example others, that they brag not ouer hastily of gaine easily gotten, least they chance to pay as déerely for it as he did.

Of a yoong Nip that cunningly beguiled an antient professor of that trade, and his queane with hym, at a play.

A Good fellowe that was newly entered into the nipping craft, and had not as yet attained to any acquaintance with ſ chiefe and cunning maisters of that trade: In the Christmas holydaies

laſt came to ſee a play at the Bull within *Biſhops gate*, there to take his benefit as time / and place would permit him. Not long had hee ſtaied in the preafe, but he had gotten a yoong mans purſe out of his pocket, which when he had, hee ſtepped into the ſtable to take out the mony, and to conuey away the purſe. But looking on his commoditie, he found nothing therein but white counters, a thimble and a broken thrée-pence, which belike the fellowe that ought it, had done of purpoſe to deceiue the cut purſe withall, or elſe had plaid at the cardes for counters, and ſo carried his winninges about him till his next fitting to play. Somewhat diſpleaſed to be ſo ouertaken, he looked aſide, and ſpied a luſtie youth entring at the doore, and his drab with him: this fellow he had heard to be one of the fineſt Nippers about the towne, and euer carried his queane with him, for conuſiance when the ſtratageme was performed: he puts vp the counters into the purſe againe, and follows cloſe to ſee ſome péece of their ſeruiſe. Among a companie of ſeemely men was this luſtie companion and hys minion gotten, where both they might beſt beholde the play, and worke for aduantage, and euer this yoong Nip was next to him, to marke when he ſhould attempt any exploit, ſtanding as it were more then halfe betwéene the cunning Nip and his drab, onely to learne ſome

part of their skill. In short time the déed was performed, but how, the yoong Nip could not easily discerne, onely he felt him shift his hand toward his Trug, to conuey the purse to her, but she being somewhat mindfull of the play, because a merriment was then on the stage, gaue no regard: whereby thinking hee had puld her by the coat, he twitcht the yoong Nip by the cloke, who taking aduantage of this offer, put downe his hand and receiued the purse of him. Then counting it discourtesie to let him loose all his labour, he softly pluckt the queane by the coate, which she feeling, and imagining it had / beene her companions hand: receiued of him the first purse with the white counters in it. Then fearing leaft his stay should hinder him, and seeing the other intending to haue more purses ere he departed: away goes the young Nip with the purse he got so easily, wherin (as I haue heard) was xxxvii. shillings, and odde mony, which did so much content him, as that he had beguiled so ancient a stander in that profession. What the other thought when he found the purse, and could not guesse howe hee was coofened: I leaue to your censures, onely this makes me smile, that one false knaue can beguile another, which biddes honest men looke the better to their purffes.

How a Gentleman was craftily deceiued of a Chaîne of Golde and his purffe, in Paules Church in London.

A Gentleman of the Cuntrye, who (as I haue heard since the time of his mishap, wherof I am now to speake) had about halfe a yeer before buried his wife & belike thinking well of some other Gentlewoman, whom he ment to make account of as his second choise: vpō good hope or otherwise perfwaded, he came vp to *London* to prouide himselfe of such necessaries as the Cuntry is not vsually stord withall. Besides, filkes, veluets, cambrickes and such like, he bought a Chaîne of Golde that cost him lvij. pounds and odde money, wher of because he would haue the maydenhead or first wearing himselfe, he presently put it on in the Gold smiths shop, and so walked therewith about *London* as his occasions serued. But let not the Gentleman be offended, who if this Booke come to his handes, can best auouch the trueth of this discourse, if here by the way I blame his rash pride, or simple credulitie: for betweene the one and other, the Chaîne he paid so déere for about ten of the clock in the morning, the Cunny-catchers the same day ere night shared amongst them: a matter whereat he may well gréeue, and I be forie, in respect he is

my very good fréend: but to the purpofe. This Gentleman walking in Paules, with his Chaîne faire glittering about his necke, talking with his man about fome bufines: was well viewed and regarded by a crewe of Co/ny-catchers, whose téeth watred at his goodly Chaîne, yet knew not how to come by it hanging as it did, and therefore entred into fecret confpiration among themfelues, if they could not come by all the Chain, yet how they might make it lighter by half a fcore poundes at the leaft. Still had they their eyes on the honeft Gentleman, who little douted any fuch treason intended againfte his fo late bought bargaine: and they hauing laid their plot, eche one to be affiftant in this enterprife, faw when the Gentleman difmiffed his feruant, to go about fuch affaires as he had appointed him, himfelfe ftill walking there vp and downe the middle Ifle. One of thefe mates, that ftode moft on his cunning in thefe exploytes, folowed the feruingman foorth of the Church, calling him by diuers names, as Iohn, Thomas, William, &c. as though he had knowne his right name, but could not hit on it: which whether he did or no I know not, but well I wot the feruingmã turned back againe, and feeing him that called him féemed a Gentleman, booted and cloaked after the neweft fafhion, came with his hat in his hand to him, faying: Sir, do ye call me? Marie do I my

fréend quoth the other, dooft not thou ferue fuch a Gentleman? and named one as himfelfe pleased. No truely Sir, answered the feruingman, I know not any fuch Gentleman as you fpeake of. By my troth, replied the Conny-catcher, I am affured I knew thée, and thy Mafter, though now I cannot fuddenly remember my felfe. The feruingman fearing no harme, yet fitting the humour of this trecherous companion, tolde right his Mafters name whome he ferued, and that his Mafter was euen then walking in Paules. O Gods will (quoth the Cony-catcher, repeating his mafters name) a very honeft Gentleman, of fuch a place is he not? naming a fhire of the Country: for he muft knowe both name, Country and fomtimes what Gentlemen dwell / néere the partie that is to be ouer reached, ere he can procéed. No indeed Sir (answered the feruingman, with fuch reuerence as it had béene to an honeft Gentlemã in déed) my Mafter is of fuch a place, a mile from fuch a Towne, and hard by fuch a knights houfe: by which report the deceiuer was halfe instructed, becaufe though he was ignorant of the fellows Mafter, yet well he knew the Country, and the knight named. So crauing pardon that he had miftaken him, he returnes againe into the Church, and the feruingman trudgeth about his affigned bufines. Béeing come to the reft of the crewe,

he appointes one of them (whome he knewe to be expert in déed) to take this matter in hand, for himfelfe might not do it, leaft the feruingman fhould return and knowe him: he fchooled the reft likewise what euery man fhould do when the pinch came, and changing his cloke with one of his fellowes, walked by him felfe, attending the feate: and euery one being as ready, the apointed fellow makes his fallye foorth, and comming to the Gentleman, calling him by his name, giues him the courtesie and embrace, likewise thanking him for good chéere he had at his houfe, which he did with fuch féemly behaiour and proteftatiō, as the Gentleman (thinking the other to be no leffe) vfed like action of kindenes to him. Now as Country Gentlemen haue many vifiters both with néere dwelling neighbours, and freends that iourney from farre, whome they can hardly remember, but fome principall one that ferues as countenance to the other: fo he not difcrediting the cunning mates woordes, who ftill at euery point alleaged his kinred to the knight, neighbour to the Gentleman, which the poor feruing man had (doubting no ill) reuealed before, and that both there and at his own houfe in hawking time with that knight and other Gentlemen of the Cuntrey he had liberally tafted his kindnes: defiring pardon that / he had forgotten him, and offered him the curtesie of the

Citie. The Conny catcher excused him selfe for that time, faying, at their next méeting he would bestow it on him. Then séeming to haue espyed his Chaine, and commending the fairenes and woorkmanship thereof: fayes, I pray ye fir take a litle coũsel of a fréend, it may be you will returne thanks for it. I wonder quoth he, you dare weare such a costly Jewell so open in sight, which is euen but a baite to entice bad men to aduventure time and place for it, and nowhere sooner then in this Cittie, where (I may say to you) are such a number of Connycatchers, Coffoners and such like, that a man can scarcely kéep anything from them, they haue so many reaches and fleights to beguile withall: which a very especiall fréend of mine found too true not many daies since. Heervvpon he tolde a very solemne tale, of villanies and knaueries in his owne profession, wherby he reported his fréend had lost a watch of golde: shewing how closely his fréende wore it in his bosome, and how strangely it was gotten from him, that the gentleman by that discourse waxed halfe affraide of his Chaine. And giuing him many thanks for this good warning, presently takes the Chaine from about his necke, and tying it vp fast in a handkercher, put it into his sléeue, faying, If the Conny-catcher get it héere, let him not spare it. Not a little did the tretcher smile in his sléeue, hearing the rash

fecuritie, but in deed simplicitie of the gentleman, and no fooner fawe he it put vp, but presently he counted it fure his owne, by the affiftance of his complices, that lay in an ambuscado for the purpose: with embraces and courtesies on either fide, the Conny catcher departes, leauing the gentleman walking there ftill : whereat the crew were not a little offended, that he ftill kept in the Church, and would not goe abroad. Well, at length (belike remembring fome / bufineffe) the Gentleman taking leaue of an other that talked with him, hafted to go forth at the furtheft weft doore of Paules, which he that had talked with him, and gaue him fuch counfell perceyuing, hied out of the other doore, and got to the entraunce ere he came foorth, the reft following the gentleman at an inch. As hee was stepping out, the other ftept in, and let fall a keie, hauing his hat fo low ouer his eyes, that he could not wel difcerne his face, and ftooping to take vp the keie, kepte the gentleman from going backward or forward, by reason his legge was ouer the threshold. The formoft Conny-catcher behind, pretending a quarrell vnto him that ftooped, rapping out an oath, and drawing his dagger, faide: Doe I méete the villaine? Nay, hée fhall not scape mée now, and fo made offer to ftrike him.

The gentleman at his ftanding vp, feeing it was hée that gaue him fo good counfaile, and pretended

himselfe his verie friend, but neuer imagining this traine was made for him, stept in his defence: when the other following tript vp his heeles: so that hée and his counsellour were downe together, and two more vpon them, striking with their daggers verie eagerly: marie indéede the gentleman had most of the blowes, and both his handkercher with the chaine, and also his purse with thrée and fiftie shillings in it, were taken out of his pocket in this strugling, euen by the man that himselfe defended.

It was maruellous to behold, how not regarding the villaines wordes vttered before in the Church, nor thinking vpon the charge about him (which after hée had thus treacherously lost vnwittingly: hée stands pacifying them that were not discont[e]d but onely to beguyle him. But they vowing that they would presently goe for their weapons, & so to the field, tolde the / Gentleman he laboured but in vaine, for fight they must and would, and so going downe by Paules Chaine, left the Gentleman made a Conny, going vp toward Fleet stréet, forry for his new Counseller and fréend, and wishing him good lucke in the fight: which in déede was with nothing but wine pots, for ioy of their late gotten bootie. Neere to Saint Dunstones Church, the Gentleman remembred himselfe, and féeling his pocket so light, had suddently more greefe at his

hart, than euer happen to him or any man againe. Backe he comes to see if he could espye any of them, but they were farre inough frō him : God fend him better happe when he goes next a wooing, and that this his losse may be a warning to others.

How a cunning knaue got a Truncke well stuffed with linnen and certaine parcells of plate out of a Cittizens house, and how the Master of the house holpe the deceiuer to carry away his owne goods.

Within the Cittie of *London*, dwelleth a worthy man who hath very great dealing in his trade, and his shop very well frequented with Customers : had such a shrewd mischaunce of late by a Conny catcher, as may well serue for an example to others leaste they haue the like. A Cunning villaine, that had long time haunted this Cittizens house, and gotten many a cheat which he carried away safely : made it his custome when he wanted money, to helpe him selfe euer where he had sped so often : diuers thinges he had which were neuer mist, especially such as appertained to the Citi/zens trade, but when anye were found wanting, they could not deuise which way they were gone, so pollitiquely this fellow alwayes behaued himselfe : well knew he what times of greatest busines this Cittizen had in his trade, and when the shop is most stored with Chapmen : then

would he step vp the staires (for there was and is another door to the house besides that which entreth into the shop) and what was next hand came euer away with. One time about the rest, in an euening about Candlemas, when daylight shuts in about six of the clock, he watched to do some feate in the house, and seeing the mistresse goe foorth with her maid, the goodman and his folkes very busie in the shop: vp the staires he goes as he was wonte to doo, and lifting vp the latch of the hall portall doore, saw nobody néere to trouble him: when stepping into the next chamber, where the Citizen and his wife vsually lay, at the beds féete there stood a hanfome truncke, wherein was very good linnen, a faire gilt salte, two siluer french bowles for wine, two siluer drinking pots, a stone Iugge couered with siluer, and a dosen of siluer spoons. This trücke he brings to the staires head, and making fast the doore againe, drawes it downe the steppes so softlye as he could, for it was so bigge and heauy, as he could not easily carry it: hauing it out at the doore, vnseene of any neighbour or anybody else, he stood strugling with it to lift it vp on the stall, which by reason of the weight trobled him very much. The goodman comming foorth of his shop, to bid a customer or two far well, made the fellowe affraide he should now be taken for all together: but calling his

wittes together to escape if he could, he stood gazing vp at the signe belonging to the house, as though he were desirous to knowe what signe it was: which the Cittizen perceiuing, came to him and asked him what he sought for? I looke for the signe of the blew / bell fir, quoth the fellowe, where a gentleman hauing taken a chamber for this tearme time, hath sent me hether with this his Troncke of apparell: quoth the Citizen, I know no such signe in this stréete, but in the next (naming it) there is such a one indéede, and there dwelleth one that letteth foorthe chambers to gentlemen. Truely fir quoth the fellowe, thats the house I should go to, I pray you fir lend me your hand but to help the Trunke on my back, for I thinking to ease me a while vpon your stall, set it shorte, and now I can hardly get it vp againe. The Citizen not knowing his owne Trunke, but indeede neuer thinking on any such notable deceite: helps him vp with the Truncke, and so fends him away roundly with his owne goods. When the Truncke was mist, I leaue to your conceits what housholde gréeffe there was on all sides, especiallye the goodman himselfe, who remembring how hée helpt the fellow vp with a Truncke, perceiued that héereby hée had beguyled himselfe, and losse more then in haste hée should recouer againe. How this may admonish others, I leaue to the iudgement

of the indifferent opinion, that ſee when honeſt meaning is ſo craftilye beleagerd, as good foresight muſt be uſed to preuent ſuch daungers. /

How a broker was cunninglie ouer-reached by a craftie a knaue as himſelfe, and brought in danger of the Gallowes.

IT hath beene uſed as a common byword, a craftie knaue néedeth no Broker, wherby it ſhould appeare that there can hardlie bée a craftier knaue then a Broker. Suspende your iudgements till you haue heard this Diſcourſe enſuing, & then as you pleaſe cenſure both the one and the other.

A Ladie of the Countrie ſent vp a ſeruant whom ſhe might well put in truſt, to prouide her of a gowne anſwerable to ſuch direCTIONS as ſhe had geuen him: which was of good price, as may appeare by the outſide and lace, wherto doubtles was euery other thing agreeable. For the Tayler had ſeunteene yardes of the beſt black fatten could be got for monie, and ſo much gold lace, beſide ſpangles, as valued thirteene pound: what els was beſide I know not, but let it ſuffice thus much was loſt, and therefore let vs to the maner how.

The fatten and the lace béeing brought to the Tayler that ſhould make the gown, and ſpred abroad on the ſhop boord to be meaſured, certain good felows of the Conny-catching profeſſion

chaunced to goe by, who seeing fo rich lace, and fo excellent good fatten, began to commune with themfelues how they might / make some purchase of what they had feene: and quickly it was to be done or not at all. As euer in a crewe of this qualitie, there is some one more ingenious and politick then the rest, or at leastwise that couets to make himselfe more famous then the rest, fo this instant was there one in this companie that did sweare his cunning should deepe lie deceiue him, but he would haue both the lace and fatten. When hauing layd the plot with his companions, how and which way their helpe might stand him in stead, this way they proceded.

Wel noted they the seruingman that stood in the shop with the Tailer, and gathered by his diligent attendance, that he had some charge of the gowne there to be made: wherefore by him must they worke their trecherie intended, and vse him as an instrument to beguile himselfe. One of them sitting on a seate neere the Tailers stal, could easilie heare the talke that passed between the seruingman and the Tailer, where among other communication, it was concluded that the gowne should be made of the selfe same fashion in euery poynt, as another Ladies was who then lay in the Citie, and that measure being taken by her, the same would fitlie serue the Lady for whom the gown was to be

made. Now the seruingman intended to go speake with the Ladie, and vppon a token agreed betweene them (which he careleslie spake so lowd that the Conny-catcher heard it) hee would as her leysure serued, certifie the Tayler, and hee should bring the stuffe with him, to haue the Ladies opinion both of the one and the other.

The seruingman being gone about his affaires, the subtil mate that had listned to al their talke, acquaints his felows both with the determination, and token appointed for the Tailers comming to y^e Lady. The guid and leader to al the rest for villanie, though / there was no one but was better skilde in such matters then honestie: he appoints that one of them should go to the tauern, which was not farre off, and laying two fagots on the fire in a roome by himselfe, and a quart of wine filled for countenance of the trecherie: another of that crue should geue attendance on him, as if he were his master, being bareheaded, and Sir, humblie answering at euery worde. To the tauern goes this counterfet gentlemen, and his seruant waiting on him, where euery thing was performed as is before rehearsed. When the master knaue calling the drawer, demanded if there dwelt néere at hand a skilful Tayler, that could make a suite of veluet for himselfe: mary it was to be done with very great speed.

The Drawer named the Tailer that wee nowe speake of, and vpon the drawers commending his cunning, the man in all hast was sent for to a gentleman, for whom he must make a sute of veluet foorthwith. Vpon talke had of the stuffe, how much was to be bought of euery thing appertayning thereto: hee must immediatly take measure of this counterfette gentleman, because hee knewe not when to returne that way againe: afterward they would goe to the Mercers.

As the Tailer was taking measure on him bare headed, as if he had been a substantiall gentleman indéede, the craftie mate had cunningly gotten his purse out of his pocket, at the one string whereof was fastened a little key, and at the other his signet ring: This bootie he was sure of alreadie, whether he should get any thing els or no of the mischife intended: stepping to the window, he cuts the ring from the purse, and by his supposed man (rounding him in the eare) sends it to the plot-layer of this knauerie, minding to trayne the tayler along with him, as it were to the mercers, while he in the mean time took order for ŷ other matter. /

Afterwarde speaking alowd to his man, Sirrha, quoth he, dispatch what I bad you, and about foure of the clock méete me in Paules, by that time I hope the Tayler and I shal haue dispatcht. To

Cheapside goeth the honest Tayler with this notorious dissembler, not missing his purse for the space of two houres after, in lesse then halfe which time the fatten and golde lace was gotten likewise by the other villaine from the Taylers house in this order.

Being fure the Tayler should be kept absent, hee sends another mate home to his house, who abused his seruants with this deuise: That the Ladies man had met their master abroad, and had him to the other Ladie to take measure of her, and left they should delay the time too long, hee was sent for the fatten and lace, declaring the token appointed, and withall geuing their masters signet ring for better confirmation of his message. The seruants could doe no lesse then deliuer it, being commaunded (as they supposed) by so credible testimonie: Neither did the leysure of any one serue to goe with the messenger: who seemed an honest young Gentleman, and caried no cause of distrust in his countenance. Wherefore they deliuered him the lace and fatten foulded vp together as it was, and desired him to will their master to make some speede home, both for cutting out of worke, and other occasions.

To a Broker fit for their purpose, goes this deceiuer with the Satten lace, who knowing wel they could not come honestly by it, nor anie thing

else hee bought of that crew, as often before he had delt much with them: either gaue them not so much as they would haue, or at least as they iudged they could haue in another place, for which the ring-leader of this coofnage, vowed in his minde to be reuenged on the Broker. The maister knaue, who had spent two / houres and more in vaine with the Tailer, & would not like of anie veluet hee sawe, when hee perceiued that he mist his purse, and could not deuise howe or where he had lost it, shewed himselfe very sory for his mishap, and said in the morning hee would fende the veluet home to his house, for he knew where to speed of better then anie [he] had seene in the shops. Home goes the Tailer verie sadly, where he was entertayned with a greater mischance, for there was the Ladies seruing-man swearing and stamping, that hee had not seene their maister since the morning they parted, neither had he sent for the fatten and lace, but when the seruants iustified their innocencie, beguiled both with the true token rehearsed, and their maisters signet ring, it exceedeth my cunning to fette downe answerable wordes to their exceeding grieffe and amazement on either part, but most of all the honest Tailer, who spead the better by the Brokers wilfulnes: as afterward it happened, which made him the better brooke the losse of his purse. That night all meanes

were vsed that could bee, both to the Mercers, Brokers, Goldsmiths, Goldfiners, and such like, where happelie such things doe come to bee sold: but all was in vaine, the only helpe came by the inuenter of this villanie, who scant sleeping al night, in regard of the brokers extreame gayning, both by him, and those of his profession: the next morning he came by the Taylers house, at what time hee espyed him with the Ladies seruingman, comming foorth of the doores, and into the tauern he went to report what a mishap he had vpon the sending for him thether the day before.

As he was but newlie entred his sad discourse, in comes the partie offended with the Broker, and hauing heard all (whereof none could make better report then himselfe) he takes the Tayler & seruingman / aside, and pretending great grieffe for both their causes, demaunds what they would thinke him worthie off that could help them to their good again. On condition to meet with such a frende, offer was made of fise pound, and after fundry spéeches passing betwéen them alone, he seeming that he would worke the recouerie thereof by arte, and they promising not to disclose the man that did them good, he drew foorth a litle booke out of his bosom,—whether it were latin or english it skilled not, for he could not read a worde on it, —then desiring them to spare him alone a while,

they should perceiue what he would do for them. Their hearts encouraged with some good hope, kept all his words secrete to themselues: and not long had they fitten absent out of the roome, but he called them in againe, and seeming as though he had bin a scholler indeed, said he found by his figure that a Broker in such a place had their goods lost, and in such a place of the house they should find it, bidding them goe thether with al speed, and as they found his wordes, so (with referuing to themselues how they came to knowledge thereof) to méet him there againe in the euening, and reward him as he had deserued.

Away in hast goes the taylor and the seruingmā, and entring the house with the constable, found them in the place where he that reueald it, knew the broker alway laid such gotten goods. Of their ioy againe, I leaue you to coniecture, and think you see the Broker with a good paire of bolts on his héeles, readie to take his farewell of the world in a halter, when time shall serue. The counterfette cunning man, and artificiall Cony-catcher, as I heard, was payd his five pounds that night. Thus one craftie knaue beguiled another: let each take héede of dealing with any such kinde of people.

FINIS.



xxv.

A

*Disputation betweene a
Hee Conny-catcher and a Shee Conny-catcher.*

1592.



NOTE.

This 'Disputation' (1592) is also fetched from the Huth Library, and completes the series. See annotated Life in Vol. I.—G.

A DISPVATION

Betweene a Hee Conny-catcher, and a
Shee Conny-catcher, whether a Theefe or a Whoore, is
most hurtfull in Coufonage, to the Com-
mon-wealth.

DISCOVERING THE SECRET VILLA-
nies of alluring Strumpets.

With the Conuerfion of an English Courtizen, reformed
this prefent yeare. 1592.

Reade, laugh, and learne.

Nascimur pro patria.

R. G.



Imprinted at London, by A. I. for T. G. and are to be folde at
the West ende of Paules. 1592.



To all Gentlemen, Marchants, Appren-
tises, and Country Farmers, health.

Gentlemen, Countrey men, and kinde
friends, for so I value all that are honest
and enemies of bad actions, although in
my bookes of Conny-catching I haue discouered
diuers formes of cofonings, and painted out both
the facking and crosbyting lawes, which strumpets
vse to the destruction of the simple, yet willing to
search all the substance, as I haue glauncst at the
shadow, & to enter into the nature of villanie, as
I haue broacht vp the secretes of vice, I haue
thought good to publish this Dialogue, or dispu-
tation, betweene a hee Conny-catcher, and a shee
Conny-catcher, whether of them are most preiu-
diciall to the Common-wealth: discourfing the base
quallities of them both, and discouering the incon-
uenience that growes to men, through the lightnes of
inconstant wantons, who being wholly giuen to the
spoyle, seeke the ruine of such as light into their
companie. In this Dialogue, louing Country-men

shall you finde what preiudice enfues by haunting of whore-houfes, what dangers grows by dallying with common harlottes, what inconuenience follows the inordinate pleafures of vnchafte Libertines, (not onely by their confuming of their wealth, and impouerifhment of their goods and landes, but to the great indangering of their health). For in conuerfing / with them, they aime not fimply at the loffe of goods, and blemifh of their good names, but they fift for difeafes, fickneffe, fores incurable, vlcers bruffing out of the ioyntes, and fault rhumes, which by the humour of that villanie, lepte from *Naples* into *Fraunce* and from *Fraunce* into the bowels of *Englande*: which makes many crye out in their bones, whileft goodman Surgion laughs in his purfe : a thing to be feared as deadly while men liue, as hell is to be dreaded after death, for it not only infecteth the bodie, confumeth the foule, and wafte[th] wealth and worfhip, but ingraues a perpetuall fhame in the forehead of the partie fo abufed. Whereof Maifter Huggins hath well written in his Myrror of Magiftrates, in the perfon of Mempryciaus, exclaiming againft harlots: the verfes be thefe :

*Eschue vile Venus toyes, fhee cuts off age,
And learne this leffon oft, and tell thy friend,
By Pockes, death fodaine, begging, Harlots end.*

Besides I haue layde open the wily wisedome of ouerwise Curtizens, that with their cunning, can drawe on, not only poore nouices, but such as hold themselues maisters of their occupation. What flatteries they vse to bewitch, what sweet words to inueagle, what simple holines to intrap, what amorous glaunces, what smirking Ocyliades, what cringing curtesies, what stretching Adios, following a man like a bloodhound, with theyr eyes white, laying out of haire: what frouncing of tresses, what paintings, what Ruffes, Cuffes, and braueries, and all to betraie the eyes of the innocent nouice: whom when they haue drawne on to the bent of their bow, they strip like the prodigall childe, and turne out of doores like an outcast of the world. The Crocodile hath not more teares, Proteus, more shape, Ianus more faces, the Hieria, more fundry tunes to entrap the passengers, then our English Curtizens, to bee plaine, our English whores: to fet on fire the hearts of lasciuious and gazing strangers. These common, or rather confuming strumpets, whose throates are softer then oyle, and yet whose steppes leade vnto death. They haue their Ruffians to rifle, when they cannot fetch ouer with other cunning, their crossbiters attending vpon them, their foyfts, / their bufts, their nippes, and such like. Being wayted on by these villaines, as by ordinary seruantes, so that who thinkes him-

felfe wife inough to escape their flatteries, him they crosbyte, who holdes himfelfe to rule, to be bitten with a counterfeyt Apparater, him they rifle: if hee be not fo to bee verft vpon, they haue a foyft or a nyppe vpon him, and fo fting him to the quicke. Thus he that medles with pitch, cannot but be defiled, and he that acquainteth himfelfe or conuerfeth with any of thefe Conny catching ftrumpets, cannot but by fome way or other bee brought to confufion : for either hee muft hazard his foule, blemifh his good name, loofe his goods, light vppon difeafes, or at the leaft haue bene tyed to the humor of an harlot, whofe quiuer is open to euery arrow, who likes all that have fat purfes, and loues none that are deftitute of pence. I remember a Monke in *Diebus illis*, writ his opinion of the end of an Adulterer, thus :

*Quatuor his cafibus fine dubio cadet adulter,
Aut hic pauper e[r]it, aut hic subito morietur,
Aut cadet in caufum qua debet iudice vinci,
Aut aliquod membrum casu vell crimine perdet.*

Which I Englifhed thus :

*He that to Harlots lures do yeeld him thrall,
Through fowre misfortune too bad end shall fall :
Or fodaine death, or beggerie shall him chance,
Or guilt before a Iudge his shame inhance :*

*Or els by fault or fortune he shall leese
Some member, sure, escape[d] from one of these.*

Seeing then such inconuenience grows from the caterpillers of the Common-wealth, and that a multitude of the monsters here about *London*, particularly and generally abroad in *England*, to the great ouerthrow of many simple men that are inueagled by their flatteries, I thought good not only to discouer their villanies in a Dialogue, but also to manifest by an example, howe preiuditiall their life is, to the state of the land: that such as are warned by an instance, may learne and looke before they leape: / to that end kind Country-men, I haue set downe at the ende of the disputation, the wonderful life of a Curtezin, not a fiction, but a truth of one that yet liues, not now in an other forme repentant. In the discourse of whose life, you shall see how dangerous such truls be to all estates that be so simple as to trust theyr fained subtilties: heere shall parents learne, how hurtfull it is to cocker vp their youth in their follies, and haue a deepe insight how to bridle their daughters, if they see them any waies grow wantons: wishing therefore my labors may be a caueat to my country-men, to auoyde the companie of such coufoning Courtezins.

Farewell.

R. G. /





A disputation between Laurence a Foist
and faire Nan a Traffique, whether a Whore
or a Theefe is most preiuditiall.

Laurence.



NAire *Nan* well met, what newes about
your Vine Court that you looke so
blythe? your cherry cheekes dis-
couers your good fare, and your
braue apparell bewraies a fat purse:
is Fortune now alate growne so fauourable to
Foystes, that your husband hath lighted on some
large purchase, or hath your smooth lookes linckt
in some yong Nouice to sweate for a fauour all the
byte in his Bounge, and to leaue himfelfe as many
Crownes as thou hast got good conditions, and
then hee shall bee one of Pierce penileffe fraternitie:
how is it sweete wench, goes the worlde on wheelles,
that you tread so daintily on your typtoes?

Nan. Why *Laurence* are you pleafant or peeuiſh, that you quip with ſuch breefe girdes? thinke you a quarterne winde cannot make a quicke faile, that eaſie lyſtes cannot make heauy burthens, that women haue not wiles to compaſſe crownes as wel as men? yes & more, for though they be not ſo ſtrong in the fiſts, they bee more ripe in their wittes: and tis by wit that I liue and will liue, in diſpight of that peeuiſh ſcholler, that thought with his conny-catching bookes to haue croſbyt our trade. Doeſt thou maruell to ſee me thus briſkt? fayre wenches cannot want fauours, while the world is ſo full of amorous fooles: where can ſuch girles as my ſelfe bee blemiſht with a threedbare coat, as long as country Farmers haue full purſes, and wanton Citizens pockets full of pence?

Laur. Truth, if fortune ſo fauour thy husband, that hee be neither ſmoakt nor cloyed, for I am ſure all thy brauery comes by his Nipping, Foyſting, and liſting.

Nan. In faith ſir no, did I get no more by mine own wit, then I reap by his purchaſe, I might both go bare & penileſſe the whole yere, but minè eyes are ſtauls, & my hands lime twigs (els were I not worthie the name of a ſhe Connycatcher). *Cyrceſ* had neuer more charms, *Calipſo* more inchantments, the *Syrens* more ſubtil tunes, thē I haue crafty flightes to inueagle a Conny, and fetch in a country

Farmer. / *Laurence*, beleue mee, you men are but fooles, your gettings is vncertaine, and yet you still fish for the gallows: though by some great chance you light vppon a good bounge, yet you fast a great while after, whereas, as we mad wenches haue our tennants (for so I call euerie simple letcher and amorous Fox) as wel out of Tearme as in Tearme to bring vs our rentes, alas, were not my wits and my wanton pranks more profitable then my husbands foysting, we might often go to bed supperlesse for want of surfetting: and yet I dare sweare, my husband gets a hundredth pounds a yeare by bounes.

Lau. Why *Nan*, are you growne so stiffe, to thincke that your faire lookes can get as much as our nimble fingers, or that your facking can gaine as much as our foysting? no, no, *Nan*, you are two bowes downe the wind, our foyst will get more then twentie the proudest wenches in all *London*.

Nan. Lye a little further & giue mee some roome: what *Laurence* your toong is too lauish, all stands vpon prooffe, and sith I haue leifure and you no great busines, as being now when Powles is shut vp, and all purchasies and Connies in their burrowes, let vs to the Tauerne and take a roome to our selues, and there for the price of our suppers, I will proue that women, I meane of our facultie, a trafficque, or as base knaues tearme vs strumpets,

are more subtill, more dangerous, in the commonwealth, and more full of wyles to get crownes, then the cunningest Foyst, Nip, Lift, Praggas, or whatsoeuer that liues at this day.

Laur. Content, but who shall be moderater in our controuersies, sith in disputing *pro & contra* betwixt our selues, it is but your yea and my nay, and so neither of vs will yeeld to others victories.

Nan. Trust me *Laurence*, I am so assured of the conquest offering so in the strength of mine owne arguments, that when I haue reasoned, I will referre it to your iudgement and censure.

Laur. And trust mee as I am an honest man, I will bee indifferent.

Nan. Oh sweare not so deeply, but let mee first heare what you can say for your selfe.

Laur. What? why more *Nan*, then can be painted out in a great volume, but briefly this, I need not discribe the lawes of villanie, because R. G. hath so amply pend them downe in the first part of Conny-catching, that though I be one of the facultie, yet I cannot disco/uer more then hee hath layde open. Therefore first to the Gentlemen Foyst, I pray you what finer qualitie: what Art is more excellent either to trie the ripenes of the wit, or the agilitie of the hand then that? for him that wil be maister of his Trade, must passe the proudest Iugler aliue, the poynts of *Leger de*

maine: he must haue an eye to spye the bounge or purse, and then a heart to dare to attempt it, for this by the way, he that feares the Gallows shal neuer be good thiefe while he liues: hee must as the Cat watch for a Moufe, and walke Powles, Westminster, the Exchange, and such common haunted places, and there haue a curious eye to the person, whether he be Gentleman, Citizen or Farmer, and note, either where his bounge lyes, whether in his hoase or pockets, and then dogge the partie into a presse where his staule with heauing and shouing shall so molest him, that hee shall not feele when wee strip him of his bounge, although it be neuer so fast or cunningly coucht about him: what poore Farmer almost can come to plead his case at the barre, to attend vpon his Lawyers at the bench, but looke he neuer so narrowly to it we haue his purse, wherein some time there is fat purchase, twentie or thirtie poundes: and I pray you how long would one of your Traffiques be earning so much with your Chamber worke? Besides, in faires and markets, and in the circuites after Iudges, what infinit mony is gotten from honest meaning men, that either busie about their necessarie affaires, or carelesly looking to their Crownes, light amongst vs that be foyfts: tush wee dissemble in show, we goe so neat in apparrell, so orderly in outward appearance, some like Lawyers Clarkes,

others like Seruingmen that attended there about their maisters businesse, that wee are hardly smoakt: verfing vpon all men with kinde courtesies and faire wordes, and yet being fo warily watchfull, that a good purfe cannot be put vp in a faire, but wee figh if wee fhare it not amongft vs, and though the bookes of Conny-catching hath fomewhat hindred vs, and brought many braue foystes to the haulter, yet fome of our Country farmers, nay of our Gentlemen and Citizens, are fo carelesse in a throng of people, that they fhew vs the praie, and fo draw on a theefe, and bequeath vs their purfes whether we will or no: for who loues wyne fo ill, that hee will not eate grapes if they fall into his mouth, and who is fo bafe, that if he fee a pocket faire before him, wil not foyft in if he may, or if foyfting will not ferue, vfe his knife and nip? for althogh there bee fome foyfts that will not vfe their kniues, yet I hold him not a perfect worke-man / or maifter of his Myfterie, that will not cut a purfe as well as Foyft a pocket, and hazard any limme for fo sweet a gaine as gold: how anfwere you me this breefe obiection *Nan*? can you compare with either our cunning to get our gaines in purchafe?

Nan. And haue you no ftronger arguments goodman *Laurence*, to argue your excellencie in villanie but this? then in faith put vp your pipes,

and giue mee leaue to ſpeake: your choplodgicke hath no great ſubtiltie for ſimple: you reaſon of foyſting, & appropriate that to your ſelues, to you men I meane, as though there were not women Foyſts and Nippes, as neat in that Trade as you, of as good an eye, as fine and nimble a hand, and of as reſolute a heart, yes *Laurence*, and your good miſtreſſes in that myſtery: for we without like ſuſpition can paſſe in your walkes vnder the couler of ſimplicitie to *Westminster*, with a paper in our hand, as if we were diſtreſſed women, that had ſome ſupplication to put vp to the Iudges, or ſome bill of information to deliuer to our Lawyers, when God wot, we ſhuffle in for a bounſe as well as the beſt of you all, yea as your ſelfe *Laurence*, though you be called King of Cut-purſes: for though they ſmoke you, they will hardly miſtruſt vs, and ſuppoſe our ſtomacke ſtand againſt it to foyſt, yet who can better playe the ſtaule or the ſhadowe then wee? for in a thruſt or throng if we ſhoue hard, who is hee that will not fauour a woman, and in giuing place to vs, giue you free paſſage for his purſe? Againe, in the market, when euerie wife hath almoſt her hand on her bounſe, and that they crie beware the Cutpurſe and Conny-catchers, then I as faſt as the beſt with my hand baſket as mannerly as if I were to buye great ſtore of butter and egges for prouiſion of my houſe, do exclaime

againſt them with my hand on my purſe, and ſay the worlde is badde when a woman cannot walke ſafely to market for feare of theſe villanous Cut-purſes, when as the firſt boung I come to, I either nip or foyſt, or els ſtaule an other while hee hath ſtroken, diſpatcht, and gone : now I pray you gentle ſir, wherein are we inferiour to you in foyſting? and yet this is nothing to the purpoſe. For it is one of our moſt ſimpleſt ſhifts: but yet I pray you, what thinke you when a farmer, gentleman, or Citizen, come to the Tearme, perhaps hee is wary of his purſe, and watch him neuer ſo warily, yet he will neuer be brought to the blow, is it not poſſible for vs to pinch him ere hee paſſe? hee that is moſt charie of his crownes abroad, and will cry ware the Conny-catchers, will not be afraide to drinke a pinte of wine with a prety wench, / and perhaps goe to a trugging houſe to ferry out one for his purpoſe: then with what cunning we can feede the ſimple fop, with what fayre wordes, ſweete kiſſes, fained fighes, as if at that inſtant we fell in loue with him that we neuer ſaw before: if we meet him in an euening in the ſtreet, if the farmer or other whatſoeuer, bee not ſo forward as to motion ſome curteſie to vs, we ſtraight inſinuate into his company, and claime acquaintance of him by ſome meanes or other, and if his minde be ſet for luſt, and the diuell driue him on to match him

felfe with fome difhoneft wanton, then let him looke to his purfe, for if he do but kiffe me in the ftreete, Ile haue his purfe, for a farewell, although hee neuer commit any other act at all. I fpeake not this onely by my felfe, *Lawrence*, for there bee a hundredth in *London* more cunning then my felfe in this kinde of cunny-catching. But if hee come into a houfe, then let our trade alone to verfe vpon him: for firft we faine ourfelues hungry, for the benefit of the houfe, although our bellies were neuer fo ful, and no doubt the good Pander or Bawde fhee comes foorth like a sober Matron, and fets ftore of Cates on the Table, and then I fall aboard on them, and though I can eate little, yet I make hauocke of all, and let him be fure euerie difh is well fauct, for hee fhall pay for a pipping Pye that coft in the Market four pence, at one of the Trugging houfes xviii. pence: tush what is daintie if it bee not deare bought? and yet he muft come off for crownes besides, and when I fee him draw to his purfe, I note the putting vp of it well, and ere wee part, that worlde goes hard if I foyft him not of all that hee hath: and then fuppose the woorft, that he miffe it, am I fo fimplly acquainted or badly prouided, that I haue not a friend, which with a few terrible oathes and countenance fet, as if he were the proudeft Souldado that euer bare armes againft *Don Iohn of Austria*, will

face him quite out of his money, and make him walke lyke a woodcocke homeward by weeping crosse, and so buy repentance with all the crownes in his purse? How say you to this *Lawrence*, whether are women Foystes inferiour to you in ordinarie coufonage or no?

Laur. Excellently well reasoned *Nan*, thou hast told mee wonders, but wench though you be wily and strike often, your blowes are not so big as ours.

Nan. Oh but note the subiect of our disputation, and that is this, which are more subtill and daungerous to the Common-wealth? and to that I argue. /

Laur. I and beshrow me, but you reason quaintly, yet wil I proue your wittes are not so ripe as ours, nor so readie to reach into the subtillies of kinde coufonage, and though you appropriate to your selfe the excellencie of Conny-catching, and that you doo it with more Art then we men do, because of your painted flatteries and fugged words, that you flourish rethorically like nettes to catch fooles, yet will I manifest with a merry instance, a feate done by a Foyst, that exceeded any that euer was done by any mad wench in *England*.

A pleasant Tale of a Country Farmer, that tooke it in scorn to haue his purse cut or drawne from him, and how a Foyst serued him.

IT was told me for a truth that not long since here in *London*, there laie a country Farmar, with diuers of his neighbours about Law matters, amongst whom, one of them going to Westminster Hall, was by a Foyst stript of all the pence in his purse, and coming home, made great complaint of his misfortune: some lamented his losse, and others exclaimed against the Cutpurses, but this Farmer he laught loudly at the matter, and said such fooles as could not keep their purses no surer, were well serued, and for my part quoth hee, I so much scorne the Cutpurses, that I would thank him hartily that would take paines to foyst mine: well saies his neighbor, then you may thank me, sith my harmes learns you to beware, but if it be true, that many things fall out between the cup and the lip, you know not what hands Fortune may light in your owne lap: tush quoth the Farmar, heeres fortie pounds in this purse in gold, the proudest Cutpurse in *England* win and weare it: as thus he boasted, there stood a subtill Foyst by and heard all, smiling to himselfe at the folly of the proude Farmar, and vowed to haue his purse, or venture his necke for it, and so went home and bewrayed

it to a crue of his companions, who taking it in 'dudgion, that they should be put down by a Pefant, met either at *Laurence Pickerings*, or at *Lambeth*: let the Blackamore take heede I name him not, leaft an honorable neighbor of his frowne at it, but wherfoeuer they met, they held a conuocation, and both confulted and concluded all by a generall confent, to bend all their wits to bee poffeffers of this Farmers Bounge, and for the execution of this their vow, they haunted about the Inne where he laie, and dogd him into diuers / places, both to *Westminster Hall* and other places, and yet could neuer light vpon it: he was fo watchfull and fmoakt them fo narrowly, that all their trauell was in vaine: at laft one of them fledde to a more cunning pollicie, and went and learnde the mans name and where hee dwelt, and then hyed him to the Counter and entered an Action againft him of trespaffe, damages two hundreth pounds: when hee had thus done, hee feed the Sargiants, and carried them downe with him to the mans lodging, wifhing them not to arreft him till he commaunded them: well agreed they were, and downe to the Farmers lodging they came, where were a crue of Foyftes, whom he had made priuy to the end of his practife, flood wayting, but he tooke no knowledge at all of them, but walkt vp and downe: the Farmer came out and went to

Powles, the Cutpurse bad staie, and would not yet suffer the Officers to medle with him, til he came into the West end of Paules Churchyard, and there he willed them to do their Office, and they stepping to the Farmer arrested him : the Farmer amazed, beeing amongst his neighbors, asked the Sargiant at whose suite hee was troubled? at whose suite foeuer it be, sayd one of the Cutpurses that stood by, you are wrongd honest man, for hee hath arested you here in a place of priuiledge, where the Sherifes nor the Officers haue nothing to do with you, and therefore you are vnwise if you obey him: tush saies an other Cutpurse, though the man were so simple of himselfe, yet shall hee not offer the Church so much wrong, as by yeelding to the Mace, to imbollish Paules libertie, and therefore I will take his part, and with that hee drew his swoord: another tooke the man and haled him away, the Officer he stooke hard to him, and sayd hee was his true prisoner, and cride Clubbes: the Prentises arose, and there was a great hurly burly, for they tooke the Officers part, so that the poore Farmer was mightily turmoyle amongst them, and almost haled in peeces: whilest thus the strife was, one of the Foystes had taken his purse away, and was gone, and the Officer carried the man away to a Tauerne, for he swore he knew no such man, nor any man that he was indebted too: as then

they fatte drinking of a quart of wine, the Foyft that had caufed him to be arrefted fent a note by a Porter to the Officer that he fhould releafe the Farmer, for he had miftaken the man, which note the Officer fhewed him, and bad him pay his fees and go his waies: the poore Country-man was content with that, and put his hand in his pocket to feele for his purfe, and God wot there was none, which made his / heart far more cold then the arreft did, and with that fetching a great figh he fayd, alas maifters I am vndone, my purfe in this fraie is taken out of my pocket, and ten pounds in gold in it befides white money. Indeed fayd the Sargiant, commonly in fuch brawles the cutpurfes be bufie, and I pray God the quarell was not made vpon purpofe by the pickpockets: well faies his neighbor, who fhall fmile at you now? the other day when I loft my purfe you laught at mee: the Farmer brooke all, and fat malecontent, and borrowed money of his neighbors to paye the Sargiant, and had a learning I beleue [n]euer after to braue the cutpurfe.

How fay you to this miftrefse *Nan*, was it not well done? what choyce witted wench of your facultie, or ſhe Foyft, hath euer done the like? tush *Nan*, if we begin once to apply our wittes, all your inuentions are follies towards ours.

Nan. You fay good goodman *Laurence*, as

though your subtilties were fodaine as womens are, come but to the olde Prouerbe, and I put you downe, Tis as hard to find a Hare without a Mufe, as a woman without a scufe, and that wit that can deuise a cunningg lye, can plot the intent of deep villanies : I grant this fetch of the foyft was prettie, but nothing in respect of that we wantons can compaffe, and therefore to quit your tale with an other, heare what a mad wench of my profession did alate to one of your facultie.

*A passing pleasant Tale, how a whore Conny-catcht
a Foyst.*

THere came out of the country a Foyft, to trie his experience here in Westminster Hall, and strooke a hand or two, but the diuell a snap he would giue to our citizen Foystes, but wrought warily, and could not be fetcht off by no meanes, and yet it was knowne he had some twentie poundes about him, but hee had planted it so cunningly in his doublet that it was sure inough for finding. Although the cittie Foysts layde all the plottes they could, as well by discouerying him to the Gaylors as other wayes, yet hee was so pollitique, that they could not verse vpon him by any meanes, which greeued them so, that one day at a dinner, they held a counsayle amongst themselves how to couzen him, but in vain, til at last

a good wench that fat by, vndertooke it, so they would sweare to let her haue all that hee had: they confirmed / it solemly, and she put it in practise thus: she subtilly insinuated her selfe into this Foyfts company, who seeing her a prettie wench, began after twise meeting to waxe familiar with her, and to question about a nights lodging: after a little nyce louing & bidding, she was content for her supper and what els hee would of curtesie bestowe vpon her, for she held it scorne shee sayd, to set a salarie price on her bodie: the Foyft was gladd of this, and yet hee would not trust her, so that hee put no more but tenne shillings in his pocket, but hee had aboue twentie poundes twilted in his doublet: well, to be short, suppertime came, and thither comes my gentle Foyft, who making good cheere, was so eagar of his game, that hee would straight to bedde by the leaue of dame Bawde, who had her fee too, and there hee laye till about midnight, when three or foure old Hacksters whom she had prouided vpon purpose came to the doore and rapt lustely: who is there? sayes the Bawde looking out of the window: marry say they, such a Iustice, and named one about the Cittie that is a mortall enemy to Cutpurfes: who is come to searck your house for a Iesuite and other suspected persons: alas sir sayes shee I haue none heere: well quoth they, oape the doore: I will sayes

fhee, and with that fhee came into the Foystes Chamber, who heard all this, and was afraide it was some fearch for him, fo that hee defired the Bawde to helpe him that hee might not be feene: why then quoth fhee, fteppe into this Clofet: hee whipt in haftely and neuer remembred his cloathes: fhe lockt him in fafe, and then let in the crue of Rakehels, who making as though they fearchit euerye chamber, came at laft into that where his Lemman laie, and asked her what fhee was? fhee as if fhe had been afrayde, defired their worshippes to bee good to her, fhee was a poore Countrey mayde come vp to the Tearme: and who is that quoth they, that was in bedde with you? none forfooth faies fhee: no faies one, that is a lye, here is the print of two, and besides, wherefoeuer the Foxe is, here is his skinne, for this is his doublet and hoafe: then downe fhe falles vppon her knees, and faies indeed it was her husband: your husband quoth they, nay that cannot be fo Minion, for why then wold you haue denied him at the first: with that one of them turnde to the Bawd, and did question with her what he was, and where hee was: truly fir fayes fhe, they came to my houle and fayd they were man and wife, and for / my part I know them for no other: and hee being afrayd, is indeed to confesse the troth, fhut vp in the Cloffet. No doubt if it please your worships faies one rakehell,

- I warrant you hee is some notable Cutpurse or pickpocket, that is afrayd to shew his face: come and open the Closet, and let vs looke on him: nay fir saies she not for tonight, I beseech your worship carry no man out of my house: I will giue my word hee shall bee foorth comming tomorrow morning: your word dame Bawde saies one, tis not worth a straw: you hufwife that saies ye are his wife, ye shall go with vs, and for him that we may be sure hee may not start, Ile take his doublet, hoafe and cloake, and tomorrow Ile fend them to him by one of my men: were there a thousand poundes in them, there shall not be a peny diminisht: the whore kneeled downe on her knees and fayned to cry pittifully, and desired the Iustice which was one of her companions, not to carry her to prison: yes hufwife quoth he, your mate and you shall not tarry together in one house, that you may make your tales all one: and therefore bring her away, and after ye dame Bawde see you lend him no other cloaths, for I wil fend his in the morning betimes, and come you with him to answer for lodging him. I will fir saies she, and so away goes the wench & her companions laughing, and left the Bawde and the Foyft: assoone as the Bawde thought good, shee vnlockt the Closet and curst the time that euer they came in her house: now quoth shee, here wil be a fayre adoo, how will you answere for your

felfe, I feare mee I fhall be in danger of the Cart : well quoth he, to be fhort, I would not for fortie poundes come afore the Iuftice : marry no more would I quoth ſhe, let me ſhift if you were conueyed hence, but I haue not a rag of mans apparell in the houſe : why quoth he, ſeeing it is early morning, lend me a blanket to put about me, and I wil ſcape to a friends houſe of mine : then leaue me a pawne quoth the Bawde : alas I haue none ſaies he but this ring on my finger : why that quoth ſhe, or tarry while the Iuftice comes : ſo he gaue it her, tooke the blanket and went his waies, whether I know not but to ſome friends houſe of his. Thus was this wily Foyſt by the wit of a ſubtill wench, cunningly ſtript of all that hee had and turnde to graſſe to get more fat.

Nan. How ſay you to this deuiſe *Lawrence*, was it not excellent? What thinke you of a womans wit if it can woorke ſuch woonders?

Laur. Marry I thinke my mother was wifer then all the honeſt / women of the pariſh beſides.

Nan. Why then belike ſhee was of our facultie, and a Matrone of my profeſſion, nimble of her handes, quick of toong, and light of her taile : I ſhould haue put in ſir reuerence, but a foule word is good enough for a filthie knaue.

Laur. I am glad you are ſo pleaſant *Nan*, you were not ſo merry when you went to *Dunſtable* :

but indeede I must needes confesse that women Foyfts if they be carefull in their trades are (though not so common) yet more daungerous then men Foystes: women haue quicke wittes, as they haue short heeles, and they can get with pleasure, what wee fish for with danger: but now giuing you the bucklers at this weapon, let me haue a blow with you at another.

Nan. But before you induce any more arguments, by your leaue in a litle by talke, you know *Laurence* that though you can foyft, nyp, prig, lift, courbe, and vse the blacke Art, yet you cannot crosbite without the helpe of a woman, which crosbiting now adaies is growne to a maruellous profitable exercife: for some cowardly knaues that for feare of the gallowse, leaue nipping and foyfting, become Crosbites, knowing there is no danger therein but a litle punishment, at the most the Pillorie, and that is faued with a litle *Vnguentum Aureum*: as for example, *Iacke Rhoades* is now a reformed man: whatsoeuer he hath been in his youth, now in his latter daies hee is growne a corrector of vice, for whomsoeuer hee takes suspitious with his wife, I warrant you he sets a sure fine on head, though he hath nothing for his mony but a bare kisse: and in this Art wee poore wenches are your surest props and staie. If you will not beleue mee, aske poore A. B. in Turnmill street, what a

fawcie Signor there is, whose purblind eyes can scarcely discern a Lowse from a Flea, and yet hee hath such insight into the mysticall Trade of Crosbiting, that hee can furnish his boord, with a hundreth poundes worth of Plate? I doubt the sandeyde Affe, will kicke like a Western Pugge if I rubbe him on the gaule, but tis no matter if hee finde himselfe toucht and stirre, although hee boastes of the chiefe of the Clargies fauour, yet Ile so fet his name out, that the boyes at Smithfield barres shall chalke him on the backe for a Crosbite: tush you men are foppes in fetching nouices ouer the coales: hearken to me *Lawrence*, Ile tell thee a woonder. Not far off from *Hogsdon*, perhaps it was there, and if you thinke I lye, aske maister *Richard Chot*, and maister *Richard Strong*, two honest gentle / men that can witnesse as well as I, this prooffe of a womans witte. There dweltt here somtimes a good auncient Matron that had a faire wench to her daughter, as yong and tender as a morrow masse priests Lemman: her, shee fet out to sale in her youth, and drew on fundrie to bee futers to her daughter, some wooers, and some speeders, yet none married her, but of her bewtie they made a profite, and inueagled all, till they had spent vpon her what they had, and then forfooth, she and her yoong Pigion turne them out of doores like prodigall children: she was acquainted with

Dutch & French, Italian & Spaniard, as wel as English, & at last, as so often the Pitcher goes to the brooke that it comes broken home, my faire daughter was hit on the master vaine and gotten with childe: now the mother to colour this matter to faue her daughters marriage, begins to weare a Cushion vnder her owne kirtle, and to faine her selfe with childe, but let her daughter passe as though she ailde nothing: when the fortie weekes were come, & that my young mistres must needs cry out forsooth, this olde B. had gotten hufwifes answerable to her selfe, and so brought her daughter to bed, and let her go vp and downe the house, and the old Croane lay in childbed as though shee had been deliuered, and sayd the childe was hers, and so faued her daughters scape: was not this a wittie wonder maister *Lawrence*, wrought by an olde Witch, to haue a childe in her age, and make a yong whoore seeme an honest virgin: tush this is litle to the purpose, if I should recite all, how many shee had coufoned vnder the pretence of marriage: well poore plaine *Signor, See*, you were not stiffe inough for her, although it cost you many crownes and the losse of your seruice. Ile say no more, perhaps she will amend her maners. Ah *Lawrence* how lyke you of this geare? in Crosbyting wee put you downe, God wot it is little lookt too in and about *London*, and yet .I may say to thee,

many a good Citizen is Crosbyt in the yeare by odde *Walkers* abroad: I heard some named the other day as I was drinking at the Swanne in *Lambethe Marthe*: but let them aloane, tis a foule byrd that defiles the owne neast, and it were a shame for me to speake against any good wenches or boon Companions, that by their wittes can wrest mony from a Churle. I feare me R. G. will name them too soone in his black booke: a pestilence on him, they say, hee hath there fet downe my husbandes pettigree, and yours too *Lawrence*: if he do it, I feare me your brother in law *Bull*, is like to be troubled with you both. /

Laur. I know not what to say to him *Nan* [he] hath plagued mee alreadie: I hope hee hath done with me, and yet I heard say, hee would haue about at my Nine boales: but leauing him as an enemy of our trade, again to our disputation. I cannot deny *Nan*, but you haue fet down strange Prefidents of womens preiudicial wits, but yet though you be Crosbites, Foyfts, and Nips, yet you are not good Lifts, which is a great helpe to our facultie, to filche a boulte of Satten or Veluet.

Nan. Stay thee a word, I thought thou hadst spoken of R. B. of Long Lane and his wife: take heed, they be parlous folks and greatly acquainted with keepers and Gaylers: therefore meddle not you with them, for I heare say R. G. hath sworne

in despight of the brafill staffe, to tell such a fowle Tale of him in his blacke Booke, that it will cost him a daungerous Ioynt.

Laur. *Nan, Nan,* let R. G. beware, for had not an ill fortune falne to one of R. B. his friends, he could take little harme.

Nan. Who is that *Lawrence*?

Laur. Nay I will not name him.

Nan. Why then I prythie what misfortune befell him?

Laur. Marry *Nan,* hee was strangely washt alate by a French Barbar, and had all the haire of his face miraculously shaued off by the Sythe of Gods vengeance, in so much that some sayd he had that he had not: but as hap was howsoeuer his haire fell off, it stoad him in some stead when the brawle was alate, for if hee had not cast off his beard and so being vnknowne, it had cost him some knockes, but it fell out to the best.

Nan. The more hard fortune that hee had such ill hap, but hastie iournies breed dangerous sweates, and the Phisitians call it the Ale *Peria*: yet omitting all this, againe to where you left.

Laur. You haue almost brought me out of my matter, but I was talking about the Lift, commending what a good quallitie it was, and how hurtfull it was, seeing we practise it in Mercers shops, with Haberdashers of small wares, Haberdashers of

Hattes and Cappes, amongst Marchaunt Taylors for Hoafe and Doublets, and in fuche places getting much gains by Lifting, when there is no good purchase abroad for Foyfting.

Nan. Suppose you are good at the lift, who be more cunning thē we / women in that we are more trusted, for they little suspect vs, and we haue as close conueyance as you men: though you haue Cloakes, we haue skirts of gownes, handbaskets, the crownes of our hattes, our plackardes, and for a need, false bagges vnder our smockes, wherein we can conuey more closely then you.

Laur. I know not where to touch you, you are so wittie in your answeres, and haue so many starting hoales, but let mee bee pleasant with you a little, what say you to priggin or horse stealing? I hope you neuer had experience in that facultie.

Nan. Alas simple sot, yes and more shift to shunne the gallowes then you.

Laur. Why tis impossible.

Nan. In faith fir no, and for prooffe, I will put you downe with a storie of a madde, merry, little, dapper, fine wench, who at *Spilby* Fayre had three horse of her owne or an others mans to sell: as shee her husband, and an other good fellow, walkt them vp and downe the faire, the owner came and apprehended them all, and clapt them in prison: the Taylor not keeping them close prisoners, but letting

them lye all in a Chamber, by her wit she so instructed them in a formall tale, that she faued all their liues thus. Being brought the next morrow after their apprehension, before the Iustices, they examined the men how they came by those horses, and they confest they met her with them, but where shee had them they knewe not: then was my prettie peate brought in, who being a handsome Trul, blusht as if she had been full of grace, and being demanded where she had the horses, made this answere, may it please your worships, this man being my husband, playing the vnthrift as many more haue done, was absent from mee for a quarter of a yeare, which greued me not a little, infomuch that desirous to see him, and hauing intelligence he wold be at *Spilby* faire, I went thither euen for pure loue of him on foote, and beeing within some tenne myles of the Towne, I waxed passing weary and rested me often and grew very faynt: at last there came ryding by me a Seruing man in a blew coat, with three horses tyed one at anothers tayle, which he led as I gest to fell at the faire: the Seruingman seeing mee so tyred, tooke pitie on me, and asked me if I would ride on one of his emptie horses, for his owne would not beare double: I thankt him hartily, and at the next hill got vp, and roade till we came to a Towne within three miles of *Spilby*, where the Seruingman alighted at a /

house, and bad me ride on afore, and he would presently ouertake mee: well forward I road halfe a myle, and looking behinde mee could see no bodie, so being alone, my heart began to rise, and I to thinke on my husband: as I had ridde a little farther, looking downe a lane, I saw two men comming lustily vp as if they were weary, & marking them earnestly, I saw one of them was my husband, which made my heart as light as before it was sad: so staying for them, after a little vnkinde greeting betwixt vs, for I chid him for his vnthriftinesse, he asked me where I had the horse, and I tolde him how curteously the Seruingman had vsed me: why then saies hee, staie for him: nay quoth I, lets ryde on, and get you two vp on the emptie horses, for he will ouertake vs ere we come at the Towne: hee rydes on a stout lustie yoong gelding: so forward wee went, and lookt often behinde vs, but our Seruingman came not: at last we comming to *Spilby* alighted, & broake our fast, and tied our horses at the doore, that if he passed by, seeing them, hee might call in: after wee had broake our fast, thinking hee had gone some other way, wee went into the horse faire, and there walkt our horses vp and downe to meete with the Seruingman, not for the intent to sell them. Now may it please your worship, whether hee had stolne the horses from this honest man or no, I knowe not,

but alas, fimply I brought them to the horfe faire, to let him that deliuered me them haue them againe, for I hope your worships doth imagine, if I had stolne them as it is fufpected, I would neuer haue brought them into fo publicke a place to fell, yet if the law bee any way dangerous for the foolish deed becaufe I know not the Seruingman it is, I muft bide the punishment, and as guiltleffe as any heere: and fo making a low courtfie ſhee ended. The Iuftice holding vp his hand and wondring at the womans wit that had cleared her husband and his friend, and faued her felfe without compaffe of law. How like you of this *Lawrence*, cannot wee wenches prigge well.

Laur. By God *Nan*, I thincke I ſhall be faine to giue you the bucklars.

Nan. Alas good *Lawrence*, thou art no Logitian, thou canſt not reaſon for thy felfe, nor haſt no wittie arguments to draw me to an exigent, and therefore giue mee leaue at large to reaſon for this ſupper: remember the ſubieſt of our diſputation, is this poſitiue queſtion, whether whores or theeues are moſt preiudiciall to the Commonwealth? alas, you poore theeues do only ſteale and purloine from men, / and the harme you do is to imbolliſh mens goods, and bring them to pouertie: this is the only end of mens theeuery, and the greateſt preiudice that growes from robbing or filching: fo much do

we by our theft, and more by our lecherie, for what is the end of whoredome but consuming of goods and beggery? and besides perpetuall infamie, we bring yoong youthes to ruine and vtter destruction: I pray you *Lawrence* whether had a Marchants sonne hauing wealthie parents, better light vpon a whoore then a Cutpurse, the one only taking his money, the other bringing him to vtter confusion? for if the Foyst light vpon him or the Conny-catcher, he looseth at the most some hundreth poundes, but if hee fall into the companie of a whoore, shee flatters him, shee inueagles him, shee bewitcheth him, that hee spareth neither goods nor landes to content her, that is onely in loue with his coyne: if he be married, hee forsakes his wife, leaues his children, despiseth his friendes, onely to fatisfie his lust with the loue of a base whoore, who when he hath spent all vpon her and hee brought to beggerie, beateth him out lyke the Prodigall childe, and for a small reward, brings him if to the fairest ende to beg, if to the second, to the gallowes, or at the last and worst, to the Pockes, or as preiudiciall diseases. I pray you *Lawrence* when any of you come to your confession at *Tyborne*, what is your last sermon that you make? that you were brought to that wicked and shamefull ende by following of harlots, for to that end doo you steale to maintaine whoores, and to con-

tent their bad humors. Oh *Lawrence* enter into your owne thoughts, and thinke what the faire wordes of a wanton will do, what the smiles of a strumpet will driue a man to act, into what ieopardie a man will thrust himselfe for her that he loues, although for his sweete villanie, he be brought to loathsome leprosie: tush *Lawrence*, they say the Poxe came from *Naples*, some from *Spaine*, some from *France*, but whersoouer it first grew, it is so surely now rooted in *England*, that by *S. (Syth)* it may better be called *A Morbus Anglicus* then *Gallicus*, and I hope you will graunt, all these Frenche fauours grewe from whoores: besides in my high louing or rather creeping, I meane where men and women do robbe together, there alwaies the woman is most bloodie, for she alwayes vrgeth vnto death, and though the men wold only satisfie themselues with the parties coyne, yet shee endeth her theft in blood, murthering parties so deeply as she is malicious. I / hope gentle *Lawrence* you cannot contradict these reasons they bee so openly manifestly probable. For mine owne part, I hope you doo not imagine but I haue had some friendes besides poore *George* my husband: alas, hee knowes it, and is content lyke an honest simple suffragen, to bee corriual with a number of other good companions, and I haue made many a good man, I meane a man that hath a housholde, for the loue

of mee to goe home and beate his poore wife, when God wotte I mocke him for the money hee spent, and hee had nothing for his pence but the waste beleauings of others beastly labours. *Lawrence, Lawrence,* if Concubines could inueagle *Salomon,* if *Dalilah* could betraie *Sampson,* then wonder not if we more nice in our wickednes then a thousand such *Dalilahs,* can seduce poore yoong Nouices to their vtter destructions. Search the Gayles, there you shall heare complaintes of whoores, looke into the Spittles and Hospitalles, there you shall see men diseased of the French Marbles, giuing instruction to others that are sayd to beware of whoores: bee an Auditor or eare witnesse at the death of any theefe, and his last Testament is, Take heed of a whoore: I dare scarce speake of Bridewell because my shoulders tremble at the name of it, I haue so often deserued it, yet looke but in there, and you shall heare poore men with their handes in their Piggen hoales crye, Oh fie vpon whoores, when *Fouler* giues them the terrible lash: examine beggars that lye lame by the highway, and they say they came to that miserie by whoores: some threedbare citizens that from Marchants and other good trades, grow to bee base Infourmers and Knightes of the Poste, crye out whē they dine with Duke Humfrey, Oh what wickednes comes from whoores: Prentises that runnes from their

maisters, cryes out vpon whoores. Tush *Lawrence*, what enormities procedes more in the Commonwealth then from whooredome? But sith tis almost supper time, and myrth is the friend to digestion, I meane a little to bee pleasaunt. I pray you how many badde profittes againe growes from whoores? Bridewell would haue verie fewe Tenants, the Hospitall would want Patientes, and the Surgians much woorke, the Apothecaries would haue surphaling water and Potato rootes lye deade on theyr handes, the Paynters coulde not dispatche and make away theyr Vermilion, if tallow faced whoores vsde it / not for their cheekes: how should fir Iohns Broades men doo if wee were not? why *Lawrence*, the Gally would bee moord and the blewe Boore so leane, that he would not be mans meate, if we of the Trade were not to supply his wants: doo you thinke in conscience the Peacocke could burnish his faire tayle, were it not the whore of *Babilon* and such like, makes him lustie with crownes? no no, though the Talbot hath bitten some at the game, yet new fresh huntsmen shake the she crue out of the cupples. What should I say more *Lawrence*, the Suberbes should haue a great misse of vs, and *Shordish* wold complaine to dame Anne a Cleare, if we of the sifterhood should not vphold her iollitie: who is that *Lawrence* comes in to heare our talke? Oh tis the boy, *Nan*, that tels vs supper

is readie: why then *Lawrence* what fay you to me? haue I not prooued that in foyfting and nipping we excell you, that there is none fo great inconuenience in the Common wealth, as growes from whores, firft for the corrupting of youth, infecting of age, for breeding of brawles, whereof enfues murther, in fo much that the ruine of many men comes from vs, and the fall of many youthes of good hope, if they were not feduced by vs, doo proclaime at *Tyborne*, that wee be the meanes of their miferie: you men theeues touch the bodie and wealth, but we ruine the foule, and indanger that which is more pretious then the worldes treasure: you make worke onely for the gallowes, we both for the gallowes and the diuel, I and for the Surgian too, that fome liues like loathsome laizers, and die with the French Marbles. Whereupon I conclude, that I haue wonne the fupper.

Laur. I confesse it *Nan*, for thou haft tolde mee fuch wonderous villanies, as I thought neuer could haue been in women, I meane of your profeffion: why you are Crocodiles when you weepe, Bafilisks when you smile, Serpents when you deuife, and diuels cheefest broakers to bring the world to diftruction. And fo *Nan* lets fit downe to our meate and be merry.

THus Countrymen you haue heard the disputation between these two coufoning companions, wherein I haue shakte out the notable villany of whores, although mistresse *Nan* this good Oratresse, hath sworne to weare a long Hamborough knife to stabbe mee, and all the crue haue protested my death: and to prooue they ment good earnest, they belegard me about in the Saint Iohns head within Ludgate: / beeing at supper, there were some fourtéene or fiftéene of them met, and thought to haue made that the fatall night of my ouerthrowe, but that the courteous Cittizens and Apprentifes tooke my part, and so two or thrée of them were carried to the Counter, although a Gentleman in my company was fore hurt. I cannot deny but they beginne to waste away about *London*, and *Tyborne* (since the setting out of my booke) hath eaten vp many of them: and I will plague them to the extremitie: let them doe what they dare with their bilbowe blades, I feare them not: and to giue them their last adue, looke shortly Countrimen for a Phamphet against them, called *The blacke Booke*, contayning foure newe Lawes neuer spoken of yet, *The creeping Law* of petty théeues, that rob about the Suburbes, *The lymiting Lawe*, discourfing the orders of such as followe Iudges, in their circuites, and goe about from Fayre to Fayre. *The Iugging Law*, wherein I will fet out the

disorders at Nynholes and Ryfling, how they are onely for the benefite of the Cutpurfes. *The stripping Lawe*, wherein I will lay open the lewde abufes of fundry Iaylors in *England*. Befide, you fhall fee there what houfes there bee about the Suburbes and townes ende, that are receyuers of Cut purfes ftolne goods, Lifts, and fuch like. And laftly, looke for a Bed-roll or Catalogue, of all the names of the Foyftes, Nyps, Lifts, and Priggars, in and about *London* : and although some fay I dare not doe it, yet I will fhortly fet it abroach, and whofoeuer I name or touch, if hee thinke himfelfe greeued, I will aunfwere him before the Honourable priuie Counfayle.

*The conuerfion of an English
Courtizan.*

Sith to difcouer my parentage, would double the grieffe of my lyuing Parents, and reuiue in them, the memory of my great amiffe, and that my vntoward fall, would be a difhonour to the houfe from whence I came. Sith to manifeft ſ place of my birth would be a blemifh (through my beaftly life fo badly misledde) to the Shyre where I was borne : fith to difcourfe my name, might be holden a blot in my kindreds browe, to haue a finew in their ftocke of fo little grace. I will conceale my parents, kin, and Country, and fhroude my name

with filence, leaft enuie myght taunt others for my wantonneffe. Know therefore, I was borne about thréeſcore miles from *London*, of honeft and welthy parents, who had many children, but I their onely daughter, and therefore the Iewell wherein they moft delighted, and more, the youngeft of all, and therefore the more fauoured: for beeing gotten in the wayning of my parents age, they doted on me aboue the reft, and ſo fet theyr harts the more on fire. I was the faireft of all, and yet not more beautifull then I was witty, infomuch that béeing a pretty Parrat, I had ſuch quaint conceipts, and witty words in my mouth, that the neighbours ſaid, I was too ſoone wife, to be long olde. Would to God, eyther the Prouerbe had been authenticall, or their fayings prophecies, then had I by death in my nonage, buried many blemifhes that my riper yeeres brought me to. For the extreme loue of my parents, was the very efficient cauſe of my follies, reſembling heerin the nature of the Ape, that euer killeth that young one which he loueth moft, with embracing it to feruētly. So my father and mother, but ſhe moft of all, although he to much, ſo cockered me vp in my wantonnes, that my wit grew to the worft, and I waxed vpwards with the ill weedes: what ſoever I dyd, were it neuer ſo bad, might not be found fault withall, my Father would ſmile at it and fay, twas but the

tricke of a child, and my Mother allowed of my vnhappy parts, alluding to this prophane and old prouerbe, an vntowarde gyrl makes a good Woman.

But now I find, in sparing the rod, they hated the chyld, that ouer kind fathers, make vnruly daughters. Had they bent the wand while it had béene greene, it woulde haue béene plyant, but I, ill growne in my yéeres, am almost remediles. The Hawk that is most perfect for the flight and will, seldome proueth hagarde, and children that are vertu / ously nurtured in youth, will be honestly matured in age : fie vpon such as fay, young Saints, olde deuils: it is no doubt a deuillish and damnable faying, for what is not bent in the Cradle, will hardly be bowed in the Sadle. My selfe am an instance, who after I grew to be fixe yeeres olde, was sette to Schoole, where I profited so much that I writ and read excellently well, playd vpon the virginals, Lute & Cytron, and could fing prick-fong at the first sight : in so much, as by that time I was twelue yeeres olde, I was holden for the most faire, and best qualited young girle in all that Countrey, but with this, bewailed of my wel-wishers, in that my parents suffered me to be so wanton.

But they so tenderly affected mee, and were so blinded with my excellent quallities that they had

no infight into my enfuing follies. For I growing to be thirteene yeere old, feeling the rayne of liberty loofe on myne owne necke, began with the wanton Heyfer, to ayme at mine own wil, and to meafure content, by the fweetnes of mine owne thoughts, in fo much, that pryde creeping on, I beganne to prancke my felfe with the proudeft, and to holde it in difdaine, that any in the Parifh, fhould exceed me in brauery. As my apparrell was coftly, fo I grew to be licencious, and to delight to be lookt on, fo that I haunted and frequented all feaft and weddings, & other places of merry meetings, where, as I was gazed on of many, fo I fpared no glaunces to furuiew all with a curious eye-fauour: I obserued *Ouids* rule right: *Speftatum veniunt, veniunt speftentur vt ipfi.*

I went to fee & be feene, and deckt my felfe in the higheft degree of brauerie, holding it a glory when I was wayted on with many eyes, to make censure of my birth. Befide, I was an ordinary dauncer, and grewe in that quality fo famous, that I was noted as the chiefeft thereat in all the Country, yea, and to foothe me vp in thefe follies, my Parents tooke a pride in my dauncing, which afterward prooued my ouerthrow, and their hart breaking.

Thus as an vnbridled Colte, I carelefly led forth my youth, and wantonly fpent the flower of my

yeeres, holding fuch Maidens as were modest, fooles, and fuch as were not / as wilfully wanton as my felfe, puppies, ill brought vppe and without manners: growing on in yeeres, as tyde nor tyme tarrieth no man, I began to waxe paffion-proud, and think her not worthy to lyue ȳ was not a little in loue: that as diuers young men began to fauour me for my beautie, fo I beganne to censure of fome of them partially, and to delight in the multitude of many wooers, beeing ready to fall from the Tree, before I was come to the perfection of a bloffome: which an Vnckle of myne feeing, who was my Mothers brother, as carefull of my welfare as nie to me in kinne, finding fit oportunity to talke with mee, gaue mee this wholefome exhortation.

A watch-word to wanton Maidens.

COzen, I fee the fayreft Hawke hath oftentimes the fickeft feathers, that ȳ hoteft day hath the moft sharpeft thunders, the brighteft funne, the moft fuddaine showre, & the youngeft Virgins, the moft daungerous fortunes: I speake as a kinsman, and wifh as a friend: the bloffome of a Maidens youth, (fuch as your felfe) hath attending vpon it many frofts to nyp it, and many cares to confume it, fo that if it be not carefully looked

vnto, it will perrish before it come to any perfection.

A Virgins honour, consisteth not onely in the gyfts of Nature, as to be fayre and beautifull, though they bee fauours that grace Maidens much: for as they be glistering, so they be momentary, readie to be worne with euery winters blast, and parched with euery Summers funne: there is no face so fayre, but the least Moale, the slendereft skarre, the smallest brunt of sickness, will quickly blemishe.

Beauty Cozen, as it florisheth in youth, so it fadeth in age, it is but a folly that feedeth mans eye, a painting that Nature lends for a tyme, and men allowe on for a while, in so much, that such as onely ayme at your faire lookes, tye but their loues to an apprentishippe of beauty: which broken eyther with cares, mis-fortune, or yeeres, their destinies are at liberty, and they beginne to lothe you, and like of others.

*Forma bonum fragile est quantumque accedit ad
Annos*

Fit minor et spacio Carpitur ipsa suo.

Then Cozin, stand not too much on such a slippery glorie, that is as brittle as glasse, be not proud of beauties painting, that hatched by tyme, perrisheth in short tyme: neyther are Women the

more admirable of wise men for theyr gay apparrell, though fooles are fed with gards: for a womans ornaments, is the excellencie of her vertues: and her inward good qualities, are of farre more worth then her outward braueries: imbroydred hayre, bracelets, filkes, rich attire, and such trash, doo rather bring the name of a young Maide in question, then adde to her fame any title of honour.

The *Vestall* Virgins were not reuerenced of the Senators for their curious clothing, but for their chastitie. *Cornelia* was not famozed for ornaments of golde, but for excellent vertues. Superfluity in apparrell, sheweth rather lightnes of mind, then it importeth any other inward good quality: and men iudge of Maydens rarenesse by the modestie of their rayment, holding it rather garish then glorious, to be trickt vp in superfluous and excéeding braueries. Neither Cozen, is it seemely for Maydes, to iet abroade, or to frequent too much company.

For shée that is looked on by many, cannot chuse but bee hardly spoken of by some, for report hath a blister on her tongue, and Maydens actions are narrowly measured. Therefore woulde not the auncient Romaines, suffer theyr Daughters, to goe any further then theyr Mothers looks guided them. And therefore *Diana* is painted

with a Tortuse vnder her feete, meaning that a Maid shoulde not be a stragler, but like the Snayle, carry her house on her heade, and keepe at home at her worke, so to keepe her name without blemish, and her vertues from the slander of enuie. /

A maide that hazards herselfe in much company, may venture the freedome of her hart by the folly of her eye: for so long the pot goes to the water, that it comes broken home, and such as looke much must needes like at last: the Fly dallyes with a flame, but at length she burneth, flax and fire put together will kindle, a maid in companie of yonge men shall be constrained to listen to the wanton allurements of many cunning speeches: if she hath not eyther with *Vlisses* tasted of Moly, or stopt her eares warily, shee may either bee entised with the *Syrens*, or enchanted by *Cyrces*: youth is apt to yeeld to sweet persuasions, and therefore cozen thinke nothing more dangerous than to gad abroad: neither cozen doe I allowe this wanton dauncing in younge virgins: tis more comendation for them to moderate their manners, than to measure their feete, and better to heare nothing than to listen vnto vnreuerent Musicke: Sylence is a precious Iewell, and nothing so much worth as a countenance full of chastitie: light behauour is a signe of lewd thoughts, and men

will say, there goes a wanton that will not want one, if a place and person were agréable to her desires : if a maidens honor be blemisht, or her honestie cald in question, she is halfe deflowred, and therefore had maidens neede to bee chary, least enuy report them for vnchast. Cozen I speake this generally, which if you apply particularly to your selfe, you shall find in time my words were well faide.

I gaue him slender thankes, but with such a frump that he perceiued how light I made of his counfayle : which hee perceiuing, shakt his head, and with teares in his eyes departed. But I whom wanton desires had drawne in delight, still presumde in my former follies, and gaue my selfe either to gad abroad, or else at home to read diffolute Pamphlets, which bred in mee many ill affected wishes, so that I gaue leaue to loue and lust to enter into the center of my heart, where they harboured tyll they wrought my finall and fatall preiudice.

Thus leading my life loofely, and being soothed vp with the applause of my too kind and louing parents, I had many of euery degré that made loue vnto me, as wel for my beau/ty, as for the hope of wealth that my father would bestowe vpon mee : sundry sutors I had, and I allowed of all, though I particularly graunted loue to none, yéeld-

ing them friendly fauors, as being proud I had more wooers then any maid in the parish beside: amongst the rest there was a welthy Farmer that wished me well, a man of some forty yeeres of age, one too worthy for one of so little worth as myselfe, and him my father, mother, and other friendes, would haue had mee match my selfe withall: but I that had had the raynes of lybertie too long in mine owne hands, refused him and would not bee ruled by their perswasions, and though my mother with teares intreated mee to consider of mine owne estate, & how wel I sped if I wedded with him, yet carelesly I despised her counsaile, and flatly made aunswere that I would none of him: which though it pinched my Parentes at the quicke, yet rather than they would displease me, they left me in mine own liberty to loue. Many there were beside him, mens sons of no meane worth, that were wooers vnto mee, but in vaine: either my fortune or destenie droue me to a worser ende, for I refused them all, and with the Béetle, refusing to light on the swéetest flowers all day, nestled at night in a Cowheard.

It fortunéd that as many sought to win me, so amongst the rest there was an od companion that dwelt with a Gentleman hard by, a fellowe of small reputation, and of no lyuing, neither had he any excellent quallities but thrumming on the gittron:

but of pleasant disposition he was, and could gawll out many quaint & ribadrous liggés & songs, and so was faouered of the foolish sect for his foppery. This shifting companion, sutable to my selfe in vanitie, would oft times be iesting with me, and I so long dallying with him, that I beganne déepely (oh let me blush at this confession) to fall in loue with him, and so construed of all his actions, that I consented to my owne ouerthrowe: for as smoake will hardly be concealed, so loue will not be long smothred, but will bewray her owne secrets: which was manifest in mee, who in my sporting with him, so bewrayed my affection, that hee spying I faouered him, began to strike when the yron was / hotte, and to take opportunitie by the forehead: and one day finding me in a merry vaine, began to question with me of loue: which although at the first I slenderly denyed him, yet at last I graunted, so that not onely I agreed to plight him my faith, but that night méeting to haue farther talke, I lasciuiously consented that he cropt the flower of my virginity. When thus I was spoyled by such a base companion, I gaue my selfe to content his humor, and to satisfie the swéet of mine owne wanton desires. Oh here let me breath and with teares bewaile the beginning of my miseries, and to exclayme against the folly of my Parents, who by too much faouering mee in my vanitie in my

tender youth, layde the first plot of my ensuing repentance : Had they with one correction chastised my wantonnesse, and supprest my foolish will with their graue aduise, they had made mee more vertuous and themselues lesse sorrowfull. A fathers frowne is a bridle to the childe, and a mothers check is a stay to the stubborne daughter. Oh had my parents in ouerlouing mee not hated me, I had not at this time cause to complaine. Oh had my father regarded the saying of the wise man, I had not beene thus woe begone.

If thy daughter bee not shamefast holde her straightly, least shee abuse her selfe through ouer much libertie.

Take heede of her that hath an vnshamefast eye, & maruell not if shee trespasse against thee.

The daughter maketh the father to watch secretly, and the carefulnesse he hath for her taketh away his sleepe.

In her virginitie, least shee should be deflowred in her fathers house.

If therefore thy daughter be vnshamefast in her youth, keepe her straightlie, least shee cause thine enemies to laugh thee to scorne, and make thee a common talke in the Cittie, and defame thee among the people, and bring thee to publique shame.

Had my parents with care considered of this

holy counsaile, and leuelled my life by the loadstone of vertue: had they lookt narrowly into the faultes of my youth, and bent the trée while it was a wand, and taught the hound while he / was a puppie, this blemish had neuer befortuned me, nor so great dishonour had not befallen them. Then by my example, let all Parents take heed, leaft in louing their children too tenderly, they subuert them vtterly, leaft in manuring the ground too much with the vnskilful husbandman, it waxe too fat, and bring foorth more weeds then floures, leaft cockering their children vnder their winges without correction, they make them carelesse, and bring them to destruction: as their nurture is in youth, so will their nature grow in age. If the Palme tree be supprest while it is a sien, it wil contrary to nature be crooked when it is a Tree.

Quo semel est imbuta recens seruabit odorentesta diu.

If then vertue be to be ingrafted in youth, leaft they prooue obstinate in age, reforme your children betimes both with correction and counsaile, so shall you that are parentes glorie in the honour of their good indeuours: but leauing this digression, againe to the loosenesse of mine owne life, who now hauing lost the glorie of my youth, and suffered such a base slaue to possesse it, which many men of woorth had desired to enioy, I waxed bold in

fin & grew shameles, in so much he could not desire so much as I did grant: whereupon, seeing hee durst not reueale it to my father to demand me in marriage, hee resolued to carry me away secretly, and therefore wisht me to prouide for my selfe, and to furnish mee euery way both with money and apparrell, hoping as he sayd, that after we were departed, and my father saw wee were married, and that no meanes was to amend it, he would giue his free consent and vse vs as kindly, and deale with vs as liberally as if wee had matcht with his good wil. I that was apt to any il, agreed to this, and so wrought the matter, that hee carried mee away into a straunge place, and then vsing me a while as his wife, when our mony began to wax low he resolued secretly to go into the Country where my father dwelt, to heare not only how my father tooke my departure, but what hope we had of his ensuing fauour: although I was loath to be left alone in a strange place, yet I was willing to heare from my friendes, who no doubt conceiued much heart sorrow for my vnhappy fortunes, so that I parted with a few teares and enioyned him, to make all the hast he might to returne: hee being gone, as the Eagles alwaies resort where the carrion is, so the brute being spred abroad of my bewtie, and / that at such an Inne laie such a faire yoong Gentlewoman, there resorted thither many braue

youthfull Gentlemen, and cutting companions, that tickled with lust, aymed at the possession of my fauour, and by fundry meanes fought to haue a fight of me: which I easily graunted to all, as a woman that counted it a glory to be wondred at by many mens eyes, infomuch that comming amongst them, I set their harts more and more on fire, that there rose diuers brawles who should bee most in my company: béeing thus haunted by such a troupe of lustie Rufflers, I beganne to finde mine owne folly, that had plac't my first affection so losely, and therefore beganne as deeply to loath him that was departed, as earst I likte him, when hee was present, vowing in my selfe though hee had the spoyle of my virginitie, yet neuer after should he triumph in the possession of my fauour, and therefore beganne I to affection these new come guests, and one aboue the rest, who was a braue yoong Gentleman, and no lesse addicted vnto mee then I deuoted vnto him: for daily hee courted mee with amorous Sonnets, and curious proude letters, and sent me Iewels, and all that I might grace him with the name of my seruant: I returned him as louyng lines at last, and so contented his lusting desire, that secretly and vnknowne to all the rest, I made him fundry nights my bed-fellow where I so bewitcht him with sweet wordes, that he began deeply to doate vpon me, infomuch

that selling some portion of land that he had hee put it into readie money, and prouiding Horſe and all things conuenient, carried mee ſecretly away, almoſt as farre as the Bathe. This was my ſecond choyce, and my ſecond ſhame: thus I went forward in wickedneſſe and delighted in chaunge, hauing left mine olde loue to looke after ſome other mate more fit for her purpoſe: how hee tooke my departure when hee returned I little cared, for now I had my content, a Gentleman, yoong, luſtie, and indued with good qualities, and one that loued mee more tenderly then himſelfe: thus liued this new entertained friend and I together vnmarried, yet as man and wife for a while, ſo louingly as was to his content and my credite: but as the Tygre though for a while ſhee hide her clawes, yet at laſt ſhee will reueale her crueltie, and as the Agnus Caſtus leaſe when it lookes moſt drye, is then moſt full of moyſture, ſo womens wantonneſſe is not quallified by their warineſſe, nor doe their chari- neſſe for a moneth, warrant their chaſtitie for euer: which I prooued true, for my ſuppoſed husband beeing euery way a man of worth could / not couertly hide himſelfe in the country, though a ſtranger, but that he fel in acquaintance with many braue Gentlemen whom he brought home to his lodging, not only to honour them with his liberall courteſie, but alſo to ſee mee, being proude of any

man of woorth, applawded my bewtie. Alas poore Gentleman, too much bewitcht by the wilineffe of a woman, had hee deemed my heart to bee a harbour for euery new desire, or mine eie a futor to euerie new face, hee would not haue beene so fonde as to haue brought his companions into my company, but rather would haue mewed mee up as a Henne, to haue kept that feuerall to himfelfe by force, which hee could not retaine by kindnesse: but the honest minded Nouice little fufpected my change, although I God wot placed my delight, in nothing more then the desire of new choyce, which fell out thus: Amongft the rest of the Gentlemen that kept him company, there was one that was his most familiar, and hee reposed more trust and confidence in him then in all the rest: this Gentleman beganne to bee deeply inamoured of mee, and shewed it by many signes which I easily perceiued, and I whose eare was pliant to euery sweete word, and who so allowed of all that were bewtifull, affected him no lesse, so that loue preuailing aboue friendship, hee broake the matter with mee, and made not many suites in vaine before hee obtained his purpose, for hee had what hee wisht, and I had what contented mee. I will not confesse that any of the rest had some fildome fauours, but this Gentleman was my second selfe, and I loued him more for the time at the heele,

then the other at the heart, so that though the other youth beare the charges and was made fir pay for all, yet this newe friend was hee that was maister of my affections : which kindnesse betwixt vs, was so vnwisely cloaked, that in short time it was manifest to all our familiars, which made my supposed husband to figh and others to smile, but hee that was hit with the horne was pincht at the heart : yet so extreame was the affection hee bare to me, that he had rather conceale his greefe, then any way make me discontent, so that hee smothered his sorrow with patience, and brookt the iniurie with silence, till our loues grew so broad before, that it was a woonder to the worlde : whereupon one day at dinner, I being verie pleasant with his chosē friend and my choyce louer, I know not how, but either by fortune, or it may be some set match, there was by a gentleman, there present a question popt in about womens passions, and their mutabilitie in affection, so that the controuersie was defended, / *pro* and *contra* : with arguments, whether a woman might haue a second friend or no? at last it was concluded, that loue and Lordshippe brookes no fellowship, and therefore none so baseminded to beare a riual. Hereupon arose a question about friendes that were put in trust, how it was a high point of treason, for one to betray an other, especially in

loue, in fo much that one gentleman at the boord, protested by a solemne oath, that if any friend of his made priuie and faouered with the fight of his mistresse whom hee loued, whether it were his wife or no, should secretly seeke to incroach into his roome and offer him that dishonour to partake his loue, he would not vse any other reuenge, but at the next greeting stabbe him with his Poynado, though hee were condemned to death for the action. All this fitted for the humor of my supposed husband, and strooke both mee and my friend into a quandarie, but I scornfully iested at it, when as my husband taking the ball before it fel to the ground, began to make a long discourse what faithlesse friends they were that would faile in loue, especially where a resolued trust of the party beloued was committed vnto them: and here vpon to make the matter more credulous, and to quip my folly, and to taunt the basenesse of his friends minde, that so he might with curtesie both warne vs of our wantonnes, and reclaime vs from ill, he promised to tell a pleasant storie, performed as he sayd not long since in *England*, and it was to this effect.

A pleasant discourse, how a wise wanton by her husbands gentle warning, became to be a modest Matron.

There was a Gentleman (to giue him his due) an Esquire heere in England, that was married to a yoong Gentlewoman, faire and of a modest behauiour, vertuous in her lookes, howsoever she was in her thoughts, and one that euery way with her dutifull indeuour and outward apparence of honestie, did breed her husbands content, infomuch that the Gentleman so deeply affected her, as he counted al those houres ill spent which he past not away in her company: besotting so himselfe in the beautie of his wife, that his onely care was to haue her euery way delighted: liuing thus pleasantly together, he had one spetiall friend amongst the rest, whom he so dearly affected, as euer *Damon* did his *Pythias*, *Pilades* his *Orestes*, or *Tytus* his *Gisippus*, he vnfolded all his secrets in his bosome, and what passion hee had in his minde that either ioyed him or perplexed him, he reuealed vnto his friend, & directed his actions according to the sequel of his counsailes, so that they were two bodies and one soule. This Gentleman for all the inward fauour showne him by his faithfull friend, could not so withstand the force of fancy, but he grew enamoured of his friendes wife, whom he courted

with many sweet words and faire promises, charms that are able to inchant almost the chastest eares, and so subtilly couched his arguments, discovered such loue in his eyes, and such sorrow in his lookes, that dispaire seemed to sit in his face, and swore, that if shee granted not him *Le don du merci*; the end of a louers sighes, then would present his hart as a Tragick sacrifice to the sight of his cruel mistresse: the Gentlewoman waxing pitifull, as women are kinde harted and are loth Gentlemen should die for loue, after a few excuses, let him dub her husband knight of the forked order, and so to satisfie his humor, made forfeyt of her owne honor. Thus these two louers continued by a great space in such pleasures as vnchast wantons count their felicitie, hauing continually sith opportunitie to exercise their wicked purpose, sith the gentleman himself did giue them free libertie to loue, neither suspecting his wife, or suspecting his friend: at last as such traytrous abuses will burst forth, it fell so out, that a mayd who had been an old seruant in the house began to grow suspitious, that there was too much familiaritie betweene her mistresse and her maisters friend, and vpon this watcht them diuers times so narrowly, that at last she found them more priuate then either agreed with her maisters honor, or her own honestie, and thereupon re-

uealed it one day vnto her maister: he little credulous of the light behaiour of his wife, blamed the mayd, and bad her take heed, leaft she fought to blemish her vertues with flander, whom hee loued more tenderly then his owne life: the mayd replied, that she fpake not of enuy to him, but of meere loue she beare vnto him, and the rather that hee might shadow fuch a fault in time, and by fome meanes preuent it, leaft if others fhould note it as well as fhee, his wiues good name and his friends fhould bee cald in queftion: at thefe wife words fpoken by fo bafe a drug as his mayd, the Gentleman waxed aftonifhed and liftened to her difcourfe, wifhing her to difcouer how she knew or was fo priuy to the folly of her miftrefse, or by what meanes he might haue affured prooffe of it: fhee tolde him / that her owne eyes were witneffes, for fhee faw them vnlawfully together, and please it you fir quoth fhee, to faine your felfe to go from home, and then in the back houfe to keepe you feeret, I will let you fee as much as I haue manifefted vnto you: vpon this the maifter agreed, and warned his mayd not fo much as to make it knowne to any of her fellowes. Within a day or two after, the Gentleman fayd, hee would goe a hunting, and fo rife verie early, and caufing his men to couple vp his Houndes, left his wife in bed and went abroad: affoone as he

was gone a myle from the house, he commanded his men to ryde afore and to start the Hare and follow the chase; and wee will come faire and softly after: they obeying their maisters charge, went theyr wayes, and he returned by a backway to his house, and went secretly to the place where his mayd and he had appointed. In the meane time, the mistresse thinking her husband safe with his Houndes, sent for her friend to her bed chamber, by a trustie seruant of hers, in whom shee assured that was a secret Pander in such affaires, and the Gentleman was not slacke to come, but making all the haste hee could, came and went into the chamber, asking for the Maister of the house very familiarly: the old mayd noting all this, as soone as she knew them together, went and cald her maister, and carried him vp by a secret pair of staires to her mistresse chamber doore, where peeping in at a place that the mayd before had made for the purpose, he saw more then he lookt for, and so much as pincht him at the very heart, causing him to accuse his wife for a strumpet, and his friend for a traytor: yet for all this, valuing his owne honour more then their dishonestie, thinking if he should make an vprore, he should but ayme at his owne discredit, and cause himself to be a laughing game to his enemies, he concealed his sorrow with silence, and taking the mayd apart, charged her to keepe all secret, what-

loeuer she had seene, euen as she esteemed of her owne life, for if shee did bewray it to any, hee himselfe would with his Swoord make an ende of her daies : and with that putting his hand in his sleeue, gaue the poore mayd fixe Angels to buy her a new gowne : the wench glad of this gift, fwore solemnly to tread it vnder foote, and sith it pleased him to conseale it, neuer to reueale it as long as she liued : vpon this they parted, she to her drudgery, and he to the field to his men, where after hee had kild the Hare hee returned home, and finding his friend in the Garden, that in his absence had been grafting hornes in the Chimnies, and entertained him with his woonted familiaritie, and shewed no bad countenance to his wife, but dissembled al his thoughts, / to the full. Aftoone as dinner was done, and that he was gotten solitarie by himselfe, he beganne to determine of reuenge, but not as euerie man would haue done, how to haue brought his wife to shame, & her loue to confusion, but he busied his braines how hee might referue his honour inuiolate, reclaime his wife, and keep his friend : meditating a long time how he might bring all this to passe, at last a humour fell into his head, how cunningly to compasse all three and therefore he went & got him a certaine slips, which are counterfeyt peeces of mony being brasse, & couered ouer with siluer,

which the common people call flips: hauing furnished himfelfe with thefe, hee put them in his purfe, and at night went to bed as he was wont to doo, yet not vſing the kind familiaritie that he accuſtomed: notwithstanding, he abſtained not from the vſe of her body, but knew his wife as aforetimes, and euey time hee committed the act with her, he layd the next morning in the window a flip, where he was ſure ſhee might finde it, and ſo many times as it pleaſed him to be carnally pleaſant with his wife, ſo many flips he ſtill layd down vpon her cuſhnet. This he vſed for the ſpace of a fortnight, till at laſt, his wife finding euey day a flip, or ſometime more or leſſe, wondred how they came there, and examining her wayting maydes, none of them could tell her anything touching them, wherevpon ſhee thought to queſtion with her husband about it, but being out of her remembrance, the next morning as he & ſhe lay dallying in bed, it came into her minde, and ſhe asked her husband if he layd thoſe flippes on her cuſhnet, that ſhe of late found there, hauing neuer ſeene any before. I marry did I quoth hee, and I haue layd them there upon ſpeciall reaſon, and it is this. Euer ſince I haue been married to thee, I haue deemed thee honeſt, and therefore vſed and honored thee as my wife, parting coequall fauours betwixt vs as true loues, but alate finding the

contrary, & with these eyes seeing thee play the whore with my friend in whom I did repose all my trust, I fought not as many would haue done, to haue reuenged in blood, but for the safetie of mine owne honor, which otherwise would haue been blemisht by thy dishonestie, I haue bin silent, and haue neyther wronged my quandom friend, nor abused thee, but still do hold bed with thee, that the world should not suspect any thing, and to quench the desire of lust I do vse thy body, but not so lovingly as I would a wife, but carelesly as I would a strumpet, and therefore euen as to a whoore, so I giue thee hyer, which is for euerie time a flip, a counterfeet coyne: which is good enough for such a flipperie wanton, that will wrong her husband that loued her so tenderly: / and thus will I vse thee for the safetie of mine owne honour, til I haue assured prooffe that thou becommest honest: and thus with teares in his eyes, and his heart readie to burst with sighes, he was silent, when his wife striken with remorse of conscience, leaping out of her bedde in her smocke, humbly confessing all, craued pardon, promising if he should pardon this offence which was new begun in her, shee would become a new reformed woman and neuer after so much as in thought, giue him any occasion of suspition of ielousie: the patient husband not willing to vrge his wife, tooke her at her word,

and told her that when he found her so reclaimed, he would as afore he had done, vse her louingly and as his wife, but till he was so perfwaded of her honestie, he wold pay her stil slips for his pleasure, charging her not to reueale any thing to his friend, or to make it knowne to him that hee was priuy to their loues. Thus the debate ended, I gesse in some kinde greeting, and the Gentleman went abroad to see his pastures, leauing his wife in bed full of sorrow and almost rending her heart asunder with sighs: assoone as he was walked abroad, the Gentleman his friend came to the house and asked for the goodman: the pander that was priuy to all their practises, said, that his maister was gone abroad to see his pastures, but his mistresse was in bed: why then saies he, I will go and raise her vp: so comming into the chamber and kissing her, meaning as hee was wont to have vsed other accustomed dalliance, shee desired him to abstaine, with broken sighes & her eyes full of teares: he wondering what should make her thus discontent, asked her what was the cause of her sorrow, protesting with a solemne oath, that if any had done her iniury, he wold reuenge it, were it with hazard of his life: she then tolde him, scarce being able to speake for weeping, that shee had a fute to mooue him in, which if he granted vnto her, she would hold him in loue and affection without change next her

husband for euer: he promised to do whatfoeuer it was: then saies shee, sweare vpon a Byble you will do it without exception: with that he tooke a Byble that laie in the window & swore, that whatfoeuer she requested him to do, were it to the losse of his life, he would without exception performe it. Then she holding downe her head and blushing, began thus. I need not quoth shee make manifest how grossly and greuously you and I haue both offended God, and wronged the honest Gentleman my husband and your friend, hee putting a speciall trust in vs both, & assuring such earnest affiance in your vnfaigned friendship, that hee euen committeth me his wife, his loue, / his second life, into your bosome; this loue haue I requited with inconstancy, in playing the harlot, that faith that he repositeth in you, haue you returned with trechery and falshood, in abusing mine honesty and his honor, now a remorse of conscience toucheth me for my finnes, that I hartily repent, and vow euer hereafter to liue onely to my husband, and therefore my fute is to you, that from hencefoorth you shall neuer so much as motion any dishonest question vnto mee, nor seeke any vnlawfull pleasure or conuersing at my handes: this is my fute, and herevnto I haue sworne you, which oath if you obserue as a faithfull gentleman, I will conceale from my husband what is past, and rest in honest sort your faithfull

friend for euer: at this shee burst afresh into teares, and vttered such sighes, that he thought for very grieffe her hart would haue claue afunder. The Gentleman astonied at this straunge Metamorphesis of his mistresse, sat a good while in a maze, and at last taking her by the hand, made this reply, so God helpe mee faire sweeting, I am glad of this motion, and wondrous ioyfull that God hath put such honest thoughts into your mind, & hath made you the meanes to reclaime mee from my folly: I feele no lesse remorse then you doo, in wronging so honest a friend as your husband, but this is the frailnesse of man: and therefore to make amends, I protest a new, neuer hereafter so much as in thought, as to motion you of dishonestie, onely I craue you be silent: she promised that and so they ended. And so for that time they parted: at noone the gentleman came home and cheerfully saluted his wife and asked if dinner were ready, and sent for his friend, vsing him wonderfully familiarly, giuing him no occasion of mistrust, and so pleasantly they past away the day together: at night when his wife and he went to bed, shee told him all what had past betweene her and his friend, and how she had bound him with an oath, and that hee voluntarily of himselfe swore as much, being hartily sory that hee had so deeply offended so kinde a friend: the gentleman commended her wit,

and found her afterward a reclaimed woman, shee liuing so honestly that she neuer gaue him any occasion of mistrust. Thus the wife gentleman reclaimed with silence a wanton wife, and retained an assured friend.

At this pleasant Tale all the boord was at a mutinie, and they said the gentleman did passing wisely that wrought so cunningly for the safetie of his owne honor, but highly exclaiming against such a friend / as would to his friend offer such villany, all condemning her that wold be false to so louing a husband. Thus they did diuersly descant & past away dinner, but this Tale wrought litle effect in me, for as one past grace, I delighted in change, but the gentleman that was his familiar and my Paramour, was so touched, that neuer after hee would touch me dishonestly, but reclaimed himselfe, abstained from me and became true to his friend. I wondring that according to his woonted custome, he did not seeke my company, he and I being one day in the chamber alone, and he in his dumpes, I began to dally with him, and to aske him why he was so strange, and vsed not his accustomed fauours to me. He solemly made answere, that though he had playd the foole in setting his fancy vpon an other mans wife, & in wronging his friend, yet his conscience was now touched with remorse: & euer since he

heard the Tale afore rehearsed, hee had vowed in himselfe neuer to do my husband the like wrong againe: my husband quoth I, he is none of mine, he hath brought me from my friends and keepes mee here vnmarried, and therefore am I as free for you as for him, & thus began to grow clamorous, because I was debarred of my lust: the gentleman seeing me shamelesse, wisht me to be silent, and sayd, although you be but his friend, yet he hold[s] you as deare as his wife, and therefore I will not abuse him, neither would I wish you to be familiar with any other, seeing you haue a friend that loues you so tenderly: much good counsaile he gaue me, but all in vaine, for I scorned it, and began to hate him, and resolued both to be ridde of him and my supposed husband, for falling in [with] an other familiar of my husbands, I so inueagled him with sweet words, that I caused him to make a peece of mony to steale me away, and so carry me to *London*, where I had not liued long with him, ere he seeing my light behauiour, left mee to the world, and to shift for my selfe. Here by my example may you note the inconstant life of Courtezens and common harlots, who after they haue lost their honestie, care not who grow into their fauour, nor what villany they commit: they fancy all as long as crownes last, and only ayme at pleasure and ease: they cleaue like Caterpillars

to the tree, and consume the fruite where they fall, they be Vultures that praie on men aliue, and like the Serpent sting the bofome wherein they are nourished. I may best discourfe their nature, because I was one of their profeffion, but now being metamorphofed, I holde it meritorious for mee to warne women from being fuch wantons, and to giue a caueat to men, leaft / they addi&t themfelues to fuch ftragling ftrumpettes, as loue none though they like all, but affectionate only for profit, and when he hath fpent all, they beate him out of doores with the prodigall childe: but ftopping heere, till occafion ferue mee fitter to difcouer the manner of Courtezins, to my felfe, who now being brought to *London*, and left here at random, was not fuch a houfedoue while any friend ftaied with me, but that I had vifite[d] fome houfes in *London*, that could harbour as honeft a woman as my felfe: when as therefore I was left to my felfe, I remoued my lodging, and gat mee into one of thofe houfes of good hofpitalitie whereunto perfons refort, commonly called a Trugging houfe, or to be plaine, a whore houfe, where I gaue my felfe to entertaine al companions, fitting or ftanding at the doore like a ftuale, to allure or draw in wanton paffengers, refufing none that wold with his purfe purchafe me to be his, to fatisfie the difordinate defire of his filthie luft: now I began

not to respect parfonage, good qualities, to the gracious fauour of the man, when eye had no respect of perfon, for the oldeft lecher was as welcom as the youngeft louer, fo he broght meate in his mouth, otherwise I pronounce[d] againft him,

Si nihil attuleris ibis homere foras.

I waxed thus in this hell of voluptuoufnes, daily worfe & worfe, yet hauing as they terme it, a respect to the maine chance, as neare as I could to auoyd difeafes, and to keepe my felfe braue in apparell, although I payd a kind of tribute to the Bawde, according as the number and benefite of my companions did exceed, but neuer could I bee brought to be a pickpocket or theeuifh, by any of their perfwasions, although I wanted daily no instructions to allure me to that villany: for I thinke nature had wrought in me a contrary humor, otherwise my bad nourture, and conuerfing with fuch bad company had brought me to it: mary in all their vices I carried a brazen face & was fhameleffe, for what Ruffian was there in *London* that would vtter more desperate oaths then I in mine anger? what to fpet, quaffe, or caroufe more diuelifhly or rather damnable then my felfe? & for beaftly communication *Meffalyne* of *Rome* might haue bin wayting mayd: befides, I grew fo grafted in fin, that *Confueto peccandi tollebat fenfum*

peccati, Custome of sin, tooke away the feeling of the sin, for I so accustomedly vse[d] my selfe to all kinde of vice, that I accounted swearing no sinne: whordome, why I smile[d] at that, and could prophanely saie, that it was a sin which God laught at: gluttony I held good fellowship, & wrath / honor and resolution: I despised God, nay in my conscience I might easily haue been persuaded there was no God: I contemned the preachers, and when any wisht mee to reforme my life, I bad away with the Puritan, and if any yoong woman refused to be as vitious euerie way as my selfe, I would then say, gip fine soule, a yoong Saint will prooue an old diuel: I neuer would go to the Church and Sermons, I vtterly refused, holding them as needles Tales told in a Pulpit: I would not bend mine eares to the hearing of any good discourse, but still delighted in iangling Ditties of rybaudrie: thus to the greefe of my friendes, hazard of my soule, and consuming of my bodie, I spent a yeare or two in this base and bad kinde of life, subiect to the whistle of euerie desperate Ruffian, till on a time, there resorted to our house a Cloathier, a propper yoong man, who by fortune, comming first to drinke, espying mee, asked mee if I would drinke with him: there needed no great intreatie, for as then I wanted company, and so clapt me downe by him, and began verie plea-

fantly then to welcome him: the man being of himselfe modest and honest, noted my personage, and iudicially reasoned of my strumpetlike behaviour, and inwardly, as after he reported vnto mee, greeued that so foule properties were hidden in so good a proportion, and that such rare wit and excellent bewtie, was blemisht with whoredomes base deformitie: infomuch that hee began to think well of me, and to wish that I were as honest as I was bewtifull. Againe, see how God wrought for my conuersion, since I gaue my selfe to my loose kinde of life, I neuer liked any so well as him, infomuch that I began to iudge of euerie part, and me thought he was the properest man that euer I saw: thus we sat both amorous of other, I lasciuously, & he honestly: at last he questioned with me what country woman I was, and why being so proper a woman, I would beseem to dwel or lie in a base Alehouse, especially in one that had a bad name: I warrant you hee wanted no knauish reply to fit him, for I tolde him the house was as honest as his mothers: marry if there were in it a good wench or two, that would pleasure their friends at a neede, I geffe[d] by his noase what porredge hee loued, and that hee hated none such: well, seeing me in that voice, hee said little, but shaked his head, payd for the beere and went his way, only taking his leaue of me with a kisse,

which me thought was the sweetest that euer was giuen mee: assoone as hee was gone I began to thinke what a handsome man hee was, and wisht that he wold come and take a nights lodging with me: / fitting in a dumpe to thinke of the quaintnes of his personage, til other companions came in, that shakte mee out of that melancholie, but assoone againe as I was secrete to my selfe, hee came into my remembrance: passing ouer thus a day or two, this Cloathier came againe to our house, whose sight cheared mee vp, for that spying him out at a Cafement, I ranne downe the staires and met him at the doore, and hartily welcomed him, & asked him if he wold drinke: I come for that purpose faies he, but I will drinke no more below but in a Chamber: marry fir quoth I you shal, and so brought him into the fairest roome, in there fitting together drinking: at last the Cloathier fell to kissing and other dalliance, wherein he found me not coy: at last told mee that he would willingly haue his pleasure of mee, but the roome was too lightsome, for of all things in the world, he could not in such actions away with a light Chamber: I consented vnto him, and brought him into a room more darke, but still hee said it was too light: then I carried him into a farther Chamber, where drawing a buckeram curtain afore the window, and closing the curtaines of the

bed, I asked him smiling, if that were close enough: no sweet loue saies he, the curtain is thin & not broad enough for the window, peradventure some watching eye may espie vs, my heart misdoubts, & my credit is my life: good loue if thou hast a more close room then this, bring me to it: why then quoth I follow me, & with that I brought him into a backe loft, where stood a litle bed only appointed to lodge suspitious persons, so darke that at noone daies it was impossible for any man to see his owne hands: how now fir quoth I, is not this darke enough? he sitting him downe on the bed side, fetcht a deep sigh, & said indifferēt, so, so, but there is a glimpse of light in at the tyles, some bodie may by fortune see vs: in faith no quoth I, none but God: God saies hee, why can God see vs here? good fir quoth I, why I hope you are not so simple, but Gods eyes are so cleare, and penetrating that they can peirce through wals of brasse, and that were we inclosed neuer so secretly, yet we are manifestly seene to him: and alas quoth he sweet loue, if God see vs shal we not be more ashamed to doo such a filthy act before him then before men? I am sure thou art not so shameles but thou woldst blush & be afraid to haue the meanest commoner in *London* see thee in the actiō of thy filthy lust, and doest thou not shame more to haue God, the maker of all thinges see thee, who

reuengeth sin with death, he whose eyes are clearer then the Sun, who is the searcher of the heart, and holdeth vengeance in his / handes to punish finners. Consider sweete loue, that if man and wife would be ashamed to haue any of their friendes see them in the act of generation, or performing the rights of marriage which is lawfull, and allowed before God, yet for modestie do it in the most couert they may, then how impudent or gracelesse should we bee, to fulfill our filthie lust before the eyes of the Almighty, who is greater then all kings or princes on the earth. Oh let vs tremble that we but once durst haue such wanton communication in the hearing of his diuine Maiestie, who pronounceth damnation for such as giue themselues ouer to adultery.

It is not possible faith the Lorde, for any whoremaister or lasciuious wanton, to enter into the kingdome of God: for such finnes whole Cities haue suncke, kingdomes haue beene destroyed: and though God suffreth such wicked liuers to escape for a while, yet at length he payeth home, in this world with beggarie, shame, diseases, or infamy, and in the other life, with perpetuall dampnation: weigh but the inconuenience that growes through thy loose life, thou art hated of all that are good, despised of the vertuous, and only well thought of, of reprobats, raskals, ruffians,

and such as the world hates, subiect to their lust, and gaining thy liuing at the hands of euery diseased leacher. Oh what a miserable trade of life is thine that liuest of the vomit of sin, in hunting after maladies: but suppose, while thou art yoong, thou art faouored of thy companions, when thou waxest old, and that thy beautie is vaded, then thou shalt be loathed and despised, euen of them that profest most loue vnto thee: then good sifter call to minde the baseness of thy life, the hainous outrage of thy sin, that God doth punish it with the rigor of his iustice: oh thou art made bewtifull, faire, and well fourmed, and wilt thou then by thy filthie lust make thy bodie, which if thou bee honest, is the Temple of God, the habitation of the diuel? Consider this, and call to God for mercy, and amend thy life: leaue this house, and I will become thy faithfull friend in all honestie, and vse thee as mine owne sifter: at this, such a remorse of conscience, such a fearefull terror of my sin strooke into my minde, that I kneeled downe at his feete, and with teares besought him he would helpe me out of that misery, for his exhortation had caused in me a loathing of my wicked life, and I wold not only become a reformed woman, but hold him as dear as my father that gaue me life: whereupon he kist me with teares, and so we went downe together, where wee

had further communication, and presently he provided me an other lodging, where I not only vsde / my selfe so honestly, but also was so penitent euery day in teares for my former folly, that he tooke me to his wife: and how I haue liued since, and loathed filthie lust, I referre my selfe to the Maiestie of God, who knoweth the secrets of all hearts.

Thus Country men I haue publisht the conuersion of an English Courtizen, which if any way it bee profitable either to forewarne youth, or withdraw bad persons to goodnesse, I haue the whole end of my desire, only crauing euery father would bring vp his children with carefull nourture, and euery yoong woman respect the honour of her virginie.

But amongst all these blythe and merry Iestes, a little by your leaue, if it be no farther then Fetter lane: oh take heed, thats too nye the Temple: what then, I will draw as neare the signe of the white Hart as I can, and breathing my selfe by the bottle Ale-house, Ile tell you a merry Iest, how a Conny-catcher was vsed.

A merry Tale taken not far from Fetter Lane end, of a new found Conny-catcher, that was Conny-catcht himselfe.

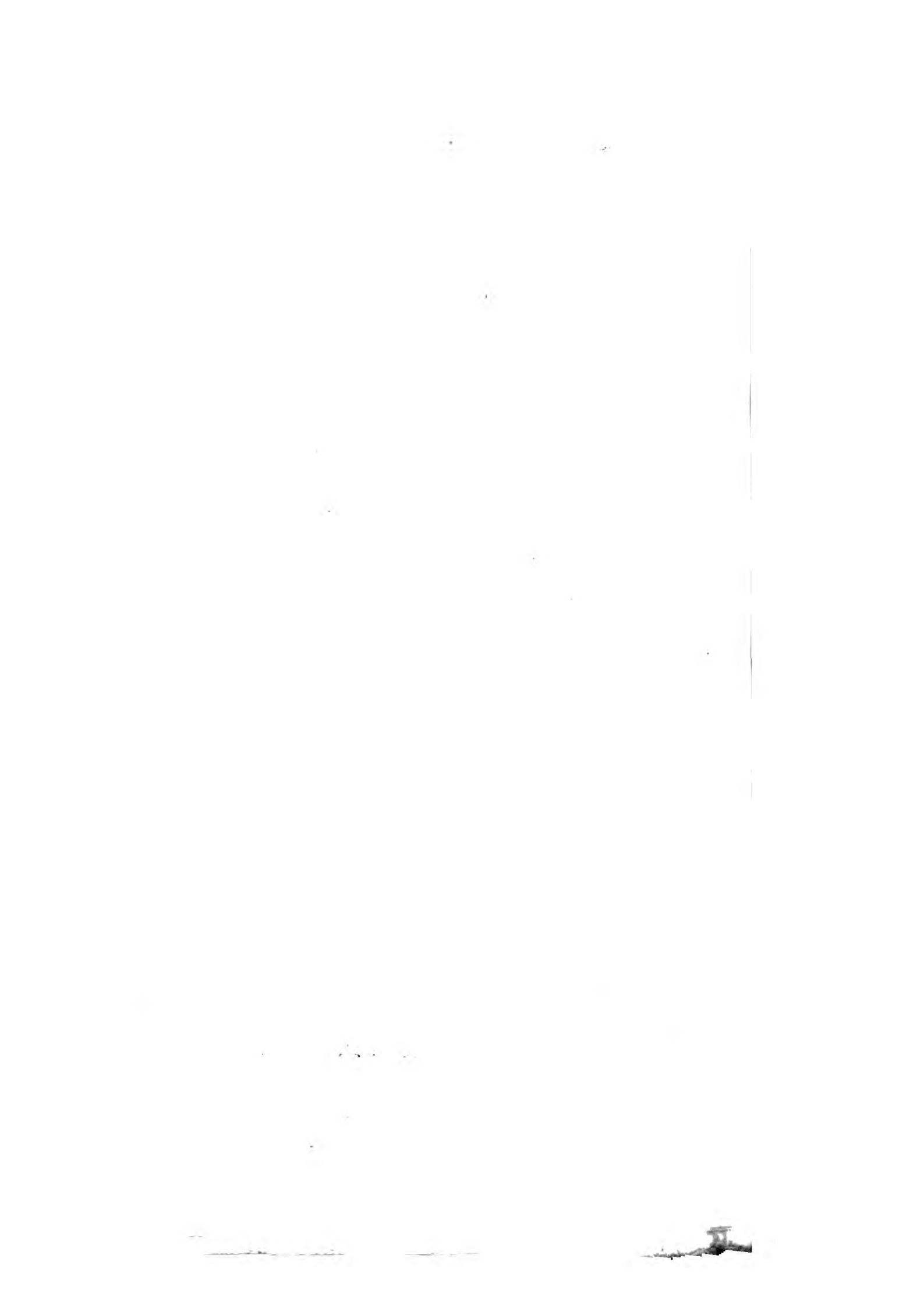
SO it fell out, that a Gentleman was sicke and purblinde, and went to a good honest mans

house to foourne, and taking vp his Chamber grew so sick, that the goodman of the house hired a woman to keep and attend day and night vpon the Gentleman: this poore woman hauing a good conscience, was carefull of his welfare, and lookte to his dyet, which was so slender, that the man although sicke, was almost famisht, so that the woman would no longer staie, but bad his Hoste prouide him of some other to watch with him, sith it greeued her to see a man lye and starue for want of foode, especially being fet on the score for meate and drinke in the space of a fortnight, four poundes. The goodman of the house at last, hearing how that poore woman did finde fault with his scoring, the Gentleman not only put her out of doores without wages, but would haue arrested her, for taking away his good name, and defaming and slaundering him, and with that calling one of his neighbours to him, sayd neighbour, whereas such a bad toongued woman hath reported to my discredite, that the Gentleman that lyes sicke in my house wants meat, and yet runnes very much on the score, I pray you iudge by his diet whether hee bee famisht or no: first in the morning he hath a Cawdell next his heart, halfe an houre after that, a quart of Sugar sops, halfe an houre after that a neck of mutton in broath, halfe an houre after that Chickens in forrell sops, and

an houre after that, a loynt of roft meate for his dinner: now neighbour, hauing this prouision, you may iudge whether he be spoyld for lacke of meate or no, and to what great charges his dyet will arife: whereas in truth, the poore Gentleman would haue beene glad of the leaft of thefe: for he could get none at all, but the coufoning knaue, thought to verfe vpon him, and one day feeing mony came not briefly to the Gentleman, tooke fome of his apparrell, his cloake I gesse, and pawnde it for fortie shillings: whereas God wot, all he eate in that time was not woorth a Crowne: well, the Gentleman feeing how the knaue went about to Conny-catch him, and that he had taken his cloake, smothered all for reuenge, and watcht opportunitie to do it, and on a time, feeing the goodman out, borrowed a cloake far better then his owne, of the boy, faying that he would goe to a friend of his to fetch money for his maister & discharge the house: the boy lending it him, away walks the Gentleman though weake after this great diet, and neuer came at the Taylors house to answere him cloake or mony. And thus was he Conny-catcht himfelfe, that thought to haue verft vpon another.

FINIS.

NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.



I. NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

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

A NOTABLE DISCOUERY OF COOSNAGE.

Agreeably to 'Note' (page 2), I record here a few representative examples of Various Readings as between the text of 1591 and 1592. It would have been superfluous pains to have registered mere orthographical and punctuation changes.

Title-page—'Printed by Thomas Scarlet for Thomas Nelson 1592.'

Page 15—The wood-cut not in 1592. The following are examples of orthographical differences: l. 1, 'requisite effectually' for 'requisit effectually': l. 4, 'barnackle' for 'Barnackle': l. 5, 'anie' for 'any.' So p. 16, l. 3, 'cony' for 'Connie': l. 11, 'coni' for 'Conny.'

„ 16, l. 6, 'for' not in '92.

„ 17, l. 15, 'countrie' inserted before 'Gentlemen.'

„ 30, l. 18, 'yet' not in '92: l. 25, 'but people stopt him' '92.

„ 31, l. 1, 'saying' for 'said': l. 11, 'for' them '92: l. 15, 'who' for 'that': l. 16, 'ingathering' '92: l. 18, 'amongst' for 'among': l. 21, 'so straight . . . all' not in '92.

„ 33, l. 24, 'as Carpēters haue' for 'as the Carpēter hath': l. 25, 'their' for 'his.' So onward plural for singular frequently.

„ 38, l. 12, 'The Cutpurse, a Nip' inserted in '92: l. 15, 'Foist' for 'Foin.'

„ 48, l. 9, 'al' for 'well': l. 21, 'remembrance to giue faire words' '92.

These must suffice.

- Page 5, l. 5, 'a counterfeit Coiner of money' = a coiner of counterfeit money : l. 6, 'corrector' —misprinted 'correstor' in the original : l. 8, 'affects' = affections : last l., 'traines' = the things leading up to the 'snares,' *ut freq.*
- „ 6, l. 4, 'commodity' = benefit. So p. 10, l. 2 : l. 5, 'decipher' = unfold, *ut freq.* : l. 9, 'onely by his labour' = by his labour only : l. 11, 'copesmates' = associates : l. 26, 'peeuishnes' —'peevisish' is given = Sp. *Pertinaz*, stubborn, perverse, obstinate, by Florio. Similarly by Cotgrave and Sherwood, and by Minsheu, as *Delirus* and foolish, overthwarte, *Drate* : l. 19, 'Mirabolanes'—an Eastern fruit used medicinally as a purgative. Parkinson gives five kinds, *M. Citrina*, etc.—called 'Spanishe,' because brought by the Spaniards from the East. A fruit so called is now used by tanners, it being astringent.
- „ 7, l. 24, 'rebat' = beat back, repel (Fr. *rebatre*).
- „ 8, l. 14, 'hatcheth abuse'—an inversion = abuse hatcheth: ll. 18-19—the punctuation should be reversed, : . . . , instead of, . . . : l. 21, 'Cunnies in the hay'—the hay = the hedge, enclosure or net : l. 24, 'morgadge'—note spelling of this present-day word.
- „ 9, l. 6, 'banckrout' = bankrupt. 📖 The technical terms and names being all explained in the book are not annotated.

- Page 9, The whole of these, and others, will be found in their places in the Glossary. See pp. 36-8 as examples of abounding technical terms : l. 20, '*make a hand*'—now only a term used at cards for taking a hand or part : l. 23, '*firrette beate*' = ferret beat, *i.e.* seize on him and overcome him, as a ferret does a cony or rabbit.
- „ 10, l. 9, '*Casis*'—whether Law English or Latin, should be the plural '*Cases*' : l. 13, '*ouerture*'—if not an error = opening, because opening or first prices are low : l. 15, '*Broremans*'—looks like some press error. Query—Brokermans?: l. 18, '*your country man*' = of your [part of the] country: l. 20, '*stale sib*'—'*sib*' seems to be used here—looking to the apparent degradation of terms—kinne, al[1]y, sib, in the sense of intimate or associate rather than a relative ; and '*stale*' may mean 'of a former time or long ago,' or there may be a sub-reference to the meaning of '*stale*' or '*decoy*': l. 24, '*worship*' = one to whom higher deference was due.
- „ 12, l. 1, '*brabble*' = quarrel, as still in use : l. 4, '*blinde Taverne*'—an obscure or small out-of-the-way tavern. Cf. Gosson's '*Schoole of Abuse*'—"Chenas a blind village in comparison of Athens": Holinshed's History of Ireland, p. 24: of England, p. 200: Nomenclator, p. 9, Destour . . . a by-way, a crooked way ; also a blind corner between

hills, or in a house, wherein men may hide themselves (Halliwell-Phillipps, *s.v.* 'Blind'). Cf. p. 31, l. 12 ; p. 46, l. 5 ; p. 76, l. 22 : l. 10, 'honest'—*i.e.* seeming honest. Greene's choice of this oddly-worded comparison is to be found explained in the context, where the subtlety is so 'seeming honest' as to be unlikely, etc. To 'pawne his stake to a pound' means, lay his 'stake' [presumably much greater] against a pound, or as we might say 100 to 1, that he must win : l. 27, 'langret' = dice so loaded as to throw more frequently a 4 or 3 ; but the Editor does not understand what a 'card quater tray' is, unless it be an error for or a corruption of a quarre (Fr. *carre* or *carré*), a square or honest quater tray. 'Card' in Northumberland is 'crooked,' but this doesn't yield sense*here.

- Page 13, l. 6, 'brybing'—an excellent example of the loose use of participles in —ing, it evidently meaning an officer open to a bribe or that is bribed.
- „ 16, l. 5, 'circumstance'—we use 'circumstances': l. 22, 'side pouch' = long pouch? or is 'side' used reduplicatively?
- „ 17, l. 1, 'browne study'—see Glossarial-Index *s.v.* for a full note : l. 16, 'fallowes' = metaphor from fallow ground ploughed up? l. 23, 'smack'—properly 'taste,' but here used in a canting sense for 'smoke' = suspect.

- Page 18, l. 22, '*fret-claw*'—see note on p. 9, l. 23.
- „ 19, l. 4, '*handy-thrifte*' = handicraft: l. 27, '*having*' = greed-gaining.
- „ 20, l. 23, '*induce*' = lead in, *ut freq.*
- „ 21, l. 3, '*paire*'—as at p. 11, l. 14, this and 'deck' were the ordinary terms for a pack of cards.
- „ 22, l. 9, '*cut*' = to take off part of the pack and then place the lower half on top of it; *i.e.* reverse the two portions. Here, however, as the 'cutting' has taken place, it must be a misprint or slip for 'call' or 'cull': l. 11, '*cote-card*'—what we now call a Court Card, *i.e.* a pictured one, one that has a coat or other garment on. We call them 'Court Cards' because they are the King and Queen and the attendant or Knave: l. 22, '*five set*'—he means the 'set' or number of games they play (the rubber) is 'five' such, and he loses them all of course. It may as well be noted here that Greene appears to have omitted to tell us that *after* the cutting, the cards seem to have been turned face upwards—or, as is more likely, the cards were then drawn one by one from the bottom of the pack, not from the top—otherwise, it being the lowermost of the larger pack, the chances would be that the card named by the other would turn up first; but he provides against this chance by cutting only five cards from the top,

then on facing them upwards, the chances are against the other card being in the upper four or five.

Page 23, l. 19, '*I*' = aye.

„ 24, l. 26, '*dominere*' = rule. An odd use of this word is found in the title-page of one of the many attacks on Bp. Wren called "*Wren's Anatomy*." It bears to have been printed "in the year that Wren ceased to domineere," 1641.

„ 26, l. 13, '*chopping*' = changing, much like the trick now called "passing."

„ 27, l. 13, '*he striketh his chopt card*'—he draws the card whose place he had privily changed—not the card spoken of p. 26, l. 13, but a card in this new game: l. 18, '*forty to one*'—this ratio (repeated p. 28, l. 15), and the cony's supposition that the '*Barnacle*' had won by chance, "asking for," *i.e.* calling or naming a card that happened to be in the small packet of five cut from the top, are also proofs of what has been stated under p. 22, l. 22: ll. 27-8, '*the bottome carde vppermost*'—the explanation of this will afford a further proof. The Verser cuts three cards from the top, the uppermost of these being stated to be a card seen by the Barnacle when shuffling. Then the Verser lifting the remainder of the pack, shows its bottom card to the Cony and places it on the three cards that were first cut. The Barnacle's card is then the

third from the bottom and the Cony's fourth, therefore the Barnacle must and does win when they draw, first the bottom card and then those that immediately follow. The explanation of our phrase therefore must be this: before shuffling the Barnacle takes notice of the lowest or "bottom" card and in shuffling manages to make it the "uppermost." The comma (,) after 'Carde,' should probably be removed to after 'knaves,' and we must suppose either that Greene has written very carelessly, or that he or the compositor has omitted some such words as "knaves [and chops it] to be," thus explaining the "chopping" that he says he will explain in the previous clause.

- Page 29, l. 8, '*braues*' = bravadoes: l. 10, '*he is*'—an example of how carelessly Greene wrote this piece or this part at least. The 'he' cannot be the 'Cony,' but must refer to the 'knaues,' and should be 'they are.' We have a similar example p. 34, l. 20, "fewe men . . . vnlesse hee . . . him." But in 1592 text various of these slips are put right. See at the beginning of these Notes and Illustrations: l. 17, '*rakehels*'—the derivation of this may be (1) him for whom hell must be raked, *i.e.* the dregs of hell; or (2) he who rakes hell in order to gain his wicked ends: l. 24, '*receipt*'—we now say (similarly) of 'any account.'
- „ 30, l. 21, '*fleest*' = fleeced.

- Page 31, l. 11, '*vanity*' = vainness or uselessness, as in "vanity and vexation of spirit": l. 11, '*blind*'—see note on p. 12, l. 4: l. 16, '*neerly*' = carefully or even miserly kept. We still use the phrase "he is very *near*," etc.: l. 17, '*dicker*' = a bundle of ten, applied most frequently to hides or skins.
- „ 32, l. 12, '*warriner*' = keeper of a warren.
- „ 33, l. 20, '*conueyance*'—an earlier instance of "Convey, the wise it call steal," etc. (*Merry Wives of Windsor*, i. 3); and there are other instances in this piece.
- „ 35, l. 3, '*purchasers*'—*i.e.* of lands or houses, as in p. 34, l. 24: l. 7, '*begers hauen*'—as 'Beggars' Bush' = the rendezvous for beggars, and by consequence and metaphor, beggary.
- „ 36, l. 6, '*Hind*'—see Index of Names, and so l. 10, 'Noble,' and l. 11, 'Round Robin.'
- „ 37, l. 20, '*Barddice*'—dice barred or prevented from (so often) throwing up certain numbers, as the 4 and 3. On '*Langrets*' see note on p. 12, l. 27: '*Gourds*'—dice scooped out on one side or more, as *fullams* were loaded on one or more sides, the effect being similar, namely, that of making the lighter side turn uppermost. On 'Flats,' 'Forgers,' 'Demies,' see Glossarial-Index, *s.v.*
- „ 39, l. 20, '*reuerision*' = back motion.
- „ 40, l. 7, '*braue fellowes*'—*i.e.* bravely attired. Cf. p. 43, l. 11: l. 15, '*cosin*'—cf. p. 38, versing law and Barnard's law: l. 15,

'grime'—apparently a cant term, probably = cheat.

Page 41, l. 10, '*Ipcras*,' or Hippocras = drink, spice and sugar strained; a sieve being said to be called in apothecaries' language 'Hippocrates' sleeve': l. 21, '*side hair*' = long hair? or whiskers?: l. 25, '*ownes*' = wounds. Cf. p. 48, l. 13.

„ 42, l. 2, '*huffe-snuffe*'—"one who readily takes pepper in the nose," or, as here, "appears to do so," a swaggerer or bully: last l., '*garded gowns*' = faced, banded or trimmed.

„ 43, l. 2, '*blew starch*'—the fashionable starch of the day: l. 3, '*surfuling water*'—water containing sulphur or mercury with which the skin was washed to beautify it: l. 4, '*stales*' = decoys: l. 5, '*Si quis*' = If any one—the commencement of advertisements put up in St. Paul's, etc., by persons seeking for employment. Cf. *Every Man out of his Humour*, ii. 2 *ad fin.*: l. 18, '*verse*'—here, as in p. 44, l. 11, a cant term for passing off bad money, etc. See p. 37, l. 2; p. 46, l. 23.

„ 44, l. 2, '*aboord on hèm*'—see Glossarial-Index, under 'boord,' etc., *ut freq.*: l. 8, '*traines*' = decoys or lures, *ut freq.*: l. 21, '*trugs*' = harlots. Cf. p. 37, l. 17: '*Neapolitan fauor*' = lu. ven.

„ 45, l. 2, '*parators*' = apparitors, beadles or messengers of the Courts spiritual: l. 12, '*Arches*' = Court of Arches: l. 23, '*fetch*

her off = cozen her : l. 25, '*feare*' in causal sense, cause to fear.

- Page 46, l. 5, '*blind patches*'—'blind' = obscure. See note on p. 12, l. 4. 'Patches' are generally fools, so called from their parti-coloured dress, but here it would seem to mean one whose poverty caused him to be patched, and so a discreditable fellow : l. 18, '*traffiques*' = harlots. Cf. p. 38, l. 1 ; p. 40, l. 24.
- „ 47, l. 3, '*shot*' = reckoning : *ib.*, '*noble*'—according as he meant the 'angel' noble, 11/-, or 'Rose' noble, 14/6 ; the 'George' noble was 9/- : l. 13, '*whitled*'—literally 'cut'—still in use (very frequently in United States), *i.e.* intoxicated.
- „ 48, l. 6, '*linkes of* [the chain of] *his whistle*. Cf. p. 49, l. 2 ; p. 50, l. 2 : l. 13, '*gogs nownes*'—an attempt at making innocent the oath 'God's wounds' : l. 23, '*Counter*' prison so called.
- „ 49, l. 3, '*of*' = on or to : l. 13, '*braue*' = bravado : l. 14, '*bidden*' = bide, as in 'bid the base.'

A PLEASANT DISCOVERY, ETC.

- „ 51, l. 5, '*legering*'—from French *leger* or *legier*, light : l. 6, '*colliers*'—it must be remembered throughout that 'coals' here mean 'charcoal,' and 'colliers' = charcoal sellers. Hence p. 53, l. 9, we have 'wilow coles' as small and of a bad or poor kind. Cf. p. 55, l. 3 ; p. 56, l. 27 : l. 10, '*left, etc.*'—explained further on in text.

- Page 52, l. 12, '*Whetstone*' = a place near Finchley, about five or six miles from town,—the others well known.
- „ 53, l. 4, '*wilow coles*'—see note on p. 51, l. 6.
- „ 56, l. 13, '*Bul*'—the hangman of the time, as onward: l. 27, '*shruffe*' = light rubbish, wood.
- „ 57, l. 23, '*broche*' = spit: Fr. *broche-r*.
- „ 58, l. 17, '*cheaped*'—much as '*chap*' to bargain or purchase—hence Cheapside in London, etc., etc.
- „ 59, l. 8, '*backe side*'—see Glossarial-Index *s.v.* for a full note, *ut freq.*: l. 12, '*shrews*'—used in a would-be jocular manner, he being already "mazed" who uses it.
- „ 60, l. 3, '*lambeakes*' = strokes—verb also used, '*lambeak*'—one root, '*lam*,' to beat.
- „ 61, l. 2, '*pate or two*' = pate broken here and there: l. 3, '*Iack Drum*'—see full note in Index of Names, *s.n.*, and annotated Life in Vol. I.

SECOND PART OF CONNIE CATCHING.

- Page 70, l. 1, '*courtlox*' = cutlass, *ut freq.*: l. 2, '*vnleager*' = raise the siege.
- „ 71, l. 3, '*inferred*' = brought in: l. 5, '*conueiance*'—see note on p. 33, l. 20: l. 27, '*cawtels*' = cunning devices.
- „ 72, l. 15, '*feedes themselues*'—on this and numerous verb forms see annotated Life

- in Vol. I.: l. 17, 'breake the yoke'—qy. misprint for 'beare the yoke'? l. 18, 'painfull' = painstaking.
- Page 73, l. 6, 'for' = against, *ut freq.*: l. 7, 'Gangrena' = gangrene or mortification: l. 8, 'censure' = judgment, *ut freq.*: l. 20, 'ease'—the sentence will be more easily understood if we read 'ease,' [as] their *s. b.*
- „ 74, l. 10, 'long . . . losse'—he means to speak scoffingly, *i.e.* worthy to live long and go ever down hill: l. 11, 'abroach' = a-running, as still in use.
- „ 76, l. 22, 'blind Faires' = obscure fairs. Cf. note on p. 12, l. 4: l. 24, 'valure' = value. So 'valour,' p. 77, l. 4.
- „ 77, l. 23, 'gran'—qy. misprint for gra[i]n, used figuratively, or for "man": l. 26, 'artificially' = skilfully: l. 28, 'slop' = the baggy thigh portion.
- „ 78, l. 2, 'candle and boulsters'—'candle' = forepart or arched part of the saddle—other terms technical and familiar: l. 3, 'bombast'—stuffing, cotton wool was so called: *ib.*, 'with'—qy. 'which'? l. 4, 'vices may' = devices; more likely "hinges or the like": l. 7, 'Scotch brake'—a 'brake' is a snaffle—apparently there was then some special one known as Scotch: l. 8, 'featly' = neatly: l. 19, 'vntould' = without paying the legal tax on such a transaction. See the word 'touler,' p. 79, l. 4—evidently the officer appointed to take these tolls.

- Page 79, l. 10, '*knights of the post*'—fellows who could be hired at the posts outside the Courts of Law to swear anything or go bail for any one—for a small consideration : l. 14, '*Querries*'—a cant term which may or may not be a corruption of 'equerries' : *ib.*, '*there*' = their.
- „ 80, l. 3, '*trust*'—a horse is said to be well 'trussed' when he is of a compact make and not too long or spare between his lowest rib and his haunch : l. 8, '*seared*'—we learn that he was marked with a 'starre,' and as this cannot (I think) be done by searing, probably Greene simply meant "marked" or as we might say "cered." A waxed or cered cloth was then spelt 'sear-cloth' : l. 13, '*hurly burly*' = noise and tumult : l. 19, '*bet the prise*' = beat down the price asked : l. 21, '*clapped*' = shaking hands.
- „ 82, l. 20, '*affected*'—*qy.* 'aspected'?
- „ 83, l. 5, '*soken*' = drunkards : l. 7, '*grypes*'—possibly from the bird so called (see *Batman* xviii. c. 56), though the word existed and the bird was so called from its grasping propensities : l. 8, '*lay*' = bet, as still in use : ll. 15, 23, '*booty*'—apparently a phrase then equal to 'confederately for advantage' or the like.
- „ 84, l. 20, '*tearmage*.' See next clause and p. 87, l. 4.
- „ 85, l. 10, '*shoare*' = a slant stroke, *i.e.* one that

reaches its mark by a curve: l. 17, '*hel-rakers*.' See note on p. 29, l. 17.

Page 89, l. 5—transpose the) after '*vp*.'

„ 90, l. 21, '*parsley*'—the speaker “in a braverie” carried himself beforehand as a conqueror, '*parsley*' having been worn as a garland by victors.

„ 91, l. 1, '*morrice pike*'—a large pike formerly used in England, and according to Nares derived from the Moors: l. 22, '*to pitch his haie*' = to pitch his toils, '*haie*' from the French, a hedge or fence, enclosure, net or snare in the then English. See '*haie*' in Glossarial-Index, *s.v.*

„ 92, l. 28, '*seck*'—*ut freq.*—this spelling (and pronunciation) goes to support the etymology from the French. See p. 93, l. 5.

„ 93, l. 15, '*seruing man*'—not our '*servant*,' but an attendant (who might be of gentle blood) on some one of rank, as shown by his sword, cloak, and ring, and by his belt being as a pawn worth £5, pp. 94-5.

„ 95, l. 8, '*call*' = the sum first laid (before the *vie* and *revie*) when each called or chose his card?: l. 7, '*belt*'—I presume his sword-belt, the sword having been already pawned. As to relative values of the sword and belt, compare Osric's “carriages very dear to fancy.”

„ 96, l. 6, '*kindly*' = naturally—with perhaps an equivoque, as his betrayer had been his friend: l. 10, '*Harpie*'—see Glossarial-

- Index, *s.v.*: l. 24, 'Boung.' See p. 38, l. 19.
- Page 97, l. 8, '*desparage*'—this seems to mean 'injure,' and therefore = lower the value of, but an odd use of the word: l. 13, '*brauado*' = boastful threat, as still in use.
- „ 98, l. 5, '*Prankar*'—this has been explained as cant for a horse—hence the present passage should be read as though it were a Prancar or horse-stealer, *i.e.* a Prancar-stealer (or horse-stealer).
- „ 99, l. 3, '*cast*' = chance hand or game: l. 7, '*stoope*' = cant term for 'lose,' as before: l. 13, '*main*' = the main original stake, separate from the vies and revies: l. 20, '*pronouns*'—an easily understood jocular addition—probably commonly used in those times when one heard such an oath as 'gogges nownes,' and of course meant to express frequent swearing. In like manner 'swearing through the eight parts of speech' was a stronger expression, implying more continuous swearing, in "every word an oath" style. "At voluntary" is intended to intensify this, his only cause being his loss.
- „ 100, l. 5, '*taken suspicious*'—an odd phrase for "taken on suspicion": l. 15, '*thrust corner*'—*qy.* they were tried? or that they "got over" their jury, etc.?: l. 18, '*burnt in the eares*'—to be noted as a punishment (as well as shearing them off).

- Page 101, l. 7, '*crosse*' = that stamped on coin and frequently used for coin itself. We should rather say 'to a *crosse*,' *i.e.* to his last half-penny ; and it is this circumstance, and not the cross itself, that is "next neighbour to the gallows," or leads to it : l. 14, '*huffes*' = displeasures, tempers : l. 15, '*a scholler they say he is, to make an inuectiue against me.*' See it reproduced in Vol. XI. : l. 22, '*cage*'—it is '*caze*' in the original, a misprint for '*cage*' or '*case*'—probably the latter, as the contents of the jakes were '*cased*' and not '*caged*' in their barrels, etc.
- „ 102, l. 5, '*Termers*' = visitors who came up at (Law) term time : l. 7, '*fond*' = found.
- „ 103, l. 1—here is another instance of Greene's carelessness and haste ; for it seems rather an omission of Greene's than of the compositor, that there is wanting "[you]" or "[you will] perhappes," etc., or "[may] perhappes" : l. 19, '*Beare gardens*'—often mentioned in Ben Jonson, etc.—see Index of Names, *s.v.* : *ibid.*, '*running at Tilt*' = Tilt-yard : l. 20, '*fraies*' = frays, *i.e.* quarrellings and fightings, which of course called a crowd.
- „ 104, l. 2, '*straight*' = strait : l. 14, '*their*' = there—then interchanged.
- „ 105, l. 22, '*I marie*' = ay marry.
- „ 106, l. 20, '*vilde*' = vile : l. 25, '*remoue*'—Nichols' "Progresses" remain to reveal to

us the "state and circumstance" of good Queen Bess's moves and removes.

Page 107, l. 9, '*legier de maine*'—the words were scarcely yet naturalized as '*legerdemain*': l. 13, '*purchase*'—a most distinct proof that the word was then cant for what is stolen. Cf. I Henry IV. ii. 1: Henry V iii. 1. Cf. p. 110, l. 21; p. 111, l. 21; and p. 112, l. 24: l. 25, '*connies*'—a more than curious term for a "Country Foist": l. 26, '*smoake*'—used not merely, as before, and as now, to discover for himself what he is, but in the usual sense of causing him to be discovered or of discovering him to others.

„ 108, l. 4, '*mout[h]fair*' = fair-spoken—of course such a word might be readily coined; but qy. a misprint for '*snout-fair*'?: l. 7, '*foists*' = pickpockets: l. 16, '*Spanish pip*' = l. ven.: ll. 13-17—again an instance of Greene's carelessness, etc. 'In cosening' refers to the female Foists, but 'are worthy,' etc., must refer to such dupes 'as giue themselues,' etc.; though by the wording, the nominatives to 'are worthy' are these 'Female Foists': l. 21, '*a hall*.' Cf. p. 109, ll. 16—26. 'Smugglers' similarly held meetings for their own profit and protection.

„ 109, l. 10, '*reanswered*' = the same amount given back: *ib.*, '*while*' = until, *ut freq.*: l. 21, '*Lawrence Pickering*,' and l. 24,

'*Bull*'—see on p. 56, l. 13—repeated : l. 23, '*good calling*'—a curious phrase considering what has just preceded. Does he mean 'of [a] good calling,' *i.e.* that his tavern, etc., was otherwise respectable, or 'of good reputation [except among those who knew better] ' ?

Page 110, l. 4, '*dailie trust up*'—what a bloody code were the laws of the death-penalty then and far onward ! Of course, with no colonies whither to banish criminals, the problem was a difficult and terrible one how to dispose of them, while the taxation that would have been required to build jails, etc., would have raised a rebellion, and the cost swallowed up the revenue. Still, it is frightful to realize to-day how light was the Elizabethan-Jacobean estimate of human life, and how high the estimate of "property, property" : l. 9, '*and*' = an : l. 12, '*staul*.' See p. 103, l. 28, and cf. p. 104, l. 27, and p. 108, l. 11, his "shadow," helper, or as he calls him l. 24, his '*Novice*' : l. 15, '*old Coole*'—this has not been given as cant for a "cut-purse." Can it be our cant "old Cole," as in the old song "Old King Cole was a merry old soul," etc. ?

„ 111, l. 14, '*eye was still abroad*' = wakeful and watchful, almost the converse of our use of the phrase.

„ 112, l. 24, '*closely*' = secretly.

- Page 113, l. 1, '*quandary*'—properly a perplexity. Its use in this figurative sense is unusual : l. 3, '*small beere*'—early use of a present-day term, and found earlier still. See Glossarial-Index, *s.v.*
- „ 114, l. 8, '*middle walk*' = middle aisle [of St. Paul's] : l. 20, '*strained*'—taken either from the musical or tenter's art : l. 23, '*fetch*' = take in.
- „ 115, l. 24, '*lyning of shelles*'—see Catalogue, *s.v.* = money.
- „ 116, l. 5, '*died*' = insensible, or, as we still say, 'in a dead faint.' So p. 115, l. 12 : l. 14, '*Cuttle bounge*' = a cut-purse's knife. See Catalogue.
- „ 117, l. 12, '*hansell*' = earnest money : l. 16, '*single money*' = small money or change.
- „ 118, l. 2, '*proweleth*' = a use probably due to its derivation from 'prowe,' *prowe-el*, to make or obtain profit : l. 3, '*boultes*' = the pieces (before cutting of definite length) now generally from their different form called 'rolls.' A 'bolt' of ship's canvas is said in dictionaries to be 28 ells long, but Admiral Smyth gives it as 39 nominal (and generally 40 real) yards : l. 4, '*conueyance*.' See note on p. 33, l. 20 : *ib.*, '*slight*' = sleight : l. 10, '*petulacerie*'—this does not read like a cant word. Did Greene derive it from Ital. *petulantia*? which Florio gives as " wantones, saucines, malapertnes, ribaudrie, lecherous wantones,

reproachful speaking, dishonestie, impudencie." And *Petulante*, as "... dishonest ... readie to do wrong, one that passeth not how ill he speaketh or doth to a man": l. 25, '*bracke*' = flaw or imperfection. Lyly in his *Euphues* says that "the finest velvet has *his bracke*."

Page 119, l. 21, '*upon their pantophles*' = upon their slippers, or, as we should say, 'upon their tiptoes,' or 'upon their high horse.'

„ 120, l. 6, '*adamant*' = magnet: l. 20, '*utter*' = outer—noteworthy because of the other term 'withdrawing.' Much might be said on the insight given into the then manners by this leaving of rapiers, etc.: l. 26, '*ten shillings fee*'—noteworthy, especially when we compare it with the usual physician's fee—a groat.

„ 121, l. 2, '*on*'—There are six other places in this sheet where there is more or less confusion of pronouns. Here, where there seems to be 'they,' and the verb in singular 'starteth,' I note because it may be a compositor's error rectified by punctuating 'lifting, on' and taking 'on' as = one. The other instances are pp. 113, l. 6; 117, l. 8; 119, l. 21; 120, l. 4; 124, ll. 16, 22: l. 9, '*tapping houses*' = tap-houses: l. 27, '*for*' = in order to.

„ 122, l. 23, '*tyes*' = prongs.

„ 124, l. 14, '*light*' = lighted, as before.

„ 125, l. 27, '*pottell*' = a measure of two quarts;

and on 'Ipocras' see note p. 41, l. 10 ;
in p. 127, l. 11, 'bottel' is an error for
'pottel,' as appears by p. 128, l. 1.

- Page 126, l. 3, '*Flasket*' = clothes-basket, and also a shallow washing-tub in various counties (Halliwell-Phillipps, *s.v.*).
- „ 128, l. 21, '*wrests*'—punctuate '*wrests*,' [explained in next clause].
- „ 129, l. 7, '*Counter*' = prison so named—destroyed in our own time only: l. 11, '*charm*'—see last Catalogue: l. 17, '*ginnes*' = engines of deceit, here picklocks, etc.
- „ 130, l. 8, '*Bolton in the Mores*' = Bolton le Moor: l. 27, '*cald . . . him*'—some slip or blundering of printer here. It may be rectified by transposing the words thus—'*cald him in and askt*,' etc., or it might be '*ask [t]h[e]m*,' *i.e.* the servants inside.
- „ 131, l. 3, '*budget*' = a bag, sack, or bundle, etc.: l. 4, '*blacke Jacke*'—a can, or as Nares, speaking from observation, says, a pitcher of leather. It was called 'black' either from its colour after use, or from its difference from the metal cans or pots: l. 25, '*alas*'—an interjection merely, or at most a sham-pitying one.
- „ 133, l. 3, '*nappy ale*' = strong ale. The derivation is doubtful. Palsgrave says '*nopy ale vigoreux*'; Minsheu, 'either because it takes you by the nape of the neck or makes you sleepy'; Sherwood, '*brew*

forte': l. 6, 'a good.' So p. 160, l. 25
—used much as 'a late,' now 'alate,' etc.,
and = well (or fully or broadly): l. 14,
'*basil*' = a clog of some kind, usually
spelt 'brasil' or 'brasill.' See p. 226,
l. 1, etc.: l. 20, '*while*' = until. Cf. p. 151,
l. 20, *ut freq.*

THE THIRDE PART.

Title-page—In the original is a rough woodcut of
a Fool and a gay dressed female with a
'coney' in her hand—cards lying about.

Page 140, l. 3, '*Whittington Colledge*'—College
Hill, Upper Thames Street, is so called
after the College St. Spirit and St. Mary,
founded by Richard Whittington. It was
suppressed by the statute of Edward VI.
See Stow's Survey, edited by Thoms,
p. 91. It may be here noted that in the
title-page of the anonymous "Defence"
against Greene's tractates on Conny-
catching, Cuthbert Cunny-catcher describes
himself as "Licentiate of Whittington
College." See the "Defence" in next vol.

„ 141, l. 2, '*forfend*' = forbid or fend or ward us
against, much as in the word (spoken of
witches) 'forespoke': l. 13, '*driftes*' =
devices.

„ 144, l. 7, '*deciphered*' = unfolded, *ut freq.*: ll.
9—10, '*quoth he, . . . catching*': punctuate
'he; . . . catching,.' So p. 147, ll. 22-4,
we have 'exploit . . . kindred: Vpon'

where we should reverse the punctuation. But from p. 152, l. 10, and frequent similar, this seems to have been Greene's own punctuation. Cf. p. 153, l. 21; p. 155, l. 25, etc., etc.: l. 14, '*intentting*' = leading, stretching toward.

- Page 145, l. 11, '*shadowed*' = concealed.
 „ 146, l. 10, '*copesmates*' = associates, *ut freq.*
 „ 147, l. 8, '*artificial*' = art-made, or artful. Cf. p. 153, l. 11: l. 11, '*paltries*' = trifles or peltries.
 „ 148, l. 20, '*a bowed groat*'—as now 'a crooked sixpence.'
 „ 149, l. 14, '*as*'—used where we should use 'that' or 'as that': l. 23, '*Treacher*' = traitor.
 „ 150, l. 25, '*Ortographie*'—note spelling—Greene frequently drops the h of the θ (theta).
 „ 151, l. 21, '*fadge*' = suit or fit.
 „ 153, l. 14, '*sightly*'—apparently used as = open to sight.
 „ 154, l. 28, '*felling*' = preparing or getting ready: '*engin*' = wit, Latin *ingenium*.
 „ 155, l. 7, '*a fleece*'—probably a slang term.
 „ 156, l. 24, '*giues*' = tells. We still say in an opposite sense 'my mind misgives me.'
 „ 157, l. 10, '*marke the stands*'—a term in hunting = mark where the game is: l. 19 '*owes*' = owns, *ut freq.*: l. 20, '*trugge*' = harlot, *ut freq.*: l. 26, '*holpe*' = holpen.
 „ 158, l. 4, '*meane*' = medium: l. 28, [had]—

but perhaps 'it beene' was a way of expressing our 'it had been.'

- Page 159, l. 9, 'a gallon or two'—hence it is clear that the wines then in use were much lighter than those now commonly used, or else the capacity to drink of our forefathers was greater: l. 21, 'he . . . morning'—read these words as though within ().
- „ 161, l. 9, 'compactd' = in pact with, confederated. So p. 163, l. 15: l. 19, 'such houses' = inns, etc., as well as play-houses proper, where plays at that time were often performed. Cf. "in open markets," etc. See also note on p. 173: l. 22, 'fetch' = device, lure or bringing in, *ut freq.*
- „ 162, l. 5, 'traine' = stratagem or snare, *ut freq.*: l. 7, 'Gracious' = Gracechurch? l. 18, 'counterfeit' = deceiving: l. 22, 'sleeue, etc.'—noteworthy as showing the habits and customs of the time. It may be noted that the hose, or as we call them 'breeches,' were slop or bombast fashion.
- „ 163, l. 17, 'iumpes' = agree: l. 26, 'Foole-taker' = Cony-catcher, as on title-page, etc.
- „ 164, l. 2, 'iourney westward' = to Tyburn, as before: l. 16, 'Bandora'—see Glossarial-Index, *s.v.*: l. 22, 'artificiall,' *ibid.*
- „ 167, l. 9, 'house-rent' = the rent of an extra-large house, involving higher 'housekeeping': ll. 9, 24, 'commoditie' = advantage or gain, as before: l. 13, 'seruing-man'

—see note on page 93, l. 15 : l. 20, 'regarded' = looked after, observed or watched : l. 21, 'frustrate' = frustrated, 't' being the final consonant.

Page 168, l. 20, 'pillow-beeres' = pillow-slips or cases.

„ 169, l. 19, 'Of one,' etc.—the insertion of this story, differing in no essential from a former tale, though Greene would explain that it was more accurate, suggests (as much else does) that he simply wrote these tractates when specially impecunious and needy : l. 22, 'Conning' = conny-ing ; or qy. = cunning ?

„ 170, l. 18, 'rounding' = whispering ; but see Glossary, *s.v.*

„ 171, l. 4, 'by cocke and pie'—an attempted innocent variation of 'by God,' and (it is said) the *pie*, or book of sacred offices ; but qy. was not the original word *pix* = the vessel containing the Host ? : l. 11, 'was presently'—an instance of the licence in writing of the day, for it requires before it [the wine] : l. 21, 'all a-mort,' etc. Howell translates it in his lexicon by 'triste, pensatif.'

„ 173, l. 1, 'the Bull'—not the play-house afterwards called 'the Red Bull,' but the Inn, as shown by the word 'stable' (l. 6). The play was performed, as frequently, or usually, in the yard or court. See Collier's "Annals of the Stage," iii. 324. It must have been 'good custom' for 'mine host' :

l. 8, '*counters*' = pseudo-money: l. 10, '*ought*' = owned: l. 20, '*conusiance*'—*qy.* misprint for '*conueiance*'? See p. 174, l. 4: l. 25, '*minion*' = mistress (in a bad sense). See Glossarial-Index, *s.v.*

Page 177, l. 18, '*reuerence*' = of cap and knee.

„ 178, l. 7, '*attending*' = waiting for, expecting: l. 26, '*liberally*'—misprinted '*literally*' in the original: ll. 21-7—this sentence (*ut frequenter*) discloses Greene's haste. We must take—'who still . . . his kindness' as one long parenthesis: thus the 'he not discrediting' is the [he] desiring pardon. Cf. similar haste in p. 182, l. 13: l. 28, '*curtesie of the Citie*' = offering him wine at a tavern? or generally attention of citizens to a visitor-stranger?

„ 179, l. 8, '*Jewell*'—note the word as applied to a gold chain: l. 14, '*reaches*' = overreaches: l. 21, '*Paules Chain*'—Cassell's "Old and New London" (p. 266) says it was so called from a chain that used to be drawn across the carriage way of the Churchyard to preserve silence during service. From the text 'going down' while the gentleman 'went up' Fleet Street, it was probably applied (both name and chain) to the Cheapside outlet from the Churchyard.

„ 182, l. 1, '*happen*'—error for '*happened*': l. 10, '*worthy*'—misprinted '*worldly*' in the original.

- Page 184, l. 16, '*stall*'—the 'stall' that formed the front of the shop, there being then no window fronts. See the story of the knave overhearing what was said in the tailor's shop, p. 186 : l. 17, '*shorte*'—*i.e.* he would say that he had let it down 'shorte' or missingly of the 'stall,' and so had really let it down a longer distance, namely, to the pavement : l. 21, '*roundly*' = clearly, fully, openly—so used because the *rotundus* or circle or sphere, from which the word is derived, has no secret points, etc., about it.
- „ 190, l. 24, '*their*'—misprinted 'this' in the original.
- „ 192, l. 19, '*bolts*' = shackles.

A DISPUTATION BETWEEN A HEE CONNY-CATCHER, ETC.

- Title-page—has a rude woodcut of rabbit-headed persons, as in prior tractates.
- Page 197, l. 8. So p. 205, l. 16. See Cant-terms as explained *frequenter* : l. 12, '*broacht up*' = spitted, or as one nails up vermin on a barn-door.
- „ 198, l. 11, '*brusting*'—note spelling. Baret's '*Alvearie*' (1580) gives both forms : l. 19, '*worship*' = reverence, *i.e.* character : l. 20, '*forehead*'—he refers to a particular and frequent result of lues ven. : l. 21, '*Master Huggins*'—see Index of Names, *s.n.*

- Page 199, l. 7, '*Ocyliades*'—press error for Oeyliades, Fr. *Oeilliades*, amorous glances or looks: l. 8, '*Adios*' = Spanish for 'adieu': l. 10, '*frouncing*' = curling, or wrinkling, *i.e.* crinkling, waving or cringing: l. 17, '*Hieria*'—The Hyena from Pliny's days was said to counterfeit men's voices in order to entrap them and others (though not to sing), and (Natural History, B. 28, c. 8) Holland translates—"... in the Hyæna itselfe there is a certain magicall vertue, attributing a wonderful power thereto, in transporting the mind of man or woman, and ravishing their senses so as that it will allure them unto her very strangely." But *qy.*—odd as the misprint is, is it a blunder for Sirens? The context 'tunes' and 'passengers' suggests this: l. 22, '*throathes*'—note spelling: l. 26, '*bufts*'—cant term, as before. See Glossarial-Index, *s.v.*
- „ 200, l. 3, '*Apparater*' = the legal functionary who cites or summons one to appear: l. 4, '*verst*'—see as on p. 199, l. 26, *et freq.*
- „ 201, l. 16, '*not*'—an evident example of a not uncommon mistake of the compositor for 'but.'
- „ 203, l. 6, '*Vine Court*'—see Index of Names, *s.n.*: l. 16, '*Pierce penillesse*' = beggarhood, with a tacit reference to the tractates under this name: l. 17, '*byte*' = bit: or it may be = bite.
- „ 204, l. 3, '*quarterne*' = a wind on the quarter

(the most favourable): l. 4, '*lystes*'—seemingly error for '*lyftes*,' *i.e.* lifts—the cant term for stealing from windows, etc., as before described: l. 11, '*briskt*'—we say '*briskt up*,' pranked up: l. 18, '*cloyed*' = intruded upon by others claiming a share—a thieves' cant term: l. 24, '*stauls*' = stales, lures. Cf. p. 210, l. 5, and Catalogues, as before.

Page 206, l. 3, '*Pragges*' = prigges. Cf. p. 222, l. 11: l. 10, '*offeing*'—press error for '*affeing*,' *i.e.* affying.

- „ 207, l. 11, '*presse*' = throng.
- „ 209, l. 1, '*choplodgicke*' = smatterer?
- „ 210, l. 5, '*until*' = while, *ut freq.*: l. 18, '*trugging house*' = house of ill fame. See Catalogues, as before.
- „ 211, l. 19, '*pipping*' = pippin.
- „ 212, l. 2, '*woodcock*' = a fool.
- „ 214, l. 4, '*Blackamore*'—used much as we use '*blackleg*': l. 18, '*Counter*' = prison so named, *ut freq.*
- „ 215, l. 16, '*imbollish*'—apparently a Greene coinage from Italian *Imbolare*, to filch or steal. Cf. p. 230, l. 25.
- „ 216, l. 19, '*brooke all*'—not clear whether = broke all, *i.e.* broke up altogether, or an error for '*brooke[d] all*,' *i.e.* bore, all that was said, patiently [as he had not done before].
- „ 217, l. 3, '*Muse*' = hole or burrow, otherwise Muset: l. 6, '*fetch*' = trick: l. 8, '*quit*' = requite: l. 21, '*for*' = against, as before.

- Page 218, l. 8, '*bidding*' = inviting : l. 14, '*twilted*' = quilted? l. 21, '*Hacksters*' = cutters, swaggerers, swash-bucklers.
- „ 219, l. 9, '*Lemman*' = mistress.
- „ 222, l. 7, '*giuing you the bucklers*' = confess myself vanquished : l. 9, '*induce*' = bring in or introduce : l. 10, '*by talk*' = side talk or talk by the way and not to the purpose in hand : l. 19, '*Vngquantum*' = Vnguentum—Greene here and elsewhere adapted his Latinity to his 'vulgar' characters : l. 20, '*Iack Rhoades*'—see Index of Names : l. 25, '*on head*'—probably press error for 'on [his] head.'
- „ 223, l. 6, '*sandeyde*'—same as 'purblind,' as above : *ib.*, '*Western Prigge*'—see Glossarial-Index, *s.v.* : l. 9, '*chiefe of the Clargies fauor*'—an impudent boast : l. 14, '*Hogsdon . . . Chot and Strong*'—see Index of Names, *s.n.* : l. 21, '*a morrow masse priest*'—see Glossarial-Index for note (*s.v.*)
- „ 225, l. 9, '*his blacke booke*.' See page 236, l. 22. It was published immediately—viz. in 1592 (see next Vol.) : l. 12, '*Bull*' = the hangman, as before : l. 17, '*Nine boales*.' See p. 237, l. 1—*qy.* = nine holes? l. 23, '*boulte*'—see note on p. 118, l. 3.
- „ 226, l. 1, '*brasill*'—see note on p. 133, l. 14 : l. 3, '*a daungerous Ioynt*'—see Glossarial-Index, *s.v.* : l. 11, '*washt*'—the tale is purposely made obscure and ambiguous.

The word French would lead us to think of the lues ven. ; but the words "he had that he had not," and the word 'Ale Peria'—an error for Alopecia, the medical name for sickness or mange, leading to baldness, seems to forbid this.

- Page 227, l. 10, *plackards* = plackets or a pocket in the dress or petticoat (Halliwell-Phillipps), not as Nares and Dyce, the petticoat itself: l. 17, '*starting hoales*'—a figure from conies, which have many openings to their burrows that they may more readily escape: l. 23, '*Spilsby*' = town in Lincolnshire.
- „ 228, l. 8, '*peate*' = 'pet' variant: or more likely of 'peart.'
- „ 230, l. 16, '*bucklars*'—see note on p. 222, l. 7: l. 25, '*imbollish*'—see note on p. 215, l. 16.
- „ 232, l. 7, '*loathsome leprosie*' = secondary effects of l. ven.: l. 10, '*S (Syth)*'—see Index of Names, *s.n.*: l. 25, '*suffragen*' = suffragan—one who assists, and therefore his other co-rivals.
- „ 233, l. 4, '*beleavings*' = leavings: l. 12, '*French Marbles*.' So p. 235, l. 17. Not seen this before, but easily understandable: l. 20, '*Piggen hoales*' = pigeon holes, or those through which the punished persons passed their hands (as in the pillory): l. 21, '*Fouler*'—see Index of Names, *s.n.* = jailor: l. 26, '*Knights of the Poste*'—see on p. 79, l. 10: l. 27, '*dine with Duke*

Humfrey, i.e. lounged in St. Paul's where was the tomb of D. H., not being able to dine at all.

- Page 234, l. 9, '*surphaling water*' = surphuling, i.e. a cosmetic wash, as before : l. 10, '*Potato rootes*'—not long introduced—odd to find them in apothecaries' shops ; but were then held to be provocative : l. 13, '*Broades men*' = board men or sides men ? l. 15, '*Gally, etc.*'—names of inns or taverns apparently : l. 23, '*cupples*' = the coupling lines, etc., of hounds : l. 25, '*Shordish*' = Shoreditch—and see Index of Names, *s.n.*, for note.
- „ 235, l. 16, '*laizers*' = lazars, lepers.
- „ 236, l. 5, '*Hamborough knife*' = Hamburg—probably a sort of bowie knife : l. 20, '*bilbowe blades*' = Bilbao swords.
- „ 237, l. 1, '*Ryfling*' = raffling ? l. 8, '*Bed-roll*' = Bede-roll.
- „ 239, l. 20, '*prick-song*' = the music written or 'pricked down.'
- „ 240, l. 10, '*licentious*'—like 'wanton,' was then sometimes used in a more modified sense than now : l. 16, '*ipsi*'—misprinted 'ipse' in the original : l. 20, '*ordinary dancer*' = a dancer who ordinarily or usually danced when opportunity was given..
- „ 243, l. 1, '*admirable*' = worthy of being admired : l. 2, '*gards*' = ornamental pieces or welts on garments : l. 17, '*garish*' = fine, or foolishly fine : l. 20, '*iet abroad*' = strut

- abroad and (implied) go abroad more than is common. Cf. l. 22, and ll. 25-7, and p. 244, l. 2.
- Page 244, l. 16, '*Moly*' = the bulbous plant given by Hermes to Ulysses to preserve him from the debaucheries of Circe.
- „ 247, l. 1, '*gawle*' = bawl, and spelt '*gale*' = cry or scream (Halliwell-Phillipps, *s.v.*): l. 2, '*ribadrous*' = ribald.
- „ 248, l. 1, '*plot*' = ground, being used as = plot of ground: l. 12 onward—quotations from Ecclesiasticus, (1) (2) from Ecclus. xxvi. 10, 11, (3) from Ecclus. xlii. 9—11.
- „ 249, l. 16, '*sien*' = scion: l. 18, '*odorentesta*, *sic*: qy. misprint for '*adolescentia*'?
- „ 250, l. 26, '*brute*' = rumour, report.
- „ 251, l. 1, '*cutting*' = lewd: l. 10, '*Rufflers*' = riotous fellows: l. 17, '*affection*'—noun used as verb.
- „ 252, l. 4, '*Bathe*'—I suppose the city so named: l. 8, '*his*'—misprinted '*her*' in the original: l. 28, '*if*'—misprinted '*of*' in the original.
- „ 254, l. 22, '*with*'—misprinted '*which*' in the original.
- „ 255, l. 18, '*credulous*' = credible.
- „ 257, l. 12, '*forked*' = cornuted.
- „ 258, l. 7—Greene's liking for contrast phrases, and the (apparent) sense, seem to require that the first '*him*' here should be '*her*': l. 8, '*shadow*' = overshadow, place in the shade, hide: l. 12, '*drug*' = drudge. Cf.

- p. 260, l. 10 : l. 20, 'back-house' = separate and back menial offices, etc.
- Page 259, l. 10, 'assured' = trusted. Cf. p. 264, l. 12.
- „ 260, l. 27, 'slips'—see context for description, but 'a' is an inadvertent insertion.
- „ 261, l. 12, 'cushnet'—the explanation of this is somewhat difficult, the more so that Greene has previously said (ll. 8-9) that he laid the slips in the *window*. Nares' examples *s.v.* 'Cushionet' do not lessen the difficulty. The word clearly means 'a small cushion,' and as Cotgrave has *s.v.* Coussinet "... also a cushionet or boulder of folded linnen, laid on the plaister of a wound," so it may have meant a quilted and similarly-formed ladies' pocket.
- „ 262, l. 7, 'quandom' = quondam.
- „ 263, l. 7, 'I gesse'—the still quick Yankee phrase. So pp. 271, l. 24, and 278, l. 10.
- „ 265, l. 7, 'sweeting' = darling.
- „ 267, l. 19, 'to make a piece of money' = caused him to turn something (his possessions, etc.) into money.
- „ 268, l. 18, 'as honest'—of course ironical, as proved by his 'houses of great hospitalitie,' etc. : l. 25, 'staule' = stale, lure.
- „ 269, l. 1, 'parsonage' = personage: l. 9, 'maine chance'—a kind of cant phrase still for profit or advantage.
- „ 270, l. 13, 'gip.' See it used "Marie gippe Giglet" in Greene's 'Neuer Too Late to

Mend,' and note there. Same as the exclamation to a horse 'gee up.'

Page 274, l. 8, '*couert*' = hidden place.

„ 278, l. 9, '*briefly*' = quickly : or perhaps it agrees better with its sense in King John iv. 3, where Nares says, "it seems to be used for *ripe*, a corruption still heard among the vulgar."

II. PROVERBS, PROVERBIAL SAYINGS, PHRASES, ETC.

Page 5, l. 8, '*time refineth mens affects.*'

„ 6, l. 18, '*I haue smyled with the Italian, and worne the vipers head in my hand, and yet stopt his venome,*' etc.

„ 7, l. 1, '*as our wits be as ripe as any, so our willes are more ready then they all*': l. 4, '*custome hath almost made them a law.*'

„ 8, l. 13, '*as in time and malice of mans nature hatcheth abuse*'—see Notes and Illustrations on the place : l. 19, '*whose wits is in their hands*': l. 20, '*like Cunnies in the hay*'—see Notes and Illustr. on the place : l. 26, '*at one cut at Cardes loseth all his money.*'

„ 10, l. 6, '*by long trauell learned without Booke.*'

„ 12, l. 10, '*the deuill is more honest then the holiest Angell.*'

„ 13, l. 3, '*the pickpockets (sir reuerence I meane)*'—the blunt name 'pickpockets' being held

for indecorous, the euphemism of 'sir reuerence' is added.

- Page 16, l. 6, '*the poore countrie farmer or Yeoman is the marke which they most of all skootte at.*'
- „ 17, l. 16, '*he comes ouer his fallowes kindly*': l. 24, '*smels a rat.*'
- „ 19, l. 18, '*crieth halfe part.*'
- „ 21, l. 26, '*plain as a pike staf.*'
- „ 22, l. 23, '*no butter will cleaue on my bread.*'
- „ 24, l. 26, '*now gramercie sir for this trick.*'
- „ 26, l. 19, '*I came hether in an ill houre.*'
- „ 27, l. 19, '*ile haue you on the lurch anone.*'
- „ 32, l. 25, '*geue him his paiment*': l. 27, '*'tis a mad world,*' etc.
- „ 33, l. 7, '*yet haue they clokes for the raine*': l. 14, '*turne the cat in the pan*'—this is a good example of the meaning of this saying — the reverse procedure.
- „ 34, l. 21, '*some prety way, more then the world is witnes to.*'
- „ 35, l. 4, '*foloweth his nose alwaies straight forward*': l. 9, '*beat my wits,*' etc.
- „ 39, l. 7, '*bidding them adue to the deuil.*'
- „ 40, l. 19, '*maintaine the maine chance.*'
- „ 41, l. 1, '*so many men so many affections.*'
- „ 42, l. 14—these are earlier versions of Scripture proverbs than the Breeches Bible.
- „ 46, l. 7, '*their plate on the boorde verie solemnly.*'
- „ 49, l. 1, '*laide his whistle to pawne for mony.*'
- „ 59, l. 19, '*hold vp thy hand at the bar.*'
- „ 60, l. 8, '*tried by the verdit of the smock*': l. 27, '*might ouercomes right.*'

- Page 70, l. 24, '*words are wind, & looks but glances*':
 l. 25, '*euery thunderclap hath not a bolt, nor euery Conny-catchers oath an execution.*'
- „ 74, l. 7, '*forewarned, forearmed*' . . '*burnt children dread the fire*': l. 10, '*still by the losse.*'
- „ 77, l. 12, '*cry with the Lapwing farthest from their nest.*'
- „ 80, l. 4, '*the hardest happe was but a halter.*'
- „ 85, l. 20, '*I haue seen men ston-blind offer to lay bets franckly.*'
- „ 89, l. 22, '*the Foxe the more he is curst, the better he fares.*'
- „ 90, l. 21, '*weare parsly in his hat*'—see Notes and Illustr. on the place: l. 23, '*lookt on his feet, and valed his plumes with the Peacocke.*'
- „ 91, l. 22, '*pitch his haie*'—see Notes and Illustr. on the place.
- „ 93, l. 21, '*sit you merrie.*'
- „ 99, l. 9, '*measure all things by minutes*': l. 13, '*maintain the main and to checke vies with reuies*': l. 17, '*turned to walk penylesse in Marke lane*'—see Notes and Illustr. in this place on the other proverbs, etc., here.
- „ 100, l. 23, '*what they got in the bridle they lost in the saddle.*'
- „ 101, l. 4, '*he that maketh a trap falleth into the snare himselfe.*'
- „ 105, l. 16, '*so long the pitcher goeth to the brooke that it commeth broken home*': l. 25, '*they take time while time serues and make hay while the Sunne shines.*'

- Page 116, l. 3, '*breeds*'—this shows that in the phrase "bred and born" bred is in its proper place and refers not to the breeding after birth *pace* a recent discussion in *Notes and Queries*.
- „ 117, l. 22, '*I see he that makes a snare, first fallles into it himselfe.*'
- „ 119, l. 21, '*are they vpon their pantophles*'—see Notes and Illustrations on the place.
- „ 121, l. 4, '*Lift bringeth the Marker to the blow.*'
- „ 127, l. 8, '*set downe his rest.*'
- „ 131, l. 5, '*I know tinkers haue drye soules.*'
- „ 151, l. 7, '*so straining courtesie.*'
- „ 160, l. 20, '*remembred him that said, who am I?*' See p. 158, l. 25.
- „ 163, l. 11, '*beating him with his fists well fauouredly.*'
- „ 171, l. 4, '*by cocke and pie*'—see Notes and Illustrations on this in the place.
- „ 174, l. 25, '*one false knaue can beguile another.*'
- „ 176, l. 6, '*teeth watred at his goodly Chaine.*'
- „ 179, l. 27, '*Not a little did the tretcher [traitor or treacherous person] smile in his sleeue.*'
- „ 180, l. 16, '*the rest following the gentleman at an inch.*'
- „ 182, l. 13, '*a shrewd mischaunce.*'
- „ 184, l. 26, '*loste more then in haste hee should recouer againe.*'
- „ 185, l. 7, '*a craftie knaue needeth no Broker.*'
- „ 192, l. 24, '*Thus one craftie knaue beguiled another.*'
- „ 199, l. 13, '*drawne on to the bent of their bow.*'

- Page 200, l. 6, '*he that medles with pitch, cannot but be defiled.*'
- „ 201, l. 12, '*learne and looke before they leape.*'
- „ 204, l. 14, '*byte in his Bounge*': l. 17, '*goes the world on wheeles,*' etc.
- „ 205, l. 17, '*you are two bowes downe the wind*': l. 20, '*Lye a little further.*'
- „ 207, l. 4, '*as the Cat watch for a Mouse.*'
- „ 208, l. 28, '*in faith put vp your pipes.*'
- „ 210, l. 13, '*neuer be brought to the blow.*'
- „ 212, l. 2, '*lyke a woodcocke homeward by weeping crosse*': l. 9, '*strike often,*' etc.
- „ 213, l. 19, '*many things fall out between the cup and the lip.*'
- „ 217, l. 3, '*Tis as hard to find a Hare,*' etc.
- „ 221, l. 15, '*turnde to grasse,*' etc.: l. 25, '*a foule word is good inough for a filthie knaue*': l. 28, '*not so merry when you went to Dunstable.*'
- „ 222, l. 5, '*short heeles.*'
- „ 223, l. 12, '*fetching nowices ouer the coales.*'
- „ 224, l. 2, '*as often as the Pitcher goes,*' etc.
- „ 225, l. 4, '*tis a foule byrd that defiles the owne neast.*'
- „ 238, l. 14, '*I was too soone wise to be long olde*': l. 25, '*I waxed vpwards with the ill weedes.*'
- „ 239, l. 3, '*an vntowarde gyrlle makes a good woman*': l. 6, '*ouer kind fathers, make unruly daughters*': l. 13, '*young Saints, olde deuils*': l. 15, '*what is not bent in the Cradle, will hardly be bowed in the Sadle.*'
- „ 241, l. 4, '*as tyde nor tyme tarrieth no man*':

- l. 18, 'the fayrest Hawke hath oftentimes the sickest feathers' . . . 'y^e hottest day hath the most sharpest thunders, the brightest sunne, the most suddaine showre, & the youngest Virgins, the most daungerous fortunes.'
- Page 244, l. 9, 'so long the pot goes to the water, that it comes broken home' 'the Fly dallyes,' etc.
- „ 247, l. 14, 'to strike when the yron was hotte, and to take opportunity by the forehead.'
- „ 249, l. 3, 'bent the tree while it was a wand, and taught the hound while he was a puppie,' etc.
- „ 253, last l., 'I loued him more, for the time, at the heele, then the other at the heart.' From p. 254, ll. 3-4 = she loved him more as does a dog that follows its master than as one who loved from the heart.
- „ 254, l. 8, 'hee that was hit with the horne was pincht at the heart.'
- „ 255, l. 13, 'taking the ball before it fell to the ground.'
- „ 256, l. 23, 'they were two bodies and one soule.'
- „ 260, l. 4, 'putting his hand in his sleeue gaue,' etc. : l. 7, 'swore solemnly to tread it vnder foote' = to keep secret : l. 13, 'grafting hornes in the Chimnies' : l. 16, 'dissembled al his thoughts.'
- „ 266, l. 6, 'all the boord was at a mutinie.'
- „ 267, l. 18, 'to make a peece of money'—see Notes and Illustrations on the place.

Handwritten scribble

- Page 270, l. 13, '*a yoong Saint will prooue an old diuel.*'
„ 271, l. 24, '*I gesse by his noase what porredge hee loued*'—I suppose *à la Bardolph*.
„ 274, l. 22, '*at length he payeth house,*' etc.
„ 278, l. 20, '*discharge the house.*'

A. B. G.

END OF VOL. X.

26

28



