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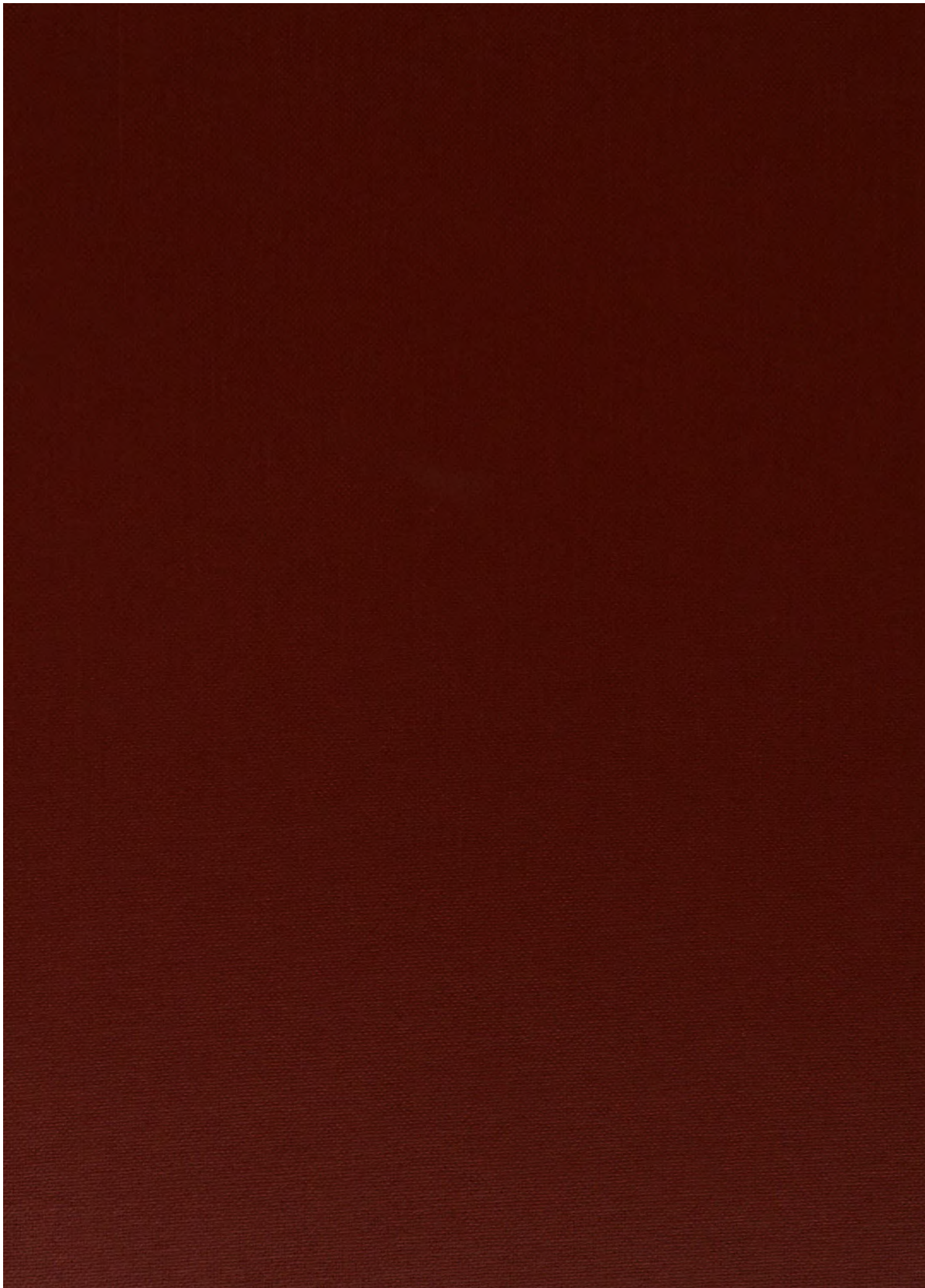
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THE NON-DRAMATIC WORKS

OF

THOMAS DEKKER.

*VOL. I.*

CANAAN'S CALAMITIE.  
THE WONDERFULL YEARE.  
THE BATCHELARS BANQUET.

1598—1603.



This Earth with sorrow must combine,  
But here all gladness is Divine,  
The radiance of another sphere,  
An unpolluted brightness clear,  
To which by gladness we come near.  
Since Mirth can open such a way,  
It is with her that we should stray,  
And leave false gravity to those  
Who are not what the vain suppose.

KENELM H. DIGBY, *Ouranogata*, c. iv., l. 96.

The Huth Library.

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IN FIVE VOLUMES.

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

BY THE REV.

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

VOL. I.

CANAAN'S CALAMITIE, JERUSALEM'S MISERIE, AND  
ENGLAND'S MIRROR.

THE WONDERFULL YEARE (1603), AND  
THE BATCHELARS BANQUET; OR, A BANQUET  
FOR BATCHELARS.

1598—1603.

PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.

1884.

50 Copies.]

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Fair is the mark of Good, and foul, of Ill,  
Although not so infallibly, but still  
The proof depends most on the mind and will.

As Good yet rarely in the Foul is met,  
So 'twould as little by its union get,  
As a rich jewel that were poorly set.

For since Good first did at the Fair begin,  
Foul being but a punishment for sin,  
Fair's the true outside to the Good within.

In these the Supreme Pow'r then so doth guide  
Nature's weak hand, as he doth add beside  
All by which creatures can be dignified,

While you in them see so exact a line,  
That through each sev'ral parts a glimpse doth shine,  
Of their original and form divine.

*The Idea*, by LORD HERBERT of Cherbury.

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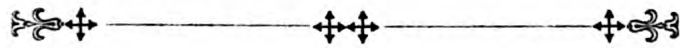
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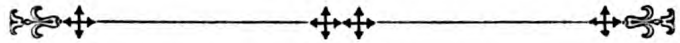




I.

CANAAN'S CALAMITIE.

1598—1618.



D. I.

I

NOTE.

No perfect exemplar of the original (1598) edition of 'Canaan's Calamitie' is known. Hazlitt (*s. n.* in 'Hand-Book,' vol. i.) describes an imperfect copy. For our text we are under obligation to the British Museum. See Memorial-Introduction on other editions; and related Notes and Illustrations.—G.

CANAANS  
CALAMITIE

*Ieruselems Misery,*

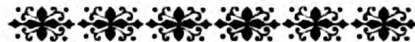
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OR

The dolefull destruction of faire Ie-  
rusalem by TYTVS, the Sonne of *Vaspasian*  
*Emperour of Rome, in the yeare of Christs*  
*Incarnation 74.*

---

Wherein is shewed the woonderfull miseries which  
*God brought vpon that Citty for sinne, being vtterly*  
ouer-throwne and destroyed by Sword,  
*pestilence and famine.*



AT LONDON,

Printed for *Thomas Bayly*, and are to be fould at  
*the corner-shop in the middle rowe in Holborne,*  
neere adioyning vnto *Staple Inne.*

1618.





TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFULL

*M. Richard Kingmill* Esquier, Iustice of peace  
and Quorum in the Countie of Southampton, and  
Surueyer of her Maiesties Courtes of Wardes  
and Liueries. *All prosperitie and happines.*

**H**Auing (Right worshopfull) often heard  
of your extraordinary fauour, shewed  
in the depth of extremitie, to some  
poore friendes of mine, remaying in your  
pleasant Lordship of *High-cleere*: by meanes  
whereof, they haue had no small comfort for  
the recouerie of their wished desire: I haue  
been studious how I might in some meafure  
declare both their thankfulnesse and mine owne  
for so great a good. But such is our weake  
abillity that we cannot requite the least poynt  
of that life prolonging kindnes, which the riches  
of your courtesie did yeeld: neuerthelesse to  
make apparent, that our poore estates shall not  
obscure, or clowd with ingratitude, the well  
intending thoughts of our hearts: I haue pre-

fumed to present to your worship this little booke, an vnfaigned token of our good affection, hoping that like the Princely *Pertian* you will more respect the good will then the gift, which I confesse farre vnworthy so worthy a Patron in respect of the simple handling of so excellent a matter: But a playne stile doth best become plaine truth, for a trifling fable hath most neede of a pleasant pen. Wherefore if it shall please your Worship to esteeme of my simple labour, and to let this passe vnder your fauorable protection, I shall haue the end of my desire. And resting thus in hope of your worships courtesie

I cease wishing you all hearts content  
in this life, and in the world to  
come eternall felicitie.

*Your worships most humblie affectionate:*

*T. D.*



To the Gentlemen Readers health.

**G**entlemen, I present you heere with the mourning song of Ierufalems sorrow: whose destruction was Propheſied by our Lord Ieſus Chriſt, while he lived among them: notwithstanding they neither regarded, nor beleevved his words. And after they had in the mallice of their hearts, compact his death, and that the Iudge ſought to cleare himſelfe of ſo foule a crime: The curſſed Iewes cryed with one conſent ſaying: his blood be on vs and one our children. Which wicked wiſh of theirs the Lord brought to paſſe within a ſhort time after, as in this following Hiſtorie you ſhall perceiue. At what time both Cittie and Temple was brought to vtter con- fuſion: the miſery whereof was ſo extreame as the like was never before, nor ſince: And you ſhall perceiue that this deſtruction came vpon them in the time of their greateſt proſperitie, when their gould and Treafure moſt abounded, when pride excelled, and that the people were bent to all



wantonnes. Such was their daintinesse and delicacie, that they could not devise, with what meate they might best please their nice stomacks, wishing for better bread then could be made of Wheate: abusing in such sort, the blessings of God (which was in great abundance bestowed vpon them) that being gluttied with to much wealth and plentie, they loathed every thing that bore not an high price; casting scornfull eyes vpon Gods great blessings: but in reading this Historie, you shall see how soone their state was changed, and the great plaugs that followed their peuissh and hatefull pride: by whose wofull fall, God graunt vs and all Christians to take example least following them in the like sinne, we feele the like smart. Vale.

Yours in all courtesie. T. D.



*A description of Ierufalem and the Riches thereof.*



Like to a Mourner clad in dolefull  
black,  
That fadly fits to heare a heauie  
tale :  
So must my pen proceed to shew  
the wrack,  
That did with terror *Syon* hill affaile.  
What time *Ierusalem* that *Cittie* faire,  
Was sieg'd and factt by great *Vespations* heire.

A noble Iew *Iosephus* writes the storie.  
Of all the stories euer yet recited,  
Neuer could any make the mind more sorie,  
Than that which he so dolefully indighted :  
Which sets in fight how for abhomination  
That goodly *Citty* came to defolation.

In all the world the like might not be seene,  
To this faire *Citty* famous to behold :

A thousand Towers stood there the streetes between,  
Whose carued stones great cunning did vnfold :  
The buildings all, so stately fine and rare,  
That with Ierusalem no place might compare.

In midft whereof the glorious Temple stood,  
Which Nehemia had so faire erected,  
Whose Timber worke was all of precious wood,  
By Gods appointment wouderously effected :  
Where all the People came with one accord,  
And offered sacrifice, vnto the Lord.

Three / stately walles begirt this Citty round,  
Strongly raild vp of gallant squared stone,  
Vnpossible in fight foes should them confound,  
By warlike Engines seized therevpon.  
The spacious gates most glorious to behold,  
Were all gilt ouer, with rich burnisht gould.

And round about *Ierusalem* likewise  
Were pleasant walkes prepard for recreation,  
Sweet daintie gardens feeding gazers eyes,  
With workes of wonder and high admiration,  
Where in the midft of sweetest smelling flowers,  
They built for pleasure, many pleasant bowers.

In treasures store this Citty did excell,  
For pompe and pride it was the onely place,

In her alone did richest Marchants dwell,  
 And famous Princes sprung of Royall race :  
 And fairer Dames did nature neuer frame,  
 Then in that Citty dwelt and thither came.

Christ's Propheſie of the deſtruction  
*of this Citty and how it came to paſſe accordingly*  
 within Forty yeares after, ſhewing the cauſe that  
*mooued the Emperour to come againſt it.*

O Vr / Sauour Chriſt tracing the bordring hilles  
 When he on this faire Citty caſt his eye  
 The teares along his roſiall cheekes diſtilles :  
 Mourning for their deſtruction drawing nie.  
 O *Ieruſalem, Ieruſalem* quoth hee,  
 My heart bewailes thy great calamitie.

The time ſhall come and neere it is at hand,  
 When furious foes ſhall trench thee round about,  
 And batter downe thy Towers that ſtately ſtand,  
 All thy ſtrong holds within thee and without :  
 Thy golden buildings ſhall they quite confound,  
 And make thee equal with the lowly ground.

O woe to them that then giues ſucke he ſayes,  
 And lulles their Infants on their tender knees,

More woe to them that be with child those dayes,  
Wherein shalbe such extreame miseryes :

Thou mightst haue shund these plagues hadst  
thou bin wife

Which now for sinne is hidden from thy eyes.

This dreadfull Prophecie spoken by our Lord,  
The stubborne people naught at all regarded,  
Whose Adamantine heartes did still accord,  
To follow sinne, which was with shame rewarded :

They flouted him for telling of this storie,  
And crucifide in spite the Lord of glorie.

Re / prochfully they fled in his face,  
That wept for them in tender true compassion,  
They wrought his death and did him all disgrace,  
That fought their life, and waild their desolation :  
Their hardened heartes beleeu'd not what was  
Vntill they saw the siege about them layd. [said,

Full fortie yeares after Christs passion,  
Did these proud people liue in peace and rest,  
Whose wanton eyes seeing no alteration,  
Christs words of truth, they turned to a iest :  
But when they thought themselues the surest of  
Lo then began their neuer raised fall. [all,

Their mounting minds that towred past their  
 Scorning subiection to the *Romaine* state [strength,  
 In boyling hatred loath'd their Lords at length,  
 Dispi'd the Emperour with a deadly hate :  
     Reiecting his authoritie each howre,  
     Sought to expell the pride of forraine power.

Which foule contēpt the Emperours wrath inflam'd,  
 Mightie *Vespasian* hot reueng did threat,  
 But all in vaine they would not be reclaim'd,  
 Relying on their strength and courage great :  
     And herevpon began the deadly iarre,  
     And after followed bloody wofull warre.

The / signes and tokens shewed before  
*the destruction, alluring the Iewes to repentance,*  
 and their little regard thereof, interpreting  
 all things to be for the best, flattering  
*themselves in their finnes.*

Y<sup>E</sup>t marke the mercy of our gracious God,  
 Before the grievous scourge to them was sent,  
 That they might shun his heauie smarting rod  
 And hartely their filthy faultes repent :  
     Strange signes and wonders did he shew them  
     Fore-runners of their ruine, woe, and ill. [still

For one whole yeare as well by day as night,  
 A blazing starre appeared in the skie,  
 Whose bushie tayle was so excellling bright,  
 It dim'd the glory of the sunns faire eye,  
 And euery one that on this obiect gazed,  
 At sight thereof stood wonderous fore amazed.

In right proportion it resembled well,  
 A sharp two edged sword of mighty strength,  
 The percing poynt a needle did excell,  
 And sure it seem'd a miracle for length :  
 So strange a starre before was neuer feene,  
 And since that time the like hath neuer been.

And / ouer right that goodly famous Cittie,  
 Hung still this dreadfull apparition,  
 Which might haue mou'd had they bin gracious  
 witty,  
 For outward follies, inward hearts contrition :  
 And neuer did that wonder change his place,  
 But still *Ierusalem* with woe menace.

The wondring people neuer lookt thereon,  
 But their mistrusting heart suspected much,  
 Saying great plagues would follow therevpon,  
 Such priuie motions did their conscience touch :  
 But other-some would fay it was not so,  
 But signe that they their foes would ouerthrow.

Thinke not quoth they that Iacobs God will leaue,  
 The blessed seed of *Abraham* in distresse :  
 Firft shall his Sword the heathens liues bereaue,  
 As by this token he doth plaine expresse,  
     His fierie fword fhall fhield this holy towne,  
     And heaw in heapes the proudeft *Romains*  
         downe.

Thus flattered they themfelues in finfull fort,  
 Their harts were hard, their deepeft iudgmēts  
 What godly teachers did to them report, [blinded  
 They foone forgot, fuch things they neuer minded :  
     Their chiefeft ftudy was delight and pleafure,  
     And how they might by all meanes gather  
         treafure.

Men / would haue thought this warning had bin  
     faire,  
 When God his ftandard gainft them did aduance,  
 His flag of Iuftice waued in the ayre,  
 And yet they count it, but a thing of chance :  
     This bad them yeild, and from their finnes  
         conuart,  
     But they would not till forrow made them  
         fmart.

Then in the ayre God fhewed another wonder,  
 When azurd fkies were brighteft faire and cleere,



An hoast of armed men, like dreadfull thunder,  
 With hidious clamours, fighting did appeare :  
 And at each other eagerly they ran,  
 With burnisht Falchions murdering many a man.

And marching fiercely in their proud aray,  
 Their wrathfull eyes did sparkle like the fier,  
 Or like inraged Lyons for their pray,  
 So did they striue, in nature and desire :  
 That all the plaine wherein they fighting stood,  
 Seem'd to mens fight all staind with purple  
 blood.

This dreadfull token many men amazed :  
 When they beheld the vncouth fight so strange,  
 On one another doubtfully they gazed,  
 With fearefull lookes their coulour quite did change:  
 Yet all, they did interpret to the best,  
 Thinking themselues aboue all others blest.

The / conquering fort that did with warlike hand,  
 Suppresse the other in the bloody field,  
 Declares quoth they that *Iudaes* sacred band  
 Shall make vnhalloved *Romaines* die or yeeld :  
 And ouer them we shall haue honour great,  
 That proudly now vsurpes King Dauids feat.

See how the Diuell doth finfull foules beguile,  
 Filling the fame with vaine imagination,

Thinking themselves cock-sure, when all the while,  
 They stand vpon the brink of defolation :  
 All faithfull Christians warning take by this,  
 Interpret not Gods fearefull signes amisse.

Yet loe the Lord would not giue ouer so,  
 But to conuert them, if that it might bee,  
 Hee doth proceed more wonders yet to shew,  
 All to reclayme them from iniquitie :  
 That so he might remoue his plagues away,  
 Which threatned their destruction euery day.

The Temple gates all made of shining brasse,  
 Whose massie substance was exceeding great,  
 Which they with yron barres each might did crosse,  
 And lockt with brazen bolts, which made them sweat,  
 Did of themselves start open and vndoe,  
 Which twenty men of might could scant put to.

Vpon / a day most high and festiuall,  
 The high Priest went after a sacred manner,  
 Into the glorious Temple most maiesticall,  
 To offer sacrifice their God to honour :  
 What time the Lord a wonder did declare,  
 To all mens sight, prodigious, strange, and rare.

A goodly *Calfe* prepar'd for sacrifice  
 And layd vpon the holy Alter there,

Brought forth a *Lambe* most plaine before their eyes,  
 Which filled some mens hearts with sodaine feare :  
 And fore perplext the passions of their mind,  
 To see a thing so farre against all kind.

Soone after this they heard a wailefull voice,  
 Which in the Temple shreeking thus did say,  
*Let vs go hence, and no man heere reioyce :*  
 Thus figuring foorth their ruine and decay,  
 All men did heare these speeches very plaine,  
 But saw nothing, nor knew from whence it came.

And foure yeares space before the bloody fight,  
 One *Ananias* had a youthfull sonne,  
 Which like a Prophet cried day and night  
 About the strectes as he did go and runne :  
 Shewing the people without dread at all,  
 Most wofull plagues should on the Cittie fall.

And / in this fort began his dolefull cry :  
 A fearefull voyce proceedeth from the East,  
 And from the West, as great a voyce did fly,  
 A voyce likewise from blustering winds adrest :  
 A voyce vpon *Ierusalem* shall goe,  
 A voyce vpon the Temple full of woe.

A mournfull voyce on wretched man and wife,  
 A voyce of sorrow on the people all,

Woe and destruction, mortall war and strife,  
Bitter pinching famine, misery and thrall :  
    In euery place these threatnings still he had,  
    Running about like one diftraught and mad.

With lofty voyce thus ran he through the towne,  
Nor day and night did he his clamours cease,  
No man could make him lay these threatnings  
By no intreaty would he hould his peace : [downe  
    Although he was in Dungeon deeply layd,  
    Yet there his cryes did make them more afraid.

The Maiefrates that most forbad his crie :  
And saw his bouldnesse more and more arise,  
With grievous scourges whipt him bitterly,  
Yet came no teares out of his pleafant eyes :  
    The more his stripes, the higher went his voyce,  
    In sorest torment did he most reioyce.

But / when the *Iewes* perceau'd how he was bent,  
And that their eares were cloyed with his cries,  
They counted it but sportfull merriment.  
A nine dayes wonder that in short time dyes :  
    So that afresh their follies they begin,  
    And for his speech they passed not a pin.

But as the holy Scriptures doe bewray,  
To dainty cheere they iocundly fat downe,

And well refresht, they rose againe to play,  
 In smiling fort when God did fiercely frowne :  
 And neuer more to mirth were they disposed,  
 Then when the Lord his wrath to them disclosed.



¶ *The tydings brought of the enimies approach,  
 and the feare of the citizens: their provisiō of  
 victuals for twenty yeares burnt in one night, by one  
 of their owne captaines, of meere malice, which  
 caused a sodaine dearth to follow: their seditiō  
 and diuisiō betweene thēselues while the cittie was  
 besieged.*

**B**Vt whilst that they their sugred Iunkets tasted,  
 Vnto the Citty came a tyred post,  
 Full weake and wearie, and with trauell wafted,  
 Who brought thē word their foes were on their  
 coast:  
 Which when they knew, their merriments were  
 dashed,  
 These dolefull newes made them full fore  
 abashed.

Three / Cipres Tables then to ground they throw,  
 Their siluer dishes, and their cups of gould,

For haste to meet the proud inuading foe,  
Feare makes them mad, but courage makes the  
bould :

And to defend the brunt of future harmes,  
They leaue their Ladies and imbrace their  
Armes.

Instead of Lutes and sweete resounding Vials,  
They found the Trumpet and the rattling drum,  
Their barbed Steeds they put to diuers tryals,  
How they can manage, stop, carrie, and run :  
Their cunning harpers now must harnesse beare,  
Their nimble dauncers war-like weapons weare.

But ere their wrathfull foes approached neere,  
The store-houses the Governours did fill,  
With wholsome victuals which for twenty yeare  
Would serue two hundred thousand cast by bill,  
But all the same by one seditious Squire  
Was in one night consum'd with flaming fire.

For why the Cittizens to discord fell,  
So giddy headed were they alwaies found,  
And in their rage like furious fiends of hell,  
In murdering fort they did each other wound :  
And when they entred in this diuellish strife,  
They spared neither Infant, man, nor wife.

Into / three parts the people were deuided,  
 And one against an other hatred bore,  
 The chieftest fort fediciously were guided,  
 Whereby vnciuell mutines vext them fore :  
     So that the forrow of the forreine warre  
     Was nothing to their bloody ciuill iarre.

And so malicious did their rancor rise,  
 That they the holy Temple did defile,  
 All such as came to offer sacrifice,  
 They murdered straight, remorse they did exile :  
     The Sacrificer with the sacrifice,  
     Both bath'd in blood, men saw before their eyes.

Thus did they make the sacred Temple there  
 The slaughter house of many a humane soule,  
 So that the marble pauement euery where,  
 Was blacke with blood like to a butchers bowle :  
     And with the fat of men so slippery made,  
     That there for falling, none could goe vnstayd.

And by this wicked meanes it came to passe,  
 The streets and temple full of dead-men lay,  
 With wounds putrified, where buriall was,  
 Which raif'd a grieuous pestilence that day :  
     So hot, and fell, that thereof dyed a number,  
     Whose foule infection all the towne did  
     cumber.

And / that which was more heauie to behold,  
As men and woemen past along the street :  
Their weeping eyes did to their hearts vnfold,  
A mape of Murder at their trembling feete :  
Some saw their Fathers fetching deadly groanes,  
Some their Husbands braines scattered on the  
stones.

Here lay a woman stabbed to the heart,  
There a tender Infant one a souldiers speare,  
Strugling with death, and sprawling with each part :  
The channels ran with purple blood each wheare,  
A thousand persons might you daily see,  
Some gasping, groaning, bleeding fresh to see.

Lo all this mischief was within the towne  
Wrought twixt theſelues in wonderous hatefull fort,  
While noble *Tytus* beat their bulwarkes downe,  
And at their walles did shew them warlike sport :  
But by distresse to bring them vnto thrall,  
He brake their pipes, and stopt their cundits all.





¶ A description of the horrible Famine within  
the Cittie of Ierusalem.

FOR true report rung in his royall eares,  
That bitter Famine did afflict them fore,  
Which was the cause of many bitter teares,  
And he to make their miserie the more,  
Depriu'd them quit of all their water cleere,  
Which in their want they did esteeme so deere.

Alack, what pen is able to expresse?  
The extreame miserie of this people then?  
Which were with Famine brought to great distresse,  
For cruell hunger vext the wealthiest men:  
When night approacht, well might they lye &  
winke,  
But cold not sleepe for want of meat and drinke.

For by this time full Fourteene monthes and more,  
Had warlike *Titus* sieg'd that famous towne,  
What time the *Iewes* had quite consum'd their store,  
And being staru'd, like Ghosts went vp and downe:  
For in the markets were no victuals found,  
Though for a *Lambe*, they might haue twenty  
pound.

When bread was gone, then was he counted blest,  
That in his hand had either cat or dogge,

To fill his emptie maw : and thus distrest,  
 A dozen men would fight for one poore frogge :  
 The fairest Lady lighting one a mouce,  
 Would keepe it from her best friend in the  
 house.

A weazell was accounted daynty meate,  
 A hissing snake esteem'd a Princes dish,  
 A Queene vpon a moule might seeme to eate,  
 A veanom newt was thought a wholesome fish :  
 Wormes from the earth, were dig'd vp great  
 & small,  
 And poysoned spiders eaten from the wall.

A hundred men vnder this grieuous crosse,  
 With hunger-starued bodies wanting food,  
 Haue for a morfell of a stinking horse,  
 In deadly strife, shed one anothers blood :  
 Like famisht Rauens, that in a shole doe pitch,  
 To feaze a caryon in a noysome ditch.

But when these things, were all consumed quite,  
 (For Famines greedy mawe destroyeth all)  
 Then did they bend, their study day and night,  
 To see what next vnto their share might fall :  
 Necessitie doth feele an hundred wayes,  
 Famines fell torment from the heart to rayse.

Then / did they take their horses leather raignes,  
 And broyling them suppos'd the wonderous sweete:  
 A hungry stomack naught at all refraines:  
 Nor did they spare their shooes vpon their feete:  
     But shooes, and bootes, and buskins, all they eate,  
     And would not spare one morfell of their  
     meate.

But out alas my heart doth shake to show, [made,  
 When these things fail'd, what shift these wretches  
 Without salt teares how should I write their woe,  
 Sith sorrowes ground-worke in the fame is layd:  
     All English hearts which Christ in armes doe hem  
     Marke well the woes of fayre *Ierusalem*.

When all was spent, and nothing left to eate,  
 Whereby they might maintaine their feeble life,  
 Then doth the wife her husband deere intreat,  
 To end her misery by his wounding knife:  
     Maides weepe for foode & children make their  
     mone,  
     Their parents sigh when they can giue them  
     none.

Some men with hunger falleth raging mad,  
 Gnawing the stonnes and timber where they walke,

Some other staggering, weake and wonderous sad,  
Dyes in the strectes, as with their friends they  
And other some licks vp the vomit fast, [talke?  
Which their sick neighbours in their houses cast.

Nay / more then this, though this be all to much,  
*Iosephus* writes, that men and maidens young  
The which of late did scorne brown-bread to touch,  
Sustain'd themselues with one an others doong.  
Remember this you that so dainty bee,  
And praise Gods name for all things sent to thee.

All things were brought by famine out of frame,  
For modest Chastitie to it gaue place,  
High honoured Virgins that for very shame,  
Would hardly looke on men with open face,  
One bit of bread neuer so course and browne,  
Would winne them to the foulest knaue in towne.



¶ The seditious Captaines *Schimion & Iehocanā* search all the houses in the Citty for Viſtuals, they take from a noble Lady all her prouiſion, leauing her and her Sonne comfortleſſe, ſhewing the great moane ſhe made.

**T**He curſt ſeditious Captaines and their crue,  
 When they perceiu'd the famine grow ſo  
 great,  
 In all mens houſes would they ſearch, and view,  
 In euery corner both for bread and meat:  
 If any did their bould requeſt denie,  
 On murdering ſwords they were right ſure to  
 dye.

Among / the reſt where they a ſearching went,  
 Vnto a gallant Ladyes houſe they came,  
 And there before her viſtuals quite was ſpent,  
 With hardened hearts, and faces void of ſhame:  
 They tooke her ſtore with many a bitter threat,  
 And left her not one bit of bread to eate.

The noble Lady on her tender knees,  
 With floods of teares diſtilling from her eyes,  
 Their crueltie when ſhe ſo plainly ſees,  
 In mournfull fort vnto them thus ſhe cries:  
 Vpon a wofull Lady take ſome pittie,  
 And let not famine ſlay me in this Cittie.

Of all the store which you haue tooke away,  
 Leauē on browne loafe, for my poore child and me :  
 That we may eat but one bit in a day,  
 To saue our liues from extreame misery.

Thus holding vp her lillie hands she cried,  
 The more she crau'd the more she was denied.

If you quoth she cannot afford me bread,  
 One dried stock-fish doe one me bestow,  
 For my poore Infants life I greatly dread,  
 If thus distrest you leauē me when you goe :  
 Braue men of might, shew pittie for his sake,  
 And I thereof a thousand meales will make.

O call / to minde my childe is nobly borne,  
 Of honorable blood and high degree :  
 Then leauē vs not braue Captaines thus forlorne,  
 Your countries friend one day this child may bee :  
 O let me not this gentle fauour misse,  
 I may one day requite far more then this.

Then answered they in harsh and churlish fort,  
 Tut tell not vs of honourable state,  
 And if thou wilt we'l cut thy Infants throat,  
 So shall he neede no meate : then cease to prate :  
 Men must haue meate, let children dye and  
 starue,  
 Yf we want foode, in warres how can we serue.

With bended browes they stroue to get away,  
 But she vpon her knees did follow fast,  
 And taking hould on their confus'd aray,  
 This sad complaint from her hearts pallasce past :  
     Renowned Lords, our Citties sure defence,  
     O let me speake once more, ere you go hence.

Yf you lack money, see I haue good store,  
 Wherein great *Cesars* Image is portrayde,  
 Therefore of gift, I will demaund no more,  
 To buy me some foode, let me not be denyd.  
     For fiue red herrings, ten Crownes shall you haue,  
     Ile pay it downe, with vantage if you craue.

That / damned coyne quoth they wee doe detest,  
 And therewithall thy selfe, which all this while,  
 Hast kept our foes foule picture in thy chest,  
 Which seekes this holy Citty to defile :  
     Thou getst no foode, and therefore hold thy  
     tounge,  
     Hang, starue, & dye, thou canst not dye more  
     young.

O pardon yet (quoth she) my earnest speech,  
 Doe not my words to poyson so conuert,

Take heere my chaine, I humbly doe befeech,  
 Of pearle and Diamonds for one filly sprat :  
 One sprat (sweete men) cast vpon the ground,  
 For this faire chayne, which cost a thousand  
 pound.

Talke not to vs, quoth they of Iems and chaines,  
 Of Diamonds, Pearls, or precious rings of Gould,  
 One sprat to vs is sweeter gotten gaines,  
 Then so much filuer, as this house can hold :  
 Gould is but droffe, where hunger is so great,  
 Hard hap hath hee, that hath but gould to eate.

With that the tefie Souldiers get them out,  
 Proud of the purchaft pray which they had got,  
 The woefull Ladye did they mocke and flout,  
 Her plaints and teares regarding not a iott :  
 Shee sighes, they smile, she mournes, and they  
 reioyce,  
 And of their pray they make an equall choyce.

But / Megar famine couetous of all  
 Enuying those that should thereof haue part,  
 In sharing out their purchaffe bread a brawle,  
 Wherein one stabd the other to the heart :  
 This fellow said the other did deceiue him,  
 He swore againe enough they did not leaue him.



Lo thus about the victuals they did fight,  
 Looke who was strongest bore away the prize,  
 And for a crust of bread, in dead of night,  
 They cut their Fathers throats in wofull wife :  
     The mother would her childrens victuals snatch,  
     And from his wife, the husband he did catch.



¶ How the noble *Lady* and her young *Sonne* went to  
*[seeke] out the dung of beasts to eate, being ready  
 to dye with hunger, and could finde none : shewing  
 what moane they made comming home without.*

**B**Vt now of *Miriams* sorrow will I speake,  
 Whom the feditious Souldiers so distrest,  
 Her noble heart with grife was like to breake,  
 No kind of foode had she, then to relieue her.  
     With gnawing hunger was she, fore opprest  
     Nor for her child, which most of all did grieue her.

Alas, quoth shee that euer I was borne,  
 To see these gloomie daies of grieue and care,  
 Whome this false world hath made an open scorne,  
 Fraught full of miserie passing all compare  
     Blest had I been if in the painefull birth,  
     I had receiu'd sweete sentence of my death.

Why hath the partiall heauens prolong'd my life,  
 About a number of my deereft friends,  
 Whose blessed foules did neuer see the strife?  
 How happy were they in their happy ends :  
     Great God of *Abraham* heare my mournfull crie,  
     Soone rid my life, or end this miserie.

With that her little sonne with eager looke,  
 Vnto his wofull mother crying came,  
 His pretty hands fast holde vpon her tooke,  
 Whose prefence brought her praying out of frame:  
     And to his Mother thus the child did say,  
     Giue mee some meate, that eat nothing to day.

I am (deere Mother) hungry at the heart,  
 And scalding thirst, makes me I cannot speake,  
 I feele my strength decay in euery part,  
 One bit of bread, for me good Mother breake :  
     My lesson I haue learnd, where you did lay it,  
     Then giue me some-what : you shall heere me  
     say it.

The / fighting Ladie looking quite a-side,  
 With many sobs sent from her wofull soule,  
 Wrong both her hands, but not one word replide:  
 Sighes stopt her tounge, teares did her tongue  
     cōtroul,  
     Sweete Lady mother, mother speake (quoth he?)  
     O let me not with hunger murdered bee.

Deere child she said, what wouldst thou haue of me?  
 Art thou a thirst, then come and drinke my teares,  
 For other succour haue I none for thee:  
 The time hath been, I could haue giuen thee peares:  
     Rose coulered apples, cherries for my child,  
     But now alas, of all wee are beguild.

But come quoth she, giue me thy little finger,  
 And thou and I will to the back-yard goe,  
 And there seeke out a Cow-cake for thy dinner:  
 How faist thou sonne art thou contented so?  
     The ioyfull child did hereat giue a smile,  
     When both his eyes with water ran the while.

Then vp and downe with warie searhing eye,  
 In euery place for beafts dung doth she seeke,  
 As if a long lost Iewell there did lye,  
 Close hidden in some narrow chink or creeke:  
     When she lookt and nought at all had found,  
     Then downe she coucheth on the sluttish ground.

And / with her faire white fingers fine and small,  
 She scrapes away the dust and draffe together,  
 And so does search through out the Oxes stall,  
 For dung or hoofes, or some old peece of leather:  
     But when in vaine her paines she did bestow,  
     She paid her heart the interest of her woe.

And lifting vp with forow her bright eyes,  
 She cald her little Sonne to come away,  
 Who fought as fast for spiders, wormes and flies,  
 As she for Ordure mongst the mouldy hay.  
 O stay a while good mother did he cry,  
 For heere euen now I did a maggots spie.

At which sweete fight my teeth did water yet :  
 Euen as you cald, she fell her in the dust,  
 An hower were well spent, this prize to get,  
 To let her slip, I thinke I was accurst :  
 My hungry stomacke, well it would haue stayd,  
 And I haue lost her I am fore affraid.

I, I, my Sonne, it may be so (quoth shee,)  
 Then come away : let vs together dye,  
 Our lucklesse starres alots it so to be :  
 Peace my sweete boy, alack why dost thou cry ?  
 Had I found any thing, thou shouldst haue seen,  
 That therewithall we would haue merry been.

Then / be thou still (my sonne) and weepe no more  
 For with my teares, thou kilst my wounded heart,  
 Thy neede is great, my hunger is as fore,  
 Which grieues my soule, and pinches euery part :  
 Yet hope of helpe alack I know not any,  
 Without, within, our foes they are so many.

Deare mother heare me one word and no moe,  
 See heere my foote so slender in your fight,  
 Giue me but leaue to eate my little toe,  
 No better supper will I aske to night :  
     Or else my thumbe : a morfell small you see,  
     And these two ioynts, me thinks may spared be.

My sonne quoth she great are thy cares God wot,  
 To haue thy hungry stomack fil'd with food,  
 Yet all be it we haue so hard a lot  
 Dismember not thy selfe for any good :  
     No brutish beast, will doe so foule a deede,  
     Then doe not thou gainst nature so proceed,

But O my sonne, what shall I doe quoth she ?  
 My grieue of hunger is as great as thine,  
 And sure no hope of comfort doe I see,  
 But we must yeild ourselues to starue and pine :  
     The wrath of God doth siege the Citty round,  
     And we within fell famine doth confound.

The / sword without, intends our defolation,  
 Confuming pestilence destroyeth heere within,  
 Ciuell diffention breedes our hearts vexation,  
 The angry heauens, the same hath sent for finne,  
     Murders, and ruine through our streetes, doe run :  
     Then how can I feede thee, my louing sonne ?

Yf pale fac't famine take away my life,  
 Why then, with whome should I trust thee my sonne  
 For heer's no loue, but hate and deadly strife :  
 Woe is that child, whose parents dayes are done :  
     One thee sweete boy no person would take pittie,  
     For milde compassion, hath forfooke the citty.

Once I retaynd, this ioyfull hope of thee,  
 When ripened yeares, brought thee to mans estate,  
 That thou shouldst be a comfort vnto me,  
 Feeding my age, when youthfull strength did bate:  
     And haue my meate, my drinke and cloth of thee,  
     Fit for a *Lady* of so high degree.

And when the span length, of my life was done,  
 That God, and nature, claim'd of me their due,  
 My hope was then, that thou my louing Sonne,  
 In Marble stone, my memorie should renew :  
     And bring my corpes, with honour to the graue :  
     The latestt dutie, men of children craue.

But / now I see (my sweete and bonny boy)  
 This hope is fruitlesse, and these thoughts are vaine,  
 I see grim death, hath seiz'd my earthly ioy,  
 For famines dart hath thee already flaine :  
     Thy hollow eyes and wrinckled cheekes declare,  
     Thou art not markt, to be thy Fathers heire.

Looke on thy legges, see all thy flesh is gone,  
 Thy iollie thighes, are fallen quite away,  
 Thy armes and handes, nothing but skin, and bone,  
 How weake thy heart is, thou thy selfe canst say :  
     I haue no foode, to strengthen thee (my child,)  
     And heere thy buriall would be too too vilde.

Wherefore my Sonne leaft vgly Rauens and Crowes,  
 Should eate thy carcasfe in the stincking streetes,  
 Thereby to be a sorne vnto our foes,  
 And gaule to me, that gaue thee many sweets :  
     I haue prepaired, this my vnspotted wombe,  
     To be for thee an honourable Tombe.

Then sith thou canst not liue to be a man,  
 What time thou mightst haue fed thy aged mother,  
 Therefore my child it lyes thee now vpon,  
 To be my foode, because I haue no other :  
     With my o[w]ne blood, long time I nourisht thee,  
     Then with thy flesh, thou oughtst to cherish mee./

Within this wombe thou first receiuedst breath,  
 Then giue thy mother, that which shee gaue thee,  
 Here hadst thou life, then lye here after death,  
 Sith thou hadst beene, so welbeloude of me :  
     In spite of foes, be thou my dayly food,  
     And faue my life, that can doe thee no good.

In blessed *Eden* shall thy foule remaine,  
 While that my belly is thy bodyes graue,  
 There, is no taste of famine woe or paine  
 But ioyes eternall, more then heart can craue :  
     Then who would wish, in sorrow to perseuer,  
     That by his death might liue in heauen for euer.



The *Lady* with hunger is confrayned to kill her  
*best beloued and onely Sonne, and eate him :*  
*whose body she roasted.*

WHEN this was said, her feeble child she tooke,  
 And with a sword which she had lying by,  
 She thrust him through, turning away her looke,  
 That her wet eyes might not behold him die :  
     And when sweete life was from his body fled,  
     A thousand times she kist him being dead.

His / milke white body staind with purple blood,  
 She clenfd and washt with siluer dropping teares,  
 Which being done, she wipte it as she stood,  
 With nothing else, but her faire golden haire :  
     And when she saw, his litle lims were cold,  
     She cut him vp, for hunger made her bold.



In many peeces did she then deuide him,  
 Some part she sod, some other part she roasted,  
 Frō neighbours sight she made great shift to hide him,  
 And of her cheere, in heart she greatly boisted :  
     Ere it was ready, she began to eate,  
     And from the spit, pluckt many bits of meate.



The smell of the meate is felt round about : the  
*seditious Captaine[s] thereupon came to the Lady,*  
*and threatens to kill her for meate.*  
*Where vpon the Lady sets part*  
*before them.*

**T**He sent thereof was straight smelt round about,  
 The neighbour[s] then out of their houses ran,  
 Saying, we smell roast-meate out of all doubt,  
 Which was great wonder vnto euery man :  
     And euery one like to a longing wife,  
     In that good cheer did wish his sharpest knife.

This / newes so swift, in each mans mouth did flie :  
 The proud seditious, heard thereof at last,  
 Who with all speed, vnto the house did hie,  
 And at the doores and windowes knocked fast :  
     And with vilde words & speeches rough and great,  
     They askt the Lady where she had that meate.

Thou wicked woman how comes this quoth they?  
 That thou alone hast roast-meat in the towne?  
 While we with griping famine dye each day,  
 Which are your Lords, and leaders of renowne:  
 For this contempt, we thinke it right and reafon,  
 Thou shouldst be punisht as in case of treason.

The louely Lady trembling at their speech,  
 Fearing their bloody hands and cruell actions,  
 With many gentle words did them beseech,  
 They would not enter into further factions:  
 But listen to her words and she would tell,  
 The certaine truth how euery thing befell.

Be not she faid, at your poore hand-maid griued,  
 I haue not eaten all in this hard case,  
 But that your selues might something be relieued,  
 I haue kept part to giue you in this place:  
 Then sit you downe, right-welcome shall you be,  
 And what I haue, your selues shall tast and see.

With / diligence the Table then she layde,  
 And filuer trenchers, on the boord she fet,  
 A golden falt, that many ounces wayde,  
 And Damask napkins, dainty, fine, and neate:  
 Her guests were glad to se this preparation,  
 And at the boord they sat with contentation.

In massie filuer platters brought she forth  
 Her owne Sonnes flesh whom she did loue so deere,  
 Saying my maisters take this well in worth,  
 I pray be merry : looke for no other cheere :  
     See here my childs white hand, most finely drest,  
     And here his foote, eate where it likes you best.

And doe not say this child was any others,  
 But my owne Sonne : whom you so well did know,  
 Which may seeme strange, vnto all tender Mothers,  
 My owne chilles flesh, I should deuoure so :  
     Him did I beare, and carefully did feed,  
     And now his flesh sustaines me in my need.

Yet albeit this sweet relieuing feast,  
 Hath dearest beene to me that ere I made,  
 Yet niggardize I doe so much detest,  
 I thought it shame, but there should some be layde,  
     In store for you : although the store be small,  
     For they are gluttons which consumeth all.

Herewith / she burst into a flood of teares,  
 Which downe her thin pale cheekes distilled fast :  
 Her bleeding heart, no sobs nor sighes forbeares,  
 Till her weake voyce breath'd out these words at last:  
     O my deere Sonne, my pretty boy (quoth she)  
     While thou didst liue, how sweet wast thou to me?



Oh why quoth she doe you refraine this food,  
 I brought it forth vnto you for good will,  
 Then scorne it not (deere friends) for it is good :  
 And I euen now did thereof eate my fill :  
     Tast it therefore and I dare sweare you'l fay,  
     You eat no meate, more sweete this many a day.

Hard hearted woman, cruell and vnkind  
 Canst thou (quoth they) so frankly feed of this?  
 A thing more hatefull did wee neuer finde,  
 Then keepe it for thy tooth, loe there it is.  
     Most wild and odious is it in our eye,  
     Then feed on mans flesh, rather would wee dye.

Alack / quoth she, doth foolish pity moue ye,  
 Weaker then a womans, is your hearts become?  
 I pray fall too, and if that you doe loue me,  
 Eate where you will, and ile with you eat some.  
     What greater shame to Captaines can befall,  
     Then I in courage should surpasse you all.

Why, waft not you, that did with many a threate,  
 Charge me with eager lookes to lay the cloth :  
 And as I lou'd my life to bring you meate,  
 And now to eate it doe you feeme so loath?  
     More fit I should, then you, heerewith be moued,  
     Since twas his flesh whom I so deerly loued.

It was my sonne and not yours that is slaine,  
 Whose roasted limbes lies here within the platter :  
 Then more then you I ought his flesh refraine,  
 And ten times more be greeued at this matter :  
     How chance you are more mercifull then I,  
     To spare his flesh, while you for hunger dye ?

Yet blame not me for this outragious deed,  
 For waft not you that first did spoyle my house ?  
 And rob me of my food in my great need,  
 Leauing not behind a ratt or filly moufe :  
     Then you alone are authors of this feaft,  
     What need you then this action so detest ?

The /starued *Iewes* hearing this dolefull tale,  
 Were at the matter smitten in such sadnesse,  
 That man by man with visage wan and pale,  
 Dropt out of doores, accusing her of madnesse,  
     And noting well, their famine, warre and strife,  
     Wisht rather death, than length of mortall life.

And hereupon, much people of the Citty,  
 Fled to the *Romaines* secret in the night,  
 Vpon their knees desiring them for pittie  
 To saue their liues that were in wofull plight :  
     And finding mercie, tolde when that was done,  
     How famine forc't a *Lady* eate her *Sonne*.

*Tytus* the Romaine Generall wept at the report of  
*the famine in Ierufalem, especially when he heard*  
*of the Mother that did eate her Childe.*

THE Romaine Generall hearing of the fame  
*Tytus* I meane, *Vespasians* famous Sonne,  
 So grieu'd thereat, that grieffe did teares constraîne,  
 Which downe his manly cheekes did streaming runne  
 And holding vp to heauen his hands and eyes  
 To this effect, vnto the Lord he cries.

[round,  
 Thou / mighty God, which guides this mortall  
 That all hearts secrets sees, and knowes my heart,  
 Witnesse thou canst, I came not to confound,  
 This goodly Cittie : or to worke their smart :  
 I was not author of their bloudie iarrs,  
 But offred peace, when they imbraced wars.

These eighteene moneths, that I with warlike force,  
 Besieged their Cittie : (Lord thou knowest it well,)  
 My heart was full of mercy and remorse,  
 And they alwayes did stubbornely rebell :  
 Therefore good Lord, with their most hatefull rage,  
 And wondrous deeds do not my conscience  
 charge.

My eyes doe see, my heart doth likewise pity,  
 The great calamitie that they are in,  
 Yet Lord, except thou wilt yeeld me the Cittie,  
 I'lle raise my power, and not behold more sinne :  
     For they with famine are become so wilde,  
     That hunger made a woman eate her childe.

When noble *Titus* thus had made his moane,  
 All those that from *Ierusalem* did fly,  
 He did receaue to mercy euery one,  
 And nourisht famisht men at poynt to dye :  
     But cruell *Schimion* that feditious *Iewe*,  
     And Proud *Iehocanan*, more mischiefe still did  
     brew.

For / albeit braue *Tytus* by his power  
 And warlike Engines, brought vnto that place,  
 Had layde their strong walles, flat vpon the flower,  
 And done their Citty wonderfull disgrace.  
     Yet stubbornly they did resist him still,  
     Such place they gaue, to their feditious will.





*Tytus ouerthrowing the walls of Ierusalem enters the Cyty and Temple with his power burning downe the siluer gate thereof, which led the way to the Sanctum Sanctorũ : and setteth Souldiers to keepe it from further hurt.*

**A** Bout that time, with wonderous dilligence,  
 They raif'd a wall, in secret of the night,  
 Which then was found their Citties best defence,  
 For to withstand the conquering *Romaines* might :  
 Which once rac't the Citty needs must yeeld,  
 And *Jewes* giue place to *Romaines* sword and  
 shield,

Renowned *Tytus* well perceiuing this,  
 To his best proued Captaines, gaue a charge,  
 That new raif'd wall, the *Jewes* suppos'd blis,  
 Should scattered be, with breaches wide and large :  
 And hervpon, the troopes together met,  
 And to the walles, their battering Engines set.

The / feare of this, made many a *Iewish* Lord,  
 That ioynde themselues with the seditious traine,  
 To steale away, and all with one accord,  
 At *Tytus* feete, fought mercie to obtaine :  
 Whose milde submission, he accepted then,  
 And gaue them honour, mong'ft his noble men:

By this the mellow wall was broke and scaled,  
 With fierce allarms, the holy towne was entred,  
*Romaines* tooke courage, but the *Iewes* harts failed,  
 Thousands lost their liues, which for honour ven-  
   *Schimion, Iehocanan*, all did flie for feare, [tred :  
   *Iewes* mournd and *Romaines* triumpht euery  
   where.

The faire Temple, Gods holy habitation,  
 The world *non pareli*, the heathens wonder,  
 Their Citties glory, their ioyes preferuation,  
 To the Romaine power, must now come vnder :  
   There many *Isralites* for liues defence,  
   Had lockt themselues, & would not come from  
   thence.

The famous Citty being thus subdued, [crowned  
 The *Romaines* heads, with glad-foe baies wer  
 For blesfull victory on their side eufued,  
 While on the *Iewes* the worlds Creator frowned :  
   The Captaines of the foule feditious rout,  
   To hide their heades did seeke odd corners  
   out.

The / *Romaines* resting in triumphant state  
 Vnto the holy Temple turned their course,

And finding shutt the filuer shining gate,  
 They fir'd it, retayning no remorse :  
 And when the fiers flamde did fore abound,  
 The melting filuer streamd along the ground.

Their timber worke into pale ashes turning,  
 Downe dropt the goodly gate vpon the flower,  
 What time the wrathfull *Romaines* went in running,  
 Shouting and crying with a mighty power :  
 The glory of which place, their bright fight drew,  
 To take thereof a wondring greedy view.

Yet did that place but onely lead the way,  
 Vnto the holyest place, where once a yeare,  
 The high Priest went, vnto the Lord to pray,  
 The figure of whose glory, did there appeare :  
*Sanctum Sanctorum* so that place was called,  
 Which *Tytus* wondring mind the most appalled.

Which holy holyest place when *Tytus* sawe,  
 Hauing a view but of the outward part,  
 So glorious was it that the sight did draw,  
 A wonderous reuerence in his soule and heart :  
 And with all meeknesse on his Princely knees,  
 He honors there the Maiestie he sees.

This / place was closd in with goulden gates,  
 So beautifull and super excellent,



All / *Tytus* gallant Souldiers which he fet,  
 So carefully, the Temple gates to keepe,  
 Vpon a fodaine, they against them get,  
 In dead of night, when most were falne a sleepe :  
     And there without all stay, or further wordes,  
     Each man they murdered on their drawn  
     fwordes.

Not one escap'd their bloody butchering hands :  
 Which noble *Tytus* hearing, grieued fore,  
 And thereon raif'd, his best prepared bandes,  
 Slaying those *Iewes*, and many hundreds more.  
     And with such fury, he purfu'd them still,  
     That who escap't, fled vp to *Syon* hill.

But yet the *Romaines* full of hot reuenge,  
 For this vilde deede, by wicked *Iewes* committed,  
 Troopt to the Temple, with a mighty swinge,  
 And hauing all things for their purpose fitted :  
     Did in their rage, fet on fiers flame,  
     Those goodly goulden gates, of greatest fame.

And as the flaming fier gather'd strength,  
 Great spoyle was practif'd by the Romaine rout,  
 The melting gould that streamed downe at length,  
 Did guild the marble pauement round about :  
     The gates thus burned with a hidious din,  
     *Sanctum Sanctorum Romaines* entred in.

Who / hauing hereby won their hearts desier,  
 With mighty shoutes they shewed signes of ioy,  
 While the holy place burnt with flaming fier,  
 Which did, earthes heauenly paradice destroy :  
     This woefull fight when *Tytus* once did see  
     He fought to quench it : but it would not be.

For many wicked hands, had busie beene,  
 To worke that holy house all foule disgraces,  
 Which *Tytus* would haue sau'd as well was seene,  
 But it was fier'd in so many places :  
     That by no meanes, the spoyle he could preuent,  
     Which thing he did most grieuoufly lament.

He ran about and cri'd with might and maine,  
 O stay your hands, and saue this house I charge  
 Fetch water vp, and quench this fire againe, [yee,  
 Or you shall smart, before I doe enlarge yee :  
     Thus some he threatned, many he intreated,  
     Till he was hoarse, with that he had repeated.

But when his voyce was gone with crying out,  
 He drew his sword, and slew the difobedient,  
 Till faint and weary, running round about,  
 He fat him downe, as it was expedient :  
     And there twixt wrath and forrow he bewayled,  
     With froward Souldiers, he no more preuayled.

The / Priests & *Iewes* that earft themfelues had  
 Within the compaffe of that holy ground, [hidden,  
 Againft the Romaines fought : and had abidden,  
 For to defend it many a bleeding wound :

But when they faw, there was no way to fly,  
 They lept into the fier, and there did die.

So long they fought, vntill the parching fier,  
 Did burne the clothes, from their sweating backes :  
 The more they fought, the more was their defier,  
 For to reuenge the Temples wofull wrackes :

They layd about, as long as they could stand ;  
 Or moue a legge, or lift a feeble hand.

And all this while did noble *Tytus* mourne,  
 To fee *Sanctorum* fpoyled in fuch fort :  
 Layde on the ground, there did he toffe and turne,  
 And fmote at fuch as did to him report,  
 The woefull ruine of that holy place,  
 And from his fight, with frownes he did them  
 chace.



*Titus / with great reuerence, entred into the Sanctum  
Sanctorum, and greatly wondred at the beautie  
thereof, affirming it to be the house  
of the God of heauen.*

**T**He cruell fier hauing wrought her worst,  
When that at length the fury thereof ceast,  
*Titus* arose, all open and vntruff,  
Of many teares vnburnded and releast:  
With head vncouered, mild and reuerently,  
Into *Sanctorum* humbly entred he.

And seeing the glorie and magnificence,  
The wondrous beautie of that sacred place,  
Which there appeared, for all the vehemence,  
The flaming fier made, so long a space:  
*Tytus* did stand amazed at the sight,  
When he considered euery thing a right.

And thereupon into this speech he broke,  
How came I in this Paradiſe of pleasure?  
This Place Celestiall, may all ſoules Prouoke,  
To ſcorne the world, and ſeeke no other treaſure:  
Doe I from earth aſcend by eleuation?  
Or ſee I heauen by diuine reuelation?

Vndoubtedly / the mightie God dwelt here,  
This was no mortall creatures habitation,



For earthly Monarkes, it was all to deere,  
 Fit for none, but him who is our soules saluation :  
     O earthly heauen, or heauenly Saintes receauer,  
     Thy sweete remembrance shall I keepe for euer.

Now well I wot, no maruell t'was indeed,  
 The *Iewes* so stoutly stood in fence of this :  
 O who could blame them, when they did proceed  
 By all deuices to preferue their blis :  
     Since first I saw the Sunne, I neuer knew  
     What heuens ioy ment, till I this place did view.

Nor did the Gentiles, without speciall cause,  
 From fardest partes both of the East and West,  
 Send heapes of gold by straight commaund of lawes,  
 This sacred place with glory to inuest :  
     For rich and wonderous is this holy feat,  
     And in mans eye the Maiefty is great.

Farre doth it passe the *Romaine* Temples all,  
 Yea all the Temples of the world likewise,  
 They seeme to this like to an *Asses* stall,  
 Or like a stie where swine still grunting lies.  
     Great God of heauen, God of this glorious place,  
     Plague thou their soules that did thy house  
     deface.

*Tytus*, / thus wearied, gazing vp and downe,  
 Yet not satisfied, with the Temples sight,



A / false Prophet arose among the *Iewes*, telling them  
*that the Temple should againe be builded by it selfe,*  
*without the help of mans hand: willing therefore*  
*to destroy the Romaines: which they going about*  
*to doe, brought further sorrow vpon themselues.*

A False and lying Prophet then arose,  
 Among the *Iewes*, at faire *Ierusalem*,  
 Which then an absurd fancie did disclose,  
 Among them all, who thus encourag'd them :  
 Most valiant *Iewes* play you the men and fight,  
 And God will shew a wonder in your fight.

Against the cursed Romaines turne againe,  
 And beate the boasting heathen to the ground,  
 For God will shew vnto your fights most plaine,  
 His mightie power: if you doe them confound,  
 The Temple by it selfe shall builded be,  
 Without mans hand or helpe, most glorioufly.

That *Iacobs* God, thereby may shew his power,  
 To those proud *Romaines*: which doe glory so,  
 In their owne strength: tryumphing euery hower,  
 In this our spoyle, and wofull ouerthrow :  
 Then fight O *Iewes*, the temple sanz delay,  
 Shall by it selfe be builded vp this day.

The / wilde seditious beleeuing this lye,  
 Did fet a fresh vpon the *Romaine* band,



How oft haue I intreated you to peace,  
 And offered mercie, without all desert,  
 When you refusing it, did still increase,  
 Your trayterous dealings, your chiefeft smart :  
     It pittied me to see your woefull cafe,  
     With your innumerable men dead in each place.

How can I pardon thefe outrageous acts,  
 Your many murders and falfe fedition,  
 With diuers other abhominable facts,  
 For which I fee in you, no hearts contrition :  
     You feeke for peace, yet armed do you ftand,  
     You craue for pardon, with your fwords in hand.

Firft lay a fide your fwords and weapons all,  
 And in fubmiffiue manner ask for grace,  
 So fhall you fee what fauour may befall,  
 Perhaps I may take pittie on your cafe :  
     And graciously withall your faults fufpence,  
     And giue you pardon, ere you goe from hence.

With / bended browes proud *Schimion* then did  
 On gentle *Tytus* : *Iehocanan* likewise,      [looke  
 In fcornfull manner all his fpeeches tooke,  
 And both of them difdainefully replies :  
     By heauens great God, we both haue fworne  
     quoth they  
     To make no feruile peace with thee this day.

For neuer shall earths misery prouoke,  
Our vndaunted heartes to stoope vnto thy will,  
Or bend our neckes vnto the *Romaine* yoake,  
While vitall breath our inward parts doth fill :  
Then vnto vs this fauour doe expresse,  
To let vs part and liue in wilderneffe.

At this contempt was *Tytus* greatly moued :  
And doth your pride continue yet quoth he ?  
Will not your impudency be yet reproued ?  
Nor yet your stubborne heartes yet humbeld be ?  
And dare you say that you will sweare and vow,  
That to the *Romaine* yoke you will not bow ?

At this his wrath was wouderous fore inflamed,  
Who herevpon gaue straight commandement,  
By strength of sword to haue those rebels tamed ;  
On whom the *Romaines* set incontinent :  
Who chac'd the *Iewes* and scattered them so fore,  
That they were found to gather head no more.

For / secretly the *Iewes* from *Schimion* fled,  
By some and some they all forlooke him quite,  
With false *Iehocanan* which so misled,  
And forct thē gainst them selues to murderous  
Who leauing them, to noble *Tytus* came, [fight :  
Desiring grace, who graunted them the fame.



My disobedience, doe I fore repent,  
That euer I, refus'd thy offered grace,  
Bewayling my lewd life, so badly bent,  
And my foule actions, gainst this holy place :  
    Yet with thy mercy shadow my amisse,  
    And let me tast what thy compassion is.

Not from my selfe, did all my sinne proceede,  
Though I confesse, my faults were too too many,  
But was prouokte to many a bloody deede,  
By him that yet was neuer good to any :  
    Blood-thirsty *Schimeon*, led me to all euill,  
    Who doth in malice, far exceed the Diuell.

Too long alasse, he ouer-ruld my will,  
And made me actor, of a thousand woes :  
What I refus'd his outrage did fulfill,  
And his deuise, did make my friends my foes :  
    Then worthy Victor, mittigate my blame,  
    And let thy glory, ouer-spread my shame.

No / more quoth *Tytus*, stay thy traiterous tounge  
Infect vs not with thy impoysoned breath,  
He doe thee right that hast done many a wrong,  
Thy end of sorrow, shall begin thy death :  
    And by thy death, shall life arise to such,  
    To whom thou thoughtst a minutes life too much.



With that he wild his Captaines take him thence,  
When he with yron chaines was fettered fast,  
And afterward (meete meed for his offence)  
Through all the Campe they led him at the last,  
That he of them, might mockt and scorned be,  
And then in chaines they hangd him one a tree.

This was the end of proud *Ihocanan*,  
That in *Ierusalem* did fuch harme,  
And this likewise was that accursed man,  
That in his malice with a fierce alarme  
Burnd all the Victuals laid in by the Peeres,  
That was inough to ferue them twenty yeeres.

Which was the cause, that in so short a space,  
So great a famine fell within the towne:  
Yea this was he burnt King *Agrippaes* place,  
And in the temple slew so many downe:  
But not long after he was gone and dead,  
Out of his den did *Schimion* shew his head.

\*\*\*\*\*

SCHIMION / *in like sort being driuen with hunger out of his den, apparelling himselfe in princely attire, desired to be brought before Titus, supposing he would haue saued his life : but he commanded his head to be stricken off, and his body to be cut in peces and cast to the dogges.*

**W**Ho staring vp and downe with feareful  
lookes,  
Least any one were nigh to apprehend him,  
Like to a Panther doubting hidden hookes,  
That any way might lye for to offend him :  
Driuen out with famine, hungry at the hart,  
He fought for succour of his earned smart.

And hauing drest himselfe in Kingly tire,  
In richest manner that he could deuise,  
That men at him might wonder : and desire,  
To know what Monarke did from earth arise,  
Farre off he walked as it were in boast,  
And shewd himselfe vnto the Romaine hoast.

For his great heart could not abid to yeeld,  
Though gnawing hunger vext his very soule :  
Thus faintly walkt he vp and downe the field  
With lofty thoughts, which famine did controule :  
Supposing firmly, though he liu'd in hate,  
He should finde fauour, for his high estate :

For though (quoth he) I did the *Romaines* wrong,  
 Yet in my deeds I shewed a Princely courage,  
 Bearing a heart, that did to honour throng,  
 And therevpon their Campe so oft did forage :  
     To haughty acts all Princes honour owes,  
     For they must thinke that war hath made vs foes.

Considering this, Prince *Tytus* may be proude,  
 To such an enemie he may fauour shew,  
 And herein may his action be allowd,  
 That magnanimitie he will nourish so :  
     And by his mercie make a friend of him,  
     That in his warres so great a foe hath beene.

Which in this honour, hee himselfe did flatter,  
 Of him the *Romaines* had a perfect fight,  
 And round about him, they themfelues did scatter,  
 Yet were afraid, to come within his might :  
     And that they fear'd ; this was the onely reason,  
     They knew his craft, and doubted hidden treason.

But *Schimion* feeing, that they shund him so,  
 He cald vnto them in couragious wise,  
 Maiestically walking to and fro  
 And in this fort, his speech to them applies :  
     If any gallant Captaine with you be,  
     Let him approach, and talke one word with me.

With / that stept out a braue couragious Knight,  
 With weapons well prouided euery way:  
 A noble *Romaine* of great strength and might,  
 Who with his weapon drawne these words did say:  
     Tell me, who art thou that in such attire,  
     Walkes in this place, and what is thy desire?

I am (quoth he) vndaunted *Schimeon*,  
 The wrathfull Captaine of seditious *Iewes*,  
 That flew the *Romaines*, in their greatest throng,  
 The deed whereof I come not to excuse:  
     Nor doe I passe what you can say thereto,  
     I am the man made you so much adoe.

Yet let me thus much fauour craue of thee,  
 As to conduct me to great *Tytus* fight,  
 Thy noble friend, but enemie to me:  
 Yet doubt I not, but he will doe me right:  
     Bring me to him, what chaunce so ere I finde,  
     That he may heare, and I may shew my minde.

The *Romaine* Captaine his request fulfilled,  
 To *Tytus* royall presence was he brought:  
 Whose hatefull person, when the Prince beheld,  
 He did refuse to heare him speake in ought:  
     Away with him he sayd, let him be bound,  
     For of all woe this villaine was the ground.



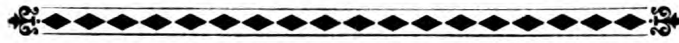
Full fixteene thousand men that instant day,  
Were carried captiue to the *Romaine* Seat :  
    Among the rest the man that wrote this story,  
    Who by his wisedome purchaft endless glory.

Thus Christs prophesie truely came to passe,  
Which Forty yeares before he had expressed :  
But with the *Iewes* of small account it was,  
Till they did finde themselues so sore distressed :  
    He foght their life, his death they wrought with  
    spite  
    Wishing his blood on them and theirs to light.

The which according to their owne request,  
The Lord in wrath did perfectly fulfil :  
There channels ran with blood and did not rest,  
Their blood was spilt, that *Iesus* blood did spill :  
    God grant we may our hatefull sins forfake,  
    And by the *Iewes* a Christian warning take.

FINIS.





II.

THE WONDERFULL YEARE.

1603.





**NOTE.**

For the 'Wonderfull Yeare (1603)' I am again indebted to the British Museum. See Memorial-Introduction on it.—G.

THE  
VVonderfull yeare.  
1603.

Wherein is shewed the picture of *London*, lying sicke of the Plague.

*At the ende of all (like a mery Epilogue to a dull Play) certaine Tales are cut out in sundry fashions, of purpose to shorten the liues of long winters nights, that lye watching in the darke for vs.*

*Et me rigidi legant Catones.*



LONDON

Printed by Thomas Creede, and are to be sold  
in Saint Dunstons Church-yard  
in Fleet-streete.

D. I.

10





TO HIS VVEL-  
RESPECTED GOOD

*friend, M. Cuthbert Thuresby, VVa-  
ter-Bayliffe of London.*

**B**ookes are but poore gifts, yet *Kings* receiue them: vpō which I presume, you will not turne *This* out of doores. You cannot for shame but bid it welcome, because it bringes to you a great quantitie of my loue: which, if it be worth litle (and no maruell if *Loue* be solde vnder-foote, when the God of *Loue* himselfe goes naked) yet I hope you will not say you haue a hard bargaine, Sithēce you may take as much of it as you please for nothing. I haue clapt the *Cognizance* of your name, on these scribled papers, it is their liuery. So that now they are yours: being free frō any vile imputation, faue only, that they thrust themselues into your acquaintance. But generall errors, haue generall pardons: for the title of / other mens names, is the common *Heraldry* which all those laie claime

too, whose creft is a Pen-and-Inckhorne. If you read, you may happilie laugh ; tis my defire you fhould, because mirth is both *Phifcall*, and wholefome againft the *Plague* : with which ficknes (to tell truth) this booke is (though not forely) yet fomewhat infected. I pray, driue it not out of your companie for all that ; for (affure your foule) I am fo iealous of your health, that if you did but once imagine, there were gall in mine Incke, I would caft away the Standifh, and forfwear medling with anie more *Mufes*.



## To the Reader.

**A**ND why to the *Reader*? Oh good Sir! theres as found law to make you giue good words to the *Reader*, as to a *Constable* when hee carries his watch about him to tell how the night goes, tho (perhaps) the one (oftentimes) may be serued in for a *Goose*, and the other very fitly furnish the same messe. Yet to maintaine the scuruy fashion, and to keepe *Custom* in reparations, he must be honyed, and come ouer with *Gentle Reader*, *Courteous Reader*, and *Learned Reader*, though he haue no more *Gentilitie* in him than *Adam* had (that was but a gardner) no more *Ciuitie* than a *Tartar*, and no more *Learning* than the most errand *Stinkard*, that (except his owne name) could neuer finde any thing in the Horne-book.

How notoriously therefore do good wits dishonor, not only their *Calling*, but euen their *Creation*, that worship *Glow-wormes* (in stead of the Sun) because of a litle false glistering? In the name of

*Phœbus* what madnesse leades them vnto it? For he that dares hazard a preffing to death (thats to say, *To be a man in Print*) must make account that he shall stand (like the olde Weathercock ouer Powles steeple) to be beaten with all stormes. Neither the stinking Tabacco-breath of a *Sattin-gull*, the *Aconited* sting of a narrow-eyde *Critick*, the faces of a phantastick Stage-monkey, nor the *Indeede-la* of a Puritanicall Citizen must once shake him. No, but desperately resolute (like a French Post) to ride through thick & thin: indure to see his lines torne pittifully on the rack: suffer his Muse to take the *Bastone*, yea the very stab, & himselfe like a new stake to be a marke for euery *Hagler*, and therefore (setting vp all these refts) why shuld he regard what tooles bolt is shot at him? Besides, / if that which he presents vpon the Stage of the world be *Good*, why should he basely cry out (with that old poeticall mad-cap in his *Amphitruo*) *Iouis summi causa clarè plaudite*. I beg a *Plaudite* for God sake! If *Bad*, who (but an *Affe*) would intreate (as Players do in a cogging *Epilogue* at the end of a filthie Comedy) that, be it neuer such wicked stufte, they would forbear to hisse, or to dam it perpetually to lye on a Stationers stall. For he that can so cofen himselfe, as to pocket vp praise in that filly fort, makes his braines fat with his owne folly.

But *Hinc Pudor!* or rather *Hinc Dolor*, heeres the Diuell! It is not the ratling of all this former haile-shot, that can terrifie our *Band* of *Castalian Pen-men* from entring into the field: no, no, the murdring Artillery indeede lyes in the roaring mouthes of a company that looke big as if they were the sole and fingular *Commanders* ouer the maine Army of *Poesie*, yet (if *Hermes* muster-booke were searcht ouer) theile be found to be most pitifull pure fresh-water souldiers: they giue out, that they are heires-apparent to *Helicon*, but an easie *Herald* may make them meere yonger brothers, or (to fay troth) not so much. Beare witnes all you whose wits make you able to be witnesse in this cause, that here I meddle not with your good Poets, *Nam tales, nusquam sunt hic amplius*, If you should rake hell, or (as *Aristophanes* in his Frog sayes) in any Celler deeper than hell, it is harde to finde Spirits of that *Fashion*. But those Goblins whom I now am coiuring vp, haue bladder-cheekes puffed out like a *Swizzers* breeches (yet being pricktd, there comes out nothing but wind) thin-headed fellowes that liue vpon the scraps of inuention, and trauell with such vagrant foules, and so like Ghosts in white sheetes of paper, that the Statute of Rogues may worthily be sued vpon them because their wits haue no abiding place, and



yet wander without a passe-port. Alas, poore wenches (the nine Muses!) how much are you wrongd, to haue such a number of Bastards lying vpō your hands? But turne them out a begging; or if you cannot be rid of their Riming company (as I thinke it will be very hard) then lay your heauie and immortal curse vpon them, that / whatsoeuer they weaue (in the motley-loome of their rustie pates) may like a beggers cloake, be full of stolne patches, and yet neuer a patch like one another, that it may be such true lamentable stuff, that any honest Christian may be sory to see it. Banish these *Word-pirates*, (you sacred mistresses of learning) into the gulfe of *Barbarisme*: doome them euerlastingly to liue among dunces: let them not once lick their lips at the *Thespian* bowle, but onely be glad (and thanke *Apollo* for it too) if hereafter (as hitherto they haue alwayes) they may quench their poetically thirft with small beere. Or if they will needes be stealing your *Heliconian Nectar*, let them (like the dogs of *Nylus*,) onely lap and away. For this *Goatish* swarme are those (that where for these many thousand yeares you went for pure maides) haue taken away your good names, these are they that deflowre your beauties. These are those ranck-riders of Art, that haue so spur-gald your lustie wingd *Pegasus*, that now he begins

to be out of flesh, and (euen only for prouander sake) is glad to shew tricks like *Bancks* his Curtall. O you Bookes-fellers (that are Factors to the Liberall Sciences) ouer whose Stalles these Drones do dayly flye humming; let *Homer*, *Hesiod*, *Euripides*, and some other mad Greekes with a band of the Latines, lye like musket-shot in their way, when these Gothes and Getes set vpon you in your paper fortifications; it is the only Canon, vpon whose mouth they dare not venture: none but the English will take their parts, therefore feare them not, for such a strong breath haue these chese-eaters, that if they do but blow vpon a booke they imagine straight tis blasted: *Quod supra nos; Nihil ad nos*, (they say) that which is aboute our capacitie, shall not passe vnder our commendation. Yet would I haue these *Zoilists* (of all other) to reade me, if euer I should write any thing worthily: for the blame that knowne-fooles heape vpon a deseruing labour, does not discredit the same, but makes wise men more perfectly in loue with it. Into such a ones hands therefore if I fortune to fall, I will not shrink an inch, but euen when his teeth are sharpest, and most ready to bite, I will stop his mouth only with this, *Hæc mala sunt, sed tu, non meliora facta.* |

## Reader.

*W*Hereas there stands in the Rere-ward of this Booke a certaine mingled Troope of straunge Discourses, fashioned into Tales, Know, that the intelligence which first brought them to light, was onely flying Report: whose tongue (as it often does) if in spreading them it haue tript in any materiall point, and either slipt too farre, or falne too short, beare with the error: and the rather, because it is not wilfully committed. Neither let any one (whome those Reports shall seeme to touch) cauill or complaine of iniury, sithence nothing is set downe by a malicious hand. Farewell.]



## THE VVONDER- full yeare.



*Vertumnus* being attired in his accustomed habit of changeable filke, had newly passed through the first and principall Court-gate of heauen: to whom for

*Vertumnus*  
God of the  
yeare.

a farewell, and to shewe how dutifull he was in his office, *Ianus* (that beares two faces vnder one hood) made a very mannerly lowe legge, and (because he was the onely Porter at that gate) presented vnto this king of the Moneths, all the New-yeares gifts, which were more in number, and more worth than those that are giuen to the great Turke, or the Emperour of *Persia*: on went *Vertumnus* in his lustie progresse, *Priapus*, *Flora*, the *Dryades*,

Description of  
the Spring.

and *Hamadryades*, with all the wooden rabble of those that drest Orchards & Gardens, perfuming all the wayes that he went, with the swéete Odours that breathed from flowers, hearbes and trées, which now began to péepe out of prison : by vertue of which excellent aires, the skie got a most cleare complexion, lookte smug and smoothe, and had not so much as a wart sticking on her face : the Sunne likewise was freshly and very richly appalled in cloth of gold like a Bridegroom, and instead of gilded Rosemary, the hornes of the Ramme, (being the signe of that celestiallyl bride-house where he lay, to be married to the Spring) were not like

Vpon the 23.  
of March the  
Spring begins,  
by reason of  
the Sunnes en-  
trance into  
Aries.

your common hornes parcell-gilt, but double double-gilt, with the liquid gold that melted from his beames, for ioy w[h]ereof the Larke sung at his windowe euery morning, the Nightingale euery night : the Cuckooe (like a single sole / Fidler, that réeles from Tauerne to Tauerne) plide it all the day long : Lambes friskte vp and downe in the vallies, kids and Goates leapt too and fro on the Mountaines : Shepherds fat piping, country wenches singing : Louers made sonnets for their Lasses, whilest they made Garlands for their Louers : And as the Country was frolike, so was the Citie mery : Oliue Trées (which grow

no where but in the Garden of peace) stood (as common as Béech does at Midfomer) at euery mans doore, braunches of Palme were in euery mans hand: Stréetes were full of people, people full of ioy: euery houfe féemde to haue a Lorde of misrule in it, in euery house there was so much iollity: no Scritch-Owle frightened the filly Countryman at midnight, nor any Drum the Citizen at noone-day; but all was more calme than a still water, all husht, as if the Spheres had bene playing in Confort: In conclusion, heauen lookt like a Pallace, and the great hall of the earth, like a Paradice. But O the short-liude Felicitie of man! O world of what slight and thin stufte is thy happineffe! Iust in the midst of this iocund Holi-day, a storme rises in the West: Westward (from the toppe of a *Ritch-mount*) descended a hidious tempest, that The Queenes sicknes. shooke Cedars, terrified the tallest Pines, and cleft in sunder euen the hardest hearts of Oake: And if such great trées were shaken, what thinke you became of the tender Eglantine, and humble Hawthorne; they could not (doubtleffe) but droope, they could not choose but die with the terror. The Element (taking the Destinies part, who indeed set abroach this mischief) scowled on the earth, and filling her hie forehead full of blacke wrinckles, tumbling long vp and downe

(like a great bellyed wife) her fighes being whirle-windes, and her grones thunder, at length she fell in labour, and was deliuered of a pale, meagre, weake child, named *Sicknesse*, whom Death (with a pestilence) would néedes take vpon him to nurse, and did so. This starueling being come to his full growth, had an office giuen him for nothing (and thats a wonder in this age) Death made him his Herauld: attirde him like a Courtier, and (in his name) chargde him to goe into the Priuie Chamber of the English Quéene, to sommon her to appeare in the Star-chamber of heauen.

The sommons made her start, but (hauing an inuincible spirit) / did not amaze her: yet whom would not the certaine newes of parting from a Kingdome amaze! But she knewe where to finde Her death. a richer, and therefore lightlie regarded the losse of this, and thereupon made readie for that heauenlie Coronation, being (which was most strange) most dutifull to obey, that had so many yeares so powrefully commaunded. She obeyed Deaths messenger, and yéelded her body to the hands of death himselfe. She dyed, resigning her Scepter to posteritie, and her Soule to immortalitie.

The report of her death (like a thunder clap) was able to kill thousands, it tooke away hearts from millions: for hauing brought vp (euen

vnder her wing) a nation that was almost begotten and borne vnder her; that neuer shouted any other *Aue* than for her name, neuer sawe the face of any Prince but her selfe, neuer vnderstoode what that strange out-landish word *Change* signified: how was it possible, but that her sickness should throw abroad an vniuersall feare, and her death an astonishment? She was the Courtiers treasure, therefore he had <sup>The generall terror that her death bred.</sup> the Lawyers sword of iustice, he might well faint: the Merchants patronesse, he had reason to looke pale: the Citizens mother, he might best lament: the Shepherds Goddesse, and should not he droope? Onely the Souldier, who had walkt a long time vpon wodden legs, and was not able to giue Armes, though he were a Gentleman, had briffled vp the quills of his stiffe Porcupine mustachio, and swore by no beggers that now was the houre come for him to bestirre his stumps: Vfurers and Brokers (that are the Diuels Ingles, and dwell in the long lane of hell) quakt like aspen leaues at his oathes: those that before were the onely cut-throates in *London*, now stood in feare of no other death: but my *Signior Soldado* was deceiued, the Tragedie went not forward.

Neuer did the English Nation behold so much black worne as there was at her Funerall: It was



then but put on, to try if it were fit, for the great day of mourning was set downe (in the booke of heauen) to be held afterwards : that was but the dumb shew, the Tragicall Act hath bene playing euer since. Her Herse (as it was borne) seemed to be an Iland swimming in water, for round / about it there rayned showers of teares, about her death-bed none : for her departure was so sudder and so strange, that men knew not how to weepe, because they had neuer bin taught to shed teares of that making. They that durst not speake their sorrowes, whisped them : they that durst not whisper, sent them foorth in sighes. O what an Earth-quake is the alteration of a State ! Looke from the Chamber of Prefence, to the Farmers cottage, and you shall finde nothing but distraction : the whole Kingdome seems a wildernes, and the people in it are transformed to wild men. The Map of a Countrey so pitifullie distracted by the horror of a change, if you desire perfectlie to behold, cast your eyes then on this that followes, which being heretofore in priuate presented to the King, I thinke may very worthily shew it selfe before you : And because you shall see them attirde in the same fashon that they were before his Maiesty, let these fewe lines (which stood then as Prologue to the rest) enter first into your eares.

*N*ot for applauses, shallow fooles aduerture,  
 I plunge my verse into a sea of censure,  
 But with a liuer drest in gall, to see  
 So many Rookes, catch-polls of poesie,  
 That feed vpon the fallings of hie wit ;  
 And put on cast inuentions, most vnfit ;  
 For such am I prest forth in shops and stalls,  
 Pasted in Powles, and on the Lawyers walls,  
 For euery basilijsk-eyde Criticks bait,  
 To kill my verse, or poison my conceit :  
 Or some smoakt gallant who at wit repines,  
 To dry Tabacco with my holesome lines,  
 And in one paper sacrifice more braine,  
 Than all his ignorant scull could ere containe :  
 But merit dreads no martyrdom, nor stroke,  
 My lines shall liue when he shall be all smoke.

Thus farre the Prologue, who leauing the Stage  
 cléere, the feares that are bred in the wombe of  
 this altring kingdome do / next step vp, acting  
 thus.

*T*He great impostume of the realme was drawne  
 Euen to a head: the multitudinous spawne  
 Was the corruption, which did make it swell  
 With hop'd sedition (the burnt seed of hell,  
 Who did expect but ruine, blood, and death,  
 To share our kingdome, and diuide our breath.

*Religions without religion,  
 To let each other blood, confusion  
 To be next Queene of England, and this yeere  
 The ciuill warres of France to be plaid heere  
 By English-men, ruffians, and pandering slaues,  
 That faine would dig vp gowtie vsurers graues :  
 At such a time, villaines their hopes do honey,  
 And rich men looke as pale as their white money :  
 Now they remoue, and make their siluer sweat,  
 Casting themselues into a couetous heate,  
 And then (vnseene) in the confederate darke,  
 Bury their gold, without or Priest, or Clarke.  
 And say no prayers ouer that dead pelfe :  
 True, Gold's no Christian, but an Indian elfe.  
 Did not the very kingdome seeme to shake  
 Her precious massie limbes ? did she not make  
 All English cities (like her pulses) beate  
 With people in their veines ? the feare so great,  
 That had it not bene phisickt with rare peace  
 Our populous power had lessend her increase.  
 The Spring-time that was dry, had sprung in blood,  
 A greater dearth of men, than e're of foode :  
 In such a panting time and ga'ping yeare,  
 Viētuals are cheapest, only men are deare.  
 Now each wise-acred Landlord did dispaire,  
 Fearing some villaine should become his heire,  
 Or that his sonne and heire before his time,  
 Should now turne villaine, and with violence clime*

*Vp to his life, saying father you haue seene  
 King / Henry, Edward, Mary, and the Queene,  
 I wonder you'le liue longer ! then he tells him  
 Hees loth to see him kild, therfore he kills him,  
 And each vast Landlord dyes lyke a poore slaue :  
 Their thousand acres makes them but a graue.  
 At such a time great men conuey their treasure  
 Into the trusty Citie : wayts the leisure  
 Of bloud and insurrection, which warre clips,  
 When euery gate shotts vp her Iron lips :  
 Imagine now a mighty man of dust,  
 Standeth in doubt, what seruant he may trust, [more:  
 With Plate worth thousands : Iewels worth farre  
 If he proue false, then his rich Lord proues poore :  
 He calls forth one by one, to note their graces,  
 Whilst they make legs he copies out their faces,  
 Examines their eye-browe, consters their beard,  
 Singles their Nose out, still he rests afeard :  
 The first that comes by no meanes heele alow,  
 Has spyed three Hares starting betweene his brow,  
 Quite turnes the word, names it Celeritie,  
 For Hares do run away, and so may he :  
 A second shewne : him he will scarce behold,  
 His beard's too red, the colour of his gold :  
 A third may please him, but tis hard to say,  
 A rich man's pleasde, when his goods part away.  
 And now do cherrup by, fine golden nests  
 Of well hatcht bowles : such as do breed in feasts.*

*For warre and death cupboords of plate downe pulls,  
 Then Bacchus drinkes not in gilt-bowles, but sculls.  
 Let me descend and stoope my verse a while,  
 To make the Comicke cheeke of Poesie smile;  
 Ranck peny-fathers scud (with their halfe hammes,  
 Shadowing their calues) to saue their siluer dammes;  
 At euery gun they start, tilt from the ground,  
 One drum can make a thousand Vsurers found,  
 In vsought Allies and vnholosome places,  
 Back-ways and by-lanes, where appeare fewe faces.  
 In | shamble-smelling roomes, loathsome prospectts,  
 And penny-lattice-windowes, which reiects  
 All popularitie : there the rich Cubs lurke,  
 When in great houses ruffians are at worke,  
 Not dreaming that such glorious booties lye  
 Vnder those nasty roofes : such they passe by  
 Without a search, crying there's nought for vs,  
 And wealthie men deceiue poore villaines thus :  
 Tongue-trauelling Lawyers faint at such a day,  
 Lye speechlesse, for they haue no words to say.  
 Phisitions turne to patients, their Arts dry,  
 For then our fat men without Phisick die.  
 And to conclude, against all Art and good,  
 Warre taints the Doct̃or, lets the Surgion blood.*

Such was the fashion of this Land, when the great Land-Lady thereof left it: Shée came in with the fall of the leafe, and went away in the

Spring: her life (which was dedicated to Virginitie,) both beginning & closing vp a miraculous Mayden circle: for she was borne vpon a Lady Eue, and died vpon a Lady Eue: her Natiuitie & death being memorable by this wonder: the first and last yeares of her Raigne by this, that a *Lee* was Lorde Maior when she came to the Crowne, and a *Lee* Lorde Maior when she departed from it. Threé places are made famous by her for threé things, *Greenewich* for her birth, *Richmourt* for her death, *White-Hall* for her Funerall: vpon her remouing from whence, (to lend our tiring prose a breathing time) stay, and looke vpon these *Epigrams*, being composed.

1. Vpon the Queenes last Remoue  
*being dead.*

*The* *Queene's remou'de in solemne sort,*  
*Yet this was strange, and seldome seene,*  
*The Queene vsde to remoue the Court,*  
*But now the Court remou'de the Queene.*

2. Vpon her bringing by water  
*to White Hall.*

*The* *Queene was brought by water to White Hall,*  
*At euery stroake, the Oares teares let fall.*  
*More clung about the Barge: Fish vnder water*  
*Wept out their eyes of pearle, and swom blind after.*

*I thinke the Barge-men might with easier thyes  
Haue rowde her thither in her peoples eyes :  
For howsoe're, thus much my thoughts haue skand,  
S'had come by water, had she come by land.*

3. Vpon her lying dead at  
*White Hall.*

*The Queene lyes now at White Hall dead,  
And now at White Hall liuing,  
To make this rough obiection euen,  
Dead at White Hall at Westminster,  
But liuing at White Hall in Heauen.*

Thus you see that both in her life and her death shee was appointed to be the mirror of her time: And surely, if since the first stone that was layd for the foundation of this great house of the world, there was euer a yeare ordained to be wondred at, it is only this: the *Sibils*, *Oetogefimus*, *Oetauus Annas*, That same terrible 88. which came sayling hither in the Spanish Armado, <sup>1603. A more</sup> and made mens hearts colder then the <sup>wonderfull</sup> yeare than 88. frozen Zone, when they heard but an inckling of it: That 88 by whose horrible predictions, Almanack-makers stood in bodily feare their trade would be vtterly ouerthrowne, and poore *Erra Pater* was threatned (because he was a Iew) to be put to baser offices than the stopping

of mustard-pots : That same 88. which had more prophecies waiting at his héeles, thā euer *Merlin* the Magitian had in his head, was a yeare of *Iubile* to this. *Platoes Mirabilis Annus*, (whether it be past alreadie, or to come within these foure yeares) may throwe *Platoes* cap at *Mirabilis*, for that title of wonderfull is bestowed vpon 1603. If that sacred Aromatically perfumed fire of wit (out of whose flames *Phænix* poesie doth arise) were burning in any brest, I would féede it with no other stufte for a twelue-moneth and a day, than with kindling papers full of lines, that should tell only of the chances, changes, and strange shapes that this Protean Climactericall yeare hath metamorphosed himselfe into. It is able to finde ten Chroniclers a competent liuing, and to set twentie Printers at worke. You shall perceiue I lye not, if (with *Peter Bales*) you will take the paines to drawe the whole volume of it into the compasse of a pennie. As first, to begin with the Quéene's death, then the Kingdomes falling into an Ague vpon that. Next, followes the curing of that feauer by the holesome receipt of a proclaymed King. That wonder begat more, for in an houre, two mightie Nations were made one: wilde *Ireland* became tame on the sudder, and some English great ones that before féemed tame, on the sudder turned wilde: The same Parke which



great *Iulius Cæsar* inclosed, to hold in that Déere whome they before hunted, being now circled (by a second *Cæsar*) with stronger pales to kéepe them from leaping ouer. And last of all (if that wonder be the last and shut vp the yeare) a most dreadfull plague. This is the abstract, and yet (like *Stowes* Chronicle of *Decimo Sexto* to huge *Hollinshead*) these small pricks in this Set-card of ours, represent mightie Countreys ; whilst I haue the quill in my hand, let me blow them bigger.

The Quéene being honoured with a Diademe of Starres, *France*, *Spaine*, and *Belgia*, lift vp their heads, preparing to do as much for *England* by giuing ayme, whilst she shot arrowes at her owne brest (as they imagined) as she had done (many a yeare together) for them: and her owne Nation betted on their sides, looking with distracted countenance for no better guests than Ciuill Sedition, Vprores, Rapes, Murders, and Maffacres. But the wéele of Fate turned, a better Lottery was drawne, *Pro Troia stabat Apollo*, God stuck valiantlie to vs. For behold, vp rises a comfortable Sun out of the North, whose glorious beames / (like a fan) disperfed all thick and contagious clowdes. The losse of a Queene, was paid with the double interest of a King and Quéene. The Cedar of her gouernment which stood alone and bare no fruit, is

changed now to an Oliue, vpon whose spreading branches grow both Kings and Quéenes. Oh it were able to fill a hundred paire of writing tables with notes, but to see the parts plaid in the compasse of one houre on the stage of this new-found world! Vpon Thursday it was treason to cry God faue king *James* king of *England*, and vppon Friday hee treason not to cry so. In the morning no voice hearde but murmures and lamentation, at noone nothing but shoutes of gladnes & triumphe. *S. George* and *S. Andrew* that many hundred yeares had defied one another, were now sworne brothers: *England* and *Scotland* (being parted only with a narrow Riuer, and the people of both Empires speaking a language lesse differing than english within it selfe, as tho prouidence had enacted, that one day those two Nations should marry one another) are now made sure together, and king *James* his Coronation, is the solemne wedding day. Happiest of all thy Ancestors (thou mirror of all Princes that euer were or are) that at seauen of the clock wert a king but ouer a peece of a little Iland, and before eleuen the greatest Monarch in Christendome. Now

*Siluer Crowds*

*Of blisful Angels and tryed Martyrs tread*

*On the Star-feeling ouer England's head:*

D. I.

I 3

*Now heauen broke into a wonder, and brought forth  
Our omne bonum from the holesome North  
(Our fruitfull Souereigne) Iamus, at whose dread  
name*

*Rebellion fwounded, and (ere since) became  
Groueling and nerue-lesse, wanting bloud to nourish;  
For Ruine gnawes her selfe when kingdomes flourish.  
Nor are our hopes planted in regall springs,  
Neuer to wither, for our aire breedes kings:  
And in all ages (from this Soueraigne time)  
England shall still be calde the royall clime.  
Most blisfull Monarch of all earthen powers,  
Seru'd with a messe of kingdomes, foure such bowers  
(For | prosperous hiues, and rare industrious  
swarmes)*

*The world containes not in her solid armes.  
O thou that art the Meeter of our dayes,  
Poets Apollo! deale thy Daphnaan bayes  
To those whose wits are bay-trees, euer greene,  
Vpon whose hye tops Poesie chirps vnseene:  
Such are most fit, t'apparell Kings in rimes,  
Whose siluer numbers are the Muses chimes;  
Whose spritely caracters (being once wrought on)  
Out-liue the marble th'are insculpt vpon:  
Let such men chaunt thy vertue, then they flye  
On Learnings wings vp to Eternitie.  
As for the rest, that limp (in cold desert)  
Hauing small wit, lesse iudgement, and least Art:*

*Their verse ! tis almost heresie to heare ;  
 Banish their lines some furlong, from thine eare :  
 For tis held dang'rous (by Apolloes signe)  
 To be infected with a leaprous line.  
 O make some Adamant Aēt (n'ere to be worne)  
 That none may write but those that are true-  
     borne :  
 So when the worlds old cheekes shall race and  
     peepe,  
 Thy Aēts shall breath in Epitaphs of Steele.*

By these Comments it appears that by this time King *James* is proclaimed : now does fresh blood leape into the cheekes of the Courtier : the Souldier now hangs vp his armor, and is glad that he shall feede vpon the blessed fruites of peace : the Scholler sings Hymnes in honor of the Muses, assuring himselfe now that *Helicon* will bee kept pure, because *Apollo* himselfe drinkes of it. Now the thriftie Citizen casts beyond the Moone, and seeing the golden age returned into the world againe, resolves to worship no Saint but money. Trades that lay dead & rotten, and were in all mens opinion vtterly dambd, started out of their trance, as though they had drunke of *Aqua Caelestis*, or Vnicorns horne, and swore to fall to their olde occupatiōss. Taylors meant no more to be called

Merchant-taylors, but Merchants, for their shops were all lead forth in leases to be turned into ships, and with their sheares (in stead of a Rudder) would they haue / cut the Seas (like Leuant Taffaty) and sayld to the West Indies for no worfe stuffe to make hose and doublets of, than beaten gold: Or if the necessitie of the time (which was likely to stand altogether vpon brauery) should presse them to serue with their iron and Spanissh weapons vpon their stalls, then was there a sharpe law made amongst them, that no workman should handle any needle but that which had a pearle in his eye, nor any copper thimble, vnlesse it were linde quite through, or bumbasted with Siluer. What Mechanicall hard handed Vulcanist (seeing the dice of Fortune run so swéetly, and resoluing to strike whilst the iron was hote) but perswaded himselfe to bee Maister or head Warden of the company ere halfe a yeare went about? The worst players Boy stood vpon his good parts, swearing tragicall and busking oathes, that how villainously soeuer he randed, or what bad and vnlawfull action soeuer he entred into, he would in despite of his honest audience be halfe a sharer (at least) at home, or else strowle (thats to say trauell) with some notorious wicked floundring company abroad. And good reason had these time-catchers to be led into this fooles

paradice, for they sawe mirth in euery mans face, the stréetes were plumd with gallants, Tabacconists fild vp whole Tauernes: Vintners hung out spicke and span new Iuy bushes (because they wanted good wine) and their old raine-beaten lattices marcht vnder other cullors, hauing loft both company and cullors before. *London* was neuer in the high way to preferment till now; now she resolued to stand upon her pantoffles: now (and neuer till now) did she laugh to scorne that worme-eaten prouerbe of *Lincolne* was, *London* is, & *Yorke* shall bee, for she saw her selfe in better state then *Ierusalem*, she went more gallant then euer did *Antwerp*, was more courted by amorous and lustie fuiters then *Venice* (the minion of *Italy*) more loftie towers stood (like a Coronet, or a spangled head-tire) about her Temples, then euer did about the beautifull forehead of *Rome*: *Tyrus* and *Sydon* to her were like two thatcht houses, to *Theobals*:  $\int$  grand Cayr but a hogsty. *Hinc illæ lachrymæ*. She wept her belly full for all this. Whilst *Troy* was swilling sack and fugar, and mowfing fat venison, the mad Gréekes made bonfires of their houses: Old Priam was drinking a health to the / wooden horse, and before it could be pledgd had his throat cut. Corne is no fooner ripe, but for all the pricking vp of his eares hée is pard off by

the shins, and made to goe vpon stumps. Flowers no sooner budded, but they are pluckt vp and dye. Night walks at the héeles of the day, and forrowe enters (like a tauerne-bill) at the taile of our pleasures: for in the Appenine heighth of this immoderate ioy and securitie (that like Powles Stéeple ouer-lookt the whole Citie) Behold, that miracle-worker, who in one minute turnd our generall mourning to a generall mirth, does now againe in a moment alter that gladnes to shrikes & lamentation. Here would I faine make a full point, because posteritie should not be frighted with those miserable Tragedies, which The Plague. now my Muse (as *Chorus*) stands ready to present. Time, would thou hadst neuer bene made wretched by bringing them forth: Oblivion, would in all the graues and sepulchres, whose ranke iawes thou hast already closd vp, or shalt yet hereafter burst open, thou couldst likewise bury them for euer.

A stiffe and fréezing horror sucks vp the riuers of my blood: my haire stands an ende with the panting of my braines: mine eye balls are ready to start out, being beaten with the billowes of my teares: out of my wéeeping pen does the inck mournefully and more bitterly than gall drop on the pale fac'd paper, euen when I do but thinke how the bowels of my sicke Country haue bene

torne: *Apollo* therefore and you bewitching filuer-  
 tongd Mufes, get you gone, I inuocate none of your  
 names: Sorrow & Truth, fit you on each fide of  
 me, whilst I am deliuered of this deadly burden:  
 prompt me that I may vtter ruthfull and paffionate  
 condolement: arme my trembling hand, that it  
 may boldly rip vp and Anetimize the vlcerous  
 body of this *Anthrophagized* plague: Anthropo-  
phagi are  
Scithians, that  
feed on mens  
flesh.  
 lend me Art (without any counterfeit  
 shadowing) to paint and delineate to the  
 life the whole ftory of this mortall and peftiferous  
 battaile, & you the ghosts of thofe more (by many)  
 then 40000. that with the virulent poifon of in-  
 fection haue bene driuen out of your earthly  
 dwellings: you defolate hand-wringing widowes  
 that beate your bofomes ouer your departing  
 husbands: you wofully diftracted mothers that  
 with difheued haire falne into fwounds, whilst you  
 lye kissing the infenfible cold lips / of your breath-  
 leffe Infants: you out-caft and downe-troden  
 Orphanes, that fhall many a yeare hence remember  
 more freshly to mourne, when your mourning  
 garments fhall looke olde and be forgotten; and  
 you the *Genij* of all thofe emptyed families, whose  
 habitations are now among the *Antipodes*: Ioyne,  
 all your hands together, and with your bodies caft  
 a ring about me: let me behold your ghafly  
 vizages, that my paper may receiue their true



pictures: *Eccho* forth your grones through the hollow truncke of my pen, and raine downe your gummy teares into mine Incke, that euen marble bosomes may be shaken with terrour, and hearts of Adamant melt into compaffion.

What an vnmatchable torment were it for a man to be bard vp euery night in a vast silent Charnell-house? hung (to make it more hideous) with lamps dimly & slowly burning; in hollow and glimmering corners: where all the pauement should in stead of gréene rushes, be strowde with blasted Rosemary: withered Hyacinthes, fatall Cipresse and Ewe, thickly mingled with heapes of dead mens bones: the bare ribbes of a father that begat him, lying there: here the Chaplesse hollow scull of a mother that bore him: round about him a thousand Coarfes, some standing bolt vp-right in their knotted winding shéetes: others halfe mouldred in rotten coffins, that should suddenly yawne wide open, filling his nostrils with noysome stench, and his eyes with the sight of nothing but crawling wormes. And to kéepe such a poore wretch waking, he should heare no noyse but of Toads croaking, Screech-Owles howling, Mandrakes shrieking: were not this an infernall prison? would not the strongest-harted man (beset with such a ghastly horror) looke wilde? and run madde? and die? And euen such a

formidable shape did the diseafed Citie appeare in : For he that durft (in the dead houre of gloomy midnight) haue bene fo valiant, as to haue walkt through the ftill and melancholy ftréets, what thinke you should haue bene his muficke? Surely the loud grones of rauing ficke men ; the ftugling panges of foules departing : In euery houfe grieffe ftriking vp an Allarum : Seruants crying out for maifters : wiues for husbands, parents for children, children for their mothers : here he should haue met fome frantickly running to knock vp Sextons ; there, others fearfully / fwearing with Coffins, to ftuale forth dead bodies, leaft the fatall hand-writing of death should feale vp their doores. And to make this difmall confort more full, round about him Bells heauily tolling in one place, and ringing out in another. The dreadfulneffe, of fuch an houre, is invtterable : let vs goe further. If fome poore man, fuddeinly ftarting out of a fwéete and golden flumber, should behold his houfe flaming about his eares, all his family deftroied in their fléepes by the mercileffe fire ; himfelfe in the very midft of it, wofully and like a madde man calling for helpe : would not the mifery of fuch a diftreffed foule, appeare the greater, if the rich Vfurer dwelling next doore to him, should not ftirre, (though he felt part of the danger) but fuffer him to perifh, when the thrufting out of an arme might

haue faued him? O how many thousands of wretched people haue acted this poore mans part? how often hath the amazed husband waking, found the comfort of his bedde lying breathlesse by his side! his children at the same instant gasping for life! and his seruants mortally wounded at the hart by sicknes! the distracted creature, beats at death doores, exclames at windowes, his cries are sharp inough to pierce heauen, but on earth no eare is opend, to receiue them. And in this manner do the tedious minutes of the night stretch out the sorrowes of ten thousand: It is now day, let vs looke forth and try what Consolation rizes with the Sun: not any, not any: for before the Jewell of the morning be fully set in siluer, hundred hungry graues stand gaping, and euery one of them (as at a breakfast) hath swallowed downe ten or eleuen liuelesse carcases: before dinner, in the same gulfe are twice so many more deuoured: and before the Sun takes his rest, those numbers are doubled: Threé score that not many houres before had euery one feuerall lodgings very delicately furnisht, are now thrust altogether into one clofe roome: a litle noisome roome: not fully ten foote square. Doth not this strike coldly to y<sup>e</sup> hart of a worldly miser? To some, the very sound of deaths name is in stead of a passing-bell: what shall become of such a coward, being told

that the selfe-same bodie of his, which is now so pampered with superfluous fare, so perfumed and bathed in odoriferous waters, and so gaily apparelled in varietie of fashiōs, must one day be throwne (like stinking carion) into a rank & rotten graue; where his goodly eies y did once shoote foorth / such amorous glances, must be beaten out of his head: his lockes that hang wantonly dangling, troden in dirt vnder-foote: this doubtlesse (like thunder) must néeds strike him into the earth. But (wretched man!) when thou shalt see, and be assured (by tokens sent thee from heauen) that to-morrow thou must be tumbled into a Muckepit, and suffer thy body to be bruisde and prest with thrée score dead men, lying slouenly vpon thee, and thou to be vndermost of all! yea and perhaps halfe of that number were thine enemies! (and see howe they may be reuenged, for the wormes that breed out of their putrifying carcasses, shall crawle in huge swarmes from them, and quite deuoure thee) what agonies will this strange newes driue thee into? If thou art in loue with thy selfe, this cannot choose but possesse thee with frenzie. But thou art gotten safe (out of the ciuill citie Calamitie) to thy Parkes and Pallaces in the Country, lading thy asses and thy Mules with thy gold (thy god), thy plate, and thy Jewels: and the fruites of thy wombe thriftily

growing vp but in one onely sonne (the young Landlord of all thy carefull labours) him also hast thou rescued from the arrowes of infection: Now is thy soule iocund, and thy senses merry. But open thine eyes, thou Foole and behold that darling of thine eye (thy sonne) turnd suddainly into a lump of clay: the hand of pestilence hath smote him euen vnder thy wing: Now doest thou rent thine haire, blaspheme thy Creator, cursest thy creation, and basely descendest into brutish & vnmanly passions, threatning in despite of death & his Plague, to maintaine the memory of thy childe, in the euerlasting brest of Marble: a tombe must now defend him from tempests: and for that purpose, the swetty hinde (that digs the rent he paies thee out of the entrails of the earth) he is sent for, to conuey forth that burden of thy sorrow: But note how thy pride is disdained: that weather-beaten sun-burnt drudge, that not a month since fawnd vpon thy Worship like a Spaniell, and like a bond-slaue, would haue stoopt lower than thy feete, does now stoppe his nose at thy presence, and is ready to set his Mastiue as hye as thy throate, to driue thee from his doore: all thy gold and siluer cannot hire one of those (whom before thou didst scorne) to carry the dead body to his last home: the Country round about thee shun thee, as a Basiliske, / and therefore to

*London* (from whose armes thou cowardly fledst away) poast vpon poast must be galloping, to fetch from thence those that may performe that Funerall Office: But there are they so full of graue-matters of their owne, that they haue no leifure to attend thine: doth not this cut thy very heart-strings in funder? If that doe not, the shutting vp of the Tragicall Act, I am sure will: for thou must be inforced with thine owne handes, to winde vp (that blasted flower of youth) in the last linnen, that euer he shall weare: vpon thine owne shoulers must thou beare part of him, thy amazed seruant the other: with thine owne hands must thou dig his graue, (not in the Church, or common place of buriall,) thou hast not fauour (for all thy riches) to be so happie, but in thine Orcharde, or in the proude walkes of thy Garden, wringing thy palse-shaking hands in stead of belles, (most miserable father) must thou search him out a sepulcher.

My spirit growes faint with rowing in this Stygian Ferry, it can no longer endure the transportation of soules in this dolefull manner: let vs therefore shift a point of our Compasse, and (since there is no remedie, but that we must still bee tost vp and downe in this *Mare mortuum*) hoist vp all our sailes, and on the merry winges of a lustier winde seeke to arriue on some prosperous shore.

Imagine then that all this while, Death (like a

Spanifh Leagar, or rather like ftalking *Tamberlaine*) hath pitcht his tents, (being nothing but a heape of winding fhéetes tackt together) in the finfully-polluted Suburbes : the Plague is Mufter-maifter and Marfhall of the field : Burning Feauers, Boyles, Blaines, and Carbuncles, the Leaders, Lieutenants, Serieants, and Corporalls : the maine Army confifting (like *Dunkirke*) of a mingle-mangle, *viz.*, dumpifh Mourners, merry Sextons, hungry Coffin-fellers, scrubbing Bearers, and naftie Graue-makers : but indéed they are the Pioners of the Campe, that are impoyed onely (like Moles) in cafting vp of earth and digging of trenches ; Feare and Trembling (the two Catch-polles of Death) arreft euery one : No parley will be graunted, no compofition ftood vpon, But the Allarum is ftucke vp, the *Toxin* ringes out for life, and no voyce heard but *Tue, Tue, Kill, Kill* ; the little Belles / onely (like fmall fhot) doe not yet goe off, and make no great worke for wormes, a hundred or two loft in euery skirmifh, or fo : But alas thats nothing : yet by thofe desperat fallies, what by open fetting vpon them by day, and fecret Ambuscadoes by night, the fskirts of *London* were pittifully pared off, by litle and litle : which they within the gates perceiuing, it was no boot to bid them take their héeles, for away they trudge thick and thrée fold ; fome riding,

some on foote: some without bootes, some in their slippers, by water, by land: In shoales swom they West-ward, many to *Grauesend* none went vnlesse they be driuen, for whosoeuer landed there neuer came back again: Hacknies, watermen & Wagons, were not so terribly employed many a yeare; so that within a short time, there was not a good horse in Smith-field, nor a Coach to be set eye on. For after the world had once run vpon the wheeles of the Pest-cart, neithe[r] coach nor caroch durst appeare in his likenesse.

Let vs pursue these runaways no longer, but leaue them in the vnmercifull hands of the Country-hard-hearted *Hobbinolls*, (who are ordaind to be their Tormentors) and returne backe to the siege of the Citie, for the enimie taking aduantage by their flight, planted his ordinance against the walls; here the Canons (like their great Bells) roard: the Plague took fore paines for a breach; he laid about him cruelly, ere he could get it, but at length he and his tiranous band entred: his purple colours were presently (with the sound of Bow-bell instead of a trumpet) aduanced, and ioyned to the Standard of the Citie; he marcht euen thorow Cheapside, and the capitall streets of *Troynouant*: the only blot of dishonor that struck vpon this Inuader, being this, that hee plaide the tyrant, not the conqueror, making



hauocke of all, when he had all lying at the foote of his mercy. Men, women & children dropt downe before him : houfes were rifled, ftréetes ranfackt, beautifull maidens throwne on their beds, and rauisht by ficknes: rich mens Cofers broken open, and shared amongft prodigall heires and vnthriftie feruants: poore men vsde poorely, but not pittifully; he did very much hurt, yet some fay he did very much good. Howfoeuer he behaued himfelfe, this intelligence runs currant, that euery houfe lookt like *S. Bartholmewes* Hofpittall, and / euery ftréete like *Bucklersbury* for poore *Methridatum* and *Dragon-water* (being both of them in all the world, scarce worth thrée-pence) were bort in euery corner, and yet were both drunke euery houre at other mens coft. *Lazarus* lay groning at euery mans doore : mary no *Diues* was within to fend him a crum, (for all your Gold-finches were fled to the woods) not a dogge left to licke vp his fores, for they (like *Curres*) were knockt downe like Oxen, and fell thicker then Acornes.

I am amazed to remember what dead Marches were made of thrée thousand trooping together ; husbands, wiues & children being led as ordinarily to one graue, as if they had gone to one bed. And those that could shift for a time, and shrink their heads out of the collar (as many did) yet

went they (most bitterly) miching and muffled vp & downe, with Rue and Wormewood stuft into their eares and nofthrils, looking like fo many Bores heads ftuck with branches of Rosemary, to be ferued in for Brawne at Chriftnas.

This was a rare worlde for the Church, who had wont to complaine for want of liuing, and now had more liuing thruft vpon her, than ſhe knew how to beftow : to haue bene Clarke now to a pariſh Clarke, was better then to ferue ſome fooliſh Iuſtice of Peace, or than the yeare before to haue had a Benefice. Sextons gaue out, if they might (as they hoped) continue theſe doings but a tweluemonth longer, they and their poſteritie would all ryde vppon footecloathes to the ende of the world. Amongſt which worme-eaten generation, the thrée bald Sextons of limping Saint *Gyles*, Saint *Sepulchres*, and Saint *Olaues*, rulde the roaſte more hotly, than euer did the *Triumviri* of *Rome*. *Iehochanan*, *Symeon*, and *Eleazar*, neuer kept ſuch a plaguy coyle in *Ierufalem* among the hunger-ftarued Iewes, as theſe thrée Sharkers did in their Pariſhes among naked Chriſtians. Curſed they were I am ſure by ſome to the pitte of hell, for tearing money out of their throates, that had not a croſſe in their purſes. But alas! they muſt haue it, it is their Fee, and therefore giue the Diuell his

due: Onely Hearbe-wiues and Gardeners (that neuer prayed before vnlesse it were for Raine or faire weather,) were now day and night vppon their marybones, that God would blesse the labors of those mole-catchers, / because they sucke swéetnesse by this; for the price of flowers, Hearbes and garlands, rose wonderfully, in so much that Rosemary which had wont to be sold for 12. pence an armefull, went now for six shillings a handfull.

A fourth sharer likewise (these winding-shéete-weauers) deserues to haue my penne giue his lippes a Iewes Letter, but because he worships the Bakers good Lord & Maister, charitable S. *Clement* (whereas none of the other thrée euer had to do with any Saint) he shall scape the better: only let him take heede, that hauing all this yeare buried his praies in the bellies of Fat ones, and plump Capon eaters, (for no worse meat would downe this *Bly*-foxes stomach) let him I fay take héede least (his flesh now falling away) his carcas be not plagude with leane ones, of whom (whilst the bill of *Lord haue mercy vpon vs*, was to be denied in no place) it was death for him to heare.

In this pittifull (or rather pittilesse) perplexitie stood *London*, forsaken like a Louer, forlorne like a widow, and disfarmde of all comfort: disfarmde

I may well fay, for fūe Rapiers were not ftirring all this time, and thofe that were worne, had neuer bin ſeene, if any money could haue bene lent vpon them: ſo hungry is the Eſtridge diſeaſe, that it will deuoure euen Iron: let vs therefore with bag & baggage march away from this dangerous fore Citie, and viſit thoſe that are fled into the Country. But alas! *Decidis in Scyllam*, you are pepperd if you viſit them, for they are viſited alreadie: the broad Arrow of Death, flies there vp & downe, as ſwiftly as it doth here: they that rode on the luſtieſt geldings could not out-gallop the Plague. It ouer-tooke them, and ouer-turnd them too, horſe and foote.

You whom the arrowes of peſtilence haue reacht at eighteen and twenty ſcore (tho you ſtood far enough as you thought frō the marke) you that ſickning in the hie way, would haue bene glad of a bed in an Hoſpittall, and dying in the open fieldes, haue bene buried like dogs, how much better had it bin for you, to haue lyen fuller of byles and plague-fores than euer did *Iob*, ſo you might in that extremity haue receiued both bodily & ſpiritual comfort, which there was denied you? For thoſe miſbeléeuing Pagans, the plough-driuers, thoſe worſe then Infidels, that (like their Swine) neuer / looke vp

fo high as Heauen : when Citizens boorded them they wrung their hands, and wisht rather they had falne into the hands of Spaniards: for the fight of a flat-cap was more dreadfull to a Lob, then the discharging of a Caliuier : a treble-ruffe (being but once named the Merchants set) had power to cast a whole houshold into a cold sweate. If one newe suite of Sackcloth had béene but knowne to haue come out of Burchin-lane (being the common Wardrope for all their Clowne-ships) it had béene enough to make a Market towne giue vp the ghost. A Crow that had béene féene in a Sunne-shine day, standing on the top of Powles, would haue béene better than a Beacon on fire, to haue raizd all the townes within ten miles of *London*, for the kéeping her out.

Neuer let any man aske me what became of our Phisitions in this Maffacre : they hid their Synodicall heads aswell as the prowdest : and I cannot blame them, for their Phlebotomies, Lofinges, and Electuaries, with their Diacatholics, Diacodiens, Amulets, and Antidotes had not so much strength to hold life and soule together, as a pot of *Pinders* Ale and a Nutmeg : their Drugs turned to Durt, their simples were simple things, *Galen* could do no more good, than *Sir Giles Goosecap* : *Hipocrates*, *Auicen*, *Paraselsus*,

*Rafis*, *Fernelius*, with all their succéeding rabble of Doctors and Water-casters, were at their wits end, or I thinke rather at the worlds end, for not one of them durst péepe abroad; or if any one did take vpon him to play the ventrous Knight, the Plague put him to his *Nonplus*; in such strange, and such changeable shapés did this Cameleon-like sicknes appeare, that they could not (with all the cunning in their budgets) make purfenets to take him napping.

Onely a band of Desper-vewes, some few Empiricall madcaps (for they could neuer be worth veluet caps) turned themselues into Bées (or more properly into Drones) and went humming vp and downe, with hony-brags in their mouthes, sucking the swéetnes of Siluer (and now and then of *Aurum Potabile*) out of the poison of Blaines and Carbuncles: and these iolly Mountibanks clapt vp their bills vpon euery poft (like a Fencers Challenge) threatning to canuas the Plague, and to fight / with him at all his owne feuerall weapons: I know not how they sped, but some they sped I am sure, for I haue heard them band for the Heauens, because they sent those thither, that were wisht to tarry longer vpon earth.

I could in this place make your chéekes looke pale, and your hearts shake, with telling how

some haue had 18. fores at one time running vpon them, others 10. and 12., many 4. and 5. and how those that haue bin foure times wounded by this yeares infection, haue dyed of the last wound, whilst others (that were hurt as often) goe vp and downe now with founder limmes, then many that come out of *France*, and the *Netherlands*. And descending from these, I could draw forth a Catalogue of many poore wretches, that in fieldes, in ditches, in common Cages, and vnder stalls (being either thrust by cruell maisters out of doores, or wanting all worldly succour but the common benefit of earth and aire) haue most miserably perished. But to chronicle these would weary a second *Fabian*.

We will therefore play the Souldiers, who at the end of any notable battaile, with a kind of sad delight rehearse the memorable acts of their friends that lye mangled before them: some shewing how brauely they gaue the onset: some, how politickly they retirde: others, how manfully they gaue and receiued wounds: a fourth steps forth, and glories how valiantly hee lost an arme: all of them making (by this meanes) the remembrance euen of tragicall and mischieuous euent very delectable. Let vs striue to do so, discoursing (as it were at the end of this mortall siege of the Plague) of the feuerall most worthy accidents

and strange birthes which this peftiferous yeare hath brought foorth: fome of them yeelding Comicall and ridiculous ftuffe, others lamentable: a third kind, vpholding rather admiration, then laughter or pittie.

As firft, to relifh the pallat of lickerifh expectation, and withall to giue an *Item* how fudden a ftabber this ruffianly fwaggerer (Death) is, You muft beléeue, that amongft all the weary number of thofe that (on their bare féete) haue trauaild (in this long and heauie vocation) to the Holyland, one (whoſe name I could for néede beftow vpon you, but that I know you haue no néed / of it, tho many want a good name) lying in that cōmon Inne of fick-men, his bed, & feeing the black & blew ftripes of the plague fticking on his flefh, which he receiued as tokens (from heauen) that he was prefently to goe dwell in the vpper world, moft earneftly requested, and in a manner coniured his friend (who came to enterchange a laft farewell) that hée would fee him goe handfomely attirde into the wild Irifh cōuntry of wormes, and for that purpoſe to beftow a Coffin vpon him: his friend louing him (not becauſe he was poore yet he was poore) but becauſe hée was a Scholler: Alack that the Weft Indies ſtand ſo farre from Vniuerſities! and that a minde richly apparelled ſhould haue a thréed-



bare body!) made faithfull promise to him, that he should be naid vp, he would boord him: and for that purpose went instantly to one of the new-found trade of Coffin-cutters, bespake one, and (like the Surueyour of deaths buildings) gaue direction how this little Tenement should be framed, paying all the rent for it before hand. But note vpon what slippery ground life goes! little did he thinke to dwell in that roome himselfe which he had taken for his friend: yet it seemed the common law of mortalitie had so decreede, for hée was cald into the cold companie of his graue neighbours an houre before his infected friend, and had a long leafe (euen till doomes day) in the same lodging, which in the strength of health he went to prepare for another. What credit therefore is to be giuen to breath, which like an harlot will runne away with euery minute? How nimble is sicknesse, and what skill hath he in all the weapons he playes withall? The greatest cutter that takes vp the Mediterranean Ile in Powles for his Gallery to walke in, cannot ward off his blowes. Hées the best Fencer in the world: *Vincentio Sauuolo* is no body to him: He has his Mandrittaes, Imbrocataes, Stramazones, and Stoccataes at his fingers ends: héele make you giue him ground, though ye were neuer worth foote of land, and beat you out of breath,

though *Aeolus* himfelfe plaid vpō your wind-pipe.

To witnes which, I will call forth a Dutch-man (yet now hées pafst calling for, has loft his hearing, for his eares by this time are eaten off with wormes) who (though hée dwelt in *Bedlem*) was not mad, yet the very lookes of the Plague (which indéed /are terrible) put him almost out of his wits, for when the snares of this cunning hunter (the Pestilence) were but newly layd, and yet layd (as my Dutch-man smelt it out well enough) to intrap poore mens liues that meant him no hurt, away sneakes my clipper of the kings englifh, and (becaufe Musket-shot should not reach him) to the Low-countries (that are built vpon butter-firkins, and Holland chéefe) failes this plaguie fugitiue, but death, (who hath more authoritie there then all the feauen Electors, and to fhew him that there were other Low-countray besides his owne) takes a little Frekin (one of my Dutch runnawayes children) and fends her packing, into thofe Netherlands fhée departed: O how pitifully lookt my Burgomaifter, when he vnderftood that the ficknes could swim! It was an eafie matter to fcape the Dunkirks, but Deaths Gallyes made out after him fwifter then the great Turkes. Which he perceiuing, made no more adoo, but drunke to the States fue or fixe healths

(because he would be sure to liue well) and backe againe comes he, to try the strength of English Béere: his old *Randeuous* of mad men was the place of méeting, where he was no sooner arriued, but the Plague had him by the backe, and arrested him vpon an *Exeat Regnum*, for running to the enemie, so that for the mad tricks he plaid to cozen our English wormes of his Dutch carkas (which had béene fatted héere) sicknesse and death clapt him vp in *Bedlem* the second time, and there he lyes, and there he shall lye till he rot before ile meddle any more with him.

But being gotten out of *Bedlem*, let vs make a iourney to *Bristow*, taking an honest knowne Citizen along with vs, who with other company trauailing thither (onely for feare the aire of *London* should conspire to poison him) and setting vp his rest not to heare the sound of Bow-bell till next Christmas, was notwithstanding in the hie way singled out from his company, and fet vpon by the Plague, who bad him stand, and deliuer his life. The rest at that word shifted for themselues, and went on, hée (amazed to see his friends flye, and being not able to defend himselfe, for who can defend himselfe méeting such an enemye?) yéelded, and being but about fortie miles from *London*, vsed all the flights he could to get loose out of the handes of death, and so to

hide / himfelfe in his owne houfe, whereupon he call'd for help at the fame Inne, where not long before he and his fellowe pilgrimes obtained for their money (mary yet with more prayers then a beggar makes in thrée Termes) to ftand and drinke fome thirtie foote from the doore. To this houfe of tipling iniquitie hée repaires againe, coniuring the *Lares* or walking Sprites in it, if it were Christmas (that if was well put in) and in the name of God, to fuccor and refcue him to their power out of the handes of infection, which now affaulted his body : the Diuell would haue bene afraid of this coniuration, but they were not, yet afraid they were it féemed, for prefently the doores had their wooden ribs cruft in pieces, by being beaten together : the cafements were fhut more clofe than an Vfurers greafie veluet powch : the drawing windowes were hangd, drawne, and quartred : not a creuis but was ftopt, not a moufe-hole left open, for all the holes in the houfe were moft wickedly dambd vp : mine Hofte and Hofteffe ran ouer one another into the backe-side, the maydes into the Orchard, quiuering and quaking, and ready to hang themfelues on the innocent Plumb-trées (for hanging to them would not be fo fore a death, as the Plague, and to die maides too ! O horrible !) As for the Tapfter, he fled into the Cellar, rapping out fue

or fixe plaine Country oathes, that hée would drowne himselfe in a most villanous Stand of Ale, if the sicke Londoner stoode at the doore any longer. But stand there he must, for to go away (well) he cannot, but continues knocking and calling in a faint voyce, which in their eares founded, as if some staring ghost in a Tragedie had exclaimd vpon *Rhadamanth*: he might knocke till his hands akte, and call till his heart akte for they were in a worfe pickle within, then hée was without: hée being in a good way to go to Heauen, they being so frightened, that they scarce knew whereabouts Heauen stoode, onely they all cryed out, Lord haue mercie vpon vs: yet Lord haue mercy vpon vs was the only thing they feared. The dolefull catastrophe of all is, a bed could not be had for all *Babilon*: not a cup of drinke, no, nor cold water be gotten, though it had bin for *Alexander* the great: [if] a draught of *Aqua vitæ* might haue saued his soule, the towne denyed to do God that good seruice.

What / miserie continues euer? the poore man standing thus at deaths doore, and looking euery minute when hée should be let in, behold, another Londoner that had likewise bene in the *Frigida zona* of the Countrey, and was returning (like *Aneas* out of hell) to the heauen of his owne home, makes a stand at this sight, to play the

Phyfition, and ſéeing by the complexion of his patient that he was ficke at heart, applies to his ſoule the beſt medicines that his comforting ſpéech could make, for there dwelt no Poticary néere enough to helpe his body. Being therefore driuen out of all other ſhiftes, he leads him into a field (a bundle of Strawe, which with much adoe he bought for money, ſeruing inſtead of a Pillow.) But the Deſtinies hearing the diſeaſed partie complaine and take on, becauſe hée lay in a field-bedde, when before hée would haue béene glad of a mattraſſe, for very ſpight cut the threade of his life, the crueltie of which deede made the other that playd Charities part at his wittes end, becauſe hée knew not where to purchaſe tenne foote of ground for his graue : the Church nor Churchyard would let none of their lands. Maifter Vicar was ſtrucke dumbe, and could not giue the dead a good word, neither Clarke nor Sexton could be hired to execute their Office ; no, they themſelues would firſt be executed : ſo that he that neuer handled ſhouell before, got his implements about him, ripped vp the belly of the earth, and made it like a graue, ſtript the cold carcaſſe, bound his ſhirt about his féete, pulled a linnen night cappe ouer his eyes, and ſo layde him in the rotten bedde of the earth, couering him with cloathes cut out of the ſame

piece : and learning by his last words his name and habitation, this sad Trauailer arriues at *London*, deliuering to the amazed widdow and children, instead of a father and a husband, onely the out-side of him, his apparell. But by the way note one thing, the bringer of these heauy tydings (as if he had liued long enough when so excellent a worke of pietie and pittie was by him finished) the very next day after his comming home, departed out of this world, to receiue his reward in the Spirituall Court of heauen.

It is plaine therefore by the euidence of these two witneses, that death, like a thiefe, sets vpon men in the hie way, dogs them into / their owne houses, breakes into their bed chambers by night, assaults them by day, and yet no law can take hold of him : he deuoures man and wife : offers violence to their faire daughters : kils their youthfull sonnes, and deceiues them of their seruants : yea, so full of trecherie is he growne (since this Plague tooke his part) that no Louers dare trust him, nor by their good wils would come neare him, for he workes their downfall, euen when their delights are at the highest.

Too ripe a proof haue we of this, in a paire of Louers ; the maide was in the pride of fresh bloud and beautie : she was that which to be now is a wonder, yong and yet chaste : the gifts

of her mind were great, yet those which fortune bestowed vpon her (as being well descended) were not much inferiour: On this louely creature did a yong man so stedfastly fixe his eye, that her lookes kindled in his bosome a desire, whose flames burnt the more brightly, because they were fed with swéet and modest thoughts: *Hymen* was the God to whome he prayed day and night that he might marry her: his praiera were receiued: at length (after many tempests of her deniall, and frownes of kinsfolk) the element grew cléere, & he saw y<sup>e</sup> happy landing place, where he had long sought to ariue: the prize of her youth was made his own, and the solemne day appointed when it should be deliuered to him. Glad of which blessednes (for to a louer it is a blessednes) he wrought by all the possible art he could vse to shorten the expected houre, and bring it néerer, for, whether he feared the interception of parents, or that his owne soule, with excesse of ioy, was drowned in strange passions, he would often, with sighs mingled with kisses, and kisses halfe sinking in teares, prophetically tell her, that sure he should neuer liue to enioy her. To discredit which opinion of his, behold, the sunne had made haft and wakened the bridale morning. Now does he call his heart traitour, that did so falsly conspire against him: liuely bloud leapeth into his



chéekes: hées got vp, and gaily attirde to play the bridegroome, shée likewise does as cunningly turne her selfe into a bride: kindred and friends are mette together, foppes and muscadine run sweating vp and downe till they drop againe, to comfort their hearts, and because so many coffins pestred London Churches, that / there was no room left for weddings, Coaches are prouided, and away rides all the traine into the Countrey. On a monday morning are these lustie Louers on their iourney, and before noone are they alighted, entring (instead of an Inne) for more state into a Church, where they no sooner appeared, but the Priest fell to his busines: the holy knot was a tying, but he that should fasten it, comming to this, *In sicknesse and in health*, there he stopt, for sodainely the bride tooke holde of, *in sicknes*, for *in health* all that stode by were in feare shée should neuer be kept. The maiden-blush into which her chéekes were lately died, now beganne to loose colour: her voyce (like a coward) would haue shrunke away, but that her Louer reaching her a hand, which he brought thither to giue her, (for hée was not yet made a full husband) did with that touch somewhat reuiue her; on went they againe so farre, till they mette with *For better, for worse*: there was she worse than before, and had not the holy Officer made haste, the ground on which

shée stood to be marryed might easly haue béene broken vp for her buryall. All ceremonies being finished, she was ledde betwéene two, not like a Bride, but rather like a Coarse, to her bed: *That*, must now be the table, on which the wedding dinner is to be serued vppe (being at this time, nothing but teares, and sighes, and lamentations) and Death is chief waiter: yet at length her weake heart wraffling with the pangs, gaue them a fall, so that vp shée stood againe, and in the fatall funeral Coach that carried her forth, was she brought back (as vpon a béere) to the Citie: but see the malice of her enemy that had her in chafe, vpon the wensday following being ouertaken, was her life ouercome. Death rudely lay with her, and spoild her of a maiden-head in spite of her husband. Oh the sorrow that did round beset him! now was his diuination true, she was a wife, yet continued a maide: he was a husband and a widdower, yet neuer knew his wife: she was his owne, yet he had her not: she had him, yet neuer enioyed him: héere is a strange alteration, for the rosemary that was washt in swéete water to set out the Bridall, is now wet in teares to furnish her buri-all: the musike that was heard to found forth dances, can not now be heard for the ringing of belles: all the comfort that / happened to

either side being this, that he lost her, before she had time to be an ill wife, and she left him, ere he was able to be a bad husband.

Better fortune had this Bride, to fall into the hands of the Plague, then one other of that fraile female sex (whose picture is next to be drawne) had to scape out of them. An honest cobbler (if at least cobblers can be honest that liue altogether amongst wicked soales) had a wife, who in the time of health treading her shooe often awry, determined in the agony of a sicknesse (which this yeare had a saying to her) to fall to mending aswell as her husband did. The bed that she lay vpon (being as she thought or rather feared) the last bed that euer should beare her, (for many other beds had borne her you must remember) and the worme of sinne tickling her conscience, vp she calls her very innocent and simple husband out of his vertuous shoppe, where like Iustice he sat distributing amongst the poore, to some, halfe-penny péesces, penny péesces to some, and two-penny péesces to others, so long as they would last, his prouident care being alway, that euery man and woman should goe vpright. To the beds side of his plaguy wife approacheth Monsieur Cobler, to vnderstand what deadly newes she had to tell him, and the rest of his kinde neighbours that there were affem-

bled: such thicke teares standing in both the gutters of his eies, to see his beloued lie in such a pickle, that in their salt water, all his vtterance was drown'd: which she perceiuing, wept as fast as he: But by the warme counsell that sat about the bed, the shower ceast, she wiping her chéekes with the corner of one of the shéetes: and he, his sullied face, with his leatherne apron. At last, two or three figures (like a *Chorus* to the tragedy ensuing) stepping out first, wringing her handes (which gaue the better action) shee told the pittifull *Aetæon* her husband, that she had often done him wrong: hee onely shooke his head at this, and cried humb! which humb, she taking as the watch-word of his true patience, vnrauel'd the bottome of her frailetie at length, and concluded, that with such a man (and named him; but I hope you would not haue me follow her steppes and name him too) she practised the vniuersall & common Art of grafting, and that vpon her good mans head, they two / had planted a monstrous paire of inuisible hornes: At the found of the hornes, my cobler started vppe like a march Hare, and began to looke wilde: his awle neuer ranne through the sides of a boote, as that word did through his heart: but being a polliticke cobler, and remembring what péece of worke he was to vnder-lay, stroking his beard, like some graue

headborough of the Parish, and giuing a nodde, as who should say, goe on, bade her goe on indeed, clapping to her fore foule, this generall falue, that *All are Sinners, and we must forgiue, &c.* For hée hoped by such wholesome Phisicke (as Shoemakers waxe being laide to a byle) to draw out all the corruption of her secret villanies. She good heart being tickled vnder gilles, with the finger of these kind spées, turnes vp the white of her eye, and fetches out an other. An other, (O thou that art trained vp in nothing but to handle péeces :) Another hath discharged his Artillery against thy castle of fortification: here was passion predominant: *Vulcan* strooke the coblers ghost (for he was now no cobbler) so hardy vpon his breast, that he cryed Oh! his neighbours taking pitte to see what terrible stiches pulld him, rubde his swelling temples with the iuice of patience, which (by vertue of the blackish sweate that stoode reaking on his browes, and had made them supple) entred very easly into his now-parlous-vnderstanding scull: so that he left winching, and sate quiet as a Lamb, falling to his old vomite of councell, which he had cast vp before, and swearing (because he was in strong hope, this shoo should wring him no more) to seale her a generall acquittance: prickt forward with this gentle spur, her tongue mends his pace,

fo that in her confeſſion ſhée ouertooke others, whoſe bootes had béene fet all night on the Coblers laaſt, beſtowing vppon him the poeſie of their names, the time, and place, to thintent it might be put into his next wifes wedding ring. And although ſhée had made all theſe blots in his tables, yet the bearing of one man falſe (whom ſhe had not yet diſcouered) ſtucke more in her ſtomacke than all the reſt. O valiant Cobler, cries out one of the Auditors, how art thou ſet vpon? how art thou tempted? happy arte thou, that thou art not in thy ſhop, for in ſtead of cutting out péeces of leather, thou wouldſt doubtleſſe now pare away thy hart: for I ſée and / ſo do all thy neighbours here (thy wifes ghoſtly fathers) ſée that a ſmall matter would now cauſe thée turne turk, & to meddle with no more patches: but to liue within the compaſſe of thy wit: liſt not vp thy collar: be not horne mad: thanke heauen that the murther is reueald: ſtudy thou *Baltazars* Part in *Ieronimo*, for thou haſt more cauſe (though leſſe reaſon) than he, to be glad and fad.

Well, I ſée thou art worthy to haue patient *Griſeld* to thy wife, for thou beareſt more than ſhe: thou ſhewſt thy ſelſe to be a right cobler, and no ſowter, that canſt thus cleanly clowt vp the ſeam-rent ſides of thy affection. With this

learned Oration the Cobler was tutord : layd his finger on his mouth, and cried *paucos palabros* : he had sealed her pardon, and therefore bid her not feare : héer vpon [f]he named the malefactor : I could name him too, but that he shall liue to giue more Coblers heads the Bastinado. And told, that on such a night when he supt there (for a Lord may sup with a cobler that hath a pretty wench to his wife) when the cloth, O treacherous linnen ! was taken vp, and *Menelaus* had for a parting blow, giuen the other his fist : downe she lights (this half-sharer) opening the wicket, but not shutting him out of the wicket, but conueis him into a by-room (being the ward-rob of old shooes and leather) from whence the vnicorne cobler (that dreamt of no such spirits) being ouer head and eares in sléepe, his snorting giuing the signe that he was cock-sure, softly out-steales fir *Paris*, and to *Helenaes* téeth prooued himselfe a true Troian. This was the creame of her confession, which being skimd off from the stomack of her conscience, we looked euery minute to goe thither, where we should be farre enough out of the Coblers reach. But the Fates laying their heades together, sent a repriue, the plague that before meant to pepper her, by little and little left her company : which newes being blowne abroad, Oh lamentable ! neuer did the

old buskind tragedy beginne till now : for the wiues of those husbands, with whom she had playd at fast and loose, came with nayles sharpened for the nonce, like cattes, and tongues forkedly cut like the stings of adders, first to scratch out false *Cressidaes* eyes, and then (which was worfe) to worry her to death with scolding.

But / the matter was tooke vp in a Tauerne ; the case was altered, and brought to a new reckoning (mary the blood of the *Burdeaux* grape was first shead about it) but in the end, all anger on euery side was powred into a pottle pot, & there burnt to death. Now whether this Recantation was true, or whether the stéeme of infection, fuming vp (like wine) into her braines, made her talke thus idley, I leaue it to the Iury.

And whilst they are canuasing her case, let vs see what doings the Sexton of *Stepney* hath : whose ware-houses being all full of dead commodities, sauing one : that one hée left open a whole night (yet was it halfe full too) knowing y<sup>e</sup> théeues this yeare were too honest to break into such cellers. Besides those that were left there, had such plaguy pates, that none durst meddle with them for their liues. About twelue of the clock at midnight, when spirites walke, and not a mowse dare stirre, because cattes goe a catter-walling : Sinne, that all day durst not



shew his head, came réeling out of an ale-house, in the shape of a drunkard, who no sooner smelt the winde, but he thought the ground vnder him danced the Canaries: houses féemed to turne on the toe, and all things went round: infomuch, that his legges drew a paire of Indentures, betwéene his body and the earth, the principal couenant being, that he for his part would stand to nothing what euer he saw: euery trée that came in his way, did he iustle, and yet chalenge it the next day to fight with him. If he had clipt but a quarter so much of the Kings siluer, as he did of the Kings english, his carkas had long ere this bene carrion for Crowes. But he liued by gaming, and had excellent casting, yet feldome won, for he drew reasonable good hands, but had very bad féete, that were not able to carry it away. This fetter-*vp* of Malt-men, being troubled with the staggers, fell into the selfe-same graue, that stood gaping wide open for a breakfast next morning, and imagining (when he was in) that he had stumbled into his owne house, and that all his bedfellowes (as they were indéede) were in their dead fléepe, he, (neuer complaining of colde, nor calling for more shéete) soundly takes a nap til he snores again: In the morning the Sexton comes plodding along, and casting vpon his fingers ends what he hopes *ſ* dead pay of that

day will come too, by that which / he receiued the day before, (for Sextons now had better doings than either Tauernes or bawdy-houfes). In that filuer contemplation, shrugging his shoulders together, he steppes ere he be aware on the brimmes of that pit, into which this worshipper of *Bacchus* was falne, where finding some dead mens bones, and a scull or two, that laie scattered here and there ; before he lookt into this Coffe of wormes these he takes vp, and flinges them in: one of the sculls battered the sponce of the sleéper, whilst the bones plaide with his nose ; whose blowes waking his mustie worship, the first word that he cast vp, was an oath, and thinking the Cannes had flyen about, cryed zoundes, what do you meane to cracke my mazer? the Sexton smelling a voice, (feare being stronger than his heart) beleued verily some of the coarfes spake to him, vpon which, féeling himselfe in a cold sweat, tooke to his héeles, whilst the Goblin scrambled vp and ranne after him: But it appeares the Sexton had the lighter foote, for he ran so faste, that hée ranne out of his wittes, which being left behinde him, he had like to haue dyed presently after.

A meryer bargaine than the poore Sextons did a Tincker méete withall in a Countrey Towne ; through which a Citizen of *London* being driuen

(to kéepe himfelfe vnder the lee-shore in this tempestuous contagion) and casting vp his eye for some harbour, spied a bush at the end of a pole, (the auncient badge of a Countrey Ale-house :) Into which as good lucke was, (without any resistance of the Barbarians, that all this yeare vsed to kéepe such landing places) veiling his Bonnet, he stricke in. The Host had bene a mad Greeke, (mary he could now speake nothing but English,) a goodly fat Burger he was, with a belly Arching out like a Béere-barrell, which made his legges (that were thicke & short, like two piles driuen vnder *London-bridge*) to stradle halfe as wide as the toppe of Powles, which vpon my knowledge hath bene burnt twice or thrice. A leatherne pouch hung at his side, that opened and shut with a Snap-hance, and was indéede a flaske for gunpowder when King Henry went to *Bulloigne*. An Antiquary might haue pickt rare matter out of his Nose, but that it was worme-eaten (yet that proued it to be / an auncient Nose :) In some corners of it there were blewish holes that shone like shelles of mother of Pearle, and to see his nose right, Pearles had bene gathered out of them : other were richly garnisht with Rubies, Chrifolites and Carbunckles, which glistered so oriently, that the Hamburgers offered I know not how many Dollars, for his companie in

an East-Indian voyage, to haue stooode a nightes in the Poope of their Admirall, onely to faue the charges of candles. In conclusion, he was an Host to be ledde before an Emperour, and though he were one of the greatest men in all the shire, his bignes made him not proude, but he humbled himself to speake the base language of a Tapster, and vppon the Londoners first arriual, cryed welcome, a cloth for this Gentleman: the Linnen was spread, and furnisht presently with a new Cake and a Can, the roome voided, and the Guest left (like a French Lord) attended by no bodie: who drinking halfe a Can (in conceit) to the health of his best friend in the Citie, which laie extreame sicke, and had neuer more neede of health, I knowe not what qualmes came ouer his stomach, but immediately he fell downe without vttering any more wordes, and neuer rose againe.

Anon (as it was his fashion) enters my puffing Host, to relieue (with a fresh supply out of his Cellar,) the shrinking Can, if hée perceiued it stooode in daunger to be ouerthrowne. But séeing the chiefe Leader dropt at his féete, and imagining at first hée was but wounded a little in the head, held vp his gowty golles and blest himselfe, that a Londoner (who had wont to be the most valiant rob-pots) should now be strooke downe only with

two hoops : and therevpon iugd him, sembling out these comfortable words of a souldier. If thou be a man stand a thy legges: he stird not for all this : wherevpon the Maydes being raisde (as it had bene with a hue and cry) came hobling into the room, like a flocke of Geese, and hauing vpon searck of the bodie giuen vp this verdict, that the man was dead, and murthered by the Plague ; Oh daggers to all their hearts that heard it ! Away trudge the wenches, and one of them hauing had a freckled face all her life time, was perswaded presently that now they were the / tokens, and had like to haue turned vp her héeles vpon it : My gorbelly Host that in many a yeare could not without grunting, crawle ouer a threshold but two foote broad, leapt halfe a yarde from the coarfe (It was measured by a Carpenters rule) as nimbly as if his guts had béene taken out by the hangman : out of the house he wallowed presently, being followed with two or thrée dozen of napkins to drie vp the larde, that ranne so fast downe his héeles, that all the way he went, was more greazie than a kitchin-stuffe-wifes basket : you would haue sworne, it had béene a barrell of Pitch on fire, if you had looked vpon him, for such a smoakie clowde (by reason of his owne fattie hotte stéeme) compassed him rounde, that but for his voyce, hée had quite béene loft in

that stincking myft: hanged himfelfe hée had without all question (in this pittifull taking) but that hée feared the weight of his intollerable paunch, would haue burft the Roape, and fo hée should bée put to a double death. At length the Towne was raifed, the Countrey came downe vpon him, and yet not vpon him neither, for after they vnderftood the Tragedie, euery man gaue ground, knowing my purfie Ale-cunner could not follow them: what is to bée done in this ftraunge Allarum? The whole Village is in daunger to lye at the mercy of God, and shall bée bound to curfe none, but him for it: they should doe well therefore to fet fire on his houfe, before the Plague scape out of it, leaft it forrage higher into the Countrey, and knocke them downe, man, woman, and childe, like Oxen, whose blood (they all fweare) shall bée required at his handes. At thefe fpéeches my tender-hearted Hofte, fell downe on his maribones, meaning indéede to entreat his audience to bée good to him; but they fearing hée had béene pepperd too, as well as the Londoner, tumbled one vpon another, and were ready to breake their neckes for hafte to be gone: yet some of them (being more valiant then the reft, becaufe they heard him roare out for fome helpe) very desperately ftept backe, and with rakes and

pitch-forkes lifted the gulch from the ground. Cōcluding (after they had laid their hogsheds together, to draw out fom holesome counfel) that whofoeuer would venter vpon the dead man & bury him, should haue fortie shillings / (out of the common towne-purse though it would bée a great cut to it) with the loue of the Churchwardens and Side-men, during the terme of life. This was proclaimed, but none durst appeare to vndertake the dreadfull execution: they loued money well, [but] mary the plague hanging ouer any mans head that should meddle with it in that fort, they all vowde to dye beggers before it should be Chronicled they kild themselues for forty shillings: and in that braue resolution, euery one with bagge & baggage marcht home, barricadoing their doores & windowes with fir bushes, ferne, and bundels of straw to kéepe out the pestilence at the staues end.

At last a Tinker came sounding through the Towne, mine Hofts house being the auncient watring place where he did vse to cast Anchor. You must vnderstand hée was none of those base rascally Tinkers, that with a ban-dog and a drab at their tayles, and a pike-staffe on their necks, will take a purse sooner then stop a kettle: No, this was a deuout Tinker, he did honor God *Pan*: a Muscicall Tinker, that vpon his kettle-drum

could play any Countrey dance you cald for, and vpon Holly-dayes had earned money by it, when no Fidler could be heard of. Hée was onely feared when he stalkt through some townes where Bées were, for he strucke so fwéetely on the bottome of his Copper instrument, that he would emptie whole Hiues, and leade the swarmes after him only by the sound.

This excellent egregious Tinker calls for his draught (being a double Iugge): it was fild for him, but before it came to his nose, the lamentable tale of the Londoner was tolde, the Chamber doore (where hée lay) being thruft open with a long pole, (because none durst touch it with their hands) and the Tinker bidden (if he had the heart) to goe in and see if hée knew him. The Tinker being not [vnwilling] to learne what vertue the medicine had which hée held at his lippes, powred it downe his throate merily, and crying trillill, he feares no plagues. In hée stept, tossing the dead body too and fro, and was forrie hée knew him not: Mine Host that with grieffe began to fall away villanously, looking very ruthfully on the Tinker, and thinking him a fit instrument to be playd vpon, offred a crowne out of his owne / purse, if he would bury the partie. A crown was a shrewd temptation to a Tinker: many a hole might he stop, before hée could picke a crowne of it, yet being a subtill



Tinker (& to make all Sextons pray for him, because hee would raise their fees) an Angell he wanted to be his guide, and vnder ten shillings (by his ten bones) he would not put his finger into the fire. The whole parish had warning of this presently, thirtie shillings was faued by the bargaine, and the Towne like to be faued too, therefore ten shillings was leuyed out of hand, put into a rag, which was tyed to the ende of a long pole and deliuered (in sight of all the Parish, who stood aloofe stopping their noses) by the Headboroughs owne selfe in proper person, to the Tinker, who with one hand receiued the money, and with the other struck the board, crying hey, a fresh double pot. Which armour of prooffe being fitted to his body, vp he hoists the Londoner on his backe (like a Schoole-boy) a Shouell and Pick-axe are standing ready for him: And thus furnished, into a field some good distance from the Towne he beares his deadly load, and there throwes it downe, falling roundly to his tooles, vpon which the strong béere hauing set an edge, they quickly cut out a lodging in the earth for the Citizen. But the Tinker knowing that wormes néeded no apparell, sauing onely shéetes, stript him starke naked, but first diude nimbly into his pockets, to see what linings they had, assuring himselfe, that a Londoner would not wander so farre

without filuer : his hopes were of the right stampe, for from out of his pockets he drew a leatherne bagge with feuen poundes in it : this musicke made the Tinkers heart dance : he quickly tumbled his man into the graue, hid him ouer head and eares in duft, bound vp his cloathes in a bundle, & carying that at the end of his staffe on his shoulder, with the purse of feuen pounds in his hand, backe againe comes he through the towne, crying aloud, Haue yée any more Londoners to bury, hey downe a downe dery, haue ye any more Londoners to bury : the Hobbinolls running away from him, as if he had béene the dead Citizens ghost, & he marching away from them in all the hast he could, with that song still in his mouth.

You see therefore how dreadfull a fellow Death is, making fooles / euen of wisemen, and cowards of the most valiant; yea, in such a base flauerie hath it bound mens fences, that they haue no power to looke higher than their owne roofes, but seemes by their turkish and barberous actions to belieue that there is no felicitie after this life, and that (like beasts) their soules shall perish with their bodyes. How many vpon sight onely of a Letter (sent from *London*) haue started backe, and durst haue layd their saluation vpon it, that the plague might be folded in that empty paper, belieuing verily, that the arme of Omnipotence could neuer

reach them, vnlesse it were with some weapon drawne out of the infected Citie; in so much that euen the Westerne Pugs receiuing money there, haue tyed it in a bag at the end of their barge, and so trailed it through the Thames, leaft plague-fores sticking vpon shillings, they should be naid vp for counterfeits when they were brought home.

More ventrous than these block-heads was a certaine Iustice of peace, to whose gate being shut (for you must know that now there is no open house kept) a company of wilde fellowes being lead for robbing an Orchyard, the stout-hearted Constable rapt most couragiously, and would haue a bout with none but the Iustice himfelfe, who at last appeard in his likenesse aboue at a window, inquiring why they summond a parlie. It was deliuered why: the case was opened to his examining wisedome, and that the euill doers were onely Londoners: at the name of Londoners the Iustice clapping his hand on his brest (as who should say, Lord haue mercie vpon vs) started backe, and being wise enough to faue one, held his nose hard betwéene his fore-finger and his thumb, and speaking in that wise (like the fellow that described the villainous motion of *Iulius Cæsar* and the Duke of *Guize*, who (as he gaue it out) fought a combat together,) pulling the casement close to him cryed out in that quaille-pipe voice, that if they

were Londoners away with them to *Limbo* : take onely their names : they were fore fellowes, and he would deale with them when time should serue : meaning, when the plague and they should not be so great together ; and so they departed : The very name of Londoners being worfe then ten whetstones to sharpen the sword of Iustice against them.

I / could fill a large volume, and call it the second part of the hundred mery tales, onely with such ridiculous stufte as this of the Iustice, but *Dij meliora*, I haue better matters to set my wits about : neither shall you wring out of my pen (though you lay it on the rack) the villanies of that damnd Kéeper, who kild all she kéept ; it had bene good to haue made her kéeper of the common Iayle, and the holes of both Counters, (for a number lye there, that wish to be rid out of this motley world,) shée would haue tickled them and turned them ouer the thumbs. I will likewise let the Churchwarden in Thames stréet sléepe (for hees now past waking) who being requested by one of his neighbors to suffer his wife or child (that was then dead) to lye in the Churchyard, answered in a mocking fort, he kéept that lodging for himselfe and his household : and within thrée dayes after was driuen to hide his head in a hole himselfe. Neither will I speake a word of a poore boy (seruant to a Chandler) dwelling thereabouts, who being struck

to the heart by ficknes, was first caryed away by water, to be left any where, but landing being denied by an army of browne bill men that kept the shore, back againe was he brought, and left in an out-celler, where lying groueling and groning on his face (amongst fagots, but not one of them fet on fire to comfort him) there continued all night, and dyed miserably for want of succor. Nor of another poore wretch in the Parish of *Saint Mary Oueryes*, who being in the morning throwne, as the fashion is, into a graue vpon a heape of carcases, that kayd for their complement, was found in the afternoone, gasping and gaping for life: but by these tricks, imagining that many a thousand haue bene turned wrongfully off the ladder of life, and praying that *Derick* or his executors may liue to do those a good turne, that haue done so for others :

*Hic finis Priami*, héeres an end  
of an old Song.

*Et iam tempus Equum fumantia soluere colla.*

FINIS.



III.

THE BATCHELARS BANQUET.

1603.



NOTE.

For 'The Batchelar's Banquet' (1603) I again owe thanks to the British Museum. See Memorial-Introduction on it.—G.

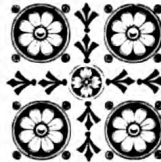
# THE BATCHELARS Banquet :

OR

A Banquet for Batchelars : Wherein is prepared fundry daintie dishes to furnish their Table, curiously drest, and seriously ferued in.

*Pleasantly discoursing the variable humours of VVomen, their quicknesse of wittes, and vnsearchable deceits.*

*View them well, but taste not,  
Regard them well, but waste not.*



LONDON

Printed by T. C. and are to be folde  
by T. P. 1603.







## The Batchelars Banquet,

Or a Banquet for Batchelars: wherein is prepared fundry dishes to furnish their Table: curiously drest, and feriously ferued in.

### CHAP. I.

*The humour of a young wife new married.*



T is the naturall inclination of a young gallant, in the pleasant prime, and flower of his flourishing youth, being fresh, lusty, iocund, to take no other care, but to imploy his mony to buy gay presents for pretty Lasses, to frame his green wits in penning loue ditties, his voice to sing them swéetly, his wandring eyes to gaze one the fairest dames, and his wanton thoughts to plot meanes for the spéedy accomplishment of his

wished desires, according to the compasse of his estate. And albeit his parents or some other of his kindred, doe perhaps furnish him with necessary maintenance, so that he wants nothing, but liues in all ease and delight, yet cannot this content him, or satisfie his vnexperienced mind : for although he dayly see many married men, first lapt in lobbes pound, wanting former libertie, and compassed round in a cage of many cares, yet notwithstanding being ouer-ruled by selfe will, and blinded by folly : he supposes them therein to haue the fulnes of their delight, because they haue so neare them the Image of content. *Venus* starre gloriously blazing / vpon them, I meane a daintie faire wife, brauely attired, whose apparell perhaps is not yet paid for, (howsoeuer to draw their husbands into a fooles paradice) they make him beléeue, that their father or mother haue of their cost and bounty afforded it. This lustie youth (as I earst said) seeing them already in this maze of bitter swéetnes, he goes round about, turmoyling himselfe in seeking an entrance, and taking such paines to finde his owne paine, that in the end, in he gets, when for the haft he makes, to haue a taste of these supposed delicates, he hath no leifure to thinke, or no care to prouide those things that are hereunto requisite. The iolly yonker being thus gotten in, doth for a time

swim in delight, and hath no desire at all to wind him selfe out againe, till time and vse, which makes all things more familiar and lesse pleasing, doe qualifie this humor: then glutted with facietie, or pinched with penury, he may perhaps begin to see his follie, and repent as well his fondnes, as his too much forwardnes, but all too late, he must haue patience perforce: his wife must be maintained according to her degré, and withall (cōmonly it happes [if] she carie the right stomacke of a woman) slender maintenance will not serue, for as their mindes mount aboue their estates, so commonly wil they haue their abillments. And if at a feast or some other gossesps méeting whereunto she is inuited, she see any of the companie gaily attyred for cost, or fashon, or both, & chiefly the latter, (for generally women do affect nouelties,) she forthwith moues a question in her selfe, why she also should not be in like sort attyred, to haue her garments cut after the new fashon as well as the rest, and answers it with a resolution, that she will, and must haue the like: Awaiting onely fit time and place, for the mouing and winning of her husband therevnto, of both which she will make such choice, that when she speakes she will be sure to spéece: obseruing her opportunitie when she might take her husband at the most aduantage, which is

cōmonly in the bed, the gardaine of loue, the state of marriage delights, & the life wherein the weaker sexe hath euer the better : when therefore this lustie gallant would profecute his / desired pleasures, for which cause he chiefly ran wilfully into the perill of Lobs pound, then squeamishly she begins thus, saying ; I pray you husband let me alone, trouble me not, for I am not well at ease : which he hearing presently makes this reply. Why my swéethart what ailes you, are you not well ? I pray thée wife tell me, where lies thy griefe ? or what is the cause of your discontent : wherevpon the vile woman fetching a déepe sigh, makes this answere. O husband God help me, I haue cause enough to gréeue, and if you knew all you would say so : but alas it is in vaine to tell you any thing, féeing that whatsoeuer I say, you make but light reckning of it : and therfore it is best for me to bury my sorrowes in silence, being out of hope to haue any help at your hands. Iesus wife (faith he) why vse you these words ? is my vnkindnes such that I may not knowe your griefes ? tell me I say what is the matter ? In truth husband it were to no purpose, for I knowe your custome well inough, as for my words, they are but waft wind in your eares ; for how great soeuer my griefe is, I am assured you will but make light

of it, and thinke that I speake it for some other purpose.

Goe too wife, faith her husband, tell it me, for I wil know it. Well husband, if you will needs, you shal: you know on Thursday last, I was sent for, and you willed me to goe to Mistresse M. churching, and when I came thither I found great cheare, & no smal companie of wiues, but the meanest of them all was not so ill attired as I, and surely I was neuer so ashamed of my selfe in my life, yet I speake it not to praise my selfe: but it is well knowne, and I dare boldly say, that the best woman there came of no better stocke then I. But alas I speake not this for my selfe, for God wot I passe not how meanely I am apparelled, but I speake it for your credit & my friends. Why wife, faith he, of what calling & degré were those you speak of? Truly good husband (faith she) the meanest that was there, being but of my degré, was in her gowne with trunck sléeues, her vardingale, her turkie grograin kirtle, her taffety hat with a gold band, and these with ſ̄ rest of her attire, made of ſ̄ newest fashiō, which is knowne / the best: whereas I poore wretch had on my threadbare gowne, which was made me so long agoe, against I was married, besides that it was now too short for me, for it is I remember since it was made aboute three yeares

ago; since which time I am growne very much, and so changed with cares and griefes, that I looke farre older then I am: Trust me I was so ashamed, being amongst my neighbours, that I had not the heart to looke vp; but that which grieued me most was, when mistresse *Luce* B. & mistresse T. said openly that it was a shame both for you and me, that I had no better apparell. Tush wife (quoth the good man) let them say what they list, we are neuer a whit the worse for their words, we haue enough to doe with our money though we spend it not in apparell: you knowe wife when we met together, we had no great store of household stufte, but were fain to buy it afterward by some and some as God sent mony, and yet you see we want many things that is necessary to be had: besides, the quarter day is néere, and my Landlord you know wil not forbear his rent: moreouer you see how much it costs me in law about the recouering of the Tenement which I should haue by you. God fend me to get it quickly, or els I shal haue but a bad bargaine of it, for it hath already almost cost me as much as it is worth. At these words his wiues coller begins to rise, whereupon she makes him this answere. Iesus God (saith she) when you haue nothing els to hit in the téeth withall, yée twit me with the

Tenement: but it is my fortune. Why how now wife faith her husband, are you now angry for nothing? Nay I am not angry, I must be content with that which God hath ordained for me: but I wis the time was, when I might haue bene better aduised: there are some yet liuing that would haue bene glad to haue me in my smock, whom you know well enough, to be propper young men, and therewithall wife and wealthy, but I verily suppose I was bewitcht to match with a man that loues me not; though I purchafed the ill-will of all my friends for his sake, this is all the good that I haue gotten thereby: I may truly say I am the most vnhappy woman in the / world: doe you thinke that *Law. Tom & N. M.* (who were both futers to me) doe kéepe their wiues so? no by cocks body, for I know the worst cloathes that they cast off, is better then my very best, which I weare on the cheifest daies in the yeare: I know not what the cause is that so many good women die, but I would to God that I were dead too, that I might not trouble you no more, seeing I am such an eie sore vnto you. Now by my faith wife faith he, you say not well, there is nothing that I thinke too good for you, if my abillitie can compasse it. But you knowe our estate, we must doe as we may, & not as we would; yet be of



good cheare, and turne to me, and I will straine my self to please you in this or any other thing. Nay for Gods sake let me alone, I haue no mind on such matters, and if you had no more desire therto then I, I promise you, you would neuer tuch me. No wife (faith he) hoping so with a iest to make her mery, by my honestie I sweare, I verily thinke that if I were dead, you would not be long without another husband. No maruaile sure faith she, I lead such a good life with you now. By my christian soule I sweare, there should neuer man kisse my lipps againe. And if I thought I should liue long with you, I would vse meanes to make my selfe away: herewithall she puts finger in the eye making shew as though she wept. Thus plaies she with the fillie sot her husband (meaning nothing lesse then to doe as she saies) while he poore foole is in mind both wel and ill apaid: he thinkes himselfe well, because he imagines her of a cold constitution, and therefore exceeding chaste: he thinkes himselfe ill, to see her fained teares, for that he verily supposes she loues him, which doth not a little gréeue him, being so kind and tender harted. Therefore he vseth all meanes possible to make her quiet, neither wil he giue her ouer, til he hath effected it. But she prosecuting her former purpose, which she hath alreadie set in so faire a

forwardnes, makes as though she were nothing moued with his gentle perswasions; therefore to crosse him, she gets her vp betimes in the morning, sooner a great deale then she was wont, pouting and lowring all the day, & not giuing him one good word. But when night comes, and / they againe both in bed, laying her selfe fullenly downe, and continuing still silent, the good man harkens whether she sleep or no, féeles if she be wel couered or not, he softly plucks vp the cloaths vpon her, lapping her warme, being dubble diligent to please her. She lying all this while winking, noting his kindnes and carefulnes towards her, féemes on a suddaine to awake from a sound sléepe, gruntling and nussling vnder the shéets, giuing him occasion thereby thus to begin. How now swéet hart, what are you a sléepe? A sléepe (faith she) I faith fir no: a troubled mind can neuer take good rest. Why womã are you not quiet yet? No doubt (faith she) you care much whether I be or no. By lady wife, and so I doe: and since yesternight I haue bethought me (hauing well considered your words) that it is very méete and requisite, that you should be better furnished with apparell then heretofore you haue bene, for indeed I must confesse thy cloaths are too simple. And therefore I mean against my coufin M. wedding

(which you know wil be shortly) that you shall haue a new gowne, made on the best fashion, with all things futable thereunto, in such fort that the best woman in the parish shall not passe you. Nay (quoth she) God willing I mean to go to no weddings this twelve moneths, for the goodly credit I got by the last. By my faith (faith he) but you shall: what? you must not be so headstrong and selfe-wild. I tell you if I say the word, you shall goe, and you shal want nothing that you aske or require. That I aske? alas husband (quoth she) I aske nothing, neither did I speake this for any desire that I haue to goe braue: trust me for mine owne part I care not if I neuer stirre abroad, saue onely to church: but what I said was vpon the speeches which were there vsed, and such other like words, which my goffip N. told me that she had also heard in company where she was. With these words ſ good kind foole her husband is netled, for on the one side he considers his fundry other occasions to vse money, and his small store thereof, which is perhaps so slender, that his single purse cannot extempory change a double pistolet. And so ill bested is he of household stufte, that perhaps the third part is not a sufficiēt pawne/for so much money, as this new suite of his wiues will stand him in. But on the other side he waighes

his discontent, the report of neighbours speeches, and lastly how good a wife he hath of her : how chaste, how loving, how religious ; whereof the kind Affe hath such an opinion, that he thanks God with all his heart, for blessing him with such a Jewell. In this thought he resolves that all other things set aside he must and will content her. And herewithall he sets his braines afresh on worke, to consider how best he may compass it : And in this humor he spends the whole night without sleepe, in continuall thought. And it comes to passe that the wife perceiuing to what a point she hath brought her purpose, doth not a litle reioyce and smile in her sleeue to see it. The next morning by the break of day the poore man gets vp, who for care and thought could take no rest all night, and goes presently to the Drapers ; of whom he takes vp cloth for three monthes time, paying for it after an excessive rate, by reason of their forbearance, and in like sort makes provision for the rest ; or perhappes because he would buy it at a better rate, he pawns for ready mony the lease of his house, or some faire peece of plate (which his grandfather bought, and his father charily keeping) left for him, which now he is enforced to part with, to furnish thereby his wifes pride : and hauing thus dispatched his busines, he returns home with a

merry heart, and shewes his wife what he had done : who being now sure of all, begins to curse the first inventors of pride, and excessse in apparell : saying fye vpon it, what pride is this? but I pray you husband, do not say hereafter, that I made you lay out your mony in this needles sort, for I protest that I haue no delight or desire to goe thus garishly : If I haue to couer my body and keepe me warme it contents me. The good man hearing his wife say so, doth euen leape for joy, thinking all her words gospel, & therefore presently he sets the Taylor a worke, willing him to dispatch out of hand, that his wife may be braue so soone as may be. She hauing thus obtained her purpose doth inwardly triumph for very ioy, howsoeuer outwardly she doth dissemble. And whereas before she vaunted, that she could find in / her heart to keepe alwayes within doores, she will bee sure now euery good day to goe abroad, and at each feast and Gossips meeting to bee a continuall guest, that all may see her brauery, and how well she doth become it ; to which cause she also comes euery Sunday dayly to the Church, that there shee may see and be seene, which her husband thinkes she doth of meere deuotion. But in the meane while the time runs on, and the day comes, wherein the poore man must pay his creditors, which being

vnable to do, he is at length arrested, and after due procéeding in law, he hath an execution serued vpon him, or else his pawne is forfeited, and by either of both hée is almost vtterly vndone. Then must his fine wife of force vaile her peacocke-plumes, and fall againe to her old byas, kéeping her house against her will, because she could not be furnisht with gay attire according to her mind. But God knoweth in what misery the fillie man doth liue, being dayly vexed with her brawling and scolding, exclaiming against him, that all the house doth ring thereof, and in this fort she begins her fagaries. Now cursed be the day that euer I sawe thy face, and a shame take them that brought me first acquainted with thee: I would to God I had either died in my cradle, or gone to my graue when I went to  
 be married with thee. Was euer woman Alas poore soule.  
 of my degré and birth brought to this beggery? Or any of my bringing vp kept thus basely, and brought to this shame? I which little knew what labour meant, must now toyle and tend the house as a drudge, hauing neuer a coate to my backe, or scant hanfome hose to my legs, and yet all little enough, whereas I wis I might haue had twentie good mariages, in the meanest of which I should haue liued at ease and pleasure, without being put to any paine, or suffering

any penurie. Wretch that I am, why do I liue? now would to God I were in my graue already, for I am wearie of the worlde, weary of my life, and weary of all. Thus doth she dayly complaine, and lay all the fault of her fall on him which leaft deserued it, nothing remembering her owne pride, in coueting things about her estate or abilitie, her misgouernment, & dayly gadding / with her goffips to banquets and bridals, when she should haue lookt to the house, and followed her owne bufines at home. And his folly is also such, that being blinded with dotage through too much louing her, [he] cannot perceiue that she is the cause of all this euill, of all the cares, griefes, & thoughts, which perplexe and torture him ; and yet nothing cuts him so much as this, to see her so furnish and vnquiet, when if he can at any time somewhat pacifie, then is his heart halfe at rest. Thus doth the filly wretch tosse and turmoile himselfe in lobs pound, wrapt in a kind of pleasing woe, out of the which he hath neither power nor will to wind himself, but therein doth consume the remnant of his languishing life, and miserably endes his dayes.

## CHAP. II.

*The humour of a woman, pranked vp in braue apparell.*

THE nature of a woman inclined to another kind of humor, which is this, when the wife seeing her selfe brauely apparelled, and that she is therewith faire & comely (or if she be not) yet thinking her selfe so (as women are naturally giuen to sooth themselues,) she doth as I said before, hunt after feasts and follemne meetings, wherwith her husband perhaps is not very well pleased ; which she perceiuing, the more to bleare his eyes, she takes with her some kinswoman or gossip, or possible some lusty gallant, of whom she claimes kinred, though in very déed there be no such matter, but only a smooth cullor to deceiue her husband : And perchance to induce him the sooner to beléue it, her mother which is priuie to the match, will not stick to say and sweare it is so : yet sometime the husband to preuent his wiues gadding, will faine some let, as want of horses, or other like hinderances : then presently the gossip or kinswoman, of whom before I speake, will thus follemnely assault him. Beléue / me gossip I haue as little pleasure, as who hath leaft in going abroad, for I wis I had not



fo much bufineffe to doe this twelue moneth as I haue at this instant: yet should I not goe to this wedding, being fo kindly bidden, I know the young bride would take it in very ill part: yea, and I may fay to you, fo would our neighbours, and other our friends, which will be there, who would verily imagine, we kept away for some other caufe: and were it not for this, I proteft I would not stirre out of doores, neither would my coufen your wife haue any defire to goe thither: thus much I can truly witnes, that I neuer knewe any woman take leffe delight in fuch things then your wife, or which being abroad, will make more haft to be at home againe. The filly man her husband being vanquished by these words, and no longer able to deny their request, demands onely what other women doe appoint to goe, and who shall man them. Marrie fir (faith she) that shall my coufen H. And besides your wife and I, there goes my kinfwoman T. and her mother, Miftresse H. and her Aunt: my Vncle T. and his brother be met, with both their wiues: Miftresse C. my next neighbour: and to conclude, all the women of account in this stréete: I dare boldly fay, that honefter company there cannot be, though it were to conuey a Kings daughter.

Now it oft chaunceth that this smooth tongued

Oratrix who pleades thus quaintly with womans art, must haue for her paines a gowne cloth, a Iewell, or some other recompence, if she preuaile with the good man & cunningly play her part. He after some pause, perhaps will reply in this fort: Gossip, I confesse it is very good company, but my wife hath now great businesse at home, and besides she vseth to goe very much abroad, yet for this time I am content she shall goe: But I pray you dame quoth he, be at home betimes. His wife seeing that her gossip had gotten leaue, makes as if she cares not for going forth, saying: By my faith man I haue something els to do, then to goe to bridaile at this present: what, we haue a great household, and rude seruants God wot: whose idlnes is such, that they / will not doe any thing, if a bodies backe be turned: for it is an old prouerbe, When the cat is away, the mouse will play. And therefore gossip hold you content, we must not be altogether careles, nor set so much by our pleasure, to neglect our profit: And therefore hold me excused, for I cannot now be spared, nor I will not goe, that is flat. Nay good gossip (faith the other) seeing your husband hath giuen you leaue, let vs haue your company this once, & if it be but for my sake, such a chaunce as this comes not euery day. With that the good man taking the Cib aside, whispers

her thus in her eare : were it not gossip for the confidence I repose in you, I protest she should not stir out of doores at this time. Now as I am an honest woman (quoth she) and of my credit gossip you shall not need to doubt any thing.

Thus to horse they get, and away they spurre with a merry gallop, laughing to themselves, mocking and flouting the silly man for his simplicitie : the one saying to the other, that he had a shrewde Iealous braine, but it should auaille him nothing. Thus said the young woman, it is an olde saying, he had need of a long spoone that will eate with the diuell : and she of a good wit, that would preuent the furie of a iealous foole : and with this and the like talke, they passe the time till they come to the place appointed, where they meet with lustie gallants, who peradventure had at the former feast made the match, and were come thither of purpose to strike vp the bargaine. But howsoever it is, this lustie Lasse lackes no good cheare, nor any kindnes which they can shew her. Imagin now how forward she will be to shew her best skill in dauncing and singing, and how lightly she will afterward esteeme her husband : being thus courted and comended by a crew of lustie gallants, who seeing her so brauely attired, and graced with so sweet & smooth a tongue, so sharpe a wit, so amiable a countenance,

will each to strive to exceed other in serving, loving, and pleasing her: for the gallant carriage and wanton demeanour of so beautiful a piece, cannot choose but incourage a mere coward, and heat (if not inflame) a frozen heart: One assaies her with sugred tearmes, / and some pleasing discourse, painting forth his affection with lovers eloquence: another giues her a private token by straining her soft hand, or treading on her pretty foot: another eyes her with a piercing and pittifull looke, making his countenance his fancies herold: and perhaps the third which is most likely to speede, bestowes vpon her a gold Ring, a Diamond, a Ruby, or some such like costly toy: By all which aforesaid tokens she may well conceiue their meanings (if she haue any conceit at all) and sometimes it so falls out, that they fall in where they should not, and she stepping somewhat aside, doth so shrewdly straine her honesty, that hardly or neuer the griefe can be cured. But to proceed, this ouer gorgious wantoning of his wife, brings the poore man behind hand, and doth withall cause a greater inconuenience, for in the end by one meanes or other, either through her too much boldnes, or her lovers want of warinesse, the matter at length comes to light, whereof some friend or kinsman giues him notice. He being tickled by this bad report, therupon searching

further, finds it true, or gathers more likelihood of suspitiō, & that presently infects his thoughts with iealousie, into which mad tormēting humor no wise man will euer fall: for it is an euill both extreame & endles, especially if it be iustly conceiued vpon the wiues knowne leaudnes, for then there is no hope of curing. She on the other side fēeing this, and receiuing for her loose life many bitter spēches, doth closely kēepe on her old courfē but now more for spight then pleasure, for it is in vaine to thinke y she will reclaime her selfe. And if he hoping by constraint to make her honest, fall to beating her (though he vse neuer so much feueritie) he shall but kindle so much the more the fire of that lewd loue which she beares vnto others: hereon followes a heape of mischiefes, he growes careles of his busines, letting all things run to ruine: she on the other side becomes shameles, cōuerting into deadly hate the loue that she should beare him. Iudge now what a purgatorie of perplexities the poore man doth liue in, and yet for all this he is so besotted, that he fēemes to take great pleasure in his paines, and to be so farre in loue whith Lobs pound, that / were he not already in, yet he would make all haste possible to be possessed of the place, there to consume the residue of his life, and miserably end his dayes.

## CHAP. III.

*The humour of a woman lying in Child-bed.*

There is another humor incident to a woman, when her husband sees her belly to grow big (though peradventure by the help of some other friend) yet he perswades himselfe, it is a worke of his owne framing : and this breeds him new cares & troubles, for then must he trot vp & down day & night, far, & neere, to get with great cost that his wife longs for : if she lets fall but a pin, he is diligent to take it vp, least she by stouping should hurt her selfe. She on the other side is so hard to please, that it is a great hap whē he fits her humor, in bringing home that which likes her, though he spare no paines nor cost to get it. And oft times through ease and plentie she growes so queasie stomackt, that she can brooke no common meates, but longs for strange and rare thinges, which whether they be to be had or no, yet she must haue them, there is no remedie. She must haue Cherries, though for a pound he pay ten shillings, or greene Pescods at foure Nobles a peck : yea he must take a horse, and ride into the Countrey to get her greene Codlings, when they are scarcely so big as a scotch button. In this trouble and vexation of mind and body, liues the filly man for

fixe or seuen months, all which time his wife doth nothing but complaine, and hée poore soule takes all the care, rising earely, going late to bed, and to be short, is faine to play both the husband and the hufwife. But when the time drawes néere of her lying downe, then must he trudge to get Gossips, such as shée will appoint, or else all the fatte is in the fire. Consider then what cost and trouble it will bée to him to haue all things fine against the Christning day, what store of Sugar, Biskets, Comphets and Carowayes, Marmilade, and / marchpane, with all kind of swéete suckets, and superfluous banquetting stufte, with a hundred other odde and needleffe trifles which at that time must fill the pockets of daintie dames: Besides the charge of the midwife, she must haue her nurse to attend and keepe her, who must make for her warme broaths, and costly caudels, enough both for her selfe and her mistresse, being of the mind to fare no worse then she: If her mistresse be fed with partridge, plouer, woodcocks, quailles, or any such like, the nurse must be partner with her in all these dainties: neither yet will that suffice, but during the whole month, she priuily pilfers away the sugar, the nutmegs and ginger, with all other spices that comes vnder her keeping, putting the poore man to such expense that in a whole yeare he can scarcely recouer that one moneths charges.

Then every day after her lying downe, will fundry dames visit her, which are her neighbours, her kinswomen, and other her speciall acquaintance, whom the goodman must welcome with all cheerfulness, and be sure there be some dainties in store to set before them: where they about some three or four houres (or possible halfe a day) will sit chatting with the Child-wife, and by that time the cups of wine haue merily troid about, and halfe a dozen times moyfined their lips with the swéet iuyce of the purple grape: They begin thus one with another to discourse: Good Lord neighbor, I maruaile how our goffip *Frees* doth, I haue not féene the good soule this many a day.

Ah God helpe her, quoth another, for she hath her hands full of worke and her heart full of heauinesse: While she drudges all the wéeke at home, her husband, like an vnthrift, neuer leaues running abroad to the Tennis court, and Dicing houses, spēding all that euer he hath in such lewd fort: yea, & if that were the worst it is well: But heare you, Goffip, there is another matter spoyles all, he cares no more for his wife then for a dog, but kéepes queanes euen vnder her nose. Iesu! sayth another, who would thinke he were such a man, he behaues himselfe so orderly and ciuilly, to all mens sightes? Tush, holde your peace Goffip (saith the other) it is commonly féene



the / still fowe eates vp all the draffe, hée carries a smooth countenance but a corrupt conscience : That I knowe F. well enough, I will not say he loues mistresse G., goe-too gossip I drinke to you. Yea and faith another, there goes foule lies if G. himselfe loues not his maid N. I can tell you their mouthes will not be stopt with a bushell of wheat that speake it. Then the third fetching a great sigh, saying by my truth such an other old Bettresse haue I at home : for neuer giue me credit gossip, if I tooke her not the other day in close conference with her maister, but I think I bewaddeld my maid in such sort, that she will haue small list to do so againe. Nay gossip (faith another) had it bene to me, that should not haue serued her turne, but I would haue turnd the queane out of doors to picke a Sallet : for wot ye what gossip? it is ill setting fire and flaxe together: but I pray you tell me one thing, when saw you our friend mistresse C. ? now in good soothe she is a kind creature, and a very gentle Peat : I promise you I saw her not since you and I dranke a pinte of wine with her in the fish market. (O gossip faith the other) there is a great change since that time, for they haue bene faine to pawne all that euer they haue, and yet God knowes her husband lies still in prison. O the passion of my heart (faith another) is all their great and glorious

fhew come to nothing? good Lord what a world this is. (Why goſſip ſaith another) it was neuer like to be otherwiſe, for they loued euer to goe fine, and fare daintily, and by my faith goſſip, this is not a world for thoſe matters, and therupon I drinke to you. This is commonly their communication, where they find cheare according to their choice. But if it happen contrary, that they find not things in ſuch plentie, and good order as they would wiſh, then one or other of them will talke to this effect: Truſt me goſſip I maruel much, and ſo doth alſo our other friends, that your husband is not aſhamed to make ſuch ſmall account of you, and this your ſwéete child. If he be ſuch a niggard at the firſt, what will hée be by that time he hath five or fix? it doth well appeare he beares but little loue to you; whereas you vouchſafing to match with him, hath done him more / credit then euer had any of his kinred. Before God, ſaith another, I had rather ſée my husbands eyes out then he ſhould ſerue me ſo: therefore if you be wiſe vſe him not to it: neither in this ſort let him tread you vnder foote: I tell you it is a foule ſhame for him, and you may be wel affured ſith he begins thus, that hereafter he wil vſe you in the ſame order, if not worſe. In good ſooth ſaith the third, it ſéemes very ſtraunge to me, that a wiſe woman, and one of ſuch

parentage as you are, who as all men knowes is by blood farre his better, can endure to be thus vsed by a base companion: Blame vs not to speake good gossip, for I protest the wrong that he doth you, doth likewise touch vs, and all other good women that are in your case.

The Child-wife hearing all this, begins to wéepe, saying; Alas Gossip, I know not what to do, or how to please him, he is so diuerse and wayward a man, and besides, he thinks all too much that is spent. (Gossip he is faith one) a badde and a naughtie man, and so it is well féene by your vsage. All my Gossips here present can tell, that when I was marryed to my husband, euery one said that hée was so hastie and hard to please that he would kill me with greefe: And indeed I may say to you, I found him crabbed enough: for he began to take vpon him mightily, and thought to haue wrought wonders, yet I haue vsed such meanes, that I haue tamed my young maister, and haue at this present brought him to that passe, that I dare sweare hée had rather loose one of his ioynts, then Rangle with me: I will not deny but once or twice hée beate me shrewdly, which I God-wot being young and tender tooke in gréuous part, but what he got by it, let my Gossip T. report, who is yet a woman liuing, and can tell the whole storie: to

whom my good man within a while after faide, that I was past remedie, and that he might sooner kill me, then doo any good by beating me, (and by these ten bones so hée should) but in the end I brought the matter so about, that I got the bridle into my owne handes, so that I may now say, I do what I list : for be it right or wrong, if I say it, hée will not gainsay it, (for by / this Golde on my finger, let him doo what hée can, I will be sure to haue the last word :) so that in very deed, if that women be made vnderlings by their husbands, the fault is their owne : for there is not any man aliue, be he neuer so churlish, but his wife may make him quiet and gentle enough if shée haue any wit : And therefore your good man serues you but well enough, sith you will take it so.

Beléeue me Gossip (saith another) were I in your case, I would giue him such a welcome at his comming home, and ring such a peale of badde words in his eares, that he should haue small ioy to staie the hearing.

Thus is the poore man handled behinde his backe, while they make no spare to help away with his Wine and Sugar which hée hath prepared, whome they for his kindnes thus requites : yea now and then hauing their braines well heated, they will not sticke to taunt him to his face :

Accusing him of little loue, and great vnkindnesse to his wife.

Now it doth many times so chaunce, that he hauing bene to prouide such meates as shée would haue, he commeth home perhappes at midnight, and before hée rests himselfe, hath a verie earnest desire to see how his wife doth, and perchance being loath to lye abroade because of expence, trauailes the later, that hée may reache to his owne house, where when hée is once come, he asketh the Chamber-maide, or else the Nurse, how his wife doth; they hauing their errand before giuen them by their Mistresse, answeres, she is verie ill at ease, and that since his departure she tasted not one bit of meat, but that toward the euening she began to be a little better: all which be méere-lies. But the poore man hearing these words, greeues not a litle, though perhaps he be all to be moyld, wearie & wet, hauing gone a long iourney through a badde and filthy way, vpon some ill paced trotting Iade; and it may be he is fasting too, yet will hée neither eate nor drinke, nor so much as sit downe, till he haue seene his wife. Then the pratling Idle Nurse, which is not to learne to employte suche a péce of seruice, beginnes to looke verie heauily, /and to sigh inwardly as though her mistresse had bene that day at the point of death, which he

féeing, is the more earnest to vifit his wife : whom at the entrance of the chamber, he heares her lie groning to her felfe, and comming to the beds fide, kindly fits down by her, faying how now my fwéet heart, how doeft thou? Ah husband (faith fhe) I am very ill, nor was I euer fo ficke in my life as I haue bene this day. Alas good foule (faith he) I am the more forie to heare it, I pray thée tell me where lies thy paine? Ah husband (quoth fhe) you know I haue bene weake a long time, and not able to eate any thing. But wife (quoth he) why did you not caufe the Nurfe to boile you a capon, and make a maffe of good broath for you? So fhe did (faith his wife) as well as fhe could, but it did not like me God wot, & by that meanes I haue eaten nothing, fince the broath which your felfe made me: Oh me thought that was excellent good. Marie wife (faith he) I will prefently make you fome more of the fame, & you fhall eate it for my fake. With all my heart good husband (faith fhe) and I fhall thinke my felfe highly beholding vnto you: then trudgeth he into the kitchen, there plaies he the Cooke, burning and broiling himfelfe ouer the fire, hauing his eyes readie to be put out with fmoake, while he is bufie making the broath : what time he chides with his maides, calling them beaftes

and baggages that knowes not how to do any thing, not so much as make a little broath for a sicke bodie, but he must be faine to doe it himselfe. Then comes down mistresse Nurse, as fine as a farthing fiddle, in her petticoate and kertle, hauing on a white waftcoate, with a flaunting cambricke ruff about her neck, who like a Doctris in facultie comes thus vpon him. Good Lord Sir, what paines you take, here is no bodie can please our mistresse but your selfe : I will assure you on my credit that I doe what I can, yet for my life I cannot I, any way content her. Moreouer here came in mistresse *Cot*, and mistresse *Con*. who did both of them what they could to haue your wife eate some thing, neuerthelesse all that they did, could not make her taste one spoonefull of any thing all this liuelong day : I know not what she /ayles : I haue kept many women in my time, both of worship and credit (simple though I stand here) but I neuer knew any so weake as she is. I, I (quoth he) you are a companie of cunning cookes, that cannot make a little broath as it should be. And by this time the broath being readie, he brings it straight to his wife, comforting her with many kind words, praying her to eate it for his sake, or to taste a spoonefull or twaine ; which she doth, commending it to the heauens, affirming also, that

the broath which the others made had no good taste in the world, and was nothing worth. The good man hereof being not a little proud, bids them make a good fire in his wiues Chamber, charging them to tend her well. And hauing giuen this order, he gets himselfe to supper, with some cold meate set before him, such as the goffips left, or his Nurse could spare, and hauing taken this short pittance he goes to bed full of care. The next morning he gets him vp betimes, and comes kindly to know how his wife doth, who presently pops him in the mouth with a smooth lye, faying, that all night she could take no rest till it grew towards the morning, and then she began to feele a little more ease, when God knowes she neuer slept more soundly in all her life. Well wife, said the good man, you must remember that this night is our Goffips supper, and they will come hither with many other of our friends, therefore we must prouide something for them, especially because it is your vpsitting, and a fortnight at the least since you were brought to bed : but good wife, let vs goe as néere to the world as we may, feeing that our charge doth euery day increafe, and money was neuer so ill to come by. She hearing him to say so, begins to pout, faying; would for my part I had dyed in trauell, and my poore Infant béene strangled in the birth,



fo should you not be troubled with vs at all, nor haue caufe to repine fo much at your fpending : I am fure there is neuer a woman in the world, that in my cafe hath worfe kéeping, or is leffe chargeable, yet let me pinch and fpare, and do what I can, all is thought too much that I haue : Truft me, I care not a ftraw whether you prouide me any / thing or no, though the forrow be mine, the fhame will be yours, as yefterday for example : I am fure here came in aboue a dozen of our neighbours and friends, of méere kindneffe to fée mée, and knowe how I did, who by their countenance and comming did you greater credit then you deferue : But God knowes what entertainment they had, hauing nothing in the houfe to fet before thē ; which made me fo much afhamed, that I knew not what to fay : Ile tell you what, before God I may boldly fpeake it (for I haue féeene it) that when any of them lyes in, their very feruants haue better fare then I my felfe had at your hands ; which they féeing betwixt themfelues yefterday when they were héere, did kindly floute both you and me for their entertainment. I haue not (as you know) line in aboue 15. dayes, and can yet fcant ftand on my legs, & you thinke it long till I be moyling about the houfe to catch my bane, as I feare I haue done alreadie. Beléeue me wife (quoth he) you miftake me greatly,

for no mā in ſ̄ world can be more kind to his wife, thē I haue bin to you. Kind to me (quoth you) by ſ̄ maffe ſ̄ you haue with a murren, no doubt but I haue had a ſwéete meſſe of cheriſhing at your hands, but I ſée your drift wel enough, you gape euey day for my death, and I would to God it were ſo for me: The month indéed is halfe expired, and I feare the reſt wil come before we be ready for it: My Siſter S. was héere no longer ago then to day, and aſkt if I had euer a new gown to be Churchéd in, but God wot I am far enough frō it, neither do I deſire it, though it be a thing which ought both by reaſon & cuſtome to be done: And becauſe it is your pleaſure, I will riſe to morrow, what chance ſoeuer befall, for the worſt is, I can but loſe my life: full well may I gather by this, how you will vſe me hereafter, and what account you would make of me, if I had nine or ten children; but God forbid it ſhould euer come ſo to paſſe, I deſire rather to be rid of my life, and ſo to ſhun the ſhame of the world, then long to liue with ſuch an vnkind churle. Now verily wife (ſaith the good man) I muſt néeds blame your impatience, for growing ſo cholerick without cauſe. Without cauſe (quoth ſhe?) / Do you thinke I haue no iuſt cauſe to complaine? I will aſſure you there is neuer a woman of my degree, that would put

vp the intollerable iniuries that I haue done, and dayly doe, by meanes of your hoggish conditions. Well wife faith the good man, lye as long as you list, and rise when you will, but I pray you tell me how this new gowne may be had, which

The Fox will eate no grapes. you so earnestlie aske for? By my faith (quoth she) you say not well,

for I aske nothing at your hands, neither would I haue it though I might: I thanke God I haue gownes enough alreadie, and sufficient to serue my turne, and you know I take no delight in garish attire, for I am past a girle, but it makes me smile to see what a shew of kindnes you would faine make: Eye on thee dissembler, you can cog and flatter as well as any man in this towne, and full little thinke they that see you abroad, what a diuell you are at home: for what with your crooked qualities, with toyling, moyling, carking and caring, and being beside broken with Child-bearing, my countenance is quite changed, so that I looke alreadie as withered, as the barke of an

Elder bough: There is my Cousen

No more like the woman I was, then an apple is like an oyster. T. T. who when I was a little girle, was at womans estate, and in the end married Maister H. with whom she leades

a Ladyes life, looking so young and lustie, that I may seeme to be her mother: I, I, such is the difference twixt a kind, and an vncourteous hus-

band, and who knowes not but he was a futer to me, and made many a iourney to my fathers houle for my fake, & would so faine haue had me, that while I was to marry he would not match himselfe with any: but so much was I bewicht, that after I had once séene you, I would not haue changed for the best Lord in the land; and this I haue in recompence of my loue and loyaltie. Goe too wife (faith he) I pray you leaue these lauish spéeches, and let vs call to minde where we may best take vp cloth for your gowne: for you see, such is our weake estate, that if we should rashly lay out that little money which is in the houle, we might possible bée vnprouided of all other necessaries: Therefore whatfoeuer should chaunce hereafter, it is best to kéepe / something against a rainy day: And againe you know within these eight or nine dayes, I haue fiue pounce to pay to Maister P. which must be done, there is no shift, otherwise I am like to sustaine treble dammage. Tush (quoth she) what talke you to me of those matters: alas I aske you nothing: I would to God I were once rid of this trouble: I pray you let me take some rest, for my head akes (God helpe me as it would go in pieces) I wis you feele not my paine, and you take little care for my grieffe: Therefore I pray you fend my Gossips word that they may not come, for I feele my selfe

very ill at ease. Not so (quoth he) I wil neither breake custome, nor so much as gaine say their courteous offer, they shall come sure, and be entertained in the best manner I may. Well (quoth she) I would to God you would leaue me, that I might take a little rest, and then do as you list. Vpon these speeches the Nurse straight steppes in, and roundes her maister in the eare, I pray you Sir do not force her to many words, for it makes her head light, and doth great harme to a woman in her case, especially her braines being so light for want of sleepe: and besides, shee is God knowes, a woman of a tender and choyce complexion: and with that she drawes the Curtaines about the bed. Thus is the poore man held in suspence till the next day that the Gossips come, who will play their parts so kindly, and gaul him so to the quick with their quips & taunts, that his courage wil be wholly quailde, and he alreadie (if they should bid him, like the prodigal childe, euen to eate draffe with the hogges) rather then he would displeafe them. But to procéede, hee in the meane while is double diligence, to prouide all things against their comming, according to his abilitie, and by reason of his wiues words, he buyes more meate, and prepares a great deale better cheare then he thought to haue done. At their comming he is readie to welcome them with his

Cap in hand, and all the kindnesse that may be shewed. Then doth hée trudge bare-headed vp and downe the house, with a cheareful countenance, like a good Assé fit to beare the burthen, he brings the Gossips vp to his wife, and comming first / to her himself, he tels her of their comming. I wis (quoth she) I had rather they had kept at home; and so they would too, if they knew how litle pleasure I tooke in their comming. Nay I pray you wife (faith he) giue them good countenance, séeing they be come for good will: with this they enter, & after mutuall greetings, with much gossips ceremonies, downe they sit and there spend the whole day, in breaking their fasts, dining, and in making an after-noones repast: besides their petty suppings at her beds side, and at the cradle; where they discharge their parts so well, in helping him away with his good Wine and Sugar, that the poore man comming oft to cheare them, doth well perceiue it, and gréeues inwardly thereat, howfoeuer he couers his discontent with a merrie countenance. But they not caring how the game goes, take the peniworths of that cheare that is before them, neuer asking how it comes there; and so they merily passe the time away, pratling and tatling of many good matters. Afterward the poore man trots vp and downe anew, to get his wife the aforefaid gowne, and all other

things therto futable, whereby he fets himself foundly in debt: sometimes he is troubled with the child's brawling: sometimes he is brawld at by the Nurfe: then his wife complaines, that she was neuer well fince she was brought to bed, then muft hée caft his cares anew, deuifing by what meanes to difcharge his debts and leffen his expences: then refolues he to diminifh his owne port and augment his wiues brauerie, he will go all the yeare in one fute, and make two paire of fhooes ferue him a twelue-month, kéeping one paire for holy-dayes, another for working dayes, and one hat in thrée or four yeares. Thus according to his owne rash defire, he is vp to the eares in Lobs'-pownd, and for all the woe and wretchednes that he hath felt, he would not yet be out againe, but doth then willingly confume himfelfe in continuall care, forrow and trouble, till death doth fet him frée.

CHAP. / III.

*The Humour of a woman that hath a charge of children.*

THE next Humor that is by nature incident to a woman, is when the husband hath bin married nine or ten yeares hath five or fix

children, hath passed the euill dayes, vnquiet nights, and troubles aforefaid, hath his <sup>Being tyred</sup> luftie youthfulness spent, so that it is <sup>with scolding, as a hackney lade</sup> now high time for him to repent: But <sup>with trauell.</sup> such is his grosse folly that hée cannot, and such his dulnesse, through the continuall vexations, which haue tamed and wearied him, that he cares not whatsoever his wife faith or doth, but is hardned like an old Ass, which being vsed to the whip wil not once mend his pace be he lashed neuer so much: The poore man seeth two or thrée of his daughters marriage-able, which is soone knowne by their wanton trickes, their playing, dauncing, and other youthfull toyes, but he kéepes them back, hauing perhaps small commings in, to keep, maintain, and furnish them as they looke for, with gownes, kertles, linnen, and other ornaments as they should be for three causes. First, that they may be the sooner sued vnto by lusty gallants: Secondly, because his denying hereof, should nothing auaille: for his wife which knowes her daughters humors by her owne, when she was of the like yeares, will see that they shall want nothing: Thirdly, they peradventure, bearing right womens minds, if their father kéepe them short, will find some other friends that shall afford it them. The poore man being thus perplexed on all sides, by reason of the exceffiue charges which



he must bée at, will (as it is likely) be but honestly attyred himfelfe, not caring how he goes fo he may rubbe out, be it neuer fo barely, and would be glad to fcape fo. But as the Fish in the Ponde, which woulde alfo thinke him felfe well, though wanting former libertie, if he might bée suffered to continue, is cut off before his time: So is likewise this poore man ferued, being once / plunged in the perplexing Ponde, or rather pounce of wedlocke and houfe-kéepeing: for howfoeuer, when he confiders the aforefaid charges and troubles, he begins to haue no ioy of himfelfe, and is no more moued then a tyred Iade which forceth not for the fpurre, yet for the furnifhing of his wife and daughters, fo that he may haue peace at home, and enioy an eafie bondage, he muft trudge vp and downe early and late about his bufineffe, in that courfe of life which he profeffeth: Sometimes he iournies thirtie or fortie myles off, about his affaires: Another time twice fo farre to the Tearme or Affifes, concerning fome old matter in lawe, which was begunne by his Graund father, and not yet towards an ende: he pulls on a pair of bootes of feuen yeares old, which haue bene cobled fo oft, that they are now a foote to fhort for him, fo that the toppe of the bootes reaches no farther then the calfe of his legge: he hath a paire of fpurres of the olde making, whereof the one wants

a rowell, and the other for want of leathers, is fastned to his foote with a poynt: he puttes a laced coate on his backe, which he hath had fixe or seuen yeares, which he neuer wore but vppon high dayes, whose fashion is growne cleane out of request, by reason of new inuented garments: whatsoever sports or pleasures he lights on by the way on his iourney, he takes no ioy in them, bicause his mind is altogether on his troubles at home, he fares hard by the way, as also his pore horse, (if he haue any): his man followes him in a turnd sute, with a sword by his side, which was found vnder a hedge at the siege of *Bullen*: he hath a coate on his back, which euery man may know was neuer made for him, or he not present whē it was cut out, for the wings on his shoulders comes downe halfe way his arme, and the skirts as much below his waist: To be short, the poore man goeth euery way as neare as may be, for he remembers at what charges he is at home, & knowes not what it will cost him, in feeing his Councillors, Attornies, & Pettyfoggers, which wil do nothing without present pay: he dispatcheth his businesse speedily, and hies him home with such hast, to auoid greater charges that he rests / nowhere by the way. And hereby it chanceth that many times he comes home at such an houre, as is as neare morning as to night, and finds nothing to eate, for his wife and

feruants are in bed ; all which he takes patiently, being now well vsed to such entertainment : Surely for my part that God sends such aduersitie and distresse to those only whose good and mild nature, he knowes to be such, that they will take all things in good part. But to procéed, it is very likely that the poore man is very wearie, his heart heauie by reason of the care and thought which he hath of his businesse, and it may be he lookes to be welcome to his owne house, and there to refresh himselfe, howfoeuer he forgets not his former vsage. But it falls out otherwise, for his wife begins to chide ; whose words caries such a sway with the seruants, that whatfoeuer their maister faith, they make small account of it : but if their mistresse commaund any thing, it is presently done, and her humour followed in all things, else must they pack out of seruice, so that it bootes not him to bid them doe any thing, or rebuke them for not doing it: And his poore man that hath bene with him, dares not likewise open his mouth to call for any victuals to comfort himselfe, or for the horses, least they should suspect him to be of his maisters faction, who being wife, of a quiet and mild nature, is loath to make any stir, or bréed any disquietnes in the house, and therefore takes all in good part, and sits him downe farre from the fire, though he be very cold : But his wife and

children stand round about it: but all their eyes are cast on her, who lookes on her husband with an angry countenance, not caring to provide ought for his supper, but contrariwise taunts him with sharp and shrewish speeches, whereto for the most part, he answers not a word, but sometimes perhaps being vrged through hunger, or wearines, or the vnkindnes of his wife, he doth thus vtter his mind. Well wife you can looke well enough to your selfe, but as for me I am both wearie and hungry, hauing neither eaten nor drunke all this day, and being beside wet to the very skinne, yet you make no reckoning to provide any thing for my supper.

Ah / (quoth she) you do well to begin first, leaft I should, which haue most cause to speake: Haue you not done verie well thinke yee, to take your man with you, and leaue me no body to white the cloathes? Now before God, I haue had more losse in my linnen, than you will get this twelue-month. Moreouer, you shut the Hen-house doore very well, did you not? when the Fox got in and eate vp foure of my best broode Hennes, as you to your cost will soone finde by the masse: if you liue long you will be the pooreft of your kinne. Well wife (faith the good man) vse no such words I pray you, God be thanked I haue enough, and more shall haue when it pleaseth him; and I tell

you, I haue good men of my kinne. But quoth she I knowe not where they be, nor what they are worth. Well (faith he) they are of credit and abilitie too. But for all that (quoth she) they do you small good. As much good (faith he) as any of yours. As any of mine (faith she) and that she spoke with such a high note, that the house rung withall, saying; By cocks foule were it not for my friends you would do but forily. Well good wife (faith he) let vs leaue this talke. Nay (faith she) if they heard what you said, they would answere you well enough. The good man holds his peace, fearing leaft she should tell them, being of greater abillitie then he was, and besides, because he was loth that they should be offended with him. Then one of the children falls a crying, and he perhaps which his father loued best; wherevpon the mother presently tooke a rod, turned vp the childs taile and whipt him well fauoredly, and the more to despight and anger her husband, then for ought else. The goodman being herewith somewhat moued, wills her to leaue beating the childe, shewing by his bended browes that he was not a litle angry at her doings. Now gip with a murrin (quoth she) you are not troubled with them, they cost you nothing, but it is I that haue all the paines with them night and day. Then comes in the Nurse with her verdict, and thus she begins,

faying: O fir, you know not what a hand ſhe hath with them, and we alſo that tend them. Then comes in the Chamber-maid with her fine / egges : In good faith fir it is a ſhame for you, that at your comming home, when all the whole houſe ſhould be glad thereof, that you ſhould contrariwiſe put it thus out of quiet. Saith he, is it I that makes this ſtirre? Then is the whole houſhold againſt him, when he ſeeing him ſelfe thus baited on all ſides, and the match ſo vnequall, gets him to bed quietly without his ſupper, all wet and durtie, or if he do ſup he hath but thin fare : and being in bed, where he ſhould take his reſt, he is ſo diſquieted with the children, whome the nurſe and his wife doth on purpoſe ſet on crying, to anger him the more, that for his life he cannot ſleepe one winke. Thus is he vexed with continuall troubles, wherewith he ſeemes to be well pleaſed, and would not though he might be free from them, but doth therein ſpend his miſerable and vnhappie life.

## CHAP. V.

*The humour of a woman that maries her inferior  
by birth.*

A Woman is inclined to another kind of humour, which is when the husband hath bene married, and hath paſſed ſo many troubles, that he is

wearied therewith ; his lusty youthfull bloud growne cold, is matched with a wife of better birth then himfelfe, and perhaps yonger, both which things are very dangerous ; and no wife man should seeke his owne spoile, by wrapping himfelfe in any of those bonds, because they are so repugnant, that it is both against reason & nature to accord them. Sometimes they haue children, sometimes they haue none, yet this notwithstanding, the wife can take no paines, yet must be mainteined according to her degree, to the husbands exceeding charges : for the furnishing whereof, the poore man is forced to take extreame toile and paines, and yet for all this, thanks God, for vouchsafing him so great a grace, as to be matcht with her. If now and then they grow to hot words together (as oft it happens) then presently in vpbrading and menacing fort she tels him, that her friends did not match her to him to be his drudge, and that she knowes well enough of what linage she is come, and will brag withall, that when shee list to write to her friends & kinsmen they will presently fetch her away. Thus doth she keepe him in awe, and in a kind of feruitude, by telling him of them, who would perhaps haue matcht her better, & not with him, but for some priuy scape that she hath had before, whereof the poore soule knowes nothing, or if perhaps he hath heard some inkling therof, yet

because he is simple, the credit that he might giue thereto is quickly dashed, by a contrary tale of others subbornd by them, who perchance will not sticke to sweare that this is a slander raised by euill toongs, & forged maliciously against her, as the like is done against many other good women; whose good names are wronged, & brought in questiō by bad persons on their tipling bench, because themselues cannot obtaine their purpose of them: notwithstanding if her husband be not able to maintaine her according to her mind, then will she be sure to haue a friend in store, that shall afford it her if her husband deny it: and in the end she remembers that such a gentleman at such a feast proffered her a diamond, or sent her by a messenger some 20. or thirtie crownes, which she as then refused, but now purposeth to giue him a kind glance, to renew his affectiō, who conceiuing some better hope, and méeting soone after with her chambermaid, as she is going about some busines, calls to her, saying; Sister, I would faine speake with you. Sir (quoth she) say what you please. You know (quoth he) that I haue long loued your mistres, without obtaining any fauour: but tell me I pray you, did she neuer speake of me in your hearing? In faith sir (saith she) neuer but well: I dare sweare she wishes you no harme. Before God sister (saith the Gentleman) if you will shew mee some kindnes



herein, and do my commendations to your Mistres, affuring her of my loue and loyaltie, it shall bee worth a new gowne vnto you, meane while take this in earnest: with that he offers her a peece of gold: She then making a lowe curfie, sayth: Sir, I thanke you for your good / will, but I will not take it. By my faith faith he but you shall; and with that he forced it on her, adding these wordes: I pray you let me heare from you to morrow morning. She being glad of such a bootie, hyes her home, and tels her misfris how she met with a Gentleman that was in a passing good vaine: and to be short, after some questions vsed by her mistres, it appeares to be the very same man whom she would faine intrap. I tell thee (faith she to her mayd) if he be as kind as he is proper, he were worthy to be any womans loue. Beleeue me Misfris (faith the maid) his very countenance A maid fit for such a mistres. shewes that he is kind, it seemes that he was onely made for loue, and withall he is wealthie, and thereby able to maintaine her beautie, and her person in brauerie whom he affects. By this light (faith the mistres) I can get nothing of my husband. The more vnwise you, (faith the mayd) to be so vsed. Alas quoth she, what should I do? I haue had him so long, that I cannot now set my heart on any other. Tush (quoth the mayd) it is a folly for any woman to

set her heart so on any man, for you know they care not how they vse vs when they are once Lords ouer vs. Beside, your husband though hée would, yet cannot maintaine and kéepe you according to your degré : but he of whom I spake will furnish and maintaine you gallantly, what garments soeuer you will haue : and what colour and fashion so euer you like best, you shall presently haue it, so that there wants nothing else, faue only a quaint excuse to my Maister, making him beléeue you had it by some other meanes. By my troth (quoth the Mistres) I know not what to say. Well Mistres (saith the maid) aduise you well, I haue promised to giue him an answer to morrow morning. Alas (saith the other) what shall we do? Tush Mistres (answers the maid) let me alone : As I go to morrow to the market, I am sure he will watch to méete with me, that he may know what newes : then I will tell him that you will not agrée to his desire for feare of discredit : this will giue him a little hope, and so we shall fall into further talke, and I doubt not but to handle the matter well enough. According to promise / next morning to market she hies, somewhat more earely then she was wont, and by the way she méetes with this lustie gallant, who hath waited for her at least thrée houres : hée hath no sooner spyed her, but he presently makes towards her, and at her

comming, thus salutes her : Sister, good morrow, what newes I pray, and how doth your faire mistresse? I-faith fir (faith shée) she is at home very pensive, and out of patience; I thinke that neuer any woman had such a frowarde husband. Ah villaine (faith he) the diuell take him. Amen (faith the maide) for both my mistresse and all the seruants are wearie with tarying with him. Out on him flauē (faith hée); but I pray you tell me what answere gaue your mistres touching my sute? In faith (quoth she) I spake vnto her, but shée woulde not agréē thereunto, for she is wonderfully afraid to purchase her selfe discredit, & is beside plagued with such a froward and suspitious husband, that although shée were neuer so willing, yet could she not, being continually watcht by him, his mother & brethren. I thinke on my conscience vnlesse that it were that she spoke to you the other day, the poore woman talkt not with any man these four months, yet shee speakes very often of you, and I am well assured that if she would bend her mind to loue, she would choose you before all men in the world. He being rauished with these words, replies thus : Swéete sister, I pray you be my friend herein, and I will alwaies rest at your commaund. In good faith (faith she) I haue done more for you already then euer I did for any man in my life. And thinke not (faith he) that I will

be vnmindfull of your kindnes; but what would you counsell me to do? I-faith fir (faith she) I thinke it best that you should speake with her your selfe; and now you haue an excellent opportunitie, for my maister hath refused to giue her a new gowne; whereat she stormes not a little: you shall doe well therefore to be to morrow at the Church, & there salute her, telling her boldly your desire: you may also offer her what you thinke good, but I know she will take nothing: mary she will thinke the better of you, knowing thereby your franke & boũtiful nature. Oh (faith he) I would she would gladly take that, / which I would gladly bestowe on her. Nay, answers the maid, I know she will not, for you neuer knewe a more honest woman: but Ile tell ye how yee may doe it afterwards: Looke what ye purpose to bestow on her, you shall deliuer vnto mee; I will doe my best to perswade her to take it, but I cannot assure you that I shall preuaile. Surely sifter (faith he) this is very good counsell: herewithall they part, and shee returnes home, laughing to her selfe, which her mistres seeing, demands of her the cause therof. Mary (faith the maid) this lusty gentleman is all on fire, tomorrow he will be at Church, purposing there to speake with you: now must you demeane your selfe wisely, and make very strange of it, but stand not off too much least you dismay him cleane:

as you wil not wholly graunt, so must you feede him with some hope. Shee, hauing her lesson thus taught her by her maide, gets her vp betimes the next morning, and to the Church shee goes, where this amorous gallāt hath awaited for her comming euer since foure a clock. She being set in her pew, makes shew as if she was deuoutly at her prayers, when (God wot) her deuotion is bent to the seruice of another Saint: it were worth the noting to see how like an image shee fits: and yet for all her demurenes, she applies all her fine senses, & that full zealously, in this new humor of religion. To bee short, hee steales vnto her, sneaking vnto her, from the belfrey vnto her pew, and beeing come, greetes her after the amorous order, and from greeting, he fals to courting; wherto she doth in no wise yeeld consent, neither will shee take ought that he offers, yet answers him after such a fort, that he doth thereby assuredly gather that shee loues him, and sticks only for fear of discredit: whereat he is not a little iocund, & hauing spent his time to so good purpose, he takes his leaue, & shee hasting home to her counseller, acquaints her what hath passed between them, who thereupon takes occasion to say thus: Mistresse, I know well that now he longs to speake with me, but at our meeting I will tell him that you will yeelde to nothing; for which I will faine

my felfe very fory : & I wil adde withal, that my mafter hath gone out of towne, and will appoint him / to come hither towards the euening, with promife that I will let him in, and conuey him fo fecretly into your chamber, that you fhall know nothing thereof: At what time you muft feeme to be highly offended, and if you be wife, you will make him buy his pleafure with fome coft, which will caufe him to efteeme the more of you : tell him that you will cry out, and then do you call me : by handling him thus, I can affure you, that you fhall get more of him, then if you had yeelded at the firft. All this while I will haue in my keeping that which hee will giue you, for hee hath appointed to deliuer it me to morrowe, and I will make him belieue, that you woulde by no meanes take it. But when the matter is brought to this paffe, then wil I make fhew to offer you his gift before him, telling you, that he is willing to beftow it on you, to buy you a gowne withall ; then muft you chide, and feeme to be angry with mee for receiuing it, charging me to deliuer it back againe to him ; but bee fure I will lay it vp fafe enough. Well deuifed wench (faith the miftres) I am content it fhall be fo. This plot being thus laide, the craftie wench goes prefently to finde out this iolly gallant, whofe firft word is, What newes? Now in good faith fir (faith she)

the matter is no further forward then if it were yet to begin, yet because I haue medled so farre in it, I wold be loth I should not bring it about, for I feare that she will complaine of me to her husband and friends, but if I could perfwade her by any meanes to receiue your gifts, then out of question the matter were dispatcht: and in good faith ile try once more, I haue one good helpe, and that is this: my maister (as I tolde you before) will not giue her a new gowne, at which vnkindnesse, shee stormes mightily. The hot louer hearing this, giues her presently twentie crownes

for her good will, whereupon shee speakes  
Better then two  
 yeares wages,  
 and soone got. thus: In good faith sir, I knowe not

how it commeth to passe, but sure I am, I neuer did so much for any man before as I haue done herein for your sake, for if my maister shoulde haue any inckling of it, I were vtterly vndone: yet for you I will hazard a little / further: I know she loues you wel, and as good hap is, my maister is not now in towne; if you therefore will bee about the doores towards six of Ʒ clock at night, I will let you in, and so conuey you secretly into my mistres Chamber; who doth sleepe very foundly: for you know she is but young: being

Just as Iarmás  
 lips. there I could wish you go to bed to her and for the rest you neede not (I trust) any tutor: I protest that I know no other meanes

for the compassing of this matter; perhaps it will fadge, for it is a great matter, when a louer & his mistresse are both together naked & in the darke, which doth help forward a womans conceipt to y<sup>e</sup> which in the day time perhaps she would hardly graunt. O my sweet friend (quoth hee) for this kindnesse my purse shall be at thy command. To be short, night comes, he is there according to promise; whom shee straight conueyes into her mistresse chamber: then he presently vnclouthes himself, and steps softly into her bed, and beeing once in, hee begins to imbrace her: hereat she that seemes till then asleepe, starts vp on a sodain & with a fearful voice asks who is there? It is I sweete mistresse (saith he) feare nothing. Ah (quoth shee) thinke you to preuaile thus? no, no, and with that shee makes as though shee would rise, & cal her maid, who answers not a word: but alas for pittie like an vndutifull seruant leaues her at her greateft need: she therefore good woman seeing that she is forsaken, saies with a sigh, ah me, I am betraid: then begin they a stout battel, he vrging his advantage, shee faintly resisting, but alas what can a naked woman doe against a resolute louer? there is therefore no remedy but that at length (poore soule) being out of breath with striuing she must needes yeeld to the stronger: she would faine haue cryed out (God wot) had it not beene for feare of



discredit, for therby her name might haue bin brought in question ; therefore all things considered, she doth vnwillingly God knowes, let him supply her husbands place, garnishing his temples for pure good will with *Atheons* badge. Thus hath she got a new gowne, which her good man refused to giue her ; to bleare whose eyes, & to keep him from suspition, she gets her mother in her husbands sight to bring home the cloth & giue it her, / as though it were her cost : and leaft also shee should suspect any thing, she makes her beleue she bought it with the money which shee got by selling odde commodities which her husbād knew not of : But it may be, and oft happens so, that the mother is priuie to the whole matter, and a furtherer thereof : after this gowne she must haue another, and two or three filke imbrothered girdles, and other such costly knackes, which the husband seeing, wil in the end smel somewhat, & begin to doubt of his wiues honesty, or shal perhaps receiue some aduertisemēt hereof from a friend or kinsman ; for no such matter can be long kept close, but in the end will by some meanes or other be made knowne and discouered. Then fals hee into a frantick vaine of lealoufie : watching his wiues close packing : and for the better finding of it out, hee comes home on a sodaine about midnight, thinking then to discouer all, and yet perhaps may

misse his purpose. Another time comming in at vnawares hee seeth something that he likes not, and then in a furie falles on railing, but be sure that she answers him home, not yeelding an inch vnto him: for besides the aduantage of the fight which is waged by her owne trustie weapon (her tongue I meane) she knowing withall that she is of better birth, hits him in the teeth therewith, & threatens him to tel her friends how hardly he doth vse her. To bee short, the poore man shall neuer haue good day with her, but either with thought of her incontinēce, or if he speake to her, he is borne downe with scolding lies, and despised of his owne seruants; his state runnes to ruine, his wealth decaies, his body dryes vp, and weares away with grieffe: he growes desperate and carelesse: thus is he plunged into Lobs pound, wearied in a world of discontents, wherein notwithstanding he takes delight, hauing no desire to change his state, but rather if he were out, and knewe what would follow, yet would he neuer rest till he had gotten in againe, there to spend and end (as now he must) his life in grieffe and miserie.

## CHAP. / VI.

*The humor of a woman that striues to  
master her husband.*

THE next humor wherevnto a woman is addicted, is, when ſ̄ husband hath got a faire young wife, who is proper & fine, in whom he takes great delight, yet perhaps ſhe is bent altogether to croſſe, & thwart: ſ̄ man being of a kind & mild nature louing her intirely, & he maintaines her as well as he can, notwithstanding her frowardnes: It may be alſo that ſhe hath care of his credit and honeſty, and doth abhorre ſuch lewdneſſe, as ſhe of whome wee ſpake before did uſe, yet hath ſhee neuertheleſſe an extreame deſire of foueraigntie (which is knowne a common fault amongſt women) and to be her husbands commauder, and a buſie medlar in his matters: be he a Iudge, a Nobleman, or Gentleman, ſhee wil take vpon her to giue ſentence, and anſwere futers, and whatſoever ſhee doth hee muſt ſtand to it. This is, I ſay, a generall imperfection of women, bee they neuer ſo honeſt, neuer ſo kindly uſed, and haue neuer ſo much wealth and eaſe, to ſtrive for the breeches, and bee in odde contrarie humours, of purpoſe to keepe her husband in continuall thought and care how to pleaſe her. Hee gets

him vp betimes in the morning leauing her in bed to take her ease, while he sturres about the house and dispatcheth his bufineffe, lookes to the seruants that they loyter not, causeth dinner to be made readie, the cloath to be laide, and when al thinges are readie, he sends one to desire her to come downe, who brings back answere that she is not disposed to dine. No (faith he?) I wil neither sit downe, nor eate a bit till she be here. So receiuing his second message by his maide, or perhaps by one of his children, replies thus: go tell him again y I wil not dine to day. He hearing this, is not yet satisfied, but sends likewise the third time, and in the end goes himselfe, and thus begins. How now, what ayles you wife, that you will eate no meate? / hereto she answeres not a word. The poore man maruels to see her in this melancholy dumpe, (although perhaps she hath plaid this pageant many times before) and vseth all entreatie he may, to know of her the cause therof: but in vaine, for indeed there is no cause at all, but onely a meere mockery: Sometimes she will persist so obstinately in this humor, that for all the perswasions and kindnesse that he can vse, shee will not come. Sometimes it may be she will, and then hee must leade her by the hand like a bride, and set her chaire readie for her: meane while it is so long before he can get her down, that the meate is colde

when it comes to the table. Being fet, she will not eate one bit, and hee seeing that (like a kinde Affe) wil fast likewise: whereat shee smiles inwardly, hauing brought him so to her bowe, first in crossing him, then in making him to fast from dinner: wherein (to say the truth) she hath reason, for what needs a woman to seeke his fauoure, who doth alreadie loue her, and shew her all the kindnes that hee can. Sometimes the good man ryding abroad about his bufinesse, meets with two or three of his friends, with whom perhaps hee hath some dealings, and hath bene long acquainted with them: It may be also that he inuites them home to his house, as one friend will do to another, and sends his man before to his wife to make all things ready in y<sup>e</sup> best fort that she can for their entertainment: the poore seruing man gallops in such haft, that both himselfe & his horse is all on a sweate: when he comes home hee doth his arrand to his mistres, telling her withal that the guests which his master brings are men of good account. Now by my faith (faith she) I wil not meddle in it, he thinks belike that I haue nothing els to doe, but drudge about to prepare banquets for his companions, he should haue come himself w<sup>h</sup> a vengeance, & why did he not? Forfooth (faith the seruant) I know not, but thus he bad me tel you. Go too (faith she) you are a knaue that medles in more

matters thē you haue thank for. The poore fellow hearing this holds his peace, shee in a fume flings vp into her chamber, and which is worfe, fendes out her seruantes, some one way, some another: as for her maydes, they haue their / lesson taught them well enough, knowing by custome how to behaue themselues to wearie their maister: well, hee comes home to his aforesaid friends, cals presently for some of his seruants: but one of the maides make answere, of whome he demaunds whether all things bee readie: In good faith fir my mistres is verie sick, & here is no body els can do any thing: with that he <sup>Oh fetch the aqua vitæ bottle quickly.</sup> being angry, leads his friends into the hall, or some other place according to his estate, where hee findes neither fire made, nor cloath laide. Iudge then in what a taking he is, although it may be that his friendes perceiued by the sending of his man, that his commaundements were not of such force as an act of parliament. The good man being ashamed cals and gapes, first for one man then for another, & yet for all this there comes none, except it bee the scullion or some chare woman, that doth vse his house, whome his wife hath left there of purpose, because shee knewe they could serue to doe nothing. Being herewith not a little mooued, vp hee goes into his wiues chamber, and thus speakes vnto her. Gods precious woman,

why haue ye not done as I wild ye? Why (faith shee) you appoint so many things to be done that I know not what to doe. Before God (faith hee) & with that scratches his head, you haue done mee a greater displeafure then you think: these are the dearest friends that I haue, and now here is nothing to set before them. Why (quoth shee) what would you haue me to doe? I wis if you cast your cards well, you shall finde that we haue no neede to make banquets: I would to God you were wiser, but sith you will needes bee so lusty, euen goe through with it your selfe on Gods name, for Ile not meddle with it. But what the diuell ment ye (faith he) to sende all the seruants abroad? Why (quoth she) what did I know that you should neede them now: yet did shee know it well enough, and had of purpose sent them forth on sleeueleffe arrands, the more to anger and despight him: who seeing that he can preuaile nothing, giues ouer talking to her, and gets him downe in a bitter chafe: for it may bee that his guesstes bee of such account, and he so much beholding vnto them, that he had rather haue / spent a hundred crownes then it should so haue fallen out. But she cares not a whit, being well assured that howsoever she thwarts him, hee will hold his hands, and in scolding she knowes her selfe to be the better. To bee short, the poore man being vexed, with shame

and anger, runnes vp and downe the houle, gets as many of his seruants together as hee can : If his prouision be but slender at home, hee sends presently abroad ; in the meane while he calles for a cleane towell, the best table cloath, and wrought napkins. But the maid answers him that he can haue none. Then vp to his wife goes hee againe, and tels her that his friends doe intreat her to come downe and beare them companie, shewing her what a shame it is, and how discourteously they will take it if she come not : And finally he vseth all the fairest speeches that he can to haue her come, and to welcome and entertaine them for his credits sake. Nay in faith (quoth she) I will not come, they are too great states for my companie, and no doubt they would scorne a poore woman as I am : It may bee shee will goe, but in such sort, and with such a countenance, that it had bene better for him she had not come at all, for his friends will somewhat perceiue by her lookes and gesture, that howsoeuer they be welcome to the good-man, she had rather haue their roome then their companie. But if she refuse to come (as it is the more likely) then will he aske her for the best towell, table-cloth and napkins. Napkins (quoth she) as though those that be abroad alreadie be not good enough for greater and better men then they are : when my brother or any of my kinsmen come,



which are I wis their equals in euery respect, they can be content to be serued with them : but were these your guesstes neuer so great, yet could I not now fulfill your request, though my life should lie on it : for since morning I haue lost my keyes of  
the great chest where all the linnen lies:

*Oh lyer, lyer.*

I pray you bid the maid looke for them, for in good truth I know not what I haue done with them, and no maruell, for I haue so much to doe, that I know not how to bestur my felfe : well I wote, I haue spoyled my felfe with continuall care and trouble.

Now in good faith (quoth he) you haue dreft me fairely, but it is no matter : Before God ile breake open the chest. Now surely then (quoth she) you shall doe a great act, I would faine see you doe it, I would for my part you would breake all the chestes in the house. The poore man hearing her in these termes, knowes not well what to doe, but takes that which he next lightes on, and therefore shifts as well as he can : he causeth his guesstes to sit downe at the table, and because the beere then a broach is on tilt, & therefore not verie good, he bids one of the seruants broach a new barrell, & fil some fresh drinke, but then there is neither tap nor spigget to bee found, for his wife of purpose hath hidden them out of the way. Towards the end of the dinner, he calls for

cheefe, and fruite, but there is none in the houle, so that he is faine to fend to the neighbours for the same, or else be vtterly destitute : meane while his boy being at the table with the gwestes' [seruants], at last tels them how his mistresse faines her selfe sicke, because she is not pleased with their masters cōming. Wel, when bed time comes, he can get no clean sheetes, nor pillow-beers, because forsooth the keyes are lost, so that they must be content to lie in those that be foule, and haue bene long layne in. The next morning they get them gone betimes, seeing by the good wiuies countenance that they are nothing welcome. By the way their lackies tell them what the Gentlemans boy reported ; wherat they laughe hartily, yet find themselues agreeued, vowing neuer to be his gwest any more. The husband also, getting him vp betimes in the morning, goes presently to his wife, and thus he begins : By Iesus wife, I muse what you meane to vse me thus. I know not how to liue with you. Then she replies saying : Now God for his mercie, am I so troublesome ? God wot I am euery day (poor foule) trobled with keeping your hogs, your geese, your chickens ; I must card, I must spin, and continually keepe the houle, looke to the seruants, & neuer sit still, but toyling vp & downe to shorten my daies, and make me die

before my time, and yet I cannot haue one howers rest, or quietnes with you, but you are alwaies brawling, & do nothing your selfe, but spend & waft your goods and / mine with odde companions. What odde companions (saith he?) as though you know not that these are such men, as can either much further, or much hinder me. It is a signe that you deale very well, that you must stand in distrust of such persons. Herevpon she takes occasion to rayle & scolde all the day long, the man being wearied with her wawardnesse; & age (being hasted with grieffe & sorrow) doth vnawares ouertake him. Briefly he is in euery respect wretched: but such is his folly, that he reckons his paines pleasures, and would not though he might be againe at liberty, out of Lobs pound, or if he would it is now too late, for he must of force cōtinue there in care, thought and misery, til death make an end of him and them together.

#### CHAP. VII.

*The humor of a couetous minded  
woman.*

**T**He next humor belonging to a woman, is, when the husband is matched to a modest ciuil womã, who is nothing giuen to that thwarting

& crossing humor whereof I spake laft. But be she good or bad, this is a generall rule many wiues hold and stedfastly beleeeue, that their owne husbands are the worst of al others. It oft happens that when they match together they are both young, and entertaine each other with mutuall delights, so much as may be, for a yeare or two, or longer, til the vigor of youth grow cold. But y woman droopes not so soone as y man, the reason whereof is, because shee takes no care, thought and grieffe, breakes not her sleepe, and troubles not her head as he doth, but doth wholly addict her thoughtes to pleasure and folace. I deny not that when a woman is with child, she hides many times great paines, and is oft verie ill at ease, and at the time of her deliuerance, she is for the most part, not onely in exceeding paine, but also in no lesse daunger of death: But all this is nothing to the husbands troubles, on whose hands alone restes the whole charge, and waight of main / taining the house, and dispatching all matters; which is oftentimes intangled so with controuerfie, and so thwarted with crosse fortune, that the poore man is tormented with all vexation of mind: Beeing thus wearied, and as it were worne away with continuall grieffe, troublous cogitations, toyle and trauell, [he can] haue no mind on any other plea-

sure : whereas shee on the other side is as lustie as euer shee was : meane while his stock decayes, and his state growes worfe and worfe: and as that diminisheth, so must hee perforce shorten her allowance, & maintenance, which is almost as great a corfiue to her, as the former. You may be well assured, that this change in him makes her also change her countenance: frō mirth and chearefulnes to lowring melancholie, seeking occasions of disagreements, & [to] vse them in such sort, that their former loue & kindnes was not so great, as are now their brauls, iarres, & discordes. It doth also oftentimes happen, that the womã by this means wastes and consumes all, giuing lewdly away her husbands goods, which he with great paines & cares hath gotten. The good man he goes euery way as neere as he can, and warilie containes him selfe within his bounds, casting vp what his yearely reuenues are, or what his gaine is by his profession, be it merchandize or other, & then what his expenses be; which finding greater then his comming in, he begins to bite the lip & becomes very pensive: his wife & he being afterward priuate together in their chamber, hee speakes thereof vnto her in this manner: In faith wife, I maruell much how it comes to passe that our goods goe away thus, I know not how: I am sure I am as carefull as

a man can be, I can not finde in my heart to bestow a new coate on my selfe, and all to faue mony. By my troth husband (faith she) I do as much maruell at it as you: I am sure for my owne part, that I goe as neere in housekeeping euery way as I can. To bee short, the poore man not doubting his wife, nor suspecting her ill cariage, after long care and thought concludes, that the cause thereof is his owne ill fortune, which keeps him downe, & crosseth all his actions with contrary successe, but it may bee that in proesse of time some friend / of his being more cleare-fighted in the matter, perceiuing all goes not wel, doth priuily informe him therof; who being astonished at his report, gets him home with a heauie countenance: which the wife seeing, & knowing herself guiltie, begins presently to doubt ſ̄ worst, & perhaps guessth shrewdly at the authors thereof; but howsoeuer, she will take such an order, that she will be sure to escape the brunt well enough. The good man will not presently make any words hereof vnto her, but defer it awhile, and try in the meane time, whether he can of himselfe gather any further likelihood, for which purpose he will tell her, that he must needs ride some ten or twelue miles out of towne, about some earnest busines. Good faith husband (faith she) I had rather you should

send your man, and stay at home your selfe. Not so wife (faith he) but I will be at home againe my selfe within these three or foure dayes. Hauing told her this tale, hee makes as though hee tooke his iourney, but doth priuillie lye in ambush in such a place, where hee may know whatfoeuer is done in the house: but shee smelling his drift sends word to her sweet heart, that he do not come in any case, and all the time of his dissembled absence, she carries her selfe that it giues no likelyhood of suspition: which the filly mā seeing, comes out of his ambush, enters his house, making as if then he were returned from his journey: and whereas before he lowred, now he shewes a cheereful countenance, being verily perswaded, that his friends report is a meere lye; and that he thinks so much the rather, because she doth at his comming run to meet him, with such shewe of loue, & doth so embrace and kisse him, that it seemes impossible so kind a creature should play false: but long after being in bed together, he thus speaks to her: Wife, I haue heard certaine words that like mee not. Good faith husband (faith shee) I know not what is the cause thereof: I haue noted, this great while, that you haue bene very pensive, and was afraid that you had had some great losse, or that some of your friends had bene

kild, or taken by the Spanyards. No (faith he) that is not the matter, but a thing which greeues me more then any such matter can do. Now, God for his/mercy (quoth she) I pray you husband let me know what it is. Mary wife (faith he) a friend of mine told me that you kept company with R. R. the veriest ruffen in all the towne, & a many other matters he told me of you. Hereat she crossing her selfe in token of admiration (though smiling inwardly) replies thus; Deere husband if this be all, then I pray you giue ouer your pensuenes: I would to God I were as free from all other sins, as I am from that: then laying one hand on her head, she thus proceeds, I will not sweare any thing touching him, but I would the deuil had all that is vnder my hand, if I euer touched any mans mouth fauing yours, or some of our friends & kinsmen, or such at least as you haue commanded me. Ha, ha, is this the matter? In troth I am glad you haue told me, I had verily thought it had bin some greater matter, but I know wel enough whereupon these speeches grew, & I would that you did likewise know, what moued him to speak thē; I know you would not a little maruel, because he hath alwaies <sup>Oh braue dis-</sup>professed such friēdship towards you. In <sup>sembler.</sup> good faith I am nothing sory ȳ he hath awaked the sleeping dog. What mean you by that word



(quoth he?) Nay (quoth she) be not desirous to know it, you shall know it soone enough some other time. Birlady (faith he) ile know it now. By my troth husband (faith she) I was oft wonderfully angry whē you brought him in hither, yet I forbare to speake of it, because I saw you loued him so well. But speake now (faith he) and tell me what ſ matter is? Nay nay (quoth she) it skils not greatly. Go to wife (faith the good man)

Almost as bad as Iudas kisses. tel me, for I will know it. Then takes she him about the neck, & sweetly kissing him, faith thus: Ah my deere husband, what villaines are these ſ would seeme to abuse you, whom I honor & loue aboue al mē in the world.

The diuel take the lyer. Wel wife (faith he) I pray thee tell me the man that so misvfeth vs. In troth (quoth she) that vile dissembling traitor, that flattering tell tale, that put this bad report in your eares, whom you esteeme so much, reposing such great cōfidēce in him, he is the man, & none but he that hath earnestly vrged me any time these two years to cōmit folly with him; but God I praise him hath giuen me grace both to refuse him, and his offers, / although I were continually troubled and importuned by him: I wis when you thought hee came hither so often for your sake, it was for this cause; for neuer a time that hee came, but he was in hand with me to obtaine his filthy desire,

till in the end I threatned to tell you of it, but I was loath to doe it, fearing to breede a quarrell betweene you, so long as I was sure to keepe him from doing you herein any iniurie : beside I had still a good hope, that he would at length giue ouer : I wis it was no fault of his that he sped not. Gods for my life (faith the good man) being in a great rage, what a treacherous villaine is this? I would neuer haue suspected any such matter in him, for I durft haue put my life in his hands. By this light, husband (faith she) if euer hee come more within the doores, or if euer I may know that you haue any talke with him, ile keepe house no longer with you. Ah deere husband, (and with that she clips and cols him againe about the neck,) should I bee so disloyall as to abuse him in this sort? so sweete, so amiable, and so kinde a man, who lets mee haue my will in all things? God forbid I should liue so long to become a strumpet now. But for Gods sake husband forbid him your house with whome this knaue hath flaundred mee withall; yet I would the deuill had mee if euer hee made such motion to mee, neuertheleffe by Gods grace hee shall not come henceforth in any place where I am: and with that shee beginnes to weepe, and hee (kind foole) doth appeafe and

Thus is he board through the nose with a cushion.

As kind as the Sea-crab seazing on a dead carrion.

Amen.

comfort her, promising and swearing, that hee will doe as shee will haue him, saue onely that hee will not forbid him his house, with whose companie the other had charged her, and withall he vowes neuer to beleue any more of these reportes, nor so much as to harken to any such tales againe, notwithstanding hee still feeles a scruple of suspicion in his conscience: Within a while hee begins to fall at defiance with his honest friende, who informed him of his wiues wantonneffe, and hee seemes to bee so deeply befotted with her loue, that you woulde say hee were transformed without inchauntment, into *Aleons* shape: his / charge of household still increaseth, he hath many children, and is perplexed on euery side: but his wife followes her pleasure farre more then before, for Great reason. though it be neuer so openly knowne, yet will no man tell him thereof, because they know that he will not beleue them (and which is more ridiculous) he that abuseth him most, shall be best welcome vnto him of any. To be short, age will ouertake him, and perhaps pouertie, from the which he shall neuer be able to raise himselfe. Loe here the great good and pleasure, that he hath gotten by entring into Lobs pound: euery man mockes him, some saith it is pittie because he is an honest man: others say it is not a matter to be forrowed for, sith it is the

common rule of such. They of the better sort will scorne his company : thus liues he in paine, grieffe and disgrace, which he takes for great pleasure, and therein wil continue till death cut him off.

## CHAP. VIII.

*The humor of a woman that still desires to  
be gadding abroad.*

THE next humor of a woman, is, when the husband hath bene in Lobs pound some five or six yeares, part whereof he hath spent in such pleasures as wedlock doth at the first afford ; but now the date of these delights is out, he hath perhaps some three or foure children, but his wife is now big againe, and a great deale worfe of this child then she was of any other. Whereat the poore man grieues not a little, who takes great paines to get her that which she longs for : well, the time of her lying downe drawes neere, & she is wonderfully out of temper, so that it is greatly feared that she will hardly escape. Thē fals he on his knees & praies deuoutly for his wife, who soone after is brought to bed : wherefore he is not a little Jocund, making sure account that God hath hard his praiers. The gossips, kinswomen, and neighbours, come in troupes to visit and reioyce

for her safe deliury. She for her part wants no good cherishing, whereby she recouers her strength, and is as fresh and lusty as euer she was.

After / her churching, she inuites some of her neighbours who also inuite fiew or six others of her neighbors and friends, who are receiued & feasted with al kindnes; which banquet doth perhaps cost her husband more then would haue kept the house a whole fortnight: Amongst other she propounds a question, & makes a match to goe altogether to a certaine Faire which will be within ten daies at such a place: to the which place they shall haue a most braue and pleasant iorney by reason of the faire weather, for they wil alwaies conclude such an agreement in some of the best seasons of the yeare; & she takes vpon her to make this motion chiefly in regard of her gossip which was lately brought abed, that she may after her long pain and trauaile somewhat recreate & refresh her selfe. But she answers her with thanks for her good will, saying she knowes not how to get leaue of her husband. What (saith the other) that is the least matter of a thousand. Tush gossip (saith another) stand not on that, we will all goe and be merry, and we will haue with vs my gossip G. T. my cosin H. S. though perhaps hee be nothing kind to her: but this is their ordinary phraze, & they vndertake this iourney

because they cannot so wel obtaine their purposes at home, being too neere their husbands noses. After this agreement, home she comes with a heauie countenance : the good man asketh what she aileth? Marry quoth she, the child is very ill at ease (though he were neuer in better health since he was borne) his flesh burnes as though it were fire, and as the nurse tels me, hee hath refused the dugges these two daies, although she durst not say so much till now. He hearing this, and thinking it true, is not a little sory, goes presently to see his child & weepes for pittie. Well, night comes, to bed they goe, & then she fetching a sigh, begins thus : Husband, I see you haue forgotten me. How meane you that faith he? Mary (quoth she) do you not remember that when I was in childbed you said, that if it pleased God that I escaped, I should goe to such a Fayre with my goffips & neighbours to make merry, & cheere vp my self, but now I heare you not talk of it. In troth wife (faith he) my head is troubled with so many matters, and such a deale of busines, that I haue no leasure to thinke on any thing els : but there / is no time past yet, the faire wil not be this fortnight. By my truth (quoth she) I shal not be well vnles I goe. Wel wife (faith he), content your selfe, for if I can by any meanes get so much money ye shall goe : you know it is not

little that we shall spend there: yea more I wis then will be my ease to lay out. Good Christ (quoth she), is it now come to that? You promise me absolutely without either ifs or ands: before God I will goe whether you will or no: for there goes my mother, my gossip T. my cosen B. and my cosen R. and his wife. If you will not let me goe with them, I know not with whome you will let me goe. He, hearing her thus wilfull, thinkes it best for his owne quietnes to let her goe, though he straine his purse somewhat the more. The time comes, he hires horses, buies her a new riding gowne, & doth furnish her according to her minde: peradventure there goes in their company a lustie gallant, that will frolick it by the way on her husbands cost, for his purse must pay for all. It may be he will goe him selfe, because hee hath neuer a man, or els cannot spare him from his worke. But then is the poore man notably perplexed, for shee will of purpose trouble him for euery trifle, more then she would doe to another, because it doth her good to make a drudge of him, and so much the rather, that he may not afterward haue any desire to goe abroad with her againe: sometimes her stirrup is too long: sometimes too short, and hee must still light to make it fit: sometimes she will weare her cloake, sometimes not, and then he must cary it: then findes she

fault with her horses trotting, which makes her sicke, and then she will light & walke on foote, leauing him to lead her horses: within a while after they come to a water, then must hee be troubled to helpe her vp againe: Sometimes she can eate nothing that is in the Inne, then must hee being wearie all day with riding, trudge vp and downe the towne to find something that will fit her stomack; all which notwithstanding, she will not be quiet: and not she onely, but her goffips also, will be bobbing and quibbing him, saying that he is not worthy to bee a womans man; but he is so inured to these Janglings that he cares not for all their / words: Well at length to the Faire they come, and then must he play the squier in going before her, making so much roome for them as he can, when there is any throng or presse of people, being very chary of his wife, least she should be hurt or anoyed by thrusting. There moyles he like a horse, & sweates like a bull, yet cannot all this please her: Some dames of the company, which are more flush in crownes then her good man, bestowes money on gold rings, hats, filk girdles, Jewels, or some such toyes, yea costly toyes, which she no sooner sees, but presently she is on fire vntill she haue the like: Then must hee herein content her if he loue his owne ease, and haue he money or not, some



fhirt he muſt make to fatiſie her humor. Well now imagine them going homewards, & thinke his paine & trouble no leſſe, then it was cōming forth: her horſe perhaps doth foūder much, or trots too hard, which is peradventure by reaſon of a naile in his foote, or ſome other miſchance. Then muſt hee perforce buy, or hyre another horſe, and if he haue not money enough to do ſo, then muſt he let her ride on his, & he trot by her ſide like a lackey. By the way ſhe will aſke for twenty things: for milke, becauſe ſhe cannot away with their drink, for pears, plums, & cherries: when they come neere a towne, he muſt run before to chooſe out the beſt Inne: euer and anon as ſhe rides, ſhe will of purpoſe let fall her wand, her maſke, her gloues, or ſomething els for him to take vp, becauſe ſhe will not haue him idle: when they are come home, ſhe will for a fortnight together doe nothing els then gad vp and downe amongſt her goſſips, to tell them how many gay and ſtrange things ſhee hath ſeene, all that hath paſſed by the way in going and comming, but eſpecially of her good man, whom ſhe will be ſure to blame, ſaying that he did her no pleaſure in the world, & that (ſhe poore foule) being ſicke and wearie, could not get him to helpe her, or to prouide any thing for her that ſhe liked: and finally that he had no more care of her, then if

ſhe had beene a meere ſtranger. But hee poore ſot finding, at his returne, all thinges out of order is not a little troubled to ſet them in frame againe, and toyles exceedingly at his labour, that he / may recouer his charges which he hath bene at in this iourny. But ſhe what for goſſiping, for pride & idlenes wil not ſet her hands to any thing, and yet if ought goe well, ſhe wil ſay it was through her heedfulnes & good huſwiferie : If otherwiſe, then will ſhe ſcold, and lay the fault thereof on him, although it be her owne doings. To be ſhort, hauing thus gotten a vaine of gadding, ſhe will neuer leaue it, and hereby the poore man will be vtterly ſpoiled : for both his ſubſtāce ſhall be waſted, his limbes through labour ſild with aches, his feete with the gout, and age comes on him before his time: yet as though this were not euil enough, ſhe wil be continually brawling, ſcolding and complaining, how ſhe is broken through child-bearing. Thus is the filly man vp to the ears in Lobs pound, beeing on each ſide beſet with care and trouble, which he takes for pleature, and therein languish[es] whiles he liues.

## CHAP. IX.

*The humor of a curst queane married  
to a froward husband.*

THE next humor that is incident to a woman, is when the husband hauing entred very young into Lobs pound, and there fettered himself by his too much folly, for a vaine hope of ticklish delights which lasted but for a yeere or two, hath matched himselfe with a very froward and peruerse woman (of which sort there are too many) whose whole desire is to be mistresse and to weare the breeches, or at least to beare as great a sway as himselfe. But he being craftie, & withal crabbed, will in no wise suffer this vsurped soueraigntie, but in fundrie maners withstands it. And there hath bene great stur & arguing about this matter betweene themselues, & now and then some battels: but do she what she can either with her tongue or handes, notwithstanding their long controuersie, which hath perhaps lasted at the least these twenty yeares, he is still victorious, and holds his right: but you must think that his striuing for / it all this while, hath bin no small trouble & vexation vnto him, beside all other aforefaid euils: all which, or part therof he hath likewise endured: well, to be short, he hath perchance three or foure

children all married, and by reason of the great paines and trauell that hee hath taken in bringing them vp, prouiding them portions, mayntaining his wife, encreasing his stock, or at least keeping it from beeing diminished, and liuing with credit amongst his neighbours: At last it may be hee hath gotten the goute, or some other daungerous disease, and withall is growne old, and thereby feeble, so that being set he can hardly rise, through an ache that he hath got in his armes or his legs: Then is their long warre come to an end, and the case (as *Ployden* sayth) cleane altered, for his wife beeing younger then hee, and as frolick as euer shee was, will now bee sure to haue her owne will in despight of his beard: heereby the poore man, which hath maintained the combate so long, is now vtterlie put downe: his owne children, which before hee kept in awe well enough, will now take heede to themselues, and if hee reprooue them for their leudnesse and disobedience, shee will maintaine them against him to his teeth, which must needes bee a great grieffe vnto him. But besides all this, he is in doubt of his seruantes, for they likewise neglect their former duetie, and leane altogether to their mistres: so that hee poore man, which now by reason of his sicknes, and feeblenes of body, hath more neede of attendance then euer he had, shall haue very little or none at all, for

though he be as wife and as carefull as euer he was, yet sith hee cannot stirre to followe them as hee was wont, they contemne, and make no more reckoning of him, then if hee were a meere foole. Then peradventure his eldest sonne thinking that his father liues too long, will take vpon him to guide the house, and disposing all things at his pleasure, as if his father were become an innocent, and could no longer looke to things as hee was wont, iudge you whether the good man seeing himselfe thus vsed by his wife, children, and seruantes, be greeued or not. If he purpose to make his will, they / will seeke all meanes to keepe him from doing it, because they heare an inkling, that he will bestow somewhat on the Parish, or will not bequeath his wife so much as she would haue. To be short, that they may make an end of him the sooner, they will many times leaue him in his chamber halfe a day and more, without meate, fier, or ought else, not one of them comming to see what hee wants, or to do him any seruice: his wife is wearie of him by reason of his spitting, coughing, and groaning. All the loue and kindnesse, which he had in former times shewed vnto her, is quite forgotten: but his strife for superioritie, and his crabbednesse towards her (when she had iustly moued him) this she can still as well remember, as when it

was first doone: neither will she spare to prate thereof to her neighbors, telling them that he hath bin a bad man, and that she hath led such a life with him, that if she had not bene a woman of great patience, she could neuer haue endured to keepe house with so crabbed a churle: She will likewise boldly reproach, and twit him in the teeth with those former matters, for it doth shrewdly sticke in her stomack, that she could not till now be mistres: But he that was wont to charme her tongue, and keepe her vnder, who, seeing him now in his distresse and weaknesse, takes aduantage, and continues his bad vsage, seeing also his children, which should feare and reuerence him, taking part with their mother, being taught and set on by her, seeing this (I say) and being no lesse angry then grieued, hee calls some of them in a rage, and when they are come before him, thus begins he to his wife. Wife you are she whome by the lawes both of God and man, I should loue and esteeme more then any thing else in the world: and you on the other side should beare the like affection to me: but whether you doe so or not, I referre it to your owne conscience, I tell you I am not well pleased with your vsing of me thus: I thinke you take me still for the Master of the house as before you haue done, but whether you thinke so or not, bee

sure I will bee Maister while I liue, yet (you I thanke you) doe vse me, and account of me in very flight maner : I haue alwaies loued you well, neuer / suffred you to lack that which was meete : I haue in like fort loued, and also maintained your children and mine according to my degree, and now both you and they do very kindly acquite me. Why (faith she) what would you haue vs do? We do the best that we can, but you can not tel your selfe what you would haue? The better we vse you, and the more wee tend you, the worse you are : But you were neuer other, alwaies brawling, and neuer quiet, neuer pleased full nor fasting : I thinke neuer woman was so long troubled with a crooked Postle as I haue bin. Ah dame (faith he) leaue these wordes I pray you : then turning to his eldest sonne, he saide : Sonne, I haue marueld at your behauiour of late toward me, and I tell you, I am not wel pleased therewith : you are my eldest, and shall be mine heire, if you behaue your selfe as a childe ought to doe ; But you begin alreadie to take state vpon you, and to dispose of my goods at your pleasure : I would not wish you to be so forward, but rather while I liue, to ferue and obey me, as it becomes you to doe : I haue beene no bad father vnto you, I haue nothing impaired or diminished, but increast that which was left mee by my father, which if you doe your

dutie to mee (as I did m[in]e to him) I will leaue you after my deceafe as hee left to mee : but if you continue in your stubbornneffe and difobedience, before God I sweare, I will not bestowe one penny or crosse vpon thee. Heere his wife begins againe to thwart him ; Why, what would you haue him doe? It is impossible for any one to please you : I wis it is high time that you and I were both in heauen, you know not your selfe : what would you haue? I maruell what you ayle. Well, well, (faith he) I pray you bee quiet, doe not maintaine him thus against mee ; but it is alwaies your order. After this, the mother and sonne departing, consult together, and conclude, that hee is become a childe againe, and because hee hath threatned to disinherite them, they resolute that no man shal be suffered to come and speake with him : his sonne / takes vpon him more then before, being borne out by his mother, who together with him, makes euery one believe that the poore man is become childish, and that he hath lost both his sense & memorie. If any of his honest friends & former acquaintance, which were wont to resort to him, come now to aske for him, his wife wil thus answere thē, Alas he is not to be spoken with : and when he demands the cause thereof, doubting he is dangerously sick, ah good neighbor (quoth she)



he is become an innocent, he is euen a child againe, so that I poor soule must guide all the house, & take the whole charge of all things vpon me, hauing none to help me; but God be praised for all. In good faith faith the other, I am verie forie to heare this, and doe much maruaile at it, for it is not long since I sawe him and spoke with him, and then he was in as good memorie, & spake with as good sence and reason as euer hee did before. In troth (saith shee) he is now as I tell yee. Thus doth she wrong and and flander the poore man, which hath alwaies liued in good credit, and kept his house in very good order: but you may be well assured, that hee seeing himselfe in his age thus despised and iniured, and being not able to remedy himselfe, nor stirre without helpe from the place where hee is, therby to acquaint his friends therewith, which might in his behalfe redresse it, is not a little griued, vexed and tormented in his mind with sorow and anger, so that it is a meruaile that he falles not into despaire; for it is enough to make a Saint impatient to be vsed thus by those which should obey, serue, and honour him: And in my opinion this is one of the greatest corrafiues that any man can feele: such is the issue of his great haste and extreame desire to be in Lobs pound, where hee must now remaine

perforce till death doe end at once both his life  
and languishing.

CHAP. X.

*The humor of a woman giuen to al kind  
of pleasures.*

AN other humor incident to a woman by nature is, when the husband, thinking that wedlock was of all estats the happiest, and altogether replenished with delight and pleasure, because he saw some of his friends, who for a whil after they were married were very chearefull and iocund, neuer ceaseth toiling & turmoiling himself till he haue gotten into Lobs pound; wherein he is presently caught fast like a bird in a net: for this comparifon if we do examine the particulars thereof, doth very fitly resemble his estate. The filly birds which flye frō tree to tree & from field to field to seeke meat, when they see a great deale of corne spilt one the grounde, thinke themselues well apaid, and without any feare come thither to feede there on, picking on the graines of corn; but alas they are deceiued, for on a sodaine the net is drawne, and they are all fast tide by the leges, and thence carried in a sack or panior one vpon another to the fowlers house, then coopt vp

in a Cage. Oh howe happy would they thinke themselues, if they were againe at their former liberty to flye whether they list, but they wish to late : yet were this all the euil that they should endure, it were well, but (which is worse) they shal soone after haue their necks wrung off, and their little bodies spitted, to be made meat for men to eate. But they are herein more simple then birds, for they being fast in Lobs pound, are so befotted with their owne sorrowes, that [as] they haue no power to free themselues, so likewise they haue no wil to doe it. But to proceede, the wife not louing her husband, for some defect which is in him, that she may haue some collor for that she doth, makes her mother and other friendes, which blame her for it, belieue, that her husband is bewicht, and by reason of some forcery, made for the most part impotent : hereupon shee complaines of her ill fortune, / resembling it to thos, which hauing the cup at their noses, cannot drinke? Meane while she hath a swéete hart in a corner, who is not bewitched, who vseth her company so long, and with so little héed, that in the end her husband perceiues it, and falling into the vaine of ieaalousie, beates her wel fauordely, and kéepes a foule stirre both with blowes and words, so that she not liking his vsage, giues him the slip : but then is he cleane out of patience ; and

fo husbands in this taking are so mad, that they neuer lin séeing them, and wold giue halfe they are worth to find her again: who hauing thus plaid her pagient, and séeing her husbands humor, compacts with her mother, whose good will she will be sure to get, by one meanes or other, (whereas at the first she wil perhaps thinke hardly of her departure from her husband :) she doth I faye so handle the matter with her, that shee will make the good man belieue her daughter hath binne all this while at home with her, and that shee came to shun his bad vfage, who had shee tarried with him til then, had binne lamed for euer. Before God (quoth shee) I had rather you shoulde restore her againe to mee, then beate her thus without cause, for I knowe that you suspect her wrongfully, and that shee hath neuer offended you: I wis I haue straightlie examined her about it, but if she wold haue bin naught, you did enough to prouoke her: by gods passion I think fewe women could haue borne it. Wel it maye bee, that vpon these or the like words he takes her againe: it may bee also that they are both desirous to be diuorced, each accusing other, and seekinge to winde themselues againe out of Lobs pound, but in vaine; for either the causes that they alleadge are not thought sufficient by the Iudge howe hard foeuer they pleade, but must of force

continue still together, are laughed to scorn of, all that heares the cause; or if they be seperated, yet will not all this set them free, but rather plunge them in deeper then before, but neither of them can marry while others liues: and their chastitie is so brittle, especially heres, that holde it cannot, nor long endure: she who was wont to be so frolick must / néedes continue so still, nay peradventure, being now without controulment, followes her ill life more freely then before: and whereas shee was but earst a priuate queane, is nowe common in the way of good fellowshippe, or else some lustie gallante takes her into his house, and kéepes her by his nose; which must néedes bee vnto him an excéedinge grieffe, and an open shame to the worlde: and which is worthe, hee knowes not how in the worlde to remedie it, but must perforce endure both while this miserable life doth last.

#### CHAP. XI.

*The humor of a woman to get her daughter  
a husband, hauing made a little  
wanton scape.*

THE next humor that a woman is addicted vnto, is, whē a lustie young gallant riding at pleasure vp and downe the countrye, especially

to those places of sportes and pleasure where fine Dames and dainetye Girles meat, whoe can finely mince their meafures, haue their toongues trained vpp to amorous chat ; in which delightful exercifes this yonker both by reason of his youth, his loose bringing vpp, and naturall inclination, takes great felicitie in such companie, and so much the rather, because hee findes himselfe alwayes welcome to such places; and the reason is the comelynes of his perfon, his amiable countenance, and quaint behaiour, for whoe so euer hath these good helpes, shal want no fauour at womens handes : It may bee also : that his parentes are stil liuinge, and hee their onely ioye: they haue perhapes noe child but him, so that all their delight is in mainetaning him brauely. It may bee also that hee is newly come to his landes, and loues to see fashions, though it cost his purse neuer so largely. If any Gentlewomanne offer anye kindnesse, hee is readie to requite it : and at / length through long prancing to many places, he lights on one that doth exceedingly please his eie, and inflame his hart: she is perhaps daughter to some Gentleman, some Citizen, or some worthie Farmer. She hath a clean complexion, a fine proportion, and wanton eie, a daintie toong, and a sharp wit, by reason of all which good gifts, she is grown very famous. She hath bin wooed, sued, and courted by the

braueſt galants in that contrey, of whom perhaps ſome one being more forward and couragious then the reſt, hath offered her ſuch kindnes, as ſticks by her ribs a good while after, and would needs inforce this curteſie with ſuch importunitie, that ſhee had not the power to reſiſt it : for a woman that hath her five wits, if ſhe be withal of a cheereful ſanguin complexion, cannot be ſo vnkind, or ſo hard-harted, as to deny, or repuls the petition of an amorous friend, if he do anything earneſtly proſecute the ſame. And (to be plaine) be ſhe of what complexion ſoeuer, ſhe wil be nothing ſlacke to grant ſuch a ſute. But to returne to our purpoſe, by reaſon of her tender compaſſion, and kind acceptance of this proffered ſeruiſe, it ſo falls out ſhe hath plaide falſe, then is there no other ſhift but to kéepe it cloſe, and to take ſuch order as beſt they can for the ſmoothing vp of ſy matter : he that hath don the déed being a poore yong man, though proper of body, and perhaps can daunce very well, by which good quallitie he won her fauour, & within a whil after cropt the flower of her maydenhead : he (I ſay) after a check or two and no farther matter (leaſt this priuie ſcap ſhould be openly knowne) is warnd from comming any more to the houſe, or frequenting her company whatſoeuer. But now you muſt note, that ſhe being but a ſimple girl betwéene

fourtéene and fifteene yeares of age, nothing expert, but rather a nouice in fuch matters, and hauing bin but lately deceiued, knows not her felfe how it is with her. But her mother which by long experience hath gotten great iudgment, doth by her colour, her complayninge of paine at her hart and ftomack, with other like tokens, perceiues it wel enough, and hauinge (as before I faid) caffierd the author of the action, then taks ſhe her / daughter aſide, and ſchools her ſo, that in the end ſhe confeſſeth that he hath bin dallying with her, but ſhe knowes not whether to any purpoſe or not. Yes (ſayth her mother) it is to ſuch purpoſe (as by theſe ſignes I knowe verye well) that you haue thereby ſhamed your ſelfe and al your friends, and ſpoiled your marriage quite and cleane. To be ſhort, hauinge ſomewhat chid her after the commone order, for hauinge no more reſpect nor care of her honeſtie (yet not chidinge verye extreamely, becauſe ſhe knowes the frailtie of youth by her owne former experience) ſhee concludes thus comfortablye: ſith it is done, and cannot bee altogether remedied, ſhee will ſeeke to ſalue the matter as well as ſhée can, charginge her daughter to ſet a good countenance one it, leaſt it ſhould bee ſuſpected, and to followe her counſel and commaundement in al thinges: whereto the poore wenche willingelye conſenteth.



Then her mother proceedes thus: You know maister T. A. that commeth hither so often, hee is you feé a proper young Gentleman, and a rich heire; to morrow hee hath appointed to bee heere againe, looke that you giue him good entertainment, and shewe him good countenance. When you see me & the rest of our good guests talking together, euer and anon cast your eye on him, in the kindest and louingest maner that you can: if he desire to speake with you, bee not coy, but heare him willinglie, answere him courteouslie. If hee intreate loue of you, tell him that you knowe not what it meanes, and that you haue noe desire at all to knowe it, yet thanke him for his good will; for that woman is too vncourteous and vnciuill, which will not vouchsafe the hearing, or gentlie answeringe to those that loue her, and wish her wel. If he offer you money, take none in anye case, if a ring, or a girdle, or any such thing, at the first refuse it, yet kindly and with thanks: but if hee urge it on you twice or thrice, take it, telling him, sith that he wil néedes bestow it on you, you wil weare it for his sake. Lastly, when hee takes his leaue, aske him when he will come againe? These instructions being thus giuen, and the plot layd for the fetching in / of this kind foole into Lobs pound, the next day he commeth, and is on alhandes

more kindly welcome and entertained: after dinner hauinge had great cheare, the mother falls in talke with the other guefts, and this frolicke nouice gets him as néere to the daughter as he can, and while the other are hard in chat, hee takes her by the hand, and thus begins to court her: Gentlewoman, I would to God you knew my thoughts. Your thoughts fir (faith fhee) how should I kno them except you tell them me? it may be you think something that you are loth to tel. Not fo (faith he) yet I wold you knew it without telling. But that (faith fhe fmiling) is vnpossible. Then quoth he, if I might do it without offence I would aduenture to tell you them. Sir (faith fhe) you may fréely speak your plesure, for I do fo much assure me of your honesty, that I know you will speake nothinge that may procure offence. Then thus (faith he) I acknowledge without fanning, that I am farre vnworthy of fo great a fauour as to be accepted for your seruant, friend, and Louer, which art fo faire, fo gentle, and euery way fo gracious, that I may truly say that you are replenished with all the good giftes that nature can plant in any mortal creature: But if you would vouchsafe mee this vnderferued grace, my good wil, diligence, and continual forwardnes to serue and please you shoulde neuer faile. But I woulde therein equal

the most loyal Louer that euer liued, I would esteeme you more then any thing else, and tender more your good name and credit then mine owne. Good Sir (quoth she) I hartily thanke you for your kinde offer, but I pray you speake no more of such matters; for I neither knowe what loue is, nor care for knowing it: This is not the lesson that my mother teacheth mee now-adayes. Why (faith he) if you please she shal know nothing of it, yet the other day I heard her talke of preferring you in marriag to Maister G. R. How say you to that (quoth shee)? Mary thus (answeres the Gentleman) if you would vouchsafe to entertaine me for your seruant, I would neuer marry, but relie on your fauour.

But / that (faith she) should be no profit to either of vs both, and beside it would be to my reproch, which I had not thoght you wold seeke. Nay (quoth he) I had rather dy then seeke your discredit. Wel sir (faith she) speak no more herof, for if my mother should perceiue it, I were vtterly vndone. And it may be her mother makes her a sign to giue ouer, fearing that she doth not play her part well. At the breaking vp of their amorous parley, he conueis into her hand a gold ring, or some such toy, desiring her to tak it, and keep it for his sake: which at the first (according to her mothers precepts) she doth refus: but vpō his more earnest

vrging of it, she is content to take it in ſ̄ way of honeſtie, and not on any promiſe or condition of any farther matter: when it was brought to this paſſe, the mother makes motion of a iourney to be made the next morning, ſome tē or 12. miles off, to viſit or feaſt with ſome frind, or to ſome fair, or whatſoeuer other occaſion preſents it ſelf: To this motiō they al agrée, and afterward ſit downe to ſupper, where he is placed next the daughter, who carries her ſelfe ſo toward him with her pearcing glances, that the young heire is ſet on fire therewith: wel, morning comes, they mount on horſback, and by the opinion of them al, ther is neuer a hors in ſ̄ companie that can carry double but his, ſo that he is appointed to haue the maiden ride behind him, wherof he is not a little proud; and when hee fees her hold faſt by the middle, (which ſhee doth to ſtaie her ſelfe the better) he is euen rauiſhed with ioy. After their returning home, which wilbee the ſame night, the mother taking her daughter aſide, queſtions with her touching all that had paſſed betweene the amorous gallant and her, which when her daughter hath rehearſed, then procéeds the wilie Graundame thus: If hee court thee any more (as I knowe hee will) then anſwere him that thou haſt hearde thy Father and mee talking of matching thee with Maifter G. R. but that thou haſt noe deſire as yet to bee marriede: if hee then

offer to make thee his wife, and vse comparifones of his worth and wealth, as if hee were euerye waye as good as hee, thanke him for good wil and kindnes, and tell / him that thou wilt fpeake with me about it, and that for thy owne part thou couldft find in thy hart to haue him to thy husband rather then any man elfe : vpon this leffon the daughter fleepes, reuoluing it all night in her mind. The next morning fhe walkes into the Garden, and this luftie yonker followes, when hauing giuen her the time of the day, he fals to his former fute. She wils him to giue ouer fuch talke or fhee wil leaue his companie : Is this the loue you beare me (quoth fhe) to feeke my difhonefty? You know well enough that my father and mother is minded to beftow me other wife. Ah, my fwéete miftres (faith he) I would they did fo farre fauour me herein, as they do him: I dare boldly fay and fweare it, and without vaine glory vtter it, that I am euery way his equal. Oh fir, answeres fhe, I would hee were like you. Ah fwéete miftres, faith he, you deigne to thinke better of me then I deferue, but if you would farther vouchsafe me the other fauour, I fould efteeme myfelf moft happy. In troth fir, faith fhe, it is a thinge that I may not do of my felfe, without the counfell and confent of my parents, to whom I would gladly moue it, if I thought they would not:

bee offended. But it should be better if your selfe would breake the matter vnto them, and be sure, if that they referre the matter to mee, you shal speede so soone as any. He being rauisht with these words, and yeelding her infinite thanks, trots presentlie to the mother to get her good wil: To be short, with a little adooe the matter is brought about, euen in such fort as hee woulde desire; they are straightway contracted, and immediately wedded, both because that her friendes feare that the least delaye wil preuent al, and because he is so hot in the spurre, that hee thinks euery houre a yeare til it be done. Wel: the wedding night comes, wherein she behaues herself so by her mothers counfel, that hee dares sweare on the Bible that hee had her maidenhed, and that himself was the first that trod the path. Within a while after it comes to his friends eares without whose knowledge he hath married himself, who are excéeding sory, knowing she was no meet match for him, and it may be they / haue heard withal of his wiues humor: but now there is no remedie, the knot is knit, and cannot be vndone, they must therefore haue patience perforce. Well, he brings his faire Bride home to his owne house, where godwot he hath but a smal time of pleasure, for within three or foure months after their mariag, she is brought to bed: iudge then in what taking

the poore man is. If he put her away, his sham wil be publick, she grows common, and he not be permitted to marry againe while she liues, and if he keepe her stil, loue her he cannot, suspect her he will, and she both hate him, and perhapes seeke his end: finally, all the ioyes, pleasures, and delights which before time they had, are al turned to brawles banning, cursing, and fighting: thus is he hampered in Lobs pound, wher he must of force remain, til death end his liues miseries.

## CHAP. XII.

*The humor of a woman being matched with  
an ouerkind husband.*

THEre is another humor incident to a woman, which is, when a young man hath turmoyld and tossed himself so long, that with much adoe hee hath gotten into lobes pound, and hath perhaps met with a wife according to his owne desire, and perchance such a one, that it had bin better for him to haue lighted on another, yet he likes her so well, that he wold not haue mist her for any golde; for in his opinion there is no woman aliue like vnto her: hee hath a great delight to heare her speake, is prowde of his matche, and peradventure is withal of so sheepish

a nature, that hee hath purposed wholie to gouerne himfelfe by her counfel and direction, fo that if any one fpeake to him about a bargaine, or whatfoeuer other bufines, he tels them that hee will haue his wiues opinion in it, and if fhee bee content, he will go thorough with it, if not then wil he giue it ouer : thus is he as tame and pliable, as a Jack an apes to his keeper. If the Prince fet forth an army, and / fhe be vnwilling that he fhould go, who (you may think) wil afke her leaue, then muft he ftay at home, fight whoe will for the country : But if fhe be at any time defirous to haue his roome (which many times fhe likes better then his company) fhe wants no iourneyes to imploy him in, and he is as ready as a Page to vndertake them : If fhe chide, he answeres not a word, generally whatfoeuer fhee doth, or howfoeuer, hee thinks it well done. Judge now in what a cafe this filly calfe is : is not he think you finly drest that is in much fubiection ? The honefteft wooman, and moft modeft of that fexe, if fhee weare the bréeches, is fo out of reafon in taunting and controuling her husband, for this is their common fault, and be fhe neuer fo wife, yet, becaufe a woman, fcarce able to gouern her felf, much leffe her hufbande, and all his affaires, for were it not fo, God wold haue made her the head ; which fith it is other wife, what can bee



more preposterous, then that the head should be gouerned by the foote? if then a wife and honest womans superioritie bee vnseemely, and breede great inconuenience, how is he drest, thinke you, if hee light on a fond wanton, and malicious dame? Then doubtles hee is soundly sped: she will kéepe a sweete hart vnder his nose, yet is he so blind y he cannot perceiue nothing: but for more securitie, she wil many times send him packing beyond sea, about some odde errand which she wil buzze in his eares, and he will performe it at her pleasure, though shee fend him forth at midnight, in rayne, hayle, or snow, for hee must bee a man for all wetheres: Their children, if they haue any, must be brought vp, apparelled, fed, and taught accordinge to her pleasure: and one point of their learning is alwayes to make no account of their father. If any of their children be daughters, shee wil marrye them according to her minde to whom shee list, when she list, and giue with them what dowry she list, without acquainting him therewith, till shee haue concluded the match; and then she tels him, not to haue his consent, but as a maister may tell his seruante, to giue him direction howe to behaue himselfe to deale therein: finally, / she orders al thinges as she thinks best her selfe, making no more account of him, especially if hee

bee in yeares, then men doe of an old horſe which is paſt labour. Thus is hee mewed vp in Lobs pound, plunged in a ſea of cares, and corafues, yet hee (kinde foole) déemes himſelfe moſt happye in his happines wherein hee muſt now perforce remaine while life doth laſt; and pittie it were hee ſhoulde wante it, ſith he likes it ſo well.

CHAP. XIII.

*The humor of a woman, whoſe huſband  
is gone ouer the ſea vpon  
buſines.*

AN other humor of a woman is, when the huſbande hath binne married ſome ſeauen or eight yeares, more or leſſe, and as hee thinkes, hee hath met with as good wife as any man can haue, with whom he hath continued al y aforeſaide time with great delights and pleaſures: But admit hee bee a Gentleman, and that hee is deſirous to purchace honor by following armes, and in this humor hee reſolues to make a ſtep abroad, and not to tarrye alwayes like a cowardly drone by the ſmoake of his owne chimney; but when he is ready to depart, ſhe

bathing her chéekes with tears, falls about his neck, cols, kiffeth, and imbraceth him ; thē wéeping, fighting and fobbing, fhee thus begins to him, Ah sweet husbände, will you now leaue me? wil you thus depart from me and from your children, whiche knowes not when wee shall see you againe, or whether you shal euer come home againe or noe? Alas sweete husbände, goe not, tarrye with vs still; if you leaue vs wee are vtterly vndone. Ah fwéet wife (saith he) disswade mee not from this enterprise, which concernes both my credite and alleagiance, for it is our Prince, commaundement, and I must obey: but be you wel assured that I wil not be long from you (if it please God.)

Thus / doth he comfort and quiet her in the best fort that he can, and be she neuer so importunate, be her feares neuer so many, her intreaty neuer so forcible, yet go he wil, estéeming his renowne and dutie to his Prince and country more then wife and children, though next to it he estéeme and loue them chieft of al other. And at his departure hee recommends them to the care and curtesie of his chieft friends; yet some there be whose tender harts melt so easely with kind compassion, that one of their wiues teares, and the least of their intreats, wil tie them so fast by the legge at home, that they wil not stir on foote

from her swéet side, neither for king nor *Keyfar*, wealth nor honor. Thes are crauens, and vnworthy to be called gentlemen. But to returne to this vallorous and braue minded gentleman, of whom we spak before, it may be that either by the long continuance of the warres, or by his misfortune in being taken prifoner, or some other let, hee comes not home in foure or fíue yeares, & al that whil ther is no newes of him : you may be fure that his wife is a forrowful woman, and wholly furchargd with grieffe, being thus depriued of her louing mate, and hearing nothing of his estate. But al things haue an end, and she seeing that in so long a time, she can hear no tydinges of him, doth peremtory conclude that he is dead. Then confidering to liue comfortles in widdows estate, wer an vncouth life, she determines to marry her self to some one so soon as conueniently she may, which wil be soon inough, for a faire woman, if willing can want no choyce. Thus her former sorrow is somewhat alaid, and within a while after clean extinguisht, by the fresh delights, pleasure, contents and sollace which this new choice doth yeeld. So that now hir other husbände is wholly forgotten, her children which she had by him little regarded, and the goods which belong to them, are spent on others, while the poore wretches want things needfull, but not blowes and hard vsage. To be short, the

teares which she bestowed on her other husbande at his departure is dryed vp, her imbraces vanished. And whosoever shoulde see her with this second husbande, and what kindnesse shee shewes / vnto him, woulde verily thinke that shee loues him farre better then she did the first, who in the meane while is either prisoner, or els fighting in extreame hazard of his life. But in the end it chaunceth so, that by paying his ranfome, (if he haue bene prisoner) home hee comes, cleane chaunged thorough the many troubles he hath had: And being com somewhat néere, failes not to inquire of his wife and children, for he is in great feare, that they are either dead or in some great distresse. And doubtles in the time of his imprisonment or other daungeres, hee haue oft thought, ofte dreamed of them, and oft sorrowed for them, oft sought God to preferue and bleffe them. And that perhaps sometimes, at the very instant when she was in the others armes, toying and dallying, and in the midst of her delights. Well, inquiring (as before said) [he] heares that she is married againe: then iudge you with what grieffe he heares it: But his grieffe is bootelesse, for now the matter is past remedy. If he haue any care of his credite, any regard of his estimation, he wil neuer take her more, though perhaps the other hauing had his plesure of her could be wel content either to

restore her to him, or to leaue her to any one else. She on the other side is vtterly shamed, and her name stained with perpetuall reproch, and neither he nor she can marry while they liue. Their poore children are likewise griued and shamed at their mothers infamy. Sometimes likewise it happens, y<sup>e</sup> for the wiues cause, the husband being coragious, doth quarrel and perhaps combat with him, who being better then himselfe, doth either wound or kill him, and the occasion hereof sprung from their wiues prid, because forsooth shee will take the wall of the others wife, or sit aboue her, whom she will in no wise suffer, nor loose an inch of her estate, and hereupon the husbands must together by the ears. Thus the supposed blessednes which hee expected by plunging himselfe in lobs pound, is turned into sorrow, truble, danger, and continuall discontent while life doth last.

## CHAP. / XIII.

*The humor of a woman that hath bene  
twice married.*

THere is another humor belonging to a woman, which is, when a young man hauing found the way into Lobbes pound, méetes with a wife of like years, fresh, lusty, fair, kind and gracious, with whom he hath liued two or thrée years, in al delights, ioys and pleafure that any married couple could haue: neuer did the one difplease the other, neuer foule word past betwixt them, but they are almost ftill kissing and colling each other, like a couple of doues. And nature hath framed fuch fympathy betwéene them, that if the one be il at ease or discontented, the other is fo likewise. But in the midft of this their mutuall loue and follace, it chanceth that she dies; wherat he gréeues fo extreamely, that he is almost beside himfelfe with forrow: he mournes, not only in his apparel for a shew, but vnfainedly, in his very heart, and that fo much, that hee shunnes al places of pleafure, and al company, liues follitary and spends the time in daily complaints & mones, and bitterly bewaling the losse of fo good a wife, wherein no man can iustly blame him, for it is a losse worthy to be

lamented. And a iewel which whofoere hath is happy (but this happines is very rare). To be short, his thoughts are al on her, and she so firmly printed in his mind, that whether he fléepe or wake, she féemes alwaies to bee in fight ; but as all thinges hath an end, so here had sorrowe. After awhile some of his friendes hauing spied out a second match, which as they think is very fit for him, do preuaile so much with him, through her perswasions, that hee accepts it, and marries himselfe againe, but not as before, with a yong maid, but with a lusty widow, of a middle age and much experience ; who by the trial which she had of her first husband, knowes how to handle the secōd : but that she may do it the better, she doth not presently discouer / her humor, til she haue thoroughly markt how he is inclined, what his cōditions are, & what his nature is : which finding milde, and kind, and very flexible (the fittest mould to cast a foole in) hauing now the full length of his foot, then shewes she herselfe what she is, vnmasking her dissembling malice. Her first attempt is to vsurpe superioritie, and to become his head, and this shee obtaines without any great difficultye, for there is nothing so lauish as a simple & wel natured young man being in subiection, that is married, to a widow, especially if she be, as the most of them are, of a peruers and crabed nature. I may very wel com-



pare him to an vnfortūat wretch whose il happe is to bee cast into a strong prison, vnder the kéeping of a cruel and pittileffe Jaylor, that is not moued to compassion, but rather to great rigor, in the beholdinge the miseries of this poore wretch; whose onely refuge in this distresse, is to pray vnto God to giue him patience to endure this crosse, for if hee complaine of his hard vsage, it will afterwards proue worse.

But to proceede: This iolly widdow wil within a while grow Jealous, feare and suspect that some other dame hath part of that which she so mightily desireth, and wherewith shee could neuer bee satisfied, so that if hee glut not her insatiabie humor, straighteway shee conceiueth this opinion if hee doe but talke, nay, which is worse, looke on any other woman; for shee by her good wil would bee alwayes in his armes, or at the least in his companie: For as the fish whiche hauinge beene in water, that through the heate of the sommer is halfe dryed vpp, beginnes to sticke full of mudde, séekes for fresh water, and hauinge founde it, doth willingly remayn therein and wil in no wise return to his former place: euen so an olde woman, hauinge gottenne a younge man, will cling to him, like an Iuy to an Elme. But on the other side, a young man cannot loue an olde woman, howsoeuer hee doth dissemble, neither is

there any, that more endaungers his death: for it is with him, as with one that drinketh musty wine, who if he be thirstye feeles / nothings whiles hee is drinking, but at the ende of his draught, he feeles such a displeasing taste, that it doth almost turne his stomack. But if yong men can in no wise fancy old women, what loue think you yong women can beare to old men, whē besid the fundry imperfections of their age, which are so loathsome, that it is impossible for a fresh yong tender damsell, be shee neuer so vertuous, to endure the companye, much lesse the kisses and imbraces of the persone which hath them, all the lusty gallantes thereabouts will not faile to vse whatsoeuer deuises and meanes possible for the horninge of the olde dotard, hoping that shee wil bee easly woon to wantonnes: and surely they grond this hope on great likelihood, for sith it is no difficult exploit to graft the like kindnes on a yong mans forehead, who is able in far better measure to fēede his wiues appetite, and shee hath therefore more cause to be true to him, it may surely seeme no great matter to performe the like piece of seruice with this other infortunate dame, who is almost hunger starued for lacke of the due beneuolence of wedlocke. But now to returne to our young man, yoakt (as before I saide) to this olde widdow, I conclude that his estate is most miserable: for besides the

daunger of his health, and beside the subiection, nay rather seruitude which hee liues in, this third euill, I meane his wiues ieaiousie, is alone an intollerable torment vnto him, so that be he neuer so quiet, neuer so desirous to content her, neuer so feareful to displease her, yet cannot he auoyd her brawles, obiections and falce accusations of lewdnes and disloyaltie, for an olde woman infected with ieaiousie, is like a hellish furie: If he go to any of her friends about any busines, yea to the Church to serue God, yet will shee alwayes thinke the worst, and assure her selfe, that he playes falce, though indeede he be neuer so continent, who whatsoeuer he pleadeth in his owne defence, yea though he proue himselfe blameles by such reasons as she can by noe reason confute, yet will not all this satisfie her, such is the peruersenes of her stubborne, crabbed, and mali[tious] nature, made worfe by dotage and rainging Ieaiousie; / for being priuie to her owne defectes, and knowing that he, by reason of his youth and hāsomnes may perchance fal in fauour with a yong dame, thinking withall that a yong man, whē he may haue such a match, wil be loth to leaue it for a worfe, or prefer four veriuce before sweete wine, She cōcluds peremptory in these sugestions as before. Lo here the issue of this asses turning into Lobs pound, and intangling of himself again, when he had once gotten out to

his former liberty ; which if he once more looke for, he is mad, for he must now perforce continue there while life doth last, which [by] this meanes will be farre shorter, and hee looke farre older, hauing beene but two yeares married with this olde crib, then if he had liued ten yeeares with a young wife.

## CHAP. XV.

*The humor of a young woman giuen ouer to al  
kind of wantonneffe.*

THere is yet another humor that a woman is subiect to, which is, when an vnfortunat yong man, hauing long laboured to get into Lobs pound, & hauing in the end obtained his desires, doth match him-selfe with a lusty wanton young wench, which without fear of him, or care of her own credit, takes her pleasure freely, and withal so ouer boldly, and vnaduisedly, that within a whil her husband perceius it; who there vpon being not a little intraged, doth in the heate of his impatience, after much brawling on both sides, roughly and desperatly threaten her, thinking therby to terrifie her, & mak her honest by compulsion : But that makes her worse, for whereas before she did it for wantonefs, now will she do it for despight : and what with the

on and the other, be so inflamed that were she fure to be killed for it, yet would she not leaue it: Which he perceiuing, watcheth her doings so narrowly, that in the end he sees her swéet hart com closely to his hous; then / being on fire with furie, runnes hastily to surprize him, and enters his wiues chamber with full purpose to kill him, though he had ten thousand liues: But iudge you in what a taking the poore yong man is, in seeing himselfe thus surprized, and looking for nothing els but present death, because hee hath nothinge to defende himselfe. But shee for whose sake hee hath incurred this daungere, doth kindly free him by this stratagem, for as her husbände is ready to strike or stabe him, shee catcheth him hastily aboute the middle, crying out, Alasse man what dooe you meane? While shee thus staies her husband, the younkere betakes him to his heeles, running downe the staires amayne, and out of the doores, as if the diuell were at his tayle, and after him the good man as faste as hee can driue. But when hee sees that he cannot ouertake him, hee turnes backe in a like rage, to wreake his angere one his wife. But shee dreadinge as much, getes her hastilye (before his returne) to her mother, to whome shee complaines of his causelesse suspicion and deuillish furie, iustifying her selfe, as

if ſhe wer not the woman, that would commit ſo leaud a part : But her mother ſifting the matter narrowely, her daughter confeſſeth her faulte ; but to make it ſeeme the leſſe ſhe teles her a large tale of the younge manes importunity, whoe for ſo longe time together did continually trouble her, and whether ſoeuer ſhee wente hee woulde bee ſure to folow her, begging pitifully her loue and fauour ; that ſhe had often ſharply answered him, & flatly denied his ſute, yet could ſhe not for all that be rid of him : ſo that in the end, ſhe was inforct for her own quietnes to graunt his requeſt. She repeats withall, how kindly & intierly he loues her, how much he hath beſtoed on her, how many foule iournies he hath had for her ſake in rayne and ſnowe, as well by night as daye, in danger of théeues, in perrill of his life, and how narroly he eſcaped her husband the laſt time, ſo that for verye pittie and compaſion, ſhe was moued to fauour him, & no woman could be ſo hard harted, as to ſuffer ſo true and kind a yong man to lan/guiſh for her loue, and die vnregarded : for on my life, mother (faith ſhe) if I had not yéelded, he woulde haue dyed for thought.

The mother hearing her daughter to ſaye thus, acceptes her anſwere for currant, and thinkes that ſhee hath ſufficiently iuſtified her ſelfe, but to

preuent further scandal, and to appeafe her angry fonn in law, & reconcile her daughter vnto him by cafting a mift before his eyes, ſhe takes this cours, ſhe ſends for her eſpeciall goſſip & companions, whos counfels in like cafes ſhe doth uſe: they comming at the firſt cal, & being al aſſembled either before a good fier (if it bee winter) or in a greene arbor (if it be ſomer) one of thē noting her daughters heauy countenance demandes ſ̄ caufe therof: Mary, faith ſhe, ſhe hath had a miſchance about which I haue made bold to trouble you, & craue your aduice: with that ſhe recounts the whole matter vnto them, but ſhewing the true caufe of her husbands anger: to be ſhort, ſhe hath ready two or three pottles of wine, & a few iunkets, which they preſently fal aboard, that they may the better giue their ſeuerall verdicts afterwards; mean whil they cōfort the young woman, bidding her aſſure her ſelf, that hir husband is more perplexed then ſhe: and that I know by min own experience, for my husband and I wer onc at variance, but he could neuer be quiet til we wer made friēds. In good faith goſſip (faith another) and ſo ſerued I min. Another makes a motion to ſēd for the yong gallant that is ſo true a louer to her goſſipes daughter, that his preſence may cheer her, & rid away her melancholly. This motion doth hir mother faintly cōtradict, but in

the end most voices preuails, he is sent for, and comes with a trice; then ther is much good chat, many a reproche and kinde scoffe giuen the poore husband: And to mend the matter comes in the chambermayd, who was priuie to all the former close packing between her mistres and her sweete hart, and for her silence and imployment in furthering both their contents, she hath gotten a new gowne, and somwhat els: it may be her maister hath sent her abroad about some busines, or perhaps she coines an excuse of / her selfe, thereby to make a step abroad to see her mistresse, and to bring her newes how al things go at home: She hath no sooner set a foote within the roome wher they are, then one of them askes how her maister doth? My maister (saith she) I neuer saw a man in that taking: I dar say that sinc yesterday morning when this misfortune happened, he hath not eaten one crum, dranke one drop, or slept one winke al yester night. To day he sat down to dinner, and put one bit in his mouth but could not swallow it, for he spit it out presently, and sat a good while after in a dumpe: In the end striking his knif on the table, he rose hastily, and went into the garden, and immediatly cam in again: To be short, he is altogether out of temper, and can rest no where; he doth nothing but sigh and sob, and he looks like a dead man: hereat they laugh apace,



and to be short, they determine that two of the chiefe of them, shall goe and speak with him the next morning, & that when they are in the midft of their talk the rest shal come in afterward. The mother with her two gossips, according to this plot, doe procéede in the matter. And next morning finding him in his dumpes, one of them gentilly askes him what he ayles? herto he answeres onely with a sigh: whereupon she takes occasion thus to speak. In good faith gossip I must chid you, my gossip your wiues mother told mee I know not what of a disagrément betweene your wife and you, and a certain fond humor that you are fallen into: I wis I am forry to hear it: And before God you are not so wise as I had thought you had ben, to wrong your wife thus without a cause, for I durft lay my life ther is no such matter. By this good day (faith another) I haue knowne her euer since she was a little one, both maide and wif, and I neuer saw but wel by the womã: And in good sooth it griues me to the very hart, that her name shold now come in question without cause: Before God you haue don the poore woman that disgrac, and so stained her good name, that you [will] neuer be able to make her amendes. Then stepes in the chamber-maid with her fine eggs. In good faith (faith she) I know not what my maister hath seene, or whereon hee doth / ground his suspition,

but I take God to my witnes that I neuer saw any such matter by my mistresse, and yet I am sure that if there were any such thing, I should see it as soone as another. Gods body drab, faith he al inragd, wilt thou face me downe of that which my self saw? Oh gossip, quoth on of the dams, God-forbid, that euery man and woman which is alone together should do euill. I deny not, faith the chamber-maide, that the villan knaue hath long sued vnto my mistres for such a matter, but by my honesty master, I know ȳ there is neuer a man aliue whom she hates more: and rather thē she would comit any such folly with him, she would se him hãgd and be burned her self: I maruel how the diuel hee got into the house. Here the other gossips com in on after another, and each giues her verdit: In good faith gossip, faith one, I think that next your wif, ther is not a woman in the world ȳ loues you beter then I do: and if I knew or thoght any such mater as you suspect, be sure I wold not let to tel you of it. Surely faith another, this is but the diuels worke to set them at variance, for he cannot abide that husband and wif shold liue wel together. In good faith faith the third, the poore woman doth nothing but weep. By Christ quoth the fourth I fear it wil cost her her life, she griues and takes on in such fort. Then comes the mother weeping & crying out, making as thogh

she would scratch out his eyes with her nails, exclaiming in this sort. Ah cursed catiffe, woe worth the hower that euer my daughter matcht with thee, to be thus shamed & slandered, & haue her name spotted without caus. But she is well enough serued, that would take such a base churle, when shee might haue had fundry good gentlemen. Ah good gossip, faith another, be not out of patience, Ah gossip, faith shee, if my daughter were in fault, by our good lord I would kill her my self. But think ye I haue no caus to be moued, when I see my child, being giltles thus vsed? with that she flinges out of doores in a rage, and all the gossips comes vpon him thicke & threefold, who is so full of fundrie thoughts, & so griued and troubled, that he knowes not whereon to resolue, nor what to say. In the / end they growing somwhat calmer, promise if he wil, to vndertake the recōciling of him and his wife, which he most earnestly desireth them to do. They accordingly performe it, so that al controuersies are ended, all strife ceafed, the matter hushed vp, and his wife taken home again; who taking greater courage by the succeffe hereof, and being now cleane past shame, will grow farr bolder in her villany then before. And the poore meacock on the other side, hauing his courage thus quailed, wil neuer afterward fal at ods with her, for feare of

the like storme, but wil suffer her to haue her own  
faying in al things, and be in a manner subiect to  
her, spending the remnant of his life, in  
care, feare, discontent, and grieffe,  
his goods waisting he knowes  
not how, and himselfe a  
laughing stock to al  
that knowes  
him.

FINIS.





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