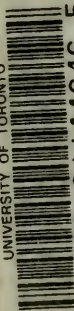
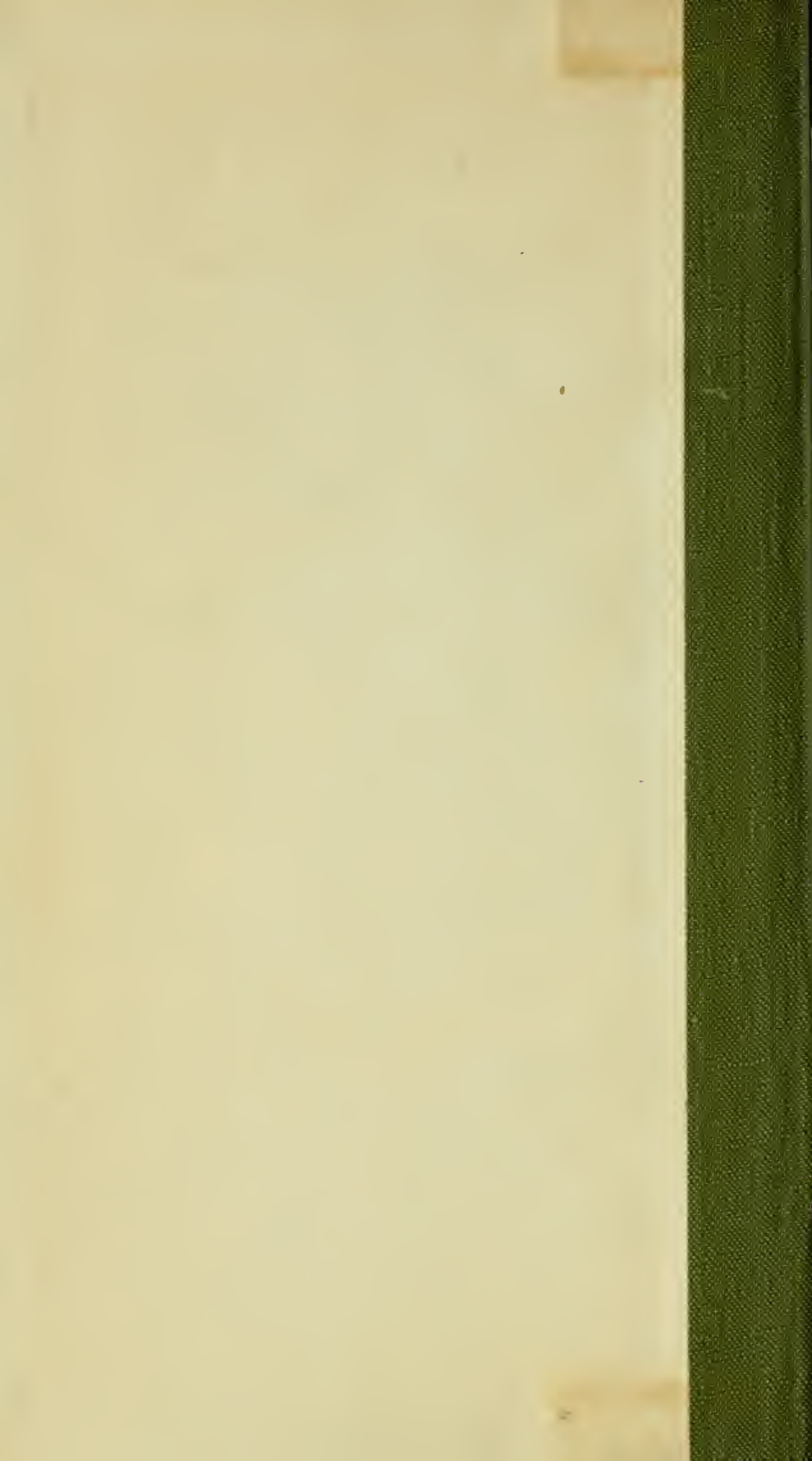


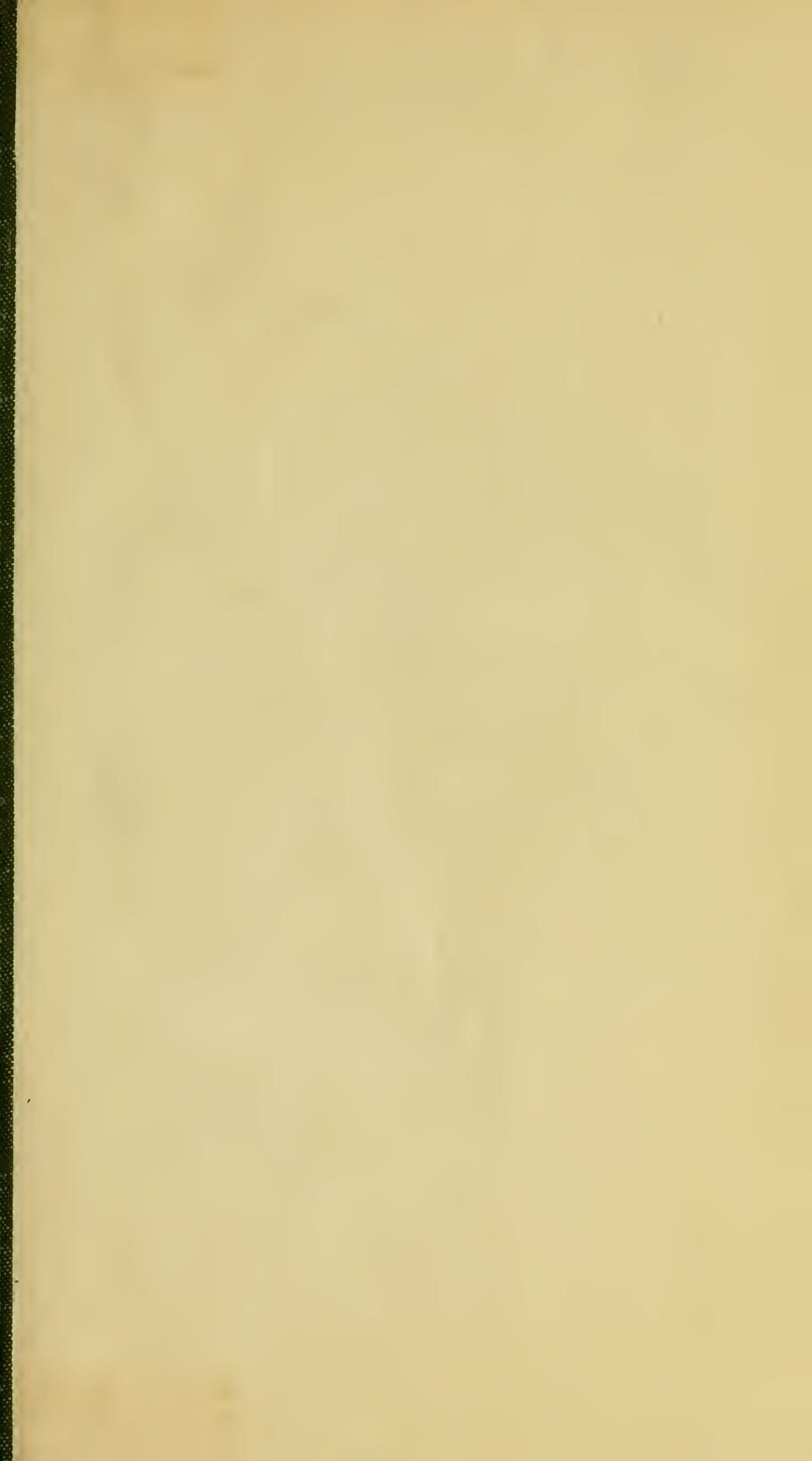
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H. Heath del.

Emily Maverick sculp.

*"O, more than all with powerful Genius blest,
Come take thine empire o'er the willing breast."*

LE
5527 Rp

THE

DRAMATIC WORKS

OF

WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE,

FROM THE TEXT OF

JOHNSON, STEVENS, AND REED ;

WITH

GLOSSARIAL NOTES, HIS LIFE,

AND A

Critique on his Genius and Writings,

BY

NICHOLAS ROWE, ESQ.

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FIRST PART

OF

KING HENRY VI.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

KING HENRY THE SIXTH.
DUKE OF GLOSTER, Uncle to the King, and Protector.
DUKE OF BEDFORD, Uncle to the King, and Regent of France.
THOMAS BEAUFORT, Duke of Exeter, great Uncle to the King.
HENRY BEAUFORT, great Uncle to the King, Bishop of Winchester; and afterwards Cardinal.
JOHN BEAUFORT, Earl of Somerset; afterwards Duke.
RICHARD PLANTAGENET, eldest son of Richard, late Earl of Cambridge; afterwards Duke of York.
EARL OF WARWICK.—EARL OF SALISBURY.—EARL OF SUFFOLK.
LORD TALBOT, afterwards Earl of Shrewsbury.
JOHN TALBOT, his Son.
EDMUND MORTIMER, Earl of March.
MORTIMER'S KEEPER, and a LAWYER.
SIR JOHN FASTOLFE.—SIR WILLIAM LUCY.
SIR WILLIAM GLANDSDALE.—SIR THOMAS GARGRAVE.
MAYOR OF LONDON.
WOODVILLE, Lieutenant of the Tower.

VERNON, of the White Rose, or York Faction.
BASSET, of the Red Rose, or Lancaster Faction.
CHARLES, Dauphin, and afterwards King of France.
REIGNIER, Duke of Anjou, and Titular King of Naples.
DUKE OF BURGUNDY.—DUKE OF ALENÇON.
GOVERNOR OF PARIS.—BASTARD OF ORLEANS.
MASTER-GUNNER OF ORLEANS, and his SON.
GENERAL OF THE FRENCH FORCES, in Bourdeaux.
A FRENCH SERGEANT.—A PORTER.
AN OLD SHEPHERD, Father to Joan la Pucelle.
MARGARET, Daughter to Reignier; afterwards married to King Henry.
COUNTESS OF AUVERGNE.
JOAN LA PUCELLE, commonly called, Joan of Arc.

Fiends appearing to La Pucelle, Lords, Warders of the Tower, Heralds, Officers, Soldiers, Messengers, and several Attendants both on the English and French.

SCENE; partly in England, and partly in France.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—Westminster Abbey.

Dead march. Corpse of King HENRY the Fifth discovered, lying in state; attended on by the Dukes of BEDFORD, GLOSTER, and EXETER; the Earl of WARWICK, the Bishop of WINCHESTER, Heralds, &c.

Bed. Hung be the heavens with black,*
yield day to night!

Comets, importing change of times and states,
Brandish your crystal tresses in the sky;
And with them scourge the bad revolting
stars,

That have consented unto Henry's death!
Henry the fifth, too famous to live long!
England ne'er lost a king of so much worth.

Glo. England ne'er had a king, until his
Virtue he had, deserving to command: [time,
His brandish'd sword did blind men with his
beams;

His arms spread wider than a dragon's wings;
His sparkling eyes replete with wrathful fire,

* Alluding to our ancient stage-practice when a tragedy was to be acted.

More dazzled and drove back his enemies,
Than mid-day sun, fierce bent against their
faces. [speech:

What should I say? his deeds exceed all
He ne'er lift up his hand, but conquered.

Exc. We mourn in black; Why mourn we
not in blood?

Henry is dead, and never shall revive:

Upon a wooden coffin we attend;

And death's dishonourable victory

We with our stately presence glorify,

Like captives bound to a triumphant car.

What? shall we curse the planets of mishap.

That plotted thus our glory's overthrow?

Or shall we think the subtle-witted French

Conjurors and sorcerers, that, afraid of him,

By magic verses* have contriv'd his end?

Win. He was a king bless'd of the King of
kings.

Unto the French the dreadful judgment day

So dreadful will not be, as was his fight.

The battles of the Lord of hosts he fought:

The church's prayers made him so prosperous.

* There was a notion long prevalent, that life might be taken away by magical charms.

Glo. The church! where is it? Had not churchmen pray'd,
His thread of life had not so soon decay'd;
None do you like but an effeminate prince,
Whom, like a school-boy, you may over-awe.

Win. Gloster, whate'er we like, thou art protector;

And lookest to command the prince, and realm,
Thy wife is proud; she holdeth thee in awe,
More than God, or religious churchmen, may.

Glo. Name not religion, for thou lov'st the flesh; [go'st,

And ne'er throughout the year to church thou
Except it be to pray against thy foes.

Bed. Cease, cease these jars, and rest your minds in peace!

Let's to the altar:—Heralds, wait on us:—
Instead of gold, we'll offer up our arms;
Since arms avail not, now that Henry's dead.—
Posterity, await for wretched years, [suck;
When at their mothers' moist eyes babes shall
Our isle be made a nourish* of salt tears,
And none but women left to wail the dead.—
Henry the fifth! thy ghost I invoke;
Prosper this realm, keep it from civil broils!
Combat with adverse planets in the heavens!
A far more glorious star thy soul will make,
Than Julius Cæsar, or bright—

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. My honourable lords, health to you all!
Sad tidings bring I to you out of France,
Of loss, of slaughter, and discomfiture:
Guienne, Champagne, Rheims, Orleans,
Paris, Guysors, Poitiers, are all quite lost.

Bed. What say'st thou, man, before dead Henry's corpse?

Speak softly; or the loss of those great towns
Will make him burst his lead, and rise from death.

Glo. Is Paris lost? is Rouën yielded up?
If Henry were recall'd to life again,
These news would cause him once more yield the ghost.

Exc. How were they lost? what treachery was us'd?

Mess. No treachery; but want of men and money.

Among the soldiers this is muttered,—
That here you maintain several factions;
And, whilst a field should be despatch'd and fought,

You are disputing of your generals.
One would have ling'ring wars, with little cost;
Another would fly swift but wanteth wings;
A third man thinks, without expense at all,
By guileful fair words peace may be obtain'd.
Awake, awake, English nobility!

Let not sloth dim your honours, new-begot:
Cropp'd are the flower-de-luces in your arms;
Of England's coat one half is cut away.

Exc. Were our tears wanting to this funeral,
These tidings would call forth hert flowing tides.

Bed. Me they concern; regent I am of France:

Give me my steel'd coat, I'll fight for France.—
Away with these disgraceful wailing robes!
Wounds I will lend the French, instead of eyes,
To weep their intermissive miseries.†

Enter another MESSENGER.

2. *Mess.* Lords, view these letters, full of bad mischance,

* Nurse was anciently so spelt.

† Her, i. e. England's.

‡ I. e. Their miseries which have had only a short intermission.

France is revolted from the English quite;
Except some petty towns of no import:
The Dauphin Charles is crowned king in Rheims;

The bastard of Orleans with him is join'd;
Reignier, duke of Anjou, doth take his part;
The duke of Alencon flieth to his side.

Exc. The Dauphin crowned king! all fly to him!

O, whither shall we fly from this reproach?

Glo. We will not fly, but to our enemies' throats:

Bedford, if thou be slack, I'll fight it out.

Bed. Gloster, why doubt'st thou of my forwardness!

An army have I muster'd in my thoughts,
Wherewith already France is over-run.

Enter a third MESSENGER.

3. *Mess.* My gracious lords,—to add to your laments, [hearse,—

Wherewith you now bedew King Henry's I must inform you of a dismal fight,
Betwixt the stout lord Talbot and the French.

Win. What! wherein Talbot overcame? is't so?

3. *Mess.* O, no; wherein lord Talbot was o'erthrown:

The circumstance I'll tell you more at large.
The tenth of August last, this dreadful lord,
Retiring from the siege of Orleans,
Having full scarce six thousand in his troop,
By three and twenty thousand of the French
Was round encompassed and set upon:
No leisure had he to enrank his men;
He wanted pikes to set before his archers;
Instead whereof, sharp stakes, pluck'd out of hedges,

They pitch'd in the ground confusedly,
To keep the horsemen off from breaking in.
More than three hours the fight continued;
Where valiant Talbot, above human thought,
Enacted wonders with his sword and lance.
Hundreds he sent to hell, and none durst stand him;

Here there, and every where, enrag'd he slew:
The French exclaim'd, The devil was in arms;
All the whole army stood agaz'd on him:
His soldiers, spying his undaunted spirit,
A Talbot! a Talbot! cried out amain,
And rush'd into the bowels of the battle.

Here had the conquest fully been sealed up,
If Sir John Fastolfe had not play'd the coward;
He being in the vaward, (plac'd behind,
With purpose to relieve and follow them,)
Cowardly fled, not having struck one stroke,
Hence grew the general wreck and massacre;
Enclosed were they with their enemies:
A base Walloon, to win the Dauphin's grace,
Thrust Talbot with a spear into the back;
Whom all France, with their chief assembled strength,

Durst not presume to look once in the face.

Bed. Is Talbot slain? then I will slay myself,
For living idly here, in pomp and ease,
Whilst such a worthy leader, wanting aid,
Unto his dastard foe-man is betray'd.

3. *Mess.* O no, he lives; but is took prisoner,
And lord Scales with him, and lord Hungerford:

Most of the rest slaughter'd, or took, likewise.

Bed. His ransom there is none but I shall pay:

I'll hale the Dauphin headlong from his throne,
His crown shall be the ransom of my friend;

Four of their lords I'll change for one of ours.—

Farewell, my masters; to my task will I;
Bonfires in France forthwith I am to make,
To keep our great Saint George's feast withal:
Ten thousand soldiers with me I will take,
Whose bloody deeds shall make all Europe
quake.

3 *Mess.* So you had need; for Orleans is
besieg'd;

The English army is grown weak and faint:
The earl of Salisbury craveth supply,
And hardly keeps his men from mutiny,
Since they, so few, watch such a multitude.

Exc. Remember, lords, your oaths to Henry
Either to quell the Dauphin utterly, [sworn;
Or bring him in obedience to your yoke.

Bed. I do remember it; and here take leave,
To go about my preparation. [Exit.

Glo. I'll to the Tower, with all the haste I can,
To view the artillery and munition;
And then I will proclaim young Henry king,
[Exit.

Exc. To Eltham will I, where the young
king is,
Being ordain'd his special governor;
And for his safety there I'll best advise. [Exit.

Win. Each hath his place and function to
attend:

I am left out; for me nothing remains.
But long I will not be Jack-out-of-office;
The king from Eltham I intend to send,
And sit at chiefest stern of public weal.

[Exit. Scene closes.

SCENE II.—France.—Before Orleans.

Enter CHARLES, with his Forces; ALENÇON,
REIGNIER, and others.

Char. Mars his true moving, even as in the
heavens,

So in the earth, to this day is not known:
Late did he shine upon the English side;
Now we are victors upon us he smiles.

What towns of any moment, but we have?
At pleasure here we lie, near Orleans;
Otherwiles, the famish'd English, like pale
ghosts,

Faintly besiege us one hour in a month.
Alen. They want their porridge, and their
fat bull-beeves;

Either they must be dieted like mules,
And have their provender tyed to their mouths,
Or piteous they will look, like drowned mice.

Reig. Let's raise the siege; Why live we
idly here?

Talbot is taken, whom we wont to fear:
Remaineth none but mad-brain'd Salisbury;
And he may well in fretting spend his gall,
Nor men, nor money, hath he to make war.

Char. Sound, sound alarm; we will rush
on them.

Now for the honour of the forlorn French:—
Him I forgive my death, that killeth me,
When he sees me go back one foot, or fly.

[Exeunt.

Alarums; Excursions, afterwards a Retreat.

Re-enter CHARLES, ALENÇON, REIGNIER, and
others.

Char. Who ever saw the like? what men have
I?

Dogs! cowards! dastards!—I would ne'er
have fled,

But that they left me 'midst my enemies.

Reig. Salisbury is a desperate homicide;
He fighteth as one weary of his life.

The other lords, like lions wanting food,
Do rush upon us as their hungry prey.*

Alen. Froissard, a countrymen of ours, re-
cords,

England all Oliver's and Rowlands bred,
During the time Edward the third did reign.
More truly now may this be verified;
For none but Samsons, and Goliasses,
It sendeth forth to skirmish. One to ten!

Lean raw-bon'd rascals! who would e'er sup-
They had such courage and audacity? [pose

Char. Let's leave this town; for they are
hair-brain'd slaves, [ger:

And hunger will enforce them to be more ea-
Of old I know them; rather with their teeth
The walls they'll tear down, than forsake the
siege.

Reig. I think, by some odd gimmelst or de-
vice, [on;

Their arms are set, like clocks, still to strike
Else ne'er could they hold out so, as they do.

By my consent, we'll e'en let them alone.
Alen. Be it so.

Enter the BASTARD of Orleans.

Bast. Where's the prince Dauphin, I have
news for him.

Char. Bastard† of Orleans, thrice welcome
to us.

Bast. Methinks, your looks are sad, your
cheerý appall'd;

Hath the late overthrow wrought this offence?
Be not dismay'd, for succour is at hand:

A holy maid thither with me I bring,
Which, by a vision sent to her from heaven,
Ordained is to raise this tedious siege,

And drive the English forth the bounds of
France.

The spirit of deep prophecy she hath,
Exceeding the nine sibyls of old Rome;

What's past, and what's to come, she can
descry.

Speak, shall I call her in? Believe my words;
For they are certain and unfallible.

Char. Go, call her in: [Exit BASTARD.] But,
first, to try her skill,

Reignier, stand thou as Dauphin in my place:
Question her proudly, let thy looks be stern:—

By this means shall we sound what skill she
hath. [Retires.

Enter LA PUCELLE, BASTARD of Orleans, and
others.

Reig. Fair maid, is't thou wilt do these
wond'rous feats?

Puc. Reignier, is't thou that thinkest to be-
guile me? [hind;

Where is the Dauphin?—come, come from be-
I know thee well, though never seen before.

Be not amaz'd, there's nothing hid from me:
In private will I talk with thee apart:—

Stand back, you lords, and give us leave a
while.

Reig. She takes upon her bravely at first
dash.

Puc. Dauphin, I am by birth a shepherd's
daughter,

My wit untrain'd in any kind of art.
Heaven, and our lady gracious, hath it pleas'd
To shine on my contemptible estate:

* I. e. The prey for which they are hungry.

† A gimmel is a piece of jointed work, where one
piece moves within another; here it is taken at large
for an engine.

‡ This was not in former times a term of reproach
to Countenance.

Lo, whilst I waited on my tender lambs,
And to sun's parching heat display'd my
checks,

God's mother deign'd to appear to me ;
And, in a vision full of majesty,
Will'd me to leave my base vocation,
And free my country from calamity :
Her aid she promis'd, and assur'd success :
In complete glory she reveal'd herself ;
And, whereas I was black and swart before,
With those clear rays which she infus'd on me,
That beauty am I bless'd with, which you see.
Ask me what question thou canst possible,
And I will answer unpremeditated :
My courage try by combat, if thou dar'st,
And thou shalt find that I exceed my sex.
Resolve on this : * Thou shalt be fortunate,
If thou receive me for thy warlike mate.

Char. Thou hast astonish'd me with thy high
terms :

Only this proof I'll of thy valour make,—
In single combat thou shalt buckle with me ;
And, if thou vanquishest, thy words are true ;
Otherwise, I renounce all confidence.

Puc. I am prepar'd : here is my keen-edg'd
sword,

Deck'd with five flour-de-luces on each side ;
The which at Touraine, in Saint Katharine's
church-yard,

Out of a deal of old iron I chose forth.

Char. Then come o'God's name, I fear no
woman.

Puc. And, while I live, I'll neer fly from a
man. [They fight.]

Char. Stay, stay thy hands ; thou art an
Amazon,

And fightest with the sword of Deborah.

Puc. Christ's mother helps me, else I were
too weak.

Char. Whoe'er helps thee, 'tis thou that
must help me :

Impatiently I burn with thy desire ;
My heart and hands thou hast at once subdu'd.
Excellent Pucelle, if thy name be so,
Let me thy servant, and not sovereign, be ;
'Tis the French Dauphin sueth to thee thus.

Puc. I must not yield to any rites of love,
For my profession's sacred from above :
When I have chas'd all thy foes from hence,
Then will I think upon a recompense.

Char. Meantime, look gracious on thy prostrate
thrall.

Reig. My lord, methinks, is very long in
talk.

Alen. Doubtless he shrives this woman to
her smock ;

Else ne'er could he so long protract his speech.

Reig. Shall we disturb him, since he keeps
no mean ?

Alen. He may mean more than we poor
men do know : [tongues.]

These women are shrewd tempters with their
Reig. My lord, where are you ? what devise
you on ?

Shall we give over Orleans or no ?

Puc. Why, no, I say, distrustful recreants !
Fight till the last gasp ; I will be your guard.

Char. What she says, I'll confirm ; we'll
fight it out.

Puc. Assign'd am I to be the English scourge.
This night the siege assuredly I'll raise :
Expect Saint Martin's summer, † haleyon days,
I have entered into these wars.
I am like a circle in the water,

wholly persuaded of it.
I expect prosperity after misfortune.

Which never ceaseth to enlarge itself,
Till, by broad spreading, it disperse to nought.
With Henry's death, the English circle ends ;
Dispersed are the glories it included.
Now am I like that proud insulting ship,
Which Casar and his fortune bare at once.

Char. Was Mahomet inspired with a dove ?
Thou with an eagle art inspired then,
Helen, the mother of great Constantine, [thee
Nor yet Saint Philip's daughters,* were like
Bright star of Venus, fall'n down on the earth,
How may I reverently worship thee enough ?

Alen. Leave off delays, and let us raise the
siege.

Reig. Woman, do what thou caeast to save
our honours ;

Drive them from Orleans, and be immortaliz'd.

Char. Presently we'll try :—Come let's away
about it :

No prophet will I trust, if she proves false.
[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—London.—Hill before the Tower.
*Enter, at the Gates, the Duke of GLOSTER, with
his Serving-men, in blue coats.*

Glo. I am come to survey the Tower this
day ; Since Henry's death, I fear, there is
conveyance. †—Where be these warders, that
they wait not here ? Open the gates ; Gloster
it is that calls. [SERVANTS knock.]

1 Ward [Within.] Who is there that knocks
so imperiously ?

1 Serv. It is the noble Duke of Gloster.

2 Ward. [Within.] Whoe'er he be, you may
not be let in.

1 Serv. Answer you so the lord protector,
villains ?

1 Ward. [Within.] The Lord protect him !
so we answer him :

We do no otherwise than we are will'd.

Glo. Who will'd you ? or whose will stands
but mine ?

There's none protector of the realm, but I.—
Break up† the gates, I'll be your warrantize :
Shall I be flouted thus by dunghill grooms ?

SERVANTS rush at the Tower Gates. *Enter, to
the Gates, WOODVILLE, the Lieutenant.*

Wood. [Within.] What noise is this ? what
traitors have we here ?

Glo. Lieutenant, is it you, whose voice I
hear ? [Enter.]

Open the gates ; here's Gloster that would

Wood. [Within.] Have patience, noble duke :
I may not open ;

The cardinal of Winchester forbids :

From him I have express commandment,
That thou, nor none of thine, shall be let in.

Glo. Faint-hearted Woodville, prizest him
'fore me ?

Arrogant Winchester ? that haughty prelate,
Whom Henry, our late sovereign, ne'er could
brook ?

Thou art no friend to God, or to the king :
Open the gates, or I'll shut thee out shortly.

1 Serv. Open the gates unto the lord pro-
tector ; [quickly.]

Or we'll burst them open, if that you come not

*Enter WINCHESTER, attended by a Train of
Servants in tawny Coats.*

Win. How now, ambitious Humphrey ? what
means this ?

* Meaning the four daughters of Philip mentioned in
Acts xxi. 9. † Theft. ‡ Break open.

Glo. Piel'd priest,* dost thou command me to be shut out?

Win. I do, thou most usurping proditor,†

And not protector of the king or realm.
Glo. Stand back, thou manifest conspirator; Thou, that contriv'dst to murder our dead lord; Thou, that giv'st whores indulgences to sin: I'll canvas thee in thy broad cardinal's hat, If thou proceed in this thy insolence.

Win. Nay, stand thou back, I will not budge a foot;

This be Damascus, be thou cursed Cain, To slay thy brother Abel if thou wilt.

Glo. I will not slay thee, but I'll drive thee back:

Thy scarlet robes, as a child's bearing-cloth I'll use, to carry thee out of this place.

Win. Do what thou dar'st; I beard thee to thy face.

Glo. What? am I dar'd, and bearded to my face?

Draw, men, for all this privileged place; Blue-coats to tawny-coats. Priest, beware your beard;

[*GLOSTER and his Men attack the Bishop.* I mean to tug it, and to cuff you soundly: Under my feet I stamp thy cardinal's hat; In spite of pope or dignities of church, Here by the cheeks I'll drag thee up and down.

Win. Gloster, thou'lt answer this before the pope.

Glo. Winchester goose,§ I cry—a rope! a rope!— [stay?—

Now beat them hence. Why do you let them Thee I'll chase hence, thou wolf in sheep's array.—

Out, tawny coats!—out, scarlet|| hypocrite!

Here a great Tumult. In the midst of it Enter the Mayor of London, and Officers.

May. Fie, lords! that you, being supreme magistrates,

Thus contumeliously should break the peace!

Glo. Peace, mayor; thou know'st little of my wrongs: [king,

Here's Beaufort, that regards nor God nor Hath here restrain'd the Tower to his use.

Win. Here's Gloster too, a foe to citizens; One that still motions war, and never peace, O'ercharging your free purses with large fines; That seeks to overthrow religion, Because he is protector of the realm;

And would have armour here out of the Tower, To crown himself king, and suppress the prince.

Glo. I will not answer thee with words, but blows. [Here they skirmish again.

May. Nought rests for me, in this tumultuous strife,

But to make open proclamation:—

Come, officer; as loud as e'er thou canst.

Off. All manner of men, assembled here in arms this day, against God's peace and the king's, we charge and command you, in his highness' name, to repair to your several dwelling-places: and not to wear, handle, or use, any sword, weapon, or dagger, henceforward, upon pain of death.

Glo. Cardinal, I'll be no breaker of the law: But we shall meet, and break our minds at large.

Win. Gloster, we'll meet; to thy dear cost, be sure:

Thy heart-blood I will have, for this day's work.

* Alluding to his shaven crown. † Traitor. ‡ Sift. § A strumpet. || An allusion to the Bishop's habit.

May. I'll call for clubs,* if you will not away:—

This cardinal is more haughty than the devil.

Glo. Mayor, farewell: thou dost not what thou may'st.

Win. Abominable Gloster! guard thy head; For I intend to have it, ere long. [Exit.

May. See the coast clear'd, and then we will depart.— [bear!

Good God! that nobles should such stomachs† I myself fight not once in forty years. [Exit.

SCENE IV.—France.—Before Orleans.

Enter, on the Walls, the MASTER-GUNNER and his SON.

M. Gun. Sirrah, thou know'st how Orleans is besieg'd;

And how the English have the suburbs won.

Son. Father, I know; and oft have shot at them,

Howe'er, unfortunate, I miss'd my aim.

M. Gun. But now thou shalt not. Be thou rul'd by me:

Chief master-gunner am I of this town;

Something I must do, to procure me grace:‡

The prince's espials§ have informed me,

How the English, in the suburbs close in-trench'd,

Wont, through a secret gate of iron bars

In yonder tower, to overpeer the city; [tage,

And thence discover, how, with most advantage they may vex us, with shot, or with assault.

To intercept this inconvenience,

A piece of ordnance 'gainst it I have plac'd;

And fully even these three days have I watch'd,

If I could see them. Now, boy, do thou watch,

For I can stay no longer.

If thou spy'st any, run and bring me word;

And thou shalt find me at the governor's.

[Exit.

Son. Father, I warrant you; take you no care;

I'll never trouble you, if I may spy them.

Enter, in an upper Chamber of a Tower, the Lords SALISBURY and TALBOT, Sir WILLIAM GLANSDALE, Sir THOMAS GARGRAVE, and others.

Sal. Talbot, my life, my joy, again return'd! How wert thou handled, being prisoner?

Or by what means got'st thou to be releas'd?

Discourse, I pry'thee, on this turret's top.

Tal. The duke of Bedford had a prisoner, Called—the brave lord Ponton de Santrailles;

For him I was exchange'd and ransomed.

But with a baser man of arms by far, [me: Once, in contempt, they would have barter'd

Which I, disdainingly, scorn'd; and craved death Rather than I would be so pil'd esteemed.¶

In fine, redeem'd I was as I desir'd. [heart! But, O! the treacherous Fastolfe wounds my

Whom with my bare fists I would execute, If I now had him brought into my power.

Sul. Yet tell'st thou not, how thou wert entertain'd.

Tal. With scoffs, and scorns, and contumelious taunts.

In open market-place produc'd they me, To be a public spectacle to all;

Here, said they, is the terror of the French, The scare-crow that affrights our children so.

Then broke I from the officers that led me; And with my nails digg'd stones out of the ground,

* That is, for peace-officers armed with clubs or staves.

† Pride. ‡ Favour.

§ Spies. || So stripped of honours.

To hurl at the beholders of my shame.
My grisly countenance made others fly;
None durst come near for fear of sudden death.

In iron walls they deem'd me not secure;
So great fear of my name 'mongst them was spread,

That they suppos'd, I could rend bars of steel,
And spurn in pieces posts of adamant:
Wherefore a guard of chosen shot I had,
That walk'd about me every minute-while;
And if I did but stir out of my bed,
Ready they were to shoot me to the heart.

Sal. I grieve to hear what torments you endure'd;

But we will be reveng'd sufficiently.

Now it is supper-time in Orleans; [one,
Here, through this grate, I can count every
And view the Frenchmen how they fortify;
Let us look in, the sight will much delight
thee.— [dale,

Sir Thomas Gargrave, and Sir William Glans-
Let me have your express opinions,
Where is best place to make our battery next.

Gar. I think, at the north gate; for there stand lords.

Glan. And I, here, at the bulwark of the bridge.

Tal. For aught I see, the city must be famish'd,

Or with light skirmishes enfeebled.

[*Shot from the Town. SALISBURY and Sir THO. GARGRAVE fall.*]

Sal. O Lord, have mercy on us, wretched sinners!

Gar. O Lord have mercy on me, woeful man!

Tal. What chance is this, that suddenly Hath cross'd us?—

Speak, Salisbury; at least, if thou canst speak;
How far'st thou, mirror of all martial men?
One of thy eyes, and thy cheek's side struck off!—

Accursed tower! accursed fatal hand,
That have contriv'd this woeful tragedy!
In thirteen battles Salisbury o'ercame;
Henry the fifth he first train'd to the wars;
Whilst any trump did sound, or drum struck up,

His sword did ne'er leave striking in the
Yet liv'st thou, Salisbury? though thy speech doth fail,

One eye thou hast, to look to heaven for grace:
The sun with one eye vieweth all the world.—
Heaven be thou gracious to none alive,
If Salisbury wants mercy at thy hands!—
Bear hence his body, I will help to bury it,—
Sir Thomas Gargrave hast thou any life?
Speak unto Talbot; nay, look up to him.
Salisbury, cheer thy spirit with this comfort;
Thou shalt not die, whiles—

He beckons with his hand, and smiles on me;
As who should say, *When I am dead and gone,*
Remember to avenge me on the French.—

Plantagenet, I will; and Nero-like,
Play on the lute, beholding the towns burn:
Wretch'd shall France be only in my name.

Thunder heard; afterwards an Alarum.

What stir is this? What tumults in the heavens?

Whence cometh this alarum, and the noise?

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. My lord, my lord, the French have gather'd head: [join'd,—
The Dauphin, with one Joan la Pucelle
A holy prophetess, new risen up,—

Is come with great power to raise the siege.

[*SALISBURY groans.*]

Tal. Hear, hear, how dying Salisbury doth groan!

It irks his heart, he cannot be reveng'd—
Frenchmen, I'll be a Salisbury to you:—
Pucelle or puzzel,* dolphin or dogfish,
Your hearts Ill stamp out with my horse's heels,

And make a quagmire of your mingled brains.—
Convey me Salisbury into his tent,
And then we'll try what these dastardly Frenchmen dare.

[*Exeunt, bearing out the Bodies.*]

SCENE V.—*The same—Before one of the Gates.*

Alarum Skirmishings. TALBOT pursueth the DAUPHIN, and driveth him in: then enter JOAN LA PUCELLE, driving Englishmen before her. Then enter TALBOT.

Tal. Where is my strength, my valour, and my force?

Our English troops retire, I cannot stay them:
A woman, clad in armour, chaseth them.

Enter LA PUCELLE.

Here, here she comes:—I'll have a bout with thee;

Devil, or devil's dam, Ill conjure thee:
Blood will I draw on thee,† thou art a witch,
And straightway give thy soul to him thou serv'st.

Puc. Come, come, 'tis only I that must disgrace thee; [They fight.]

Tal. Heavens, can you suffer hell so to prevail? [age,

My breast I'll burst with straining of my cour-
And from my shoulders crack my arms asunder,

But I will châtise this high-minded strumpet.

Puc. Talbot, farewell; thy hour is not yet come;

I must go victual Orleans forthwith.
O'ertake me, if thou canst; I scorn thy strength.
Go, go, cheer up thy hunger-starved men;
Help Salisbury to make his testament:
This day is ours, as many more shall be.

[*PUCELLE enters the Town, with Soldiers.*]

Tal. My thoughts are whirled like a potter's wheel;

I know not where I am, nor what I do:
A witch, by fear, not force, like Hannibal,
Drives back our troops, and conquers, as she lists: [stench,

So bees with smoke, and doves with noise
Are from their hives, and houses, driven away.
They call'd us, for our fierceness, English dogs;

Now, like to whelps, we crying run away. [A short Alarum.]

Hark, countrymen? either renew the fight,
Or tear the lions out of England's coat;
Renounce your soil, give sheep in lion's stead:
Sheep run not half so timorous from the wolf,
Or horse, or oxen, from the leopard,
As you fly from your oft subdued slaves.

Alarum. Another skirmish.

It will not be:—Retire into your trenches:
You all consented unto Salisbury's death,
For none would strike a stroke in his revenge.—
Pucelle is enter'd into Orleans,
In spite of us, or aught that we could do.
O, would I were to die with Salisbury!

* A dirty wench.

† The superstition of those times taught, that he who could draw a witch's blood was free from her power.

The shame hereof will make me hide my head.

[*Alarum. Retreat. Execut TALBOT and his Forces, &c.*

SCENE VI.—*The same.*

Enter on the Walls, PUCELLE, CHARLES, REIGNIER, ALENÇON, and Soldiers.

Puc. Advance our waving colours on the walls;

Rescu'd is Orleans from the English wolves:—
Thus Joan la Pucelle hath perform'd her word.

Char. Divinest creature, bright Astræa's daughter,

How shall I honour thee for this success?
Thy promises are like Adonis' gardens,
That one day bloom'd, and fruitful were the next.—

France, triumph in thy glorious prophetic!—
Recover'd is the town of Orleans:

More blessed hap did ne'er befall our state.

Reig. Why ring not out the bells throughout the town? [fires,

Dauphin, command the citizens make bon-
And feast and banquet in the open streets,
To celebrate the joy that God hath given us.

Alen. All France will be replete with mirth and joy. [men.

When they shall hear how we have play'd the
Char. 'Tis Joan, not we, by whom the day is won;

For which, I will divide my crown with her:
And all the priests and friars in my realm
Shall, in procession, sing her endless praise.

A statelier pyramid to her I'll rear,
Than Rhodope's, or Memphis', ever was:
In memory of her, when she is dead,
Her ashes, in an urn more precious
Than the rich-jewel'd coffer of Darius,
Transported shall be at high festivals
Before the kings and queens of France.
No longer on Saint Dennis will we cry,
But Joan la Pucelle shall be France's saint.
Come in; and let us banquet royally,
After this golden day of victory.

[*Flourish. Execut.*

ACT II.

SCENE I. *The same.*

Enter to the Gates, a French SERGEANT, and two SENTINELS.

Serg. Sirs, take your places, and be vigilant:
If any noise, or soldier, you perceive,
Near to the walls, by some apparent sign,
Let us have knowledge at the court of guard.*

1. *Sent.* Sergeant, you shall. [*Exit SERGEANT.* [Thus are poor servitors
(When others sleep upon their quiet beds,
Constrain'd to watch in darkness, rain and cold.

Enter TALBOT, BEDFORD, BURGUNDY, and Forces, with Scaling Ladders; their Drums beating a dead march.

Tal. Lord regent, and redoubted Burgundy,—

By whose approach, the regions of Artois,
Walloon, and Picardy, are friends to us,—
This happy night the Frenchmen are secure,
Having all day carous'd and banquetted:
Embrace we then this opportunity;
As fitting best to quittance their deceit,
Contriv'd by art, and baleful sorcery.

Bed. Coward of France!—how much he wrongs his fame,

Despairing of his own arm's fortitude,
To join with witches, and the help of hell.

Bur. Traitors have never other company.
But what's that Pucelle, whom they term so pure?

Tal. A maid, they say.

Bed. A maid! and be so martial!

Bur. Pray God, she prove not masculine ere long;

If underneath the standard of the French,
She carry armour, as she hath begun.

Tal. Well, let them practise and converse with spirits:

God is our fortress; in whose conquering name,
Let us resolve to scale their flinty bulwark.

Bed. Ascend, brave Talbot; we will follow thee.

Tal. Not all together: better far, I guess,
That we do make our entrance several ways;
That, if it chance the one of us do fail,
The other yet may rise against their force.

Bed. Agreed; I'll to yon corner.

Bur. And I to this.

Tal. And here will Talbot mount, or make his grave.—

Now, Salisbury! for thee and for the right
Of English Henry, shall this night appear
How much in duty I am bound to both.

[*The English scale the Walls, crying St. George! a Talbot! and all enter by the Town.*

Sent. [*Within,*] arm, arm! the enemy doth make assault!

The French leap over the Walls in their Shirts.

Enter several ways, BASTARD, ALENÇON, REIGNIER, half ready, and half unready.

Alen. How now, my lords? what, all unready* so?

Bast. Unready? ay, and glad we 'scap'd so well.

Reig. 'Twas time, I trow, to wake and leave our beds,

Hearing alarums at our chamber doors.

Alen. Of all exploits, since first I follow'd
Ne'er heard I of a warlike enterprize [arms,
More venturous, or desperate than this.

Bast. I think, this Talbot be a fiend of hell.

Reig. If not of hell, the heaven's, sure, favour him.

Alen. Here cometh Charles; I marvel, how he sped.

Enter CHARLES, and LA PUCELLE.

Bast. Tut! holy Joan was his defensive guard.

Char. Is this thy cunning, thou deceitful dame?

Didst thou at first, to flatter us withal,
Make us partakers of a little gain,
That now our loss might be ten times so much?

Puc. Wherefore is Charles impatient with his friend?

At all times will you have my power alike?
Sleeping, or waking, must I still prevail,
Or will you blame and lay the fault on me?—
Improvident soldiers! had your watch been good,

This sudden mischief never could have fall'n.

Char. Duke of Alençon, this was your default;

That being captain of the watch to-night,
Did look no better to that weighty charge.

Alen. Had all your quarters been as safely
As that whereof I had the government, [kept

* The same as guard-room.

* Undressed.

We had not been thus shamefully surpriz'd.

Bast. Mine was secure.

Rois. And so was mine, my lord.

Char. And, for myself, most part of all this night,

Within her quarter, and mine own precinct,
I was employ'd in passing to and fro,
About relieving of the sentinels:
Then how, or which way, should they first
break in?

Puc. Question, my lords, no further of the
case, [place

How, or which way; 'tis sure, they found some
But weakly guarded, where the breach was
made.

And now there rests no other shift but this,—
To gather our soldiers, scatter'd and dispers'd,
And lay new platforms* to endamage them.

Alarum. Enter an English SOLDIER, crying,
a Talbot! a Talbot! They fly, leaving their
Clothes behind.

Sold. I'll be so bold to take what they have
left.

The cry of Talbot serves me for a sword;
For I have loaden me with many spoils,
Using no other weapon but his name. [Exit.

SCENE II.—Orleans.—Within the Town.

Enter TALBOT, BEDFORD, BURGUNDY, a CAP-
TAIN, and others.

Bed. The day begins to break, and night is
fled,
Whose pitchy mantle over-veil'd the earth.
Here sound retreat, and cease our hot pursuit.
[Retreat sounded.]

Tal. Bring forth the body of old Salisbury;
And here advance it in the market-place,
The middle centre of this cursed town.—
Now have I paid my vow unto his soul;
For every drop of blood was drawn from him,
There hath at least five Frenchmen died to-
And, that hereafter ages may behold [night.
What ruin happen'd in revenge of him,
Within their chiefest temple I'll erect
A tomb, wherein his corpse shall be interr'd;
Upon the which, that every one may read,
Shall be engrav'd the sack of Orleans;
The treacherous manner of his mournful death,
And what a terror he had been to France.
But, Lords, in all our bloody massacre,
I muse,† we met not with the Dauphin's grace;
His new-come champion, virtuous Joan of Arc;
Nor any of his false confederates.

Bed. 'Tis thought, lord Talbot, when the
fight began,
Rous'd on the sudden from their drowsy beds,
They did, amongst the troops of armed men,
Leap o'er the walls for refuge in the field.

Bur. Myself, as far as I could well discern,
For smoke, and dusky vapours of the night,
Am sure, I scar'd the Dauphin, and his trull;
When arm in arm they both came swiftly run-
Like to a pair of loving turtle-doves, [uing,
That could not live asunder day or night.
After that things are set in order here,
We'll follow them with all the power we have.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. All hail, my lords! which of this
princely train
Call ye the warlike Talbot, for his acts
So much applauded through the realm of
France?

Tal. Here is the Talbot; who would speak
with him?

Mes. The virtuous lady, countess of Au-
With modesty admiring the renown, [vergne,
By me entreats, good lord, thou wouldst vouch-
safe

To visit her poor castle where she lies;*
That she may boast, she hath beheld the man
Whose glory fills the world with loud report.

Bur. Is it even so? Nay, then, I see, our wars
Will turn into a peaceful comic sport,
When ladies crave to be encounter'd with.—
You may not, my lord, despise her gentle suit.

Tal. Ne'er trust me then; for, when a world
of men

Could not prevail with all their oratory,
Yet hath a woman's kindness over-ruled:—
And therefore tell her, I return great thanks;
And in submission will attend on her.—
Will not your honours bear me company?

Bed. No, truly; it is more than manners will:
And I have heard it said,—Unbidden guests
Are often welcomest when they are gone.

Tal. Well then, alone, since there's no reme-
I mean to prove this lady's courtesy. [dy,
Come hither, captain. [Whispers.]—You per-
ceive my mind.

Capt. I do, my lord; and mean accordingly.
Exit.

SCENE III.—Auvergne.—Court of the Castle.

Enter the COUNTESS and her PORTER.

Count. Porter, remember what I gave in
charge; [to me.
And when you have done so, bring the keys
Port. Madam, I will. [Exit.

Count. The plot is laid: if all things fall out
I shall as famous be by this exploit, [right,
As Scythian Thomyris by Cyrus' death.
Great is the rumour of this dreadful knight,
And his achievements of no less account:
Fain would mine eyes be witness with mine
ears,
To give their censure† of these rare reports.

Enter MESSENGER and TALBOT.

Mess. Madam,
According as your ladyship desir'd,
My message crav'd, so is lord Talbot come.

Count. And he is welcome. What! is this
the man?

Mess. Madam, it is.

Count. Is this the scourge of France?
Is this the Talbot, so much fear'd abroad,
That with his name the mothers still their babes?
I see, report is fabulous and false:
I thought, I should have seen some Hercules,
A second Hector, for his grim aspect,
And large proportion of his strong-knit limbs.
Alas! this is a child, a silly dwarf:
It cannot be, this weak and writhled‡ shrimp
Should strike such terror to his enemies.

Tal. Madam, I have been bold to trouble
you:

But, since your ladyship is not at leisure,
I'll sort some other time to visit you,
Count. What means he now?—Go ask him,
whither he goes.

Mess. Stay, my lord Talbot; for my lady
craves

To know the cause of your abrupt departure.
Tal. Marry, for that she's in a wrong belief,
I go to certify her, Talbot's here.

* I.e. Where she dwells.

† For opinion.

‡ Wrinkled.

* Plans, schemes.

† Wonder.

Re-enter PORTER, with Keys.

Count. If thou be he, then art thou prisoner.

Tal. Prisoner! to whom?

Count. To me, blood-thirsty lord:

And for that cause I train'd thee to my house.
Long time thy shadow hath been thrall to me,
For in my gallery thy picture hangs;
But now the substance shall endure the like;
And I will chain these legs and arms of thine,
That hast by tyranny, these many years,
Wasted our country, slain our citizens,
And sent our sons and husbands captivate.

Tal. Ha, ha, ha!

Count. Laughest thou, wretch? thy mirth
shall turn to moan.

Tal. I laugh to see your ladyship so fond,*
To think that you have aught but Talbot's sha-
Whereon to practise your severity. [dow,

Count. Why, art not thou the man?

Tal. I am indeed.

Count. Then have I substance too.

Tal. No, no, I am but shadow of myself:
You are deceiv'd, my substance is not here;
For what you see, is but the smallest part
And least proportion of humanity;
I tell you madam, were the whole frame here,
It is of such a spacious lofty pitch,
Your roof were not sufficient to contain it.

Count. This is a riddling merchant for the
nonce;†

He will be here, and yet he is not here:
How can these contrarities agree?

Tal. That will I show you presently.

He winds a Horn. Drums heard; then a peal
of Ordnance. The Gates being forced, enter
Soldiers.

How say you, madam? are you now persuaded
That Talbot is but shadow of himself?

These are his substance, sinews, arms, and
strength,

With which he yoketh your rebellious necks;
Razeth your cities, and subverts your towns,
And in a moment makes them desolate.

Count. Victorious Talbot! pardon my abuse:
I find, thou art not less than fame hath bruited;‡
And more than may be gather'd by thy shape,
Let my presumption not provoke thy wrath;
For I am sorry, that with reverence
I did not entertain thee as thou art. [strue

Tal. Be not dismay'd, fair lady; nor miscon-
The mind of Talbot, as you did mistake
The outward composition of his body.
What you have done, hath not offended me;
No other satisfaction do I crave,
But only (with your patience,) that we may
Taste of your wine, and see what cates you
have;

For soldiers' stomachs always serve them well.

Count. With all my heart and think me
honoured

To feast so great a warrior in my house.

[Exeunt.

SCENE IV. London.—The Temple garden.

Enter the Earls of SOMERSET, SUFFOLK, and
WARWICK; RICHARD PLANTAGENET, VER-
NON, and another LAWYER.

Plan. Great lords, and gentlemen, what
means this silence?

Dare no man answer in a case of truth?

Suff. Within the temple hall we were too
The garden here is more convenient. [loud;

* Foolish.

† For a purpose.

‡ Pronounced loudly.

Plan. Then say at once, if I maintain'd the
truth;

Or, else, was wrangling Somerset in the error?

Suff. 'Faith, I have been a truant in the law;
And never yet could frame my will to it;
And, therefore, frame the law unto my will.

Som. Judge you, my lord of Warwick, then
between us.

War. Between two hawks, which flies the
higher pitch, [mouth,

Between two dogs, which hath the deeper
Between two blades, which bears the better
temper, [best,*

Between two horses, which doth bear him
Between two girls, which hath the merriest
eye, [ment:

I have, perhaps, some shallow spirit of judge-
But in these nice sharp quillets of the law,
Good faith, I am no wiser than a daw.

Plan. Tut, tut, here is a mannerly forbear-
ance;

The truth appears so naked on my side,
That any purblind eye may find it out.

Som. And on my side it is so well apparell'd,
So clear, so shining, and so evident,
That it will glimmer through a blind man's eye.

Plan. Since you are tongue-ty'd, and so
loath to speak,

In dumb significants proclaim your thoughts:
Let him, that is a true-born gentleman,
And stands upon the honour of his birth,
If he suppose that I have pleaded truth,
From off this brier pluck a white rose with me.

Som. Let him that is no coward, nor no flat-
terer,

But dare maintain the party of the truth,
Pluck a red rose from off this thorn with me.

War. I love no colours; and, without all
Of base insinuating flattery, [colour

I pluck this white rose, with Plantagenet.

Suff. I pluck this red rose, with young Som-
erset;

And say withal, I think he held the right.

Ver. Stay, lords, and gentlemen: and pluck
no more,

Till you conclude—that he, upon whose side
The fewest roses are cropped from the tree,
Shall yield the other in the right opinion.

Som. Good master Vernon, it is well object-
If I have fewest, I subscribe in silence. [ed;†

Plan. And I.

Ver. Then, for the truth and plainness of the
case,

I pluck this pale and maiden blossom here,
Giving my verdict on the white rose side.

Som. Prick not your finger as you pluck it off;
Lest, bleeding, you do paint the white rose red,
And fall on my side so against your will.

Ver. If I my lord, for my opinion bleed,
Opinion shall be surgeon to my hurt,
And keep me on the side where still I am.

Som. Well, well, come on; Who else?

Law. Unless my study and my books be false,
The argument you held, was wrong in you;

[To SOMERSET

In sign whereof, I pluck a white rose too.

Plan. Now, Somerset, where is your argu-
ment?

Som. Here, in my scabbard; meditating that,
Shall die your white rose in a bloody red.

Plan. Meantime, your cheeks do counterfeit
our roses;

* I. e. Regulate his motions most adroitly.

† Tints and deceits, a play on the word.

‡ Justly proposed.

For pale they look with fear, as witnessing
The truth on our side.

Som. No, Plantagenet,
'Tis not for fear; but anger,—that thy cheeks
Blush for pure shame, to counterfeit our roses;
And yet thy tongue will not confess thy error.

Plan. Hath not thy rose a canker, Somerset?
Som. Hath not thy rose a thorn, Plantagenet?

Plan. Ay, sharp and piercing, to maintain
his truth; [hood.

Whiles thy consuming canker eats his false-
Som. Well, I'll find friends to wear my
bleeding roses,

That shall maintain what I have said is true,
Where false Plantagenet dare not be seen.

Plan. Now, by this maiden blossom in my
hand,
I scorn thee and thy fashion, peevish boy.

Suff. Turn not thy scorn this way, Planta-
genet.

Plan. Proud Poole, I will; and scorn both
him and thee.

Suff. I'll turn my part thereof into thy throat.

Som. Away, away, good William De-la-
Poole! [him.

We grace the yeoman, by conversing with
War. Now, by God's will, thou wrong'st
him, Somerset;

His grandfather was Lionel, duke of Clarence,
Third son to the third Edward king of Eng-
land;

Spring crestless yeoman* from so deep a root?
Plan. He bears him on the place's privilege,†
Or durst not, for his craven heart, say thus.

Som. By him that made me, I'll maintain
my words

On any plot of ground in Christendom:
Was not thy father, Richard, earl of Cam-
bridge,

For treason executed in our late king's days?
And, by his treason, stand'st not thou attainted,
Corrupted, and exempt‡ from ancient gentry?

His trespass yet lives guilty in thy blood;
And, till thou be restor'd, thou art a yeoman.

Plan. My father was attached, not attainted,
Condemn'd to die for treason, but no traitor;
And that I'll prove on better men than Somers-
set,

Were growing time once ripen'd to my will.
For your partaker§ Poole, and you yourself,
I'll note you in my book of memory,

To scourge you for this apprehension: ||
Look to it well; and say you are well warn'd.

Som. Ay, thou shalt find us ready for thee
still:

And know us, by these colours, for thy foes;
For these my friends, in spite of thee, shall
wear.

Plan. And, by my soul, this pale and angry
rose,

As cognizance of my blood-drinking hate,
Will I for ever, and my faction wear;
Until it wither with me to the grave,
Or flourish to the height of my degree.

Suff. Go forward, and be chok'd with thy
ambition!

And so farewell, until I meet thee next. [Exit.

Som. Have with thee, Poole.—Farewell,
ambitious Richard. [Exit.

Plan. How I am brav'd, and must perforce
endure it!

War. This blot, that they object against
your house,

Shall be wip'd out in the next parliament,
Call'd for the truce of Winchester and Gloster:
And, if thou be not then created York,
I will not live to be accounted Warwick.
Meantime, in signal of my love to thee,
Against proud Somerset, and William Poole,
Will I upon thy party wear this rose:
And here I prophesy.—This brawl to-day,
Grown to this faction, in the Temple garden,
Shall send, between the red rose and the
white,

A thousand souls to death and deadly night.

Plan. Good master Vernon, I am bound to
you,

That you on my behalf would pluck a flower.
Ver. In your behalf still will I wear the
same.

Law. And so will I.

Plan. Thanks, gentle Sir.
Come let us four to dinner: I dare say,
This quarrel will drink blood another day.

[Exeunt.

SCENE V.—The same.—A Room in the Tower.

Enter MORTIMER, brought in a Chair by two
Keepers.

Mor. Kind keepers of my weak decaying
age,

Let dying Mortimer here rest himself.—
Even like a man new haled from the rack,

So fare my limbs with long imprisonment:
And these grey locks, the pursuivants of
death,*

Nestor-like aged, in an age of care,
Argue the end of Edmund Mortimer.

These eyes—like lamps whose wasting oil is
spent,—

Wax dim, as drawing to their exigent: †
Weak shoulders, overborne with burd'ning
grief;

And pithless arms, like to a wither'd vine
That droops his sapless branches to the
ground:— [numb,

Yet are these feet—whose strengthless stay is
Unable to support this lump of clay,—
Swift-winged with desire to get a grave,
As witting I no other comfort have.—

But tell me, keeper, will my nephew come?

1 Keeper. Richard Plantagenet, my lord, will
come:

We sent unto the Temple, to his chamber;
And answer was return'd that he will come.

Mor. Enough; my soul shall then be satis-
fied.—

Poor gentleman! his wrong doth equal mine.
Since Henry Monmouth first began to reign,
(Before whose glory I was great in arms,)
This loathsome sequestration have I had;

And even since then hath Richard been ob-
Deprived of honour and inheritance: [scur'd.]
But now, the arbitrator of despairs,
Just death, kind umpire‡ of men's miseries,
With sweet enlargement doth dismiss me
hence;

I would, his troubles likewise were expir'd,
That so he might recover what was lost.

Enter RICHARD PLANTAGENET.

1 Keeper. My lord, your loving nephew now
is come.

Mor. Richard Plantagenet, my friend? Is he
come?

* I. e. Those who have no right to arms.

† The temple, being a religious house, was a sanctuary

‡ Excluded. § Confederate. || Opinion.

* The heralds that, fore running death, proclaim its
approach. † End.

‡ I. e. He who terminates or concludes misery.

Plan. Ay, noble uncle, thus ignobly us'd,
Your nephew, late-despised* Richard comes.

Mor. Direct mine arms, I may embrace his
neck,

And in his bosom spend my latter gasp:
O, tell me, when my lips do touch his cheeks,
That I may kindly give one fainting kiss.—
And now declare, sweet stem from York's
great stock,

Why didst thou say—of late thou wert despis'd?

Plan. First, lean thine aged back against
mine arm;

And, in that ease, I'll tell thee my disease.†
This day, in argument upon a case, [me:
Some words there grew 'twixt Somerset and
Among which terms he used his lavish tongue,
And did upbraid me with my father's death;
Which obliquely set bars before my tongue,
Else with the like I had requited him:

Therefore, good uncle,—for my father's sake,
In honour of a true Plantagenet,
And for alliance' sake,—declare the cause
My father, earl of Cambridge, lost his head.

Mor. That cause, fair nephew, that im-
prison'd me,

And hath detain'd me, all my flow'ring youth,
Within a loathsome dungeon, there to pine,
Was curs'd instrument of his decease.

Plan. Discover more at large what cause
that was;

For I am ignorant, and cannot guess.

Mor. I will; if that my fading breath permit,
And death approach not ere my tale be done.
Henry the fourth, grandfather to this king,
Depos'd his nephew Richard; Edward's son,
The first-begotten, and the lawful heir
Of Edward king, the third of that descent:
During whose reign, the Percies of the north,
Finding his usurpation most unjust,
Endeavour'd my advancement to the throne:
The reason mov'd these warlike lords to this,
Was—for that (young king Richard thus re-
mov'd,

Leaving no heir begotten of his body,)
I was the next by birth and parentage;
For by my mother I derived am
From Lionel duke of Clarence, the third son
To king Edward the third, whereas he
From John of Gaunt doth bring his pedigree,
Being but fourth of that heroic line.

But mark; as, in this haughty‡ great attempt,
They laboured to plant the rightful heir,
I lost my liberty, and they their lives.

Long after this, when Henry the fifth,—
Succeeding his father Bolingbroke,—did reign,
Thy father, earl of Cambridge,—then deriv'd
From famous Edmund Langley, duke of
York,—

Marrying my sister, that thy mother was,
Again, in pity of my hard distress,
Levied an army; weening§ to redeem,
And have install'd me in the diadem:
But, as the rest, so fell that noble earl,
And was beheaded. Thus the Mortimers,
In whom the title rested, were suppress'd.

Plan. Of which, my lord, your honour is the
last.

Mor. True; and thou seest, that I no issue
have;

And that my fainting words do warrant death:
Thou art my heir; the rest, I wish thee gather:
But yet be wary in thy studious care.

Plan. Thy grave admonishments prevail with
me:

But yet, methinks, my father's execution
Was nothing less than bloody tyranny.

Mor. With silence, nephew, be thou politic;
Strong-fixed is the house of Lancaster,
And, like a mountain, not to be remov'd.
But now thy uncle is removing hence;
As princes do their courts, when they are
cloy'd

With long continuance in a settled place.

Plan. O, uncle, 'would some part of my
young years

Might but redeem the passage of your age!

Mor. Thou dost then wrong me; as the
slaught'rer doth,

Which giveth many wounds, when one will kill.
Mourn not, except thou sorrow for my good;
Only, give order for my funeral;
And so farewell;* and fair be all thy hopes!
And prosperous be thy life, in peace, and war!

[*Dies.*

Plan. And peace, no war, befall thy parting
In prison hast thou spent a pilgrimage, [soul!
And like a hermit overpass'd thy days.—
Well, I will lock his counsel in my breast;
And what I do imagine, let that rest.—
Keepers, convey him hence; and I myself
Will see his burial better than his life.—

[*Exeunt KEEPERS, bearing out MORTIMER.*

Here dies the dusky torch of Mortimer,
Chok'd with ambition of the meaner sort:—
And, for those wrongs, those bitter injuries,
Which Somerset hath offer'd to my house,—
I doubt not, but with honour to redress:
And therefore haste I to the parliament;
Either to be restored to my blood,
Or make my ill† the advantage of my good.

[*Exit.*

ACT III.

SCENE I.—*The same.—The Parliament-house.*

Flourish. Enter King HENRY, EXETER, GLOSTER, WARWICK, SOMERSET, and SUFFOLK; the bishop of WINCHESTER, RICHARD PLANTAGENET, and others. GLOSTER offers to put up a Bill; WINCHESTER snatches it, and tears it.

Win. Com'st thou with deep premeditated
lines,

With written pamphlets studiously devis'd,
Humphrey of Gloster! if thou canst accuse
Or ought intend'st to lay unto my charge,
Do it without invention suddenly;
As I with sudden and extemporal speech
Purpose to answer what thou canst object.

Glo. Presumptuous priest! this place com-
mands my patience, [me.

Or thou should'st find thou hast dishonour'd
Think not, although in writing I prefer'd
The manner of thy vile outrageous crimes,
That therefore I have forg'd, or am not able
Verbatim to rehearse the method of my pen:
No, prelate; such is thy audacious wicked-
ness,

Thy lewd, pestiferous, and dissentious pranks.
As very infants prattle of thy pride.

Thou art a most pernicious usurer;
Froward by nature, enemy to peace;
Lascivious, wanton, more than well beseems
A man of thy profession, and degree;
And for thy treachery, What's more manifest?
In that thou laid'st a trap to take my life,
As well at London bridge, as at the Tower?
Beside, I fear me, if thy thoughts were sifted,

* Lately despised.

† High

‡ Uneasiness, discontent.

§ Thinking.

* Lucky, prosperous.

† My ill, is my ill usage.

‡ l. e. Articles of accusation.

The king, thy sovereign, is not quite exempt
From envious malice of thy swelling heart.

Win. Gloster, I do defy thee.—Lord's, vouch-
To give me hearing what I shall reply. [safe
If I were covetous, ambitious, or perverse,
As he will have me, How am I so poor?
Or how haps it, I seek not to advance
Or raise myself, but keep my wonted calling:
And for dissention, Who preferreth peace
More than I do,—except I be provok'd?
No, my good lords, it is not that offends;
Is it not that, that hath incens'd the duke?
It is, because no one should sway but he;
No one, but he, should be about the king;
And that engenders thunder in his breast,
And makes him roar these accusations forth.
But he shall know, I am as good—

Glo. As good?

Thou bastard of my grandfather!—

Win. Ay, lordly Sir; For what are you, I

But one imperious in another's throne! [pray,

Glo. Am I not the protector, saucy priest?

Win. And am I not a prelate of the church?

Glo. Yes, as an outlaw in a castle keeps,
And useth it to patronage his theft.

Win. Unreverent Gloster!

Glo. Thou art reverent

Touching thy spiritual function, not thy life.

Win. This Rome shall remedy.

War. Roam thither then.

Som. My lord, it were your duty to forbear.

War. Ay, see the bishop be not overborne.

Som. Methinks, my lord should be religious,
And know the office that belongs to such.

War. Methinks, his lordship should be hum-
It fitteth not a prelate so to plead. [bler;

Som. Yes, when his holy state is touch'd so
near.

War. State holy, or unhallow'd, what of that?
Is not his grace protector to the king?

Plan. Plantagenet, I see, must hold his
tongue;

Least it be said, *Speak, sirrah, when you should;*

Must your bold verdict enter talk with lords?

Else would I have a fling at Winchester.

[*Aside.*

K. Hen. Uncles of Gloster, and of Win-
chester,

The special watchmen of our English weal;

I would prevail, if prayers might prevail,

To join your hearts in love and amity.

O, what a scandal is it to our crown,

That two such noble peers as ye, should jar!

Believe me, lords, my tender years can tell,

Civil dissention is a viperous worm,

'That gnaws the bowels of the commonwealth.—

[*A noise within; Down with the tawny coats!*

What tumult's this?

War. An uproar, I dare warrant,
Begun through malice of the bishop's men.

[*A noise again; Stones! Stones!*

Enter the Mayor of London, attended.

May. O, my good lords,—and virtuous Hen-
Pity the city of London, pity us! [ry,—

The bishop and the duke of Gloster's men,

Forbidden late to carry any weapon,

Have fill'd their pockets full of pebble-stones;

And, banding themselves in contrary parts,

Do pelt so fast at one another's pate, [out:

That many have their giddy brains knock'd

Our windows are broke down in every street,

And we, for fear, compell'd to shut our shops.

*Enter, skirmishing, the Retainers of GLOSTER
and WINCHESTER, with bloody pates.*

K. Hen. We charge you, on allegiance to
ourselves.

To hold your slaughtering hands, and keep the
peace.

Pray, uncle Gloster, mitigate this strife.

1 *Serv.* Nay, if we be [teeth,

Forbidden stones, we'll fall to it with our

2 *Serv.* Do what ye dare, we are as resolute.

[*Skirmish again.*

Glo. You of my household, leave this peevish
And set this unaccost'd* fight aside. [broil,

1 *Serv.* My lord, we know your grace to be a
man

Just and upright; and, for your royal birth,

Inferior to none, but his majesty:

And ere that we will suffer such a priuce,

So kind a father of the commonweal,

To be disgraced by an inkhorn mate,†

We, and our wives, and children, all will fight,

And have our bodies slaughter'd by thy foes.

2 *Serv.* Ay, and the very parings of our nails

Shall pitch a field, when we are dead.

[*Skirmish again.*

Glo. Stay, stay, I say!

And, if you love me, as you say you do,

Let me persuade you to forbear a while.

K. Hen. O, how this discord doth afflict my
soul!—

Can you, my lord of Winchester, behold

My sighs and tears, and will not once relent?

Who should be pitiful, if you be not?

Or who should study to prefer a peace,

If holy churchmen take delight in broils?

War. My lord protector, yield;—yield Win-
chester;—

Except you mean, with obstinate repulse,

To slay your sovereign, and destroy the realm.

You see what mischief, and what murder too,

Hath been enacted through your enmity;

Then be at peace, except ye thirst for blood.

Win. He shall submit, or I will never yield.

Glo. Compassion on the king commands me
stoop;

Or, I would see his heart out, ere the priest

Should ever get that privilege of me.

War. Behold, my lord of Winchester, the

Hath banish'd moody discontented fury, [duke

As by his smoothed brows it doth appear:

Why look you still so stern, and tragical?

Glo. Here, Winchester, I offer thee my hand.

K. Hen. Fie, uncle Beaufort! I have heard
you preach,

That malice was a great and grievous sin;

And will not you maintain the thing you teach,

But prove a chief offender in the same?

War. Sweet king!—The bishop hath a kindly
gird.‡

For shame, my lord of Winchester! relent;

What, shall a child instruct you what to do?

Win. Well, duke of Gloster, I will yield to
thee;

Love for thy love, and hand for hand I give.

Glo. Ay; but, I fear me, with a hollow
heart.—

See here, my friends, and loving countrymen;

This token serveth for a flag of truce,

Betwixt ourselves, and all our followers:

So help me God, as I dissemble not!

Win. So help me God, as I intend it not!

[*Aside*

K. Hen. O loving uncle, kind duke of Gloster,

How joyful am I made by this contract!—

Away, my masters! trouble us no more;

But join in friendship, as your lords have done,

1 *Serv.* Content; I'll to the surgeon's.

2 *Serv.* And so will I.

* Unseemly, indecent.

† This was a term of reproach toward men of learning;

‡ Feels an emotion of kind remorse:

3 *Serv.* And I will see what physic the tavern affords. [*Exeunt SERVANTS,*

MAYOR, &c.

War. Accept this scroll, most gracious sovereign;

Which in the right of Richard Plantagenet,
We do exhibit to your majesty.

Glo. Well urg'd, my lord of Warwick;—for, sweet prince,

An if your grace mark every circumstance,
You have great reason to do Richard right:
Especially, for those occasions
At Eltham-place I told your majesty.

K. Hen. And those occasions, uncle, were of force:

Therefore, my loving lords, our pleasure is,
That Richard be restored to his blood.

War. Let Richard be restored to his blood;
So shall his father's wrongs be recompens'd.

Win. As will the rest, so willetth Winchester.

K. Hen. If Richard will be true, not that
But all the whole inheritance I give, [*alone,*
That doth belong unto the house of York,
From whence you spring by lineal descent.

Plan. Thy humble servant vows obedience,
And humble service, till the point of death.

K. Hen. Stoop then, and set your knee against my foot;

And, in requerdon* of that duty done,
I girt thee with the valiant sword of York:

Rise, Richard, like a true Plantagenet;
And rise created princely duke of York.

Plan. And so thrive Richard, as thy foes
may fall!

And as my duty springs so perish they
That grudge one thought against your majesty!

All. Welcome, high prince, the mighty duke
of York!

Som. Perish, base prince, ignoble duke of
York! [*Aside.*

Glo. Now will it best avail your majesty,
To cross the seas, and to be crown'd in France:
The presence of a king engenders love
Amongst his subjects, and his loyal friends;
As it disanimates his enemies.

K. Hen. When Gloster says the word, king
Henry goes;

For friendly counsel cuts off many foes.

Glo. Your ships already are in readiness.
[*Exeunt all but EXETER.*

Exc. Ay, we may march in England, or in
Not seeing what is likely to ensue: [*France,*
This late dissention, grown betwixt the peers,
Burns under feigned ashes of forg'd love,
And will at last break out into a flame:

As fester'd members rot but by degrees,
Till bones, and flesh, and sinews, fall away,
So will this base and envious discord breed.

And now I fear that fatal prophecy,
Which, in the time of Henry, nam'd the fifth,
Was in the mouth of every sucking babe,—
That Henry, born of Monmouth, should win
all;

And Henry, born at Windsor, should lose all:
Which is so plain, that Exeter doth wish
His days may finish ere that hapless time.

[*Exit.*

SCENE II.—France.—Before Roüen.

*Enter LA PUCELLE disguised, and SOLDIERS
dressed like Countrymen, with Sacks upon
their Backs.*

Puc. These are the city gates, the gates of
Roüen,

Through which our policy must make a breach:
Take heed, be wary how you place your
words;

Talk like the vulgar sort of market-men,
That come to gather money for their corn.
If we have entrance, (as, I hope, we shall,)
And that we find the slothful watch but weak,
I'll by a sign give notice to our friends,
That Charles the Dauphin may encounter
them.

I Sold. Our sacks shall be a mean to sack
the city,

And we be lords and rulers over Roüen;

Therefore we'll knock. [*Knocks*

Guard. [*Within.*] *Qui est là?*

Puc. Paisans, pauvres gens de France:

Poor market-folks, that come to sell their
corn.

Guard. Enter, go in; the market-bell is
rung. [*Opens the Gates.*

Puc. Now Roüen, I'll shake thy bulwarks
to the ground.

[*PUCELLE, &c. enter the City.*

*Enter CHARLES, BASTARD of Orleans, ALENÇON,
and Forces.*

Char. Saint Dennis bless this happy strata-
gem!

And once again we'll sleep secure in Roüen.

Bast. Here enter'd Pucelle, and her prac-
tisans;*

Now she is there, how will she specify

Where is the best and safest passage in?

Alen. By thrusting out a torch from yonder
tower;

Which, once discern'd, shows, that her mean-
ing is,— [*enter'd.*

No way to that,† for weakness, which she

*Enter LA PUCELLE on a Battlement: holding
out a Torch burning.*

Puc. Behold, this is the happy wedding
torch,

That joineth Roüen unto her countrymen:

But burning fatal to the Talbotites.

Bast. See, noble Charles! the beacon of our
friend,

The burning torch in yonder turret stands.

Char. Now shine it like a comet of revenge,

A prophet to the fall of all our foes!

Alen. Defer no time, Delays have dangerous
ends;

Enter, and cry—*The Dauphin!*—presently,

And then do execution on the watch.

[*They enter.*

Alarums. Enter TALBOT, and certain English.

Tal. France, thou shalt rue this treason
with thy tears,

If Talbot but survive thy treachery.—

Pucelle, that witch, that damnd sorceress,

Hath wrought this hellish mischief unawares,

That hardly we escap'd the pride of France.

[*Exeunt to the Town.*

*Alarum: Excursions. Enter from the Town,
BEDFORD, brought in sick, in a Chair, with
TALBOT, BURGUNDY, and the English forces.
Then, enter on the Walls, LA PUCELLE,
CHARLES, BASTARD, ALENÇON, and others.*

Puc. Good morrow, gallants! want ye corn
for bread?

I think, the duke of Burgundy will fast,

* Confederates in stratagems.

† I. e. No way equal to that. ‡ Haughty power.

* Recompense.

Before he'll buy again at such a rate :

'Twas full of darnel ; Do you like the taste ?

Bur. Scoff on, vile fiend, and shameless cour-
tezan !

I trust, ere long, to choke thee with thine own,
And make thee curse the harvest of that corn.

Char. Your grace may starve, perhaps, be-
fore that time.

Bed. O let no words, but deeds, revenge this
treason !

Puc. What will you do, good grey-beard ?
break a lance,

And run a tilt at death within a chair ?

Tal. Foul fiend of France, and hag of all
despite,

Encompass'd with thy lustful paramours !
Becomes it thee to taunt his valiant age,
And twit with cowardice a man half dead ?
Damsel, I'll have a bout with you again,
Or else let Talbot perish with this shame.

Puc. Are you so hot, Sir ?—Yet, Pucelle,
hold thy peace ;

If Talbot do but thunder, rain will follow.—
[*TALBOT, and the rest, consult together.*]

God speed the parliament ! who shall be the
speaker ?

Tal. Dare ye come forth, and meet us in the
field ?

Puc. Belike, your lordship takes us then for
fools,

To try if that our own be ours, or no.

Tal. I speak not to that railing Hecate,
But unto thee, Alençon, and the rest ;

Will ye, like soldiers, come and fight it out ?

Alen. Signior, no.

Tal. Signior, hang !—base muleteers of
France !

Like peasant foot-boys do they keep the walls,
And dare not take up arms like gentlemen.

Puc. Captains, away : let's get us from the
walls ;

For Talbot means no goodness, by his looks.—
God be wi' you, my lord ! we came, Sir, but to
tell you

That we are here.

[*Exeunt LA PUCELLE, &c from the Walls.*]

Tal. And there will we be too, ere it be long,
Or else reproach be Talbot's greatest fame !—

Vow, Burgundy, by honour of thy house,
(Prick'd on by public wrongs, sustain'd in
France,)

Either to get the town again, or die :

And I,—as sure as English Henry lives,

And as his father here was conqueror ;

As sure as in this late betrayed town.

Great Cœur-de-lion's heart was buried ;

So sure I swear, to get the town, or die.

Bur. My vows are equal partners with thy
vows.

Tal. But, ere we go, regard this dying prince,
The valiant duke of Bedford :—Come, my lord,
We will bestow you in some better place,
Fitter for sickness, and for crazy age.

Bed. Lord Talbot, do not so dishonour me :
Here will I sit before the walls of Rouën,
And will be partner of your weal, or woe.

Bur. Courageous Bedford, let us now per-
suade you.

Bed. Not to be gone from hence ; for once
I read,

That stout Pendragon, in his litter, sick,
Came to the field, and vanquished his foes :
Methinks, I should revive the soldiers' hearts,
Because I ever found them as myself.

Tal. Undaunted spirit in a dying breast !—
Then be it so :—Heavens keep old Bedford safe !

And now no more ado, brave Burgundy,

But gather we our forces out of hand,

And set upon our boasting enemy.

[*Exeunt BURGUNDY, TALBOT, and Forces,*
leaving BEDFORD, and others.]

*Alarums ; Excursions. Enter Sir JOHN FAS-
TOLFE, and a CAPTAIN.*

Cap. Whither away, Sir John Fastolfe, in
such haste ?

Fast. Whither away ? to save myself by
flight ;

We are like to have the overthrow again.

Cap. What ! will you fly, and leave lord
Talbot ?

Fast. Ay,

All the Talbots in the world to save my life.

[*Exit.*]

Cap. Cowardly knight ! ill fortune follow
thee ! [*Exit.*]

Retreat : Excursions. Enter from the Town,
LA PUCELLE, ALENÇON, CHALRES, &c. and
Exeunt, flying.

Bed. Now, quiet soul, depart when heaven
please ;

For I have seen our enemies' overthrow.

What is the trust or strength of foolish man ?

They, that of late were daring with their scoffs,
Are glad and fain by flight to save themselves.

[*Dies, and is carried off in his Chair.*]

Alarm : Enter TALBOT, BURGUNDY, and others.

Tal. Lost, and recover'd in a day again !

This is a double honour, Burgundy :

Yet, heavens have glory for this victory !

Bur. Warlike and martial Talbot, Burgundy
Enshrines thee in his heart ; and there erects
Thy noble deeds, as valour's monument.

Tal. Thanks, gentle duke. But where is
Pucelle now ?

I think, her old familiar is asleep :

Now where's the Bastard's braves, and
Charles his gleeks ?*

What, all a-mort † Rouën hangs her head
for grief,

That such a valiant company are fled.

Now will we take some order ‡ in the town,

Placing therein some expert officers ;

And then depart to Paris, to the king ;

For there young Harry, with his nobles, lies.

Bur. What wills lord Talbot, pleaseth Bur-
gundy.

Tal. But yet, before we go, let's not forget

The noble duke of Bedford, late deceas'd,

But see his exequies § fulfill'd in Rouën ;

A braver soldier never couched lance,

A gentler heart did never sway in court :

But kings and mightiest potentates must die ;

For that's the end of human misery. [*Exeunt.*]

*SCENE III.—The same.—The Plains near
the City.*

*Enter CHARLES, the BASTARD, ALENÇON, LA
PUCELLE, and Forces.*

Puc. Dismay not, princes, at this accident,
Nor grieve that Rouën is so recovered :

Care is no cure, but rather corrosive,

For things that are not to be remedied.

Let frantic Talbot triumph for a while,

And like a peacock sweep along his tail ;

We'll pull his plumes, and take away his train,

If Dauphin, and the rest, will be but rul'd.

* Scoffs.

† Quite dispirited.

‡ Make some necessary dispositions. § Funeral rites.

Char. We have been guided by thee hitherto,
And of thy cunning had no diffidence ;
One sudden foil shall never breed distrust.

Bast. Search out thy wit for secret policies,
And we will make thee famous through the
world.

Alen. We'll set thy statute in some holy place,
And have thee reverenc'd like a blessed saint ;
Employ thee then, sweet virgin, for our good.

Puc. Then thus it must be ; this doth Joan
devise :

By fair persuasions, mix'd with sugar'd words,
We will entice the duke of Burgundy
To leave the Talbot, and to follow us.

Char. Ay, marry, sweeting, if we could do
that,

France were no place for Henry's warriors ;
Nor should that nation boast it so with us,
But be extirp'd* from our provinces.

Alen. For ever should they be expuls'd† from
France,

And not have title to an earldom here.

Puc. Your honours shall perceive how I will
work,

To bring this matter to the wished end.

[Drums heard.

Hark ! by the sound of drum, you may perceive
Their powers are marching unto Paris-ward.

An English March. Enter, and pass over at a
distance, TALBOT and his Forces.

There goes the Talbot, with his colours spread ;
And all the troops of English after him.

A French March. Enter the duke of BURGUNDY
and Forces.

Now, in the rearward, comes the duke, and
his ;

Fortune, in favour, make him lag behind.

Summon a parley, we will talk with him.

[A Parley sounded.

Char. A parley with the duke of Burgundy.

Bur. Who craves a parley with the Bur-
gundy ?

Puc. The princely Charles of France, thy
countryman.

Bur. What say'st thou, Charles ? for I am
marching hence.

Char. Speak, Pucelle ; and enchant him
with thy words.

Puc. Brave Burgundy, undoubted hope of
France !

Stay, let thy humble handmaid speak to thee.

Bur. Speak on ; but be not over-tedious.

Puc. Look on thy country, look on fertile
France,

And see the cities and the towns defac'd

By wasting ruin of the cruel foe !

As looks the mother on her lowly babe,

When death doth close his tender dying eyes,

See, see, the pining malady of France ;

Behold the wounds, the most unnatural wounds,

Which thou thyself hast given her woful breast !

O, turn thy edged sword another way ; [help !

Strike those that hurt, and hurt not those that

One drop of blood, drawn from thy country's

bosom, [gore ;

Should grieve thee more than streams of foreign

Return thee, therefore, with a flood of tears,

And wash away thy country's stained spots !

Bur. Either she hath bewitch'd me with
her words,

Or nature makes me suddenly relent.

Puc. Besides, all French and France ex-
claims on thee,

Doubting thy birth and lawful progeny, [tion,
Who join'st thou with, but with a lordly na-
That will not trust thee, but for profit's sake ?
When Talbot hath set footing once in France,
And fashion'd thee that instrument of ill,
Who then, but English Henry, will be lord,
And thou be thrust out, like a fugitive ?
Call we to mind,—and mark but this, for
proof ;—

Was not the Duke of Orleans thy foe ?

And was he not in England prisoner ?

But, when they heard he was thine enemy,
They set him free, without his ransom paid,
In spite of Burgundy, and all his friends.

See then ! thou fight'st against thy countrymen,
And join'st with them will be thy slaughter-
men, [lord ;

Come, come, return ; return, thou wand'ring
Charles, and the rest, will take thee in their
arms.

Bur. I am vanquish'd ; these haughty* words
of hers

Have batter'd me like roaring cannon shot,
And made me almost yield upon my knees.—

Forgive me, country, and sweet countrymen !

And, lords, accept this hearty kind embrace :

My forces and my power of men are yours ;—

So, farewell, Talbot ; I'll no longer trust thee.

Puc. Done like a Frenchman, turn, and turn
again !

Char. Welcome, brave duke ! thy friendship
makes us fish.

Bast. And doth beget new courage in our
breasts.

Alen. Pucelle hath bravely played her part
in this,

And doth deserve a coronet of gold.

Char. Now let us on, my lords, and join our
powers ;

And seek how we may prejudice the foe.

[Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—Paris.—A Room in the Palace.

Enter King HENRY, GLOSTER, and other Lords,
VERNON, BASSET, &c. To them TALBOT,
and some of his Officers.

Tal. My gracious prince,—and honourable
peers,—

Hearing of your arrival in this realm,

I have a while given truce unto my wars,

To do my duty to my sovereign :

In sign whereof, this arm—that hath reclaim'd

To your obedience fifty fortresses, [strength,

Twelve cities, and seven walled towns of

Beside five hundred prisoners of esteem,—

Lets fall his sword before your highness' feet ;

And, with submissive loyalty of heart,

Ascribes the glory of his conquest got,

First to my God, and next unto your grace.

K. Hen. Is this the lord Talbot, uncle Glos-
ter,

That hath so long been resident in France ?

Glo. Yes, if it please your majesty, my liege.

K. Hen. Welcome, brave captain, and vic-
torious lord !

When I was young, (as yet I am not old,)

I do remember how my father said,

A stouter champion never handled sword.

Long since we were resolv'd‡ of your truth,

Your faithful service, and your toil in war ;

Yet never have you tasted our reward,

Or been reguerdon'd with so much as thanks,

Because till now we never saw your face :

* Rooted out.

† Expelled.

* Elevated. † Confirmed in opinion. ‡ Rewarded.

Therefore, stand up; and, for these good desert,

We here create you earl of Shrewsbury;
And in our coronation take your place.

[*Exeunt King HENRY, GLOSTER, TALBOT, and Nobles.*]

Ver. Now, Sir, to you, that were so hot at disgracing of these colours, that I wear [sea, in honour of my noble lord of York,—
Dar'st thou maintain the former words thou spak'st?

Bas. Yes, Sir; as well as you dare patronage the envious barking of your saucy tongue against my lord the duke of Somerset.

Ver. Sirrah, thy lord I honour as he is.

Bas. Why, what is he? as good a man as York.

Ver. Hark ye; not so: in witness, take ye that. [Strikes him.]

Bas. Villain, thou know'st, the law of arms is such,

That, who so draws a sword, 'tis present death; Or else this blow should broach thy dearest But I'll unto his majesty, and crave, [blood.] I may have liberty to 'venge this wrong; When thou shalt see, I'll meet thee to thy cost.

Ver. Well, miscreant, I'll be there as soon as you;

And, after, meet you sooner than you would. [Exeunt.]

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—*The same.—A Room of State.*

Enter King HENRY, GLOSTER, EXETER, YORK, SUFFOLK, SOMERSET, WINCHESTER, WARWICK, TALBOT, the GOVERNOR of Paris, and others.

Glo. Lord bishop, set the crown upon his head.

Win. God save king Henry, of that name the sixth!

Glo. Now, governor of Paris, take your oath, [GOVERNOR kneels.]

That you elect no other king but him: Esteem none friends, but such as are his friends; And none of your foes, but such as shall pretend* Malicious practices against his state:

This shall ye do, so help you righteous God! [Exeunt Gov. and his Train.]

Enter Sir JOHN FASTOLFE.

Fast. My gracious sovereign, as I rode from To haste unto your coronation, [Calais,] A letter was deliver'd to my hands, Writ to your grace from the duke of Burgundy.

Tal. Shame to the duke of Burgundy, and thee! [next,]

I vow'd, base knight, when I did meet thee To tear the garter from thy craven'st leg, [Plucking it off.]

(Which I have done) because unworthy Thou wast installed in that high degree.— Pardon me, princely Henry, and the rest: This dastard, at the battle of Patay, When but in all I was six thousand strong, And that the French were almost ten to one,— Before we met, or that a stroke was given, Like to a trusty squire, did run away; In which assault we lost twelve hundred men; Myself, and divers gentlemen beside, Were there surpris'd, and taken prisoners. Then judge, great lords, if I have done amiss; Or whether that such cowards ought to wear This ornament of knighthood, yea, or no.

* Design.

† Mean, dastardly.

Glo. To say the truth, this fact was infamous, And ill beseming any common man;

Much more a knight, a captain, and a leader.

Tal. When first this order was ordain'd, my lords,

Knights of the garter were of noble birth; Valiant, and virtuous, full of haughty* courage, Such as were grown to credit by the wars; Not fearing death, nor shrinking for distress, But always resolute in most extremes.†

He then, that is not furnish'd in this sort, Doth but usurp the sacred name of knight, Profaning this most honourable order; And should (if I were worthy to be judge,) Be quite degraded, like a hedge-born swain That doth presume to boast of gentle blood.

K. Hen. Stain to thy countrymen! thou hear'st thy doom:

Be packing therefore, thou that wast a knight; Henceforth we banish thee, on pain of death.— [Exit FASTOLFE.]

And now, my lord protector, view the letter Sent from our uncle duke of Burgundy.

Glo. What means his grace, that he hath chang'd his style?

[Viewing the superscription.]

No more but, plain and bluntly,—To the king? Hath he forgot, he is his sovereign?

Or doth this churlish superscription Pretend some alteration in good will?

What's here?—*I have, upon especial cause,—* [Reads.]

Mov'd with compassion of my country's wreck, Together with the pitiful complaints Of such as your oppression feeds upon,— Forsaken your pernicious faction, [France,] And join'd with Charles, the rightful king of

O monstrous treachery! Can this be so;

That in alliance, amity, and oaths, [guile?] There should be found such false dissembling

K. Hen. What! doth my uncle Burgundy revolt?

Glo. He doth, my lord; and is become your foe.

K. Hen. Is that the worst, this letter doth contain?

Glo. It is the worst, and all, my lord, he writes.

K. Hen. Why then, lord Talbot there shall talk with him,

And give him chastisement for this abuse:— My lord, how say you? are not you content?

Tal. Content, my liege! Yes; but that I am prevented,§ [ploy'd.]

I should have begg'd I might have been em-
K. Hen. Then gather strength, and march unto him straight: [son;]

Let him perceive, how ill we brook his treason; And what offence it is, to flout his friends.

Tal. I go, my lord; in heart desiring still, You may behold confusion of your foes [Exit.]

Enter VERNON and BASSET.

Ver. Grant me the combat, gracious sovereign!

Bas. And me, my lord, grant me the combat too!

York. This is my servant; Hear him, noble prince!

Som. And this is mine; Sweet Henry, favour him!

K. Hen. Be patient, lords; and give them leave to speak—

Say, gentlemen, What makes you thus exclaim.

* High.

† I. e. In greatest extremities.

‡ Design.

§ Anticipated.

And wherefore crave you combat? or with whom?

Ver. With him, my lord; for he hath done me wrong.

Bas. And I with him; for he hath done me wrong.

K. Hen. What is that wrong whereof you both complain?

First let me know, and then I'll answer you.

Bas. Crossing the sea from England into France,

This fellow here, with envious carping tongue, Upbraided me about the rose I wear; Saying—the sanguine colour of the leaves Did represent my master's blushing cheeks, When stubbornly he did repugn* the truth, About a certain question in the law, Argu'd betwixt the duke of York and him; With other vile and ignominious terms: In confutation of which rude reproach, And in defence of my lord's worthiness, I crave the benefit of law of arms.

Ver. And that is my petition, noble lord: For though he seem, with forged quaint conceit, To set a gloss upon his bold intent, Yet know, my lord, I was provok'd by him; And he first took exceptions at this badge, Pronouncing—that the paleness of this flower Bewray'd† the faintness of my master's heart.

York. Will not this malice, Somerset, be left?

Som. Your private grudge, my lord of York, will out,

Though ne'er so cunningly you smother it.

K. Hen. Good lord! what madness rules in brain-sick men;

When, for so slight and frivolous a cause, Such factious emulations shall arise!— Good cousins both of York and Somerset, Quiet yourselves, I pray, and be at peace.

York. Let this dissention first be tried by fight,

And then your highness shall command a peace.

Som. The quarrel toucheth none but us alone;

Between ourselves let us decide it then.

York. There is my pledge; accept it, Somerset.

Ver. Nay, let it rest where it began at first.

Bas. Confirm it so, mine honourable lord.

Glo. Confirm it so? Confounded be your strife!

And perish ye, with your audacious pride! Presumptuous vassals! are you not asham'd, With this inmodest clamorous outrage To trouble and disturb the king and us?

And you, my lords,—methinks, you do not To bear with their perverse abjections; [well, Much less, to take occasion from their mouths To raise a mutiny betwixt yourselves; Let me persuade you take a better course.

Exe. It grieves his highness;—Good my lords; be friends.

K. Hen. Come hither, you that would be combatants:

[favour, Henceforth, I charge you, as you love our Quite to forget this quarrel, and the cause.— And you, my lords,—remember where we are; In France, amongst a fickle wavering nation: If they perceive dissention in our looks, And that within ourselves we disagree, How will their grudging stomachs be provok'd To wilful disobedience, and rebel? Beside, What infamy will there arise, When foreign princes shall be certified,

* Resist. † Betrayed.

Vol. II.

That, for a toy, a thing of no regard, King Henry's peers, and chief nobility, Destroy'd themselves, and lost the realm of France?

O think upon the conquest of my father, My tender years; and let us not forego That for a trifle, that was bought with blood! Let me be umpire in this doubtful strife. I see no reason, if I wear this rose,

[Putting on a red Rose.

That any one should therefore be suspicious I more incline to Somerset, than York: Both are my kinsmen, and I love them both: As well they may upbraid me with my crown, Because, forsooth, the king of Scots is crown'd. But your discretions better can persuade, Than I am able to instruct or teach: And therefore, as we hither came in peace, So let us still continue peace and love.— Cousin of York, we institute your grace To be our regent in these parts of France:— And good my lord of Somerset, unite Your troops of horsemen with his bands of foot;—

[tors, And, like true subjects, sons of your progeny— Go cheerfully together, and digest Your angry choler on your enemies.

Ourselves, my lord protector, and the rest After some respite, will return to Calais; From thence to England; where I hope ere To be presented, by your victories, [long With Charles, Alençon, and that traitorous rout.

[Flourish. Exeunt KING HENRY, GLO. SOM. WIN. SUP. and BASSET.

War. My lord of York, I promise you, the king Prettily, methought, did play the orator.

York. And so he did; but yet I like it not, In that he wears the badge of Somerset.

War. Tush! that was but his fancy, blame him not; [harm.

I dare presume, sweet prince, he thought no *York.* And, if I wist, he did,—But let it rest;

Other affairs must now be managed.

[Exeunt YORK, WARWICK, and VERNON.

Exe. Well didst thou, Richard, to suppress thy voice:

For, had the passions of thy heart burst out, I fear we should have seen decipher'd there More rancorous spite, more furious raging Than yet can be imagin'd or suppos'd. [broils, But howsoe'er, no simple man that sees This jarring discord of nobility, This should'ring of each other in the court, This factious bandying of their favourites, But that it doth presage some ill event.

'Tis much,* when sceptres are in children's hands; [sion;

But more, when envy† breeds unkind‡ divi- There comes the ruin, there begins confusion.

[Exit.

SCENE II.—France.—Before Bourdeaux.

Enter TALBOT, with his Forces.

Tal. Go to the gates of Bourdeaux, trumpet, Summon their general unto the wall.

Trumpet sounds a Parley. Enter, on the Walls, the GENERAL of the French Forces, and others.

English John Talbot, captains, calls you forth, Servant in arms to Harry king of England; And thus he would,—Open your city gates,

* 'Tis strange, or wonderful. † Enmity. ‡ Unnatural.

Be humble to us; call my sovereign yours,
And do him homage as obedient subjects,
And I'll withdraw me and my bloody power:
But, if you frown upon this proffer'd peace,
You tempt the fury of my three attendants,
Lean famine, quartering steel, and climbing
fire;

Who, in a moment, even with the earth
Shall lay your stately and air-braving towers,
If you forsake the offer of their love.

Gen. Thou ominous and fearful owl of death,
Our nation's terror, and their bloody scourge!
The period of thy tyranny approacheth.
On us thou canst not enter, but by death:
For, I protest, we are well fortified,
And strong enough to issue out and fight:
If thou retire, the Dauphin, well appointed,
Stands with the snares of war to tangle thee:
On either hand thee there are squadrons
pitch'd,

To wall thee from the liberty of flight;
And no way canst thou turn thee for redress,
But death doth front thee with apparent spoil,
And pale destruction meets thee in the face.
Ten thousand French have ta'en the sacra-
To rive their dangerous artillery [ment,
Upon no Christian soul but English Talbot.
Lo! there thou stand'st, a breathing valiant
Of an invincible unconquer'd spirit: [man,
This is the latest glory of thy praise,
That I, thy enemy, due* thee withal;
For ere the glass, that now begins to run,
Finish the process of his sandy hour,
These eyes, that see thee now well coloured,
Shall see thee wither'd, bloody, pale, and dead.

[*Drum afar off.*
Hark! hark! the Dauphin's drum, a warning
Sings heavy music to thy timorous soul; [bell,
And mine shall ring thy dire departure out.

[*Exeunt GENERAL, &c. from the Walls.*

Tal. He fables not, I hear the enemy;—
Out, some light horsemen, and peruse their
wings.—

O, negligent and heedless discipline!
How are we park'd, and bounded in a pale;
A little herd of England's timorous deer,
Maz'd with a yelping kennel of French curs!
If we be English deer, be thou in blood; †
Not rascal-like, ‡ to fall down with a pinch;
But rather moody-mad, and desperate stags,
Turn on the bloody hounds with heads of steel,
And make the cowards stand aloof at bay:
Sell every man his life as dear as mine,
And they shall find dear deer of us, my
friends.—

God, and Saint George! Talbot, and Eng-
land's right!

Prosper our colours in this dangerous fight!
[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—Plains in Gascony.

Enter YORK, with Forces; to him a MESSENGER.

York. Are not the speedy scouts return'd
again,

That dogg'd the mighty army of the Dauphin?

Mess. They are return'd, my lord; and give
it out, [power,

That he is march'd to Bourdeaux with his
To fight with Talbot: As he march'd along,
By your espials§ were discovered

Two mightier troops than that the Dauphin led;
Which join'd with him, and made their march
for Bourdeaux.

* Endue, honour.

† In high spirits.

‡ A rascal deer is the term of chase for lean poor deer:

§ Spies.

York. A plague upon that villain Somerset,
That thus delays my promised supply
Of horsemen, that were levied for this siege
Renowned Talbot doth expect my aid;
And I am lowt'd* by a traitor villain,
And cannot help the noble chevalier:
God comfort him in this necessity!
If he miscarry, farewell wars in France.

Enter Sir WILLIAM LUCY.

Lucy. Thou princely leader of our English
strength,
Never so needful on the earth of France,
Spur to the rescue of the noble Talbot;
Who now is girdled with a waist of iron,
And hemm'd about with grim destruction:
To Bourdeaux, warlike duke! to Bourdeaux,
York!

Else, farewell Talbot, France, and England's
honour.

York. O God! that Somerset—who in proud
heart
Doth stop my cornets—were in Talbot's place!
So should we save a valiant gentleman,
By forfeiting a traitor and a coward.

Mad ire, and wrathful fury, makes me weep,
That thus we die, while remiss traitors sleep.

Lucy. O, send some succour to the distress'd
lord!

York. He dies, we lose; I break my warlike
word:

We mourn, France smiles; we lose, they daily
All 'long of this vile traitor Somerset. [get;

Lucy. Then, God take mercy on brave Tal-
bot's soul! [since,

And on his son, young John; whom two hours
I met in travel toward his warlike father!

This seven years did not Talbot see his son;
And now they meet where both their lives are
done. †

York. Alas! what joy shall noble Talbot
have,

To bid his young son welcome to his grave?
Away! vexation almost stops my breath,
That sunder'd friends greet in the hour of
death.—

Lucy, farewell: no more my fortune can,
But curse the cause I cannot aid the man.—
Maine, Blois, Poitiers, and Tours, are won
away,

'Long all of Somerset, and his delay. [Exit.

Lucy. Thus, while the vulture ‡ of sedition
Feeds in the bosom of such great commanders,
Sleeping neglect doth betray to loss
The conquest of our scarce-cold conqueror,
That ever-living man of memory,
Henry the fifth:—While they each other cross,
Lives, honours, lands, and all, hurry to loss.
[Exit.

SCENE IV.—Other Plains of Gascony.

*Enter SOMERSET, with his Forces; an OFFICER
of TALBOT'S with him.*

Som. It is too late; I cannot send them now:
This expedition was by York, and Talbot,
Too rashly plotted; all our general force
Might with a sally of the very town
Be buckled with: the over-daring Talbot
Hath sullied all his gloss of former honour,
By this unheeded, desperate, wild adventure:
York set him on to fight, and die in shame,
That, Talbot dead, great York might bear the
name.

Offi. Hecris Sir William Lucy, who with me
Set from our o'er-match'd forces forth for aid.

Vanquished, baffled

‡ Expended, consumed.

† Alluding to the tale of Prometheus.

Enter Sir WILLIAM LUCY.

Som. How now, Sir William? whither were you sent?

Lucy. Whither my lord? from bought and sold lord Talbot;*

Who, ring'd about with bold adversity,
Cries out for noble York and Somerset,
To beat assailing death from his weak legions.
And whiles the honourable captain there
Drops bloody sweat from his war-wearied
limbs,

And, in advantage ling'ring, looks for rescue,
You, his false hopes, the trust of England's
honour

Keep off aloof with worthless emulation.

Let not your private discord keep away
The levied succours that should lend him aid,
While he, renown'd noble gentleman,
Yields up his life unto a world of odds:

Orleans the Bastard, Charles, and Burgundy,
Alençon, Reigner, compass him about,
And Talbot perisheth by your default.

Som. York set him on, York should have sent him aid.

Lucy. And York as fast upon your grace exclaims;

Swearing that you withhold his levied host,
Collected for this expedition.

Som. York lies; he might have sent and had the horse:

I owe him little duty, and less love; [ing.
And take foul scorn, to fawn on him by send-

Lucy. The fraud of England, not the force of France,

Hath now entrapp'd the noble-minded Talbot:
Never to England shall he bear his life;
But dies, betrayed to fortune by your strife.

Som. Come, go; I will despatch the horsemen straight:

Within six hours they will be at his aid.

Lucy. Too late comes rescue: he is ta'en, or slain:

For fly he could not, if he would have fled;
And fly would Talbot never, though he might.

Som. If he be dead, brave Talbot then, adieu!

Lucy. His fame lives in the world, his shame in you. [Exeunt.

SCENE V.—The English Camp, near Bourdeaux.

Enter TALBOT and JOHN his Son.

Tal. O young John Talbot! I did send for To tutor thee in stratagems of war; [thee,
That Talbot's name might be in thee reviv'd,
When sapless age, and weak unable limbs,
Should bring thy father to his drooping chair.
But,—O malignant and ill-boding stars!—
Now thou art come unto a feast of death,†
A terrible and unavoided‡ danger: [horse;]
Therefore, dear boy, mount on my swiftest
And I'll direct thee how thou shalt escape
By sudden flight: come, dally not, be gone.

John. Is my name Talbot? and am I your son?

And shall I fly? O, if you love my mother,
Dishonour not her honourable name,
To make a bastard and a slave of me:
The world will say—He is not Talbot's blood,
That basely fled, when noble Talbot stood.

Tal. Fly, to revenge my death, if I be slain.

John. He, that flies so, will ne'er return again.

* I. e. From one utterly ruined by the treacherous practices of others. † Encircled.

‡ To a field where death will be feasted with slaughter. § For unavoidable.

Tal. If we both stay, we both are sure to die.

John. Then let me stay; and, father, do you fly:

Your loss is great, so your regard* should be;
My worth unknown, no loss is known in me.
Upon my death the French can little boast;
In yours they will, in you all hopes are lost.
Flight cannot stain the honour you have won;
But mine it will, that no exploit have done:
You fled for vantage every one will swear;
But, if I bow, they'll say—it was for fear.

There is no hope that ever I will stay,
If, the first hour, I shrink, and run away.

Here, on my knee, I beg mortality,
Rather than life preserv'd with infamy.

Tal. Shall all thy mother's hopes lie in one tomb?

John. Ay, rather than I'll shame my mother's womb.

Tal. Upon my blessing I command thee go.

John. To fight I will, but not to fly the foe.

Tal. Part of thy father may be sav'd in thee.

John. No part of him, but will be shame in me.

Tal. Thou never hadst renown, nor canst not lose it.

John. Yes, your renowned name; Shall flight abuse it?

Tal. Thy father's charge shall clear thee from that stain.

John. You cannot witness for me, being slain.

If death be so apparent, then both fly.

Tal. And leave my followers here, to fight, and die?

My age was never tainted with such shame.

John. And shall my youth be guilty of such blame?

No more can I be sever'd from your side,
Than can yourself yourself in twain divide:

Stay, go, do what you will, the like do I;

For live I will not, if my father die.

Tal. Then here I take my leave of thee, fair Born to eclipse thy life this afternoon. [son,
Come, side by side together live and die;
And soul with soul from France to heaven fly.

[Exeunt.

SCENE VI.—A Field of Battle.

Alarum: Excursions, wherein TALBOT's Son is hemmed about, and TALBOT rescues him.

Tal. Saint George and victory! fight, soldiers, fight:

The regent hath with Talbot broke his word,
And left us to the rage of France his sword.

Where is John Talbot?—pause, and take thy breath;

I gave thee life, and rescu'd thee from death.

John. O twice my father! twice am I thy son: [done;

The life, thou gav'st me first, was lost and Till with thy warlike sword, despite of fate,
To my determin'd time thou gav'st new date.

Tal. When from the Dauphin's crest thy sword struck fire,

It warm'd thy father's heart with proud desire
Of bold fac'd victory. Then leaden age,
Quicken'd with youthful spleen, and warlike
rage,

Beat down Alençon, Orleans, Burgundy,
And from the pride of Gallia rescu'd thee.

The ireful bastard Orleans—that drew blood
From thee, my boy; and had the maidenhood
Of thy first fight—I soon encountered;

* Your care of your own safety. † Ended.

And, interchanging blows, I quickly shed
Some of his bastard blood; and, in disgrace,
Bespoke him thus: *Contaminated, base,
And misbegotton blood I spill of thine,
Mean and right poor; for that pure blood of mine
Which thou didst force from Talbot, my brave
boy:—*

Here, purposing the Bastard to destroy,
Came in strong rescue. Speak thy father's
care;

Art not thou weary, John? How dost thou fare?
Wilt thou yet leave the battle, boy, and fly,
Now thou art seal'd the son of chivalry?
Fly, to revenge my death, when I am dead;
The help of one stands me in little stead.
O, too much folly is it, well I wot,
To hazard all our lives in one small boat.
If I to-day die not with Frenchmen's rage,
To-morrow I shall die with mickle age:
By me they nothing gain, an if I stay,
'Tis but the short'ning of my life one day:
In thee thy mother dies, our household's name,
My death's revenge, thy youth, and England's
fame:

All these, and more, we hazard by thy stay;
All these are sav'd, if thou wilt fly away.

John. The sword of Orleans hath not made
me smart, [heart:
These words of yours draw life-blood from my
On that advantage, bought with such a shame,
(To save a paltry life, and slay bright fame,)
Before young Talbot from old Talbot fly,
The coward horse, that bears me, fall and die:
And like* me to the peasant boys of France;
To be shame's scorn, and subject of mischance!
Surely, by all the glory you have won,
And if I fly, I am not Talbot's son:
Then talk no more of flight, it is no boot;
If son to Talbot, die at Talbot's foot.

Tal. Then follow thou thy desperate sire of
Crete,

Thou Icarus; thy life to me is sweet:
If thou wilt fight, fight by thy father's side;
And, commendable prov'd, let's die in pride.
[Exeunt.]

SCENE VII.—*Another part of the same.*

Alarum: *Excursions. Enter TALBOT, wounded,
supported by a SERVANT.*

Tal. Where is my other life?—mine own is
gone;— [John?—
O, where's young Talbot? where is valiant
Triumphant death, smear'd with captivity! †
Young Talbot's valour makes me smile at thee:
When he perceiv'd me shrink, and on my knee,
His bloody sword he brandish'd over me,
And, like a hungry lion, did commence
Rough deeds of rage, and stern impatience;
But when my angry guardant stood alone,
Tend'ring my ruin, ‡ and assail'd of none,
Dizzy-ey'd fury, and great rage of heart,
Suddenly made him from my side to start
Into the clust'ring battle of the French:
And in that sea of blood my boy did drench
His overmounting spirit; and there died
My Icarus, my blossom, in his pride.

Enter Soldiers, bearing the body of JOHN
TALBOT.

Serv. O my dear lord! lo, where your son
is borne!

Tal. Thou antic death, which laugh'st us
here to scorn,

* Like me, reduce me to a level with.

† Death stained and dishonoured with captivity.

‡ "Watching me with tenderness in my fall."

Anon, from thy insulting tyranny,
Coupled in bonds of perpetuity,
Two Talbots, winged through the lither* sky,
In thy despite, shall 'scape mortality.—
O thou whose wounds become hard-favour'd
death,

Speak to thy father, ere thou yield thy breath:
Brave death by speaking, whether he will, or
no;

Imagine him a Frenchman, and thy foe.—
Poor boy! he smiles, methinks; as who should
say— [to-day.

Had death been French, then death had died
Come, come, and lay him in his father's arms;
My spirit can no longer bear these harms.
Soldiers, adieu! I have what I would have,
Now my old arms are young John Talbot's
grave. [Dies.]

Alarums. *Exeunt Soldiers and Servant, leaving
the two Bodies. Enter CHARLES, ALENÇON,
BURGUNDY, BASTARD, LA PUCELLE, and
Forces.*

Char. Had York and Somerset brought res-
cue in,
We should have found a bloody day of this.

Bast. How the young Whelp of Talbot's,
raging-wood, † [blood!
Did flesh his puny sword in Frenchmen's
Puc. Once I encounter'd him, and thus I
said,

Thou maiden youth, be vanquish'd by a maid:
But—with a proud, majestic high scorn,—
He answer'd thus; *Young Talbot was not born
To be the pillage of a giglot ‡ wench:*
So, rushing in the bowels of the French,
He left me proudly as unworthy fight.

Bur. Doubtless, he would have made a noble
knight:

See, where he lies inersed in the arms.
Of the most bloody nurser of his harms.

Bast. Hew them to pieces, hack their bones
asunder; [der.

Whose life was England's glory, Gallia's won-
Char. O, no; forbear: for that which we
have fled

During the life, let us not wrong it dead.

Enter Sir WILLIAM LUCY, attended; a French
Herald preceding.

Lucy. Herald,
Conduct me to the Dauphin's tent; to know
Who hath obtain'd the glory of the day.

Char. On what submissive message art thou
sent?

Lucy. Submission, Dauphin? 'tis a mere
French word;

We English warriors wot not what it means.
I come to know what prisoners thou hast ta'en,
And to survey the bodies of the dead.

Char. For prisoners ask'st thou? hell our
prison is.

But tell me whom thou seek'st.

Lucy. Where is the great Alcides of the field,
Valiant lord Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury?
Created, for his rare success in arms, [lence;
Great earl of Washford, Waterford, and Va-
Lord Talbot of Goodrig and Urchingfield,
Lord Strange of Blackmere, lord Verdun of
Alton, [Sheffield,
Lord Cromwell of Wingfield, lord Furnival of
The thrice victorious lord of Falconbridge;
Knight of the noble order of St. George,
Worthy saint Michael, and the golden fleece;

* Flexible yielding. † Raving mad. ‡ Wanton.

Great mareschal to Henry the sixth,
Of all his wars within the realm of France ?

Puc. Here is a silly stately style indeed !
The Turk, that two and fifty kingdoms hath,
Writes not so tedious a style as this.—
Him, that thou magnifiest with all these titles,
Stinking, and fly-blown, lies here at our feet.

Lucy. Is Talbot slain; the Frenchman's
only scourge,
Your kingdom's terror and black Nemesis ?
O, were mine eye-balls into bullets turn'd,
That I, in rage, might shoot them at your
faces !

O, that I could but call these dead to life !
It were enough to fright the realm of France :
Were but his picture left among you here,
It would amaze* the proudest of you all.
Give me their bodies; that I may bear them
hence,

And give them burial as beseems their worth.
Puc. I think, this upstart is old Talbot's
ghost,

He speaks with such a proud commanding
spirit.

For God's sake, let him have 'em; to keep
them here,

They would but stink, and putrify the air.

Char. Go, take their bodies hence.

Lucy. I'll bear them hence :

But from their ashes shall be rear'd
A phoenix that shall make all France afraid.

Char. So we be rid of them, do with 'em
what thou wilt.

And now to Paris, in this conquering vein ;
All will be ours, now bloody Talbot's slain.

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT V.

SCENE I.—London.—A Room in the Palace.

Enter King HENRY, GLOSTER, and EXETER.

K. Hen. Have you perus'd the letters from
the pope,

The emperor, and the earl of Armagnac ?

Glo. I have, my lord; and their intent is
this,—

They humbly sue unto your excellence,
To have a godly peace concluded of,
Between the realms of England and of France.

K. Hen. How doth your grace affect their
motion ?

Glo. Well, my good lord; and as the only
means

To stop effusion of our Christian blood,
And 'stablish quietness on every side.

K. Hen. Ay, marry, uncle; for I always
thought,

It was both impious and unnatural,
That such immanity† and bloody strife
Should reign among professors of one faith.

Glo. Beside, my lord,—the sooner to effect,
And surer bind, this knot of amity,—
The earl of Armagnac—near knit to Charles,
A man of great authority in France,—
Profers his only daughter to your grace
In marriage, with a large and sumptuous
dowry,

K. Hen. Marriage, uncle! alas! my years
are young;

And fitter is my study and my books,
Than wanton dalliance with a paramour.

Yet, call the ambassadors; and, as you
please,

So let them have their answers every one :

I shall be well content with any choice,
Tends to God's glory, and my country's weal.

*Enter a LEGATE, and two AMBASSADORS, with
WINCHESTER, in a Cardinal's Habit.*

Exe. What! is my lord of Winchester in-
stall'd,

And call'd unto a cardinal's degree !

Then, I perceive, that will be verified,
Henry the fifth did sometime prophesy,—
*If once he come to be a cardinal,
He'll make his cap co-equal with the crown.*

K. Hen. My lords ambassadors, your several
suits

Have been consider'd and debated on.

Your purpose is both good and reasonable :

And, therefore, are we certainly resolv'd

To draw conditions of a friendly peace ;

Which, by my lord of Winchester, we mean

Shall be transported presently to France.

Glo. And for the proffer of my lord your
master,—

I have inform'd his highness so at large,
As—liking of the lady's virtuous gifts,
Her beauty, and the value of her dower,—
He doth intend she shall be England's queen.

K. Hen. In argument and proof of which
contr-ct,

Bear her this jewel, [*To the AMB.*] pledge of
my affection.

And so, my lord protector, see them guarded,
And safely brought to Dover; where, in-
shipp'd,

Commit them to the fortune of the sea.

[*Exeunt King HENRY and Train; GLOSTER,
EXETER, and AMBASSADORS.*]

Win. Stay, my lord legate; you shall first
receive

The sum of money, which I promised

Should be deliver'd to his holiness

For clothing me in these grave ornaments.

Leg. I will attend upon your lordship's le-
isure.

Win. Now, Winchester will not submit, I
Or be inferior to the proudest peer. [*trow,*
Humphrey of Gloster, thou shalt well per-
ceive,

That, neither in birth, or for authority,

The bishop will be overborne by thee :

I'll either make thee stoop, and bend thy knee,
Or sack this country with a mutiny. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—France.—Plains in Anjou.

*Enter CHARLES, BURGUNDY, ALENÇON, LA
PUCELLE, and Forces marching.*

Char. These news, my lords, may cheer our
drooping spirits :

'Tis said, the stout Parisians do revolt,
And turn again unto the warlike French.

Alen. Then march to Paris, royal Charles
of France,

And keep not back your powers in dalliance.

Puc. Peace be amongst them, if they turn
to us ;

Else, ruin combat with their palaces !

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. Success unto our valiant general,
And happiness to his accomplices !

Char. What tidings send our scouts ? I pry-
thee, speak.

Mess. The English army, that divided was
Into two parts, is now conjoin'd in one ;

And means to give you battle presently .

* Confound.

† Barbarity, savageness.

Char. Somewhat too sudden, Sirs, the warning is;

But we will presently provide for them.

Bur. I trust, the ghost of Talbot is not there; Now he is gone, my lord, you need not fear.

Puc. Of all base passions, fear is most accurs'd:—

Command the conquest, Charles, it shall be Let Henry fret, and all the world repine.

Char. Then on, my lords; And France be fortunate! [Exit.]

SCENE III.—The same.—Before Angiers.

Alarums; Excursions. Enter LA PUCELLE.

Puc. The regent conquers, and the Frenchmen fly,—

Now help, ye charming spells, and periapts;* And ye choice spirits that admonish me, And give me signs of future accidents!

[Thunder.]

You speedy helpers, that are substitutes Under the lordly monarch of the north,† Appear, and aid me in this enterprize!

Enter Fiends.

This speedy quick appearance argues proof Of your accustom'd diligence to me.

Now, ye familiar spirits, that are cull'd Out of the powerful regions under earth, Help me this once, that France may get the field. [They walk about, and speak not.]

O, hold me not with silence over-long!

Where I was wont to feed you with my blood, I'll lop a member off, and give it you, In earnest of a further benefit;

So you do condescend to help me now.—

[They hang their heads.]

No hope to have redress?—My body shall Pay recompense, if you will grant my suit.

[They shake their heads.]

Cannot my body, nor blood-sacrifice, Entreat you to your wonted furtherance? Then take my soul; my body, soul, and all, Before that England give the French the foil.

[They depart.]

See! they forsake me. Now the time is come, That France must vail her lofty-plumed crest, And let her head fall into England's lap.

My ancient incantations are too weak, And hell too strong for me to buckle with: Now, France, thy glory droopeth to the dust.

[Exit.]

Alarums. Enter French and English, fighting. LA PUCELLE, and YORK, fight hand to hand. LA PUCELLE is taken. The French fly.

York. Damsel of France, I think, I have you fast:

Unchain your spirits now with spelling charms, And try if they can gain your liberty.— A goodly prize, fit for the devil's grace!

See, how the ugly witch doth bend her brows, As if, with Circe, she would change my shape.

Puc. Chang'd to a worsè shape thou canst not be.

York. O, Charles the Dauphin is a proper man;

No shape but his can please your dainty eye.

Puc. A plaguing mischief light on Charles, and thee!

And may you both be suddenly surpris'd By bloody hands, in sleeping on your beds!

* Charms sow'd up.

† The north was supposed to be the particular habitation of bad spirits.

‡ Lower.

York. Fell banning* hag! enchantress, hold thy tongue.

Puc. I pr'ythee, give me leave to curse a while.

York. Curse, miscreant, when thou comest to the stake. [Exit.]

Alarums. Enter SUFFOLK, leading in Lady MARGARET.

Suff. Be what thou wilt, thou art my prisoner. [Gazes on her.]

O fairest beauty, do not fear, nor fly; For I will touch thee but with reverent hands, And lay them gently on thy tender side.

I kiss these fingers [Kissing her hand.] for eternal peace:

Who art thou? say, that I may honour thee.

Mar. Margaret my name; and daughter to a king,

The king of Naples, whose'er thou art.

Suff. An earl I am, and Suffolk am I call'd.

Be not offended, nature's miracle,

Thou art allotted to be ta'en by me:

So doth the swan her downy cygnets save,

Keeping them prisoners underneath her wings.

Yet, if this servile usage once offend,

Go, and be free again as Suffolk's friend.

[She turns away as going.]

O stay!—I have no power to let her pass;

My hand would free her, but my heart says—

no.

As plays the sun upon the glassy streams,

Twinkling another counterfeited beam,

So seems this gorgeous beauty to mine eyes.

Fain would I woo her, yet I dare not speak:

I'll call for pen and ink, and write my mind:

Fie, De la Poole! disable not thyself;

Hast not a tongue? is she not here thy prisoner?

Wilt thou be daunted at a woman's sight?

Ay; beauty's princely majesty is such,

Confounds the tongue, and makes the senses rough.

Mar. Say earl of Suffolk,—if thy name be so,—

What ransom must I pay before I pass?

For, I perceive, I am thy prisoner.

Suff. How canst thou tell, she will deny thy suit,

Before thou make a trial of her love? [Aside.]

Mar. Why speak'st thou not? what ransom must I pay?

Suff. She's beautiful; and therefore to be woo'd;

She is a woman; therefore to be won. [Aside.]

Mar. Wilt thou accept of ransom, yea, or no?

Suff. Fond man! remember, that thou hast a wife;

Then how can Margaret be thy paramour?

[Aside.]

Mar. I were best leave him, for he will not hear.

Suff. There all is marr'd; there lies a cooling card.

Mar. He talks at random; sure, the man is mad.

Suff. And yet a dispensation may be had.

Mar. And yet I would that you would answer me.

Suff. I'll win this lady Margaret. For whom? Why, for my king: Tush! that's a wooden thing.†

* To ban is to curse.

† "Do not represent thyself so weak."

‡ An awkward business, an undertaking not likely to succeed.

Mar. He talks of wood: It is some carpenter.

Suff. Yet so my fancy* may be satisfied, And peace established between these realms. But there remains a scruple in that too: For though her father be the king of Naples, Duke of Anjou and Maine, yet is he poor, And our nobility will scorn the match. [*Aside.*]

Mar. Hear ye, captain? Are you not at leisure?

Suff. It shall be so, disdain they ne'er so much:

Henry is youthful, and will quickly yield.— Madam, I have a secret to reveal.

Mar. What though I be enthralld? he seems a knight, And will not any way dishonour me. [*Aside.*]

Suff. Lady, vouchsafe to listen what I say.

Mar. Perhaps, I shall be rescu'd by the French;

And then I need not crave his courtesy.

[*Aside.*]
Suff. Sweet madam, give me hearing in a cause—

Mar. Tush! women have been captive ere now.

[*Aside.*]
Suff. Lady, wherefore talk you so?

Mar. I cry you mercy, 'tis but *quid* for *quo*.

Suff. Say, gentle princess, would you not suppose

Your bondage happy, to be made a queen?

Mar. To be a queen in bondage, is more vile Than is a slave in base servility; For princes should be free.

Suff. And so shall you, If happy England's royal king be free.

Mar. Why, what concerns his freedom unto me?

Suff. I'll undertake to make thee Henry's queen;

To put a golden sceptre in thy hand, And set a precious crown upon thy head, If thou wilt condescend to be my—

Mar. What?

Suff. His love.

Mar. I am unworthy to be Henry's wife.

Suff. No, gentle madam; I unworthy am To woo so fair a dame to be his wife, And have no portion in the choice myself.

How say you, madam; are you so content?

Mar. An if my father please, I am content.

Suff. Then call our captains, and our colours forth:

And, madam, at your father's castle walls We'll crave a parley, to confer with him.

[*Troops come forward.*]

A Parley sounded. Enter REIGNIER, on the Walls.

Suff. See, Reignier, see, thy daughter prisoner.

Reig. To whom?

Suff. To me.

Reig. Suffolk, what remedy?

I am a soldier; and unapt to weep. Or to exclaim on fortune's fickleness.

Suff. Yes, there is remedy enough, my lord: Consent, (and for thy honour give consent,) Thy daughter shall be wedded to my king; Whom I with pain have woo'd and won thereto; And this her easy-held imprisonment Hath gain'd thy daughter princely liberty.

Reig. Speaks Suffolk as he thinks?

Suff. Fair Margaret knows, That Suffolk doth not flatter, face,† or feign.

Reig. Upon thy princely warrant, I descend, To give thee answer of thy just demand.

[*Exit, from the Walls,*]

Suff. And here I will expect thy coming.

Trumpets sounded. Enter REIGNIER, below.

Reig. Welcome, brave earl, into our territories;

Command in Anjou what your honour pleases.

Suff. Thanks, Reignier, happy for so sweet a child,

Fit to be made companion with a king:

What answer makes your grace unto my suit?

Reig. Since thou dost deign to woo her little worth,

To be the princely bride of such a lord;

Upon condition I may quietly

Enjoy mine own, the county Maine, and Anjou,

Free from oppression, or the stroke of war,

My daughter shall be Henry's, if he please.

Suff. That is her ransom, I deliver her;

And those two counties, I will undertake,

Your grace shall well and quietly enjoy.

Reig. And I again,—in Henry's royal name,

As deputy unto that gracious king,

Give thee her hand, for sign of plighted faith.

Suff. Reignier of France, I give thee kingly

Because this is in traffic of a king: [thanks,

And yet, methinks, I could be well content

To be mine own attorney in this case. [*Aside.*]

I'll over then to England with this news,

And make this marriage to be solemniz'd;

So, farewell, Reignier! Set this diamond safe

In golden palaces, as it becomes.

Reig. I do embrace thee, as I would embrace

The Christian prince, king Henry, where he

here.

Mar. Farewell, my lord? Good wishes,

praise, and prayers,

Shall Suffolk ever have of Margaret. [*Going.*]

Suff. Farewell, sweet madam! But hark you,

Margaret;

No princely commendations to my king?

Mar. Such commendations as become a maid,

A virgin, and his servant say to him.

Suff. Words sweetly plac'd and modestly

directed.

But, madam, I must trouble you again,—

No loving token to his majesty?

Mar. Yes, my good lord; a pure unspotted

heart,

Never yet taint with love, I send the king.

Suff. And this withal. [*Kisses her.*]

Mar. That for thyself;—I will not so presume,

To send such peevish* tokens to a king.

[*Exeunt REIGNIER and MARGARET.*]

Suff. O, wert thou for myself!—But, Suffolk,

stay;

Thou may'st not wander in that labyrinth;

There Minotaurs, and ugly treasons, lurk.

Solicit Henry with her wond'rous praise:

Bethink thee on her virtues that surmount;

Mad,† natural graces that extinguish art;

Repeat their semblance often on the seas,

That, when thou com'st to kneel at Henry's

feet,

Thou may'st bereave him of his wits with wonder.

[*Exit.*]

SCENE IV.—*Camp of the Duke of YORK, in Anjou.*

Enter YORK, WARWICK, and others.

York. Bring forth that sorceress, condemn'd to burn.

* Love.

† Play the hypocrite.

* Childish.

† Wild.

Enter LA PUCELLE, guarded, and a SHEPHERD.

Shep. Ah, Joan! this kills thy father's heart outright!

Have I sought every country far and near,
And, now it is my chance to find thee out,
Must I behold thy timeless* cruel death?
Ah, Joan, sweet daughter Joan, I'll die with thee!

Puc. Decrepit miser! † base ignoble wretch!
I am descended of a gentler blood;
Thou art no father, nor no friend, of mine.

Shep. Out, out!—My lords, an please you,
'tis not so;

I did beget her, all the parish knows:
Her mother liveth yet, can testify,
She was the first fruit of my bachelorship.

War. Graceless! wilt thou deny thy parentage?

York. This argues what her kind of life hath been;

Wicked and vile; and so her death concludes.

Shep. Fie, Joan! that thou wilt be so obstacle! ‡

God knows, thou art a collop of my flesh;
And for thy sake have I shed many a tear;
Deny me not, I pr'ythee, gentle Joan.

Puc. Peasant, avaunt!—You have suborn'd this man,

Of purpose to obscure my noble birth.

Shep. 'Tis true, I gave a noble to the priest,
The morn that I was wedded to her mother.—
Kneel down and take my blessing, good my girl.

Wilt thou not stoop? Now cursed be the time
Of thy Nativity! I would, the milk [breast,
Thy mother gave thee, when thou suck'dst her
Had been a little ratsbane for thy sake!

Or else, when thou didst keep my lambs a-field,
I wish some ravenous wolf had eaten thee!
Dost thou deny thy father, cursed drab?
O, burn her, burn her; hanging is too good.

[Exit.]

York. Take her away; for she hath liv'd too
To fill the world with vicious qualities. [long,

Puc. First, let me tell you whom you have condemn'd:

Not me begotten of a shepherd swain,
But issu'd from the progeny of kings;
Virtuous and holy; chosen from above,
By inspiration of celestial grace,
To work exceeding miracles on earth.
I never had to do with wicked spirits:
But you,—that are polluted with your lusts,
Stain'd with the guiltless blood of innocents,
Corrupt and tainted with a thousand vices,—
Because you want the grace that others have,
You judge it straight a thing impossible
To compass wonders, but by help of devils.
No, misconceived! § Joan of Arc hath been
A virgin from her tender infancy,
Chaste and immaculate in very thought:
Whose maiden blood, thus rigorously effus'd,
Will cry for vengeance at the gates of heaven.

York. Ay, ay;—away with her to execution.

War. And hark ye, Sirs; because she is a maid,

Spare no fo' fagots, let there be enough:
Place barrels of pitch upon the fatal stake,
That so her torture may be shortened.

Puc. Will nothing turn your unrelenting hearts?—

Untimely

† Miser here simply means a miserable creature.

‡ A corruption of obstinate.

§ "No, ye misconceivers, ye who mistake me and my qualities"

Then, Joan, discover thine infirmity;
That warranteth by law to be thy privilege.—
I am with child, ye bloody homicides:
Murder not then the fruit within my womb,
Although ye hale me to a violent death.

York. Now heaven forfend? the holy maid
with child?

War. The greatest miracle that e'er ye
wrought:

Is all your strict preciseness come to this?

York. She and the Dauphin have been juggling;

I did imagine what would be her refuge.

War. Well, go to; we will have no bastards
Especially, since Charles must father it. [live;

Puc. You are deceiv'd; my child is none of
It was Alençon, that enjoy'd my love. [his;

York. Alençon! that notorious Machiavel!

It dies, an if it had a thousand lives.

Puc. O, give me leave, I have deluded you;
'Twas neither Charles, nor yet the duke I nam'd,

But Reignier, king of Naples, that prevail'd.

War. A married man! that's most intolerable.

York. Why, here's a girl! I think, she knows
not well,

There were so many, whom she may accuse.

War. It's sign, she hath been liberal and free.

York. And, yet, forsooth, she is a virgin
pure.— [thee:

Strumpet, thy words condemn thy brat, and
Use no entreaty, for it is in vain.

Puc. Then lead me hence;—with whom I
leave my curse:

May never glorious sun reflex his beams
Upon the country where you make abode!
But darkness and the gloomy shade of death
Environ you; till mischief, and despair,
Drive you to break your necks, or hang your-
selves! [Exit, guarded.]

York. Break thou in pieces, and consume to
Thou foul accursed minister of hell? [ashes,

Enter Cardinal BEAUFORT, attended.

Car. Lord regent, I do greet your excellence
With letters of commission from the king.
For know, my lords, the states of Christendom,
Mov'd with remorse* of these outrageous broils,
Have earnestly implor'd a general peace
Betwixt our nation and the aspiring French;
And here at hand the Dauphin, and his train,
Approacheth, to confer about some matter.

York. Is all our travail turn'd to this effect?

After the slaughter of so many peers,
So many captains, gentlemen, and soldiers,
That in this quarrel have been overthrown,
And sold their bodies for their country's benefit,
Shall we at last conclude effeminate peace?
Have we not lost most part of all the towns,
By treason, falsehood, and by treachery,
Our great progenitors had conquered?—
O, Warwick, Warwick! I forsee with grief
The utter loss of all the realm of France.

War. Be patient, York: if we conclude a
peace,

It shall be with such strict and severe covenants,
As little shall the Frenchmen gain thereby.

Enter CHARLES, attended; ALENÇON, BASTARD,
REIGNIER, and others.

Char. Since, lords of England, it is thus
agreed, [France,
That peaceful truce shall be proclaim'd in

We come to be informed by yourselves
What the conditions of that league must be.

York. Speak, Winchester; for boiling cholera
chokes

The hollow passage of my poison'd voice,
By sight of these our balcful* enemies.

Win. Charles, and the rest, it is enacted thus:
That—in regard king Henry gives consent,
Of mere compassion, and of lenity,
To ease your country of distressful war,
And suffer you to breathe in fruitful peace,—
You shall become true liegemen to his crown:
And, Charles, upon condition thou wilt swear
To pay him tribute, and submit thyself,
Thou shalt be plac'd as viceroy under him,
And still enjoy thy regal dignity.

Alen. Must he be then as shadow of himself?
Adorn his temples with a coronet †
And yet, in substance and authority,
Retain but privilege of a private man?
This proffer is absurd and reasonless.

Char. 'Tis known, already that I am possess'd
With more than half the Gallian territories,
And therein reverenc'd for their lawful king:
Shall I, for lucre of the rest unvanquish'd,
Detract so much from that prerogative,
As to be call'd but viceroy of the whole?
No, lord ambassador; I'll rather keep
That which I have, than, coveting for more,
Be cast from possibility of all.

York. Insulting Charles! hast thou by secret
Used intercession to obtain a league; [means
And, now the matter grows to compromise,
Stand'st thou aloof upon comparison?
Either accept the title thou usurp'st,
Of benefit proceeding from our king,
And not of any challenge of desert,
Or we will plague thee with incessant wars.

Reig. My lord, you do not well in obstinacy
To cavil in the course of this contract:
If once it be neglected, ten to one,
We shall not find like opportunity.

Alen. To say the truth, it is your policy,
To save your subjects from such massacre,
And ruthless slaughters, as are daily seen
By our proceeding in hostility:
And therefore take this compact of a truce,
Although you break it when your pleasure
serves. [Aside, to CHARLES.

War. How, say'st thou, Charles? shall our
condition stand?

Char. It shall:
Only reserv'd, you claim no interest
In any of our towns of garrison.

York. Then swear allegiance to his majesty;
As thou art knight, never to disobey,
Nor be rebellious to the crown of England,
Thou, nor thy nobles, to the crown of England.—

[CHARLES, and the rest, give Tokens of fealty.
So, now dismiss your army when ye please;
Hang up your ensigns, let your drums be still,
For here we entertain a solemn peace. [Exeunt.

SCENE V.—London.—A Room in the Palace.

Enter King HENRY, in conference with SUFFOLK; GLOSTER and EXETER following.

K. Hen. Your wondrous rare description,
noble earl,

Of beauteous Margaret hath astonish'd me:
Her virtues, graced with external gifts,
Do breed love's settled passions in my heart:
And like as rigour in tempestuous gusts
Provokes the mightiest hulk against the tide;
So am I driven, by breath of her renown,

Either to suffer shipwreck, or arrive
Where I may have fruition of her love.

Suff. Tush! my good lord! this superficial
Is but a preface of her worthy praise: [tale
The chief perfections of that lovely dame,
(Had I sufficient skill to utter them,)
Would make a volume of enticing lines,
Able to ravish any dull conceit.

And, which is more, she is not so divine,
So full replete with choice of all delights,
But with as humble lowliness of mind,
She is content to be at your command;
Command, I mean, of virtuous chaste intents,
To love and honour Henry as her lord.

K. Hen. And otherwise will Henry ne'er
presume.

Therefore, my lord protector, give consent,
That Margaret may be England's royal queen.

Glo. So should I give consent to flatter sin.
You know my lord, your highness is betroth'd
Unto another lady of esteem;

How shall we then dispense with that contract,
And not deface your honour with reproach?

Suff. As doth a ruler with unlawful oaths;
Or one, that, at a triumph* having vow'd
To try his strength, forsaketh yet the lists
By reason of his adversary's odds:
A poor earl's daughter is unequal odds,
And therefore may be broke without offence.

Glo. Why, what, I pray, is Margaret more
than that!

Her father is no better than an earl,
Although in glorious titles he excel.

Suff. Yes, my good lord, her father is a king,
The king of Naples, and Jerusalem;
And of such great authority in France,
As his alliance will confirm our peace,
And keep the Frenchmen in allegiance.

Glo. And so the earl of Armagnac may do,
Because he is near kinsman unto Charles.

Exc. Beside, his wealth doth warrant liberal
dower;

While Reignier sooner will receive, than give.
Suff. A dower, my lords! disgrace not so
your king,

That he should be so abject, base, and poor,
To choose for wealth, and not for perfect love.
Henry is able to enrich his queen,
And not to seek a queen to make him rich:

So worthless peasants bargain for their wives,
As market-men for oxen, sheep, or horse.

Marriage is a matter of more worth,
Than to be dealt in by attorneyship; †
Not whom we will, but whom his grace affects,
Must be companion of his nuptial bed:

And therefore, lords, since he affects her most,
It most of all these reasons bindeth us,
In our opinions she should be preferr'd.

For what is wedlock forced, but a hell,
An age of discord and continual strife?

Whereas the contrary bringeth forth bliss,
And is a pattern of celestial peace. [king.

Whom should we match, with Henry, being a
But Margaret, that is daughter to a king!

Her peerless feature, joined with her birth,
Approves her fit for none, but for a king:

Her valiant courage, and undaunted spirit,
(More than in women commonly is seen,)

Will answer our hope in issue of a king;
For Henry, son unto a conqueror,

Is likely to beget more conquerors,
If with a lady of so high resolve,

As is fair Margaret, he be link'd in love.

* A triumph then signified a public exhibition; such
as a mask, or revel.

† By the discretionary agency of another.

* Baneful. † Coronet is here used for crown.
‡ "Be content to live as the beneficiary of our king."

Then yield, my lords ; and here conclude with
me, [she.]

That Margaret shall be queen, and none but
K. Hen. Whether it be through force of
your report,

My noble lord of Suffolk ; or for what
My tender youth was never yet attain'd
With any passion of inflaming love,
I cannot tell ; but this I am assur'd,
I feel such sharp dissention in my breast,
Such fierce alarms both of hope and fear,
As I am sick with working of my thoughts.
Take, therefore, shipping ; post, my lord to
France ;

Agree to any covenants : and procure
That lady Margaret do vouchsafe to come
To cross the seas to England, and be crown'd
King Henry's faithful and anointed queen :
For your expenses and sufficient charge,
Among the people gather up a tenth.

Be gone, I say ; for, till you do return,
I rest perplexed with a thousand cares.—
And you, good uncle, banish all offence :
If you do censure* me by what you were,
Not what you are, I know it will excuse
This sudden execution of my will.

And so conduct me, where from company,
I may revolve and ruminatè my grief. [Exit.]

Glo. Ay, grief, I fear me, both at first and
last. [Exeunt GLOSTER and EXETER.]

Suff. Thus Suffolk hath prevail'd : and thus
he goes,

As did the youthful Paris once to Greece ;
With hope to find the like event in love,
But prosper better than the Trojan did.
Margaret shall now be queen, and rule the
king ;
But I will rule both her, the king, and realm.
[Exit.]

* Judge.

SECOND PART

OF

KING HENRY VI.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

KING HENRY THE SIXTH.
 HUMPHREY, Duke of Gloster, his Uncle.
 CARDINAL BEAUFORT, Bishop of Winchester,
 Great Uncle to the King.
 RICHARD PLANTAGENET, Duke of York.
 EDWARD and RICHARD, his Sons.
 DUKE OF SOMERSET,
 DUKE OF SUFFOLK, }
 DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM, } Of the King's
 LORD CLIFFORD, } Party.
 YOUNG CLIFFORD, his Son, }
 EARL OF SALISBURY, }
 EARL OF WARWICK, } Of the York Faction.
 LORD SCALES, Governor of the Tower.
 LORD SAY.
 SIR HUMPHREY STAFFORD, and his Brother.
 SIR JOHN STANLEY.
 A SEA-CAPTAIN, MASTER, MASTER'S MATE,
 and WALTER WHITMORE.
 TWO GENTLEMEN, Prisoners with Suffolk.
 A HERALD.—VAUX.
 HUME and SOUTHWELL, two Priests.
 BOLINGBROKE, a Conjuror.

A SPIRIT raised by Bolingbroke.
 THOMAS HORNER, an Armourer.
 PETER, his Man.
 CLERK OF CHATHAM.
 MAYOR OF SAINT ALBAN'S.
 SIMPCOX, an Impostor.
 TWO MURDERERS.
 JACK CADE, a Rebel.
 GEORGE, JOHN, DICK, SMITH, the Weaver,
 MICHAEL, &c. his Followers.
 ALEXANDER IDEN, a Kentish Gentleman.

MARGARET, Queen to King Henry
 ELEANOR, Duchess of Gloster.
 MARGERY JOURDAIN, a Witch.
 WIFE TO SIMPCOX.

Lords, Ladies, and Attendants; Petitioners,
 Aldermen, a Beadle, Sheriff, and Officers;
 Citizens, Prentices, Falconers, Guards,
 Soldiers, Messengers, &c.

SCENE, dispersedly in various parts of England.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—London.—A Room of State in the
 Palace.

*Flourish of Trumpets: then Hautboys. Enter,
 on one side, King HENRY, Duke of GLOSTER,
 SALISBURY, WARWICK, and Cardinal BEAU-
 FORT; on the other, Queen MARGARET, led in
 by SUFFOLK; YORK, SOMERSET, BUCKING-
 HAM, and others, following.*

Suf. As by your high imperial majesty,
 I had in charge at my depart for France,
 As procurator to your excellence,
 To marry princess Margaret for your grace;
 So, in the famous ancient city, Tours,—
 In presence of the kings of France and Sicil,
 The dukes of Orleans, Calabar, Bretagne, and
 Alençon, [bishops,—
 Seven earls, twelve barons, twenty reverend
 I have perform'd my task, and was espous'd:
 And humbly now upon my bended knee,
 In sight of England and her lordly peers,
 Deliver up my title in the queen [stance
 To your most gracious hands, that are the sub-
 Of that great shadow I did represent;
 The happiest gift that ever marquis gave,
 The fairest queen that ever king receiv'd.

K. Hen. Suffolk, arise.—Welcome, queen
 Margaret:

I can express no kinder sign of love, [life,
 Than this kind kiss.—O Lord, that lends me
 Lend me a heart replete with thankfulness!
 For thou hast given me, in this beauteous face,
 A world of earthly blessings to my soul,
 If sympathy of love unite our thoughts.

Q. Mar. Great king of England, and my
 gracious lord; [had*—

The mutual conference that my mind hath
 By day, by night; waking, and in my dreams;
 In courtly company, or at my beads,—
 With you mine alder-lieftest sovereign,
 Makes me the bolder to salute my king
 With ruder terms; such as my wit affords
 And over-joy of heart doth minister.

K. Hen. Her sight did ravish: but her grace
 in speech,
 Her words y-clad with wisdom's majesty,
 Makes me, from wondering fall to weeping
 joys,

Such is the fulness of my heart's content.—
 Lords, with one cheerful voice, welcome my
 love.

All. Long live queen Margaret, England's
 happiness!

Q. Mar. We thank you all. [Flourish.

* I am the holder to address you, having already
 familiarized you to my imagination.
 † Beloved above all things.

Suf. My lord protector so it please your grace,
Here are the articles of contracted peace,
Between our sovereign and the French king
Charles,

For eighteen months concluded by consent.

Glo. [*Reads.*] Imprimis, it is agreed between
the French King, Charles, and William de la
Poole, *marquis of Suffolk, ambassador for Henry
king of England,—that the said Henry shall espouse
the lady Margaret, daughter unto Reignier
king of Naples, Sicilia, and Jerusalem; and
crown her queen of England, ere the thirtieth of
May next ensuing.*—Item,—*That the dutchy
of Anjou and the county of Maine, shall be re-
leased and delivered to the king her father—*

K. Hen. Uncle, how now?

Glo. Pardon me gracious lord;
Some sudden qualm hath struck me at the
heart,
And dimm'd mine eyes, that I can read no fur-
ther.

K. Hen. Uncle of Winchester, I pray, read on.

Win. Item,—*It is further agreed between
them,—that the dutchies of Anjou and Maine
shall be released and delivered over to the king
her father; and she sent over of the king of
England's own proper cost and charges, without
having dowry.*

K. Hen. They please us well.—Lord mar-
quis, kneel down;

We here create thee the first duke of Suffolk,
And girt thee with the sword.—
Cousin of York, we here discharge your grace
From being regent in the parts of France,
'Till term of eighteen months be full expir'd.—
Thanks, uncle Winchester, Gloster, York,
and Buckingham.

Somerset, Salisbury, and Warwick;
We thank you all for this great favour done,
In entertainment to my princely queen.
Come, let us in; and with all speed provide
To see her coronation be perform'd.

[*Exit KING, QUEEN, and SUFFOLK.*

Glo. Brave peers of England, pillars of the
state,

To you duke Humphrey must unload his grief,
Your grief, the common grief of all the land.
What! did my brether Henry spend his youth,
His valour, coin, and people, in the wars?
Did he so often lodge in open field,
In winter's cold, and summer's parching heat,
To conquer France, his true inheritance?
And did my brother Bedford toil his wits,
To keep by policy what Henry got?
Have you yourselves, Somerset, Buckingham,
Brave York, Salisbury, and victorious War-
wick,

Receiv'd deep scars in France and Normandy?
Or hath my uncle Beaufort and myself,
With all the learned council of the realm,
Studied so long, sat in the council-house,
Early and late debating to and fro
How France and Frenchmen might be kept in
awe?

And hath his highness in his infancy
Been crown'd in Paris, in despite of foes?
And shall these labours, and these honours,
die?

Shall Henry's conquest, Bedford's vigilance,
Your deeds of war, and all our counsel, die?
O peers of England, shameful is this league!
Fatal this marriage, cancelling your fame:
Blotting your names from books of memory:
Razing the characters of your renown;
Defacing monuments of conquer'd France;
Undoing all, as all had never been!

Car. Nephew, what means this passionate
discourse?

This peroration with such circumstance?^o
For France, 'tis ours; and we will keep it still.

Glo. Ay, uncle, we will keep it if we can;
But now it is impossible we should:
Suffolk, the new-made duke that rules the
roast,

Hath given the dutchies of Anjou and Maine
Unto the poor king Reignier, whose large style
Agrees not with the leanness of his purse.

Sal. Now, by the death of him that died for
all,

These counties were the keys of Normandy:—
But wherefore weeps Warwick, my valiant
son?

War. For grief, that they are past recovery:
For, were there hope to conquer them again,
My sword should shed hot blood, mine eyes no
tears.

Anjou and Maine! myself did win them both;
Those provinces these arms of mine did con-
quer:

And are the cities, that I got with wounds,
Deliver'd up again with peaceful words?
Mort Dieu!

York. For Suffolk's duke—may he be suffo-
cate,

That dims the honour of this warlike isle!
France should have torn and rent my very
heart,

Before I would have yielded to this league.
I never read but England's kings have had
Large sums of gold, and dowries, with their
wives:

And our king Henry gives away his own,
To match with her that brings no vantages.

Glo. A proper jest, and never heard before,
That Suffolk should demand a whole fifteenth,
For costs and charges in transporting her!

She should have staid in France, and starv'd
in France,

Before—

Car. My lord of Gloster, now you grow too
hot;

It was the pleasure of my lord the king.

Glo. My lord of Winchester, I know your
mind;

'Tis not my speeches that you do mislike,
But 'tis my presence that doth trouble you.
Rancour will out: Proud prelate, in thy face
I see thy fury: if I longer stay,
We shall begin our ancient bickerings.†—
Lordings, farewell; and say when I am gone,
I prophesied—France will be lost ere long.

Exit.

Car. So there goes our protector in a rage.
'Tis known to you he is mine enemy:

Nay, more, an enemy unto you all;
And no great friend, I fear me, to the king.
Consider, lords, he is the next of blood,
And heir apparent to the English crown;
Had Henry got an empire by his marriage,
And all the wealthy kingdoms of the west,
There's reason he should be displeas'd at it.
Look to it, lords; let not his smoothing words
Bewitch your hearts; be wise, and circum-
spect.

What though the common people favour him,
Calling him—*Humphrey, the good duke of Glos-
ter;*

Clapping their hands, and crying with loud
Jesu maintain your royal excellence! [voice—
With—*God preserve the good duke Humphrey—*

* This speech crowded with so many circumstances
of aggravation. † Skirmishings.

I fear me, lords, for all this flattering gloss,
He will be found a dangerous protector.

Buck. Why should he then protect our sovereign,

He being of age to govern of himself?—
Cousin of Somerset, join you with me,
And all together—with the duke of Suffolk,—
We'll quickly hoise duke Humphrey from his seat.

Car. This weighty business will not brook delay;

I'll to the duke of Suffolk presently. [*Exit.*]

Som. Cousin of Buckingham, though Humphrey's pride,
And greatness of his place be grief to us,
Yet let us watch the haughty cardinal;
His insolence is more intolerable
Than all the princes in the land beside;
If Gloster be displac'd, he'll be protector.

Buck. Or thou, or I, Somerset, will be protector,

Despight duke Humphrey, or the cardinal.

[*Execunt BUCKINGHAM and SOMERSET.*]

Sal. Pride went before, ambition follows him. [*ment,*]

While these do labour for their own prefer-
Behoves it us to labour for the realm.

I never saw but Humphrey duke of Gloster
Did bear him like a noble gentleman.
Oft have I seen the haughty cardinal—
More like a soldier, than a man o'er the church,
As stout, and proud, as he were lord of all,—
Swear like a ruffian, and demean himself
Unlike the ruler of a common-weal.—
Warwick, my son, the comfort of my age!
Thy deeds, thy plainness, and thy house-keep-
ing,

Hath won the greatest favour of the commons,
Excepting none but good duke Humphrey.—
And, brother York, thy acts in Ireland,
In bringing them to civil discipline;
Thy late exploits, done in the heart of France,
When thou wert regent for our sovereign,
Have made thee fear'd, and honour'd, of the
people:—

Join we together for the public good;
In what we can to bridle and suppress
The pride of Suffolk, and the cardinal,
With Somerset's and Buckingham's ambition;
And, as we may, cherish duke Humphrey's
deeds,

While they do tend the profit of the land.

War. So God help Warwick, as he loves the
land,

And common profit of his country!

York. And so says York, for he hath great-
est cause.

Sal. Then let's make haste away, and look
unto the main.

War. Unto the main! O father, Maine is lost;
That Maine, which by main force Warwick did
win, [*last:*]
And would have kept, so long as breath did
Main chance, father, you meant; but I meant
Maine;

Which I will win from France, or else be slain.

[*Execunt WARWICK and SALISBURY.*]

York. Anjou and Maine are given to the
French;

Paris is lost; the state of Normandy
Stands on a tickle* point, now they are gone:
Suffolk concluded on the articles;
The peers agreed; and Henry was well pleas'd,
To change two dukedoms for a duke's fair
daughter.

* For ticklish.

I cannot blame them all; what is't to them?
'Tis thine they give away, and not their own.
Pirates may make cheap pennyworths of their
pillage,

And purchase friends, and give to courtezans,
Still revelling, like lords, till all be gone:

While as the silly owner of the goods
Weeps over them and wrings his hapless
hands, [*aloof,*]

And shakes his head, and trembling stands
While all is shar'd, and all is borne away;

Ready to starve, and dare not touch his own.
So York must sit, and fret, and bite his tongue,
While his own lands are bargain'd for, and sold.
Methinks, the realms of England, France, and
Ireland,

Bear that proportion to my flesh and blood,
As did the fatal brand Althea burn'd,
Unto the prince's heart of Calydon.*

Anjou and Maine, both given unto the French!
Cold news for me; for I had hope of France,
Even as I have of fertile England's soil.

A day will come, when York shall claim his
own;

And therefore I will take the Nevil's parts,
And make a show of love to proud duke
Humphrey,

And, when I spy advantage, claim the crown,
For that's the golden mark I seek to hit:
Nor shall proud Lancaster usurp my right,
Nor hold the sceptre in his childish fist,

Nor wear the diadem upon his head,
Whose church-like humours fit not for a crown.
Then, York, be still awhile, till time do serve:
Watch thou, and wake, when others be asleep,
To pry into the secrets of the state;

Till Henry, surfeiting in the joys of love,
With his new bride, and England's dear-bought
queen, [*Jars;*]

And Humphrey with the peers be fall'n at
Then will I raise aloft the milk white rose,
With whose sweet smell the air shall be per-
fum'd;

And in my standard bear the arms of York,
To grapple with the house of Lancaster;
And, force perforce, I'll make him yield the
crown,

Whose bookish rule hath pull'd fair England
down. [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—*The same.*—*a room in the Duke
of GLOSTER's House.*

Enter GLOSTER and the DUCHESS.

Duch. Why droops my lord, like over-ri-
pen'd corn,

Hanging the head at Ceres' plenteous load?
Why doth the great duke Humphrey knit his
brows,

As frowning at the favours of the world?
Why are thine eyes fix'd to the sullen earth,
Gazing on that which seems to dim the sight?
What see'st thou there? king Henry's diadem,
Enchas'd with all the honours of the word?

If so, gaze on, and grovel on thy face,
Until thy head be circled with the same.

Put forth thy hand, reach at the glorious gold:—
What, is't too short! I'll lengthen it with
mine:

And, having both together heav'd it up,
We'll both together lift our heads to heaven;
And never more abase our sight so low,
As to vouchsafe one glance unto the ground.

* Meleager; whose life was to continue only so long
as a certain firebrand should last. His mother Althea
having thrown it into the fire, he expired in torment.

Glo. O Nell, sweet Nell, if thou dost love thy lord,

Banish the canker of ambitious thoughts:
And may that thought, when I imagine ill
Against my king and nephew, virtuous Henry,
Be my last breathing in this mortal world?
My troublous dream this night doth make me sad.

Duch. What dream'd my lord? tell me, and I'll requite it

With sweet rehearsal of my morning's dream.

Glo. Methought, this staff, mine office-badge in court,

Was broken in twain, by whom, I have forgot,
But, as I think, it was by the cardinal;
And on the pieces of the broken wand
Were plac'd the heads of Edmond duke of Somerset,

And William de la Poole first duke of Suffolk.
This was my dream; what it doth bode, God knows.

Duch. Tut, this was nothing but an argument,

That he that breaks a stick of Gloster's grove,
Shall lose his head for his presumption.

But list to me, my Humphrey, my sweet duke:
Methought, I sat in seat of majesty,
In the cathedral church of Westminster,
And in that chair where kings and queens are crown'd;

[me,
Where Henry, and dame Margaret, kneel'd to
And on my head did set the diadem.

Glo. Nay, Eleanor, then must I chide outright:

Presumptuous dame, ill-nurtur'd* Eleanor!
Art thou not second woman in the realm;
And the protector's wife, belov'd of him?
Hast thou not worldly pleasure at command,
Above the reach or compass of thy thought?
And wilt thou still be hammering treachery,
To tumble down thy husband and thyself,
From top of honour to disgrace's feet?
Away from me, and let me hear no more.

Duch. What, what, my lord! are you so choleric

With Eleanor, for telling but her dream?
Next time, I'll keep my dreams unto myself,
And not be check'd.

Glo. Nay, be not angry, I am pleas'd again.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. My lord protector, 'tis his highness' pleasure,

You do prepare to ride unto Saint Albans,
Whereast the king and queen do mean to hawk.

Glo. I go.—Come, Nell, thou wilt ride with us?

Duch. Yes, good my lord, I'll follow presently.

[*Exeunt GLOSTER and MESSENGER.*

Follow I must, I cannot go before,
While Gloster bears this base and humble mind.
Were I a man, a duke, and next of blood,
I would remove these tedious stumbling-blocks,
And smooth my way upon their headless necks:

And, being a woman, I will not be slack
To play my part in fortune's pageant.
Where are you there? Sir John! nay, fear not, man,

We are alone; here none but thee, and I.

Enter HUME.

Hume. Jesu preserve your royal majesty!

Duch. What say'st thou, majesty! I am but grace.

Hume. But by the grace of God, and Hume's advice,

Your grace's title shall be multiplied.

Duch. What say'st thou, man? hast thou as yet conferr'd

With Margery Jourdain, the cunning witch;
And Roger Bolingbroke, the conjurer?

And will they undertake to do me good?

Hume. This they have promised,—to show your highness

A spirit rais'd from depth of under ground,
That shall make answer to such questions,
As by your grace shall be propounded him.

Duch. It is enough; I'll think upon the questions:

When from Saint Albans we do make return,
We'll see these things effected to the full.

Here, Hume, take this reward; make merry, man,

With thy confederates in this weighty cause.

[*Exit DUCHESS.*

Hume. Hume must make merry with the duchess' gold; [Hume?

Marry, and shall. But how now, Sir John
Seal up your lips, and give no words but—
The business asketh silent secrecy. [mum!

Dame Eleanor gives gold, to bring the witch:
Gold cannot come amiss, were she a devil.
Yet have I gold, flies from another coast:

I dare not say from the rich cardinal,
And from the great and new-made duke of Suffolk;

Yet I do find it so: for to be plain, [mour,
They, knowing dame Eleanor's aspiring hu-
Have hired me to undermine the duchess,
And buz these conjurations in her brain,
They say, a crafty knave does need no broker;
Yet am I Suffolk and the cardinal's broker.
Hume, if you take not heed, you shall go near
To call them both—a pair of crafty knaves.

Well, so it stands: and thus, I fear, at last,
Hume's knavery will be the duchess' wreck;
And her attainture will be Humphrey's fall:
Sort how it will,* I shall have gold for all.

[*Exit.*

SCENE III.—*The same.*—*A Room in the Palace.*

Enter PETER, and others, with Petitions.

1 *Pet.* My masters, let's stand close; my lord protector will come this way by and by, and then we may deliver our supplications in the quill.†

2 *Pet.* Marry, the Lord protect him, for he's a good man! Jesu bless him!

Enter SUFFOLK, and Queen MARGARET.

1 *Pet.* Here 'a comes, methinks, and the queen with him: I'll be the first, sure.

2 *Pet.* Come back, fool; this is the duke of Suffolk, and not my lord protector.

Suff. How now, fellow? would'st any thing with me?

1 *Pet.* I pray, my lord, pardon me! I took ye for my lord protector.

Q. Mar. [Reading the superscription.] *To my lord protector!* are your supplications to his lordship? Let me see them: What is thine?

1 *Pet.* Mine is, an't please your grace, against John Goodman, my lord cardinal's man, for keeping my house, and lands, and wife, and all, from me.

* Ill-educated.

† For wipers.

‡ A title frequently bestowed on the clergy.

§ Let the issue be what it will.

† With great exactness and observance of form.

Suf. Thy wife too? that is some wrong, indeed.—What's yours?—What's here! [*Reads.*] Against the duke of Suffolk, for enclosing the commons of Melford.—How now, sir knave?

2 Pel. Alas, Sir, I am but a poor petitioner of our whole township.

Peter. [*Presenting his petition.*] Against my master, Thomas Horner, for saying, That the duke of York was rightful heir to the crown.

Q. Mar. What say'st thou? Did the duke of York say, he was rightful heir to the crown?

Peter. That my master was? No, forsooth: my master said, That he was; and that the king was an usurper.

Suf. Who is there? [*Enter servants.*].—Take this fellow in, and send for his master with a pursuivant presently:—we'll hear more of your matter before the king.

[*Exeunt servants, with PETER.*]

Q. Mar.—And as for you, that love to be protected

Under the wings of our protector's grace,
Begin your suits anew, and sue to him.

[*Tears the petition.*]

Away, base cullions!—Suffolk, let them go.

All. Come, let's be gone.

[*Exeunt PETITIONERS.*]

Q. Mar. My lord of Suffolk, say, is this the guise,

Is this the fashion in the court of England?

Is this the government of Britain's isle,

And this the royalty of Albion's king?

What, shall king Henry be a pupil still,

Under the surly Gloster's governance?

Am I a queen in title and in style,

And must be made a subject to a duke?

I tell thee, Poole, when in the city Tours

Thou ran'st a tilt in honour of my love,

And stol'st away the lady's hearts of France;

I thought king Henry had resembled thee,

In courage, courtship, and proportion:

But all his mind is bent to holiness,

To number *Ave-Maries* on his beads:

His champions are—the prophets and apostles;

His weapons, holy saws† of sacred writ;

His study is his tilt-yard, and his loves

Are brazen images of caoniz'd saints.

I would, the college of cardinals [*Rome,*

Would choose him pope, and carry him to

And set the triple crown upon his head;

That were a state fit for his holiness.

Suf. Madam, be patient: as I was cause

Your highness came to England, so will I

In England work your grace's full content.

Q. Mar. Beside the haught protector, have we Beaufort,

The imperious churchman; Somerset, Buck-
ingham, [*these,*

And grumbling York: and not the least of
But can do more in England than the king.

Suf. And he of these, that can do most of
all,

Cannot do more in England than the Nevils:
Salisbury, and Warwick, are no simple peers.

Q. Mar. Not all these lords do vex me half
so much,

As that proud dame, the lord protector's wife.
She sweeps it through the court with troops of
ladies, [*wife;*

More like an empress than duke Humphrey's
Strangers in court do take her for the queen;

She bears a duke's revenues on her back,

And in her heart she scorns her poverty:

Shall I not live to be aveng'd on her?

Contemptuous base-born callat‡ as she is,

* Scoundrels † Sayings. ‡ Drab, trull.

She vaunted 'mongst her minions t'other day,
The very train of her worst wearing-gown
Was better worth than all my father's lands,
Till Suffolk gave two dukedoms for his daughter,

Suf. Madam, myself have lim'd a bush for
her;

And plac'd a quire of such enticing birds,

That she will light to listen to the lays,

And never mount to trouble you again.

So, let her rest: And, madam, list to me;

For I am bold to counsel you in this.

Although we fancy not the cardinal,

Yet must we join with him, and with the lords,

Till we have brought duke Humphrey in dis-
grace.

As for the duke of York,—this late complaint^e

Will make but little for his benefit:

So, one by one, we'll weed them all at last,

And you yourself shall steer the happy helm.

*Enter King HENRY, YORK, and SOMERSET, con-
versing with him; Duke and Duchess of
GLOSTER, Cardinal BEAUFORT, BUCHINGHAM,
SALISBURY, and WARWICK.*

K. Hen. For my part, noble lords, I care
not which;

Or Somerset, or York, all's one to me.

York. If York have ill demean'd himself in
France,

Then let him be deny'd† the regentship.

Som. If Somerset be unworthy of the place,

Let York be regent, I will yield to him.

War. Whether your grace be worthy, yea,
or no,

Dispute not that: York is the worthier.

Car. Ambitious Warwick, let thy betters
speak.

War. The cardinal's not my better in the
field.

Buck. All in this presence are thy betters,
Warwick.

War. Warwick may live to be the best of
all.

Sal. Peace, son;—and show some reason,
Buckingham,

Why Somerset should be prefer'd in this.

Q. Mar. Because the king, forsooth, will
have it so.

Glo. Madam, the king is old enough himself
To give his censure:‡ these are no women's
matters.

Q. Mar. If he be old enough, what needs
your grace

To be protector of his excellence?

Glo. Madam, I am protector of the realm;
And, at his pleasure, will resign my place.

Suf. Resign it then, and leave thine insol-
ence. [*thou?*]

Since thou wert king, (as who is king but
The commonwealth hath daily run to wreck:

The Dauphin hath prevail'd beyond the seas;

And all the peers and nobles of the realm

Have been as bondmen to thy sovereignty.

Car. The commons hast thou rack'd; the
clergy's bags

Are lank and lean with thy extortions.

Som. Thy sumptuous buildings, and thy
wife's attire,

Have cost a mass of public treasury.

Buck. Thy cruelty in execution,

* *I.e.* The complaint of Peter the armourer's man
against his master.

† Denay is frequently used instead of deny among the
old writers.

‡ Censure here means simply judgment or opinion.

Upon offenders, hath exceeded law,
And left thee to the mercy of the law.

Q. Mar. Thy sale of offices, and towns in France,—

If they were known, as the suspect is great,—
Would make thee quickly hop without thy head.

[*Exit GLOSTER. The Queen drops her Fan.*
Give me my fan: What, minion! can you not?

[*Gives the DUCHESS a box on the Ear.*

I cry, you mercy, madam; Was it you?

Duch. Was't I? yea, I it was, proud French-woman:

Could I come near your beauty with my nails,
I'd set my ten commandments in your face.*

K. Hen. Sweet aunt, be quiet; 'twas against her will.

Duch. Against her will! Good king, look to't in time;

She'll hamper thee, and dandle thee like a baby:
Though in this place most master wear no breeches,

She shall not strike dame Eleanor unreveng'd.

[*Exit DUCHESS.*

Buck. Lord cardinal, I will follow Eleanor,
And listen after Humphrey, how he proceeds:
She's tickled now; her fume can need no spurs,
She'll gallop fast enough to her destruction.

[*Exit BUCKINGHAM.*

Re-enter GLOSTER.

Glo. Now, lords, my choler being over-blown:
With walking once about the quadrangle,
I come to talk of commonwealth affairs.

As for your spiteful false objections,
Prove them, and I lie open to the law:

But God in mercy so deal with my soul,
As I in duty love my king and country!

But, to the matter that we have in hand:
I say, my sovereign, York is meetest man

To be your regent in the realm of France.

Suf. Before we make election, give me leave
To show some reason, of no little force,
That York is most unmeet of any man.

York. I'll tell thee, Suffolk, why I am unmeet.

First, for I cannot flatter thee in pride:
Next, if I be appointed for the place,

My lord of Somerset will keep me here,
Without discharge, money, or furniture,

Till France be won into the Dauphin's hands.
Last time, I danc'd attendance on his will,

Till Paris was besieg'd, famish'd, and lost.

War. That I can witness; and a fouler fact
Did never traitor in the land commit.

Suf. Peace, head-strong Warwick!

War. Image of pride, why should I hold my peace?

Enter servants of SUFFOLK, bringing in HORNER and PETER.

Suf. Because here is a man accus'd of treason:

Pray God, the duke of York excuse himself!

York. Doth any one accuse York for a traitor?

K. Hen. What mean'st thou, Suffolk? tell me: What are these?

Suf. Please it your majesty, this is the man
That doth accuse his master of high treason:
His words were these;—that Richard, duke of York,

Was rightful heir unto the English crown;
And that your majesty was an usurper.

K. Hen. Say, man, were these thy words?

Hor. An't shall please your majesty, Inever

said nor thought any such matter: God is my witness, I am falsely accused by the villain.

Pet. By these ten bones, my lords, [*Holding up his Hands.*] he did speak them to me in the garret one night, as we were scouring my lord of York's armour.

York. Base dunghill villain, and mechanical,
I'll have thy head for this thy traitor's speech:—
I do beseech your royal majesty,
Let him have all the rigour of the law.

Hor. Alas, my lord, hang me, if ever I spake the words. My accuser is my prentice; and when I did correct him for his fault the other day, he did vow upon his knees he would be even with me: I have good witness of this; therefore, I beseech your majesty, do not cast away an honest man for a villain's accusation.

K. Hen. Uncle, what shall we say to this in law?

Glo. This doom, my lord, if I may judge.

Let Somerset be regent o'er the French,
Because in York this breeds suspicion:
And let these have a day appointed them
For single combat in convenient place;
For he hath witness of his servant's malice:
This is the law, and this duke Humphrey's doom.

E. Hen. Then be it so. My lord of Somerset,
We make your grace lord regent o'er the French.

Som. I humbly thank your royal majesty.

Hor. And I accept the combat willingly.

Pet. Alas, my lord, I cannot fight; for God's sake, pity my case! the spite of man prevaileth against me. O, Lord, have mercy upon me! I shall never be able to fight a blow: O Lord, my heart!

Glo. Sirrah, or you must fight, or else be hang'd.

K. Hen. Away with them to prison: and the day

Of combat shall be the last of the next month.
Come, Somerset, we'll see thee sent away.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—*The same.*—*The duke of GLOSTER'S Garden.*

Enter MARGERY JOURDAIN, HUME, SOUTHWELL, and BOLINGBROKE.

Hume. Come, my masters; the duchess, I tell you, expects performance of your promises.

Boling. Master Hume, we are therefore provided: Will her ladyship behold and hear our exorcisms?*

Hume. Ay; What else? fear you not her courage.

Boling. I have heard her reported to be a woman of an invincible spirit: But it shall be convenient, master Hume, that you be by her aloft, while we be busy below; and so, I pray you, go in God's name, and leave us. [*Exit. HUME.*] Mother Jourdain, be you prostrate, and grovel on the earth:—John Southwell, read you; and let us to our work.

Enter DUCHESS, above.

Duch. Well said, my masters; and welcome all. To this gear; the sooner the better.

Boling. Patience, good lady; wizards know their times:

Deep night, dark night, the silent of the night,
The time of night when Troy was set on fire;

* By exorcise Shakspeare invariably means to raise spirits, and not to lay them.

† Matter or business.

* The marks of her fingers and thumbs.

The time when screech-owls cry, and baw-dogs* howl,
And spirits walk, and ghosts break up their graves,
That time best fits the work we have in hand.
Madam, sit you, and fear not; whom we raise,
We will make fast within a hallow'd verge.

[Here they perform the Ceremonies appertaining, and make the Circle; BOLINGBROKE, or SOUTHWELL, reads, Conjuro, te, &c. It thunders and lightens terribly; then the SPIRIT riseth.

Spir. Adsum.

M. Jourd. Asmath,
By the eternal God, whose name and power
Thou tremblest at, answer that I shall ask;
For, till thou speak, thou shalt not pass from hence,

Spir. Ask what thou wilt:—That I had said and done!

Boling. First of the king. What shall of him become? [Reading out of a Paper.

Spir. The duke yet lives, that Henry shall depose;

But him outlive, and die a violent death.

[As the SPIRIT speaks, SOUTHWELL writes the answer.

Boling. What fate awaits the duke of Suffolk?

Spir. By water shall he die, and take his end.

Boling. What shall befall the duke of Somerset?

Spir. Let him shun castles;

Safer shall he be upon the sandy plains

Than where castles mounted stand.

Have done, for more I hardly can endure.

Boling. Descend to darkness, and the burning lake:

False fiend, avoid!

[Thunder and Lightning. SPIRIT descends.

Enter YORK and BUCKINGHAM, hastily, with their Guards, and others.

York. Lay hands upon these traitors, and their trash. [Inch.—

Beldame, I think, we watch'd you at an
What, madam, are you there? the king and commonweal

Are deeply indebted for this piece of pains;

My lord protector will, I doubt it not,

See you well guerdon'd† for these good deserts.

Duch. Not half so bad as thine to England's king,

Injurious duke; that threat'st where is no cause.

Buck. True madam, none at all. What call you this? [Showing her the papers.

Away with them; let them be clapp'd up close,
And kept asunder:—You, madam, shall with us:

Stafford, take her to thee.—

[Exit DUCHESS from above.

We'll see your trinkets here all forth-coming;

All.—Away!

[Exeunt Guards, with SOUTH. BOLING. &c.

York. Lord Buckingham, methinks, you watch'd her well:

A pretty plot, well chosen to build upon!

Now, pray, my lord, let's see the devil's writ.

What have we here? [Reads.

The duke yet lives, that Henry shall depose;

But him outlive, and die a violent death.

Why, this is just,

Aio te, Æacida, Romanos vincere posse.

* Village-dogs.

† Rewarded.

Well, to the rest:

Tell me what fate awaits the duke of Suffolk?

By water shall he die, and take his end.—

What shall betide the duke of Somerset?

Let him shun castles;

Safer shall he be upon the sandy plains,

Than where castles mounted stand.

Come, come, my lords;

These oracles are hardly attain'd,

And hardly understood.

[Albans.

The king is now in progress toward Saint

With him, the husband of this lovely lady:

Thither go these news, as fast as horse can carry them;

A sorry breakfast for my lord protector.

Buck. Your grace shall give me leave, my lord of York,

To be the post, in hope of his reward.

York. At your pleasure, my good lord.—

Who's within there, ho!

Enter a SERVANT.

Invite my lords of Salisbury, and Warwick,

To sup with me to-morrow night.—Away!

[Exeunt.

ACT II.

SCENE I.—Saint Albans.

Enter King HENRY, Queen MARGARET, GLOSTER, CARDINAL, and SUFFOLK, with Falconers hollaing.

Q. Mar. Believe me, lords, for flying at the brook,*

I saw not better sport these seven years' day:

Yet, by your leave, the wind was very high;

And, ten to one, old Joan had not gone out.

K. Hen. But what a point, my lord, your falcon made,

And what a pitch she flew above the rest!—

To see how God in all his creatures works!

Yea, man and birds, are faint of climbing high.

Suf. No marvel, an it like your majesty,

My lord protector's hawks do tower so well;

They know their master loves to be aloft,

And hears his thoughts above his falcon's pitch.

Glo. My lord, 'tis but a base ignoble mind

That mounts no higher than a bird can soar.

Car. I thought as much; he'd be above the clouds.

Glo. Ay, my lord cardinal; How think you by that?

Were it not good, your grace could fly to heaven?

K. Hen. The treasury of everlasting joy!

Car. Thy heaven is on earth: thine eyes and thoughts

Beat on a crown,† the treasure of thy heart;

Pernicious protector, dangerous peer, [weal!

That smooth't it so with king and common-

Glo. What cardinal, is your priesthood grown peremptory?

Tantæne animis celestibus iræ? [malice;

Churchmen so hot? good uncle, hide such

With such holiness can you do it?

Suf. No malice, Sir; no more than well becomes

So good a quarrel, and so bad a peer.

Glo. As who, my lord?

Suf. Why, as you, my lord;

An't like your lordly lord-protectorship.

Glo. Why Suffolk, England knows thine insolence.

Q. Mar. And thy ambition, Gloster.

* The falconer's term for hawking at water fowl.

† Fond. ‡ I e. Thy mind is working on a crown.

K. Hen. I pry'thce, peace, [peers,
Good queen; and whet not on these furious
For blessed are the peacemakers on earth.

Car. Let me be blessed for the peace I make

Against this proud protector, with my sword!

Glo. 'Faith, holy uncle, 'would 'twere come
to that! [*Aside to the CARDINAL.*

Car. Marry, when thou dar'st. [*Aside.*

Glo. Make up no factious numbers for the
matter,

In thine own person answer thy abuse. [*Aside.*

Car. Ay, where thou dar'st not peep: an if
thou dar'st

This evening on the east side of the grove.

[*Aside.*

K. Hen. How now, my lords?

Car. Believe me, cousin Gloster, [ly,

Had not your man put up the fowl so sudden-
We had had more sport.—Come with thy two-
hand sword. [*Aside to GLO.*

Glo. True uncle.

Car. Are you advis'd?—the east side of the
grove?

Glo. Cardinal, I am with you. [*Aside.*

K. Hen. Why, how now, uncle Gloster?

Glo. Talking of hawking; nothing else, my
lord.—

Now, by God's mother, priest, I'll shave your
crown for this,

Or all my fence* shall fail. [*Aside.*

Car. Medice teipsum:

Protector, see to't well, protect yourself.

[*Aside.*

K. Hen. The winds grow high; so do your
stomachs, lords.

How Irksome is this music to my heart!

When such strings jar, what hope of harmony?

I pray, my lords, let me compound this strife.

*Enter an INHABITANT of Saint Albans, crying,
A Miracle!*

Glo. What means this noise?

Fellow, what miracle dost thou proclaim?

Inhab. A miracle! a miracle!

Suf. Come to the king, and tell him what
miracle.

Inhab. Forsooth, a blind man at Saint Al-
ban's shrine,

Within this half hour, hath receiv'd his sight;

A man, that ne'er saw in his life before.

K. Hen. Now, God be prais'd! that to be-
lieving souls

Gives light in darkness, comfort in despair!

*Enter the MAYOR of Saint Albans, and his Breth-
ren; and SIMPCOX, borne between two per-
sons in a Chair; his Wife, and a great multi-
tude following.*

Car. Here come the townsmen on procession,
To present your highness with the man.

K. Hen. Great is his comfort in this earthly
vale,

Although by his sight his sin be multiplied.

Glo. Stand by, my masters, bring him near
the king,

His highness' pleasure is to talk with him

K. Hen. Good fellow, tell us here the cir-
cumstance,

That we for thee may glorify the Lord.

What, hast thou been long blind, and now re-
stor'd?

Simp. Born blind, an't please your grace.

Wife. Ay, indeed, was he.

Suf. What woman is this?

Wife. His wife, an't like your worship.

* Fence is the art of defence.

Glo. Had'st thou been his mother, thou
could'st have better told.

K. Hen. Where wert thou born?

Simp. At Berwick in the north, an't like
your grace.

K. Hen. Poor soul! God's goodness hath
been great to thee:

Let never day nor night unhallow'd pass,
But still remember what the Lord hath done.

Q. Mar. Tell me, good fellow, cam'st thou
here by chance,

Or of devotion, to this holy shrine?

Simp. God knows, of pure devotion; being
call'd

A hundred times, and oftener, in my sleep
By good Saint Alban; who said,—*Simpeox,*
come;

Come, offer at my shrine, and I will help thee.

Wife. Most true, forsooth; and many time
and oft

Myself have heard a voice to call him so.

Car. What, art thou lame?

Simp. Ay, God Almighty help me!

Suf. How cam'st thou so?

Simp. A fall off of a tree.

Wife. A plum-tree, master.

Glo. How long hast thou been blind?

Simp. O, born so, master.

Glo. What, and would'st climb a tree?

Simp. But that in all my life, when I was a
youth.

Wife. Too true; and bought his climbing
very dear.

Glo. 'Mass, thou lov'dst plums well, that
would'st venture so.

Simp. Alas, good master, my wife desir'd
some damsons,

And made me climb, with danger of my life.

Glo. A subtle knave! but yet it shall not
serve.—

Let me see thine eyes:—wink now;—now open
them:—

In my opinion yet thou see'st not well.

Simp. Yes, master, clear as day; I thank
God, and Saint Alban.

Glo. Say'st thou me so? What colour is this
cloak of?

Simp. Red, master; red as blood.

Glo. Why, that's well said: What colour is
my gown of?

Simp. Black, forsooth; coal-black, as jet.

K. Hen. Why then, thou know'st what col-
our jet is of?

Suf. And yet, I think, jet did he never see.

Glo. But cloaks, and gowns, before this day,
a many.

Wife. Never, before this day, in all his life.

Glo. Tell me, sirrah, what's my name?

Simp. Alas, master, I know not.

Glo. What's his name?

Simp. I know not.

Glo. Nor his?

Simp. No, indeed, master.

Glo. What's thine own name?

Simp. Saunder Simpeox, an if it please you
master.

Glo. Then, Saunder, sit thou there, the ly-
ingest knave

In Christendom. If thou hadst been born blind,
Thou might'st as well have known our names
as thus

To name the several colours we do wear.

Sight may distinguish of colours; but suddenly
To nominate them all's impossible.—

My lords, Saint Alban here hath done a mi-
racle;

And would ye not think that cunning to be great,

That could restore this cripple to his legs?

Simp. O, master, that you could!

Glo. My masters of St. Albans, have you not beadles in your town, and things called whips?

May. Yes, my lord, if it please your grace.

Glo. Then send for one presently.

May. Sirrah, go fetch the beadle hither straight. [Exit an ATTENDANT.]

Glo. Now fetch me a stool hither by and by.

[A Stool brought out.] Now, sirrah, if you mean to save yourself from whipping, leap me over this stool, and run away.

Simp. Alas, master, I am not able to stand alone: You go about to torture me in vain.

Re-enter ATTENDANT, with the BEADLE.

Glo. Well, Sir, we must have you find your legs. Sirrah, beadle, whip him till he leap over that same stool.

Bead. I will, my lord.—Come on, sirrah; off with your doublet quickly.

Simp. Alas, master, what shall I do? I am not able to stand.

[After the BEADLE hath hit him once, he leaps over the Stool, and runs away; and the People follow, and cry, A miracle!

K. Hen. O God, see'st thou this, and bear'st so long!

Q. Mar. It made me laugh, to see the villain run.

Glo. Follow the knave; and take this drab away.

Wife. Alas, Sir, we did it for pure need.

Glo. Let them be whipped through every market town, till they come to Berwick, whence they came.

[Execute MAYOR, BEADLE, WIFE, &c.]

Car. Duke Humphrey has done a miracle to-day.

Suf. True; made the lame to leap, and fly away.

Glo. But you have done more miracles than I; You made, in a day, my lord, whole towns to fly.

Enter BUCKINGHAM.

K. Hen. What tidings with our cousin Buckingham?

Buck. Such as my heart doth tremble to unfold.

A sort* of naughty persons, lewdly† bent,—
Under the countenance and confederacy
Of lady Eleanor, the protector's wife,
The ringleader and head of all this rout,—
Have practis'd dangerously against your state,
Dealing with witches, and with conjurers:
Whom we have apprehended in the fact;
Raising up wicked spirits from under ground,
Demanding of king Henry's life and death,
And other of your highness' privy council,
As more at large your grace shall understand.

Car. And so, my lord protector, by this means
Your lady is forthcoming; yet at London.

This news, I think, hath turn'd your weapon's edge;

'Tis like, my lord, you will not keep your hour.

[Aside to GLOSTER.]

Glo. Ambitious churchman, leave to afflict my heart!

[powers;

Sorrow and grief have vanquish'd all my
And, vanquish'd as I am, I yield to thee,
Or to the meanest groom.

* A company.

† Wickedly.

‡ I. e. Your lady is in custody.

K. Hen. O God, what mischiefs work the wicked ones; [by!]

Heaping confusion on their own heads there—

Q. Mar. Gloster, see here the tainture of thy nest;

And look thyself be faultless, thou wert best.

Glo. Madam, for myself, to heaven I do appeal,

How I have lov'd my king, and commonweal:

And, for my wife, I know not how it stands;

Sorry I am to hear what I have heard:

Noble she is; but if she have forgot

Honour, and virtue, and convers'd with such

As, like to pitch, defile nobility,

I banish her, my bed, and company;

And give her, as a prey, to law, and shame,

That hath dishonour'd Gloster's honest name.

K. Hen. Well, for this night, we will repose us here:

To-morrow, toward London, back again,

To look into this business thoroughly,

And call these foul offenders to their answers;

And poise* the cause in justice' equal scales,

Whose beam stands sure, whose rightful cause prevails. [Flourish. Execute.]

SCENE II.—London.—the Duke of YORK's Garden.

Enter YORK, SALISBURY, and WARWICK.

York. Now, my good lords of Salisbury and Warwick,

Our simple supper ended, give me leave,

In this close walk, to satisfy myself,

In craving your opinion of my title,

Which is infallible, to England's crown.

Sal. My lord, I long to hear it at full.

War. Sweet York, begin: and if thy claim be good,

The Nevils are thy subjects to command.

York. Then thus:

Edward the Third, my lords, had seven sons:

The first, Edward the Black Prince, prince of Wales;

The second, William of Hatfield; and the third,

Lionel, duke of Clarence; next to whom,

Was John of Gaunt, the duke of Lancaster:

The fifth, was Edmund Langley, duke of York;

The sixth, was Thomas of Woodstock, duke of Gloucester;

William of Windsor was the seventh, and last.

Edward, the Black Prince, died before his father;

And left behind him Richard, his only son,
Who, after Edward the Third's death, reign'd as king;

Till Henry Bolingbroke, duke of Lancaster,

The eldest son and heir of John of Gaunt.

Crown'd by the name of Henry the Fourth;

Seiz'd on the realm; depos'd the rightful king;

Sent his poor queen to France, from whence she came,

And him to Pomfret; where, as all you know,
Harmless Richard was murder'd traitorously.

War. Father, the duke hath told the truth;
Thus got the house of Lancaster the crown.

York. Which now they hold by force, and not by right;

For Richard, the first son's heir being dead,
The issue of the next son should have reign'd.

Sal. But William of Hatfield died without an heir.

York. The third son, duke of Clarence,
(from whose line

I claim the crown,) had issue—Phillippe, a daughter,

* Weigh.

Who married Edmund Mortimer, earl of March,

Edmund had issue—Roger, earl of March:
Roger had issue—Edmund, Anne, and Eleanor.

Sal. This Edmund, in the reign of Bolingbroke,

As I have read, laid claim unto the crown;
And, but for Owen Glendower, had been king,
Who kept him in captivity, till he died.
But, to the rest.

York. His eldest sister, Anne,
My mother being heir unto the crown,
Married Richard, earl of Cambridge; who was son

To Edmund Langley, Edward the Third's fifth
By her I claim the kingdom: she was heir
To Roger, earl of March; who was the son
Of Edmund Mortimer; who married Philippe,
Sole daughter unto Lionel, duke of Clarence:
So, if the issue of the elder son
Succeed before the younger, I am king.

War. What plain proceedings are more plain than this?

Henry doth claim the crown from John of Gaunt,

The fourth son; York claims it from the third.
Till Lionel's issue fails, his should not reign:
It fails not yet; but flourishes in thee,
And in thy sons, fair slips of such a stock.—
Then, father Salisbury, kneel we both together;

And, in this private plot,* be we the first,
That shall salute our rightful sovereign
With honour of his birthright to the crown.

Both. Long live our sovereign Richard,
England's king!

York. We thank you lords. But I am not your king

Till I be crown'd; and that my sword be
With heart-blood of the house of Lancaster.
And that's not suddenly to be perform'd;
But with advice, and silent secrecy.

Do you, as I do, in these dangerous days,
Wink at the duke of Suffolk's insolence,
At Beaufort's pride, at Somerset's ambition,
At Buckingham, and all the crew of them,
Till they have snar'd the shepherd of the flock,
That virtuous prince, the good duke Humphrey;

'Tis that they seek; and they in seeking that,
Shall find their deaths, if York can prophesy.

Sal. My lord, break we off; we know your mind at full.

War. My heart assures me, that the earl of Warwick

Shall one day make the duke of York a king.

York. And, Nevil, this I do assure myself,—
Richard shall live to make the earl of Warwick

The greatest man in England, but the king.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—*The same.*—A Hall of Justice.

Trumpets sounded. Enter King HENRY, Queen MARGARET, GLOSTER, YORK, SUFFOLK, and SALISBURY; the Dutchess of GLOSTER, MARGERY Jourdain, Southwell, Hume, and Bolingbroke, under guard.

K. Hen. Stand forth, dame Eleanor Cobham, Gloster's wife:

In sight of God, and us, your guilt is great;
Receive the sentence of the law, for sins
Such as by God's book are adjudg'd to death.—

* Sequestered spot.

You four, from hence to prison back again;

[*To JOURD, &c.*]

From thence, unto the place of execution:
The witch in Smithfield shall be burn'd to ashes,

And you three shall be strangled on the gallows.—

You, madam, for you are more nobly born,
Despoiled of your honour in your life,
Shall, after three days' open penance done,
Live in your country here, in banishment,
With Sir John Stanley, in the isle of Man.

Duch. Welcome is banishment, welcome were my death.

Glo. Eleanor, the law, thou seest, hath judg'd thee;

I cannot justify whom the law condemns.—
[*Exeunt the DUCHESS, and the other prisoners, guarded.*]

Mine eyes are full of tears, my heart of grief.
Ah, Humphrey, this dishonour in thine age
Will bring thy head with sorrow to the ground!—

I beseech your majesty, give me leave to go;
Sorrow would solace, and mine age would ease.*

K. Hen. Stay, Humphrey duke of Gloster: ere they go,

Give up thy staff; Henry will to himself
Protector be; and God shall be my hope,
My stay, my guide, and lantern to my feet;
And go in peace, Humphrey; no less belov'd,
Than when thou wert protector to thy king.

Q. Mar. I see no reason, why a king of years

Should be to be protected like a child.—
God and king Henry govern England's helm:
Give up your staff, Sir, and the king his realm.

Glo. My staff?—here, noble Henry, is my staff:

As willingly do I the same resign,
As e'er thy father Henry made it mine;
And even as willingly at thy feet I leave it,
As others would ambitiously receive it.
Farewell, good king: When I am dead and gone,

May honourable peace attend thy throne!
[*Exit.*]

Q. Mar. Why, now is Henry king, and Margaret queen;

And Humphrey, duke of Gloster, scarce himself,

That bears so shrewd a maim; two pulls at once,—

His lady banish'd, and a limb lopp'd off;
This staff of honour raught:—There let it stand,

Where it best fits to be, in Henry's hand.

Suf. Thus droops this lofty pine, and hangs his sprays;

Thus Eleanor's pride dies in her youngest days.

York. Lords, let him go.—Please it your majesty,

This is the day appointed for the combat;
And ready are the appellant and defendant,
The armourer and his man, to enter the lists,
So please your highness to behold the fight.

Q. Mar. Ay, good my lord: for purposely therefore

Left I the court, to see this quarrel tried.

K. Hen. O' God's name, see the lists and all things fit;

* I. e. Sorrow requires solace, and age requires ease.
† Reached.

Here let them end it, and God defend the right!

York. I never saw a fellow worse bested,* Or more afraid to fight, than is the appellant, The servant of this armourer, my lords.

Enter on one side, HORNER, and his neighbours, drinking to him so much that he is drunk; and he enters bearing his staff with his sand-bag fastened to it; a drum before him; at the other side, PETER, with a drum and a similar staff; accompanied by 'Prentices drinking to him.

1 Neigh. Here, neighbour Horner, I drink to you in a cup of sack; and fear not, neighbour, you shall do well enough.

2 Neigh. And here, neighbour, here's a cup of charneco.†

3 Neigh. And here's a pot of good double beer, neighbour; drink, and fear not your man.

Hor. Let it come, i'faith, and I'll pledge you all; And a fig for Peter!

1 Pren. Here, Peter, I drink to thee; and be not afraid.

2 Pren. Be merry, Peter, and fear not thy master; fight for credit of the 'prentices.

Peter. I thank you all: drink, and pray for me, I pray you; for, I think, I have taken my last draught in this world.—Here, Robin, an if I die, I give thee my apron; and, Will, thou shall have my hammer; and here, Tom, take all the money that I have.—O Lord, bless me, I pray God! for I am never able to deal with my master, he hath learnt so much fence already.

Sal. Come, leave your drinking, and fall to blows.—Sirrah, what's thy name?

Peter. Peter, forsooth.

Sal. Peter! what more?

Peter. Thump.

Sal. Thump! then see thou thump thy master well.

Hor. Masters, I am come hither, as it were, upon my man's instigation, to prove him a knave, and myself an honest man; and touching the duke of York,—will take my death, I never meant him any ill, nor the king, nor the queen: And therefore, Peter, have at thee with a downright blow, as Bevis of Southampton fell upon Ascapart.

York. Despatch!—this knave's tongue begins to double.

Sound trumpets, alarum to the combatants.

[Alarum. The fight and PETER strikes down his Master.

Hor. Hold, Peter, hold! I confess, I confess treason. [Dies.

York. Take away his weapon:—Fellow, Thank God, and the good wine in thy master's way.

Peter. O God! have I overcome mine enemies in this presence? O Peter, thou hast prevailed in right!

K. Hen. Go, take hence that traitor from our sight; For, by his death, we do perceive his guilt:† And God, in justice, hath reveal'd to us The truth and innocence of this poor fellow, Which he had thought to have murdered wrongfully.—

Come, fellow, follow us for thy reward.

[Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—The same.—A Street.

Enter GLOSTER and SERVANTS, in mourning Cloaks.

Glo. Thus, sometimes, hath the brightest day a cloud;

And, after summer, evermore succeeds Barren winter, with his w'athful nipping cold: So cares and joys abound, as seasons fleet.*

Sirs, what's o'clock?

Serv. Ten, my lord.

Glo. Ten is the hour that was appointed me To watch the coming of my punish'd duchess: Uncath't may she endure the flinty streets, To tread them with her tender-feeling feet. Sweet Nell, ill can thy noble mind abrook The abject people, gazing on thy face, With envious looks, still laughing at thy shame;

That erst did follow thy proud chariot wheels, When thou didst ride in triumph through the streets.

But soft! I think, she comes; and I'll prepare My tear-stain'd eyes to see her miseries.

Enter the Duchess of GLOSTER, in a white sheet, with papers pinned upon her back, her feet bare, and a taper burning in her hand; Sir JOHN STANLEY, a SHERIFF, and Officers.

Serv. So please your grace, we'll take her from the Sheriff.

Glo. No, stir not, for your lives; let her pass by.

Duch. Come you, my lord, to see my open shame! [gaze!

Now thou dost penance too. Look, how they See, how the giddy multitude do point, And nod their heads, and throw their eyes on thee!

Ah, Gloster, hide thee from their hateful looks; And, in thy closet pent up, rue my shame, And banq' thine enemies, both mine and thine.

Glo. Be patient, gentle Nell; forget this grief.

Duch. Ah, Gloster, teach me to forget my self:

For, whilst I think I am thy married wife, And thou a prince, protector of this land, Methinks, I should not thus be led along, Mail'd up in shame,|| with papers on my back And follow'd with a rabble, that rejoice To see my tears, and hear my deep-fet¶ groans.

The ruthless flint doth cut my tender feet; And, when I start, the envious people laugh, And bid me be advised how I tread.

Ah, Humphrey, can I bear this shameful yoke, Trow'st thou, that e'er I'll look upon the world;

Or count them happy, that enjoy the sun? No; dark shall be my light, and night my day; To think upon my pomp, shall be my hell. Sometime I'll say, I am duke Humphrey's wife;

And he a prince, and ruler of the land: Yet so he rul'd, and such a prince he was, As he stood by, whilst I, his forlorn duchess, Was made a wonder, and a pointing-stock, To every idle rascal follower.

But be thou mild, and blush not at my shame Nor stir at nothing, till the axe of death Hang over thee, as, sure, it shortly will. For Suffolk,—he that can do all in all

* In a worse plight.

† A sort of sweet wine.

‡ The death of the vanquished person was always regarded as certain evidence of his guilt.

* Change. † Not easily. ‡ Malicious. † Curse. || Wrapped up in disgrace; alluding to the sheet of penance. ¶ Deep-fetched.

With her, that hateth thee, and hates us all,—
And York, and impious Beaufort, that false
priest,
Have all lim'd bushes to betray thy wings,
And, fly thou how thou canst, they'll tangle
thee :

But fear not thou, until thy foot be snar'd,
Nor never seek prevention of thy foes.

Glo. Ah, Nell, forbear; thou'ainest all awry;
I must offend, before I be attained :
And had I twenty times so many foes,
And each of them had twenty times their power
All these could not procure me any scathe,*
So long as I am loyal, true, and crimeless.
Would'st have me rescue thee from this re-
proach ?

Why, yet thy scandal were not wip'd away,
But I in danger for the breach of law.
Thy greatest help is quiet, gentle Nell :
I pray thee, sort thy heart to patience ;
These few days' wonder will be quickly worn.

Enter a HERALD.

Her. I summon your grace to his majesty's
parliament, holden at Bury the first of this
next month.

Glo. And my consent ne'er ask'd herein
before !

This is close dealing.—Well, I will be there.

[*Exit* HERALD.]

My Nell, I take my leave:—and, master she-
riff,

Let not her penance exceed the king's commis-
sion.

Sher. An't please your grace, here my commis-
sion stays :

And Sir John Stanley is appointed now

To take her with him to the isle of Man.

Glo. Must you, Sir John, protect my lady
here ?

Stan. So am I given in charge, may'st please
your grace.

Glo. Entreat her not the worse, in that I pray
You use her well: the world may laugh again;†
And I may live to do you kindness, if
You do it her. And so, Sir John, farewell.

Duch. What gone, my lord; and bid me
not farewell.

Glo. Witness my tears, I cannot stay to speak.

[*Exit* GLOSTER and SERVANTS.]

Duch. Art thou gone too? All comfort go
with thee!

For none abides with me: my joy is—death;
Death, at whose name I oft have been afraid,
Because I wish'd this world's eternity.—
Stanley, I pr'y'thee, go, and take me hence;
I care not whither, for I beg no favour,
Only convey me where thou art commanded.

Stan. Why madam, that is to the isle of
Man;

There to be used according to your state.

Duch. That's bad enough, for I am but re-
proach:

And shall I then be us'd reproachfully ?

Stan. Like to a duchess, and duke Hum-
phrey's lady,

According to that state you shall be used.

Duch. Sheriff, farewell, and better than I
fare;

Although thou hast been conduct† of my
Sher. It is my office; and, madam, pardon
me.

Duch. Ay, ay, farewell; thy office is dis-
com'd, Stanley, shall we go ?

* Harm, mischief.

† *I. e.* The world may look again favourably on me.

‡ For conductor.

Stan. Madam, your penance done, throw
off this sheet,

And go we to attire you for our journey.

Duch. My shame will not be shifted with my
sheet :

No, it will hang upon my richest robes,
And show itself, attire me how I can.

Go, lead the way; I long to see my prison.

[*Exit.*]

ACT III.

SCENE I.—The Abbey at Bury.

*Enter to the Parliament, King HENRY, Queen
MARGARET, Cardinal BEAUFORT, SUFFOLK,
YORK, BUCKINGHAM, and others.*

K. Hen. I muse,* my lord of Gloster is not
come :

'Tis not his wont to be the hindmost man,
Whate'er occasion keeps him from us now.

Q. Mar. Can you not see? or will you not
observe

The strangeness of his alter'd countenance ?
With what a majesty he bears himself;
How insolent of late he is become,
How proud, peremptory, and unlike himself ?
We know the time, since he was mild and
affable;

And, if we did but glance a far-off look,

Immediately he was upon his knee,

That all the court admir'd him for submission

But, meet him now, and, be it in the morn,

When every one will give the time of day,

He knits his brow, and shows an angry eye,

And passeth by with stiff unbowed knee,

Disdaining duty that to us belongs.

Small curs are not regarded, when they grin

But great men tremble, when the lion roars;

And Humphrey is no little man in England.

First, note, that he is near you in descent;

And should you fall, he is the next will mount.

Me seemeth then, it is no policy,—

Respecting what a rancorous mind he bears,

And his advantage following your decease,—

That he should come about your royal person,

Or be admitted to your highness' council.

By flattery hath he won the commons' hearts;

And, when he please to make commotion,

'Tis to be fear'd, they all will follow him.

Now 'ts the spring, and weeds are shallow-

rooted; [den]

Suffer them now, and they'll o'er grow the gar-

And choke the herbs for want of husbandry.

The reverent care, I bear unto my lord,

Made me collect,† these dangers in the duke.

If it be fond,‡ call it a woman's fear;

Which fear, if better reasons can supplant,

I will subscribe and say—I wrong'd the duke.

My lord of Suffolk,— Buckingham,— and

York,—

Reprove my allegation, if you can;

Or else conclude my words effectual.

Suf. Well hath your highness seen into this
duke;

And, had I first been put to speak my mind,

I think, I should have told your grace's tale.

The duchess, by his subornation,

Upon my life, began her devilish practices :

Or if he were not privy to those faults,

Yet, by reputed of his high descent,§

(As next the king, he was successive heir,)

And such high vaunts of his nobility,

Did instigate the bedlam brain-sick duchess,

By wicked means to frame our sovereign's fall.

* Wonder. † *I. e.* Assemble by observation.

‡ Foolish. § *I. e.* Valuing himself on his high descent.

Smooth runs the water, where the brook is deep;
And in his simple show he harbours treason.
The fox barks not, when he would steal the
lamb.

No, no, my sovereign; Gloster is a man
Unsounded yet, and full of deep deceit.

Car. Did he not, contrary to form of law,
Devise strange deaths for small offences done?

York. And did he not, in his protectorship,
Levy great sums of money through the realm,
For soldiers' pay in France, and never sent it?
By means whereof, the towns each day re-
volted.

Buck. Tut! these are petty faults to faults
unknown,

Which time will bring to light in smooth duke
Humphrey,

K. Hen. My lords, at once: The care you
have of us,

To mow down thorns that would annoy our
foot, [science?

Is worthy praise: But shall I speak my con-
Our kinsman Gloster is as innocent

From meaning treason to our royal person,
As is the sucking lamb, or harmless dove:

The duke is virtuous, mild; and too well
given,

To dream on evil, or to work my downfall.

Q. Mar. Ah, what's more dangerous than
this fond affiance! [row'd,

Seems he a dove? his feathers are but bor-
For he's disposed as the hateful raven.

Is he a lamb? his skin is surely lent him,
For he's inclin'd as are the ravenous wolves.

Who cannot steal a shape, that means deceit:
Take heed my lord; the welfare of us all

Hangs on the cutting short that fraudulent man.

Enter SOMERSET.

Som. All health unto my gracious sovereign!

K. Hen. Welcome, lord Somerset. What
news from France!

Som. That all your interest in those terri-
tories

Is utterly bereft you; all is lost.

K. Hen. Cold news, lord Somerset: But
God's will be done!

York. Cold news for me; for I had hopes of
France,

As firmly as I hope for fertile England.
Thus are my blossoms blasted in the bud,

And caterpillars eat my leaves away:
But I will remedy this gear* ere long,

Or sell my title for a glorious grave. [*Aside.*

Enter GLOSTER.

Glo. All happiness unto my lord the king!
Pardon, my liege, that I have staid so long.

Suf. Nay, Gloster, know, that thou art
come too soon,

Unless thou wert more loyal than thou art:

I do arrest thee of high treason here.

Glo. Well, Suffolk, yet thou shalt not see
me blush,

Nor change my countenance for this arrest;

A heart unspotted is not easily daunted.

The purest spring is not so free from mud,

As I am clear from treason to my sovereign:

Who can accuse me? wherein am I guilty?

York. 'Tis thought, my lord, that you took
bribes of France,

And, being protector, stayed the soldiers' pay;
By means whereof, his highness hath lost
France.

Glo. Is it but thought so? What are they
that think it?

I never robb'd the soldiers of their pay,
Nor ever had one penny bribe from France.
So help me God, as I have watch'd the night,
Ay, night by night,—in studying good for Eng-
land!

That do it that e'er I wrested from the king,
Or any great I hoarded to my use,
Be brought against me at my trial day!

No! many a pound of mine own proper store,
Because I would not tax the needy commons,
Have I dispersed to the garrisons,
And never ask'd for restitution.

Car. It serves you well, my lord, to say so
much.

Glo. I say no more than truth, so help me God!

York. In your protectorship, you did devise
Strange tortures for offenders, never heard of,
That England was defam'd by tyranny.

Glo. Why, 'tis well known, that whiles I
was protector.

Pity was all the fault that was in me;

For I should melt at an offender's tears,
And lowly words were ransom for their fault.

Unless it were a bloody murderer, [sengers,
Or foul felonious thief that fleec'd poor pas-
I never gave them condign punishment:

Murder, indeed, that bloody sin; I tortur'd
Above the felon, or what trespass else.

Suf. My lord, these faults are easy,* quickly
answer'd:

But mightier crimes are laid unto your charge.
Whereof you cannot easily purge yourself.

I do arrest you in his highness' name;
And here commit you to my lord cardinal

To keep, until your further time of trial.

K. Hen. My lord of Gloster, 'tis my special
hope,

That you will clear yourself from all suspects;
My conscience tells me, you are innocent.

Glo. Ah, gracious lord, these days are dan-
Virtue is chok'd with foul ambition, [gerous?

And charity chas'd hence by rancour's hand;
Foul subornation is predominant,

And equity exil'd your highness' land.
I know, their complot is to have my life;

And, if my death might make this island happy,
And prove the period of their tyranny,

I would expend it with all willingness:
But mine is made the prologue to their play;

For thousands more, that yet suspect no peril,
Will not conclude their plotted tragedy.

Beaufort's red sparkling eyes blab his heart's
malice

And Suffolk's cloudy brow, his stormy hate;
Sharp Buckingham unburdens with his tongue

The envious load that lies upon his heart;
And dogged York, that reaches at the moon,

Whose overweening arm I have pluck'd back,
By false accusation doth level at my life:—

And you, my sovereign lady, with the rest,
Causeless have laid disgraces on my head;

And, with your best endeavour, have stir'd up
My liege to be mine enemy:—

Ay, all of you have laid your heads together
Myself had notice of your conventicles,

I shall not want false witness to condemn me,
Nor store of treasons to augment my guilt;

The ancient proverb will be well affected,—
A staff is quickly found to beat a dog.

Car. My liege, his railing is intolerable:
If those that care to keep your royal person

From treason's secret knife, and traitor's rage,
Be thus upbraided, chid, and rated at,

And the offender granted scope of speech,
'Twill make them cool in zeal unto your grace.

* Gear was a general word for things or matters.

* For easily. † For accusation. ‡ Dearest.

Suff. Hath he not twit our sovereign lady here, [couch'd, With ignominious words, though clerklly As if she had suborn'd some to swear False allegations to o'erthrow his state?

Q. Mar. But I can give the loser leave to chide,

Glo. Far truer spoke than meant: I lose indeed;—

Beshrew the winners, for they play'd me false! And well such losers may have leave to speak.

Buck. He'll wrest the sense, and hold us here all day:—

Lord cardinal, he is your prisoner.

Car. Sirs, take away the duke, and guard him sure.

Glo. Ah, thus king Henry throws away his crutch,

Before his legs be firm to bear the body: Thus is the shepherd beaten from thy side, And wolves are gnawing who shall gnaw thee first.

Ah, that my fear were false! ah, that it were! For, good king Henry, thy decay I fear.

[*Exeunt ATTENDANTS, with GLOSTER.*]

K. Hen. My lords, what to your wisdoms seemeth best,

Do, or undo, as if ourself were here.

Q. Mar. What, will your highness leave the parliament?

K. Hen. Ay, Margaret; my heart is drown'd with grief,

Whose flood begins to flow within mine eyes; My body round engirt with misery;

For what's more miserable than discontent?— Ah, uncle Humphrey! in thy face I see

The map of honour, truth, and loyalty;

And yet, good Humphrey, is the hour to come, That e'er I prov'd thee false, or fear'd thy faith.

What low'ring star now envies thy estate, That these great lords, and Margaret our queen,

Do seek subversion of thy harmless life? Thou never didst them wrong, nor no man wrong;

And as the butcher takes away the calf, And binds the wretch, and beats it when it strays,

Bearing it to the bloody slaughter-house; Even so, remorseless, have they borne him hence,

And as the dam runs lowing up and down, Looking the way her harmless young one went,

And can do nought but wail her darling's loss; Even so myself bewails good Gloster's case,

With sad unhelpful tears; and with dimm'd eyes

Look after him, and cannot do him good; So mighty are his vowed enemies. [groan,

His fortunes I will weep; and 'twixt each Say—*Who's a traitor? Gloster he is none* [*Exit.*]

Q. Mar. Free lords, cold snow melts with the sun's hot beams.

Henry my lord is cold in great affairs,

Too full of foolish pity; and Gloster's show Beguiles him, as the mournful crocodile

With sorrow snarcs relenting passengers; Or as the snake, roll'd in a flowering bank,*

With shining checker'd slough,† doth sting a child,

That, for the beauty, thinks it excellent. Believe me, lords, were none more wise than I,

(And yet, herein, I judge mine own wit good,) This Gloster should be quickly rid the world,

To rid us from the fear we have of him.

[*i. e.* In the flowers growing on a bank. † Skin.

Car. That he should die, is worthy policy; But yet we want a colour for his death:

'Tis meet, he be condemn'd by course of law.

Suf. But, in my mind, that were no policy: The king will labour still to save his life,

The commons haply* rise to save his life; And yet we have but trivial argument,

More than mistrust, that shows him worthy death.

York. So that, by this, you would not have him die.

Suf. Ah, York, no man alive so fain as I.

York. 'Tis York that hath more reason for his death.—

But, my lord cardinal, and you, my lord of Suffolk,— [souls,—

Say as you think, and speak it from your Wer't not all one, an empty eagle were set

To guard the chicken from a hungry kite, As place duke Humphrey for the king's protector?

Q. Mar. So the poor chicken should be sure of death.

Suf. Madam, 'tis true: And wer't not madness then,

To make the fox surveyor of the fold? Who being accus'd a crafty murderer,

His guilt should be but idly posted over, Because his purpose is not executed.

No; let him die, in that he is a fox, By nature prov'd an enemy to the flock,

Before his chaps be stain'd with crimson blood; As Humphrey, prov'd by reasons, to my liege,

And do not stand on quilllets, how to slay him: Be it by gins, by snares, by subtilty,

Sleeping or waking, 'tis no matter how, So he be dead; for that is good deceit [ceit.

Which mates him first, that first intends de-

Q. Mar. Thrice-noble Suffolk, 'tis resolutely spoke.

Suf. Not resolute, except so much were done; For things are often spoke, and seldom meant:

But, that my heart accordeth with my tongue,— Seeing the deed is meritorious,

And to preserve my sovereign from his foe,— Say but the word, and I will be his priest.

Car. But I would have him dead, my lord of Suffolk,

Ere you can take due orders for a priest: Say, you consent, and censure well the deed,

And I'll provide his executioner, I tender so the safety of my liege.

Suf. Here is my hand, the deed is worthy doing.

Q. Mar. And so say I.

York. And I: and now we three have spok'd it,

It skills not greatly‡ who impugns our doom.

[*Enter a MESSENGER.*]

Mess. Great lords, from Ireland am I come again,

To signify—that rebels there are up, And put the Englishmen unto the sword:

Send succours, lords, and stop the rage betime, Before the wound do grow incurable;

For, being green, there is great hope of help.

Car. A breach, that craves a quick expedient‡ stop!

What counsel give you in this weighty cause? *York.* That Somerset be sent as regent thither:

'Tis meet that lucky ruler be employ'd; Witness the fortune he hath had in France.

Som. If York, with all his far-fet|| policy,

* Perhaps. † Confounds. ‡ It is of no importance.

§ Expeditions.

|| Far-fetched.

Had been the regent there instead of me,
He never would have staid in France so long.

York. No, not to lose it all, as thou hast done :

I rather would have lost my life betimes,
Than bring a burden of dishonour home,
By staying there so long, till all were lost.
Show me one scar character'd on thy skin :
Men's flesh preserv'd so whole, do seldom win.

Q. Mar. Nay then, this spark will prove a raging fire,

If wind and fuel be brought to feed it with :—
No more, good York ;—sweet Somerset, be still ;—

Thy fortune, York, hadst thou been regent there,

Might happily have prov'd far worse than his.

York. What, worse than naught ? nay, then a shame take all !

Som. And, in the number, thee, that wishest shame !

Car. My lord of York, try what your fortune is.

The uncivil Kernes of Ireland are in arms,
And temper clay with blood of Englishmen :
To Ireland will you lead a band of men,
Collected choicely, from each county some,
And try your hap against the Irishmen ?

York. I will, my lord, so please his majesty.

Suf. Why, our authority is his consent ;
And, what we do establish, he confirms :
Then, noble York, take thou this task in hand.

York. I am content : Provide me soldiers, lords,

Whiles I take order for mine own affairs.

Suf. A charge, lord York, that I will see perform'd. [*Rey.*]

But now return we to the false duke Humphrey.

Car. No more of him ; for I will deal with him,
That, henceforth, he shall trouble us no more.
And so break off ; the day is almost spent :

Lord Suffolk, you and I must talk of that event.

York. My lord of Suffolk, within fourteen
At Bristol I expect my soldiers ; [*days,*
For there I'll ship them all for Ireland.

Suf. I'll see it truly done, my lord of York. [*Exeunt all but York.*]

York. Now, York, or never, steel thy fearful thoughts,

And change misdoubt to resolution :

Be that thou hop'st to be ; or what thou art
Resign to death, it is not worth the enjoying :
Let pale-fac'd fear keep with the mean-born man,

And find no harbour in a royal heart.
Faster than spring-time showers, comes thought
on thought ;

And not a thought, but thinks on dignity.
My brain, more busy than the labouring spider,
Weaves tedious snares to trap mine enemies.

Well, nobles, well, its politically done,
To send me packing with a host of men :

I fear me, you but warm the starved snake,
Who, cherish'd in your breasts, will sting
your hearts.

'Twas men I lack'd, and you will give them
I take it kindly ; yet, be well assur'd [*me:*
You put sharp weapons in a madman's hands.

Whiles I in Ireland nourish a mighty band,
I will stir up in England some black storm,
Shall blow ten thousand souls to heaven, or
hell :

And this fell tempest shall not cease to rage
Until the golden circuit on my head.

Vol. II.

Like to the glorious sun's transparent beams.

Do calm the fury of this mad-bred flaw.*

And, for a minister of my intent,
I have seduc'd a head-strong Kentishman,
John Cade of Ashford,

To make commotion, as full well he can,
Under the title of John Mortimer.

In Ireland have I seen this stubborn Cade
Oppose himself against a troop of Kernes ;†
And fought so long, till that his thighs with
darts

Were almost like a sharp-quill'd porcupine :

And, in the end being rescu'd, I have seen him
Caper upright like a wild Morisco,‡

Shaking the bloody darts, as he his bells.
Full often, like a shag-hair'd crafty Kerne.

Hath he conversed with the enemy ;
And undiscover'd come to me again,
And given me notice of their villanies.

This devil here shall be my substitute ;
For that John Mortimer, which now is dead,
In fact, in gait, in speech, he doth resemble :

By this I shall perceive the commons' mind,
How they affect the house and claim of York,

Say, he be taken, rack'd, and tortured :

I know, no pain, they can inflict upon him,
Will make him say—I mov'd him to those arms.

Say, that he thrive, (as 'tis great like he will,)
Why, then from Ireland come I with my
strength,

And reap the harvest which that rascal sow'd :

For Humphrey being dead, as he shall be,
And Henry put apart, the next for me. [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—Bury.—A Room in the Palace.

Enter certain MURDERERS, hastily.

1 *Mur.* Run to my lord of Suffolk ; let him know, [*ed.*

We have despatch'd the duke, as he command-

2 *Mur.* O, that it were to do !—What have we done ?

Didst ever hear a man so penitent !

Enter SUFFOLK.

1 *Mur.* Here comes my lord.
Suf. Now, Sirs, have you despatch'd this thing ?

1 *Mur.* Ay, my good lord, he's dead.

Suf. Why, that's well said. Go, get you to my house ;

I will reward you for this venturous deed.
The king and all the peers are here at hand :—
Have you laid fair the bed ? are all things well,
According as I gave directions ?

1 *Mur.* 'Tis my good lord.

Suf. Away, be gone ! [*Exeunt MURDERERS.*]

Enter King HENRY, Queen MARGARET, Cardinal BEAUFORT, SOMERSET, Lords and others.

K. Hen. Go, call our uncle to our presence straight :

Say, we intend to try his grace to-day,
If he be guilty, as 'tis published.

Suf. I'll call him presently, my noble lord. [*Exit.*]

K. Hen. Lords, take your places ;—And, I pray you all,

Proceed no straiter 'gainst our uncle Gloster,
Than from true evidence, of good esteem,
He be approv'd in practice culpable.

Q. Mar. God forbid any malice should prevail,

* A violent gust of wind.

† Irish foot soldiers, light-armed.

‡ A Moor in a morris dance.

That faultless may condemn a nobleman!
Pray God, he may acquit him of suspicion!

K. Hen. I thank thee, Margaret; these words
content me much.—

Re-enter SUFFOLK.

How now? why look'st thou pale? why trem-
blest thou? [folk?]

Where is our uncle? what is the matter, *Suf-
Suf.* Dead in his bed, my lord; Gloster is
dead.

Q. Mar. Marry, God forefend!

Cur. God's secret judgment:—I did dream
to-night,

The duke was dumb, and could not speak a
word. [The king swoons.]

Q. Mar. How fares my lord?—Help, lords!
The king is dead.

Som. Rear up his body; wring him by the
nose.

Q. Mar. Run, go, help, help!—O, Henry,
ope thine eyes!

Suf. He doth revive again;—Madam, be
patient.

K. Hen. O heavenly God!

Q. Mar. How fares my gracious lord?

Suf. Comfort, my sovereign! gracious Hen-
ry, comfort!

K. Hen. What, doth my lord of Suffolk com-
fort me?

Came he right now* to sing a raven's note,
Whose dismal tune bereft my vital powers;
And thinks he, that the chirping of a wren,
By crying comfort from a hollow breast,
Can chase away the first-conceived sound?
Hide not thy poison with such sugar'd words,
Lay not thy hands on me; forbear, I say;
Their touch affrights me, as a serpent's sting.
Thou baleful messenger, out of my sight!
Upon thy eye-balls murderous tyranny
Sits in grim majesty, to fright the world.
Look not upon me, for thine eyes are wound-
ing:—

Yet do not go away:—Come, basilisk,
And kill the innocent gazer with thy sight:
For in the shade of death I shall find joy;
In life, but double death, now Gloster's dead.

Q. Mar. Why do you rate my lord of Suffolk
thus?

Although the duke was enemy to him,
Yet he, most Christian like, laments his death:
And for myself,—foe as he was to me,
Might liquid tears, or heart-offending groans,
Or blood-consuming sighs recall his life,
I would be blind with weeping, sick with
groans, [sighs,

Look pale as primrose, with blood-drinking
And all to have the noble duke alive.

What know I how the world may deem of me?
For it is known, we were but hollow friends;

It may be judg'd, I made the duke away:
So shall my name with slander's tongue be
wounded,

And princes' courts be fill'd with my reproach.
This get I by his death: Ah me, unhappy!
To be a queen, and crown'd with infamy!

K. Hen. Ah, woe is me for Gloster, wretch-
ed man!

Q. Mar. Be woe for me,† more wretched
than he is.

What, dost thou turn away, and hide thy face?
I am no loathsome leper, look on me.

What art thou, like the adder, waxen deaf?
Be poisonous too, and kill thy forlorn queen.

* Just now.

† I. e. Let not woe be to thee for Gloster, but for me.

Is all thy comfort shut in Gloster's tomb?
Why, then, dame Margaret was ne'er thy joy:
Erect his statue then, and worship it,
And make my image but an alehouse sign.
Was I, for this, nigh wreck'd upon the sea;
And twice by awkward wind from England's
bank

Drove back again unto my native clime?
What boded this, but well-forewarning wind
Did seem to say,—Seek not a scorpion's nest,
Nor set no footing on this unkind shore?
What did I then, but curs'd the gentle gusts,
And he that loos'd them from their brazen caves;
And bid them blow towards England's blessed
shore,

Or turn our stern upon a dreadful rock?
Yet Æolus would not be a murderer,
But left that hateful office unto thee:
The pretty vaulting sea refus'd to drown me;
Knowing, that thou would'st have me drown'd
on shore, [ness:
With tears as salt as sea through thy unkind-
The splitting rocks cow'rd in the sinking sands,
And would not dash me with their ragged
sides;

Because thy flinty heart, more hard than they,
Might in thy palace perish Margaret.
As far as I could ken thy chalky cliffs,
When from the shore the tempest beat us back,
I stood upon the hatches in the storm:
And when the dusky sky began to rob
My earnest-gaping sight of thy land's view,
I took a costly jewel from my neck,—
A heart it was, bound in with diamonds,—
And threw it towards thy land;—the sea re-
ceiv'd it;

And so, I wish'd, thy body might my heart:
And even with this, I lost fair England's view,
And bid mine eyes be packing with my heart;
And call'd them blind and dusky spectacles,
For losing ken of Albion's wished coast.
How often have I tempted Suffolk's tongue
(The agent of thy foul inconstancy,
To sit and witch me, as Ascanius did,
When he to madding Dido, would unfold
His father's acts, commenc'd in burning Troy?
Am I not witch'd like her? or thou not false
like him?)

Ah me, I can no more! Die, Margaret!
For Henry weeps, that thou dost live so long.

*Noise within. Enter WARWICK and SALISBU-
RY. The Commons press to the door.*

War. It is reported, mighty sovereign,
That good duke Humphrey traitorously is mur-
der'd

By Suffolk and the cardinal Beaufort's means,
The commons, like an angry hive of bees,
That want their leader, scatter up and down,
And care not who, they sting in his revenge.
Myself have calm'd their spleenful mutiny,
Until they hear the order of his death.

K. Hen. That he is dead, good Warwick,
'tis too true;

But how he died, God knows, not Henry;
Enter his chamber, view his breathless corpse,
And comment then upon his sudden death.

War. That I shall do, my liege:—Stay,
Salisbury,

With the rude multitude, till I return.
[WARWICK goes into an inner Room, and
SALISBURY retires.]

K. Hen. O thou that judgest all things, stay
my thoughts:

My thoughts, that labour to persuade my
soul.

Some violent hands were laid on Humphrey's
If my suspect be false, forgive me, God; [life!
For judgment only doth belong to thee!
Fain would I go to chafe his paly lips
With twenty thousand kisses, and to drain
Upon his face an ocean of salt tears;
To tell my love unto his dumb deaf trunk,
And with my fingers feel his hand unfeeling:
But all in vain are these mean obsequies;
And, to survey his dead and earthly image,
What were it but to make my sorrow greater?

The folding Doors of an inner Chamber are thrown open, and GLOSTER is discovered dead in his Bed: WARWICK and others standing by it.

War. Come hither, gracious sovereign, view this body.

K. Hen. That is to see how deep my grave is made:

For, with his soul, fled all my worldly solace;
For seeing him, I see my life in death.*

War. As surely as my soul intends to live
With that dread King that took our state upon him

To free us from his Father's wrathful curse,
I do believe that violent hands were laid
Upon the life of this thrice-famed duke.

Suf. A dreadful oath, sworn with a solemn tongue!

What instance gives lord Warwick for his vow?

War. See, how the blood is settled in his face!
Oft have I seen a timely-parted ghost,† [less,
Of ashy semblance, meagre, pale, and blood-
Being all descended to the labouring heart;
Who, in the conflict that it holds with death,
Attracts the same for aidance 'gainst the enemy;
Which with the heart there cools and ne'er re-
turneth

To blush and beautify the cheek again.
But see, his face is black and full of blood;
His eye-balls farther out than when he liv'd,
Staring full ghastly like a strangled man:
His hair uprear'd, his nostrils stretch'd with
struggling;

His hands abroad display'd, as one that grasp'd
And tugg'd for life, and was by strength sub-
du'd.

Look on the sheets, his hair you see is sticking;
His well-proportioned beard made rough and
rugged,

Like to the summer's corn by tempest lodg'd.
It cannot be, but he was murder'd here;
The least of all these signs were probable.

Suf. Why, Warwick, who should do the
duke to death?

Myself, and Beaufort, had him in protection;
And we, I hope, Sir, are no murderers.

War. But both of you were vow'd duke
Humphrey's foes;

And you, forsooth, had the good duke to keep:
'Tis like, you would not feast him like a friend;
And 'tis well seen he found an enemy.

Q. Mar. Then you, belike, suspect these no-
blemen

As guilty of duke Humphrey's timeless death.

War. Who finds the heifer dead, and bleed-
ing fresh,

And sees fast by a butcher with an axe, [ter?
But will suspect, 'twas he that made the slaugh-
Who finds the partridge in the poutcock's nest,
But may imagine how the bird was dead,
Although the kite soar with unbloodied beak?
Even so suspicious is this tragedy.

* I. e. I see my life destroyed or endangered by his death.
† A body become inanimate in the common course of
nature, to which violence has not brought a timeless end.

Q. Mar. Are you the butcher, —
where's your knife?

Is Beaufort term'd a kite? where are his talons?

Suf. I wear no knife, to slaughter sleeping
men;

But here's a vengeful sword, rusted with ease.
That shall be scoured in his rancorous heart,
That slanders me with murder's crimson badge;
Say, if thou dar'st, proud lord of Warwickshire,
That I am faulty in duke Humphrey's death.

[*Exeunt* CARDINAL, SOM. and others.

War. What dares not Warwick, if false Suf-
folk dare him?

Q. Mar. He dares not calm his contumelious
spirit,

Nor cease to be an arrogant controller,
Though Suffolk dare him twenty thousand
times. [say;

War. Madam, be still; with reverence may I

For every word, you speak in his behalf,
Is slander to your royal dignity.

Suf. Blunt-witted lord, ignoble in demeanour!

If ever lady wrong'd her lord so much,
Thy mother took into her blameful bed
Some stern untutor'd churl, and noble stock
Was grafted with crab-tree slip; whose fruit thou
And never of the Nevils' noble race. [art,

War. But that the guilt of murder bucklers
thee,

And I should rob the deathsmen of his fee,
Quitting thee thereby of ten thousand shames,
And that my sovereign's presence makes me
mild,

I would, false murderous coward, on thy knee,
Make thee beg pardon for thy passed speech,
And say—it was thy mother that thou mean'st,
That thou thyself wast born in bastardy:

And, after all this fearful homage done,
Give thee thy hire, and send thy soul to hell,
Pernicious bloodsucker of sleeping men!

Suf. Thou shalt be waking, while I shed thy
blood,

If from this presence thou dar'st go with me.

War. Away even now, or I will drag thee
hence:

Unworthy though thou art, I'll cope with thee,
And do some service to duke Humphrey's
ghost.

[*Exeunt* SUFFOLK and WARWICK.

K. Hen. What stronger breast-plate than a
heart untainted?

Thrice is he arm'd, that hath his quarrel just;
And he but naked, though lock'd up in steel,
Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted.

[*A noise within.*

Q. Mar. What noise is this?

Re-enter SUFFOLK and WARWICK, with their
Weapons drawn.

K. Hen. Why, how now, lords? your wrath-
ful weapons drawn

Here in our presence? dare you be so bold?—
Why, what tumultuous clamour have we here?

Suf. The traitorous Warwick, with the men
of Bury,
Set all upon me, mighty sovereign.

Noise of a crowd within. Re-enter SALISBURY.

Sal. Sirs, stand apart; the king shall know
your mind.—

[*Speaking to those within.*

Dread lord, the commons send you word by me,
Unless false Suffolk straight be done to death,
Or banished fair England's territories,
They will by violence tear him from your palace,
And torture him with grievous ling'ring death.

They say, by him the good duke Humphrey died;

They say, in him they fear your highness' death;
And mere instinct of love, and loyalty,—
Free from a stubborn opposite intent,
As being thought to contradict your liking,—
Makes them thus forward in his banishment.

They say, in care of your most royal person,
That, if your highness should intend to sleep,
And charge—that no man should disturb your rest,

In pain of your dislike, or pain of death;
Yet notwithstanding such a strait edict,
Were there a serpent seen, with forked tongue,
That slyly glided towards your majesty,
It were but necessary, you were wak'd;
Lest, being suffer'd in that harmful slumber,
The mortal worm* might make the sleep eternal:

And therefore do they cry, though you forbid,
That they will guard you, wh'er you will, or no,
From such fell serpents as false Suffolk is;
With whose venom'd and fatal sting,
Your loving uncle, twenty times his worth,
They say, is shamefully bereft of life.

Commons. [Within.] An answer from the king, my lord of Salisbury.

Suf. 'Tis like, the commons, rude unpolish'd hinds,

Could send such message to their sovereign:
But you, my lord, were glad to be employ'd,
To show how quaint an orator you are:
But all the honour Salisbury hath won,
Is—that he was the lord ambassador,
Sent from a sort of tinkers to the king.

Commons. [Within.] An answer from the king, or we'll all break in.

K. Hen. Go, Salisbury, and tell them all from me,

I thank them for their tender loving care:
And had I not been 'cited so by them,
Yet did I purpose as they do entreat;
For sure, my thoughts do hourly prophecy
Mischance unto my state by Suffolk's means.
And therefore,—by His majesty I swear,
Whose far unworthy deputy I am,—
He shall breathe infection in this air;
But three days longer, on the pain of death.

[Exit SALISBURY.]

Q. Mar. O Henry, let me plead for gentle Suffolk!

K. Hen. Ungentle queen, to call him gentle Suffolk.

No more, I say; if thou dost plead for him,
Thou wilt but add increase unto my wrath.
Had I but said, I would have kept my word;
But, when I swear, it is irrevocable:—
If, after three days space, thou here be'st found
On any ground that I am ruler of,
The world shall not be ransom'd for thy life.—
Come, Warwick, come good Warwick, go with me;

I have great matters to impart to thee.

[Exit K. HENRY, WARWICK, Lords, &c.]

Q. Mar. Mischance, and sorrow, go along with you!

Hear's discontent, and sour affliction,
Be playfellows to keep you company!
There's two of you; the devil make a third!
And threefold vengeance tend upon your steps!

Suf. Cease, gentle queen, these execrations,
And let thy Suffolk take his heavy leave.

* Deadly serpent. † Dexterous. ‡ A company.
§ I. e. He shall not contaminate this air with his infected breath.

Q. Mar. Fie, coward woman, and soft-hearted wretch!

Hast thou not spirit to curse thine enemies?

Suf. A plague upon them! wherefore should I curse them?

[groan,

Would curses kill, as doth the mandrake's
I would invent as bitter-searching terms,
As curst, as harsh, and horrible to hear,
Deliver'd strongly through my fixed teeth,
With full as many signs of deadly hate,
As lean-fac'd Envy in her loathsome cave:
My tongue should stumble in mine earnest words:*

Mine eyes should sparkle like the beaten flint;
My hair be fix'd on end, as one distract;
Ay, every joint should seem to curse and ban;
And even now my burden'd heart would break,
Should I not curse them. Poison be their drink!

[taste!

Gall, worse than gall, the daintiest that they
Their sweetest shade, a grove of cypress trees!
Their chiefest prospect, murdering basilisks!
Their softest touch, as smart as lizard's stings!
Their music, frightful as the serpent's hiss;
And boding screech-owls make the concert full!

All the foul terrors in dark-seated hell—

Q. Mar. Enough, sweet Suffolk; thou torment'st thyself;

And these dread curses—like the sun 'gainst
Or like an overcharged gun,—recoil, [glass,
And turn the force of them upon thyself.

Suf. You bade me ban,* and will you bid me leave?

Now, by the ground that I am banish'd from,
Well could I curse away a winter's night,
Though standing naked on a mountain top,
Where biting cold would never let grass grow,
And think it but a minute spent in sport.

Q. Mar. O, let me entreat thee, cease! Give me thy hand,

That I may dew it with my mournful tears;
Nor let the rain of heaven wet this place,
To wash away my woeful monuments.
O, could this kiss be printed in thy hand;

[Kisses his hand.]

That thou might'st think upon these by the seal,
Through whom a thousand sighs are breath'd for thee!

So, get thee gone, that I may know my grief;
'Tis but surmis'd whilst thou art standing by,
As one that surfeits thinking on a want.

I will repeal thee, or, be well assur'd,
Adventure to be banished myself:
And banished I am, if but from thee.
Go, speak not to me; even now be gone.—
O, go not yet!—Even thus two friends condemn'd

[leaves.

Embrace, and kiss, and take ten thousand
Loather a hundred times to part than die.
Yet now farewell; and farewell life with thee!

Suf. Thus is poor Suffolk ten times banished,

[thee.

Once by the king, and three times thrice by
'Tis not the land I care for; wert thou hence;
A wilderness is populous enough,
So Suffolk had thy heavenly company:
For where thou art, there is the world itself,
With every several pleasure in the world;
And where thou art not, desolation.

I can no more:—Live thou to joy thy life;
Myself no joy in naught, but that thou livest.

Enter VAUX.

Q. Mar. Whither goes Vaux so fast? What news, I pry'ethee?

* Curse

Vaux. To signify unto his majesty,
That Cardinal Beaufort is at point of death:
For suddenly a grievous sickness took him,
That makes him gasp and stare, and catch the
air,
Blaspheming God, and cursing men on earth.
Sometime, he talks as if duke Humphrey's
ghost

Were by his side: sometime, he calls the king,
And whispers to his pillow, as to him,
The secrets of his overcharged soul:
And I am sent to tell his majesty,
That even now he cries aloud for him.

Q. Mar. Go, tell this heavy message to the
king. [Exit VAUX.]

Ah me! what is this world? What news are
these?

But wherefore grieve I at an hour's poor loss,
Omitting Suffolk's exile, my soul's treasure?
Why only, Suffolk, mourn I not for thee,
And with the southern clouds contend in tears;
Theirs for the earth's increase, mine for my
sorrows? [coming]

Now, get thee hence: the king thou know'st is
If thou be found by me, thou art but dead.

Suf. If I depart from thee, I cannot live:
And in thy sight to die, what were it else,
But like a pleasant slumber in thy lap?
Here could I breathe my soul into the air,
As mild and gentle as the cradle-babe,
Dying with mother's dug between its lips:
Where,* from thy sight, I should be raging
mad,

And cry out for thee to close up mine eyes.
To have thee with thy lips to stop my mouth;
So shouldst thou either turn my flying soul,
Or I should breathe it so into thy body,
And then it lived in sweet Elysium.
To die by thee, were but to die in jest;
From thee to die, were torture more than
death:

O, let me stay, befall what may befall.

Q. Mar. Away! though parting be a fretful
corrosive,

It is applied to a deathful wound. [thee;
To France, sweet Suffolk: Let me hear from
For wheresoe'er thou art in this world's globe,
I'll have an Irist that shall find you out.

Suf. I go.

Q. Mar. And take my heart with thee.

Suf. A jewel lock'd into the woeful'st cask
That ever did contain a thing of worth.
Even as a splitted bark, so sunder we:
This way fall I to death.

Q. Mar. This way for me. [Exit, severally.]

SCENE III.—London.—Cardinal BEAUFORT'S
Bed-Chamber.

Enter King HENRY, SALISBURY, WARWICK,
and others.—The CARDINAL in Bed; Attendants
with him.

K. Hen. How fares my lord? Speak, Beau-
fort, to thy sovereign.

Car. If thou be'st death, I'll give thee Eng-
land's treasure,

Enough to purchase such another island,
So thou wilt let me live, and feel no pain.

K. Hen. Ah, what a sign it is of evil life,
When death's approach is seen so terrible!

War. Beaufort, it is thy sovereign speaks
to thee.

Car. Bring me unto my trial when you will.
Died he not in his bed? Where should he die?
Can I make men live, whe'r they will or no?

O! torture me no more, I will confess.—

Alive again? Then show me where he is;

I'll give a thousand pounds to look upon
him.—

He hath no eyes, the dust hath blinded them.—
Comb down his hair; look! look! it stands
upright,

Like lime-twigs set to catch my winged soul!—
Give me some drink; and bid the apothecary
Bring the strong poison that I bought of him.

K. Hen. O thou eternal Mover of the hea-
vens,

Look with a gentle eye upon this wretch!

O, beat away the busy meddling fiend,
That lays strong siege upon this wretch's soul,
And from his bosom purge this black despair!

War. See, how the pangs of death doth
make him grin.

Sal. Disturb him not, let him pass peaceably.

K. Hen. Peace to his soul, if God's plea-
sure be! [bliss,

Lord cardinal, if thou think'st on heaven's
Hold up thy hand, make signal of thy hope.—
He dies, and makes no sign; O God, forgive
him!

War. So bad a death argues a monstrous
life.

K. Hen. Forbear to judge, for we are sinners
all.—

Close up his eyes, and draw the curtain close;
And let us all to meditation. [Exit.]

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—Kent.—The sea-shore near Dover.

Firing heard at Sea.—Then enter from a Boat,
a CAPTAIN, a MASTER, a MASTER'S-MATE,
WALTER WHITMORE, and others; with them
SUFFOLK, and other Gentlemen, Prisoners.

Cap. The gaudy, blabbing, and remorseful*
Is crept into the bosom of the sea; [day
And now loud-howling wolves arouse the jades
That drag the tragic melancholy night;

Who with their drowsy, slow, and flagging
wings [jaws

Clip dead men's graves, and from their misty
Breathe foul contagious darkness in the air.

Therefore, bring forth the soldiers of our prize;
For, whilst our pinnace anchors in the Downs,
Here shall they make their ransom on the sand,
Or with their blood stain this discolour'd
shore.—

Master, this prisoner freely give I thee:—

And thou that art his mate, make boot of
this:—

The other, [Pointing to Suffolk.] Walter Whit-
more, is thy share.

1 Gen. What is my ransom, master? Let me
know.

Must. A thousand crowns, or else lay down
your head.

Mate. And so much shall you give, or off
goes yours.

Cap. What, think you much to pay two
thousand crowns,

And bear the name and port of gentlemen?—
Cut both the villain's throats;—for die you
shall;

The lives of those which we have lost in fight,
Cannot be counterpoised with such a petty
sum.

1 Gen. I'll give it, Sir; and therefore spare
my life.

2 Gen. And so will I, and write home for it
straight.

* For whereas.

† The messenger of Juno.

* Pitiful

Whit. I lost mine eye in laying the prize aboard,
 And therefore, to revenge it, shalt thou die ;
 [To Suffolk.
 And so should these, if I might have my will.
 Cap. Benotso rash ; take ransom, let him live.
 Suf. Look on my George, I am a gentleman ;
 Rate me at what thou wilt, thou shalt be paid.
 Whit. And so am I ; my name is—Walter Whitmore. [affright ?
 How now ? Why start'st thou ? What, doth death
 Suf. Thy name affrights me, in whose sound is death.
 A cunning man did calculate my birth,
 And told me—that by Water I should die :
 Yet let not this make thee be bloody-minded ;
 Thy name is *Gualtier*, being rightly sounded.
 Whit. *Gualtier*, or *Walter*, which it is, I care not ;
 Ne'er yet did base dishonour blur our name,
 But with our sword we wiped away the blot ;
 Therefore, when merchant-like I sell revenge,
 Broke be my sword, my arms torn and defac'd.
 And I proclaim'd a coward through the world !
 [Lays hold on SUFFOLK.
 Suf. Stay, Whitmore ; for thy prisoner is a prince,
 The duke of Suffolk, William de la Poole.
 Whit. The duke of Suffolk, muffled up in rags !
 Suf. Ay, but these rags are no part of the duke :
 Jove sometime went disguised, and why not I ?
 Cap. But Jove was never slain, as thou shalt be.
 Suf. Obscure and lowly swain, king Henry's
 The honourable blood of Lancaster, [blood,
 Must not be shed by such a jaded groom,*
 Hast thou not kiss'd thy hand, and held my stirrup ?
 Bare-headed plodded by my foot-cloth mule,
 And thought thee happy when I shook my head ?
 How often hast thou waited at my cup,
 Fed from my trencher, kneel'd down at the board,
 When I have feasted with queen Margaret ?
 Remember it, and let it make thee crest-fallen ;
 Ay, and allay this thy abortive pride ; †
 How in our voiding lobby hast thou stood,
 And duly waited for my coming forth ?
 This hand of mine hath writ in thy behalf,
 And therefore shall it charm thy riotous tongue.
 Whit. Speak, captain, shall I stab the forlorn swain ?
 Cap. First let my words stab him, as he hath me.
 Suf. Base slave ! thy words are blunt, and so art thou.
 Cap. Convey him hence, and on our long-boat's side,
 Strike off his head.
 Suf. Thou darest not for thy own.
 Cap. Yes, Poole.
 Suf. Poole ?
 Cap. Poole ? Sir Poole ? lord ?
 Ay, kennel, puddle, sink ; whose filth and dirt
 Troubles the silver spring where England drinks.
 Now will I dam up this thy yawning mouth,
 For swallowing the treasure of the realm :
 Thy lips, that kiss'd the queen, shall sweep the ground ;
 And thou, that smil'dst at good duke Humphrey's death,

Against the senseless winds shall grin in vain,
 Who, in contempt, shall hiss at thee again :
 And wedded be thou to the bags of hell,
 For daring to assay* a mighty lord
 Unto the daughter of a worthless king,
 Having neither subject, wealth, nor diadem.
 By devilish policy art thou grown great,
 And, like ambitious Sylla, overgorged
 With gobbets of thy mother's bleeding heart.
 By thee, Anjou and Maine were sold to France :
 The false revolting Normans, through thee,
 Disdain to call us lord ; and Picardy
 Hath slain our governors, surprised our forts,
 And sent the ragged soldiers wounded home.
 The princely Warwick, and the Nevils all,—
 Whose dreadful swords were never drawn in
 As hating thee, are rising up in arms ; [vain ;
 And now the house of York—thrust from the crown,
 By shameful murder of a guiltless king,
 And lofty proud encroaching tyranny, —
 Burns with revenging fire ; whose hopeful colours
 Advance our half-faced sun, striving to shine,
 Under the which is writ—*Invitis nubibus*.
 The commons here in Kent are up in arms :
 And, to conclude, reproach, and beggary,
 Is crept into the palace of our king,
 And all by thee :—Away ! Convey him hence.
 Suf. O that I were a god, to shoot forth
 thunder
 Upon these paltry, servile, abject drudges ?
 Small things make base men proud : this villain
 here,
 Being captain of a pinnacet threatens more
 Than Burgulus the strong Illyrian pirate.
 Drones suck not eagle's blood, but brook bee-
 It is impossible, that I should die [hives.
 By such a lowly vassal as thyself.
 Thy words move rage, and not remorse, in me :
 I go of message from the queen to France ;
 I charge thee, waft me safely cross the channel.
 Cap. Walter, —
 Whit. Come, Suffolk, I must waft thee to thy death.
 Suf. *Gelidus timor occupat artus* :—'Tis thee I fear.
 Whit. Thou shalt have cause to fear, before I leave thee.
 What are ye daunted now ? Now will ye stoop ?
 I *Gent*. My gracious lord, entreat him, speak him fair.
 Suf. Suffolk's imperial tongue is stern and rough,
 Used to command, untaught to plead for favour.
 Fare be it, we should honour such as these
 With humble suit : no, rather let my head
 Stoop to the block, than these knees bow to any.
 Save to the God of heaven, and to my king ;
 And sooner dance upon a bloody pole,
 Than stand uncover'd to the vulgar groom.
 True nobility is exempt from fear :—
 More can I bear, than you dare execute.
 Cap. Hale him away, and let him talk no more.
 Suf. Come, soldiers, show what cruelty ye
 That this my death may never be forgot ! [can,
 Great men oft die by vile bezonians ; ‡
 A Roman sword and banditto slave,
 Murder'd sweet Tully ; Brutus' bastard hand
 Stabb'd Julius Cæsar ; savage islanders,
 Pompey the great : and Suffolk dies by pirates.
 [Exit Suf. with WHITMORE and others.

* A low fellow.

† Pride that has had birth too soon.

* To betroth in marriage.

† A pinnace then signified a ship of small burden.

‡ Low men.

Cap. And as for these whose ransom we have
It is our pleasure, one of them depart:— [set,
Therefore come you with us, and let him go.

[*Exeunt all but the first GENTLEMAN.*]

Re-enter WHITMORE with SUFFOLK's Body.

Whit. There let his head and lifeless body
lie,

Until the queen his mistress bury it. [*Exit.*]

I Gent. O barbarous and bloody spectacle!
His body will I bear unto the king:

If he revenge it not, yet will his friends;

So will the queen, that living held him dear.

[*Exit with the Body.*]

SCENE II.—Blackheath.

Enter GEORGE BEVIS, and JOHN HOLLAND.

Geo. Come, and get thee a sword, though
made of a lath; they have been up these two
days.

John. They have the more need to sleep now
then.

Geo. I tell thee, Jack Cade the clothier
means to dress the commonwealth, and turn it,
and set a new nap upon it.

John. So he had need, for 'tis threadbare.
Well, I say, it was never merry world in Eng-
land, since gentlemen came up.

Geo. O miserable age! Virtue is not regard-
ed in handicrafts-men.

John. The nobility think scorn to go in lea-
ther aprons.

Geo. Nay more, the king's council are no
good workmen.

John. True: and yet it is said,—Labour in
thy vocation: which is as much to say, as,—
let the magistrates be labouring men: and
therefore should we be magistrates.

Geo. Thou hast hit it: for there's no better
sign of a brave mind, than a hard hand.

John. I see them! I see them! There's Best's
son, the tanner of Wingham:—

Geo. He shall have the skins of our enemies,
to make dog's leather of.

John. And Dick the butcher,—

Geo. Then is sin struck down like an ox, and
iniquity's throat cut like a calf.

John. And Smith the weaver:—

Geo. Argo, their thread of life is spun.

John. Come, come, let's fall in with them.

Drum.—Enter CADE, DICK the Butcher, SMITH
the Weaver; and others in great number.

Cade. We John Cade, so term'd of our sup-
posed father, —

Dick. Or rather, of stealing a cade of her-
rings.* [*Aside.*]

Cade. For our enemies shall fall before us,
inspired with the spirit of putting down kings
and princes,—Command silence.

Dick. Silence!

Cade. My father was a Mortimer.—

Dick. He was an honest man, and a good
bricklayer. [*Aside.*]

Cade. My mother a Plantagenet,—

Dick. I knew her well, she was a midwife.
[*Aside.*]

Cade. My wife descended of the Lacies.—

Dick. She was indeed, a pedlar's daughter,
and sold many laces. [*Aside.*]

Smith. But, now of late, not able to travel
with her furred pack, she washes bucks here
at home. [*Aside.*]

Cade. Therefore am I of an honourable house

Dick. Ay, by my faith, the field is honoura-

* A barrel of herrings.

ble; and there was he born, under a hedge; for
his father had never a house, but the cage.

[*Aside.*]

Cade. Valiant I am.

Smith. 'A must needs; for beggary is valiant.

[*Aside.*]

Cade. I am able to endure much.

Dick. No question of that; for I have seen
him whipp'd three market days together.

[*Aside.*]

Cade. I fear neither sword nor fire.

Smith. He need not fear the sword, his coat
is of proof. [*Aside.*]

Dick. But, methinks, he should stand in fear
of fire, being burnt i'the hand for stealing of
sheep. [*Aside.*]

Cade. Be brave then; for your captain is
brave, and vows reformation. There shall be,
in England, seven halfpenny loaves sold for a
penny; the three-hoop'd pot shall have ten
hoops; and I will make it felony, to drink small
beer; all the realm shall be in common, and in
Cheapside shall my palfry go to grass. And,
when I am king, (as king I will be)—

All. God save your majesty!

Cade. I thank you, good people:—There
shall be no money; all shall eat and drink on
my score; and I will apparel them all in one
livery, that they may agree like brothers, and
worship me their lord.

Dick. The first thing we do, let's kill all the
lawyers.

Cade. Nay, that I mean to do. Is not this a
lamentable thing, that of the skin of an inno-
cent lamb should be made parchment? That
parchment, being scribbled o'er, should undo
a man? Some say, the bee stings; but I say,
'tis the bee's-wax: for I did but seal once to a
thing, and I was never mine own man since.
How now? Who's there?

Enter some bringing in the CLERK of Chatham.

Smith. The clerk of Chatham: he can write
and read, and cast account.

Cade. O monstrous!

Smith. We took him setting of boys' copies.

Cade. Here's a villain!

Smith. He's a book in his pocket, with red
letters in't.

Cade. Nay, then he is a conjurer.

Dick. Nay, he can make obligations, and
write court-hand.

Cade. I am sorry for't: the man is a proper
man, on mine honour; unless I find him guilty,
he shall not die.—Come hither, sirrah, I must
examine thee: What is thy name?

Clerk. Emmanuel.

Dick. They use to write it on the top of let-
ters:—'Twill go hard with you.

Cade. Let me alone:—Dost thou use to
write thy name? or hast thou a mark to thy
self, like a honest plain-dealing man?

Clerk. Sir, I thank God, I have been so well
brought up, that I can write my name.

All. He hath confess'd: away with him;
he's a villain, and a traitor.

Cade. Away with him, I say: hang him with
his pen and inkhorn about his neck:

[*Exeunt some with the CLERK.*]

Enter MICHAEL.

Mich. Where's our general?

Cade. Here I am, thou particular fellow.

Mich. Fly, fly, fly! Sir Humphrey Stafford
and his brother are hard by, with the king's
forces.

Cade. Stand, villain, stand, or I'll fell thee

down: he shall be encounter'd with a man as good as himself: he is but a knight, is 'a?

Mich. No.

Cade. To equal him, I will make myself a knight presently; rise up Sir John Mortimer. Now have at him.

Enter Sir HUMPHREY STAFFORD, and WILLIAM his Brother, with Drum and Forces.

Staf. Rebellious hinds, the filth and scum of Kent, [down, Mark'd for the gallows,—lay your weapons Home to your cottages, forsake this groom: The king is merciful if you revolt.

W. Staf. But angry, wrathful, and inclined to blood,

If you go forward: therefore yield, or die.

Cade. As for these silken-coated slaves, I pass not;*

It is to you, good people, that I speak, O'er whom, in time to come, I hope to reign; For I am rightful heir unto the crown.

Staf. Villain, thy father was a plasterer; And thou, thyself, a sheerman, art thou not?

Cade. And Adam was a gardner.

W. Staf. And what of that?

Cade. Marry, this:—Edmund Mortimer, earl of March, Married the duke of Clarence's daughter; did he not?

Staf. Ay, Sir.

Cade. By her he had two children at one birth.

W. Staf. That's false.

Cade. Ay, there's the question; but, I say, 'tis true:

The elder of them, being put to nurse, Was by a beggar-woman stolen away; And, ignorant of his birth and parentage, Became a bricklayer, when he came to age: His son am I; deny it, if you can.

Dick. Nay, 'tis too true; therefore he shall be king.

Smith. Sir, he made a chimney in my father's house, and the bricks are alive at this day to testify it; therefore, deny it not.

Staf. And will you credit this base drudge's words,

That speaks he knows not what?

All. Ay, marry, will we; therefore get ye gone.

W. Staf. Jack Cade, the duke of York hath taught you this.

Cade. He lies, for I invented it myself.—[*Aside.*—Go to, Sirrah, tell the king from me, that—for his father's sake, Henry the Fifth, in whose time boys went to span-counter for French crowns,—I am content he shall reign; but I'll be protector over him.

Dick. And, furthermore, we'll have the lord Say's head, for selling the dukedom of Maine.

Cade. And good reason; for thereby is England maim'd, and fain to go with a staff, but that my puissance holds it up. Fellow kings, I tell you, that that lord Say hath gelded the commonwealth, and made it a eunuch; and more than that, he can speak French, and therefore he is a traitor.

Staf. O gross and miserable ignorance!

Cade. Nay, answer, if you can: the Frenchmen are our enemies: go to then, I ask but this; can he that speaks with the tongue of an enemy, be a good counsellor, or no?

All. No, no: and therefore, we'll have his head.

* I pay them no regard.

W. Staf. Well, seeing gentle words will not prevail.

Assail them with the army of the king.

Staf. Herald, away: and, throughout every town,

Proclaim them traitors that are up with Cade; That those, which fly before the battle ends, May, even in their wives' and children's sight, Be hang'd up for example at their doors:— And you, that be the king's friends, follow me.

[*Exeunt the two STAFFORDS, and Forces.*

Cade. And you, that love the commons, follow me:—

Now show yourselves men, 'tis for liberty. We will not leave one lord, one gentleman: Spare none, but such as go in clouted shoon;† For they are thrifty honest men, and such As would, (but that they dare not) take our parts.

Dick. They are all in order, and march towards us.

Cade. But then are we in order, when we are most out of order. Come, march forward.—[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—Another part of Blackheath.

Alarums.—The two Parties enter, and fight, and both the STAFFORDS are slain.

Cade. Where's Dick, the butcher of Ashford?

Dick. Here, Sir.

Cade. They fell before thee like sheep and oxen; and thou behavedst thyself as if thou hadst been in thine own slaughter-house: therefore thus will I reward thee.—The lent shall be as long again as it is; and thou shalt have a licence to kill for a hundred, lacking one.

Dick. I desire no more.

Cade. And, to speak truth, thou deservest no less. This monument of the victory will I bear; and the bodies shall be dragg'd at my horse's heels, till I do come to London, where we will have the mayor's sword borne before us.

Dick. If we mean to thrive and do good, break open the jails, and let out the prisoners.

Cade. Fear not that, I warrant thee. Come, let's march towards London.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—London.—A room in the palace.

Enter King HENRY, reading a supplication: the duke of BUCKINGHAM, and Lord SAY, with him: at a distance, Queen MARGARET mourning over SUFFOLK's head.

Q. Mar. Oft have I heard—that grief softens the mind,

And makes it fearful and degenerate; Think therefore on revenge, and cease to weep. But who can cease to weep, and look on this? Here may his head lie on my throbbing breast: But where's the body that I should embrace?

Buck. What answer makes your grace to the rebel's supplication?

K. Hen. Ill send some holy bishop to entreat: For God forbid, so many simple souls Should perish by the sword! And I myself, Rather than bloody war shall cut them short, Will parley with Jack Cade their general.— But stay, I'll read it over once again.

Q. Mar. Ah, barbarous villains! Hath this lovely face,

Rul'd like a wandering planet over me:†

* Shoes.

† Predominated irresistibly over my passions; as the planets over those born under their influence.

And could it not enforce them to relent,
That were unworthy to behold the same?

K. Hen. Lord Say, Jack Cade hath sworn
to have thy head.

Say. Ay, but I hope, your highness shall
have his.

K. Hen. How now, madam? Still
lamenting and mourning for Suffolk's death?

I fear, my love, if that I had been dead, [me.
Thou would'st not have mourn'd so much for

Q. Mar. No, my love, I should not mourn,
but die for thee.

Enter a MESSENGER.

K. Hen. How now! What news! Why
comest thou in such haste?

Mes. The rebels are in Southwark; Fly, my
lord!

Jack Cade proclaims himself Lord Mortimer,
Descended from the Duke of Clarence' house;

And calls your grace usurper, openly,
And vows to crown himself in Westminster.

His army is a ragged multitude
Of hinds and peasants, rude and merciless:

Sir Humphrey Stafford and his brothers death
Hath given them heart and courage to proceed:

All scholars, lawyers, courtiers, gentlemen,
They call—false caterpillars, and intend their
death.

K. Hen. O graceless men!—They know not
what they do.

Buck. My gracious lord, retire to Kenel-
worth,

Until a power be raised to put them down.

Q. Mar. Ah! were the duke of Suffolk now
alive,

These Kentish rebels would be soon appeased.

K. Hen. Lord Say, the traitors hate thee,
Therefore away with us to Kenelworth.

Say. So might your grace's person be in
danger:

The sight of me is odious in their eyes:
And therefore in this city will I stay,
And live alone as secret as I may.

Enter another MESSENGER.

2 *Mes.* Jack Cade hath gotten London
bridge; the citizens

Fly and forsake their houses:
The rascal people, thirsting after prey,

Join with the traitor; and they jointly swear,
To spoil the city, and your royal court.

Buck. Then linger not, my lord: away,
take horse!

K. Hen. Come, Margaret; God, our hope,
will succour us.

Q. Mar. My hope is gone, now Suffolk is
deceased.

K. Hen. Farewell, my lord; [To Lord SAY,]
trust not the Kentish rebels.

Buck. Trust nobody, for fear you be betray'd.

Say. The trust I have is in mine innocence,
And therefore am I bold and resolute.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.—The same.—The Tower.

*Enter Lord SCALES, and others, on the Walls,
—Then enter certain CITIZENS, below.*

Scales. How now? is Jack Cade slain?

1 *Cit.* No, my lord, nor likely to be slain for
they have won the bridge, killing all those
that withstand them: the lord mayor craves
aid of your honour from the Tower, to defend
the city from the rebels.

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Scales. Such aid as I can spare, you shall
command;

But I am troubled here with them myself,
The rebels have assay'd to win the Tower,
But get you to Smithfield, and gather head,
And thither I will send you Matthew Gough:
Fight for your king, your country and your
lives;

And so farewell, for I must hence again.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VI.—The same.—Cannon Street.

*Enter JACK CADE, and his followers.—He
strikes his Staff on London-stone.*

Cade. Now is Mortimer lord of this city.
And here, sitting upon London-stone, I charge
and command, that of the city's cost, the pis-
sing-conduit run nothing but claret wine this
first year of our reign. And now, hencefor-
ward, it shall be treason for any that calls me
other than—lord Mortimer.

Enter a SOLDIER, running.

Sold. Jack Cade! Jack Cade!

Cade. Knock him down there. [They kill him.]

Smith. If this fellow be wise, he'll never call
you Jack Cade more: I think, he hath a very
fair warning.

Dick. My lord, there's an army gather'd to-
gether in Smithfield.

Cade. Come then, let's go fight with them:
but first, go and set London-bridge on fire;
and, if you can, burn down the Tower too.
Come, let's away. [Exeunt.]

SCENE VII.—The same.—Smithfield.

*Alarum.—Enter, on one side, CADE and his
Company: on the other, Citizens, and the
King's forces, headed by MATTHEW GOUGH.
—They fight; the Citizens are routed, and
MATTHEW GOUGH is slain.*

Cade. So, Sirs:—Now go some and pull
down the Savoy; others to the inns of court;
down with them all.

Dick. I have a suit unto your lordship.

Cade. Be it a lordship, thou shalt have it for
that word.

Dick. Only, that the laws of England may
come out of your mouth.

John. Mass, 'twill be sore law then; for he
was thrust in the mouth with a spear, and 'tis
not whole yet. [Aside.]

Smith. Nay, John, it will be stinking law;
for his breath stinks with eating toasted cheese.
[Aside.]

Cade. I have thought upon it, it shall be so.
Away, burn all the records of the realm; my
mouth shall be the parliament of England.

John. Then we are like to have biting sta-
tutes, unless his teeth be pull'd out. [Aside.]

Cade. And henceforward all things shall
be in common.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mes. My lord, a prize, a prize! Here's the
lord Say, which sold the towns in France; he
that made us pay one and twenty fifteens,*
and one shilling to the pound, the last sub-
sidy.

Enter GEORGE BEVIS, with the Lord SAY.

Cade. Well, he shall be beheaded for it ten
times.—Ah, thou say,† thou serge, nay, thou

* A fifteen was the fifteenth part of all the moveables,
or personal property of each subject.

† Say was a kind of serge.

buckram lord! Now art thou within point blank of our jurisdiction regal. What canst thou answer to my majesty, for giving up of Normandy unto monsieur Bassimecu, the dauphin of France? Be it known unto thee by these presence, even the presence of lord Mortimer, that I am the besom that must sweep the court clean of such filth as thou art. Thou hast most traitorously corrupted the youth of the realm, in erecting a grammar-school: and whereas, before, our forefathers had no other books but the score and the tally, thou hast caused printing to be used; and, contrary to the king, his crown and dignity, thou hast built a paper-mill. It will be proved to thy face, that thou hast men about thee, that usually talk of a noun, and a verb; and such abominable words, as no Christian ear can endure to hear. Thou hast appointed justices of peace, to call poor men before them about matters they were not able to answer. Moreover, thou hast put them in prison; and, because they could not read, thou hast hang'd them;* when, indeed, only for that cause they have been most worthy to live. Thou dost ride on a foot-cloth,† dost thou not?

Say. What of that?

Cade. Marry, thou oughtest not to let thy horse wear a cloak, when honest men than thou go in their hose and doublets.

Dick. And work in their shirt too; as myself, for example, that am a butcher.

Say. You men of Kent,—

Dick. What say you of Kent?

Say. Nothing but this: 'Tis *bona terra, male gens*.

Cade. Away with him, away with him! he speaks Latin.

Say. Hear me but speak, and bear me where you will.

Kent, in the commentaries Cæsar writ,
Is term'd the civil'st place of all this isle:
Sweet is the country, because full of riches;
The people liberal, valiant, active, wealthy;
Which makes me hope you are not void of pity.
{ sold not Maine, I lost not Normandy;
Yet, to recover them, would lose my life.
Justice with favour have I always done;
Prayers and tears have moved me, gifts could never.

When have I aught exacted at your hands,
Kent to maintain, the king, the realm, and you?
Large gifts have I bestow'd on learned clerks,
Because my book prefer'd me to the king:
And—seeing ignorance is the curse of God,
Knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to heaven,—

Unless you be possess'd with devilish spirits,
You cannot but forbear to murder me,
This tongue hath parley'd unto foreign kings
For your behoof,—

Cade. Tut! when struck'st thou one blow in the field?

Say. Great men have reaching hands: oft have I struck

Those that I never saw, and struck them dead.

Geo. O monstrous coward! what, to come behind folks?

Say. These cheeks are pale for watching for your good.

Cade. Give him a box o'the ear, and that will make 'em red again.

* I. e. They were hanged because they could not claim the benefit of the clergy.

† A foot-cloth was a kind of housing, which covered the body of the horse.

‡ In consequence of.

Say. Long sitting to determine poor men's causes

Hath made me full of sickness and diseases.

Cade. Ye shall have a hempen candle then, and the pap of a hatchet.

Dick. Why dost thou quiver, man?

Say. The palsy, and not fear, provoketh me.

Cade. Nay, he nods at us; as who should say, I'll be even with you. I'll see if his head will stand steadier on a pole, or no: Take him away, and behead him.

Say. Tell me, wherein I have offended most? Have I affected wealth, or honour; speak? Are my chests fill'd up with extorted gold? Is my apparel sumptuous to behold?

Whom have I injur'd that ye seek my death? These hands are free from guiltless blood-shedding.* [thoughts.]

This breast from harbouring foul deceitful O, let me live!

Cade. I feel remorse in myself with his words: but I'll bridle it; he shall die, an it be but for pleading so well for his life. Away with him! he has a familiars under his tongue; he speaks not o' God's name. Go, take him away, I say, and strike off his head presently: and then break into his son-in-law's house, Sir James Cromer, and strike off his head, and bring them both upon two poles hither.

All. It shall be done.

Say. Ah, countrymen! if when you make your prayers, God should be so obdurate as yourselves, How would it fare with your departed souls? And therefore yet relent, and save my life.

Cade. Away with him, and do as I command ye.

[Exit some with Lord SAY.]
The proudest peer in the realm shall not wear a head on his shoulders, unless he pay me tribute; there shall not a maid be married, but she shall pay to me her maidenhead ere they have it: men shall hold of me *in capite*; and we charge and command, that their wives be as free as heart can wish, or tongue can tell.

Dick. My lord, when shall we go to Cheap-side, and take up commodities upon our bills?

Cade. Marry, presently.

All. O brave!

Re-enter Rebels, with the Heads of Lords SAY and his Son-in-law.

Cade. But is not this braver?—Let them kiss one another, for they loved well, when they were alive. Now part them again, lest they consult about the giving up of some more towns in France. Soldiers, defer the spoil of the city until night: for with these borne before us, instead of maces, will we ride through the streets; and, at every corner have them kiss—
Away! [Exit.]

SCENE VIII.—Southwark.

Alarum.—Enter CADE, and all his Rabblement.

Cade. Up Fish-street! Down Saint Magnus' corner! Kill and knock down! Throw them into Thames.

[A Parley sounded, then a Retreat.]
What noise is this I hear? Dare any be so bold to sound retreat or parley, when I command them kill?

* I. e. These hands are free from shedding guiltless or innocent blood.

† A demon who was supposed to attend at call.

Enter BUCKINGHAM, and old CLIFFORD with Forces.

Buck. Ay, here they be that dare and will disturb thee :

Know, Cade, we come ambassadors from the king

Unto the commons, whom thou hast misled ;
And here pronounce free pardon to them all,
That will forsake thee, and go home in peace.

Clif. What say ye, countrymen ? will ye relent,

And yield to mercy whilst 'tis offer'd you ;
Or let a rabble lead you to your deaths ?

Who loves the king, and will embrace his pardon,

Fling up his cap, and say—God save his majesty !
Who hateth him, and honours not his father,
Henry the fifth, that made all France to quake,
Shake he his weapon at us, and pass by.

All. God save the king ! God save the king !

Cade. What, Buckingham, and Clifford, are ye so brave ?—And you, base peasants, do ye believe him ? Will you needs be hang'd with your pardons about your necks ? Hath my sword therefore broke through London gates, that you should leave me at the White Hart in Southwark ? I thought, ye would never have given out these arms, till you had recover'd your ancient freedom : but you are all recreants, and dastards ; and delight to live in slavery to the nobility. Let them break your backs with burdens, take your houses over your heads, ravish your wives and daughters before your faces : For me, I will make shift for one ; and so—God's curse light upon you all !

All. We'll follow Cade, we'll follow Cade.

Clif. Is Cade the son of Henry the fifth, That thus you do exclaim—you'll go with him ? Will he conduct you through the heart of France,

And make the meanest of you earls and dukes !
Alas, he hath no home, no place to fly to ;
Nor knows he how to live, but by the spoil,
Unless by robbing of your friends, and us.
Wer't not a shame, that whilst you live at jar,
The fearful French, whom you late vanquish-

ed, [you ?

Should make a start o'er seas, and vanquish Methinks, already, in this civil broil,

I see them lording it in London streets,
Crying—*Villageois !* unto all they meet.

Better ten thousand base-born Cades miscarry,

Than you should stoop unto a Frenchman's To France, to France, and get what you have

lost ;

Spare England, for it is your native coast :
Henry hath money, you are strong and manly ;
God on our side, doubt not of victory.

All. A Clifford ! A Clifford ! We'll follow the king, and Clifford.

Cade. Was ever feather so lightly blown to and fro, as this multitude ? The name of Henry the Fifth hailes them to a hundred mischiefs, and makes them leave me desolate. I see them lay their heads together, to surprise me : my sword make way for me, for here is no staying.—In despite of the devils and hell have through the very midst of you ! And heavens and honour be witness, that no want of resolution in me, but only my followers' base and ignominious treasons, makes me beset me to my heels. [Exit.

Buck. What, is he fled ! Go some, and follow him ;

And he, that brings his head unto the king,
Shall have a thousand crowns for his reward—

[Exit some of them.

Follow me, soldiers ;—we'll devise a mean
To reconcile you all unto the king. [Exit.

SCENE IX.—Kenelworth Castle.

Enter King HENRY, Queen MARGARET, and SOMERSET, on the Terrace of the Castle.

K. Hen. Was ever king, that joy'd an earthly throne,

And could command no more content than I ?
No sooner was I crept out of my cradle,
But I was made a king, at nine months old :
Was never subject long'd to be a king,
As I do long and wish to be a subject.

Enter BUCKINGHAM and CLIFFORD.

Buck. Health, and glad tidings, to your majesty !

K. Hen. Why, Buckingham, is the traitor, Cade, surprized ?
Or is he but retired to make him strong ?

Enter, below, a great number of CADE's Followers, with Halters about their Necks.

Clif. He's fled, my lord, and all his powers do yield ;

And humbly thus with halters on their necks,
Expect your highness' doom, of life, or death.

K. Hen. Then, heaven, set ope thy everlasting gates,

To entertain my vows of thanks and praise !—
Soldiers, this day have you redeem'd your lives,

And show'd how well you love your prince and country :

Continue still in this so good a mind,
And Henry, though he be unfortunate,

Assure yourselves, will never be unkind :

And so, with thanks, and pardon to you all,
I do dismiss you to your several countries.

All. God save the king ! God save the king !

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. Please it your grace to be advertised,
The duke of York is newly come from Ireland :

And with a puissant and a mighty power,
Of Gallowglasses, and stout Kernes*,

In marching hitherward in proud array ;
And still proclaimeth, as he comes along,

His arms are only to remove from thee [tor.
The duke of Somerset, whom he terms a traitor.

K. Hen. Thus stands my state, 'twixt Cade and York distress'd ;

Like to a ship, that, having escaped a tempest,
Is straightway calm'd, and boarded with a

pirate : [persed ;

But now't is Cade driven back, his men dis-
And now is York in arms, to second him.—

I pray thee, Buckingham, go and meet him ;
And ask him, what's the reason of these arms,

[Tower ;

Tell him, I'll send duke Edmund to the
And, Somerset, we will commit thee thither,
Until his army be dismiss'd from him.

Som. My lord,
I'll yield myself to prison willingly,
Or unto death, to do my country good.

K. Hen. In any case, be not too rough in terms ;

[guage.

For he is fierce, and cannot brook hard lan-

* Two orders of foot soldiers among the Irish.
| Only just now.

Buck. I will my lord; and doubt not so to deal

As all things shall redound unto your good.

K. Hen. Come, wife, let's in, and learn to govern better;

For yet may England curse my wretched reign. [Exeunt.]

SCENE X.—*Kent.*—*IDEN's Garden.*

Enter CADE.

Cade. Fie on ambition! Fie on myself; that have a sword, and yet am ready to famish! These five days have I hid me in these woods; and durst not peep out, for all the country is layed for me; but now am I so hungry, that if I might have a lease of my life for a thousand years, I could stay no longer. Wherefore, on a brick-wall have I climbed into this garden; to see if I can eat grass, or pick a sallet another while, which is not amiss to cool a man's stomach this hot weather. And, I think, this word sallet was born to do me good: for, many a time, but for a sallet,* my brain-pan, had been cleft with a brown bill; and, many a time, when I have been dry, and bravely marching, it hath served me instead of a quart-pot to drink in; and now the word sallet must serve me to feed on.

Enter *IDEN*, with *Servants*.

Iden. Lord, who would live turmoiled in the court,

And may enjoy such quiet walks as these, This small inheritance, my father left me, Contenteth me, and is worth a monarchy. I seek not to wax great by other's waining; Or gather wealth, I care not with what envy; Sufficeth, that I have maintains my state, And sends the poor well pleased from my gate.

Cade. Here's the lord of the soil come to seize me for a stray, for entering his fee-simple without leave. Ah, villain, thou wilt betray me, and get a thousand crowns of the king for carrying my head to him; but I'll make thee eat iron like an ostridge, and swallow my sword like a great pin, ere thou and I part.

Iden. Why, rude companion, whatsoever thou be, [thee?] I know thee not; why then should I betray Is't not enough, to break into my garden, And, like a thief, to come to rob my grounds, Climbing my walls, in spite of me the owner, But thou wilt brave me with these saucy terms?

Cade. Brave thee? Ay, by the best blood that ever was broach'd, and beard thee too. Look on me well: I have eat no meat these five days; yet, come thou and thy five men, and if I do not leave you all as dead as a door-nail, I pray God, I may never eat grass more.

Iden. Nay, it shall ne'er be said, while England stands, That Alexander Iden, an esquire of Kent, Took odds to combat a poor famish'd man. Oppose thy steadfast-gazing eyes to mine, See if thou canst outface me with thy looks. Set limb to limb, and thou art far the lesser; Thy hand is but a finger to my fist; Thy leg a stick, compared with this truncheon; My foot shall fight with all the strength thou hast;

* A kind of helmet.

And if mine arm be heaved in the air, Thy grave is digg'd already in the earth.

As for more words, whose greatness answers words,

Let this my sword report what speech forbears.

Cade. By my valour, the most complete champion that ever I heard.—Steel, if thou turn the edge, or cut not out the burly-boned clown in chins of beef ere thou sleep in thy sheath, I beseech God on my knees, thou may'st be turn'd to hobnails. [They fight, CADE falls.] O, I am slain! Famine, and no other, hath slain me: let ten thousand devils come against me, and give me but the ten meals I have lost, and I'd defy them all. Wither, garden; and be henceforth a burying place to all that do well in this house, because the unconquer'd soul of Cade is fled.

Iden. Is't Cade that I have slain, that monstrous traitor?

Sword, I will hallow thee, for this thy deed. And hang thee o'er my tomb, when I am dead:

Ne'er shall this blood be wiped from thy point; But thou shalt wear it as a herald's coat, To emblaze the honour that thy master got.

Cade. *Iden.* farewell; and be proud of thy victory: Tell Kent from me, she hath lost her best man, and exhort all the world to be cowards; for I, that never fear'd any, am vanquish'd by famine, not by valour. [Dies.]

Iden. How much thou wrong'st me[†] heaven be my judge.

Die, damn'd wretch, the curse of her that bare thee!

And as I thrust thy body in with my sword, So wish I, I might thrust thy soul in hell. Hence will I drag thee headlong by the heels Unto a dunghill which shall be thy grave, And there cut off thy most ungracious head; Which I will bear in triumph to the king, Leaving thy trunk for crows to feed upon.

[Exit, dragging out the body.]

ACT V.

SCENE I.—*The same.*—*Fields between Dartford and Blackheath.*

The King's Camp on one side.—*On the other, enter YORK attended, with Drum and Colours; his Forces at some distance.*

York. From Ireland thus comes York, to claim his right, And pluck the crown from feeble Henry's head: Ring, bells, aloud; burn, bonfires, clear and bright,

To entertain great England's lawful king. Ah, *sancta majestas!* who would not buy thee dear?

Let them obey, that know not how to rule; This hand was made to handle naught but gold:

I cannot give due action to my words, Except a sword, or sceptre balance it.† A sceptre shall it have, have I a soul; On which I'll toss the flower-de-luce of France.

Enter *BUCKINGHAM*.

Whom have we here? Buckingham to disturb me? [ble.]

The king hath sent him, sure: I must dissemb. *Buck.* York, if thou meanest well, I greet thee well.

* In supposing that I am proud of my victory.

† Balance my hand.

York. Humphrey of Buckingham, I accept thy greeting,

Art thou a messenger, or come of pleasure?

Buck. A messenger from Henry, our dread liege,

To know the reason of these arms in peace;
Or why, thou—being a subject as I am,—
Against thy oath and true allegiance sworn,
Shouldst raise so great a power without his leave,

Or dare to bring thy force so near the court.

York. [*Aside.*] Scarce can I speak, my choler is so great.

O, I could hew up rocks, and fight with flint,
I am so angry at these abject terms;
And now, like Ajax Telamonius,
On sheep or oxen could I spend my fury!
I am far better born than is the king;
More like a king, more kingly in my thoughts:
But I must make fair weather yet awhile,
Till Henry be more weak, and I more strong.

O Buckingham, I pr'ythee, pardon me,
That I have given no answer all this while;
My mind was troubled with deep melancholy.
The cause why I have brought this army
hither,

Is—to remove proud Somerset from the king,
Seditious to his grace, and to the state.

Buck. That is too much presumption on thy
But if thy arms be to no other end, [*part* :
The king hath yielded unto thy demand;
The duke of Somerset is in the Tower.

York. Upon thine honour, is he prisoner?

Buck. Upon mine honour, he is prisoner.

York. Then, Buckingham, I do dismiss my powers.—

Soldiers, I thank you all; disperse yourselves;
Meet me to-morrow, in Saint George's field,
You shall have pay, and every thing you wish.—

And let my sovereign, virtuous Henry,
Command my eldest son,—nay, all my sons,
As pledges of my fealty and love,
I'll send them all as willing as I live;
Lands, goods, horse, armour, any thing I have
Is his to use, so Somerset may die.

Buck. York, I commend this kind submission:

We twain will go into his highness' tent.

Enter King HENRY, attended.

K. Hen. Buckingham, doth York intend to harm us,

That thus he marcheth with thee arm in arm?

York. In all submission and humility,
York doth present himself unto your highness.

K. Hen. Then what intend these forces thou dost bring?

York. To heave the traitor Somerset from hence;

And fight against that monstrous rebel, Cade,
Who since I heard to be discomfited.

Enter IDEN, with CADE'S Head.

Iden. If one so rude, and of so mean condition,
May pass into the presence of a king, [*tion*,
Lo, I present your grace a traitor's head,
The head of Cade, whom I in combat slew.

K. Hen. The head of Cade?—Great God,
how just art thou!

O, let me view his visage being dead,
That living wrought me such exceeding trouble.
Tell me, my friend, art thou the man that slew him?

Iden. I was, an'tlike your majesty.

K. Hen. How art thou call'd? and what is thy degree?

Iden. Alexander Iden, that's my name;
A poor esquire of Kent, that loves his king.

Buck. So please it you, my lord, 'twere not amiss

He were created knight for his good service.

K. Hen. Iden, kneel down; [*He kneels.*]
Rise up a knight.

We give thee for reward a thousand marks;
And will, that thou henceforth attend on us.

Iden. May Iden live to merit such a bounty,
And never live but true unto his liege!

H. Hen. See, Buckingham! Somerset comes with the queen;

Go, bid her hide him quickly from the duke.

Enter Queen MARGARET and SOMERSET.

Q. Mar. For thousand Yorks he shall not hide his head,

But boldly stand, and front him to his face.

York. How now! Is Somerset at liberty?

Then, York, unloose thy long-imprison'd thoughts,

And let thy tongue be equal with thy heart.

Shall I endure the sight of Somerset?—
False king! why hast thou broken faith with me,

Knowing how hardly I can brook abuse?

King did I call thee? no, thou art not king;

Nor fit to govern and rule multitudes,

Which dar'st not, no, nor canst not rule a traitor.

That head of thine doth not become a crown;

Thy hand is made to grasp a palmer's staff,

And not to grace an awful princely sceptre.

That gold must round engirt these brows of mine;

Whose smile and frown, like to Achilles' spear,
Is able with the change to kill and cure.

Here is a hand to hold a sceptre up,

And with the same to act controlling laws.

Give place; by heaven, thou shalt rule no more

O'er him, whom heaven created for thy ruler.

Som. O monstrous traitor!—I arrest thee,
York,

Of capital treason 'gainst the king and crown:
Obey, audacious traitor; kneel for grace.

York. Would'st have me kneel? first let me ask of these,

If they can brook I bow a knee to man.—

Sirrah, call in my sons to be my bail;

[*Exit an ATTENDANT.*]

I know, ere they will have me go to ward,*
They'll pawn their swords for my enfranchisement.

Q. Mar. Call hither Clifford; bid him come again,

To say, if that the bastard boys of York
Shall be the surety for their traitor father.

York. O blood-bespotted Neapolitan,
Outcast of Naples, England's bloody scourge!
The sons of York, thy betters in their birth,
Shall be their father's bail; and bane to those
That for my surety will refuse the boys.

Enter EDWARD and RICHARD PLANTAGENET, with Forces, at one side; at the other, with Forces also, old CLIFFORD and his Son.

See, where they come; I'll warrant they'll make it good.

Q. Mar. And here comes Clifford, to deny their bail.

Clif. Health and all happiness to my lord the king !
[*Kneels.*]

York. I thank thee, Clifford : Say, what news with thee ?

Nay, do not fright us with an angry look : We are thy sovereign, Clifford, kneel again ; For thy mistaking so, we pardon thee.

Clif. This is my king, York, I do not mistake ;

But thou mistak'st me much, to think I do :— To bedlam with him ! is the man grown mad !

K. Hen. Ay, Clifford ; a bedlam and ambitious humour

Makes him oppose himself against his king.

Clif. He is a traitor ; let him to the Tower, And chop away that factious pate of his.

Q. Mar. He is arrested, but will not obey ; His sons, he says, shall give their words for him.

York. Will you not, sons !

Educ. Ay, noble father, if our words will serve.

Rich. And if words will not, then our weapons shall.

Clif. Why, what a brood of traitors have we here !

York. Look in a glass, and call thy image so ;

I am thy king, and thou a false-heart traitor— Call hither to the stake my two brave bears,* That, with the very shaking of their chains, They may astonish these fell lurking curs ; Bid Salisbury, and Warwick, come to me.

Drums. Enter WARWICK and SALISBURY, with Forces.

Clif. Are these thy bears ? we'll bait thy bears to death, And manacle the bear-ward† in their chains, If thou dar'st bring them to the baiting-place.

Rich. Oft have I seen a hot o'erweening cur Run back and bite, because he was withheld : Who, being suffer'd with the bear's fell paw, Hath clapp'd his tail between his legs, and cry'd :

And such a piece of service will you do, If you oppose yourselves to match lord Warwick.

Clif. Hence, heap of wrath, foul indigested lump, As crooked in thy manuers as thy shape !

York. Nay, we shall heat you thoroughly anon.

Clif. Take heed, lest by your heat you burn yourselves.

K. Hen. Why Warwick, hath thy knee forgot to bow ?—

Old Salisbury,—shame to thy silver hair, Thou mad misleader of thy brain-sick son !— What, wilt thou on thy death-bed play the ruffian,

And seek for sorrow with thy spectacles ? O, where is faith ? O, where is loyalty ? If it be banish'd from the frosty head, Where shall it find a harbour in the earth ?— Wilt thou go dig a grave to find out war, And shame thine honourable age with blood ? Why art thou old, and want'st experience ? Or wherefore dost abuse it, if thou hast it ? For shame ! in duty bend thy knee to me, That bows unto the grave with mickle age.

Sal. My lord, I have consider'd with myself The title of this most renowned duke ; And in my conscience do repute his grace The rightful heir to England's royal seat.

K. Hen. Hast thou not sworn allegiance unto me ?

Sal. I have.

K. Hen. Canst thou dispense with heaven for such an oath ?

Sal. It is great sin, to swear unto a sin ; But greater sin, to keep a sinful oath Who can be bound by any solemn vow To do a murderous deed, to rob a man, To force a spotless virgin's chastity, To reave the orphan of his patrimony, To wring the widow from her custom'd right : And have no other reason for this wrong, But that he was bound by a solemn oath !

Q. Mar. A subtle traitor needs no sophister.

K. Hen. Call Buckingham, and bid him arm himself.

York. Call Buckingham, and all the friends thou hast, I am resolv'd for death, or dignity.

Clif. The first I warrant thee, if dreams prove true.

War. You were best to go to bed, and dream again, To keep thee from the tempest of the field.

Clif. I am resolv'd to bear a greater storm, Than any thou canst conjure up to-day ; And that I'll write upon thy burgonet, Might I but know thee by thy household badge.

War. Now, by my father's badge, old Nevil's crest,

The rampant bear chain'd to the ragged staff, This day I'll wear aloft my burgonet,* (As on a mountain-top the cedar shows, That keeps his leaves in spite of any storm,) Even to affright thee with the view thereof.

Clif. And from thy burgonet I'll rend thy bear, And tread it under foot with all contempt, Despight the bear-ward that protects the bear.

Y. Clif. And so to arms, victorious father, To quell the rebels, and their 'complices.

Rich. Fie ! charity, for shame ! speak not in spite, For you shall sup with *Jesu Christ* to night.

Y. Clif. Foul stigmatic,† that's more than thou canst tell.

Rich. If not in heaven, you'll surely sup in hell. [*Exeunt severally.*]

SCENE II.—Saint Albans.

Alarums : Excursions. Enter WARWICK.

War. Clifford of Cumberland, 'tis Warwick calls !

And if thou dost not hide thee from the bear, Now,—when the angry trumpet sounds alarm, And dead men's cries do fill the empty air,— Proud northern lord, Clifford of Cumberland, Warwick is hoarse with calling thee to arms.

Enter York.

How now, my noble lord ? what, all a-foot ?

York. The deadly-banded Clifford slew my steed ;

Helmet.

† One on whom nature has set a mark of deformity, a stigma.

* The Nevils, earls of Warwick, had a bear and ragged staff for their crest.

† Bear-keeper.

But match to match I have encounter'd him,
And made a prey for carrion kites and crows
Even of the bonny beast the lov'd so well

Enter CLIFFORD.

War. Of one or both of us the time is come.

York. Hold, Warwick, seek thee out some
other chace,

For I myself must hunt this deer to death.

War. Then, nobly, York; 'tis for a crown
thou fight'st.—

As I intend, Clifford, to thrive to-day,
It grieves my soul to leave thee unassail'd.

[Exit WARWICK.]

Clif. What seest thou in me, York? why
dost thou pause?

York. With thy brave bearing should I be
in love,

But that thou art so fast mine enemy.

Clif. Nor should thy prowess want praise
and esteem,

But that 'tis shown ignobly and in treason.

York. So let it help me now against thy
sword,

As I in justice and true right express it!

Clif. My soul and body on the action
both!—

York. A dreadful lay!^{*}—address thee in-
stantly.

[They fight, and CLIFFORD falls.]

Clif. *La fin couronne les oeuvres.* [Dies.]

York. Thus war hath given thee peace, for
thou art still.

Peace with his soul, heaven, if it be thy will!
[Exit.]

Enter young CLIFFORD.

Y. Clif. Shame and confusion! all is on the
roust;

Fear frames disorder, and disorder wounds
Where it should guard. O war, thou son of
hell,

Whom angry heavens do make their minister,
Throw in the frozen bosoms of our part

Hot coals of vengeance!—Let no soldier fly:
He that is truly dedicate to war,

Hath no self-love; nor he, that loves himself,
Hath not essentially, but by circumstance,

The name of valour.—O, let the vile world
end, [Seeing his dead Father.]

And the premised flames of the last day
Knit earth and heaven together!

Now let the general trumpet blow his blast,
Particularities and petty sounds

To cease!—Wast thou ordain'd, dear father,
To lose thy youth in peace, and to achieve

The silver livery of advised age;
And, in thy reverence, and thy chair-days,

thus
To die in ruffian battle?—Even at this sight,
My heart is turn'd to stone: and, while, 'tis

mine,
It shall be stony. York not our old menspares;
No more will I their babes: tears virginal

Shall be to me even as the dew to fire;
And beauty, that the tyrant oft reclaims,

Shall to my flaming wrath be oil and flax.
Henceforth, I will not have to do with pity;

Meet I an infant of the house of York,
Into as many gobblets will I cut it,

As wild Medea young Absyrtus did:
In cruelty will I seek out my fame.

Come, thou new ruin of old Clifford's house;
[Taking up the Body.]

As did Æneas old Anchises bear,
So bear I thee upon my manly shoulders;

But then Æneas bare a living load,
Nothing so heavy as these woes of mine.

[Exit.]

Enter RICHARD PLANTAGENET and SOMERSET,
fighting, and SOMERSET is killed.

Rich. So, lie thou there;—

For, underneath an alehouse' paltry sign,
The Castle in Saint Albans, Somerset

Hath made the wizard famous in his death.—
Sword, hold thy temper; heart, be wrathful

still:
Priests pray for enemies, but princes kill.

[Exit.]

Alarums: Excursions. Enter King HENRY,
Queen MARGARET, and others, retreating.

Q. Mar. Away, my lord! you are slow;
for shame, away!

K. Hen. Can we outrun the heavens? good
Margaret, stay.

Q. Mar. What are you made of? you'll not
fight, nor fly:

Now is it manhood, wisdom, and defence,
To give the enemy way: and to secure us

By what we can, which can no more but fly.
[Alarum afar off.]

If you be ta'en, we then should see the bottom
Of all our fortunes: but if we haply scape,

(As well we may, if not through your neglect,)
We shall to London get; where you are lov'd;

And where this breach, now in our fortunes
made,

May readily be stopp'd.

Enter young CLIFFORD.

Y. Clif. But that my heart's on future mis-
chief set,

I would speak blasphemy ere bid you fly;
But fly you must; incurable discomfit

Reigns in the hearts of all our present parts;^{*}
Away, for your relief! and we will live

To see their day, and them our fortune give:
Away, my lord, away! [Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—Fields near Saint Albans.

Alarum: Retreat. Flourish; then enter YORK,
RICHARD PLANTAGENET, WARWICK, and
Soldiers, with Drum and Colours.

York. Of Salisbury, who can report of him;
That winter lion, who, in rage forgets

Aged contusions and all brush of time;†
And, like a gallant in the bow of youth,‡

Repairs him with occasion? this happy day
Is not itself, nor have we won one foot,

If Salisbury be lost.

Rich. My noble father,
Three times to-day I help him to his horse,

Three times bestrid him, thrice I led him off;
Persuaded him from any further act:

But still, where danger was, still there I met
him;

And like rich hangings in a homely house,
So was his will in his old feeble body.

But, noble as he is, look where he comes.

* For parties.

† I. e. The gradual detrition of time.

‡ I. e. The height of youth: the brow of a hill is its
summit.

* A dreadful wager; a tremendous stake.

† Sent before their time.

‡ Obtain.

|| Stop.

|| Considerate.

Enter SALISBURY.

Sal. Now, by my sword, well hast thou fought to day;
 By the mass, so did we all.—I thank you, God knows, how long it is I have to live; And it hath pleas'd him, that three times to-day You have defended me from imminent death.— Well, lords, we have not got that which we have:*

'Tis not enough our foes are this time fled, Being opposites of such repairing nature.†

* *I. e.* We have not secured that which we have acquired.

† *i. e.* Being enemies that are likely so soon to rally and recover themselves from this defeat.

York. I know, our safety is to follow them; For, as I hear, the king is fled to London, To call a present court of parliament. Let us pursue him, ere the writs go forth:— What says lord Warwick; shall we after them?

War. After them! nay, before them, if we can.

Now by my faith, lords, 'twas a glorious day: Saint Albans' battle, won by famous York, Shall be eterniz'd in all age to come.— Sound, drums and trumpets;—and to London all:

And more such days as these to us befall!

[*Exeunt.*]

THIRD PART

OF

KING HENRY VI.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

<p>KING HENRY THE SIXTH. EDWARD, PRINCE of Wales, his Son. LEWIS XI. King of France. DUKE OF SOMERSET,—DUKE OF EXETER,—EARL OF OXFORD,—EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND,—EARL OF WESTMORELAND—LORD CLIFFORD RICHARD PLANTAGENET, Duke of York. EDWARD, Earl of March, afterwards King Edward IV. EDMUND, Earl of Rutland, GEORGE, afterwards Duke of Clarence, RICHARD, afterwards Duke of Gloucester, DUKE OF NORFOLK, MARQUIS OF MONTAGUE, EARL OF WARWICK, EARL OF PEMBROKE, LORD HASTINGS, LORD STAFFORD,</p>	<p>SIR JOHN MORTIMER, } Uncles to the Duke of SIR HUGH MORTIMER, } York. HENRY, Earl of Richmond, a Youth. LORD RIVERS, Brother to Lady Grey.—SIR WILLIAM STANLEY.—SIR JOHN MONTGOMERY.—SIR JOHN SOMERVILLE.—TUTOR to Rutland.—MAYOR OF YORK.—LIEUTENANT of the TOWER.—A NOBLEMAN.—TWO KEEPERS.—A HUNTSMAN.—A SON that has killed his Father. A Father that has killed his Son. QUEEN MARGARET. LADY GREY, afterwards Queen to Edward IV. BONA, Sister to the French Queen. Soldiers, and other attendants on King Henry and King Edward, Messengers, Watchmen, &c. SCENE, during part of the third Act, in France; during all the rest of the Play, in England</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">} Lords on King Henry's side. } } His Sons. } } } Of the Duke of York's party.</p>	

ACT I.

SCENE I.—London.—The Parliament-House.

Drums. Some Soldiers of YORK's party break in.

Then, enter the Duke of YORK, EDWARD, RICHARD, NORFOLK, MONTAGUE, WARWICK, and others, with White Roses in their Hats.

War. I wonder how the king escap'd our hands.

York. While we pursu'd the horsemen of the north,

He slyly stole away, and left his men :

Whereat the great lord of Northumberland,

Whose warlike ears could never brook retreat,

Cheer'd up the drooping army ; and himself,

Lord Clifford, and Lord Stafford, all a-breast,

Charg'd our main battle's front, and, break-

ing in,

Were by the swords of common soldiers slain.

Educ. Lord Stafford's father, duke of Buck-

ingham,

Is either slain, or wounded dangerous :

I cleft his beaver with a downright blow ;

That this is true, father, behold his blood.

[*Showing his bloody Sword.*

Mont. And, brother, here's the earl of Wilt-

shire's blood, [*To YORK, showing his.*

Whom I encounter'd as the battles join'd.

Rich. Speak thou for me, and tell them what

I did.
[Throwing down the Duke of SOMERSET's Head.

York. Richard hath best deserv'd of all my
 sons.— [set ?

What, is your grace dead, my lord of Somer-
Norf. Such hope have all the line of John of
 Gaunt !

Rich. Thus do I hope to shake king Henry's
 head.

War. And so do I.—Victorious prince of
 York,

Before I see thee seated in that throne

Which now the house of Lancaster usurps,

I vow by heaven, these eyes shall never close.

This is the palace of the fearful king,

And this the regal seat : possess it, York :

For this is thine, and not king Henry's heirs.

York. Assist me then, sweet Warwick, and
 I will ;

For hither we have broken in by force.
Norf. We'll all assist you ; he, that flies,
 shall die.

York. Thanks, gentle Norfolk,—Stay by me,
 my lords ;— [night.

And, soldiers, stay, and lodge by me this
War. And when the king comes, offer him
 no violence,

Unless he seek to thrust you out by force.
 [*They retire.*

York. The queen, this day, here holds her
 parliament,

But little thinks we shall be of her council :
 By words, or blows, here let us win our right.

Rich. Arm'd as we are, let's stay within this house.

War. The bloody parliament shall this be call'd,

Unless Plantagenet, duke of York, be king; And bashful Henry depos'd, whose cowardice Hath made us by-words to our enemies.

York. Then leave me not, my lord's; be resolute;

I mean to take possession of my right.

War. Neither the king, nor he that loves him best,

The proudest he that holds up Lancaster, Dares stir a wing, if Warwick shake his bells,* 'Pl'plant Plantagenet, root him up who dares:— Resolve thee, Richard; claim the English crown.

[WARWICK leads YORK to the Throne, who seats himself.]

Flourish. Enter King HENRY, CLIFFORD, NORTHUMBERLAND, WESTMORELAND, EXETER, and others, with red roses in their hats.

K. Hen. My lords, look where the sturdy rebel sits,

Even in the chair of state! belike, he means, (Back'd by the power of Warwick, that false peer,)

To aspire unto the crown, and reign as king,— Earl of Northumberland, he slew thy father;— And thine, lord Clifford; and you both have vow'd revenge

On him, his sons, his favourites, and his friends.

North. If I be not, heavens, be reveng'd on me!

Clif. The hope thereof makes Clifford mourn in steel.

West. What, shall we suffer this? let's pluck him down:

My heart for anger burns, I cannot brook it.

K. Hen. Be patient, gentle earl of Westmoreland.

Clif. Patience is for poltroons, and such as he;

He durst not sit there had your father liv'd

My gracious lord, here in the parliament

Let us assail the family of York.

North. Well hast thou spoken, cousin; be it so.

K. Hen. Ah, know you not, the city favours them,

And they have troops of soldiers at their beck?

Exe. But when the duke is slain, they'll quickly fly.

K. Hen. Far be the thought of this from Henry's heart,

To make a shambles of the parliament-house! Cousin of Exeter, frowns, words, and threats, Shall be the war that Henry means to use.—

[They advance to the Duke.]

Thou factious duke of York, descend my throne, And kneel for grace and mercy at my feet; I am thy sovereign.

York. Thou art deceiv'd, I am thine.

Exe. For shame, come down; he made thee duke of York.

York. 'Twas my inheritance, as the earldom was.

Exe. Thy father was a traitor to the crown.

War. Exeter, thou art a traitor to the crown, In following this usurping Henry.

Clif. Whom should he follow, but his natural king?

War. True, Clifford; and that's Richard, duke of York.

K. Hen. And shall I stand, and thou sit in my throne?

York. It must and shall be so. Content thyself.

War. Be duke of Lancaster, let him be king.

West. He is both king and duke of Lancaster: And that the lord of Westmoreland shall maintain.

War. And Warwick shall disprove it. You forget,

[field, That we are those, which chas'd you from the And slew your fathers, and with colours spread

March'd through the city to the palace [gates.

North. Yes, Warwick, I remember it to my grief;

And, by his soul, thou and thy house shall rue it.

West. Plantagenet, of thee, and these thy sons,

Thy kinsmen, and thy friends, I'll have more lives,

Than drops of blood were in my father's veins.

Clif. Urge it no more; lest that, instead of words,

I send thee, Warwick, such a messenger,

As shall revenge his death, before I stir.

War. Poor Clifford! how I scorn his worthless threats!

York. Will you, we show our title to the crown?

If not, our swords shall plead it in the field.

K. Hen. What title hast thou, traitor to the crown?

Thy father was, as thou art, duke of York; Thy grandfather, Roger Mortimer, earl of

March:

I am the son of Henry the fifth,

Who made the Dauphin and the French to stoop,

And seiz'd upon their towns and provinces.

War. Talk not of France, sith* thou hast lost it all

K. Hen. The lord protector lost it, and not I; When I was crown'd, I was but nine months old.

Rich. You are old enough now, and yet, methinks, you lose:—

Father, tear the crown from the usurper's head.

[head. *Edw.* Sweet father, do so; set it on your

Mont. Good brother, [To York.] as thou lov'st and honour'st arms,

Let's fight it out, and not stand cavilling thus.

Rich. Sound drums and trumpets, and the king will fly.

York. Sons, peace!

K. Hen. Peace thou! and give king Henry leave to speak.

War. Plantagenet shall speak first:—hear him, lords;

And be you silent and attentive too,

For he, that interrupts him, shall not live.

K. Hen. Think'st thou, that I will leave my kingly throne,

Wherein my grandsire, and my father, sat? No: first shall war unpeople this my realm:

Ay, and their colours—often borne in France; And now in England, to our heart's great sorrow,—

[Lords? Shall be my winding sheet.—Why faint you, My title's good, and better far than his.

War. But prove it, Henry, and thou shalt be king.

* Hawks had sometimes little bells hung on them, perhaps to dare the birds; that is, to fright them from rising.

K. Hen. Henry the fourth by conquest got the crown.

York. 'Twas by rebellion against his king.

K. Hen. I know not what to say; my title's weak.

Tell me, may not a king adopt an heir?

York. What then?

K. Hen. An if he may, then am I lawful king;

For Richard, in the view of many lords, Resign'd the crown to Henry the fourth;

Whose heir my father was, and I am his.

York. He rose against him, being his sovereign,

And made him to resign his crown perforce.

War. Suppose, my lords, he did it unconstrain'd,

Think you, 'twere prejudicial to his crown?*

Exe. No; for he could not so resign his crown. But that the next heir should succeed and reign.

K. Hen. Art thou against us, duke of Exeter?

Exe. He is the right, and therefore pardon me.

York. Why whisper you, my lords, and answer not?

Exe. My conscience tells me he is lawful king.

K. Hen. All will revolt from me, and turn to him.

North. Plantagenet, for all the claim thou lay'st.

Think not, that Henry shall be so depos'd.

War. Depos'd he shall be, in despite of all.

North. Thou art deceiv'd: 'tis not thy southern power,

Of Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, nor of Kent,—

Which makes thee thus presumptuous and proud,—

Can set the duke up, in despite of me.

Clif. King Henry, be thy title right or wrong, Lord Clifford vows to fight in thy defence:

May that ground gape, and swallow me alive, Where I shall kneel to him that slew my father!

K. Hen. O Clifford, how thy words revive my heart!

York. Henry of Lancaster, resign thy crown:—

What mutter you, or what conspire you, lords?

War. Do right unto this princely duke of York;

Or I will fill the house with armed men,

And, o'er the chair of state, where now he sits, Write up his title with usurping blood.

[*He stamps, and the Soldiers show themselves.*]

K. Hen. My lord of Warwick, hear me but one word;—

Let me, for this my life-time, reign as king.

York. Confirm the crown to me, and to mine heirs,

And thou shalt reign in quiet while thou liv'st.

K. Hen. I am content: Richard Plantagenet, Enjoy the kingdom after my decease.

Clif. What wrong is this unto the prince your son?

War. What good is this to England, and himself?

West. Base, fearful, and despairing Henry!

Clif. How hast thou injur'd both thyself and us?

West. I cannot stay to hear these articles.

North. Nor I.

* I. e. Detrimental to the general rights of hereditary royalty.

Clif. Come, cousin, let us tell the queen these news.

West. Farewell, faint-hearted and degenerate king,

In whose cold blood no spark of honour bides.

North. Be thou a prey unto the house of York,

And die in bands for this unmanly deed!

Clif. In dreadful war may'st thou be overcome!

Or live in peace abandon'd, and despis'd!

[*Exeunt NORTHUMBERLAND, CLIFFORD, and WESTMORELAND.*]

War. Turn this way, Henry, and regard them not.

Exe. They seek revenge, and therefore will not yield.

K. Hen. Ah, Exeter!

War. Why should you sigh, my lord?

K. Hen. Not for myself, lord Warwick, but my son,

Whom I unnaturally shall disinherit.

But, be it as it may:—I here entail The crown to thee, and to thine heirs for ever:

Conditionally, that here thou take an oath

To cease this civil war, and whilst I live,

To honour me as thy king and sovereign;

And neither by treason, nor hostility,

To seek to put me down, and reign thyself.

York. This oath I willingly take, and will perform. [*Coming from the throne.*]

War. Long live king Henry!—Plantagenet, embrace him.

K. Hen. And long live thou, and these thy forward sons!

York. Now York and Lancaster are reconcil'd.

Exe. Accurs'd be he, that seeks to make them foes! [*Senet. The lords come forward.*]

York. Farewell, my gracious lord; I'll to my castle.

War. And I'll keep London, with my soldiers.

Norf. And I to Norfolk, with my followers.

Mont. And I unto the sea, from whence I came.

[*Exeunt YORK, and his Sons, WARWICK, NORFOLK, MONTAGUE, Soldiers, and Attendants.*]

K. Hen. And I with grief and sorrow, to the court.

Enter Queen MARGARET and the Prince of WALES.

Exe. Here comes the queen, whose looks betray* her anger:

I'll steal away.

K. Hen. Exeter, so will I. [*Going*]

Q. Mar. Nay, go not from me, I will follow thee.

K. Hen. Be patient, gentle queen, and I will stay.

Q. Mar. Who can be patient in such extremes?

Ah, wretched man! 'would I had died a maid, And never seen thee, never borne thee son,

Seeing thou hast prov'd so unnatural a father. Hath he deserv'd to lose his birthright thus!

Hadst thou but lov'd him half so well as I;

Or felt that pain which I did for him once;

Or nourish'd him, as I did with my blood;

Thou wouldest have left thy dearest heart-blood there,

Rather than made that savage duke thine heir, And disinherited thine only son.

* Betray, discover.

Prince. Father, you cannot disinherite me :
If you be king, why should not I succeed ?

K. Hen. Pardon me, Margaret ;—pardon me, sweet son ;— [me.]

The earl of Warwick, and the duke, enforce'd
Q. Mar. Enforc'd thee ! art thou king, and wilt be forc'd ? [wretch !]

I shame to hear thee speak. Ah, timorous
Thou hast undone thyself, thy son, and me ;
And given unto the house of York such head,
As thou shalt reign but by their sufferance.

To entail him and his heirs unto the crown,
What is it, but to make thy sepulchre,
And creep into it far before thy time ?

Warwick is chancellor, and the lord of Calais ;
Stern Faulconbridge commands the narrow seas,

The duke is made protector of the realm ;
And yet shalt thou be safe ? such safety finds
The trembling lamb, environed with wolves.
Had I been there, which am a silly woman,
The soldiers should have toss'd me on their pikes,

Before I would have granted to that act.
But thou prefer'st thy life before thine honour :
And seeing thou dost, I here divorce myself,
Both from thy table, Henry, and thy bed,
Until that act of parliament be repeal'd,
Whereby my son is disinherited.

The northern lords, that have forsworn thy colours,

Will follow mine, if once they see them spread :
And spread they shall be ; to thy foul disgrace,
And utter ruin of the house of York.

Thus do I leave thee :—Come, son, let's away ;
Our army's ready ; come, we'll after them.

K. Hen. Stay, gentle Margaret, and hear me speak.

Q. Mar. Thou hast spoke too much already ; get thee gone.

K. Hen. Gentle son Edward, thou wilt stay with me ?

Q. Mar. Ay, to be murder'd by his enemies.

Prince. When I return with victory from the field,

I'll see your grace : till then, I'll follow her.

Q. Mar. Come, son, away ; we may not linger thus.

[*Exeunt Queen MARGARET, and the PRINCE.*]

K. Hen. Poor queen ! how love to me, and to her son,

Hath made her break out into terms of rage !
Revenge'd may she be on that hateful duke ;
Whose haughty spirit, winged with desire,
Will cost my crown, and, like an empty eagle,
Tire* on the flesh of me, and of my son !
The loss of those three lords torments my heart :

I'll write unto them, and entreat them fair ;—
Come, cousin, you shall be the messenger.

Exe. And I, I hope, shall reconcile them all. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A Room in Sandal Castle, near Wakefield, in Yorkshire.

Enter EDWARD, RICHARD, and MONTAGUE.

Rich. Brother, though I be youngest, give me leave.

Edw. No, I can better play the orator.

Mont. But I have reasons strong and forcible.

Enter YORK.

York. Why, how now, sons and brother, at a strife ?

What is your quarrel ? how began it first ?

Edw. No quarrel, but a slight contention.

York. About what ?

Rich. About that which concerns your grace, and us ;

The crown of England, father, which is yours.
York. Mine, boy ? not till king Henry be dead.

Rich. Your right depends not on his life, or death.

Edw. Now you are heir, therefore enjoy it now : [breathe,

By giving the house of Lancaster leave to
It will outrun you, father, in the end.

York. I took an oath, that he should quietly reign.

Edw. But, for a kingdom, any oath may be broken :

I'd break a thousand oaths, to reign one year.

Rich. No ; God forbid, your grace should be forsworn.

York. I shall be, if I claim by open war.

Rich. I'll prove the contrary, if you'll bear me speak.

York. Thou canst not, son ; it is impossible.

Rich. An oath is of no moment, being not
Before a true and lawful magistrate, [took

That hath authority over him that swears :
Henry had none, but did usurp the place ;

Then, seeing 'twas he that made you to depose,
Your oath, my lord, is vain and frivolous.

Therefore, to arms. And, father, do but think,
How sweet a thing it is to wear a crown ;

Within whose circuit is Elysium,
And all that poets feign of bliss and joy.

Why do we linger thus ? I cannot rest,
Until the white rose, that I wear, be dyed

Even in the lukewarm blood of Henry's heart.

York. Richard, enough ; I will be king, or die.—

Brother, thou shalt to London presently,
And whet on Warwick to this enterprize.—

Thou, Richard, shalt unto the duke of Norfolk,
And tell him privily of our intent.—

You, Edward, shall unto my lord Cobham,
With whom the Kentishmen will willingly rise :

In them I trust ; for they are soldiers,
Witty* and courteous, liberal, full of spirit.—

While you are thus employ'd, what resteth
But that I seek occasion how to rise ; [more,

And yet the king not privy to my drift,
Nor any of the house of Lancaster ?

Enter a MESSENGER.

But, stay ; What news ? Why com'st thou in such post ?

Mess. The queen, with all the northern earls and lords,

Intend here to besiege you in your castle :
She is hard by with twenty thousand men ;

And therefore fortify your hold, my lord.

York. Ay, with my sword. What ! think'st thou, that we fear them ?—

Edward and Richard, you shall stay with me ;
My brother Montague shall post to London :

Let noble Warwick, Cobham, and the rest,
Whom we have left protectors of the king,

With powerful policy strengthen themselves,
And trust not simple Henry, nor his oaths.

Mont. Brother, I go ; I'll win them, fear it not :

And thus most humbly I do take my leave. [Exit.]

Enter Sir JOHN and Sir HUGH MORTIMER.

York. Sir John, and Sir Hugh Mortimer, mine uncles !

* Pet's.

* Of sound judgment.

You are come to Sandal in a happy hour;
The army of the queen mean to besiege us.

Sir John. She shall not need, we'll meet her
in the field.

York. What, with five thousand men?

Rich. Ay, with five hundred, father, for a
need.

A woman's general; What should we fear?

[*A March afar off.*]

Edw. I hear their drums; let's set our men
in order;

And issue forth, and bid them battle straight.

York. Five men to twenty?—though the
odds be great,

I doubt not, uncle, of our victory.

Many a battle have I won in France,

When as the enemy hath been ten to one;

Why should I not now have the like success?

[*Alarum. Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—*Plains near Sandal Castle.*

*Alarums: Excursions. Enter RUTLAND, and
his Tutor.*

Rut. Ah, whither shall I fly to 'scape their
hands!

Ah, tutor! look, where bloody Clifford comes!

Enter CLIFFORD and Soldiers.

Clif. Chaplain, away! thy priesthood saves
thy life.

As for the brat of this accursed duke,

Whose father slew my father,—he shall die.

Tut. And I, my lord, will bear him company.

Clif. Soldiers, away with him.

Tut. Ah, Clifford! murder not this innocent
child,

Lest thou be hated both of God and man.

[*Exit, forced off by Soldiers.*]

Clif. How now! is he dead already? Or, is
it fear,

[*them.*]

That makes him close his eyes?—I'll open

Rut. So looks the pent-up lion o'er the
wretch

That trembles under his devouring paws:

And so he walks, insulting o'er his prey;

And so he comes to rend his limbs asunder.—

Ah, gentle Clifford, kill me with thy sword,

And not with such a cruel threat'ning look.

Sweet Clifford, hear me speak before I die;—

I am too mean a subject for thy wrath,

Be thou reveng'd on men, and let me live.

Clif. In vain thou speak'st, poor boy; my
father's blood

Hath stopp'd the passage where thy words
should enter.

Rut. Then let my father's blood open it
again;

He is a man, and, Clifford, cope with him.

Clif. Had I thy brethren here, their lives,
and thine,

Were not revenge sufficient for me;

No, if I digg'd up thy forefather's graves,

And hung their rotten coffins up in chains,

It could not slake mine ire, nor ease my heart.

The sight of any of the house of York

Is as a fury to torment my soul;

And till I root out their accursed line,

And leave not one alive, I live in hell.

Therefore—

[*Lifting his hand.*]

Rut. O let me pray before I take my death:—
To thee I pray; Sweet Clifford, pity me!

Clif. Such pity as my rapier's point affords.

Rut. I never did thee harm; Why wilt thou
slay me?

Clif. Thy father hath.

Rut. But 'twas ere I was born.

Thou hast one son, for his sake pity me;

Lest, in revenge whereof,—sith* God is just,—

He be as miserably slain as I.

Ah, let me live in prison all my days;

And when I give occasion of offence,

Then let me die, for now thou hast no cause.

Clif. No cause?

Thy father slew my father; therefore, die.

[*CLIFFORD stabs him.*]

Rut. *Dii faciunt, laudis summa sit ista tuae!*

[*Dies.*]

Clif. Plantagenet! I come, Plantagenet!

And this thy son's blood cleaving to my blade,

Shall rust upon my weapon, till thy blood,

Congeal'd with this, do make me wipe off both.

[*Exit.*]

SCENE IV.—*The same.*

Alarum.—Enter YORK.

York. The army of the queen hath got the
field:

My uncles both are slain in rescuing me;

And all my followers to the eager foe

Turn back, and fly, like ships before the wind,

Or lambs pursu'd by-hunger-starv'd wolves.

My sons—God knows, what hath bechanced

them:

[*selves*]

But this I know,—they have demean'd them-
like men born to renown, by life, or death.

Three times did Richard make a lane to me;

And thrice cried,—*Courage, father! fight it out!*

And full as oft came Edward to my side,

With purple faulchion, painted to the hilt

In blood of those that had encounter'd him:

And when the hardest warriors did retire,

Richard cried,—*Charge! and give no foot of
ground!*

And cried,—*A crown, or else a glorious tomb!*

A sceptre! or an earthly sepulchre!

With this, we charg'd again: but, out, alas!

We bodg'd† again; as I have seen a swan

With bootless labour swim against the tide,

And spend her strength with over-matching

waves.

[*A short Alarum within.*]

Ah, hark! the fatal followers do pursue;

And I am faint, and cannot fly their fury:

And, were I strong, I would not shun their

fury:

The sands are number'd, that make up my life;

Here must I stay, and here my life must end.

*Enter Queen MARGARET, CLIFFORD, NORTHUM-
BERLAND, and Soldiers.*

Come, bloody Clifford,—rough Northumber-
land,—

I dare your quenchless fury to more rage;

I am your butt, and I abide your shot.

North. Yield to our mercy, proud Plantage-
net.

Clif. Ay, to such mercy, as his ruthless arm,
With downright payment, show'd unto my fa-
ther.

Now Phaeton hath tumbled from his car,

And made an evening at the noontide prick.‡

York. My ashes, as the Phoenix, may bring
forth

A bird that will revenge upon you all: [ven,

And, in that hope, I throw mine eyes to hea-

Scorning whate'er you can afflict me with.

Why come you not? what! multitudes, and
fear!

* Since.

† Heaven grant this may be your greatest boast!

Ovid. Epist.

‡ *L. e.* We boggled, made bad, or bungling work of
our attempt to rally. § Noontide point on the dial.

Clif. So cowards fight, when they can fly no farther;

So doves do peck the falcon's piercing talons;
So desperate thieves, all hopeless of their lives,

Breathe out invectives 'gainst the officers.

York. O, Clifford, but bethink thee once again,

And in thy thought o'er-run my former time:

And, if thou canst for blushing, view this face;

And bite thy tongue, that slanders him with cowardice,

Whose frown hath made thee faint and fly ere
Clif. I will not bandy with thee word for word;

But buckle with thee blows, twice two for one. [Draws.]

Q. Mar. Hold, valiant Clifford! for a thousand causes,
I would prolong awhile the traitor's life:—
Wrath makes him deaf: speak thou, Northumberland.

North. Hold, Clifford; do not honour him so much,

To prick thy finger, though to wound his heart:
What valour were it, when a cur doth grin,

For one to thrust his hand between his teeth,
When he might spurn him with his foot away?

It is war's prize to take all vantages;
And ten to one is no impeach of valour.

[They lay hands on YORK, who struggles.]

Clif. Ay, ay, so strives the woodcock with the gin.

North. So doth the coney struggle in the net.
[YORK is taken prisoner.]

York. So triumph thieves upon their conquer'd booty;

So true men* yield, with robbers so o'er-match'd.

North. What would your grace have done unto him now?

Q. Mar. Brave warriors, Clifford, and Northumberland,

Come make him stand upon this molehill here;
That raught† at mountains with outstretched arms,

Yet parted but the shadow with his hand.—
What! was it you, that would be England's king?

Was't you that revell'd in our parliament,
And made a preaching of your high descent?

Where are your mess of sons to back you now?
The wanton Edward, and the lusty George?

And where's that valiant crook-back prodigy,
Dicky your boy, that, with his grumbling voice,

Was wont to cheer his dad in mutinies?
Or, with the rest, where is your darling Rutland?

Look, York; I stain'd this napkin‡ with the
That valiant Clifford, with his rapier's point,
Made issue from the bosom of the boy:

And, if thine eyes can water for his death,
I give thee this to dry thy cheeks withal.

Alas, poor York! but that I hate thee deadly,
I should lament thy miserable state.

I pry'thee, grieve, to make me merry, York;
Stamp, rave, and fret, that I may sing and dance,

What, hath thy fiery heart so parch'd thine
That not a tear can fall for Rutland's death?

Why art thou patient, man? thou should'st be mad?

And I, to make thee mad, do mock thee thus.

* Honest men. † Reached. ‡ Handkerchief.

Thou would'st be fee'd, I see, to make me sport;

York cannot speak, unless he wear a crown.—
A crown for York;—and, lords, bow low to him.—

Hold you his hands, whilst I do set it on.—
[Putting a paper Crown on his Head.]

Ay, marry, Sir, now looks he like a king!
Ay, this is he that took King Henry's chair;

And this is he was his adopted heir.—
But how is it that great Plantagenet

Is crown'd so soon, and broke his solemn oath?
As I bethink me, you should not be king,

Till our king Henry had shook hands with death.

And will you pale* your head in Henry's glory,
And rob his temples of the diadem,

Now in his life, against your holy oath?
O, 'tis a fault too, too unpardonable!—

Off with the crown; and, with the crown, his head; [dead.†]

And whilst we breathe, take time to do him
Clif. That is my office, for my father's sake.

Q. Mar. Nay, stay; let's hear the orisons he makes.

York. She-wolf of France, but worse than wolves of France,

Whose tongue more poisons than the adder's
How ill-beseeming is it in thy sex, [tooth!]

To triumph like an Amazonian trull,
Upon their woes, whom fortune captivates?

But that thy face is, visor-like, unchanging,
Made impudent with use of evil deeds,

I would assay, proud queen, to make thee blush: [riv'd.]

To tell thee whence thou cam'st, of whom de-
Were shame enough to shame thee, wert thou not shameless.

Thy father bears the type‡ of king of Naples,
Of both the Sicils, and Jerusalem;

Yet not so wealthy as an English yeoman.
Hath that poor monarch taught thee to insult?

It needs not, nor it boots thee not, proud queen;

Unless the adage must be verified,— [death.]
That beggars, mounted, run their horse to

'Tis beauty, that doth oft make women proud;
But, God he knows, thy share thereof is small:

'Tis virtue, that doth make them most admir'd;
The contrary doth make thee wonder'd at:

'Tis government,§ that makes them seem di-
vine;

The want thereof makes thee abominable:
Thou art as opposite to every good,

As the Antipodes are unto us,
Or as the south to the septentrion.||

O, tiger's heart, wrapp'd in a woman's hide!
How could'st thou drain the life-blood of the child,

To bid the father wipe his eyes withal,
And yet be seen to bear a woman's face?

Women are soft, mild, pitiful, and flexible;
Thou stern, obdurate, flinty, rough, remorseless,

Bid'st thou me rage? why, now thou hast thy
Would'st have me weep? why, now thou hast thy will:‡

For raging wind blows up incessant showers,
And, when the rage allays, the rain begins.

These tears are my sweet Rutland's obsequies;

* Impale, encircle with a crown. † Kill him.

‡ The distinguishing mark.

§ Government, in the language of the time, signified evenness of temper, and decency of manners.

|| The North.

And every drop cries vengeance for his death,—

'Gainst thee, fell Clifford,—and thee,—false French-woman.

North. Beshrew me, but his passions* move me so,

That hardly can I check my eyes from tears.

York. That face of his the hungry cannibals Would not have touch'd, would not have stain'd with blood :

But you are more inhuman, more inexorable,— O, ten times more,—than tigers of Hyrcania.

See, ruthless queen, a hapless father's tears : This cloth thou dipp'dst in blood of my sweet boy,

And I with tears do wash the blood away.

Keep thou the napkin, and go boast of this :

[*He gives back the Handkerchief.*]

And if thou tell'st the heavy story right, Upon my soul, the hearers will shed tears ;

Yea, even my foes will shed fast-falling tears : And say,—Alas, it was a piteous deed !—

There, take the crown, and with the crown, my curse ;

And, in thy need, such comfort come to thee, As now I reap at thy too cruel hand !—

Hard-hearted Clifford, take me from the world ; My soul to heaven, my blood upon your heads !

North. Had he been slaughter-man to all my kin,

I should not for my life but weep with him,

To see how inly sorrow gripes his soul.

Q. Mar. What, weeping-ripe, my lord Northumberland ?

Think but upon the wrong he did us all, And that will quickly dry thy melting tears.

Clif. Here's for my oath, here's for my father's death. [*Stabbing him.*]

Q. Mar. And here's to right our gentle-hearted king. [*Stabbing him.*]

York. Open thy gate of mercy, gracious God ! My soul flies through these wounds to seek out thee. [*Dies.*]

Q. Mar. Off with his head, and set it on York gates ;

So York may overlook the town of York. [*Exeunt.*]

ACT II.

SCENE I.—*A plain near MORTIMER'S Cross in Herefordshire.*

Drums.—Enter EDWARD, and RICHARD, with their Forces marching.

Edw. I wonder how our princely father 'scaped.

Or whether he be 'scaped away or no, From Clifford's and Northumberland's pursuit ;

Had he been ta'en, we would have heard the news ; [*News :*]

Had he been slain, we should have heard the Or, had he 'scaped, methinks we should have heard

The happy tidings of his good escape.—

How fares my brother ? Why is he so sad ?

Rich. I cannot joy, until I be resolved Where our right valiant father is become.

I saw him in the battle range about ;

And watch'd him how he singled Clifford forth.

Methought he bore't him in the thickest troop,

As doth a lion in a herd of neat ;†

Or as a bear, encompass'd round with dogs ;

Who having pinch'd a few, and made them

cry,

* Sufferings. † Demeaned himself.

‡ Neat cattle, cows, oxen, &c.

The rest stand all aloof, and bark at him.

So far'd our father with his enemies ;

So fled his enemies my warlike father ;

Methinks, 'tis prize enough to be his son.

See, how the morning opes her golden gates,

And take her farewell of the glorious sun !‡

How well resembles it the prime of youth,

Trim'm'd like a younker, prancing to his love ?

Edw. Dazzle mine eyes, or do I see three

suns ?

Rich. Three glorious suns, each one a perfect sun ;

Not separated with the racking clouds,†

But sever'd in a pale clear-shining sky.

See, see ! they join, embrace, and seem to kiss,

As if they vow'd some league inviolable ;

Now are they but one lamp, one light, one sun.

In this the heaven figures some event.

Edw. 'Tis wondrous strange, the like yet never heard of.

I think, it cites us, brother, to the field :

That we, the sons of brave Plantagenet,

Each one already blazing by our meeds,‡

Should, notwithstanding, join our lights to

gether,

And over-shine the earth, as thine the world.

Whate'er it bodes, henceforward will I bear

Upon my target three fair shining suns.

Rich. Nay, bear three daughters ;—By

your leave I speak it,

You love the breeder better than the male.

Enter a MESSENGER.

But what art thou, whose heavy looks foretell Some dreadful story hanging on thy tongue ?

Mess. Ah, one that was a woeful looker on,

When as the noble duke of York was slain,

Your princely father, and my loving lord.

Edw. O, speak no more ! for I have heard too much.

Rich. Say how he died, for I will hear it all.

Mess. Environed he was with many foes ;

And stood against them, as the hope of Troy§

Against the Greeks, that would have enter'd Troy.

But Hercules himself must yield to odds ;

And many strokes, though with a little axe,

Hew down and fell the hardest-timber'd oak,

By many hands your father was subdued ;

But only slaughter'd by the ireful arm

Of unrelenting Clifford, and the queen :

Who crown'd the gracious duke, in high despight ; [*Wept.*]

Laugh'd in his face ; and when with grief he

The ruthless queen gave him, to dry, his cheeks,

A napkin steeped in the harmless blood

Of sweet young Rutland, by rough Clifford

slain :

And, after many scorns, many foul taunts,

They took his head, and on the gates of York

They set the same ; and there it doth remain,

The saddest spectacle that e'er I view'd.

Edw. Sweet duke of York, our prop to

lean upon ;

Now thou art gone, we have no staff, no stay !—

O Clifford, boisterous Clifford, thou hast slain

The flower of Europe for his chivalry ;

And treacherously hast thou vanquish'd him,

For, hand to hand, he would have vanquish'd

thee !—

Now my soul's palace is become a prison :

Ah, would she break from hence ! that this my

body

‡ Aurora takes for a time her farewell of the sun, when she dismisses him to his diurnal course.

† The clouds in rapid tumultuary motion.

‡ Merit. § Hector

Might in the ground be closed up in rest:
For never henceforth shall I joy again,
Never, O never, shall I see more joy.

Rich. I cannot weep: for all my body's
moisture [heart:
Scarce serves to quench my furnace-burning
Nor can my tongue unload my heart's great
burden;

For self-same wind, that I should speak withal,
Is kindling coals, that fire all my breast,
And burn me up with flames, that tears would
quench.

To weep, is to make less the depth of grief:
Tears then, for babes; blows, and revenge,
for me!—

Richard, I bear thy name, I'll venge thy death,
Or die renowned by attempting it.

Edw. His name that valiant duke hath left
with thee;
His dukedom and his chair with me is left.

Rich. Nay, if thou be that princely eagle's
bird,
Show thy descent by gazing 'gainst the sun;
For chair and Dukedom, throne and kingdom
say;
Either that is thine, or else thou wert not his.

March.—Enter WARWICK and MONTAGUE, with
Forces.

War. How now, fair lords? What fare?
What news abroad?

Rich. Great lord of Warwick, if we should
recount

Our baleful news, at each word's deliverance,
Stab poniards in our flesh till all were told,
The words would add more anguish than the
wounds.

O valiant lord, the duke of York is slain.

Edw. O Warwick! Warwick! that Planta-
genet, [tion,
Which held thee dearly as his soul's redemp-
Is by the stern lord Clifford done to death.*

War. Ten days ago I drown'd these news in
tears:

And now, to add more measure to your woes,
I come to tell you things since then befall'n,
After the bloody fray at Wakefield fought,
Where your brave father breathed his latest
gasp,

Tidings, as swiftly as the post could run,
Were brought me of your loss, and his depart.
I then in London, keeper of the king,
Muster'd my soldiers, gather'd flocks of
friends,

And very well appointed, as I thought,
March'd towards Saint Albans to intercept
the queen,

Bearing the king in my behalf along:
For by my scouts I was advertized,
That she was coming with a full intent
To dash our late decree in parliament,
Touching king Henry's oath, and your succes-
sion.

Short tale to make,—we at St. Albans met,
Our battles join'd, and both sides fiercely
fought:

But, whether 'twas the coldness of the king,
Who look'd full gently on his warlike queen,
That robb'd my soldiers of their hated spleen;
Or whether 'twas report of her success;
Or more than common fear of Clifford's rigour.
Who thunders to his captives—blood and
death,

I cannot judge: but to conclude with truth,

* Kill'd.

Their weapons like to lightning came and
went;

Our soldier's—like the night-owl's lazy flight,
Or like a lazy thrasher with a flail,—
Fell gently down, as if they struck their friends.
I cheer'd them up with justice of our cause,
With promise of high pay, and great rewards:
But all in vain they had no heart to fight,
And we, in them, no hope to win the day,
So that we fled; the king, unto the queen;
Lord George your brother, Norfolk, and my-
self,

In haste, post-haste, are come to join with you;
For in the marches here, we heard, you were,
Making another head to fight again.

Edw. Where is the duke of Norfolk, gentle
Warwick?

[England?
And when came George from Burgundy to
War. Some six miles off the duke is with the
soldiers;

And for your brother,—he was lately sent
From your kind aunt, duchess of Burgundy,
With aid of soldiers to this needful war.

Rich. 'Twas odds, belike, when valiant War-
wick fled:

Oft have I heard his praises in pursuit,
But ne'er till now, his scandal of retire.

War. Nor now my scandal, Richard, dost
thou hear;

[mine
For thou shalt know, this strong right hand of
Can pluck the diadem from faint Henry's head,
And wring the awful sceptre from his fist;
Were he as famous and as bold in war,
As he is famed for mildness, peace, and prayer.

Rich. I know it well, lord Warwick; blame
me not:

'Tis love, I bear thy glories, makes me speak.
But in this troublous time, what's to be done?
Shall we go throw away our coats of steel,
And wrap our bodies in black mourning
gowns,

Numbring our Ave-Maries with our beads?
Or shall we on the helmets of our foes
Tell our devotion with revengeful arms?
If for the last, say—Ay, and to it, lords.

War. Why, therefore Warwick came to seek
you out:

And therefore comes my brother Montague.
Attend me, lords. The proud insulting queen,
With Clifford, and the haught* Northumber-
land,

And of their feather, many more proud birds,
Have wrought the easy melting king, like wax.
He swore consent to your succession,
His oath enrolled in the parliament;
And now to London all the crew are gone,
To frustrate both his oath, and what beside
May make against the house of Lancaster.
Their power, I think, is thirty thousand strong:
Now, if the help of Norfolk, and myself,
With all the friends that thou, brave earl of
March,

Amongst the loving Welchmen canst procure,
Will but amount to five and twenty thousand:
Why, *Via!* To London will we march again:
And once again bestride our foaming steeds,
And once again cry—Charge upon our foes!
But never once again turn back, and fly.

Rich. Ay, now, methinks, I hear great War-
wick speak:

Ne'er may he live to see a sunshine day,
That cries—Retire, if Warwick bid him stay.

Edw. Lord Warwick, on thy shoulder will
I lean;

[hour!]
And when thou fall'st, (as God forbid the

* Losty.

Must Edward fall, which peril heaven fore-
fend!

War. No longer earl of March, but duke of
York;

The next degree is, England's royal throne :
For king of England shalt thou be proclaim'd
In every borough as we pass along ;
And he, that throws not up his cap for joy,
Shall for the fault make forfeit of his head.

King Edward,—valiant Richard,—Monta-
gue,—

Stay ye no longer dreaming of renown,
But sound the trumpets, and about our task.

Rich. Then, Clifford, were thy heart as hard
as steel,

(As thou hast shown it flinty by thy deeds,)
I come to pierce it, or to give thee mine.

Edw. Then strike up, drums;—God, and
Saint George, for us!

Enter a MESSENGER.

War. How now ? What news ?

Mess. The duke of Norfolk sends you word
by me,

The queen is coming with a puissant host ;
And craves your company for speedy counsel.

War. Why then it sorts,* brave warriors :
Let's away. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—Before York.

*Enter King HENRY, Queen MARGARET, the
Prince of WALES, CLIFFORD, and NORTHUM-
BERLAND, with forces.*

Q. Mar. Welcome my lord, to this brave
town of York :—

Yonder's the head of that arch-enemy,
That sought to be encompass'd with your
crown :

Doth not the object cheer your heart, my lord ?

K. Hen. Ay, as the rocks cheer them that
fear their wreck ;—

To see this sight, it irks my very soul.—
Withhold revenge, dear God ! 'tis not my fault,
Not wittingly have I infringed my vow.

Clif. My gracious liege, this too much lenity
And harmful pity, must be laid aside.

To whom do lions cast their gentle looks ?

Not to the beast that would usurp their den.

Whose hand is that the forest bear doth lick ?

Not his, that spoils her young before her face.

Who 'scapes the lurking serpent's mortal sting ?

Not he, that sets his foot upon her back.

The smallest worm will turn, being trodden on ;

And doves will peck, in safeguard of their
brood.

Ambitious York did level at thy crown,

Thou smiling, while he knit his angry brows :

He, but a duke, would have his son a king,

And raise his issue, like a loving sire ;

Thou, being a king, blessed with a goodly son,
Didst yield consent to disinherit him,

Which argued thee a most unloving father.

Unreasonable creatures feed their young :

And though man's face be fearful to their eyes,

Yet in protection of their tender ones,

Who hath not seen them (even with those wings
Which sometimes they have used with fearful
flight,)

Make war with him that climb'd unto their nest,

Offering their own lives in their young's de-
fence ?

For shame, my liege, make them your prece-
Were it not pity, that this goodly boy [dent!

Should lose his birthright by his father's fault ?
And long hereafter say unto his child,—

*What my great-grandfather and grand-sire got,
My careless father fondly* gave away ?*

Ah, what a shame were this ! Look on the boy ?

And let his manly face, which promiseth,

Successful fortune, steel thy melting heart,

To hold thine own, and leave thine own with
him.

K. Hen. Full well hath Clifford play'd the
orator,

Inferring arguments of mighty force.

But, Clifford, tell me, didst thou never hear,—

That things ill got had ever bad success ?

And happy always was it for that son,

Whose father for his hoarding went to hell ?

I'll leave my son my virtuous deeds behind ;

And would my father had left me no more !

For all the rest is held at such a rate,

As brings a thousand-fold more care to keep,

Than in possession any jot of pleasure.

Ah, cousin York ! 'would thy best friends did
know,

How it doth grieve me that thy head is here !

Q. Mar. My lord, cheer up your spirits !

Our foes are nigh, [faint.

And this soft courage makes your followers

You promised knighthood to our forward son ;

Unsheathe your sword, and dub him presently.—

Edward, kneel down.

K. Hen. Edward Plantagenet, arise a knight ;
And learn this lesson,—Draw thy sword in
right. [leave

Prince. My gracious father, by your kindly
I'll draw it as apparent to the crown,

And in that quarrel use it to the death.

Clif. Why, that is spoken like a toward
prince.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. Royal commanders, be in readiness ;
For, with a band of thirty thousand men,

Comes Warwick, backing of the duke of York ;

And, in the towns as they do march along,

Proclaims him king, and many fly to him :

Darraign your battles for they are at hand.

Clif. I would, your highness would depart
the field : [sent.

The queen hath best success when you are ab-

Q. Mar. Ay, good, my lord, and leave us to
our fortune.

K. Hen. Why, that's my fortune too ; there-
fore I'll stay.

North. Be it with resolution then to fight.

Prince. My royal father, cheer these noble
lords,

And hearten those that fight in your defence :
Unsheathe your sword, good father ; cry *St.
George.*

March.—*Enter EDWARD, GEORGE, RICHARD,
WARWICK, NORFOLK, MONTAGUE, and Sol-
diers.*

Edw. Now, perjured Henry ! Wilt thou
kneel for grace,

And set thy diadem upon my head ;

Or bide the mortal fortune of the field ?

Q. Mar. Go rate thy minions, proud insult-
ing boy !

Becomes it thee to be thus bold in terms,

Before thy sovereign, and thy lawful king ?

Edw. I am his king, and he should bow his
I was adopted heir by his consent : [knee ;

Since when, his oath is broke ; for, as I hear,
* Foolishly.

† I. e. Arrange your host, put your host in order.

* Why then things are as they should be.

You—that are king, though he do wear the crown,—

Have caused him, by new act of parliament,
To blot out me, and put his own son in.

Clif. And reason too;

Who should succeed the father, but the son?

Rich. Are you there, butcher?—O, I cannot speak.

Clif. Ay, crook-back; here I stand, to answer thee,

Or any he the proudest of thy sort.

Rich. 'Twas you that kill'd young Rutland, was it not?

Clif. Ay, and old York, and yet not satisfied.

Rich. For God's sake, lords, give signal to the fight.

War. What say'st thou, Henry, wilt thou yield the crown?

Q. Mar. Why, how now long-tongued Warwick? Dare you speak?

When you and I met at St. Albans last,
Your legs did better service than your hands.

War. Then 'twas my turn to fly, and now 'tis thine.

Clif. You said so much before, and yet you fled.

War. 'Twas not your valour, Clifford, drove me thence.

North. No, nor your manhood, that durst make you stay.

Rich. Northumberland, I hold thee reverently!—

Break off the parle; for scarce I can refrain
The execution of my big-swollen heart
Upon that Clifford, that cruel child-killer.

Clif. I slew thy father: call'st thou him a child?

Rich. Ay, like a dastard, and a treacherous coward,

As thou didst kill our tender brother Rutland;
But, ere sun-set, I'll make thee curse the deed.

K. Hen. Have done with words, my lords, and hear me speak.

Q. Mar. Defy them then, or else hold close thy lips.

K. Hen. I pry'thee, give no limits to my I am a king, and privileged to speak. [tongue;

Clif. My liege, the wound, that bred this meeting here,

Cannot be cured by words; therefore be still.

Rich. Then executioner, unsheath thy sword:
By him that made us all, I am resolved,*
That Clifford's manhood lies upon his tongue.

Edw. Say, Henry, shall I have my right, or no?

A thousand men have broke their fasts to-day,
That ne'er shall diue, unless thou yield the crown.

War. If thou deny, their blood upon thy head;

For York in justice puts his armour on.

Prince. If that be right, which Warwick says is right,

There is no wrong, but every thing is right.

Rich. Whoever got thee, there thy mother stands:

For, well I wot, thou hast thy mother's tongue.

Q. Mar. But thou art neither like thy sire, nor dam;

But like a foul misshapen stigmatic,
Mark'd by the destinies † to be avoided,
As venom toads, or lizards' dreadful stings.

Rich. Iron of Naples, hid with English gilt, ‡

* It is my firm persuasion.

† One branded by nature.

‡ Gilt is a superficial covering of gold.

Whose father bears the title of a king,
(As if a channel* should be call'd the sea,
Shamest thou not, knowing whence thou art extraught,

To let thy tongue detect thy base-born heart?

Edw. A wisp of straw were worth a thousand crowns,

To make this shameless callet † know herself.—

Helen of Greece was fairer far than thou,
Although thy husband may be Menelaus: §

And ne'er was Agamemnon's brother wrong'd
By that false woman, as this king by thee.

His father revell'd in the heart of France,
And tam'd the king, and made the dauphin stoop;

And, had he match'd according to his state,
He might have kept that glory to this day:

But, when he took a beggar to his bed,
And graced thy poor sire with his bridal day;

Even then that sunshine brew'd a shower for him, [France,

That wash'd his father's fortunes forth of
And heap'd d' sediton on his crown at home.

For what broach'd this tumult, but thy pride?
Hadst thou been meek, our title still had slept;

And we, in pity of the gentle king,
Had slipp'd our claim until another age.

Geo. But when we saw our sunshine made thy spring,

And that thy summer bred us no increase,
We set the axe to thy usurping root: [selves,

And though the edge hath something hit our—
Yet, know thou since we have begun to strike,

We'll never leave, till we have hewn thee down,

Or bathed thy growing with our heated bloods.

Edw. And, in this resolution, I defy thee;

Not willing any longer conference,
Since thou deny'st the gentle king to speak.—

Sound trumpets!—Let our bloody colours wave!—

And either victory, or else a grave.

Q. Mar. Stay, Edward.

Edw. No, wrangling woman; we'll no long-stay:

These words will cost ten thousand lives to day. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—A Field of Battle between Towton and Saxton in Yorkshire.

Alarums: Excursions.—Enter WARWICK.

War. Forspent with toil, as runners with a race,

I lay me down a little while to breathe:

For strokes received, and many blows repaid,
Have robb'd my strong-knit sinews of their strength,

And, spite of spite, needs must I rest a while.

Enter EDWARD, running.

Edw. Smile, gentle heaven! or strike, ungentle death! [clouded.

For this world frowns, and Edward's sun is
War. How now, my lord? What hap? What hope of good?

Enter GEORGE.

Geo. Our hap is loss, our hope but sad despair;

Our ranks are broke, and ruin follows us:
What counsel give you, whither shall we fly?

* Kennel was then pronounced channel.

† To show thy meanness of birth by thy indecent railing.

‡ Drab.

§ I. e. A cuckold.

Edw. Bootless is flight, they follow us with wings;
And weak we are, and cannot shun pursuit.

Enter RICHARD.

Rich. Ah, Warwick, why hast thou withdrawn thyself?
Thy brother's blood the thirsty earth hath drunk,
[*lance:*
Broach'd with the steely point of Clifford's And, in the very pangs of death, he cried,—
Like to a dismal clangor heard from far,—
Warwick, revenge! Brother, revenge my death!
So underneath the belly of their steeds,
That stain'd their fetlocks in his smoking blood,
The noble gentleman gave up the ghost.

War. Then let the earth be drunken with our blood:

I'll kill my horse, because I will not fly.
Why stand we like soft hearted women here,
Wailing our losses, whiles the foe doth rage;
And look upon,* as if the tragedy
Were play'd in jest by counterfeiting actors?
Here on my knee I vow to God above,
I'll never pause again, never stand still,
Till either death hath closed these eyes of mine,
Or fortune given me measure of revenge.

Edw. O Warwick, I do bend my knee with thine;

And, in this vow, do chain my soul to thine.—
And ere my knee rise from the earth's cold face,

[*thee,*
I throw my hands, mine eyes, my heart to
Thou setter up and plucker down of kings!
Beseeching thee,—if with thy will it stands,
That to my foes this body must be prey,—
Yet that thy brazen gates of heaven may ope,
And give sweet passage to my sinful soul!—
Now, lords, take leave until we meet again,
Where'er it be, in heaven, or on earth.

Rich. Brother, give me thy hand;—and gentle Warwick,

Let me embrace thee in my weary arms:—
I, that did never weep, now melt with woe,
That winter should cut off our spring-time so.

War. Away, away! once more, sweet lords, farewell.

Geo. Yet let us all together to our troops,
And give them leave to fly that will not stay;
And call them pillars, that will stand to us;
And, if we thrive, promise them such rewards
As victors wear at the Olympian games:

This may plant courage in their quailing breasts;

For yet is hope of life, and victory.—
Fore-slow† no longer, make we hence amain.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—The same.—Another part of the Field.

Excursions.—Enter RICHARD and CLIFFORD.

Rich. Now, Clifford, I have singled thee alone:

Suppose, this arm is for the duke of York,
And this for Rutland; both bound to revenge,
Wert thou environ'd with a brazen wall.

Clif. Now, Richard, I am with thee here alone:

This is the hand, that stabb'd thy father York:
And this the hand, that slew thy brother Rutland:

[*death,*
And here's the heart, that triumphs in their

And cheers these hands that slew thy sire and brother,

To execute the like upon thyself;

An so, have at thee.

[*They fight—WARWICK enters; CLIFFORD flies.*

Rich. Nay, Warwick, single out some other chase;

For I myself will hunt this wolf to death.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.—Another part of the Field.

Alarum.—Enter King HENRY.

K. Hen. This battle fares like to the morning's war,

[*light,*
When dying clouds contend with growing
What time the shepherd, blowing of his nails,
Can neither call it perfect day, or night.

Now sways it this way, like a mighty sea,
Forced by the tide to combat with the wind;

Now sways it that way, like the self-same sea,
Forced to retire by fury of the wind: [wind;

Sometime, the flood prevails; and then the
Now, one the better; then, another best;

Both tugging to be victors, breast to breast,
Yet neither conqueror, nor conquered:

So is the equal poise of the fell war.

Here on this molchill will I sit me down.

To whom God will, there be the victory!

For Margaret, my queen, and Clifford too,
Have chid me from the battle; swearing both,

They prosper best of all when I am thence.
'Would I were dead! if God's good will were

so:

For what is in this world, but grief and woe?

O God! methinks, it were a happy life,

To be no better than a homely swain;

To sit upon a hill, as I do now,

To carve out dials quaintly, point by point,

Thereby to see the minutes how they run:

How many make the hour full complete,

How many hours bring about the day,

How many days will finish up the year,

How many years a mortal man may live.

When this is known, then to divide the times:

So many hours must I tend my flock;

So many hours must I take my rest;

So many hours must I contemplate;

So many hours must I sport myself;

So many days my ewes have been with young;

So many weeks ere the poor fools will yearn;

So many years ere I shall shear the fleece:

So minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and

years,

Pass'd over to the end they were created,

Would bring white hairs unto a quiet grave.

Ah, what a life were this! How sweet! How

lovely!

Gives not the hawthorn bush a sweeter shade

To shepherds, looking on their silly sheep,

Than doth a rich embroider'd canopy

To kings, that fear their subjects' treachery?

O, yes, it doth; a thousand fold it doth.

And to conclude,—The shepherd's homely

curds,

His cold thin drink out of his leather bottle,

His wonted sleep under a fresh tree's shade,

All which secure and sweetly he enjoys,

Is far beyond a prince's delicates.

His viands sparkling in a golden cup,

His body couched in a curious bed, [him.

When care, mistrust, and treason wait on

Alarum.—Enter a Son that has killed his Father,

dragging in the dead Body.

Son. Ill blows the wind, that profits no

body.—

* And are mere spectators.

† Sinking into dejection.

‡ To fore-slow is to be dilatory, to loiter.

This man, whom hand in hand I slew in fight,
May be possessed with some store of crowns :
And I, that haply take them from him now,
May yet ere night, yield both my life and them
To some man else, as this dead man doth to
me.—

Who's this? O God! it is my father's face,
Whom in this conflict I unawares have kill'd.
O heavy times, begetting such events!
From London by the king was I press'd forth ;
My father, being the earl of Warwick's man,
Came on the part of York, press'd by his
master ;

And I, who at his hands receiv'd my life,
Have by my hands of life bereaved him.—
Pardon me, God, I knew not what I did!—
And pardon, father, for I knew not thee!—
My tears shall wipe away these bloody marks ;
And no more words till they have flow'd their
fill.

K. Hen. O piteous spectacle! O bloody
times!

Whilst lions war, and battle for their dens,
Poor harmless lambs abide their cunnity.—
Weep, wretched man, I'll aid thee tear for
tear :

And let our hearts, and eyes, like civil war,
Be blind with tears, and break o'ercharged
with grief.

*Enter a FATHER who hath killed his Son, with
the Body in his Arms.*

Fath. Thou that so stoutly had resisted me,
Give me thy gold, if thou hast any gold ;
For I have bought it with a hundred blows.—
But let me see :—Is this our foeman's face ?
Ah, no, no, no, it is mine only son!—
Ah, boy, if any life be left in thee,
Throw up thine eye ; see, see, what showers
arise,

Blown with the windy tempest of my heart,
Upon thy wounds, that kill mine eye and
heart!—

O, pity, God, this miserable age!—
What stratagems,* how fell, how butcherly,
Erroneous, mutinous, and unnatural,
This deadly quarrel daily doth beget!—
O boy, thy father gave thee life too soon,
And hath bereft thee of thy life too late!

K. Hen. Woe above woe! Grief more than
common grief! [deeds!—
O, that my death would stay these ruthless
O pity, pity, gentle heaven, pity ;—
The red rose and the white are on his face,
The fatal colours of our striving houses :
The one his purple blood right well resembles ;
The other, his pale cheek, methinks, present :
Wither one rose, and let the other flourish !
If you contend, a thousand lives must wither.

Son. How will my mother, for a father's
death,

Take on with me and ne'er be satisfied!

Fath. How will my wife, for slaughter of
my son,

Shed seas of tears, and ne'er be satisfied!

K. Hen. How will the country, for these
woeful chances,

Misthink† the king, and not be satisfied?

Son. Was ever son, sorued a father's death?

Fath. Was ever father, so bemoan'd a son?

K. Hen. Was ever king, so grieved for sub-
jects' woe?

Much is your sorrow ; mine, ten times so much.

Son. I'll bear thee hence, where I may weep
my fill. [Exit with the Body.

Fath. These arms of mine shall be thy wind-
ing sheet ;

My heart, sweet boy, shall be thy sepulchre ;
For from my heart thine image ne'er shall go.
My sighing breast shall be thy funeral bell ;
And so obsequious will thy father be,
Sad for the loss of thee, having no more,
As Priam was for all his valiant sons. [will.
I'll bear thee hence ; and let them fight that
For I have murder'd where I should not kill.

[Exit with the Body.

K. Hen. Sad-hearted men, much overgone
with care,

Here sits a king more woeful than you are.

*Alarums.—Excursions.—Enter Queen MARGA-
RET, PRINCE OF WALES, and EXETER.*

Prince. Fly, father, fly! for all your friends
are fled.

And Warwick rages like a chafed bull :
Away! for death doth hold us in pursuit.

Q. Mar. Mount you, my lord, towards Ber-
wick post amain ; [hounds,
Edward and Richard, like a brace of grey-
Having the fearful flying hare in sight,
With fiery eyes, sparkling for very wrath,
And bloody steel grasp'd in their ireful hands,
Are at our backs ; and therefore hence amain.

Exc. Away! for vengeance comes along
with them :

Nay, stay not to expostulate, make speed ;
Or else come after, I'll away before.

K. Hen. Nay, take me with thee, good sweet
Exeter ;

Not that I fear to stay, but love to go
Whither the queen intends. Forward ; away!
[Exit.

SCENE VI.—The same.

A loud Alarum.—Enter CLIFFORD wounded.

Clif. Here burns my candle out, ay, here it
dies,

Which, while it lasted, gave king Henry light.
O, Lancaster! I fear thy overthrow,
More than my body's parting with my soul.
My love, and fear, glew'd many friends to
thee ;

And, now I fall, thy tough commixtures melt.
Impairing Henry, strength'ning mis-proud
York,

The common people swarm like summer flies :
And whither fly the gnats, but to the sun ?
And who shines now, but Henry's enemies ?
O Phœbus! hadst thou never given consent
That Phaëton should check thy fiery steeds,
Thy burning ear never had scorch'd the earth ;
And, Henry, hadst thou sway'd as kings
should do,

Or as thy father, and his father, did,
Giving no ground unto the house of York,
They never then had sprung like summer flies ;
I, and ten thousand in this luckless realm,
Had left no mourning widows for our death,
And thou this day hadst kept thy chair in
peace.

For what doth cherish weeds, but gentle air ?
And what make robbers bold, but too much
lenity? [wounds ;

Bootless are plights, and cureless are my
No way to fly, nor strength to hold our flight :
The foe is merciless, and will not pity ;
For, at their hands, I have deserved no pity ;
The air hath got into my deadly wounds,

* This word here means dreadful events.
† Think unfavourably of.

And much effuse of blood doth make me faint :— [rest ;
Come, York, and Richard, Warwick, and the
I stabb'd your father's bosoms, split his breast.
[He faints.

Alarm and Retreat.—Enter EDWARD, GEORGE,
RICHARD, MONTAGUE, WARWICK, and Sol-
diers.

Edw. Now breathe we, lords ; good fortune
bids us pause, [looks.—
And smooth the frowns of war with peaceful
Some troops pursue the bloody-minded queen ;
That led calm Henry, though he were a king,
As doth a sail, fill'd with a fretting gust,
Command an argosy to stem the waves.
But think you, lords, that Clifford fled with
them ?

War. No, 'tis impossible he should escape ;
For, though before his face I speak the words,
Your brother Richard mark'd him for the grave ;
And, wheresoe'er he is, he's surely dead.

[CLIFFORD groans and dies.

Edw. Whose soul is that which takes her
heavy leave ?

Rich. A deadly groan, like life and death's
departing.

Edw. See who it is : and now the battle's
ended,

If friend or foe, let him be gently used.

Rich. Revoke that doom of mercy, for 'tis
Clifford ;

Who, not contented that he lopp'd the branch,
In hewing Rutland when his leaves put forth,
But set his murdering knife unto the root
From whence that tender spray did sweetly
spring,

I mean our princely father, duke of York.

War. From off the gates of York fetch down
the head, [there :
Your father's head, which Clifford placed
Instead whereof, let this supply the room ;
Measure for measure must be answered.

Edw. Bring forth this fatal screech-owl to
our house,
That nothing sung but death to us and ours :
Now death shall stop his dismal threatening
sound,

And his ill-boding tongue no more shall speak.
[Attendants bring the Body forward.

War. I think his understanding is bereft :—
Speak, Clifford, dost thou know who speaks to
thee ?— [life,

Dark cloudy death o'er shades his beams of
And he nor sees, nor hears us what we say.

Rich. O 'would he did ! And so, perhaps, he
'Tis but his policy to counterfeit, [doth ;
Because he would avoid such bitter taunts
Which in the time of death he gave our father.

Geo. If so thou think'st, vex him with eager
words.*

Rich. Clifford, ask mercy, and obtain no
grace.

Edw. Clifford, repent in bootless penitence.

War. Clifford, devise excuses for thy faults.

Geo. While we devise fell tortures for thy
faults.

Rich. Thou didst love York, and I am son to
York.

Edw. Thou pitied'st Rutland, I will pity thee.

Geo. Where's captain Margaret to fence you
now ?

War. They mock thee, Clifford ! Swear as
thou wast wont.

* Sour words, words of asperity.

Rich. What, not an oath ? Nay, then the
world goes hard, [oath :—
When Clifford cannot spare his friends an
I know by that, he's dead ; and, by my soul,
If this right hand would buy two hours' life,
That I in all despite might rail at him,
This hand should chop it off ; and with the is-
suing blood

Stifle the villain, whose unstaunched thirst
York and young Rutland could not satisfy.

War. Ay, but he's dead : Off with the traitor's
head,

And rear it in the place your father's stands.—
And now to London with triumphant march,
There to be crowned England's royal king.
From whence shall Warwick cut the sea to
France,

And ask the lady Bona for thy queen :
So shalt thou sinew both these lands together ;
And, having France thy friend, thou shalt not
dread

The scatter'd foe, that hopes to rise again ;
For though they cannot greatly sting to hurt,
Yet look to have them buz, to offend thine ears.
First, will I see the coronation ;
And then to Brittany I'll cross the sea,
To effect this marriage, so it please my lord.

Edw. Even as thou wilt sweet Warwick, let
it be :

For on thy shoulder do I build my seat ;
And never will I undertake the thing,
Wherein thy counsel and consent is wanting.—
Richard ; I will create thee duke of Gloster ;—
And George, of Clarence ;—Warwick, as our-
self,

Shall do, and undo, as him pleaseth best.

Rich. Let me be duke of Clarence, George
of Gloster ;

For Gloster's dukedom is too ominous.

War. Tut, that's a foolish observation ;
Richard be duke of Gloster : now to London,
To see these honours in possession. [Exeunt.

ACT III.

SCENE I.—A Chase in the North of England

Enter Two KEEPERS, with Cross-bows in their
Hands.

1 Keep. Under this thick-grown brake* we'll
shroud ourselves ; [come ;

For through this laund† anon the deer will
And in this covert we will make our stand,
Culling the principal of all the deer.

3 Keep. I'll stay above the hill, so both
may shoot,

1 Keep. That cannot be ; the noise of thy
cross-bow

Will scare the herd, and so my shoot is lost.
Here stand we both and aim we at the best :

And, for the time shall not seem tedious,
I'll tell thee what befell me on a day,
In this self-place where now we mean to stand.

2 Keep. Here comes a man, let's stay till he
be past.

Enter King HENRY, disguised, with a Prayer
book.

K. Hen. From Scotland am I stolen, even
of pure love,

To greet mine own land with my wishful sight.
No, Harry, Harry, 'tis no land of thine ;
Thy place is fill'd, thy sceptre wrung from thee,
Thy balm wash'd off, wherewith thou wast
anointed :

* Thicket.

† A plain extended between woods.

No bending knee will call thee Cæsar now,
No humble suitors press to speak for right,
No, not a man comes for redress of thee;
For how can I help them, and not myself?

1 *Keep.* Ay, here's a deer whose skin's a keeper's fee:

This is the *quondam* king; let's seize upon him.

K. Hen. Let me embrace these our adversities;

For wise men say, it is the wisest course.

2 *Keep.* Why linger we? Let us lay hands upon him.

1 *Keep.* Forbear awhile; we'll hear a little more.

K. Hen. My queen, and son, are gone to France for aid;

And, as I hear, the great commanding Warwick

Is thither gone, to crave the French king's sister

To wife for Edward: if this news be true,

Poor queen, and son, your labour is but lost;

For Warwick is a subtle orator, [words.

And Lewis a prince soon won with moving

By this account, then Margaret may win him;

For she's a woman to be pitied much:

Her sighs will make a battery in his breast;

Her tears will pierce into a marble heart;

The tiger will be mild, while she doth mourn;

And Nero will be tainted with remorse,

To hear, and see, her plaints, her brinish tears.

Ay, but she's come to beg; Warwick, to give:

She, on his left side, craving aid for Henry;

He, on his right, asking a wife for Edward.

She weeps and says—her Henry is deposed;

He smiles, and says—his Edward is install'd:

That she, poor wretch, for grief can speak no

more: [wroug,

Whiles Warwick tells his title, smooths the

Inferreth arguments of mighty strength;

And, in conclusion, wins the king from her,

With promise of his sister, and what else,

To strengthen and support king Edward's

place. [soul,

O Margaret, thus 'twill be; and thou, poor

Art then forsaken, as thou went'st forlorn.

2 *Keep.* Say, what art thou, that talk'st of kings and queens?

K. Hen. More than I seem, and less than I was born to:

A man at least, for less I should not be;
And men may talk of kings, and why not I?

2 *Keep.* Ay, but thou talk'st as if thou wert a king.

K. Hen. Why so, I am, in mind; and that's enough.

2 *Keep.* But, if thou be a king, where is thy crown?

K. Hen. My crown is in my heart, not on my head;

Not deck'd with diamonds and Indian stones,
Nor to be seen: my crown is call'd content;

A crown it is, that seldom kings enjoy.

2 *Keep.* Well, if you be a king crown'd with content, [tented

Your crown content, and you, must be content to go along with us: for, as we think,

You are the king, king Edward hath depos'd;

And we his subjects, sworn in all allegiance,
Will apprehend you as his enemy.

K. Hen. But did you never swear, and break an oath?

2 *Keep.* No, never such an oath; nor will not now.

K. Hen. Where did you dwell, when I was king of England?

2 *Keep.* Here in this country, where we now remain.

K. Hen. I was anointed king at nine months old;

My father, and my grandfather, were kings;
And you were sworn true subjects unto me:

And tell me, then, have you not broke your oaths?

1 *Keep.* No;

For we were subjects, but while you were king.

K. Hen. Why, am I dead? Do I not breathe a man?

Ah, simple, men, you know not what you swear.

Look, as I blow this feather from my face,

And as the air blows it to me again,

Obeying with my wind when I do blow,

And yielding to another when it blows,

Commanded always by the greater gust;

Such is the lightness of you common men.

But do not break your oaths; for, of that sin

My mild entreaty shall not make you guilty.

Go where you will, the king shall be command-

ed;

And be you kings; command, and I'll obey.

1 *Keep.* We are true subjects to the king, king Edward.

K. Hen. So would you be again to Henry, if he were seated as king Edward is.

1 *Keep.* We charge you, in God's name, and in the king's,

To go with us unto the officers.

K. Hen. In God's name, lead; your king's name be obey'd: [form;

And what God will, then let your king per-

And what he will, I humbly yield unto.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—London.—A Room in the Palace.

Enter King EDWARD, GLOSTER, CLARENCE, and Lady GREY.

K. Edw. Brother of Gloster, at Saint Albans' field

The lady's husband, Sir John Grey, was slain;

His lands then seized on by the conqueror:

Her suit is now to repossess those lands;

Which we in justice cannot well deny,

Because in quarrel of the house of York

The worthy gentleman did lose his life.

Glo. Your highness shall do well; to grant her suit;

It were dishonour to deny it her.

K. Edw. It were no less; but yet I'll make a pause.

Glo. Yea! is it so?

I see the lady hath a thing to grant,

Before the king will grant her humble suit.

Clar. He knows the game; how true he keeps the wind? [*Aside.*

Glo. Silence. [*Aside.*

K. Edw. Widow, we will consider of your suit,

And come some other time to know our mind.

L. Grey. Right gracious lord, I cannot brook delay:

May it please your highness to resolve me now; And what your pleasure is, shall satisfy me.

Glo. [*Aside.*] Ay, widow! Then I'll warrant you all your lands,

An if what pleases him, shall pleasure you, Fight, closer, or, good faith, you'll catch a blow.

Clar. I fear her not, unless she chance to fall. [*Aside.*

Glo. God forbid that! for he'll take vantage. [*Aside.*

K. Edw. How many children hast thou, widow? Tell me.

- Clar.* I think he means to beg a child of her. [Aside.]
- Glo.* Nay, whip me then; he'll rather give her two. [Aside.]
- L. Grey.* Three, my most gracious lord.
- Glo.* You shall have four, if you'll be rul'd by him. [Aside.]
- K. Edw.* 'Twere pity, they should lose their father's land.
- L. Grey.* Be pitiful, dread lord, and grant it then.
- K. Edw.* Lords, give us leave; I'll try this widow's wit.
- Glo.* Ay, good leave* have you; for you will have leave, [crutch.]
- Till youth take leave, and leave you to the [GLOSTER and CLARENCE retire to the other side.]
- K. Edw.* Now tell me, madam, do you love your children?
- L. Grey.* Ay, full as dearly as I love myself.
- K. Edw.* And would you not do much to do them good?
- L. Grey.* To do them good, I would sustain some harm.
- K. Edw.* Then get your husband's land, to do them good. [jesty.]
- L. Grey.* Therefore I came unto your ma-
- K. Edw.* I'll tell you how these lands are to be got.
- L. Grey.* So shall you bind me to your highness' service.
- K. Edw.* What service wilt thou do me, if I give them?
- L. Grey.* What you command that rests in me to do.
- K. Edw.* But you will take exceptions to my boon.
- L. Grey.* No, gracious lord, except I cannot do it.
- K. Edw.* Ay, but thou canst do what I mean to ask.
- L. Grey.* Why, then, I will do what your grace commands.
- Glo.* He plies her hard; and much rain wears the marble. [Aside.]
- Clar.* As red as fire! Nay, then her wax must melt. [Aside.]
- L. Grey.* Why stops my lord? Shall I not hear my task? [king.]
- K. Edw.* An easy task; 'tis but to love a
- L. Grey.* That's soon perform'd, because I am a subject.
- K. Edw.* Why then, thy husband's lands I freely give thee.
- L. Grey.* I take my leave, with many thousand thanks.
- Glo.* The match is made; she seals it with a curt'sy. [Aside.]
- K. Edw.* But stay thee, 'tis the fruits of love I mean.
- L. Grey.* The fruits of love I mean, my loving liege.
- K. Edw.* Ay, but, I fear me in another sense, What love, think'st thou, I sue so much to get?
- L. Grey.* My love till death, my humble thanks, my prayers;
- That love, which virtue begs, and virtue grants.
- K. Edw.* No, by my troth, I did not mean such love.
- L. Grey.* Why, then you mean not as I thought you did.
- K. Edw.* But now you partly may perceive my mind.
- L. Grey.* My mind will never grant what I perceive
- Your highness aims at, if I aim aright.
- K. Edw.* To tell thee plain, I am to lie with thee.
- L. Grey.* To tell you plain, I had rather lie in prison.
- K. Edw.* Why, then thou shalt not have thy husband's lands.
- L. Grey.* Why, then mine honesty shall be my dower;
- For by that loss I will not purchase them.
- K. Edw.* Therein thou wrong'st thy children mightily.
- L. Grey.* Herein your highness wrongs both them and me.
- But, mighty lord, this merry inclination, Accords not with the the sadness* of my suit; Please you dismiss me, either with ay, or no.
- K. Edw.* Ay; if thou wilt say ay, to my request:
- No: if thou dost say no, to my demand.
- L. Grey.* Then, no, my lord. My suit is at an end.
- Glo.* The widow likes him not, she knits her brows. [Aside.]
- Clar.* He is the bluntest wooer in Christendom. [Aside.]
- K. Edw.* [Aside.] Her looks do argue her replete with modesty;
- Her words do show her wit incomparable; All her perfections challenge sovereignty; One way, or other, she is for a king; And she shall be my love, or else my queen.— Say, that king Edward take thee for his queen?
- L. Grey.* 'Tis better said than done, my gracious lord:
- I am a subject fit to jest withal, But far unfit to be a sovereign.
- K. Edw.* Sweet widow, by my state, I swear to thee,
- I speak no more than what my soul intends; And that is to enjoy thee for my love.
- L. Grey.* And that is more than I will yield unto:
- I know, I am too mean to be your queen; And yet too good to be your concubine.
- K. Edw.* You cavil, widow; I did mean, my queen.
- L. Grey.* 'Twill grieve your grace, my sons should call you—father.
- K. Edw.* No more, than when thy daughters call thee mother.
- Thou art a widow, and thou hast some children;
- And, by God's mother, I, being but a bachelor, Have other some; why, 'tis a happy thing To be the father unto many sons.
- Answer no more, for thou shalt be my queen.
- Glo.* The ghostly father now hath done his shrift. [Aside.]
- Clar.* When he was made a shriver, 'twas for shrift. [Aside.]
- K. Edw.* Brothers, you muse what chat we two have had.
- Glo.* The widow likes it not, for she looks sad.
- K. Edw.* You'd think it strange, if I should marry her.
- Clar.* To whom, my lord?
- K. Edw.* Why, Clarence, to myself.
- Glo.* That would be ten days' wonder, at the least.
- Clar.* That's a day longer than a wonder lasts.
- Glo.* By so much is the wonder in extremes.

* This phrase implies readiness of assent.

* The seriousness.

K. Edw. Well, jest on, brothers: I can tell you both,
Her suit is granted for her husband's lands.

Enter a NOBLEMAN.

Nob. My gracious lord, Henry your foe is taken

And brought your prisoner to your palace gate.

K. Edw. See, that he be convey'd unto the Tower:

And go we, brothers, to the man that took him,
To question of his apprehension.—

Widow, go you along;—Lords, use her honourable.

[*Exeunt King EDWARD, Lady GREY, CLARENCE, and Lord.*]

Glo. Ay, Edward will use women honourably. [all]

Would he were wasted, marrow, bones, and
That from his loins no hopeful branch may spring,

To cross me from the golden time I look for!
And yet, between my soul's desire, and me,

(The lustful Edward's title buried,) [ward,
Is Clarence, Henry, and his son young Ed-

And all the unlook'd-for issue of their bodies,
To take their rooms, ere I can place myself:

A cold premeditation for my purpose!
Why, then I do but dream on sovereignty;

Like one that stands upon a promontory,
And spies a far-off shore where he would tread,

Wishing his foot were equal with his eye;
And chides the sea that sunders him from thence,

Saying—he'll lade it dry to have his way:
So do I wish the crown, being so far off;

And so I chide the means that keep me from
And so I say—I'll cut the causes off, [it;

Flattering me with impossibilities.—
My eye's too quick, my heart o'erweens too much, [them.

Unless my hand and strength could equal
Well, say there is no kingdom then for Richard;

What other pleasure can the world afford?
I'll make my heaven in a lady's lap,

And deck my body in gay ornaments, [looks.
And witch sweet ladies with my words and

O miserable thought! and more unlikely,
Than to accomplish twenty golden crowns!

Why, love forswore me in my mother's womb:
And, for I should not deal in her soft laws

She did corrupt frail nature with a bribe
To shrink mine arm up like a wither'd shrub;

To make an envious mountain on my back,
Where sits deformity to mock my body;

To shape my legs of an unequal size;
To disproportion me in every part,

Like to a chaos, or an unlick'd bear-whelp,
That carries no impression like the dam.

And am I then a man to be belov'd?
O, monstrous fault, to harbour such a thought!

Then, since this earth affords no joy to me,
But to command, to check, to o'erbear such

As are of better person than myself, [crown;
I'll make my heaven—to dream upon the

And, while I live, to account this world but hell, [head,

Until my misshap'd trunk that bears this
Be round impaled with a glorious crown.

And yet I know not how to get the crown,
For many lives stand between me and home:

And I,—like one lost in a thorny wood,
That rents the thorns, and is rent with the

thorns;

Seeking a way, and straying from the way;
Not knowing how to find the open air.

But toiling desperately to find it out,—
Torment myself to catch the English crown:
And from that torment I will free myself,
Or hew my way out with a bloody axe.

Why, I can smile, and murder while I smile;
And, cry, content, to that which grieves my heart;

And wet my cheeks with artificial tears,
And frame my face to all occasions.

I'll drown more sailors than the mermaid shall;
I'll slay more gazers than the basilisk;

I'll play the orator as well as Nestor,
Deceive more slyly than Ulysses could,

And, like a Sinon, take another Troy:
I can add colours to the cameleon;

Change shapes, with Proteus, for advantages,
And set the murd'rous Machiavel to school.

Can I do this, and cannot get a crown?
Tut! were it further off, I'll pluck it down.

[*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—France.—A Room in the Palace.

Flourish. Enter LEWIS the French King, and Lady BONA, attended; the King takes his State. Then enter Queen MARGARET, Prince EDWARD, her son, and the Earl of OXFORD.

K. Lew. Fair queen of England, worthy Margaret, [Rising.

Sit down with us; it ill befits thy state,
And birth, that thou should'st stand, while Lewis doth sit.

Q. Mar. No, mighty king of France; now Margaret [serve,

Must strike her sail, and learn a while to
Where kings command. I was, I must confess,

Great Albion's queen in former golden days:
But now mischance hath trod my title down,

And with dishonour laid me on the ground;
Where I must take like seat unto my fortune,

And to my humble seat conform myself.
K. Lew. Why, say, fair queen, whence springs this deep despair?

Q. Mar. From such a cause as fills mine eyes with tears,
And stops my tongue, while heart is drown'd in cares.

K. Lew. Whate'er it be, be thou still like thyself,
And sit thee by our side: yield not thy neck [Seats her by him.

To fortune's yoke, but let thy dauntless mind
Still ride in triumph over all mischance.

Be plain, queen Margaret, and tell thy grief;
It shall be eas'd, if France can yield relief.

Q. Mar. Those gracious words revive my drooping thoughts, [speak.

And give my tongue-tied sorrows leave to
Now, therefore, be it known to noble Lewis,—

That Henry, sole possessor of my love,
Is, of a king, become a banish'd man,

And forc'd to live in Scotland a forlorn;
While proud ambitious Edward, duke of York,

Usurps the regal title, and the seat
Of England's true-anointed lawful king.

This is the cause, that I, poor Margaret,—
With this my son, prince Edward, Henry's heir,—

Am come to crave thy just and lawful aid;
And, if thou fail us, all our hope is done:

Scotland hath will to help, but cannot help;
Our people and our peers are both misled,

Our treasure seiz'd, our soldiers put to flight,
And, as thou see'st, ourselves in heavy plight.

K. Lew. Renowned queen, with patience calm the storm,

While we bethink a means to break it off.

Q. Mar. The more we say, the stronger grows our foe.

K. Lew. The more I say, the more I'll succour thee.

Q. Mar. O, but impatience waiteth on true sorrow :

[row.

And see, where comes the breeder of my sor-

Enter WARWICK, attended.

K. Lew. What's he, approacheth boldly to our presence ?

Q. Mar. Our earl of Warwick, Edward's greatest friend.

K. Lew. Welcome, brave Warwick ! What brings thee to France ?

[*Descending from his State, Queen MARGARET rises.*

Q. Mar. Ay, now begins a second storm to rise ;

For this is he, that moves both wind and tide.

War. From worthy Edward, king of Albion, My lord and sovereign, and thy vowed friend, I come,—in kindness, and unfeigned love,—

First, to do greetings to thy royal person ;

And, then, to crave a league of amity ;

And, lastly, to confirm that amity With nuptial knot, if thou vouchsafe to grant

That virtuous lady Bona, thy fair sister, To England's king in lawful marriage.

Q. Mar. If that go forward, Henry's hope is done.

War. And, gracious madam, [To BONA.] in our king's behalf,

I am commanded, with your leave and favour, Humbly to kiss your hand, and with my tongue

To tell the passion of my sovereign's heart ;

Where fame, late entering at his heedful ears, Hath plac'd thy beauty's image, and thy virtue.

Q. Mar. King Lewis,—and lady Bona,—

hear me speak,

Before you answer Warwick. His demand Springs not from Edward's well-meant honest

But from deceit, bred by necessity ; [love,

For how can tyrants safely govern home, Unless abroad they purchase great alliance ?

To prove him tyrant, this reason may suffice,— That Henry liveth still : but were he dead,

Yet here prince Edward stands, king Henry's son. [marriage

Look therefore, Lewis, that by this league and Thou draw not on thy danger and dishonour :

For though usurpers sway the rule a while, Yet heavens are just, and time suppresseth

wrongs.

War. Injurious Margaret !

Prince. And why not queen,

War. Because thy father Henry did usurp ;

And thou no more art prince, than she is queen.

Oxf. Then Warwick disannuls great John of Gaunt,

Which did subdue the greatest part of Spain ;

And, after John of Gaunt, Henry the fourth, Whose wisdom was a mirror to the wisest ;

And, after that wise prince, Henry the fifth, Who by his prowess conquered all France ;

From these our Henry lineally descends.

War. Oxford, how haps it, in this smooth discourse,

You told not, how Henry the sixth hath lost

All that which Henry the fifth had gotten ?

Methinks, these peers of France should smile at that.

But for the rest,—You tell a pedigree Of threescore and two years ; a silly time To make prescription for a kingdom's worth.

Oxf. Why Warwick, canst thou speak against thy liege,

Whom thou obey'd'st thirty and six years, And not bewray thy treason with a blush ?

War. Can Oxford, that did ever fence the right,

Now buckler falsehood with a pedigree ? For shame, leave Henry, and call Edward king. [doom

Oxf. Call him my king, by whose injurious My elder brother, the lord Aubrey Vere,

Was done to death ? and more than so, my father,

Even in the downfall of his mellow'd years, When nature brought him to the door of death ?

No, Warwick, no ; while life upholds this arm, This arm upholds the house of Lancaster.

War. And I the house of York.

K. Lew. Queen Margaret, prince Edward, and Oxford,

Vouchsafe, at our request, to stand aside.

While I use further conference with Warwick.

Q. Mar. Heaven grant, that Warwick's words bewitch him not !

[*Retiring with the PRINCE and OXFORD.*

K. Lew. Now, Warwick, tell me, even upon thy conscience,

Is Edward your true king ? for I were loath, To link with him that were not lawful chosen.

War. Thereon I pawn my credit and mine honour.

K. Lew. But is he gracious in the people's eye ?

War. The more that Henry was unfortunate.

K. Lew. Then further,—all dissembling set aside,

Tell me for truth the measure of his love Unto our sister Bona.

War. Such it seems, As may besecm a monarch like himself.

Myself have often heard him say, and swear,— That this his love was an eternal plant ;

Whereof the root was fix'd in virtue's ground, The leaves and fruit maintain'd with beauty's sun ;

Exempt from envy,* but not from disdain, Unless the lady Bona quit his pain.

K. Lew. Now, sister, let us hear your firm resolve.

Bona. Your grant, or your denial, shall be mine : [day,

Yet I confess, [To WAR.] that often ere this When I have heard your king's desert re-

counted,

Mine ear hath tempted judgment to desire.

K. Lew. Then, Warwick, thus,—Our sister shall be Edward's ;

And now forthwith shall articles be drawn Touching the jointure that your king must

make,

Which with her dowry shall be counterpois'd :— Draw near, queen Margaret ; and be a wit-

ness,

That Bona shall be wife to the English king.

Prince. To Edward, but not to the English king.

Q. Mar. Deceitful Warwick ! it was thy de-

By this alliance to make void my suit ; [vice

Before thy coming, Lewis was Henry's friend.

K. Lew. And still is friend to him and Mar-

garet :

But if your title to the crown be weak,—
As may appear by Edward's good success,—
Then 'tis but reason, that I be releas'd
From giving aid, which late I promis'd.
Yet shall you have all kindness at my hand,
That your estate requires, and mine can yield.

War. Henry now lives in Scotland, at his case;

Where having nothing, nothing he can lose.
And as for you yourself, our *quondam* queen,—
You have a father able to maintain you;
And better 'twere, you troubled him than France.

Q. Mar. Peace, impudent and shameless Warwick, peace;

Proud setter-up and puller-down of kings!
I will not hence, till with my talk and tears,
Both full of truth, I make king Lewis behold
Thy sly conveyance,* and thy lord's false love;
For both of you are birds of self-same feather.

[A Horn sounded within.]

K. Lew. Warwick, this is some post to us, or thee.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. My lord ambassador, these letters are for you;

Sent from your brother, marquis Montague.
These from our king unto your majesty.—
And, madam, these for you; from whom, I know not.

To MARGARET. *They all read their Letters.*

Oxf. I like it well, that our fair queen and mistress
Smiles at her news, while Warwick frowns at
Prince. Nay, mark, how Lewis stamps as he were nettled:

I hope, all's for the best.

K. Lew. Warwick, what are thy news? and yours, fair queen?

Q. Mar. Mine, such as fill my heart with unhop'd joys.

War. Mine full of sorrow and heart's discontent.

K. Lew. What! has your king married the lady Grey?

And now, to sooth your forgery and his,
Sends me a paper to persuade me patience?
Is this the alliance that he seeks with France?
Dare he presume to scorn us in this manner?

Q. Mar. I told your majesty as much before:
This proveth Edward's love, and Warwick's honesty.

War. King Lewis, I here protest,—in sight of heaven,

And by the hope I have of heavenly bliss,—
That I am clear from this misdeed of Edward's;
No more my king, for he dishonours me;
But most himself, if he could see his shame.—
Did I forget, that by the house of York
My father came untime to his death?
Did I let pass the abuse done to my niece?
Did I impale him with the regal crown?
Did I put Henry from his native right;
And am I guerdon'd† at the last with shame?
Shame on himself! for my desert is honour.
And, to repair my honour lost for him,
I here renounce him, and return to Henry:
My noble queen, let former grudges pass,
And henceforth I am thy true servitor;
I will revenge his wrong to lady Bona,
And replant Henry in his former state.

Q. Mar. Warwick, these words have turn'd my hate to love;

And I forgive and quite forget old faults,

* Juggling.

† Rewarded.

And joy that thou becom'st king Henry's friend.

War. So much his friend, ay, his unfeign'd friend,

That, if king Lewis vouchsafe to furnish us
With some few bands of chosen soldiers,
I'll undertake to land them on our coast,
And force the tyrant from his seat by war.
'Tis not his new-made bride shall succour him:
And as for Clarence,—as my letters tell me,
He's very likely now to fall from him;
For matching more for wanton lust than hon-

our,

Or than for strength and safety of our country.

Bona. Dear brother, how shall Bona be reveng'd,

But by thy help to this distressed queen?

Q. Mar. Renowned prince, how shall poor Henry live,

Unless thou rescue him from foul despair?

Bona. My quarrel, and this English queen's, are one.

War. And mine, fair lady Bona, joins with yours.

K. Lew. And mine, with hers, and thine, and Margaret's.

Therefore, at last, I firmly am resolv'd,
You shall have aid.

Q. Mar. Let me give humble thanks for all at once.

K. Lew. Then England's messenger, return in post;

And tell false Edward, thy supposed king,—
That Lewis of France is sending over maskers.

To revel it with him and his new bride:
Thou seest what's past, go fear* thy king withal.

Bona. Tell him, In hope he'll prove a widower shortly,

I'll wear the willow garlaad for his sake.

Q. Mar. Tell him, My mourning weeds are laid aside,

And I am ready to put armour on.

War. Tell him from me, That he hath done me wrong;

And therefore I'll uncrown him, ere't be long.
There's thy reward; be gone. [Exit MESS.]

K. Lew. But, Warwick, thou,
And Oxford, with five thousand men,
Shall cross the seas, and bid false Edward battle:

And, as occasion serves, this noble queen
And prince shall follow with a fresh supply.
Yet, ere thou go, but answer me one doubt;—
What pledge have we of thy firm loyalty?

War. This shall assure my constant loyalty:—

That if our queen and this young prince agree,
I'll join mine eldest daughter, and my joy,
To him forthwith in holy wedlock bands.

Q. Mar. Yes, I agree, and thank you for your motion:—

Son Edward, she is fair and virtuous,
Therefore delay not, give thy hand to Warwick;

And, with thy hand, thy faith irrevocable,
That only Warwick's daughter shall be thine.

Prince. Yes, I accept her, for she well deserves it;

And here, to pledge my vow, I give my hand.
[He gives his hand to WARWICK.]

K. Lew. Why stay we now? These soldiers shall be levied,

And thou, lord Bourbon, our high admiral,
Shall waft them over with our royal fleet.—

* Fright.

I long, till Edward fall by war's mischance,
For mocking marriage with a dame of France.

[*Exeunt all but WARWICK.*

War. I came from Edward as ambassador,
But I return his sworn and mortal foe:
Matter of marriage was the charge he gave me,
But dreadful war shall answer his demand.
Had he none else to make a stale,* but me?
Then none but I shall turn his jest to sorrow.
I was the chief that rais'd him to the crown,
And I'll be chief to bring him down again:
Not that I pity Henry's misery,
But seek revenge on Edward's mockery.

[*Exit.*

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—London.—A Room in the Palace.

Enter GLOSTER, CLARENCE, SOMERSET, MONTAGUE, and others.

Glo. Now tell me, brother Clarence, what think you

Of this new marriage with the lady Grey?
Hath not our brother made a worthy choice?

Clar. Alas, you know, 'tis far from hence to France;

How could he stay till Warwick made return?

Som. My lords, forbear this talk; here comes the king.

Flourish. Enter King EDWARD, attended; Lady GREY, as Queen; PEMBROKE, STAFFORD, HASTINGS, and others.

Glo. And his well-chosen bride.

Clar. I mind to tell him plainly what I think.

K. Edw. Now brother of Clarence, how like you our choice,

That you stand pensive, as half malecontent?

Clar. As well as Lewis of France, or the earl of Warwick;

Which are so weak of courage, and in judgment,
That they'll take no offence at our abuse.

K. Edw. Suppose they take offence without a cause,

They are but Lewis and Warwick; I am Edward—
Your king and Warwick's, and must have my will.

Glo. And you shall have your will, because our king:

Yet hasty marriage seldom proveth well.

K. Edw. Yea, brother Richard, are you offended too?

Glo. Not I: [ver'd

No; God forbid, that I should wish them se-
Whom God hath join'd together: ay, and 'twere pity,

To sunder them that yoke so well together.

K. Edw. Setting your scorns, and your mislike aside,

Tell me some reason, why the lady Grey
Should not become my wife, and England's queen:—

And you too, Somerset, and Montague,
Speak freely what you think.

Clar. Then this is my opinion,—that king Lewis

Becomes your enemy, for mocking him
About the marriage of the lady Bona.

Glo. And Warwick, doing what you gave in charge,

Is now dishonour'd by this new marriage.

K. Edw. What, if both Lewis and Warwick be appeas'd,

By such invention as I can devise?

Mont. Yet to have join'd with France in such alliance,

* A stalking horse, a pretence.

Would more have strengthen'd this our commonwealth [marriage.

'Gainst foreign storms, than any home-bred
Hast. Why, knows not Montague, that of itself

England is safe, if true within itself?

Mont. Yes; but the safer, when 'tis back'd with France.

Hast. 'Tis better using France, than trusting France:

Let us be back'd with God, and with the seas,*
Which he hath given for fence impregnable;

And with their helps only defend ourselves;
In them, and in ourselves, our safety lies.

Clar. For this one speech, lord Hastings well deserves

To have the heir of the lord Hungerford.

K. Edw. Ay, what of that? it was my will, and grant;

And, for this once, my will shall stand for law.
Glo. And yet, methinks, your grace hath not done well,

To give the heir and daughter of lord Scales
Unto the brother of your loving bride;

She better would have fitted me, or Clarence:
But in your bride you bury brotherhood.

Clar. Or else you would not have bestow'd the heir

Of the lord Bonville on your new wife's son,
And leave your brothers to go speed elsewhere.

K. Edw. Alas, poor Clarence! is it for a wife,
That thou art malecontent? I will provide thee.

Clar. In choosing for yourself you show'd your judgment;

Which being shallow, you shall give me leave
To play the broker in mine own behalf;

And, to that end, I shortly mind to leave you.
K. Edw. Leave me, or tarry, Edward will be king,

And not be tied unto his brother's will.

Q. Eliz. My lords, before it pleas'd his majesty
To raise my state to title of a queen, [jesty

Do me but right, and you must all confess
That I was not ignoble of descent,

And meaner than myself have had like fortune.
But as this title honours me and mine,

So your dislikes, to whom I would be pleasing,
Do cloud my joys with danger and with sorrow.

K. Edw. My love, forbear to fawn upon their frowns:

What danger, or what sorrow can befall thee,
So long as Edward is thy constant friend,

And their true sovereign, whom they must obey?

Nay, whom they shall obey, and love thee too,
Unless they seek for hatred at my hands:

Which if they do, yet will I keep thee safe,
And they shall feel the vengeance of my wrath.

Glo. I hear, yet say not much, but think the more.

[*Aside.*

Enter a MESSENGER.

K. Edw. Now, messenger, what letters, or what news,
From France?

Mess. My sovereign liege, no letters; and few words,

But such as I, without your special pardon,
Dare not relate.

* This has been the advice of every man who in any age understood and favoured the interest of England.

† The heiresses of great estates were in the worship of the king, who matched them to his favourites.

K. Edw. Go to, we pardon thee: Therefore, in brief, Tell me their words as near as thou canst guess them. [letters]

What answer makes king Lewis unto our *Mess.* At my depart, these were his very words;

Go tell false Edward, thy supposed king,— That Lewis of France is sending o'er maskers, To revel it with him and his new bride.

K. Edw. Is Lewis so brave? belike, he thinks me Henry.

But what said lady Bona to my marriage?

Mess. These were her words, utter'd with mild disdain;

Tell him, in hope he'll prove a widower shortly, I'll wear the willow garland for his sake.

K. Edw. I blame not her, she could say little less; [queen]

She had the wrong. But what said Henry's For I have heard, that she was there in place.

Mess. Tell him, quoth she, my mourning weeds are done,†

And I am ready to put armour on.

K. Edw. Belike, she minds to play the Amazon.

But what said Warwick to these injuries?

Mess. He, more incens'd against your majesty [words]

Than all the rest, discharg'd me with these *Tell him for me, that he hath done me wrong, And therefore I'll uncrown him, ere't be long.*

K. Edw. Ha! durst the traitor breathe out so proud words?

Well, I will arm me, being thus forwarn'd: They shall have wars, and pay for their presumption.

But say, is Warwick friends with Margaret?

Mess. Ay, gracious sovereign; they are so link'd in friendship,

That young prince Edward marries Warwick's daughter.

Clar. Belike, the elder; Clarence will have the younger.

Now, brother king, farewell, and sit you fast, For I will hence to Warwick's other daughter; That, though I want a kingdom, yet in marriage I may not prove inferior to yourself.— [riage] You, that love me and Warwick, follow me.

[Exit CLARENCE, and SOMERSET follows.]

Glo. Not I:

My thoughts aim at a further matter; I Stay not for love of Edward, but the crown. [Aside.]

K. Edw. Clarence and Somerset both gone to Warwick!

Yet am I arm'd against the worst can happen; And haste is needful in this desperate case.— Pembroke, and Stafford, you in our behalf Go levy men, and make prepare for war; They are already, or quickly will be landed: Myself in person will straight follow you.

[Exit PEMBROKE and STAFFORD.]

But, ere I go, Hastings,—and Montague,— Resolve my doubt. You twain of all the rest, Are near to Warwick, by blood, and by alliance:

Tell me, if you love Warwick more than me? If it be so, then both depart to him;

I rather wish you foes, than hollow friends; But if you mind to hold your true obedience, Give me assurance with some friendly vow, That I may never have you in suspect.

Mont. So God help Montague, as he proves true!

* Present.

† Thrown off.

Hast. And Hastings, as he favours Edward's cause!

K. Edw. Now, brother Richard, will you stand by us?

Glo. Ay in despite of all that shall withstand you.

K. Edw. Why so: then am I sure of victory. Now therefore let us hence; and lose no hour, Till we meet Warwick with his foreign power. [Exit.]

SCENE II.—A plain in Warwickshire.

Enter WARWICK and OXFORD with French and other Forces.

War. Trust me, my lord, all hitherto goes well;

The common people by numbers swarm to us.

Enter CLARENCE and SOMERSET.

But, see, where Somerset and Clarence come;—

Speak suddenly, my lords, are we all friends?

Clar. Fear not that, my lord.

War. Then, gentle Clarence, welcome unto Warwick;

And welcome, Somerset:—I hold it cowardice,

To rest mistrustful where a noble heart Hath pawn'd an open hand in sign of love;

Else might I think, that Clarence, Edward's brother,

Were but a feigned friend to our proceedings; But welcome, Clarence; my daughter shall be thine.

And now what rests, but, in night's overture, Thy brother being carelessly encamp'd,

His soldiers lurking in the towns about, And but attended by a simple guard, [sure?]

We may surprize and take him at our pleasure: Our scouts have found the adventure very easy:

That as Ulysses, and stout Diomed, With sleight and manhood stole to Rhesus' tents,

And brought from thence the Thracian fatal steeds; [mantle,

So we, well cover'd with the night's black At unawares may beat down Edward's guard,

And seize himself; I say not—slaughter him, For I intend but only to surprize him.—

You, that will follow me to this attempt, Applaud the name of Henry, with your leader.

[They all cry Henry!]

Why, then, let's on our way in silent sort: For Warwick and his friends, God and Saint George!

[Exit.]

SCENE III.—Edward's Camp, near Warwick.

Enter certain WATCHMEN, to guard the King's Tent.

1 *Watch.* Come on, my masters, each man take his stand;

The king, by this, is set him down to sleep.

2 *Watch.* What, will he not to-bed?

1 *Watch.* Why, no: for he hath made a solemn vow

Never to lie and take his natural rest, Till Warwick, or himself, be quite suppress'd.

2 *Watch.* To-morrow then, belike, shall be the day,

If Warwick be so near as men report.

3 *Watch.* But say, I pray, what nobleman is that,

That with the king here resteth in his tent?

1 *Watch.* 'Tis the lord Hastings, the king's chiefest friend.

3 *Watch.* O, is it so? But why commands the king, [him, That his chief followers lodge in towns about While he himself keepeth in the cold field?

2 *Watch.* 'Tis the more honour, because more dangerous.

3 *Watch.* Ay; but give me worship and quietness, I like it better than a dangerous honour. If Warwick knew in what estate he stands, 'Tis to be doubted, he would waken him.

1 *Watch.* Unless our halberts did shut up his passage.

2 *Watch.* Ay; wherefore else guard we his royal tent, But to defend his person from night-foes?

Enter WARWICK, CLARENCE, OXFORD, SOMERSET, and Forces.

War. This is his tent; and see, where stand his guard.

Courage, my masters: honour now, or never! But follow me, and Edward shall be ours.

1 *Watch.* Who goes there?

2 *Watch.* Stay, or thou diest.

[WARWICK, and the rest, cry all—Warwick! Warwick! and set upon the Guard; who fly, crying—Arm! Arm!—WARWICK and the rest following them.

The drum beating, and Trumpets sounding, Re-enter WARWICK, and the rest, bringing the KING out in a Gown, sitting in a Chair; GLOSTER and HASTINGS fly.

Som. What are they that fly there?

War. Richard, and Hastings: let them go, here's the duke.

K. Edw. The duke! why, Warwick, when we parted last,

'Thou call'd'st me king?

War. Ay, but the case is alter'd:

When you disgrac'd me in my embassy, Then I degraded you from being king, And come now to create you duke of York. Alas! how should you govern any kingdom, That know not how to use ambassadors; Nor how to be contented with one wife; Nor how to use your brothers brotherly; Nor how to study for the people's welfare; Nor how to shroud yourself from enemies?

K. Edw. Yea, brother of Clarence, art thou here too? [down.—

Nay, then I see, that Edward needs must Yet, Warwick, in despite of all mischance, Of thee thyself, and all thy complices, Edward will always bear himself as king: Though fortune's malice overthrow my state, My mind exceeds the compass of her wheel.

War. Then, for his mind,* be Edward England's king: [Takes off his Crown. But Henry now shall wear the English crown, And be true king indeed; thou but the shadow.—

My lord of Somerset, at my request, See that forthwith duke Edward be convey'd Unto my brother, archbishop of York. When I have fought with Pembroke and his fellows,

I'll follow you, and tell what answer Lewis, and the lady Bona, send to him:— Now, for a while, farewell, good duke of York,

K. Edw. What fates impose, that men must needs abide;

* I. e. In his mind; as far as his own mind goes.

It boots not to resist both wind and tide.

[Exit King EDWARD, led out; SOMERSET with him.

Oxf. What now remains, my lords, for us to do;

But march to London with our soldiers?

War. Ay, that's the first thing that we have to do;

To free king Henry from imprisonment, And see him seated in the regal throne.

[Exit.

SCENE IV.—London.—A Room in the Palace.

Enter Queen ELIZABETH and RIVERS.

Riv. Madam, what makes you in this sudden change?

Q. Eliz. Why, brother Rivers, are you yet to learn,

What late misfortune is befall'n king Edward?

Riv. What, loss of some pitch'd battle against Warwick?

Q. Eliz. No, but the loss of his own royal person.

Riv. Then is my sovereign slain?

Q. Eliz. Ay, almost slain, for he is taken prisoner;

Either betray'd by falsehood of his guard, Or by his foe surpriz'd at unawares:

And, as I further have to understand, Is new committed to the bishop of York, Fell Warwick's brother, and by that our foe.

Riv. These news, I must confess, are full of grief:

Yet, gracious madam, bear it as you may; Warwick may lose, that now hath won the day.

Q. Eliz. 'Till then, fair hope must hinder life's decay.

And I the rather wean me from despair, For love of Edward's offspring in my womb: This is it that makes me bridle passion, And bear with mildness my misfortune's cross; Ay, ay, for this I draw in many a tear, And stop the rising of blood-sucking sighs, Lest with my sighs or tears I blast or drown King Edward's fruit, true heir to the English crown.

Riv. But, madam, where is Warwick then become?

Q. Eliz. I am inform'd, that he comes towards London,

To set the crown once more on Henry's head: Guess thou the rest; king Edward's friends must down.

But, to prevent the tyrant's violence, (For trust not him that hath once broken faith,) I'll hence forthwith unto the sanctuary, To save at least the heir of Edward's right; There shall I rest secure from force, and fraud. Come therefore, let us fly, while we may fly; If Warwick take us, we are sure to die.

[Exit.

SCENE V.—A Park near Middleham Castle in Yorkshire.

Enter GLOSTER, HASTINGS, Sir WILLIAM STANLEY, and others.

Glo. Now, my lord Hastings, and Sir William Stanley,

Leave off to wonder why I drew you hither, Into this chieftest thicket of the park. Thus stands the case: You know our king my brother,

Is prisoner to the bishop here, at whose hands

He hath good usage and great liberty ;
And often, but attended with weak guard,
Comes hunting this way to disport himself.
I have advertis'd him by secret means,
That if about this hour, he make this way,
Under the colour of his usual game,
He shall here find his friends, with horse and
men,

To set him free from his captivity.

Enter King EDWARD, and a HUNTSMAN.

Hunt. This way, my lord; for this way lies
the game.

K. Edw. Nay, this way, man; see, where
the huntsman stand.—

Now, brother of Gloster, lord Hastings, and
the rest,

Stand you thus close, to steal the bishop's deer?

Glo. Brother, the time and case requireth
haste;

Your horse stands ready at the park corner.

K. Edw. But whither shall we then?

Hast. To Lynn, my lord; and ship from
thence to Flanders.

Glo. Well guess'd, believe me; for that
was my meaning.

K. Edw. Stanley, I will requite thy forward-
ness.

Glo. But wherefore stay we? 'tis no time
to talk.

K. Edw. Huntsman, what say'st thou?
wilt thou go along?

Hunt. Better do so, than tarry and be hang'd.

Glo. Come then, away; let's have no more
ado.

K. Edw. Bishop, farewell: shield thee from
Warwick's frown;

And pray that I may repossess the crown.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VI.—A Room in the Tower.

*Enter King HENRY, CLARENCE, WARWICK,
SOMERSET, young RICHMOND, OXFORD, MON-
TAGUE, LIEUTENANT of the Tower, and At-
tendants.*

K. Hen. Master lieutenant, now that God
and friends

Have shaken Edward from the regal seat;

And turn'd my captive state to liberty,

My fear to hope, my sorrows unto joys;

At our enlargement what are thy due fees?

Lieu. Subjects may challenge nothing of
their sovereigns;

But, if an humble prayer may prevail,

I then crave pardon of your majesty.

K. Hen. For what, lieutenant? for well using
me?

[*ness,*]

Nay, be thou sure, I'll well requite thy kind-
For that it made my imprisonment a pleasure:

Ay such a pleasure as incaged birds
Conceive, when, after many moody thoughts,

At last, by notes of household harmony,
They quite forget their loss of liberty:—

But, Warwick, after God, thou set'st me free.

And chiefly therefore I thank God, and thee;

He was the author, thou the instrument.

Therefore, that I may conquer fortune's spite,

By living low, where fortune cannot hurt me;

And that the people of this blessed land,

May not be punish'd with my thwarting stars;

Warwick, although my head still wear the
crown,

I here resign my government to thee,

For thou art fortunate in all thy deeds.

War. Your grace hath still been fam'd for
virtuous;

And now may seem as wise as virtuous,
By spying, and avoiding, fortune's malice,
For few men rightly temper with the stars:*

Yet in this one thing let me blame your grace

For choosing me, when Clarence is in place.†

Clar. No, Warwick, thou art worthy of the
sway,

To whom the heavens, in thy nativity,

Adjung'd an olive branch, and laurel crown,

As likely to be blessed in peace, and war;

And therefore I yield thee my free consent.

War. And I choose Clarence only for pro-
tector.

K. Hen. Warwick and Clarence, give me
both your hands;

Now join your hands, and, with your hands,
your hearts,

That no dissention hinder government:

I make you both protectors of this land;

While I myself will lead a private life,

And in devotion spend my latter days,

To sin's rebuke, and my Creator's praise.

War. What answers Clarence to his sove-
reign's will?

Clar. That he consents, if Warwick yield
consent;

For on thy fortune I repose myself.

War. Why then, though loath, yet must I
be content:

We'll yoke together, like a double shadow

To Henry's body, and supply his place;

I mean, in bearing weight of government,

While he enjoys the honour, and his ease.

And, Clarence, now then it is more than need-
ful,

Forthwith that Edward be pronounc'd a traitor,

And all his lands and goods be confiscate.

Clar. What else? and that succession be
determin'd.

War. Ay, therein Clarence shall not want
his part.

K. Hen. But, with the first of all your chief
affairs,

Let me entreat, (for I command no more,)

That Margaret your queen, and my son Edward,

Be sent for, to return from France with speed:

For, till I see them here, by doubtful fear

My joy of liberty is half eclips'd.

Clar. It shall be done, my sovereign, with
all speed.

K. Hen. My lord of Somerset, what youth
is that,

Of whom you seem to have so tender care?

Som. My liege, it is young Henry; earl of
Richmond.

K. Hen. Come hither, England's hope: if
secret powers

[*Lays his Hand on his Head.*]

Suggest but truth to my divining thoughts,

This pretty lad† will prove our country's bliss.

His looks are full of peaceful majesty;

His head by nature fram'd to wear a crown,

His hand to wield a sceptre; and himself

Likely, in time, to bless a regal throne.

Make much of him, my lords; for this is he,

Must help you more than you are hurt by me.

Enter a MESSENGER.

War. What news, my friend?

Mess. That Edward is escaped from your
brother,

And fled, as he hears since, to Burgundy.

War. Unsavoury news: But how made he
escape?

* Few men conform their temper to their destiny.
† Present.

‡ Afterward Henry VII.

Mess. He was convey'd by Richard duke of Gloster,
And the lord Hastings, who attended* him
In secret ambush on the forest side,
And from the bishop's huntsmen rescued him;
For hunting was his daily exercise.

War. My brother was too careless of his charge.—
But let us hence, my sovereign, to provide
A salve for any sore that may betide.

[*Exeunt King HENRY, WAR, CLAR, LIEUT. and Attendants.*]

Som. My lord, I like not of this flight of Edward's:

For, doubtless, Burgundy will yield him help;
And we shall have more wars, before 't be long.

As Henry's late presaging prophecy
Did glad my heart, with hope of this young Richmond;

So doth my heart misgive me, in these conflicts
What may befall him, to his harm, and ours:
Therefore, lord Oxford, to prevent the worst,
Forthwith we'll send him hence to Britany,
Till storms be past of civil enmity.

Orf. Ay; for, if Edward repossess the crown,
'Tis like, that Richmond with the rest shall down.

Som. It shall be so; he shall to Britany,
Come therefore, let's about it speedily.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VII.—*Before York.*

Enter King EDWARD, GLOSTER, HASTINGS, and Forces.

K. Edw. Now, brother Richard, lord Hastings, and the rest;
Yet thus far fortune maketh us amends,
And says—that once more I shall interchange
My waned state for Henry's regal crown.
Well have we pass'd, and now repass'd the seas,

And brought desired help from Burgundy:
What then remains, we being thus arriv'd
From Ravensburg haven before the gates of York,

But that we enter, as into our dukedom?

Glo. The gates made fast!—Brother, I like not this;

For many men, that stumble at the threshold,
Are well foretold—that danger lurks within.

K. Edw. Tush, man! abodements must not now allright us:

By fair or foul means we must enter in,
For hither will our friends repair to us.

Hast. My liege, I'll knock once more, to summon them.

Enter, on the Walls, the MAYOR of York, and his Brethren.

May. My lords, we were forewarned of your coming,
And shut the gates for safety of ourselves;
For now we owe allegiance unto Henry.

K. Edw. But, master mayor, if Henry be your king,

Yet Edward, at the least, is duke of York.

May. True, my good lord; I know you for no less.

K. Edw. Why, and I challenge nothing but my dukedom;

As being well content with that alone.

Glo. But when the fox hath once got in his nose.

* I. e. Waited for him.

He'll soon find means to make the body follow.

[*Aside.*]

Hast. Why, master mayor, why stand you in a doubt?

Open the gates, we are king Henry's friends.

May. Ay, say you so? the gates shall then be open'd.

[*Exeunt from above.*]

Glo. A wise stout captain, and persuaded soon!

Hast. The good old man would fain that all were well,

So 'twere not 'long of him: * but, being enter'd, I doubt not, I, but we shall soon persuade Both him, and all his brothers, unto reason.

Re-enter the MAYOR and two ALDERMEN below.

K. Edw. So, master mayor: these gates must not be shut,

But in the night, or in the time of war.

What! fear not, man, but yield me up the keys;

[*Takes his keys.*]

For Edward will defend the town, and thee,
And all those friends that deign to follow me.

Drum.—Enter MONTGOMERY, and Forces, marching.

Glo. Brother, this is Sir John Montgomery,
Our trusty friend, unless I be deceiv'd.

K. Edw. Welcome, Sir John! But why come you in arms?

Mont. To help king Edward in his time of storm.

As every loyal subject ought to do.

K. Edw. Thanks, good Montgomery: But we now forget

Our title to the crown; and only claim
Our dukedom, till God please to send the rest.

Mont. Then fare you well, for I will hence again;

I came to serve a king, and not a duke,—

Drummer, strike up, and let us march away.

[*A March begun.*]

K. Edw. Nay, stay, Sir John, a while; and we'll debate,

By what safe means the crown may be recover'd

Mont. What talk you of debating? in few words,

If you'll not here proclaim yourself our king,
I'll leave you to your fortune; and be gone,

To keep them back that come to succour you:
Why should we fight, if you pretend no title?

Glo. Why, brother, wherefore stand you on nice points?

K. Edw. When we grow stronger, then we'll make our claim:

Till then, 'tis wisdom to conceal our meaning.

Hast. Away with scrupulous wit! now arms must rule.

Glo. And fearless minds climb soonest unto crowns.

Brother, we will proclaim you out of hand;
The bruit thereof will bring you many friends.

K. Edw. Then be it as you will; for 'tis my
And Henry but usurps the diadem. [right,

Mont. Ay, now my sovereign speaketh like himself;

And now will I be Edward's champion.

Hast. Sound, trumpet; Edward shall be here proclaim'd:—

Come, fellow-soldier, make thou proclamation.

[*Gives him a Paper. Flourish.*]

Sold. [Reads.] Edward the fourth, by the grace of God, king of England and France, and lord of Ireland, &c.

* The mayor is willing we should enter, so he may not be blamed. † Noise, report.

Mont. And whosoe'er gainsays king Edward's
By this I challenge him to single fight. [right,
[Throws down his Gauntlet.

All. Long live king Edward the fourth!

K. Edw. Thanks, brave Montgomery;—and
thanks unto you all.

If fortune serve me, I'll requite this kindness.
Now, for this night, let's harbour here in York:
And when the morning sun shall raise his car
Above the border of this horizon, [mates;
We'll forward towards Warwick, and his
For, well I wot,* that Henry is no soldier.—
Ah, froward Clarence!—how evil it becoms
thee,

To flatter Henry, and forsake thy brother!
Yet, as we may, we'll meet both thee and War-
wick.—

Come on, brave soldiers; doubt not of the day;
And, that once gotten, doubt not of large pay.
Exeunt.

SCENE VIII.—London.—A Room in the Pa-
lace.

Enter King HENRY, WARWICK, CLARENCE,
MONTAGUE, EXETER, and OXFORD.

War. What counsel, lords? Edward from
Belgia,
With hasty Germans, and blunt Hollanders,
Hath pass'd in safety through the narrow seas,
And with his troops doth march amain to
London;

And many giddy people flock to him.

Oxf. Let's levy men, and beat him back
again.

Clar. A little fire is quickly trodden out;
Which, being suffer'd, rivers cannot quench.

War. In Warwickshire I have true-hearted
friends,

Not mutinous in peace, yet bold in war;
Those will I muster up;—and thou, son Cla-
rence,

Shalt stir, in Suffolk, Norfolk, and in Kent,
The knights and gentlemen to come with
thee:—

Thou, brother Montague, in Buckingham,
Northampton, and in Leicestershire, shalt find
Men well inclin'd to hear what thou com-
mand'st:— [lov'd,

And thou, brave Oxford, wondrous well be-
in Oxfordshire shall muster up thy friends.—
My sovereign, with the loving citizens,
Like to his island, girt in with the ocean,
Or modest Dian, circled with her nymphs,—
Shall rest in London, till we come to him.—
Fair lords, take leave, and stand not to reply.—
Farewell, my sovereign.

K. Hen. Farewell, my Hector, and my
Troy's true hope.

Clar. In sign of truth, I kiss your highness'
hand.

K. Hen. Well-minded Clarence, be thou for-
tunate!

Mont. Comfort, my lord;—and so I take my
leave.

Oxf. And thus [kissing HENRY'S hand.] I
seal my truth, and bid adieu.

K. Hen. Sweet Oxford, and my loving Mon-
tague,

And all at once, once more a happy farewell.

War. Farewell, sweet lords; let's meet at
Coventry.

[Exeunt WAR. CLAR. OXF. and MONT.]

K. Hen. Here at the palace will I rest a
while.

Know.

Cousin of Exeter, what thinks your lordship?
Methinks, the power, that Edward hath in field,
Should not be able to encounter mine.

Exc. The doubt is, that he will seduce the
rest.

K. Hen. That's not my fear, my need* hath
got me fame.

I have not stopp'd mine ears to their demands,
Nor posted off their suits with slow delays;
My pity hath been balm to heal their wounds,
My mildness hath allay'd their swelling griefs,
My mercy dry'd their water-flowing tears:
I have not been desirous of their wealth,
Nor much oppress'd them with great subsidies,
Nor forward of revenge, though they much
err'd; [me?

Then why should they love Edward more than
No, Exeter, these graces challenge grace:
And, when the lion fawns upon the lamb,
The lamb will never cease to follow him.

[Shout within. A Lancaster! A Lancaster!
Exc. Hark, hark, my lord! what shouts are
these?

Enter king EDWARD, GLOSTER, and Soldiers.

K. Edw. Seize on the shame-fac'd Henry,
bear him hence,

And once again proclaim us king of England.
You are the fount, that makes small brooks to
flow; [dry,

Now stops thy spring; my sea shall suck them
And swell so much the higher by their ebb.—
Hence with him to the Tower; let him not
speak.

[Exeunt some with king HENRY.]
And, lords, towards Coventry bend we our
course,

Where peremptory Warwick now remains:
The sun shines hot, and, if we use delay,
Cold biting winter mars our hop'd-for hay.†

Glo. Away betimes, before his forces join,
And take the great-grown traitor unawares:
Brave warriors, march amain towards Covent-
try. [Exeunt.

ACT V.

SCENE I.—Coventry.

Enter, upon the walls, WARWICK, the Mayor of
Coventry, two MESSENGERS, and others.

War. Where is the post, that came from val-
iant Oxford!

How far hence is thy lord, mine honest fellow?

1 Mess. By this at Dunsmore, marching
hitherward.

War. How far off is our brother Montague?—
Where is the post that came from Montague?

2 Mess. By this at Dainty, with a puissant
troop.

Enter Sir JOHN SOMERVILLE.

War. Say, Somerville, what says my loving
son?

And, by the guess, how nigh is Clarence now?
Som. At Southam I did leave him with his
forces,

And do expect him here some two hours hence.
[Drum heard.

War. Then Clarence is at hand, I hear his
drum.

Som. It is not his, my lord; here Southam
lies; [Warwick.

The drum your honour hears, marcheth from

* Merit.

† The illusion is to the proverb, "Make hay while
the sun shines."

War. Who should that be? belike, unlook'd-for friends.

Som. They are at hand, and you shall quickly know.

Drums. Enter King EDWARD, GLOSTER, and Forces, marching.

K. Edw. Go, trumpet, to the walls, and sound a parle.

Glo. See, how the surly Warwick mans the wall.

War. O, unbid spite! is sportful Edward come? [duc'd,

Where, slept our scouts, or how are they set—that we could hear no news of his repair?

K. Edw. Now, Warwick, wilt thou ope the city gates, [knee?—

Speak gentle words, and humbly bend thy Call Edward—king, and at his hands beg mercy,

And he shall pardon thee these outrages.

War. Nay, rather, wilt thou draw thy forces hence, [down?—

Confess who set thee up and pluck'd thee Call Warwick—patron, and be penitent, And thou shalt still remain the duke of York.

Glo. I thought, at least, he would have said the king;

Or did he make the jest against his will?

War. Is not a dukedom, Sir, a goodly gift.

Glo. Ay, by my faith, for a poor earl to give? I'll do thee service for so good a gift.*

War. 'Twas I, that gave the kingdom to thy brother.

K. Edw. Why, then 'tis mine, if but by Warwick's gift.

War. Thou art no atlas for so great a weight: And, weakling Warwick takes his gift again; And Henry is my king, Warwick his subject.

K. Edw. But Warwick's king is Edward's prisoner:

And, gallant Warwick, do but answer this,—What is the body, when the head is off?

Glo. Alas, that Warwick had no more forecast,

But whiles he thought to steal the single ten, The king was slyly finger'd from the deck †; You left poor Henry at the bishop's palace, And, ten to one, you'll meet him in the Tower.

K. Edw. 'Tis even so; yet you are Warwick still.

Glo. Come, Warwick, take the time, kneel down, kneel down:

Nay, when? strike now, or else the iron cools.

War. I had rather chop this hand off at a blow,

And with the other fling it at thy face, Than bear so low a sail, to strike to thee.

K. Edw. Sail how thou canst, have wind and tide thy friend;

This hand, fast wound about thy coal-black hair,

Shall whiles the head is warm, and new cut off, Write in the dust this sentence with thy blood,—

Wind-changing Warwick now can change no more.

Enter OXFORD with Drum and Colours.

War. O cheerful colours! see, where Oxford comes!

Oxf. Oxford, Oxford, for Lancaster! [OXFORD and his Forces enter the City.

Glo. The gates are open, let us enter too.

* I. e. Enroll myself among thy dependants.

† A pack of cards was anciently termed a deck of cards.

K. Edw. So other foes may set upon our backs.

Stand we in good array; for they, no doubt, Will issue out again, and bid us battle.

If not, the city, being but of small defence, We'll quickly rouse the traitors in the same.

War. O, welcome, Oxford! for we want thy help.

Enter MONTAGUE, with Drum and Colours.

Mont. Montague, Montague, for Lancaster! [He and his Forces enter the City.

Glo. Thou and thy brother both shall buy this treason

Even with the dearest blood your bodies bear.

K. Edw. The harder match'd, the greater victory;

My mind presageth happy gain, and conquest.

Enter SOMERSET, with Drum and Colours.

Som. Somerset, Somerset, for Lancaster! [He and his Forces enter the City.

Glo. Two of thy name, both dukes of Somerset,

Have sold their lives unto the house of York; And thou shalt be the third, if this sword hold.

Enter CLARENCE, with Drum and Colours.

War. And lo, where George of Clarence sweeps along,

Of force enough to bid his brother battle; With whom an upright zeal to right prevails, More than the nature of a brother's love:— Come, Clarence, come; thou wilt, if Warwick calls.

Clar. Father of Warwick, know you what this means;

[Taking the red Rose out of his Cap.

Look here, I throw my infamy at thee: I will not rinate my father's house, [gether, Who gave his blood to lime* the stones to— And set up Lancaster, Why, trow'st thou, Warwick,

That Clarence is so harsh, so blunt, † unnatural, To bend the fatal instruments of war Against his brother, and his lawful king? Perhaps, thou wilt object my holy oath:

To keep that oath, were more impiety [ter. Than Jephtha's, when he sacrific'd his daughter

I am so sorry for my trespass made, That, to deserve well at my brother's hands,

I here proclaim myself thy mortal foe; With resolution, whereso'er I meet thee,

(As I will meet thee, if thou stir abroad,) To plague thee for thy foul misleading me.

And so, proud-hearted Warwick, I defy thee, And to my brother turn my blushing cheeks.—

Pardon me, Edward, I will make amends; And, Richard, do not frown upon my faults,

For I will henceforth be no more unconstant.

K. Edw. Now welcome more, and ten times more belov'd,

Than if thou never hadst deserv'd our hate.

Glo. Welcome, good Clarence; this is brother-like.

War. O passing ‡ traitor, perjurd, and unjust!

K. Edw. What, Warwick, wilt thou leave the town, and fight?

Or shall we beat the stones about thine ears?

* I. e. To cement.

† Stupid, insensible of paternal fondness.

‡ Eminent, egregious.

War. Alas, I am not coop'd here for defence :
I will away towards Barnet presently,
And bid thee battle, Edward, if thou dar'st.

K. Edw. Yes, Warwick, Edward dares, and
leads the way :—

Lords to the field : Saint George and victory.
[March. Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—A Field of Battle near Barnet.

Alarums and Excursions. Enter King EDWARD,
bringing in WARWICK wounded.

K. Edw. So, lie thou there : die thou, and
die our fear ;

For Warwick was a bug,* that fear'd us all.—
Now, Montague, sit fast ; I seek for thee,
That Warwick's bones may keep thine com-
pany. [Exit.]

War. Ah, who is nigh ? come to me, friend,
or foe,

And tell me who is victor, York, or Warwick ?
Why ask I that ? my mangled body shows,
My blood, my want of strength, my sick heart
shows,

That I must yield my body to the earth,
And by my fall, the conquest to my foe.
Thus yields the cedar to the axe's edge,
Whose arms gave shelter to the princely eagle
Under whose shades the ramping lion slept ?
Whose top-branch overpeer'd Jove's spreading
tree, [wind,

And kept low shrubs from winter's powerful
These eyes, that now are dimm'd with death's
black veil,

Have been as piercing as the mid-day sun,
To search the secret treasons of the world :
The wrinkles in my brows, now fill'd with
blood,

Were liken'd oft to kingly sepulchres ;
For who liv'd king, but I could dig his grave ?
And who durst smile, when Warwick bent his
brow ?

Lo, now my glory smear'd in dust and blood !
My parks, my walks, my manors that I had,
Even now forsake me ; and of all my lands,
Is nothing left me but my body's length !
Why, what is pomp, rule, reign, but earth and
dust ?

And, live we how we can, yet die we must.

Enter OXFORD and SOMERSET.

Som. Ah, Warwick, Warwick ! wert thou as
we are,

We might recover all our loss again !
The queen from France hath brought a puis-
sant power ;
Even now we heard the news : Ah, could'st
thou fly !

War. Why, then I would not fly.—Ah, Mon-
tague,
If thou be there, sweet brother, take my hand
And with thy lips keep in my soul a while !
Thou lov'st me not ; for, brother, if thou didst,
Thy tears would wash this cold congealed
blood,

That glews my lips, and will not let me speak.
Come quickly, Montague, or I am dead.

Som. Ah, Warwick, Montague hath breath'd
his last ;

And to the latest gasp, cried out for Warwick,
And said—Commend me to my valiant brother.
And more he would have said ; and more he
spoke,

* Bugbear.

† Terrified.

Which sounded like a cannon in a vault,
That might not be distinguish'd ; but, at last,
I well might hear deliver'd with a groan,—
O, farewell, Warwick !—

War. Sweet rest to his soul !— [bids
Fly, lords and save yourselves ; for Warwick
You all farewell, to meet again in heaven.

[Dies.]

Oxf. Away, away, to meet the queen's great
power !

[Exeunt, bearing off WARWICK'S Body.]

SCENE III.—Another part of the Field.

Flourish.—Enter King EDWARD in triumph :
with CLARENCE, GLOSTER, and the rest.

K. Edw. Thus far our fortune keeps an up-
ward course,

And we are grac'd with wreaths of victory.
But in the midst of this bright-shining day,
I spy a black, suspicious, threat'ning cloud,
That will encounter with our glorious sun,
Ere he attain his easeful western bed :

I mean, my lords,—those powers, that the
queen

Hath rais'd in Gallia, have arriv'd our coast,
And, as we hear, march on to fight with us.

Clar. A little gale will soon disperse that
cloud,

And blow it to the source from whence it came :
Thy very beams will dry those vapours up ;
For every cloud engenders not a storm.

Glo. The queen is valu'd thirty thousand
strong,

And Somerset, with Oxford, fled to her ;
If she have time to breathe, be well assur'd,
Her faction will be full as strong as ours.

K. Edw. We are advéris'd by our loving
friends, [bury ;

That they do hold their course towards Tewks-
bury.—We having now the best at Barnet field,
Will thither straight, For willingness ride's way ;
And, as we march, our strength will be aug-
mented,

In every county as we go along.—
Strike up the drum ; cry—Courage ! and away.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.—Plains near Tewksbury.

March.—Enter Queen MARGARET, Prince ED-
WARD, SOMERSET, OXFORD, and Soldiers.

Q. Mar. Great lords, wise men ne'er sit and
wail their loss,

But cheerly seek how to redress their harms.
What though the mast be now blown over-
board,

The cable broke, the holding anchor lost,
And half our sailors swallow'd in the flood !
Yet lives our pilot still : Is't meet, that he
Should leave the helm, and, like a fearful lad,

With tearful eyes add water to the sea.
And give more strength to that which hath too
much ;

Whiles, in his moan, the ship splits on the rock,
Which industry and courage might have sav'd ?
Ah, what a shame ! ah, what a fault were this !
Say, Warwick was our anchor ; What of that ?
And Montague our top-mast ; What of him ?
Our slaughter'd friends the tackles ; What of
these ?

Why is not Oxford here another anchor ?
And Somerset another goodly mast ; [lings ?
The friends of France our shrouds and tack-
And, though unskilful, why not Ned and I
For once allow'd the skilful pilot's charge ?
We will not from the helm, to sit and weep ;

But keep our course, though the rough wind
say—no, [wreck.
From shelves and rocks that threaten us with
As good to chide the waves, as speak them
fair.
And what is Edward, but a ruthless sea?
What Clarence, but a quicksand of deceit?
And Richard, but a ragged fatal rock?
All these the enemies to our poor bark.
Say, you can swim; alas, 'tis but a while:
Tread on the sand; why, there you quickly
sink:

Bestride the rock; the tide will wash you off,
Or else you famish, that's a threefold death.
This speak I, lords, to let you understand,
In case some one of you would fly from us,
That there's no hop'd-for mercy with the bro-
thers,

More than with ruthless waves, with sands,
and rocks.

Why, courage, then! what cannot be avoided,
'Twere childish weakness to lament, or fear.

Prince. Methinks, a woman of this valiant
spirit [words,

Should, if a coward heard her speak these
Infuse his breast with magnanimity,
And make him, naked, foil a man at arms,
I speak not this, as doubting any here:

For, did I but suspect a fearful man,
He should have leave to go away betimes;
Lest in our need, he might infect another,
And make him of like spirit to himself.
If any such be here, as God forbid!

Let him depart, before we need his help.

Oxf. Women and children of so high a
courage! [shame.—

And warriors faint! why, 'twere perpetual
O, brave young prince! thy famous grand-
father [live,

Doth live again in thee; Long may'st thou
To bear his image, and renew his glories!

Som. And he, that will not fight for such a
hope,

Go home to bed, and, like the owl by day,
If he arise, be mock'd and wonder'd at.

Q. Mar. Thanks, gentle Somerset;—sweet
Oxford, thanks.

Prince. And take his thanks, that yet hath
nothing else.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. Prepare you, lords, for Edward is at
hand,

Ready to fight; therefore be resolute.

Oxf. I thought no less: it is his policy,
To haste thus fast, to find us unprovided.

Som. But he's deceiv'd, we are in readiness.

Q. Mar. This cheers my heart to see your
forwardness.

Oxf. Here pitch our battle, hence we will
not budge.

March. Enter at a distance, King EDWARD,
CLARENCE, GLOSTER, and Forces.

K. Edw. Brave followers, yonder stands the
thorny wood,

Which, by the heavens' assistance, and your
strength,

Must by the roots be hewn up yet ere night.

I need not add more fuel to your fire,

For well I wot,* ye blaze to burn them out:

Give signal to the fight, and to it, lords.

Q. Mar. Lords, knights, and gentlemen,
what, I should say,

My tears gainsay † for every word I speak,

* Know.

† Unsay, deny.

Ye see, I drink the water of mine eyes.

Therefore, no more but this:—Henry, your
sovereign,

Is prisoner to the foe; his state usurp'd,
His realm a slaughterhouse, his subjects slain,
His statutes cancell'd, and his treasure spent;
And yonder is the wolf, that makes this spoil.
You fight in justice: then, in God's name,
lords,

Be valiant, and give signal to the fight.

[Exeunt both Armies.

SCENE V.—Another part of the same.

Alarums: Excursions; and afterwards a Re-
treat. Then Enter King EDWARD, CLARENCE,
GLOSTER, and Forces; with Queen MARGA-
RET, OXFORD, and SOMERSET, Prisoners.

K. Edw. Now, here a period of tumultuous
broils.

Away with Oxford to Hammes' castle* straight:
For Somerset, off with his guilty head.

Go, bear them hence; I will not hear them
speak.

Oxf. For my part, I will not trouble thee
with words.

Som. Nor I, but stoop with patience to my
fortune.

[Exeunt OXFORD and SOMERSET, guarded.

Q. Mar. So part we sadly in this troublous
world,

To meet with joy in sweet Jerusalem.

K. Edw. Is proclamation made,—that, who
finds Edward,

Shall have a high reward, and he his life?

Glo. It is: and, lo, where youthful Edward
comes.

Enter Soldiers, with Prince EDWARD.

K. Edw. Bring forth the gallant, let us hear
him speak:

What! can so young a thorn begin to prick?
Edward, what satisfaction canst thou make,
For bearing arms, for stirring up my subjects,
And all the trouble thou hast turn'd me to?

Prince. Speak like a subject, proud ambi-
tious York!

Suppose, that I am now my father's mouth;
Resign thy chair, and, where I stand, kneel
thou,

Whilst I propose the self-same words to thee,
Which, traitor, thou wouldst have me answer
to.

Q. Mar. Ah, that thy father had been so re-
solv'd!

Glo. That you might still have worn the
petticoat,

And ne'er have stol'n the breech from Lan-
caster.

Prince. Let Æsop† fable in a winter's night;
His curish riddles sort not with this place.

Glo. By heaven, brat, I'll plague you for
that word.

Q. Mar. Ay, thou wast born to be a plague
to men.

Glo. For God's sake, take away this captive
scold.

Prince. Nay, take away this scolding crook-
back rather.

K. Edw. Peace, wilful boy, or I will charm†
your tongue.

Clar. Untutor'd lad, thou art too malapert.

* A castle in Picardy.

† The Prince calls Richard, for his crookedness, Æsop.

‡ I. e. I will compel you to be as silent as if you were
deprived of speech by enchantment.

Prince. I know my duty, you are all undutiful : [George,—

Lascivious Edward,—and thou perjur'd And thou misshapen Dick,—I tell you all, I am your better, traitors as ye are ;— And thou usurp'st my father's right and mine.

K. Edw. Take that, the likeness of this railer here. [Stabs him.

Glo. Sprawl'st thou? take that, to end thy agony. [Glo. stabs him.

Clar. And there's for twitting me with perjury. [Clar. stabs him.

Q. Mar. O, kill me too!

Glo. Marry, and shall. Offers to kill her.

K. Edw. Hold, Richard, hold, for we have done too much.

Glo. Why should she live, to fill the world with words?*

K. Edw. What! doth she swoon? use means for her recovery.

Glo. Clarence, excuse me to the king my brother;

I'll hence to London on a serious matter:

Ere ye come there, be sure to hear some news.

Clar. What? what?

Glo. The Tower, the Tower! [Exit.

Q. Mar. O, Ned, sweet Ned! speak to thy mother, boy! [derers!—

Canst thou not speak?—O traitors! murderers, that stabb'd Cæsar, shed no blood at all, Did not offend, nor were not worthy blame, If this foul deed were by, to equal it.

He was a man; this, in respect, a child; And men ne'er spend their fury on a child. [it?

What's worse than murderer, that I may name No, no; my heart will burst, an if I speak:—

And I will speak, that so my heart may burst. Butchers and villains, bloody cannibals!

How sweet a plant have you untimely cropp'd!

You have no children, butchers! if you had, The thought of them would have stirr'd up remorse:

But, if you ever chance to have a child, Look in his youth to have him so cut off,

As, deathsmen! you have rid this sweet young prince!

K. Edw. Away with her; go, bear her hence perforce.

Q. Mar. Nay, never bear me hence, despatch me here; [death:

Here sheath thy sword, I'll pardon thee my What! wilt thou not?—then, Clarence, do it thou.

Clar. By heaven, I will not do thee so much ease.

Q. Mar. Good Clarence, do; sweet Clarence, do thou do it.

Clar. Didst thou not hear me swear, I would not do it.

Q. Mar. Ay, but thou usetest to forswear thy— 'Twas sin before,† but now, 'tis charity. [self;

What! wilt thou not? where is that devil's butcher, [thou?

Hard-favour'd Richard? Richard, where art Thou are not here: Murder is thy alms-deed;

Petitioners for blood thou ne'er put'st back.

K. Edw. Away, I say; I charge ye, bear her hence.

Q. Mar. So come to you, and yours, as to this prince! [Exit, led out forcibly.

K. Edw. Where's Richard gone?

Clar. To London, all in post; and, as I guess, To make a bloody supper in the Tower.

K. Edw. He's sudden, if a thing comes in his head.

* Dispute, contention.

† She alludes to the desertion of Clarence.

Now march we hence: discharge the common sort [don,

With pay and thanks, and let's away to London— And see our gentle queen how well she fares; By this, I hope, she hath a son for me.

[Exeunt.

SCENE VI.—London.—A Room in the Tower.

King HENRY is discovered sitting with a Book in his Hand, the Lieutenant attending. Enter GLOSTER.

Glo. Good day, my lord! What, at your book so hard?

K. Hen. Ay, my good lord: My lord, I should say rather;

'Tis sin to flatter, good was little better: Good Gloster, and good devil, were alike, And both preposterous; therefore, not good lord.

Glo. Sirrah, leave us to ourselves: we must confer. [Exit Lieutenant.

K. Hen. So flies the reckless* shepherd from the wolf:

So first the harmless sheep doth yield his fleece, And next his throat unto the butcher's knife.—

What scene of death hath Roscius now to act?

Glo. Suspicion always haunts the guilty mind;

The thief do fear each bush an officer.

K. Hen. The bird, that hath been limed in a bush, [bush:

With trembling wings misdoubteth every And I, the hapless male to one sweet bird,

Have now the fatal object in my eye, Where my poor young was lim'd, was caught, and kill'd.

Glo. Why, what a peevish† fool was that of Crete,

That taught his son the office of a fowl?

And yet, for all his wings, the fool was drown'd.

K. Hen. I, Dædalus; my poor boy, Icarus Thy father, Minos, that denied our course;

The sun, that sear'd the wings of my sweet boy, Thy brother Edward; and thyself, the sea,

Whose envious gulf did swallow up his life. Ah, kill me with thy weapon, not with words!

My breast can better brook thy dagger's point, Than can my ears that tragic history.—

But wherefore dost thou come? is't for my life?

Glo. Think'st thou, I am an executioner?

K. Hen. A persecutor, I am sure, thou art; If murdering innocents be executing,

Why, then thou art an executioner?

Glo. Thy son I kill'd for his presumption.

K. Hen. Had'st thou been kill'd, when first thou didst presume,

Thou hadst not liv'd to kill a son of mine. And thus I prophesy,—that many a thousand,

Which now mistrust no parcel§ of my fear; And many an old man's sigh, and many a widow's,

And many an orphan's water-standing eye.— Men for their sons, wives for their husbands' fate,

And orphans for their parents' timeless death,— Shall rue the hour that ever thou wast born.

The owl shriek'd at thy birth, an evil sign; The night-crow cried, aboding luckless time;

Dogs howl'd, and hideous tempests shook down trees;

The raven rook'd|| her on the chimney's top, And chattering pies in dismal discords sung.

* Careless. † To misdoubt is to suspect danger, to fear.

‡ Childish. § No part of what my fears presage.

|| To rook, signified to squat down or lodge on any thing.

Thy mother felt more than a mother's pain,
And yet brought forth less than a mother's
To wit,—an indigest deformed lump, [hope ;
Not like the fruit of such a goodly tree. [born,
Teeth hadst thou in thy head, when thou wast
To signify,—thou cam'st to bite the world :
And, if the rest be true which I have heard,
Thou cam'st.—

Glo. I'll hear no more;—Die, prophet, in
thy speech; [Stabs him.
For this, amongst the rest, was I ordain'd.

K. Hen. Ay, and for much more slaughter
after this.

O God ! forgive my sins, and pardon thee !
[Dies.

Glo. What, will the aspiring blood of Lan-
caster

Sink in the ground ? I thought it would have
mounted. [death !

See, how my sword weeps for the poor king's
O, may such purple tears be always shed
From those that wish the downfall of our
house !—

If any spark of life be yet remaining,
Down, down to hell ; and say—I sent thee
thither, [Stabs him again.

I, that have neither pity, love, nor fear.—
Indeed, 'tis true, that Henry told me of ;
For I have often heard my mother say,
I came into the world with my legs forward :
Had I not reason, think ye, to make haste,
And seek their ruin that usurp'd our right ?
The midwife wonder'd ; and the women cried,
O, Jesus bless us, he is born with teeth !
And so I was ; which plainly signified—
That I should snarl, and bite, and play the
dog. [so,

Then since the heavens have shap'd my body
Let hell make crook'd my mind to answer it.
I have no brother, I am like no brother :
And this word—love, which greybeards call
divine,

Be resident in men like one another,
And not in me ; I am myself alone.— [light ;
Clarence beware ; thou keep'st me from the
But I will sort* a pitchy day for thee :
For I will buz abroad such prophecies,
That Edward shall be fearful of his life ;
And then, to purge his fear, I'll be thy death.
King Henry, and the prince his son, are gone :
Clarence, thy turn is next, and then the rest ;
Counting myself but bad, till I be best.—
I'll throw thy body in another room,
And triumph, Henry, in thy day of doom.

[Exit.

SCENE VII.—The same.—A Room in the
Palace.

King EDWARD is discovered sitting on his
Throne ; *Queen ELIZABETH* with the infant
Prince, *CLARENCE*, *GLOSTER*, *HASTINGS*, and
others, near him.

K. Edw. Once more we sit in England's
royal throne,

* Select.

Re-purchas'd with the blood of enemies.
What valiant foe-men, like to autumn's corn,
Have we mow'd down, in tops of all their
pride ?

Three dukes of Somerset, threefold renown'd
For hardy and undoubted champions :
Two Cliffords, as the father and the son,
And two Northumberlands ; two braver men
Ne'er spur'd their courses at the trumpet's
sound :

With them, the two brave bears, Warwick
and Montague,

That in their chains fetter'd the kingly lion,
And made the forest tremble when they roar'd.
Thus have we swept suspicion from our seat,
And made our footstool of security.—

Come hither, Bess, and let me kiss my boy :—
Young Ned, for thee, thine uncles, and myself,
[night ;

Have in our armours watch'd the winter's
Went all a foot in summer's scalding heat,
That thou might'st repossess the crown in
peace ;

And of our labours thou shalt reap the gain.
Glo. I'll blast his harvest, if your head were
laid ;

For yet I am not look'd on in the world.
This shoulder was ordain'd so thick, to heave ;
And heave it shall some weight, or break my
back :—

Work thou the way,—and thou shalt execute.
[Aside.

K. Edw. Clarence, and Gloster, love my
lovely queen ;

And kiss your princely nephew, brothers both.
Clar. The duty that I owe unto your majesty,
I seal upon the lips of this sweet babe.

K. Edw. Thanks, noble Clarence ; worthy
brother, thanks.

Glo. And, that I love the tree from whence
thou sprang'st,

Witness the loving kiss I give the fruit :—
To say the truth, so Judas kiss'd his
master ; } *Aside.*
And cried—all hail ! when as he meant }
—all harm.

K. Edw. Now am I seated as my soul de-
lights,

Having my country's peace, and brothers
loves.

Clar. What will your grace have done
with Margaret ?

Reignier, her father, to the king of France
Hath pawn'd the Sicils and Jerusalem,
And hither have they sent it for her ransom.

K. Edw. Away with her, and wafter hence
to France. [time

And now what rests, but that we spend the
With stately triumphs,* mirthful comic shows,
Such as befit the pleasures of the court ?—
Sound, drums and trumpets !—farewell, sour
annoy !

For here, I hope, begins our lasting joy.
[Exeunt.

* Public shows.

LIFE AND DEATH

OF

KING RICHARD III.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

KING EDWARD THE FOURTH.
EDWARD, Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward V. } Sons to the King.
RICHARD, Duke of York. }
GEORGE, Duke of Clarence, } Brothers to the King.
RICHARD, Duke of Gloster, afterwards King Richard III. }
 A young Son of Clarence.
HENRY, Earl of Richmond, afterwards King Henry VII.
CARDINAL BOUCHIER, Archbishop of Canterbury.
THOMAS ROTHERHAM, Archbishop of York.
JOHN MORTON, Bishop of Ely.
DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.
DUKE OF NORFOLK: **EARL OF SURREY**, his Son.
EARL RIVERS, Brother to King Edward's Queen:
MARQUIS OF DORSET, and **LORD GREY**, her Sons.
EARL OF OXFORD.—**LORD HASTINGS**.—**LORD STANLER**, **LORD LOVEL**.
SIR THOMAS VAUGHAN.—**SIR RICHARD RATCLIFF**.

SIR WILLIAM CATESBY.—**SIR JAMES TYREL**.
SIR JAMES BLOUNT.—**SIR WALTER HERBERT**.
SIR ROBERT BRAKENBURY, Lieutenant of the Tower.
CHRISTOPHER URSWICK, a Priest.—Another Priest.
LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.—**SHERIFF OF WILTSHIRE**.

ELIZABETH, Queen of King Edward IV.
MARGARET, Queen of King Henry VI.
DUCHESS OF YORK, Mother to King Edward IV. **CLARENCE**, and **GLOSTER**.
LADY ANNE, Widow of Edward, Prince of Wales, Son to King Henry VI.; afterwards married to the Duke of Gloster.
 A young **DAUGHTER** of Clarence.

Lords, and other Attendants; two Gentlemen, a Pursuivant, Scrivener, Citizens, Murderers, Messengers, Ghosts, Soldiers, &c.

Scene, England.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—London.—A Street.

Enter GLOSTER.

Glo. Now is the winter of our discontent
 Made glorious summer by this sun of York;
 And all the clouds, that low'r'd upon our house,
 In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.
 Now are our brows bound with victorious
 wreaths;

Our bruised arms hung up for monuments:
 Our stern alarums chang'd to merry meetings,
 Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.*
 Grim-visag'd war hath smooth'd his wrinkled
 front;

And now,—instead of mounting barbed steeds,
 To fright the souls of fearful adversaries,—
 He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber,
 To the lascivious pleasing of a lute,
 But I,—that am not shap'd for sportive tricks,
 Nor made to court an amorous looking-glass;
 I that am rudely stamp'd, and want love's
 majesty,

To strut before a wanton ambling nymph;
 I, that am curtail'd of this fair proportion,
 Cheated of feature by dissembling nature,
 Deform'd, unfinish'd, sent before my time

* Dances

† Armed.

Into this breathing world, scarce half made up,
 And that so lamely and unfashionable,
 That dogs bark at me, as I halt by them;—
 Why I, in this weak piping time of peace,
 Have no delight to pass away the time;
 Unless to spy my shadow in the sun,
 And descant on mine own deformity;
 And therefore,—since I cannot prove a lover,
 To entertain these fair well-spoken days,—
 I am determin'd to prove a villain,
 And hate the idle pleasures of these days.—
 Plots have I laid, inductions* dangerous,
 By drunken prophecies, libels, and dreams,
 To set my brother Clarence, and the king,
 In deadly hate, the one against the other:
 And, if King Edward be as true and just,
 As I am subtle, false, and treacherous,
 This day should Clarence closely be mew'd up;
 About a prophecy, which says—that G
 Of Edward's heirs the murderer shall be.
 Dive, thoughts, down to my soul! here Cla-
 rence comes.

Enter CLARENCE, guarded, and BRAKENBURY.
 Brother, good day: What means this armed
 guard,
 That waits upon your grace?

* Preparations for mischief.

Clar. His majesty,
Tendering my persons safety, hath appointed
This conduct to convey me to the Tower.

Glo. Upon what cause?

Clar. Because my name is—George.

Glo. Alack, my lord, that fault is none of
yours;

He should, for that, commit your godfathers:—

O, belike, his majesty hath some intent,
That you shall be new christen'd in the Tower.

But what's the matter, Clarence? may I know?

Clar. Yea, Richard, when I know; for I
protest,

As yet I do not: but, as I can learn,
He hearkens after prophecies, and dreams;

And from the cross-row plucks the letter G,
And says—a wizard told him, that by G

His issue disinherited should be;

And, for my name of George begins with G,
It follows in his thought, that I am he:

These, as I learn, and such like toys* as these,
Have mov'd his highness to commit me now.

Glo. Why, this it is, when men are rul'd by
women;

'Tis not the king, that sends you to the Tower;

My lady Grey, his wife, Clarence, 'tis she,
That tempers him to this extremity.

Was it not she, and that good man of worship,
Anthony Woodeville, her brother there, [er;

That made him send lord Hastings to the Tow-
From whence this present day he is deliver'd?

We are not safe, Clarence, we are not safe.

Clar. By heaven, I think, there is no man
secure, [heralds

But the queen's kindred, and night-walking
That trudge betwixt the king and mistress
Shore.

Heard you not, what an humble suppliant
Lord Hastings was to her for his delivery?

Glo. Humbly complaining to her deity
Got my lord chamberlain his liberty.

I'll tell you what,—I think, it is our way,
If we will keep in favour with the king,

To be her men, and wear her livery:

The jealous o'er worn widow, and herself,†
Since that our brother dubb'd them gentlewo-

Are mighty gossips in this monarchy. [men,

Brak. I beseech your graces both to pardon
me;

His majesty hath straitly given in charge,
That no man shall have private conference,

Of what degree soever, with his brother.

Glo. Even so? an please your worship,
Brakenbury,

You may partake of any thing we say:

We speak no treason, man;—We say, the king
Is wise, and virtuous; and his noble queen

Well struck in years; fair, and not jealous:

We say, that Shore's wife hath a pretty foot,
A cherry lip,

A bonny eye, a passing pleasing tongue;

And the queen's kindred are made gentlefolks:
How say you, Sir? can you deny all this?

Brak. With this, my lord, myself have
naught to do.

Glo. Naught to do with mistress Shore? I
tell thee, fellow,

He that doth naught with her, excepting one,
Were best to do it secretly, alone.

Brak. What one, my lord?

Glo. Her husband, knave:—Would'st thou
betray me?

Brak. I beseech your grace to pardon me;
and, withal,

Forbear your conference with the noble duke.

* Fancies.

† The Queen and Shore.

Clar. We know thy charge, Brakenbury,
and will obey.

Glo. We are the queen's objects,* and
must obey.

Brother, farewell: I will unto the king;
And whatsoever you will employ me in,—

Were it, to call king Edward's widow—sister,
I will perform it to enfranchise you.

Mean time, this deep disgrace in brotherhood,
Touches me deeper than you can imagine.

Clar. I know it pleaseth neither of us well.

Glo. Well, your imprisonment shall not be
I will deliver you, or else lie for you: [long;

Mean time, have patience.

Clar. I must perforce; farewell.

[*Exit* CLARENCE, BRAKENBURY, and
Guard.

Glo. Go, tread the path that thou shalt ne'er
return,

Simple, plain Clarence!—I do love thee so,
That I will shortly send thy soul to heaven,

If heaven will take the present at our hands.
But who comes here? the new-deliver'd Hast-
ings?

Enter HASTINGS.

Hast. Good time of day unto my gracious
lord!

Glo. As much unto my good lord chamber-
Well are you welcome to this open air. [lain!

How hath your lordship brook'd imprison-
ment?

Hast. With patience, noble lord, as prisoners
must;

But I shall live, my lord, to give them thanks,
That were the cause of my imprisonment.

Glo. No doubt, no doubt; and so shall Cla-
rence too;

For they, that were your enemies, are his,
And have prevail'd as much on him, as you.

Hast. More pity that the eagle should be
mew'd,†

While kites and buzzards prey at liberty.

Glo. What news abroad?

Hast. No news so bad abroad, as this at
home;—

The king is sickly, weak, and melancholy,
And his physicians fear him mightily.

Glo. Now, by Saint Paul, this news is bad
O, he hath kept an evil diet long, [indeed.

And over-much consum'd his royal person;
'Tis very grievous to be thought upon.

What, is he in his bed?

Hast. He is,

Glo. Go you before, and I will follow you.
[*Exit* HASTINGS.

He cannot live, I hope; and must not die,
Till George be pack'd with posthorse up to
heaven.

I'll in, to urge his hatred more to Clarence,
With lies will steel'd with weighty arguments;

And, if I fail not in my deep intent,
Clarence hath not another day to live:

Which done, God take king Edward to his
mercy,

And leave the world for me to bustle in!
For then I'll marry Warwick's youngest
daughter: [ther?

What though I kill'd her husband and her fa-
The readiest way to make the wench amends,

Is—to become her husband, and her father:
The which will I; not all so much for love,

As for another secret close intent,
By marrying her, which I must reach unto.

But yet I run before my horse to market:

* Lowest of subjects.

† Confined.

Clarence still breathes: Edward still lives,
and reigns;
When they are gone, then must I count my
gains. [Exit.]

SCENE—II.—The same.—Another Street.

Enter the corps of King HENRY the Sixth,
borne in an open coffin, Gentlemen bearing
halberets, to guard it; and Lady ANNE as
mourner.

Anne. Set down, set down your honourable
load,—

If honour may be shrouded in a hearse,—
Whilst I a while obsequiously* lament
The untimely fall of virtuous Lancaster.—
Poor key-cold figure of a holy king!
Pale ashes of the house of Lancaster!
Thou broodless remnant of that royal blood!
Be it lawful that I invoke thy ghost,
To hear the lamentations of poor Anne,
Wife to thy Edward, to thy slaughter'd son,
Stabb'd by the self-same hand that made these
wounds!

Lo, in these windows, that let forth thy life.
I pour the helpless balm of my poor eyes:—
O, cursed be the hand that made these holes!
Cursed the heart, that had the heart to do it!
Cursed the blood, that let this blood from
hence!

More direful hap betide that hated wretch,
That makes us wretched by the death of thee,
Than I can wish to adders, spiders, toads,
Or any creeping venom'd thing that lives!
If ever he have child, abortive be it,
Prodigious, and untimely brought to light,
Whose ugly and unnatural aspect
May fright the hopeful mother at the view!
And that he heir to his unhappiness!
If ever he have wife, let her be made
More miserable by the death of him, [thee!—
Than I am made by my young lord, and
Come, now, toward Chertsey with your holy
load,

Taken from Paul's to be interred there;
And, still as you are weary of the weight,
Rest you, whiles I lament king Henry's
corse.

[The Bearers take up the corpse, and advance.]

Enter GLOSTER.

Glo. Stay you, that bear the corse, and set
it down.

Anne. What black magician conjures up
this fiend,

To stop devoted charitable deeds?

Glo. Villains, set down the corse; or, by
Saint Paul,

I'll make a corse of him that disobeys.

I Gent. My lord, stand back, and let the
coffin pass.

Glo. Unmanner'd dog! stand thou when I
command:

Advance thy halbert higher than my breast,
Or, by Saint Paul, I'll strike thee to my foot,
And spurn upon thee, beggar, for thy boldness.

[The bearers set down the coffin.]

Anne. What, do you tremble? are you all
afraid?

Alas, I blame you not: for you are mortal,
And mortal eyes cannot endure the devil.—
Avaunt thou dreadful minister of hell!
Thou hadst but power over his mortal body,
His soul thou canst not have; therefore, be
gone.

* Funereal.

Glo. Sweet saint, for charity be not so curst.

Anne. Foul devil, for God's sake, hence,
and trouble us not;

For thou hast made the happy earth thy hell,
Fill'd it with cursing cries, and deep ex-
claims,

If thou delight to view thy heinous deeds,
Behold this pattern* of thy butcheries:—
O, gentlemen, see, see! dead Henry's wounds
Open their congeal'd mouths, and bleed
afresh!—

Blush, bluish, thou lump of foul deformity;
For 'tis thy presence that exhales this blood
From cold and empty veins, where no blood
dwells;

Thy deed, inhuman and unnatural,
Provokes this deluge most unnatural.—
O God, which this blood madest, revenge his
death!

O earth, which this blood drink'st, revenge his
death!

Either heaven, with lightning strike the mur-
derer dead,

Or earth, gape open wide, and eat him quick;
As thou dost swallow up this good king's
blood,

Which his hell-govern'd arm hath butchered!

Glo. Lady, you know no rules of charity,
Which renders good for bad, blessings for
curses.

Anne. Villain, thou know'st no law of God
nor man;

No beast so fierce, but knows some touch of
pity.

Glo. But I know none, and therefore am no
beast.

Anne. O wonderful, when devils tell the
truth!

Glo. More wonderful, when angels are so
angry.—

Vouchsafe, divine perfection of a woman,
Of these supposed evils, to give me leave,
By circumstance, but to acquit myself.

Anne. Vouchsafe diffus'd infection of a man,
For these known evils, but to give me leave,
By circumstance, to curse thy cursed self.

Glo. Fairer than tongue can name thee, let
me have

Some patient leisure to excuse myself.

Anne. Fouler than heart can think thee,
thou canst make

No excuse current, but to hang thyself.

Glo. By such despair, I should accuse my-
self.

Anne. And, by despairing, shalt thou stand
excus'd;

For doing worthy vengeance on thyself,
That didst unworthy slaughter upon others.

Glo. Say, that I slew them not?

Anne. Why then, they are not dead:

But dead they are, and, devilish slave, by
thee.

Glo. I did not kill your husband.

Anne. Why, then he is alive.

Glo. Nay he is dead; and slain by Ed-
ward's hand.

Anne. In thy soul's throat thou liest; queen
Margaret saw

Thy murderous faulchion smoking in his blood;
The which thou once didst bend against her
breast,

But that thy brothers beat aside the point.

Glo. I was provok'd by her slanderous
tongue, [ders.

That laid their guilt upon my guiltless shoul-

* Example.

Anne. Thou wast provoked by thy bloody mind,
That never dreamt on aught but butcheries :
Didst thou not kill this king ?
Glo. I grant ye.
Anne. Dost grant me, hedge-hog? then God grant me too.
Thou may'st be damned for that wicked deed !
O, he was gentle, mild, and virtuous.
Glo. The fitter for the King of heaven that hath him.
Anne. He is in heaven, where thou shalt never come.
Glo. Let him thank me, that help to send him thither ;
For he was fitter for that place, than earth.
Anne. And thou unfit for any place but hell.
Glo. Yes, one place else, if you will hear me name it.
Anne. Some dungeon.
Glo. Your bed-chamber.
Anne. Ill rest betide the chamber where thou liest !
Glo. So will it, madam, till I lie with you.
Anne. I hope so.
Glo. I know so.—But, gentle lady Anne,—
To leave this keen encounter of our wits,
And fall somewhat into a slower method ;—
Is not the causer of the timeless deaths
Of these Plantagenets, Henry, and Edward,
As blameful as the executioner ?
Anne. Thou wast the cause, and most accurs'd effect.
Glo. Your beauty was the cause of that effect ;
Your beauty, which did haunt me in my sleep,
To undertake the death of all the world,
So I might live one hour in your sweet bosom.
Anne. If I thought that, I tell thee, homicide,
These nails should rend that beauty from my cheeks.
Glo. These eyes would not endure that beauty's wreck,
You should not blemish it, if I stood by :
As all the world is cheered by the sun,
So I by that ; it is my day, my life.
Anne. Black night o'ershade thy day, and death thy life !
Glo. Curse not thyself, fair creature ; thou art both !
Anne. I would I were, to be reveng'd on thee.
Glo. It is a quarrel most unnatural,
To be reveng'd on him that loveth thee.
Anne. It is a quarrel just and reasonable,
To be reveng'd on him that kill'd my husband.
Glo. He that bereft thee, lady, of thy husband,
Did it to help thee to a better husband.
Anne. His better doth not breathe upon the earth.
Glo. He lives, that loves you better than he could.
Anne. Name him.
Glo. Plantagenet.
Anne. Why, that was he.
Glo. The self-same name, but one of better nature.
Anne. Where is he ?
Glo. Here : [*She spits at him.*] Why dost thou spit at me ?
Anne. 'Would it were mortal poison, for thy sake !
Glo. Never came poison from so sweet a place.
Anne. Never hung poison on a fouler toad.
Out of my sight ! thou dost infect mine eyes.

Glo. Thine eyes, sweet lady, have infected mine.
Anne. 'Would they were basilisks, to strike thee dead !
Glo. I would they were, that I might die at once ;
For now they kill me with a living death.
Those eyes of thine from mine have drawn salt tears, [*drops :*
Sham'd their aspects with store of childish
These eyes, which never shed remorseful*
tear—
Not, when my father York and Edward wept,
To hear the piteous moan that Rutland made,
When black-fac'd Clifford shook his sword at him :
Nor when thy warlike father, like a child,
Told the sad story of my father's death ;
And twenty times made pause, to sob, and weep,
That all the standers-by had wet their cheeks,
Like trees bedash'd with rain : in that sad time,
My manly eyes did scorn an humble tear ;
And what these sorrows could not thence exhale, [*weeping.*
Thy beauty hath, and made them blind with
I never su'd to friend, nor enemy ; [*word ;*
My tongue could never learn sweet soothing
But now thy beauty is propos'd my fee,
My proud heart sues, and prompts my tongue
to speak. [*She looks scornfully at him.*
Teach not thy lip such scorn ; for it was made
For kissing, lady, not for such contempt.
If thy revengeful heart cannot forgive,
Lo ! here I lend thee this sharp-pointed sword :
Which if thou please to hide in this true breast,
And let the soul forth that adareth thee,
I lay it naked to the deadly stroke,
And humbly beg the death upon my knee.
[*He lays his breast open ; she offers at it with his sword.*
Nay, do not pause ; for I did kill king Henry ;—
But 'twas thy beauty that provok'd me.
Nay, now despatch ; 'twas I that stabb'd young
Edward ;—
[*She again offers at his breast.*
But 'twas thy heavenly face that set me on.
[*She lets fall the sword.*
Take up the sword again, or take up me.
Anne. Arise, dissembler : though I wish thy
I will not be thy executioner. [*death*
Glo. Then bid me kill myself, and I will do it.
Anne. I have already.
Glo. That was in thy rage :
Speak it again, and, even with the word,
This hand, which, for thy love, did kill thy
love,
Shall, for thy love, kill a far truer love ;
To both their deaths shalt thou be accessory.
Anne. I would, I knew thy heart.
Glo. 'Tis figur'd in my tongue.
Anne. I fear me, both are false.
Glo. Then man was never true.
Anne. Well, well, put up your sword.
Glo. Say then, my peace is made.
Anne. That shall you know hereafter.
Glo. But shall I live in hope ?
Anne. All men, I hope, live so.
Glo. Vouchsafe to wear this ring.
Anne. To take, is not to give.
[*She puts on the ring.*
Glo. Look, how this ring encompasseth thy
finger,
Even so thy breast encloseth my poor heart ;

* Pitiful.

Wear both of them, for both of them are thine.
And if thy poor devoted servant may
But beg one favour at thy gracious hand,
Thou dost confirm his happiness for ever.

Anne. What is it?

Glo. That it may please you leave these sad designs

To him that hath more cause to be a mourner,
And presently repair to Crosby-place;*
Where—after I have solemnly interr'd,
At Chertsey monast'ry, this noble king,
And wet his grave with my repentant tears,—
I will with all expedient duty see you:
For divers unknown reasons, I beseech you,
Grant me this boon.

Anne. With all my heart; and much it joys me too,

To see you are become so penitent.—
Tressel, and Berkeley, go along with me.

Glo. Bid me farewell.

Anne. 'Tis more than you deserve:
But, since you teach me how to flatter you,
Imagine I have said farewell already.

[*Exeunt Lady ANNE, TRESSEL, and BERKLEY.*]

Glo. Take up the corse, Sirs.

Gent. Towards Chertsey, noble lord?

Glo. No, to White-Friars; there attend my coming.

[*Exeunt the rest, with the corse.*]

Was ever woman in this humour woo'd?

Was ever woman in this humour won?

I'll have her,—but I will not keep her long.

What! I, that kill'd her husband, and his father,

To take her in her heart's extremest hate;

With curses in her mouth, tears in her eyes,

The bleeding witness of her hatred by;

With God, her conscience, and these bars against me,

And I no friends to back my suit withal,

But the plain devil, and dissembling looks,

And yet to win her,—all the world to nothing!
Ha!

Hath she forgot already that brave prince,

Edward, her lord, whom I some three months since,

Stabb'd in my angry mood at Tewksbury?

A sweeter and a lovelier gentleman,—

Fram'd in the prodigality of nature,

Young, valiant, wise, and, no doubt, right royal,—

The spacious world cannot again afford:

And will she yet abase her eyes on me,

That cropp'd the golden prime of this sweet prince,

And made her widow to a woeful bed?

On me, whose all not equals Edward's moiety?

On me, that halt, and am mishapen thus?

My dukedom to a beggarly denier,†

I do mistake my person all this while:

Upon my life, she finds, although I cannot,

Myself to be a marvellous proper man.

I'll be at charges for a looking-glass;

And entertain a score or two of tailors,

To study fashions to adorn my body:

Since I am crept in favour with myself,

I will maintain it with some little cost.

But, first, I'll turn yon fellow in his grave;

And then return lamenting to my love.—

Shine out, fair sun, till I have bought a glass,

That I may see my shadow as I pass. [*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—*The same.*—A Room in the Palace.

Enter Queen ELIZABETH, Lord RIVERS, and Lord GREY.

Riv. Have patience, madam; there's no doubt his majesty

Will soon recover his accustom'd health.

Grey. In that you brook it ill, it makes him worse: [fort,

Therefore, for God's sake, entertain good company
And cheer his grace with quick and merry words.

Q. Eliz. If he were dead, what would betide of me?

Grey. No other harm, but loss of such a lord.

Q. Eliz. The loss of such a lord includes all harms.

Grey. The heavens have bless'd you with a goodly son,

To be your comforter, when he is gone.

Q. Eliz. Ah, he is young; and his minority

Is put into the trust of Richard Gloster,

A man that loves not me, nor none of you.

Riv. Is it concluded, he shall be protector?

Q. Eliz. It is determin'd, not concluded yet:

But so it must be, if the king miscarry.

Enter BUCKINGHAM and STANLEY.

Grey. Here comes the lords of Buckingham and Stanley.

Buck. Good time of day unto your royal grace!

Stan. God make your majesty joyful as you have been!

Q. Eliz. The countess Richmond, good my lord of Stanley.

To your good prayer will scarcely say—amen.

Yet, Stanley, notwithstanding she's your wife,
And loves not me, be you, good lord, assur'd,

I hate not you for her proud arrogance.

Stan. I do beseech you, either not believe
The envious slanders of her false accusers;

Or, if she be accus'd on true report,
Bear with her weakness, which, I think, proceeds [malice.

From wayward sickness, and no grounded

Q. Eliz. Saw you the king to-day, my lord of Stanley?

Stan. But now, the duke of Buckingham,
Are come from visiting his majesty. [and I,

Q. Eliz. What likelihood of his amendment, lords?

Buck. Madam, good hope: his grace speaks cheerfully.

Q. Eliz. God grant him health! Did you confer with him?

Buck. Ay, madam: he desires to make atonement

Between the duke of Gloster and your brothers,
And between them and my lord chamberlain;

And sent to warn* them to his presence.

Q. Eliz. Would all were well!—But that will never be;—

I fear, our happiness is at the height.

Enter GLOSTER, HASTINGS, and DORSET.

Glo. They do me wrong, and I will not endure it:—

Who are they, that complain unto the king,
That I, forsooth, am stern, and love them not?

By holy Paul, they love his grace but lightly,
That fill his ear with such dissentious rumours.

Because I cannot flatter, and speak fair,
Smile in men's faces, smooth, deceive, and cog,

* In Bishopsgate-street.

† A small French coin.

* Summon.

Duck with French nods and apish courtesy,
I must be held a rancorous enemy.

Cannot a plain man live, and think no harm,
Eut thus his simple truth must be abus'd
By silken, sly, insinuating Jacks?

Grey. To whom in all this presence speaks
your grace!

Glo. To thee, that hast nor honesty, nor
grace. [wrong?—

When have I injur'd thee? when done thee
Or thee?—or thee?—or any of your faction?

A plague upon you all? His royal grace,—
Whom God preserve better than you would
wish!

Cannot be quiet scarce a breathing-while,
But you most trouble him with lewd* com-
plaints.

Q. Eliz. Brother of Gloster, you mistake the
matter:

The king, of his own royal disposition,
And not provok'd by any suitor else;
Aiming, belike, at your interior hatred,
That in your outward action shows itself,
Against my children, brothers, and myself,
Makes him to send; that thereby he may
gather

The ground of your ill-will, and so remove it.

Glo. I cannot tell;—The world is grown so
bad,

That wrens may prey where eagles dare not
perch:

Since every Jack† became a gentleman,
There's many a gentle person made a Jack.

Q. Eliz. Come, come, we know your mean-
ing, brother Gloster;

You envy my advancement, and my friends;
God grant, we never may have need of you!

Glo. Meantime, God grants that we have
need of you:

Our brother is imprison'd by your means,
Myself disgrac'd, and the nobility;
Held in contempt; while great promotions
Are daily given, to ennoble those
That scarce, some two days since, were worth
a noble.‡

Q. Eliz. By Him, that rais'd me to this care-
ful height

From that contented hap which I enjoy'd,
I never did incense his majesty
Against the duke of Clarence, but have been
An earnest advocate to plead for him.
My lord, you do me shameful injury,
Falsely to draw me in these vile suspects.

Glo. You may deny that you were not the
cause

Of my lord Hastings' late imprisonment.

Riv. She may, my lord; for——

Glo. She may, lord Rivers?—Why, who
knows not so?

She may do more, Sir, than denying that:
She may help you to many fair preferments;
And then deny her aiding hand therein,
And lay those honours on your high desert.
What may she not? She may,—ay, marry may
she,—

Riv. What, marry, may she?

Glo. What, marry, may she? marry with a
A bachelor, a handsome stripling too: [king,
I wis,§ your grandam had a worse match.

Q. Eliz. My lord of Gloster, I have too long
borne [scoffs:

Your blunt upbraidings, and your bitter
By heaven, I will acquaint his majesty,
Of those gross taunts I often have endur'd.

I had rather be a country servant-maid,
Than a great queen, with this condition—
To be so baited, scorn'd, and storm'd at:
Small joy have I in being England's queen.

Enter Queen MARGARET, behind.

Q. Mar. And lessen'd be that small, God, I
beseech thee!

Thy honour, state, and seat, is due to me.

Glo. What? Threat you me with telling of
the king? [said

Tell him, and spare not: look, what I have
I will avouch, in presence of the king:
I dare adventure to be sent to the Tower.

'Tis time to speak, my pains* are quite forgot.

Q. Mar. Out, devil! I remember them too
well:

Thou kill'dst my husband Henry in the Tower,
And Edward, my poor son, at Tewksbury.

Glo. Ere you were queen, ay, or your hus-
band king,

I was a pack-horse in his great affairs;

A weeder-out of his proud adversaries,

A liberal rewarder of his friends;

To royalize his blood, I spilt my own.

Q. Mar. Ay, and much better blood than
his or thine.

Glo. In all which time, you, and your hus-
band Grey,

Were factious for the house of Lancaster;—

And, Rivers, so were you:—Was not your
husband

In Margaret's battle at Saint Albans slain?

Let me put in your minds, if you forget, [are:
What you have been ere now, and what you
Withal, what I have been, and what I am.

Q. Mar. A murd'rous villain, and so still
thou art.

Glo. Poor Clarence did forsake his father
Warwick,

Ay, and forswore himself,—Which Jesu par-
don!—

Q. Mar. Which God revenge!

Glo. To fight on Edward's party, for the
crown; [up:

And, for his meed,‡ poor lord, he is mew'd§
I would to God, my heart were flint like Ed-
ward's,

Or Edward's soft and pitiful like mine;

I am too childish-foolish for this world.

Q. Mar. Hie thee to hell for shame, and
leave this world,

Thou cacodæmon?|| there thy kingdom is.

Riv. My lord of Gloster, in those busy days,
Which ere you urge, to prove us enemies,

We follow'd then our lord, our lawful king;

So should we you, if you should be our king.

Glo. If I should be?—I had rather be a
pedlar;

Far be it from my heart, the thought thereof!

Q. Eliz. As little joy, my lord, as you sup-
pose, [king;

You should enjoy, were you this country's

As little joy you may suppose in me,

That I enjoy, being the queen thereof.

Q. Mar. A little joy enjoys the queen there-
of;

For I am she, and altogether joyless.

I can no longer hold me patient.— [Advancing.

Hear me, you wrangling pirates, that fall out
In sharing that which you have pill'd¶ from
me:

Which of you trembles not, that looks on me?

* Labours.

† Make royal.

‡ Reward.

§ Confined.

|| Corrupt devil.

¶ Pillaged.

† Low fellow. * Rude, ignorant. † A coin rated at 6s. 8d. § Think.

If not, that, I being queen, you bow like subjects;

Yet that, by you depos'd, you quake like rebels?—

Ah, gentle villain, do not turn away!

Glo. Foul wrinkled witch, what mak'st thou in my sight?

Q. Mar. But repetition of what thou hast marr'd;

That will I make, before I let thee go.

Glo. Wert thou not banished on pain of death?

Q. Mar. I was; but I do find more pain in banishment,

Than death can yield me here by my abode.

A husband, and a son, thou ow'st to me,—
And thou, a kingdom;—all of you, allegiance:
This sorrow that I have, by right is yours;
And all the pleasures you usurp, are mine.

Glo. The curse my noble father laid on thee,—

When thou didst crown his warlike brows with
And with thy scorns drew'st rivers from his eyes;

And then, to dry them, gav'st the duke a clout,
Steep'd in the faultless blood of pretty Rutland;—

His curses, then from bitterness of soul
Denounc'd against thee, are all fall'n upon thee;
And God, not we, hath plagu'd thy bloody deed.

Q. Eliz. So just is God, to right the innocent.

Hast. O, 'twas the foulest deed to slay that babe,

And the most merciless, that e'er was heard of.

Riv. Tyrants themselves wept when it was reported.

Dors. No man but prophesied revenge for it.

Buck. Northumberland, then present, wept to see it.

Q. Mar. What! were you snarling all, before I came,

Ready to catch each other by the throat,
And turn you all your hatred now on me?

Did York's dread curse prevail so much with heaven,

That Henry's death, my lovely Edward's death,
Their kingdom's loss, my woeful banishment,
Could all but answer for that peevish brat?

Can curses pierce the clouds, and enter heaven?—

Why, then give way, dull clouds, to my quick curses?—

Though not by war, by surfeit die your king,
As ours by murder, to make him a king!

Edward, thy son, that now is prince of Wales,
For Edward, my son, that was 'prince of Wales,

Die in his youth, by like untimely violence!

Thyself a queen, for me that was a queen,
Outlive thy glory, like my wretched self!

Long may'st thou live, to wait thy children's
And see another, as I see thee now, [loss;
Deck'd in thy rights, as thou art stall'd in mine!

Long die thy happy days before thy death;
And, after many lengthen'd hours of grief,
Die neither mother, wife nor England's queen!

Rivers,—and Dorset,—you were standers by,—
And so was thou, lord Hastings,—when my son

Was stabb'd with bloody daggers; God, I pray
That none of you may live your natural age,
But by some unlook'd accident cut off!

Glo. Have done thy charm, thou hateful wither'd hag.

Q. Mar. And leave out thee? stay, dog, for thou shalt hear me.

If heaven have any grievous plague in store,
Exceeding those that I can wish upon thee,
O, let them keep it, till thy sins be ripe,
And then hurl down their indignation
On thee, the troubler of the poor world's peace!
The worm of conscience still begnaw thy soul!

Thy friends suspect for traitors while thou
And take deep traitors for thy dearest friends!
No sleep close up that deadly eye of thine,
Unless it be while some tormenting dream
Affrights thee with a hell of ugly devils!

Thou elvish-mark'd, abortive, rooting hog!
Thou that was seal'd in thy nativity
The slave of nature, and the son of hell!

Thou slander of thy mother's heavy womb!
Thou loathed issue of thy fathers' loins!
Thou rag of honour! thou detested—

Glo. Margaret.

Q. Mar. Richard!

Glo. Ha?

Q. Mar. I call thee not.

Glo. I cry thee mercy then; for I did think,
That thou hadst call'd me, all these bitter names.

Q. Mar. Why, so I did; but look'd for no reply.

O, let me make the period to my curse.

Glo. 'Tis done by me; and ends in—Margaret.

Q. Eliz. Thus have you breath'd your curse against yourself.

Q. Mar. Poor painted queen, vain flourish of my fortune!

Why strew'st thou sugar on that bottled spi-
Whose deadly web ensnareth thee about?

Fool, fool! thou whet'st a knife to kill thyself.
The day will come, that thou shalt wish for me
To help thee curse this pois'nous bunch-back'd toad.

Hast. False-boding woman, end thy frantic curse;

Lest, to thy harm, thou move our patience.

Q. Mar. Foul shame upon you! you have all mov'd mine.

Riv. Were you well serv'd, you would be taught your duty.

Q. Mar. To serve me well, you all should do me duty,

Teach me to be your queen, and you my sub-
O, serve me well, and teach yourselves that duty.

Dor. Dispute not with her, she is lunatic.

Q. Mar. Peace, master marquis, you are malapert:

Your fire-new stamp of honour is scarce cur-
O, that your young nobility could judge,
What 'twere to lose it, and be miserable!

They that stand high, have many blast to shake them;

And, if they fall, they dash themselves to pieces.

Glo. Good counsel, marry;—learn it, learn it marquis.

Dor. It touches you, my lord, as much as me.

Glo. Ay, and much more: But I was born so high,

Our aiery; buildeth in the cedar's top,
And dallies with the wind, and scorns the sun.

Q. Mar. And turns the sun to shade;—alas alas!

Witness my son, now in the shade of death;

* Alluding to Gloucester's form and venom.

† He was just created marquis of Dorset. ‡ Nest.

Whose bright out-shining beams thy cloudy
Hath in eternal darkness folded up, [wrath
Your airy buildeth in our airy's nest:—
O God, that see'st it, do not suffer it;
As it was won with blood, lost be it so!

Buck. Peace, peace, for shame, if not for
charity.

Q. Mar. Urge neither charity nor shame to
Uncharitably with me have you dealt, [me;
And shamefully by you my hopes are butcher'd.
My charity is outrage, life my shame,—
And in my shame still live my sorrow's rage!

Buck. Have done, have done.

Q. Mar. O princely Buckingham, I kiss thy
hand,

In sign of league and amity with thee:
Now fair befall thee, and thy noble house!
Thy garments are not spotted with our blood,
Nor thou within the compass of my curse.

Buck. Nor no one here; for curses never pass
The lips of those that breathe them in the air.

Q. Mar. I'll not believe but they ascend the
sky,

And there awake God's gentle-sleeping peace.
O Buckingham, beware of yonder dog;
Look, when he fawns, he bites! and, when he
bites,

His venom tooth will rankle to the death:
Have not to do with him, beware of him;
Sin, death, and hell have set their marks on
And all their ministers attend on him. [him;

Glo. What doth she say, my lord of Buck-
ingham?

Buck. Nothing that I respect, my gracious
lord.

Q. Mar. What, dost thou scorn me for my
gentle counsel?

And sooth the devil that I warn thee from?
O, but remember this another day,
When he shall split thy very heart with sorrow?
And say, poor Margaret was a prophetess.—
Live each of you the subjects to his hate,
And he to yours, and all of you to God's!

[Exit.

Hast. My hair doth stand on end to hear
her curses.

Riv. And so doth mine; I muse,* why she's
at liberty.

Glo. I cannot blame her, by God's holy mo-
ther;

She hath had too much wrong, and I repent
My part thereof; that I have done to her.

Q. Eliz. I never did her any, to my know-
ledge.

Glo. Yet you have all the vantage† of her
I was too hot to do somebody good, [wrong.
That is too cold in thinking of it now.

Marry, as for Clarence, he is well repaid;
He is frank'd‡ up to fating for his pains;—
God pardon them that are the cause thereof!

Riv. A virtuous and a Christian-like con-
clusion,

To pray for them that hath done scath§ to us.

Glo. So do I ever, being well advis'd;—
For had I curs'd now, I had curs'd myself.

Aside.

Enter CATESBY.

Cates. Madam, his majesty doth call for
you,—

And for your grace,—and you, my noble lords.

Q. Eliz. Catesby, I come;—Lords will you
go with me?

Riv. Madam, we will attend upon your
grace. [Exeunt all but GLOSTER.

* Wonder.

† Advantage.

‡ Put in a sty.

§ Harm.

Glo. I do thee wrong, and first begin to brawl.
The secret mischiefs that I set abroad,
I lay unto the grievous charge of others.
Clarence,—whom I, indeed, have laid in dark-
I do beweepe to many simple gulls; [ness,—
Namely, to Stanley, Hastings, Buckingham;
And tell them—'tis the queen and her allies,
That stir the king against the duke my brother.
Now they believe it; and withal whet me
To be reveng'd on Rivers, Vaughan, Grey:
But then I sigh, and, with a piece of scripture,
Tell them—that God bids us do good for evil:
And thus I clothe my naked villainy
With old odd ends, stol'n forth of holy writ:
And seem a saint, when most I play the devil.

Enter two MURDERERS.

But soft, here come my executioners.—
How now, my hardy, stout resolved mates?
Are you now going to despatch this thing?

I Murd. We are, my lord; and come to have
the warrant,
That we may be admitted where he is.

Glo. Well thought upon, I have it here about
me: [Gives the Warrant.

When you have done, repair to Crosby-place.
But, Sirs, be sudden in the execution,
Withal obdurate, do not hear him plead;
For Clarence is well spoken, and, perhaps,
May move your hearts to pity, if you mark him.

I Murd. Tut, tut, my lord, we will not
stand to prate,

Talkers are no good doers; be assur'd,
We go to use our hands, and not our tongues.

Glo. Your eyes drop mill-stones, when
fools' eyes drop tears:

I like you, lads;—about your business straight;
Go, go, despatch.

I Murd. We will, my noble lord. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—The same.—A Room in the
Tower.

Enter CLARENCE AND BRAKENBURY.

Brak. Why looks your grace so heavily to-
day?

Clar. O, I have pass'd a miserable night,
So full of fearful dreams, of ugly sights,
That, as I am a Christian faithful man,
I would not spend another such a night,
Though 'twere to buy a world of happy days;
So full of dismal terror was the time.

Brak. What was your dream, my lord? I
pray you, tell me.

Clar. Methought, that I had broken from
the Tower,

And was embark'd to cross to Burgundy;
And, in my company, my brother Gloucester:
Who from my cabin tempted me to walk
Upon the hatches; thence we look'd toward
England,

And cited up a thousand heavy times,
During the wars of York and Lancaster
That had befall'n us. As we pac'd along
Upon the giddy footing of the hatches,
Methought, that Gloucester stumbled; and, in
falling,

Struck me, that thought to stay him, over-board
Into the tumbling billows of the main.

O Lord! methought, what pain it was to
drown!

What dreadful noise of water in mine ears!
What sights of ugly death within mine eyes!
Methought, I saw a thousand fearful wrecks;
A thousand men that fishes gnaw'd upon;
Wedges of gold, great anchors, heaps of pearl,
Inestimable stones, unvalued jewels,

All scatter'd in the bottom of the sea. [holes
Some lay in dead men's skulls; and, in those
Where eyes did once inhabit, there were crept
(As 'twere in scorn of eyes,) reflecting gens,
That woo'd the slimy bottom of the deep, [by.
And mock'd the dead bones that lay scatter'd
Brak. Had you such leisure in the time of
death,

To gaze upon these secrets of the deep?

Clar. Methought, I had; and often did I
strive

To yield the ghost: but still the envious flood
Kept in my soul, and would not let it forth
To seek the empty, vast, and wand'ring air;
But smother'd it within my panting bulk,*
Which almost burst to belch it in the sea.

Brak. Awak'd you not with this sore agony?

Clar. O, no, my dream was lengthen'd after
life;

O, then began the tempest to my soul!
I pass'd, methought, the melancholy flood,
With that grim ferryman which poets write of,
Unto the kingdom of perpetual night.
The first that there did greet my stranger soul,
Was my great father-in-law, renowned War-
wick,

Who cried aloud,—*What scourge for perjury
Can this dark monarchy afford false Clarence?*
And so he vanish'd: Then came wand'ring by
A shadow like an angel, with bright hair
Dabbled in blood; and he shriek'd out aloud,—
*Clarence is come,—false, fleeing, perjurd Cla-
rence,—*

*That stab'd me in the field by Tewksbury—
Seize on him, furies, take him to your torments!*
With that, methought, a legion of foul fiends
Environ'd me, and howled in mine ears
Such hideous cries, that, with the very noise,
I trembling wak'd, and, for a season after,
Could not believe but that I was in hell;
Such terrible impression made my dream.

Brak. No marvel, lord, though it affrighted
you!

I am afraid, methinks, to hear you tell it.

Clar. O, Brakenbury, I have done these
things—

That now give evidence against my soul,—
For Edward's sake; and, see, how he requites
me!

[thee,
O God! if my deep prayers cannot appease
But thou wilt be aveng'd on my misdeeds,
Yet execute thy wrath on me alone: [dren!—
O, spare my guiltless wife, and my poor chil-
I pray thee, gentle keeper, stay by me;
My soul is heavy, and I fain would sleep.

Brak. I will, my lord; God give your grace
good rest!—

[CLARENCE *reposes himself on a Chair.*
Sorrow breaks seasons, and reposing hours
Makes the night morning, and the noon-tide
night.

Princes have but their titles for their glories,
An outward honour for an inward toil;
And, for unfelt imaginations,
They often feel a world of restless cares:
So that, between their titles, and low name,
There's nothing differs but the outward fame.

Enter the two MURDERERS.

1 Murd. Ho! who's here?

Brak. What would'st thou, fellow? and how
cam'st thou hither?

1 Murd. I would speak with Clarence, and
I came hither on my legs.

Brak. What, so brief?

* Body.

2 Murd. O, Sir, 'twere better to be brief
than tedious:—

Let him see our commission; talk no more.

[*A paper is delivered to BRAKENBURY,
who reads it.*

Brak. I am, in this, commanded to deliver
The noble duke of Clarence to your hands:—
I will not reason what is meant thereby,
Because I will be guiltless of the meaning.
Here are the keys;—there sits the duke asleep:
I'll to the king; and signify to him,
That thus to you I have resigned my charge.

1 Murd. You may, Sir; 'tis a point of wis-
dom:

Fare you well. [Exit BRAKENBURY.

2 Murd. What, shall we stab him as he
sleeps?

1 Murd. No; he'll say, 'twas done cowardly,
when he wakes.

2 Murd. When he wakes! why, fool, he shall
never wake until the great judgment day.

1 Murd. Why, then he'll say, we stabb'd him
sleeping.

2 Murd. The urging of that word, judg-
ment, hath bred a kind of remorse in me.

1 Murd. What? art thou afraid?

2 Murd. Not to kill him, having a warrant
for it; but to be damn'd for killing him, from
the which no warrant can defend me.

1 Murd. I thought, thou had'st been resolute.

2 Murd. So I am, to let him live.

1 Murd. I'll back to the duke of Gloster and
tell him so.

2 Murd. Nay, I pry'thce, stay a little: I
hope, this holy humour of mine will change; it
was want to hold me but while one would tell
twenty.

1 Murd. How dost thou feel thyself now?

2 Murd. 'Faith some certain dregs of con-
science are yet within me.

1 Murd. Remember our reward when the
deed's done.

2 Murd. Come, he dies; I had forgot the re-
ward.

1 Murd. Where's thy conscience now?

2 Murd. In the duke of Gloster's purse.

1 Murd. So when he opens his purse to give
us our reward, thy conscience flies out.

2 Murd. 'Tis no matter; let it go; there's
few, or none, will entertain it.

1 Murd. What, if it come to thee again?

2 Murd. I'll not meddle with it, it is a dan-
gerous thing, it makes a man a coward; a man
cannot steal, but it accuseth him; a man can-
not swear, but it checks him; a man cannot lie
with his neighbour's wife, but it detects him:
'Tis a blushing shame-fac'd spirit, that muti-
nies in a man's bosom; it fills one full of obsta-
cles: it made me once restore a purse of gold,
that by chance I found; it beggars any man
that keeps it: it is turned out of all towns and
cities for a dangerous thing; and every man
that means to live well, endeavours to trust to
himself, and live without it.

1 Murd. 'Zounds, it is even now at my el-
bow, persuading me not to kill the duke.

2 Murd. Take the devil in thy mind, and be-
lieve him not: he would insinuate with thee,
but to make thee sigh!

1 Murd. I am strong-fram'd, he cannot pre-
vail with me.

2 Murd. Spoke like a tall* fellow, that re-
spect's his reputation. Come shall we fall to
work?

1 Murd. Take him over the costard† with the

* Brave.

† Head

hilts of thy sword, and then throw him into the malmsey-butt, in the next room.

2 *Murd.* O excellent device! and make a sop of him.

1 *Murd.* Soft! he wakes.

2 *Murd.* Strike.

1 *Murd.* No we'll reason with him.

Clar. Where art thou, keeper? give me a cup of wine.

1 *Murd.* You shall have wine enough, my lord, anon.

Clar. In God's name, what art thou?

1 *Murd.* A man, as you are.

Clar. But not, as I am, royal.

1 *Murd.* Nor you, as we are, loyal.

Clar. Thy voice is thunder, but thy looks are humble.

1 *Murd.* My voice is now the king's, my looks mine own.

Clar. How darkly, and how deadly dost thou speak!

Your eyes do menace me: Why look you pale? Who sent you hither? Wherefore do you come?

Both *Murd.* To, to, to,——

Clar. To murder me?

Both *Murd.* Ay, ay.

Clar. You scarcely have the hearts to tell me so,

And therefore cannot have the hearts to do it. Wherein, my friends, have I offended you?

1 *Murd.* Offended us you have not, but the king.

Clar. I shall be reconciled to him again.

2 *Murd.* Never, my lord; therefore prepare to die.

Clar. Are you call'd forth from out a world of men,

To slay the innocent? What is my offence?

Where is the evidence that doth accuse me?

What lawful quest* hath given their verdict up

Unto the frowning judge? or who pronounc'd The bitter sentence of poor Clarence' death?

Before I be convict by course of law,

To threaten me with death is most unlawful.

I charge you, as you hope for any goodness,

By Christ's dear blood shed for our grievous sins,

That thou depart, and lay no hands on me;

The deed you undertake is damnable.

1 *Murd.* What we will do, we do upon command.

2 *Murd.* And he that hath commanded is our king.

Clar. Erronous vassal! the great king of kings

Hath in the table of his law commanded,

That thou shalt do no murder; Wilt thou then Spurn at his edict, and fulfill a man's?

Take heed; for he holds vengeance in his hand, To hurl upon their heads that break his law.

2 *Murd.* And that same vengeance doth he hurl on thee,

For false forswearing, and for murder too:

Thou didst receive the sacrament, to fight In quarrell of the house of Lancaster.

1 *Murd.* And, like a traitor to the name of God,

Didst thou break that vow; and with thy treacherous blade,

Unrip'dst the bowels of thy sovereign's son.

2 *Murd.* Whom thou wast sworn to cherish and defend.

1 *Murd.* How canst thou urge God's dreadful law to us,

When thou hast broke it in such dear degree?

Clar. Alas! for whose sake did I that ill deed?

For Edward, for my brother, for his sake:

He sends you not to murder me for this;

For in that sin he is as deep as I.

If God will be avenged for the deed,

O, know you, that he doth it publicly;

Take not the quarrel from his powerful arm;

He needs no indirect nor lawless course,

To cut off those that have offended him.

1 *Murd.* Who made thee then a bloody minister,

When gallantly springing, brave Plantagenet,

That princely novice,* was struck dead by thee?

Clar. My brother's love, the devil, and my rage.

1 *Murd.* Thy brother's love, our duty, and thy fault,

Provoke us hither now to slaughter thee.

Clar. If you do love my brother, hate not me;

I am his brother, and I love him well.

If you are hir'd for meed,† go back again,

And I will send you to my brother Gloster;

Who shall reward you better for my life,

Than Edward will for tidings of my death.

2 *Murd.* You are deceiv'd, your brother Gloster hates you.

Clar. O, no; he loves me, and he holds me dear:

Go you to him from me.

Both *Murd.* Ay, so we will.

Clar. Tell him, when that our princely father York

Bless'd his three sons with his victorious arm,

And charg'd us from his soul to love each other,

He little thought of this divided friendship:

Bid Gloster think on this, and he will weep.

1 *Murd.* Ay, mill-stones; as he lesson'd us to weep.

Clar. O, do not slander him, for he is kind.

1 *Murd.* Right, as snow in harvest.—Come, you deceive yourself;

'Tis he that sends us to destroy you here.

Clar. It cannot be; for he bewept my fortune, [sobs,

And hugg'd me in his arms, and swore, with That he would labour my delivery.

1 *Murd.* Why so he doth, when he delivers you [ven.

From this earth's thralldom to the joys of heaven.

2 *Murd.* Make peace with God, for you must die, my lord.

Clar. Hast thou that holy feeling in thy soul,

To counsel me to make my peace with God,

And art thou yet to thy own soul so blind,

That thou wilt war with God, by murdering me?—

Ah, Sirs, consider, he, that sent you on

To do this deed, will hate you for the deed.

2 *Murd.* What shall we do?

Clar. Relent, and save your souls.

1 *Murd.* Relent! 'tis cowardly, and womanish.

Clar. Not to relent, is beastly, savage, devilish.—

Which of you, if you were a prince's son,

Being pent from liberty, as I am now,—

If two such murderers as yourselves came to you,—

* Inquest jury.

† On the part.

* Youth.

† Reward.

‡ Shut up.

Would not entreat for life?—

My friend, I spy some pity in thy looks;
O, if thine eye be not a flatterer,
Come thou on my side, and entreat for me,
As you would beg, were you in my distress.
A begging prince what beggar pities not?

2 *Murd.* Look behind you, my lord.

1 *Murd.* Take that, and that; if all this will
not do, [Stabs him.]

I'll drown you in the malmsey-butt within.

[Exit, with the body.]

2 *Murd.* A bloody deed, and desperately
despatch'd!

How fain, like Pilate, would I wash my hands
Of this most grievous guilty murder done!

Re-enter first MURDERER.

1 *Murd.* How now? what mean'st thou,
that thou help'st me not?

By heaven, the duke shall know how slack
you have been.

2 *Murd.* I would he knew, that I had
sav'd his brother!

Take thou the fee, and tell him what I say;
For I repent me that the duke is slain. [Exit.]

1 *Murd.* So do not I; go, coward, as thou
Well, I'll go hide the body in some hole, [art.—
Till that the duke give order for his burial:
And when I have my meed, I will away;
For this will out, and then I must not stay.

[Exit.]

ACT II.

SCENE I.—The same.—A Room in the Palace.

Enter King EDWARD, (led in sick,) Queen
ELIZABETH, DORSET, RIVERS, HASTINGS,
BUCKINGHAM, GREY, and others.

K. Edw. Why so:—now have I done a
good day's work;—

You peers, continue this united league:

I every day expect an embassy

From my Redeemer to redeem me hence;

And more in peace my soul shall part to hea-
ven,

Since I have made my friends at peace on earth.
Rivers, and Hastings, take each other's hand;
Dissemble not your hatred, swear your love.

River. By heaven, my soul is purg'd from
grudging hate;

And with my hand I seal my true heart's love.

Hast. So thrive I, as I truly swear the like!

K. Edw. Take heed, you dally not before
your king;

Lest he, that is the supreme King of kings,

Confound your hidden falsehood, and award
Either of you to be the other's end.

Hast. So prosper I, as I swear perfect love!

Riv. And I, as I love Hastings with my
heart!

K. Edw. Madam, yourself are not exempt
in this,—

Nor your son Dorset,—Buckingham, nor you;
You have been factious one against the other.

Wife, love lord Hastings, let him kiss your
hand;

And what you do, do it unfeignedly.

Q. Eliz. There, Hastings;—I will never
more remember

Our former hatred, So thrive I, and mine!

K. Edw. Dorset, embrace him,—Hastings,
love lord marquis.

Dor. This interchange of love, I here protest,
Upon my part shall be inviolable.

Hast. And so swear I. [Embraces DORSET.]

K. Edw. Now, princely Buckingham, seal
thou this league

With thy embracements to my wife's allies,
And make me happy in your unity.

Buck. Whenever Buckingham doth turn
his hate

Upon your grace, [To the QUEEN.] but with all
duteous love

Doth cherish you, and yours, God punish me
With hate in those where I expect most love!

When I have most need to employ a friend,
And most assured that he is a friend,

Deep, hollow, treacherous, and full of guile,
Be he unto me! this do I beg of heaven,

When I am cold in love, to you, or yours.

[Embracing, RIVERS, &c.]

K. Edw. A pleasing cordial, princely Buck-
ingham,

Is this thy vow unto my sickly heart.

There wanteth now our brother Gloster here,
To make the blessed period of this peace.

Buck. And, in good time, here comes the noble
duke.

Enter GLOSTER.

Glo. Good-morrow to my sovereign king,
and queen;

And, princely peers, a happy time of day!

K. Edw. Happy, indeed, as we have spent
the day:—

Brother, we have done deeds of charity;

Made peace of enmity, fair love of hate,

Between these swelling wrong-incensed peers.
Glo. A blessed labour, my most sovereign

liege.—

Among this princely heap, if any here,

By false intelligence, or wrong surmise,

Hold me a foe;

If I unwittingly, or in my rage,

Have aught committed that is hardly borne

By any in this presence, I desire

To reconcile me to his friendly peace:

'Tis death to me, to be at enmity;

I hate it, and desire all good men's love.—

First, madam, I entreat true peace of you,

Which I will purchase with my duteous service;

Of you, my noble cousin Buckingham,

If ever any grudge were lodg'd between us;—

Of you, lord Rivers,—and lord Grey, of you,—

That all without desert have frown'd on me;—

Dukes, earls, lords, gentlemen; indeed of all.

I do not know that Englishman alive,

With whom my soul is any jot at odds,

More than the infant that is born to night;

I thank my God for my humility.

Q. Eliz. A holy day shall this be kept here-
after:—

I would to God, all strifes were well compound-
ed.—

My sovereign lord, I do beseech your highness
To take our brother Clarence to your grace.

Glo. Why, madam, have I offer'd love for
this,

To be so flouted in this royal presence?

Who knows not, that the gentle duke is dead?

[They all start.]

You do him injury to scorn his corpse.

K. Edw. Who knows not he is dead! who
knows he is?

Q. Eliz. All-seeing heaven, what a world is
this?

Buck. Look I so pale, lord Dorset as the
rest?

Dor. Ay, my good lord: and no man in the
presence,

But his red colour hath forsook his cheeks.

K. Edw. Is Clarence dead? the order was
revers'd.

Glo. But he, poor man, by your first order
And that a winged Mercury did bear; [died,
Some tardy cripple bore the countermand,
That came too lag to see him buried:—
God grant, that some, less noble, and less loyal,
Nearer in bloody thoughts, and not in blood,
Deserve not worse than wretched Clarence did,
And yet go current from suspicion.

Enter STANLEY.

Stan. A boon my sovereign, for my service
done!

K. Edw. I pr'ythee, peace, my soul is full
of sorrow.

Stan. I will not rise, unless your highness
hear me.

K. Edw. Then say at once, what is it thou
request'st.

Stan. The forfeit, sovereign, of my servant's
Who slew to-day a riotous gentleman, [life;
Lately attendant on the duke of Norfolk.

K. Edw. Have I a tongue to doom my brother's
death.

And shall that tongue give pardon to a slave?
My brother kill'd no man, his fault was thought,
And yet his punishment was bitter death.

Who sued to me for him? who, in my wrath,
Kneel'd at my feet, and bade me be advis'd?
Who spoke of brotherhood? who spoke of love?

Who told me, how the poor soul did forsake
The mighty Warwick, and did fight for me?

Who told me, in the field at Tewksbury,
When Oxford had me down, he rescued me,
And said, *Dear brother, live, and be a king?*

Who told me, when we both lay in the field,
Frozen almost to death, how did he lap me
Even in his garments; and did give himself,
All thin and naked, to the numb-cold night?

All this from my remembrance brutish wrath
Sinfully pluck'd, and not a man of you
Had so much grace to put it in my mind.

But when your carters, or your waiting-vassals,
Have done a drunken slaughter, and defac'd
The precious image of our dear Redeemer,
You straight are on your knees for pardon,
pardon;

And I, unjustly too, must grant it you:—
But for my brother, not a man would speak,—
Nor I (ungracious) speak unto myself

For him, poor soul.—The proudest of you all
Have been beholden to him in his life;
Yet none of you would once plead for his life.—
O God! I fear, thy justice will take hold
On me, and you, and mine, and yours, for
this.—

Come, Hastings, help me to my closet. O,
Poor Clarence!

[*Exit* KING, QUEEN, HASTINGS, RIVERS,
DORSET, and GREY.

Glo. This is the fruit of rashness!—Mark'd you
not,

How that the guilty kindred of the queen
Look'd pale, when they did hear of Clarence'
death?

O! they did urge it still unto the king:
God will revenge it. Come, lords; will you go,
To comfort Edward with our company?

Buck. We wait upon your grace. [*Exit*].

SCENE II.—*The same.*

*Enter the Duchess of YORK, with a SON, and
DAUGHTER of Clarence.*

Son. Good grandam, tell us, is our father
dead?

Duch. No, boy.

Son. Good grandam, tell us, is our father
dead?

Duch. No, boy.

Son. Good grandam, tell us, is our father
dead?

Duch. No, boy.

Son. Good grandam, tell us, is our father
dead?

Duch. No, boy.

Son. Good grandam, tell us, is our father
dead?

Daugh. Why do you weep so oft? and
beat your breast;

And cry—*O Clarence, my unhappy son!*

Son. Why do you look on us, and shake
your head,

And calls us—orphans, wretches, cast-aways,
If that our noble father be alive?

Duch. My pretty cousins, you mistake me
I do lament the sickness of the king, [both;
As loath to lose him, not your father's death,
It were lost sorrow, to wail one that's lost.

Son. Then, grandam, you conclude that he
is dead.

The king my uncle is to blame for this;
God will revenge it; whom I will importune
With earnest prayers all to that effect.

Daugh. And so will I.

Duch. Peace, children, peace! the king
doth love you well:

Incapable* and shallow innocents, [death,
You cannot guess who caus'd your father's

Son. Grandam, we can; for my good uncle
Gloster

Told me, the king, provok'd to't by the queen,
Devis'd impeachments to imprison him:

And when my uncle told me so, he wept,
And pitied me, and kindly kiss'd my cheek;

Bade me rely on him, as on my father,
And he would love me dearly as his child.

Duch. Ah, that deceit should steal such gentle
shapes,

And with a virtuous visor hide deep vice!
He is my son, ay, and therein my shame,
Yet from my dugs he drew not this deceit.

Son. Think you, my uncle did dissemble,
grandam?

Duch. Ay, boy.

Son. I cannot think it. Hark! what noise
is this!

*Enter Queen ELIZABETH distractedly; RIVERS,
and DORSET, following her.*

Q. Eliz. Ah! who shall hinder me to wail
and weep?

To chide my fortune, and torment myself?
I'll join with black despair against my soul,
And to myself become an enemy.

Duch. What means this scene of rude impa-
tience?

Q. Eliz. To make an act of tragic violence;—
Edward, my lord, thy son, our king, is dead.

Why grow the branches, when the root is gone?
Why wither not the leaves, that want their
sap?

If you will live, lament; if die, be brief.
That our swift-wing'd souls may catch the
king's;

Or, like obedient subjects, follow him
To his new kingdom of perpetual rest.

Duch. Ah, so much interest have I in thy
sorrow.

As I had title in thy noble husband!
I have bewept a worthy husband's death,
And liv'd by looking on his images:

But now two mirrors of his princely semblance
Are crack'd in pieces by malignant death;

And I for comfort have but one false glass,
That grieves me when I see my shame in him.

Thou art a widow; yet thou art a mother,
And hast the comfort of thy children left thee:

But death hath snatch'd my husband from my
arms, [hands,

And pluck'd two crutches from my feeble
Clarence, and Edward. O, what cause have I,

* Ignorant.

(Thine being but a moiety of my grief.

To over-go thy plaints, and drown thy cries!

Son. Ah, aunt! you wept not for our father's death;

How can we aid you with our kindred tears?

Daugh. Our fatherless distress was left unmoan'd,

Your widow-dolour likewise be unwept!

Q. Eliz. Give me no help in lamentation,

I am not barren to bring forth laments:

All springs reduce their currents to mine eyes,

That I, being govern'd by the watery moon,

May send forth plenteous tears to drown the world!

[ward!

Ah, for my husband, for my dear lord Ed-

Chil. Ah, for our father, for our dear lord Clarence!

Duch. Alas, for both, both mine, Edward and Clarence!

Q. Eliz. What stay had I, but Edward? and he's gone.

Chil. What stay had we, but Clarence? and he's gone.

Duch. What stays had I, but they? and they are gone.

Q. Eliz. Was never widow, had so dear a loss.

Chil. Were never orphans, had so dear a loss.

Duch. Was never mother had so dear a loss.

Alas! I am the mother of these griefs;

Their woes are parcell'd,* mine are general.

She for an Edward weeps, and so do I;

I for a Clarence weep, so doth not she:

These babes for Clarence weep, and so do I:

I for an Edward weep, so do not they;

Alas! you three, on me, threefold distress'd,

Pour all your tears, I am your sorrow's nurse.

And I will pamper it with lamentations.

Dor. Comfort, dear mother; God is much displeas'd,

That you take with unthankfulness his doing;

In common worldly things, 'tis call'd—un-

grateful,

With dull unwillingness to repay a debt,

Which with a bounteous hand was kindly lent;

Much more to be thus opposite with heaven,

For it requires the royal debt it lent you.

Riv. Madam, bethink you, like a careful mother,

Of the young prince your son: send straight for him,

Lethim be crown'd; in him your comfort lives;

Drown desperate sorrow in dead Edward's grave.

And plant your joys in living Edward's throne.

Enter GLOSTER, BUCKINGHAM, STANLEY, HASTINGS, RATCLIFF, and others.

Glo. Sister, have comfort: all of us have cause

To wail the dimming of our shining star;

But none can cure their harms by wailing them.—

Madam, my mother, I do cry you mercy, I did not see your grace:—Humbly on my knee I crave your blessing.

Duch. God bless thee; and put meekness in thy breast,

Love, charity, obedience, and true duty!

Glo. Amen; and make me die a good old man!—

That is the butt-end of a mother's blessing;

[*Aside.*

I marvel, that her grace did leave it out.

* Divided.

Buck. You cloudy princes, and heart sorrowing peers,

That bear this mutual heavy load of moan,

Now cheer each other in each other's love:

Though we have spent our harvest of this king,

We are to reap the harvest of his son.

The broken rancour of your high-sworn hearts,

But lately splinted, knit, and join'd together,

Must gently be preserv'd, cherish'd and kept:

Me seemeth good, that, with some little train,

Forthwith from Ludlow the young prince be

fetch'd

Hither to London, to be crown'd our king.

Riv. Why with some little train, my lord of Buckingham?

Buck. Marry, my lord, lest, by a multitude,

The new-heal'd wound of malice should break out;

Which would be so much the more dangerous,

By how much the estate is green, and yet un-

govern'd;

Where every horse bears his commanding rein,

And may direct his course as please himself,

As well the fear of harm, as harm apparent,

In my opinion, ought to be prevented.

Glo. I hope, the king made peace with all of us;

And the compact is firm, and true, in me.

Riv. And so in me; and so, I think, in all:

Yet, since it is but green, it should be put

To no apparent likelihood of breach, [urged:

Which, haply, by much company might be

Therefore I say, with noble Buckingham,

That it is meet so few should fetch the prince.

Hast. And so say I.

Glo. Then be it so; and go we to determine

Who they shall be that straight shall post to Ludlow.

Madam,—and you my mother,—will you go

To give your censures* in this weighty business?

[*Exeunt all but BUCKINGHAM and GLOSTER.*

Buck. My lord, whoever journeys to the prince,

For God's sake, let not us two stay at home:

For, by the way, I'll sort occasion,

As index† to the story we late talk'd of,

To part the queen's proud kindred from the prince.

Glo. My other self, my counsel's consistory,

My oracle, my prophet!—My dear cousin, I, as a child, will go by thy direction.

Towards Ludlow then, for we'll not stay behind. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—*The same.—A Street.*

Enter two CITIZENS, meeting.

1 *Cit.* Good morrow, neighbour: Whither away so fast?

2 *Cit.* I promise you, I scarcely know myself:

Hear you the news abroad?

1 *Cit.* Yes; the king's dead.

2 *Cit.* Ill news, by'r lady; seldom comes the better:

I fear, I fear, 'twill prove a giddy world.

Enter another CITIZEN.

3 *Cit.* Neighbours, God speed!

1 *Cit.* Give you good morrow, Sir.

3 *Cit.* Doth the news hold of good king Edward's death?

2 *Cit.* Ay, Sir, it is too true; God help, the while!

† Opinion.

* Preparatory.

3 *Cit.* Then, masters, look to see a troublous world.

1 *Cit.* No, no; by God's good grace, his son shall reign.

3 *Cit.* Woe to that land, that's govern'd by a child!

2 *Cit.* In him there is a hope of government; That, in his nonage,* council under him, And, in his full and ripen'd years, himself, No doubt, shall then, and till then, govern well.

1 *Cit.* So stood the state, when Henry the sixth

Was crown'd in Paris but at nine months old.

3 *Cit.* Stood the state so? no, no, good friends, God wot;†

For then this land was famously enrich'd With politic grave counsel; then the king Had virtuous uncles to protect his grace.

1 *Cit.* Why, so hath this, both by his father and mother.

3 *Cit.* Better it were they all came by his father;

Or, by his father, there were none at all: For emulation now, who shall be nearest, Will touch us all too near, if God prevent not. O, full of danger is the duke of Gloster; And the queen's sons, and brothers, haught and proud:

And were they to be rul'd, and not to rule, This sickly land might solace as before.

1 *Cit.* Come, come, we fear the worst; all will be well.

3 *Cit.* When clouds are seen, wise men put on their cloaks;

When great leaves fall, then winter is at hand; When the sun sets, who doth not look for night?

Untimely storms make men expect a dearth: All may be well; but, if God sort it so, 'Tis more than we deserve, or I expect. [Fear:

2 *Cit.* Truly, the hearts of men are full of You cannot reason‡ almost with a man That looks not heavily, and I full of dread.

3 *Cit.* Before the days of change, still is it so: By a divine instinct, men's minds mistrust Ensuing danger; as, by proof we see The water swell before a boist'rous storm. But leave it all to God. Whither away?

2 *Cit.* Marry, we were sent for to the justices.

3 *Cit.* And so was I; I'll bear you company. [Exit.

SCENE IV.—The same.—A Room in the Palace.

Enter the Archbishop of York, the young Duke of York, Queen ELIZABETH, and the Duchess of York.

Arch. Last night, I heard, they lay at Stony-Stratford;

And at Northampton they do rest to-night; To-morrow, or next day, they will be here.

Duch. I long with all my heart to see the prince;

I hope, he is much grown since last I saw him.

Q. Eliz. But I hear, no; they say, my son of York

Hath almost overta'en him in his growth.

York. Ay, mother, but I would not have it so.

Duch. Why, my young cousin; it is good to grow.

York. Grandam, one night, as we did sit at supper,

My uncle Rivers talk'd how I did grow More than my brother; Ay, quoth my uncle Gloster,

Small herbs have grace, great weeds do grow apace:

And since, methinks, I would not grow so fast, Because sweet flowers are slow, and weeds make haste.

Duch. 'Good faith, 'good faith, the saying did not hold

In him that did object the same to thee:

He was the wretched'st thing, when he was young,

So long a growing and so leisurely, [cious. That, if his rule were true, he should be gracious.

Arch. And so, no doubt, he is, my gracious madam.

Duch. I hope, he is; but yet let mothers doubt.

York. Now, by my troth, if I had been remember'd,

I could have given my uncle's grace a flout. To touch his growth, nearer than he touch'd mine.

Duch. How, my young York? I pry'thee, let me hear it.

York. Marry, they say, my uncle grew so fast,

That he could gnaw a-crust at two hours old; 'Twas full two years ere I could get a tooth.

Grandam, this would have been a biting jest.

Duch. I pry'thee, pretty York, who told thee this?

York. Grandam, his nurse.

Duch. His nurse? why, she was dead ere thou wast born.

York. If 'twere not she, I cannot tell who told me.

Q. Eliz. A parlous* boy: Go to, you are too shrewd.

Arch. Good madam, be not angry with the child.

Q. Eliz. Pitchers have ears.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Arch. Here comes a messenger; What news?

Mess. Such news, my lord, As grieves me to unfold.

Q. Eliz. How doth the prince?

Mess. Well, madam, and in health.

Duch. What is thy news?

Mess. Lord Rivers, and lord Grey, are sent to Pomfret,

With them Sir Thomas Vaughan, prisoners.

Duch. Who hath committed them?

Mess. The mighty dukes, Gloster and Buckingham.

Q. Eliz. For what offence?

Mess. The sum of all I can, I have disclos'd; Why, or for what, the nobles were committed, Is all unknown to me, my gracious lady.

Q. Eliz. Ah me, I see the ruin of my house! The tiger now hath seiz'd the gentle hind; Insulting tyranny begins to jut

Upon the innocent and awless throne:— Welcome, destruction, blood, and massacre!

I see, as in a map, the end of all.

Duch. Accurs'd and unquiet wrangling days! How many of you have mine eyes beheld?

My husband lost his life to get the crown; And often up and down my sons were tost,

For me to joy, and weep, their gain, and loss: And being seated, and domestic broils

Clean over-blown themselves, the conquerors Make war upon themselves; brother to brother

* Minority. † Knows. ‡ Converse.

* Perilous, dangerous.

Blood to blood, self 'gainst self:—O, preposterous

And frantic courage, end thy damned spleen; Or let me die, to look on death no more!

Q. Eliz. Come, come, my boy, we will to sanctuary,—

Madam, farewell.

Duch. Stay, I will go with you.

Q. Eliz. You have no cause.

Arch. My gracious lady, go, [To the QUEEN. And thither bear your treasure and your goods. For my part, I'll resign unto your grace The seal I keep; And so betide to me, As well I tender you, and all of yours! Come, I'll conduct you to the sanctuary.]

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT III.

SCENE I.—The same.—A Street.

The trumpet sound. Enter the Prince of WALES, GLOSTER, BUCKINGHAM, Cardinal BOUCHIER, and others.

Buck. Welcome, sweet prince, to London, to your chamber.

Glo. Welcome, dear cousin, my thoughts' sovereign:

The weary way hath made you melancholy.

Prince. No, uncle; but our crosses on the way

Have made it tedious, wearisome, and heavy: I want more uncles here to welcome me.

Glo. Sweet prince, the untainted virtue of your years,

Have not yet div'd into the world's deceit: No more can you distinguish of a man, Than of his outward show; which, God he knows,

Seldom, or never, jumpeth with the heart. Those uncles, which you want, were dangerous;

Your grace attended to the sugar'd words, But look'd not on the poison of their hearts: God keep you from them, and from such false friends!

Prince. God keep me from false friends! but they were none.

Glo. My lord, the mayor of London comes to greet you.

Enter the Lord MAYOR, and his Train.

May. God bless your grace with health and happy days!

Prince. I thank you, good my lord;—and thank you all.—[*Exeunt* MAYOR, &c.]

I thought my mother, and my brother York, Would long ere this have met us on the way: Fie, what a slug is Hastings! that he comes not

To tell us, whether they will come, or no.

Enter HASTINGS.

Buck. And in good time, here comes the sweating lord.

Prince. Welcome, my lord: What, will our mother come?

Hast. On what occasion, God he knows, not I.

The queen your mother, and your brother York, Have taken sanctuary: The tender prince Would fain have come with me to meet your grace,

But by his mother was perforce withheld.

Buck. Fie! what an indirect and peevish course

Is this of hers?—Lord cardinal, will your grace

Persuade the queen to send the duke of York Unto his princely brother presently?

If she deny,—lord Hastings, go with him, And from her jealous arms pluck him perforce.

Card. My lord of Buckingham, if my weak oratory

Can from his mother win the duke of York, Anou expect him here: But if she be obdurate To mild entreaties, God in heaven forbid We should infringe the holy privilege Of blessed sanctuary! not for all this land, Would I be guilty of so deep a sin.

Buck. You are too senseless-obstinate, my Too ceremonious, and traditional: [lord, Weigh it but with the grossness of this age, You break not sanctuary in seizing him.

The benefit thereof is always granted [place, To those whose dealings have deserv'd the And those who have the wit to claim the place: This prince hath neither claim'd it, nor deserv'd it;

And therefore, in mine opinion, cannot have it: Then, taking him from thence, that is not there,

You break no privilege nor charter there.

Of have I heard of sanctuary men; But sanctuary children, ne'er till now.

Card. My lord, you shall o'er-rule my mind for once.—

Come on, lord Hastings, will you go with me?

Hast. I go, my lord.

Prince. Good lords, make all the speedy haste you may.

[*Exeunt* CARDINAL and HASTINGS. Say, uncle Gloster, if our brother come,

Where shall we sojourn till our coronation?

Glo. Where it seems best unto your royal self.

If I may counsel you, some day, or two, Your highness shall repose you at the Tower: Then where you please, and shall be thought most fit

For your best health and recreation.

Prince. I do not like the Tower, of any place:—

Did Julius Cæsar build that place, my lord?

Glo. He did, my gracious lord, begin that place;

Which, since, succeeding ages have re-edified.

Prince. Is it upon record? or else reported Successfully from age to age he built it?

Buck. Upon record, my gracious lord.

Prince. But say, my lord, it were not register'd;

methinks, the truth should live from age to age, As 'twere retail'd to all posterity, Even to the general all-ending day.

Glo. So wise so young, they say, do ne'er live long. [Aside.]

Prince. What say you uncle?

Glo. I say, without characters, fame lives long.

Thus, like the formal* vice, Iniquity, } *Aside.*
I moralize two meanings in one word. }

Prince. That Julius Cæsar was a famous man;

With what his valour did enrich his wit, His wit set down to make his valour live: Death makes no conquest of this conqueror; For now he lives in fame, though not in life.—

I'll tell you what, my cousin Buckingham.

Buck. What, my gracious lord?

Prince. An if I live until I be a man, I'll win our ancient right in France again. Or die a soldier, as I liv'd a king.

* Sensible vice the buffoon in the old plays.

Glo. Short summers lightly* have a forward spring. [*Aside.*]

Enter YORK, HASTINGS, and the CARDINAL.

Buck. Now, in good time, here comes the duke of York.

Prince. Richard of York! how fares our loving brother?

York. Well, my dread lord; so must I call you now.

Prince. Ay, brother; to our grief, as it is yours; [title, Too late! he died, that might have kept that Which by his death hath lost much majesty.

Glo. How fares our cousin, noble lord of York?

York. I thank you, gentle uncle. O, my lord, You said, that idle weeds are fast in growth: The prince my brother hath outgrown me far.

Glo. He hath, my lord.

York. And therefore is he idle?

Glo. O, my fair cousin, I must not say so.

York. Then is he more beholden to you than I.

Glo. He may command me, as my sovereign: But you have power in me, as in a kinsman.

York. I pray you, uncle, then, give me this dagger.

Glo. My dagger, little cousin? with all my heart.

Prince. A beggar, brother?

York. Of my kind uncle, that I know will give; And, being but a toy, which is no grief to give.

Glo. A greater gift than that I'll give my cousin.

York. A greater gift! O, that's the sword to it?

Glo. Ay, gentle cousin, were it light enough.

York. O then, I see, you'll part but with light gifts;

In weightier things you'll say a beggar, nay.

Glo. It is too weighty for your grace to wear.

York. I weigh it lightly, were it heavier.

Glo. What, would you have my weapon, little lord?

York. I would, that I might thank you as you call me.

Glo. How?

York. Little.

Prince. My lord of York will still be cross in talk;—

Uncle, your grace knows how to bear with him.

York. You mean, to bear me, not to bear with me:—

Uncle, my brother mocks both you and me; Because that I am little, like an ape, He thinks that you should bear me on your shoulders.

Buck. With what a sharp-provided wit he reasons!

To mitigate the scorn he gives his uncle, He prettily and aptly taunts himself: So cunning, and so young, is wonderful.

Glo. My gracious lord, will't please you pass along?

Myself, and my good cousin Buckingham, Will to your mother; to entreat of her, To meet you at the Tower, and welcome you.

York. What, will you go unto the Tower, my lord?

Prince. My lord protector needs will have it so.

York. I shall not sleep in quiet at the Tower.

Glo. Why, Sir, what should you fear?

York. Marry, my uncle Clarence' angry ghost;

My grandam told me, he was murder'd there.

Prince. I fear no uncles dead.

Glo. Nor none that live, I hope.

Prince. An if they live, I hope, I need not fear,

But come, my lord, and, with a heavy heart, Thinking on them, go I unto the Tower.

[*Exeunt PRINCE, YORK, HASTINGS, CARDINAL, and Attendants.*]

Buck. Think you, my lord, this little prating York Was not incens'd* by his subtle mother, To taunt and scorn you thus opprobriously?

Glo. No doubt, no doubt: O, 'tis a parlous boy;

Bold, quick, ingenious, forward, capable; † He's all the mother's, from the top to toe.

Buck. Well, let them rest.—

Come hither, gentle Catesby; thou art sworn As deeply to effect what we intend, As closely to conceal what we impart: [way;— Thou know'st our reasons urg'd upon the What think'st thou? is it not an easy matter To make William lord Hastings of our mind, For the instalment of this noble duke In the seat royal of this famous isle?

Cate. He for his father's sake so loves the prince, That he will not be won to aught against him.

Buck. What think'st thou then of Stanley? will not he?

Cate. He will do all in all as Hastings doth.

Buck. Well then, no more but this: Go, gentle Catesby, [ings, And, as it were far off, sound thou lord Hast- How he doth stand affected to our purpose; And summon him to-morrow to the Tower; To sit about the coronation. If thou dost find him tractable to us, Encourage him, and tell him all our reasons: If he be leaden, icy, cold, unwilling, Be thou so too, and so break off the talk, And give us notice of his inclination: For we to-morrow hold divided councils, Wherein thyself shalt highly be employ'd.

Glo. Commend me to lord William: tell him, Catesby, His dangerous knot of adversaries To-morrow are let blood at Pomfret castle; And bid my friend, for joy of this good news, Give mistress Shore one gentle kiss the more.

Buck. Good Catesby, go, effect this business soundly.

Cate. My good lords both, with all the heed I can.

Glo. Shall we hear from you, Catesby, ere we sleep?

Cate. You shall, my lord.

Glo. At Crosby-place, there shall you find us both. *Exit CATESBY.*

Buck. Now, my lord, what shall we, if we perceive Lord Hastings will not yield to our complots?

Glo. Chop off his head, man;—somewhat we will do:—

And, look, when I am king, claim thou of me The earldom of Hereford, and all the moveables

Whereof the king my brother was possess'd.

Buck. I'll claim that promise at your grace's hand.

* Commonly.

† Lately.

* Incited.

† Intelligent.

‡ Separates

Glo. And look to have it yielded with all kindness.

Come, let us sup betimes; that afterwards We may digest our complots in some form.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—Before Lord HASTINGS' House.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. My lord, my lord,— [Knocking.

Hast. [Within.] Who knocks?

Mess. One from lord Stanley.

Hast. [Within.] What is't o'clock?

Mess. Upon the stroke of four.

Enter HASTINGS.

Hast. Cannot thy master sleep these tedious nights?

Mess. So it should seem by that I have to say [ship.

First, he commends him to your noble lord—

Hast. And then,—

Mess. And then he sends you word, he dreamt

To-night the boar had rased off his helm: Besides, he says, there are two councils held; And that may be determin'd at the one, Which may make you and him to rue at the other. [pleasure,—

Therefore he sends to know your lordship's If presently, you will take horse with him, And with all speed post with him toward the north,

To shun the danger that his soul divines.

Hast. Go, fellow, go, return unto thy lord: Bid him not fear the separated councils: His honour, and myself, are at the one; And, at the other, is my good friend Catesby; Where nothing can proceed, that toucheth us, Whereof I shall not have intelligence. Tell him, his fears are shallow, wanting instance.*

And for his dreams—I wonder, he's so fond† To trust the mockery of unquiet slumbers: To fly the boar, before the boar pursues, Were to incense the boar to follow us, And make pursuit, where he did mean no chase.

Go, bid thy master rise and come to me; And we will both together to the Tower, Where, he shall see, the boar† will use us kindly.

Mess. I'll go, my lord, and tell him what you say. [Exit.

Enter CATESBY.

Cate. Many good morrows to my noble lord! *Hast.* Good morrow, Catesby; you are early stirring: [state?

What news, what news, in this our tottering *Cate.* It is a reeling world, indeed, my lord; And I believe, will never stand upright, Till Richard wear the garland of the realm.

Hast. How! wear the garland? dost thou mean the crown?

Cate. Ay, my good lord.

Hast. I'll have this crown of mine cut from my shoulders, Before I'll see the crown so foul misplac'd. But canst thou guess that he doth aim at it?

Cate. Ay, on my life; and hopes to find you forward

Upon his party, for the gain thereof:

And, thereupon, he sends you this good news,

That, this same very day, your enemies, The kindred of the queen, must die at Pomfret.

Hast. Indeed, I am no mourner for that news,

Because they have been still my adversaries: But, that I'll give my voice on Richard's side, To bar my master's heirs in true descent, God knows, I will not do it, to the death.

Cate. God keep your lordship in that gracious mind!

Hast. But I shall laugh at this a twelve-month hence,

That they, who brought me in my master's hate, I live to look upon their tragedy.

Well, Catesby, ere a fortnight make me older, I'll send some packing, that yet think not on't.

Cate. 'Tis a vile thing to die, my gracious lord,

When men are unprepar'd, and look not for it. *Hast.* O monstrous, monstrous! and so falls it out

With Rivers, Vaughan, Grey: and so 'twill do With some men else, who think themselves as safe

As thou, and I; who, as thou knows't, are dear To princely Richard, and to Buckingham.

Cate. The princes both make high account of you,—

For they account his head upon the bridge.

[*Aside.*]

Hast. I know, they do; and I have well deserv'd it.

Enter STANLEY.

Come on, come on, where is your boar-spear, man?

Fear you the boar, and go so unprovided?

Stan. My lord, good-morrow; and good-morrow, Catesby:—

You may jest on, but, by the holy rood,* I do not like these several councils, I.

Hast. My lord, I hold my life as dear as And never, in my life, I do protest, [yours; Was it more precious to me than 'tis now: Think you, but that I know our state secure, I would be so triumphant as I am?

Stan. The lords at Pomfret, when they rode from London, [sure,

Were jocund, and suppos'd their states were And they, indeed, had no cause to mistrust;

But yet, you see, how soon the day o'er-cast. This sudden stab of rancour I misdoubt;

Pray God, I say, I prove a needless coward! What, shall we toward the Tower? the day is spent.

Hast. Come, come, have with you.—Wot† you what, my lord?

To-day, the lords you talk of are beheaded.

Stan. They, for their truth, might better wear their heads, [hats.

Than some, that have accus'd them, wear their But come, my lord, let's away.

Enter a PURSUIVANT.

Hast. Go on before, I'll talk with this good fellow. [*Exeunt STAN. and CATESBY.*

How now, sirrah? how goes the world with thee?

Purs. The better, that your lordship please to ask.

Hast. I tell thee, man, 'tis better with me now, [meet:

Than when thou met'st me last where now we Then I was going prisoner to the Tower,

* Example.

† Weak.

‡ I. e. Gloster, who had a boar for his arms.

* CROSS.

† Know.

By the suggestion of the queen's allies ;
But now I tell thee, (keep it to thyself,)
This day those enemies are put to death,
And I in better state than ere I was.

Purs. God hold it, to your honour's good content !

Hast. Gramercy, fellow : There, drink that for me. [*Throwing him his purse.*]

Purs. I thank your honour. [*Exit PURSUIVANT.*]

Enter a PRIEST.

Pr. Well met, my lord ; I am glad to see your honour.

Hast. I thank thee, good Sir John, with all my heart.

I am in your debt for your last exercise ;
Come the next sabbath, and I will content you.

Enter BUCKINGHAM.

Buck. What, talking with a priest, lord chamberlain ? [*priest ;*
Your friends at Pomfret, they do need the
Your honour hath no shriving* work in hand.

Hast. 'Good faith, and when I met this holy man,

The men you talk of came into my mind.
What, go you toward the Tower ?

Buck. I do, my lord ; but long I cannot stay there :

I shall return before your lordship thence.

Hast. Nay, like enough, for I stay dinner there.

Buck. And supper too, although thou knows't it not. [*Aside.*]

Come, will you go ?

Hast. I'll wait upon your lordship. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—*Pomfret.—Before the Castle.*

Enter RATCLIFF, with a guard, conducting RIVERS, GREY, and VAUGHAN, to Execution.

Rat. Come, bring forth the prisoners.

Riv. Sir Richard Ratcliff let me tell thee this,—

To-day, shalt thou behold a subject die,
For truth, for duty, and for loyalty.

Grey. God keep the prince from all the pack of you !

A knot you are of damned blood-suckers.

Vaugh. You live, that shall cry woe for this hereafter.

Rat. Despatch ; the limit of your lives is out.

Riv. O Pomfret, Pomfret ! O thou bloody fatal and ominous to noble peers ? [*prison,*

Within the guilty closure of thy walls,
Richard the second here was hack'd to death :

And for more slander to the dismal seat,
We give thee up our guiltless blood to drink.

Grey. Now Margaret's curse is fallen upon our heads.

When she exclaim'd on Hastings, you and I,
For standing by when Richard stabb'd her son.

Riv. Then curs'd she Hastings, then curs'd she Buckingham,

Then curs'd she Richard :—O, remember God,
To hear her prayers for them, as now for us !

And for my sister, and her princely sons,—
Be satisfied, dear God, with our true bloods,
Which, as thou knows't, unjustly must be spilt !

Rat. Make haste, the hour of death is expiate.†

Riv. Come, Grey,—come, Vaughan,—let us here embrace :

Farewell, until we meet again in heaven.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—*London.—A Room in the Tower.*

BUCKINGHAM, STANLEY, HASTINGS, the Bishop of ELY, CATESBY, LOVELL, and others, sitting at a Table : Officers of the Council attending.

Hast. Now, noble peers, the cause why we are met

Is—to determine of the coronation :

In God's name, speak, when, is the royal day ?

Buck. Are all things ready for that royal time ?

Stan. They are ; and wants but nomination.

Ely. To-morrow then I judge a happy day.

Buck. Who knows the lord protector's mind herein ?

Who is most inward* with the noble duke ?

Ely. Your grace, we think, should soonest know his mind.

Buck. We know each other's faces : for our hearts,—

He knows no more of mine, than I of yours ;
Nor I, of his, my lord, than you of mine :—

Lord Hastings, you and he are near in love.

Hast. I thank his grace, I know he loves me well ;

But for his purpose in the coronation,

I have not sounded him, nor he deliver'd

His gracious pleasure any way therein :

But you, my noble lord, may name the time ;

And in the duke's behalf I'll give my voice,

Which, I presume, he'll take in gentle part.

Enter GLOSTER.

Ely. In happy time, here comes the duke himself.

Glo. My noble lords and cousins, all, good morrow :

I have been long a sleeper : but, I trust,
My absence doth neglect no great design,
Which by my presence might have been concluded.

Buck. Had you not come upon your clue, my lord, [*part,—*

William lord Hastings had pronounc'd your
I mean, your voice,—for crowning of the king.

Glo. Then my lord Hastings, no man might be bolder ;

His lordship knows me well, and loves me well.—

My lord of Ely, when I was last in Holborn,
I saw good strawberries in your garden there ;

I do beseech you send for some of them.

Ely. Marry and will, my lord, with all my heart. [*Exit ELY.*]

Glo. Cousin of Buckingham, a word with you. [*Takes him aside.*]

Catesby hath sounded Hastings in our business ;

And finds the testy gentleman so hot,

That he will lose his head, ere give consent,
His master's child, as worshipfully he terms it,

Shall lose the royalty of England's throne.

Buck. Withdraw yourself awhile. I'll go with you.

[*Exeunt GLOSTER and BUCKINGHAM.*]

Stan. We have not yet set down this day of triumph.

To-morrow, in my judgment, is too sudden ;

For I myself am not so well provided,
As else I would be, were the day prolong'd.

* Confession.

† Expisted, completed.

* Intimate.

Re-enter Bishop of Ely.

Ely. Where is my lord protector? I have sent for these strawberries.

Hast. His grace looks cheerfully and smooth this morning;

There's some conceit* or other likes him well, When he doth bid good morrow with such spirit.

I think, there's ne'er a man in Chistendom, Can lesser hide his love, or hate, than he; For by his face straight shall ye know his heart.

Stan. What of his heart perceive you in his By any likelihood he show'd to-day? [face,

Hast. Marry, that with no man here he is offended;

For, were he, he had shown it in his looks.

Re-enter GLOSTER and BUCKINGHAM.

Glo. I pray you all, tell me what they deserve,

That do conspire my death with devilish plots, Of damned witchcraft; and that have prevail'd Upon my body with their hellish charms?

Hast. The tender love I bear your grace, my lord,

Makes me most forward in this noble presence To doom the offenders: Whosoe'er they be, I say, my lord, they have deserved death.

Glo. Then be your eyes the witness of their evil,

Look how I am bewitch'd; behold mine arm Is, like a blasted sapling, wither'd up:

And this is Edward's wife, that monstrous witch,

Consorted with that harlot, strumpet Shore, That by their witchcraft thus have marked me.

Hast. If they have done this deed, my noble lord,—

Glo. If! thou protector of this damned strumpet,

Talk'st thou to me of ifs?—Thou art a traitor:—
Off with his head:—now, by Saint Paul I swear,

I will not dine until I see the same.—
Lovel, and Catesby, look, that it be done;

The rest that love me, rise, and follow me.

[*Exeunt Council, with GLOSTER and BUCKINGHAM.*

Hast. Woe, woe, for England! not a whit for me;

For I, too fond,† might have prevented this: Stanley did dream, the boar did raise his helm; But I disdain'd it, and did scorn to fly.

Three times to-day my foot-cloth horse did stumble,

And started, when he look'd upon the Tower, As loath to bear me to the slaughter-house.

O, now I want the priest that spake to me: I now repent I told the pursuivant,

As too triumphing, how mine enemies, To-day at Pomfret bloodily were butcher'd,

And I myself secure in grace and favour.

O, Margaret, Margaret, now thy heavy curse Is lighted on poor Hastings' wretched head.

Cate. Despatch, my lord, the duke would be at dinner;

Make a short shrift, he longs to see your head.

Hast. O momentary grace of mortal men, Which we more hunt for than the grace of God!

Who builds his hope in air of your fair looks, Lives like a drunken sailor on a mast;

Ready, with every nod, to tumble down Into the fatal bowels of the deep.

* Thought:

† Weak, foolish.

Love. Come, come, despatch; 'tis bootless to exclaim.

Hast. O, bloody Richard!—miserable England!

I prophesy the fearful'st time to thee, That ever wretched age hath look'd upon.—
Come, lead me to the block, hear him my head; They smile at me, who shortly shall be dead.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.—*The same.*—*The Tower walls.*

Enter GLOSTER, and BUCKINGHAM, in rusty armour, marvellous ill-favour'd.

Glo. Come, cousin, canst thou quake, and change thy colour?

Murder thy breath in middle of a word,—
And then again begin, and stop again,
As if thou wert distraught, and mad with terror?

Buck. Tut, I can counterfeit the deep tragedian;

Speak, and look back, and pry on every side, Tremble and start at wagging of a straw, Intending* deep suspicion: ghastly looks Are at my service, like enforced smiles; And both are ready in their offices, At any time, to grace my stratagems, But what, is Catesby gone?

Glo. He is; and, see, he brings the mayor along.

Enter the LORD MAYOR and CATESBY.

Buck. Let me alone to entertain him.—Lord mayor,—

Glo. Look to the draw-bridge there.

Buck. Hark, hark! a drum.

Glo. Catesby, o'erlook the walls.

Buck. Lord mayor, the reason we have sent for you,—

Glo. Look back, defend thee, here are enemies.

Buck. God and our innocence defend and guard us!

Enter LOVEL and RATCLIFF, with HASTINGS' head.

Glo. Be patient, they are friends; Ratcliff, and Lovel.

Lov. Here is the head of that ignoble traitor, The dangerous and unsuspected Hastings.

Glo. So dear I lov'd the man, that I must weep.

I took him for the plainest harmless't creature, That breath'd upon the earth a Christian; Made him my book, wherein my soul recorded The history of all her secret thoughts: [virtue, So smooth he daub'd his vice with show of That, his apparent open guilt omitted,— I mean, his conversation with Shore's wife,— He liv'd from all attainder of suspect.

Buck. Well, well, he was the covert'st shelter'd traitor

That ever liv'd.—Look you, my lord mayor, Would you imagine, or almost believe, (Were't not, that by great preservation We live to tell it you,) the subtle traitor This day had plotted in the council-house, To murder me, and my good lord of Gloster?

May. What! had he so?

Glo. What! think you we are Turks, or infidels?

Or that we would, against the form of law, Proceed thus rashly in the villain's death; But that the extreme peril of the case.

* Pretending.

The peace of England, and our persons' safety,
Enforc'd us to this execution?

May. Now, fair befall you! he deserv'd his
death; [ed,

And your good graces both have well proceed-
To warn false traitors from the like attempts.
I never look'd for better at his hands
After he once fell in with mistress Shore.

Buck. Yet had we not determin'd he should
Until your lordship came to see his end; [die,
Which now the loving haste of these our
friends, [ed:

Somewhat against our meaning, hath prevent-
Because, my lord, we would have had you heard
The traitor speak, and timorously confess
The manner and the purpose of his treasons;
That you might well have signified the same
Unto the citizens, who, haply, may
Miskonstrue us in him, and wait his death.

May. But, my good lord, your grace's word
shall serve,
As well as I had seen, and heard him speak:
And do not doubt, right noble princes both,
But I'll acquaint our duteous citizens
With all your just proceedings in this case.

Glo. And to that end we wish'd your lord-
ship here,
To avoid the censures of the carping world.

Buck. But since you came too late of our in-
tent,

Yet witness what you hear we did intend:
And so, my good lord mayor, we bid farewell.
[Exit LORD MAYOR.

Glo. Go after, after, cousin Buckingham.
The mayor towards Guildhall hies him in all
post:—

There at your meetest vantage of the time,
Infer the bastardy of Edward's children:
Tell them, how Edward put to death a citizen,
Only for saying—he would make his son
Heir to the crown; meaning, indeed his house,
Which, by the sign thereof, was termed so.
Moreover, urge his hateful luxury,
And bestial appetite in change of lust;
Which stretch'd unto their servants, daughters,
wives,

Even where his raging eye, or savage heart,
Without controul, listed to make his prey.

Nay, for a need, thus far comenear my person:
Tell them, when that my mother went with child
Of that insatiate Edward, noble York,
My princely father, then had wars in France;
And, by just computation of the time,
Found, that the issue was not his begot;
Which well appeared in his lineaments,
Being nothing like the noble duke my father:
Yet touch this sparingly, as 'twere far off;
Because, my lord, you know, my mother lives.

Buck. Doubt not, my lord; I'll play the orator,
As if the golden fee, for which I plead,
Were for myself: and so, my lord, adieu.

Glo. If you thrive well, bring them to Bay-
nard's castle;
Where you shall find me well accompanied,
With reverend fathers, and well-learned
bishops.

Buck. I go; and, towards three or four
o'clock,

Look for the news that the Guild-hall affords.
[Exit BUCKINGHAM.

Glo. Go, Lovel, with all speed to doctor
Shaw,— [both
Go thou [To CATE.] to friar Penker;—bid them
Meet me, within this hour, at Baynard's castle.
[Exit LOVEL and CATESBY.

Ver. II.

Now will I in, to take some privy order
To draw the brats of Clarence out of sight;
And to give notice, that no manner of person
Have, any time, recourse unto the princes. [Exit.

SCENE VI.—A Street.

Enter a SCRIVENER.

Scriv. Here is the indictment of the good lord
Hastings;

Which in a set hand fairly is engross'd,
That it may be to-day read o'er in Paul's.
And mark how well the sequel hangs to-
gether:—

Eleven hours I have spent to write it over,
For yesternight by Catesby was it sent me;
The precedent* was full as long a doing:
And yet within these five hours Hastings liv'd,
Untainted, unexamin'd, free at liberty.

Here's a good world the while!—Who is so
That cannot see this palpable device? [gross,
Yet who so bold, but says—he sees it not?
Bad is the world; and all will come to nought,
When such bad dealing must be seen in
thought. [Exit.

SCENE VII.—The same.—Court of Baynard's
Castle.

Enter GLOSTER and BUCKINGHAM, meeting.

Glo. How now, how now? what say the
citizens?

Buck. Now by the holy mother of our Lord,
The citizens are mum, say not a word.

Glo. Touch'd you the bastardy of Edward's
children?

Buck. I did; with his contract with Lady
Lucy,

And his contract by deputy in France:
The insatiate greediness of his desires,
And his enforcement of the city wives;
His tyranny for trifles; his own bastardy,—
As being got, your father then in France;
And his resemblance, being not like the duke.

Withal, I did infer your lineaments,—
Being the right idea of your father,
Both in your form and nobleness of mind:
Laid open all your victories in Scotland,
Your discipline in war, wisdom in peace,
Your bounty, virtue, fair humility;
Indeed, left nothing, sitting for your purpose,
Untouch'd, or slightly handled, in discourse.

And, when my oratory grew to an end,
I bade them, that did love their country's good,
Cry—*God save Richard, England's royal king!*
Glo. And did they so?

Buck. No, so God help me, they spake not a
word;

But, like dumb statues, or breathless stones,
Star'd on each other, and look'd deadly pale.
Which when I saw, I reprehended them;
And ask'd the mayor, what meant this wilful
silence:

His answer was,—the people were not us'd
To be spoke to but by the recorder.

Then he was urg'd to tell my tale again:
Thus saith the duke, thus hath the duke inferr'd;
But nothing spoke in warrant from himself.

When he had done, some followers of mine
own,

At lower end o'the hall, hurl'd up their caps,
And some ten voices cried, *God save king
Richard!*

And thus I took the vantage of the few,—
Thanks, gentle citizens, and friends, quoth I;

* Original draft:

*This general applause, and cheerful shout,
Argues your wisdom, and your love to Richard :
And even here broke off and came away.*

Glo. What tongueless blocks were they ;

Would they not speak ? [come ?

Will not the mayor then, and his brethren,

Buck. The mayor is here at hand ; intend*
some fear ;

Be not you spoke with, but by mighty suit :

And look you get a prayer-book in your hand,

And stand between two churchmen, good my
lord ;

For on that ground I'll make a holy descendant :

And be not easily won to our requests ;

Play the maid's part, still answer nay, and
take it.

Glo. I go ; And if you plead as well for
As I can say nay to thee for myself, [them,
No doubt we'll bring it to a happy issue.

Buck. Go, go, up to the leads ; the lord
mayor knocks. [Exit GLOSTER.

Enter the LORD MAYOR, Aldermen, and Citizens.

Welcome, my lord ; I dance attendance here ;

I think, the duke will not be spoke withal.—

Enter, from the Castle, CATESBY.

Now, Catesby ! what says your lord to my re-
quest ?

Cate. He doth entreat your grace, my noble
To visit him to-morrow, or next day : [lord,
He is within, with two right reverend fathers,
Divinely bent to meditation ;
And in no worldly suit would he be mov'd,
To draw him from his holy exercise.

Buck. Return, good Catesby, to the gracious
duke ;

Tell him, myself, the mayor, and aldermen,
In deep designs, in matter of great moment,
No less importing than our general good,
Are come to have some conference with his
grace.

Cate. I'll signify so much unto him straight.
[Exit.

Buck. Ah, ah, my lord, this prince is not
an Edward !

He is not lolling on a lewd day-bed, †
But on his knees at meditation ;
Not dallying with a brace of courtezans,
But meditating with two deep divines ;
Not sleeping, to engross ‡ his idle body,
But praying, to enrich his watchful soul :
Happy were England, would this virtuous
prince

Take on himself the sovereignty thereof :

But, sure, I fear, we shall ne'er win him to it.

May. Marry, God defend, his grace should
say us nay !

Buck. I fear, he will : Here Catesby comes
again :—

Re-enter CATESBY.

Now, Catesby, what says his grace ?

Cate. He wonders to what end you have as-
sembled

Such troops of citizens to come to him,
His grace not being warn'd thereof before,
He fears, my lord, you mean no good to him.

Buck. Sorry I am, my noble cousin should
suspect me, that I mean no good to him :
By heaven, we come to him in perfect love ;
And so once more return and tell his grace.

[Exit CATESBY.

When holy and devout religious men
Are at their beads, 'tis hard to draw them
So sweet is zealous contemplation. [thence ;

* Pretend. † A coach. ‡ Fatten.

*Enter GLOSTER, in a Gallery above, between
two Bishops. CATESBY returns.*

May. See, where his grace stands 'twen two
clergymen !

Buck. Two props of virtue for a Christian
To stay him from the fall of vanity : [prince,
And, see, a book of prayer in his hand ;
True ornaments to know a holy man.—
Famous Plantagenet, most gracious prince,
Lend favourable ear to our requests ;
And pardon us the interruption
Of thy devotion, and right Christian zeal.

Glo. My lord ; there needs no such apology ;
I rather do beseech you pardon me,
Who, earnest in the service of my God,
Neglect the visitation of my friends.

But, leaving this, what is your grace's pleasure ?

Buck. Even that, I hope, which pleaseth God
above,

And all good men of this ungovern'd isle.

Glo. I do suspect, I have done some offence,
That seems disgracious in the city's eye ;
And that you come to reprehend my ignorance.

Buck. You have, my lord ; Would it might
please your grace,

On our entreaties to amend your fault !

Glo. Else wherefore breathe I in a Christian
land ?

Buck. Know, then, it is your fault, that you
resign

The supreme seat, the throne majestical,
The sceptred office of your ancestors,
Your state of fortune, and your due of birth,
The lineal glory of your royal house,
To the corruption of a blemish'd stock :
Whilst, in the mildness of your sleepy thoughts,
(Which here we waken to our country's good,)
The noble isle doth want her proper limbs ;
Her face defac'd with scars of infamy,
Her royal stock graft with ignoble plants,
And almost shoulder'd* in the swallowing gulf
Of dark forgetfulness and deep oblivion.

Which to recure, † we heartily solicit
Your gracious self to take on you the charge
And kingly government of this your land :
Not as protector, steward, substitute,
Or lowly factor for another's gain :
But as successively from blood to blood,
Your right of birth, your empery, ‡ your own.
For this, consorted with the citizens,
Your very worshipful and loving friends,
And by their vehement instigation,
In this just suit come I to move your grace.

Glo. I cannot tell, if to depart in silence,
Or bitterly to speak in your reproof,
Best fitteth my degree, or your condition :
If not to answer,—you might haply think,
Tongue-tied ambition, not replying, yielded
To bear the golden yoke of sovereignty,
Which fondly you would here impose on me ;
If to reprove you for this suit of yours,
So season'd with your faithful love to me,
Then, on the other side, I check'd my friends.
Therefore,—to speak, and to avoid the first ;
And, then in speaking, not to incur the last,—
Definitively thus I answer you.

Your love deserves my thanks ; but my desert
Unmeritable, shuns your high request.
First, if all obstacles were cut away,
And that my path were even to the crown,
As the ripe revenue and due of birth ;
Yet so much is my poverty of spirit,
So mighty, and so many, my defects, [ness,—
That I would rather hide me from my great-
Being a bark to brook no mighty sea,—

* Thrust into. † Recover. ‡ Empire.

Than in my greatness covet to be hid,
And in the vapour of my glory smother'd,
But, God be thank'd, there is no need of me;
(And much I need* to help you, if need were;)
The royal tree hath left us royal fruit,
Which mellow'd by the stealing hours of time,
Will well become the seat of majesty,
And, make, no doubt, us happy by his reign.
On him I lay what you would lay on me,
The right and fortune of his happy stars,—
Which, God defend, that I should wring from
him!

Buck. My lord, this argues conscience in
your grace;

But the respects thereof are nice† and trivial,
All circumstances well considered.
You say, that Edward is your brother's son;
So say we too, but not by Edward's wife:
For first he was contrãct to lady Lucy,
Your mother lives a witness to his vow;
And afterwards by substitute betroth'd
To Bona, sister to the king of France.
These both put by, a poor petitioner,
A care-craz'd mother to a many sons,
A beauty-waning and distressed widow,
Even in the afternoon of her best days,
Made prize and purchase of his wanton eye,
Seduc'd the pitch and height of all his thoughts
To base declension and loath'd bigamy:
By her, in his unlawful bed, he got [prince.
This Edward, whom our manners call—the
More bitterly could I expostulate,
Save that, for reverence to some alive,
I give a sparing limit to my tongue.
Then, good my lord, take to your royal self
This proffer'd benefit of dignity:
If not to bless us and the land withal,
Yet to draw forth your noble ancestry
From the corruption of abusing time,
Unto a lincal true-derived course.

May. Do, good my lord; your citizens en-
treat you.

Buck. Refuse not, mighty lord, this proffer'd
love.

Cate. O, make them joyful, grant their law-
ful suit.

Glo. Alas, why would you heap those cares
on me?

I am unfit for state and majesty:—
I do beseech you, take it not amiss;
I cannot, nor I will not, yield to you.

Buck. If you refuse it,—as in love and zeal,
Loath to depose the child, your brother's son;
As well we know your tenderness of heart,
And gentle, kind, effeminate, remorse,‡
Which we have noted in you to your kindred,
And equally, indeed, to all estates,—
Yet know, wher you accept our suit or no,
Your brother's son shall never reign our king;
But we will plant some other in your throne,
To the disgrace and downfal of your house.
And, in this resolution, here we leave you.
Come, citizens, we will entreat no more.

[*Exeunt* BUCKINGHAM and Citizens.

Cate. Call them again, sweet prince, accept
their suit;

If you deny them, all the land will rue it.

Glo. Will you enforce me to a world of
cares?

Well, call them again; I am not made of stone,
But penetrable to your kind entreaties,

[*Exit* CATESBY.

Albeit against my conscience and my soul.—

Re-enter BUCKINGHAM and the rest.

Cousin of Buckingham,—and sage, grave men;—
Since you will buckle fortune on my back,
To bear her burden, wher I will, or no,
I must have patience to endure the load:
But if black scandal, or foul-fac'd reproach,
Attend the sequel of your imposition,
Your mere enforcement shall acquittance me
From all the impure blots and stains thereof
For God he knows, and you may partly see,
How far I am from the desire of this.

May. God bless your grace! we see it, and
will say it.

Glo. In saying so, you shall but say the
truth.

Buck. Then I salute you with this royal
title,— [king!
Long live king Richard, England's worthy

All. Amen!

Buck. To-morrow may it please you to be
crown'd?

Glo. Even when you please, since you will
have it so.

Buck. To-morrow then we will attend your
grace;
And so, most joyfully we take our leave.

Glo. Come, let us to our holy work again:—
[*To the Bishops.*

Farewell, good cousin,—farewell, gentle
friends. *Exeunt.*

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—*Before the Tower.*

*Enter on one side, Queen ELIZABETH, Duchess
of YORK, and Marquis of DORSET; on the
other, ANNE, Duchess of GLOSTER, leading
Lady MARGARET, PLANTAGENET, CLAR-
ENCE's young Daughter.*

Duch. Who meets us here?—my niece
Plantagenet

Led in the hand of her kind aunt of Gloster?
Now, for my life, she's wand'ring to the Tower,
On pure heart's love, to greet the tender
prince.—

Daughter, well met.

Anne. God give your graces both

A happy and a joyful time of day!

Q. Eliz. As much to you, good sister! Whi-
ther away?

Anne. No further than the Tower; and, as
I guess,

Upon the like devotion as yourselves,
To gratulate the gentle princes there.

Q. Eliz. Kind sister, thanks; we'll enter all
together:

Enter BRAKENBURY.

And, in good time, here the lieutenant comes.—
Master lieutenant, pray you, by your leave,
How doth the prince, and my young son of
York?

Brak. Right well, dear madam: By your
patrience,

I may not suffer you to visit them;

The king hath strictly charg'd the contrary.

Q. Eliz. The king! who's that?

Brak. I mean, the lord protector.

Q. Eliz. The Lord protect him from that
kingly title! [me?

Hath he set bounds between their love, and
I am their mother, who shall bar me from
them?

* Want ability.

† Minute.

‡ Pity.

Duch. I am their father's mother, I will see them.

Anne. Their aunt I am in law, in love their mother:

Then bring me to their sights; I'll bear thy And take thy office from thee, on thy peril.

Brak. No, madam, no, I may not leave it so;

I am bound by oath, and therefore pardon me. [Exit BRAKENBURY.]

Enter STANLEY.

Stan. Let me but meet you, ladies, one hour hence

And I'll salute your grace of York as mother, And reverend looker-on of two fair queens.—Come, madam, you must straight to Westminster. [To the Duchess of GLOSTER.]

There to be crowned Richard's royal queen.

Q. Eliz. Ah, cut my lace asunder! [beat, That my pent heart may have some scope to Or else I swoon with this dead-killing news.

Anne. Despiteful tidings! O unpleasing news!

Dor. Be of good cheer:—Mother, how fares your grace?

Q. Eliz. O Dorset, speak not to me, get thee gone,

Death and destruction dog thee at the heels; Thy mother's name is ominous to children: If thou wilt outstrip death, go cross the seas, And live with Richmond, from the reach of hell. [house,

Go, hie thee, hie thee, from this slaughter—Lest thou increase the number of the dead; And make me die the thrall of Margaret's curse,—

Nor mother, wife, nor England's counted queen.

Stan. Full of wise care is this your counsel, madam:—

Take all the swift advantage of the hours; You shall have letters from me to my son In your behalf, to meet you on the way: Be not ta'en tardy by unwise delay.

Duch. O ill-dispersing wind of misery!—O my accursed womb, the bed of death; A cockatrice* hast thou hatch'd to the world, Whose unavoyded eye is murderous!

Stan. Come, madam, come; I in all haste was sent.

Anne. And I with all unwillingness will go.—

O, would to God, that the inclusive verge Of golden metal,† that must round my brow, Were red-hot steel, to sear't me to the brain! Anointed let me be with deadly venom; And die, ere men can say—God save the queen!

Q. Eliz. Go, go, poor soul, I envy not thy glory;

To feed my humour, wish thyself no harm.

Anne. No!—why?—When he, that is my husband now,

Came to me, as I follow'd Henry's corse; When scarce the blood was well wash'd from his hands,

Which issu'd from my other angel husband, And that dead saint which then I weeping follow'd;

O, when, I say, I look'd on Richard's face, This was my wish,—Be thou, quoth I accurs'd, For making me, so young, so old a widow! And, when thou wold'st, let sorrow haunt thy bed; And be thy wife, (if any be so mad)

More miserably by the life of thee, Than thou hast made me by my dear lord's death! Lo, ere I can repeat this curse again, Even in so short a space, my woman's heart Grossly grew captive to his honey words, And prov'd the subject of mine own soul's curse:

Which ever since hath held mine eyes from For never yet one hour in his bed [rest; Did I enjoy the golden dew of sleep, But with his timorous deems was still awak'd. Besides, he hates me for my father Warwick; And will, no doubt, shortly be rid of me.

Q. Eliz. Poor heart, adieu; I pity thy complaining.

Anne. No more than with my soul I mourn for yours.

Dor. Farewell, thou woeful welcomer of glory!

Anne. Adieu, poor soul, that tak'st thy leave of it!

Duch. Go thou to Richmond, and good fortune guide thee!— [To DORSET.] Go thou to Richard, and good angels tend thee!— [To ANNE.]

Go thou to sanctuary, and good thoughts possess thee! [To Q. ELIZABETH.]

I to my grave, where peace and rest lie with Eighty odd years of sorrow have I seen, [me. And each hour's joy wreck'd with a week of teen.*

Q. Eliz. Stay yet; look back, with me, unto the Tower.—

Pity, you ancient stones, those tender babes, Whom envy hath immur'd within your walls! Rough cradle for such little pretty ones!

Rude ragged nurse! old sullen play-fellow For tender princes, use my babies well! So foolish sorrow bids your stones farewell.

[Exit.]

SCENE II.—A Room of State in the Palace.

Flourish of Trumpets. RICHARD, as King upon his Throne; BUCKINGHAM, CATESBY, a PAGE, and others.

K. Rich. Stand all apart.—Cousin of Buckingham,—

Buck. My gracious sovereign.

K. Rich. Give me thy hand. Thus high by thy advice,

And thy assistance, is king Richard seated:—But shall we wear these glories for a day?

Or shall they last, and we rejoice in them?

Buck. Still live they, and for ever let them last!

K. Rich. Ah, Buckingham, now do I play the touch,†

To try if thou be current gold, indeed:—Young Edward lives;—Think now what I would speak.

Buck. Say on, my loving lord.

K. Rich. Why Buckingham, I say, I would be king.

Buck. Why, so you are, my thrice-renowned liege.

K. Rich. Ha! am I king? 'Tis so: but Edward lives.

Buck. True, noble prince.

K. Rich. O bitter consequence, That Edward still should live,—true, noble prince!—

Cousin, thou wast not wont to be so dull:—

Shall I be plain? I wish the bastards dead;

And I would have it suddenly perform'd.

* A serpent supposed to originate from a cock's egg.
† The Crown. ‡ Burn.

* Sorrow. † Touchstone.

What say'st thou now! speak suddenly, be brief.

Buck. Your grace may do your pleasure.

K. Rich. Tut, tut, thou art all ice, thy kindness freezes:

Say, have I thy consent, that they shall die?

Buck. Give me some breath, some little a pause, dear lord,

Before I positively speak in this:

I will resolve your grace immediately.

[*Exit* BUCKINGHAM.

Cate. The king is angry; see, he gnaws his lip.

K. Rich. I will converse with iron-witted fools,

[*Descends from his Throne.*

And unrespective* boys: none are for me, That look into me with considerate eyes;— High-reaching Buckingham grows circum-Boy,—

[*spect.*—

Page. My lord.

K. Rich. Know'st thou not any, whom corrupting gold

Would tempt unto a close exploit of death?

Page. I know a discontented gentleman, Whose humble means match not his haughty Gold were as good as twenty orators, [mind: And will, no doubt, tempt him to any thing.

K. Rich. What is his name?

Page. His name, my lord, is—Tyrrel.

K. Rich. I partly know the man; Go, call him hither, boy.—

[*Exit* PAGE.

The deep revolving witty Buckingham No more shall be the neighbour to my counsels:

Hath he so long held out with me untir'd, And stops he now for breath?—well, be it so.—

Enter STANLEY.

How now, lord Stanley? what's the news?

Stan. Know, my loving lord, The marquis Dorset, as I hear, is fled To Richmond, in the parts where he abides.

K. Rich. Come hither, Catesby: rumour it abroad,

That Anne, my wife, is very grievous sick; I will take order for her keeping close. Inquire me out some mean-born gentleman, Whom I will marry straight to Clarence's daughter:—

The boy is foolish, and I fear not him. Look, how thou dream'st!—I say again, give out,

That Anne my queen is sick, and like to die: About it; for it stands me much upon,§ To stop all hopes, whose growth may damage me.—

[*Exit* CATESBY.

I must be married to my brother's daughter, Or else my kingdom stands on brittle glass:— Murder her brothers, and then marry her! Uncertain way of gain! But I am in So far in blood, that sin will pluck on sin. Tear-falling pity dwells not in this eye.—

Re-enter PAGE, with TYRREL.

Is thy name—Tyrrel?

Tyr. James Tyrrel, and your most obedient subject.

K. Rich. Art thou, indeed?

Tyr. Prove me, my gracious lord.

K. Rich. Dar'st thou resolve to kill a friend of mine?

Tyr. Please you; but I had rather kill two enemies.

K. Rich. Why, then thou hast it: two deep enemies,

[*turbers,*

Foes to my rest, and my sweet sleep's dis- Are they that I would have thee deal* upon: Tyrrel, I mean those bastards in the Tower.

Tyr. Let me have open means to come to them,

And soon I'd rid you from the fear of them.

K. Rich. Thou sing'st sweet music. Hark, come hither, Tyrrel;

Go, by this token:—Rise, and lend thine ear:

[*Whispers.*

There is no more but so:—Say, it is done, And I will love thee, and prefer thee for it.

Tyr. I will despatch it straight. [*Exit.*

Re-enter BUCKINGHAM.

Buck. My lord, I have consider'd in my mind

The late demand that you did sound me in.

K. Rich. Well, let that rest. Dorset is fled to Richmond.

Buck. I hear the news, my lord.

K. Rich. Stanley, he is your wife's son:— Well, look to it.

Buck. My lord, I claim the gift, my due by promise,

[*pawn'd;*

For which your honour and your faith is The earldom of Hereford, and the moveables, Which you have promised I shall possess.

K. Rich. Stanley, look to your wife; if she convey

Letters to Richmond, you shall answer it.

Buck. What says your highness to my just request?

K. Rich. I do remember me,—Henry the sixth Did prophesy, that Richmond should be king, When Richmond was a little peevish boy.

A king!—perhaps—

Buck. My lord,—

K. Rich. How chance, the prophet could not at that time,

[*him?*

Have told me, I being by, that I should kill

Buck. My lord, your promise for the earldom.—

K. Rich. Richmond!—When last I was at Exeter,

The mayor, in courtesy, show'd me the castle, And call'd it—Rouge-mont: at which name, I

started; Because a bard of Ireland told me once, I should not live long after I saw Richmond.

Buck. My lord,—

K. Rich. Ay, what's o'clock?

Buck. I am thus bold

[*me.*

To put your grace in mind of what you promis'd

K. Rich. Well, but what is't o'clock?

Buck. Upon the stroke Of ten.

K. Rich. Well, let it strike.

Buck. Why, let it strike?

K. Rich. Because that, like a Jack,† thou keep'st the stroke

Betwixt thy begging and my meditation.

I am not in the giving vein to-day.

Buck. Why, then resolve me whe'r you will or no.

K. Rich. Thou troublest me: I am not in the vein.

[*Exeunt* King RICHARD, and Train.

Buck. And is it thus? repays he my deep service

With such contempt? made I him king for this?

* Inconsiderate. † Secret act. ‡ Cunning. § It is of the utmost consequence to my designs.

* Act. † Foolish. ‡ An image like those at St. Dunstan's church in Fleet-street.

O, let me think on Hastings; and be gone
 'To Brecknock,* while my fearful head is on.
 [Exit.]

SCENE III.—The same.

Enter TYRREL.

Tyr. The tyrannous and bloody act is done;
 The most arch deed of piteous massacre,
 That ever yet this land was guilty of.
 Dighton, and Forrest, whom I did unborn
 'To do this piece of ruthless butchery,
 Albeit they were flesh'd villains, bloody dogs,
 Melting with tenderness and mild compassion,
 Wept like two children, in their death's sad
 story.

O thus, quoth Dighton, lay the gentle babes,—
 Thus, thus, quoth Forrest, girdling one another
 Within their alabaster innocent arms:
 Their lips were four red roses on a stalk,
 Which, in their summer beauty, kiss'd each other.
 A book of prayers on their pillow lay; [mind;
 Which once, quoth Forrest, almost chang'd my
 But, O, the devil—there the villain stopp'd;
 When Dighton thus told on,—we smothered
 The most replenished sweet work of nature,
 That, from the prime creation, e'er she fram'd—
 Hence both are gone; with conscience and re-
 morse,

They could not speak; and so I left them both,
 To bear this tidings to the bloody king.

Enter King RICHARD.

And here he comes:—All health, my sovereign
 lord!

K. Rich. Kind Tyrrel! am I happy in thy
 news?

Tyr. If to have done the thing you gave in
 charge

Beget your happiness, be happy, then,
 For it is done.

K. Rich. But didst thou see them dead?

Tyr. I did, my lord.

K. Rich. And buried, gentle Tyrrel?

Tyr. The chaplain of the Tower hath buried
 them;

But where to say the truth, I do not know.

K. Rich. Come to me, Tyrrel, soon, at after
 supper,

When thou shalt tell the process of their death.
 Mean time, but think how I may do thee good,
 And be an inheritor of thy desire.
 Farewell, till then.

Tyr. I humbly take my leave. [Exit.]

K. Rich. The son of Clarence have I penn'd
 up close; [riage;

His daughter meanly have I match'd in mar-
 The sons of Edward sleep in Abraham's bosom,
 And Anne my wife hath bid the world good
 night. [aims

Now, for I know the Bretagne† Richmond
 At young Elizabeth, my brother's daughter,
 And, by that knot, looks proudly on the crown,
 To her go I, a jolly thriving wooer.

Enter CATESBY.

Cate. My lord,—

K. Rich. Good news or bad, that thou com'st
 in so bluntly!

Cate. Bad news, my lord: Morton§ is fled to
 Richmond;
 And Buckingham, back'd with the hardy
 Welshmen,
 Is in the field, and still his power encreaseth.

* His castle in Wales

† Merciless.

‡ The country in which Richmond had taken refuge.

§ Bishop of Ely.

K. Rich. Ely with Richmond troubles me
 more near,

Than Buckingham and his rash-levied strength.
 Come,—I have learn'd, that fearful comment-
 is leaden servitor to dull delay; [ing
 Delay leads impotent and snail-pac'd beggary:
 Then fiery expedition be my wing,
 Jove's Mercury, and herald for a king!
 Go, muster men: My counsel is my shield;
 We must be brief, when traitors brave the field.
 [Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.—The same.—Before the Palace.

Enter Queen MARGARET.

Q. Mar. So, now prosperity begins to mellow,
 And drop into the rotten mouth of death.
 Here in these confines slyly have I lurk'd,
 To watch the waning of mine enemies.
 A dire induction* am I witness to,
 And will to France; hoping, the consequence
 Will prove as bitter, black, and tragical.
 Withdraw thee, wretched Margaret! who
 comes here?

Enter Queen ELIZABETH and the Duchess of
 YORK.

Q. Eliz. Ah, my poor princes! ah, my tender
 babes!
 My unblown flowers, new-appearing sweets!
 If yet your gentle souls fly in the air,
 And be not fix'd in doom perpetual,
 Hover about me with your airy wings,
 And hear your mother's lamentation!

Q. Mar. Hover about her; says, that right for
 right

Hath dimm'd your infant morn to aged night.
 Duch. So many miseries have craz'd my
 voice, [mute,—

That my woe-wearied tongue is still and
 Edward Plantagenet, why art thou dead?

Q. Mar. Plantagenet doth quit Plantagenet,
 Edward for Edward pays a dying debt.

Q. Eliz. Wilt thou, O God, fly from such
 gentle lambs,

And throw them in the entrails of the wolf?
 When didst thou sleep, when such a deed was
 done?

Q. Mar. When holy Harry died, and my
 sweet son.

Duch. Dead life, blind sight, poor mortal-
 living ghost,

Woe's scene, world's shame, grave's due by
 life usurp'd,

Brief abstract and record of tedious days,
 Rest thy unrest on England's lawful earth,
 [Sitting down.]

Unlawfully made drunk with innocent blood!

Q. Eliz. Ah, that thou would'st as soon af-
 ford a grave,

As thou canst yield a melancholy seat;
 Then would I hide my bones, not rest them
 here!

Ah, who has any cause to mourn, but we?

[Sitting down by her.]

Q. Mar. If ancient sorrow be most reverent,
 Give mine the benefit of seniority,†

And let my grief frown on the upper hand.

If sorrow can admit society,

[Sitting down with them.]

Tell o'er your woes again by viewing mine:—
 I had an Edward, till a Richard kill'd him;

I had a husband, till a Richard kill'd him;
 Thou hadst an Edward, till a Richard kill'd
 him;

Thou hadst a Richard, till a Richard kill'd him!

* Introduction.

† Seniority.

Duch. I had a Richard too, and thou didst kill him ;

I had a Rutland too, thou help'st to kill him.

Q. Mar. Thou had'st a Clarence too, and Richard kill'd him.

From forth the kennel of thy womb hath crept A hell-hound, that doth hunt us all to death : That dog, that had his teeth before his eyes, To worry lambs, and lap their gentle blood ; That foul defacer of God's handy work ; That excellent grand tyrant of the earth, That reigns in galled eyes of weeping souls, Thy womb let loose, to chase us to our graves—

O upright, just, and true-disposing God, How do I thank thee, that this carnal cur Preys on the issue of his mother's body, And makes her pewfellow* with other's moan ;

Duch. O, Harry's wife, triumph not in my woes ;

God witness with me, I have wept for thine.

Q. Mar. Bear with me, I am hungry for revenge,

And now I cloy me with beholding it. [ward ; Thy Edward he is dead, that kill'd my Ed— Thy other Edward dead, to quit my Edward ; Young York he is but boot,† because both they

Match not the high perfection of my loss.

Thy Clarence he is dead, that stabb'd my Edward ;

And the beholders of this tragic play, [Grey, The adulterate Hastings, Rivers, Vaughan, Untimely smother'd in their dusky graves.

Richard yet lives, hell's black intelligencer ; Only reserv'd their factor, to buy souls, And send them thither : But at hand, at hand, Ensues his piteous and unpitied end : [pray, Earth gapes, hell burns, fiends roar, saints To have him suddenly convey'd from hence :— Cancel his bond of life, dear God, I pray, That I may live to say, The dog is dead !

Q. Eliz. O, thou didst prophesy, the time would come,

That I should wish for thee to help me curse That bottled spider, that foul bunch'd-back'd toad.

Q. Mar. I call'd thee then, vain flourish of my fortune ;

I call'd thee then, poor shadow, painted queen ; The presentation of but what I was,

The flattering index‡ of a direful pageant, One heav'd a high, to be hurl'd down below :

A mother only mock'd with two fair babes ; A dream of what thou wast ; a garish‡ flag,

To be the aim of every dangerous shot : A sign of dignity, a breath, a bubble ;

A queen in jest, only to fill the scene. Where is thy husband now ? Where be thy brothers ? [joy !

Where be thy two sons ? Wherein dost thou Who sues, and kneels, and says—God save the queen ?

Where be the bending peers that flatter'd thee ?

Where be the thronging troops that follow'd thee ?

Decline all this, and see what now thou art. For happy wife, a most distressed widow ;

For joyful mother, one that wails the name ;

For one being sued to, one that humbly sues ;

For queen, a very caitiff crown'd with care ;

For one that scorn'd at me, now scorn'd of me ;

For one being fear'd of all, now fearing one ;

For one commanding all, obey'd of none.

Thus hath the course of justice wheel'd about, And left thee but a very prey to time ; [wert, Having no more but thought of what thou art To torture thee the more, being what thou art. Thou didst usurp my place, And dost thou not Usurp the just proportion of my sorrow ? Now thy proud neck bears half my burden'd yoke ;

From which even here I slip my wearied head, And leave the burden of it all on thee.

Farewell, York's wife,—and queen of sad mischance,— [France,

These English woes shall make me smile in *Q. Eliz.* O thou well skill'd in curses, stay a while,

And teach me how to curse mine enemies.

Q. Mar. Forbear to sleep the night, and fast the day ;

Compare dead happiness with living woe ; Think that thy babes were fairer than they were,

And he, that slew them, fouler than he is : Bettering thy loss makes the bad-causer worse ;

Revolving this will teach thee how to curse.

Q. Eliz. My words are dull, O, quicken them with thine !

Q. Mar. Thy woes will make them sharp, and pierce like mine.

[Exit *Q. MARGARET.*

Duch. Why should calamity be full of words ?

Q. Eliz. Windy attorneys to their client woes, Airy succeders of instestate joys,

Poor breathing orators of miseries ! [impert Let them have scope : though what they do Help nothing else, yet do they ease the heart.

Duch. If so, then be not tongue-ty'd : go with me,

And in the breath of bitter word's lets smother My damned son, that thy two sweet sons smother'd.

[Drum within.

I hear his drum,—be copious in exclaims.

Enter King RICHARD, and his Train, marching.

K. Rich. Who intercepts me in my expedition ?

Duch. O, she, that might have intercepted thee,

By strangling thee in her accursed womb, From all the slaughters, wretch, that thou hast done.

Q. Eliz. Hid'st thou that forehead with a golden crown, [right,

Where should be branded, if that right were The slaughter of the prince that ow'd* that crown, [thers ?

And the dire death of my poor sons, and bro— Tell me, thou villain-slave, where are my children ?

Duch. Thou toad, thou toad, where is thy brother Clarence ?

And little Ned Plantagenet, his son ?

Q. Eliz. Where is the gentle Rivers, Vaughan, Grey ?

Duch. Where is kind Hastings ?

K. Rich. A flourish, trumpets !—strike alarum, drums !

Let not the heavens hear these tell-tale women Rail on the Lord's anointed : Strike, I say.— [Flourish. Alarums.

Either be patient, and entreat me fair, Or with the clamorous report of war

Thus will I drown your exclamations.

Duch. Art thou my son ?

K. Rich. Ay ; I thank God, my father, and yourself.

* Companion.

† Thrown in to boot.

‡ Indexes were anciently placed at the beginning of books.

§ Flaring.

* Owned.

Duch. Then patiently hear my impatience.
K. Rich. Madam, I have a touch of your condition,*
 That cannot brook the accent of reproof.
Duch. O, let me speak.
K. Rich. Do, then; but I'll not hear.
Duch. I will be mild and gentle in my words.
K. Rich. And brief, good mother; for I am in haste.
Duch. Art thou so hasty? I have staid for thee,
 God knows, in torment and in agony.
K. Rich. And came I not at last to comfort you?
Duch. No, by the holy rood,† thou know'st it well,
 Thou can'st on earth to make the earth my hell.
 A grievous burden was thy birth to me;
 Tetchy‡ and wayward was thy infancy;
 Thy school-days, frightful, desperate, wild, and furious; [turous;
 Thy prime of manhood, daring, bold, and venturous;
 Thy age confirm'd, proud, subtle, sly, and bloody, hatred:
 More mild, but yet more harmful, kind in what comfortable hour canst thou name,
 That ever grac'd me in thy company?
K. Rich. Faith, none, but Humphrey Hour, that call'd your grace
 To breakfast once, forth of my company.
 If I be so disgracious in your sight,
 Let me march on, and not offend you, madam.—
 Strike up the drum.
Duch. I pr'ythee, hear me speak.
K. Rich. You speak too bitterly.
Duch. Hear me a word;
 For I shall never speak to thee again.
K. Rich. So.
Duch. Either thou wilt die, by God's just ordinance,
 Ere from this war thou turn a conqueror;
 Or I with grief and extreme age shall perish,
 And never look upon thy face again.
 Therefore, take with thee my most heavy curse;
 Which, in the day of battlè, tire thee more,
 Than all the complete armour that thou wear'st!
 My prayers on the adverse party fight;
 And there the little souls of Edward's children
 Whisper the spirits of thine enemies,
 And promise them success and victory.
 Bloody thou art, bloody will be thy end;
 Shame serves thy life, and doth thy death attend. *Exit.*
Q. Eliz. Though far more cause, yet much less spirit to curse
 Abides in me; I say Amen to her. [*Going.*
K. Rich. Stay, madam, I must speak a word with you.
Q. Eliz. I have no more sons of the royal blood,
 For thee to murder: for my daughters, Richard,— [queens;
 They shall be praying nuns, not weeping
 And therefore level not to hit their lives.
K. Rich. You have a daughter call'd—Eliza—
 Virtuous and fair, royal and gracious. [beth,
Q. Eliz. And must she die for this? O, let her live,
 And I'll corrupt her manners, stain her beauty;
 Slander myself, as false to Edward's bed;
 Throw over her the veil of infamy: [ter;
 So she may live unscarr'd of bleeding slaughter
 I will confess she was not Edward's daughter.
K. Rich. Wrong not her birth, she is of royal blood.

* Disposition. † Cross. ‡ Touchy, fretful

Q. Eliz. To save her life, I'll say—she is not so.
K. Rich. Her life is safest only in her birth.
Q. Eliz. And only in that safety died her brothers.
K. Rich. Lo, at their births good stars were opposite.
Q. Eliz. No, to their lives bad friends were contrary.
K. Rich. All unavoided* is the doom of destiny.
Q. Eliz. True, when avoided grace makes destiny:
 My babes were destin'd to a fairer death,
 If grace had bless'd thee with a fairer life.
K. Rich. You speak, as if that I had slain my cousins.
Q. Eliz. Cousins, indeed; and by their uncle cozen'd
 Of comfort, kingdom, kindred, freedom, life.
 Whose hands soever lanc'd their tender hearts,
 Thy head, all indirectly, gave direction:
 No doubt the murderous knife was dull and blunt,
 Till it was whetted on thy stone-hard heart,
 To revel in the entrails of my lambs.
 But that still use of grief makes wild grief tame, [boys,
 My tongue should to thy ears not name my
 Till that my nails were anchor'd in thine eyes;
 And I, in such a desperate bay of death,
 Like a poor bark, of sails and tackling rest,
 Rush all to pieces on thy rocky bosom.
K. Rich. Madam, so thrive I in my enterprise,
 And dangerous success of bloody wars,
 As I intend more good to you and yours,
 Than ever you or yours by me were harm'd!
Q. Eliz. What good is cover'd with the face of heaven,
 To be discover'd, that can do me good?
K. Rich. The advancement of your children, gentle lady.
Q. Eliz. Up to some scaffold, there to lose their heads?
K. Rich. No, to the dignity and height of fortune,
 The high imperial type of this earth's glory.‡
Q. Eliz. Flatter my sorrows with report of it;
 Tell me, what state, what dignity, what honour,
 Canst thou demise§ to any child of mine?
K. Rich. Even all I have; ay, and myself and all,
 Will I withal endow a child of thine;
 So in the Lethe of thy angry soul [wrongs,
 Thou drown the sad remembrance of those
 Which, thou suppos'st, I have done to thee.
Q. Eliz. Be brief, lest that the process of thy kindness
 Last longer telling than thy kindness' date.
K. Rich. Then know, that, from my soul, I love thy daughter.
Q. Eliz. My daughter's mother thinks it with her soul.
K. Rich. What do you think?
Q. Eliz. That thou dost love my daughter, from thy soul:
 So, from thy soul's love, didst thou love her brothers; [it.
 And, from my heart's love, I do thank thee for
K. Rich. Be not so hasty to confound my meaning:
 I mean, that with my soul I love thy daughter,
 And do intend to make her queen of England.

* Unavoidable. † Constant. ‡ A crown. § Bequeath.

Q. Eliz. Well then, who dost thou mean shall be her king?

K. Rich. Even he, that makes her queen: Who else should be?

Q. Eliz. What, thou?

K. Rich. Even so: What think you of it, madam?

Q. Eliz. How canst thou woo her?

K. Rich. That I would learn of you, As one being best acquainted with her humour.

Q. Eliz. And wilt thou learn of me?

K. Rich. Madam, with all my heart.

Q. Eliz. Send to her, by the man that slew her brothers,

A pair of bleeding hearts; thereon engrave, Edward, and York, then, haply,* will she weep: Therefore present to her,—as sometime Margaret

Did to thy father, steep'd in Rutland's blood,—A handkerchief; which, say to her, did drain The purple sap from her sweet brother's body, And bid her wipe her weeping eyes withal.

If this inducement move her not to love, Send her a letter of thy noble deeds; Tell her, thou mad'st away her uncle Clarence, Her uncle Rivers; ay, and, for her sake, Mad'st quick conveyance with her good aunt Anne.

K. Rich. You mock me, madam; this is not the way To win your daughter.

Q. Eliz. There is no other way; Unless thou could'st put on some other shape, And not be Richard that hath done all this.

K. Rich. Say, that I did all this for love of her.

Q. Eliz. Nay, then indeed, she cannot choose but have thee,

Having bought love with such a bloody spoil.

K. Rich. Look, what is done cannot be now amended:

Men shall deal unadvisedly sometimes, Which after-hours give leisure to repent. If I did take the kingdom from your sons. To make amends, I'll give it to your daughter. If I have kill'd the issue of your womb, To quicken your increase, I will beget Mine issue of your blood upon your daughter. A grandam's name is little less in love, Than is the doting title of a mother; They are as children, but one step below, Even of your mettle, of your very blood; Of all one pain,—save for a night of groans Endur'd of her, for whom you bid like sorrow. Your children were vexation to your youth, But mine shall be a comfort to your age. The loss you have, is but—a son being king, And, by that loss, your daughter is made queen.

I cannot make you what amends I would, Therefore accept such kindness as I can. Dorset, your son, that, with a fearful soul, Leads discontented steps in foreign soil, This fair alliance quickly shall call home To high promotions and great dignity: [wife, The king, that calls your beauteous daughter,— Familiarly shall call thy Dorset—brother; Again shall you be mother to a king, And all the ruins of distressful times Repair'd with double riches of content. What! we have many goodly days to see: The liquid drops of tears that you have shed, Shall come again, transform'd to orient pearl; Advantaging their loan, with interest Of ten-times-double gain of happiness.

* Perhaps.

Go then, my mother, to thy daughter go; Make bold her bashful years with your experience;

Prepare her ears to hear a wooer's tale; Put in her tender heart the aspiring flame Of golden sovereignty; acquaint the princess With the sweet silent hours of marriage joys: And when this arm of mine hath chāstised The petty rebel, dull-brain'd Buckingham, Bound with triumphant garlands will I come, And lead thy daughter to a conqueror's bed; To whom I will retail my conquest won, And she shall be sole victress, Cæsar's Cæsar.

Q. Eliz. What were I best to say? her father's brother Would be her lord? Or shall I say, her uncle? Or, he that slew her brothers, and her uncles? Under what title shall I woo for thee, That God, the law, my honour, and her love, Can make seem pleasing to her tender years?

K. Rich. Infer fair England's peace by this alliance.

Q. Eliz. Which she shall purchase with still lasting war.

K. Rich. Tell her, the king, that may command, entreats.

Q. Eliz. That at her hands, which the king's King forbids.*

K. Rich. Say, she shall be a high and mighty queen.

Q. Eliz. To wail the title, as her mother doth.

K. Rich. Say, I will love her everlastingly.

Q. Eliz. But how long shall that title, ever, last?

K. Rich. Sweetly in force unto her fair life's end.

Q. Eliz. But how long fairly shall her sweet life last?

K. Rich. As long as heaven, and nature lengthens it.

Q. Eliz. As long as hell, and Richard likes of it.

K. Rich. Say, I, her sovereign, am her subject low.

Q. Eliz. But she, your subject, loaths such sov'reignty.

K. Rich. Be eloquent in my behalf to her.

Q. Eliz. An honest tale speeds best, being plainly told.

K. Rich. Then, in plain terms, tell her my loving tale.

Q. Eliz. Plain, and not honest, is too harsh a style.

K. Rich. Your reasons are too shallow and too quick.

Q. Eliz. O, no, my reasons are too deep and dead;—

Too deep and dead, poor infants, in their graves.

K. Rich. Harp not on that string, madam; that is past.

Q. Eliz. Harp on it still shall I, till heart-strings break.

K. Rich. Now by my George, my garter,† and my crown,—

Q. Eliz. Profan'd, dishonour'd, and the third usurp'd.

K. Rich. I swear.

Q. Eliz. By nothing; for this is no oath.

Thy George, profan'd, hath lost his holy honour; [virtue;

Thy garter, blemish'd, pawn'd his knightly Thy crown, usurp'd, disgrac'd his kingly glory;

If something thou would'st swear to be believ'd,

* In the Levitical Law, chap. xviii. 14.

† The ensigns of the Order of the Garter.

Swear then by something that thou hast not wrong'd.

K. Rich. Now by the world,—

Q. Eliz. 'Tis full of thy foul wrongs.

K. Rich. My father's death,—

Q. Eliz. Thy life hath that dishonour'd.

K. Rich. Then, by myself,—

Q. Eliz. Thyself is self-misus'd.

K. Rich. Why then, by God,—

Q. Eliz. God's wrong is most of all.

If thou hadst fear'd to break an oath by him,

The unity, the king thy brother made,

Had not been broken, nor my brother slain :

If thou hadst fear'd to break an oath by him,

The imperial metal, circling now thy head,

Had grac'd the tender temples of my child ;

And both the princes had been breathing here,

Which now, two tender bed-fellows for dust,

Thy broken faith hath made a prey for worms.

What canst thou swear by now ?

K. Rich. By the time to come.

Q. Eliz. That thou hast wrong'd in the time o'erpast ;

For I myself have many tears to wash

Hereafter time, for time past, wrong'd by thee.

The children live, whose parents thou hast slaughter'd,

Ungovern'd youth, to wail it in their age :

The parents live, whose children thou hast butcher'd,

Old barren plants, to wail it with their age.

Swear not by time to come ; for that thou hast misus'd ere used, by times ill-us'd o'erpast.

K. Rich. As I intend to prosper, and repent !

So thrive I in my dangerous attempt

Of hostile arms ! myself myself confound !

Heaven, and fortune, bar me happy hours !

Day, yield me not thy light ; nor, night, thy

Be opposite all planets of good luck [rest !

To my proceeding, if, with pure heart's love,

Immaculate devotion, holy thoughts,

I tender not thy beauteous princely daughter !

In her consists my happiness, and thine ;

Without her, follows to myself, and thee,

Herself, the land, and many a Christian soul,

Death, desolation, ruin, and decay :

It cannot be avoided but by this ;

It will not be avoided but by this.

Therefore, dear mother, (I must call you so,)

Be the attorney of my love to her,

Plead what I will be, not what I have been ;

Not my deserts, but what I will deserve :

Urge the necessity and state of times,

And be not peevish* found in great designs.

Q. Eliz. Shall I be tempted of the devil thus ?

K. Rich. Ay, if the devil tempt thee to do

good.

Q. Eliz. Shall I forget myself, to be myself ?

K. Rich. Ay, if your self's remembrance

wrong yourself.

Q. Eliz. But thou didst kill my children.

K. Rich. But in your daughter's womb I

bury them : [breed

Where, in that nest of spicery,† they shall

Selves of themselves, to your recomforture.

Q. Eliz. Shall I go win my daughter to thy

will ?

K. Rich. And be a happy mother by the

deed.

Q. Eliz. I go.—Write to me very shortly,

And you shall understand from me her mind.

K. Rich. Bear her my true love's kiss, and

so farewell.

[Kissing her. Exit Q. ELIZABETH.

* Foolish.

† The Phoenix's nest.

Relenting fool, and shallow, changing—woman !

How now ? what news ?

Enter RATCLIFF ; CATESBY following.

Rat. Most mighty sovereign, on the western coast

Rideth a puissant navy ; to the shore

Throng many doubtful hollow-hearted friends,

Unarm'd, and unresolv'd to beat them back :

'Tis thought, that Richmond is their admiral ;

And there they hull, expecting but the aid

Of Buckingham, to welcome them ashore.

K. Rich. Some light-footed friend post to the duke of Norfolk :—

Ratcliff, thyself,—or Catesby ; where is he ?

Cate. Here, my good lord.

K. Rich. Catesby, fly to the duke.

Cate. I will, my lord, with all convenient haste.

K. Rich. Ratcliff, come hither ; Post to Salisbury ;

When thou com'st thither,—Dull unmindful villain, [To CATESBY.

Why stay'st thou here, and go'st not to the duke ?

Cate. First, mighty liege, tell me your highness' pleasure.

What from your grace I shall deliver to him.

K. Rich. O, true, good Catesby ;—Bid him levy straight

The greatest strength and power he can make, And meet me suddenly at Salisbury.

Cate. I go. [Exit.

Rat. What, may it please you, shall I do at Salisbury ?

K. Rich. Why, what would'st thou do there, before I go ?

Rat. Your highness told me ; I should post before.

Enter STANLEY.

K. Rich. My mind is chang'd.—Stanley, what news with you ?

Stan. None good, my liege, to please you with the hearing ;

Nor none so bad, but well may be reported.

K. Rich. Heyday, a riddle ! neither good nor bad !

What need'st thou run so many miles about, When thou may'st tell thy tale the nearest way ?

Once more what news ?

Stan. Richmond is on the seas.

K. Rich. There let him sink, and be the seas on him !

White-liver'd runagate, what doth he there ?

Stan. I know not, mighty sovereign, but by guess.

K. Rich. Well, as you guess ?

Stan. Stur'd up by Dorset, Buckingham, and Morton, [crown.

He makes for England, here to claim the

K. Rich. Is the chair empty ? is the sword unsway'd ?

Is the king dead ? The empire unpossess'd ?

What heir of York is there alive, but we ?

And who is England's king, but great York's heir ?

Then, tell me, what makes he upon the seas ?

Stan. Unless for that, my liege, I cannot guess.

K. Rich. Unless for that he comes to be your liege, [comes.

You cannot guess wherefore the Welchman Thou wilt revolt, and fly to him, I fear.

Stan. No, mighty liege; therefore mistrust me not.

K. Rich. Where is thy power then, to beat him back?

Where be thy tenants, and thy followers?

Are they not now upon the western shore,
Safe-conducting the rebels from their ships?

Stan. No, my good lord, my friends are in the north.

K. Rich. Cold friends to me: what do they in the north, [west?

When they should serve their sovereign in the

Stan. They have not been commanded, mighty king:

Pleaseth your majesty to give me leave,
I'll muster up my friends; and meet your grace,
Where, and what time, your majesty shall please.

K. Rich. Ay, ay, thou wouldst be gone to join with Richmond:

I will not trust you, Sir.

Stan. Most mighty sovereign,
You have no cause to hold my friendship doubtful;

I never was, nor never will be, false.

K. Rich. Well, go, muster men. But, hear you, leave behind

Your son, George Stanley; look your heart be
Or else his head's assurance is but frail. [firm,

Stan. So deal with him, as I prove true to you. [Exit STANLEY.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. My gracious sovereign, now in Devonshire,

As I by friends am well advertised,
Sir Edward Courtney, and the haughty pre-
Bishop of Exeter, his elder brother, [late,
With many more confederates, are in arms.

Enter another MESSENGER.

2 *Mess.* In Kent, my liege, the Guildfords are in arms;

And every hour more competitors* [strong,
Flock to the rebels, and their power grows

Enter another MESSENGER.

3 *Mess.* My lord, the army of great Buckingham—

K. Rich. Out on ye, owls! nothing but songs of death? [He strikes him.

There, take thou that, till thou bring better news.

3 *Mess.* The news I have to tell your majesty,

Is,—that by sudden floods and fall of waters,
Buckingham's army is dispers'd and scatter'd;
And he himself wander'd away alone,
No man knows whither.

K. Rich. O, I cry you mercy:

There is my purse to cure that blow of thine.
Hath any well-advised friend proclaim'd
Reward to him that brings the traitor in?

3 *Mess.* Such proclamation hath been made, my liege.

Enter another MESSENGER.

4 *Mess.* Sir Thomas Lovel, and lord marquis Dorset,

'Tis said my liege, in Yorkshire are in arms.
But this good comfort bring I to your high-
ness,—

The Bretagne navy is dispers'd by tempest:
Richmond, in Dorsetshire, sent out a boat

* Associates.

Unto the shore, to ask those on the banks,
If they were his assistants, yea, or no;
Who answer'd him, they came from Bucking-
Upon his party: he, mistrusting them, [ham
Hois'd sail, and made his course again for
Bretagne.

K. Rich. March on, march on, since we are up in arms;

If not to fight with foreign enemies,
Yet to beat down these rebels here at home.

Enter CATESBY.

Cate. My liege, the duke of Buckingham is taken, [mond

That is the best news; That the earl of Rich-
Is with a mighty power* landed at Milford,
Is colder news, but yet they must be told.

K. Rich. Away towards Salisbury; while we reason here,

A royal battle might be won and lost:—
Some one take order, Buckingham be brought
To Salisbury;—the rest march on with me.

[Exit.

SCENE V.—A Room in Lord STANLEY'S House.

Enter STANLEY and Sir CHRISTOPHER URSWICK.†

Stan. Sir Christopher, tell Richmond this from me:—

That, in the sty of this most bloody boar,
My son George Stanley is frank'd up in hold;
If I revolt, off goes young George's head;
The fear of that withholds my present aid.

But, tell me, where is princely Richmond now?
Chris. At Pembroke, or at Ha'rford-west in Wales.

Stan. What men of name resort to him?

Chris. Sir Walter Herbert, a renowned soldier;

Sir Gilbert Talbert, Sir William Stanley;
Oxford, redoubted Pembroke, Sir James Blunt,
And Rice ap Thomas, with a valiant crew;
And many other of great fame and worth:
And towards London do they bend their course,
If by the way they be not fought withal.

Stan. Well, hic thee to thy lord; commend me to him;

Tell him, the queen hath heartily consented
He shall espouse Elizabeth her daughter.
These letters will resolve him of my mind.

Farewell. [Gives papers to Sir CHRISTOPHER. [Exit.

ACT V.

SCENE I.—Salisbury.—An open place.

Enter the SHERIFF, and Guard, with BUCKINGHAM, led to execution.

Buck. Will not king Richard let me speak with him?

Sher. No, my good lord; therefore be patient.

Buck. Hastings, and Edward's children, Rivers, Grey,

Holy king Henry, and thy fair son Edward,
Vaughan, and all that have miscarried
By underhand corrupted foul injustice;
If that your moody discontented souls
Do through the clouds behold this present hour,
Even for revenge mock my destruction!
This is All-Souls' day, fellows, is it not?

Sher. It is my lord.

Buck. Why, then All-Souls' day is my body's doomsday.

* Force. † Chaplain to the countess of Richmond.
‡ A sty in which hogs are set apart for fattening.

This is the day, which, in king Edward's time,
I wish'd might fall on me, when I was found
False to his children, or his wife's allies :

This is the day, wherein I wish'd to fall
By the false faith of him whom most I trusted ;
This, this All-Souls' day to my fearful soul,
Is the determin'd respite of my wrongs.*
That high All-seer which I dallied with,
Hath turned my feigned prayer on my head,
And given in earnest what I begg'd in jest.
Thus doth he force the swords of wicked men
To turn their own points on their masters'
bosoms : [neck,—

Thus Margaret's curse falls heavy on my
When he, quoth she, shall split thy heart with
sorrow,

Remember Margaret was a propheteess.—

Come, Sirs, convey me to the block of shame ;
Wrong hath but wrong, and blame the due of
blame. [Exeunt BUCKINGHAM, &c.

SCENE II.—Plain near Tamworth.

Enter, with drum and colours, RICHMOND, OXFORD, Sir JAMES BLUNT, Sir WALTER HERBERT, and others, with forces, marching.

Richm. Fellows in arms, and my most loving
friends,

Bruis'd underneath the yoke of tyranny,
Thus far into the bowels of the land
Have we march'd on without impediment ;
And here receive we from our father Stanley
Lines of fair comfort and encouragement.
The wretched, bloody, and usurping boar,
That spoil'd your summer fields, and fruitful
vines,

Swills your warm blood like wash, and makes
his trough

In your embowell'd bosoms, this foul swine
Lies now even in the centre of this isle,
Near to the town of Leicester, as we learn :
From Tamworth thither, is but one day's march.
In God's name, cheerly on, courageous friends,
To reap the harvest of perpetual peace
By this one bloody trial of sharp war.

Orf. Every man's conscience is a thousand
swords.

To fight against that bloody homicide.

Herb. I doubt not, but his friends will turn
to us.

Blunt. He hath no friends, but who are
friends for fear ;

Which, in his dearest need, will fly from him.

Richm. All for our vantage. Then in God's
name, march : [wings,

True hope is swift, and flies with swallow's
Kings it makes gods, and meaner creatures
kings. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—Bosworth Field.

Enter King RICHARD, and forces ; the Duke of
NORFOLK, Earl of SURREY, and others.

K. Rich. Here pitch our tents, even here in
Bosworth field.—

My lord of Surrey, why look you so sad ?

Sur. My heart is ten times lighter than my
looks.

K. Rich. My lord of Norfolk, —

Nor. Here, most gracious liege.

K. Rich. Norfolk, we must have knocks ;
Ha ! must we not ?

Nor. We must both give and take, my lov-
ing lord.

K. Rich. Up with my tent : Here will I lie
to-night ;

[Soldiers begin to set up the king's tent.
But where, to-morrow ?—Well, all's one for
that.—

Who hath descried the number of the traitors ?
Nor. Six or seven thousand is their utmost
power.

K. Rich. Why, our battalia trebles that ac-
count :

Besides, the king's name is a tower of strength,
Which they upon the adverse faction want.

Up with the tent.—Come, noble gentlemen,
Let us survey the vantage of the ground ;—
Call for some men of sound direction :

Let's want no discipline, make no delay ;
For lords, to-morrow is a busy day. [Exeunt.

Enter, on the other side of the field, RICHMOND,
Sir WILLIAM BRANDON, OXFORD, and other
Lords. Some of the soldiers pitch RICHMOND'S
tent.

Richm. The weary sun hath made a golden
And, by the bright track of his fiery car, [set
Gives token of a goodly day to-morrow.—
Sir William Brandon, you shall bear my stand-
dard.—

Give me some ink and paper in my tent ;—
I'll draw the form and model of our battle,
Limit* each leader to his several charge,
And part in just proportion our small power.
My lord of Oxford,—you, Sir William Bran-
don,—

And you, Sir Walter Herbert, stay with me :
The earl of Pembroke keeps[†] his regiment ;—
Good captain Blunt, bear my good night to
him,

And by the second hour in the morning
Desire the earl to see me in my tent :—
Yet one thing more, good captain, do for me ;
Where is lord Stanley quarter'd, do you know ?

Blunt. Unless I have mista'en his colours
much,

(Which, well I am assur'd, I have not done,)
His regiment lies half a mile at least
South from the mighty power of the king.

Richm. If without peril it be possible,
Sweet Blunt, make good some means to speak
with him,

And give him from me this most needful note.

Blunt. Upon my life, my lord, I'll under-
take it ;

And so, God give you quiet rest to-night !

Richm. Good night, good captain Blunt.

Come, gentlemen,
Let us consult upon to-morrow's business ;
In to my tent, the air is raw and cold.

[They withdraw into the Tent.

Enter, to his Tent, King RICHARD, NORFOLK,
RATCLIFF, and CATESBY.

K. Rich. What is't o'clock ?

Cate. It's supper time, my lord :
It's nine o'clock.

K. Rich. I will not sup to-night :—

Give me some ink and paper.—

What, is my beaver easier than it was ?—

And all my armour laid into my tent ?

Cate. It is, my liege ; and all things are in
readiness.

K. Rich. Good Norfolk, hie thee to thy
charge ;

Use careful watch, choose trusty sentinels.

Nor. I go, my lord.

* Injurious practices.

* Appoint.

† Remains with.

K. Rich. Stir with the lark to-morrow, gentle Norfolk.

Nor. I warrant you, my lord. [Exit.]

K. Rich. Ratcliff,——

Rat. My lord?

K. Rich. Send out a pursuivant at arms To Stanley's regiment; bid him bring his power

Before sun-rising, lest his son George fall Into the blind cave of eternal night.—

Fill me a bowl of wine.—Give me a watch:*

[To CATESBY.]

Saddle white Surrey for the field to-morrow.— Look that my stavest be sound, and not too heavy.

Ratcliff.——

Rat. My lord?

K. Rich. Saw'st thou the melancholy lord Northumberland?

Rat. Thomas the earl of Surrey, and himself, Much about cock-shut[†] time, from troop to troop, [diers.]

Went through the army, cheering up the sol-

K. Rich. I am satisfied. Give me a bowl of wine:

I have not that alacrity of spirit, Nor cheer of mind, that I was wont to have.— So, set it down.—Is ink and paper ready?

Rat. It is, my lord.

K. Rich. Bid my guard watch; leave me.

About the mid of night, come to my tent And help to arm me.—Leave me, I say.

[*KING RICHARD retires into his Tent. Exeunt RATCLIFF and CATESBY.*]

RICHMOND'S Tent opens, and discovers him, and his officers, &c.

Enter STANLEY.

Stan. Fortune and victory sit on thy helm! *Richm.* All comfort that the dark night can afford,

Be to thy person, noble father-in-law!

Tell me, how fares our loving mother?

Stan. I, by attorney, § bless thee from thy mother,

Who prays continually for Richmond's good; So much for that.—The silent hours steal on. And flaky darkness breaks within the east.

In brief, for so the season bids us be, Prepare thy battle early in the morning;

And put thy fortune to the arbitrement Of bloody strokes, and mortal-staring war.

I, as I may, (that which I would, I cannot.)

With best advantage will deceive the time, And aid thee in this doubtful shock of arms:

But on thy side I may not be too forward, Lest, being seen, thy brother, tender George

Be executed in his father's sight:

Farewell: The leisure and the fearful time Cuts off the ceremonious vows of love,

And ample interchange of sweet discourse, Which so long sunder'd friends should dwell upon;

God give us leisure for these rights of love!

Once more, adieu!—Be valiant, and speed well!

Richm. Good lords, conduct him to his regiment; [nap;]

I'll strive, with troubled thoughts, to take a Lest leaden slumber peise|| me down to-mor-

row,

When I should mount with wings of victory:

* A watch-light. † Wood of the lances. ‡ Twilight. § Deputation. || Weigh.

Once more good night, kind lords and gentle-men.

[*Exeunt LORDS, &c. with STANLEY.*]

O Thou! whose captain I account myself,

Look on my forces with a gracious eye;

Put in their hands thy bruising irons of wrath,

That they may crush down with a heavy fall

The usurping helmets of our adversaries!

Make us thy ministers of chastisement,

That we may praise thee in thy victory!

To thee I do commend my watchful soul,

Ere I let fall the windows of mine eyes;

Sleeping, and waking, O, defend me still!

[*Sleeps.*]

The GHOST of Prince EDWARD, son to HENRY the sixth, rises between the two tents.

Ghost. Let me sit heavy on thy soul to-mor-row! [To *King RICHARD.*]

Think, how thou stab'dst me in my prime of youth

At Tewksbury; Despair therefore, and die!—

Be cheerful, Richmond; for the wronged souls

Of butcher'd princes fight in thy behalf:

King Henry's issue, Richmond, comforts thee.

The GHOST of King HENRY the sixth rises.

Ghost. When I was mortal, my anointed body [To *King RICHARD.*]

By thee was punched full of deadly holes:

Think on the Tower, and me; Despair, and die;

Harry the sixth bids thee despair and die.— Virtuous and holy, be thou conqueror!

[To *RICHMOND.*]

Harry, that prophesy'd thou should'st be king, Doth comfort thee in thy sleep; Live, and flourish!

The GHOST of CLARENCE rises.

Ghost. Let me sit heavy on thy soul to-mor-row! [To *King RICHARD.*]

I, that was wash'd to death with fulsome wine,

Poor Clarence, by thy guile betray'd to death!

To-morrow in the battle think on me, And fall thy edgeless sword; Despair, and die!—

Thou offspring of the house of Lancaster,

[To *RICHMOND.*]

The wronged heirs of York do pray for thee;

Good angels guard thy battle! Live, and flourish!

The GHOSTS of RIVERS, GREY, and VAUGHAN, rise.

Riv. Let me sit heavy on thy soul to-mor-row, [To *King RICHARD.*]

Rivers, that died at Pomfret! Despair, and die!

Grey. Think upon Grey, and let thy soul despair! [To *King RICHARD.*]

Vaugh. Think upon Vaughan; and, with guilty fear,

Let fall thy lance! Despair, and die!—

[To *King RICHARD.*]

All. Awake! and think, our wrongs in Richard's bosom [To *RICHMOND.*]

Will conquer him:—awake, and win the day!

The GHOST of HASTINGS rises.

Ghost. Bloody and guilty, guiltily awake; [To *King RICHARD.*]

And in a bloody battle end thy days!

Think on lord Hastings; and despair, and die!—

Quiet untroubled soul, awake, awake!

[To RICHMOND.]

Arm, fight, and conquer, for fair England's sake!

The GHOSTS of the two young PRINCES rise.

Ghosts. Dream on thy cousins smother'd in the Tower;

Let us be led within thy bosom Richard, And weigh thee down to ruin, shame, and death!

Thy nephews' souls bid thee despair, and die.— Sleep, Richmond, sleep in peace, and wake in joy;

Good angels guard thee from the boar's annoy! Live, and beget a happy race of kings! Edward's unhappy sons do bid thee flourish.

The GHOST of Queen ANNE rises.

Ghost. Richard, thy wife, that wretched Anne thy wife,

That never slept a quiet hour with thee, Now fills thy sleep with perturbations: To-morrow in the battle think on me, And fall thy edgeless sword; Despair, and die!—

Thou, quiet soul, sleep thou a quiet sleep;

[To RICHMOND.]

Dream of success and happy victory; Thy adversary's wife doth pray for thee.

The GHOST of BUCKINGHAM rises.

Ghost. The first was I, that help'd thee to the crown;

[To King RICHARD.]

The last was I that felt thy tyranny: O, in the battle think on Buckingham, And die in terror of thy guiltiness! Dream on, dream on, of bloody deeds and death;

[breath!—

Fainting, despair; despairing, yield thy I died for hope, ere I could lend thee aid:

To RICHMOND.]

But cheer thy heart, and be thou not dismay'd: God, and good angels, fight on Richmond's side;

And Richard falls in height of all his pride.

[*The GHOSTS vanish. King RICHARD starts out of his dream.*

K. Rich. Give me another horse,—bind up my wounds,—

Have mercy, Jesu!—Soft; I did but dream.— O coward conscience, how dost thou afflict me!—

[night.]

The lights burn blue.—It is now dead mid- Cold fearful drops stand on my trembling flesh. What do I fear? myself? there's none else by: Richard loves Richard; that is, I am I.

Is there a murderer here? No;—Yes; I am: Then fly,—What, from myself? Great reason:

Why?

Lest I revenge. What? Myself on myself? I love myself. Wherefore? for any good, That I myself have done unto myself?

O, no: alas, I rather hate myself, For hateful deeds committed by myself.

I am a villain: Yet I lie, I am not.

[ter.]

Fool, of thyself speak well:—Fool, do not flatter My conscience hath a thousand several tongues, And every tongue brings in a several tale, And every tale condemns me for a villain.

Perjury, perjury, in the high'st degree, Murder, stern murder, in the dir'st degree; All several sins, all us'd in each degree;

Throng to the bar, crying all,—Guilty! guilty! I shall despair.—There is no creature loves me;

And, if I die, no soul will pity me:—

Nay, wherefore, should they? since that I myself find in myself no pity to myself.

[self

Methought, the souls of all that I had murder'd Came to my tent: and every one did threat To-morrow's vengeance on the head of Richard.

Enter RATCLIFF.

Rat. My lord,—

K. Rich. Who's there?

Rat. Ratcliff, my lord; 'tis I. The early village cock

Hath twice done salutation to the morn; Your friends are up, and buckle on their armour.

K. Rich. O, Ratcliff, I have dream'd a fearful dream!

[true?

What thinkest thou? will our friends prove all *Rat.* No doubt, my lord.

K. Rich. Ratcliff, I fear, I fear,—

Rat. Nay, good my lord, be not afraid of shadows.

K. Rich. By the apostle Paul, shadows to-night

Have struck more terror to the soul of Richard, Than can the substance of ten thousand soldiers,

Armed in proof, and led by shallow Richmond. It is not yet near day. Come, go with me;

Under our tents I'll play the caves-dropper, To hear, if any mean to shrink from me.

[*Exeunt King RICHARD and RATCLIFF.*

RICHMOND wakes. Enter OXFORD and others.

Lords. Good morrow, Richmond.

Richm. 'Cry mercy, lords, and watchful gentlemen,

That you have ta'en a tardy sluggard here.

Lords. How have you slept, my lord?

Richm. The sweetest sleep, and fairest bod- ing dreams,

That ever enter'd in a drowsy head, Have I since your departure had, my lords.

Methought, their souls, whose bodies Richard murder'd,

Came to my tent, and cried—On! victory! I promise you, my heart is very jocund

In the remembrance of so fair a dream. How far into the morning is it, lords?

Lords. Upon the stroke of four.

Richm. Why, then 'tis time to arm, and give direction.—[*He advances to the troops.*

More than I have said, loving countrymen, The leisure and enforcement of the time

Forbids to dwell on. Yet remember this,— God, and our good cause, fight upon our side;

The prayers of holy saints, and wronged souls, Like high-rear'd bulwarks, stand before our

faces;

Richard except, those, whom we fight against, Had rather have us win, than him they follow.

For what is he they follow? truly, gentlemen, A bloody tyrant, and a homicide;

One rais'd in blood, and one in blood esta- One that made means to come by what he hath,

And slaughter'd those that were the means to help him;

A base foul stone, made precious by the foil Of England's chair,* where he is falsely set; One that hath ever been God's enemy;

Then, if, you fight against God's enemy, God will, in justice, ward't you as his soldiers;

* Throne.

† Guard.

If you do sweat to put a tyrant down,
You sleep in peace, the tyrant being slain;
If you do fight against your country's foes,
Your country's fat shall pay your pains the hire;

If you do fight in safeguard of your wives,
Your wives shall welcome home the conquerors;

If you do free your children from the sword,
Your children's children quit* it in your age.
Then in the name of God, and all these rights,
Advance your standards, draw your willing swords;

For me, the ransom of my bold attempt
Shall be this cold corpse on the earth's cold
But if I thrive, the gain of my attempt [face;
The least of you shall share his part thereof.
Sound, drums and trumpets, boldly and cheerfully;

God, and saint George! Richmond, and victory!
[*Exeunt.*]

Re-Enter King RICHARD, RATCLIFF, Attendants and Forces.

K. Rich. What said Northumberland, as touching Richmond?

Rat. That he was never trained up in arms.

K. Rich. He said the truth: And what said Surrey then?

Rat. He smil'd and said, the better for our purpose.

K. Rich. He was i'the right; and so, indeed, it is. [Clock strikes.]

Tell the clock there.—Give me a calendar.—Who saw the sun to-day?

Rat. Not I, my lord.

K. Rich. Then he disdains to shine; for, by the book,

He should have brav'd† the east an hour ago:
A black day will it be to somebody.—

Ratcliff.—

Rat. My lord?

K. Rich. The sun will not be seen to-day;
The sky doth frown and lour upon our army.
I would, these dewy tears were from the ground.
Not shine to-day! Why, what is that to me,
More than to Richmond? for the self-same heaven,

That frowns on me, looks sadly upon him.

Enter NORFOLK.

Nor. Arm, arm, my lord; the foe vaunts in the field.

K. Rich. Come, bustle, bustle;—Caparison my horse:—

Call up lord Stanley, bid him bring his power:—
I will lead forth my soldiers to the plain,
And thus my battle shall be ordered.

My forward shall be drawn out all in length,
Consisting equally of horse and foot;
Our archers shall be placed in the midst:

John duke of Norfolk, Thomas earl of Surrey,
Shall have the leading of this foot and horse.
They thus directed, we ourself will follow
In the main battle; whose puissance on either side

Shall be well winged with our chiefest horse.
This, and saint George to boot!—What think'st thou, Norfolk?

Nor. A good direction, warlike sovereign.—
This found I on my tent this morning.

[*Giving a scroll.*]

K. Rich. *Jocky of Norfolk, be not too bold,*
[reads.]

For Dickon‡ thy master is bought and sold.

* Requite.

† Made it splendid.

‡ The ancient familiarization of Richard.

A thing devised by the enemy.—

Go, gentlemen, every man unto his charge:
Let not our babbling dreams affright our souls;
Conscience is but a word that cowards use,
Devis'd at first to keep the strong in awe;
Our strong arms be our conscience, swords
our law.

March on, join bravely, let us to't pell-mell;
If not to heaven, then hand in hand to hell.—

What shall I say more than I have inferr'd;
Remember whom you are to cope withal;—
A sort* of vagabonds, rascals, and run-aways,
A scum of Breagnes, and base lackey peasants,
Whom their o'er-cloyed country vomits forth
To desperate ventures and assur'd destruction.
You sleeping safe, they bring you to unrest;
You having lands, and bless'd with beauteous
wives,

They would restrain the one, distain the other.
And who doth lead them, but a paltry fellow,
Long kept in Bretagne at our mother's cost?

A milk-sop, one that never in his life
Felt so much cold as over shoes in snow?

Let's whip these stragglers o'er the seas again;
Lash hence these over-weening rags of France,
These famish'd beggars, weary of their lives;
Who, but for dreaming on this fond exploit,
For want of means, poor rats, had hang'd
themselves:

If we be conquer'd, let men conquer us,
And not these bastard Breagnes; whom our
fathers [thump'd,

Have in their own land beaten, bobb'd, and
And, on record, left them the heirs of shame.

Shall these enjoy our lands? lie with our wives?
Ravish our daughters?—Hark, I hear their
drum. [Drum afar off.]

Fight, gentlemen of England! fight, bold yeo-
men!

Draw, archers, draw your arrows to the head,
Spur your proud horses hard, and ride in blood;
Amaze the welkin with your broken staves!†

Enter a MESSENGER.

What says lord Stanley? will he bring his
power?

Mess. My lord, he doth deny to come.

K. Rich. Off instantly with his son George's
head.

Nor. My lord, the enemy is pass'd the marsh
After the battle let George Stanley die.

K. Rich. A thousand hearts are great with-
in my bosom:

Advance our standards, set upon our foes;
Our ancient word of courage, fair Saint
George,

Inspire us with the spleen of fiery dragons!
Upon them! Victory sits on our helms.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—*Another part of the field.*

*Alarum: Excursions. Enter NORFOLK, and
Forces; to him CATESBY.*

Cate. Rescue, my lord of Norfolk, rescue,
rescue!

The king enacts more wonders than a man,
Daring an opposite to every danger;
His horse is slain, and all on foot he fights,
Seeking for Richmond in the throat of death!
Rescue, fair lord, or else the day is lost!

Alarum. Enter King RICHARD.

K. Rich. A horse! a horse! my kingdom
for a horse!

* Company.

† Fright the skies with the shivers of your lances.

Cate. Withdraw, my lord, I'll help you to a horse.

K. Rich. Slave, I have set my life upon a
And I will stand the hazard of the die : [cast,
I think, there be six Richmonds in the field ;
Five have I slain to day, instead of him :—
A horse ! a horse ! my kingdom for a horse !

[*Exeunt.*

*Alarums. Enter King RICHARD and RICHMOND ;
and exeunt fighting. Retreat, and flourish.
Then enter RICHMOND, STANLEY, bearing the
crown, with divers other Lords and Forces.*

Richm. God, and your arms, be prais'd, victo-
rious friends ;

The day is ours, the bloody dog is dead.

Stan. Courageous Richmond, well hast thou
acquit thee !

Lo, here, this long-usurped royalty,
From the dead temples of this bloody wretch
Have I pluck'd off, to grace thy brows withal ;
Wear it, enjoy it, and make much of it.

Richm. Great God of heaven, say, Amen, to
all :—

But tell me first, is young George Stanley liv-
Stan. He is, my lord, and safe in Leicester
town ;

Whither, if it please you, we may now with-
draw us.

Richm. What men of name are slain on
either side ?

Stan. John duke of Norfolk, Walter lord
Ferrers,

Sir Robert Brakenbury, and Sir William Bran-

Rich. Inter their bodies as becomes their
births.

Proclaim a pardon to the soldiers fled,
That in submission will return to us ;
And then, as we have ta'en the sacrament,
We will unite the white rose with the red :—
Smile heaven upon this fair conjunction,
That long hath frown'd upon their enmity !—
What traitor hears me, and says not,—Amen ?
England hath long been mad, and searr'd her-
self ;

The brother blindly shed the brother's blood,
The father rashly slaughter'd his own son,
The son, compell'd, been butcher to the sire.
All this divided York and Lancaster,
Divided, in their dire division.—

O, now, let Richmond and Elizabeth,
The true succeeders of each royal house,
By God's fair ordinance conjoin together !
And let their heirs, (God if thy will be so,)
Enrich the time to come with smooth-fac'd
peace,

With smiling plenty, and fair prosperous days !
Abate the edge of traitors, gracious Lord,
That would reduce these bloody days again,
And make poor England weep in streams of
blood !

Let them not live to taste this land's increase,
That would with treason wound this fair land's
peace !

Now civil wounds are stopp'd, peace lives
again ;

That she may long live here, God say—Amen.
[*Exeunt.*

KING HENRY VIII.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

KING HENRY THE EIGHTH.
 CARDINAL WOLSEY.—CARDINAL CAMPEIUS.
 CAPUCIUS, Ambassador from the Emperor,
 Charles V.
 CRANMER, Archbishop of Canterbury.
 DUKE OF NORFOLK.—DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.
 DUKE OF SUFFOLK.—EARL OF SURREY.
 LORD CHAMBERLAIN.—LORD CHANCELLOR.
 GARDINER, Bishop of Winchester.
 BISHOP OF LINCOLN.—LORD ABERGAVENNY.
 LORD SANDS.
 SIR HENRY GUILDFORD.—SIR THOMAS LOVELL.
 SIR ANTHONY DENNY.—SIR NICHOLAS VAUX.
 SECRETARIES to Wolsey.
 CROMWELL, Servant to Wolsey.
 GRIFFITH, Gentleman-Usher to Queen Katharine.
 THREE OTHER GENTLEMEN.
 DOCTOR BUTTS, Physician to the King.
 GARTER, King at Arms.

SURVEYOR to the Duke of Buckingham.
 BRANDON, and a Sergeant at Arms.
 DOOR-KEEPER of the Council-Chamber.
 PORTER, and his Man.
 PAGE to Gardiner.—A CRIER.

QUEEN KATHARINE, Wife to King Henry ; afterwards divorced.
 ANNE BULLEN, her Maid of Honour ; afterwards Queen.
 AN OLD LADY, Friend to Anne Bullen.
 PATIENCE, Woman to Queen Katharine.

Several Lords and Ladies in the Dumb Shows ; Women attending upon the Queen ; Spirits, which appear to her ; Scribes, Officers, Guards, and other Attendants.

SCENE, chiefly in London and Westminster ; once, at Kimbolton.

PROLOGUE.

I COME no more to make you laugh ; things now,

That bear a weighty and a serious brow,
 Sad, high, and working, full of state and woe,
 Such noble scenes as draw the eye to flow,
 We now present. Those that can pity, here
 May, if they think it well, let fall a tear ;
 The subject will deserve it. Such, as give
 Their money out of hope they may believe,
 May here find truth too. Those, that come to
 Only a show or two, and so agree, [see
 The play may pass ; if they be still, and willing,
 I'll undertake, may see away their shilling
 Richly in two short hours. Only they,
 That come to hear a merry, bawdy play,
 A noise of targets ; or to see a fellow
 In a long motley coat, guarded* with yellow,
 Will be deceiv'd : for, gentle hearers, know,
 To rank our chosen truth with such a show
 As foot and fight is, beside forfeiting
 Our own brains, and the opinion that we bring,
 (To make that only true we now intend,†)
 Will leave us never an understanding friend.
 Therefore, for goodness' sake, and as you are
 known

The first and happiest hearers of the town,
 Be sad, as we would make ye : Think, ye see
 The very persons of our noble story,
 As they were living ; think, you see them great,
 And follow'd with the general throng, and
 sweat,
 Of thousand friends ; then, in a moment see
 How soon this mightiness meets misery !
 And, if you can be merry then, I'll say,
 A man may weep upon his wedding day.

* Laced.

† Pretend.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—London.—An Ante-chamber in the
 Palace.

Enter the Duke of NORFOLK, at one door ; at the
 other, the Duke of BUCKINGHAM, and the
 Lord ABERGAVENNY.

Buck. Good morrow, and well met. How
 have you done,
 Since last we saw in France ?

Nor. I thank your grace :
 Healthful ; and ever since a fresh admirer
 Of what I saw there.

Buck. An untimely ague
 Stay'd me a prisoner in my chamber, when
 Those suns of glory, those two lights of men,*
 Met in the vale of Arde.

Nor. 'Twixt Guynes and Arde :
 I was then present, saw them salute on horse-
 back ; [clung
 Beheld them, when they lighted, how they
 In their embracement, as they grew together ;
 Which had they, what four thron'd ones could
 have weigh'd

Such a compounded one ?

Buck. All the whole time
 I was my chamber's prisoner.

Nor. Then you lost
 The view of earthly glory : Men might say,
 Till this time, pomp was single ; but now mar-
 ried

To one above itself. Each following day
 Became the next day's master, till the last
 Made former wonders it's : To-day, the French,
 All clinquant,† all in gold, like heathen gods,

* Henry VIII. and Francis I. king of France.

† Glittering, shining.

Shone down the English: and, to-morrow,
they

Made Britain, India; every man, that stood,
Show'd like a mine. Their dwarfish pages were
As cherubims, all gilt; the madams too,
Not us'd to toil, did almost sweat to bear
The pride upon them; that their very labour
Was to them as a painting: now this mask
Was cried incomparable; and the ensuing
night

Made it a fool, and beggar. The two kings,
Equal in lustre, were now best, now worst,
As presence did present them; him in eye,
Still him in praise: and, being present both,
'Twas said, they saw but one; and no discern
Durst wag his tongue in censure.* When
these suns [challeng'd

(For so they phrase them,) by their heralds
The noble spirits to arms, they did perform
Beyond thought's compass; that former fabu-
lous story,
Being now seen possible enough, got credit,
That Bevis was believ'd.

Buck. O, you go far.

Nor. As I belong to worship, and affect
In honour honesty, the tract of every thing
Would by a good discourser lose some life,
Which action's self was tongue to. All was
royal;

To the disposing of it nought rebell'd,
Order gave each thing view; the office did
Distinctly his full function.

Buck. Who did guide,

I mean, who set the body and the limbs
Of this great sport together, as you guess?

Nor. One, certes,† that promises no element
In such a business.

Buck. I pray you, who, my lord?

Nor. All this was order'd by the good dis-
cretion

Of the right reverend cardinal of York.

Buck. The devil speed him! no man's pie is
free'd

From his ambitious finger. What had he
To do in these fierce vanities? I wonder,
That such a keech‡ can with his very bulk
Take up the rays o' the beneficial sun,
And keep it from the earth.

Nor. Surely, Sir,

There's in him stuff that puts him to these
ends: [grace

For being not propp'd by ancestry, (whose
Chalks successors their way,) nor call'd upon
For high feats done to the crown; neither
allied

To eminent assistants, but, spider-like,
Out of his self drawing web, he gives us note,
The force of his own merit makes his way;
A gift that heaven gives for him, which buys
A place next to the king.

Aber. I cannot tell [eye

What heaven hath given him, let some graver
Pierce into that; but I can see his pride
Peep through each part of him: Whence has
he that?

If not from hell, the devil is a niggard;
Or has given all before, and he begins
A new hell in himself.

Buck. Why the devil,

Upon this French going-out, took he upon him,
Without the privity o' the king, to appoint
Who should attend on him? He makes up the
file**

Of all the gentry; for the most part such
Too, whom as great a charge as little honour
He meant to lay upon: and his own letter,*
The honourable board of council out,
Must fetch him in the papers.

Aber. I do know

Kinsmen of mine, three at the least, that have
By this so sicken'd their estates, that never
They shall abound as formerly.

Buck. O, many [them
Have broke their backs with laying manors on
For this great journey. What did this vanity,
But minister communication of
A most poor issue?

Nor. Grievingly I think, [values
The peace between the French and us not
The cost that did conclude it.

Buck. Every man,
After the hideous storm that follow'd, was
A thing inspir'd: and not consulting, broke
Into a general prophecy,—That this tempest,
Dashing the garment of this peace, aboded
The sudden breach on't.

Nor. Which is budded out; [attach'd
For France hath flaw'd the league, and hath
Our merchant's goods at Bourdeaux.

Aber. Is it therefore
The ambassador is silenc'd?

Nor. Marry, is't.

Aber. A proper title of a peace; and pur-
chas'd

At a superfluous rate!

Buck. Why, all this business

Our reverend cardinal carried.†

Nor. 'Like it your grace,
The state takes notice of the private difference
Betwixt you and the cardinal. I advise you,
(And take it from a heart that wishes towards
you

Honour and plenteous safety,) that you read
The cardinal's malice and his potency
Together: to consider further, that
What his high hatred would effect, wants not
A minister in his power: You know his na-
ture,

That he is revengeful; and I know, his sword
Hath a sharp edge: it's long, and, it may be
said,

It reaches far; and where 'twill not extend,
Thither he darts it. Bosom up my counsel,
You'll find it wholesome. Lo, where comes
that rock,

That I advise your shunning.

*Enter Cardinal WOLSEY, (the purse borne before
him,) certain of the guard, and two SECRE-
TARIES with papers. The Cardinal in his pas-
sage fixeth his eye on BUCKINGHAM, and
BUCKINGHAM on him, both full of disdain.*

Wol. The duke of Buckingham's surveyor?
ha?

Where's his examination?

1 *Secr.* Here, so please you.

Wol. Is he in person ready?

1. *Secr.* Ay, please you grace.

Wol. Well, we shall then no more; and
Buckingham
Shall lessen this big look.

[*Exit WOLSEY, and train.*

Buck. This Butcher's curf is venom-mouth'd,
and I [best
Have not the power to muzzle him; therefore,
Not wake him in his slumber. A beggar's
Out-worths a noble's blood. [look

*In opinion, which was most noble.

†Sir Bevis, an old romance, ‡Certainly. §Practice.

¶Proud.

**Lump of fat.

**Liet.

*Sets down in his letter without consulting the council.

†Conducted. ‡Wolsey was the son of a butcher.

Nor. What, are you chaf'd?
Ask God for temperance; that's the appliance
only.

Which your disease requires.

Buck. I read in his looks
Matter against me; and his eye revil'd
Me, as his abject object: at this instant
He bores* me with some trick: He's gone to
the king;

I'll follow, and out-stare him.

Nor. Stay, my lord,
And let your reason with your choler question
What 'tis you go about; To clime steep hills,
Requires slow pace at first: Anger is like
A full-hot horse; who being allow'd his way,
Self-mettle tires him. Not a man in England
Can advise me like you: be to yourself
As you would to your friend.

Buck. I'll to the king:
And from a mouth of honour quite cry down
This Ipswich fellow's insolence; or proclaim,
There's difference in no persons.

Nor. Be advis'd;
Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot
That it do singe yourself: We may outrun,
By violent swiftness, that which we run at,
And lose by over-running. Know you not,
The fire that mounts the liquor till it run
o'er,
In seeming to augment it, wastes it? Be ad-
vis'd.

I say again, there is no English soul
More stronger to direct you than yourself;
If with the sap of reason you would quench,
Or but allay, the fire of passion.

Buck. Sir,
I am thankful to you; and I'll go along
By your prescription:—but this top-proud fel-
low,

(Who from the flow of gall I name not, but
From sincere motions,) by intelligence,
And proofs as clear as founts in July, when
We see each grain of gravel, I do know
To be corrupt and treasonous.

Nor. Say not, treasonous.
Buck. To the king I'll say't; and make my
vouch as strong

As shore of rock. Attend. This holy fox,
Or wolf, or both, (for he is equal ravenous,
As he is subtle; and as prone to mischief,
As able to perform it: his mind and place
Infecting one another, yea, reciprocally.)
Only to show his pomp as well in France
As here at home, suggests the king our mas-
ter

To this last costly treaty, the interview,
That swallow'd so much treasure, and like a
Did break i' the rinsing. [glass

Nor. 'Faith, and so it did.
Buck. Pray, give me favour, Sir. This cun-
ning cardinal

The articles o' the combination drew,
As himself pleas'd; and they were ratified,
As he cried, Thus let it be: to as much end,
As give a crutch to the dead: But our count-
cardinal [sey,

Has done this, and 'tis well; for worthy Wol-
Who cannot err, he did it. Now this follows,
(Which as I take it, is a kind of puppy
'To the old dam, treason,—Charles the em-
peror,

Under pretence to see the queen his aunt,
(For 'twas, indeed, his colour; but he came
To whisper Wolsey,) here makes visitation:

His fears were that the interview, betwixt
England and France, might, through their
amity,
Breed him some prejudices; for from this
league

Pcep'd harms that menac'd him: He privily
Deals with our cardinal; and, as I trow,—
Which I do well; for, I am sure, the emperor
Paid ere he promis'd; whereby his suit was
granted,

Ere it was ask'd;—but when the way was
made,
And pav'd with gold, the emperor thus desir'd;—

That he would please to alter the king's course,
And break the aforesaid peace. Let the king
know, [nal
(As soon he shall by me,) that thus the cardi-
Does buy and sell his honour as he pleases,
And for his own advantage.

Nor. I am sorry
To hear this of him; and could wish, he were
Something mistaken in't.

Buck. No, not a syllable;
I do pronounce him in that very shape,
He shall appear in proof.

*Enter BRANDON; a SERGEANT at Arms before
him, and two or three of the guard.*

Bran. Your office, sergeant; execute it.
Serg. Sir,

My lord the duke of Buckingham, and earl
Of Herford, Stafford, and Northampton, I
Arrest thee of high treason, in the name
Of our most sovereign king.

Buck. Lo you, my lord,
The net has fallen upon me; I shall perish
Under device and practice.*

Bran. I am sorry
To see you ta'en from liberty, to look on
The business present; 'Tis his highness' plea-
You shall to the Tower. [sure

Buck. It will help me nothing,
To plead mine innocence; for that die is on me,
Which makes my whitest part black. The will
of heaven

Be done in this and all things!—I obey.—
O my lord Aberg'any, fare you well.

Bran. Nay, he must hear you company:—
The king [To ABERGAVENNY.
Is pleas'd you shall to the Tower, till you know
How he determines further.

Aber. As the duke said,
The will of heaven be done, and the king's
pleasure

By me obey'd.
Bran. Here is a warrant from
The king to attach lord Montacute; and the
bodies

Of the duke's confessor, John de la Court,
One Gilbert Peck, his chancellor,—

Buck. So, so;
These are the limbs of the plot: no more I
hope.

Bran. A monk o' the Chartreux.

Buck. O, Nicholas Hopkins?

Bran. He.

Buck. My surveyor is false: the o'er great
cardinal [ready;
Hath show'd him gold: my life is spann'd† al-
I am the shadow of poor Buckingham;
Whose figure even this instant clouds put on,
By dark'ning my clear sun.—My lord, fare-
well. [Exeunt.

* Stabs.

† Excites.

* Unfair stratagems.

† Measured.

SCENE II.—The Council Chamber.

Cornets. Enter King HENRY, Cardinal WOLSEY, the Lords of the Council, Sir THOMAS LOVELL, Officers, and Attendants. The KING enters, leaning on the CARDINAL's shoulder.

K. Hen. My life itself, and the best heart of it,

Thanks you for this great care: I stood i'the Of a full-charg'd confederacy, and give thanks To you that chok'd it.—Let be call'd before us That gentleman of Buckingham's: in person I'll hear him his confessions justify; And point by point the treasons of his master He shall again relate.

The KING takes his state. The Lords of the Council take their several places. The CARDINAL places himself under the KING's feet on his right side.*

A noise within, crying, Room for the Queen. Enter the QUEEN, ushered by the Dukes of NOEFOLK and SUFFOLK: she kneels. The KING riseth from his state, takes her up, kisses, and places her by him.

Q. Kath. Nay, we must longer kneel; I am a suitor.

K. Hen. Arise, and take place by us:—Half your suit

Never name to us; you have half our power: The other moiety, ere you ask, is given; Repeat your will, and take it.

Q. Kath. Thank your majesty. That you would love yourself; and, in that love, Not unconsider'd leave your honour, nor The dignity of your office, is the point Of my petition.

K. Hen. Lady, mine!—proceed.

Q. Kath. I am solicited, not by a few, And those of true condition, that your subjects Are in great grievance: there hath been commissions Sent down among them, which have flaw'd the Of all their loyalties:—wherein, although, My good lord cardinal, they vent reproaches Most bitterly on you, as putter-on Of these exactions, yet the king our master, (Whose honour heaven shield from soil!) even he escapes not

Language unmannerly, yea, such which breaks The sides of loyalty, and almost appears In loud rebellion.

Nor. Not almost appears, It doth appear: for, upon these taxations, The clothiers all, not able to maintain The many to them 'longing, have put off The spinsters, carders, fullers, weavers, who, Unfit for other life, compell'd by hunger And lack of other means, in desperate manner Daring the event to the teeth, are all in uproar, And danger serves among them.

K. Hen. Taxation! [nal, Wherein? and what taxation?—My lord cardinal, You that are blam'd for it alike with us, Know you of this taxation?

Wol. Please you, Sir, I know but of a single part, in aught Pertains to the state; and front but in that file Where others tell steps with me.

Q. Kath. No, my lord, You know no more than others: but you frame Things, that are known alike; which are not wholesome [must To those which would not know them, and yet

Performe be their acquaintance. These exactions,

Whereof my sovereign would have note, they [are Most pestilent to the hearing; and, to bear them, The back is sacrifice to the load. They say, They are devis'd by you; or else you suffer Too hard an exclamation.

K. Hen. Still exaction! The nature of it? In what kind, let's know Is this exaction?

Q. Kath. I am much too venturous In tempting of your patience; but am bolden'd Under your proinis'd pardon. The subjects grief

Comes through commissions, which compel from each

The sixth part of his substance, to be levied Without delay; and the pretence for this Is nam'd, your wars in France; This makes bold mouths:

[freeze Tongues spit their duties out, and cold hearts Allegiance in them; their curses now, Live where their prayers did; and it's come to pass,

That tractable obedience is a slave To each incensed will. I would, your highness Would give it quick consideration, for There is no primer business.

K. Hen. By my life, This is against our pleasure.

Wol. And for me, I have no farther gone in this, than by A single voice; and that not pass'd me, but By learned approbation of the judges.

If I am traduc'd by tongues, which neither My faculties, nor person, yet will be [know The chronicles of my doing,—let me say, 'Tis but the fate of place, and the rough brake*

That virtue must go through. We must not Our necessary actions, in the fear [stint To cope† malicious censurers; which ever, As ravenous fishes, do a vessel follow

That is new trimm'd; but benefit no further Than vainly longing. What we oft do best, By sick interpreters, once § weak ones, is Not ours, or not allow'd; ¶ what worst, as oft, Hitting a grosser quality, is cried up

For our best act. If we shall stand still, In fear our motion will be mock'd or carp'd at, We should take root here where we sit, or sit State statuses only.

K. Hen. Things done well, And with a care, exempt themselves from fear; Things done without example, in their issue Are to be fear'd. Have you a precedent Of this commission? I believe, not any.

We must not rend our subjects from our laws, And stick them in our will. Sixth part of each? A trembling contribution! Why, we take, From every tree, lop, bark, and part o the timber;

[hack'd, And, though we leave it with a root, thus The air will drink the sap. To every county, Where this is question'd, send our letters, with Free pardon to each man that has denied.

The force of this commission: Pray, look to't; I put it to your care.

Wol. A word with you.

[To the SECRETARY. Let there be letters writ to every shire, Of the king's grace and pardon. The griev'd commons

Hardly conceive of me; let it be nois'd, That, through our intercession, this revokement

* Thicket of thorns. † Retard. ‡ Encow: § Sometime. ¶ Approved.

* Chair. † I am only one among the other counsellors.

And pardon comes : I shall anon advise you
Further in the proceeding. [*Exit SECRETARY.*]

Enter SURVEYOR.

Q. Kath. I am sorry, that the duke of Buck-
Is run in your displeasure. [*ingham*]

K. Hen. It grieves many : [*spaker,*
The gentleman is learn'd, and a most rare
To nature none more bound ; his training such,
That he may furnish and instruct great teach-
And never seek for aid out* of himself. [*ers,*
Yet see,

When these so noble benefits shall prove
Not well dispos'd, the mind growing once
corrupt, [*ugly*

They turn to vicious forms, ten times more
Than ever they were fair. This man so com-
plete, [*we,*

Who was enroll'd 'mongst wonders, and when
Almost with ravish'd list'ning, could not find
His hour of speech, a minute ; he, my lady,
Hath into monstrous habits put the graces
That once were his, and is become as black
As if besmear'd in hell. Sit by us ; you shall
hear

(This was his gentleman in trust,) of him
Things to strike honour sad.—Bid him recount
The fore-reited practices ; whereof
We cannot feel too little, hear too much.

Wol. Stand forth ; and with bold spirit re-
late what you,

Most like a careful subject, have collected
Out of the Duke of Buckingham.

K. Hen. Speak freely.

Surv. First, it was usual with him, every day
It would infect his speech, That if the king
Should without issue die, he'd carry it so
To make the sceptre his : These very words
I have heard him utter to his son-in-law,
Lord Aberg'anny ; to whom by oath he menac'd
Revenge upon the cardinal.

Wol. Please your highness, note
This dangerous conception in this point.
Not friended by his wish, to your high person
His will is most malignant ; and it stretches
Beyond you, to your friends.

Q. Kath. My learn'd lord cardinal,
Deliver all with charity.

K. Hen. Speak on :
How grounded he his title to the crown,
Upon our fail ; to this point hast thou heard
At any time speak aught ? [*him*

Surv. He was brought to this
By a vain prophecy of Nicholas Hopkins.

K. Hen. What was that Hopkins ?

Surv. Sir, a Chartreux friar,
His confessor ; who fed him every minute
With words of sovereignty.

K. Hen. How know'st thou this ?

Surv. Not long before your highness sped
to France,

The duke being at the Rose,† within the parish
Saint Lawrence Poultney, did of me demand
What was the speech amongst the Londoners
Concerning the French journey : I replied,
Men fear'd, the French would prove perfidious,
To the king's danger. Presently the duke
Said, 'Twas the fear, indeed ; and that he
doubted

'Twould prove the verity of certain words
Spoke by a holy monk ; That oft, says he,
Hath sent to me, wishing me to permit
John de la Court, my chaplain, a choice hour
To hear from him a matter of some moment :
Whom after under the confession's seal

* Beyond.

† Conduct. manage.

‡ Now Merchant Taylor's School.

He solemnly had sworn, that, what he spoke,
My chaplain to no creature living, but
To me, should utter, with demure confidence
This pausingly ensu'd,—Neither the king, nor
his heirs,

(Tell you the duke) shall prosper : bid him strive
To gain the love of the commonality ; the duke
Shall govern England.

Q. Kath. If I know you well,
You were the duke's surveyor, and lost your
office [*heed,*

On the complaint o' the tenants : Take good
You charge not in your spleen a noble person,
And spoil your nobler soul ! I say, take heed ;
Yes, heartily beseech you.

K. Hen. Let him on :—
Go forward.

Surv. On my soul, I'll speak but truth.
I told my lord the duke, By the devil's illusions
The monk might be deceiv'd ; and that 'twas
dang'rous for him,

To ruminate on this so far, until [*liev'd,*
It forg'd him some design, which, being be-
It was much like to do : He answer'd, *Tush !*
It can do me no damage : adding further,
That, had the king in his last sickness fail'd,
The cardinal's and Sir Thomas Lovell's heads
Should have gone off.

K. Hen. Ha ! what, so rank ? Ah, ha !
There's mischief in this man :—Canst thou
say further ?

Surv. I can, my liege.

K. Hen. Proceed.

Surv. Being at Greenwich,
After your highness had reprov'd the duke
About Sir William Blomer,—

K. Hen. I remember,
Of such a time :—Being my servant sworn,
The duke retain'd him his.—But on ; What
hence ?

Surv. If, quoth he, I for this had been com-
mitted,

As to the Tower, I thought,—I would have play'd
The part my father meant to act upon
The usurper Richard : who, being at Salisbury,
Made suit to come in his presence ; which if
granted,

As he made semblance of his duty, would
Have put his knife into him.

K. Hen. A giant traitor !

Wol. Now, madam, may his highness live
in freedom,

And this man out of prison ?

Q. Kath. God mend all !

K. Hen. There's something more would out
of thee ; What say'st ?

Surv. After—the duke his father,—with the
knife,— [*dagger,*

He stretch'd him, and, with one hand on his
Another spread on his breast, mounting his
eyes, [*tenour*

He did discharge a horrible oath ; whose
Was,—Were he evil us'd, he would outgo
His father, by as much as a performance
Does an irresolute purpose.

K. Hen. There's his period,
To sheath his knife in us. He is attach'd ;
Call him to present trial : if he may
Find mercy in the law, 'tis his ; if none,
Let him not seek't of us : By day and night,
He's traitor to the height. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—A Room in the Palace.

Enter the Lord CHAMBERLAIN, and Lord SANDS.

Cham. Is it possible, the spells of France
should juggle.

Men into such strange mysteries ?

Sands. New customs,
Though they be never so ridiculous,
Nay, let them be unmanly, yet are follow'd.

Cham. As far as I see, all the good our
English
Have got by the late yoyage, is but merely
A fit* or two o'the face ; but they are shrewd
ones ;

For when they hold them, you would swear
directly,

Their very noses had been counsellors
To Pepin, or Clotharius, they keep state so.

Sands. They have all new legs, and lame
ones ; one would take it,

That never saw them pace before, the spavin,
A springhalt† reig'd among them.

Cham. Death ! my lord,
Their clothes are after such a pagan cut too,
That, sure, they have worn out Christendom.
How now ?

What news, Sir Thomas Lovell ?

Enter Sir THOMAS LOVELL.

Lov. 'Faith my lord,
I hear of none but the new proclamation
That's clapp'd upon the court-gate.

Cham. What is't for ?
Love. The reformation of our travell'd gal-
lants, [tailors.

That fill the court with quarrels, talk, and
Cham. I am glad, 'tis there ; now I would
pray our monsieurs

To think an English courtier may be wise,
And never see the Louvre.‡

Love. They must either [nants
(For so run the conditions) leave these rem-
Of fool, and feather, that they got in France,
With all their honourable points of ignorance,
Pertaining thereunto, (as fights, and fireworks ;
Abusing better men than they can be,
Out of a foreign wisdom,) renouncing clean
The faith they have in tennis, and tall stock-
ings, [travel,

Short blister'd breeches, and those types of
And understand again like honest men ;
Or pack to their old playfellows : there I take
They may, *cum privilegio*,§ wear away [it
The lag end of their lewdness, and be laugh'd
at.

Sands. 'Tis time to give them physic, their
Are grown so catching. [diseases

Cham. What a loss our ladies
Will have of these trim vanities !

Love. Ay, marry, [whoresons
There will be woe indeed, lords ; the sly
Have got a speeding trick to lay down ladies ;
A French song, and a fiddle, has no fellow.

Sands. The devil fiddle them ! I am glad
they're going ;

(For, sure, there's no converting of them) now
An honest country lord, as I am, beaten
A long time out of play, may bring his plain
song,

And have an hour of hearing ; and, by'r-lady,
Held current music too.

Cham. Well, said, lord Sands ;
Your colt's tooth is not cast yet.

Sands. No, my lord ;
Nor shall not, while I have a stump.

Cham. Sir Thomas,
Whither were you a-going ?

Love. To the cardinal's ;
Your lordship is a guest too.

* Grimace.

† Disease incident to horses.

‡ A palace at Paris.

§ With authority.

Cham. O, 'tis true :

This night he makes a supper, and a great one,
To many lords and ladies ; there will be
The beauty of this kingdom, I'll assure you.

Lov. That churchman bears a bounteous
mind indeed,
A hand as fruitful as the land that feeds us :
His dews fall every where.

Cham. No doubt, he's noble ;
He had a black mouth, that said other of him.

Sands. He may, my lord, he has where-
withal ; in him, [trine :

Sparing would show a worse sin than ill doc-
Men of his ways should be most liberal,
They are set here for examples.

Cham. True, they are so ; [stays ;*
But few now give so great ones. My barge

Your lordship shall along :—Come, good Sir
Thomas,

We shall be late else : which I would not be,
For I was spoke to, with Sir Henry Guildford,
This night to be comptrollers.

Sands. I am your lordship's. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—The Presence-Chamber in York-
Place.

Hautboys. A small table under a state for the
CARDINAL, a longer table for the guests. *Enter*
at one door ANNE BULLEN, and divers
Lords, Ladies, and Gentlewomen, as guests ;
at another door, *enter* Sir HENRY GUILDFORD.

Guil. Ladies, a general welcome from his
grace

Salutes ye all : This night he dedicates
To fair content, and you : none here, he hopes,
In all this noble bevy,† has brought with her
One care abroad ; he would have all as merry
As first-good company, good wine, good wel-
come

Can make good people.—O, my lord, you
are tardy ;

Enter Lord CHAMBERLAIN, Lord SANDS, and
Sir THOMAS LOVELL.

The very thought of this fair company
Clapp'd wings to me.

Cham. You are young, Sir Harry Guildford.

Sands. Sir Thomas Lovell, had the cardinal
But half my lay-thoughts in him, some of these
Should find a running banquet ere they rested,
I think, would better please them : By my life,
They are a sweet society of fair ones.

Love. O, that your lordship were but now
To one or two of these ! [confessor

Sands. I would, I were ;
They should find easy penance.

Love. 'Faith, how easy ?
Sands. As easy as a down-bed would afford
it.

Cham. Sweet ladies, will it please you sit ?
Sir Harry, [this :

Place you that side, I'll take the charge of
His grace is ent'ring.—Nay, you must not
freeze ; [ther :

Two women plac'd together makes cold wea-
My lord Sands, you are one will keep them

Pray, sit between these ladies. [waking ;
Sands. By my faith,

And thank your lordship.—By your leave,
sweet ladies :

[Sits himself between ANNE BULLEN and
another Lady.

* The speaker is at Bridewell, and the Cardinal's
house was at Whitehall.

† Company.

If I chance to talk a little wild, forgive me ;
I had it from my father.

Anne. Was he mad, Sir ?

Sands. O, very mad, exceeding mad, in love
too :

But he would bite none ; just as I do now,
He would kiss you twenty with a breath.

[Kisses her.

Cham. Well said, my lord.—

So, now you are fairly seated :—Gentlemen,
The penance lies on you, if these fair ladies
Pass away frowning.

Sands. For my little cure.

Let me alone.

Hautboys.—Enter Cardinal WOLSEY, attended ;
and takes his state.*

Wol. You are welcome, my fair guests ;
that noble lady,

Or gentleman, that is not freely merry,
Is not my friend : This, to confirm my wel-
come ;

And to you all good health. [Drinks.

Sands. Your grace is noble ;—

Let me have such a bowl may hold my thanks,
And save me so much talking.

Wol. My lord Sands,

I am beholden to you : cheer your neighbours.—
Ladies, you are not merry ;—Gentlemen,
Whose fault is this ?

Sands. The red wine must first rise
In their fair cheeks, my lord ; then we shall
have them

Talk us to silence.

Anne. You are a merry gamester,
My lord Sands.

Sands. Yes, if I make my play.†
Here's to your ladyship ; and pledge it, madam,
For 'tis to such a thing,—

Anne. You cannot show me.

Sands. I told your grace, they would talk
anon.

[Drum and trumpets within : Chamber-
discharg'd.

Wol. What's that ?

Cham. Look out there, some of you.

[Exit a SERVANT.

Wol. What warlike voice ?

And to what end is this ?—Nay, ladies, fear not ;
By all the laws of war you are privileg'd.

Re-enter SERVANT.

Cham. How now ? what is't ?

Serv. A noble troop of strangers ;
For so they seem : they have left their barge,
and landed ;

And hither make, as great ambassadors
From foreign princes.

Wol. Good lord chamberlain,
Go, give them welcome, you can speak the
French tongue ; [them,
And, pray, receive them nobly, and conduct
into your presence, where this heaven of beauty
shall shine at full upon them :—Some attend
him.

[Exit CHAMBERLAIN, attended. All arise,
and Tables removed.

You have now a broken banquet ; but we'll
mend it.

A good digestion to you all : and, once more,
I shower a welcome on you ;—Welcome all.

Hautboys.—Enter the KING, and twelve others,
as Maskers, habited like Shepherds, with six-
teen Torch-bearers ; ushered by the Lord CHAM-

* Chair. † Choose my game. ‡ Small cannon.

BERLAIN. They pass directly before the Car-
dinal, and gracefully salute him.

A noble company ! what are their pleasures ?

Cham. Because they speak no English, thus
they pray'd [fame

To tell your grace ;—That, having heard by
Of this so noble and so fair assembly

This night to meet here, they could do no less,
Out of the great respect they bear to beauty,
But leave their flocks ; and, under your fair
conduct,

Crave leave to view these ladies, and entreat
An hour of revels with them.

Wol. Say, lord chamberlain,

They have done my poor house grace ; for
which I pay them

A thousand thanks, and pray them take their
pleasures.

[Ladies chosen for the dance. The KING
chooses ANNE BULLEN.

K. Hen. The fairest hand I ever touch'd !
O, beauty,

Till now I never knew thee. [Music. Dance.

Wol. My lord,—

Cham. Your grace ?

Wol. Pray, tell them thus much from me :
There should be one amongst them, by his
person,

More worthy this place than myself ; to whom,
If I but knew him, with my love and duty
I would surrender it.

Cham. I will, my lord.

[CHAM. goes to the company, and returns.

Wol. What say they ?

Cham. Such a one, they all confess,
There is, indeed ; which they would have your
grace

Find out, and he will take it.*

Wol. Let me see then.—

[Comes from his state.

By all your good leaves gentlemen ;—Here
I'll make

My royal choice.

K. Hen. You have found him, cardinal :

[Unmasking.

You hold a fair assembly ; you do well, lord :
You are a churchman, or, I'll tell you, cardi-
I should judge now unhappily.† [nal,

Wol. I am glad,

Your grace is grown so pleasant.

K. Hen. My lord chamberlain,
Pr'ythee, come hither : What fair lady's that ?

Cham. An't please your grace, Sir Thomas
Bullen's daughter,
The viscount Rochford, one of her highness'
women.

K. Hen. By heaven, she is a dainty one.—
Sweet-heart,

I were unmannerly, to take you out,
And not to kiss you.—A health, gentlemen,
Let it go round.

Wol. Sir Thomas Lovell, is the banquet
I'the privy chamber ? [ready

Lov. Yes, my lord.

Wol. Your grace,
I fear, with dancing is a little heated.

K. Hen. I fear, too much.

Wol. There's fresher air, my lord,
In the next chamber.

K. Hen. Lead in your ladies, every one.—
Sweet partner,

I must not yet forsake you :—Let's be mer-
ry ;—

Good my lord cardinal, I have half a dozen
healths

* The chief place: † Mischievously

To drink to these fair ladies, and a measure*
To lead them once again; and then let's dream
Who's best in favour.—Let the music knock it.
[*Exeunt with trumpets.*]

ACT II.

SCENE I. A Street.

Enter a GENTLEMAN, meeting.

1 *Gent.* Whither away so fast?
2 *Gent.* O,—God save you!
Even to the hall to hear what shall become
Of the duke of Buckingham.
1 *Gent.* I'll save you
That labour, Sir. All's now done, but the
ceremony
Of bringing back the prisoner.
2 *Gent.* Were you there?
1 *Gent.* Yes, indeed, was I.
2 *Gent.* Pray, speak, what has happen'd?
1 *Gent.* You may guess quickly what.
2 *Gent.* Is he found guilty?
1 *Gent.* Yes, truly is he, and condemn'd
upon it.
2 *Gent.* I am sorry for't.
1 *Gent.* So are a number more.
2 *Gent.* But, pray, how pass'd it?
1 *Gent.* I'll tell you in a little. The great
duke

Came to the bar; where, to his accusations,
He pleaded still, not guilty, and alleg'd
Many sharp reasons to defeat the law.
The king's attorney, on the contrary,
Urg'd on the examinations, proofs, confessions,
Of divers witnesses; which the duke desir'd
To him brought, *vivâ voce*, to his face;
At which appear'd against him, his surveyor;
Sir Gilbert Peck, his chancellor; and John
Court,

Confessor to him; with that devil-monk,
Hopkins that made this mischief.

2 *Gent.* That was he,
That fed him with his prophecies.

1 *Gent.* The same.
All thes accus'd him strongly; which he fain
Would have flung from him, but, indeed, he
could not:

And so his peers, upon this evidence,
Have found him guilty of high treason. Much
He spoke, and learnedly, for life: but all
Was either pitied in him, or forgotten.

2 *Gent.* After all this, how did he bear him-
self?

1 *Gent.* When he was brought again to the
bar,—to hear [stirr'd
His knell wrung out, his judgment,—he was
With such an agony, he sweat extremely,
And something spoke in choler, ill, and hasty:
But he fell to himself again, and, sweetly,
In all the rest show'd a most noble patience.

2 *Gent.* I do not think, he fears death.

1 *Gent.* Sure, he does not,
He never was so womanish; the cause
He may a little grieve at.

2 *Gent.* Certainly,
The cardinal is the end of this.

1 *Gent.* 'Tis likely,
By all conjectures; First, Kildare's attainer,
Then deputy of Ireland; who remov'd,
Earl Surrey was sent thither, and in haste too,
Lest he should help his father.

2 *Gent.* That trick of state
Was a deep envious one.

1 *Gent.* At his return,
No doubt he will requite it. This is noted,

And generally; whoever the king favours,
The cardinal instantly will find employment,
And far enough from court too.

2 *Gent.* All the commons

Hate him perniciously, and, o' my conscience,
Wish him ten fathom deep: this duke as much
They love and dote on; call him, bounteous
Buckingham,

The mirror of all courtesy;—

1 *Gent.* Stay there, Sir,
And see the noble ruin'd man you speak of.

Enter BUCKINGHAM, from his arraignment;
Tipstaves before him, the axe with the edge
towards him; halberts on each side; with him,
Sir THOMAS LOVELL, Sir NICHOLAS VAUX,
Sir WILLIAM SANDS, and common people.

2 *Gent.* Let's stand close, and behold him.

Buck. All good people,

You that thus far have come to pity me, [me.
Hear what I say, and then go home and lose
I have this day receiv'd a traitor's judgment,
And by that name must die; Yet, heaven bear
witness,

And if I have a conscience, let it sink me,
Even as the axe falls, if I be not faithful!

The law I bear no malice for my death,
It has done, upon the premises, but justice:
But those, that sought it, I could wish more
Christians:

Be what they will, I heartily forgive them:
Yet let them look they glory not in mischief,
Nor build their evils on the graves of great
men; [them.

For then my guiltless blood must cry against
For further life in this world I ne'er hope,
Nor will I sue, although the king have mercies
More than I dare make faults. You few that
lov'd me,

And dare be bold to weep for Buckingham,
His noble friends, and fellows, whom to leave
Is only bitter to him, only dying,
Go with me, like good angels, to my end;
And, as the long divorce of steel falls on me,
Make of your prayers one sweet sacrifice,
And lift my soul to heaven.—Lead on, o' God's
name.

Lov. I do beseech your grace, for charity,
If ever any malice in your heart [ly.

Were hid against me, now to forgive me frank-
Buck. Sir Thomas Lovell, I as free forgive
As I would be forgiven: I forgive all; [you,
There cannot be those numberless offences

'Gainst me, I can't take peace with: no black
envy [grace;

Shall make* my grave.—Commend me to his
And, if he speak of Buckingham, pray, tell
him, [prayers

You met him half in heaven: my vows and
Yet are the king's; and, till my soul forsake me,
Shall cry for blessings on him: May he live
Longer than I have time to tell his years!
Ever belov'd, and loving, may his rule be!
And, when old time shall lead him to his end,
Goodness and he fill up one monument!

Lov. To the water side I must conduct your
grace;

Then give my charge up to Sir Nicholas Vaux,
Who undertakes you to your end.

Vaux. Prepare there,

The duke is coming: see, the barge be ready;
And fit it with such furniture, as suits
The greatness of his person.

Buck. Nay, Sir Nicholas,
Let it alone; my state now will but mock me.

* Dance.

* Close.

When I came hither, I was lord high constable,
And duke of Buckingham; now, poor Edward Bohun :

Yet I am richer than my base accusers,
That never knew what truth meant : I now seal it ;

And with that blood will make them one day groan for't.

My noble father, Henry of Buckingham,
Who first rais'd head against usurping Richard,
Flying for succour to his servant Banister,
Being distress'd, was by that wretch betray'd,
And without trial fell ; God's peace be with him !

Henry the seventh succeeding, truly pitying
My father's loss, like a most royal prince,
Restor'd me to my honours, and, out of ruins,
Made my name once more noble. Now his son,
Henry the eighth, life, honour, name, and all
That made me happy, at one stroke has taken
For ever from the world. I had my trial,
And must needs say, a noble one ; which makes me

A little happier than my wretched father :
Yet thus far we are one in fortunes,—Both
Fell by our servants, by those men we lov'd most ;

A most unnatural and faithless service ! [me,
Heaven has an end in all : yet you that hear
This from a dying man receive as certain :
Where you are liberal of your loves, and counsels, [friends,
Be sure, you be not loose ; for those you make
And give your hearts to, when they once perceive

The least rub in your fortunes, fall away
Like water from ye, never found again
But where they mean to sink ye. All good people, [hour
Pray for me ! I must now forsake ye ; the last
Of my long weary life is come upon me.
Farewell : [sad,

And when you would say something that is
Speak how I fell.—I have done ; and God forgive me !

Exeunt BUCKINGHAM and Train.

1 *Gent.* O, this is full of pity !—Sir, it calls,
I fear, too many curses on their heads,
That were the authors.

2 *Gent.* If the duke be guiltless,
'Tis full of woe : yet I can give you inkling
Of an ensuing evil, if it fall,
Greater than this.

1 *Gent.* Good angels keep it from us ! [Sir ?
Where may it be ? You do not doubt my faith,

2 *Gent.* This secret is so weighty, 'twill reveal
A strong faith* to conceal it. [quire

1 *Gent.* Let me have it ;
I do not talk much.

2 *Gent.* I am confident ;
You shall, Sir : did you not of late days hear
A buzzing, of a separation
Between the king and Katharine ?

1 *Gent.* Yes, but it held not :
For when the king once heard it, out of anger
He sent command to the lord mayor, straight
To stop the rumour, and allay those tongues
That durst disperse it.

2 *Gent.* But that slander, Sir,
Is found a truth now : for it grows again
Fresher than e'er it was ; and held for certain,
The king will venture at it. Either the cardinal,

Or some about him near, have, out of malice

* Great fidelity.

To the good queen, possess'd him with a scruple

That will undo her : To confirm this too,
Cardinal Campeius is arriv'd, and lately ;
As all think, for this business.

1 *Gent.* 'Tis the cardinal ;
And mercly to revenge him on the emperor,
For not bestowing on him, at his asking,
The archbishoprick of Toledo, this is purpos'd.

2 *Gent.* I think you have hit the mark : But
is't not cruel,

That she should feel the smart of this ? The cardinal

Will have his will, and she must fall.

1 *Gent.* 'Tis woful.

We are too open here to argue this ;

Let's think in private more. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—An Ante-chamber in the Palace.

Enter the Lord Chamberlain, reading a Letter.

Cham. My lord.—The horses your lordship sent for, with all the care I had, I saw well chosen, ridden, and furnished. They were young, and handsome ; and of the best breed in the north. When they were ready to set out for London, a man of my lord cardinal's, by commission, and mainpower, took 'em from me : with this reason,—His master would be served before a subject, if not before the king : which stopped our mouths, Sir.

I fear, he will, indeed : Well, let him have
He will have all, I think. [*them.*

Enter the Dukes of NORFOLK and SUFFOLK.

Nor. Well met, my good
Lord Chamberlain.

Cham. Good day to both your graces.

Suf. How is the king employ'd ?

Cham. I left him private,
Full of sad thoughts and troubles.

Nor. What's the cause ?

Cham. It seems, the marriage with his brother's wife

Has crept too near his conscience.

Suf. No, his conscience

Has crept too near another lady.

Nor. 'Tis so ;

This is the cardinal's doing, the king-cardinal :
That blind priest, like the eldest son of fortune,

Turns what he lists. The king will know him
one day.

Suf. Pray God, he do ! he'll never know
himself else.

Nor. How holily he works in all his business !

And with what zeal ! For now he has crack'd
the league

Between us and the emperor, the queen's
great nephew,

He dives into the king's soul, and there
scatters

Dangers, doubts, wringing of the conscience,
Fears, and despairs, and all these for his marriage :

And, out of all these to restore the king,
He counsels a divorce : a loss of her
That, like a jewel, has hung twenty years
About his neck, yet never lost her lustre ;
Of her that loves him with that excellence
That angels love good men with ; even of her
That, when the greatest stroke of fortune falls,
Will bless the king : and is not this course
pious ?

Cham. Heaven keep me from such counsel!
'tis most true,
These news are every where; every tongue
speaks them,
And every true heart weeps for't: All, that
dare.

Look into these affairs, see this main end,—
The French king's sister. Heaven will one day
open

The king's eyes, that so long have slept upon
This bold bad man.

Suf. And free us from his slavery.

Nor. We had need pray,
And heartily, for our deliverance;
Or this imperious man will work us all
From princes into pages: all men's honours
Lie in one lump before him, to be fashion'd
Into what pitch* he please.

Suf. For me, my lords,
I love him not, nor fear him; there's my creed:
As I am made without him, so I'll stand,
If the king please; his curses and his blessings
[in.

Touch me alike, they are breath I not believe
I knew him, and I know him; so I leave him
To him, that made him proud, the pope.

Nor. Let's in;

And, with some other business, put the king
From these sad thoughts, that work too much
upon him:—

My lord, you'll bear us company?

Cham. Excuse me;

The king hath sent me other-where: besides,
You'll find a most unfit time to disturb him:
Health to your lordships.

Nor. Thanks, my good lord chamberlain.

[Exit Lord CHAMBERLAIN.]

NORFOLK opens a folding-door. The KING is
discovered sitting, and reading pensively.

Suf. How sad he looks! sure, he is much
afflicted.

K. Hen. Who is there? ha?

Nor. 'Pray God, he be not angry.

K. Hen. Who's there, I say? How dare you
thrust yourselves
Into my private meditations?

Who am I? ha?

Nor. A gracious king, that pardons all offen-
ces

Malice ne'er meant: our breach of duty, this
way,

Is business of estate; in which, we come
To know your royal pleasure.

K. Hen. You are too bold;

Go to; I'll make ye know your times of busi-
ness:

Is this an hour for temporal affairs? ha?—

Enter WOLSEY and CAMPEIUS.

Who's there? my good lord cardinal?—O my
Wolsey,

The quiet of my wounded conscience,
Thou art a cure fit for a king.—You're wel-
come, [To CAMPEIUS.

Most learned reverend Sir, into our kingdom;
Use us, and it is:—My good lord, have great
care

I be not found a talker. [To WOLSEY.

Wol. Sir, you cannot,

I would your grace would give us but an hour
Of private conference.

K. Hen. We are busy; go.

[To NORFOLK and SUFFOLK.]

* High or low.

Nor. This priest has no pride in him?

Suf. Not to speak of;

I would not be so sick; though,† for
his place:

But this cannot continue.

Nor. If it do,

I'll venture one leave at him.

Suf. I another.

[Exit NORFOLK and SUFFOLK.]

Wol. Your grace has given a precedent of
wisdom

Above all princes, in committing freely
Your scruple to the voice of Christendom:
Who can be angry now? what envy reach you?
The Spaniard, tied by blood and favour to her,
Must now confess, if they have any goodness,
The trial just and noble. All the clerks,
I mean the learned ones, in Christian king-
doms, [Judgment,

Have their free voices; Rome, the nurse of
Invited by your noble self, hath sent
One general tongue unto us, this good man
This just and learned priest, cardinal Cam-
peius; [ness,

Whom, once more, I present unto your high-

K. Hen. And once more, in mine arms I bid
him welcome,

And thank the holy conclave for their loves;
They have sent me such a man I would have
wish'd for.

Cam. Your grace must needs deserve all
stranger's loves,

You are so noble: To your highness' hand
I tender my commission; by whose virtue
(The court of Rome commanding.)—you, my
lord [vant,

Cardinal of York, are join'd with me their ser-
vice in the impartial judging of this business.

K. Hen. Two equal men. The queen shall
be acquainted

Forthwith, for what you come:—Where's Gardi-
ner?

Wol. I know, your majesty has always lov'd
So dear in heart, not to deny her that [her
A woman of less place might ask by law,
Scholars, allow'd freely to argue for her.

K. Hen. Ay, and the best, she shall have;
and my favour [nal,

To him that does best; God forbid else. Cardi-
Pr'ythee, call Gardiner to me, my new secre-
tary;

I find him a fit fellow. [Exit WOLSEY.]

Re-enter WOLSEY, with GARDINER.

Wol. Give me your hand: much joy and fa-
vour to you;

You are the king's now.

Gard. But to be commanded

For ever by your grace, whose hand has
rais'd me. [Aside.

K. Hen. Come hither, Gardiner.

[They converse apart.]

Cam. My lord of York, was not one doctor
In this man's place before him? [Pace

Wol. Yes he was.

Cam. Was he not held a learned man?

Wol. Yes, surely.

Cam. Believe me, there's an ill opinion
spread then

Even of yourself, lord cardinal.

Wol. How! of me!

Cam. They will not stick to say, you en-
vied him;

And, fearing he would rise, he was so virtuous.

* So sick as he is proud.

Kept him a foreign man* still; which so griev'd
That he ran mad, and died. [him,

Wol. Heaven's peace be with him!
That's Christian care enough: for living mur-
murers,
There's places of rebuke. He was a fool;
For he would needs be virtuous: That good
fellow,

If I command him, follows my appointment;
I will have none so near else. Learn this,
brother,

We live not to be grip'd by meaner persons.
K. Hen. Deliver this with modesty to the
queen. [Exit GARDINER.

The most convenient place that I can think of,
For such receipt of learning, is Black-Friars:
There ye shall meet about this weighty busi-
ness:—

My Wolsey, see it furnish'd.—O my lord,
Would it not grieve an able man, to leave
So sweet a bedfellow? But, conscience, con-
science,—

O, 'tis a tender place, and I must leave her.
[Exeunt.

SCENE III.—An Ante-chamber in the QUEEN'S
Apartments.

Enter ANNE BULLEN, and an old LADY.

Anne. Not for that neither;—Here's the
pang that pinches: [she
His highness having liv'd so long with her: and
So good a lady, that no tongue could ever
Pronounce dishonour of her,—by my life,
She never knew harm-doing:—O now, after
So many courses of the sun enthron'd,
Still glowing in a majesty and pomp,—the
which

To leave is a thousand-fold more bitter than
'Tis sweet at first to acquire,—after this pro-
To give her the avault!† it is a pity [cess,
Would move a monster.

Old L. Hearts of most hard temper
Melt and lament for her.

Anne. O, God's will! much better, [poul,
She ne'er had known pomp: though it be tem-
Yet, if that quarrel‡, fortune, do divorce
It from the bearer, 'tis a sufferance, panging
As soul and body's severing.

Old L. Alas, poor lady!
She's a stranger now again.§

Anne. So much the more
Must pity drop upon her! Verily,
I swear, 'tis better to be lowly born,
And range with humble livers in content,
Than to be perk'd up in a glistening grief,
And wear a golden sorrow.

Old L. Our content
Is our best having.||

Anne. By my troth, and maidenhead,
I would not be a queen.

Old L. Beshrew me, I would, [you,
And venture maidenhead for't; and so would
For all this spice of your hypocrisy:
You, that have so fair parts of woman on you,
Have too a woman's heart; which ever yet
Affected eminence, wealth, sovereignty; [gits
Which, to say'sooth,¶ are blessings: and which
(Saving your mincing) the capacity [ceive,
Of your soft cheveril** conscience would re-
If you might please to stretch it.

Anne. Nay, good troth,—

Old L. Yes, troth, and troth,—You would
not be a queen?

Anne. No, not for all the riches under
heaven.

Old L. 'Tis strange; a three-pence bow'd*
would hire me,

Old as I am, to queen it: But, I pray you,
What think you of a duchess? have you limbs
To bear that load of title?

Anne. No, in truth.

Old L. Then you are weakly made: Pluck
off a little;

I would not be a young count in your way,
For more than blushing comes to: if your back
Cannot vouchsafe this burden, 'tis too weak
Ever to get a boy.

Anne. How do you talk!

I swear again, I would not be a queen
For all the world.

Old L. In faith, for little England
You'd venture an embalming: I myself
Would for Carnarvonshire, although there
'long'd [here?
No more to the crown but that. Lo, who comes

Enter the Lord CHAMBERLAIN.

Cham. Good morrow, ladies. What wer't
worth to know

The secret of your conference?

Anne. My good lord,

Not your demand; it values not your asking:
Our mistress' sorrows we were pitying.

Cham. It was a gentle business, and be-
coming

The action of good women: there is hope,
All will be well.

Anne. Now I pray God, amen!

Cham. You bear a gentle mind, and heav-
enly blessings [lady,

Follow such creatures. That you may, fair
Perceive I speak sincerely, and high note's
Ta'en of your many virtues, the king's majesty
Commends his good opinion to you, and
Does purpose honour to you no less flowing
Than marchioness of Pembroke; to which title
A thousand pound a year, annual support,
Out of his grace he adds.

Anne. I do not know.

What kind of my obedience I should tender;
More than my all is nothing: nor my prayers
Are not words duly hallow'd, nor my wishes
More worth than empty vanities; yet prayers,
and wishes,

Are all I can return. 'Beseech your lordship,
Vouchsafe to speak my thanks, and my obedi-
ence,

As from a blushing handmaid, to his highness
Whose health, and royalty, I pray for.

Cham. Lady,

I shall not fail to approve the fair conceit,†
The king have of you.—I have perus'd her
well; [Aside.

Beauty and honour in her are so mingled,
That they have caught the king: and who
knows yet,

But from this lady may proceed a gem,
To lighten all this isle?—I'll to the king,
And say, I spoke with you.

Anne. My honour'd lord.

[Exit Lord CHAMBERLAIN.

Old L. Why, this it is; see, see!
I have been begging sixteen years in court,
(Am yet a courtier beggarly,) nor could
Come pat betwixt too early and too late,
For any suit of pounds: and you, (O fate!)
A very fresh-fish here, (fie, fie upon

* Out of the king's presence. † A sentence of election.

‡ Quarreller.

§ No longer an Englishwoman.

|| Possession.

¶ Truth.

** Kid-skin.

* Crooked.

† Opinion.

This compell'd fortune!) have your mouth
fill'd up,

Before you open it.

Anne. This is strange to me.

Old L. How tastes it? is it bitter? forty
pence, no.

There was a lady once, ('tis an old story,)
That would not be a queen, that would she
not, [it?

For all the mud in Egypt:—Have you heard
Anne. Come, you are pleasant.

Old L. With your theme, I could

O'er mount the lark. The marchioness of
Penbroke!

A thousand pounds a year! for pure respect;
No other obligation: By my life,
That promises more thousands: Honour's train
Is longer than his foreskirt. By this time,
I know, your back will bear a duchess;—Say,
Are you not stronger than you were?

Anne. Good lady, [fancy.

Make yourself mirth with your particular
And leave me out on't. 'Would I had no be-
ing,

If this salute my blood a jot; it faints me,
To think what follows.

The queen is comfortless, and we forgetful
In our long absence: Pray, do not deliver
What here you have heard, to her.

Old L. What do you think me? [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—A Hall in Black-friars.

Trumpets, sennet, and cornets. Enter two
VERGERS, with short silver wands; next them,
two SCRIBES, in the habits of doctors; after
them, the Archbishop of CANTERBURY alone;
after him, the Bishops of LINCOLN, ELY,
ROCHESTER, and SAINT ASPAH; next them,
with some small distance, follows a Gentleman
bearing the purse, with the great seal, and a
cardinal's hat; then two Priests, bearing each
a silver cross; then a Gentleman-Usher bare-
headed, accompanied with a Sergeant at Arms,
bearing a silver mace; then two Gentlemen,
bearing two great silver pillars;† after them,
side by side, the two Cardinals WOLSEY and
CAMPEIUS; two Noblemen with the sword and
mace. Then enter the KING and QUEEN, and
their Trains. The King takes place under the
cloth of state; the two Cardinals sit under him
as judges. The Queen takes place at some dis-
tance from the King. The Bishops place them-
selves on each side the court, in manner of a
consistory; between them, the Scribes. The
Lords sit next the Bishops. The Crier and the
rest of the Attendants stand in convenient or-
der about the stage.*

Wol. Whilst our commission from Rome is
Let silence be commanded. [read

K. Hen. What's the need?

It hath already publicly been read,
And on all sides the authority allow'd;
You may then spare that time.

Wol. Be't so:—Proceed.

Scribe. Say, Henry king of England, come
into the court.

Crier. Henry king of England, &c.

K. Hen. Here.

Scribe. Say, Katharine queen of England,
come into court.

Crier. Katharine queen of England, &c.

[The QUEEN makes no answer, rises out of her
chair, goes about the court, comes to the KING,
and kneels at his feet; then speaks.]

* Flourish on cornets.

† Ensigns of dignity carried before cardinals.

Q. Kath. Sir, I desire you, do me right and
justice;

And to bestow your pity on me: for
I am a most poor woman, and a stranger,
Born out of your dominions; having here
No judge indifferent, nor no more assurance
Of equal friendship and proceeding. Alas Sir,
In what have I offended you? what cause
Hath my behaviour given to your displeasure,
That thus you should proceed to put me off,
And take your good grace from me? Heaven
witness,

I have been to you a true and humble wife.
At all times to your will conformable:
Ever in fear to kindle your dislike,
Yea, subject to your countenance; glad, or
sorry,
As I saw it inclin'd. When was the hour,
I ever contradicted your desire,
Or made it not mine too? Or which of your
friends

Have I not strove to love, although I knew
He were mine enemy? what friend of mine
That had to him deriv'd your anger, did I
Continue in my liking? nay, gave notice
He was from thence discharg'd? Sir, call to
mind

That I have been your wife in this obedience,
Upward of twenty years, and have been bless'd
With many children by you: If, in the course
And process of this time, you can report,
And prove it too, against mine honour aught,
My bond to wedlock, or my love and duty,
Against your sacred person, in God's name,
Turn me away; and let the foul'st contempt
Shut door upon me, and so give me up [Sir,
To the sharpest kind of justice. Please you,
The king, your father, was reputed for
A prince most prudent, of an excellent
And unmatch'd wit and judgment: Ferdi-
nand,

My father, king of Spain, was reckon'd one
The wisest prince, that there had reign'd by
many

A year before: It is not to be question'd
That they had gather'd a wise council to them
Of every realm, that did debate this business,
Who deem'd our marriage lawful: Wherefore
I humbly

Beseech you, Sir, to spare me, till I may
Be by your friends in Spain advis'd; whose
counsel

I will implore; it not; i'the name of God,
Your pleasure be fulfill'd!

Wol. You have here, lady [men
(And of your choice,) these reverend fathers;
Of singular integrity and learning,
Yea, the elect of the land, who are assembled
To plead your cause: It shall be therefore
bootless,*

That longer you desire the court; as well
For your own quiet, as to rectify
What is unsettled in the king.

Cam. His grace [dam,

Hath spoken well and justly: Therefore, ma-
It's fit this royal session do proceed;
And, that without delay, their arguments
Be now produc'd, and heard.

Q. Kath. Lord cardinal,—
To you I speak.

Wol. Your pleasure, madam!

Q. Kath. Sir,
I am about to weep; but, thinking that
We are a queen, (for long have dream'd so.)
certain,

The daughter of a king, my drops of tears
I'll turn to sparks of fire.

Wol. Be patient yet.

Q. Kath. I will, when you are humble; nay,
before,

Or God will punish me. I do believe,
Induc'd by potent circumstances, that
You are mine enemy; and make my challenge,
You shall not be my judge: for it is you
Have blown this coal betwixt my lord and
me,—

Which God's dew quench!—Therefore, I say
I utterly abhor, yea, from my soul [again,
Refuse you for my judge; whom yet once
more,

I hold my most malicious foe, and think not
At all a friend to truth.

Wol. I do profess

You speak not like yourself, who ever yet
Have stood to charity, and display'd the effects
Of disposition gentle, and of wisdom
O'ertopping woman's power. Madam, you do
me wrong:

I have no spleen against you; nor injustice
For you, or any: how far I have proceeded,
Or how far further shall, is warranted
By a commission from the consistory,
Yea, the whole consistory of Rome. You
charge me,

That I have blown this coal: I do deny it:
The king is present: if it be known to him,
That I gainsay* my deed, how may he wound,
And worthily, my falsehood? yea, as much
As you have done my truth. But if he know
That I am free of your report, he knows,
I am not of your wrong. Therefore in him
It lies, to cure me: and the cure is, to
Remove these thoughts from you: The which
before

His highness shall speak in, I do beseech
You, gracious madam, to unthink your speak-
And to say so no more. [ing;

Q. Kath. My lord, my lord,
I am a simple woman, much too weak
To oppose your cunning. You are meek, and
humble-mouth'd; [ing,†

You sign your place and calling, in full seem-
With meekness and humility: but your heart
Is cramm'd with arrogancy, spleen, and pride.
You have, by fortune, and his highness' fav-
ours, [mounted
Gone slightly o'er low steps; and now are
Where powers are your retainers: and your
words,

Domestics to you, serve your will, as't please
Yourself pronounce their office. I must tell
you,

You tender more your person's honour, than
Your high profession spiritual: That again
I do refuse you for my judge: and here,
Before you all, appeal unto the pope,
To bring my whole cause 'fore his holiness,
And to be judg'd by him.

[*She curtsies to the King and offers to depart.*

Cam. The queen is obstinate,
Stubborn to justice, apt to accuse it, and
Disdainful to be try'd by it; 'tis not well.
She's going away.

K. Hen. Call her again.

Crier. Katharine queen of England, come
into the court.

Grif. Madam, you are call'd back.

Q. Kath. What need you note it? pray you,
keep your way: [help,

When you are call'd, return.—Now the Lord

* Deny.

† Appearance.

They vex me past my patience!—pray you,
pass on:

I will not tarry: no, nor ever more,
Upon this business, my appearance make
In any of their courts.

[*Exeunt QUEEN, GRIFFITH, and her other
Attendants.*

K. Hen. Go thy ways, Kate:

That man 'the world, who shall report he has
A better wife, let him in nought be trusted,
For speaking false in that: Thou art, alone,
(If thy rare qualities, sweet gentleness,
Thy meekness saint-like, wife-like govern-
ment,—

Obeying in commanding,—and thy parts
Sovereign and pious else, could speak thee
out,*) [born;

The queen of earthly queens:—She is noble
And, like her true nobility, she has
Carried herself towards me.

Wol. Most gracious Sir,

In humblest manner I require your highness,
That it shall please you to declare, in hearing
Of all these ears, (for where I am robb'd and
bound,

There must I be unloos'd; although not there
At once and fully satisfied,) whether ever I
Did broach this business to your highness; or
Laid any scruple in your way, which might
Induce you to the question on't? or ever
Have to you,—but with thanks to God for such
A royal lady,—spake one the least word,
might

Be to the prejudice of her present state,
Or touch of her good person?

K. Hen. My lord cardinal,

I do excuse you; yea, upon mine honour,
I free you from't. You are not to be taught
That you have many enemies, that know not
Why they are so, but, like to village curs,
Bark when their fellows do: by some of these
The queen is put in anger. You are excus'd:
But will you be more justified? you ever
Have wish'd the sleeping of this business; ne-
ver [oft

Desir'd it to be stirr'd; but oft have hinder'd;
The passages† made toward it:—on my hon-
our,

I speak my good lord cardinal to this point,
And thus far clear him. Now, what mov'd me
to't,—

I will be bold with time, and your attention:—
Then mark the inducement. Thus it came;—
give heed to't:—

My conscience first receiv'd a tenderness,
Scruple, and prick, on certain speeches utter'd
By the Bishop of Bayonne, then French am-
bassador;

Who had been hither sent on the debating
A marriage, 'twixt the duke of Orleans and
Our daughter Mary: I'th progress of this
business,

Ere a determinate resolution, he
(I mean, the bishop) did require a respite;
Wherein he might the king his lord advertise
Whether our daughter were legitimate,
Respecting this our marriage with the dowager,
Sometimes our brother's wife. This respite
shook

The bosom of my conscience, enter'd me,
Yea, with a splitting power, and made to trem-
ble [way,

The region of my breast; which forc'd such
That many maz'd considerings did throng,

* Speak out thy merits.

† Immediately satisfied.

‡ Closed or fasten'd.

And press'd in with this caution. First, me-
thought,

I stood not in the smile of heaven; who had
Commanded nature, that my lady's womb,
If not conceiv'd a male child by me, should
Do no more offices of life to't, than
The grave does to the dead: for her male issue
Or died where they were made, or shortly after
This world had air'd them: Hence I took a
thought,

This was a judgment on me; that my king-
Well worthy the best heir o' the world, should
Be gladd in't by me: then follows, that [not
I weigh'd the danger which my realms stood in
By this my issue's fail; and that gave to me
Many a groaning throe. Thus hulling* in
The wild sea of my conscience, I did steer
Toward this remedy, whereupon we are
Now present here together; that's to say,
I meant to rectify my conscience,—which
I then did feel full sick, and yet not well,—
By all the reverend fathers of the land,
And doctors learn'd,—First, I began in private
With you my lord of Lincoln; you remember
How under my oppression I did reek, †
When I first mov'd you.

Lin. Very well my liege.

K. Hen. I have spoke long; be pleas'd your-
self to say

How far you satisfied me.

Lin. So please your highness,
The question did at first so stagger me,—
Bearing a state of mighty moment in't,
And consequence of dread,—that I committed
The daring'st counsel which I had, to doubt;
And did entreat your highness to this course,
Which you are running here.

K. Hen. I then mov'd you,
My lord of Canterbury; and got your leave
To make this present summons:—Unsolicited
I left no reverend person in this court;
But by particular consent proceeded, [on:
Under your hands and seals. Therefore, go
For no dislike i' the world against the person
Of the good queen, but the sharp thorny points
Of my alleged reasons, drive this forward:
Prove but our marriage lawful, by my life,
And kingly dignity, we are contented
To wear our mortal state to come, with her,
Katharine our queen, before the primest crea-
That's paragon'd † o'er the world. [ture

Cam. So please your highness,
The queen being absent, 'tis a needful fitness
That we adjourn this court till further day:
Meanwhile must be an earnest motion
Made to the queen, to call back her appeal
She intends unto his holiness.

[They rise to depart.]

K. Hen. I may perceive, [Aside.
These cardinals trifle with me: I abhor
This dilatory sloth, and tricks of Rome.
My learn'd and well-belov'd servant, Cranmer,
Pr'ythee return! † with thy approach, I know,
My comfort comes along. Break up the court:
I say, set on.

[Exeunt in manner as they entered.]

ACT III.

SCENE I.—Palace at Bridewell.

A Room in the Queen's Apartment.

The QUEEN, and some of her Women at work.

Q. Kath. Take thy lute, wench: my soul
grows sad with troubles;

* Floating without guidance. † Waste or wear away.

‡ Without compare.

§ An apostrophe to the absent bishop.

Sing, and disperse them, if thou canst: leave-
working.

SONG.

*Orpheus with his lute made trees,
And the mountain-tops, that freeze,
Bow themselves, when he did sing;
To his music, plants, and flowers,
Ever sprung; as sun, and showers,
There had been a lasting spring.*

*Every thing that heard him play,
Even the billows of the sea,
Hung their heads, and then lay by.
In sweet music is such art;
Killing care and grief of heart,
Fall asleep, or, hearing, die.*

Enter a GENTLEMAN.

Q. Kath. How now?

Gent. An't please your grace, the two great
cardinals

Wait in the presence.*

Q. Kath. Would they speak with me?

Gent. They will'd me say so, madam.

Q. Kath. Pray their graces

To come near. [Exit GENT.] What can be
their business [vour?

With me, a poor weak woman, fallen from fa-
I do not like their coming, now I think on't.
They should be good men; their affairs † as
righteous:

But all hoods make not monks.

Enter WOLSEY and CAMPEIUS.

Wol. Peace to your highness!

Q. Kath. Your graces find me here part of
a housewife;

I would be all, against the worst may happen.
What are your pleasures with me, reverend
lords?

Wol. May it please you, noble madam, to
withdraw

Into your private chamber, we shall give you
The full cause of our coming.

Q. Kath. Speak it here: [science,
There's nothing I have done yet, o'my con-
Deserves a corner: 'Would, all other women
Could speak this with as free a soul as I do!
My lords, I care not, (so much I am happy
Above a number,) if my actions [them,
Were tried by every tongue, every eye saw
Envy and base opinion set against them,
I know my life so even: If your business
Seek me out, and that way I am wife in,
Out with it boldly; Truth loves open dealing.

Wol. *Tanta est erga te mentis integritas,
regina serenissima,—*

Q. Kath. O, good my lord, no Latin;
I am not such a truant since my coming,
As not to know the language I have liv'd in:
A strange tongue makes my cause more
strange, suspicious; °
Pray, speak in English: here are some will
thank you. [sake;

If you speak truth, for their poor mistress'
Believe me, she has had much wrong: Lord
cardinal,

The willing'st sin I ever yet committed,
May be absolv'd in English.

Wol. Noble lady,

I am sorry, my integrity should breed,
(And service to his majesty and you,)
So deep suspicion, where all faith was meant.
We come not by the way of accusation,
To taint that honour every good tongue blesses;
Nor to betray you any way to sorrow;

* Presence chamber.

† Professions.

You have too much, good lady : but to know
How you stand minded in the weighty differ-
ence

Between the king and you ; and to deliver,
Like free and honest men, our just opinions,
And comforts to your cause.

Cam. Most honour'd madam,
My lord of York,—out of his noble nature,
Zeal and obedience he still bore your grace ;
Forgetting, like a good man, your late censure
Both of his truth and him, (which was too
Officers, as I do, in a sign of peace, [far,]—
His service and his counsel.

Q. Kath. To betray me. [*Aside.*
My lords, I thank you for both your good wills,
Ye speak like honest men, (pray God, ye
prove so !)

But how to make you suddenly an answer,
In such a point of weight, so near mine hon-
our,

(More near my life, I fear,) with my weak wit,
And to such men of gravity and learning,
In truth, I know not. I was set at work
Among my maids ; full little, God knows,
looking

Either for such men, or such business.
For her sake that I have been, (for I feel
The last fit of my greatness,) good your graces,
Let me have time, and counsel, for my cause ;
Alas ! I am a woman, friendless, hopeless.

Wol. Madam, you wrong the king's love
with these fears ;

Your hopes and friends are infinite.

Q. Kath. In England,
But little for my profit : Can you think, lords,
That any Englishman dare give me counsel ?
Or be a known friend, 'gainst his highness'
pleasure, [*est,*]

(Though he be grown so desperate to be hon-
And live a subject ? Nay, forsooth, my friends,
They that must weigh* out my afflictions,
They that my trust must grow to, live not here ;
They are, as all my other comforts, far hence,
In mine own country, lords.

Cam. I would, your grace
Would leave your griefs, and take my counsel.

Q. Kath. How, Sir ?

Cam. Put your main cause into the king's
protection ; [*much*
He's loving, and most gracious ; 'twill be
Both for your honour better, and your cause ;
For, if the trial of the law o'ertake you,
You'll part away disgrac'd.

Wol. He tells you rightly.

Q. Kath. Ye tell me what, ye wish for both,
my ruin ;

Is this your Christian counsel ? out upon ye !
Heaven is above all yet ; there sits a judge,
That no king can corrupt.

Cam. Your rage mistakes us.

Q. Kath. The more shame for ye ; holy men
I thought ye,

Upon my soul, two reverend cardinal virtues :
But cardinal sins, and hollow hearts, I fear ye :
Mend them for shame, my lords. Is this your
comfort ?

The cordial that ye bring a wretched lady ?
A woman lost among ye, laugh'd at, scorn'd ?
I will not wish ye half my miseries,
I have more charity : But say, I warn'd ye ;
Take heed, for heaven's sake, take heed, lest
at once

The burden of my sorrows fall upon ye.

Wol. Madam, this is a mere distraction ;
You turn the good we offer into envy.

* Outweigh.

Q. Kath. Ye turn me into nothing : Woe up-
on ye, [*me*

And all such false professors ! Would ye have
(If you have any justice, any pity ;
If ye be any thing but churchmen's habits,)
Put my sick cause into his hands that hates
me !

Alas ! he has banish'd me his bed already ;
His love, too long ago : I am old, my lords,
And all the fellowship I hold now with him
Is only my obedience. What can happen
To me above this wretchedness ? all your
Make me a curse like this. [*studies*

Cam. Your fears are worse.

Q. Kath. Have I liv'd thus long—(let me
speak myself, [*one ?*

Since virtue finds no friends,)—a wife, a true
A woman (I dare say, without vain-glory,)

Never yet branded with suspicion ?
Have I with all my full affections
Still met the king ? lov'd him, next heaven ?
obey'd him ?

Been, out of fondness, superstitious to him ?
Almost forgot my prayers to content him ?
And am I thus rewarded ? 'tis not well, lords.
Bring me a constant woman to her husband,
One that ne'er dream'd a joy beyond his plea-
sure ;

And to that woman, when she has done most,
Yet will I add an honour,—a great patience.

Wol. Madam, you wander from the good
we aim at.

Q. Kath. My lord, I dare not make myself
so guilty,

To give up willingly that noble title
Your master wed me to : nothing but death
Shall e'er divorce my dignities.

Wol. 'Pray, hear me.

Q. Kath. 'Would I had never trod this Eng-
lish earth,

Or felt the flatteries that grow upon it !
You have angels' faces, but heaven knows your
hearts.

What will become of me now, wretched lady ?
I am the most unhappy woman living.—

Alas ! poor wenches, where are now your for-
tunes ? [*To her Women.*

Shipwreck'd upon a kingdom, where no pity,
No friends, no hope ; no kindred weep for me,
Almost no grave allow'd me :—Like the lily,
That once was mistress of the field, and flour-
ish'd,

I'll hang my head, and perish.

Wol. If your grace

Could but be brought to know, our ends are
honest,

You'd feel more comfort : why should we,
good lady,

Upon what cause, wrong you ? alas ! our places,
The way of our profession is against it ;

We are to cure such sorrows, not to sow them.
For goodness' sake, consider what you do ;

How you may hurt yourself, ay, utterly
Grow from the king's acquaintance, by this
carriage.

The heart of princes kiss obedience
So much they love it ; but to stubborn spirits,
They swell, and grow as terrible as storms.

I know, you have a gentle, noble temper,
A soul as even as a calm ; Pray, think us
Those we profess, peace-makers, friends, and
servants.

Cam. Madam, you'll find it so. You wrong
your virtues [*spirit,*

With these weak women's fears. A noble
* Served him with superstitious attention.

As yours was put into you, ever casts
Such doubts, as false coin, from it. The king
loves you;

Beware, you lose it not: For us if you please
To trust us in your business, we are ready
To use our utmost studies in your service.

Q. *Kath.* Do what ye will, my lords: and,
pray, forgive me,

If I have us'd* myself unmannerly;
You know I am a woman, lacking wit
To make a seemly answer to such persons.

Pray, do my service to his majesty:
He has my heart yet; and shall have my pray-
ers,

While I shall have my life. Come, reverend
fathers,

Bestow your counsels on me: she now begs,
That little thought, when she set footing here,
She should have bought her dignities so dear.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—*Ante-chamber to the king's
Apartment.*

Enter the duke of NORFOLK, the duke of SUFFOLK, the Earl of SURREY, and the Lord CHAMBERLAIN.

Nor. If you will now unite in your complaints,

And force them with a constancy, the cardinal
Cannot stand under them: if you omit
The offer of this time, I cannot promise,
But that you shall sustain more new disgraces,
With these you bear already.

Suf. I am joyful
To meet the least occasion, that may give me
Remembrance of my father-in-law, the duke,
To be reveng'd on him.

Suf. Which of the peers
Have uncontain'd gone by him, or at least
Strangely neglected? when did he regard
The stamp of nobleness in any person,
Out of himself?

Cham. My lords, you speak your pleasures:
What he deserves of you and me, I know;
What we can do to him, (though now the time
Gives way to us,) I much fear. If you cannot
Bar his access to the king, never attempt
Any thing on him; for he hath a witchcraft
Over the king in his tongue.

Nor. O, fear him not;
His spell in that is out: the king hath found
Matter against him, that for ever mars
The honey of his language. No, he's settled,
Not to come off, in his displeasure.

Suf. Sir,
I should be glad to hear such news as this
Once every hour.

Nor. Believe it, this is true.
In the divorce, his contrary proceedings
Are all unfolded; wherein he appears,
As I could wish mine enemy.

Suf. How came
His practises to light?

Suf. Most strangely.

Suf. O, how, how?

Suf. The cardinal's letter to the pope mis-
carried,
And came to the eye o'the king: wherein was
read,

How that the cardinal did entreat his holiness
To stay the judgment o'the divorce: for if
It did take place, I do, quoth he, perceive
My king is tangled in affection to

A creature of the queen's, lady Anne Bullen.

Suf. Has the king this?

* Behaved.

† Enforce.

Suf. Believe it.

Sur. Will this work?

Cham. The king in this perceives him, how
he coasts,

And hedges his own way. But in this point
All his tricks founder, and he brings his
physic

After his patient's death; the king already
Hath married the fair lady.

Sur. 'Would he had!

Suf. May you be happy in your wish, my
For, I profess, you have it. [lord!]

Sur. Now all my joy

Trace* the conjunction!

Suf. My amen to't!

Nor. All men's.

Suf. There's order given for her coronation:
Marry, this is yet but young,† and may be left

To some ears unrecounted.—But, my lords,
She is a gallant creature, and complete

In mind and feature: I persuade me, from her
Will fall some blessing to this land, which shall
In it be memoriz'd.†

Sur. But, will the king

Digest this letter of the cardinal's?

The Lord forbid!

Nor. Marry, amen!

Suf. No, no;

There be more wasps that buz about his nose,
Will make this sting the sooner. Cardinal
Campeius

Is stolen away to Rome; hath ta'en no leave;
Has left the cause o'the king unhandled; and

Is posted, as the agent of our cardinal,

To second all his plot. I do assure you

The king cry'd, ha! at this.

Cham. Now, God incense him,

And let him cry ha, louder!

Nor. But, my lord,

When returns Cranmer?

Suf. He is return'd, in his opinions; which
Have satisfied the king for his divorce,

Together with all famous colleges

Almost in christendom: shortly, I believe,

His second marriage shall be publish'd, and

Her coronation. Katharine no more

Shall be call'd, queen; but princess dowager,

And widow to prince Arthur.

Nor. This same Cranmer's
A worthy fellow, and hath ta'en much pain
In the king's business.

Suf. He has; and we shall see him

For it, an archbishop.

Nor. So I hear.

Suf. 'Tis so.

The cardinal—

Enter WOLSEY and CROMWELL.

Nor. Observe, observe, he's moody.

Wol. The packet, Cromwell, gave it you
the king?

Crom. To his own hand, in his bed chamber.

Wol. Look'd he o'the inside of the paper?

Crom. Presently

He did unseal them: and the first he view'd,

He did it with a serious mind; a heed

Was in his countenance: You, he bade

Attend him here this morning.

Wol. Is he ready

To come abroad?

Crom. I think, by this he is.

Wol. Leave me awhile.—

[*Exit CROMWELL.*]

It shall be to the duchess of Alençon,

The French king's sister: he shall marry her.—

* Follow.

† New.

‡ Made memorable.

Anne Bullen! No; I'll no Anne Bullens for him; There is more in it than fair visage.—Bullen! No, we'll no Bullens.—Speedily I wish To hear from Rome.—The marchioness of Pembroke!

Nor. He's discontented.

Suf. May be, he hears the king Does wret his anger to him.

Suf. Sharp enough, Lord, for thy justice!

Wol. The late queen's gentlewoman; a knight's daughter,

To be her mistress' mistress! the queen's queen! This candle burns not clear: 'tis I must snuff it; Then, out it goes.—What though I know her virtuous,

And well-deserving? yet I know her for A spleeny Lutheran; and not wholesome to Our cause, that she should lie i' the bosom of Our hard rul'd king. Again, there is sprung A heratic, an arch one, Crammer; one [up Hath crawl'd into the favour of the king, And is his oracle.

Nor. He is vexed at something.

Suf. I would, 'twere something that would fret the string,

The master-cord of his heart!

Enter the KING, reading a Schedule; and LovELL.*

Suf. The king, the king.

K. Hen. What piles of wealth hath he accumulated [hour To his own portion! and what expense by the Seems to flow from him! How, i' the name of thrift,

Does he rake this together!—Now, my lords; Saw you the cardinal?

Nor. My lord, we have [motion Stood here observing him: Some strange com- Is in his brain: he bites his lip, and starts; Stops on a sudden, looks upon the ground, Then, lays his finger on his temple; straight, Springs out into fast gait; then, stops again, Strikes his breast hard; and anon, he casts His eye against the moon: in most strange postures

We have seen him set himself.

K. Hen. It may well be; There is a mutiny in his mind. This morning Papers of state he sent me to peruse, As I requir'd; And, wot't you, what I found There; on my conscience, but unwittingly? Forsooth, an inventory, thus importing,— The several parcels of his plate, his treasure, Rich stuffs, and ornaments of household; which I find at such proud rate, that it out-speaks Possession of a subject.

Nor. It's heaven's will; Some spirit put this paper in the packet, To bless your eye withal.

K. Hen. If we did think His contemplation were above the earth, And fix'd on spiritual object, he should still Dwell in his musings: but I am afraid, His thinkings are below the moon, not worth His serious considering.

[*He takes his seat, and whispers LovELL, who goes to Wolsey.*

Wol. Heaven forgive me! Ever God bless your highness!

K. Hen. Good my lord, You are full of heavenly stuff, and bear the inventory Of your best graces in your mind; the which

* An inventory. † Steps. ‡ Know.

VOL. II

You were now running o'er; you have scarce time

To steal from spiritual leisure a brief span, To keep your earthly audit: sure, in that I deem you an ill husband; and am glad To have you therein my companion.

Wol. Sir.

For holy offices I have a time; a time To think upon the part of business, which I bear i' the state; and nature does require Her times of preservation, which, perforce, I, her frail son, amongst my brethren mortal, Must give my tendance to.

K. Hen. You have said well.

Wol. And ever may your highness yoke to- gether,

As I will lend your cause, my doing well With my well saying!

K. Hen. 'Tis well said again; And 'tis a kind of good deed, to say well: And yet words are no deeds. My father lov'd you:

He said, he did; and with his deed did crown His word upon you. Since I had my office, I have kept you next my heart; have not alone Employ'd you when high profits might come But par'd my present havings, to bestow [home, My bounties upon you.

Wol. What should this mean?

Sur. The lord increase this business? [*Aside.*

K. Hen. Have I not made you [me, The prime man of the state? I pray you tell If what I now pronounce, you have found true: And, if you may confess it, say withal, If you are bound to us, or no. What say you?

Wol. My sovereign, I confess, your royal graces, [could

Shower'd on me daily, have been more, than My studied purposes requite; which went Beyond all man's endeavours: my endeavours Have ever come too short of my desires, Yet fil'd with my abilities: Mine own ends Have been mine so, that evermore they pointed To the good of your most sacred person, and The profit of the state. For your great graces Heap'd upon me, poor undeserver, I Can nothing render but allegiant thanks; My prayers to heaven for you; my loyalty, Which ever has, and ever shall be growing, Till death, that winter, kill it.

K. Hen. Fairly answer'd; A loyal and obedient subject is Therein illustrated: The honour of it Does pay the act of it; as, i' the contrary, The foulness is the punishment. I presume, That, as my hand has open'd bounty to you, My heart dropp'd love, my power rain'd hon- our, more

On you, than any; so your hand, and heart, Your brain, and every function of your power, Should, notwithstanding that your bond of As 'twere in love's particular, be more [duty, To me, your friend, than any.

Wol. I do profess,

That for your highness' good I ever labour'd More than mine own; that am, have, and will be. [to you,

Though all the world should crack their duty And throw it from their soul: though perils did Abound, as thick as thought could make them, and

Appear in forms more horrid; yet my duty, As doth a rock against the chiding flood, Should the approach of this wild river break, And stand unshaken yours.

K. Hen. Tis nobly spoken :
Take notice, lords, he has a loyal breast,
For you have seen him open't.—Read o'er this ;
[*Giving him papers.*]
And, after, this : and then to breakfast, with
What appetite you have.

[*Exit KING, frowning upon Cardinal
WOLSEY : the Nobles throng after
him, smiling, and whispering.*]

Wol. What should this mean ?
What sudden anger's this ? how have I reap'd
He parted frowning from me, as if ruin [it ?]
Leap'd from his eyes : So looks the chafed
lion

Upon the daring huntsman that has gall'd him ;
Then makes him nothing. I must read this
paper ;

I fear the story of his anger.—'Tis so ;
This paper has undone me :—'Tis the account
Of all that world of wealth I have drawn to-
gether [dom,

For mine own ends ; indeed, to gain the pope-
And see my friends in Rome. O negligence,
Fit for a fool to fall by ! What cross devil
Made me put this main secret in the packet
I sent the king ? Is there no way to cure this ?
No new device to beat this from his brains ?
I know, 'twill stir him strongly ; Yet I know
A way, if it take right, in spite of fortune
Will bring me off again. What's this—*To the
Pope ?*

The letter, as I live, with all the business
I writ to his holiness. Nay then, farewell !
I have touch'd the highest point of all my
greatness ;

And, from that full meridian of my glory,
I haste now to my setting : I shall fall
Like a bright exhalation in the evening,
And no man see me more.

*Re-enter the Dukes of NORFOLK and SUFFOLK,
the Earl of SURREY, and the Lord CHAMBER-
LAIN.*

Nor. Hear the king's pleasure, cardinal :
who commands you

To render up the great seal presently
Into our hands ; and to confine yourself
To Asher-house,* my lord of Winchester's,
Till you hear further from his highness.

Wol. Stay,
Where's your commission, lords ? words can-
not carry
Authority so weighty.

Suf. Who dare cross them ? [pressly ?]
Bearing the king's will from his mouth ex-

Wol. Till I find more than will, or words,
to do it,

(I mean, your malice,) know, officious lords,
I dare and must deny it. Now I feel
Of what coarse metal ye are mouldered,—envy.
How eagerly ye follow my disgraces,
As if it fed ye ! and how sleek and wanton
Ye appear in every thing may bring my ruin !
Follow your envious courses, men of malice ;
You have Christian warrant for them, and, no
doubt,

In time will find their fit rewards. That seal,
You ask with such a violence, the king,
(Mine, and your master,) with his own hand
gave me :

Bade me enjoy it, with the place and labours,
During my life ; and, to confirm his goodness,
Tied it by letters patents : Now, who'll take it ?

Sur. The king, that gave it.

Wol. It must be himself then.

* Eber in Surrey.

Sur. Thou art a proud traitor, priest.
Wol. Proud, lord, thou liest ;
Within these forty hours Surrey durst better
Have burnt that tongue, than said so.
Sur. Thy ambition,
Thou scarlet sin, robb'd this bewailing land
Of noble Buckingham, my father-in-law :
The heads of all thy brother cardinals,
(With thee, and all thy best parts bound to-
gether,)

Weigh'd not a hair of his. Plague of your po-
You sent me deputy for Ireland ; [licy !]
Far from his succour, from the king, from all
That might have mercy on the fault thou gav'st
him ;

Whilst your great goodness, out of holy pity,
Absolv'd him with an axe.

Wol. This, and all else
This talking lord can lay upon my credit,
I answer, is most false. The duke by law
Found his deserts : how innocent I was
From any private malice in his end,
His noble jury and foul cause can witness.
If I lov'd many words, lord, I should tell you,
You have as little honesty as honour ;
That I, in the way of loyalty and truth
Toward the king, my ever royal master,
Dare mate* a sounder man than Surrey can be
And all that love his follies.

Sur. By my soul,
Your long coat, priest, protects you ; thou
should'st feel

My sword i' the life-blood of thee else.—My
Can ye endure to hear this arrogance ? [lords,
And from this fellow ? If we live thus tamely,
To be thus jaded† by a piece of scarlet,
Farewell nobility ; let his grace go forward,
And dare us with his cap, like larks.‡

Wol. All goodness
Is poison to thy stomach.

Sur. Yes, that goodness
Of gleaning all the land's wealth into one,
Into your own hands, cardinal, by extortion ;
The goodness of your intercepted packets,
You writ to the pope, against the king : your
goodness, [rious.—

Since you provoke me, shall be most noto-
My lord of Norfolk,—as you are truly noble,
As you respect the common good, the state
Of our despis'd nobility, our issues,

Who, if he live, will scarce be gentlemen,—
Produce the grand sum of his sins, the articles
Collected from his life :—I'll startle you
Worse than the scaring bell, when the brown
wrench

Lay kissing in your arms, lord cardinal.

Wol. How much, methinks, I could despise
this man,

But that I am bound in charity against it !

Nor. Those articles, my lord, are in the
king's hand :

But, thus much, they are foul ones.

Wol. So much fairer,
And spotless, shall mine innocence arise,
When the king knows my truth.

Sur. This cannot save you :
I thank my memory, I yet remember
Some of these articles ; and out they shall.
Now, if you can blush, and cry guilty, cardi-
You'll show a little honesty. [nal,

Wol. Speak on, Sir :

I dare your worst objections : if I blush,
It is, to see a nobleman want manners.

* Equal.

† Ridden.

‡ A cardinal's hat is scarlet, and the method of scaring
larks is by small mirrors on a scarlet cloth.

Sur. I'd rather want those, than my head.
Have at you. [edge,

First, that, without the king's assent, or knowl-
You wrought to be a legate; by which power
You main'd the jurisdiction of all bishops.

Nor. Then, that, in all you write to Rome, or
To foreign princes, *Ego et ex meus* [else
Was still inscrib'd; in which you brought the
To be your servant. [king

Suf. Then, that, without the knowledge
Either of king or council, when you went
Ambassador to the emperor, you made bold
To carry into Flanders the great seal.

Sur. Item, you sent a large commission
To Gregory de Cassalis, to conclude, [ance,
Without the king's will, or the state's allow-
A league between his highness and Ferrara.

Suf. That, out of mere ambition, you have
caus'd
Your holy hat to be stamp'd on the king's coin.

Sur. Then, that you have sent innumerable
substance, [science,)
(By what means got, I leave to your own con-
To furnish Rome, and to prepare the ways
You have for dignities; to the mere* undoing
Of all the kingdom. Many more there are;
Which, since they are of you, and odious,
I will not taint my mouth with.

Cham. O my lord,
Press not a falling man too far; 'tis virtue:
His faults lie open to the laws; let them,
Not you, correct him. My heart weeps to see
So little of his great self. [him

Sur. I forgive him.

Suf. Lord cardinal, the king's further plea-
sure is,—

Because all those things, you have done of late
By your power legatine† within this kingdom,
Fall into the compass of a *præmunire*,‡—
That therefore such a writ be sued against you:
To forfeit all your goods, lands, tenements,
Chattels, and whatsoever, and to be [charge.
Out of the king's protection:—This is my

Nor. And so we'll leave you to your medi-
tations

How to live better. For your stubborn answer,
About the giving back the great seal to us,
The king shall know it, and no doubt, shall
thank you.

So fare you well, my little good lord cardinal.
[*Ereunt all but WOLSEY.*

Wol. So farewell to the little good you bear
me.

Farewell, a long farewell, to all my greatness!
This is the state of man; To-day he puts forth
The tender leaves of hope; to-morrow blossoms,
And bears his blushing honours thick upon
him:

The third day, comes a frost, a killing frost;
And,—when he thinks, good easy man, full
surely

His greatness is a ripening,—nips his root,
And then he falls, as I do. I have ventur'd,
Like little wanton boys that swim on bladders,
This many summers in a sea of glory; [pride
But far beyond my depth: my high-blown
At length broke under me; and now has left me,
Weary, and old with service, to the mercy
Of a rude stream, that must for ever hide me.
Vain pomp, and glory of this world, I hate ye;
I feel my heart new open'd: O, how wretched
Is that poor man, that hangs on princes' fav-
ours!

There is, betwixt that smile we would aspire

* Absolute.

† As the Pope's legate.

‡ A writ incurring a penalty.

That sweet aspect of princes, and their ruin,
More pangs and fears than wars or women
have;

And when he falls, he falls like Lucifer,
Never to hope again,—

Enter CROMWELL, amazedly.

Why, how now, Cromwell?

Crom. I have no power to speak, Sir.

Wol. What, amaz'd

At my misfortunes? can thy spirit wonder,
A great man should decline? Nay, an you
I am fallen indeed. [weep,

Crom. How does your grace?

Wol. Why, well;

Never so truly happy, my good Cromwell,
I know myself now; and I feel within me
A peace above all earthly dignities,
A still and quiet conscience. The king has
cur'd me,

I humbly thank his grace; and from these
shoulders,

These ruin'd pillars, out of pity, taken
A load would sink a navy, too much honour:
O, 'tis a burden, Cromwell, 'tis a burden,
Too heavy for a man that hopes for heaven.

Crom. I am glad, your grace has made that
right use of it.

Wol. I hope, I have: I am able now, me-
(Out of a fortitude of soul I feel,) [thinks,
To endure more miseries, and greater far,
Than my weak-hearted enemies dare offer.
What news abroad?

Crom. The heaviest and the worst,
Is your displeasure with the king.

Wol. God bless him!

Crom. The next is, that Sir Thomas More is
Lord chancellor in your place. [chosen

Wol. That's somewhat sudden:

But he's a learned man, May he continue
Long in his highness' favour and do justice
For truth's sake, and his conscience; that his
bones,

When he has run his course, and sleeps in
blessings, [em!
May have a tomb of orphan's tears* wept on
What more?

Crom. That Cranmer is return'd with wel-
come,

Install'd lord archbishop of Canterbury.

Wol. That's news indeed.

Crom. Last, that the lady Anne,
Whom the king hath in secrecy long married,
This day was view'd in open, as his queen,
Going to chapel; and the voice is now
Only about her coronation.

Wol. There was the weight that pull'd me
down. O Cromwell,

The king has gone beyond me, all my glories
In that one woman I have lost for ever:
No sun shall ever usher forth mine honours,
Or gild again the noble troops that waited
Upon my smiles. Go, get thee from me, Crom-
well;

I am a poor fallen man, unworthy now
To be thy lord and master: Seek the king;
That sun, I pray, may never set! I have told
him— [thee;

What, and how true thou art: he will advance
Some little memory of me will stir him,
(I know his noble nature,) not to let
Thy hopeful service perish too: Good Crom-
well,

Neglect him not; make use † now, and provide
For thine own future safety.

* The chancellor is the guardian of orphans.

† Interest

Crom. O my lord,
Must I then leave you? Must I needs forego
So good, so noble, and so true a master?
Bear witness, all that have not hearts of iron,
With what a sorrow Cromwell leaves his lord.—
The king shall have my service; but my pray-
ers

For ever, and for ever, shall be yours.

Wol. Cromwell, I did not think to shed a
tear

In all my miseries; but thou hast forc'd me
Out of thy honest truth to play the woman.
Let's dry our eyes: and thus far hear me,
Cromwell;

And,—when I am forgotten, as I shall be;
And sleep in dull cold marble, where no men-
tion [thee,

Of me more must be heard of,—say, I taught
Say, Wolsey,—that once trod the ways of glory,
And sounded all the depths and shoals of
honour,—

Found thee a way, out of his wreck, to rise in;
A sure and safe one, though thy master miss'd
Mark but my fall, and that that ruin'd me. [it.
Cromwell, I charge thee, fling away ambition;
By that sin fell the angels, how can man then,
The image of his Maker, hope to win by't?
Love thyself last; cherish those hearts that
hate thee;

Corruption wins not more than honesty,
Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace,
To silence envious tongues. Be just, and
fear not: [try's,

Let all the ends, thou aim'st at, be thy coun-
Thy God's, and truth's; then if thou fall'st, O
Cromwell,

Thou fall'st a blessed martyr. Serve the king;
And,—Pr'ythee, lead me in:
There take an inventory of all I have,
To the last penny: 'tis the king's: my robe,
And my integrity to heaven, is all
I dare now call mine own. O Cromwell,
Cromwell,

Had I but serv'd my God with half the zeal
I serv'd my king, he would not in mine age
Have left me naked to mine enemies.

Crom. Good Sir, have patience.

Wol. So I have. Farewell
The hopes of court! my hopes in heaven do
dwell. [Exeunt.

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—A Street in Westminster.

Enter two GENTLEMEN, meeting.

1 *Gent.* You are well met once again.

2 *Gent.* And so are you.

1 *Gent.* You come to take your stand
here, and behold

The lady Anne pass from her coronation?

2 *Gent.* 'Tis all my business. At our last
encounter,

The duke of Buckingham came from his trial.

1 *Gent.* 'Tis very true: but that time offer'd
sorrow;

This general joy.

2 *Gent.* 'Tis well: The citizens,
I am sure, have shown at full their royal minds;
As, let them have their rights, they are ever
forward

In celebration of this day with shows,
Pageants, and sights of honour.

1 *Gent.* Never greater,
Nor, I'll assure you, better taken, Sir.

2 *Gent.* May I be bold to ask what that
That paper in your hand? [contains,

1 *Gent.* Yes; 'tis the list

Of those, that claim their offices this day,
By custom of the coronation.

The duke of Suffolk is the first, and claims
To be high steward; next, the duke of Norfolk,
He to be earl marshal: you may read the rest.

2 *Gent.* I thank you, Sir; had I not known
those customs,

I should have been beholden to your paper.

But, I beseech you, what's become of Kath-
arine,

The princess dowager! how goes her business?

1 *Gent.* That I can tell you too. The arch-
bishop

Of Canterbury, accompanied with other
Learned and reverend fathers of his order,
Held a late court at Dunstable, six miles off
From Amphill, where the princess lay; to
which

She oft was cited by them, but appear'd not:
And, to be short, for not appearance, and
The king's late scruple, by the main assent
Of all these learned men she was divorc'd,
And the late marriage* made of none effect:
Since which, she was removed to Kimbolton,
Where she remains now sick.

2 *Gent.* Alas! good lady!— [Trumpets.
The trumpets sound: stand close, the queen is
coming.

THE ORDER OF THE PROCESSION.

A lively flourish of Trumpets; then enter

1. *Two Judges.*

2. *The Lord Chancellor, with the purse and
mace before him.*

3. *Choristers singing.* [Music.

4. *Mayor of London bearing the mace. Then
Garler, in his coat of arms, and on his
head, a gill copper crown.*

5. *Marquis Dorset, bearing a sceptre of gold,
on his head a demi-coronal of gold.
With him, the earl of Surrey, bearing the
rod of silver with the dove, crowned with
an earl's coronet. Collars of SS.*

6. *Duke of Suffolk, in his robe of estate, his
coronet on his head, bearing a long white
wand, as high-steward. With him, the
duke of Norfolk, with the rod of marshal-
ship, a coronet on his head. Collars of SS.*

7. *A canopy borne by four of the Cinque-ports;
under it, the Queen in her robe; in her
hair richly adorned with pearl, crowned.
On each side of her, the bishops of Lon-
don, and Winchester.*

8. *The old duchess of Norfolk, in a coronal of
gold, wrought with flowers, bearing the
Queen's train.*

9. *Certain Ladies or Countesses, with plain
circlets of gold without flowers.*

2 *Gent.* A royal train, believe me.—These
I know;—

Who's that, that bears the sceptre?

1 *Gent.* Marquis Dorset:

And that the earl of Surrey, with the rod.

2 *Gent.* A bold brave gentleman: And that
should be

The duke of Suffolk.

1 *Gent.* 'Tis the same; high steward.

2 *Gent.* And that my lord of Norfolk?

1 *Gent.* Yes.

2 *Gent.* Heaven bless thee!

[Looking on the Queen.

Thou hast the sweetest face I ever look'd on.—
Sir, as I have a soul, she is an angel;

* The marriage lately considered as valid.

Our king has all the Indies in his arms,
And more, and richer, when he strains that
I cannot blame his conscience. [lady:

1 *Gent.* They, that bear
The cloth of honour over her, are four barons
Of the Cinque-ports.

2 *Gent.* Those men are happy; and so are
all, are near her.

I take it, she that carries up the train,
Is that old noble lady, duchess of Norfolk.

1 *Gent.* It is; and all the rest are countesses.

2 *Gent.* Their coronets say so. These are
stars indeed;

And, sometimes, falling ones.

1 *Gent.* No more of that.

[*Exit Procession, with a great flourish of
Trumpets.*

Enter a third GENTLEMAN.

God save you, Sir! Where have you been
broiling?

3 *Gent.* Among the crowd i'the abbey;
where a finger

Could not be wedg'd in more; and I am stifled
With the mere rankness of their joy.

2 *Gent.* You saw

The ceremony?

3 *Gent.* That I did.

1 *Gent.* How was it?

3 *Gent.* Well worth the seeing.

2 *Gent.* Good Sir, speak it to us.

3 *Gent.* As well as I am able. The rich
stream

Of lords, and ladies, having brought the queen
To a prepar'd place in the choir, fell off

A distance from her; while her grace sat down
To rest a while, some half an hour, or so,

In a rich chair of state, opposing freely
The beauty of her person to the people.

Believe me, Sir, she is the goodliest woman
That ever lay by man: which when the people

Had the full view of, such a noise arose
As the shrouds make at sea in a stiff tempest,

As loud, and to as many tunes: hats, cloaks,
(Doublets, I think,) flew up; and had their
faces [joy

Been loose, this day they had been lost. Such
I never saw before. Great-bellied women,

That had not half a week to go, like rams
In the old time of war, would shake the press,

And make them reel before them. No man
living [woven

Could say, *This is my wife*, there; all were
So strangely in one piece.

2 *Gent.* But, pray, what follow'd?

3 *Gent.* At length her grace rose, and with
modest paces

Came to the altar; where she kneel'd, and,
saint-like, [voutly.

Cast her fair eyes to heaven, and pray'd de-
Then rose again, and bow'd her to the people:

When by the archbishop of Canterbury
She had all the royal makings of a queen;

As holy oil, Edward Confessor's crown,
The rod, and bird of peace, and all such em-
blems

Laid nobly on her: which perform'd, the choir,
With all the choicest music of the kingdom,

Together sung *Te Deum*. So she parted,
And with the same full state pac'd back again

To York-Place, where the feast is held.

1 *Gent.* Sir, you

Must no more call it York-place, that is past:
For, since the cardinal fell, that title's lost;

'Tis now the king's, and call'd—Whitehall.

3 *Gent.* I know it;

But 'tis so lately alter'd, that the old name

Is fresh about me.

2 *Gent.* What two reverend bishops

Were those that went on each side of the queen?

3 *Gent.* Stokesley and Gardiner; the one, of
Winchester,

(Newly prefer'd from the king's secretary,)

The other, London.

2 *Gent.* He of Winchester

Is held no great good lover of the archbishop's,
The virtuous Craumer.

3 *Gent.* All the land knows that:

However, yet there's no great breach; when
it comes, [him.

Craumer will find a friend will not shrink from
2 *Gent.* Who may that be, I pray you?

3 *Gent.* Thomas Cromwell;

A man in much esteem with the king, and
A worthy friend.—The king [truly

Has made him master o'the jewel house,
And one, already, of the privy-council.

2 *Gent.* He will deserve more.

3 *Gent.* Yes, without all doubt.

Come, gentlemen, ye shall go my way, which
Is to the court, and there ye shall be my guests;

Something I can command. As I walk thither,
I'll tell ye more.

Both. You may command us, Sir. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—*Kimbolton.*

*Enter KATHARINE, Dowager, sick; led between
GRIFFITH and PATIENCE.*

Grif. How does your grace?

Kath. O, Griffith, sick to death: [earth,
My legs, like loaden branches, bow to the

Willing to leave their burden: Reach a chair;—
So,—now, methinks, I feel a little ease. [me,

Didst thou not tell me, Griffith, as thou led'st
That the great child of honour, cardinal Wol-

Was dead? [sey,

Grif. Yes, madam; but, I think, your grace,
Out of the pain you suffer'd, gave no ear to't.

Kath. Pr'ythee, good Griffith, tell me how
he died:

If well, he stepp'd before me, happily,*

For my example.

Grif. Well, the voice goes, madam,
For after the stout earl of Northumberland

Arrested him at York, and brought him forward
(As a man sorely tainted,) to his answer,

He fell sick suddenly, and grew so ill,
He could not sit his mule.

Kath. Alas! poor man!

Grif. At last, with easy roads,† he came to
Leicester, [abbot,

Lodg'd in the abbey; where the reverend
With all his convent, honourably receiv'd him;

To whom he gave these words,—*O father abbot,
An old man, broken with the storms of state,*

*Is come to lay his weary bones among ye;
Give him a little earth for charity!*

So went to bed: where eagerly his sickness
Pursued him still; and, three nights after this,

About the hour of eight, (which he himself
Foretold, should be his last,) full of repentance

Continual meditations, tears, and sorrows,
He gave his honour to the world again,

His blessed part to heaven, and slept in peace.

Kath. So may he rest; his faults lie gently
on him!

Yet thus far, Griffith, give me leave to speak
him!

And yet with charity.—He was a man
Of an unbounded stomach,‡ ever ranking

Himself with princes; one, that by suggestion

* Haply. † By short stages. ‡ Pride.

Tied all the kingdom: simony was fair play;
His own opinion was his law: I' the presence*
He would say untruths; and be ever double,
Both in his words and meaning: He was never,
But where he meant to ruin, pitiful:
His promises were, as he then was mighty;
But his performance, as he is now, nothing.
Of his own body he was ill, and gave
The clergy ill example.

Grif. Noble madam,
Men's evil manners live in brass; their virtues
We write in water. May it please your high-
To hear me speak his good now? [ness]

Kath. Yes, good Griffith;
I were malicious else.

Grif. This cardinal,
Though from an humble stock, undoubtedly
Was fashion'd to much honour. From his
Cradle,

He was a scholar, and a ripe, and good one;
Exceeding wise, fair spoken, and persuading:
Lofty, and sour, to them that lov'd him not;
But, to those men that sought him, sweet as
summer.

And though he were unsatisfied in getting,
(Which was a sin,) yet in bestowing, madam,
He was more princely: Ever witness for him
Those twins of learning, that herais'd in you,
Ipswich, and Oxford! one of which fell with
him,

Unwilling to outlive the good that did it;
The other, though unfinish'd, yet so famous,
So excellent in art, and still so rising,
That Christendom shall ever speak his virtue.
His overthrow heap'd happiness upon him;
For then, and not till then, he felt himself,
And found the blessedness of being little:
And, to add greater honours to his age
That man could give him, he died, fearing
God.

Kath. After my death I wish no other he-
No other speaker of my living actions, [rald,
To keep mine honour from corruption,
But such an honest chronicler as Griffith.
Whom I most hated living, thou hast made me,
With thy religious truth, and modesty,
Now in his ashes honour: peace be with
him!—

Patience, be near me still; and set me lower:
I have not long to trouble thee.—Good Griffith,
Cause the musicians play me that sad note
I nam'd my knell, whilst I sit meditating
On that celestial harmony I go to.

Sad and solemn music.

Grif. She is asleep: Good wench, let's sit
down quiet,
For fear we wake her; Softly, gentle Patience.

The vision. Enter, solemnly tripping one after
another, six personages, clad in white robes,
wearing on their heads garlands of bays, and
golden vizards on their faces; branches of bays,
or palm in their hands. They first congee un-
to her, thence dance; and, at certain changes, the
first two hold a spare garland over her head;
at which, the other four make reverend cour-
sies; then the two that held the garland, de-
liver the same to the other next two, who ob-
serve the same order in their changes, and
holding the garland over her head: which
done, they deliver the same garland to the last
two, who likewise observe the same order: at
which, (as it were by inspiration,) she makes

* Of the king.

† Formed for

‡ Ipswich.

in her sleep signs of rejoicing, and holdeth up
her hands to heaven: and so in their dancing
they vanished, carrying the garland with them.
The music continues.

Kath. Spirits of peace, where are ye? Are
ye all gone?

And leave me here in wretchedness behind ye?

Grif. Madam, we are here.

Kath. It is not you I call for:

Saw e none enter, since I slept?

c. f. None, madam.

Kath. No? Saw you not, even now, a bless-
ed troop

Invite me to a banquet; whose bright faces
Cast thousand beams upon me, like the sun?
They promis'd me eternal happiness;
And brought me garlands, Griffith, which I
I am not worthy yet to wear: I shall, [feel
Assuredly.

Grif. I am most joyful, madam, such good
Possess your fancy. [dreams]

Kath. Bid the music leave,

They are harsh and heavy to me.

[Music ceases.]

Pat. Do you note,
How much her grace is alter'd on the sudden?
How long her face is drawn? How pale she
looks,

And of an earthly cold? Mark you her eyes?

Grif. She is going, wench; pray, pray.

Pat. Heaven comfort her!

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. An't like your grace,—

Kath. You are a saucy fellow:

Deserve we no more reverence?

Grif. You are to blame, [ness,
Knowing, She will not lose her wonted great-
To use so rude behaviour: go to, kneel,

Mess. I humbly do entreat your highness'
pardon; [ing

My haste made me unmannerly; there is stay-
A gentleman, sent from the king to see you,

Kath. Admit him entrance, Griffith: But
this fellow

Let me ne'er see again.

[Exeunt GRIFFITH and MESSENGER.]

Re-enter GRIFFITH, with CAPUCIUS.

If my sight fail not, [peror,
You should be lord ambassador from the em-
My royal nephew, and your name Capucius.

Cap. Madam, the same, your servant.

Kath. O my lord,

The times, and titles, now are alter'd strangely
With me, since first you knew me. But, I pray
What is your pleasure with me? [you,

Cap. Noble lady, [next,
First, mine own service to your grace; the
The king's request that I would visit you;

Who grieves much for your weakness, and by
Sends you his princely commendations. [me
And heartily entreats you take good comfort.

Kath. O my good lord, that comfort comes
too late;

'Tis like a pardon after execution: [me; *
That gentle physic, given in time, had cur'd
But now I am past all comforts here, but pray-
How does his highness? [ers,

Cap. Madam, in good health.

Kath. So may he ever do! and ever flourish,
When I shall dwell with worms, and my poor
name

Banish'd the kingdom!—Patience, is that let-
I caus'd you write, yet sent away? [ter,

Pat. No madam, [*Giving it to KATHARINE.*]
Kath. Sir, I most humbly pray you to de-
 this to my lord the king. [liver

Cap. Most willing, madam.

Kath. In which I have commended to his
 goodness
 The model* of our chaste loves, his young
 daughter:— [her!—

The dews of heaven fall thick in blessings on
 Beseeching him, to give her virtuous breeding;
 (She is young, and of a noble modest nature;
 I hope, she will deserve well;) and a little
 To love her for her mother's sake, that lov'd
 him,

Heaven knows how dearly. My next poor
 petition

Is, that his noble grace would have some pity
 Upon my wretched women, that so long,
 Have follow'd both my fortunes faithfully:
 Of which there is not one, I dare avow
 (And now I should not lie,) but will deserve,
 For virtue, and true beauty of the soul,
 For honesty, and decent carriage,
 A right good husband, let him be; a noble;
 And, sure, those men are happy that shall
 have them.

The last is, for my men:—they are the poorest,
 But poverty could never draw them from me:—
 That they may have their wages duly paid
 them,

And something over to remember me by;
 If Heaven had pleas'd to have given me long-
 er life,

And able means, we had not parted thus,
 These are the whole contents:—And, good my
 lord,

By that you love the dearest in this world,
 As you wish Christian peace to souls departed,
 [king

Stand these poor people's friend, and urge the
 To do me this last right.

Cap. By heaven, I will;

Or let me lose the fashion of a man!

Kath. I thank you, honest lord. Remember
 In all humility unto his highness: [me
 Say, his long trouble now is passing [him,
 Out of this world: tell him, in death I bless'd
 For so I will.—Mine eyes grow dim.—Fare-
 well,

My lord.—Griffith, farewell.—Nay, Patience,
 You must not leave me yet. I must to bed;
 Call in more women.—When I am dead, good
 wench,

Let me be us'd with honour; strew me over
 With maiden flowers, that all the world may
 know [me,

I was a chaste wife to my grave:—embalm
 Then lay me forth: although unqueen'd, yet
 like

A queen, and daughter to a king, inter me.

I can no more.—

[*Exeunt, leading KATHARINE.*

ACT V.

SCENE I.—A Gallery in the Palace.

*Enter GARDINER Bishop of Winchester, a PAGE
 with a torch before him, met by Sir THOMAS
 LOVELL.*

Gar. It's one o'clock, boy, is't not?

Boy. It hath struck.

Gar. These should be hours for necessities,
 Not for delights; times to repair our nature
 With comforting repose, and not for us

* Image.

† Afterwards Q. Mary.

‡ Even if he should be.

To waste these times.—Good hour of night,
 Sir Thomas!

Whither so late?

Lov. Came you from the king, my lord?

Gar. I did Sir Thomas; and left him at
 primero*

With the duke of Suffolk.

Lov. I must to him too,
 Before he go to bed. I'll take my leave.

Gar. Not yet, Sir Thomas Lovell. What's
 the matter?

It seems you are in haste: an if there be
 No great offence belongs to't, give your friend
 Some touch of your late business: Affairs,
 that walk

(As, they say, spirits do,) at midnight, have
 In them a wilder nature, than the business
 That seeks despatch by day.

Lov. My lord, I love you;
 And durst commend a secret to your ear
 Much weightier than this work. The queen's
 in labour,

They say, in great extremity; and fear'd,
 She'll with the labour end.

Gar. The fruit, she goes with,
 I pray for heartily; that it may find
 Good time, and live: but for the stock, Sir
 Thomas,

I wish it grubb'd up now.

Lov. Methinks, I could
 Cry the amen; and yet my conscience says
 She's a good creature, and, sweet lady, does
 Deserve our better wishes.

Gar. But, Sir, Sir,—

Hear me, Sir Thomas: You are a gentleman
 Of mine own way; I know you wise, religious;
 And, let me tell you, it will ne'er be well,—
 'Twill not, Sir Thomas Lovell, take't of me,
 Till Cranmer, Cromwell, her two hands, and
 Sleep in their graves. [she,

Lov. Now, Sir, you speak of two
 The most remark'd i'the kingdom. As for
 Cromwell,— [ter

Beside that of the jewel-house, he's made mas-
 O' the rolls, and the king's secretary: further,
 Sir, [ments,
 Stands in the gap and 'trade of more prefer-
 With which the time will load him: The arch-
 bishop

Is the king's hand, and tongue; And who dare
 speak

One syllable against him?

Gar. Yes, yes, Sir Thomas, [tur'd
 There are that dare; and I myself have ven-
 To speak my mind of him: and, indeed, this
 day,

Sir, (I may tell it you,) I think, I have
 Incens'd† the lords o'the council, that he is
 (For so I know he is, they know he is,)

A most arch heretic, a pestilence [moved,
 That does infect the land: with which they
 Have broken‡ with the king; who hath so far
 Given ear to our complaint, (of his great grace
 And princely care; foreseeing those fell mis-
 chiefs [manded,

Our reasons laid before him,) he hath com-
 To-morrow morning to the council-board
 He be convened.¶ He's a rank weed, Sir
 Thomas,

And we must root him out. From your affairs
 I hinder you too long: good night, Sir Thomas.

Lov. Many good nights, my lord; I rest
 your servant.

[*Exeunt GARDINER and PAGE.*

* A game at cards.

† Hint.

‡ Set on.

§ Told their minds.

¶ Summoned.

As *LOVELL* is going out, enter the *KING*, and the *Duke of SUFFOLK*.

K. Hen. Charles, I will play no more to-night;

My mind's not on't, you are too hard for me.
Suf. Sir, I did never win of you before.

K. Hen. But little Charles;

Nor shall not, when my fancy's on my play.—
Now, *Lovell*, from the queen what is the news?

Lov. I could not personally deliver to her
What you commanded me, but by her woman
I sent your message; who return'd her thanks
In the greatest humbleness, and desir'd your
highness

Most heartily to pray for her.

K. Hen. What say'st thou? ha!

To pray for her? what, is she crying out?

Lov. So said her woman; and that her sufferance made

Almost each pang a death.

K. Hen. Alas, good lady!

Suf. God safely quit her of her burden, and
With gentle travail, to the gladding of
Your highness with an heir!

K. Hen. 'Tis midnight, Charles,
Pr'ythee, to bed; and in thy prayers remember
The estate of my poor queen. Leave me alone;
For I must think of that, which company
Will not be friendly to.

Suf. I wish your highness

A quiet night, and my good mistress will
Remember in my prayers.

K. Hen. Charles, good night.—

[*Exit SUFFOLK.*]

Enter *Sir ANTHONY DENNY*.

Well, Sir, what follows?

Den. Sir, I have brought my lord the arch-
As you commanded me. [bishop,

K. Hen. Ha! Canterbury?

Den. Ay, my good lord.

K. Hen. 'Tis true: Where is he, *Denny*?

Den. He attends your highness' pleasure.

K. Hen. Bring him to us. [*Exit DENNY.*]

Lov. This is about that which the bishop
spake;

I am happily come hither. [*Aside.*]

Re-enter *DENNY*, with *CRANMER*.

K. Hen. Avoid the gallery.

[*LOVELL seems to stay.*]

Ha!—I have said.—Begone.

What! [*Exeunt LOVELL and DENNY.*]

Cran. I am fearful:—Wherefore frowns he
thus?

'Tis his aspect of terror. All's not well.

K. Hen. How now, my lord? You do desire
to know

Wherefore I sent for you.

Cran. It is my duty,
To attend your highness' pleasure.

K. Hen. 'Pray you, arise,
My good and gracious lord of Canterbury.
Come, you and I must walk a turn together;
I have news to tell you: Come, come, give me
your hand,

Ah, my good lord, I grieve at what I speak,
And am right sorry to repeat what follows:
I have, and most unwillingly of late

Heard many grievous, I do say, my lord,
Grievous complaints of you; which, being con-
sider'd,

Have mov'd us, and our council, that you shall
This morning come before us; where I know,
You cannot with such freedom purge yourself,
But that, till further trial, in those charges

Which will require your answer, you must take
Your patience to you, and be well contented
To make your house our Tower: You a brother
of us,*

It fits we thus proceed, or else no witness
Would come against you.

Cran. I humbly thank your highness;
And am right glad to catch this good occasion
Most thoroughly to be winnow'd, where my
chaff

And corn shall fly asunder: for, I know,
There's none stands under more calumnious
Than I myself, poor man. [tongues,

K. Hen. Stand up, good *Canterbury*;
Thy truth, and thy integrity, is rooted [up;
In us, thy friend: Give me thy hand, stand
Pr'ythee, let's walk. Now, by my holy-dame,
What manner of man are you? My lord, I
look'd

You would have given me your petition, that
I should have ta'en some pains to bring to-
gether [you

Yourself and your accusers; and to have heard
Without insurance, further.

Cran. Most dread liege,
The good I stand on is my truth, and honesty;
If they shall fail, I, with mine enemies, [not,
Will triumph o'er my person; which I weight
Being of those virtues vacant. I fear nothing
What can be said against me.

K. Hen. Know you not how [world?
Your state stands i'the world, with the whole
Your enemies

Are many, and not small; their practices
Must bear the same proportion: and not ever
The justice and the truth o'the question carries
The due o'the verdict with it: At what ease
Might corrupt minds procure knaves as corrupt
To swear against you? such things have been
done.

You are potently oppos'd; and with a malice
Of as great size. Ween'st you of better luck,
I mean, in perjur'd witness, than your master,
Whose minister you are, whiles here he liv'd
Upon this naughty earth? Go to, go to;
You take a precipice for no leap of danger,
And woo your own destruction.

Cran. God, and your majesty,
Protect mine innocence, or I fall into
The trap is laid for me!

K. Hen. Be of good cheer; [to.
They shall no more prevail than we give way
Keep comfort to you; and this morning see
You do appear before them; if they shall
chance,

In charging you with matters, to commit you,
The best persuasions to the contrary
Fail not to use, and with what vehemency
The occasion shall instruct you: if entreaties
Will render you no remedy, this ring
Deliver them, and your appeal to us [weeps!
There make before them.—Look, the good man
He's honest, on mine honour. God's blest
mother!

I swear, he is true-hearted; and a soul
None better in my kingdom.—Get you gone,
And do as I have bid you.—[*Exit CRANMER.*]
He has strangled
His language in his tears.

Enter an old *LADY*.

Gent. [Within.] Come back; What mean
you?

Lady. I'll not come back: the tidings that
I bring

One of the council. † Value. ‡ Always. § Think.

Will make my boldness manners.—Now, good angels

Fly o'er thy royal head, and shade thy person Under their blessed wings!

K. Hen. Now, by thy looks

I guess thy message. Is the queen deliver'd? Say, ay; and of a boy.

Lady. Ay, ah, my liege;

And of a lovely boy: The God of heaven Both now and ever bless her!—'tis a girl, Promises boys hereafter. Sir, your queen Desires your visitation, and to be Acquainted with this stranger; 'tis as like you, As cherry is to cherry.

K. Hen. Lovell,—

Enter LOVELL.

Lov. Sir,

K. Hen. Give her a hundred marks. I'll to the queen. [*Exit* KING.]

Lady. A hundred marks! By this light, I'll have more.

An ordinary groom is for such payment.

I will have more, or scold it out of him.

Said I for this, the girl is like to him?

I will have more, or else unsay't; and now

While it is hot, I'll put it to the issue. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—Lobby before the Council-Chamber.

Enter CRANMER; SERVANTS, DOOR-KEEPER, &c. attending.

Cran. I hope, I am not too late; and yet the gentleman, [*me*

That was sent to me from the council, pray'd To make great haste. All fast? what means this?—Hoa!

Who waits there?—Sure, you know me?

D. Keep. Yes, my lord;

But yet I cannot help you.

Cran. Why?

D. Keep. Your grace must wait, till you be call'd for.

Enter Doctor BUTTS.

Cran. So.

Butts. This is a piece of malice. I am glad, I came this way so happily: The king Shall understand it presently. [*Exit* BUTTS.]

Cran. [*Aside.*] 'Tis Butts,

The king's physician; As he past along,

How earnestly he cast his eyes upon me!

Pray heaven, he sound not my disgrace! For certain,

This is of purpose laid, by some that hate me, (God turn their hearts? I never sought their malice,)

To quench mine honour: they would shame to make me

Wait else at door; a fellow counsellor,

Among boys, groons, and lackeys. But their pleasures

Must be fulfill'd, and I attend with patience.

Enter at a window above, the KING and BUTTS.

Butts. I'll show your grace the strangest sight,—

K. Hen. What's that, Butts?

Butts. I think, your highness saw this many a day.

K. Hen. Body o'me, where is it?

Butts. There, my lord: [*bury*; The high promotion of his grace of Canter- Who holds his state at door, 'mongst pursui- Pages, and footboys. [*vants,*

K. Hen. Ha! 'Tis he, indeed:

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Is this the honour they do one another?

'Tis well, there's one above them yet. I had thought,

They had parted so much honesty among them, (At least, good manners,) as not thus to suffer A man of his place, and so near our favour, To dance attendance on their lordships' pleasures,

And at the door too, like a post with packets.

By holy Mary, Butts, there's kuavery:

Let them alone, and draw the curtain close;

We shall hear more anon.— [*Exeunt.*]

THE COUNCIL-CHAMBER.

Enter the Lord CHANCELLOR, the Duke of SUFFOLK, Earl of SURREY, Lord CHAMBERLAIN, GARDINER, and CROMWELL. The Chancellor places himself at the upper end of the table on the left hand; a seat being left void above him, as for the Archbishop of CANTERBURY. The rest seat themselves in order on each side. CROMWELL at the lower end, as secretary.

Chan. Speak to the business, master secre- Why are we met in council! [*tary*:

Crom. Please your honours, [*bury.*

The chief cause concerns his grace of Canter- Gar. Has he had knowledge of it?

Crom. Yes.

Nor. Who waits there?

D. Keep. Without, my noble lords!

Gar. Yes.

D. Keep. My lord archbishop; And has done half an hour, to know your pleasures.

Chan. Let him come in.

D. Keep. Your grace may enter now.

[*Cranmer approaches the Council-table.*

Chan. My good lord archbishop, I am very sorry

To sit here at this present, and behold That chair stand empty: But we all are men, In our own natures frail; and capable Of our flesh, few are angels: out of which frailty,

And want of wisdom, you, that best should teach us,

Have misdemean'd yourself, and not a little, Toward the king first, then his laws, in filling The whole realm by your teaching, and your chaplains,

(For so we are inform'd,) with new opinions, Divers, and dangerous; which are heresies, And, not reform'd, may prove pernicious.

Gar. Which reformation must be sudden too, My noble lords: for those, that tame wild horses, [*gentle*;

Pace them not in their hands to make them But stop their mouths with stubborn bits, and spur them,

Till they obey the manage. If we suffer (Out of our easiness, and childish pity To one man's honour) this contagious sickness, Farewell, all physic: And what follows then? Commotions, uproars, with a general taint Of the whole state: as, of late days, our neigh- bours,

The upper Germany, can dearly witness, Yet freshly pitied in our memories.

Cran. My good lords, hitherto, in all the progress

Both of my life and office, I have labour'd, And with no little study, that my teaching, And the strong course of my authority, Might go one way, and safely; and the end Was ever, to do well: nor is there living

(I speak it with a single heart,* my lord,]
 A man, that more detests, more stirs against,
 Both in his private conscience, and his place,
 Defacers of a public peace, than I do.
 Pray heaven, the king may never find a heart
 With less allegiance in it! Men, that make
 Envy, and crooked malice, nourishment,
 Dare bite the best. I do beseech your lord-
 ships,

That, in this case of justice, my accusers,
 Be what they will, may stand forth face to face,
 And freely urge against me.

Suf. Nay, my lord,
 That cannot be; you are a counsellor,
 And, by that virtue, no man dare accuse you.

Gar. My lord, because we have business of
 more moment,
 We will be short with you. 'Tis his highness'
 pleasure,

And our consent, for better trial of you,
 From hence you be committed to the Tower;
 Where, being but a private man again,
 You shall know many dare accuse you boldly,
 More than, I fear, you are provided for.

Cran. Ah, my good lord of Winchester, I
 thank you, [pass,
 You are always my good friend; if your will
 I shall both find your lordship judge and juror,
 You are so merciful: I see your end,
 'Tis my undoing: Love, and meekness, lord,
 Become a churchman better than ambition;
 Win straying souls with modesty again,
 Cast none away. That I shall clear myself,
 Lay all the weight ye can upon my patience,
 I make as little doubt, as you do conscience,
 In doing daily wrongs. I could say more,
 But reverence to your calling makes me mod-
 dest.

Gar. My lord, my lord, you are a sectary,
 That's the plain truth; your painted gloss dis-
 covers, [ness.

To men that understand you, words and weak-
Crom. My lord of Winchester, you are a lit-
 tle,

By your good favour, too sharp; men so noble,
 However faulty, yet should find respect
 For what they have been: 'tis a cruelty,
 To load a falling man.

Gar. Good master secretary,
 I ery your honour mercy; you may, worst
 Of all this table, say so.

Crom. Why, my lord?
Gar. Do not I know you for a favourer
 Of this new sect? ye are not sound.

Crom. Not sound?
Gar. Not sound, I say.

Crom. 'Would you were half so honest!
 Men's prayers then would seek you, not their
 fears.

Gar. I shall remember this bold language.
Crom. Do.

Remember your bold life too.

Chan. This is too much;
 Forbear, for shame, my lords.

Gar. I have done.

Crom. And I.

Chan. Then thus for you, my lord,—It
 stands agreed,

I take it, by all voices, that forthwith
 You be convey'd to the Tower a prisoner;
 There to remain, till the king's further pleasure
 Be known unto us: Are you all agreed, lords?

All. We are.

Cran. Is there no other way of mercy,
 But I must needs to the Tower, my lords?

* "In the singleness of heart." Acts ii. 46.

Gar. What other
 Would you expect? You are strangely trouble-
 Let some o'the guard be ready there. [some!

Enter Guard.

Cran. For me?
 Must I go like a traitor thither?

Gar. Receive him,
 And see him safe i'the Tower.

Cran. Stay, good my lords,
 I have a little yet to say. Look there, my lords;
 By virtue of that ring, I take my cause
 Out of the gripes of cruel men, and give it
 To a most noble judge, the king my master.

Cham. This is the king's ring.

Sur. 'Tis no counterfeit.

Suf. 'Tis the right ring, by heaven: I told
 ye all, [ing,
 When we first put this dangerous stone a roll-
 'Twould fall upon ourselves.

Nor. Do you think, my lords,
 The king will suffer but the little finger
 Of this man to be vex'd?

Cham. 'Tis now too certain:
 How much more is his life in value with him?
 'Would I were fairly out on't.

Crom. My mind gave me,
 In seeking tales, and informations,
 Against this man, (whose honesty the devil
 And his disciples only envy at,)
 Ye blew the fire that burns ye: Now have at ye.

Enter KING, frowning on them; takes his seat.

Gar. Dread sovereign, how much are we
 bound to heaven

In daily thanks, that gave us such a prince;
 Not only good and wise, but most religious:
 One that, in all obedience, makes the church
 The chief aim of his honour; and, to strengthen
 That holy duty, out of dear respect,
 His royal self in judgment comes to hear
 The cause betwixt her and this great offender.

K. Hen. You were ever good at sudden com-
 mendations,
Bishop of Winchester. But know, I come not
 To hear such flattery now, and in my presence,
 They are too thin and base to hide offences.
 To me you cannot reach, you play the spaniel,
 And think with wagging of your tongue to win
 me;

But, whatsoe'er thou tak'st me for, I am sure,
 Thou hast a cruel nature, and a bloody.—
 Good man, [To CRANMER.] sit down. Now
 let me see the proudest
 He, that dares most, but wag his finger at thee:
 By all that's holy, he had better starve,
 Than but once think his place becomes thee
 not.

Sur. May it please your grace,—

K. Hen. No, Sir, it does not please me.
 I had thought, I had had men of some under-
 standing

And wisdom, of my council; but I find none.
 Was it discretion, lords, to let this man,
 This good man, (few of you deserve that title,)
 This honest man, wait like a lousy footboy
 At chamber door? and one as great as you are?
 Why, what a shame was this? Did my com-
 mission

Bid ye so far forget yourselves? I gave ye
 Power as he was a counsellor to try him,
 Not as a groom; There's some of ye, I see,
 More out of malice than integrity,
 Would try him to the utmost, had ye mean;
 Which ye shall never have, while I live.

Chan. Thus far,
My most dread sovereign, may it like your
grace [pos'd
To let my tongue excuse all. What was pur-
Concerning his imprisonment, was rather
(If there be faith in men,) meant for his trial,
And fair purgation to the world, than malice;
I am sure, in me.

K. Hen. Well, well, my lords, respect him;
Take him, and use him well, he's worthy of it.
I will say thus much for him, If a prince
May be beholden to a subject, I
Am, for his love and service, so to him.
Make me no more ado, but all embrace him;
Be friends, for shame, my lords.—My lord of
Canterbury,
I have a suit which you must not deny me;
This is, a fair young maid that yet wants bap-
tism,
You must be godfather, and answer for her.

Cran. The greatest monarch now alive may
glory
In such an honour; how may I deserve it,
That am a poor and humble subject to you?

K. Hen. Come, come, my lord, you'd spare
your spoons;* you shall have
Two noble partners with you; the old duchess
of Norfolk,* [you?
And lady marquis Dorset; Will these please
Once more, my lord of Winchester, I charge
Embrace, and love this man. [you,

Gar. With a true heart,
And brother-love, I do it.

Cran. And let heaven
Witness how dear I hold this confirmation.

K. Hen. Good man, those joyful tears show
thy true heart,
The common voice, I see, is verified [bury
Of thee, which says thus, *Do my lord of Canter-
A shrewd turn, and he is your friend for ever.*—
Come, lords, we trifle time away; I long
To have this young one made a Christian.
As I have made ye one, lords, one remain;
So I grow stronger, you more honour gain.
[Exeunt.

SCENE III.—The Palace Yard.

Noise and tumult within. Enter PORTER and
his MAN.

Port. You'll leave your noise anon, ye rascals:
Do you take the court for Paris-garden?†
ye rude slaves, leave your gaping.‡

[Within.] Good master porter, I belonged to
the larder.

Port. Belong to the gallows, and be hanged,
you rogue: Is this a place to roar in?—Fetch
me a dozen crab-tree staves, and strong ones;
these are but switches to them.—I'll scratch
your heads: You must be seeing christenings?
Do you look for ale and cakes here, you rude
rascals?

Man. Pray, Sir, be patient; 'tis as much
impossible [cannons.)
(Unless we sweep them from the door with
To scatter them, as 'tis to make them sleep
On May-day morning; which will never be:
We may as well push against Paul's, as stir
them.

Port. How got they in, and be hang'd?

Man. Alas, I know not; how gets the tide
As much as one sound cudgel of four foot [in?
(You see the poor remainder) could distribute,
I made no spare, Sir.

* It was an ancient custom for sponsors to present
spoons to their god-children.
† The bear garden on the bankside. ‡ Roaring.

Port. You did nothing, Sir.

Man. I am not Samson, nor Sir Guy, nor
Colbrand,* to mow them down before me: but,
If I spared any, that had a head to hit, either
young or old, he or she, cuckold or cuckold-
maker, let me never hope to see a chine again;
and that I would not for a cow, God save her.

[Within.] Do you hear, master Porter?

Port. I shall be with you presently, good
master puppy.—Keep the door close, Sirrah.

Man. What would you have me do?

Port. What should you do, but knock them
down by the dozens? Is this Moorfields to
muster in? or have we some strange Indian
with the great tool come to court, the women so
besiege us? Bless me, what a fry of fornication
is at door! On my Christian conscience, this
one christening will beget a thousand; here
will be father, godfather, and altogether.

Man. The spoons will be the bigger, Sir.
There is a fellow somewhat near the door, he
should be a brazier by his face, for, o' my con-
science, twenty of the dog-days now reign in's
nose; all that stand about him are under the
line, they need no other penance: That fire-
drake did I hit three times on the head, and
three times was his nose discharged against
me; he stands there, like a mortar-piece, to
blow us. There was a haberdasher's wife of
small wit near him, that railed upon me till
her pink'd porringert fell off her head, for
kindling such a combustion in the state. I
miss'd the meteor‡ once, and hit that woman,
who cried out, *clubs!* when I might see from
far some forty truncheoners draw to her suc-
cour, which were the hope of the Strand, where
she was quartered. They fell on; I made good
my place; at length they came to the broom-
staff with me, I defied them still; when sud-
denly a file of boys behind them, loose shot,
delivered such a shower of pebbles, that I was
fain to draw mine honour in, and let them win
the work: The devil was amongst them, I think,
surely.

Port. These are the youths that thunder at a
play-house, and fight for bitten apples; that
no audience, but the Tribulation of Tower-hill,
or the limbs of Limehouse, their dear brothers,
are able to endure. I have some of them in
Limbo Patrum,§ and there they are like to
dance these three days; besides the running
banquet of two beadles,|| that is to come.

Enter the Lord CHAMBERLAIN.

Chan. Mercy o'me, what a multitude are
here! [coming,
They grow still too, from all parts they are
As if we kept a fair here! Where are these
porters,
These lazy knaves?—Ye have made a fine
hand, fellows.

There's a trim rabble let in: Are all these
Your faithful friends o'the suburbs? We shall
have [ladies,
Great store of room, no doubt, left for the
When they pass back from the christening.

Port. An't please your honour
We are but men; and what so many may do.
Not being torn a pieces, we have done:
An army cannot rule them.

Chan. As I live,
If the king blame me for't, I'll lay ye all
By the heels, and suddenly; and on your heads

* Guy of Warwick, nor Colbrand the Danish giant.

† Pink'd cap.

‡ The brazier.

§ Place of confinement.

|| A desert of whipping.

Clap round fines, for neglect : You are lazy
knaves ;

And here ye lie baiting of bumbards,* when
Ye should do service. Hark, the trumpets
sound ;

They are come already from the christening :
Go, break among the press and find a way out
To let the troop pass fairly ; or I'll find
A Marshalsea, shall hold you play these two
months.

Port. Make way there for the princess.

Man. You great fellow, stand close up, or
I'll make your head ache.

Port. You i'the camblet, get up o'the rail ;
I'll pick † you o'er the pales else. [Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.—The Palace. †

*Enter trumpets, sounding ; then two Aldermen,
Lord Mayor, GARTER, CRANMER, Duke of
NORFOLK, with his Marshal's Staff, Duke of
SUFFOLK, two Noblemen bearing great stand-
ing-bowls for the christening gifts ; then four
Noblemen bearing a canopy, under which the
Dutchess of NORFOLK, godmother, bearing the
child richly habited in a mantle, &c. Train
borne by a Lady ; then follows the Marchioness
of DORSET, the other godmother, and Ladies.
The Troop pass once about the stage, and GAR-
TER speaks.*

Gart. Heaven from thy endless goodness,
send prosperous life, long, and ever happy, to
the high and mighty princess of England,
Elizabeth !

Flourish. Enter KING, and Train.

Cran. [Kneeling.] And to your royal grace,
and the good queen,

My noble partners, and myself thus pray :—
All comfort, joy, in this most gracious lady,
Heaven ever laid up to make parents happy,
May hourly fall upon ye !

K. Hen. Thank you, good lord archbishop ;
What is her name ?

Cran. Elizabeth.

K. Hen. Stand up, lord.—

[The KING kisses the child.]

With this kiss take my blessing : God protect
Into whose hands I give thy life. [thee !

Cran. Amen.

K. Hen. My noble gossips, ye have been too
prodigal :

I thank ye heartily ; so shall this lady,
When she has so much English.

Cran. Let me speak, Sir, [utter
For heaven now bids me ; and the words I
Let none think flattery, for they'll find them
truth. [her !]

This royal infant, (heaven still move about
Though in her cradle, yet now promises
Upon this land a thousand thousand blessings,
Which time shall bring to ripeness : She shall
be

(But few now living can behold that goodness,)
A pattern to all princes living with her,
And all that shall succeed : Sheba was never
More covetous of wisdom, and fair virtue,
Than this pure soul shall be : all princely
graces,

That mould up such a mighty piece as this is,
With all the virtues that attend the good, [her,
Shall still be doubled on her : truth shall nurse
Holy and heavenly thoughts still counsel her :
She shall be lov'd and fear'd : Her own shall
bles her :

Her foes shake like a field of beaten corn,

And hang their heads with sorrow : Good
grows with her :

In her days, every man shall eat in safety
Under his own vine, what he plants ; and sing
The merry songs of peace to all his neighbours :
God shall be truly known ; and those about her
From her shall read the perfect ways of hon-
our, [blood.]

And by those claim their greatness, not by
[Nor* shall this peace sleep with her : But as
when

The bird of wonder dies, the maiden phoenix,
Her ashes new create another heir,
As great in admiration as herself ;
So shall she leave her blessedness to one,
(When heaven shall call her from this cloud of
darkness,)

Who, from the sacred ashes of her honour,
Shall star-like rise, as great in fame as she was,
And so stand fix'd : Peace, plenty, love, truth,
terror,

That were the servants to this chosen infant,
Shall then be his, and like a vine grow to him ;
Wherever the bright sun of heaven shall shine,
His honour and the greatness of his name
Shall be, and make new nations : He shall
flourish,

And, like a mountain cedar, reach his branches
To all the plains about him :—Our children's
children

Shall see this and bless heaven.

K. Hen. Thou speakest wonders.]

Cran. She shall be, to the happiness of Eng-
land,

An aged princess ; many days shall see her,
And yet no day without a deed to crown it.

'Would I had known no more ! but she must
die, [gin]

She must, the saints must have her ; yet a vir-
A most unspotted lily shall she pass [her.]

To the ground, and all the world shall mourn
K. Hen. O lord archbishop,

Thou hast made me now a man ; never, before
This happy child, did I get any thing :

This oracle of comfort has so pleas'd me,

That, when I am heaven, I shall desire
To see what this child does, and praise my
Maker.—

I thank ye all,—To you, my good lord mayor,
And your good brethren, I am much beholden ;
I have receiv'd much honour by your presence,
And ye shall find me thankful. Lead the way,
lords ;— [ye,

Ye must all see the queen, and she must thank
She will be sick else. This day, no man think
He has business at his house ; for all shall stay,
This little one shall make it holiday. [Exeunt.]

EPILOGUE.

'Tis ten to one, this play can never please
All that are here : Some come to take their
ease,

And sleep an act or two ; but those, we fear,
We have frighted with our trumpets ; so, 'tis
clear, [city

They'll say, 'tis naught : others, to hear the
Abus'd extremely, and to cry,—that's witty !

Which we have not done neither : that, I fear,
All the expected good we are like to hear

For this play at this time, is only in
The merciful construction of good women :

For such a one we show'd them ; If they smile,
And say, 'twill do, I know, within a while

All the best men are ours ; for 'tis ill hap,
If they hold, when their ladies bid them clap.

* Black leather vessels to hold beer.

† Pitch.

‡ At Greenwich.

* This and the following seventeen lines were probably
written by B. Jonson, after the accession of King James.

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

PRIAM, King of Troy.	
HECTOR, TROILUS, PARIS, DEIPHOBUS, HELENUS, } His Sons.	
ÆNEAS, ANTENOR, Trojan Commanders.	
CALCHAS, a Trojan Priest, taking part with the Greeks.	
PANDARUS, Uncle to Cressida.	
MARGARELON, a bastard Son of Priam.	
AGAMEMNON, the Grecian General.	
MENECLAUS, his Brother.	
ACHILLES, AJAX, ULYSSES, NESTOR, DIOMEDES, PATROCLUS, } Grecian Commanders.	
	THESSITES, a deformed and scurrilous Grecian.
	ALEXANDER, Servant to Cressida.
	Servant to Troilus.—Servant to Paris.—Servant to Diomedes.
	HELEN, Wife of Menelaus.
	ANDROMACHE, Wife to Hector.
	CASSANDRA, Daughter to Priam; a Prophetess.
	CRESSIDA, Daughter to Calchas.
	Trojan and Greek Soldiers, and Attendants.
	SCENE, Troy, and the Grecian Camp before it.

PROLOGUE.

In Troy, there lies the scene. From isles of Greece
 The princes orgulous,* their high blood chaf'd,
 Have to the port of Athens sent their ships,
 Fraught with the ministers and instruments
 Of cruel war: Sixty and nine, that wore
 Their crownets regal, from the Athenian bay
 Put forth toward Phrygia: and their vow is made,
 [mures
 To ransack Troy: within whose strong im-
 The ravish'd Helen, Menelaus' queen,
 With wanton Paris sleeps; and that's the quarrel.
 To Tenodos they come;
 And the deep-drawing barks do there disgorge
 Their warlike fraughtage:† Now on Dardan plains
 The fresh and yet unbruised Greeks do pitch
 Their brave pavilions: Priam's six-gated city,
 Dardan, and Tymbria, Ilias, Chetas, Trojan,
 And Antenorides, with massy staples,
 And corresponsive and fulfilling bolts,
 Sperr‡ up the sons of Troy.
 Now expectation, tickling skittish spirits,
 On one and other side, Trojan and Greek,
 Sets on all hazard:—And hither am I come
 A prologue arm'd,—but not in confidence
 Of author's pen, or actor's voice; but snited
 In like conditions as our argument,—
 To tell you, fair beholders, that our play
 Leaps o'er the vaunt‡ and firstlings of those
 broils,
 'Ginning in the middle; starting thence away
 To what may be digested in a play.
 Like, or find fault; do as your pleasures are;
 Now good, or bad, 'tis but the chance of war,

ACT I.

SCENE I.—Troy.—Before PRIAM'S Palace.

Enter TROILUS arm'd, and PANDARUS.

Tro. Call here my varlet,* I'll unarm again:
 Why should I war without the walls of Troy,
 That find such cruel battle here within?
 Each Trojan, that is master of his heart,
 Let him to field; Troilus, alas! hath none.

Pan. Will this geert ne'er be mended?

Tro. The Greeks are strong, and skilful to
 their strength,
 Fierce to their skill, and to their fierceness
 valiant;

But I am weaker than a woman's tear,
 Tamer than sleep, fonder‡ than ignorance;
 Less valiant than the virgin in the night,
 And skillless as unpractis'd infancy.

Pan. Well, I have told you enough of this:
 for my port, I'll not meddle nor make no fur-
 ther. He, that will have a cake out of the
 wheat, must tarry the grinding.

Tro. Have I not tarried?

Pan. Ay, the grinding; but you must tarry
 the bolting.

Tro. Have I not tarried?

Pan. Ay, the bolting; but you must tarry
 the leavening.

Tro. Still have I tarried.

Pan. Ay, to the leavening: but here's yet
 in the word—hereafter, the kneading, the
 making of the cake, the heating of the oven,
 and the baking; nay, you must stay the cool-
 ing too, or you may chance to burn your lips.

Tro. Patience herself, what goddess e'er
 she be,
 Doth lesser blench‡ at sufferance than I do.

* Proud, disdainful. † Freight. ‡ Shut.
 § Avaunt, what went before.

* A servant to a knight. † Habit. ‡ Weaker.
 § Shrink.

At Priams's royal table do I sit;
And when fair Cressid comes into my
thoughts,—
So, traitor!—when she comes!—When is
she thence?

Pan. Well, she looked yesternight fairer
than ever I saw her look, or any woman else.

Tro. I was about to tell thee,—When my
heart,
As wedged with a sigh, would rive* in twain;
Lest Hector or my father should perceive me,
I have (as when the sun doth light a storm,)
Buried this sigh in wrinkle of a smile: [ness.
But sorrow, that is couch'd in seeming glad-
Is like that mirth fate turns to sudden sadness.

Pan. An her hair were not somewhat dark-
er than Helen's, (well, go to,) there were no
more comparison between the women,—But,
for my part, she is my kinswoman; I would
not, as they term it, praise her,—But I would
somebody had heard her talk yesterday, as I
did. I will not dispraise your sister Cassan-
dra's wit; but—

Tro. O Pandarus! I tell thee, Pandarus,—
When I do tell thee, There my hopes lie
drown'd,

Reply not in how many fathoms deep
They lie indrench'd. I tell thee, I am mad
In Cressid's love: Thou answer'st, She is fair;
Pour'st in the open ulcer of my heart [voice;
Her eyes, her hair, her cheek, her gait, her
Handlest in thy discourse, O, that her hand,
In whose comparison all whites are ink
Writing their own reproach; To whose soft
seizure

The cygnet's down is harsh, and spirit of sense
Hard as the palm of ploughmen! This thou
tell'st me,

As true thou tell'st me, when I say—I love her;
But, saying, thus, instead of oil and balm,
Thou lay'st in every gash that love hath given
The knife that made it. [me

Pan. I speak no more than truth.

Tro. Thou dost not speak so much.

Pan. 'Faith, I'll not meddle in't. Let her be
as she is: if she be fair, 'tis the better for her;
an she be not, she has the mends in her own
hands.

Tro. Good Pandarus! How now, Pandarus?

Pan. I have had my labour for my travel;
ill-thought on of her, and ill-thought on of you:
gone between and between, but small thanks
for my labour.

Tro. What, art thou angry, Pandarus? what,
with me?

Pan. Because she is kin to me, therefore,
she's not so fair as Helen: an she were not kin
to me, she would be as fair on Friday, as He-
len is on Sunday. But what care I? I care not,
an she were a black-a-moor; 'tis all one to
me.

Tro. Say I, she is not fair?

Pan. I do not care whether you do or no.
She's a fool to stay behind her father; let her
to the Greeks; and so I'll tell her the next
time I see her: for my part, I'll meddle nor
make no more in the matter.

Tro. Pandarus,—

Pan. Not I.

Tro. Sweet Pandarus,—

Pan. Pray you, speak no more to me; I will
leave all as I found it, and there an end.

[Exit PANDARUS. An Alarum.

Tro. Peace, you ungracious clamours! peace,
rude sounds!

Fools on both sides? Helen must needs be fair,
When with your blood you daily paint her
I cannot fight upon this argument; [thus.
It is too starv'd a subject for my sword.
But Pandarus—O gods, how do you plague
me!

I cannot come to Cressid, but by Pandar;
And he's as techy to be woo'd to woo,
As she is stubborn-chaste against all suit.
Tell me, Apollo, for thy Daphne's love,
What Cressid is, what Pandar, and what we?
Her bed is India; there she lies, a pearl:
Between our Ilium, and where she resides,
Let it be call'd the wild and wandering flood;
Ourselves, the merchant; and this sailing Pan-
dar,
Our doubtful hope, our convoy, and our bark.

Alarum. Enter ÆNEAS.

Æne. How now, prince Troilus? wherefore
not afield?

Tro. Because not there; This woman's an-
swer sorts,*

For womanish it is to be from thence.

What news, Æneas, from the field to day?

Æne. That Paris is returned home, and hurt.

Tro. By whom, Æneas?

Æne. Troilus, by Menelaus.

Tro. Let Paris bleed: 'tis but a scar to
scorn;

Paris is gor'd with Menelaus' horn. [*Alarum.*

Æne. Hark! what good sport is out of town
to-day!

Tro. Better at home, if *would I might*, were
may.— [ther?

But to the sport abroad;—Are you bound this
Æne. In all swift haste.

Tro. Come, go we then together. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—The same.—A Street.

Enter CRESSIDA and ALEXANDER.

Cres. Who were those went by?

Alex. Queen Hecuba, and Helen.

Cres. And whither go they?

Alex. Up to the eastern tower,

Whose height commands as subject all the vale,
To see the battle. Hector, whose patience
Is, as a virtue, fix'd, to-day was mov'd:

He chid Andromache, and struck his ar-
mourer;

And, like as there were husbandry in war
Before the sun rose, he was harness'd light,
And to the field goes he; where every flower
Did, as a prophet, weep what it foresaw
In Hector's wrath.

Cres. What was his cause of anger?

Alex. The noise goes, this: There is among
the Greeks

A lord of Trojan blood, nephew to Hector;
They call him, Ajax.

Cres. Good; And what of him?

Alex. They say he is a very man *per se*,†
And stands alone.

Cres. So do all men; unless they are drunk,
sick, or have no legs.

Alex. This man, lady, hath robbed many
beasts of their particular additions;‡ he is as
valiant as the lion, churlish as the bear, slow
as the elephant: a man into whom nature hath
so crowded humours, that his valour is crush-
ed by into folly, his folly sauc'd with discretion:
there is no man hath a virtue that he hath not
a glimpse of; nor any man an attainment, but he
carries some stain of it: he is melancholy

* Split.

* Suit. † By himself. ‡ Characters. § Mingled.

without cause, and merry against the hair :^{*} He hath the joints of every thing ; but every thing is out of joint, that he is a gouty Briareus, many hands and no use ; or purblind Argus, all eyes and no sight.

Cres. But how should this man, that makes me smile, make Hector angry ?

Alex. They say, he yesterday coped Hector in the battle, and struck him down ; the disdain and shame whereof hath ever since kept Hector fasting and waking.

Enter PANDARUS.

Cres. Who comes here ?

Alex. Madam, your uncle Pandarus.

Cres. Hector's a gallant man.

Alex. As may be in the world, lady.

Pan. What's that ? what's that ?

Cres. Good morrow, uncle Pandarus.

Pan. Good morrow, cousin Cressid : What do you talk of ?—Good morrow, Alexander.—How do you, cousin ? When were you at Ilium ?

Cres. This morning, uncle.

Pan. What were you talking of, when I came ? Was Hector armed, and gone, ere ye came to Ilium ? Helen was not up, was she ?

Cres. Hector was gone ; but Helen was not up.

Pan. E'en so ; Hector was stirring early.

Cres. That were we talking of, and of his anger.

Pan. Was he angry ?

Cres. So he says here.

Pan. True, he was so ; I know the 'cause too ; he'll lay about him to-day, I can tell them that : and there is Troilus will not come far behind him ; let them take heed of Troilus ; I can tell them that too.

Cres. What, is he angry too ?

Pan. Who, Troilus ? Troilus is the better man of the two.

Cres. O Jupiter ! there's no comparison.

Pan. What, not between Troilus and Hector ? Do you know a man if you see him ?

Cres. Ay ; if ever I saw him before, and knew him.

Pan. Well, I say, Troilus is Troilus.

Cres. Then you say as I say ; for, I am sure, he is not Hector.

Pan. No, nor Hector is not Troilus, in some degrees.

Cres. 'Tis just to each of them ; he is himself.

Pan. Himself ? Alas, poor Troilus ! I would, he were,——

Cres. So he is.

Pan. ——'Condition, I had gone barefoot to India.

Cres. He is not Hector.

Pan. Himself ! no, he's not himself.—'Would 'a were himself ! Well, the gods are above ; Time must friend, or end : Well, Troilus, well,—I would, my heart were in her body !—No, Hector is not a better man than Troilus.

Cres. Excuse me.

Pan. He is elder.

Cres. Pardon me, pardon me.

Pan. The other's not come to't ; you shall tell me another tale, when the other's come to't. Hector shall not have his wit this year.

Cres. He shall not need it, if he have his own.

Pan. Nor his qualities ;——

Cres. No matter.

Pan. Nor his beauty.

Cres. 'Twould not become him, his own's better.

Pan. You have no judgment, niece : Helen herself swore the other day, that Troilus, for

* Grain.

a brown favour, (for so 'tis, I must confess,)—Not brown neither.

Cres. No, but brown.

Pan. 'Faith, to say truth, brown and not brown.

Cres. To say the truth, true and not true.

Pan. She prais'd his complexion above Paris.

Cres. Why, Paris hath colour enough.

Pan. So he has.

Cres. Then Troilus should have too much : if she praised him above, his complexion is higher than his ; he having colour enough, and the other higher, is too flaming a praise for a good complexion. I had as lief, Helen's golden tongue had commended Troilus for a copper nose.

Pan. I swear to you, I think, Helen loves him better than Paris.

Cres. Then she's a merry Greek, indeed.

Pan. Nay, I am sure she does. She came to him the other day into a compass'd^{*} window, —and, you know, he has not past three or four hairs on his chin.

Cres. Indeed, a tapster's arithmetic may soon bring his particulars therein to a total.

Pan. Why, he is very young : and yet will he, within three pound, lift as much as his brother Hector.

Cres. Is he so young a man, and so old a lifter ?†

Pan. But, to prove to you that Helen loves him ;—she came, and puts me her white hand to his cloven chin,——

Cres. Juno have mercy ! How came it cloven ?

Pan. Why, you know, 'tis dimpled : I think, his smiling becomes him better than any man in all Phrygia.

Cres. O, he smiles valiantly.

Pan. Does he not ?

Cres. O yes, an 'twere a cloud in autumn.

Pan. Why, go to then :—But to prove to you that Helen loves Troilus,——

Cres. Troilus will stand to the proof, if you'll prove it so.

Pan. Troilus ? why, he esteems her no more than I esteem an addle egg.

Cres. If you love an addle egg as well as you love an idle head, you would eat chickens i'the shell.

Pan. I cannot choose but laugh, to think how she tickled his chin ;—Indeed, she has a marvellous white hand, I must needs confess.

Cres. Without the rack.

Pan. And she takes upon her to spy a white hair on his chin.

Cres. Alas, poor chin ! many a wart is richer.

Pan. But, there was such laughing ;—Queen Hecuba laughed, that her eyes ran o'er.

Cres. With mill-stones.‡

Pan. And Cassandra laughed.

Cres. But there was a more temperate fire under the pot of her eyes ;—Did her eyes run o'er too ?

Pan. And Hector laughed.

Cres. At what was all this laughing ?

Pan. Marry, at the white hair that Helen spied on Troilus' chin.

Cres. An't had been a green hair, I should have laughed too.

Pan. They laughed not so much at the hair, as at his pretty answer.

Cres. What was his answer ?

Pan. Quoth she, *Here's but one and fifty hairs on your chin, and one of them is white.*

Cres. This is her question.

* Bow.

† Thief.

‡ A proverbial saying.

Pan. That's true; make no question of that. *One and fifty hairs*, quoth he, and *one white*: *That white hair is my father*, and all the rest are his sons. Jupiter! quoth she, *which of these hairs is Paris my husband?* *The forked one*, quoth he; *pluck it out and give it him*. But, there was such laughing! and Helen so blushed, and Paris so chafed, and all the rest so laughed, that it passed.*

Cres. So let it now; for it has been a great while going by.

Pan. Well, cousin, I told you a thing yesterday; think on't.

Cres. So I do.

Pan. I'll be sworn, 'tis true; he will weep you, an 'twere a man born in April.

Cres. And I'll spring up in his tears, an 'twere a nettle against May.

[A retreat sounded.]

Pan. Hark, they are coming from the field: Shall we stand up here, and see them, as they pass toward Ilium? good niece, do; sweet niece Cressida.

Cres. At your pleasure.

Pan. Here, here, here's an excellent place; here we may see most bravely: I'll tell you them all by their names, as they pass by; but mark Troilus above the rest.

ÆNEAS passes over the stage.

Cres. Speak not so loud.

Pan. That's Æneas; is not that a brave man? he's one of the flowers of Troy, I can tell you; But mark Troilus; you shall see anon.

Cres. Who's that?

ANTENOR passes over.

Pan. That's Antenor; he has a shrewd wit, I can tell you; and he's a man good enough; he's one o'the soundest judgments in Troy, whosoever, and a proper man of person:—When comes Troilus?—I'll show you Troilus anon; if he see me, you shall see him nod at me.

Cres. Will he give you the nod?†

Pan. You shall see.

Cres. If he do, the rich shall have more.

HECTOR passes over.

Pan. That's Hector, that, that, look you, that; There's a fellow!—Go thy way, Hector;—There's a brave man, niece.—O brave Hector!—Look, how he looks! there's a countenance: Is't not a brave man?

Cres. O, a brave man!

Pan. Is 'a not? It does a man's heart good—Look you what hacks are on his helmet? look ye yonder, do you see? look you there! There's no jesting: there's laying on; take't off who will, as they say: there be hacks!

Cres. Be those with swords?

PARIS passes over.

Pan. Swords? any thing, he cares not: an the devil come to him, it's all one: By god's lid, it does one's heart good:—Yonder comes Paris, yonder comes Paris: look ye yonder, niece; Is't not a gallant man too, is't not?—Why, this is brave now.—Who said, he came hurt home to-day? he's not hurt: why this will do Helen's heart good now. Ha! 'would I could see Troilus now!—you shall see Troilus anon.

Cres. Who's that?

HELENUS passes over.

Pan. That's Helenus,—I marvel, where Troilus is:—That's Helenus;—I think he went not forth to-day:—That's Helenus.

Cres. Can Helenus fight, uncle?

Pan. Helenus? no;—yes, he'll fight indifferent well:—I marvel, where Troilus is!—Hark;—do you not hear the people cry, Troilus?—Helenus is a priest.

Cres. What sneaking fellow comes yonder?

TROILUS passes over.

Pan. Where? yonder?—that's Deiphobus: 'Tis Troilus! there's a man, niece!—Hem!—Brave Troilus! the prince of chivalry!

Cres. Peace, for shame, peace!

Pan. Mark him; note him;—O brave Troilus?—look well upon him, niece; look you, how his sword is bloodied, and his helm* more hack'd than Hector's; And how he looks, and how he goes!—O admirable youth! he ne'er saw three and twenty. Go thy way, Troilus, go thy way; had I a sister were a grace, or a daughter a goddess, he should take his choice. O admirable man! Paris?—Paris is dirt to him; and I warrant, Helen, to change, would give an eye to boot.

Forces pass over the stage.

Cres. Here come more.

Pan. Asses, fools, dolts! chaff and bran, chaff and bran! porridge after meat! I could live and die i'the eyes of Troilus. Ne'er look, ne'er look; the eagles are gone; crows and daws, crows and daws! I had rather be such a man as Troilus, than Agamemnon and all Greece.

Cres. There is among the Greeks, Achilles; a better man than Troilus.

Pan. Achilles? a drayman, a porter, a very camel.

Cres. Well, well.

Pan. Well, well?—Why, have you any discretion? have you any eyes? Do you know what a man is? Is not birth, beauty, good shape, discourse, manhood, learning, gentleness, virtue, youth, liberality, and such like, the spice and salt that season a man?

Cres. Ay, a minced man: and then to be baked with no date† in the pye,—for then the man's date is out.

Pan. You are such a woman! one knows not at what ward‡ you lie.

Cres. Upon my back, to defend my belly; upon my wit, to defend my wiles; upon my secrecy, to defend mine honesty; my mask, to defend my beauty; and you, to defend all these; and at all these wards I lie, at a thousand watches.

Pan. Say one of your watches.

Cres. Nay, I'll watch you for that; and that's one of the chiefest of them too: if I cannot ward what I would not have hit, I can watch you for telling how I took the blow; unless it swell past hiding, and then it is past watching.

Pen. You are such another!

Enter TROILUS' Boy.

Boy. Sir, my lord would instantly speak with you.

* Helmet.

† Dates were an ingredient in ancient pastry of almost every kind.

‡ Guard.

* Went beyond bounds. † As if 'twere.

‡ A term in the game at cards called Noddy.

Pan. Where ?

Boy. At your own house ; there he unarms him.

Pan. Good boy, tell him I come : [*Exit*.

Boy.] I doubt, he be hurt.—Fare ye well, good niece.

Cres. Adieu, uncle.

Pan. I'll be with you, niece, by and by.

Cres. To bring, uncle,—

Pan. Ay, a token from Troilus.

Cres. By the same token you are a bawd.—

[*Exit* PANDARUS.

Words, vows, griefs, tears, and love's full sa-

He offers in another's enterprize : [*crifice,*

But more in Troilus thousand fold I see

Than in the glass of Pandar's praise may be ;

Yet hold I off. Women are angels, wooing :

Things won are done, joy's soul lies in the

doing :

That she below'd knows nought, that knows

not this,—

Men prize the thing ungain'd more than it is :

That she was never yet, that ever knew

Love got so sweet, as when desire did sue :

Therefore this maxim out of love I teach,—

Achievement is command ; ungain'd beseech :

Then though my heart's content firm love

doth bear,

Nothing of that shall from mine eyes appear.

[*Exit.*

SCENE III.—*The Grecian Camp.—Before*

Agamemnon's Tent.

Trumpets. Enter AGAMEMNON, NESTOR,

ULYSSES, MENELAUS, and others.

Agam. Princes,

What grief hath set the jaundice on your

cheeks ?

The ample proposition, that hope makes

In all designs begun on earth below,

Fails in the promis'd largeness : checks and

disasters

Grow in the veins of actions highest rear'd ;

As knots, by the conflux of meeting sap,

Infect the sound pine, and divert his grain

Tortive and errant* from his course of growth

Nor princes, is it matter new to us,

That we come short of our suppose so far,

That, after seven years' siege, yet Troy walls

stand ;

Sith† every action that hath gone before,

Whereof we have record, trial did draw

Bias and thwart, not answering the aim,

And that unbodied figure of the thought

That gav'st surmised shape. Why then, you

princes,

Do you with cheeks abash'd behold our works ;

And think them shames, which are, indeed,

nought else

But the protractive trials of great Jove.

To find persistivè constancy in men ?

The fineness of which metal is not found

In fortune's love : for then, the bold and

coward,

The wise and fool, the artist and unread,

The hard and soft, seem all affin'd‡ and kin :

But, in the wind and tempest of her frown,

Distinction, with a broad and powerful fan,

Puffing at all, winnows the light away ;

And what hath mass, or matter, by itself

Lies, rich in virtue, and unmingled.

Nest. With due observance of thy godlike

seat,§

Great Agamemnon, Nestor shall apply

* Twisted and rambling.

† Since.

‡ Joined by affinity.

§ The throne.

Thy latest words. In the reproof of chance
Lies the true proof of men : The sea being
smooth,

How many shallow bauble boats dare sail
Upon her patient breast, making their way
With those of nobler bulk.

But let the ruffian Boreas once enrage

The gentle Thetis,* and, anon, behold

The strong ribb'd bark through liquid moun-
tains cut,

Bounding between the two moist elements,

Like Perseus' horse : Where's then the saucy
boat,

Whose weak untimber'd sides but even now

Co-rival'd greatness ? either to harbour fled,

Or made a toast for Neptune. Even so

Doth valour's show, and valour's worth, divide,

In storms of fortune : For, in her ray and
brightness,

The herd hath more annoyance by the brize,†

Than by the tiger : but when the splitting wind

Makes flexible the knees of knotted oaks,

And flies fled under shade, Why, then, the

thing of courage, [thize,

As rous'd with rage, with rage doth sympa-

And with an accent turn'd in self-same key,

Returns to chiding fortune.

Ulyss. Agamemnon, [Greece,

Thou great commander, nerve and bone of

Heart of our numbers, soul and only spirit,

In whom the tempers and the minds of all

Should be shut up,—hear what Ulysses speaks.

Besides the applause and approbation

The which,—most mighty for thy place and

sway,— [To AGAMEMNON.

And thou most reverend for thy stretch'd-out

life,— [To NESTOR.

I give to both your speeches,—which were such,

As Agamemnon and the hand of Greece

Should hold up high in brass ; and such again,

As venerable Nestor, hatch'd in silver, [tree

Should with a bond of air (strong as the axle-

On which heaven rides,) knit all the Greekish

ears [both,—

To his experienc'd tongue,—yet let it please

Thou great,—and wise,—to hear Ulysses speak.

Agam. Speak, prince of Ithaca ; and be't of

less expect†

That matter needless, of importless burden,

Divide thy lips : than we are confident,

When rank Thersites opes his mastiff jaws,

We shall hear music, wit, and oracle.

Ulyss. Troy, yet upon his basis had been

down, [master,

And the great Hector's sword had lack'd a

But for these instances.

The speciality of rule§ hath been neglected :

And, look, how many Grecian tents do stand

Hollow upon this plain, so many hollow fac-

tions.

When that the general is not like the hive,

To whom the foragers shall all repair,

What honey is expected ? Degree being viz-

arded,||

The unworthiest shows as fairly in the mask

The heavens themselves, the planets, and this

centre,

Observe degree, priority, and place,

Insisture,¶ course, proportion, season, form,

Office, and custom, in all line of order :

And therefore is the glorious planet, Sol,

In noble eminence enthron'd and spher'd

* The daughter of Neptune.

† The gad fly that stings cattle. ‡ Expectation.

§ Rights of authority. || Masked. ¶ Constancy.

Amidst the other; whose med'cinable eye
Corrects the ill aspects of planets evil,
And posts, like the commandment of a king,
Sans^d check, to good and bad: but when the
planets,

In evil mixture, to disorder wander, [tiny?
What plagues, and what portents? what mu-
What raging of the sea? shaking of earth?
Commotion in the winds? frights, changes,
horrors,

Divert and crack, send and deracinate†
The unity and married calm of states
Quite from their fixture? O, when degree is
shak'd

Which is the ladder of all high designs,
The enterprise is sick! How could communi-
ties,

Degrees in schools, and brotherhoods‡ in cities,
Peaceful commerce from dividable shores,
The primogenitive and due of birth,
Prerogative of age, crowns, sceptres, laurels,
But by degree, stand in authentic place?
Take but degree away, untune that string,
And, hark, what discord follows! each thing
meets

In mere oppugnancy: the bounded waters
Should lift their bosoms higher than the shores,
And make a sop of all this solid globe:
Strength should be lord of imbecility,
And the rude sun should strike his father dead;
Force should be right; or, rather, right and
wrong,

(Between whose endless jar justice resides)
Should lose their names, and so should justice
too.

Then every thing includes itself in power,
Power into will, will into appetite;
And appetite, a universal wolf,
So doubly seconded with will and power,
Must make perforce a universal prey,
And, last, eat up himself. Great Agamemnon,
This chaos, when degree is suffocate,
Follows the choking.

And this neglect of degree it is,
That by a pace goes backward, with a purpose
It hath to climb. The general's disdain'd
By him one step below; he, by the next;
That next, by him beneath: so every step,
Exempl'd by the first pace that is sick
Of his superior, grows to an envious fever
Of pale and bloodless emulation:
And 'tis this fever that keeps Troy on foot,
Not her own sinews. To end a tale of length,
Troy on our weakness stands, not in her
strength.

Nect. Most wisely hath Ulysses here dis-
cover'd

The fever whereof all our power¶ is sick.
Agam. The nature of the sickness found,
What is the remedy? [Ulysses,

Ulyss. The great Achilles,—whom opinion
crowns

The sinew and the forehead of our host,—
Having his ear full of his airy fame,
Grows dainty of his worth, and in his tent
Lies mocking our designs: With him, Patro-
Upon a lazy bed the livelong day [clus,
Breaks scurril jests;

And with ridiculous and awkward action
(Which slanderer he imitation calls,) [non,
Hepagcants** us. Sometimes, great Agamem-
Thy toplest† deputation he puts on;

And, like a strutting player,—whose conceit
Lies in his hamstring, and doth think it rich
To hear the wooden dialogue and sound
'Twill his stretch'd footing and the scaffold-
age.*—

Such to be-pitied and o'er wrested† seeming
He acts thy greatness in: and when he speaks,
'Tis like a chime a mending; with terms un-
suar'd,‡ [dropp'd,

Which from the tongue of roaring Typhon
Would seem hyperboles. At this fusty stuff,
The large Achilles, on his press'd bed lolling,
From his deep chest laughs out a loud ap-
plause;

*Cries—Excellent!—'tis Agamemnon just.—
Now play me Nestor;—hem, and stroke thy
As he, being dress'd to some oration. [heard,*

That's done;—as near as the extremest ends
Of parallels; as like as Vulcan and his wife.

Yet good Achilles still cries, *Excellent!*

'Tis Nestor right! *Now playhimme, Patroclus,
Arming to answer in a night alarm.*

And then, forsooth, the faint defects of age
Must be the scene of mirth; to cough, and spit,
And with a palsy-fumbling on his gorget,
Shake in and out the rivet:—and at this sport,
Sir Valor dies; cries, *O!—enough, Patro-
clus;—*

*Or give me ribs of steel! I shall split all
In pleasure of my spleen.* And in this fashion,
All our abilities, gifts, natures, shapes,
Severals and generals of grace exact,
Achievement, plots, orders, preventions.
Excitements to the field, or speech for truce,
Success, or loss; what is, or is not, serves
As stuff for these two to make paradoxes.

Nest. And in the imitation of these twin
(Whom, as Ulysses says, opinion crowns
With an imperial voice,) many are infect.
Ajax is grown self-will'd: and bears his head
In such a reign, in full as proud a place
As broad Achilles: keeps his tent like him;
Makes factious feasts; rails on our state of
Bold as an oracle: and sets Thersites [war,
(A slave, whose gall coins slanders like a mint,)
To match us in comparisons with dirt;
To weaken and discredit our exposure,
How rank soever rounded in with danger.

Ulyss. They tax our policy, and call it cow-
ardice;

Count wisdom as no member of the war;
Foretell prescience, and esteem no act
But that of hand: and still the mental parts,—
That do contrive how many hands shall strike,
When fitness calls them on; and know, by
ineasure

Of their observant toil, the enemies' weight,—
Why, this hath not a finger's dignity: [war:
They call this—bed-work, mappery, closet-
So that the ram, that batters down the wall,
For the great swing and rudeness of his poise,
They place before his hand that made the en-
gine;

Or those, that with the fineness of their souls
By reason guide his execution.

Nest. Let this be granted, and Achilles'
horse

Makes many Thetis' sons. [Trumpet sounds.

Agam. What trumpet? look, Menelaus.

Enter ÆNEAS.

Men. From Troy.

Agam. What would you fore our tent.

* The galleries of the theatre. † Beyond the truth.
‡ Unadapted.

* Without. † Force up by the roots.

‡ Corporations, companies § Divided. || Absolute.

¶ A:my, force. ** In modern language, takes us off

†† Supreme.

Æne. Is this
Great Agamemnon's tent, I pray?

Agam. Even this.

Æne. May one, that is a herald, and a
Do a fair message to his kingly ears? [prince,

Agam. With surety stronger than Achilles'
arm [voice

'Fore all the Greekish heads, which with one
Call Agamemnon head and general.

Æne. Fair leave, and large security. How
A stranger to those most imperial looks [may
Know them from eyes of other mortals?

Agam. How?

Æne. Ay;

I ask, that I might waken reverence,
And bid the cheek be ready with a blush
Modest as morning when she coldly eyes
The youthful Phoebus:

Which is that god in office, guiding men?
Which is the high and mighty Agamemnon?

Agam. This Trojan scorns us; or the men of
Are ceremonious courtiers. [Troy

Æne. Courtiers as free, as debonair, unarm'd
As bending angels; that's their fame in peace;
But when they would seem soldiers, they have
galls,

Good arms, strong joints, true swords; and,
Jove's accord,

Nothing so full of heart. But peace, *Æneas*,
Peace, Trojan; lay thy finger on thy lips!
The worthiness of praise distains his worth,
If that the prais'd himself bring the praise
forth:

But what the repining enemy commends,
That breath fame follows: that praise, sole
pure, transcends.

Agam. Sir, you of Troy, call you yourself
Æneas?

Æne. Ay, Greek, that is my name.

Agam. What's your affair, I pray you?

Æne. Sir, pardon; 'tis for Agamemnon's
ears.

Agam. He hears nought privately, that comes
from Troy.

Æne. Nor I from Troy come not to whisper
I bring a trumpet to awake his ear; [him;
To set his sense on the attentive bent,
And then to speak.

Agam. Speak frankly* as the wind;
It is not Agamemnon's sleeping hour:
That thou shalt know, Trojan, he is awake,
He tells thee so himself.

Æne. Trumpet, blow loud, [tents;—
Send thy brass voice through all these lazy
And every Greek of mettle, let him know,
What Troy means fairly shall be spoke aloud.

[Trumpet sounds.

We have, great Agamemnon, here in Troy
A prince call'd Hector, (Priam is his father,)
Who in this dull and long-continued truce
Is rusty grown; he bade me take a trumpet,
And to this purpose speak. Kings, princes,
lords!

If there be one among the fair'st of Greece,
That holds his honour higher than his ease;
That seeks his praise more than he fears his
peril;

That knows his valour, and knows not to fear;
That loves his mistress more than in confession,
(With truant vows to her own lips he loves,)
And dare avow her beauty and her worth,
In other arms than hers,—to him this chal-
lenge.

Hector, in view of Trojans and of Greeks,
Shall make it good, or do his best to do it,

* Freely.

He hath a lady, wiser, fairer, truer,
Than ever Greek did compass in his arms;
And will to-morrow with his trumpet call,
Mid-way between your tents and walls of Troy,
To rouse a Grecian that is true in love:
If any come, Hector shall honour him;
If none, he'll say in Troy, when he retires,
The Grecian dames are sun-burn'd, and not
worth

The splinter of a lance. Even so much.

Agam. This shall be told our lovers, lord
Æneas;

If none of them have soul in such a kind,
We left them all at home: But we are soldiers;
And may that soldier a mere recreant prove,
That means not, hath not, or is not in love!
If then one is, or hath, or means to be,
That one meets Hector; if none else, I am he.

Nest. Tell him of Nestor, one that was a
man [now,

When Hector's grandsire suck'd: he is old
But if there be not in our Grecian host
One noble man, that hath one spark of fire

To answer for his love, Tell him from me,—
I'll hide my silver beard in a gold beaver,
And in my vantbrace* put this wither'd brawn;
And meeting him, will tell him, That my lady
Was fairer than his grandame, and as chaste
As may be in the world: His youth in flood,
I'll prove this truth with my three drops of
blood.

Æne. Now heavens forbid such scarcity of
youth!

Ulyss. Amen!

Agam. Fair lord *Æneas*, let me touch your
To our pavilion shall I lead you, Sir. [hand;
Achilles shall have word of this intent:
So shall each lord of Greece, from tent to tent:
Yourself shall feast with us before you go,
And find the welcome of a noble foe.

[*Exeunt all but ULYSSES and NESTOR.*

Ulyss. Nestor,—

Nest. What says Ulysses?

Ulyss. I have a young conception in my
brain,

Be you my time to bring it to some shape.

Nest. What is't?

Ulyss. This 'tis: [pride

Blunt wedges rive hard knots: The seeded
That hath to this maturity blown up
In rank Achilles, must or now be cropp'd,
Or, shedding, breed a nursery of like evil,
To overbuck us all.

Nest. Well, and how?

Ulyss. This challenge that the gallant Hec-
tor sends,

However it is spread in general name,
Relates in purpose only to Achilles.

Nest. The purpose is perspicuous even as
substance,

Whose grossness little characters sum up:
And, in the publication, make no strain,†
But that Achilles, were his brain as barren
As banks of Libya,—though, Apollo knows,
'Tis dry enough,—will, with what great speed
of judgment,

Ay, with celerity, find Hector's purpose
Pointing on him.

Ulyss. And wake him to the answer, think
you?

Nest. Yes.

It is most meet; Whom you may else oppose,
That can from Hector bring those honours off,
If not Achilles? Though't be a sportful combat,
Yet in the trial much opinion dwells;

* An armour for the arm.

† Difficulty.

For here the Trojans taste our dear'st repute
With their fin'st palate: And trust to me,
Ulysses,

Our imputation shall be oddly pois'd
In this wild action: for the success,
Although particular, shall give a scantling*
Of good or bad unto the general;
And in such indexes, although small prickst
To their subsequent volumes, there is seen
The baby figure of the giant mass
Of things to come at large. It is suppos'd,
He, that meets Hector, issues from our choice:
And choice, being mutual, act of all our souls,
Makes merit her election; and doth boil,
As 'twere from forth us all, a man distill'd
Out of our virtues; Who miscarrying,
What heart reserves from hence a conquering
part,
To steel a strong opinion to themselves?
Which entertain'd limbs are his instruments,
In no less working, than are swords and bows
Directive by the limbs.

Ulyss. Give pardon to my speech;—
Therefore 'tis meet, Achilles meet not Hector.
Let us, like merchants, show our foulest wares,
And think, perchance, they'll sell; if not,
The lustre of the better shall exceed,
By showing the worst first. Do not consent,
That ever Hector and Achilles meet;
For both our honour and our shame, in this,
Are dogg'd with two strange followers.

Nest. I see them not with my old eyes; what
are they?

Ulyss. What glory our Achilles shares from
Hector,
Were he not proud, we all should share with
him:

But he already is too insolent;
And we were better parch in Afric sun,
Than in the pride and salt scorn of his eyes,
Should he 'scape Hector fair: If he were foil'd,
Why, then we did our main opinion† crush
In taint of our best man. No, make a lottery;
And, by device, let blockish Ajax draw
The sort‡ to fight with Hector: Among our-
selves,

Give him allowance for the better man,
For that will physic the great Myrmidon,
Who broils in loud applause; and make him
fall

His crest, that prouder than blue Iris bends.
If the dull brainless Ajax come safe off,
We'll dress him up in voices: If he fail,
Yet go we under our opinion|| still
That we have better men. But, hit or miss,
Our project's life this shape of sense assumes—
Ajax, employ'd, plucks down Achilles' plumes.

Nest. Ulysses,
Now I begin to relish thy advice;
And I will give a taste of it forthwith
To Agamemnon: go we to him straight.
Two curs shall tame each other; Pride alone
Must tarre¶ the mastiffs on, as 'twere their
bone. [Exeunt.]

ACT II.

SCENE I.—Another part of the Grecian Camp.

Enter AJAX and THERSITES.

Ajax. Thersites,——

Ther. Agamemnon—how if he had boils? full,
all over, generally?

Ajax. Thersites,——

Ther. And those boils did run?—Say so,—

* Size, measure. † Small points compared with the
volumes. ‡ Estimation or character. § Lot.

|| Character. ¶ Provoke.

did not the general run then? were not that a
botchy core?

Ajax. Dog,——

Ther. Then would come some matter from
him; I see none now.

Ajax. Thou bitch-wolf's son, canst thou not
hear? Feel then. [Strikes him.]

Ther. The plague of Greece upon thee, thou
mongrel beef-witted lord!

Ajax. Speak then, thou unsalted leaven,
speak: I will beat thee into handsomeness.

Ther. I shall sooner rail thee into wit and
holiness: but, I think, thy horse will sooner
con an oration, than thou learn a prayer with-
out book. Thou canst strike, canst thou? a
red murrain o' thy jade's tricks!

Ajax. Toads-stool, learn me the proclamation.

Ther. Dost thou think, I have no sense, thou
strikest me thus?

Ajax. The proclamation,——

Ther. Thou art proclaimed a fool, I think.

Ajax. Do not, porcupine, do not; my fingers
itch.

Ther. I would, thou didst itch from head to
foot, and I had the scratching of thee; I would
make thee the loathsome scab in Greece.
When thou art forth in the incursions, thou
strikest as slow as another.

Ajax. I say, the proclamation,——

Ther. Thou grumblest and raillest every hour
on Achilles; and thou art as full of envy at his
greatness, as Cerberus is at Proserpina's
beauty, ay, that thou barkest at him.

Ajax. Mistress Thersites!

Ther. Thou shouldst strike him.

Ajax. Cobloaf!

Ther. He would pun* thee into shivers with
his fist, as a sailor breaks a biscuit.

Ajax. You whoreson cur! [Beating him.]

Ther. Do, do.

Ajax. Thou stool for a witch!

Ther. Ay, do, do; thou sodden-witted lord!
thou hast no more brain than I have in mine
elbows; an assinego† may tutor thee: Thou
scurvy valiant ass; thou art here put to thrash
Trojans; and thou art bought and sold among
those of any wit, like a Barbarian slave. If
thou use‡ to beat me, I will begin at thy heel,
and tell what thou art by inches, thou thing of
no bowels, thou!

Ajax. You dog!

Ther. You scurvy lord!

Ajax. You cur!

Ther. Mars his idiot! do, rudeness; do,
camel; do, do. [Beating him.]

Enter ACHILLES and PATROCLUS.

Achil. Why, how now, Ajax? wherefore do
you thus?

How now, Thersites? what's the matter, man?
Ther. You see him there, do you?

Achil. Ay; what's the matter?

Ther. Nay, look upon him.

Achil. So I do; What's the matter?

Ther. Nay, but regard him well.

Achil. Well, why I do so.

Ther. But yet you look not well upon him:
for, whosoever you take him to be, he is Ajax.

Achil. I know that, fool.

Ther. Ay, but that fool knows not himself.

Ajax. Therefore I beat thee.

Ther. Lo, lo, lo, lo, what medicums of wit
he utters! his evasions have ears thus long.
I have bobbed his brain, more than he has beat

* Pound. † As a cant term for a foolish fellow.

‡ Continue.

my bones: I will buy nine sparrows for a penny and his *pia mater** is not worth the ninth part of a sparrow. This lord, Achilles, Ajax,—who wears his wit in his belly, and his guts in his head,—I'll tell you what I say of him.

Achil. What?

Ther. I say, this Ajax—

Achil. Nay, good Ajax.

[*AJAX offers to strike him, ACHILLES interposes.*

Ther. Has not so much wit—

Achil. Nay, I must hold you.

Ther. As will stop the eye of Helen's needle, for whom he comes to fight.

Achil. Peace, fool!

Ther. I would have peace and quietness, but the fool will not: he there; that he; look you there.

Ajax. O thou damned cur! I shall—

Achil. Will you set your wit to a fool's?

Ther. No, I warrant you; for a fool's will shame it.

Patr. Good words, Thersites.

Achil. What's the quarrel?

Ajax. I bade the vile owl, go learn me the tenour of the proclamation, and he rails upon me.

Ther. I serve thee not.

Ajax. Well, go to, go to.

Ther. I serve here voluntary.†

Achil. Your last service was sufferance, 'twas not voluntary; no man is beaten voluntary; Ajax was here the voluntary, and you as under an impress.

Ther. Even so?—a great deal of your wit too lies in your sinews, or else there be liars. Hector shall have a great catch, if he knock out either of your brains; a' were as good crack a fusty nut with no kernel.

Achil. What, with me too, Thersites?

Ther. There's Ulysses, and old Nestor,—whose wit was mouldy ere your grandsires had nails on their toes,—yoke you like draught oxen, and make you plough up the wars.

Achil. What, what?

Ther. Yes, good sooth; To, Achilles! to, Ajax! to!

Ajax. I shall cut out your tongue.

Ther. 'Tis no matter; I shall speak as much as thou, afterwards.

Patr. No more words, Thersites; peace.

Ther. I will hold my peace when Achilles' brach† bids me, shall I?

Achil. There's for you, Patroclus.

Ther. I will see you hanged, like clotpoles, ere I come any more to your tents; I will keep where there is wit stirring, and leave the faction of fools. [Exit.

Patr. A good riddance.

Achil. Marry, this, Sir, is proclaim'd through all our host:

That Hector, by the first hour of the sun,
Will, with a trumpet, 'twixt our tents and Troy,

To-morrow morning call some knight to arms,
That hath a stomach; and such a one, that dare

Maintain—I know not what; 'tis trash: Fare-
Ajax. Farewell. Who shall answer him?

Achil. I know not, it is put to lottery; otherwise,

He knew his man.

Ajax. O, meaning you:—I'll go learn more of it. [Exeunt.

* The membrane that protects the brain.

† Voluntarily. ‡ Bitch, hound.

SCENE II.—Troy.—A Room in PRIAM'S Palace.

Enter PRIAM, HECTOR, TROILUS, PARIS, and HELENUS.

Pri. After so many hours, lives, speeches spent,

Thus once again says Nestor from the Greeks;
Deliver Helen, and all damage else—

As honour, loss of time, travel, expense,
Wounds, friends, and what else dear that is consum'd

In hot digestion of this cormorant war.—

Shall bestruck off:—Hector, what say you to 't?

Hect. Though no man lesser fears the Greeks

than I,

As far as toucheth my particular, yet,
Dread Priam,
There is no lady of more softer bowels,
More spongy to suck in the sense of fear,
More ready to cry out—Who knows what fol-
lows?

Than Hector is: The wound of peace is surety,
Surety secure; but modest doubt is call'd

The beacon of the wise, the tent that searches
To the bottom of the worst. Let Helen go:

Since the first sword was drawn about this
question,

Every tithe soul, 'mongst many thousand
dismes,*

Hath been as dear as Helen; I mean, of ours:
If we have lost so many tenths of ours,

To guard a thing not ours; not worth to us,

Had it our name, the value of one ten;

What merits in that reason, which denies

The yielding of her up?

Tro. Fie, fie, my brother!

Weigh you the worth and honour of a king,

So great as our dread father, in a scale

Of common ounces? will you with counters

The past-proportion of his infinite? [sum

And buckle-in a waist most fathomless,

With spans and inches so diminutive

As fears and reasons? fie, for godly shame!

Hel. No marvel, though you bite so sharp
at reasons,

You are so empty of them. Should not our
father [sons,

Bear the great sway of his affairs with rea-
Because your speech hath none, that tells him

so?

Tro. You are for dreams and slumbers, bro-
ther priest,

You fur your gloves with reason. Here are
your reasons:

You know, an enemy intends you harm;

You know, a sword employ'd is perilous;

And reason flies the object of all harm:

Who marvels then, when Helenus beholds

A Grecian and his sword, if he do set

The very wings of reason to his heels;

And fly like chidden Mercury from Jove,

Or like a star disorb'd?—Nay, if we talk of
reason,

Let's shut our gates, and sleep: Manhood
and honour

Should have hare hearts, would they but fat
their thoughts

With this cramm'd reason: reason and respect

Make livers pale, and lustihood deject.

Hect. Brother, she is not worth what she
doth cost

The holding.

Tro. What is aught, but as 'tis valued?

* Tenths.

† Caution.

Hect. But value dwells not in particular
It holds his estimate and dignity [will ;
As well wherein 'tis precious of itself
As in the prizer: 'tis mad idolatry,
To make the service greater than the god ;
And the will dotes, that is attributive
To what infectiously itself affects,
Without some image of the affected merit.

Tro. I take to-day a wife, and my election
Is led on in the conduct of my will ;
My will enkindled by mine eyes and ears,
Two traded pilots, 'twixt the dangerous shores
Of will and judgment: How may I avoid,
Although my will distaste what it elected,
'The wife I chose? there can be no evasion
To blench* from this, and to stand firm by ho-
nour:

We turn not back the silks upon the merchant,
When we have soil'd them; nor the remainder
viands

We do not throw in unrespective sieve, †
Because we now are full. It was thought meet,
Paris should do some vengeance on the Greeks:
Your breath with full consent bellied his sails;
The seas and winds (old wranglers) took a
truce, [sir'd ;

And did him service: he touch'd the ports de-
And, for an old aunt, ‡ whom the Greeks held
captive,

He brought a Grecian queen, whose youth
and freshness [ing.

Wrinkles Apollo's, and makes pale the morn-
Why keep we her? the Grecians keep our
aunt:

Is she worth keeping? why, she is a pearl,
Whose price hath launch'd above a thousand
ships,

And turn'd crown'd kings to merchants.
If you'll avouch, 'twas wisdom Paris went,
(As you must needs, for you all cried—Go,
go,)

If you'll confess, he brought home noble prize,
(As you must needs, for you all clapp'd your
hands,

And cried—*Inestimable!*) why do you now
The issue of your proper wisdoms rate;
And do a deed that fortune never did,
Beggar the estimation which you priz'd
Richer than sea and land? O theft most base;
That we have stolen what we do fear to keep!
But, thieves, unworthy of a thing so stolen,
That in their country did them that disgrace,
We fear to warrant in our native place!

Cas. [Within.] Cry, Trojans, cry!

Pri. What noise? what shriek is this?

Tro. 'Tis our mad sister, I do know her
voice.

Cas. [Within.] Cry, Trojans!

Hect. It is Cassandra.

Enter CASSANDRA, raving.

Cas. Cry, Trojans, cry! lend me ten thou-
sand eyes,

And I will fill them with prophetic tears.

Hect. Peace, sister, peace.

Cas. Virgins and boys, mid-age and wrin-
kled elders,

Soft infancy, that nothing canst but cry,
Add to my clamours! let us pay betimes
A moiety of that mass of moan to come.
Cry, Trojans, cry! practise your eyes with
tears!

Troy must not be, nor goodly Ilium stand;
Our fire-brand brother, Paris, burns us all.

* Shrink, or fly off. † Basket.

‡ Priam's sister, Hecuba.

Cry, Trojans, cry! a Helen, and a woe:
Cry, cry! Troy burns, or else let Helen go.

[Exit.

Hect. Now youthful Troilus, do not these
high strains

Of divination in our sister work
Some touches of remorse? or is your blood
So madly hot, that no discourse of reason,
Nor fear of bad success in a bad cause,
Can qualify the same?

Tro. Why, brother Hector,
We may not think the justness of each act
Such and no other than event doth form it;
Nor once deject the courage of our minds,
Because Cassandra's mad: her brain-sick rap-
tures

Cannot distaste* the goodness of a quarrel,
Which hath our several honours all engag'd
To make it gracious. † For my private part,
I am no more touch'd than all Priam's sons:
And Jove forbid, there should be done amongst
us

Such things as might offend the weakest spleen
To fight for and maintain!

Par. Else might the world convince † of levity
As well my undertakings, as your counsels:
But I attest the gods, your full consent
Gave wings to my propension, and cut off
All fears attending on so dire a project.

For what, alas, can these my single arms?
What propugnation § is in one man's valour,
To stand the push and enmity of those
This quarrel would excite? Yet I protest,
Were I alone to pass the difficulties,
And had as ample power as I have will,
Paris should ne'er retract what he hath done,
Nor faint in the pursuit.

Pri. Paris, you speak

Like one besotted on your sweet delights:
You have the honey still, but these the gall;
So to be valiant, is no praise at all.

Par. Sir, I propose not merely to myself
The pleasures such a beauty brings with it;
But I would have the soil of her fair rape
Wip'd off, in honourable keeping her.
What treason were it to the ransack'd queen,
Disgrace to your great worths, and shame to
Now to deliver her possession up, [me,
On terms of base compulsion? Can it be,
That so degenerate a strain as this, [soms?
Should once set footing in your generous bo-
There's not the meanest spirit on our party,
Without a heart to dare, or sword to draw,
When Helen is defended; nor none so noble,
Whose life were ill bestow'd, or death unnam'd,
Where Helen is the subject: then, I say
Well may we fight for her, whom, we know
well,

The world's large spaces cannot parallel.

Hect. Paris, and Troilus, you have both said
well:

And on the cause and question now in hand
Have glaz'd, ||—but superficially; not much
Unlike young men, whom Aristotle thought
Unfit to hear moral philosophy:
The reasons you allege, do more conduce
To the hot passion of distemper'd blood,
Than to make up a free determination
'Twixt right and wrong; For pleasure, and
revenge,

Have ears more deaf than adders to the voice
Of any true decision. Nature craves.

All dues be render'd to their owners; now

What nearer debt in all humanity,

* Corrupt, change to a worse state. † To set it off.

‡ Convict. § Defence. || Commented

Than wife is to the husband? if this law
Of nature be corrupted through affection;
And that great minds, of* partial indulgence
To their benumbed wills, resist the same;
There is a law in each well-order'd nation,
To curb those raging appetites that are
Most disobedient and refractory.
If Helen then be wife to Sparta's king,—
As it is known she is,—these moral laws
Of nature, and of nations, speak aloud
To have her back return'd: Thus to persist
In doing wrong, extenuates not wrong,
But makes it much more heavy. Hector's
opinion

Is this in way of truth: yet ne'ertheless,
My spritely brethren, I propend† to you
In resolution to keep Helen still;
For 'tis a cause that hath no mean dependence
Upon our joint and several dignities.

Tro. Why, there you touch'd the life of our
design:

Were it not glory that we more affected
Than the performance of our heaving spleens,
I would not wish a drop of Trojan blood
Spent more in her defence. But, worthy
Hector,

She is a theme of honour and renown;
A spur to valiant and magnanimous deeds;
Whose present courage may beat down our
foes,

And fame, in time to come, canonize us:
For, I presume, brave Hector would not lose
So rich advantage of a promis'd glory,
As smiles upon the forehead of this action,
For the wide world's revenue.

Hec. I am yours,
You valiant offspring of great Priamus.—
I have a roisting‡ challenge sent amongst
The dull and factious nobles of the Greeks,
Will strike amazement to their drowsy spirits:
I was advertis'd, their great general slept,
Whilst emulation§ in the army crept;
This, I presume, will wake him. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—The Grecian Camp.—Before
ACHILLES' Tent.

Enter THERSITES.

Ther. How now, Thersites? what, lost in
the labyrinth of thy fury? Shall the elephant
Ajax carry it thus? he beats me, and I rail at
him: O worthy satisfaction! 'would, it were
otherwise; that I could beat him, whilst he
railed at me: 'Sfoot, I'll learn to conjure and
raise devils, but I'll see some issue of my spite-
ful execrations. Then there's Achilles,—a rare
engineer. If Troy be not taken till these two
undermine it, the walls will stand till they fall
of themselves. O thou great thunder-darter
of Olympus, forget that thou art Jove the king
of gods; and, Mercury, lose all the serpentine
eraft of thy Caduceus;|| if ye take not that lit-
tle little less-than-little wit from them that they
have! which short-armed ignorance itself
knows is so abundaut scarce, it will not in cir-
cumvention deliver a fly from a spider, with-
out drawing their massy irons, and cutting the
webb. After this, the vengeance on the whole
camp! or, rather, the bone-ache! for that, methinks,
is the curse dependent on those that
war for a placket. I have said my prayers;
and devil, envy, say Amen. What, ho! my
lord Achilles!

Enter PATROCLUS.

Patr. Who's there? Thersites? Good
Thersites, come in and rail.

Ther. If I could have remembered a gilt
counterfeit, thou wouldest not have slipped out
of my contemplation: but it is no matter; Thy-
self upon thyself! The common curse of man-
kind, folly, and ignorance, be thine in great
revenue! heaven bless thee from a tutor, and
discipline come not near thee! Let thy blood*
be thy direction till thy death! then if she, that
lays thee out, says—thou art a fair corse, I'll
be sworn and sworn upon't, she never shroud-
ed any but lazars.† Amen.—Where's Achilles?

Patr. What, art thou devout? was thou in
prayer?

Ther. Ay; The heavens hear me!

Enter ACHILLES.

Achil. Who's there?

Patr. Thersites, my lord.

Achil. Where, where?—Art thou come?
Why, my cheese, my digestion, why hast thou
not served thyself in to my table so many
meals? Come; what's Agamemnon?

Ther. Thy commander, Achilles:—Then
tell me, Patroclus, what's Achilles?

Patr. Thy lord, Thersites; Then tell me,
I pray thee, what's thyself?

Ther. Thy knower, Patroclus; Then tell
me, Patroclus, what art thou?

Patr. Thou mayest tell, that knowest.

Achil. O, tell, tell.

Ther. I'll decline the whole question. Aga-
memnon commands Achilles; Achilles is my
lord; I am Patroclus' knower; and Patroclus
is a fool.

Patr. You rascal!

Ther. Peace, fool; I have not done.

Achil. He is a privileged man.—Proceed,
Thersites.

Ther. Agamemnon is a fool; Achilles is a
fool; Thersites is a fool; and, as aforesaid,
Patroclus is a fool.

Achil. Derive this; come.

Ther. Agamemnon is a fool to offer to com-
manded Achilles; Achilles is a fool to be com-
manded of Agamemnon; Thersites is a fool to
serve such a fool; and Patroclus is a fool
positive.

Patr. Why am I a fool?

Ther. Make that demand of the prover.—
It suffices me, thou art. Look you, who comes
here!

Enter AGAMEMNON, ULYSSES, NESTOR, DIOM-
EDES, and AJAX.

Achil. Patroclus, I'll speak with nobody:—
Come in with me, Thersites. [Exit.

Ther. Here is such patchery, such juggling,
and such knavery! all the argument is, a
cuckold, and a whore; A good quarrel, to
draw emulous‡ factions, and bleed to death
upon. Now the dry *serpigo*§ on the subject!
and war, and lechery, confound all! [Exit.

Agam. Where is Achilles?

Patr. Within his tent; but ill dispos'd, my
lord.

Agam. Let it be known to him that we are
here.

He shent|| our messengers; and we lay by
Our appointments,¶ visiting of him:

* Through. † Incline to, as a question of honour.
‡ Blustering. § Envy.
|| The wand of Mercury which is wreathed with serpents.

* Passions, natur'¶ propensities. † Leprous persons.
‡ Envious. § Tetter, scab. || Rebuked, rated.
¶ Appendage of rank or dignity.

Let him be told so; lest, perchance, he think
We dare not move the question of our place,
Or know not what we are.

Patr. I shall say so to him. [Exit.]

Ulyss. We saw him at the opening of his
tent; He is not sick.

Ajax. Yes, lion-sick, sick of proud heart:
you may call it melancholy, if you will favour
the man; but, by my head, 'tis pride: But
why, why? let him show us a cause.—A word,
my lord. [Takes AGAMEMNON aside.]

Nest. What moves Ajax thus to bay at him?

Ulyss. Achilles hath inveigled his fool from
him.

Nest. Who? Thersites?

Ulyss. He.

Nest. Then will Ajax lack matter, if he
have lost his argument.*

Ulyss. No you see, he is his argument, that
has his argument; Achilles.

Nest. All the better; their fraction is more
our wish, than their faction: But it was a
strong composure, a fool could disunite.

Ulyss. The amity, that wisdom knits not,
folly may easily unite. Here comes Patroclus.

Re-enter PATROCLUS.

Nest. No Achilles with him.

Ulyss. The elephant hath joints, but none
for courtesy: his legs are legs for necessity,
not for flexure.

Patr. Achilles bids me say—he is much sorry,
If anything more than your sport and pleasure
Did move your greatness, and this noble state,
To call upon him; he hopes, it is no other,
But, for your health and your digestion sake,
And after-dinner's breath.†

Agam. Hear you, Patroclus;—
We are too well acquainted with these ans-
wers:

But his evasion, wing'd thus swift with scorn,
Cannot outfly our apprehensions.

Much attribute he hath; and much the reason
Why we ascribe it to him: yet all his virtues,—
Not virtuously on his own part beheld,—
Do, in our eyes, begin to lose their gloss;
Yea, like fair fruit in an unwholesome dish,
Are like to rot untasted. Go; and tell him,
We come to speak with him: And you shall
not sin,

If you do say—we think him over-proud,
And under-honest; in self-assumption greater,
Than in the note of judgment; and worthier
than himself

Here tend† the savage strangeness§ he puts on;
Disguise the holy strength of their command,
And underwrite|| in an observing kind
His humorous predominance; yea, watch
His pettish lunes,¶ his ebbs, his flows, as if
The passage and whole carriage of this action
Rode on his tide. Go, tell him this; and add,
That, if he overhold his price so much,
We'll none of him; but let him, like an engine
Not portable, lie under this report—
Bring action hither, this cannot go to war:
A stirring dwarf we do allowance** give
Before a sleeping giant:—Tell him so.

Patr. I shall; and bring his answer pre-
sently. [Exit.]

Agam. In second voice we'll not be satisfied,
We come to speak with him.—Ulysses, enter.

[Exit ULYSSES.]

Ajax. What is he more than another?

Agam. No more than what he thinks he is.

* Subject. † Exercise. ‡ Attend. § Shyness.
|| Subscribe, obey. ¶ Fits of lunacy. ** Approbation.

Ajax. Is he so much? Do you not think, he
thinks himself a better man than I am?

Agam. No question.

Ajax. Will you subscribe his thought, and
say—he is?

Agam. No, noble Ajax; you are as strong,
as valiant, as wise, no less noble, much more
gentle, and altogether more tractable.

Ajax. Why should a man be proud? How
doth pride grow? I know not what pride is.

Agam. Your mind's the clearer, Ajax, and
your virtues the fairer. He that is proud, eats
up himself: pride is his own glass, his own
trumpet, his own chronicle; and whatever
praises itself but in the deed, devours the
deed in the praise.

Ajax. I do hate a proud man, as I hate the
engendering of toads.

Nest. And yet he loves himself: Is it not
strange? [Aside.]

Re-enter ULYSSES.

Ulyss. Achilles will not to the field to-morrow.

Agam. What's his excuse?

Ulyss. He doth rely on none;
But carries on the stream of his dispose,
Without observance or respect of any,
In will peculiar and in self-admission.

Agam. Why will he not, upon our fair re-
quest,

Untent his person, and share the air with us?

Ulyss. Things small as nothing, for request's
sake only, [greatness;

He makes important: Possess'd he is with
And speaks not to himself, but with a pride
That quarrels at self-breath: imagin'd worth
Holds in his blood such swoln and hot dis-
course,

That, 'twixt his mental and his active parts,
Kingdom'd Achilles in commotion rages,
And batters down himself: What should I say?
He is so plaguily proud, that the death tokens of
Cry—No recovery. [it]

Agam. Let Ajax go to him.—

Dear lord, go you and greet him in his tent:
'Tis said, he holds you well; and will be led,
At your request, a little from himself.

Ulyss. O Agamemnon, let it not be so!
We'll consecrate the steps that Ajax makes
When they go from Achilles: Shall the proud
lord,

That bastes his arrogance with his own seam;*
And never suffers matter of the world
Enter his thoughts,—save such as do revolve
And ruminate himself,—shall he be worshipp'd
Of that we hold an idol more than he?

No, this thrice worthy and right valiant lord
Must not so stale his palm, nobly acquir'd;
Nor, by my will, assubjugate his merit,
As amply titled as Achilles is,
By going to Achilles:

That were to enlard his fat-already pride;
And add more coals to Cancer,† when he burns
With entertaining great Hyperion.‡
This lord go to him! Jupiter forbid;
And say in thunder—Achilles, go to him.

Nest. O, this is well; he rubs the vein of
him. [Aside.]

Dio. And how his silence drinks up this
applause! [Aside.]

Ajax. If I go to him, with my arm'd fist
I'll pash‡ him
Over the face.

* Fat. † The sign in the zodiac into which the sun
enters June 21.

‡ And Cancer reddens with the solar blaze." Thomson.
§ Strike.

Agam. O, no, you shall not go.
Ajax. An he be proud with me, I'll pheeze* his pride:
 Let me go to him.
Ulyss. Not for the worth that hangs upon our quarrel.
Ajax. A paltry, insolent fellow,—
Nest. How he describes Himself! [*Aside.*]
Ajax. Can he not be sociable?
Ulyss. The raven
 Chides blackness. [*Aside.*]
Ajax. I will let his humours blood.
Agam. He'll be physician, that should be the patient. [*Aside.*]
Ajax. An all men
 Were o' my mind,—
Ulyss. Wit would be out of fashion. [*Aside.*]
Ajax. He should not bear it so,
 He should eat swords first: Shall pride carry it?
Nest. An 'twould, you'd carry half. [*Aside.*]
Ulyss. He'd have ten shares. [*Aside.*]
Ajax. I'll knead him, I will make him supple:—
Nest. He's not yet thorough warm: forget him with praises:
 Pour in, pour in; his ambition is dry. [*Aside.*]
Ulyss. My lord, you feed too much on this dislike. [*To AGAMEMNON.*]
Nest. O noble general, do not do so.
Dio. You must prepare to fight without Achilles.
Ulyss. Why 'tis this naming of him does him harm.
 Here is a man—But 'tis before his face; I will be silent.
Nest. Wherefore should you so?
 He is not emulous, † as Achilles is.
Ulyss. Know the whole world, he is as valiant.
Ajax. A whoreson dog, that shall palter § thus with us!
 I would, he were a Trojan!
Nest. What a vice
 Were it in Ajax now—
Ulyss. If he were proud?
Dio. Or covetous of praise?
Ulyss. Ay, or surly borne?
Dio. Or strange, or self-affected?
Ulyss. Thank the heavens, lord, thou art of sweet composure; [*suck:*
 Praise him that got thee, she that gave thee
 Fam'd be thy tutor, and thy parts of nature
 Thrice-fam'd beyond all erudition:
 But he that disciplin'd thy arms to fight,
 Let Mars divide eternity in twain,
 And give him half: and, for thy vigour,
 Bull-bearing Milo his addition || yield [*dom,*
 To sinewy Ajax. I will not praise thy wis-
 Which, like a bourn, ¶ a pale, a shore, confines
 Thy spacious and dilated parts: Here's Nest-
 Instructed by the antiquary times, [*tor,—*
 He must, he is, he cannot but be wise;—
 But pardon, father Nestor, were your days
 As green as Ajax', and your brain so temper'd,
 You should not have the eminence of him,
 But be as Ajax.
Ajax. Shall I call you father?
Nest. Ay, my good son.
Dio. Be rul'd by him, lord Ajax.
Ulyss. There is no tarrying here; the hart
 Achilles

Keeps thicket. Please it our great general
 To call together all his state of war;
 Fresh kings are come to Troy: To-morrow,
 We must with all our main of power stand
 fast:
 And here's a lord,—come knights from east
 to west,
 And cull the flower, Ajax shall cope the best.
Agam. Go we to council. Let Achilles
 sleep:
 Light boats sail swift, though greater hulks
 draw deep. [*Exeunt.*]

ACT III.

SCENE I.—*Troy.—A Room in PRIAM'S Pa-
 lace.*

Enter PANDARUS and a SERVANT.

Pan. Friend! you! pray you, a word: Do
 not you follow the young lord Paris?
Serv. Ay, Sir, when he goes before me.
Pan. You do depend upon him, I mean?
Serv. Sir, I do depend upon the lord.
Pan. You do depend upon a noble gentle-
 man; I must needs praise him.
Serv. The lord be praised!
Pan. You know me, do you not?
Serv. 'Faith, Sir, superfluously.
Pan. Friend, know me better; I am the
 lord Pandarus.
Serv. I hope, I shall know your honour bet-
 ter.
Pan. I do desire it.
Serv. You are in a state of grace.

[*Music within.*]

Pan. Grace! not so, friend; honour and
 lordship are my titles:—What music is this?

Serv. I do but partly know, Sir; it is music
 in parts.

Pan. Know you the musicians?

Serv. Wholly, Sir.

Pan. Who play they to?

Serv. To the hearers, Sir.

Pan. At whose pleasure, friend?

Serv. At mine, Sir, and theirs that love
 music.

Pan. Command, I mean, friend.

Serv. Who shall I command, Sir?

Pan. Friend, we understand not one an-
 other; I am too courtly, and thou art too can-
 ning: At whose request do these men play?

Serv. That's to't, indeed, Sir: Marry, Sir,
 at the request of Paris my lord, who is there
 in person; with him, the mortal Venus, the
 heart-blood of beauty, love's invisible soul,—

Pan. Who, my cousin, Cressida?

Serv. No, Sir, Helen; Could you not find
 out that by her attributes?

Pan. It should seem, fellow, that thou hast
 not seen the lady Cressida. I come to speak
 with Paris from the prince Troilus: I will
 make a complimental assault upon him, for
 my business seeths.*

Serv. Sudden business! there's a stewed
 phrase indeed!

Enter PARIS and HELEN, attended.

Pan. Fair be to you, my lord, and to all this
 fair company! fair desires, in all fair me-
 asure, fairly guide them! especially to you
 fair queen! fair thoughts be your fair pillow!

Helen. Dear lord, you are full of fair words.

Pan. You speak your fair pleasure, sweet
 queen.—

* Comb or curry. † Stuff. ‡ Envious.

§ Trifle. || Titles. ¶ Stream, rivulet.

Vol. II.

* Boils.

Fair prince, here is good broken music.

Par. You have broke it, cousin: and, by my life, you shall make it whole again; you shall piece it out with a piece of your performance: Nell, he is full of harmony.

Pan. Truly, lady, no.

Helen. O, Sir,—

Pan. Rude, in sooth; in good sooth, very rude.

Par. Well said, my lord! well, you say so in fits.*

Pan. I have business to my lord, dear queen!—

My lord, will you vouchsafe me a word?

Helen. Nay, this shall not hedge us out; we'll hear you sing, certainly.

Pan. Well, sweet queen, you are pleasant with me.—But (marry) thus, my lord,—My dear lord, and most esteemed friend, your brother Troilus—

Helen. My lord Pandarus; honey-sweet lord,—

Pan. Go to, sweet queen, go to:—commends himself most affectionately to you.

Helen. You shall not bob us out of our melody; if you do, our melancholy upon your head!

Pan. Sweet queen, sweet queen; that's a sweet queen, i'faith.

Helen. And to make a sweet lady sad, is a sour offence.

Pan. Nay, that shall not serve your turn; that shall it not, in truth, la. Nay, I care not for such words; no, no.—And, my lord, he desires you, that, if the king call for him at supper, you will make his excuse.

Helen. My lord Pandarus,—

Pan. What says my sweet queen,—my very sweet queen?

Par. What exploit's in hand? where sups he to-night?

Helen. Nay, but my lord,—

Pan. What says my sweet queen?—My cousin will fall out with you. You must not know where he sups.

Par. I'll lay my life, with my disposer Cressida.

Pan. No, no, no such matter, you are wide; come, your disposer is sick.

Par. Well, I'll make excuse.

Pan. Ay, good my lord. Why should you say—Cressida? no, your poor disposer's sick.

Par. I spy.

Pan. You spy! what do you spy?—Come, give me an instrument.—Now, sweet queen.

Helen. Why, this is kindly done.

Pan. My niece is horribly in love with a thing you have, sweet queen.

Helen. She shall have it, my lord, if it be not my lord Paris.

Pan. He! no, she'll none of him; they two are twain.

Helen. Falling in, after falling out, may make them three.

Pan. Come, come, I'll hear no more of this: I'll sing you a song now.

Helen. Ay, ay, pr'ythee aow. By my troth, sweet lord, thou hast a fine forehead.

Pan. Ay, you may, you may.

Helen. Let thy song be love: this love will undo us all. O, Cupid, Cupid, Cupid!

Pan. Love! ay, that it shall, i'faith!

Par. Ay, good now, love, love, nothing but love.

Pan. In good troth, it begins so:

* Parts of a scene.

† Wide of your mark.

Love, love, nothing but love, still more!

For, oh, love's bow

Shoots buck and doe:

The shaft confounds,

Not that it wounds

But tickles still the sore.

These lovers cry—Oh! oh! they die!

Yet that which seems the wound to kill,

Doth turn oh! oh! to ha! ha! he!

So dying love lives still:

Oh! oh! a while, but ha! ha! ha!

Oh! oh! groans out for ha! ha! ha!

Hey ho!

Helen. In love, i'faith, to the very tip of the nose.

Par. He eats nothing but doves, love; and that breeds hot blood, and hot blood begets hot thoughts, and hot thoughts beget hot deeds, and hot deeds is love.

Pan. Is this the generation of love? hot blood, hot thoughts, and hot deeds?—Why, they are vipers: Is love a generation of vipers? Sweet lord, who's a-field to-day?

Par. Hector, Deiphobus, Helenus, Antenor, and all the gallantry of Troy: I would fain have armed to-night, but my Nell would not have it so. How chance my brother Troilus went not?

Helen. He hangs the lip at something;—you know all, lord Pandarus.

Pan. Not I, honey-sweet queen,—I long to hear how they sped to-day.—You'll remember your brother's excuse?

Par. To a hair.

Pan. Farewell, sweet queen.

Helen. Commend me to your niece.

Pan. I will, sweet queen. [Exit.]

[A Retreat sounded.]

Par. They are come from field: let us to Priam's hall,

To greet the warriors. Sweet Helen, I must woo you

To help unarm our Hector: his stubborn buckles,

With these your white enchanting fingers

Shall more obey, than to the edge of steel,

Or force of Greekish sinews; you shall do more

Than all the island kings, disarm great Hector.

Helen. 'Twill make us proud to be his servant, Paris:

Yea, what he shall receive of us in duty,

Give us more palm in beauty than we have;

Yea, overshines ourself.

Par. Sweet, above thought I love thee.

[Exit.]

SCENE II.—The same. PANDARUS' Orchard.

Enter PANDARUS and a SERVANT, meeting.

Pan. How now? where's thy master? at my cousin Cressida's?

Serv. No, Sir; he stays for you to conduct him thither.

Enter TROILUS.

Pan. O, here he comes.—How now, how now?

Tro. Sirrah, walk off. [Exit SERVANT.]

Pan. Have you seen my cousin?

Tro. No, Pandarus: I stalk about her door, Like a strange soul upon the Stygian banks Staying for waftage. O, be thou my Charon, And give me swift transportance to those fields, Where I may wallow in the lily beds.

Propos'd for the deseruer! O gentle Pandarus,
From Cupid's shoulder pluck his painted wings,
And fly with me to Cressid!

Pan. Walk here 'the orchard; I'll bring her
straight. [Exit PANDARUS.

Tro. I am giddy; expectation whirls me
The imaginary relish is so sweet [round.
That it enchants my sense; What will it be,
When that the watery palate tastes indeed
Love's thrice-reputed nectar? death, I fear
me;

Swooning destruction; or some joy too fine,
Too subtle-potent, tun'd too sharp in sweetness,
For the capacity of my ruder powers:
I fear it much; and I do fear besides,
That I shall lose distinction in my joys;
As doth a battle, when they charge on heaps
'The enemy flying.

Re-enter PANDARUS.

Pan. She's making her ready, she'll come
straight: you must be witty now. She does
so blush, and fetches her wind so short, as if
she were frayed with a sprite: I'll fetch her.
It is the prettiest villain:—she fetches her
breath as short as a new-ta'en sparrow.

[Exit PANDARUS.

Tro. Even such a passion doth embrace my
bosom:

My heart beats thicker than a fevorous pulse;
And all my powers do their bestowing lose,
Like vassalage at unawares encount'ring
The eye of majesty.

Enter PANDARUS and CRESSIDA.

Pan. Come, come, what need you blush?
shame's a baby.—Here she is now: swear the
oaths now to her, that you have sworn to me.
—What, are you gone again? you must be
watched ere you be made tame, must you?
Come your ways, come your ways; an you
draw backward, we'll put you i'the fills.*—
Why do you not speak to her?—Come, draw
this curtain, and let's see your picture. Alas
the day, how loath you are to offend daylight!
an 'twere dark, you'd close sooner. So, so;
rub on, and kiss the mistress.† How now, a
kiss in fee-farm! build there, carpenter; the
air is sweet. Nay, you shall fight your hearts
out, ere I part you. The falcon as the tercel,‡
for all the ducks i'the river: go to, go to.

Tro. You have bereft me of all words, lady.

Pan. Words pay no debts, give her deeds:
but she'll bereave you of the deeds too, if she
call your activity in question. What, billing
again? Here's—*In witness whereof the parties
interchangeably*—Come in, come in; I'll go
get a fire. [Exit PANDARUS.

Cres. Will you walk in, my lord?

Tro. O Cressida, how often have I wished
me thus?

Cres. Wished my lord?—The gods grant!—
O my lord!

Tro. What should they grant? what makes
this pretty abrupton? What too curious dreg
espies my sweet lady in the fountain of our
love?

Cres. More dregs than water, if my fears
have eyes.

Tro. Fears make devils cherubims; they
never see truly.

Cres. Blind fear, that seeing reason leads,

* Shafts of a carriage.

† The allusion is to bowling; what is now called the
jack was formerly termed the mistress.

‡ The tercel is the mate and the falcon the female hawk.

finds safer footing than blind reason stumbling
without fear: To fear the worst, oft cures the
worst.

Tro. O, let my lady apprehend no fear: in
all Cupid's pageant there is presented no
monster.

Cres. Nor nothing monstrous neither?

Tro. Nothing, but our undertakings; when
we vow to weep seas, live in fire, eat rocks,
tame tigers; thinking it harder for our mis-
tress to devise imposition enough, than for us
to undergo any difficulty imposed. This is
the monstrosity in love, lady,—that the will
is infinite, and the execution confined; that
the desire is boundless, and the act a slave to
limit.

Cres. They say, all lovers swear more per-
formance than they are able, and yet reserve
an ability that they never perform; vowing
more than the perfection of ten, and discharg-
ing less than the tenth part of one. They that
have the voice of lions, and the act of hares,
are they not monsters?

Tro. Are there such? such are not we:
Praise us as we are tasted, allow us as we
prove; our head shall go bare, till merit crown
it: no perfection in reversion shall have a
praise in present: we will not name desert,
before his birth; and, being born, his addition*
shall be humble. Few words to fair truth:
Troilus shall be such to Cressid, as what envy
can say worst, shall be a mock for his truth;
and what truth can speak truest, nor truer,
than Troilus.

Cres. Will you walk in, my lord?

Re-enter PANDARUS.

Pan. What, blushing still? have you not
done talking yet?

Cres. Well, uncle, what folly I commit, I
dedicate to you.

Pan. I thank you for that; if my lord get a
boy of you, you'll give him me: Be true to my
lord: if he flinch, chide me to it.

Tro. You know now your hostages; your
uncle's word, and my firm faith.

Pan. Nay, I'll give my word for her too;
our kindred, though they be long ere they are
wooed, they are constant, being won: they
are burs, I can tell you; they'll stick where
they are thrown.

Cres. Boldness comes to me now, and brings
me heart:—

Prince Troilus, I have lov'd you night and day
For many weary months.

Tro. Why was my Cressid then so hard to
win?

Cres. Hard to seem won; but I was won,
my lord.

With the first glance that ever—Pardon me;—
If I confess much, you will play the tyrant.

I love you now; but not, till now, so much
But I might master it:—in faith, I lie;
My thoughts were like unbridled children.
grown [fools!]

Two headstrong for their mother: See, we
Why have I blabb'd? who shall be true to us,
When we are so unsecret to ourselves?

But, though I lov'd you well, I woo'd you not;
And yet, good faith, I wish'd myself a man;
Or that we women had men's privilege
Of speaking first. Sweet, bid me hold my
tongue;

For, in this rapture, I shall surely speak

The thing I shall repent. See, see, your silence,
[draws]

Cunning in dumbness, from my weakness
My very soul of counsel; Stop my mouth.

Tro. And shall, albeit sweet music issues
thence.

Pan. Pretty, i'faith.

Cres. My lord, I do beseech you, pardon me;
'Twas not my purpose, thus to beg a kiss:
I am ashamed;—O heavens! what have I
done?—

For this time will I take my leave, my lord.

Tro. Your leave, sweet Cressid?

Pan. Leave! an you take leave till to-mor-
row morning,—

Cres. Pray you, content you.

Tro. What offends you, lady?

Cres. Sir, mine own company.

Tro. You cannot shun
Yourself.

Cres. Let me go and try:

I have a kind of self resides with you;
But an unkind self, that itself will leave,
'To be another's fool. I would be gone:
Where is my wit? I know not what I speak.

Tro. Well know they what they speak, that
speak so wisely.

Cres. Perchance, my lord, I show more craft
than love;

And fell so roundly to a large confession,
'To angle for your thoughts: But you are wise;
Or else you love not; For to be wise, and love,
Exceeds man's might; that dwells with gods
above.

Tro. O, that I thought it could be in a woman,
(As, if it can, I will presume in you.)

'To feed for aye * her lamp and frames of love;
'To keep her constancy in plight and youth,
Outliving beauty's outward, with a mind
'That doth renew swifter than blood decays!

Or, that persuasion could but thus convince
'That my integrity and truth to you [me,—
Might be affronted † with the match and weight
Of such a winnow'd purity in love;

How were I then uplifted! but, alas,
I am as true as truth's simplicity,
And simpler than the infancy of truth.

Cres. In that I'll war with you.

Tro. O virtuous fight,
When right with right wars who shall be
most right!

True swains in love shall in the world to come,
Approve their truths by Troilus: when their
rhymes,

'Full of protest, of oath, and big compare, ‡
Want smiles, truth tir'd with iteration,—

As true as steel, as plantage to the moon,
As sun to day, as turtle to her mate,

As iron to adamant, as earth to the centre,—
Yet, after all comparisons of truth,

As truth's authentic author to be cited,
As true as Troilus shall crown up § the verse,
And sanctify the numbers.

Cres. Prophet may you be!

If I be false, or swerve a hair from truth,
When time is old and hath forgot itself,

When waterdrops have worn the stone of Troy,
And blind oblivion swallow'd cities up,

And Almighty states characterless are grated
To dusty nothing; yet let memory,

From false to false, among false maids in love,
Upbraid my falsehood! when they have said
—as false

As air, as water, wind, or sandy earth,

* Ever. † Met with and equalled.
‡ Comparison. § Conclude it.

As fox to lamb, as wolf to heifer's calf,
Pard to the hind, or stepdame to her son;

Yea let them say, to stick the heart of false-
As false as Cressid. [hood,

Pan. Go to, a bargain made: seal it, seal it;
I'll be the witness.—Here I hold your hand;

here, my cousin's. If ever you prove false one
to another, since I have taken such pains to
bring you together, let all pitiful goers-between
be called to the world's end after my name,
call them all—Pandars; let all constant men
be Troiluses, all false women Cressids, and all
brokers-between Pandars! say, amen.

Tro. Amen.

Cres. Amen.

Pan. Amen. Whereupon I will show you
a chamber and a bed, which bed, because it
shall not speak of your pretty encounters, press
it to death: away.

And Cupid grant all tongue-tied maidens here,
Bed, chamber, Pandar to provide this geer!

[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—The Grecian Camp.

Enter AGAMEMNON, ULYSSES, DIOMEDES, NES-
TOR, AJAX, MENELAUS, and CALCHAS.

Cal. Now, princes for the service I have
done you,

The advantage of the time prompts me aloud
To call for recompense. Appear it to your
mind,

That, though the sight I bear in things, to
Jove

I have abandon'd Troy, left my possession,
Incurr'd a traitor's name; expos'd myself,

From certain and possess'd conveniences,
To doubtful fortunes; sequest'ring from me all

'That time, acquaintance, custom, and con-
dition,

Made tame and most familiar to my nature;
And here, to do you service, am become

As new into the world, strange unacquainted:
I do beseech you, as in way of taste,

To give me now a little benefit,
Out of those many register'd in promise,

Which you say, live to come in my behalf.

Agam. What would'st thou of us, Trojan?
make demand.

Cal. You have a Trojan prisoner, call'd An-
tenor,

Yesterday took; Troy holds him very dear.
Oft have you, (often have you thanks there-
fore,)

Desir'd my Cressid in right great exchange,
Whom Troy hath still denied: But this An-
tenor,

I know, is such a wrest * in their affairs.
That their negotiations all must slack,

Wanting his manage; and they will almost
Give us a prince of blood, a son of Priam,

In change of him: let him be sent, great
princes, [sence

And he shall buy my daughter; and her pre-
shall quite strike off all service I have done,
In most accepted pain.

Agam. Let Diomedes bear him, [have
And bring us Cressid hither: Calchas shall

What he requests of us.—Good Diomed,
Furnish you fairly for this interchange:

Withal, bring word—if Hector will to-morrow
Be answer'd in his challenge: Ajax is ready.

Dio. This shall I undertake; and 'tis a bur-
which I am proud to bear. [den

[Exeunt DIOMEDES and CALCHAS.
* An instrument for tuning harps, &c.

Enter *ACHILLES* and *PATROCLUS*, before their Tent.

Ulyss. Achilles stands i' the entrance of his tent:— [him,

Pleasit' our general to pass strangely* by As if he were forgot; and, princes all, Lay negligent and loose regard upon him: I will come last: 'Tis like, he'll question me, Why such unplausible eyes are bent, why turn'd on him:

If so I have derision med'cinable, To use between your strangeness and his pride, Which his own will shall have desire to drink; It may do good: pride hath no other glass To show itself, but pride; for supple knees Feed arrogance, and are the proud man's fees.

Agam. We'll execute your purpose, and put on

A form of strangeness as we pass along;— So do each lord; and either greet him not, Or else disdainfully, which shall shake him more

Than if not look'd on. I will lead the way.

Achil. What comes the general to speak with me?

You know my mind, I'll fight no more 'gainst Troy.

Agam. What says Achilles? would he ought with us?

Nest. Would you my lord, aught with the general?

Achil. No.

Nest. Nothing, my lord.

Agam. The better.

[*Exeunt* AGAMEMNON and NESTOR.

Achil. Good day, good day.

Men. How do you? how do you? [*Exit* MENELAUS.

Achil. What does the cuckold scorn me?

Ajax. How now, Patroclus?

Achil. Good morrow, Ajax.

Ajax. Ha?

Achil. Good morrow.

Ajax. Ay, and good next day too.

[*Exit* AJAX.

Achil. What means these fellows? Know they not Achilles?

Patr. They pass by strangely: they were us'd to bend,

To send their smiles before them to Achilles; To come as humbly, as they us'd to creep To holy altars.

Achil. What, am I poor of late?

'Tis certain, greatness, once fallen out with fortune, [is,

Must fall out with men too: What the declin'd He shall as soon read in the eyes of others, As feel in his own fall: for men, like butterflies,

Show not their mealy wings, but to the sun— And not a man, for being simply man,

Hath any honour; but honour for those honours

That are without him, as place, riches, favour, Prizes of accident as oft as merit:

Which when they fall, as being slippery standers,

The love that lean'd on them as slippery too, Do one pluck down another, and together

Die in the fall. But 'tis not so with me:

Fortune and I are friends; I do enjoy

At ample point all that I did possess, Save these men's looks; who do, methinks, fud out [ing

Something not worth in me such rich behold-

* Slightly.

As they have often given. Here is Ulysses; I'll interrupt his reading.—

How now, Ulysses?

Ulyss. Now great Thetis' son?

Achil. What are you reading?

Ulyss. A strange fellow here [ed,³³

Writes me, that man—how dearly ever part— How much in having, or without, or in,— Cannot make boast to have that which he hath, Nor feels not what he owes, but by reflection; As when his virtues shining upon others Heat them, and they retort that heat again To the first giver.

Achil. This is not strange, Ulysses.

The beauty that is borne here in the face The bearer knows not, but commends itself To others' eyes: nor doth the eye itself (That most pure spirit of sense,) behold itself, Not going from itself; but eye to eye oppos'd Salutes each other with each other's form. For speculation turns not to itself, Till it hath travell'd, and is married there Where it may see itself: this is not strange at all.

Ulyss. I do not strain at the position, It is familiar; but at the author's drift: Who in his circumstance, † expressly proves— That no man is the lord of any thing, (Though in and of him there be much consisting,)

Till he communicate his parts to others: Nor doth he of himself know them for aught Till he behold them form'd in the applause Where they are extended; which, like an arch, reverberates

The voice again; or like a gate of steel Fronting the sun, receives and renders back His figure and his heat. I was much rapt in this;

And apprehended here immediately

The unknown Ajax,

Heavens, what a man is there! a very horse; That has he knows not what. Nature, what things there are,

Most abject in regard, and dear in use! What things again most dear in the esteem, And poor in worth! Now shall we see to-morrow,

An act that very chance doth throw upon him, Ajax renou'd. O heavens, what some men While some men leave to do!

[do, How some men creep in skittish fortune's hall, Whiles others play the idiots in her eyes!

How one man eats into another's pride, While pride is fasting in his wantonness!

To see these Grecian lords!—why, even already

They clap the lubber Ajax on the shoulder; As if his foot were on brave Hector's breast, And great Troy shrinking.

Achil. I do believe it: for they pass'd by me, As misers do by beggars: neither gave to me Good word, nor look: What, are my deeds forgot?

Ulyss. Time hath, my lord, a wallet at his Wherein he puts alms for oblivion, [back, A great-sized monster of ingratitude: Those scraps are good deeds past which are devour'd

As fast as they are made, forgot as soon As done: Perséverance, dear my lord, Keeps honour bright: To have done, is to hang

Quite out of fashion, like a rusty mail [way; In monumental mockery. Take the instant

† Excellently endowed. † Detail of argument.

For honour travels in a strait so narrow,
Where one but goes abreast: keep then the
For emulation hath a thousand sons, [path;
That one by one pursue: If you give way,
Or hedge aside from the direct forthright,
Like to an enter'd tide, they all rush by,
And leave you hindmost;—

Or, like a gallant horse fallen in first rank,
Lie there for pavement to the abject rear,
O'er-run and trampled on: Then what they do
in present, [yours:

Though less than yours in past, must o'er-top
For time is like a fashionable host,
That slightly shakes his parting guest by the
hand; [fly,

And with his arms out-stretch'd, as he would
Grasp-in the comer: Welcome ever smiles,
And farewell goes out sighing. O, let not vir-
tue seek

Remuneration for the thing it was;
For beauty, wit,

High birth, vigour of bone, desert in service,
Love, friendship, charity, are subjects all
To envious and calumniating time. [kin,—

One touch of nature makes the whole world
That all, with one consent, praise new-born
gawds,* [past;

Though they are made and moulded of things
And give to dust, that is a little gilt,
More laud than gilt o'er-dusted.

The present eye praises the present object:
Then marvel not, thou great and complete man,
That all the Greeks begin to worship Ajax;
Since things in motion sooner catch the eye,
Than what not stirs. The cry went once on
thee,

And still it might; and yet it may again.
If thou would'st not entomb thyself alive,
An case thy reputation in thy tent; [late,
Whose glorious deeds, but in these fields of
Made emulous mission† 'mongst the gods
themselves,

And drove great Mars to faction.

Achil. Of this my privacy
I have strong reasons.

Ulyss. But 'gainst your privacy
The reasons are more potent and heroic:
'Tis known, Achilles, that you are in love
With one of Priam's daughters.‡

Achil. Ha! known?

Ulyss. Is that a wonder?

The providence that's in a watchful state,
Knows almost every grain of Plutus' gold;
Finds bottom in the uncomprehensive deeps;
Keeps place with thought, and almost, like the
gods,

Does thoughts unveil in their dumb cradles.
There is a mystery (with whom relation
Durst never meddle) in the soul of state;
Which hath an operation more divine,
Than breath, or pen, can give expressure to:

All the commerce that you have had with Troy,
As perfectly is ours, as yours, my lord;
And better would it fit Achilles much,
To throw down Hector, than Polyxena:
But it must grieve young Pyrrhus now at home,
When fame shall in our islands sound her
trump;

And all the Greekish girls shall tripping sing,—
Great Hector's sister did Achilles win;
But our great Ajax bravely beat down him.
Farewell, my lord: I as your lover§ speak;
The fool slides o'er the ice that you should
break. [Exit.

Patr. To this effect, Achilles, have I mov'd
A woman impudent and mannish grown [you:
Is not more loath'd than an effeminate man
In time of action. I stand condemn'd for this;
They think, my little stomach to the war,
And your great love to me, restrains you thus:
Sweet, rouse yourself; and the weak wanton

Cupid
Shall from your neck unloose his amorous fold,
And, like a dew-drop from the lion's mane,
Be shook to air,

Achil. Shall Ajax fight with Hector?
Patr. Ay; and, perhaps, receive much hon-
our by him.

Achil. I see, my reputation is at stake;
My fame is shrewdly gor'd.

Patr. O, then beware;
Those wounds heal ill, that men do give them-
Omission to do what is necessary [selves:
Seals a commission to a blank of danger;
And danger, like an ague, subtly taints
Even then when we sit idly in the sun.

Achil. Go call Thersites hither, sweet Pat-
roclus:

I'll send the fool to Ajax, and desire him
To invite the Trojan lords after the combat,
To see us here unarm'd: I have a woman's
An appetite that I am sick withal, [longing,
To see great Hector in his weeds of peace;
To talk with him, and to behold his visage,
Even to my full of view. A labour sav'd!

Enter THERSITES.

Ther. A wonder!

Achil. What?

Ther. Ajax goes up and down the field,
asking for himself.

Achil. How so?

Ther. He must fight singly to-morrow with
Hector; and is so prophetically proud of an
heroical cudgelling, that he raves in saying
nothing.

Achil. How can that be?

Ther. Why, he stalks up and down like a
peacock, a stride, and a stand: ruminates,
like an hostess, that hath no arithmetic but her
brain to set down her reckoning: bites his lip
with a politic regard, as who should say—there
were wit in this head, an 'twould out; and so
there is; but it lies as coldly in him as fire in
a flint, which will not show without knocking.
The man's undone for ever; for if Hector break
not his neck 'the combat, he'll break it himself
in vainglory. He knows not me: I said
Good-morrow, Ajax; and he replies, *Thanks*,
Agamemnon. What think you of this man,
that takes me for the general? He is grown a
very land-fish, languageless, a monster. A
plague of opinion! a man may wear it on
both sides, like a leather jerkin.

Achil. Thou must be my ambassador to
him, Thersites.

Ther. Who, I? why, he'll answer nobody;
he professes not answering; speaking is for
beggars; he wears his tongue in his arms. I
will put on his presence; let Patroclus make
demands to me, you shall see the pageant of
Ajax.

Achil. To him, Patroclus: Tell him,—I
humbly desire the valiant Ajax, to invite the
most valorous Hector to come unarmed to my
tent; and to procure safe conduct for his per-
son, of the magnanimous, and most illustrious,
six-or-seven-times-honoured captain general
of the Grecian army, Agamemnon. Do this.

Patr. Jove bless great Ajax.

Ther. Humph!

* New fashion'd toys. † The descent of the deities
to combat on either side. ‡ Polyxena. § Friend.

Patr. I come from the worthy Achilles,—

Ther. Ha!

Patr. Who most humbly desires you, to invite Hector to his tent!—

Ther. Humph!

Patr. And to procure safe conduct from Agamemnon?

Ther. Agamemnon?

Patr. Ay, my lord.

Ther. Ha!

Patr. What say you to't?

Ther. God be wi' you, with all my heart.

Patr. Your answer, Sir.

Ther. If to-morrow be a fair day, by eleven o'clock it will go one way or other; howsoever, he shall pay for me ere he has me.

Patr. Your answer, Sir.

Ther. Fare you well, with all my heart.

Achil. Why, but he is not in this time, is he?

Ther. No, but he's out o'tune thus. What music will be in him when Hector has knocked out his brains, I know not: But, I am sure, none; unless the fiddler Apollo get his sinews to make catlings* on.

Achil. Come, thou shalt bear a letter to him straight.

Ther. Let me bear another to his horse; for that's the more capab'le creature.

Achil. My mind is troubled, like a fountain stirr'd;

And I myself see not the bottom of it.

[*Exeunt* ACHILLES and PATROCLUS.]

Ther. 'Would the fountain of your mind were clear again, that I might water an ass at it! I had rather be a tick in a sheep, than such a valiant ignorance. [*Exit.*]

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—Troy.—A Street.

Enter, at one side, ÆNEAS and SERVANT, with a Torch; at the other, PARIS, DEIPHOBUS, ANTEHOR, DIOMEDES, and others, with torches.

Par. See, ho! who's that there?

Dei. 'Tis the lord Æneas.

Æne. Is the prince there in person?—

Had I so good occasion to lie long,
As you, prince Paris, nothing but heavenly business

Should rob my bed-mate of my company.

Dio. That's my mind too.—Good morrow, lord Æneas.

Par. A valiant Greek, Æneas; take his hand: Witness the process of your speech, wherein you told—how Diomed a whole week by days, Did haunt you in the field.

Æne. Health to you, valiant Sir,
During all question† of the gentle truce:
But when I meet you arm'd, as black defiance,
As heart can think, or courage execute.

Dio. The one and other Diomed embraces.
Our bloods are now in calm; and, so long,
health:

But when contention and occasion meet,
By Jove, I'll play the hunter for thy life,
With all my force, pursuit, and policy.

Æne. And thou shalt hunt a lion, that will fly

With his face backward.—In humane gentle-
Welcome to Troy! now, by Anchises' life,
Welcome indeed! By Venus' hand I swear,
No man alive can love, in such a sort,
The thing he means to kill more excellently.

Dio. We sympathize:—Jove, let Æneas live,
If to my sword his fate be not the glory,

* Lute-strings made of catgut.

† Intelligent.

‡ Conversation.

A thousand complete courses of the sun!
But, in mine emulous honour, let him die,
With every joint a wound; and that to-mor-
row!

Æne. We know each other well.

Dio. We do; and long to know each other worse.

Par. This is the most despiteful gentle greet-
ing,
The noblest hateful love, that'er I heard of.—
What business, lord, so early?

Æne. I was sent for to the king; but why, I know not.

Par. His purpose meets you; 'Twas to bring this Greek

To Calchas' house; and there to render him,
For the enfréed Antenor, the fair Cressid:
Let's have your company; or, if you please;
Haste there before us: I constantly do think,
(Or, rather, call my thought a certain know-
ledge,)

My brother Troilus lodges there to-night;
Rouse him, and give him note of our approach,
With the whole quality wherefore: I fear,
We shall be much unwelcome.

Æne. That I assure you;
Troilus had rather Troy were borne to Greece;
Than Cressid borne from Troy.

Par. There is no help;
The bitter disposition of the time
Will have it so. On, lord; we'll follow you.

Æne. Good morrow, all. [*Exit.*]

Par. And tell me, noble Diomed; 'faith,
tell me true,
Even in the soul of sound good-fellowship,—
Who, in your thoughts, merits fair Helen best,
Myself, or Menelaus?

Dio. Both alike:

He merits well to have her, that doth seek her
(Not making any scruple of her soilure,
With such a hell of pain, and world of charge;
And you as well to keep her, that defend her
(Not palating the taste of her dishonour,)

With such a costly loss of wealth and friends:
He like a puling cuckold, would drink up
The lees and dregs of a flat tamed piece;
You, like a leecher, out of whorish lions
Are pleas'd to breed out your inheritors:
Both merits pois'd, each weighs nor less nor
more;

But he as he, the heavier for a whore.

Par. You 'are too bitter to your country-
woman.

Dio. She's bitter to her country: Hear me,
Paris,—

For every false drop in her bawdy veins
A Grecian's life hath sunk; for every scruple
Of her contaminated carrion weight, [speak,
A Trojan hath been slain; since she could
She hath not given so many good words' breath,
As for her Greeks and Trojans suffer'd death.

Par. Fair Diomed, you do as chapmen do,
Dispraise the thing that you desire to buy:
But we in silence hold this virtue well,—
We'll not commend what we intend to sell.
Here lies our way. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—The same.—Court before the
House of PANDARUS.

Enter TROIUS and CRESSIDA.

Tro. Dear, trouble not yourself; the morn
is cold.

Cres. Then, sweet my lord, I'll call mine
uncle down;

He shall unbolt the gates.

Tro. Trouble him not:

To bed, to bed: Sleep kill those pretty eyes,
And give as soft attachment to thy senses,
As infants' empty of all thought!

Cres. Good morrow then.

Tro. Pr'ythee now, to bed.

Cres. Are you weary of me?

Tro. O Cressida! but that the busy day,
Wak'd by the lark, hath rous'd the ribald*
crows,

And dreaming night will hide our joys no long-
I would not from thee. [er,

Cres. Night hath been too brief.

Tro. Beshrew the witch! with venomous
wights she stays, [love,
As tediously as hell; but flies the grasps of
With wings more momentary-swift than
You will catch gold, and curse me. [thought.

Cres. Pr'ythee, tarry;—

You men will never tarry.—
O foolish Cressid!—I might have still held off,
And then you would have tarried. Hark!
there's one up.

Pan. [Within.] What, are all the doors open
here?

Tro. It is your uncle.

Enter PANDARUS.

Cres. A pestilence on him? now will he be
mocking:

I shall have such a life,—

Pan. How now, how now! how go maiden-
heads?—Here, you maid! where's my cousin
Cressid?

Cres. Go hang yourself, you naughty mock-
ing uncle! [too.

You bring me to do,† and then you flout me
Pan. To do what? to do what?—let her say
what: what have I brought you to do?

Cres. Come, come; beshrew‡ your heart!
you'll ne'er be good,
Nor suffer others.

Pan. Ha, ha! Alas, poor wretch! a poor ca-
pocchia!§—has not slept to night? would he
not, a naughty man, let it sleep? a bugbear
take him! [Knocking.

Cres. Did I not tell you?—'Would he were
knock'd o'the head!—

Who's that at door? good uncle, go and see.—
My lord, come you again into my chamber:
You smile and mock me, as if I meant naugh-
tily.

Tro. Ha, ha!

Cres. Come, you are deceiv'd, I think of no
such thing.— [Knocking.
How earnestly they knock!—pray you, come
in;

I would not for half Troy have you seen here.

[*Exeunt TROILUS and CRESSIDA.*

Pan. [Going to the door.] Who's there?
what's the matter? will you beat down the
door? How now? what's the matter?

Enter ÆNEAS.

Æne. Good morrow, lord, good morrow.

Pan. Who's there? my lord Æneas? By my
troth, I knew you not: what news with you
so early?

Æne. Is not prince Troilus here?

Pan. Here! What should he do here?

Æne. Come, he is here, my lord, do not deny
him;

It doth import him much, to speak with me.

Pan. Is he here, say you? 'tis more than I
know,

I'll be sworn:—For my own part, I came in
What should he do here? [late:

Æne. Who!—nay, then:— [ware:

Come, come, you'll do him wrong ere you are
You'll be so true to him, to be false to him:
Do not you know of him, yet go fetch him
Go. [hither;

As PANDARUS is going out, enter TROILUS.

Tro. How now? what's the matter?

Æne. My lord, I scarce have leasure to sa-
lute you.

My matter is so rash:* There is at hand
Paris your brother, and Deiphobus,
The grecian Diomed, and our Antenor
Deliver'd to us; and for him forthwith,
Ere the first sacrifice, within this hour.
We must give up to Diomedes' hand
The lady Cressida.

Tro. Is it so concluded?

Æne. By Priam, and the general state of
Troy:

They are at hand and ready to effect it.

Tro. How my achievements mock me!

I will go meet them: and, my lord Æneas,
We met by chance; you did not find me here.

Æne. Good, good, my lord; the secrets of
Have not more gift in taciturnity. [nature

Exeunt TROILUS and ÆNEAS.

Pan. Is't possible? no sooner got, but lost?
The devil take Antenor! the young prince will
go mad. A plague upon Antenor, I would,
they had broke's neck!

Enter CRESSIDA.

Cres. How now? What is the matter? Who
was here?

Pan. Ah, ah!

Cres. Why sigh you so profoundly? where's
my lord gone?

Tell me, sweet uncle, what's the matter?

Pan. 'Would I were as deep under the earth
as I am above?

Cres. O the gods!—what's the matter?

Pan. Pr'ythee, get thee in; 'Would thou
had'st ne'er been born! I knew, thou would'st
be his death:—O poor gentleman!—A plague
upon Antenor!

Cres. Good uncle, I beseech you on my
knees, I beseech you, what's the matter?

Pan. Thou must be gone, wench, thou must
be gone; thou art changed for Antenor: thou
must to thy father, and begone from Troilus;
'twill be his death; 'twill be his bane; he can-
not bear it.

Cres. O you immortal gods!—I will not go.

Pan. Thou must.

Cres. I will not, uncle: I have forgot my fa-
I know no toucht of consanguinity; [ther:
No kin, no love, no blood, no soul so near me,
As the sweet Troilus.—O you gods divine!
Make Cressid's name the very crown of false-
hood, [death,

If ever she leave Troilus! Time, force, and
Do to this body what extremes you can;
But the strong base and building of my love
Is as the very centre of the earth, [weep;—
Drawing all things to it.—I'll go in, and
Pan. Do, do.

Cres. Tear my bright hair, and scratch my
praised cheeks, [heart

Crack my clear voice with sobs, and break my
With sounding Troilus. I will not go from
Troy. [*Exeunt.*

* Loud, noisy. † To do is here used in a wanton sense.
‡ Ill bedide. § An Italian word for poor fool.

* Hasty.

† Sense or feeling of relationship.

SCENE III.—*The same.*—Before PANDARUS' House.

Enter PARIS, TROILUS, ÆNEAS, DEIPHOBUS, ANTENOR, and DIOMEDES.

Par. It is great morning; and the hour pre-Of her delivery to this valiant Greek [fix'd Comes fast upon:—Good my brother Troilus, Tell you the lady what she is to do, And haste her to the purpose.

Tro. Walk in to her house; I'll bring her to the Grecian presently: And to his hand when I deliver her, Think it an altar; and thy brother Troilus A priest, there offering to it his own heart. [Exit.

Par. I know what 'tis to love; And 'would, as I shall pity, I could help!— Please you, walk in, my lords. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—*The same.*—A Room in PANDARUS' House.

Enter PANDARUS and CRESSIDA.

Pan. Be moderate, be moderate.

Cres. Why tell you me of moderation? The grief is fine, full, perfect, that I taste, And violenteth in a sense as strong As that which causeth it: How can I moderate it?

If I could temporize with my affection, Or brew it to a weak and colder palate, The like alleviation could I give my grief: My love admits no qualifying dross: No more my grief in such a precious loss.

Enter TROILUS.

Pan. Here, here, here he comes.—Ah sweet ducks!

Cres. O Troilus! Troilus! [Embracing him.

Pan. What a pair of spectacles is here! Let me embrace too: O heart,—as the goodly saying is,—

—O heart, O heavy heart,
Why sigh'st thou without breaking?

where he answers again,

Because thou canst not ease thy smart,
By friendship, nor by speaking.

There never was a truer rhyme. Let us cast away nothing, for we may live to have need of such a verse; we see it, we see it.—How now, lambs?

Tro. Cressid, I love thee in so strain'd a purity, That the bless'd gods—as angry with my fancy, More bright in zeal than the devotion which Cold lips blow to their deities,—take thee from me.

Cres. Have the gods envy?

Pan. Ay, ay, ay, ay; 'tis too plain a case.

Cres. And is it true, that I must go from Troy?

Tro. A hateful truth.

Cres. What, and from Troilus too?

Tro. From Troy, and Troilus.

Cres. Is it possible?

Tro. And suddenly; where injury of chance Puts back leave-taking, justles roughly by All time of pause, rudely beguiles our lips Of all rejoinders, forcibly prevents [vows Our lock'd embrasures, strangles our dear Even in the birth of our own labouring breath: We two, that with so many thousand sighs Did buy each other, must poorly sell ourselves With the rude brevity and discharge of one.

Injurious time now, with a robber's haste, Crams his rich thievery up, he knows not how; As many farewells as be stars in heaven, With distinct breath and consign'd*, kisses to He fumbles up into a loose adieu; [them, And scants us with a single famish'd kiss, Distasted with the salt of brok'n tears.

Æne. [Within.] My lord? is the lady ready?

Tro. Hark? you are call'd: some say, the Genius so

Cries, *Come!* to him that instantly must die.— Bid them have patience; she shall come anon.

Pan. Where are my tears? rain, to lay this wind, or my heart will be blown up by the root! [Exit PANDARUS.

Cres. I must then to the Greeks?

Tro. No remedy.

Cres. A woeful Cressid 'mongst the merry When shall we see again? [Greeks!]

Tro. Hear me, my love: be thou but true of heart,—

Cres. I true! how now? what wicked deem't is this?

Tro. Nay, we must use expostulation kindly, For it is parting from us:

I speak not, *be thou true*, as fearing thee;

For I will throw my glove to death himself,

That there's no maculation in thy heart:

But *be thou true*, say I, to fashion in

My sequent protestation; be thou true,

And I will see thee.

Cres. O you shall be expos'd, my lord, to dangers

As infinite as imminent! but, I'll be true.

Tro. And I'll grow friend with danger. Wear this sleeve.

Cres. And you this glove. When shall I see you?

Tro. I will corrupt the Grecian sentinels, To give thee nightly visitation.

But yet, be true.

Cres. O heavens!—be true again.

Tro. Hear why I speak it, love;

The Grecian youths are full of quality;† They're loving, well compos'd, with gifts of nature flowing,

And swelling o'er with arts and exercise; How novelty may move, and parts with person.

Alas, a kind of godly jealousy

(Which I beseech you, call a virtuous sin,) Makes me afraid.

Cres. O heavens! you love me not.

Tro. Die I a villain then!

In this I do not call your faith in question,

So mainly as my merit: I cannot sing,

Nor heal the high lavolt,** nor sweeten talk,

Nor play at subtle games; fair virtues all,

To which the Grecians are most prompt and pregnant:

But I can tell, that in each grace of these

There lurks a still and dumb-discursive devil,

That tempts most cunningly: but be not tempted.

Cres. Do you think I will?

Tro. No.

But something may be done, that we will not:

And sometimes we are devils to ourselves,

When we will tempt the frailty of our powers,

Presuming on their changeful potency.

Æne. [Within.] Nay, good my lord,—

Tro. Come, kiss; and let us part.

Par. [Within.] Brother Troilus!

* Sealed. † Interrupted.

‡ Surmise.

§ Spot.

|| Following.

¶ Highly accomplished.

** A dance.

Tro. Good brother, come you hither;
And bring Æneas, and the Grecian, with you.
Cres. My lord, will you be true?

Tro. Who, I? alas, it is my vice, my fault:
While others fish with craft for great opinion,
I with great truth catch mere simplicity;
Whilst some with cunning gold their copper
crowns,

With truth and plainness I do wear mine bare.
Fear not my truth; the moral of my wit
Is—plain, and true,—there's all the reach of it.

*Enter ÆNEAS, PARIS, ANTENOR, DEIPHOBUS,
and DIOMEDES.*

Welcome, Sir Diomed! here is the lady,
Which for Antenor we deliver you:
At the port,* lord, I'll give her to thy hand;
And, by the way, possess't thee what she is.
Entreat her fair; and, by my soul, fair Greek,
If e'er thou stand at mercy of my sword,
Name Cressid, and thy life shall be as safe
As Priam is in Ilium.

Dio. Fair lady Cressid, [pects:
So please you, save the thanks this prince ex-
The lustre in your eye, heaven in your cheek,
Pleads your fair usage; and to Diomed [ly.
You shall be mistress and command him whol-

Tro. Grecian, thou dost not use me courte-
ously,

To shame the zeal of my petition to thee,
In praising her: I tell thee, lord of Greece,
She is as far high-soaring o'er thy praises,
As thou unworthy to be call'd her servant.
I charge thee, use her well, even for my charge;
For, by the dreadful Pluto, if thou dost not,
Though the great bulk Achilles be thy guard,
I'll cut thy throat.

Dio. O, be not mov'd, prince Troilus:
Let me be privileg'd by my place, and message,
To be a speaker free; when I am hence,
I'll answer to my lust:‡ And know you, lord,
I'll nothing do on charge: To her own worth
She shall be priz'd; but that you say—be't so,
I'll speak it in my spirit and honour,—no.

Tro. Come, to the port.—I'll tell thee, Dio-
med, [head.—
This brave shall oft make thee to hide thy
lady, give me your hand; and, as we walk,
To our own selves bend we our needful talk.

[*Exit* TROILUS, CRESSIDA, and DIOMEDES.
[*Trumpet heard.*

Par. Hark! Hector's trumpet.

Æne. How have we spent this morning!
The prince must think me tardy and remiss,
That swore to ride before him to the field.

Par. 'Tis Troilus' fault: Come, come, to
field with him.

Dei. Let us make ready straight.

Æne. Yea, with a bridegroom's freshalacrity,
Let us address to tend on Hector's heels:
The glory of our Troy doth this day lie,
On his fair worth and single chivalry.

[*Exit.*

SCENE V.—*The Grecian Camp.—Lists set
out.*

*Enter AJAX, armed; AGAMENNON, ACHILLES,
PATROCLUS, MENELAUS, ULYSSES, NESTOR,
and others.*

Agam. Here art thou in appointment§ fresh
and fair,
Anticipating time with starting courage.
Give with thy trumpet a loud note to Troy,

* Gate.

‡ Pleasure, will.

† Inform.

§ Preparation.

Thou dreadful Ajax; that the appalled air
May pierce the head of the great combatant,
And hale him thither.

Ajax. Thou, trumpet, there's my purse.
Now crack thy lungs, and split thy brazen pipe,
Blow, villain, till thy spher'd bias cheek
Out-swell the colic of puff'd Aquilon:
Come, stretch thy chest, and let thy eyes spout
blood;

Thou blow'st for Hector. [*Trumpet sounds.*

Ulyss. No trumpet answers.

Achil. 'Tis but early days.

Agam. Is not yon Diomed, with Calchas'
daughter?

Ulyss. 'Tis he, I ken the manner of his gait;
He rises on the toe: that spirit of his
In aspiration lifts him from the earth.

Enter DIOMEDES, with CRESSIDA.

Agam. Is this the lady Cressid?

Dio. Even she.

Agam. Most dearly welcome to the Greeks,
sweet lady.

Nest. Our general doth salute you with a
kiss.

Ulyss. Yet is the kindness but particular;
'Twere better, she were kiss'd in general.

Nest. And very courtly counsel: I'll begin.—
So much for Nestor.

Achil. I'll take that winter from your lips,
fair lady:

Achilles bids you welcome.

Men. I had good argument for kissing once.

Patr. But that's no argument for kissing
now:

For thus popp'd Paris in his hardiment;
And parted thus you and your argument.

Ulyss. O deadly gall, and theme of all our
scorns!

For which we lose our heads to gild his horns.

Patr. The first was Menelaus' kiss;—this,
Patroclus kisses you. [mine:

Men. O, this is trim!

Patr. Paris, and I, kiss evermore for him.

Men. I'll have my kiss, Sir:—Lady, by
your leave.

Cres. In kissing do you render or receive?

Patr. Both take and give.

Cres. I'll make my match to live,

The kiss you take is better than you give
Therefore no kiss.

Men. I'll give you boot, I'll give you three
for one.

Cres. You're an odd man; give even, or
give none.

Men. An odd man, lady? every man is odd.

Cres. No, Paris is not; for, you know, 'tis
true,

That you are odd, and he is even with you.

Men. You fillip me o'the head.

Cres. No, I'll be sworn.

Ulyss. It were no match, your nail against
his horn.—

May I, sweet lady, beg a kiss of you?

Cres. You may.

Ulyss. I do desire it.

Cres. Why, beg then.

Ulyss. Why then, for Venus' sake, give me
a kiss,

When Helen is a maid again, and his.

Cres. I am your debtor, claim it when tis
due.

Ulyss. Never's my day, and then a kiss of
you.

Dio. Lady, a word;—I'll bring you to your
father. [*DIOMEDES leads out CRESSIDA.*

Nest. A woman of quick sense.

Ulyss. Fie, fie upon her!

There's language in her eye, her cheek, her lip,
Nay, her foot speaks; her wanton spirits look
At every joint and motive* of her body. [out
O, these encounterers, so glib of tongue,
That give a coasting welcome ere it comes,
And wide unclasp the tables of their thoughts
To every ticklish reader! set them down
For sluttish spoils of opportunity,
And daughters of the game. [*Trumpet within.*

All. The Trojan's trumpet.

Agam. Yonder comes the troop.

Enter HECTOR, armed; ÆNEAS, TROIUS, and
other Trojans, with Attendants.

Æne. Hail, all the state of Greece! what
shall be done

[pose,

To him that victory commands? Or do you pur-
A victor shall be known? will you, the knights
Shall to the edge of all extremity
Pursue each other; or shall they be divided
By any voice or order of the field?
Hector bade ask.

Agam. Which way would Hector have it?

Æne. He cares not, he'll obey conditions.

Achil. 'Tis done like Hector; but securely
done,

A little proudly, and great deal misprising
The knight oppos'd.

Æne. If not Achilles, Sir,

What is your name?

Achil. If not Achilles, nothing.

Æne. Therefore, Achilles: But, whate'er,
know this;—

In the extremity of great and little,
Valour and pride excels themselves in Hector;
The one almost as infinite as all,
The other blank as nothing. Weigh him well,
And that, which looks like pride, is courtesy.
This Ajax is half made of Hector's blood:
In love whereof, half Hector stays at home;
Halfheart, half hand, half Hector comes to seek
This blended knight, half Trojan, and half
Greek.

Achil. A maiden battle then?—O, I per-
ceive you.

Re-enter DIOMED.

Agam. Here is Sir Diomed:—Go, gentle
knight,

Stand by our Ajax: as you and lord Æneas
Consent upon the order of their fight,
So be it; either to the uttermost,
Or else a breath,† the combatants being kin,
Half stints‡ their strife before their strokes
begin.

[AJAX and HECTOR enter the lists.

Ulyss. They are oppos'd already.

Agam. What Trojan is that same that looks
so heavy?

Ulyss. The youngest son of Priam, a true
knight;

Not yet mature, yet matchless; firm of word;
Speaking in deeds, and deedless§ in his tongue;
Not soon provok'd, nor, being provok'd, soon
calm'd:

His heart and hand both open, and both free;
For what he has, he gives, what thinks, he
shows;

Yet gives he not till judgment guide his bounty,
Nor dignifies an impain|| thought with breath:
Manly as Hector, but more dangerous;
For Hector, in his blaze of wrath, subscribes¶

To tender objects; but he, in heat of action;
Is more vindicative than jealous love:

They call him Troilus; and on him erect
A second hope, as fairly built as Hector.
Thus says Æneas; one that knows the youth
Even to his inches, and, with private soul,
Did in great Ilion thus translate* him to me.

[*Alarum.* HECTOR and AJAX fight:

Agam. They are in action.

Nest. Now, Ajax, hold thine own!

Tro. Hector, thou sleep'st;

Awake thee!

Agam. His blows are well dispos'd:—there,
Ajax!

Dio. You must no more. [*Trumpets cease.*

Æne. Princes, enough, so please you.

Ajax. I am not warm yet, let us fight again.

Dio. As Hector pleases.

Hect. Why then, will I no more:—

Thou art, great lord, my father's sister's son,
A cousin-german to great Priam's seed;
The obligation of our blood forbids
A gory† emulation 'twixt us twain:

Were they commixtion Greek and Trojan so,
That thou could'st say—*This hand is Grecian
And this is Trojan; the sinews of this leg [all,
All Greek, and this all Troy; my mother's blood
Runs on the dexter‡ cheek, and this sinister§
Bounds in my father's; by Jove multipotent,
Thou should'st not bear from me a Greekish
member*

Wherein my sword had not impresse made
Of our rank feud: But the just gods gainsay,
Than any drop thou borrow'st from thy mother,
My sacred aunt, should by my mortal sword
Be drain'd! Let me embrace thee, Ajax:
By him that thunders, thou hast lusty arms;
Hector would have them fall upon him thus:
Cousin, all honour to thee!

Ajax. I thank thee, Hector:

Thou art too gentle, and too free a man:
I came to kill thee, cousin, and bear hence
A great addition|| earned in thy death.

Hect. Not Neoptolemus¶ so mirable
(On whose bright crest Fame with her loud'st
O yes

Cries, *This is he,*) could promise to himself
A thought of added honour torn from Hector.

Æne. There is expectation here from both
What further you will do. [the sides,

Hect. We'll answer it;

The issue is embracement:—Ajax, farewell.

Ajax. If I might in entreaties find success,
(As sell'd** I have the chance,) I would desire
My famous cousin to our Grecian tents.

Dio. 'Tis Agamemnon's wish: and great
Achilles

Doth long to see unarm'd the valiant Hector.

Hect. Æneas, call my brother Troilus to me:
And signify this loving interview

To the expecters of our Trojan part; [sin;
Desire them home.—Give me thy hand, my cou-
I will go eat with thee, and see your knights.

Ajax. Great Agamemnon comes to meet
us here.

Hect. The worthiest of them tell me name
by name;

But for Achilles, my own searching eyes
Shall find him by his large and portly size.

Agam. Worthy of arms! as welcome as to
That would be rid of such an enemy; [one
But that's no welcome: Understand more clear,
What's past, and what's to come, is strew'd
with husks

* Motion. † Breathing, exercise. ‡ Stops.

§ No booster. || Unsuitable to his character.

¶ Yields, gives way.

* Explain his character. † Bloody.

‡ Right. § Left. || Title. ¶ Achilles. ** Seidom.

And formless ruin of oblivion ;
But in this extant moment, faith and troth,
Strain'd purely from all hollow bias drawing,
Bids thee, with most divine integrity,
From heart of very heart, great Hector, welcome.

Hect. I thank thee, most imperious* Agamemnon.

Agam. My well fam'd lord of Troy, no less to you. [To TROILUS.]

Men. Let me confirm my princely brother's greeting ;—

You brace of warlike brothers, welcome hither.

Hect. Whom must we answer ?

Men. The noble Menelaus.

Hect. O you, my lord ? by Mars his gauntlet, thanks !

Mock not, that I affect the untraded† oath ;
Your *quondam*‡ wife swears still by Venus' glove : [you.]

She's well, but bade me not commend her to
Men. Name her not now, Sir ; she's a deadly theme.

Hect. O pardon ; I offend.

Nest. I have, thou gailant Trojan, seen thee
Labouring for destiny, make cruel way [oft,
Through ranks of Greckish youth : and I have seen thee,

As hot as Perseus, spur thy Phrygian steed,
Despising many forfeits and subduements,
When thou hast hung thy advanced sword
i' the air,

Not letting it decline on the declin'd ;§

That I have said to some my standers-by,

Lo, Jupiter is yonder, dealing life !

And I have seen thee pause, and take thy
breath, [in,

When that a ring of Greeks have hemm'd thee
Like an Olympian wrestling : This have I seen,
But this thy countenance, still lock'd in steel,
I never saw till now. I knew thy grandsire,||
And once fought with him : he was a soldier
good ;

But, by great Mars, the captain of us all,
Never like thee : Let an old man embrace thee ;
And worthy warrior, welcome to our tents.

Æne. 'Tis the old Nestor.

Hect. Let me embrace thee, good old chronicle, [time :—

That hast so long walk'd hand in hand with
Most reverend Nestor, I am glad to clasp thee.

Nest. I would my arms could match thee in
contention,

As they contend with thee in courtesy.

Hect. I would they could.

Nest. Ha ! [row.

By this white beard, I'd fight wit thee to-mor-
Well, welcome, welcome ! I have seen the time.

Ulyss. I wonder now how yonder city stands,
When we have here her base and pillar by us.

Hect. I know your favour, lord Ulysses, well.
Ah, Sir, there's many a Greek and Trojan dead,
Since first I saw yourself and Diomed
In Ilium, on your Greekish embassy.

Ulyss. Sir I foretold you then what would
ensue :

My prophecy is but half his journey yet ;
For yonder walls, that perty front your town,
Yon towers, whose wanton tops do buss the
Most kiss their own feet. [clouds,

Hect. I must not believe you :

There they stand yet ; and modestly I think,
The fall of every Phrygian stone will cost
A drop of Grecian blood : The end crowns all ;

* Imperial. † Singular, not common. ‡ Heretofore
§ Fallen || Laomedon.

And that old common arbitrator, time,
Will one day end it.

Ulyss. So to him we leave it. [come.

Most gentle, and most valiant Hector, wel-
After the general, I beseech you next
To feast with me, and see me at my tent.

Achil. I shall forestall thee, lord Ulysses
thou !—

Now, Hector, I have fed mine eyes on thee ;
I have with exact view perus'd thee, Hector,
And quoted* joint by joint.

Hect. Is this Achilles ?

Achil. I am Achilles.

Hect. Stand fair, I pray thee : let me look on
thee.

Achil. Behold thy fill.

Hect. Nay, I have done already.

Achil. Thou art too brief ; I will the second
time,

As I would buy thee, view thee limb by limb.

Hect. O, like a book of sport thou'lt read me
o'er ;

But there's more in me than thou understand'st.
Why dost thou so oppress me with thine eye ?

Achil. Tell me, you heavens, in which part
of his body [there ?

Shall I destroy him ? whether there, there, or
That I may give the local wound a name ;
And make distinct the very breach whereout
Hector's great spirit flew : Answer me, heavens !

Hect. It would discredit the bless'd gods,
proud man,

To answer such a question : Stand again :

Think'st thou to catch my life so pleasantly,

As to prenominate† in nice conjecture,

Where thou wilt hit me dead ?

Achil. I tell thee, yea.

Hect. Wert thou an oracle to tell me so,
I'd not believe thee. Henceforth guard thee
well ; [there ;

For I'll not kill thee there, nor there, nor
But, by the forge that stithied‡ Mars his helm,
I'll kill thee every where, yea, o'er and o'er.—

You wisest Grecians, pardon me this brag,
His insolence draws folly from my lips ;
But I'll endeavour deeds to match these words,
Or may I never—

Ajax. Do not chafe thee, cousin ;—

And you, Achilles, let these threats alone,
Till accident or purpose bring you to't :
You may have every day enough of Hector,
If you have stomach ;§ the general state, I fear
Can scarce entreat you to be odd with him.

Hect. I pray you, let us see you in the field ;
We have had pelting|| wars, since you refus'd
The Grecians' cause.

Achil. Dost thou entreat me, Hector ?

To-morrow, do I meet thee, fell as death ;

To-night, all friends.

Hect. Thy hand upon that match.

Agam. First, all you peers of Greece go to
my tent ;

There in the full convive¶ we : afterwards,
As Hector's leisure and your bounties shall
Concur together, severally entreat him.—
Beat loud the tabourines,** let the trumpets
blow,

That this great soldier may his welcome know.

[*Exeunt all but TROILUS and ULYSSES.*

Tro. My lord Ulysses, tell me, I beseech you,
In what place of the field doth Calchas keep ?

Ulyss. At Menelaus' tent, most princely
Troilus :

* Observed.

† Forename.

‡ Stithy, is a smith's shop.

§ Inclination. || Petty.

¶ Feast.

** Small drums.

There Diomed doth feast with him to-night;
Who neither looks upon the heaven, nor earth,
But gives all gaze and bent of amorous view
On the fair Cressid.

Tro. Shall I, sweet lord, be bound to you so much,

After we part from Agamemnon's tent,
To bring me thither?

Ulyss. You shall command me, Sir.
As gentle tell me, of what honour was
This Cressida in Troy? Had she no lover there
That waits her absence?

Tro. O, Sir, to such as boasting show their scars,

A mock is due. Will you walk on, my lord?
She was belov'd, she lov'd; she is, and doth:
But, still, sweet love is foed for fortune's tooth;

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT V.

SCENE I.—*The Grecian Camp.—Before
ACHILLES' Tent.*

Enter ACHILLES and PATROCLUS.

Achil. I'll heat his blood with Greekish wine
to-night,

Which with my scimitar I'll cool to-morrow.—
Patroclus, let us feast him to the height.

Patr. Here comes Thersites.

Enter THERSITES.

Achil. How now, thou core of envy?
Thou crusty batch of nature, what's the news?

Ther. Why, thou picture of what thou seemest,
and idol of idiot-worshippers, here's a letter
for thee.

Achil. From whence, fragment?

Ther. Why, thou full dish of fool, from Troy.

Patr. Who keeps the tent now?

Ther. The surgeon's box, or the patient's
wound.

Patr. Well said, Adversity!* and what need
these tricks?

Ther. Pr'ythee be silent, boy; I profit not by
thy talk: thou art thought to be Achilles' male
varlet.

Patr. Male varlet, you rogue! what's that?

Ther. Why, his masculine whore. Now the
rotten diseases of the south, the guts-gripping,
ruptures, catarrhs, loads o' gravel i'the back,
lethargies, cold palsies, raw eyes, dirt-rotten
livers, wheezing lungs, bladders full of imposthume,
sciaticas, limekilns i'the palm, incurable
bone-ache, and the rivelled fee-simple of the
tetter; take and take again such preposterous
discoveries!

Patr. Why thou damnable box of envy, thou,
what meanest thou to curse thus?

Ther. Do I curse thee?

Patr. Why, no, you ruinous butt; you whose-
son indistinguishable cur, no.

Ther. No? why art thou then exasperate,
thou idle immaterial skein of sleivet silk, thou
green saracen flap for a sore eye, thou tassel
of a prodigal's purse, thou? Ah, how the poor
world is pestered with such water-flies; dimi-
natives of nature!

Patr. Out, gall!

Ther. Finch egg!

Achil. My sweet Potroclus, I am thwarted
quite

From my great purpose in to-morrow's battle.
Here is a letter from queen Hecuba;

A token from her daughter, my fair love;

Both taxing me, and gaging me to keep [it:
An oath that I have sworn. I will not break
Fall, Greeks; fail, fame; honour, or go, or
stay;

My major vow lies here, this I'll obey.

Come, come, Thersites, help to trim my tent.

This night in banquetting must all be spent.

Away, Patroclus.

[*Exeunt* ACHILLES and PATROCLUS.

Ther. With too much blood, and too little
brain, these two may run mad; but if with too
much brain, and too little blood, they do, I'll
be a curer of madmen. Here's Agamemnon,
—an honest fellow enough, and one that loves
quails;* but he has not so much brain as ear-
wax: And the goodly transformation of Jupi-
ter there, his brother, the bull,—the primitive
statue, and oblique memorial of cuckolds;† a
thrifty shoeing-horn in a chain, hanging at his
brother's leg,—to what form, but that he is,
should wit larded with malice, and malice
forced‡ with wit, turn him to? To an ass,
were nothing; he is both ass and ox: to an ox
were nothing; he is both ox and ass. To be a
dog, a mule, a cat, a fitchew,§ a toad, a lizard,
an owl, a puttock, or a herring without a row,
I would not care: but to be Menelaus,—I
would conspire against destiny. Ask me not
what I would be, if I were not Thersites; for
I care not to be the louse of a lazar,|| so I were
not Menelaus.—Hey-day! spirits and fires!

Enter HECTOR, TROILUS, AJAX, AGAMEMNON,
ULYSSES, NESTOR, MENELAUS, and DIOMED,
with Lights.

Agam. We go wrong, we go wrong.

Ajax. No, yonder 'tis;

There, where we see the lights.

Hect. I trouble you.

Ajax. No, not a whit.

Ulyss. Here comes himself to guide you.

Enter ACHILLES.

Achil. Welcome, brave Hector; welcome,
princes all.

Agam. So now, fair prince of Troy, I bid
good night.

Ajax commands the guard to tend on you.

Hect. Thanks, and good night to the
Greeks' general.

Men. Good night, my lord.

Hect. Good night, sweet Menelaus.

Ther. Sweet draught:¶ Sweet, quoth 'a!
sweet sink, sweet sewer.

Achil. Good night,

And welcome, both to those that go, or tarry.

Agam. Good night.

[*Exeunt* AGAMEMNON and MENELAUS.

Achil. Old Nestor tarries; and you too, Dio-
Keep Hector company an hour or two. [med,
Dio. I cannot, lord; I have important busi-
ness, [Hector.

The tide whereof is now.—Good night, great

Hect. Give me your hand.

Ulyss. Follow his torch, he goes

To Calchas' tent; I'll keep you company.

[*Aside* to TROILUS.

Tro. Sweet Sir, you honour me.

Hect. And so good night.

[*Exit* DIOMED; ULYSSES and TROILUS
following.

Achil. Come, come, enter my tent.

[*Exeunt* ACHILLES, HECTOR, AJAX, and
NESTOR.

* Harlots.

† Menelaus.

‡ Stuffed.

§ Polecat.

¶ A diseased beggar.

¶ Privy

* Contrariety.

† Coarse, unwrought.

Ther. That same Diomed's a false hearted rogue, a most unjust knave; I will no more trust him when he leers, than I will a serpent when he hisses: he will spend his mouth, and promise, like a Brabler the hound; but when he performs, astronomers foretell it; it is prodigious,* there will come some change; the sun borrows of the moon, when Diomed keeps his word. I will rather leave to see Hector, than not to dog him: they say, he keeps a Trojan drab, and uses the traitor Calchas' tent: I'll after.—Nothing but lechery! all incontinent varlets! [Exit.]

SCENE II.—*The same.*—*Before CALCHAS' Tent.*

Enter DIOMEDES.

Dio. What are you up here, ho? speak.

Cal. [Within.] Who calls?

Dio. Diomed.—Calchas, I think.—Where's your daughter?

Cal. [Within.] She comes to you.

Enter TROILUS and ULYSSES, at a distance; after them THERSITES.

Ulyss. Stand where the torch may not discover us.

Enter CRESSIDA.

Tro. Cressid come forth to him!

Dio. How now, my charge?

Cres. Now, my sweet guardian!—Hark! a word with you. [Whispers.]

Tro. Yea, so familiar!

Ulyss. She will sing any man at first sight.

Ther. And any man may sing her, if he can take her cliff; † she's noted.

Dio. Will you remember?

Cres. Remember? yes.

Dio. Nay, but do then;

And let your mind be coupled with your words.

Tro. What should she remember?

Ulyss. List!

Cres. Sweet honey Greek, tempt me no more to folly.

Ther. Roguery!

Dio. Nay, then,—

Cres. I'll tell you what:

Dio. Pho! pho! come, tell a pin: You are forsworn.—

Cres. In faith, I cannot: What would you have me do?

Ther. A juggling trick, to be—secretly open.

Dio. What did you swear you would bestow on me?

Cres. I pr'ythe, do not hold me to mine oath; Bid me do any thing but that, sweet Greek.

Dio. Good night.

Tro. Hold, patience!

Ulyss. How, now, Trojan?

Cres. Diomed,—

Dio. No, no, good night: I'll be your fool no more.

Tro. Thy better must.

Cres. Hark! one word in your ear.

Tro. O plague and madness!

Ulyss. You are mov'd, prince; let us depart, I pray you,

Lest your displeasure should enlarge itself To wrathful terms: this place is dangerous; The time right deadly; I beseech you, go.

Tro. Behold, I pray you!

Ulyss. Now, good my lord, go off:

You flow to great destruction: come, my lord.

Tro I pr'ythee, stay.

Ulyss. You have not patience; come.

Tro. I pray you, stay; by hell, and all hell's torments,

I will not speak a word.

Dio. And so, good night.

Cres. Nay, but you part in anger.

Tro. Doth that grieve thee?

O wither'd truth!

Ulyss. Why, how now, lord?

Tro. By Jove,

I will be patient.

Cres. Guardian!—why, Greek!

Dio. Pho, pho! adieu; you palter.*

Cres. In faith, I do not; come hither once again.

Ulyss. You shake, my lord, at something; will you go?

You will break out.

Tro. She strokes his cheek!

Ulyss. Come, come.

Tro. Nay, stay; by Jove, I will not speak a word:

There is between my will and all offences A guard of patience:—stay a little while.

Ther. How the Devil luxury, with his fat rump, and potatoe finger, tickles these together! Fry, lechery, fry!

Dio. But will you then?

Cres. In faith, I will, la; never trust me else.

Dio. Give me some token for the surety of it.

Cres. I'll fetch you one. [Exit.]

Ulyss. You have sworn patience.

Tro. Fear me not, my lord;

I will not be myself, nor have cognition

Of what I feel; I am all patience.

Re-enter CRESSIDA.

Ther. Now the pledge; now, now, now!

Cres. Here, Diomed, keep this sleeve.

Tro. O beauty! where's thy faith?

Ulyss. My lord,—

Tro. I will be patient; outwardly I will.

Cres. You look upon that sleeve; Behold it well.—

He loved me—O false wench! Giv't me again.

Dio. Who was't?

Cres. No matter, now I hav't again.

I will not meet with you to-morrow night:

I pr'ythee Diomed, visit me no more.

Ther. Now she sharpens;—Well said, whetstone.

Dio. I shall have it.

Cres. What, this?

Dio. Ay, that.

Cres. O, all you gods!—O pretty pretty pledge!

Thy master now lies thinking in his bed Of thee, and me; and sighs, and takes my glove,

And gives memorial dainty kisses to it, [me; As I kiss thee,—Nay, do not snatch it from He, that takes that, must take my heart withal.

Dio. I had your heart before, this follows it.

Tro. I did swear patience.

Cres. You shall not have it, Diomed; 'faith you shall not;

I'll give you something else.

Dio. I will have this; Whose was it?

Cres. 'Tis no matter.

Dio. Come, tell me whose it was.

Cres. 'Twas one's that loved me better than you will.

But, now you have it, take it.

Dio. Who's was it?

* Portentous, ominous.

† Key.

* Shuffe.

† Knowledge.

Cres. By all Diana's waiting-women yonder,*
And by herself, I will not tell you whose.

Dio. To-morrow will I wear it on my helm;
And grieve his spirit that dares not challenge it.

Tro. Wert thou the devil, and wor'st on thy
It should be challenged. [horn,

Cres. Well, well, 'tis done, 'tis past;—And
yet it is not;

I will not keep my word.

Dio. Why then, farewell;
Thou never shalt mock Diomed again.

Cres. You shall not go:—One cannot speak
a word,

But it straight starts you.

Dio. I do not like thy fooling.

Ther. Nor I, By Pluto: but that that likes
not you, pleases me best.

Dio. What, shall I come? the hour?

Cres. Ay, come:—O Jove!—

Do come:—I shall be plagu'd.

Dio. Farewell till then.

Cres. Good night. I pr'ythee come.—

[Exit DIOMEDES.

Troilus, farewell! one eye yet looks on thee;
But with my heart the other eye doth see.

Ah! poor our sex! this fault in us I find,

The error of our eye directs our mind:

What error leads, must err; O then conclude,
Minds, sway'd by eyes, are full of turpitude.

[Exit CRESSIDA.

Ther. A proof of strength she could not
publish more,

Unless she said, My mind is now turn'd whore.

Ulyss. All's done, my lord.

Tro. It is.

Ulyss. Why stay we then?

Tro. To make a recordation† to my soul

Of every syllable that here was spoke.

But, if I tell how these two did co-act

Shall I not lie in publishing a truth?

Sith† yet there is a credence‡ in my heart,

An esperance‡ so obstinately strong,

That doth invert the attest‡ of eyes and ears;

As if those organs had deceptive functions,

Created only to calumniate.

Was Cressid here?

Ulyss. I cannot conjure, Trojan.

Tro. She was not sure.

Ulyss. Most sure she was.

Tro. Why, my negation** hath no taste of
madness.

Ulyss. Nor mine, my lord: Cressid was here
but now.

Tro. Let it not be believ'd for womanhood!††

Think, we had mothers; do not give advantage

To stubborn critics††—apt, without a theme,
For depravation,—to square the general sex
By Cressid's rule: rather think this not Cressid.

Ulyss. What hath she done, prince, that can
soil our mothers?

Tro. Nothing at all, unless that this were
she.

Ther. Will he swagger himself out on's own
eyes?

Tro. This she? no, this is Diomed's Cres-
id! If beauty have a soul, this is not she; [sida:
If souls guide vows, if vows be sanctimony,
If sanctimony be the gods' delight,
If there be rule in unity itself,
This was not she. O madness of discourse,
That cause sets up with and against itself!
Bifold authority! where reason can revolt

* The stars.

† Remembrance.

‡ Since.

§ Belief.

|| Hope.

¶ Testimony.

** Denial.

†† For the sake of

‡‡ Cynics.

Without perdition, and loss assume all reason
Without revolt; this is, and is not, Cressid!

Within my soul there doth commence a fight
Of this strange nature, that a thing inseparate

Divides more wider than the sky and earth;
And yet the spacious breadth of this division

Admits no orifice for a point, as subtle
As is Arachne's broken woof, to enter.

Instance, O instance! strong as Pluto's gates;
Cressid is mine, tied with the bonds of hea-
ven:

Instance, O instance! strong as heaven itself;
The bonds of heaven are slipp'd, dissolv'd, and
loos'd;

And with another knot, five-finger tied,
The fractions of her faith, orts of her love,

The fragments, scraps, the bits, and greasy
reliques

Of her o'er-eaten faith, are bound to Diomed.

Ulyss. May worthy Troilus be half attach'd
With that which here his passion doth express?

Tro. Ay, Greek; and that shall be divulged
In characters as red as Mars his heart [well
Inflam'd with Venus: never did young man
fancy*

With so eternal and so fix'd a soul.

Hark, Greek;—As much as I do Cressid love,
So much by weight hate I her Diomed:

That sleeve is mine, that he'll bear on his helm;
Were it a casquet compos'd by Vulcan's skill,
My sword should bite it: not the dreadful
spout,

Which shipmen do the hurricane call
Constring'd† in mass by the almighty sun,
Shall dizzy with more clamour Neptune's ear
In his descent, than shall my prompted sword
Falling on Diomed.

Ther. He'll tickle it for his concupy.§

Tro. O Cressid! O false Cressid! false,
false, false!

Let all untruths stand by thy stained name,
And they'll seem glorious.

Ulyss. O, contain yourself;
Your passion draws ears hither.

Enter ÆNEAS.

Æne. I have been seeking you this hour,
my lord;

Hector, by this, is arming him in Troy;
Ajax, your guard, stays to conduct you home.

Tro. Have with you, prince:—My courte-
ous lord adieu:

Farewell, revolted fair!—and, Diomed,
Stand fast, and wear a castle on thy head!

Ulyss. I'll bring you to the gates.

Tro. Accept distracted thanks.

[Exit TROIUS, ÆNEAS, and ULYSSES.

Ther. 'Would I could meet that rogue Dio-
med! I would croak like a raven; I would
bode, I would bode. Patroclus will give me
any thing for the intelligence of this whore:
the parrot will not do more for an almond,
than he for a commodious drab. Lechery,
lechery; still, wars and lechery; nothing else
holds fashion: A burning devil take them!
[Exit.

SCENE III.—Troy.—Before PRIAM'S Palace.

Enter HECTOR and ANDROMACHE.

And. When was my lord so much ungently
temper'd,

To stop his ears against admonishment?

Unarm, unarm, and do not fight to-day.

* Love.

† Helmet.

‡ Compressed:

§ Concupiscence.

Hect. You train me to offend you; get you
By all the everlasting gods, I'll go. [in:

And. My dreams will, sure, prove ominous
to the day.

Hect. No, more, I say.

Enter CASSANDRA.

Cas. Where is my brother Hector?

And. Here, sister; arm'd, and bloody in
intent:

Consort with me in loud and dear petition,
Pursue we him on knees: for I have dream'd
Of bloody turbulence, and this whole night
Hath nothing been but shapes and forms of
slaughter.

Cas. O, it is true.

Hect. Ho! bid my trumpet sound!

Cas. No notes of sally, for the heavens
sweet brother.

Hect. Begone, I say: the gods have heard
me swear.

Cas. The gods are deaf to hot and peevish*
vows:

They are polluted offerings, more abhor'd
Than spotted livers in the sacrifice.

And. O! be persuaded: Do not count it
holy

To hurt by being just: it is as lawful,
For we would give much, to use violent thefts,
And rob in the behalf of charity.

Cas. It is the purpose that makes strong the
vow;

But vows, to every purpose, must not hold:
Unarm, sweet Hector.

Hect. Hold you still, I say;

Mine honour keeps the weather of my fate:
Life every man holds dear; but the dear man
Holds honour far more precious-dear than
life.—

Enter TROIUS.

How now, young man? mean'st thou to fight
to-day?

And. Cassandra, call my father to persuade.

[*Exit CASSANDRA.*

Hect. No, 'faith, young Troilus; dost thou
harness, youth,

I am to-day i' the vein of chivalry:

Let grow thy sinews till their knots be strong,
And tempt not yet the brushes of the war.

Unarm thee, go; and doubt thou not, brave
boy,

I'll stand, to-day, for thee, and me, and Troy.

Tro. Brother, you have a vice of mercy in
Which better fits a lion than a man. [you,

Hect. What vice is that, good Troilus?
chide me for it.

Tro. When many times the captive Greci-
ans fall,

Even in the fan and wind of your fair sword,
You bid them rise, and live.

Hect. O, 'tis fair play.

Tro. Fool's play, by Heaven, Hector.

Hect. How now? how now?

Tro. For the love of all the gods,

Let's leave the hermit pity with our mother;
And when we have our armours buckled on,
The venom'd vengeance ride upon our swords;
Spur them to ruthless work, rein them from
ruth. ||

Hect. Fie, savage, fie!

Tro. Hector, then 'tis wars.

Hect. Troilus, I would not have you fight to-
day.

Tro. Who should withhold me?

Not fate, obedience, nor the hand of Mars
Beckoning with fiery truncheon my retire;
Not Priamus and Hecuba on knees,
Their eyes o'ergalled with recourse of tears;
Nor you, my brother, with your true sword
drawn,

Oppos'd to hinder me, should stop my way,
But by my ruin.

Re-enter CASSANDRA, with PRIAM.

Cas. Lay hold upon him, Priam, hold him
fast:

He is thy crutch; now if thou lose thy stay,
Thou on him leaning, and all Troy on thee,
Fall all together.

Pri. Come, Hector, come, go back:
Thy wife hath dream'd; thy mother hath had
visions;

Cassandra doth foresee; and I myself
Am like a prophet suddenly enrapt,
To tell thee—that this day is ominous:
Therefore, come back.

Hect. Æneas is a field;

And I do stand engag'd to many Greeks,
Even in the faith of valour, to appear
This morning to them.

Pri. But thou shalt not go.

Hect. I must not break my faith.

You know me dutiful; therefore, dear Sir,
Let me not shame respect; but give me leave
To take that course by your consent and voice,
Which you do here forbid me, royal Priam.

Cas. O Priam, yield not to him.

And. Do not, dear father.

Hect. Andromache, I am offended with you:
Upon the love you bear me, get you in.

[*Exit ANDROMACHE.*

Tro. This foolish, dreaming, superstitious
Makes all these bodements. [girl

Cas. O farewell, dear Hector.

Look, how thou diest! look, how thy eye
turns pale!

Look, how thy wounds do bleed at many vents!
Hark, how Troy roars! how Hecuba cries out!
How poor Andromache shrills her dolours
forth!

Behold, destruction, frenzy, and amazement,
Like witless antics, one another meet,
And all cry—Hector! Hector's dead! O
Hector!

Tro. Away!—Away!

Cas. Farewell.—Yet soft:—Hector, I take
my leave;

Thou dost thyself and all our Troy deceive.

[*Exit.*

Hect. You are amaz'd, my liege, at her ex-
claim: [fight;

Go in, and cheer the town: we'll forth, and
Do deeds worth praise, and tell you them at
night.

Pri. Farewell: the gods with safety stand
about thee!

[*Exeunt severally PRIAM and HECTOR.*
Alarums.

Tro. They are at it; hark! Proud Diomed,
believe,

I come to lose my arm, or win my sleeve.

As TROIUS is going out, enter, from the other
side, PANDARUS.

Pan. Do you hear, my lord? do you hear?

Tro. What now?

Pan. Here's a letter from yon' poor girl.

* Foolish.

† Valuable.

‡ Put off.

§ Useful, woeful.

|| Mercy.

Tro. Let me read.

Pan. A whorson ptisick, a whorson rascally ptisick so troubles me, and the foolish fortune of this girl; and what one thing, what another, that I shall leave you one o' these days: And I have a rheum in mine eyes too; and such an ache in my bones, that, unless a man were cursed, I cannot tell what to think on't.—What says she there?

Tro. Words, words, mere words, no matter from the heart; [*Tearing the letter.* The effect doth operate another way.

Go, wind, to wind, there turn and change together.—
My love with words and errors still she feeds;
But edifies another with her deeds.

[*Exeunt severally.*]

SCENE IV.—*Between Troy and the Grecian Camp.*

Alarums: Excursions. Enter THERSITES.

Ther. Now they are clapper-clawing one another; Ill go look on. That dissembling abominable varlet, Diomed, has got that same scurvy doating foolish young knave's sleeve of Troy there, in his helm: I would fain see them meet; that that same young Trojan ass, that loves the whore there, might send that Greekish whoremasterly villain, with the sleeve, back to the dissembling luxurious drab, on a sleeveless errand. O' the other side, The policy of those crafty swearing rascals,—that stale old mouse-eaten dry cheese, Nestor; and that same dog-fox, Ulysses,—is not proved worth a blackberry:—They set me up, in policy, that mongrel cur, Ajax, against that dog of as bad a kind, Achilles: and now is the cur Ajax prouder than the cur Achilles, and will not arm-to-day: whereupon the Grecians begin to proclaim barbarism, and policy grows into an ill opinion. Soft! here come sleeve, and t'other.

Enter DIOMEDES, TROIUS following.

Tro. Fly not; for, should'st thou take the river Styx, I would swim after.

Dio. Thou dost miscall retire:
I do not fly; but advantageous care
Withdraw me from the odds of multitude:
Have at thee!

Ther. Hold thy whore, Grecian!—now for thy whore, Trojan!—now the sleeve, now the sleeve!

[*Exeunt TROIUS and DIOMEDES, fighting.*]

Enter HECTOR.

Hect. What art thou, Greek? art thou for Hector's match?
Art thou of blood, and honour?

Ther. No, no:—I am a rascal; a scurvy railing knave; a very filthy rogue.

Hect. I do believe thee;—live. [*Exit.*]

Ther. God-a-mercy, that thou wilt believe me; But a plague break thy neck, for frightening me! What's become of the wenching rogues? I think, they have swallowed one another: I would laugh at that miracle. Yet, in a sort, lechery eats itself. I'll seek them. [*Exit.*]

SCENE V.—*The same.*

Enter DIOMEDES and a SERVANT.

Dio. Go, go, my servant, take thou Troilus' horse;
Present the fair steed to my lady Cressid:

Fellow, commend my service to her beauty;
Tell her, I have chastis'd the amorous Trojan,
And am her knight by proof.

Serv. I go, my lord. [*Exit SERVANT.*]

Enter AGAMEMNON.

Agam. Renew, renew! The fierce Polydamus
Hath beat down Menon: bastard Margarelon
Hath Doreus prisoner:

And stands colossus-wise, waving his beam,*
Upon the pashed[†] corpses of the kings
Epistrophus and Cediüs: Polixenes is slain;
Amphimachus, and Thoas, deadly hurt;
Patroclus, ta'en, or slain; and Palamedes
Sore hurt and bruised: the dreadful Sagittary
Appals our numbers; haste we, Diomed,
To reinforcement, or we perish all.

Enter NESTOR.

Nest. Go, bear Patroclus' body to Achilles;
And bid the snail-pac'd Ajax arm for shame.—
There is a thousand Hectors in the field:
Now here he fights on Galathe his horse,
And there lacks work; anon, he's there afoot,
And there they fly, or die, like scaled sculls[‡]
Before the belching whale; then is he yonder,
And there the strawy Greeks, ripe for his edge,
Fall down before him, like the mower's swath:
Here, there, and every where, he leaves, and
Dexterity so obeying appetite, [*takes;*
That what he will, he does; and does so much,
That proof is call'd impossibility.

Enter ULYSSES.

Ulyss. O courage, courage, princes! great
Achilles [*geance;*
Is arming, weeping, cursing, vowing ven-
Patroclus' wounds have rous'd his drowsy
blood,
Together with his mangled Myrmidons,
That noseless, handless, hack'd and chipp'd,
come to him,
Crying on Hector. Ajax hath lost a friend,
And foams at mouth, and he is arm'd, and at
it,
Roaring for Troilus; who hath done to-day
Mad and fantastic execution;
Engaging and redeeming of himself,
With such a careless force, and forceless care,
As if that luck, in very spite of cunning,
Bade him win all.

Enter AJAX.

Ajax. Troilus! thou coward Troilus! [*Exit.*]

Dio. Ay, there, there.

Nest. So, so, we draw together.

Enter ACHILLES.

Achil. Where is this Hector?
Come, come, thou boy-queller, show thy face;
Know what it is to meet Achilles angry.
Hector! where's Hector? I will none but Hector.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VI.—*Another part of the Field.*

Enter AJAX.

Ajax. Troilus, thou coward Troilus, show thy head!

Enter DIOMEDES.

Dio. Troilus, I say! where's Troilus?

Ajax. What would'st thou?

Dio. I would correct him.

* Lance. † Bruised, crushed. ‡ Shoal of fish.
§ Killer.

Ajax. Were I the general, thou should'st have my office, [Troilus!] Ere that correction:—Troilus, I say! what,

Enter TROILUS.

Tro. O traitor, Diomed!—turn thy false face, Thou traitor, And pay thy life thou ow'st me for my horse!

Dio. Ha! art thou there?

Ajax. I'll fight with him alone: stand, Diomed.

Dio. He is my prize, I will not look upon.*

Tro. Come both you cogging† Greeks; have at you both. [Exeunt, fighting.]

Enter HECTOR.

Hect. Yea, Troilus? O, well fought, my youngest brother!

Enter ACHILLES.

Achil. Now do I see thee: Ha!—Have at thee, Hector.

Hect. Pause, if thou wilt.

Achil. I do disdain thy courtesy, proud Trojan.

Be happy, that my arms are out of use: My rest and negligence befriend thee now, But thou anon shalt hear of me again; Till when, go seek thy fortune. [Exit.]

Hect. Fare thee well:— I would have been much more a fresher man, Had I expected thee.—How now, my brother?

Re-enter TROILUS.

Tro. Ajax hath ta'en Æneas; Shall it be? No, by the flames of yonder glorious heaven, He shall not carry ‡ him; I'll be taken too, Or bring him off:—Fate, hear me what I say! I reek † not though I lend my life to-day. [Exit.]

Enter in sumptuous Armour.

Hect. Stand, stand, thou Greek; thou art a goodly mark:—

No? wilt thou not?—I like thy armour well; I'll fresh|| it, and unlock the rivets all, But I'll be master of it:—Wilt thou not, beast, abide?

Why then, fly on, I'll hunt thee for thy hide. [Exeunt.]

SCENE VII.—The same.

Enter ACHILLES, with Myrmidons.

Achil. Come here about me, you my Myrmidons;

Mark what I say.—Attend me where I wheel: Strike not a stroke, but keep yourselves in breath;

And when I have the bloody Hector found, Empale him with your weapons round about; In fellest manner execute ¶ your arms.

Follow me, Sirs, and my proceedings eye: It is decreed—Hector the great must die. [Exeunt.]

SCENE VIII.—The same.

Enter MENELAUS and PARIS, fighting: then THERSITES.

Ther. The cuckold, and the cuckold-maker are at it: Now, bull! now, dog! 'Loo, Paris, 'loo! now my double-henned sparrow! 'loo,

* Not be a looker-on.

† Prevail over.

‡ Burst.

† Lying.

‡ Care.

¶ Employ

Paris, 'loo! The bull has the game:—'ware horns, ho! [Exeunt PARIS and MENELAUS.]

Enter MARGARELON.

Mar. Turn, slave, and fight.

Ther. What art thou?

Mar. A bastard son of Priam's.

Ther. I am a bastard too; I love bastards: I am a bastard begot, bastard instructed, bastard in mind, bastard in valour, in every thing illegitimate. One bear will not bite another, and wherefore should one bastard? Take heed, the quarrels most oininou's to us: if the son of a whore fight for a whore, he tempts judgment: Farewell, bastard.

Mar. The devil take thee, coward! [Exeunt.]

SCENE IX.—Another part of the Field.

Enter HECTOR.

Hect. Most putrified core, so fair without, Thy goodly armour thus hath cost thy life. Now is my day's work done; I'll take good breath: [death!]

Rest, sword; thou hast thy fill of blood and [Puts off his helmet, and hangs his shield behind him.]

Enter ACHILLES and Myrmidons.

Achil. Look, Hector, how the sun begins to set;

How ugly night comes breathing at his heels: Even with the veil and dark'ning of the sun, To close the day up, Hector's life is done.

Hect. I am unarm'd; forego this vantage,* Greek.

Achil. Strike, fellows, strike; this is the man I seek. [HECTOR falls.]

So, Ilion, fall thou next! now, Troy, sink down; [bone.—]

Here lies thy heart, thy sinews, and thy On, Myrmidons; and cry you all amain, Achilles hath the mighty Hector slain.

[A Rétreat sounded.]

Hark! a retreat upon our Grecian part.

Myr. The Trojan trumpets sound the like, my lord.

Achil. The dragon wing of night o'erspreads the earth,

And, stickler † like the armies separates. My half-supp'd sword that frankly ‡ would have fed,

Pleas'd with this dainty bit, thus goes to bed.— [Sheaths his sword.]

Come, tie his body to my horse's tail;

Along the field I will the Trojan trail. [Exeunt.]

SCENE X.—The same.

Enter AGAMEMNON, AJAX, MENELAUS, NESTOR, DIOMEDES, and others, marching. Shouts within.

Agam. Hark! hark! what shout is that?

Nest. Peace, drums.

[Within] Achilles!

Achilles! Hector's slain! Achilles!

Dio. The bruit † is—Hector's slain, and by Achilles,

Ajax. If it be so, yet bragless let it be,

Great Hector was as good a man as he.

Agam. March patiently along:—Let one be sent

To pray Achilles see us at our tent.—

* Take not this advantage.

† An arbitrator at athletic games.

‡ Fattening

§ Noise, rumour.

If in his death the gods have us befriended,
Great Troy is ours, and our sharp wars are
ended. [Exeunt marching.

SCENE XI.—Another part of the Field.

Enter ÆNEAS and TROJANS.

Æne. Stand, ho! yet are we masters of the
field:

Never go home; here starve we out the night.

Enter TROILUS.

Tro. Hector is slain.

All. Hector?—The gods forbid!

Tro. He's dead; and at the murderer's
horse's tail, [field.—

In beastly sort, dragg'd through the shameful
Frown on, you heavens, effect your rage with
speed! [Troy!

Sit, gods, upon your thrones, and smile at
I say, at once let your brief plagues be mercy,
And linger not our sure destructions on!

Æne. My lord, you do discomfort all the
host.

Tro. You understand me not, that tell me so:
I do not speak of flight, of fear, of death:
But dare all imminence, that gods and men,
Address their dangers in. Hector is gone!
Who shall tell Priam so, or Hecuba?

Let him that will a screech-owl ay^e* be call'd,
Go in to Troy, and say there—Hector's dead:
There is a word will Priam turn to stone;
Make wells and Niobes of the maids and wives,
Cold statues of the youth; and, in a word,
Scare Troy out of itself. But, march, away;
Hector is dead: there is no more to say.

Stay yet;—You vile abominable tents,
Thus proudly pight † upon our Phrygian plains,
Let Titan rise as early as he dare,
I'll through and through you!—and thou,
great-siz'd coward!

No space of earth shall sunder our two hates;

* Ever.

† Pitched, fixed.

I'll haunt thee like a wicked conscience still,
That mouldeth goblins swift as frenzy
thoughts.— [go:

Strike a free march to Troy!—with comfort
Hope of revenge shall hide our inward woe.

[Exeunt ÆNEAS and TROJANS.

As TROILUS is going out, enter from the other
side, PANDARUS.

Pan. But hear you, hear you!

Tro. Hence, broker lackey! ignomy* and
shame

Pursue thy life, and live ay^e † with thy name!

[Exit TROILUS.

Pan. A goodly med'cine for my aching
bones!—O world! world! world! thus is the
poor agent despised! O traitors and bawds,
how earnestly are you set a'work, and how ill
required! Why should our endeavour be so
loved, and the performance so loathed? what
verse for it? what instance for it?—Let me
see:—

Full merrily the humble-bee doth sing,
Till he hath lost his honey and his sting:

And being once subdued in armed tail,

Sweet honey and sweet notes together fail.—

Good traders in the flesh, set this in your
painted clothes. †

As many as he here of Pandar's hall,

Your eyes, half out, weep out at Pandar's fall:
Or if you cannot weep, yet give some groans,
Though not for me, yet for your aching bones.
Brethren, and sisters, of the hold-door trade,
Some two months hence my will shall here be
made;

It should be now, but that my fear is this,—

Some galled goose of Winchester would hiss:

Till then I'll sweat, and seek about for eases;

And, at that time, bequeath you my diseases.

[Exit.

* Ignomy.

† Ever.

‡ Canvass hangings for rooms, painted with emblems
and mottoes.

CORIOLANUS.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

CAIUS MARCIUS CORIOLANUS, a noble Roman.
 TITUS LARTIUS, } Generals against the Vol-
 COMINIUS, } scians.
 MENENIUS AGRIPPA, friend to Coriolanus.
 SICINIUS VELUTUS, } Tribunes of the people.
 JUNIUS BRUTUS, }
 YOUNG MARCIUS, Son to Coriolanus.
 A ROMAN HERALD.
 TULLUS AUFIDIUS, General of the Volscians.
 LIEUTENANT to Aufidius.
 CONSPIRATORS with Aufidius.
 A CITIZEN of Antium.
 TWO VOLSCIAN GUARDS.

VOLUMNIA, Mother to Coriolanus.
 VIRGILIA, Wife to Coriolanus.
 VALERIA, Friend to Virgilia.
 GENTLEWOMAN, attending Virgilia.

Roman and Volscian Senators, Patricians,
 Ediles, Lictors, Soldiers, Citizens, Messen-
 gers, Servants to Aufidius, and other Atten-
 dants.

SCENE; partly in Rome, and partly in the
 Territories of the Volscians and Antiaties.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—Rome.—A Street.

*Enter a company of mutinous CITIZENS, with
 Staves, Clubs, and other Weapons.*

1 *Cit.* Before we proceed any further, hear
 me speak.

Cit. Speak, speak. [*Severalspeaking at once.*]

1 *Cit.* You are all resolved rather to die, than
 to famish?

Cit. Resolved, resolved.

1 *Cit.* First you know, Caius Marcius is chief
 enemy to the people.

Cit. We know't, we know't.

1 *Cit.* Let us kill him, and we'll have corn
 at our own price. Is't a verdict?

Cit. No more talking on't; let it be done:
 away, away.

2 *Cit.* One word, good citizens.

1 *Cit.* We are accounted poor citizens; the
 patricians, good:* What authority surfeits on,
 would relieve us; If they would yield us but
 the superfluity, while it were wholesome, we
 might guess, they relieved us humanely; but
 they think, we are too dear: the leanness that
 afflicts us, the object of our misery, is as an in-
 ventory to particularize their abundance; our
 sufferance is a gain to them.—Let us revenge
 this with our pikes, ere we become rakes:† for
 the gods know, I speak this in hunger for
 bread, not in thirst for revenge.

1 *Cit.* Would you proceed especially against
 Caius Marcius?

Cit. Against him first; he's a very dog to
 the commonalty.

2 *Cit.* Consider you what services he has
 done for his country?

1 *Cit.* Very well; and could be content to

* Rich.

† This as rakes.

give him good report for't, but that he pays
 himself with being proud.

2 *Cit.* Nay, but speak not maliciously.

1 *Cit.* I say unto you, what he hath done
 famously, he did it to that end: though soft
 conscienc'd men can be content to say, it was
 for his country, he did it to please his mother,
 and to be partly proud; which he is, ever to
 the altitude of his virtue.

2 *Cit.* What he cannot help in his nature,
 you account a vice in him: You must in no
 way say, he is covetous.

1 *Cit.* If I must not, I need not be barren of
 accusations; he hath faults, with surplus, to
 tire in repetition. [*Shouts within.*] What
 shouts are these? The other side o'the city is
 risen: Why stay we prating here? to the Capi-
 tol!

Cit. Come, come.

1 *Cit.* Soft; who comes here?

Enter MENENIUS AGRIPPA.

2 *Cit.* Worthy Menenius Agrippa; one that
 hath always loved the people.

1 *Cit.* He's one honest enough; 'Would, all
 the rest were so!

Men. What work's my countrymen, in hand?

Where go you
 With bats and clubs? The matter? Speak, I
 pray you.

1 *Cit.* Our business is not unknown to the
 senate; they have had inkling, this fortnight,
 what we intend to do, which now we'll show
 'em in deeds. They say poor suitors have
 strong breaths; they shall know, we have
 strong arms too.

Men. Why masters, my good friends, mine
 honest neighbours,
 Will you undo yourselves?

1 *Cit.* We cannot, Sir, we are undone al-
 ready.

Men. I tell you, friends, most charitable care
Have the patricians of you. For your wants,
Your suffering in this dearth, you may as well
Strike at the heaven with your staves, as lift
them [on

Against the Roman state; whose course will
The way it takes, cracking ten thousand curbs
Of more strong link asunder, than can ever
Appear in your impediment: For the dearth,
The gods, not the patricians, make it: and
Your knees to them, not arms, must help,
Alack,

You are transported by calamity [slander
Thither where more attends you; and you
The helms o' the state, who care for you like
When you curse them as enemies. [fathers,

1 Cit. Care for us!—True, indeed!—They
ne'er cared for us yet. Suffer us to famish, and
their store-houses crammed with grain; make
edicts for usury, to support usurers: repeal
daily any wholesome act established against
the rich; and provide more piercing statutes
daily, to chain up and restrain the poor. If the
wars eat us not up, they will; and there's all
the love they bear us.

Men. Either you must
Confess yourselves wondrous malicious,
Or be accus'd of folly. I shall tell you
A pretty tale; it may be you have heard it;
But, since it serves my purpose, I will venture
To scale't* a little more.

1 Cit. Well, I'll hear it, Sir; yet you must
not think to fob off our disgrace† with a tale:
but, an't please you, deliver.

Men. There was a time, when all the body's
members
Rebell'd against the belly; thus accus'd it:—
That only like a gulf it did remain
I'the midst o' the body, idle and inactive,
Still cupboarding the viand, never bearing
Like labour with the rest; where† the other
instruments

Did see, and hear, devise, instruct, walk, feel,
And mutually participate, did minister
Unto the appetite and affection common
Of the whole body. The belly answered,—

1 Cit. Well, Sir, what answer made the
belly?

Men. Sir, I shall tell you.—With a kind of
smile, [thus,
Which ne'er came from the lungs, but even
(For, look you, I may make the belly smile,
As well as speak,) it tauntingly replied
To the discontented members, the mutinous
parts
That envied his receipt; even so most fitly‡
As you malign our senators, for that
They are not such as you.

1 Cit. Your belly's answer: What!
The kingly-crowned head, the vigilant eye,
The counsellor heart, the arm our soldier,
Our steed the leg, the tongue our trumpeter,
With other muniments and petty helps
In this our fabric, if that they—

Men. What then?—
Fore me, this fellow speaks!—what then?
what then?

1 Cit. Should by the cormorant belly be re-
strain'd,

Who is the sink o' the body,—

Men. Well, what then?

1 Cit. The former agents, if they did com-
What would the belly answer? [plain.

Men. I will tell you;

If you'll bestow a small (of what you have
little,) [swer.

Patience a while, you'll hear the belly's an-
1 Cit. You are long about it.

Men. Note me this, good friend;
Your most grave belly was deliberate,
Not rash like his accusers, and thus answer'd:
*True is it, my incorporate friends, quoth he,
That I receive the general food at first,
Which you do live upon; and fit it is;
Because I am the store-house, and the shop
Of the whole body: But if you do remember,
I send it through the rivers of your blood,
Even to the court, the heart,—to the seat o' the
brain;*

And, through the cranks and offices of man,
The strongest nerves, and small inferior veins,
From me receive that natural competency
Whereby they live: And though that all at once
You, my good friends, (this says the belly,)
mark me,—*

1 Cit. Ay, Sir; well, well.

Men. Though all at once cannot
See what I do deliver out to each;
Yet I can make my audit up, that all,
From me do back receive the flour of all,
And leave me but the bran. What say you to't?

1 Cit. It was an answer: How apply you
this?

Men. The senators of Rome are this good
belly,

And you the mutinous members: For examine
Their counsels, and their cares; digest things
rightly, [find,

Touching the weal o' the common? you shall
No public benefit which you receive,
But it proceeds, or comes, from them to you,
And no way from yourselves.—What do you
think?

You the great toe of this assembly?

1 Cit. I the great toe? Why the great toe?

Men. For that being one o' the lowest, basest,
poorest, [most:

Of this most wise rebellion, thou go'st fore-
Thou rascal, that art worst in blood, to run
Lead'st first to win some vantage.—

But make you ready your stiff bats and clubs;
Rome and her rats are at the point of battle,
The one side must have bail.† Hail, noble
Marcius!

Enter CAIUS MARCIUS.

Mar. Thanks.—What's the matter, you dis-
sentionous rogues,
That rubbing the poor itch of your opinion,
Make yourselves scabs?

1 Cit. We have ever your good word.

Mar. He that will give good words to thee,
will flatter

Beneath abhorring.—What would you have
your curs, [you,

That like nor peace, nor war? the one affrights
The other makes you proud. He that trusts
you, [hares;

Where he should find you lions, finds you
Where foxes, geese: You are no surer, no,

Than is the coal of fire upon the ice,
Or hailstone in the sun. Your virtue is,

To make him worthy, whose offence subdues
him, [greatness,

And curse that justice did it. Who deserves
Deserves your hate: and your affections are

A sick man's appetite, who desires most that
Which would increase his evil. He that de-
pends

* Spread it.

† Hardship.

‡ Where'ts.

Exactly.

* Windings.

† Banc.

Upon your favours, swims with fins of lead,
And hews down oaks with rushes. Hang ye!
Trust ye?

With every minute you do change a mind;
And call him noble, that was now your hate,
Him vile, that was your garland. What's the
matter,

That in these several places of the city
You cry against the noble senate, who,
Under the gods, keep you in awe, which else
Would feed on one another?—What's their
seeking?

Men. For corn at their own rates; whereof,
they say,
The city is well stor'd.

Mar. Hang 'em! They say?
They'll sit by the fire, and presume to know
What's done i'the Capitol: whose like to rise,
Who thrives, and who declines: side factions,
and give out

Conjectural marriages; making parties strong,
And feebling such as stand not in their liking,
Below their cobbled shoes. They say, there's
grain enough?

Would the nobility lay aside their ruth,*
And let me use my sword, I'd make a quarry
With thousands of these quarter'd slaves, as
As I could pick† my lance. [high]

Men. Nay, these are almost thoroughly per-
suaded;

For though abundantly they lack discretion,
Yet are they passing cowardly. But I beseech
What says the other troop? [you,

Mar. They are dissolved: Hang 'em!
They said, they were an hungry; sigh'd forth
proverbs;— [eat;

That hunger broke stone walls; that, dogs must
That meat was made for mouths; that, the gods
sent not

Corn for the rich men only:—With these shreds
They vented their complainings; which being
answer'd,

And a petition granted them, a strange one,
(To break the heart of generosity,
And make bold power look pale,) they threw
their caps

As they would hang them on the horns o'the
Shouting their emulation.‡ [moon,

Men. What is granted them?
Mar. Five tribunes to defend their vulgar
wisdoms,

Of their own choice: One's Junius Brutus,
Sicius Velutus, and I know not—'Sdeath!
The rabble should have first unroof'd the city;
Ere so prevail'd with me: it will in time
Win upon power, and throw forth greater
For insurrection's arguing.¶ [themes

Men. This is strange.
Mar. Go, get you home, you fragments!

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mes. Where's Caius Marcius?
Mar. Here: What's the matter?

Mes. The news is, Sir, the Volces are in
arms.

Mar. I am glad on't; then we shall have
means to vent

Our musty superfluity:—See, our best elders.

Enter COMINIUS, TITUS LARTIUS, and other SENATORS; JUNIUS BRUTUS, and SICINIUS VELUTUS.

1 Sen. Marcius, 'tis true, that you have late-
ly told us;

The Volces are in arms.

Mar. They have a leader,
Tullus Aufidius, that will put you to't.
I sin in envying his nobility:
And were I any thing but what I am,
I would wish me only he.

Com. You have fought together.

Mar. Were half to half the world by the ears,
and he

Upon my party, I'd revolt, to make
Only my wars with him: he is a lion
That I am proud to hunt.

1 Sen. Then, worthy Marcius,
Attend upon Cominius to these wars.

Com. It is your former promise.

Mar. Sir, it is;

And I am constant.—Titus Lartius, thou
Shalt see me once more strike at Tullus' face:
What, art thou stiff? stand'st out?

Tit. No, Caius Marcius, [other,
I'll lean upon one crutch, and fight with the
Ere stay behind this business.

Men. O, true bred!

1 Sen. Your company to the Capitol; where,
I know,

Our greatest friends attend us.

Tit. Lead you on:

Follow, Cominius; we must follow you;

Right worthy you priority.*

Com. Noble Lartius!

1 Sen. Hence! To your homes, be gone.

[To the CITIZENS.

Mar. Nay, let them follow:

The Volces have much corn; take these rats
thither, [neers,

To gnaw their garners:—Worshipful muti-
Your valour puts well forth: pray, follow.

[Exit SENATORS, COM. MAR. TIT. and
MENE. CITIZENS steal away.

Sic. Was ever man so proud as is this Mar-
cius?

Bru. He has no equal.

Sic. When we were chosen tribunes for the
people,—

Bru. Mark'd you his lip, and eyes?

Sic. Nay, but his taunts.

Bru. Being mov'd, he will not spare to gird
the gods.

Sic. Be-mock the modest moon.

Bru. The present wars devour him: he is
Too proud to be so valiant. [grown

Sic. Such a nature [dow
Tickled with good success, disdains the sha-
Which he treads on at noon: But I do wonder,

His insolence can brook to be commanded
Under Cominius.

Bru. Fame, at the which he aims,—

In whom already he is well grac'd,—cannot
Better be held, nor more attain'd, than by
A place below the first: for what miscarries
Shall be the general's fault, though he perform
To the utmost of a man; and giddy censure
Will then cry out of Marcius, O, if he
Had borne the business!

Sic. Besides, if things so well;
Opinion, that so sticks on Marcius, shall
Of his demerits|| rob Cominius.

Bru. Come:

Half all Cominius' honours are to Marcius,
Though Marcius earn'd them not; and all his
faults

To Marcius shall be honours, though, indeed,
In aught he merit not.

* Pity, compassion. † Heap of dead. ‡ Pitch.
§ Faction. || For insurgents to debate upon.

* Right worthy of precedence. † Granaries.
‡ Shows itself. § Sneer.
|| Demerits and merits had anciently the same meaning.

Sic. Let's hence, and hear
How the despatch is made; and in what fa-
More than in singularity, he goes [shion,
Upon his present action.

Bru. Let's along. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—Corioli.—The Senate-House.

Enter TULLUS AUFIDIUS, and certain SENATORS.

1 Sen. So, your opinion is, Aufidius,
That they of Rome are enter'd in our counsels,
And know how we proceed.

Auf. Is it not yours?

What ever hath been thought on in this state,
That could be brought to bodily act ere Rome
Had circumvention!* 'Tis not four days gone,
Since I heard thence; these are the words: I
think,

I have the letter here; yes, here it is: [Reads.
They have press'd a power, but it is not known
Whether for east, or west: The dearth is great;
The people mutinous; and it is rumour'd,
Cominius, Marcius your old enemy,
(Who is of Rome worse hated than of you,)
And Titus Lartius, a most valiant Roman,
These three lead on this preparation
Whither 'tis bent: most likely, 'tis for you,
Consider of it.

1 Sen. Our army's in the field:
We never yet made doubt but Rome was ready
To answer us.

Auf. Nor did you think it folly,
To keep your great pretences veil'd, till when
They needs must show themselves; which in
the hatching,

It seem'd, appear'd to Rome. By the discovery,
We shall be shorten'd in our aim; which was,
To take in many towns, ere, almost, Rome
Should know we were afoot.

2 Sen. Noble Aufidius,
Take your commission; hie you to your bands:
Let us alone to guard Corioli:

If they set down before us, for the remove
Bring up your army; but, I think, you'll find
They have not prepar'd for us.

Auf. O, doubt not that;
I speak from certainties. Nay, more.
Some parcels of their powers are forth already,
And only hitherward. I leave your honours.
If we and Caius Marcius chance to meet,
'Tis sworn between us, we shall never strike
Till one can do no more.

All. The gods assist you!

Auf. And keep your honours safe!

1 Sen. Farewell.

2 Sen. Farewell.

All. Farewell. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—Rome.—An Apartment in
MARCUS' House.

Enter VOLUMNIA, and VIRGILIA: They sit down
on two low stools, and sew.

Vol. I pray you, daughter, sing; or express
yourself in a more comfortable sort: If my son
were my husband, I should freelier rejoice in
that absence wherein he won honour, than in
the embracements of his bed, where he would
show most love. When yet he was but tender-
bodied, and the only son of my womb; when
youth with comeliness plucked all gaze his
way; † when, for a day of kings' entreaties, a
mother should not sell him an hour from her
beholding; I,—considering how honour would
become such a person; that it was no better

than picture-like to hang by the wall, if renown
made it not stir,—was pleased to let him seek
danger where he was like to find fame. To a
cruel war I sent him; from whence he returned,
his brows bound with oak. I tell thee, daugh-
ter,—I sprang not more in joy at first hear-
ing he was a man-child, than now in first see-
ing he had proved himself a man.

Vir. But had he died in the business, madam?
how then?

Vol. Then his good report should have been
my son; I therein would have found issue.
Hear me profess sincerely: Had I a dozen
sons,—each in my love alike, and none less
dear than thine and my good Marcius,—I had
rather had eleven die nobly for their country,
than one voluptuously surfeit out of action.

Enter a GENTLEWOMAN.

Gent. Madam, the lady Valeria is come to
visit you.

Vir. 'Beseech you, give me leave to retire*
myself.

Vol. Indeed, you shall not.

Methinks I hear hither your husband's drum;
See him pluck Aufidius down by the hair;
As children from a bear the Volces shunning
him:

Methinks, I see him stamp thus, and call thus,—
Come on, you cowards, you were got in fear,
Though you were born in Rome: His bloody
brow † goes;

With his nail'd hand then wiping, forth he
Like to a harvest-man, that's task'd to mow
Or all, or lose his hire.

Vir. His bloody brow! O, Jupiter, no blood!

Vol. Away, you fool! it more becomes a
man,

Than gilt his trophy: The breasts of Hecuba,
When she did suckle Hector, look'd not lovelier
Than Hector's forehead, when it spit forth
blood

At Grecian swords' contending.—Tell Valeria,
We are fit to bid her welcome. [Exit GENT.

Vir. Heavens bless my lord from fell Aufidius!

Vol. He'll beat Aufidius head below his
And tread upon his neck. [knee,

Re-enter GENTLEWOMAN, with VALERIA and her
USHER.

Val. My ladies both, good day to you.

Vol. Sweet madam,——

Vir. I am glad to see your ladyship.

Vol. How do you both? you are manifest
house-keepers. What, are you sewing here!
A fine spot, † in good faith.—How does your
little son?

Vir. I thank your ladyship; well, good madam.

Vol. He had rather see the swords, and hear
a drum, than look upon his school-master.

Val. O' my word, the father's son: I'll
swear, 'tis a very pretty boy. O' my troth, I
looked upon him o' Wednesday half an hour
together: he has such a confirmed countenance.
I saw him run after a gilded butterfly; and
when he caught it, he let it go again; and after
it again; and over and over he comes, and up
again; catch'd it again: or whether his fall
enraged him, or how 'twas, he did so set his
teeth, and tear it; O, I warrant, how he mam-
mock'd ‡ it!

Vol. One of his father's moods.

Val. Indeed la, 'tis a noble child.

Vir. A crack, § madam.

Vol. Come, lay aside your stitchery; I must

* Pre-occupation. † To subdue.

‡ Attracted attention.

* Withdraw. † Of work. ‡ Tore. § Boy.

have you play the idle huswife with me this afternoon.

Vir. No, good madam; I will not out of doors.

Val. Not out of doors!

Vol. She shall, she shall.

Vir. Indeed, no, by your patience: I will not over the threshold, till my lord return from the wars.

Val. Fie, you confine yourself most unreasonably; Come, you must go visit the good lady that lies in.

Vir. I will wish her speedy strength, and visit her with my prayers; but I cannot go thither.

Vol. Why, I pray you?

Vir. 'Tis not to save labour, nor that I want love.

Val. You would be another Penelope: yet, they say, all the yarn she spun, in Ulysses' absence, did but fill Ithaca full of moths. Come; I would, your cambric were sensible as your finger, that you might leave pricking it for pity. Come, you shall go with us.

Vir. No, good madam, pardon me; indeed, I will not forth.

Val. In truth, la, go with me; and I'll tell you excellent news of your husband.

Vir. O, good madam, there can be none yet.

Val. Verily, I do not jest with you; there came news from him last night.

Vir. Indeed, madam?

Val. In earnest, it's true; I heard a senator speak it. Thus it is:—The Volces have an army forth; against whom Cominius the general is gone, with one part of our Roman power: your lord, and Titus Lartius, are set down before their city Corioli; they nothing doubt prevailing, and to make it brief wars. This is true, on mine honour; and so, I pray, go with us.

Vir. Give me excuse, good madam; I will obey you in every thing hereafter.

Vol. Let her alone, lady; as she is now, she will but disease our better mirth.

Val. In troth, I think, she would:—Fare you well then.—Come, good sweet lady.—Pr'ythee, Virgilia, turn thy solemnness out o' door, and go along with us.

Vir. No: at a word, madam; indeed, I must not. I wish you much mirth.

Val. Well, then farewell. [Exit.

SCENE IV.—Before Corioli.

Enter, with Drums and Colours, MARCIUS, TITUS LARTIUS, Officers and Soldiers. To them a MESSENGER.

Mar. Yonder comes news:—A wager, they have met.

Lart. My horse to yours, no.

Mar. 'Tis done.

Lart. Agreed.

Mar. Say, has our general met the enemy?

Mess. They lie in view; but have not spoke as yet.

Lart. So, the good horse is mine.

Mar. I'll buy him of you.

Lart. No, I'll nor sell, nor give him: lend you him, I will, For half a hundred years.—Summon the town.

Mar. How far off lie the armies?

Mess. Within this mile and half.

Mar. Then shall we hear their larum, and they ours.

Now, Mars, I pr'ythee make us quick in work:

* Short

That with smoking swords may march from hence,

To help our fielded* friends!—Come, blow thy

They sound a parley.—Enter, on the walls, some SENATORS, and others.

Tullus Aufidius, is he within your walls?

1. *Sen.* No, nor a man that fears you less than he,

That's lesser than a little. Hark, our drums [Alarums afar off.]

Are bringing forth our youth: We'll break our walls,

Rather than they shall pound us up: our gates, Which yet seem shut, we have but pinn'd with rushes;

They'll open of themselves. Hark you, far off: [Other Alarums.]

There is Aufidius; list, what work he makes Amongst your cloven army.

Mar. O, they are at it!

Lart. Their noise be our instruction.—Ladders, ho!

The VOLCES enter and pass over the Stage.

Mar. They fear us not, but issue forth their city. [fight

Now put your shields before your hearts, and With hearts more proof than shields.—Advance, brave Titus:

They do disdain us much beyond our thoughts, Which makes me sweat with wrath.—Come on my fellows;

He that retires, I'll take him for a Volce, And he shall feel mine edge.

Alarum, and exeunt ROMANS and VOLCES, fighting. The ROMANS are beaten back to their trenches. Re-enter MARCIUS.

Mar. All the contagion of the south light on you. [plagues

You shames of Rome! you herd of—Boils and Plaster you o'er: that you may be abhorr'd

Further than seen, and one infect another Against the wind a mile! You souls of geese,

That bear the shapes of men, how have you run [hell!

From slaves that apes would beat? Pluto and All hurt behind; backs red, and faces pale

With slight and agued fear! Mend, and charge home,

Or, by the fires of heaven, I'll leave the foe, And make my wars on you: look to't: Come

on; [wives,

If you'll stand fast, we'll beat them to their

As they us to our trenches followed.

Another Alarum. The VOLCES and ROMANS re-enter, and the fight is renewed. The VOLCES retire into Corioli, and MARCIUS, follows them to the gates.

So, now the gates are ope:—Now prove good seconds:

'Tis for the followers fortune widens them, Not for the fliers: mark me, and do the like.

[He enters the gates, and is shut in.

1. *Sol.* Fool-hardiness; not I.

2. *Sol.* Nor I.

3. *Sol.* See they

Have shut him in. [Alarum continues.

All. To the pot, I warrant him.

Enter TITUS LARTIUS.

Lart. What is become of Marcius.

All. Slain, Sir, doubtless.

* In the field of battle

1 *Sol.* Following the fliers at the very heels,
With them he enters: who, upon the sudden,
Clapp'd to their gates; he is himself alone,
To answer all the city.

Lart. O noble fellow!
Who, sensible,* outdares his senseless sword,
And, when it blows,† stands up! Thou art left,
Marcius:

A carbuncle entire, as big as thou art,
Were not so rich a jewel. Thou wast a soldier
Even to Cato's wish, not fierce and terrible
Only in strokes; but, with thy grim looks, and
The thunder-like percussion of thy sounds,
Thou mad'st thine enemies shake, as if the
Were feverous and did tremble. [world

Re-enter MARCIUS bleeding, assaulted by the enemy.

1 *Sol.* Look, Sir.

Lart. 'Tis Marcius:
Let's fetch him off, or make remain alike.
[*They fight, and all enter the city.*

SCENE V.—*Within the town.—A Street.*

Enter certain ROMANS, with spoils.

1 *Rom.* This I will carry to Rome.

2 *Rom.* And I this.

3 *Rom.* A murrain on't! I took this for silver.
[*Alarum continues still afar off.*

Enter MARCIUS, and TITUS LARTIUS, with a trumpet.

Mar. See here these movers, that do prize
their hours [spoons,

At a crack'd drachm!‡ Cushions, leaden
Irons of doit, doublets that hauguen would
Bury with those that wore them, these base
slaves,

Ere yet the fight be done, pack up:—Down
with them.—

And hark, what noise the general makes!—
To him:—

There is the man of my soul's hate, Aufidius,
Piercing our Romans: Then, valiant Titus,
take

Convenient numbers to make good the city;
Whilst I, with those that have the spirit, will
To help Cominius. [haste

Lart. Worthy Sir, thou bleed'st;
Thy exercise hath been too violent for
A second course of fight.

Mar. Sir, praise me not: [well.

My work hath yet not warm'd me: Fare you
The blood I drop is rather physical
Than dangerous to me: To Aufidius thus
I will appear, and fight.

Lart. Now the fair goddess, Fortune,
Fall deep in love with thee; and her great
charms [man,
Misguide thy opposer's swords! Bold gentle-
Prosperity be thy page!

Mar. Thy friend no less
Than those she placeth highest! So farewell.

Lart. Thou worthiest Marcius!—
[*Exit MARCIUS.*

Go, sound thy trumpet in the market-place;
Call thither all the officers of the town,
Where they shall know our mind. Away.
[*Exeunt.*

SCENE VI.—*Near the Camp of COMINIUS.*

Enter COMINIUS and forces, retreating.

Com. Breathe you, my friends; well fought,
we are come off

* Having sensation, feeling. † When it is pent.
‡ A Roman coin

Like Romans, neither foolish in our stands,
Nor cowardly in retire: believe me, Sirs,
We shall be charg'd again. Whiles we have
struck, [heard
By interims, and conveying gusts, we have
The charges of our friends:—The Roman gods,
Lead their successes as we wish our own;
That both our powers, with smiling fronts en-
countering,

Enter a MESSENGER.

May give you thankful sacrifice!—Thy news,
Mess. The citizens of Corioli have issued,
And given to Lartius and to Marcius battle:
I saw our party to their trenches driven,
And then I came away.

Com. Though thou speak'st truth,
Methinks, thou speak'st not well. How long
is't since?

Mess. Above an hour, my lord.

Com. 'Tis not a mile; briefly we heard their
drums:

How could'st thou in a mile confound* an hour.
And bring thy news so late?

Mess. Spies of the Volces
Held me in chase, that I was forc'd to wheel
Three or four miles about; else had I, Sir,
Half an hour since brought my report.

Enter MARCIUS.

Com. Who's yonder,
That does appear as he were flay'd? O gods!
He has the stamp of Marcius; and I have
Beforetime seen him thus.

Mar. Come I too late?

Com. The shepherd knows not thunder
from a tabor, [tongue
More than I know the sound of Marcius'
From every meaner man's.

Mar. Come I too late?

Com. Ay, if you come not in the blood of
But mantled in your own. [others,

Mar. O! let me clip you
In arms as sound, as when I woo'd; in heart
As merry, as when our nuptial day was done,
And tapers burn'd to bedward.

Com. Flower of warriors,
How is't with Titus Lartius?

Mar. As with a man busied about decrees;
Condemning some to death, and some to exile;
Ransoming him, or pitying, threat'ning the
other;

Holding Corioli in the name of Rome,
Even like a fawning greyhound in the leash,
To let him slip at will.

Com. Where is that slave, [trenches?
Which told me they had beat you to your
Where is he? Call him hither.

Mar. Let him alone, [men,
He did inform the truth: But for our gentle-
The common file, (A plague!—Tribunes for
them!) [budge

The mouse ne'er shunn'd the cat, as they did
From rascals worse than they.

Com. But how prevail'd you?

Mar. Will the time serve to tell? I do not
think— [field?

Where is the enemy? Are you lords o'the
If not, why cease you till you are so?

Com. Marcius,
We have at a disadvantage fought, and did
Retire, to win our purpose.

Mar. How lies their battle? Know you on
which side

They have plac'd their men of trust?†

* Expend.

Com. As I guess, Marcius,
Their bands in the vaward* are the Antiatcs, †
Of their best trust: o'er them Aufidius,
Their very heart of hope.

Mar. I do beseech you,
By all the battles wherein we have fought,
By the blood we have shed together, by the
vows [rectly

We have made to endure friends, that you dis-
Set me against Aufidius, and his Antiatcs:
And that you not delay the present; ‡ but,
Filling the air with swords advanc'd, and darts,
We prove this very hour.

Com. Though I could wish
You were conducted to a gentle bath,
And balms applied to you, yet dare I never
Deny your asking; take your choice of those
That best can aid your action.

Mar. Those are they
That most are willing:—If any such be here,
(As it were sin to doubt,) that love this paint-
ing

Wherein you see me smear'd; if any fear
Lesser his person than an ill report;
If any think, brave death outweighs bad life,
And that his country's dearer than himself;
Let him, alone, or so many, so minded,
Wave thus, [*Waving his hand.*] to express his
disposition,

And follow Marcius.

[*They all shout, and wave their swords; take
him up in their arms, and cast up their caps.*]

O me, alone! Make you a sword of me?
If these shows be not outward, which of you
But is four Volces? None of you but is
Able to bear against the great Aufidius
A shield as hard as his. A certain number,
Though thanks to all, must I select: the rest
Shall bear the business in some other fight,
As cause will be obey'd. Please you to march;
And four shall quickly draw out my command,
Which men are best inclin'd.

Com. March on my fellows:
Make good this ostentation, and you shall
Divide in all with us. *Exeunt.*

SCENE VII.—*The Gates of Corioli.*

TITUS LARTIUS, *having set a guard upon Corioli,
going with a drum and trumpet toward COMINIUS
and CAIUS MARCIUS, enters with a
LIEUTENANT, a party of soldiers, and a scout.*

Lart. So, let the ports § be guarded: keep
your duties,
As I have set them down. If I do send, despatch
Those centuries|| to our aid; the rest will serve
For a short holding; if we lose the field,
We cannot keep the town.

Lieu. Fear not our care, Sir.
Lart. Hence, and shut your gates upon us.—
Our guider, come; to the Roman camp conduct
us. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE VIII.—*A field of battle between the
Roman and the Volcian Camps*

Alarum. Enter MARCIUS and AUFIDIUS.

Mar. I'll fight with none but thee; for I do
hate thee
Worse than a promise-breaker.

Auf. We hate alike;
Not Afric owns a serpent I abhor
More than thy fame and envy; Fix thy foot.

Mar. Let the first budger¶ die the other's
And the gods doom him after! *[slave,*

Auf. If I fly, Marcius,
Halloo me like a hare.

Mar. Within these three hours, Tullus,
Alone I fought in your Corioli walls,
And made what work I pleas'd; 'Tis not my
blood, [venge,

Wherein thou seest me mask'd; for thy re-
Wrench up thy power to the highest.

Auf. Wert thou the Hector,
That was the whip* of your bragg'd progeny,
Thou should'st not scape me here.—

[*They fight, and certain Volces come to the
aid of AUFIDIUS.*]

Officious, and not valiant—you have sham'd
In your condemned seconds. † *[me*

[Exeunt fighting, driven in by MARCIUS.]

SCENE IX.—*The Roman camp.*

Alarum. A Retreat is sounded. Flourish. Enter
at one side, COMINIUS, and Romans; at the
other side, MARCIUS, with his arm in a scarf,
and other Romans.

Com. If I should tell thee o'er this thy day's
work,

Thou'lt not believe thy deeds: but I'll report it,
Where senators shall mingle tears with smiles;
Where great patricians shall attend, and shrug
I' the end, admire; where ladies shall be
frighted,

And, gladly quank'd, ‡ hear more; where the
dull Tribunes,

That, with the fusty plebeians, hate thine ho-
nours, *[gods,*

Shall say, against their hearts—*We thank the
Our Rome hath such a soldier!*—

Yet can'st thou to a morsel of this feast,
Having fully dined before.

Enter TITUS LARTIUS, with his power, § from the
pursuit.

Lart. O general,
Here is the steed, we the caparison:
Hadst thou beheld—

Mar. Pray now, no more: my mother,
Who has a charter|| to extol her blood,
When she does praise me, grieves me, I have
done,

As you have done; that's what I can; induc'd
As you have been; that's for my country:
He that has but effected his good will,
Hath overtaken mine act.

Com. You shall not be
The grave of your deserving; Rome must know
The value of her own: 'twere a concealment
Worse than a theft, no less than a traduce-
ment,

To hide your doings; and to silence that,
Which to the spire and top of praises vouch'd,
Would seem but modest: [therefore, I beseech
(In sign of what you are, not to reward [you,
What you have done,) before our army hear
me.

Mar. I have some wounds upon me, and
they smart

To hear themselves remember'd.
Com. Should they not,
Well might they fester 'gainst ingratitude,
And tent themselves with death. Of all the
horses,
(Whereof we have ta'en good, an good store,)
of all

The treasurer, in this field achiev'd, and city,
We render you the tenth; to be ta'en forth,

* Front. † Soldiers of Antium. ‡ Present time.
§ Gates. || Companies of a hundred men. ¶ Stirrer.

* Boast, crack. † In sending such help.
‡ Thrown into grateful trepidation. § Forces.
|| Privilege.

Before the common distribution, at
Your only choice.

Mar. I thank you, general;
But cannot make my heart consent to take
A bribe to pay my sword: I do refuse it;
And stand upon my common part with those
That have beheld the doing.

[*Along flourish. They all cry, Marcus! Marcus!
cast up their caps and lances: COMINIUS
and LARTIUS stand bare.*]

Mar. May these same instruments, which
you profane, [shall
Never sound more! When drums and trumpets
I the field prove flatterers, let courts and cities
be [grows

Made all of false-fac'd soothing: When steel
Soft as the parasite's silk, let him be made
An overture for the wars! No more, I say;
For that I have not wash'd my nose that bled,
Or foil'd some debile* wretch,—which, with-
out note,

Here's many else have done,—you shout me
In acclamations hyperbolic; [forth
As if I loved my little should be dieted
In praises sauc'd with lies.

Com. Too modest are you;
More cruel to your good report, than grateful
To us that give you truly by your patience,
If 'gainst yourself you be incens'd, we'll put
you
(Like one that means his proper † harm,) in
manacles [known,

Then reason safely with you.—Therefore, be it
As to us, to all the world, that Caius Marcius
Wears this war's garland: in token of the
which

My noble steed known to the camp, I give him.
With all his trim belonging; and from this
time,

For what he did before Corioli, call him,
With all the applause and clamour of the host,
CAIUS MARCIUS CORIOLANUS.—
Bear the addition nobly ever!

[*Flourish. Trumpets sound, and Drums.*
All. Caius Marcius Coriolanus!

Cor. I will go wash;
And when my face is fair, you shall perceive
Whether I blush, or no: Howbeit, I thank
you:—

I mean to stride your steed; and, at all times.
To undercrest † your good addition,
To the fairness of my power.

Com. So, to our tent:
Where, ere we do repose us, we will write
To Rome of our success.—You, Titus Lartius,
Must to Corioli back: send us to Rome
The best, § with whom we may articulate, ||
For their own good, and ours.

Lart. I shall, my lord.

Cor. The gods begin to mock me. I that
now
Refus'd most princely gifts, am bound to beg
Of my lord general.

Com. Take it: 'tis yours.—What is't?

Cor. I sometime lay, here in Corioli,
At a poor man's house; he us'd me kindly:
He cried to me; I saw him prisoner;
But then Aufidius was within my view,
And wrath o'erwhelm'd my pity: I request
To give my poor host freedom. [you

Com. O, well begg'd!

Were he the butcher of my son, he should
Be free, as is the wind. Deliver him, Titus.

Lart. Marcius, his name?

* Weak, feeble. † Own. ‡ Add more by doing his best.
§ Chief men. || Enter into articles.

Cor. By Jupiter, forgot:—

I am weary; yea, my memory is tir'd.—
Have we no wine here?

Com. Go we to our tent:
The blood upon your visage dries: 'tis time
It should be look'd to: come. [Exit:

SCENE X.—*The Camp of Volces.*

*A Flourish. Cornets. Enter TULLUS AUFIDIUS
bloody with two or three SOLDIERS.*

Auf. The town is ta'en!

1 Sol. 'Twill be delivered back on good con-
dition.

Auf. Condition?—

I would, I were a Roman; for I cannot,
Being a Volce, be that I am.—Condition!
What good condition can a treaty find
I the part that is at mercy? Five times, Marcius
I have fought with thee; so often hast thou
beat me; [counter

And would'st do so, I think should we en-
As often as we eat.—By the elements,
If e'er again I meet him beard to beard,
He is mine, or I am his: Mine emulation
Hath not that honour in't, it had; for where*
I thought to crush him in an equal force,
(True sword to sword,) I'll potch † at him some
Or wrath or craft, may get him. [way;

1 Sol. He's the devil.

Auf. Bolder, though not so subtl^e: My val-
our's poison'd,

With only suffering stain by him; for him
Shall fly out of itself: nor sleep, nor sanctuary,
Being naked, sick, nor fane, nor Capitol,
The prayers of priests, nor times of sacrifice,
Embarquements all of fury shall lift up
Their rotten privilege and custom 'gainst
My hate to Marcius: where I find him, were it
At home upon my brother's guard, ‡ even
there

Against the hospitable canon, would I
Wash my fierce hand in his heart. Go you to
the city;

Learn, how it is held; and what they are that
Be hostages for Rome. [must

1 Sol. Will not you go?

Auf. I am attend'd § at the cypress grove:
I pray you [ther
('Tis south the city mills,) bring me word thi-
How the world goes; that to the pace of it
I may spur on my journey.

1 Sol. I shall, Sir. [Exit.

ACT II.

SCENE I.—*Rome.—A Public Place.*

Enter MENENIUS, SICINIUS, and BRUTUS.

Men. The augurer tells me, we shall have
news to-night.

Bru. Good or bad?

Men. Not according to the prayer of the peo-
ple, for they love not Marcius.

Sic. Nature teaches beasts to know their
friends.

Men. Pray you who does the wolf love?

Sic. The lamb.

Men. Ay, to devour him; as the hungry ple-
beians would the noble Marcius.

Bru. He's a lamb indeed, that baes like a
bear.

Men. He's a bear indeed, that lives like a
lamb. You two are old men; tell me one thing
that I shall ask you.

* Whereas.

† Poke, push.

‡ My brother posted to protect him. § Waited for

Both Trib. Well, Sir.

Men. In what enormity is Marcius poor, that you too have not in abundance?

Bru. He's poor in no one fault, but stored with all.

Sic. Especially, in pride.

Bru. And topping all others in boasting.

Men. This is strange now: Do you two know how you are censured here in the city, I mean of us o'the right hand file? Do you?

Both Trib. Why, how are we censured?

Men. Because you talk of pride now,—Will you not be angry?

Both Trib. Well, well, Sir, well.

Men. Why 'tis no great matter; for a very little thief of occasion will rob you of a great deal of patience: give your disposition the reins and be angry at your pleasures; at the least, if you take it as a pleasure to you, in being so. You blame Marcius for being proud?

Bru. We do it not alone, Sir.

Men. I know, you can do very little alone; for your helps are many; or else your actions would grow wondrous single: your abilities are too infant-like, for doing much alone. You talk of pride: O, that you could turn your eyes towards the napes* of your necks, and make but an interior survey of your good selves! O, that you could!

Bru. What then, Sir?

Men. Why, then you should discover a brace of unmeriting, proud, violent, testy magistrates, (alias, fools,) as any in Rome.

Sic. Menenius, you are known well enough too.

Men. I am known to be a humorous patrician, and one that loves a cup of hot wine without a drop of allaying Tybert in't; said to be something imperfect, in favouring the first complaint: hasty, and tinder-like, upon too trivial motion: one that converses more with the buttock of the night, than with the forehead of the morning. What I think, I utter; and spend my malice in my breath: Meeting two such weals† men as you are, (I cannot call you Lyeurguses) if the drink you gave me, touch my palate adversely, I make a crooked face at it. I cannot say, your worship have delivered the matter well, when I find the ass in compound with the major part of your syllables: and though I must be content to bear with those that say you are reverend grave men; yet they lie deadly, that tell, you have good faces. If you see this in the map of my myrocosm,§ follows it, that I am known well enough too? What harm can your bisson|| conspectivities glean out of this character, if I be known well enough too?

Bru. Come, Sir, come, we know you well enough.

Men. You know neither me, yourselves, nor any thing. You are ambitious for poor knaves' caps and legs;¶ you wear out a good wholesome forenoon, in hearing a cause between an orange-wife and a fosset-seller; and then re-journ the controversy of three-pence to a second day of audienc. —When you are hearing a matter between party and party, if you chance to be pinched with the cholic, you make faces like mummers; set up the bloody flag against all patience; and, in roaring for a chamber-pot, dismiss the controversy bleeding, the more entangled by your hearing: all the peace you make in their cause, is, calling both the parties knaves: You are a pair of strange ones.

Bru. Come, come, you are well understood to be a perfecter giber for the table, than a necessary bencher in the Capitol.

Men. Our very priests must become mockers, if they shall encounter such ridiculous subjects as you are. When you speak best unto the purpose, it is not worth the wagging of your beards; and your beards deserve not so honourable a grave, as to stuff a botcher's cushion, or to be entombed in an ass' pack-saddle. Yet you must be saying, Marcius is proud; who, in a cheap estimation, is worth all your predecessors, since Deucalion; though, peradventure, some of the best of them were hereditary hangmen. Good e'en to your worship; more of your conversation would infect my brain, being the herdsmen of the beastly plebeians: I will be bold to take my leave of you.

[*Bru. and Sic. retire to the back of the Scene.*]

Enter VOLUMNIA, VIRGILIA, and VALERIA, &c.
How now, my as fair as noble ladies, (and the moon, were she earthly, no nobler,) whither do you follow your eyes so fast?

Vol. Honourable Menenius, my boy Marcius approaches; for the love of Juno, let's go.

Men. Ha! Marcius is coming home?

Vol. Ay, worthy Menenius; and with most prosperous approbation.

Men. Take my cap, Jupiter, and I thank thee:—Hoo! Marcius coming home?

Two Ladies. Nay, 'tis true.

Vol. Look, here's a letter from him; the state hath another, his wife another; and, I think, there's one at home for you.

Men. I will make my very house reel to-night:—A letter for me?

Vir. Yes, certain, there's a letter for you; I saw it.

Men. A letter for me? It gives me an estate of seven years' health; in which time I will make a lip at the physician: the most sovereign prescription in Galea is but empiricitic, and, to this preservative, of no better report than a horse-drench. Is he not wounded? he was wont to come home wounded.

Vir. O, no, no, no.

Vol. O, he is wounded, I thank the gods for't.

Men. So do I too, if it be not too much:—Brings 'a victory in his pocket?—The wounds become him.

Vol. On's brows, Menenius: he comes the third time home with the oaken garland.

Men. Has he disciplined Aufidius soundly?

Vol. Titus Lartius writes,—they fought together, but Aufidius got off.

Men. And 'twas time for him too, I'll warrant him that: an he had staid by him, I would not have been so fidiused for all the chests in Corioli, and the gold that's in them. Is the senate possessed* of this?

Vol. Good ladies, let's go:—Yes, yes, yes: the senate has letters from the general, wherein he gives my son the whole name of the war: he hath in this action outdone his former deeds doubly.

Vol. In troth, there's wondrous things spoke of him.

Men. Wondrous? ay, I warrant you, and not without this true purchasing.

Vir. The gods grant them true!

Vol. True? pow, vow.

Men. True? I will be sworn they are true:—

* Back.

† Water of the Tiber.

‡ States.

§ Whole man.

|| Blind.

¶ Obeisance

* Fully informed.

Where is he wounded?—God save your good worships! [*To the Tribunes, who come forward.*] Marcius is coming home: he has more cause to be proud.—Where is he wounded?

Vol. I'the shoulder, and i'the left arm: There will be large cicatrices to show the people, when he shall stand for his place. He received in the repulse of Tarquin, seven hurts i'the body.

Men. One in the neck, and two in the thigh, —there's nine that I know.

Vol. He had, before this last expedition, twenty-five wounds upon him.

Men. Now it's twenty-seven: every gash was an enemy's grave: [*A Shout, and Flourish.*] Hark! the trumpets.

Vol. These are the ushers of Marcius: before him [tears; He carries noise, and behind him he leaves Death, that dark spirit, in's nery arm doth lie; Which being advanc'd, declines; and then men die.

A Sennet. Trumpets sound. Enter COMINIUS and TITUS LARTIUS; between them, CORIOLANUS, crowned with an oaken Garland; with Captains, Soldiers, and a Herald.*

Her. Know Rome, that all alone Marcius did fight

Within Corioli' gates: where he hath won, With fame, a name to Caius Marcius; these In honour follows, Coriolanus: Welcome to Rome, renowned Coriolanus!

[*Flourish.*

All. Welcome to Rome, renowned Coriolanus!

Cor. No more of this, it does offend my heart; Pray now, no more.

Com. Look, Sir, your mother,——
Cor. O!

You have, I know, petition'd all the gods For my prosperity. [*Kneels.*

Vol. Nay, my good soldier, up; My gentle Marcius, worthy Caius, and By deed-achieving honour newly nam'd, What is it? Coriolanus; must I call thee? But O, thy wife.——

Cor. My gracious† silence, hail! Would'st thou have laugh'd, had I come coffin'd home,

That weep'st to see me triumph? Ah, my dear, Such eyes the widows in Corioli wear, And mothers that lack sons.

Men. Now the gods crown thee!

Cor. And live you yet?—O my sweet lady, pardon. [*To VALERIA.*

Vol. I know not where to turn:—O welcome home;

And welcome, general;—And you are welcome all.

Men. A hundred thousand welcomes: I could weep. [*Welcome:*

And I could laugh; I am light, and heavy: A curse begin at very root of his heart, That is not glad to see thee!—You are three, That Rome should dote on: yet, by the faith of men,

We have some old crab-trees here at home, that will not

Be grafted to your relish. Yet welcome, war—we call a nettle, but a nettle; and [riors: The faults of fools, but folly.

Com. Ever right.

Cor. Menenius, ever, ever.

Her. Give way there, and go on.

Cor. Your hand, and yours:

[*To his Wife and Mother.*

Ere in our own house I do shade my head, The good patricians must be visited; From whom I have received not only greetings, But with them change of honours.

Vol. I have lived To see inherited my very wishes, And the buildings of my fancy: only there Is one thing wanting, which I doubt not, but Our Rome will cast upon thee.

Cor. Know, good mother, I had rather be their servant in my way, Than sway with them in theirs.

Com. On, to the Capitol. [*Flourish. Coronets. Exeunt in state, as before. The Tribunes remain.*

Bru. All tongues speak of him, and the bleared sights

Are spectacled to see him: Your prating nurse Into a rapture* let's her baby cry, While she chats him: the kitchen malkin† pins Her richest lockram‡ 'bout her recchy§ neck. Clambering the walls to eye him: stalls, bulks, windows,

Are smother'd up, leads fill'd, and ridges hors'd With variable complexions. all agreeing In earnestness to see him: seld||-shown flames¶

Do press among the popular throngs, and puff To win a vulgar station:** our veil'd dames Commit the war of white and damask, in Their nicely-gawded†† cheeks, to the wanton spoil

Of Phœbus' burning kisses: such a pother, As if that whatsoever god, who leads him, Were slyly crept into his human powers, And gave him graceful posture.

Sic. On the sudden, I warrant him consul.

Bru. Then our office may, During his power, go sleep.

Sic. He cannot temperately transport his honours [will From where he should begin, and end; but Lose those that he hath won.

Bru. In that there's comfort.

Sic. Doubt not, the commoners, for whom we stand,

But they, upon their ancient malice, will Forget, with the least cause, these his new honours: [tion

Which that he'll give them, make as little ques As he is proud to do't.

Bru. I heard him swear, Were he to stand for consul, never would he Appear i'the market-place, nor on him put The napless †† vesture of humility; Nor, showing (as the manner is) his wounds To the people, beg their stinking breaths.

Sic. 'Tis right.

Bru. It was his word: O, he would miss it, rather

Than carry it, but by the suit o'the gentry to And the desire of the nobles. [him,

Sic. I wish no better, Than have him hold that purpose, and to put it In execution.

Bru. 'Tis most like, he will.

Sic. It shall be to him then, as our good wills A sure destruction.

Bru. So it must fall out To him, or our authorities. For an end,

* Fit. † Maid. ‡ Best linen. § Soiled with sweat and smoke. || Seldom. ¶ Priests. ** Common standing-place. †† Adorned. ††† Thread-bare

* Flourish on cornets.

† Graceful.

We must suggest* the people, in what hatred
He still hath held them; that, to his power, he
would [and

Have made them mules, silenced their pleaders,
Dispropertied their freedoms: holding them,
In human action and capacity,
Of no more soul, nor fitness for the world,
Than camels in their war; who have their
provandt

Only for bearing burdens, and sore blows
For sinking under them.

Sic. This, as you say, suggested
At some time when his soaring insolence
Shall teach the people, (which time shall not
want,

If he be put upon't; and that's as easy,
As to set dogs on sheep,) will be his fire
To kindle their dry stubble; and their blaze
Shall darken him for ever.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Bru. What's the matter?

Mess. You are sent for to the Capitol. 'Tis
thought,

That Marcius shall be consul: I have seen
The dumb men throng to see him, and the
blind [gloves,
To hear him speak: The matrons flung their
Ladies and maids their scarfs and handker-
chiefs,

Upon him as he pass'd: the nobles bended,
As to Jove's statue; and the commons made
A shower, and thunder, with their caps, and
I never saw the like. [shouts:

Bru. Let's to the Capitol;
And carry with us ears and eyes for the time,
But hearts for the event

Sic. Have with you. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—The same.—The Capitol.

Enter two OFFICERS, to lay Cushions.

1 *Off.* Come, come, they are almost here:
How many stand for consulships?

2 *Off.* Three they say: but 'tis thought of
every one, Coriolanus will carry it.

1 *Off.* That's a brave fellow; but he's ven-
geance proud, and loves not the common peo-
ple.

2 *Off.* 'Faith, there have been many great
men that have flatter'd the people, who ne'er
loved them; and there be many that they have
loved, they know not wherefore: so that, if
they love they know not why, they hate upon
no better a ground: Therefore, for Coriolanus
neither to care whether they love or hate him,
manifests the true knowledge he has in their
disposition; and, out of his noble carelessness,
let's them plainly see't.

1 *Off.* If he did not care whether he had their
love, or no, he waded indifferently 'twixt doing
them neither good, nor harm; but he seeks
their hate with greater devotion than they can
render it him; and leaves nothing undone, that
may fully discover him their opposite.† Now,
to seem to affect the malice and displeasure of
the people, is as bad as that which he dislikes,
to flatter them for their love.

2 *Off.* He hath deserved worthily of his coun-
try: And his ascent is not by such easy degrees
as those, who, having been supple and cour-
teous to the people, bonnetted,‡ without any
further deed to heave them at all into their es-
timation and report: but he hath so planted

his honours in their eyes, and his actions in
their hearts, that for their tongues to be silent,
and not confess so much, were a kind of in-
grateful injury; to report otherwise were a
malice, that, giving itself the lie, would
pluck reproof and rebuke from every ear that
heard it.

1 *Off.* No more of him; he is a worthy man:
Make way, they are coming.

A Sennet. *Enter, with LICTORS before them,*
COMINIUS, the Consul, MENENIUS, CORIOLA-
NUS, many other SENATORS, SICINIUS, and
BRUTUS. *The SENATORS take their places;*
the TRIBUNES take theirs also by themselves.

Men. Having determin'd of the Volces, and
To send for Titus Lartius, it remains,
As the main point of this our after-meeting,
To gratify his noble service, that
Hath thus stood for his country: Therefore,
please you,

Most reverend and grave elders, to desire
The present consul, and last general
In our well-found successes, to report
A little of that worthy work perform'd
By Caius Marcius Coriolanus; whom
We meet here, both to thank and to remember
With honours like himself.

1 *Sen.* Speak, good Cominius:
Leave nothing out for length, and make us
think,

Rather our state's defective for requital,
Than we to stretch it out. Masters o'the
people,

We do request your kindest ears: and, after,
Your loving motion toward the common body
To yield what passes here.

Sic. We are contented
Upon a pleasing treaty; and have hearts
Inclinable to honour and advance
The theme of our assembly.

Bru. Which the rather
We shall be bless'd to do, if he remember
A kinder value of the people, than
He hath hereto priz'd them at.

Men. That's off, that's off,*
I would you rather had been silent: Please you
To hear Cominius speak?

Bru. Most willingly:
But yet my caution was more pertinent,
Than the rebuke you give it.

Men. He loves your people;
But tie him not to be their bedfellow.—
Worthy Cominius, speak.—Nay, keep your
place.

[CORIOLANUS rises, and offers to go away.]

1 *Sen.* Sit, Coriolanus; never shame to hear
What you have nobly done.

Cor. Your honours' pardon;
I had rather have my wounds to heal again,
Than hear say how I got them.

Bru. Sir, I hope,
My words disbench'd you not.
Cor. No, Sir: yet oft, [words.
When blows have made me stay, I fled from
You sooth'd not, therefore hurt not: But, your
I love them as they weigh. [people,

Men. Pray now, sit down.
Cor. I had rather have one scratch my head
i'the sun,

When the alarum were struck,† than idly sit
To hear my nothings monster'd.

[Exit CORIOLANUS.]

Men. Masters o'the people,
Your multiplying spawn how can he flatter,

* Inform.

† Adversary.

‡ Provender.

§ Take off caps.

* Nothing to the purpose.

† Summons to battle.

(That's thousand to one good one,) when you now see,

He had rather venture all his limbs for honour,
Than one of his ears to hear it?—Proceed, Cominius.

Com. I shall lack voice: the deeds of Coriolanus

Should not be utter'd feebly.—It is held,
That valour is the chiefest virtue, and
Most dignifies the haver:* if it be,
The man I speak of cannot in the world
Be singly counterpois'd. At sixteen years,
When Tarquin made a head for Rome, he fought

Beyond the mark of others: our then dictator,
Whom with all praise I point at, saw him fight,
When with his Amazonian chint he drove
The bristled lips before him: he bestrid
An o'er press'd Roman, and i'the consul's view
Slew three opposers: Tarquin's self he met,
And struck him on his knee: in that day's
feats,

When he might act the woman in the scene,§
He prov'd best man i'the field, and for his
meed||

Was brow-bound with the oak. His pupil age
Man-entered thus, he waxed like a sea;
And, in the brunt of seventeen battles since,
He lurch'd¶ all swords o'the garland. For this
Before and in Corioli, let me say, [last,
I cannot speak him home: He stopp'd the
fliers;

And, by his rare example, made the coward
Turn terror into sport: as waves before
A vessel under sail, so men obey'd, [stamp,)
And fell below his stem: his sword (death's
Where it did mark, it took; from face to foot
He was a thing of blood, whose every motion**
Was timed† with dying cries: alone he enter'd

The mortal gate o'the city, which he painted
With shunless destiny, aidless came off,
And with a sudden re-enforcement struck
Corioli, like a planet: now all's his: when
by and by the din of war 'gan pierce
His ready sense: then straight his doubled
spirit

Requicken'd what in flesh was fatigate,††
And to the battle came he; where he did
Run reeking o'er the lives of men, as if
'Twere a perpetual spoil: and, till we call'd
Both field and city ours, he never stood
To ease his breast with panting.

Men. Worthy man!

1 Sen. He cannot but with measure fit the
Which we devise him. [honours

Com. Our spoils he kick'd at;
And look'd upon things precious, as they were
The common mock o'the world: he covets less
Than misery§§ itself would give; rewards
His deeds with doing them; and is content
To spend the time, to end it.

Men. He's right noble;

Let him be call'd for.

1 Sen. Call for Coriolanus.

Off. He doth appear.

Re-enter CORIOLANUS.

Men. The senate, Coriolanus, are well pleas'd
To make thee consul.

Cor. I do owe thee still
My life, and services.

Men. It then remains,
That you do speak to the people.

Cor. I do beseech you,
Let me o'erleap that custom; for I cannot
Put on the gown, stand naked, and entreat
them,

For my wounds' sake, to give their suffrage:
please you,

That I may pass this doing.

Sic. Sir, the people
Must have their voices; neither will they bate
One jot of ceremony.

Men. Put them not to't:—

Pray you, go fit you to the custom; and
Take to you, as your predecessors have,
Your honour with your form.

Cor. It is a part
That I shall blush in acting, and might well
Be taken from the people.

Bru. Mark you that!

Cor. To brag unto them,—Thus I did, and
thus;—

Show them the unaking scars which I should
As if I had received them for the hire [hide,
Of their breath only;—

Men. Do not stand upon't.—

We recommend to you, tribunes of the people
Our purpose to them;—and to our noble consul
Wish we all joy and honour!

Sen. To Coriolanus come all joy and honour!
[Flourish. Then exeunt SENATORS.

Bru. You see how he intends to use the
people.

Sic. May they perceive his intent! He that
will require them,

As if he did contemn what he requested
Should be in them to give.

Bru. Come, we'll inform them

Of our proceedings here: on the market-place,
I know, they do attend us. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—The same.—The Forum.

Enter several CITIZENS.

1 Cit. Once if he do require our voices, we
ought not to deny him.

2 Cit. We may, Sir, if we will.

3 Cit. We have power in ourselves to do it,
but it is a power that we have no power to do:
for if he show us his wounds, and tell us his
deeds, we are to put our tongues into those
wounds, and speak for them; so, if he tell us
his noble deeds, we must also tell him our noble
acceptance of them. Ingratitude is monstrous:
and for the multitude to be ingrateful, were to
make a monster of the multitude; of the which,
we, being members, should bring ourselves to be
monstrous members.

1 Cit. And to make us no better thought of,
a little help will serve: for once, when we
stood up about the corn, he himself stuck not
to call us the many-headed multitude.

3 Cit. We have been called so of many; not
that our heads are some brown, some black,
some auburn, some bald, but that our wits are
so diversly coloured: and truly I think, if all
our wits were to issue out of one scull, they
would fly east, west north, south; and their
consent of one direct way should be at once
to all the points o'the compass.

2 Cit. Think you so? Which way, do you
judge, my wit would fly?

3 Cit. Nay, your wit will not so soon out as
another man's will, 'tis strongly wedged up in
a block-head: but if it were at liberty, 'twould,
sure, southward.

2 Cit. Why that way?

* Possessor. † Without a beard. ‡ Bearded.

§ Smooth-faced enough to act a woman's part.

|| Reward. ¶ Won. ** Stroke.

†† Followed. ‡‡ Wearing. §§ Avarice.

3 *Cit.* To lose itself in a fog; where being three parts melted away with rotten dews, the fourth would return for conscience sake, to help to get thee a wife.

2 *Cit.* You are never without your tricks:—You may, you may.

3 *Cit.* Are you all resolved to give your voices? But that's no matter, the greater part carries it. I say, if he would incline to the people, there was never a worthier man.

Enter CORIOLANUS and MENENIUS.

Here he comes, and in the gown of humility; mark his behaviour. We are not to stay altogether, but to come by him where he stands, by ones, by twos, and by threes. He's to make his requests by particulars: wherein every one of us has a single honour, in giving him our own voices with our own tongues: therefore follow me, and I'll direct you how you shall go by him.

All. Content, content. [*Exeunt.*]

Men. O, Sir, you are not right: have you not known

The worthiest men have done it?

Cor. What must I say?—

I pray, Sir,—Plague upon't! I cannot bring My tongue to such a pace:—Look, Sir;—my wounds;—

I got them in my country's service, when Some certain of your breath'ren roar'd, and ran From the noise of our own drums.

Men. O me, the gods! [*them*]
You must not speak of that; you must desire To think upon you.

Cor. Think upon me? Hang 'em!
I would they would forget me, like the virtues Which our divines lose by them.

Men. You'll mar all;
I'll leave you: Pray you, speak to them, I pray you,
In wholesome manner. [*Exit.*]

Enter two CITIZENS.

Cor. Bid them wash their faces,
And keep their teeth clean,—So, here comes a brace,

You know the cause, Sir, of my standing here.

1 *Cit.* We do, Sir; tell us what hath brought you to't.

Cor. Mine own desert.

2 *Cit.* Your own desert?

Cor. Ay, not Mine own desire.

1 *Cit.* How! not your own desire?

Cor. No, Sir:
'Twas never my desire yet,
To trouble the poor with begging.

1 *Cit.* You must think, if we give you any We hope to gain by you. [*thing,*]

Cor. Well then, I pray, your price o'the consulship?

1 *Cit.* The price is, Sir, to ask it kindly.

Cor. Kindly?

Sir, I pray let me ha't: I have wounds to show you,

Which shall be yours in private.—Your good voice, Sir;

What say you?

2 *Cit.* You shall have it, worthy Sir.

Cor. A match Sir:—

There is in all two worthy voices begg'd:—I have your alms; adieu.

1 *Cit.* But this is something odd.

2 *Cit.* An 'twere to give again,—But 'tis no matter. [*Exeunt two CITIZENS.*]

Enter two CITIZENS.

Cor. Pray you now, if it may stand with the tune of your voices, that I may be consul, I have here the customary gown.

3 *Cit.* You have deserved nobly of your country, and you have not deserved nobly.

Cor. Your enigma?

3 *Cit.* You have been a scourge to her enemies, you have been a rod to her friends; you have not, indeed, loved the common people.

Cor. You should account me the more virtuous, that I have not been common in my love. I will, Sir, flatter my sworn brother the people, to earn a dearer estimation of them; 'tis a condition they account gentle: and since the wisdom of their choice is rather to have my hat than my heart, I will practise the insinuating nod, and be off to them most counterfeitedly; that is, Sir, I will counterfeit the bewitchment of some popular man, and give it bountifully to the desirers. Therefore, beseech you, I may be consul.

4 *Cit.* We hope to find you our friend; and therefore give you our voices heartily.

3 *Cit.* You have received many wounds for your country.

Cor. I will not seal your knowledge with showing them. I will make much of your voices, and so trouble you no further.

Both Cit. The gods give you joy, Sir, heartily! [*Exeunt.*]

Cor. Most sweet voices!—
Better it is to die, better to starve,
Than crave the hire which first we do deserve.
Why in this woolvish gown should I stand here,

To beg of Hob and Dick, that do appear,
Their needless vouchers: Custom calls me to't:— [*do't;*]

What custom wills, in all things should we
The dust on antique time would lie unswept,
And mountainous error be too highly heap'd
For truth to over-peer.*—Rather than fool it
Let the high office and the honour go [*so,*]
To one that would do thus.—I am halthrough;
The one part suffer'd, the other will I do.

Enter three other CITIZENS.

Here come more voices,—
Your voices: for your voices I have fought;
Watch'd for your voices; for your voices bear
Of wounds two dozen odd; battles thrice six,
I have seen and have heard of; for your voices,
Done many things. some less, some more:
your voices:

Indeed, I would be consul.

5 *Cit.* He has done nobly, and cannot go without any honest man's voice.

6 *Cit.* Therefore let him be consul: The gods give him joy, and make him good friend to the people!

All. Amen, Amen.—
God save thee, noble consul!

Cor. Worthy voices! [*Exeunt CITIZENS*]

Re-enter MENENIUS, with BRUTUS, and SICIPIUS.

Men. You have stood your limitation; and the tribunes

Endue you with the people's voice: Remains,
That in the official marks invested, you
Anon do meet the senate.

Cor. Is this done ?

Sic. The custom of request you have discharged :

The people do admit you ; and are summon'd To meet anon, upon your approbation.

Cor. Where ? at the senate-house ?

Sic. There, Coriolanus.

Cor. May I then change these garments ?

Sic. You may, Sir.

Cor. That I'll straight do ; and, knowing myself again,

Repair to the senate house

Men. I'll keep you company.—Will you along ?

Bru. We stay here for the people.

Sic. Fare you well.

[*Exeunt CORIOL. and MENEN.*]

He has it now ; and by his looks, methinks, 'Tis warm at his heart.

Bru. With a proud heart he wore His humble weeds : Will you dismiss the people ?

Re-enter CITIZENS.

Sic. How now, my masters ? have you chose this man ?

1 *Cit.* He has our voices, Sir.

Bru. We pray the gods, he may deserve your loves.

2 *Cit.* Amen, Sir : To my poor unworthy notice,

He mock'd us, when he begg'd our voices.

3 *Cit.* Certainly,

He flouted us downright.

1 *Cit.* No, 'tis his kind of speech, he did not mock us.

2 *Cit.* Not one amongst us save yourself, but says, [us

He us'd us scornfully : he should have show'd His marks of merit, wounds receiv'd for his country.

Sic. Why, so he did, I am sure.

Cit. No ; no man saw 'em. [*Several speak.*]

3 *Cit.* He said, he had wounds, which he could show in private ;

And with his hat, thus waving it in scorn, *I would be consul*, says he : *aged custom*, *But by your voices, will not so permit me ; Your voices therefore : When we granted that, Here was,—I thank you for your voices,—*

thank you,— [*voices,* *Your most sweet voices :—now you have left your I have no further with you :—Was not this mockery ?*

Sic. Why, either, you were ignorant to see't ? Or, seeing it, of such childish friendliness To yield your voices ?

Bru. Could you not have told him, As you were lesson'd,—When he had no power, But was a petty servant to the state, He was your enemy ; ever spake against Your liberties, and the charters that you bear I'the body of the weal : and now, arriving A place of potency, and sway o'the state, If he should still malignantly remain Fast foe to the plebeii,* your voices might Be curses to yourselves ? You should have said, That, as his worthy deeds did claim no less Than what he stood for ; so his gracious nature Would think upon you for your voices, and Translate his malice toward you into love, Standing your friendly lord.

Sic. Thus to have said, As you were fore-advis'd, had touch'd his spirit, And tried his inclination ; from him pluck'd Either his gracious promise, which you might,

* Plebeians, common people.

As cause had call'd you up, have held him to ; Or else it would have gall'd his surly nature, Which easily endures not article.

Tying him to aught ; so, putting him to rage, You should have ta'en the advantage of his And pass'd him unelected. [*choler,*

Bru. Did you perceive, He did solicit you in free contempt, [*think,* When he did needs your loves ; and do you That his contempt shall not be bruising to you, When he hath power to crush ? Why, had your bodies

No heart among you ? Or had you tongues, to Against the rectorship of judgment ? [*cry*

Sic. Have you, Ere now, denied the asker ? and, now again, On him, that did not ask, but mock, bestow Your su'd-for tongues ?

3 *Cit.* He's not confirm'd, we may deny him yet.

2 *Cit.* And will deny him : I'll have five hundred voices of that sound.

1 *Cit.* I twice five hundred, and their friends to piece 'em.

Bru. Get you hence instantly ; and tell those friends,— [*take*

They have chose a consul, that will from them Their liberties ; make them of no more voice Than dogs, that are as often beat for barking, As therefore kept to do so.

Sic. Let them assemble ; And, on a safer judgment, all revoke Your ignorant election : Enforce* his pride, And his old hate unto you : besides, forget not With what contempt he wore the humble weed, How in his suit he scorn'd you : but your loves ; Thinking upon his services, took from you The apprehension of his present portance,† Which gibingly, ungravely he did fashion After the inveterate hate he bears you.

Bru. Lay A fault on us, your tribunes ; that we labour'd (No impediment between) but that you must Cast your election on him.

Sic. Say you chose him More after our commandment, than as guided By your own true affections : and that, your minds

Pre-occupied with what you rather must do Than what you should, made you against the grain

To voice him consul : Lay the fault on us.

Bru. Ay, spare us not. Say, we read lectures to you,

How youngly he began to serve his country, How long continued : and what stock he springs of, [*came*

The noble house o'the Marcians ; from whence That Ancus Marcius, Numa's daughter's son, Who, after great Hostilius, here was king : Of the same house Publius and Quintus were, That our best water brought by conduits hither ; And Censorinus, darling of the people, And nobly nam'd so, being Censor twice, Was his great ancestor.

Sic. One thus descended, That hath beside well in his person wrought To be set high in place, we did commend To your remembrances : but you have found, Scaling‡ his present bearing with his past, That he's your fixed enemy, and revoke Your sudden approbation.

Bru. Say, you ne'er had done't, (Harp on that still,) but by our putting on : §

* Object. † Carriage. ‡ Weighing. § Incitation.

And presently, when you have drawn your Repair to the Capitol, [number,

Cit. We will so: almost all [Several speak. Repent in their election. [Exeunt CITIZENS.

Bru. Let them go on;

This mutiny were better put in hazard, Than stay, past doubt, for greater: If, as his nature is, he fall in rage With their refusal, both observe and answer The vantage* of his anger.

Sic. To the capitol: [people; Come: we'll be there before the stream o'the And this shall seem, as partly 'tis, their own, Which we have goaded† onward. Exeunt.

ACT III.

SCENE I.—The same.—A Street.

Cornets. Enter CORIOLANUS, MENENIUS, COMINIUS, TITUS LARTIUS, SENATORS, and PATRICIANS.

Cor. Tullus Aufidius then had made new head?

Lart. He had, my lord; and that it was, which caus'd

Our swifter composition.

Cor. So then the Volces stand but as at first; Ready, when time shall prompt them, to make Upon us again. [road

Com. They are worn, lord consul, so, That we shall hardly in our ages see Their banners wave again.

Cor. Saw you Aufidius?

Lart. On safe-guard‡ he came to me; and did curse

Against the Voices, for they had so vilely Yielded the town: he is retir'd to Antium.

Cor. Spoke he of me?

Lart. He did, my lord.

Cor. How? what?

Lart. How often he had met you, sword to sword:

That, of all things upon the earth, he hated Your person most: that he would pawn his fortunes

To hopeless restitution, so he might

Be call'd your vanquisher.

Cor. At Antium lives he?

Lart. At Antium.

Cor. I wish, I had a cause to seek him there, To oppose his hatred fully.—Welcome home. [To LARTIUS.

Enter SICINIUS and BRUTUS.

Behold; these are the tribunes of the people, The tongues o'the common mouth. I do despise them;

For they do prank§ them in authority,

Against all noble sufferance.

Sic. Pass no farther.

Cor. Ha! what is that?

Bru. It will be dangerous to

Go on; no farther.

Cor. What makes this change?

Men. The matter?

Com. Hath he not pass'd the nobles, and the commons?

Bru. Cominius, no.

Cor. Have I had children's voices?

† *Sen.* Tribunes, give way; he shall to the market-place.

Bru. The people are incens'd against him.

Sic. Stop,

Or all will fall in broil.

Cor. Are these your herd?

Must these have voices, that can yield them now,

And straight disclaim their tongues?—What are your officers?

You being their mouths, why rule you not their teeth?

Have you not set them on?

Men. Be calm, be calm.

Cor. It is a purpos'd thing, and grows by To curb the will of the nobility:— [plot, Suffer it, and live with such as cannot rule, Nor ever will be rul'd.

Bru. Call't not a plot:

The people cry, you mock'd them; and, of late, When corn was given them gratis, you re-pin'd;

Scandal the suppliants for the people; call'd them

Time-pleasers, flatterers, foes to nobleness.

Cor. Why, this was known before.

Bru. Not to them all.

Cor. Have you inform'd them since?

Bru. How! I inform them!

Cor. You are like to do such business.

Bru. Not unlike,

Each way to better yours.

Cor. Why then should I be consul? By you clouds,

Let me deserve so ill as you, and make me Your fellow-tribune.

Sic. You show too much of that, For which the people stir: If you will pass To where you are bound, you must inquire your way,

Which you are out of, with a gentler spirit; Or never be so noble as a consul, Nor yoke with him for tribune.

Men. Let's be calm.

Com. The people are abus'd:—Set on.— this palt'ring*

Becomes not Rome; nor has Coriolanus Deserv'd this so dishonour'd rub, laid falsely† I the plain way of his merit.

Cor. Tell me of corn!

This was my speech, and I will speak't again;—

Men. Not now, not now.

† *Sen.* Not in this heat, Sir, now.

Cor. Now, as I live, I will.—My nobler I crave their pardons:— [friends,

For the mutable, rank-scented many, † let Regard me as I do not flatter, and [then Therein behold themselves: I say again, In soothing them, we nourish 'gainst our senate

The cockle of rebellion, insolence, sedition, Which we ourselves have plough'd for, sow'd [ber; and scatter'd,

By mingling them with us, the honour'd num- Who lack not virtue, no, nor power, but that Which they have given to beggars.

Men. Well, no more.

† *Sen.* No more words, we beseech you.

Cor. How! no more?

As for my country I have shed my blood, Not fearing outward force, so shall my lungs Coin words till their decay, against those meazles§

Which we disdain should tetter|| us, yet sought The very way to catch them.

Bru. You speak o'the people, As if you were a god to punish, not A man of their infirmity.

* Advantage.

† With a guard.

‡ Driven.

§ Plume, deck.

* Shuffling.

† Lepers.

‡ Treacherously.

§ Populace.

|| Scab.

Sic. 'Twere well,
We let the people know't.

Men. What, what? his cholera?

Cor. Cholera!

Were I as patient as the midnight sleep,
By Jove, 'twould be my mind.

Sic. It is a mind,
That shall remain a poison where it is,
Not poison any further.

Cor. Shall remain!—

Here you this Triton of the minnows? * mark
His absolute shall? [you

Com. 'Twas from the canon. †

Cor. Shall!

O good, but most unwise patricians, why,
You grave, but reckless † senators, have you
thus

Given Hydra here to choose an officer,
That with his peregrinary shall, being but
The horn and noise o' the monsters, wants not
spirit

To say, he'll turn your current in a ditch,
And make your channel his? If he have
power,

Then veil your ignorance: if none, awake
Your dangerous lenity. If you are learned,
Be not as common fools; if you are not,
Let them have cushions by you. You are
plebeians,

If they be senators: and they are no less,
When both your voices blended, the greatest
taste [gistrate;

Most palates theirs. They choose their ma-
And such a one as he, who puts his shall,
His popular shall, against a graver bench
Than ever frown'd in Greece! by Jove him-
self,

It makes the consuls base: and my soul akes
To know, when two authorities are up,
Neither supreme, how soon confusion
May enter 'twixt the gap of both, and take
The one by the other.

Com. Well—on to the market-place.

Cor. Whoever gave that counsel, to give
forth

The corn o' the storehouse gratis, as 'twas us'd
Sometime in Greece,——

Men. Well, well, no more of that.

Cor. (Though there the people had more
absolute power,)

I say, they nourish'd disobedience, fed
The ruin of the state.

Bru. Why, shall the people give
One, that speaks thus, their voice?

Cor. I'll give my reasons,

More worthier than their voices. They know,
the corn

Was not our recompence; resting well assur'd
They ne'er did service for't: Being press'd to
the war,

Even when the naval of the state was touch'd,
They would not thread † the gates: this kind
of service

Did not deserve corn gratis: being i' the war,
Their mutinies and revolts, wherein they
show'd [tion

Most valour, spoke not for them: The accusa-
Which they have often made against the
senate,

All cause unborn, could never be the native ||
Of our so frank donation. Well, what then?
How shall this bosom multiplied digest
The senate's courtesy? Let deed express

* Small fish. † According to law. ‡ Careless.

§ Pass through.

|| Motive, no doubt was Shakspeare's word.

What's like to be their words:—*We did re-
quest it;*

We are the greater poll, and in true fear*

They gave us our demands: Thus we debase
The nature of our seats, and make the rabble
Call our cares, fears: which will in time
break ope

The lock's o' the senate, and bring in the crows
To peck the eagles.—

Men. Come, enough.

Bru. Enough, with over-measure.

Cor. No, take more: [man,

What may be sworn by, both divine and hu-
Seal what I end withal!—This double wor-
ship,— [other

Where one part does disdain with cause, the
Insult without all reason; where gentry, title,
wisdom

Cannot conclude, but by the yea and no
Of general ignorance,—it must omit
Real necessities, and give way the while
To unstable slightness: purpose so bar'd, it
follows,

Nothing is done to purpose: Therefore, be-
sech you,—

You that will be less fearful than discreet;
That love the fundamental part of state,
More than you doubt † the change of't; that
prefer

A noble life before a long, and wish
To jump † a body with a dangerous physic
That's sure of death without it,—at once pluck
out

The multitudinous tongue, let them not lick,
The sweet which is their poison: your dishon-
our [state

Mangles true judgment, and bereaves the
Of that integrity which should become it;
Not having the power to do the good it would,
For the ill which doth controul it.

Bru. He has said enough.

Sic. He has spoken like a traitor, and shall
answer

As traitors do.

Cor. Thou wretch! despite o'erwhelm thee!—

What should the people do with these bald
tribunes?

On whom depending, their obedience fails
To the greater bench: In a rebellion,
When what's not meet, but what must be,
was law,

Then were they chosen; in a better hour,
Let what is meet, be said it must be meet,
And throw their power i' the dust.

Bru. Manifest treason.

Sic. This a consul? no.

Bru. The Ædiles, ho!—Let him be appre-
hended.

Sic. Go, call the people; *Exit BRUTUS.*] in
whose name, myself

Attach thee, as a traitorous innovator,
A foe to the public weal: Obey, I charge thee,
And follow to thine answer.

Cor. Hence, old goat!

Sen. & Pat. We'll surely him.

Com. Aged Sir, hands off!

Cor. Hence, rotten things, or I shall shake
thy bones

Out of thy garments.

Sic. Help, ye citizens.

*Re-enter BRUTUS, with the ÆDILES, and a
Rabble of CITIZENS.*

Men. On both sides more respect.

* Number.

† Fear.

‡ Risk.

Sic. Here's he, that would
Take from you all your power.
Bru. Seize him, Ædiles.
Cit. Down with him, down with him!
[Several speak.]
2 *Sen.* Weapons, weapons, weapons!
[They all bustle about CORIOLANUS.]
Tribunes, patricians, citizens!—what ho!
Sicinius, Brutus, Coriolanus, citizens!
Cit. Peace, peace, peace; stay, hold, peace!
Men. What is about to be!—I am out of
breath; [bunes
Confusion's near: I cannot speak:—You tri-
to the people,—Coriolanus, patience:—
Speak, good Sicinius.
Sic. Hear me, people;—Peace.
Cit. Let's hear our tribune: Peace. Speak,
speak, speak.
Sic. You are at point to lose your liberties;
Marcius would have all from you; Marcus,
Whom late you have nam'd for consul.
Men. Fie, fie, fie!
This is the way to kindle, not to quench.
1 *Sen.* To unbuild the city, and to lay all flat.
Sic. What is the city, but the people?
Cit. True,
The people are the city.
Bru. By the consent of all, we were estab-
The people's magistrates. [lish'd
Cit. You so remain.
Men. And so are like to do.
Cor. That is the way to lay the city flat:
To bring the roof to the foundation;
And bury all, which yet distinctly ranges,
In heaps and piles of ruins.
Sic. This deserves death.
Bru. Or let us stand to our authority,
Or let us lose it:—We do here pronounce,
Upon the part o'the people, in whose power
We were elected theirs, Marcus is worthy
Of present death.
Sic. Therefore, lay hold of him; [thence
Bear him to the rock Tarpeian,* and from
Into destruction cast him.
Bru. Ædiles, seize him.
Cit. Yield, Marcus, yield.
Men. Hear me one word.
'Beseech you tribunes, hear me but a word.
Ædi. Peace, peace. [friend,
Men. Be that you seem, truly your country's
And temperately proceed to what you would
Thus violently redress.
Bru. Sir, those cold ways, [ous
That seem like prudent helps, are very poison-
Where the disease is violent:—Lay hands upon
And bear him to the rock. [him,
Cor. No; I'll die here. [Drawing his Sword.
'There's some among you have beheld me fight-
ing; [me.
Come, try upon yourselves what you have seen
Men. Down with that sword;—Tribunes,
withdraw a while.
Bru. Lay hands upon him.
Men. Help, Marcus! help,
You that be noble; help him, young and old!
Cit. Down with him, down with him!
[In this Mutiny, the TRIBUNES, the ÆDILES,
and the People are all beat in.
Men. Go, get you to your house; be gone,
All will be naught else. [away,
2 *Sen.* Get you gone,
Cor. Stand fast;
We have as many friends as enemies.
Men. Shall it be put to that?

1 *Sen.* The gods forbid!
I pr'ythee, noble friend, home to thy house;
Leav us to cure this cause.
Men. For it is a sore upon us, [you.
You cannot tent yourself: Be gone, 'beseech
Com. Come, Sir, along with us.
Cor. I would they were barbarians (as they
are,
Though in Rome litter'd,) not Romans, (as
they are not,
Though calv'd i'the porch o'the Capitol,)—
Men. Be gone;
Put not your worthy rage into your tongue;
One time will owe another.
Cor. On fair ground,
I could beat forty of them.
Men. I could myself
Take up a brace of the best of them; yea, the
two tribunes.
Com. But now 'tis odds beyond arithmetic;
And manhood is call'd foolery, when it stands
Against a falling fabric.—Will you hence,
Before the tag* return? whose rage doth rend
Like interrupted waters, and o'erbear
What they are used to bear.
Men. Pray you be gone:
I'll try whether my old wit be in request
With those that have but little; this must be
With cloth of any colour. [patch'd
Com. Nay, come away.
[Exeunt COR. COM. and others.]
1 *Pat.* This man has marr'd his fortune.
Men. His nature is too noble for the world:
He would not flatter Neptune for his trident,
Or Jove for his power to thunder. His heart's
his mouth: [vent:
What his breast forges, that his tongue must
And, being angry, does forget that ever
He heard the name of death. [A noise within.
Here's goodly work!
2 *Pat.* I would they were a-bed!
Men. I would they were in Tyber!—What,
the vengeance,
Could he not speak them fair?
Re-enter BRUTUS and SICINIUS, with the Rabble.
Sic. Where's this viper,
That would depopulate the city and
Be every man himself?
Men. You worthy tribunes,—
Sic. He shall be thrown down the Tarpeian
rock
With rigorous hands; he hath resisted law,
And therefore law shall scorn him further trial
Than the severity of the public power,
Which he so sets at nought.
1 *Cit.* He shall well know,
The noble tribunes are the people's mouths,
And we their hands.
Cit. He shall sure on't.†
[Several speak together.]
Men. Sir,—
Sic. Peace.
Men. Do not cry, havoc,‡ where you should
but hunt
With modest warrant.
Sic. Sir, how comes it, that you
Have help to make this rescue?
Men. Hear me speak:—
As I do know the consul's worthiness,
So can I name his faults:—
Sic. Consul!—what consul?
Men. The consul Coriolanus.
Bru. He a consul!
Cit. No, no, no, no, no.

* From whence criminals were thrown, and dashed to pieces.

* The lowest of the populace, tag, rag, and bobtail.
† Be sure on't.
‡ The signal for slaughter.

Men. If, by the tribunes' leave, and yours, good people,
I may be heard, I'd crave a word or two ;
The which shall turn you to no further harm,
Than so much loss of time.

Sic. Speak briefly then ;
For we are peremptory, to despatch
This viperous traitor : to eject him hence,
Were but one danger ; and to keep him here,
Our certain death, therefore it is decreed,
He dies to-night.

Men. Now the good gods forbid,
That our renowned Rome, whose gratitude
Towards her deserved* children is enroll'd
In Jove's own book, like an unnatural dam
Should now eat up her own !

Sic. He's a disease, that must be cut away.

Men. O, he's a limb, that has but a disease ;
Mortal to cut it off ; to cure it, easy.
What has he done to Rome, that's worthy
death,

Killing our enemies ? The blood he hath lost,
(Which, I dare vouch, is more than that he
hath, [try :
By many an ounce) he dropp'd it for his coun-
And, what is left, to use it by his country,
Were to us all, that do't, and suffer it,
A brand to the end o'the world.

Sic. This is clean kam.†

Bru. Merely † awry : when he did love his
It honour'd him. [country.

Men. The service of the foot
Being once gangren'd, is not then respected
For what before it was ?

Bru. We'll hear no more :—
Pursue him to his house, and pluck him thence ;
Lest his infection, being of catching nature,
Spread further.

Men. One word more, one word.
This tiger-footed rage when it shall find
The harm of unscann'd † swiftness, will, too
late, [process ;
Tie leaden pounds to his heels. Proceed by
Lest parties (as he is below'd) break out,
And sack great Rome with Romans.

Bru. If it were so,—

Sic. What do ye talk ?
Have we not had a taste of his obedience ?
Our Ædiles smote ? ourselves resisted ?—
Come :

Men. Consider this :—He has been bred i'the
wars
Since he could draw a sword, and is ill school'd
In boulded|| language ; meal and bran together
He throws without distinction. Give me leave,
I'll go to him, and undertake to bring him
Where he shall answer, by a lawful form,
(In peace) to his utmost peril.

I Sen. Noble tribunes,
It is the humane way : the other course
Will prove too bloody ; and the end of it
Unknown to the beginning.

Sic. Noble Menenius.
Be you then as the people's officer :
Masters, lay down your weapons.

Bru. Go not home.

Sic. Meet on the market-place :—We'll at-
tend you there :
Where, if you bring not Marcius, we'll proceed
In our first way.

Men. I'll bring him to you :—
Let me desire your company. [To the SENA-
TORS.] He must come,
Or what is worst will follow.

I Sen. Pray you, let's to him. *Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—A Room in CORIOLANUS' House.

Enter CORIOLANUS, and PATRICIANS.

Cor. Let them pull all about mine ears ; pre-
sent me
Death on the wheel, or at wild horses' heels ;
Or pile ten hills on the Tarpeian rock,
That the precipitation might down stretch
Below the beam of sight, yet will I still
Be thus to them.

Enter VOLUMNIA.

I Pat. You do the nobler.

Cor. I muse,* my mother
Does not approve me further, who was wont
To call them woollen vassals, things created,
To buy and sell with groats ; to show bare
heads [der,
In congregations, to yawn, be still, and won't
When one but of my ordinance † stood up
To speak of peace, or war. I talk of you ;
[To VOLUMNIA.

Why did you wish me milder ? Would you
have me

False to my nature ? Rather say, I play
The man I am.

Vol. O, Sir, Sir, Sir,
I would have had you put your power well on,
Before you had worn it out.

Cor. Let go.

Vol. You might have been enough the man
you are,
With striving less to be so : Lesser had been
The thwartings of your dispositions, if
You had not show'd them how you were dis-
ere they lack'd power to cross you. [pos'd

Cor. Let them hang.

Vol. Ay, and burn too.

Enter MENENIUS, and SENATORS.

Men. Come, come, you have been too rough,
something too rough ;
You must return, and mend it.

I Sen. There's no remedy ;
Unless, by not so doing, our good city
Cleave in the midst, and perish.

Vol. Pray be counsell'd :
I have a heart as little apt as yours,
But yet a brain, that leads my use of anger,
To better vantage.

Men. Well said, noble woman : [that
Before he should thus stoop to the herd, but
The violent fit o'the time craves it as physic
For the whole state, I would put mine armour
Which I can scarcely bear. [on

Cor. What must I do ?

Men. Return to the tribunes.

Cor. Well,
What then ? what then ?

Men. Repent what you have spoke.

Cor. For them ?—I cannot do it to the gods ;
Must I then do't to them ?

Vol. You are too absolute ;
Though therein you can never be too noble,
But when extremities speak. I have heard you
say,

Honour and policy, like unsever'd friends,
I'the war do grow together : Grant that, and
tell me,

In peace, what each of them by th'other lose,
That they combine not there.

Cor. Tush, tush !

* Deserving. † Quite awry. ‡ Absolutely.
§ Inconsiderate haste. || Finely sifted.

* Wonder.

† Rank.

Men. A good demand.

Vol. If it be honour, in your wars, to seem
The same you are not, (which, for your best
ends,

You adopt your policy,) how is it less, or worse,
That it shall hold companionship in peace
With honour, as in war; since that to both
It stands in like request?

Cor. Why force* you this?

Vol. Because that now it lies you on to speak
To the people; not by our own iustruction,
Nor by the matter which your heart prompts
you to,

But with such words that are but roted in
Your tongue, though but bastards, and syl-
lables

Of no allowance, to your bosom's truth.
Now, this no more dishonours you at all,
Than to take in† a town with gentle words,
Which else would put you to your fortune, and
The hazard of much blood.—

I would dissemble with my nature, where,
My fortunes, and my friends, at stake, requir'd,
I should do so in honour: I am in this,
Your wife, your son, these senators, the nobles;
And you will rather show our general lowts‡
How you can frown, than spend a fawn upon
them, [guard

For the inheritance of their loves, and safe-
Of what that want might ruin.

Men. Noble lady!—

Come, go with us; speak fair: you may salve
so,

Not what is dangerous present, but the loss
Of what is past.

Vol. I pr'ythee now, my son,
Go to them, with this bonnet in thy hand;
And thus far having stretch'd it, (here be with
them,)

Thy knee bussing the stones, (for in such busi-
ness [rant

Action is eloquence, and the eyes of the igno-
More learned than the ears,) waving thy head,
Which, often, thus, correcting thy stout heart,
That humble, as the ripest mulberry, [them,
Now will not hold the handling: Or, say to
Thou art their soldier, and being bred in broils,
Hast not the soft way, which thou dost con-
fess,

Were fit for thee to use, as they to claim,
In asking their good loves; but thou wilt
frame

Thyself, forsooth, hereafter theirs, so far
As thou hast power, and person.

Men. This but done,

Even as she speaks, why, all their hearts were
yours:

For they have pardons, being ask'd, as free
As words, to little purpose.

Vol. Pry'thee now,

Go, and be rul'd: although, I know, thou
hadst rather

Follow thine enemy in a fiery gulf, [nius.
Than flatter him in a bower. Here is Comi-

Enter COMINIUS.

Com. I have been i'the market-place: and,
Sir, tis fit

You make strong party, or defend yourself
By calmness, or by absence; all's in anger.

Men. Only fair speech.

Com. I think, 'twill serve, if he
Can thereto frame his spirit.

Vol. He must, and will:—

Pry'thee, now, say, you will, and go about it.

* Urge. † Subdue. ‡ Common clowns.

Cor. Must I go show them my unbarb'd
sconce? * Must I

With my base tongue, give to my noble heart
A lie, that it must bear? Well, I will do't:
Yet were there but this single plot to lose,
This mould of Marcius, they to dust should
grind it, [place:—
And throw it against the wind.—To the market-
You have put me now to such a part, which
I shall discharge to the life. [never

Com. Come, come, we'll prompt you.

Vol. I pr'ythee now, sweet son; as thou
hast said,

My praises made thee first a soldier, so,
To have my praise for this, perform a part
Thou hast not done before.

Cor. Well, I must do't;

Away, my disposition, and possess me
Some harlot's spirit! My throat of war he
turn'd,

Which quired with my drum, into a pipe
Small as an eunuch, or the virgin voice
That babies lulls asleep! The smiles of knaves
Tent' in my cheeks; and school-boys' tears
take up

The glasses of my sight! A beggar's tongue
Make motion through my lips; and my arm'd
knees,

Who bow'd but in my stirrup, bend like his
That hath receiv'd an alms!—I will not do't:
Lest I surcease to honour mine own truth,
And, by my body's action, teach my mind
A most inherent baseness.

Vol. At thy choice then:

To beg of thee, it is my more dishonour,
Than thou of them. Come all to ruin; let
Thy mother rather feel thy pride, than fear
Thy dangerous stoutness; for I mock at death
With as big heart as thou. Do as thou list.
Thy valiantness was mine, thou suck'dst it from
But owe† thy pride thyself. [me

Cor. Pray, be content;

Mother, I am going to the market-place;
Chide me no more. I'll mountebank their
loves, [belov'd
Cog their hearts from them, and come home
Of all the trades in Rome. Look, I am going;
Commend to me my wife. I'll return consul;
Or never trust to what my tongue can do
I'the way of flattery, further.

Vol. Do your will.

[Exit.

Com. Away, the tribunes do attend you
arm yourself

To answer mildly; for they are prepar'd
With accusations, as I hear, more strong
Than are upon you yet.

Cor. The word is, mildly:—Pray you, let us
Let them accuse me by invention, I [go;
Will answer in mine honour.

Men. Ay, but mildly.

Cor. Well, mildly be it then; mildly.

[Exeunt.

SCENE III.—The same.—The Forum.

Enter SICINIUS and BRUTUS.

Bru. In this point charge him home, that
he affects

Tyrannical power: If he invade us there,
Enforce him with his envy to the people;
And that the spoil, got on the Antiates,
Was ne'er distributed.—

Enter an ÆDILE.

What, will he come?

* Unshaven head. † Dwell. ‡ Own.
§ Object his hatred.

Æd. He's coming.

Bru. How accompanied?

Æd. With old Menenius, and those senators
That always favour'd him.

Sic. Have you a catalogue
Of all the voices that we have procur'd
Set down by the poll?

Æd. I have; 'tis ready, here.

Sic. Have you collected them by tribes?

Æd. I have.

Sic. Assemble presently the people hither:
And when they hear me say, *It shall be so*
'Tis the right and strength o'the commons, be it
either [them,
For death, for fine, or banishment, then let
If I say, fine, cry *fine*: if death, cry *death*;
Insisting on the old prerogative
And power i'the truth o'the cause.

Æd. I shall inform them.

Bru. And when such time they have begun
to cry,
Let them not cease, but with a din confus'd
Enforce the present execution
Of what we chance to sentence.

Æd. Very well.

Sic. Make them be strong, and ready for
this hint,
When we shall hap to give't them.

Bru. Go about it— [Exit ÆDILE.
Put him to choler straight: He hath been us'd
Ever to conquer, and to have his worth
Of contradiction: Being once chaf'd, he can-

not
Be rein'd again to temperance; then he speaks
What's in his heart; and that is there, which
With us to break his neck. [looks

Enter CORIOLANUS, MENENIUS, COMINIUS,
SENATORS, and PATRICIANS.

Sic. Well, here he comes.

Men. Calmly, I do beseech you.

Cor. Ay, as an ostler, that for the poorest
piece
Will bear the knave* by the volume.—The
honour'd gods
Keep Rome in safety, and the chairs of justice
Supplied with worthy men! plant love among
us! [peace,
Throng our large temples with the shows of
And not our streets with war!

1 *Sen.* Amen, amen!

Men. A noble wish.

Re-enter ÆDILE, with CITIZENS.

Sic. Draw near, ye people.

Æd. List to your tribunes; audience: Peace,
I say.

Cor. First, hear me speak.

Both Tri. Well, say.—Peace, ho.

Cor. Shall I be charg'd no further than this
present?
Must all determine here?

Sic. I do demand,

If you submit you to the people's voices,
Allow their officers, and are content
To suffer lawful censure for such faults
As shall be prov'd upon you?

Cor. I am content.

Men. Lo, citizens, he says, he is content:
The warlike service he has done, consider;
Think on the wounds his body bears, which
Like graves i'the holy churchyard. [show

Cor. Scratches with briars,
Scars to move laughter only.

* Will bear being called a knave.

Men. Consider further.

That when he speaks not like a citizen,
You find him like a soldier: Do not take
His rougher accents for malicious sounds,
But, as I say, such as become a soldier,
Rather than envy* you.

Com. Well, well, no more.

Cor. What is the matter,
That being pass'd for consul with full voice,
I am so dishonour'd, that the very hour
You take it off again?

Sic. Answer to us.

Cor. Say then: 'tis true, I ought so.

Sic. We charge you, that you have contriv'd
to take

From Rome all season'd† office, and to wind
Yourself into a power tyrannical;

For which, you are a traitor to the people.

Cor. How! Traitor?

Men. Nay; temperately: Your promise.

Cor. The fires i'the lowest hell fold in the
people!

Call me their traitor.—Thou injurious tribune!
Within thine eyes sat twenty thousand deaths,
In thy hands clutch'd‡ as many millions, in
Thy lying tongue both numbers, I would say,
Thou liest, unto thee, with voice as free
As I do pray the gods.

Sic. Mark you this, people?

Cit. To the rock with him; to the rock
with him!

Sic. Peace.

We need not put new matter to his charge:

What you have seen him do, and heard him
speak,

Beating your officers, cursing yourselves,
Opposing laws with strokes, and here defying
Those whose great power must try him; even
So criminal, and in such capital kind, [this,
Deserves the extremest death.

Bru. But since he hath

Serv'd well for Rome,——

Cor. What do you prate of service?

Bru. I talk of that, that know it.

Cor. You?

Men. Is this

The promise that you made your mother?

Com. Know,

I pray you,——

Cor. I'll know no further:

Let them pronounce the steep Tarpeian death,
Vagabond exile, flaying; pent to linger
But with a grain a day, I would not buy
Their mercy at the price of one fair word;
Nor check my courage for what they can give,
To have't with saying, Good morrow.

Sic. For that he has
(As much as in him lies) from time to time
Envidy against the people, seeking means
To pluck away their power; as now at last
Given hostile strokes, and that not|| in the
presence

Of dreadful justice, but on the ministers
That do distribute it; In the name o'the peo-
ple,

And in the power of us the tribunes, we,
Even from this instant, banish him our city;
In peril of precipitation

From off the rock Tarpeian, never more

To enter our Rome gates: 'Tis the people's name,
I say, it shall be so.

Cit. It shall be so,

It shall be so; let him away: he's banish'd,
And so it shall be.

† Injure. ‡ Of long standing. § Grasp'd
§ Showed hatred. || Not only.

Com. Hear me, my masters, and my common friends;—

Sic. He's sentenc'd: no more hearing.

Com. Let me speak:

I have been consul, and can show from* Rome. Her enemies' marks upon me. I do love My country's good, with a respect more tender, More holy, and profound, than mine own life, My dear wife's estimate,† her womb's increase, And treasure of my loins; then if I would, Speak that—

Sic. We know your drift: Speak what?

Bru. There's no more to be said, but he is banish'd,

As enemy to the people, and his country: It shall be so.

Cit. It shall be so, it shall be so.

Cor. You common cry† of ours! whose breath I hate

As reek‡ o'the rotten fens, whose love I prize As the dead carcasses of unburi'd men That do corrupt my air, I banish you; And here remain with your uncertainty! Let every feeble rumour shake your hearts! Your enemies, with nodding of their plumes, Fan you into despair! Have the power still To banish your defenders; till, at length, Your ignorance, (which finds not, till it feels,) Making not reservation of yourselves. Still your own foes,) deliver you, as most Abated|| captives, to some nation That won you without blows! Despising, For you, the city, thus I turn my back: There is a world elsewhere.

[*Exeunt* CORIOLANUS, COMINIUS, MENE- NIUS, SENATORS, and PATRICIANS.]

Æd. The people's enemy is gone, is gone!

Cit. Our enemy's banish'd! he is gone! Hoo! hoo!

[*The People shout, and throw up their caps.*]

Sic. Go, see him out at gates, and follow him,

As he hath follow'd you, with all despite; Give him deserv'd vexation. Let a guard Attend us through the city.

Cit. Come, come, let us see him out at gates; come:—

The gods preserve our noble tribunes!—Come. [*Exeunt.*]

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—*The same.*—*Before a Gate of the City.*

Enter CORIOLANUS, VOLUMNIA, VIRGILIA, MENENIUS, COMINIUS, and several young PATRICIANS.

Cor. Come, leave your tears; a brief farewell:—the beast¶ [ther, With many heads butts me away.—Nay, mo- Where is your ancient courage? you were us'd To say, extremity was the trier of spirits; That common chances common men could bear; That, when the sea was calm, all boats alike Show'd mastership in floating: fortune's blows, When most struck home, being gentle wound- ed, craves

A noble cunning: you were us'd to load me With precepts, that would make invincible The heart that conn'd them.

Vir. O heavens! O heavens!

Cor. Nay, I pr'ythee, woman,—

Vol. Now the red pestilence strike all trades in Rome,

And occupations perish!

Cor. What, what, what! [mother,

I shall be lov'd when I am lack'd. Nay, Resume that spirit, when you were wont to say, If you had been the wife of Hercules, Six of his labours you'd have done, and sav'd Your husband so much sweat.—Cominius, Droop not; adieu:—Farewell, my wife! my mother!

I'll do well yet.—Thou old and true Menenius, Thy tears are saltier than a younger man's And venomous to thine eyes.—My sometime general,

I have seen thee stern, and thou hast oft beheld Heart-heard'ning spectacles; tell these sad women,

'Tis fond* to wail inevitable strokes. [well, As 'tis to laugh at them.—My mother, you wot My hazards still have been your solace: and Believe't not lightly, (though I go alone Like to a lonely dragon, that his fen Makes fear'd, and talk'd of more than seen, your son

Will, or exceed the common, or be caught With cautelous baits and practice.

Vol. My first† son, Whither wilt thou go? Take good Cominius With thee a while: Determine on some course, More than a wild exposure‡ to each chance, That starts i'the way before thee.

Cor. O the gods!

Com. I'll follow thee a month, devise with thee [us,

Where thou shalt rest, that thou may'st hear of And we of thee; so, if the time thrust forth A cause for thy repeal, we shall not send O'er the vast world, to seek a single man; And lose advantage, which doth ever cool I'the absence of the needer.

Cor. Fare ye well:— [full Thou hast years upon thee; and thou art too Of the wars' surfeits, to go rove with one That's yet unbruis'd: bring me but out at gate.—

Come, my sweet wife, my dearest mother, and My friends of noble touch,|| when I am forth, Bid me farewell, and smile. I pray you, come.

While I remain above the ground, you shall Hear from me still; and never of me aught But what is like me formerly.

Men. That's worthily As any ear can hear.—Come, let's not weep.— If I could shake off but one seven years From these old arms and legs, by the good gods, I'd with thee every foot.

Cor. Give me thy hand:—

Come. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—*The same.*—*A Street near the Gate.*

Enter SICINIUS, BRUTUS, and ÆDILE. *Sic.* Bid them all home; he's gone, and we'll no further.—

The nobility are vex'd, who, we see, have sided In his behalf.

Bru. Now we have shown our power, Let us seem humbler after it is done, Than when it was a doing.

Sic. Bid them home: Say, their great enemy is gone, and they Stand in their ancient strength.

Bru. Dismiss them home. [*Exit* ÆDILE.]

Enter VOLUMNIA, VIRGILIA, and MENENIUS. Here comes his mother.

* For. † Value. ‡ Pack. § Vapour. || Subdued. ¶ The government of the people.

* Foolish. † Insidious. ‡ Noblest. § Exposure. || True metal.

Sic. Let's not meet her.

Bru. Why?

Sic. They say, she's mad.

Bru. They have ta'en note of us:

Keep on your way.

Vol. O, you're well met: The hoarded plague, o'the gods

Require your love!

Men. Peace, peace; be not so loud.

Vol. If that I could for weeping, you should hear,—

Nay, and you shall hear some.—Will you be gone? [To BRUTUS.]

Vir. You shall stay too: [To SICIN.] I would, I had the power

To say so to my husband.

Sic. Are you mankind?

Vol. Ay, fool; is that a shame? Note but this fool.—

Was not a man my father? Hadst thou foxship* To banish him that struck more blows for Rome Than thou hast spoken words?

Sic. O blessed heavens!

Vol. More noble blows, than ever thou wise words;

And for Rome's good.—I'll tell thee what; —Yet go:

Nay but thou shalt stay too:—I would my son

Were in Arabia, and thy tribe before him, His good sword in his hand.

Sic. What then?

Vir. What then?

He'd make an end of thy posterity.

Vol. Bastards, and all.—

Good man, the wounds that he does bear for Rome!

Men. Come, come, peace.

Sic. I would he had continu'd to his count as he began; and not unknit himself [Try, The noblest knot he made.

Bru. I would he had.

Vol. I would he had? 'Twas you incens'd the rabble:

Cats, that can judge as fitly of his worth, As I can of those mysteries which heaven Will not have earth to know.

Bru. Pray, let us go.

Vol. Now, pray, Sir, get you gone:

You have done a brave deed. Ere you go, hear this:

As far as doth the Capitol exceed The meanest house in Rome: so far, my son, (This lady's husband here, this, do you see,) Whom you have banish'd, does exceed you all.

Bru. Well, well, we'll leave you.

Sic. Why stay we to be baited

With one that wants her wits?

Vol. Take my prayers with you.—

I would the gods had nothing else to do, [Exeunt TRIBUNES.]

But to confirm my curses! Could I meet them But once a day, it would unclog my heart Of what lies heavy to't.

Men. You have told them home, And, by my troth, you have cause. You'll sup with me?

Vol. Anger's my meat; I sup upon myself, And so shall starve with feeding.—Come let's go:

Leave this faint puling, and lament as I do, In anger, Juno-like. Come, come, come.

Men. Fie, fie, fie! [Exeunt.]

* Mean cunning

SCENE III.—A highway between Rome and Antium.

Enter a ROMAN and a VOLCE, meeting.

Rom. I know you well, Sir, and you know me: your name I think, is Adrian.

Vol. It is, so, Sir: truly, I have forgot you.

Rom. I am a Roman; and my services are, as you are, against them: Know you me yet?

Vol. Nicanor? No.

Rom. The same, Sir.

Vol. You had more beard, when I last saw you; but your favour* is well appeared by your tongue. What's the news in Rome? I have a note from the Volcian state, to find you out there: You have well saved me a day's journey.

Rom. There hath been in Rome strange insurrection: the people against the senators, patricians, and nobles.

Vol. Hath been! Is it ended then? Our state thinks not so; they are in a most warlike preparation, and hope to come upon them in the heat of their division.

Rom. The main blaze of it is past, but a small thing would make it flame again. For the nobles receive so to heart the banishment of that worthy Coriolanus, that they are in a ripe aptness, to take all power from the people, and to pluck from them their tribunes for ever. This lies glowing, I can tell you, and is almost mature for the violent breaking out.

Vol. Coriolanus banished?

Rom. Banished, Sir.

Vol. You will be welcome with this intelligence, Nicanor.

Rom. The day serves well for them now. I have heard it said, the fittest time to corrupt a man's wife, is when she's fallen out with her husband. Your noble Tullus Aufidius will try well in these wars, his great opposer, Coriolanus, being now in no request of his country.

Vol. He cannot choose. I am most fortunate, thus accidentally to encounter you: You have ended my business, and I will merrily accompany you home.

Rom. I shall, between this and supper, tell you most strange things from Rome; all tending to the good of their adversaries. Have you an army ready, say you?

Vol. A most royal one: the centurions, and their charges, distinctly billeted, already in the entertainment,† and to be on foot at an hour's warning.

Rom. I am joyful to hear of their readiness, and am the man, I think, that shall set them in present action. So, Sir, heartily well met, and most glad of your company.

Vol. You take my part from me, Sir; I have the most cause to be glad of yours.

Rom. Well, let us go together. [Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.—Antium.—Before AUFIDIUS' House.

Enter CORIOLANUS, in mean Apparel, disguised and muffled.

Cor. A goodly city is this Antium: City, 'Tis I that made thy widows; many an heir Of these fair edifices 'fore my wars [not; Have I heard groan, and drop: then know me Lest that thy wives with spits, and boys with stones,

* Countenance.

† In pay.

Enter a CITIZEN.

In puny battle slay me.—Save you, Sir.

Cit. And you.

Cor. Direct me, if it be your will,

Where great Aufidius lies: Is he in Antium?

Cit. He is, and feasts the nobles of the state,
At his house this night.

Cor. Which is his house, 'beseech you?

Cit. This, here, before you.

Cor. Thank you, Sir; farewell.

[*Exit CITIZEN.*]

O, world, thy slippery turns! Friends now
fast sworn,

Whose double bosoms seem to wear one heart,
Whose hours, whose bed, whose meal, and
exercise,

Are still together, who twin, as 'twere, in love
Unseparable, shall within this hour,

On a dissention of a doit,* break out

To bitterest enmity: So, fellest foes,

Whose passions and whose plots have broke
their sleep

To take the one the other, by some chance,
Some trick not worth an egg, shall grow dear
friends,

And interjoin their issues. So with me:—

My birth-place hate I, and my love's upon

This enemy town.—I'll enter:—if he slay me,
He does fair justice; if he give me way,

I'll do his country service. [*Exit.*]

SCENE V.—*The same.*—*A Hall in AUFIDIUS' House.*

Music within. Enter a SERVANT.

1 *Serv.* Wine, wine, wine! What service is
here! I think our fellows are asleep. [*Exit.*]

Enter another SERVANT.

1 *Serv.* Where's Cotus! my master calls
for him. Cotus! [*Exit.*]

Enter CORIOLANUS.

Cor. A goodly house: the feast smells well:
but I

Appear not like a guest.

Re-enter the first SERVANT.

1 *Serv.* What would you have, friend?

Whence are you? Here's no place for you:
Pray, go to the door.

Cor. I have deserv'd no better entertain-
In being Coriolanus.† [*ment,*]

Re-enter second SERVANT.

2 *Serv.* Whence are you, Sir? Has the por-
ter his eyes in his head, that he gives entrance
to such companions? † Pray, get you out.

Cor. Away!

2 *Serv.* Away? Get you away.

Cor. Now thou art troublesome.

2 *Serv.* Are you so brave? I'll have you
talked with anon.

Enter a third SERVANT. The first meets him.

3 *Serv.* What fellow's this?

1 *Serv.* A strange one as ever I look'd on:
I cannot get him out o'the house: Pr'ythee,
call my master to him.

3 *Serv.* What have you to do here, fellow?
Pray you, avoid the house.

Cor. Let me but stand; I will not hurt your
hearth.

3 *Serv.* What are you?

Cor. A gentleman.

3 *Serv.* A marvellous poor one.

Cor. True, so I am.

3 *Serv.* Pray you, poor gentleman, take up
some other station; here's no place for you;
pray you, avoid: come.

Cor. Follow your function, go!

And batten* on cold bits. [*Pushes him away.*]

3 *Serv.* What, will you not? Pr'ythee, tell
my master what a strange guest he has here.

2 *Serv.* And I shall. [*Exit.*]

3 *Serv.* Where dwellest thou?

Cor. Under the canopy.

3 *Serv.* Under the canopy?

Cor. Ay.

3 *Serv.* What's that?

Cor. I'the city of kites and crows.

3 *Serv.* I'the city of kites and crows?—

What an ass it is!—Then thou dwellest with
daws too!

Cor. No, I serve not thy master.

3 *Serv.* How, Sir! Do you meddle with
my master?

Cor. Ay; 'tis an honest service than to
meddle with thy mistress:

Thou prat'st, and prat'st; serve with thy
trencher, hence! [*Beats him away.*]

Enter AUFIDIUS and the second SERVANT.

Auf. Where is this fellow?

2 *Serv.* Here, Sir; I'd have beaten him like
a dog, but for disturbing the lords within.

Auf. Whence comest thou? what wouldst
thou? Thy name?

Why speak'st not? Speak, man: What's thy
name?

Cor. If, Tullus, [*Unmuffling.*]
Not yet thou know'st me, and seeing me, dost
Think me for the man I am, necessity [not
Commands me name myself.

Auf. What is thy name? [*SERVANTS retire.*]

Cor. A name unmusical to the Volcians'
And harsh in sound to thine. [*ears,*]

Auf. Say, what's thy name?

Thou hast a grim appearance, and thy face
Bears a command in't; though thy tackle's
torn, [*name?*]

Thou sow'st a noble vessel: What's thy

Cor. Prepare thy brow to frown: Know'st
thou me yet?

Auf. I know thee not:—Thy name?

Cor. My name is Caius Marcius, who hath
done

To thee particularly, and to all the Volces,
Great hurt and mischief; thereto witness may
My surname, Coriolanus: The painful service,
The extreme dangers, and the drops of blood
Shed for my thankless country, are requited
But with that surname; a good memory,†
And witness of the malice and displeasure
Which thou should'st bear me: only that name
remains;

The cruelty and envy of the people,
Permitted by our dastard nobles, who
Have all forsook me, hath devour'd the rest;
And suffer'd me by the voice of slaves to be
Whoop'd out of Rome. Now, this extremity
Hath brought me to thy hearth; Not out of
hope,

Mistake me not, to save my life; for if
I had fear'd death, of all the men i'the world
I would have 'voided thee: but in mere spite,
To be full quit of those my banishers,
Stand I before thee here. Then if thou hast

* A small coin.

† Having derived that name from Corioli. † Fellows.

* Feed:

† Memorial.

A heart of wreak* in thee, that will revenge
Thine own particular wrongs, and stop those
mainst

Of shame seen through thy country, speed
thee straight,

And make my misery serve thy turn; so use it,
That my revengeful services may prove
As benefits to thee; for I will fight
Against my canker'd country with the spleen
Of all the under† fiends. But if so be
Thou dar'st not this, and that to prove more
fortunes

Thou art tir'd, then, in a word, I also am
Longer to live most weary, and present
My throat to thee, and to thy ancient malice:
Which not to cut, would show thee but a fool;
Since I have ever follow'd thee with hate,
Drawn tuns of blood out of thy country's breast;
And cannot live but to thy shame, unless
It be to do thee service.

Auf. O, Marcius, Marcius,
Each word thou hast spoke hath weeded from
my heart

A root of ancient envy. If Jupiter [say,
Should from yon cloud speak divine things, and
'Tis true: I'd not believe them more than thee,
All noble Marcius.—O, let me twine
Mine arms about that body, where against
My grained ash an hundred times hath broke,
And scar'd the moon with splinters! Here I
clip§

The anvil of my sword; and do contest,
As hotly and as nobly with thy love,
As ever in ambitious strength I did
Contend against thy valour. Know thou first,
I lov'd the maid I married; never man-
Sigh'd truer breath; but that I see thee here,
Thou noble thing! more dances my rapt heart,
Than when I first my wedded mistress saw
Bestride my threshold. Why, thou, Mars! I
tell thee,

We have a power on foot; and I had purpose
Once more to hew thy target from thy brawn,||
Or lose mine arm for't: Thou hast beat me
out¶

Twelve several times, and I have nightly since
Dreamt of encounters 'twixt myself and me;
We have been down together in my sleep,
Unbuckling helms, fisting each other's throat,
And wak'd half dead with nothing. Worthy
Marcius,

Had we no quarrel else to Rome, but that
Thou art thence banish'd, we would muster all
From twelve to seventy;** and, pouring war
Into the bowels of ungrateful Rome,
Like a bold flood o'er beat. O, come, go in
And take our friendly senators by the hands;
Who now are here, taking their leaves of me,
Who am prepar'd against your territories,
Though not for Rome itself.

Cor. You bless me, gods!

Auf. Therefore, most absolute Sir, if thou
wilt have

The leading of thine own revenges, take
The one half of my commission; and set down,
As best thou art experienc'd, since thou know'st
Thy country's strength and weakness,—thine
own ways:

Whether to knock against the gates of Rome,
Or rudely visit them in parts remote;
To fright them, ere destroy. But come in:
Let me commend thee first to those, that shall
Say, *yea*, to thy desires. A thousand welcomes!
And more a friend than e'er an enemy;

Yet Marcius, that was much. Your hand!
most welcome!

[*Exeunt CORIOLANUS and AUFIDIUS.*]

1 *Serv.* [*Advancing.*] Here's a strange al-
teration!

2 *Serv.* By my hand, I had thought to have
struck him with a cudgel; and yet my mind
gave me, his clothes made a false report of
him.

1 *Serv.* What an arm he has! He turned
me about with his finger and his thumb, as
one would set up a top.

2 *Serv.* Nay, I knew by his face that there
was something in him: He had, Sir, a kind of
face, methought,—I cannot tell how to term it.

1 *Serv.* He had so! looking as it were,—
'Would I were hanged, but I thought there
was more in him than I could think.

2 *Serv.* So did I, I'll be sworn: He is sim-
ply the rarest man i'the world.

1 *Serv.* I think, he is: but a greater soldier
than he, you wot* one.

2 *Serv.* Who? my master?

1 *Serv.* Nay, it's no matter for that.

2 *Serv.* Worth six of him.

1 *Serv.* Nay, not so neither; but I take him
to be the greater soldier.

2 *Serv.* 'Faith, look you, one cannot tell
how to say that: for the defence of a town, our
general is excellent.

1 *Serv.* Ay, and for an assault too:

Re-enter third SERVANT.

3 *Serv.* O, slaves, I can tell you news; news,
you rascals.

1. 2 *Serv.* What, what, what? let's partake.

3 *Serv.* I would not be a Roman, of all na-
tions; I had as lieve be a condemned man.

1. 2 *Serv.* Wherefore? wherefore?

3 *Serv.* Why, here's he that was wont to
thwack our general,—Caius Marcius.

1 *Serv.* Why do you say thwack our general?

3 *Serv.* I do not say, thwack our general;
but he was always good enough for him.

2 *Serv.* Come, we are fellows, and friends:
he was ever too hard for him; I have heard
him say so himself.

1 *Serv.* He was too hard for him directly, to
say the truth on't: before Corioli, he scotched
him and notched him like a carbonado.†

2 *Serv.* An he had been cannibally given,
he might have broiled and eaten him too.

1 *Serv.* But, more of thy news?

3 *Serv.* Why, he is so made on here within,
as if he were son and heir to Mars: set at up-
per end o'the table: no question asked him by
any of the senators, but they stand bald before
him: Our general himself makes a mistress of
him: sanctifies himself with's hand, and turns
up the white o'the eye to his discourse. But
the bottom of the news is, our general is cut
i'the middle, and but one half of what he was
yesterday; for the other has half, by the en-
treaty and grant of the whole table. He'll go,
he says, and sowle‡ the porter of Rome gates
by the ears: He will mow down all before him,
and leave his passage polled.§

2 *Serv.* And he's as like to do't, as any man
I can imagine.

3 *Serv.* Do't? he will do't: For, look you,
Sir, he has as many friends as enemies: which
friends, Sir, (as it were,) durst not (look you,
Sir,) show themselves (as we term it,) his
friends, whilst he's in directitude.

* Resentment. † Injuries. ‡ Infernal. § Embrace.
¶ Arm. ¶ Full. ** Years of age.

* Know. † Meat cut across to be broiled.
‡ Pull. § Cut clear.

1 *Serv.* Directitude! what's that?

3 *Serv.* But when they shall see, Sir, his crest up again, and the man in blood,* they will out of their burrows, like conies after rain, and revel all with him.

1 *Serv.* But when goes this forward?

3 *Serv.* To-morrow; to-day; presently. You shall have the drum struck up this afternoon: 'tis, as it were, a parcel † of their feast, and to be executed ere they wipe their lips.

2 *Serv.* Why, then we shall have a stirring world again. This peace is nothing, but to rust iron, increase tailors, and breed ballad-makers.

1 *Serv.* Let me have war, say I; it exceeds peace, as far as day does night; it's spritely, walking audible, and full of vent. ‡ Peace is a very apoplexy, lethargy: mull'd, § deaf, sleepy, insensible; a getter of more bastard children than war's a destroyer of men.

2 *Serv.* 'Tis so: and as wars, in some sort, may be said to be a ravisher; so it cannot be denied, but peace is a great maker of cuckolds.

1 *Serv.* Ay, and it makes men hate one another.

3 *Serv.* Reason; because they then less need one another. The wars for my money. I hope to see Romans as cheap as Volcians. † They are rising, they are rising.

All. In, in, in, in. *Ereunt.*

SCENE VI.—Rome.—A public Place.

Enter SICINIUS and BRUTUS.

Sic. We hear not of him, neither need we fear him;

His remedies are tame i'the present peace And quietness o'the people, which before Were in wild hurry. Here do we make his friends [had, Blush, that the world goes well; who rather Though they themselves did suffer by't, behold Dissentious numbers pestering streets, than see [going Our tradesmen singing in their shops, and About their functions friendly.

Enter MENENIUS.

Bru. We stood to't in good time. Is this Menenius?

Sic. 'Tis he, 'tis he: O, he is grown most Of late.—Hail, Sir! [kind

Men. Hail to you both!

Sic. Your Coriolanus, Sir is not much miss'd, But with his friends; the common-wealth doth stand;

And so would do, were he more angry at it.

Men. All's well; and might have been much better, if

He could have temporiz'd.

Sic. Where is he, hear you?

Men. Nay, I hear nothing; his mother and his wife

Hear nothing from him.

Enter Three or Four CITIZENS.

Cit. The gods preserve you both!

Sic. Good-e'en our neighbours.

Bru. Good-e'en to you all, good-e'en to you all

1 *Cit.* Ourselves, our wives, and children, on our knees, Are bound to pray for you both.

Sic. Live, and thrive!

Bru. Farewell, kind neighbours: we wish'd Coriolanus

Had lov'd you as we did.

Cit. Now the gods keep you!

Both Tri. Farewell, farewell,

[*Exeunt CITIZENS.*]

Sic. This is a happier and more comely time,

Than when these fellows ran about the streets, Crying, Confusion.

Bru. Caius Marcius was

A worthy officer i'the war; but insolent, O'ercome with pride, ambitious past all think-Self-loving,— [ing,

Sic. And affecting one sole throne, Without assistance.*

Men. I think not so.

Sic. We should by this, to all our lamentation,

If he had gone forth consul, found it so.

Bru. The gods have well prevented it, and Sits safe and still without him. [Rome

Enter ÆDILE.

Æd. Worthy tribunes,

There is a slave whom we have put in prison, Reports,—the Volces with two several powers Are entered in the Roman territories; And with the deepest malice of the war Destroy what lies before them.

Men. 'Tis Aufidius, Who, hearing of our Marcius' banishment, Thrusts forth his horns again into the world: Which were inshell'd, when Marcius stood † for Rome,

And durst not once peep out.

Sic. Come, what talk you Of Marcius?

Bru. Go see this rumourer whipp'd. It cannot be,

The Volces dare break with us.

Men. Cannot be!

We have record, that very well it can; And three examples of the like have been Within my age. But reason † with the fellow, Before you punish him, where he heard this: Least you should chance to whip your informa-

tion, And beat the messenger who bids beware Of what is to be dreaded.

Sic. Tell not me:

I know this cannot be.

Bru. Not possible.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. The nobles in great earnestness, are going All to the senate house: some news is come, That turns § their countenances.

Sic. 'Tis this slave;— Go whip him 'fore the people's eyes:—his rais- Nothing but his report! [ing!

Mess. Yes, worthy Sir, The slave's report is seconded; and more, More fearful is deliver'd.

Sic. What more fearful?

Mess. It is spoke freely out of many mouths, (How probable, I do not know,) that Marcius, Join'd with Aufidius, leads a power 'gainst Rome;

And vows revenge as spacious, as between The young'st and oldest thing.

* Vigour.
‡ Rumour.

† Part
§ Softened.

* Suffrage.
† Talk.

† Stood up in his defence.
§ Changes.

Sic. This is most likely!

Bru. Rais'd only, that the weaker sort may
Good Marcius home again. [wish

Sic. The very trick on't.

Men. This is unlikely:
He and Aufidius can no more atone,*
Than violentest contrariety.

Enter another MESSENGER.

Mess. You are sent for to the senate:
A fearful army, led by Caius Marcius,
Associated with Aufidius, rages
Upon our territories; and have already,
O'erborne their way, consum'd with fire, and
What lay before them. [took

Enter COMINIUS.

Com. O, you have made good work!

Men. What news? what news?

Com. You have help to ravish your own
daughters, and

To melt the city leads upon your pates;
To see your wives dishonour'd to your
noses;—

Men. What's the news? what's the news?

Com. Your temples burn'd in their cement;
and

Your franchises, whereon you stood, confin'd
Into an augre's bore.†

Men. Pray now your news?—

You have made fair work, I fear me:—Pray,
your news?

If Marcius should be join'd with Volcians,—
Com. If!

He is their god; he leads them like a thing
Made by some other deity than nature,
That shapes man better: and they follow him,
Against us brats, with no less confidence,
Than boys pursuing summer butterflies,
Or butchers killing flies.

Men. You have made good work,
You and your apron men; you that stood so
Upon the voice of occupation,‡ and [much
The breath of garlic-eaters!

Com. He will shake
Your Rome about your ears.

Men. As Hercules
Did shake down mellow fruit: You have made
fair work!

Bru. But is this true, Sir?

Com. Ay; and you'll look pale
Before you find it other. All the regions
Do smilingly revolt; § and, who resist,
Are only mock'd for valiant ignorance,
And perish constant fools. Who is't can blame
him?

Your enemies, and his, find something in him,
Men. We are all undone, unless
The noble man have mercy.

Com. Who shall ask it?
The tribunes cannot do't for shame; the people
Deserve such pity of him, as the wolf
Does of the shepherds: for his best friends,
if they [even
Should say, *Be good to Rome*, they charg'd him
As those should do that had deserv'd his hate,
And therein show'd like enemies.

Men. 'Tis true:
If he were putting to my house the brand
That should consume it, I have not the face
To say, *'Beseech you, cease.*—You have made
fair hands,

You, and your crafts! you have crafted fair!
* Unite.
† A small round hole, an augre is a carpenter's tool.
‡ Mechanics. § Revolt with pleasure.

Com. You have brought

A trembling upon Rome, such as was never
So incapable of help.

Tri. Say not we brought it.

Men. How! Was it we? We lov'd him; but,
like beasts, [ters,
And cowardly nobles, gave way to your clus-
Who did hoot him out o'the city.

Com. But, I fear,
They'll roar him in again. Tullus Aufidius,
The second name of men, obeys his points
As if he were his officer:—Desperation
Is all the policy, strength, and defence,
That Rome can make against them.

Enter a Troop of CITIZENS.

Men. Here come the elusters.—
And is Aufidius with him?—You are they
That made the air unwholesome, when you
cast

Your stinking, greasy caps in hooting at
Coriolanus' exile. Now he's coming;
And not a hair upon a soldier's head,
Which will not prove a whip; as many cox-
combs,

As you threw caps up, will he tumble down,
And pay you for your voices. 'Tis no matter;
If he could burn us all into one coal,
We have deserv'd it.

Cit. Faith, we hear fearful news.

1 *Cit.* For mine own part,
When I said, banish him, I said 'twas pity.

2 *Cit.* And so did I.

3 *Cit.* And so did I; and, to say the truth,
so did very many of us: That we did, we did
for the best: and though we willingly consented
to his banishment, yet it was against our
will.

Com. You are goodly things, you voices!

Men. You have made
Good work, you and your cry!*—Shall us to
the Capitol?

Com. O, ay; what else?

[*Exeunt COM. and MEN.*

Sic. Go, masters, get you home, be not dis-
may'd;

These are a side that would be glad to have
This true, which they so seem to fear. Go
And show no sign of fear. [home,

1 *Cit.* The gods be good to us! Come, mas-
ters, let's home. I ever said, we were i'the
wrong, when we banished him.

2 *Cit.* So did we all. But come, let's home.

[*Exeunt CITIZENS.*

Bru. I do not like this news.

Sic. Nor I.

Bru. Let's to the Capitol:—Would, half
my wealth
Would buy this for a lie!

Sic. Pray, let us go. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE VII.—A Camp at a small distance
from Rome

Enter AUFIDIUS, and his LIEUTENANT.

Auf. Do they still fly to the Roman?

Lieu. I do not know what witchcraft's in
him; but

Your soldiers use him as the grace fore meat,
Their talk at table, and their thanks at end;
And you are darken'd in this action, Sir,
Even by your own.

* Pack, alluding to a pack of hounds.

Auf. I cannot help it now ;
Unless, by using means, I lame the foot
Of our design. He bears himself more proud-
lier

Even to my person, than I thought he would,
When first I did embrace him : Yet his nature
In that's no challenging ; and I must excuse
What cannot be amended.

Lieu. Yet I wish, Sir,
(I mean for your particular,) you had not
Join'd in commission with him : but either
Had borne the action of yourself, or else
To him had left it solely.

Auf. I understand thee well ; and be thou
sure,

When he shall come to his account, he knows
What I can urge against him. Although it
seems,

And so he thinks, and is no less apparent
To the vulgar eye, that he bears all things
fairly,

And shows good husbandry for the Volcian
Fights dragon-like, and does achieve as soon
As draw his sword : yet he hath left undone
That, which shall break his neck, or hazard
When'er we come to our account. [mine,

Lieu. Sir, I beseech you, think you he'll
carry Rome ?

Auf. All places yield to him ere he sits
And the nobility of Rome are his :

The senators, and patricians, love him too :
The tribunes are no soldiers ; and their people
Will be as rash in the repeal, as hasty
To expel him thence. I think, he'll be to
Rome,

As is the osprey* to the fish who takes it
By sovereignty of nature. First he was
A noble servant to them ; but he could not
Carry his honours even : whether 'twas pride,
Which out of daily fortune ever taints
The happy man ; whether defect of judgment,
To fail in the disposing of those chances
Which he was lord of ; or whether nature,
Not to be other than one thing, not moving
From the casquet to the cushion,† but command-
ing peace

Even with the same austerity and garb
As he controll'd the war ; but, one of these,
(As he hath spices of them all, not all,‡
For I dare so far tree him,) made him fear'd,
So hated, and so banish'd : But he has a merit,
To choke it in their utterance. So our virtues
Lie in the interpretation of the time :
And power, unto itself most commendable,
Hath not a tomb so evident as a chair
To extol what it hath done.

One fire drives out one fire ; one nail, one nail ;
Rights by rights fouler, strengths by strengths
do fail.

Come, let's away. When, Caius, Rome is
Thou art poor'st of all ; then shortly art thou
mine. [Exit.

ACT V.

SCENE I.—Rome.—A Public Place.

Enter MENENIUS, COMINIUS, SICINIUS, BRUTUS,
and others.

Men. No, I'll not go : you hear, what he
hath said, [him
Which was sometime his general ; who lov'd
In a most dear particular. He call'd me,
father :

* An eagle that preys on fish. † Helmet.

‡ The chair of civil authority.

§ Not all in their full extent.

But what o'that ? Go, you that banish'd him,
A mile before his tent fall down, and kneel
The way into his mercy : Nay, if he coy'd*
To hear Cominius speak, I'll keep at home.

Com. He would not seem to know me.

Men. Do you hear ?

Com. Yet one time he did call me, by my
name :

I urg'd our old acquaintance, and the drops
That we have bled together. Coriolanus
He would not answer to : forbad all names ;
He was a kind of nothing, titleless,
Till he had forg'd himself a name i'the fire
Of burning Rome.

Men. Why, so ; you have made good work :
A pair of tribunes that have rack'd† for Rome,
To make coals cheap : A noble memory !‡

Com. I minded him, how royal 'twas to
pardon

When it was less expected : He replied,

It was a bare petition of a state

To one whom they had punish'd.

Men. Very well :

Could he say less ?

Com. I offer'd to awaken his regard
For his private friends : His answer to me was
He could not stay to pick them in a pile
Of noisome, musty chaff : He said, 'twas folly,
For one poor grain or two, to leave unburnt,
And still to nose the offence.

Men. For one poor grain

Or two ? I am one of those ; his mother, wife,
His child, and this brave fellow too, we are
the grains :

You are the musty chaff ; and you are smelt
Above the moon : We must be burnt for you.

Sic. Nay, pray, be patient : If you refuse
your aid

In this so never-heeded help, yet do not [you
Upbraid us with our distress. But, sure if
Would be your country's pleader, your good
tongue

More than the instant army we can make,
Might stop our countryman.

Men. No ; I'll not meddle.

Sic. I pray you, go to him.

Men. What should I do ?

Bru. Only make trial what your love can do
For Rome towards Marcius.

Men. Well, and say that Marcius

Return me, as Cominius is return'd,

Unheard ; what then ?—

But as a discontented friend, grief-shot

With his unkindness ? Say't be so ?

Sic. Yet your good will

Must have that thanks from Rome, after the
measure

As you intended well.

Men. I'll undertake it :

I think, he'll hear me. Yet to bite his lip,

And hum at good Cominius, much unhearts me.

He was not taken well ; he had not din'd :

The veins unfill'd, the blood is cold, and then

We put upon the morning, are unapt

To give or to forgive ; but when we have stuff'd

These pipes and these conveyances of our
blood

With wine and feeding, we have suppler souls

Than in our priest-like fasts : therefore I'll

watch him

Till he be dieted to my request,

And then I'll set upon him.

Bru. You know the very road into his kind-
And cannot lose your way. [ness,

* Condescended unwillingly. † Harassed by exactions.

‡ Memorial.

Men. Good faith, I'll prove him,
Speed how it will. I shall, ere long have
knowledge,

Of my success. [Exit.

Com. He'll never hear him.

Sic. Not?

Com. I tell you, he does sit in gold, his eye
Red as 'twould burn Rome; and his injury
The jailer to his pity. I kneel'd before him?
'Twas very faintly he said, *Rise*; dismiss'd me
Thus, with his speechless hand: What he
would do, [not,

He sent in writing after me; what he could
Bound with an oath, to yield to his conditions;
So, that all hope is vain,
Unless his noble mother, and his wife;
Who, as I hear, mean to solicit him [hence,
For mercy to his country. Therefore, let's
And with our fair entreaties haste them on.

[Exeunt.

SCENE II.—An advanced Post of the Volcian
Camp, before Rome. The GUARD at their
Stations.

Enter to them, MENENIUS.

1 G. Stay: Whence are you?

2 G. Stand, and go back.

Men. You guard like men; 'tis well; But,
by your leave,

I am an officer of state, and come

To speak with Coriolanus.

1 G. From whence?

Men. From Rome.

1 G. You may not pass, you must return:
our general

Will no more hear from thence.

2 G. You'll see your Rome embrac'd with
fire before

You'll speak with Coriolanus.

Men. Good my friends,

If you have heard your general talk of Rome,
And of his friends there, it is lots* to blanks,
My name hath touch'd your ears: it is Mene-
nius.

1 G. Be it so; go back: the virtue of your
Is not here passable. [name

Men. I tell thee, fellow,

Thy general is my lover:† I have been
The book of his good acts, whence men have
read

His fame unparallel'd, haply, amplified;

For I have ever verifi'd‡ my friends,
(Of whom he's chief,) with all the size that
verity§ [times,

Would without lapsing suffer: nay, some-
Like to a bowl upon a subtle|| ground,
I have tumbled past the throw; and in his
praise

Have almost, stamp'd the leasing:¶ There-
fore, fellow,

I must have leave to pass.

1 G. Faith, Sir, if you had told as many lies
in his behalf, as you have uttered words in
your own, you should not pass here: no, though
it were as virtuous to lie, as to live chastely.
Therefore, go back.

Men. Pr'ythee, fellow, remember my name
is Menenius, always factionary on the party of
your general.

2 G. Howsoever you have been his liar, (as
you say, you have,) I am one that, telling true
under him, must say, you cannot pass. There-
fore, go back.

* Prizes.

† Friend.

‡ Proved to.

§ Truth.

|| Deceitful.

¶ Lie.

Men. Has he dined, can'st thou tell? for I
would not speak with him till after dinner.

1 G. You are a Roman, are you?

Men. I am as thy general is.

1 G. Then you should hate Rome, as he
does. Can you, when you have pushed out
your gates the very defender of them, and, in
a violent popular ignorance, given your enemy
your shield, think to front his revenges with
the easy groans of old women, the virginal
palms of your daughters, or with the palsied
intercession of such a decayed datant* as you
seem to be? Can you think to blow out the
intended fire your city is ready to flame in,
with such weak breath as this? No, you are
deceived; therefore, back to Rome, and pre-
pare for your execution: you are coudemned,
our general has sworn you out of reprieve and
pardon.

Men. Sirrah, if thy captain knew I were
here, he would use me with estimation.

2 G. Come, my captain knows you not.

Men. I mean, thy general.

1 G. My general cares not for you. Back,
I say, go, lest I let forth your half pint of
blood;—back,—that's the utmost of your hav-
ing:—back.

Men. Nay, but fellow, fellow,——

Enter CORIOLANUS and AUFIDIUS.

Cor. What's the matter?

Men. Now, your companion,† I'll say an er-
rand for you; you shall know now that I am
in estimation; you shall perceive that a Jack‡
guardant cannot office me from my son Corio-
lanus: guess, but by my entertainment with
him, if thou stand'st not i'the state of hanging,
or of some death more long in spectatorship,
and crueller in suffering; behold now present-
ly, and swoon for what's to come upon thee.—
The glorious gods sit in hourly synod about thy
particular prosperity, and love thee no worse
than thy old father Menenius does! O, my
son! my son! thou art preparing fire for us;
look thee, here's water to quench it. I was
hardly moved to come to thee; but being as-
sured, none but myself could move thee, I have
been blown out of your gates with sighs; and
conjure thee to pardon Rome, and thy peti-
tionary countrymen. The good gods assuage
thy wrath, and turn the dregs of it upon this
varlet here; this, who, like a block, hath de-
nied my access to thee.

Cor. Away!

Men. How away?

Cor. Wife, mother, child, I know not. My
affairs

Are servanted to others: Though I owe
My revenge properly, my remission lies
In Volcian breasts! That we have been fa-
miliar,

Ingrate forgetfulness shall poison, rather

Than pity note how much.—Therefore, be
gone.

Mine ears against your suits are stronger, than
Your gates against my force. Yet, for§ I
lov'd thee,

Take this along; I writ it for thy sake,

[Gives a Letter.

And would have sent it. Another word, Me-
nenius, [dius,

I will not hear thee speak.—This man, Aufi-
Was my beloved in Rome: yet thou behold'st—

Auf. You keep a constant temper.

[Exeunt CORIOLANUS and AUFIDIUS.

* Deceitful. † Fellow. ‡ Jack in office. § Because

1 G. Now, Sir, is your name Menenius.

2 G. 'Tis a spell, you see, of much power: You know the way home again.

1 G. Do you hear how we are shent* for keeping your greatness back?

2 G. What cause, do you think, I have to swoon?

Men. I neither care for the world, nor your general: for such things as you, I can scarce think there's any, you are so slight. He that hath a will to die by himself, fears it not from another. Let your general do his worst. For you, be that you are, long; and your misery increase with your age! I say to you, as I was said to, Away! [Exit.]

1 G. A noble follow, I warrant him.

2 G. The worthy fellow is our general: He is the rock, the oak not to be wind-shaken. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—The Tent of CORIOLANUS.

Enter CORIOLANUS, AUFIDIUS, and others.

Cor. We will before the walls of Rome tomorrow

Set down our host—My partner in this action, You must report to the Volcian lords, how I have borne this business. [plainly†

Auf. Only their ends

You have respected; stopp'd your ears against The general suit of Rome; never admitted A private whisper, no, not with such friends That thought them sure of you.

Cor. This last old man, [Rome, Whom with a crack'd heart I have sent to Lov'd me above the measure of a father; Nay, godded me, indeed. Their latest refuge Was to send him: for whose old love, I have (Though I show'd sourly to him,) once more offer'd

The first conditions, which they did refuse, And cannot now accept, to grace him only, That thought he could do more; a very little I have yielded to: Fresh embassies, and suits, Nor from the state, nor private friends, hereafter

Will I lend ear to.—Ha! what shout is this?

[Shout within.]

Shall I be tempted to infringe my vow In the same time 'tis made? I will not.—

Enter in mourning habits, VIRGILIA, VOLUMNIA, leading young MARCIUS, VALERIA, and ATTENDANTS.

My wife comes foremost; then the honour'd mould

Wherein this trunk was fram'd, and in her hand The grand-child to her blood. But, out, affection!

All bond and privilege of nature, break! Let it be virtuous, to be obstinate.— [eyes] What is that curt'sy worth? or those doves' Which can make gods forsworn?—I melt, and am not [bows;

Of stronger earth than others.—My mother As if Olympus to a molehill should In supplication nod: and my young boy Hath an aspect of intercession, which Great nature cries, *Deny not*.—Let the Voices Plough Rome, and harrow Italy; I'll never Be such a gosling‡ to obey instinct; but stand, As if a man were author of himself, And knew no other kin.

Vir. My lord and husband!

Cor. These eyes are not the same I wore in Rome.

Vir. The sorrow, that delivers us thus chang'd Makes you think so.

Cor. Like a dull actor now, I have forgot my part, and I am out, Even to a full disgrace. Best of my flesh, Forgive my tyranny; but do not say, For that, *Forgive our Romans*.—O, a kiss Long as my exile, sweet as my revenge! [kiss] Now by the jealous queen* of heaven, that I carried from thee, dear; and my true lip Hath virgin'd it e'er since.—You gods! I prate, And the most noble mother of the world Leave unsaluted: Sink, my knee, i'th' earth; [Kneels.]

Of thy deep duty more impression show Than that of common sons.

Vol. O, stand up bless'd! Whilst, with no softer cushion than the flint, I kneel before thee; and unproperly, Show duty, as mistaken all the while Between the child and parent. [Kneels.]

Cor. What is this? Your knees to me? to your corrected son? Then let the pebbles on the hungry beach Fillip the stars; then let the mutinous winds Strike the proud cedars 'gainst the fiery sun; Murd'ring impossibility, to make What cannot be, slight work.

Vol. Thou art my warrior; I help to frame thee. Do you know this lady?

Cor. The noble sister of Publicola, The moon of Rome; chaste as the icicle, That's curdled by the frost from purest snow, And hangs on Dian's temple: Dear Valeria!

Vol. This is a poor epitome of yours, Which by the interpretation of full time May show like all yourself.

Cor. The god of soldiers, With the consent of supreme Jove, inform Thy thoughts with nobleness; that thou may'st prove

To shame invulnerable, and stick i'th' wars Like a great sea-mark, standing every flaw,† And saving those that eye thee!

Vol. Your knee, Sirrah.

Cor. That's my brave boy.

Vol. Even he, your wife, this lady, and myself, Are suitors to you. [self,

Cor. I beseech you, peace: Or, if, you'd ask, remember this before; The things, I have forsworn to grant may never

Be held by your denials. Do not bid me Dismiss my soldiers, or capitulate Again with Rome's mechanic's:—Tell me not Wherein I seem unnatural: Desire not To allay my rages and revenges, with Your colder reasons.

Vol. O, no more, no more! You have said, you will not grant us any thing; For we have nothing else to ask, but that Which you deny already: Yet we will ask; That, if you fail in our request, the blame [us. May hang upon your hardness: therefore hear

Cor. Aufidius, and you Voices, mark; for we'll [request?

Hear nought from Rome in private.—Your Vol. Should we be silent and not speak, our raiment,

And state of bodies would bewray‡ what life We have led since thy exile. Think with thyself,

How more unfortunate than all living women Arc we come hither: since that thy sight which should

* Reprimanded. † Openly. ‡ A young goose.

* Juno.

† Gust, storm.

‡ Betray.

Make our eyes flow with joy, hearts dance
with comforts.

Constrains them weep, and shake with fear
and sorrow ;

Making thy mother, wife, and child to see
The son, the husband, and the father, tearing
His country's bowels out. And to poor we,
Thine enmity's most capital : thou barr'st us
Our prayers to the gods, which is a comfort
That all but we enjoy : for how can we,
Alas ! how can we for our country pray,
Whereto we are bound ; together with thy
victory, [lose

Whereto we are bound ? Alack ! or we must
The country, our dear nurse ; or else thy per-
son,

Our comfort in the country We must find
An evident calamity, though we had [thou
Our wish, which side should win ; for either
Must, as a foreign recreant, be led
With manacles through our streets, or else
Triumphantly tread on thy country's ruin ;
And bear the palm, for having bravely shed
Thy wife and children's blood. For myself,
I purpose not to wait on fortune, till [son,
These wars determine :* if I cannot persuade
thee

Rather to show a nobler grace to both parts,
Than seek the end of one, thou shalt no sooner
March to assault thy country, than to tread,
(Trust to't, thou shalt not,) on thy mother's
That brought thee to this world, [womb,

Vir. Ay, and on mine,
That brought you forth this boy, to keep your
Living to time [name

Boy. He shall not tread on me ; [fight.

I'll run away, till I am bigger, but then I'll
Cor. Not of a woman's tenderness to be,
Requires nor child nor woman's face to see.
I have sat too long. [Rising.

Vir. Nay go not from us thus.
If it were so, that our request did tend
To save the Romans, thereby to destroy
The Voices whom you serve, you might con-
demn us,

As poisonous of your honour : No ; our suit
Is, that you recouate them ; while the Voices
May say, *This mercy we have show'd* ; the Ro-
mans,

This we receiv'd ; and each in either side
Give the all-hail to thee, and cry. *Be bless'd*
For making up this peace ! Thou know'st,
great son,

The end of war's uncertain ; but this certain,
That, if thou conquer Rome, the benefit
Which thou shalt thereby reap, is such a name,
Whose repetition will be dogg'd with curses ;
Whose chronicle thus writ, *The man was noble,*
But with his last attempt he wip'd it out ;
Destroyed his country ; and his name remains
To the ensuing age, abhorr'd. Speak to me, son :
Thou hast affected the fine strains of honour,
To imitate the graces of the gods ;
To tear with thunder the wide cheeks o' the air,
And yet to charge thy sulphur with a bolt
That should but rive an oak. Why dost not
speak ?

Think'st thou it honourable for a noble man
Still to remember wrongs ?— Daughter speak
you : [boy :

He cares not for your weeping.— Speak thou,
Perhaps, thy childishness will move him more
Than can our reasons.— There is no man in
the world [prate.

More bound to his mother ; yet here he lets me

Like one i' the stocks. Thou hast never in thy
Show'd thy dear mother any courtesy ; [life
When she (poor hen !) fond of no second
brood

Has cluck'd thee to the wars, and safely home,
Loaden with honour. Say, my request's un-
just,

And spurn me back : But, if it be not so,
Thou art not honest ; and the gods will plague
thee,

That thou restrain'st from me the duty, which
To a mother's part belongs.— He turns away :
Down, ladies ; let us shame him with our
knees

To his surname Coriolanus 'longs more pride,
Than pity to our prayers. Down ; an end :

This is the last ;— So we will home to Rome,
And die among our neighbours— Nay, be-
hold us :

This boy, that cannot tell what he would have,
But kneels, and holds up hands for fellowship,
Does reason our petition with more strength
Than thou hast to deny't.— Come, let us go :
This fellow had a Volcian to his mother ;
His wife is in Corioli, and his child
Like him by chance :— Yet give us our des-
I am hush'd until our city be afire, [patch :
And then I'll speak a little.

Cor. O mother, mother !

[Holding VOLUMNIA by the hands, silent.
What have you done ? Behold, the heavens
do ope,

The gods look down, and this unnatural scene
They laugh at. O my mother, mother ! O !
You have won a happy victory to Rome :

But, for your son,— believe it, O, believe it,
Most dangerously you have with him prevail'd
If not most mortal to him. But, let it come :—
Aufidius, though I cannot make true wars,
I'll frame convenient peace. Now, good Au-
fidius, [heard

Were you in my stead, say, would you have
A mother less ? or granted less, Aufidius ?

Auf. I was mov'd withal.

Cor. I dare be sworn, you were :
And, Sir, it is no little thing, to make
Mine eyes to sweat compassion. But, good Sir,
What peace you'll make, advise me ; For my
part, [you,

I'll not to Rome, I'll back with you ; and pray
Stand to me in this cause.— O mother ! wife !

Auf. I am glad, thou hast set thy mercy
and thy honour

At difference in thee : out of that I'll work
Myself a former fortune. [Aside.

[The ladies make signs to CORIOLANUS.

Cor. Ay, by and by ;
[To VOLUMNIA, VIRGILIA, &c.

But we will drink together ; and you shall
bear

A better witness back than words, which we,
On like conditions, will have counter-seal'd.
Come, enter with us. Ladies, you deserve
To have a temple built you : all the swords
In Italy, and her confederate arms,
Could not have made this peace. [Exeunt

SCENE IV.— Rome.— A public Place.

Enter MENENIUS and SICINIUS.

Men. See you yond' coign* o' the Capitol:
yond' corner stone ?

Sic. Why, what of that ?

Men. If it be possible for you to displace it
with your little finger, there is some hope the

* Conclude.

† The refinements,

* Angle.

Ladies of Rome, especially his mother, may prevail with him. But I say, there is no hope in't; our throats are sentenced, and stay* upon execution.

Sic. Is't possible, that so short a time can alter the condition of a man?

Men. There is difference between a grub, and a butterfly; yet your butterfly was a grub. This Marcius is grown from man to dragon: he has wings; he's more than a creeping thing.

Sic. He loved his mother dearly.

Men. So did he me: and he no more remembers his mother now, than an eight year old horse. The tartness of his face sours ripe grapes. When he walks, he moves like an engine, and the ground shrinks before his treading. He is able to pierce a corset with his eye; talks like a knell, and his hum is a battery. He sits in his state, † as a thing made ‡ for Alexander. What he bids be done, is finished with his bidding. He wants nothing of a god but eternity, and a heaven to throne in.

Sic. Yes, mercy, if you report him truly.

Men. I paint him in the character. Mark what mercy his mother shall bring from him: There is no more mercy in him, than there is milk in a male tiger; that shall our poor city find: and all this is 'long of you.

Sic. The gods be good unto us!

Men. No, in such a case the gods will not be good unto us. When we banished him, we respected not them: and, he returning to break our necks, they respect not us.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. Sir, if you'd save your life, fly to your house;

The plebeians have got your fellow-tribune, And hale him up and down; all swearing, if The Roman ladies bring not comfort home, They'll give him death by inches.

Enter another MESSENGER.

Sic. What's the news?

Mess. Good news, good news;—The ladies have prevail'd,

The Voices are dislodg'd, and Marcius gone: A merrier day did never yet greet Rome, No, not the expulsion of the Tarquins.

Sic. Friend,

Art thou certain this is true? is it most certain?

Mess. As certain as I know the sun is fire:

Where have you lurk'd, that you make doubt of it? [side,

N'er through an arch so hurried the blown As the recomforted through the gates. Why, hark you;

[*Trumpets and Hautboys sounded, and Drums beaten, all together. Shouting also within.*

The trumpets, sackbuts, psalteries, and fises, Tabors, and cymbals, and the shouting Romans, Make the sun dance. Hark you!

[*Shouting again.*

Men. This is good news:

I will go meet the ladies. This Volturnia Is worth of consuls, senators, patricians, A city full of tribunes, such as you, [day; A sea and laud full! You have pray'd well to— This morning, for ten thousand of your throats I'd not have given a doit. Hark, how they joy!

[*Shouting and Music.*

Sic. First, the gods bless you for their tidings: next,

Accept my thankfulness.

Mess. Sir, we have all

* Stay but for it. † Chair of state. ‡ To resemble.

Great cause to give great thanks.

Sic. They are near the city?

Mess. Almost at point to enter.

Sic. We will meet them,

And help the joy.

[*Going.*

Enter the Ladies, accompanied by SENATORS, PATRICIANS, and People. They pass over the Stage.

I Sen. Behold our patroness, the life of Rome:

Call all your tribes together, praise the gods, And make triumphant fires; strew flowers before them:

Unshout the noise that banish'd Marcius, Repeal* him with the welcome of his mother: Cry,—Welcome, ladies, welcome!—

All. Welcome, ladies!

Welcome!

[*A flourish with Drums and Trumpets.*

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.—*Antium.*—*A Public Place.*

Enter TULLUS AUFIDIUS, with Attendants.

Auf. Go tell the lords of the city, I am here: Deliver them this paper: having read it, Bid them repair to the market-place; where I, Even in theirs and in the commons' ears, Will vouch the truth of it. Him I accuse, The city ports † by this hath enter'd, and Intends to appear before the people, hoping To purge himself with words: Dispatch.

[*Exeunt Attendants.*

Enter Three or Four CONSPIRATORS of AUFIDIUS' Faction.

Most welcome!

1 Con. How is it with our general?

Auf. Even so,

As with a man by his own alms empoison'd, And with his charity slain.

2 Con. Most noble Sir,

If you do hold the same intent wherein You wish'd us parties, we'll deliver you Of your great danger.

Auf. Sir, I cannot tell;

We must proceed, as we do find the people.

3 Con. The people will remain uncertain, whilst

'Twixt you there's difference; but the fall of Makes the survivor heir of all. [either

Auf. I know it;

And my pretext to strike at him admits

A good construction. I rais'd him, and I pawn'd [ten'd,

Mine honour for his truth: Who being so high He water'd his new plants with dews of flattery, Seducing so my friends: and, to this end, He bow'd his nature, never known before But to be rough, unswayable, and free.

3 Con. Sir, his stoutness,

When he did stand for consul, which he lost By lack of stooping,——

Auf. That I would have spoke of:

Being banish'd for't he came unto my hearth; Presented to my knife his throat: I took him; Made him joint-servant with me; gave him way

In all his own desires; nay, let him choose Out of my files, his projects to accomplish, My best and freshest men; serv'd his designments

In mine own person; help'd ‡ to reap the fame, Which he did end all his; and took some pride To do myself this wrong: till, at the last,

* Recall. † Gates. ‡ Helped.

It seem'd his follower, not partner; and
He wag'd me with his countenance,* as if
I had been mercenary.

1 *Con.* So he did, my lord:
The army marvel'd at it. And, in the last,
When he had carried Rome; and that we look'd
For no less spoil than glory,—

Auf. There was it;—
For which my sinews shall be stretch'd upon
him.

At a few drops of women's rheum,† which are
As cheap as lies, he sold the blood and labour
Of our great action; Therefore shall he die,
And I'll renew me in his fall. But, hark!

[*Drums and Trumpets sound, with great
shouts of the People.*]

1 *Con.* Your native town you enter'd like a
post,

And had no welcomes home; but he returns,
Splitting the air with noise.

2 *Con.* And patient fools,
Whose children he hath slain, their base throats
tear,

With giving him glory.

3 *Con.* Therefore, at your vantage,
Ere he express himself, or move the people
With what he would say, let him feel your
sword,

Which we will second. When he lies along,
After your way his tale pronounc'd shall bury
His reasons with his body.

Auf. Say no more;
Here comes the lords.

Enter the Lords of the City.

Lords. You are most welcome home.

Auf. I have not deserv'd it,
But, worthy lords, have you with heed perus'd
What I have written to you?

Lords. We have.

1 *Lord.* And grieve to hear it.
What faults he made before the last, I think,
Might have found easy fines: but there to
end,

Where he was to begin; and give away
The benefit of our levies, answering us
With our own charge; ‡ making a treaty, where
There was a yielding; This admits no excuse.

Auf. He approaches, you shall hear him.

*Enter CORIOLANUS, with Drums and Colours;
a Croud of CITIZENS with him.*

Cor. Hail, lords! I am returned your soldier;

No more infected with my country's love,
Than when I parted hence, but still subsisting
Under your great command. You are to know,
That prosperously I have attempted, and
With bloody passage, led your wars, even to
The gates of Rome. Our spoils we have brought
home,

Do more than counterpoise, a full third part,
The charges of the action. We have made
peace,

With no less honour to the Antiates,§
Than shame to the Romans: And we here de-
liver,

Subscrib'd by the consuls and patricians,
Together with the seal o'the senate, what
We have compounded on.

Auf. Read it not, noble lords;
But tell the traitor, in the highest degree
He hath abus'd your powers.

* Thought me rewarded with good looks. † Tears.

‡ Rewarding us with our own expenses.

§ People of Antium.

Cor. Traitor!—How now!

Auf. Ay, traitor, Marcius.

Cor. Marcius!

Auf. Ay, Marcius, Caius Marcius; Dost
thou think

I'll grace thee with that robbery, thy stol'n
name

Coriolanus in Corioli?—

You lords and heads of the state, perfidiously
He has betray'd your business, and given up
For certain drops of salt,* your city Rome
(I say, your city,) to his wife and mother:
Breaking his oath and resolution, like
A twist of rotten silk; never admitting
Counsel o'the war; but at his nurse's tears
He whin'd and roar'd away your victory;
That pages blush'd at him, and men of heart
Look'd wondering each at other.

Cor. Hear't thou, Mars?

Auf. Name not the god, thou boy of tears,—

Cor. Ha!

Auf. No more †

[*heart*
Cor. Measureless liar, thou hast made my
Too great for what contains it. Boy! O slave!
Pardon me, lords, 'tis the first time that ever
I was forc'd to scold. Your judgements, my
grave lords,

Must give this cur the lie: and his own notion
(Who wears my stripes impress'd on him; that
must bear

My beating to his grave;) shall join to thrust
The lie unto him.

1 *Lord.* Peace, both, and hear me speak.

Cor. Cut me to pieces, Volces; men and
lads,
Stain all your edges on me.—Boy! False
hound!

If you have writ your annuals true, 'tis there,
That like an eagle in a dove-cote, I
Flutter'd your voices in Corioli:
Alone I did it.—Boy!

Auf. Why, noble lords,
Will you be put in mind of his blind fortune,
Which was your shame, by this unholy brag-
gart,

'Fore your own eyes and ears?

Con. Let him die for't. [*Several speak at once.*]

Cit. [*Speaking promiscuously.*] Tear him to
pieces, do it presently. He killed my son;—
my daughter;—He killed my cousin Marcius:
—He killed my father.—

2 *Lord.* Peace, ho;—no outrage;—peace.

The man is noble, and his fame folds in
This orb o'the earth; ‡ His last offence to us
Shall have judicious hearing.—Stand, Aufi-
And trouble not the peace. [*dium,*

Cor. O, that I had him,
With six Aufidiuses, or more, his tribe,
To use my lawful sword!

Auf. Insolent villain!

Con. Kill, kill, kill, kill, kill him.

[*AUFIDIUS and the CONSPIRATORS draw, and
kill CORIOLANUS, who falls, and AUFIDIUS
stands on him.*]

Lords. Hold, hold, hold, hold.

Auf. My noble masters, hear me speak.

1 *Lord.* O Tullus,—

2 *Lord.* Thou hast done a deed whereat val-
our will weep.

3 *Lord.* Tread not upon him.—Masters all,
be quiet;

Put up your swords.

* Drops of tears. † No more than a boy of tears.

‡ His fame overspreads the world. § Judicial.

Auf. My lords, when you shall know (as in
this rage,
Provok'd by him, you cannot,) the great dan-
ger
Which this man's life did owe you, you'll re-
joice
That he is thus cut off. Please it your honours
To call me to your senate, I'll deliver
Myself your loyal servant, or endure
Your heaviest censure.

1 Lord. Bear from hence his body,
And mourn you for him: let him be regarded
As the most noble corse, that ever herald
Did follow to his urn.

2 Lord. His own impatience
Takes from Aufidius a great part of blame.
Let's make the best of it.

Auf. My rage is gone,
And I am struck with sorrow—Take him up;
Help the best o' the chiefest soldiers: it'll be one.—
Beat thou the drum, that it speak mournfully:
Trail your steel pikes.—Though in this city he
Has widow'd and unchilded many a one,
Which to this hour bewail the injury,
Yet he shall have a noble memory.—

Assist. [*Exeunt, bearing the body of CORIOLA-
NUS. A dead march sounded.*]

* Memorial.

JULIUS CESAR.



PERSONS REPRESENTED.

JULIUS CESAR.		CINNA, a Poet,—Another POET.	
OCTAVIUS CESAR,	} Triumvirs, after the	LUCILIUS, TITINIUS, MESSALA, Young CATO,	
MARCUS ANTONIUS,		and VOLUMNIUS, Friends to Brutus, and	
M. ÆMIL. LEPIDUS,	} Death of Julius	CASSIUS.	
CICERO, PUBLIUS, POPILIUS,	Cesar.	VARRO, CLITUS, CLAUDIUS, STRATO, LUCIUS,	
MARCUS BRUTUS,	LENA, Senators.	DARDANIUS, Servants to Brutus.	
CASSIUS,	} Conspirators against	PINDARUS, Servant to Cassius.	
CASCA,		Julius Cesar.	CALPHURNIA, Wife to Cesar.
TREBONIUS,			PORTIA Wife to Brutus
LIGARIUS,			
DECIUS BRUTUS			Senators, Citizens, Guards, Attendants, &c.
M ^o TELLUS CIMBER,			SCENE, during a great part of the Play,
CINNA,			Rome; afterwards at Sardis; and near Phi-
FLAVIUS and MARULLUS, Tribunes.			lippi.
ARTEMIDORUS, a Sophist of Cnidus.			
A SOOTHSAYER.			



ACT 1.

SCENE I.—Rome.—A Street.

Enter FLAVIUS, MARULLUS, and a Rabble of
CITIZENS.

Flav. Hence: home, you idle creatures, get
you home:

Is this a holiday? What! know you not,
Being mechanical you ought not walk,
Upon a labouring day, without the sign
Of your profession?—Speak, what trade art
thou?

1 *Cit.* Why, Sir, a carpenter.

Mar. Where is thy leather apron, and thy
rule?

What dost thou with thy best apparel on?—
You, Sir; what trade are you?

2 *Cit.* Truly, Sir, in respect of a fine work-
man, I am but, as you would say, a cobbler.

Mar. But what trade art thou? Answer me
directly.

2 *Cit.* A trade, Sir, that, I hope, I may use
with a safe conscience; which is, indeed, Sir,
a mender of bad soals.

Mar. What trade, thou knave; thou naughty
knave, what trade?

2 *Cit.* Nay, I beseech you, Sir, be not out
with me: yet, if you be out, Sir, I can mend
you.

Mar. What meanest thou by that? Mend
me, thou saucy fellow?

2 *Cit.* Why, Sir, cobble you.

Flav. Thou art a cobbler, art thou?

2 *Cit.* Truly, Sir, all that I live by is, with
the awl: I meddle with no tradesman's mat-
ters, nor women's matters, but with awl. I
am, indeed, Sir, a surgeon to old shoes; when

they are in great danger, I recover them. As
proper men as ever trod upon neat-leather,
have gone upon my handy-work.

Flav. But wherefore art not in thy shop to-
day?

Why dost thou lead these men about the
streets.

2 *Cit.* Truly, Sir, to wear out their shoes, to
get myself into more work. But, indeed, Sir,
we make holiday to see Cesar, and to rejoice
in his triumph.

Mar. Wherefore rejoice? What conquest
brings he home?

What tributaries follow him to Rome,
To grace in captive bonds his chariot wheels?
You blocks, you stones, you worse than sense-
less things!

O, you hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome,
Knew you not Pompey? Many a time and oft
I have you climb'd up to walls and battlements,
To towers and windows, yea, to chimney-tops,
Your infants in your arms, and there have sat
The live-long day, with patient expectation,

To see great Pompey pass the streets of Rome:
And when you saw his chariot but appear,
Have you not made a universal shout,
That Tyber trembled underneath her banks
To hear the replication of your sounds,
Made in her concave shores?

And do you now put on your best attire?
And do you now cull out a holiday?

And do you now strew flowers in his way,
That certain triumph over Pompey's, blood?
Be gone,

Run to your houses, fall upon your knees,
Pray to the gods to intermit the plague
That needs must light on this ingratitude.

Flav. Go, go, good countrymen, and, for
this fault.

Assemble all the poor men of your sort;*
Draw them to Tyber banks, and weep your
Into the channel, till the lowest stream [tears
Do kiss the most exalted shores of all.

Exeunt CITIZENS.

See, whe'r† their basest metal be not mov'd;
They vanish tongue-tied in their guiltiness.
Go you down that way towards the Capitol;
This way will I: Disrobe the images,
If you find them deck'd with ceremonies.‡

Mar. May we do so?

You know, it is the feast of Lupercal.

Flav. It is no matter; let no images

Be hung with Cesar's trophies. I'll about,
And drive away the vulgar from the streets:
So do you too, where you perceive them thick
These growing feathers pluck'd from Cesar's
wing,

Will make him fly an ordinary pitch;
Who else would soar above the view of men,
And keep us all in servile fearfulness.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—*The same.*—*A public Place.*

Enter, in Procession, with Music, CESAR; ANTONY, for the course; CALPHURNIA, PORTIA, DECIUS, CICERO, BRUTUS, CASSIUS, and CASCA, a great Crowd following, among them a SOOTHSAYER.

Ces. Calphurnia,—

Casca. Peace, ho! Cesar speaks.

[Music ceases.]

Ces. Calphurnia,—

Cal. Here, my lord.

Ces. Stand you directly in Antonius' way,
When he doth run his course. §—Antonius.

Ant. Cesar, my lord.

Ces. Forget not, in your speed, Antonius,
To touch Calphurnia: for our elders say,
The barren, touch'd in this holy chase,
Shake off their sterile curse.

Ant. I shall remember:

When Cesar says, *Do this*, it is perform'd.

Ces. Set on; and leave no ceremony out.

[Music.]

Sooth. Cesar.

Ces. Ha! who calls?

Casca. Bid every noise be still:—Peace yet
Again. *[Music ceases.]*

Ces. Who is it in the press,|| that calls on
me?

I hear a tongue, shriller than all the music,
Cry, Cesar: Speak; Cesar is turn'd to hear

Sooth. Beware the ides of March.

Ces. What man is that!

Bru. A soothsayer, bids you beware the ides
of March.

Ces. Set him before me, let me see his face.

Cas. Fellow, come from the throng; Look
upon Cesar.

Ces. What say'st thou to me now? Speak
once again.

Sooth. Beware the ides of March.

Ces. He is a dreamer: let us leave him;—
pass.

[Sennet. ¶ Exeunt all but Bru. and Cas.]

Cas. Will you go see the order of the course.

Bru. Not I.

Cas. I pray you, do.

Bru. I am not gamesome: I do lack some
Of that quick spirit that is in Antony. *[part*

* Rank.

† Whether.

‡ Honorary ornaments; tokens of respect.

§ A ceremony observed at the feast of Lupercalia.

|| Crowd

¶ Flourish of instruments.

Let me not hinder, Cassius, your desires;
I'll leave you.

Cas. Brutus, I do observe you now of late:
I have not from your eyes that gentleness,
And show of love, as I was wont to have:
You bear too stubborn and too strange a hand
Over your friend that loves you.

Bru. Cassius,
Be not deceiv'd; if I have veil'd my look,
I turn the trouble of my countenance
Merely upon myself. Vexed I am,
Of late, with passions of some difference,
Conceptions only proper to myself,
Which give some soil, perhaps, to my behav-
viours: *[griev'd]*

But let not therefore my good friends be
(Among which number, Cassius, be you one);
Nor contrue any further my neglect,
Than that poor Brutus, with himself at war,
Forgets the shows of love to other men.

Cas. Then, Brutus, I have much mistook
your passion,*
By means whereof, this breast of mine hath
buried

Thoughts of great value worthy cogitations.
Tell me, good Brutus, can you see your face?

Bru. No, Cassius: for the eye sees not itself,
But by reflection, by some other things.

Cas. 'Tis just:

And it is very much lamented, Brutus,
That you have no such mirrors, as will turn
Your hidden worthiness into your eye,
That you might see your shadow. I have heard,
Where many of the best respect in Rome,
(Except immortal Cesar,) speaking of Brutus,
And groaning underneath this age's yoke,
Have wished that noble Brutus had his eyes.

Bru. Into what dangers would you lead me,
Cassius,

That you might have me seek into myself
For that which is not in me?

Cas. Therefore, good Brutus, be prepar'd to
hear:

And, since you know you cannot see yourself
So well as by reflection, I, your glass,
Will modestly discover to yourself

That of yourself which you yet know not of.
And be not jealous of me, gentle Brutus:

Were I a common laugh, or did use
To staid with ordinary oaths my love
To every new protester; if you know

That I do fawn on men, and hug them hard,
And after scandal them; or if you know

That I profess myself in banqueting
To all the rout, then hold me dangerous.

[Flourish and shout.]

Bru. What means this shouting? I do fear,
the people

Choose Cesar for their king.

Cas. Ay, do you fear it?

Then must I think you would not have it so.

Bru. I would not, Cassius; yet I love him
well:—

But wherefore do you hold me here so long?
What is it that you would impart to me?

If it be aught toward the general good,
Set honour in one eye, and death i' the other,
And I will look on both indifferently:

For, let the gods so speed me, as I love
The name of honour more than I fear death.

Cas. I know that virtue to be in you, Brutus,
As well as I do know your outward favour.

Well, honour is the subject of my story.
I cannot tell, what you and other men

Think of this life; but, for my single self,

* The nature of your feelings.

† Allure.

I had as lief not be, as live to be
 In awe of such a thing as I myself.
 I was born free as Cesar; so were you:
 We both have fed as well; and we can both
 Endure the winter's cold, as well as he.
 For once, upon a raw an gusty* day,
 The troubled Tyber chafing with her shores,
 Cesar said to me, *Dar'st thou, Cassius, now
 Leap in with me into this angry flood,
 And swim to yonder point?* Upon the word,
 Accouter'd as I was, I plunged in,
 And bade him follow: so, indeed, he did.
 The torrent roar'd; and we did buffet it
 With lusty sinews; throwing it aside
 And stemming it with hearts of controversy.
 But e'er we could arrive the point propos'd,
 Cesar cried, *Help me, Cassius, or I sink.*
 I, as *Eneas*, our great ancestor,
 Did from the flames of Troy upon his shoulder
 The old Anchises bear, so, from the waves of
 Tyber

Did I the tired Cesar: And this man
 Is now become a god; and Cassius is
 A wretched creature, and must bend his body,
 If Cesar carelessly but nod on him.
 He had a fever when he was in Spain,
 And, when the fit was on him, I did mark
 How he did shake; 'tis true, this god did
 shake:

His coward lips did from their colour fly;
 And that same eye, whose bend doth awe the
 world,

Did loose its lustre; I did hear him groan:
 Ay, and that tongue of his, that bade the Ro-
 mans

Mark him, and write his speeches in their
 Alas! it cried, *Give me some drink*, Titinius,
 As a sick girl. Ye gods, it doth amaze me,
 A man of such a feeble temper should
 So get the start of the majestic world,
 And bear the palm alone. [*Shout. Flourish.*]

Bru. Another general shout!
 I do believe, that these applauses are
 For some new honours that are heap'd on Cesar.

Cas. Why, man, he doth bestride the nar-
 row,

Like a Colossus; and we petty men
 Walk under his huge legs, and peep about
 To find ourselves dishonourable graves.
 Men at some time are masters of their fates:
 The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
 But in ourselves, that we are underlings.

Brutus, and Cesar: What should be in that
 Cesar?

Why should that name be sounded more than
 yours?

Write them together, yours is as fair a name;
 Soud them, it doth become the mouth as well;
 Weigh them, it is as heavy: cejure them,
 Brutus will start a spirit as soon as Cesar.

[*Shout.*]

Now in the names of all the gods at once,
 Upon what meat doth this our Cesar feed,
 That he is grown so great? Age, thou art
 sham'd:

Rome, thou hast lost the breed of noble bloods!
 When went there by an age, since the great
 flood,

But it was fam'd with more than with one
 When could they say, till now, that talk'd of
 Rome,

That her wide walks encompass'd but one
 Now is it Rome indeed, and room enough,
 When there is in it but one only man,
 O! you and I have heard our fathers say,

* Windy.

† Temperament, constitution.

There was a Brutus* once, that would have
 brook'd

The eternal devil to keep his state in Rome,
 As easily as a king.

Bru. That you do love me, I am nothing
 jealous;

What you would work me to, I have some
 How I have thought of this, and of these
 times,

I shall recount hereafter; for this present,
 I would not, so with love I might entreat you,
 Be any further mov'd. What you have said,
 I will consider; what you have to say,
 I will with patience hear: and find a time
 Both meet to hear, and answer, such high
 things

Till then, my noble friend, chew† upon this;
 Brutus had rather be a villager,
 Than to repute himself a son of Rome
 Under these hard conditions as this time
 Is like to lay upon us.

Cas. I am glad, that my weak words
 Have struck but this much show of fire from
 Brutus.

Re-enter CESAR, and his Train.

Bru. The games are done, and Cesar is
 returning.

Cas. As they pass by, pluck Casca, by the
 sleeve;

And he will after his sour fashion, tell you
 What hath proceeded, worthy note, to-day.

Bru. I will do so:—But, look you, Cassius,
 The angry spot doth glow on Cesar's brow,
 And all the rest look like a chidden train:
 Calphurnia's cheek is pale; and Cicero
 Looks with such ferret‡ and such fiery eyes,
 As we have seen him in the Capitol,
 Being crossed in conference by some senators.

Cas. Casca will tell us what the matter is.
Ant. Antonius.

Ant. Cesar.

Cas. Let me have men about me that are
 fat;

Sleek-headed men, and such as sleep o' nights:
 Yond' Cassius has a lean and hungry look;
 He thinks too much: such men are dangerous.

Ant. Fear him not, Cesar, he's not danger-
 He is a noble Roman, and well given. [ous]

Cas. 'Would he were fatter:—But I fear
 him not:

Yet if my name were liable to fear,
 I do not know the man I should avoid
 So soon as that spare Cassius. He reads
 He is a great observer, and he looks [much;
 Quite through the deeds of men: he loves no
 plays,

As thou dost, Antony; he hears no music:
 Seldom he smiles; and smiles in such a sort,
 As if he mock'd himself, and scorn'd his spirit
 That could be moved to smile at any thing.

Such men as he be never at heart's ease,
 Whiles they behold a greater than themselves;
 And therefore are they very dangerous.

I rather tell thee what is to be fear'd,
 Than what I fear, for always I am Cesar.
 Come on my right hand, for this ear is deaf,
 And tell me truly what thou think'st of him.

[*Exeunt CESAR and his train. CASCA
 stays behind.*]

Casca. You pull'd me by the cloak; Would
 you speak with me?

Bru. Ay, Casca; tell us what hath chanc'd
 to-day,

* Lucius Junius Brutus.

† Guess.

‡ Ruminat.

§ A ferret has red eyes.

That Cesar looks so sad.

Casca. Why you were with him, were you not?

Bru. I should not then ask Casca what hath chanc'd.

Casca. Why, there was a crown offer'd him : and being offer'd him, he put it by with the back of his hand, thus : and then the people fell a' shouting.

Bru. What was the second noise for?

Casca. Why, for that too.

Cas. They shouted thrice ; What was the last cry for?

Casca. Why, for that too.

Bru. Was the crown offer'd him thrice?

Casca. Ay, marry, was't, and he put it by thrice, every time gentler than other ; and at every putting by, mine honest neighbours shouted.

Cas. Who offer'd him the crown?

Casca. Why, Antony.

Bru. Tell us the manner of it, gentle Casca.

Casca. I can as well be lauged, as tell the manner of it ; it was mere foolery I did not mark it. I saw Mark Antony offer him a crown ;—yet 'twas not a crown neither, 'twas as one of these coronets ;—and as I told you, he put it by once ; but, for all that, to my thinking, he would fain have had it. Then he offer'd it to him again ; then he put it by again ; but, to my thinking, he was very loath to lay his fingers off it. And then he offer'd it the third time ; he put it the third time by : and still as he refus'd it, the rabblement hooted, and clapped their chopped hands, and threw up their sweaty night caps, and utter'd such a deal of stinking breath because Cesar refus'd the crown, that it had almost choked Cesar ; for he swooned and fell down at it, And for mine own part I durst not laugh, for fear of opening my lips, and receiving the bad air.

Cas. But, soft, I pray you ; What? did Cesar swoon?

Casca. He fell down in the market-place and foamed at mouth, and was speechless.

Bru. 'Tis very like ; he hath the falling-sickness.

Cas. No, Cesar hath it not ; but you, and I, And honest Casca, we have the falling-sickness.

Casca. I know not what you mean by that ; but, I am sure Cesar fell down. If the tag-rag people did not clap him, and hiss him, according as he pleased, and displeas'd them, as they use to do the players in the theatre, I am no true * man.

Bru. What said he, when he came unto himself?

Casca. Marry, before he fell down, when he perceiv'd the common herd was glad he refus'd the crown, he plucked me ope his doublet, and offer'd them his throat to cut.—An I had been a man of any occupation, † if I would not have taken him at a word, I would I might go to hell among the rogues :—and so he fell. When he came to himself again, he said, If he had done, or said any thing amiss, he desired their worships to think it was his infirmity. Three or four wenches, where I stood, cried, *Alas good soul!*—and forgave him with all their hearts ; but there's no heed to be taken of them ; if Cesar had stabbed their mothers, they would have done no less.

Bru. And after that, he came, thus sad, away?

* Honest.

† A mechanic.

Casca. Ay.

Cas. Did Cicero say any thing?

Casca. Ay, he spoke Greek

Cas. To what effect

Casca. Nay, an I tell you that, I'll ne'er look you i'the face again : But those, that understood him, smiled at one another, and shook their heads ; but, for mine own part, it was Greek to me. I could tell you more news too : Marullus and Flavius, for pulling scarfs off Cesar's images, are put to silence. Fare you well. There was more foolery yet, if I could remember it.

Cas. Will you sup with me to-night, Casca?

Casca. No, I am promis'd forth.

Cas. Will you dine with me to-morrow?

Casca. Ay, If I be alive, and your mind hold, and your dinner worth eating

Cas. Good : I will expect you.

Casca. Do so : Farewell, both.

[Exit CASCA.]

Bru. What a blunt fellow is this grown to be?

He was quick mettle, when he went to school.

Cas. So he is now, in execution

Of any bold or noble enterprise,

However he puts on this tardy form.

This rudeness is a sauce to his good wit, Which gives men stomach to digest his words With better appetite.

Bru. And so it is. For this time I will leave you :

To-morrow if you please to speak with me, I will come home to you ; or, if you will, Come home with me, and I will wait for you.

Cas. I will do so :—till then think of the world. [Exit BRUTUS.]

Well Brutus, thou art noble ; yet I see, Thy honourable metal may be wrought, From that it is disposed ;* Therefore 'tis meet That noble minds keep ever with their likes : For who so firm, that cannot be seduc'd? Cesar doth bear me hard ; † but he loves Brutus :

If I were Brutus now, and he were Cassius, He should not humour ‡ me. I will this night In several hands, in at the windows throw.

As if they came from several citizens, Writings all tending to the great opinion That Rome holds of his name ; wherein obscurely

Cesar's ambition shall be glanced at :

And, after this, let Cesar seat him sure ; For we shall shake him or worse days endure.

[Exit.]

SCENE III.—The same.—A Street.

Thunder and Lightning, Enter, from opposite sides, CASCA, with his sword drawn, and CICERO.

Cic. Good even, Casca : Brought you Cesar home?

Why are you breathless? and why stare you so?

Casca. Are you not mov'd, when all the sway of earth

Shakes, like a thing unfirm? O Cicero, I have seen tempests, when the scolding winds Have riv'd the knotty oaks ; and I have seen The ambitious ocean swell, and rage and foam To be exalted with the threaten'ing clouds : But never till to-night, never till now, Did I go through a tempest dropping fire, Either there is a civil strife in heaven ;

* Disposed to. † Has an unfavourable opinion of me.

‡ Cajole.

§ Did you attend Cesar home?

Or else the world, too saucy with the gods,
Incenses them to send destruction.

Cic. Why, saw you any thing more wonderful?

Casca. A common slave (you know him well by sight,) [burn

Held up his left hand, which did flame, and
Like twenty torches join'd; and yet his hand,
Not sensible of fire, remain'd unscorch'd.

Besides, (I have not since put up my sword,)
Against the Capitol I met a lion,
Who glar'd upon me, and went surly by,
Without annoying me: And there were drawn
Upon a heap a hundred ghastly women,
Transformed with their fear; who swore they
saw

Men, all in fire, walk up and down the streets
And, yesterday, the bird of night did sit,
Even at noon-day, upon the market-place,
Hooting, and shrieking. When these prodigies
Do so conjointly meet, let not men say,
These are their reasons,—They are natural;
For, I believe, they are portentous things
Upon the climate that they point upon.

Cic. Indeed, it is a strange-disposed time:
But men may construe things after their fashion
Clean* from the purpose of the things themselves.

Comes Cesar to the Capitol to-morrow?

Casca. He doth; for he did bid Antonius
Send word to you, he would be there to-morrow.

Cic. Good night then, Casca: this disturbed
Is not to walk in. [sky

Casca. Farewell, Cicero. [Exit CICERO.
Enter CASSIUS.

Cas. Who's there?

Casca. A Roman.

Cas. Casca, by your voice.

Casca. Your ear is good. Cassius, what
night is this?

Cas. A very pleasing night to honest men.

Casca. Who ever knew the heavens menace
so?

Cas. Those, that have known the earth so
full of faults.

For my part, I have walk'd about the streets,
Submitting me unto the perilous night;
And thus embrac'd, Casca, as you see,
Have bar'd my bosom to the thunder-stone:†
And, when the cross blue lightning seem'd to
open

The breast of heaven, I did present myself
Even in the aim and very flash of it.

Casca. But wherefore did you so much tempt
the heavens?

It is the part of men to fear and tremble,
When the most mighty gods, by tokens, send
Such dreadful heralds to astonish us.

Cas. You are dull, Casca; and those sparks
of life

That should be in a Roman, you do want,
Or else you use not: You look pale, and gaze,
And put on fear, and cast yourself in wonder,
To see the strange impatience of the heavens:
But if you would consider the true cause,
Why all these fires, why all these gliding
ghosts,

Why birds, and beasts, from quality and kind;†
Why old men fools, and children calculate;
Why all these things change, from their ordi-
nance,

Their natures and pre-formed faculties,

To monstrous quality; why, you shall find,
That heaven hath infus'd them with these
spirits, [ing,

To make them instruments of fear, and warn-
Unto some monstrous state. Now could I,
Casca, [night;

Name to thee a man most like this dreadful
That thunders, lightens, opens graves, and
As doth the lion in the Capitol: [roars

A man no mightier than thyself, or me,
In personal action; yet prodigious* grown,
And fearful, as these strange eruptions are.

Casca. 'Tis Cesar that you mean: Is it not,
Cassius?

Cas. Let it be who it is: for Romans now
Have the best and limbs like to their ancestors
But, woe the while! our fathers' minds are
dead,

And we are govern'd with our mothers' spirits;
Our yoke and sufferance show us womanish.

Casca. Indeed, they say, the senators to-mor-
Mean to establish Cesar as a king: [row
And he shall wear his crown by sea, and land,
In every place, save here in Italy.

Cas. I know where I will wear this dagger
then;

Cassius from bondage will deliver Cassius:
Therein, ye gods, you make the weak most
strong;

Therein, ye gods, you tyrants do defeat:
Nor stony tower, nor walls of beaten brass,
Nor airless dungeon, nor strong links of iron,
Can be retentive to the strength of spirit;

But life, being weary of these worldly bars,
Never lacks power to dismiss itself.

If I know this, know all the world besides,
That part of tyranny, that I do bear,
I can shake off at pleasure.

Casca. So can I:

So every bondman in his own hand bears
The power to cancel his captivity.

Cas. And why should Cesar be a tyrant
then?

Poor man! I know, he would not be a wolf,
But that he sees the Romans are but sheep:
He were no lion, were not Romans hinds.‡
Those that with haste will make a mighty fire,
Begin it with weak straws: What trash is
Rome,

What rubbish, and what offal, when it serves
For the base matter to illuminate

So vile a thing as Cesar? But, O, grief!
Where hast thou led me? I, perhaps, speak this
Before a willing bondman; then I know
My answer must be made; but I am arm'd,
And dangers are to me indifferent

Casca. You speak to Casca; and to such a
man,

That is no fleeing tell-tale. Hold§ my hand:
Be factious|| for redress of all these griefs;
And I will set this foot of mine as far,
As who goes farthest.

Cas. There's a bargain made.

Now know you, Casca, I have mov'd already
Some certain of the noblest-minded Romans,
To undergo, with me, an enterprise
Of honourable-dangerous consequence;
And I do know, by this, they stay for me
In Pompey's porch: for now, this fearful night
There is no stir, or walking in the streets;
And the complexion of the element,
Is favour'd,¶ like the work we have in hand,
Most bloody, fiery, and most terrible.

* Entirely.

† Bolt.

‡ Why they deviate from quality and nature.

* Portentous.

† Muscles.

‡ Deer.

§ Here's my hand.

|| Active.

¶ Resembles.

Enter CINNA.

Casca. Stand close a while, for here comes one in haste.

Cas. 'Tis Cinna, I do know him by his gait;* He is a friend.—Cinna, where haste you so?

Cin. To find out you: Who's that? Metellus Cimber?

Cas. No, it is Casca; one incorporate To our attempts. Am I not staid for, Cinna?

Cin. I am glad on't. What a fearful night is this? [sighs.]

There's two or three of us have seen strange Cas. Am I not staid for, Cinna? Tell me.

Cin. Yes, You are. O, Cassius, if you could but win The noble Brutus to our party—

Cas. Be you content: Good Cinna, take this paper,

And look you lay it in the prætor's chair, Where Brutus may but find it; and throw this In at his window: set this up with wax Upon old Brutus' statue: all this done, Repair to Pompey's porch, where you shall find us.

Is Decius Brutus, and Trebonius, there?

Cin. All but Metellus Cimber; and he's gone To seek you at your house. Well, I will hie, And so bestow these papers as you bade me.

Cas. That done, repair to Pompey's theatre. [Exit CINNA.]

Come, Casca, you and I will, yet ere day, See Brutus at his house: three parts of him Is ours already; and the man entire, Upon the next encounter, yields him ours.

Casca. O, he sits high, in all the people's hearts:

And that, which would appear offence in us, His countenance, like richest alchymy, Will change to virtue, and to worthiness.

Cas. Him, and his worth, and our great need of him,

You have right well conceited. Let us go, For it is after midnight; and, ere day, We will awake him, and be sure of him. [Exeunt.]

ACT II.

SOENE I.—The same.—BRUTUS' Orchard.
Enter BRUTUS.

Bru. What, Lucius! ho!— I cannot by the progress of the stars, Give guess how near to day.—Lucius, I say! I would it were my fault to sleep so soundly.— When, Lucius, when? Awake, I say; What, Lucius!

Enter LUCIUS.

Luc. Call'd you, my lord?

Bru. Get me a taper in my study, Lucius: When it is lighted, come and call me here.

Luc. I will, my lord. [Exit.]

Bru. It must be by his death; and, for my part,

I know no personal cause to spurn at him, But for the general. He would be crown'd;— How that might change his nature, there's the question,

It is the bright day, that brings forth the adder; And that craves wary walking. Crown him?— That;—

And then, I grant, we put a sting in him, That at his will he may do danger with. The abuse of greatness is, when it disjoins

* Air of walking. † An exclamation of impatience

Remorse* from power: And, to speak truth of Cesar,

I have not known when his affections sway'd More than his reason. But 'tis a common proof,†

That lowliness is young ambition's ladder, Whereto the climber-upward turns his face: But when he once attains the upmost round, He then unto the ladder turns his back, Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees; By which he did ascend: So Cesar may; Then, lest he may, prevent. And, since the quarrel

Will bear no colour for the thing he is, Fashion is thus; that what he is, augmented, Would run to these, and these extremities: And therefore think him as a serpent's egg, Which, hatch'd, would, as his kind,§ grow mischievous; And kill him in his shell.

Re-enter LUCIUS.

Luc. The taper burneth in your closet, Sir. Searching the window for a flint, I found This paper, thus seal'd up; and, I am sure, It did not lie there, when I went to bed.

Bru. Get you to bed again, it is not day. Is not to-morrow, boy, the ides of March?

Luc. I know not, Sir.

Bru. Look in the calendar, and bring me word.

Luc. I will, Sir. [Exit.]

Bru. The exhalations, whizzing in the air, Give so much light, that I may read by them.

[Opens the Letter and reads.]

Brutus, thou sleep'st; awake, and see thyself. Shall Rome, &c. Speak, strike, redress!

Brutus, thou sleep'st; awake.— Such instigations have been often dropp'd Where I have took them up.

Shall Rome, &c. Thus, must I piece it out; Shall Rome stand under one man's awe?

What! Rome?

My ancestors did from the streets of Rome The Tarquin drive, when he was call'd a king. Speak, strike, redress!—Am I entreated then To speak, and strike? O Rome! I make thee promise,

If the redress will follow, thou shalt receive Thy full petition at the hand of Brutus!

Re-enter LUCIUS.

Luc. Sir, March is wasted fourteen days. [Knock within.]

Bru. 'Tis good. Go to the gate; somebody knocks. [Exit LUCIUS.]

Since Cassius first did whet me against Cesar, I have not slept.

Between the acting of a dreadful thing And the first motion, all the interim is Like a phantasma,|| or a hideous dream: The genius, and the mortal instruments, Are then in council; and the state of man, Like to a little kingdom, suffers then The nature of an insurrection.

Re-enter LUCIUS.

Luc. Sir, 'tis your brother Cassius at the door, Who doth desire to see you.

Bru. Is he alone?

Luc. No, Sir, there are more with him.

Bru. Do you know them?

Luc. No, Sir; their hats are pluck'd about their ears,

* Pity, tenderness. † Experience. ‡ Low steps. § Nature. || Visionary.

And half their faces buried in their cloaks,
That by no means I may discover them
By any mark of favour."

Bru. Let them enter. [Exit *Lucius*.
They are the faction. O conspiracy! [night,
Sham'st thou to show thy dangerous brow by
When evils are most free! O, then, by day,
Where wilt thou find a cavern dark enough
To mask thy monstrous visage? Seek none,
Hide in it smiles, and affability: [conspiracy;
For if thou path thy native semblance on,
Not Erebus† itself were dim enough
To hide thee from prevention.

Enter *CASSIUS*, *CASCA*, *DECIVS*, *CINNA*, *METELLUS CIMBER*, and *TREBONIUS*.

Cas. I think we are too bold upon your rest:
Good morrow, Brutus; Do we trouble you?

Bru. I have been up this hour; awake, all night.

Know I these men, that come along with you?

Cas. Yes, every man of them; and no man here,

But honours you: and every one doth wish,
You had but that opinion of yourself,
Which every noble Roman bears of you.
This is Trebonius.

Bru. He is welcome hither.

Cas. This Decius Brutus.

Bru. He is welcome too.

Cas. This, Casca; this, Cinna;

And this, Metellus Cimber.

Bru. They are all welcome.

What watchful cares do interpose themselves
Betwixt your eyes and night?

Cas. Shall I entreat a word? They whisper.

Dec. Here lies the east; Doth not the day
break here?

Casca. No.

Cin. O, pardon, Sir, it doth; and yon grey
lines,

That fret the clouds, are messengers of day.

Casca. You shall confess, that you are both
deceiv'd.

Here, as I point my sword, the sun arises;
Which is a great way growing on the south,
Weighing the youthful season of the year.
Some two months hence, up higher toward
the north

He first presents his fire; and the high east
Stands as the Capitol, directly here.

Bru. Give me your hands all over, one by
one.

Cas. And let us swear our resolution.

Bru. No, not an oath: If not the face of
men,

The sufferance of our souls, the time's abuse,
If these be motives weak, break off betimes,
And every man hence to his idle bed;
So let high-sighted tyranny range on,
Till each man drop by lottery. But if these,
As I am sure they do, bear fire enough
To kindle cowards, and to steal with valour
The melting spirits of women; then, country-
men,

What need we any spur, but our own cause,
To prick us to redress? what other bond,
Than secret Romans, that have spoke the
word,

And will not palter? And what other oath,
Than honesty to honesty engag'd
That this shall be, or we will fall for it?

* Countenance. † Walk in thy true form.

‡ Hell. § Perhaps Shakespeare wrote faith.

|| Lot. ¶ Prevaricate.

Swear priests, and cowards, and men caute-
-lous,*

Old feeble carrions, and such suffering souls
That welcome wrongs; unto bad causes swear
Such creatures as men doubt: but do not stain
The even virtue of our enterprise,
Nor the insuppressive mettle of our spirits,
To think, that, or our cause, or our perform-
-ance,

Did need an oath; when every drop of blood,
That every Roman bears, and nobly bears,
Is guilty of a several bastardy.

If he do break the smallest particle

Of any promise that hath pass'd from him.

Cas. But what of Cicero? Shall we sound
him?

I think, he will stand very strong with us.

Casca. Let us not leave him out.

Cin. No, by no means.

Mel. O let us have him; for his silver hairs
Will purchase us a good opinion,†
And buy men's voices to commend our deeds:
It shall be said his judgment rul'd our hands;
Our youths, and wildness, shall no whit ap-
-but all be buried in his gravity. [pear,

Bru. O, name him not; let us not break†
with him;

For he will never follow any thing
That other men begin.

Cas. Then leave him out.

Casca. Indeed, he is not fit.

Dec. Shall no man else be touch'd but only
Cesar?

Cas. Decius, well urg'd:—I think it is not
meet,

Mark Antony, so well lov'd of Cesar,
Should outlive Cesar: We shall find of him
A shrewd contriver; and, you know, his means
If he improves them, may well stretch so far,
As to annoy us all: which to prevent,
Let Antony, and Cesar, fall together.

Bru. Our course will seem too bloody, Caius
Cassius,

To cut the head off, and then hack the limbs;
Like wrath in death, and envy afterwards:
For Antony is but a limb of Cesar.

Let us be sacrificers, but no butchers, Caius,
We all stand up against the spirit of Cesar;
And in the spirit of men there is no blood:

O, that we then could come by Cesar's spirit,
And not dismember Cesar! But, alas,
Cesar must bleed for it! And, gentle friends,
Let's kill him boldly, but not wrathfully;
Let's carve him as a dish fit for the gods,
Not hew him as a carcass fit for hounds:
And let our hearts, as subtle masters do,
Stir up their servants to an act of rage,
And after seem to chide them. This shall
make

Our purpose necessary, and not envious:

Which so appearing to the common eyes,

We shall be called purgers, not murderers.

And for Mark Antony, think not of him;

For he can do no more than Cesar's arm,

When Cesar's head is off.

Cas. Yet I do fear him:

For in the ingratted love he bears to Cesar,—

Bru. Alas, good Cassius, do not think of
If he love Cesar, all that he can do [him:
Is to himself; take thought, and die for
Cesar:

And that were much he should; for he is given
To sports, to wildness, and much company.

Treb. There is no fear in him; let him not die:

* Cautious. † Character.

‡ Let us not break the matter to him. § Malice.

For he will live, and laugh at this hereafter.

[Clock strikes.]

Bru. Peace, count the clock.

Cas. The clock hath stricken three.

Treb. 'Tis time to part

Cas. But it is doubtful yet.

Wher* Caesar will come forth to-day, or no :

For he is superstitious grown of late ;

Quite from the main opinion he held once

Of fantasy, of dreams, and ceremonies ; †

It may be, these apparent prodigies,

The unaccustom'd terror of this night,

And the persuasion of his augurers, ‡

May hold him from the Capitol to-day.

Dec. Never fear that : If he be so resolv'd,

I can o'ersway him ; for he loves to bear,

That unicorns may be betray'd with trees,

And bears with glasses, elephants with holes,

Lions with toils, and men with flatterers :

But, when I tell him, he hates flatterers,

He says, he does ; being then most flattered.

Let me work :

For I can give this humour the true bent ;

And I will bring him to the Capitol.

Cas. Nay, we will all of us be there to fetch

him.

Bru. By the eighth hour : Is that the utter-

most ?

Cin. Be that the uttermost, and fail not then.

Met. Caius Ligarius doth bear Cesar hard,

Who rated him for speaking well of Pompey ;

I wonder, none of you have thought of him.

Bru. Now, good Metellus, go along by him : §

He loves me well, and I have given him reasons ;

Send him but, hither, and I'll fashion him.

Cas. The morning comes upon us : We'll

leave you, Brutus :— [member

And, friends, disperse yourselves : but all re-

What you have said, and show yourselves true

Romans.

Bru. Good gentlemen, look fresh and merrily ;

Let not our looks put on || our purposes :

But bear it as our Roman actors do,

With untir'd spirits, and formal constancy :

And so, good-morrow to you every one.

[*Exeunt all but BRUTUS.*]

Boy ! Lucius !—Fast asleep ? It is no matter ;

Enjoy the honey-heavy dew of slumber :

Thou hast no figures, ¶ nor no fantasies,

Which busy care draws in the brains of men ;

Therefore thou sleep'st so sound.

Enter PORTIA.

Por. Brutus, my lord !

Bru. Portia, what mean you ? Wherefore

rise you now ?

It is not for your health, thus to commit

Your weak condition to the raw-cold morning.

Por. Nor for yours neither. You have ungen-

terly, Brutus, [per,

Stole from my bed : And yesternight, at sup-

per, You suddenly arose, and walk'd about,

Musing, and singing, with your arms across :

And when I ask'd you what the matter was,

You star'd upon me with ungentle looks :

I urg'd you further ; then you scratch'd your

head,

And too impatiently stamp'd with your foot :

Yet I insisted, yet you answer'd not ;

But, with an angry wafure of your hand,

Gave sign for me to leave you : So I did ;

Fearing to strengthen that impatience,

* Whether. † Omens at sacrifices. ‡ Prognosticators.

§ By his house.

|| Show our designs.

¶ Shapes created by imagination.

Which seem'd too much enkindled ; and
withal,

Hoping it was but an effect of humour,

Which sometime hath his hour with every man.

It will not let you eat, nor talk, nor sleep ;

And, could it work so much upon your shape,

As it hath much prevail'd on your condition,*

I should not know you, Brutus. Dear my

lord,

Make me acquainted with your cause of grief.

Bru. I am not well in health, and that is all.

Por. Brutus is wise, and were he not in

health,

He would embrace the means to come by it.

Bru. Why, so I do :—Good Portia, go to bed.

Por. Is Brutus sick ? and is it physical

To walk unbraced, and suck up the humours

Of the dank † morning ? What, is Brutus sick ?

And will he steal out of his wholesome bed,

To dare the vile contagion of the night ?

And tempt the rheumy ‡ and unpurged air

To add unto his sickness ? No, my Brutus ;

You have some sick offence within your mind,

Which, by the right and virtue of my place,

I ought to know of : And, upon my knees,

I charm you, by my once commended beauty,

By all your vows of love, and that great vow

Which did incorporate and make us one,

That you unfold to me, yourself, your half,

Why you are heavy ; and what men to-night

Have had resort to you : for there have been

Some six or seven who did hide their faces

Even from darkness.

Bru. Kneel not, gentle Portia.

Por. I should not need, if you were gentle

Brutus.

Within the bond of marriage, tell me, Brutus,

Is it expected, I should know no secrets

That appertain to you ? Am I yourself,

But, as it were, in sort, or limitation ;

To keep with you at meals, comfort your bed,

And talk to you sometimes ? Dwell I but in

the suburbs §

Of your good pleasure ? If it be no more,

Portia is Brutus' harlot, not his wife.

Bru. You are my true and honourable wife ;

As dear to me, as are the ruddy drops

That visit my sad heart.

Por. If this were true, then should I know

this secret.

I grant, I am a woman ; but, withal,

A woman that lord Brutus took to wife :

I grant, I am a woman ; but, withal,

A woman well-reputed ; Cato's daughter.

Think you, I am no stronger than my sex,

Being so father'd, and so husbanded ?

Tell me your counsels, I will not disclose them :

I have made strong proof of my constancy,

Giving myself a voluntary wound [tience,

Here, in the thigh : Can I bear that with pa-

And not my husband's secrets ?

Bru. O ye gods,

Render me worthy of this noble wife !

[*Knocking within.*]

Hark, hark ! one knocks : Portia, go in a while ;

And by and by thy bosom shall partake

The secrets of my heart.

All my engagements I will construe to thee,

All the charactery || of my sad brows :—

Leave me with haste. [Exit. PORTIA.]

Enter LUCIUS and LIGARIUS.

Lucius, who is that, knocks ?

* Temper.

† Damp.

‡ Moist.

§ The residence of harlots.

|| All that is character'd on.

Luc. Here is a sick man, that would speak with you.

Bru. Caius Ligarius, that Metellus spake of.—

Boy, stand aside.—Caius Ligarius! how?

Lig. Vouchsafe good morrow from a feeble tongue.

Bru. O, what a time have you chose out, brave Caius, [sick!

To wear a kerchief? Would you were not

Lig. I am not sick, if Brutus have in hand

Any exploit worthy the name of honour.

Bru. Such an exploit have I in hand, Ligarius,

Had you a healthful ear to hear of it.

Lig. By all the gods that Romans bow before,

I here discard my sickness. Soul of Rome! Brave son, deriv'd from honourable loins!

Thou, like an exorcist, hast conjur'd up

My mortified spirit. Now bid me run,

And I will strive with things impossible;

Yea, get the better of them. What's to do?

Bru. A piece of work that will make sick men whole.

Lig. But are not some whole, that we must make sick?

Bru. That must we also. What it is, my Caius,

I shall unfold to thee, as we are going,

To whom it must be done.

Lig. Set on your foot;

And, with a heart new fir'd, I follow you,

To do I know not what: but it sufficeth,

That Brutus leads me on.

Bru. Follow me then. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—The same. A Room in CESAR'S Palace.

Thunder and Lightning. Enter CESAR, in his Night-gown.

Ces. Nor heaven, nor earth, have been at peace to-night:

Thrice hath Calphurnia in her sleep cried out, Help, ho! they murder Cesar!—Who's within?

Enter a SERVANT.

Serv. My lord?

Ces. Go bid the priests do present sacrifice, and bring me their opinions of success.

Serv. I will, my lord. [Exit.

Enter CALPHURNIA.

Cal. What mean you, Cesar? Think you to walk forth?

You shall not stair out of your house to-day.

Ces. Cesar shall forth: The things that threaten'd me, [see

Ne'er look'd but on my back; when they shall The face of Cesar, they are vanished.

Cal. Cesar, I never stood on ceremonies,* Yet now they fright me. There is one within, Besides the things that we had heard and seen,

Recounts most horrid sights seen by the watch. A lioness hath whelped in the streets; And graves have yawn'd and yielded up their dead:

Fierce fiery warriors fight upon the clouds, In ranks and squadrons, and right form of war, Which drizzled blood upon the Capitol: The noise of battle hurtled in the air, Horses did neigh, and dying men did groan; And ghosts did shriek, and squeal † about the streets,

* Never paid a regard to prodigies or omens.

† Encountered.

‡ Cry with pain.

O Cesar! these things are beyond all us, And I do fear them.

Ces. What can be avoided, Whose end is purpos'd by the mighty gods? Yet Cesar shall go forth: for these predictions Are to the world in general, as to Cesar.

Cal. When beggars die, there are no comets seen;

The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes.

Ces. Cowards die many times before their deaths;

The valiant never taste of death but once.

Of all the wonders that I yet have heard, It seems to me most strange that men should Seeing that death, a necessary end, [fear; Will come, when it will come.

Re-enter a SERVANT.

What say the augurers?

Serv. They will not have you to stir forth to-day.

Plucking the entrails of an offering forth, They could not find a heart within the beast.

Ces. The gods do this in shame of cowardice; Cesar should be a beast without a heart,

If he should stay at home to-day for fear.

No, Cesar shall not: Danger knows full well,

That Cesar is more dangerous than he,

We were two lions litter'd in one day,

And I the elder and more terrible;

And Cesar shall go forth.

Cal. Alas, my lord,

Your wisdom is consum'd in confidence.

Do not go forth to-day: Call it my fear,

That keeps you in the house, and not your own.

We'll send Mark Antony to the senate-house; And he shall say, you are not well to-day:

Let me upon my knee, prevail in this.

Ces. Mark Antony shall say, I am not well;

And, for thy humour, I will stay at home.

Enter DECIVS.

Here's Decius Brutus, he shall tell them so.

Dec. Cesar, all hail! Good morrow, worthy Cesar:

I come to fetch you to the senate-house.

Ces. And you are come in very happy time, To bear my greeting to the senators,

And tell them, that I will not come to-day: Cannot, is false; and that I dare not, falser;

I will not come to-day: Tell them so, Decius.

Cal. Say, he is sick.

Ces. Shall Cesar send a lie? Have I in conquest stretch'd mine arm so far,

To be afraid to tell grey-beards the truth?

Decius, go tell them, Cesar will not come.

Dec. Most mighty Cesar, let me know some cause.

Least I be laugh'd at, when I tell them so.

Ces. The cause is in my will, I will not come; That is enough to satisfy the senate.

But, for your private satisfaction,

Because I love you, I will let you know. Calphurnia here, my wife, stays me at home:

She dreamt to-night she saw my statue, Which like a fountain, with a hundred spouts,

Did run pure blood; and many lusty Romans Came smiling, and did bathe their hands in it.

And these does she apply for warnings, per- tents, And evils imminent; and on her knee Hath begg'd, that I will stay at home to-day.

Dec. This dream is all amiss interpreted.

It was a vision, fair and fortunate:

Your statue spouting blood in many pipes,

In which so many smiling Roman's bath'd,
Signifies that from you great Rome shall suck
Reviving blood; and that great men shall press
For tinctures, stains, relics,* and cognizance.†
This by Calphurnia's dream is signified.

Ces. And this way have you well expounded
it.

Dec. I have, when you have heard what I
can say:

And know it now; The senate have concluded
To give this day, a crown to mighty Cesar.
If you shall send them word you will not come,
Their minds may change. Besides, it were a
mock

Apt to be render'd, for some one to say,
*Break up the senate till another time,
When Cesar's wife shall meet with better dreams,
If Cesar hide himself, shall they not whisper,
Lo, Cesar is afraid?*

Pardon me, Cesar; for my dear, dear love
To your proceeding bids me tell you this;
And reason to my love is liable.‡

Ces. How foolish do your fears seem now,
Calphurnia?

I am ashamed I did yield to them.—
Give me my robe, for I will go:

*Enter PUBLIUS, BRUTUS, LIGARIUS, METELLUS,
CASCA, TREBONIUS, and CINNA.*

And look where Publius is come to fetch me
Pub. Good morrow, Cesar.

Ces. Welcome, Publius.—

What, Brutus, are you stirr'd so early too?—
Good-morrow, Casca.—Caius Ligarius,
Cesar was ne'er so much your enemy,
As that same ague which hath made you lean.
What is't o'clock?

Bru. Cesar, 'tis strucken eight.

Ces. I thank you for your pains and courtesies.

Enter ANTONY.

See! Antony, that revels long o' nights,
Is notwithstanding up:—

Good morrow, Antony.

Ant. So to most noble Cesar.

Ces. Bid them prepare within:—

I am to blame to be thus waited for.—
Now, Cinna:—Now, Metellus:—What, Trebo-
I have an hour's talk in store for you; [inuis!]
Remember that you call on me to-day:
Be near me, that I may remember you.

Treb. Cesar, I will:—and so near will I be,
That your best friends shall wish I had been
farther. [Aside.]

Ces. Good friends, go in, and taste some
wine with me;
And we, like friends, will straightway go to-
gether.

Bru. That every like is not the same, O Cesar,
The heart of Brutus yearns to think upon!

[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—*The same.—A Street near the
Capitol.*

Enter ARTEMIDORUS, reading a Paper.

Art. Cesar, beware of Brutus; take heed of
Cassius; come not near Casca; have an eye to
Cinna; trust not Trebonius; mark well Metellus
Cimber; Decius Brutus loves thee not; thou
hast wronged Caius Ligarius. There is but one
mind in all these men, and it is bent against Ce-

sar. *If thou be'st not immortal, look about you:
Security gives way to conspiracy. The mighty
gods defend thee! Thy lover,**

Artemidorus.

Here will I stand, till Cesar pass along,
And as a suitor will I give him this.
My heart laments, that virtue cannot live
Out of the teeth of emulation.†
If thou read this, O Cesar, thou may'st live;
If not, the fates with traitors do contrive.

[Exit.]

SCENE IV.—*The same.—Another part of the
same Street before the House of BRUTUS.*

Enter PORTIA and LUCIUS.

Por. I pr'ythee, boy, run to the senate house;
Stay not to answer me, but get thee gone:
Why dost thou stay?

Luc. To know my errand, madam.

Por. I would have had thee there, and here
again, [there.—

Ere I can tell thee what thou should'st do
O constancy, be strong upon my side!
Set a huge mountain 'tween my heart and
tongue!

I have a man's mind, but a woman's might.
How hard it is for women to keep counsel!—
Art thou here yet?

Luc. Madam, what should I do?

Run to the Capitol, and nothing else?
And so return to you, and nothing else?

Por. Yes, bring me word, boy, if thy lord
look well,

For he went sickly forth: And take good note,
What Cesar doth, what suitors press to him,
Hark, boy! what noise is that?

Luc. I hear none, madam.

Por. Pr'ythee, listen well;
I heard a bustling rumour, like a fray,
And the wind brings it from the Capitol.

Luc. Sooth,‡ madam, I hear nothing.

Enter SOOTHSAYER.

Por. Come hither, fellow:

Which way hast thou been?
Sooth. At mine own house, good lady.

Por. What is't o'clock?

Sooth. About the ninth hour, lady.

Por. Is Cesar yet gone to the Capitol?

Sooth. Madam, not yet; I go to take my
To see him pass on to the Capitol. [stand,
Por. Thou hast some suit to Cesar, hast thou
not?

Sooth. That I have, lady: if it will please
To be so good to Cesar, as to hear me, [Cesar
I shall beseech him to befriend himself.

Por. Why, knowest thou any harm's intended
towards him?

Sooth. None that I know will be, much that
I fear may chance. [row:

Good-morrow to you. Here the street is nar-
The throng that follows Cesar at the heels,
Of senators, of prætors, common suitors,
Will croud a feeble man almost to death;
I'll get me to a place more void, and there
Speak to great Cesar as he comes along. [Exit.]

Por. I must go in.—Ah me! how weak a
The heart of women is! O Brutus! [thing
The heavens speed thee in thine enterprise!
Sure, the boy heard me:—Brutus hath a suit,
That Cesar will not grant.—O, I grow faint:—
Run, Lucius, and commend me to my lord;
Say, I am merry: come to me again,
And bring me word what he doth say to thee.

[Exeunt]

* As to a saint, for reliques.

† As to a prince for

‡ Subordinate.

§ Grieves.

honours.

* Friend. † Envy. ‡ Really

ACT III.

SCENE I.—*The same.—The Capitol; the Senate sitting.*

A Crowd of People in the Street leading to the Capitol; among them ARTEMIDORUS, and the SOOTHSAYER. Flourish. Enter CESAR, BRUTUS, CASSIUS, CASCA, DECIUS, METELLUS, TREBONIUS, CINNA, ANTONY, LEPIDUS, POPILIUS, PUBLIUS, and others.

Ces. The ides of March are come.

Sooth. Ay, Cesar; but not gone.

Art. Hail, Cesar! Read this schedule.

Dec. Trebonius doth desire you to o'er-read, At your best leisure, this his humble suit.

Art. O, Cesar, read mine first; for mine's a suit [Cesar.

That touches Cesar nearer: Read it, great.

Ces. What touches us ourself, shall be last serv'd.

Art. Delay not, Cesar; read it instantly.

Ces. What, is the fellow mad?

Pub. Sirrab, give place.

Ces. What, urge you your petitions in the Come to the Capitol. [street?

CESAR enters the Capitol, the rest following.

All the SENATORS rise.

Pop. I wish, your enterprise to-day may thrive.

Cas. What enterprise, Popilius?

Pop. Fare you well [Advances to CESAR.

Bru. What said Popilius Lena?

Ces. He wish'd to-day our enterprise might I fear, our purpose is discovered. [thrive.

Bru. Look, how he makes to Cesar: Mark him.

Cas. Casca, be sudden, for we fear prevention.—

Brutus, what shall be done? If this be known, Cassius or Cesar never shall turn back, For I will slay myself.

Bru. Cassius, be constant:

Popilius Lena speaks not of our purposes; For, look, he smiles, and Cesar doth not change.

Cas. Trebonius knows his time; for, look you, Brutus,

He draws Mark Antony out of the way.

[*Exeunt ANTONY and TREBONIUS. CESAR and the SENATORS take their Seats.*

Dec. Where is Metellus Cimber? Lethim go, And presently prefer his suit to Cesar.

Bru. He is address'd:* press near, and second him.

Cin. Casca, you are the first that rears your hand.

Ces. Are we all ready? what is now amiss, That Cesar, and his senate must redress?

Met. Most high, most mighty, and most puissant Cesar,

Metellus Cimber throws before thy seat An humble heart:— [Kneeling.

Ces. I must prevent thee, Cimber.

These couchings, and these lowly courtesies, Might fire the blood of ordinary men;

And turn pre-ordnance, and first decree, Into the law of children. Be not fond,

To think that Cesar bears such rebel blood, That will be thaw'd from the true quality

With that which melteth fools; I mean, sweet words, [ings.

Low-crook'd curt'sies, and base spaniel fawn- Thy brother by decree is banished;

If thou dost bend, and pray and fawn for him,

I spurn thee like a cur out of my way.

Know, Cesar doth not wrong; nor without Will he be satisfied. [cause,

Met. Is there no voice more worthy than my own,

To sound more sweetly in great Cesar's ear, For the repealing of my banish'd brother?

Bru. I kiss thy hand, but not in flattery, Cesar; Desiring thee, that Publius Cimber may Have an immediate freedom of repeal.

Ces. What, Brutus!

Cas. Pardon, Cesar; Cesar pardon: As low as to thy foot doth Cassius fall, To beg enfranchisement for Publius Cimber.

Ces. I could be well mov'd, if I were as you; If I could pray to move, prayers would move me:

But I am constant as the northern star, Of whose true-fix'd, and resting quality,

There is no fellow in the firmament. The skies are painted with unnumber'd sparks,

They are all fire, and every one doth shine; But there's but one in all doth hold his place:

So, in the world; 'Tis furnish'd well with men, And men are flesh and blood, and apprehen-

Yet, in the number, I do know but one [sive;* That unassailable holds on his rank,†

Unshak'd of motion;‡ and, that I am he, Let me a little show it, even in this; [ish'd,

That I was constant, Cimber should be ban- And constant do remain to keep him so.

Cin. O Cesar,—

Ces. Hence! Wilt thou lift up Olympus?

Dec. Great Cesar,—

Ces. Doth not Brutus bootless§ kneel?

Casca. Speak, hands, for me.

[CASCA stabs CESAR in the Neck. CESAR catches hold of his Arm. He is then stabbed by several other Conspirators, and at last by MARCUS BRUTUS.

Ces. *Et tu, Brute?*—Then, fall, Cesar.

[*Dies. The Senators and People retire in confusion.*

Cin. Liberty! Freedom! Tyranny is dead!— Run hence, proclaim, cry it about the streets.

Cas. Some to the common pulpits, and cry Liberty, freedom, and enfranchisement! [out,

Bru. People, and senators! be not affrighted: Fly not; stand still:—ambition's debt is paid.

Casca. Go to the pulpit, Brutus.

Dec. And Cassius too.

Bru. Where's Publius?

Cin. Here, quite confounded with this mutiny.

Met. Stand fast together, lest some friend of Cesar's

Should chance—

Bru. Talk not of standing;—Publius, good cheer;

There is no harm intended to your person, Nor to no Roman else: so tell them, Publius.

Cas. And leave us, Publius; lest that the people, [chief.

Rushing on us, should do your age some mis-

Bru. Do so;—and let no man abide this But we the doers. [deed,

Re-enter TREBONIUS.

Cas. Where's Antony?

Tre. Fled to his house amaz'd:

* Intelligent. † Continues to hold it. ‡ Solicitation. § Unsuccessfully. || And thou, Brutus?

Men, wives, and children, stare, cry out, and
As it were doomsday. run,]

Bru. Fates! we will know your pleasures;—
That, we shall die, we know; 'tis but the time,
And drawing days out, that men stand upon.

Cas. Why, he that cuts off twenty years of
life,

Cuts off so many years of fearing death.

Bru. Grant that, and then is death a benefit:
So are we Cesar's friends that have abridg'd
His time of fearing death.—Stoop, Romans,
stoop,

And let us bathe our hands in Cesar's blood
Up to the elbows, and besmear our swords:
Then walk we forth even to the market-place;
And, waving our red weapons o'er our heads,
Let's all cry, Peace! Freedom! and Liberty!

Cas. Stoop then, and wash.* How many
ages hence,

Shall this our lofty scene be acted over,
In states unborn, and accents yet unknown?

Bru. How many times shall Cesar bleed in
sport,

That now on Pompey's basis lies along,
No worthier than the dust?

Cas. So oft as that shall be,
So often shall the knot of us be call'd
The men that gave our country liberty.

Dec. What, shall we forth?

Cas. Ay, every man away:
Brutus shall lead; and we will grace his heels
With the most boldest and best hearts of
Rome.

Enter a SERVANT.

Bru. Soft, who comes here? A friend of
Antony's.

Serv. Thus, Brutus, did my master bid me
kneel;

Thus did Mark Antony bid me fall down:
And, being prostrate, thus he bade me say.
Brutus is noble, wise, valiant, and honest;
Cesar was mighty, bold, royal, and loving;
Say, I love Brutus, and I honour him;
Say, I fear'd Cesar, honour'd him, and lov'd
If Brutus will vouchsafe, that Antony [him.
May safely come to him, and be resolv'd
How Cesar hath deserv'd to lie in death,
Mark Antony shall not love Cesar dead
So well as Brutus living; but will follow
The fortunes and affairs of noble Brutus,
Through the hazards of this untrod state,
With all true faith. So says my master An-
tony.

Bru. Thy master is a wise and valiant Ro-
man; I never thought him worse. [man;
Tell him, so please him come unto this place,
He shall be satisfied; and, by my honour,
Depart untouched.

Serv. I'll fetch him presently. *Exit. SERV.*

Bru. I know, that we shall have him well to
friend.

Cas. I wish, we may: but yet have I a mind
That fears him much; and my misgiving still
Falls shrewdly to the purpose.

Re-enter ANTONY.

Bru. But here comes Antony.—Welcome,
Mark Antony.

Ant. O mighty Cesar! Dost thou lie so low?
Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils,
Shrunk to this little measure?—Fare thee
well.—

I know not, gentlemen, what you intend,

*In Cesar's blood.

Who else must be let blood, who else is rank? *
If I myself, there is no hour so fit
As Cesar's death hour; nor no instrument
Of half that worth, as those your swords,
made rich

With the most noble blood of all this world.
I do beseech ye, if you bear me hard,
Now, whilst your purpled hands do reek and
smoke,

Fulfil your pleasure. Live a thousand years,
I shall not find myself so apt to die:
No place will please me so, no mean of death,
As here by Cesar, and by you cut off,
The choice and master spirits of this age.

Bru. O Antony! beg not your death of us.
Though now we must appear bloody and cruel,
As, by our hands, and this our present act,
You see we do; yet see you but our hands,
And this the bleeding business they have done:
Our hearts you see not, they are pitiful;
And pity to the general wrong of Rome
(As fire drives out fire, so pity, pity.)

Hath done this deed on Cesar. For your part,
To you our swords have leaden points, Mark
Antony:

Our arms, in strength of malice, and our
Of brothers' temper, do receive you in hearts,
With all kind love, good thoughts, and rever-
ence.

Cas. Your voice shall be as strong as any
In the disposing of new dignities. [man's

Bru. Only be patient, till we have appeas'd
The multitude, beside themselves with fear,
And then we will deliver you the cause,
Why I thus did love Cesar when I struck him,
Have thus proceeded.

Ant. I doubt not of your wisdom.

Let each man render me his bloody hand:
First, Marcus Brutus, will I shake with you;—
Next Caius Cassius, do I take your hand;—
Now, Decius Brutus, yours;—Now yours,
Metellus;

Yours, Cinna;—and, my valiant Casca
yours;— [Trebonius.

Though last, not least in love yours, good
Gentlemen all,—alas! what shall I say?

My credit now stands on such slippery ground
That one of two bad ways you must conceit
Either a coward or a flatterer.— [me,

That I did love thee, Cesar, O, 'tis true:
If then thy spirit look upon us now,

Shall it not grieve thee dearer than thy death,
To see thy Antony making his peace,
Shaking the bloody fingers of thy foes,
Most noble! in the presence of thy corse?

Had I as many eyes as thou hast wounds,
Weeping as fast as they stream forth thy blood
It would become me better, than to close
In terms of friendship with thine enemies.

Pardon me Julius!—Here wast thou bay'd,
brave hart; [stand,

Here didst thou fall; and here thy hunters
Sign'd in thy spoil, and crimson'd in thy lethic.

O world! thou wast the forest to this hart;
And this, indeed, O world, the heart of thee.
How like a deer, stricken by many princes,
Dost thou here lie?

Cas. Mark Antony,—

Ant. Pardon me, Caius Cassius:
The enemies of Cesar shall say this;
Then, in a friend, it is cold modesty.

Cas. I blame you not for praising Cesar so:
But what compact mean you to have with us?
Will you be prick'd in number of our friends
Or hall we on, and not depend on you?

* Grown too high for the public safety.

Ant. Therefore I took your hands; but was, indeed, [Cesar.] Sway'd from the point, by looking down on Friends am I with you all, and love you all; Upon this hope, that you shall give me reasons, Why, and wherein Cesar was dangerous.

Bru. Or else were this a savage spectacle: Our reasons are so full of good regard, That were you Antony the son of Cesar, You should be satisfied.

Ant. That's all I seek: And am moreover suitor, that I may Produce his body to the market-place; And in the pulpit, as becomes a friend, Speak in the order of his funeral.

Bru. You shall, Mark Antony.

Cas. Brutus, a word with you.— You know not what you do; Do not consent, That Antony speak in his funeral: Know you how much the people may be mov'd By that which he will utter? [Aside.]

Bru. By your pardon;— I will myself into the pulpit first, And show the reason of our Cesar's death: What Antony shall speak, I will protest He speaks by leave and by permission; And that we are contented, Cesar shall Have all true rites, and lawful ceremonies. It shall advantage more, than do us wrong.

Cas. I know not what may fall; I like it not.

Bru. Mark Antony, here, take you Cesar's body

You shall not in your funeral speech blame us, But speak all good you can devise of Cesar; And say you do't by our permission; Else shall you not have any hand at all About his funeral: And you shall speak In the same pulpit whereto I am going, After my speech is ended.

Ant. Be it so; I do desire no more.

Bru. Prepare the body then, and follow us. [Exeunt all but ANTONY.]

Ant. O pardon me, thou piece of bleeding earth, [Cesar!]

That I am meek and gentle with these butch-
Thou art the ruins of the noblest man,
That ever lived in the tide* of times.
Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!
Over thy wounds now do I prophesy,— [lips,
Which, like dumb mouths, do ope their ruby
To beg the voice and utterance of my tongue;
A curse shall light upon the limbs of men;
Domestic fury, and fierce civil strife,
Shall cumber all the parts of Italy;
Blood and destruction shall be so in use,
And dreadful objects so familiar,
That mothers shall but smile when they behold
Their infants quartered with the hands of war;
All pity chok'd with custom of fell deeds:
And Cesar's spirit, ranging for revenge,
With Ate by his side, come hot from hell,
Shall in these confines, with a monarch's voice,
Cry *Havoc*,† and let slip‡ the dogs of war;
That this foul deed shall smell above the earth
With carrion men, groaning for burial.

Enter a SERVANT.

You serve Octavius Cesar, do you not?

Serv. I do, Mark Antony.

Ant. Cesar did write for him to come to Rome.

* Course. † She signal for giving no quarter.
‡ To let slip a dog at a deer, &c. was the technical phrase of Shakspeare's time.

Serv. He did receive his letters, and is coming:

And bid me say to you by word of mouth,— O Cesar!— [Seeing the body.]

Ant. Thy heart is big, get the apart and weep.

Passion, I see, is catching; for mine eyes, Seeing those beads of sorrow stand in thine, Began to water. Is thy master coming?

Serv. He lies to-night within seven leagues of Rome.

Ant. Post back with speed, and tell him what hath chanc'd:

Here is a mourning Rome, a dangerous Rome, No Rome of safety for Octavius yet; Hie hence, and tell him so. Yet, stay a while; Thou shalt not back, till I have borne this corse Into the market-place: there shall I try, In my oration, I owe the people take The cruel issue of these bloody men; According to the which, thou shalt discourse To young Octavius of the state of things. Lend me your hand.

[Exeunt with CESAR'S Body.]

SCENE II.—The same.—The Forum.

Enter BRUTUS and CASSIUS, and a throng of CITIZENS.

Cit. We will be satisfied; let us be satisfied. *Bru.* Then follow me and give me audience, friends.—

Cassius, go you into the other street, And part the numbers.— [here;

Those that will hear me speak, let them stay; Those that will follow Cassius, go with him; And public reasons shall be rendered Of Cesar's death.

1 *Cit.* I will hear Brutus speak.

2 *Cit.* I will hear Cassius; and compare their reasons,

When severally we hear them rendered.

[Exit CASSIUS, with some of the CITIZENS. BRUTUS goes into the Rostrum.]

3 *Cit.* The noble Brutus is ascended: Silence!

Bru. Be patient till the last.

Romans, countrymen, and lovers!* hear me for my cause; and be silent that you may hear: believe me for mine honour; and have respect to mine honour, that you may believe: censure me in your wisdom; and awake your senses, that you may the better judge. If there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of Cesar's, to him I say, that Brutus' love to Cesar was no less than his. If then that friend demand, why Brutus rose against Cesar, this is my answer,—Not that I loved Cesar less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you rather Cesar were living, and die all slaves, than that Cesar were dead to live all free men? As Cesar loved me, I weep for him; as he was fortunate, I rejoice at it; as he was valiant, I honour him; but, as he was ambitious, I slew him: There is tears, for his love; joy, for his fortune; honour, for his valour; and death, for his ambition. Who is here so base, that would be a bondman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so rude, that would not be a Roman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so vile, that will not love his country? If any, speak; for him have I offended. I pause for a reply.

Cit. None, Brutus, none.

[Several speaking at once.]

Bru. Then none have I offended. I have

* Friends.

done no more to Cesar, than you should do to Brutus. The question of his death is enrolled in the Capitol: his glory not extenuated, wherein he was worthy; nor his offences enforced, for which he suffered death.

Enter ANTONY and others, with CESAR'S body.

Here comes his body, mourned by Mark Antony: who, though he had no hand in his death, shall receive the benefit of his dying, a place in the commonwealth; as which of you shall not? With this I depart; That as I slew my best lover* for the good of Rome, I have the same dagger for myself, when it shall please my country to need my death.

Cit. Live, Brutus, live! live!

1 *Cit.* Bring him with triumph home unto his house.

2 *Cit.* Give him a statue with his ancestors.

3 *Cit.* Let him be Cesar.

4 *Cit.* Cesar's better parts

Shall now be crown'd in Brutus.

1 *Cit.* We'll bring him to his house with shouts and clamours.

Bru. My countrymen,—

2 *Cit.* Peace; silence! Brutus speaks.

1 *Cit.* Peace, ho! [alone,

Bru. Good countrymen, let me depart

And, for my sake, stay here with Antony:

Do grace to Cesar's corpse, and grace his

speech [Antony,

Tending to Cesar's glories; which Mark

By our permission, is allow'd to make.

I do entreat you, not a man depart,

Save I alone, till Antony have spoke. [*Exit.*

1 *Cit.* Stay, ho! and let us hear Mark Antony.

3 *Cit.* Let him go up into the public chair; We'll hear him:—Noble Antony, go up.

2 *Ant.* For Brutus' sake, I am beholden to you.

4 *Cit.* What does he say of Brutus?

3 *Cit.* He says for Brutus' sake,

He finds himself beholden to us all.

4 *Cit.* 'Twere best he speak no harm of Brutus here.

1 *Cit.* This Cesar was a tyrant.

3 *Cit.* Nay, that's certain:

We are bless'd that Rome is rid of him.

2 *Cit.* Peace; let us hear what Antony can say.

Ant. You gentle Roman's,—

Cit. Peace, ho! let us hear him.

Ant. Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;

I come to bury Cesar, not to praise him.

(The evil, that men do, lives after them;

The good is oft interred with their bones;

So let it be with Cesar. The noble Brutus

Hath told you, Cesar was ambitious:

If it were so, it was a grievous fault;

And grievously hath Cesar answer'd it.

Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest,

(For Brutus is an honourable man;

So are they all, all honourable men;)

Come I to speak in Cesar's funeral.

He was my friend, faithful and just to me:

But Brutus says, he was ambitious;

And Brutus is an honourable man.

He hath brought many captives home to Rome.

Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:

Did this in Cesar seem ambitious? [weep.

When that the poor have cried, Cesar hath

Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:

Yet Brutus says, he was ambitious;

* Friend.

And Brutus is an honourable man.

You all did see, that on the Lupercal, I thrice presented him a kingly crown. [tion? Which he did thrice refuse. Was this ambitious? Yet Brutus says, he was ambitious; And, sure, he is an honourable man.

I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke,

But here I am to speak what I do know.

You all did love him once, not without cause;

What cause witholds you then to mourn for him?

O judgement, thou art fled to brutish beasts, And men have lost their reason!—Bear with me;

My heart is in the coffin there with Cesar,

And I must pause till it come back to me.

1 *Cit.* Methinks, there is much reason in his sayings.

2 *Cit.* If thou consider rightly of the matter, Cesar has had great wrong.

3 *Cit.* Has he, masters?

I fear, there will a worse come in his place.

4 *Cit.* Mark'd ye his words? He would not take the crown;

Therefore, 'tis certain he was not ambitious.

1 *Cit.* If it be found so, some will dear abide it.

2 *Cit.* Poor soul! his eyes are red as fire with weeping.

3 *Cit.* There's not a nobler man in Rome, than Antony.

4 *Cit.* Now mark him, he begins again to speak.

Ant. But yesterday, the word of Cesar might have stood against the world: now lies he there,

And none so poor* to do him reverence.

O masters! if I were dispos'd to stir

Your hearts and minds to mutiny and rage,

I should do Brutus wrong, and Cassius wrong,

Who, you all know are honourable men:

I will not do them wrong; I rather choose

To wrong the dead, to wrong myself and you,

Than I will wrong such honourable men.

But her's a parchment, with the seal of Cesar,

I found it in his closet, 'tis his will:

Let but the commons hear this testament,

(Which, pardon me, I do not mean to read,)

And they would go and kiss dead Cesar's

wounds,

And dip their napkin's† in his sacred blood;

Yea, beg a hair of him for memory,

And, dying, mention it within their wills,

Bequeathing it, as a rich legacy,

Unto their issue.

4 *Cit.* We'll hear the will: Read it, Mark Antony.

Cit. The will, the will; we will hear Cesar's will.

Ant. Have patience, gentle friends, I must not read it;

It is not meet you know how Cesar lov'd you. You are not wood, you are not stones, but

men; And, being men, hearing the will of Cesar, It will inflame you, it will make you mad:

'Tis good you know not that you are his heirs, For if you should, O, what would come of it!

4 *Cit.* Read the will; we will hear it, Antony;

You shall read us the will; Cesar's will.

Ant. Will you be patient? Will you stay a while?

I have o'ershot myself, to tell you of it.

* The meanest man is now too high to do reverence to Cesar. † Handkerchiefs.

I fear, I wrong the honourable men, [it.
Whose daggers have stabb'd Cesar; I do fear

4 *Cit.* They were traitors: Honourable men!

Cit. The will! the testament!

2 *Cit.* They were villains, murderers: The will! read the will!

Ant. You will compel me then to read the will?

Then make a ring about the corpse of Cesar,
And let me show you him that made the will.
Shall I descend? And will you give me leave?

Cit. Come down.

2 *Cit.* Descend.

[*He comes down from the Pulpit.*

3 *Cit.* You shall have leave.

4 *Cit.* A ring; stand round.

1 *Cit.* Stand from the hearse, stand from the body.

2 *Cit.* Room for Antony;—most noble Antony.

Ant. Nay, press not so upon me; stand far off.

Cit. Stand back! room! bear back!

Ant. If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.

You all do know this mantle: I remember
The first time Cesar ever put it on;
'Twas on a summer's evening, in his tent;
That day he overcame the Nervii:—
Look! in this place ran Cassius' dagger
through:

See, what a rent the envious Casca made:
Through this, the well-beloved Brutus stab'd;
And, as he pluck'd his cursed steel away,
Mark how the blood of Cesar follow'd it;
As rushing out of doors to be resolv'd
If Brutus so unkindly knock'd, or no;
For Brutus, as you know, was Cesar's angel:
Judge, O you Gods, how dearly Cesar lov'd
him!

This was the most unkindest cut of all:
For when the noble Cesar saw him stab,
Ingratitude, more strong than traitor's arms,
Quite vanquish'd him: then burst his mighty
heart;

And, in his mantle muffling up his face,
Even at the base of Pompey's statue,* [fell.
Which all the while ran blood, great Cesar
O, what a fall was there, my countrymen!
Then I, and you, and all of us fell down,
Whilst bloody treason flourish'd over us.
O, now you weep; and I perceive, you feel
The ointment of pity: these are gracious drops.
Kind souls, what, weep you, when you but behold

Our Cesar's vesture wounded? Look you here,
Here is himself, marr'd as you see, with traitors.

1 *Cit.* O piteous spectacle!

2 *Cit.* O noble Cesar!

3 *Cit.* O woeful day!

4 *Cit.* O traitors, villains!

1 *Cit.* O most bloody sight!

2 *Cit.* We will be revenged: revenge; about,
—seek,—burn,—fire,—kill,—slay,—let not a
traitor live.

Ant. Stay, countrymen.

1 *Cit.* Peace there:—Hear the noble Antony.

2 *Cit.* We'll hear him, we'll follow him,
we'll die with him.

Ant. Good friends, sweet friends, let me not
stir you up

To such a sudden flood of mutiny.

They, that have done this deed, are honour-
able; [not,

What private griefs* they have, alas, I know
That made them do it; they are wise and hon-
ourable,

And will, no doubt, with reasons answer you.
I come not, friends, to steal away your hearts,
I am no orator, as Brutus is:

But, as you know me all, a plain blunt man,
That love my friend; and that they know full
well

That gave me public leave to speak of him.
For, I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth,
Action, nor utterance, nor the power of speech,
To stir men's blood: I only speak right on:
I tell you that, which you yourselves do know;
Show you sweet Cesar's wounds, poor, poor
dumb mouths, [Brutus,

And bid them speak for me: But were I
And Brutus Antony, there were an Antony
Would ruffle up your spirits, and put a tongue
In every wound of Cesar, that should move
The stones of Rome to rise and mutiny.

Cit. We'll mutiny.

1 *Cit.* We'll burn the house of Brutus.

3 *Cit.* Away then, come, seek the conspira-
tors.

Ant. Yet hear me, countrymen; yet hear
me speak.

Cit. Peace ho! Hear Antony, most noble
Antony.

Ant. Why, friends, you go to do you know
not what:

Wherein hath Cesar thus deserv'd your loves?
Alas, you know not;—I must tell you then;—
You have forgot the will I told you of.

Cit. Most true;—the will;—let's stay, and
hear the will.

Ant. Here is the will, and under Cesar's seal.
To every Roman citizen he gives,
To every several man, seventy-five drachmas,†

2 *Cit.* Most noble Cesar!—we will revenge
his death.

3 *Cit.* O royal Cesar!

Ant. Hear me with patience.

Cit. Peace, ho!

Ant. Moreover, he hath left you all his walks,
His private arbour, and new-planted orchards
On this side Tyber; he hath left them you,
And to your heirs for ever; common pleasures,
To walk abroad, and recreate yourselves.
Here was a Cesar: When comes such another.

1 *Cit.* Never, never:—Come away, away?
We'll burn his body in the holy place,
And with the brands fire the traitor's houses.

Take up the body

2 *Cit.* Go, fetch fire.

3 *Cit.* Pluck down benches.

4 *Cit.* Pluck down forms, windows, any
thing. *Exeunt CITIZENS, with the*

[*Body.*

Ant. Now let it work: Mischief, thou art
afoot, [yellow?
Take thou what course thou wilt!—How now,

Enter a SERVANT.

Serv. Sir, Octavius is already come to Rome.

Ant. Where is he?

Serv. He and Lepidus are at Cesar's house.

Ant. And thither will I straight to visit him:
He comes upon a wish. Fortune is merry,
And in this mood will give us any thing.

Serv. I heard him say, Brutus and Cassius
Are rid like madmen through the gates of
Rome.

* Statua for statue is common among the old writers.

† Was successful.

‡ Impression.

* Grievances.

† Greek coin.

It useth an enforced ceremony.
There are no tricks in plain and simple faith:
But hollow men, like horses hot at hand,
Make gallant show and promise of their mettle:
But when they should endure the bloody spur,
They fall their crests, and like deceitful jades,
Sink in the trial. Comes his army on?

Luc. They mean this night in Sardis to be quarter'd;

The greater part, the horse in general,
Are come with Cassius. *[March within.]*

Bru. Hark, he is arriv'd:—
March gently on to meet him.

Enter CASSIUS and soldiers.

Cas. Stand, ho!

Bru. Stand, ho! Speak the word along.

Within. Stand.

Within. Stand.

Cas. Most noble brother, you have done me wrong.

Bru. Judge me, you gods! Wrong I mine enemies?

And, if not so, how should I wrong a brother?
Cas. Brutus, this sober form of yours hides
And when you do them— *[wrongs;]*

Bru. Cassius, be content, *[well:—]*
Speak your griefs* softly,—I do know you
Before the eyes of both our armies here, *[us,*
Which should perceive nothing but love from
Let us not wrangle: Bid them move away;
Then in my tent, Cassius, enlarge your griefs,
And I will give you audience.

Cas. Pindarus,
Bid our commanders lead their charges off
A little from this ground.

Bru. Lucilius, do the like; and let no man
Come to our tent, till we have done our conference.

Let Lucius and Titinius guard our door. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE III.—*Within the tent of BRUTUS.—*
LUCIUS and TITINIUS at some distance from it.

Enter BRUTUS and CASSIUS.

Cas. That you have wrong'd me, doth appear in this:

You have condemn'd and noted Lucius Pella,
For taking bribes here of the Sardians;
Wherein, my letters, praying on his side,
Because I knew't the man, were slighted off.

Bru. You wrong'd yourself, to write in such a case.

Cas. In such a time as this, it is not meet
That every nice offence should bear his comment.

Bru. Let me tell you, Cassius, you yourself
Are much condemn'd to have an itching palm
To sell and mart your offices for gold,
To undeservers.

Cas. I an itching palm?
You know, that you are Brutus that speak this,
Or, by the gods, this speech were else your last.

Bru. The name of Cassius honours this corruption,
And chastisement doth therefore hide his head.

Cas. Chastisement!
Bru. Remember March, the ides of March
remember!

Did not great Julius bleed for justice' sake?
What villain touch'd his body, that did stab,
And not for justice? What, shall one of us,

*Grievances.

†Trifling.

[That struck the foremost man of all this world,
But for supporting robbers; shall we now
Contaminate our fingers with base bribes?
And sell the mighty space of our large honours,
For so much trash, as may be grasped thus?—
I had rather be a dog, and bay* the moon,
Than such a Roman.

Cas. Brutus, bay not me,
I'll not endure it: you forget yourself,
To hedge me in;† I am a soldier, I
Older in practice, abler than yourself
To make conditions.‡

Bru. Go to; your'e not, Cassius.

Cas. I am.

Bru. I say, you are not.

Cas. Urge me no more, I shall forget myself;
Have mind upon your health, tempt me no
further.

Bru. Away, slight man!

Cas. Is't possible?

Bru. Hear me, for I will speak.

Must I give way and room to your rash choler?
Shall I be frighted, when a madman stares?

Cas. O ye gods! ye gods! Must I endure
all this?

Bru. All this? ay, more: Fret till your proud
heart break;

Go, show your slaves how choleric you are,
And make your bondmen tremble. Must I
budge?

Must I observe you? Must I stand and crouch
Under your testy humour? By the gods,
You shall digest the venom of your spleen,
Though it do split you; for, from this day forth,
I'll use you for my mirth, yea, for my laughter,
When you are waspish.

Cas. Is it come to this?

Bru. You say you are a better soldier.

Let it appear so; make your vaunting true,[†]
And it shall please me well: For mine own
I shall be glad to learn of noble men. *[part,*

Cas. You wrong me every way, you wrong
me, Brutus;

I said, an elder soldier, not a better:
Did I say, better?

Bru. If you did, I care not.

Cas. When Cesar liv'd he durst not thus
have mov'd me.

Bru. Peace, peace; you durst not so have
tempted him.

Cas. I durst not?

Bru. No.

Cas. What? durst not tempt him?

Bru. For your life you durst not.

Cas. Do not presume too much upon my
I may do that I shall be sorry for. *[love,*

Bru. You have done that you should be sorry
for.

There is no terror, Cassius, in your threats:
For I am arm'd so strong in honesty,
That they pass by me, as the idle wind,
Which I respect not. I did send to you
For certain sums of gold, which you denied
me;—

For I can raise no money by vile means:

By heaven, I had rather coin my heart,
And drop my blood for drachmas,§ than to
wring *[trash,*

From the hard hands of peasants their vile
By any indirection I did send

To you for gold to pay my legions, *[Cassius?*
Which you denied me: Was that done like
Should I have answered Caius Cassius so?

When Marcus Brutus grows so covetous,
To lock such rascal counters from his friends,

*Bait, bark at.

†Limit my authority.

‡Terms, fit to confer the offices at my disposal. §Coin.

Be ready, gods, with all your thunderbolts,
Dash him to pieces!

Cas. I denied you not.

Bru. You did.

Cas. I did not:—he was but a fool,
That brought my answer back.—Brutus hath
riv'd* my heart:

A friend should bear his friend's infirmities,
But Brutus makes mine greater than they are.

Bru. I do not, till you practise them on me.

Cas. You love me not

Bru. I do not like your faults.

Cas. A friendly eye could never see such
faults.

Bru. A flatterer's would not, though they
do appear

As huge as high Olympus.

Cas. Come, Antony, and young Octavius,
Revenge yourselves alone on Cassius! [come,
For Cassius is aweary of the world:

Hated by one he loves; brav'd by his brother:
Check'd like a bondman; all his faults ob-
serv'd,

[rote,
Set in a note-book, learn'd, and conn'd by
To cast unto my teeth. O, I could weep

Myspirit from mine eyes!—There is my dagger,
And here my naked breast; within, a heart

Dearer than Plutus' mine, richer than gold:
If that thou be'st a Roman, take it forth;

I, that denied thee gold, will give my heart;
Strike, as thou didst at Cesar; for, I know,

When thou didst hate him worse, thou lov'dst
him better

Than ever thou lov'dst Cassius.

Bru. Sheath your dagger:

Be angry when you will, it shall have scope;
Do what you will, dishonour shall be humour.

O Cassius, you are yoked with a lamb
That carries anger, as the flint bears fire;

Who, much enforced, shows a hasty spark,
And straight is cold again.

Cas. Hath Cassius liv'd

To be but mirth and laughter to his Brutus,
When grief, and blood ill-temper'd, vexeth
him?

Bru. When I spoke that, I was ill-temper'd
too.

Cas. Do you confess so much? Give me your
hand.

Bru. And my heart too.

Cas. O Brutus!—

Bru. What's the matter?

Cas. Have you not love enough to bear with
me,

When that rash humour, which my mother
gave me,

Makes me forgetful?

Bru. Yes, Cassius; and, henceforth,

When you are over-earnest with your Brutus,
He'll think your mother chides, and leave you
so.

[Noise within.

Poet. [Within.] Let me go in to see the gene-
rals;

There is some grudge between them, 'tis not
They be alone.

Luc. [Within.] You shall not come to them.

Poet. [Within.] Nothing but death shall stay
me.

Enter POET.

Cas. How now? What's the matter?

Poet. For shame, you generals; What do
you mean?

[be;
Love, and be friends, as two such men should
For I have seen more years, I'm sure, than ye.

Cas. Ha, ha; how vilely doth this cynic
rhyme!

Bru. Get you hence, Sirrah; saucy fellow,
hence.

Cas. Bear with him, Brutus; 'tis his fashion.

Bru. I'll know his humour, when he knows
his time:

What should the wars do with the jiggling fools?
Companion,* hence.

Cas. Away, away, be gone. [Exit POET.

Enter LUCILIUS and TITINIUS.

Bru. Lucilius and Titinius, bid the com-
manders

Prepare to lodge their companies to-night.

Cas. And come yourselves, and bring Mes-
sala with you

Immediately to us.

[Exit LUCILIUS and TITINIUS.

Bru. Lucius, a bowl of wine.

Cas. I did not think, you could have been so
angry

Bru. O Cassius, I am sick of man, griefs.

Cas. Of your philosophy you make no use,
If you give place to accidental evils.

Bru. No man bears sorrow better:—Portia
is dead.

Cas. Ha! Portia?

Bru. She is dead.

Cas. How scap'd I killing, when I cross'd
you so?—

O insupportable and touching loss!—

Upon what sickness?

Bru. Impatient of my absence;
And grief, that young Octavius with Mark An-
tony

Have made themselves so strong;—for with
her death

That tidings came;—With this she fell distract,
And, her attendants absent, swallow'd fire.

Cas. And died so?

Bru. Even so.

O ye immortal gods!

Enter Lucius, with Wine and Tapers.

Bru. Speak no more of her.—Give me a
bowl of wine:—

In this I bury all unkindness, Cassius.

Cas. My heart is thirsty for that noble
pledge:—

Fill, Lucius, till the wine o'erswell the cup;
I cannot drink to much of Brutus' love.

[Drinks.

Re-enter TITINIUS, with MESSALA.

Bru. Come in, Titinius:—Welcome, good
Messala.—

Now sit we close about this taper here,

And call in question our necessities.

Cas. Portia, art thou gone?

Bru. No more, I pray you.—

Messala, I have here received letters,
That young Octavius, and Mark Antony,

Come down upon us with a mighty power,†
Bending their expedition toward Philippi.

Mess. Myself have letters of the self-same
tenour.

Bru. With what addition?

Mess. That by proscription, and bills of out-
Octavius, Anthony, and Lepidus, [lawry,

Have put to death a hundred senators.

Bru. Therein our letters do not well agree;
Mine speak of seventy senators, that died
By their proscriptions, Cicero being one.

* Split.

* Fellow.

† Force.

Cas. Cicero one?
Mes. Ay, Cicero is dead,
 And by that order of proscription.—
 Had you your letters from your wife, my lord?
Bru. No, Messala.
Mes. Nor nothing in your letters writ of her?
Bru. Nothing, Messala.
Mes. That, methinks, is strange.
Bru. Why ask you? Hear you aught of her
 in yours?
Mes. No, my lord.
Bru. Now, as you are a Roman, tell me true.
Mes. Then like a Roman bear the truth I tell:
 For certain she is dead, and by strange man-
 ner.
Bru. Why, farewell, Portia.—We must die,
 Messala:
 With meditating that she must die once,*
 I have the patience to endure it now.
Mes. Even so great men great losses should
 endure.
Cas. I have as much of this in art as you,
 But yet my nature could not bear it so.
Bru. Well, to our work alive. What do you
 Of marching to Philippi presently? [think
Cas. I do not think it good.
Bru. Your reason?
Cas. This it is:
 'Tis better, that the enemy seek us:
 So shall he waste his means, weary his soldiers,
 Doing himself offence; whilst we, lying still,
 Are full of rest, defence, and nimbleness.
Bru. Good reasons must, of force, give place
 to better.
 The people, 'twixt Philippi and this ground,
 Do stand but in a forc'd affection;
 For they have grudg'd us contribution:
 The enemy, marching along by them,
 By them shall make a fuller number up,
 Come on refresh'd, new-added, and encour-
 ag'd;
 From which advantage shall we cut him off,
 If at Philippi we do face him there,
 These people at our back.
Cas. hear me, good brother.
Bru. Under your pardon.—You must note
 beside,
 That we have tried the utmost of our friends,
 Our legions are brim-full, our cause is ripe:
 The enemy increaseth every day,
 We, at the height, are ready to decline.
 There is a tide in the affairs of men, *
 Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
 Omitted, all the voyage of their life
 Is bound in shallows, and in miseries.
 On such a full sea are we now afloat;
 And we must take the current when it serves
 Or lose our ventures.
Cas. Then, with your will, go on; [lippi.
 We'll along ourselves, and meet them at Phi-
Bru. The deep of night is crept upon our
 And nature must obey necessity; [talk,
 Which we will niggar'd with a little rest.
 There is no more to say?
Cas. No more. Good night;
 Early to-morrow will we rise, and hence.
Bru. Lucius, my gown. [*Exit* Lucius.] Fare-
 well, good Messala;—
 Good night, Titinius:—Noble, noble Cassius,
 Good night, and good repose.
Cas. O my dear brother!
 This was an ill beginning of the night:
 Never come such division tween our souls!
 Let it not, Brutus.

* At some time.

† Theory.

Bru. Every thing is well.
Cas. Good night, my lord.
Bru. Good night, good brother.
Tit. Mes. Good night, lord Brutus.
Bru. Farewell, every one.
 [*Exeunt* *Cas.* *Tit.* and *Mes.*]

Re-enter Lucius, with the Gown.
 Give me the gown. Where is thy instrument?
Luc. Here in the tent.
Bru. What, thou speak'st drowsily?
 Poor knave, I blame thee not; thou art o'er-
 watch'd.
 Call Claudius, and some other of my men;
 I'll have them sleep on cushions in my tent.
Luc. Varro, and Claudius!

Enter Varro and Claudius.
Var. Calls my lord?
Bru. I pray you, Sirs, lie in my tent, and
 sleep;
 It may be, I shall raise you by and by
 On business to my brother Cassius.
Var. So please you, we will stand, and watch
 your pleasure.
Bru. I will not have it so: lie down, good
 Sirs;
 It may be, I shall otherwise bethink me.
 Look, Lucius, here's the book I sought for so.
 I put it in the pocket of my gown.

[*Servants lie down.*
Luc. I was sure, your lordship did not give
 it me.
Bru. Bear with me, good boy, I am much
 forgetful.
 Canst thou hold up thy heavy eyes awhile,
 And touch thy instrument a strain or two?
Luc. Ay, my lord, an it please you.
Bru. It does, my boy:
 I trouble thee too much, but thou art willing.
Luc. It is my duty, Sir.
Bru. I should not urge thy duty past thy
 might;
 I know, young bloods look for a time of rest.
Luc. I have slept, my lord, already.
Bru. It is well done; and thou shalt sleep
 again;

I will not hold thee long: if I do live,
 I will be good to thee. [*Music, and a Song.*
 This is a sleepy tune:—O murd'rous slumber!
 Lay'st thou thy leaden mace* upon my boy,
 That plays thee music?—Gentle knave, good
 night;
 I will not do thee so much wrong to wake thee.
 If thou dost nod, thou break'st thy instrument;
 I'll take it from thee; and, good boy, good
 night. [down,
 Let me see, let me see;—Is not the leaf turn'd
 Where I left reading? Here it is, I think.
 [*He sits down.*]

Enter the Ghost of CESAR.
 How ill this taper burns!—Ha! who comes
 here?
 I think, it is the weakness of mine eyes,
 That shapes this monstrous apparition.
 It comes upon me;—Art thou any thing?
 Art thou some god, some angel, or some devil,
 That mak'st my blood cold, and my hair to
 Speak to me, what thou art. [stare!
Ghost. Thy evil spirit, Brutus.
Bru. Why com'st thou?
Ghost. To tell thee, thou shalt see me at
 Philippi.

* Spectre.

Bru. Well;
Then I shall see thee again?
Ghost. Ay, at Philippi. [Ghost vanishes.]
Bru. Why, I will see thee at Philippi then.—
Now I have taken heart, thou vanishest:
Ill spirit, I would hold more talk with thee—
Boy! Lucius!—Varro! Claudius! Sirs, awake!
Luc. The strings, my lord, are false.
Bru. He thinks, he still is at his instrument.—
Luc. My lord!
Bru. Didst thou dream, Lucius, that thou
so cry'dst out?
Luc. My lord, I do not know that I did cry.
Bru. Yes, that thou didst: Didst thou see
any thing?
Luc. Nothing, my lord.
Bru. Sleep again, Lucius.—Sirrah, Claudio!
Fellow thou! awake. [dies!]
Var. My lord.
Clau. My lord.
Bru. Why did you so cry out, Sirs, in your
sleep?
Var. Clau. Did we, my lord?
Bru. Ay: Saw you any thing?
Var. No, my lord, I saw nothing.
Clau. Nor I, My lord.
Bru. Go, and commend me to my brother
Cassius;
Bid him set on his powers betimes before,
And we will follow.
Var. Clau. It shall be done, my lord.
[Exeunt.]

ACT V.

SCENE I.—The Plains of Philippi.

Enter OCTAVIUS, ANTONY, and their Army.

Oct. Now, Antony, our hopes are answered:
You said, the enemy would not come down,
But keep the hills and upper regions;
It proves not so; their battles are at hand;
They mean to warn* us at Philippi here,
Answering before we do demand of them.

Ant. Tut, I am in their bosoms, and I know
Wherefore they do it: they could be content
To visit other places; and come down
With fearful bravery, thinking, by this face,
To fasten in our thoughts that they have courage;
But 'tis not so. [age;

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. Prepare you, generals:
The enemy comes on in gallant show;
Their bloody sign of battle is hung out,
And something to be done immediately.

Ant. Octavius, lead your battle softly on,
Upon the left hand of the even field.

Oct. Upon the right hand I, keep thou the left.

Ant. Why do you cross me in this exigent?

Oct. I do not cross you; but I will do so.

[March]

Drum. Enter BRUTUS, CASSIUS, and their Army;
LUCILIUS, TITINIUS, MESSALA, and others.

Bru. They stand, and would have parley.

Cas. Stand fast, Titinius: We must out and talk.

Oct. Mark Antony, shall we give sign of battle?

Ant. No, Cesar, we will answer on their charge. [words.]

Make forth, the generals would have some
Oct. Stir not until the signal.

Bru. Words before blows: Is it so; countrymen?

Oct. Not that we love words better, as you do.

Bru. Good words are better than bad strokes.
Octavius.

Ant. In your bad strokes, Brutus, you give good words:

Witness the hole you made in Cesar's heart,
Crying, *Long live! hail, Cesar!*

Cas. Antony,
The posture of your blows are yet unknown;
But for your words, they rob the Hybla bees,
And leave them honeyless.

Ant. Not stingless too.

Bru. O, yes, and soundless too;
For you have stol'n their buzzing, Antony,
And, very wisely, threat before you sting.

Ant. Villains, you did not so, when your
vile daggers

Hack'd one another in the sides of Cesar:
You show'd your teeth like apes, and fawn'd
like hounds, [feet;

And bow'd like bondmen, kissing Cesar's
Whilst damned Casca, like a cur, behind,
Struck Cesar on the neck. O flatterers!

Cas. Flatterers!—Now, Brutus, thank yourself:

This tongue had not offended so to-day,
If Cassius might have rul'd.

Oct. Come, come, the cause: If arguing
make us sweat,

The proof of it will turn to redder drops.
Look:

I draw a sword against conspirators;
When think you that the sword goes up again?—

Never till Cesar's three and twenty wounds
Be well aveng'd; or till another Cesar
Have added slaughter to the sword of traitors,

Bru. Cesar, thou can'st not die by traitors.
Unless thou bring'st them with thee.

Oct. So I hope;

I was not born to die on Brutus' sword.

Bru. O, if thou wert the noblest of thy strain,
Young man, thou could'st not die more honourable.

Cas. A peevish schoolboy, worthless of such
honour,

Join'd with a masker and a reveller.

Ant. Old Cassius still!

Oct. Come, Antony; away.—

Defiance, traitors, hurl* we in your teeth:
If you dare fight to-day, come to the field;
If not, when you have stomachs.

[Exeunt OCTAVIUS, ANTONY, and their Army.]

Cas. Why now, blow, wind; swell, billow;
and swim, bark!

The storm is up, and all is on the hazard,

Bru. Ho!

Lucilius; hark, a word with you.

Luc. My lord.

[BRUTUS and LUCILIUS converse apart.]

Cas. Messala,—

Mes. What says my general?

Cas. Messala,

This is my birth-day; as this very day [sala:
Was Cassius born. Give me thy hand, Mes-
Be thou my witness, that, against my will,
As Pompey was, am I compell'd to set

* Summon.

* Throw.

Upon one battle all our liberties.

You know, that I held Epicurus strong,
And his opinion: now I change my mind,
And partly credit things that do presage.
Coming from Sardis, on our former* ensign
Two mighty eagles fell, and there they perch'd,
Gorging and feeding from our soldier's hands;
Who to Philippi here consorted† us;
This morning are they fled away, and gone;
And in their steads, do ravens, crows, and
kites,

Fly o'er our heads, and downwards look on us,
As we were sickly prey; their shadows seem
A canopy most fatal, under which
Our army lies, ready to give up the ghost.

Mes. Believe not so.

Cas. I but believe it partly;
For I am fresh of spirit, and resolv'd
To meet all perils very constantly.

Bru. Even so, Lucilius.

Cas. Now, most noble Brutus,
The gods to-day stand friendly; that we may,
Lovers in peace, lead on our days to age!
But, since the affairs of men rest still uncer-
tain,

Let's reason with the worst that may befall.
If we do lose the battle, then is this
The very last time we shall speak together:
What are you then determine to do?

Bru. Even by the rule of that philosophy,
By which I did blame Cato for the death
Which he did give himself:—I know not how,
But I do find it cowardly and vile,
For fear of what might fall, so to prevent
The time of life:—arming myself with pa-
tience,
To stay the providence of some high powers,
That govern us below.

Cas. Then, if we lose this battle,
You are contented to be led in triumph
Through the streets of Rome?

Bru. No, Cassius, no: think not, thou noble
Roman,
That ever Brutus will go bound to Rome;
He bears too great a mind. But this same day
Must end that work, the ideas of March begun;
And whether we shall meet again, I know not.
Therefore our everlasting farewell take:—
For ever, and for ever, farewell, Cassius!
If we do meet again, why we shall smile;
If not, why then this parting was well made.

Cas. For ever, and for ever, farewell, Bru-
tus!

If we do meet again, we'll smile indeed;
If not, 'tis true, this parting was well made.

Bru. Why then, lead on.—O, that a man
might know
The end of this day's business, ere it come!
But it sufficeth, that the day will end,
And then the end is known.—Come, ho! away!
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—*The same.*—*The Field of Battle.*

Alarum.—*Enter BRUTUS and MESSALA.*

Bru. Ride, ride, Messala, ride, and give
these bills‡
Unto the legions on the other side:

[*Loud Alarum.*]

Let them set on at once; for I perceive
But cold demeanour in Octavius' wing,
And sudden push gives them the overthrow.
Ride, ride, Messala: let them all come down.
[*Exeunt.*]

* Foremost. † Accompanied.
‡ Directions for the officers.

SCENE III.—*The same.*—*Another part of the Field.*

Alarum.—*Enter CASSIUS and TITINIUS.*

Cas. O, look, Titinius, look, the villains fly!
Myself have to mine own turn'd enemy:
This ensign here of mine was turning back;
I slew the coward, and did take it from him.

Tit. O Cassius, Brutus gave the word too
early;

Who having some advantage on Octavius,
Took it too eagerly; his soldiers fell to spoil,
Whilst we by Antony are all enclosed.

Enter PINDARUS.

Pin. Fly further off, my lord, fly further off;
Mark Antony is in your tents, my lord!
Fly therefore, noble Cassius, fly far off.

Cas. This hill is far enough. Look, look,
Titinius;

Are those my tents, where I perceive the fire?
Tit. They are, my lord.

Cas. Titinius, if thou lov'st me, [him,
Mount thou my horse, and hide thy spurs in
Till he have brought thee up to yonder troops,
And here again, that I may rest assur'd,
Whether yond' troops are friend or enemy.

Tit. I will be here again, even with a thought.
[*Exit.*]

Cas. Go, Pindarus, get higher on that hill;
My sight was ever thick; regard Titinius,
And tell me what thou not'st about the field.—

[*Exit PINDARUS.*]

This day I breathed first: time is come round,
And where I did begin, there I shall end;
My life is run his compass.—Sirrah, what
news?

Pin. [*Above.*] O my lord!

Cas. What news?

Pin. Titinius is

Enclosed round about with horsemen, that
Make to him on the spur;—yet he spur on.—
Now they are almost on him; now, Titinius!—
Now some 'light:—O, he 'lights too:—he's
ta'en;—and, hark! [Shout.
They shout for joy.

Cas. Come down, behold no more.—
O, coward, that I am, to live so long,
To see my best friend ta'en before my face!

Enter PINDARUS.

Come hither, Sirrah:
In Parthia did I take thee prisoner;
And then I swore thee, saving of thy life,
That whatsoever I did bid thee do,
Thou should'st attempt it. Come now, keep
thine oath!
Now be a freeman: and, with this good sword,
That ran through Cesar's bowels, search this
bosom.

Stand not to answer: Here, take thou the hilts;
And when my face is cover'd as 'tis now,
Guide thou the sword.—Cesar, thou art re-
veng'd,
Even with the sword that kill'd thee. [*Dies.*]

Pin. So, I am free; yet would not so have
been,

Durst I have done my will. O Cassius!
Far from this country Pindarus shall run,
Where never Roman shall take note of him.
[*Exit.*]

Re-enter TITINIUS, with MESSALA.

Mes. It is but change, Titinius; for Octavius
Is overthrown by noble Brutus's power,
As Cassius' legions are by Antony.

Tit. These tidings will well comfort Cassius.

Mes. Where did you leave him?

Tit. All disconsolate,
With Pindarus his bondman, on this hill.

Mes. Is not that he, that lies upon the ground?

Tit. He lies not like the living. O my heart!

Mes. Is not that he?

Tit. No, this was he, Messala,
But Cassius is no more.—O setting sun!
As in thy red rays thou dost sink to night,
So in his red blood Cassius' day is set;
The sun of Rome is set? Our day is gone;
Clouds, dews, and dangers come; our deeds
are done!

Mistrust of my success hath done this deed.
Mes. Mistrust of good success hath done
this deed.

O hateful error, melancholy's child!
Why dost thou show to the apt thoughts of men
The things that are not? O error soon con-
ceiv'd,

Thou never com'st unto a happy birth,
But kill'st the mother that engender'd thee.

Tit. What, Pindarus? Where art thou, Pin-
darus?

Mes. Seek him, Titinius: whilst I go to meet
The noble Brutus, trusting this report
Into his ears: I may say, thrusting it;
For piercing steel, and darts envenomed,
Shall be as welcome to the ears of Brutus,
As tidings of this sight.

Tit. Hie you, Messala,
And I will seek for Pindarus the while.

[Exit MESSALA.]

Why didst thou send me forth, brave Cassius?
Did I not meet thy friends? and did not they
Put on my brows this wreath of victory,
And bid me give't thee? Didst thou not hear
their shouts?

Alas, thou hast misconstrued every thing.
But hold thee, take this garland on thy brow;
Thy Brutus bid me give it thee, and I
Will do his bidding.—Brutus, come apace,
And see how I regarded Caius Cassius.—
By your leave, gods: This is a Roman's part:
Come, Cassius' sword, and find Titinius' heart.

[Dies.]

Alarum. Re-enter MESSALA, with BRUTUS,
young CATO, STRATO, VOLUMNIUS, and LU-
CILIUS.

Bru. Where, where, Messala, doth his body
lie?

Mes. Lo, yonder; and Titinius mourning it.

Bru. Titinius' face is upward.

Cato. He is slain.

Bru. O Julius Cesar, thou art mighty yet!
Thy spirit walks abroad, and turns our swords
In our own proper entrails; [Low Alarums.]

Cato. Brave Titinius!

Look, where he have not crown'd dead Cassius!
Bru. Are yet two Romans living such as
these?—

The last of all the Romans, fare thee well!
It is impossible that ever Rome [tears
Should breed thy fellow.—Friends, I owe more
To this dead man, than thou shalt see me
pay.—

I shall find time, Cassius I shall find time.—
Come, therefore, and to Thasos send his body;
His funeral shall not be in our camp,
Lest it discomfort us.—Lucilius, come;—
And come young Cato; let us to the field.—
Iabeo, and Flavius, set our battles on:—
'Tis three o'clock; and, Romans, yet e'er night
We shall try our fortune in a second fight.

[Exeunt.]

Scene IV.—Another part of the Field.

Alarum.—Enter, fighting, Soldiers of both
Armies; then BRUTUS, CATO, LUCILIUS, and
others.

Bru. Yet, countrymen, O, yet hold up your
heads!

Cato. What bastard doth not? Who will
go with me?

I will proclaim my name about the field:
I am the son of Marcus Cato, ho!
A foe to tyrants, and my country's friend.
I am the son of Marcus Cato; ho!

[Charges the Enemy.]

Bru. And I am Brutus, Marcus Brutus, I
Brutus, my country's friend: know me for
Brutus.

[Exit, charging the Enemy. CATO is
overpowered and falls.]

Luc. O young and noble Cato, art thou
down?

Why, now thou diest as bravely as Titinius;
And may'st be honour'd being Cato's son.

1 *Sold.* Yield, or thou diest.

Luc. Only I yield to die:

There is so much that thou wilt kill me straight;
[Offering Money.]

Kill Brutus, and be honour'd in his death.

1 *Sold.* We must not.—A noble prisoner!

2 *Sold.* Room, ho! Tell Antony, Brutus is
ta'en.

1 *Sold.* I'll tell the news.—Here comes the
general:—

Enter ANTONY.

Brutus is ta'en, Brutus is ta'en, my lord.

Ant. Where is he?

Luc. Safe, Antony; Brutus is safe enough:
I dare assure thee, that no enemy
Shall ever take alive the noble Brutus:
The gods defend him from so great a shame!
When you do find him, or alive, or dead,
He will be found like Brutus, like himself.

Ant. This is not Brutus, friend; but, I as-
sure you,
A prize no less in worth: keep this man safe,
Give him all kindness: I had rather have
such men my friends than enemies. Go on,
And see whether Brutus be alive or dead:
And bring us word unto Octavius' tent,
How every thing is chanc'd. [Exeunt.]

Scene V. Another part of the field.

Enter BRUTUS, DARDANIUS, CLITUS, STRATO,
and VOLUMNIUS.

Bru. Come, poor remains of friends rest on
this rock.

Clit. Statilius show'd the torch-light; but,
my lord,

He came not back; he is or ta'en, or slain.

Bru. Sit thee down, Clitus: Slaying is the
word;

It is a deed in fashion. Hark thee, Clitus.

[Whispering.]

Clit. What I, my lord? No, not for all the
world.

Bru. Peace then, no words.

Clit. I'll rather kill myself.

Bru. Hark thee, Dardanius! [Whispers him]

Dar. I do such a deed?

Clit. O, Dardanius!

Dar. O, Clitus!

Clit. What ill request did Brutus make to
thee?

* Whether.

Dar. To kill him, Clitus : Look, he meditates.

Cl. Now is that noble vessel full of grief, That it runs over even at his eyes.

Bru. Come hither, good Volumnius ; list a word.

Vol. What says my lord ?

Bru. Why, this, Volumnius :

The ghost of Cesar hath appear'd to me Two several times by night : at Sardis, once ; And, this last night, here in Phillippi' fields. I know, my hour is come.

Vol. Not so, my lord.

Bru. Nay, I am sure it is, Volumnius.

Thou see'st the world, Volumnius, how it goes ; Our enemies have beat us to the pit :

It is more worthy to leap in ourselves, Than tarry till they push us. Good Volumnius,

Thou know'st, that we two went to school together ; Even for that our love of old, I pray thee, Hold thou my sword-hilts, whilst I run on it.

Vol. That's not an office for a friend, my lord. [*Alarum still.*]

Cl. Fly, fly, my lord ; there is no tarrying here.

Bru. Farewell to you ;—and you ;—and you, Volumnius.—

Strato, thou hast been all this while asleep ; Farewell to thee, too Strato—Countrymen, My heart doth joy, that yet, in all my life, I found no man, but he was true to me. I shall have glory by this losing day.

More than Octavius, and Mark Antony, By this vile conquest shall attain unto.

So, fare you well at once ; for Brutus' tongue Hath almost ended his life's history : [rest, Night hangs upon mine eyes ; my bones would That have but labour'd to attain this hour.

[*Alarum. Cry within ; Fly, fly, fly.*]

Cl. Fly, my lord, fly.

Bru. Hence ; I will follow thee.

[*Exeunt CLITUS, DARDANIUS, and VOLUMNIUS.*]

I pr'ythee, Strato, stay thou by thy lord, Thou art a fellow of a good respect ; Thy life hath had some smatch of honour in it :

Hold then my sword, and turn away thy face While I do run upon it. Wilt thou, Strato ?

Str. Give me your hand first : Fare you well, my lord.

Bru. Farewell, good Strato.—Cesar, now be still :

I kill'd not thee with half so good a will.

[*He runs on his sword and dies.*]

Alarum. Retreat. Enter OCTAVIUS, ANTONY, MESSALA, LUCILIUS, and their Army.

Oct. What man is that ?

Mes. My master's man.—Strato, where is thy master ?

Str. Free from the bondage you are in Messala ;

The conquerors can but make a fire of him ; For Brutus only overcame himself, And no man else hath honour by his death.

Luc. So Brutus should be found—I thank thee, Brutus,

That thou hast prov'd Lucilius' saying true.

Oct. All that serv'd Brutus, I will entertain them.*

Fellow wilt thou bestow thy time with me ?

Str. Ay if Messala will prefer me to you ?

Oct. Do so, Messala.

Mes. How died my master, Strato.

Str. I held the sword, and he did run on it.

Mes. Octavius, then take him to follow thee, That did the latest service to my master.

Int. This was the noblest Roman of them All the conspirators, save only he, [all :

Did that they did in envy of great Cesar ; He, only, in a general honest thought,

And common good to all, made one of them, His life was gentle : and the elements

So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up ; and say to the world, *This was a man !*

Oct. According to his virtue let us use him, With all respect and rites of burial.

Within my tent his bones to-night shall lie, Most like a soldier, order'd honourably.—

So, call the field to rest : and let's away, To part the glories of this happy day. [*Ex.*]

* Receive into my service.

† Recommend.

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

M. ANTONY,
OCTAVIUS CESAR,
M. ÆMIL. LEPIDUS, } Triumvirs.
SEXTUS POMPEIUS.
DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS, }
VENTIDIUS, }
EROS, } Friends of Antony.
SCARUS, }
DERCETAS,
DEMETRIUS,
PHILO, }
MERCENAS, }
AGRIPPA, } Friends to Cesar.
DOLABELLA,
PROCULEIUS,
THYREUS,
GALLUS,
MENAS, }
MENECRATES, } Friends of Pompey.
VARRIUS, }

TAURUS, Lieutenant-general to Cesar.
CANIDIUS, Lieutenant-general to Antony.
SILIUS, an officer in Ventidius' Army.
EUPHRONIUS, an Ambassador from Antony to Cesar.
ALEXAS, MARDIAN, SELEUCUS, and DIOMEDES,
Attendants on Cleopatra.
A SOOTHSAYER.—A CLOWN.

CLEOPATRA, Queen of Egypt.
OCTAVIA, Sister to Cesar, and Wife to Antony.
CHARMIAN, } Attendants on Cleopatra.
IRAS, }

Officers, Soldiers, Messengers, and other Attendants.

SCENE, dispersed; in several Parts of the Roman Empire.



ACT I.

SCENE I.—*Alexandria*.—A room in CLEOPATRA'S Palace.

Enter DEMETRIUS and PHILO.

Phil. Nay, but this dotage of our general's, O'erflows the measure: those his goodly eyes, That o'er the files and numbers of the war Have glow'd like plated Mars, now bend, now turn,

The office and devotion of their view Upon a tawny front: his captain's heart, Which in the scuffles of great fights hath burst The buckles on his breast, reneges* all temper;

And is become the bellows, and the fan, To cool a gypsy's lust. Look where they come!

Flourish. Enter ANTONY and CLEOPATRA, with their Trains; EUNUCHS fanning her.

Take but good note, and you shall see in him The triple pillar of the world transform'd Into a strumpet's fool: behold and see.

Cleo. If it be love indeed, tell me how much.

Ant. There's beggary in the love that can be reckon'd.

Cleo. I'll set a bourn[†] how far to be belov'd.

Ant. Then must thou needs find out new heaven, new earth.

Enter an ATTENDANT.

Att. News, my good lord from Rome.

Ant. Grates* me:—The sum.

Cleo Nay, hear them, Antony:

Fulvia, perchance is angry; Or, who knows If the scarce-bearded Cesar have not sent His powerful mandate to you, *Do this, or this; Take int' that kingdom, and enfranchise that; Perform't, or else we damn thee.*

Ant. How, my love!

Cleo. Perchance,—nay, and most like, You must not stay here longer, your dismission Is come from Cesar; therefore hear it, Antony.—

Where's Fulvia's process!‡ Cesar's, I would say? Both?—

Call in the messengers.—As I am Egypt's queen, Thou blushest, Anthony; and that blood of thine. [shame,

Is Cesar's homager; else so thy cheek pays When shrill-tongu'd Fulvia scolds.—The messengers.

Ant. Let Rome in Tyber melt! and the wide arch

Of the rang'd empire fall! Here is my space: Kingdoms are clay: our dungy earth alike Feeds beast and man: the nobleness of life Is, to do thus; when such a mutual pair,

[Embracing,
And such a twain can do't, in which, I bind

*Renounces.

†Bound or limit.

*Offends.

‡Subdue, conquer.

‡Summons.

On pain of punishment, the world to weet,*
We stand up peerless.

Cleo. Excellent Falsehood!
Why did we marry Fulvia, and not love her!—
I'll seem the fool I am not; Antony
Will be himself.

Ant. But stirr'd by Cleopatra.—
Now, for the love of Love, and her soft hours,
Let's not confound† the time with conference
harsh :

There's not a minute of our lives should stretch
Without some pleasure now : What sport to-
night ?

Cleo. Hear the ambassadors.

Ant. Fie wrangling queen !
Whom every thing becomes, to chide, to laugh,
To weep ; whose every passion fully strives
To make itself, in thee, fair and admir'd !
No messenger ; but thine and all alone,
To-night, we'll wander through the streets,
and note

The qualities of people. Come, my queen ;
Last night you did desire it :—Speak not to us.

[*Exeunt ANT. and CLEO. with their Train.*]

Dem. Is Cesar with Antonius priz'd so
slight ?

Phi. Sir, sometimes, when he is not Antony,
He comes too short of that great property
Which still should go with Antony.

Dem. I'm full sorry,
That he approves the common liar,‡ who
Thus speaks of him at Rome : But I will hope
Of better deeds to-morrow. Rest you happy!
Exeunt.

SCENE II.—*The same.—Another Room.*

*Enter CHARMIAN, IRAS, ALEXAS, and a SOOTH-
SAYER.*

Char. Lord Alexas, sweet Alexas, most any
thing Alexas, almost most absolute Alexas,
where's the soothsayer that you praised so to
the queen ? O, that I knew this husband,
which you say, must change his horns with
garlands !

Alex. Soothsayer.

Sooth. Your will ?

Char. Is this the man ?—Is't you, Sir, that
know things ?

Sooth. In nature's infinite book of secrecy,
A little I can read.

Alex. Show him your hand.

Enter ENOBARBUS.

Eno. Bring in the banquet quickly ; wine
Cleopatra's health to drink. [enough,

Char. Good Sir, give me good fortune.

Sooth. I make not, but foresee.

Char. Pray then, foresee me one.

Sooth. You shall be yet far fairer than you
are.

Char. He means, in flesh.

Iras. No, you shall paint when you are old.

Char. Wrinkles forbid !

Alex. Vex not his prescience ; be attentive.

Char. Hush !

Sooth. You shall be more beloved than be-
loved.

Char. I had rather heat my liver with drink-
ing.

Alex. Nay, hear him.

Char. Good now, some excellent fortune !
Let me be married to three kings in a forenoon,
and widow them all : let me have a child at
fifty, to whom Herod of Jewry may do ho-

mage : find me to marry me with Octavius Ce-
sar, and companion me with my mistress.

Sooth. You shall outlive the lady whom you
serve.

Char. O excellent ! I love long life better
than figs.

Sooth. You have seen and proved a fairer
former fortune

Than that which is to approach.

Char. Then, helike, my children shall have
no names :* Pr'ythee, how many boys and
wenches must I have ?

Sooth. If every of your wishes had a womb,
And fertile every wish, a million.

Char. Out, fool ! I forgive thee for a witch.

Alex. You think, none but your sheets are
privy to your wishes.

Char. Nay, come, tell Iras hers.

Alex. We'll know all our fortunes.

Eno. Mine, and most of our fortunes, to-
night, shall be—drunk to bed.

Iras. There's a palm presages chastity, if
nothing else.

Char. Even as the overflowing Nilus pre-
sageth famine.

Iras. Go, you wild bedfellow, you cannot
soothsay.

Char. Nay, if an oily palm be not a fruitful
prognostication, I cannot scratch mine ear.—
Pr'ythee, tell her but a worky-day fortune.

Sooth. Your fortunes are alike.

Iras. But how, but how ? give me particu-
lars.

Sooth. I have said.

Iras. Am I not an inch of fortune better than
she ?

Char. Well, if you were but an inch of for-
tune better than I, where would you choose it ?

Iras. Not in my husband's nose.

Char. Our worse thoughts heavens mend !
Alexas,—come, his fortune, his fortune.—O,
let him marry a woman that cannot go, sweet
Isis,† I beseech thee ! And let her die too, and
give him a worse ! and let worse follow worse,
till the worst of all follow him laughing to his
grave, fifty-fold a cuckold ! Good Isis, hear
me this prayer, though thou deny me a matter
of more weight ; good Isis, I beseech thee !

Iras. Amen. Dear goddess, hear that prayer
of the people ! for, as it is a heart-breaking to
see a handsome man loose-wived, so it is a
deadly sorrow to behold a foul knave uncuck-
olded ; Therefore, dear Isis, keep decorum,
and fortune him accordingly !

Char. Amen.

Alex. Lo, now ! if it lay in their hands to
make me a cuckold, they would make them-
selves whores, but they'd do't.

Eno. Hush ! here comes Antony.

Char. Not he, the queen.

Enter CLEOPATRA.

Cleo. Saw you my lord ?

Eno. No, lady.

Cleo. Was he not here ?

Char. No, madam.

Cleo. He was dispos'd to mirth ; but on the
sudden

[bus,—
A Roman thought hath struck him.—*Enobar-*

Eno. Madam.

Cleo. Seek him, and bring him hither. Where's

Alexas ?

Alex. Here, madam, at your service.—My

lord approaches.

* Know.

† Consume.

‡ Fame.

* Shall be bastards.

† An Egyptian goddess.

Enter ANTONY, with a MESSENGER and Attendants.

Cleo. We will not look upon him: Go with us.

[Exit CLEOPATRA, ENOBARBUS, ALEXAS, IRAS, CHARMIAN, SOOTHSAYER, and Attendants.]

Mess. Fulvia thy wife first came into the field.

Ant. Against my brother Lucius!

Mess. Ay:

But soon that war had end, and the time's state Made friends of them, joining their force against Cesar;

Whose better issue in the war, from Italy, Upon the first encounter, drave them.

Ant. Well,

What worst!

Mess. The nature of bad news infects the teller.

Ant. When it concerns the fool, or coward.—
On: [thus;

Things, that are past, are done, with me.—'Tis Who tells me true, though in his tale lie death, I hear him as he flatter'd.

Mess. Labienus

(This is stiff news) hath, with his Parthian Extended* Asia from Euphrates; [force, His conquering banner shook, from Syria To Lydia, and to Ionia;

Whilst——

Ant. Antony, thou would'st say,—

Mess. O, my lord!

Ant. Speak to me home, mince not the general tongue;

Name Cleopatra as she's call'd in Rome:

Rail thou in Fulvia's phrase; and taunt my faults [lice

With such full licence, as both truth and malice Have power to utter. O, then we bring forth weeds,

When our quick windst lie still; and our ills told us,

Is as our earring.† Fare thee well a while.

Mess. At your noble pleasure. [Exit.

Ant. From Sicily how the news! Speak there.

1 Att. The man from Sicily.—Is there such a one?

2 Att. He stands upon your will.

Ant. Let him appear,—

These strong Egyptian fetters I must break,

Enter another MESSENGER.

Or lose myself in dotage.—What are you?

2 Mess. Fulvia thy wife is dead.

Ant. Where died she?

2 Mess. In Sicily:

Her length of sickness, with what else more Importeth thee to know, this bears [serious

[Gives a letter.

Ant. Forbear me.— [Exit MESSENGER.

There's a great spirit gone! Thus did I desire What our contempts do often hurl from us, [it: We wish it ours again; the present pleasure, By revolution lowering, does become The opposite of itself: she's good, being gone; The hand could pluck her back, that shov'd her on.

I must from this enchanting queen break off; Ten thousand harms, more than the ills I know, My idleness doth hatch.—How now! Enobarbus!

* Seized.

† In some editions minds.

‡ Tilling, plowing; prepares us to produce good.

§ Waits.

Enter ENOBARBUS.

Eno. What's your pleasure, Sir!

Ant. I must with haste from hence.

Eno. Why, then, we kill all our women: We see how mortal an unkindness is to them: if they suffer our departure, death's the word

Ant. I must be gone.

Eno. Under a compelling occasion, let women die: It were pity to cast them away for nothing; though, between them and a great cause, they should be esteemed nothing. Cleopatra, catching but the least noise of this, dies instantly; I have seen her die twenty times upon far poorer moment: I do think, there is mettle in death, which commits some loving act upon her, she hath such a celerity in dying.

Ant. She is cunning past man's thought.

Eno. Alack, Sir, no; her passions are made of nothing but the finest part of pure love: We cannot call her winds and waters, sighs and tears; they are greater storms and tempests than almanacks can report: this cannot be cunning in her; if it be, she makes a shower of rain as well as Jove.

Ant. 'Would I had never seen her!

Eno. O, Sir, you had then left unseen a wonderful piece of work; which not to have been blessed withal, would have discredited your travel.

Ant. Fulvia is dead.

Eno. Sir!

Ant. Fulvia is dead.

Eno. Fulvia!

Ant. Dead.

Eno. Why, Sir, give the gods a thankful sacrifice. When it pleaseth their deities to take the wife of a man from him, it shows to man the tailors of the earth; comforting therein, that when old robes are worn out, there are members to make new. If there were no more women but Fulvia, then had you indeed a cut, and the case to be lamented: this grief is crowned with consolation; your old smock brings forth a new petticoat:—and, indeed, the tears live in an onion, that should water this sorrow.

Ant. The business she hath broached in the Cannot endure my absence. [state,

Eno. And the business you have broached here cannot be without you; especially that of Cleopatra's, which wholly depends on your abode.

Ant. No more light answers. Let our officers

Have notice what we purpose. I shall break The cause of our expedience* to the queen, And get her love† to part. For not alone The death of Fulvia, with more urgent touches, Do strongly speak to us; but the letters too Of many our contriving friends in Rome Petition us at home: Sextus Pompeius Hath given the dare to Cesar, and commands The empire of the sea: our slippery people (Whose love is never link'd to the deserver, Till his deserts are past,) begin to throw Pompey the great, and all his dignities, Upon his son; who, high in name and power, Higher than both in blood and life, stands up For the main soldier: whose quality, going on, The sides o' the world may danger: Much is breeding, [life, Which, like the courser's‡ hair, hath yet but And not a serpent's poison. Say, our pleasure,

* Expedition.

† Leave.

‡ Horse.

To such whose place is under us, requires
Our quick remove from hence.

Eno. I shall do't. [Exit.]

SCENE III.

Enter CLEOPATRA, CHARMIAN, IRAS, and
ALEXAS.

Cleo. Where is he ?

Char. I did not see him since.

Cleo. See where he is, who's with him, what
he does:—

I did not send you;*—If you find him sad,
Say, I am dancing; if in mirth, report
That I am sudden sick: Quick, and return.

Char. Madam, methinks, if you did love
him dearly,

You do not hold the method to enforce
The like from him.

Cleo. What should I do, I do, not ?

Char. In each thing give him way, cross him
in nothing.

Cleo. Thou teachest like a fool: the way to
loose him.

Char. 'Tempt him not so too far: I wish for-
bear;

In time we hate that which we often fear.

Enter ANTONY.

But here comes Antony.

Cleo. I am sick, and sullen.

Ant. I am sorry to give breathing to my
purpose,—

Cleo. Help me away, dear Charmian, I
shall fall;

It cannot be thus long, the sides of nature
Will not sustain it.

Ant. Now, my dearest queen,—

Cleo. Pray you, stand further from me.

Ant. What's the matter ?

Cleo. I know, by that same eye, there's
some good news.

What says the married woman?—You may go;
'Would, she had never given you leave to
come!

Let her not say, 'tis I that keep you here,
I have no power upon you; hers you are.

Ant. The gods best know,—

Cleo. O, never was there queen

So mightily betray'd! Yet at the first,
I saw the treasons planted.

Ant. Cleopatra,—

Cleo. Why should I think, you can be mine,
and true, [gods,

Though you in swearing shake the thronged
Who have been false to Fulvia? Riotous mad-
ness,

To be entangled with those mouth-made vows,
Which break themselves in swearing!

Ant. Most sweet queen,—

Cleo. Nay, pray you, seek no colour for
your going, [ing,
But bid farewell, and go: when you sued stay-
Then was the time for words: No going
then:—

Eternity was in our lips, and eyes; [poor
Bliss in our brows' bent;† none our parts so
But was a race‡ They are so still,
Or thou, the greatest soldier of the world,
Art turn'd the greatest liar.

Ant. How now, lady!

Cleo. I would, I had thy inches; thou
shouldst know,

There were a heart in Egypt.

Ant. Hear me, queen:

The strong necessity of time commands
Our services a while; but my full heart
Remains in use with you. Our Italy
Shines o'er with civil swords: Sextus Pompeius
Makes his approaches to the port* of Rome:
Equality of two domestic powers
Breeds scrupulous faction: The hated, grown
to strength, [Pompey,

Are newly grown to love: the condemn'd
Rich in his father's honour, creeps a pace
Into the hearts of such as have not thriv'd
Upon the present state, whose numbers threat-
en; [purge

And quietness, grown sick of rest, would
By any desperate change: My more parti-
cular,

And that which most with you should safet-
my going,
Is Fulvia's death.

Cleo. Though age from folly could not give
me freedom,

It does from childishness:—Can Fulvia die?†
Ant. She's dead, my queen:

Look here, and, at thy sovereign leisure, read
The garboils she awak'd;‡ at the last, best:
See, when, and where she died.

Cleo. O most false love!

Where be the sacred vials thou should'st fill
With sorrowful water? Now I see, I see,
In Fulvia's death, how mine receiv'd shall be.

Ant. Quarrel no more, but be prepar'd to
know

The purposes I bear; which are, or cease
As you shall give the advice: Now, by the
fire,

That quickens Nilus' slime,|| I go from hence,
The soldier, servant; making peace, or war,
As thou affect'st.

Cleo. Cut my lace, Charmian, come;—

But let it be.—I am quickly ill, and well;
So Antony loves.

Ant. My precious queen, forbear;

And give true evidence to his love, which
An honourable trial. [stands

Cleo. So Fulvia told me.

I pry'thee turn aside, and weep for her:
Then bid adieu to me, and say the tears
Belong to Egypt:¶ Good now, play one scene
Of excellent dissembling: and let it look
Like perfect honour.

Ant. You'll heat my blood; no more.

Cleo. You can do better yet; but this is
meety.

Ant. Now, by my sword,—

Cleo. And target,—Still he mends;

But this is not the best: Look, pry'thee, Char-
mian,

How this Herculean Roman does become
The carriage of his chafe.**

Ant. I'll leave you, lady.

Cleo. Courteous lord, one word.

Sir, you and I must part,—but that's not it:
Sir, you and I have lov'd,—but there's not it;
That you know well; Something it is I would,—
O, my oblivion†† is a very Antony,
And I am all forgotten.

Ant. But that your royalty
Holds idleness your subject, I should take you
For idleness itself.

Cleo. 'Tis sweating labour,
To bear such idleness so near the heart
As Cleopatra this. But, Sir, forgive me;

* Gate. † Render my going not dangerous.

‡ Can Fulvia be dead? § The commotion she occasioned.

|| Mud of the river Nile. ¶ To Me, the Queen of Egypt.

** Heat.

†† Oblivious memory.

* Look as if I did not send you.

† The arch of our eye-brows. ‡ Smack or flavour.

Since my becomings kill me, when they do not
Eye well to you: Your honour calls you hence;
Therefore be deaf to my unpitied folly,
And all the gods go with you! upon your sword
Sit laurel'd victory! and smooth success
Be strew'd before your feet!

Ant. Let us go. Come;
Our separation so abides, and flies,
That thou, residing here, go'st yet with me,
And I, hence fleeting here remain with thee.
Away. [Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.—Rome.—An apartment in CESAR'S House.

Enter OCTAVIUS CESAR, LEPIDUS, and Attendants.

Ces. You may see, Lepidus, and henceforth know,
It is not Cesar's natural vice to hate
One great competitor: * from Alexandria
This is the news; He fishes, drinks, and wastes
The lamps of night in revel: is not more man-
like

Than Cleopatra: nor the queen Ptolemy [or
More womanly than he: hardly gave audience,
Vouchsaf'd to think he had partners: You shall
find there

A man, who is the abstract of all faults
That all men follow.

Lep. I must not think, there are
Evils enough to darken all his goodness:
His faults, in him, seem as the spots of heaven,
More fiery by night's blackness; hereditary,
Rather than purchas'd; † what he cannot
Than what he chooses. [change,]

Ces. You are too indulgent: let us grant, it
is not

Amiss to tumble on the bed of Ptolemy;
To give a kingdom for a mirth; to sit
And keep the turn of tippling with a slave;
To reel the streets at noon, and stand the buffet
With knaves that smell of sweat: say, this be-
comes him,

(As his composure must be rare indeed,
Whom these things cannot blemish,) yet must
Antony

No way excuse his soils, when we do bear
So great weight in his lightness. ‡ If he fill'd
His vacancy with his voluptuousness,
Full surfeits, and the dryness of his bones,
Call on him § fort't: but, to confound || such
time, [loud]

That drums him from his sport, and speaks as
As his own state, and ours,—'tis to be chid
As we rate boys; who, being mature in know-
ledge, [sure,
Pawn their experience to their present plea-
And so rebel to judgment.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Lep. Here's more news.

Mess. Thy biddings have been done; and
every hour,
Most noble Cesar, shalt thou have report
How 'tis abroad. Pompey is strong at sea;
And it appears, he is belov'd of those
That only have fear'd Cesar; to the ports
The discontents ¶ repair, and men's reports
Give him much wrong'd.

Ces. I should have known no less:—
It hath been taught us from the primal state,
That he, which is, was wish'd, until he were;
And the cbb'd man, ne'er lov'd, till ne'er worth
love,

Comes dear'd, by being lack'd.* This com-
mon body,

Like a vagabond flag upon the stream,
Goes to, and back, lackeying the varying tide,
To rot itself with motion.

Mess. Cesar, I bring thee word,
Menecrates and Menas, famous pirates,
Make the sea serve them: which they eart and
wound

With keels of every kind: Many hot inroads
They make in Italy; the borders maritime
Lack blood † to think on't, and flush ‡ youth re-
volt:

No vessel can peep forth, but 'tis as soon
Taken as seen; for Pompey's name strikes
Than could his war resisted. [more]

Ces. Antony,
Leave thy lascivious wassals. || When thou once
Wast beaten from Modena, where thou slew'st
Hirtius and Pansa, consuls, at thy heel
Did famine follow; whom thou fought'st
against, [more]

Thou daintily brought up, with patience
Than savages could suffer: Thou didst drink
The stale ¶ of horses, and the gilded puddle**
Which beasts would cough at: thy palate then
did deign

The roughest berry on the rudest hedge;
Yea, like the stag, when snow the pasture
sheets, [Alps]

The barks of trees thou brows'd'st; on the
It is reported, thou did'st eat strange flesh,
Which some did die to look on: And all this
(It wounds thine honour, that I speak it now,)
Was borne so like a soldier, that thy cheek
So much as lank'd not.

Lep. It is pity of him.

Ces. Let his shames quickly
Drive him to Rome: 'Tis time we twain
Did show ourselves i' the field; and, to that end,
Assemble we immediate council: Pompey
Thrives in our idleness.

Lep. To-morrow, Cesar,
I shall be furnish'd to inform you rightly
Both what by sea and land I can be able,
To 'front this present time.

Ces. Till which encounter,
It is my business too. Farewell.

Lep. Farewell, my lord: What you shall
know mean time
Of stirs abroad, I shall beseech you, Sir,
To let me be partaker.

Ces. Doubt not, Sir;
I knew it for my bond. †† [Exeunt.]

SCENE VE.—Alexandria.—A Room in the
Palace.

*Enter CLEOPATRA, CHARMIAN, IRAS, and
MARDIAN.*

Cleo. Charmian,—

Char. Madam.

Cleo. Ha, ha!—

Give me to drink mandragora. ‡ ‡

Char. Why, madam?

Cleo. That I might sleep out this great gap
My Antony is away. [of time,

Char. You think of him
Too much.

Cleo. O, treason!

Char. Madam, I trust, not so.

Cleo. Thou enuch! Mardian!

Mar. What's your highness' pleasure?

* Endear'd by being missed. † Plough. ‡ Turn pale.
§ Ruddy. || Feastings; in the old copy it is vaissailles,
i. e. vassals. ¶ Urine. ** Stagnant, slimy water.
†† My bounden duty. ‡ ‡ A sleepy potion.

* Associate or partner.

† Procured by his own fault.

‡ Levity. § Visit him.

|| Consume. ¶ Discontented.

Cleo. Not now to hear the sing; I take no pleasure

In aught a eunuch has: 'Tis well for thee, That being unseminar'd,* thy freer thoughts May not fly forth of Egypt. Hast thou affections?

Mar. Yes, gracious madam.

Cleo. Indeed?

Mar. Not in deed, madam; for I can do nothing

But what indeed is honest to be done:

Yet have I fierce affections, and think, What Venus did with Mars.

Cleo. O Charmian, Where think'st thou he is now? Stands he, or sits he?

Or does he walk? or is he on his horse?

O happy horse, to bear the weight of Antony! Do bravely, horse! for wot'st thou whom thou mov'st?

The demi-Atlas of this earth, the arm And burgoon† of men.—He's speaking now, Or murmuring, *Where's my serpent of old Nile?* For so he calls me: Now I feel myself With most delicious poison:—Think on me, That am with Phœbus' amorous pinches black, And wrinkled deep in time? Broad-fronted Cesar,

When thou wast here above the ground, I was A morsel for a monarch: and great Pompey Would stand, and make his eyes grow in my brow;

There would he anchor his aspect, and die With his looking on his life.

Enter ALEXAS.

Alex. Sovereign of Egypt, hail!

Cleo. How much unlike art thou Mark Antony?

Yet, coming from him, that great medicine With his tinct gilded thee.— [hath How goes it with my brave Mark Antony?

Alex. Last thing he did, dear queen, He kiss'd,—the last of many doubled kisses,— This orient pearl;—His speech sticks in my heart.

Cleo. Mine ear must pluck it thence.

Alex. Good friend, quoth he, Say, the firm Roman to great Egypt sends This treasure of an oyster; at whose foot To mend the petty present, I will pierce Her opulent throne with kingdoms; All the east, say thou, shall call her mistress. So he nodded, And soberly did mount a termagant‡ steed, Who neigh'd so high, that what I would have Was beastly dumb'd by him. [spoke

Cleo. What, was he sad, or merry?

Alex. Like th' time o' the year between the extremes

Of hot and cold; he was nor sad, nor merry.

Cleo. O well-divided disposition!—Note him, Note him, good Charmian, 'tis the man; but note him:

He was not sad; for he would shine on those That make their looks by his: he was not merry; Which seem'd to tell them, his remembrance lay

In Egypt with his joy; but between both; O heavenly mingle!—Be'st thou sad, or merry, The violence of either thee becomes; So does it no man else.—Met'st thou my posts?

Alex. Ay, madam, twenty several messengers: Why do you send so thick? [gers:

Cleo. Who's born that day When I forget to send to Antony,

Shall die a beggar.—Ink and paper, Charmian.—

Welcome, my good Alexas.—Did I, Charmian, Ever love Cesar so?

Char. O that brave Cesar!

Cleo. Be chok'd with such another emphasis! Say the brave Antony.

Char. The valiant Cesar!

Cleo. By Isis, I will give thee bloody teeth, If thou with Cesar paragon again My man of men.

Char. By your most gracious pardon, I sing but after you.

Cleo. My sail'd days; [blood, When I was green in judgment:—Cold in To say, as I said then!—But, come, away! Get me ink and paper: he shall have every day A several greeting, or I'll unpeople Egypt. [Exeunt.

ACT II.

SCENE I.—Messina.—A Room in POMPEY'S house.

Enter POMPEY, MENECRATES, and MENAS.

Pom. If the great gods be just, they shall The deeds of justest men. [assist

Mene. Know, worthy Pompey, That what they do delay, they not deny.

Pom. Whiles we are suitors to their throne, The thing we sue for. [decays

Mene. We, ignorant of ourselves, [powers Beg often our own harms, which the wise Deny us for our good; so find we profit, By losing of our prayers.

Pom. I shall do well:

The people love me, and the sea is mine; My power's a crescent, and my auguring hope Says, it will come to the full. Mark Antony In Egypt sits at dinner, and will make No wars without doors: Cesar gets money, where

He loses hearts: Lepidus flatters both, Of both is flatter'd; but he neither loves, Nor either cares for him.

Mene. Cesar and Lepidus

Are in the field; a mighty strength they carry.

Pom. Where have you this? 'tis false.

Mene. From Silvius, Sir.

Pom. He dreams; I know, they are in Rome together,

Looking for Antony: But all charms of love Salt Cleopatra, soften thy wand'ring lip!

Let witchcraft join with beauty, lust with Tie up the libertine in a field of feasts, [both! Keep his brain fuming; Epicurean cooks, Sharpen with cloyless sauce his appetite; That sleep and feeding may prorogue his honour, [rins!

Even tillt a Leth'd dullness.—How now, Var-

Enter VARR.

Var. This is most certain that I shall deliver: Mark Antony is every hour in Rome [ver: Expected; since he went from Egypt, 'tis A space for further travel.

Pom. I could have given less matter A better ear.—Menas, I did not think, This amorous surfeiter would have don'd; his For such a petty war: his soldiership [helm's Is twice the other twain: But let us rear The higher our opinion, that our stirring Can from the lap of Egypt's widow pluck The ne'er-lust-wearied Antony.

* Declined, faded.

† To.

‡ Done; a; i. c. put on.

§ Reheat

* Unmanned. † A helmet. ‡ Furious

Men. I cannot hope,
Cesar and Antony shall well greet together;
His wife, that's dead, did trespasses to Cesar;
His brother warr'd upon him; although, I think,
Not mov'd by Antony.

Pom. I know not, Menas,
How lesser enmities may give way to greater.
Were't not that we stand up against them all,
'Twere pregnaut they should square* between
themselves;

For they have entertained cause enough
To draw their swords: but how the fear of us
May cement their divisions, and bind up
The petty difference, we yet not know.
Be it as our gods will have it! It only stands
Our lives upon, to use our strongest hands.
Come, Menas. [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—Rome.—A Room in the house of
LEPIDUS.

Enter ENOBARBUS and LEPIDUS.

Lep. Good Enobarbus, 'tis a worthy deed,
And shall become you well, to entreat your
To soft and gentle speech. [captain]

Eno. I shall entreat him
To answer like himself: if Cesar move him,
Let Antony look over Cesar's head,
And speak as loud as Mars. By Jupiter,
Were I the wearer of Antonius's beard,
I would not shave to-day.

Lep. 'Tis not a time
For private stomaching.

Eno. Every time
Serves for the matter that is then borne in it.

Lep. But small to greater matters must give
way.

Eno. Not if the small come first.

Lep. Your speech is passion:
But, pray you, stir no embers up. Here comes
The noble Antony.

Enter ANTONY and VENTIDIUS.

Eno. And yonder, Cesar.

Enter CESAR, MECÆNAS, and AGRIPPA.

Ant. If we composç well here, to Parthia:
Mark you, Ventidius.

Ces. I do not know,
Mecænas; ask Agrippa.

Lep. Noble friends,
That which combin'd us was most great, and
let not

A leaner action rend us. What's amiss,
May it be gently heard: When we debate
Murder in healing-wounds: Then, noble part-
(The rather, for I earnestly beseech,) [ners,
Touch you the sourest points with sweetest
Nor curstness† grow to the matter. [terms,
Ant. 'Tis spoken well:

Were we before our armies, and to fight,
I should do thus.

Ces. Welcome to Rome.

Ant. Thank you.

Ces. Sit.

Ant. Sit, Sir!

Ces. Nay,

Then—

Ant. I learn, you take things ill, which are
not so;

Or, being, concern you not.

Ces. I must be laugh'd at,
If, or for nothing, or a little, I

Should say myself offended; and with you
Chiefly i'the world: more laugh'd at, that I
should

Once name you derogately, when to sound
your name
It not concern'd me.

Ant. My being in Egypt, Cesar,
What was't to you?

Ces. No more than my residing here at Rome
Might be to you in Egypt: Yet, if you there
Did practise* on my state, your being in Egypt
Might be my question.†

Ant. How intend you, 'practis'd'?

Ces. You may be pleas'd to catch at mine
intent, [brother,
By what did here befall me. Your wife, and
Made wars upon me; and their contestation
Was theme for you; you were the words of war.

Ant. You do mistake your business; my
brother never

Did urge me in his act: I did enquire it;
And have my learning from some true reports,‡
That drew their swords with you. Did he
not rather

Discredit my authority with yours;
And make the wars alike against my stomach,
Having alike your cause? Of this, my letters
Before did satisfy you. If you'll patch a
quarrel,

As matter whole you have not to make it with,
It must not be with this.

Ces. You praise yourself
By laying defects of judgement to me; but
You patch'd up your excuses.

Ant. Not so, not so;
I know you could not lack, I am certain on't,
Very necessity of this thought, that I,
Your partner in the case 'gainst which he
fought,

Could not with grateful eyes attend those wars
Which fronted§ mine own peace. As for my
wife,

I would you had her spirit in such another:
The third o'the world is yours; which with a
snaffle||

You may pace easy, but not such a wife.

Eno. 'Would we had all such wives, that the
men might go to wars with the women!

Ant. So much incurable, her garboils,¶ Ces-
sar,

Made out of her patience, (which not wanted
Shrewdness of policy too,) I grieving grant,
Did you too much disquiet; for that, you must
But say, I could not help it.

Ces. I wrote to you,
When rioting in Alexandria; you
Did pocket up my letters, and with taunts
Did gibe my missive** out of audience.

Ant. Sir,
He fell upon me, ere admitted; then
Three kings I had newly feasted, and did want
Of what I was i'the morning; but, next day,
I told him of myself; which was as much
As to have ask'd him pardon: Let this fellow
Be nothing of our strife; if we contend,
Out of our question†† wipe him.

Ces. You have broken
The article of your oath; which you shall never
Have tongue to charge me with.

Lep. Soft, Cesar.

Ant. No, Lepidus, let him speak;
The honour's sacred which he talks on now,

* Use bad arts or stratagems.

† Subject of conversation.

‡ Reporters.

§ Commotions.

¶ Opposed.

** Messenger.

|| Bridle.

†† Conversation.

* Quarrel. † Agree. ‡ Let not ill-humour be added.

Supposing that I lack'd it : But on, Cesar ;
The article of my oath,—

Ces. To lend me arms, and aid, when I re-
quir'd them ;

The which you both denied.

Ant. Neglected, rather ; [up
And then, when poison'd hours had bound me
From mine own knowledge. As nearly as I
may,

I'll play the penitent to you ; but my honesty
Shall not make poor my greatness, nor my
power

Work without it : Truth is, that Fulvia,
To have me out of Egypt, made wars here ;
For which myself, the ignorant motive, do
So far ask pardon, as befits my honour
To stoop in such a case.

Lep. 'Tis nobly spoken.

Mec. If it might please you, to enforce no
further

The griefs* between ye : to forget them quite,
Were to remember that the present need
Speaks to atone you.

Lep. Worthily spoke, *Mecænas*.

Eno. Or, if you borrow one another's love
for the instant, you may, when you hear no
more words of Pompey, return it again : you
shall have time to wrangle in, when you have
nothing else to do.

Ant. Thou art a soldier only ; speak no more.

Eno. That truth should be silent, I had al-
most forgot.

Ant. You wrong this presence, therefore
speak no more.

Eno. Go to then ; your considerate stone.

Ces. I do not much dislike the matter, but
The manner of his speech : for it cannot be,
We shall remain in friendship, our conditions †
So differing in their acts. Yet, if I knew
What hoop should hold us staunch, § from edge
to edge

O'the world I would pursue it.

Agri. Give me leave, Cesar,—

Ces. Speak, *Agrippa*.

Agri. Thou hast a sister by the mother's side,
Admir'd Octavia : great Mark Antony
Is now a widower.

Ces. Say not so, *Agrippa* ;
If Cleopatra heard you, your reproof
Were well deserv'd of rashness.

Ant. I am not married, Cesar : let me hear
Agrippa further speak.

Agri. To hold you in perpetual amity,
To make you brothers, and to knit your hearts
With an unslipping knot, take Antony
Octavia to his wife ; whose beauty claims
No worse a husband than the best of men ;
Whose virtue, and whose general graces, speak
That which none else can utter. By this mar-
riage,

All little jealousies, which now seem great,
And all great fears, which now import their
dangers, [tales,

Would then be nothing : truths would be but
Where now half tales be truths : her love to
both,

Would, each to other, and all loves to both,
Draw after her. Pardon what I have spoke ;
For 'tis a studied, not a present thought,
By duty ruminated.

Ant. Will Cesar speak ?

Ces. Not till he hears how Antony is touch'd
With what is spoke already.

Ant. What power is in *Agrippa*,
If I would say, *Agrippa*, be it so,
To make this good ?

Ces. The power of Cesar, and
His power unto Octavia.

Ant. May I never

To this good purpose, that so fairly shows,
Dream of impellment !—Let me have thy hand :
Further this act of grace ; and, from this hour,
The heart of brothers govern in our loves,
And sway our great designs !

Ces. There is my hand.

A sister I bequeath you, whom no brother
Did ever love so dearly : Let her live
To join our kingdoms, and our hearts ; and
Fly off our loves again ! [never

Lep. Happily, amen !

Ant. I did not think to draw my sword 'gainst
Pompey ;

For he hath laid strange courtesies, and great,
Of late upon me : I must thank him only,
Lest my remembrance suffer ill report ;
At heel of that, defy him.

Lep. Time calls upon us :
Of us must Pompey presently be sought,
Or else he seeks out us.

Ant. And where lies he ?

Ces. About the mount *Misenum*.

Ant. What's his strength
By land ?

Ces. Great, and increasing : but by sea
He is an absolute master.

Ant. So is the fame. [it :

'Would, we had spoke together ! Haste we for
Yet, ere we put ourselves in arms, despatch we
The business we have talk'd of.

Ces. With most gladness ;
And do invite you to my sister's view,
Whither straight I will lead you.

Ant. Let us, *Lepidus*,
Not lack your company.

Lep. Noble Antony,
Not sickness should detain me.

[*Flourish.* *Exeunt CESAR, ANTONY, and
LEPIDUS.*

Mec. Welcome from Egypt, Sir.

Eno. Half the heart of Cesar, worthy *Mecæ-
nas* !—my honourable friend, *Agrippa* !—

Agri. Good *Enobarbus* !

Mec. We have cause to be glad, that matters
are so well digested. You staid well by it in
Egypt.

Eno. Ay, Sir ; we did sleep day out of coun-
tenance, and made the night light with drink-
ing.

Mec. Eight wild boars roasted whole at a
breakfast, and but twelve persons there ; Is
this true ?

Eno. This was but as a fly by an eagle ; we
had much more monstrous matter of feast,
which worthily deserved nothing.

Mec. She's a most triumphant lady, if re-
porter be square* to her.

Eno. When she first met Mark Antony, she
purs'd up his heart upon the river of *Cydnus*.

Agri. There she appear'd indeed ; or my
reporter devised well for her.

Eno. I will tell you :

The barge she sat in, like a burnish'd throne,
Burn'd on the water : the poop was beaten
gold ;

Purple the sails, and so perfum'd, that
The winds were love-sick with them : the oars
were silver ; [made

Which to the tune of flutes kept stroke, and
The water, which they beat, to follow faster,
As amorous of their strokes. For her own
person.

* Grievances. † Reconcile. ‡ Dispositions. § Firm

* Suits with her merits

It beggar'd all description : she did lie
In her pavilion, (cloth of gold, of tissue,)
O'erpicturing that Venus, where we see,
The fancy out-work nature: on each side her,
Stood pretty dimpled boys, like smiling Cupids,
With diverse-colour'd tans, whose wind did
scem [cool.

To glow the delicate cheeks which they did
And they undid, did.*

Ag. O, rare for Antony!

Ene. Her gentlewomen, like the Nereides,
So many mermaids, tended her i' the eyes,
And made their bends adornings: at the helm
A seeming mermaid steers: the silken tackle
Swell with the touches of those slower-soft
hands,

That yarely frame† the office. From the barge
A strange invisible perfume hits the sense
Of the adjacent wharfs. The city cast
Her people out upon her; and Antony,
Euthron'd in the market-place did sit alone,
Whistling to the air; which, but for vacancy,
Had gone to gaze on Cleopatra too,
And made a gap in nature

Ag. Rare Egyptian!

Lno. Upon her landing, Antony sent to her,
Invited her to supper: she replied,
It should be better, he became her guest;
Which she entreated: Our courteous Antony,
Whom ne'er the word of No woman heard
speak,

Being barber'd ten times o'er, goes to the feast;
And, for his ordinary, pays his heart,
For what his eyes eat only.

Ag. Royal wench!

She made great Caesar lay his sword to bed;
He plough'd her, and she cropp'd.

Ene. I saw her once

Hop forty paces through the public street:
And having lost her breath, she spoke, and
panted,

That she did make defect, perfection,
And, breathless, power, breath forth.

Mec. Now Antony must leave her utterly.

Lno. Never; he will not;

Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale
Her infinite variety: Other women
Cloy th' appetites they feed; but she makes
hungry,

Where most she satisfies. For vilest things
Become themselves in her; that the holy priests
Bless her when she's riggish.‡

Mec. If beauty, wisdom, modesty, can settle
The heart of Antony, Octavia is
A blessed lottery§ to him.

Ag. Let us go.—

Good Eubarnus make yourself my guest,
Whilst you abide here.

Lno. Humbly, Sir, I thank you. [Exeunt.]

Scene III.—The same.—A Room in CESAR'S
House.

Enter CESAR, ANTONY, OCTAVIA between them;
ATTENDANTS, and a SOOTHSAYER.

Ant. The world, and my great office, will
sometimes

Divide me from your bosom.

Octa. All which time

Before the gods my knees shall bow my prayers
To them for you.

Ant. Good night, Sir.—My Octavia,
Read not my blemishes in the world's report:
I have not kept my square; but that to come

Shall all be done by the rule. Good night
dear lady.—

Octa. Good night, Sir.

Ces. Good night.

[Exeunt CESAR and OCTAVIA.]

Ant. Now, Sirrah! you do wish yourself in
Egypt?

Sooth. Would I had never come from thence,
nor you

Thither!

Ant. If you can, your reason?

Sooth. I see't in

My motion, have it not in my tongue: but yet
Hie you again to Egypt.

Ant. Say to me,

Whose fortunes shall rise higher, Caesar's or
mine?

Sooth. Caesar's.

Therefore, O Antony, stay not by his side:
Thy demon, that's thy spirit which keeps
thee, is

Noble, courageous, high, unmatchable,
Where Caesar's is not; but near him, thy angel
Becomes a Fear, as being o'erpower'd; there-
Make space enough between you. [fore

Ant. Speak this no more.

Sooth. To none but thee; no more, but when
-to thee.

If thou dost play with him any game,
Thou art sure to lose; and of that natural luck,
He beats thee 'gainst the odds; thy lustie
thickens,

When he shines by: I say again, thy spirit
Is all afraid to govern thee near him:

But, he away, 'tis noble.

Ant. Get thee gone:

Say to Ventidius, I would speak with him:

[Exit SOOTHSAYER.]

He shall to Partha.—Be it art, or hap,
He hath spoken true: The very dice obey him;
And, in our sports, my better cunning faints:
Under his chance: if we draw lots, he speeds
His cocks do win the battle still of mine.
When it is all to nought; and his quails* ever
Beat mine, in hoop'd,† at odds. I will to
Egypt:

And though I make this marriage for my peace,

Enter VENTIDIUS.

I' the east my pleasure lies:—O, come, Venti-
dius,

You must to Parthia; your commission's ready,
Follow me, and receive it. [Exeunt.]

Scene IV.—The same.—A Street.

Enter LEPIDUS, MECENAS and AGRIPPA.

Lep. Trouble yourselves no further; pray
you, hasten

Your generals after.

Ag. Sir, Mark Antony,

Will e'en but kiss Octavia, and we'll follow.

Lep. Till I shall see you in your soldier's
dress.

Which will become you both, farewell.

Mec. We shall

As I conceive the journey, be at mount‡
Before you, Lepidus.

Lep. Your way is shorter,
My purposes do draw me much about:
You'll win two days upon me.

Mec. *Ag.* Sir, good success!

Lep. Farewell.

[Exeunt.]

* Added to the warmth they were intended to diminish-
† readily perform. ‡ Wanton. § Allotment.

* The ancients used to match quails as we match cocks
† Inclosed. ‡ Mount Misenum.

Scene V.—*Alexandria.—A Room in the Palace.*

Enter CLEOPATRA, CHARMIAN, IRAS, and ALEXAS.

Cleo. Give me some music; music, moody*
Of us that trade in love. [food

Attend. The music, ho!

Enter MARDIAN.

Cleo. Let it alone; let us to billiards:
Come, Charmian.

Char. My arm is sore, best play with Mar-
dian.

Cleo. As well a woman with an eunuch
play'd,

As with a woman;—Come, you'll play with
me, Sir?

Mar. As well as I can, madam.

Cleo. And when good will is show'd, though
it come too short,

The actor may plead pardon. I'll none now:—
Give me mine angle,—We'll to the river: there,
My music playing far off, I will betray
Tawny-finn'd fishes; my bended hook shall
pierce

Their slimy jaws; and, as I draw them up,
I'll think them every one an Antony,
And say, ah, ha! you're caught.

Char. 'Twas merry, when

You wager'd on your angling; when your diver
Did hang a salt-fish on his hook, which he
With fervency drew up.

Cleo. That time!—O times!—

I laugh'd him out of patience; and that night
I laugh'd him into patience; and next morn,
Ere the ninth hour, I drunk him to his bed;
Then put my tires and mantles on him, whilst
I wore his sword Philippan. O! from Italy,

Enter a MESSENGER.

Ran thou thy fruitful tidings in mine ears,
That long time have been barren.

Mes. Madam, madam,—

Cleo. Antony's dead?—

If thou say'st so, villain, thou kill'st thy mistress:
But well and free,

If thou so yield him, there is gold, and here
My bluest veins to kiss; a hand, that kings
Have lip'd, and trembled kissing.

Mes. First, madam, he's well.

Cleo. Why, there's more gold. But Sirrah,
mark; We use

To say, the dead are well: bring it to that,
The gold I give thee, will I melt, and pour
Down thy ill-uttering throat.

Mes. Good madam, hear me.

Cleo. Well, go to, I will;

But there's no goodness in thy face: If Antony
Be free and healthful,—why so tart a favour?
To trumpet such good tidings? If not well,
Thou should'st come like a fury crown'd with
Not like a formal man. § [snakes,

Mes. Will't please you hear me?

Cleo. I have a mind to strike thee ere thou
speak'st:

Yet, if thou say, Antony lives, is well,
Or friends with Cesar, or not captive to him,
I'll set thee in a shower of gold, and hail
Rich pearls upon thee.

Mes. Madam, he's well.

Cleo. Well said.

Mes. And friends with Cesar.

Cleo. Thou'rt an honest man:

Mes. Cesar and he are greater friends than
ever.

Cleo. Make thee a fortune from me:

Mes. But yet madam,—

Cleo. I do not like but yet, it does allay

The good precedence;* sic upon but yet:

But yet is as a jailer to bring forth

Some monstrous malefactor. Pr'ythee, friend,

Pour out the pack of matter to mine ear,

The good and bad together: He's friend with

Cesar; [frec.

In state of health, thou say'st; and, thou say'st

Mes. Free, madam! no; I made no such re-

He's bound unto Octavia. [port

Cleo. For what good turn!

Mes. For the best turn i'th' bed.

Cleo. I am pale Charmian:

Mes. Madam, he's married to Octavia.

Cleo. The most infectious pestilence upon

thee! [Strikes him down.

Mes. Good madam, patience.

Cleo. What say you?—Hence,

[Strikes him again.

Horrible villain! or I'll spurn thine eyes

Like balls before me; I'll unhair thy head;

[She hales him up and down.

Thou shalt be whip'd with wire, and stew'd

in brine,

Smarting in ling'ring pickle.

Mes. Gracious madam,

I, that do bring the news, made not the match.

Cleo. Say, 'tis not so, a province I will give

thee, [hadst

And make thy fortunes proud: the blow thou

Shall make thy peace, for moving me to rage;

And I will boot thee with what gift beside

Thy modesty can beg.

Mes. He's married, madam.

Cleo. Rogue, thou hast liv'd too long.

[Draws a dagger.

Mes. Nay, then I'll run;—

What mean you, madam? I have made no

fault. [Exit.

Char. Good madam, keep yourself within:

The man is innocent. [yourself;

Cleo. Some innocents' scape not the thun-

derbolt.—

Melt Egypt into Nile! and kindly creatures

Turn all to serpents!—Call the slave again;

Though I am mad, I will not bit him:—Call.

Char. He is afraid to come.

Cleo. I will not hurt him:—

These hands do lack nobility, that they strike

A meaner than myself; since I myself

Have given myself the cause.—Come hither,

Sir.

Re-enter MESSENGER.

Thou if be honest, it is never good

To bring bad news: Give to a gracious message

A host of tongues; but let ill tidings tell

Themselves, when they be felt.

Mes. I have done my duty.

Cleo. Is he married?

I cannot hate thee worse than I do,

If thou again say, Yes.

Mes. He is married, Madam.

Cleo. The gods confound thee! dost thou

hold there still?

Mes. Should I lie, madam?

Cleo. O, I would, thou didst;

So half my Egypt were submerg'd,† and made

Acistern for scald snakes! Go, get thee hence,

* Melancholy.
† So sour a countenance.

‡ Head dress
§ A man in his senses.

* Preceding.
† Whelmed under water.

Hast thou Narcissus in thy face, to me
Thou would'st appear most ugly. He is mar-
ried?

Mess. I crave your highness' pardon.

Cleo. He is married?

Mess. Take no offence, that I would not of-
fend you :

To punish me for what you make me do, [via.
Seems much unequal: He is married to Octa-
Cleo. O, that his fault should make a knave

of thee,
That art not!—What? thou'rt sure of't?—Get
thec hence :

The merchandise which thou hast brought
from Rome, [hand,
Are all too dear for me ; Lie they upon thy
And be undone by 'em! [Exit MESSENGER.

Char. Good your highness, patience.

Cleo. In praising Antony, I have disprais'd
Cesar.

Car. Many times, madam.

Cleo. I am paid for't now.

Lead me from hence,
I faint ; O Iras, Charmian,—'Tis no matter :—
Go to the fellow, good Alexas ; bid him
Report the feature* of Octavia, her years,
Her inclination, let him not leave out
The colour of her hair:—bring me word quick-
ly.— [Exit ALEXAS.

Let him forever go:—Lethim not—Charmian,
Though he be painted one way like a Gorgon,
T'other way he's a Mars:—Bid you Alexas
[To MARDIAN.

Bring me word, how tall she is.—Pity me,
Charmian,
But do not speak to me.—Lead me to my
chamber. [Exit.

SCENE VI.—Near Misenum.

Enter POMPEY and MENAS, at one side, with Drum
and Trumpet : at another, CESAR, LEPIDUS,
ANTONY, ENOBARBUS, MECÆNAS, with Sol-
diers marching.

Pom. Your hostages I have, so have you mine ;
And we shall talk before we fight.

Ces. Most meet, [we
That first we come towards ; and therefore have
Our written purposes before us sent ;
Which, if thou hast consider'd let us know
If 'will tie up thy discontented sword ;
And carry back to Sicily much tall youth
That else must perish here.

Pom. To you all three,
The senators alone of this great world,
Chief factors for the gods,—I do not know,
Wherefore my father should revengers want,
Having a son and friends ; since Julius Cesar,
Who at Philippi the good Brutus ghosted,†
There saw you labouring for him. What was
it, [what
That mov'd pale Cassius to conspire ? And
Made the all-honour'd, honest, Roman Brutus,
With the arm'd rest, courtiers of beauteous
freedom,

To drench the Capitol ; but that they would
Have one man but a man ? And that is it,
Hath made me rig my navy ; at whose burden
The anger'd ocean foams ; with which I meant
To scourge the ingratitude that despiteful
Cast on my noble father. [Rome

Ces. Take your time.

Ant. Thou canst not fear us, Pompey, with
thy sails,

We'll speak with thee at sea : at land, thou
know'st

How much we do o'er-count thee.

Pom. At land, indeed,

Thou dost o'er-count me of my father's house :
But, since the cuckoo builds not for himself,
Remain in't as thou may'st.

Lep. Be pleas'd to tell us,
(For this is from the present,*) how you take
The offers we have sent you.

Ces. There's the point.

Ant. Which do not be entreated to, but weigh
What it is worth embrac'd.

Ces. And what may follow,

To try a larger fortune.

Pom. You have made me offer
Of Sicily, Sardinia ; and I must
Rid all the sea of pirates ; then, to send
Measures of wheat to Rome: This' greed upon
To part with unback'd edges, and bear back
Our target undinted.

Ces. Ant. Lep. That's our offer.

Pom. Know then,

I came before you here, a man prepar'd
To take this offer : But Mark Antony
Put me to some impatience : Though I lose
The praise of it by telling, You must know,
When Cesar and your brothers were at blows,
Your mother came to Sicily, and did find
Her welcome friendly.

Ant. I have heard it, Pompey ;
And am well studied for a liberal thanks,
Which I do owe you.

Pom. Let me have your hand :

I did not think, Sir, to have met you here.

Ant. The beds i' the east are soft ; and thanks
to you, [ther ;
That call'd me timelier than my purpose, bi-
For I have gain'd by it.

Ces. Since I saw you last,
There is a change upon you.

Pom. Well, I know not [face :
What counts† harsh fortune casts upon my
But in my bosom shall she never come,
To make my heart her vassal.

Lep. Well met here.

Pom. I hope so, Lepidus.—Thus we are
agreed :

I crave, our composition may be written,
And seal'd between us.

Ces. That's the next to do.

Pom. We'll feast each other, ere we part ;
and let us
Draw lots who shall begin.

Ant. That will I, Pompey.

Pom. No, Antony, take the lot : but, first
Or last, your fine Egyptian cookery
Shall have the fame. I have heard, that Julius
Grew fat with feasting there. [Cesar

Ant. You have heard much.

Pom. I have fair meanings, Sir.

Ant. And fair words to them.

Pom. Then so much have I heard :—
And I have heard, Apollodorus carried—

Eno. No more of that :—He did so.

Pom. What, I pray you ?

Eno. A certain queen to Cesar in a mattress

Pom. I know thee now ;—How far'st thou
soldier ?

Eno. Well ;

And well am like to do ; for, I perceive,
Four feasts are toward.

Pom. Let me shake thy hand ;

I never hated thee : I have seen thee fight,
When I have envied thy behaviour.

* Beauty.

† Haunted.

‡ Brave.

§ Afright.

Present subject. † Target. shield. ‡ Scores. marks

Eno. Sir,
I never lov'd you much; but I have prais'd
you,
When you have well deserv'd ten times as
much
As I have said you did.

Pom. Enjoy thy plainness,
It nothing ill becomes thee.—
Aboard my galley I invite you all:
Will you lead, lords?

Ces. Ant. Lep. Show us the way, Sir.

Pom. Come.

[*Exeunt POMPEY, CESAR, ANTONY, LE-
PIDUS, Soldiers and Attendants.*]

Men. Thy father, Pompey, would ne'er have
made this treaty.—[*Aside.*—] You and I have
known,* Sir.

Eno. At sea, I think.

Men. We have, Sir.

Eno. You have done well by water.

Men. And you by land.

Eno. I will praise any man that will praise
me: though it cannot be denied what I have
done by land.

Men. Nor what I have done by water.

Eno. Yes, something you can deny for your
own safety: you have been a great thief by
sea.

Men. And you by land.

Eno. There I deny my land service. But
give me your hand, Menas: If our eyes had
authority, here they might take two thieves
kissing.

Men. All men's faces are true, whatsoe'er
their hands are.

Eno. But there is never a fair woman has a
true face.

Men. No slander; they steal hearts.

Eno. We came hither to fight with you.

Men. For my part, I am sorry it is turned to
a drinking Pompey doth this day laugh a-
way his fortune.

Eno. If he do, sure, he cannot weep it back
again.

Men. You have said, Sir. We looked not
for Mark Antony; Pray you, is he married to
Cleopatra?

Eno. Cesar's sister is call'd Octavia.

Men. True, Sir; she was the wife of Caius
Marcellus.

Eno. But she is now the wife of Marcus An-
tonius.

Men. Pray you, Sir?

Eno. 'Tis true.

Men. Then is Cesar, and he, for ever knit
together.

Eno. If I were bound to divine of this unity,
I would not prophesy so.

Men. I think, the policy of that purpose
made more in the marriage, than the love of
the parties.

Eno. I think so too. But you shall find, the
band that seems to tie their friendship to-
gether, will be the very strangler of their amity:
Octavia is of a holy, cold, and still conversa-
tion.†

Men. Who would not have his wife so?

Eno. Not he, that himself is not so; which
is Mark Antony. He will to his Egyptian
dish again: then shall the sighs of Octavia
blow the fire up in Cesar: and, as I said be-
fore, that which is the strength of their amity,
shall prove the immediate author of their vari-
ance. Antony will use his affection where it
is, he married but his occasion here.

Men. And thus it may be. Come, Sir, will
you aboard? I have a health for you.

Eno. I shall take it, Sir: we have used our
throats in Egypt.

Men. Come; let's away. [Exeunt.]

SCENE VII.—On Board POMPEY'S Galley,
lying near Misenum.

Music. Enter two or three SERVANTS, with a
Banquet.*

1 *Serv.* Here they'll be, man: Some o' their
plantst are ill-rooted already, the least wind
i'the world will blow them down.

2 *Serv.* Lepidus is high-coloured.

1 *Serv.* They have made him drink alms-
drink.

2 *Serv.* As they pinch one another by the
disposition, he cries out, *no more*; reconciles
them to his entreaty, and himself to the drink.

1 *Serv.* But it raises the greater war between
him and his discretion.

2 *Serv.* Why, this is to have a name in great
men's fellowship; I had as lief have a reed
that will do me no service, as a partizan† I
could not heave.

1 *Serv.* To be called into a huge sphere, and
not to be seen to move in't, are the holes where
eyes should be, which pitifully disaster the
cheeks.

A *Sennete sounded.* Enter CESAR, ANTONY,
POMPEY, LEPIDUS, AGRIPPA, MECENAS,
ENOBARBUS, MENAS, with other Captains.

Ant. Thus do they, Sir: [To CESAR.] They
take the flow o'the Nile
By certain scales i'the pyramid; they know,
By the height, the lowness, or the mean,§ if
dearth,

Or foizon,|| follow: The higher Nilus swells,
The more it promises: as it ebbs, tle seeds-
man

Upon the slime and ooze scatters his grain,
And shortly comes to harvest.

Lep. You have strange serpents there.

Ant. Ay, Lepidus.

Lep. Your serpent of Egypt is bred now of
your mud by the operation of your sun: so is
your crocodile.

Ant. They are so.

Pom. Sit,—and some wine.—A health to
Lepidus.

Lep. I am not so well as I should be, but
I'll ne'er out.

Eno. Not till you have slept; I fear me,
you'll be in, till then.

Lep. Nay, certainly, I have heard, the
Ptolemies' pyramises¶ are very goodly things;
without contradiction, I have heard that.

Men. Pompey, a word. [Aside.]

Pom. Say in mine ear: What is't?

Men. Forsake thy seat, I do beseech thee,
captain, [Aside.]

And hear me speak a word.

Pom. Forbear me till anon.—

This wine for Lepidus.

Lep. What manner o'thing is your crocodile?

Ant. It is shaped, Sir, like itself; and it is
as broad as it hath breadth: it is just so high
as it is, and moves with its own organs: it
lives by that which nourisheth it; and the ele-
ments once out of it, it transmigrates.

Lep. What colour is it of?

Ant. Of its own colour too.

* Desert. † Feet. ‡ Pike. § Middle
¶ Plenty † Pyramids.

* Been acquainted.

† Behaviour.

Lep. 'Tis a strange serpent.

Ant. 'Tis so. And the tears of it are wet.

Ces. Will this description satisfy him?

Ant. With the health that Pompey gives him, else he is a very epicure.

Pom. [To MENAS *aside.*] Go, hang, Sir, hang! Tell me of that? away!

Do as I bid you.—Where's this cup I call'd for?

Men. If for the sake of merit thou wilt hear me,

Rise from thy stool. [*Aside.*

Pom. I think, thou'rt mad. The matter?

[*Rises, and walks aside.*

Men. I have ever held my cap off to thy fortunes.

Pom. Thou hast serv'd me with much faith: What's else to say?

Be jolly, lords.

Ant. These quick-sands, Lepidus,

Keep off them, for you sink.

Men. Wilt thou be lord of all the world?

Pom. What say'st thou?

Men. Wilt thou be lord of the whole world? That's twice.

Pom. How should that be?

Men. But entertain it, and,

Although thou think me poor, I am the man Will give thee all the world.

Pom. Hast thou drunk well?

Men. No, Pompey, I have kept me from the cup.

Thou art, if thou dar'st be, the earthly Jove; Whate'er the ocean pales,* or sky inclips,† Is thine, if thou wilt have't.

Pom. Show me which way.

Men. These three world-sharers, these competitors,‡

Are in thy vessel: let me cut the table;

And, when we are put off, fall to their throats: All there is thine.

Pom. Ah, this thou should'st have done, And not have spoke on't! In me, 'tis villany; In thee it had been good service. Thou must know,

'Tis not my profit that does lead mine honour; Mine honour it. Repent, that e'er thy tongue Hath so betray'd thine act: Being done unknown,

I should have found it afterwards well done; But must condemn it now. Desist and drink.

Men. For this, [*Aside.*

I'll never follow thy pall'd§ fortunes more.— Who seeks, and will not take, when once 'tis Shall never find it more. [*offer'd,*

Pom. This health to Lepidus.

Ant. Bear him ashore.—I'll pledge it for him, Pompey.

Eno. Here's to thee, Menas.

Men. Enobarbus, welcome.

Pom. Fill, till the cup be hid.

Eno. There's a strong fellow, Menas.

[*Pointing to the Attendant who carries off* LEPIDUS.

Men. Why?

Eno. He bears

The third part of the world, man; See'st not?

Men. The third part then is drunk: 'Would it were all,

That it might go on wheels!

Eno. Drink thou; increase the reels.

Men. Come.

Pom. This is not yet an Alexandrian feast.

Ant. It ripens towards it.—Strike the vessel Here to Cesar. [*sels,||* ho!

Ces. I could well forbear it.

It's monstrous labour, when I wash my brain, And it grows fouler.

Ant. Be a child o' the time.

Ces. Possess* it, I'll make answer: but I had rather fast

From all, four days, than drink so much in one.

Eno. Ha, my brave emperor! [*To ANTONY.* Shall we dance now the Egyptian Bacchanals, And celebrate our drink?

Pom. Let's ha't, good soldier.

Ant. Come, let us all take hands; [*sense* Till that the conquering wine hath steep'd our In soft and delicate Lethe.

Eno. All take hands.— Make battery to our ears with the loud music:— The while, I'll place you: Then the boy shall sing:

The holding† every man shall bear, as loud As his strong sides can volley.

[*Music plays.* ENOBAREUS places them hand in hand.

SONG.

Come, thou monarch of the wine,
Plumpy Bacchus, with pink eyne;
In thy vats our cares be drown'd;
With thy grapes our hairs be crown'd;
Cup us, till the world go round;
Cup us, till the world go round!

Ces. What would you more?—Pompey, good night. Good brother,

Let me request you off: our graver business Frowns at this levity.—Gentle lords, let's part; You see, we have burnt our cheeks: strong Enobarb:

Is weaker than the wine; and mine own tongue Splits what it speaks: the wild disguise hath almost

Antick'd us all. What needs more words?

Good night.—

Good Antony, your hand.

Pom. I'll try you o' the shore.

Ant. And shall, Sir: give's your hand.

Pom. O, Antony,

You have my father's house,—But what? we are friends:

Come, down into the boat.

Eno. Take heed you fall not.—

[*Exit POMPEY, CESAR, ANTONY, and Attendants.*

Menas, I'll not on shore.

Men. No, to my cabin.—

These drums!—these trumpets, flutes! what!—

Let Neptune hear we bid a loud farewell To these great fellows: Sound, and be hang'd, sound out.

[*A Flourish of Trumpets, with Drums*

Eno. Ho, says a'!—There's my cap.

Men. Ho!—noble captain!

Come.

[*Exit.*

ACT III.

SCENE I.—A plain in Syria.

Enter VENTIDIUS, as after Conquest, with SULLUS, and other Romans, Officers, and Soldiers: the dead Body of PACORUS borne before him.

Ven. Now, darting Parthia, art thou struck; and now

Pleas'd fortune does of Marcus Crassus' death Make me revenger.—Bear the king's son's body

Before our army:—Thy Pacorus, Orodes,§

* Encompasses. † Embraces. ‡ Confederates.

§ Cloyed. || Kettle drums.

Understand. † Burden, chorus. ‡ Red eyes.

§ Pacorus was the son of Orodes, king of Parthia.

Pays this for Marcus Crassus.

Sil. Noble Ventidius,

Whilst yet with Parthian blood thy sword is warm, [Media,
The fugitive Parthians follow; spur through Mesopotamia, and the shelters whither The routed fly: so thy grand captain Antony Shall set thee on triumphant chariots, and Put garlands on thy head.

Ven. O Silius, Silius,

I have done enough: A lower place, note well, May make too great an act: For learn this, Silius;

Better leave undone, than by our deed acquire Too high a fame, when him we serve's away. Cesar, and Antony, have ever won More in their officer, than person: Sossius, One of my place in Syria, his lieutenant, For quick accumulation of renown, [your, Which he achiev'd by the minute, lost his favour: Who does in the wars more than his captain can,

Becomes his captain's captain; and ambition, The soldier's virtue, rather makes choice of loss, Than gain, which darkens him.

I could do more to do Antonius good, But 'twould offend him; and in his offence Should my performance perish.

Sil. Thou hast, Ventidius,

That without which a soldier, and his sword, Grants scarce distinction. Thou wilt write to Antony?

Ven. I'll humbly signify what in his name, That magical word of war, we have effected; How, with his banners, and his well-paid The ne'er-yet-beaten horse of Parthia [ranks, We have jaded out o' the field.

Sil. Where is he now?

Ven. He purposeth to Athens: whither with what haste [init, The weight we must convey with us will per- We shall appear before him.—On, there; pass along. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—Rome.—An Antechamber in CESAR'S house.

Enter AGRIPPA, and ENOBARBUS, meeting.

Agr. What, are the brothers parted?

Eno. They have despatch'd with Pompey, he is gone;

The other three are sealing. Octavia weeps To part from Rome: Cesar is sad; and Lepidus,

Since Pompey's feast, as Menas says, is troubled With the green-sickness. [led

Agr. 'Tis a noble Lepidus.

Eno. A very fine one: O, how he loves Cesar!

Agr. Nay, but how dearly he adores Mark Antony!

Eno. Cesar? Why, he's the Jupiter of men.

Agr. What's Antony? The god of Jupiter.

Eno. Spake you of Cesar? How? the nonpareil!

Agr. O Antony! O thou Arabian bird!*

Eno. Would you praise Cesar, say,—Cesar;—go no farther.

Agr. Indeed, he plied them both with excellent praises.

Eno. But he loves Cesar best;—Yet he loves Antony:

Ho! hearts, tongues, figures, scribes, bards, poets, cannot

Think, speak, cast, write, sing, number, ho, his love

To Antony. But as for Cesar, Kneel down, kneel down, and wonder.

Agr. Both he loves:

Eno. They are his shards,* and he their beetle. So,— [Trumpets.

This is horse.—Adieu, noble Agrippa.

Agr. Good fortune, worthy soldier; and farewell.

Enter CESAR, ANTONY, LEPIDUS, and OCTAVIA.

Ant. No farther, Sir.

Ces. You take from me a great part of myself;

Use me well in it.—Sister, prove such a wife As my thoughts make thee, and as my furthest hand†

Shall pass on thy approval.—Most noble Antony, Let not the piece of virtue,‡ which is set Betwixt us, as the cement of our love, To keep it builded, be the rain, to batter The fortress of it: for better might we Have lov'd without this mean, if on both parts This not be cherish'd.

Ant. Make me not offended

In your distrust.

Ces. I have said.

Ant. You shall not find,

Though you be therein curious,§ the least cause for what you seem to fear: So the gods keep you,

And make the hearts of Romans serve your We will here part. [ends!

Ces. Farewell, my dearest sister, fare thee well;

The elements|| be kind to thee, and make Thy spirits all of comfort! fare thee well.

Oct. My noble brother!—

Ant. The April's in her eyes: It is love's spring, [cheerful.

And these the showers to bring it on. Be

Oct. Sir, look well to my husband's house; and—

Ces. What,

Octavia?

Oct. I'll tell you in your ear.

Ant. Her tongue will not obey her heart, nor can

Her heart inform her tongue: the swan's down feather,

That stands upon the swell at full of tide,

And neither way inclines.

Eno. Will Cesar weep? [Aside to AGRIPPA.

Agr. He has a cloud in's face.

Eno. He were the worse for that, were he a So is he, being a man. [horse;

Agr. Why, Enobarbus?

When Antony found Julius Cesar dead, He cried almost to roaring: and he wept, When at Philippi he found Brutus slain.

Eno. That year, indeed, he was troubled with a rheum;

What willingly he did confound,¶ he wail'd: Believe it, till I weep too.

Ces. No, sweet Octavia,

You shall hear from me still; the time shall Out-go my thinking on you. [not

Ant. Come, Sir, come:

I'll wrestle with you in my strength of love: Look, here I have you; thus I let you go,

And give you to the gods.

Ces. Adieu; be happy!

Lep. Let all the number of the stars give To thy fair way! [light

* Wings. † Bowel. ‡ Octavia. § Scrupulous. || Of air and water. ¶ Digestion.

Ces. Farewell, Farewell! [*Kisses Octavia.*
Ant. Farewell! [*Trumpets sound. Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—*Alexandria.—A Room in the Palace.*

Enter CLEOPATRA, CHARMIAN, IRAS, and ALEXAS.

Cleo. Where is the follow?

Alex. Half afraid to come.

Cleo. Go to, go to:—Come hither, Sir.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Alex. Good majesty,
 Herod of Jewry dare not look upon you,
 But when you are well pleas'd.

Cleo. That Herod's head
 I'll have: But how? when Antony is gone
 Through whom I might command it.—Come
 thou near.

Mess. Most gracious majesty,—

Cleo. Didst thou behold

Octavia?

Mess. Ay, dread queen.

Cleo. Where?

Mess. Madam, in Rome.

I look'd her in the face; and saw her led
 Between her brother and Mark Antony.

Cleo. Is she as tall as me?

Mess. She is not, madam.

Cleo. Didst hear her speak? Is she shrill-
 tongu'd, or low?

Mess. Madam, I heard her speak; she is
 low-voic'd.

Cleo. That's not so good:—he cannot like
 her long.

Char. Like her? O Isis! 'tis impossible.

Cleo. I think so, Charmian: Dull of tongue,
 and warfish!—

What majesty is in her gait? Remember,
 If e'er thou look'st on majesty.

Mess. She creeps;

Her motion and her station* are as one:
 She shows a body rather than a life;

A statue, than a breather.

Cleo. Is this certain?

Mess. Or I have no observance.

Char. Three in Egypt
 Cannot make better note.

Cleo. He's very knowing,
 I do perceiv't;—There's nothing in her yet:—
 The fellow has good judgement.

Char. Excellent.

Cleo. Guess at her years, I pry thee.

Mess. Madam,

She was a widow.

Cleo. Widow?—Charmian, hark.

Mess. And I do think, she's thirty.

Cleo. Bear'st thou her face in mind? is it
 long, or round?

Mess. Round even to faultiness.

Cleo. For the most part too, [colour?
 They are foolish that are so.—Her hair, what

Mess. Brown, madam: And her forehead is
 as low

As she would wish it.

Cleo. There is gold for thee.

Thou must not take my former sharpness ill:—
 I will employ thee back again; I find thee
 Most fit for business: Go, make thee ready;
 Our letters are prepar'd. [*Exit MESSENGER.*

Char. A proper man.

Cleo. Indeed, he is so: I repent me much,
 That so I harry'd† him. Why, methinks, by
 This creature's no such thing. [him,

Char. O, nothing, madam.

* Standing.

† Pulled, &c.

Cleo. The man hath seen some majesty, and
 should know.

Char. Hath he seen majesty? Isis else de-
 and serving you so long! [fend,

Cleo. I have one thing more to ask him yet,
 good Charmian:—

But 'tis no matter; thou shalt bring him to me
 Where I will write: All may be well enough.

Char. I warrant you, madam. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—*Athens.—A Room in ANTONY'S
 House.*

Enter ANTONY and OCTAVIA.

Ant. Nay, nay, Octavia, not only that,—
 That were excusable, that, and thousands more
 Of semblable import,*—but he hath wag'd
 New wars 'gainst Pompey; made his will, and
 read it

To public ear: [not†
 Spoke scantily of me: when perforce he could
 But pay me terms of honour, cold and sickly
 He vented‡ then; most narrow measure lent
 me: [took't,

When the best hint was given him, he not
 Or did it from his teeth.§

Oct. O my good lord,
 Believe not all; or, if you must believe,
 Stomach|| not all. A more unhappy lady,
 If this division chance, ne'er stood between,
 Praying for both parts:

And the good gods will mock me presently,
 When I shall pray, O, bless my lord and hus-
 band!

Undo that prayer, by crying out as loud,
 O, bless my brother! Husband win, win bro-
 ther,

Prays, and destroys the prayer; no midway,
 'Twill twist these extremes at all.

Ant. Gentle Octavia, [seeks
 Let your best love draw to that point, which
 Best to preserve it: If I lose mine honour,
 I lose myself: better I were not yours,
 Than yours so branchless. But, as you re-
 quested, [lady,

Yourself shall go between us: The mean time,
 I'll raise the preparation of a war
 Shall stain¶ your brother; Make your soonest
 So your desires are yours. [haste;

Oct. Thanks to my lord.
 The Jove of power make me most weak, most
 weak, [be

Your reconciler! Wars 'twixt you twain would
 As if the world should cleave, and that slain
 Should solder** up the rift.†† [men

Ant. When it appears to you where this be-
 gins,

Turn your displeasure that way; for our faults
 Can never be so equal, that your love
 Can equally move with them. Provide your
 going; [cost

Choose your own company, and command what
 Your heart has mind to. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.—*The same.—Another Room in the
 same.*

Enter ENOBARBUS and EROS, meeting.

Ero. How now, frind Eros?

Eros. There's strange news come, Sir.

Ero. What, man?

Eros. Cesar and Lepidus have made wars
 upon Pompey.

Ero. This is old; What is the success?‡‡

* Similar tendency. † Could not help. ‡ Published-
 § Indistinct, through his teeth. || Present.

¶ Disgrace. ** Cement, close.

†† Opening. ‡‡ What follows?

Eros. Cesar, having made use of him* in the wars 'gainst Pompey, presently denied him rivalry; † would not let him partake in the glory of the action: and not resting here, accuses him of letters he had formerly wrote to Pompey; upon his own appeal, ‡ seizes him: So the poor third is up, till death enlarge his confine.

Eno. Then, world, thou hast a pair of chaps, no more; [hast, And throw between them all the food thou They'll grind the one the other. Where's Antony?

Eros. He's walking in the garden—thus; and spurns [dus! The rush that lies before him; cries, Fool, Lepidus And threatens the throat of that his officer, That murder'd Pompey.

Eno. Our great navy's rigg'd.

Eros. For Italy, and Cesar. More, Domitius;

My lord desires you presently: my news I might have told hereafter.

Eno. 'Twill be naught:

But let it be.—Bring me to Antony.

Eros. Come, Sir.

[Exeunt.

SCENE VI.—Rome.—A Room in CESAR'S House.

Enter CESAR, AGRIPPA, and MECENAS.

Ces. Contemning Rome, he has done all this: And more;

In Alexandria—here's the manner of it,—I the market-place, on a tribunal silver'd, Cleopatra and himself in chairs of gold Were publicly enthron'd: at the feet, sat Cæsarion whom they call my father's son; And all the unlawful issue, that their lust Since then hath made between them. Unto her He gave the 'establishment of Egypt; made her Of lower Syria, Cyprus, Lydia, Absolute queen.

Mec. This in the public eye?

Ces. I the common show-place, where they exercise. [kings:

His sons he there proclaim'd, The kings of Great Media, Parthia, and Armenia, He haveto Alexander; to Ptolemy he assign'd Syria, Cilicia, and Phœnicia: She In the habitiiments of the goddess Isis [ence That day appear'd; and oft before gave audi- As 'tis reported, so.

Mec. Let Rome be thus Inform'd.

Agr. Who, queasy§ with his insolence Already, will their good thoughts call from him.

Ces. The people know it; and have now re- His accusations. [ceiv'd

Agr. Whom does he accuse?

Ces. Cesar: and that, having in Sicily Sextus Pompeius spoil'd, we had not rated|| him [me

His part of the isle: then does he say, he lent Some shipping unrestor'd: lastly, he frets, That Lepidus of the triumvirate Should be depos'd; and, being, that we detain All his revenue.

Agr. Sir, this should be answer'd.

Ces. 'Tis done already, and the messenger gone.

I have told him, Lepidus was grown too cruel; That he his high authority abus'd,

And did deserve his change; for what I have conquer'd,

I grant him part; but then, in his Armenia, And other of his conquer'd kingdoms, I Demand the like.

Mec. He'll never yield to that.

Ces. Nor must not then be yielded to in this.

Enter OCTAVIA.

Oct. Hail, Cesar, and my lord! hail, most dear Cesar!

Ces. That ever I should call thee, cast-away!

Oct. You have not call'd me so, nor have you cause.

Ces. Why have you stol'n upon us thus? You come not

Like Cesar's sister: The wife of Antony Should have an army for an usher, and The neighs of horse to tell of her approach, Long ere she did appear; the trees by the way, Should have borne men; and expectation fainted,

Longing for what it had not: nay, the dust Should have ascended to the roof of heaven, Rais'd by your populous troops; But you are come

A market-maid to Rome; and have prevented The ostent* of our love, which, left unshown, Is often left unlov'd: we should have met you By sea, and land; supplying every stage With an augmented greeting.

Oct. Good my lord,

To come thus was I not constrain'd, but did it On my free-will. My lord, Mark Antony Hearing that you prepar'd for war, acquainted My griev'd ear withal; whereon, I begg'd His pardon for return.

Ces. Which soon he granted, Being an obstruct† 'tween his lust and him.

Oct. Do not say so, my lord.

Ces. I have eyes upon him, And his affairs come to me on the wind. Where is he now?

Oct. My lord, in Athens.

Ces. No, my most wronged sister; Cleopatra Hath nodded him to her. He hath given his empire

Up to a whore; who now are levying [bled The kings o' the earth for war: He hath assem- Bocchus, the king of Lybia; Archelaus, Of Cappadocia; Philadelphos, king Of Papilagonia; the Thracian king, Adallas: King Malchus of Arabia; king of Pont; Herod of Jewry; Mithridates, king Of Comagene; Polemon and Amintas, The kings of Mede, and Lycaonia, with a More larger list of sceptres.

Oct. Ah me, most wretched, That have my heart parted betwix two friends, That do afflict each other!

Ces. Welcome hither:

Your letters did withhold our breaking forth; Till we perceiv'd, both how you were wrong led,

And we in negligent danger. Cheer your heart: Be you not troubled with the time, which drives O'er your content these strong necessities; But let determin'd things to destiny Hold unbewail'd their way. Welcome to Rome: Nothing more dear to me. You are abus'd Beyond the mark of thought: and the high gods,

To do you justice, make them ministers Of us, and those that love you. Best of com- And ever welcome to us. [fort;

* i. e. Lepidus. † Equal rank. ‡ Accusation.

§ Sick, dis-gusted.

|| Assigned

* Show, token.

† Obstruction.

Agg. Welcome, lady.

Mec. Welcome, dear madam.

Each heart in Rome does love and pity you :
Only the adulterous Antony, most large
In his abominations, turns you off ;
And gives his potent regiment* to a trull, †
That noises ‡ it against us.

Oct. Is it so, Sir ?

Ces. Most certain. Sister, welcome : Pray
you,

Be ever known to patience : My dearest sister !
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VII.—ANTONY'S Camp, near the
Promontory of Actium.

Enter CLEOPATRA and ENOBARBUS.

Cleo. I will be even with thee, doubt it not.

Eno. But why, why, why ?

Cleo. Thou hast forspoke § my being in these
wars ;

And say'st, it is not fit.

Eno. Well, is it, is it ?

Cleo. Is't not ? Denounce against us, why
should not we

Be there in person ?

Eno. [*Aside.*] Well, I could reply :—

If we should serve with horse and mares to-
gether, [bear

The horse were merely || lost ; the mares would
A soldier, and his horse.

Cleo. What is't you say ?

Eno. Your presence needs must puzzle An-
tony ;

Take from his heart, take from his brain, from
his time, [ready

What should not then be spar'd. He is al,
'Traduc'd for levity ; and 'tis said in Rome,
That Photinus a eunuch, and your maids,
Manage this war.

Cleo. Sink Rome ; and their tongues rot,
That speak against us ! A charge we bear i'the
war,

And, as the president of my kingdom, will
Appear there for a man. Speak not against it ;
I will not stay behind.

Eno. Nay, I have done :

Here comes the emperor.

Enter ANTONY and CANIDIUS.

Ant. Is't not strange, Canidius,
That from Tarentum, and Brundisium,
He could so quickly cut the Ionian sea,
And take in ¶ Toryne ?—You have heard on't,
sweet ?

Cleo. Celerity is never more admir'd,
Than by the negligent.

Ant. A good rebuke, [men,
Which might have well becom'd the best of
To taunt at slackness.—Canidius, we
Will fight with him by sea.

Cleo. By sea ! What else ?

Can. Why will my lord do so ?

Ant. For** he dares us to't.

Eno. So hath my lord dar'd him to single
fight.

Can. Ay, and to wage this battle at Phar-
salia, [offers,

Where Cesar fought with Pompey ; But these
Which serves not for his vantage, he shakes off ;
And so should you.

Eno. Your ships are not well mann'd :

Your mariners are muleteers,* reapers, people
engross'd by swift impress ; † in Cesar's fleet
Are those, that often have 'gainst Pompey
fought :

Their ships are yare ‡ yours, heavy, § No dis-
Shall fall you for refusing him at sea,
Being prepar'd for land.

Ant. By sea, by sea.

Eno. Most worthy Sir, you therein throw
away

The absolute soldiership you have by land ; †
Distract your army, which doth most consist
Of war-mark'd footmen ; leave unexecuted
Your own renowned knowledge ; quite forego
The way which promises assurance ; and
Give up yourself merely to chance and hazard,
From firm security.

Ant. I'll fight at sea.

Cleo. I have sixty sails, || Cesar none better.

Ant. Our overplus of shipping will we burn ;
And, with the rest full-mann'd, from the head
of Actium

Beat the approaching Cesar. But if we fail,

Enter a MESSENGER.

We then can do't at land.—Thy business ?

Mess. The news is true, my lord ; he is des-
Cesar has taken Toryne. [cried ;

Ant. Can he be there in person ? 'tis impos-
sible ;

Strange, that his power should be. ¶—Canidius,
Our nineteen legions thou shalt hold by land,
And our twelve thousand horse :—We'll to
our ship ;

Enter a SOLDIER.

Away, my Thetis !**—How now, worthy sol-
dier ?

Sold. O noble emperor, do not fight by sea ;
Trust not to rotten planks : Do you misdoubt
The sword, and these my wounds ? Let the
Egyptians,

And the Phœnicians, go a ducking ; we
Have used to conquer, standing on the earth,
And fighting foot to foot.

Ant. Well, well, away.

[*Exeunt ANTONY, CLEOPATRA, and
ENOBARBUS.*]

Sold. By Hercules, I think, I am i'the right.

Can. Soldier, thou art : but his whole action
grows

Not in the power on't : So our leader's led,
And we are women's men.

Sold. You keep by land
The legions and the horse whole, do you not ?

Can. Marcus Octavius, Marcus Justeius,
Publicola, and Cælius, are for sea : [Cesar's
But we keep whole by land. This speed of
Carries ¶ beyond belief.

Sold. While he was yet in Rome, [as
His power ; † went out in such distractions, § §
Beguil'd all spies.

Can. Who's his lieutenant, hear you ?

Sold. They say, one Taurus.

Can. Well I know the man.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. The emperor calls Canidius.

Can. With news the time's with labour ; and
throes ||| forth,
Each minute, some. [Exeunt.]

* Mule drivers. † Pressed in haste. ‡ Ready.

§ Incumbered. || Ships.

¶ Strange that his forces should be there.

** Cleopatra. †† Goes. ††† Forces.

§ § Detachments, separate bodies. ||| Agonizes.

× Government. † Harlot. ‡ Threatens.
§ Forbid. || Absolutely. ¶ Take, subdue.
** Because.

SCENE VIII.—A plain near Actium.

Enter CESAR, TAURUS, Officers, and others.

Ces. Taurus,—

Taur. My lord.

Ces. Strike not by land; keep whole:
Provoke not battle, till we have done at sea.
Do not exceed the prescript of this scroll:
Our fortune lies upon this jump.* [Exeunt.]

Enter ANTONY and ENOBAREUS.

Ant. Set we our squadrons on yon' side o' the
hill
In eye of Cesar's battle; from which place
We may the number of the ships behold,
And so proceed accordingly. [Exeunt.]

Enter CANIDIUS, marching with his Land Army
one Way over the Stage; and TAURUS, the
Lieutenant of CESAR, the other way. After
their going in, is heard the Noise of a Sea-
Fight.

Alarum. Re-enter ENOBAREUS.

Eno. Naught, naught, all naught! I can be-
hold no longer:
The Antoniad,† the Egyptian admiral,
With all their sixty, fly, and turn the rudder;
To see't, mine eyes are blasted.

Enter SCARUS.

Scar. Gods, and goddesses,
All the whole synod of them!

Eno. What's thy passion?

Scar. The greater candle§ of the world is lost
With very ignorance; we have kiss'd away
Kingdoms and provinces.

Eno. How appears the fight?

Scar. On our side like the token'd|| pestilence,
Where death is sure. Yon' ribald-rid nag¶ of
Egypt, [fight,—
Whom leprosy o'ertake! i'the midst o'the
When vantage like a pair of twins appear'd,
Both as the same, or rather ours the elder,**—
The brize† upon her, like a cow in June,
Hoists sails, and flies.

Eno. That I beheld: mine eyes
Did sicken at the sight on't, and could not
Endure a further view.

Scar. She once being loof'd,††
The noble ruin of her magic, Antony, [lard,
Claps on his sea-wing, and like a doting mal-
Leaving the fight in height, flies after her:
I never saw an action of such shame;
Experience, manhood, honour, ne'er before
Did violate so itself.

Eno. Alack, alack!

Enter CANIDIUS.

Can. Our fortune on the sea is out of breath,
And sinks most lamentably. Had our general
Been what he knew himself, it had gone well:
O, he has given example for our flight,
Most grossly, by his own.

Eno. Ay, are you thereabouts? Why then,
good night

Indeed. [Aside.]

Can. Towards Peloponnesus are they fled.

Scar. 'Tis easy to't; and there I will attend
What further comes.

* Hazard. † Sight. ‡ Name of Cleopatra's ship.
§ Corner. || Spotted.

¶ Lewd, common strumpet. ** Better.

†† The gad-fly that stings cattle,

‡‡ Brought close to the wind.

Can. To Cesar will I render
My legions, and my horse; six kings already
Show me the way of yielding.

Eno. I'll yet follow
The wounded chance of Antony, though my
reason
Sits in the wind against me. [Exeunt.]

SCENE IX.—Alexandria.—A Room in the
Palace.

Enter ANTONY and ATTENDANTS.

Ant. Hark, the land bids me tread no more
upon't, [ther.
It is asham'd to bear me!—Friends, come hi-
I am so lated* in the world, that I
Have lost my way for ever:—I have a ship
Laden with gold; take that, divide it; fly,
And make your peace with Cesar.

Att. Fly! not we.

Ant. I have fled myself; and have instructed
cowards
To run, and show their shoulders.—Friends,
be gone;

I have myself resolv'd upon a course,
Which has no need of you; be gone;
My treasure's in the harbour, take it.—O,
I follow'd that I blush to look upon;
My very hairs do mutiny; for the white
Reprove the brown for rashness, and they them
For fear and doting.—Friends, be gone; you
shall

Have letters from me to some friends, that will
Sweep your way for you. Pray you, look not
sad,

Nor make replies of loathness: take the hint
Which my despair proclaims; let that be left
Which leaves itself; to the sea side straight-
way:

I will possess you of that ship and treasure.
Leave me, I pray, a little: 'pray you now:—
Nay, do so; for indeed, I have lost command,
Therefore I pray you:—I'll see you by and by.
[Sits down.]

Enter EROS, and CLEOPATRA, led by CHARMIAN
and IRAS.

Eros. Nay, gentle madam, to him:—Com-
fort him.

Iras. Do, most dear queen.

Char. Do! Why, what else?

Cleo. Let me sit down. O Juno!

Ant. No, no, no, no, no.

Eros. See you here, Sir?

Ant. O fie, fie, fie.

Char. Madam,—

Iras. Madam; O good empress!—

Eros. Sir, Sir,—

Ant. Yes, my lord, yes;—He,† at Philippi,
kept

His sword even like a dancer; while I struck
The lean and wrinkled Cassius; and 'twas I,
That the mad Brutus ended: he alone
Dealt on lieutenantry,‡ and no practice had
In the brave squares of war: Yet now—No
matter.

Cleo. Ah, stand by.

Eros. The queen, my lord, the queen.

Iras. Go to him, madam, speak to him;]

He is unqualified§ with very shame.

Cleo. Well then,—Sustain me:—O!

Eros. Most noble Sir, arise; the queen ap-
proaches;

* Belighted, benighted.

† Fought by his officers.

‡ Cesar.

divested of his faculties.

Her head's declin'd, and death will seize her ;
Your comfort makes the rescue. [but*

Ant. I have offended reputation ;
most un noble swerving.

Eros. Sir, the queen.

Ant. O, whither hast thou led me, Egypt ?
See,

How I convey my shame out of thine eyes
By looking back on what I have left behind
Troy'd in dishonour.

Cleo. O my lord, my lord !

Forgive my fearful sails ! I little thought,
You would have follow'd.

Ant. Egypt, thou knew'st too well.

My heart was to thy rudder tied by the strings,
And thou should'st tow me after : O'er my
spirit

Thy full supremacy thou knew'st ; and that
Thy beck might from the bidding of the gods
Command me.

Cleo. O, my pardon.

Ant. Now I must

To the young man send humble treaties, dodge
And palter in the shifts of lowness ; who
With half the bulk o'the world play'd as I
pleas'd,

Making, and marring fortunes. You did know,
How much you were my conqueror ; and that
My sword, made weak by my affection, would
Cloy it on all cause.

Cleo. O pardon, pardon.

Ant. Fall not a tear, I say ; one of them
rarest

All that is won and lost : Give me a kiss ;
Even this repays me — We sent our school-
master,

Is he come back ? — Love, I am full of lead : —
Some wine, within there, and our viands : —
Fortune knows,

We scorn her most, when most she offers
blows. [Exeunt.

SCENE X.—CESAR'S Camp, in Egypt.

Enter CESAR, DOLABELLA, THYREUS, and
others.

Ces. Let him appear that's come from An-
tony you him ? [Tony.—

Dol. Cesar, 'tis his schoolmaster † ;
An argument that he is pluck'd, when hither
He sends so poor a pinion of his wing,
Which had superfluous kings for messengers,
Not many moons gone by.

Enter EUPHRONIUS.

Ces. Approach, and speak.

Eup. Such as I am, I come from Antony :
I was of late as petty to his ends,
As is the morn-dew on the myrtle leaf
To his grand sea. ‡

Ces. Be it so ; Declare thine office.

Eup. Lord of his fortunes he salutes thee,
and

Requires to live in Egypt : which not granted,
He lessens his requests ; and to thee sues
To let him breathe between the heavens and
earth,

A private man in Athens : This for him.
Next, Cleopatra does confess thy greatness ;
Submits her to thy might ; and of thee craves
The circle || of the Ptolemies for her heirs,
Now hazarded to thy grace.

Ces. For Antony,
I have no ears to his request. The queen

Of audience, nor desire, shall fail ; so she
From Egypt drive her all-disgraced friend,*
Or take his life there : This if she perform,
She shall not sue unheard. So to them both.
Eup. Fortune pursue thee !
Ces. Bring him through the bands.

[Exit EUPHRONIUS.

To try thy eloquence, now 'tis time : Despatch ;
From Antony win Cleopatra : promise,

[To THYREUS.

And in our name, what she requires ; add
more,

From thine invention, offers : women are not,
In their best fortunes, strong ; but want will
perjure

The ne'er-touch'd vestal : Try thy cunning,
Thyreus ;

Make thine own edict for thy pains, which we
Will answer as a law.

Thyr. Cesar, I go.

Ces. Observe how Antony becomes his slave ; †
And what thou think'st his very action speaks
In every power that moves.

Thyr. Cesar, I shall.

[Exeunt.

SCENE XI.—Alexandria.—A Room in the
Palace.

Enter CLEOPATRA, ENOBARBUS, CHARMIAN,
and IRAS.

Cleo. What shall we do, Enobarbus ?

Eno. Think, and die

Cleo. Is Antony, or we, in fault for this ?

Eno. Antony only, that would make his will
Lord of his reason. What although you fled
From that great face of war, whose several
ranges

Frighted each other ? why should he follow ?

The itch of his affection should not then
Have nick'd his captainship ; at such a point,
When half to half the world oppos'd, he being
The mered question ; ‡ 'twas a shame no less
Than was his loss, to course your flying flags,
And leave his navy gazing.

Cleo. Pr'ythee, peace.

Enter ANTONY, with EUPHRONIUS.

Ant. Is this his answer ?

Eup. Ay, my lord.

Ant. The queen

Shall then have courtesy, so she will yield
Us up.

Eup. He says so.

Ant. Let her know it.—

To the boy Cesar send this grizled head,
And he will fill thy wishes to the brim
With principalities.

Cleo. That head, my lord ?

Ant. To him again ; Tell him, he wears the
rose

Of youth upon him ; from which the world
should note

Something particular : his coin, ships, legions,
May be a coward's ; whose ministers would
prevail

Under the service of a child, as soon

As i'the command of Cesar : I dare him there—
To lay his gay comparisons § apart, [fore
And answer me declin'd, || sword against
sword,

* Paramour.

† Conforms himself to this breach of his fortune.

‡ The only cause of the dispute.

§ Circumstances of splendour. || In age and power.

* Unless.

† Values.

‡ Euphronius, schoolmaster to Antony's children.

§ As is the dew to the sea. || Diadem, the crown.

Ourselves alone: I'll write it; follow me.

[*Exeunt ANTONY and EUPHRONIUS.*]

Eno. Yes, like enough, high-battled Cesar will
Unstate his happiness, and be stag'd to the
Against a sword.—I see, men's judgements
are

A parcel* of their fortunes; and things out-
Do draw the inward quality after them,
To suffer all alike. That he should dream,
Knowing all measures, the full Cesar will
Answer his emptiness!—Cesar, thou hast sub-
His judgement too.

Enter an ATTENDANT.

All. A messenger from Cesar.

Cleo. What, no more ceremony?—See, my
women!—

Against the blown rose may they stop their
That kneel'd unto the buds.—Admit him, Sir.

Eno. Mine honesty, and I, begin to square.†
[*Aside.*]

The loyalty, well held to fools, does make
Our faith mere folly:—Yet, he, that can en-
To follow with allegiance a fallen lord, [dure
Does conquer him that did his master conquer,
And earns a place i'the story.

Enter THYREUS.

Cleo. Cesar's will?

Thyr. Hear it apart.

Cleo. None but friends; say boldly.

Thyr. So, haply, are they friends to Antony.

Eno. He needs as many, Sir, as Cesar has;
Or needs not us. If Cesar please, our master
Will leap to be his friend: For us, you know,
Whose he is, we are; and that's Cesar's.

Thyr. So.—
Thus then, thou most renown'd; Cesar en-
Not to consider in what case thou stand'st,
Further than he is Cesar.

Cleo. Go on: Right royal.

Thyr. He knows, that you embrace not An-
tony

As you did love, but as you fear'd him.

Cleo. O!

Thyr. The scars upon your honour, there-
fore, he

Does pity, as constrained blemishes,
Not as deserv'd.

Cleo. He is a god, and knows [yielded,
What is most right: Mine honour was not
But conquer'd merely.

Eno. To be sure of that, [Aside.
I will ask Antony.—Sir, Sir, thou'rt so leaky,
That we must leave thee to thy sinking, for
Thy dearest quit thee. [*Exit ENOBARBUS.*]

Thyr. Shall I say to Cesar
What you require of him? for he partly begs
To be desir'd to give. It much would please
him,

That of his fortunes you should make a staff
To lean upon: but it would warm his spirits,
To hear from me you had left Antony,
And put yourself under his shroud,
The universal landlord.

Cleo. What's your name?

Thyr. My name is Thyreus.

Cleo. Most kind messenger,
Say to great Cesar this, in disputation§
I kiss his conqu'ring hand: tell him, I am
prompt
To lay my crown at his feet, and there to
kneel:

Tell him, from his all-obeying* breath I hear
The doom of Egypt.

Thyr. 'Tis your noblest course.

Wisdom and fortune combating together, |
If that the former dare but what it can,
No chance may shake it. Give me grace to
My duty on your hand. [I say

Cleo. Your Cesar's father [in, t
Oft, when he hath mus'd of taking kingdoms
Bestow'd his lips on that unworthy place,
As it rain'd kisses.

Re-enter ANTONY and ENOBARBUS.

Ant. Favours, by Jove that thunders!—
What art thou, follow?

Thyr. One, that but performs
The bidding of the fullest§ man, and worthiest
To have command obey'd.

Eno. You will be whip'd.

Ant. Approach, there:—Ay you kite!—Now
gods and devils!

Authority melts from me: Of late, when I
cry'd, ho! [forth,
Like boys unto a muss,|| kings would start
And cry, *Your will?* Have you no ears? I am

Enter ATTENDANTS.

Antony yet. Take hence this Jack,¶ and
whip him.

Eno. 'Tis better playing with a lion's whelp,
Than with an old one dying.

Ant. Moon and stars! [butaries
Whip him:—Were't twenty of the greatest tri-
That do acknowledge Cesar should I find
them

So saucy with the hand of she here, (What's
her name, [lows,
Since she was Cleopatra?)—Whip him, fel-
Till, like a boy, you see him cringe his face,
And whine aloud for mercy: Take him hence.

Thyr. Mark Antony,—

Ant. Tug him away: being whip'd,
Bring him again:—This lack of Cesar's shall
Bear us and errand to him.—

[*Exeunt ATTENDANT with THYREUS.*
You were half blasted ere I knew you:—Ha!
Have I my pillow left unpress'd in Rome,
Forborne the getting of a lawful race,
And by a gem of women, to be abus'd
By one that looks on feeders?*

Cleo. Good my lord,—

Ant. You have been a boggler ever:—
But when we in our viciousness grow hard,
(O misery on't!) the wise gods see'tt oureyes,
In our own filth drop our clear judgements;

make us
Adore our errors; laugh at us, while we strut
To our confusion.

Cleo. O, is it come to this?

Ant. I found you as a morsel, cold upon
Dead Cesar's trencher: nay, you were a frag-
ment [hours,

Of Cneius Pompey's; besides what hotter
Unregister'd in vulgar fame, you have
Luxuriously†† pick'd out:—For I am sure,
Though you can guess what temperance should
You know not what it is. [be,

Cleo. Wherefore is this?

Ant. To let a fellow that will take rewards,
And say, *God quit you!* be familiar with
My playfellow, your hand; this kingly seal,
And plighter of high hearts!—O, that I were
Upon the hill of Bazan, to outroar

* Obeyed. † Grant me the favour. ‡ Conquering.

§ Most complete and perfect. || Scramble.

¶ A term of contempt. †† Servants. ‡‡ Close up.

‡‡ Antony.

* Are of a piece with them. † Quarrel. ‡ Perhaps.
§ Supposed to be an error for deputation, i.e. by proxy.

The horned herd ! for I have savage cause ;
And to proclaim it civilly, were like
A halter'd neck, which does the hangman
thank
For being yare* about him.—Is he whipp'd ?

Re-enter ATTENDANTS, with THYREUS.

I Att. Soundly, my lord.

Ant. Cry'd he? and begg'd he pardon ?

I Att. He did ask favour.

Ant. If that thy father live, let him repent
Thou wast not made his daughter; and bethou
To follow Cesar in his triumph, since [sorry
Thou hast been whipp'd for following him :
henceforth,

The white hand of a lady fever thee,
Shake thou to look on't.—Get thee back to
Cesar,

Tell him thy entertainment : Look, thou say,
He makes me angry with him : for he seems
Proud and disdainful ; harping on what I am ;
Not what he knew I was : He makes me
angry ;

And at this time most easy 'tis to do't ;
When my good stars, that were my former
guides,

Have empty left their orbs, and shot their fires
Into the abism of hell. If he mislike
My speech, and what is done ; tell him, he has
Hipparchus, my enfranchis'd bondman, whom
He may at pleasure whip, or hang, or torture,
As he shall like, to quit me : Urge it thou :
Hence, with thy stripes, begone.

[*Exit THYREUS.*

Cleo. Have you done yet ?

Ant. Alack, our terrene† moon
Is now eclips'd ; and it portends alone
The fall of Antony !

Cleo. I must stay his time.

Ant. To flatter Cesar, would you mingle eyes
With one that ties his points ?

Cleo. Not know me yet ?

Ant. Cold-hearted towards me ?

Cleo. Ah, dear, if I be so,

From my cold heart let heaven engender hail,
And poison it in the source ; and the first stone
Drop in my neck ; as it determines, § so
Dissolve my life ! The next Cesarian || smite !
Till, by degrees, the memory of my womb,
Together with my brave Egyptians all,
By the discandyng ¶ of this pelleted storm,
Lie graveless ; till the flies and gnats of Nile
Have buried them for prey !

Ant. I am satisfied.

Cesar sits down in Alexandria ; where
I will oppose his fate. Our force by land
Hath nobly held ; our sever'd navy too
Have knit again, and fleet, ** threat'ning most
sealike.

Where hast thou been, my heart?—Dost thou
hear, lady ?

If from the field I shall return once more
To kiss these lips, I will appear in blood ;
I and my sword will earn our chronicle ;
There is hope in it yet.

Cleo. That's my brave lord !

Ant. I will be treble-sinew'd, hearted,
breath'd,

And fight maliciously : for when mine hours
Were nicest and lucky, men did ransom lives
Of me for jests ; but now, I'll set my teeth,
And send to darkness all that stop me.—Come.
Let's have one other gaudy †† night : call to me

All my sad captains, fill our bowls ; once more
Let's mock the midnight bell.

Cleo. It is my birth-day :

I had thought, to have held it poor ; but, since
my lord

Is Antony again, I will be Cleopatra.

Ant. We'll yet do well.

Cleo. Call all his noble captains to my lord,

Ant. Do so, we'll speak to them ; and to-
night I'll force

The wine peep through their scars.—Come on,
my queen ;

There's sap in't yet. The next time I do fight,
I'll make death love me ; for I will contend
Even with his pestilent scythe.

[*Exit ANTONY, CLEOPATRA, and
Attendants.*

Eno. Now he'll out-stare the lightning. To
be furious,

Is, to be frightened out of fear : and in that mood,
The dove will peck the estridge ;* and I see
A diminution in our captain's brain [still,
Restores his heart : When valour preys on
reason,

It eats the sword it fights with. I will seek
Some way to leave him. [*Exit.*

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—CESAR'S Camp at Alexandria.

*Enter CESAR, reading a Letter ; AGRIPPA, ME-
CENAS, and others.*

Ces. He calls me boy ; and chides, as he had
power-

To beat me out of Egypt : my messenger
He hath whipp'd with rods ; dares me to per-
sonal combat,

Cesar to Antony : Let the old ruffian know,
I have many other ways to die ; mean time,
Laugh at his challenge.

Mec. Cesar must think,

When one so great begins to rage, he's hunted
Even to falling. Give him no breath, but now
Make boot of his distraction : Never anger
Made good guard for itself.

Ces. Let our best heads

Know, that to-morrow the last of many battles
We mean to fight :—Within our files there are
Of those that serv'd Mark Antony but late,
Enough to fetch him in. See it be done ;
And feast the army : we have store to do't,
And they have earn'd the waste.—Poor An-
tony ! [*Exit.*

SCENE II.—Alexandria.—A Room in the Palace.

*Enter ANTONY, CLEOPATRA, ENOBARBUS,
CHARMIAN, IRAS, ALEXAS, and others.*

Ant. He will not fight with me, Domitius ?
Eno. No.

Ant. Why should he not ?

Eno. He thinks, being twenty times of bet-
ter fortune,

He is twenty men to one.

Ant. To-morrow, soldier,
By sea and land I'll fight : or I will live,
Or bathe my dying hour in the blood
Shall make it live again. Woo't thou fight
well ?

Eno. I'll strike ; and cry, *Take all.*

Ant. Well said ; come on.—

Call forth my household servants ; let's to-night

* Ready, handy. † Requite. ‡ earthly.

§ Dissolves. || Her son by Julius Cesar. ¶ Melting.

** Float. †† Tridling. ‡‡ Feasting.

* Ostrich. † Take advantage

Enter SERVANTS.

Be bounteous at our meal.—Give me thy hand,
Thou hast been rightly honest;—so hast thou;—
And thou,—and thou,—and thou;—you have
serv'd me well,
And kings have been your fellows.

Cleo. What means this?

Eno. 'Tis one of those odd tricks, which
sorrow shoots [Aside.

Out of the mind.

Ant. And thou art honest too.

I wish, I could be made so many men;
And all of you clapp'd up together in
An Antony; that I might do you service,
So good as you have done.

Serr. The gods forbid!

Ant. Well, my good fellows, wait on me to-
night:

Scant not my cups; and make as much of me,
As when mine empire was your fellow too,
And suffer'd my command.

Cleo. What does he mean?

Eno. To make his followers weep.

Ant. Tend me to-night;

May be, it is the period of your duty:
Haply,* you shall not see me more; or if,
A mangled shadow: perchance, to-morrow
You'll serve another master. I look on you,
As one that takes his leave. Mine honest
friends,

I turn you not away; but, like a master
Married to your good service, stay till death;
Tend me to-night two hours, I ask no more,
And the gods yield† you for't!

Eno. What mean you, Sir, [weep;
To give them this discomfort? Look, they
And I, an ass, am onion-ey'd; for shame,
Transform us not to women.

Ant. Ho, ho ho!‡

Now the witch take me, if I meant it thus!
Grace grow where those drops fall! My hearty
friends

You take me in too dolorous a sense:
I spake to you for your comfort: did desire you
To burn this night with torches: Know, my
hearts,

I hope well of to-morrow; and will lead you,
Where rather I'll expect victorious life,
Than death and honour. Let's to supper;
come,

And drown consideration. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—The same.—Before the Palace.

Enter two SOLDIERS, to their Guard.

1 *Sold.* Brother, good night: to-morrow is
the day.

2 *Sold.* It will determine one way: fare you
well.

Heard you of nothing strange about the streets?

1 *Sold.* Nothing: What news?

2 *Sold.* Belike, 'tis but a rumour:
Good night to you.

1 *Sold.* Well, Sir, good night.

Enter two other SOLDIERS.

2 *Sold.* Soldiers,
Have careful watch.

3 *Sold.* And you: Good night, good night.
[The first two place themselves at their Posts.

4 *Sold.* Here we are: [They take their Posts.]
and if to-morrow

Our navy thrive, I have an absolute hope
Our landmen will stand up.

3 *Sold.* 'Tis a brave army,
And full of purpose.

[Music of Hautboys under the stage.

4 *Sold.* Peace, what noise?

1 *Sold.* List, list!

2 *Sold.* Hark!

1 *Sold.* Music i'the air.

3 *Sold.* Under the earth.

4 *Sold.* It signs* well,

Does'st not?

3 *Sold.* No.

1 *Sold.* Peace, I say. What should this
mean?

2 *Sold.* 'Tis the god Hercules, whom An-
tony lov'd,

Now leaves him.

1 *Sold.* Walk; let's see if other watchmen
Do hear what we do.

[They advance to another Post.

2 *Sold.* How now, masters?

Sold. How now?

How now? do you hear this?

[Several speaking together.

1 *Sold.* Ay; Is't not strange?

3 *Sold.* Do you hear, masters? do you
hear?

1 *Sold.* Follow the noise so far as we have
quarter;

Let's see how't will give off.

Sold. [Several speaking.] Content: 'Tis
strange. [Exeunt.

Scene IV.—The same.—A Room in the
Palace.

Enter ANTONY, and CLEOPATRA; CHARMIAN,
and others, attending.

Ant. Eros! mine armour, Eros!

Cleo. Sleep a little.

Ant. No, my chuck.—Eros, come; mine ar-
mour, Eros!

Enter EROS, with Armour.

Come, my good fellow, put thine iron on:—
If fortune be not out's to-day, it is
Because we brave her.—Come.

Cleo. Nay, I'll help too.

What's this for?

Ant. Ah, let be, let be! thou art [this.

The armourer of my heart:—False, false; this,

Cleo. Sooth, la, I'll help; Thus it must be.

Ant. Well, well; [fellow;

We shall thrive now.—See'st thou, my good
Go, put on thy defences.

Eros. Briefly,† Sir.

Cleo. Is not this buckled well?

Ant. Rarely, rarely:

He that unbuckles this, till we do please

To duff‡; for our repose, shall hear a storm.—

Thou fumblest,§ Eros; and my queen's a squire

More tight¶ at this, than thou: Despatch.—O

love, [knew'st

That thou could'st see my wars to-day, and

The royal occupation! thou should'st see

Enter an OFFICER, armed.

A workman in't.—Good morrow to thee; wel-

come: [charge;

Thou look'st like him that knows a warlike

To business that we love, we rise betime,

And go to it with delight.

1. *Off.* A thousand, Sir,

Early though it be, have on their riveted trim,

And at the port expect you.

[Shout. Trumpets. Flourish

* Perhaps.

† Reward.

‡ Stop.

* Bodes.

† Shortly.

‡ Put off.

§ Handy.

|| Riveted dress, armour.

Enter other OFFICERS and SOLDIERS.

2 Off. The morn is fair.—Good morrow, general.

All. Good morning, general.

Ant. 'Tis well blown, lads,

This morning, like the spirit of a youth
That means to be of note, begins betimes.—
So, so ; come, give me that : this way : well
said.

Fare thee well, dame, whate'er becomes of me :
This is a soldier's kiss : rebukable, [*Kisses her*.
And worthy shameful check it were, to stand
On more mechanic compliment ; I'll leave thee
Now, like a man of steel.—You, that will
fight,

Follow me close : I'll bring you to't.—Adieu.
[*Exeunt ANTONY, EROS, OFFICERS, and
SOLDIERS*.

Char. Please you, retire to your chamber ?

Cleo. Lead me, [might]

He goes forth gallantly. That he and Cesar
Determine this great war in single fight !
Then, Antony,—But now,—Well, on. [*Exit*.

Scene V.—ANTONY'S Camp near Alexandria.
Trumpets sound.—Enter ANTONY and EROS ;
a SOLDIER meeting them.

Sold. The gods make this a happy day to
Antony !

Ant. 'Would, thou and those thy scars had
once prevail'd

To make me fight at land !

Sold. Had'st thou done so,
The kings that have revolted, and the soldier
That has this morning left thee, would have
Follow'd thy heels. [still]

Ant. Who's gone this morning ?

Sold. Who ?

One ever near thee : Call for Enobarbus,
He shall not hear thee ; or from Cesar's camp
Say, I am none of thine.

Ant. What say'st thou ?

Sold. Sir,

He is with Cesar :

Eros. Sir, his chests and treasure

He has not with him.

Ant. Is he gone ?

Sold. Most certain.

Ant. Go, Eros, send his treasure after : do
it ;

Detain no jot, I charge thee : write to him
(I will subscribe) gentle adieus and greetings :
Say, that I wish he never find more cause
To change a master.—O, my fortunes have
Corrupted honest men :—Eros, despatch.
Exit.

Scene VI.—CESAR'S Camp before Alex-
andria.

Flourish.—Enter CESAR with AGRIPPA, ENO-
BARBUS, and others.

Ces. Go forth, Agrippa, and begin the fight :
Our will is, Antony be took alive ;
Make it so known.

Agr. Cesar, I shall. *Exit AGRIPPA*.

Ces. The time of universal peace is near :
Prove this a prosperous day, the three nook'd
Shall bear the olive freely. [world]

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. Antony

Is come into the field.

Ces. Go, charge Agrippa

That those that have revolted in the van,

That Antony may seem to spend his fury
Upon himself [*Exeunt CESAR and his Train*.

Eno. Alexas did revolt ; and went to Jewry,
On affairs of Antony ; there did persuade
Great Herod to incline himself to Cesar,
And leave his master Antony : for this pains,
Cesar hath hang'd him. Canidius, and therest
That fell away had entertainment, but
No honourable trust. I have done ill ;
Of which I do accuse myself so sorely,
That I will joy no more.

Enter a SOLDIER of CESAR.

Sold. Enobarbus. Antony
Hath after thee sent all thy treasure, with
His bounty overplus : The messenger
Came off my guard ; and at thy tent is now,
Unloading of his mules

Eno. I give it you.

Sold. Mock me not, Enobarbus.

I tell you true : Best that you saf'd the bringer
Out of the host ; I must attend mine office,
Or would have done't myself. Your emperor
Continues still a jove. *Exit SOLDIER*.

Eno. I am alone the villain of the earth,
And feel I am so most. O Antony,
Thou mine of bounty, how would'st thou have
My better service, when my turpitude [paid
Thou dost so crown with gold ! This blows*
my heart :

If swift thought break it not, a swifter mean
Shall outstrike thought : but thought will do't,
I feel.

I fight against thee !—No : I will go seek
Some ditch, wherein to die ; the foul'st best
fits

My latter part of life. *Exit*.

Scene VII.—Field of Battle between the
Camps.

Alarum.—Drums and Trumpets.—Enter
AGRIPPA, and others.

Agr. Retire, we have engag'd ourselves too
far :

Cesar himself has work, and our oppression
Exceeds what we expected. [*Exeunt*.

Alarum.—Enter ANTONY, and SCARUS wounded.

Scar. O my brave emperor, this is fought
indeed !

Had we done so at first, we had driven them
With clouts about their heads. [home]

Ant. Thou bleed'st apace.

Scar. I had a wound here that was like a T,
But now 'tis made an H.

Ant. They do retire.

Scar. We'll beat 'em into bench holes ; I
have yet

Room for six scotches more :

Enter EROS :

Eros. They are beaten, Sir ; and our advan-
tage serves

For a fair victory.

Scar. Let us score their backs,
And snatch'em up, as we take hares, behind ;
'Tis sport to maul a runner.

Ant. I will reward thee

Once for thy spritely comfort, and ten-fold
For thy good valour. Come thee on.

Scar. I'll halt after. [*Exeunt*.

* Swells.

† Cats.

Scene VIII.—Under the walls of Alexandria.
Alarm.—Enter ANTONY, marching; SCARUS,
and Forces.

Ant. We have beat him to his camp; Run
one before,
And let the queen know of our guests.—To
morrow,

Before the sun shall see us, we'll spill the blood
That has to-day escap'd. I thank you all;
For doughty*-handed are you; and have
fought

Not as you serv'd the cause, but as it had been
Each man's like mine; you have shown all
Hectors.

Enter the city, clipt your wives, your friends,
Tell them your feats; whilst they with joyful
tears [kiss
Wash the congealment from your wounds, and
The honour'd gashes whole.—Give me thy
hand; [To SCARUS.

Enter CLEOPATRA, attended.

To this great fairy† I'll commend thy acts,
Make her thanks bless thee.—O thou day o' the
world, [all,

Chain mine arm'd neck: leap thou, attire and
Through proof of harness§ to my heart, and
Ride on the pants triumphing. [there

Cleo. Lord of lords!

O infinite virtue! com'st thou smiling from
The world's great snare uncaught?

Ant. My nightingale,

We have beat them to their beds. What, girl?
though grey
Do something mingle with our brown; yet
have we

A brain that nourishes our nerves, and can
Get goal for goal of youth. Behold this man;
Commend unto his lips thy favouring hand;—
Kiss it, my warrior:—He hath fought to-day,
As if a god, in hate of mankind, had
Destroy'd in such a shape.

Cleo. I'll give thee, friend,

An armour all of gold; it was a king's.

Ant. He has deserv'd it, were it carbuncled
Like holy Phoebus' car.—Give me thy hand;
Through Alexandria make a jolly march;
Bear our hack'd targets like the men that owe
Had our great palace the capacity [them: ||

To camp this host, we all would sup together:
And drink carouses to the next day's fate,
Which promises royal peril.—Trumpeters,
With brazen din blast you the city's ear:
Make mingle with our rattling tabourines; ¶
That heaven and earth may strike their sounds
together,

Applauding our approach. [Exeunt.

Scene IX.—CESAR'S Camp.

SENTINELS on their Post.—Enter ENOBARBUS.

1 Sold. If we be not reliev'd within this hour,
We must return to the court of guard: The
night

Is shiny; and, they say, we shall embattle
By the second hour i' the morn.

2 Sold. This last day was

A Shrew'd one to us.

Eno. O bear me witness, night,—

3 Sold. What man is this?

2 Sold. Stand close, and list to him:

Eno. Be witness to me, O thou blessed moon,
When men revolted shall upon record
Bear hateful memory, poor Enobarbus did
Before thy face repent!—

1 Sold. Enobarbus!

3 Sold. Peace:

Hark further.

Eno. O sovereign mistress of true melan-
choly, [me:

The poisonous damp of night disponge* upon
That life, a very rebel to my will,
May hang no longer on me; Throw my heart
Against the flint and-hardness of my fault;
Which, being dried with grief, will break to
powder,

And finish all foul thoughts: O Antony,
Nobler than my revolt is infamous,

Forgive me in thine own particular:

But let the world rank me in register

A master-leaver, and a fugitive:

O Antony! O Antony!

[Dias-

2 Sold. Let's speak

to him.

1 Sold. Let's hear him, for the things he
May concern Cesar. [speaks

3 Sold. Sw's do so. But he sleeps.

1 Sold. Swoons rather; for so bad a prayer
as his

Was never yet for sleeping.

2 Sold. Go we to him.

3 Sold. Awake, awake, Sir; speak to us.

2 Sold. Hear you, Sir.

1 Sold. The hand of death hath rought† him:
Hark, the drums [Drums afar off.

Demurely‡ wake the sleepers. Let us bear
him

To the court of guard; he is of note; our hour
Is fully out.

3 Sold. Come on then;

He may recover yet. [Exeunt with the body.

Scene X.—Between the two Camps.

Enter ANTONY and SCARUS, with Forces
marching:

Ant: Their preparation is to-day by sea;
We please them not by land.

Scar. For both, my lord.

Ant. I would, they'd fight i' the fire or in
the air;

We'd fight there too. But this it is: Our foot
Upon the hills adjoining to the city,
Shall stay with us: order for sea is given;
They have put forth the haven: Further on,
Where their appointment we may best dis-
cover,

And look on their endeavour. § (Exeunt:
Enter CESAR, with his Forces marching.

Ces. But || being charg'd, we will be still by
land,

Which, as I take't, we shall; for his best force
Is forth to man his gallees: To the vales,
And hold our best advantage. [Exeunt:

Re-enter ANTONY and SCARUS.

Ant. Yet they're not join'd: Where yonder
pine does stand,

I shall discover all; I'll bring thee word

Straight, how 'tis like to go: [Exit.

Scar. Swallows have built

Discharge, as a sponge when squeezes discharges i' the
moisture it had imbibed.

† Reached.

‡ Solemnly.

§ Discover their numbers, and see their motions.

|| Without.

* Brave.

† Embrace.

‡ Beauty united with power, was the popular charac-
teristic of fairies.

§ Armour of proof.

|| As becomes the brave warriors that own them.

¶ Small drums.

In Cleopatra's sails their nest: the augurers
Say, they know not,—they cannot tell;—look
grimly,
And dare not speak their knowledge. Antony
Is valiant, and dejected; and, by starts,
His fretted fortunes give him hope and fear,
Of what he has, and has not.

Alarum afar off, as at a Sea Fight.

Re-enter ANTONY.

Ant. All is lost;
This foul Egyptian hath betrayed me:
My fleet have yielded to the foe; and yonder
They cast their caps up, and carouse together
Like friends long lost.—Tripple-*turn'd* whore!^{*}
'tis thou

Hast sold me to this novice; and my heart
Makes only wars on thee.—Bid them all fly;
For when I am reveng'd upon my charm,
I have done all:—Bid them all fly, begone.

[*Exit* SCARUS.]

O sun, thy uprise shall I see no more:
Fortune and Antony part here; even here
Do we shake hands.—All come to this?—The
hearts

That spaniel'd me at heels, to whom I gave
Their wishes, do discandy, melt their sweets
On blossoming Cesar; and this pine is bark'd,
That overtopp'd them all. Berray'd I am:
O this false soul of Egypt! this grave charm,[†]
Whose eye beck'd[‡] forth my wars, and call'd
them home;

Whose bosom was my crownet,[§] my chief end,
Like a right gypsy, hath, at fast and loose,^{||}
Beguil'd me to the very heart of loss.—
What, Eros, Eros!

Enter CLEOPATRA.

Ant. thou spell! Avaunt.

Cleo. Why is my lord enrag'd against his
love?

Ant. Vanish; or I shall give thee thy des-
erving,^[there]
And blemish Cesar's triumph. Let him take
And hoist thee up to the shouting plebeians:
Follow his chariot, like the greatest spot
Of all thy sex; most monster-like, be shown
For poor'st diminutives, to dolts;^{††} and let
Patient Octavia plough thy visage up
With her prepared nails. [*Exit* CLEO.] 'Tis
well thou'rt gone,

If it be well to live: But better 'twere
Thou fell'st into my fury, for one death
Might have prevented many.—Eros, ho!^{‡‡}
The shirt of Nessus is upon me: Teach me,
Alcides,^{**} thou mine ancester, thy rage:
Let me lodge Lichas^{†††} on the horns o' the moon;
And with those hands, that grasp'd the heaviest
club,

Subdue my worthiest self. The witch shall die;
To the Roman boy she hath sold me, and I fall
Under this plot: she dies for't.—Eros, ho!
[*Exit.*]

*Scene XI.—Alexandria.—A Room in the
Palace.*

*Enter CLEOPATRA, CHARMIAN, IRAS, and
MARDIAN.*

Cleo. Help me, my women! O, he is more
mad

'Than Telamon* for his shield; the boar of
Was never so emboss'd,[†] [Thessaly

Char. To the monument;

There lock yourself, and send him word you
are dead.

The soul and body rive; not more in parting,
Than greatness going off.

Cleo. To the monument:—

Mardian, go tell him I have slain myself;
Say, that the last I spoke was, Antony,
And word it, pry'thee, piteously: Hence,
Mareian; and bring me how he takes my
death.—

To the monument.

[*Exeunt.*]

Scene XII.—The same.—Another Room.

Enter ANTONY and EROS.

Ant. Eros, thou yet behold'st me?

Eros. Ay, noble lord.

Ant. Sometime, we see a cloud that's dra-
gonish;

A vapour, sometime, like a bear, or lion,
A tower'd citadel, a pendant rock,
A forked mountain, or blue promontory
With trees upon't, that nod unto the world,
And mock our eyes with air: Thou hast seen
these signs;

They are black vespers' pageants.

Eros. Ay, my lord.

Ant. That, which is now a horse, even
with'a thought,
The rack[§] dislimns; and makes it indistinct,
As water is in water.

Eros. It does, my lord.

Ant. My good knave,^{||} Eros, now thy captain
Even such a body: here I am Antony;
Yet cannot hold this visible shape, my knave.
I made these wars for Egypt; and the queen,—
Whose heart, I thought, I had, for she had
mine;

Which, whilst it was mine, had annex'd unto't
A million more, now lost,—she, Eros, has
Pack'd cards with Cesar, and false play'd my
Unto an enemy's triumph.— [glory
Nay, weep not, gentle Eros: there is left us
Ourselves to end ourselves.—O, thy vile lady!

Enter MARDIAN

She has robb'd me of my sword.

Mar. No, Antony;

My mistress lov'd thee, and her fortunes
With thine entirely. [mingled

Ant. Hence, saucy eunuch; peace;
She hath betray'd me, and shall die the death.

Mar. Death of one person can be paid but
once;

And that she has discharg'd: What thou
would'st do,

Is done unto thy hand; the last she spake
Was, Antony! most noble Antony!
Then in the midst a tearing groan did break
The name of Antony; it was divided
Between her heart and lips: she render'd life,
Thy name so buried in her.

Ant. Dead then?

Mar. Dead.

Ant. Eros, unarm; the long day's task is
done,
And we must sleep:—That thou depart'st
hence safe,

Does pay thy labour richly; Go.—Off, pluck
off;— [Exit MARDIAN.]

The seven-fold shield of Ajax cannot keep

* Cleopatra, first belonged to Julius Cesar, then to An-
tony, and now, as Antony supposes, to Augustus.

† Deadly-piece of witchcraft.

‡ Was the motion for. § Finish.

|| A cheating game, at present named pricking at the

¶ For the smallest piece of money to clowns. (best.

** Hercules.

†† The boy that brought the poisoned shirt to Hercules.

* Ajax Telamon for the shield of Achilles

† Foaming at the mouth.

§ The flecting clouds.

|| Split

¶ Servant.

The battery from my heart. O, cleave, my sides!

Heart, once be stronger than thy continent,* Crack thy frail case!—Apace, Eros, apace.—No more a soldier:—Bruised pieces, go; You have been nobly borne.—From me a while.— [Exit EROS.]

I will o'ertake thee, Cleopatra, and Weep for my pardon. So it must be, for now All length is torture:—Since the torch is out, Lie down, and stray no further: Now all labour Mars what it does; yea, very force entangles I myself with strength: Seal then,† and all is done.— [me:]

Eros!—I come, my queen:—Eros!—Stay for Where souls do couch on flowers, we'll hand in hand, [gaze:]

And with our sprightly port make the ghosts Dido and her Æneas shall want troops, And all the haunt be ours.—Come, Eros, Eros!

Re-enter EROS.

Eros. What would my lord?

Ant. Since Cleopatra died.

I have liv'd in such dishonour, that the gods Detest my baseness. I, that with my sword Quarter'd the world, and o'er green Neptune's back [back]

With ships made cities, condemn myself, to The courage of a woman; less noble mind Than she, which, by her death, our Cesar tells, I am conqueror of myself. Thou art sworn, Eros, [now]

That, when the exigent should come, (which is come, indeed,) when I should see behind The inevitable prosecution of [me] Disgrace and horror, that, on my command, Thou then would'st kill me: do't; the time is come:

Thou strik'st not me, 'tis Cesar thou defeat'st. Put colour in thy cheek.

Eros. The gods withhold me!

Shall I do that, which all the Parthian darts, Though enemy, lost aim, and could not?

Ant. Eros, [see]

Would'st thou be window'd in great Rome, and Thy master thus with pleach'd‡ arms, bending down

His corrigible neck, his face subdued To penetrative§ shame; whilst the wheel'd seat Of fortunate Cesar, drawn before him, branded His baseness that ensued?¶

Eros. I would not see't.

Ant. Come then; for with a wound I must be cur'd. [worn]

Draw that thy honest sword, which thou hast Most useful for thy country.

Eros. O, Sir, pardon me.

Ant. When I did make thee free, swor'st thou not then

To do this when I bade thee? Do it at once; Or thy precedent services are all

But accidents un purpos'd. Draw, and come.

Eros. Turn from me then that noble countenance,

Wherein the worship** of the whole world lies.

Ant. Lo thee. [Turning from him.]

Eros. My sword is drawn.

Ant. Then let it do at once

The thing why thou hast drawn it.

Eros. My dear master,

My captain, and my emperor! let me say, Before I strike this bloody stroke, farewell.

Ant. 'Tis said, man;—and farewell.

Eros. Farewell, great chief. Shall I strike now?

Ant. Now, Eros.

Eros. Why, there then:—[Falls on his sword.]

Thus do I escape the sorrow

Of Antony's death. [Dies.]

Ant. Thrice nobler than myself!

Thou teachest me, O valiant Eros, what I should, and thou could'st not. My queen and Eros

Have, by their brave instruction, got upon me A nobleness in record: but I will be A bridegroom in my death, and run into't

As to a lover's bed. Come then; and, Eros, Thy master dies thy scholar; to do thus

[Falling on his sword.]

I learn'd of thee. How! not yet dead? not dead?—

The guard!—ho!—O, despatch me.

Enter DECRETAS and GUARD.

1 Guard. What's the noise?

Ant. I have done my work ill, friends; O, make an end

Of what I have begun.

2 Guard. The star is fallen.

1 Guard. And time is at his period.

All. Alas, and woe!

Ant. Let him that loves me, strikes me.

1 Guard. Not I.

2 Guard. Not I.

3 Guard. Nor any one. [Exit GUARD.]

Der. Thy death and fortunes bid thy followers fly. [ings,]

This sword but shown to Cesar, with this tid- Shall enter me with him.

Enter DIOMEDES.

Dio. Where's Antony?

Der. There, Diomed, there.

Dio. Lives he?

Wilt thou not answer, man? [Exit DECRETAS.]

Ant. Art thou there, Diomed? Draw thy sword, and give me

Sufficing strokes for death.

Dio. Most absolute lord,

My mistress Cleopatra sent me to thee?

Ant. When did she send thee?

Dio. Now, my lord.

Ant. Where is she?

Dio. Lock'd in her monument. She had a prophesying fear

Of what hath come pass: for when she saw (Which never shall be found,) you did suspect She had dispos'd* with Cesar, and that your rage

Would not be purg'd, she sent you word she was dead; [sent]

But, fearing since how it might work, hath Me to proclaim the truth; and I am come, I dread, too late.

Ant. Too late, good Diomed:—Call my guard, I pry'thee.

Dio. What ho! the emperor's guard! The guard, what, ho!

Come, your lord calls.

Enter some of the GUARD.

Ant. Bear me, good friends, where Cleopatra bides;

'Tis the last service that I shall command you.

1 Guard. Woe are we, Sir, you may not live to wear

All your true followers out.

* i. e. The thing that contains thee.

† Sealing completes a contract.

‡ Penetrating.

§ Followed.

¶ Corrected.

** Dignity.

* Settled.

All. Most heavy day!

Ant. Nay, good my fellows, do not please sharp fate [come]

To grace it with your sorrows: bid that well-Which comes to punish us, and we punish it Seeming to hear it lightly. Take me up: I have led you off; carry me now, good friends, And have my thanks for all.

[*Exeunt bearing ANTONY.*]

SCENE XIII.—*The same.*—*A Monument.*

Enter above, CLEOPATRA, CHARMIAN, and IRAS.

Cleo. O Charmian, I will never go from hence.

Char. Be comforted, dear madam.

Cleo. No, I will not:

All strange and terrible events are welcome, But comforts we despise; our size of sorrow, Proportion'd to our cause, must be as great

Enter DIOMEDES.

As that which makes it.—How now? is he dead?

Dio. His death's upon him, but not dead. Look out o'the other side your monument, His guard hath brought him thither.

Enter ANTONY, borne by the GUARD.

Cleo. O thou sun, Burn the great sphere thou mov'st in!—dark-ling* stand

The varying shore o'the world!—O Antony! Antony, Antony!—Charmian, help; help, Iras; Help, friends below; let's draw him hither.

Ant. Peace:

Not Cesar's valour hath o'erthrown Antony, But Antony's hath triumphed on itself.

Cleo. So it should be, that none but Antony Should conquer Antony; but woe 'tis so!

Ant. I am dying, Egypt, dying; only I here imp'rtune death a while, until I lay upon thy lips.—

Cleo. I dare not, dear (Dear my lord, pardon,) I dare not, lest I be taken: not the imperious show of the full-fortun'd Cesar ever shall Be brooch'd† with me; if knife, drugs, ser- pents, have

Edge, sting, or operation, I am safe: Your wife Octavia, with her modest eyes, And still conclusion,‡ shall acquire no honour Demuring upon me.—But come, come, An- tony,— up;— Help me, my women,—we must draw thee Assist, good friends.

Ant. O, quick, or I am gone.

Cleo. Here's sport, indeed!—How heavy weighs my lord!

Our strength is all gone into heaviness, That makes the weight: Had I great Juno's power, [up]

The strong-wing'd Mercury should fetch thee And set thee by Jove's side. Yet come a little,—Wishers were ever fools;—O, come, come, come; [They draw ANTONY up.]

And welcome, welcome! die where thou hast liv'd:

Quicken§ with kissing; had my lips that power, Thus would I wear them out.

All. A heavy sight!

Ant. I am dying, Egypt, dying:

Give me some wine, and let me speak a little.

Cleo. No, let me speak; and let me rail so high,

That the false housewife Fortune break her Provok'd by my offence. [wheel,

Ant. One word, sweet queen: [O!

Of Cesar seek your honour, with your safety.— Cleo. They do not go together.

Ant. Gentle, hear me:

None about Cesar trust, but Proculeius.

Cleo. My resolution, and my hands, I'll trust; None about Cesar.

Ant. The miserable change now at my end, Lament nor sorrow at: but please your thoughts,

In feeding them with those my former fortunes Wherein I liv'd the greatest prince o'the world, The noblest: and do now not basely die, Nor cowardly; put off my helmet to My countryman, a Roman, by a Roman Valiantly vanquish'd. Now, my spirit is going; I can no more. [Dies.]

Cleo. Noblest of men, woo't die?

Hast thou no care of men? shall I abide In this dull world, which in thy absence is No better than a sty?—O, see, my women, The crown o'the earth doth melt:—My lord!—O, wither'd is the garland of the war, The soldier's pole is fallen; young boys, and girls,

Are level now with men: the odds is gone, And there is nothing left remarkable Beneath the visiting moon. [She faints.]

Char. O, quietness, lady!

Iras. She is dead too, our sovereign.

Char. Lady,—

Iras. Madam,—

Char. O madam, madam, madam!

Iras. Royal Egypt!

Empress!

Char. Peace, peace, Iras.

Cleo. No more, but e'er a woman: and com- manded

By such poor passion as the maid that milks, And does the meanest chares.*—It were for me To throw my sceptre at the injurious gods: To tell them, that this world did equal theirs, Till they had stolen our jewel. All's but naught;

Patience is sottish; and impatience does Become a dog that's mad: Then is it sin, To rush into the secret house of death, Ere death dare come to us?—How do you women?

What, what? good cheer! Why, how now Charmian?

My noble girls!—Ah, women, women! look, Our lamp is spent, it's out:—Good Sirs, take heart:— [To the GUARD below.]

We'll bury him: and then, what's brave, what's noble,

Let's do it after the high Roman fashion, And make death proud to take us. Come, away:

This case of that huge spirit now is cold. Ah, women, women! come: we have no friend But resolution, and the briefest end.

[*Exeunt: those above bearing off ANTONY'S Body.*]

ACT V.

SCENE I.—*CESAR'S Camp before Alexandria.*

Enter CESAR, AGRIPPA, DOLABELLA, MENE- NAS, GALLUS, PROCULEIUS, and others.

Ces. Go to him, Dolabella, bid him yield;

* Without light.

‡ Sedate determination.

† Ornamented.

§ Revive.

* Task-work.

Being so frustrate,* tell him, he mocks us by
The pauses that he makes.†

Dol. Cesar, I shall. [Exit *DOLABELLA*.]

Enter *DERCETAS*, with the Sword of *ANTONY*.

Ces. Wherefore is that? and what art thou,
that dar'st

Appear thus to us?

Der. I am call'd *Dercetas*;

Mark *Antony* I serv'd, who best was worthy
Best to be serv'd: whilst he stood up and spoke,
He was my master; and I wore my life,
'To spend upon his haters: If thou please
To take me to thee, as I was him
I'll be to Cesar; if thou pleasest not,
I yield thee up my life.

Ces. What is't thou say'st?

Der. I say, O Cesar, *Antony* is dead.

Ces. The breaking of so great a think should
make

A greater crack: The round world should
have shook

Lions into civil streets, [Tony
And citizens to their dens:—The death of *An-*
Is not a single doom; in the name lay
A moiety of the world.

Der. He is dead, Cesar;

Not by a public minister of justice,
Nor by a hired knife; but that self hand,
Which writ his honour in the acts it did,
Hath, with the courage which the heart did
lend it,

Split the heart.—This is his sword,
I robb'd his wound of it; behold it stain'd
With his most noble blood.

Ces. Look you, sad friends?

The gods rebuke me, but it is a tidings
To wash the eyes of kings.

Agr. And strange it is,

That nature must compel us to lament
Our most persisted deeds.

Mec. His taints and honours

Waged equal with him.

Agr. A rarer spirit never

Did steer humanity: but you, gods, will give
Some faults to make us men. Cesar is touch'd.

Mec. When such a spacious mirror's set be-
fore him,

He needs must see himself.

Ces. O *Antony*!

I have follow'd thee to this;—But we do lance
Diseases in our bodies: I must perforce
Have shown to thee such a declining day,
Or look on thine; we could not stall together
In the whole world: But yet let me lament,
With tears as sovereign as the blood of hearts,
That thou, my brother, my competitor
In top of all design, my mate in empire,
Friend and companion in the front of war,
The arm of mine own body, and the heart
Where mine his thoughts did kindle,—that
our stars,

Unreconcilable, should divide [friends,—
Our equalness to this.—Hear me, good
But I will tell you at some meeter season;

Enter a *MESSENGER*.

The business of this man looks out of him,
We'll hear him what he says.—Whence are
you?

Mess. A poor Egyptian yet. The queen my
mistress,

Confin'd in all she has, her monument,
Of thy intents desires instruction;

That she preparedly may frame herself
To the way she's forced to.

Ces. Bid her have good heart;
She soon shall know of us, by some of ours,
How honourable and how kindly we
Determine for her: for Cesar cannot live
To be ungentle.

Mess. So the gods preserve thee! [Exit.

Ces. Come hither, *Proculeius*; Go, and say.
We purpose her no shame: give her what com-
forts

The quality of her passion shall require;
Lest, in her greatness, by some mortal stroke
She do defeat us: for her life in Rome
Would be eternal in our triumph: Go,
And, with your speediest, bring us what she
And how you find of her. [says,

Pro. Cesar, I shall. [Exit *PROCULEIUS*.

Ces. Gallus, go you along.—Where's *Dola-*
bella,

To second *Proculeius*? [Exit *GALLUS*.

Agr. Mec. *Dolabella*!

Ces. Let him alone, for I remember now
How he's employed; he shall in time be ready.
Go with me to my tent; where you shall see
How hardly I was drawn into this war;
How calm and gentle I proceeded still
In all my writings: Go with me, and see
What I can show in this. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—*Alexandria*.—A Room in the
Monument.

Enter *CLEOPATRA*, *CHARMIAN*, and *IRAS*.

Cleo. My desolation does begin to make
A better life: 'Tis paltry to be Cesar:
Not being fortunate, he's but fortune's knave,†
A minister of her will; And it is great
To do that thing that ends all other deeds;
Which shackles accidents, and bolts up change;
Which sleeps, and never palates more the
The beggar's nurse and Cesar's. [dung,

Enter, to the Gates of the Monument, *PROCU-*
LEIUS, *GALLUS*, and *Soldiers*.

Pro. Cesar sends greeting to the queen of
Egypt;

And bids thee study on what fair demands
Thou mean'st to have him grant thee.

Cleo. [Within.] What's thy name?

Pro. My name is *Proculeius*.

Cleo. [Within.] *Antony*
Did tell me of you, bade me trust you; but
I do not greatly care to be deceiv'd,
That have no use for trusting. If your master
Would have a queen his beggar, you must tell
That majesty, to keep decorum, must [him,
No less beg than a kingdom: if he please
To give me conquer'd Egypt for my son,
He gives me so much of mine own, as I
Will kneel to him with thanks.

Pro. Be of good cheer; [thing:

You are fallen into a princely hand, fear no
Make your full reference freely to my lord,
Who is so full of grace, that it flows over
On all that need: Let me report to him
Your sweet dependancy; and you shall find
A conqueror, that will pray in aid for kind-
Where he for grace is kneel'd to. [ness,

Cleo. [Within.] Pray you, tell him
I am his fortune's vassal, and I send him
The greatness he has got. I hourly learn
A doctrine of obedience; and would gladly
Look him i'th' face.

Pro. This I'll report, dear lady.

* Frustrated.

† He trifles with us.

‡ It.

* Servant.

Have comfort; for, I know, your plight is piti-
Of him that caus'd it. [ed

Gal. You see how easily she may be sar-
priz'd;

[*Here PROCULEIUS, and two of the Guard,
ascend the Monument by a ladder placed
against a window, and having descended,
come behind CLEOPATRA. Some of the
Guard unbar and open the gates.*

Guard her till Cesar come.

[*To PROCULEIUS and the Guard. Exit
GALLUS.*

Iras. Royal Queen!

Char. O Cleopatra! thou art taken, queen!—

Cleo. Quick, quick, good hands.

[*Drawing a Dagger.*

Pro. Hold, worthy, lady, hold:

[*Seizes and disarms her.*

Do not yourself such wrong, who are in this
Reliev'd, but not betray'd.

Cleo. What, of death too

That rides our dogs of languish?

Pro. Cleopatra,

Do not abuse my master's bounty, by
The undoing of yourself: let the world see
His nobleness well acted, which your death
Will never let come forth.

Cleo. Where art thou, death? [queen
Come hither, come! come, come, and take a
Worth many babes and beggars!

Pro. O, temperance, lady!

Cleo. Sir, I will eat no meat, I'll not drink,
If idle talk will once be necessary, [Sir;
I'll not sleep neither: This mortal house I'll
ruin,

Do Cesar what he can. Know, Sir, that I
Will not wait pinion'd* at your master's
court;

Nor once be chastis'd with the sober eye
Of dull Octavia. Shall they hoist me up,
And show me to the shouting varlety†
Of censuring Rome? Rather a ditch in Egypt
Be gentle grave to me! rather on Nilus's mud
Lay me stark naked, and let the water-flies
Blow me into abhorring! rather make
My country's high pyramids my gibbet,
And hang me up in chains!

Pro. You do extend

These thoughts of horror further than you shall
Find cause in Cesar.

Enter DOLABELLA.

Dol. Proculeius,

What thou has done thy master Cesar knows,
And he hath sent for thee: as for the queen,
I'll take her to my guard.

Pro. So, Dolabella,

It shall content me best: be gentle to her.—
To Cesar I will speak what you shall please.
[*To CLEOPATRA.*

If you'll employ me to him.

Cleo. Say, I would die.

[*Exit PROCULEIUS, and soldiers.*

Dol. Most noble empress, you have heard of
me?

Cleo. I cannot tell.

Dol. Assuredly, you know me.

Cleo. No matter, Sir, what I have heard, or
known. [dreams]

You laugh, when boys, or women, tell their
Is't not your trick?

Dol. I understand not, madam.

Cleo. I dream'd, there was an emperor An-
tony;—

O, such another sleep, that I might see

But such another man!

Dol. If it might please you,—

Cleo. His face was as the heavens; and
therein stuck

A sun and moon; which kept their course,
and lighted

The little O, the earth.

Dol. Most sovereign creature,—

Cleo. His legs bestrid the ocean: his rear'd
arm

Crested the world: his voice was property'd
As all the tuned spheres, and that to friends;
But when he meant to quail* and shake the
orb,

He was as rattling thunder. For his bounty,
There was no winter in't; an autumn 'twas,
That grew the more by reaping: His delights
Were dolphin-like; they show'd his back
above

The element they liv'd in: In his livery
Walk'd crowns, and crownets; realms and
islands were

As plates† dropp'd from his pocket.

Dol. Cleopatra,—

Cleo. Think you, there was, or might be,
such a man

As this I dream'd of?

Dol. Gentle madam, no.

Cleo. You lie, up to the hearing of the gods.
But, if there be, or ever were one such,
It's past the size of dreaming: Nature wants
stuff [gine

To vie strange forms with fancy; yet, to ina-
An Antony, were nature's piece'gainst fancy,
Condemning shadows quite.

Dol. Hear me, good madam: [it

Your loss is as yourself, great: and you bear
As answering to the weight: 'Would I might
never

O'ertake pursu'd success, but I do feel,
By the rebound of yours, a grief that shoots
My very heart at root.

Cleo. I thank you, Sir.

Know you what Cesar means to do with me?
Dol. I am loath to tell you what I would
you knew.

Cleo. Nay, pray you, Sir,—

Dol. Though he be honourable,—

Cleo. He'll lead me then in triumph?

Dol. Madam, he will;

I know it.

Within. Make way there,—Cesar.

*Enter CESAR, GALLUS, PROCULEIUS, MENEAS,
SELEUCUS, and Attendants.*

Ces. Which is the queen
Of Egypt?

Dol. 'Tis the emperor, madam.

[*CLEOPATRA kneels.*

Ces. Arise,

You shall not kneel:—

I pray you, rise; rise, Egypt.

Cleo. Sir, the gods

Will have it thus; my master and my lord
I must obey.

Ces. Take to you no hard thoughts:
The record of what injuries you did us,
Though written in our flesh, we shall remem-
As things but done by chance. [ber

Cleo. Sole Sir o'the world,
I cannot project mine own cause so well
To make it clear; but do confess, I have
Been laden with like frailties, which before
Have often sham'd our sex.

* Bound, confined.

† Rabble.

* Crush.

† Silver money.

‡ Shape or form.

Ces. Cleopatra, know,
We will extenuate rather than enforce :
If you apply yourself to our intents,
(Which towards you are most gentle,) you
shall find

A benefit in this change ; but if you seek
To lay on me a cruelty, by taking
Antony's course, you shall bereave yourself
Of my good purposes, and put your children
To that destruction which I'll guard them
from,

If thereon you rely. I'll take my leave.

Cleo. And may, through all the world : 'tis
yours : and we

Your 'scutcheons, and your signs of conquest,
shall [lord,

Hang in what place you please. Here, my good
Ces. You shall advise me in all for Cleopatra.

Cleo. This is the brief of money, plate,
and jewels,
I am possess'd of : 'tis exactly valued ;
Not petty things admitted.--Where's Seleucus?

Sel. Here, madam.

Cleo. This is my treasurer ; let him speak,
my lord,

Upon his peril, that I have reserv'd
To myself nothing. Speak the truth, Seleucus.

Sel. Madam,
I had rather seel* my lips, than, to my peril,
Speak that which is not.

Cleo. What have I kept back ?
Sel. Enough to purchase what you have
made known.

Ces. Nay, blush not, Cleopatra ; I approve
Your wisdom in the deed.

Cleo. See, Cesar ! O, behold,
How pomp is follow'd ! mine will now be
yours ; [mine.

And, should we shift estates, yours would be
The ingratitude of this Seleucus does [trust
Even make me wild :—O slave, of no more
Than love that's hir'd !—What, goest thou
back ? thou shalt [eyes,

Go back, I warrant thee ; but I'll catch thine
Though they had wings : Slave, soulless vil-
lian, dog !

O rarely † base !

Ces. Good queen, let us entreat you.

Cleo. O Cesar, what a wounding shame is
this ;

That thou, vouchsafing here to visit me,
Doing the honour of thy lordliness
To one so meek, that mine own servant should
Parcel‡ the sum of my disgrace by]

Addition of his envy ! Say, good Cesar,
That I some lady trifles have reserv'd,
Immoment toys, things of such dignity

As we greet modern§ friends withal ; and say,
Some nobler token I have kept apart
For Livia|| and Octavia,¶ to induce

Their mediation ; must I be infolded
With one that I have bred ? The gods ! It
smites me

Beneath the fall I have. Pr'ythee, go hence ;
[To SELEUCUS.

Or I shall show the cinders** of my spirits
Through the ashes of my chance :—Wert thou
a man,

Thou would'st have mercy on me.

Ces. Forbear, Seleucus. [Exit SELEUCUS.

Cleo. Be it known, that we, the greatest, are
mishought

For things that others do ; and, when we fall,

We answer others' merits* in our name,
Are therefore to be pitied.

Ces. Cleopatra, [ledg'd,
Not what you have reserv'd, nor what acknow-
Put we i' the roll of conquest : still be it yours,
Bestow it at your pleasure ; and believe,
Cesar's no merchant, to make prize with you
Of things that merchants sold. Therefore be
cheer'd ;

Make not your thoughts your prisons : no,
dear queen ;

For we intend so to dispose you, as [sleep :
Yourself shall give us counsel. Feed, and
Our care and pity is so much upon you,
That we remain your friend ; And so adieu.

Cleo. My master, and my lord !

Ces. Not so : Adieu.

[Exeunt CESAR, and his Train.
Cleo. He words me, girls, he words me, that
I should not

Be noble to myself : but hark thee, Charmian,
[Whispers CHARMIAN.

Iras. Finish, good lady ; the bright day is
And we are for the dark. [done,

Cleo. Hie thee again :
I have spoke already, and it is provided ;
Go, put it to the haste.

Char. Madam, I will.

Re-enter DOLABELLA.

Dol. Where is the queen ?

Char. Behold, Sir. [Exit CHARMIAN,

Cleo. Dolabella ?

Dol. Madam, as thereto sworn by your
command,

Which my love makes religion to obey,
I tell you this : Cesar through Syria
Intends his journey ; and, within three days,
You with your children will be sent before :
Make your best use of this : I have perform'd
Your pleasure, and my promise.

Cleo. Dolabella,
I shall remain your debtor.

Dol. I your servant.

Adieu, good queen ; I must attend on Cesar.

Cleo. Farewell, and thanks. [Exit DOL.

Now, Iras, what think'st thou ?
Thou, an Egyptian puppet, shall be shown
In Rome, as well as I : mechanic slaves,
With greasy aprons, rules, and hammers, shall
Uplift us up to the view ; in their thick breaths,
Rank of gross diet, shall we be enclouded,
And forc'd to drink their vapour.

Iras. The gods forbid !

Cleo. Nay, 'tis most certain, Iras : Saucy
lictors† [rhymers

Will catch at us, like strumpets ; and scald
Ballad us out o'tune : the quick‡ comedians
Extemporally will stage us, and present,
Our Alexandrian revels ; Antony
Shall be brought drunken forth, and I shall see
Some squeaking Cleopatra boy§ my greatness
I' the posture of a whore.

Iras. O the good gods !

Cleo. Nay, that is certain.

Iras, I'll never see it ; for, I am sure, my nails
Are stronger than mine eyes.

Cleo. Why that's the way
To fool their preparation, and to conquer
Their most absurd intents.--Now, Charmian?--

Enter CHARMIAN.

Show me, my women, like a queen ;—Go fetch

* Sew up Uncommonly. † Add to. § Common.
|| Cesar's wife and ¶ Sister. ** Fire.

* Merits or demerits. † Beadles.
‡ Lively. § Female characters were played by boys.

My best attires;—I am again for Cydnus,
To meet Mark Antony:—Sirrah, Iras, go.—
Now, noble Charmian, we'll despatch indeed:
And, when thou hast done this chare,* I'll
give thee leave

To play till doomsday.—Bring our crown and
Wherefore's this noise? [all.]

[Exit IRAS. A Noise within.]

Enter one of the GUARD.

Guard. Here is a rural fellow,
That will not be denied your highness' presence;
He brings you figs.

Cleo. Let him come in. How poor an instrument
[Exit GUARD.]

May do a noble deed! he brings me liberty.
My resolution's plac'd, and I have nothing
Of woman in me: Now from head to foot
I am marble-constant: now the fleeting moon
No planet is of mine.

Re-enter GUARD, with a CLOWN bringing a
Basket.

Guard. This is the man.

Cleo. Avoid, and leave him. [Exit GUARD.]
Hast thou the pretty worm? of Nilus there,
That kills and pains not?

Crown. Truly I have him: but I would not
be the party that should desire you to touch
him, for his biting is immortal; those, that do
die of it, do seldom or never recover.

Cleo. Remembers't thou any that have died
on't?

Crown. Very many, men and women too. I
heard of one of them no longer than yesterday:
a very honest woman, but something given to
lie; as a woman should not do, but in the way
of honesty: how she died of the biting of it,
what pain she felt,—Truly, she makes a very
good report o' the worm: But he that will be-
lieve all that they say, shall never be saved by
half that they do: But this is most fallible, the
worm's an odd worm.

Cleo. Get thee hence; farewell.

Crown. I wish you all joy of the worm.

Cleo. Farewell, [Crown sets down the Basket.]

Crown. You must think this, look you, that
the worm will do his kind. §

Cleo. Ay, ay; farewell.

Crown. Look you, the worm is not to be
trusted, but in the keeping of wise people; for,
indeed, there is no goodness in the worm.

Cleo. Take thou no care; it shall be heeded.

Crown. Very good: give it nothing, I pray
you, for it is not worth the feeding.

Cleo. Will it eat me?

Crown. You must not think I am so simple,
but I know the devil himself will not eat a
woman: I know that a woman is a dish for the
gods, if the devil dress her not. But, truly,
these same whorson? devils do the gods great
harm in their women; for in every ten that they
make, the devils mar five.

Cleo. Well, get thee gone; farewell.

Crown. Yes, forsooth; I wish you joy of the
worm. [Exit.]

Re-enter IRAS, with a Robe, Crown, &c.

Cleo. Give me my robe, put on my crown; I
have

Immortal longings in me; Now no more
The juice of Egypt's grape shall moist this
lip:— [hear]

Yare, yare, || good Iras; quick.—Methinks, I
Antony call; I see him rouse himself

To praise my noble act; I hear him mock
The luck of Cesar, which the gods give men
To excuse their after wrath: Husband, I come:
Now to that name my courage prove my title!
I am fire, and air; my other elements
I give to baser life—So,—have you done?
Come then, and take the last warmth of my
lips. [well.]

Farewell, kind Charmian;—Iras, long fare-
[Kisses them. IRAS fall and dies.]

Have I the asp in my lips? Dost fall?
If thou and nature can so gently part,
The stroke of death is as a lover's pinch,
Which hurts, and is desir'd. Dost thou lie still?
If thus thou vanishest, thou tell'st the world
It is not worth leave-taking.

Char. Dissolve, thick cloud, and rain; that I
may say

The gods themselves do weep!

Cleo. This proves me base:

If she first meet the curled Antony,
He'll make demand of her; and spend that kiss,
Which is my heaven to have. Come, mortal
wretch,

[To the Asp, which she applies to her Breast.]
With thy sharp teeth this knot intricate
Of life at once untie: poor venomous fool,
Be angry, and despatch. O, could'st thou
speak!

That I might hear thee call great Cesar, ass
Unpolitic!*

Char. O eastern star!

Cleo. Peace, peace!

Dost thou not see my baby at my breast,
That sucks the nurse asleep?

Char. O, break! O, break!

Cleo. As sweet as balm, as soft as air, as
gentle,—

O Antony!—Nay, I will take thee too:—

[Applying another Asp to her Arm.]
What should I stay—

[Falls on a Bed, and dies.]

Char. In this wild world?—So, fare thee
well.—

Now boast thee, death! in thy possession lies
A lass unparallel'd.—Downy windows, close;
And golden Phæbus never behold
Of eyes again so royal! Your crown's awry;
I'll mend it, and then play:

Enter the GUARD, rushing in.

1 Guard. Where is the queen?

Char. Speak softly, wake her not.

1 Guard. Cesar hath sent—

Char. Too slow a messenger.

[Applies the Asp.]

O, come; 'apace, despatch: I partly feel thee.
1 Guard. Approach, ho! All's not well: Ce-
sar's beguil'd.

2 Guard. There's Dolabella sent from Ce-
sar;—call him.

1 Guard. What work is here?—Charmian,
is this well done?

Char. It is well done, and fitting for a prin-
Descended of so many royal kings. [cess
Ah, soldier! [Dies.]

Enter DOLABELLA.

Dol. How goes it here?

2 Guard. All dead.

Dol. Cesar, thy thoughts

Touch their effects in this: Thyself art coming
To see perform'd the dreaded act, which thou
So sought'st to hinder.

Within. A way there, way for Cesar!

* Job of work.

† Inconstant.

‡ Serpent.

§ Act according to his nature.

|| Make haste.

* Unpolitic, to leave me to myself.

Enter CESAR, and Attendants.

Dol. O, Sir, you are too sure an augurer ;
That you did fear, is done.

Ces. Bravest at the last :
She levell'd at our purposes, and, being royal,
Took her own way.—The manner of their
I do not see them bleed. [deaths ?

Dol. Who was last with them ?

I Guard. A simple countryman, that brought
her figs ;
This was his basket.

Ces. Poison'd them.

I Guard. O Cesas, [spake :
This Charmian lived but now ; she stood, and
I found her trimming up the diadem
On her dead mistress ; tremblingly she stood,
And on the sudden dropp'd.

Ces. O noble weakness !—
If they had swallow'd poison, 'twould appear
By external swelling : but she looks like sleep,
As she would catch another Antony,
In her strong toil of grace.*

* Graceful appearance.

Dol. Here, on her breast,
There is a vent of blood, and something blown :
The like is on her arm.

I Guard. This is an aspic's trail : and these
fig-leaves
Haveslime upon them, such as the aspic leaves
Upon the caves of Nile.

Ces. Most probable,
That so she died ; for her physician tells me,
She had pursu'd conclusions* infinite
Of easy ways to die.—Take up her bed ;
And bear her women from the monument :—
She shall be buried by her Antony :
No grave upon the earth shall clipt in it
A pair so famous. High events as these
Strike those that make them : and their story is
No less in pity, than his glory, which
Brought them to be lamented. Our army
shall,
In solemn show, attend the funeral ;
And them to Rome.—Come, Dolabella, see
High order in this great solemnity. [Exeunt.

* Tried experiments.

† Entobæ.

TIMON OF ATHENS.



PERSONS REPRESENTED

TIMON, a noble Athenian.		TWO SERVANTS of VARRO, and the SERVANT of ISIDORE; two of Timon's Creditors.
LUCIUS,	} Lords, and flatterers of Timon.	CUPID, and MASKERS.
LUCULLUS,		Three STRANGERS.
SENPRONIUS,		POET, PAINTER, JEWELLER, and MERCHANT,
VENTIDIUS, one of Timon's false Friends.		AN OLD ATHENIAN.
APEMANTUS, a churlish Philosopher.		A PAGE.
ALCIBIADES, an Athenian General.		A FOOL.
FLAVIUS, Steward to Timon.		
FLAMINIUS,	} Timon's Servants.	
LUCILIUS,		
SERVILIUS,		
CAPHIS,	} Servants to Timon's Creditors.	PHRYNIA,
PHILOTUS,		TIMANDRA,
TITUS,		
LUCIUS,		
HORTENSIVS,		
		Other LORDS, Senators, Officers, Soldiers, Thieves, and Attendants.
		SCENE, Athens; and the Woods adjoining.



ACT I.

SCENE I.—Athens.—A Hall in TIMON'S House.

Enter POET, PAINTER, JEWELLER, MERCHANT, and others, at several Doors.

Poet. Good day, Sir.

Pain. I am glad you are well.

Poet. I have not seen you long; How goes the world?

Pain. It wears, Sir, as it grows.

Poet. Ay, that's well known:

But what particular rarity? what strange, Which manifold record not matches? See, Magic of bounty! all these spirits thy power Hath conjur'd to attend. I know the merchant.

Pain. I know them both; t'other's a jeweller.

Mer. O, 'tis a worthy lord!

Jew. Nay, that's most fix'd.

Mer. A most incomparable man; breath'd,* as it were,

To an untirable and continuat' goodness: He passes.†

Jew. I have a jewel here.

Mer. O, pray, let's see't: For the lord Timon, Sir?

Jew. If he will touch the estimate: But, for that—

Poet. When we for recompense have prais'd the vile

It stains the glory in that happy verse Which aptly sings the good.

Mer. 'Tis a good form.

[Looking at the Jewel.

Jew. And rich: here is a water, look you.

Pain. You are rapt, Sir, in some work, some dedication

To the great lord.

Poet. A thing slipp'd idly from me.

Our poesy is as a gum, which oozes [flint From whence 'tis nourished: The fire i'the Shows not, till it be struck; our gentle flame Provokes itself, and like the current, flies Each bound it chafes. What have you there?

Pain. A picture, Sir.—And when comes your book forth?

Poet. Upon the heels of my presentment,* Let's see your piece. [Sir

Pain. 'Tis a good piece.

Poet. So 'tis: this comes off well and excellent.

Pain. Indifferent.

Poet. Admirable: How this grace [er Speaks his ownstanding! what a mental pow- This eye shoots forth! how big imagination Moves in this lip! to the dumbness of the ges- One might interpret. [ture

Pain. It is a pretty mocking of the life. Here is a touch; Is't good?

Poet. I'll say of it,

It tutors nature: artificial strife† Lives in these touches, livelier than life.

Enter certain SENATORS, and pass over.

Pain. How this lord's follow'd!

Poet. The senators of Athens:—Happy

Pain. Look more! [men!

Poet. You see this confluence, this great flood of visitors.

I have, in this rough work, shap'd out a man,

* Inured by constant practice. † For continual. ‡ I. e. Exceeds, goes beyond common bounds.

* As soon as my book has been presented to Timon, † I. e. The contest of our art with nature.

Whom this beneath world doth embrace and hug

With amplest entertainment : My free drift Halts not particularly,* but moves itself In a wide sea of wax : no levell'd malice Infects one comma in the course I hold ; But flies an eagle flight, bold, and forth on, Leaving no tract behind.

Pain. How shall I understand you ?

Poet. I'll unbolt to you.

You see how all conditions, how all minds, (As well of glib and slippery creatures, as Of grave and austere quality,) tender down Their services to lord Timon: his large fortune, Upon his good and gracious nature hanging, Subdues and properties to his love and tendance

All sorts of hearts ; yea, from the glass-fac'd flatterer †

To Apemantus, that few things loves better Than to abhor himself : even he drops down The knee before him, and returns in peace Most rich in Timon's nod.

Pain. I saw them speak together.

Poet. Sir, I have upon a high and pleasant hill,

Feign'd Fortune to be thron'd : The base o'the mount

Is rank'd with all deserts, all kind of natures, That labour on the bosom of this sphere To propagate their states : § amongst them all, Whose eyes are on this sovereign lady fix'd, One do I personate of lord Timon's frame, Whom fortune with her ivory hand wafts to her ; [servants

Whose present grace to present slaves and Translates his rivals.

Pain. 'Tis conceiv'd to scope. [thinks,

This throne, this Fortune, and this hill, me- With one man beckon'd from the rest below, Bowing his head against the steepy mount To climb his happiness, would be well ex- In our condition. [press'd

Poet. Nay, Sir, but hear me on :

All those which were his fellows but of late, (Some better than his value,) on the moment Follow his strides, his lobbies fill with tendance,

Rain sacrificial whisperings || in his ear, Make sacred even his stirrup, and through him Drink † the free air.

Pain. Ay, marry, what of these ?

Poet. When Fortune, in her shift and change of mood, [ants, Spurns down her late below'd, all his depend- Which labour'd after him to the mountain's top, Even on their knees and hands, let him slip down,

Not one accompanying his declining foot.

Pain. 'Tis common :

A thousand moral paintings I can show That shall demonstrate these quick blows of fortune

More pregnantly than words. Yet you do well, To show lord Timon, that mean eyes** have The foot above the head. [seen

Trumpets sound. Enter TIMON, attended ; the SERVANT of VENTIDIUS talking with him.

Tim. Imprison'd is he, say you ?

Ven. Serv. Ay, my good lord: five talents is his debt ;

His means most short, his creditors most strait: Your honourable letter he desires [him, To those have shut him up ; which failing to Periods his comfort.

Tim. Noble Ventidius ! Well ;

I am not of that feather, to shake off [him My friend when he must need me. I do know A gentleman, that well deserves a help, Which he shall have : I'll pay the debt, and free him.

Ven. Serv. Your lordship ever binds him.

Tim. Commend me to him : I will send his ransom ; [me :—

And, being enfranchis'd, bid him come to 'Tis not enough to help the feeble up,

But to support him after.—Fare you well.

Ven. Serv. All happiness to your honour ! [Exit.

Enter an old ATHENIAN.

Old Ath. Lord Timon, hear me speak.

Tim. Freely, good father.

Old Ath. Thou hast a servant nam'd Lucilius.

Tim. I have so : What of him ?

Old Ath. Most noble Timon, call the man before thee.

Tim. Attends he here, or no ?—Lucilius !

Enter LUCILIUS.

Luc. Here, at your lordship's service.

Old Ath. This fellow here, lord Timon, this thy creature,

By night frequents my house. I am a man That from my first have been inclin'd to thrift; And my estate deserves an heir more rais'd, Than one which holds a trencher.

Tim. Well ; what further ?

Old Ath. One only daughter have I, no kin else,

On whom I may confer what I have got : The maid is fair, o'the youngest for a bride, And I have bred her at my dearest cost, In qualities of the best. This man of thine Attempts her love : I pr'y'thee, noble lord, Join with me to forbid him her resort ; Myself have spoke in vain.

Tim. The man is honest.

Old Ath. Therefore he will be, Timon :

His honesty rewards him in itself, It must not bear my daughter.

Tim. Does she loves him ?

Old Ath. She is young, and apt :

Our own precedent passions do instruct us What levity's in youth.

Tim. [To LUCILIUS.] Love you the maid ?

Luc. Ay, my good lord, and she accepts of it.

Old Ath. If in her marriage my consent be missing,

I call the gods to witness, I will choose Mine heir from forth the beggars of the world, And dispossess her all.

Tim. How shall she be endow'd,

If she be mated with an equal husband ?

Old Ath. Three talents, on the present ; in future, all.

Tim. This gentleman of mine hath serv'd me long ;

To build his fortune, I will strain a little, For 'tis a bond in men. Give him thy daughter :

What you bestow, in him I'll counterpoise, And make him weigh with her.

* My design does not stop at any particular character.

† Open, explain.

‡ One who shows by reflection the looks of his patron.

§ To advance their conditions of life.

|| Whisperings of officious servility.

‡ Inhale.

** I. e. Inferior spectators.

Old Ath. Most noble lord,
Pawn me to this your honour, she is his.
Tim. My hand to thee; mine honour on
my promise.
Lut. Humbly I thank your lordship: Never
may
That state or fortune fall into my keeping,
Which is not ow'd to you!
[*Exeunt LUCILIUS and old ATHENIAN.*]
Poet. Vouchsafe my labour, and long live
your lordship!
Tim. I thank you; you shall hear from me
anon: [friend?]
Go not away.—What have you there, my
Pain. A piece of painting, which I do be-
Your lordship to accept. [seech
Tim. Painting is welcome.
The painting is almost the natural man;
For since dishonour traffics with man's nature,
He is but outside: These pencil'd figures are
Even such as they give out.* I like your
work;
And you shall find, I like it: wait attendance
Till you hear further from me.
Pain. The gods preserve you!
Tim. Well fare you, gentlemen: Give me
your hand;
We must needs dine together.—Sir, your jewel
Hath suffer'd under praise.
Jew. What, my lord? dispraise?
Tim. A mere satiety of commendations
If I should pay you for't as 'tis extoll'd,
It would unclaw me quite.
Jew. My lord, 'tis rated [know,
As those, which sell, would give: But you well
Things of like value, differing in the owners,
Are prized by their masters't: believe't, dear,
You mend the jewel by wearing it. [lord,
Tim. Well mock'd.
Mer. No, my good lord; he speaks the com-
mon tongue.
Which all men speak with him.
Tim. Look, who comes here. Will you be
chid?

Enter APEMANTUS.
Jew. We will bear, with your lordship.
Mer. He'll spare none.
Tim. Good morrow to thee, gentle Apeman-
tus!
Apem. Till I be gentle, stay for thy good
morrow; [honest.
When thou art Timon's dog, and these knaves
Tim. Why dost thou call them knaves? thou
know'st them not.
Apem. Are they not Athenians?
Tim. Yes.
Apem. Then I repent not.
Jew. You know me, Apemantus.
Apem. Thou know'st I do; I call'd thee by
thy name.
Tim. Thou art proud, Apemantus.
Apem. Of nothing so much, as that I am not
like Timon.
Tim. Whither art going?
Apem. To knock out an honest Athenian's
brains.
Tim. That's a deed thou'lt die for.
Apem. Right, if doing nothing be death by
the law.
Tim. How likest thou this picture, Apeman-
tus?
Apem. The best, for the innocence.
Tim. Wrought he not well, that painted it?

Apem. He wrought better, that made the
painter; and yet he's but a filthy piece of work.
Pain. You are a dog.
Apem. Thy mother's of my generation;
What's she, if I be a dog?
Tim. Wilt dine with me, Apemantus?
Apem. No; I eat not lords.
Tim. And thou should'st thou'dst anger
ladies.
Apem. O, they eat lords; so they come by
great bellies.
Tim. That's a lascivious apprehension.
Apem. So thou apprehend'st it: Take it for
thy labour.
Tim. How dost thou like this jewel, Ape-
mantus?
Apem. Not so well as plain-dealing,* which
will not cost a man a doit.
Tim. What dost thou think 'tis worth?
Apem. Not worth my thinking.—How now,
poet?
Poet. How now, philosopher?
Apem. Thou liest.
Poet. Art not one?
Apem. Yes.
Poet. Then I lie not.
Apem. Art not a poet?
Poet. Yes.
Apem. Then thou liest: look in thy last
work, where thou hast feign'd him a worthy
fellow.
Poet. That's not feign'd, he is so.
Apem. Yes, he is worthy of thee, and to pay
thee for thy labour: He, that loves to be flat-
tered, is worthy o'the flatterer. Heavens, that
I were a lord!
Tim. What would'st do then, Apemantus?
Apem. Even as Apemantus does now, hate
a lord with my heart.
Tim. What, thyself?
Apem. Ay.
Tim. Wherefore?
Apem. That I had no angry wit to be a lord.—
Art not thou a merchant?
Mer. Ay, Apemantus.
Apem. Traffic confound thee, if the gods will
not!
Mer. If traffic do it, the gods do it.
Apem. Traffic's thy god, and thy god con-
found thee!

Trumpets sound. Enter a SERVANT.
Tim. What trumpet's that?
Serv. 'Tis Alcibiades, and
Some twenty horse, all of companionship.
Tim. Pray, entertain them; give them guide
to us.— [Exeunt some Attendants.
You must needs dine with me:—Go not you
hence, [done,
Till I have thank'd you; and, when diuner's
Show me this piece.—I am joyful of your
sights.—

Enter ALCIBIADES with his Company.
Most welcome, Sir! [They salute.
Apem. So, so; there!—
Aches contract and starve your supple joints!—
That there should be small love 'mongst these
sweet knaves, [out
And all this court'sy! The strain of man's bred
Into baboon and monkey.†
Alcib. Sir, you have sav'd my longing, and I
Most hungrily on your sight. [feed
Tim. Right welcome, Sir:

* Pictures have no hypocrisy; they are what they pro-
fess to be. † To unclaw a man is to draw out
the whole mass of his fortunes.

* Alluding to the proverb: plain-dealing is a jewel, but
they who use it beggars. † Man is degenerated; his
strain or lineage is worn down to a monkey.

Ere we depart, we'll share a bounteous time
In different pleasures. Pray you, let us in.
[*Exeunt all but APAMANTUS.*]

Enter two LORDS.

1 *Lord.* What time a day is't, Apemantus?

Apem. Time to be honest.

1 *Lord.* That time serves still.

Apem. The most accursed thou, that still
omit'st it.

2 *Lord.* Thou art going to lord Timon's feast.
Apem. Ay; to see meat fill knaves, and wine
heat fools.

2 *Lord.* Fare thee well, fare thee well.

Apem. Thou art a fool, to bid me farewell
twice.

2 *Lord.* Why, Apemantus?

Apem. Shouldst have kept one to thyself, for
I mean to give thee none.

1 *Lord.* Hang thyself.

Apem. No, I will do nothing at thy bidding;
make thy requests to thy friend.

2 *Lord.* Away, unpeaceable dog, or I'll
spurn thee hence.

Apem. I will fly, like a dog, the heels of the
ass. [Exit.]

1 *Lord.* He's opposite to humanity. Come,
shall we in,

And taste lord Timon's bounty? he outgoes
The very heart of kindness.

2 *Lord.* He pours it out; Plutus, the god
of gold,

Is but his steward; no meed,* but he repays
Sevenfold above itself; no gift to him,
But breeds the giver a return exceeding
All use of quittance.†

1 *Lord.* The noblest mind he carries,
That ever govern'd man.

2 *Lord.* Long me he live in fortunes! Shall
we in?

1 *Lord.* I'll keep you company. [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—*The same.—A Room of State in
TIMON'S HOUSE.*

*Haulboys playing loud music. A great banquet
served in; FLAVIUS and others attending;
then enter TIMON, ALCIBIADES, LUCIUS,
LUCULLUS, SEMPRONIUS, and other Athenian
Senators, with VENTIDIUS, and Attendants.
Then comes, dropping after all, APAMANTUS,
discontentedly.*

Ven. Most honour'd Timon, 't hath pleas'd
the gods remember

My father's age, and call him to long peace.
He is gone happy, and has left me rich:

Then, as in grateful virtue I am bound
To your free heart, I do return those talents,
Doubled, with thanks, and service, from
whose help

I deriv'd liberty.

Tim. O, by no means,

Honest Ventidius: you mistake my love;

I gave it freely ever; and there's none
Can truly say, he gives, if he receives:

If our betters play at that game, we must not
dare

To imitate them; Faults that are rich, are fair.

Ven. A noble spirit.

[*They all stand ceremoniously looking on
TIMON.*]

Tim. Nay, my lords, ceremony

Was but devis'd at first, to set a gloss
On faint deeds, hollow welcomes,

Recanting goodness, sorry ere 'tis shown;
But where there is true friendship, there needs
none.

Pray, sit; more welcome are ye to my fortunes,
Than my fortunes to me. [They sit.]

1 *Lord.* My lord, we always have confess'd
it.

Apem. Ho, ho, confess'd it? hang'd it, have
you not?

Tim. O, Apemantus!—you are welcome.

Apem. No.

You shall not make me welcome:

I came to have thee thrust me out of doors.

Tim. Fie, thou art a churl; you have got a
humour there

Does not become a man, 'tis much to blame:

They say, my lords, that *ira furor brevis est,**
But yond' man's ever angry.

Go, let him have a table by himself;

For he does never affect company,

Nor is he fit for it, indeed.

Apem. Let me stay at thine own peril, Ti-
mon;

I come to observe; I give thee warning on't.

Tim. I take no heed of thee; thou art an
Athenian; therefore welcome: I myself would
have no power: pr'ythee, let my meat make
thee silent.

Apem. I scorn thy meat; 'twould choke me,
for I should [but

Ne'er flatter thee.—O you gods! what a num-
Of men eat Timon, and he sees them not!

It grieves me, to see so many dip their meat;

In one man's blood; and all the madness is,

He cheers them up too.†

I wonder, mendare trust themselves with men:
Methinks they should invite them without
knives;

Good for their meat, and safer for their lives.

There's much example for't; the fellow, that
Sits next him now, parts bread with him, and
pledges

The breath of him in a divided draught,

Is the readiest man to kill him: it has been
If I [prov'd,

Where a huge man, I should fear to drink at
meals;

Lest they should spy my windpipe's danger-
ous notes;

Great men should drink with harness‡ on their
throats.

Tim. My lord, in heart;§ and let the health
go round.

2 *Lord.* Let it flow this way, my good lord.

Apem. Flow this way! [mon,

A brave fellow!—he keeps his tides well. Ti-
Those healths will make thee, and thy state,
look ill.

Here's that, which is too weak to be a sinner,

Honest water, which ne'er left man i' the mire:

This, and my food, are equals; there's no odds.

Feasts are too proud to give thanks to the gods.

APAMANTUS' GRACE.

Immortal gods, I crave no pelf;

I pray for no man, but myself;

Grant I may never prove so fond,||

To trust man on his oath or bond;

Or a harlot, for her weeping;

Or a dog, that seems a sleeping;

* Anger is a short madness.

† The allusion is to a pack of hounds trained to pursue, by being gratified with the blood of animal which they kill, and the wonder is, that the animal, on which they are feeding, cheers to the chase.

‡ Armour.

§ With sincerity.

|| Foolish.

* Meed here means desert. † I. e. All the customary returns made in discharge of obligations.

*Or a keeper with my freedom:
Or my friends, if I should need 'em.
Amen. So full to't:
Rich men sin, and I eat root.*

[Eats and drinks.]

Much good dich thy good heart, Apemantus!
Tim. Captain Alcibiades, your heart's in the field now.

Alcib. My heart is ever at your service, my lord.

Tim. You had rather be at a breakfast of enemies, than a dinner of friends.

Albic. So they were bleeding-new, my lord, there's no meat like them; I could wish my best friend at such a feast.

Apem. 'Would all those flatterers were thine enemies then; that then thou might'st kill 'em, and bid me to 'em.

1 Lord. Might we but have that happiness, my lord, that you would once use our hearts, whereby we might express some part of our zeals, we should think ourselves for ever perfect.*

Tim. O, no doubt, my good friends, but the gods themselves have provided that I shall have much help from you: How had you been my friends else? why have you that charitable† title from thousands, did you not chiefly belong to my heart? I have told more of you to myself, than you can with modesty speak in your own behalf; and thus far I confirm you. O, you gods, think I, what need we have any friends, if we should never have need of them? they were the most needless creatures living, should we ne'er have use for them: and would most resemble sweet instruments hung up in cases, that keep their sounds to themselves. Why, I have often wished myself poorer, that I might come nearer to you. We are born to do benefits: and what better or properer can we call our own, than the riches of our friends? O, what a precious comfort 'tis, to have so many, like brothers, commanding one another's fortunes! O joy, e'en made away ere it can be born! Mine eyes cannot hold out water, methinks: to forget their faults, I drink to you.

Apem. Thou weepst to make them drink, Timon.

2 Lord. Joy had the like conception in our eyes,

And, at that instant, like a babe sprung up.

Apem. Ho, ho! I laugh to think that babe a bastard.

3 Lord. I promise you, my lord, you mov'd me much.

Apem. Much ‡ [Trumpet sounded.]

Tim. What means trump?—How now?

Enter a SERVANT.

Serv. Please you, my lord, there are certain ladies most desirous of admittance.

Tim. Ladies? what are their wills?

Serv. There comes with them a forerunner, my lord, which bears that office, to signify their pleasures.

Tim. I pray, let them be admitted.

Enter CUPID

Cup. Hail to thee, worthy Timon;—and to all [ses]
That of his bounties taste!—The five best sen-

* I. e. Arrived at the perfection of happiness.

† Endearing.

‡ Much, was formerly an expression of contemptuous admiration.

Acknowledge thee their patron; and come freely

To gratulate thy plenteous bosom: The ear, Taste, touch, smell, all pleas'd from thy table rise;

They only now come but to feast thine eyes.

Tim. They are welcome all; let them have kind admittance:

Music, make their welcome. [Exit CUPID.]

1 Lord. You see, my lord, how ample you are belov'd.

Music. Re-enter CUPID, with a masque of LADIES as Amazons, with lutes in their hands, dancing, and playing.

Apem. Hey day, what a sweep of vanity comes this way!

They dance! they are mad women. Like madness is the glory of this life, As this pomp shows to a little oil, and root. We make ourselves fools, to disport ourselves; And spend our flatteries, to drink those men, Upon whose age we void it up again, With poisonous spite, and envy. Who lives, that's not

Depraved, or depraves? who dies, that bears Not one spurn to their graves of their friends' gift?

I should fear, those, that dance before me now, Would one day stamp upon me: It has been done;

Men shut their doors against a setting sun.

The Lords rise from table with much adoring of Timon; and, to show their loves, each singles out an Amazon, and all dance, men with women, a lofty strain or two to the hautboys, and cease.

Tim. You have done our pleasures much grace, fair ladies,

Set a fair fashion on our entertainment, Which was not half so beautiful and kind; You have added worth unto't, and lively lustre,

And entertain'd me with mine own device:

I am to thank you for it.

1 Lady. My lord, you take us even at the best.

Apem. 'Faith, for the worst is filthy; and would not hold taking, I doubt me.

Tim. Ladies, there is an idle banquet Attends you: Please you to dispose yourselves.

All Lad. Most thankfully, my lord.

[Exit CUPID, and LADIES.]

Tim. Flavius;—

Flav. My lord.

Tim. The little casket bring me hither.

Flav. Yes, my lord.—More jewels yet!

There is no crossing him in his humour;

Else I should tell him,—Well,—i'faith, I should, [Aside.]

When all's spent, he'd be cross'd* then, an he 'Tis pity, bounty had not eyes behind;

That man might ne'er be wretched for his mind. †

[Exit, and returns with the casket.]

1 Lord. Where be our men?

Serv. Here, my lord, in readiness.

2 Lord. Our horses.

Tim. O my friends, I have one word

* Shakspeare plays on the word crossed: alluding to the piece of silver money called a cross.

† For his nobles of soul.

To say to you:—Look you, my good lord, I must

Entreat you, honour me so much, as to Advance this jewel;

Accept, and wear it, kind my lord.

1 *Lord*. I am so far already in your gifts,—

All. So are we all.

Enter a SERVANT.

Serv. My lord, there are certain nobles of the senate

Newly alighted, and come to visit you.

Tim. They are fairly welcome.

Flav. I beseech your honour, [near Vouchsafe me a word; it does concern you

Tim. Near? why then another time I'll hear I pr'ythee, let us be provided [thee.

To show them entertainment.

Flav. I scarce know how. [*Aside*.

Enter another SERVANT.

2 *Serv*. May it please your honour, the lord Lucius,

Out of his free love, hath presented to you Four milk-white horses, trapp'd in silver.

Tim. I shall accept them fairly: let the presents

Enter a third SERVANT.

Be worthily entertained.—How now, what news?

3 *Serv*. Please you, my lord, that honourable gentleman, Lord Lucullus, entreats your company to-morrow to hunt with him; and has sent your honour two brace of greyhounds.

Tim. I'll hunt with him; And let them be Not without fair reward. [receiv'd,

Flav. [*aside*.] What will this come to?

He commands us to provide, and give great And all out of an empty coffer.— [gifts,

Nor will he know his purse; or yield me this, To show him what a beggar his heart is,

Being of no power to make his wishes good;

His promises fly so beyond his state,

That what he speaks is all in debt, he owes

For every word; he is so kind, that he now

Pays interest for't; his lands put to their books.

Well, would I were gently put out of office, Before I were forc'd out!

Happier is he that has no friend to feed,

Than such as do even enemies exceed.

I bleed inwardly for my lord. [*Exit*.

Tim. You do yourselves

Much wrong, you bate too much of your own merits:—

Hie, my lord, a trifle of our love.

2 *Lord*. With more than common thanks I will receive it.

3 *Lord*. O, he is the very soul of bounty!

Tim. And now I remember me, my lord, you gave

Good words the other day of a bay courser

I rode on: it is yours, because you lik'd it.

2 *Lord*. I beseech you, pardon me, my lord, in that.

Tim. You may take my word, my lord; I know, no man

Can justly praise, but what he does effect:

I weigh my friend's affection with mine own; I'll tell you true. I'll call on you.

All Lords. None so welcome.

Tim. I take all and your several visitations So kind to heart, 'tis not enough to give;

Methinks, I could deal^s kingdoms to my friends,

And ne'er be weary.—Alcibiades,

Thou art a soldier, therefore seldom rich,

It comes in charity to thee; for all thy living

Is 'mongst the dead; and all the lands thou

Lie in a pitch'd field. [hast

Alcib. Ay, defiled land, my lord.

1 *Lord*. We are so virtuously bound,—

Tim. And so

Am I to you.

2 *Lord*. So infinitely endear'd,—

Tim. All to you.—Lights, more lights.

1 *Lord*. The best of happiness, [mon!

Honour, and fortunes, keep with you, lord Ti-

Tim. Ready for his friends.

[*Exeunt ALCIBIADES, LORDS, &c.*

Apem. What a coil's here!

Serving of becks,† and jutting out of hums]

I doubt whether their legs be worth the sums

That are given for 'em. Friendship's full of dregs: [legs.

Methinks, false hearts should never have sound Thus honest fools lay out their wealth on court'sies.

Tim. Now, Apemantus, if thou wert not I'd be good to thee. [sullen,

Apem. No, I'll nothing: for, [left

If I should be brib'd too, there would be none

To rail upon thee: and then thou would'st sin the faster,

Thou giv'st so long, Timon, I fear me, thou Wilt give away thyself in paper§ shortly:

What need these feasts pomps, and vain glories?

Tim. Nay,

And you begin to rail on society once,

I am sworn, not to give regard to you.

Farewell; and come with better music. [*Exit*.

Apem. So;—

Thou'lt not hear me now,—thou shalt not then, I'll lock

Thy heaven|| from thee. O, that men's ears should be

To counsel deaf, but not to flattery! [*Exit*.

ACT II.

SCENE I.—*The same.—A Room in a SENATOR'S House.*

Enter a SENATOR, with papers in his hand.

Sen. And late, five thousand to Varro; and to Isidore [sum,

He owes nine thousand; besides my former Which makes it five and twenty.—Still in motion

Of raging waste? It cannot hold; it will not.

If I want gold, steal but a beggar's dog,

And give it Timon, why, the dog roins gold: †

If I would sell my horse, and buy twenty more

Better than he, why, give my horse to Timon,

Ask nothing, give it him, it foals me, straight,

And able horses: No porter at his gate;

But rather one that smiles, and still invites

All that pass by. It cannot hold; no reason

Can found his state in safety. Caphis, ho!

Caphis, I say!

Enter CAPHIS.

Caph. Here, Sir; What is your pleasure?

* i. e. Could dispense them on every side with an ungrudging distribution, like that with which I could deal out cards.

† i. e. All happiness to you. ‡ Offering salutations.

§ i. e. Be ruined by his securities entered into.

|| By his heaven he means good advice; the only thing by which he could be saved.

Sen. Get on your cloack, and haste you to lord Timon;

Impertune him for my monies; be not ceas'd*
With slight denial: nor then silenc'd, when—
Commend me to your master—and the cap
Plays in the right hand, thus:—but tell him,
Sirrah,

My uses cry to me, I must serve my turn
Out of mine own; his days and times are past,
And my reliances on his fracted dates
Have smit my credit: I love, and honour him;
But must not break my back, to heal his sin-
ger:

Immediate are my needs; and my relief
Must not be toss'd and turn'd to me in words,
But find supply immediate. Get you gone:
Put on a most importunate aspect,
A visage of demand: for, I do fear,
When every feather sticks in his own wing,
Lord Timon will be left a naked gull,
Which flashes now a phoenix. Get you gone.

Caph. I go, Sir?

Sen. I go, Sir!—take the bonds along with
And have the dates in compt. [you,

Caph. I will, Sir.

Sen. Go. [Exeunt.

*Scene II.—The same.—A Hall in TIMON'S
House.*

Enter FLAVIUS, with many bills in his hand.

Flav. No care, no stop! so senseless of
expense,

That he will neither know how to maintain it,
Nor cease his flow of riot: Takes no account
How things go from him; nor resumes no care
Of what is to continue; Never mind
Was to be so unwise, to be so kind.
What shall be done? He will not hear, till feel:
I must be round with him now he comes from
hunting.

Fie, fie, fie, fie!

*Enter CAPHIS, and the SERVANTS of ISIDORE
and VARRO.*

Caph. Good even,† Varro: what,
You come for money!

Var. Serv. Is't not your business too?

Caph. It is;—And yours too, Isidore?

Isid. Serv. It is so.

Caph. 'Would we were all discharg'd!

Var. Serv. I fear it.

Caph. Here comes the lord.

Enter TIMON, ALCIBIADES, and LORDS, &c.

Tim. So soon as dinner's done, we'll forth
again;†

My Alcibiades.—With me? What's your will?

Caph. My lord, here is a note of certain dues.

Tim. Dues? Whence are you?

Caph. Of Athens here my lord.

Tim. Go to my steward.

Caph. Please it your lordship, he hath put
me off

To the succession of new days this month:
My master is awak'd by great occasion,
To call upon his own; and humbly prays you,
That with your other noble parts you'll suit,
In giving him his right.

Tim. Mine honest friend,

I pry'thee, but repair to me next morning.

Caph. Nay, good my lord,—

Tim. Contain thyself, good friend.

Var. Serv. One Varro's servant, my good
lord,—

Isid. Serv. From Isidore;

He humbly prays your speedy payment,—
Caph. If you did know, my lord, my master's
wants,—

Var. Serv. 'Twas due on forfeiture, my lord,
six weeks,

And past,—

Isid. Serv. Your steward puts me off, my
lord;

And I am sent expressly to your lordship.

Tim. Give me breath:—

I do beseech you, good my lord, keep on a
[Exeunt ALCIBIADES and LORDS.

I'll wait upon you instantly.—Come hither,
pray you, [To FLAVIUS.

He goes the world, that I am thus encoun-
ter'd

With clamorous demands of date-broke bonds,
And the detention of long-since-due debts,
Against my honour?

Flav. Please you, gentler,

The time is unagreeable to this business:

Your importunacy cease, till after dinner;

That I may make his lordship understand

Wherefore you are not paid.

Tim. Do so, my friends:

See them well entertain'd. [Exit TIMON.

Flav. I pray, draw near. [Exit FLAVIUS.

Enter APEMANTUS and a FOOL.

Caph. Stay, stay, here comes the fool with
Apemantus; let's have some sport with 'em.

Var. Serv. Hang him, he'll abuse us.

Isid. Serv. A plague upon him, dog?

Var. Serv. How dost, fool?

Apem. Dost dialogic with thy shadow?

Var. Serv. I speak not to thee.

Apem. No; 'tis to thyself,—Come away.

[To the FOOL.

Isid. Serv. [To VAR. SERV.] There's the fool
Hangs on your back already.

Apem. No, thou stand'st single, thou art not
on him yet.

Caph. Where's the fool now?

Apem. He last asked the question.—Poor
rogues, and usurers' men! bawds between gold
and want!

All Serv. What are we, Apemantus?

Apem. Asses.

All Serv. Why?

Apem. That you ask me what you are, and
do not know yourselves.—Speak to 'em, fool.

Fool. How do you, gentlemen?

All Serv. Gramercies, good fool: How does
your mistress?

Fool. She's e'en setting on water to scald
such chickens as you are. 'Would, we could
see you at Corinth.

Apem. Good! gramercy.

Enter PAGE.

Fool. Look you, here comes my mistress'
page.

Page. [To the FOOL.] Why, how now, cap-
tain? what do you in this wise company?—
How dost thou, Apemantus?

Apem. 'Would I had a rod in my mouth,
that I might answer thee profitably.

Page. Pr'y'thee, Apemantus, read me the
superscription of these letters; I know not
which is which.

Apem. Canst not read?

Page. No.

Apem. There will little learning die then,
that day thou art hanged. This is to lord

* Stopped. † Good even was the usual salutation
from noon. ‡ I. e. To hunting; in our author's time
it was the custom to hunt as well after dinner as before.

Timon; this to Alcibiades. Go; thou wast born a bastard, and thou 't die a bawd.

Page. Thou wast whelped a dog; and thou shalt famish, a dog's death. Answer not, I am gone. *[Exit PAGE.]*

Apem. Even so thou out-run'st grace. Fool, I will go with you to Lord Timon's.

Fool. Will you leave me there?

Apem. If Timon stay at home.—You three serve three usurers?

All Serv. Ay, 'would they served us!

Apem. So would I,—as good a trick as ever hangman served thief.

Fool. Are you three usurers' men?

All Serv. Ay, fool.

Fool. I think, no usurer but has a fool to his servant: My mistress is one, and I am her fool. When men come to borrow of your masters, they approach sadly, and go away merrily; but they enter my mistress' house merrily, and go away sadly: The reason of this?

Var. Serv. I could render one.

Apem. Do it then, that we may account thee a whoremaster, and a knave; which, notwithstanding, thou shalt be no less esteemed.

Var. Serv. What is a whoremaster, fool?

Fool. A fool in good clothes, and something like thee. 'Tis a spirit: sometime, it appears like a lord: sometime, like a lawyer; sometime, like a philosopher, with two stones more than his artificial one: He is very often like a knight; and, generally in all shapes, that man goes up and down in, from fourscore to thirteen, this spirit walks in.

Var. Serv. Thou art not altogether a fool.

Fool. Nor thou altogether a wise man: as much foolery as I have, so much wit thou lackest.

Apem. That answer might have become Apemantus.

All Serv. Aside, aside; here comes lord Timon.

Re-enter TIMON and FLAVIUS.

Apem. Come with me, fool, come.

Fool. I do not always follow lover, elder brother, and women; sometime, the philosopher. *[Exit APEMANTUS and FOOL.]*

Flav. Pray you, walk near; I'll speak with you anon. *[Exit SERV.]*

Tim. You make me marvel: Wherefore, ere this time,

Had you not fully laid my state before me; That I might so have rated my expense, As I had leave of means?

Flav. You would not hear me, At many leisures I propos'd.

Tim. Go to:

Perchance, some single vantages you took, When my indisposition put you back; And that unaptness made your minister, Thus to excuse yourself.

Flav. O my good lord!

At many times I brought in my accounts, Laid them before you; you would throw them off,

And say, you found them in mine honesty. When, for some trifling present, you have bid me

Return so much,* I have shook my head, and wept;

Yea, 'gainst the authority of manners, pray'd you

To hold your hand more close; I did endure

* He does not mean, so great a sum, but a certain sum.

Not seldom, nor no slight checks; when I have

Prompted you, in the ebb of your estate, And your great flow of debts. My dear-lov'd lord, *[time,*

Though you hear now, (too late!) yet now's a The greatest of your having lacks a half To pay your present debts.

Tim. Let all my land be sold.

Flav. 'Tis all engag'd, some forfeited and gone;

And what remains will hardly stop the mouth Of present dues: the future comes apace: What shall defend the interim? and at length How goes our reckoning?

Tim. To Lacedæmon did my land extend.

Flav. O my good lord, the world is but a word;*

Were it all yours to give it in a breath, How quickly were it gone?

Tim. You tell me true.

Flav. If you suspect my husbandry, or false- Call me before the exactest auditors, [hood, And set me on the proof. So the gods bless me,

When all our officest have been oppress'd With riotous feeders; when our vaults have wept

With drunken spilt of wine; when every room Hath blaz'd with lights, and bray'd with minstrelly;

I have retir'd me to a wasteful cock;†

And set mine eyes at flow.

Tim. Pr'ythee, no more.

Flav. Heavens, have I said, the bounty of this lord! *[sants,*

How many prodigal bits have slaves and pean- This night englutted! Who is not Timon's? What heart, head, sword, force, means, but is lord Timon's?

Great Timon, noble, worthy, royal Timon! Ah! when the means are gone, that buy this praise,

The breath is gone wherof this praise is made: Feast-won, fast-lost; one cloud of winter showers,

These flies are couch'd.

Tim. Come, sermon me no further:

No villanous bounty yet hath pass'd my heart: Unwisely, not ignobly, have I given.

Why dost thou weep? Canst thou the conscience lack,

To think I shall lack friends? Secure thy heart; If I would broach the vessels of my love, And try the argument§ of hearts by borrowing,

Men, and men's fortunes, could I frankly use, As I can bid thee speak.

Flav. Assurance bless your thoughts!

Tim. And, in some sort, these wants of mine are crown'd;||

That I account them blessings; for by these Shall I try friends: You shall perceive, how you *[friends,*

Mistake my fortunes; I am wealthy in my Within there, ho!—Flaminius! Servilius!

Enter FLAMINIUS, SERVILIUS, and other SERVANTS.

Serv. My lord, my lord,—

* i. e. As the world itself may be comprised in a word, you might give it away in a breath.

† The apartments allotted to culinary officers, &c.

‡ A pipe with a turning stopple running to waste.

§ If I would, (says Timon,) by borrowing try of what men's hearts are composed, what they have in them, &c.

|| Dignified, made respectable.

ACT III.

SCENE I.—*The same.*—A Room in LUCULLUS' House.

FLAMINIUS waiting. Enter a SERVANT to him.

Serv. I have told my lord of you, he is coming down to you.

Flam. I thank you, Sir.

Enter LUCULLUS.

Serv. Here's my lord.

Lucul. [*Aside.*] One of lord Timon's men? a gift, I warrant. Why, this hits right; I dreamt of a silver basin and ewer to-night. Flaminius, honest Flaminius; you are very respectively* welcome, Sir.—Fill me some wine.—[*Exit SERVANT.*] And how does that honourable, complete, free-hearted gentleman of Athens, thy very bountiful good lord and master?

Flam. His health is well, Sir.

Lucul. I am right glad that his health is well, Sir: And what hast thou there under thy cloak, pretty Flaminius?

Flam. Faith, nothing but an empty box, Sir; which, in my lord's behalf, I come to entreat your honour to supply; who, having great and instant occasion to use fifty talents, hath sent to your lordship to furnish him; nothing doubting your present assistance therein.

Lucul. La, la, la, la,—nothing doubting, says he? alas, good lord! a noble gentleman 'tis, if he would not keep so good a house. Many a time and often I have dined with him and told him on't; and come again to supper to him, of purpose to have him spend less; and yet he would embrace no counsel, take no warning by my coming. Every man has his fault, and honesty† in his; I have told him on't, but I could never get him from it.

Re-enter SERVANT, with wine.

Serv. Please your lordship, here is the wine, Lucul. Flaminius, I have noted thee always well. Here's to thee.

Flam. Your lordship speaks your pleasure.

Lucul. I have observed thee always for a towardsly prompt spirit,—give thee thy due,—and one that knows what belongs to reason: and canst use the time well, if the time use thee well: good parts in thee.—Get you gone. Sirrah.—[*To the SERVANT, who goes out.*]—Draw nearer, honest Flaminius. Thy lord's a bountiful gentleman: but thou art wise; and thou knowest well enough, although thou comest to me, that this is no time to lend money; especially upon bare friendship, without security. Here's three solidares for thee; good boy, wink at me, and say thou saw'st me not. Fare thee well.

Flam. Is't possible, the world should so much differ; [ness, And we alive, that liv'd?‡ Fly, damned base-To him that worships thee.

[*Throwing the money away.*]Lucul. Ha! Now I see thou art a fool, and fit for thy master. [*Exit LUCULLUS.*]

Flam. May these add to the number that may scald thee!

Let molten coin be thy damnation, Thou disease of a friend, and not himself! Has friendship such a faint and milky heart, It turns in less than two nights? O you gods

Tim. I will despatch you severally.—You, to lord Lucius,—
To lord Lucullus you: I hunted with his Honour to-day;—You, to Sempronius; Commend me to their loves; and, I am proud, say,
That my occasions have found time to use them Toward a supply of money: let the request Be fifty talents.

Flam. As you have said, my lord.

Flav. Lord Lucius, and Lord Lucullus? bump! [*Aside.*]Tim. Go you, Sir, [*To another SERV.*] to the senators,

(Of whom, even to the state's best health, I have [stant Deserv'd this hearing,) bid 'em send o'the in-A thousand talents to me.

Flav. I have been bold, (For that I knew it the most general way.) To them to use your signet, and your name; But they do shake their heads, and I am here No richer in return.

Tim. Is't true? can it be?

Flav. They answer, in a joint and corporate voice,

That now they are at fall,* want treasure, cannot

Do what they would; are sorry—you are honourable,—

But yet they could have wish'd—they know not—but

Something hath been amiss—a noble nature May catch a wrench—would all were well—'tis pity—

And so, intending‡ other serious matters, After distasteful looks, and these hard fractions,‡

With certain half-caps,§ and cold moving nods, They froze me into silence.

Tim. You gods, reward them!— I pry'thee, man, look cheerly; These old fellows

Have their ingratitude in them hereditary: Their blood is cak'd, 'tis cold, it seldom flows; 'Tis lack of kindly warmth, they are not kind; And nature, as it grows again toward earth, Is fashion'd for the journey, dull, and heavy.— Go to Ventidius,—[*To a SERV.*] Pry'thee, [*To FLAVIUS,*] be not sad,

Thou art true, and honest; ingeniously|| I speak,

No blame belongs to thee:—[*To SERV.*] Ventidius lately

Buried his father; by whose death, he's stepp'd into a great estate; when he was poor, imprison'd, and in scarcity of friends, I clear'd him with five talents; Greet him from Bid him suppose, some good necessity [me; Touches his friend, which craves to be remember'd

With those five talents;—that had,—[*To FLA.*] give it these fellows

To whom 'tis instant due. Ne'er speak, or think, [sink,

That Timon's fortunes 'mong his friends can

Flav. I would, I could not think it; That thought is bounty's foe;

Being free¶ itself, it thinks all others so. [*Exeunt.*]

* i. e. At an ehb.

† Intending, had anciently the same meaning as attending—

‡ Broken hints, abrupt remarks.

§ A half-cap is a cap slightly moved, not put off.

|| For ingeniously.

¶ Liberal, not parsimonious.

* For respectfully. † Honesty here means liberality. ‡ i. e. And we who were alive then, alive now.

I feel my master's passion!* This slave
Unto his honour, has my lord's meat in him:
Why should it thrive, and turn to nutriment,
When he is turn'd to poison?
O, may diseases only work upon't!
And, when he is sick to death, let not that
part of nature
Which my lord paid for, be of any power
To expel sickness, but prolong his hour!†

[Exit.

SCENE II.—The same.—A public place.

Enter LUCIUS, with three STRANGERS.

Luc. Who, the lord Timon? he is my very good friend, and an honourable gentleman.

1 Stran. We know† him for no less, though we are but strangers to him. But I can tell you one thing, my lord, and which I hear from common rumours; now lord Timon's happy hours are done‡ and past, and his estate shrinks from him.

Luc. Fie no, do not believe it; he cannot want for money.

2 Stran. But believe you this, my lord, that, not long ago, one of his men was with the lord Lucullus, to borrow so many talents; nay, urged extremely for't, and showed what necessity belonged to't, and yet was denied.

Luc. How?

2 Stran. I tell you, denied, my lord.

Luc. What a strange case was that? now, before the gods, I am ashamed on't. Denied that honourable man? there was very little, honour showed in't. For my own part, I must needs confess, I have received some small kindness from him, as money, plate, jewels, and such like trifles, nothing comparing to his; yet, had he mistook him, and sent to me, I should ne'er have denied his occasion so many talents.

Enter SERVIILIUS.

Ser. See, by good hap, yonder's my lord; I have sweat to see his honour.—My honoured lord,—

[To Lucius.

Luc. Servilius! you are kindly met, Sir. Fare thee well:—Commend me to thy honourable-virtuous lord, my very exquisite friend.

Ser. May it please your honour, my lord hath sent—

Luc. Ha! what has he sent? I am so much endeared to that lord; he's ever sending; How shall I thank him, thinkest thou? And what has he sent now?

Ser. He has only sent his present occasion now, my lord; requesting your lordship to supply his instant use with so many talents.

Luc. I know, his lordship is but merry with me;

He cannot want fifty-five hundred talents.

Ser. But in the mean time he wants less, my If his occasion were not virtuous,|| [Lord. I should not urge it half so faithfully.

Luc. Dost thou speak seriously, Servilius?

Ser. Upon my soul, 'tis true, Sir.

Luc. What a wicked beast was I, to disfigure myself against such a good time, when I might have shown myself honourable? how unluckily it happened, that I should purchase the day before for a little part, and undo a great deal of honour?—Servilius, now before the gods, I am not able to do't; the more beast, I

say:—I was sending to use lord Timon myself, these gentlemen can witness; but I would not, for the wealth of Athens, I had done it now. Commend me bountifully to his good lordship; and I hope, his honour will conceive the fairest of me, because I have no power to be kind: And tell him this from me, I count it one of my greatest afflictions, say, that I cannot pleasure such an honourable gentleman. Good Servilius, will you befriend me so far, as to use mine own words to him?

Ser. Yes, Sir, I shall.

Luc. I will look you out a good turn, Servilius.—

True, as you said, Timon is shrunk, indeed; And he, that's once denied, will hardly speed.

[Exit LUCIUS.

1 Stran. Do you observe this, Hostilius?

2 Stran. Ay, too well.

1 Stran. Why this

Is the world's soul; and just of the same piece
Is every flatterer's spirit. Who can call him
His friend, that dips in the same dish? for, in
My knowing, Timon hath been this lord's fa-
And kept his credit with his purse; [ther,
Supported his estate; nay, Timon's money
Has paid his men their wages: He ne'er drinks,
But Timon's silver treads upon his lip;
And yet, (O, see the monstrousness of man
When he looks out in an ungrateful shape!)
He does deny him, in respect of his,
What charitable men afford to beggars.

3 Stran. Religion groans at it.

1 Stran. For mine own part,
I never tasted Timon in my life,
Nor came any of his bounties over me,
To mark me for his friend; yet, I protest,
For his right noble mind, illustrious virtue,
And honourable carriage,
Had his necessity made use of me,‡
I would have put my wealth into donation,*
And the best half should have return'd to him,
So much I love his heart: But I pereeve,
Men must learn now with pity to dispense:
For policy sits above conscience. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—The same.—A Room in SEMPRONIUS' House.

Enter SEMPRONIUS, and a SERVANT of TIMON'S.

Sem, Must he needs trouble me in't?
Humph! 'Bove all others?

He might have tried lord Lucius, or Lucullus;
And now Ventidius is wealthy too,
Whom he redeem'd from prison: All these
Owe their estates unto him. [three

Serr. O my lord,
They have all been touch'd,† and found base
metal; for

They have all denied him?

Sem. How! have they denied him?

Has Ventidius and Lucullus denied him?
And does he send to me? Three? humph!—
It shows but little love or judgement in him,
Must I be his last refuge? His friends, like
physicians,

Thrive, give him over; Must I take the cure
upon me? [him,

He has much disgrac'd me in't; I am angry at
That might have known my‡ place: I see no
sense for't,

But his occasions might have woo'd me first;
For, in my conscience, I was the first man
That e'er receiv'd gift from him:

* Suffering; "By his bloody cross and passion." Lantry.

† i. e. Hss life. ‡ Acknowledge. § Consumed.

|| "If he did not want it for a good use."

* This means, to put his wealth down in account as a donation.

† Tried.

And does he think so backwardly of me now,
That I'll requite it last? No: So it may prove
An argument of laughter to the rest,
And I amongst the lords be thought a fool.
I had rather than the worth of thrice the sum,
He had sent to me first, but for my mind's
sake;

I had such a courage* to do him good. But
now return,

And with their faint reply this answer join;
Who bates mine honour, shall not know my
coin. [Exit.]

Serv. Excellent! Your lordship's a goodly
villain. The devil knew not what he did,
when he made man politic; he crossed himself
by't; and I cannot think, but, in the end, the
villanies of man will set him clear. How
fairly this lord strives to appear foul! takes
virtuous copies to be wicked; like those that,
under hot ardent zeal, would set whole realms
on fire.

Of such a nature is his politic love.
This way my lord's best hope; now all are fled,
Save the gods only: Now his friends are dead,
Doors, that were ne'er acquainted with their
wards

Many a bounteous year, must be employ'd
Now to guard sure their master.
And this is all a liberal course allows;
Who cannot keep his wealth, must keep his
house.† [Exit.]

SCENE IV.—The same.—A Hall in TIMON'S
House.

Enter two Servants of VARRO, and the Servant
of LUCIUS, meeting TITUS, HORTENSIVS, and
other Servants to TIMON'S Creditors, waiting
his coming out.

Var. Serv. Well met; good-morrow, Titus
and Hortensius.

Tit. The like to you, kind Varro.
Hor. Lucius?

What, do we meet together?

Luc. Serv. Ay, and, I think,
One business does command us all; for mine
is money.

Tit. So is theirs and ours.

Enter PHILOTUS.

Luc. Serv. And Sir
Philotus too!

Phi. Good day at once.

Luc. Serv. Welcome, good brother.

What do you think the hour?

Phi. Labouring for nine.

Luc. Serv. So much?

Phi. Is not my lord seen yet?

Luc. Serv. Not yet.

Phi. I wonder on't; he was wont to shine
at seven.

Luc. Serv. Ay, but the days are waxed
shorter with him:

You must consider, that a prodigal cours
is like the sun's;‡ but not, like his, recoverable.
I fear,

'Tis deepest winter in lord Timon's purse;
That is, one may reach deep enough, and yet
find little.

Phi. I am of your fear for that.

Tit. I'll show you how to observe a strange
Your lord sends now for money. [Event.]

Hor. Most true, he does.

Tit. And he wears jewels now of Timon's
For which I wait for money. [gift.]

Hor. It is against my heart,

Luc. Serv. Mark, how strange it shows,
Timon in this should pay more than he owes:
And e'en as if your lord should wear rich
And send for money for 'em. [jewels.]

Hor. I am weary of this charge,* the gods
can witness:

I know, my lord hath spent of Timon's wealth,
And now ingratitude makes it worse than
stealth.

1 Var. Serv. Yes, mine's three thousand
crowns: What's yours?

Luc. Serv. Five thousand mine.

1 Ver. Serv. 'Tis much deep: and it should
seem by the sum,

Your master's confidence was above mine;
Else, surely, his had equal'd.

Enter FLAMINIUS.

Tit. One of lord Timon's men.

Luc. Serv. Flaminius! Sir, a word: 'Pray,
is my lord ready to come forth?

Flam. No, indeed, he is not.

Tit. We attend his lordship; pray, signify
so much.

Flam. I need not tell him that; he knows,
you are too diligent. [Exit FLAMINIUS.]

Enter FLAVIUS in a cloak, muffled.

Luc. Serv. Ha! is not that his steward muf-
fled so?

He goes away in a cloud: call him, call him.

Tit. Do you hear, Sir?

1 Ver. Serv. By your leave, Sir,—

Fla. What do you ask of me, my friend?

Tit. We wait for certain money here, Sir.

Flav. Ay,

If money were as certain as your waiting,
'Twere sure enough. Why then prefer'd you
not [Exit]

Your sums and bills, when your false masters
Of my lord's meat? Then they could smile,
and fawn

Upon his debts, and take down the interest
Into their gluttonous maws. You do your-
selves but wrong,

To stir me up; let me pass quietly:

Believ't, my lord and I have made an end;

I have no more to reckon, he to spend.

Luc. Serv. Ay, but this answer will not
serv.

Flav. If 'twill not,

'Tis not so base as you; for you serve knaves.
[Exit.]

1 Far. Serv. How! what does his cashier'd
worship mutter!

2 Far. Serv. No matter what; he's poor, and
that's revenge enough. Who can speak broader
than he that has no house to put his head in?
such may rail against great buildings.

Enter SERVILIUS.

Tit. O, here's Servilius; now we shall know
Some answer.

Ser. If I might beseech you, gentlemen,
To repair some other hour, I should much
Derive from it: for to take it on my soul,

My lord leans wond'rously to discontent.
His comfortable temper has forsook him;

He is much out of health, and keeps his cham-
ber.

Luc. Serv. Many do keep their chambers,
are not sick:

And, if it be so far beyond his health,
Methinks, he should the sooner pay his debts,
And make a clear way to the gods.

* Ardour, eager desire. † I. e. Keep within doors for
fear of duns. ‡ I. e. Like him in blaze and splendour.

* Commission, employment.

Ser. Good gods!

Tit. We cannot take this for an answer, Sir.

Flam. [Within] Servilius, help!—my lord!
my lord!—

Enter TIMON, in a rage; FLAMINIUS following.

Tim. What, are my doors oppos'd against
my passage?

Have I been ever free, and must my house

Be my retentive enemy, my jail:

The place which I have feasted, does it now,

Like all mankind, show me an iron heart?

Luc. Serv. Put in now, Titus.

Tit. My lord, here is my bill.

Luc. Serv. Here's mine.

Hor. Serv. And mine, my lord.

Both. Var. Serv. And ours, my lord.

Phi. All our bills.

Tim. Knock me down with 'em!* cleave me
to the girdle.

Luc. Serv. Alas! my lord,—

Tim. Cut my heart in suins.

Tit. Mine, fifty talents.

Tim. Tell out my blood.

Luc. Serv. Five thousand crowns, my lord.

Tim. Five thousand drops pays that.—

What yours?—and yours?

1 Var. Serv. My lord,—

2 Var. Serv. My lord.—

Tim. Tear me, take me, and the gods fall
upon you! [Exit.

Hor. 'Faith, I perceive our masters may
throw their caps at their money; these debts
may well be called desperate ones, for a mad-
man owes 'em. [Exit.

Re-enter TIMON and FLAVIUS.

Tim. They have e'en put my breath from me,
the slaves:

Creditors!—devils.

Flav. My dear lord,—

Tim. What if it should be so?

Flav. My lord,—

Tim. I'll have it so:—My steward!

Flav. Here, my lord.

Tim. So fitly? Go, bid all my friends again,
Lucius, Lucullus, and Sempronius; all:
I'll once more feast the rascals.

Flav. O my lord,

You only speak from your distracted soul;
There is not so much left, to furnish out
A moderate table.

Tim. Be 'not in thy care; go,
I charge thee; invite them all; let in the tide
Of knaves once more; my cook and I'll provide.
[Exeunt.

SCENE V.—The same.—The Senate-House.

The Senate sitting. Enter ALCEBIADES, attended.

1 Sen. My lord, you have my voice to it; the
Bloody; 'tis necessary he should die: [fault's
Nothing emboldens sin so much as mercy.

2 Sen. Most true; the law shall bruise him.

Alcib. Honour, health, and compassion to
the senate!

1 Sen. Now, captain?

Alcib. I am an humble suitor to your virtues;
For pity is the virtue of the law,
And none but tyrants use it cruelly.
It pleases time, and fortune, to lie heavy
Upon a friend of mine, who, in hot blood,
Hath stepp'd into the law, which is past depth
To those that, without heed, do plunge into it.

* Timon quibbles. They present their written bills:
he catches at the word, and alludes to bills or battle-axes.

He is a man, sitting his fate aside.*

Of comely virtues:

Nor did he soil the fact with cowardice;

(An honour in him which buys out his faults,)

But, with a noble fury, and fair spirit,

Seeing his reputation touch'd to death,

He did oppose his foe:

And with such sober and unnoted passion

He did behave; his anger, ere 'twas spent,

As if he had but prov'd an argument.

1 Sen. You undergo too strict a paradox,§

Striving to make an ugly deed look fair:

Your words have took such pains, as if they
labour'd [ling

To bring manslaughter into form, set quarel-

Upon the head of valour; which, indeed,

Is valour misbegot, and came into the world

When sects and factions were newly born;

He's truly valiant, that can wisely suffer

The worst that man can breathe; and make
his wrongs [lessly;

His outsides; wear them like his raiment, care-

And ne'er prefer his injuries to his heart,

To bring it into danger.

If wrongs be evils, and enforce us kill,

What folly 'tis, to hazard life for ill?

Alcib. My lord,—

1 Sen. You cannot make gross sins look clear:
To revenge is no valour, but to bear.

Alcib. My lords, then, under favour, pardon

If I speak like a captain.— [me,

Why do fond men expose themselves to battle,

And not endure all threat'nings? sleep upon it,

And let the foes quietly cut their throats,

Without repugnancy? but if there be

Such valour in the bearing, what make we

Abroad?|| why then, women are more valiant,

That stay at home, if bearing carry it; [lon,

And th'ass, more captain than the lion; the fe-

Loaden with irons, wiser than the judge,

If wisdom be in suffering. O my lords,

As you are great, be pitifully good:

Who cannot condemn rashness in cold blood?

To kill, I grant, is sin's extreme gust;¶

But, in defence, by mercy, 'tis most just.**

To be in anger, is impiety;

But who is a man, that is not angry?

Weigh but the crime with this.

2 Sen. You breathe in vain.

Alcib. In vain? his service done

At Lacedæmon, and Byzantium,

Were a sufficient briber for his life.

1 Sen. What's that?

Alcib. Why, I say, my lords, he's done fair
service,

And slain in fight many of your enemies:

How full of valour did he bear himself

In the last conflict, and made plenteous
wounds?

2 Sen. He has made too much plenty with
'em, he

Is a sworn rioter: he's a sin that often

Drowns him, and takes his valour prisoner:

If there were no foes, that were enough alone

To overcome him: in that beastly fury

He has been known to commit outrages,

And cherish factions: 'Tis infer'd to us,

His days are foul, and his drink dangerous.]

* i. e. Putting this action of his, which was predetermined by fate, out of the question.

† i. e. Passion so subdued that no spectator could note its operation

§ You undertake a paradox too hard

|| What have we to do in the field?

¶ For aggravation.

** "Homicide in our own defence by a merciful interpretation of the law is considered justifiable.

1 Sen. He dies.

Alcib. Hard fate! he might have died in war.
My lords, if not for any parts in him,
(Though his right arm might purchase his
own time, [you,

And be in debt to none,) yet, more to move
Take my deserts to his, and join them both:
And, for I know, your reverend ages love
Security, I'll pawn my victorirs, all
My honour to you, upon his good returns.
If by this crime he owes the law his life,
Why, let the war receiv't in valiant gore;
For law is strict, and war is nothing more.

1 Sen. We are for law, he dies; urge it no
more, [ther,
On height of our displeasure: Friend, or bro-
He forfeits his own blood, that spills another.

Alcib. Must it be so? it must not be. My
I do beseech you, know me. [lords,

2 Sen. How?

Alcib. Call me to your remembrances.

3 Sen. What?

Alcib. I cannot think, but your age has for-
got me;

It could not else be, I should prove so base,*
To sue, and be denied such common grace;
My wounds ache at you.

1 Sen. Do you dare our anger?
'Tis in few words, but spacious in effect;
We banish thee for ever.

Alcib. Banish me?

Banish your dotage; banish usury,
That makes the senate ugly.

1 Sen. If, after two days' shine, Athens
contain thee,
Attend our weightier judgement. And, not
to swell our spirit,†
He shall be executed presently.

[Exit SENATORS.]

Alcib. Now the gods keep you old enough;
that you may live

Only in bone, that none may look on you!
I am worse than mad: I have kept back their
foes,

While they have told their money, and let out
Their coin upon large interest; I myself,
Rich only in large hurts;—All those, for this?
Is this the balsam, that the usuring senate
Pours into captains' wounds? ha! banish-
ment?

It comes not ill; I hate not to be banish'd;
It is a cause worthy my spleen and fury,
That I may strike at Athens. I'll cheer up
My discontented troops, and lay for hearts,‡
'Tis honour, with most lands to be at odds;
Soldiers should brook as little wrongs, as
gods. [Exit.]

SCENE VI.—A magnificent Room in TIMON'S
House.

Music. Tables set out: SERVANTS attending.
Enter divers LORDS, at several doors.

1 Lord. The good time of day to you, Sir.

2 Lord. I also wish it to you. I think, this
honourable lord did but try us this other day.

1 Lord. Upon that were my thoughts tiring,§
when we encountered: I hope, it is not so
lovely with him, as he made it seem in the trial
of his several friends.

2 Lord. It should not be, by the persuasion
of his new feasting

* For dishonoured.

† i. e. Not to put ourselves in any tumour of rage.
‡ We should now say—to lay out for hearts, i. e. the
affections of the people.

§ To tire on a thing meant to be idly employed on it.

1 Lord. I should think so: He hath sent
me an earnest inviting, which many my near
occasions did urge me to put off; but he hath
conjured me beyond them, and I must needs
appear.

2 Lord. In like manner was I in debt to my
importunate business, but he would not hear
my excuse. I am sorry, when he sent to bor-
row of me, that my provision was out.

1 Lord. I am sick of that grief too, as I un-
derstand how all things go.

2 Lord. Every man here's so. What would
he have borrowed of you?

1 Lord. A thousand pieces.

2 Lord. A thousand pieces!

1 Lord. What of you?

3 Lord. He sent to me, Sir.—Here he comes.

Enter TIMON, and attendants.

Tim. With all my heart, gentlemen both:—
And how fare you?

1 Lord. Ever at the best, hearing well of
your lordship.

2 Lord. The swallow follows not the sum-
mer more willing, than we your lordship.

Tim. [Aside.] Nor more willingly leaves
winter; such summer-birds are men.—Gentle-
men, our dinner will not recompense this long
stay: feast your ears with the music awhile;
if they will fare so harshly on the trumpet's
sound: we shall to't presently.

1 Lord. I hope it remains not unkindly
with your lordship, that returned you an
empty messenger.

Tim. O, Sir, let it not trouble you.

2 Lord. My noble lord,—

Tim. Ah, my good friend! what cheer?

[The banquet brought in.]

2 Lord. My most honourable lord, I am e'en
sick of shame, that, when your lordship this
other day sent to me, I was so unfortunate a
beggar.

Tim. Think not on't, Sir.

2 Lord. If you had sent but two hours be-
fore,—

Tim. Let it not cumber your better remem-
brance.*—Come, bring in all together.

2 Lord. All cover'd dishes!

1 Lord. Royal cheer, I warrant you.

3 Lord. Doubt not that, if money, and the
season can yield it.

1 Lord. How do you? What's the news?

3 Lord. Alcibiades is banished: Hear you
of it?

1 & 2 Lord. Alcibiades banished!

3 Lord. 'Tis so, be sure of it.

1 Lord. How? how?

2 Lord. I pray you, upon what?

Tim. My worthy friends, will you draw near?
3 Lord. I'll tell you more anon. Here's a
noble feast toward.

2 Lord. This is the old man still,

3 Lord. Will't hold? will't hold?

2 Lord. It does: but time will—and so—

3 Lord. I do conceive.

Tim. Each man to his stool, with that spur
as he would to the lip of his mistress: your
diet shall be in all places alike. Make not a
city feast of it, to let the meat cool ere we can
agree upon the first place: Sit, sit. The gods
require our thanks.

You great benefactors, sprinkle our society
with thankfulness. For your own gifts, make
yourselves praised: but reserve still to give, lest

* i. e. Your good memory.

your deities be despised. Lend to each man enough, that one need not lend to the other: for, were your godheads to borrow of men, men would forsake the gods. Make the meat be beloved, more than the man that gives it. Let no assembly of twenty be without a score of villains: If there sit twelve women at the table, let a dozen of them be—as they are.—The rest of your fees, O gods,—the senators of Athens, together with the common lag* of people,—what is amiss in them, you gods make suitable for destruction. For these my present friends,—as they are to me nothing, so in nothing bless them, and to nothing they are welcome.

Uncover, dogs, and lap.

[The dishes uncovered are full of warm water. Some speak. What does his lordship mean? Some other. I know not.

Tim. May you a better feast never behold, You knot of mouth-friends! smoke, and lukewarm water

Is your perfection. This is Timon's last; Who stuck and spangled you with flatteries, Washes it off, and sprinkles in your faces

[Throwing water in their faces.

Your reeking villany. Live loath'd, and long, Most smiling, smooth, detested parasites, Courteous destroyers, affable wolves, meek bears,

You fools of fortune, trencher-friends, time's Cap and knee slaves, vapours, and minute-jacks!†

Of man, and beast, the infinite malady Crust you quite o'er!—What, dost thou go? Soft, take thy physic first—thou too,—and thou;—

[Throws the dishes at them, and drives them out.

Stay, I will lend thee money, borrow none.—What, all in motion? Henceforth be no feast, Whereat a villain's not a welcome guest. [be Burn, house; sink, Athens! henceforth hated Of Timon, man, and all humanity! [Exit.

Re-enter the LORDS, with other LORDS and SENATORS.

1 Lord. How now, my lords?

2 Lord. Know you the quality of lord Timon's fury?

3 Lord. Pish! did you see my cap?

4 Lord. I have lost my gown.

3 Lord. He's but a mad lord, and nought but humour sways him. He gave me a jewel the other day, and now he has beat it out of my hat:—Did you see my jewel?

4 Lord. Did you see my cap?

3 Lord. Here 'tis.

4 Lord. Here lies my gown.

1 Lord. Let's make no stay.

2 Lord. Lord Timon's mad.

3 Lord. I feel't upon my bones.

4 Lord. One day he gives us diamonds, next day stones. [Exeunt.

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—Without the walls of Athens.

Enter TIMON.

Tim. Let me look back upon thee, O thou wall, [earth, That girdlest in those wolves! Dive in the And fence not Athens! Matrons, turn incontinent;

Obedience fail in children! slaves, and fools, Pluck the grave wrinkled senate from the bench,

And minister in their steads! to general filths* Convert o'the instant, green virginity! [fast; Do't in your parents' eyes! bankrupts, hold Rather than render back, out with your knives, And cut your trusters' throats! bound servants, steal!

Large handed robbers your grave masters are, And pill by law! maid, to thy master's bed; Thy mistress is o'the brothel! son of sixteen, Pluck the lin'd crutch from the old limping sire,

With it beat out his brains! piety, and fear, Religion to the gods, peace, justice, truth, Domestic awe, night-rest, and neighbourhood, Instruction, manners, mysteries, and trades, Degrees, observances, customs, and laws, Decline to your confounding contraries,† And yet confusion live!—Plagues, incident to Your potent and infectious fevers heap [men, On Athens, ripe for stroke! thou cold sciatica, Cripple our senators, that their limbs may halt As lamely as their manners! lust and liberty‡ Creep in the minds and marrows of our youth; That 'gainst the stream of virtue they may strive,

And drown themselves in riot! itches, blains, Sow all the Athenian bosoms; and their crop Be general leprosy! breath infect breath; That their society, as their friendship, may Be merely poison! Nothing I'll bear from thee, But nakedness, thou detestable town! Take thou that too, with multiplying banes!§ Timon will to the woods; where he shall find The unkindest beast more kinder than mankind.

The gods confound (hear me, ye good gods all,) The Athenians both within and out that wall! And grant, as Timon grows, his hate may grow To the whole race of mankind, high, and low! Amen. [Exit.

SCENE II.—Athens.—A Room in TIMON'S House.

Enter FLAVIUS, with two or three SERVANTS.

1 Ser. Hear you, master steward, where's our master?

Are we undone? cast off? nothing remaining? Flav. Alack, my fellows, what should I say to you?

Let me be recorded by the righteous gods, I am as poor as you.

1 Ser. Such a house broke! So noble a master fallen! All gone! and not One friend, to take his fortune by the arm, And go along with him!

2 Ser. As we do turn our backs From our companion, thrown into his grave; So his familiars to his buried fortunes Slink all away; leave their false vows with him, Like empty purses pick'd: and his poor self, A dedicated beggar to the air, With his disease of all-shunn'd poverty, Walks, like contempt, alone.—More of our fellows.

Enter other SERVANTS.

Flav. All broken implements of a ruin'd house.

* Common sewers.

† The lowest. ‡ Flies of a season.

§ Jacks of the clock; like those at St. Dunstan's church, in Fleet-street.

† i. e. Contraries, whose nature it is to waste or destroy each other.

‡ For libertinism.

§ Accumulated curses.

3 *Serv.* Yet do our hearts wear Timon's livery.

That see I by our faces; we are fellows still,
Serving alike in sorrow. Leak'd is our bark;
And we, poor mates, stand on the dying deck,
Hearing the surges threat: we must all part
Into this sea of air.

Flav. Good fellows all,
The latest of my wealth I'll share amongst you.
Wherever we shall meet, for Timon's sake,
Let's yet be fellows; let's shake our heads,
and say,

As 'twere a knell unto our master's fortunes,
We have seen better days. Let each take some;
[*Giving them money.*]

Nay, put out all your hands. Not one word
more:

Thus part we rich in sorrow, parting poor,
[*Exeunt SERVANTS.*]

O, the fierce* wretchedness that glory brings
us! [empt,

Who would not wish to be from wealth ex-
Since riches point to misery and contempt?

Who'd be so mock'd with glory? or to live
But in a dream of friendship? [pounds,

To have his pomp, and all what state com-
But only painted, like his varnish'd friends?

Poor honest lord, brought low by his own
heart;

Undone by goodness! Strange, unusual blood, †
When man's worst sin is, he does too much
good!

Who then dares to be half so kind again?
For bounty, that makes gods, does still mar-
men.

My dearest lord,—bless'd, to be most accurs'd
Rich, only to be wretched;—thy great fortunes
Are made thy chief afflictions. Alas, kind
lord!

He's flung in rage from this ungrateful seat
Of monstrous friends: nor has he with him to
Supply his life, or that which can command it.
I'll follow, and inquire him out:

I'll serve his mind with my best will;
Whilst I have gold, I'll be his steward still.
[*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—The Woods.

Enter TIMON.

Tim. O blessed breeding sun, draw from the
earth

Rotten humidity; below thy sister's orb †
Infect the air! Twinn'd brothers of one womb,—
Whose procreation, residence, and birth,
Scarce is dividant,—touch them with several
fortunes;

The grater scorns the lesser: Not nature,
To whom all sores lay siege, can bear great
But by § contempt of nature. [fortune,

Raise me this beggar, and denude that lord;
The senator shall bear contempt hereditary,
The beggar native honour.

It is the pasture lards the brother's sides,
The want that makes him lean. Who dares,
who dares,

In purity of manhood stand upright,
And say, *This man's a flatterer?* if one be,
So are they all; for every grize of fortune
Is smooth'd by that below: the learned pate
Ducks to the golden fool: All is oblique;
There's nothing level in our cursed natures,
But direct villany. Therefore, be abhorr'd

All feasts, societies and throngs of men!
His semblable, yea, himself, Timon disdains!
Destruction fang* mankind!—Earth, yield me
roots! [Digging.]

Who seeks for better of thee, sauce his palace
With thy most operant poison! What is here?
Gold? yellow, glittering, precious gold? No,
gods, [vens!]

I am no idle votarist. † Roots, you clear hea-
Thus much of this, will make black white;
foul, fair;

Wrong, right; base, noble; old, young; cow-
ard, valiant.

Ha, you gods! why this? What this, you
gods? Why this [sides;

Will lug your priests and servants from your
Pluck stout men's pillows from below their
This yellow slave [heads:

Will knit and break religions; bless the ac-
curs'd;

Make the hoar leprosy ador'd; place thieves,
And give them title, knee, and approbation,
With senators on the bench: this is it,

That makes the wappen'd ‡ widow wed again;
She, whom the spital-house, and ulcerous sores
Would cast the gorge at, this embalms and
spices

To the April day again. § Come, demned
earth,

Thou common whore of mankind, that put'st
odds

Among the rout of nations, I will make thee
Do thy right nature.—[*March afar off.*]—Ha!

a drum?—Thou'rt quick,
But yet I'll bury thee: Thou'lt go, strong thief,
When gouty keepers of thee cannot stand:—
Nay, stay thou out for earnest.
[*Keeping some gold.*]

*Enter ALCIADAES, with drum and fife, in war-
like manner; PHRYNIA and TIMANDRA.*

Alcib. What art thou there?
Speak.

Tim. A beast, as thou art. The canker
know thy heart,

For showing me again the eyes of man!
Alcib. What is thy name? Is man so hateful
to thee,

That art thyself a man?
Tim. I am *misanthropos*, and hate mankind.
For thy part, I do wish thou wert a dog,
That I might love thee something.

Alcib. I know thee well;
But in thy fortunes am unlearn'd and strange.

Tim. I know thee too; and more, than that
I know thee,

I not desire to know. Follow thy drum:
With man's blood paint the ground, gules,
gules:

Religious canons, civil laws are cruel;
Then what should war be? This fell whore
of thine

Hath in her more destruction than thy sword,
For all her cherubin look.

Phr. Thy lips rot off!
Tim. I will not kiss thee; then the rot re-
To thine own lips again. [turns

Alcib. How came the noble Timon to this
change?

Tim. As the moon does, by wanting light to
give:

* Seize, gripe.

† No insincere or inconstant supplicant. Gold will
not serve me instead of roots.

‡ Sorrowful.

§ I. e. Gold restores her to all the sweetness and fresh-
ness of youth.

* Hasty, precipitate. † Propensity, disposition.

‡ I. e. The moon's, this sublunary world.

§ But by is here used for without.

But then renew I could not like the moon;
There were no suns to borrow of.

Alcib. Noble Timon,
What friendship may I do thee?

Tim. None, but to
Maintain my opinion.

Alcib. What is it, Timon?
Tim. Promise me friendship, but perform
none: If [for

Thou wilt not promise, the gods plague thee:
Thou art a man! if thou dost perform, con-
found thee,

For thou'rt a man I

Alcib. I have heard in some sort of thy
miseries.

Tim. Thou saw'st them, when I had pros-
perity.

Alcib. I see them now; then was a blessed
time.

Tim. As thine is now, held with a brace of
harlots.

Timan. Is this the Athenian minion, whom
the world

Voic'd so regardfully?

Tim. Art thou Timandra?

Timan. Yes.

Tim. Be a whore still! they love thee not,
that use thee; [lust.

Give them disease, leaving with thee their
Make use of thy salt hours: season the slaves

For tubs, and baths; bring down rose-checked
To the tub-fast, and the diet.* [youth

Timan. Hang thee, monster!

Alcib. Pardon him, sweet Timandra; for his
wits

Are drown'd and lost in his calamities.—

I have but little gold of late, brave Timon,

The want wherof doth daily make revolt
In my penurious band: I have heard and

griev'd,
How curs'd Athens, mindless of thy worth,

Forgetting thy great deeds, when neighbour
states, [them.

But for thy sword and fortune, trod upon
Tim. I pr'ythee, beat thy drum, and get thee
gone.

Alcib. I am thy friend, and pity thee, dear
Timon.

Tim. How dost thou pity him, whom thou
dost trouble?

I had rather be alone.

Alcib. Why, fare thee well:

Here's some gold for thee.

Tim. Keep't, I cannot eat it.

Alcib. When I have laid proud Athens on a
heap,—

Tim. Warr'st thou 'gainst Athens?

Alcib. Ay, Timon, and have cause.

Tim. The gods confound them all i'thy con-
quest; and

Thee after, when thou hast conquer'd!

Alcib. Why me, Timon?

Tim. That,

By killing villains, thou wast born to conquer
My country. [on;

Put up thy gold; Go on,—here's gold,—go
Be as a planetary plague, when Jove

Will o'er some high-vid'd city hang his poison
In the sick air: Let not thy sword skip one;

Pity not honour'd age for his white beard,
He's a usurer: Strike me the counterfeit

It is her habit only that is honest, [matron;
Herself's a bawd: Let not the virgin's cheek

Make soft thy trenchant sword; for those
milk-paps,

That through the window-bars bore at men's
Are not within the leaf of pity writ, [eyes,

Set them down horrible traitors: Spare not
the babe, [mercy;

Whose dimpled smiles from fools exhaust their
Think it a bastard,* whom the oracle

Hath doubtfully pronounc'd thy throat shall
cut, [objects; †

And mince it sans remorse; ‡ Swear against
Put armour on thine ears, and on thine eyes:

Whose proof, nor yells of mothers, maids, nor
babes,

Nor sight of priests in holy vestments bleeding,
Shall pierce a jot. There's gold to pay thy

soldiers;
Make large confusion: and, thy fury spent,
Confounded by thyself! Speak not, be gone.

Alcib. Hast thou gold yet? I'll take the
gold thou giv'st me,

Not all thy counsel.

Tim. Dost thou, or dost thou not, heaven's
curse upon thee!

Phr. & Timan. Give us some gold, good Ti-
mon: hast thou more?

Tim: Enough to make a whore forswear her
trade, [sluts,

And to make whores, a bawd. Hold up, you
Your aprons mountant: You are not oathable,—

Although, I know, you'll swear, terribly swear,
Into strong shudders, and to heavenly agues,

The immortal gods that hear you,—spare your
oaths,

I'll trust to your conditions: § Be whores still;

And he whose pious breath seeks to convert
you,

Be strong in whore, allure him, burn him up;
Let your close fire predominate his smoke,

And be no turncoats: Yet may your pains,
six months, [roofs

Be quite contrary: And thatch your poor thin
With burdens of the dead;—some that were

hang'd,

No matter: wear them, betray with them:
whore still;

Paint till a horse may mire upon your face:
A box of wrinkles!

Phr. & Timan. Well, more gold;—What
tuen?—

Believ't, that we'll do any thing for gold.

Tim. Consumptions sow [shins,

In hollow bores of man; strike their sharp
And mar men's spurring. Crack the law-

yer's voice,
That he may never more false title plead,

Nor sound 'squilllets|| shrilly: hoar the flamen,
That scolds against the quality of flesh,

And not believes himself: down with the nose,
Down with it flat; take the bridge quite away

Of him, that his particular to foresee,
Smells from the general weal: make curl'd-

pate ruffian's bald;

And let the unscarr'd braggarts of the war
Derive some pain from you: Plague all;

That your activity may defeat and quell
The source of all erection.—There's more

gold:—
Do you damn others, and let this damn you,
And ditches grave|| you all!

Phr. & Timan. More counsel with more
money, bounteous Timon.

Tim. More whore, more mischief first; I
have given you earnest.

* An allusion to the tale of Oedipus. † Without pity.

‡ i. e. Against objects of charity and compassion.

§ Vocation. || Subjunctives. ¶ Entomb.

uding to the cure of the lues venereathen in practice.

† Cutting.

Alcib. Strike up the drum towards Athens.

Farewell, Timon;

If I thrive well, I'll visit thee again.

Tim. If I hope well, I'll never see thee more.

Alcib. I never did thee harm.

Tim. Yes, thou spok'st well of me.

Alcib. Call'st thou that harm?

Tim. Men daily find it such. Get thee away, and take thy beagles with thee.

Alcib. We but offend him.—
Strike.

[*Drum beats.* *Exeunt* ALCEBIADES,
PHRYNIA, and TIMANDRA.]

Tim. That nature, being sick of man's unkindness,

Should yet be hungry!—Common mother, thou,

[*Digging.*

Whose womb unmeasurable, and infinite breast,*

Teems, and feeds all; whose self-same mettle, Whereof thy proud child, arrogant man, is puff'd,

Engenders the black toad, and adder blue, The gilded newt, and eyeless venom'd worm.†

With all the abhorred births below crisp; heaven

[shine;

Whereon Hyperion's quickening fire doth Yield him, who all thy human sons doth hate,

From forth thy plenteous bosom one poor root! Ensear thy fertile and conception womb,

Let it no more bring out ingratul man!

Go great with tigers, dragons, wolves, and bears;

Teem with new monsters, whom thy upward Hath to the marbled mansion all above [face,

Never presented!—O, a root,—Dear thanks! Dry up thy narrows, vines, and plough-torn

leas; [draughts,

Whereof ingratul man, with liquorish And morsels unctuous, greases his pure mind,

That from it all consideration slips!

Enter APEMANTUS.

More man? Plague! plague!

Apem. I was directed hither: Men report, thou dost affect my manners, and dost use them.

Tim. 'Tis then, because thou dost not keep a dog [thee!

Whom I would imitate: Consumption catch

Apem. This is in thee a nature but affected; A poor unmanly melancholy, sprung [place?

From change of fortune. Why this spade? this This slave-like habit? and these looks of care?

Thy flatterers yet wear silk, drink wine, lie soft,

Hug their diseas'd perfumes,§ and have forgot That ever Timon was. Shame not these woods,

By putting on the cunning of a carper.¶ Be thou a flatterer now, and seek to thrive

By that which has undone thee: hinge thy knee,

And let his very breath, whom thou'lt observe, Blow off thy cap; praise his most vicious

strain,

And call it excellent: Thou wast told thus; Thou gav'st thine ears, like tapsters, that bid

welcome,

To knaves, and all approachers: 'Tis most just, That thou turn rascal; had'st thou wealth

again, [ness.

Rascals should hav't. Do not assume my like-

Tim. Were I like thee, I'd throw away myself.

Apem. Thou hast cast away thyself, being like thyself;

A madman so long, now a fool: What, think'st

That the bleak air, thy boisterous chamberlain, Will put thy shirt on warm? Will these moss'd

trees,

That have outliv'd the eagle, page thy heels, And skip when thou point'st out? Will the

cold brook,

Candied with ice, candle thy morning taste, To cure thy o'er-night's surfeit? call the crea-

tures,—

Whose naked natures live in all the spite Of wreakful heaven; whose bare unhoued

To the conflicting elements exposed, [trunks, Answer mere nature,—bid them flatter thee;

O! thou shalt find—

Tim. A fool of thee: Depart.

Apem. I love thee better now than e'er I did.

Tim. I hate thee worse.

Apem. Why?

Tim. Thou flatter'st misery.

Apem. I flatter not; but say, thou art a cavitt.

Tim. Why dost thou seek me out?

Apem. To vex thee.

Tim. Always a villain's office, or a fool's. Dost please thyself in't?

Apem. Ay.

Tim. What! a knave too?

Apem. If thou didst put this sour cold habit on

To castigate thy pride, 'twere well: but thou Dost it enforcedly; thou'dst courtier be again,

Wert thou not beggar. Willing misery Outlives uncertain pomp, is crown'd before.*

The one is filling still, never complete; [less, The other, at high wish: Best state content-

Hath a distracted and most wretched being, Worse than the worst, content.

Thou should'st desire to die, being miserable. *Tim.* Not by his breath,† that is more mis-

erable.

Thou art a slave, whom fortune's tender arm With favour never clas'd: but bred a dog.

Hadst thou, like us, from our first swath,‡ proceeded

The sweet degrees that this brief world affords To such as may the passive drugs of it

Freely command, thou would'st have plung'd thyself

In general riot; melted down thy youth‡ In different beds of lust; and never learn'd

The icy precepts of respect,§ but follow'd The sugar'd game before thee. But myself,

Who had the world as my confectionary; The mouths, the tongues, the eyes, and hearts

of men

At duty, more than I could frame employment; That numberless upon me stuck, as leaves

Do on the oak, have with one winter's brush Fell from their boughs, and left me open, bare

For every storm that blows:—I, to hear this, That never knew but better, is some burden:

Thy nature did commence in sufferance, time Hath made thee hard in't. Why should'st thou

hate men? [given!

They never flatter'd thee: What hast thou If thou wilt curse,—thy father, that poor rag,

Must be thy subject; who, in spite, put stuff To some she beggar, and compounded thee

* Boundless surface.

† The serpent called the blind-worm. ‡ Bent.

§ i. e. Their diseased perfumed mistresses.

¶ i. e. Shame not these words by finding fault.

* i. e. Arrives sooner at the completion of its wishes.

† By his voice, sentence. ‡ From infancy.

§ The cold admonitions of cautious prudence.

Poor rogue hereditary. Hence! be gone!—
If thou hadst not been born the worst of men,
Thou hadst been a knave, and flatterer.

Apem. Art thou proud yet?

Tim. Ay, that I am not thee.

Apem. I, that I was
No prodigal.

Tim. I, that I am one now;
Were all the wealth I have, shut up in thee,
I'd give thee leave to hang it. Get thee gone—
That the whole life of Athens were in this!
'Thus would I eat it. [*Eating a root.*]

Apem. Here; I will mend thy feast.

[*Offering him something.*]

Tim. First mend my company, take away
thyself.

Apem. So I shall mend mine own, 'by the
lack of thine.

Tim. 'Tis not well mended so, it is but botch'd
If not, I would it were.

Apem. What would'st thou have to Athens?

Tim. Thee thither in a whirlwind. If thou
wilt,

Tell them there I have gold; look, so I have.

Apem. Here is no use for gold.

Tim. The best, and truest:

For here it sleeps, and does no hired harm.

Apem. Where liest o' nights, Timon?

Tim. Under that's above me.

Where feed'st thou o' days, Apemantus?

Apem. Where my stomach finds meat; or,
rather, where I eat it.

Tim. Would poison were obedient and knew
my mind!

Apem. Where would'st thou send it?

Tim. To sauce thy dishes.

Apem. The middle of humanity thou never
knewest, but the extremity of both ends: When
thou wast in thy gilt, and thy perfume, they
mocked thee for too much curiosity;* in thy
rags thou knowest none, but art despised for
the contrary. There's a medlar for thee, eat it.

Tim. On what I hate, I feed not.

Apem. Dost hate a medlar?

Tim. Ay, though it look like thee.

Apem. An thou had'st hated medlers sooner,
thou should'st have loved thyself better now.
What man didst thou ever know unthrift, that
was beloved after his means?

Tim. Who, without those means thou talk-
est of, didst thou ever know beloved?

Apem. Myself.

Tim. I understand thee; thou hadst some
means to keep a dog.

Apem. What things in the world canst thou
nearest compare to thy flatterers?

Tim. Women nearest; but men, men are
the things themselves. What would'st thou do
with the world, Apemantus, if it lay in thy
power?

Apem. Give it the beasts, to be rid of the
men.

Tim. Would'st thou have thyself fall in the
confusion of men, and remain a beast with
the beasts?

Apem. Ay, Timon.

Tim. A beastly ambition, which the gods
grant thee to attain to! If thou wert the lion,
the fox would beguile thee! if thou wert the
lamb, the fox would eat thee: if thou wert the
fox, the lion would suspect thee, when, perad-
venture, thou wert accused by the ass: if thou
wert the ass, thy dulness would torment thee:
and still thou livest but as a breakfast to the
wolf: if thou wert the wolf, thy greediness

would afflict thee, and oft thou shouldst hazard
thy life for thy dinner: wert thou the unicorn
pride and wrath would confound thee, and
make thine own self the conquest of thy fury:
wert thou a bear thou would'st be killed by the
horse; wert thou a horse, thou would'st be
seized by the leopard; wert thou a leopard,
thou wert german to the lion, and the spots
of thy kindred were jurors on thy life: all thy
safety were remotion;* and thy defence, ab-
sence. What beast could'st thou be, that were
not subject to a beast? and what a beast art
thou already, that seest not thy loss in trans-
formation?

Apem. If thou could'st please me with speak-
ing to me, thou might'st have hit upon it here:
The commonwealth of Athens is become a
forest of beasts.

Tim. How has the ass broke the wall, that
thou art out of the city?

Apem. Yonder comes a poet, and a painter:
The plague of company light upon thee! I
will fear to catch it, and give way: When I
know not what else to do, I'll see thee again.

Tim. When there is nothing living but thee,
thou shalt be welcome. I had rather be a beg-
gar's dog, than Apemantus.

Apem. Thou art the cap't of all the fools alive.

Tim. Would thou wert clean enough to spit
upon.

Apem. A plague on thee, thou art too bad
to curse.

Tim. All villains, that do stand by thee,
are pure.

Apem. There is no leprosy but what thou
speak'st.

Tim. If I name thee.—

I'll beat thee,—but I should infect my hands.

Apem. I would, my tongue could rot them
off!

Tim. Away, thou issue of a mangy dog!
Choler doth kill me, that thou art alive;

I swoon to see thee.

Apem. Would thou would'st burst!

Tim! Away,

Thou tedious rogue! I am sorry, I shall lose
A stone by thee. [*Throws a stone at him.*]

Apem. Beast!

Tim. Slave!

Apem. Toad!

Tim. Rogue, rogue, rogue!

[*Apemantus retreats backward, as going.*]

I am sick of this false world; and will love
nought

But even the mere necessities upon it.

Then, Timon, presently prepare thy grave;
Lie where the light foam of the sea may beat
Thy grave-stone daily: make thine epitaph,
That death in me at others' lives may laugh.
O thou sweet king-killer, and dear divorce

[*Looking on the gold.*]

'Twixt natural son and sire! thou bright defiler
Of Hymen's purest bed! thou valiant Mars!
Thou ever young, fresh, lov'd, and delicate
wooer,

Whose blush doth thaw the consecrated snow
That lies on Dian's lap! thou visible god,
That soldier'st close impossibilities,
And mak'st them kiss! that speak'st with
every tongue,

To every purpose! O thou touch† of hearts!
Think, thy slave man rebels; and by thy virtue
Set them into confounding odds, that beasts
May have the world in empire!

* Remoteness, the being placed at a distance from the
lion. † The top, the principal. ‡ For touchstone.

* For too much finical delicacy.

Apem. 'Would 'twere so :
But not till I am dead !—I'll say, thou hast
Thou wilt be throng'd to shortly. [gold :

Tim. Throng'd to ?

Apem. Ay.

Tim. Thy back, I pr'ythee :

Apem. Live, and love thy misery !

Tim. Long live so, and so die !—I am quit.—

[Exit *APEMANTUS*.

More things like men?—Eat, Timon, and abhor them.

Enter THIEVES.

1 *Thief.* Where should he have this gold ?
It is some poor fragment, some slender orb of
his remainder : The mere want of gold, and
the falling-from of his friends, drove him into
this melancholy.

2 *Thief.* It is noised, he hath a mass of
treasure.

3 *Thief.* Let us make the assay upon him :
if he care not for't, he will supply us easily ;
if he covetously reserve it, how shall's get it ?

2 *Thief.* True ; for he bears it not about
him, 'tis hid.

1 *Thief.* Is not this he ?

Thieves. Where ?

2 *Thief.* 'Tis his description.

3 *Thief.* He ; I know him.

Thieves. Save thee, Timon.

Tim. Now, thieves !

Thieves. Soldiers, not thieves.

Tim. Both too : and women's sons.

Thieves. We are not thieves, but men that
much do want :

Tim. Your greatest want is, you want
much of meat, [roots ;

Why should you want ? Behold, the earth hath
Within this mile break forth a hundred springs :
The oaks bear mast, the briers scarlet hips ;
The bounteous housewife, nature, on each bush
Lays her full mess before you. Want? why
want ?

1 *Thief.* We cannot live on grass, on berries,
As beasts, and birds, and fishes. [water,

Tim. Nor on the beasts themselves, the
birds, and fishes ; [con,

You must eat men. Yet thanks I must you
That you are thieves profess'd ; that you
work not

In holier shapes ; for there is boundless theft
In limited* professions. Rascal thieves,

Here's gold : Go, suck the subtle blood of
the grape,

Till the high fever seeth your blood to froth,
And so scape hanging : trust not the physician ;
His antidotes are poison, and he slays
More than you rob : take wealth and lives
together :

Do villany, do, since you profess to do't,
Like workmen. I'll example you with
thievery :

The sun's a thief, and with his great attraction
Robs the vast sea ; the moon's an arrant thief,
And her pale fire she snatches from the sun :
The sea's a thief, whose liquid surge resolves
The moon into salt tears : the earth's a thief,
That feeds and breeds by a composture† stolen
From general excrement ; each thing's a thief :
The laws, your curb and whip, in their rough
power, [away ;

Have uncheck'd theft. Love not yourselves :
Rob one another. There's more gold : Cut
throats ;

All that you meet are thieves ; To Athens, go,
Break open shops ; nothing can you steal,
But thieves do lose it : Steal not less, for this
I give you ; and gold confound you howsoever !
Amen. [TIMON retires to his cave.

3 *Thief.* He has almost charmed me from
my profession, by persuading me to it.

1 *Thief.* 'Tis in the malice of mankind, that
he thus advises us ; not to have us thrive in
our mystery.

2 *Thief.* I'll believe him as an enemy, and
give over my trade.

1 *Thief.* Let us first see peace in Athens :
There is no time so miserable, but a man may
be true. [Exit *THIEVES*.

Enter FLAVIUS.

Flav. O you gods !

Is yon despis'd and ruinous man my lord ?

Full of decay and failing ? O monument

And wonder of good deeds evilly betso'w'd !

What an alteration of honour* has

Desperate want made !

What viler thing upon the earth, than friends,

Who can bring noblest minds to basest ends !

How rarely† does it meet with this time's

guise,

When man was wish'd‡ to love his enemies :

Grant, I may ever love, and rather woo [do !

Those that would mischief me, than those that

He has caught me in his eye : I will present

My honest grief unto him ; and, as my lord,

Still serve him with my life.—My dearest

master !

TIMON comes forward from his Cave.

Tim. Away ! what art thou ?

Flav. Have you forgot me, Sir ?

Tim. Why dost ask that ? I have forgot all
men ;

Thou, if thou grant'st thou'rt man, I have forgot
thee.

Flav. An honest poor servant of yours.

Tim. Then

I know thee not : I ne'er had honest man
About me, I ; all that I kept were knaves,
To serve in meat to villains.

Flav. The gods are witness,

Ne'er did poor steward wear a truer grief
For his undone lord, than mine eyes for you.

Tim. What, dost thou weep ?—Come near-
er ;—then I love thee,

Because thou art a woman, and disclaim'st
Flinty mankind ; whose eyes do never give,
But thorough lust, and laughter. Pity's sleep-
ing :

Strange times, that weep with laughing, not
with weeping !

Flav. I beg of you to know me, good my
lord, [lasts,

To accept my grief, and whilst this poor wealth
To entertain me as your steward still.

Tim. Had I a steward so true, so just, and
So comfortable ? It almost turns [now

My dangerous nature wild. Let me behold
Thy face.—Surely, this man was born of wo-
man.—

Forgive my general and exceptless rashness,
Perpetual-sober goals ! I do proclaim

One honest man,—mistake me not,—but one ;

No more, I pray,—and he is a steward.—

How fain would I have hated all mankind,

And thou redeem'st thyself : But all, save thee,

* An alteration of honour is an alteration of an honourable state to a state of disgrace.

† How happily.

‡ Recommended.

* For legal.

† Comport, manure.

I fell with curses. [wise,
Methinks, thou art more honest now, than
For, by oppressing and betraying me,
Thou might'st have sooner got another service:
For many so arrive at second masters,
Upon their first lord's neck. But tell me true,
(For I must ever doubt, though ne'er so sure,)
Is not thy kindness subtle, covetous,
If not a usuring kindness; and as rich men
deal gifts,
Expecting in return twenty for one?

Flav. No, my most worthy master, in
whose breast
Doubt and suspect, alas, are plac'd too late:
You should have fear'd false times, when you
did feast:

Suspect still comes where an estate is least.
That which I show, heaven knows, is merely
love,

Duty and zeal to your unmatched mind,
Care of your food and living: and, believe it,
My most honour'd lord,
For any benefit that points to me,
Either in hope, or present, I'd exchange
For this one wish, That you had power and
wealth

To requite me, by making rich yourself.

Tim. Look thee, 'tisso?—Thou singly honest
Here take:—the gods out of my misery [man,
Have sent the treasure. Go, live rich, and
happy: [men;*

But thus condition'd; Thou shalt build from
Hate all, curse all; show charity to none;
But let the famish'd flesh slide from the bone,
Ere thou relieve the beggar: give to dogs
What thou deny'st to men; let prisons swal-
low them,

Debts wither them; Be men like blasted woods,
And may diseases lick up their false bloods!
And so, farewell, and thrive.

Flav. O, let me stay,
And comfort you, my master.

Tim. If thou hat'st
Curses, stay not; fly, whilst thou'rt bless'd
and free:

Ne'er see thou man, and let me ne'er see thee.
[*Exeunt severally.*

ACT V.

SCENE I.—*The same.*—*Before TIMON'S cave.*

*Enter POET and PAINTER; TIMON behind, un-
scen.*

Pain. As I took note of the place, it can-
not be far where he abides.

Poet. What's to be thought of him? Does
the rumour hold for true, that, he is so full of
gold?

Pain. Certain: Alcibiades reports it; Phry-
nia and Timandra had gold of him: he like-
wise enriched poor straggling soldiers with
great quantity: 'Tis said, he gave unto his
steward a mighty sum.

Poet. Then this breaking of his has been
but a try for his friends.

Pain. Nothing else: you shall see him a
palm in Athens again, and flourish with the
highest. Therefore, 'tis not amiss, we tender
our loves to him, in this supposed distress of
his: it will show honestly in us; and is very
likely to load our purposes with what they
travel for, if it be a just and true report that
goes of his having.

Poet. What have you now to present unto
him?

Pain. Nothing at this time but my visitation:
only I will promise him an excellent piece.

Poet. I must serve him so too; tell him of an
intent that's coming toward him.

Pain. Good as the best. Promising is the
very air o'the time: it opens the eyes of ex-
pectation: performance is ever the duller for
his act; and, but in the plainer and simpler
kind of people, the deed of saying* is quite-
out of use. To promise is most courtly and
fashionable: performance is a kind of will
and testament, which argues a great sickness
in his judgement that makes it.

Tim. Excellent workman! Thou canst not
paint a man so bad as is thyself.

Poet. I am thinking, what I shall say I have
provided for him: It must be a personating
of himself: a satire against the softness of
prosperity; with a discovery of the infinite
flatteries, that follow youth and opulency.

Tim. Must thou needs stand for a villain
in thine own work? Wilt thou whip thine
own faults in other men? Do so, I have gold
for thee.

Poet. Nay, let's seek him:
Then do we sin against our own estate,
When we may profit meet, and come too late,

Pain. True;
When the day serves, before black-corner'd
night,

Find what thou want'st by free and offer'd
Come. [light.

Tim. I'll meet you at the turn. What a
god's gold,

That he is worshipp'd in a baser temple,
Than where swine feed!

'Tis thou that rigg'st the bark, and plough'st
the foam;

Settlest admired reverence in a slave:
To thee be worship! and thy saints for aye
Be crown'd with plagues, that thee alone obey?
'Fit I do meet them. [Advancing.

Poet. Hail, worthy Timon!

Pain. Our late noble master.

Tim. Have I once liv'd to see two honest
men?

Poet. Sir,
Having often of your open bounty tasted,
Hearing you were retir'd, your friends fall'n
off;

Whose thankless natures—O abhorred spirits!
Not all the whips of heaven are large enough—
What! to you!

Whose star-like nobleness gave life and in-
fluence [cover
To their whole being! I'm rapt and cannot
The monstrous bulk of this ingratitude
With any size of words.

Tim. Let it go naked, men may see't the
better:

You, that are honest, by being what you are,
Make them best seen, and known.

Pain. He, and myself,
Have travell'd in the great shower of your gifts,
And sweetly felt it.

Tim. Ay, you are honest men.

Pain. We are hither come to offer you our
service.

Tim. Most honest men! Why, how shall I
requit you?

Can you eat roots, and drink cold water? no.

Bath. What we can do, we'll do, to do you
service.

Tim. You are honest men: You have heard
that I have gold;

* From human habitation.

* The doing of that we said we would do.

I am sure you have: speak truth: you are honest men.

Pain. So it is said, 'my noble lord: but Came not my friend, nor I. [therefore

Tim. Good honest men!—Thou draw'st a counterfeit*

Best in all Athens: thou art, indeed, the best; Thou counterfeit'st most lively.

Pain. So, so, my lord.

Tim. Even so, Sir, as I say:—And, for thy fiction, [To the POET.

Why thy verse swells with stuff so fine and smooth,

That thou art even natural in thine art.—

But, for all this, my honest-natur'd friends,

I must needs say, you have a little fault:

Marry, 'tis not monstrous in you; neither wish You take much pains to mend. [I,

Both. Beseech your honour,

To make it known to us.

Tim. You'll take it ill.

Both. Most thankfully, my lord.

Tim. Will you, indeed?

Both. Doubt it not, worthy lord.

Tim. There's ne'er a one of you but trusts That mightily deceives you. [a knave,

Both. Do we, my lord?

Tim. Ay, and you hear him cog, see him dissemble,

Know his gross patchery, love him, feed him, Keep in your bosom: yet remain assur'd,

That he's a made-up villain. †

Pain. I know none such, my lord.

Poet. Nor I.

Tim. Look you, I love you well; I'll give you gold,

Rid me these villains from your companies; Hang them, or stab them, drown them in a draught; ‡

Confound them by some course, and come to I'll give you gold enough. [me,

Both. Name them, my lord, let's know them.

Tim. You that way, and you this, but two in company:—

Each man apart, all single and alone, Yet an arch-villain keeps him company.

If, where thou art, two villains shall not be.

[To the PAINTER.

Come not near him.—If thou would'st not reside [To the POET.

But where one villain is, then him abandon.— Hence! pack! there's gold, ye came for gold,

ye slaves: [Hence!

You have done work for me, there's payment: You are an alchymist, make gold of that:—

Out, rascal dogs!

[Exit, beating and driving them out.

SCENE II.—The same.

Enter FLAVIUS, and two SENATORS.

Flav. It is in vain that you would speak with For he is set so only to himself, [Timon; That nothing but himself, which looks like Is friendly with him. [man,

1 Sen. Bring us to his cave:

It is our part, and promise to the Athenians, To speak with Timon.

2 Sen. At all times alike

Men are not still the same: 'Twas time, and griefs, [hand,

That fram'd him thus: time, with his fairer Offering the fortunes of his former days,

The former man may make him: Bring us to And chance it as it may. [him,

Flav. Here is his cave.— [mon!

Peace and content be here! Lord Timon! Ti-Look out, and speak to friends: The Athe-nians,

By two of their most reverend senate, greet Speak to them, noble Timon. [thee:

Enter TIMON.

Tim. Thou sun, that comfort'st, burn!— Speak, and be hang'd:

For each true word, a blister! and each false Be as a caut'ring to the root o'the tongue, Consuming it with speaking!

1 Sen. Worthy Timon—

Tim. Of none but such as you, and you of Timon.

2 Sen. The senators of Athens greet thee, Timon.

Tim. I thank them; and would send them back the plague,

Could I but catch it for them.

1 Sen. O, forget

What we are sorry for ourselves in thee.

The senators, with one consent of love,*

Entreat thee back to Athens; who have thought

On special dignities, which vacant lie

For thy best use and wearing.

2 Sen. They confess,

Toward thee, forgetfulness too general, gross: Which now the public body,—which doth sell

Play the recanter,—feeling in itself [dom

A lack of Timon's aid, hath sense withal

Of its own fall, restraining aid to Timon;

And send forth us, to make their sorrowed render, †

Together with a recompense more fruitful

Than their offence can weigh down by the dram; [wealth,

Ay, even such heaps and sums of love and As shall to thee blot out what wrongs were theirs,

And write in thee the figures of their love,

Ever to read them thine.

Tim. You witch me in it;

Surprise me to the very brink of tears:

Lend me a fool's heart, and a woman's eyes,

And I'll bewep these comforts, worthy senators:

1 Sen. Therefore, so please thee to return with us,

And of our Athens (thine, and ours,) to take The captainship, thou shalt be met with thanks,

Allow'd ‡ with absolute power, and thy good name

Live with authority:—so soon we shall drive Of Alcibiades the approaches wild; [back

Who, like a boar too savage, doth root up His country's peace.

2 Sen. And shakes his threat'ning sword

Against the walls of Athens.

1 Sen. Therefore, Timon,—

Tim. Well, Sir, I will; therefore, I will, Sir; Thus,—

If Alcibiades kill my countrymen, †

Let Alcibiades know this of Timon, [Athens, That—Timon cares not. But if he sack fair

And take our goodly aged men by the beards, Giving our holy virgins to the stain

Of contumelious, beastly, mad-brain'd war; Then, let him know,—and tell him, Timon

speaks it,

In pity of our aged, and our youth, I cannot chuse but tell him, that—I care not,

* A portrait was so called.

† A complete, a finished villain. ‡ In a jakes.

* With one united voice of affection.

† Confession. ‡ Licensed, uncontrolled.

And let him tak't at worst; for their knives care not,

While you have throats to answer: for myself, There's not a whittle* in the unruly camp, But I do prize it at my love, before [you
The reverend'st throat in Athens. So I leave
To the protection of the prosperous gods,†
As thieves to keepers.

Flav. Stay not, all's in vain.

Tim. Why, I was writing of my epitaph, It will be seen to-morrow; My long sickness Of health,‡ and living, now begins to mend, And nothing brings me all things. Go, live Be Alcibiades your plague, you his, [still;
And last so long enough!

1 Sen. We speak in vain.

Tim. But yet I love my country; and am not One that rejoices in the common wreck, As common bruit§ doth put it.

1 Sen. That's well spoke.

Tim. Commend me to my loving country-mer,—

1 Sen. These words become your lips as they pass through them.

2 Sen. And enter in our ears like great triumphers

In their applauding gates.

Tim. Commend me to them; And tell them, that, to ease them of their griefs, Their fears of hostile strokes, their aches, losses,

Their pangs of love, with other incident throes That nature's fragile vessel doth sustain In life's uncertain voyage, I will some kindness do them:

I'll teach them to prevent wild Alcibiades' wrath.

2 Sen. I like this well, he will return again.

Tim. I have a tree, which grows here in my close,

That mine own use invites me to cut down, And shortly must I fell it; Tell my friends, Tell Athens, in the sequence of degree,|| From high to low throughout, that whose please

To stop affliction, let him take his haste, Come hither, ere my tree hath felt the axe, And hang himself:—I pray you, do my greeting.

Flav. Trouble him no further, thus you still shall find him.

Tim. Come not to me again: but say to Athens,

Timon hath made his everlasting mansion Upon the beached verge of the salt flood; Which once a day with his embossed froth¶ The turbulent surge shall cover; thither come, And let my grave-stone be your oracle,— Lips, let sour words go by, and language end: What is amiss, plague and infection mend! Graves only be men's works; and death, their gain!

Sun, hide thy beams! Timon hath done his reign. [Exit TIMON.

1 Sen. His discontents are unremoveably coupled to nature.

2 Sen. Our hope in him is dead: let us return, And strain what other means is left unto us In our dear** peril.

3 Sen. It requires swift foot. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—The Walls of Athens.

Enter two SENATORS, and a MESSENGER.

1 Sen. Thou hast painfully discover'd; are his files

As full as thy report?

Mess. I have spoke the least: Besides, his expedition promises Present approach.

2 Sen. We stand much hazard, if they bring not Timon.

Mess. I met a courier, one mine ancient friend;— [pos'd,

Whom, though in general part we were op- Yet our old love made a particular force, And made us speak like friends:—this man was riding

From Alcibiades to Timon's cave, With letters of entreaty, which imported His fellowship i' the cause against your city, In part for his sake mov'd.

Enter SENATORS from TIMON.

1 Sen. Here come our brothers.

2 Sen. No talk of Timon, nothing of him expect.— [ing

The enemies' drum is heard, and fearful scour- Doth choke the air with dust: in and prepare; Ours in the fall, I fear, our foes, the snare.

[Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—The Woods.—TIMON'S Cave, and a tomb-stone seen.

Enter a SOLDIER, seeking TIMON

Sol. By all description this should be the place.

Who's here? speak, ho!—No answer?—What is this?

Timon is dead, who hath outstretch'd his span: Some beast rear'd this; there does not live a Dead, sure; and this his grave.— [man.
What's on this tomb I cannot read; the cha- I'll take with wax. [racter

Our captain hath in every figure skill; An ag'd interpreter, though young in days: Before proud Athens he's set down by this, Whose fall the mark of his ambition is. [Exit.

SCENE V.—Before the Walls of Athens.

Trumpets sound. Enter ALCIBIADES, and Forces.

Alcib. Sound to this coward and lascivious town

Our terrible approach. [A Parley sounded.

Enter SENATORS on the Walls.

Till now you have gone on, and fill'd the time With all licentious measure, making your wills The scope of justice; till now, myself, and such

As slept within the shadow of your power, Have wander'd with our traver's'd arms,* and breath'd

Our sufferance vainly: Now the time is flush,† When crouching marrow, in the bearer strong, Cries, of itself, No more: now breathless wrong, Shall sit and pant in your great chairs of ease; And pury insolence shall break his wind, With fear and horrid flight.

1 Sen. Noble and young,

When thy first griefs were but a mere conceit, Ere thou hadst power, or we had cause of fear, We sent to thee; to give thy rages balm,

* Arms across.

† Nature.

To wipe out our ingratitude with loves
Above their quantity.

2 *Sen.* So did we woo

Transformed Timon to our city's love,
By humble message, and by promis'd means,*
We were not all unkind, nor all deserve
The common stroke of war.

1 *Sen.* These walls of ours

Were not erected by their hands, from whom
You have receiv'd your griefs; nor are they
such,

Than these great towers, trophies, and
schools should fall

For private faults in them:

2 *Sen.* Nor are they living,

Who were the motives that you first went out;
Shame that they wanted cunning, in excess
Hath broke their hearts. March noble lord,
Into our city with thy banners spread:

By decimation, and a tithed death,
(If thy revenge hunger for that food,
Which nature loaths,) take thou the destin'd
tenth;

And by the hazard of the spotted die,
Let die the spotted:

1 *Sen.* All have not offended;

For those that were, it is not square,† to take,
On those that are, revenges: crimes, like
lands,

Are not inherited. Then dear countryman,
Bring in thy ranks, but leave without thy
rage:

Spare thy Athenian cradle, and those kin,
Which, in the bluster of thy wrath, must fall,
With those that have offended: like a shep-
herd,

Approach the fold, and cull the infected fourth,
But kill not altogether.

2 *Sen.* What thou wilt,

Thou rather shalt enforce it with thy smile,
Than hew to't with thy sword.

1 *Sen.* Set but thy foot [ope;

Against our rampir'd gates, and they shall
So thou wilt send thy gentle heart before,
To say, thou'lt enter friendly.

2 *Sen.* Throw thy glove;

Or any token of thine honour else,
That thou wilt use the wars as thy redress,
And not as our confusion, all thy powers

* i. e. By promising him a competent subsistence.

† Not regular, not equitable.

Shall make their harbour in our town, till we
Have seal'd thy full desire.

Alcib. Then there's my glove;

Descend, and open your uncharged ports;*
Those enemies of Timon's, and mine own,
Whom you yourselves shall set out for reproof,
Fall, and no more: and,—to atone† your fears
With my more noble meaning,—not a man
Shall pass his quarter, or offend the stream
Of regular justice in your city's bounds,
But shall be remedied, to your public laws
At heaviest answer.

Both. 'Tis most nobly spoken.

Alcib. Descend, and keep your words.

The SENATORS descend, and open the Gates.

Enter a SOLDIER.

Sold. My noble general, Timon is dead;
Entomb'd upon the very hem o'the sea;
And on his grave-stone, this insculpture;
which [sion
With wax I brought away, whose soft impres-
Interprets for my poor ignorance.

Alcib. [Reads.] *Here lies a wretched corpse, of
wretched soul bereft:*

*Seek not my name: A plague consume you
wicked caitiffs left!*

*Here lie I Timon; who, alive, all living men
did hate:*

*Pass by, and curse thy fill; but pass, and stay
not here thy gail.*

These well express in thee thy latter spirits:
Tho' thou abhorrd'st in us our human griefs,
Scorn'dst our brains flow,‡ and those our
droplets which

From niggard nature fall, yet rich conceit
Taught thee to make vast Neptune weep for
aye

On thy low grave, on faults forgiven. Dead
Is noble Timon; of whose memory

Hereafter more.—Bring me into your city,
And I will use the olive with my sword:

Make war bread peace; and make peace stint§
war; make each

Prescribe to other, as each other's leech.||

Let our drums strike. [Exeunt.]

* Unattacked gates.

† Reconcile.

‡ i. e. Our tears.

§ Stop.

|| Physician.

CYMBELINE.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

CYMBELINE, King of Britain.
 CLOTEN, Son to the Queen by a former husband.
 LEONATUS POSTHUMUS, a Gentleman, Husband to Imogen.
 BELARIUS, a banished Lord, disguised under the name of MORGAN.
 GUIDERIUS, } Sons to Cymbeline, disguised
 ARVIRAGUS, } under the names of POLYDORE
 and CADWAL, supposed Sons
 to Belarius.
 PHILARIO, Friend to Posthumus, } Italians.
 IACHIMO, Friend to Philario, }
 A FRENCH GENTLEMAN, Friend to Philario.
 CAIUS LUCIUS, General of the Roman Forces.
 A ROMAN CAPTAIN. TWO BRITISH CAPTAINS.
 PISANIO, Servant to Posthumus.

CORNELIUS, a Physician
 TWO GENTLEMEN.
 TWO JAILERS.

QUEEN, Wife of Cymbeline.
 IMOGEN, Daughter to Cymbeline, by a former Queen.

HELEN, Woman to Imogen.

Lords, Ladies, Roman Senators, Tribunes, Apparitions, a Soothsayer, a Dutch Gentleman, a Spanish Gentleman, Musicians, Officers, Captains, Soldiers, Messengers, and other attendants.

SCENE, sometimes in Britain; sometimes in Italy.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—*Britain.—The Garden behind CYMBELINE'S Palace.*

Enter two GENTLEMEN.

1 *Gent.* You do not meet a man, but frowns; our bloods*

No more obey the heavens than our courtiers; Still seem, as does the king's.

2 *Gent.* But what's the matter?

1 *Gent.* His daughter, and the heir of his kingdom, whom

He purpos'd to his wife's sole son, (a widow, That late he married,) hath referred herself Unto a poor but worthy gentleman: She's wedded;

Her husband banish'd; she imprison'd: all Is outward sorrow; though I think, the king Be touch'd at very heart.

2 *Gent.* None but the king?

1 *Gent.* He, that hath lost her, too: so is the queen,

That most desir'd the match: But not a courtier, Although they wear their faces to the bent Of the kings' looks, hath a heart that is not Glad at the things they scowl at.

2 *Gent.* And why so?

1 *Gent.* He that hath miss'd the princess, is a thing

Too bad for bad report; and he that hath her, (I mean, that married her,—alack, good man! And therefore banish'd) is a creature such As, to seek through the regions of the earth

For one his like, there would be something failing

In him that should compare. I do not think So fair an outward, and such stuff within, Endows a man but he.

2 *Gent.* You speak him far.*

1 *Gent.* I do extend him, Sir, within himself, Crush him together rather than unfold His measure duly.†

2 *Gent.* What's his name and birth?

1 *Gent.* I cannot delve him to the root: His father

Was call'd Scilius, who did join his honour, Against the Romans, with Cassibelan;

But had his titles by Tenantius,‡ whom He serv'd with glory and admir'd success:

So gain'd the sur-addition, Leonatus:

And had, besides this gentleman in question, Two other sons, who, in the wars o'the time, Died with their swords in hand; for which their father

(Then old and fond of issue,) took such sorrow, That he quit being; and this gentle lady,

Big of this gentleman, our theme, deceased As he was born. The king, he takes the babe To his protection; calls him Posthumus; Breeds him, and makes him of his bed-chamber;

Puts him to all the learnings that his time Could make him the receiver of; of which he took.

As we do air, fast as 'twas minister'd; and In his spring became a harvest: Liv'd in court,

* i. e. You praise him extensively.

† My praise, however extensive, is within his merit.

‡ The father of Cymbeline.

* Inclination, natural disposition.

(Which rare it is to do,) most prais'd, most lov'd:

A sample to the youngest: to the more ma-
A glass that feated* them; and to the graver,
A child that guided dotards: to his mistress,
For whom he now is banish'd,—her own price
Proclaims how she esteem'd him and his virtue;
By her election may be truly read,
What kind of man he is.

2 *Gent.* I honour him [me,
Even out of your report. But, 'pray you, tell
Is she sole child to the king?

1 *Gent.* His only child. [ing;
He had two sons, (if this be worth your hear-
Mark it,) the eldest of them at three years old,
I'the swathing clothes the other, from their
nursery [knowledge
Were stolen: and to this hour, no guess in
Which way they went.

2 *Gent.* How long is this ago?

1 *Gent.* Some twenty years.

2 *Gent.* That a king's children should be so
convey'd!

So slackly guarded! And the search so slow,
That could not trace them!

1 *Gent.* Howso'er 'tis strange,
Or that the negligence may well be laugh'd at,
Yet it is true, Sir.

2 *Gent.* I do well believe you.

1 *Gent.* We must forbear: Here comes the
queen and princess. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—The same.

Enter the QUEEN, POSTHUMUS, and IMOGEN.

Queen. No, be assur'd, you shall not find
me, daughter,

After the slander of most step mothers,
Evil-eyed unto you: you are my prisoner, but
Your jailer shall deliver you the keys [mus,
That lock up your restraint. For you, Posthu-
So soon as I can win the offended king,
I will be known your advocate: marry, yet
The fire of rage is in him; and, 'twere good,
You lean'd unto his sentence, with what pa-
Your wisdom may inform you. [tience

Post. Please your highness,
I will from hence to-day.

Queen. You know the peril:—
I'll fetch a turn about the garden, pitying
The pangs of barr'd affections; though the
king

Hath charg'd you should not speak together. [Exit QUEEN.

Imo. O

Dissembling courtesy! How fine this tyrant
Can tickle where she wounds!—my dearest
husband, [thing,
I something fear my father's wrath; but no-
(Always reserv'd my holy duty,) what
His rage can do on me: You must be gone;
And I shall here abide the hourly shot
Of angry eyes; nor comforted to live,
But that there is this jewel in this world,
That I may see again.

Post. My queen! my mistress!
O, lady, weep no more; lest I give cause
To be suspected of more tenderness
Than doth become a man! I will remain
The loyal'st husband that did e'er plight troth.
My residence in Rome at one Philario's;
Who to my father was a friend, to me
Known but by letter: thither write, my queen,
And with mine eyes I'll drink the words you
Thought ink be made of gall. [send,

Re-enter QUEEN.

Queen. Be brief, I pray you:
If the king come, I shall incur I know not
How much of his displeasure:—Yet I'll move
him [Aside.
To walk this way: I never do him wrong,
But he does buy my injuries, to be friends;
Pays dear for my offences. [Exit.

Post. Should we be taking leave
As long a term as yet we have to live,
The loathness to depart would grow: Adieu!

Imo. Nay, stay a little:
Were you but riding forth to air yourself,
Such parting were too petty. Look here, love;
This diamond was my mother's: take it, heart;
But keep it till you woo another wife,
When Imogen is dead.

Post. How! how! another?—
You gentle gods, give me but this I have,
And sear up* my embracements from a next
With bonds of death!—Remain thou here

[Putting on the Ring.
While sunset can keep it on! And sweetest,
fairest,

As I my poor self did exchange for you,
To your so infinite loss; so, in our trifles
I still win of you: For my sake, wear this;
It is a manacle of love; I'll place it
Upon this fairest prisoner.

[Putting a Bracelet on her Arm.
Imo. O, the gods!
When shall we see again?

Enter CYMBELINE and LORDS.

Post. Alack, the king!

Cym. Thou basest thing, avoid! hence, from
my sight!

If, after this command, thou fraught; the court
With thy unworthiness, thou diest: Away!
Thou art poison to my blood.

Post. The gods protect you!
And bless the good remainders of the court!
I am gone. [Exit.

Imo. There cannot be a pinch in death
More sharp than this is.

Cym. O disloyal thing,
That should'st repair my youth; thou heapest
A year's age on me!

Imo. I beseech you, Sir,
Harm not yourself with your vexation; I
Am senseless of your wrath; a touch more
Subdues all pangs, all fears. [rare

Cym. Past grace? obedience?

Imo. Past hope, and in despair; that way,
past grace.

Cym. That might'st have had the sole|| son
of my queen!

Imo. O bless'd, that I might not! I chose
an eagle.

And did avoid a puttock.†

Cym. Thou took'st a beggar; would'st have
made my throne
A seat for baseness.

Imo. No; I rather added

A lustre to it.

Cym. O thou vile one!

Imo. Sir,

It is your fault that I have lov'd Posthumus:
You bred him as my play fellow; and he is
A man, worth any woman; overbuys me
Almost the sum he pays.

Cym. What!—art thou mad?

* Furned their manners.

* Close up. † Sensation. ‡ Fill.
§ A more exquisite feeling. || Only. ¶ A kite.

Imo. Almost, Sir: Heaven restore me!—
 'Would I were
 A neat-herd's* daughter! and my Leonatus
 Our neighbour shepherd's son!

Re-enter QUEEN.

Cym. Thou foolish thing!—
 They were again together: you have done
 [To the QUEEN.

Not after our command. Away with her,
 And pen her up.

Queen. 'Beseech your patience:—Peace,
 Dear lady daughter, peace;—Sweetsovereign,
 Leave us to ourselves; and make yourself
 some comfort

Out of your best advice.†

Cym. Nay, let her languish
 A drop of blood a day; and, being aged,
 Die of this folly! [Exit.

Enter PISANIO.

Queen. Fie!—you must give way: [news?
 Here is your servant.—How now, Sir? What

Pis. My lord your son drew on my master.
Queen. Ha!

No harm, I trust, is done?

Pis. There might have been,
 But that my master rather play'd than fought,
 And had no help of anger: they were parted
 By gentlemen at hand.

Queen. I am vey glad on't.

Imo. Your son's my father's friend; he takes
 his part.—

To draw upon an exile!—O brave Sir!—
 I would they were in Afric both together;
 Myself by with a needle, that I might prick
 The goer back.—Why came you from your
 master?

Pis. On his command. He would not suffer
 me

To bring him to the haven! left these notes
 Of what commands I should be subject to,
 When it pleas'd you to employ me.

Queen. This hath been
 Your faithful servant: I dare lay mine honour,
 He will remain so.

Pis. I humbly thank your highness.

Queen. Pray, walk awhile.

Imo. About some half hour hence,
 I pray you speak with me: you shall, at least,
 Go see my lord aboard: for this time, leave
 me. [Exit.

Scene III.—A public Place.

Enter CLOTEN, and two LORDS.

1 *Lord.* Sir, I would advise you to shift a
 shirt; the violence of action hath made you
 reek as a sacrifice: Where air comes out, air
 comes in: there's none abroad so wholesome
 as that you vent.

Clo. If my shirt were bloody, then to shift
 it—Have I hurt him?

2 *Lord.* No, faith; not so much as his pa-
 tience. [Aside.

1 *Lord.* Hurt him? his body's a passable
 carcass, if he be not hurt: it is a thorough-
 fare for steel if it be not hurt

2 *Lord.* His steel was in debt; it went o'the
 backside of the town. [Aside.

Clo. The villain would not stand me.

2 *Lord.* No; but he fled forward still, toward
 your face. [Aside.

1 *Lord.* Stand you! you had land enough
 of your own: but he added to your having;
 gave you some ground.

2 *Lord.* As many inches as you have oceans:
 Puppies! [Aside.

Clo. I would they had not come between us.
 2 *Lord.* So would I, till you had measured
 how long a fool you were upon the ground.

[Aside.
Clo. And that she should love this fellow,
 and refuse me!

2 *Lord.* If it be a sin to make a true elec-
 tion, she is damned. [Aside.

1 *Lord.* Sir, as I told you always, her beau-
 ty and her brain go not together.* She's a
 good sign, but I have seen small reflection of
 her wit.†

2 *Lord.* She shines not upon fools, lest the
 reflection should hurt her. [Aside.

Clo. Come, I'll to my chamber: 'Would
 there had been some hurt done!

2 *Lord.* I wish not so; unless it had been the
 fall of an ass, which is no great hurt. [Aside.

Clo. You'll go with us?

1 *Lord.* I'll attend your lordship.

Clo. Nay, come, let's go together.

2 *Lord.* Well, my lord. [Exit.

Scene IV.—A Room in CYMBELINE's Palace.

Enter IMOGEN and PISANIO.

Imo. I would thou grew'st unto the shores
 o'the haven,
 And question'dst every sail: if he should write,
 And I not have it, 'twere a paper lost
 As offer'd mercy is. What was the last
 That he spake to thee?

Pis. 'Twas, His queen, his queen!

Imo. Then waw'd his handkerchief?

Pis. And kiss'd it, madam.

Imo. Senseless linen! happier therein than
 And that was all? [I!—

Pis. No, madam; for so long
 As he could make me with this eye or ear
 Distinguish him from others, he did keep
 The deck, with glove, or hat, or handkerchief,
 Still waving, as the fits and stirs of his mind
 Could best express how slow his soul sail'd on,
 How swift his ship.

Imo. Thou should'st have made him
 As little as a crow, or less, ere left
 To after-eye him.

Pis. Madam, so I did.

Imo. I would have broke mine eye-strings;
 crack'd them, but

To look upon him; till the diminution
 Of space had pointed him sharp as my needle:
 Nay, follow'd him, till he had melted from
 The smallness of a gnat to air; and then
 I have turn'd mine eye, and wept.—But good
 When shall we hear from him? [Pisanio,

Pis. Be assur'd, madam,
 With his next vantage.‡

Imo. I did not take my leave of him, but had
 Most pretty things to say: ere I could tell him,
 How I would think on him, at certain hours,
 Such thoughts, and such; or I could make him
 The shes of Italy should not betray [swear
 Mine interest and his honour; or have charg'd
 him, [night,

At the sixth hour of morn, at noon, at mid-
 To encounter me with orisons,§ for then
 I am in heaven for him: or ere I could
 Give him that parting kiss, which I had set

* Her beauty and sense are not equal.

† To understand the force of this idea, it should be re-
 membered that anciently almost every sign had a motto,
 or some attempt at a witticism underneath it.

‡ Opportunity. § Meet me with reciprocal prayer.

* Cattle-keeper.

† Consideration.

Botwixt two charming words, comes in my father,
And, like the tyrannous breathing of the north,
Shakes all our buds from growing.

Enter a LADY.

Lady. The queen, madam,
Desires your highness' company.

Imo. Those things I bid you do, get them
despatch'd.—

I will attend the queen.

Pis. Madam, I shall. [Exeunt.]

SCENE V.—Rome.—An Apartment in PHILARIO'S House.

Enter PHILARIO, IACHIMO, a FRENCHMAN, a DUTCHMAN, and a SPANIARD.

Iach. Believe it, Sir, I have seen him in Brittain: he was then of a crescent note,* expected to prove so worthy, as since he hath been allowed the name of: but I could then have looked on him without the help of admiration; though the catalogue of his endowments had been tabled by his side, and I to peruse him by items.

Phi. You speak of him when he was less furnished,† than now he is, with that which makes him both without and within.

French. I have seen him in France: we had very many there, could behold the un with as firm eyes as he.

Iach. This matter of marrying his king's daughter, (wherein he must be weighed rather by her value, than his own,) words him, I doubt not, a great deal from the matter.

French. And then his banishment:—

Iach. Ay, and the approbation of those, that weep this lamentable divorce, under her colours, are wonderfully to extend§ him; be it but to fortify her judgement, which else an easy battery might lay flat, for taking a beggar without more quality. But how comes it, he is to sojourn with you? How creeps acquaintance?

Phi. His father and I were soldiers together; to whom I have been often bound for no less than my life:—

Enter POSTHUMUS.

Here comes the Briton: Let him be so entertained amongst you, as suits, with gentlemen of your knowing, to a stranger of quality.—I beseech you all; be better known to this gentleman; whom I commend to you as a noble friend of mine: How worthy he is, I will leave to appear hereafter, rather than story him in his own hearing.

French. Sir, we have known together in Orleans.

Post. Since when I have been debtor to you for courtesies, which I will be ever to pay, and yet pay still.

French. Sir, you o'er-rate my poor kindness: I was glad I did atone|| my countryman and you; it had been pity, you should have been put together with so mortal a purpose, as then each bore, upon importance¶ of so slight and trivial a nature.

Post. By your pardon, Sir, I was then a young traveller: rather shunned to go even with what I heard, than in my every action to be guided by others' experiences: but, upon my mended judgement, (if I offend not to say

it is mended,) my quarrel was not altogether slight.

French. 'Faith, yes, to be put to the arbitrement of swords; and by such two, that would, by all likelihood, have confounded* one the other, or have fallen both.

Iach. Can we, with manners, ask what was the difference?

French. Safely, I think: 'twas a contention in public, which may, without contradiction, suffer the report. It was much like an argument that fell out last night, where each of us fell in praise of our country mistresses: This gentleman at that time vouching, (and upon warrant of bloody affirmation,) his to be more fair, virtuous, wise, chaste, constant-qualified, and less attemptable, than any the rarest of our ladies in France.

Iach. That lady is not now living; or this gentleman's opinion, by this, worn out.

Post. She holds her virtue still, and I my mind.

Iach. You must not so far prefer her 'fore ours of Italy.

Post. Being so far provoked as I was in France, I would abate her nothing; though I profess myself her adorer, not her friend.†

Iach. As fair, and as good, (a kind of hand-in-hand comparison,) had been something too fair, and too good for any lady in Brittain. If she went before others I have seen, as that diamond of yours out lustrous many I have beheld, I could not but believe she excelled many: but I have not seen the most precious diamond that is, nor you the lady.

Post. I praised her, as I rated her: so do I my stone.

Iach. What do you esteem it at?

Post. More than the world enjoys.

Iach. Either your unparagoned mistress is dead, or she's outpriz'd by a trifle.

Post. You are mistaken: the one may be sold, or given; if there were wealth enough for the purchase, or merit for the gift: the other is not a thing for sale, and only the gifts of the gods.

Iach. Which the gods have given you?

Post. Which by their graces, I will keep.

Iach. You may wear in tittle yours; but you know, strange fowl light upon neighbouring ponds. Your ring may be stolen too: so, of your brace of unprizeable estimations, the one is but frail, and the other casual; a cunning thief, or a that-way accomplished courtier, would hazard the winning both of first and last.

Post. Your Italy contains none so accomplished a courtier, to convince the honour of my mistress; if, in the holding or loss of that, you term her frail. I do nothing doubt, you have store of thieves; notwithstanding I fear not my ring.

Phi. Let us leave here, gentlemen.

Post. Sir, with all heart. This worthy signior, I thank him, makes no stranger of me; we are familiar at first.

Iach. With five times so much conversation, I should get ground of your fair mistress: I make her go back, even to the yielding; had I admittance, and opportunity to friend.

Post. No, No.

Iach. I dare, thereon, pawn the moiety of my estate to your ring; which, in my opinion, o'er-values it something: But I make my wager rather against your confidence, than her repu-

* Increasing in fame. † Accomplished.
‡ Forms him. § Praise him. || Reconcile.
¶ Importunity, instigation.

* Destroyed. † Lover,---I speak of her as a being I reverence, not as a beauty whom I enjoy. ‡ Overcome.

tation: and, to bar your offence herein too. I durst attempt it against any lady in the world.

Post. You are a great deal abused* in too bold a persuasion; and I doubt not you sustain what you're worthy of, by your attempt.

Iach. What's that?

Post. A repulse: Though your attempt, as you call it, deserve more; a punishment too.

Phi. Gentlemen, enough of this: it came in too suddenly; let it die as it was born, and, I pray you, be better acquainted.

Iach. 'Would I had put my estate, and my neighbour's, on the approbation† of what I have spoke.

Post. What lady would you choose to assail?

Iach. Yours; whom in constancy, you think, stands so safe. I will lay you ten thousand ducats to your ring, that, commend me to the court where your lady is, with no more advantage than the opportunity of a second conference, and I will bring from thence that honour of hers, which you imagine so reserved.

Post. I will wage against your gold, gold to it: my ring I hold dear as my finger; 'tis part of it.

Iach. You are a friend, and therein the wiser. If you buy ladies's flesh at a million a dram, you cannot preserve it from tainting: But, I see, you have some religion in you, that you fear.

Post. This is but a custom in your tongue; you bear a graver purpose, I hope.

Iach. I am the master of my speeches; and would undergo what's spoken, I swear.

Post. Will you?—I shall but lend my diamond till you return:—Let there be covenants drawn between us: My mistress exceeds in goodness the hugeness of your unworthy think-ink: I dare you to this match: here's my ring.

Phi. I will have it no lay.

Iach. By the gods it is one:—If I bring you no sufficient testimony that I have enjoyed the dearest bodily part of your mistress, my ten thousand ducats are yours: so is your diamond too. If I come off, and leave her in such honour as you have trust in, she your jewel, this your jewel, and my gold are yours: provided, I have your commendation‡ for my more free entertainment.

Post. I embrace these conditions; let us have articles betwixt us:—only, thus far you shall answer. If you make your voyage upon her, and give me directly to understand you have prevailed, I am no further your enemy, she is not worth our debate: if she remain unsexed, (you not making it appear otherwise,) for your ill opinion, and the assault you have made to her chastity, you shall answer me with your sword.

Iach. Your hand; a covenant: We will have these things set down by lawful counsel, and straight away for Britain; lest the bargain should catch cold, and starve: I will fetch my gold, and have our two wagers recorded.

Post. Agreed.

[*Exeunt* POSTHUMUS and IACHIMO.]

French. Will this hold, think you?

Phi. Signior Iachimo will not from it. Pray, let us follow 'em. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VI.—*Britain.—A Room in CYMBELINE'S Palace.*

Enter QUEEN, LADIES, and CORNELIUS.

Queen. Whiles yet the dew's on ground, gather those flowers; Make haste: Who has the note of them?

I Lady. I, madam.

Queen. Despatch.— [*Exeunt* LADIES. Now, master doctor; have you brought those drugs?

Cor. Pleaseth your highness, ay: here they are, madam: [*Presenting a small Box.* But I beseech your grace, (without offence; My conscience bids me ask;) wherefore you have

[pounds, Commanded of me these most poisonous commodities Which are the movers of a languishing death; But, though slow, deadly?

Queen. I do wonder, doctor, [been Thou ask'st me such a question; Have I not Thy pupil long? Hast thou not learn'd me how To make perfumes? distil? preserve? yea, so, That our great king himself doth woo me oft For my confections? Having thus far proceeded,

(Unless thou think'st me devilish,) is't not meet That I did amplify my judgement in Other conclusions? I will try the forces Of these thy compounds on such creatures as We count not worth the hanging, (but none human,)

To try the vigour of them, and apply Allayments to their act; and by them gather Their several virtues, and effects.

Cor. Your highness [heart: Shall from this practice but make hard your Besides, the seeing these effects will be Both noisome and infectious.

Queen. O, content thee.—

Enter PISANIO.

Here comes a flattering rascal; upon him Will I first work: he's for his master, [*Aside.* And enemy to my son.—How now, Pisanio?— Doctor, your service for this time is ended; Take your own way.

Cor. I do suspect you, madam; But you shall do no harm. [*Aside.*

Queen. Hark thee, a word.— [*To* PISANIO.]

Cor. [*Aside.*] I do not like her. She doth think, she has

Strange lingering poisons: I do know her spirit, And will not trust one of her malice with A drug of such damn'd nature: Those, she has, Will stupify and dull the sense awhile: Which first, perchance, she'll prove on cats, and dogs;

Then afterward up higher; but there is No danger in what show of death it makes, More than the locking up the spirits a time, To be more fresh, reviving. She is fool'd With a most false effect; and I the truer, So to be false with her.

Queen. No further service, doctor, Until I send for thee.

Cor. I humbly take my leave. [*Exit.*

Queen. Weeps she still, say'st thou? Dost thou think, in time

She will not quench; and let instructions enter Where folly now possesses? Do thou work; When thou shalt bring me word, she loves my son,

I'll tell thee, on the instant, thou art then As great as is thy master: greater; for His fortunes all lie speechless, and his name Is at last gasp: Return he cannot, nor Continue where he is: to shift his being; Is to exchange one misery with another; And every day, that comes, comes to decay

* Deceived. † Proof. ‡ Recommendation.

* Experiments. † i.e. Grow cool. ‡ To change his abode.

A day's work in him: What shalt thou expect,
To be dependor on a thing that leans?

Who cannot be new built; nor has no friends,

[The QUEEN drops a box: PISANIO takes it up.

So much as but to prop him?—Thou tak'st up
Thou know'st not what; but take it for thy
labour:

It is a thing I made, which hath the king
Five times redeem'd from death: I do not
know [it;

What is more cordial:—Nay, I pry'thee, take
It is an earnest of a further good
That I mean to thee. Tell thy mistress how
The case stands with her; do't, as from thyself.
Think what a chance thou exchange on; but
think

Thou hast thy mistress still; to boot, my son,
Who shall take notice of thee: I'll move the
To any shape of thy preferment, such [king
As thou'lt desire; and then myself, I chiefly,
That set thee on to this desert, am bound
To load thy merit richly. Call my women:
Think on my words. [Exit PISA.]—A sly and
constant knave;

Not to be shak'd: the agent for his master;
And the remembrancer of her, to hold [that,
The hand fast to her lord.—I have given him
Which, if he take, shall quite unpeople her
Of liegers* for her sweet; and which she,
after,

Except she bend her humour, shall be assur'd

Re-enter PISANIO, and LADIES.

To taste of too.—So, so; well done, well
done:

The violets, cowslips, and the primroses,
Bear to my closet:—Fare thee well, Pisanio;
Think on my words.

[Exit QUEEN and LADIES.

Pis. And shall do;

But when to my good lord I prove untrue,
I'll choke myself: there's all I'll do for you.

[Exit

SCENE VII.—Another Room in the same.

Enter IMOGEN.

Imo. A father cruel, and a step-dame false;
A foolish suitor to a wedded lady, [band!
That hath her husband banish'd;—O, that hus-
My supreme crown of grief! and those re-
peated

Vexations of it! Had I been thief-stolen,
As my two brothers, happy! but most miser-
able

Is the desire that's glorious: Blessed be those,
How mean soe'er, that have their honest wills,
Which seasons comfort.—Who may this be?
Fie!

Enter PISANIO and IACHIMO.

Pis. Madam, a noble gentleman of Rome
Comes from my lord with letters.

Iach. Change you, madam?

The worthy Leonatus is in safety,
And greets your highness dearly.

[Presents a Letter.

Imo. Thanks, good Sir:
You are kindly welcome.

Iach. All of her, that is out of door, most
rich! [Aside.

If she be furnish'd with a mind so rare,
She is alone the Arabian bird: and I
Have lost the wager. Boldness be my friend!

* Ambassadors.

Arm me, audacity, from head to foot!
Or, like the Parthian, I shall flying fight;
Rather, directly fly.

Imo. [Reads.]—He is one of the noblest nobs,
to whose kindness I am most infinitely tied.
Reflect 'upon him accordingly, as you value
your truest. LEONATUS.

So far I read aloud:

But even the very middle of my heart [ly,—
Is warm'd by the rest, and takes it thankful—
You are as welcome, worthy Sir, as I
Have words to bid you; and shall find it so,
In all that I can do.

Iach. Thanks, fairest lady.—

What! are men mad? Hath nature given
them eyes

To see this vaulted arch, and the rich crop
Of sea, and land, which can distinguish 'twixt
The fiery orbs above, and the twinn'd stones
Upon the number'd beach? and can we not
Partition make with spectacles so precious
'T'wixt fair and foul?

Imo. What makes your admiration?

Iach. It cannot be i'the eye; for apes and
monkeys, [and
'Twixt two such shes, would chatter this way,
Contem'p with mows* the other: Nor i'the
judgement;

For idiots, in this case of favour, would
Be wisely definite: Nor i'the appetite;
Sluttry, to no neat excellence oppos'd,
Should make desire vomit emptiness,
Not so allur'd to feed.

Imo. What is the matter, trow?

Iach. The cloyed will,
(That satiate yet unsatisfied desire,
That tub both fill'd and running,) ravening first
The lamb, longs after for the garbage.

Imo. What, dear Sir,

Thus raps you? Are you well?

Iach. Thanks, madam; well:—'Beseech
you, Sir, desire [To PISANIO.

My man's abode where I did leave him: he
Is strange and peevish.†

Pis. I was going, Sir,

To give him welcome. [Exit. PISANIO.

Imo. Continues well my lord? His health,
beseech you?

Iach. Well, madam.

Imo. Is he dispos'd to mirth? I hope, he is.

Iach. Exceeding pleasant; none a stranger
there

So merry and so gamesome: he is call'd
The Briton reveller.

Imo. When he was here,

He did incline to sadness; and oft-times
Not knowing why.

Iach. I never saw him sad.

There is a Frenchman his companion, one
An eminent monsieur, that, it seems, much
A Gallian girl at home: he furnaces [loves
The thick sighs from him; whiles the jolly
Briton

(Your lord, I mean,) laughs from's free lungs,
cries, O!

Can my sides hold, to think, that man,—who
By history, report, or his own proof, [knows
What woman is, yea, what she cannot choose
But must be,—will his free hours languish for
Assured bondage?

Imo. Will my lord say so?

Iach. Ay, madam? with his eyes in flood
with laughter.

* Making mouths.

† Shy and foolish.

To have them in safe stowage; May it please
To take them in protection! [you

Imo. Willingly;

And pawn mine honour for their safety: since
My lord hath interest in them, I will keep them
In my bed-chamber.

Iuch. They are in a trunk,
Attended by my men; I will make bold
To send them to you, only for this night;
I must aboard to-morrow.

Imo. O, no, no.

Iuch. Yes, I beseech; or I shall short my
word,
By length'ning my return. From Gallia
I cross'd the seas on purpose, and on promise
To see your grace.

Imo. I thank you for your pains;
But not away to-morrow!

Iuch. O, I must, madam:
Therefore, I shall beseech you, if you please
To greet your lord with writing, do't to-night;
-I have outstood my time; which is material
To the tender of our present.

Imo. I will write.
Send your trunk to me; it shall safe be kept,
And truly yielded you: You are very welcome.
[*Exeunt.*]

ACT II.

SCENE I.—*Court before CYMBELINE'S Palace.*

Enter CLOTEN, and two LORDS.

Clo. Was there ever man had such luck!
when I kissed the jack upon an up-cast,* to
be hit away! I had a hundred pound on't:
And then a whoreson jackanapes must take
me up for swearing; as if I borrowed mine
oaths of him, and might not spend them at
my pleasure.

1 Lord. What got he by that? You have
broke his pate with your bowl.

2 Lord. If his wit had been like him that
broke it, it would have ran all out. [*Aside.*]

Clo. When a gentleman is disposed to swear,
it is not for any standers-by to curtail his
oaths: Ha!

2 Lord. No, my lord; nor [*Aside.*] crop the
ears of them.

Clo. Whoreson dog!—I give him satisfac-
tion? Would, he had been one of my rank!

2 Lord. To have smelt like a fool. [*Aside.*]

Clo. I am not more vexed at any thing in
the earth,—A pox on't! I had rather not be
so noble as I am; they dare not fight with me,
because of the queen my mother: every jack-
slave hath his belly full of fighting, and I
must go up and down like a cock that nobody
can match.

2 Lord. You are a cock and capon too;
and you crow, cock, with your combon. [*Aside.*]

Clo. Sayest thou?

1 Lord. It is not fit, your lordship should
undertake every companion that you give
offence to.

Clo. No, I know that: but it is fit, I should
commit offence to my inferiors.

2 Lord. Ay, it is fit for your lordship only.

Clo. Why, so I say.

1 Lord. Did you hear of a stranger, that's
come to court to-night?

Clo. A stranger! and I know not on't!

2 Lord. He's a strange fellow himself, and
knows it not. [*Aside.*]

1 Lord. There's an Italian come; and, 'tis
thought one of *Leoaatus'* friends.

Clo. *Leoaatus!* a banished rascal; and he'
another, whatsoever he be. Who told you of
this stranger?

1 Lord. One of your lordship's pages.

Clo. It is fit, I went to look upon him? Is
there no derogation in't?

1 Lord. You cannot derogate,* my lord.

Clo. Not easily, I think.

2 Lord. You are a fool granted; therefore
your issues being foolish, do not derogate.

[*Aside.*]

Clo. Come, I'll go see this Italian: What
I have lost to-day at bowls, I'll win to-night
of him. Come on.

2 Lord. I'll attend your lordship.

[*Exeunt CLOTEN and first LORD.*]

That such a crafty devil as is his mother
Should yield the world this ass! a woman that
Bears all down with her brain; and this her
son

Cannot take two from twenty for his heart,
And leave eighteen. Alas, poor princess,
Thou divine Imogen, what thou endur'st!
Betwixt a father by thy step-dame govern'd;
A mother hourly coming plots; a wooer
More hateful than the foul expulsion is
Of thy dear husband, than that horrid act
Of the divorce he'd make! The heavens hold
firm

The walls of thy dear honour; keep unshak'd
That temple, thy fair mind; that thou may'st
stand,

To enjoy thy banish'd lord, and this great laud!
[*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—*A Bed-chamber; in one part of
it a trunk.*

IMOGEN reading in her Bed; a LADY attending.

Imo. Who's there? my woman Helen?

Lady. Please you, madam.

Imo. What hour is it?

Lady. Almost midnight, madam.

Imo. I have read three hours then: mine
eyes are weak:—

Fold down the leaf where I have left: To bed:
Take not away the taper, leave it burning;
And if thou canst awake by four o'clock,
I pr'y'thee, call me. Sleep hath seiz'd me
wholly. [*Exit LADY.*]

To your protection I commend me, gods!
From fairies, and the tempters of the night,
Guard me, beseech ye!

[*Sleeps. IACHIMO, from the Trunk.*]

Iach. The crickets sing, and man's o'er la-
boured sense

Repairs itself by rest: Our Tarquin thus
Did softly press the rushes, ere he waken'd
The chastity he wounded.—Cytherea,
How bravely thou becom'st thy bed! fresh lily!
And whiter than the sheets! That I might
touch!

But kiss; one kiss!—Rubies unparagon'd,
How dearly they do't!—'Tis her breathing that
Perfumes the chamber thus: The flame o'the
taper [*blids,*

Bows toward her; and would under-peek her
To see the enclosed lights, now canopied
Under these windows: White and azure, lac'd
With blue of heaven's own tinct;—But my
design?

To note the chamber:—I will write all down:—
Such, and such, pictures:—There the win-
dow:—Such

* I. e. Degrade yourself.

† It was anciently the custom to strew chambers with
rushes. ‡ I. e. The white skin faced with blue veins.

* He is describing his fate at bowls, the jack is the
small bowl at which the others are aimed. † Fellow.

The adornment of her bed:—The arras,*
 figures, [story,—
 Why, such, and such:—And the contents o'the
 Ah, but some natural notes about her body,
 Above ten thousand meaner moveables
 Would testify, to enrich mine inventory:
 O sleep, thou ape of death, lie dull upon her!
 And be her sense but as a monument,
 Thus in a chapel lying!—Come off, come
 off!— [Taking off her Bracelet.
 As slippery, as the Gordian knot was hard!
 'Tis mine; and this will witness outwardly,
 As strongly as the conscience does within,
 To the madding of her lord. On her left
 breast

A mole cinque-spotted, like the crimson drops
 I'the bottom of a cowslip: Here's a voucher,
 Stronger than ever law could make: this se-
 cret [ta'en

Will force him think I have pick'd the lock, and
 The treasure of her honour. No more.—To
 what end?

Why should I write this down, that's rivetted,
 Screw'd to my memory? She had been read-
 ing late [down,

The tale of Tereus; here the leaf's turn'd
 Where Philomel gave up;—I have enough:
 To the trunk again, and shut the spring of it.
 Swift, swift, you dragons of the night!—that
 dawning

May bear the raven's eye: I lodge in fear;
 Though this a heavenly angel, hell is here.

[Clock strikes.

One, two, three,—Time, time!

[Goes into the Trunk. The scene closes.

SCENE III.—An Antechamber adjoining
 IMOGEN'S Apartment.

Enter CLOTEN and LORDS.

1 Lord. Your lordship is the most patient
 man in loss, the most coldest that ever turned
 up ace.

Clo. It would make any man cold to lose.

1 Lord. But not every man patient, after
 the noble temper of your lordship; You are
 most hot, and furious, when you win.

Clo. Winning would put a y man into
 courage: If I could get this foolish Imogen,
 I should have gold enough: It's almost morn-
 ing, is't not?

1 Lord. Day, my lord.

Clo. I would this music would come: I am
 advised to give her music o' mornings; they
 say, it will penetrate.

Enter MUSICIANS.

Come on; tune: If you can penetrate her
 with your fingering, so; we'll try with tongue
 too: if none will do, let her remain; but I'll
 never give o'er. First, a very excellent good-
 conceited thing; after a wonderful sweet air,
 with admirable rich words to it,—and then
 let her consider.

Song.

Hark! hark! the lark at heaven's gate sings,
 And Phœbus 'gins arise,
 His steeds to water at those springs
 On chaliced flowers that lies;
 And winking Mary-buds begin
 To ope their golden eyes;
 With every thing that pretty bin:
 My lady sweet, arise;
 Arise, arise.

* Tapestry.

† Cups.

So, get you gone: If this penetrate, I will
 consider your music the better: * if it do not,
 it is a vice in her ears, which horse-hairs, and
 cats-guts, nor the voice of unpaved ennoch
 to boot, can never amend. [Exeunt MUSICIANS.

Enter CYMBELINE and QUEEN.

2 Lord. Here comes the king.

Clo. I am glad I was up so late; for that's
 the reason I was up so early: He cannot
 choose but take this service I have done,
 fatherly.—Good morrow to your majesty, and
 to my gracious mother.

Cym. Attend you here the door of our stera
 daughter?

Will she not forth?

Clo. I have assailed her with music, but she
 vouchsafes no notice.

Cym. The exile of her minion is too new;
 She hath not yet forgot him: some more time
 Must wear the print of his remembrance out,
 And then she's yours.

Queen. You are most bound to the king;
 Who let's go by no vantages, that may
 Prefer you to his daughter: Frame yourself
 To orderly sollicit; and be friended
 With aptness of the season: I make denials.
 Increase your services: so seem, as if
 You were inspir'd to do those duties which
 You tender to her: that you in all obey her,
 Save when command to your dismissal tends,
 And therein you are senseless.

Clo. Senseless? Not so.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. So like you, Sir, ambassadors from
 The one is Caius Lucius. [Rome;

Cym. A worthy fellow,

Albeit he comes on angry purpose now;
 But that's no fault of his: We must receive
 According to the honour of his sender; [him
 And towards himself his goodness forespent
 on us

We must extend our notice.—Our dear son,
 When you have given good morning to your
 mistress,

Attend the queen, and us; we shall have need
 To employ you towards this Roman.—Come,
 our queen.

[Exeunt CYM. QUEEN, LORDS, and MESS.

Clo. If she be up, I'll speak with her; if not,
 Let her lie still, and dream.—By your leave
 ho!— [Knocks.

I know her women are about her; What
 If I do line one of their hands? 'Tis gold
 Which buys admittance; oft it doth; yea, and
 makes

Diana's rangers false themselves, yield up
 Their deer to the stand of the stealer; and
 'tis gold

Which makes the true man kill'd, and saves
 the thief;

Nay, sometime, hangs both thief and true
 man: What

Can it not do, and undo? I will make
 One of her women lawyer to me; for
 I yet not understand the case myself.
 By your leave. [Knocks

Enter a LADY.

Lady. Who's there, that knocks!

Clo. A gentleman.

Lady. No more!

* Will pay you more for it.

† With sollicitations not only proper but well-timed

Clo. Yes, and a gentlewoman's son.

Lady. That's more
Than some, whose tailors are as dear as yours,
Can justly boast of: What's your lordship's
pleasure?

Clo. Your lady's person: Is she ready?

Lady. Ay,
To keep her chamber.

Clo. There's gold for you: sell me your
good report.

Lady. How! my good name? or to report
of you

What I shall think is good?—The princess—

Enter IMOGEN.

Clo. Good-morrow, fairest sister: Your
sweet hand.

Imo. Good-morrow, Sir: You lay out too
much pains

For purchasing but trouble: the thanks I
[give,
Is telling you that I am poor of thanks,
And scarce can spare them.

Clo. Still, I swear, I love you.

Imo. If you but said so, 'twere as deep with
me:

If you swear still, your recompense is still
That I regard it not.

Clo. This is no answer.

Imo. But that you shall not say I yield, be-
ing silent, [faith,
I would not speak. I pray you, spare me:
I shall unfold equal discourtesy [knowing
To your best kindness; one of your great
Should learn, being taught, forbearance.

Clo. To leave you in your madness, 'twere
my sin:
I will not.

Imo. Fools are not mad folks.

Clo. Do you call me fool?

Imo. As I am mad, I do:

If you'll be patient, I'll no more be mad;

That cures us both. I am much sorry, Sir,
You put me to forget a lady's manners,
By being so verbal:† and learn now, for all,
That I, which know my heart, do here pro-
nounce,

By the very truth of it, I care not for you;
And an so wear the lack of charity,
(To accuse myself) I hate you: which I had
You felt, than make't my boast. [rather

Clo. You sio against

Obedience, which you owe your father. For
The contract you pretend with that base wretch,
(One, bred of alms, and foster'd with cold
dishes, [none:

With scraps o'the court,) it is no contract,
And though it be allow'd in meaner parties,
(Yet who, than he, more mean?) to knit their
souls

(On whom there is no more dependency
But brats and beggary) in self-figur'd knot; ‡
Yet you are curb'd from that enlargement by
The consequence o'the crown; and must not
The precious note of it with a base slave, [soil
A hilding‡ for a livery, a squire's cloth,
A pantler, not so eminent.

Imo. Profane fellow!

Wert thou the son of Jupiter, and no more,
But what thou art, besides, thou wert too base
To be his groom: thou wert dignified enough,
Even to the point of envy, if 'twere made
Comparative for your virtues, to be styl'd
The under-hangman of his kingdom; and hated
For being preferr'd so well.

* So verbose, so full of talk.

† In knots of their own tying.

‡ A low fellow only fit to wear a livery.

Clo. The south-fog rot him!

Imo. He never can meet more mischance,
than come [ment,
To be but nam'd of thee. His meanest gar-
That ever hath but clipp'd his body, is dearer.
In my respect, than all the hairs above thee.
Were they all made such men.—How now,
Pisanio?

Enter PISANIO.

Clo. His garment? Now, the devil—

Imo. To Dorothea my woman hie thee pre-
sently:—

Clo. His garment?

Imo. I am sprighted* with a fool:
Frighted, and anger'd worse:—Go, bid my
woman

Search for a jewel, that too casually
Hath left mine arm; it was thy master's:
'shrew me,

If I would lose it for a revenue
Of any king's in Europe. I do think,
I saw't this morning: confident I am,
Last night 'twas on my arm; I kiss'd it:
I hope, it be not gone, to tell my lord
That I kiss ought but he.

Pis. 'Twill not be lost.

Imo. I hope so: go, and search. [Exit Pis.

Clo. You have abus'd me:—

His meanest garment?

Imo. Ay; I said so, Sir,

If you will make't an action, call witness to't.

Clo. I will inform your father.

Imo. Your mother too:

She's my good lady; and will conceive. I hope,
But the worst of us. So I leave you, Sir,
To the worst of discontent. [Exit.

Clo. I'll be reveng'd:—

His meanest garment?—Well. [Exit.

SCENE IV.—Rome.—An Apartment in
PHILARIO'S House.

Enter POSTHUMUS and PHILARIO.

Post. Fear it not, Sir; I would, I were so
sure

To win the king, as I am bold, her honour
Will remain hers.

Phi. What means do you make to him?

Post. Not any; but abide the change of
time:

Quake in the present winter's state, and wish
That warmer days would come: In these fear'd
hopes,

I barely gratify your love; they failing
I must die much your debtor.

Phi. Your very goodness, and your company,
O'erpays all I can do. By this, your king
Hath heard of great Augustus: Caius Lucius
Will do his commission throughly: and, I
think,

He'll grant the tribute, send the arrearages,
Or look upon our Romans, whose remembrance
Is yet fresh in their grief.

Post. I do believe,

(Statist though I am none, nor like to be)
That this will prove a war; and you shall hear
The legions, now in Gallia, sooner landed
In our not-fearing Britain, than have tidings
Of any penny tribute paid. Our countrymen
Are men more order'd, than when Julius Cesar
Smil'd at their lack of skill, but found their
courage

Worthy his frowning at: Their discipline
(Now mingled with their courages) will make
known

* Hunted.

† Statesman.

To their approvers,* they are people, such
That mend upon the world.

Enter IACHIMO.

Phi. See! Iachimo?

Post. The swiftest harts have posted you by
land:

And winds of all the corners kiss'd your sails.
To make your vessel nimble.

Phi. Welcome, Sir.

Post. I hope, the briefness of your answer
The speediness of your return. [made

Iach. Your lady

Is one the fairest that I have look'd upon.

Post. And, therewithal, the best; or let her
beauty

Look through a casement to allure false hearts,
And he false with them.

Iach. Here are letters for you.

Post. Their tenour good, I trust.

Iach. 'Tis very like.

Phi. Was Caius Lucius in the Britain court,
When you were there?

Iach. He was expected then,
But not approach'd.

Post. All is well yet.—

Sparkles this stone as it was won't? or is't not
Too dull for your good wearing?

Iach. If I have lost it,

I should have lost the worth of it in gold.

I'll make a journey twice as far to enjoy
A second night of such sweet shortness, which
Was mine in Britain; for the ring is won.

Post. The stone's too hard to come by.

Iach. Not a whit,

Your lady being so easy.

Post. Make not, Sir.

Your loss your sport: I hope, you know that
Must not continue friends [we

Iach. Good Sir, we must,

If you keep covenant: Had I not brought
The knowledge of your mistress home, I grant
We were to question further: but I now
Profess myself the winner of her honour,
Together with your ring; and not the wronger
Of her, or you, having proceeded but
By both your wills.

Post. If you can make't apparent

That you have tasted her in bed, my hand
And ring is yours: If not, the foul opinion
You had of her pure honour, gains, or loses,
Your sword or mine; or masterless leaves both
To who shall find them.

Iach. Sir, my circumstances,

Being so near the truth, as I will make them,
Must first induce you to believe: whose
strength

I will confirm with oath; which, I doubt not,
You'll give me leave to spare, when you shall
You need it not. [und

Post. Proceed.

Iach. First, her bed-chamber,

(Where, I confess, I slept not; but, profess
Had that was well worth watching.) It was
hang'd

With tapestry of silk and silver? the story
Proud Cleopatra, when she met her Roman,
And Cydnus swell'd above the banks, or for
The press of boats, or pride: A piece of work
So bravely done, so rich, that it did strive
In workmanship and value; which I won-
der'd,

Could be so rarely and exactly wrought,
Since the true life on't was—

* To those who try them.

Post. This is true:

And this you might have heard of here, by me,
Or by some other.

Iach. More particulars

Must justify my knowledge.

Post. So they must,

Or do your honour injury.

Iach. The chimney

Is south the chamber; and the chimney piece,
Chaste Dian, bathing: never saw I figures
So likely to report themselves: the cutter
Was as another nature, dumb; outwent her,
Motion and breath left out.

Post. This is a thing,

Which you might from relation likewise reap:
Being, as it is, much spoke of.

Iach. The roof o'the chamber [rons*

With golden cherubims is fretted: Her andi-
(I had forgot them,) were two winking Cupids
Of silver, each on one foot standing, nicely
Depending on their brands.†

Post. This is her honour!—

Let it be granted, you have seen all this, (and
praise [tion

Be given to your remembrance,) the descrip-
Of what is in her chamber, nothing saves.

The wager you have laid.

Iach. Then if you can,

[Pulling out the Bracelet.

Be pale; I beg but leave to air this jewel:
See!—

And now 'tis up again: It must be married
To that your diamond; I'll keep them.

Post. Jove!—

Once more let me behold it: Is it that
Which I left with her?

Iach. Sir, (I thank her,) that:

She stripp'd it from her arm; I see her yet;
Her pretty action did outsell her gift,
And yet enrich'd it too; She gave it me, and
She priz'd it once. [said,

Post. May be, she pluck'd it off,

To send it me.

Iach. She writes so to you? doth she?

Post. O, no, no, no; 'tis true. Here, take
this too; [Gives the Ring.

It is a basilisk unto mine eye,
Kills me to look on't:—Let there be no honour,
Where there is beauty; truth, where sem-
blance; love [men

Where there's another man: The vows of wo-
Of no more bondage be, to where they are
made,

Than they are to their virtues; which is no-
O, above measure false! [thing:—

Phi. Have patience, Sir,

And take your ring again: 'tis not yet won
It may be probable, she lost it; or,

Who knows if one of her women, being cor-
Hath stolen it from her. [rupted,

Post. Very true;

[ring:—

And so, I hope, he came by't:—Back my
Render to me some corporal sign about her,
More evident than this; for this was stolen.

Iach. By Jupiter, I had it from her arm.

Post. Hark you, he swears; by Jupiter he
swears. [am sure,

'Tis true;—nay, keep the ring—'tis true: I
She would not lose it: her attendants are
All sworn and honourable:—They induc'd to
steal it!

And by a stranger?—No, he hath enjoy'd her:
The cognizance‡ of her incontinency

* Ornaamented iron bars which support wood burned
in chimneys † Torches in the hands of Cupids.

‡ The badge, the token.

Is this,—she hath bought the name of whore
thus dearly.—

There, take thy hire: and all the fiends of hell
Divide themselves between you!

Phi. Sir, be patient:

This is not strong enough to be believ'd
Of one persuaded well of!—

Post. Never talk on't;

She hath been colted by him.

Iach. If you seek

For further satisfying, under her breast
(Worthy the pressing,) lies a mole, right proud
Of that most delicate lodging: By my life,
I kiss'd it; and it gave me present hunger
To feed again, though full. You do remember
This stain upon her?

Post. Ay, and it doth confirm

Another stain, as big as hell can hold,
Were there no more but it.

Iach. Will you hear more?

Post. Spare your arithmetic: never count
Once, and a million! [turns;

Iach. I'll be sworn,——

Post. No swearing.

If you will swear you have not done't, you lie;
And I will kill thee, if thou dost deny
Thou hast made me cuckold.

Iach. I will deny nothing.

Post. O, that I had her here, to tear her limb-
meal!

I will go there, and do't; i'th' court; before
Her father:—I'll do something— [Exit.

Phi. Quite besides

The government of patience!—You have won:
Let's follow him, and pervert the present wrath
He hath against himself.

Iach. With all my heart. [Exit.

SCENE V.—The same.—Another Room in
the same.

Enter POSTHUMUS.

Post. Is there no way for men to be, but
women

Must be half-workers? We are bastards all;
And that most venerable man, which I
Did call my father, was I know not where
When I was stamp'd; some coiner with his
tools

Made me a counterfeit: Yet my mother seem'd
The Dian of that time: so doth my wife
The nonpareil of this.—O vengeance, ven-
geance!

Me of my lawful pleasure she restrain'd,
And pray'd me, oft, forbearance: did it with
A pudency* so rosy, the sweet view on't
Might well have warm'd old Saturn; that I
thought her [devils!—

As chaste as unsann'd snow:—O, all the
This yellow Iachimo, in an hour,—was't not!—
Or less,—at first: Perchance he spoke not;
but,

Like a full-acorn'd boar, a German one,
Cried, *oh!* and mounted: found no opposition
But what he look'd for should oppose, and she
Should from encounter guard. Could I find
out [tion

The woman's part in me! For there's no mo-
That tends to vice in man, but I affirm
It is the woman's part: Be it lying, note it,
The woman's; flattering, hers; deceiving,
hers; [dain,

Ambitions, covetings, change of prides, dis-
Nice longings, slanders, mutability, [knows,
All faults that may be nam'd, nay, that hell
Why hers in part, or all; but, rather, all:

For even to vice

They are not constant, but are changing still
One vice, but of a minute old, for one
Not half so old as that. I'll write against
them,

Detest them, curse them:—Yet 'tis greater skill
In a true hate, to pray they have their will:
The very devils cannot plague them better.

[Exit.

ACT III.

SCENE I.—Britain.—A Room of State in
CYMBELINE'S Palace.

Enter CYMBELINE, QUEEN, CLOTEN, and LORDS,
at one door; and at another, CAIUS LUCIUS,
and attendants.

Cym. Now say, what would Augustus Ce-
sar with us!

Luc. When Julius Cesar (whose remem-
brance yet [tongues,
Lives in men's eyes; and will to ears, and
Be theme, and hearing ever,) was in this Bri-
tain,

And conquer'd it, Cassibelan, thine uncle,
(Famous in Cesar's praises, no whit less
Than in his feats deserving it,) for him,
And his succession, granted Rome a tribute,
Yearly three thousand pounds; which by thee
Is left untender'd. [lately

Queen. And, to kill the marvel,
Shall be so ever.

Clo. There be many Cesars,
Ere such another Julius. Britain is
A world by itself; and we will nothing pay,
For wearing our own noses.

Queen. That opportunity, [sume
Which then they had to take from us, to re-
We have again.—Remember, Sir, my liege,
The kings your ancestors; together with
The natural bravery of your isle; which stands
As Neptune's park, ribbed and paled in
With rocks unscalable, and roaring waters:
With sands, that will not bear your enemies'
boats, [conquest

But suck them up to the top-mast. A kind of
Cesar made here; but made not here his brag
Of, *came, and saw, and overcame*: with shame
(The first, that ever touch'd him,) he was carri-
ried [ping,

From off our coast, twice beaten; and his ship-
(Poor ignorant baubles!) on our terrible seas,
Like egg-shells mov'd upon their surges,
crack'd

As easily 'gainst our rocks: for joy whereof,
The fam'd Cassibelan, who was once at point
(O, giglot* fortune!) to master Cesar's sword,
Made Lud's town with rejoicing fires bright,
And Britons strut with courage.

Clo. Come, there's no more tribute to be paid:
Our kingdom is stronger than it was at that
time; and, as I said, there is no more such
Cesars: other of them may have crooked
noses; but, to owe such straight arms, none.

Cym. Son, let your mother end.

Clo. We have yet many among us can gripe
as hard as Cassibelan: I do not say, I am
one; but I have a hand.—Why tribute? why
should we pay tribute? If Cesar can hide
the sun from us with a blanket, or put the
moon in his pocket, we will pay him tribute
for light; else, Sir, no more tribute, pray
you now.

Cym. You must know,
Till the injurious Romans did extort

This tribute from us, we were free; Cesar's ambition, [stretch] (Which swell'd so much, that it did almost 'The sides o' the world,) against all colour, here Did put the yoke upon us; which to shake off, Becomes a warlike people, whom we reckon Ourselves to be. We do say then to Cesar, Our ancestor was that Mulmutius, which Ordain'd our laws; (whose use the sword of Cesar

Hath too much mangled; whose repair, and franchise,

Shall, by the power we hold, be our good deed, Though Rome be therefore angry;) Mulmutius,

Who was the first of Britain, which did put His brows within a golden crown, and call'd Himself a king.

Luc. I am sorry, Cymbeline, That I am to pronounce Augustus Cesar (Cesar, that hath more kings his servants, than Thyself domestic officers,) thine enemy: Receive it from me, then:—War, and confusion, [look

In Cesar's name pronounce I 'gainst thee: For fury not to be resisted:—Thus defied, I thank thee for myself.

Cym. Thou art welcome, Caius. Thy Cesar knighted me; my youth, I spent Much under him; of him I gather'd honour; Which he, to seek of me again, perforce. Behoves me keep at utterance;* I am perfect, That the Pannonians and Dalmatians, for Their liberties, are now in arms: a precedent Which, not to read, would show the Britons So Cesar shall not find them. [cold:

Luc. Let proof speak. *Clo.* His majesty bids you welcome. Make pastime with us a day, or two, longer: If you seek us afterwards in other terms, you shall find us in our salt-water girdle: if you beat us out of it, it is yours; if you fall in the adventure, our crowns shall fare the better for you; and there's an end.

Luc. So, Sir. *Cym.* I know your master's pleasure, and he mine: All the remain is, welcome. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—Another Room in the same.

Enter PISANIO.

Pis. How! of adultery? Wherefore write you not What monster's her accuser?—Leonatus! O, master! what a strange infection Is fallen into thy ear? What false Italian (As poisonous tongue'd, as handed,) hath prevail'd On thy too ready hearing?—Disloyal? No: She's punish'd for her truth; and undergoes, More goddess-like than wife-like, such assaults As would take in some virtue.—O, my master! Thy mind to her is now as low, as were [ter! Thy fortunes.—How! that I should murder her?

Upon the love, and truth, and vows, which I Have made to thy command?—I, her?—her blood?

If it be so to do good service, never Let me be counted serviceable. How look I, That I should seem to lack humanity, So much as this fact comes to? Do't! *The letter* [Reading.

That I have sent her, by her men command Shall give thee opportunity:—O damn'd paper! Black as the ink that's on thee! Senseless bauble,

Art thou a feodary* for this act, and look'st So virgin-like without? Lo, here she comes!

Enter IMOGEN.

I'm ignorant in what I am commanded.

Imo. How now, Pisanio?

Pis. Madam, here is a letter from my lord.

Imo. Who? thy lord? that is my lord? Leonatus?

O, learn'd indeed were that astronomer, That knew the stars, as I his characters; He'd lay the future open.—You, good gods, Let what is here contained relish of love, Of my lord's health, of his content,—yet not, That we too are asunder, let that grieve him,— (Some griefs are med'cinable;) that is one of them,

For it doth physic love;—of his content, All but in that!—Good wax, thy leave:— Bless'd be, [Lovers,

You bees, that make these locks of counsel! And men in dangerous bouds pray not alike; Though forfeitures you cast in prison, yet You clasp young Cupid's tables.—Good news, gods! [Reads.

Justice, and your father's wrath, should he take me in his dominions, could not be so cruel to me, as you, O the dearest of creatures, would not even renew me with your eyes. Take notice, that I am in Cambria, at Milford-Haven.—What your own love will, out of this, advise you, follow. So, he wishes you all happiness that remains loyal to his vow, and your increasing in love, LEONATUS POSTHUMUS.

O, for a horse with wings!—Hear'st thou, Pisanio?

He is at Milford-Haven: Read, and tell me How far 'tis thither. If one of mean affairs May plod it in a week, why may not I Glide thither in a day?—Then, true Pisanio, (Who long'st, like me, to see thy lord; who long'st,— [long'st,—

O, let me 'bate,—but not like me:—yet But in a fainter kind:—O, not like me; For mine's beyond beyond,) say, and speak thick,† [sing,

(Love's counsellor should fill the bores of hear- To the smothering of the sense,) how far it is To this same blessed Milford: And, by the way,

Tell me how Wales was made so happy, as To inherit such a haven: But, first of all, How we may steal from hence; and, for the gap [going, That we shall make in time, from our hence— And our return, to excuse:—but first, how get hence:

Why should excuse be born or e'er begot? We'll talk of that hereafter. Pr'ythee, speak, How many score of miles may we well ride 'Twixt hour and hour?

Pis. One score, 'twixt sun and sun Madam, 's enough for you; and too much too

Imo. Why, one that rode to his execution, man, Could never go so slow: I have heard of riding wagers, Where horses have been nimbler than the sands

* At the extremity of defiance. † Well-informed. ‡ To take in a town, is to conquer it.

* Confederate.

† Crowd one word on another, as fast as possible.

That run i' the clock's behalf:—but this is foolery:—

Go, bid my woman feign a sickness; say, She'll home to her father; and provide me presently,

A riding suit; no costlier than would fit A franklin's* housewife.

Pis. Madam, you're best consider.

Imo. I see before me, man, nor here, nor here,

Nor what ensues; but have a fog in them, That I cannot look through. Away, I pr'ythee; Do as I bid thee: There's no more to say; Accessible is none but Milford way. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—*Wales.*—A mountainous Country, with a Cave.

Enter BELARIUS, GUIDERIUS, and ARVIRAGUS.

Bel. A goodly day not to keep house, with such

Whose roofs as low as ours! Stoop, boys: This gate

Instructs you how to adore the heavens; and bows you

To morning's holy office: The gates of morning Are arch'd so high, that giants may jett thro' And keep their impious turbands on, without Good morrow to the sun.—Hail, thou fair heaven!

We house i' the rock, yet use thee not so hard. As prouder livers do.

Gui. Hail, heaven!

Arv. Hail, heaven!

Bel. Now, for our mountain sport: Up to you hill,

Your legs are young; I'll tread these flats. Consider,

When you above perceive me like a crow, That it is place which lessons, and sets off. And you may then revolve what tales I have told you,

Of courts, of princes, of the tricks in war: This service is not service, so being done, But being so allow'd: To apprehend thus, Draws us a profit from all things we see: And often, to our comfort, shall we find The sharded beetle in a safer hold Than is the full-wing'd eagle. O, this life Is nobler, than attending for a check; Richer, than doing nothing for a babe; Prouder, than rustling in unpaid for silk: Such gain the cap of him, that makes them fine,

Yet keeps his book uncross'd: no life to ours. §

Gui. Out of your proof you speak: we, poor unfledg'd, Have never wing'd from view o'the nest; nor know not

What air's from home. Happily this life is best, If quiet life be best; sweeter to you, That have a sharper known; well correspond. With your stiff age; but, unto us, it is [ing] A cell of ignorance; travelling abed; A prison for a debtor, that not dars To stride a limit. ||

Arv. What should we speak of, When we are old as you? when we shall hear The rain and wind beat dark December, how, In this our pinching cave, shall we discourse The freezing hours away? We have seen nothing:

We are beastly; sntble as the fox, for prey;

Like warlike as the wolf, for what we eat: Our valour is, to chase what flies; our cage We make a quire, as doth the prison bird, And sing our bondage freely.

Bel. How you speak!

Did you but know the city's usuries, And felt them knowingly: the art o'the court, As hard to leave, as keep; whose top to climb Is certain falling, or so slippery, that [war, The fear's as bad as falling! the toil of the A pain that only seems to seek out danger I'the name of fame, and honour; which dies i'the search;

And hath as oft a slanderous epitaph, As record of fair act; nay, many times, Doth ill deserve by doing well; what's worse, Must court'sey at the censure:—O, boys, this story

The world may read in me: My body's mark'd With Roman swords: and my report was once First with the best of note: Cymbeline lov'd me;

And when a soldier was the theme, my name Was not far off: Then was I as a tree, Whose boughs did bend with fruit: but in one night,

A storm, or robbery, call it what you will, Shook down my mellow hangings, nay, my And left me bare to weather. [leaves,

Gui. Uncertain favour!

Bel. My fault being nothing (as I have told you oft),

But that two villains, whose false oaths pre-Before my perfect honour, swore to Cymbeline, I was confederate with the Romans: so, Follow'd my banishment; and, this twenty years,

This rock, and these demesnes, have been my Where I have liv'd at bonest freedom; paid More pious debts to heaven, than in all The fore-end of my time.—But up to the mountains;

This is not hunters' language:—He, that strikes The venison first, shall be the lord o'the feast; To him the other two shall minister; And we will fear no poison, which attends In place of greater state. I'll meet you in the valleys. [*Exeunt* *Gui.* and *Arv.*]

How hard it is, to hide the sparks of nature! These boys know little, they are sons to the king;

Nor Cymbeline dreams that they are alive. They think, they are mine: and, though train'd up thus meanly [bit] I'the cave, wherein they bow, their thoughts do The roofs of palaces; and nature prompts them,

In simple and low things to prince it, much Beyond the trick of others. This Polydore,—The heir of Cymbeline and Britain, whom The king his father call'd Guiderius,—Jove! When on my three-foot stool I sit, and I tell The warlike feats I have done, his spirits fly out

Into my story:—say, *Thou mine enemy fell: And thus I set my foot on his neck;* even then The princely blood flows in his cheek, he sweats, Strains his young nerves, and puts himself in posture [Cadwal,

That acts my words. The younger brother, (Once Arviragus,) in as like a figure, Strikes life into my speech, and shows much more

His own conceiving. Hark! the game is O Cymbeline! heaven, and my conscience, knows,

* A freeholder.

† Strut, walk proudly.

‡ Scaly-winged.

§ I. e. Compared with ours.

|| To overpass his bound.

Thou didst unjustly banish me; whereon,
At three and two years old, I stole these babes;
Thinking to bar thee of succession, as
Thou rest'st me of my lands. Euriphile,
Thou wast their nurse; they took thee for
their mother,
And every day do honour to her grave:
Myself, Belarius, that am Morgan call'd,
They take for natural father. The game is up.
[Exit.]

SCENE IV.—Near Milford-Haven.

Enter PISANIO and IMOGEN.

Imo. Thou told'st me, when we came from
horse, the place
Was near at hand: Ne'er long'd my mother so
To see me first, as I have now:—Pisanio!
Man!

Where is Posthumus? What is in thy mind
That makes thee stare thus? Wherefore breaks
that sigh [thus,
From the inward of thee? One, but painted
Would be interpreted a thing perplexed
Beyond self-explication; Put thyself
Into a 'haviour* of less fear, ere wildness
Vanquish my staid senses. What's the
matter?

Why tender'st thou that paper to me, with
A look untender? If it be summer news,
Smile to't before: if winterly, thou need'st
But keep that countenance still.—My hus-
band's hand!

That drug-damn'd Italy hath out-craftied him;
And he's at some hard point.—Speak, man;
thy tongue

May take off some extremity, which to read
Would be even mortal to me.

Pis. Please you, read;

And you shall find me, wretched man, a thing
The most disdain'd of fortune.

Imo. [Reads.] *Thy mistress, Pisanio, hath
played the strumpet in my bed; the testimonies
whereof lie bleeding in me. I speak not out of
weak surmises; from proof as strong as my
grief, and as certain as I expect my revenge.
That part, thou Pisanio, must act for me if thy
faith be not tainted with the breach of hers.
Let thine own hands take away her life: I shall
give thee opportunities at Milford-Haven: she
hath my letter for the purpose: Where, if thou
fear to strike, and to make me certain it is done,
thou art the pander to her dishonour, and equal-
ly to me disloyal.*

Pis. What shall I need to draw my sword?
the paper

Hath cut her throat already.—No, 'tis slander;
Whose edge is sharper than the sword; whose
tongue [breath

Outvenoms all the worms of Nile; whose
Rides on the posting winds, and doth belie
All corners of the world: kings, queens, and
states,

Maids, matrons, nay, the secrets of the grave
This viperous slander enters.—What cheer,
madam?

Imo. False to his bed! What is it, to be false?
To lie in watch there, and to think on him?
To weep 'twixt clock and clock? if sleep charge
nature,

To break it with a fearful dream of him,
And cry myself awake! that's false to his bed?
Is it?

Pis. Alas, good lady!

Imo. I false? Thy conscience witness:—
Iachimo,

* For behaviour.

Thou didst accuse him of incontinency;
Thou then look'd'st like a villain; now, me-
thinks,

Thy favour's good enough.—Some jay* of Italy,
Whose mother was her painting,† hath be-
tray'd him:

Poor I am stale, a garment out of fashion;
And, for I am richer than to hang by the walls,
I must be ripp'd:—to pieces with me!—O,
Men's vows are women's traitors! All good
seeming,

By thy revolt, O husband, shall be thought
Put on for villany; not born, where't grows;
But worn, a bait for ladies.

Pis. Good madam, hear me.

Imo. True honest men being heard, like
false Eneas, [weeping
Were, in his time, thought false: and Sinon's
Did scandal many a holy tear; took pity
From most true wretchedness: So, thou Post-
humus,

Wilt lay the leaven on all proper men;
Goodly, and gallant, shall be false and purjur'd,
From thy great fall.—Come, fellow, be thou
honest: [him,

Do thou thy master's bidding: when thou see'st
A little witness my obedience: Look!

I draw the sword myself: take it; and hit
The innocent mansion of my love, my heart:
Fear not; 'tis empty of all things, but grief:
Thy master is not there; who was, indeed,
The riches of it: Do his bidding; strike.

Thou may'st be valiant in a better cause;
But now thou seem'st a coward.

Pis. Hence, vile instrument!

Thou shalt not damn my hand.

Imo. Why, I must die;

And if I do not by thy hand, thou art
No servant of thy master's: Against self-
slaughter

There is a prohibition so divine,
That craven's‡ my weak hand. Come here's
my heart; [fence;

Something's afore't:—Soft, soft; we'll no de-
Obedient as the scabbard.—What is here?

The scriptures§ of the royal Leonatus,
All turn'd to heresy? Away, away,
Corrupters of my faith! you shall no more
Be stomachers to my heart! Thus may poor
fools [betray'd

Believe false teachers: Though those that are
Do feel the treason sharply, yet the traitor
Stands in worse of woe.

And thou Posthumus, thou that didst set up
My disobedience 'gainst the king my father,
And make me put into contempt the suits
Of princely fellows, shall hereafter find

It is no act of common passage, but
A strain of rareness: and I grieve myself,
To think, when thou shalt be disedg'd by her
That now thou tir'st|| on, how thy memory
Will then be pang'd by me.—Pr'ythee, de-
spatch: [knife?

The lamb entreats the butcher: Where's thy
Thou art too slow to do thy master's bidding,
When I desire it too.

Pis. O gracious lady,
Since I received command to do this business,
I have not slept one wink.

Imo. Do't and to bed then.

Pis. I'll wake mine eye-balls blind first.

Imo. Wherefore then

Didst undertake it: Why hast thou abus'd

* Putta, in Italian, signifies both a jay and a whore.

† Likeness.

‡ Towards.

§ The writings.

|| Feedest or preys on.

So many miles with a pretence? this place?
Mine action, and thine own! our horses' labour?

The time inviting thee? the perturb'd court,
For my being absent: whereunto I never
Purpose return? Why hast thou gone so far,
To be unbent, when thou hast ta'en thy stand,
The elected deer before thee?

Pis. But to win time
To lose so bad employment: in the which
I have consider'd of a course; Good lady,
Hear me with patience.

Imo. Talk thy tongue weary; speak:
I have heard, I am a strumpet; and mine ear,
Therein false struck, can take no greater
Nor tent to bottom that. But speak. [wound,

Pis. Then, madam,
I thought you would not back again.

Imo. Most like;
Bringing me here to kill me.

Pis. Not so, neither:
But if I were as wise as honest, then
My purpose would prove well. It cannot be,
But that my master is abus'd:
Some villain, ay, and singular in his art,
Hath done you both this cursed injury.

Imo. Some Roman courtesan.

Pis. No, on my life.
I'll give but notice you are dead, and send him
Some bloody sign of it; for 'tis commanded
I should do so: You shall be miss'd at court,
And that will well confirm it.

Imo. Why, good fellow, [live?
What shall I do the while? Where hide? How
Or in my life what comfort, when I am
Dead to my husband?

Pis. If you'll back to the court,—

Imo. No court, no father; nor no more ado
With that harsh, noble, simple, nothing:
That Cloten, whose love-suit hath been to me
As fearful as a siege.

Pis. If not at court,
Then not in Britain must you bide.

Imo. Where then? [night,
Hath Britain all the sun that shines? Day.
Are they not but in Britain? 'The world's
volume

Our Britain seems as of it, but not in it;
In a great pool, as a swan's nest; Pr'ythee, think
There's livers out of Britain.

Pis. I am most glad
You think of other place. The ambassador,
Lucius the Roman, comes to Milford-Haven
To-morrow: Now, if you could wear a mind
Dark as your fortune is; and but disguise
That which, to appear itself, must not yet be,
But by self-danger; you should tread a course
Pretty; and full of view: yea, haply, near
The residence of Posthumus: so nigh, at least,
That though his actions were not visible, yet
Report should render him hourly to your ear,
As truly as he moves.

Imo. O, for such means!
Though peril to my modesty, not death on't,
I would adventure.

Pis. Well then, here's the point:
You must forget to be a woman; change
Command into obedience; fear, and niceness,
(The handmaids of all women, or, more truly,
Woman it's pretty self,) to a waggish courage;
Ready in gibes, quick-answered, saucy, and
As quarrelous as the weasel: nay, you must
Forget that rarest treasure of your cheek,
Exposing it (but, O, the harder heart!
Alack no remedy!) to the greedy touch
Of common-kissing Titan;* and forget

Your laboursome and dainty trims, wherein
You made great Juno angry.

Imo. Nay, be brief:
I see into thy end, and am almost
A man already.

Pis. First, make yourself but like one.
Fore-thinking this, I have already fit,
('Tis in my cloak-bag,) doublet, hat, hose, all
That answer to them: Would you, in their
serving,

And with what imitation you can borrow
From youth of such a season, 'fore noble Lu-
cius

Present yourself, desire his service, tell him
Wherein you are happy,* (which you'll make
him know,

If that his head have ear in music,) doubtless,
With joy he will embrace you; for he's hon-
ourable, [abroad

And, doubling that, most holy. Your means
You have me,† rich; and I will never fail
Beginning, nor supplication.

Imo. Thou art all the comfort
The gods will diet me with. Pr'ythee, away:
There's more to be consider'd; but we'll even
All that good time will give us: This attempt
I'm soldier to,‡ and will abide it with
A prince's courage. Away, I pr'ythee.

Pis. Well, madam, we must take a short
farewell:

Lest, being miss'd, I be suspected of [tress
Your carriage from the court. My noble mis-
Here is a box; I had it from the queen;
What's in't is precious; if you are sick at sea,
Or stomach-qualm'd at land, a dram of this
Will drive away distemper.—To some shade,
And fit you to your manhood:—May the gods
Direct you to the best!

Imo. Amen: I thank thee. [Exeunt.

SCENE V.—A Room in CYMBELINE'S Palace.

Enter CYMBELINE, QUEEN, CLOTEN, LUCIUS,
and LORDS.

Cym. Thus far; and so farewell.

Luc. Thanks, royal Sir.

My emperor hath wrote; I must from hence;
And am right sorry, that I must report ye
My master's enemy.

Cym. Our subjects, Sir,
Will not endure his yoke; and for ourself
To show less sovereignty than they, must
Appear unkinglike. [needs

Luc. So, Sir, I desire of you
A conduct over land, to Milford-Haven.—
Madam, all joy befall your grace, and you!

Cym. My lords, you are appointed for that
office;

The due of honour in no point omit:—

So, farewell, noble Lucius.

Luc. Your hand, my lord.

Clot. Receive it friendly: but from this time
I wear it as your enemy. [forth

Luc. Sir, the event

Is yet to name the winner; Fare you well.

Cym. Leave not the worthy Lucius, good
my lords,

Till he have cross'd the Severn.—Happiness!

[Exeunt LUCIUS and LORDS.

Queen. He goes hence frowning: but it hon-
ours us,

That we have given him cause.

Clot. 'Tis all the better;
Your valiant Britons have their wishes in it.

* i. e. Wherein you are accomplished.

† As for your subsistence abroad, you may rely on me.
‡ Equal to.

Cym. Lucius hath wrote already to the emperor.

How it goes here. It fits us therefore, ripely,
Our chariots and our horsemen be in readiness:

The powers that he already hath in Gallia
Will soon be drawn to head, from whence he
His war for Britain. [unoves

Queen. 'Tis not sleepy business;
But must be look'd to speedily, and strongly.

Cym. Our expectation that it would be thus,
Hath made us forward. But, my gentle queen,
Where is our daughter? She hath not appear'd
Before the Roman, nor to us hath tender'd
The duty of the day; She looks us like
A thing more made of malice, than of duty:
We have noted it.—Call her before us; for
We have been too slight in sufferance.

[Exit an ATTENDANT.

Queen. Royal Sir,
Since the exile of Posthumus, most retir'd
Hath her life been; the cure whereof, my lord,
'Tis time must do. 'Beseech your majesty,
Forbear sharp speeches to her: she's a lady
So tender of rebukes, that words are strokes,
And strokes death to her.

Re-enter an ATTENDANT.

Cym. Where is she, Sir? How
Can her contempt be answer'd?

Atten. Please you, Sir,
Her chambers are all lock'd; and there's no
answer [make

That will be given to the loud'st of noise we

Queen. My lord, when last I went to visit

her,
She pray'd me to excuse her keeping close;
Whereto constrain'd by her infirmity,
She should that duty leave unpaid to you,
Which daily she was bound to proffer: this
She wish'd me to make known; but our great
Made me to blame in memory. [court

Cym. Her doors lock'd?
Not seen of late? Grant, heavens, that, which
I fear,

Prove false! [Exit.

Queen. Son, I say, follow the king,

Clo. That man of hers, Pisanio, her old
I have not seen these two days. [servant.

Queen. Go, look after.— [Exit CLOTEN.

Pisano, thou that stand'st so for Posthumus!—
He hath a drug of mine: I pray, his absence
Proceed by swallowing that; for he believes
It is a thing most precious. But for her,
Where is she gone? Haply, despair hath
seiz'd her; [flown

Or, wing'd with fervour of her love, she's
To her desir'd Posthumus: Gone she is
To death or to dishonour; and my end
Can make good use of either: She being down,
I have the placing of the British crown.

Re-enter CLOTEN.

How now, my son?

Clo. 'Tis certain she is fled:
Go in, and cheer the king; he rages; none
Dare come about him.

Queen. All the better: May
This night forestall him of the coming day!

Clo. I love, and hate her: for she's fair and
royal; [quisite

And that she hath all courtly parts more ex-
Than lady, ladies, women: * from every one
The best she hath, and she, of all compounded,
Outsells them all: I love her therefore, But,

* Than any lady, than all ladies, than all womankind.

Disdaining me, and throwing favours on
The low Posthumus, slanders so her judge-
ment, [point,
That what's else rare, is chok'd; and, in that
I will conclude to hate her, nay, indeed,
To be reveng'd upon her. For, when fools

Enter PISANIO.

Shall—Who is here? What! are you pack-
ing, Sirrah? [lain,

Come hither: Ah, you precious pander! Vil-
Where is thy lady? In a word; or else
Thou art straightway with the fiends.

Pis. O, good my lord!

Clo. Where is thy lady? or, by Jupiter,
I will not ask again. Close villain,
I'll have this secret from thy heart, or rip
Thy heart to find it. Is she with Posthumus?
From whose so many weights of baseness
A dram of worth be drawn. [cannot

Pis. Alas, my lord, [miss'd?
How can she be with him? When was she
He is in Rome.

Clo. Where is she, Sir? Come nearer;
No further halting: satisfy me home,
What is become of her?

Pis. O, my all-worthy lord!

Clo. All-worthy villain!
Discover where thy mistress is, at once,
At the next word.—No more of worthy lord,—
Speak, or the silence on the instant is
Thy condemnation and thy death.

Pis. Then, Sir,
This paper is the history of my knowledge
Touching her flight. [Presenting a Letter.

Clo. Let's see't:—I will pursue her
Even to Augustus' throne.

Pis. Or this, or perish.
She's far enough; and what he learns } *Aside.*
by this, }
May prove his travel, not her danger. }

Clo. Humph!
Pis. I'll write to my lord she's dead. O
Inogen,
Safe may'st thou wander, safe return again! } *Aside.*

Clo. Sirrah, is this letter true?

Pis. Sir, as I think.

Clo. It is Posthumus' hand: I know't.—
Sirrah, if thou would'st not be a villain, but
do me true service; undergo those employ-
ments, wherein I should have cause to use
thee, with a serious industry,—that is, what
villany soe'er I bid thee do, to perform it, di-
rectly and truly, I would think thee an honest
man: thou shouldst neither want my
means for thy relief, nor my voice for thy pre-
ferment.

Pis. Well, my good lord.

Clo. Wilt thou serve me? For since patient-
ly and constantly thou hast stuck to the bare
fortune of that beggar Posthumus, thou canst
not in the course of gratitude but be a diligent
follower of mine. Wilt thou serve me?

Pis. Sir, I will.

Clo. Give me thy hand, here's my purse.
Hast any of thy late master's garments in thy
possession?

Pis. I have, my lord, at my lodging, the
same suit he wore when he took leave of my
lady and mistress.

Clo. The first service thou dost me, fetch
that suit hither: let it be thy first service;
go.

Pis. I shall, my lord. [Exit.

Clo. Meet thee at Milford-Haven:—I forgot

to ask him one thing: I'll remember't anon:—Even there thou villain, Posthumus, will I kill thee.—I would these garments were come. She said upon a time, (the bitterness of it I now belch from my heart,) that she held the very garment of Posthumus in more respect than my noble and natural person, together with the adornment of my qualities. With that suit upon my back, will I ravish her: First kill him, and in her eyes; there shall she see my valour, which will then bea torment to her content. He on the ground, my speech of insultment ended on his dead body,—and when my lust hath dined, (which, as I say, to vex her, I will execute in the clothes that she so praised,) to the court I'll knock her back, foot her home again. She hath despised me rejoicingly, and I'll be merry in my revenge.

Re-enter PISANIO, with the Clothes.

Be those the garments?

Pis. Ay, my noble lord.

Clo. How long is't since she went to Milford-Haven?

Pis. She can scarce be there yet.

Clo. Bring this apparel to my chamber: that is the second thing that I have commanded thee: the third is, that thou shalt be a voluntary mute to my design. Be but duteous, and true preferment shall tender itself to thee.—My revenge is now at Milford; 'Would I had wings to follow it!—Come, and be true. [*Exit.*]

Pis. Thou bidd'st me to my loss: for, true to thee,

Were to prove false, which I will never be,
To him that is most true.—To Milford go,
And find not her whom thou pursu'st. Flow,
flow, [weep]
You heavenly blessings on her! This fool's
Be cross'd with slowness; labour be his need: [*Exit.*]

SCENE VI.—Before the Cave of BELARIUS.

Enter IMOGEN, in Boy's Clothes.

Imo. I see, a man's life is a tedious one: I have tir'd myself; and for two nights together

Have made the ground my bed. I should be
But that my resolution helps me.—Milford,
When from the mountain-top Pisanio show'd
thee,

Thou wast within a ken: O Jove! I think,
Foundations fly the wretched: such, I mean,
Where they should be reliev'd. Two beggars
told me,

I could not miss in any way: Will poor folks lie,
That have afflictions on them; knowing 'tis
A punishment, or trial? Yes; no wonder,
When rich ones scarce tell true: To lapse in
fulness

Is sorer, than to lie for need; and falsehood
Is worse in kings, than beggars.—My dear
lord!

Thou art one o'the false ones: Now I think on
My hunger's gone; but even before, I was
At point to sink for food.—But what is this?
Here is a path to it. 'Tis some savage hold:
I were best not call; I dare not call: yet famine,

Ere clean it o'rtrow nature, makes it valiant.
Plenty, and peace, breeds cowards; hardness
ever

Of hardness is mother.—Ho! who's here?

If any thing that's civil, speak; if savage,
Take, or lend.—Ho!—No answer? then I'll

Best draw my sword; and if mine enemy
But fear the sword like me, he'll scarcely look
Such a foe, good heavens! [on't.]

[*She goes into the Cave.*]

Enter BELARIUS, GUIDERIUS, and ARVIRAGUS.

Bel. You, Polydore, have prov'd best wood-
man,* and
Are master of the feast: Cadwal, and I,
Will play the cook and servant; 'tis our
match:†

The sweat of industry would dry, and die,
But for the end it works to. Come; our
stomachs

Will make what's homely, savoury: Weariness
Can snore upon the flint, when restive sloth
Finds the down pillow hard.—Now, peace be
Poor house, that keep'st thyself! [here,

Gui. I am throughly weary.

Arv. I am weak with toil, yet strong in
appetite.

Gui. There's cold meat i'the cave; we'll
browze on that,

Whilst what we have kill'd be cook'd.

Bel. Stay; come not in: [*Looking in.*]
But that it eats our victuals, I should think
Here were a fairy.

Gui. What's the matter, Sir?

Bel. By Jupiter, an angel! or, if not,
An earthly paragon!—Behold divineness
No elder than a boy!

Enter IMOGEN.

Imo. Good masters, harm me not:
Before I enter'd here, I call'd and thought
To have begg'd, or bought, what I have took:
Good troth,

I have stolen nought; nor would not, though I
have found [meat]

Gold strew'd o'the floor. Here's money for my
I would have left it on the board, so soon
As I had made my meal; and parted
With prayers for the provider.

Gui. Money, youth?

Arv. All gold and silver rather turn to dirt!
As 'tis no better reckon'd, but of those
Who worship dirty gods.

Imo. I see, you are angry:
Know, if you kill me for my fault, I should
Have died, had I not made it.

Bel. Whither bound?

Imo. To Milford-Haven, Sir.

Bel. What is your name?

Imo. Fidele, Sir; I have a kinsman, who
Is bound for Italy; he embark'd at Milford;
To whom being going, almost spent with hum-
I am fallen in'this offence. [ger,

Bel. Pr'ythee, fair youth,

Think us no churls; nor measure our good
minds [ter'd!]

By this rude place we live in. We'll encoun-
'Tis almost night: you shall have better cheer
Ere you depart; and thanks to stay and eat
Boys, bid him welcome. [it—

Gui. Were you a woman, youth, [honesty,
I should woo hard, but be your groom.—Hu
I bid for you, as I'd buy.

Arv. I'll make't my comfort,
He is a man; I'll love as my brother:—
And such a welcome as I'd give to him,
After long absence, such as yours:—Most
welcome!

Be sprightly, for you fall 'mongst friends.

Imo. 'Mongst friends!

* Best hunter.

† Agreement.

‡ In, for into.

If brothers!—'Would it had been so,
that they
Had been my father's sons! then had } *Aside.*
my prize
Been less; and so more equal ballast-
To the, Posthumus. [ing]

Bel. He wrings at some distress.

Gui. 'Would, I could free't!

Arr. Or I; what'er it be,

What pain it cost, what danger! Gods!

Bel. Hark, boys. [Whispering.]

Imo. Great men,

That had a court no bigger than this cave,
That did attend themselves, and had the vir-
tue

Which their own conscience seal'd them, (lay-
ing by

That nothing gift of differing* multitudes,)

Could not out-peer these twain. Pardon me,
gods!

I'd change my sex to be companion with them,
Since Leonatus's false.

Bel. It shall be so:

Boys, we'll go dress our hunt.—Fair youth,
come in: [supp'd,

Discourse is heavy, fasting; when we have
We'll mannerly demand thee of thy story,

So far as thou wilt speak it.

Gui. Pray, draw near.

Arr. The night to the owl, and morn to
lark, less welcome.

Imo. Thanks, Sir.

Arr. I pray, draw near. [Exeunt]

SCENE VII.—Rome.

Enter two SENATORS and TRIBUNES.

1 *Sen.* This is the tenour of the emperor's
writ;

That since the common men are now in action
'Gainst the Pannonians and Dalmatians;
And that the legions now in Gallia are
Full weak to undertake our wars against
The fallen off Britons; that we do incite
The gentry to this business; He creates
Lucius pro-consul: and to you the tribunes,
For this immediate levy, he commands
His absolute commission. Long live Cesar!

Tri. Is Lucius general of the forces?

2 *Sen.* Ay.

Tri. Remaining now in Gallia?

1 *Sen.* With those legions

Which I have spoke of, whereunto your levy
Must be suppliant: The words of your com-
mission

Will tie you to the numbers, and the time
Of their despatch.

Tri. We will discharge our duty. [Exeunt.]

ACT IV.

* SCENE I.—The Forest, near the Cave.

Enter CLOTEN.

Clo. I am near to the place where they
should meet, if Pisanio have mapped it truly.
How fit his garments serve me! Why should
his mistress, who was made by him that
made the tailor, not be fit too? the rather
(saving reverence of the world) for 'tis said,
a woman's fitness comes by fits. Therein I
must play the workman. I dare speak it to
myself, (for it is not vain glory, for a man
and his glass to confer; in his own chamber,
I mean,) the lines of my body are as well
drawn as his; no less young, more strong,
not beneath him in fortunes, beyond him in

the advantage of the time, above him in birth
alike conversant in general services, and
more remarkable in single oppositions: * yet
this imperseverant thing loves him in my
despite. What mortality is! Posthumus, thy
head, which is now growing upon thy should-
ers, shall within this hour be off; thy mistress
enforced; thy garments cut to pieces before
thy face: and all this done, spurn her home
to her father: who may, haply, be a little an-
gry for my so rough usage: but my mother,
having power of his testiness, shall turn all
into my commendations. My horse is tied up
safe: Out, sword, and to a sore purpose!
Fortune, put them into my hand! This is the
very description of their meeting-place; and
the fellow dares not deceive me. [Exit]

SCENE II.—Before the Cave.

*Enter, from the Cave, BELARIUS, GUIDERIUS
, ARVIRAGUS, and IMOGEN.*

Bel. You are not well: [To IMOGEN.] re-
main here in the cave;
We'll come to you after hunting.

Arr. Brother, stay here: [To IMOGEN.]
Are we not brothers?

Imo. So man and man should be;
But clay and clay differs in dignity,
Whose dust is both alike. I am very sick.

Gui. Go you to hunting, I'll abide with him

Imo. So sick I am not;—yet I am not well:
But not so citizen a wanton, as [me:

To seem to die, ere sick. So please you leave
Stick to your journal course: the breach of
custom [me

Is breach of all. I am ill; but your being by
Cannot amend me: Society is no comfort
To one not sociable: I'm not very sick, [here:
Since I can reason of it. Pray you, trust me
I'll rob none but myself; and let me die,
Stealing so poorly.

Gui. I love thee; I have spoke it:
How much the quantity, the weight as much,
As I do love my father.

Bel. What? how? how?

Arr. If it be sin to say so, Sir, I yoke me
In my good brother's fault: I know not why
I love this youth; and I have heard you say,
Love's reason's without reason; the bier at
door,

And a demand who is't shall die, I'd say
My father, not this youth.

Bel. O noble strain!

O worthiness of nature I breed of greatness!
Cowards father cowards, and base things sire
base:

Nature hath meal, and bran; contempt, and
grace.

I am not their father; yet who this should be,
Doth miracle itself, lov'd before me.—[*Aside.*
'Tis the ninth hour of the morn.

Arr. Brother, farewell.

Imo. I wish ye sport.

Arr. You health.—So please you, Sir.

Imo. [*Aside.*] These are kind creatures.

Gods, what lies I have heard!

Our courtiers say, all's savage, but at court:
Experience, O, thoudisprov'rt report! [dish,
The imperious seas breed monsters; for the
Poor tributary rivers as sweet fish.

I am sick still; heart-sick:—Pisanio,
I'll now taste of thy drug.

* In single combat.

† Keep your daily course.
‡ Imperial.

* Unsteady.

† i. e. Because.

Gui. I could not stir him:
He said, he was gentle,* but unfortunate;
Dishonestly afflicted, but yet honest.

Arv. Thus did he answer me: yet said
I might know more. [hereafter

Bel. To the field, to the field:—
We'll leave you for this time; go in, and rest.

Arv. We'll not be long away.

Bel. Pray, be not sick,
For you must be our housewife.

Imo. Well, or ill,
I am bound to you.

Bel. And so shalt he ever. [Exit IMOGEN.
This youth, how'er distress'd, appears he hath
Good ancestors. [had

Arv. How angel-like he sings!

Gui. But his neat cookery! He cuts our roots
in characters;

And sauc'd our broths, as Juno had been sick,
And he her dieter.

Arv. Nobly he yokes
A smiling with a sigh: as if the sigh

Was that it was, for not being such a smile;
The smile mocking the sigh

Was that it was, for not being such a smile;
The smile mocking the sigh, that it would fly

From so divine a temple, to commix
With winds that sailors rail at.

Gui. I do note,
That grief and patience, rooted in them both,
Mingle their spurs† together.

Arv. Grow, patience!
And let the stinking elder, grief, untwine

His perishing root, with the increasing vine!
Bel. It is great morning. Come; away.—
who's there?

Enter CLOTEN.

Clo. I cannot find those runagates; that
Hath mock'd me:—I am faint. [villain

Bel. Those runagates!
Means he not us? I partly know him: 'tis
Cloten, the son o'the queen. I fear some am-

bush.
I saw him not these many years, and yet
I know 'tis he.—We are held as outlaws:—
Hence.

Gui. He is but one: You and my brother
search

What companies are near: pray you, away;
Let me alone with him.

[Exit BELARIUS and ARVIRAGUS.

Clo. Soft! What are you
That fly me thus? some villain mountaineers?
I have heard of such.—What slave art thou?

Gui. A thing
More slavish did I ne'er, than answering
A slave without a knock.

Clo. Thou art a robber,
A law-breaker, a villain: Yield thee, thief.

Gui. To who? to thee? What art thou?
Have not I

An arm as big as thine? a heart as big?
Thy words, I grant, are bigger; for I wear not
My dagger in my mouth. Say, what thou art;
Why I should yield to thee?

Clo. Thou villain base,
Know'st me not by my clothes?

Gui. No, nor thy tailor, rascal,
Who is thy grandfather; he made those clothes,
Which, as it seems, make thee.

Clo. Thou precious varlet,
My tailor made them not.

Gui. Hence thee, and thank [fool;
The man that gave them thee. Thou art some
I am loath to beat thee.

Clo. Thou injurious thief,
Hear but my name, and tremble.

Gui. What's thy name?
Clo. Cloten, thou villain.

Gui. Cloten, thou double villain, be thy
name, [spider,

I cannot tremble at it; were't toad, or adder,
'Twould move me sooner.

Clo. To thy further fear,
Nay, to thy mere confusion, thou shalt know
I'm son to the queen.

Gui. I'm sorry for't; not seeming
So worthy as thy birth.

Clo. Art not afeard?
Gui. Those that I reverence, those I fear;
the wise:

At fools I laugh, not fear them.
Clo. Die the death;

When I have slain thee, with my proper hand,
I'll follow those that even now fled hence,
And on the gates of Lud's town set your
heads:

Yield, rustic mountaineer. [Exit fighting.

Enter BELARIUS and ARVIRAGUS.

Bel. No company's abroad.
Arv. None in the world: You did mistake
him, sure.

Bel. I cannot tell: Long is it since I saw
him, [favour*

But time hath nothing blurr'd those lines of
Which then he wore; the snatches in his
voice, [solute,

And burst of speaking, were as his: I am ab-
'Twas very Cloten.

Arv. In this place we left them:
I wish my brother make good time with him,
You say he is so fell.

Bel. Being scarce made up,
I mean, to man, he had not apprehension
Of roaring terrors: for the effect of judgement
Is oft the cause of fear: But see, thy brother.

Re-enter GUIDERIUS, with CLOTEN'S Head.

Gui. This Cloten was a fool; an empty
pulse,
There was no money in't: not Hercules
Could have knock'd out his brains, for he had
none:

Yet I not doing this, the fool had borne
My head, as I do his.

Bel. What hast thou done?
Gui. I am perfect;† what: cut off one Clo-
ten's head,

Son to the queen, after his own report;
Who call'd me traitor, mountaineer; and
swore,

With his one single hand he'd take us in;‡
Displace our heads, where (thank the gods!)
they grow,

And set them on Lud's town.
Bel. We are all undone.

Gui. Why, worthy father, what have we to
lose,
But, that he swore, to take our lives? The law
Protects not us: Then why should we be ten-
der,

To let an arrogant piece of flesh threat us;
Play judge, and executioner, all himself;
Forç we do fear the law? What company
Discover you abroad?

Bel. No single soul
Can we set eye on, but in all safe reason,

* Well-born.

† Spurs are the roots of trees.

* Countenance

† I am well-informed what.

‡ Conquer, subdue.

§ For, for because.

He must have some attendants. Though his humour

Was nothing but mutation ;* ay, and that From one bad thing to worse ; not frenzy, not Absolute madness could so far have rav'd, To bring him here alone : Although, perhaps, It may be heard at court, that such as we Cave here, hunt here, are outlaws, and in time May make some stronger head : the which he hearing,

(As it is like him,) might break out, and swear He'd fetch us in ; yet is't not probable To come alone, either he so undertaking, Or they so suffering : then on good ground we If we do fear this body hath a tail [fear, More perilous than the head.

Arv. Let ordinance Come as the gods foresay it : howsoe'er, My brother hath done well.

Bel. I had no mind To hunt this day : the boy Fidele's sickness Did make my way long forth.†

Gui. With his own sword, [ta'en Which he did wave against my throat, I have His head from him : I'll throw't into the creek Behind our rock ; and let it in the sea, [ten ; And tell the fishes, he's the queen's son, Clo- That's all I reckon. [Exit.

Bel. I fear, 'twill be reveng'd : 'Would, Polydore, thou had'st not done't ! though valour Becomes thee well enough.

Arv. 'Would I had done't, So the revenge alone pursued me !—Polydore, I love thee brotherly ; but envy much, Thou hast robb'd me of this deed : I would, revenges, That possible strength might meet, would seek us through, And put us to our answer.

Bel. Well, 'tis done :— [ger We'll hunt no more to day, nor seek for dan- Where there's no profit. I pry'thee, to our rock ;

You and Fidele play the cooks : I'll stay Till hasty Polydore return, and bring him To dinner presently.

Arv. Poor sick Fidele ! I'll willingly to him : To gain§ his colour, I'd let a parish of such Clotens' blood, And praise myself for charity. [Exit.

Bel. O thou goddess, Thou divine Nature, how thyself thou blazon'st In these two princely boys ! They are as gentle As zephyrs, blowing below the violet, Not wagging his sweet head : and yet as rough, Their royal blood enchaf'd, as the rud's wind, That by the top doth take the mountain pine, And make him stoop to the vale. 'Tis wonder- ful

That an invisible instinct should frame them To royalty unlearn'd ; honour untaught ; Civility not seen from other ; valour, That wildly grows in them, but yields a crop As if it had been sow'd ! Yet still it's strange What Cloten's being here to us portends ; Or what his death will bring us.

Re-enter GUIDERIUS.

Gui. Where's my brother ? I have sent Cloten's clotpoll down the stream, In embassy to his mother ; his body's hostage For his return. [Solemn Music.

Bel. My ingenious instrument !

* Change, alteration. † Did make my walk tedious. ‡ Care. § Region, restore.

Hark, Polydore, it sounds ! But what occasion Hath Cadwal now to give it motto ? Hark !

Gui. Is he at home ?

Bel. He went hence even now.

Gui. What does he mean ? since death of my dear'st mother

It did not speak before. All solemn things Should answer solemn accidents. The matter ? Triumphs for nothing, and lamenting toys,* Is jollity for apes, and grief for boys. Is Cadwal mad ?

Re-enter ARVIRAGUS, bearing IMOGEN, as dead, in his Arms.

Bel. Look, here he comes, And brings the dire occasion in his arms, † Of what we blame him for !

Arv. The bird is dead, That we have made so much on. I had rather Have skip'd from sixteen years of age to sixty,

To have turn'd my leaping time into a crutch, Than have seen this.

Gui. O sweetest, fairest lily ! [well, My brother wears thee not the one half so As when thou grew'st thyself.

Bel. O, melancholy ! Who ever yet could sound thy bottom ? find The ooze, to show what cost thy sluggish crare † [thing !

Might easiliest harbour in ?—Thou blessed Jove knows what man thou might'st have made ; but I, [ly !— Thou diedst, a most rare boy, of melancholy— How found you him ?

Arv. Stark, ‡ as you see : Thus smiling, as some fly had tickled slumber, Not as death's dart, being laugh'd at : his right Reposing on a cushion. [check

Gui. Where ?

Arv. O'the floor ; His arms thus leagu'd : I thought, he slept ; and put [rudeness My clouted brogues§ from off my feet, whose Answer'd my steps too loud.

Gui. Why, he but sleeps : If he be gone, he'll make his grave a bed ; With female fairies will his tomb be haunted, And worms will not come to thee.

Arv. With fairest flowers, Whilst summer lasts, and I live here, Fidele, I'll sweeten thy sad grave ; Thou shalt not lack The flower, that's like thy face, pale primrose ; nor

The azur'd hare-bell, like thy veins ; no, nor The leaf of eglantine, whom not to slander, Out-sweeten'd not thy breath : the ruddock|| would,

With charitable bill (O bill, sore-shaming Those rich-left heirs, that let their fathers lie Without a monument !) bring thee all this ; Yea, and furr'd moss besides, when flowers are To winter-ground¶ thy corse. [none,

Gui. Pry'thee, have done ; And do not play in wench-like words with that Which is so serious. Let us bury him, And not protract with admiration what Is now due debt.—To the grave

Arv. Say, where shall's lay him ?

Gui. By good Euriphile, our mother.

Arv. Be't so :

And let us, Polydore, though now our voices Have got the manish crack, sing him to the ground,

* Trifles. † A slow-sailing, unwieldy vessel, ‡ Stiff. § Shoes plated with iron. || The red-breast.

¶ Probably a corrupt reading, for, wither round thy corse.

As once our mother : use like note, and words,
Save that Euriphile must be Fidele.

Gui. Cadwal, [thee :
I cannot sing : I'll weep, and word it with
For notes of sorrow, out of tune, are worse
Than priests and fanes that lie.

Arv. We'll speak it then.

Bel. Great griefs, I see, medicine the less :
for Cloten

Is quite forgot. He was a queen's son, boys :
And, though he came our enemy, remember,
He was paid* for that : Though mean and
mighty, rotting

Together, have one dust ; yet reverence,
(That angel of the world,) doth make distinction [princely :

Of place 'tween high and low. Our foe was
And though you took his life, as being our foe,
Yet bury him as a prince.

Gui. Pray you, fetch him hither.

Thersites' body is as good as Ajax,
When neither are alive.

Arv. If you'll go fetch him
We'll say our song the whilst.—Brother, be-
gin. [Exit BELARIUS.

Gui. Nay, Cadwal, we must lay his head
to the east ;

My father hath a reason for't.

Arv. 'Tis true.

Gui. Come on then, and remove him.

Arv. So,—begin.

SONG.

Gui. Fear no more the heat o'the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages ;
Thou thy worldly task hast done,
Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages :
Golden lads and girls all must,
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.

Arv. Fear no more the frown o'the great,
Thou art past the tyrant's stroke ;
Care no more to clothe, and eat :
To thee the reed is as the oak :
The sceptre, learning, physic, must
All follow this, and come to dust.

Gui. Fear no more the lightning-flash,
Arv. Nor the all-dreaded thunder-stone ;
Gui. Fear not slander, censure† rash ;
Arv. Thou hast finish'd joy and moan :
Both. All lovers young, all lovers must
Consign‡ to thee, and come to dust.

Gui. No exorciser harm thee !
Arv. Nor witchcraft charm thee !
Gui. Ghost unlaid forbear thee !
Arv. Nothing ill come near thee !
Both. Quiet consummation have ;
And renowned be thy grave §

Re-enter BELARIUS, with the Body of CLOTEN.

Gui. We have done our obsequies : Come,
lay him down.

Bel. Here's a few flowers, but about mid-
night more : [night,
The herbs, that have on them cold dew o'the
Are strewings fit'tst for graves.—Upon their
faces :—

You were as flowers, now wither'd : even so
These herb'lets shall, which we upon you
strew.—

Come on, away : apart upon our knees.
The ground, that gave them first, has them
again ;

Their pleasures here are past, so is their pain.
[Exit BELARIUS, GUIDERIUS, and
ARVIGARUS.

Imo. [Awaking.] Yes, Sir, to Milford-Ha-
ven ; Which is the way ?—

I thank you.—By yon bush?—Pray, how far
thither ?

'Ods pittikins !—can it be six miles yct ?

I have gone all night :—'Faith, I'll lie down
and sleep.

But, soft ! no bedfellow :—O, gods, and god-
desses ! [Seeing the Body.

These flowers are like the pleasures of the
world ; [dream ;

This bloody man, the care on't.—I hope, I
For, so, I thought I was a cave-keeper,
And cook to honest creatures : But 'tis not so ;
'Twas but a bolt of nothing, shot at nothing,
Which the brain makes of fumes : Our very
eyes

Are sometimes like our judgements, blind,
Good faith,

I tremble still with fear : But if there be
Yet left in heaven as small a drop of pity
As a wren's eye, fear'd gods, a part of it !
The dream's here still : even when I wake, it is
Without me, as within me ; not imagin'd, felt.
A headless man!—The garments of Posthu-
mus !

I know the shape of his leg : this is his hand ;
His foot Mercurial ; his martial thigh ;
The brawns of Hercules : but his Jovial‡
face— [anio,

Murder in heaven?—How?—'Tis gone.—Pis-
All curses madd'd Hecuba gave the Greeks,
And mine to boot, be darted on thee ! Thou,
Conspir'd with that irregular§ devil, Cloten,
Hast here cut off my lord.—To write, and
read,

Be henceforth treacherous!—Damn'd Pisanio
Hath with his forged letters,—damn'd Pis-
anio—

From this most bravest vessel of the world
Struck the main-top!—O, Posthumus ! alas,
Where is thy head ? where's that ? Ah me !
where's that ?

Pisanio might have kill'd thee at the heart,
And left this head on.—How should this be ?
Pisanio ?

'Tis he, and Cloten : malice and lucre in them
Have laid this woe here. O, 'tis pregnant,
pregnant !! [cious

The drug he gave me, which, he said, was pre-
And cordial to me, have I not found it
Murd'rous to the senses ? That confirms it
home :

This is Pisanio's deed, and Cloten's : O!—
Give colour to my pale cheek with thy blood,
That we the horrid may seem to those
Which chance to find us : O, my lord, my lord!

Enter LUCIUS, a CAPTAIN, and other OFFICERS,
and a SOOTHSAYER.

Cap. To them the legions garrison'd in Gal-
lia, [ing
After your will, have cross'd the sea : attend-
You here at Milford-Haven, with your ships :
They are here in readiness.

Luc. But what from Rome ?

Cap. The senate hath stirr'd up the confiners,
And gentlemen of Italy ; most willing spirits,
That promise noble service ; and they come

* This diminutive adjuration is derived from "God's
my pity." † An arrow. ‡ A facelike Jove's.

§ Lawless, licentious.
|| l. e. 'Tis a ready, apposite conclusion.

* Punished. † Judgement. ‡ Seal the same contract.
§ Sec W. Collins's song at the end of the Play.

Under the conduct of bold Iachimo,
Sienna's brother.

Luc. When expect you them?

Cap. With the next benefit o'the wind.

Luc. This forwardness

Makes our hopes fair. Command, our present numbers

[*Sir,*
Be muster'd; bid the captains look to't.—Now,
What have you dream'd, of late, of this war's purpose?

Sooth. Last night the very gods show'd me a vision:

[*Thus:—*
(I fast, and pray'd, for their intelligence,) I saw Jove's bird, the Roman eagle, wing'd From the spongy south to this part of the west, There vanish'd in the sunbeams: which portends,

(Unless my sins abuse my divination,) Success to the Roman host.

Luc. Dream often so, [here,
And never false.—Soft, ho! what trunk is Without his top? The ruin speaks, that sometime

It was a worthy building.—How! a page!—Or dead, or sleeping on him? But dead, rather:

For nature doth abhor to make his bed With the defunct, or sleep upon the dead.—Let's see the boy's face.

Cap. He is alive, my lord.

Luc. He'll then instruct us of this body.—Young one,

Inform us of thy fortunes; for, it seems, They crave to be demanded: Who is this, Thou mak'st thy bloody pillow? Or who was That, otherwise than noble nature did, [he,
Hath alter'd that good picture? What's thy interest

In this sad wreck? How came it? Who is it? What art thou?

Imo. I am nothing: or if not,
Nothing to be were better. This was my master, A very valiant Briton, and a good, [ter,
That here by mountaineers lies slain:—Alas! There are no more such masters: I may wander

From east to occident,* cry out for service,
Try many, all good, serve truly, never Find such another master.

Luc. 'Lack, good youth! [than
Thou mov'st no less with thy complaining,
Thy master in bleeding: Say his name, good friend.

Imo. Richard du Champ.—If I do lie, and do No harm by it, though the gods hear, I hope

They'll pardon it.—Say you, Sir?

Luc. Thy name?

Imo. Fidele.

Luc. Thou dost approve thyself the very same:

[*name.*
Thy name well fits thy faith; thy faith, thy Will take thy chance with me? I will not say, Thou shalt be so well master'd; but, be sure, No less belov'd. The Roman emperor's letters, Sent by a consul to me, should not sooner Than thine own worth prefer thee: Go with me.

Imo. I'll follow, Sir. But first, an't please the gods,

I'll hide my master from the flies, as deep As these poor pickaxes† can dig: and when With wild wood-leaves and weeds I have strew'd his grave,

† The west.

‡ Her fingers.

And on it said a century of prayers,
Such as I can, twice o'er, I'll weep, and sigh;
And, leaving so his service, follow you,
So please you entertain me.

Luc. Ay, good youth;

And rather father thee, than master thee.—My friends,

The boy hath taught us manly duties: Let us Find out the prettiest daisied plot we can,
And make him with our pikes and partizans
A grave: Come, arm him.—Boy, he is pre-ferr'd

By thee to us; and he shall be interr'd,
As soldiers can. Be cheerful; wipe thine eyes:

Some falls are means the happier to arise.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—A Room in CYMBELINE'S Palace.

Enter CYMBELINE, LORDS, and PISANIO.

Cym. Again; and bring me word, how 'tis with her.

A fever with the absence of her son;
A madness, of which her life's in danger:—Heavens,

How deeply you at once do touch me! Imogen,
The great part of my comfort, gone: my queen Upon a desperate bed; and in a time
When fearful wars point at me; her son gone,
So needful for this present: It strikes me, past.

The hope of comfort.—But for thee, fellow,
Who needs must know of her departure, and Dost seem so ignorant, we'll enforce it from thee
By a sharp torture.

Pis. Sir, my life is your's, [tress,
I humbly set it at your will: But, for my mis-I nothing know where she remains, why gone,
Nor when she purposes return. Beseech your Hold me your loyal servant. [highness,

1 Lord. Good my liege,
The day that she was missing, he was here: I dare be bound he's true, and shall perform
All parts of his subjection loyally.

For Cloten,—
There wants no diligence in seeking him,
And will, no doubt, be found.

Cym. The time's troublesome:
We'll slip you for a season; but our jealousy Does yet depend. *To PISANIO.*

1 Lord. So please your majesty,
The Roman legions, all from Gallia drawn,
Are landed on your coast; with a supply
Of Roman gentlemen, by the senate sent.

Cym. Now for the counsel of my son, and queen!—

I am amaz'd with matter.*

1 Lord. Good my liege,
Your preparation can affront† no less
Than what you hear of: come more, for more
you're ready:

The want is, but to put those powers‡ in motion,
That long to move. [tion,

Cym. I thank you: Let's withdraw:
And meet the time, as it seeks us. We fear not
What can from Italy annoy us; but
We grieve at chances here.—Away.—[*Exeunt.*

Pis. I heard no letter from my master, since I wrote him, Imogen was slain: 'Tis strange:
Nor hear I from my mistress, who did promise
To yield me often tidings; Neither know I

* Confounded by a variety of business.
† Encounter.

‡ Forces.

What is betid to Cloten; but remain
Perplex'd in all. The heavens still must work:
Wherein I am false, I am honest; not true, to
be true. [try.]

These present wars shall find I love my coun-
Even to the note* o' the king, or I'll fall in
them.

All other doubts, by time let them be clear'd:
Fortune brings in some boats, that are not
steer'd. [Exit.]

SCENE IV.—*Before the Cave.*

Enter BELARIUS, GUIDERIUS, and ARVIRAGUS.

Gui. The noise is round about us.

Bel. Let us from it.

Arr. What pleasure, Sir, find we in life, to
lock it
From action and adventure?

Gui. Nay, what hope
Have we in hiding us? this way, the Romans
Must or for Britons slay us, or receive us
For barbarous and unnatural revolts †
During their use, and slay us after.

Bel. Sons,
We'll higher to the mountains; there secure us.
To the king's party there's no going; newness
Of Cloten's death (we being not known, not
muster'd

Among the bands) may drive us to a render †
Where we have liv'd and so extort from us
That which we have done, whose answer would
be death

Drawn on with torture.

Gui. This is Sir, a doubt,
In such a time, nothing becoming you,
Nor satisfying us.

Arr. It is not likely,

That when they hear the Roman horses neigh,
Behold their quarter'd fires, have both their
And ears so cloy'd importantly as now, [eyes
That they will waste their time upon our note, §
To know from whence we are.

Bel. O, I am known
Of many in the army: many years,
Though Cloten then but young, you see, not
wore him [king

From my remembrance. And, besides the
Hath not deserv'd my service, nor your loves:
Who find in my exile the want of breeding,
The certainty of this hard life; aye hopeless
To have the courtesy your cradle promis'd,
But to be still hot summer's tanlings, and
The shrinking slaves of winter.

Gui. Than be so,

Better to cease to be. Pray, Sir, to the army:
I and my brother are not known; yourself,
So out of thought, and thereto so o'ergrown,
Cannot be question'd.

Arr. By this sun that shines,
I'll thither: what thing is it, that I never
Did see man die? scarce ever look'd on blood,
But that of coward hare's, hot goats, and veni-
son?

Never bestrid a horse, save one, that had
A rider like myself, who ne'er wore rowel
Nor iron on his heel? I am asham'd
To look upon the holy sun, to have
The benefit of his bless'd beams remaining
So long a poor unknown.

Gui. By heavens, I'll go:

If you will bless me, Sir, and give me leave,
I'll take the better care; but if you will not,
The hazard therefore due fall on me, by
The hands of Romans!

* Notice. † Revellers. ‡ An account.
§ Noticing us.

Arr. So say I; Amen.

Bel. No reason I, since on your lives you set
So slight a valuation, should reserve
My crack'd one to more care. Have with
you, boys:

If in your country wars you chance to die,
That is my bed too lads, and there I'll lie:
Lead, lead.—The time seems long; their blood
thinks scorn, [Aside]

Till it fly out, and show them princes born.
[Exeunt.]

ACT V.

SCENE I.—*A Field between the British and Roman Camps.*

Enter POSTHUMUS, with a bloody Handkerchief.

Post. Yea, bloody cloth, I'll keep thee; for
I wish'd [ones,

Thou should'st be colour'd thus. You married
If each of you would take this course, how
many [selves,

Must murder wives much better than them-
For wring* but a little?—O, Pisanio!

Every good servant does not all commands:
No bond, but to do just ones.—Gods! if you
Should have ta'en vengeance on my faults, I
never

Had liv'd to put on † this: so had you sav'd
The noble Imogen to repent; and struck
Me wretch, more worth your vengeance. But,
alack, [love,

You snatch some hence for little faults; that's
To have them fall no more: you some permit
To second ills with ills, each elder worse;
And make them dread it to the doer's thrift.

But Imogen is your own: Do your best wills,
And make me bless'd to obey!—I am brought
hither

Among the Italian gentry, and to fight
Against my lady's kingdom: 'Tis enough
That, Britain, I have kill'd thy mistress;
peace! [heavens,

I'll give no wound to thee. Therefore, good
Hear patiently my purpose: I'll disrobe me
Of these Italian weeds, and suit myself

As does a Briton peasant: so I'll fight
Against the part I come with; so I'll die

For thee, O Imogen, even for whom my life
Is every breath, a death: and thus, unknown,

Pitied nor hated, to the face of peril
Myself I'll dedicate. Let me make men know
More valour in me, than my habits show.

God's put the strength o' the Leonati in me!
To shame the guise o' the world, I will begin
The fashion, less without, and more within.

[Exit.]

SCENE II.—*The same.*

Enter at one side, LUCIUS, IACHIMO, and the
Roman Army; at the other side, the British
Army; LEONATUS POSTHUMUS following it,
like a poor Soldier. They march over, and go
out. Alarums. Then enter again in skirmish.
IACHIMO and POSTHUMUS: he vanquisheth and
disarmeth IACHIMO, and then leaves him.

Iach. This heaviness and guilt within my
bosom

Takes off my manhood: I have belied a lady,
The princess of this country, and the air on't
Revengefully enfeebles me; Or could this carl, †
A very drudge of nature's, have subdu'd me,
In my profession? Knighthoods and honours,
borne

* Devising from the right way. † Incite, instigate.
‡ Clown.

As I wear mine, are titles but of scorn.
If that thy gentry, Britain, go before
This lout as he exceeds our lords, the odds
Is, that we scarce are men, and you are gods.
[Exit.]

The Battle continues; the Britons fly: CYMBELINE is taken; then enter to his rescue, BELARIUS, GUIDERIUS, and ARVIRAGUS.

Bel. Stand, stand! We have the advantage of the ground;

The lane is guarded: nothing routs us, but
The villany of our fears.

Gui. Arv. Staud, stand, and fight!

Enter POSTHUMUS, and seconds the Britons: They rescue CYMBELINE, and exeunt. Then, enter LUCIUS, IACHIMO, and IMOGEN.

Luc. Away, boy, from the troops, and save thyself:

For friends kill friends, and the disorder's such
As war were hood-wink'd.

Iach. 'Tis their fresh supplies.

Luc. It is a day turn'd strangely: or betimes
Let's re-enforce, or fly. [Exit.]

SCENE III.—Another Part of the Field.

Enter POSTHUMUS and a British LORD.

Lord. Cam'st thou from where they made the stand!

Post. I did:

Though you it seems, come from the fliers.

Lord. I did.

Post. No blame be to you, Sir; for all was lost,

But that the heavens fought: The king himself
Of his wings destitute, the army broken,
And but the backs of Britons seen all flying
Through a straight lane; the enemy full-hearted,
Lolling the tongue with slaughtering, having
work

More plentiful than tools to do't, struck down
Some mortally, some slightly touch'd, some
falling [damm'd*]

Merely through fear that the strait pass was
With dead men, hurt behind, and cowards liv-
To die with lengthen'd shame. [ing]

Lord. Where was this lane?

Post. Close by the battle, ditch'd, and wall'd
with turf;

Which gave advantage to an ancient soldier,—
An honest one, I warrant; who deserved
So long a breeding, as his white beard came to,
In doing this for his country;—athwart the
lane,

He with two striplings, (lads more like to run
The country base,† than to commit such slaughter;

With faces fit for masks, or rather fairer
Than those for preservation cas'd, for shame,)
Made good the passage; cry'd to those that
fled,

*Our Britain's hearts die flying, not our men:
To darkness fleet, souls that fly backwards!*
Stand,

*Or we are Romans, and will give you that [save,
Like beasts, which you shun beastly; and may
But to look back in frown: stand, stand.—These
three,*

Three thousand confident, in act as many,
(For three performers are the file, when all
The rest do nothing,) with this word, stand,
stand,

Accommodated by the place, more charming.

* Blocked up.

[base.]

† A country game called prison-bars, vulgarly prison-

With their own nobleness, (which could have
turn'd

A distaff to a lance,) gilded pale looks,
Part, shame, part, spirit renew'd; that some,
turn'd coward

But by example (O, a sin in war,
Damu'd in the first beginners!) 'gan to look
The way that they did, and to grim like lions
Upon the pikes o'the hunters. Then began
A stop i'the chaser, a retire; anon,
A rout, confusion thick: Forthwith they fly
Chickens, the way which they stoop'd eagles;
slaves, [cowards

The strides they victors made: and now our
(Like fragments in hard voyages,) became
The life o'the need; having found the back-
door open [wound!

Of the unguarded hearts, Heavens, how they
Some, slain before; some, dying; some, their
friends [one,

O'erborne i'the former wave: ten, chac'd by
Are now each one the slaughter-man of twenty:
Those that would die or ere resist, are grown
The mortal bugs* o'the field.

Lord. This was strange chance:

A narrow lane! an old man, and two boys!

Post. Nay, do not wonder at it: You are
made

Rather to wonder at things you hear,
Than to work any. Will you rhyme upon't,
And vent it for a mockery? Here is one:
Two boys, an old man twice a boy, a lane,
Preserv'd the Britons, was the Romans' bane.

Lord. Nay, be not angry, Sir.

Post. 'Lack, to what end?

Who dares not stand his foe, I'll be his friend:
For if he'll do, as he is made to do,
I know, he'll quickly fly my friendship too.

You have put me into rhyme.

Lord. Farewell, you are angry. [Exit.]

Post. Still going?—This is a lord! O noble
misery!

To be i'the field, and ask what news, of me!
To-day, how many would have given their
honours [do't,

To have sav'd their carcasses? took heel to
And yet died too? I, in mine own woe charm'd,
Could not find death where I did hear him
groan;

Nor feel him where he struck: Being an ugly
monster. [beds,

'Tis strange, he hides him in fresh cups, soft
Sweet words; or hath more ministers than we
That daws his knives i'the war.—Well, I will
find him:

I'or being now a favourer to the Roman,
No more a Briton, I have resum'd again
The part I came in: Fight I will no more,

But yield me to the veriest hind that shall [is
Once touch my shoulder. Great the slaughter
Here made by the Roman; great the answer be
Britons must take; for me my ransom's death;

On either side I come to spend my breath,
Which neither here I'll keep nor bear again.
But end it by some means for Imogen.

Enter two British CAPTAINS, and Soldiers.

1 Cap. Great Jupiter be prais'd! Lucius is
taken; [angels.

'Tis thought the old man and his sons were

2 Cap. There was a fourth man, in a silly
That gave the affront † with them. [habit,

1 Cap. So 'tis reported:
But none of them can be found.—Stand! who
is there?

* Terrors.

† Encounter.

Post. A Roman;
Who had not now been drooping here, if se-
Had answer'd him. [conds

2 *Cap.* Lay hands on him; a dog!
A leg of Rome shall not return to tell
What crows have peck'd them here: He brags
his service
As if he were of note: bring him to the king.

*Enter CYMBELINE, attended; BELARIUS, GUI-
BERIUS, ARVIRAGUS, PISANIO, and ROMAN
CAPTIVES. The CAPTAINS present POSTHU-
MUS to CYMBELINE, who delivers him over to
a JAILER: after which, all go out.*

SCENE IV.—A Prison.

Enter POSTHUMUS, and two JAILERS.

1 *Jail.* You shall not now be stolen, you
have looks upon you;

So graze, as you find pasture.

2 *Jail.* Ay, or a stomach. [*Exeunt JAILERS.*

Post. Most welcome, bondage! for thou art
a way

I think, to liberty: Yet am I better
Than one that's sick o'the gout: since he had
Groan so in perpetuity, than he cur'd [rather
By the sure physician, death; who is the key
To unbar these locks. My conscience! thou
art fetter'd

More than my shanks, and wrists: You good
gods, give me

The penicent instrument, to pick that bolt,
Then, free for ever! Is't enough, I am sorry?
So children temporal fathers do appease;
Gods are more full of mercy. Must I repent?

I cannot do it better than in gyves,*
Desir'd, more than constrain'd: to satisfy,
If of my freedom 'tis the main part, take
No stricter render of me, than my all.

I know, you are more clement than vile men,
Who of their broken debtors take a third,
A sixth, a tenth, letting them thrive again
On their abatement; that's not my desire:

For Imogen's dear life, take mine; and though
'Tis not so dear, yet 'tis a life; you coin'd it:
'Tween man and man, they weigh not every
stamp;

Though light, take pieces for the figure's sake:
You rather mine, being yours: And so, great
powers,

If you will take this audit, take this life,
And cancel these cold bonds. O Imogen!
I'll speak to thee in silence. [*He sleeps.*

*Solemn music.† Enter, as an apparition, SICI-
LIUS LEONATUS, Father to POSTHUMUS, an
old Man attired like a Warrior; leading in his
hand an ancient Matron, his Wife, and Mother
to POSTHUMUS, with music before them. Then,
after other music, follow the two young LE-
ONATI, Brothers to POSTHUMUS, with Wounds,
as they died in the Wars. They circle POSTHU-
MUS round, as he lies sleeping.*

Sici. No more, thou thunder master, show
Thy spite on mortal flies:

With Mars fall out, with Juno chide,
That thy adulteries

Rates and revenges,
Hath my poor boy done aught but well,

Whose face I never saw?
I died, whilst in the womb he stay'd
Attending Nature's law.

* Fetters.

† This Scene is supposed not to be Shakespeare's, but
foisted in by the Players for mere show

Whose father then (as men report,
Thou orphans' father art,) Thou should'st have been, and shielded him
From this earth-vexing smart.
Moth. Lucina lent not me her aid,
But took me in my throes;
That from me was Posthumus ript,
Came crying 'mongst his foes,
A thing of pity!

Sici. Great nature, like his ancestry,
Moulded the stuff so fair,
That he deserv'd the praise, o'the world,
As great Sicilius' heir.

1 *Bro.* When once he was mature for man,
In Britain where was he
That could stand up his parallel;
Or fruitful object be

In eye of Imogen, that best
Could deem his dignity?

Moth. With marriage wherefore was he
To be exil'd and thrown [mock'd,
From Leonati' seat, and cast
From her his dearest one,
Sweet Imogen?

Sici. Why did you suffer Iachimo,
Slight thing of Italy,

To taint his nobler heart and brain
With needless jealousy;
And to become the geck* and scorn
O' the other's villany?

2 *Bro.* For this, from stiller seats we came.
Our parents, and us twain,
That striking in our country's cause,
Fell bravely, and were slain;

Our fealty, and Tenantius' right
With honour to maintain.

1 *Bro.* Like hardiment Posthumus hath
To Cymbeline performed:

Then Jupiter, thou king of gods,
Why hast thou thus adjourn'd
The graces for his merits due;
Being all to dolours turn'd?

Sici. Thy crystal window ope; look out;
No longer exercise,

Upon a valiant race, thy harsh
And potent injuries:

Moth. Since, Jupiter our son is good,
Take off his miseries.

Sici. Peep through thy marble mansion;
Or we poor ghosts will cry [help!

To the shining synod of the rest,
Against thy deity.

2 *Bro.* Help, Jupiter; or we appeal,
And from thy Justice fly.

*JUPITER descends in Thunder and Lightning,
sitting upon an eagle: he throws a Thunder-
bolt. The Ghosts fall on their knees.*

Jap. No more, you petty spirits of region
low, [ghosts,

Offend our hearing; hush!—How dare you
Accuse the thunderer, whose bolt you know,
Sky planted, batters all rebelling coasts?

Poor shadows of Elysium, hence; and rest
Upon your never-with'ring banks of flowers:

Be not with mortal accidents oppress;
No care of yours it is, you know, 'tis ours.

Whom best I love, I cross; to make my gift,
The more delay'd, delighted. Be content;

Your low-laid son our godhead will uplift:
His comforts thrive, his trials well are spent.

Our jovial star reign'd at his birth, and in
Our temple was he married.—Rise, and
He shall be lord of lady Imogen. [fade!—

* The fool.

And happier much by his affliction made.
This tablet lay upon his breast; wherein
Our pleasure his full fortune doth confine;
And so, away: no further with your din
Express impatience, lest you stir up mine.—
Mount, eagle, to my palace crystalline.

[Ascends.]

Sici. He came in thunder; his celestial
breath
Was sulphurous to smell: the holy eagle
Stoop'd, as to foot us: his ascension is
More sweet than our bless'd fields: his royal
bird

Prunes the immortal wing, and cloys his beak,
As when his god is pleas'd.

All. Thanks, Jupiter!

Sici. The marble pavement closes, he is enter'd

His radiant roof:—Away! and to be blest,
Let us with care perform his great behest.

[Ghosts vanish.]

Post. [Waking.] Sleep, thou hast been a
grand sire, and begot

A father to me: and thou hast created
A mother and two brothers: But (O scorn!)
Gone! they went hence so soon as they were
born.

[pend]

And so I am awake.—Poor wretches that de-
On greatness' favour, dream as I have done;
Wake, and find nothing.—But, alas, I sverve:
Many dream not to find, neither deserve,
And yet are steep'd in favours: so am I,
That have this golden chance, and know not
why.

What fairies haunt this ground? A book? O,
rare one!

Be not, as is our fangled world, a garment
Nobler than that it covers: let thy effects
So follow, to be most unlike our courtiers,
As good as promise.

[Reads.] *When as a lion's whelp shall, to him-
self unknown, without seeking find, and be em-
braced by a piece of tender air; and when from
a stately cedar shall be lopped branches, which,
being dead many years, shall after revive, be
jointed to the old stock, and freshly grow; then
shall Posthumus end his miseries, Britain be
fortunate, and flourish in peace and plenty.*

'Tis still a dream; or else such stuff as madmen
Tongue, and brain not: either both, or nothing:
Or senseless speaking, or a speaking such
As sense cannot untie. Be what it is,
The action of my life is like it, which
I'll keep, if but for sympathy.

Re-enter JAILERS.

Jail. Come, Sir, are you ready for death?

Post. Over-roasted rather: ready long ago.

Jail. Hanging is the word, Sir; if you be
ready for that, you are well cooked.

Post. So, if I prove a good repast to the
spectators, the dish pays the shot.

Jail. A heavy reckoning for you, Sir: But
the comfort is, you shall be called to no more
payments, fear no more tavern bills; which
are often the sadness of parting, as the pro-
curing of mirth: you come in faint for want of
meat, depart reeling with too much drink;
sorry that you have paid too much, and
sorry that you are paid too much; purse and
brain both empty: the brain the heavier for
being too light, the purse too light, being drawn
of heaviness: O! of this contradiction you
shall now be quit.—O the charity of a penny
cord! it sums up thousands in a tree: you
have no true debtor and creditor but it; of

what's past, is, and to come, the discharge:—
Your neck, Sir, is pen, book, and counters; so
the acquaintance follows.

Post. I am merrier to die, than thou art to
live.

Jail. Indeed, Sir, he that sleeps feels not the
tooth-ache: But a man that were to sleep your
sleep, and a hangman to help him to bed, I
think, he would change places with his officer:
for, look you, Sir, you know not which way
you shall go.

Post. Yes, indeed, do I, fellow.

Jail. Your death has eyes in's head then; I
have not seen him so pictur'd: you must either
be directed by some that take upon them to
know; or take upon yourself that, which I am
sure you do not know; or jump[†] the after-in-
quiry on your own peril: and how you shall
speed in your journey's end, I think you'll
never return to tell one.

Post. I tell thee, fellow, there are none want
eyes to direct them the way I am going, but
such as wink, and will not use them.

Jail. What an infinite mock is this, that a
man should have the best use of eyes, to see
the way of blindness! I am sure, hanging's
the way of winking.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. Knock off his manacles; bring your
prisoner to the king.

Post. Thou bringest good news;—I am
called to be made free.

Jail. I'll be hang'd then.

Post. Thou shalt be then freer than a jailer;
no bolts for the dead.

[Exeunt POSTHUMUS and MESSENGER.]

Jail. Unless a man would marry a gallows,
and beget young gibbets, I never saw one so
prone.† Yet, on my conscience, there are ver-
rier knaves desire to live, for all he be a Roman:
and there be some of them too, that die against
their wills; so should I, if I were one. I would
we were of all one mind, and one mind good;
O, there were desolation of jailers, and gal-
lowses! I speak against my present profit;
but my wish hath a preferment in't.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE V.—CYMBELINE'S Tent.

Enter CYMBELINE, BELARIUS, GUIDERIUS, AR-
VIRAGUS, PISANIO, Lords, Officers, and At-
tendants.

Cym. Stand by my side, you whom the
gods have made

Preservers of my throne. Woe is my heart,
That the poor soldier, that so richly fought,
Whose rags sham'd gilded arms, whose naked
breast

Stepp'd before target of proof, cannot be found:
He shall be happy that can find him, if
Our grace can make him so.

Bel. I never saw

Such noble fury in so poor a thing; [nought
Such precious deeds in one that promis'd
But beggary and poor looks.

Cym. No tidings of him!

Pis. He hath been search'd among the dead
and living,
But no trace of him.

Cym. To my grief, I am

The heir of his reward; which I will add
To you, the liver, heart, and brain of Britain,
[To BELARIUS, GUIDERIUS, and ARVIRAGUS.]
By whom, I grant, she lives; 'Tis now the time
To ask of whence you are:—report it.

* Hazard. † Forward. ‡ Target, shield.

Bel. Sir,
In Cambria are we born, and gentlemen:
Further to boast, were neither true nor modest,
Unless I add, we are honest.

Cym. Bow your knees:
Arise my knights o'the battle: I create you
Companions to our person, and will fit you
With dignities becoming your estates.

Enter CORNELIUS and LADIES.

There's business in these faces:—Why so sadly
Greet you our victory? You look like Romans,
And not o'the court of Britain.

Cor. Hail, great king!
To sour your happiness, I must report
The queen is dead.

Cym. Whom worse than a physician
Would this report become? But I consider,
By medicine life may be prolong'd, yet death
Will seize the doctor too.—How ended she?

Cor. With horror, madly dying, like her life;
Which, being cruel to the world, concluded
Most cruel to herself. What she confess'd,
I will report, so please you: These her women
Can trip me, if I err: who, with wet cheeks,
Were present when she finish'd.

Cym. Pr'ythee, say.
Cor. First, she confess'd she never lov'd
you; only
Affected greatness got by you, not you:
Married your royalty, was wife to your place;
Abhor'd your person.

Cym. She alone knew this:
And, but she spoke it dying, I would not
Believe her lips in opening it. Proceed.

Cor. Your daughter, whom she bore in
hand to love
With such integrity, she did confess
Was as a scorpion to her sight; whose life,
But that her flight prevented it, she had
Ta'en off by poison.

Cym. O most delicate fiend!
Who is't can read a woman?—Is there more?
Cor. More, Sir, and worse. She did confess,
she had

For you a mortal mineral; which, being took,
Should by the minute feed on life, and
ling'ring, [pos'd,
By inches waste you: In which time she pur-
by watching, weeping, tendance, kissing, to
O'ercome you with her show: yes, and in time,
(When she had fitted you with her craft,) to
work

Her son into the adoption of the crown.
But failing of her end by his strange absence,
Grew shameless desperate; open'd, in despite
Of heaven and men, her purposes; repented
The evils she hatch'd were not effected; so,
Despairing, died.

Cym. Heard you all this, her women?
Lady. We did so, please your highness.
Cym. Mine eyes

Were not in fault, for she was beautiful;
Mine ears, that heard her flattery; nor my
heart, [vicious,
That thought her like her seeming; it had been
To have mistrusted her: yet, O my daughter!
That it was folly in me, thou may'st say,
And prove it in thy feeling. Heaven mend all!

*Enter LUCIUS, IACHIMO, the SOOTHSAYER, and
other Roman Prisoners, guarded; POSTHUMUS
behind, and IMOGEN.*

Thou com'st not, Caius, now for tribute; that
The Britons have raz'd out, though with the loss
O many a bold one, whose kinsmen have
made suit,

That their good souls may be appeas'd with
slaughter

Of you their captives, which ourself have
So, think of your estate. [granted;

Luc. Consider, Sir, the chance of war: the
day

Was yours by accident; had it gone with us,
We should not, when the blood was cool, have
threaten'd [gods

Our prisoners with the sword. But since the
Will have it thus, that nothing but our lives
May be call'd ransom, let it come: sufficient,
A Roman with a Roman's heart can suffer:
Augustus lives to think on't: And so much
For my peculiar care. This one thing only
I will entreat; My boy, a Briton born,
Let him be ransom'd: never master had
A page so kind, so duteous, diligent,
So tender over his occasions, true,
So fast,* so nurse-like: let his virtue join
With my request, which, I'll make bold, your
highness

Cannot deny; he hath done no Britain barm,
Though he have serv'd a Roman: save him,
And spare no blood beside. [Sir,

Cym. I have surely seen him:
His favour is familiar to me.—
Boy, thou hast look'd thyself into my grace,
And art mine own.—I know not why, nor
wherefore, [live:

To say, live, boy: ne'er thank thy master;
And ask of Cymbeline what boon thou wilt,
Fitting my bounty, and thy state, I'll give it;
Yea, though thou do demand a prisoner,
The noblest ta'en.

Imo. I humbly thank your highness.
Luc. I do not bid thee beg my life, good lad;
And yet, I know, thou wilt.

Imo. No, no: alack.
There's other work in hand; I see a thing
Bitter to me as death: your life, good master,
Must shuffle for itself.

Luc. The boy disdains me, [joys,
He leaves me, scorns me: Briefly die their
That place them on the truth of girls and
Why stands he so perplex'd! [boys.—

Cym. What would'st thou, boys? [more
I love thee more and more; think more and
What's best to ask. Know'st him thou look'st
on? speak,

Wilt have him live? Is he thy kin? thy friend?
Imo. He is a Roman; no more kin to me,
Than I to your highness; who, being born your
And something nearer. [vassal,

Cym. Wherefore ey'st him so?
Imo. I'll tell you, Sir, in private, if you please
To give me hearing.

Cym. Ay, with all my heart,
And lend my best attention. What's thy name?
Imo. Fidele, Sir.

Cym. Thou art my good youth, my page;
I'll be thy master: Walk with me; speak freely.
[CYMBELINE and IMOGEN converse apart.

Bel. Is not this boy reviv'd from death?
Arr. One said another

Not more resembles: That sweet rosy lad,
Who died, and was Fidele:—What think you?
Gui. The same dead thing alive.

Bel. Peace, peace! see further; he eyes us
not; forbear;

Creatures may be alike: were't he, I am sure
He would have spoke to us.

Gui. But we saw him dead.
Bel. Be silent; let's see further.

Pis. It is my mistress: [Aside.

* Ready, dext:or.

† Countenance.

Since she is living, let the time run on,
To good, or bad.

[CYMBELINE and IMOGEN come forward.]

Cym. Come, stand thou by our side;
Make thy demand aloud.—Sir, [To IACH.] step
you forth;

Give answer to this boy, and do it freely;
Or, by our greatness, and the grace of it,
Which is our honour, bitter torture shall
Winnow the truth from falsehood.—On, speak
to him.

Imo. My boon is, that this gentleman may
Of whom he had this ring. [render]

Post. What's that to him? [Aside.]

Cym. That diamond upon your finger, say,
How came it yours?

Iach. Thou'lt torture me to leave unspoken
Which, to be spoke, would torture thee. [that
Cym. How! me?

Iach. I am glad to be constrain'd to utter
that which
Torments me to conceal. By villany
I got this ring; 'twas Leonatus' jewel:
Whom thou didst banish; and (which more
may grieve thee,
As it doth me,) a nobler Sir ne'er liv'd
'Twixt sky and ground. Wilt thou hear more,
my lord?

Cym. All that belongs to this.

Iach. That paragon, thy daughter,—
For whom my heart drops blood, and my false
spirits

Quail* to remember,—Give me leave; I faint.
Cym. My daughter! what of her? Renew
thy strength: [will,

I had rather thou should'st live while nature
Than die ere I hear more: strive man, and speak.

Iach. Upon a time, (unhappy was the clock
That struck the hour!) it was in Rome, (accurs'd
[would

The mansion where!) 'twas at a feast, (O
Our viands had been poison'd! or at least,
Those which I heav'd to head!) the good
Posthúmus,

(What should I say? he was too good to be
Where ill men were; and was the best of all
Amongst the rar'st of good ones,) sitting sadly,
Hearing us praise our loves of Italy
For beauty that made barren the swell'd boast
Of him that best could speak: for feature,
laming [erva,

The shrine of Venus, or straight-pight Min-
Postures beyond brief nature; for condition,
A shop of all the qualities that man
Loves woman for; besides, that hook of wiving,
Fairness which strikes the eye:—

Cym. I stand on fire:
Come to the matter.

Iach. All too soon I shall,
Unless thou would'st grieve quickly.—This
Posthúmus,
(Most like a noble lord in love, and one
That had a royal lover,) took his hint:
And, not dispraising whom he prais'd, (therein
He was as calm as virtue) he began
His mistress' picture; which by his tongue be-
ing made,

And then a mind put in't, either our brags
Were crack'd of kitchen trulls, or his descrip-
Prov'd us unspeaking sots. [tion

Cym. Nay, nay, to the purpose.

Iach. Your daughter's chastity—there it be-
gins.

He spake of her as Dian had hot dreams,
And she alone were cold: Whereat, I, wretch!

* Sink into dejection.

Made scruple of his praise; and wager'd with
him

Pieces of gold, 'gainst this which then he wore
Upon his honour'd finger, to attain
In suit the place of his bed, and win this ring
By her's and mine adultery: he, true knight,
No lesser of her honour confident
Than I did truly find her, stakes this ring;
And would so, had it been a carbuncle
Of Phœbus' wheel; and might so safely, had it
Been all the worth of his car. Away to
Britain

Post I in this design: Well may you, Sir,
Remember me at court, where I was taught
Of your chaste daughter the wide difference
'Twixt amorous and villanous. Being thus
quench'd

Of hope, not longing, mine Italian brain
'Gan in your duller Britain operate
Most vilely; for my vantage excellent;
And to be brief, my practice so prevail'd,
That I return'd with simular proof enough
To make the noble Leonatus mad,
By wounding his belief in her renown
With tokens thus, and thus; averring notes
Of chamber-hanging, pictures, this her brace-
let.

(O, cunning, how I got it!) nay, some marks
Of secret on her person, that he could not
But think her bond of chastity quite crack'd,
I having ta'en the forfeit. Whereupon,—
Methinks, I see him now,—

Post. Ay, so thou dost, [Coming forward.]
Italian fiend!—Ah me, most credulous fool,

Egregious murderer, thief, any thing
That's due to all the villains past, in being,
To come!—O give me cord, or knife, or poison,
Some upright justicer! Thou, king, send out
For torturers ingenious: it is I

That all the abhorred things o'the earth amend,
By being worse than they. I am Posthúmus,
That kill'd thy daughter:—villain like, I lie;
That caus'd a lesser villain than myself,
A sacrilegious thief, to do't:—the temple
Of virtue was she; yea, and she herself.*
Spit, and throw stones, cast mire upon me, set
The dogs o'the street to bay me: every villain
Be call'd Posthúmus Leonatus; and
Be villany less than 'twas! O Imogen!
My queen, my life, my wife! O Imogen,
Imogen, Imogen!

Imo. Peace, my lord; hear, hear—

Post. Shall's have a play of this? Thou
scourful page,

There lie thy part. [Striking her: she falls.]

Pis. O gentlemen, help, help [húmus!
Mine, and your mistress:—O, my lord Post-
You ne'er kill'd Imogen till now:—Help,
Mine honour'd lady! [help!—

Cym. Does the world go round?

Post. How come these staggerers on me?

Pis. Wake, my mistress?

Cym. If this be so, the gods do mean to
strike me

To death with mortal joy.

Pis. How fares my mistress?

Imo. O, get thee from my sight;
Thou gav'st me poison: dangerous fellow,
Breathe not where princes are. [hence!

Cym. The tune of Imogen!

Pis. Lady,

The gods throw stones of sulphur on me, if
That box I gave you was not thought by me
A precious thing; I had it from the queen.

Cym. New matter still?

* Not only the temple of virtue, but virtue herself.

Imo. It poison'd me.

Cor. O gods!—

I left out one thing which the queen confess'd,
Which must approve thee honest: If Pisanio
Have, said she, given his mistress that confec-
tion

Which I gave him for a cordial, she is serv'd
As I would serve a rat.

Cym. What's this, Cornelius?

Cor. The queen, Sir, very oft unp'rtun'd me
To temper* poisons for her; still pretending
The satisfaction of her knowledge, only
In killing creatures vile, as cats and dogs
Of no esteem: I, dreading that her purpose
Was of more danger, did compound for her
A certain stuff, which, being ta'en, would
cease

The present power of life; but, in short time,
All offices of nature should again
Do their due functions.—Have you ta'en of it?

Imo. Most like I did, for I was dead.

Bel. My boys,
There was our error.

Gui. This is sure, Fidele.

Imo. Why did you throw your wedded lady
from you?

Think, that you are upon a rock; and now
Throw me again. [Embracing him.]

Post. Hang there like fruit, my soul,
Till the tree die!

Cym. How now, my flesh, my child?
What mak'st thou me a dullard in this act?
Wilt thou not speak to me?

Imo. Your blessing, Sir. [Kneeling.]

Bel. Though you did love this youth, I
blame ye not;
You had a motive for't.

To GUIDERIUS and ARVIRAGUS.

Cym. My tears that fall,
Prove holy water on thee! Imogen,
Thy mother's dead.

Imo. I am sorry for't, my lord.

Cym. O, she was naught: and 'long of her
it was,
That we meet here so strangely: But her son
Is gone, we know not how, nor where.

Pis. My lord, [Cloten,
Now fear is from me. I'll speak troth. Lord
Upon my lady's missing, came to me
With his sword drawn: foam'd at the mouth,
and swore,

If I discover'd not which way she was gone,
It was my instant death: By accident,
I had a feigned letter of my master's
Then in my pocket; which directed him
To seek her on the mountains near to Milford;
Where, in a frenzy, in my master's garments,
Which he inforc'd from me, away he posts
With unchaste purpose, and with oath to vio-
late

My lady's honour: what became of him,
I further know not.

Gui. Let me end the story:
I slew him there.

Cym. Marry, the gods forfend! † [lips
I would not thy good deeds should from my
Pluck a hard sentence: pr'ythee, valiant youth,
Deny't again.

Gui. I have spoke it, and I did it.

Cym. He was a prince.

Gui. A most uncivil one: The wrongs he
did me [me
Where nothing prince-like; for he did provoke
With language that would make me spurn the
sea,

* Mix. confound.

† Forbid.

If it could roar so to me: I cut off's head;
And am right glad, he is not standing here
To tell this tale of mine.

Cym. I am sorry for thee:

By thine own tongue thou art condemn'd, and
Endure our law: Thou art dead. [music]

Imo. That headless man
I thought had been my lord.

Cym. Bind the offender,
And take him from our presence.

Bel. Stay, Sir king:

This man is better than the man he slew,
As well descended as thyself; and hath
More of thee merited, than a band of Clotens
Had ever scar for.—Let his arms alone:

[To the Guard.]

They were not born for bondage.

Cym. Why, old soldier,
Wilt thou undo the worth thou art unpaid for,
By tasting of our wrath? How of descent
As good as we?

Arv. In that he spake too far.

Cym. And thou shalt die for't.

Bel. We will die all three:

But I will prove, that two of us are as good
As I have given out him.—My sons, I must,
For mine own part, unfold a dangerous speech.
Though, haply, well for you.

Arv. Your danger is

Ours.

Gui. And our good his.

Bel. Have at it then.—

By leave;—Thou hadst, great king, a subject,
Was call'd Belarius. [who

Cym. What of him? he is
A banish'd traitor.

Bel. He it is, that hath
Assum'd this age: indeed, a banish'd man:
I know not how, a traitor.

Cym. Take him hence;
The whole world shall not save him.

Bel. Not too hot:

First pay me for the nursing of thy sons:
And let it be confiscate all, so soon
As I have receiv'd it.

Cym. Nursing of my sons?

Bel. I am too blunt, and saucy: Here's my
Ere I arise, I will prefer my sons; [knee;
Then, spare not the old father. Mighty Sir,
These two young gentlemen, that call me fa-
ther,

And think they are my sons, are none of mine;
They are the issue of your loins, my liege,
And blood of your begetting.

Cym. How! my issue?

Bel. So sure as you your father's. I, old
Morgan,
Am that Belarius whom you sometime banish'd:
Your pleasure was my mere offence, my pun-
ishment

Itself, and all my treason; that I suffer'd,
Was all the harm I did. These gentle princes
(For such, and so they are,) these twenty
years

Have I train'd up: those arts they have, as I
Could put into them; my breeding was, Sir, as
Your highness knows. Their nurse, Euriphile,
Whom for the theft I wedded, stole these chil-
dren

Upon my banishment: I mov'd her to't;
Having receiv'd the punishment before,
For that which I did then: Beaten for loyalty
Excited me to treason: Their dear loss,
The more of you 'twas felt, the more it shap'd
Unto my end of stealing them. But, gracious,
Sir,

Here are your sons again; and I must lose
Two of the sweet'st companions in the world:—
The benediction of these covering heavens
Fall on their heads like dew! for they are
To inlay heaven with stars. [worthy

Cym. Thou weep'st, and speak'st.
The service, that you three have done, is more
Unlike than this thou tell'st: I lost my children;
If these be they, I know not how to wish
A pair of worthier sons.

Bel. Be pleas'd a while.
This gentleman, whom I call Polydore,
Most worthy prince, as yours, is true, Gui-
derius;

This gentleman, my Cadwal, Arviragus,
Your younger princely son; he, Sir, was lapp'd
In a most curious mantle, wrought by the hand
Of his queen mother, which, for more proba-
I can with ease produce. [tion,

Cym. Guiderius had
Upon his neck a mole, a sanguine star;
It was a mark of wonder.

Bel. This is he;
Who hath upon him still that natural stamp;
It was wise nature's end in the donation,
To be his evidence now.

Cym. O, what am I
A mother to the birth of three? Ne'er mother
Rejoic'd deliverance more:—Bless'd may you
be, [orbs,
That after this strange starting from your
You may reign in them now!—O Imogen,
'Thou hast lost by this a kingdom.

Imo. No, my lord; [brothers,
I have got two worlds by't.—O my gentle
Have we thus met? O never say hereafter,
But I am truest speaker; you call'd me brother,
When I was but your sister; I you brothers,
When you were so indeed.

Cym. Did you e'er meet?

Arv. Ay, my good lord.

Gui. And at first meeting lov'd;

Continued so, until we thought he died.

Cor. By the queen's dram she swallow'd.

Cym. O rare instinct!
When shall I hear all through?—This fierce*
abridgment

Hath to it circumstantial branches, which
Distinction should be rich in.†—Where? how
liv'd you? [tive?

And when came you to serve our Roman cap-
How parted with your brothers? how first met
them? [These,

Why fled you from the court? and whither?
And your three motives to the battle, with
I know not how much more, should be de-
manded:

And all the other by-dependencies, [place,
From chance to chance; but nor the time, nor
Will serve our long intergatories. See,
Posthumus anchors upon Imogen; [eye

And she, like harmless lightning, throws her
On him, her brothers, me, her master; hitting
Each object with a joy; the counterchange
Is severally in all. Let's quit this ground,
And smoke the temple with our sacrifices.—
'Thou art my brother; So we'll hold thee ever.
[To BELARIUS.

Imo. You are my father too: and did relieve
To see this gracious season. [me,

Cym. All overjoy'd,
Save these in bonds; let them be joyful too,
For they shall taste our comfort.

* Vehement, rapid. † I. e. Which ought to be
rendered distinct by an ample narrative.

Imo. My good master,
I will yet do you service.

Luc. Happy be you!

Cym. The forlorn soldier, that so nobly
fought, grac'd
He would have well becom'd this place, and
The thankings of a king.

Post. I am Sir,
The soldier that did company these three
In poor beseeching; 'twas a fitment for
The purpose I then follow'd;—That I was he,
Speak, Iachimo; I had you down, and might
Have made you finish.

Iach. I am down again: [Kneeling,
But now my heavy conscience sinks my knee,
As then your force did. Take that life, 'be-
seech you,

Which I so often owe: but, your ring first;
And here the bracelet of the truest princes,
That ever swore her faith.

Post. Kneel not to me;
The power that I have on you, is to spare you;
The malice towards you, to forgive you: Live,
And deal with others better.

Cym. Nobly doom'd:
We'll learn our freeness of a son-in-law;
Pardon's the word to all.

Arv. You help us, Sir,
As you did mean indeed to be our brother;
Joy'd are we, that you are.

Post. Your servant, princes.—Good my lord
of Rome,
Call forth your sootlsayer:—As I slept, me-
thought,

Great Jupiter, upon his eagle back,
Appear'd to me, with other spritely shows*
Of mine own kindred: when I wak'd, I found
This label on my bosom; whose containing
Is so from sense in hardness, that I can
Make no collection of it; let him show
His skill in the construction.

Luc. Philarmonus,—

Sooth. Here, my good lord.

Luc. Read; and declare the meaning.

Sooth [Reads.] *When as a lion's whelp shall,
to himself unknown, without seeking find, and
be embraced by a piece of tender air; and when
from a stately cedar shall be topped branches,
which, being dead many years, shall after revive,
be jointed to the old stock, and freshly grow;
then shall Posthumus end his miseries, Britain,
be fortunate, and flourish in peace and plenty.*
Thou Leonatus, art the lion's whelp;
The fit and apt construction of thy name,
Being Leo-natus, doth import so much:
The piece of tender air, thy virtuous daughter,
[To CYMBELINE.

Which we call *mollis aer*; and *mollis aer*
We term it *mulier*: which *mulier*, I divine,
Is this most constant wife: who, even now,
Answering the letter of the oracle,
Unknown to you, unsought, were clipp'd about
With this most tender air.

Cym. This hath some seeming.
Sooth. The lofty cedar, royal Cymbeline,
Personates thee: and thy lopp'd branches point
Thy two sons forth: who, by Belarius stolen,
For many years thought dead, are now reviv'd,
To the majestic cedar join'd; whose issue
Promises Britain peace and plenty.

Cym. Well,
My peace we will begin:—And, Caius Lucius,
Although the victor, we submit to Cesar.

* Ghostly appearances.

And to the Roman empire; promising
To pay our wonted tribute, from the which
We were dissuaded by our wicked queen;
Whom heaven, In justice, (both on her and
hers,)
Have laid most heavy hand.

Sooth. The figures of the powers above do
tune

The harmony of this peace. The vision
Which I made known to Lucius, ere the stroke
Of this yet scarce-cold battle, at this instant
Is full accomplish'd: For the Roman eagle,
From south to west on wing soaring aloft,
Lessen'd herself, and in the beams o'the sun
So vanish'd: which foreshow'd our princely

eagle,
The Imperial Cesar, should again unite
His favour with the radiant Cymbeline,
Which shines here in the west.

Cym. Laud we the gods;
And let our crooked smokes climb* to their
nostrils

From our bless'd altars! Publish we this peace
To all our subjects. Set we forward: Let
A Roman and a British ensign wave
Friendly together: so through Lud's town
march:

And in the temple of great Jupiter
Our peace we'll ratify; seal it with feasts.—
Set on there:—Never was a war did cease,
Ere bloody hands were wash'd, with such a
peace. [Exeunt.

* Rise.

A SONG.

Sung by Guiderius and Arviragus over Fidele, supposed
to be dead.

BY WILLIAM COLLINS.

*To fair Fidele's grassy tomb,
Soft maids and village hinds shall bring
Each opening sweet, of earliest bloom,
And rife all the breathing spring.*

*No wailing ghost shall dare appear
To vex with shrieks his quiet grove;
But shepherd lads assemble here,
And melting virgins own their love.*

*No wither'd witch shall here be seen,
No goblins lead their nightly crew:
The female fays shall haunt the green,
And dress thy grave with pearly dew.*

*The red-breast oft at evening hours
Shall kindly lend his little aid,
With hoary moss, and gathering flowers,
To deck the ground where thou art laid*

*When howling winds and beating rain,
In tempests shake the sylvan cell;
Or midst the chase on every plain,
The tender thought on thee shall dwell.*

*Each lonely scene shall thee restore;
For thee the tear be duly shed:
Belov'd, till life could charm no more;
And mourn'd till pity's self be dead.*

TITUS ANDRONICUS.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

SATURNINUS, Son to the late Emperor of Rome, and afterwards declared Emperor himself.	ALAREBUS, } CHIRON, } Sons to Tamora. DEMETRIUS, }
BASSIANUS, Brother to Saturninus; in love with Lavinia,	AARON, a Moor, beloved by Tamora.
TITUS ANDRONICUS, a noble Roman, General against the Goths.	A CAPTAIN, TRIBUNE, MESSENGER, and CLOWN; Romans.
MARCUS ANDRONICUS, Tribune of the People; and Brother to Titus.	Goths and Romans.
LUCIUS, } QUINTUS, } Sons to Titus Andronicus. MARTIUS, } MUTIUS, }	TAMORA, Queen of the Goths. LAVINIA, Daughter to Titus Andronicus. A NURSE, and a Black Child.
YOUNG LUCIUS, a Boy, Son to Lucius.	Kinsmen of Titus, Senators, Tribunes, Officers, Soldiers, and Attendants.
PUBLIUS, Son to Marcus the Tribune.	SCENE; Rome, and the Country near it.
ÆMILIUS a noble Roman.	

ACT I.

SCENE I.—Rome.—Before the Capitol.

The tomb of the ANDRONICI appearing; the TRIBUNES and SENATORS aloft, as in the Senate. Enter, below, SATURNINUS and his Followers, on one side; and BASSIANUS and his Followers on the other; with Drum and Colours.

Sat. Noble patricians, patrons of my right,
Defend the justice of my cause with arms;
And countrymen, my loving followers,
Plead my successive title* with your swords:
I am his first-born son, that was the last
That wore the imperial diadem of Rome;
Then let my father's honours live in me,
Nor wrong mine age with this indignity.

Bas. Romans,—friends, followers, favourers
of my right,—
If ever Bassianus, Cesar's son,
Were gracious in the eyes of royal Rome,
Keep then this passage to the Capitol;
And suffer not dishonour to approach
The imperial seat to virtue consecrate,
To justice, continence, and nobility:
But let desert in pure election shine;
And, Romans, fight for freedom in your choice,

Enter MARCUS ANDRONICUS, aloft with the Crown.

Mar. Princes that strive by factions, and
by friends,
Ambitiously for rule and empery,
Know, that the people of Rome, for whom we
stand

I. e. My title to the succession

A special party, have, by their common voice,
In election for the Roman empery,
Chosen Andronicus, surnamed Pius
For many good and great deserts to Rome;
A nobler man a braver warrior,
Lives not this day within the city walls:
He by the senate is accited* home,
From weary wars against the barbarous Goths,
That with his sons, a terror to our foes,
Hath yok'd a nation strong, train'd up in arms.
Ten years are spent, since first he undertook
This cause of Rome, and chastised with arms
Our enemies' pride: Five times he hath re-
turn'd

Bleeding to Rome, bearing his valiant sons
In coffins from the field;
And now at last, laden with honour's spoils,
Returns the good Andronicus to Rome,
Renowned Titus flourishing in arms,
Let us entreat,—By honour of his name,
Whom, worthily, you would have now succeed;
And in the Capitol and senate's right,
Whom you pretend to honour and adore.—
That you withdraw you, and abate your
strength;
Dismiss your followers, and, as suitors should,
Plead your deserts in peace and humbleness.

Sat. How fair the tribunes speak to calm my thoughts!

Bas. Marcus Andronicus, so I do asfy
In thy uprightness and integrity,
And so I love and honour thee and thine,
Thy nobler brother Titus and his sons, [all,
And her, to whom my thoughts are humbled
Gracious Lavinia, Rome's rich ornament,
That I will here dismiss my loving friends;

* Summoned.

And to my fortunes, and the people's favour,
Commit my cause in balance to be weigh'd.

[*Exeunt the Followers of BASSIANUS.*]

Sat. Friends, that have been thus forward in
my right,

I thank you all, and here dismiss you all;
And to the love and favour of my country
Commit myself, my person, and the cause,

[*Exeunt the Followers of SATURNINUS.*]

Rome, be as just and gracious unto me,
As I am confident and kind to thee.—
Open the gates, and let me in.

Bas. Tribunes! and me, a poor competitor.

[*SAT. and BAS. go into the Capitol, and exeunt with SENATORS, MARCUS, &c.*]

SCENE II.—*The same.*

Enter a CAPTAIN, and Others.

Cap. Romans, make way; The good Andronicus,

Patron, of virtue, Rome's best champion,
Successful in the battles that he fights,
With honour and with fortune is return'd,
From where he circumscribed with his sword,
And brought to yoke, the enemies of Rome.

Flourish of Trumpets, &c. Enter MUTIUS and MARTIUS; after them, two Men bearing a Coffin covered with black; then QUINTUS and LUCIUS. After them, TITUS ANDRONICUS; and then TAMORA, with ALARBUS, CHIRON, DEMETRIUS, AARON, and other Goths, prisoners; Soldiers and People following. The Bearers set down the Coffin, and TITUS speaks.

Tit. Hail, Rome, victorious in thy mourning weeds!

[*fraght,**]

Lo, as the bark that hath discharged her
Returns with precious lading to the bay,
From whence at first she weigh'd her anchorage,

Cometh Andronicus, bound with laurel boughs,
To re-salute his country with his tears;
Tears of true joy for his return to Rome.—
Thou great defender of this Capitol,†
Stand gracious to the rights that we intend!—
Romans, of five and twenty valiant sons,
Half of the number that king Priam had,
Behold the poor remains, alive, and dead!
These, that survive, let Rome reward with love;

These, that I bring unto their latest home,
With burial amongst their ancestors:
Here Goths have given me leave to sheath my sword.

Titus, unkind, and careless of thine own,
Why suffer'st thou thy sons, unburied yet,
To hover on the dreadful shore of Styx?—
Make way to lay them by their brethren.

[*The tomb is opened.*]

There greet in silence, as the dead are wont,
And sleep in peace, slain in your country's
O sacred receptacle of my joys, [wars!
Sweet cell of virtue and nobility,
How many sons of mine hast thou in store,
That thou wilt never render to me more!

Luc. Give us the proudest prisoner of the
Goths,

That we may hew his limbs, and, on a pile,
Ad manes fratrum sacrifice his flesh,
Before this earthly prison of their bones
That so the unshadows be not unappeas'd,
Nor we disturb'd with prodigies on earth.‡

* Freight. † Jupiter, to whom the Capital was sacred

‡ It was supposed that the ghosts of unburied people appeared to solicit the rites of funeral.

Tit. I give him you; The noblest that sur-
The eldest son of this distress'd queen. [vives,
Tam. Stay, Roman brethren;—Gracious
conqueror,

Victorious Titus, rue the the tears I shed,
A mother's tears in passion* for her son:
And, if thy sons were ever dear to thee,
O, think my son to be as dear to me.
Sufficeth not, that we are brought to Rome,
To beautify thy triumphs, and return,
Captive to thee, and to thy Roman yoke;
But must my sons be slaughter'd in the streets,
For valiant doings in their country's cause?
O! if to fight for king and common weal
Were piety in thine, it is in these.

Andronicus, stain not thy tomb with blood:
Wilt thou draw near the nature of the gods?
Draw near them then in being merciful;
Sweet mercy is nobility's true badge;
Thrice-noble Titus, spare my first-born son.

Tit. Patient yourself, madam, and pardon
me. [beheld

These are their brethren, whom you Goths
Alive and dead: and for their brethren slain,
Religiously they ask a sacrifice;
To this your son is mark'd; and die he must,
To appease their groaning shadows that are
gone.

Luc. Away with him! and make a fire
straight;

And with your swords, upon a pile of wood.
Let's hew his limbs, till they be clean con-
sum'd.

[*Exeunt LUCIUS, QUINTUS, MARTIUS, and
MUTIUS, with ALARBUS.*]

Tam. O cruel, irreligious piety!

Chi. Was ever Scythia half so barbarous!

Dem. Oppose not Scythia to ambitious Rome.
Alarbus goes to rest; and we survive
To tremble under Titus's threatening look. [al,
Then, madam, stand resolv'd; but hope with-
The self-same gods, that arm'd the queen of
With opportunity of sharp revenge [Troy
Joy on the Thracian tyrant in his tent,
May favour Tamora, the queen of Goths,
(When Goths were Goths, and Tamora was
queen.)

To quit the bloody wrongs upon her foes.

*Re-enter LUCIUS, QUINTUS, MARTIUS, and MU-
TIUS, with their Swords bloody.*

Luc. See, lord and father, how we have per-
form'd

Our Roman rites: Alarbus' limbs are lopp'd,
And entrails feed the sacrificing fire, [sky.
Whose smoke, like incense, doth perfume the
Remaineth nought, but to inter our brethren.
And with loud 'larums welcome them to Rome.

Tit. Let it be so, and let Andronicus
Make this his latest farewell to their souls.

[*Trumpets sounded, and the Coffins laid in
the Tomb.*]

In peace and honour rest you here, my sons;
Rome's readiest champions, repose you here,
Secure from worldly chances and mishaps!
Here lurks no treason, here no envy swells,
Here grow no damned grudges; here, are no
storms,

No noise, but silence and eternal sleep:

Enter LAVINIA.

In peace and honour rest you here, my sons!
Lar. In peace and honour live lord Titus
long;

* Suffering.

My noble lord and father, live in fame!
Lo! at this tomb my tributary tears
I render, for my brethren's obsequies;
And at thy feet I kneel with tears of joy
Shed on the earth, for thy return to Rome:
O, bless me here with thy victorious hand,
Whose fortunes Rom's best citizens applaud.

Tit. Kind Rome, that hast thou lovingly re-
serv'd

The cordial of mine age to glad my heart!—
Lavinia, live; outlive thy father's days.
And fame's eternal date, for virtue's praise!*

Enter MARCUS, ANDRONICUS, SATURNINUS,
BASSIANUS, and others.

Mar. Long live lord Titus, my beloved
brother,

Gracious triumpher in the eyes of Rome!

Tit. Thanks, gentle tribune, noble brother
Marcus.

Mar. And welcome, nephews, from success-
ful wars,

You that survive, and you that sleep in fame.
Fair lords, your fortunes are alike in all,
That in your country's service drew your
swords;

But safer triumph is this funeral pomp,
That hath aspir'd to Solon's happiness,†
And triumphs over chance in honour's bed.—
Titus Andronicus, the people of Rome,
Whose friend in justice thou hast ever been,
Send thee by me, their tribune, and their trust,
This palliament‡ of white and spotless hue;
And name thee in election for the empire,
With these our late-deceased emperor's sons;
Be *candidatus* then, and put it on,
And help to set a head on headless Rome.

Tit. A better head her glorious body fits,
Than his, that shakes for age and feebleness:
What! should I don this robe, and trouble
Be chosen with proclamations to-day; [you?
To-morrow, yield up rule, resign my life,
And set abroad new business for you all?
Rome, I have been thy soldier forty years,
And buried one and twenty valiant sons,
Knighted in field, slain manfully in arms,
In right and service of their noble country:
Give me a staff of honour for mine age,
But not a sceptre to control the world:
Upright he held it, lords, that held it last.

Mar. Titus, thou shalt obtain and ask the
empirey.

Sat. Proud and ambitious tribune, canst
thou tell?—

Tit. Patience, prince Saturnine.

Sat. Romans, do me right;—

Patricians, draw your swords, and sheath
them not

Till Saturninus be Rome's emperor:—
Andronicus, would thou wert shipp'd to hell,
Rather than rob me of the people's hearts.

Luc. Proud Saturnine, interrupter of the
good

That noble-minded Titus means to thee!

Tit. Content thee prince; I will restore to
thee

The people's hearts, and wean them from
themselves.

Bas. Andronicus, I do not flatter thee,
But honour thee, and will do till I die;
My faction if thou strengthen with thy friends,

* He wishes that her life may be longer than his, and
her praise longer than fame.

† The maxim alluded to is, that no man can be pro-
nounced happy before his death.

‡ A robe.

§ I. e. Do on, put it on.

I will most thankful be: and thanks to men
Of noble minds, is honourable need.

Tit. People of Rome, and people's tribunes
I ask your voices, and your suffrages; [here,
Will you bestow them friendly on Andronicus?

Trib. To gratify the good Andronicus,
And gratulate his safe return to Rome,
The people will accept whom he admits.

Tit. Tribunes, I thank you: and this suit I
make,

That you create your emperor's eldest son,
Lord Saturnine; whose virtues will, I hope,
Reflect on Rome, as Titan's* rays on earth,
And ripen justice in this common-weal:
Then if you will elect by my advice,
Crown him, and say,—*Long live our emperor!*

Mar. With voices and applause of every sort,
Patricians, and plebeians, we create
Lord Saturninus, Rome's great emperor;
And say,—*Long live our emperor Saturnine!*

[A long Flourish.

Sat. Titus Andronicus, for thy favours done
To us in our election this day,

I give thee thanks in part of thy deserts,
And will with deeds requite thy gentleness:
And, for an onset, Titus, to advance
Thy name, and honourable family,
Lavinia will I make my empress,
Rome's royal mistress, mistress of my heart,
And in the sacred Pantheon her espouse:
Tell me, Andronicus, doth this motion please
thee?

Tit. It doth, my worthy lord; and, in this
match,

I hold me highly honour'd of your grace:
And here, in sight of Rome, to Saturnine,—
King and commander of our common-weal,
The wide world's emperor,—do I consecrate
My sword, my chariot, and my prisoners;
Presents well worthy Rome's imperial lord:
Receive them then, the tribute that I owe,
Mine honour's ensigns humbled at thy feet.

Sat. Thanks, noble Titus, father of my life!
How proud I am of thee, and of thy gifts,
Rome shall record; and, when I do forget
The least of these unspeakable deserts,
Romans, forget your fealty to me.

Tit. Now, madam, are you prisoner to an
emperor; [To TAMORA.
To him, that for your honour and your state,
Will use you nobly, and your followers.

Sat. A goodly lady, trust me; of the hue
That I would choose, were I to choose anew.—
Clear up, fair queen, that cloudy countenance;
Though chance of war hath wrought this
change of cheer,

Thou com'st not to be made a scorn in Rome:
Princely shall be thy usage every way.
Rest on my word, and let not discontent
Daunt all your hopes; Madam, he comforts
you, [Goths.—

Can make you greater than the queen of
Lavinia, you are not displeas'd with this?

Lav. Not I, my lord; sith true nobility
Warrants these words in princely courtesy.

Sat. Thanks, sweet Lavinia.—Romans, let
us go:

Ransomless here we set our prisoners free:
Proclaim our honours, lords, with trump and
drum.

Bas. Lord Titus, by your leave, this maid
is mine, [Seizing LAVINIA.

Tit. How, Sir? Are you in earnest then,
my lord?

Bas. Ay, noble Titus; and resolv'd withal,

* The sun.

† Since.

To do myself this reason and this right.

[*The Emperor courts TAMORA in dumb show.*]

Mar. *Suum cuique* is our Roman justice :
This prince in justice seizeth but his own.

Luc. And that he will, and shall, if Lucius live.

Tit. Traitors, avaunt ! Where is the emperor's guard ?

Treason, my lord ; Lavinia is surpris'd.

Sat. Surpris'd ! by whom ?

Bas. By him that justly may

Bear his betroth'd from all the world away.

[*Exeunt MARCUS and BASSIANUS, with LAVINIA.*]

Mut. Brothers, help to convey her hence away.

And with my sword I'll keep this door safe.

[*Exeunt LUCIUS, QUINTUS, and MARTIUS.*]

Tit. Follow my lord, and I'll soon bring her back.

Mut. My lord, you pass not here.

Tit. What, villain boy !

Barr'st me my way in Rome ?

[*TITUS kills MUTIUS.*]

Mut. Help, Lucius, help.

Re-enter LUCIUS.

Luc. My lord, you are unjust : and, more than so,

In wrongful quarrel you have slain your son.

Tit. Nor thou, nor he, are any sons of mine :
My sons would never so dishonour me :

Traitor, restore Lavinia to the emperor.

Luc. Dead, if you will : but not to be his wife,

That is another's lawful promis'd love. [*Exit.*]

Sat. No, Titus, no ; the emperor needs her not,

Not her, nor thee, nor any of thy stock :

I'll trust, by leisure, him that mocks me once ;

Thee never, nor thy traitorous haughty sons,
Confederates all thus to dishonour me. [*of,*]

Was there none else in Rome to make a stale*
But Saturnine ? Full well, Andronicus,
Agree these deeds with that proud brag of thine,

That said'st, I begg'd the empire at thy hands.

Tit. O monstrous ! what reproachful words are these ?

Sat. But go thy ways ; go, give that changing piece

To him that flourish'd for her with his sword :
A valiant son-in-law thou shalt enjoy ;

One fit to bandy with thy lawless sons,
To rufflet in the commonwealth of Rome.

Tit. These words are razors to my wounded heart.

Sat. And therefore, lovely Tamora, queen of Goths,—

[*nymphs,*]

That like the stately Phæbe 'mongst her
Dost overshadow the gallant'st dames of Rome,
If thou be pleas'd with this my sudden choice,
Behold, I choose thee, Tamora, for my bride,
And will create thee emperess of Rome.
Speak, queen of Goths, dost thou applaud my choice ?

And here I swear by all the Roman gods,—

Sith priest and holy water are so near,
And tapers burn so bright, and every thing

In readiness for Hymeneus stand.—

I will not re-salute the streets of Rome,
Or climb my palace, till from forth this place

I lead espous'd my bride along with me.

* A stalking horse.

† A ruffler was a bully,

Tam. And here, in sight of heaven, to Rome I swear,

If Saturnine advance the queen of Goths,
She will a handmaid be to his desires,
A loving nurse, a mother to his youth.

Sat. Ascend, fair queen, Pantheon :—Lords, accompany

Your noble emperor, and his lovely bride,
Sent by the heavens for prince Saturnine,
Whose wisdom hath her fortune conquered :
There shall we consummate our spousal rites.

[*Exeunt SATURNINUS, and his Followers ; TAMORA, and her Sons ; AARON, and Goths.*]

Tit. I am not bid* to wait upon this bride ;—
Titus, when wert thou wont to talk alone,
Dishonour'd thus, and challenged of wrongs ?

Re-enter MARCUS, LUCIUS, QUINTUS, and MARTIUS.

Mar. O Titus, see, O, see, what thou hast
In a bad quarrel slain a virtuous son. [*done!*]

Tit. No, foolish tribune, no ; no son of mine,—

Nor thou, nor these, confederates in the deed
That hath dishonour'd all our family ;
Unworthy brother, and unworthy sons !

Luc. But let us give him burial as becomes ;
Give Mutius burial with our brethren.

Tit. Traitors, away ! he rests not in this tomb.

This monument five hundred years hath stood,
Which I have sumptuously re-edified :

Here none but soldiers, and Rome's servitors,
Repose in fame ; none basely slain in brawls ;
Bury him where you can, he comes not here.

Mar. My lord, this is impiety in you :

My nephew Mutius' deeds do plead for him ;
He must be buried with his brethren.

Quin. Mart. And shall, or him we will accompany.

Tit. And shall ? What villain was it spoke that word ?

Quin. He that would vouch't in any place—
but here.

Tit. What, would you bury him in my despite ?

Mar. No, noble Titus ; but entreat of thee
To pardon Mutius, and to bury him.

Tit. Marcus, even thou has struck upon my crest,

And, with these boys, mine honour thou hast wounded :

My foes I do repute you every one ;

So trouble me no more, but get you gone.

Mar. He is not with himself ; let us withdraw.

Quin. Not I, till Mutius' bones be buried.

[*MARCUS and the Sons of TITUS kneel.*]

Mar. Brother, for in that name doth nature plead.

Quin. Father, and in that name doth nature speak.

Tit. Speak thou no more, if all the rest will speed.

Mar. Renowned Titus, more than half my soul,—

Luc. Dear father, soul and substance of us all,—

Mar. Suffer thy brother Marcus to inter

His noble nephew here in virtue's nest,
That died in honour and Lavinia's cause.

Thou art a Roman, be not barbarous.

The Greeks upon advice did bury Ajax

That slew himself ; and wise Læertes' son

* Invited.

Did graciously plead for his funerals.
Let not young Mutius then, that was thy joy,
Be barr'd his entrance here.

Tit. Rise, Marcus rise:—
The dismall'st day is this, that e'er I saw,—
To be dishonour'd by my sons in Rome!—
Well, bury him, and bury me the next.

[MUTIUS is put into the Tomb.

Luc. There lie thy bones, sweet Mutius, with
thy friends,
Till we with trophies do adorn thy tomb!—
All. No man shed tears for noble Mutius;
He lives in fame that died in virtue's cause.

Mar. My lord,—to step out of these dreary
dumps,—
How comes it, that the subtle queen of Goths
Is of a sudden thus advanc'd in Rome?

Tit. I know not, Marcus; but, I know, it is;
Whether by device, or no, the heavens can tell:
Is she not then beholden to the man
That brought her for this high good turn so far?
Yes, and will nobly him remunerate.

Flourish. Re-enter, at one side, SATURNINUS,
attended; TAMORA, CHIRON, DEMETRIUS,
and AARON; At the other, BASSIANUS, LAVI-
NIA, and others.

Sat. So Bassianus, you have play'd your
prize;
God give you joy, Sir, of your gallant bride.

Bas. And you of yours, my lord: I say no
more,
Nor wish no less; and so I take my leave.

Sat. Traitor, if Rome have law, or we have
power,
Thou and thy faction shall repent this rape.

Bas. Rape, call you it, my lord, to seize my
own,
My true-betrothed love, and now my wife?

But let the laws of Rome determine all;
Mean while I am possess'd of that is mine.

Sat. 'Tis good, Sir: You are very short
with us;

But if we live, we'll be as sharp with you.
Bas. My lord what I have done, as best I
may,

Answer I must, and shall do with my life.
Only thus much, I give your grace to know,
By all the duties that I owe to Rome,
This noble gentleman, lord Titus here,
Is in opinion, and in honour, wrong'd;

That, in the rescue of Lavinia,
With his own hand did slay his youngest son,
In zeal to you, and highly mov'd to wrath
To be controul'd in that he frankly gave:
Receive him then to favour, Saturnine;

That hath express'd himself, in all his deeds,
A father, and a friend, to thee, and Rome.

Tit. Prince Bassianus, leave to plead my
deeds;

'Tis thou, and those, that have dishonour'd me:
Rome and the righteous heavens be my judge,
How I have lov'd and honour'd Saturnine!

Tam. My worthy lord, if ever Tamora
Were gracious in those princely eyes of thine,
Then hear me speak indifferently for all;
And at my suit, sweet, pardon what is past.

Sat. What! madam! be dishonour'd openly,
And basely put it up without revenge?

Tam. Not so, my lord; The gods of Rome
forefend.*

I should be author to dishonour you!
But, on mine honour, dare I undertake
For good lord Titus' innocence in all,
Whose fury, not dissembled, speaks his griefs:

* Forbid.

Then at my suit, look graciously on him:
Lose not so noble a friend on vain suppose,
Nor with sour looks afflict his gentle heart.—
My lord, be rul'd by me, be won at last, [*Aside.*
Dissemble all your griefs and discontents:
You are but newly planted in your throne;
Lest then the people, and patricians too,
Upon a just survey, take Titus' part,
And so supplant us for ingratitude,
(Which Rome reputes to be a heinous sin.)
Yield at entreats, and then let me alone:
I'll find a day to massacre them all,
And raze their faction, and their family,
The cruel father, and his traitorous sons,
To whom I sued for my dear son's life;
And make them know, what 'tis to let a queen
Kneel in the streets, and beg for grace in
vain.—

Come, come, sweet emperor,—come, Androni-
cus,

Take up this good old man, and cheer the heart
That dies in tempest of thy angry frown.

Sat. Rise, Titus, rise; my empress hath
prevail'd.

Tit. I thank your majesty, and her, my lord:
These words, these looks, infuse new life in
me.

Tam. Titus, I am incorporate in Rome,
A Roman now adopted happily,
And must advise the emperor for his good.
This day all quarrels die, Andronicus;—
And let be mine honour, good my lord,
That I have reconcil'd your friends and you.—
For you, prince Bassianus, I have pass'd
My word and promise to the emperor,
That you will be more mild and tractable.—
And fear not, lords,—and you, Lavinia;—
By my advice, all humbled on your knees,
You shall ask pardon of his majesty.

Luc. We do; and vow to heaven, and to his
highness,
That, what we did, was mildly, as we might,
Tend'ring our sister's honour, and our own.

Mar. That on mine honour here I do pro-
test.

Sat. Away, and talk not; trouble us no
more.—

Tam. Nay, nay, sweet emperor, we must
all be friends:

The tribune and his nephews kneel for grace;
I will not be denied. Sweet heart, look back.

Sat. Marcus, for thy sake, and thy brother's
And at my lovely Tamora's entreats, [here,
I do remit these young men's heinous faults.
Stand up.

Lavinia, though you left me like a churl,
I found a friend; and sure as death I swore,
I would not part a bachelor from the priest.
Come, if the emperor's court can feast two
brides,

You are my guest, Lavinia, and your friends:
This day shall be a love-day, Tamora.

Tit. To-morrow, an it please your majesty,
To hunt the panther and the hart with me,
With horn and hound, we'll give your grace
bonjour.

Sat. Be it so, Titus, and gramercy too.

[*Exeunt.*

ACT II.

SCENE I.—The same.—Before the Palace.

Enter AARON.

Aar. Now climbeth Tamora Olympus' top,
Safe out of fortune's shot: and sits aloft,
Secure of thunder's crack, or lightning's flash;

Advanc'd above pale envy's threat'ning reach.
As when the golden sun salutes the morn,
And, having gilt the ocean with his beams,
Gallops the zodiac in his glistening coach,
And overlooks the highest-peering hills;
So Tamora.—

Upon her wit doth earthly honour wait,
And virtue stoops and trembles at her frown,
Then Aaron, arm thy heart and fit thy thoughts,

To mount aloft with th' imperial mistress,
And mount her pitch; whom thou in triumph long

Hast prisoner held, fetter'd in amorous chains;
And faster bound to Aaron's charming eyes,
Than is Prometheus tied to Caucasus.

Away with slavish weeds and idle thoughts!
I will be bright and shine in pearl and gold,
To wait upon this new-made empress.

To wait, said I? to wanton with this queen,
This goddess, this Semiramis;—this queen,
This syre, that will charm Rome's Saturnine,
And see his shipwreck, and his commonweal's.
Holla! what storm is this?

Enter CHIRON and DEMETRIUS, braving.

Dem. Chiron thy years want wit, thy wit wants edge,

And manners, to intrude where I am grac'd;
And may, for aught thou know'st, affected be.

Chi. Demetrius, thou dost overween in all;
And so in this to bear me down with braves.

'Tis not the difference of a year, or two,
Makes me less gracious, thee more fortunate:
I am as able, and as fit, as thou,

To serve, and to deserve my mistress' grace;*
And that my sword upon thee shall approve,
And plead my passions for Lavinia's love.

Aar. Clubs, clubs! these lovers will not keep the peace.

Dem. Why, boy, although our mother, unadvis'd,

Gave you a dancing-rapier † by your side,
Are you so desperate grown, to threat your friends? [sheath,

Go to; have your lath glued within your till you know better how to handle it.

Chi. Mean while, Sir, with the little skill I have,

Full well shalt thou perceive how much I dare.

Dem. Ay, boy, grow ye so brave? [They draw.

Aar. Why, how now, lords?
So near the emperor's palace dare you draw,
And maintain such a quarrel openly?

Full well I wot the ground of all this grudge;
I would not for a million of gold, [cerns;

The cause were known to them it most concern
would your noble mother, for much more,
Be so dishonour'd in the court of Rome.

For shame, put up.

Dem. Not I; till I have sheath'd
My rapier in his bosom, and, withal, [throat,

Thrust these reproachful speeches down his
That he hath breath'd in my dishonour here.

Chi. For that I am prepar'd and full resolv'd,— [tongue,

Foul-spoken coward! that thunder'st with thy
And with thy weapon nothing dar'st perform.

Aar. Away, I say.—
Now by the gods, that warlike Goths adore
This petty brabble will undo us all.—

Why, lords,—and think you not how dangerous
It is to jut upon a prince's right?

* Favour. † This was the usual outcry for assistance,
When any riot in the street happened.

‡ A sword worn in dancing. § Know.

What, is Lavinia than become so loose;
Or Bassianus so degenerate, [broach'd,
That for her love such quarrels may be
Without controlment, justice, or revenge?
Young lords, beware!—an should the empress
know [please.

This discord's ground, the music would not
Chi. I care not, I, knew she and all the world;

I love Lavinia more than all the world.

Dem. Youngling, learn thou to make some
meaner choice:

Lavinia is thine elder brother's hope.

Aar. Why, are ye mad? or know ye not, in
How furious and impatient they be, [Rome
And cannot brook competitors in love?

I tell you, lords, you do but plot your deaths
By this device.

Chi. Aaron, a thousand deaths
Would I propose, to achieve her whom I love.

Aar. To achieve her!—How?

Dem. Why makest thou it so strange?
She is a woman therefore may be woo'd;

She is a woman, therefore may be won;
She is Lavinia, therefore must be lov'd.

What man! more water glideth by the mill
Than wots the miller of; and easy it is

Of a cut loaf to steal a shive,* we know:
Though Bassianus be the emperor's brother,
Better than he have yet worn Vulcan's badge.

Aar. Ay, and as good as Saturninus may. [Aside.

Dem. Then why should he despair, that
knows to court it

With words, fair looks, and liberality?
What, hast thou not full often struck a doe,
And borne her cleanly by the keeper's nose?

Aar. Why then it seems, some certain
snatch, or so

Would serve your turns.

Chi. Ay, so the turn were serv'd.

Dem. Aaron, thou hast hit it.

Aar. 'Woud you had hit it too;

Then should not we be tir'd with this ado,
Why, hark ye, hark ye,—And are you such
fools,

To square † for this? Would it offend you then
That both should speed?

Chi. P'faith, not me.

Dem. Nor me,

So I were one.

Aar. For shame, be friends; and join for
that you jar.

'Tis policy and stratagem must do
That you affect; and so must you resolve;

That what you cannot as you would, achieve,
You must perforce accomplish as you may.

Take this of me, Lucrece was not more chaste
Than this Lavinia, Bassianus' love.

A speedier course than lingering languishment
Must we pursue, and I have found the path.

My lords, a solemn hunting is in hand;
There will the lovely Roman ladies troop:

The forest walks are wide and spacious;
And many unfrequented plots there are,
Fitted by kind ‡ for rape and villany:

Single you thither then this dainty doe,
And strike her home by force, if not by words;

This way, or not at all, stand you in hope.
Come, come, our empress, with her sacred †

To villany and vengeance consecrate, [wit,
Will we acquaint with all that we intend;

And she shall file our engines with advice,
That will not suffer you to square yourselves.

* Slice. † Quarrel. ‡ By nature.
§ Sacred here signifies accursed; a latinism.

But to your wishes' height advance you both.
The emperor's court is like the house of fame,
The palace full of tongues, of eyes, of ears:
The woods are ruthless, dreadful, deaf, and
dull;

There speak, and strike, brave boys, and take
your turns: [eye,

There serve your lust, shadow'd from heaven's
And revel in Lavinia's treasury.

Chi. Thy counsel, lad, smells of no coward-
dice.

Dem. Sit fas aut nefas, till I find the stream
To cool this heat, a charm to calm these fits.

Per Styga, per manes vehor. [Exit.

SCENE II.—A Forest near Rome.—A Lodge
seen at a distance. Horns, and cry of Hounds
heard.

Enter TITUS ANDRONICUS, with hunters, &c.
MARCUS, LUCIUS, QUINTUS, and MARTIUS.

Tit. The hunt is up, the morn is bright and
grey, [green:

The fields are fragrant, and the woods are
Uncouple here, and let us make a bay.

And wake the emperor and his lovely bride,
And rouse the prince; and ring a hunter's peal,
That all the court may echo with the noise.

Sons, let it be your charge, as it is ours,
To tend the emperor's person carefully:

I have been troubled in my sleep this night,
But dawning day new comfort hath inspir'd.

Horns wind a Peal. Enter SATURNINUS, TAMORA,
BASSIANUS, LAVINIA, CHIRON, DEMETRIUS,
and Attendants.

Tit. Many good morrows to your majesty;—
Madam, to you as many and as good!

I promised your grace a hunter's peal.

Sat. And you have rung it lustily, my lords,
Somewhat too early for new-married ladies.

Bas. Lavinia, how say you?
Lav. I say, no;

I have been broad awake two hours and more.

Sat. Come on then, horse and chariots let us
have,

And to our sport:—Madam, now shall ye see
Our Roman hunting. [To TAMORA.

Mar. I have dogs, my lord,
Will rouse the proudest panther in the chase
And climb the highest promontory top.

Tit. And I have horse will follow where the
game [plain.

Makes way, and run like swallows o'er the
Dem. Chiron, we hunt not, we, with horse
nor hound,

But hope to pluck a dainty doe to ground.
[Exit.

SCENE III.—A desert Part of the Forest.
Enter AARON, with a Bag of Gold.

Aar. He, that had wit, would think that I
had none,

To bury so much gold under a tree,
And never after to inherit* it.

Let him, that thinks of me so abjectly,
Know, that this gold must coin a stratagem;
Which cunningly effected, will beget
A very excellent piece of villany;

And so repose, sweet gold, for their unrest,†
[Hides the Gold.

That have their alms out of the empress' chest.
Enter TAMORA.

Tam. My lovely Aaron, wherefore look'st
thou sad,

* Possess. † Disquiet.

When every thing doth make a gleeful boast?
The birds chant melody on every bush;
The snake lies rolled in the cheerful sun;
The green leaves quiver with the cooling wind,
And make a chequer'd shadow on the ground:
Under their sweet shade, Aaron, let us sit,
And—whilst the babbling echo mock's the
hounds,

Replying shrilly to the well-tun'd horns,
As if a double hunt were heard at once,—
Let us sit down and mark their yelling noise:

And—after conflict, such as was supposed:
The wandering prince of Dido once enjoy'd,
When with a happy storm they were surpris'd,
And curtain'd with a counsel-keeping cave,—
We may, each wreathed in the other's arms,
Our pastimes done, possess a golden slumber;

While hounds, and horns, and sweet melo-
dious birds,

Be unto us, as is a nurse's song
Of lullaby, to bring her babe asleep.

Aar. Madam, though Venus govern your
desires,

Saturn is dominator over mine:
What signifies my deadly-standing eye,
My silence, and my cloudy melancholy?
My fleece of woolly hair that now uncurls,
Even as an adder, when she doth unroll
To do some fatal execution?

No, madam, these are no venereal signs;
Vengeance is in my heart, death in my hand,
Blood and revenge are hammering in my head.
Hark, Tamora,—the empress of my soul,
Which never hopes more heaven than rests in
thee,—

This is the day of doom for Bassianus;
His Philomel* must lose her tongue to-day:
Thy sons make pillage of her chastity,
And wash their hands in Bassianus' blood.

Seest thou this letter? Take it up I pray thee,
And give the king this fatal-plotted scroll:—
Now question me no more, we are espied;
Here comes a parcel † of our hopeful booty,
Which dreads not yet their lives' destruction.

Tam. Ah, my sweet Moor, sweeter to me
than life!

Aar. No more, great empress, Bassianus
comes:

Be cross with him; and I'll go fetch thy sons
To back thy quarrels, whatsoever they be.
[Exit.

Enter BASSIANUS and LAVINIA.

Bas. Who have we here? Rome's royal em-
press,

Unfurnish'd of her well-beseeming troop?
Or is it Dian, habited like her;
Who hath abandoned her holy groves,
To see the general hunting in this forest?

Tam. Saucy controller of our private steps!
Had I the power, that, some say, Dian had,
Thy temples should be planted presently
With horns, as was Actæon's; and the hounds
Should drive upon thy new transformed limbs,
Unmannerly intruder as thou art!

Lav. Under your patience, gentle empress,
'Tis thought you have a goodly gift in horning;
And to be doubted, that your Moor and you
Are singled forth to try experiments: [day!
Jove shield your husband from his hounds to-
'Tis pity, they should take him for a stag.

Bas. Believe me, queen, your swarth Cim-
merian

Doth make your honour of his body's hue,
Spotted, detested, and abominable.

* See Ovid's Metamorphoses, Book VI. † Part.

Why are you sequester'd from all your train?
Dismounted from your snow-white goodly
steed,

And wander'd hither to an obscure plot,
Accompanied with a barbarous Moor,
If foul desire had not conducted you?

Lav. And, being interrupted in your sport,
Great reason that my noble lord be rated
For sauciness.—I pray you, let us hence,
And let her 'joy her raven-colour'd love;
This valley fits the purpose passing well.

Bas. The king, my brother, shall have note
of this.

Lav. Ay, for these slips have made him not-
ed long:

Good king! to be so mightily abus'd!

Tam. Why have I patience to endure all this?

Enter CHIRON and DEMETRIUS.

Dem. How now, dear sovereign, and our
gracious mother,

Why doth your highness look so pale and wan?

Tam. Have I not reason, think you to look
pale?

These two have 'tic'd me hither to this place,
A baren detested vale, you see, it is:
The trees, though summer, yet forlorn and lean,
O'ercome with moss, and baleful misletoe.

Here never shines the sun; here nothing
breeds,

Unless the nightly owl, or fatal raven.

And, when they show'd me this abhorred pit,
They told me, here, at dead time of the night,
A thousand fiends, a thousand hissing snakes,
Ten thousand swelling toads, as many ur-
chins,*

Would make such fearful and confused cries,
As any mortal body, hearing it,
Should straight fall mad, or else die suddenly.
No sooner had they told this hellish tale,
But straight they told me, they would bind me
Unto the body of a dismal yew; [here

And leave me to this miserable death.

And then they call'd me, foul adulteress,
Lascivious Goth, and all the bitterest terms
That ever ear did hear to such effect.

And, had you not by wondrous fortune come,
This vengeance on me had they executed:
Revenge it, as you love your mother's life,
Or be not henceforth call'd my children.

Dem. This is a witness that I am thy son.

[*Stabs BASSIANUS.*

Chi. And this for me, struck home to show
my strength. [*Stabbing him likewise.*

Lav. Ay, come, Semiramis,—nay, barbarous
Tamora!

For no name fits thy nature but thy own!

Tam. Give me thy poinard; you shall know,
my boys, [wrong.

Your mother's hand shall right your mother's
Dem. Stay, madam, here is more belongs
to her; [straw:

First, thrash the corn, then after burn the
This minion stood upon her chastity,
Upon her nuptial vow, her loyalty,
And with that painted hope braves your
mightiness:

And shall she carry this unto her grave?

Chi. An if she do, I would I were a
eunuch.

Drag hence her husband to some secret hole,
And make his dead trunk pillow to our lust.

Tam. But when you have the honey you de-
sire,

Let not this wasp outlive, us both to sting.

* Hedge-hogs.

Chi. I warrant you madam; we will make
that sure.—

Come, mistress, now perforce we will enjoy
That nice-preserved honesty of yours.

Lav. O Tamora! thou bear'st a woman's
face,—

Tam. I will not hear her speak; away with
her.

Lav. Sweet lords, entreat her hear me but a
word.

Dem. Listen, fair madam: Let it be your
glory

To see her tears: but be your heart to them,
As unrelenting flint to drops of rain.

Lav. When did the tiger's young ones teach
the dam?

O, do not learn her wrath; she taught it
thee:

The milk, thou suck'dst from her, did turn to
marble;

Even at thy teat thou hadst thy tyranny.—

Yet every mother breeds not sons alike;
Do thou entreat her show a woman's pity.

[*To CHIRON.*

Chi. What! would'st thou have me prove
myself a bastard?

Lav. 'Tis true; the raven doth not hatch a
lark:

Yet I have heard, (O could I find it now!)

The lion mov'd with pity, did endure

To have his princely paws par'd all away.

Some say that ravens foster forlorn children,
The whilst their own birds famish in their
nests:

O, be to me, though thy hard heart say no,

Nothing so kind, but something pitiful!

Tam. I know not what it means; away
with her.

Lav. O, let me teach thee: for my father's
sake,

That gave thee life, when well he might have
slain thee,

Be not obdurate, open thy deaf ears.

Tam. Had thou in person ne'er offended me,
Even for his sake am I pitiless:—

Remember, boys, I pour'd forth tears in vain,

To save your brother from the sacrifice;

But fierce Andronicus would not relent.

Therefore away with her, and use her as you
will;

The worse to her, the better lov'd of me.

Lav. O Tamora, be call'd a gentle queen,
And with thine own hands kill me in this place:

For 'tis not life, that I have begg'd so long;
Poor I was slain, when Bassianus died.

Tam. What begg'st thou then; fond woman,
let me go.

Lav. 'Tis present death I beg; and one
thing more,

That womanhood denies my tongue to tell:
O keep me from their worse than killing lust,

And tumble me into some loathsome pit;

Where never man's eye may behold my body:
Do this, and be a charitable murderer.

Tam. So should I rob my sweet sons of
their fee:

No, let them satisfy their lust on thee.

Dem. Away, for thou hast staid us here too
long.

Lav. No grace? no womanhood? Ah,
beastly creature!

The blot and enemy to our general name!

Confusion fall—

Chi. Nay, then I'll stop your mouth:—
Bring thou her husband;

[*Dragging off LAVINIA.*

This is the hole where Aaron bid us hide him.

[*Exeunt.*]

Tam. Farewell, my sons: see that you make her sure:

Ne'er let my heart know merry cheer indeed,
Till all the Andronici be made away.

Now will I hence to seek my lovely Moor,
And let my spleenful sons this trull deflower.

[*Exit.*]

SCENE IV.—*The same.*

Enter AARON, with QUINTUS and MARTIUS.

Aar. Come on, my lords; the better foot before:

Straight will I bring you to the loathsome pit,
Where I espy'd the panther fast asleep.

Quin. My sight is very dull, whate'er it bodes.

Mart. And mine, I promise you; wer't not for shame,

Well could I leave our sport to sleep awhile.

[*MARTIUS Falls into the Pit.*]

Quin. What art thou fallen? What subtle hole is this,

Whose mouth is cover'd with rude-growing
Upon whose leaves are drops of new-shed blood,

As fresh as morning's dew distill'd on flowers?
A very fatal place it seems to me:—

Speak, brother, hast thou hurt thee with the

Mart. O brother, with the dimmest object
That ever eye, with sight, made heart lament.

Aar. [*Aside.*] Now will I fetch the king to find them here;

That he thereby may give a likely guess,
How these were they that made away his brother.

Mart. Why dost not comfort me, and help me out

From this unhallow'd and blood-stained hole?

Quin. I am surprised with an uncouth fear:
A chilling sweat o'er-runs my trembling joints;
My heart suspects more than mine eye can see.

Mart. To prove thou hast a true-divining heart,

Aaron and thou look down into this den,
And see a fearful sight of blood and death.

Quin. Aaron is gone; and my compassionate heart

Will not permit mine eyes once to behold
The thing, wherewith it trembles by surmise:

O, tell me how it is; for ne'er till now
Was I a child, to fear I know not what.

Mart. Lord Bassianus lies embrewed here,
All on a heap, like to a slaughter'd lamb,
In this detested, dark, blood-drinking pit.

Quin. If it be dark, how dost thou know 'tis he?

Mart. Upon his bloody finger he doth wear
A precious ring, that lightens all the hole,

Which, like a taper in some monument,
Dost shine upon the dead man's earthy cheeks,

And shows the ragged entrails of this pit:
So pale did shine the moon on Pyramus,

When he by night lay bath'd in maiden blood.
O brother, help me with thy fainting hand,—

If fear hath made thee faint, as me it hath,—
Out of this fell devouring receptacle,
As hateful as Cocytus' misty mouth.

Quin. Reach me thy hand, that I may help thee out;

Or, wanting strength to do thee so much good,
I may be pluck'd into the swallowing womb

Of this deep pit, poor Bassianus' grave.
I have no strength to pluck thee to the brink.

Mart. Nor I no strength to climb without thy help.

Quin. Thy hand once more; I will not loose
Till thou art here aloft, or I below: [again,
Thou canst not come to me, I come to thee.

[*Falls in.*]

Enter SATURNINUS and AARON.

Sat. Along with me:—I'll see what hole is here,

And what he is, that now is leap'd into it.
Say, who art thou, that lately didst descend
Into this gaping hollow of the earth?

Mart. The unhappy son of old Andronicus;
Brought thither in a most unlucky hour,
To find thy brother Bassianus dead.

Sat. My brother dead? I know, thou dost but jest:

He and his lady both are at the lodge,
Upon the north side of this pleasant chase;
'Tis not an hour since I left him there.

Mart. We know not where you left him all alive,

But, out alas! here have we found him dead.

Enter TAMORA, with Attendants; TITUS ANDRONICUS, and LUCIUS.

Tam. Where is my lord, the king?

Sat. Here, Tamora; though griev'd with killing grief.

Tam. Where is thy brother Bassianus?

Sat. Now to the bottom dost thou search my wound;

Poor Bassianus here lies murdered.

Tam. Then all too late I bring this fatal writ,
[*Giving a Letter.*]

The complot of this timeless* tragedy;
And wonder greatly, that man's face can fold
In pleasing smiles such murderous tyranny.

Sat. [*Reads.*] *An if we miss to meet him handsomely,—*

Sweet huntsman, Bassianus 'tis, we mean,—
Do thou so much as dig the grave for him;

Thou know'st our meaning: Look for thy reward
Among the nettles at the elder tree,

Which overshades the mouth of that same pit,
Where we decreed to bury Bassianus.

Do this, and purchase us thy lasting friends.

O, Tamora! was ever heard the like!

This is the pit, and this the elder tree:

Look, Sirs, if you can find the huntsman out,
That should have murder'd Bassianus here.

Aar. My gracious lord, here is the bag of gold.

Sat. Two of thy whelps, [*To Tit.*] fell curs of bloody kind,

Have here bereft my brother of his life:—

Sirs, drag them from the pit unto the prison;
There let them bide, until we have devis'd

Some never-heard-of torturing pain for them.

Tam. What, are they in this pit? O wondrous thing!

How easily murder is discover'd!

Tit. High emperor, upon my feeble knee
I beg this boon, with tears not lightly shed,

That this fell fault of my accursed sons,
Accursed, if the fault be prov'd in them,—

Sat. If it be prov'd! you see, it is apparent.—

Who should this letter? Tamora, was it you?

Tam. Andronicus himself did take it up.

Tit. I did, my lord: yet let me be their bail:

For by my father's reverend tomb, I vow,
They shall be ready at your highness' will,
To answer their suspicion with their lives.

Sat. Thou shalt not bail them: see, thou follow me. [devers: Some bring the murder'd body, some the murderer: Let them not speak a word, the guilt is plain; For, by my soul, were there worse end than death,

That end upon them should be executed.

Tam. Andronicus, I will entreat the king; Fear not thy sons, they shall do well enough.

Tit. Come, Lucius, come; stay not to talk with them. [Exeunt severally.]

SCENE V.—The same.

Enter DEMETRIUS and CHIRON, with LAVINIA, ravished; her Hands cut off, and her Tongue cut out.

Dem. So now go tell, an if thy tongue can speak, [thee.]

Who 'twas that cut thy tongue, and ravish'd Chi. Write down thy mind, bewray thy meaning so; [scribe.]

And if thy stumps will let thee, play the Dem. See, how with signs and tokens she can scowl.

Chi. Go home, call for sweet water, wash thy hands.

Dem. She hath no tongue to call, nor hands to wash;

And so let's leave her to her silent walks.

Chi. An 'twere my case, I should go hang myself.

Dem. If thou hadst hands to help thee knit the cord.

[Exeunt DEMETRIUS and CHIRON.]

Enter MARCUS.

Mar. Who's this,—my niece, that flies away so fast?

Cousin, a word; Where is your husband?—If I do dream, 'would all my wealth would wake me!

If I do wake, some planet strike me down, That I may slumber in eternal sleep!—

Speak, gentle niece, what stern ungentle hands Have lopp'd, and hew'd, and made thy body bare

Of her two branches? those sweet ornaments, Whose circling shadows kings have sought to sleep in;

And might not gain so great a happiness, As half thy love! Why dost not speak to me?—

Alas, a crimson river of warm blood, Like to a bubbling fountain stirr'd with wind,

Do rise and fall between thy rosed lips, Coming and going with thy honey breath.

But sure, some Tereus hath deflower'd thee; And, lest thou should'st detect him, cut thy tongue.

Ah, now thou turn'st away thy face for shame! And, notwithstanding all this loss of blood,—

As from a conduit with three issuing spouts,— Yet do thy cheeks look red as Titan's face,

Blushing to be encounter'd with a cloud. Shall I speak for thee? shall I say, 'tis so?

O, that I knew thy heart; and knew the beast, That I might rail at him to ease my mind!

Sorrow concealed, like an oven stopp'd, Doth burn the heart to cinders where it is.

Fair Philomela, she but lost her tongue, And in a tedious sampler sew'd her mind:

But, lovely niece, that mean is cut from thee; A craftier Tereus has thou met withal,

And he hath cut those pretty fingers off, That could have better sew'd than Philomel.

O, had the monster seen those lily hands Tremble, like aspen leaves, upon a lute,

And make the silken strings delight to kiss them;

He would not then have touch'd them for his Or, had he heard the heavenly harmony,

Which that sweet tongue hath made, [asleep, He would have dropp'd his knife, and fell

As Cerberus at the Thracian poet's* feet. Come, let us go, and make thy father blind:

For such a sight will blind a father's eye: One hour's storm will drown the fragrant

meads; [eyes? What will whole-months of tears thy father's

Do not draw back, for we will mourn with thee;

O, could our mourning ease thy misery? [Exeunt.]

ACT III.

SCENE I.—Rome.—A Street.

Enter SENATORS, TRIBUNES, and Officers of Justice with MARTIUS and QUINTUS, bound, passing on to the Place of Execution; TITUS going before, pleading.

Tit. Hear me, grave fathers! noble tribunes stay!

For pity of mine age, whose youth was spent In dangerous wars, whilst you securely slept;

For all my blood in Rome's great quarrelsh'd; For all the frosty nights that I have watch'd;

And for these bitter tears, which now you see Filling the aged wrinkles in my cheeks;

Be pitiful to my condemned sons, Whose souls are not corrupted as 'tis thought!

For two and twenty sons I never wept, Because they died in honour's lofty bed:

For these, these, tribunes, in the dust I write [Throwing himself on the Ground.]

My heart's deep langour, and my soul's sad tears.

Let my tears stanch the earth's dry appetite; My sons' sweet blood will make it shame and blush.

[Exeunt SENATORS, TRIBUNES, &c. with the Prisoners.]

O earth, I will befriend thee more with rain, That shall distill from these two ancient urns,

Than youthful April shall with all his showers: In summer's drought, I'll drop upon thee still;

In winter, with warm tears, I'll melt the snow, And keep eternal spring-time on thy face,

So thou refuse to drink my dear sons' blood.

Enter Lucius, with his Sword drawn.

O, reverend tribunes! gentle aged men! Unbind my sons, reverse the doom of death;

And let me say, that never wept before, My tears are now prevailing orators.

Luc. O, noble father, you lament in vain; The tribunes hear you not, no man is by,

And you recount your sorrows to a stone.

Tit. Ah, Lucius, for thy brothers let me plead:

Grave tribunes, once more I entreat of you.

Luc. My gracious lord, no tribune hears you speak.

Tit. Why, 'tis no matter, man: if they did hear,

They would not mark me, or if they did mark, All bootless to them, they'd not pity me.

Therefore I tell my sorrows to the stones; Who, though they cannot answer my distress,

Yet in some sort they're better than the tribunes,

For that they will not intercept my tale:

* Orpheus.

When I do weep, they humbly at my feet
Receive my tears, and seem to weep with me;
And, were they but attired in grave weeds,
Rome could afford no tribune like to these.
A stone is soft as wax, tribunes more hard
than stones:

A stone is silent, and offendeth not; [death.
And tribunes with their tongues doom men to
But wherefore stand'st thou with thy weapon
drawn?

Luc. To rescue my two brothers from their
death:

For which attempt, the judges have pronounc'd
My everlasting doom of banishment.

Tit. O happy man! they have befriended thee.
Why, foolish Lucius, dost thou not perceive,
That Rome is but a wilderness of tigers?
Tigers must prey; and Rome affords no prey,
But me and mine: How happy art thou then,
From these devourers to be banished?
But who comes with our brother Marcus here?

Enter MARCUS and LAVINIA.

Mar. Titus, prepare thy noble eyes to weep;
Or, if not so, thy noble heart to break;
I bring consuming sorrow to thine age.

Tit. Will it consume me? let me see it then.

Mar. This was thy daughter.

Tit. Why, Marcus, so she is.

Luc. Ah me! this object kills me!

Tit. Faint-hearted boy, arise, and look upon
her:—

Speak, my Lavinia, what accursed hand
Hath made thee handless in thy father's sight?
What fool hath added water to the sea?
Or brought a faggot to bright burning Troy?
My grief was at the height before thou cam'st,
And now, like Nilus,* it disdaineth bounds.—
Give me a sword, I'll chop off my hands too;
For they have fought for Rome, and all in vain;
And they have nurs'd this woe, in feeding life;
In bootless prayer have they been held up,
And they have serv'd me to effectless use:
Now, all the service I require of them
Is, that the one will help to cut the other.—
'Tis well, Lavinia, that thou hast no hands;
For hands, to do Rome service, are but vain.

Luc. Speak, gentle sister, who hath martyr'd
thee?

Mar. O, that delightful engine of her
thoughts. [quenece,

That blabb'd them with such pleasing elo-
Is torn from forth that pretty hollow cage:
Where, like a sweet melodious bird, it sung
Sweet varied notes, enchanting every ear!

Luc. O, say thou for her, who hath done
this deed?

Mar. O, thus I found her, straying in the
park,

Seeking to hide herself, as doth the deer,
That hath receiv'd some unrecuring wound.

Tit. It was my deer; and he that wounded
her,

Hath hurt me more, than had he kill'd me dead:
For now I stand as one upon a rock,
Environ'd with a wilderness of sea; [wave,
Who marks the waxing tide grow wave by
Expecting ever when some envious surge
Will in his brinish bowels swallow him.

This way to death my wretched sons are gone;
Here stands my other son, a banish'd man;
And here, my brother, weeping at my woes;
But that, which gives my soul the greatest
spurn,

Is dear Lavinia, dearer than my soul.—
Had I but seen thy picture in this plight.

* The river Nile.

It would have madded me; What shall I do
Now I behold thy lively body so?
Thou hast no hands, to wipe away thy tears;
Nor tongue, to tell me who hath martyr'd thee:
Thy husband he is dead; and, for his death,
Thy brothers are condemn'd, and dead by
this:—

Look, Marcus! ah, son Lucius, look on her!
When I did name her brothers, then fresh
tears

Stood on her cheeks; as doth the honey dew
Upon a gather'd lily almost wither'd.

Mar. Perchance, she weeps because they
kill'd her husband:

Perchance, because she knows them innocent.

Tit. If they did kill thy husband, then be
joyful,

Because the law hath ta'en revenge on them.—
No, no, they would not do so foul a deed;

Witness the sorrow that their sister makes.—
Gentle Lavinia, let me kiss thy lips;

Or make some sign how I may do thee ease:
Shall thy good uncle, and thy brother Lucius,
And thou, and I, sit round about some foun-
tain;

Looking all downwards, to behold thy cheeks
How they are stain'd; like meadows, yet not
dry

With miry slime left on them by a flood?

And in the fountain shall we gaze so long,
Till the fresh taste be taken from that clearness,
And made a brine-pit with our bitter tears?

Or shall we cut away our hands, like thine?
Or shall we bite our tongues, and in dumb
shows

Pass the remainder of our hateful days?

What shall we do? let us, that have our tongues,
Plot some device of further misery,
To make us wonder'd at in time to come.

Luc. Sweet father, cease your tears; for, at
your grief,

See, how my wretched sister sobs and weeps.

Mar. Patience, dear niece:—good Titus,
dry thine eyes.

Tit. Ah, Marcus, Marcus! brother, well I
wot,*

Thy napkin† cannot drink a tear of mine,
For thou, poor man, hast drown'd it with thine
own.

Luc. Ah, my Lavinia, I will wipe thy cheeks.

Tit. Mark, Marcus, mark! I understand
her signs:

Had she a tongue to speak, now would she say
That to her brother which I said to thee;

His napkin, with his true tears all bewet,
Can do no service on her sorrowful cheeks.

O, what a sympathy of woe is this?

As far from help as limbo is from bliss!

Enter AARON.

Aar. Titus Andronicus, my lord the emperor
Sends thee this word,—That, if thou love thy
sons,

Let Marcus, Lucius, or thyself old Titus,

Or any one of you, chop off your hand,

And send it to the king: he for the same,

Will send thee hither both thy sons alive;

And that shall be the ransom for their fault.

Tit. O, gracious emperor! O, gentle Aaron!

Did ever raven sing so like a lark,

That gives sweet tidings of the sun's uprise?

With all my heart, I'll send the emperor

My hand:

Good Aaron, wilt thou help to chop it off?

Luc. Stay, father; for that noble hand of
thine,

* Know.

† Handkerchief

That hath thrown down so many enemies,
Shall not beset : my hand will serve the turn ;
My youth can better spare my blood than you ;
And therefore mine shall save my brother's
lives.

Mar. Which of our hands hath not defended
Rome,

And rear'd aloft the bloody battle-axe,
Writing destruction on the enemy's castle ?
O, none of both but are of high desert :
My hand hath been but idle ; let it serve
To ransom my two nephews from their death ;
Then have I kept it to a worthy end.

Mar. Nay, come agree whose hand shall go
along,

For fear they die before their pardon come.

Mar. My hand shall go.

Luc. By heaven, it shall not go.

Tit. Sirs, strive no more ; such wither'd herbs
as these

Are meet for plucking up, and therefore mine

Luc. Sweet father, if I shall be thought thy
son,

Let me redeem my brothers both from death.

Mar. And, for our father's sake, and mother's
care

Now let me show a brother's love to thee.

Tit. Agree between you ; I will spare my
hand.

Luc. Then I'll go fetch an axe.

Mar. But I will use the axe.

[*Exeunt LUCIUS and MARCUS.*]

Tit. Come hither, Aaron ; I'll deceive them
both ;

Lend me thy hand, and I will give thee mine.

Aar. If that be call'd deceit, I will be honest,

And never, whilst I live, deceive men so :—

But I'll deceive you in another sort, [*Aside.*]

And that you'll say, ere half an hour can pass.

[*He cuts off TITUS' Hand.*]

Enter LUCIUS and MARCIUS.

Tit. Now, stay your strife ; what shall be, is
despatch'd.—

Good Aaron, give his majesty my hand :

Tell him, it was a hand that warded him

From thousand dangers, bid him bury it ;

More hath it merited, that let it have.

As for my sons, say, I account of them

As jewels purchas'd at an easy price ;

And yet dear too, because I bought mine own.

Aar. I go Andronicus : and for thy hand,

Look by and by to have thy sons with thee :—

Their heads, I mean.—O, how this villany

[*Aside.*]

Doth fat me with the very thoughts of it !

Let fools do good, and fair men call for grace

Aaron will have his soul black like his face.

[*Exit.*]

Tit. O, here I lift this one hand up to heaven,

And bow this feeble ruin to the earth :

If any power pities wretched tears, [me ?]

To that I call ;—What, wilt thou kneel with

[*To LAVINIA.*]

Do then, dear heart ; for heaven shall hear our
prayers ;

Or with our sighs we'll breathe the welkin dim,

And stain the sun with fog, as sometime clouds,

When they do hug him in their melting bosoms.

Mar. O ! brother, speak with possibilities,

And do not break into these deep extremes.

Tit. Is not my sorrow deep, having no

bottom ?

Then be my passions* bottomless with them.

Mar. But yet let reason govern thy lament.

Tit. If there were reason for these miseries,

Then into limits could I bind my woes :

When heaven doth weep, doth not the earth
o'erflow ?

If the winds rage, doth not the sea wax mad,
Threat'ning the welkin with his big-swoln
face ?

And wilt thou have a reason for this coil ?^s

I am the sea ; hark, how her sighs do blow !

She is the weeping welkin, I the earth :

Then must my sea be moved with her sighs ;

Then must my earth with her continual tears

Become a deluge, overflow'd and drown'd :

For why my bowels cannot hide her woes,

But like a drunkard must I vomit them.

Then give me leave ; for losers will have leave

To ease their stomachs with their bitter tongues.

*Enter a MESSENGER, with two Heads and a
Hand.*

Mess. Worthy Andronicus, ill art thou repaid

For that good hand thou sent'st the emperor.

Here are the heads of thy two noble sons ;

And here's thy hand, in scorn to thee sent
back ;

Thy griefs their sports, thy resolution mock'd ;

That woe is me to think upon thy woes,

More than remembrance of my father's death.

[*Exit.*]

Mar. Now let hot Ætna cool in Sicily,

And be my heart an ever-burning hell !

These miseries are more than may be borne !

To weep with them that weep doth ease some

But sorrow flouted at is double death. [*deal,*]

Luc. Ah, that this sight should make so deep
a wound,

And yet detested life not shrink thereat !

That ever death should let life bear his name,

Where life hath no more interest but to breathe !

[*LAVINIA kisses him.*]

Mar. Alas, poor heart, that kiss is comfort

As frozen water to a starved snake. [*less,*]

Tit. When will this fearful slumber have an
end ?

Mar. Now, farewell, flattery : Die, Andro-
nicious ; [*heads ;*]

Thou dost not slumber : see, thy two sons'

Thy warlike hand ; thy mangled daughter here ;

Thy other banish'd son, with this dear sight

Struck pale and bloodless ; and thy brother, I,

Even like a stony image, cold and numb.

Ah ! now no more will I control thy griefs :

Rent off thy silver hair, thy other hand [*sight*]

Gnawing with thy teeth ; and be this dismal

The closing up of our most wretched eyes !

Now is the time to storm ; why art thou still ?

Tit. Ha, ha, ha !

Mar. Why dost thou laugh ? it fits not with
this hour.

Tit. Why, I have not another tear to shed :

Besides this sorrow is an enemy.

And would usurp upon my watery eyes,

And make them blind with tributary tears ;

Then which way shall I find revenge's cave ?

For these two heads do seem to speak to me ;

And threaten me, I shall never come to bliss,

Till all these mischiefs be return'd again,

Even in their throats that have committed them.

Come, let me see what task I have to do.—

You heavy people, circle me about ;

That I may turn me to each one of you,

And swear unto my soul to right your wrongs.

The vow is made.—Come, brother, take a head ;

And in this hand the other will I bear :

Lavinia, thou shalt be employed in these

things ;

* Sufferings.

* Stir, bustle.

Bear thou my hand, sweet wench, between thy teeth.

As for thee, boy, go, get thee from my sight; Thou art an exile, and thou must not stay: Hie to the Goths, and raise an army there: And if you love me, as I think you do, Let's kiss and part, for we have much to do.

[*Exeunt* TITUS, MARCUS, and LAVINIA.]

Luc. Farewell, Andronicus, my noble father;

The woeful'st man that ever liv'd in Rome! Farewell, proud Rome! till Lucius come again, He leaves his pledges dearer than his life.

Farewell, Lavinia, my noble sister: O, 'would thou wert as thou 't'fore hast been! But now nor Lucius, nor Lavinia lives, But in oblivion, and hateful griefs.

If Lucius live, he will requite your wrongs; And Make proud Saturninus and his empress Beg at the gates, like Tarquin and his queen. Now will I to the Goths, and raise a power, 'To be reveng'd on Rome and Saturnine. [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—A Room in TITUS' House.—
A Banquet set out.

Enter TITUS, MARCUS, LAVINIA, and young LUCIUS, a boy.

Tit. So, so; now sit: and look, you eat no more

Than will preserve just so much strength in us As will revenge these bitter woes of ours. Marcus, unknot that sorrow-wreathen knot; Thy niece and I, poor creatures, want our hands,

And cannot passionate our tenfold grief With folded arms. This poor right hand of Is left to tyrannise upon my breast; [mine And when my heart, all mad with misery, Beats in this hollow prison of my flesh, Then thus I thump it down.— Thou map of woe, that thus doth talk in sign!

[*To* LAVINIA.]

When thy poor heart beats with outrageous beating,

Thou canst not strike it thus to make it still. Wound it with sighing, girl, kill it with groans; Or get some little knife between thy teeth, And just against thy heart make thou a hole; That all the tears that thy poor eyes let fall, May run into that sink, and soaking in, Drown the lamenting fool in sea-salt tears.

Mar. Fic, brother, fie! teach her not thus to Such violent hands upon her tender life. [*lay*

Tit. How now! has sorrow made thee dote already?

Why, Marcus, no man should be mad but I. What violent hands can she lay on her life! Ah, wherefore dost thou urge the name of hands;—

To bid Æneas tell the tale twice o'er, How Troy was burnt and he made miserable? O, handle not the theme, to talk of hands; Lest we remember still that we have none.— Fie, fie, how frantically I square my talk!

As if we should forget we had no hands. If Marcus did not name the word of hands!— Come, let's fall to; and, gentle girl, eat this:— Here is no drink! Hark, Marcus, what she says;—

I can interpret all her martyr'd signs;— She says, she drinks no other drink but tears, Brew'd with her sorrows, mesh'd upon her cheeks:—

Speechless complainer, I will learn thy thought; In thy dumb action will I be as perfect,

* An allusion to *Æneid* 2.

As begging hermits in their holy prayers:

Thou shalt not sigh, nor hold thy thumps to heaven,

Nor wink, nor nod, nor kneel, nor make a sign, But I, of these, will wrest an alphabet. [*ing.*

And, by still* practice, learn to know thy mean-
Boy. Good grandsire, leave these bitter deep laments:

Make my aunt merry with some pleasing tale.

Mar. Alas, the tender boy, in passion mov'd, Doth weep to see his grandsire's heaviness.

Tit. Peace, tender sapling; thou art made of tears,

And tears will quickly melt thy life away.—

[*MARCUS Strikes the Dish with a Knife.*]

What dost thou strike at, Marcus, with thy knife?

Mar. At that that I have kill'd, my lord; a fly.

Tit. Out on thee, murderer! thou kill'st my heart;

Mine eyes are cloy'd with view of tyranny: A deed of death, done on the innocent, Becomes not Titus' brother: Get thee gone; I see thou art not for my company.

Mar. Alas my lord, I have but kill'd a fly.

Tit. But how, if that fly had a father and mother?

How would he hang his slender gilded wings, And buz lamenting doings in the air?

Poor harmless fly!

That with his pretty buzzing melody, Came here to make us merry; and thou hast kill'd him,

Mar. Pardon me, Sir; 'twas a black ill-favour'd fly, [*him.*]

Like to the empress' Moor; therefore I kill'd

Tit. O, O, O,

Then pardon me for reprehending thee, For thou hast done a charitable deed.

Give me thy knife, I will insult on him; Flattering myself, as if it were the Moor,

Come hither purposely to poison me.— There's for thyself, and that's for Tamora.— Ah, sirrah! +—

Yet I do think we are not brought so low, But that, between us, we can kill a fly,

That comes in likeness of a coal-black Moor.

Mar. Alas, poor man! grief has so wrought on him,

He takes false shadows for true substances.

Tit. Come, take away.—Lavinia, go with me: I'll to thy closet; and go read with thee

Sad stories, chanced to the times of old.— Come, boy, and go with me; thy sight is young,

And thou shalt read, when mine begins to dazzle. [*Exeunt.*]

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—The same.—Before TITUS' House.

Enter TITUS and MARCUS. Then enter young LUCIUS, LAVINIA running after him.

Boy. Help, grandsire, help! my aunt Lavinia Follows me every where, I know not why:—

Good uncle Marcus, see how swift she comes! Alas sweet aunt I know not what you mean.

Mar. Stand by me, Lucius; do not fear thine aunt.

Tit. She loves thee, boy, too well to do thee harm.

Boy. Ay, when my father was in Rome, she did.

Mar. What means my niece Lavinia by these signs?

* Constant or continual practice.

+ This was formerly not a disrespectful expression.

Tit. Fear her not, *Lucius*:—Somewhat doth she mean: [thee:]

See, *Lucius*, see, how much she makes of Some whither would she have thee go with her. Ah, boy, *Cornelia* never with more care Read to her sons, than she hath read to thee, Sweet poetry, and *Tully's Orator*.* [thus?] Canst thou not guess wherefore she plies thee
Boy. My lord, I know not, I, nor can I guess,

Unless some fit or frenzy do possess her: For I have heard my grandsire say full oft, Extremity of griefs would make men mad; And I have read that *Hecuba* of *Troy* [fear; Ran mad through sorrow: That made me to Although, my lord, I know, my noble aunt Loves me as dear as e'er my mother did, And would not, but in fury, fright my youth: Which made me down to throw my books, and fly; [aunt:]

Causeless, perhaps: But pardon me, sweet And, madam, if my uncle *Marcus* go, I will most willingly attend your ladyship.

Mar. *Lucius*, I will.

[*LAVINIA* turns over the Books which *LUCIUS* has let fall.

Tit. How now, *Lavinia*?—*Marcus*, what means this?

Some book there is that she desires to see:— Which is it, girl, of these?—Open them, boy.— But thou art deeper read, and better skill'd; Come, and take choice of all my library, And so beguile thy sorrow, till the heavens Reveal the damn'd contriver of this deed.— Why lifts she up her arms in sequence thus?

Mar. I think, she means, that there was more than one [was:— Confederate in the fact:—Ay, more there Or else to heaven she heaves them for revenge.

Tit. *Lucius*, what book is that she tosseth so?

Boy. Grandsire, 'tis *Ovid's Metamorphosis*; My mother gave't me.

Mar. For love of her that's gone, Perhaps she cull'd it from among the rest.

Tit. Soft! see, how busily she turns the Help her:— [leaves:] What would she find?—*Lavinia*, shall I read? This is the tragic tale of *Philomel*, And treats of *Tereus' treason*, and his rape; And rape, I fear, was root of thine annoy.

Mar. See, brother, see; note, how she quotes the leaves.

Tit. *Lavinia*, wert thou thus surpris'd, sweet girl,

Ravish'd and wrong'd, as *Philomela* was, Forc'd in the ruthless, vast, and gloomy See, see!— [woods?—

Ay, such a place there is, where we did hunt, O, had we never, never, hunted there! Pattern'd by that the poet here describes, By nature made for murders, and for rapes.

Mar. O, why should nature build so foul a den,

Unless the gods delight in tragedies!

Tit. Give signs, sweet girl,—for here are none but friends,—

What Roman lord it was durst do the deed: Or slunk not Saturnine, as *Tarquin* erst, That left the camp to sin in *Lucrece' bed*?

Mar. Sit down, sweet niece;—brother, sit down by me.—

Apollo, *Pallas*, *Jove*, or *Mercury*, Inspire me, that I may this treason find!—

* *Tully's Treatise on Eloquence*, entitled *Orator*.
† *Succession*. ‡ To quote is to observe. § Pitiless.

My lord, look here;—Look here, *Lavinia*: This sandy plot is plain; guide, if thou canst, This after me, when I have writ my name Without the help of any hand at all.

[He writes his Name with his Staff, and guides it with his Feet and Mouth.

Curs'd be that heart, that for'd us to this shift!— [last,

Write thou, good niece; and here display, at What God will have discover'd for revenge: Heaven guide thy pen to print thy sorrows plain,

That we may know the traitors, and the truth! [She takes the Staff in her Mouth, and guides it with her Stumps, and writes.

Tit. O, do you read my lord, what she hath *Stuprum—Chiron—Demetrius*. [writ?

Mar. What, what!—the lustful sons of *Tamora*

Performers of this heinous, bloody deed?

Tit. *Magne Dominator poli*,
Tam lentus audis scelera? tam lentus vides?

Mar. O, calm thee, gentle lord! although, I know,

There is enough written upon this earth, To stir a mutiny in the mildest thoughts, And arm the minds of infants to exclaims. My lord, kneel down with me; *Lavinia*, kneel; And kneel, sweet boy, the Roman *Hector's* hope;

And swear with me,—as with the woeful *fecere*,⁵ And father, of that chaste dishonour'd dame, Lord *Junius Brutus* swear for *Lucrece' rape*,— That we will prosecute, by good advice, Mortal revenge upon these traitorous *Goths*, And see their blood, or die with this reproach.

Tit. 'Tis sure enough, an you knew how, But if you hurt these bear-wards, then beware; [once,

The dam will wake; and, if she wind you She's with the lion deeply still in league, And lulls him whilst she playeth on her back, And, when he sleeps, will she do what she list. You're a young huntsman, *Marcus*; let it alone;

And, come, I will go get a leaf of brass, And with a gad of steel will write these words, And lay it by: the angry northern wind Will blow these sands, like *Sybil's* leaves, abroad, say you?

And where's your lesson then?—*Boy*, what *Boy.* I say, my lord, that if I were a man, Their mother's bed-chamber should not be safe For these bad-bondmen to the yoke of *Rome*.

Mar. Ay, that's my boy! thy father hath full oft

For this ungrateful country done the like.

Boy. And, uncle, so will I, an if I live.

Tit. Come, go with me into mine armoury; *Lucius*, I'll fit thee; and withal, my boy Shall carry from me to the empress' sons Presents, that I intend to send them both:

Come, come; thou'lt do thy message, wilt thou not?

Boy. Ay, with my dagger in their bosoms, grandsire.

Tit. No, boy, not so; I'll teach thee another course.

Lavinia, come:—*Marcus*, look to my house; *Lucius* and I'll go brave it at the court;

Ay, marry, will we, Sir: and we'll be waited on. [Exeunt *TITUS*, *LAVINIA*, and *BOY*.

Mar. O heavens, can you hear a good man groan,

* Husband.

† The point of a spear.

And not relent, or not compassion him?
 Marcus, attend him in his ecstasy;
 That hath more scars of sorrow in his heart,
 Than foe-men's marks upon his batter'd shield:
 But yet so just, that he will not revenge:—
 Revenge the heavens for old Andronicus!

[Exit.

SCENE II.—The same.—A Room in the Palace.

Enter AARON, CHIRON, and DEMETRIUS, at one Door; at another Door, young LUCIUS, and an Attendant, with a Bundle of Weapons, and Verses writ upon them.

Chi. Demetrius, here's the son of Lucius;
 He hath some message to deliver to us.

Aar. Ay, some mad message from his mad grandfather.

Boy. My lords, with all the humbleness I may,

I greet your honours from Andronicus;—
 And pray the Roman gods, confound you both.

[Aside.

Dem. Gramercy,* lovely Lucius: What's the news?

Boy. That you are both decipher'd, that's the news,

For villains mark'd with rape. [Aside.] May it please you,

My grandsire, well-advis'd, hath sent by me
 The goodliest weapons of his armoury,
 To gratify your honourable youth,
 The hope of Rome; for so he bade me say;
 And so I do, and with his gifts present
 Your lordships, that whenever you have need,
 You may be armed and appointed well:
 And so I leave you both, [Aside.] like bloody villains. [Exeunt Boy and Attendant.

Dem. What's here? A scroll; and written round about?

Let's see;

*Integer vitæ, scelerisque purus,**Non eget Mauri jaculis, nec arcu.*

Chi. O, 'tis a verse in Horace; I know it
 I read it in the grammar long ago. [well:

Aar. Ay, just!—a verse in Horace:—right,
 you have it.—

Now, what a thing it is to be an ass! [Aside.
 Here's no sound jest! the old man hath found
 their guilt; [lines,

And sends the weapons wrapp'd about with
 That wound, beyond their feeling, to the quick.
 But were our witty empress well-a-foot,
 She would applaud Andronicus' conceit.
 But let her rest in her unrest awhile.—

And now, young lords, was't not a happy star
 Led us to Rome, strangers, and, more than so,
 Captives, to be advanc'd to this height?

It did me good, before the Palace gate
 To brave the tribune in his brother's hearing.

Dem. But me more good, to see so great a
 Basely insinuate, and send us gifts. [lord

Aar. Had he not reason, lord Demetrius?
 Did you not use his daughter very friendly?

Dem. I would we had a thousand Roman
 dames

At such a bay, by turn to serve our lust.

Chi. A charitable wish, and full of love.

Aar. Here lacks but your mother for to say
 amen.

Chi. And that would she for twenty thou-
 sand more.

Dem. Come, let us go; and pray to all the
 For our beloved mother in her pains. [gods

Aar. Pray to the devils; the gods have
 given us o'er. [Aside. Flourish.

Dem. Why do the emperor's trumpets flourish
 thus?

Chi. Belike, for joy the emperor hath a son.

Dem. Soft who comes here?

Enter a NURSE, with a black-a-moor Child in
 her Arms.

Nur. Good morrow, lords:

O, tell me, did you see Aaron the Moor.

Aar. Well more, or less, or ne'er a whit at
 all,

Here Aaron is: and what with Aaron now?

Nur. O gentle Aaron, we are all undone!

Now help, or woe betide thee evermore!

Aar. Why, what a caterwauling dost thou
 keep! [arms!

What dost thou wrap and fumble in thine

Nur. O, that which I would hide from hea-
 ven's eye, [grace;—

Our empress' shame and stately Rome's dis-
 She is deliver'd, lords, she is deliver'd.

Aar. To whom?

Nur. I mean she's brought to bed.

Aar. Well, God,

Give her good rest! What hath he sent her?

Nur. A devil.

Aar. Why then she's the devil's dam; a joy-
 ful issue.

Nur. A joyless, dismal, black, and sorrowful
 issue:

Here is the babe, as loathsome as a toad
 Amongst the fairest breeders of our clime.

The empress sends it thee, thy stamp, thy seal,
 And bids thee christen it with thy dagger's
 point.

Aar. Out, out, you whore! is black so base
 a hue?— [sure.

Sweet blowe, you are a beauteous blossom.

Dem. Villain, what hast thou done?

Aar. Done! that which thou

Canst not undo.

Chi. Thou hast undone our mother.

Aar. Villain, I have done thy mother.

Dem. And therein, hellish dog, thou hast
 undone. [choice!

Woe to her chance, and damn'd her loathed
 Accurs'd the offspring of so foul a fiend!

Chi. It shall not live.

Aar. It shall not die.

Nur. Aaron it must: the mother will it so.

Aar. What, must it, nurse? then let no man
 Do execution on my flesh and blood. [but I,

Dem. I'll broach* the tadpole on my rapier's
 point; [patch it.

Nurse, give it me; my sword shall soon des-

Aar. Sooner this sword shall plough thy
 bowels up,

[Takes the Child from the Nurse and draws.

Stay, murderous villains! will you kill your
 brother?

Now, by the burning tapers of the sky,
 That shone so brightly when this boy was got,

He dies upon my scimitar's sharp point

That touches this my first-born son and heir!

I tell you, younglings, not Enceladus,†
 With all his threat'ning band of Typhon's
 brood,

Nor great Alcides,‡ nor the god of war,
 Shall seize this prey out of his father's hands.

What, what; ye sanguine, shallow-hearted
 boys! [signs!

Ye white limb'd walls! ye alehouse painted

Coal black is better than another hue,

In that it scorns to bear another hue:

* Spit. † A giant the son of Titan and Terra,

‡ Hercules.

For all the water in the ocean
Can never turn a swan's black legs to white,
Although she lave them hourly in the flood.
Tell the empress from me, I am of age
To keep mine own; excuse it how she can.

Dem. Wilt thou betray thy noble mistress
thus?

Aar. My mistress is my mistress; this, myself;

The vigour, and the picture of my youth:
This, before all the world, do I prefer;
This maugre* all the world, will I keep safe,
Or some of you shall smoke for it in Rome.

Dem. By this our mother is for ever sham'd.

Chi. Rome will despise her for this foul
escape.

Nur. The emperor, in his rage, will doom
her death.

Chi. I blush to think upon this ignomy.†

Aar. Why, there's the privilege your beauty
bears:

Fie, treacherous hue! that will betray with
blushing

The close enacts and counsels of the heart!
Here's a young lad fram'd of another leer:‡
Look, how the black slave smiles upon the
father;

As who should say, *Old lad, I am thine own.*
He is your brother, lords; sensibly fed
Of that self-blood that first gave life to you;
And, from that womb, where you imprison'd
He is enfranchis'd and come to light: [were,
Nay, he's your brother by the surer side,
Although my seal be stamped in his face.

Nur. Aaron, what shall I say unto the em-
press?

Dem. Advise thee, Aaron, what is to be
done,

And we will all subscribe to thy advice;
Save thou the child, so we may all be safe.

Aar. Then sit we down, and let us all con-
sult.

My son and I will have the wind of you:
Keep there: Now talk at pleasure of your
safety. [They sit on the Ground.

Dem. How many women saw this child of
his?

Aar. Why, so, brave lords; When we all
join in league,

I am a lamb: but if you brave the Moor,
The chafed boar, the mountain lioness,
The ocean swells not so as Aaron storms.—
But, say again, how many saw the child?

Nur. Cornelia the midwife, and myself,
And no one else, but the deliver'd empress.

Aar. The empress, the midwife, and your-
self:

Two may keep counsel, when the third's away:
Go to the empress; tell her, this I said:—

[Stabbing her.
Weke, weke!—so cries a pig prepar'd to the
spit.

Dem. What mean'st thou, Aaron? Where-
fore didst thou this?

Aar. O, lord, Sir, 'tis a deed of policy:
Shall she live to betray this guilt of ours?
A long-tongu'd babbling gossip? no, lords, no.
And now be it known to you my full intent.
Not far, one Muliteus lives, my countryman,
His wife but yesternight was brought to bed;
His child is like to her, fair as you are:
Go pack⁹ with him, and give the mother gold,
And tell them both the circumstance of all;
And how by this their child shall be advanc'd

* In spite of. † I. e. Ignominy. ‡ Complexion.
§ Conceive, bargain with.

And be received for the emperor's heir,
And substituted in the place of mine,
To calm this tempest whirling in the court;
And let the emperor dandle him for his own.
Hark ye, lords, ye see, that I have given her
physic, [Pointing to the Nurse.

And you must needs bestow her funeral;
The fields are near, and you are gallant grooms:
This done, see that you take no longer days,
But send the midwife presently to me.
The midwife, and the nurse, well made away,
Then let the ladies tattle what they please.

Chi. Aaron, I see, thou wilt not trust the air
With secrets.

Dem. For this care of Tamora,
Herself, and hers, are highly bound to thee.
[Exeunt DEM. and CHI. bearing off the
NURSE.

Aar. Now to the Goths, as swift as swallow
flies;

There to dispose this treasure in mine arms,
And secretly to greet the empress' friends.—
Come on, you thick-lipp'd slave, I'll bear you
hence;

For it is you that puts us to our shifts:
I'll make you feed on berries, and on roots,
And feed on curds and whey, and suck the
goat,

And cabin in a cave; and bring you up
To be a warrior, and command a camp. [Exit.

SCENE III.—The same.—A Public Place.

Enter TITUS, bearing Arrows, with Letters at
the ends of them; with him MARCUS, young
LUCIUS, and other Gentlemen, with Bows.

Tit. Come, Marcus, come;—Kinsmen, this
is the way:—

Sir boy, now let me see your archery;
Look ye draw home enough, and 'tis there
Terras Astræa reliquit: [straight:
Be you remember'd, Marcus, she's gone, she's
fed. [shall

Sir, take you to your tools. You, cousins,
Go sound the ocean, and cast your nets;
Happily you may find her in the sea;
Yet there's as little justice as at land:—
No; Publius and Sempronius, you must do it;
'Tis you must dig with mattock, and with
spade,

And pierce the inmost centre of the earth:
Then, when you come to Pluto's region,
I pray you, deliver him this petition:
Tell him, it is for justice, and for aid:
And that it comes from old Andronicus,
Shaken with sorrows in ungrateful Rome.—
Ah, Rome!—Well, well; I made thee miscer-
able.

What time I threw the people's suffrages
On him that thus doth tyrannise o'er me.—
Go, get you gone; and pray be careful all,
And leave you not a man of war unsearch'd:
This wicked emperor may have shipp'd her
hence,

And kinsmen, then we may go pipe for justice.

Mar. O, Publius, is not this a heavy case,
To see thy noble uncle thus distract?

Pub. Therefore, my lord, it highly us con-
cerns,

By day and night to attend him carefully;
And feed his humour kindly as we may,
Till time beget some careful remedy.

Mar. Kinsmen, his sorrows are past remedy.
Join with the Goths; and with revengeful war
Take wreak on Rome for this ingratitude,
And vengeance on the traitor Saturnine.

Tit. Publius, how now? how now, my masters? What, Have you met with her?

Pub. No, my good lord; but Plutus sends you word,

If you will have revenge from hell, you shall: Marry, for Justice, she is so employ'd, [else, He thinks, with Jove in heaven, or somewhere So that perforce you must needs stay a time.

Tit. He doth me wrong, to feed me with de- I'll drive into the burning lake below. [lays. And pull her out of Acheron by the heels.— Marcus, we are but shrubs, no cedars we; No big-bon'd men, fram'd of the Cyclop's size: But Metal, Marcus, steel to the very back; Yet wrung* with wrongs, more than our backs can bear:

And sith'th there is no justice in earth nor hell, We will solicit heaven; and move the gods, To send down justice for to wreak our wrongs: Come, to this gear.¶ You are a good archer, Marcus. [He gives them the Arrows.

Ad Joem, that's for you:—Here, *ad Apollin-* *Ad Murtem,* that's for myself;— [nem:— Here, boy, to Pallas:—Here, to Mercury: To Saturn, Caius, not to Saturnine,— You were as good to shoot against the wind.— To it, boy. Marcus, loose when I bid: O' my word, I have written to effect; There's not a god left unsolicited.

Mar. Kinsmen, shoot all your shafts into the court:

We will afflict the emperor in his pride.

Tit. Now, masters, draw. [They shoot.] O, well said, Lucius!

Good boy, in Virgo's lap; give it Pallas.

Mar. My lord, I aim a mile beyond the moon; Your letter is with Jupiter by this.

Tit. Ha! Publius, Publius, what hast thou done! [horns.

See, see, thou hast shot off one of Taurus' *Mar.* This was the sport, my lord: when Publius shot,

The bull being gall'd, gave Aries such a knock That down fell both the ram's horns in the court; [villain?

And who should find them but the empress' She laugh'd, and told the Moor, he should not choose

But give them to his master for a present.

Tit. Why, there it goes: God give your lordship joy.

Enter a CLOWN, with a Basket and two Pigeons.

News, news from heaven! Marcus, the post is come.

Sirrah, what tidings? have you any letters? Shall I have justice? what says Jupiter?

Clo. Ho! the gibbet-maker? he says, that he hath taken them down again, for the man must not be hanged till the next week.

Tit. But what says Jupiter, I ask thee?

Clo. Alas, Sir, I know not Jupiter; I never drank with him in all my life.

Tit. Why, villain, art not thou the carrier?

Clo. Ay, of my pigeons, Sir; nothing else.

Tit. Why, didst thou not come from heaven?

Clo. From heaven? alas, Sir, I never came there: God forbid, I should be so bold to press to heaven in my young days. Why, I am going with my pigeons to the tribunal plebs,|| to take up a matter of brawl betwixt my uncle and one of the emperial's men.

Mar. Why, Sir, that is as fit as can be, to serve for your oration; and let him deliver the pigeons to the emperor from you.

Tit. Tell me, can you deliver an oration to the emperor with a grace?

Clo. Nay, truly, Sir, I could never say grace in all my life.

Tit. Sirrah, come hither: make no more ado, But give your pigeons to the emperor:

By me thou shalt have justice at his hands. Hold, hold;—mean while, here's money for thy charges.

Give me a pen and ink.— [tion?

Sirrah, can you with a grace deliver a supplica-

Clo. Ay, Sir.

Tit. Then here is a supplication for you. And when you come to him, at the first approach, you must kneel; then kiss his foot;

then deliver up your pigeons; and then look for your reward, I'll be at hand; Sir: see you do it bravely.

Clo. I warrant you, Sir; let me alone.

Tit. Sirrah, hast thou a knife? Come, let me see it.

Here, Marcus, fold it in the oration; For thou hast made it like an humble suppliant:—

And when thou hast given it to the emperor, Knock at my door, and tell me what he says.

Clo. God be with you, Sir; I will.

Tit. Come, Marcus, let's go:—Publius follow me. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—The same.—Before the Palace.

Enter SATURNINUS, TAMORA, CHIRON, DEMETRIUS, LORDS, and others: SATURNINUS with the Arrows in his hand, that TITUS shot.

Sat. Why, lords, what wrongs are these? Was ever seen

An emperor of Rome thus overborne, Troubled, confronted thus: and, for the extent

Of egal* justice, us'd in such contempt? My lords, you know, as do the mighty gods,

However these disturbers of our peace Buz in the people's ears, there nought hath pass'd,

But even with law, against the wilful sons Of old Andronicus. And what an if

His sorrows have so overwhelm'd his wits, Shall we be thus afflicted in his wrecks,

His fits, his frenzy, and his bitterness? And now he writes to heaven for his redress:

See, here's to Jove, and this to Mercury; This to Apollo; this to the god of war:

Sweet scrolls to fly about the streets of Rome? What's this, but libelling against the senate,

And blazoning our injustice every where? A goodly humour, is it not, my lords?

As who would say, in Rome no justice were. But, if I live, his feigned ecstasies

Shall be no shelter to these outrages: But he and his shall know, that justice lives

In Saturninus' health; whom, if she sleep, He'll so awake, as she in fury shall

Cut off the proud'st conspirator that lives.

Tam. My gracious lord, my lovely Saturnine, Lord of my life, commander of my thoughts,

Calm thee, and bear the faults of Titus' age, The effects of sorrow for his valiant sons,

Whose loss hath pierc'd him deep, and scarr'd his heart;

And rather comfort his distressed plight, Than prosecute the meanest, or the best,

For these contempts. Why, thus it shall become

* Strained. † Since. ‡ Revenge. § Dress, furniture. || The Clown means to say plebeian tribune, i. e. tri- of the people.

* Equal.

High-witted Tamora to gloze* with all:

[Aside.]

But, Titus, I have touch'd thee to the quick,
Thy life-blood out: if Aaron now be wise,
Then is all safe, the anchor's in the port.—

Enter CLOWN.

How now, good fellow? would'st thou speak
with us?

Clo. Yes, forsooth, an your mistership be
imperial.

Tam. Empress I am, but yonder sits the
emperor.

Clo. 'Tis he.—God, and saint Stephen,
give you good den:—I have brought you a
letter, and a couple of pigeons here.

[SATURNINUS reads the Letter.]

Sat. Go, take him away, and hang him pre-
sently.

Clo. How much money must I have?

Tam. Come, Sirrah, you must be hang'd.

Clo. Hang'd! By'r lady, then I have brought
up a neck to a fair end. [Exit, guarded.]

Sat. Despiteful and intolerable wrongs!

Shall I endure this monstrous villainy?
I know from whence this same device proceeds;
May this be borne?—as if his traitorous sons,
That died by law for murder of our brother,
Have by my means been butcher'd wrong-
fully.—

Go, drag the villain hither by the hair;
Nor age, nor honour, shall shape privilege:—
For this proud mock, I'll be thy slaughter-
man; [great,

Sly frantic wretch that hop'st to make me
In hope thyself should govern Rome and me.

Enter ÆMILIUS.

What news with thee, Æmilius?

Æmil. Arm, arm, my lords; Rome never
had more cause! [power

The Goths have gather'd head; and with a
Of high resolved men, bent to the spoil,
They hither march amain, under the conduct
Of Lucius, son to old Andronicus;
Who threatens, in course of this revenge, to do
As much as ever Coriolanus did.

Sat. Is warlike Lucius general of the Goths?
These tidings nip me; and I hang the head
As flowers with frost, or grass beat down with
storms.

Ay, now begin our sorrows to approach:
'Tis he the common people love so much;
Myself hath often over-heard them say,
(When I have walked like a private man,
That Lucius' banishment was wrongfully,
And they have wish'd that Lucius were their
emperor.

Tam. Why should you fear? is not your
city strong?

Sat. Ay, but the citizens favour Lucius;
And will revolt from me, to succour him.

Tam. King, be thy thoughts imperious,†
like thy name.

Is the sun dimm'd, that gnats do fly in it?
The eagle suffers little birds to sing,
And is not careful what they mean thereby;
Knowing that with the shadow of his wings,
He can at pleasure stint‡ their melody:
Even so may'st thou the giddy men of Rome.
Then cheer thy spirit: for know thou, emperor,
I will enchant the old Andronicus, [ous,
With words more sweet, and yet more danger-
Than baits to fish, or honey-stalks to sheep;
When as the one is wounded with the bait,
The other rotted with delicious feed.

* Flatter.

† Imperial.

‡ Stop.

Sat. But he will not entreat his son for us'

Tam. If Tamora entreat him, then he will:
For I can smooth, and fill his aged ear
With golden promises; that were his heart
Almost impregnable, his old ears deaf,
Yet should both ear and heart obey my
tongue.—

Go thou before, be our ambassador;

[To ÆMILIUS.]

Say, that the emperor requests a parley
Of warlike Lucius, and appoint the meeting,
Even at his father's house, the old Andronicus.

Sat. Æmilius, do this message honourably:
And if he stand on hostage for his safety,
Bid him demand what pledge will please him
best.

Æmil. Your bidding shall I do effectually.

[Exit ÆMILIUS.]

Tam. Now will I to that old Andronicus;
And temper him, with all the art I have,
To pluck proud Lucius from the warlike Goths.
And now, sweet emperor, be blithe again,
And bury all my fear in my devices.

Sat. Then go successfully, and plead to him.

[Exit.]

ACT V.

SCENE I.—Plains near Rome.

Enter LUCIUS, and GOTHS, with Drum and
Colours.

Luc. Approved warriors, and my faithful
friends,

I have received letters from great Rome,
Which signify, what hate they bear their em-
peror,

And how desirous of our sight they are. [ness,
Therefore, great lords, be, as your titles wit-
Imperious and impatient of your wrongs;
And, wherein Rome hath done you any scath,[§]
Let him make treble satisfaction.

1 Goth. Brave slip, sprung from the great
Andronicus, [comfort]

Whose name was once our terror, now our
Whose high exploits, and honourable deeds,
Ingrateful Rome requites with foul contempt,
Be bold in us: we'll follow where thou
lead'st,—

Like stinging bees in hottest summer's day,
Led by their master to the flower'd fields,—
And be aveng'd on curs'd Tamora.

Goths. And, as he saith, so say we all with
him.

Luc. I humbly thank him, and I thank you
all.

But who comes here, led by a lusty Goth?

Enter a GOTH, leading AARON, with his Child
in his Arms.

2 Goth. Renowned Lucius, from your
troops I stray'd,

To gaze upon a ruinous monastery;
And as I earnestly did fix mine eye
Upon the wasted building, suddenly
I heard a child cry underneath a wall:
I made unto the noise; when soon I heard
The crying babe controll'd with this discourse:
Peace, tawny slave; half me, and half thy dam!
Did not thy hue bewray whose brat thou art,
Had nature lent thee but thy mother's look,
Villain, thou might'st have been an emperor:
But where the bull and cow are both milk-white,
They never do beget a coal-black calf.
Peace, villain, peace!—even thus he rates the
babe,—

§ Harm.

For I must bear thee to a trusty Goth :
Who when he knows thou art the empress' babe,
Will hold thee dearly for thy mother's sake.
With this my weapon drawn, I rush'd upon
him, [hither,
Surpris'd him suddenly ; and brought him
To use as you think needful of the man.

Luc. O worthy Goth ! this is the incarnate
devil,

That robb'd Andronicus of his good hand :
This is the pearl that pleas'd your empress'
eye ;*

And here's the base fruit of his burning lust.—
Say, wall-ey'd slave, whither would'st thou
convey

This growing image of thy fiend-like face ?
Why dost not speak ? What ! deaf ? No : not
a word ?

A halter, soldiers ; hang him on this tree,
And by his side his fruit of bastardy.

Aar. Touch not the boy, he is of royal blood.

Luc. Too like the sire for ever being good.—
First, hang the child, that he may see it sprawl ;
A sight to vex the father's soul withal.
Get me a ladder.

[A Ladder brought, which AARON
is obliged to ascend.

Aar. Lucius, save the child ;
And bear it from me to the empress.
If thou do this, I'll show thee wondrous things,
That highly may advantage thee to hear :

If thou wilt not, befall what may befall,
I'll speak no more ; But vengeance rot you all !

Luc. Say on ; and, if it please me which
thou speak'st,

Thy child shall live, and I will see it nourish'd.

Aar. An if it please thee ? why, assure
thee, Lucius,

'Twill vex thy soul to hear what I shall speak ;
For I must talk of murders, rapes, and mas-
sacres,

Acts of black night, abominable deeds,
Complots of mischief, treason ; villainies
Ruthful to hear, yet piteously perform'd :
And this shall all be buried by my death,
Unless thou swear to me, my child shall live.

Luc. Tell on thy mind ; I say, thy child
shall live.

Aar. Swear, that he shall, and then I will
begin.

Luc. Who should I swear by ? thou believ'st
no god ;

'That granted, how canst thou believe an oath ?

Aar. What if I do not ? as indeed, I do not :
Yet,—for I know thou art religious, [science,
And hast a thing within thee, called con-
With twenty popish tricks and ceremonies,
Which I have seen thee careful to observe,—
Therefore I urge thy oath ;—For that, I know,
An idiot holds his bauble for a god, [swears ;
And keeps the oath, which by that god he
To that I'll urge him :—Therefore, thou shalt
vow

By that same god, what god soe'er it be,
That thou ador'st and hast in reverence,—
To save my boy, to nourish, and bring him up ;
Or else I will discover nought to thee.

Luc. Even by my god, I swear to thee, I
will.

Aar. First, know thou, I begat him on the
empress.

Luc. O most insatiate, luxurious woman !

Aar. Tut, Lucius ! this was but a deed of
charity,

* Alluding to the proverb, "A black man is a pearl in
fair woman's eye."

To that which thou shalt hear of me anon.
'Twas her two sons that murder'd Bassianus ;
They cut thy sister's tongue, and ravish'd her,
And cut her hands ; and trimm'd her as thou
saw'st.

Luc. O detestable villain ! call'st thou that
trimming ?

Aar. Why, she was wash'd, and cut, and
trimm'd ; and 'twas

Trim sport for them that had the doing of it.

Luc. O barbarous, beastly villains, like
thyself !

Aar. Indeed, I was their tutor to instruct
them ;

That coddling spirit had they from their mother,
As sure a card as ever won the set :

That bloody mind, I think, they learn'd of me,
As true a dog as ever fought at head.—

Well, let my deeds be witness of my worth.
I train'd thy brethren to that guileful hole,
Where the dead corpse of Bassianus lay :

I wrote the letter that thy father found,
And hid the gold within the letter mention'd,
Confederate with the queen, and her two sons ;
And what not done, that thou hast cause to rue,
Wherein I had no stroke of mischief in it ?
I play'd the cheater for thy father's hand ;
And when I had it, drew myself apart,
And almost broke my heart with extreme
laughter.

I pry'd me through the crevice of a wall,
When, for his hand, he had his two sons'
heads ;

Beheld his tears, and laugh'd so heartily,
That both mine eyes were rainy like to his ;
And when I told the empress of this sport,
She swounded almost at my pleasing tale,
And, for my tidings, gave me twenty kisses.

Goth. What ! canst thou say all this, and
never blush ?

Aar. Ay, like a black dog, as the saying is.

Luc. Art thou not sorry for these heinous
deeds ?

Aar. Ay, that I had not done a thousand
more.

Even now I curse the day, (and yet, I think,
Few come within the compass of my curse,)
Wherein I did not some notorious ill :

As kill a man, or else devise his death ;
Ravish a maid, or plot the way to do it ;
Accuse some innocent, and forswear myself ;
Set deadly enmity between two friends ;
Make poor men's cattle break their necks ;
Set fire on barns and hay-stacks in the night,
And bid the owners quench them with their
tears. [graves,
Oft have I digg'd up dead men from their
And set them upright at their dear friends'
doors,

Even when their sorrows almost were forgot ;
And on their skins, as on the bark of trees,
Have with my knife carved in Roman letters,
Let not your sorrow die, though I am dead.

Tut, I have done a thousand dreadful things,
As willingly as one would kill a fly ;
And nothing grieves me heartily indeed,
But that I cannot do ten thousand more.

Luc. Bring down the devil ; for he must
not die

So sweet a death, as hanging presently.

Aar. If there be devils, 'would I were a devil,
To live and burn in everlasting fire ;
So I might have your company in hell,
But to torment you with my bitter tongue !

Luc. Sirs, stop his mouth, and let him speak
no more.

So sweet a death, as hanging presently.

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To live and burn in everlasting fire ;
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To live and burn in everlasting fire ;
So I might have your company in hell,
But to torment you with my bitter tongue !

Luc. Sirs, stop his mouth, and let him speak
no more.

Enter a GOTH.

Goth. My lord there is a messenger from Rome,
Desires to be admitted to your presence.
Luc. Let him come near.—

Enter ÆMILIUS.

Welcome, Æmilius, what's the news from Rome,
Æmil. Lord Lucius, and you princes of the Goths,

The Roman emperor greets you all by me :
And, for he understands you are in arms,
He craves a parley at your father's house.
Willing you to demand your hostages,
And they shall be immediately deliver'd.

1 Goth. What says our general ?

Luc. Æmilius, let the emperor give his pledges

Unto my father and my uncle Marcus,
And we will come.—March away.* [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—Rome.—Before TITUS' House.

Enter TAMORA, CHIRON, and DEMETRIUS, disguised.

Tam. Thus in this strange and sad habiliment,
I will encounter with Andronicus ;
And say I am Revenge, come from below,
To join with him, and right his heinous wrongs.
Knock at his study, where, they say, he keeps,
To ruminate strange plots of dire revenge ;
Tell him, Revenge is come to join with him,
And work confusion on his enemies.

[They knock.]

Enter TITUS, above.

Tit. Who doth molest my contemplation ?
Is it your trick to make me ope the door ;
That so my sad decrees may fly away,
And all my study be to no effect ?
You are deceiv'd : for what I mean to do,
See here, in bloody lines I have set down ;
And what is written shall be executed.

Tam. Titus, I am come to talk with thee.

Tit. No ; not a word ; How can I grace my
Wanting a hand to give it action ? [talk,
Thou hast the odds of me, therefore no more.

Tam. If thou didst know me, thou would'st
talk with me.

Tit. I am not mad ; I know thee well
enough : [lines]

Witness this wretched stump, these crimson
Witness these trenches, made by grief and
care ;

Witness the tiring day, and heavy night ;
Witness all sorrow, that I know thee well
For our proud empress, mighty Tamora :
Is not thy coming for my other hand ?

Tam. Know thou, sad man, I am not Tamora ;
She is thy enemy, and I thy friend : [mora ;
I am Revenge : sent from the infernal kingdom,
To ease the knowing vulture of thy mind,
By working wreakful vengeance on thy foes.
Come down and welcome me to this world's
light ;

Confer with me of murder and of death :
There's not a hollow cave, or lurking-place,
No vast obscurity, or misty vale,
Where bloody murder, or detested rape,
Can couch for fear, but I will find them out ;
And in their ears tell them my dreadful name,
Revenge which makes the foul offender quake.

Tit. Art thou Revenge ? and art thou sent
To be a torment to mine enemies ? [to me,

Tam. I am therefore come down, and welcome me.

Tit. Do me some service, ere I come to thee.
Lo, by thy side where Rape, and Murder,
stands ;

Now give some 'surance that thou art Revenge,
Stab them, or tear them on thy chariot wheels ;
And then I'll come and be thy waggoner,
And whirl along with thee about the globes.
Provide thee proper palfries black as jet,
To hale thy vengeful waggon swift away,
And find out murderers in their guilty caves :
And, when thy car is loaden with their heads,
I will dismount, and by their waggon wheel
Trot, like a servile footman all day long ;
Even from Hyperion's rising in the east,
Until his very downfall in the sea.
And day by day I'll do this heavy task,
So thou destroy Rapine and Murder there.

Tam. These are my ministers, and come with me.

Tit. Are they thy ministers ? what are they call'd ?

Tam. Rapine, and Murder ; therefore called so, [men.]

'Cause they take vengeance of such kind of
Tit. Good lord, how like the empress' sons
they are !

And you the empress ! But we worldly men
Have miserable, mad, mistaking eyes.
O sweet Revenge, now do I come to thee :
And, if one arm's embracement will content
I will embrace thee in it by and by. [thee,
[Exit TITUS, from above.]

Tam. This closing with him fits his lunacy :
Whate'er I forge, to feed his brain-sick fits,
Do you uphold and maintain in your speeches,
For now he firmly takes me for Revenge :
And, being credulous in this mad thought,
I'll make him send for Lucius, his son ;
And, whilst I at a banquet hold him sure,
I'll find some cunning practice out of hand,
To scatter and disperse the giddy Goths,
Or, at the least, make them his enemies.
See, here he comes, and I must ply my theme.

Enter TITUS.

Tit. Long have I been forlorn, and all for
thee :

Welcome, dread fury, to my woful house ;—
Rapine, and Murder, you are welcome too ;—
How like the empress and her sons you are !
Well are you fitted, had you but a Moor :—
Could not all hell afford you such a devil ?—
For, well I wot, the empress never wags,
But in her company there is a Moor ;
And would you represent our queen aright,
It were convenient you had such a devil :
But welcome, as you are. What shall we do ?

Tam. What would'st thou have us do, Andronicus ?

Dem. Show me a murderer, I'll deal with him.

Chi. Show me a villain, that hath done a
And I am sent to be reveng'd on him. [rape,

Tam. Show me a thousand, that have done
thee wrong,

And I will be revenged on them all.

Tit. Look round about the wicked streets of
Rome ;

And when thou find'st a man that's like thyself ;
Good Murder, stab him ; he's a murderer.—

Go thou with him ; and when it is thy hap,
To find another that is like to thee,

Good Rapine, stab him ; he is a ravisher.

Go thou with them ; and in the emperor's court
There is a queen, attended by a Moor ;

* Perhaps this is a stage direction, crept into the text.

Well may'st thou know her by thy own proportion,

For up and down she doth resemble thee ;
I pray they do on them some violent death,
They have been violent to me and mine.

Tam. Well hast thou lesson'd us ; this shall we do.

But would it please thee, good Andronicus,
To send for Lucius, thy thrice valiant son,
Who leads towards Rome a band of warlike Goths,

And bid him come and banquet at thy house :
When he is here, even at thy solemn feast,
I will bring in the empress and her sons,
The emperor himself, and all thy foes ;
And at thy mercy shall they stoop and kneel,
And on them shalt thou ease thy angry heart,
What says Andronicus to this device ?

Tit. Marcus, my brother !—'tis sad Titus calls

Enter MARCUS.

Go, gentle Marcus, to thy nephew Lucius ;
Thou shalt inquire him out among the Goths ;
Bid him repair to me, and bring with him
Some of the chiefest princes of the Goths :
Bid him encamp his soldiers where they are :
Tell him, the emperor and the empress too
Feast at my house : and he shall feast with them.

This do thou for my love ; and so let him,
As he regards his aged father's life.

Mar. This will I do, and soon return again.

[Exit.

Tam. Now will I hence about thy business,
And take my ministers along with me.

Tit. Nay, nay, let Rape and Murder stay with me ;

Or else I'll call my brother back again,
And cleave to no revenge but Lucius.

Tam. What say you, boys ? will you abide with him,

Whiles I go tell my lord the emperor,
How I have govern'd our determin'd jest ?

Yield to his humour, smooth and speak him fair,

Aside.

And tarry with him, till I come again.

Tit. I know them all, though they suppose me mad ;

And will o'er-reach them in their own devices,
A pair of cursed hell-hounds, and their dam.

Aside.

Dem. Madam, depart at pleasure, leave us here.

Tam. Farewell, Andronicus : Revenge now
To lay a complot to betray thy foes.

[goes

[Exit TAMORA.

Tit. I know thou dost ; and sweet Revenge, farewell.

Chi. Tell us, old man, how shall we be employ'd ?

Tit. Tut, I have work enough for you to do.—
Publius, come hither, Caius, and Valentine !

Enter PUBLIUS, and others.

Pub. What's your will ?

Tit. Know you these two ?

Pub. Th' empress' sons,
I take them, Chiron and Demetrius.

Tit. Fic, Publius, fie ! thou art too much deceiv'd ;

The one is Murder, Rape is the other's name :
And therefore bind them, gentle Publius ;
Caius, and Valentine, lay hands on them :
Oft have you heard me wish for such an hour,
And now I find it ; therefore bind them sure :

And stop their mouths, if they begin to cry.

[Exit TITUS.—PUBLIUS, &c. lay hold on
CHIRON and DEMETRIUS.

Chi. Villains, forbear : we are the empress' sons.

Pub. And therefore do we what we are commanded.—

[word :

Stop close their mouths, let them not speak a
Is he sure bound ? look, that you bind them fast.

Re-enter TITUS ANDRONICUS, with LAVINIA ;
she bearing a Basin, and he a Knife.

Tit. Come, come, Lavinia ; look, thy foes are bound ;—

[me ;

Sirs, stop their mouths, let them not speak to
But let them hear what fearful words I utter.—
O villains, Chiron and Demetrius !

Here stands the spring whom you have stain'd
with mud ;

This goodly summer with your winter mix'd.
You kill'd her husband ; and for that vile fault,
Two of her brothers were condemn'd to death :
My hand cut off, and made a merry jest :
Both her sweet hands, her tongue, and that,
more dear

Than hands or tongue, her spotless chastity,
Inhuman traitors, you constrain'd and forc'd.
What would you say, if I should let you speak ?
Villains, for shame you could not beg for grace.
Hark wretches, how I mean to martyr you,
This one hand yet is left to cut your throats ;
Whilst that Lavinia 'tween her stumps doth hold

The basin, that receives your guilty blood.
You know, your mother means to feast with me,
And call's herself, Revenge, and thinks me mad,—

Hark, villains ; I will grind your bones to dust,
And with your blood and it, I'll make a paste ;
And of the paste a coffin* I will rear,

And make two pasties of your shameful heads ;
And bid that strumpet, your unhallow'd dam,
Like to the earth, swallow her own increase,

This is the feast that I have bid her to,
And this the banquet she shall surfeit on ;

For worse than Philomel you us'd my daughter,
And worse than Progne I will be reveng'd :

And now prepare your throats.—Lavinia,
come,

[He cuts their Throats.

Receive the blood : and, when that they are dead,

Let me go grind their bones to powder small,
And with this hateful liquor temper it ;

And in that paste let their vile heads be bak'd.
Come, come, be every one officious

To make this banquet ; which I wish may
More stern and bloody than the Centaur's
feast.

So, now bring them in, for I will play the cook,
And see them ready 'gainst their mother comes.

[Exeunt, bearing the dead Bodies.

SCENE III.—The same.—A Pavilion, with
Tables, &c.

Enter LUCIUS, MARCUS, and GOTHs, with
AARON, Prisoner.

Luc. Uncle Marcius, since 'tis my father's
That I repair to Rome, I am content. *[mind,*
I Goth. And ours, with thine, befall what
fortune will.

Luc. Good uncle, take you in this barbarous
 Moor.

This ravenous tiger, this accursed devil ;
Let him receive no sustenance, fetter him.

* Crust of a raised pie.

Till he be brought unto the empress' face,
For testimony of her foul proceedings:

And see the ambush of our friends be strong:
I fear, the emperor means no good to us.

Aar. Some devil whisper curses in mine ear,
And prompt me, that my tongue may utter
forth

The venomous malice of my swelling heart!

Luc. Away, inhuman dog! unhallow'd
slave!—

Sirs, help our uncle to convey him in.—

[*Exeunt* GOTHs, with AARON. *Flourish.*]

The trumpets show, the emperor is at hand.

Enter SATURNINUS and TAMORA, with Tribunes,
Senators, and others.

Sat. What, hath the firmament more suns
than one?

Luc. What boots* it thee, to call thyself a sun?

Mar. Rome's emperor, and nephew, break'th
the parle;

These quarrels must be quietly debated.

The feast is ready, which the careful Titus
Hath ordain'd to an honourable end, [Rome:
For peace, for love, for league, and good to
Please you, therefore, draw nigh, and take
your places.

Sat. Marcus, we will.

[*Hautboys sound. The Company sit down
at Table.*]

Enter TITUS, dressed like a Cook, LAVINIA,
veiled, young LUCIUS, and others. TITUS
places the Dishes on the Table.

Tit. Welcome, my gracious lord: welcome,
dread queen;

Welcome, ye warlike Goths; welcome, Lucius;
And welcome, all: although the cheer be poor,
'Twill fill your stomachs; please you eat of it.

Sat. Why art thou thus attir'd, Andronicus?

Tit. Because I would be sure to have all
well,

To entertain your highness, and your empress.

Tam. We are beholden to you, good An-
dronicus.

Tit. An if your highness knew my heart,
you were.

My lord the emperor, resolve me this;

Was it well done of rash Virginius,
To slay his daughter with his own right hand,
Because she was enforc'd, stain'd, and de-
flower'd?

Sat. It was, Andronicus.

Tit. Your reason, mighty lord!

Sat. Because the girl should not survive her
shame,

And by her presence still renew his sorrows.

Tit. A reason mighty strong, and effectual;
A pattern, precedent, and lively warrant,
For me, most wretched to perform the like:—
Die, die, Lavinia, and thy shame with thee;

[*He kills* LAVINIA.

And, with thy shame, thy father's sorrow die!

Sat. What hast thou done, unnatural, and
unkind?

Tit. Kill'd her, for whom my tears have
made me blind.

I am as woful as Virginius was: [he
And have a thousand times more cause than
To do this outrage; and it is now done.

Sat. What, was she ravished? tell, who did
the deed.

Tit. Will't please you eat? will't please your
highness feed?

Tam. Why hast thou slain thine only daugh-
ter thus?

* Advantage, benefit. † I. e. Begun the parole

Tit. Not I; 'twas Chiron, and Demetrius:
They ravish'd her; and cut away her tongue,
And they, 'twas they, that did her all this
wrong.

Sat. Go, fetch them hither to us presently.

Tit. Why, there they are both, baked in
that pye;

Whereof their mother daintily hath fed,
Eating the flesh that she herself hath bred.

'Tis true, 'tis true; witness my knife's sharp
point. [Killing TAMORA.

Sat. Die, frantic wretch, for this accursed
deed. [Killing TITUS.

Luc. Can the son's eye behold his father
bleed? [deed.

There's need for meed, death for a deadly
[Kills SATURNINUS. A great Tumult. The
People in confusion disperse. MARCUS,
LUCIUS, and their Partisans ascend the
Steps before TITUS' House.

Mar. You sad-fac'd men, people and sons of
Rome,

By uproar sever'd, like a flight of fowl
Scatter'd by winds and high tempestuous gusts,
O, let me teach you how to knit again
This scatter'd corn into one mutual sheaf,
These broken limbs again into one body.

Sen. Lest Rome herself be bane unto her-
self;

And she, whom mighty kingdoms court'sy to,
Like a forlorn and desperate cast-away,
Do shameful execution on herself.
But if my frosty signs and chaps of age,
Grave witnesses of true experience,
Cannot induce you to attend my words,—
Speak, Rome's dear friend; To LUCIUS.] as
erst our ancestor,

When with his solemn tongue he did discourse,
To love-sick Dido's sad attending ear,
The story of that baleful burning night,
When subtle Greeks surpris'd king Priam's
Troy;

Tell us, what Sinon hath bewitch'd our ears,
Or who hath brought the fatal engine in,
That gives our Troy, our Rome, the civil
wound.—

My heart is not compact of flint, nor steel;
Nor can I utter all our bitter grief,
But floods of tears will drown my oratory.
And break my very utterance; even i'th time
When it should move you to attend me most,
Lending your kind commiseration:
Here is a captain, let him tell the tale;
Your hearts will throb and weep to hear him
speak.

Luc. Then, noble auditory, be it known to
That cursed Chiron and Demetrius [you,
Were they that murdered our emperor's bro-
ther;

And they it were that ravished our sister:
For their fell faults our brothers were be-
headed;

Our father's tears despis'd; and basely cozen'd
Of that true hand, that fought Rome's quarrel
And sent her enemies unto the grave. [out.
Lastly, myself unkindly banished, [out,
The gates shut on me, and turn'd weeping
To beg relief among Rome's enemies:

Who drown'd their enmity in my true tears,
And op'd their arms to embrace me as a friend:
And I am the turn'd-forth, be it known to you,
That have preserv'd her welfare in my blood;
And from her bosom took the enemy's point,
Sheathing the steel in my advent'rous body.

Alas! you know, I am no vaunter. I:

My scars can witness, dumb although they are,
That my report is just, and full of truth.
But, soft; methinks, I do digress too much,
Citing my worthless praise: O, pardon me;
For when no friends are by, men praise themselves.

Mar. Now is my turn to speak; Behold this child,

[*Pointing to the Child in the arms of an Attendant.*]

Of this was Tamora delivered;
The issue of an irreligious Moor,
Chief architect and plotter of these woes;
The villain is alive in Titus' house,
Damn'd as he is, to witness this is true.
Now judge, what cause had Titus to revenge
These wrongs, unspeakable, past patience,
Or more than any living man could bear.
Now you have heard the truth, what say you,
Romans?

Have we done aught amiss? Show us wherein,
And, from the place where you behold us now,
The poor remainder of Andronici
Will, hand in hand, all headlong cast us down,
And on the ragged stones beat forth our brains,
And make a mutual closure of our house.
Speak, Romans, speak; and, if you say, we
shall,

Lo, hand in hand, Lucius and I will fall.

Æmil. Come, come, thou reverend man of Rome,

And bring our emperor gently in thy hand,
Lucius our emperor; for, well I know,
The common voice do cry, it shall be so.

Rom. [*Several speak.*] Lucius, all hail;
Rome's royal emperor!

Lucius, &c. descend.

Mar. Go, go into old Titus' sorrowful house;
[*To an Attendant.*]

And hither hale that misbelieving Moor,
To be adjudg'd some direful slaughtering
death,

As punishment for his most wicked life.

Rom. [*Several speak.*] Lucius, all hail;
Rome's gracious governor!

Luc. Thanks, gentle Romans; May I govern
so, [woe!

To heal Rome's harms, and wipe away her
But, gentle people, give me aim awhile,—

For nature puts me to a heavy task;—
Stand all aloof:—but, uncle, draw you near,
To shed obsequious tears upon this trunk:—

O, take this warm kiss on thy pale cold lips,
[*Kisses Titus.*]

These sorrowful drops upon thy blood-stain'd
The last true duties of thy noble son! [face,

Mar. Tear for tear, and loving kiss for kiss,

Thy brother Marcus tenders on thy lips:
O, were the sum of these that I should pay
Countless and infinite, yet would I pay them!

Luc. Come hither, boy; come, come, and
learn of us [well:

To melt in showers: Thy grandsire lov'd thee
Many a time he danc'd thee on his knee,
Sung thee asleep, his loving breast thy pillow;

Many a matter hath he told to thee,
Meet, and agreeing with thine infancy;

In that respect then, like a loving child,
Shed yet some small drops from thy tender
spring,

Because kind nature doth require it so: [woe:
Friends should associate friends in grief and
Bid him farewell; commit him to the grave;
Do him that kindness, and take leave of him.

Boy. O grandsire, grandsire! even with all
my heart

Would I were dead, so you did live again!—
O lord, I cannot speak to him for weeping;

My tears will choke me, if I ope my mouth.

Enter Attendants, with AARON.

1 Rom. You sad Andronici, have done with
woes;

Give sentence on this execrable wretch,
That hath been breeder of these dire events.

Luc. Set him breast-deep in earth, and famish
him;

There let him stand, and rave and cry for food:
If any one relieves or pities him,

For the offence he dies. This is our doom:
Some stay, to see him fasten'd in the earth.

Aar. O, why should wrath be mute, and fury
dumb?

I am no baby, I, that, with base prayers,
I should repent the evils I have done:

Ten thousand, worse than ever yet I did,
Would I perform, if I might have my will;

If one good deed in all my life I did,
I do repent it from my very soul.

Luc. Some loving friends convey the emperor
hence,

And give him burial in his father's grave:
My father, and Lavinia, shall forthwith
Be closed in our household's monument.

As for that heinous tiger, Tamora,
No funeral rite, nor man in mournful weeds,
No mournful bell shall ring her burial; [prey:

But throw her forth to beasts, and birds of
Her life was beast-like, and devoid of pity;

And, being so, shall have like want of pity.
See justice done to Aaron, that damn'd Moor,
By whom our heavy haps had their beginning;

Then, afterwards, to order well the state;
That like events may ne'er it ruin.

[*Exeunt.*]

PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

ANTIOCHUS, King of Antioch.
 PERICLES, Prince of Tyre.
 HELICANUS, } Two Lords of Tyre.
 ESCANES, }
 SIMONIDES, King of Pentapolis.
 CLEON, Governor of Tharsus.
 LYSIMACHUS, Governor of Mitylene.
 CERIMON, a Lord of Ephesus.
 THALIARD, a Lord of Antioch.
 PHILENON, Servant to Cerimon.
 LEONINE, Servant to Dionyza.—MARSHAL.
 A PANDAR, and his WIFE.—BOULT, their Servant.
 GOWER, as Chorus.
 The DAUGHTER of Antiochus.
 DIONYZA, Wife to Cleon.

THAISA, Daughter to Simonides.
 MARINA, Daughter to Pericles and Thaisa.
 LYCHORIDA, Nurse to Marina.
 DIANA.

Lords, Ladies, Knights, Gentlemen, Sailors,
 Pirates, Fishermen, and Messengers, &c.

SCENE, dispersedly in various countries.*

* That the reader may know through how many regions the scene of this drama is dispersed, it is necessary to observe, that Antioch was the metropolis of Syria; Tyre a city of Phenicia in Asia; Tarsus, the metropolis of Cilicia, a country of Asia Minor; Mitylene, the capital of Lesbos, an Island in the Ægean sea; and Ephesus, the capital of Ionia, a country of the Lesser Asia.

ACT I

*Enter GOWER.**

Before the Palace of Antioch.

To sing a song of old† was sung,
 From ashes ancient Gower is come;
 Assuming man's infirmities,
 To glad your ear, and please your eyes.
 It hath been sung at festivals,
 On ember-eyes, and holy ales;‡
 And lords and ladies of their lives
 Have read it for restoratives:
 Purpose to make men glorious;
Et quo antiquius, eo melius.
 If you, born in these latter times,
 When wit's more ripe, accept my rhymes,
 And that to hear an old man sing
 May to your wishes pleasure bring,
 I life would wish, and that I might
 Waste it for you, like taper-light.—
 This city then, Antioch the great
 Build up for his chiefest seat;
 The fairest in all Syria;
 (Tell you what mine authors say:)
 This king unto him took a pheere,§
 Who died and left a female heir,
 So buxom, blithe, and full of face,
 As heaven had lent her all his grace;
 With whom the father liking took,
 And her to incest did provoke:
 Bad father! to entice his own
 To evil, should be done by none.

By custom what they did begin,
 Was, with long use, account* no sin.
 The beauty of this sinful dame
 Made many princes thither frame,
 To seek her as a bed-fellow,
 In marriage-pleasures play-fellow:
 Which to prevent, he made a law,
 (To keep her still, and men in awe,)
 That whoso ask'd her for his wife,
 His riddle told not, lost his life:
 So for many a wight did die,
 As you grim looks do testify.†
 What now ensues, to the judgment of
 your eye
 I give, my cause who best can justify.

[*Exit.*]

SCENE I.—*Antioch.—A Room in the Palace.*

Enter ANTIOCHUS, PERICLES, and Attendants.

Ant. Young prince of Tyre, you have at large
 receiv'd

The danger of the task you undertake.

Per. I have, Antiochus, and with a soul
 Embolden'd with the glory of her praise,
 Think death no hazard, in this enterprise.

[*Music.*]

Ant. Bring in our daughter, clothed like a
 bride,

For the embraces even of Jove himself;
 At whose conception, (till Lucina reign'd,)
 Nature this dowry gave, to glad her presence

* Accounted.

† Pointing to the scene of the palace gate at Antioch, on which the heads of those unfortunate wights were fixed.

* Chorus, in the character of Gower, an ancient English Poet. Who has related the story of this play in his *Confessio Amantis*.

† *i. e.* That of old.

‡ Whitsun ales, &c.

§ Wife, the word signifies a mate or companion.

The senate-house of planets all did sit,
To knit in her their best perfections.

Enter the DAUGHTER of ANTIOCHUS.

Per. See, where she comes, apparell'd like
the spring,

Graces her subjects and her thoughts the king
Of every virtue gives renown to men!

Her face, the book of praises, where is read
Nothing but curious pleasures, as from thence
Sorrow were ever raz'd, and testy wrath
Could never be her mild companion.

Ye gods that made me man, and sway in love,
That have inflam'd desire in my breast,
To taste the fruit of yon celestial tree,
Or die in the adventure, be my helps,
As I am son and servant to your will,
To compass such a boundless happiness.

Ant. Prince Pericles, —

Per. That would be son to great Antiochus.

Ant. Before the stands this fair Hesperides,
With golden fruit, but dangerous to be touch'd;
For death-like dragons here affright thee hard:
Her face, like heaven, enticeth thee to view
A countless glory, which desert must gain:
And which, without desert, because thine eye
Presumes to reach, all thy whole heap must die.

Yon sometime famous princes, like thyself,
Drawn by report, advent'rous by desire,
Tell thee with speechless tongues, and semblance pale,

That, without covering, save yon field of stars,
They here stand martyrs, slain in Cupid's wars;

And with dead cheeks advise thee to desist,
For going on death's net, whom none resist.

Per. Antiochus, I thank thee, who hath
My frail mortality to know itself, [taught
And by those fearful objects to prepare:
This body, like to them, to what I must:
For death remember'd, should be like a mirror,
Who tells us, life's but breath; to trust it,
error.

I'll make my will then; and as sick men do,
Who know the world, see heaven, but feeling
woe,

Gripe not at earthly joys, as erst they did;
So I bequeath a happy peace to you,
And all good men, as every prince should do;
My riches to the earth from whence they came;
But my unspotted fire of love to you.

To the DAUGHTER of ANTIOCHUS.

Thus ready for the way of life or death,
I wait the sharpest blow, Antiochus,
Scorning advice.

Ant. Read the conclusion then;
Which read and not expounded, 'tis decreed,
As these before thee thou thyself shall bleed.

Daugh. In all, save that, may'st thou prove
prosperous!

In all, save that, I wish thee happiness!

Per. Like a bold champion, I assume the lists,
Nor ask advice of any other thought
But faithfulness, and courage.

[He reads the Riddle.]

*I am no viper, yet I feed
On mother's flesh, which did me breed:
I sought a husband, in which labour,
I found that kindness in a father,
He's father, son, and husband mild,
I mother, wife, and yet his child.
How they may be, and yet in two,
As you will live, resolve it you.*

Sharp physic is the last: but O you powers!

That give heaven countless eyes to view men's
acts,

Why cloud they not their sights perpetually,
If this betwixt which makes me pale to read it?
Fair glass of light, I lov'd you, and could still.

[Takes hold of the hand of the princess.]

Were not this glorious casket stor'd with ill;
But I must tell you, — now, my thoughts revolt;
For he's no man on whom perfections wait,
That knowing sin within, will touch the gate.

You're a fair viol, and your sense the strings;
Who, finger'd to make man his lawful music,
Would draw heaven down, and all the gods to
hearken:

But being play'd upon before your time,
Hell only danceth at so harsh a chime:
Good sooth, I care not for you.

Ant. Prince Pericles, touch not, upon thy
For that's an article within our law, [life,
As dangerous as the rest. Your time's expir'd;
Either expound now, or receive your sentence.

Per. Great king,

Few love to hear the sins they love to act;
'Twould 'braid yourself too near for me to
tell it.

Who has a book of all that monarchs do,
He's more secure to keep it shut than shown;
For vice repeated, is like the wand'ring wind,
Blows dust in others' eyes, to spread itself;
And yet the end of all is bought thus dear,
The breath is gone, and the sore eyes see clear:
To stop the air would hurt them. The blind
mole casts

Copp'd* hills towards heaven, to tell, the earth
is wrong'd

By man's oppression; and the poor worm doth
die for't.

Kings are earth's gods: in vice their law's
their will; [ill?

And if Jove stray, who dares say, Jove doth
It is enough you know; and it is fit,
What being more known grows worse, to
smother it.

All love the womb that their first beings bred.
Then give my tongue like leave to love my
head.

Ant. Heaven, that I had thy head! He has
found the meaning; —

But I will gloze † with him. [Aside.] Young
prince of Tyre,

Though by the tenour of our strict edict,
Your exposition misinterpreting,
We might proceed to cancel of your days; ‡

Yet hope succeeding from so fair a tree
As your fair self, doth tune us otherwise:

Forty days longer we do respite you;
If by which time our secret be undone,

This mercy shows, we'll joy in such a son:
And until then, your entertain shall be,

As doth befit our honour, and your worth.

[Exit ANTIOCHUS, his DAUGHTER, and
Attendants.]

Per. How courtesy would seem to cover sin!

When what is done is like a hypocrite,
The which is good in nothing but in sight,
If it be true that I interpret false,

Then were it certain, you were not so bad,
As with foul insect to abuse your soul;

Whereſ now you're both a father and a son,
By your untimely clasplings with your child,

(Which pleasure fits a husband, not a father;)
And she an eater of her mother's flesh,

By the defiling of her parent's bed; [feed
And both like serpents are, who though they

* Rising to a top or head † Flatter, insinuate
‡ To the destruction of your life. § Whereas

On sweetest flowers, yet they poison breed.
Antioch, farewell! for wisdom sees, those men
Blush not in actions blacker than the night,
Will shun no course to keep them from the
light,

One sin, I know, another doth provoke;
Murder's as near to lust, as flame to smoke.
Poison and treason are the hands of sin,
Ay, and the targets, to put off the shame:
Then, lest my life be cropp'd to keep you clear,
By flight I'll shun the danger which I fear.

[Exit.]

Re-enter ANTIUCHUS.

Ant. He hath found the meaning, for the
which we mean

To have his head.

He must not live to trumpet forth my infamy,
Nor tell the world, Antiochus doth sin
In such a loathed manner:
And therefore instantly this prince must die;
For by his fall my honour must keep high.
Who attends on us there?

Enter THALIARD.

Thal. Doth your highness call?

Ant. Thaliard, you're of our chamber, and
our mind

Partakes her private actions to your secrecy;
And for your faithfulness we will advance you.
Thaliard, behold, here's poison, and here's
gold;

We hate the prince of Tyre, and thou must
kill him;

It fits thee not to ask the reason why,
Because we bid it. Say, is it done?

Thal. My lord,
'Tis done.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Ant. Enough; [haste.]

Lest your breath cool yourself, telling your
Mess. My lord, prince Pericles is fled.

[Exit MESSENGER.]

Ant. As thou

Wilt live, fly after: and, as an arrow shot
From a well experienc'd archer, hits the mark
His eye doth level at, so ne'er return,
Unless thou say, Prince Pericles is dead.

Thal. My lord, if I

Can get him once within my pistol's length,
I'll make him sure: so farewell to your high-
ness. [Exit.]

Ant. Thaliard, adieu! till Pericles be dead,
My heart can lend no succour to my head.

[Exit.]

SCENE II.—Tyre.—A Room in the Palace.

Enter PERICLES, HELICANUS, and other Lords.

Per. Let none disturb us: Why this charge
of thoughts?

The sad companion, dull-ey'd melancholy,
By me so us'd a guest is, not an hour,
In the day's glorious walk, or peaceful night.
(The tomb where grief should sleep,) can breed
me quiet!

Here pleasures court mine eyes, and mine
eyes shun them,

And danger, which I feared, is at Antioch,
Whose arm seems far too short to hit me here:
Yet neither pleasure's art can joy my spirits,
Nor yet the other's distance comfort me.
Then it is thus: the passions of the mind,
That have their first conception by mis-dread,
Have after-nourishment and life by care;
And what was first but fear what might be
done,

Grows elder now, and cares it be not done.

And so with me;—the great Antiochus
('Gainst whom I am too little to contend,
Since he's so great, can make his will his act.)
Will think me speaking, though I swear to
silence;

Nor boots it me to say, I honour him,

If he suspect I may dishonour him:

And what may make him blush in being
known, [known;

He'll stop the course by which it might be
With hostile forces he'll o'erspread the land,
And with the ostent of war will look so huge,
Amazement shall drive courage from the state;
Our men be vanquish'd, ere they do resist,
And subjects punish'd, that ne'er thought of
fence:

Which care of them, not pity of myself,
(Who am no more but as the tops of trees,
Which fence the roots they grow by, and de-
fend them,)

Makes both my body pine, and soul to languish,
And punish that before, that he would punish.

1 Lord. Joy and all comfort in your sacred
breast!

2 Lord. And keep your mind, till you return
Peaceful and comfortable! [to us,

Hel. Peace, peace, my lords, and give expe-
rience tongue.

They do abuse the king, that flatter him:

For flattery is the bellows blows up sin;

The thing the which is flatter'd, but a spark,
To which that breath gives heat and stronger
glowing;

Whereas reproof, obedient, and in order,
Fits kings, as they are men, for they may err.

When seignior Sooth here does proclaim a peace
He flatters you, makes war upon your life:

Prince, pardon me, or strike me, if you please;
I cannot be much lower than my knees.

Per. All leave us else; but let your cares
o'erlook

What shipping and what lading's in our haven,
And then return to us. [Exeunt LORDS.] Heli-
canus, thou

Has moved us: what seest thou in our looks?

Hel. An angry brow, dread lord.

Per. If there be such a dart in princes'
frowns?

How durst thy tongue move anger to our face?

Hel. How dare the plantes look up to heaven
from whence

They have their nourishment?

Per. Thou know'st I have power

To take thy life.

Hel. [Kneeling.] I have ground the axe my-
Do you but strike the blow. [self;

Per. Rise, pr'ythee rise;

Sit down, sit down; thou art no flatterer:

I thank thee for it; and high heaven forbid,
That kings should let their ears hear their
faults hid!

Fit counsellor, and servant for a prince,
Who by thy wisdom mak'st a prince thy ser-
What would'st thou have me do? [vant,

Hel. With patience bear

Such griefs as you do lay upon yourself.

Per. Thou speak'st like a physician, Heli-
Who minister'st a potion unto me, [canus;

That thou would'st tremble to receive thyself.
Attend me then: I went to Antioch, [death,

Where, as thou know'st, against the face of
I sought the purchase of a glorious beauty,

From whence an issue I might propagate,

Bring arms to princes, and to subjects joys.

Her face was to mine eye beyond all wonder;

The rest (hark in thine ear,) as black as incest;

Which by my knowledge found, the sinful
father

Seem'd not to strike, but smooth: but thou
know'st this,

'Tis time to fear, when tyrants seem to kiss.
Which fear so grew in me, I hither fled,
Under the covering of a careful night, [here,
Who seem'd my good protector; and being
Bethought me what was past, what might suc-
ceed.

I knew him tyrannous; and tyrants' fears
Decrease not, but grow faster than their years:
And should he doubt it, (as no doubt he doth,)
That I should open to the listening air,
How many worthy princes' bloods were shed,
To keep his bed of blackness unlaid ope,—
To lop that doubt, he'll fill this land with arms,
And make pretence of wrong that I have done
him;

When all, for mine, if I may call't offence,
Must feel war's blow, who spares not inno-
cence:

Which love to all (of which thyself art one,
Who now reprov'st me for it)——

Hel. Alas, Sir!

Per. Drew sleep out of mine eyes, blood
from my cheeks,

Musings into my mind, a thousand doubts
How I might stop this tempest, ere it came;
And finding little comfort to relieve them.
I thought it princely charity to grieve them

Hel. Well, my lord, since you have given
me leave to speak,

Freely I'll speak. Antiochus you fear,
And justly too, I think, you fear the tyrant,
Who either by public war, or private treason,
Will take away your life.

Therefore, my lord, go travel for a while,
Till that his rage and anger be forgot,
Or Destinies do cut his thread of life.
Your rule direct to any; if to me,
Day serves not light more faithful than I'll be.

Per. I do not doubt thy faith;
But should he wrong my liberties in absence——

Hel. We'll mingle bloods together in the
earth

From whence we had our being and our birth.

Per. Tyre, I now look from thee then, and
to Tharsus

Intend my travel, where I'll bear from thee;
And by whose letters I'll dispose myself.
The care I had and have of subjects good,
On thee I lay, whose wisdom's strength can
bear it.

I'll take thy word for faith, not ask thine oath:
Who shuns not to break one, will sure crack
both:

But in our orbs* we'll live so round and safe,
That time of both this truth shall ne'er con-
vince,†

Thou show'd'st a subject's shine, I a true
prince. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—Tyre.—An Ante-chamber in the
Palace.

Enter THALIARD.

Thal. So, this Tyre, and this is the court.
Here must I kill king Pericles; and if I do
not, I am sure to be hanged at home: 'tis dan-
gerous.—Well, I perceive he was a wise fellow,
and had good discretion, that being bid to ask
what he would of the king, desired he might
know none of his secrets. Now do I see he
had some reason for it: for if a king bid a man
be a villain, he is bound by the indenture of

* In our different spheres, † Overcome

his oath to be one.—Hush, here come the
lords of Tyre.

Enter HELICANUS, ESCANES, and other Lords.

Hel. You shall not need, my fellow peers
of Tyre,

Further to question of your king's departure.
His seal'd commission, left in trust with me,
Doth speak sufficiently, he's gone to travel.

Thal. How! the king gone! [Aside.

Hel. If further yet you will be satisfied,
Why, as it were unlicens'd of your loves,
He would depart, I'll give somelight unto you,
Being at Antioch——

Thal. What from Antioch? [Aside.

Hel. Royal Antiochus (on what cause I
know not,)

Took some displeasure at him; at least he
judg'd so:

And doubting lest that he had err'd or sinn'd,
To show his sorrow, would correct himself;
So puts himself unto the shipman's toil,
With whom each minute threatens life or death.

Thal. Well, I perceive [Aside.

I shall not be hang'd now, although I would;
But since he's gone, the king it sure must
please,

He scap'd the land, to perish on the seas,—
But I'll present me. Peace to the lords of
Tyre!

Hel. Lord Thaliard from Antiochus is wel-
come.

Thal. From him I come
With message unto princely Pericles;
But, since my landing, as I have understood,
Your lord has took himself to unknown travels,
My message must return from whence it came.

Hel. We have no reason to desire it, since
Commended to our master, not to us:
Yet, ere you shall depart, this we desire,—
As friends to Antioch, we may feast in Tyre.

[Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—Tharsus.—A Room in the Go-
vernor's House.

Enter CLEON, DIONYZA, and Attendants.

Cle. My Dionyza, shall we rest us here,
And by relating tales of others' griefs,
See if 'twill teach us to forget our own?

Dio. That were to blow at fire, in hope to
quench it:

For who digs hills because they do aspire.
Throws down one mountain, to cast up a higher.
O my distressed lord, even such our griefs;
Here they're but felt, and seen with mistful
eyes, [rise.

But like to groves, being topp'd, they higher

Cle. O Dionyza,
Who wanteth food, and will not say he wants it,
Or can conceal his hunger, till he famish?
Our tongues and sorrows do sound deep our
woes

Into the air; our eyes do weep, till lungs
Fetch breath that may proclaim them louder;
that,

If heaven slumber, while their creatures want,
They may awake their helps to comfort them.
I'll then discourse our woes, felt several years,
And wanting breath to speak, help me with
tears.

Dio. I'll do my best, Sir.

Cle. This Tharsus, o'er which I have gov-
ernment,

(A city on whom plenty held full hand,)
For riches, strew'd herself even in the streets;

Whose towers bore heads so high, they kiss'd
the clouds,

And strangers ne'er beheld, but wonder'd at;
Whose men and dames so jetted* and adorn'd,
Like one another's glass to trim† them by:
Their tables were stor'd full, to glad the sight,
And not so much to feed on, as delight;
All poverty was scorn'd, and pride so great,
The name of help grew odious to repeat.

Dio. O, 'tis too true.

Cle. But see what heaven can do! By this
our change,
These mouths, whom but of late, earth, sea,
and air,

Were all to little to content and please,
Although they gave their creatures in abundance,

As houses are defil'd for want of use,
They are now starv'd for want of exercise:
Those palates, who not yet two summers
younger,

Must have inventions to delight the taste,
Would now be glad of bread, and beg for it;
Those mothers who, to nouse‡ up their babes,
Thought nought too curious, are ready now,
To eat those little darlings whom they lov'd.
So sharp are hunger's teeth, that man and
wife

Draw lots, who first shall die to lengthen life:
Here stands a lord, and there a lady weeping;
Here many sick, yet those which see them fall,
Have scarce strength left to give them burial.
Is not this true?

Dio. Our cheeks and hollow eyes do witness
it.

Cle. O, let those cities, that of Plenty's cup
And her prosperities so largely taste,
With their superfluous riots, hear these tears!
The misery of Tharsus may be theirs.

Enter a LORD.

Lord. Where's the lord governor?

Cle. Here. [haste,
Speak out thy sorrows which thou bring'st, in
For comfort is too far for us to expect.

Lord. We have descried, upon our neigh-
bouring shore

A portly sail of ships make hitherward.

Cle. I thought as much.

One sorrow never comes, but brings an heir,
That may succeed as his inheritor;
And so in ours: some neighbouring nation,
Taking advantage of our misery, [power, §
Hath stuff'd these hollow vessels with their
To beat us down, the which are down already;
And make a conquest of unhappy me,
Whereas no glory's got to overcome.

Lord. That's the least fear: for, by the sem-
blance [peace,
Of their white flags display'd, they bring us
And come to us as favourers, not as foes.

Cle. Thou speak'st like him's ututor'd to
repeat, [deceit.
Who makes the fair'st show, means most
But bring they what they will, what need we
fear? [there.

The ground's the low'st, and we are half way
Go tell their general, we attend him here,
To know for what he comes, and whence he
And what he craves. [comes,

Lord. I go, my lord. [Exit.

Cle. Welcome is peace, if he on peace con-
fide, we are unable to resist. [sist; ||

Enter PERICLES, with Attendants.

Per. Lord governor, for so we hear you are,
Let not our ships and number of our men,
Be, like a beacon fir'd, to amaze your eyes.
We have heard your miseries as far as Tyre,
And seen the desolation of your streets:
Nor come we to add sorrow to your tears,
But to relieve them of their heavy load;
And these our ships you happily* may think
Are, like the Trojan horse, war-stuff'd within,
With bloody views, expecting overthrow,
Are stor'd with corn, to make your needy
bread,
And give them life, who are hunger-starv'd,
half dead.

All. The gods of Greece protect you!
And we'll pray for you.

Per. Rise, I pray you, rise;
We do not look for reverence, but for love,
And harbourage for ourself, our ships, and
men.

Cle. The which when any shall not gratify,
Or pay you with unthankfulness in thought,
Be it our wives, our children, or ourselves,
The curse of heaven and men succeed their
evils! [seen,)

Till when, (the which, I hope, shall ne'er be
Your grace is welcome to our town and us.

Per. Which welcome we'll accept; feast
here a while,

Until our stars that frown, lend us a smile.

[Exit.

ACT II.

Enter GOWER.

Gow. Here have you seen a mighty king
His child, I wist to incest bring;
A better prince, and benign lord,
Prove awful both in deed and word.
Be quiet then, as men should be,
Till he hath pass'd necessity.
I'll show you those in trouble's reign,
Losing a mite, a mountain gain.
The good in conversation†
(To whom I give my benizon,) §
Is still at Tharsus, where each man
Thinks all is writ he spoken can:
And, to remember what he does,
Gild his statute glorious:
But tidings to the contrary
Are brought your eyes; what need speak I?

Dumb show.

Enter at one door PERICLES, talking with CLEON; all the train with them. Enter at another door, a GENTLEMAN with a Letter to PERICLES; PERICLES shows the Letter to CLEON; then gives the Messenger a reward, and knights him. Exit PERICLES, CLEON, &c. severally.

Gow. Good Helicane hath staid at home,
Not to eat honey, like a drone,
From others' labours; forth he strive
To killen bad, keep good alive;
And, to fulfil his princes' desire,
Sends word of all that haps in Tyre:
How Thaliard came full bent with sin,
And hid intent, to murder him;
And that in Tharsus was not best
Longer for him to make his rest:
He knowing so, put forth to seas,
Where when men been, there's seldom
case;

* To jet is to strut, or walk proudly.

† To dress them by. ‡ Nurse fondly

§ Forres. || If he stands on peace.

* Perhaps.

† I. e. Conduct, behaviour.

‡ Know.

§ Blessing.

For now the wind begins to blow;
Thunder above, and deeps below,
Make such unquiet, that the ship [split;
Should house him safe, is wreck'd and
And he, good prince, having all lost,
By waves from coast to coast is tost:
All perishen of man, of self,
Ne aught escapen but himself;
Till fortune, tir'd with doing bad,
Threw him ashore, to give him glad:
And here he comes: what shall be next,
Pardon old Gower; this 'longs the text.

Exit.

SCENE I.—Pentapolis.—An open Place by
the Sea Side.

Enter PERICLES, wet.

Per. Yet cease your ire, ye angry stars of
heaven! [man
Wind, rain, and thunder, remember, earthly
Is but a substance that must yield to you;
And I, as fits my nature, do obey you;
Alas, the sea hath cast me on the rocks,
Wash'd me from shore to shore, and left me
breath
Nothing to think on, but ensuing death:
Let it suffice the greatness of your powers,
To have bereft a prince of all his fortunes;
And having thrown him from your wat'ry
grave,
Here to have death in peace, is all he'll crave.

Enter three FISHERMEN.

1 Fish. What, ho, Philche!
2 Fish. Ho! come, and bring away the nets.
1 Fish. What Patch-breech, I say!
3 Fish. What say you, master?
1 Fish. Look how thou stirrest now! come
away, or I'll fetch thee with a wannon.
3 Fish. 'Faith, master, I am thinking of the
poor men that were cast away before us, even
now.

1 Fish. Alas, poor souls, it griev'd my heart
to hear what pitiful cries they made to us,
to help them, when, well-a-day, we could scarce
help ourselves.

3 Fish. Nay, master, said not I as much,
when I saw the porpus, how he bounced and
tumbled? they say, they are half fish, half
flesh: a plague on them, they ne'er come, but
I look to be wash'd. Master, I marvel how
the fishes live in the sea.

1 Fish. Why as men do a-land; the great
ones eat up the little ones: I can compare our
rich misers to nothing so fitly as to a whale; 'a
plays and tumbles, driving the poor fry before
him, and at last devours them all at a mouth-
ful. Such whales have I heard on a'the land,
who never leave gaping, till they've swallow'd
the whole parish, church, steeple, bells, and
all.

Per. A pretty moral.

3 Fish. But, master, if I had been the sex-
ton, I would have been that day in the belfry.

2 Fish. Why man?

3 Fish. Because he should have swallow'd
me too: and when I had been in his belly, I
would have kept such a jangling of the bells,
that he should never have left, till he cast
bells, steeple, church, and parish, up again.
But if the good king Simonides were of my
mind—

Per. Simonides?

3 Fish. We would purge the land of these
drones that rob the bee of her honey.

Per. How from the funny subject of the sea

These fishers tell the infirmities of men;
And from their wat'ry empire recollect
All that may men approve, or men detect!
Peace be at your labour, honest fishermen.
2 Fish. Honest! good fellow, what's that?
if it be a day fits you, scratch it out of the cal-
endar, and nobody will look after it.

Per. Nay, see, the sea hath cast upon your
coast—2 Fish. What a drunken knave was the sea;
to cast thee in our way!Per. A man whom both the waters and the
wind,

In that vast tennis-court, hath made the ball
For them to play upon, entreats you pity him;
He asks of you, that never us'd to beg.

1 Fish. No, friend, cannot you beg? here's
them in our country of Greece, gets more with
begging, than we can do with working.

2 Fish. Canst thou catch any fishes then?

Per. I never practis'd it.

2 Fish. Nay, then thou wilt starve sure; for
here's nothing to be got now-a-days, unless
thou canst fish for't.Per. What I have been, I have forgot to
know;

But what I am, want teaches me to think on;
A man shrunk up with cold: my veins are chill,
And have no more of life than may suffice
To give my tongue that heat, to ask your help;
Which if you shall refuse, when I am dead,
For I am a man, pray see me buried.

1 Fish. Die quoth-a? Now gods forbid!
have a gown here; come, put it on; keep thee
warm. Now, afore me, a handsome fellow.
Come, thou shalt go home, and we'll have
flesh for holidays, fish for fasting-days, and
more'er puddings and flap-jacks,* and thou
shalt be welcome.

Per. I thank you, Sir.

2 Fish. Hark you, my friend, you said
you could not beg.

Per. I did but crave.

2 Fish. But crave? Then I'll turn craver
too, and so I shall 'scape whipping.Per. Why, are all your beggars whipp'd
then?2 Fish. O, not all, my friend, not all; for if
all your beggars were whipp'd, I would wish
no better office, than to be beadle. But, mas-
ter, I'll go draw up the net.

[Exeunt two of the FISHERMEN.

Per. How well this honest mirth becomes
their labour!1 Fish. Hark you Sir! do you know where
you are?

Per. Not well.

1 Fish. Why, I'll tell you: this is called
Pentapolis, and our king, the good Simonides.Per. The good king Simonides, do you call
him?1 Fish. Ay, Sir; and he deserves to be so
call'd, for his peaceable reign, and good gov-
ernment.Per. He is a happy king, since from his
subjectsHe gains the name of good, by his government.
How far is his court distant from this shore?1 Fish. Marry, Sir, half a day's journey;
and I'll tell you, he hath a fair daughter, and
to-morrow is her birth-day; and there are
princes and knights come from all parts of
the world, to just and tourney† for her love.Per. Did but my fortunes equal my desires,
I'd wish to make one there.

* Pancakes.

† To tilt; mock fight.

1 *Fish*. O, Sir, things must be as they may; and what a man cannot get, he may lawfully deal for—his wife's soul.

Re-enter the Two FISHERMEN, drawing up a net.

2 *Fish*. Help, master, help; here's a fish hangs in the net, like a poor man's right in the law; 'twill hardly come out. Ha! bots on't, 'tis come at last, and 'tis turn'd to a rusty armour.

Per. An armour, friends! I pray you, let me see it.

Thanks, fortune, yet, that after all my crosses, Thou giv'st me somewhat to repair myself; And, though it was mine own, part of mine heritage,

Which my dead father did bequeath to me, With this strict charge, (even as he left his *Keep it, my Pericles, it hath been a shield* [life,] 'twixt me and death; (and pointed to this brace:)*

For that it sav'd me, keep it; in like necessity, Which gods protect thee from! it may defend thee. It kept where I kept, I so dearly lov'd it; 'Till the rough seas, that spare not any man, Took it in rage, though calm'd, they give't again:

I thank thee for't; my shipwreck's now no ill, Since I have here my father's gift by will.

1 *Fish*. What mean you, Sir?

Per. To beg of you, kind friends, this coat of worth,

For it was sometime target to a king; I know it by this mark. He lov'd me dearly, And for his sake, I wish the having of it; And that you'd guide me to your sovereign's court,

Where with't I may appear a gentleman; And if that ever my low fortunes better, I'll pay your bounties; till then, rest your debtor.

1 *Fish*. Why, wilt thou tourney for the lady?

Per. I'll show the virtue I have borne in arms.

1 *Fish*. Why, do ye take it, and the gods give thee good on't!

2 *Fish*. Ay, but hark you, my friend; 'twas we that made up this garment through the rough seams of the waters: there are certain condolences, certain veils. I hope, Sir, if you thrive, you'll remember from whence you had it.

Per. Believe't, I will.

Now, by your furtherance, I am cloth'd in steel; And spite of all the rupture of the sea, This jewel holds his bidding on my arm; Unto thy value will I mount myself Upon a courser, whose delightful steps Shall make the gazer joy to see him tread.— Only, my friend, I yet am unprovided Of a pair of bases.†

2 *Fish*. We'll sure provide: thou shalt have my best gown to make thee a pair; and I'll bring thee to the court myself.

Per. Then honour be but a goal to my will; This day I'll rise, or else add ill to ill.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—*The same.*—A public Way, or Platform, leading to the Lists. A Pavilion by the Side of it, for the reception of the KING, PRINCESS, LORDS, &c.

Enter SIMONIDES, THAISIA, LORDS, and Attendants.

Sim. Are the knights ready to begin the triumph?

Armour for the arm. † Keeping.

‡ A kind of loose breaches.

1 *Lord*. They are, my liege; And stay your coming to present themselves. *Sim*. Return them,* we are ready; and our daughter,

In honour of whose birth these triumphs are, Sits here, like beauty's child, whom nature gat For men to see, and seeing wonder at.

[*Exit a LORD.*]

Thai. It pleaseth you, my father, to express

My commendations great, whose merit's less.

Sim. 'Tis fit it should be so; for princes are A model, which heaven makes like to itself: As jewels lose their glory, if neglected, So princes their renown, if not respected.

'Tis now your honour, daughter, to explain The labour of each knight, in his device.†

Thai. Which, to preserve mine honour, I'll perform.

Enter a Knight; he passes over the Stage, and his Squire presents his Shield to the Princess.

Sim. Who is the first that doth prefer† himself?

Thai. A knight of Sparta, my renowned father;

And the device he bears upon his shield Is a black Æthiop, reaching at the sun; The word,‡ *Lux tua vita mihi.*

Sim. He loves you well, that holds his life of you. [The second Knight passes.

Who is the second, that presents himself?

Thai. A prince of Macedon, my royal father; And the device he bears upon his shield

Is an arm'd knight, that's conquer'd by a lady: The motto thus, in Spanish, *Piu per dulçura, que per fuerça.*||

[The third Knight passes.

Sim. And what's the third?

Thai. The third, of Antioch;

And his device, a wreath of chivalry: The word, *Me pompe provexit apex.*

[The fourth Knight passes.

Sim. What is the fourth?

Thai. A burning torch, that's turned upside down;

The word, *Quod me alit, me extinguit.*

Sim. Which shows that beauty hath his power and will,

Which can as well inflame, as it can kill.

[The fifth night passes.

Thai. The fifth, a hand environed with clouds; [tried:

Holding out gold, that's by the touchstone The motto thus, *Sic spectandi fides.*

[The sixth Knight passes.

Sim. And what's the sixth and last, which the knight himself

With such a graceful courtesy deliver'd?

Thai. He seems a stranger; but his present is A wither'd branch, that's only green at top:

The motto, *In hac spe vivo.*

Sim. A pretty moral;

From the dejected state wherein he is,

He hopes by you his fortunes yet may flourish. 1 *Lord*. He had need mean better than his outward show

Can any way speak in his just commend:

For, by his rusty outside, he appears To have practis'd more the whipstock,¶ than the lance.

2 *Lord*. He well may be a stranger, for he comes

To an honour'd triumph strangely furnish'd.

* I. e. Return them notice. † Emblem on a shield.

‡ Offer. § The motto. || I. e. More by sweetness than by force. ¶ Handle of a whip.

3 Lord. And on set purpose let his armour
Until this day, to scour it in the dust. [rust

Sim. Opinion's but a fool, that makes us scan
The outward habit by the inward man.

But stay, the knights are coming; we'll with-
draw

Into the gallery. [Exeunt.
[Great shouts, and all cry, The mean knight!

SCENE III.—The same.—A Hall of State.
A Banquet prepared.

Enter SIMONIDES, THAISA, LORDS, KNIGHTS,
and Attendants.

Sim. Knights,
To say you are welcome, were superfluous.
To place upon the volume of your deeds,
As in a title-page, your worth in arms, [fit,
Were more than you expect, or more than's
Since every worth in show commends itself.
Prepare for mirth, for mirth becomes a feast:
You are my guests.

Thai. But you, my knight and guest;
To whom this wreath of victory I give,
And crown you king of this day's happiness.

Per. 'Tis more by fortune, lady, than my
merit.

Sim. Call it by what you will, the day is
yours;

And here, I hope, is none that envies it.
In framing artists, art hath thus decreed,
To make some good, but others to exceed;
And you're her labour'd scholar. Come, queen
o'the feast, [place:

(For daughter, so you are,) here take your
Marshall the rest, as they deserve their grace.

Knights. We are honour'd much by good
Simonides.

Sim. Your presence glads our days; hon-
our we love,

For who hates honour, hates the gods above.
Marsh. Sir, yond's your place.

Per. Some other is more fit.

I knight. Contend not, Sir; for we are
gentlemen,

That neither in our hearts, nor outward eyes,
Envy the great, nor do the low despise.

Per. You are right courteous knights.

Sim. Sit, sit, Sir; sit.

Per. By Jove, I wonder, that is king of
thoughts,

These cates resist me,* she not thought upon.

Thai. By Juno, that is queen
Of marriage, all the viands that I eat

Do seem unsavoury, wishing him my meat;
Sure he's a gallant gentleman.

Sim. He's but

A country gentleman;

He has done no more than other knights have
Broken a staff, or so; so let it pass. [done;

Thai. To me he seems like diamond to a glass.

Per. Yon king's to me, like to my father's
picture,

Which tells me, in that glory once he was;
Had princes sit, like stars, about his throne,
And he the sun, for them to reverence.

None that beheld him, but like lesser lights,
Did veil their crown by his supremacy;

Where now his son's a glow-worm in the night,
The which hath fire in darkness, none in light;

Whereby I see that time's the king of men,
For he's their parent, and he is their grave,
And gives them what he will, not what they
crave.

Sim. What, are you merry, knights!

* I. e. These delicacies go against my stomach.
† Lower.

1 Knight. Who can be other, in this royal
presence?

Sim. Here, with a cup that's stor'd unto
the brim,

(As you do love, fill to your mistress' lips,)
We drink this health to you.

Knights. We thank your grace.

Sim. Yet pause a while;

You knight, methinks, doth sit too melancholy,
As if the entertainment in our court

Had not a show might countervail his worth.
Note it not you, 'Thaisa!

Thai. What is it

To me, my father?

Sim. O, attend, my daughter;

Princes, in this, should live like gods above,
Who freely give to every one that comes

To honour them: and princes, not doing so,
Are like to gnats, which make a sound, but
Are wonder'd at. [kill'd

Therefore to make's entrance more sweet, here
say,

We drink this standing-bowl of wine to him.

Thai. Alas, my father, it befits not me

Unto a stranger knight to be so bold;

He may my proffer take for an offence,
Since men take women's gifts for impudence.

Sim. How!

Do as I bid you, or you'll move me else.

Thai. Now, by the gods, he could not please
me better. [Aside.

Sim. And further tell him, we desire to
know,

Of whence he is, his name and parentage.

Thai. The king my father, Sir, has drunk
to you.

Per. I thank him.

Thai. Wishing it so much blood unto your
life.

Per. I thank both him and you, and pledge
him freely.

Thai. And further he desires to know of you,
Of whence you are, your name and parentage.

Per. A gentleman of Tyre—(my name,
Pericles;

My education being in arts and arms;—)

Who, looking for adventures in the world,
Was by the rough seas reft of ships and men,
And, after shipwreck, driven upon this shore.

Thai. He thanks your grace; names him-
self Pericles,

A gentleman of Tyre, who only by
Misfortune of the seas has been bereft

Of ships and men, and cast upon this shore.

Sim. Now, by the gods, I pity his misfor-
tune,

And will awake him from his melancholy.

Come, gentlemen, we sit too long on trifles,
And waste the time, which looks for other re-
vels.

Even in your armours, as you are address'd.*
Will very well become a soldier's dance.

I will not have excuse, with saying, this
Loud music is too harsh for ladies' heads;

Since they love men in arms, as well as beds.
[The KNIGHTS dance.

So, this was well ask'd, 'twas so well per-
come, Sir; [form'd.

Here is a lady that wants breathing too:
And I have often heard, you knights of Tyre
Are excellent in making ladies trip;

And that their measures are as excellent.

Per. In those that practise them, they are
my lord.

Sim. O, that's as much, as you would be deny'd

[*The KNIGHTS and LADIES dance.*

Of your fair courtesy.—Unclasp, unclasp :
Thanks gentlemen, to all ; all have done well ;
But you the best. [*To PERICLES.*] Pages and
lights conduct

These knights unto their several lodgings :
Yours, Sir,

We have given order to be next our own.

Per. I am at your grace's pleasure.

Sim. Princes, it is too late to talk of love,
For that's the mark I know you level at :
Therefore each one betake him to his rest ;
To-morrow, all for speeding do their best.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—*Tyre.*—*A Room in the Governor's house.*

Enter HELICANES and ESCANES.

Hel. No, no, my Escanes ; know this of
Antiochus from incest liv'd not free ; [me,—
For which, the most high gods not minding
longer

[*store,*

To withhold the vengeance that they had in
Due to this heinous capital offence,
Even in the height and pride of all his glory,
When he was seated, and his daughter with
In a chariot of inestimable value, [him,
A fire from heaven came, and shrivell'd up
Their bodies, even to loathing ; for they so
stunk

That all those eyes ador'd them,* ere their fall,
Scorn now their hand should give them burial.

E sca. 'Twas very strange.

Hel. And yet but just ; for though [guard
This king were great, his greatness was no
To bar heaven's shaft, but sin had his reward.

E sca. 'Tis very true.

Enter three LORDS.

1 *Lord.* See, not a man in private conference,
Or council, hath respect with him but he.

2 *Lord.* It shall no longer grieve without re-
proof.

3 *Lord.* And curs'd be he that will not second
it.

1 *Lord.* Follow me, then : Lord Helicane, a
word.

Hel. With me ? and welcome : Happy day,
my lords.

1 *Lord.* Know that our griefs are risen to the
top,
And now at length they overflow their banks.

Hel. Your griefs, for what ? wrong not the
prince you love.

1 *Lord.* Wrong not yourself then, noble He-
licane ;

But if the prince do live, let us salute him,
Or know what ground's made happy by his
breath.

If in the world he live, we'll seek him out ;
If in his grave he rest, we'll find him there ;
And be resolv'd, † he lives to govern us,
Or dead, gives cause to mourn his funeral,
And leaves us to our free election.

2 *Lord.* Whose death's, indeed, the strong-
est in our censure ; ‡

And knowing this kingdom, if without a head,
(Like goodly buildings left without a roof,)
Will soon to ruin fall, your noble self,
That best know'st how to rule, and how to
reign,

We thus submit unto,—our sovereign.

* Which adored them. † Satisfied.
‡ Judgment, opinion

All. Live, noble Helicane !

Hel. Try honour's cause, forbear your suf-
frages :

If that you love prince Pericles, forbear.

Take I your wish, I leap into the seas,
Where's hourly trouble for a minute's ease.
A twelvemonth longer, let me then entreat
you

To forbear choice i' the absence of your king ;
If in which time expir'd, he not return,
I shall with aged patience bear your yoke.

But if I cannot win you to this love,
Go search like noblemen, like noble subjects,
And in your search spend your adventurous
worth ;

Whom if you find, and win unto return,
You shall like diamonds sit about his crown.

1 *Lord.* To wisdom he's a fool that will not
And, since lord Helicane enjoyeth us, [yield ;
We with our travels will endeavour it.

Hel. Then you love us, we you, and we'll
clasp hands ;

When peers thus knit, a kingdom ever stands.
[*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.—*Pentapolis.*—*A Room in the Palace.*

*Enter SIMONIDES, reading a Letter, the KNIGHTS
meet him.*

1 *Knight.* Good morrow to the good Simon-
ides.

Sim. Knights, from my daughter this I let
you know,

That for this twelvemonth, she'll not undertake
A married life.

Her reason to herself is only known,
Which from herself by no means can I get.

2 *Knight.* May we not get access to her, my
lord ?

Sim. 'Faith, by no means ; she hath so strict-
ly tied her

To her chamber, that it is impossible.
One twelve moons more she'll wear Diana's
livery ;

This by the eye of Cynthia hath she vow'd,
And on her virgin honour will not break it.

3 *Knight.* Though loath to bid farewell, we
take our leaves. [*Exeunt.*

Sim. So

They're well despatch'd ; now to my daugh-
ter's letter : [knight,

She tells me here, she'll wed the stranger
Or never more to view nor day nor light.

Mistress, 'tis well, your choice agrees with
mine ;

I like that well :—nay, how absolute she's in't,
Not minding whether I dislike or no !

Well, I commend her choice ;
And will no longer have it be delay'd.

Soft, here he comes :—I must dissemble it.

Enter PERICLES.

Per. All fortune to the good Simonides !

Sim. To you as much, Sir ! I am beholden
to you,

For your sweet music this last night : my ears,
I do protest, were never better fed
With such delightful pleasing harmony.

Per. It is your grace's pleasure to commend ;
Net my desert.

Sim. Sir, you are music's master.

Per. The worst of all her scholars, my good
lord.

Sim. Let me ask one thing. What do you
think, Sir, of

My daughter ?

Per. As of a most virtuous princess.

Sim. And she is fair too, is she not? [fair.]

Per. As a fair day in summer; wondrous

Sim. My daughter, Sir, thinks very well of you;

Ay, so well, Sir, that you must be her master, And she'll your scholar be; therefore look to it.

Per. Unworthy I to be her schoolmaster.

Sim. She thinks not so; peruse this writing else.

Per. What's here!

A letter that she loves the knight of Tyre? 'Tis the king's subtilty, to have my life. [Aside.]

O, seek not to intrap, my gracious lord, A stranger and distressed gentleman, That never ain'd so high, to love your daughter, But bent all offices to honour her.

Sim. Thou hast bewitch'd my daughter, and thou art

A villain.

Per. By the gods, I have not, Sir. Never did thought of mine levy offence; Nor never did my actions yet commence A deed might gain her love, or your displeasure.

Sim. Traitor, thou liest.

Per. Traitor!

Sim. Ay, traitor, Sir. [king.]

Per. Even in his throat, (unless it be the That calls me traitor, I return the lie.

Sim. Now, by the gods, I do applaud his courage. [Aside.]

Per. My actions are as noble as my thoughts, That never relish'd of a base descent. I came unto your court, for honour's cause, And not to be a rebel to her state; And he that otherwise accounts of me, This sword shall prove he's honour's enemy.

Sim. No!— Here comes my daughter, she can witness it.

Enter THAISA.

Per. Then, as you are as virtuous as fair, Resolve your angry father, if my tongue Did e'er solicit, or my hand subscribe To any syllable that made love to you?

Thai. Why, Sir, say if you had, Who takes offence at that would make me glad?

Sim. Yea, mistress, are you so peremptory?— I am glad of it with all my heart. [Aside.] I'll tame you;

I'll bring you in subjection.—

Will you, not having my consent, bestow Your love and your affections on a stranger? (Who, for ought I know to the contrary, Or think, may be as great in blood as I.) [Aside.]

Hear therefore, mistress; frame your will to mine,— [me,

And you, Sir, hear you.—Either be rul'd by Or I will make you—man and wife.— [too.—

Nay, come; your hands and lips must seal it And being join'd, I'll thus your hopes destroy;

And for a further grief,—God give you joy! What, are you both pleas'd?

Thai. Yes, if you love me, Sir.

Per. Even as my life, my blood that fosters it.

Sim. What, are you both agreed?

Both. Yes, please your majesty.

Sim. It pleaseth me so well, I'll see you wed; Then, with what haste you can, get you to bed. [Exeunt.]

ACT III.

Enter GOWER.

Gow. Now sleep yslack'd* hath the rout; No dū but snores, the house about,

* Quenched.

Made louder by the o'er-fed breast Of this most pompous marriage-feast. The cat, with eyne of burning coal, Now couches 'fore the mouse's hole: And crickets sing at th' oven's mouth, For the blither for their drouth. Hymen hath brought the bride to bed, Where, by the loss of maidenhead, A babe is moulded;—Be attent, And time that is so briefly spent, With your fine fancies quaintly eche;† What's dumber in show, I'll plain with speech.

Dumb show.

Enter PERICLES and SIMONIDES at one door, with Attendants; a Messenger meets them, kneels, and gives PERICLES a letter. PERICLES shows it to SIMONIDES; the Lords kneel to the former. Then enter THAISA with child, and Lychorida. SIMONIDES shows his daughter the letter; she rejoices: she and PERICLES take leave of her father, and depart. Then SIMONIDES, &c. retire.

Gow. By many a dearnt and painful Of Pericles the careful search [perch† By the four opposing coignes,§ Which the world together joins, Is made, with all due diligence, That horse, and sail, and high expense, Can stead the quest. || At last from Tyre (Fame answering the most strong inquire,) To the court of king Simonides Are letters brought; the tenour these: Antiochus and his daughter's dead; The men of Tyrus, on the head Of Helicanus would set on The crown of Tyre, but he will none: The mutiny there he hastens t'appease; Says to them, If king Pericles Come not, in twice six moons, home, He obedient to their doom, Will take the crown. The sum of this, Brought hither to Pentapolis, Y-ravished the regions round, And every one with claps 'gan sound, Our heir apparent is a king: Who dream'd, who thought of such a thing? Brief, he must hence depart to Tyre: His queen, with child, makes her desire (Which who shall cross?) along to go; (Omit we all their dole and woe;) Lychorida, her nurse, she takes, And go to sea. Their vessel shakes On Neptune's billow; half the flood Hath their keel cut; but fortune's mood¶ Varies again; the grizzled north Disgorges such a tempest forth, That, as a duck for life that dives, So up and down the poor ship drives. The lady shrieks, and, well-a-near** Doth fall in travail with her fear: And what ensues in this fell storm, Shall, for itself, itself perform. I will†† relate; action may Conveniently the rest convey: Which might not what by me is told. In your imagination hold This stage, the ship, upon whose deck The sea-tost prince appears to speak. [Exit.]

SCENE I.—Enter PERICLES, on a ship at sea.

Per. Thou God of this great vast,†† rebuke these surges,

* Eke out. † Lonely. ‡ A measure. § Corners. || Help, or assist the search. ¶ Disposition. ** An exclamation equivalent to "Well-a-day." †† I shall not. ††† This wide expanse.

Which wash both heaven and hell; and thou, that hast

Upon the winds command, bind them in brass, Having call'd them from the deep! O still thy deafning, [nimble,

Thy dreadful thunder: gently quench thy Sulphureous flashes!—O how, Lychorida, How does my queen?—Thou storm, thou! venomously* [the

Wilt thou spit all thyself?—The seaman's whistles as a whisper in the ears of death, Unheard.—Lychorida! Lucia, † O Divinest patroness, and midwife, gentle To those that cry by night, convey thy deity Abroad our dancing boat; make swift the pangs

Of my queen's travails!—Now, Lychorida—

Enter LYCHORIDA, with an Infant.

Lyc. Here is a thing Too young for such a place, who if it had Conceit ‡ would die as I am like to do. Take in your arms this piece of your dead queen.

Per. How! how, Lychorida!

Lyc. Patience, good Sir: do not assist the storm.

Here's all that is left living of your queen,— A little daughter: for the sake of it, Be manly, and take comfort.

Per. O you gods!

Why do you make us love your goodly gifts, And snatch them straight away? We, here below,

Recall not what we give, and therein may Vie honour § with ourselves.

Lyc. Patience, good Sir, Even for this charge.

Per. Now, mild may be thy life!

For a more blust'rous birth had never babe: Quiet and gentle thy conditions! For thou'rt the rudeliest welcom'd to this world, That e're was prince's child. Happy what fol- Thou hast as chiding|| a nativity, [lows! As fire, air, water, earth, and heaven, can make, [first,

To herald thee from the womb: even at the Thy loss is more than can thy portage quit, ¶ With all thou canst find here.—Now the good Throw their best eyes upon it! [gods

Enter two SALORS.

1 *Sail.* What courage, Sir? God save you.

Per. Courage enough: I do not fear the flaw; ** [love

It hath done to me the worst. Yet, for the Of this poor infant, this fresh-new sea-farer, I would, it would be quiet.

1 *Sail.* Slack the bolinst† there; thou wilt not, wilt thou? Blow, and split thyself.

2 *Sail.* But sea-room, an the brine and cloudy billow kiss the moon, I care not.

1 *Sail.* Sir, your queen must overboard; the sea works high, the wind is loud, and will not lie, till the ship be cleared of the dead.

Per. That's your superstition.

1 *Sail.* Pardon us, Sir; with us at sea it still hath been observed; and we are strong in earnest. Therefore briefly yield her; for she must overboard straight.

Per. Be it as you think meet.—Most wretched queen!

Lyc. Here she lies, Sir.

* Malignantly.

† The goddess of child-bearing.

‡ Thought.

§ Content with you in honour.

|| As noisy as one.

¶ Than thy entrance into life can re-

quire. ** Blast.

†† Bolines, ropes of the sails

Per. A terrible child-bed hast thou had, my dear.

No light, no fire: the unfriendly elements Forgot thee utterly; nor have I time To give thee hallow'd to thy grave, but straight Must cast thee, scarcely coffin'd, in the ooze; Where for a monument upon thy bones, And aye-remaining* lamps, the belching whale, [corpse,

And humming water must o'erwhelm thy Lying with simple shells. Lychorida, Bid Nestor bring me spices, ink, and paper, My casket and my jewels; and bid Nicander Bring me the satin coffer: lay the babe Upon the pillow; hie thee, whiles I say A priestly farewell to her: suddenly, woman. [Exit LYCHORIDA.

2 *Sail.* Sir, we have a chest beneath the hatches, caul'd and bitume ready.

Per. I thank thee. Mariner, say, what coast is this?

2 *Sail.* We are near Tharsus.

Per. Thither, gentle mariner, Alter thy course for Tyre. When canst thou reach it?

2 *Sail.* By break of day, if the wind cease.

Per. O make for Tharsus.

There will I visit Cleon, for the babe Cannot hold out to Tyrus; there I'll leave it At careful nursing. Go thy ways, good mari I'll bring the body presently. [ner; [Exit.

SCENE II.—Ephesus.—A Room in CERIMON'S House.

Enter CERIMON, a SERVANT, and some persons who have been shipwrecked.

Cer. Philemon, ho!

Enter PHILEMON.

Phil. Doth my lord call?

Cer. Get fire and meat for these poor men; It has been a turbulent and stormy night.

Serv. I have been in many; but such a night Till now, I ne'er endur'd. [as this,

Cer. Your master will be dead ere you return;

There's nothing can be minister'd to nature, That can recover him. Give this to the 'pothe- And tell me how it works. [cary, [To PHILEMON.

[Exit PHILEMON, SERVANT, and those who had been shipwrecked.

Enter two GENTLEMEN.

1 *Gent.* Good morrow, Sir.

2 *Gent.* Good morrow to your lordship.

Cer. Gentlemen,

Why do you stir so early?

1 *Gent.* Sir,

Our lodgings standing bleak upon the sea, Shook as the earth did quake; The very principals did seem to rend, And all to topple; † pure surprise and fear Made me to quit the house.

2 *Gent.* That is the cause we trouble you so 'Tis not our husbandry. § [early;

Cer. O, you say well.

1 *Gent.* But I much marvel that your lordship, having [hours Rich tire|| about you, should at these early Shake off the golden slumber of repose. It is most strange,

* Ever burning. † The principals are the strongest rafters in the roof of a building.

‡ Tumble. § I. e. Economical prudence, early rising. || Attire.

Nature should be so conversant with pain,
Being thereto not compell'd.

Cer. I held it ever,
Virtue and cunning* were endowments greater
Than nobleness and riches, careless heirs
May the two latter darken and expend;
But immortality attends the former,
Making a man a god. 'Tis known, I ever
Have studied physic, through which secret art,
By turning o'er authorities, I have
(Together with my practice,) made familiar
To me and to my aid, the blest infusions
That dwell in vegetives, in metals, stones;
And I can speak of the disturbances
That nature works, and of her cures; which
gives me

A more content in course of true delight
Than to be thirsty after tottering honour,
Or tie my treasure up in silken bags,
To please the fool and death.

2 Gent. Your honour has through Ephesus
pour'd forth
Your charity, and hundreds call themselves
Your creatures, who by you have been restor'd;
And not your knowledge, personal pain, but
even
Your purse, still open, hath built lord Cerimon
Such strong renown as time shall never—

Enter two SERVANTS with a chest.

Serv. So; lift there.

Cer. What is that?

Serv. Sir even now

Did the sea toss upon our shore this chest;
'Tis of some wreck.

Cer. Set't down, let's look on it.

2 Gent. 'Tis like a coffin, Sir.

Cer. Whate'er it be,

'Tis wondrous heavy. Wrench it open straight;
If the sea's stomach be o'ercharg'd with gold,
It is a good constraint of fortune, that
It belches upon us.

2 Gent. 'Tis so, my lord.

Cer. How close 'tis caulk'd and bitum'd!—
Did the sea cast it up?

Serv. I never saw so huge a billow, Sir,
As toss'd it upon shore,

Cer. Come, wrench it open; [sense.

Soft, soft!—it smells most sweetly in my
2 Gent. A delicate odour.

Cer. As ever hit my nostril: so,—up with it,
O you most potent god! what's here? a corse!

1 Gent. Most strange!

Cer. Shrouded in cloth of state; balm'd and
entreasur'd

With bags of spices full! A passport too!
Apollo, perfect me i'the characters!

[Unfolds a scroll.

Here I give to understand, [Reads.

(If e'er this coffin drive a-land,)

I, king Pericles, have lost

This queen, worth all our mundanet cost.

Who finds her, give her burying,

She was the daughter of a king:

Besides this treasure for a fee,

The gods requite his charity!

If thou liv'st, Pericles, thou hast a heart
That even cracks for woe!—This chanc'd to-
night.

2 Gent. Most likely, Sir.

Cer. Nay, certainly to-night;

For look, how fresh she looks!—They were
too rough;

That threw her in the sea. Make fire within;

Fetch hither all the boxes in my closet.
Death may usurp on nature many hours,
And yet the fire of life kindle again
The overpressed spirits. I have heard
Of an Egyptian, had nine hours lien dead,
By good appliance was recovered.

Enter a SERVANT, with boxes, napkins, and fire.

Well said, well said; the fire and the cloths.—
The rough and woful music that we have,
Cause it to sound, 'beseech you.
The vial once more;—How thou stirr'st, thou
block!—

The music there.—I pray you, give her air:—
Gentlemen,

This queen will live: nature awakes: a warmth
Breathes out of her; she hath not been en-
tranc'd

Above five hours. See how she 'gins to blow
Into life's flower again!

1 Gent. The heavens, Sir,
Through you, increase our wonder, and set up
Your fame for ever.

Cer. She's alive; behold,
Her eyelids, cases to those heavenly jewels
Which Pericles hath lost,
Begin to part their fringes of bright gold;
The diamonds of a most praised water
Appear, to make the world twice rich. O live,
And make us weep to hear your fate fair
creature,

Rare as you seem to be! [She moves.

Thai. O dear Diana,
Where am I! where's my lord? What world
is this?

2 Gent. Is not this strange?

1 Gent. Most rare.

Cer. Hush, gentle neighbours;
Lend me your hands: to the next chamber
bear her.

Get linen; now this matter must be look'd to,
For her relapse is mortal. Come, come, come;
And Æsculapius guide us!

[Exit carrying THAISA away.

SCENE III—Tharsus—A Room in CLEON'S
House.

*Enter PERICLES, CLEON, DIONYZA, LYCHO-
RIDA, and MARINA.*

Per. Most honour'd Cleon, I must needs be
gone; [stands

My twelve months are expir'd and Tyrus
In a litigious peace. You and your lady,

Take from my heart all thankfulness! The
Make up the rest upon you! [gods

Cle. Your shafts of fortune, though they
hurt you mortally,

Yet glance full wand'ringly on us.

Dion. O your sweet queen!
That the strict fates had pleas'd you had
brought her hither,

To have bless'd mine eyes!

Per. We cannot but obey
The powers above us. Could I rage and roar

As doth the sea she lies in, yet the end
Must be as 'tis. My babe Marina (whom,

For she was born at sca, I have nam'd so) here
I charge your charity withal and leave her

The infant of your care; beseeching you
To give her princely training that she may be

Manner'd as she is born.

Cle. Fear not, my lord: [corn,

Your grace,* that fed my country with your
(For which the people's prayers still fall upon
you,) [tion

Must in your child be thought on. If neglec-

* Knowledge.

† Worldly.

* Favour.

Should therein make me vile, the common body,*

By you reliev'd, would force me to my duty :
But if to that my nature need a spur,
The gods revenge it upon me and mine,
To the end of generation !

Per. I believe you ; [credit,
Your honour and your goodness teach me
Without your vows. Till she be married,
madam,

By bright Diana, whom we honour all,
Unscissar'd shall this hair of mine remain,
Though I show will't in't. So I take my leave.
Good madam, make me blessed in your care
In bringing up my child.

Dion. I have one myself,
Who shall not be more dear to my respect,
Than yours, my lord.

Per. Madam, my thanks and prayers.

Cle. We'll bring your grace even to the
edge o'the shore :

Then give you up to the mask'd Neptune, † and
The gentlest winds of heaven.

Per. I will embrace [tears,
Your offer. Come, dear'st madam.—O, no
Lychorida, no tears :
Look to your little mistress, on whose grace
You may depend hereafter.—Come, my lord.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—Ephesus.—A Room in CERIMON'S
House.

Enter CERIMON and THAISA.

Cer. Madam, this letter, and some certain
jewels,

Lay with you in your coffer : which are now
At your command. Know you the character ?

Thai. It is my lord's.
That I was shipp'd at sea, I well remember,
Even on my yearning time ; but whether there
Delivered or no, by the holy gods,
I cannot rightly say : But since king Pericles,
My wedded lord, I ne'er shall see again,
A vestal livery will I take me to,
And never more have joy.

Cer. Madam, if this your purpose as you
Diana's temple is not distant far, [speak,
Where you may 'bide until your date expire.
Moreover, if you please, a niece of mine
Shall there attend you.

Thai. My recompense is thanks, that's all ;
Yet my good will is great, though the gift
small. [*Exeunt.*

ACT IV.

Enter GOWER.

Gow. Imagine Pericles at Tyre,
Welcom'd to his own desire,
His woeful queen leave at Ephess.
To Dian there a votaress.
Now to Marina bend your mind,
Whom our fast growing scene must find
At Tharsus, and by Cleon train'd
In music, letters ; who hath gain'd
Of education all the grace,
Which makes her both the heart and place
Of general wonder. But, alack !
That monster envy, oft the wrack
Of earned praise. Marina's life
Seeks to take off by treason's knife.
And in this kind hath our Cleon
One daughter, and a wench full grown,

* The common people.

† Appear wilful, perverse by such conduct.

‡ Insidious waves that wear a treacherous smile.

§ Groaning.

Even ripe for marriage fight ; this maid
High* Philoten : and it is said
For certain in our story, she
Would ever with Marina be :
Be't when she weav'd the sleided † silk
With fingers long, small, white as milk ;
Or when she would with sharp need ‡
wound

The cambric, which she made more sound
By hurting it ; or when to the lute
She sung, and made the night-bird mute,
That still records § with moan ; or when
She would with rich and constant pen
Veil to her mistress Dian ; still
This Philoten contends in skill
With absolute || Marina : so
With the dove of Paphos might the crow
Vie feathers white. Marina gets
All praises, which are paid as debts,
And not as given. This so darks
In Philoten all graceful marks,
That Cleon's wife, with envy rare,
A present murderer does prepare
For good Marina, that her daughter
Might stand peerless by this slaughter.
The sooner her vile thoughts to stead ;
Lychorida, our nurse, is dead ;
And cursed Dionyza hath

The pregnant ¶ instrument of wrath
Prest** for this blow. The unborn event
I do commend to your content :
Only I carry winged time
Post on the lame feet of my rhyme ;
Which never could I so convey,
Unless your thoughts went on my way.—
Dionyza does appear,
With Leonine, a murderer. [*Exit.*

SCENE I.—Tharsus.—An open Place near the
Sea-shore.

Enter DIONYZA and LEONINE.

Dion. Thy oath remember ; thou hast
sworn to do it :
'Tis but a blow, which never shall be known ;
Thou canst not do a thing i'the world so soon,
To yield thee so much profit. Let not con-
science,

Which is but cold, inflame love in thy bosom,
Inflame too nicely ; nor let pity, which
Even women have cast off, melt thee, but be
A soldier to thy purpose.

Leon. I'll do't ; but yet she is a goodly crea-
ture.

Dion. The fitter then the gods should have
her. Here
Weeping she comes for her old nurse's death.
Thou art resolv'd.

Leon. I am resolv'd.

Enter MARINA, with a Basket of Flowers.

Mar. No, no, I will rob Tellust † of her
weeds, [blues,
To strew thy green with flowers : the yellows,
The purple violets, and marigolds,
Shall, as a chaplet, hang upon thy grave,
While summer days do last. Ah me ! poor
maid,

Born in a tempest, when my mother died,
This world to me is like a lasting storm,
Whirling me from my friends.

Dion. How now, Marina ! Why do you
keep alone ?

How chance my daughter is not worth you ?
Do not

* Called. † Untwisted. ‡ Needle. § Sings.

|| Accomplished, perfect. ¶ Prepared. ** Ready.

† The cap[ri].

Consume your blood with sorrowing: you have
A nurse of me. Lord! how your favour's*
chang'd

With this unprofitable woe! Come, come;
Give me your wreath of flowers. Ere the sea
mar it, [there,
Walk forth with Leonine;† the air is quick
Piercing, and sharpens well the stomach.
Come;—

Leonine, take her by the arm, walk with her.

Mar. No, I pray you;
I'll not bereave you of your servant.

Dion. Come, come;
I love the king your father, and yourself,
With more than foreign heart. We every day
Expect him here: when he shall come, and
Our paragon to all reports, thus blasted, [find
He will repent the breadth of his great voyage;
Blame both my lord and me, that we have
ta'en

No care to your best courses. Go, I pray you,
Walk, and be cheerful once again; reserve
That excellent complexion, which did steal
The eyes of young and old. Care not for me;
I can go home alone.

Mar. Well, I will go;
But yet I have no desire to it.

Dion. Come, come, I know 'tis good for you.
Walk half an hour, Leonine, at the least;
Remember what I have said.

Leon. I warrant you, madam.

Dion. I'll leave you, my sweet lady, for a
while;

Pray you walk softly, do not heat your blood:
What! I must have a care of you.

Mar. Thanks, sweet madam.—
[Exit DIONYZA.

Is this wind westerly that blows?

Leon. South-west.

Mar. When I was born, the wind was north.

Leon. Was't so?

Mar. My father, as nurse said, did never
fear,

But cry'd, *good seamen!* to the sailors, galling
His kingly hands with hauling of the ropes;
And, clasping to the mast, endur'd a sea
That almost burst the deck, and from the lad-
der-tackle

Wash'd off a canvass-climber:‡ *Ha!* says one,
Will out? and, with a dropping industry,
They skip from stem to stern: the boatswain
whistles,

The master calls, and trebles their confusion.

Leon. And when was this?

Mar. It was when I was born:
Never was waves nor wind more violent.

Leon. Come, say your prayers speedily.

Mar. What mean you?

Leon. If you require a little space for
prayer,

I grant it: Pray; but be not tedious,
For the gods are quick of ear, and I am sworn
To do my work with haste.

Mar. Why, will you kill me?

Leon. To satisfy my lady.

Mar. Why would she have me kill'd?

Now, as I can remember, by my troth,
I never did her hurt in all my life;
I never spake bad word, nor did ill turn
To any living creature: believe me, la,
I never kill'd a mouse, nor hurt a fly:
I trod upon a worm against my will,
But I wept for it. How have I offended,

Wherein my death might yield her profit, or
My life imply her danger?

Leon. My commission

Is not to reason of the deed, but do it.

Car. You will not do't for all the world, I
hope, [show

You are well-favour'd, and your looks fore-
You have a gentle heart. I saw you lately,
When you caught hurt in parting two that
fought:

Good sooth, it show'd well in you; do so now:
Your lady seeks my life: come you between,
And save poor me, the weaker.

Leon. I am sworn,
And will despatch.

Enter PIRATES, whilst MARINA is struggling.

1 Pirate. Hold, villain!

[LEONINE runs away.

2 Pirate. A prize! a prize!

3 Pirate. Half-part, mates, half-part. Come,
let's have her aboard suddenly.

[Exit PIRATES with MARINA.

SCENE II.—The same.

Re-enter LEONINE.

Leon. These roving thieves serve the great
pirate Valdes;

And they have seiz'd Marina. Let her go:
There's no hope she'll return. I'll swear she's
dead.

And thrown into the sea.—But I'll see further;
Perhaps they will but please themselves upon
Nor carry her aboard. If she remain, [her,
Whom they have ravish'd, must by me be
slain. [Exit.

SCENE III.—Citylene.—A Room in a
Brothel.

Enter PANDER, BAWD, and BOULT.

Pand. Boul.

Boul. Sir.

Pand. Search the market narrowly; Mity-
lene is full of gallants. We lost too much
money this mart, by being too wenchless.

Bawd. We were never so much out of crea-
tures. We have but poor three, and they can
do no more than they can do; and with con-
tinual action are even as good as rotten.

Pand. Therefore let's have fresh ones, what-
e'er we pay for them. If there be not a con-
science to be us'd in every trade, we shall
never prosper.

Bawd. Thou say'st true: 'tis not the bring-
ing up of poor bastards, as I think I have
brought up some eleven—

Boul. Ay, to eleven, and brought them
down again. But shall I search the market?

Bawd. What else man? The stuff we have,
a strong wind will blow it to pieces, they are
so pitifully sodden.

Pand. Thou say'st true; they are too un-
wholesome o' conscience. The poor Transil-
vanian is dead, that lay with the little bag-
gage.

Boul. Ay, she quickly poop'd him; she
made roast meat for worms:—but I'll go
search the market. [Exit BOULT.

Pand. Three or four thousand chequins were
as pretty a proportion to live quietly, and so
give over.

Bawd. Why, to give over, I pray you? Is it
a shame to get when we are old?

Pand. O, our credit comes not in like the
commodity; nor the commodity wages not

* Countenance, look.

† I. e. Ere the seas by the coming in of the tide mar-
your walk.

‡ A ship-boy.

with the danger; therefore, if in our youths we could pick up some pretty estate, 'twere not amiss to keep our door hatch'd.* Besides, the sore terms we stand upon with the gods, will be strong with us for giving over.

Bawd. Come, other sorts offend as well as we.

Pand. As well as we! ay, and better too; we offend worse. Neither is our profession any trade; it's no calling:—but here comes Boul.

Enter the PIRATES, and BOULT, dragging in MARINA.

Boul. Come your ways. [To MARINA.]—My masters, you say she's a virgin?

1 Pirate. O, Sir, we doubt it not.

Boul. Master, I have gone thorough for this piece,† you see: if you like her, so; if not, I have lost my earnest.

Bawd. Boul, has she any qualities?

Boul. She has a good face, speaks well, and has excellent good clothes; there's no further necessity of qualities can make her be refused.

Bawd. What's her price, Boul?

Boul. I cannot be bated one doit of a thousand pieces.

Pand. Well, follow me, my masters; you shall have your money presently. Wife, take her in; instruct her what she has to do, that shemay not be raw in her entertainment.

[*Exeunt PANDER and PIRATES.*]

Bawd. Boul, take you the marks of her; the colour of her hair, complexion, height, age, with warrant of her virginity; and cry, *He that will give most, shall have her first.* Such a maidenhead were no cheap thing, if men were as they have been. Get this done as I command you.

Boul. Performance shall follow.

[*Exit BOULT.*]

Mar. Alack, that Leonine was so slack, so slow!

(He should have struck, not spoke;) or that these pirates,

(Not enough barbarous,) had not overboard thrown me, to seek my mother!

Bawd. Why lament you, pretty one?

Mar. That I am pretty.

Bawd. Come, the gods have done their part in you.

Mar. I accuse them not.

Bawd. You are lit into my hands, where you are like to live.

Mar. The more my fault,

To 'scape his hands, where I was like to die.

Bawd. Ay, and you shall live in pleasure.

Mar. No.

Bawd. Yes, indeed, shall you, and taste gentlemen of all fashions. You shall fare well, you shall have the difference of all complexions. What! do you stop your ears?

Mar. Are you a woman?

Bawd. What would you have me be, an I be not a woman?

Mar. An honest woman, or not a woman.

Bawd. Marry, whip thee, gosling: I think, I shall have something to do with you. Come, you are a young foolish sapling, and must be bowed as I would have you.

Mar. The gods defend me!

Bawd. If it pleas the gods to defend you by men, then men must comfort you, men must feed you, men must stir you up.—Boul's returned.

Enter BOULT.

Now, Sir, hast thou cried her through the market?

Boul. I have cried her almost to the number of her hairs; I have drawn her picture with my voice.

Bawd. And I pr'ythee tell me, how dost thou find the inclination of the people, especially of the younger sort?

Boul. 'Faith, they listened to me, as they would have hearkened to their father's testament. There was a Spaniard's mouth so watered, that he went to bed to her very description.

Bawd. We shall have him here to-morrow with his best ruff on.

Boul. To-night, to-night. But, mistress, do you know the French knight that cowers* i' the hams?

Bawd. Who? Monsieur Veroles?

Boul. Ay; he offered to cut a caper at the proclamation; but he made a groan at it, and swore he would see her to-morrow.

Bawd. Well, well: as for him, he brought his disease hither: here he does but repair it. I know, he will come in our shadow, to scatter his crowns in the sun.

Boul. Well, if we had of every nation a traveller, we should lodge them with this sign.

Bawd. Pray you, come hither awhile. You have fortunes coming upon you. Mark me; you must seem to do that fearfully, which you commit willingly; to despise profit, where you have most gain. To weep that you live as you do, makes pity in your lovers: Seldom, but that pity begets you a good opinion, and that opinion a mere profit.

Mar. I understand you not.

Boul. O, take her home, mistress, take her home: these blushes of hers must be quenched with some present practice.

Bawd. Thou say'st true, i' faith, so they must: for your bride goes to that with shame, which is her way to go with warrant.

Boul. 'Faith some do, and some do not. But, mistress, if I have bargained for the joint,—

Bawd. Thou may'st cut a morsel off the spit.

Boul. I may so.

Bawd. Who should deny it? Come, young one, I like the manner of your garments well.

Boul. Ay, by my faith, they shall not be changed yet.

Bawd. Boul, spend thou that in the town: report what a sojourner we have; you'll lose nothing by custom. When nature framed this piece, she meant thee a good turn; therefore say what a paragon she is, and thou hast the harvest out of thine own report.

Boul. I warrant you, mistress, thunder shall not so awake the beds of eels, as my giving out her beauty stir up the lewdly-inclined. I'll bring home some to-night.

Bawd. Come your ways; follow me.

Mar. If fires be hot, knives sharp, or waters Untied I still my virgin knot will keep. [deep, Diana, and my purpose!

Bawd. What have we to do with Diana? Pray you, will you go with us? [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—*Tharsus.*—A Room in CLEON'S House.

Enter CLEON and DIONYZA.

Dion. Why, are you foolish? Can it be undone?

* Bends.

An absolute, a certain profit.

Cle. O Dionyza, such a piece of slaughter
The sun and moon ne'er look'd upon!

Dion. I think
You'll turn a child again.

Cle. Were I chief lord of all the spacious
I'd give it to undo the deed. O lady, [world,
Much less in blood than virtue, yet a princess
To equal any single crown o'the earth,
I'the justice of compare! O villain Leonine,
Whom thou hast poison'd too! [ness
If thou hadst drunk to him, it had been a kind-
Becoming well thy feat: * what canst thou say,
When noble Pericles shall demand his child?

Dion. That she is dead. Nurses are not the
To foster it, nor ever to preserve. [fates,
She died by night; I'll say so. Who can cross
Unless you pay the impious innocent, † [it?
And for an honest attribute, cry out,
She died by foul play.

Cle. O, go to. Well, well,
Of all the faults beneath the heavens, the gods
Do like this worst.

Dion. Be one of those, that think
The pretty wrens of Tharsus will fly hence,
And open this to Pericles. I do shame
To think of what a noble strain you are,
And of how cow'd a spirit.

Cle. To such proceeding
Who ever but his approbation added,
Though not his preconsent, he did not flow
From honourable courses.

Dion. Be it so then: [dead,
Yet none does know, but you, how she came
Nor none can know, Leonine being gone.
She did disdain my child, and stood between
Her and her fortunes: None would look on her,
But cast their gazes on Marina's face;
Whilst ours was blurted at, and held a malkin, ‡
Not worth the time of day. It pierc'd me
thorough;

And though you call my course unnatural,
You not your child well loving, yet I find,
It greets me, as an enterprise of kindness,
Perform'd to your sole daughter.

Cle. Heavens forgive it!

Dion. And as for Pericles,
What should he say? We'vept after her hearse,
And even yet we mourn: her monument
Is almost finish'd, and her epitaphs
In glittering golden characters express
A general praise to her, and care in us
At whose expense 'tis done.

Cle. Thou art like the harpy.
Which, to betray, doth wear an angel's face,
Seize with an eagle's talons.

Dion. You are like one that superstitiously
Doth swear to the gods, that winter kills the
But yet I know you'll do as I advise. [flies;
[*Exeunt.*

Enter GOWER, before the Monument of MARINA, at Tharsus.

Gow. Thus time we waste, and longest
leagues make short;

Sail seas in cockles, have, and wish but for't;
Making, || (to take your imagination.)
From bourn to bourn, ¶ region to region.

By you being pardon'd, we commit no crime,
To use one language, in each several clime,
Where our scenes seem to live. I do beseech
you, [you
To learn of me, who stand i'the gap to teach

* I. e. Of a piece with the rest of thy exploit.

† An innocent was formerly a common appellation for
an idiot.

‡ A coarse wench, not worth a good-morrow. § Only.

|| Travelling. ¶ From one boundary to another.

The stages of our story. Pericles
Is now again thwarting the wayward seas,
(Attended on by many a lord and knight,)
To see his daughter, all his life's delight.
Old Escanes, whom Helicanus late
Advanc'd in time to great and high estate,
Is left to govern. Bear you it in mind.
Old Helicanus goes along behind.
Well-sailing ships, and bounteous winds, have
brought

This king to Tharsus, (think his pilot thought;
So with his steerage shall your thoughts grow
on,)

To fetch his daughter home, who first is gone.
Like motes and shadows see them move
awhile;

Your ears unto your eyes I'll reconcile.

Dumb show.

*Enter at one door, PERICLES, with his Train;
CLEON and DIONYZA at the other. CLEON
shows PERICLES the tomb of MARINA; where-
at PERICLES makes lamentation, puts on
Sackcloth, and in a mighty passion departs.
Then CLEON and DIONYZA retire.*

Gow. See how beliefinay suffer by foul show!
This borrow'd passion stands for true old woe;
And Pericles, in sorrow all devour'd,
With sighs shot through, and biggest tears
o'erflow'd, [swears
Leaves Tharsus, and again embarks. He
Never to wash his face, nor cut his hairs;
He puts on sackcloth, and to sea. He bears
A tempest, which his mortal vessel* tears,
And yet he rides it out. Now please you witt
The epitaph is for Marina writ
By wicked Dionyza.

[*Reads the inscription on MARINA'S
Monument.*

*The fairest, sweet'st, and best, lies here,
Who wither'd in her spring of year.
She was of Tyrus, the king's daughter,
On whom foul death hath made this slaughter;
Marina was she call'd; and at her birth,
Thetis, ‡ being proud, swallow'd some part o'the
earth:*

*Therefore the earth, fearing to be o'erflow'd,
Hath Thetis's birth-child on the heavens bestow'd:
Wherefore she does, (and swears she'll never
sint,)* §

Make raging battery upon shores of flint.

No visor does become black villainy,
So well as soft and tender flattery.
Let Pericles believe his daughter's dead,
And bear his courses to be ordered
By lady Fortune; while our scenes display
His daughter's woe and heavy well-a-day,
In her unholy service. Patience then,
And think you now are all in Mitylen. [*Exit.*

*SCENE V.—Mitylene.—A Street before the
Brothel.*

Enter, from the Brothel, two GENTLEMEN.

1 *Gent.* Did you ever hear the like?

2 *Gent.* No, nor never shall do in such a
place as this, she being once gone.

1 *Gent.* But to have divinity preach'd there?
Did you ever dream of such a thing?

2 *Gent.* No, no. Come, I am for no more
bawdy-houses: shall we go hear the vestals
sing?

1 *Gent.* I'll do any thing now that is virtuous;
but I am out of the road of rutting, for ever.

[*Exeunt.*

* His body.

† To know.

‡ The sea.

§ Never cease.

SCENE VI.—*The same.—A Room in the Brothel.*

Enter PANDER, BAWD, and BOULT.

Pand. Well, I had rather than twice the worth of her, she had ne'er come here.

Bawd. 'Eie, fie upon her; she is able to freeze the god Priapus, and undo a whole generation. We must either get her ravished, or be rid of her. When she should do for clients her fitment, and do me the kindness of our profession, she has me her quirks, her reasons, her master-reasons, her prayers, her knees; that she would make a puritan of the devil, if he should cheapen a kiss of her.

Boult. 'Faith, I must ravish her, or she'll disfigure us of all our cavaliers, and make all our swearers priests.

Pand. Now, the pox upon her green-sickness for me!

Bawd. 'Faith, there's no way to be rid on't, but by the way to the pox. Here comes the lord Lysimachus, disguised.

Boult. We should have both lord and low, if the peevish baggage would but give way to customers.

Enter LYSIMACHUS.

Lys. How now? How * a dozen of virginities?

Bawd. Now, the gods to bless your honour!

Boult. I am glad to see your honour in good health.

Lys. You may so; 'tis the better for you that your resorters stand upon sound legs. How now, wholesome iniquity? Have you that a man may deal withal, and defy the surgeon?

Bawd. We have here one, Sir, if she would—but there never came her like in Mitylene.

Lys. If she'd do the deeds of darkness, thou would'st say.

Bawd. Your honour knows what tis to say, well enough.

Lys. Well; call forth, call forth.

Boult. For flesh and blood, Sir, white and red, you shall see a rose; and she were a rose indeed, if she had but—

Lys. What, pr'ythee?

Bawd. O, Sir, I can be modest.

Lys. That dignifies the renown of a bawd, no less than it gives a good report to a number to be chaste.

Enter MARINA.

Bawd. Here comes that which grows to the stalk;—never plucked yet, I can assure you. Is she not a fair creature?

Lys. 'Faith, she would serve after a long voyage at sea. Well, there's for you;—leave us.

Bawd. I beseech your honour, give me leave: a word, and I'll have done presently.

Lys. I beseech you do.

Bawd. First, I would have you note, this is an honourable man.

[*To MARINA, whom she takes aside.*]

Mar. I desire to find him so, that I may worthily note him.

Bawd. Next, he's the governor of his country, and a man whom I am bound to.

Mar. If he govern the country, you are bound to him indeed; but how honourable he is in that, I know not.

Bawd. 'Pray you, without any more virginal

fencing, will you use him kindly? He will line your apron with gold.

Mar. What he will do graciously, I will thankfully receive.

Lys. Have you done?

Bawd. My lord, she's not paced yet; you must take some pains to work her to your manage. Come, we will leave his honour and her together.

[*Exeunt BAWD, PANDER, and BOULT.*]

Lys. Go'thy ways.—Now, pretty one, how long have you been at this trade?

Mar. What trade, Sir?

Lys. What I cannot name, but I shall offend.

Mar. I cannot be offended with my trade.

Please you, to name it.

Lys. How long have you been of this profession?

Mar. Ever since I can remember.

Lys. Did you go to it so young? Were you a gamester* at five, or at seven?

Mar. Earlier too, Sir, if now I be one.

Lys. Why, the house you dwell in, proclaims you to be a creature of sale.

Mar. Do you know this house to be a place of such resort, and will come into it. I hear say, you are of honourable parts, and are the governor of this place.

Lys. Why, hath your principal made known unto you who I am?

Mar. Who is my principal?

Lys. Why your herb woman; she that sets seeds and roots of shame and iniquity. O, you have heard something of my power, and so stand aloof for more serious wooing. But I protest to the pretty one, my authority shall not see thee, or else look friendly upon thee. Come, bring me to some private place. Come, come.

Mar. If you were born to honour, show it now; If put upon you, make the judgment good That thought you worthy of it.

Lys. How's this? how's this?—Some more;—be sage.

Mar. For me,

That am a maid, though most ungentle fortune Hath plac'd me here within this loathsome sty, Where since I came, diseases have been sold Dearer than physic,—O that the good gods Would set me free from this unhallow'd place, Though they did change me to the meanest That flies i'th' purer air! [bird]

Lys. I did not think Thou could'st have spoke so well; ne'er dream'd thou couldst.

Had I brought hither a corrupted mind, Thy speech had alter'd it. Hold, here's gold for thee:

Persever still in that clear way thou goest, And the gods strengthen thee!

Mar. The gods preserve you!

Lys. For me, be you thoughten That I came with no ill intent: for to me The very doors and windows savour vilely. Farewell. Thou art a piece of virtue, and I doubt not but thy training hath been noble.—Hold; here's more gold for thee.—A curse upon him, die he like a thief, That robs thee of thy goodness! If thou hear'st from me.

It shall be for thy good.

[*As LYSIMACHUS is putting up his Purse.*]

BOULT Enters.

Boult. I beseech your honour, one piece for me.

* How much? what price?

* A wanton.

Lys. Avaunt, thou damned door-keeper!
Your house.

But for this virgin that doth prop it up,
Would sink and overwhelm you all. Away!

[*Exit* LYSIMACHUS.]

Boult. How's this? We must take another course with you. If your peevish chastity, which is not worth a breakfast in the cheapest country under the cope,* shall undo a whole household, let me be gelded like a spaniel. Come your ways.

Mar. Whither would you have me?

Boult. I must have your maidenhead taken off, or the common hangman shall execute it. Come your way. We'll have no more gentlemen driven away. Come your ways, I say.

Re-enter BAWD.

Bawd. How now! what's the matter?

Boult. Worse and worse, mistress; she has here spoken holy words to the lord Lysimachus.

Bawd. O abominable!

Boult. She makes our profession as it were to stink afore the face of the gods.

Bawd. Marry, hang her up for ever!

Boult. The nobleman would have dealt with her like a nobleman, and she sent him away as cold as a snowball; saying his prayers too.

Bawd. Boult, take her away; use her at thy pleasure: crack the glass of her virginity, and make the rest malleable.

Boult. An if she were a thornier piece of ground than she is, she shall be ploughed.

Mar. Hark, hark, you gods!

Bawd. She conjures: away with her. Would she had never come within my doors! Marry hang you! She's born to undo us. Will you not go the way of woman-kind? Marry come up, my dish of chastity with rosemary and bays!

[*Exit* BAWD.]

Boult. Come, mistress; come your way with me.

Mar. Whither would you have me?

Boult. To take from you the jewel you hold so dear.

Mar. Pr'ythee tell me one thing first.

Boult. Come now, your one thing.

Mar. What canst thou wish thine enemy to be?

Boult. Why, I could wish him to be my master, or rather, my mistress.

Mar. Neither of these are yet so bad as thou art,

Since they do better thee in their command. Thou hold'st a place, for which the pained'st fiend

Of hell would not in reputation change: Thou'rt the damn'd door-keeper to every coy-strel †

That hither comes inquiring for his tib; To the choleric fisting of each rogue thy ear is liable; thy very food is such

As have been belch'd on by infected lungs.

Boult. What would you have me? go to the wars, would you? where a man may serve seven years for the loss of a leg, and have not money enough in the end to buy him a wooden one?

Mar. Do any thing but this thou doest.
Empty

Old receptacles, common sewers, of filth; Serve by indenture to the common hangman; Any of these ways are better yet than this: For that which thou professest, a baboon,

* Cope or canopy of heaven. † Paltry fellow.

Could he but speak, would own a name too dear.

O that the gods would safely from this place Deliver me! Here, here is gold for thee.

If that thy master would gain aught by me,
Proclaim that I can sing, weave, sew, and dance,

With other virtues, which I'll keep from boast; And I will undertake all these to teach.

I doubt not but this populous city will Yield many scholars.

Boult. But can you teach all this you speak of?

Mar. Prove that I cannot, take me home And prostitute me to the basest groom [again, That doth frequent your house.

Boult. Well, I will see what I can do for thee: if I can place thee, I will.

Mar. But, amongst honest women?

Boult. 'Faith, my acquaintance lies little amongst them. But since my master and mistress have bought you, there's no going but by their consent; therefore I will make them acquainted with your purpose, and I doubt not but I shall find them tractable enough. Come, I'll do for thee what I can; come your ways.

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT V.

Enter GOWER.

Gow. Marina thus the brothel scapes, and chances

Into an honest house, our story says.

She sings like one immortal, and she dances

As goddess-like to her admired lays:

Deep clerks* she dumbs; and with her need †

composes

Nature's own shape, of bud, bird, branch, or

berry;

That even her art sisters the natural roses:

Her inkle, silk, twin with the rubied cherry:

That pupils lacks she none of noble race,
Who pour their bounty on her; and her gain

She gives the cursed bawd. Here we her place;

And to her father turn our thoughts again,
Where we left him, on the sea. We there him

lost;
Whence, driven before the winds, he is arriv'd

Here where his daughter dwells; and on this coast

Suppose him now at anchor. The city striv'd

God Neptune's annual feast to keep: from whence

Lysimachus our Tyrian ship espies,
His banners sable, trimm'd with rich expense;

And to him in his barge with fervour hies.

In your supposing once more put your sight

Of heavy Pericles think this the bark:

Where what is done in action, more, if might,

Shall be discover'd; please you, sit, and bark;
[*Exit.*]

SCENE I.—On board PERICLES' Ship, off

Mytelene. A close Pavilion on deck, with a

Curtain before it; PERICLES within it, reclined on a couch. A Barge lying beside the Tyrian Vessel.

Enter two SAILORS, one belonging to the Tyrian Vessel, the other to the Barge: to them HELICANIUS.

Tyr. Sail. Where's the lord Helicanus? he can resolve you.

[*To the* SAILOR of Mytelene.]

* Learned men.

† Needle.

O here he is.—

Sir, there's a barge put off from Mitylene.
And in it is Lysimachus the governor,
Who craves to come aboard. What is your will?

Hel. That he have his. Call up some gentlemen,

Tyr. Sail. Ho, gentlemen! my lord calls.

Enter two GENTLEMEN.

1 *Gent.* Doth your lordship call?

Hel. Gentlemen,
There is some of worth would come aboard; I pray you,
To greet them fairly.

[*The GENTLEMEN and the two SAILORS descend, and go on board the Barge.*]

Enter, from thence LYSIMACHUS and LORDS; the TYRIAN GENTLEMEN, and the two SAILORS.

Tyr. Sail. Sir,
This is the man that can, in aught you would,
Resolve you.

Lys. Hail, reverend Sir! The gods preserve you!

Hel. And you, Sir, to out-live the age I am,
And die as I would do.

Lys. You wish me well.

Being on shore, honouring of Neptune's triumphs,
Seeing this goodly vessel ride before us,
I made to it, to know of whence you are.

Hel. First, Sir, what is your place?

Lys. I am governor of this place you lie before.

Hel. Sir,

Our vessel is of Tyre, in it the king;
A man, who for this three months hath not
To any one, nor taken sustenance, [spoken
But to prorogue* his grief.

Lys. Upon what ground is his distemperature?

Hel. Sir, it would be too tedious to repeat;
But the main grief of all springs from the loss
Of a beloved daughter and a wife.

Lys. May we not see him, then?

Hel. You may indeed, Sir,
But bootless is your sight; he will not speak
To any.

Lys. Yet, let me obtain my wish.

Hel. Behold him, Sir: [*PERICLES discovered.*]
This was a goodly person,
Till the disaster, that, one mortal night,
Drove him to this.

Lys. Sir, king, all hail! the gods preserve you!

Hail, royal Sir!

Hel. It is vain; he will not speak to you.

1 *Lord.* Sir, we have a maid in Mitylene, I durst wager,
Would win some words of him.

Lys. 'Tis well bethought.

She, questionless, with her sweet harmony
And other choice attractions, would allure,
And make a battery through his deafen'd
Which now are midway stopp'd: [parts, †
She, all as happy as of all the fairest,
Is, with her fellow-maidens, now within
The leafy shelter that abuts against
The island's side.

He whispers one of the attendant LORDS.—

Exit LORD, in the Barge of LYSIMACHUS.

Hel. Sure, all's effectless; yet nothing we'll omit

* To lengthen or prolong his grief.

† Destructive. ‡ *i. e.* Earns.

That bears recovery's name. But, since your kindness [further,

We have stretch'd thus far, let us beseech you
That for our gold we may provision have,
Wherein we are not destitute for want,
But weary for the staleness.

Lys. O, Sir, a courtesy,

Which if we should deny, the most just God
For every graff would send a caterpillar,
And so inflict our province.—Yet once more
Let me entreat to know at large the cause
Of your king's sorrow.

Hel. Sit, Sir, I will recount it;—

But see, I am prevented.

Enter, from the Barge, LORD, MARINA, and a young LADY.

Lys. O, here is

The lady that I sent for. Welcome, fair one!
Is't not a goodly presence?

Hel. A gallant lady.

Lys. She's such, that were I well assur'd
she came

Of gentle kind, and noble stock, I'd wish
No better choice, and think me rarely wed.
Fair one, all goodness that consists in bounty
Expect even here, where is a kingly patient:
If that thy prosperous-artificial feat
Can draw him but to answer thee in aught,
Thy sacred physic shall receive such pay
As thy desires can wish.

Mar. Sir, I will use

My utmost skill in his recovery,
Provided none but I and my companion
Be suffer'd to come near him.

Lys. Come, let us leave her,

And the gods make her prosperous!

[*MARINA sings.*]

Lys. Mark'd he your music?

Mar. No, nor look'd on us.

Lys. See, she will speak to him.

Mar. Hail Sir! my lord, lend ear:—

Per. Hum! ha!

Mar. I am a maid,

My lord, that ne'er before invited eyes,
But have been gaz'd on, comet-like: she speaks
My lord, that, may be, hath endur'd a grief
Might equal yours, if both were justly weigh'd.
Though wayward fortune did malign my state,
My derivation was from ancestors
Who stood equivalent with mighty kings:
But time hath rooted out my parentage,
And to the world and awkward casualties
Bound me in servitude.—I will desist;
But there is something glows upon my cheek,
And whispers in mine ear, *Go not till he speak.*

[*Aside.*]

Per. My fortunes—parentage—good parentage— [you?

To equal mine!—was it not thus? what say
Mar. I said, my lord, if you did know my
You would not do me violence. [parentage,
Per. I do think so.

I pray you, turn your eyes again upon me.—
You are like something that—What country-
Here of these shores? [woman?

Mar. No, nor of any shores:

Yet I was mortally brought forth, and am
No other than I appear.

Per. I am great with woe, and shall deliver
weeping. [one

My dearest wife was like this maid, and such a
My daughter might have been: my queen's
square brows;

Her stature to an inch; as wand-like straight;
As silver-voic'd: her eyes as jewel-like,

And cas'd as richly : in pace another Juno ;
Who starves the ears she feeds, and makes
them hungry,
The more she gives them speech.—Where do
you live ?

Mar. Where I am but a stranger : from the
You may discern the place. [deck

Per. Where were you bred ?

And how achiev'd you these endowments,
You make more rich to owe ?* [which

Mar. Should I tell my history, [ing.
'Twould seem like lies disdain'd in the report—

Per. Pr'ythee speak ; [look'st
Falseness cannot come from thee, for thou
Modest as justice, and thou seem'st a palace
For the crown'd truth to dwell in : I'll believe
thee,

And make my senses credit thy relation,
To points that seem impossible ; for thou look'st
Like one I lov'd indeed. What were thy friends ?
Didst thou not say, when I did push thee back,
(Which was when I perceiv'd thee,) that thou
From good descending ? [cam'st

Mar. So indeed I did.

Per. Report thy parentage. I think thou
said'st
Thou hadst been toss'd from wrong to injury,
And that thou thought'st thy griefs might equal
If both were open'd. [mine,

Mar. Some such thing indeed
I said, and said no more but what my thoughts
Did warrant me was likely.

Per. Tell thy story ;

If thine consider'd prove the thousandth part
Of my endurance, thou art a man, and I
Have suffer'd like a girl : yet thou dost look
Like Patience, gazing on kings' graves, and
smiling

Extremity out of act. What were thy friends ?
How lost thou them ? Thy name, my most
kind virgin ?

Recount, I do beseech thee ; come, sit by me.

Mar. My name, Sir, is Marina.

Per. O, I am mock'd,

And thou by some incensed god sent hither
To make the world laugh at me.

Mar. Patience, good Sir,
Or here I'll cease.

Per. Nay, I'll be patient ;

Thou little know'st how thou dost startle me,
To call thyself Marina.

Mar. The name, Marina,
Was given me by one that had some power ;
My father, and a king.

Per. How ! a king's daughter ?

And call'd Marina ?

Mar. You said you would believe me ;
But, not to be a troubler of your peace,
I will end here.

Per. But are you flesh and blood ?

Have you a working pulse ? and are no fairy ?
No motion ?†—Well ; speak on. Where were
you born ?

And wherefore call'd Marina ?

Mar. Call'd Marina,
For I was born at sea.

Per. At sea ? thy mother ?

Mar. My mother was the daughter of a king ;
Who died the very minute I was born,
As my good nurse Lychorida hath oft
Deliver'd weeping.

Per. O, stop there a little !

This is the rarest dream that e'er dall sleep
Did mock sad fools withal : this cannot be.

* Possess.

† I. e. No puppet dressed up to deceive me.

My daughter's buried. [*Aside.*] Well :—where
were you bred ?

I'll hear you more, to the bottom of your story,
And never interrupt you.

Mar. You'll scarce believe me : 'twere best
I did give o'er.

Per. I will believe you by the syllable
Of what you shall deliver. Yet, give me leave :
How came you in these parts ? Where were you
bred ?

Mar. The king my father, did in Tharsus
leave me ;

Till cruel Cleon, with his wicked wife,
Did seek to murder me : and having woo'd
A villain to attempt it, who having drawn,
A crew of pirates came and rescu'd me ;
Brought me to Mitylene. But now, good Sir,
Whither will you have me ? Why do you weep ?

It may be,

You think me an impostor ; no, good faith ;
I am the daughter to king Pericles,
If good king Pericles be.

Per. Ho, Helicanus ?

Hel. Calls my gracious lord ?

Per. Thou art a grave and noble counsellor,
Most wise in general : Tell me, if thou canst,
What this maid is, or what is like to be,
That thus hath made me weep ?

Hel. I know not ; but

Here is the regent, Sir, of Mitylene,
Speaks nobly of her.

Lys. She would never tell

Her parentage, being demanded that,
She would sit still and weep.

Per. O Helicanus, strike me, honour'd Sir ;
Give me a gash, put me to present pain ;
Lest this great sea of joys rushing upon me,
O'erbear the shores of my mortality,
And drown me with their sweetness. O,
come hither,

Thou that beget'st him that did thee beget ;
Thou that wast born at sea, buried at Tharsus,
And found at sea again ! O Helicanus, [loud
Down on thy knees, thank the holy gods, as
As thunder threatens us : This is Marina.—
What was thy mother's name ? Tell me but that
For truth can never be confirm'd enough,
Though doubts did ever sleep.

Mar. First, Sir, I pray,
What is your title ?

Per. I am Pericles of Tyre : but tell me now
(As in the rest thou hast been godlike perfect,)
My drown'd queen's name, thou art the heir
of kingdoms,

And another life to Pericles thy father.

Mar. Is it no more to be your daughter, than
To say, my mother's name was Thaisa ?
Thaisa was my mother, who did ead,
The minute I began.

Per. Now, blessing on thee, rise ; thou art
my child.

Give me fresh garments. Mine own, Helicanus,
(Not dead at Tharsus, as she should have been,
By savage Cleon,) she shall tell thee all ;
When thou shalt kneel and justify in know-
She is thy very princess.—Who is this ? [ledge,

Hel. Sir, 'tis the governor of Mitylene,
Who, hearing of your melancholy state,
Did come to see you.

Per. I embrace you, Sir.

Give me my robes ; I am wild in my beholding.
O heavens bless my girl ! But hark, what mu-
Tell Helicanus, my Marina, tell him [sic ?
O'er, point by point, for yet he seems to doubt,
How sure you are my daughter.—But what
music ?

Hel. My lord, I hear none.

Per. None?

The music of the spheres: list, my Marina.

Lys. It is not good to cross him; give him way.

Per. Rarest sounds!

Do ye not hear?

Lys. Music? My lord, I hear—

Per. Most heavenly music:

It nips me unto list'ning, and thick slumber
Hangs on mine eye-lids; let me rest. [*He sleeps.*]

Lys. A pillow for his head;

[*The Curtain before the Pavilion of PERICLES is closed.*]

Soleave him all.—Well, my companion-friends,
If this but answer to my just belief,
I'll well remember you.

[*Exeunt LYSIMACHUS, HELICANUS, MARINA, and attendant LADY.*]

SCENE II.—*The same.*—PERICLES on the Deck asleep; DIANA appearing to him: as in a vision.

Dia. My temple stands in Ephesus; hie thee thither,

And do upon mine altar sacrifice. [gether,
There, when my maiden priests are met to-
Before the people all,

Reveal how thou at sea didst lose thy wife:
To mourn thy crosses, with thy daughter's, call,
And give them repetition to the life.*

Perform my bidding, or thou liv'st in woe:
Do't, and be happy, by my silver bow.

Awake, and tell thy dream.

[*DIANA disappears.*]

Per. Celestial Dian, goddess argentine,†
I will obey thee!—Helicanus!

Enter LYSIMACHUS, HELICANUS, and MARINA.

Hel. Sir.

Per. My purpose was for Tharsus, there to
The inhospitable Cleon; but I am [strike
For other service first; toward Ephesus

Turn our blown't sails; eftsoons‡ I'll tell thee
why.— [To HELICANUS.

Shall we refresh us, Sir, upon your shore,
And give you gold for such provision
As our intents will need?

Lys. With all my heart, Sir; and when you
come ashore,

I have another suit.

Per. You shall prevail,
Were it to woo my daughter; for it seems
You have been noble towards her.

Lys. Sir, lend your arm.

Per. Come, my Marina. [*Exeunt.*]

Enter GOWER, before the Temple of DIANA at Ephesus.

Gow. Now our sands are almost run;
More a little, and then done.

This, as my last boon, give me,
(For such kindness must relieve me,) †
That you aptly will suppose

What pageantry, what feats, what shows,
What minstrelsy, and pretty din,
The regent made in Mitylin,

To greet the king. So he has thriv'd,
That he is promis'd to be wiv'd
To fair Marina; but in no wise,

Till he had done his sacrifice,
As Dian bade: whereto being bound,
The interim, pray you, all confound. ‡

* Repeat a lively narrative of your adventures.
† I. e. Regent of the silver moon. ‡ Swollen.

§ So on. || I. e. Pericles.
¶ Confound here signifies to consume.

In feather'd briefness sails are fill'd,
And wishes fall out as they're will'd.

At Ephesus, the temple see,
Our king, and all his company.

That he can hither come so soon,
Is by your fancy's thankful boon. [*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—*The Temple of DIANA at Ephesus: THAISA standing near the Altar, as high Priestess: a number of Virgins on each side; CERIMON and other Inhabitants of Ephesus attending.*

Enter PERICLES, with his Train; LYSIMACHUS, HELICANUS, MARINA, and a LADY.

Per. Hail Dian! to perform thy just command,

I here confess myself the king of Tyre;
Who, frighted from my country, did wed
The fair Thaisa, at Pentapolis.

At sea in childbed died she, but brought forth
A maid-child call'd Marina; who, O goddess,
Wears yet thy silver livery.* She at Tharsus
Was nurs'd with Cleon; whom at fourteen

years

He sought to murder: but her better stars
Brought her to Mitylene; against whose shore
Riding, her fortunes brought the maid aboard

us, [she
Where, by her own most clear remembrance,
Made known herself my daughter.

Thai. Voice and favour!—
You are—you are—O royal Pericles!

[*She faints.*]

Per. What means the woman? she dies!
help, gentlemen!

Cer. Noble Sir,
If you have told Diana's altar true,
This is your wife.

Per. Reverend appearer, no;
I threw her o'erboard with these very arms.

Cer. Upon this coast, I warrant you.

Per. 'Tis most certain.

Cer. Look to the lady;—O, she's but o'er-
joy'd.

Early, one blust'ring morn, this lady was
Thrown on this shore. I op'd the coffin, and
Found there rich jewels; recover'd her, and
plac'd her

Here in Diana's temple.

Per. May we see them?

Cer. Great Sir, they shall be brought you
to my house,

Whither I invite you. Look! Thaisa is
Recover'd.

Thai. O, let me look!

If he be none of mine, my sanctity
Will to my sense bend no licentious ear,
But curb it, spite of seeing. O, my lord,
Are you not Pericles? Like him you speak,
Like him you are: Did you not name a tem-
A birth, and death? [pest-]

Per. The voice of dead Thaisa!

Thai. That Thaisa am I, supposed dead.
And drown'd.

Per. Immortal Dian!

Thai. Now I know you better.—
When we with tears parted Pentapolis,
The king, my father, gave you such a ring.

[*Shows a Ring.*]

Per. This, this: no more, you gods! your
present kindness

Makes my past miseries sport: You shall do
That on the touching of her lips I may

* I. e. Her white robe of innocence.
† Sensual passion.

Melt, and no more be seen. O come, be buried
A second time within these arms.

Mar. My heart

Leaps to be gone into my mother's bosom.

[*Kneels to THAISA.*]

Per. Look, who kneels here! Flesh of thy
flesh, Thaisa;

Thy burden at the sea, and call'd Marina,
For she was yielded there.

Thai. Bless'd and mine own!

Hel. Hail, madam, and my queen!

Thai. I know you not.

Per. You have heard me say, when I did
fly from Tyre,

I left behind an ancient substitute

Can you remember what I call'd the man?

I have nam'd him oft.

Thai. 'Twas Helicanus then.

Per. Still confirmation:

Embrace him, dear Thaisa; this is he.

Now do I long to hear how you were found;

How possibly preserv'd; and whom to thank,
Besides the gods, for this great miracle.

Thai. Lord Cerimon, my lord; this man
Through whom the gods have shown their
power; that can

From first to last resolve you.

Per. Reverend Sir,

The gods can have no mortal officer

More like a god than you. Will you deliver
How this dead queen re-lives?

Per. I will, my lord.

Beseech you, first go with me to my house,
Where shall be shown you all was found with
her;

How she came placed here within the temple;
No needful thing omitted.

Per. Pure Diana!

I bless thee for thy vision, and will offer

My night oblations to thee. Thaisa, [ter,
This prince, the fair-betrothed of your daugh-

Shall marry her at Pentapolis. And now,
This ornament* that makes me look so dismal,
Will I, my lov'd Marina, clip to form;
And what this fourteen years no razor touch'd,
To grace thy marriage-day, I'll beautify.

Thai. Lord Cerimon hath letters of good
Sir, that my father's dead. [credit,

Per. Heavens make a star of him! Yet there,
my queen,

We'll celebrate their nuptials, and ourselves
Will in that kingdom spend our following days;
Our son and daughter shall in Tyrus reign.

Lord Cerimon, we do our longing stay,
'To hear the rest untold.—Sir, lead the way.

[*Exeunt.*]

Enter GOWER.

Gow. In Antioch,† and his daughter, you
have heard

Of monstrous lust the due and just reward:
In Pericles, his queen and daughter, seen
(Although assail'd with fortune fierce and
keen,)

Virtue preserv'd from fell destruction's blast,
Led on by heaven, and crown'd with joy at last,
In Helicanus may you well descry

A figure of truth, of faith, of loyalty:

In reverend Cerimon there well appears,

The worth that learned charity ayet wears.

For wicked Cleon and his wife, when fame
Had spread their cursed deed, and honour'd

Of Pericles, to rage the city turn; [name
That him and his they in his palace burn.

The gods for murder seemed so content

To punish them; although not done, but meant.

So on your patience evermore attending,
New joy wait on you! Here our play has end-

ing.

[*Exit GOWER.*]

* *l. c.* His beard.

† *l. c.* The king of Antioch.

‡ Ever.

KING LEAR.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

LEAR, King of Britain.
 KING OF FRANCE.
 DUKE OF BURGUNDY.
 DUKE OF CORNWALL.
 DUKE OF ALBANY.
 EARL OF KENT.
 EARL OF GLOSTER.
 EDGAR, Son to Gloster.
 EDMUND, Bastard Son to Gloster.
 CURAN, a Courtier.
 OLD MAN, Tenant to Gloster.
 PHYSICIAN.
 FOOL.
 OSWALD, Steward to Goneril.

AN OFFICER, employed by Edmund.
 GENTLEMAN, Attendant on Cordelia.
 A HERALD.
 SERVANTS to Cornwall.

GONERIL, }
 REGAN, } Daughters to Lear.
 CORDELIA, }

Knights attending on the King, Officers, Messengers, Soldiers, and Attendants.

SCENE, Britain.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—A Room of State in King LEAR'S Palace.

Enter KENT, GLOSTER, and EDMUND.

Kent. I thought, the king had more affected the duke of Albany, than Cornwall.

Glo. It did always seem so to us: but now, in the division of the kingdom, it appears not which of the dukes he values most; for equalities are so weigh'd, that curiosity* in neither can make choice of either's moiety.†

Kent. Is not this your son, my lord?

Glo. His breeding, Sir, hath been at my charge: I have so often blush'd to acknowledge him, that now I am brazed to it.

Kent. I cannot conceive you.

Glo. Sir, this young fellow's mother could: whereupon she grew round-wombed; and had, indeed, Sir, a son for her cradle, ere she had a husband for her bed. Do you smell a fault?

Kent. I cannot wish the fault undone, the issue of it being so proper.‡

Glo. But I have, Sir, a son by order of law, some year elder than this, who yet is no dearer in my account: though this knave came somewhat saucily into the world before he was sent for, yet was his mother fair; there was good sport at his making, and the whore-son must be acknowledged.—Do you know this noble gentleman, Edmund?

Edm. No, my lord.

Glo. My lord of Kent: remember him hereafter as my honourable friend.

Edm. My services to your lordship.

Kent. I must love you, and sue to know you better.

Edm. Sir, I shall study deserving.

Glo. He hath been out nine years, and away he shall again:—The king is coming.
 [Trumpets sound within.]

Enter LEAR, CORNWALL, ALBANY, GONERIL, REGAN, CORDELIA, and Attendants.

Lear. Attend the lords of France and Burgloster. [gundy,

Glo. I shall my liege.

[Exit GLOSTER and EDMUND.]

Lear. Meantime we shall express our darker* purpose.

Give me the map there.—Know, that we have divided, [tent]

In three, our kingdom: and 'tis our fast intent To shake all cares and business from our age; Conferring them on younger strengths, while we

Unburden'd crawl toward death.—Our son of Cornwall,

And you, our no less loving son of Albany, We have this hour a constant will to publish Our daughters' several dowers, that future strife

May be prevented now. The princes, France and Burgundy,

Great rivals in our youngest daughter's love, Long in our court have made their amorous sojourn [daughters]

And here are to be answer'd.—Tell me, my (Since now we will divest us, both of rule, Interest of territory, cares of state,)

Which of you, shall we say, doth love us most? That we our largest bounty may extend

Where merit doth most challenge it.—Goneril, Our eldest-born, speak first.

Gon. Sir, I [matter,

Do love you more than words can wield the

* Most scrupulous nicety. † Part or division.

‡ Handsome.

* More secret.

‡ Determined resolution.

Dearer than eye-sight, space and liberty ;
Beyond what can be valued, rich or rare ;
No less than life, with grace, health, beauty,
honour :

As much as child e'er lov'd, or father found.
A love that makes breath poor, and speech un-
able ;

Beyond all manner of so much I love you.

Cor. What shall Cordelia do? Love, and be
silent. [Aside.]

Lear. Of all these bounds, even from this line
to this,

With shadowy forests and with champains*
rich'd,

With plenteous rivers and wide-skirted meads,
We make thee lady: To thine and Albany's
issue [daughter,

Be this perpetual.—What says our second
Our dearest Regan, wife to Cornwall? Speak.

Reg. I am made of that self metal as my
sister,

And prize me at her worth. In my true heart
I find, she names my very deed of love ;
Only she comes too short,—that I profess
Myself an enemy to all other joys, [sesses ;
Which the most precious square† of sense pos-
and find, I am alone felicitate‡
In your dear highness' love.

Cor. Then poor Cordelia! [Aside.]
And yet not so ; since, I am sure, my love's
More richer than my tongue.

Lear. To thee, and thine, hereditary ever,
Remain this ample third of our fair kingdom ;
No less in space, validity,§ and pleasure,
Than that confirm'd on Goneril.—Now, our joy,
Although the last, not least ; to whose young
love

The vines of France, and milk of Burgundy,
Strive to be interest'd : what can you say, to
draw

A third more opulent than your sisters? Speak.

Cor. Nothing, my lord.
Lear. Nothing ?
Cor. Nothing.

Lear. Nothing can come of nothing : speak
again.

Cor. Unhappy that I am, I cannot heave
My heart into my mouth : I love your majesty
According to my bond ; nor more, nor less.

Lear. How, how, Cordelia? mend your
speech a little,
Lest it may mar your fortunes.

Cor. Good my lord,
You have begot me, bred me, lov'd me : I
Return those duties back as are right fit,
Obey you, love you, and most honour you.
Why have my sisters husbands, if they say,
They love you, all? Haply,|| when I shall wed,
That lord, whose hand must take my plight,
shall carry

Half my love with him, half my care, and duty ;
Sure, I shall never marry like my sisters,
To love my father all.

Lear. But goes this with thy heart ?

Cor. Ay, good my lord.

Lear. So young, and so untender ?

Cor. So young, my lord, and true.

Lear. Let it be so.—Thy truth then be thy
dower ;

For, by the sacred radiance of the sun ;
The mysteries of Hecate, and the night ;
By all the operations of the orbs,
From whom we do exist, and cease to be ;
Here I disclaim all my paternal care,

Propinquity* and property of blood,
And as a stranger to my heart and me
Hold thee, from this,† for ever. The barba-
rous Scythian,

Or be that makes his generation‡ messes
To gorge his appetite, shall to my bosom
Be as well neighbour'd, pitied, and reliev'd,
As thou my sometime daughter.

Kent. Good my liege,—

Lear. Peace, Kent!

Come not between the dragon and his wrath :
I lov'd her most, and thought to set my rest
On her kind nursery.—Hence, and avoid my
sight!— [To Cordelia.]

So be my grave my peace, as here I give
Her father's heart from her!—Call France ;—
Who stirs ?

Call Burgundy.—Cornwall, and Albany,
With my two daughters' dowers digest this
third ; [her.]

Let pride, which she calls plainness, marry
I do invest you jointly with my power,
Pre-eminence, and all the large effects
That troop with majesty.—Ourself, by monthly
course,

With reservation of a hundred knights,
By you to be sustain'd, shall our abode [retain
Make with you by due turns. Only we still
The name, and all the additions§ to a king ;

The sway,
Revenue, execution of the rest,||
Beloved sons, be yours : which to confirm,
This coronet part between you. [Giving the Crown.]

Kent. Royal Lear.
Whom I have ever honour'd as my king,
Lov'd as my father, as my master follow'd,
As my great patron thought on in my prayers,—

Lear. The bow is bent and drawn, make
from the shaft.

Kent. Let it fall rather, though the fork in-
vade

The region of my heart : be Kent unmannerly
When Lear is mad. What wouldst thou do,
old man ? [speak,

Think'st thou, that duty shall have dread to
When power to flattery bows? To plainness
honour's bound, [doom ;

When majesty stoops to folly. Reverse thy
And, in thy best consideration, check
This hideous rashness : answer my life, my
judgement,

Thy youngest daughter does not love thee least ;
Nor are those empty-hearted, whose low sound
Reverbs¶ no hollowness.

Lear. Kent, on thy life, no more.

Kent. My life I never held but as a pawn
To wage against thine enemies ; nor fear to
lose it,

Thy safety being the motive.

Lear. Out of my sight!

Kent. See better, Lear ; and let me still re-
The true blank** of thine eye. [main

Lear. Now, by Apollo,—

Kent. Now, by Apollo, king,

Thou swear'st thy gods in vain.

Lear. O, vassal! miscreant!

[Laying his Hand on his Sword.]

Alb. Corn. Dear Sir, forbear.

Kent. Do ;

Kill thy physician, and the fee bestow
Upon the foul disease. Revoke thy gift ;
Or, whilst I can vent clamour from my throat
I'll tell thee, thou dost evil.

* Open plains. † Comprehension. ‡ Made happy.
§ Value. || Perhaps.

* Kindred. † From this time. ‡ His children.
§ Titles. || All other subjects. ¶ Reverbates.
** The mark to shoot at.

Lear. Hear me recreate!
On thine allegiance hear me!—
Since thou hast sought to make us break our
vow, [pride,
(Which we durst never yet,) and, with strain'd
To come betwixt our sentence and our power;
(Which nor our nature nor our place can bear,)
Our potency make good, take thy reward.
Five days we do allot thee, for provision
To shield thee from diseases of the world;
And, on the sixth, to turn thy hated back
Upon our kingdom: if, on the tenth day fol-
lowing,
Thy banish'd trunk be found in our dominions,
The moment is thy death: Away! By Jupiter,
This shall not be revok'd.

Kent. Fare thee well, king: since thus
thou wilt appear,
Freedom lives hence, and banishment is here.—
The gods to their dear shelter take thee, maid,
[To *CORDELIA.*
That justly think'st, and has most rightly
said!—

And your large speeches may your deeds ap-
prove, [To *REGAN and GONERIL.*
That good effects may spring from words of
love.—

Thus Kent, O princes, bids you all adieu:
He'll shape his old course* in a country new.
[Exit.

*Re-Enter GLOSTER; with FRANCE, BURGUNDY,
and Attendants.*

Glo. Here's France and Burgundy, my
noble lord.

Lear. My lord of Burgundy,
We first address towards you, who with this
king [least,
Hath rivall'd for our daughter; What, in the
Will you require in present dower with her,
Or cease your quest of love?†

Bur. Most royal majesty,
I crave no more than hath your highness offer'd,
Nor will you tender less.

Lear. Right noble Burgundy,
When she was dear to us, we did hold her so;
But now her price is fall'n: Sir, there she
stands;

If aught within that little seeming‡ substance,
Or all of it, with our displeasure piec'd,
And nothing more, may fitly like your grace,
She's there, and she is yours.

Bur. I know no answer.

Lear. Sir,
Will you, with those infirmities she owes,§
Unfriended, new adopted to our hate,
Dower'd with our curse, and stranger'd with
our oath,
Take her, or leave her?

Bur. Pardon me, royal Sir;
Election makes not up || on such conditions.

Lear. Then leave her, Sir; for, by the power
that made me,
I tell you all her wealth.—For you, great king,
[To *FRANCE.*

I would not from your love make such a stray,
To match you where I hate; therefore beseech
you

To avert¶ your liking a more worthier way,
Than on a wretch whom nature is asham'd
Almost to acknowledge hers.

France. This is most strange! [ject,
That she, that even but now was your best ob-

The argument of your praise, balm of your
age, [time
Most best, most dearest, should in this trice of
Commit a thing so monstrous, to dismantle
So many folds of favour! Sure, her offence
Must be of such unnatural degree, [tion
That monsters it, or your fore-vouch'd* affec-
Fall into taint:† which to believe of her,
Must be a faith, that reason without miracle
Could never plant in me.

Cor. I yet beseech your majesty,
(If for‡ I want that glib and oily art, [intend,
To speak and propose not; since what I well
I'll do't before I speak,) that you make known
It is no vicious blot, murder, or foulness,
No unchaste action, or dishonour'd step,
That hath depriv'd me of your grace and fa-
vour: [richer;
But even for want of that, for which I am
A still-soliciting eye, and such a tongue [it,
That I am glad I have not, though not to have
Hath lost me in your liking.

Lear. Better thou [me better.
Hadst not been born, than not to have pleas'd
France. Is it but this? a tardiness in nature,
Which often leaves the history unspoke,
That it intends to do?—My lord of Burgundy,

What say you to the lady? Love is not love,
When it is mingled with respects, that stand
Aloof from the entire point.§ Will you have
She is herself a dowry. [her?

Bur. Royal Lear,
Give but that portion which yourself propos'd,
And here I take Cordelia by the hand,
Duchess of Burgundy.

Lear. Nothing: I have sworn; I am firm.

Bur. I am sorry then, you have so lost a
That you must lose a husband. [father,

Cor. Peace be with Burgundy!
Since that respects of fortune are his love,
I shall not be his wife.

France. Fairest Cordelia, thou art most rich,
being poor; [spis'd;

Most choice, forsaken; and most lov'd, de-
Thee and thy virtues here I seize upon:
Be it lawful, I take up what's cast away.

Gods, gods! 'tis strange, that from their cold'st
neglect

My love should kindle to inflam'd respect.—
Thy dowerless daughter, king, thrown to my
chance,

Is queen of us, of ours, and our fair France:
Not all the dukes of wat'rish Burgundy
Shall buy this unpriz'd precious maid of me.—
Bid them farewell, Cordelia, though unkind:
Thou lovest here, a better where|| to find.

Lear. Thou hast her, France: let her be
thine; for we

Have no such daughter, nor shall ever see
That face of hers again:—Therefore be gone,
Without our grace, our love, our benison.¶—
Come, noble Burgundy.

[*Flourish. Exeunt LEAR, BURGUNDY, CORN-
WALL, ALBANY, GLOSTER, and Attendants.*

France. Bid farewell to your sisters.

Cor. The jewels of our father, with wash'd
eyes [are;

Cordelia leaves you: I know you what you
And, like a sister, am most loath to call
Your faults, as they are nam'd. Use well our
father:

To your professed bosoms I commit him;
But yet, alas! stood I within his grace,

* Follow his old mode of life. † Amorous expedition.
‡ Specious. § Owns, is possessed of.
|| Concludes not. ¶ Turns.

* Former declaration of. † Reproach or censure.
‡ Because. § "Who seeks for aught in love but love
alone." ¶ Place. ¶ Blessing.

I would prefer him to a better place.

So farewell to you both.

Gon. Prescribe not us our duties.

Reg. Let your study [you

Be, to content your lord; who hath receiv'd
At fortune's salms. You have obedience scant-
ed, [wanted.

And well are worth the want that you have
Cor. Time shall unfold what plaited* cun-
ning hides;

Who cover faults, at last shame them derides.
Well may you prosper!

France. Come, my fair Cordelia.

[*Exeunt FRANCE and CORDELIA.*

Gon. Sister, it is not a little I have to say, of
what most nearly appertains to us both. I
think, our father will hence to-night.

Reg. That's most certain, and with you;
next month with us.

Gon. You see how full of changes his age
is; the observation we have made of it hath
not been little: he always loved our sister
most; and with what poor judgement he hath
now cast her off, appears too grossly.

Reg. 'Tis the infirmity of his age: yet he
hath ever but slenderly known himself.

Gon. The best and soundest of his time
hath been but rash; then must we look to re-
ceive from his age, not alone the imperfections
of long-engrafted condition,† but therewithal,
the unruly waywardness that infirm and cho-
leric years bring with them.

Reg. Such unconstant starts are we like to
have from him, as this of Kent's banishment.

Gon. There is further compliment of leave-
taking between France and him. Pray you,
let us hit together: If our father carry autho-
rity with such dispositions as he bears, this
last surrender of his will but offend us.

Reg. We shall further think of it.

Gon. We must do something, and i' the heat.‡

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—A Hall in the Earl of GLOSTER'S
Castle.

Enter EDMUND, with a Letter.

Edm. Thou, nature, art my goddess; to thy
law

My services are bound: Wherefore should I
Stand in the plague of custom; and permit
The curiosity of nations to deprive me,
For that I am some twelve or fourteen moon-
shines [base?

Lag of a brother? Why bastard? wherefore
When my dimensions are as well compact,
My mind as generous, and my shape as true,
As honest madam's issue? Why brand they
us [base?

With base? with baseness? bastardy? base,
Who, in the lusty stealth of nature, take
More composition and fierce quality,
Than doth, within a dull, stale, tired bed
Go to the creating a whole tribe of fops,
Got 'tween asleep and awake?—Well then,
Legitimate Edgar, I must have your land:
Our father's love is to the bastard Edmund,
As to the legitimate; Fine word,—legitimate!
Well, my legitimate, if this letter speed,
And my invention thrive, Edmund the base
Shall top the legitimate. I grow; I prosper:—
Now, gods, stand up for bastards!

Enter GLOSTER.

Glo. Kent banish'd thus! And France in
choler parted!

* Folded, doubled. † Qualities of mind.

‡ Strike while the iron's hot.

§ The injustice ¶ The nicety of civil institution.

And the king gone to-night! subscrib'd* his
Confin'd to exhibition! All this done [power
Upon the gad!—Edmund! How now?
what news?

Edm. So please your lordship, none.

[*Putting up the Letter.*

Glo. Why so earnestly seek you to put up
that letter?

Edm. I know no news, my lord.

Glo. What paper were you reading?

Edm. Nothing, my lord.

Glo. No? What needed then that terrible
despatch of it into your pocket? the quality
of nothing hath not such need to hide itself.
Let's see: Come, if it be nothing, I shall not
need spectacles.

Edm. I beseech you, Sir, pardon me: it is
a letter from my brother, that I have not all
o'er-read; for so much as I have perused, I
find it not fit for your over-looking.

Glo. Give me the letter, Sir.

Edm. I shall offend, either to detain or give
it. The contents, as in part I understand
them, are to blame.

Glo. Let's see, let's see.

Edm. I hope, for my brother's justification,
he wrote this but as an essay§ or taste of my
virtue.

Glo. [Reads.] *This policy, and reverence of
age, makes the world bitter to the best of our
times, keeps our fortunes from us, till our oldness
cannot relish them. I begin to find an idle and
fond¶ bondage in the oppression of aged tyranny,
who sways not as it hath power, but as it is
suffered. Come to me, that of this I may speak
more. If our father would sleep till I waked him,
you should enjoy half his revenue for ever, and
live the beloved of your brother, Edgar.—Humph
—Conspiracy!—Sleep till I waked him—you
should enjoy half his revenue.—My son Edgar!
Had he a hand to write this? a heart and
brain to breed it in?—When came this to you?
Who brought it!*

Edm. It was not brought me, my lord,
(there's the cunning of it; I found it thrown
in at the casement of my closet.

Glo. You know the character to be your
brother's?

Edm. If the matter were good, my lord, I
durst swear it were his; but, in respect of
that, I would fain think it were not.

Glo. It is his.

Edm. It is his hand, my lord; but I hope,
his heart is not in the contents.

Glo. Hath he never heretofore sounded you
in this business?

Edm. Never, my lord: But I have often
heard him maintain it to be fit, that sons, at
perfect age, and fathers declining, the father
should be as ward to the son, and the son
manage his revenue.

Glo. O villain, villain!—His very opinion in
the letter!—Abhorred villain! Unnatural, de-
tested, brutish villain! worse than brutish!—
Go, sirrah, seek him; I'll apprehend him:—
Abominable villain!—Where is he?

Edm. I do not well know, my lord. If it
shall please you to suspend your indignation
against my brother, till you can derive from
him better testimony of his intent, you shall
run a certain course; where,¶ if you violently
proceed against him, mistaking his purpose, it
would make a great gap in your own honour,
and shake in pieces the heart of his obedience.
I dare pawn down my life for him, that he

* Yielded, surrendered. † Allowance. ‡ Suddenly.

§ Trial. ¶ Weak and foolish. ¶ Wherças.

hath writ this to feel my affection to your honour,* and to no other pretence of danger.

Glo. Think you so?

Edm. If your honour judge it meet, I will place you where you shall hear us confer of this, and by an auricular assurance have your satisfaction; and that without any further delay than this very evening.

Glo. He cannot be such a monster.

Edm. Nor is not, sure.

Glo. To his father, that so tenderly and entirely loves him.—Heaven and earth!--Edmund, seek him out; wind me into him, I pray you: frame the business after your own wisdom: I would unstate myself, to be in a due resolution.†

Edm. I will seek him, Sir, presently; convey the business as I shall find means, and acquaint you withal.

Glo. These late eclipses in the sun and moon portend no good to us: Though the wisdom of nature can reason it thus and thus, yet nature finds itself scourged by the sequent effects: love cools, friendship falls off, brothers divide: in cities, mutinies; in countries, discord; in palaces, treason; and the bond cracked between son and father. This villain of mine comes under the prediction, there's son against father: the king falls from bias of nature; there's father against child. We have seen the best of our time; Machinations, hollow-ness, treachery, and all ruinous disorders, follow us disquietly to our graves!--Find out this villain, Edmund, it shall lose thee nothing: do it carefully:—And the noble and true-hearted Kent banished! his offence, honesty!--Strange! strange! [Exit.]

Edm. This is the excellent foppery of the world! that, when we are sick in fortune, (often the surfeit of our own behaviour,) we make guilty of our disasters, the sun, the moon, and the stars: as if we were villains by necessity; fools, by heavenly compulsion; knaves, thieves, and treachers,† by spherical predominance; drunkards, liars, and adulterers, by an enforced obedience of planetary influence; and all that we are evil in, by a divine thrusting on: An admirable evasion of whoremaster man, to lay his goatish disposition to the charge of a star! My father compounded with my mother under the dragon's tail; and my nativity was under ursa major; ** so that it follows, I am rough and lecherous.--Tut, I should have been that I am, had the maidenliest star in the firmament twinkled on my bastardizing. Edgar--

Enter EDGAR.

and pat he comes, like the catastrophe of the old comedy: My cue is villainous melancholy, with a sigh like Tom o'Bedlam.--O, these eclipses do portend these divisions! Fa, sol, la, mit†.

Edg. How now, brother Edmund? What serious contemplation are you in?

Edm. I am thinking, brother, of a prediction I read this other day, what should follow these eclipses.

Edg. Do you busy yourself with that?

Edm. I promise you, the effects he writes of succeed unhappily; as of unnaturalness between the child and the parent; death, dearth, dissolutions of ancient amities; divisions in

state, menaces and maledictions against king and nobles; needless diffidences, banishment of friends, dissipation of cohorts, nuptial breaches, and I know not what.

Edg. How long have you been a sectary astronomical?

Edm. Come, come; when saw you my father last?

Edg. Why, the night gone by.

Edm. Spake you with him?

Edg. Ay, two hours together.

Edm. Parted you in good terms? Found you no displeasure in him by word or countenance?

Edg. None at all.

Edm. Bethink yourself, wherein you may have offended him: and at my intreaty, forbear his presence, till some little time hath qualified the heat of his displeasure; which at this instant so rageth in him, that with the mischief of your person it would scarcely allay.

Edg. Some villain hath done me wrong.

Edm. That's my fear. I pray you, have a continent forbearance, till the speed of his rage goes slower; and, as I say, retire with me to my lodging, from whence I will fitly bring you to hear my lord speak: Pray you, go; there's my key:—If you do stir abroad, go armed.

Edg. Armed, brother?

Edm. Brother, I advise you to the best: go armed; I am no honest man, if there be any good meaning towards you: I have told you what I have seen and heard, but faintly; nothing like the image and horror of it: Pray you, away.

Edg. Shall I hear from you anon?

Edm. I do serve you in this business.--

[Exit EDGAR.]

A credulous father, and a brother noble, Whose nature is so far from doing harms, That he suspects none; on whose foolish honesty

My practices ride easy!--I see the business.-- Let me, if not by birth, have lands by wit: All with me's meet, that I can fashion fit.

[Exit.]

SCENE III.--A Room in the Duke of ALBANY'S Palace.

Enter GONERIL and STEWARD.

Gon. Did my father strike my gentleman for chiding of his fool?

Stew. Ay, madam.

Gon. By day and night! he wrongs me; every hour

He flashes into one gross crime or other, That sets us all at odds: I'll not endure it: His knights grow riotous, and himself upbraids us [ing

On every trifle:—When he returns from hunt I will not speak with him; say, I am sick:— If you come slack of former services,

You shall do well; the fault of it I'll answer.

Stew. He's coming, madam; I hear him.

[Horns within.]

Gon. Put on what weary negligence you please, [question:

You and your fellows; I'd have it come to If he dislike it, let him to my sister, Whose mind and mine, I know, in that are one, Not to be over-ruled. Idle old man, That still would manage those authorities, That he hath given away!--Now, by my life, Old fools are babes again; and must be used With checks, as flatteries,--when they are seen Remember what I have said. [abus'd.]

* The usual address to a lord. † Design.

‡ Give all that I am possessed of, to be certain of the truth. § Manage. ¶ Following. † Traitors.

** Great bear, the constellation so named.

†† These sounds are unnatural and offensive in music.

* For cohorts some editors read courts. † Temperate.

Stew. Very well, madam.

Gon. And let his knights have colder looks among you;

What grows of it, no matter; advise your fellows so:

I would breed from hence occasions, and I shall,

That I may speak:—I'll write strait to my To hold my very course:—Prepare for dinner. *[Exit.]*

SCENE IV.—A Hall in the same.

Enter KENT, disguised.

Kent. If but as well I other accents borrow, That can my speech diffuse,* my good intent May carry through itself to that full issue For which I raz'd† my likeness—Now, banish'd Kent,

If thou canst serve where thou dost stand condemn'd, †*[lover's]* (So may it come!) thy master, whom thou Shall find thee full of labours.

Horns within.—Enter LEAR, KNIGHTS, and Attendants.

Lear. Let me not stay a jot for dinner: go, get it ready. *[Exit an Attendant.]* How, now, what art thou?

Kent. A man, Sir.

Lear. What dost thou profess? What wouldst thou with us?

Kent. I do profess to be no less than I seem; to serve him truly, that will put me in trust; to love him that is honest; to converse‡ with him that is wise, and says little; to fear judgement; to fight, when I cannot choose; and to eat no fish.

Lear. What art thou?

Kent. A very honest-hearted fellow, and as poor as the king.

Lear. If thou be as poor for a subject, as he is for a king, thou art poor enough. What wouldst thou?

Kent. Service.

Lear. Who wouldst thou serve?

Kent. You.

Lear. Dost thou know me, fellow?

Kent. No, Sir; but you have that in your countenance, which I would fain call master.

Lear. What's that?

Kent. Authority.

Lear. What services canst thou do?

Kent. I can keep honest counsel, ride, run, mar a curious tale in telling it, and deliver a plain message bluntly; that which ordinary men are fit for, I am qualified in; and the best of me is diligence.

Lear. How old art thou?

Kent. Not so young, Sir, to love a woman for singing; nor so old, to dote on her for any thing: I have years on my back forty-eight.

Lear. Follow me; thou shalt serve me; if I like thee no worse after dinner, I will not part from thee yet.—Dinner, ho, dinner,!--Where's my knave? my fool? Go you, and call my fool hither:

Enter STEWARD.

You, you, Sirrah, where's my daughter?

Stew. So please you,— *[Exit.]*

Lear. What says the fellow there? Call the clotpoll back.—Where's my fool, ho! I think the world's asleep. How now? where's that mongrel?

Knight. He says, my lord, your daughter is not well.

Lear. Why came not the slave back to me, when I call'd him?

Knight. Sir, he answer'd me in the roughest manner, he would not.

Lear. He would not?

Knight. My lord, I know not what the matter is; but, to my judgement, your highness is not entertain'd with that ceremonious affection as you were wont; there's a great abatement of kindness appears, as well in the general dependents, as in the duke himself also, and your daughter.

Lear. Ha! say'st thou so?

Knight. I beseech you, pardon me, my lord, if I be mistaken; for my duty cannot be silent, when I think your highness is wrong'd.

Lear. Thou but remember'st me of mine own conception; I have perceived a most faint neglect of late; which I have rather blamed as mine own jealous curiosity,* than as a very pretence and purpose of unkindness; I will look further into't.—But where's my fool? I have not seen him these two days.

Knight. Since my young lady's going into France, Sir, the fool hath much pined away.

Lear. No more of that; I have noted it well.—Go you, and tell my daughter I would speak with her.—Go you, call hither my fool.—

Re-enter STEWARD.

O, you Sir, you Sir, come you hither: Who am I, Sir?

Stew. My lady's father.

Lear. My lady's father! my lord's knave: you whoreson dog! you slave! you cur!

Stew. I am none of this, my lord; I beseech you, pardon me.

Lear. Do you bandy looks with me, you rascal? *[Striking him.]*

Stew. I'll not be struck, my lord.

Kent. Nor tipped neither; you base foot-ball player. *[Tripping up his Heels.]*

Lear. I thank thee, fellow; thou servest me, and I'll love thee.

Kent. Come, Sir, arise, away; I'll teach you differences; away, away: If you will measure your lubbers' length again, tarry: but away: go to; Have you wisdom? so. *[Pushes the STEWARD out.]*

Lear. Now, my friendly knave, I thank thee; there's earnest of thy service. *[Giving KENT Money.]*

Enter FOOL.

Fool. Let me hire him too;—Here's my coxcomb. *[Giving KENT his Cap.]*

Lear. How now, my pretty knave? how dost thou?

Fool. Sirrah, you were best take my coxcomb.

Kent. Why, fool?

Fool. Why? For taking one's part that is out of favour: Nay, and thou canst not smile as the wind sits, thou'lt catch cold shortly: There, take my coxcomb: Why, this fellow has banish'd two of his daughters, and did the third a blessing against his will; if thou follow him, thou must needs wear my coxcomb.—How now, nuncle? 'Would I had two coxcombs, and two daughters!

Lear. Why, my boy?

Fool. If I gave them all my living,‡ I'd keep

* Disorder, disguise. † Effaced. ‡ Keep company.

* Punctilious jealousy.

† Design.

‡ Estate or property.

my coxcombs myself: There's mine; beg another of thy daughters.

Lear. Take heed, Sirrah; the whip.

Fool. Truth's a dog that must to kennel? he must be whipp'd out, when Lady, the brach,* may stand by the fire, and stink.

Lear. A pestilent gall to me!

Fool. Sirrah, I'll teach thee a speech.

Lear. Do.

Fool. Mark it, nuncle:—

Have more than thou showest,
Speak less than thou knowest,
Lend less than thou owest,†
Ride more than thou goest,
Learn more than thou trowest,‡
Set less than thou throwest;
Leave thy drink and thy whore,
And keep in-a-door,
And thou shalt have more
Than two tens to a score.

Lear. This is nothing, fool.

Fool. Then 'tis like the breath of an unfee'd lawyer; you gave me nothing for't: Can you make no use of nothing, nuncle?

Lear. Why, no, boy; nothing can be made out of nothing.

Fool. Pr'ythee, tell him, so much the rent of his land comes to; he will not believe a fool.

[To KENT.]

Lear. A bitter fool.

Fool. Dost thou know the difference, my boy, between a bitter fool and a sweet fool?

Lear. No, lad; teach me.

Fool. That lord, that counsel'd thee
To give away thy land,
Come place him here by me,—
Or do thou for him stand:
The sweet and bitter fool
Will presently appear;
The one in motley here,
The other found out there.

Lear. Dost thou call me fool, boy?

Fool. All thy other titles thou hast given away; that thou wast born with.

Kent. This is not altogether fool, my lord.

Fool. No, 'faith, lords and great men will not let me; if I had a monopoly out, they would have part on't; and ladies too, they will not let me have all fool to myself; they'll be snatching.—Give me an egg, nuncle, and I'll give thee two crowns.

Lear. What two crowns shall they be?

Fool. Why, after I have cut the egg i'the middle, and eat up the meat, the two crowns of the egg. When thou clovest thy crown i'the middle, and gavest away both parts, thou borrest thine ass on thy back over the dirt: Thou hadst little wit in thy bald crown, when thou gavest thy golden one away. If I speak like myself in this, let him be whipp'd that first finds it so.

Fools had ne'er less grace§ in a year; [Singing.

*For wise men are grown foppish;
And know not how their wits to wear,
Their manners are so upish.*

Lear. When were you wont to be so full of songs, Sirrah?

Fool. I have used it, nuncle, ever since thou madest thy daughters thy mother: for when thou gavest them the rod, and put'st down thine own breeches,

Then they for sudden joy did weep, [Singing.

*And I for sorrow sung,
That such a king should play bo-peep,
And go the fools among.*

Pr'ythee, nuncle, keep a schoolmaster that can teach thy fool to lie; I would fain learn to lie.

Lear. If you lie, Sirrah, we'll have you whipp'd.

Fool. I marvel, what kin thou and thy daughters are: they'll have me whipp'd for speaking true, thou'lt have me whipp'd for lying; and sometimes, I am whipp'd for holding my peace. I had rather be any kind of thing, than a fool: and yet I would not be thice, nuncle; thou hast pared thy wit o'both sides, and left nothing in the middle: Here comes one o' the parings.

Enter GENERAL.

Lear. How now, daughter! what makes that frontlet* on? Methinks, you are too much of late i'the frown.

Fool. Thou wast a pretty fellow, when thou hadst no need to care for her frowning; now thou art an O† without a figure: I am better than thou art now; I am a fool, thou art nothing.—Yes, forsooth, I will hold my tongue; so your face [To Gon.] bids me, though you say nothing. Mum, mum,

He that keeps nor crust nor crum,

Weary of all, shall want some.—

That's a sheal'd peascod.‡ [Pointing to LEAR.]

Gon. Not only, Sir, this your all-licens'd But other of your insolent retinue [fool, Do hourly carp and quarrel; breaking forth In rank and not-to-be-endured riots. Sir, I had thought, by making this well known unto you, [fearful,

To have found a safe redress; but now grow By what yourself too late have spoke and done, That you protect this course, and put it on By your allowance;§ which if you should, the fault [sleep;

Would not 'scape censure, nor the redresses Which, in the tender of a wholesome weal,|| Might in their working do you that offence, Which else were shame, that then necessity Will call discreet proceeding.

Fool. For you trow, nuncle,

The hedge-sparrow fed the cuckoo so long,

That it had its head bit off by its young.

So, out went the candle, and we were left darkling.

Lear. Are you our daughter?

Gon. Come, Sir, I would, you would make use of that good wisdom whereof I know you are fraught;¶ and put away these dispositions, which of late transform you from what you rightly are.

Fool. May not an ass know when the cart draws the horse?—Whoop, Jug! I love thee.

Lear. Does any here know me?—Why this is not Lear: does Lear walk thus? speak thus? Where are his eyes? Either his notion weakens, or his discernings are lethargied.—Sleeping or walking?—Ha; sure 'tis not so.—Who is it that tell me who I am?—Lear's shadow? I would learn that; for by the marks of sovereignty, knowledge, and reason, I should be false persuaded I had daughters.—

Fool. Which they will make an obedient father.

* Part of a woman's head-dress, to which Lear compares her frowning brow. † A cypher.

‡ A mere husk which contains nothing. § Approbation. || Well-governed state. ¶ Stated.

* Bitch hound.

† Believest

‡ Ownest, possesseth.

§ Favour.

Lear. Your name, fair gentlewoman ?

Gon. Come, Sir ;

This admiration is much o'the favour*
Of other your new prauks. I do beseech you
To understand my purposes aright : [wise :
As you are old and reverend, you should be
Here do you keep a hundred knights and
squires ;

Men so disorder'd, so debauch'd, and bold,
That this our court, infected with their manners,
Shows like a riotous inn ; epicurism and lust
Make it more like a tavern or a brothel,
Than a grac'd palace. The shame itself doth
For instant remedy : Be then desir'd [speak
By her, that else will take the thing she begs,
A little to disquantity your train ;
And the remainder, that shall still depend,†
To be such men as may besort your age,
And know themselves and you.

Lear. Darkness and devils !—

Saddle my horses ; call my train together.—
Degenerate bastard ! I'll not trouble thee ;
Yet have I left a daughter.

Gon. You strike my people : and your dis-
order'd rabble.
Make servants of their betters.

Enter ALBANY.

Lear. Woe, that too late repents,—O, Sir,
are you come ?

Is it your will ? [To ALB.] Speak, Sir.—Pre-
pare my horses.

Ingratitude ! thou marble-hearted fiend,
More hideous, when thou show'st thee in a
Than the sea-monster ! [child,

Alb. Pray, Sir, be patient.

Lear. Detested kite ! thou liest : [To GONERIL.
My train are men of choice and rarest parts,
That all particulars of duty know :

And in the most exact regard support [fault,
The worship of their name.—O most small
How ugly didst thou in Cordelia show !

Which, like an engine,‡ wrench'd my frame of
nature [love,

From the fix'd place ; drew from my heart all
And added to the gall. O Lear, Lear, Lear !
Beat at this gate that let thy folly in,

[Striking his Head.

And thy dear judgement out !—Go, go, my
people.

Alb. My lord, I am guiltless, as I am igno-
Of what hath mov'd you. [rant

Lear. It may be so, my lord.—Hear, nature,
hear ;

Dear goddess, hear ! Suspend thy purpose, if
Thou didst intend to make this creature fruitful !
Into her womb convey sterility !

Dry up in her the organs of increase ;
And from her derogate§ body never spring

A babe to honour her ! If she must teem,
Create her child of spleen ; that it may live,

And be a thwart disnatur'd torment to her !
Let it stamp wrinkles in her brow of youth !

With cadent|| tears fret channels in her cheeks ;
Turn all her mother's pains, and benefits,

To laughter and contempt ; that she may feel
How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is

To have a thankless child ?—Away, away !
[Exit.

Alb. Now, gods, that we adore, wherof
comes this ?

Gon. Never afflict yourself to know the
But let his disposition have that scope [cause ;
That dotage gives it.

* Complexion.

† Continue in service.

‡ The rack.

§ Degraded.

|| Falling.

Re-enter LEAR.

Lear. What, fifty of my followers, at a clap !
Within a fortnight ?

Alb. What's the matter, Sir ?

Lear. I'll tell thee ;—Life and death ! I am
asham'd

That thou hast power to shake my manhood
thus : [To GONERIL.

That these hot tears, which break from me per-
force,

Should make thee worth them.—Blasts and
fogs upon thee !

The untented* wounding of a father's curse
Pierce every sense about thee !—Old fond eyes,

Bewep this cause again, I'll pluck you out ;
And cast you, with the waters that you lose,

To temper clay.—Ha ! is it come to this ?
Let it be so :—Yet have I left a daughter,

Who, I am sure, is kind and comfortable ;
When she shall hear this of thee, with her nails

She'll flay thy wolfish visage. Thou shalt find,
That I'll resume the shape which thou dost

think [thee.
I have cast off for ever ; thou shalt, I warrant

[Exit LEAR, Kent, and Attendants.

Gon. Do you mark that, my lord ?

Alb. I cannot be so partial, Goneril,
To the great love I bear you,—

Gon. Pray you, content.—What, Oswald,
ho ! [master,

You, Sir, more knave than fool, after your
[To the Fool.

Fool. Nuncle Lear, nuncle Lear, tarry, and
take the fool with thee.

A fox, when one has caught her.

And such a daughter,
Should sure to the slaughter,

If my cap would buy a halter ;
So the fool follows after. [Exit.

Gon. This man hath had good counsel :—A
hundred knights !

'Tis politic, and safe, to let him keep
At point,† a hundred knights. Yes, that on
every dream,

Each buz, each fancy, each complaint, dislike,
He may enguard his dotage with their powers,

And hold our lives in mercy.—Oswald, I say !—
Alb. Well, you may fear too far.

Gon. Safer than trust :

Let me still take away the harms I fear,
Not fear still to be taken. I know his heart :

What he hath utter'd, I have writ my sister ;
If she sustain him and his hundred knights,

When I have show'd the unfitness—How
now, Oswald ?

Enter STEWARD.

What, have you writ that letter to my sister ?
Stew. Aye, madam.

Gon. Take you some company, and away to
Inform her full of my particular fear ; [horse to

And thereto add such reasons for your own,
As may compact it more. Get you gone ;

And hasten your return. [Exit STEW.] No, no,
my lord,

This milky gentleness, and course of yours,
Though I condemn it not, yet, under pardon,

You are much more atask'd‡ for want of wis-
Than prais'd for harmful mildness. [dom,

Alb. How far your eyes may pierce, I can-
not tell ;

Striving to better, oft we mar what's well.
Gon. Nay, then—

Alb. Well, well ; the event. [Exit.

* Undressed. † Armed. ‡ Liable to reprehension.

SCENE V.—*Court from the same.**Enter* LEAR, KENT, and FOOL.

Lear. Go you before to Gloster with these letters: acquaint my daughter no further with any thing you know, than comes from her demand out of the letter: If your diligence be not speedy, I shall be there before you.

Kent. I will not sleep, my lord, till I have delivered your letter. *[Exit.]*

Fool. If a man's brains were in his heels, were't not in danger of kibes?

Lear. Ay, boy.

Fool. Then I pr'ythee, be merry: thy wit shall not go ship-shod.

Lear. Ha, ha, ha!

Fool. Shalt see, thy other daughter will use thee kindly: for though she's as like this as a crab is like an apple, yet I can tell what I can tell.

Lear. Why, what canst thou tell, my boy?

Fool. She will taste as like this, as a crab does to a crab. Thou canst tell, why one's nose stands i'the middle of his face?

Lear. No.

Fool. Why, to keep his eyes on either side his nose; that what a man cannot smell out, he may spy into.

Lear. I did her wrong:—

Fool. Canst tell how an oyster makes his shell?

Lear. No.

Fool. Nor I neither; but I can tell why a snail has a house.

Lear. Why?

Fool. Why, to put his head in; not to give it away to his daughters, and leave his horns without a case.

Lear. I will forget my nature.—So kind a father!—Be my horses ready?

Fool. Thy asses are gone about 'em. The reason why the seven stars are no more than seven, is a pretty reason.

Lear. Because they are not eight?

Fool. Yes, indeed: Thou wouldest make a good fool.

Lear. To take it again perforce!—Monster Ingratitude!

Fool. If thou wert my fool, nuncle, I'd have thee beaten for being old before thy time.

Lear. How's that?

Fool. Thou shouldst not have been old, before thou hadst been wise.

Lear. O let me not be mad, not mad, sweet heaven!

Keep me in temper; I would not be mad!—

Enter GENTLEMAN.

How now! Are the horses ready?

Gent. Ready, my lord.

Lear. Come, boy.

Fool. She that is maid now, and laughs at my departure,

Shall not be a maid long, unless things be cut shorter. *[Exit.]*

ACT II.

SCENE I.—*A Court within the Castle of the Earl of GLOSTER.**Enter* EDMUND and CURAN, meeting,

Edm. Save thee, Curan.

Cur. And you, Sir. I have been with your father; and given him notice, that the duke of Cornwall, and Regan his duchess, will be here with him to-night.

Edm. How comes that?

Cur. Nay, I know not: You have heard of the news abroad: I mean, the whispered ones, for they are yet but ear-kissing arguments?

Edm. Not I; Pray you, what are they?

Cur. Have you heard of no likely wars toward, 'twixt the dukes of Cornwall and Albany?

Edm. Not a word.

Cur. You may then, in time. Fare you well, Sir. *[Exit.]*

Edm. The duke be here to-night? The better! Best!

This waves itself perforce into my business! My father hath set guard to take my brother; And I have one thing, of a queazy* question, Which I must act:—Briefness, and fortune, work!—

Brother, a word; descend:—Brother, I say;

Enter EDGAR.

My father watches:—O Sir, fly this place; Intelligence is given where you are hid; You have now the good advantage of the night:— *[wall?]*

Have you not spoken 'gainst the duke of Cornwall's coming hither; now, i'the night, i'the haste,

And Regan with him; Have you nothing said Upon his party 'gainst the duke of Albany? Advise† yourself.

Edg. I am sure on't, not a word.

Edm. I hear my father coming,—Pardou me:— *[you:—]* In cunning, I must draw my sword upon Draw; Seem to defend yourself; Now quit you well. *[here!—]*

Yield:—come before my father;—Light, ho, Fly, brother;—Torches! torches!—So, farewell.— *[Exit* EDGAR.

Some blood drawn on me would beget opinion. *[Wounds his Arm.]*

Of my more fierce endeavour: I have seen drunkards

Do more than this in sport.—father! father! Stop, stop! No help?

Enter GLOSTER, and Servants with Torches.

Glo. Now, Edmund, where's the villain?

Edm. Here stood he in the dark, his sharp sword out, *[moon]*

Mumbling of wicked charms, conjuring the To stand his auspicious mistress:—

Glo. But where is he?

Edm. Look, Sir, I bleed.

Glo. Where is the villain, Edmund?

Edm. Fled this way, Sir. When by no means he could—

Glo. Pursue him, ho!—Go after.—*[Exit* Servant.] By no means,—what?

Edm. Persuade me to the murder of your lordship;

But that I told him, the revenging gods 'Gainst parricides did all their thunders bend;

Spoke, with how manifold and strong a bond The child was bound to the father;—Sir, in Seeing how loathly opposite I stood *[line,*

To his unnatural purpose, in fell motion, With his prepared sword, he charges home

My unprovided body, lanc'd mine arm: But when he saw my best alarm'd spirits,

Bold in the quarrel's right, rous'd to the encounter,

Or whether gasted‡ by the noise I made, Full suddenly he fled.

* Delicate.

† Consider, recollect yourself
‡ Frighted.

Glo. Let him fly far;
Not in this land shall he remain uncaught;
And found—Despatch.—The noble duke my
master,
My worthy arch* and patron, comes to-night:
By his authority I will proclaim it, [thanks,
That he, which finds him, shall deserve our
Bringing the murd'rous coward to the stake;
He, that conceals him, death.

Edm. When I dissuaded him from his intent,
And found him pight † to do it, with curst‡
speech

I threaten'd to discover him: He replied,
*Thou unpossessing bastard! dost thou think,
If I would stand against thee, would the reposal
Of any trust, virtue, or worth, in thee
Make thy words faith'd? No: what I should deny,
(As this I would; ay, though thou didst produce
My very character§) I'd turn it all
To thy suggestion, plot, and damned practice:
And thou must make a dullard of the world,
If they not thought the profits of my death
Were very pregnant and potential spurs
To make thee seek it.*

Glo. Strong and fasten'd villain!
Would he deny his letter?—I never got him.
[*Trumpets within.*

Hark, the duke's trumpets! I know not why
he comes:

All ports I'll bar; the villain shall not 'scape;
The duke must grant me that: besides, his pic-
ture

I will send far and near, that all the kingdom
May have due note of him; and of my land,
Loyal and natural boy, I'll work the means
To make thee capable.||

Enter CORNWALL, REGAN, and Attendants.

Corn. How now, my noble friend? since I
came hither.
(Which I can call but now,) I have heard
strange news.

Reg. If it be true, all vengeance comes too
short,
Which can pursue the offender. How dost
my lord?

Glo. O, madam, my old heart is crack'd, is
crack'd!

Reg. What, did my father's godson seek
your life?

He whom my father nam'd? your Edgar?

Glo. O, lady, lady, shame would have it hid!

Reg. Was he not companion with the riot-
ous knights

That tend upon my father?

Glo. I know not, madam:

It is too bad, too bad.—

Edm. Yes, madam, he was.

Reg. No marvel then, though he were ill af-
fected;

'Tis they have put him on the old man's death,
To have the waste and spoil of his revenues.

I have this present evening from my sister
Been well inform'd of them; and with such
cautions,

That, if they come to sojourn at my house,
I'll not be there.

Corn. Nor I, assure thee, Regan.—

Edmund, I hear that you have shown your
A child-like office. [father

Edm. 'Twas my duty, Sir.

Glo. He did bewray¶ his practice; ** and
receiv'd

This hurt you see, striving to apprehend him.

Corn. Is he pursued?

Glo. Ay, my good lord, he is.

Corn. If he be taken, he shall never more
Be fear'd of doing harm: make your own pur-
pose, [mund,

How in my strength you please.—For you, Ed-
Whose virtue and obedience doth this instant
So much commend itself, you shall be ours;
Natures of such deep trust we shall much need;
You we first seize on.

Edm. I shall serve you, Sir,
Truly, however else.

Glo. For him I thank your grace.

Corn. You know not why we came to visit
you,—

Reg. Thus out of season; threading dark-
ey'd night.

Occasions noble Gloster, of some poize,*
Wherein we must have use of your advice:—
Our father he hath writ, so hath our sister,
Of differences, which I best thought it fit
To answer from our home; the several mes-
sengers [friend,

From hence attend despatch. Our good old
Lay comforts to your bosom; and bestow
Your needful counsel to your business,
Which craves the instant use.

Glo. I serve you, madam:
Your graces are right welcome. *Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—Before GLOSTER'S Castle.

Enter KENT and STEWARD, severally.

Stew. Good dawning to thee, friend: Art of
the house?

Kent. Ay.

Stew. Where may we set our horses?

Kent. I'the mire.

Stew. Pr'y'thee, if thou love me, tell me.

Kent. I love thee not.

Stew. Why, then I care not for thee.

Kent. If I had thee in Lipsbury pinfold, I
would make thee care for me.

Stew. Why dost thou use me thus? I know
thee not.

Kent. Fellow, I know thee.

Stew. What dost thou know me for?

Kent. A knave; a rascal, an eater of broken
meats; a base, proud, shallow, beggarly, three-
suited, hundred-pound, filthy worsted-stocking
knave; a lily-liver'd, action-taking knave; a
whoreson, glass-gazing, superserviceable, firi-
cal rogue; one trunk-inheriting slave; one
that wouldst be a bawd, in way of good ser-
vice, and art nothing but the composition of a
knave, beggar, coward, pandar, and the son
and heir of a mongrel bitch: one whom I will
beat into clamorous whining, if thou deny'st
the least syllable of thy addition.†

Stew. Why, what a monstrous fellow art
thou, thus to rail on one, that is neither known
of thee, nor knows thee!

Kent. What a brazen-fac'd varlet art thou,
to deny thou know'st me! Is it two days ago,
since I tripp'd up thy heels, and beat thee, be-
fore the king? Draw, you rogue; for, though
it be night, the moon shines; I'll make a sop
o'the moonshine of you: Draw, you whoreson
cullionly barber-monger, draw. [Drawing his Sword.

Stew. Away; I have nothing to do with
thee.

Kent. Draw, you rascal: you come with

* Chief. † Pitched, fixed. ‡ Severe, harsh.
§ Handwriting.

|| I. e. Capable of succeeding to my land.

¶ Betray.

** Wicked purpose.

letters against the king; and take vanity* the puppet's part, against the royalty of her father: Draw, you rogue, or I'll so carbonado your shanks:—draw, you rascal; come your ways.

Stew. Help, ho! murder! help!

Kent. Strike, you slave; stand, rogue, stand; you neat slave, strike. [Beating him.]

Stew. Help, ho! murder! murder!

Enter EDMUND, CORNWALL, REGAN, GLOSTER, and Servants.

Edm. How now? What's the matter? Part.

Kent. With you, goodman boy, if you please; come, I'll flesh you; come on, young master.
Glo. Weapons! arms! what's the matter here?

Corn. Keep peace, upon your lives; [ter? He dies, that strikes again: What is the matter?
Reg. The messengers from our sister and the king.

Corn. What is your difference? speak.

Stew. I am scarce in breath, my lord.

Kent. No marvel, you have so bestir'd your valour. You cowardly rascal, nature disclaims in thee; a tailor made thee.

Corn. Thou art a strange fellow: a tailor make a man?

Kent. Ay, a tailor, Sir; a stone-cutter, or a painter, could not have made him so ill, though they had been but two hours at the trade.

Corn. Speak yet, how grew your quarrel?

Stew. This ancient ruffian, Sir, whose life I have spar'd,

At suit of his grey beard,—

Kent. Thou whoreson zed! thou unnecessary letter!—My lord, if you will give me leave, I will tread this unbolted villain into mortar, and dob the wall of a jakes; with him.—Spare my grey beard, you wagtail!

Corn. Peace, Sirrah!

You beastly knave, know you no reverence?

Kent. Yes Sir; but anger has a privilege,

Corn. Why art thou angry?

Kent. That such a slave as this should wear a sword,

Who wears no honesty. Such smiling rogues as these,

Like rats, oft bite the holy cords atwain

Which are too intrinsic t'unloose: smooth every passion

'That in the natures of their lords rebels;

Renege,|| affirm, and turn their halcyon¶ beaks

With every gale and vary of their masters,

As knowing nought, like dogs, but follow.

A plague upon your epileptic visage! [ing.—

Smile you my speeches, as I were a fool?

Goose, if I had you upon Sarum plain,

I'd drive ye cackling home to Camelot.**

Corn. What, art thou mad, old fellow?

Glo. How fell you out?

Say that.

Kent. No contraries hold more antipathy,

Than I and such a knave.

Corn. Why dost thou call him knave? What's his offence?

Kent. His countenance likes me not.††

Corn. No more, perchance, does mine, or his, or hers.

* A character in the old moralities. † Unrefined.

‡ Privy. § Perplexed. || Disown.

¶ The bird called the king-fisher, which when dried,

and hung up by a thread, is supposed to turn his bill to

the point from whence the wind blows.

** In Somersetshire, where are bred great quantities

of geese. †† I. e. Pleases me not.

Kent. Sir, 'tis my occupation to be plain; I have seen better faces in my time, Than stands on any shoulder that I see Before me at this instant.

Corn. This is some fellow, [affect Who, having been prais'd for bluntness, doth A saucy roughness; and constrains the garb, Quite from his nature: He cannot flatter. be!— [truth:

An honest mind and plain,—he must speak And they will take it, so: if not, he's plain.

These kind of knaves I know, which in this plainness

Harbour more craft, and more corrupter ends,

Than twenty silly* ducking observants,

That stretch their duties nicely.

Kent. Sir, in good sooth, in sincere verity, Under the allowance of your grand aspect,

Whose influence, like the wreath of radiant fire On flickering Phœbus' front,—

Corn. What mean'st by this?

Kent. To go out of my dialect, which you discommend so much. I know, Sir, I am no

flatterer: he that beguiled you in a plain accent, was a plain knave; which, for my part,

I will not be, though I should win your displeasure to entreat me to it.

Corn. What was the offence you gave him?

Stew. Never any:

It pleas'd the king his master, very late, To strike at me, upon his misconstruction;

When he, conjunct, and flattering his displeasure, [rail'd,

Tripp'd me behind; being down, insulted,

And put upon him such a deal of man,

That worthy'd him, got praises of the king;

For him attempting who was self-subdu'd;

And, in the fleshment of this dread exploit,

Drew on me here.

Kent. None of these rogues, and cowards, But Ajax is their fool.†

Corn. Fetch forth the stocks, ho! [braggart,

You stubborn ancient knave, you reverend

We'll teach you—

Kent. Sir, I am too old to learn:

Call not your stocks for me: I serve the king;

On whose employment I was sent to you:

You shall do small respect, show too bold

malice

Against the grace and person of my master,

Stocking his messenger.

Corn. Fetch forth the stocks: [noon.

As I've life and honour, there shall he sit till

Reg. Till noon! till night, my lord; and all

night too.

Kent. Why, madam, if I were your father's

You should not use me so. [dog,

Reg. Sir, being his knave, I will. [Stocks brought out.

Corn. This is a fellow of the self-same colour [stocks.

Our sister speaks of:—Come, bring away the

Glo. Let me beseech your grace not to do so:

His fault is much, and the good king his master

rection

Will check him for't: your purpos'd low cor-

Is such, as basest and contemn'd'st wretches

For pilferings and most common trespasses,

Are punish'd with: the king must take it ill,

That he's so slightly valued in his messenger,

Should have him thus restrain'd.

Corn. I'll answer that.

Reg. My sister may receive it much more

worse,

To have her gentleman abus'd, assaulted,

* Simple or rustic. † I. e. Ajax is a fool to them.

For following her affairs.—Put in his legs.—

[KENT is put in the Stocks.

Come my good lord ; away.

[Exit REGAN and CORNWALL.

Glo. I am sorry for thee, friend ; 'tis the duke's pleasure, Whose disposition, all the world well knows, Will not be rubb'd, nor stopp'd : I'll entreat for thee.

Kent. Pray, do not, Sir : I have watch'd, and travell'd hard ;

Some time I shall sleep out, the rest I'll whistle. A good man's fortune may grow out at heels : Give you good morrow !

Glo. The duke's to blame in this ; 'twill be ill taken. [Exit.

Kent. Good king, that must approve the common saw !*

Thou out of heaven's benediction com'st To the warm sun !

Approach, thou beacon to this under globe, That by thy comfortable beams I may [cles, Peruse this letter !— Nothing almost sees mira- But misery ;—I know 'tis from Cordelia ; Who hath most fortunately been inform'd Of my obscured course ; and shall find time From this enormous state,—seeking to give Losses their remedies :—All weary and o'er- watch'd,

Take vantage, heavy eyes, not to behold This shameful lodging.

Fortune, good night ; smile once more ; turn thy wheel ! [He sleeps.

SCENE III.—A Part of the Heath.

Enter EDGAR.

Edg. I heard myself proclaim'd ; And, by the happy hollow of a tree, Escap'd the hunt. No port is free : no place, That guard, and most unusual vigilance, Does not attend my taking. While I may scape,

I will preserve myself : and am bethought To take the basest and most poorest shape, That every penury, in contempt of man, Brought near to beast : my face I'll grime with filth ;

Blanket my loins ; elf all my hair in knots ; And with presented nakedness outface The winds, and persecutions of the sky.

The country gives me proof and precedent Of Bedlam beggars, who, with roaring voices, Strike in their numb'd and mortified bare arms, Pins, wooden pricks, † nails, sprigs of rose- mary ;

And with this horrible object, from low farms, Poor pelting villages, sheep cotes and mills, Sometime with lunatic bans, § sometime with prayers, [Tom !

Enforce their charity.—Poor Turlygood ! poor That's something yet ;—Edgar I nothing am. Exit.

SCENE IV.—Before GLOSTER's Castle.

Enter LEAR, FOOL, and GENTLEMAN.

Lear. 'Tis strange, that they should so de- part from home, And not send back my messenger.

Gent. As I learn'd, The night before there was no purpose in them Of this remove.

Kent. Hail to thee, noble master !

Lear. How !

Mak'st thou this shame thy pastime ?

Kent. No, my lord.

Fool. Ha, ha ; look ! he wears cruel* garters ! Horses are tied by the heads ; dogs, and bears, by the neck ; monkies by the loins, and men by the legs : when a man is over-lusty at legs, then he wears wooden nether-stocks. †

Lear. What's he, that hath so much thy place mistook

To set thee here !

Kent. It is both he and she,

Your son and daughter.

Lear. No.

Kent. Yes.

Lear. No, I say.

Kent. I say, yea.

Lear. No, no ; they would nat.

Kent. Yes, they have.

Lear. By Jupiter, I swear, no.

Kent. By Juno, I swear, ay.

Lear. They durst not do't ;

They could not, would not do't ; 'tis worse than murder,

To do upon respect such violent outrage :

Resolve me, with all modest haste, which way

Thou might'st deserve, or they impose, this Coming from us. [usage,

Kent. My lord, when at their home

I did commend your highness' letters to them, Ere I was risen from the place that show'd

My duty kneeling, came there a reeking post, Stew'd in his haste, half breathless, panting forth

From Generil his mistress, salutations ;

Deliver'd letters, spite of intermission,

Which presently they read : on whose contents,

They summon'd up their meiny, ‡ straight took horse ;

Commanded me to follow, and attend [looks :

The leisure of their answer ; gave me cold And meeting here the other messenger,

Whose welcome, I perceiv'd, had poison'd (Being the very fellow that of late [mine,

Display'd so saucily against your highness,) Having more man than wit about me, drew ;

He rais'd the house with loud and coward cries :

Your son and daughter found this trespass The shame which here it suffers. [worth

Fool. Winter's not gone yet, if the wild geese fly that away.

Fathers, that wear rags,

Do make their children blind ;

But fathers, that bear bags,

Shall see their children kind.

Fortune, that arrant whore,

Ne'er turns the key to the poor.—

But, for all this, thou shalt have as many do- lours § for thy daughters, as thou canst tell in a year.

Lear. O, how this mother || swells up towards my heart !

Hysterica passio ! down, thou climbing sorrow, The element's below !—Where is this daugh- ter ?

Kent. With the earl, Sir, here within.

Lear. Follow me not ;

Stay here. [Exit.

Gent. Made you no more offence than what you speak of ?

* Saying or proverb.

† Hair thus knotted, was supposed to be the work of elves and fairies in the night.

‡ Skewers.

§ Curses.

* A quibble on *ercwell*, *worsted*.

† The old word for stockings.

‡ People, train or retinue.

§ A quibble between *dolours* and *dollars*.

|| The disease called the *wether*.

Kent. None.

How chance the king comes with so small a train?

Fool. An thou hadst been set i'the stocks for that question, thou hadst well deserved it.

Kent. Why, fool?

Fool. We'll set thee to school to an ant, to teach thee there's no labouring in the winter. All that follow their noses are led by their eyes, but blind men; and there's not a nose among twenty, but can smell him that's stinking. Let go thy hold, when a great wheel runs down a hill, lest it break thy neck with following it; but the great one that goes up the hill, let him draw thee after. When a wise man gives thee better counsel, give me mine again: I would have none but knaves follow it, since a fool gives it.

That, Sir, which serves and seeks for gain,

And follows but for forms,

Will pack, when it begins to rain,

And leave thee in the storm.

But I will tarry, the fool will stay,

And let the wise man fly:

The knave turns fool, that runs away;

The fool no knave, perdy.

Kent. Where learned you this, fool?

Fool. Not i'the stocks, fool.

Re-enter LEAR, with GLOSTER.

Lear. Deny to speak with me? They are sick? they are weary? [fetches;

They have travell'd hard to-night? Mere The images of revolt and flying off! Fetch me a better answer.

Glo. My dear lord,

You know the fiery quality of the duke;

How unremoveable and fix'd he is

In his own course.

Lear. Vengeance! plague! death! confusion!

Fiery? what quality? Why Gloster, Gloster, I'd speak with the duke of Cornwall, and his wife.

Glo. Well my good lord, I have inform'd them so.

Lear. Inform'd them! Dost thou understand me, man?

Glo. Ay, my good lord.

Lear. The king would speak with Cornwall; the dear father

Would with his daughter speak, commands her service:

Are they inform'd of this?—My breath and blood!

Fiery? the fiery duke?—Tell the hot duke that—No, but not yet:—may be, he is not well:

Infirmity doth still neglect all office, Whereto our health is bound; we are not ourselves, [mind

When nature, being oppress'd, commands the To suffer with the body: I'll forbear;

And am fallen out with my more headier will, To take the indispos'd and sickly fit

For the sound man.—Death on my state! wherefore [Looking on KENT.

Should he sit here? This act persuades me, That this remotion* of the duke and her

Is practis'd only. Give me my servant forth: Go, tell the duke and his wife, I'd speak with them, [me,

Now, presently: bid them come forth and hear Or at the chamber door I'll beat the drum,

Till it cry—Sleep to death.

Glo. I'd have all well betwixt you. [Exit.

Lear. O me, my heart, my rising heart!—but, down.

Fool. Cry to it nuncle, as the cockney did to the eels, when she put them i'the paste* alive; she rapped 'm o' the coxcombs with a stick, and cried, *Down, wantons, down:* 'Twas her brother, that in pure kindness to his horse, buttered his hay.

Enter CORNWALL, REGAN, GLOSTER, and Servants.

Lear. Good morrow to you both.

Corn. Hail to your grace!

[KENT is set at Liberty.

Reg. I am glad to see your highness.

Lear. Regan, I think you are; I know what reason [glad,

I have to think so: if thou shouldst not be I would divorce me from thy mother's tomb, Sepulchring an adulteress.—O, are you free?

[To KENT.

Some other time for that.—Beloved Regan, Thy sister's naught: O Regan, she hath tied Sharp-tooth'd unkindness, like a vulture here;

[Points to his heart.

I can scarce speak to thee; thou'lt not believe, Of how depriv'd a quality—O Regan!

Reg. I pray you, Sir, take patience; I have hope,

You less know how to value her desert, Than she to scant her duty.

Lear. Sey, how is that?

Reg. I cannot think, my sister in the least Would fail her obligation: If, Sir, perchance, She have restrain'd the riots of your followers, 'Tis on such ground, and to such wholesome As clears her from all blame. [end

Lear. My curses on her!

Reg. O, Sir, you are old;

Nature in you stands on the very verge Of her confine: you should be rul'd, and led By some discretion, that discerns your state Better than you yourself: Therefore, I pray That to our sister you do make return; [you, Say, you have wrong'd her, Sir,

Lear. Ask her forgiveness?

Do you but mark how this becomes the house: ||

Dear daughter, I confess that I am old;

Age is unnecessary: on my knees I beg,

[Kneeling.

That you'll vouchsafe me raiment, bed, and food.

Reg. Good Sir, no more; these are unsightly Return you to my sister. [tricks,

Lear. Never, Regan:

She hath abated me of half my train;

Look'd black upon me; struck me with her tongue,

Most serpent-like, upon the very heart:—

All the stor'd vengeance of heaven fall

On her ingrateful top! Strike her young bones, You taking airs, with lameness!

Corn. Fie, fie, fie!

Lear. You nimble lightnings, dart your blinding flames

Into her scornful eyes! Infect her beauty, You fen-suck'd fogs, drawn by the powerful To fall and blast her pride! [sun,

Reg. O the bless'd gods!

So will you wish on me, when the rash mood's on.

Lear. No, Regan, thou shalt never have my curse;

Thy tender-hefted nature shall not give

* Crust of pie.

† Be wanting in.

‡ The order of families.

* Removing from their own house.

† Artifice.

These o'er to harshness; her eyes are fierce,
but thine
Do comfort, and not burn: 'Tis not in thee
To grudge my pleasures, to cut off my train,
To bandy hasty words, to scant my sizes,*
And, in conclusion, to oppose the bolt
Against my coming in: thou better know'st
The offices of nature, bond of childhood,
Effects of courtesy, dues of gratitude;
Thy half o'the kingdom hast thou not forgot,
Wherein I thee endow'd.

Reg. Good Sir, to the purpose.

[Trumpets within.]

Lear. Who put my man i'the stocks?

Corn. What trumpet's that?

Enter STEWARD.

Reg. I know't, my sister's; this approves
her letter,

That she would soon be here.—Is your lady

Lear. This is a slave whose easy-borrow'd
pride

Dwells in the fickle grace of her he follows:—
Out, varlet, from my sight!

Corn. What means your grace?

Lear. Who stock'd my servant? Regan, I
have good hope

Thou didst not know of't.—Who comes here?
O heavens,

Enter GONERIL.

If you do love old men, if your sweet sway
Allow obedience, if yourselves are old,
Make it your cause; send down, and take my
part!

Art not ashamed to look upon this beard?

[To GONERIL.]

O, Regan, wilt thou take her by the hand?

Gon. Why not by the hand, Sir? How have
I offended?

All's not offence, that indiscretion finds,
And dotage terms so.

Lear. O, sides, you are too tough!

Will you yet hold?—How came my man i'the
stocks?

Corn. I set him there, Sir: but his own dis-
Deserv'd much less advancement.

Lear. You! did you?

Reg. I pray you, father, being weak, seem
If, till the expiration of your month,

You will return and sojourn with my sister,
Dismissing half your train, come then to me;
I am now from home, and out of that provi-
sion

Which shall be needful for your entertainment.

Lear. Return to her, and fifty men dismiss'd?
No, rather I abjure all roofs, and choose

To wage against the enmity o'the air;
To be a comrade with the wolf and owl,—
Necessity's sharp pinch!—Return with her?

Why, the hot-blooded France, that dowerless
took

Our youngest born, I could as well be brought
To kneel his throne, and, squire-like, pension
beg

To keep base life afoot:—Return with her?
Persuade me rather to be slave and sumpter's
To this detested groom.

[Looking on the STEWARD.]

Gon. At your choice, Sir.

Lear. I pry'thee, daughter, do not make me
mad;

I will not trouble thee, my child; farewell:

Will no more meet, no more see one an-
other:—

But yet thou art my flesh, my blood, my daughter—
Or, rather, a disease that's in my flesh,
Which I must needs call mine: thou art a boil,
A plague-sore, an embossed carbuncle,
In my corrupted blood. But I'll not chide
thee;

Let shame come when it will, I do not call it:
I do not bid the thunder-bearer shoot,
Nor tell tales of thee to high-judging Jove:
Mend, when thou canst; be better, at thy lei-
sure:

I can be patient; I can stay with Regan,
I, and my hundred knights.

Reg. Not altogether so, Sir;

I look'd not for you yet, nor am provided
For your fit welcome: Give ear, Sir, to my
sister;

For those that mingle reason with your passion,
Must be content to think you old, and so—
But she knows what she does.

Lear. Is this well spoken now?

Reg. I dare avouch it, Sir: What, fifty fol-
lowers?

Is it not well? What should you need of more?
Yea, or so many? sith that both charge and
danger

Speak 'gainst so great a number? How, in one
house,

Should many people, under two commands,
Hold amity? 'Tis hard; almost impossible.

Gon. Why might not you, my lord, receive
attendance

From those that she calls servants, or from

Reg. Why not, my lord? If then they chanc'd
to slack you,

We would control them: If you will come to
(For now I spy a danger,) I entreat you
To bring but five and twenty; to no more
Will I give place or notice.

Lear. I gave you all—

Reg. And in good time you gave it.

Lear. Made you my guardians, my deposit-
But kept a reservation to be follow'd
With such a number: What, must I come to
you

With five and twenty, Regan? said you so?

Reg. And speak it again, my lord; no more
with me.

Lear. Those wicked creatures yet do look
well-favour'd,

When others are more wicked; not being the
Stands in some rank of praise:—I'll go with
thee;

Thy fifty yet doth double five and twenty,
And thou art twice her love.

Gon. Hear me, my lord;

What need you five and twenty, ten, or five,
To follow in a house, where twice so many
Have a command to tend you?

Reg. What need one?

Lear. O, reason not the need: our basest
beggars

Are in the poorest thing superfluous:
Allow not nature more than nature needs,
Man's life is cheap as beast's: thou art a lady;
If only to go warm were gorgeous, [wear'st,
Why, nature needs not what thou gorgeous
Which scarcely keeps thee warm.—But, for
true need,—

You heavens, give me that patience, patience
I need!

You see me here, you gods, a poor old man,
As full of grief as age; wretched in both!

* Contract my allowances. † Approve. ‡ War.
§ A horse that carries necessaries on a journey.

* Swelling.

† Since.

If it be you that stir these daughters' hearts
Against their father, fool me not so much
To bear it tamely; touch me with noble anger!
O, let not women's weapons, water-drops,
Stain my man's cheek!—No, you unnatural
hags,

I will have such revenges on you both
That all the world shall—I will do such
things,— [be

What they are, yet I know not; but they shall
The terrors of the earth. You think, I'll weep;
No, I'll not weep:—

I have full cause of weeping; but this heart
Shall break into a hundred thousand flaws,
Or ere I'll weep:—O, fool, I shall go mad!

[*Exeunt* LEAR, GLOSTER, KENT, and FOOL.

Corn. Let us withdraw, 'twill be a storm.
[*Storm heard at a distance.*

Reg. This house
Is little; the old man and his people cannot
Be well bestow'd.

Gon. 'Tis his own blame; he hath put
Himself from rest, and must needs taste his
folly

Reg. For his particular, I'll receive him
But not one follower. [gladly,

Gon. So am I purpos'd.
Where is my lord of Gloster?

Re-enter GLOSTER.

Corn. Follow'd the old man forth:—he is
return'd.

Glo. The king is in high rage.

Corn. Whither is he going?

Glo. He calls to horse, but will I know not
whither.

Corn. 'Tis best to give him way; he leads
himself.

Gon. My lord, entreat him by no means to
stay.

Glo. Alack, the night comes on, and the
bleak winds

Do sorely ruffle; for many miles about
There's scarce a bush.

Reg. O, Sir, to wilful men,
The injuries that they themselves procure,
Must be their schoolmasters: Shut up your
doors;

He is attended with a desperate train;
And what they may incense* him to, being apt
To have his ear abus'd, wisdom bids fear.

Corn. Shut up your doors, my lord; 'tis a
wild night;

My Regan counsels well: come out o'the storm.
[*Exeunt.*

ACT III.

SCENE I.—A Heath.—A Storm is heard, with
Thunder and Lightning.

Enter KENT, and a GENTLEMAN, meeting.

Kent. Who's here, beside foul weather?

Gent. One minded like the weather, most
unquietly.

Kent. I know you; Where's the king?

Gent. Contending with the fretful element:
Bids the wind blow the earth into the sea,
Or swell the curled waters 'bove the main,
That things might change, or cease: tears his
white hair;

Which the impetuous blasts, with eyeless rage,
Catch in their fury, and make nothing of:
Strives in his little world of man to outscorn
The to-and-fro-conflicting wind and rain.

* Instigate.

This night, wherein the cub-drawn bear* would
The lion and the belly-pinched wolf [couch,
Keep their fur dry, unbonneted he runs,
And bids what will take all.

Kent. But who is with him?

Gent. None but the fool; who labours to
His heart-struck injuries [outjest

Kent. Sir, I do know you;

And dare, upon the warrant of my art,† [sion,
Commend a dear thing to you. There is divi-
Although as yet the face of it be cover'd

With mutual cunning, 'twixt Albany and
Cornwall; [stars

Who have (as who have not, that their great
Thron'd and set high?) servants, who seem no
less;

Which are to France the spies and speculations
Intelligent of our state; what hath been seen,
Either in snuffs and packings‡ of the dukes;

Or the hard rein which both of them have
borne, [deceper,

Against the old kind king; or something
Whereof, perchance, these are not furnish-
ings,§— [power

[But, true it is, from France there comes a
Into this scatter'd kingdom; who already,

Wise in our negligence, have secret feet
In some of our best ports, and are at point

To show their open banner.—Now to you:
If on my credit you dare build so far

To make your speed to Dover, you shall find
Some that will thank you, making just report

Of how unnatural and bemoaning sorrow
The king hath cause to plain.

I am a gentleman of blood and breeding;
And, from some knowledge and assurance,

This office to you.] [offer

Gent. I will talk further with you.

Kent. No, do not.

For confirmation that I am much more
Than my out wall, open this purse, and take

What it contains: If you shall see Cordelia,
(As fear not but you shall,) show her this
ring.

And she will tell you who your fellow|| is
That yet you do not know. Fie on this storm!

I will go seek the king.

Gent. Give me your hand: Have you no more
to say?

Kent. Few words, but to effect, more than
all yet;

That, when we have found the king, (in which
your pain [him,

That way; I'll this;) he that first lights on
Holla the other. [*Exeunt severally.*

SCENE II.—Another Part of the Heath.—
Storm continues.

Enter LEAR and FOOL.

Lear. Blow, wind, and crack your cheeks!
rage! blow!

Your cataracts, and hurricanoes, spout
T'll you have drench'd our steeple, drown'd
the cocks!

You sulphurous and thought-executing¶ fires,
Vaunt couriers** to oak-cleaving thunder-
bolts, [Thunder,

Singe my white head! And thou, all-shaking
Strike flat the thick rotundity o'the world!

Crack nature's moulds, all germens spill at
That make ingrateful man! [once,

* Whose dugs are drawn dry by its young.

† Which teaches us "to find the mind's construction
in the face."

‡ Snuffs are dislikes, and packings underhand contrivances.
§ Samples. || Companion.

¶ Quick as thought. ** *Argent couriers*, France.

Fool. O nuncle, court holy-water* in a dry house is better than this rain-water out o' door. Good nuncle, in, and ask thy daughters' blessing: here's a night pities neither wise men nor fools.

Lear. Rumble thy bellyful! Spit, fire! spout, rain!

Nor rain, wind, thunder, fire, are my daughter's tax not you, you elements, with unkindness. I never gave you kingdom, call'd you children, You owe me no subscription; if why then, let fall

Your horrible pleasure; here I stand, your A poor, infirm, weak, and despis'd old man:— But yet I call you servile ministers, That have with two pernicious daughters join'd Your high engender'd battles, 'gainst a head So old and white as this. O! O! 'tis foul!

Fool. He that has a house to put his head in, has a good head-piece.

The cod-piece that will house.

Before the head has any,

The head and he shall louse;—

So beggars marry many.

The man that makes his toe

What he his heart should make,

Shall of a corn cry woe,

And turn his sleep to wake.

—for there was never yet fair woman, but she made mouths in a glass.

Enter KENT.

Lear. No, I will be the pattern of all patience; I will say nothing.

Kent. Who's there?

Fool. Marry, here's grace, and a cod-piece; that's a wise man, and a fool.

Kent. Alas, Sir, are you here? things that love night, Love not such nights as these; the wrathful Gallow† the very wanderers of the dark, And make them keep their caves: Since I was

Such sheets of fire, such bursts of horrid thunder— Such groans of roaring wind and rain, I never Remember to have heard; man's nature cannot carry

The affliction, nor the fear.

Lear. Let the great gods, That keep this dreadful pother‡ o'er our heads, Find out their enemies now. Tremble, thou wretch,

Thou hast within thee undivulged crimes, Unwhipp'd of Justice: Hide thee, thou bloody hand;

Thou perjur'd, and thou simular|| man of virtue— That art incestuous: Caitiff, to pieces shake, That under covert and convenient seeming¶ Hast practis'd on man's life!—Close pent-up

guilt, Rive your concealing continents, and cry These dreadful summoners grace.**—I am a More sinn'd against, than sinning.

Kent. Alack, bare-headed! Gracious my lord, hard by here is a hovel; Some friendship will it leud you 'gainst the tempest;

Repose you there: while I to this hard house, (More hard than is the stone whereof 'tis rais'd; Which even but now, demanding† after you, Denied me to come in,) return, and force Their scant'd courtesy.

Lear. My wits begin to turn.—

Come on, my boy: How dost, my boy? Art cold?

I am cold myself.—Where is this straw, my fellow? The art of our necessities is strange, That can make vile things precious. Come, your hovel.

Poor fool and knave, I have one part in my That's sorry yet for thee

Fool. He that has a little tiny wit,—

With heigh ho, the wind and the rain,—

Must make content with his fortunes fit;

*For the rain it raineth every day.**

Lear. True, my good boy.—Come, bring us to this hovel.

[Exit LEAR and KENT.]

Fool. This is a brave night to cool a courtesan.—I'll speak a prophecy ere I go;

When priests are more in word than matter;

When brewers mar their malt with water;

When nobles are their tailors' tutors;

No heretics burn'd, but wenches' suitors;

When every case in law is right;

No squire in debt, nor no poor knight;

When slanders do not live in tongues;

Nor cutpurses come not to throngs;

When usurers tell their gold i' the field;

And bawds and whores do churches build;—

Then shall the realm of Albion

Come to great confusion.

Then comes the time, who lives to see't,

That going shall be us'd with feet.

This prophecy Merlin shall make; for I live before his time.

[Exit.]

SCENE III.—A Room in GLOSTER'S Castle.

Enter GLOSTER and EDMUND.

Glo. Alack, alack, Edmund, I like not this unnatural dealing: When I desired their leave that I might pity him, they took from me the use of mine own house; charged me, on pain of their perpetual displeasure, neither to speak of him, entreat for him, nor any way sustain him.

Edm. Most savage, and unnatural!

Glo. Go to; say you nothing; There is division between the dukes; and a worse matter than that: I have received a letter this night;—'tis dangerous to be spoken;—I have locked the letter in my closet: these injuries the king now bears will be revenged at home; there is part of a power already footed; † we must incline to the king. I will seek him, and privily relieve him: go you, and maintain talk with the duke, that my charity be not of him perceived: If he ask for me, I am ill, and gone to bed. If I die for it, as no less is threatened me, the king my old master must be relieved. There is some strange thing toward, Edmund; pray you, be careful.

[Exit.]

Edm. This courtesy, forbid thee, shall the duke

Instantly know; and of that letter too:—

This seems a fair deserving, and must draw me That which my father loses; no less than all: The younger rises, when the old doth fall.

[Exit.]

SCENE IV.—A Part of the Heath, with a Hovel.

Enter LEAR, KENT and FOOL.

Kent. Here is the place, my lord; good, my lord, enter:

The tyranny of the open night's too rough For nature to endure.

[Storm still.]

* A proverbial phrase for fair words. † Obedience. ‡ Scare or frighten. § Blustering noise. || Counterfeit. ¶ Appearance. ** Favour. †† Inquiring.

* Part of the Clown's song in Twelfth Night. † A force already landed.

Lear. Let me alone.

Kent. Good my lord, enter here.

Lear. Wilt break my heart?

Kent. I'd rather break my own: Good my lord, enter.

Lear. Thou think'st 'tis much, that this contentious storm

Invades us to the skin: so 'tis to thee;
But where the greater malady is fix'd,
The lesser is scarce felt. Thou'dst shun a bear:
But if thy flight lay toward the raging sea,
Thou'st meet the bear i'the mouth. When the

mind's free,
The body's delicate: the tempest in my mind
Doth from my senses take all feeling else,
Save what beats there.—Filiial ingratitude!
Is it not as this mouth should tear this hand,
For lifting food to't?—But I will punish
home:—

No, I will weep no more.—In such a night
To shut me out!—Pour on; I will endure:—
In such a night as this! O Regan, Goneril!—
Your old kind father, whose frank heart gave

all,—
O, that way madness lies; let me shun that;
No more of that,—

Kent. Good my lord, enter here.

Lear. Pr'ythee, go in thyself; seek thine own ease;

This tempest will not give me leave to ponder
On things would hurt me more.—But I'll go
in:

In, boy; go first.—[*To the Fool.*] You house-
less poverty,—

Nay, get thee in. I'll pray, and then I'll sleep.—

[*FOOL goes in.*]

Poor naked wretches, whosoe'er you are,
That hide the peltng of this pitiless storm,
How shall your houseless heads, and unfed
sides,

Your loop'd and window'd raggedness, defend
you

From seasons such as these? O, I have ta'en
Too little care of this! Take physic, pomp;
Expose thyself to feel what wretches feel;
That thou may'st shake the superflux to them,
And show the heavens more just.

Edg. [*Within.*] Fathom and half, fathom
and half! Poor Tom!

[*The Fool runs out from the Hovel.*]

Fool. Come not in here, nuncle, here's a
spirit.

Help me, help me!

Kent. Give me thy hand.—Who's there?

Fool. A spirit, a spirit; he says his name's
poor Tom.

Kent. What art thou that dost grumble there
i'the straw?

Come forth.

Enter EDGAR, disguised as a Madman.

Edg. Away! the foul fiends follow me!—
Through the sharp hawthorn blows the cold
wind.—

Humph! go to thy cold bed, and warm thee.

Lear. Hast thou given all to thy two daugh-
ters? And art thou come to this?

Edg. Who gives any thing to poor Tom?
whom the foul fiend hath led through fire and
through flame, through ford and whirlpool,
over bog and quagmire; that hath laid knives
under his pillow, and halters in his pew; set
ratsbane by his porridge; made him proud of
heart, to ride on a bay trotting-horse over four-
inched bridges, to course his own shadow for
a traitor:—Bless thy five wits! Tom's a-cold.

O, do de, do de, do de.—Bless thee from
whirlwinds, star-blasting, and taking!* Do
poor Tom some charity, whom the foul fiend
vexes: There could I have him now,—and
there,—and there,—and there again, and
there. [*Storm continues.*]

Lear. What, have his daughters brought him
to this pass?—

Couldst thou save nothing? Didst thou give
them all?

Fool. Nay, he reserved a blanket, else we
had all been ashamed.

Lear. Now all the plagues that in the pen-
dulous air

Hang fated o'er men's faults, light on thy
daughters!

Kent. He hath no daughters, Sir.

Lear. Death, traitor! nothing could have
subdued nature

To such a lowness, but his unkind daughters.—
Is it the fashion, that discarded fathers

Should have thus little mercy on their flesh?
Judicious punishment! 'twas this flesh begot

Those pelican daughters.

Edg. Pillicock sat on pillicock's-hill;—

Halloo, halloo, loo, loo!

Fool. This cold night will turn us all to fools
and madmen.

Edg. Take heed o'the foul fiend: Obey thy
parents; keep thy word justly; swear not;
commit not with man's sworn spouse; set
not thy sweet heart on proud array: Tom's
a-cold.

Lear. What hast thou been?

Edg. A serving man, proud in heart and
mind; that curled my hair; wore gloves in my
cap,† served the lust of my mistress' heart,
and did the act of darkness with her; swore
as many oaths as I spake words, and broke
them in the sweet face of heaven: one, that
slept in the contriving of lust, and waked to
do it: Wine loved I deeply; dice dearly; and
in woman, out-paramoured the Turk: False of
heart, light of ear, bloody of hand; Hog in
sloth, fox in stealth, wolf in greediness, dog in
madness, lion in prey. Let not the creaking
of shoes, nor the rustling of silks, betray thy
poor heart to women: Keep thy foot out of
brothels, thy hand out of plackets, thy pen
from lender's books, and defy the foul fiend.—
Still through the hawthorn blows the cold
wind: Says suum, mun, ha no nonny, dolphin
my boy, my boy, sessa; let him trot by.

[*Storm still continues.*]

Lear. Why, thou were better in thy grave,
than to answer with thy uncovered body this
extremity of the skies.—Is man no more than
this? Consider him well: Thou owest the
worm no silk, the beast no hide, the sheep no
wool, the cat no perfume:—Ha! here's three
of us are sophisticated!—Thou art the thing
itself: unaccommodated man is no more but
such a poor, bare, forked animal as thou art.
—Off, off, you lendings:—Come: unbutton
here; [*Tearing off his clothes.*]

Fool. Pr'ythee, nuncle, be contented; this is
a naughty night to swim in.—Now a little fire
in a wild field were like an old leecher's heart;
a small spark, all the rest of his body cold.—
Look, here comes a walking fire.

Edg. This is the foul fiend Flibbertigibbet:

* To take is to blast, or strike with malignant influence.

† It was the custom to wear gloves in the hat, as the
favour of a mistress.

‡ The words *unbutton here*, are probably only a mar-
ginal direction crept into the matter.

he begins at curfew, and walks till the first cock; he gives the web and the pin,* squints the eye, and makes the hare-lip; mildews the white wheat, and hurts the poor creature of earth.

*Saint Withold† footed thrice the world;†
He met the night-mare and her nine-fold;
Bid her alight,
And her troth plight,
And, aroint thee, swiſch, aroint thee!*

Kent. How fares your grace?

Enter GLOSTER, with a Torch.

Lear. What's he?

Kent. Who's there? What is't you seek?

Glo. What are you there? Your names?

Edg. Poor Tom; that eats the swimming frog, the toad, the tadpole, the wall-newt, and the water;|| that in the fury of his heart, when the foul fiend rages, eats cow dung for sallets; swallows the old rat, and the ditch-dog; drinks the green mantle of the standing pool; who is whipped from tything to tything,¶ and stock-ed, punished, and imprisoned; who hath had three suits to his back, six shirts to his body, horse to ride, and weapon to wear.—

*But mice, and rats, and such small deer,
Have been Tom's food for seven long year.*

Beware my follower:—Peace, Smolkin; ** peace, thou fiend!

Glo. What, hath your grace no better company?

Edg. The prince of darkness is a gentleman; Modo he's call'd, and Mahu.††

Glo. Our flesh and blood, my lord, is grown so vile,

That it doth hate what gets it.

Edg. Poor Tom's a-cold.

Glo. Go in with me; my duty cannot suffer To obey in all your daughter's hard commands: Though their injunction be to bar my doors, And let this tyrannous night take hold upon you;

Yet have I ventur'd to come seek you out, And bring you where both fire and food is ready.

Lear. First let me talk with this piloso- What is the cause of thunder? [pher:—

Kent. Good, my lord, take his offer; Go into the house.

Lear. I'll talk a word with this same learned Theban;

What is your study?

Edg. How to prevent the fiend, and to kill vermin.

Lear. Let me ask you one word in private.

Kent. Importune him once more to go, my His wits begin to unsettle. [lord,

Glo. Canst thou blame him?

His daughters seek his death:—Ah, that good Kent!— [man!—

He said it would be thus:—Poor banish'd Thou say'st, the king grows mad: I'll tell thee, friend,

I am almost mad myself: I had a son, [life, Now outlaw'd from my blood: he sought my But lately, very late; I lov'd him, friend,— No father his son dearer: true to tell thee,

[Storm continues.

* Diseases of the eye.

† A Saint said to protect his devotees from the disease called the night mare.

†† Wild downs, so called in various parts of England. § A vaunt. ¶ I. e. The water-newt.

|| A tything is a division of a county.

** Name of a spirit.

†† The chief devil.

The grief hath craz'd my wits. What a night's I do beseech your grace,— [this!

Lear. O, cry you mercy,

Noble philosopher, your company.

Edg. Tom's a-cold.

Glo. In, fellow, there, to the hovel: keep thee warm.

Lear. Come, let's in all.

Kent. This way, my lord.

Lear. With him;

I will keep still with my philosopher.

Kent. Good, my lord, sooth him let him take the fellow.

Glo. Take him you on.

Kent. Sirrah, come on; go along with us.

Lear. Come, good Athenian.

Glo. No words, no words:

Hush.

Edg. Child* Rowland to the dark tower came,
His word was still,—Fie, foh, and fum,
I smell the blood of a British man.

[Exeunt.

SCENE V.—A Room in GLOSTER's Castle.

Enter CORNWALL and EDMUND.

Corn. I will have my revenge, ere I depart his house.

Edm. How, my lord, I may be censured, that nature thus gives way to loyalty, something fears me to think of.

Corn. I now perceive, it was not altogether your brother's evil disposition made him seek his death; but a provoking merit, set a-work by a reproveable badness in himself.

Edm. How malicious is my fortune, that I must repent to be just! This is the letter he spoke of, which approves him an intelligent party to the advantages of France. O heavens! that this treason were not, or not I the detector!

Corn. Go with me to the duchess.

Edm. If the matter of this paper be certain, you have mighty business in hand.

Corn. True, or false, it hath made thee earl of Gloster. Seek out where thy father is, that he may be ready for our apprehension.

Edm. [Aside.] If I find him comforting the king, it will stuff his suspicion more fully.—I will persevere in my course of loyalty, though the conflict be sore between that and my blood.

Corn. I will lay trust upon thee; and thou shalt find a dearer father in my love. [Exeunt.

SCENE VI.—A Chamber in a Farm-House, adjoining the Castle.

Enter GLOSTER, LEAR, KENT, FOOL, and EDGAR.

Glo. Here is better than the open air: take it thankfully; I will piece out the comfort with what addition I can: I will not be long from you.

Kent. All the power of his wits has given way to his impatience:—The gods reward your kindness? [Exit GLOSTER

Edg. Frateretto calls me; and tells me, Nero is an angler in the lake of darkness. Pray, innocent,† and beware the foul fiend.

Fool. Pr'ythee, nuncle, tell me, whether a madman be a gentleman, or a yeoman?

Lear. A king, a king!

Fool. No; he's a yeoman that has a gentle-

* Child is an old term for knight. † Addressed to the Fool, who were anciently called Innocents.

man to his son: for he's a mad yeoman, that sees his son a gentleman before him.

Lear. To have a thousand with red burning Come hissing in upon them:— [spits]

Edg. The foul fiend bites my back.

Fool. He's mad, that trusts in the tameness of a wolf, a horse's health, a boy's love, or a whore's oath.

Lear. It shall be done, I will arraign them straight:—

Come sit thou here, most learned justicer:—

[To EDGAR]

Thou, sapient Sir, sit here. [To the FOOL.]—

Now you she foxes!—

Edg. Look, where he stands and glares!*—

Wantest thou eyes at trial, madam?

Come o'er the bourn, † Bessy, to me;

Fool. Her boat hath a leak,
And she must not speak

Why she dares not come over to thee.

Edg. The foul fiend haunts poor Tom in the voice of a nightingale. *Hopdance* cries in Tom's belly for two white herrings. Croak not, black angel; I have no food for thee.

Kent. How do you, Sir? Stand you not so amaz'd:

Will you lie down and rest upon the cushions?

Lear. I'll see their trial first:—Bring in the evidence.—

Thou robbed man of justice, take thy place;

[To EDGAR.]

And thou, his yoke-fellow of equity,

[To the FOOL.]

Bench by his side:—You are of the commission, Sit you too.

[To KENT.]

Edg. Let us deal justly.

Sleepest or wakest thou, jolly shepherd;

Thy sheep be in the corn;

And for one blast of thy minikin mouth,

Thy sheep shall take no harm.

Pur! the cat is grey.

Lear. Arraign her first; 'tis Goneril. I here take my oath before this honourable assembly, she kicked the poor king her father.

Fool. Come hither, mistress: Is your name Goneril?

Lear. She cannot deny it.

Fool. Cry you mercy, I took you for a joint stool.

Lear. And here's another, whose warp'd looks proclaim

[there!]

What store her heart is made of.—Stop her Arms, arms, sword, fire!—Corruption in the place!

False justicer, why hast thou let her 'scape?

Edg. Bless thy five wits!

Kent. O pity!—Sir, where is the patience That you so oft have boasted to retain? [now,

Edg. My tears begin to take his part so much,

They'll mar my counterfeiting. [Aside.]

Lear. The little dogs and all, Tray, Blanch, and Sweet-heart, see, they bark at me.

Edg. Tom will throw his head at them:—

Avant, you curs!

Be thy mouth or black or white,

Tooth that poisons if it bite;

Mustiff, grey-hound, mougrel grim!

Hound, or spaniel, brach, or lym; ‡

Or bobtail tike, or trundle-tail;

Tom will make them weep and wail:

For, with throwing thus my head,

Dogs leap the hatch, and all are fled.

* Edgar is speaking in the character of a madman, who thinks he sees the fiend. † Brook or rivulet.

‡ A blood-hound.

Do de, de de. Sessa. Come, march to wakes and fairs, and market towns:—Poor Tom, thy horn is dry.

Lear. Then let them anatomize Regan; see what breeds about her heart: Is there any cause in nature, that makes these hard hearts?— You, Sir, I entertain you for one of my hundred; only, I do not like the fashion of your garments: you will say, they are Persian attire; but let them be changed. [To EDGAR.]

Kent. Now, good my lord, lie here, and rest awhile.

Lear. Make no noise, make no noise; draw the curtains: So, so, so: We'll go to supper i'the morning; So, so, so.

Fool. And I'll go to bed at noon.

Re-enter GLOSTER.

Glo. Come hither, friend: Where is the king my master?

Kent. Here, Sir; but trouble him not, his wits are gone.

Glo. Good friend, I pr'ythee take him in thy arms.

I have o'er-heard a plot of death upon him:

There is a litter ready; lay him in't,

And drive towards Dover, friend, where thou shalt meet

[master:

Both welcome and protection. Take up thy

If thou shouldst dally half an hour, his life,

With thine, and all that offer to defend him,

Stand in assured loss: Take up, take up;

And follow me, that will to some provision

Give thee quick conduct.

Kent. Oppress'd nature sleeps:— [senses,

This rest might yet have balm'd thy broken

Which, if convenience will not allow,

Stand in hard cure.—Come, help to bear thy master;

Thou must not stay behind. [To the FOOL.]

Glo. Come, come, away.

[Exit KENT, GLOSTER, and the FOOL, bearing off the king.]

Edg. When we our betters see bearing our woes,

We scarcely think our miseries our foes.

Who alone suffers, suffers most i'the mind;

Leaving free things, and happy shows, behind:

[skip,

But then the mind much sufferance doth o'er-

When grief hath mates, and bearing fellowship.

How light and portable my pain seems now,

When that, which makes me bend, makes

the king bow;

He childed, as I fathered!—Tom, away:

Mark the high noises; † and thyself bewray, ‡

When false opinion, whose wrong thought defiles thee,

In thy just proof, repeals, and reconciles thee.

What will hap more to-night, safe scape the king!

Lurk, lurk! [Exit.]

SCENE VII.—A room in GLOSTER's Castle.

Enter CORNWALL, REGAN, GONERIL, EDMUND, and Servants.

Corn. Post speedily to my lord your husband; show him this letter;—the army of France is landed: Seek out the villain Gloucester. [Exit some of the Servants.]

Reg. Hang him instantly.

Gon. Pluck out his eyes.

Corn. Leave him to my displeasure.—Edmund, keep you our sister company; the re-

* The great events that are approaching.

† Betray, discover.

venge we are bound to take upon your traitorous father, are not fit for your beholding. Advise the duke, where you are going, to a most festinate preparation; we are bound to the like. Our posts shall be swift, and intelligent betwixt us. Farewell, dear sister;—farewell, my lord of Gloster.*

Enter STEWARD.

How now? Where's the king?

Stew. My lord of Gloster hath convey'd him hence:

Some five or six and thirty of his knights, Hot questrists after him, met him at the gate; Who, with some other of the lord's dependants, Are gone with him towards Dover, where they boast

To have well-armed friends.

Corn. Get horses for your mistress.

Gon. Farewell, sweet lord, and sister.

[Exeunt GONERIL and EDMUND.]

Corn. Edmund, farewell.—Go seek the traitor Gloster,

Pinion him like a thief, bring him before us:

[Exeunt oth r Servants.]

Though well we may not pass upon his life Without the form of justice; yet our power Shall do a courtesy;† to our wrath, which men May blame, but not control. Who's there? The traitor?

Re-enter SERVANTS, with GLOSTER.

Reg. Ingrateful fox! 'tis he.

Corn. Bind fast his corky arms.

Glo. What mean your graces?—Good my friends, consider

You are my guests: do me no foul play, friends.

Corn. Bind him I say *[Servants bind him.]*

R g. Hard, hard:—O filthy traitor!

Glo. Unmerciful lady as you are, I am none.

Corn. To this chair bind him:—Villain, thou shalt find—*[REGAN plucks his Beard.]*

Glo. By the kind gods, 'tis most ignobly To pluck me by the beard. *[done,*

Reg. So white, and such a traitor!

Glo. Naughty lady,

These hairs, which thou dost ravish from my chin, *[host;*

Will quicken,|| and accuse thee: I am your With robbers' hands, my hospitable favours||

You should not ruffle thus. What will you do?

Corn. Come, sir, what letters had you late from France?

Reg. Be simple answer'd, for we know the truth.

Corn. And what confederacy have you with the traitors

Late footed in the kingdom?

Reg. To whose hands have you sent the lunatic king?

Speak.

Glo. I have a letter guessingly set down Which came from one that's of a neutral heart, And not from one oppos'd.

Corn. Cunning.

Reg. And false.

Corn. Where hast thou sent the king?

Glo. To Dover.

Reg. Wherefore *[peril—*

To Dover? Was't thou not charg'd at thy

Corn. Wherefore to Dover? Let him first answer that.

Glo. I am tied to the stake, and I must stand the course.

Reg. Wherefore to Dover?

Glo. Because I would not see thy cruel nails Pluck out his poor old eyes; nor thy fierce sis- In his anointed flesh stick boarish fangs. *[ter* The sea, with such a storm as his bare head In hell-black night endur'd would have buoy'd up, *[heart,*

And quench'd the stelled* fires: yet, poor old He help the heavens to rain. *[time,*

If wolves had at thy gate howl'd that stern Thou shouldst have said, *Good porter, turn the key;*

All cruels else subscrib'd;†—But I shall see The winged vengeance overtake such children.

Corn. See it shalt thou never:—Fellows, hold the chair:

Upon these eyes of thine I'll set my foot.

[GLOSTER is held down in the Chair, while

CORNWALL plucks out one of his Eyes, and sets his Foot on it.]

Glo. He, that will think to live till he be old, Give me some help:—O cruel! O ye gods!

Reg. One side will mock another; the other too.

Corn. If you see vengeance,—

Serv. Hold your hand, my lord:

I have serv'd you ever since I was a child:

But better service have I never done you,

Than now to bid you hold.

Reg. How now, you dog?

Serv. If you did wear a beard upon your chin, *[mean?*

I'd shake it on this quarrel: What do you

Corn. My villain! *[Draws and runs at him.]*

Serv. Nay, then come on, and take the chance of anger

[Draws. They fight. CORNWALL is wounded.]

Reg. Give me thy sword.—*[To another Serv.]*

A peasant stand up thus!

[Snatches up a Sword, comes behind, and stabs him.]

Serv. O, I am slain!—My lord, you have one eye left

To see some mischief on him:—O! *[Dies.]*

Corn. Lest it see more, prevent it:—Out, vile jelly!

Where is thy lustre now!

[Tears out GLOSTER's other eye, and throws it on the ground]

Glo. All dark and comfortless.—Where's my son Edmund?

Edmund, enkindle all the sparks of nature, To quit‡ this horrid act.

Reg. Out, treacherous villain!

Thou call'st on him that hates thee: it was he That made the overture§ of thy treasons to us;

Who is too good to pity thee.

Glo. O my follies!

Then Edgar was abus'd.—

Kind gods, forgive me that, and prosper him!

Reg. Go, thrust him out at gates, and let him smell

His way to Dover.—How is't, my lord? How look you?

Corn. I have receiv'd a hurt:—Follow me, lady.—

Turn out that eyeless villain;—throw this slave Upon the dunghill.—Regan, I bleed apace:

Untimely comes this hurt: Give me your arm.

[Exit CORNWALL, led by REGAN;—Servants unbind GLOSTER, and lead him out.]

1 *Serv.* I'll never care what wickedness I do, If this man comes to good.

2 *Serv.* If she live long,

* Starred.

† Yielded, submitted to the necessity of the occasion.

‡ Requite.

§ Laid open.

* Meaning Edmund invested with his father's title.

† Inquirers. ‡ Bend to our wrath.

§ Deceitful. || Live. ¶ Features.

And, in the end, meet the old course of death,
Women will all turn monsters.

1 *Serv.* Let's follow the old earl, and get the
Bedlam*

To lead him where he would; his roguish mad-
Allows itself to any thing. [ness

2 *Serv.* Go thou; I'll fetch some flax, and
whites of eggs,

To apply to his bleeding face. Now, heaven
help him! [Exeunt severally.

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—The Heath.

Enter EDGAR.

Edg. Yet better thus, and known to be con-
temn'd,

Than still contemn'd and flatter'd.† To be
worst, [tune,

The lowest, and most dejected thing of for-
Stands still in esperance,‡ lives not in fear:

The lamentable change is from the best;
The worst returns to laughter. Welcome then,

Thou unsubstantial air, that I embrace!
The wretch, that thou hast blown unto the

worst,

Owes nothing to thy blasts.—But who comes
here?—

Enter GLOSTER, led by an OLD MAN.

My father, poorly led?—World, world, O
world!

But that thy strange mutations§ make us hate
Life would not yield to age. [thee,

Old Man. O my good lord, I have been your
tenant, and your father's tenant, these four-
score years.

Glo. Away, get thee away; good friend, be-
Thy comforts can do me no good at all, [gone:
Thee they may hurt.

Old Man. Alack, Sir, you cannot see your
way.

Glo. I have no way, and therefore want no
eyes;

I stumbled when I saw: Full oft 'tis seen,
Our mean secures us; and our mere defects

Prove our commodities.—Ah, dear son Edgar,
The food of thy abused father's wrath!

Might I but live to see thee in my touch,
I'd say, I had eyes again!

Old Man. How now? Who's there?

Edg. [Aside] O gods! Who is't can say, I
am at the worst?

I am worse than e'er I was.

Old Man. 'Tis poor mad Tom.

Edg. [Aside] And worse I may be yet:
The worst is not,

So long as we can say, *This is the worst.*

Old Man. Fellow, where goest?

Glo. Is it a beggar-man?

Old Man. Madman and beggar too.

Glo. He has some reason, else he could not
beg.

I' the last night's storm I such a fellow saw;
Which made me think a man a worm: My son

Came then into my mind; and yet my mind
Was then scarce friends with him; I have

heard more since:

As flies to wanton boys, are we to the gods;
They kill us for their sport.

Edg. How should this be?—

Bad is the trade must play the fool to sorrow,

Ang'ring itself and others. [Aside.]—Bless
thee, master!

Glo. Is that the naked fellow?

Old Man. Ay, my lord.

Glo. Then, pr'ythee, get thee gone: If, for
my sake,

Thou wilt o'ertake us, hence a mile or twain,
I' the way to Dover, do it for ancient love;

And bring some covering for this naked soul,
Whom I'll entreat to lead me.

Old Man. Alack, Sir, he's mad.

Glo. 'Tis the time's plague, when madmen
lead the blind.

Do as I bid thee, or rather do thy pleasure;
Above the rest be gone.

Old Man. I'll bring him the best 'parel that
I have,

Come on't what will. [Exit.

Glo. Sirrah, naked fellow.

Edg. Poor Tom's a-cold—I cannot daub* it
further. [Aside.

Glo. Come hither, fellow.

Edg. [Aside.] And yet I must.—Bless thy
sweet eyes, they bleed.

Glo. Know'st thou the way to Dover?

Edg. Both stile and gate, horse-way, and
foot-path. Poor Tom hath been scared out of

his good wits: Bless the good man from the
foul fiend! [Five fiends have been in poor

Tom at once; of lust, as *Obidicut*; *Hobbididance*,

prince of dumbness; *Mahu*, of stealing;

Modo, of murder; and *Flibbertigibbet*, of mop-
ping and mowing; who since possesses cham-
bermaids and waiting-women. So, bless thee,

master!

Glo. Here, take this purse, thou whom the
heaven's plagues [ed,

Have humbled to all strokes; that I am wretch-
Makes thee the happier:—Heavens, deal so
still!

Let the superfluous, and lust-dieted man,
That slaves your ordinance,† that will not see
Because he doth not feel, feel your power

quickly;

So distribution should undo excess, [Dover?
And each man have enough.—Dost thou know

Edg. Ay, master,

Glo. There is a cliff, whose high and bend-
ing head

Looks fearfully in the confined deep:

Bring me but to the very brim of it,
And I'll repair the misery thou dost bear,

With something rich above me from that place
I shall no leading need.

Edg. Give me thy arm;

Poor Tom shall lead thee. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—Before the Duke of ALBANY'S
Palace.

Enter GONERIL and EDMUND; STEWARD meet-
ing them.

Gon. Welcome, my lord: I marvel our mild
husband

Not met us on the way:—Now, where's your
master?

Stew. Madam, within; but never man so
chang'd:

I told him of the army that was landed;
He smil'd at it: I told him, you were coming;

His answer was, *The worse*: of Gloster's
treachery,

And of the loyal service of his son,

* Madman.

† I. e. It is better to be thus contemned and know it,
than to be flattered by those who secretly contemn us.

‡ In hope.

§ Changes.

* Disguise.

† I. e. To make it subject to us, instead of acting in
obedience to it.

When I inform'd him, then he call'd me sot;
And told me, I had turn'd the wrong side
out:— [to him;

What most he should dislike, seems pleasant
What like, offensive.

Gon. Then shall you go no further.

[To EDMUND.

It is the cowish terror of his spirit, [wrongs,
That dares not undertake: he'll not feel
Which tie him to an answer: Our wishes, on
the way, [brother; on

May prove effects.* Back, Edmund, to my
Hasten his musters, and conduct his powers;
I must change arms at home, and give the dis-
taff

Into my husband's hands. This trusty servant
Shall pass between us: ere long you are like
to hear,

If you dare venture in your own behalf,
A mistress' command. Wear this; spare
speech; [Giving a Favour.

Decline your head: this kiss, if it durst speak,
Would stretch thy spirits up into the air;—
Conceive, and fare thee well.

Edm. Yours in the ranks of death.

Gon. My most dear Gloster!

[Exit EDMUND.

O, the difference of man, and man! To thee,
A woman's services are due; my fool
Usurps my bed.

Stew. Madam, here comes my lord.

[Exit STEWARD.

Enter ALBANY.

Gon. I have been worth the whistle. †

Alb. O Goneril! [wind

You are not worth the dust which the rude
Blows in your face.—I fear your disposition:
That nature, which contemns its origin,
Cannot be border'd certain in itself;
She that herself will sliver† and disbranch
From her material sap, perforce must wither,
And come to deadly use.

Gon. No more; the text is foolish.

Alb. Wisdom and goodness to the vile seem
vile: [done?

Filths savour but themselves. What have you
Tigers, not daughters, what have you per-
form'd?

A father, and a gracious aged man, [lick
Whose reverence the head-lugg'd bear would
Most barbarous, most degenerate! have you
madded.

Could my good brother suffer you to do it?

A man, a prince, by him so benefited?

If that the heavens do not their visible spirits
Send quickly down to tame these vile offences,
'Twill come,

Humanity must perforce prey on itself,
Like monsters of the deep.

Gon. Milk-liver'd man! [wrongs;

That bear'st a cheek for blows, a head for
Who hast not in thy brows an eye discerning
Thine honour from thy suffering; that not
know'st,

Fools do those villains pity, who are punish'd
Ere they have done their mischief. Where's
thy drum? [land;

France spreads his banners in our noiseless
With plumed helm thy slayer begins threats;
Whilst thou, a moral fool, sits't still, and cry'st,
Alack! why does he so?

Alb. See thyself, devil!

Proper deformity seems not in the fiend

So horrid, as in woman.

Gon. O vain fool!

Alb. Thou changed and self-cover'd thing,
for shame

Be-monster not thy feature. Were it my fitness
To let these hands obey my blood,*
They are apt enough to dislocate and tear
Thy flesh and bones:—Howe'er thou art a fiend,
A woman's shape doth shield thee.

Gon. Marry, your manhood now!

Enter a MESSENGER.

Alb. What news?

Mess. O, my good lord, the duke of Corn-
wall's dead;

Slain by his servant, going to put out

The other eye of Gloster.

Alb. Gloster's eyes!

Mess. A servant that he bred, thrill'd with
reinsorse,

Oppos'd against the act, bending his sword
To his great master; who, thereat enrag'd,
Flew on him, and amongst them fell'd him
dead: [since

But not without that harmful stroke, which
Hath pluck'd him after.

Alb. This shows you are above

You justicers, that these our nether crimes
So speedily can venge!—But, O poor Gloster!
Lost he his other eye!

Mess. Both, both, my lord.—

This letter, madam, craves a speedy answer;
'Tis from your sister.

Gon. [Aside.] One way I like this well;

But being widow, and my Gloster with her,
May all the building in my fancy pluck
Upon my hateful life; Another way,
The news is not so tart.—I'll read and answer.
[Exit.

Alb. Where was his son, when they did take
his eyes?

Mess. Come with my lady hither.

Alb. He is not here.

Mess. No, my good lord; I met him back
again.

Alb. Knows he the wickedness?

Mess. Ay, my good lord; 'twas he inform'd
against him; [ishment

And quit the house on purpose, that their pun-
Might have the freer course.

Alb. Gloster, I live [king,
To thank thee for the love thou show'dst the
And to revenge thine eyes.—come hither,
friend;

Tell me what more thou knowest. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—The French Camp near Dover.

Enter KENT, and a GENTLEMAN.

Kent. Why the king of France is so suddenly
gone back know you the reason?

Gent. Something he left imperfect in the
state, [which
Which since his coming forth is thought of;
Imports to the kingdom so much fear and dan-
ger,

That his personal return was most requir'd,
And necessary.

Kent. Who hath he left behind him general?

Gent. The Mareschal of France, Monsieur
le Fer.

Kent. Did your letters pierce the queen to
any demonstration of grief?

Gent. Ay, Sir; she took them, read them in
my presence;

And now and then an ample tear trill'd down

* I. e. Our wishes on the road may be completed.

† Worth calling for.

‡ Tear off.

* Inclination.

Her delicate cheek: it seem'd, she was a queen;
Over her passion; who, most rebel-like,
Sought to be king o'er her.

Kent. O, then it mov'd her.

Gent. Not to a rage: patience and sorrow
strove [see.]

Who should express her goodliest. You have
Sunshine and rain at once: her smiles and
tears

Were like a better day: Those happy smiles,
That play'd on her ripe lip, seem'd not to know
What guests were in her eyes: which parted
hence, [sorrow

As pearls from diamonds dropp'd.—In brief,
Would be a rarity most belov'd, if all
Could so become it.

Kent. Made she no verbal question?*

Gent. Faith, once, or twice, she heav'd the
name of *father*

Pattingly forth, as if it press'd her heart;
Cried, *Sisters! sisters!*—*Shame of ladies!*
sisters! [night?

Kent! *father!* *sisters!* *What? 't'he storm i the*
Let pity not be believed!—There she shook
The holy water from her heavenly eyes,
And clamour moisten'd: then away she started
To deal with grief alone.

Kent. It is the stars,
The stars above us, govern our conditions; †
Else one self mate and mate could not beget
Such different issues. You spoke not with her
since.

Gent. No.

Kent. Was this before the king return'd?

Gent. No, since.

Kent. Well, Sir: The poor distress'd Lear is
i'the town:

Who sometime, in his better tune, remembers
What we are come about, and by no means
Will yield to see his daughter.

Gent. Why, good Sir?

Kent. A sovereign shame so elbows him; his
own unkindness, [her

That stripp'd her from his benediction, turn'd
To foreign casualties, gave her dear rights
To his dog-hearted daughters,—these things
sting

His mind so venomously, that burning shame
Detains him from Cordelia.

Kent. Alack, poor Gentleman!

Of Albany's and Cornwall's powers §
you heard not?

Gent. 'Tis so; they are afoot.

Kent. Well, Sir, I'll bring you to our master
Lear,

And leave you to attend him: some dear cause, ||
Will in concealment wrap me up awhile;
When I am known aright, you shall not grieve
Lending me this acquaintance. I pray you, go
Along with me. [Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.—*The same.*—*A Tent.*

Enter CORDELIA, PHYSICIAN, and SOLDIERS.

Cor. Alack, 'tis he; why, he was met even
now

As mad as the vex'd sea: singing aloud;
Crown'd with rank fumiter, ¶ and furrow weeds.
With harlocks, ** hemlock, nettles, cuckoo-
flowers,

Darnel, and all the idle weeds that grow
In our sustaining corn.—A century send forth;
Search every acre in the high grown field,

And bring him to our eye. [Exit an OFFICER.]

What can man's wisdom do,

In the restoring his bereaved sense?

He, that helps him, take all my outward worth.

Phy. There is means, madam:

Our foster-nurse of nature is repose,
The which he lacks; that to provoke in him,
Are many simples operative, whose power
Will close the eye of anguish.

Cor. All bless'd secrets,
All you unpublish'd virtues of the earth,
Spring with my tears! be aidant, and remedi-
ate, [him;

In the good man's distress!—Seek, seek for
Lest his ungovern'd rage dissolve the life
That wants the means to lead it.*

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. Madam, news;

The British powers are marching hitherward.

Cor. 'Tis known before; our preparation
stands

In expectation of them.—O dear father,
It is thy business that I go about;
Therefore great France. [pitied.]

My mourning, and important† tears, hath
No blown‡ ambition doth our arms incite,
But love, dear love, and our ag'd father's right;
Soon may I hear, and see him. [Exeunt.]

SCENE V.—*A Room in GLOSTER's Castle.*

Enter REGAN and STEWARD.

Reg. But are my brother's power set forth?

Stew. Ay, madam.

Reg. Himself

In person there?

Stew. Madam with much ado;

Your sister is the better soldier.

Reg. Lord Edmund spake not with your
lord at home?

Stew. No, madam.

Reg. What might import my sister's letter
to him?

Stew. I know not, lady.

Reg. Faith, he is posted hence on serious
matter. [out,

It was great ignorance, Gloster's eyes being
To let him live; where he arrives, he moves
All hearts against us: Edmund, I think, is gone,
In pity of his misery, to despatch
His nighted life; § moreover, to descry
The strength o'the enemy.

Stew. I must needs after him, madam, with
my letter.

Reg. Our troops set forth to-morrow; stay
with us;

The ways are dangerous.

Stew. I may not, madam;

My lady charg'd my duty in this business.

Reg. Why should she write to Edmund?
Might not you

Transport her purposes by word? Belike,
Something—I know, not what:—I'll love thee
Let me unseal the letter. [much,

Stew. Madam, I had rather—

Reg. I know, your lady does not love her
husband;

I am sure of that: and, at her late being here,
She gave strange o'illads, || and most speaking
looks [som.

To noble Edmund: I know, you are of her bo-

* Discourse, conversation.

† I. e. Let not pity be supposed to exist.

‡ Dispositions. § Forces. ¶ Important business.

¶ Fumitory.

** Charlocks.

* I. e. The reason which should guide it.

† Importunate. ‡ Inflated, swelling.

§ I. e. His life made dark as night.

|| A cast, or significant glance of the eye.

Stew. I, madam ?

Reg. I speak in understanding ; you are, I know it :

Therefore, I do advise you, take this note : * My lord is dead ; Edmund and I have talk'd ; And more convenient is he for my hand, Than for your lady's :—You may gather more. † If you do find him, pray you, give him this ; And when your mistress hears thus much from I pray, desire her call her wisdom to her, [you, So, fare you well.

If you do chance to hear of that blind traitor, Preferment falls on him that cuts him off.

Stew. 'Would I could meet him, madam ! I would show

What party I do follow.

Reg. Fare thee well,

[Exeunt.

SCENE VI.—The Country near Dover.

Enter GLOSTER, and EDGAR, dressed like a Peasant.

Glo. When shall we come to the top of that small hill ?

Edg. You do climb up it now : look, how we labour.

Glo. Methinks, the ground is even.

Edg. Horrible steep :

Hark, do you hear the sea ?

Glo. No, truly.

Edg. Why, then your other senses grow im-By your eyes' anguish. [perfect

Glo. So may it be, indeed : [speak'st Methinks, thy voice is alter'd ; and thou In better phrase, and matter, than thou didst.

Edg. You are much deceiv'd : in nothing am I chang'd,

But in my garments.

Glo. Methinks, you are better spoken.

Edg. Come on, Sir ; here's the place :—stand still.—How fearful

And dizzy 'tis, to cast one's eyes so low !

The crows, and coughts, ‡ that wing the mid-way air, [down

Show scarce so gross as beetles : Half way Hangs one that gathers samphire ; § dreadful trade !

Methinks, he seems no bigger than his head : The fishermen, that walk upon the beach Appear like mice ; and you ' tallanchoring bark, Diminish'd to her cock ; ¶ her cock, a buoy Almost too small for sight : The murmuring surge,

That on the unnumber'd idle pebbles chafes, Cannot be heard so high :—I'll look no more ; Lest my brain turn, and the deficient sight Topple ¶ down headlong.

Glo. Set me where you stand.

Edg. Give me your hand : You are now within a foot

Of the extreme verge : for all beneath the moon Would I not leap upright.

Glo. Let go my hand.

Here, friend, is another purse ; in it a jewel Well worth a poor man's taking : Fairies, and gods,

Prosper it with thee ! Go thou further off ; Bid me farewell, and let me hear thee going.

Edg. Now fare you well, good Sir.

[Seems to go.

Glo. With all my heart.

Edg. Why I do trifle thus with his despair, Is done to cure it.

Glo. O you mighty gods !

This world I do renounce ; and, in your sights, Shake patiently my great affliction off : If I could bear it longer, and not fall To quarrel with your great opposeless wills, My snuff, and loathed part of nature, should Burn itself out. If Edgar live, O, bless him !— Now, fellow, fare thee well.

[He leaps, and falls along.

Edg. Gone, Sir ? farewell.—

And yet I know not how conceit may rob The treasury of life, when life itself [thought, Yields to the theft : Had he been where he By this, had thought been past.—Alive, or dead ? [speak !

Ho, you Sir ! friend !—Hear you, Sir ?— Thus might he pass indeed :—Yet he revives ! What are you, Sir ?

Glo. Away, and let me die.

Edg. Hadst thou been aught but gossamer, feathers, air, So many fathom down precipitating, Thou hadst shiver'd like an egg : but thou dost breathe ; Hast heavy substance : bleed'st not ; speak'st ; art sound.

Ten masts at each make not the altitude, Which thou hast perpendicularly fell ; Thy life's a miracle : Speak yet again.

Glo. But have I fallen, or no ?

Edg. From the dread summit of this chalky bourn : † [far Look up a-beight ;—the shrill-gorg'd ‡ lark so Cannot be seen or heard : do but look up.

Glo. Alack, I have no eyes.— Is wretchedness depriv'd that benefit, [fort, To end itself by death ? 'Twas yet some com-When misery could beguile the tyrant's rage, And frustrate his proud will.

Edg. Give me your arm : Up :—So ;—How is't ? Feel you your legs ? You stand.

Glo. Too well, too well.

Edg. This is above all strangeness. [that Upon the crown o'the cliff, what thing was Which parted from you ?

Glo. A poor unfortunate beggar.

Edg. As I stood here below, methought, his eyes [noses, Were two full moons : he had a thousand Horns whelk'd, § and wav'd like the enridged sea ; [father,

It was some fiend : Therefore, thou happy Think that the clearest ¶ gods, who make them honours Of men's impossibilities, have preserv'd thee.

Glo. I do remember now : henceforth I'll Affliction, till it do cry out itself, [bear Enough, enough, and, di. That thing you speak of,

I took it for a man ; often 'twould say, The fiend, the fiend : he led me to that place.

Edg. Bear free and patient thoughts.—But who come here ?

Enter LEAR, fantastically dressed up with Flowers.

The safer sense will ne'er accommodate His master thus.

Lear. No, they cannot touch me for coining ; I am the king himself.

Edg. O thou side-piercing sight !

Lear. Nature's above art in that respect.— There's your press-money. That fellow handles his bow like a crow-keeper : draw me a

* Observe what I am saying. † Infer more.

‡ Draws. § vegetable gathered for pickling.

¶ Her cock-boat. ¶ Tumble.

* Thus might he die in reality.

† I e. This chalky boundary of England.

‡ Shrill-throated. § Twisted, convolved. ¶ The purest.

clothier's yard.*—Look, look, a mouse! Peace, peace;—this piece of toasted cheese will do't—There's my gauntlet; I'll prove it on a giant.—Bring up the brown bills.†—O, well flown, bird!—i'the clout, i'the clout; ‡ hewgh!—give the word.§

Edg. Sweet marjoram.

Lear. Pass.

Glo. I know that voice.

Lear. Ha! Goneril!—with a white beard!—They flatter'd me like a dog, and told me, I had white hairs in my beard, ere the black ones were there. To say *ay*, and *no*, to every thing I said!—*Ay* and *no* was no good divinity. When the rain came to wet me once, and the wind to make me chatter; when the thunder would not peace at my bidding; there I found them, there I smelt them out. Go to, they are not men o'ther words: they told me I was every thing; 'tis a lie; I am not ague-proof.

Glo. The trick|| of that voice I do well re-Is't not the king? [member:

Lear. *Ay*, every inch a king:

When I do stare, see how the subject quakes. I pardon that man's life: what was thy cause?—

Adultery.—

Thou shalt not die: Die for adultery! No: The wren goes to't, and the small gilded fly Does lecher in my sight.

Let copulation thrive, for Gloster's bastard son Was kinder to his father, than my daughters Got 'tween the lawful sheets.

To't, luxury, pell-mell, for I lack soldiers.—Behold yon' simpering dame, Whose face between her forks presageth snow; That minces virtue, and does shake the head To hear of pleasure's name; The fitchew, nor the soiled horse, goes to't With a more riotous appetite.

Down from the waist they are centaurs, Though women all above:

But¶ to the girdle do the gods inherit,** Beneath is all the fiends'; there's hell, there's darkness,

There is the sulphurous pit burning, scalding, stench, consumption;—Fie, fie, fie! pah; pah! Give me an ounce of civet, good apothecary, to sweeten my imagination: there's money for thee.

Glo. O, let me kiss that hand!

Lear. Let me wipe it first; it smells of mortality.

Glo. O ruin'd piece of nature! This great world [ine?

Shall so wear out to nought.—Dost thou know *Lear*. I remember thine eyes well enough.

Dost thou squint†† at me! No, do thy worst, blind Cupid; I'll not love.—Read thou this challenge; mark but the penning of it.

Glo. Were all the letters suns, I could not see one.

Edg. I would not take this from report;—it And my heart breaks at it. [is,

Lear. Read.

Glo. What, with the case of eyes?

Lear. O, ho, are you there with me? No eyes in your head, nor no money in your purse? Your eyes are in a heavy case, your purse in a light: Yet you see how this world goes.

Glo. I see it feelingly.

Lear. What, art mad? A man may see how this world goes, with no eyes. Look with

thine ears: see how yon' justice rails upon yon' simple thief. Hark, in thine ear: Change places: and, handy, dandy, which is the justice, which is the thief?—Thou hast seen a farmer's dog bark at a beggar?

Glo. *Ay*, Sir.

Lear. And the creature run from the cur? There thou might'st behold the great image of authority: a dog's obeyed in office.

Thou rascal beadle, hold thy bloody hand: Why dost thou lash that whore? strip thine own back;

Thou hotly lust'st to use her in that kind For which thou whipp'st her. The usurer hangs the cozener.

Through tatter'd clothes small vices do appear; Robes, and furr'd gowns, hide all. Plate sin with gold,

And the strong lance of justice hurtless breaks; Arm it in rags, a pigmy's straw doth pierce it; None does offend, none, I say, none; I'll able 'em: [power

Take that of me, my friend, who have the To seal the accuser's lips. Get thee glass eyes; And, like a scurvy politician, seem

To see the things thou dost not.—Now, now, now, now:

Pull off my boots:—harder, harder; so.

Edg. O, matter and impertinency mix'd!

Reason in madness!

Lear. If thou wilt weep my fortunes, take my eyes.

I know thee well enough; thy name is Gloster: Thou must be patient; we came crying hither. Thou know'st, the first time that we smell the air,

We wawl, and cry:—I will preach to thee; mark me.

Glo. Alack, alack the day!

Lear. When we are born, we cry, that we are come

To this great stage of fools;—This a good block?*

It were a delicate stratagem, to shoe

A troop of horse with felt; I'll put it in proof; And when I have stolen upon these sons-in-Then, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill. [law,

Enter a GENTLEMAN with Attendants.

Gent. O, here he is, lay hand upon him,—Your most dear daughter— [Sir,

Lear. No rescue? What, a prisoner? I am even

The natural fool of fortune.—Use me well; You shall have ransom. Let me have a sur-lan cut to the brains. [geon,

Gent. You shall have any thing.

Lear. No seconds? All myself?

Why, this would make a man, a man of salt, † To use his eyes for garden water-pots, *Ay*, and for laying autumn's dust.

Gent. Good Sir,—

Lear. I will die bravely, like a bridegroom: What?

I will be jovial; come, come; I am a king, My masters, know you that?

Gent. You are a royal one, and we obey you.

Lear. Then there's life in it. Nay, an you get it, you shall get it by running. Sa, sa, sa, sa. [Exit, running; Attendants follow.

Gent. A sight most pitiful in the meanest wretch:

* An arrow of a cloth yard long. † Battle-axes.

‡ The white mark for archers to aim at.

§ The watchword. || Likeness, manner.

¶ Only. ** Possess. †† Look squint.

* Block anciently signified the head part of a hat.

† I. e. A man of tears.

Past speaking of in a king?—Thou hast one daughter,

Who redeems nature from the general curse Which twain have brought her to.

Edg. Hail, gentle Sir.

Gent. Sir, speed you: What's your will?

Edg. Do you hear aught, Sir, of a battle to-ward?

Gent. Most sure, and vulgar: every one hears that,

Which can distinguish sound.

Edg. But, by your favour,

How near's the other army?

Gent. Near, and on speedy foot; the main stands on the hourly thought.*

[*desery*]

Edg. I thank you, Sir: that's all.

Gent. Though that the queen on special cause is here,

Her army is mov'd on.

Edg. I thank you, Sir. [*Exit GENT.*]

Glo. You ever-gentle gods, take my breath from me;

Let not my worser spirit tempt me again To die before you please!

Edg. Well pray you, father.

Glo. Now, good Sir, what are you?

Edg. A most poor man, made tame by fortune's blows;

Who, by the art of known and feeling sorrows, Am pregnant to good pity. Give me your I'll lead you to some bidding. [*hand,*]

Glo. Hearty thanks:

The bounty and the benison† of heaven

To boot, and boot!‡

Enter STEWARD.

Stew. A proclaim'd prize! Most happy!

That eyeless head of thine was first fram'd flesh [*traitor,*]

To raise my fortunes.—Thou old unhappy Briefly|| thyself remember;—The sword is out That must destroy thee.

Glo. Now let thy friendly hand Put strength enough to it. [*EDGAR opposes.*]

Stew. Wherefore, bold peasant, Dar'st thou support a publish'd traitor? Hence; Lest that the infection of his fortune take Like hold on thee. Let go his arm.

Edg. Ch'll not let go, Zir, without vurther casion.

Stew. Let go, slave, or thou diest.

Edg. Good gentleman, go your gait,¶ and let poor volk pass. And ch'ud ha' been zwager'd out of my life, 'twould not ha' been zo long as 'tis by a vortnight. Nay, come not near the old man; keep out, che vor'ye, or ise try whether your costard** or my batt† be the harder: Ch'll be plain with you.

Stew. Out, dunghill!

Edg. Ch'll pick your teeth, Zir: Come; no matter vor your foins.‡‡

[*They fight; and EDGAR knocks him down.*]

Stew. Slave, thou hast slain me:—Villain, take my purse;

If ever thou wilt thrive, bury my body; [me, And give the letters, which thou find'st about To Edmund earl of Gloster; seek him out Upon the British party:—O, untimely death!

[*Dies.*]

Edg. I know thee well: A serviceable vil-As duteous to the vices of thy mistress, [lain; As badness would desire.

Glo. What, is he dead?

Edg. Sit you down, father; rest you.—

Let's see his pockets: these letters, that he speaks of, [sorry

May be my friends.—He's dead; I am only He had no other death's-man.—Let us see:— Leave, gentle wax; and, manners, blame us not: [hearts;

To know our enemies' minds, we'd rip their Their papers, is more lawful.*

[*Reads.*] *Let our reciprocal vows be remembered. You have many opportunities to cut him off; if you will want not, time and place will be fruitfully offered. There is nothing done, if he return the conqueror: Then am I the prisoner, and his bed my jail; from the loathed warmth whereof deliver me, and supply the place for your labour.*

Your wife, (so I would say,) and your affectionate servant,

GONERIL.

O undistinguish'd space of woman's will!—

A plot upon her virtuous husband's life; And the exchange, my brother!—Here, in the sands,

Thee I'll rake up,† the post unsanctified Of murderous lechers: and, in the mature time, With this ungracious paper strike the sight Of the death-practis'd duke: For him 'tis well, That of thy death and business I can tell.

[*Exit EDGAR, dragging out the body.*]

Glo. The king is mad; How stiff is my vile sense,

That I stand up, and have ingenious feeling Of my huge sorrows! Better I were distract: So should my thoughts be sever'd from my griefs;

And woes, by wrong imaginations, lose The knowledge of themselves.

Re-enter EDGAR.

Edg. Give me your hand: Far off, methinks I hear the beaten drum. Come, father, I'll bestow you with a friend. [*Exeunt,*]

SCENE VII.—*A Tent in the French Camp.— LEAR on a Bed, asleep; PHYSICIAN, GENTLEMAN, and others, attending.*

Enter CORDELIA and KENT.

Cor. O thou good Kent, how shall I live, and work, [short, To match thy goodness? My life will be too And every measure fail me.

Kent. To be acknowledg'd madam, is o'er- paid.

All my reports go with the modest truth;

Nor more, nor clipp'd, but so.

Cor. Be better-suited; ‡ [hours § These weeds are memories§ of those worsers I prythee, put them off.

Kent. Pardon me, dear madam; Yet to be known, shortens my made intent: || My boon I make it, that you know me not, Till time and I think meet.

Cor. Then be it so, my good lord.—How does the king? [To the PHYSICIAN.

Phys. Madam, sleeps still.

Cor. O you kind gods, Cure this great breach in his abused nature! The untun'd and jarring senses, O, wind up Of this child-changed father!

Phys. So please your majesty, [long. That we may wake the king? he hath slept

* The main body is expected to be descried every hour.

† Evil genius. ‡ Blessing. § Reward, recompense.

|| Quickly recollect the offences of thy life.

¶ To your way. ** Head. †† Club. ‡‡ Thrusts;

* To rip their papers is more lawful.

† I'll cover thee (the dead steward) in the sands;

‡ Dressed; § Memorials. || Intent formed.

Cor. Be govern'd by your knowledge, and proceed

I'the sway of your own will. Is he array'd?

Gent. Ay, madam; in the heaviness of his We put fresh garments on him. [sleep,

Phys. Be by, good madam, when we do awake him;

I doubt not of his temperance.

Cor. Very well.

Phys. Please you, draw near.—Louder the music there.

Cor. O my dear father! Restoration, hang Thy medicine on my lips; and let this kiss Repair those violent harms, that my two sisters Have in thy reverence made!

Kent. Kind and dear princess!

Cor. Had you not been their father, these white flakes

Had challeng'd pity of them. Was this a face To be expos'd against the warring winds?

To stand against the deep dread-bolted thun- In the most terrible and nimble stroke [der?

Of quick, cross lightning? to watch, (poor perdu!)*

With this thin helm? Mine enemy's dog, Though he had bit me, should have stood that night

Against my fire; And wast thou fain, poor father,

To hovel thee with swine, and rogues forlorn, In short and musty straw? Alack, alack!

'Tis wonder, that thy life and wits at once Had not concluded all.—He wakes; speak to him.

Phys. Madam, do you; 'tis fittest.

Cor. How does my royal lord? How fares your majesty?

Lear. You do me wrong, to take me out o'the grave:—

Thou art a soul in bliss; but I am bound Upon a wheel of fire, that mine own tears

Do scald like molten lead.

Cor. Sir, do you know me?

Lear. You are a spirit, I know; When did you die?

Cor. Still, still, far wide!

Phys. He's scarce awake; let him alone awhile.

Lear. Where have I been?—Where am I?— Fair day-light!— [pity,

I am mightily abus'd.—I should even die with To see another thus.—I know not what to say.— [see;

I will not swear, these are my hands:—let's I feel this pin prick. 'Would I were assur'd

Of my condition.

Cor. O look upon me, Sir, And hold your hands in benediction o'er me:— No, Sir, you must not kneel.

Lear. Pray, do not mock me; I am a very foolish fond old man,

Fourscore and upwards; and, to deal plainly, I fear, I am not in my perfect mind. [man;

Methinks, I should know you, and know this Yet I am doubtful: for I am mainly ignorant

What place this is; and all the skill I have Remembers not these garments; nor I know

not [me; Where I did lodge last night: Do not laugh at

For, as I am a man, I think this lady To be my child Cordelia.

Cor. And so I am, I am.

Lear. Be your tears wet? Yes, 'faith. I pray, Weep not;

If you have poison for me, I will drink it:

I know, you do not love me; for your sisters Have, as I do remember, done me wrong,

You have some cause, they have not.

Cor. No cause, no cause.

Lear. Am I in France?

Kent. In your own kingdom, Sir.

Lear. Do not abuse me.

Phys. Be comforted, good madam: the great rage,

You see is cur'd in him: and yet it is danger To make him even* o'er the time he has lost.

Desire him to go in; trouble him no more, Till further settling.

Cor. Will't please your highness walk?

Lear. You must bear with me: [foolish.

Pray now, forget and forgive: I am old and [Exit LEAR, CORDELIA, PHYSICIAN, and Attendants.

Gent. Holds it true, Sir, That the duke of Cornwall was so slain?

Kent. Most certain, Sir.

Gent. Who is conductor of his people?

Kent. As 'tis said, The bastard son of Gloster.

Gent. They say, Edgar, His banish'd son, is with the earl of Kent

In Germany.

Kent. Report is changeable. [kingdom 'Tis time to look about; the powerst o'the

Approach apace.

Gent. The arbitrement† is like to be a bloody.

Fare you well, Sir. [Exit.

Kent. My point and period will be thoroughly wrought,

Or well, or ill, as this day's battle's fought. [Exit.

ACT V.

SCENE I.—The Camp of the British Forces, near Dover.

Enter, with Drums, and Colours, EDMUND, REGAN, Officers, Soldiers, and Others.

Edm. Know of the duke, if his last purpose hold;

Or, whether since he is advis'd by aught To change the course:—He's full of alteration,

And self-reproving:—bring his constant pleasure.‡ [To an Officer who goes out.

Reg. Our sister's man is certainly miscarried.

Edm. 'Tis to be doubted, madam.

Reg. Now, sweet lord, You know the goodness I intend upon you:

Tell me,—but truly,—but then speak the truth, Do you not love my sister?

Edm. In honour'd love.

Reg. But have you never found my brother's To the forefended|| place? [way

Edm. That thought abuses¶ you.

Reg. I am doubtful that you have been conjunct

And bosom'd with her, as far as we call hers.

Edm. No, by mine honour, madam.

Reg. I never shall endure her: Dear my lord Be not familiar with her.

Edm. Fear me not:— She, and the duke her husband,——

Enter ALBANY, GONERIL, and Soldiers.

Gon. I had rather lose the battle, than that sister

Should loosen him and me. [Aside.

Alb. Our very loving sister, well be met.—

* To reconcile it to his apprehension.

† Forces. ‡ Decision. § His settled resolution.

¶ Imposes on you.

|| Forbidden.

‡ Thin covering of hair.

‡ French enfans perdus.

Sir, this I hear,—The king is come to his daughter,
With others, whom the rigour of our state
Forc'd to cry out. Where I could not be honest,
I never yet was valiant: for this business,
It touches us as France invades our land,
Not bolds* the king; with others, whom, I
fear,

Most just and heavy causes make oppose, †
Edm. Sir, you speak nobly.

Reg. Why is this reason'd?

Gon. Combine together 'gainst the enemy:
For these domestic and particular broils
Art not to question here.

Alb. Let us then determine

With the ancient of war on our proceedings.

Edm. I shall attend you presently at your tent.

Reg. Sister, you'll go with us?

Gon. No.

Reg. 'Tis most convenient; pray, you, go with us.

Gon. O, ho, I know the riddle: [*Aside.*] I will go.

As they are going out, enter EDGAR, disguised.

Edg. If e'er your grace had speech with man so poor,

Hear me one word.

Alb. I'll overtake you.—Speak.

[*Exeunt EDMUND, REGAN, GONERIL, Officers, Soldiers, and Attendants.*]

Edg. Before you fight the battle, ope this letter.

If you have victory, let the trumpet sound
For him that brought it: wretched though I seem,

I can produce a champion, that will prove
What is avouched there: If you miscarry,
Your business of the world hath so an end,
And machination ceases. ‡ Fortune love you!

Alb. Stay till I have read the letter.

Edg. I was forbid it.

When time shall serve, let but the herald cry,
And I'll appear again. [*Exit.*]

Alb. Why, fare thee well; I will o'erlook thy paper.

Re-enter EDMUND.

Edm. The enemy's in view; draw up your powers. [*forces*]

Here is the gness of their true strength and
By diligent discovery;—but your haste
Is now urg'd on you.

Alb. We will greet the time. § [*Exit.*]

Edm. To both these sisters have I sworn my
Each jealous of the other, as the stung [*love*];
Are of the adder. Which of them shall I take?
Both? one? or neither? Neither can be enjoy'd
If both remain alive: To take the widow,
Exasperates, makes mad her sister Goneril:
And hardly shall I carry out my side, ||
Her husband being alive. Now then, we'll use
His countenance for the battle; which being
done,

Let her, who would be rid of him, devise
His speedy taking off. As for the mercy
Which he intends to Lear, and to Cordelia,—
The battle done, and they within our power,
Shall never see his pardon: for my state
Stands on me to defend, not to debate. [*Exit.*]

* I. e. Emboldens him.

† Opposition.

‡ I. e. All designs against your life have an end.

§ Be ready to meet the occasion.

|| I. e. Make my party good.

SCENE II.—A Field between the Two Camps.

Alarum within.—Enter with Drum and Colours,
LEAR, CORDELIA, and their Forces; and Exeunt.

Enter EDGAR and GLOSTER.

Edg. Here, father, take the shadow of this tree [*thrive*]

For your good host; pray that the right may
If ever I return to you again,
I'll bring you comfort.

Glo. Grace go with you, Sir! [*Exit EDGAR.*]

Alarums; afterwards a Retreat.—Re-enter EDGAR.

Edg. Away, old man, give me thy hand;
away; [*'ta'en*]

King Lear hath lost, he and his daughter
Give me thy hand, come on.

Glo. No further, Sir; a man may rot even here.

Edg. What, in ill thoughts again? Men must endure

Their going hence, even as their coming hither:
Ripeness is all: Come on.

Glo. And that's true too. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—The British Camp near Dover.

Enter, in Conquest, with Drum and Colours,
EDMUND; LEAR and CORDELIA, as Prisoners;
Officers, Soldiers, &c.

Edm. Some officers take them away: good guard;

Until their greater pleasures first be known
That are to censure † them.

Cor. We are not the first, [*worst.*]

Who, with best meaning, have incur'd the
For thee, oppressed king, am I cast down;
Myself could else out-frown false fortune's
frown.— [*sisters?*]

Shall we not see these daughters, and these
Lear. No, no, no, no! Come, let's away to
prison;

We two alone will sing like birds i' the cage:
When thou dost ask my blessing, I'll kneel
down,

And ask of thee forgiveness: So we'll live,
And pray, and sing, and tell old tales, and
laugh

At gilded butterflies, and hear poor rogues
Talk of court news; and we'll talk with them
too,— [*out*—

Who loses, and who wins; who's in, who's
And take upon us the mystery of things,
As if we were God's spies: And we'll wear
out, [*ones,*]

In a wall'd prison, packs and seats of great
That ebb and flow by the moon.

Edm. Take them away.

Lear. Upon such sacrifices, my Cordelia,
The gods themselves throw incense. Have I
caught thee?

He, that parts us, shall bring a brand from
heaven, [*eyes*];

And fire us hence, like foxes. Wipe thine
The goulgeer ‡ shall devour them, flesh and fell, §
Ere they shall make us weep: we'll see them
starve first.

Come. [*Exeunt LEAR and CORDELIA, guarded.*]

Edm. Come hither, captain; hark.

Take thou this note; [*Giving a Paper.*] go,
follow them to prison:

One step I have advanc'd thee; if thou dost
As this instructs thee, thou dost make thy way
To noble fortunes: Know thou this,—that men
Are as the time is: to be tender-minded

* I. e. To be ready prepared is all.

† Pass judgment on them.

‡ The French disease.

Does not become a sword:—Thy great employ-
ment

Will not bear question;* either say, thou'lt
Or thrive by other means. [do't,

Off. I'll do't, my lord.

Edm. About it; and write happy, when thou
hast done.

Mark,—I say, instantly; and carry it so,
As I have set it down.

Off. I cannot draw a cart, nor eat dried oats;
If it be man's work, I will do it.

[Exit OFFICER.

Flourish. Enter ALBANY, GONERIL, REGAN,
OFFICERS, and Attendants.

Alb. Sir, you have shown to-day your val-
iant strain. [tives

And fortune led you well: You have the cap-
Who were the opposites of this day's strife:
We do require them of you; so to use them,
As we shall find their merits and our safety
May equally determine.

Edm. Sir, I thought it fit

To send the old and miserable king
To some retention, and appointed guard;
Whose age has charms in it, whose title more,
To pluck the common bosom on his side,
And turn our impress'd lances in our eyes
Which do command them. With him I sent
the queen;

My reason all the same; and they are ready
To-morrow, or at further space, to appear
Where you shall hold your session. At this
time, [friend;

We sweat, and bleed: the friend hath lost his
And the best quarrels, in the heat, are curs'd
By those that feel their sharpness:—
The question of Cordelia, and her father,
Requires a fitter place.†

Alb. Sir, by your patience,
I hold you but a subject of this war,
Not as a brother.

Reg. That's as we list to grace him.
Methinks, our pleasure might have been de-
manded,

Ere you had spoke so far. He led our powers;
Bore the commission of my place and person;
The which immediacy may well stand up,
And call itself your brother.

Gon. Not so hot:

In his own grace he doth exalt himself,
More than in your advancement.

Reg. In my rights,

By me invested, he compeers the best.

Gon. That were the most, if he should hus-
band you.

Reg. Jesters do oft prove prophets.

Gon. Holloa, holloa!

That eye, that told you so, look'd but a-squint.‡

Reg. Lady, I am not well; else I should
answer

From a full-flowing stomach.—General,
Take thou my soldiers, prisoners, patrimony;
Dispose of them, of me: the walls are thine:
Witness the world, that I create thee here
My lord and master.

Gon. Meau you to enjoy him?

Alb. The let-alone|| lies not in your good
will.

Edm. Nor in thine, lord.

Alb. Half-blooded fellow, yes,

* Admit of debate.

† To be discoursed of in greater privacy.

‡ Authority to act on his own judgement.

§ Alluding to the proverb: "Love being jealous
makes a good eye look a-squint."

|| The hindrance.

Reg. Let the drum strike, and prove my
title thine. [To EDMUND.

Alb. Stay yet; hear reason;—Edmund, I
arrest thee

On capital treason; and, in thy arrest,
This gilded serpent: [Pointing to Gon.]—for
your claim, fair sister,

I bar it in the interest of my wife;

'Tis she is sub-contracted to this lord,

And I, her husband, contradict your bans.

If you will marry, make your love to me,

My lady is bespoke.

Gon. An interlude!

Alb. Thou art arm'd, Gloster:—Let the
trumpet sound:

If none appear to prove upon thy person,
Thy heinous, manifest, and many treasons,
There is my pledge; [Throwing down a Glove.

I'll prove it on thy heart,

Ere I taste bread, thou art in nothing less

Than I have proclaim'd thee.

Reg. Sick, O, sick!

Gon. If not, I'll ne'er trust poison. [Aside.

Edm. There's my exchange: [Throwing down
a Glove.] what in the world he is

That names me traitor, villain-like he lies:

Call by thy trumpet: he that dares approach,

On him, on you, (who not?) I will maintain

My truth and honour firmly.

Alb. A herald, ho!

Edm. A herald, ho, a herald!

Alb. Trust to thy single virtue;* for thy
soldiers,

All levied in my name, have in my name

Took their discharge.

Reg. This sickness grows upon me.

Enter a HERALD.

Alb. She is not well; convey her to my tent.

[Exit REGAN, led.

Come hither, herald,—Let the trumpetsound,—
And read out this.

Off. Sound, trumpet. [A Trumpet sounds.

HERALD reads.

If any man of quality, or degree, within the
lists of the army, will maintain upon EDMUND,
supposed earl of GLOSTER, that he is a manifold
traitor, let him appear at the third sound of the
trumpet: He is bold in his defence.

Edm. Sound.

[1 Trumpet.

Her. Again.

[2 Trumpet.

Her. Again.

[3 Trumpet.

[Trumpet answers within.

Enter EDGAR, armed, preceded by a Trumpet.

Alb. Ask him his purposes, why he appears
Upon this call o'the trumpet.

Her. What are you?

Your name, your quality? and why you answer
This present summons?

Edg. Know, my name is lost;

By treason's tooth bare-gnawn, and canker-
Yet am I noble, as the adversary [bit.

I come to cope withal.

Alb. Which is that adversary?

Edg. What's he, that speaks for Edmund
earl of Gloster?

Edm. Himself;—What say'st thou to him?

Edg. Draw thy sword;

That if my speech offend a noble heart,

Thy arm may do thee justice: here is mine.

Behold, it is the privilege of mine honours,

My oath and my profession: I protest,—

Maugre* thy strength, youth, place, and eminence,

Despite thy victorsword, and fire-new fortune,
Thy valour, and thy heart,—thou art a traitor:
False to thy gods, thy brother, and thy father;
Conspirant 'gainst this high illustrious prince;
And, from the extremest upward of thy head,
To the descent and dust beneath thy feet,
A most toad-spotted traitor. Say thou, No,
This sword, this arm, and my best spirits, are bent

To prove upon thy heart, whereto I speak
Thou liest.

Edm. In wisdom, I should ask thy name; †
But, since thy outside looks so fair and warlike,
And that thy tongue some 'say† of breeding
What safe and nicely I might well delay
By rule of knighthood, I disdain and spurn:
Back do I toss these treasons to thy head;
With the hell-hated lie o'erwhelm thy heart;
Which, (for they yet glance by, and scarcely
bruise,) [way,
This sword of mine shall give them instant
Where they shall rest for ever.—Trumpets,
speak.

[Alarums.—They fight.—EDMUND falls.

Alb. O save him, save him!

Gon. This is mere practice, § Gloucester:
By the law of arms, thou wast not bound to
answer

An unknown opposite; thou art not van-
But cozen'd and beguil'd. [quish'd,

Alb. Shut your mouth, dame,
Or with this paper shall I stop it:—Hold, Sir:—
Thou worse than any name, read thine own
evil:—

No tearing, lady; I perceive, you know it.
[Gives the letter to EDMUND.

Gon. Say, if I do; the laws are mine, not
Who shall arraign me for't? [thine:

Alb. Most monstrous!
Know'st thou this paper?

Gon. Ask me not what I know.

[Exit GONERIL.

Alb. Go after her: she's desperate; govern
her. [To an OFFICER, who goes out.

Edm. What you have charg'd me with, that
have I done; [out;

And more, much more: the time will bring it
'Tis past, and so am I; But what art thou,
That hast this fortune on me? If thou art noble,
I do forgive thee.

Edg. Let's exchange charity.
I am no less in blood than thou art, Edmund;
If more, the more thou hast wrong'd me.
My name is Edgar, and thy father's son.
The gods are just, and of our pleasant vices
Make instruments to scourge us:
'The dark and vicious place where thee he got,
Cost him his eyes.

Edm. Thou hast spoken right, 'tis true;
The wheel is come full circle; I am here.

Alb. Methought, thy very gait did prophesy
A royal nobleness:—I must embrace thee:
Let sorrow split my heart, if ever I
Did hate thee, or thy father!

Edg. Worthy prince,
I know it well.

Alb. Where have you hid yourself? [ther?
How have you known the miseries of your fa-

Edg. By nursing them, my lord.—List|| a brief
tale;

* Notwithstanding.

† Because if his adversary was not of equal rank, Ed-
mund might have declined the combat.

‡ Sample. § Stratagem.

|| Hear.

And, when 'tis told, O, that my heart would
The bloody proclamation to escape, [burst!—
That follow'd me so near, (O our lives' sweet-
ness!

That with the pain of death we'd hourly die,
Rather than die at once! taught me to shift
Into a madman's rags; to assume a sem-
blance

That very dogs disdain'd: and in this habit
Met I my father with his bleeding rings,
Their precious stones new lost; because his
guide, [despair;

Led him, begg'd for him, sav'd him from
Never (O fault!) reveal'd myself unto him,
Until some half hour past, when I was arm'd,
Not sure, though hoping, of this good success,
I ask'd his blessing, and from first to last
Told him my pilgrimage: But his flaw'd
heart,

(Alack, too weak the conflict to support!)
'Twixt two extremes of passion, joy and grief,
Burst smilingly.

Edm. This speech of yours hath mov'd me,
And shall, perchance, do good: but speak
you on;

You look as you had something more to say.
Alb. If there be more, more woeful, hold it
For I am almost ready to dissolve, [in;
Hearing of this.

Edg. This would have seem'd a period
To such as love not sorrow; but another,
To amplify too much, would make much more,
And top extremity. [man,

Whilst I was big in clamour, came there a
Who having seen me in my worst estate,
Shunn'd my abhorr'd society; but then, finding
Who 'twas that so endur'd, with his strong
arms

He fasten'd on my neck, and bellow'd out
As he'd burst heaven; threw him on my fa-
ther;

Told the most piteous tale of Lear and him,
That ever ear receiv'd; which in recounting
His grief grew puissant, and the strings of life
Began to crack: Twice then the trumpet
sounded,

And there I left him tranc'd.

Alb. But who was this?

Edg. Kent, Sir, the banish'd Kent; who in
disguise
Follow'd his enemy king, and did him service
Improper for a slave.

Enter a GENTLEMAN hastily, with a bloody
Knife.

Gent. Help! help! O help!

Edg. What kind of help?

Alb. Speak, man.

Edg. What means that bloody knife?

Gent. 'Tis hot, it smokes;

It came even from the heart of—

Alb. Who, man? speak.

Gent. Your lady, Sir, your lady; and her
By her is poisoned; she confesses it. [sister

Edm. I was contracted to them both; all
Now marry in an instant. [three

Alb. Produce their bodies, be they alive or
dead!—

This judgement of the heavens, that makes us
tremble,

Touches us not with pity. [Exit GENTLEMAN.

Enter KENT.

Edg. Here comes Kent, Sir.

Alb. O! it is he.

The time will not allow the compliment.
Which very manners urges.

Kent. I am come
To bid my king and master aye* good night;
Is he not here?

Alb. Great thing of us forgot!—
Speak, Edmund, where's the king? and where's
Cordelia?—

See'st thou this object, Kent?

[The Bodies of GONERIL and REGAN
are brought in.]

Kent. Alack, why thus?

Edm. Yet Edmund was below'd:
The one the other poison'd for my sake,
And after slew herself.

Alb. Even so—Cover their faces.

Edm. I pant for life:—Some good I mean to
do,

Despite of mine own nature. Quickly send,—
Be brief in it,—to the castle; for my writ
Is on the life of Lear, and on Cordelia:—
Nay, send in time.

Alb. Run, run, O, run—

Edg. To who, my lord?—Who has the of-
fice? send

Thy token of reprieve.

Edm. Well thought on; take my sword,
Give it the captain.

Alb. Haste thee, for thy life. [Exit EDGAR.]

Edm. He hath commission from thy wife
and me

To hang Cordelia in the prison, and
To lay the blame upon her own despair,
That she forbid herself.†

Alb. The gods defend her! Bear him hence
awhile. [EDMUND is borne off.]

Enter LEAR, with CORDELIA Dead in his Arms;
EDGAR, OFFICER, and others.

Lear. Howl, howl, howl!—O, you are
men of stones;

Had I your tongues and eyes, I'd use them so
That heaven's vault should crack:—O, she is
gone for ever!

I know when one is dead, and when one lives;
She's dead as earth:—Lend me a looking-
glass;

If that her breath will mist or stain the stone,
Why, then she lives.

Kent. Is this the promis'd end?‡

Edg. Or image of that horror!

Alb. Fall, and cease!§

Lear. This feather stirs; she lives! if it be
so,

It is a chance that does redeem all sorrows
That ever I have felt.

Kent. O my good master! [Kneeling.]

Lear. Pr'ythee, away.

Edg. 'Tis noble Kent, your friend.

Lear. A plague upon you, murderers, traitors
all! [ever!—

I might have sav'd her; now she's gone for
Cordelia, Cordelia, stay a little. Ha!
What is't thou say'st?—Her voice was ever
soft, [man:—

Gentle, and low; an excellent thing in wo-
I kill'd the slave that was a hanging thee.

Off. 'Tis true, my lords, he did.

Lear. Did I not, fellow? [chion

I have seen the day, with my good biting faul-
I would have made them skip: I am old now,
And these same crosses spoil me.—Who are
you? [straight.]

Mine eyes are none o'the best:—I'll tell you

Kent. If fortune brag of two she lov'd and
One of them we behold. [hated,

Lear. This is a dull sight: Are you not
Kent?

Kent. The same; [Caius?

Your servant Kent: Where is your servant

Lear. He's a good fellow, I can tell you
that; [rotten.

He'll strike, and quickly too:—He's dead and

Kent. No, my good lord; I am the very
man;—

Lear. I'll see that straight.

Kent. That, from your first of difference and
Have follow'd your sad steps. [decay,

Lear. You are welcome hither.

Kent. Nor no man else; all's cheerless, dark,
and deadly.— [selves,

Your eldest daughters have fore-doom'd them-
And desperately are dead.

Lear. Ay, so I think.

Alb. He knows not what he says; and vain
That we present us to him. [it is

Edg. Very bootless.*

Enter an OFFICER.

Off. Edmund is dead, my lord.

Alb. That's but a trifle here.—

You lords, and noble friends, know our intent.

What comfort to this great decay† may come,
Shall be applied: For us, we will resign,

During the life of this old majesty,
To him our absolute power:—You, to your
rights; [To EDGAR and KENT.

With boot,‡ and such addition§ as your honours
Have more than merited.—All friends shall

taste
The wages of their virtue, and all foes
The cup of their deservings.—O, see, see!

Lear. And my poor fool|| is hang'd! No, no,
no life:

Why should a dog, a horse, a rat, have life,
And thou no breath at all? O, thou wilt come
no more,

Never, never, never, never, never!—

Pray you, undo this button: Thank you, Sir.—
Do you see this? Look on her,—look,—her
lips,—

Look there, look there!— [He dies.

Edg. He faints!—My lord, my lord,—

Kent. Break, heart; I pr'ythee, break!

Edg. Look up, my lord.

Kent. Vex not his ghost: O, let him pass!¶
he hates him,

That would upon the rack of this tough world
Stretch him out longer.

Edg. O, he is gone, indeed.

Kent. The wonder is, he hath endur'd so
He but usurp'd his life. [long:

Alb. Bear them from hence.—Our present
business

Is general woe. Friends of my soul, you
twain [To LENT and EDGAR.

Rule in this realm, and the god's state sustain.

Kent. I have a journey, Sir, shortly to go;
My master calls, and I must not stay, no.

Alb. The weight of this sad time we must
obey;

Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say.
The oldest hath borne most: we, that are
young,

Shall never see so much, nor live so long.

[Exit, with a dead March.]

* For ever.

† Destroyed herself.

‡ The end of the world, or the horrible circumstances
preceding it?

§ J. e. Die; Albany speaks to Lear.

* Useless.

† J. e. Lear.

‡ Benefit.

§ Titles.

|| Poor fool, in the time of Shakspeare was an expres-
sion of endearment.

¶ Die.

ROMEO AND JULIET.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

ESCALUS, Prince of Verona.	ABRAM, Servant to Montague.
PARIS, a young Nobleman, Kinsman to the Prince.	AN APOTHECARY.
MONTAGUE, } Heads of two Houses, at vari-	Three MUSICIANS.
CAPULET, } ance with each other.	CHORUS.—BOY, Page to Paris.—PETER, an Officer.
AN OLD MAN, Uncle to Capulet.	
ROMEO, Son to Montague.	LADY MONTAGUE, Wife to Montague.
MERCUTIO, Kinsman to the Prince, and Friend to Romeo.	LADY CAPULET, Wife to Capulet.
BENVOLIO, Nephew to Montague, and Friend to Romeo.	JULIET, Daughter to Capulet.
TYBALT, Nephew to Lady Capulet.	NURSE to Juliet.
FRIAR LAWRENCE, a Franciscan.	Citizens of Verona ; several Men and Women, relations to both Houses ; Maskers, Guards, Watchmen, and Attendants.
FRIAR JOHN, of the same order.	
BALTHAZAR, Servant to Romeo.	
SAMPSON, } Servants to Capulet.	
GREGORY, }	SCENE, during the greater part of the Play, in Verona : once, in the fifth Act, at Mantua.

PROLOGUE.

Two households, both alike in dignity,
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.

From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life ;
Whose misadventur'd piteous overthrows
Do, with their death, bury their parents' strife.

The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,
And the continuance of their parents' rage,
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,

Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage ;
The which if you with patient ears attend
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—A public Place.

Enter SAMPSON and GREGORY, armed with Swords and Bucklers.

Sam. Gregory. o'my word, we'll not carry coals.*

Gre. No, for then we should be colliers.

Sam. I mean, an we be in choler, we'll draw.

Gre. Ay, while you live, draw your neck out of the collar.

Sam. I strike quickly, being moved.

Gre. But thou art not quickly moved to strike.

Sam. A dog of the house of Montague moves me.

Gre. To move, is—to stir; and to be vialant, is—to stand to it ; therefore, if thou art mov'd, thou run'st away.

Sam. A dog of that house shall move me to stand ; I will take the wall of any man or maid of Montague's.

Gre. That shows thee a weak slave ; for the weakest goes to the wall.

Sam. True ; and therefore women, being the weaker vessels, are ever thrust to the wall :—therefore I will push Montague's men from the wall, and thrust his maids to the wall.

Gre. the quarrel is between our masters, and us their men.

Sam. 'Tis all one, I will show myself a tyrant ; when I have fought with the men, I will be cruel with the maids ; I will cut off their heads.

Gre. The heads of the maids ?

Sam. Ay, the heads of the maids, or their maidenheads ; take it in what sense thou wilt.

Gre. They must take it in sense, that feel it.

Sam. Me they shall feel, while I am able to stand : and, 'tis know, I am a pretty piece of flesh.

Gre. 'Tis well, thou art not fish : if thou hadst, thou hadst been poor John.* Draw thy tool ; here comes two of the house of the Montagues.†

* A phrase formerly in use to signify the bearing injuries.

* Poor John is hake, dried and salted.

† The disregard of concord is in character

Enter ABRAM and BELTHASAR.

Sam. My naked weapon is out : quarrel, I will back thee.

Gre. How ? turn thy back, and run ?

Sam. Fear me not.

Gre. No, marry : I fear thee !

Sam. Let us take the law of our sides ; let them begin.

Gre. I will frown, as I pass by ; and let them take it as they list.

Sam. Nay, as they dare. I will bite my thumb at them ; which is a disgrace to them, if they bear it.

Abr. Do you bite your thumb at us, Sir ?

Sam. I do bite my thumb, Sir.

Abr. Do you bite your thumb at us, Sir ?

Sam. Is the law on our side, if I say—ay ?

Gre. No.

Sam. No, Sir, I do not bite my thumb at you, Sir ; but I bite my thumb, Sir.

Gre. Do you quarrel, Sir ?

Abr. Quarrel, Sir ? no, Sir ?

Sam. If you do, Sir, I am for you ; I serve as good a man as you.

Abr. No better.

Sam. Well, Sir.

Enter BENVOLIO, at a Distance.

Gre. Say—better ; here comes one of my master's kinsmen.

Sam. Yes, better, Sir.

Abr. You lie.

Sam. Draw, if you be men.—Gregory, remember thy swashing blow. [They fight.]

Ben. Part, fools ; put up your swords ; you know not what you do.

[Beats down their Swords.]

Enter TYBALT.

Tyb. What, art thou drawn among these heartless hinds ?

Turn thee, Benvolio, look upon thy death.

Ben. I do but keep the peace ; put up thy sword,

Or manage it to part these men with me.

Tyb. What, drawn, and talk of peace ? I hate the word,

As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee :

Have at thee, coward. [They fight.]

Enter several Partizans of both Houses, who join the Fray ; then enter CITIZENS with Clubs.

I Cit. Clubs,* bills, and partizans ! strike ! beat them down ! [tags !]

Down with the Capulets ! down with the Mon-

Enter CAPULET, in his Gown ; and LADY CAPULET.

Cap. What noise is this ?—Give me my long sword, ho ?

La Cap. A crutch, a crutch !—Why call you for a sword ?

Cap. My sword, I say !—Old Montague is And flourishes his blade in spite of me. [come,

Enter MONTAGUE, and LADY MONTAGUE.

Mon. Thou villain, Capulet,—Hold me not, let me go.

La Mon. Thou shalt not stir one foot to seek a foe.

Enter PRINCE, with Attendants.

Prin. Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace, Profaners of this neighbour-stained steel,—

* Clubs ! was the usual exclamation at an affray in the streets, as we now call Watch !

Will they not hear ?—what ho ! you men, you beasts,—

That quench the fire of your pernicious rage With purple fountains issuing from your veins, On pain of torture, from those bloody hands Throw your mistemper'd* weapons to the ground,

And hear the sentence of your moved prince.— Three civil brawls, bred of an airy word, By thee, old Capulet and Montague, Have thrice disturb'd the quiet of our streets ; And made Verona's ancient citizens Cast by their grave beseeeming ornaments, To wield old partizans, in hands as old, Canker'd with peace, to part your canker'd hate : If ever you disturb our streets again, Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace. For this time, all the rest depart away ; You, Capulet, shall go along with me ; And, Montague, come you this afternoon, To know our further pleasure in this case, To old Free-town, our common judgement-place.

Once more, on pain of death, all men depart, [Exeunt PRINCE, and Attendants ; CAPULET LADY CAPULET, TYBALT, CITIZENS, and Servants.]

Mon. Who set this ancient quarrel new abroad ?

Speak, nephew, were you by when it began ?

Ben. Here were the servants of your adversary,

And yours, close fighting ere I did approach : I drew to part them ; in the instant came The fiery Tybalt, with his sword prepar'd ; Which, as he breath'd defiance to my ears, He swung about his head, and cut the winds, Who, nothing hurt withal, hiss'd him in scorn : While we were interchanging thrusts and blows,

[part, Came more and more, and fought on part and Till the prince came, who parted either part.

La. Mon. O, where is Romeo ?—saw you him to-day ?

Right glad I am, he was not at this fray.

Ben. Madam, an hour before the worshipp'd sun,

Peer'd forth the golden window of the east, A troubled mind drave me to walk abroad ; Where,—underneath the grove of sycamore, That westward rooteth from the city's side,— So early walking did I see your son : Towards him I made : but he was 'ware of me, And stole into the covert of the wood : I, measuring his affections by my own,— That most are busied when they are most alone,—

Pursu'd my humour, not pursuing his, And gladly shunn'd who gladly fled from me.

Mon. Many a morning hath he there been seen,

[dew, With tears augmenting the fresh morning's Adding to clouds more clouds with his deep But all so soon as the all-cheering sun [sighs : Should in the furthest east begin to draw The shady curtains from Aurora's bed, Away from light steals home my heavy son, And private in his chamber pens himself ; Shuts up his windows, locks fair daylight out, And makes himself an artificial night : Black and portentous must this humour prove, Unless good counsel may the cause remove.

Ben. My noble uncle, do you know the cause ?

Mon. I neither know it, nor can learn of him.

* Angry.

† Appeared.

Ben. Have you importun'd him by any means?
Mon. Both by myself, and many other friends:
 But he, his own affection's counsellor,
 Is to himself—I will not say, how true—
 But to himself so secret and so close,
 So far from sounding and discovery,
 As is the bud bit with an envious worm,
 Ere he can spread his sweet leaves to the air,
 Or dedicate his beauty to the sun. [grow,
 Could we but learn from whence his sorrows
 We would as willingly give cure, as know.
Enter ROMEO, at a distance.
Ben. See, where he comes: So please you,
 step aside;
 I'll know his grievance, or be much denied.
Mon. I would, thou wert so happy by thy
 stay,
 To hear true shrift,—come, madam, let's away.
[Exeunt MONTAGUE and LADY.
Ben. Good morrow, cousin.
Rom. Is the day so young?
Ben. But new struck nine.
Rom. Ah me! sad hours seem long.
 Was that my father that went hence so fast?
Ben. It was;—What sadness lengthens
 Romeo's hours?
Rom. Not having that, which having, makes
 them short.
Ben. In love?
Rom. Out—
Ben. Of love?
Rom. Out of her favour, where I am in love.
Ben. Alas, that love, so gentle in his view,
 Should be so tyrannous and rough in proof?
Rom. Alas, that love, whose view is muffled
 still,
 Should, without eyes, see pathways to his will!
 Where shall we dine?—O me!—What fray
 was here?
 Yet tell me not, for I have heard it all.
 Here's much to do with hate, but more with
 love:—
 Why, then, O brawling love! O loving hate!
 O any thing, of nothing first create!
 O heavy lightness! serious vanity!
 Mis-shapen chaos of well-seeming forms!
 Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick
 health!
 Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!—
 This love feel I, that feel no love in this.
 Dost thou not laugh?
Ben. No, coz, I rather weep.
Rom. Good heart, at what?
Ben. At thy good heart's oppression.
Rom. Why, such is love's transgression.—
 Grievings of mine own lie heavy in my breast;
 Which thou wilt propagate, to have it press'd
 With more of thine; this love, that thou hast
 shown,
 Doth add more grief to too much of mine own.
 Love is a smoke rais'd with the fume of sighs;
 Being purg'd, a fire sparkling in a lover's eyes;
 Being vex'd, a sea nourish'd with lover's tears:
 What is it else? a madness most discreet,
 A choking gall, and a preserving sweet.
 Farewell, my coz. [Going.
Ben. Soft, I will go along;
 And if you leave me so, you do me wrong.
Rom. Tut, I have lost myself; I am not
 here;
 This is not Romeo, he's some other where.
Ben. Tell me in sadness,* who she is you
 love.

* In seriousness.

Rom. What, shall I groan, and tell thee?
Ben. Groan? why, no;
 But sadly tell me, who.
Rom. Bid a sick man in sadness make his
 will:—
 Ah, word ill urg'd to one that is so ill!—
 In sadness, cousin, I do love a woman.
Ben. I aim'd so near, when I suppos'd you
 lov'd.
Rom. A right good marksman!—And she's
 fair I love.
Ben. A right fair mark, fair coz, is soonest
 hit.
Rom. Well, in that hit, you mis: she'll not
 be hit
 With Cupid's arrow, she hath Dian's wit;
 And, in strong proof of chastity well arm'd,
 From love's weak childish bow she lives un-
 harm'd.
 She will not stay the siege of loving terms,
 Nor bide th' encounter of assailing eyes,
 Nor ope her lap to saint-seducing gold:
 O, she is rich in beauty; only poor, [store.
 That, when she dies, with beauty dies her.
Ben. Then she hath sworn, that she will still
 live chaste?
Rom. She hath, and in that sparing makes
 huge waste;
 For beauty, starv'd with her severity,
 Cuts beauty off from all posterity.
 She is too fair, too wise; wisely too fair,
 To merit bliss by making me despair:
 She hath forsworn to love; and, in that vow,
 Do I live dead, that live to tell it now.
Ben. Be rul'd by me, forget to think of her.
Rom. O, teach me how I should forget to
 think.
Ben. By giving liberty unto thine eyes;
 Examine other beauties.
Rom. 'Tis the way
 To call hers, exquisite, in question more:
 These happy masks, that kiss fair ladies'
 brows,
 Being black, put us in mind they hide the fair;
 He, that is stricken blind, cannot forget
 The precious treasure of his eyesight lost:
 Show me a mistress that is passing fair,
 What doth her beauty serve,* but as a note
 Where I may read, who pass'd that passing
 fair?
 Farewell; thou canst not teach me to forget.
Ben. I'll pay that doctrine, or else die in
 debt. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—A Street.
Enter CAPULET, PARIS, and SERVANT.
Cap. And Montague is bound as well as I,
 In penalty alike: and 'tis not hard, I think,
 For men so old as we to keep the peace.
Par. Of honourable reckoning† are you both;
 And pity 'tis, you liv'd at odds so long.
 But now, my lord, what say you to my suit?
Cap. But saying o'er what I have said be-
 fore:
 My child is yet a stranger in the world,
 She hath not seen the change of fourteen years;
 Let two more summers wither in their pride,
 Ere we may think her ripe to be a bride.
Par. Younger than she are happy mothers
 made.
Cap. And too soon marr'd are those so early
 made.
 The earth hath swallow'd all my hopes but she,
 She is the hopeful lady of my earth:

* I. e. What end does it answer?

† Account, estimation.

But woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart,
My will to her consent is but a part;
An she agree, within her scope of choice
Lies my consent and fair according voice.
This night I hold an old accustom'd feast,
Whereto I have invited many a guest,
Such as I love; and you, among the store,
One more, most welcome, makes my number
more.

At my poor house, look to behold this night
Earth-treading stars, that make dark heaven
light:

Such comfort, as do lusty young men feel
When well-apparell'd April on the heel
Of limping winter treads, even such delight
Among fresh female buds shall you this night
Inherit* at my house: hear all, all see,
And like her most, whose merit most shall be:
Such, amongst view of many, mine, being one,
May stand in number, though in reckoning
none.

Come, go with me;—Go, Sirrah, trudge about
Through fair Verona: find those persons out,
Whose names are written there, [*Gives a Paper.*]
and to them say,
My house and welcome on their pleasure stay.

[*Exeunt CAPULET and PARIS.*]
Serv. Find them out, whose names are written
here? It is written—that the shoemaker
should meddle with his yard, and the tailor
with his last, the fisher with his pencil,
and the painter with his nets: but I am sent to
find those persons, whose names are here writ,
and can never find what names the writing
person hath here writ. I must to the learned:
—In good time.

Enter BENVOLIO and ROMEO.

Ben. Tut, man! one fire burns out another's
burning,
One pain is lessen'd by another's anguish;
Turn giddy, and be help by backward turning;
One desperate grief cures with another's
languish:

Take thou some new infection to thy eye,
And the rank poison of th' old will die.

Rom. Your plantain leaf is excellent for
that.

Ben. For what, I pray thee?

Rom. For your broken shin.

Ben. Why, Romeo, art thou mad?

Rom. Not mad, but bound more than a mad-
man is:

Shut up in prison, kept without my food,
Whipp'd, and tormented, and—Good-e'en,
good fellow

Serv. God gi' good e'en.—I pray, Sir, can
you read?

Rom. Ay, mine own fortune in my misery.

Serv. Perhaps you have learn'd it without
book:

But I pray, can you read any thing you see?

Rom. Ay, if I know the letters, and the lan-
guage.

Serv. Ye say honestly; Rest you merry!

Rom. Stay, fellow; I can read. [*Reads*]

*Signior Martino, and his wife, and daughters;
County Anselme, and his beauteous sisters; The
lady widow of Vitruvio; Signior Placentio, and
his lovely nieces; Mercutio, and his brother Val-
entine; Mine uncle Capulet, his wife, and daugh-
ters; My fair niece Rosaline; Livia; Signior*

*Valentio, and his cousin Tybalt; Lucio, and the
lively Helena.*

A fair assembly; [*Gives back the Note.*]

Whither should they come?

Serv. Up.

Rom. Whither?

Serv. To supper; to our house.

Rom. Whose house?

Serv. My master's.

Rom. Indeed, I should have asked you that
before.

Serv. Now I'll tell you without asking: My
master is the great rich Capulet; and if you be
not of the house of Montagues, I pray, come
and crush a cup of wine.* Rest you merry!

[*Exit.*]

Ben. At this same ancient feast of Capulet's
Supps the fair Rosaline, whom thou so lov'st;
With all the admired beauties of Verona:

Go thither; and, with unattainted eye,
Compare her face with some that I shall show,
And I will make thee think thy swan a crow.

Rom. When the devout religion of mine eye
Maintains such falsehood, then turn tears to
fires!

And these,—who, often drown'd, could never
Transparent heretics, be burnt for liars!

One fairer than my love! th' all-seeing sun
Ne'er saw her match, since first the world be-
gun.

Ben. Tut! you saw her fair, none else be-
ing by,

Herself pois'd with herself in either eye:
But in those crystal scales, let there be
weigh'd

Your lady's love against some other maid
That I will show you, shining at this feast,
And she shall scant show well, that now
shows best.

Rom. I'll go along, no such sight to be
shown,

But to rejoice in splendour of mine own.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—A Room in CAPULET'S House.

Enter Lady CAPULET and NURSE.

La. Cap. Nurse, where's my daughter? call
her forth to me.

Nurse. Now, by my maidenhead,—at twelve
year old,— [bird!]

I bade her come.—What, lamb! what, lady-
God forbid!—where's this girl?—what, Juliet!

Enter JULIET.

Jul. How now, who calls?

Nurse. Your mother.

Jul. Madam, I am here,

What is your will?

La. Cap. This is the matter:—Nurse, give
leave awhile, [again;

We must talk in secret.—Nurse, come back
I have remember'd me, thou shalt hear our
counsel.

Thou know'st, my daughter's of a pretty age.
Nurse. 'Faith, I can tell her age unto an
hour.

La. Cap. She's not fourteen.

Nurse. I'll lay fourteen of my teeth,
And yet, to my teen[§] be it spoken, I have but
four,—

She's not fourteen: How long is it now
To Lammastide?

* To inherit, in the language of Shakspeare is to pos-
sess.

† Estimation.

* We still say in cant language—to crack a bottle.

† Weighed. ‡ Scarce, hardly. § To my sorrow.

La. Cap. A fortnight, and odd days.

Nurse. Even or odd, of all days in the year, Come Lammas-eve at night, shall she be fourteen.

Susan and she,—God rest all Christian souls!— Were of an age.—Well, Susan is with God; She was too good for me; But, as I said, On Lammas-eve at night shall she be fourteen; That shall she, marry; I remember it well. 'Tis since the earthquake now eleven years; And she was wean'd, I never shall forget it,—

Of all the days of the year, upon that day: For I had then laid wormwood to my dug, Sitting in the sun under the dove-house wall, My lord and you were then at Mantua:— Nay, I do bear a brain;*—but, as I said, When it did taste the wormwood on the nipple Of my dug, and felt it bitter, pretty fool! To see it techy, and fall out with the dug. Shake, quoth the dove-house: 'twas no need,

I trow,

To bid me trudge.

And since that time it is eleven years:

For then she could stand alone; nay, by the rood,†

She could have run and waddled all about. For even the day before, she broke her brow: And then my husband—God be with his soul! 'A was a merry man;—took up the child:

Yea, quoth he, dost thou fall upon thy face? Thou wilt fall backward, when thou hast more wit;

Will thou not, Jule? and by my holy-dam,‡ The pretty wretch left crying, and said—*Ay*: To see now, how a jest shall come about!

I warrant, an I should live a thousand years, I never shall forget it; Will thou not, Jule? quoth he:

And, pretty fool, it stinted,§ and said—*Ay*.

La. Cap. Enough of this: I pray thee, hold thy peace.

Nurse. Yes, madam; Yet I cannot choose but laugh,

To think it should leave crying, and say—*Ay*:

And yet, I warrant, it had upon its brow

A bump as big as a young cockrel's stone;

A parlous knock; and it cried bitterly.

Yea, quoth my husband, fall'st upon thy face? Thou wilt fall backward, when thou com'st to age;

Will thou not, Jule? it stinted, and said—*Ay*.

Jul. And stint thou too, I pray thee, nurse, say I.

Nurse. Peace, I have done. God mark thee to his grace!||

Thou wast the prettiest babe that e'er I nurs'd: An I might live to see thee married once, I have my wish.

La. Cap. Marry, that marry is the very theme

I came to talk of:—Tell me, daughter Juliet, How stands your disposition to be married?

Jul. It is an honour that I dream not of.

Nurse. An honour! were not I thine only nurse, [teat.

I'd say, thou hadst suck'd wisdom from thy *La. Cap.* Well, think of marriage now;

younger than you,

Here in Verona, ladies of esteem,

Are made already mothers: by my count,

I was your mother much upon these years

That you are now a maid. Thus then, in brief;—

The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.

Nurse. A man, young lady! lady, such a man,

As all the world—Why, he's a man of wax,*

La. Cap. Verona's summer hath not such a flower.

Nurse. Nay, he's a flower; in faith, a very flower.

La. Cap. What say you? can you love the gentleman?

This night you shall behold him at our feast: Read o'er the volume of young Paris' face,

And find delight writ there with beauty's pen; Examine every married lineament,

And see how one another lends content; And what obscur'd in this fair volume lies,

Find written in the margin of his eyes.† This precious book of love, this unbound lover,

To beautify him, only lacks a cover; The fish lives in the sea; and 'tis much pride,

For fair without the fair within to hide: That book in many's eyes doth share the glory,

That in gold clasps locks in the golden story; So shall you share all that he doth possess,

By having him, making yourself no less.

Nurse. No less? nay, bigger; women grow by men.

La. Cap. Speak briefly, can you like of Paris' love?

Jul. I'll look to like, if looking liking move: But no more deep will I endart mine eye,

Than your consent gives strength to make it fly.

Enter a SERVANT.

Serv. Madam, the guests are come, supper served up, you called, my young lady asked for, the nurse cursed in the pantry, and every thing in extremity. I must hence to wait; I beseech you, follow straight.

La. Cap. We follow thee.—Juliet, the county stays.

Nurse. Go, girl, seek happy nights to happy days.]*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—A Street.

Enter ROMEO, MERCUTIO, BENVOLIO, with five or six Maskers, Torch-bearers, and others.

Rom. What, shall this speech be spoke for our excuse?

Or shall we on without apology?

Ben. The date is out of such prolixity;§ We'll have no Cupid hood-wink'd with a scarf, Bearing a Tartar's painted bow of lath,

Searing the ladies like a crow-keeper;|| Nor no without book prologue, faintly spoke After the prompter, for our entrance;

But, let them measure us by what they will, We'll measure them a measure,¶ and be gone.

Rom. Give me a torch,**—I am not for this ambling;

Being but heavy, I will bear the light.

Mer. Nay, gentle Romeo, we must have you dance.

Rom. Not I, believe me: you have dancing shoes,

With nimble soles: I have a soul of lead, So stakes me to the ground, I cannot move.

* Well made, as if he had been modelled in wax.

† The comments on ancient books were always printed in the margin.

‡ I. e. Is not yet caught, whose skin was wanted to bind him.

§ I. e. Long speeches are out of fashion.

|| A scare-crow, a figure made up to frighten crows.

¶ A dance.

** A torch-bearer was a constant appendage to every troop of maskers.

* I. e. I have a perfect remembrance of recollection.

† The cross. ‡ Holy dame, i. e. the blessed virgin.

§ It stopped crying. || Favour.

Mer. You are a lover; borrow Cupid's wings,
And soar with them above a common bound.
Rom. I am too sore pierc'd with his shaft,
To soar with his light feathers; and so bound,
I cannot bound a pitch above dull woe:
Under love's heavy burden do I sink.

Mer. And, to sink in it, should you burden love;

Too great oppression for a tender thing.

Rom. Is love a tender thing? It is too rough,
Too rude, too boist'rous; and it pricks like thorn.

Mer. If love be rough with you, be rough with love;

Prick love for pricking, and you beat love
Give me a case to put my visage in:

[*Putting on a Mask.*
A visor for a visor!—what care I,
What curious eye doth quote* deformities?
Here are the beetle-brows, shall blush for me.

Ben. Come, knock, and enter; and no sooner
But every man betake him to his legs.

Rom. A torch for me: let wantons, light of heart,
Tickle the senseless ruses† with their heels;

For I am proverb'd with a grandsire phrase,—
I'll be a candle-holder, and look on,—
The game was ne'er so fair, and I am done.†

Mer. Tut! dun's the mouse, the constable's own word:

If thou art dun, we'll draw thee from the mire
Of this (save reverence) love, wherein thou stick'st.

Up to the ears.—Come, we burn day-light, ho.

Rom. Nay, that's not so.

Mer. I mean, Sir, in delay
We waste our lights in vain, like lamps by day.
Take our good meaning; for our judgement sits
Five times in that, ere once in our five wits.

Rom. And we mean well, in going to this
But 'tis no wit to go.

Mer. Why, may one ask?
Rom. I dreamt a dream to-night.

Mer. And so did I.
Rom. Well, what was yours?

Mer. That dreamers often lie.
Rom. In bed, asleep, while they do dream things true.

Mer. O, then, I see, queen Mab hath been with you.

She is the fairies' midwife; and she comes
In shape no bigger than an agate-stone
On the fore-finger of an alderman,
Drawn with a team of little atomies‡
Athwart men's noses as they lie asleep:
Her waggon-spokes made of long spinners' legs;

The cover, of the wings of grasshoppers;
The traces, of the smallest spider's web;
The collars, of the moonshine's wat'ry beams:
Her whip, of cricket's bone; the lash of film:
Her waggoner, a small grey-coated gnat,
Not half so big as a round little worm
Prick'd from the lazy finger of a maid:
Her chariot is an empty hazel-nut,
Made by the joiner squirrel, or old grub,
Time out of mind the fairies' coach-makers,
And in this state she gallops night by night
Through lovers' brains, and then they dream
of love:

On courtiers' knees, that dream on court'sies

O'er lawyers' fingers, who straight dream on fees:

O'er ladies' lips, who straight on kisses dream;
Which oft the angry Mab with blisters plagues,
Because their breaths with sweetmeats tainted are,
Sometimes she gallops o'er a courtier's nose,
And then dreams he of smelling out a suit:
And sometimes comes she with a tithe-pig's tail,
Tickling a parson's nose as 'a lies asleep,
Then dreams he of another benefice:
Sometimes she driveth o'er a soldier's neck,
And then dreams he of cutting foreign throats,
Of breaches, ambuscadoes, Spanish blades,
Of healths five fathom deep; and then anon
Drums in his ear; at which he starts, and wakes;
And, being thus frighted, swears a prayer or
And sleeps again. This is that very Mab,
That plats the manes of horses in the night;
And bakes the elf-locks† in foul sluggish hairs,
Which, once untangled, much misfortune
bodies.
This is the hag, when maids lie on their backs,
That presses them, and learns them first to bear,
Making them women of good carriage.
This, this is she—
Rom. Peace, peace, Mercutio, peace;
Thou talk'st of nothing.
Mer. True, I talk of dreams;
Which are the children of an idle brain,
Begot of nothing but vain fantasy;
Which is as thin of substance as the air;
And more inconstant than the wind, who woos
Even now the frozen bosom of the north,
And, being anger'd, puffs away from thence,
Turning his face to the dew-dropping south.

Ben. This wind, you talk of, blows us from ourselves;
Supper is done, and we shall come too late.
Rom. I fear, too early: for my mind misgives,
Some consequence, yet hanging in the stars,
Shall bitterly begin his fearful date
With this night's revels; and expire the term
Of a despised life, clos'd in my breast,
By some vile forfeit of untimely death:
But He, that hath the steerage of my course,
Direct my sail!—On, lusty gentlemen.

Ben. Strike, drum. [Exit.

SCENE V.—A Hall in CAPULET'S House.
Musicians waiting. Enter SERVANTS.

1. *Serv.* Where's Potpan, that he helps not to take away? he shift a trencher! he scrape a trencher!

2. *Serv.* When good manners shall lie all in one or two men's hands, and they unwashed too, 'tis a foul thing.

1. *Serv.* Away with the joint-stools, remove the court-cupboard,† look to the plate:—Good thou, save me a piece of marchpane;‡ and, as thou lovest me, let the porter let in Susan Grindstone, and Nell.—Antonio! and Potpan!

2. *Serv.* Ay, boy; ready.

1. *Serv.* You are looked for, and called for, asked for, and sought for, in the great chamber.

2. *Serv.* We cannot be here and there too.—Cheerly, boys; be brisk a while, and the longer liver take all. [They retire behind.

* Observe.

† It was anciently the custom to strew rooms with rushes.

‡ This is equivalent to phrases in common use.—I am done for, it is over with me.

§ Atoms.

* A place in court.

† I. e. Fairy locks, locks of hair clotted and tangled in the night.

‡ A cupboard set in a corner like a beaufet on which the plate was placed.

§ Almond-cake.

Enter CAPULET. &c. with the Guests and the Maskers.

Cap. Gentlemen, welcome! ladies, that have their toes [you:—
Unplagu'd with corns, will have a bout with
Ah ha, my mistresses! which of you all
Will now deny to dance? she that makes
dainty, she, [now?
I'll swear, bath corns; Am I come near you
You are welcome, gentlemen! I have seen the
day,

That I have worn a visor; and could tell
A whispering tale in a fair lady's ear,
Such as would please:—'tis gone, 'tis gone,
'tis gone:

You are welcome, gentlemen!—Come, musicians, play.
A hall! a hall!* give room, and foot it, girls.

[Music plays, and they dance.
More light, ye knaves; and turn the tables up,
And quench the fire, the room is grown too
hot.—

Ah, Sirrah, this unlook'd-for sport comes well.
Nay, sit, nay, sit, good cousin Capulet;
For you and I are past our dancing days:
How long is't now, since last yourself and I
Were in a mask?

2 Cap. By'r lady, thirty years.

1 Cap. What, man! 'tis not so much; 'tis
not so much:

'Tis since the nuptial of Lucentio,
Come pentecost as quickly as it will,
Some five and twenty years; and then we
mask'd.

2 Cap. 'Tis more, 'tis more: his son is elder,
His son is thirty: [Sir:

1 Cap. Will you tell me that?
His son was but a ward two years ago.

Rom. What lady's that, which doth enrich
the hand
Of yonder knight?

Serv. I know not, Sir.

Rom. O, she doth teach the torches to burn
bright!

Her beauty hangs upon the cheek of night
Like a rich jewel in an Ethiop's† ear:
Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!
So shows a snowy dove trooping with crows,
As yonder lady o'er her fellows shows,
The measure† done, I'll watch her place of
stand, [hand.

And, touching hers, make happy my rude
Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight!
For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

Tyb. This, by his voice, should be a Montague:— [slave

Fetch me my rapier, boy:—What! dares the
Come hither, cover'd with an antic face,
To sfer and scorn at our solemnity?
Now, by the stock and honour of my kin,
To strike him dead I hold it not a sin.

1 Cap. Why, how now kinsman? wherefore
storm you so?

Tyb. Uncle, this is a Montague, our foe;
A villain, that is hither come in spite,
To scorn at our solemnity this night.

1 Cap. Young Romeo is't?

Tyb. 'Tis he, that villain Romeo.

1 Cap. Content thee, gentle coz, let him
He bears him like a portly gentleman; [alone,
And, to say truth, Verona brags of him,
To be a virtuous and well-govern'd youth:
I would not for the wealth of all this town,
Here in my house, do him disparagement:

Therefore be patient, take no note of him,
It is my will; the which if thou respect,
Show a fair presence, and put off these frowns,
And ill-beseeming semblance for a feast.

Tyb. It fits, when such a villain is a guest;
I'll not endure him.

1 Cap. He shall be endur'd: [to:—
What, Goodman boy!—I say, he shall:—Go
Am I the master here, or you? go to. [soul—
You'll not endure him!—God shall mend my
You'll make a mutiny among my guests!
You will set cock-a-hoop! you'll be the man!

Tyb. Why, uncle, 'tis a shame.

1 Cap. Go to, go to.
You are saucy boy:—Is't so, indeed?—
This trick may chance to scath* you;—I know
what.

You must contrary me! marry, 'tis time—
Well said, my hearts:—You are a princel;†
go:— [shame!—

Be quiet, or—More light, more light, for
I'll make you quiet; What!—Cheerly, my
hearts.

Tyb. Patience perforce with wilful choler
meeting, [ing.
Makes my flesh tremble in their different greet
I will withdraw; but this intrusion shall,
Now seeming sweet, convert to bitter gall.

[Exit.

Rom. If I profane with my unworthy hand
[To JULIET.

This holy shrine, the gentle fine is this,—
My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand
To smooth that rough touch with a tender
kiss.

Jul. Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand
too much,

Which mannerly devotion shows in this;
For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do
touch,

And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss.

Rom. Have not saints lips, and holy palmers
too?

Jul. Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in
prayer.

Rom. O then, dear saint, let lips do what
hands do;

They pray, grant thou, lest faith turn to
despair.

Jul. Saints do not move, though grant for
prayers' sake.

Rom. Then move not, while my prayer's ef-
fect I take.

Thus from my lips, by yours, my sin is purg'd,
[Kissing her.

Jul. Then have my lips the sin that they have
took.

Rom. Sin from my lips? O trespass sweetly
Give me my sin again. [urg'd!

Jul. You kiss by the book.

Nurse. Madam, your mother craves a word
with you.

Rom. What is her mother?

Nurse. Marry, bachelor,
Her mother is the lady of the house,
And a good lady, and a wise, and virtuous:
I nurs'd her daughter, that you talk'd withal;
I tell you,—he, that can lay hold of her,
Shall have the chinks.

Rom. Is she a Capulet?

O dear account! my life is my foe's debt.

Ben. Away, begone; the sport is at the best.

Rom. Ay, so I fear; the more is my unrest.

1 Cap. Nay, gentlemen, prepare not to be
gone;

*I. e. Make room,

† An Ethiopian, a black.

‡ The dance.

* Do you an injury.

† A cockcomb.

We have a trifling foolish banquet* towards.—
Is it e'en so? Why, then I thank you all;
I thank you, honest gentlemen; good night!—
More torches here!—Come on, then let's to
bed. [late;
Ah, Sirrah, [To 2 CAP.] by my fay,† it waxes
I'll to my rest.

[*Excunt all but JULIET and NURSE.*]

Jul. Come hither, nurse: What is yon gentleman?

Nurse. The son and heir of old Tiberio.

Jul. What's he, that now is going out of door?

Nurse. Marry, that, I think, be young Petruchio.

Jul. What's he that follows there, that would not dance?

Nurse. I know not.

Jul. Go, ask his name:—if he be married, My grave is like to be my wedding bed.

Nurse. His name is Romeo, and a Montague. The only son of your great enemy. [gue;

Jul. My only love sprung from my only hate!

Too early seen unknown, and known too late!
Prodigious birth of love it is to me,
That I must love a loathed enemy.

Nurse. What's this? what's this?

Jul. A rhyme I learn'd even now
Of one I danc'd withal.

[*One calls within, JULIET!*]

Nurse. Anon, anon:—

Come, let's away; the strangers are all gone.
[*Excunt.*]

Enter CHORUS.

Now old desire doth in his death-bed lie,
And young affection gapes to be his heir;
That fair, which love groan'd for, and would die,

With tender Juliet match'd, is now not fair.
Now Romeo is belov'd, and loves again,
Alike bewitched by the charm of looks;
But to his foe suppos'd he must complain,
And she steal love's sweet bait from fearful hooks:

Being held a foe, he may not have access
To breathe such vows as lovers use to swear;
And she as much in love, her means much
To meet her new-beloved any where: [less
But passion lends them power, time means to meet,

Temp'ring extremities with extreme sweet.
[*Exit.*]

ACT II.

SCENE I.—*An open Place, adjoining
CAPULET'S Garden.*

Enter ROMEO.

Rom. Can I go forward, when my heart is here?

Turn back, dull earth,† and find thy centre out
[*He climbs the Wall, and leaps down within it.*]

Enter BENVOLIO, and MERCURIO.

Ben. Romeo! my cousin Romeo!

Mer. He is wise;

And, on my life, hath stolen him home to bed.

Ben. He ran this way, and leap'd this orchard wall:

Call, good Mercutio.

Mer. Nay, I'll conjure too.—

Romeo! humours! madman! passion! lover!
Appear thou in the likeness of a sigh,

Speak but one rhyme, and I am satisfied;
Cry but—Ah me! couple but—*love and dove*;
Speak to my gossip Venus one fair word,
One nick-name for her purblind son and heir,
Young Adam Cupid, he that shot so trim,
When king Cophetua lov'd the beggar-maid.*—

He heareth not, stirreth not, he moveth not;
The apt is dead, and I must conjure him.—
I conjure thee by Rosaline's bright eyes,
By her high forehead, and her scarlet lip,
By her fine foot, straight leg, and quivering thigh,

And the demesnes that there adjacent lie,
That in thy likeness thou appear to us.

Ben. An if he hear thee, thou wilt anger him.

Mer. This cannot anger him; 'twould anger
To raise a spirit in his mistress' circle [him
Of some strange nature, letting it there stand
Till she had laid it, and conjur'd it down;
That were some spite: my invocation
Is fair and honest, and, in his mistress' name,
I conjure only but to raise up him.

Ben. Come, he hath hid himself among those trees,

To be consorted with the humourous‡ night:
Blind in his love, and best befits the dark.

Mer. If love be blind, love cannot hit the
Now will he sit under a medlar tree. [mark.
And wish his mistress were that kind of fruit,
As maids call medlars, when they laugh alone.—

Romeo, good night;—I'll to my truckle-bed;
This field-bed is too cold for me to sleep:
Come, shall we go?

Ben. Go, then; for 'tis in vain
To seek him here, that means not to be found.
[*Excunt.*]

SCENE II.—CAPULET'S Garden.

Enter ROMEO.

Rom. He jests at scars, that never felt a wound.—

[*JULIET appears above, at a Window.*
But soft! what light through yonder window breaks!

It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!—
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,
Who is already sick and pale with grief,
That thou her maid art more fair than she:
Be not her maid,§ since she is envious;
Her vestal livery is but sick and green,
And none but fools do wear it; cast it off.—

It is my lady; O, it is my love:
O, that she knew she were!— [that?

She speaks, yet she says nothing; What of
Her eye discourses, I will answer it.—

I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks:
Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,

Having some business, do entreat her eyes
To twinkle in their spheres till they return.

What if her eyes were there, they in her head
The brightness of her cheek would shame those
stars.

As daylight doth a lamp; her eye in heaven
Would through the airy region stream so bright,
That birds would sing, and think it were not
night.

See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!
O, that I were a glove upon that hand,
That I might touch that cheek!

* Alluding to the old ballad of the King and the Beggar.

† This phrase in Shakspeare's time was used as an expression of tenderness.

‡ Humid, moist.

§ A votary to the moon, to Diana.

* A collation of fruit, wine, &c.

† Faith.

‡ I. e. Himselſf.

Jul. Ah me!

Rom. She speaks:—

O, speak again, bright angel! for thou art
As glorious to this night, being o'er my head,
As is a winged messenger of heaven
Unto the white-upturned wond'ring eyes
Of mortals, that fall back to gaze on him,
When he bestrides the lazy-pacing clouds,
And sails upon the bosom of the air.

Jul. O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou
Romeo!

Deny thy father, and refuse thy name:
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

Rom. Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at
this? [*Aside.*]

Jul. 'Tis but thy name, that is my enemy;—
Thou art thyself though, not a Montague.
What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot.
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!
What's in a name? that which we call a rose,
By any other name would smell as sweet;
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,
Retain that dear perfection which he owes,*
Without that title:—Romeo, doff thy name;
And for that name, which is no part of thee,
Take all myself.

Rom. I take thee at thy word:
Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized;
Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

Jul. What man art thou, that, thus bescreen'd
in night,

So stumblest on my counsel?

Rom. By a name
I know not how to tell thee who I am:
My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself,
Because it is an enemy to thee;
Had I it written, I would tear the word.

Jul. My ears have not yet drunk a hundred
words [*sound;*]
Of that tongue's utterance, yet I know the
Art thou not Romeo, and a Montague?

Rom. Neither, fair saint, if either thee dis-
like.

Jul. How cam'st thou hither, tell me? and
wherefore?

The orchard walls are high, and hard to climb;
And the place death, considering who thou art,
If any of my kinsmen find thee here,

Rom. With love's light wings did I o'er-
perch these walls;

For stony limits cannot hold love out;
And what love can do, that dares love attempt,
Therefore thy kinsmen are no let to me.

Jul. If they do see thee, they will murder
thee.

Rom. Alack! there lies more peril in thine
eye, [*sweet,*]
Than twenty of their swords; look thou but
And I am proof against their enmity.

Jul. I would not for the world, they saw thee
here.

Rom. I have night's cloak to hide me from
their sight;

And, but thou love me, § let them find me here:
My life were better ended by their hate,
Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love.

Jul. By whose directions found'st thou out
this place?

Rom. By love, who first did prompt me to in-
quire;

He lent me counsel, and I lent him eyes.
I am no pilot; yet wert thou as far

As that vast shore wash'd with the furthest sea,
I would adventure for such merchandise.

Jul. Thou know'st, the mask of night is on
my face;

Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek,
For that which thou hast heard me speak to-
night.

Fain would I dwell on form, fain, fain deny
What I have spoke; But farewell compliment!
Dost thou love me? I know, thou wilt say—
Ay;

And I will take thy word; yet, if thou swear'st,
Thou may'st prove false; at lovers' perjuries,
They say, Jove laughs. O, gentle Romeo,
If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully:
Or if thou think'st I am too quickly won,
I'll frown, and be perverse, and say thee nay,
So thou wilt woo; but, else, not for the world.
In truth, fair Montague, I am too fond;
And therefore thou may'st think my haviour*
light:

But trust me, gentleman, I'll prove more true
Than those that have more cunning to be
strange. † [*fess,*]

I should have been more strange, I must con-
but that thou over-heard'st, ere I was ware,
My true love's passion: therefore pardon me;
And not impute this yielding to light love,
Which the dark night hath so discovered.

Rom. Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swear,
That tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops.—

Jul. O, swear not by the moon, the incon-
stant moon,

That monthly changes in her circled orb,
Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.

Rom. What shall I swear by?

Jul. Do not swear at all;
Or, if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self,
Which is the god of my idolatry,
And I'll believe thee.

Rom. If my heart's dear love—

Jul. Well, do not swear: although I joy in
I have no joy of this contract to night: † thec,
It is too rash, too unadvis'd, too sudden;
Too like the lightning, which doth cease to be,
Ere one can say—It lightens. Sweet, good
night!

This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,
May prove a beauteous flower when next we
meet.

Good night, good night! as sweet repose and
rest

Come to thy heart, as that within my breast!

Rom. O, Wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied!

Jul. What satisfaction canst thou have to-
night?

Rom. The exchange of thy love's faithful vow
for mine.

Jul. I gave thee mine before thou didst re-
quest it:

And yet I would it were to give again.

Rom. Wouldst thou withdraw it? for what
purpose, love?

Jul. But to be frank, ‡ and give it thee again.
And yet I wish but for the thing I have:

My bounty is as boundless as the sea,
My love as deep; the more I give to thee,
The more I have, for both are infinite,

[*Nurse calls within.*]
I hear some noise within; Dear love, adieu!

Anon, good nurse!—Sweet Montague, be true.
Stay but a little. I will come again. [*Exit.*]

Rom. O blessed, blessed night! I am afeard,
Being in night, all this is but a dream,
Too flattering sweet to be substantial.

* Owns, possesses.

† Hindrance.

‡ Do off.

§ Unless thou love me.

* Behaviour.

† Shy.

‡ Freq.

Re-enter JULIET, above.

Jul. Three words, dear Romeo, and good night, indeed.

If that thy bent* of love be honourable, [row. Thy purpose marriage, send me word to-mor- By one that I'll procure to come to thee, Where, and what time, thou wilt perform the And all my fortunes at thy foot I'll lay, [rite; And follow thee, my lord, throughout the world:

Nurse. [Within.] Madam.

Jul. I come, anon:—But if thou mean'st not I do beseech thee,— [well,

Nurse. [Within.] Madam.

Jul. By and by, I come:—

To cease thy suit, and leave me to my grief:

To-morrow will I send.

Rom. So thrive my soul,—

Jul. A thousand times good night! [Exit.

Rom. A thousand times the worse to want thy light.—

Love goes toward love, his schoolboys from their books;

But love from love, toward school with heavy looks. [Retiring slowly.

Re-enter JULIET, above.

Jul. Hist! Romeo, hist!—O, for a falconer's voice,

To lure this tassel-gentlet back again!

Bondage is hoarse, and may not speak aloud;

Else would I tear the cave where Echo lies,

And make her airy tongue more hoarse than mine

With repetition of my Romeo's name.

Rom. It is my soul, that calls upon my name: [night,

How silver-sweet sound lovers' tongues by Like softest music to attending ears!

Jul. Romeo!

Rom. My sweet!

Jul. At what o'clock to-morrow

Shall I send to thee?

Rom. At the hour of nine.

Jul. I will not fail; 'tis twenty years till then.

I have forgot why I did call thee back.

Rom. Let me stand here till thou remember it.

Jul. I shall forget, to have thee still stand there,

Rememb'ring how I love thy company.

Rom. And I'll still stay, to have thee still Forgetting any other home but this. [forget,

Jul. 'Tis almost morning, I would have thee gone:

And yet no further than a wanton's bird;

Who lets it hop a little from her hand, Like a poor prisoner in his twisted gyves,†

And with a silk thread plucks it back again, So loving-jealous of his liberty.

Rom. I would, I were thy bird.

Jul. Sweet, so would I:

Yet I should kill thee with much cherishing. Good night, good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow,

That I shall say—good night, till it be morrow. [Exit.

Rom. Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in thy breast! [rest!

'Would I were sleep and peace, so sweet to Hence will I to my ghostly father's cell;

His help to crave, and my dear hap‡ to tell. [Exit.

SCENE III.—*Friar LAURENCE's Cell.*

Enter Friar LAURENCE, with a Basket.

Fri. The grey-ey'd morn smiles on the frowning night, [light; Checkering the eastern clouds with streaks of And flecked* darkness like a drunkard reels From forth day's path-way, made by Titan's‡ wheels:

Now ere the sun advance his burning eye, The day to cheer, and night's dank dew to dry,

I must fill up this osier cage of ours, [flowers. With baleful weeds, and precious-juiced

The earth, that's nature's mother, is her tomb; What is her burying grave, that is her womb:

And from her womb children of divers kind We sucking on her natural bosom find:

Many for many virtues excellent, None but for some, and yet all different.

O, nickle is the powerful grace,‡ that lies In herbs, plants, stones, and their true quali-

ties: For nought so vile that on the earth doth live,

But to the earth some special good doth give; Nor aught so good, but strain'd from that fair use,

Revolts from true birth, stumbling on abuse; Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied;

And vice sometime's by action dignified. Within the infant rind of this small flower

Poison hath residence, and med'cine power: For this, being smelt, with that part cheers

each part; Being tasted slays all senses with the heart.

Two such opposed foes encamp them still In man as well as herbs, grace, and rude will;

And, where the worser is predominant, Full soon the canker death eats up that plant.

Enter ROMEO.

Rom. Good morrow, father!

Fri. B. medicite!

What early tongue so sweet saluteth me?— Young son, it argues a distemper'd head,

So soon to bid good morrow to thy bed: Care keeps his watch in every old man's eye,

And where care lodges, sleep will never lie; But where unbruised youth with unstuff'd

brain [reign: Doth couch her limbs, there golden sleep doth

Therefore thy earliness doth me assure, Thou art up-rous'd by some distemp'ration;

Or, if not so, then here I hit it right— Our Romeo hath not been in bed to-night.

Rom. That last is true, the sweeter rest was mine.

Fri. God pardon sin! wast thou with Rosaline?

Rom. With Rosaline, my ghostly father? no; I have forgot that name, and that name's woe.

Fri. That's my good son: But where hast thou been then?

Rom. I'll tell thee, ere thou ask it me again. I have been feasting with mine enemy:

Where, on a sudden, one hath wounded me, That's by me wounded; both our remedies

Within thy help and holy physic lies: I bear no hatred, blessed man; for, lo,

My intercession likewise steads my foe.

Fri. Be plain, good son, and homely in thy drift;

Riddling confession finds but riddling shrift.

Rom. Then plainly know, my heart's dear love is set

On the fair daughter of rich Capulet:

* Inclination.

† The male of the goshawk.

‡ Fetters.

§ Chance, fortune.

* Spotted, streaked.

† The sun.

‡ Virtue.

As mine on hers, so hers is set on mine : [bine
And all combin'd save what thou must com-
By holy marriage : When, and where, and
how, [vow,

We met, we woo'd, and made exchange of
I'll tell thee as we pass ; by this I pray,
That thou consent to marry us this day.

Fri. Holy Saint Francis ! what a change is
here !

Is Rosaline, whom thou didst love so dear,
So soon forsaken ? young men's love then lies
Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes.

Jesu Maria ! what a deal of brine
Hath wash'd thy sallow cheeks for Rosaline !
How much salt water thrown away in waste,
To season love, that of it doth not taste ?
The sun not yet thy sighs from heaven clears,
Thy old groans ring yet in my ancient ears ;
Lo, here upon thy cheek the stain doth sit
Of an old tear that is not wash'd off yet :

If e'er thou wast thyself, and these woes thine,
Thou and these woes were all for Rosaline ;
And art thou chang'd ? pronounce this sentence
then— [men—

Women may fall, when there's no strength in
Rom. Thou chid'st me oft for loving Rosa-
line.

Fri. For doting, not for loving, pupil mine.

Rom. And bad'st me bury love.

Fri. Not in a grave,

To lay one in, another out to have.

Rom. I pray thee, chide not : she, whom I
love now,

Doth grace for grace, and love for love allow ;
The other did not so.

Fri. O, she knew well,

Thy love did read by rote, and could not spell.
But come, young waverer, come go with me,
In one respect I'll thy assistant be ;
For this alliance may so happy prove,
To turn your households' rancour to pure love.

Rom. O, let us hence ; I stand on sudden
haste.*

Fri. Wisely, and slow : they stumble, that
run fast. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—A Street.

Enter BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO.

Mer. Where the devil should this Romeo be ?—
Came he not home to-night ?

Ben. Not to his father's ; I spoke with his
man.

Mer. Ah, that same pale hard-hearted wench,
that Rosaline,

Torments him so, that he will sure run mad.

Ben. Tybalt, the kinsman of old Capulet,
Hath sent a letter to his father's house.

Mer. A challenge, on my life.

Ben. Romeo will answer it.

Mer. Any man, that can write, may answer
a letter.

Ben. Nay, he will answer the letter's master,
how he dares, being dared.

Mer. Alas, poor Romeo, he is already dead ;
stabbed with a white wench's black eye ; shot
through the ear with a love-song ; the very
pin of his heart cleft with the blind bow-boy's
butt-shaft : † And is he a man to encounter
Tybalt ?

Ben. Why, what is Tybalt ?

Mer. More than prince of cats, ‡ I can tell
you. O, he is the courageous captain of com-
pliments. He fights as you sing prick-song, §

keeps time, distance, and proportion ; rests me
his minim rest, one, two, and the third in your
bosom : the very butcher of a silk button, a
duellist, a duellist : a gentleman of the very
first house, of the first and second cause : Ah,
the immortal passado ! the punto reverso ! the
way !*

Ben. The what ?

Mer. The pox of such antic, lispings, affecting
fantasticoes ; these new tuners of accents !—By
*Jesu, a very good blade !—a very tall man !—a
very good whore !—*Why, is not this a lamenta-
ble thing, grandsire, and we should be thus
afflicted with these strange flies, these fashion-
mongers, these *pardonnez-moys*, who stand so
much on the new form, that they cannot sit at
ease on the old bench ? O, their *bons*, their
bons ! †

Enter ROMEO.

Ben. Here comes Romeo, here comes Romeo.

Mer. Without his roe, like a dried herring :
—O flesh, flesh, how art thou fishified !—Now
is he for the numbers that Petrarch flow'd in :
Laura, to his lady, was but a kitchen-wench ;
—marry, she had a better love to be-rhyme her :
Dido, a dowdy ; Cleopatra, a gipsy ; Helen
and Hero, hildings and harlots ; Thisbe, a grey
eye or so, but not to the purpose.—Signior
Rome, *bon jour* ! there's a French salutation to
your French slop. ‡ You gave us the counter-
feit fairly last night.

Rom. Good-morrow to you both. What
counterfeit did I give you ?

Mer. The slip, sir, the slip ; § Can you not
conceive ?

Rom. Pardon, good Mercutio, my business
was great ; and, in such a case as mine, a man
may strain courtesy.

Mer. That's as much as to say—such a case
as yours constrains a man to bow in the hams.

Rom. Meaning—to court sy.

Mer. Thou hast most kindly hit it.

Rom. A most courteous exposition.

Mer. Nay, I am the very pink of courtesy,

Rom. Pink for flower.

Mer. Right.

Rom. Why, then is my pump || well-flowered.

Mer. Well said ; Follow me this jest now,
till thou hast worn out thy pump ; that, when
the single sole of it is worn, the jest may re-
main, after the wearing, solely singular.

Rom. O single-soled ¶ jest, solely singular
for the singleness !

Mer. Come between us, good Benvolio ; my
wits fail.

Rom. Switch and spurs, switch and spurs ;
or I'll cry a match.

Mer. Nay, if thy wits run the wild-goose
chace, ** I have done ; for thou hast more of
the wild-goose in one of thy wits, than, I am
sure, I have in my whole five : Was I with you
there for the goose ?

Rom. Thou wast never with me for any
thing, when thou wast not there for the goose.

Mer. I will bite thee by the ear for that jest.

Rom. Nay, good goose, bite not.

Mer. Thy wit is a very bitter sweeting ; †† it
is a most sharp sauce.

* Terms of the fencing school.

† In ridicule of Frenchified coxcombs.

‡ Trowers or pantaloons, a French fashion in Shak-
speare's time.

§ A pun on counterfeit money called silps.

|| Shoe.

¶ Slight, thin.

** A horse race in any direction the leader chooses to
take.

†† An apple.

* I. e. It is of the utmost consequence for me to be hasty.

† Arrow. ‡ See the story of Reynard the Fox.

§ By notes pricked down.

Rom. And is it not well served in to a sweet goose.

Mer. O, here's a wit of cheverel,* that stretches from an inch narrow to an ell broad!

Rom. I stretch it out for that word—broad! which added to the goose, proves thee far and wide a broad goose.

Mer. Why, is not this better now than groaning for love? now art thou sociable, now art thou Romeo; now art thou what thou art, by art as well as by nature; for this drivelling love is like a great natural, that runs lolling up and down to hide his bauble in a hole.

Ben. Stop there, stop there.

Mer. Thou desirest me to stop in my tale against the hair.

Ben. Thou wouldst else have made thy tale large.

Mer. O, thou art deceived, I would have made it short: for I was come to the whole depth of my tale; and meant, indeed, to occupy the argument no longer.

Rom. Here's goodly gear!

Enter NURSE and PETER.

Mer. A sail, a sail, a sail!

Ben. Two, two; a shirt, and a smock.

Nurse. Peter!

Peter. Anon?

Nurse. My fan, Peter.†

Mer. Pr'ythee, do, good Peter, to hide her face; for her fan's the fairer of the two.

Nurse. God ye good morrow, gentlemen.

Mer. God ye good den,‡ fair gentlewoman.

Nurse. Is it good den?

Mer. 'Tis no less, I tell you; for the bawdy hand of the dial is now upon the prick of noon.

Nurse. Out upon you! what a man are you?

Rom. One, gentlewoman, that God hath made himself to mar.

Nurse. By my troth, it is well said;—For himself to mar, quoth'a?—Gentlemen, can any of you tell me where I may find the young Romeo?

Rom. I can tell you; but young Romeo will be older when you have found him, than he was when you sought him: I am the youngest of that name, for 'fault of a worse.

Nurse. You say well.

Mer. Yea, is the worst well? very well took, i'faith; wisely, wisely.

Nurse. If you be he, Sir, I desire some confidence with you.

Ben. She will indite him to some supper.

Mer. A bawd, a bawd, a bawd! So ho!

Rom. What hast thou found?

Mer. No hare, Sir; unless a hare, Sir, in a lenten pie, that is something stale and hoar ere it be spent.

An old hare hoar,||

And an old hare hoar,

Is very good meat in Lent:

But a hare that is hoar,

Is too much for a score,

When it hoars ere it be spent.—

Romeo, will you come to your father's? we'll to dinner thither.

Rom. I will follow you.

Mer. Farewell, ancient lady; farewell, lady, lady,|| lady.

[*Exeunt MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO.*]

* Soft stretching leather.

† It was the custom for servants to carry the lady's fan.

‡ Good even. § Point. || Hoary, mouldy.

¶ The burden of an old song.

Nurse. Marry farewell!—I pray you, Sir, what saucy merchant* was this, that was so full of his ropery?†

Rom. A gentleman, nurse, that loves to hear himself talk; and will speak more in a minute, than he will stand to in a month.

Nurse. An 'a speak any thing against me, I'll take him down an 'a were lustier than he is, and twenty such Jacks; and if I cannot, I'll find those that shall. Scurvy knave! I am none of his flirt-girls; I am none of his skains-mates:—And thou must stand by too, and suffer every knave to use me at his pleasure?

Pet. I saw no man use you at his pleasure; if I had, my weapon should quickly have been out, I warrant you: I dare draw as soon as another man, if I see occasion in a good quarrel, and the law on my side.

Nurse. Now, afore God, I am so vexed, that every part about me quivers. Scurvy knave!—Pray you, Sir, a word: and as I told you, my young lady bade me inquire you out; what she bade me to say, I will keep to myself; but first let me tell ye, if ye should lead her into a fool's paradise, as they say, it were a very gross kind of behaviour, as they say: for the gentlewoman is young; and therefore, if you should deal double with her, truly, it were an ill thing to be offered to any gentlewoman, and very weak dealing.

Rom. Nurse, commend me to thy lady and mistress. I protest unto thee,—

Nurse. Good heart! and, i'faith, I will tell her as much: Lord, lord, she will be a joyful woman.

Rom. What wilt thou tell her, nurse? thou dost not mark me.

Nurse. I will tell her, Sir,—that you do protest; which, as I take it, is a gentleman-like offer.

Rom. Bid her devise some means to come this afternoon; [shrift] And there she shall at friar Laurence's cell Be shriv'd, and married. Here is for thy pains.

Nurse. No, truly, Sir; not a penny.

Rom. Go to; I say, you shall.

Nurse. This afternoon, Sir? well, she shall be there.

Rom. And stay, good nurse, behind the abbey-wall:

Within this hour my man shall be with thee; And bring thee the cords made like a tackled stair; Which to the high top-gallant|| of my joy Must be my convoy in the secret night.

Farewell!—Be trusty, and I'll quit¶ thy pains. Farewell!—Commend me to thy mistress.

Nurse. Now God in heaven bless thee!—Hark you, Sir.

Rom. What say'st thou, my dear nurse?

Nurse. Is your man secret? Did you ne'er hear say—

Two may keep counsel, putting one away?

Rom. I warrant thee; my man's as true as steel.

Nurse. Well, Sir; my mistress is the sweetest lady—Lord, lord!—when 'twas a little-prating thing,—O,—there's a nobleman in town, one Paris, that would fain lay knife aboard; but she, good soul, had as lieve see a toad, a very toad, as see him. I anger her

* A term of disrespect in contradistinction to gentleman.

† Roguery.

‡ A mate or companion of one wearing a skald; a

short sword.

§ Confession.

|| The highest extremity of the mast of a ship.

¶ Require.

sometimes, and tell her that Paris is the properer man; but, I'll warrant you, when I say so, she looks as pale as any clout in the versal world. Doth not rosemary and Romeo begin both with a letter?

Rom. Ay, nurse; What of that? both with an R.

Nurse. Ah, mocker! that's the dog's name. R is for the dog. No; I know it begins with some other letter: and she hath the prettiest sententious of it, of you and rosemary, that it would do you good to hear it.

Rom. Commend me to thy lady. [Exit.]

Nurse. Ay, a thousand times.—Peter!

Pet. Anon.

Nurse. Peter, take my fan, and go before. [Exit.]

SCENE V.—CAPULET'S Garden.

Enter JULIET.

Jul. The clock struck nine, when I did send the nurse;

In half an hour she promis'd to return. [so.—Perchance, she cannot meet him; that's not O, she is lame! love's heralds should be thoughts, [beams, Which ten times faster glide than the sun's Driving back shadows over lowering hills: Therefore do nimble-pinion'd doves draw love, And therefore hath the wind-swift Cupid wings.

Now is the sun upon the highmost hill Of this day's journey; and from nine till twelve

Is three long hours,—yet she is not come. Had she affections, and warm youthful blood, She'd be as swift in motion as a ball; My words would bandy* her to my sweet love, And his to me: But old folks, many feign as they were dead; Unwieldy, slow, heavy and pale as lead.

Enter NURSE and PETER.

O God, she comes!—O honey nurse, what news?

Hast thou met with him? Send thy man away.

Nurse. Peter, stay at the gate. [Exit PETER.]

Jul. Now, good sweet nurse,—O lord! why look'st thou sad?

Though news be sad, yet tell them merrily; If good, thou sham'st the music of sweet news, By playing it to me with so sour a face.

Nurse. I am weary, give me leave a while;—Fie, how my bones ache! What a jaunt have I had!

Jul. I would, thou hadst my bones, and I thy news:

Nay, come, I pray thee, speak;—good, good nurse, speak.

Nurse. Jesu! What haste! can you not stay awhile?

Do you not see, that I am out of breath?

Jul. How art thou out of breath, when thou hast breath

To say to me—that thou art out of breath? The excuse, that thou dost make in this delay, Is longer than the tale thou dost excuse.

Is thy news good, or bad? answer to that?

Say either, and I'll stay the circumstance:

Let me be satisfied, is't good or bad?

Nurse. Well, you have made a simple choice; you know not how to choose a man: Romeo! no, not he; though his face be better than any

man's, yet his leg excels all men's; and for a hand, and a foot, and a body,—though they be not to be talked on, yet they are past compare: He is not the flower of courtesy,—but, I'll warrant him, as gentle as a lamb.—Go thy ways, wench; serve God.—What, have you dined at home?

Jul. No, no: But all this did I know before: What says he to our marriage? what of that?

Nurse. Lord, how my head aches! what a head have I?

It beats as it would fall in twenty pieces.

My back o't'other side, O, my back, my back!—

Beshrew* your heart, for sending me about, To catch my death with jaunting up and down!

Jul. I'faith, I am sorry that thou art not well: Sweet, sweet, sweet nurse, tell me, what says my love?

Nurse. Your love says like an honest gentleman,

And a courteous, and a kind and a handsome, And, I warrant, a virtuous:—Where is your mother?

Jul. Where is my mother?—why, she is within; [ply'st!

Where should she be? How odly thou re-
Your love says like an honest gentleman,—

Where is your mother?

Nurse. O God's lady dear!

Are you so hot? Marry come up, I trow; Is this the poultice for my aching bones?

Henceforward do your messages yourself.

Jul. Here's such a coil,†—come, what says Romeo?

Nurse. Have you got leave to go to shrift to-day?

Jul. I have.

Nurse. Then hie you hence to Friar Lawrence's cell,

There stays a husband to make you a wife: Now comes the wanton blood up in your cheeks,

They'll be in scarlet straight at any news. Hie you to church; I must another way,

To fetch a ladder, by the which your love Must climb a bird's nest soon, when it is dark:

I am the drudge, and toil in your delight; But you shall bear the burden soon at night.

Go, I'll to dinner; hie you to the cell.

Jul. Hie to high fortune!—honest nurse, farewell. [Exit.]

SCENE VI.—Friar LAWRENCE'S Cell.

Enter Friar LAWRENCE and ROMEO.

Fri. So smile the heavens upon this holy act, That after-hours with sorrow chide us not!

Rom. Amen, amen! but come what sorrow can,

It cannot countervail the exchange of joy That one short minute gives me in her sight:

Do thou but close our hands with holy words, Then love devouring death do what he dare, It is enough I may but call her mine.

Fri. These violent delights have violent ends, And in their triumph die; like fire and powder,

Which, as they kiss, consume: the sweetest honey

Is loathsome in his own deliciousness, And in the taste confounds the appetite:

Therefore, love moderately; long love doth so; Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow.

* Drive her, as a ball struck with a bandy, i. e. a batt or battledore.

* Ill betide.

† Noise, bustle.

Enter JULIET.

Here comes the lady:—O, so light a foot
Will ne'er wear out the everlasting flint:
A lover may bestride the gossamers*
That idle in the wanton summer air,
And yet not fall; so light is vanity.

Jul. Good even to my ghostly confessor.

Fri. Romeo shall thank thee, daughter, for us both.

Jul. As much to him, else are his thanks too much.

Rom. Ah, Juliet, if the measure of thy joy
Be heap'd like mine, and that thy skill be more

To blazon it, then sweeten with thy breath
This neighbour air, and let rich music's tongue
Unfold the imagin'd happiness that both
Receive in either by this dear encounter.

Jul. Conceit,† more rich in matter than in words,

Braggs of his substance not of ornament:
They are but beggars that can count their worth:

But my true love is grown to such excess,
I cannot sum up half my sum of wealth.

Fri. Come, come with me, and we will make short work;

For, by your leaves, you shall not stay alone,
Till holy church incorporate two in one.

[Exeunt.]

ACT III.

SCENE I.—A Public Place.

Enter MERCUTIO, BENVOLIO, Page, and Servants.

Ben. I pray you, good Mercutio, let's retire;
The day is hot, the Capulets abroad,
And, if we meet, we shall not 'scape a brawl;
For now, these hot days, is the mad blood stirring.

Mer. Thou art like one of those fellows, that, when he enters the confines of a tavern, claps me his sword upon the table, and says, *God send me no need of thee!* and, by the operation of the second cup, draws it on the drawer, when, indeed, there is no need.

Ben. Am I like such a fellow?

Mer. Come, come, thou art as hot a Jack in thy mood as any in Italy; and as soon moved to be moody, and as soon moody to be moved.

Ben. And what to?

Mer. Nay, an there were two such, we should have none shortly, for one would kill the other. Thou! why thou wilt quarrel with a man that hath a hair more, or a hair less, in his beard, than thou hast. Thou wilt quarrel with a man for cracking nuts, having no other reason but because thou hast hazel eyes; what eye, but such an eye, would spy out such a quarrel? Thy head is as full of quarrels, as an egg is full of meat; and yet thy head hath been beaten as addle as an egg, for quarrelling. Thou hast quarrelled with a man for coughing in the street, because he hath wakened thy dog that hath lain asleep in the sun. Didst thou not fall out with a tailor for wearing his new doublet before Easter? with another, for trying his new shoes with old ribband? and yet thou wilt tutor me from quarrelling!

Ben. An I were so apt to quarrel as thou art, any man should buy the fee-simple of my life for an hour and a quarter.

Mer. The fee-simple? O simple!

Enter TYBALT, and others.

Ben. By my head, here come the Capulets.

Mer. By my heel, I care not.

Tyb. Follow me close, for I will speak to them.—Gentlemen, good den: a word with one of you.

Mer. And but one word with one of us? Couple it with something; make it a word and a blow.

Tyb. You will find me apt enough to that, Sir, if you will give me occasion.

Mer. Could you not take some occasion without giving?

Tyb. Mercutio, thou consortest with Romeo,—

Mer. Consort? what, dost thou make us minstrels? an thou make minstrels of us, look to hear nothing but discords: here's my fiddlestick; here's that shall make you dance. 'Zounds, consort!

Ben. We talk here in the public haunt of men:

Either withdraw into some private place,
Or reason coldly of your grievances,
Or else depart; here all eyes gaze on us.

Mer. Men's eyes were made to look, and let them gaze;

I will not budge for no man's pleasure, I.

Enter ROMEO.

Tyb. Well, peace be with you, Sir! here comes my man.

Mer. But I'll be hanged, Sir, if he wear your livery: [Enter;] Marry, go before to field, he'll be your follower—Your worship, in that sense, may call him—man.

Tyb. Romeo, the hate I bear thee, can afford

No better term than this—Thou art a villain.

Rom. Tybalt, the reason that I have to love Doth much excuse the appertaining rage [Thee] To such a greeting:—Villain am I none; [not.] Therefore farewell; I see, thou know'st me

Tyb. Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries That thou hast done me; therefore turn, and draw.

Rom. I do protest, I never injur'd thee; But lovd thee better than thou canst devise, Till thou shalt know the reason of my love: And so, good Capulet,—which name I tender As dearly as mine own,—be satisfied.

Mer. O calm, dishonourable, vile submission!

*Ala stoccata** carries it away. [Draws.]

Tybalt, you rat-catcher, will you walk?

Tyb. What wouldst thou have with me?

Mer. Good king of cats, nothing, but one of your nine lives; that I mean to make bold withal, and, as you shall use me hereafter, dry-beat the rest of the eight. Will you pluck your sword out of his pilcher† by the ears! make haste, lest mine be about your ears ere it be out.

Tyb. I am for you. [Drawing.]

Rom. Gentle Mercutio, put thy rapier up.

Mer. Come, Sir, your passado. [They fight.]

Rom. Draw, Benvolio; [shame,]

Beat down their weapons:—Gentlemen, for forbear this outrage;—Tybalt—Mercutio—The prince expressly hath forbid this bandying In Verona streets:—hold, Tybalt;—good Mercutio.

[Exeunt TYBALT and his Partizans.]

* The long white filament which flies in the air.
† Paint, display. ‡ Imagination.

* The Italian term for a thrust or stab with a rapier.
† Case or scabbard.

Mer. I am hurt ;—

A plague o'both the houses !—I am sped :—
Is he gone, and hath nothing ?

Ben. What, art thou hurt ?

Mer. Ay, ay, a scratch, a scratch ; marry,
'tis enough.— [geon.]

Where is my page ?—go, villain, fetch a sur-
[Exit Page.]

Rom. Courage, man ; the hurt cannot be
much.

Mer. No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so
wide as a church door ; but 'tis enough, 'twill
serve : ask for me to-morrow, and you shall
find me a grave man. I am peppered, I war-
rant, for this world :—A plague o'both your
houses !—Zounds, a dog, a rat, a mouse, a cat,
to scratch a man to death ! a braggart, a rogue,
a villain, that fights by the book of arithmetic !
—Why, the devil, came you between us ? I
was hurt under your arm.

Rom. I thought all for the best.

Mer. Help me into some house, Benvolio,
Or I shall faint.—A plague o'both your houses !
They have made worm's meat of me :
I have it, and soundly too :—Your houses :

[*Exeunt MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO.*]

Rom. This gentleman, the prince's near ally,
My very friend, hath got his mortal hurt
In my behalf ; my reputation stain'd
With Tybalt's slander, Tybalt that an hour
Hath been my kinsman :—O sweet Juliet,
Thy beauty hath made me effeminate,
And in my temper soften'd valour's steel.

Re-enter BENVOLIO.

Ben. O Romeo, Romeo, brave Mercutio's
dead ;

That gallant spirit hath aspir'd the clouds,
Which too untimely here did scorn the earth.

Rom. This day's black fate on more days
doth depend ;
This but begins the woe, others must end.

Re-enter TYBALT.

Ben. Here comes the furious Tybalt back
again.

Rom. Alive ! in triumph ! and Mercutio slain !
Away to heaven, respective* lenity,
And fire-ey'd fury be my conduct † now !—
Now, Tybalt, take the villain back again,
That late thou gav'st me ; for Mercutio's soul
Is but a little way above our heads,
Staying for thine to keep him company ;
Either thou, or I, or both, must go with him.

Tyb. Thou, wretched boy, that didst con-
sort ‡ him here,
Shalt with him hence.

Rom. This shall determine that.

[*They fight ; TYBALT falls.*]

Ben. Romeo, away, be gone !

The citizens are up, and Tybalt slain :
Stand not amaz'd ;—the prince will doom thee
death,

If thou art taken :—Hence !—be gone !—away !

Rom. O ! I am fortune's fool !

Ben. Why dost thou stay ? [Exit ROMEO.]

Enter CITIZENS, &c.

1 *Cit.* Which way ran he, that kill'd Mer-
cutio ?

Tybalt, that murderer, which way ran he ?

Ben. There lies that Tybalt.

1 *Cit.* Up, Sir, go with me ;

I charge thee in the prince's name, obey.

*Enter PRINCE, attended ; MONTAGUE, CAPULET,
their wives and others.*

Prin. Where are the vile beginners of this
fray ?

Ben. O noble prince, I can discover all
The unlucky manage of this fatal brawl :
There lies the man slain by young Romeo.
That slew thy kinsman, brave Mercutio.

La. Cap. Tybalt, my cousin !—O my brother's
child !

Unhappy sight ! ah me, the blood is spill'd
Of my dear kinsman !—Prince, as thou art
true,*

For blood of ours shed blood of Montague,—
O cousin, cousin !

Prin. Benvolio, who began this bloody fray ?

Ben. Tybalt, here slain, whom Romeo's hand
did slay ;

Romeo that spoke him fair, bade him bethink
How nice the quarrel was, and urg'd withal
Your high displeasure :—All this—uttered
With gentle breath, calm look, knees humbly
bow'd,

Could not take truce with the unruly spleen
Of Tybalt deaf to peace, but that he tilts
With piercing steel at bold Mercutio's breast ;
Who, all as hot, turns deadly point to point,
And, with a martial scorn, with one hand beats
Cold death aside, and with the other sends
It back to Tybalt, whose dexterity
Retorts it : Romeo he cries aloud,
Hold, friends ! friends, part ! and, swifter than
his tongue,

His agile arm beats down their fatal points,
And 'twixt them rushes ; underneath whose
arm

An envious thrust from Tybalt hit the life
Of stout Mercutio, and then Tybalt fled :
But by and by comes back to Romeo,

Who had but newly entertain'd revenge,
And to't they go like lightning ; for, ere I
Could draw to part them, was stout Tybalt
slain ;

And, as he fell, did Romeo turn and fly :
This is the truth, or let Benvolio die.

La. Cap. He is a kinsman to the Montague,
Affection makes him false, he speaks not true :
Some twenty of them fought in this black strife ;
And all those twenty could but kill one life :
I bog for justice, which thou, prince, must
give ;

Romeo slew Tybalt, Romeo must not live.

Prin. Romeo slew him, he slew Mercutio ;
Who now the price of his dear blood doth
owe ?

Mon. Not Romeo, prince, he was Mercutio's
friend ; [end.]

His fault concludes but, what the law should
The life of Tybalt.

Prin. And, for that offence,
Immediately we do exile him hence :
I have an interest in your hates' proceeding,
My blood for your rude brawls doth lie a
bleeding ;

But I'll amerce† you with so strong a fine,
That you shall all repent the loss of mine :
I will be deaf to pleading and excuses ;
Nor tears, nor prayers, shall purchase out
abuses,

Therefore use none : let Romeo hence in haste,
Else, when he's found, that hour is his last.

Bear hence this body, and attend our will ;
Mercy but murders, pardoning those that kill.

[*Exeunt.*]

* Cool, considerate gentleness.

† Conduct for conductor.

‡ Accompany.

* Just and upright.

† Slight, unimportant

‡ Punish by fine.

SCENE II.—A Room in CAPULET'S House.

Enter JULIET.

Jul. Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds,
Towards Phœbus' mansion; such a waggoner
As Phaeton would whip you to the west,
And bring in cloudy night immediately.—
Spread thy close curtain, love-performing
night!

That run-away's eyes may wink; and Romeo
Leap to these arms, untalk'd of, and unseen!—
Lovers can see to do their amorous rites
By their own beauties; or, if love be blind,
It best agrees with night.—Come, civil* night,
Thou sober-suited matron, all in black,
And learn me how to lose a winning match,
Play'd for a pair of stainless maidenhoods:
Hood my unmann'd blood bating in my cheeks,
With thy black mantle: till strange love, grown
bold,

Think true love acted, simple modesty.
Come, night!—Come, Romeo! come, thou
day in night!

For thou wilt lie upon the wings of night
Whiter than new snow on a raven's back,—
Come, gentle night; come, loving, black-
brow'd night,

Give me my Romeo: and, when he shall die,
Take him and cut him out in little stars,
And he will make the face of heaven so fine,
That all the world will be in love with night,
And pay no worship to the garish† sun.—
O, I have bought the mansion of a love,
But not possess'd it; and, though I am sold,
Not yet enjoy'd: So tedious is this day,
As is the night before some festival
To an impatient child, that hath new robes,
And may not wear them. O, here comes my
nurse,

Enter NURSE, with Cords.

And she brings news; and every tongue, that
speaks [quence.—
But Romeo's name, speaks heavenly elo-
Now, nurse, what news? What hast thou there,
the cords,

That Romeo bade thee fetch?

Nurse. Ay, ay, the cords.

[Throws them down.]

Jul. Ah me! what news? why dost thou
wring thy hands?Nurse. Ah well-a day! he's dead, he's dead.
he's dead!

We are undone, lady, we are undone!—
Alack the day!—he's gone, he's kill'd, he's
dead!

Jul. Can heaven be so envious?

Nurse. Heaven can,
Though heaven cannot:—O Romeo? Romeo!—
Who ever would have thought it?—Romeo?—

Jul. What devil art thou, that dost torment
me thus?

This torture should be roar'd in dismal hell.
Hath Romeo slain himself? say thou but I,‡
And that bare vowel I shall poison more
Than the death-darting eye of cockatrice:
I am not I, if there be such an I;
Or those eyes shut, that make thee answer, I.
If he be slain, say—I; or if not, no:
Brief sounds determine of my weal, or woe.

Nurse. I saw the wound, I saw it with mine
eyes,—

God save the mark!—here on his manly breast:
A piteous corse, a bloody piteous corse;
Pale, pale as ashes, all bedawb'd in blood,
All in gore blood; I swoonded at the sight.

Jul. O break, my heart!—poor bankrupt,
break at once!

To prison, eyes! ne'er look on liberty!
Vile earth, to earth resign; end motion here;
And thou, and Romeo, press one heavy bier;

Nurse. O Tybalt, Tybalt, the best friend I
had!O courteous Tybalt! honest gentleman!
That ever I should live to see thee dead!Jul. What storm is this, that blows so con-
trary?

Is Romeo slaughter'd; and is Tybalt dead?
My dear-lov'd cousin, and my dearer lord?—
Then, dreadful trumpet, sound the general
doom!

For who is living, if those two are gone?

Nurse. Tybalt is gone, and Romeo banished;
Romeo, that kill'd him, he is banished.Jul. O God!—did Romeo's hand shed Ty-
balt's blood?

Nurse. It did, it did; alas the day! it did.

Jul. O serpent heart, hid with a flow'ring
Did ever dragon keep so fair a cave? face!
Beautiful tyrant! fiend angelical!Dove-feather'd raven! wolfish-ravens lamb!
Dispis'd substance of divinity show!Just opposite to what thou justly seem'st,
A damned saint, an honourable villain!—O, nature! what hadst thou to do in hell,
When thou didst bower the spirit of a fiendIn mortal paradise of such sweet flesh?
Was ever book, containing such vile matter,
So fairly bound? O, that deceit should dwell

In such a gorgeous palace!

Nurse. There's no trust,
No faith, no honesty in men; all perjur'd,
All forsworn, all naught, all dissemblers.—Ah, where's my man? give me some aqua-
vitæ:— [me old.]These griefs, these woes, these sorrows make
Shame come to Romeo!Jul. Blister'd be thy tongue,
For such a wish! he was not born to shame:
Upon his brow shame is asham'd to sit;For 'tis a throne where honour may be crown'd
Sole monarch of the universal earth.

O, what a beast was I to chide at him!

Nurse. Will you speak well of him that kill'd
your cousin?Jul. Shall I speak ill of him that is my hus-
band?Ah, poor my lord, what tongue shall smoothe*
thy name, [it?—When I, thy three-hours wife, have mangled
But, wherefore, villain, didst thou kill my
cousin? [band:]That villain cousin would have kill'd my hus-
Back, foolish tears, back to your native spring;Your tributary drops belong to woe,
Which you, mistaking, offer up to joy. [slain;My husband lives, that Tybalt would have
And Tybalt's dead, that would have slain my
husband:All this is comfort; Wherefore weep I then?
Some word there was, worsen than Tybalt's
death,That murder'd me: I would forget it fain:
But, O! it presses to my memory,
Like damned guilty deeds to sinners' minds:
Tybalt is dead, and Romeo—banished;

That—banished, that one word—banished,

That murder'd me: I would forget it fain:
But, O! it presses to my memory,
Like damned guilty deeds to sinners' minds:
Tybalt is dead, and Romeo—banished;

That—banished, that one word—banished,

That—banished, that one word—banished,

* To smoothe, in ancient language, is to stroke, to caress.

* Grave, solemn.

† These are terms of falconry. ‡ Gaudy, showy.

§ In Shakspeare's time the affirmative particle *ay* was usually written *I*, and here it is necessary to retain the old spelling.

Hath slain ten thousand Tybalts.* Tybalt's death
 Was woe enough, if it had ended there :
 Or,—if sour woe delights in fellowship,
 And needly will be rank'd with other griefs,—
 Why follow'd not, when she said—Tybalt's
 Thy father, or thy mother, nay, or both, [dead,
 Which modern lamentation might have mov'd:
 But, with a rear-ward following Tybalt's death,
Romeo is banished,—to speak that word,
 Is father, mother, Tybalt, Romeo, Juliet,
 All slain, all dead:—*Romeo is banished*,—
 There is no end, no limit, measure, bound,
 In that word's death; no words can that woe
 sound.—
 Where is my father, and my mother, nurse?
Nurse. Weeping and wailing over Tybalt's
 corse;
 Will you go to them, I will bring you thither.
Jul. Wash they his wounds with tears? mine
 shall be spent,
 When theirs are dry, for Romeo's banishment.
 Take up those cords:—Poor ropes, you are
 beguil'd,
 Both you and I; for Romeo is exil'd:
 He made you for a highway to my bed;
 But I, a maid, die maiden-widowed.
 Come, cords; come, nurse; I'll to my wedding
 bed;
 And death, not Romeo, take my maidenhead!
Nurse. Hie to your chamber: I'll find Romeo
 To comfort you:—I wot † well where he is.
 Hark ye, your Romeo will be here at night;
 I'll to him; he is hid at Laurence's cell.
Jul. O find him! give this ring to my true
 knight,
 And bid him come to take his last farewell.

[Exeunt.

SCENE III.—Friar LAURENCE'S Cell.

Enter Friar LAURENCE and ROMEO.

Fri. Romeo, come forth; come forth, thou
 fearful man;
 Affliction is enamour'd of thy parts,
 And thou art wedded to calamity.
Rom. Father, what news? what is the
 prince's doom?
 What sorrow craves acquaintance at my hand,
 That I yet know not?
Fri. Too familiar
 Is my dear son with such sour company:
 I bring thee tidings of the prince's doom.
Rom. What less than doomsday is the
 prince's doom?
Fri. A gentler judgement vanish'd from his
 lips,
 Not body's death, but body's banishment.
Rom. Ha! banishment? be merciful, say—
 For exile hath more terror in his look, [death:
 Much more than death: do not say—banish-
 ment.
Fri. Hence from Verona art thou banished:
 Be patient, for the world is broad and wide.
Rom. There is no world without Verona
 But purgatory, torture, hell itself. [walls,
 Hence-banished is banish'd from the world,
 And world's exile is death:—then banishment
 Is death misterm'd: calling death—banishment,
 Thou cut'st my head off with a golden axe,
 And smil'st upon the stroke that murders me.
Fri. O deadly sin! O rude unthankfulness!
 Thy fault our law calls death; but the kind
 prince,
 Taking thy part, hath rush'd aside the law,

And turn'd that black word death to banish-
 ment:

This is dear mercy, and thou seest it not.
Rom. 'Tis torture, and not mercy: heaven
 is here,
 Where Juliet lives; and every cat, and dog,
 And little mouse, every unworthy thing,
 Live here in heaven, and may look on her,
 But Romeo may not.—More validity,*
 More honourable state, more courtship lives
 In carrion flies, than Romeo: they may seize
 On the white wonder of dear Juliet's hand,
 And steal immortal blessing from her lips;
 Who, even in pure and vestal modesty,
 Still blush, as thinking their own kisses sin;
 But Romeo may not; he is banished:
 Flies may do this, when I from this must fly;
 They are free men, but I am banished.
 And say'st thou yet, that exile is not death?
 Hadst thou no poison mix'd, no sharp-ground
 knife,
 No sudden mean of death, though ne'er so mean,
 But—banished—to kill me; banished?
 O friar, the damned use that word in hell;
 Howlings attend it: How hast thou the heart,
 Being a divine, a ghostly confessor,
 A sin-absolver, and my friend profess'd,
 To mangle me, with that word—banishment?
Fri. Thou fond madman, hear me but speak
 a word.
Rom. O, thou wilt speak again of banish-
 ment.
Fri. I'll give thee armour to keep off that
 Adversity's sweet milk, philosophy, [word;
 To comfort thee, though thou art banished.
Rom. Yet banished?—Hang up philosophy!
 Unless philosophy can make a Juliet,
 Displant a town, reverse a prince's doom;
 It helps not, it prevails not, talk no more.
Fri. O then I see that madmen have no
 ears.
Rom. How should they, when that wise men
 have no eyes?
Fri. Let me dispute with thee of thy estate.
Rom. Thou canst not speak of what thou
 dost not feel:
 Wert thou as young as I, Juliet thy love,
 An hour but married, Tybalt murdered
 Doting like me, and like me banished,
 Then might'st thou speak, then might'st thou
 tear thy hair,
 And fall upon the ground as I do now,
 Taking the measure of an unmade grave.
Fri. Arise; one knocks; good Romeo, hide
 thyself. [Knocking within.
Rom. Not I, unless the breath of heart-sick
 groans,
 Mist-like, unfold me from the search of eyes.
 [Knocking.
Fri. Hark, how they knock!—Who's there?
 Romeo, arise;
 Thou wilt be taken:—Stay a while: stand up;
 [Knocking.
 Run to my study:—By and by—God's will!
 What wilfulness is this?—I come, I come.
 [Knocking.
 Who knocks so hard? whence came you?
 what's your will?
Nurse. [Within.] Let me come in, and you
 shall know my errand;
 I come from lady Juliet.
Fri. Welcome then.
 Enter NURSE.
Nurse. O holy friar, O, tell me, holy friar,
 Where is my lady's lord, where's Romeo?

* I. e. Is worse than the loss of ten thousand Tybalts.
 † Common. ‡ Know.

* Worth value

Fri. There on the ground, with his own tears,
made drunk.

Nurse. O, he is even in my mistress' case,
Just in her case!

Fri. O woeful sympathy!
Piteous predicament!

Nurse. Even so lies she,
Blubbering and weeping, weeping and blubbering:—
Stand up, stand up; stand, an you be a man:
For Juliet's sake, for her sake, rise and stand;
Why should you fall into so deep an O?

Rom. Nurse!

Nurse. Ah Sir! ah Sir!—Well, death's the end of all.

Rom. Spak'st thou of Juliet? how is it with her?

Doth she not think me an old murderer,
Now I have stain'd the childhood of our joy
With blood remov'd but little from her own?
Where is she? and how doth she? and what says
My conceal'd lady to our cancell'd love?

Nurse. O, she says nothing, Sir, but weeps and weeps;
And now falls on her bed; and then starts up,
And Tybalt calls; and then on Romeo cries,
And then down falls again.

Rom. As if that name,
Shot from the deadly level of a gun,
Did murder her; as that name's cursed hand
Murder'd her kinsman.—O tell me, friar, tell
In what vile part of this anatomy [me,
Doth my name lodge? tell me, that I may sack
The hateful mansion. [Drawing his Sword.

Fri. Hold thy desperate hand:
Art thou a man? thy form cries out, thou art;
Thy tears are womanish; thy wild acts denote
The unreasonable fury of a beast:
Unseemly woman, in a seeming man!
Or ill-beseeming beast, in seeming both!
Thou hast amaz'd me: by my holy order,
I thought thy disposition better temper'd.
Hast thou slain Tybalt? wilt thou slay thyself?
And slay thy lady too that lives in thee,
By doing damned hate upon thyself? [earth?
Why rail'st thou on thy birth, the heaven, and
Since birth, and heaven, and earth, all three
do meet
In thee at once; which thou at once wouldst lose. [wit;
Fie, fie! thou sham'st thy shape, thy love, thy
Which, like an usurer, abound'st in all,
And usest none in that true use indeed
Which should bedeck thy shape, thy love, thy
Thy noble shape is but a form of wax, [wit.
Digressing from the valour of a man:
Thy dear love, sworn, but hollow perjury,
Killing that love which thou hast vow'd to
cherish:
Thy wit, that ornament to shape and love,
Mis-shapen in the conduct of them both,
Like powder in a skill-less soldier's flask,
Is set on fire by thine own ignorance,
And thou dismember'd with thine own defence.*
What, rouse thee, man! thy Juliet is alive,
For whose dear sake thou wast but lately
dead;
There art thou happy: Tybalt would kill thee,
But thou slew'st Tybalt; there art thou happy
too: [friend,
The law, that threaten'd death becomes thy

And turns it to exile; there art thou happy:
A pack of blessings lights upon thy back;
Happiness courts thee in her best array;
But, like a mis-behav'd and sullen wench,
Thou pout'st upon thy fortune and thy love:
Take heed, take heed, for such die miserable.
Go, get thee to thy love, as was decreed,
Ascend her chamber, hence and comfort her;
But, look, thou stay not till the watch be set,
For then thou canst not pass to Mantua;
Where thou shalt live, till we can find a time
To blaze your marriage, reconcile your friends,
Beg pardon of the prince, and call thee back
With twenty hundred thousand times more
joy
Than thou went'st forth in lamentation.—
Go before, nurse: commend me to thy lady;
And bid her hasten all the house to bed,
Which heavy sorrow makes them apt unto:
Romeo is coming.

Nurse. O Lord, I could have staid here all the night,
To hear good counsel: O, what learning is!—
My lord, I'll tell my lady you will come.

Rom. Do so, and bid my sweet prepare to chide.

Nurse. Here, Sir, a ring she bid me give you, Sir:
Hie you, make haste, for it grows very late. [Exit NURSE.

Rom. How well my comfort is reviv'd by this!

Fri. Go hence: Good night; and here stands all your state;*
Either begone before the watch be set,
Or by the break of day disguis'd from hence:
Sojourn in Mantua; I'll find out your man,
And he shall signify from time to time
Every good hap to you, that chances here:
Give me thy hand; 'tis late; farewell; good
night.

Rom. But that a joy past joy calls out on me,
It were a grief, so brief to part with thee:
Farewell. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—A Room in CAPULET'S House.
Enter CAPULET, Lady CAPULET, and PARIS.

Cap. Things have fallen out, Sir, so unluckily,
That we have had no time to move our daughter:
Look you, she lov'd her kinsman Tybalt dear—
And so did I;—Well, we were born to die.—
'Tis very late, she'll not come down to night:
I promise you, but for your company,
I would have been a-bed an hour ago.

Par. These times of woe afford no time to woo:
Madam, good night: commend me to your daughter.

La. Cap. I will, and know her mind early to-morrow,
To-night she's mew'd up to her heaviness.

Cap. Sir Paris, I will make a desperate tender
Of my child's love: I think, she will be rul'd
In all respects by me; nay more, I doubt it
Wife, go you to her ere you go to bed; [not.
Acquaint her here of my son Paris' love;
And bid her, mark you me, on Wednesday
But, soft; What day is this? [next—
Par. Monday, my lord.

* Torn to pieces with thine own weapons.

* The whole of your fortune depends on this.

† Shut up.

‡ Both.

Cap. Monday? ha! ha! Well, Wednesday is too soon,
O' Thursday let it be;—o' Thursday, tell her, She shall be married to this noble earl:— Will you be ready? Do you like this haste? We'll keep no great ado;—a friend, or two:— For hark you, Tybalt being slain so late, It may be thought we held him carelessly, Being our kinsman, if we revel much: Therefore we'll have some half a dozen friends, And there an end. But what say you to Thursday?

Par. My lord, I would that Thursday were to-morrow.

Cap. Well, get you gone:—O' Thursday be it then:—

Go you to Juliet ere you go to bed, Prepare her, wife, against this wedding-day.— Farewell, my lord.—Light to my chamber, ho! Afore me, it is so very late, that we May call it early by and by:—Good night.

[Exit.]

SCENE V.—JULIET'S Chamber.

Enter ROMEO and JULIET.

Jul. Wilt thou be gone? It is not yet near It was the nightingale, and not the lark, [day: That pierc'd the fearful hollow of thine ear: Nightly she sings on yon pomegranate-tree: Believe me, love, it was the nightingale.

Rom. It was the lark, the herald of the morn, No nightingale: look, love, what envious streaks

Do lace the severing clouds in yonder east: Night's candles are burnt out, and jocund day Stands tiptoe on the misty mountain-tops; I must be gone and live, or stay and die.

Jul. Yon light is not daylight, I know it, I: It is some meteor that the sun exhales, To be to thee this night a torch-bearer, And light thee on thy way to Mantua: Therefore stay yet, thou need'st not to be gone.

Rom. Let me be ta'en, let me be put to I am content, so thou wilt have it so. [death; I'll say, yon grey is not the morning's eye, 'Tis but the pale reflex of Cynthia's brow;* Nor that is not the lark, whose notes do beat The vaulty heaven so high above our heads: I have more caret to stay, than will to go:— Come, death, and welcome! Juliet wills it so.—

How is't my soul? let's talk, it is not day.

Jul. It is, it is, hie hence, be gone, away; It is the lark that sings so out of tune, Straining harsh discords, and displeasing sharps.

Some say, the lark makes sweet division; † This doth not so, for she divideth us: [eyes; Some say, the lark and leath'd toad change O, now I would they had chang'd voices too! Since arm from arm that voice doth us affray, Hunting thee hence with hunts-up to the day. O, now be gone; more light and light it grows.

Rom. More light and light!—more dark and dark our woes.

Enter NURSE.

Nurse. Madam!

Jul. Nurse?

Nurse. Your lady mother's coming to your chamber:

* Reflection of the moon.

† Inclination.

‡ Division was the technical phrase for musical composition.

§ A tune played to wake hunters, also a morning song to a woman the day after marriage.

The day is broke; be wary, look about.

[Exit NURSE.]

Jul. Then, window, let day in, and let life out,

Rom. Farewell, farewell! one kiss, and I'll descend. [ROMEO descends.]

Jul. Art thou gone so? my love! my lord! my friend!

I must hear from thee every day i'the hour, For in a minute there are many days:

O! by this count I shall be much in years, Ere I again behold my Romeo.

Rom. Farewell! I will omit no opportunity That may convey my greetings, love, to thee.

Jul. O, think'st thou, we shall ever meet again?

Rom. I doubt it not; and all these woes shall serve

For sweet discourses in our time to come.

Jul. O God! I have an ill-divining soul: Methinks, I see thee, now thou art below,

As one dead in the bottom of a tomb: Either my eye-sight fails, or thou look'st pale.

Rom. And trust me love, in my eye so do you:

Dry sorrow drinks our blood. Adieu! adieu! [Exit ROMEO.]

Jul. O fortune, fortune! all men call thee fickle:

If thou art fickle, what dost thou with him That is renown'd for faith? Be fickle, fortune; For then, I hope, thou wilt not keep him long, But send him back.

La. Cap. [Within.] Ho, daughter! are you up?

Jul. Who is't that calls? is it my lady mother? Is she not down so late, or up so early?

What unaccustom'd cause procures* her hither?

Enter LADY CAULET.

La. Cap. Why, how now, Juliet?

Jul. Madam, I am not well.

La. Cap. Evermore weeping for your cousin's death? [tears?

What, wilt thou wash him from his grave with An if thou couldst, thou couldst not make him live;

Therefore, have done: Some grief shows much of love; [wit.

But much of grief shows still more want of

Jul. Yet let me weep for such a feeling loss.

La. Cap. So shall you feel the loss, but not the friend

Which you weep for.

Jul. Feeling so the loss,

I cannot choose but ever weep the friend.

La. Cap. Well, girl, thou weep'st not so much for his death,

As that the villain lives which slaughter'd him.

Jul. What villain, madam?

La. Cap. That same villain, Romeo.

Jul. Villain and he are many miles asunder. God pardon him! I do, with all my heart;

And yet no man, like he, doth grieve my heart.

La. Cap. That is, because the traitor murderer lives.

Jul. Ay, madam, from the reach of these my hands. [death!

'Would, none but I might venge my cousin's

La. Cap. We will have vengeance for it, fear thou not: [tua,—

Then weep no more. I'll send to one in Mantua Where that same banish'd runagate doth live,—

That shall bestow on him so sure a draught,
That he shall soon keep Tybalt company :
And then, I hope, thou wilt be satisfied.

Jul. Indeed, I never shall be satisfied
With Romeo, till I behold him—dead—
Is my poor heart so for a kinsman vex'd :—
Madam, if you could find out but a man
To bear a poison, I would temper it ;
That Romeo should, upon receipt thereof,
Soon sleep in quiet.—O, how my heart abhors
To hear him nam'd,—and cannot come to
him,—

To wreak the love I bore my cousin Tybalt
Upon his body that hath slaughter'd him !

La. Cap. Find thou the means, and I'll find
such a man.

But now I'll tell thee joyful tidings, girl.

Jul. And joy comes well in such a needful
time :

What are they, I beseech your ladyship ?

La. Cap. Well, well, thou hast a careful
father, child ;

One, who, to put thee from thy heaviness,
Hath sorted out a sudden day of joy,
That thou expect'st not, nor I look'd not for.

Jul. Madam, in happy time, what day is
that ?

La. Cap. Marry, my child, early next Thurs-
day morn,

The gallant, young, and noble gentleman,
The county Paris, at Saint Peter's church,
Shall happily make thee there a joyful bride.

Jul. Now, by Saint Peter's church, and
Peter too,

He shall not make me there a joyful bride.

I wonder at this haste ; that I must wed

Ere he, that should be husband, comes to woo.

I pray you, tell my lord and father, madam,

I will not marry yet ; and, when I do, I swear,

It shall be Romeo, whom you know I hate,

Rather than Paris :—These are news indeed !

La. Cap. Here comes your father ; tell him
so yourself.

And see how he will take it at your hands.

Enter CAPULET and NURSE.

Cap. When the sun sets, the air doth drizzle
But for the sunset of my brother's son, [dew ;
It rains downright.—

How now ? a conduit, girl ? what, still in tears ?

Evermore showering ? In one little body

Thou counterfeit'st a bark, a sea, a wind :

For still thy eyes, which I may call the sea,

Do ebb and flow with tears ; the bark thy body

is,

Sailing in this salt flood ; the winds, thy sighs ;

Who,—raging with thy tears, and they with

them,—

Without a sudden calm, will overset

Thy tempest-tossed body.—How now, wife ?

Have you delivered to her our decree ?

La. Cap. Ay, Sir, but she will none, she
gives you thanks.

I would, the fool were married to her grave !

Cap. Soft, take me with you, take me with
you, wife. [thanks ?

How ! will she none ? doth she not give us

Is she not proud ? doth she not count her

bless'd,

Unworthy as she is, that we have wrought

So worthy a gentleman to be her bridegroom ?

Jul. Not proud, you have ; but thankful, that
you have :

Proud can I never be of what I hate ;

But thankful even for hate, that is meant love.

Cap. How now ! how now, chop-logic ? What
is this ?

Proud,—and, I thank you,—and, I thank you
not ;—

And yet not proud ; —Mistress minion, you,
Thank me no thankings, nor proud me no
prouds, [next,

But settle your fine joints 'gainst Thursday
To go with Paris to Saint Peter's church,
Or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither.

Out, you green-sickness carrion ! out, you
You tallow-face ! [baggage !

La. Cap. Fie, fie ! what are you mad ?

Jul. Good father, I beseech you on my
knees,

Hear me with patience but to speak a word.

Cap. Hang thee, young baggage ! disobedi-
ent wretch ! [day,

I tell thee what,—get thee to church o' Thurs-
Or never after look me in the face :

Speak not, reply not, do not answer me :

My fingers itch.—Wife, we scarce thought us
bless'd,

That God had sent us but this only child ;

But now I see this one is one too much,

And that we have a curse in having her :
Out on her, hilding !*

Nurse. God in heaven bless her !

You are to blame, my lord, to rate her so.

Cap. And why, my lady wisdom ? hold your
tongue,

Good prudence ; smatter with your gossips, go.

Nurse. I speak no treason.

Cap. O, God ye good den !

Nurse. May not one speak ?

Cap. Peace, you mumbling fool !

Utter your gravity o'er a gossip's bowl,
For here we need it not.

La. Cap. You are too hot.

Cap. God's bread ! it makes me mad : Day,
night, late, early,

At home, abroad, alone, in company,
Waking, or sleeping, still my care hath been

To have her matched : and having now pro-
A gentleman of princely parentage, [vided

Of fair demesnes, youthful, and nobly train'd,
Stuff'd (as they say,) with honourable parts,

Proportion'd as one's heart could wish a
man,—

And then to have a wretched puling fool,
A whining mammet, in her fortune's tender,

To answer—*I'll not wed ;—I cannot love,*

I am too young,—I pray you, pardon me ;—

But, an you will not wed, I'll pardon you :
Graze where you will, you shall not house

with me ;

Look to't, think on't, I do not use to jest.

Thursday is near ; lay hand on heart, advise ;

An you be mine, I'll give you to my friend ;

An you be not, hang, beg, starve, die i'the
streets,

For by my soul, I'll ne'er acknowledge thee,

Nor what is mine shall never do thee good :

Trust to't, bethink you, I'll not be forsworn.
[Exit.

Jul. Is there no pity sitting in the clouds,
That sees into the bottom of my grief ?

O, sweet my mother, cast me not away !

Delay this marriage for a month, a week ;

Or, if you do not, make the bridal bed

In that dim monument where Tybalt lies.

La. Cap. Talk not to me, for I'll not speak a
word ;

Do as thou wilt, for I have done with thee.
[Exit.

Jul. O God !—O nurse ! how shall this be
prevented ?

My husband is on earth, my faith in heaven ;
How shall that faith return again to earth,
Unless that husband send it me from heaven
By leaving earth ?—Comfort me, counsel me.—
Alack, Alack, that heaven should practise
stratagems

Upon so soft a subject as myself !—
What say'st thou ? hast thou not a word of joy ?
Some comfort, nurse.

Nurse. 'Faith, here 'tis : Romeo
Is banished ; and all the world to nothing,
That he dares ne'er come back to challenge
you ;

Or, if he do, it needs must be by stealth.
Then, since the case so stands as now it doth,
I think it best you married with the county.
O, he's a lovely gentleman !

Romeo's a dishclout to him ; an eagle, madam,
Hath not so green, so quick, so fair an eye,
As Paris hath. Beshrew my very heart,
I think you are happy in this second match,
For it excels your first : or if it did not,
Your first is dead ; or 'twere as good he were,
As living here and you no use of him.

Jul. Speakest thou from thy heart ?

Nurse. From my soul too ;

Or else beshrew them both.

Jul. Amen !

Nurse. To what ?

Jul. Well, thou hast comforted me marvellous
much.

Go in ; and tell my lady I am gone,
Having displeas'd my father, to Laurence' cell,
To make confession, and to be absolv'd.

Nurse. Marry, I will ; and this is wisely done.
[Exit.]

Jul. Ancient damnation ! O most wicked
fiend !

Is it more sin—to wish me thus forsworn,
Or to dispraise my lord with that same tongue
Which she hath prais'd him with above com-
pare

So many thousand times ?—Go, counsellor ;
Thou and my bosom henceforth shall be
twain.—

I'll to the friar, to know his remedy ;
If all else fail, myself have power to die.

[Exit.]

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—Friar LAURENCE'S Cell.

Enter Friar LAURENCE and PARIS.

Fri. On Thursday, Sir ? the time is very
short.

Par. My father Capulet will have it so ;
And I am nothing slow, to slack his haste.

Fri. You say, you do not know the lady's
mind ;

Uneven is the course, I like it not.

Par. Immoderately she weeps for Tybalt's
death,

And therefore have I little talk'd of love ;

For Venus smiles not in a house of tears.

Now, Sir, her father counts it dangerous,

That she doth give her sorrow so much sway ;

And, in his wisdom, hastes our marriage ;

To stop the inundation of her tears ;

Which, too much minded by herself alone,

May be put from her by society :

Now do you know the reason of this haste.

Fri. I would I knew not why it should be
slow'd.

[Aside.]

Look, Sir, here comes the lady towards my
cell.

Enter JULIET.

Par. Happily met, my lady, and my wife !

Jul. That may be, Sir, when I may be a
wife.

Par. That may be, must be, love, on Thurs-
day next.

Jul. What must be shall be.

Fri. That's a certain text.

Par. Come you to make confession to this
father ?

Jul. To answer that, were to confess to you.

Par. Do not deny to him, that you love me.

Jul. I will confess to you, that I love him.

Par. So will you, I am sure, that you love
me.

Jul. If I do so, it will be of more price,
Being spoke behind your back, than to your
face.

Par. Poor soul, thy face is much abus'd with
tears.

Jul. The tears have got small victory by
that ;

For it was bad enough, before their spite.

Par. Thou wrong'st it, more than tears, with
that report.

Jul. That is no slander, Sir, that is a truth ;
And what I spake, I spake it to my face.

Par. Thy face is mine, and thou hast slan-
der'd it.

Jul. It may be so, for it is not mine own.—
Are you at leisure, holy father, now ;

Or shall I come to you at evening mass ?

Fri. My leisure serves me, pensive daugh-
ter, now :—

My lord we must entreat the time alone.

Par. God shield, I should disturb devo-
tion !—

Juliet, on Thursday early will I rouse you :

Till then, adieu ! and keep this holy kiss.

[Exit PARIS.]

Jul. O, shut the door ! and when thou hast
done so,

Come weep with me ; Past hope, past cure,
past help !

Fri. Ah, Juliet, I already know thy grief ;
It strains me past the compass of my wits : [sit,
I hear thou must, and nothing must prorogue
On Thursday next be married to this county.

Jul. 'Tell me not, friar, that thou hear'st of
this,

Unless thou tell me how I may prevent it :

If, in thy wisdom, thou canst give no help,

Do thou but call my resolution wise,

And with this knife I'll help it presently.

God join'd my heart and Romeo's, thou our
hands ;

And ere this hand, by thee to Romeo seal'd,

Shall be the label to another deed,

Or my true heart with treacherous revolt

Turn to another, this shall slay them both :

Therefore, out of thy long-experienc'd time,

Give me some present counsel ; or, behold,

'Twixt my extremes and me this bloody knife

Shall play the umpire ;— arbitrating that

Which the commission of thy years and art

Could to no issue of true honour bring.

Be not so long to speak ; I long to die,

If what thou speak'st speak not of remedy.

Fri. Hold, daughter ; I do spy a kind of
hope,

Which craves as desperate an execution

As that is desperate which we would prevent.

If, rather than to marry county Paris,

* Decide the struggle between me and my distresses—
† Authority or power.

Thou hadst the strength of will to slay thyself;
Then it is likely, thou wilt undertake
A thing like death to chide away this shame,
That cop'st with death himself to scape from it:
And, if thou dar'st, I'll give thee remedy.

Jul. O, bid me leap, rather than marry Paris,
From off the battlements of yonder tower;
Or walk in thievish ways; or bid me lurk
Where serpents are; chain me with roaring
Or shut me nightly in a charnel-house, [bears;
O'er-cover'd quite with dead men's rattling
bones,

With reeky shanks, and yellow chapless skulls;
Or bid me go into a new-made grave,
And hide me with a dead man in his shroud;
Things that, to hear them told, have made me
tremble;

And I will do it without fear or doubt,
To live an unstain'd wife to my sweet love.

Fri. Hold, then; go home, be merry, give
consent

To marry Paris: Wednesday is to-morrow;
To-morrow night look that thou lie alone,
Let not thy nurse lie with thee in thy chamber:
Take thou this phial, being then in bed,
And this distilled liquor drink thou off:
When, presently, through all thy veins shall run
A cold and drowsy humour, which shall seize
Each vital spirit; for no pulse shall keep
His natural progress, but surcease to beat:
No warmth, no breath, shall testify thou liv'st;
The roses in thy lips and cheeks shall fade
To pale ashes; thy eyes' windows fall,
Like death, when he shuts up the day of life;
Each part, depriv'd of supple government,
Shall stiff, and stark, and cold, appear like
death:

And in this borrow'd likeness of shrunk death
Thou shalt remain full two and forty hours,
And then awake as from a pleasant sleep.
Now when the bridegroom in the morning
comes [dead:

To rouse thee from thy bed, there art thou
Then (as the manner of our country is),
In thy best robes uncover'd on the bier,
Thou shalt be borne to that same ancient vault,
Where all the kindred of the Capulets lie.
In the meantime, against thou shalt awake,
Shall Romeo by my letters know our drift;
And hither shall he come; and he and I
Will watch thy waking, and that very night
Shall Romeo bear thee hence to Mantua.
And this shall free thee from this present shame;

If no unconstant toy, nor womanish fear,
Abate thy valour in the acting it.

Jul. Give me, O give me! tell me not of fear,

Fri. Hold; get you gone, be strong and
prosperous

In this resolve; I'll send a friar with speed
To Mantua, with my letters to thy lord.

Jul. Love, give me strength! and strength
shall help afford.

Farewell, dear father. [Exit.]

SCENE II.—A Room in CAPULET'S House.

Enter CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, NURSE, and
SERVANTS.

Cap. So many guests invite as here are
writ.— [Exit SERVANT.

Sirrah, go hire me twenty cunning cooks.

2 *Serv.* You shall have none ill, Sir; for I'll
try if they can lick their fingers.

Cap. How canst thou try them so?

2 *Serv.* Marry, Sir, 'tis an ill cook that can-
not lick his own fingers: therefore he, that can-
not lick his fingers, goes not with me.

Cap. Go, begone:— [Exit SERVANT.
We shall be much unfurnish'd for this time.—

What, is my daughter gone to friar Laurence?
Nurse. Ay, forsooth.

Cap. Well, he may chance to do some good
on her:

A peevish self-wil'd harlotry it is.

Enter JULIET.

Nurse. See, where she comes from shrift*
with merry look.

Cap. How now, my headstrong? where have
you been gadding?

Jul. Where I have learn'd me to repent the
Of disobedient opposit [sin

To you, and your behests;† and am enjoind
By holy Laurence to fall prostrate here,

And beg your pardon:—Pardon, I beseech
Henceforward I am ever rul'd by you. [you!]

Cap. Send for the county; go tell him of
this; [ing.

I'll have this knot knit up to-morrow morn-
Jul. I met the youthful lord at Laurence's
cell;

And gave him what becom'd‡ love I might,
Not stepping o'er the bounds of modesty.

Cap. Why, I am glad on't; this is well,—
stand up: [ty;

This is as't should be.—Let me see the coun-
Ay, marry, go, I say, and fetch him hither.—

Now, afore God, this reverend holy friar,
All our whole city is much bound to him.

Jul. Nurse, will you go with me in my
closet,

To help me sort such needful ornaments
As you think fit to furnish me to-morrow?

La. Cap. No, not till Thursday; there is
time enough.

Cap. Go, nurse, go with her:—we'll to church
to-morrow.

[Exit JULIET and NURSE.]

La. Cap. We shall be short in our provision;
'Tis now near night.

Cap. Tush! I will stir about, [wife:

And all things shall be well, I warrant thee,
Go thou to Juliet, help to deck up her;

I'll not to bed to night;—let me alone; [ho!—
I'll play the housewife for this once.—What,

They are all forth: Well, I will walk myself
To county Paris, to prepare him up [light,

Against to-morrow: my heart is wondrous
Since this same wayward girl is so reclaim'd.

[Exit.]

SCENE III.—JULIET'S Chamber.

Enter JULIET and NURSE.

Jul. Ay, those attires are best:—But, gen-
tle nurse,

I pray thee, leave me to myself to-night;
For I have need of many orisons§

To move the heavens to smile upon my state,
Which, well thou know'st, is cross and full of
sin.

Enter LADY CAPULET.

La. Cap. What, are you busy? do you need
my help?

Jul. No, madam; we have cull'd such ne-
cessaries

As are behoveful for our state to-morrow:
So please you, let me now be left alone,

And let the nurse this night sit up with you;
For, I am sure, you have your hands full all,

In this so sudden business.

* Confession,

† Becoming.

‡ Commands.

§ Prayers.

La. Cap. Good night !
Get thee to bed, and rest ; for thou hast need.

[*Exeunt Lady CAPULET and NURSE.*]

Jul. Farewell!—God knows, when we shall meet again.

I have a faint cold fear thrills through my veins,
That almost freezes up the heat of life :
I'll call them back again to comfort me ;—
Nurse!—What should she do here ?
My dismal scene I needs must act alone.—
Come, phial.—

What if this mixture do not work at all ?
Must I of force be married to the county ?—
No, no ;—this shall forbid it :—lie thou there.—

[*Laying down a Dagger.*]

What if it be a poison, which the friar
Subtly hath minister'd to have me dead ;
Lest in this marriage he should be dishonour'd,
Because he married me before to Romeo ?
I fear, it is : and yet, methinks, it should not,
For he hath still been tried a holy man :
I will not entertain so bad a thought.—
How if, when I am laid into the tomb,
I wake before the time that Romeo
Come to redeem me ? there's a fearful point !
Shall I not then be stifled in the vault,
To whose foul mouth no healthsome air
breathes in,

And there die strangled ere my Romeo comes ?
Or, if I live, is it not very like,

The horrible conceit of death and night,
Together with the terror of the place,—

As in a vault, an ancient receptacle, [bones
Where, for these many hundred years, the

Of all my buried ancestors are pack'd ;
Where bloody Tybalt, yet but green in earth,
Lies fest'ring in his shroud ; where, as they

say,

At some hours in the night spirits resort ;—
Alack, alack ! is it not like, that I,

So early waking,—what with loathsome smells,
And shrieks like mandrakes' torn out of the
earth,

That living mortals, hearing them, run mad ;—
O ! if I wake, shall I not be distraught,[†]
Environed with all these hideous fears ?

And madly play with my forefathers' joints ?
And pluck the mangled Tybalt from his
shroud ? [bone,

And, in this rage, with some great kinsman's
As with a club, dash out my desperate brains ;
O, look ! methinks, I see my cousin's ghost
Seeking out Romeo, that did spit his body
Upon a rapier's point :—Stay, Tybalt, stay !—
Romeo, I come ! this do I drink to thee.

[*She throws herself on the bed.*]

SCENE IV.—CAPULET'S Hall.

Enter Lady CAPULET and NURSE.

La. Cap. Hold, take these keys, and fetch
more spices, nurse.

Nurse. They call for dates and quinces in
the pastry.‡

Enter CAPULET.

Cap. Come, stir, stir, stir ! the second cock
hath crow'd,
The curfew bell hath wrung, 'tis three o'clock :—
Look to the bak'd meats, good Angelica :
Spare not for cost.

Nurse. Go, go, you cot-quean, go,
Get you to bed ; 'faith, you'll be sick to-morrow
For this night's watching.

Cap. Come, stir, stir, stir ! the second cock
hath crow'd,
The curfew bell hath wrung, 'tis three o'clock :—
Look to the bak'd meats, good Angelica :
Spare not for cost.

Nurse. Go, go, you cot-quean, go,
Get you to bed ; 'faith, you'll be sick to-morrow
For this night's watching.

Cap. Come, stir, stir, stir ! the second cock
hath crow'd,
The curfew bell hath wrung, 'tis three o'clock :—
Look to the bak'd meats, good Angelica :
Spare not for cost.

Nurse. Go, go, you cot-quean, go,
Get you to bed ; 'faith, you'll be sick to-morrow
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Cap. Come, stir, stir, stir ! the second cock
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Look to the bak'd meats, good Angelica :
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Cap. Come, stir, stir, stir ! the second cock
hath crow'd,
The curfew bell hath wrung, 'tis three o'clock :—
Look to the bak'd meats, good Angelica :
Spare not for cost.

Nurse. Go, go, you cot-quean, go,
Get you to bed ; 'faith, you'll be sick to-morrow
For this night's watching.

Cap. No, not a whit ; What ! I have watch'd
ere now

All night for lesser cause, and ne'er been sick.
La. Cap. Ay, you have been a mouse-hunt^{*}
in your time ;

But I will watch you from such watching now.
[*Exeunt Lady CAPULET, and NURSE.*]

Cap. A jealous-hood, a jealous-hood !—Now,
What's there ? [fellow,

Enter SERVANTS, with Spits, Logs, and Baskets.

1 *Serv.* Things for the oook, Sir ; but I know
not what.

Cap. Make haste, make haste. [*Exit* 1 *SERV.*]
Sirrah, fetch drier logs ;

Call Peter, he will show thee where they are.
2 *Serv.* I have a head, Sir, that will find out
logs,

And never trouble Peter for the matter. [*Exit.*]
Cap. 'Mass, and well said ; A merry whoreson !
ha, [day :

Thou shalt be logger-head.—Good faith, 'tis
The county will be here with music straight,
[*Music within.*]

For so he said he would. I hear him near :—
Nurse!—*Wife!*—what, ho !—what, nurse, I
say !

Enter NURSE.

Go, waken Juliet, go, and trim her up ;
I'll go and chat with Paris : Hie, make haste,
Make haste ! the bridegroom he is come al-
ready :

Make haste, I say ! [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.—JULIET'S Chamber ; JULIET on
the bed.

Enter NURSE.

Nurse. Mistress !—what, mistress !—Juliet !
—fast, I warrant her, she :—

Why, lamb !—why, lady !—fie, you slug-a-
bed !—

Why, love, I say !—madam ! sweet-heart !—
why, bride !

What, not a word ?—you take your penny-
worths now : [rant,

Sleep for a week : for the next night, I war-
The county Paris bath set up his rest, [me,
That you shall rest but little.—God forgive
(Marry and amen !) how sound is she asleep !
I needs must wake her :—Madam, madam,
madam !

Ay, let the county take you in your bed ;
He'll fright you up, i'faith.—Will it not be ?
What, dress'd ! and in your clothes ! and down
again !

I must needs wake you : Lady ! lady ! lady !
Alas ! alas !—Help ! help ! my lady's dead !—
O, well-a-day that ever I was born !—
Some aqua-vitæ, ho !—my lord ! my lady !

Enter Lady CAPULET.

La. Cap. What noise is here ?
Nurse. O lamentable day !
La. Cap. What is the matter ?
Nurse. Look, look ! O heavy day !
La. Cap. O me, O me !—my child, my only
life,
Revive, look up, or I will die with thee !—
Help, help !—call help.

Enter Lady CAPULET.

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Nurse. O lamentable day !
La. Cap. What is the matter ?
Nurse. Look, look ! O heavy day !
La. Cap. O me, O me !—my child, my only
life,
Revive, look up, or I will die with thee !—
Help, help !—call help.

* The fabulous accounts of the plant called a *mandrake* give it a degree of animal life, and when it is torn from the ground it groans, which is fatal to him that pulls it up.

† Distracted. ‡ The room where pies were made.

* *Mouse* was a term of endearment to a woman.

Nurse. She's dead, deceas'd, she's dead ;
alack the day !

La. Cap. Alack the day ! she's dead, she's
dead, she's dead.

Cap. Ha ! let me see her :—Out, alas ! she's
cold ;

Her blood is settled ; and her joints are stiff ;
Life and these lips have long been separated :
Death lies on her, like an untimely frost
Upon the sweetest flower of all the field
Accursed time ! unfortunate old man !

Nurse. O lamentable day !

La. Cap. O woeful time !

Cap. Death, that hath ta'en her hence to
make me wail,

Ties up my tongue, and will not let me speak.

*Enter Eriar LAURENCE and PARIS, with MUSI-
CIANS.*

Fri. Come, is the bride ready to go to
church ?

Cap. Ready to go, but never to return :
O son, the night before thy wedding-day
Hath death lain with thy bride :—See, there
she lies,

Flower as she was, deflowered by him.
Death is my son-in-law, death is my heir ;
My daughter he hath wedded ! I will die,
And leave him all ; life leaving, all is death's.

Par. Have I thought long to see this morn-
ing's face,
And doth it give me such a sight as this ?

La. Cap. Accurs'd, unhappy, wretched, hate-
ful day !

Most miserable hour, that e'er time saw
In lasting labour of his pilgrimage !
But one, poor one, one poor and loving child,
But one thing to rejoice and solace in.
And cruel death hath catch'd it from my sight.

Nurse. O woe ! O woeful, woeful, woeful
day !

Most lamentable day ! most woeful day,
That ever, ever, I did yet behold !
O day ! O day ! O day ! O hateful day !
Never was seen so black a day as this :
O woeful day, O woeful day !

Par. Beguil'd, divorc'd, wronged, spited,
slain !

Most detestable death, by thee begnil'd,
By cruel cruel thee quite overthrown !—
O love ! O life !—not life, but love in death !

Cap. Despis'd, distressed, hated, martyr'd,
kill'd !—

Uncomfortable time ! why cam'st thou now
To murder murder our solemnity ?—
O child ! O child !—my soul, and not my
child !—

Dead art thou, dead !—alack ! my child is dead ;
And, with my child, my joys are buried !

Fri. Peace, ho, for shame ! confusion's cure
lives not

In these confusions. Heaven and yourself
Had part in this fair maid : now heaven hath
And all the better is it for the maid : [all.
Your part in her you could not keep from
death ;

But heaven keeps his part in eternal life.
The most you sought was—her promotion ;
For 'twas your heaven, she should be advanc'd :
And weep ye now, seeing she is advanc'd,
Above the clouds, as high as heaven itself ?
O, in this love, you love your child so ill,
That you run mad, seeing that she is well :
She's not well married that lives married long :
But she's best married, that dies married
young.

Dry up your tears, and stick your rosemary

On this fair corse ; and, as the custom is,
In all her best array bear her to church :
For though fond nature bids us all lament,
Yet nature's tears are reason's merriment.

Cap. All things, that we ordained festival,
Turn from their office to black funeral :
Our instruments, to melancholy bells ;
Our wedding cheer, to a sad burial feast ;
Our solemn hymns to sullen dirges change ;
Our bridal flowers serve for a buried corse,
And all things change them to the contrary.

Fri. Sir, go you in,—and madam, go with
him ;—

And go, Sir Paris ;—every one prepare
To follow this fair corse unto her grave :
The heavens do low'r upon you, for some ill ;
Move them no more, by crossing their high
will. [*Exeunt CAPULET, Lady CAPU-
LET, PARIS, and FRIAR.*

1 *Mus.* 'Faith, we may put up our pipes, and
be gone.

Nurse. Honest good fellows, ah, put up ;
put up ;

For, well you know, this is a pitiful case.
[*Exit NURSE.*

1 *Mus.* Ay, by my troth, the case may be
amended.

Enter PETER.

Pet. Musicians, O, musicians, *Heart's ease,*
heart's ease ; O, an you will have me live, play
—*heart's ease.*

1 *Mus.* Why *heart's ease* ?

Pet. O, musicians, because my heart itself
plays—*My heart is full of woe* : O, play me
some merry dump,* to comfort me.

2 *Mus.* Not a dump we ; 'tis no time to play
now.

Pet. You will not then ?

2 *Mus.* No.

Pet. I will then give it you soundly.

1 *Mus.* What will you give us ?

Pet. No money, on my faith ; but the gleek : †
I will give you the minstrel.

1 *Mus.* Then will I give you the serving-
creature.

Pet. Then will I lay the serving-creature's
dagger on your pate. I will carry no crotchets :
I'll *re* you, I'll *fa* you ; Do you note me ?

1 *Mus.* An you *re* us, and *fa* us, you note us.

2 *Mus.* Pray you, put up your dagger, and
put out your wit

Pet. Then have at you with my wit ; I will
dry-beat you with and iron wit, and put up my
iron dagger :—Answer me like men :

*When griping grief the heart doth wound,
And doleful dumps the mind oppress,
Then music, with her silver sound ;*

Why, *silver sound* ? why, *music with her silver
sound* ?

What say you, Simon Catling ?

1 *Mus.* Marry, Sir, because silver hath a
sweet sound.

Pet. Pretty ! What say you, Hugh Rebeck ? ‡

2 *Mus.* I say—*silver sound*, because musicians
sound for silver.

Pet. Pretty too !—What say you, James
Soundpost ?

3 *Mus.* 'Faith, I know not what to say.

Pet. O, I cry you mercy ! you are the singer :
I will say for you. It is *music with her silver*

* *Dumps* were heavy mournful tunes.

† To *gleek* is to scoff, and a *gleekman* signified a minstrel.

‡ "And the jocund *rebecks* sound."—*Milton.*

sound, because such fellows as you have sell-
dom gold for sounding:—

*Then music, with her silver sound,
With speedy help doth lend redress.*

[Exit, singing.]

1 Mus. What a pestilent knave is this same?

2 Mus. Hang him, Jack! Come, we'll in
here; tarry for the mourners, and stay dinner.

[Exeunt.]

ACT V.

SCENE I.—Mantua.—A Street.

Enter ROMEO.

Rom. If I may trust the flattering eye of
sleep,
My dreams presage some joyful news at hand:
My bosom's lord* sits lightly in his throne;
And, all this day, an unaccustom'd spirit
Lifts me above the ground with cheerful
thoughts.

I dreamt, my lady came and found me dead;
(Strange dream! that gives a dead man leave
to think.)

And breath'd such life with kisses in my lips,
That I reviv'd, and was an emperor.

Ah me! how sweet is love itself possess'd,
When but love's shadows are so rich in joy?

Enter BALTHASAR.

News from Verona! How now Balthasar?
Dost thou not bring me letters from the friar?
How doth my lady? Is my father well?
How fares my Juliet? That I ask again;
For nothing can be ill, if she be well.

Bal. Then she is well, and nothing can be ill;
Her body sleeps in Capel's monument,
And her immortal part with angels lives;
I saw her laid low in her kindred's vault,
And presently took post to tell it you;
O pardon me for bringing these ill news,
Since you did leave it for my office, Sir.

Rom. Is it even so? Then I defy you, stars!—
Thou know'st my lodging: get me ink and
paper,
And hire post-horses; I will hence to-night.

Bal. Pardon me, Sir, I will not leave you
thus:

Your looks are pale and wild, and do import
Some misadventure.

Rom. Tush, thou art deceiv'd;
Leave me, and do the thing I bid thee do:
Hast thou no letters to me from the friar?

Bal. No, my good lord.

Rom. No matter: get thee gone,
And hire those horses; I'll be with thee
straight. [Exit BALTHASAR.]

Well, Juliet, I will lie with thee to-night.
Let's see for means:—O, mischief, thou art
swift

To enter in the thoughts of desperate men!
I do remember an apothecary,—

And hereabouts he dwells, —whom late I noted
In tattered weeds, with overwhelming brows,
Culling of simples;† meager were his looks,
Sharp misery had worn him to the bones:
And in his needy shop a tortoise hung,
An alligator stuff'd, and other skins
Of ill-shap'd fishes; and about his shelves
A beggarly account of empty boxes,
Green earthen pots, bladders, and musty seeds,
Remnants of packthread, and old cakes of roses,
Were thinly scatter'd, to make up a show.

* I. e. Love. † Herbs.

Noting this penury, to myself I said—
And if a man did need a poison now,
Whose sale is present death in Mantua,
Here lives a caitiff wretch would sell it him.
O, this same thought did but forerun my
need;

And this same needy man must sell it me.

As I remember, this should be the house:
Being holiday, the beggars' shop is shut.—
What, ho! apothecary!

Enter APOTHECARY.

Ap. Who calls so loud?

Rom. Come hither, man.—I see, that thou
art poor;

Hold, there is forty ducats: let me have
A dram of poison; such soon-spending gear*
As will disperse itself through all the veins,
That the life-weary taker may fall dead;
And that the trunk may be discharg'd of
breath

As violently, as hasty powder fir'd
Doth hurry from the fatal cannon's womb.

Ap. Such mortal drugs I have; but Man-
tua's law

Is death, to any he that utters them.

Rom. Art thou so bare, and full of wretch-
edness,

And fear'st to die? famine is in thy cheeks,
Need and oppression starveth in thy eyes,
Upon thy back hangs ragged misery,
The world is not thy friend, nor the world's
law:

The world affords no law to make thee rich;
Then be not poor, but break it, and take
this.

Ap. My poverty, but not my will, con-
sents.

Rom. I pay thy poverty, and not thy will.

Ap. Put this in any liquid thing you will,
And drink it off; and, if you had the strength
Of twenty men, it would despatch you
straight.

Rom. There is thy gold; worse poison to
men's souls,

Doing more murders in this loathsome world,
Than these poor compounds that thou may'st
not sell:

I sell thee poison, thou hast sold me none.
Farewell; buy food, and get thyself in flesh.—
Come, cordial and not poison; go with me
To Juliet's grave, for there must I use thee.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—Friar LAURENCE'S Cell.

Enter Friar JOHN.

John. Holy Franciscan friar! brother, ho!

Enter Friar LAURENCE.

Lau. This same should be the voice of friar
John.—

Welcome from Mantua: What says Romeo?
Or, if his mind be writ, give me his letter.

John. Going to find a barefoot brother out,
One of our order to associate me,
Here in this city visiting the sick,
And finding him the searchers of the town,
Suspecting that we both were in a house
Where the infectious pestilence did reign;
Seal'd up the doors, and would not let us
forth;

So that my speed to Mantua there was stay'd.

Lau. Who bare my letter then to Romeo?

* Stuff.

John. I could not send it,—here it is again,—

Nor get a messenger to bring it thee, So fearful were they of infection.

Lau. Unhappy fortune! by my brotherhood, The letter was not nice,* but full of charge, Of dear import; and the neglecting it May do much danger: Friar John, go hence: Get me an iron crow, and bring it straight Unto my cell.

John. Brother, I'll go and bring't thee. [Exit.]

Lau. Now must I to the monument alone: Within this three hours will fair Juliet wake; She will beshrew me much, that Romeo Hath had no notice of these accidents: But I will write again to Mantua, And keep her at my cell till Romeo come; Poor living corpse, clos'd in a dead man's tomb! [Exit.]

SCENE III.—A Church-Yard; in it, a Monument belonging to the CAPULETS.

Enter PARIS, and his PAGE, bearing Flowers and a Torch.

Par. Give me thy torch, boy: Hence, and stand aloof;—
Yet put it out, for I would not be seen. Under yon yew-trees lay thee all along, Holding thine ear close to the hollow ground: So shall no foot upon the church-yard tread, (Being loose, unfirm, with digging up of graves.)

But thou shalt hear it: whistle then to me, As signal that thou hear'st something approach.

Give me those flowers. Do as I bid thee, go.

Page. I am almost afraid to stand alone Here in the church-yard; yet I will adventure. [Retires.]

Par. Sweet flower, with flowers I strew thy bridal bed:

Sweet tomb, that in thy circuit dost contain The perfect model of eternity; Fair Juliet, that with angels dost remain, Accept this latest favour at my hands; That living honour'd thee, and, being dead, With funeral praises to adorn thy tomb! [The Boy whistles.]

The boy gives warning something doth approach.

What cursed foot wanders this way to-night, To cross my obsequies, and true-love's rites? What with a torch!—muffle me, night, a while. [Retires.]

Enter ROMEO and BALTHASAR with a Torch, Mattock, &c.

Rom. Give me that mattock, and the wrenching iron.

Hold, take this letter; early in the morning See thou deliver it to my lord and father. Give me the light: Upon thy life I charge thee,

Whate'er thou hear'st or seest, stand aloof, And do not interrupt me in my course. Why I descend into this bed of death, Is, partly, to behold my lady's face: [ger But, chiefly, to take hence from her dead fin-A precious ring; a ring that I must use In dear employment:† therefore hence, be-gone:—

But if thou, jealous, dost return to pry In what I further shall intend to do, By heaven, I will tear thee joint by joint, And strew this hungry church-yard with thy limbs:

The time and my intents are savage-wild; More fierce, and more inexorable far, Than empty tigers, or the roaring sea.

Bal. I will be gone, Sir, and not trouble you.

Rom. So shalt thou show me friendship.— Take thou that:

Live, and be prosperous; and farewell, good fellow.

Bal. For all this same, I'll hide me here-about;

His looks I fear, and his intents I doubt. [Retires.]

Rom. Thou detestable maw, thou womb of death

Gorg'd with the dearest morsel of the earth, Thus I enforce thy rotten jaws to open,

[Breaking open the door of the Monument.]

And, in despite, I'll cram thee with more food!

Par. This is that banish'd haughty Montague,

That murder'd my love's cousin;—with which It is supposed the fair creature died,—

And here is come to do some villainous shame To the dead bodies: I will apprehend him.— [Advances.]

Stop thy unhallow'd toil, vile Montague;

Can vengeance be pursu'd farther than death? Condemned villain, I do apprehend thee:

Obey, and go with me; for thou must die.

Rom. I must, indeed; and therefore came I hither.—

Good gentle youth, tempt not a desperate man, Fly hence and leave me;—think upon these gone;

Let them affright thee.—I beseech thee, youth, Heap not another sin upon my head,

By urging me to fury;—O, be gone! By heaven, I love thee better than myself:

For I come hither arm'd against myself: Stay not, begone;—live, and hereafter say—

A madman's mercy bade thee run away.

Par. I do defy thy conjurations,* And do attach thee as a felon here.

Rom. Wilt thou provoke me? then have at thee, boy. [They fight.]

Page. O lord! they fight: I will go call the watch. [Exit PAGE.]

Par. O, I am slain! [Falls.]—If thou be merciful,

Open the tomb, lay me with Juliet. [Dies.]

Rom. In faith, I will:—Let me peruse this face;—

Mercutio's kinsman, noble county Paris:—

What said my man, when my betossed soul Did not attend him as we rode? I think,

He told me, Paris should have married Juliet: Said he not so? or did I dream it so?

Or am I mad, hearing him talk of Juliet, To think it was so?—O, give me thy hand,

One writ with me in sour misfortune's book! I'll bury thee in a triumphant grave,—

A grave? O, no; a lantern,† slaughtered youth,

For here lies Juliet, and her beauty makes This vault a feasting presence† full of light.

* I. e. On a trivial or idle subject.

† I. e. Action of importance.

* I refuse to do as thou conjurest me to do, i. e. depart.
† The allusion is to a louvre or turret full of windows by means of which ancient halls, &c. are illuminated.
‡ Presence chamber.

Death, lie thou there, by a dead man interr'd.
[Laying PARIS in the Monument.]

How oft when men are at the point of death
Have they been merry? which their keepers
call

A lightning before death: O, how may I
Call this a lightning?—O, my love! my wife!
Death that hath suck'd the honey of thy
breath,

Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty:
Thou art not conquer'd: beauty's ensign yet
Is crimson in thy lips, and in thy cheeks,
And death's pale flag is not advanced there.—
Tybalt, liest thou there in thy bloody sheet?
O, what more favour can I do to thee,
Than with thy hand that cut thy youth in
twain,

To sunder his that was thine enemy?
Forgive me, cousin!—Ah dear Juliet,
Why art thou yet so fair? Shall I believe
That unsubstantial Death is amorous;
And that the lean abhorred monster keeps
Thee here in dark to be his paramour?
For fear of that, I still will stay with thee;
And never from this palace of dim night
Depart again; here, here will I remain
With worms that are thy chambermaids; O,
Will I set up my everlasting rest; [here
And shake the yoke of inauspicious stars
From this world-wearied flesh.—Eyes, look
your last!

Arms, take your last embrace! and lips, O you
The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss
A dateless bargain to engrossing death?—
Come, bitter conduct,* come, unsavoury guide!
Thou desperate pilot, now at once run on
The dashing rocks thy sea-sick weary bark!
Here's to my love!—[Drinks.] O, true apothecary!

Thy drugs are quick.—Thus with a kiss I die.
[Dies.]

Enter at the other end of the Church-Yard, Friar
LAURENCE, with a Lantern, crow and Spade.

Fri. Saint Francis be my speed! how oft to-
night [there?]
Have my old feet stumbled at graves?—Who's
Who is it that consorts, so late, the dead?

Bal. Here's one, a friend, and one that knows
you well.

Fri. Bliss be upon you! Tell me, good my
friend,

What torch is yond', that vainly lends his light
To grubs and eyeless skulls! as I discern,
It burneth in the Capel's monument.

Bal. It doth so, holy Sir; and there's my
One that you love. [master,

Fri. Who is it?
Bal. Romeo.

Fri. How long hath he been there?

Bal. Full half an hour.

Fri. Go with me to the vault.

Bal. I dare not, Sir:

My master knows not, but I am gone hence;
And fearfully did menace me with death,
If I did stay to look on his intents.

Fri. Stay then, I'll go alone:—Fear comes
upon me:

O, much I fear some ill unlucky thing.

Bal. As I did sleep under this yew-tree here,
I dreamt my master and another fought,
And that my master slew him.

Fri. Romeo! [Advances.]
Alack, alack, what blood is this, which stains
The stony entrance of this sepulchre?—

What mean these masterless and gory swords
To lie discolour'd by this place of peace?

[Enters the Monument.]
Romeo! O, pale!—Who else? what, Paris,
too? [hour

And steep'd in blood?—Ah, what an unkind
Is guilty of this lamentable chance!—

The lady stirs, [JULIET wakes and stirs.]
Jul. O, comfortable friar! where is my lord?

I do remember well where I should be,
And there I am:—Where is my Romeo?

[Noise within.]
Fri. I hear some noise.—Lady, come from
that nest

Of death, contagion, and unnatural sleep;
A greater power than we can contradict
Hath thwarted our intents; come, come away:
Thy husband in thy bosom there lies dead;
And Paris too, come, I'll dispose of thee
Among a sisterhood of holy nuns:

Stay not to question, for the watch is coming;
Come, go, good Juliet,—[Noise again.] I dare
stay no longer. [Exit.]

Jul. Go, get thee hence, for I will not
away.— [hand?

What's here? a cup, clos'd in my true love's
Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end:—
O churl! drink all; and leave no friendly drop
To help me after?—I will kiss thy lips;
Haply, some poison yet doth hang on them,
To make me die with a restorative. [Kisses him.]
Thy lips are warm!

I Watch. [Within.] Lead, boy:—Which
way?

Jul. Yea, noise?—then I'll be brief.—O
happy dagger!

[Snatching ROMEO's Dagger.]
This is thy sheath; [Stabs herself.] there rust,
and let me die.

[Falls on ROMEO's Body, and dies.]

Enter WATCH, with the PAGE of PARIS.

Page. This is the place; there, where th'
torch doth burn.

I Watch. The ground is bloody; Search about
the church-yard:

Go, some of you, whoe'er you find, attach,
[Exeunt some.]

Pitiful sight? here lies the county slain;—
And Juliet bleeding; warm, and newly dead,
Who here hath lain these two days buried.—
Go, tell the prince,—run to the Capulets,—

Raise up the Montagues,—some others
search;— [Exeunt other WATCHMEN.]

We see the ground whereon these woes do lie;
But the true ground of all these piteous woes,
We cannot without circumstance descry.

Enter some of the WATCH, with BALTHASAR.

2 Watch. Here's Romeo's man, we found him
in the church-yard.

1 Watch. Hold him in safety, till the prince
come hither.

Enter another WATCHMAN, with Friar
LAURENCE.

3 Watch. Here is a friar, that trembles, sighs
and weeps:

We took this mattock and this spade from him,
As he was coming from this church-yard side.

1 Watch. A great suspicion; Stay the friar
too.

Enter the PRINCE and Attendants.

Prince. What misadventure is so early up,
That calls our person from our morning's rest?

Enter CAPULET, Lady CAPULET, and others.

Cap. What should it be, that they so shriek abroad?

La. Cap. The people in the street cry—Romeo,

Some—Juliet, and some—Paris; and all run, with open outcry toward our monument.

Prince. What fear is this, which startles in our ears?

1 Watch. Sovereign, here lies the county Paris slain;

And Romeo dead; and Juliet, dead before, Warm and new kill'd.

Prince. Search, seek, and know how this foul murder comes.

1 Watch. Here is a friar, and slaughter'd Romeo's man;

With instruments upon them, fit 'o open These dead men's tombs.

Cap. O, heavens!—O, wife! look how our daughter bleeds!

This dagger hath mista'en,—for lo! his house* Is empty on the back of Montague,—

And is mis-sheathed in my daughter's bosom.

La. Cap. O me! this sight of death is as a bell,

That warns my old age to a sepulchre.

Enter MONTAGUE and others.

Prince. Come, Montague; for thou art early up,

To see thy son and heir more early down.

Mon. Alas, my liege, my wife is dead tonight;

Grief of my son's exile hath stopp'd her breath:

What further woe conspires against mine age?

Prince. Look, and thou shalt see.

Mon. O thou untaught! what manners is in this,

To press before thy father to a grave?

Prince. Seal up the mouth of outrage for a while,

'Till we can clear these ambiguities, And know their spring, their head, their true descent;

And then will I be general of your woes, And lead you even to death: Meantime forbear,

And let mischance be slave to patience.—Bring forth the parties of suspicion.

Fri. I am the greatest, able to do least, Yet most suspected, as the time and place

Doth make against me, of this direful murder;

And here I stand, both to impeach and purge Myself condemned and myself accus'd.

Prince. Then say at once what thou dost know in this.

Fri. I will be brief, for my short date of breath

Is not so long as is a tedious tale.

Romeo, there dead, was husband to that Juliet;

And she, there dead, that Romeo's faithful wife:

I married them; and their stolen-marriage-day

Was Tybalt's doomsday, whose untimely death

Banish'd the new-made bridegroom from this city;

For whom, and not for Tybalt, Juliet pin'd.

You—to remove that siege* of grief from her,—

Betroth'd, and would have married her perforce,

To county Paris:—Then comes she to me; And, with wild looks, bid me devise some means

To rid her from this second marriage.

Or, in my cell there would she kill herself.

Then gave I her, so tutor'd by my art,

A sleeping potion: which so took effect

As I intended, for it wrought on her

The form of death: meantime I writ to Romeo,

That he should hither come as this dire night,

To help to take her from her borrow'd grave.

Being the time the potion's force should cease.

But he which bore my letter, friar John,

Was staid by accident; and yesternight

Return'd my letter back: then all alone,

At the prefixed hour of her waking,

Came I to take her from her kindred's vault;

Meaning to keep her closely at my cell,

Till I conveniently could send to Romeo:

But, when I came, (some minute ere the time

Of her awakening,) here untimely lay

The noble Paris, and true Romeo, dead.

She wakes: and I entreated her come forth,

And bear this work of heaven with patience:

But then a noise did scare me from the tomb

And she, too desperate, would not go with me,

But (as it seems,) did violence on herself.

All this I know; and to the marriage

Her nurse is privy: And, if aught in this

Miscarried by my fault, let my old life

Be sacrific'd, some hour before his time,

Unto the rigour of severest law.

Prince. We still have known thee for a holy man.—

Where's Romeo's man? what can he say in this?

Bal. I brought my master news of Juliet's death;

And then in post he came from Mantua, To this same place, to this same monument.

This letter he early bid me give his father; And threaten'd me with death, going in the vault,

If I departed not, and left him there.

Prince. Give me the letter, I will look on it.—

Where is the county's page, that rais'd the watch?—

Sirrah, what made you master in this place?

Page. He came with flowers to strew his lady's grave:

And bid me stand aloof, and so I did: Anon, comes one with light to ope the tomb;

And, by and by, my master drew on him; And then I ran away to call the watch.

Prince. This letter doth make good the friar's words,

Their course of love, the tidings of her death: And here he writes—that he did buy a poison

Of a poor 'pothecary, and therewithal Came to this vault to die, and lie with Juliet.—

Where be these enemies? Capulet! Montague!—

See, what a scourge is laid upon your hate, That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love!

And I, for winking at your discords too,

* I. e. The scabbard.

* Seat.

Have lost a brace of kinsmen:—all are punish'd.

Cap. O, brother Montague, give me thy hand:

This is my daughter's jointure, for no more
Can I demand.

Mon. But I can give thee more:
For I will raise her statue in pure gold;
That, while Verona by that name is known,
'There shall no figure at such rate be set,
As that of true and faithful Juliet.

* Mercutio and Paris.

Cap. As rich shall Romeo by his lady lie;
Poor sacrifices of our enmity!

Prince. A glooming peace this morning with
it brings;

The sun for sorrow will not show his head:
Go hence, to have more talk of these sad
things;

Some shall be pardon'd, and some punish'd:

For never was a story of more woe,
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

[*Exeunt.*]

HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

CLAUDIUS, King of Denmark.
 HAMLET, Son to the former King, and Nephew
 to the present King.
 POLONIUS, Lord Chamberlain.
 HORATIO, Friend to Hamlet.
 LAERTES, Son to Polonius.
 VOLTIMAND,
 CORNELIUS, } Courtiers.
 ROSENCRANTZ,
 GUILDENSTERN,
 OSRIC, a Courtier.
 Another COURTIER.
 A PRIEST.
 MARCELLUS, } Officers.
 BERNARDO, }

FRANCISCO, a Soldier.
 REYNALDO, Servant Polonius.
 A CAPTAIN.—AN AMBASSADOR.
 GHOST of Hamlet's Father.
 FORTINBRAS, Prince of Norway.

GERTRUDE, Queen of Denmark, and Mother of
 Hamlet.
 OPHELIA, Daughter of Polonius.

Lords, Ladies, Officers, Soldiers, Players,
 Grave-diggers, Sailors, Messengers,
 and other Attendants.

SCENE, Elsinore.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—Elsinore.—A Platform before the
 Castle.

FRANCISCO on his Post.—Enter to him
 BERNARDO.

Ber. Who's there ?

Fran. Nay, answer me : stand, and unfold
 Yourself.

Ber. Long live the king !

Fran. Bernardo ?

Ber. He.

Fran. You come most carefully upon your
 hour.

Ber. 'Tis now struck twelve ; get thee to
 bed, Francisco.

Fran. For this relief, much thanks : 'tis bitter
 cold,

And I am sick at heart.

Ber. Have you had quiet guard ?

Fran. Not a mouse stirring.

Ber. Well, good night.

If you do meet Horatio and Marcellus,
 The rivals* of my watch, bid them make haste.

Enter HORATIO and MARCELLUS.

Fran. I think I hear them.—Stand, ho ! Who
 is there ?

Hor. Friends to this ground.

Mar. And liegemen to the Dane.

Fran. Give you good night.

Mar. O, farewell, honest soldier :
 Who hath reliev'd you ?

Fran. Bernardo hath my place.
 Give you good night. [Exit FRANCISCO.

Mar. Holla ! Bernardo !

* Partners

Ber. Say.
 What, is Horatio there ?

Hor. A piece of him.

Ber. Welcome, Horatio ; welcome, good
 Marcellus.

Hor. What, has this thing appear'd again to-
 night ?

Ber. I have seen nothing.

Mar. Horatio says, 'tis but our fantasy :
 And will not let belief take hold of him,
 Touching this dreaded sight, twice seen of us ;
 Therefore I have entreated him along,
 With us to watch the minutes of this night ;
 That, if again this apparition come,
 He may approve* our eyes, and speak to it.

Hor. Tush ! tush ! 'twill not appear.

Ber. Sit down awhile ;

And let us once again assail your ears,
 That are so fortified against our story,
 What we two nights have seen.

Hor. Well, sit we down,
 And let us hear Bernardo speak of this.

Ber. Last night of all,
 When yon same star, that's westward from the
 pole, [heaven
 Had made his course to illumine that part of
 Where now it burns. Marcellus, and myself,
 The bell then beating one,—

Mar. Peace, break thee off ; look, where it
 comes again !

Enter GHOST.

Ber. In the same figure like the king that's
 dead.

Mar. Thou art a scholar, speak to it, Horatio.

Ber. Looks it not like the king ? mark it,
 Horatio.

* Make good or establish.

Hor. Most like:—it harrows* me with fear,
and wonder.

Ber. It would be spoke to.

Mar. Speak to it, Horatio.

Hor. What art thou, that usurp'st this time
of night,
Together with that fair and warlike form
In which the majesty of buried Denmark
Did sometimes march? by heaven I charge
thee, speak.

Mar. It is offended,

Ber. See! it stalks away.

Hor. Stay; speak: speak I charge thee,
speak. [Exit Ghost.

Mar. 'Tis gone, and will not answer.

Ber. How, now, Horatio? you tremble, and
look pale:
Is not this something more than fantasy?
What think you of it?

Hor. Before my God, I might not this believe,
Without the sensible and true avouch
Of mine own eyes.

Mar. Is it not like the king?

Hor. As thou art to thyself:
Such was the very armour he had on,
When he the ambitious Norway combated;
So frown'd he once, when in an angry parle,[†]
He smote the sledded‡ Polack§ on the ice.
'Tis strange.

Mar. Thus, twice before, and jump|| at this
dead hour,
With martial stalk hath he gone by our watch.

Hor. In what particular thought to work, I
know not;
But, in the gross and scope of mine opinion,
This hodes some strange eruption to our state.

Mar. Good now, sit down, and tell me, he
that knows,
Why this same strict and most observant watch
So nightly toils the subject of the land;
And why such daily cast of brazen cannon,
And foreign mart for implements of war;
Why such impress of shipwrights, whose sore
task
Does not divide the Sunday from the week:
What might be toward, that this sweaty haste
Doth make the night joint-labourer with the
Who is't, that can inform me? [day;

Hor. That can I;
At least, the whisper goes so. Our last king,
Whose image even but now appear'd to us,
Was, as you know, by Fortinbras of Norway,
Thereto prick'd on by a most emulate pride,
Dar'd to the combat; in which our valiant
Hamlet [him,)
(For so this side of our known world esteem'd
Did slay this Fortinbras; who, by a seal'd com-
Well ratified by law and heraldry, [pact,
Did forfeit, with his life, all those his lands,
Which he stood seiz'd of, to the conqueror:
Against the which, a moiety competent
Was gaged by our king, which had return'd
To the inheritance of Fortinbras, [mart,†
Had he been vanquisher; as, by the same co-
And carriage of the article design'd,**
His fell to Hamlet: Now, Sir, young Fortin-
Of unimproved mettle hot and full,†† [bras,
Hath in the skirts of Norway, here and there,
Shark'd‡‡ up a list of landless resolute,
For food and diet, to some enterprise
That hath a stomach§§ in't: which is no other

(As it doth well appear unto our state,)
But to recover of us, by strong hand,
And terms compulsory, those 'foresaid lands
So by his father lost: And this, I take it,
Is the main motive of our preparations;
The source of this our watch; and the chief
head
Of this post-haste and romage* in the land.
[*Ber.* I think, it be no other, but even so:
Well may it sort,† that this portentous figure
Comes armed through our watch; so like the
king
That was, and is, the question of these wars.
Hor. A mote it is, to trouble the mind's eye.
In the most high and palmy‡ state of Rome,
A little ere the mightiest Julius fell, [dead
The graves fell tenantless, and the sheeted
Did squeak and gibber in the Roman streets.
* * * * *
As, stars with trains of fire and dews of blood,
Disasters in the sun; and the moist star,§
Upon whose influence Neptune's empire
stands,
Was sick almost to doomsday with eclipse.
And even the like precurse of fierce events,—
As harbingers preceding still the fates,
And prologue to the omen|| coming on,
Have heaven and earth together demonstrated
Unto our climatures and countrymen.—]

Re-entr Ghost.

But, soft; behold! lo, where it comes again!
I'll cross it, though it blast me.—Stay, illu-
sion!
If thou hast any sound, or use of voice,
Speak to me:
If there be any good thing to be done,
That may to thee do ease, and grace to me,
Speak to me:
If thou art privy to thy country's fate,
Which, happily, foreknowing, may avoid,
O, speak!
Or, if thou hast uphoarded in thy life
Extorted treasure in the womb of earth,
For which, they say, you spirits oft walk in
death, [Cock crows.
Speak of it:—stay, and speak.—Stop it, Mar-
cellus.

Mar. Shall I strike at it with my partizan?

Hor. Do, if it will not stand.

Ber. 'Tis here!

Hor. 'Tis here!

Mar. 'Tis gone! [Exit Ghost.

We do it wrong, being so majestical,
To offer it the show of violence;
For it is, as the air, invulnerable,
And our vain blows malicious mockery.

Ber. It was about to speak, when the cock
crew.

Hor. And then it started like a guilty thing
Upon a fearful summons. I have heard,
The cock, that is the trumpet of the morn,
Doth with his lofty and shrill-sounded throat
Awake the god of day; and, at his warning,
Whether in sea or fire, in earth or air,
The extravagant and erring|| spirit hies
To his confine; and of the truth herein
This present object inade probation.**
Mar. It faded on the crowing of the cock.
Some say, that ever 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
This bird of dawning singeth all night long;
And then they say no spirit dares stir abroad;

* Conquers. † Dispute. ‡ Sledge.
§ Poland, an inhabitant of Poland.
|| Just. ¶ Joint bargain.
** The covenant to confirm that bargain.
†† Full of spirit without experience. ‡‡ Picked.
§§ Resolution.

* Search. † Suit. ‡ Victorious.
§ The moon. || Event. ¶ Wandering.
** Proof.

The nights are wholesome ; Then no planets
strike,

No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallow'd and so gracious is the time.

Hor. So I have heard, and do in part believe
But, look, the morn, in russet mantle clad, [it
Walks o'er the dew of yon high eastern hill :—
Break we our watch up ; and, by my advice,
Let us impart what we have seen to-night
Unto young Hamlet : for, upon my life,
This spirit dumb to us, will speak to him :
Do you consent we shall acquaint him with it,
As needful in our loves, fitting our duty ?

Mar. Let's do't, I pray ; and I this morning
know
Where we shall find him most convenient.

[*Exeunt.*]
SCENE II.—*The same.*—*A Room of State in
the same.*

*Enter the KING, QUEEN, HAMLET, POLONIUS,
LAERTES, VOLTIMAND, CORNELIUS, LORDS,
and Attendants.*

King. Though yet of Hamlet our dear brother's
death

The memory be green ; and that it us befitted
To bear our hearts in grief, and our whole
kingdom

To be contracted in one brow of woe ;
Yet so far hath discretion fought with nature,
That we with wisest sorrow think on him,
Together with remembrance of ourselves.

Therefore our sometime sister, now our queen,
The imperial jointress of this warlike state,
Have we, as 'twere, with a defeated joy,—
With mirth in funeral, and with dirge in marriage,

In equal scale weighing delight and dole,*—
Taken to wife : nor have we herein barr'd
Your better wisdoms, which have freely gone
With this affair along :—For all, our thanks.

Now follows, that you know, young Fortinbras,—

Holding a weak supposal of our worth ;
Or thinking, by our late dear brother's death,
Our state to be disjoint and out of frame,
Colleagu'd with this dream of his advantage,
He hath not fail'd to pester us with message,
Importing our surrender of those lands
Lost by his father, with all bandst of law,
To our most valiant brother.—So much for
him.

Now for ourself, and for this time of meeting.
Thus much the business is : We have here writ
To Norway, uncle of young Fortinbras,—
Who, impotent and bed-rid, scarcely hears
Of this his nephew's purpose,—to suppress
His further gait here ; in that the levies,
The lists, and full proportions, are all made
Out of his subject : and we here despatch
You, good Cornelius, and you Voltimand,
For bearers of this greeting to old Norway ;
Giving to you no further personal power
To business with the king, more than the scope
Of these dilated articles allow. [duty.]

Farewell ; and let your haste commend your
Cor. Vol. In that, and all things, will we
show our duty.

King. We doubt it nothing ; heartily fare-
well.

[*Exeunt VOLTIMAND and CORNELIUS.*]
And now, Laertes, what's the news with you ?
You told us of some suit ; What is't, Laertes ?
You cannot speak of reason to the Dane,

And lose your voice : What wouldst thou beg
Laertes.

That shall not be my offer, not thy asking ?
The head is not more native to the heart,
The hand more instrumental to the mouth,
Than is the throne of Denmark to thy father.
What wouldst thou have, Laertes ?

Laer. My dread lord,
Your leave and favour to return to France ;
From whence though willingly I came to Den-
mark,

To show my duty in your coronation ;
Yet now, I must confess, that duty done,
My thoughts and wishes bend again toward
France,

And bow them to your gracious leave and par-
King. Have you your father's leave ? What
says Polonius ?

Pol. He hath, my lord, [wring from me my
slow leave,

By laboursome petition ; and, at last,
Upon his will I seal'd my hard consent :]
I do beseech you, give him leave to go.

King. Take thy fair hour, Laertes ; time be
thine.

And thy best graces : spend it at thy will.—
But now, my cousin Hamlet, and my son,—

Ham. A little more than kin, and less than
kind.* [Aside.]

King. How is it, that the clouds still hang
on you ?

Ham. Not so, my lord, I am too much i'the
sun.

Queen. Good Hamlet, cast thy nighted colour
off,

And let thine eye look like a friend on Den-
mark.

Do not, for ever, with thy veiled lidst
Seek for thy noble father in the dust :

Thou know'st, 'tis common : all, that live,
must die,

Passing through nature to eternity.
Ham. Ay, madam, it is common.

Queen. If it be,
Why seems it so particular with thee ?

Ham. Seems, madam ! nay, it is ; I know
not seems.

'Tis not alone my inky cloak, good mother,
Nor customary suits of solemn black,

Nor windy suspiration of forc'd breath,
No, nor the fruitful river in the eye,

Nor the dejected haviour of the visage,
Together with all forms, modes, shows of
grief,

That can denote me truly : These, indeed,
[seem,
For they are actions that a man might play :

But I have that within, which passeth show ;
These, but the trappings and the suits of woe.

King. 'Tis sweet and commendable in your
nature, Hamlet,

To give these mourning duties to your father :
But, you must know, your father lost a father ;

That father lost his ; and the survivor bound
In filial obligation, for some term

To do obsequious sorrow : But to persevere
In obstinate condolement, is a course

Of impious stubbornness ; 'tis unmanly grief :
It shows a will most incorrect to heaven ;

A heart unfortified, or mind impatient ;
An understanding simple and unschool'd :

For what, we know, must be, and is as com-
mon

As any the most vulgar thing to sense,
Why should we in our peevish opposition,

Take it to heart ? Fie ! 'tis a fault to heaven,

* Grief. † Bonds. ‡ Way.

* Nature : a little more than a kinsman, and less than
a natural one. † Lowering eyes.

A fault against the dead, a fault to nature,
To reason most absurd; whose common theme
Is death of fathers, and who still hath cried,
From the first corse, till he that died to-day,
This must be so. We pray you, thied to earth
This unprevailing woe; and think of us
As of a father: for let the world take note,
You are the most immediate to our throne;
And, with no less nobility of love,
Than that which dearest father bears his son,
Do I impart toward you. For your intent
In going back to school in Wittenberg,
It is most retrograde* to our desire:
And, we beseech you, bend you to remain
Here in the cheer and comfort of our eye,
Our chiefest courtier cousin, and our son.

Queen. Let not thy mother lose her prayers,
Hamlet;

I pray thee, stay with us, go not to Wittenberg.

Ham. I shall in all my best obey you, madam.

King. Why, 'tis a loving and a fair reply;
Be as yourself in Denmark.—Madam, come;
This gentle and unforc'd accord of Hamlet
Sits smiling to my heart: in grace whereof,
No jocund health, that Denmark drinks to-day,
But the great cannon to the clouds shall tell;
And the king's rouser the heaven shall bruite
again,

Re-speaking earthly thunder. Come away.

[*Exeunt KING, QUEEN, Lords, &c. POLONIUS, and LAERTES.*]

Ham. O, that this too solid flesh would
Thaw, and resolve[§] itself into a dew! [melt,
Or that the Everlasting had not fix'd [God!
His cannon] 'gainst self-slaughter! O God! O
How weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable
Seem to me all the uses of this world!
Fie on't! O Fie! 'tis an unweeded garden,
That grows to seed; things rank and gross in
nature, [this!]

Possess it merely.¶ That it should come to
But two months dead!—nay, not so much, not
So excellent a king; that was, to this, [two;
Hyperion** to a satyr: soloving to my mother,
That he might not beteem†† the winds of heaven
Visit her face too roughly. Heaven and earth!
Must I remember? why, she would hang on
As if increase of appetite had grown [him,
By what it fed on: And yet, within a month,—
Let me not think on't;—Frailty, thy name is
woman!—

A little month; or ere those shoes were old,
With which she follow'd my poor father's body,

Like Niobe, all tears;—why she, even she,—
O heaven! a beast, that wants discourse of
reason,

Would have mourn'd longer,—married with
my uncle, [ther,

My father's brother; but no more like my fa-
ther than I to Hercules: Within a month;

'Ere yet the salt of most unrighteous tears
Had left the flushing in her galled eyes,
She married:—O most wicked speed, to post
With such dexterity to incestuous sheets!

It is not, nor it cannot come to, good;
But break, my heart; for I must hold my
tongue!

Enter HORATIO, BERNARDO, and MARCELLUS.

Hor. Hail to your lordship!

Ham. I am glad to see you well:

Horatio,—or I do forget myself.

Hor. The same, my lord, and your poor ser-
vant ever.

Ham. Sir, my good friend; I'll change that
name with you. [tio?—

And what make you from Wittenberg, Hora-
Marcellus?

Mar. My good lord,—

Ham. I am very glad to see you; good even,
Sir.—

But what, in faith, make you from Wittenberg?

Hor. A truant disposition, good my lord.

Ham. I would not hear your enemy say so:
Nor shall you do mine ear that violence,

To make it truster of your own report

Against yourself: I know, you are no truant.

But what is your affair in Elsinore?

We'll teach you to drink deep ere you depart.

Hor. My lord, I came to see your father's
funeral.

Ham. I pray thee, do not mock me, fellow-
student:

I think, it was to see my mother's wedding.

Hor. Indeed, my lord, it follow'd hard upon.

Ham. Thrift, thrift, Horatio! the funeral
bak'd meats*

Did coldly furnish forth the marriage tables.

'Would I had met my dearest foe in heaven!

Or ever I had seen that day, Horatio!—

My father,—Methinks, I see my father.

Hor. Where,

My lord?

Ham. In my mind's eye, Horatio.

Hor. I saw him once, he was a goodly king.

Ham. He was a man, take him for all in all,
I shall not look upon his like again.

Hor. My lord, I think I saw him yesternight.

Ham. Saw! who?

Hor. My lord, the king your father.

Ham. The king my father!

Hor. Season your admiration for a while
With an attent[†] ear: till I may deliver,
Upon the witness of these gentlemen,
'his marvel to you.

Ham. For God's love, let me hear.

Hor. Two nights together had these gentle-
men,

Marcellus and Bernardo, on their watch,
In the dead waist and middle of the night,

Been thus encountered. A figure like your
Armed at point, exactly, cap-à-pe, [father,
Appears before them, and with solemn march,
Goes slow and stately by them: thrice he
walk'd,

By their oppress'd and fear-surprized eyes,
Within his truncheon's length; whilst they,
Almost to jelly with the act of fear, [distill'd
Stand dumb, and speak not to him. This to me
In dreadful secrecy impart they did;

And I with them, the third night kept the
watch:

Where, as they had deliver'd, both in time,
Form of the thing, each word made true and
good,

The apparition comes: I knew your father;
These hands are not more like.

Ham. But where was this?

Hor. My lord, upon the platform where we
watch'd.

Ham. Did you not speak to it?

Hor. My lord, I did;

But answer made it none: yet once methought,
It lifted up its head, and did address
Itself to motion, like as it would speak:

But, even then, the morning cock crew loud;

Ham. Did you not speak to it?

Hor. My lord, I did;

But answer made it none: yet once methought,
It lifted up its head, and did address
Itself to motion, like as it would speak:

But, even then, the morning cock crew loud;

* It was anciently the custom to give a cold enter-
tainment at a funeral.

† Chiefest. ‡ Attentive,

* Contrary. † Draught. ‡ Report.
§ Dissolve. || Law. † Entirely.
¶ Apollo. † Suffer.

And at the sound it shrunk in haste away,
And vanish'd from our sight.

Ham. 'Tis very strange.

Hor. As I do live, my honour'd lord, 'tis true;

And we did think it writ down in our duty,
To let you know of it.

Ham. Indeed, indeed, Sirs, but this troubles
Hold you the watch-to-night? [me.]

All. We do, my lord.

Ham. Arm'd, say you?

All. Arm'd, my lord.

Ham. From top to toe?

All. My lord, from head to foot.

Ham. Then saw you not

His face.

Hor. O, yes, my lord; he wore his beaver*
up.

Ham. What, look'd he frowningly?

Hor. A countenance more

In sorrow than in anger.

Ham. Pale, or red?

Hor. Nay, very pale.

Ham. And fix'd his eyes upon you?

Hor. Most constantly.

Ham. I would, I had been there.

Hor. It would have much amaz'd you.

Ham. Very like,

Very like: Stay'd it long?

Hor. While one with moderate haste might
tell a hundred.

Mar. Ber. Longer, longer.

Hor. Not when I saw it.

Ham. His beard was grizzl'd? no!

Hor. It was, as I have seen it in his life,

A sable silver'd.

Ham. I will watch to-night;

Perchance, 'twill walk again.

Hor. I warrant, it will.

Ham. If it assume my noble father's person,
I'll speak to it, though hell itself should gape,
And bid me hold my peace. I pray you all,
If you have hitherto conceal'd this sight,
Let it be tenable in your silence still;
And whatsoever else shall hap to-night,
Give it an understanding, but no tongue;
I will requite your loves: So, fare you well:
Upon the platform, 'twixt eleven and twelve,
I'll visit you.

All. Our duty to your honour.

Ham. Your loves, as mine to you: Farewell.

[*Exeunt* HORATIO, MARCELLUS, and BERNARDO.]

My father's spirit in arms! all is not well;
I doubt some foul play: 'would, the night were
come!

Till then sit still, my soul: Foul deeds will rise,
Though all the earth o'erwhelm them, to men's
eyes. [Exit.]

SCENE III.—A Room in POLONIUS' House.

Enter LAERTES and OPHELIA.

Laer. My necessaries are embark'd; fare-
And, sister, as the winds give benefit, [well:]
And convoy is assistant, do not sleep,
But let me hear from you.

Oph. Do you doubt that?

Laer. For Hamlet, and the trifling of his fa-
Hold it a fashion, and a toy in blood; [your,
A violet in the youth of primy nature,
Forward, not permanent, sweet, not lasting,
The perfume and suppliance of a minute;
No more.

Oph. No more but so?

Laer. Think it no more:

For nature, crescent,* does not grow alone
In thews,† and bulk; but, as this temple
waxes,

The inward service of the mind and soul
Grows wide withal. Perhaps, he loves you
now;

And now no soil, nor cautel,‡ doth besmirch
The virtue of his will: but, you must fear,
His greatness weigh'd, his will is not his own;
For he himself is subject to his birth:
He may not, as unvalued persons do,
Carve for himself; for on his choice depends
The safety and the health of the whole state;
And therefore must his choice be circumscrib'd
Unto the voice and yielding of that body,
Whereof he is the head: Then if he says he
loves you,

It fits your wisdom so far to believe it,
As he in his particular act and place [ther,
May give his saying deed: which is not fur-
Than the main voice of Denmark goes withal.
Then weigh what loss your honour may sus-
tain,

If with too credent|| ear you list¶ his songs;
Or lose your heart; or your chaste treasure
To his unmaster'd** importunity. [open
Fear it, Ophelia, fear it, my dear sister:
And keep you in the rear of your affection,
Out of the shot and danger of desire.

The chariest†† maid is prodigal enough,
If she unmask her beauty to the moon:
Virtue itself scapes not calumnious strokes:
The canker galls the infants of the spring,
Too oft before their buttons be disclos'd;
And in the morn and liquid dew of youth
Contagious blastments are most imminent.
Be wary then: best safety lies in fear;
Youth to itself rebels, though none else near.

Oph. I shall the effect of this good lesson
keep,

As watchman to my heart: But good my bro-
Do not, as some ungracious pastors do, [ther,
Show me the steep and thorny way to heaven,
Whilst, like a puff'd and reckless‡‡ libertine,
Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads,
And recks not his own read.§§

Laer. O fear me not.

I stay too long;—But here my father comes.

Enter POLONIUS.

A double blessing is a double grace;
Occasion smiles upon a second leave.

Pol. Yet here, Laertes! abroad, abroad, for
shame;

The wind sits in the shoulder of your sail,
And you are staid for: There,—my blessing
with you;

[*Laying his Hand on* LAERTES' Head.]

And these few precepts in thy memory
Look thou character.|||| Give thy thoughts no
tongue,

Nor any unproportion'd thought his act.
Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar.
The friends thou hast, and their adoption
tried,

Grapple them to thy soul with hooks of steel;
But do not dull thy palm¶¶ with entertain-
ment [Beware

Of each new-batch'd unflieg'd comrade.
Of entrance to a quarrel: but, being in,

* Increasing.

† Discolour.

** Licentious.

†† Careless.

|||| Write.

† Sinews.

|| Believing.

¶¶ Most cautious.

§§ Regards not his own lessons.

¶¶ Palm of the hand.

‡ Subtlety, deceit.

¶ Listen to.

¶¶ Most cautious.

§§ Regards not his own lessons.

¶¶ Palm of the hand.

* That part of the helmet which may be lifted up.

Bear it that the opposer may beware of thee.
Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice:
Take each man's censure*, but reserve thy judgement.

Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy,
But not express'd in fancy; rich, not gaudy:
For the apparel oft proclaims the man;
And they in France, of the best rank and station,

Are most select and generous, chief in that.
Neither a borrower, nor a lender be:
For loan oft loses both itself and friend;
And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry. §
This above all.—To thine ownself be true;
And it must follow as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.
Farewell: my blessing season|| this in thee!

Laer. Most humbly do I take my leave, my lord.

Pol. The time invites you; go, your servants tend. ¶

Laer. Farewell, Ophelia; and remember well What I have said to you.

Oph. 'Tis in my memory lock'd,
And you yourself shall keep the key of it.

Laer. Farewell. [Exit LAERTES.

Pol. What is't, Ophelia, he hath said to you?

Oph. So please you, something touching the lord Hamlet.

Pol. Marry, well bethought:
'Tis told me, he hath very oft of late
Given private time to you: and you yourself
Have of your audience been most free and bounteous,

If it be so, (as so 'tis put on me,
And that in way of caution,) I must tell you,
You do not understand yourself so clearly,
As it behoves my daughter, and your honour:
What is between you? give me up the truth.

Oph. He hath, my lord, of late, made many
Of his affection to me. [tenders

Pol. Affection? puh! you speak like a green girl,

Un sifted** in such perilous circumstance.
Do you believe his tenders, as you call them?

Oph. I do not know, my lord, what I should think.

Pol. Marry, I'll teach you: think yourself a baby;

That you have ta'en these tenders for true pay,
Which are not sterling. Tender yourself more dearly;

Or (not to crack the wind of the poor phrase,
Wrangling it thus,) you'll tender me a fool.

Oph. My lord he hath importun'd me with
In honourable fashion. †† [love,

Pol. Ay, fashion you may call it; go to, go to.

Oph. And hath given countenance to his
speech my lord,

With almost all the holy vows of heaven.

Pol. Ay, springes to catch woodcocks. I do
know,

When the blood burns, how prodigal the soul
Lends the tongue vows: these blazes, daugh-

ter,
Giving more light than heat,—extinct in both,
Even in their promise, as it is a making,—

You must not take for fire. From this time,
Be somewhat scancer of your maiden presence;
Set your entreatments †† at a higher rate,
Than a command to parley. For lord Hamlet,
Believe so much in him, That he is young;

And with a larger tether* may he walk,
Then may be given you: In few, Ophelia,
Do not believe his vows: for they are brokers, †
Not of that die which their investments show,
But mere implorators † of unholy suits,
Breathing like sanctified and pious bonds,
The better to beguile. This is for all,—
I would not, in plain terms, from this time
forth,

Have you so slander any moment's leisure,
As to give words or talk with the lord Hamlet.
Look to't, I charge you; come your ways.

Oph. I shall obey, my lord. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—The Platform.

Enter HAMLET, HORATIO, and MARCELLUS.

Ham. The air bites shrewdly; it is very cold.

Hor. It is a nipping and an eager air.

Ham. What hour now?

Hor. I think it lacks of twelve.

Mar. No, it is struck.

Hor. Indeed? I heard it not; it then draws
near the season,

Wherein the spirit held is wont to walk.

[A Flourish of Trumpets, and Ordnance
shot off within.

What does this mean, my lord?

Ham. The king doth wake to-night, and
takes his rouse,||

Keeps wassel, ¶ and the swaggering up-spring
reels; ** [down,

And, as he drains his draughts of Rhenish
The kettle-drum and trumpet thus bray out
The triumph of his pledge.

Hor. Is it a custom?

Ham. Ay, marry, is't:

But to my mind,—though I am native here,
And to the manner born,—it is a custom
More honour'd in the breach, than the obser-
vance.

This heavy-headed revel, east and west,
Males us traduc'd, and tax'd of other nations:

T'ey clepe't us, drunkards, and with swinish
phrase

Solil our addition: and, indeed it takes
From our achievements, though perform'd at
height,

The pith and marrow of our attribute.
So, oft it changes in particular men,

That, for some vicious mode of nature in them,
As, in their birth, (wherein they are not guilty,
Since nature cannot choose his origin,)

By the o'ergrowth of some complexion, ††
Oft breaking down the pales and forts of rea-
son;

Or by some habit, that too much o'er-leavens
The form of plausible manners;—that these
men,—

Carrying, I say, the stamp of one defect;
Being nature's livery, or fortune's star,—
Their virtues else (be they as pure as grace,
As infinite as man may undergo,)

Shall in the general censure take corruption
From that particular fault: The dram of base
Doth all the noble substance often dout, §§
To his own scandal.

Enter GHOST.

Hor. Look, my lord, it comes!

Ham. Angels and ministers of grace defend
us!—

Be thou a spirit of health, or goblin damn'd,

* Longer line; a horse fastened by a string to a stake
is tethered. † Pimps † Implores.

‡ Sharp. || Jovial draught. ¶ Jolity.

§ A dance. †† Call. †† Humour.

§§ Do out.

* Opinion. † Noble ‡ Chiefly.
§ Economy. || Infir. ¶ Wait.
** Untempted. †† Manner. †† Company.

Bring with thee airs from heaven, or blasts
from hell,
Be thy intents wicked, or charitable,
Thou com'st in such a questionable* shape,
That I will speak to thee; I'll call thee Ham-
King, father, royal Dane: O, answer me: [let,
Let me not burst in ignorance! but tell,
Why thy canoniz'd bones, hearsed in death,
Have burst their cerements! why the sepul-
Wherein we saw thee quietly in-urn'd, [chr,
Hath op'd his ponderous and marble jaws,
To cast thee up again! What may this mean,
That thou, dead corse, again, in complete steel,
Revisit'st thus the glimpses of the moon,
Making night hideous; and we fools of nature,
So horribly to shake our disposition,
With thoughts beyond the reaches of our souls?
Say, why is this? wherefore? what should we
do?

Hor. It beckons you to go away with it?
As if it some impartment did desire
To you alone.

Mar. Look, with what courteous action
It waves you to a more removed† ground:
But do not go with it.

Hor. No, by no means.

Ham. It will not speak; then I will follow it.

Hor. Do not, my lord.

Ham. Why, what should be the fear?
I do not set my life at a pin's fee;§
And, for my soul, what can it do to that,
Being a thing immortal as itself?
It waves me forth again;—I'll follow it.

Hor. What, if it tempt you toward the flood,
my lord,
Or to the dreadful summit of the cliff,
That beetles|| o'er his base into the sea?
And there assume some other horrible form,
Which might deprive your sovereignty of rea-
son,
And draw you into madness? think of it:
The very place puts toys¶ of desperation,
Without more motive, into every brain,
That looks so many fathoms to the sea,
And hears it roar beneath.

Ham. It waves me still:—
Go on, I'll follow thee.

Mar. You shall not go, my lord.

Ham. Hold off your hands.

Hor. Be rul'd, you shall not go.

Ham. My fate cries out,
And makes each petty artery in this body
As hardy as the Nemean lion's nerve.—
[GHOST beckons.
Still am I call'd;—unhand me gentlemen;—
[Breaking from them.
By heaven, I'll make a ghost of him that lets**
I say, away:—Go on, I'll follow thee. [me:—
[Exit GHOST and HAMLET.

Hor. He waxes desperate with imagination.

Mar. Let's follow; 'tis not fit thus to obey
him.

Hor. Have after:—To what issue will this
come?

Mar. Something is rotten in the state of
Denmark.

Hor. Heaven will direct it.

Mar. Nay, let's follow him. [Exit.

SCENE V.—A more remote part of the Plat-
form.

Re-enter GHOST and HAMLET.

Ham. Whither wilt thou lead me? Speak;
I'll go no further.

Ghost. Mark me.

Ham. I will.

Ghost. My hour is almost come,
When I to sulphurous and tormenting flames
Must render up myself.

Ham. Alas, poor ghost!

Ghost. Pity me not, but lend thy serious
to what I shall unfold. [hearing

Ham. Speak, I am bound to hear.

Ghost. So art thou to revenge, when thou
shalt hear.

Ham. What?

Ghost. I am thy father's spirit;
Doom'd for a certain term to walk the night;
And, for the day, confin'd to fast in fires,
Till the foul crimes, done in my days of nature,
Are burn'd and purg'd away. But that I am
To tell the secrets of my prison-house, [forbid
I could a tale unfold, whose lightest word
Would harrow up thy soul; freeze thy young
blood: [spheres;
Make thy two eyes, like stars, start from their
Thy knotted and combined locks to part,
Like quills upon the fretful porcupine:
But this eternal blazon* must not be
To ears of flesh and blood:—List, list, O list!—
If thou dost ever thy dear father love,—
Ham. O heaven!

Ghost. Revenge his foul and most unnatural
murder.

Ham. Murder?

Ghost. Murder most foul, as in the best it is;
But this most foul, strange and unnatural.

Ham. Haste me to know it; that I, with
wings as swift
As meditation, or the thoughts of love,
May sweep to my revenge.

Ghost. I find thee apt;
And duller should'st thou be than the fat weed
That rots itself in ease on Lethe wharf, [hear:
Wouldst thou not stir in this. Now, Hamlet,
'Tis given out, that sleeping in mine orchard,†
A serpent stung me; so the whole ear of Den-
Is by a forged process of my death [mark
Rankly abus'd: but know, thou noble youth,
The serpent that did sting thy father's life,
Now wears his crown.

Ham. O, my prophetic soul! my uncle!

Ghost. Ay, that incestuous, that adulterate
beast,
With witchcraft of his wit, with traitorous gifts,
(O wicked wit, and gifts, that have the power
So to seduce!) won to his shameful lust
The will of my most seeming virtuous queen:
O, Hamlet, what a falling off was there!
From me, whose love was of that dignity,
That it went hand in hand even with the vow
I made to her in marriage; and to decline
Upon a wretch, whose natural gifts were poor
To those of mine!
But virtue, as it never will be mov'd,
Though lewdness court it in a shape of heaven;
So lust, through to a radiant angel link'd,
Will satiate itself in a celestial bed,
And prey on garbage.
But, soft! methinks, I scent the morning air;
Brief let me be:—Sleeping within mine or-
My custom always of the afternoon, [chard,
Upon my secure hour thy uncle stole,
With juice of cursed hebenon§ in a vial,
And in the porches of mine ears did pour
The leperous distilment: whose effect
Holds such an enmity with blood of man,
That, swift as quicksilver, it courses through
The natural gates and alleys of the body;

* Conversable. † Frame. ‡ Remote. § Value.
|| Hangs. ¶ Whims. ** Hinders.

* Display. † Gardén. ‡ Satiatè. § Hebenauè.

And, with a sudden vigour, it doth posset
And curd, like eager droppings into milk,
The thin and wholesome blood: so did it
mine;

And a most instant tetter^{*} bark'd about,
Most lazari-like, with vile and loathsome crust,
All my smooth body.

This was I, sleeping, by a brother's hand,
Of life, of crown, of queen, at once des-
patch'd †

Cut off even in the blossoms of my sin,
Unhousel'd, § disappointed, || unanel'd; ¶
No reckoning made, but sent to my account,
With all my imperfections on my head:
O, horrible! O, horrible! most terrible!

If thou hast nature in thee, bear it not;
Let not the royal bed of Denmark be
A couch for luxury and dam'd incest.
But, howsoever thou pursuest this act,
Taint not thy mind, nor let thy soul contrive
Against thy mother augh; leave her to heaven,
And to those thorns that in her bosom lodge,
To prick and sting her. Fare thee well at
once!

The slow-worm shows the matin to be near,
And 'gins to pale his uneffectual fire:
Adieu, adieu, adieu! remember me. [Exit.

Ham. O all you host of heaven! O earth,
What else?

And shall I couple hell?—O fie!—Hold, hold,
my heart;

And you, my sinews, grow not instant old,
But bear me stiffly up!—Remember thee?
Ay, thou poor ghost, while memory holds a
seat

In this distracted globe.** Remember thee!
Yea, from the table of my memory
I'll wipe away all trivial fond records, [past,
All sawst of books, all forms, all pressures
That youth and observation copied there;
And thy commandment all alone shall live
Within the book and volume of my brain,
Unmix'd with baser matter; yes, by heaven.
O most pernicious woman!

O villain, villain, smiling, damned villain!
My tables, ††—meet it is, I set it down,
That one may smile, and smile, and be a villain,
At least, I am sure, It may be so in Denmark:
[Writing.

So, uncle, there you are. Now to my word;
It is, Adieu, Adieu! remember me.
I have sworn't.

Hor. [Within.] My lord, my lord,——

Mar. [Within.] Lord Hamlet,——

Hor. [Within.] Heaven secure him!

Ham. So be it!

Mar. [Within.] Illo, ho, ho, my lord!

Ham. Hillo, ho, ho, boy! come, bird, come.

Enter HORATIO and MARCELLUS.

Mar. How is't, my noble lord?

Hor. What news, my lord?

Ham. O wonderful!

Hor. Good my lord, tell it.

Ham. No;

You will reveal it.

Hor. Not I, my lord, by heaven.

Mar. Nor I, my lord.

Ham. How say you then; would heart of
man once think it?—

But you'll be secret,——

Hor. Mar. Ay, by heaven, my lord.

* Scab, scurf. † Leprous. ‡ Bereft.

§ Without having received the sacrament.

|| Unappointed, unprepared.

¶ Without extreme unction. ** Head.

†† Sayings, sentences.

‡‡ Memorandum Book.

Ham. There's ne'er a villain, dwelling in all
Denmark,

But he's an arrant knave.

Hor. There needs no ghost, my lord, come
from the grave,
To tell us this.

Ham. Why right; you are in the right;
And so, without more circumstance at all,
I hold it fit, that we shake hands, and part:
You, as your business, and desire, shall point
every man;

For every man hath business, and desire,
Such as it is,—and, for my own poor part,
Look you, I will go pray.

Hor. These are but wild and whirling words,
my lord.

Ham. I am sorry they offend you, heartily;
Faith, heartily. [Yes,

Hor. There's no offence, my lord.

Ham. Yes, by Saint Patrick, but there is,
Horatio, [here,—

And much offence too. Touching this vision
It is an honest ghost, that let me tell you;
For your desire to know what is between us,
O'er-master it as you may. And now, good
friends,

As you are friends, scholars, and soldiers,
Give me one poor request.

Hor. What is't, my lord?

We will.

Ham. Never make known what you have
seen to night.

Hor. Mar. My lord, we will not.

Ham. Nay, but swear't.

Hor. In faith,

My lord, not I.

Mar. Nor I, my lord, in faith.

Ham. Upon my sword.

Mar. We have sworn, my lord, already.

Ham. Indeed, upon my sword, indeed.

Ghost. [Beneath.] Swear.

Ham. Ha, ha, boy! say'st thou so? art thou
there, true-penny? [age,—

Come on,—you hear this fellow in the cellar-
Conseil to swear.

Hor. Propose the oath, my lord,

Ham. Never to speak of this that you have
Swear by my sword. [seen,

ghost. [Beneath.] Swear.

Ham. *Hic et ubique*?* then we'll shift our
ground:—

Come hither gentlemen,

And lay your hands again upon my sword:

Swear by my sword,

Never to speak of this that you have heard.

Ghost. [Beneath.] Swear by his sword.

Ham. Well said, old mole! canst work i'th
earth so fast?

A worthy pioneer!—Once more remove, good
friends.

Hor. O day and night, but this is wondrous
strange!

Ham. And therefore as a stranger give it
welcome.

There are more things in heaven and earth,
Horatio,

Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

But come;—

Here, as before, never, so help you mercy!

How strange or odd soe'er I bear myself,

As I, perchance, hereafter shall think meet

To put an antic disposition on,—

That you, at such times seeing me, never shall,
With arms encumber'd thus, or this head-
shake,

Here and every where.

Or by pronouncing of some doubtful phrase,
As, *Well, well, we know;*—or, *We could, an if
we would;*—or, *If we list to speak;*—or, *There
be, an if they might;*—
Or such ambiguous giving out, to note
That you know ought of me:—This do you
swear, [you!
So grace and mercy at your most need help
Ghost. [*Beneath.*] Swear.
Ham. Rest, rest, perturbed spirit! So, gen-
tlemen,
With all my love I do commend me to you:
And what so poor a man as Hamlet is
May do, to express his love and friending to
you, [ther;
God willing, shall not lack. Let us go in toge-
And still your fingers on your lips, I pray.
The time is out of joint;—O cursed spite!
That ever I was born to set it right!
Nay, come, let's go together. [*Exeunt.*

ACT II.

SCENE I.—A Room in POLONIUS' House.

Enter POLONIUS and REYNALDO.

Pol. Give him this money, and these notes,
Reynaldo.

Rey. I will, my lord.

Pol. You shall do marvellous wisely, good
Reynaldo,

Before you visit him to make inquiry
Of his behaviour.

Rey. My lord, I did intend it.

Pol. Marry, well said: very well said. Look
you, Sir,

Inquire me first what *Danskers** are in Paris;
And how, and who, what means, and where
they keep.

What company, at what expense; and finding,
By this compassment and drift of question,
That they do know my son, come you more
nearer

Than your particular demands will touch it:
Take you, as 'twere, some distant knowledge
of him;

As thus,—*I know his father, and his friends,
And, in part, him;*—Do you think this, Rey-
naldo?

Rey. Ay, very well, my lord.

Pol. And, in part, him;—but, you may say,
not well.

But, if't be he I mean, he's very wild;

Addicted so and so;—and there put on him
What forgets you please; marry, none so
rank

As may dishonour him; take heed of that;
But, Sir, such wanton, wild, and usual slips,
As are companions noted and most known
To youth and liberty.

Rey. As gaming, my lord.

Pol. Ay, or drinking, fencing, swearing,
quarrelling,

Drabbing:—You may go so far.

Rey. My lord, that would dishonour him.

Pol. Faith, no; as you may season it in the
charge.

You must not put another scandal on him,
That he is open to incontinency;
That's not my meaning: but breathe his faults
so quaintly,

That they may seem the taints of liberty:
The flash and out-break of a fiery mind;
A savageness in unreclaimed blood,
Of general assault.

* Danes.

† Wildness.

Rey. But, my good lord,—
Pol. Wherefore should you do this?

Rey. Ay, my lord,
would know that.

Pol. Marry, Sir, here's my drift;

And, I believe, it is a fetch of warrant:
You laying these slight sullies on my son,
As 'twere a thing a little soil'd i' the working,
Mark you.

Your party in converse, him you would sound,
Having ever seen in the prenominate* crimes,
The youth you breathe of, guilty, be assur'd,
He closes with you in this consequence;
Good Sir, or so; or friend, or gentlemen,—
According to the phrase, or the addition,
Of man, and country.

Rey. Very good, my lord.

Pol. And then, Sir, does he this,—He does—
What was I about to say?—By the mass, I
was about to say something:—Where did
I leave?

Rey. At, closes in the consequence.

Pol. At, closes in the consequence,—*Ay,
marry;*

He closes with you thus:—*I know the gentle-
I saw him yesterday, or t'other day,* [man;
*Or then, or then; with such, or such; and, as
you say,*

*There he was gaming; there o'ertok in his rouse;
There falling out at Tennis: or, perchance,
I saw him enter such a house of sale,
(Videlicet, † a brothel,) or so forth.*

See you now;

Your bait of falsehood takes this carp of truth:
And thus do we of wisdom and of reach,
With windlances, and with assays of bias,

By indirections find directions out;
So, by former lecture and advice,
Shall you myson: You have me, have you not?

Rey. My lord, I have.

Pol. God be wi' you; fare you well.

Rey. Good my lord,—

Pol. Observe his inclination in yourself.

Rey. I shall, my lord.

Pol. And let him play his music.

Rey. Well, my lord. [*Exit.*

Enter OPHELIA.

Pol. Farewell!—How now, Ophelia? what's
the matter;

Oph. O, my lord, my lord, I have been so af-
frighted!

Pol. With what, in the name of heaven?

Oph. My lord, as I was sewing in my clo-
set,

I, Lord Hamlet,—with his doublet all unbrac'd;
No hat upon his head; his stockings foul'd,
Ungarter'd, and down-gyved† to his ankle;
Pale as his shirt; his knees knocking each
And with a look so piteous in purport, [other;
As if he had been loosed out of hell,
To speak of horrors,—he comes before me.

Pol. Mad for thy love?

Oph. My lord, I do not know;

But, truly, I do fear it.

Pol. What said he?

Oph. He took me by the wrist, and held me
hard;

Then goes he to the length of all his arm;
And, with his other hand thus o'er his brow,
He falls to such perusal of my face,
As he would draw it. Long stay'd he so;
At last,—a little shaking of mine arm,

* Already named.

† That is to say.

‡ Hanging down like fetters.

And thrice his head thus waving up and down,—

He rais'd a sigh so piteous and profound,

As it did seem to shatter all his bulk,*

And end his being: That done, he lets me go:

And, with his head over his shoulder turn'd,

He seem'd to find his way without his eyes;

For out o' doors he went without their helps,

And, to the last, bended their light on me.

Pol. Come, go with me; I will go seek the

This is the very ecstasy of love; [king.

Whose violent property foredoest itself,

And leads the will to desperate undertakings,

As oft as any passion under heaven,

That does afflict our natures. I am sorry,—

What, have you given him any hard words of

late?

Oph. No, my good lord; but, as you did

command,

I did repel his letters, and denied

His access to me.

Pol. That hath made him mad. [ment,

I am sorry, that with better heed and judge-

I had not quoted him; I fear'd, he did but

trifle, [jealousy!

And meant to wreck thee; but, beshrew my

It seems, it is as proper to our age

To cast beyond ourselves in our opinions,

As it is common for the younger sort

To lack discretion. Come, go we to the king:

This must be known; which, being kept close,

might move

More grief to hide, than hate to utter love.

Come.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—A Room in the Castle.

Enter KING, QUEEN, ROSENCRANTZ, GUILDENSTERN, and Attendants.

King. Welcome dear Rosencrantz, and

Guildenstern!

Moreover that we much did long to see you,

The need, we have to use you, did provoke

Our hasty sending. Something have you heard

Of Hamlet's transformation; so I call it,

Since not the exterior nor the inward man

Resembles that it was: What it should be,

More than his father's death, that thus hath

put him

So much from the understanding of himself,

I cannot dream of: I entreat you both,

That,—being of so young days brought up

with him; [humour,—

And since, so neighbour'd to his youth and

That you vouchsafe your rest here in our

court

Some little time: so by your companies

To draw him on to pleasures; and to gather,

So much as from occasion you may glean,

Whether aught, to us unknown, afflicts him

That, open'd, lies within our remedy. [thus,

Queen. Good gentlemen, he hath much talk'd

of you;

And, sure I am, two men there are not living,

To whom he more adheres. If it will please

you

To show us so much gentry,§ and good-will,

As to expend your time with us a while,

For the supply and profit of our hope,

Your visitation shall receive such thanks

As fits a king's remembrance.

Ros. Both your majesties

Might, by the sovereign power you have of us.

Put your dread pleasures more into command

Than to entreaty.

Guil. But we both obey;

And here give up ourselves, in the full bent,*

To lay our service freely at your feet,

To be commanded.

King. Thanks, Rosencrantz, and gentle

Guildenstern.

Queen. Thanks, Guildenstern, and gentle

Rosencrantz:

And I beseech you instantly to visit

My too much changed son.—Go some of you,

And bring these gentlemen where Hamlet is.

Guil. Heavens make our presence, and our

Pleasant and helpful to him! [practices,

Queen. Ay, amen!

[*Exeunt ROSENCRANTZ, GUILDENSTERN, and some Attendants.*

Enter POLONIUS.

Pol. The ambassadors from Norway, my

good lord,

Are joyfully return'd.

King. Thou still hast been the father of good

news.

Pol. Have I, my lord? Assure you, my good

I hold my duty, as I hold my soul, [liege,

Both to my God, and to my gracious king:

And I do think, (or else this brain of mine

Hunts not the trail of policy so sure

As it hath us'd to do,) that I have found

The very cause of Hamlet's lunacy,

King. O, speak of that; that I do long to

hear.

Pol. Give first admittance to the embassa-

dors;

My news shall be the fruit to that great feast.

King. Thyself do grace to them, and bring

them in [Exit POLONIUS.

He tells me, my dear Gertrude, he hath found

The head and source of all your son's distem-

per.

Queen. I doubt, it is no other but the main;

His father's death, and our o'erhasty marriage.

Re-enter POLONIUS, with VOLTIMAND and CORNELIUS.

King. Well, we shall sift him.—Welcome,

my good friends! [way?

Say, Voltimand, what from our brother Nor-

Volt. Most fair return of greetings and de-

Upon our first, he sent out to suppress [sires.

His nephew's levies; which to him appear'd

To be a preparation 'gainst the Polack;§

But, better look'd into, he truly found

It was against your highness: Whereat

griev'd,—

That so his sickness, age, and impotence,

Was falsely borne in hand,||—sends out arrests

On Fontinbras; which he, in brief, obeys;

Receives rebuke from Norway; and, in fine,

Makes vow before his uncle, never more

To give the assay of arms against your majesty.

Whereon old Norway, overcome with joy,

Gives him three thousand crowns in annual fee;

And his commission to employ those soldiers,

So levied as before against the Polack;

With an entreaty, herein further shown,

[*Gives a Paper.*

That it might please you to give quiet pass

Through your dominions for this enterprise;

On such regards of safety, and allowance,

As therein are set down.

King. It likes us well:

And, at our more consider'd time, we'll read,

Answer, and think upon this business.

* Body. † Destroys. ‡ Observed. § Complaisance.

* Utmost exertion.

† Scent.

‡ Desert.

§ Poland.

|| Imposed on.

Meantime, we thank you for your well-took labour:

Go to your rest; at night we'll feast together; Most welcome home!

[*Exeunt* VOLTIMAND and CORNELIUS.]

Pol. This business is well ended. My liege, and madam, to expostulate* What majesty should be, what duty is, Why day is day, night night, and time is time, Were nothing but to waste night, day, and time.

Therefore,—since brevity is the soul of wit, And tediousness the limbs and outward flourishes,—

I will be brief: Your noble son is mad: Mad call I it: for, to define true madness, What is't, but to be nothing else but mad; But let that go.

Queen. More matter, with less art.

Pol. Madam, I swear I use no art at all. That he is mad, 'tis true: 'tis true, 'tis pity; And pity 'tis, 'tis true: a foolish figure; But farewell it, for I will use no art. Mad let us grant him then: and now remains, That we find out the cause of this effect; Or, rather say, the cause of this defect; For this effect, defective, comes by cause: Thus it remains, and the remainder thus. Perpend.

I have a daughter; have, while she is mine; Who, in her duty and obedience, mark, Hath given me this: Now gather and surmise.—*To the celestial, and my soul's idol, the most beautified Ophelia,*—

That's an ill phrase, a vile phrase; *beautified* is a vile phrase; but you shall hear.—Thus: *In her excellent white bosom these, &c.*

Queen. Came this from Hamlet to her?

Pol. Good madam, stay awhile; I will be faithful.—

Doubt thou, the stars are fire; [Reads.]

Doubt, that the sun doth move:

Doubt truth to be a liar;

But never doubt I love.

O dear Ophelia, I am ill at these numbers; I have not art to reckon my groans; but that I love thee best, O most best, believe it. Adieu.

Thine evermore, most dear lady, whilst this machine is to him, Hamlet.

This, in obedience, hath my daughter shown And more above, hath his solicitings, [me:] As they fell out by time, by means, and place, All given to mine ear.

King. But how hath she Receiv'd his love?

Pol. What do you think of me?

King. As of a man faithful and honourable.

Pol. I would fain prove so. But what might you think,

When I had seen this hot love on the wing, (As I perceiv'd it, I must tell you that, [you, Before my daughter told me,) what might Or my dear majesty your queen here, think, If I had play'd the desk, or table-book; Or giving my heart a working, mute and dumb:

Or look'd upon this love with idle sight; What might you think? no, I went roundt to work,

And my young mistress thus did I bespeak; *Lord Hamlet is a prince out of thy sphere; This must not be:* and then I precepts gave her,

That she should lock herself from his resort, Admit no messengers, receive no tokens.

Which done, she took the fruits of my advice: And he, repulsed, (a short tale to make,)

Fell into a sadness; then into a fast;

Thence to a watch: thence into a weakness;

Thence to a lightness; and, by this declension,

Into the madness wherein now he raves,

And all we mourn for.

King. Do you think, 'tis this?

Queen. It may be, very likely.

Pol. Hath there been such a time, (I'd fain know that,)

That I have positively said, 'Tis so, When it prov'd otherwise?

King. Not that I know.

Pol. Take this from this, if this be otherwise:

[*Pointing to his Head and Shoulder.*

If circumstances lead me, I will find Where truth is hid, though it were hid indeed Within the centre.

King. How may we try it further?

Pol. You know, sometimes he walks for hours together,

Here in the lobby.

Queen. So he does, indeed.

Pol. At such a time I'll loose my daughter to him:

Be you and I behind an arras* then; Mark the encounter: if he love her not, And be not from his reason fallen thereon,

Let me be no assistant for a state, But keep a farm, and carters.

King. We will try it.

Enter HAMLET, reading.

Queen. But, look, where sadly the poor wretch comes reading.

Pol. Away, I do beseech you, both away; I'll board him presently:—O, give me leave.—

[*Exeunt* KING, QUEEN, and Attendants.]

How does my good lord Hamlet?

Ham. Well, god-a-mercy.

Pol. Do you know me, my lord?

Ham. Excellent well; you are a fishmonger.

Pol. Not I, my lord.

Ham. Then I would you were so honest a man.

Pol. Honest, my lord?

Ham. Ay, Sir; to be honest, as this world goes, is to be one man picked out of ten thousand.

Pol. That's very true, my lord.

Ham. For if the sun breed maggots in a dead dog, being a god, kissing carrion,—Have you a daughter?

Pol. I have, my lord.

Ham. Let her not walk i' the sun: conception is a blessing; but as your daughter may conceive, §—friend, look to't.

Pol. How say you by that? [*Aside.*] Still harping on my daughter:—yet he knew me not at first; he said, I was a fishmonger: He is far gone, far gone: and, truly in my youth I suffered much extremity for love: very near this. I'll speak to him again.—What do you read, my lord?

Ham. Words, words, words!

Pol. What is the matter, my lord?

Ham. Between who?

Pol. I mean, the matter that you read, my lord.

Ham. Slanders, Sir: for the satirical rogue says here, that old men have grey beards; that

* Discuss.

† Roundly, without reserve.

* Tapestry.

‡ Understanding.

† Accost.

‡ Be pregnant.

their faces are wrinkled; their eyes purging thick amber, and plum-tree gum; and that they have a plentiful lack of wit, together with most weak hams; All of which, Sir, though I most powerfully and potently believe, yet I hold it not honesty to have it thus set down; for yourself, Sir, shall be as old as I am, if, like a crab, you could go backward.

Pol. Though this be madness, yet there's method in it. [*Aside.*] Will you walk out of the air, my lord?

Ham. Into my grave?

Pol. Indeed, that is out o'the air.—How pregnant* sometimes his replies are! a happiness that often madness hits on, which reason and sanity could not so prosperously be delivered of. I will leave him, and suddenly contrive the means of meeting between him and my daughter.—My honourable lord, I will most humbly take my leave of you.

Ham. You cannot, Sir, take from me any thing that I will more willingly part withal; except my life, except my life, except my life.

Pol. Fare you well, my lord.

Ham. These tedious old fools!

Enter ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN.

Pol. You go to seek the lord Hamlet; there he is.

Ros. God save you, Sir! [*To POLONIUS. [Exit POLONIUS.*

Guil. My honour'd lord!—

Ros. My most dear Lord!—

Ham. My excellent good friends! How dost thou, Guildenstern? Ah, Rosencrantz! Good lads, how do ye both?

Ros. As the indifferent children of the earth.

Guil. Happy, in that we are not overhappy; On fortune's cap we are not the very button.

Ham. Nor the soles of her shoe?

Ros. Neither, my lord.

Ham. Then you live about her waist, or in the middle of her favours?

Guil. 'Faith, her privates we.

Ham. In the secret parts of fortune? O, most true; she is a strumpet. What news?

Ros. None my lord; but that the world is grown honest.

Ham. Then is doomsday near: But your news is not true. Let me question more in particular: What have you, my good friends, deserved: the hands of fortune, that she sends you to prison hither?

Guil. Prison, my lord!

Ham. Denmark's a prison.

Ros. Then is the world one.

Ham. A goodly one; in which there are many confines, wards, and dungeons; Denmark being one of the worst.

Ros. We think not so, my lord.

Ham. Why, then 'tis none to you; for there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so: to me it is a prison.

Ros. Why, then your ambition makes it one; 'tis too narrow for your mind.

Ham. O God! I could be bounded in a nutshell, and count myself a king of infinite space; were it not that I have bad dreams.

Guil. Which dreams, indeed, are ambition; for the very substance of the ambitious is merely the shadow of a dream.

Ham. A dream itself is but a shadow.

Ros. Truly, and I hold ambition of so airy and light a quality, that it is but a shadow's shadow.

Ham. Then are our beggars, bodies; and our monarchs, and outstretch'd heroes, the beggars' shadows: Shall we to the court? for, by my fay, I cannot reason.

Ros. *Guil.* We'll wait upon you.

Ham. No such matter: I will not sort you with the rest of my servants; for, to speak to you like an honest man, I am most dreadfully attended. But, in the beaten way of friendship, what make you at Elsinore?

Ros. To visit you, my lord; no other occasion.

Ham. Beggar that I am, I am even poor in thanks; but I thank you: and sure, dear friends, my thanks are too dear, a halfpenny. Were you not sent for? Is it your own inclining? Is it a free visitation? Come, come; deal justly with me: come, come; nay, speak.

Guil. What should we say, my lord?

Ham. Any thing—but to the purpose. You were sent for; and there is a kind of confession in your looks, which your modesties have not craft enough to colour: I know, the good king and queen have sent for you.

Ros. To what end, my lord?

Ham. That you must teach me. But let me conjure you by the rights of our fellowship, by the consonancy of our youth, by the obligation of our ever-preserved love, and by what more dear a better proposer could charge you withal, be even and direct with me, whether you were sent for, or no?

Ros. Whatsay you? [*To GUILDENSTERN.*

Ham. Nay, then I have an eye of you; [*Aside.*]—if you love me, hold not off.

Guil. My lord, we were sent for.

Ham. I will tell you why; so shall my anticipation prevent your discovery, and your secrecy to the king and queen moult no feather. I have of late, (but, wherefore, I know not,) lost all my mirth, forgone all custom of exercises: and, indeed, it goes so heavily with my disposition, that this goodly frame, the earth, seems to me a steril promontory; this most excellent canopy, the air, look you, this brave o'erhanging firmament, this majestical roof fretted with golden fire, why, it appears no other thing to me, than a foul and pestilent congregation of vapours. What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! how infinite in faculties! in form, and moving, how express and admirable! in action, how like an angel! in apprehension, how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragon of animals! And yet, to me, what is this quintessence of dust? man delights not me, nor woman neither; though, by your smiling, you seem to say so.

Ros. My lord, there is no such stuff in my thoughts.

Ham. Why did you laugh then, when I said, *Man delights not me?*

Ros. To think, my lord, if you delight not in man, what leuten^e entertainment the players shall receive from you: we coted^d them on the way; and hither are they coming, to offer you service.

Ham. He that plays the king, shall be welcome; his majesty shall have tribute of me: the adventurous knight shall use his foil, and target; the lover shall not sigh gratis; the humorous man shall end his part in peace; the clown shall make those laugh, whose lungs are tickled o'the sere; and the lady shall say her mind freely, or the blank verse shall halt for't. —What players are they?

* Ready, apt.

† Soundness of mind.

* Spare)

† Overtook.

Ros. Even those you were wont to take such delight in, the tragedians of the city.

Ham. How chanced it, they travel? their residence, both in reputation and profit, was better both ways.

Ros. I think their inhibition comes by the means of the late innovation.

Ham. Do they hold the same estimation they did when I was in the city? Are they so followed?

Ros. No, indeed, they are not.

Ham. How comes it? Do they grow rusty?

Ros. Nay, their endeavour keeps in the wonted pace: But there is, Sir, an airy of children, little eyases,† that cry out on the top of question,‡ and are most tyrannically clapped for't: these are now the fashion; and so berattle the common stages, (so they call them,) that many wearing rapiers, are afraid of goose quills, and dare scarce come thither.

Ham. What, are they children? who maintains them? how are they escoted?§ Will they pursue the quality|| no longer than they can sing? will they not say afterwards, if they should grow themselves to common players, (as it is most like, if their means are no better,) their writers do them wrong, to make them exclaim against their own succession?

Ros. Faith, there has been much do on both sides; and the nation holds it no sin, to tarre¶ them on to controversy: there was, for a while, no money bid for argument, unless the poet and the player went to cuffs in the question.

Ham. Is it possible?

Guil. O, there has been much throwing about of brains.

Ham. Do the boys carry it away?

Ros. Ay, that they do, my lord; Hercules and his load too.**

Ham. It is not very strange: for my uncle is king of Denmark, and those, that would make mouths at him while my father lived, give twenty, forty, fifty, a hundred ducats a-piece, for his picture in little.†† 'Sblood, there is something in this more than natural, if philosophy could find it out.

[Flourish of Trumpets within.]

Guil. There are the players.

Ham. Gentlemen, you are welcome to Elsinore. Your hands. Come then: the appurtenance of welcome is fashion and ceremony: let me comply†† with you in this garb; lest my extent to the players, which, I tell you, must show fairly outward, should more appear like entertainment than yours. You are welcome: But my uncle-father, and aunt-mother, are deceived.

Guil. In what, my dear lord?

Ham. I am but mad north-north-west: when the wind is southerly, I know a hawk from a hand-saw.

Enter POLONIUS.

Pol. Well be with you, gentlemen!

Ham. Hark you, Guildenstern;—and you too; at each ear a hearer: that great baby, you see there, is not yet out of his swaddling-clouts.

Ros. Happily, he's the second time come to them; for, they say, an old man is twice a child.

Ham. I will prophesy, he comes to tell me of the players; mark it.—You say right, Sir: o'Monday morning; 'twas then, indeed.

Pol. My lord, I have news to tell you.

Ham. My lord, I have news to tell you; When Roscius was an actor in Rome,—

Pal. The actors are come hither, my lord.

Ham. Buz, buz!

Pol. Upon my honour,—

Ham. Then came each actor on his ass,—

Pol. The best actors in the world, either for tragedy, comedy, history, pastoral, pastoral-comical, historical-pastoral, [tragic-historical, tragic-comical-historical-pastoral,] scene indivisible, or poem unlimited: Seneca cannot be too heavy, nor Plautus too light. For the law of writ,* and the liberty, these are the only men.

Ham. O Jephthah, judge of Israel,—what a treasure hadst thou!

Pol. What a treasure had he, my lord?

Ham. Why—One fair daughter, and no more.

The which he loved passing well.

Pol. Still on my daughter. [Aside.]

Ham. Am I not i'the right, old Jephthah?

Pol. If you call me Jephthah, my lord, I have a daughter, that I love passing well.

Ham. Nay, that follows not.

Pol. What follows then, my lord?

Ham. Why, As by lot, God wot, and then, you know, It came to pass, As most like it was,—The first row of the pious chanson† will show you more; for look, my abridgment comes.

Enter four or five PLAYERS.

You are welcome, masters; welcome, all:—I am glad to see thee well:—welcome, good friends.—O, old friend! Why, thy face is valenced‡ since I saw thee last; Com'st thou to beard§ me in Denmark?—What! my young lady and mistress! By-r-lady, your ladyship is nearer to heaven, than when I saw you last, by the altitude of a chopine.¶ Pray God, your voice, like a piece of uncurrent gold, be not cracked within the ring.—Masters, you are all welcome. We'll e'en to't like French falconers, fly at any thing we see: We'll have a speech straight: Come, give us a taste of your quality; ¶ come, a passionate speech.

I Play. What speech, my lord?

Hann. I heard thee speak me a speech once,—but it was never acted; or, if it was, not above once: for the play, I remember, pleased not the million; 'twas caviare** to the general:†† but it was (as I received it, and others, whose judgements, in such matters, cried in the top‡‡ of mine,) an excellent play; well digested in the scenes, set down with as much modesty as cunning. I remember, one said, there were no sallads in the lines, to make the matter savoury; nor no matter in the phrase, that might indite§§ the author of affection:||| but called it, an honest method, as wholesome as sweet, and by very much more handsome than fine. One speech in it I chiefly loved: 'twas Æneas' tale to Dido; and thereabout of it especially, where he speaks of Priam's slaughter: If it live in your memory, begin at this line; let me see, let me see;—

The rugged Pyrrhus, like the Hyrcanian beast, 'tis not so; it begins with Pyrrhus.

The rugged Pyrrhus,—he, whose sable arms,

* Writing. † Christmas carols. ‡ Fringed.

§ Defy. || Olog. ¶ Profession.

** An Italian dish made of the roes of fishes.

†† Multitude. ‡‡ Above. §§ Convict.

||| Affectation.

* Become strollers. † Young nestlings. ‡ Dialogue.
§ Paid. || Profession. ¶ Provoke.

** I. e. The Globe, the sign of Shakspeare's Theatre.

†† Miniature. ‡‡ Compliment.

Black as his purpose, did the night resemble
When he lay couched in the ominous horse,
Hath now this dread and black complexion
smear'd

With heraldry more dismal; head to foot
Now is he total gules;* horribly trick'd†
With blood of fathers, mothers, daughters,
sons;

Bak'd and impasted with the parching streets,
That lend a tyrannous and a damn'd light
To their lord's murder: Roasted in wrath, and
fire,

And thus o'er-sized with coagulate gore,
With eyes like carbuncles, the hellish Pyrrhus
Old grandsire Priam seeks;—So proceed you.

Pol. 'Fore God, my lord, well spoken; with
good accent, and good discretion.

I Play. Anon he find him
Striking too short at Greeks; his antique
sword,

Rebellious to his arm, lies where it falls,
Repugnant to command: Unequal match'd,
Pyrrhus at Priam drives; in rage, strikes wide;
But with the whiff and wind of his fell sword
The unnerv'd father falls. Then senseless Ilium,
Seeming to feel this blow, with flaming top
Stoops to his base; and with a hideous crash
Takes prisoner Pyrrhus' ear: for, lo! his
sword,

Which was declining on the milky head
Of reverend Priam, seem'd i' the air to stick;
So as a painted tyrant, Pyrrhus stood;
And, like a neutral to his will and matter,
Did nothing.

But, as we often see, against some storm,
A silence in the heavens, the rack‡ stand still,
The bold winds speechless, and the orb below
As hush as death: anon the dreadful thunder
Doth rend the region: So, after Pyrrhus' pause,
A roused vengeance sets him new a-work;
And never did the Cyclops' hammers fall
On Mars' armour, forg'd for proof eternel§
With less remorse than Pyrrhus' bleeding sword
Now falls on Priam.— [gods,

Out, out, thou strumpet, Fortune! All you
In general synod, take away her power;
Break all the spokes and fellies from her wheel,
And bow the round nave down the hill of heaven,
As low as to the fiends!

Pol. This is too long.

Ham. It shall to the barber's, with your
beard.—Pr'ythee, say on:—He's for a jig, or
a tale of bawdry, or he sleeps:—say on: come
to Hecuba.

1. Play. But who, ah woe! had seen the mob-
bled|| queen—

Ham. The mobled queen?

Pol. That's good; mobled queen is good.

1 Play. Run barefoot up and down, threat'ning
the flames

With bisson¶ rheum; a clout upon that head,
Where late the diadem stood; and, for a robe,
About her lank and all o'er-teemed loins,
A blanket, in the alarm of fear caught up;
Who this had seen, with tongue in venom
steep'd,

'Gainst Fortune's state would treason have pro-
nounc'd:

But if the gods themselves did see her then,
When she saw Pyrrhus make malicious sport
In mincing with his sword her husband's limbs;
The instant burst of clamour that she made,
(Unless things mortal move them not at all,)

* Red.

† Light clouds.

|| Muffled.

‡ Blazoned.

§ Eternal.

¶ Blind.

Would have made milch* the burning eye of
And passion in the gods. [Heaven,

Pol. Look, whether he has not turn'd his
colour, and his tears in's eyes.—Pr'ythee, no
more.

Ham. 'Tis well; I'll have thee speak out the
rest of this soon.—Good my lord, will you see
the players well bestowed? Do you hear, let
them be well used: for they are the abstract,
and brief chronicles, of the time: After your
death you were better have a bad epitaph,
than their ill report while you live.

Pol. My lord, I will use them according to
their desert.

Ham. Odd's bodikin, man, much better:
Use every man after his desert, and who shall
scape whipping? Use them after your own
honour and dignity: The less they deserve,
the more merit is in your bounty. Take them
in.

Pol. Come, Sirs.

[Exit POLONIUS, with some of the PLAYERS.]

Ham. Follow him, friends: we'll hear a play
to-morrow.—Dost thou hear me, old friend;
can you play the murder of Gonzago?

1 Play. Ay, my lord.

Ham. We'll have it to-morrow night. You
could, for a need, study a speech of some do-
zen or sixteen lines, which I would set down,
and insert in't? could you not?

1. Play. Ay, my lord.

Ham. Very well.—Follow that lord; and
look you mock him not. [Exit PLAYER.] My
good friends, [To Ros. and GUIL.] I'll leave
you till night: you are welcome to Elsinore.

Ros. Good my lord!

[Exit ROSENCRAUNTZ and GULDENSTERN.]

Ham. Ay, so, God be wi' you:—Now I am
alone.

O, what a rogue and peasant slave am I!
Is it not monstrous, that this player here,
But in a fiction, in a dream of passion,
Could force his soul to his own conceit,
That, from her working, all his visage wann'd;
Tears in his eyes, distraction in's aspect, [ing
A broken voice, and his whole function suit-
With forms to his conceit? And all for nothing!
For Hecuba!

What's Hecuba to him, or he to Hecuba, [do,
That he should weep for her? What would he
Had he the motive and the cue for passion,
That I have? He would drown the stage with
tears,

And cleave the general ear with horrid speech;
Make mad the guilty, and appal the free,
Confound the ignorant, and amaze, indeed,
The very faculties of eyes and ears.

Yet I,
A dull and muddy-mettled rascal, peak,
Like John a-dreams, unpregnant of my cause,
And can say nothing; no, not for a king,
Upon whose property, and most dear life,
A damn'd defeat was made. Am I a coward?
Who calls me villain? breaks my pate across?
Plucks off my beard, and blows it in my face?
Tweaks me by the nose? gives me the lie i'the
throat,

As deep as to the lungs? Who does me this?
Ha!

Why, I should take it: for it cannot be,
But I am pigeon-liver'd, and lack gall
To make oppression bitter: or, ere this,
I should have fatted all the region kites
With this slave's offal: Bloody, bawdy vil-
lain!

* Milky.

† Destruction.

Remorseless, treacherous, lecherous, kindless,*
villain!

Why, what an ass am I? This is most brave;
That I, the son of a dear father murder'd,
Prompted to my revenge by heaven and hell,
Must, like a whore, unpack my heart with
And fall a cursing, like a very drab, [words,
A scullion!

Fie upon't! foh! About my brains! Humph!
I have heard,

That guilty creatures, sitting at a play,
Have by the very cunning of the scene
Been struck so to the soul, that presently
They have proclaim'd their malefactions;
For murder, though it have no tongue, will
speak [players

With most miraculous organ. I'll have these
Play something like the murder of my father,
Before mine uncle: I'll observe his looks;
I'll tent him to the quick; † if he do blench, †
I know my course. The spirit, that I have
seen,

May be a devil: and the devil hath power
To assume a pleasing shape; yea, and, per-
haps,

Out of my weakness, and my melancholy,
(As he is very potent with such spirits,)
Abuses me to damn me: I'll have grounds
More relative than this: the play's the thing,
Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king.
[Exit.

ACT III.

SCENE I.—A Room in the Castle.

Enter KING, QUEEN, POLONIUS, OPHELIA, RO-
SENCRANTZ, and GUILDENSTERN.

King. And can you, by no drift of confer-
ence

Get from him, why he puts on this confusion;
Grating so harshly all his days of quiet
With turbulent and dangerous lunacy?

Ros. He does confess, he feels himself dis-
tracted; [speak.

But from what cause he will by no means
Guild. Nor do we find him forward to be
sounded;

But, with a crafty madness, keeps aloof,
When we would bring him on to some confes-
Of his true state. [sion

Queen. Did he receive you well?

Ros. Most like a gentleman.

Guild. But with much forcing of his dispo-
sition.

Ros. Niggard of question; but, of our de-
Most free in his reply. [mands,

Queen. Did you assay him

To any pastime?

Ros. Madam, it so fell out, that certain
players [him;

We o'er-raught on the way: of these we told
And there did seem in him a kind of joy
To hear of it: They are about the court;
And, as I think, they have already order
This night to play before him,

Pol. 'Tis most true; [ties,

And he beseech'd me to intreat your majes-
To hear and see the matter.

King. With all my heart: and it doth much
content me

To hear him so inclin'd.

Good gentlemen, give him a further edge,
And drive his purpose on to these delights.

Ros. We shall, my lord.

[Exit ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN.

King. Sweet Gertrude, leave us too:

For we have closely sent for Hamlet hither;

That he, as 'twere by accident, may here

Affront* Ophelia:

Her father, and myself (lawful espials, †)

Will so bestow ourselves, that, seeing, unseen,

We may of their encounter frankly † judge;

And gather by him, as he is behav'd,

If't be the affliction of his love, or no,

That thus he suffers for.

Queen. I shall obey you:

And, for your part, Ophelia, I do wish,

That your good beauties be the happy cause

Of Hamlet's wildness: so shall I hope, your

virtues

Will bring him to his wonted way again,
To both your honours.

Oph. Madam, I wish it may. [Exit QUEEN.

Pol. Ophelia, walk you here;—Gracious, so
please you,

We will bestow † ourselves:—Read on this
book; [To OPHELIA.

That show of such an exercise may colour
Your loneliness.—We are oft to blame in
this,— [visage,

'Tis too much proved, †—that, with devotion's

And pious action, we do sugar o'er

The devil himself.

King. O, 'tis too true! how smart

A lash that speech doth give my conscience!

The harlot's cheek, beautied with plastering

art,

Is not more ugly to the thing that helps it,

Than is my deed to my most painted word:

O heavy burden! [Aside.

Pol. I hear him coming: let's withdraw, my
lord. [Exit KING and POLONIUS.

Enter HAMLET.

Ham. To be, or not to be, that is the ques-
tion:—

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind, to suffer

The stings and arrows of outrageous fortune;

Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,

And, by opposing, end them?—To die,—to be

sleep,—

No more;—and, by a sleep, to say we end

The heart-ache, and the thousand natural

shocks

That flesh is heir to,—'tis a consummation

Devoutly to be wish'd. To die;—to sleep;—

To sleep! perchance to dream;—ay, there's

the rub: [come,

For in that sleep of death what dreams may

When we have shuffled off this mortal coil, †

Must give us pause: There's the respect,*

That makes calamity of so long life: [time,

For who would bear the whips and scorns of

The oppressor's wrong, the proud man's con-
tumely, ††

The pangs of despis'd love, the law's delay,

The insolence of office, and the spurns

That patient merit of the unworthy takes,

When he himself might his quietus †† make

With a bare bodkin? †† who would fardels ††

bear,

To grunt and sweat under a weary life;

But that the dread of something after death.—

The undiscover'd country, from whose bourn ††

No traveller returns,—puzzles the will!

* Meet. † Spies. † Freely.

‡ Place. †† Toe frequent. †† Stir, bustle.

** Consideration. †† Rudeness. †† Acquittance.

‡‡ The ancient term for a small dagger.

‡‡‡ Packs, burdens. ††† Boundary, limits.

* Unnatural.

† Shrink or start.

† Search his wounds.

‡ Overtook.

And makes us rather bear those ills we have,
Than fly to others that we know not of?
Thus conscience does make cowards of us all;
And thus the native hue of resolution
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought;
And enterprises of great pith and moment,
With this regard, their currents turn awry,
And lose the name of action.—Soft you, now!
The fair Ophelia;—Nymph, in thy orisons*
Be all my sins remember'd.

Oph. Good my lord,
How does your honour for this many a day?

Ham. I humbly thank you; well. [yours,

Oph. My lord, I have remembrance of
That I have longed long to re-deliver;
I pray you, now receive them.

Ham. No, not I;

I never gave you aught.

Oph. My honour'd lord, you know right well
you did;

And, with them, words of so sweet breath
compos'd [lost,

As made the things more rich: their perfume
Take these again: for to the noble mind,
Rich gifts wax poor, when givers prove un-
There, my lord. [kind.

Ham. Ha, ha! are you honest?

Oph. My lord?

Ham. Are you fair?

Oph. What means your lordship?

Ham. That if you be honest, and fair, you
should admit no discourse to your beauty.

Oph. Could beauty, my lord, have better
commerce than with honesty?

Ham. Ay, truly; for the power of beauty
will sooner transform honesty from what it is
to a bawd, than the force of honesty can trans-
late beauty into his likeness; this was some-
time a paradox, but now the time gives it
proof. I did love you once.

Oph. Indeed, my lord, you made me believe
so.

Ham. You should not have believed me;
for virtue cannot so inoculate our old stock,
but we shall relish of it; I loved you not.

Oph. I was the more deceived.

Ham. Get thee to a nunnery; Why wouldst
thou be a breeder of sinners? I am myself in-
different honest; but yet I could accuse me of
such things, that it were better, my mother had
not borne me; I am very proud, revengeful,
ambitious; with more offences at my beck,
than I have thoughts to put them in, imagina-
tion to give them shape, or time to act them
in: What should such fellows as I do crawl-
ing between earth and heaven! We are arrant
knaves, all: believe none of us: Go thy ways
to a nunnery. Where's your father?

Oph. At home, my lord.

Ham. Let the doors be shut upon him: that
he may play the fool no where but in his own
house. Farewell.

Oph. O, help him, you sweet heavens!

Ham. If thou dost marry, I'll give thee this
plague for thy dowry; Be thou as chaste as
ice, as pure as snow, thou shalt not escape cal-
luny. Get thee to a nunnery; farewell;
Or, if thou wilt needs marry, marry a fool;
for wise men know well enough, what mon-
sters you make of them. To a nunnery, go;
and quickly too. Farewell.

Oph. Heavenly powers, restore him!

Ham. I have heard of your paintings too,
well enough; God hath given you one face,
and you make yourselves another; you jig,

you amble, and you lisp, and nick-name God's
creatures, and make your wantonness your
ignorance: Go to; I'll no more of't; it hath
made me mad. I say, we will have no more
marriages: those that are married already, all
but one, shall live; the rest shall keep as they
are. To a nunnery, go. [Exit HAMLET.

Oph. O, what a noble mind is here o'er-
thrown! [sword:

The courtier's, soldier's, scholar's eye, tongue,
The exactancy and rose of the fair state,
The glass of fashion, and the mould* of form,
The observ'd of all observers! quite, quite
down!

And I, of ladies most deject and wretched,
That suck'd the honey of his music vows,
Now see that noble and most sovereign reason,
Like sweet bells jangled, out of tune and
harsh; [youth,

That unmatch'd form and feature of blown
Blasted with ecstasy;† O, woe is me!
To have seen what I have seen, see what I see!

Re-enter KING and POLONIUS.

King. Love! his affections do not that way
tend; [little,

Nor what he spake, though it lack'd form a
Was not like madness. There's something in
his soul,

O'er which his melancholy sits on brood;
And, I do doubt, the hatch, and the disclose,
Will be some danger: Which for to prevent,
I have in quick determination,
Thus set it down; He shall with speed to
England,

For the demand of our neglected tribute:
Haply, the seas, and countries different,
With variable objects, shall expel
This something-settled matter in his heart;
Whereon his brains still beating, puts him thus
From fashion of himself. What think you
on't?

Pol. It shall do well: But yet I do believe,
The origin and commencement of his grief
Sprung from neglected love.—How now,
Ophelia?

You need not tell us what lord Hamlet said;
We heard it all.—My lord, do as you please;
But, if you hold it fit, after the play,
Let his queen mother all alone entreat him
To show his grief; let her be round† with him;
And I'll be plac'd, so please you, in the ear
Of all their conference; If she find him not,
To England send him; or confine him, where
Your wisdom best shall think.

King. It shall be so:
Madness in great ones must not unwatch'd go.
[Exit.

SCENE II.—A Hall in the same.

Enter HAMLET, and certain PLAYERS.

Ham. Speak the speech, I pray you, as I
pronounced it to you, trippingly on the tongue;
but if you mouth it, as many of our players do,
I had as lief the town-crier spoke my lines.
Nor do not saw the air too much with your
hand, thus; but use all gently; for in the very
torrent, tempest, and (as I may say) whirlwind
of your passion, you must acquire and beget a
temperance, that may give it smoothness. O,
it offends me to the soul, to hear a robustious
periwig-pated fellow tear a passion to tatters,
to very rags, to split the ears of the ground-

* The model by whom all endeavoured to form them-
selves. † Alienation of mind.

† Reprimand him with freedom.

lings;* who, for the most part, are capable of nothing but inexplicable dumb show, and noise: I would have such a fellow whipped for o'er-doing Termagant; it out-herods Herod:† Pray you, avoid it.

1 Play. I warrant your honour.

Ham. Be not too tame neither, but let your own discretion be your tutor: suit the action to the word, the word to the action; with this special observance, that you o'erstep not the modesty of nature: for any thing so overdone is from the purpose of playing, whose end, both at the first, and now, was, and is, to hold, as 'twere, the mirror up to nature; to show virtue her own feature, scorn her own image, and the very age and body of the time, his form and pressure.‡ Now this, overdone, or come tardy off, though it make the unskillful laugh, cannot but make the judicious grieve: the censure of which one, must, in your allowance,§ o'erweigh a whole theatre of others. O, there be players, that I have seen play,—and heard others praise, and that highly—not to speak it profanely, that, neither having the accent of Christians, nor the gait of Christian, Pagan, nor man, have so strutted, and bellowed, that I have thought some of nature's journeymen had made men, and not made them well, they imitated humanity so abominably.

1 Play. I hope, we have reformed that indifferently with us.

Ham. O, reform it altogether. And let those, that play your clowns, speak no more than is set down for them: for there be of them, that will themselves laugh, to set on some quantity of barren spectators to laugh too; though, in the meantime, some necessary question|| of the play be then to be considered; that's villainous; and shows a most pitiful ambition in the fool that uses it. Go, make you ready.—

[*Exeunt PLAYERS.*]

Enter POLONIUS, ROSENCRANTZ, and GUILDENSTERN.

How now, my lord? will the king hear this piece of work?

Pol. And the queen too, and that presently.

Ham. Bid the players make haste.—

[*Exit* POLONIUS.]

Will you too help to hasten them?

Both. Ay, my lord.

[*Exeunt* ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN.]

Ham. What, ho; Horatio!

Enter HORATIO.

Hor. Here, sweet lord, at your service.

Ham. Horatio, thou art e'en as just a man As e'er my conversation cop'd withal.

Hor. O, my dear lord,—

Ham. Nay, do not think I flatter:

For what advancement may I hope from thee, That no revenue hast, but thy good spirits, To feed, and clothe thee? Why should the poor be flattered?

No, let the candied tongue lick absurd pomp: And crook the pregnant hinges of the knee, Where thrift may follow fawning. Dost thou hear?

Since my dear soul was mistress of her choice, And could of men distinguish her election,

She hath seal'd thee for herself: for thou hast been

As one, in suffering all, that suffers nothing;

A man, that fortune's buffets and rewards

Hast ta'en with equal thanks: and bless'd are those,

Whose blood and judgement are so well co- That they are not a pipe for fortune's finger

To sound what stop she please: Give me that man

That is not passion's slave, and I will wear

In my heart's core, ay, in my heart of heart,

As I do thee.—Something too much of this.—

There is a play to-night before the king;

One scene of it comes near the circumstance, Which I have told thee of my father's death.

I pry'thee, when thou seest that act afoot,

Even with the very comment of thy soul

Observe my uncle; if his occulted* guilt

Do not itself unkennel in one speech.

It is a damned ghost that we have seen;

And my imaginations are as foul

As Vulcan's stithy.† Give him heedful note:

For I mine eyes will rivet to his face;

And, after, we will both our judgements join

In censure‡ of his seeming.

Hor. Well, my lord: [ing,

If he steal aught, the whilst this play is play-

And scape detecting, I will pay the theft.

Ham. They are coming to the play; I must be idle:

Get you a place.

Danish March.—A Flourish.—Enter KING, QUEEN, POLONIUS, OPHELIA, ROSENCRANTZ, GUILDENSTERN, and others.

King. How fares our cousin Hamlet?

Ham. Excellent, i'faith; of the camelion's dish: I eat the air, promise-crammed: You cannot feed capons so.

King. I have nothing with this answer, Hamlet; these words are not mine.

Ham. No, nor mine now. My lord,—you played once in the university, you say?

[*To* POLONIUS.]

Pol. That did I, my lord: and was accounted a good actor.

Ham. And what did you enact?

Pol. I did enact Julius Cæsar; I was killed i'the Capitol; Brutus killed me.

Ham. It was a brute part of him, to kill so capital a calf there.—Be the players ready?

Ros. Ay, my lord, they stay§ upon your patience.

Queen. Come hither, my dear Hamlet, sit by me.

Ham. No, good mother, here's metal more attractive.

Pol.—O ho! do you mark that? [*To the KING.*]

Ham. Lady, shall I lie in your lap?

[*Lying down at* OPHELIA'S Feet.]

Oph. No, my lord.

Ham. I mean, my head upon your lap?

Oph. Ay, my lord.

Ham. Do you think, I meant country matters?

Oph. I think nothing, my lord.

Ham. That's a fair thought to lie between maids' legs.

Oph. What is, my lord?

Ham. Nothing.

Oph. You are merry, my lord.

Ham. Who, I?

Oph. Ay, my lord.

* The meaner people then seem to have sat in the pit.

† Herod's character was always violent.

‡ Impression, resemblance.

§ Approbation.

|| Conversation, discourse.

¶ Quick, ready.

* Secret.

† Shop, stithy is a smith's shop.

‡ Opinion.

§ Wait.

Ham. O! your only jig-maker. What should a man do, but be merry? for, look you, how cheerfully my mother looks, and my father died within these two hours.

Oph. Nay, 'tis twice two months, my lord.

Ham. So long? Nay, then let the devil wear black, for I'll have a suit of sables.* O heavens! die two months ago, and not forgotten yet? Then there's hope, a great man's memory may outlive his life half a year: But by'r lady, he must build churches then: or else shall he suffer not thinking on, with the hobby-horse; whose epitaph is, *For, O, for, O, the hobby-horse is forgot.*

Trumpets sound. The dumb Show follows.

Enter a King and a Queen, very lovingly; the Queen embracing him, and he her. She kneels, and makes show of protestation unto him. He takes her up, and declines his head upon her neck: lays him down upon a bank of flowers; she, seeing him asleep, leaves him. Anon comes in a fellow, takes off his crown, kisses it, and pours poison in the King's ears, and exit. The Queen returns; finds the King dead, and makes passionate action. The poisoner, with some two or three Mutes, comes in again, seeming to lament with her. The dead body is carried away. The poisoner woos the Queen with gifts; she seems loath and unwilling awhile, but, in the end, accepts his love. [Exeunt.

Oph. What means this, my lord?

Ham. Marry, this is miching mallecho; † it means mischief.

Oph. Belike, this show imports the argument of the play.

Enter PROLOGUE.

Ham. We shall know by this fellow: the players cannot keep counsel; they'll tell all.

Oph. Will he tell us what this show meant?

Ham. Ay, or any show that you'll show him: Be not you ashamed to show, he'll not shame to tell you what it means.

Oph. You are naught, you are naught; I'll mark the play.

Pro. For us, and for our tragedy,
Here stooping to your clemency,
We beg your hearing patiently.

Ham. Is this a prologue, or the posy of a ring?

Oph. 'Tis brief, † my lord.

Ham. As woman's love.

Enter a KING and a QUEEN.

P. King. Full thirty times hath Phœbus' cart‡ gone round
Neptune's salt wash, and Tellus‡ orbed ground;
And thirty dozen moons, with borrow'd sheen, ¶
About the world have times twelve thirties
been; [hands,]
Since love our hearts, and Hymen did our
Unite commutual in most sacred bands.

P. Queen. So many journeys may the sun and moon
Make us again count o'er, ere love be done!
But, woe is me, you are so sick of late,
So far from cheer, and from your former state,
That I distrust you. Yet, though I distrust,
Discomfort you, my lord, it nothing must:
For women fear too much, even as they love;

And women's fear and love hold quantity;
In neither aught, or in extremity. [know;
Now, what my love is, proof hath made you
And as my love is siz'd,* my fear is so.

Where love is great, the littlest doubts are fear;

Where little fears grow great, great love grows

P. King. 'Faith, I must leave thee, love, and shortly too;

My operant powers their functions leave to
And thou shalt live in this fair world behind,
Honour'd, belov'd; and, haply, one as kind
For husband shalt thou—

P. Queen. O, confound the rest!
Such love must needs be treason in my breast:
In second husband let me be accurst!

None wed the second, but who kill'd the first.

Ham. That's wormwood.

P. Queen. The instances, † that second marriage move,

Are base respects of thrift, but none of love;
A second time I kill my husband dead,
When second husband kisses me in bed.

P. King. I do believe, you think what now you speak;

But, what we do determine, oft we break.

Purpose is but the slave to memory;

Of violent birth, but poor validity;

Which now, like fruit unripe, sticks on the tree;
But fall, unshaken, when they mellow be.

Most necessary 'tis, that we forget

To pay ourselves what to ourselves is debt:

What to ourselves in passion we propose,

The passion ending, doth the purpose lose.

The violence of either grief or joy

Their own enactures‡ with themselves destroy:

Where joy most revels, grief doth most lament;

Grief joys, joy grieves, on slender accident.

This world is not for aye: † nor 'tis not strange,
That even our loves should with our fortunes

change;

For 'tis a question left us yet to prove,

Whether love lead fortune, or else fortune love.

The great man down, you mark his favourite

flies;

The poor advanc'd make friends of enemies.

And hitherto doth love on fortune tend;

For who not needs, shall never lack a friend;

And who in want a hollow friend doth try,

Directly seasons him his enemy.

But, orderly to end where I begun,—

Our wills, our fates, do so contrary run,

That our devices still are overthrown;

Our thoughts are ours, their ends none of our

So think thou wilt no second husband wed;

But die thy thoughts, when thy first lord is

dead.

P. Queen. Nor earth to give me food, nor

heaven light!

Sport and repose lock from me, day and night!

To desperation turn my trust and hope!

An anchor's † cheer in prison be my scope!

Each opposite, that blinks the face of joy,

Meet what I would have well, and it destroy!

Both here, and hence, pursue me lasting strife,

If, once a widow, ever I be wife!

Ham. If she should break it now,—

[To OPHELIA.

P. King. 'Tis deeply sworn. Sweet, leave

me here a while;

Myspirits grow dull, and fain I would beguile

The tedious day with sleep. [Sleeps.

P. Queen. Sleep rock thy brain;

And never come mischance between us twain!

[Exit.

* The richest dress.

† Secret wickedness.

‡ Short.

§ Car, chariot.

¶ The earth.

‡ Shining, lustre.

* Magnitude, proportion.

† Active.

‡ Motives.

§ Determinations.

¶ Ever.

‡ Anchoret's.

Ham. Madam, how like you this play?

Queen. The lady doth protest too much, methinks.

Ham. O, but she'll keep her word.

King. Have you heard the argument? Is there no offence in't?

Ham. No, no, they do but jest, poison in jest; no offence i' the world.

King. What do you call the play?

Ham. The mouse-trap.* Marry, how? Tropically. This play is the image of a murder done in Vienna: Gonzago is the duke's name; his wife, Baptista; you shall see anon; 'tis a knavish piece of work: But what of that? your majesty, and we that have free souls, it touches us not: Let the galled jade wince,† our withers are unwrung.—

Enter LUCIANUS.

This is one Lucianus, nephew to the king.

Oph. You are as good as a chorus, my lord.

Ham. I could interpret between you and your love, if I could see the puppets dallying.

Oph. You are keen, my lord, you are keen.

Ham. It would cost you a groaning, to take off my edge.

Oph. Still better, and worse.

Ham. So you mistake your husbands.—Begin, murderer;—leave thy damnable faces, and begin. Come;—

—The croaking raven

Doth bellow for revenge.

Luc. Thoughts black, bands apt, drugs fit, and time agreeing;

Confederate season, else no creature seeing;
Thou mixture rank, of midnight weeds collected,

With Hecate's ban‡ thrice blasted, thrice intent,
Thy natural magic and dire property,
On wholesome life usurp immediately.

[Pours the Poison into the Sleeper's Ears.]

Ham. He poisons him i' the garden for his estate. His name's Gonzago: the story is extant, and written in very choice Italian: You shall see anon, how the murderer gets the love of Gonzago's wife.

Oph. The king rises.

Ham. What! frighted with false fire!

Queen. How fares my lord?

Pol. Give o'er the play.

King. Give me some light:—away!

Pol. Lights, lights, lights!

[Exit all but HAMLET and HORATIO.]

Ham. Why, let the stricken deer go weep,
The hart ungalled play:

For some must watch, while some must sleep;
Thus runs the world away.—

Would not this, Sir, and a forest of feathers,§ (if the rest of my fortunes turn Turk|| with me,) with two Provencal roses on my razed¶ shoes, get me a fellowship in a cry** of players, Sir?

Hor. Half a share.

Ham. A whole one, I.

For thou dost know, O Damon, dear,
This realm dismantled was
Of Jove himself; and now reigns here

A very, very—peacock.

Hor. You might have rhymed.

Ham. O good Horatio, I'll take the ghost's word for a thousand pound. Did'st perceive?

Hor. Very well, my lord.

* ————— the thing

† In which he'll catch the conscience of the king.

‡ This is a proverbial saying. † Curse.

§ For his head. ¶ Change conditions.

** Pack, company.

Ham. Upon the talk of the poisoning,—

Hor. I did very well note him.

Ham. Ah, ha!—Come, some music; come the recorders.*—

For if the king like not the comedy,
Why then, belike,—he likes it not, perdy.†—

Enter ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN.

Come, some music.

Guil. Good my lord, vouchsafe me a word with you.

Ham. Sir, a whole history.

Guil. The king, Sir,—

Ham. Ay, Sir, what of him?

Guil. Is, in his retirement, marvellously distempered.

Ham. With drink, Sir?

Guil. No, my lord, with choler.

Ham. Your wisdom should show itself more richer, to signify this to the doctor; for, for me to put him to his purgation, would, perhaps, plunge him into more choler.

Guil. Good my lord, put your discourse into some frame, and start not so wildly from my affair.

Ham. I am tame, Sir:—pronounce.

Guil. The queen, your mother, in most great affliction of spirit, hath sent me to you.

Ham. You are welcome.

Guil. Nay, good my lord, this courtesy is not of the right breed. If it shall please you to make me a wholesome answer, I will do your mother's commandment; if not, your pardon, and my return, shall be the end of my business.

Ham. Sir, I cannot.

Guil. What, my lord?

Ham. Make you a wholesome answer; my wit's diseased: But, Sir, such answer as I can make, you shall command; or, rather, as you say, my mother; therefore no more, but to the matter: My mother, you say;—

Ros. Then thus she says; your behaviour hath struck her into amazement and admiration.

Ham. O wonderful son, that can so astonish a mother!—But is there no sequel at the heels of this mother's admiration? impart.

Ros. She desires to speak with you in her closet, ere you go to bed.

Ham. We shall obey, were she ten times our mother. Have you any further trade‡ with us?

Ros. My lord, you once did love me.

Ham. And do still, by these pickers and stealers.§

Ros. Good my lord, what is your cause of distemper? you do, surely, but bar the door upon your own liberty, if you deny your griefs to your friend.

Ham. Sir, I lack advancement.

Ros. How can that be, when you have the voice of the king himself for your succession in Denmark?

Ham. Ay, Sir, but, *While the grass grows,*—the proverb is something musty.

Enter the PLAYERS, with Recorders.

O, the recorders;—let me see one.—To withdraw with you;—Why do you about to recover the wind of me, as if you would drive me into a toil?

Guil. O, my lord, if my duty be too bold, my love is too unmannerly.

* A kind of flute.

† Business.

‡ Par Dieu.

§ Hands.

Ham. I do not well understand that. Will you play upon this pipe ?

Guil. My lord, I cannot.

Ham. I pray you.

Guil. Believe me, I cannot.

Ham. I do beseech you.

Guil. I know no touch of it, my lord.

Ham. 'Tis as easy as lying: govern these ventages,* with your fingers and thumb, give it breath with your mouth, and it will discourse most eloquent music. Look you, these are the stops.

Guil. But these cannot I command to any utterance of harmony ; I have not the skill.

Ham. Why, look you now, how unworthy a thing you make of me. You would play upon me ; you would seem to know my stops ; you would pluck out the heart of my mystery ; you would sound me from my lowest note to the top of my compass : and there is much music, excellent voice, in this little organ ; yet cannot you make 'it speak. 'Sblood, do you think, I am easier to be played on than a pipe ? Call me what instrument you will, though you can fret me, you cannot play upon me.

Enter POLONIUS.

God bless you, Sir.

Pol. My lord, the queen would speak with you, and presently.

Ham. Do you see yonder cloud, that's almost in shape of a camel ?

Pol. By the mass, and 'tis like a camel, indeed.

Ham. Methinks, it is like a weasel.

Pol. It is backed like a weasel.

Ham. Or, like a whale ?

Pol. Very like a whale.

Ham. Then will I come to my mother by and by.—They fool me to the top of my bent.†—I will come by and by.

Pol. I will say so. [*Exit* POLONIUS.]

Ham. By and by is easily said.—Leave me, friends. [*Exeunt* ROS. GUIL. HOR. &c.]

'Tis now the very witching time of night ;
When churchyards yaw, and hell itself
breathes out

Contagion to this world : Now could I drink
hot blood,

And do such business as the bitter day
Would quake to look on. Soft ; now to my
mother,—

O, heart, lose not thy nature ; let not ever
The soul of Nero enter this firm bosom :

Let me be cruel, not unnatural :
I will speak daggers to her, but use none ;

My tongue and soul in this be hypocrites :
How in my words soever she be shent,‡
To give them seals§ never, my soul, consent !

[*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—A Room in the same.

Enter KING, ROSENCRANTZ, and GUILDENSTERN.

King. I like him not ; nor stands it safe with
us, [you ;

To let his madness range. Therefore, prepare
I your commission will forthwith despatch,
And he to England shall along with you ;

The terms of our estate may not endure
Hazard so near us, as doth hourly grow
Out of his lunies ||

Guil. We will ourselves provide :
Most holy and religious fear it is,

To keep those many bodies safe,
That live, and feed, upon your majesty.

Ros. The single and peculiar life is bound
With all the strength and armour of the mind,
To keep itself from 'nuoyance : but much more
That spirit, upon whose weak depend and rest
The lives of many. The cease of majesty
Dies not alone ; but like a gulf, doth draw
What's near it, with it : is a massy wheel,
Fix'd on the summit of the highest mount,
To whose huge spokes ten thousand lesser
things [falls,

Are mortis'd and adjoin'd ; which, when it
Each small annexment, petty consequence,
Attends the boist'rous ruin. Never alone
Did the king sigh, but with a general groan.

King. Arm you, I pray you, to this speedy
voyage ;

For we will fetters put upon this fear,
Which now goes too free-footed.

Ros. Guil. We will haste us.
[*Exeunt* ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN.]

Enter POLONIUS.

Pol. My lord, he's going to his mother's
Behind the arras*. I'll convey myself, [closet :
To hear the process ; I'll warrant, she'll tax
him home :

And, as you said, and wisely was it said,
'Tis meet, that some more audience than a
mother, [hear,

Since nature makes them partial, should o'er-
The speech, of vantage. Fare you well, my
I'll call upon you ere you go to bed, [liege ;

And tell you what I know.
King. Thanks, dear my lord.

[*Exit* POLONIUS.]

O, my offence is rank, it smells to heaven ;
It hath the primal eldest curse upon't,
A brother's murder ! —Pray can I not,
Though inclination be as sharp as will ;

My stronger guilt defeats my strong intent,
And, like a man to double business bound,
I stand in pause where I shall first begin,
And both neglect. What if this cursed hand
Were thicker than itself with brother's blood ?
Is there not rain enough in the sweet heavens,
To wash it white as snow ? Whereto serves
mercy,

But to confront the visage of offence ?
And what's in prayer, but this twofold force,—
To be forestalled, ere we come to fall,
Or pardon'd, being down ? Then I'll look up ;
My fault is past. But, O, what form of prayer
Can serve my turn ? Forgive me my foul
murder !

That cannot be : since I am still possess'd
Of those effects for which I did the murder,
My crown, mine own ambition, and my queen.
May one be pardon'd, and retain the offence ?
In the corrupted currents of this world,
Offence's gilded hand may shove by justice ;
And oft 'tis seen, the wicked prize itself
Buys out the law : But 'tis not so above :

There is no shuffling, there the action lies
In his true nature ; and we ourselves com-
pell'd,

Even to the teeth and forehead of our faults,
To give in evidence. What then ? what rests ?
Try what repentance can : What can it not ?
Yet what can it, when one can not repent ?
O wretched state ! O bosom, black as death !
O limed† soul : that struggling to be free,
Art more engag'd. Help, angels, make assay !

But to confront the visage of offence ?
And what's in prayer, but this twofold force,—
To be forestalled, ere we come to fall,
Or pardon'd, being down ? Then I'll look up ;
My fault is past. But, O, what form of prayer
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Art more engag'd. Help, angels, make assay !

Even to the teeth and forehead of our faults,
To give in evidence. What then ? what rests ?
Try what repentance can : What can it not ?
Yet what can it, when one can not repent ?
O wretched state ! O bosom, black as death !
O limed† soul : that struggling to be free,
Art more engag'd. Help, angels, make assay !

* Holes. † Utmost stretch. ‡ Reproved.
§ Authority to put them in execution. || Lunacies.

* Tapestry. † Caught as with bird-line.

Bow, stubborn knees ! and, heart, with strings
of steel,
Be soft as sinews of the new-born babe ;
All may be well ! [Retires and kneels.]

Enter HAMLET.

Ham. Now might I do it, pat, now he is
praying ;
And now I'll do't ; and so he goes to heaven :
And so am I reveng'd ? That would be
scann'd :*

A villain kills my father ; and, for that,
I, his solet son, do this same villain send
To heaven.

Why, this is hire and salary,† not revenge.
He took my father grossly, full of bread ;
With all his crimes broad blown, as flush as
May ; [heaven ?

And, how his audit stands, who knows, save
But, in our circumstance and course of thought,
'Tis heavy with him : And am I then reveng'd,
To take him in the purging of his soul,
When he is fit and season'd for his passage ?

No. [heut : §

Up, sword ; and know thou a more horrid
When he is drunk, asleep, or in his rage ;
Or in the incestuous pleasures of his bed ;

At gaming, swearing ; or about some act
That has no relish of salvation in't : [ven :
Then trip him, that his heels may kick at hea-
And that his soul may be as damn'd, and
black,

As hell, whereto it goes. My mother stays :
This physic but prolongs thy sickly days.

The KING rises and advances.

King. My words fly up, my thoughts remain
below :

Words, without thoughts, never to heaven go.
[Exit.]

SCENE IV.—Another Room in the same.

Enter QUEEN and POLONIUS.

Pol. He will come straight. Look, you lay
home to him :

Tell him, his pranks have been too broad to
bear with ;

And that your grace hath screen'd and stood
between

Much heat and him. I'll silence me e'en here.
Pray you, be round with him.

Queen. I'll warrant you ;
Fear me not :—withdraw, I hear him coming.

[POLONIUS hides himself.]

Enter HAMLET.

Ham. Now, mother ; what's the matter ?

Queen. Hamlet, thou hast thy father much
offended.

Ham. Mother, you have my father much
offended,

Queen. Come, come, you answer with an
idle tongue.

Ham. Go, go, you question with a wicked
tongue.

Queen. Why, how now, Hamlet ?

Ham. What's the matter now ?

Queen. Have you forgot me ?

Ham. No, by the rood,|| not so : [wife ;
You are the queen, your husband's brother's

And,—'would it were not so!—you are my
mother.

Queen. Nay, then I'll set those to you that
can speak.

Ham. Come, come, and sit you down ; you
shall not budge ;

You go not, till I set you up a glass
Where you may see the inmost part of you.

Queen. What wilt thou do ? thou wilt not
murder me ?

Help, help, ho !

Pol. [behind.] What, ho ! help !

Ham. How now ! a rat ? [Draws.]

Dead, for a ducat, dead.

[HAMLET makes a pass through the Arras.]

Pol. [Behind.] O, I am slain.

[Falls, and dies.]

Queen. O me, what hast thou done ?

Ham. Nay, I know not :

Is it the king ?

[Lifts up the Arras, and draws forth
POLONIUS.]

Queen. O, what a rash and bloody deed is
this !

Ham. A bloody deed ;—almost as bad, good
mother,

As kill a king, and marry with his brother.

Queen. As kill a king !

Ham. Ay, lady, 'twas my word.—

Thou wretched, rash, intruding fool, farewell ?
[To POLONIUS.]

I took thee for thy better : take thy fortune :
Thou find'st, to be too busy, is some danger.—

Leave wringing of your hands : Peace ; sit
you down,

And let me ring your heart : for so I shall,

If it be made of penetrable stuff ;

If damned custom have not braz'd it so,

That it be proof and bulwark against sense.

Queen. What have I done, that thou dar'st
wag thy tongue

In noise so rude against me ?

Ham. Such an act,

That blurs the grace and blush of modesty ;

Calls virtue, hypocrite ; takes off the rose

From the fair forehead of an innocent love,

And sets a blister there ; makes marriage-vows

As false as dicers' oaths : O, such a deed

As from the body of contraction* plucks

The very soul ; and sweet religion makes

A rhapsody of words : Heaven's face doth
glow ;

Yea, this solidity and compound mass,

With tristful-visage, as against the doom,

Is thought-sick at the act.

Queen. Ah me, what act. [dex ? †

That roars so loud, and thunders in the in-
Ham. Look here, upon this picture, and on
this ;

The counterfeit presentment of two brothers,
See, what a grace was seated on this brow :

Hyperion's§ curls ; the front of Jove himself ;

An eye like Mars, to threaten and command ;

A station|| like the herald Mercury,

New-lighted on a heaven-kissing hill ;

A combination, and a form, indeed,

Where every god did seem to set his seal,

To give the world assurance of a man ;

This was your husband.—Look you now, what
follows :

Here is your husband : like a mildew'd ear,
Blasting his wholesome brother. Have you
eyes ?

* Marriage contract.

† Sorrowful.

‡ Index of contents prefixed to a book. § Apollo's.

|| The act of standing.

* Should be considered.

† Only.

‡ Reward.

§ Seize him at a more horrid time. || Cross.

Could you on this fair mountain leave to feed,
And batten* on this moor? Ha! have you
eyes?

You cannot call it, love: for, at your age,
The hey-day in the blood is tame, it's humble,
And waits upon the judgment; and what
judgment

Would step from this to this? Sense,† sure,
you have,
Else, could you not have motion: But, sure,
that sense

Is apoplex'd: for madness would not err;
Nor sense to ecstasy‡ was ne'er so thrall'd,
But it reserv'd some quantity of choice,
To serve in such a difference. What devil
was't,

That thus hath cozen'd you at hoodman-blind?§
Eyes without feeling, feeling without sight,
Fears without hands or eyes, smelling sans|| all,
Or but a sickly part of one true sense
Could not so mope.¶

O shame! where is thy blush? Rebellious hell,
If thou canst mutine in a matron's bones,
To flaming youth let virtue be as wax,
And melt in her own fire: proclaim no shame,
When the compulsive ardour gives the charge;
Since frost itself as actively doth burn,
And reason panders will.

Queen. O Hamlet, speak no more:
Thou turn'st mine eyes into my very soul;
And there I see such black and grained spots,
As will not leave their tinct.**

Ham. Nay, but to live
In the rank sweat of an enseamed†† bed;
Stew'd in corruption; honeying, and making
Over the nasty sty, — [love

Queen. O, speak to me no more;
These words, like daggers enter in mine ears:
No more, sweet Hamlet.

Ham. A murderer, and a villain:
A slave, that is not twentieth part the tythe
Of your precedent lord:—a vice†† of kings:
A cnturse of the empire and the rule,
That from a shelf the precious diadem stole,
And put it in his pocket!

Queen. No more.

Enter GHOST.

Ham. A king
Of shreds and patches:—
Save me, and hover o'er me with your wings,
You heavenly guards!—What would your
gracious figure?

Queen. Alas, he's mad.

Ham. Do you not come your tardy son to
chide,
That, laps'd in time and passion, lets go by
The important acting of your dread command?
O, say!

Ghost. Do not forget: This visitation
Is but to whet thy almost blunted purpose.
But, look, amazement on thy mother sits:
O, step between her and her fighting soul;
Conceit§§ in weakest bodies strongest works;
Speak to her, Hamlet.

Ham. How is it with you, lady?

Queen. Alas, how is't with you?

That you do bend your eye on vacancy,
And with the incorporeal air do hold discourse?
Forth at your eyes your spirits wildly peep;
And, as the sleeping soldiers in the alarm,
Your bedded hair, like life in excrements,|||

‡ Sensation.

|| Without.

†† Greasy.

||| The hair of animals is excrementitious, that is,
without life or sensation.

* To grow fat.

† Frenzy.

‡ Be so stupid, * Colour.

§ Mimic.

§§ Imagination.

§ Blindman's buff.

Starts up, and stands on end. O gentle son,
Upon the heat and flame of thy distemper
Sprinkle cool patience. Whereon do you look?

Ham. On him! on him!—Look you, how
pale he glares! [stones,

His form and cause conjoin'd, preaching to
Would make them capable.*—do not look
upon me;

Lest, with this piteous action, you convert
My stern effects:† then what I have to do
Will want true colour; tears, perchance,‡ for
blood.,

Queen. To whom do you speak this?

Ham. Do you see nothing there?

Queen. Nothing at all; yet all, that is, I see.

Ham. Nor did you nothing hear?

Queen. No, nothing, but ourselves.

Ham. Why, look you there! look, how it
steals away!

My father, in his habit as he liv'd!
Look, where he goes, even now, out at the
portal! [Exit GHOST.

Queen. This is the very coinage of your
This bodiless creation ecstasy§ [brain:
Is very cunning in.

Ham. Ecstasy!

My pulse, as yours, doth temperately keep
time, [ness,

And makes as healthful music: it is not mad-
That I have utter'd: bring me to the test,

And I the matter will re-word; which madness
Would gambol from. Mother, for love of grace,
Lay not that flattering unction to your soul,

That not your trespass, but my madness speaks:
It will but skin and film the ulcerous place;

Whiles rank corruption, mining all within,
Infects unseen. Confess yourself to heaven;

Repent what's past; avoid what is to come;
And do not spread the compost|| on the weeds,

To make them ranker. Forgive me this my
For in the fatness of these pury times, [virtue:
Virtue itself of vice must pardon beg;

Yea, curb¶ and woo, for leave to do him good.

Queen. O Hamlet! thou hast cleft ry heart
in twain.

Ham. O, throw away the worse part of it,
And live the purer with the other half.

Good night: but go not to my uncle's bed;
Assume a virtue, if you have it not.

That monster, custom, who all sense doth eat
Of habit's devil, is angel yet in this;

That to the use of actions fair and good
He likewise gives a frock, or livery,

That aptly is put on: Refrain to-night;
And that shall lend a kind of easiness

To the next abstinence: the next more easy:
For use almost can change the stamp of nature,

And either curb the devil, or throw him out
With wondrous potency. Once more, good
night!

And when you are desirous to be bless'd,
I'll blessing beg of you.—For this same lord,

[Pointing to POLONIUS.

I do repent: But heaven hath pleas'd it so,—
To punish me with this, and this with me,

That I must be their scourge and minister.
I will bestow him, and will answer well

The death I gave him. So, again, good
I must be cruel, only to be kind: [night:—
Thus bad begins, and worse remains behind.—

But one word more, good lady.

Queen. What shall I do?

Ham. Not this, by no means, that I bid you
do:

Let the bloat king tempt you again to bed;

* Intelligent.

§ Frenzy.

† Actions.

|| Manure.

‡ Perhaps.

¶ Bend.

Pinch wanton on your cheek; call you, his
mouse;*
And let him, for a pair of reechy† kisses,
Or padding in your neck with his damn'd
fingers,
Make you to ravel all this matter out,
That I essentially am not in madness,
But mad in craft. 'Twere good, you let him
know:

For who, that's but a queen, fair, sober, wise,
Would from a paddock,‡ from a bat, a gib,§
Such dear concernings hide? who would do so?
No, in despite of sense, and secrecy,
Unpeg the basket on the house's top,
Let the birds fly; and, like the famous ape,
To try conclusions,|| in the basket creep,
And break your own neck down.

Queen. Be thou assur'd, if words be made of
breath,
And breathe of life, I have no life to breathe
What thou hast said to me.

Ham. I must to England; you know that?

Queen. Alack,
I had forgot; 'tis so concluded on.

Ham. There's letters seal'd: and my two
school-fellows,—

Whom I will trust, as I will adders fang'd,¶—
They bear the mandate; they must sweep my
way,

And marshal me to knavery: Let it work;
For 'tis the sport, to have the engineer
Hoist with his own petar:** and it shall go
hard,

But I will delve one yard below their mines,
And blow them at the moon: O, 'tis most
sweet,

When in one line two crafts directly meet.—
This man shall set me packing.

I'll lug the guts into the neighbour room:—
Mother, good night.—Indeed, this counsellor
Is now most still, most secret, and most grave,
Who was in life a foolish prating knave.
Come, Sir, to draw toward an end with you:—
Good night, mother.

[Exeunt severally; HAMLET dragging in
POLONIUS.]

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—The same.

Enter KING, QUEEN, ROSENCRANTZ, and
GUILDENSTERN.

King. There's matter in these sighs; these
profound heaves; [them:
You must translate: 'tis fit we understand
Where is your son?

Queen. Bestow this place on us a little
while.—

[To ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN,
who go out.]

Ah, my good lord, what have I seen to-night!

King. What, Gertrude? How does Hamlet?

Queen. Mad as the sea, and wind, when both
contend

Which is the mightier: In his lawless fit,
Behind the arras hearing something stir,
Whips out his rapier, cries, *A rat! a rat!*
And, in his brainish apprehension, kills
The unseen good old man.

King. O heavy deed!

It had been so with us, had we been there:
His liberty is full of threats to all;
To you yourself, to us, to every one.

Alas! how shall this bloody deed be answer'd?
It will be laid to us, whose providence
Should have kept short, restrain'd, and out of
haunt,* [love,

This mad young man: but, so much was our
We would not understand what was most fit;
But, like the owner of a foul disease,
To keep it from divulging, let it feed
Even on the pith of life. Where is he gone?

Queen. To draw apart the body he hath
kill'd:

O'er whom his very madness, like some ore,
Among a mineral † of metals base,
Shows itself pure; he weeps for what is done.

King. O, Gertrude, come away!
The sun no sooner shall the mountains touch,
But we will ship him hence: and this vile deed
We must with all our majesty and skill,
Both countenance and excuse.—Ho! Guilden-
stern!

Enter ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN.

Friends both, go join you with some further
aid:

Hamlet in madness hath Polonius slain,
And from his mother's closet hath he dragg'd
him: [body

Go, seek him out; speak fair, and bring the
Into the chapel. I pray you, haste in this.

[Exeunt Ros. and GUIL.
Come, Gertrude, we'll call up our wisest
friends;

And let them know, both what we meant to do,
And what's untimely done: so, haply, slan-
der,—

Whose whisper o'er the world's diameter
As level as the cannon to his blank, ‡ [name,
Transports his poison'd shot,—may miss our
And hit the woundless air.—O come away!
My soul is full of discord and dismay.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—Another Room in the same.

Enter HAMLET.

Ham.—Safely stowed,—[Ros. &c. within.
Hamlet! lord Hamlet!] But soft!—what
noise? who calls on Hamlet? O, here they
come.

Enter ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN.

Ros. What have you done, my lord, with the
dead body?

Ham. Compounded it with dust, whereto
'tis kin.

Ros. Tell us where 'tis; that we may take
it thence,

And bear it to the chapel.

Ham. Do not believe it.

Ros. Believe what?

Ham. That I can keep your counsel, and not
mine own. Besides, to be demanded of a
sponge!—what replication should be made by
the son of a king?

Ros. Take you me for a sponge, my lord?

Ham. Ay, Sir; that soaks up the king's
countenance, his rewards, his authorities. But
such officers do the king's best service in the
end: He keeps them, like an ape, in the cor-
ner of his jaw; first mouthed, to be last swal-
lowed: When he needs what you have gleaned,
it is but squeezing you, and, sponge, you shall
be dry again.

Ros. I understand you not, my lord.

Ham. I am glad of it: A knavish speech
sleeps in a foolish ear.

* A term of endearment. † Steaming with heat.

‡ Toad. § Cat. || Experiments. ¶ Having their teeth.

** Blown up with his own bomb.

* Company.

† Mine.

‡ Mark.

Ros. My lord, you must tell us where the body is, and go with us to the king.

Han. The body is with the king, but the king is not with the body. The king is a thing—

Guil. A thing, my lord?

Han. Of nothing: bring me to him. Hide fox, and all after.*

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—*Another Room in the same.*

Enter KING, attended.

King. I have sent to seek him, and to find the body.

How dangerous is it, that this man goes loose? Yet must we not put the strong law on him; He's lov'd of the distracted multitude, [eyes; Who like not in their judgement, but their And, where 'tis so, the offender's scourge is weigh'd, [even, But never the offence. To bear all smooth and This sudden sending him away must seem Deliberate pause: Diseases, desperate grown, By desperate appliance are reliev'd.

Enter ROSENCRANTZ.

Or not at all.—How now? what hath befallen?

Ros. Where the dead body is bestow'd, my We cannot get from him. [lord,

King. But where is he?

Ros. Without, my lord; guarded, to know your pleasure.

King. Bring him before us.

Ros. Ho, Guildenstern? bring in my lord.

Enter HAMLET and GUILDENSTERN.

King. Now, Hamlet, where's Polonius?

Han. At supper.

King. At supper? Where?

Han. Not where he eats, but where he is eaten; a certain convocation of politic worms are e'en at him. Your worm is your only emperor for diet: we eat all creatures else, to fat us; and we eat ourselves for maggots: Your fat king, and your lean beggar, is but variable service; two dishes, but to one table; that's the end.

King. Alas! alas!

Han. A man may fish with the worm that hath eat of a king; and eat of the fish that hath fed of that worm.

King. What dost thou mean by this?

Han. Nothing, but to show you how a king may go a progress through the guts of a beggar.

King. Where is Polonius?

Han. In heaven; send thither to see; if your messenger find him not there, seek him i' the other place yourself. But, indeed, if you find him not within this month, you shall nose him as you go up the stairs into the lobby.

King. Go seek him there.

[*To some Attendants.*]

Han. He will stay till you come.

[*Exeunt Attendants.*]

King. Hamlet, this deed, for thine especial safety,—

Which we do tender, as we dearly grieve For that which thou hast done,—must send thee hence

[*self:*]

With fiery quickness: Therefore, prepare thy- The bark is ready, and the wind at help,† The associates tend,‡ and every thing is bent. For England.

Han. For England?

King. Ay, Hamlet.

Han. Good.

King. So is it, if thou knew'st our purposes.

Han. I see a cherub, that sees them.—But, come; for England!—Farewell, dear mother.

King. Thy loving father, Hamlet.

Han. My mother: Father and mother is man and wife: man and wife is one flesh; and so, my mother. Come, for England. [*Exit.*]

King. Follow him at foot; tempt him with speed aboard;

Delay it not, I'll have him hence to-night:

Away: for every thing is seal'd and done

That else leans on the affair: Pray you, make haste. [*Exeunt Ros. and GUILD.*]

And, England, if my love thou hold'st at aught, (As my great power thereof may give thee sense;

Since yet thy cicatrice looks raw and red.

After the Danish sword, and thy free awe

Pays homage to us,) thou may'st not coldly set*

Our sovereign process; which imports at full,

By letters conjuring to that effect,

The present death of Hamlet. Do it, England;

For like the hectic in my blood he rages,

And thou must cure me: Till I know 'tis done,

Howe'er my haps? my joys will ne'er begin. [*Exit.*]

SCENE IV.—*A Plain in Denmark.*

Enter FORTINBRAS, and Forces, marching.

For. Go, Captain, from me greet the Danish king;

Tell him, that, by his licence, Fortinbras

Craves the conveyance of a promis'd march

Over his kingdom. You know the rendezvous.

If that his majesty would aught with us,

We shall express our duty in his eye.†

And let him know so.

Cap. I will do't, my lord.

For. Go softly on.

[*Exeunt FORTINBRAS and Forces.*]

Enter HAMLET, ROSENCRANTZ, GUILDENSTERN, &c.

Han. Good Sir, whose powers‡ are these?

Cap. They are of Norway, Sir.

Han. How purpos'd, Sir,

I pray you?

Cap. Against some part of Poland.

Han. Who

Commands them, Sir?

Cap. The nephew to old Norway, Fortinbras.

Han. Goes it against the main of Poland, Or for some frontier? [Sir,

Cap. Truly to speak, Sir, and with no addition, That hath in it no profit but the name.

To pay five ducats, five, I would not farm it;

Nor will it yield to Norway, or the Pole,

A ranker rate, should it be sold in fee.

Han. Why, then the Polack|| never will defend it.

Cap. Yes, 'tis already garrison'd.

Han. Two thousand souls, and twenty thousand ducats,

Will not debate the question of this straw:

This is the imposthume of much wealth and peace:

* A sport among children.

† Right, ready.

‡ Attend.

* Value, estimate.

† Presence.

‡ Forces.

† Successes.

|| Poland.

That inward breaks, and shows no cause with-
out

Why the man dies.—I humbly thank you, Sir.

Cap. God be wi' you, Sir. [Exit CAPTAIN.]

Ros. Will't please you go, my lord?

Ham. I will be with you straight. Go a lit-
tle before. [Exeunt Ros. and GUIL.]

How all occasions do inform against me,
And spur my dull revenge! What is a man,
If his chief good, and market* of his time,
Be but to sleep and feed? a beast, no more.
Sure, he, that made us with such large dis-
course,†

Looking before, and after, gave us not
That capability and godlike reason
To fast in us unus'd. Now, whether it be
Bestial oblivion, or some craven scruple
Of thinking too precisely on the event,—
A thought, which, quarter'd, hath but one part
wisdom,

And, ever, three parts coward.—I do not know
Why yet I live to say, *This thing's to do* ;
Sith|| I have cause, and will, and strength, and
means,

To do't. Examples, gross as earth, exhort me :
Witness, this army of such mass, and charge,
Led by a delicate and tender prince ;
Whose spirit with divine ambition puff'd,
Makes mouths at the invisible event ;
Exposing what is mortal and unsure,
To all that fortune, death, and danger, dare,
Even for an egg-shell. Rightly to be great,
Is, not to stir without great argument ;
But greatly to find quarrel in a straw, [then
When honour's at the stake. How stand I
That have a father kill'd, a mother stain'd,
Excitements of my reason and my blood,
And let all sleep? while, to my shame, I see
The imminent death of twenty thousand men,
That, for a fantasy, and trick of fame,
Go to their graves like beds : fight for a plot
Whereon the numbers cannot try the cause,
Which is not tomb enough, and continent,
To hide the slain?—O, from this time forth
My thoughts be bloody, or be nothing worth!

[Exit.]

SCENE V.—Elsinore.—A Room in the Castle.
Enter QUEEN and HORATIO.

Queen. —I will not speak with her.

Hor. She is importunate ; indeed, distract :
Her mood will needs be pitied.

Queen. What would she have?

Hor. She speaks much of her father ; says
she hears,
There's tricks i'th world ; and hems, and beats
her heart ;

Spurns enviously at straws ; speaks things in
doubt, [nothing,

That carry but half sense : her speech is
Yet the unshaped use of it doth move
The hearers to collection ; they aim¶ at it,
And both the words up fit to their own
thoughts ;

Which, as her winks, and nods, and gestures
yield them,

Indeed would make one think, there might be
thought,

Though nothing sure, yet such unhappily.

Queen. 'Twere good, she were spoken with ;
for she may strew

Dangerous conjectures in ill-breeding minds :
Let her come in. [Exit HORATIO.]

To my sick soul, as sin's true nature is,
Each toy* seems prologue to some great amiss :
So full of artless jealousy is guilt,
It spills itself in fearing to be spilt.

Re-enter HORATIO, with OPHELIA.

Oph. Where is the beauteous majesty of
Denmark?

Queen. How now Ophelia true

Oph. How should I your true love know

From another one?

By his cockle hat and staff,

And his sandal shoon? † [Singing.]

Queen. Alas, sweet lady, what imports this
song?

Oph. Say you? nay, pray you mark.

He is dead and gone, lady, [Sings

He is dead and gone ;

At his head a grass-green turf,

At his heels a stone.

O, ho!

Queen. Nay, but Ophelia,—

Oph. Pray you, mark.

White his shroud as the mountain snow,

[Sings.]

Enter KING.

Queen. Alas, look here, my lord.

Oph. Larded† all with sweet flowers ;

Which bewept to the grave did go,

With true-love showers.

King. How do you, pretty lady?

Oph. Well, God'ieldy you? They say, the
owl was a baker's daughter. Lord, we know
what we are, but know not what we may be :
God be at your table?

King. Conceit upon her father.

Oph. Pray, let us have no words of this ; but
when they ask you what it means, say you this :

Good morrow, 'tis Saint Valentine's day,

All in the morning betime,

And I a maid at your window,

To be your Valentine ;

Then up he rose, and don'd|| his clothes,

And dropp'd¶ the chamber door ;

Let in the maid, that out a maid

Never departed more.

King. Pretty Ophelia.

Oph. Indeed, without an oath, I'll make an
end on't :

By Gis, and by Saint Charity,**

Alack, and fie for shame!

Young men will do't, if they come to't ;

By cock, they are to blame.

Quoth she, before you tumbled me,

You promis'd me to wed,

[He answers.]

So would I ha' done, by yonder sun,

An thou hadst not come to my bed.

King. How long hath she been thus?

Oph. I hope all will be well. We must be
patient : but I cannot choose but weep, to
think they should lay him i'th cold ground :
My brother shall know of it, and so I thank
you for your good counsel. Come, my coach!
Good night, ladies ; good night, sweet ladies ;
good night, good night. [Exit.]

King. Follow her close : give her good watch,
I pray you. [Exit HORATIO.]

O! This is the poison of deep grief ; it springs

* Profit. † Power of comprehension. ‡ Grow mouldy.
§ Cowardly. || Since, ¶ Guess.

* Trifle. † Shoes. ‡ Garnished. § Reward.
|| Do on, i. e. put on.
** Saints in the Roman Catholic Calendar.

All from her father's death : And now behold,
O Gertrude, Gertrude, [spies,
When sorrows come, they come not single
But in battalions! First, her father slain;
Next, your son gone; and he most violent au-
thor

Of his own just remove : The people muddied,
Thick and unwholesome in their thoughts and
whispers,

For good Polonius' death; and we have done
but greenly,*

In hugger-muggert to inter him : Poor Ophelia
Divided from herself, and her fair judgement;
Without the which we are pictures, or mere
beasts.

Last, and as much containing as all these,
Her brother is in secret come from France :
Feeds on his wonder, keeps himself in clouds,
And wants not buzzers to infect his ear
With pestilent speeches of his father's death;
Wherein necessity, of matter beggar'd,
Will nothing stick our person to arraigu
In ear and ear. O my dear Gertrude, this,
Like to a murdering piece, in many places
Gives me superfluous death! [*A noise within.*]

Queen. Alack! what noise is this?

Enter a GENTLEMAN.

King. Attend. [door :
Where are my Switzers?† Let them guard the
What is the matter?

Gent. Save yourself, my lord ;
The ocean overpeering of his list,§
Eats not the flats with more impetuous haste,
Than young Laertes, in a riotous head,
O'erbears your officers! The rabble call him,
lord ;

And, as the world were now but to begin,
Antiquity forgot, custom not known,
The ratifiers and props of every word.
They cry, *Choose we ; Laertes shall be king !*
Caps, hands, and tongues, applaud it to the
Laertes shall be king, Laertes king ! [clouds,

Queen. How cheerfully on the false trail||
they cry !

O, this is counter,¶ you false Danish dogs.
King. The doors are broke. [*Noise within.*]

Enter LAERTES, armed ; DANES following.

Laer. Where is this king?—Sirs, stand you
all without.

Dan. No, let's come in.

Laer. I pray you, give me leave.

Dan. We will, we will.

[*They retire without the door.*]

Laer. I thank you:—keep the door.—O thou
vile king, .

Give me my father.

Queen. Calmly, good Laertes.

Laer. That drop of blood, that's calm, pro-
claims me bastard;

Cries, cuckold to my father; brands the harlot
Even here, between the chaste unsmirched**
Of my true mother. [brow

King. What is the cause, Laertes,
That thy rebellion looks so giant-like?—

Let him go, Gertrude; do not fear our person;
There's such divinity doth hedge a king,
That treason can but peep to what it would,
Aets little of his will.—Tell me, Laertes,
Why thou art thus incens'd;—Let him go, Ger-
Speak, man, [trude ;—

Laer. Where is my father?

King. Dead.

* Without judgment. † Privately. ‡ Guards.

§ Bounds. || Scent.

¶ Hounds run counter when they trace the scent
backwards.

** Clean, undisfiled.

Queen. But not by him.

King. Let him demand his fill.

Laer. How came he dead? I'll not be jug-
gled with: [vil!

To hell, allegiance! vows, to the blackest de-
Conscience, and grace, to the profoundest pit!
I dare damnation: To this point I stand,—
That both the worlds I give to negligence,
Let come what comes; only I'll be reveng'd
Most thoroughly for my father.

King. Who shall stay you?

Laer. My will, not all the world's:

And, for my means, I'll husband them so well,
They shall go far with little.

King. Good Laertes,

If you desire to know the certainty [revenge,
Of your dear father's death, is't writ in your
That, sweepstake, you will draw both friend
Winner and loser? [and foe,

Laer. None but his enemies.

King. Will you know them then?

Laer. To his good friends thus wide I'll ope
my arms;

And, like the kind life-rend'ring pelican,
Repeat them with my blood.

King. Why, now you speak

Like a good child, and a true gentlemau.

And am most sensibly in grief for it,

It shall as level to your judgement pear,*

As day does to your eye

Danes. [*Within.*] Let her come in.

Laer. How now! what noise is that?

*Enter OPHELIA, fantastically dressed with
Straws and Flowers.*

O heat, dry up my brains! tears seven times
salt,

Burn out the sense and virtue of mine eye!—
By heaven, thy madness shall be paid with
weight,

Till our scale turn the beam. O rose of May!
Dear maid, kind sister, sweet Ophelia!

O heavens! is't possible, a young maid's wits
Should be as mortal as an old man's life?

Nature is finer in love: and, where 'tis fine,

It sends some precious instance of itself

After the thing it loves.

Oph. *They bore him barefac'd on the bier;*

Hey no nonny, nonny hey nonny:

And in his grave rain'd many a tear;—

Fare you well, my dove!

Laer. Hadst thou thy wits, and didst per-
suade revenge,

It could not move thus.

Oph. You must sing, *Down-a-down, an you
call him, a-down a.* O, how the wheel† becomes
it! It is the false steward, that stole his mas-
ter's daughter.

Laer. This nothing's more than matter.

Oph. There's rosemary, that's for remem-
brance; pray you, love, remember: and there
is pansies, that's for thoughts.

Laer. A document in madness; thoughts and
remembrance fitted.

Oph. There's fennel for you, and colum-
bines:—there's rue for you; and here's some
for me:—we may call it, herb of grace o'Sun-
days:—you may wear your rue with a differ-
ence.§—There's a daisy:—I would give you
some violets; but they withered all, when my
father died:—They say, he made a good
end,——

* Appear. † Artful. ‡ The burden.

§ I. e. By its Sunday name, "herb of grace;" misre-
is merely true, i. e. sorrow.

For bonny sweet Robin is all my joy,—

[Sings.]

Laer. Thought* and affliction, passion, hell
itself,

She turns to favour, and to prettiness.

Oph. And will he not come again? [Sings.]

And will he not come again?

No, no, he is dead,

Go to thy death-bed,

He never will com- again.

His beard was as white as snow,

All flaxen was his poll:

He is gone, he is gone,

And we cast away moan,

God 'a mercy on his soul!

And of all Christian souls! I pray God. God
be wi' you! [Exit OPHELIA.]

Laer. Do you see this, O God?

King. Laertes, I must commune with your
grief,

Or you deny me right. Go but apart, [will,

Make choice of whom your wisest friends you

And they shall hear and judge 'twixt you and

If by direct or by collateral hand [me:

They find us touch'd, we will our kingdom
give,

Our crown, our life, and all that we calls ours,

To you in satisfaction; but, if not,

Be you content to lend your patience to us,

And we shall jointly labour with your soul

To give it due content.

Laer. Let this be so;

His means of death, his obscure funeral,—

No trophy, sword, nor hatchment, o'er his
bones,

No noble rite, nor formal ostentation,—

Cry to be heard, as'twere from heaven to earth,

That I must call't in question.

King. So you shall;

And where the offence is, let the great axe fall.

I pray you, go with me. [Exeunt.]

SCENE VI.—Another Room in the same.

Enter HORATIO, and a SERVANT,

Hor. What are they, that would speak with
me?

Serv. Sailors, Sir;

They say, they have letters for you.

Hor. Let them come in.— [Exit SERVANT.]

I do not know from what part of the world

I should be greeted, if not from lord Hamlet.

Enter SAILORS.

1 Sail. God bless you, Sir.

Hor. Let him bless thee too.

1 Sail. He shall, Sir, an't please him. There's

a letter for you, Sir; it comes from the ambas-

sador that was bound for England; if your

name be Horatio, as I am let to know it is.

Hor. [Reads.] Horatio, when thou shalt have

overlooked this, give these fellows some means to

the king; they have letters: for him. Ere we were

two days old at sea, a pirate of very warlike ap-

pointment gave us chase: Finding ourselves too

slow of sail, we put on a compelled valour; and in

the grapple I boarded them: on the instant, they

got clear of our ship; so I alone became their pris-

oner. They have dealt with me, like thieves of

mercy; but they knew what they did; I am to do

a good turn for them. Let the king have the let-

ters I have sent; and repair thou to me with as

much haste as thou wouldst fly death. I have

words to speak in thine ear, will make thee dumb;

yet are they much too light for the bore of the

matter. These good fellows will bring thee where
I am. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern hold their
course for England: of them I have much to tell
thee. Farewell.

He that thou knowest thine, Hamlet.

Come, I will give you way for these your
letters;

And do't the speedier, that you may direct me
To him from whom you brought them.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE VII.—Another Room in the same.

Enter KING and LAERTES.

King. No must your conscience my acquit-
tance seal,

And you must put me in you heart for friend;

Sith* you have heard, and with a knowing ear,

That he, which hath your noble father slain,

Pursu'd my life.

Laer. It well appears:—But tell me,

Why you proceeded not against these feats,

So crimelul and so capital in nature,

As by your safety, greatness, wisdom, all things
else,

You mainly were stirr'd up.

King. O, for two special reasons; [new'd, †

Which may to you, perhaps, seem much unsi-
But yet to me they are strong. The queen his
mother,

Lives almost by his looks; and for myself,

(My virtue, or my plague, be it either which,)
She is so conjunctive to my life and soul,

That, as the star moves not but in his sphere,

I could not but by her. The other motive,

Why to a public count I might not go,

Is, the great love the general gender; hear him:

Who, dipping all his faults in their affection,

Work like the springy that turneth wood to
stone, [arrows,

Converts his gyves|| to graces; so that my

Too slightly timber'd for so loud a wind,

Would have reverted to my bow again,

And not where I had aim'd them.

Laer. And so have I a noble father lost;

A sister driven into desperate terms;

Whose worth, if praises may go back again,

Stood challenger on mount of all the age

For her perfections:—But my revenge will
come.

King. Break not your sleeps for that: you
must not think,

That we are made of stuff so flat and dull,

That we can let our beard be shook with dan-
ger, [more:]

And think it pastime. You shortly shall hear

I loved your father, and we love ourself;

And that, I hope, will teach you to imagine,—

How now? what news?

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. Letters, my lord, from Hamlet:

This to your majesty; this to the queen.

King. From Hamlet! who brought them?

Mess. Sailors, my lord, they say: I saw them
not: [them

They were given me by Claudio, he receiv'd
Of him that brought them.

King. Laertes, you shall hear them:—
Leave us. [Exit MESSENGER.]

[Reads.] High and mighty, you shall know.

I am set naked on your kingdom. To-morrow

shall I beg leave to see your kingly eyes: when I

shall, first asking your pardon thereunto, recount

* Since.

† Deprived of strength,

‡ Common people.

§ Petrifying springs are common in many parts of
England.

|| Fetters

* Melancholy.

the occasion of my sudden and more strange return.

Hamlet.

What should this mean! Are all the rest come back?

Or is it some abuse, and no such thing?

Laer. Know you the hand?

King. 'Tis Hamlet's charter. Naked,—

And in a postscript here, he says, alone:

Can you advise me?

Laer. I am lost in it, my lord. But let him come:

It warms the very sickness in my heart.

That I shall live and tell him in his teeth,
Thus diddest thou.

King. If it be so, Laertes,

As how should it be so? how otherwise?

Will you be rul'd by me?

Laer. Ay, my lord;

So you will not o'errule me to a peace.

King. To thine own peace. If he be now return'd,—

As checking* at his voyage, and that he means
No more to undertake it,—I will work him

To an exploit, now ripe in my device,
Under the which he shall not choose but fall;

And for his death no wind of blame shall
breathe;

But even his mother shall uncharge the praec-
And call it, accident.

Laer. My lord, I will be rul'd;

The rather, if you could devise it so,

That I might be the organ.

King. It falls right. [much,

You have been talk'd of since your travel
And that in Hamlet's hearing, for a quality

Wherein, they say, you shine: your sum of
parts

Did not together pluck such envy from him,
As did that one; and that, in my regard,

Of the unworthiest siege.†

Laer. What part is that, my lord?

King. A very ribband in the cap of youth,
Yet needful too; for youth no less becomes

The light and careless livery that it wears,
Than settled age his sables, and his weeds,

Importing health and graveness.—Two months
since,

Here was a gentleman of Normandy,—
I have seen myself, and serv'd against, the

French, [lant
And they can well on horseback: but this gal-
Had witchcraft in't; he grew unto his seat;

And to such wondrous doing brought his horse,
As had been incorp'd and demi-natur'd

With the brave beast: so far he topp'd my
thought,

That I, in forgery of shapes and tricks,
Come short of what he did.

Laer. A Norman, was't?

King. A Norman.

Laer. Upon my life, Lamord.

King. The very same.

Laer. I know him well, he is the brooch,†
indeed,

And gem of all the nation.

King. He made confession of you:

And gave you such a masterly report,
For art and exercise in your defence,‡

And for your rapier most especial,
That he cried out, 'twould be a sight indeed,

If one could match you: the scrimers|| of
their nation, [eye,

He swore, had neither motion, guard, nor

If you oppos'd them; Sir, this report of his
Did Hamlet so evenom with his envy,
That he could nothing do, but wish and beg
Your sudden coming o'er, to play with you.
Now, out of this,—

Laer. What out of this, my lord?

King. Laertes, was your father dear to you?
Or are you like the painting of a sorrow,
A face without a heart?

Laer. Why ask you this?

King. Not that I think, you did not love
your father;

But that I know, love is begun by time;
And that I see, in passages of proof,*

Time qualifies the spark and fire of it.
There lives within the very flame of love

A kind of wick, or snuff, that will abate it;
And nothing is at a like goodness still;

For goodness, growing to a pleurisy,
Dies in his own too-much: That we would do,

We should do when we would; for this would
changes,

And hath abatements and delays as many,
As there are tongues, are hands, are accidents;

And then this should is like a spendthrift sigh,
That hurts by easing. But, to the quick o'the
ulcer: [dertake,

Hamlet comes back; What would you un-
To show yourself in deed your father's son

More than in words?

Laer. To cut his throat i'the church.

King. No place, indeed, should murder
sanctuarize; [Laertes.

Revenge should have no bounds. But, good
Will you do this, keep close within your
chamber: [home:

Hamlet, return'd, shall know you are come
We'll put on those shall praise your excellence,
And set a double varnish on the fame

The Frenchmen gave you; bring you, in fine,
together,

And wager o'er your heads: he, being remiss,
Most generous, and free from all contriving,

Will not peruse the foils; so that, with ease,
Or with a little shuffling, you may choose

A sword unbated,† and, in a pass of practice,‡
Requite him for your father.

Laer. I will do't:

And, for the purpose, I'll anoint my sword.
I bought an unction of a mountebank,

So mortal, that but dip a knife in it,
Where it draws blood no cataplasm so rare,
Collected from all simples that have virtue

Under the moon, can save the thing from death,
That is but scratch'd withal: I'll touch my
point

With this contagion; that, if I gall him slightly,
It may be death.

King. Let's further think of this;

Weigh, what conveniencce, both time and
means,

May fit us to our shape: if this should fail,
And that our drift look through our bad per-
formance. [ject

'Twere better not assay'd; therefore this pro-
Should have a back, or second, that might hold,
If this should blast in proof.§ Soft;—let me
see:— [nings. ||—

We'll make a solemn wager on your cun-
I ha't:

When in your motion you are hot and dry,
(As make your bouts more violent to that end,)

* Objecting to. † Place. ‡ Ornament.

§ Science of defence, i. e. fencing. || Fencers.

* Daily experience. † Not blunted as foils are.

‡ Exercise.

§ As fire arms sometimes burst in proving their strength.

|| Skill.

And that he calls for drink, I'll have preferr'd*
him
A chalice for the nonce; † whereon but sipping,
If he by chance escape your venom'd stuck, ‡
Our purpose may hold there. But stay, what
noise ?

Enter QUEEN.

How now, sweet queen ?

Queen. One woe doth tread upon another's
heel,

So fast they follow :—Your sister's drown'd,
[Laertes,
Laer. Drown'd ! O, where ?

Queen. There is a willow grows ascant the
brook,

That shows his hoar leaves in the glassy stream :
Therewith fantastic garlands did she make
Of crow-flowers, nettles, daisies, and long
purples, §

That liberal || shepherds give a grosser name,
But our cold maids do dead men's fingers call
them :

There on the pendant boughs her coronet weeds
Clambering to hang, an envious sliver broke ;
When down her weedy trophies, and herself,
Fell in the weeping brook. Her clothes spread
wide ;

And, mermaid-like, awhile they bore her up :
Which time, she chanted snatches of old
tunes :

As one incapable ¶ of her own distress,
Or like a creature native and indu'd
Unto that element : but long it could not be,
Till that her garments, heavy with their drink,
Pull'd the poor wretch from her melodious lay
To muddy death.

Laer. Alas then, she is drown'd ?

Queen. Drown'd, drown'd.

Laer. Too much of water hast thou, poor
Ophelia,

And therefore I forbid my tears : But yet
It is our trick ; nature her custom holds,
Let shame say what it will : when these are
gone,

The woman will be out.*—Adieu, my lord !
I have a speech of fire, that fain would blaze,
But that this folly drowns it. [Exit.

King. Let's follow, Gertrude :
How much I had to do to calm his rage !
Now fear I, this will give it start again ;
Therefore, let's follow. [Exeunt.

ACT V.

SCENE I.—A Church-Yard.

Enter two CLOWNS, with Spades, &c.

1 Clo. Is she to be buried in Christian burial,
that wilfully seeks her own salvation ?

2 Clo. I tell thee, she is ; therefore make her
grave straight : †† the crowner hath set on her,
and finds it Christian burial.

1 Clo. How can that be, unless she drowned
herself in her own defence ?

2 Clo. Why 'tis found so.

1 Clo. It must be *se offendendo* ; it cannot be
else. For here lies the point : If I drown my-
self wittingly, it argues an act : and an act
hath three branches ; it is, to act, to do, and
to perform : argal, †† she drowned herself wit-
tingly.

2 Clo. Nay, but hear you, Goodman delver,

1 Clo. Give me leave. Here lies the water ;

good : here stands the man ; good : If the man
go to this water, and drown himself, it is, will
he, will he, he goes ; mark you that : but if the
water come to him, and drown him, he drowns
not himself : argal, he, that is not guilty of his
own death, shortens not his own life.

2 Clo. But is this law ?

1 Clo. Ay, marry is't ; crowner's-quest law.

2 Clo. Will you ha' the truth on't ? If this
had not been a gentlewoman, she should have
been buried out of Christian burial.

1 Clo. Why, there thou say'st : And the
more pity ; that great folks shall have counte-
nance in this world to drown or hang them-
selves, more than their even* Christian. Come,
my spade. There is no ancient gentlemen
but gardeners, ditchers, and grave-makers ;
they hold up Adam's profession.

2 Clo. Was he a gentleman ?

1 Clo. He was the first that ever bore arms.

2 Clo. Why, he had none.

1 Clo. What, art a heathen ? How dost
thou understand the scripture ? The scripture
says, Adam digged ; Could he dig without
arms ? I'll put another question to thee : if
thou answerest me not to the purpose, confess
thyself—

2 Clo. Go to.

1 Clo. What is he, that builds stronger than
either the mason, the shipwright, or the car-
penter ?

2 Clo. The gallows-maker ; for that frame
out-lives a thousand tenants.

1 Clo. I like thy wit well, in good faith ;
the gallows does well : But how does it well ?
it does well to those that do ill : now thou dost
ill, to say, the gallows is built stronger than the
church ; argal, the gallows may do well to
thee. To't again ; come.

2 Clo. Who builds stronger than a mason,
a shipwright, or a carpenter ?

1 Clo. Ay, tell me that, and unyoke. †

2 Clo. Marry, now I can tell.

1 Clo. To't.

2 Clo. Mass, I cannot tell.

Enter HAMLET and HORATIO, at a distance.

1 Clo. Cudgel thy brains no more about it,
for your dull ass will not mend his pace with
beating : and, when you are asked this ques-
tion next, say, a grave-maker ; the houses, that
he makes, last till doomsday. Go, get thee
to Vaughan, and fetch me a stoup of liquor.

[Exit 2 CLOWN.

1 CLOWN digs, and sings.

In youth, when I did love, did love, †

Methought, it was very sweet,

To contract, O, the time, for, ah, my behove
O, methought, there was nothing meet.

Ham. Hath this fellow no feeling of his bu-
siness ? he sings at grave-making.

Hor. Custom hath made it in him a property
of easiness.

Ham. 'Tis e'en so : the hand of little em-
ployment hath the daintier sense.

1 Clo. *But age, with his stealing steps,*
Hath claw'd me in his clutch,
And hath shipped me into the land,
As if I had never been such.

[Throws up a Scull.

* Presented. † A cup for the purpose. ‡ Thrust.

§ *Orchismorio mas.* || Licentious ¶ Insensible.

* Tears will flow. † Immediately.

†† A blunder for *ergo*.

* Fellow.

† Give over.

‡ The song entire is printed in Percy's Reliques of An-
cient English Poetry, Vol. I. It was written by Lord
Vaux.

Ham. That scull had a tongue in it, and could sing once: How the knave jowls it to the ground, as if it were Cain's jaw-bone, that did the first murder! This might be the pate of a politician, which this ass now o'er-reaches; one that would circumvent God, might it not?

Hor. It might, my lord.

Ham. Or of a courtier; which would say, *Good morrow, sweet lord! Now dost thou, good lord?* This might be my lord such-a one, that praised my lord such-a-one's horse, when he meant to beg it; might it not?

Hor. Ay, my lord.

Ham. Why, e'en so: and now my lady Worm's; chapless, and knocked about the mazzard with a sexton's spade; Here's fine revolution, an we had the trick to see't. Did these bones cost no more the breeding, but to play at loggats* with them? mine ache to think on't.

1 Clo. *A pix-axe, and a spade, a spade,* [Sings.

For—and a shrouding sheet:

O, a pit of clay for to be made

For such a guest is met.

[Throws up a scull.

Ham. There's another: Why may not that be the scull of a lawyer? Where be his quiddits† now, his quillets,‡ his cases, his tenures, and his tricks? why does he suffer this rude knave now to knock him about the seonce§ with a dirty shovel, and will not tell him of his action of battery? Humph! This fellow might be in's time a great buyer of land, with his statutes, his recognizances, his fines, his double vouchers, his recoveries: Is this the fine of his fines, and the recovery of his recoveries, to have his fine pate full of fine dirt? will his vouchers vouch him no more of his purchases, and double ones too, than the length and breadth of a pair of indentures? The very conveyances of his lands will hardly lie in this box; and must the inheritor himself have no more? ha?

Hor. Not a jot more, my lord.

Ham. Is not parchment made of sheep-skins?

Hor. Ay, my lord, and of calves-skins too.

Ham. They are sheep, and calves which seek out assurance in that. I will speak to this fellow:—Whose grave's this, Sirrah?

1 Clo. Mine, Sir.—

O, a pit of clay for to be made [Sings.

For such a guest is met.

Ham. I think it be thine, indeed; for thou liest in't.

1 Clo. You lie out on't, Sir, and therefore it is not yours: for my part, I do not lie in't, yet it is mine.

Ham. Thou dost lie in't, to be in't, and say it is thine: 'tis for the dead, not for the quick; therefore thou liest.

1 Clo. 'Tis a quick lie, Sir: 'twill away again from me to you.

Ham. What man dost thou dig it for?

1 Clo. For no man, Sir.

Ham. What woman, then?

1 Clo. For none neither.

Ham. Who is to be buried in't?

1 Clo. One, that was a woman, Sir; but, rest her soul, she's dead.

Ham. How absolute the knave is! we must speak by the card,|| or equivocation will undo us. By the Lord, Horatio, these three years I have taken note of it; the age is grown so picked,¶ that the toe of the peasant comes so

near the heel of the courtier, he galls his kibe.—How long hast thou been a grave-maker?

1 Clo. Of all the days i'the year, I came to't that day that our last king Hamlet overcame Fortinbras.

Ham. How long's that since?

1 Clo. Cannot you tell that? every fool can tell that: It was that very day that young Hamlet was born: he that is mad, and sent into England.

Ham. Ay, marry, why was he sent into England?

1 Clo. Why, because he was mad: he shall recover his wits there; or, if he do not, 'tis no great matter there.

Ham. Why?

1 Clo. 'Twill not be seen in him there; there the men are as mad as he.

Ham. How came he mad?

1 Clo. Very strangely, they say.

Ham. How strangely?

1 Clo. 'Faith, with losing his wits.

Ham. Upon what ground?

1 Clo. Why, here in Denmark; I have been sexton here, man and boy, thirty years.

Ham. How long will a man lie i'the earth ere he rot?

1 Clo. 'Faith, if he be not rotten before he die, (as we have many pocky corses now-a-days, that will scarce hold the laying in,) he will last you some eight year, or nine year: a tanner will last you nine year.

Ham. Why he more than another?

1 Clo. Why, Sir, his hide is so tanned with his trade, that he will keep out water a great while; and your water is a sore decayer of your whoreson dead body. Here's a scull now hath lain you i'the earth three-and twenty years.

Ham. Whose was it?

1 Clo. A whoreson mad fellow's it was; Whose do you think it was?

Ham. Nay, I know not.

1 Clo. A pestilence on him for a mad rogue! he poured a flagon of Rhenish on my head once. This same scull, Sir, was Yorick's scull, the king's jester.

Ham. This?

[Takes the Scull.

1 Clo. E'en that.

Ham. Alas! poor Yorick!—I knew him, Horatio; a fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy: he hath borne me on his back a thousand times; and now, how abhorred in my imagination it is! my gorge rises at it. Here hung those lips, that I have kissed I know not how oft. Where be your gibes now? your gambols? your songs? your flashes of merriment, that were wont to set the table on a roar? Not one now, to mock your own grinning? quite chap-fallen? Now get you to my lady's chamber, and tell her, let her paint an inch thick, to this favour* she must come; make her laugh at that.—Pr'ythee, Horatio, tell me one thing.

Hor. What's that, my lord?

Ham. Dost thou think, Alexander looked o'this fashion i'the earth?

Hor. Even so.

Ham. And smelt so? pah!

[Throws down the Scull.

Hor. E'en so, my lord.

Ham. To what base uses we may return, Horatio! Why may not imagination trace the noble dust of Alexander, till he find it stopping a bung-hole?

* An ancient game played as quoits are at present.

† Subtilties. ‡ Frivolous distinctions. § Head.

|| By the compass, or chart of direction.

¶ Spruce, affected.

* Countenance, complexion.

Hor. 'Twere to consider too curiously, to consider so.

Ham. No, faith, not a jot; but to follow him thither with modesty enough, and likelihood to lead it: As thus; Alexander died, Alexander was buried, Alexander returneth to dust; the dust is earth; of earth we make loam: And why of that loam, whereto he was converted, might they not stop a beer-barrel?

Imperious* Cesar, dead, and turn'd to clay,
Might stop a hole to keep the wind away:
O, that the earth, which kept the world in
awe, [flaw!]

Should patch a wall to expel the winter's
But soft! but soft! aside:—Here comes the
king.

Enter PRIESTS, &c. in Procession; the Corpse of
OPHELIA; LAERTES, and Mourners following;
KING, QUEEN, their Trains, &c.

The queen, the courtiers: Who is this they
follow? [token]

And with such maimed rites!† This doth be-
The corse, they follow, did with desperate
hand

Fordoſ its own life. 'Twas of some estate:‡
Couch we awhile, and mark.

[Retiring with HORATIO.]

Laer. What ceremony else?

Ham. That is Laertes,
A very noble youth: Mark.

Laer. What ceremony else?

1 Priest. Her obsequies have been as far en-
larg'd [ful:
As we have warranty: Her death was doubt-
And, but that great command o'ersways the
order,

She should in ground unsanctified have lodg'd,
Till the last trumpet; for charitable prayers,
Shards,¶ flints, and pebbles, should be thrown
on her,

Yet here she is allow'd her virgin crants,**
Her maiden strewments, and the bringing
home

Of bell and burial.

Laer. Must there be no more done?

1 Priest. No more be done!

We should profane the service of the dead,
To sing a requiem,†† and such rest to her
As to peace-parted souls.

Laer. Lay her i'the earth;—
And from her fair and unpolluted flesh,
May violets spring!—I tell thee, churlish
priest,

A minist'ring angel shall my sister be,
When thou liest howling.

Ham. What, the fair Ophelia!

Queen. Sweets to the sweet: Farewell!

[Scattering Flowers.]

I hop'd, thou shouldst have been my Hamlet's
wife; [maid,

I thought, thy bride-bed to have deck'd, sweet
And not have strew'd thy grave.

Laer. O, treble woe

Fall ten times treble on that cursed head,
Whose wicked deed thy most ingenious sense
Depriv'd thee of!—Hold off the earth awhile,
'Till I have caught her once more in mine arms:

[Leaps into the Grave.]

Now pile your dust upon the quick†† and
dead;

Till of this flat a mountain you have made
To o'ertop old Pelion, or the skyish head
Of blue Olympus.

Ham. [Advancing.] What is he, whose grief
Bears such an emphasis? whose phrase of
sorrow [stand

Conjures the wand'ring stars, and makes them
Like wonder-wounded hearers? this is I,
Hamlet the Dane. [Leaps into the Grave.]

Laer. The devil take thy soul!

[Grappling with him.]

Ham. Thou pray'st not well.

I pr'ythee, take thy fingers from my throat;
For, though I am not splenetic and rash,
Yet have I in me something dangerous,
Which let thy wisdom fear: Hold off thy hand.

King. Pluck them asunder.

Queen. Hamlet, Hamlet!

All. Gentlemen,—

Hor. Good my lord, be quiet.

[The Attendants part them, and they come out
of the Grave.]

Ham. Why, I will fight with him upon this
theme,

Until my eye-lids will no longer wag.

Queen. O my son! what theme?

Ham. I lov'd Ophelia; forty thousand bro-
thers

Could not with all their quantity of love.

Make up my som.—What wilt thou do for her?

King. O, he is mad, Laertes.

Queen. For love of God, forbear him.

Ham. 'Zounds, show me what thou'lt do:

Woul't weep? woul't fight? woul't fast? woul't
tear thyself?

Woul't drink up Esil? * eat a crocodile?

I'll do't.—Dost thou come here to whine?

To outface me with leaping in her grave?

Be buried quick with her, and so will I:

And, if thou prate of mountains, let them throw
Millions of acres on us; till our ground,
Singeing his pate against the burning zone,
Make Ossa like a wart! Nay, an thou'lt mouth,
I'll rant as well as thou.

Queen. This is mere madness:

And thus awhile the fit will work on him;

Anon, as patient as the female dove,

When that her golden couplets are disclos'd,†
His silence will sit drooping.

Ham. Hear you, Sir;

What is the reason that you use me thus?

I lov'd you ever: But it is no matter;

Let Hercules himself do what he may,

The cat will mew, and dog will have his day.

[Exit.]

King. I pray thee, good Horatio, wait upon
him.— [Exit HORATIO.]

Strengthen your patience in our last night's
speech; [To LAERTES.]

We'll put the matter to the present push.—

Good Gertrude, set some watch over your
son.—

This grave shall have a living monument:

An hour of quiet shortly shall we see;

Till then, in patience our proceeding be.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—A Hall in the Castle.

Enter HAMLET and HORATIO.

Ham. So much for this, Sir: now shall you
see the other;—

You do remember all the circumstance?

Hor. Remember it, my lord!

Ham. Sir, in my heart there was a kind of
fighting,

That would not let mesleep: methought, I lay

* Imperial. † Blast. ‡ Imperfect obsequies.

§ Undo. destroy. || High rank. ¶ Broken pots, or tiles.

** Cartands. †† A mass for the dead. ‡‡ Living.

* Eisel is vinegar; but Mr. Stevens conjectures the
word should be *Wiesel*, a river which falls into the Bel-
tic ocean. † Hatched.

Worse than the mutines* in the bilboes.†
Rashly,
And prais'd be rashness for it,—Let us know,
Our indiscretion sometimes serves us well,
When our deep plots do pall:‡ and that should
teach us,

There's a divinity that shapes our ends,
Rough-hew them how we will.

Hor. That is most certain.

Ham. Up from my cabin,
My sea-gown scarf'd about me, in the dark
Grop'd I to find out them: had my desire;
Finger'd their packet; and, in fine, withdrew
To mine own room again: making so bold,
My fears forgetting manners to unseal
Their grand commission; where I found, Ho-
ratio,

A royal knavery; an exact command,—
Larded§ with many several sorts of reasons,
Importing Denmark's health, and England's
too,

With, ho! such bugs|| and goblins in my life,—
That, on the supervise,¶ no leisure bated,
No, not to stay the grinding of the axe,
My head should be struck off.

Hor. Is't possible?

Ham. Here's the commission; read it at
more leisure.

But wilt thou hear now how I did proceed?

Hor. Ay, beseech you.

Ham. Being thus benetted round with vil-
lanies,

Or** I could make a prologue to my brains,
They had begun the play;—I sat me down;
Devis'd a new commission; wrote it fair:
I once did hold it, as our statist†† do,
A baseness to write fair, and labour'd much
How to forget that learning; but, Sir, now
It did me yeoman's service: Wilt thou know
The effect of what I wrote?

Hor. Ay, good my lord.

Ham. An earnest conjuration from the
king,—

As England was his faithful tributary;
As love between them like the palm might
flourish;

As peace should still her wheaten garland
wear,

And stand a comma‡‡ 'tween their amities;
And many such like as's of great charge,—
That, on the view and knowing of these con-
tents,

Without debatement further, more, or less,
He should the bearers put to sudden death,
Not shriving§§-time allow'd.

Hor. How was this seal'd?

Ham. Why, even in that was heaven ordi-
nant;

I had my father's signet in my purse,
Which was the model||| of that Danish seal:
Folded the writ up in form of the other;
Subscrib'd it; gave't the impression; plac'd it
safely,

The challenging never known: Now, the next
day [quent¶¶]

Was our sea-fight; and what to this was se-
Thou know'st already.

Hor. So Guildenstern and Rosencrantz go
to't.

Ham. Why, man, they did make love to this
employment;

They are not near my conscience; their defeat
Does by their own insinuation grow:
'Tis dangerous, when the baser nature comes
Between the pass and fell incensed points
Of mighty opposites.

Hor. Why, what a king is this!

Ham. Does it not, think thee, stand me now
upon?

He that hath kill'd my king, and whor'd my
mother,

Popp'd in between the election and my hopes;
Thrown out his angle for my proper life,
And with such cozenage; is't not perfect con-
science,

To quit* him with this arm? and is't not to be
damn'd,

To let this canker of our nature come
In further evil?

Hor. It must be shortly known to him from
England,

What is the issue of the business there.

Ham. It will be short: the interim is mine;
And a man's life no more than to say, one.

But I am very sorry, good Horatio,
That to Laertes I forgot myself;
For, by the image of my cause, I see

The portraiture of his: I'll count his favours:
But, sure, the bravery of his grief did put me
Into a towering passion.

Hor. Peace; who comes here?

Enter Osrlic.

Osr. Your lordship is right welcome back to
Denmark.

Ham. I humbly thank you, Sir.—Dost know
this waterfly?‡

Hor. No, my good lord.

Ham. Thy state is the more gracious; for
'tis a vice to know him: He hath much land,
and fertile: let a beast be lord of beasts,
and his crib shall stand at the king's mess: 'Tis a
chough;§ but, as I say, spacious in the pos-
session of dirt.

Osr. Sweet lord, if your lordship were at
leisure, I should impart a thing to you from his
majesty.

Ham. I will receive it, Sir, with all diligence
of spirit: Your bonnet to its right use; 'tis for
the head.

Osr. I thank your lordship, 'tis very hot.

Ham. No, believe me, 'tis very cold; the
wind is northerly.

Osr. It is indifferent cold, my lord, indeed.

Ham. But yet, methinks, it is very sultry
and hot; or my complexion—

Osr. Exceedingly, my lord; it is very sul-
try,—as 'twere,—I cannot tell how—My lord,
his majesty bade me signify to you, that he has
laid a great wager on your head: Sir, this is
the matter,—

Ham. I beseech you, remember—

[HAMLET moves him to put on his Hat.]

Osr. Nay, good my lord; for my ease, in
good faith,|| Sir, here is newly come to court,
Laertes: believe me, an absolute gentleman,
full of most excellent differences,¶ of very soft
society, and great showing: Indeed, to speak
feelingly of him, he is the card** or calendar
of gentry, for you shall find in him the contin-
ent†† of what part a gentleman would see.

Ham. Sir, this refinement suffers no perdi-
tion in you;—though, I know, to divide him

* Mutineers

† Letters and Handcuffs brought from Bilboa in Spain

‡ Fail.

§ Garnished. || Bugbears. ¶ Looking over.

** Before. †† Statesmen. ‡‡ A note of connection.

§§ Confessing. |||| Gorge. ¶¶ Following.

* Requite. † For count some Editors read count.

‡ Water-flies are gnats. § A bird like a jackdaw.

¶ The affected phrase of the time.

¶ Distinguishing excellencies. ** Compass or chart.

†† The country and pattern for imitation.

inventorially, would dizzy the arithmetic of memory; and yet but raw neither, in respect of his quick sail. But, in the verity of extolment, I take him to be a soul of great article; and his infusion of such dearth and rareness, as, to make true diction of him, his semblable is his mirror; and, who else would trace him, his umbrage, nothing more.*

Osr. Your lordship speaks most infallibly of him.

Ham. The concernancy, Sir? why do we wrap the gentleman in our more rawer breath?

Osr. Sir?

Hor. Is't not possible to understand in another tongue? You will do't, Sir, really.

Ham. What imports the nomination of this gentleman?

Osr. Of Laertes?

Hor. His purse is empty already; all his golden words are spent.

Ham. Of him, Sir.

Osr. I know, you are not ignorant——

Ham. I would, you did, Sir; yet, in faith, if you did, it would not much approve me;—Well, Sir.

Osr. You are not ignorant of what excellence Laertes is——

Ham. I dare not confess that, lest I should compare with him in excellence; but, to know a man well, were to know himself.

Osr. I mean, Sir, for his weapon; but in the imputation laid on him by them, in his meed he's unfellowed.

Ham. What's his weapon?

Osr. Rapier and dagger.

Ham. That's two of his weapons: but, well.

Osr. The king, Sir, hath wagered with him six Barbary horses: against the which he has impawned,|| as I take it, six French rapiers and poniards, with their assigns, as girdle, hangers,¶ and so: Three of the carriages, in faith, are very dear to fancy, very responsive to the hilts, most delicate carriages, and of very liberal conceit.

Ham. What call you the carriages?

Hor. I knew, you must be edified by the margin,** ere you had done.

Osr. The carriages, Sir, are the hangers.

Ham. The phrase would be more german to the matter, if we could carry a cannon by our sides; I would, it might be hangers till then. But, on: Six Barbary horses against six French swords, their assigns, and three liberal conceited carriages; that's the French bet against the Danish: Why is this impawned, as you call it?

Osr. The king, Sir, hath laid, that in a dozen passes between yourself and him, he shall not exceed you three hits; he hath laid, on twelve for nine; and it would come to immediate trial, if your lordship would vouchsafe the answer.

Ham. How, if I answer, no?

Osr. I mean, my lord, the opposition of your person in trial.

Ham. Sir, I will walk here in the hall: If it please his majesty, it is the breathing time of day with me: let the foils be brought, the gentleman willing, and the king hold his purpose, I will win for him, if I can; if not, I will gain nothing but my shame, and the odd hits.

Osr. Shall I deliver you so?

Ham. To this effect, Sir; after what flourish your nature will.

Osr. I commend my duty to your lordship.

[Exit.]

Ham. Yours, yours.—He does well to commend it himself; there are no tongues else for's turn.

Hor. This lapwing* runs away with the shell on his head.

Ham. He did comply with his dug, before he sucked it. Thus has he (and many more of the same breed, that, I know, the drossy age dotes on,) only got the tune of the time, and outward habit of encounter; a kind of yesty collection, which carries them through and through the most fond|| and winnowed opinions; and do but blow them to their trial, the bubbles are out.

Enter a LORD.

Lord. My lord, his majesty commended him to you by young Osric, who brings back to him, that you attend him in the hall: He sends to know, if your pleasure hold to play with Laertes, or that you will take longer time.

Ham. I am constant to my purposes, they follow the king's pleasure: if his fitness speaks, mine is ready; now, or whensoever, provided I be so able as now.

Lord. The king, and queen, and all are coming down.

Ham. In happy time.

Lord. The queen desires you, to use some gentle entertainment to Laertes, before you fall to play.

Ham. She will instruct me. [Exit LORD.]

Hor. You will lose this wager, my lord.

Ham. I do not think so; since he went into France, I have been in continual practice; I shall win at the odds. But thou wouldst not think, how ill all's here about my heart: but it is no matter.

Hor. Nay, good my lord,——

Ham. It is but foolery; but it is such a kind of gain-giving,¶ as would, perhaps, trouble a woman.

Hor. If your mind dislike any thing, obey it; I will forestal** their repair hither, and say, you are not fit.

Ham. Not a whit, we defy augury; there is a special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come: the readiness is all: Since no man, of aught he leaves, knows, what is't to leave betimes? Let be.

Enter KING, QUEEN, LAERTES, LORDS, OSRIC, and Attendants, with Foils, &c.

King. Come, Hamlet, come, and take this hand from me.

[The KING puts the Hand of LAERTES, into that of HAMLET.]

Ham. Give me your pardon, Sir: I have done you wrong;

But pardon it, as you are a gentleman. This presencet knows, and you must needs have heard,

How I am punish'd with a sore distraction.

* This speech is a ridicule of the court jargon of that time.

† Mentioning.

‡ Recommend.

§ Praise.

|| Imponed, put down, staked.

¶ That part of the belt by which the sword was suspended.

** Margin of a book which contains explanatory notes.

†† A-kin.

* A bird which runs about immediately as it is hatched.

† Compliment.

‡ Worthless.

§ Frothy.

|| For fond read fanned.

¶ Misgiving.

** Prevent.

†† The king and queen's presence.

What I have done. [tion.]
That might your nature, honour, and excep-
Roughly awake, I here proclaim was madness.
Was't Hamlet wrong'd Laertes: Never, Ham-
let:

If Hamlet from himself be ta'en away,
And when he's not himself, does wrong La-
ertes,

Then Hamlet does it not, Hamlet denies it.
Who does it then? His madness? If's be so,
Hamlet is of the faction that is wrong'd,
His madness is poor Hamlet's enemy.

Sir, in this audience,
Let my disclaiming from a purpos'd evil
Free me so far in your most generous thoughts,
That I have shot my arrow o'er the house,
And hurt my brother.

Laer. I am satisfied in nature,
Whose motive, in this case, should stir me most
To my revenge: but in my terms of honour,
I stand aloof; and will no reconciliation,
Till by some elder masters, of known honour,
I have a voice and precedent of peace,
To keep my name ungor'd;* But till that time,
I do receive your offer'd love like love,
And will not wrong it.

Ham. I embrace it freely:
And will this brother's wager frankly play.—
Give us the foils; come on.

Laer. Come, one for me,
Ham. I'll be your foil, Laertes; in mine ig-
norance
Your skill shall, like a star i'the darkest night,
Stick fiery off, indeed.

Laer. You mock me, Sir.

Ham. No, by this hand.

King. Give them the foils, young Osric.—
Cousin Hamlet,
You know the wager?

Ham. Very well, my lord; [side.]
Your grace hath laid the odds o'the weaker
King. I do not fear it: I have seen you
both:—

But since he's better'd, we have therefore odds.

Laer. This is too heavy, let me see another.
Ham. This likes me well: These foils have
all a length? [They prepare to play.]

Os. Ay, my good lord.
King. Set me the stoupest of wine upon that
table:—

If Hamlet gives the first or second hit,
Or quit in answer of the third exchange,
Let all the battlements their ordinance fire;
The king shall drink to Hamlet's better breath;
And in the cup an union† shall he throw,
Richer than that which four successive kings
In Denmark's crown have worn; Give me the
cups;

And let the kettle to the trumpet speak,
The trumpet to the cannoneer without, [earth,
The cannons to the heavens, the heaven to
Now the king drinks to Hamlet.—Come, be-
And you, the judges, bear a wary eye. [gin;—

Ham. Come on, Sir.

Laer. Come, my lord. [They play.]

Ham. One.

Laer. No.

Ham. Judgment.

Os. A hit, a very palpable hit.

Laer. Well,—again.

King. Stay, give me drink; Hamlet, this
pearl is thine;

Here's to thy health.—Give him the cups.

[Trumpets sound; and Cannon shot off within.]

Ham. I'll play this bout first, set it by awhile.

Come.—Another hit; What say you?

[They play.]

Laer. A touch, a touch, I do confess.

King. Our son shall win.

Queen. He's fat, and scant o'breath.—

Here, Hamlet, take my napkin,* rub thy

brows:

The queen carousest to thy fortune, Hamlet.

Ham. Good madam,—

King. Gertrude, do not drink.

Queen. I will, my lord; I pray you, pardon
me.

King. It is the poison'd cup; it is too late.

[Aside.]

Ham. I dare not drink yet, madam; by and

Queen. Come, let me wipe thy face. [by.]

Laer. My lord, I'll hit him now.

King. I do not think it.

Laer. And yet it is almost against my con-
science. [Aside.]

Ham. Come, for the third, Laertes: You do
but dally;

I pray you, pass with your best violence;

I am afraid, you make a wanton† of me.

Laer. Say you so? come on. [They play.]

Os. Nothing neither way.

Laer. Have at you now.

[LAERTES wounds HAMLET; then, in scuf-
fling, they change Rapiers, and HAMLET
wounds LAERTES.]

King. Part them, they are incens'd.

Ham. Nay, come again. [The QUEEN falls.]

Os. Look to the queen there, ho!

Hor. They bleed on both sides:—How is it,
my lord?

Os. How is't Laertes?

Laer. Why, as a woodcock to my own
springe, Osric;

I am justly kill'd with mine own treachery:

Ham. How does the queen?

King. She swoons to see them bleed.

Queen. No, no, the drink, the drink,—O my
dear Hamlet!

The drink, the drink: I am poison'd! [Dies.]

Ham. O villainy!—Ho! let the door be
lock'd:

Treachery! seek it out. [LAERTES falls.]

Laer. It is here, Hamlet: Hamlet, thou art
slain;

No medicine in the world can do thee good,
In thee there is not half an hour's life;
The treacherous instrument is in thy hand,
Unbated,§ and envenom'd: the foil practice
Hath turn'd itself on me; lo, here I lie,
Never to rise again: Thy mother's poison'd;
I can no more; the king, the king's to blame.

Ham. The point

Envenom'd too!—Then, venom, to thy work:
[Stabs the KING.]

Os. & Lords. Treason! treason!

King. O, yet defend me, friends, I am but
hurt.

Ham. Here, thou incestuous, murd'rous,
damned Dane,

Drink off this potion:—Is the union here?

Follow my mother. [KING dies.]

Laer. He is justly serv'd;

It is a poison temper'd|| by himself.—
Exchange forgiveness with me, noble Hamlet:
Mine and my father's death come not upon
thee;

Nor thine on me. [Dies.]

Ham. Heaven make thee free of it! I follow
thee.

* Handkerchief. † Drinks good luck to you. ‡ Boy.

§ The foil without a button, and poisoned point. || Mixed.

* Unwounded. † Large jugs. ‡ A precious pearl.

* Handkerchief. † Drinks good luck to you. ‡ Boy.
§ The foil without a button, and poisoned point. || Mixed.

I am dead, Horatio :—Wretched queen, adieu!

You that look pale and tremble at this chance,
That are but mutes or audience to this act.
Had I but time, (as this fell sergeant,* death
Is strict in his arrest,) O, I could tell you,—
But let it be :—Horatio, I am dead ;
Thou liv'st ; report me and my cause aright
To the unsatisfied.

Hor. Never believe it ;
I am more an antique Roman than a Dane,
Here's yet some liquor left.

Ham. As thou'rt a man,— [it—
Give me the cup ; let go ; by heaven I'll have
O God ?—Horatio, what a wounded name,
Things standing thus unknown, shall live be-
hind me ?

If thou didst ever hold me in thy heart,
Absent thee from felicity awhile, [pain,
And in this harsh world draw thy breath in
To tell my story,

[*March afar off, and Shoot within.*
What warelike noise is this ?

Osr. Young Fortinbras, with conquest come
from Poland,

To the ambassadors of England gives
The warlike volley.

Ham. O, I die, Horatio ; [rit ;
The potent poison quite o'er-crown'd† my spi-
I cannot live to hear the news from England :
But I do prophesy the election lights
On Fortinbras ; he has my dying voice ; [less,
So tell him, with the occurrents,‡ more or
Which have solicited,§—The rest is silence.

[*Dies.*
Hor. Now cracks a noble heart ;—Good
night, sweet prince ;
And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest !—
Why does the drum come hither ?

[*March within.*
*Enter FORTINBRAS, the ENGLISH AMBASSADORS,
and others.*

Fort. Where is this sight ?
Hor. What is it, you would see ?
If aught of woe, or wonder, cease your search.
Fort. This quarry|| cries on havoc ! ¶—O
proud death !

* A sergeant is a sheriff's officer.

† O'ercomes. ‡ Incidents. § Incited.

|| Heap of dead game.

¶ A word of censure when more game was destroyed
than was reasonable.

What feast is toward in thine eternal cell,
That thou so many princes, at a shot,
So bloodily hast struck ?

1 Amb. The sight is dismal ;
And our affairs from England come too late :
The ears are senseless, that should give us
hearing,

To tell him, his commandment is fulfill'd,
That Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead :
Where should we have our thanks ?

Hor. Not from his mouth,*
Had it the ability of life to thank you ;
He never gave commandment for their death.
But since, so jump't upon this bloody question,
You from the Polack† wars, and you from
England,

Are here arriv'd ; give order that these bodies
High on a stage be placed to the view :

And let me speak, to the yet unknowing world,
How these things come about : So shall you
Of carnal, bloody, and unnatural acts ; [hear
Of accidental judgements, casual slaughters ;
Of deaths put on by cunning, and forc'd cause ;
And, in this upshot, purposes mistook
Fall'n on the inventors' heads : all this can I
Truly deliver.

Fort. Let us haste to hear it,
And call the noblest to the audience.
For me, with sorrow I embrace my fortune ;
I have some rights of memory in this kingdom,
Which now to claim my vantage doth invite
me.

Hor. Of that I shall have also cause to speak,
And from his mouth whose voice will draw on
more :

But let this same be presently perform'd,
Even while men's minds are wild ; lest more
On plots and errors, happen. [mischance

Fort. Let four captains
Bear Hamlet, like a soldier, to the stage ;
For he was likely, had he been put on,
To have prov'd most royally : and, for his pas-
sage,

The soldier's music, and the rites of war,
Speak loudly for him.—

Take up the bodies :—Such a sight as this
Becomes the field, but here shows much amiss.
Go, bid the soldiers shoot. [A dead march.

[*Exeunt, bearing off the dead Bodies ; after
which, a Peal of Ordnance is shot off.*

* I. e. The King's. † By change. ‡ Polish.

OTHELLO, THE MOOR OF VENICE.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

DUKE OF VENICE.
BRABANTIO, a Senator.
TWO other SENATORS.
GRATIANO, Brother to Brabantio.
LODOVICO, Kinsman to Brabantio.
OTHELLO, the Moor.
CASSIO, his Lieutenant.
IAGO, his Ancient.
RODERIGO, a Venetian Gentleman.
MONTANO, Othello's predecessor in the Government of Cyprus.
CLOWN, Servant to Othello.

HERALD.

DESDEMONA, Daughter to Brabantio, and Wife to Othello.
EMILIA, Wife to Iago.
BIANCA, a Courtezan, Mistress to Cassio.

Officers, Gentlemen, Messengers, Musicians, Sailors, Attendants, &c.

SCENE, for the first Act, in Venice; during the rest of the Play, at a Sea-port in Cyprus.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—Venice.—A Street.

Enter RODERIGO and IAGO.

Rod. Tush, never tell me, I take it much unkindly,
That thou, Iago,—who hast had my purse:—
As if the strings were thine,—shouldst know of this.

Iago. 'Sblood, but you will not hear me:—
If ever I did dream of such a matter,
Abhor me.

Rod. Thou told'st me, thou didst hold him in thy hate.

Iago. Despise me, if I do not. Three great ones of the city,

In personal suit to make me his lieutenant,
Oft capp'd* to him;—and, by the faith of man,
I know my price, I am worth no worse a place:
But he, as loving his own pride and purposes,
Evades them, with a bombast circumstance,†
Horribly stuff'd with epithets of war;
And, in conclusion, nonsuits

My mediators; for, *certes*,‡ says he,
I have already chose my officer.

And what was he?

Forsooth, a great arithmetician,
One Michael Cassio, a Florentine,
A fellow almost damn'd in a fair wife:§
That never set a squadron in the field,
Nor the division of a battle knows
More than a spinster: unless the bookish
theoric,||

Wherein the toged consuls* can propose
As masterly as he: mere prattle, without prac-
tice, [election;]
Is all his soldiership. But, he, Sir, had the
And I,—of whom his eyes had seen the proof,
At Rhodes, at Cyprus, and on other grounds,
Christian and heathen,—must be be-lee'd and
calm'd

By debitor and creditor, this counter-easter;†
He, in good time, must his lieutenant be,
And I, (God bless the mark!) his Moorship's
ancient.

Rod. By heaven, I rather would have been his hangman.

Iago. But there's no remedy; 'tis the curse of service;

Preferment goes by letter, and affection,
Not by the old gradation, where each second
Stood heir to the first. Now, Sir, be judge
yourself,

Whether I in any just term am affin'd;‡
To love the Moor.

Rod. I would not follow him then.

Iago. O, Sir, content you;

I follow him to serve my turn upon him:
We cannot all be masters, nor all masters
Cannot be truly follow'd. You shall mark
Many a duteous and knee-crooking knave,
That, doting on his own obsequious bondage,
Wears out his time, much like his master's ass,
For naught but provender; and, when he's
old, cashier'd; [are,
Whip me such honest knaves: others there
Who, trimm'd in forms and visages of duty,
Keep yet their hearts attending on themselves;

* Saluted. † Circumlocution. ‡ Certainly.

§ For wife some read *life*, supposing it to allude to the denunciation in the Gospel, "Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you." || Theory.

* Rulers of the state.

† It was anciently the practice to reckon up sums with counters. ‡ Related.

And, throwing but shows of service on their lords,
Do well thrive by them, and, when they have lin'd their coats,
Do themselves homage: these fellows have some soul;
And such a one do I profess myself.

For, Sir,
It is as sure as you are Roderigo,
Were I the Moor, I would not be Iago:
In following him, I follow but myself;
Heaven is my judge, not I for love and duty,
But seeming so, for my peculiar end:
For when my outward action doth demonstrate
The native act and figure of my heart
In compliment extern,* 'tis not long after
But I will wear my heart upon my sleeve
For daws to peck at: I am not what I am.

Rod. What a full fortune does the thick-lips
If he can carry't thus! [owe,†
Iago. Call up her father.
Rouse him: make after him, poison his delight.
Proclaim him in the streets; incense her kinsmen,
And, though he in a fertile climate dwell,
Plague him with flies: though that his joy be joy,

Yet throw such changes of vexation on't,
As it may lose some colour.
Rod. Here is her father's house; I'll call aloud.

Iago. Do; with like timorous accent, and dire yell,
As when, by night and negligence, the fire
Is spied in populous cities.

Rod. What, ho! Brabantio! signior Brabantio, ho!
Iago. Awake! what, ho! Brabantio! thieves!
thieves! thieves! [bags!
Look to your house, your daughter, and your Thieves! thieves!

BRABANTIO, above, at a Window.

Bra. What is the reason of this terrible sum-
What is the matter there? [mons?
Rod. Signior, is all your family within?
Iago. Are your doors lock'd?
Bra. Why? wherefore ask you this?
Iago. 'Zounds, Sir, you are robb'd; for shame, put on your gown; [soul;
Your heart is burst;‡ you have lost half your
Even now, very now, an old black ram
Is tupping your white ewe. Arise, arise;
Awake the snorting citizens with the bell,
Or else the devil will make a grandsire of you:
Arise, I say.

Bra. What, have you lost your wits?
Rod. Most reverend signior, do you know my voice?
Bra. Not I; what are you?
Rod. My name is—Roderigo.
Bra. The worse welcome: [doors:
I have charg'd thee, not to haunt about my
In honest plainness thou hast heard me say,
My daughter is not for thee; and now, in mad-
ness,

Being full of supper, and distemp'ring§
draughts,
Upon malicious bravery, dost thou come
To start my quiet.

Rod. Sir, Sir, Sir, Sir,—
Bra. But thou must needs be sure,
My spirit, and my place have in them power
To make this bitter to thee.

Rod. Patience, good Sir.

Bra. What tell'st thou me of robbing? this is Venice;

My house is not a grange.*

Rod. Most grave Brabantio,
In simple and pure soul I come to you.

Iago. 'Zounds, Sir, you are one of those, that will not serve God, if the devil bid you. Because we come to do you service, you think we are ruffians: You'll have your daughter covered with a Barbary horse; you'll have your nephews neigh to you: you'll have coursers for cousins, and gennets for germans.†

Bra. What profane wretch art thou?
Iago. I am one, Sir, that comes to tell you, your daughter and the Moor are now making the beast with two backs.

Bra. Thou art a villain.

Iago. You are—a senator.

Bra. This thou shalt answer: I know thee, Roderigo.

Rod. Sir, I will answer any thing. But I beseech you,

If't be your pleasure, and most wise consent, (As partly, I find, it is,) that your fair daughter,

At this odd event and dull watch o'the night, Transported—with no worse nor better guard, But with a knave of common hire, a gondolier,§

To the gross clasps of a lascivious Moor,— If this be known to you, and your allowance,|| We then have done you bold and saucy wrongs; [me,

But, if you know not this, my manners tell We have your wrong rebuke. Do not believe, That, from the sense of all civility, [ence:
I thus would play and trifle with your rever- Your daughter,—if you have not given her leave,—

I say again, hath made a gross revolt; Tying her duty, beauty, wit, and fortunes, In an extravagant¶ and wheeling stranger, Of here and every where: Straight satisfy yourself:

If she be in her chamber, or your house, Let loose on me the justice of the state For thus deluding you.

Bra. Strike on the tinder, ho!
Give me a taper;—call up all my people:— This accident is not unlike my dream, Belief of it oppresses me already:—
Light, I say! light! [Exit from above.

Iago. Farewell; for I must leave you; It seems not meet, nor wholesome to my place To be produc'd (as, if I stay, I shall,) Against the Moor: For, I do know, the state,— However this may gall him with some check,— Cannot with safety cast** him; for he's embark'd

With such loud reason to the Cyprus' wars, (Which even now stand in act,) that, for their souls,

Another of his fathom they have not, To lead their business; in which regard, Though I do hate him as I do hell pains, Yet, for necessity of present life, I must show out a flag and sign of love, Which is indeed but sign. That you shall surely find him,

Lead to the Sagittary the rais'd search; And there will I be with him. So, farewell.

[Exit.

* Outward show of civility.

‡ I. e. Is broken.

† Own, possess.

§ Intoxicating.

* A lone farm house.

§ A waterman.

¶ Wandering.

† Relations.

‡ Midnight.

|| Approbation.

** Dismiss.

Enter below, BRABANTIO, and Servants with Torches.

Bra. It is too true an evil : gone she is ;
And what's to come of my despised time,*
Is nought but bitterness.—Now, Roderigo,
Where didst thou see her?—O, unhappy girl!—
With the Moor, say'st thou?—Who would be
a father?—

How didst thou know 'twas she? O, thou de-
ceiv'st me

Past thought!—What said she to you?—Get
more tapers; [you?

Raise all my kindred.—Are they married think
Rod. Truly, I think, they are.

Bra. O heaven!—How got she out!—O trea-
son of the blood!—

Fathers, from hence trust not your daughters'
minds [charms,

By what you see them act.—Are there not
By which the property of youth and maidhood
May be abus'd? Have you not read, Roderigo,
Of some such thing?

Rod. Yes, Sir; I have indeed.

Bra. Call up my brother.—O, that you had
had her?—

Some one way, some another.—Do you know
Where we may apprehend her and the Moor?

Rod. I think, I can discover him; if you
please

To get good guard, and go along with me.

Bra. Pray you, lead on. At every house I'll
call;

I may command at most;—Get weapons, ho!
And raise some special officers of night.—

On, good Roderigo;—I'll deserve your pains.
[Exit.

SCENE II.—The same.—Another Street.
Enter OTHELLO, IAGO, and Attendants.

Iago. Though in the trade of war I have slain
men,

Yet do I hold it very stuff o'the conscience,
To do contriv'd murder; I lack iniquity

Sometimes, to do me service: Nine or ten times
I had thought to have yerk'd him here under
the ribs.

Oth. 'Tis better as it is.

Iago. Nay, but he prated,
And spoke such scurvy and provoking terms
Against your honour,

That, with the little godliness I have,
I did full hard forbear him. But, I pray, Sir,

Are you fast married? for, be sure of this,—
That the magnificent is much beloved;

And hath, in his effect, a voice potential
As double as the duke's; he will divorce you;

Or put upon you what restraint and grievance
The law (with all his might, to enforce it on,)
Will give him cable.

Oth. Let him do his spite:

My services, which I have done the signiory,
Shall out-tongue his complaints. 'Tis yet to
know, [our,

(Which, when I know that boasting is an hou-
I shall promulgate,) I fetch my life and being
From men of royal siege; and my demerits

May speak, unbonnetted,|| to as proud a for-
tune

As this that I have reach'd: For know, Iago,
But that I love the gentle Desdemona,

I would not my unhus'd|| free condition

Put into circumspection and confine
For the sea's worth. But, look! what lights
come yonder?

Enter CASSIO, at a distance, and certain Officers
with Torches.

Iago. These are the raised father, and his
You were best go in. [friends:

Oth. Not I: I must be found;
My parts, my title, and my perfect soul,
Shall manifest me rightly. Is it they?

Iago. By Janus, I think no.

Oth. The servants of the duke, and my lieu-
tenant.

The goodness of the night upon you, friends!
What is the news?

Cas. The duke does greet you, general;
And he requires your haste-post-haste ap-
Even on the instant. [pearance,

Oth. What is the matter, think you?

Cas. Something from Cyprus, as I may di-
vine;

It is a business of some heat: The gallies
Have sent a dozen sequent* messengers
This very night at one another's heels;

And many of the consuls, rais'd, and met,
Are at the duke's already: You have been
hotly call'd for;

When, being not at your lodging to be found,
The senate hath sent about three several
To search you out. [quests,†

Oth. 'Tis well I am found by you.

I will but spend a word here in the house,
And go with you. [Exit.

Cas. Ancient, what makes he here?

Iago. 'Faith, he to-night hath boarded a land
carack;‡

If it prove lawful prize, he's made for ever.

Cas. I do not understand.

Iago. He's married.

Cas. To who?

Re-enter OTHELLO.

Iago. Marry, to—Come, captain, will you
go?

Oth. Have with you.

Cas. Here comes another troop to seek for
you.

Enter BRABANTIO, RODERIGO, and Officers of
night, with Torches and Weapons.

Iago. It is Brabantio:—general, be advis'd;
He comes to bad intent.

Oth. Hola! stand there!

Rod. Signior, it is the Moor.

Bra. Down with him, thief!
[They draw on both sides.

Iago. You, Roderigo! come, Sir, I am for
you.

Oth. Keep up your bright swords, for the
dew will rust them.— [years,

Good signior, you shall more command with
Than with your weapons.

Bra. O thou foul thief, where hast thou
stow'd my daughter?

Damn'd as thou art, thou hast enchanted her:
For I'll refer me to all things of sense,

If she in chains of magic were not bound,
Whether a maid—so tender, fair and happy;
So opposite to marriage, that she shunn'd
The wealthy curled darlings of our nation,—
Would ever have, to incur a general mock,
Run from her guardage to the sooty bosom
Of such a thing as thou: to fear, not to de-
light.‡

* Old age.

† Brabantio, magnificent is his title as a Senator.

‡ Seat, or throne.

§ Demerits has the same meaning in Shakspeare as
merits.

|| Uncovered. Unsettled.

* Following.

† A rich vessel.

‡ Searchers.

§ To terrify not delight.

Judge me the world, if 'tis not gross in sense,
That thou hast practis'd on her with foul
charms; [erals;

Abus'd her delicate youth with drugs, or min-
That waken motion: I'll have it disputed on;
'Tis probable, and palpable to thinking.

I therefore apprehend and do attach thee,
For an abuser of the world, a practiser
Of arts inhibited and out of warrant:—
Lay hold upon him; if he do resist,
Subdue him at his peril.

Oth. Hold your hands,

Both you of my inclining, and the rest: [it
Were it my cue to fight, I should have known
Without a prompter.—Where will you that I
To answer this your charge? [go

Bra. To prison: till fit time
Of law, and course of direct session,
Call thee to answer.

Oth. What if I do obey?

How may the duke be therewith satisfied;
Whose messengers are here about my side,
Upon some present business of the state,
To bring me to him?

Off. 'Tis true, most worthy signior,
The duke's in council; and your noble self,
I am sure, is sent for.

Bra. How! the duke in council!

In this time of the night!—Bring him away:
Mine's not an idle cause: the duke himself,
Or any of my brothers of the state, [own:
Cannot but feel this wrong, as 'twere their
For if such actions may have passage free,
Bond-slaves and pagans,* shall our statesmen
be. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—*The same.*—*A council Chamber.*

*The DUKE, and SENATORS, sitting at a Table.
Officers attending.*

Duke. There is no composition in these
news,

That gives them credit.

1 Sen. Indeed, they are disproportion'd;
My letters say a hundred and seven gallies.

Duke. And mine, a hundred and forty.

2 Sen. And mine, two hundred:
But though they jump not on a just account,
(As in these cases, where the aim† reports,
'Tis oft with difference,) yet do they all confirm
A Turkish fleet, and bearing up to Cyprus.

Duke. Nay, it is possible enough to judge-
ment;

I do not so secure me in the error,
But the main article I do approve
In fearful sense!

Sailor. [Within.] What ho! what ho! what
ho!

Enter an OFFICER, with a SAILOR.

Off. A messenger from the gallies.

Duke. Now? the business?

Sailor. The Turkish preparation makes for
Rhodes;

So was I bid report here to the state,
By signior Angelo.

Duke. How say you by this change?

1 Sen. This cannot be,
By no assay of reason; 'tis a pageant,
To keep us in false gaze: When we consider
The importancy of Cyprus to the Turk;
And let ourselves again but understand,
That, as it more concerns the Turk than
Rhodes,

So may he with more facile question* bear it,
For that it stands not in such warlike brace,†
But altogether lacks the abilities

That Rhodes is dress'd in:—if we make thought
of this,

We must not think, the Turk is so unskilful,
To leave that latest which concerns him first;
Neglecting an attempt of ease and gain,
To wake, and wage,‡ a danger profitless.

Duke. Nay, in all confidence, he's not for
Rhodes.

Off. Here is more news.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Mess. The Ottomites, reverend and gracious,
Steering with due course toward the isle of
Rhodes,

Have there injointed them with an after fleet.

1 Sen. Ay, so I thought:—How many, as
you guess?

Mess. Of thirty sail: and now do they re-
stem

Their backward course, bearing with frank ap-
pearance [tano,

Their purposes toward Cyprus.—Signior Mon-
Your trusty and most valiant servitor,
With his free duty recommends you thus,
And prays you to believe him.

Duke. 'Tis certain then for Cyprus.—

Marchus Lucchesa, is he not in town?

1 Sen. He's now in Florence.

Duke. Write from us; wish him post-post-
haste: despatch.

1 Sen. Here comes Brabantio, with the va-
liant Moor.

*Enter BRABANTIO, OTHELLO, IAGO, RODERIGO,
and Officers.*

Duke. Valiant Othello, we must straight em-
ploy you
Against the general enemy Ottoman.

I did not see you; welcome, gentle Signior;
[To BRABANTIO.

we lack'd your counsel and your help to-night.

Bra. So did I yours: Good your grace, par-
don me; [ness,

Neither my place, nor aught I heard of busi-
Hath rais'd me from my bed; nor doth the ge-
neral care

Take hold on me; for my particular grief
Is of so flood-gate and o'erbearing nature,
That it engulfs and swallows other sorrows,
And it is still itself.

Duke. Why, what's the matter?

Bra. My daughter! O, my daughter!

Sen. Dead?

Bra. Ay, to me;

She is abus'd, stol'n from me, and corrupted
By spells and medicines bought of mounte-
banks:

For nature so preposterously to err,
Being not deficient, blind, or lame of sense,
Sausy witchcraft could not—

Duke. Whoe'er he be, that, in this foul pro-
ceeding,

Hath thus beguil'd your daughter of herself,
And you of her, the bloody book of law
You shall yourself read in the bitter letter,
After your own sense; yea, though our proper
son

Stood in your action. ||

Bra. Humbly I thank your grace.
Here is the man, this Moor; whom now, it
seems,

* The pagans and bond-slaves of Africa.
† Consistency. ‡ Conjecture,

* Easy dispute. † State of defence. ‡ Combat.
§ Without. || Accusation.

Your special mandate, for the state affairs,
Hath hither brought.

Duke & Sen. We are very sorry for it.

Duke. What, in your own part, can you say
to this? [To OTHELLO.

Bra. Nothing but this is so.

Oth. Most potent, grave, and reverend signi-
fiers,

My very noble and approv'd good masters,
That I have ta'en away this old man's daugh-
ter,

It is most true; true, I have married her;
The very head and front of my offending
Hath this extent no more. Rude am I in my
speech,

And little bless'd with the set phrase of peace;
For since these arms of mine had seven years'
pith, [us'd

Till now some nine moons wasted, they have
Their dearest action* in the tented field;
And little of this great world can I speak,
More than pertains to feats of broil and battle;
And therefore little shall I grace my cause,
In speaking for myself: Yet, by your gracious
patience,

I will a round unvarnish'd tale deliver
Of my whole course of love; what drugs, what
charms,

What conjuration, and what mighty magic,
(For such proceeding I am charg'd withal,)
I won his daughter with.

Bra. A maiden never bold;

Of spirit so still and quiet, that her motion
Blush'd at herself; And she,—in spite of na-
ture,

Of years, of country, credit, every thing,—
To fall in love with what she fear'd to look on?
It is a judgement maim'd, and most imperfect,
That will confess—perfection so could err
Against all rules of nature; and must be driven
To find out practices of cunning hell.
Why this should be. I therefore vouch again,
That with some mixtures powerful o'er the
blood,

Or with some dram conjur'd to this effect,
He wrought upon her.

Duke. To vouch this, is no proof;
Without more certain and more overt test,†
Than these thin habits, and poor likelihoods
Of modern seeming,‡ do prefer against him.

1 Sen. But, Othello, speak;—

Did you by indirect and forced courses
Subdue and poison this young maid's affec-
tions?

Or came it by request, and such fair question
As soul to soul affordeth?

Oth. I do beseech you,

Send for the lady to the Sagittary,§
And let her speak of me before her father:
If you do find me foul in her report,
The trust, the office, I do hold of you,
Not only take away, but let your sentence
Even fall upon my life.

Duke. Fetch Desdemona hither.

Oth. Ancient, conduct them; you best know
the place.—

[*Exeunt IAGO and Attendants.*

And, till she come, as truly as to heaven
I do confess the vices of my blood.
So justly to your grave ears I'll present
How I did thrive in this fair lady's love,
And she in mine.

Duke. Say it, Othello.

Oth. Her father lov'd me; oft invited me;

Still question'd me the story of my life,
From year to year: the battles, sieges, for-
tunes,
That I have pass'd.
I ran it through even from my boyish days,
To the very moment that he bade me tell it.

Wherein I spoke of most disastrous chances,
Of moving accidents, by flood, and field;
Of hair-breadth scapes i' the imminent deadly
Of being taken by the insolent foe, [breach;
And sold to slavery; of my redemption thence.
And portance* in my travel's history:
Wherein of antrest vast, and desarts idle,
Rough quarries, rocks, and hills whose heads
touch heaven,

It was my hint to speak, such was the process;
And of the Cannibals that each other eat,
The Anthropophagi, and men whose heads
Do grow beneath their shoulders. These things
to hear,

Would Desdemona seriously incline:
But still the house affairs would draw her
thence;

Which ever as she could with haste despatch,
She'd come again, and with a greedy ear
Devour up my discourse: Which I observing,
Took once a pliant hour: and found good
means

To draw from her a prayer of earnest heart,
That I would all my pilgrimage dilate,
Whereof by parcels‡ she had something heard,
But not intently:§ I did consent;
And often did beguile her of her tears,
When I did speak of some distressful stroke,
That my youth suffer'd. My story being done,
She gave me for my pains a world of sighs:
She swore,—In faith, 'twas strange, 'twas pass-
ing strange;

'Twas pitiful, 'twas wondrous pitiful:
She wish'd, she had not heard it; yet she
wish'd

That heaven had made her such a man: she
thank'd me;

And bade me, if I had a friend that lov'd her,
I should but teach him how to tell my story,
And that would woo her. Upon this hint, I
spake:

She lov'd me for the dangers I had pass'd;
And I lov'd her, that she did pity them.
This only is the witchcraft I have us'd;
Here comes the lady, let her witness it.

Enter DESDEMONA, IAGO, and Attendants.

Duke. I think, this tale would win my daugh-
ter too.—

Good Brabantio,
Take up this mangled matter at the best:
Men do their broken weapons rather use,
Than their bare hands.

Bra. I pray you, hear her speak;
If she confess, that she was half the wooer,
Destruction on my head, if my bad blame
Light on the man!—Come hither, gentle mis-
tress;

Do you perceive in all this noble company,
Where most you owe obedience?

Des. My noble father,
I do perceive here a divided duty:
To you, I am bound for life, and education,
My life, and education, both do learn me
How to respect you: you are the lord of duty,
I am hitherto your daughter: But here's my
husband;

And so much duty as my mother show'd
To you, preferring you before her father,

* Best exertion. † Open proof. ‡ Weak show.
§ The sign of the fictitious creature so called.

* My behaviour. † Caves and dens. ‡ Parts.
§ Intention and attention were once synonymous.

So much I challenge that I may profess
Due to the Moor my lord.

Bra. God be with you!—I have done :—
Please it your grace, on to the state affairs;
I had rather to adopt a child, than get it.—
Come hither, Moor :

I here do give thee that with all my heart.
Which, but thou hast already, with all my
heart

I would keep from thee.—For your sake,
I am glad at soul I have no other child;
For thy escape would teach me tyranny,
To hang clogs on them.—I have done, my lord.

Duke. Let me speak like yourself; and lay
a sentence, [lovers
Which as a grise,* or step, may help these
Into your favours.

When remedies are past, the griefs are ended,
By seeing the worst, which late on hopes de-
pended.

To mourn a mischief that is past and gone,
Is the next way to draw new mischief on.
What cannot be preserv'd when fortune takes,
Patience her injury a mockery makes.
The robb'd, that smiles, steals something from
the thief;

He robs himself, that spends a bootless grief.
Bra. So let the Turk of Cyprus us beguile;
We lose it not, so long as we can smile.

He hears the sentence well, that nothing bears
But the free comfort which from thence he
hears:

But he bears both the sentence and the sorrow,
That, to pay grief, must of poor patience bor-
row.

These sentences, to sugar, or to gall,
Being strong on both sides, are equivocal :
But words are words; I never yet did hear,
That the bruis'd heart was pierced through the
ear.†

I humbly beseech you, proceed to the affairs of
state.

Duke. The Turk with a most mighty prepa-
ration makes for Cyprus :—Othello, the forti-
tude of the place is best known to you: And
though we have there a substitute of most al-
lowed sufficiency, yet opinion, a sovereign mis-
tress of effects, throws a more safer voice on
you: you must therefore be content to slubber‡
the gloss of your new fortunes with this more
stubborn and boisterous expedition.

Oth. The tyrant custom, most grave senators,
Hath made the flinty and steel couch of war
My thrice-driven bed of down: I do agnize§
A natural and prompt alacrity,
I find in hardness; and do undertake
These present wars against the Ottomies.
Most humbly therefore bending to your state,
I crave fit disposition for my wife;
Due reference of place, and exhibition,||
With such accommodation, and besort,
As levels with her breeding.

Duke. If you please,
Be't at her father's.

Bra. I'll not have it so.

Oth. Nor I.

Des. Nor I; I would not there reside,
To put my father in impatient thoughts,
By being in his eye. Most gracious duke,
To my unfolding lend a gracious ear;
And let me find a charter in your voice,
To assist my simpleness.

* *Grise*, from degrees.

† *I. e.* That the wounds of sorrow were ever cured by the
words of consolation.

‡ Obscure.

§ Acknowledge.

|| Allowance.

Duke. What would you, Desdemona?

Des. That I did love the Moor to live with
him,

My downright violence and storm of fortunes
May trumpet to the world; my heart's sub-
dued

Even to the very quality of my lord :

I saw Othello's visage in his mind;
And to his honours, and his valiant parts,
Did I my soul and fortunes consecrate.

So that, dear lords, if I be left behind,
A moth of peace, and he go to the war,
The rights for which I love him, are bereft me,
And I a heavy interim shall support
By his dear absence: Let me go with him.

Oth. Your voices, lords :—beseech you, let
her will

Have a free way.

Vouch with me, heaven: I therefore beg it not
To please the palate of my appetite;
Nor to comply with heat, the young affects,*
In my distinct and proper satisfaction;
But to be free and bounteous to her mind:
And heaven defendt your good souls, that you
think

I will your serious and great business scant,
For she is with me: No, when light-wing'd
toys

Of feather'd Cupid seel§ with wanton dulness
My speculative and active instruments,
That my disports corrupt and taint my business,
Let housewives make a skillet|| of my helm,¶
And all indign and base adversities
Make head against my estimation!

Duke. Be it as you shall privately determine,
Either for her stay, or going: the affair cries—
haste,

And speed must answer it; you must hence
to-night.

Des. To-night, my lord?

Duke. This night.

Oth. With all my heart.

Duke. At nine i'the morning here we'll meet
again.

Othello, leave some officer behind,
And he shall our commission bring to you;
With such things else of quality and respect,
As doth import you.

Oth. Please your grace, my ancient;
A man he is of honesty and trust:
To his conveyance I assign my wife, [think
With what else needful your good grace shall
To be sent after me.

Duke. Let it be so.—

Good night to every one.—And noble Signior,
[To BRABANTIO.

If virtue no delighted beauty lack,
Your son-in-law is far more fair than black.

1 *Sen.* Adieu, brave Moor! use Desdemona
well.

Bra. Look to her, Moor; have a quick eye
to see;

She hath deceiv'd her father, and may thee.

[*Exeunt* DUKE, SENATORS, OFFICERS, &c.]

Oth. My life upon her faith.—Honest Iago,
My Desdemona must I leave to thee;

I pr'ythee, let thy wife attend on her;
And bring them after in the best advantage.—
Come, Desdemona; I have but an hour
Of love, of worldly matters, and direction,
To spend with thee, we must obey the time.

[*Exeunt* OTHELLO and DESDEMONA.]

Rod. Iago.

Iago. What say'st thou, noble heart?

* Affections.

† Forbid.

‡ Because.

§ Blind.

|| A small kettle.

¶ Helmet.

Rod. What will I do, thinkest thou ?

Iago. Why, go to bed, and sleep.

Rod. I will incontinently* drown myself.

Iago. Well, if thou dost, I shall never love thee after it. Why, thou silly gentleman !

Rod. It is silliness to live, when to live is a torment : and then have we a prescription to die, when death is our physician.

Iago. O villanous ! I have looked upon the world for four times seven years ; and since I could distinguish between a benefit and an injury, I never found a man that knew how to love himself. Ere I would say, I would drown myself for the love of a Guinea-hen, I would change my humanity with a baboon.

Rod. What should I do ? I confess it is my shame to be so fond ; † but it is not in virtue to amend it.

Iago. Virtue ? a fig ! 'tis in ourselves, that we are thus, or thus. Our bodies are our gardens ; to the which our wills are gardeners : so that if we will plant nettles, or sow lettuce ; set hyssop, and weed up thyme ; supply it with one gender of herbs, or distract it with many ; either to have it steril with idleness, or manured with industry ; why, the power and corrigible authority of this lies in our wills. If the balance of our lives had not one scale of reason to poise another of sensuality, the blood and baseness of our natures would conduct us to most preposterous conclusions : But we have reason to cool our raging motions, our carnal stings, our unbitted ‡ lusts ; whereof I take this, that you call—love, to be a sect, § or scion.

Rod. It cannot be.

Iago. It is merely a lust of the blood, and a permission of the will. Come, be a man : Drown thyself ? drown cats, and blind puppies. I have professed me thy friend, and I confess me knit to thy deserving with cables of perdurable toughness ; I could never better stand thee than now. Put money in thy purse ; follow these wars ; defeat thy favour with an usurped beard ; || I say, put money in thy purse. It cannot be, that Desdemona should long continue her love to the Moor,—put money in thy purse ; nor he his to her : it was a violent commencement, and thou shalt see an answerable sequestration :—put but money in thy purse.—These Moors are changeable in their wills ; fill thy purse with money : the food that to him now is as luscious as locusts, shall be to him shortly as bitter as coloquintida. She must change for youth : when she is sated with his body, she will find the error of her choice.—She must have change, she must : therefore put money in thy purse.—If thou wilt needs damn thyself, do it a more delicate way than drowning. Make all the money thou canst : If sanctimony and a frail vow, betwixt an erring ¶ barbarian and a supersubtle Venetian, be not too hard for my wits, and all the tribe of hell, thou shalt enjoy her ; therefore make money. A pox of drowning thyself ! it is clean out of the way : seek thou rather to be hanged in compassing thy joy, than to be drowned and go without her.

Rod. Wilt thou be fast to my hopes, if I depend on the issue ?

Iago. Thou art sure of me ;—Go, make money :—I have told thee often, and I re-tell thee again and again, I hate the Moor : My cause is hearted : thine hath no less reason :

* Immediately. † Foolish. ‡ Unbridled.

§ A sect is what the gardeners call a cutting.

|| Change your countenance with a false beard.

¶ Wandering.

Let us be conjunctive in our revenge against him : if thou canst cuckold him, thou dost thyself a pleasure, and me a sport. There are many events in the womb of time, which will be delivered. Traverse ;* go ; provide thy money. We will have more of this to-morrow. Adieu.

Rod. Where shall we meet i'the morning ?

Iago. At my lodging.

Rod. I'll be with thee betimes.

Iago. Go to ; farewell. Do you hear, Roderigo ?

Rod. What say you ?

Iago. No more of drowning, do you hear.

Rod. I am changed. I'll sell all my land.

Iago. Go to ; farewell : put money enough in your purse. [Exit RODERIGO.

Thus do I ever make my fool my purse ; For I mine own gain'd knowledge should profane,

If I would time expend with such a snipe. But for my sport and profit. I hate the Moor ; And it is thought abroad, that 'twixt my sheets He has done my office : I know not if't be true ; But I for mere suspicion in that kind, Will do, as if for surety. He holdst me well ; The better shall my purpose work on him. Cassio's a proper man : Let me see now ; To get his place, and to plume up my will ; A double knavery,—How ? how ?—Let me see :—

After some time, to abuse Othello's ear, That he is too familiar with his wife :— He hath a person, and a smooth dispose, To be suspected ; fram'd to make women false. The Moor is of a free and open nature, [so ; That thinks men honest, that but seems to be And will as tenderly be led by the nose, As asses are. I have't ;—it is engender'd :—Hell and night Must bring this monstrous birth to the world's light. [Exit.

ACT II.

SCENE I.—A Sea-port Town in CYPRUS.—A Platform.

Enter MONTANO and Two GENTLEMEN.

Mon. What from the cape can you discern at sea ?

1 *Gent.* Nothing at all : it is a high-wrought flood ;

I cannot, 'twixt the heaven and the main, Descry a sail.

Mon. Methinks, the wind hath spoke aloud at land :

A fuller blast ne'er shook our battlements : If it hath ruffian'd so upon the sea, [them, What ribs of oak, when mountains melt on Can hold the mortise ? what shall we hear of this ?

2 *Gent.* A segregation † of the Turkish fleet : For do but stand upon the foaming shore, The chiding billow seems to pelt the clouds ; The wind-shak'd surge, with high and monstrous main, Seems to cast water on the burning bear, § And quench the guards of the ever-fixed pole : I never did like molestation view On th' enchafed flood.

Mon. If that the Turkish fleet Be not inshelter'd and embay'd, they are drown'd :

It is impossible they bear it out.

* An ancient military word of command.

† Esteems.

‡ Separation.

§ The constellation near the polar star.

Enter a third GENTLEMAN.

3 *Gent.* News, lords! our wars are done:
The desperate tempest hath so bang'd the
Turks, [Venice]
That their designment halts; A noble ship of
Hath seen a grievous wreck and sufferance
On most part of their fleet.

Mon. How! is this true!

3 *Gent.* The ship is here put in.
A Veronese; Michael Cassio,
Lieutenant to the warlike Moor, Othello,
Is come on shore: the Moor himself's at sea,
And is in full commission here for Cyprus.

Mon. I am glad on't; 'tis a worthy governor.

3 *Gent.* But this same Cassio,—though he
speak of comfort,
Touching the Turkish loss,—yet he looks sad-
ly, [parted]

And prays the Moor be safe; for they were
With foul and violent tempest.

Mon. Pray heaven he be;

For I have serv'd him, and the man commands
Like a full* soldier. Let's to the sea-side, ho!
As well to see the vessel that's come in,
As throw out our eyes for brave Othello;
Even till we make the main, and the aerial
An indistinct regard. [blue,

3 *Gent.* Come, let's do so:

For every minute is expectancy
Of more arrivance.

Enter CASSIO.

Cas. Thanks to the valiant of this warlike
isle,

That so approv'd the Moor; O, let the heavens
Give him defence against the elements,
For I have lost him on a dangerous sea!

Mon. Is he well shipp'd?

Cas. His bark is stoutly timber'd, and his
pilot
Of very expert and approv'd allowance;†
Therefore my hopes, not surfeited to death,
Stand in bold cure.

[Within.] A sail, a sail, a sail!

Enter another GENTLEMAN.

Cas. What noise?

4 *Gent.* The town is empty; on the brow
o'the sea

Stand ranks of people, and they cry—a sail.

Cas. My hopes do shape him for the gover-
nor.

2 *Gent.* They do discharge their shot of
courtesy: [Guns heard.]

Our friends, at least.

Cas. I pray you, Sir, go forth,
And give us truth who 'tis that is arriv'd.

2 *Gent.* I shall. [Exit.]

Mon. But, good lieutenant, is your general
wiv'd?

Cas. Most fortunately: he hath achiev'd
a maid

That paragons description, and wild fame;
One that excels the quirks of blazoning pens,
And in the essential vesture of creation,
Does bear all excellency.—How now? who
has put in?

Re-enter second GENTLEMAN.

2 *Gent.* 'Tis one Iago, ancient to the general.

Cas. He has had most favourable and happy
speed: [winds,

Tempests themselves, high seas, and howling

The gutter'd rocks, and congregated sands,—
Traitors ensteep'd to clog the guiltless keel,—
As having sense of beauty, do omit
Their mortal* natures, letting go safely by
The divine Desdemona.

Mon. What is she?

Cas. She that I spake of, our great captain's
captain,

Left in the conduct of the bold Iago;
Whose footing here anticipates our thoughts,
A se'night's speed.—Great Jove, Othello
guard, [breath;

And swell his sail with thine own powerful
That he may bless this bay with his tall ship,
Make love's quick pants in Desdemona's arms,
Give renew'd fire to our extincted spirits,
And bring all Cyprus comfort!—O, behold,

Enter DESDEMONA, EMILIA, IAGO, RODERIGO,
and Attendants.

The riches of the ship is come on shore!
Ye men of Cyprus, let her have your knees;—
Hail to thee, lady! and the grace of heaven,
Before, behind thee, and on every hand,
Enwheel thee round.

Des. I thank you, valiant Cassio.

What tidings can you tell me of my lord!

Cas. He is not yet arriv'd; nor know I aught
But that he's well, and will be shortly here.

Des. O, but I fear;—How lost you com-
pany?

Cas. The great contention of the sea and
skies

Parted our fellowship: But, hark! a sail.

[Cry within, A sail, a sail! Then guns
heard.]

2 *Gent.* They give their greeting to the cita-
This likewise is a friend. [del:]

Cas. See for the news. [Exit GENTLEMAN.
Good ancient, you are welcome;—Welcome,
mistress:— [To EMILIA.]

Let it not gall your patience, good Iago,
That I extend my manners: 'tis my breeding
That gives me this bold show of courtesy.

[Kissing her.]
Iago. Sir, would she give you so much of her
lips,

As of her tongue she oft bestows on me,
You'd have enough.

Des. Alas, she has no speech.

Iago. In faith, too much:

I find it still, when I have list to sleep:

Marry, before your ladyship, I grant.

She puts her tongue a little in her heart,

And chides with thinking.

Emil. You have little cause to say so.

Iago. Come on, come on; you are pictures
out of doors, [chens,

Bells in your parlours, wild cats in your kit-
Saints in your injuries, devils being offended,

Players in your housewifery, and housewives
in your beds.

Des. O, fie upon thee, slanderer!

Iago. Nay, it is true, or else I am a Turk:
You rise to play, and go to bed to work.

Emil. You shall not write my praise.

Iago. No, let me not.

Des. What wouldst thou write of me, if thou
shouldst praise me?

Iago. O gentle lady, do not put me to't;
For I am nothing, if not critical.‡

Des. Come on, assay:—There's one gone to
the harbour.

Iago. Ay, madam.

Des. I am not merry; but I do beguile

* Complete. † Allowed and approved expertness. ‡ Deadly, destructive. † Desire. ‡ Censorious.

The thing I am, by seeming otherwise.

Come, how wouldst thou praise me?

Iago. I am about it; but, indeed, my invention

Comes from my pate, as birdlime does from
It plucks out brains and all: But my music labours,

And thus she is deliver'd.

If she be fair and wise,—fairness, and wit,
The one's for use, the other useth it.

Des. Well prais'd! How if she be black and witty?

Iago. If she be black, and thereto have a wit,
She'll find a white that shall her blackness fit.

Des. Worse and worse.

Emil. How, if fair and foolish?

Iago. She never yet was foolish that was fair;

For even her folly help'd her to an heir.

Des. These are old fond* paradoxes, to make fools laugh i'the alehouse. What miserable praise hast thou for her that's foul and foolish?

Iago. There's none so foul, and foolish thereunto,

But does foul pranks which fair and wise ones

Des. O heavy ignorance!—thou praisest the worst best. But what praise couldst thou bestow on a deserving woman indeed! one, that, in the authority of her merit, did justly put on the vouch of very malice itself?

Iago. She that was ever fair, and never proud;

Had tongue at will, and yet was never loud;
Never lack'd gold, and yet went never gay;
Fled from her wish, and yet said,—*now I may*;
She that, being anger'd, her revenge being nigh,

Bade her wrong stay, and her displeasure fly:
She, that in wisdom never was so frail,
To change the cod's head for the salmon's tail;
She that could think, and ne'er disclose her mind,

See suitors following, and not look behind;
She was a wight,—if ever such wight were,—

Des. To do what?

Iago. To suckle fools, and chronicle small beer.

Des. O most lame and impotent conclusion!—Do not learn of him, Emilia, though he be thy husband.—How say you, Cassio? is he not a most profane and liberal† counsellor?

Cas. He speaks home, madam; you may reprehend him more in the soldier, than in the scholar.

Iago. [*Aside.*] He takes her by the palm: Ay, well said, whisper: with as little a web as this, will I ensnare as great a fly as Cassio. Ay, smile upon her, do, I will gyve thee in thine own courtship. You say true; 'tis so indeed: if such tricks as these strip you out of your lieutenantry, it had been better you had not kissed your three fingers so oft, which now again you are most apt to play the Sir in. § Very good; well kissed! an excellent courtesy! || 'tis so, indeed. Yet again your fingers to your lips? would, they were clyster-pipes for your sake!—[*Trumpet.*] The Moor, I know his trumpet.

Cas. 'Tis truly so.

Des. Let's meet him, and receive him.

Cas. Lo, where he comes!

Enter OTHELLO, and Attendants.

Oth. O my fair warrior!

Des. My dear Othello!

Oth. It gives me wonder great as my content,

To see you here before me. O my soul's joy!
If after every tempest come such calms,
May the winds blow till they have waken'd death!

And let the labouring bark climb hills of seas,
Olympus-high; and duck again as low
As hell's from heaven! If it were now to die,
'Twere now to be most happy; for, I fear,
My soul hath her content so absolute,
That not another comfort like to this
Succeeds in unknown fate.

Des. The heavens forbid, [crease,
But that our loves and comforts should increase,
Even as our days do grow!

Oth. Amen to that, sweet powers!—
I cannot speak enough of this content,
It stops me here; it is too much of joy:
And this, and this, the greatest discords be,

[*Kissing her.*
That e'er our hearts shall make!

Iago. O, you are well tun'd now!
But I'll set down the pegs that make this music,
As honest as I am. [*Aside.*

Oth. Come, let's to the castle.—
News, friends; our wars are done, the Turks
are drown'd,

How do our old acquaintance of this isle?—
Honey, you shall be well desir'd* in Cyprus,
I have found great love amongst them. O my
sweet,

I prattle out of fashion,† and I dote
In mine own comforts.—I pry'thee, good Iago,
Go to the bay, and disembark my coffers:
Bring thou the master to the citadel:

He is a good one, and his worthiness
Does challenge much respect.—Come, Desde-
Once more well met at Cyprus. [*mona,*

[*Exit OTHELLO, DESDEMONA, and Attendants.*

Iago. Do thou meet me presently at the harbour. Come hither. If thou be'st valiant,—as (they say) base men, being in love, have then a nobility in their natures more than is native to them,—list me.‡ The lieutenant tonight watches on the court of guard:—First, I must tell thee this—Desdemona is directly in love with him.

Rod. With him! why 'tis not possible.

Iago. Lay thy finger—thus, and let thy soul be instructed. Mark me with what violence she first loved the Moor, but for bragging, and telling her fantastical lies: And will she love him still for prating? let not thy discreet heart think it. Her eye must be fed; and what delight shall she have to look on the devil? When the blood is made dull with the act of sport, there should be,—again to inflame it, and to give satiety a fresh appetite,—loveliness in favour; sympathy in years, manners, and beauties; all of which the Moor is defective in: Now, for want of the required conveniences, her delicate tenderness will find itself abused, begin to heave the gorge, disrelish and abhor the Moor; very nature will instruct her in it, and compel her to some second choice. Now, Sir, this granted, (as it is a most pregnant

* Foolish. † Licentious, free-spoken.

‡ Shackle, fetter. § Your good breeding and gallantry.

|| Courtesy, in the sense of obsequance, was applied to men as well as women.

* Much solicited by invitation.

† Out of method, without order. ‡ Listen to me.

and enforced position,) who stands so eminently in the degree of this fortune, as Cassio does? a knave very voluble; no further conscionable, than in putting on the mere form of civil and humane seeming, for the better compassing of his salt and most hidden loose affection? why, none; why, none: A slippery and subtle knave; a finder out of occasions; that has an eye can stamp and counterfeit advantages, though true advantage never present itself: A devilish knave! besides, the knave is handsome, young; and hath all those requisites in him, that folly and green minds* look after: A pestilent complete knave; and the woman hath found him already.

Rod. I cannot believe that in her; she is full of most blessed condition.†

Iago. Blessed fig's end! the wine she drinks is made of grapes: if she had been blessed, she would never have loved the Moor: Blessed pudding! Didst thou not see her paddle with the palm of his hand? didst not mark that?

Rod. Yes, that I did; but that was but courtesy.

Iago. Lechery, by this hand; and index, and obscure prologue to the history of lust and foul thoughts. They met so near with their lips, that their breaths embraced together. Villanous thoughts, Roderigo! when these mutualities so marshal the way, hard at hand comes the master and main exercise, and incorporate conclusion: Pish!—But, Sir, be you ruled by me: I have brought you from Venice. Watch you to-night; for the command, I'll lay't upon you: Cassio knows you not;—I'll not be far from you: Do you find some occasion to anger Cassio, either by speaking too loud, or tainting† his discipline; or from what other course you please, which the time shall more favourably minister.

Rod. Well.

Iago. Sir, he is rash, and very sudden in choler; and, haply,§ with his truncheon may strike at you: Provoke him, that he may; for, even out of that, will I cause these of Cyprus to mutiny; whose qualification shall come into no true taste again, but by the displanting of Cassio. So shall you have a shorter journey to your desires, by the means I shall then have to prefer|| them; and the impediment most profitably removed, without the which there were no expectation of our prosperity.

Rod. I will do this, if I can bring it to any opportunity.

Iago. I warrant thee. Meet me by and by at the citadel: I must fetch his necessaries ashore. Farewell.

Rod. Adieu. [Exit.]

Iago. That Cassio loves her, I do well believe it; [dit:

That she loves him, 'tis apt, and of great credit. The Moor—howbeit that I endure him not,—Is of a constant, loving, noble nature; And, I dare think, he'll prove to Desdemona A most dear husband. Now I do love her too; Not out of absolute lust, (though, peradventure, I stand accountant for as great a sin,) But partly led to diet my revenge, For that I do suspect the lusty Moor Hath leap'd into my seat; the thought whereof

Doth, like a poisonous mineral, gnaw my in- And nothing can or shall content my soul,

Till I am even with him, wife for wife; Or, failing so, yet that I put the Moor At least into a jealousy so strong [do,— That judgement cannot cure. Which thing to If this poor trash* of Venice, whom I trash For this quick hunting, stand the putting on, I'll have our Michael Cassio on the hip; Abuse him to the Moor in the rank garb,†— For I fear Cassio with my night-cap too; Make the Moor thank me, love me, and reward me, For making him egregiously an ass, And practising upon his peace and quiet Even to madness. 'Tis here, but yet confus'd; Knavery's plain face is never seen, till us'd.

[Exit.]

SCENE II.—A Street.

Enter a HERALD, with a Proclamation; People following.

Her. It is Othello's pleasure, our noble and valiant general, that, upon certain tidings now arrived, importing the mere§ perdition of the Turkish fleet, every man put himself into triumph; some to dance, some to make bonfires, each man to what sport and revel his addiction leads him; for, besides these beneficial news, it is the celebration of his nuptials: So much was his pleasure should be proclaimed. All offices|| are open; and there is full liberty of feasting, from this present hour of five, till the bell hath told eleven. Heaven bless the isle of Cyprus, and our noble general, Othello!

[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—A Hall in the Castle.

Enter OTHELLO, DESDEMONA, CASSIO, and Attendants.

Oth. Good Michael, look you to the guard to-night: Let's teach ourselves that honourable stop, Not to out-sport discretion.

Cas. Iago hath direction what to do; But, notwithstanding, with my personal eye Will I look to't.

Oth. Iago is most honest. Michael, good night: To-morrow, with our earliest, [love, Let me have speech with you.—Come, my dear The purchase made, the fruits are to ensue;

[To DESDEMONA.]

That profit's yet to come 'twixt me and you.— Good night. [Exeunt OTH. DES. and Attend.]

Enter IAGO.

Cas. Welcome, Iago: We must to the watch.

Iago. Not this hour, lieutenant; 'tis not yet ten o'clock: Our general cast¶ us thus early, for the love of his Desdemona; whom let us not therefore blame; he hath not yet made wanton the night with her: and she is sport for Jove.

Cas. She's a most exquisite lady.

Iago. And, I'll warrant her, full of game.

Cas. Indeed, she is a most fresh and delicate creature.

Iago. What an eye she has! methinks it sounds a parley of provocation.

Cas. An inviting eye; and yet methinks right modest.

* Worthless hound.

† The 'erm for a clog put on a hound to hinder his running.

‡ In the grossest manner.

§ Entire.

|| Rooms, or places in the castle.

¶ Dismissed.

* Minds unripe.

† Qualities, disposition of mind.

‡ Throwing a slur upon his discipline.

§ Perhaps.

|| To advance them.

Iago. And, when she speaks, is it not an alarm to love ?

Cas. She is, indeed, perfection.

Iago. Well, happiness to their sheets! Come, lieutenant, I have a stoop of wine; and here without are a brace of Cyprus gallants, that would fain have a measure to the health of the black Othello.

Cas. Not to-night, good Iago; I have very poor and unhappy brains for drinking: I could well wish courtesy would invent some other custom of entertainment.

Iago. O, they are our friends: but one cup; I'll drink for you.

Cas. I have drunk but one cup to-night, and that was craftily qualified* too, and, behold, what innovation it makes here: I am unfortunate in the infirmity, and dare not task my weakness with any more.

Iago. What, man! 'tis a night of revels; the gallants desire it.

Cas. Where are they ?

Iago. Here at the door; I pray you, call them in.

Cas. I'll do't; but it dislikes me.

[Exit CASSIO.]

Iago. If I can fasten but one cup upon him, With that which he hath drunk to-night already,

He'll be as full of quarrel and offence

As my young mistress' dog. Now, my sick fool, Roderigo,

Whom love has turn'd almost the wrong side outward,

To Desdemona hath to-night carous'd

Potations pottle deep; and he's to watch:

These lads of Cyprus,—noble swelling spirits,

That hold their honours in a wary distance,

The very elements of this warlike isle,—

Have I to night fluster'd with flowing cups,

And they watch too. Now, 'mongst this flock of drunkards

Am I to put our Cassio in some action

That may offend the isle:—But here they come:

If consequence do but approve my dream,

My boat sails freely, both with wind and stream.

Re-enter CASSIO, with him MONTANO and Gentlemen.

Cas. 'Fore heaven, they have given me a rouse already.

Mon. Good faith, a little one: not past a pint, as I am a soldier.

Iago. Some wine, ho!

And let me the canakin clink, clink; [Sings.]

And let me the canakin clink;

A soldier's a man;

A life's but a span;

Why then, let a soldier drink.

Some wine, boys! [Wine brought in.]

Cas. 'Fore heaven, an excellent song.

Iago. I learned it in England, where, (indeed) they are most potent in potting: your Dane, your German, and your swag-bellied Hollander,—Drink, ho!—are nothing to your English.

Cas. Is your Englishman so expert in his drinking ?

Iago. Why, he drinks you, with facility, your Dane dead drunk; he sweats not to overthrow your Almain; he gives your Hollander a vomit ere the next pottle can be filled.

Cas. To the health of our general.

Mon. I am for it, lieutenant; and I'll do you justice.*

Iago. O sweet England!

King Stephen was a worthy peer,†

His breeches cost him but a crown;

He held them sixpence all too dear,

With that he call'd the tailor—low!‡

He was a wight of high renown,

And thou art but of low degree:

'Tis pride that pulls the country down,

Then tak' thine auld cloak about thee.

Some wine, ho!

Cas. Why this is a more exquisite song than the other.

Iago. Will you hear it again ?

Cas. No; for I hold him to be unworthy of his place, that does those things.—Well,—Heaven's above all; and there be souls that must be saved, and there be souls that must not be saved.

Iago. It's true, good lieutenant.

Cas. For mine own part,—no offence to the general, or any man of quality,—I hope to be saved.

Iago. And so do I too, lieutenant.

Cas. Ay, but, by your leave, not before me; the lieutenant is to be saved before the ancient. Let's have no more of this; let's to our affairs.—Forgive us our sins!—Gentlemen, let's look to our business. Do not think, gentlemen, I am drunk; this is my ancient;—this is my right hand, and this is my left hand:—I am not drunk now; I can stand well enough, and speak well enough.

All. Excellent well.

Cas. Why, very well, then: you must not think then that I am drunk. [Exit.]

Mon. To the platform, masters; come, let's set the watch.

Iago. You see this fellow, that is gone before;—

He is a soldier, fit to stand by Caesar

And give direction: and do but see his vice;

'Tis to his virtue a just equinox,

The one as long as the other: 'tis pity of him;

I fear, the trust Othello puts him in,

On some odd time of his infirmity

Will shake this island.

Mon. But is he often thus ?

Iago. 'Tis evermore the prologue to his sleep:

He'll watch the horologe a double set,§

If drink rock not his cradle.

Mon. It were well,

The general were put in mind of it.

Perhaps, he sees it not; or his good nature

Prizes the virtue that appears in Cassio,

And looks not on his evils; Is not this true ?

Enter RODERIGO.

Iago. How now, Roderigo ? [Aside.] I pray you, after the lieutenant; go.

Mon. And 'tis great pity, that the noble

Moor [cond,

Should hazard such a place, as his own se-

With one of an ingraft|| infirmity:

It were an honest action, to say

So to the Moor.

Iago. Not I, for this fair island:

I do love Cassio well; and would do much

* Drink as much as you do. † A worthy fellow.

‡ Clown.

§ While the clock strikes two rounds, or four-and-twenty hours.

|| Rooted, settled.

* Slightly mixed with water. † A little more than enough.

To cure him of this evil. But hark! what noise?

[Cry within,—Help! help!

Re-enter CASSIO, *driving in* RODERIGO.

Cas. You rogue! you rascal!

Mon. What's the matter, lieutenant?

Cas. A knave?—teach me my duty!

I'll beat the knave into a twiggen* bottle.

Rod. Beat me!

Cas. Dost thou prate, rogue?

Mon. Nay, good lieutenant, [Striking *RODERIGO*.]
I pray you, Sir, hold your hand. [Staying *him*.]

Cas. Let me go, Sir,

Or I'll knock you o'er the mazzard.

Mon. Come, come, you're drunk.

Cas. Drunk!

Iago. Away, I say! go out, and cry—a mutiny! [They fight.]
[Aside to *ROD.* who goes out.]

Nay, good lieutenant,—alas, gentlemen,—

Help, ho!—Lieutenant,—Sir,—Montano,—Sir;—

Help, masters!—Here's a goodly watch, indeed!

Who's that that rings the bell?—Diablo, ho!

The town will rise, God's will, lieutenant!

You will be sham'd for ever. [hold;

Enter OTHELLO, and Attendants.

Oth. What is the matter here?

Mon. I bleed still, I am hurt to the death;—he dies.

Oth. Hold, for your lives.

Iago. Hold, hold, lieutenant, Sir, Montano,—gentlemen,—

Have you forgot all sense of place and duty? Hold, hold! the general speaks to you; hold, for shame!

Oth. Why, now, ho! from whence ariseth this?

Are we turn'd Turks: and to ourselves do that, Which heaven hath forbid the Ottomites?

For Christian shame, put by this barbarous brawl:

He that stirs next to carve for his own rage, Holds his soul light; he dies upon his motion.—

Silence that dreadful bell, it frights the isle From her propriety.—What is the matter, masters?—

Honest Iago, that look'st dead with grieving, Speak, who began this? on thy love, I charge thee.

Iago. I do not know;—friends all but now, even now,

In quarter, and in terms like bride and groom Devesting them for bed: and then, but now, (As if some planet had unwitting men.)

Swords out, and tilting one at other's breast, In opposition bloody. I cannot speak

Any beginning to this peevish odds; And 'would in action glorious I had lost

These legs, that brought me to a part of it!

Oth. How comes it, Michael, you are thus forgot?

Cas. I pray you, pardon me, I cannot speak.

Oth. Worthy Montano, you were wont be civil;

The gravity and stillness of your youth

The world hath noted, and your name is great

In mouths of wisest censure; What's the matter That you unlace your reputation thus, [ter,

And spend your rich opinion, for the name Of a night-brawler? Give me answer to it.

Mon. Worthy Othello, I am hurt to danger; Your officer, Iago, can inform you—

While I spare speech, which something now offends me;—

Of all that I do know; nor know I ought

By me that's said or done amiss this night;

Unless self-charity* be sometime a vice;

And to defend ourselves it be a sin.

When violence assails us.

Oth. Now, by heaven,

My blood begins my safer guides to rule;

And passion, having my best judgement col-

Assays to lead the way: If once I stir, [lied;]

Or do not lift this arm, the best of you

Shall sink in my rebuke. Give me to know

How this foul rout began, who set it on;

And he that is approv'd† in this offence,

Though he had twinn'd with me, both at a

birth,

Shall lose me.—What! in a town of war,

Yet wild, the people's hearts brimful of fear,

To manage private and domestic quarrel.

In night, and on the court and guard of safety!

'Tis monstrous.—Iago, who began it?

Mon. If partially ally'd,‡ or leagu'd in office,

Thou dost deliver more or less than truth,

Thou art no soldier.

Iago. Touch me not so near; [mouth,

I had rather have this tongue cut from my

Than it should do offence to Michael Cassio;

Yet, I persuade myself, to speak the truth

Shall nothing wrong him.—Thus it is, general.

Montano and myself being in speech,

There comes a fellow, crying out for help:

And Cassio following him with determin'd

sword,

To execute upon him: Sir, this gentleman

Steps in to Cassio, and entreats his pause;

Myself the crying fellow did pursue,

Lest, by his clamour, (as it so fell out,)

The town might fall in fright: he, swift of foot,

Outran my purpose; and I return'd the rather

For that I heard the clink and fall of swords,

And Cassio high in oath; which, till to-night,

I ne'er might say before: when I came back,

(For this was brief,) I found them close together.

At blow, and thrust: even as again they were,

When you yourself did part them.

More of this matter can I not report:—

But men are men; the best sometimes forget:—

Though Cassio did some little wrong to him.—

As men in rage strike those that wish them best,—

Yet, surely, Cassio, I believe, receiv'd.

From him that fled, some strange indignity,

Which patience could not pass.

Oth. I know, Iago.

Thy honesty and love doth mince this matter,

Making it light to Cassio:—Cassio, I love thee:

But never more be officer of mine.—

Enter DESEMONA, attended.

Look, if my gentle love be not rais'd up:—

I'll make thee an example.

Des. What's the matter, dear?

Oth. All's well now, sweetening; come away to bed.

Sir, for your hurts,

Myself will be your surgeon: Lead him off.

[To *MONTANO* who is led off.]

Iago, look with care about the town;

And silence those whom this vile brawl distracted.—

* A wicker bottle.

† I. e. You have thus forgot yourself

* Care of one's self.

‡ Convicted by proof.

† Darkened.

§ Related by nearness of office.

Come, Desdemona; 'tis the soldiers' life,
To have their balmy slumbers wak'd with strife.

[*Exeunt all but IAGO and CASSIO.*]

Iago. What, are you hurt, lieutenant?

Cas. Ay, past all surgery.

Iago. Reputation, reputation, reputation! O, I have lost my reputation! I have lost the immortal part, Sir, of myself; and what remains is bestial.—My reputation, Iago, my reputation.

Iago. As I am an honest man, I thought you had received some bodily wound; there is more offence in that, than in reputation. Reputation is an idle and most false imposition; oft got without merit, and lost without deserving: You have lost no reputation at all, unless you repute yourself such a loser. What, man! there are ways to recover the general again: You are but now east in his mood,* a punishment more in policy than in malice; even so as one would beat his offenceless dog, to affright an imperious lion: sue to him again, and he's yours.

Cas. I will rather sue to be despis'd, than to deceive so good a commander, with so slight, so drunken, and so indiscreet an officer. Drunk? and speak parrot? and squabble? swagger? swear! and discourse fustian with one's own shadow?—O thou invisible spirit of wine, if thou hast no name to be known by, let us call thee—devil!

Iago. What was he that you followed with your sword? What had he done to you?

Cas. I know not.

Iago. Is it possible?

Cas. I remember a mass of things, but nothing distinctly; a quarrel, but nothing wherefore.—O, that men should put an enemy in their mouths, to steal away their brains! that we should, with joy, revel, pleasure, and applause, transform ourselves into beasts!

Iago. Why, but you are now well enough: How came you thus recovered?

Cas. It hath pleased the devil, drunkenness, to give place to the devil, wrath: one unperfectness shows me another, to make me frankly despise myself.

Iago. Come, you are too severe a moralist: As the time, the place, and the condition of this country stands, I could heartily wish this had not befallen; but, since it is as it is, mend it for your own good.

Cas. I will ask him for my place again; he shall tell me, I am a drunkard! Had I as many mouths as Hydra, such an answer would stop them all. To be now a sensible man, by and by a fool, and presently a beast! O strange!—Every inordinate cup is unblessed, and the ingredient is a devil.

Iago. Come, come, good wine is a good familiar creature, if it be well used; exclaim no more against it. And, good lieutenant, I think, you think I love you.

Cas. I have well approved it, Sir.—I drunk!

Iago. You, or any man living, may be drunk at some time, man. I'll tell you what you shall do. Our general's wife is now the general;—I may say so in this respect, for that he hath devoted and given up himself to the contemplation, mark, and denotement of her parts and graces:—confess yourself freely to her; importune her; she'll help to put you in your place again: she is of so free, so kind, so apt, so blessed a disposition, that she holds it a

vice in her goodness, not to do more than she is requested: This broken joint, between you and her husband, entreat her to splinter; and, my fortunes against any lay* worth naming, this crack of your love shall grow stronger than it was before.

Cas. You advise me well.

Iago. I protest in the sincerity of love, and honest kindness.

Cas. I think it freely; and, betimes in the morning, I will beseech the virtuous Desdemona to undertake for me: I am desperate of my fortunes, if they check me here.

Iago. You are in the right. Good night, lieutenant; I must to the watch.

Cas. Good night, honest Iago. [*Exit CASSIO.*]

Iago. And what's he then, that says,—I play the villain?

When this advice is free, I give, and honest, Probal to thinking, and (indeed) the course To win the Moor again? For, 'tis most easy The inclining Desdemona to subdue In any honest suit; she's fram'd as fruitful As the free elements. And then for her To win the Moor,—were't to renounce his baptism,

All seals and symbols of redeemed sin,— His soul is so enfetted to her love, That she may make, unmake, do what she list, Even as her appetite shall play the god With his weak function. How am I then a villain.

To counsel Cassio to this parallel course, Directly to his good? Divinity of hell! When devils will their blackest sins put on, They do suggest at first with heavenly shows, As I do now: For while this honest fool Plies Desdemona to repair his fortunes, And she for him pleads strongly to the Moor, I'll pour this pestilence into his ear,— That she repeats him for her body's lust; And, by how much she strives to do him good, She shall undo her credit with the Moor. So will I turn her virtue into pitch! And out of her own goodness make the net, That shall enmesh them all.—How now, Roderigo?

Enter RODERIGO.

Rod. I do follow here in the chase, not like a hound that hunts, but one that fills up the cry. My money is almost spent; I have been to-night exceedingly well cudgelled; and, I think, the issue will be—I shall have so much experience for my pains: and so, with no money at all, and a little more wit, return to Venice.

Iago. How poor are they, that have not patience!

What wound did ever heal, but by degrees? Thou know'st we work by wit, and not by witchcraft;

And wit depends on dilatory time. Does't not go well? Cassio hath beaten thee, And thou, by that small hurt, hath cashier'd Cassio;

Though other things grow fair against the sun, Yet fruits, that blossom first, will first be ripe: Content thyself awhile.—By the mass, 'tis morning; Pleasure, and action, make the hours seem short.—

Retire thee; go where thou art billeted: Away, I say; thou shalt know more hereafter;

* Dismissed in his anger. † Talkidly.

* Bet, or wager,

† Even.

‡ Liberal, bountiful.

§ Tempt.

|| Recalls.

Nay, get thee gone. [*Exit. Rod.*] Two things are to be done,—
My wife must move for Cassio to her mistress ;
I'll set her on :
Myself, the while, to draw the moor apart,
And bring him jump* when he may Cassio
and
Soliciting his wife :—Ay, that's the way :
Dull not device by coldness and delay. [*Exit.*]

ACT III.

SCENE I.—*Before the Castle.*

Enter CASSIO, and some MUSICIANS.

Cas. Masters, play here, I will content your pains,
Something that's brief; and bid—good-morrow, general. [*Musie.*]

Enter CLOWN.

Clow. Why, masters, have your instruments been at Naples, that they speak i'the nose thus ?

1 Mus. How, Sir, how !

Clow. Are these, I pray you, called wind instruments ?

1 Mus. Ay, marry, are they, Sir.

Clow. O, thereby hangs a tail.

1 Mus. Whereby hangs a tale, Sir ?

Clow. Marry, Sir, by many a wind instrument that I know. But, masters, here's money for you : and the general so likes your music, that he desires you, of all loves, to make no more noise with it.

1 Mus. Well, Sir, we will not.

Clow. If you have any music that may not be heard, to't again : but, as they say, to hear music, the general does not greatly care.

1 Mus. We have none such, Sir.

Clow. Then put up your pipes in your bag, for I'll away : Go ; vanish into air ; away.

[*Exeunt* MUSICIANS.]

Cas. Dost thou hear, my honest friend ?

Clow. No, I hear not your honest friend. I hear you.

Cas. Pr'ythee, keep up thy quillets.† There's a poor piece of gold for thee : if the gentlewoman that attends the general's wife, be stirring, tell her, there's one Cassio, treats her a little favour of speech : Will thou do this ?

Clow. She is stirring, Sir ; if she will stir hither, I shall seem to notify unto her. [*Exit.*]

Enter IAGO.

Cas. Do, good my friend.— In happy time, Iago.

Iago. You have not been a-bed then ?

Cas. Why, no ; the day had broke before we parted. I have made bold, Iago, to send in to your wife : My suit to her is, that she will to virtuous Desdemona procure me some access.

Iago. I'll send her to you presently ; and I'll devise a mean to draw the Moor out of the way, that your converse and business

May be more free. [*Exit.*]

Cas. I humbly thank you for't. I never knew A Florentine more kind and honest.

Enter EMILIA.

Emil. Good morrow, good lieutenant : I am sorry

For your displeasure ;* but all will soon be well. The general, and his wife, are talking of it, And she speaks for you stoutly : The Moor replies,

That, he, you hurt, is of great fame in Cyprus. And great affinity ; and that, in wholesome wisdom,

He might not but refuse you : but, he protests, he loves you ;

And needs no other suitor, but his likings, To take the saf'st occasion by the front, To bring you in again.

Cas. Yet I beseech you,— If you think fit, or that it may be done, Give me advantage of some brief discourse With Desdemona alone.

Emil. Pray you, come in ; I will bestow you where you shall have time To speak your bosom freely.

Cas. I am much bound to you. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—*A Room in the Castle.*

Enter OTHELLO, IAGO, and GENTLEMEN.

Oth. These letters give, Iago, to the pilot ; And, by him, do my duties to the state : That done, I will be walking on the works, Repair there to me.

Iago. Well, my good lord, I'll do't.

Oth. This fortification, gentlemen,—shall we see't ?

Gent. We'll wait upon your lordship.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—*Before the Castle.*

Enter DESDEMONA, CASSIO, and EMILIA.

Des. Be thou assur'd, good Cassio, I will do All my abilities in thy behalf.

Emil. Good madam, do ; I know it grieves my husband, As if the case were his.

Des. O, that's an honest fellow.—Do not doubt, Cassio,

But I will have my lord and you again As friendly as you were.

Cas. Bounteous madam, Whatever shall become of Michael Cassio, He's never any thing but your true servant.

Des. O, Sir, I thank you : You do love my lord :

You have known him long ; and be you well assur'd,

He shall in strangeness stand no further off Than in a politic distance.

Cas. Ay, but, lady, That policy may either last so long, Or feed upon such nice and waterish diet, Or breed itself so out of circumstance, That, I being absent, and my place supplied, My general will forget my love and service.

Des. Do not doubt that ; before Emilia here, I give thee warrant of thy place : assure thee, If I do vow a friendship, I'll perform it To the last article : my lord shall never rest ; I'll watch him tame,† and talk him out of patience ;

His bed shall seem a school, his board a shrift ; I'll intermingle every thing he does With Cassio's suit : Therefore be merry, Cas— For thy solicitor shall rather die, [*sic*] Than give thy cause away.

* Just at the time.

† Nice distinctions.

* The displeasure you have incurred from Othello.

† Haws are tamed by keeping them from sleep.

Enter OTHELLO, and IAGO, at a distance.
 Emil. Madam, here comes
 My lord.
 Cas. Madam, I'll take my leave.
 Des. Why, stay,
 And hear me speak.
 Cas. Madam, not now; I am very ill at ease,
 Unfit for mine own purposes.
 Des. Well, well,
 Do your discretion. [Exit CASSIO.
 Iago. Ha! I like not that.
 Oth. What dost thou say?
 Iago. Nothing, my lord: or if—I know not
 what.
 Oth. Was not that Cassio, parted from my
 wife?
 Iago. Cassio, my lord? No, sure, I cannot
 think it.
 That he would steal away so guilty-like,
 Seeing you coming.
 Oth. I do believe 'twas he.
 Des. How now, my lord?
 I have been talking with a suitor here,
 A man that languishes in your displeasure.
 Oth. who is't you mean?
 Des. Why, your lieutenant Cassio. Good
 my lord.
 If I have any grace, or power to move you,
 His present reconciliation take;
 For, if he be not one that truly loves you,
 That errs in ignorance, and not in cunning*
 I have no judgement in an honest face:
 I pr'ythee, call him back.
 Oth. Went he hence now?
 Des. Ay, sooth; so humbled,
 That he hath left part of his grief with me;
 I suffer with him. Good love, call him back.
 Oth. Not now, sweet Desdemona; some
 other time.
 Des. But shall't be shortly?
 Oth. The sooner, sweet, for you.
 Des. Shall't be to-night at supper?
 Oth. No, not to-night.
 Des. To-morrow dinner then?
 Oth. I shall not dine at home;
 I meet the captains at the citadel.
 Des. why then, to-morrow night; or Tues-
 day morn; [morn;—
 Or Tuesday noon, or night: or Wednesday
 I pray thee, name the time; but let it not
 Exceed three days: in faith, he's penitent;
 And yet his trespass, in our common reason,
 (Save that they say, the wars must make ex-
 amples
 Out of their best,†) is not almost a fault
 To incur a private check: When shall he come?
 Tell me, Othello. I wonder in my soul,
 What you could ask me, that I should deny,
 Or stand so mammering† on. What! Michael
 Cassio, [time,
 That came a wooing with you; and many a
 When I have spoke of you dispraisingly,
 Hath ta'en your part; to have so much to do
 To bring him in! Trust me, I could do
 much,—
 Oth. Pr'ythee, no more; let him come when
 he will:
 I will deny thee nothing.
 Des. Why, this is not a boon;
 'Tis as I should entreat you wear your gloves,
 Or feed on nourishing dishes, or keep you
 Or sue to you to do peculiar profit [warm;
 To your own person: Nay, when I have a suit,
 Wherein I mean to touch your love indeed,

It shall be full of poize* and difficulty,
 And fearful to be granted.
 Oth. I will deny thee nothing:
 Whereon, I do beseech thee, grant me this,
 To leave me but a little to myself.
 Des. Shall I deny you? no: Farewell, my
 lord.
 Oth. Farewell, my Desdemona: I will come
 to thee straight.
 Des. Emilia, come:—Be it as your fancies
 teach you;
 What'er you be, I am obedient.
 [Exit with EMILIA.
 Oth. Excellent wretch! Perdition catch my
 soul,
 But I do love thee! and when I love thee not,
 Chaos is come again.
 Iago. My noble lord,—
 Oth. What dost thou say, Iago?
 Iago. Did Michael Cassio, when you woo'd
 my lady,
 Know of your love?
 Oth. He did, from first to last: Why dost
 thou ask?
 Iago. But for a satisfaction of my thought;
 No further harm.
 Oth. Why of thy thought, Iago?
 Iago. I did not think, he had been acquaint-
 ed with her.
 Oth. O, yes; and went between us very oft.
 Iago. Indeed?
 Oth. Indeed! ay, indeed:—Discern'st thou
 aught in that?
 Is he not honest?
 Iago. Honest, my lord?
 Oth. Ay, honest.
 Iago. My lord, for aught I know.
 Oth. What dost thou think?
 Iago. Think, my lord?
 Oth. Think, my lord!
 By heaven, he echoes me,
 As if there were some monster in his thought
 Too hideous to be shown.—Thou dost mean
 something: [that,
 I heard thee say but now,—Thou lik'dst not
 When Cassio left my wife; What didst not
 like?
 And, when I told thee—he was of my counsel
 In my whole course of wooing, thou criest,
 Indeed: [ther,
 And didst contract and purse thy brow toge-
 As if thou then had'st shut up in thy brain
 Some horrible conceit: If thou dost love me,
 Show me thy thought.
 Iago. My lord, you know I love you.
 Oth. I think, thou dost; [honesty,
 And,—for I know thou art full of love and
 And weigh'st thy words before thou giv'st
 them breath,— [more:
 Therefore these steps of thine fright me the
 For such things is a false disroyal knave,
 Are tricks of custom; but, in a man that's just,
 They are close denotements, working from the
 That passion cannot rule. [heart,
 Iago. For Michael Cassio, —
 I dare be sworn, I think that he is honest.
 Oth. I think so too.
 Iago. Men should be what they seem;
 Or, those that be not, 'would they might seem
 none!
 Oth. Certain, men should be what they seem.
 Iago. Why, then,
 I think that Cassio is an honest man.
 Oth. Nay, yet there's more in this:
 I pray thee, speak to me as to thy thoughts,

* Knowledge, † Best men,

‡ Hesitating,

* Weight.

As thou dost ruminatè ; and give thy worst of thoughts

The worst of words.

Iago. Good my lord, pardon me ;

Though I am bound to every act of duty, I am not bound to that all slaves are free to.

Utter my thoughts ? Why, say, they are vile and false,—

As where's that palace, whereinto foul things Sometimes intrude not ? who has a breast so But some uncleanly apprehensions [pure, Keep leets,* and law days, and in session sit With meditations lawful ?

Oth. Thou dost conspire against thy friend, Iago.

If thou but think'st him wrong'd, and mak'st his ear

A stranger to thy thoughts.

Iago. I do beseech you,—

Though I, perchance, am vicious in my guess, As, I confess, it is my nature's plague

To spy into abuses ; and, oft, my jealousy Shapes faults that are not,—I entreat you then,

From one that so imperfectly conjects,† You'd take no notice ; nor build yourself a trouble

Out of his scattering and unsure observance :— It were not for your quiet, nor your good,

Nor for my manhood, honesty, or wisdom, To let you know my thoughts.

Oth. What dost thou mean ?

Iago. Good name, in man, and woman, dear my lord,

Is the immediate jewel of their souls :

Who steals my purse, steals trash ; 'tis something, nothing ;

'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands ;

But he, that filches from me my good name, Robs me of that, which not enriches him, And makes me poor indeed.

Oth. By heaven, I'll know thy thought.

Iago. You cannot, if my heart were in your hand ;

Nor shall not, whilst 'tis in my custody.

Oth. Ha !

Iago. O, beware, my lord, of jealousy ;

It is the green-ey'd monster, which doth mock The meat it feeds on : That cuckold lives in

bliss, [er ; Who, certain of his fate, loves not his wrong-

But, O, what damned minutes tells he o'er Who dotes, yet doubts ; suspects, yet strongly

loves !

Oth. O misery !

Iago. Poor, and content, is rich, and rich enough ;

But riches, fineless,‡ is as poor as winter, To him that ever fears he shall be poor :—

Good heaven, the souls of all my tribe defend From jealousy !

Oth. Why ? why is this ?

Think'st thou, I'd make a life of jealousy, To follow still the changes of the moon

With fresh suspicions ? No : to be once in doubt, [goat,

Is—once to be resolv'd : Exchange me for a When I shall turn the business of my soul

To such exsufflicate and blown surmises, Matching thy inference. 'Tis not to make me

jealous, [pany.

To say—my wife is fair, feeds well, loves com- Is free of speech, sings, plays, and dances

well ;

Where virtue is, these are more virtuous :*

Nor from mine own weak merits will I draw

The smallest fear, or doubt of her revolt ;

For she had eyes, and chose me : No, Iago ;

I'll see, before I doubt ; when I doubt, prove :

And, on the proof, there is no more but Away at once with love, or jealousy. [this,—

Iago. I am glad of this, for now I shall have reason

To show the love and duty that I bear you

With franker spirit : therefore, as I am bound,

Receive it from me :—I speak not yet of proof.

Look to your wife ; observe her well with Cas- sio ;

Wear your eye—thus, not jealous, nor secure : I would not have your free and noble nature,

Out of self-bounty, be abus'd ; look to't :

I know our country disposition well ;

In Venice they do let heaven see the pranks

They dare not show their husbands ; their best conscience

Is—not to leave undone, but keep unknown.

Oth. Dost thou say so ?

Iago. She did deceive her father, marrying you ;

And, when she seem'd to shake, and fear your looks,

She lov'd them most.

Oth. And so she did.

Iago. Why, go to, then ;

She that, so young, could give out such a seeming,†

To seel‡ her father's eyes up, close as oak,— He thought, 'twas witchcraft :—But I am much

to blame ;

I humbly do beseech you of your pardon,

For too much loving you.

Oth. I am bound to thee for ever.

Iago. I see, this hath a little dash'd your spirits.

Oth. Not a jot, not a jot.

Iago. Trust me, I fear it has.

I hope, you will consider, what is spoke

Comes from my love ;—But, I do see you are mov'd :—

I am to pray you, not to strain my speech

To grosser issues,§ nor to larger reach,

Than to suspicion.

Oth. I will not.

Iago. Should you do so, my lord,

My speech should fall into such vile success

As my thoughts aim not at. Cassio's my worthy friend :—

My lord, I see you are mov'd.

Oth. No, not much mov'd :—

I do not think but Desdemona's honest.

Iago. Long live she so ! and long live you to think so !

Oth. And yet, how nature erring from itself,—

Iago. Ay, there's the point :—As, —to be bold with you,—

Not to affect many proposed matches,

Of her own clime, complexion, and degree ;

Whereto, we see, in all things nature tends :

Foh ! one may smell, in such, a will most rank.

Foul disproportion, thoughts unnatural.—

But pardon me ; I do not, in position,

Distinctly speak of her ; though I may fear,

Her will, recoiling to her better judgement,

May fall to match you with her country forms,

And (happily) repent.

* Courts of Enquiry. † Conjectures.

‡ Endless, unboundèd.

* "Which makes fair gifts fairer." † Appearance.
‡ An expression from falconry : to seel a hawk is to sew up his eye-lids.
§ Conclusions.

Oth. Farewell, farewell :
If more thou dost perceive, let me know more ;
Set on thy wife to observe : Leave me, Iago.

Iago. My lord, I take my leave. [*Going.*]

Oth. Why did I marry ?—This honest creature, doubtless,

Sees and knows more, much more, than he
Iago. My lord, I would, I might entreat your honour

To scan this thing no further ; leave it to time ;
And though it be fit that Cassio have his place,
(For, sure, he fills it up with great ability.)
Yet, if you please to hold him off awhile,
You shall by that perceive him and his means :
Note, if your lady strain his entertainment*
With any strong or vehement opportunity ;
Much will be seen in that. In the meantime,
Let me be thought too busy in my fears,
(As worthy cause I have, to fear—I am.)
And hold her free, I do beseech your honour.

Oth. Fear not my government.

Iago. I once more take my leave. [*Exit.*]

Oth. This fellow's of exceeding honesty.
And knows all qualities, with a learned spirit,
Of human dealings : If I do prove her haggard,†

Though that her jesses‡ were my dear heart-
I'd whistle her off, and let her down the wind,
To prey at fortune. Haply, for I am black ;
And have not those soft parts of conversation
That chamberers§ have :—Or, for I am declin'd

Into the vale of years ;—yet that's not much ;—
She's gone ; I am abus'd ; and my relief
Must be to loathe her. O curse of marriage,
That we can call these delicate creatures ours,
And not their appetites ! I had rather be a
toad,

And live upon the vapour of a dungeon,
Than keep a corner in the thing I love, [ones :
For others' uses. Yet, 'tis the plague of great
Prerogativ'd are they less than the base ;
'Tis destiny unshunnable, like death ;
Even then this forked plague is fated to us,
When we do quicken.¶ Desdemona comes :

Enter DESDEMONA, and EMILIA.

If she be false, O, then heaven mocks itself !—
I'll not believe it.

Des. How now, my dear Othello ?

Your dinner, and the generous islanders,
By you invited, do attend your presence.

Oth. I am to blame.

Des. Why is your speech so faint ? are you
not well ?

Oth. I have a pain upon my forehead here.

Des. Faith, that's with watching : 'twill
away again :

Let me but bind it hard, within this hour
It will be well.

Oth. Your napkin¶ is too little ;
[*He puts the Handkerchief from him, and it
drops.*]

Let it alone. Come, I'll go in with you.

Des. I am very sorry that you are not well
[*Exeunt OTH. and DES.*]

Emil. I am glad I have found this napkin ;
This was her first remembrance from the Moor :
My wayward husband hath a hundred times
Wo'd me to steal it : but she so loves the
token,

* Press hard his re-admission to his pay and office.

† A species of hawk, also a term of reproach applied to a wanton.

‡ Straps of leather by which a hawk is held on the fist.

§ Men of intrigue. ¶ When we begin to live.

¶ In the north of England and in Scotland this term for a handkerchief is still used.

(For he conjur'd her, she would ever keep it,)
That she reserves it evermore about her,
To kiss, and talk to. I'll have the work ta'en
And give it Iago : [out,
What he'll do with it, heaven knows, not I :
] nothing, but to please his fantasy.

Enter IAGO.

Iago. How now ! what do you here alone ?
Emil. Do not you chide ; I have a thing for
you.

Iago. A thing for me ?—It is a common thing,—
Emil. Ha !

Iago. To have a foolish wife.

Emil. O, is that all ? What will you give
me now

For that same handkerchief ?

Iago. What handkerchief ?

Emil. What handkerchief ?

Why, that the Moor first gave to Desdemona ;
That which so often you did bid me steal.

Iago. Hast stolen it from her ?

Emil. No, faith : she let it drop by negli-
gence ;

And, to the advantage, I being here, took't up.
Look, here it is.

Iago. A good wench : give it me.

Emil. What will you do with it, that you
have been so earnest

To have me filch it ?

Iago. Why, what's that to you ?
[*Snatching it.*]

Emil. If it be not for some purpose of im-
port,

Give it me again : Poor lady ! she'll run mad,
When she shall lack it.

Iago. Be not you known of't ;* I have use
for it.

Go, leave me. [*Exit EMILIA.*]

I will in Cassio's lodging lose this napkin,
And let him find it : Trilles, light as air,
Are, to the jealous, confirmation strong
As proofs of holy writ. This may do some-
thing.

The Moor already changes with my poison :—
Dangerous conceits are, in their natures, poi-
sons, [taste ;

Which, at the first are scarce, found to dis-
But, with a little act upon the blood, [so ;—
Burn like the mines of sulphur.—I did say

Enter OTHELLO.

Look where he comes ! Not poppy, nor man-
dragora,†

Nor all the drowsy syrups of the world,
Shall ever medicine thee to that sweet sleep
Which thou ow'd'st‡ yesterday.

Oth. Ha ! ha ! false to me ?

To me ?

Iago. Why, how now, general ! no more of
that.

Oth. Avaunt ! begone ! thou hast set me on
the rack :—

I swear, 'tis better to be much abus'd,
Than but to know't a little.

Iago. How now, my lord ?

Oth. What sense had I of her stolen hours of
lust ?

I saw it not, thought it not, it harm'd not me :
I slept the next night well, was free and
merry ;

I found not Cassio's kisses on her lips :
He that is robb'd, not wanting what is sto'en,
Let him not know it, and he's not robb'd at all.

Iago. I am sorry to hear this.

* Seem as if you knew nothing of the matter.

† The mandrake has a soporific quality.

‡ Possessed.

Oth. I had been happy, if the general camp,
Pioneers* and all, had tasted her sweet body,
So I had nothing known: O now, for ever,
Farewell the tranquil mind! farewell content!
Farewell the plumed troop, and the big wars,
That make ambition virtue! O, farewell!
Farewell the neighing steed, and the shrill
trump,

The spirit-stirring drum, the ear-piercing fife,
The royal banner; and all quality, [war!
Pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious
And O you mortal engines, whose rude throats
The immortal Jove's dread clamours counter-
feit,

Farewell! Othello's occupation's gone!

Iago. Is it possible:—My lord,—

Oth. Villain, be sure thou prove my love a
whore;

Be sure of it; give me the ocular proof;

[Taking him by the throat.

Or, by the worth of mine eternal soul,
Thou hadst been better have been born a dog,
Than answer my wak'd wrath.

Iago. Is it come to this?

Oth. Make me to see it; or (at the least) so
prove it,

That the approbation bear no hinge or loop,
To hang a doubt on: or, woe upon thy life!

Iago. My noble lord,—

Oth. If thou dost slander her, and torture
Never pray more: abandon all remorse, † [me,
On horror's head horrors accumulate:
Do deeds to make heaven weep, all earth
amaz'd,

For nothing canst thou do damnation add,
Greater than that.

Iago. O grace! O heaven defend me!

Are you a man? have you a soul, or sense?—
God be wi' you: take mine office.—O wretched
fool,

That liv'st to make thine honesty a vice!—
O monstrous world! Take note, take note, O
world,

To be direct and honest, is not safe.—
I thank you for this profit; and, from hence,
I'll love no friend, since love breeds such of-
fence.

Oth. Nay, stay:—Thou shouldst be honest.

Iago. I should be wise: for honesty's a fool,
And loses that it works for.

Oth. By the world, [not;
I think my wife be honest, and think she is
I think that thou art just and think thou art
not; [fresh

I'll have some proof: Her name, that was as
As Dian's visage, is now begrin'd and black
As mine own face.—If there be cords, or
knives,

Poison, or fire, or suffocating streams,
I'll not endure it.—Would, I were satisfied!

Iago. I see, sir, you are eaten up with pas-
I do repent me, that I put it to you. [sion:
You would be satisfied!

Oth. Would? nay, I will.

Iago. And may: but, how? how satisfied,
my lord?

Would you, the supervisor, grossly gape on?
Behold her tupp'd!

Oth. Death and damnation! O!

Iago. It were a tedious difficulty, I think,
To bring them to that prospect: Damn them!
If ever mortal eyes do see them bolster, [then,
More than their own! What then? how then?
What shall I say? Where's satisfaction?

It is impossible, you should see this,
Were they as prime as goats, as hot as monkeys,
As salt as wolves in pride, and fools as gross
As ignorance made drunk. But yet, I say,
If imputation, and strong circumstances,—
Which lead directly to the door of truth,—
Will give you satisfaction, you may have it.

Oth. Give me a living* reason she's disloyal.

Iago. I do not like the office:

But, sith I am enter'd in this cause so far,—
Prick'd to it by foolish honesty and love,—
I will go on. I lay with Cassio lately;
And, being troubled with a raging tooth,
I could not sleep.

There are a kind of men so loose of soul,
That in their sleeps will mutter their affairs;
One of this kind is Cassio:

In sleep I heard him say,—Sweet *Desdemona*,
Let us be wary, let us hide our loves! [hand.

And then, Sir, would he gripe, and wring my
Cry,—O, sweet creature! and then kiss me
As if he pluck'd up kisses by the roots, [hard,
That grew upon my lips: then laid his leg
Over my thigh, and sigh'd, and kiss'd; and
then [Moor!

Cried,—Cursed fate! that gave thee to the
Oth. O monstrous! monstrous!

Iago. Nay, this was but his dream.

Oth. But this denoted a foregone conclusion;
'Tis a shrewd doubt, though it be but a dream.

Iago. And this may help to thicken other
That do demonstrate thinly. [proofs,

Oth. I'll tear her all to pieces.

Iago. Nay, but be wise: yet we see nothing
done:

She may be honest yet. Tell me but this,—
Have you not sometimes seen a handkerchief,
Spotted with strawberries, in your wife's hand?

Oth. I gave her such a one; 'twas my first
gift.

Iago. I know not that: but such a handker-
chief,

(I am sure it was your wife's) did I to-day

See Cassio wipe his beard with.

Oth. If it be that,—

Iago. If it be that, or any that was hers,
It speaks against her with the other proofs.

Oth. O, that the slave had forty thousand
lives:

One is too poor, too weak for my revenge!

Now do I see 'tis true.—Look here, *Iago*;
All my fond love thus I do blow to heaven:
'Tis gone.—

Arise, black vengeance, from thy hollow cell!
Yield up, O love, thy crown, and hearted
throne, † [fraught, §

To tyrannous hate! swell, bosom, with thy
For 'tis of aspic's tongues!

Iago. Pray, be content.

Oth. O, blood, *Iago*, blood!

Iago. Patience, I say; your mind, perhaps,
may change.

Oth. Never, *Iago*. Like to the Pontic sea,
Whose icy current and compulsive course
Ne'er feels retiring ebb, but keeps due on
To the Propontic, and the Hellespont:

Even so my bloody thoughts, with violent
pace, [love,

Shall ne'er look back, ne'er ebb to humble
Till that a capable § and wide revenge

Swallow them up.—Now, by yond' marble
heaven,

In the due reverence of a sacred vow [Kneels.
I here engage my words.

* Speaking, manifest.

† Since.

‡ The heart on which thou wast enthroned.

§ Freight, load.

|| Capacious.

* The vilest of the camp. Pioneers were generally de-
graded soldiers.

† All tenderness all pity.

Iago. Do not rise yet.— [Kneels.]
Witness, you ever-burning lights above!
You elements that clip* us round about!
Witness, that here Iago doth give up
The execution of his wit, hands, heart,
To wrong'd Othello's service! let him com-
mand,

And to obey shall be in me remorse,†
What bloody work soever.

Oth. I greet thy love,
Not with vain thanks, but with acceptance
bounteous,

And will upon the instant put thee to't:
Within these three days let me hear thee say,
That Cassio's not alive.

Iago. My friend is dead; 'tis done, at your
But let her live. [request:]

Oth. Damn her, lewd minx! O, damn her!
Come, go with me apart; I will withdraw,
To furnish me with some swift means of death
For the fair devil. Now art thou my lieutenant.

Iago. I am your own for ever. [Exit.]

SCENE IV.—The same.

Enter DESDEMONA, EMILIA, and CLOWN.

Des. Do you know, Sirrah, where lieutenant
Cassio lies?

Clow. I dare not say, he lies any where.

Des. Why, man?

Clow. He is a soldier; and for me to say a
soldier lies, is stabbing.

Des. Go to; where lodges he?

Clow. To tell you where he lodges, is to tell
you where I lie.

Des. Can any thing be made of this?

Clow. I know not where he lodges; and for
me to devise a lodging, and say—he lies here,
or he lies there, were to lie in my own throat.

Des. Can you inquire him out, and be ed-
fied by report?

Clow. I will chastise the world for him; that
is, make questions, and by them answer.

Des. Seek him, bid him come hither: tell
him, I have moved my lord in his behalf, and
hope all will be well.

Clow. To do this, is within the compass of
man's wit; and therefore I will attempt the
doing it. [Exit.]

Des. Where should I lose that handkerchief,
Emilia?

Emil. I know not, madam.

Des. Believe me, I had rather have lost my
purse

Full of crusadoes.‡ And, but my noble Moor
Is true of mind, and made of no such baseness
As jealous creatures are, it were enough
To put him to ill-thinking.

Emil. Is he not jealous?

Des. Who, he? I think, the sun, where he
was born,

Drew all such humours from him.

Emil. Look, where he comes,

Des. I will not leave him now, till Cassio
Be call'd to him.—How is't with you, my lord?

Enter OTHELLO.

Oth. Well, my good lady.—[Aside.] O,
hardness to dissemble!—

How do you do, Desdemona?

Des. Well, my good lord.

Oth. Give me your hand: This hand is moist,
my lady.

Des. It yet has felt no age, nor known no
sorrow.

Oth. This argues fruitfulness, and liberal
heart:— [quires]

Hot, hot, and moist: This hand of yours re-
A sequester from liberty, fasting and prayer,
Much castigation,* exercise devout;
For here's a young and sweating devil here,
That commonly rebels. 'Tis a good hand,
A frank one.

Des. You may, indeed, say so;
For 'twas that hand that gave away my heart.

Oth. A liberal hand: The hearts of old gave
hands;

But our new heraldry is—hands, not hearts.

Des. I cannot speak of this. Come now, your
promise.

Oth. What promise, chuck?

Des. I have sent to bid Cassio come speak
with you.

Oth. I have a salt and sullen rheum offends
Lend me thy handkerchief. [me;

Des. Here, my lord.

Oth. That which I gave you.

Des. I have it not about me.

Oth. Not?

Des. No, indeed, my lord.

Oth. That is a fault;

That kandkerchief

Did an Egyptian to my mother give;

She was a charmer,† and could almost read

The thoughts of people: she told her, while
she kept it, [ther

'Twould make her amiable, and subdue my fa-
Entirely to her love: but if she lost it,

Or made a gift of it, my father's eye [hunt
Should hold her loathly, and his spirits should

After new fancies: She, dying, gave it me;
And bid me, when my fate would have me

wive,

To give it her. I did so: and take heed of't,
Make it a darling like your precious eye;

To lose or give't away, were such perdition,
As nothing else could match.

Des. Is it possible?

Oth. 'Tis true, there's magic in the web of it:
A sibyl, that had number'd in the compass

The sun to make two hundred compasses,

In her prophetic fury sew'd the work:

The worms were hallow'd, that did breed the
silk;

And it was died in mummy, which the skilful
Conseiv'd of maidens' hearts.

Des. Indeed! is't true?

Oth. Most veritable; therefore look to't well.

Des. Then 'would to heaven that I had never
seen it.

Oth. Ha! wherefore?

Des. Why do you speak so startingly and
rashly?‡

Oth. Is't lost? is't gone? speak, is it out of
the way?

Des. Heaven bless us!

Oth. Say you?

Des. It is not lost; But what an if it were?

Oth. Ha!

Des. I say, it is not lost.

Oth. Fetch't let me see it.

Des. Why, so I can, Sir, but I will not now;
This is a trick, to put me from my suit;

I pray, let Cassio be receiv'd again.

Oth. Fetch me that handkerchief; my mind
misgives.

Des. Come, come;

You'll never meet a more sufficient man.

† Not of malice to others, but of tenderness for him.

‡ A Portuguese coin.

* Penance, discipline.

† Enchantress.

‡ Vehement, violent.

Oth. The handkerchief, —
Des. I pray, talk me of Cassio.
Oth. The handkerchief, —
Des. A man that, all his time,
 Hath founded his good fortune on your love;
 Shar'd dangers with you; —
Oth. The handkerchief, —
Des. In sooth,
 You are to blame.
Oth. Away! [Exit OTHELLO.
Emil. Is not this man jealous?
Des. I ne'er saw this before.
 Sure, there's some wonder in this handkerchief:
 I am most unhappy in the loss of it.
Emil. 'Tis not a year or two shows us a man:
 They are all but stomachs, and we all but food;
 They eat us hungrily, and when they are full,
 They belch us. Look you! Cassio, and my
 husband.

Enter IAGO and CASSIO.

Iago. There is no other way; 'tis she must
 do't; [her.
 And, lo, the happiness! go, and importune
Des. How now, good Cassio? what's the
 news with you?
Cas. Madam, my former suit; I do beseech
 you,
 That, by your virtuous means, I may again
 Exist, and be a member of his love,
 Whom I, with all the duty of my heart,
 Entirely honour; I would not be delay'd:
 If my offence be of such mortal kind,
 That neither service past, nor present sorrows,
 Nor purpos'd merit in futurity,
 Can ransom me into his love again,
 But to know so must be my benefit;
 So shall I clothe me in a forc'd content,
 And shut myself up in some other course,
 To fortune's alms.
Des. Alas! thrice-gentle Cassio,
 My advocacy is not now in tune;
 My lord is not my lord; nor should I know him,
 Were he in favour,* as in humour, alter'd.
 So help me, every spirit sanctified,
 As I have spoken for you all my best;
 And stood within the blank of his displeasure,
 For my free speech! You must awhile be
 patient:
 What I can do, I will; and more I will,
 Than for myself I dare: let that suffice you.
Iago. Is my lord angry?
Emil. He went hence but now,
 And, certainly, in strange unquietness.
Iago. Can he be angry? I have seen the can-
 non,
 When it hath blown his ranks into the air;
 And, like the devil, from his very arm
 Puff'd his own brother;—And can he be an-
 gry? [him;
 Something of moment, then: I will go meet
 There's matter in't indeed, if he be angry.
Des. I pry'thee, do so.—Something, sure, of
 state, — [Exit IAGO.
 Either from Venice; or some unhatch'd prac-
 tice, †
 Made demonstrable here in Cyprus to him,—
 Hath puddled his clear spirit: and, in such
 cases,
 Men's natures wrangle with inferior things,
 Though great ones are their object. 'Tis even
 For let our finger ache, and it endues [so;
 Our other healthful members ev'n to that
 sense

Of pain: Nay, we must think, men are not
 Nor of them look for such observances [gods;
 As fit the bridal. †—Beshrew me much, Emilia,
 I was (unhandsome warrior as I am,)
 Arraigning his unkindness with my soul;
 But now I find, I had suborn'd the witness,
 And he's indited falsely.

Emil. Pray heaven, it be state matters, as
 you think;
 And no conception, nor no jealous toy,
 Concerning you.

Des. Alas, the day! I never gave him cause.

Emil. But jealous souls will not be answer'd
 so;

They are not ever jealous for the cause,
 But jealous for they are jealous: 'tis a monster,
 Begot upon itself, born on itself.

Des. Heaven keep that monster from Othel-
 lo's mind!

Emil. Lady, amen.

Des. I will go seek him.—Cassio walk here-
 about:

If I do find him fit, I'll move your suit,
 And seek to effect it to my uttermost.

Cas. I humbly thank your ladyship.

[Exit DESDEMONA and EMILIA.]

Enter BIANCA.

Bian. Save you, friend Cassio!

Cas. What make you from home?

How is it with you, my most fair Bianca?

I'faith, sweet love, I was coming to your
 house.

Bian. And I was going to your lodging,
 Cassio. [nights;

What! keep a week away? seven days and
 Eight score eight hours? and lovers' absent
 hours,

More tedious than the dial eight score times?
 O weary reckoning!

Cas. Pardon me, Bianca; [press'd;
 I have this while with leaden thoughts been
 But I shall, in a more consecutive time, †
 Strike off this score of absence. Sweet Bianca,

[Giving her DESDEMONA'S Handkerchief.]

Take me this work out. †

Bian. O, Cassio, whence came this?

This is some token from a newer friend.

To the felt absence now I feel a cause:

Is it come to this? Well, well.

Cas. Woman, go to!

Throw your vile guesses in the devil's teeth,
 From whence you have them. You are jealous

now, [brance:

That this is from some mistress, some remem-
 No, in good troth, Bianca is.

Bian. Why, whose is it?

Cas. I know not, sweet: I found it in my
 chamber.

I like the work well; ere it be demanded,
 (As like enough, it will,) I'd have it copied:

Take it, and do't; and leave me for this time.

Bian. Leave you! wherefore?

Cas. I do attend here on the general;
 And think it no addition, nor my wish,
 To have him see me woman'd.

Bian. Why, I pray you?

Cas. Not that I love you not.

Bian. But that you do not love me.
 I pray you, bring me on the way a little;

And say, if I shall see you soon at night.

Cas. 'Tis but a little way, that I can bring
 you,

For I attend here: but I'll see you soon.

* In countenance.

† Within the shot of his anger.

‡ Treason.

* The nuptial feast.

† Time less interrupted.

‡ The meaning is not, pick out the work, but, copy this
 work in another handkerchief.

Bian. 'Tis very good: I must be circum-
stanc'd. [Exit.]

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—The same.

Enter OTHELLO and IAGO.

Iago. Will you think so?

Oth. Think so, Iago?

Iago. What,
To kiss in private?

Oth. An unauthoriz'd kiss.

Iago. Or to be naked with her friend abed,
An hour or more, not meaning any harm?

Oth. Naked abed, Iago, and not mean harm?
It is hypocrisy against the devil:
They that mean virtuously, and yet do so,
The devil their virtue tempts, and they tempt
heaven.

Iago. So they do nothing, 'tis a venial slip:
But if I give my wife a handkerchief,—

Oth. What then?

Iago. Why then 'tis hers, my lord; and, be-
ing hers,
She may, I think, bestow't on any man.

Oth. She is protectress of her honour too;
May she give that?

Iago. Her honour is an essence that's not
seen;

They have it very oft, that have it not:

But, for the handkerchief,—

Oth. By heaven, I would most gladly have
forgot it;—

Thou said'st, O, it comes o'er my memory,
As doth the raven o'er the infected house,
Boding to all,*—he had my handkerchief.

Iago. Ay, what of that?

Oth. That's not so good, now.

Iago. What, if I had said, I had seen him do
you wrong?

Or heard him say,—As knaves be such abroad,
Who having, by their own importunate suit,
Or voluntary dotage of some mistress,
Convinced or supplied† them, cannot choose
But they must blab—

Oth. Hath he said any thing?

Iago. He hath, my lord; but be you well as-
No more than he'll unswear. [sur'd,

Oth. What hath he said?

Iago. 'Faith, that he did,—I know not what
he did.

Oth. What? what?

Iago. Lie—

Oth. With her?

Iago. With her, on her; what you will.

Oth. Lie with her! lie on her!—We say, lie
on her, when they belie her: Lie with her!
that's fulsome.—[Handkerchief,—confessions,
—handkerchief.—To confess, and be hanged
for his labour.†—First to be hanged, and then
to confess:—I tremble at it. Nature would
not invest herself in such shadowing passion,
without some instruction. It is not words,
that shake me thus:—Pish!—Noses, ears, and
lips:—Is it possible?—Confess!—Handker-
chief!—O devil!— [Falls in a Trance.

Iago. Work on,

My medicine, work! Thus credulous fools
are caught;

And many worthy and chaste dames, even thus,
All guiltless meet reproach.—What, ho! my
lord!

Enter CASSIO.

My lord, I say! Othello!—How now, Cassio!

Cas. What is the matter?

Iago. My lord is fallen into an epilepsy;
This is his second fit; he had one yesterday.

Cas. Rub him about the temples.

Iago. No, forbear:

The lethargy must have his quiet course:
If not, he foams at mouth; and, by and by,
Breaks out to savage madness. Look he stirs:
Do you withdraw yourself a little while,
He will recover straight; when he is gone,
I would on great occasion speak with you,—

[Exit CASSIO.]

How is it, general? have you not hurt your
head?

Oth. Dost thou mock me?

Iago. I mock you! no, by heaven: [man-
'Would, you would bear your fortunes like a

Oth. A horned man's a monster, and a beast.

Iago. There's many a beast then in a popu-
lous city,
And many a civil monster.

Oth. Did he confess it?

Iago. Good Sir, be a man;
Think, every bearded fellow, that's but yok'd,
May draw with you: there's millions now
alive,

That nightly lie in those unproper* beds,
Which they dare swear peculiar; your case is
better.

O, 'tis the spite of hell, the fiend's arch-mock,
To lip a wanton in a secure couch,
And to suppose her chaste! No, let me know:
And, knowing what I am, I know what she
shall be.

Oth. O, thou art wise; 'tis certain,

Iago. Stand you awhile apart;
Confine yourself but in a patient list.†
Whilst you were here, ere while mad with
your grief,

(A passion most unsuited such a man,)
Cassio came hither: I shifted him away,
And laid good 'scuse upon your ecstasy;
Bade him anon return, and here speak with
me; [self,

The which he promis'd. Do but encave† your-
And mark the fliers, the gibes, and notable
scorns,

That dwell in every region of his face;
For I will make him tell the tale anew,—
Where, how, how oft, how long ago, and
when

He hath, and is again to cope your wife;
I say, but mark his gesture. Marry, patience;
Or I shall say, you are all in all in spleen,
And nothing of a man.

Oth. Dost thou hear, Iago?

I will be found most cunning in my patience:
But (dost thou hear?) most bloody.

Iago. That's not amiss;

But yet keep time in all. Will you withdraw;
[OTHELLO withdraws]

Now will I question Cassio of Bianca,
A housewife, that, by selling her desires,
Buys herself bread and clothes: it is a creature,
That dotes on Cassio,—as 'tis the strumpet's
plague,

To beguile many, and be beguil'd by one;
He, when he hears of her, cannot refrain
From the excess of laughter:—Here he
comes:—

Re-enter CASSIO.

As he shall smile, Othello shall go mad;

* The raven was thought to be a constant attendant on
a house infected with the plague.

† Old spelling of supplied, i. e. softened.

‡ A proverbial saying.

* Common. † Within the bounds of patience. ‡ Hide

And his unbookish* jealousy must construe
 Poor Cassio's smiles, gestures, and light be-
 haviour [tenant?

Quite in the wrong.—How do you now, lieu-
 Cas. The worse, that you give me the addi-
 Whose want even kills me. [tion.†

Iago. Ply Desdemona well, and you are
 sure o' it.

Now, if this suit lay in Bianca's power,
 [Speaking lower.

How quickly should you speed?
 Cas. Alas, poor caitiff!

Oth. Look, how he laughs already! [Aside.

Iago. I never knew a woman love man so.

Cas. Alas, poor rogue! I think i'faith she
 loves me.

Oth. Now he denies it faintly, and laughs it
 out. [Aside.

Iago. Do you hear, Cassio?

Oth. Now he importunes him

To tell it o'er: Go to; well said, well said.
 [Aside.

Iago. She gives it out, that you shall marry
 Do you intend it? [her:

Cas. Ha, ha, ha!

Oth. Do you triumph, Roman? do you tri-
 umph? [Aside.

Cas. I marry her!—what? a customer!† I
 prythee, bear some charity to my wit; do not
 think it so unwholesome. Ha, ha, ha!

Oth. So, so, so, so; they laugh that win.
 [Aside.

Iago. 'Faith, the cry goes, that you shall
 marry her.

Cas. Prythee, say true.

Iago. I am a very villain else.

Oth. Have you scored me? Well. [Aside.

Cas. This is the monkey's own giving out:
 she is pers'aded I will marry her, out of her
 own love and flattery, not out of my promise.

Oth. Iago, beckons me; now he begins the
 story. [Aside.

Cas. She was here even now; she haunts me
 in every place. I was, the other day, talking
 on the sea-bank with certain Venetians; and
 thither comes this bauble; by this hand, she
 falls thus about my neck;—

Oth. Crying, O dear Cassio! as it were: his
 gesture imports it. [Aside.

Cas. So hangs, and lolls, and weeps upon
 me; so hales, and pulls me: ha, ha, ha!—

Oth. Now he tells, how she pluck'd him to
 my chamber: O, I see that nose of yours, but
 not that dog I shall throw it to. [Aside.

Cas. Well, I must leave her company.

Iago. Before me! look where she comes.

Enter BIANCA.

Cas. 'Tis such another fitchew!‡ marry, a
 perfumed one—What do you mean by this
 haunting of me?

Bian. Let the devil and his dam haunt you!
 What did you mean by that same handker-
 chief, you gave me even now? I was a fine
 fool to take it. I must take out the whole
 work?—A likely piece of work, that you should
 find it in your chamber, and not know who left
 it there! This is some minx's token, and I
 must take out the work? There.—give it your
 hobby-horse: wheresoever you had it, I'll take
 out no work on't.

Cas. How now, my sweet Bianca? how now?
 how now?

Oth. By heaven, that should be my handker-
 chief! [Aside.

Bian. An you'll come to supper to-night, you
 may: an you will not, come when you are next
 prepared for. [Exit.

Iago. After her, after her.

Cas. 'Faith I must, she'll rail in the streets
 else.

Iago. Will you sup there?

Cas. 'Faith, I intend so.

Iago. Well, I may chance to see you; for I
 would very fain speak with you.

Cas. Prythee, come; Will you?

Iago. Go to; say no more. [Exit CASSIO.

Oth. How shall I murder him, Iago?

Iago. Did you perceive how he laughed at
 his vice?

Oth. O, Iago!

Iago. And did you see the handkerchief?

Oth. Was that mine?

Iago. Yours, by this hand: and to see how
 he prizes the foolish woman, your wife! she
 gave it to him, and he hath given it his whore.

Oth. I would have him nine years a kill-
 ing:—A fine woman! a fair woman! a sweet
 woman!

Iago. Nay you must forget that.

Oth. Ay, let her rot, and perish, and be
 damned to-night; for she shall not live: No,
 my heart is turned to stone; I strike it, and it
 hurts my hand. O, the world hath not a
 sweeter creature: she might lie by an empe-
 ror's side, and command him tasks.

Iago. Nay, that's not your way.

Oth. Hang her! I do but say what she is:—
 So delicate with her needle!—An admirable
 musician! O, she will sing the savageness out
 of a bear!—Of so high and plenteous wit and
 invention!—

Iago. She's the worse for all this.

Oth. O, a thousand, a thousand times:—
 And then of so gentle a condition!*

Iago. Ay, too gentle.

Oth. Nay, that's certain: But yet the pity
 of it, Iago!—O, Iago, the pity of it, Iago!

Iago. If you are so fond over her iniquity,
 give her patent to offend; for, if it touch not
 you, it comes near nobody.

Oth. I will chop her into messes:—Cuckold
 me!

Iago. O, 'tis foul of her.

Oth. With mine officer!

Iago. That's fouler.

Oth. Get me some poison, Iago; this night:
 —I'll not expostulate with her, lest her body
 and beauty unprovide my mind again; this
 night, Iago.

Iago. Do it not with poison, strangle her in
 her bed, even the bed she bath contaminated.

Oth. Good, good: the justice of it pleases:
 very good.

Iago. And, for Cassio,—let me be his under-
 taker: You shall hear more by midnight.

[A Trumpet within.

Oth. Excellent good.—What trumpet is that
 same?

Iago. Something from Venice, sure. 'Tis
 Lodovico,

Come from the duke: and, see, your wife is
 with him.

Enter LODOVICO, DESDEMONA, and Attendants.

Lod. 'Save you, worthy general!

Oth. With all my heart, Sir.

Lod. The duke and senators of Venice greet
 you. [Gives him a Packet.

* Ignorant.

† Title of lieutenant.

‡ A common woman.

§ A pole-cat.

* Of so sweet a disposition.

Oth. I kiss the instrument of their pleasures.

[Opens the Packet and reads.

Des. And what's the news, good cousin Lodovico?

Iago. I am very glad to see you, signior; Welcome to Cyprus.

Lod. I thank you: How does lieutenant Cassio?

Iago. Lives, Sir.

Des. Cousin, there's fallen between him and my lord

An unkind breach: but you shall make all well.

Oth. Are you sure of that?

Des. My lord?

Oth. This fail you not to do, as you will—

[Reads.

Lod. He did not call; he's busy in the paper; Is there division 'twixt thy lord and Cassio?

Des. A most unhappy one; I would do much

To atone* them, for the love I bear to Cassio.

Oth. Fire and brimstone!

Des. My lord?

Oth. Are you wise?

Des. What, is he angry?

Lod. May be, the letter mov'd him;

For, as I think, they do command him home, Deputing Cassio in his government.

Des. By my troth, I am glad on't.

Oth. Indeed.

Des. My lord?

Oth. I am glad to see you mad.

Des. How, sweet Othello?

Oth. Devil!

[Striking her.

Des. I have not deserved this.

Lod. My lord, this would not be believ'd in Venice,

Though I should swear I saw it: 'Tis very Make her amends, she weeps. [much:

Oth. O devil, devil!

[tears,

If that the earth could teem with woman's Each drop she falls would prove a crocodile:— Out of my sight!

Des. I will not stay to offend you. [Going.

Lod. Truly, an obedient lady:—

I do beseech your lordship, call her back.

Oth. Mistress,—

Des. My lord?

Oth. What would you with her, Sir?

Lod. Who, I my lord?

Oth. Ay: you did wish, that I would make her turn:

Sir, she can turn, and turn, and yet go on, And turn again; and she can weep, Sir, weep: And she's obedient, as you say.—obedient,— Very obedient;—Proceed you in your tears.— Concerning this, Sir,—O well painted passion! I am commanded home:—Get you away; I'll send for you anon.—Sir, I obey the mandate,

And will return to Venice;—Hence, avaunt!

[Exit DESDEMONA.

Cassio shall have my place. And,—Sir, tonight,

I do entreat that we may sup together.

You are welcome, Sir, to Cyprus.—Goats, and monkies! [Exit.

Lod. Is this the noble Moor whom our full seuate

Call—all-in-all sufficient?—This the noble name Whom passion could not shake? whose solid virtue

The shot of accident, nor dart of chance, Could neither graze, nor pierce?

Iago. He is much chang'd.

Lod. Are his wits safe? is he not light of brain?

Iago. He is that he is; I may not breathe my censure.

What he might be,—if, what he might, he is I would to heaven, he were. [not,—

Lod. What, strike his wife!

Iago. Faith, that was not so well; Yet 'would I knew,

That stroke would prove the worst.

Lod. Is it his use?

Or did the letters work upon his blood, And new-create this fault!

Iago. Alas, alas!

It is not honesty in me to speak

What I have seen and known. You shall observe him;

And his own courses will denote him so, That I may save my speech: Do but go after, And mark how he continues.

Lod. I am sorry, that I am deceiv'd in him. [Exit.

SCENE II.—A Room in the Castle.

Enter OTHELLO and EMILIA.

Oth. You have seen nothing then?

Emil. Nor ever heard: nor ever did suspect.

Oth. Yes, you have seen Cassio and she together.

Emil. But then I saw no harm: and then I heard [them.

Each syllable, that breath made up between Oth. What, did they never whisper?

Emil. Never, my lord.

Oth. Nor send you out of the way?

Emil. Never.

Oth. To fetch her fan, her gloves, her mask, nor nothing?

Emil. Never, my lord.

Oth. That's strange.

Emil. I durst, my lord, to wager she is honest, [other,

Lay down my soul at stake: if you think Remove your thought; it doth abuse your bosom.

If any wretch hath put this in your head Let heaven requite it with the serpent's curse!

For, if she be not honest, chaste, and true, There's no man happy; the purest of their Is foul as slander. [wives

Oth. Bid her come hither:—go—

[Exit EMILIA.

She says enough:—yet she's a simple bawd, That cannot say as much. This is a subtle whore,

A closet-lock-and-key of villanous secrets: And yet she'll kneel, and pray; I have seen her do't.

Re-enter EMILIA with DESDEMONA.

Des. My lord, what is your will?

Oth. Pray, chuck, come hither.

Des. What is your pleasure?

Oth. Let me see your eyes; Look in my face.

Des. What horrible fancy's this?

Oth. Some of your function, mistress;

[To EMILIA.

Leave procreants alone, and shut the door; Cough, or cry—heem, if any body come: Your mystery, your mystery;—nay, despatch.

[Exit EMILIA.

Des. Upon my knees, what doth your speech import?

I understand a fury in your words, But not the words.

Oth. Why, what art thou ?

Des. Your wife, my lord ; your true
And loyal wife.

Oth. Come, swear it. damn thyself ;
Lest, being like one of heaven, the devils
themselves

Should fear to seize thee : therefore be double-
Swear—thou art honest. [damn'd.

Des. Heaven doth truly know it.

Oth. Heaven truly knows, that thou art false
as hell.

Des. To whom, my lord ? with whom ? How
am I false ?

Oth. O Desdemona !—away ! away ! away !

Des. Alas, the heavy day !—Why do you
weep ?

Am I the occasion of these tears, my lord ?
If, haply, you my father do suspect,
An instrument of this your calling back,
Lay not your blame on me ; if you have lost
Why, I have lost him too. [him,

Oth. Had it pleas'd heaven
To try me with affliction ; had he rain'd
All kinds of sores, and shames, on my bear
head ;

Steep'd me in poverty to the very lips ;
Given to captivity me and my utmost hopes ;
I should have found in some part of my soul
A drop of patience : but (alas !) to make me
A fixed figure, for the time of scorn
To point his slow unmoving finger at,—
O ! O !

Yet could I bear that too ; well, very well :
But there, where I have garner'd* up my heart ;
Where either I must rive, or bear no life ;
The fountain from the which my current runs,
Or else dries up ; to be discarded thence !
Or keep it as a cistern, for foul toads
To knot the gender in !—turn thy complexion
there ! [him ;

Patience, thou young and rose-lipp'd cheru-
Ay, there, look grim as hell !

Des. I hope, my noble lord esteems me hon-
nest.

Oth. O, ay ; as summer flies are in the sham-
bles,

That quicken even with blowing. O thou weed,
Who art so lovely fair, and smell'st so sweet,
That the sense aches at thee.—'Would, thou
had'st ne'er been born !

Des. Alas, what ignorant sin have I commit-
ted ?

Oth. Was this fair paper, this most goodly
book, [ted :

Made to write whore upon ? What commit-
Committed !—O thou public commoner !
I should make very forges of my cheeks,
That would to cinders burn up modesty,
Did I but speak thy deeds.—What committed !
Heaven stinks the nose at it, and the moon
winks ;

The bawdy wind, that kisses all it meets,
Is hush'd within the hollow mine of earth,
And will not hear it : What committed !
Impudent strumpet !

Des. By heaven, you do me wrong.

Oth. Are not you a strumpet ?

Des. No, as I am a Christian :

If to preserve this vessel for my lord,
From any other foul unlawful touch,
Be—not to be a strumpet, I am none.

Oth. What, not a whore ?

Des. No, as I shall be saved.

Oth. Is it possible ?

Des. O, heaven forgive us !

Oth. I cry you mercy, then ;
I took you for that cunning whore of Venice,
That married with Othello.—You, mistress,

Re-enter EMILIA.

That have the office opposite to Saint Peter,
And keep the gate of hell ; You ! you ! ay,
you !

We have done our course ; there's money for
your pains ;

I pray you, turn the key, and keep our coun-
sel. [Exit.

Emil. Alas, what does this gentleman con-
ceive ?— [lady ?

How do you, madam ? how do you, my good

Des. Faith, half asleep.

Emil. Good madam, what's the matter with
my lord ?

Des. With who ?

Emil. Why, with my lord, madam.

Des. Who is thy lord ?

Emil. He that is yours, sweet lady.

Des. I have none : Do not talk to me, Emi-
lia ;

I cannot weep ; nor answer I have none,
But what should go by water. Pr'ythee, to-
night

Lay on my bed my wedding sheets,—remem-
And call thy husband hither. [ber ;—

Emil. Here is a change, indeed ! [Exit.

Des. 'Tis meet I should be us'd so, very
meet.

How have I been behav'd, that he might stick
The small'st opinion on my great'st abuse ?

Re-enter EMILIA with IAGO.

Iago. What is your pleasure, madam ? How
is it with you ?

Des. I cannot tell. Those, that do teach
young babes,

Do it with gentle means, and easy tasks :
He might have chid me so ; for, in good faith,
I am a child to chiding.

Iago. What's the matter, lady ?

Emil. Alas, Iago, my lord hath so bewhor'd
her,

Thrown such despite and heavy terms upon
As true hearts cannot bear. [her,

Des. Am I that name, Iago ?

Iago. What name, fair lady ?

Des. Such as, she says, my lord did say I
was.

Emil. He call'd her, whore ; a beggar, in his
drink,

Could not have laid such terms upon his callet.*
Iago. Why did he so ?

Des. I do not know ; I am sure, I am none
such.

Iago. Do not weep, do not weep ; Alas, the
day !

Emil. Has she forsook so many noble
matches,

Her father, and her country, and her friends,
To be call'd whore ? would it not make one
weep ?

Des. It is my wretched fortune.

Iago. Beshrew him for it !

How comes this trick upon him ?

Des. Nay, heaven doth know.

Emil. I will be hang'd, if some eternal vil-
Some busy and insinuating rogue, [lain,
Some cogging cozening slave, to get some of-
fice, [else.

Have not devis'd this slander ; I'll be hang'd

Iago. Fie, there is no such man ; it is impossible.

Des. If any such there be, heaven pardon him !

Emil. A halter pardon him ! and hell know his bones !

Why should he call her, whore ? who keeps her company ?

What place ? what time ? what form ? what likelihood ?

The Moor's abus'd by some most villanous Some base notorious knave, some scurvy fellow :—

O, heaven, that such companions* thou'dst And put in every honest hand a whip, To lash the rascal naked through the world, Even from the east to the west !

Iago. Speak within the door.

Emil. O, fie upon him ! some such squire he was,

That turn'd your wit the seamy side† without And made you to suspect me with the Moor.

Iago. You are a fool ; go to.

Des. O good Iago,

What shall I do to win my lord again ?

Good friend, go to him ; for by this light of heaven,

I know not how I lost him. Here I kneel :— If e'er my will did trespass 'gainst his love, Either in discourse of thought, or actual deed ; Or that mine eyes, mine ears, or any sense, Delighted them in any other form ; Or that I do not yet, and ever did, And ever will,—though he do shake me off To beggarly divorcement,—love him dearly, Comfort forswear me ! Unkindness may do much ;

And his unkindness may defeat my life, But never taint my love. I cannot say, whore ; It does abhor me, now I speak the word ; To do the act that might the addition‡ earn, Not the world's mass of vanity could make me.

Iago. I pray you, be content : 'tis but his humour ;

The business of the state does him offence, And he does chide with you.

Des. If 'twere no other,—

Iago. It is but so, I warrant you. [Trumpets. Hark, how these instruments summon to supper !

And the great messengers of Venice stay :

Go in, and weep not ; all things shall be well. [Exit DESDEMONA and EMILIA.

Enter RODERIGO.

How now, Roderigo ?

Rod. I do not find, that thou deal'st justly with me ?

Iago. What in the contrary ?

Rod. Every day thou doff'st§ me with some device, Iago ; and rather (as it seems to me now,) keep'st from me all conveniency, than suppliest me with the least advantage of hope. I will, indeed, no longer endure it : Nor am I yet persuaded, to put up in peace what already I have foolishly suffered.

Iago. Will you hear me, Roderigo ?

Rod. Faith, I have heard too much ; for your words and performances are no kin together.

Iago. You charge me most unjustly.

Rod. With nought but truth. I have wasted myself out of my means. The jewels you have had from me, to deliver to Desdemona, would

half have corrupted a votarist : You have told me—she has received them, and returned me expectations and comforts of sudden respect and acquittance,* but I find none.

Iago. Well ; go to ; very well.

Rod. Very well ! go to ! I cannot go to, man ; nor 'tis not very well : By this hand, I say, it is very scurvy ; and begin to find myself fobbed in it.

Iago. Very well.

Rod. I tell you, 'tis not very well. I will make myself known to Desdemona : If she will return me my jewels, I will give over my suit, and repent my unlawful solicitation : if not, assure yourself, I will seek satisfaction of you.

Iago. You have said now.

Rod. Ay, and I have said nothing, but what I protest intendment of doing.

Iago. Why, now I see there's mettle in thee ; and even, from this instant, do build on thee a better opinion than ever before. Give me thy hand, Roderigo : Thou hast taken against me a most just exception ; but, yet, I protest, I have dealt most directly in thy affair.

Rod. It hath not appeared.

Iago. I grant, indeed, it hath not appeared ; and your suspicion is not without wit and judgement. But, Roderigo, if thou hast that within thee indeed, which I have greater reason to believe now than ever,—I mean, purpose, courage, and valour,—this night show it : if thou the next night following enjoyest not Desdemona, take me from this world with treachery, and devise engines for my life.

Rod. Well, what is it ? is it within reason, and compass ?

Iago. Sir, there is especial commission come from Venice, to depute Cassio in Othello's place.

Rod. Is that true ? why, then Othello and Desdemona return again to Venice.

Iago. O, no ; he goes into Mauritania, and takes away with him the fair Desdemona, unless his abode be lingered here by some accident ; wherein none can be so determinate, as the removing of Cassio.

Rod. How do you mean—removing of him ?

Iago. Why, by making him incapable of Othello's place ; knocking out his brains.

Rod. And that you would have me do ?

Iago. Ay ; if you dare do yourself a profit, and a right. He sups to-night with a harlot, and thither will I go to him ;—he knows not yet of his honourable fortune : if you will watch his going thence, (which I will fashion to fall out between twelve and one,) you may take him at your pleasure : I will be near to second your attempt, and he shall fall between us. Come, stand not amazed at it, but go along with me ; I will show you such a necessity in his death, that you shall think yourself bound to put it on him. It is now high supper-time, and the night draws to waste ; about it.

Rod. I will hear further reason for this.

Iago. And you shall be satisfied. [Exit.

SCENE III.—Another Room in the Castle.

Enter OTHELLO, LODOVICO, DESDEMONA, EMILIA, and Attendants.

Lod. I do beseech you, Sir, trouble yourself no further.

* Fellows.
† Title.

‡ Inside out.
§ Put'st me off,

* Requital.

Oth. O, pardon me? 'twill do me good to walk.

Lod. Madam, good night; I humbly thank your ladyship.

Des. Your honour is most welcome.

Oth. Will you walk, Sir?—

O,—Desdemona,—

Des. My lord?

Oth. Get you to bed on the instant, I will be returned forthwith: dismiss your attendant there; look, it be done.

Des. I will, my lord.

[*Exit* OTHELLO, LODOVICO, and Attendants.]

Emil. How goes it now? he looks gentler than he did.

Des. He says, he will return incontinent;* He hath commanded me to go to bed, And bade me to dismiss you.

Emil. Dismiss me!

Des. It was his bidding; therefore, good Emilia,

Give me my nightly wearing, and adieu: We must not now displease him.

Emil. I would, you had never seen him!

Des. So would not I; my love doth so approve him, That even his stubbornness, his checks, and frowns,—

Pr'ythee, unpin me,—have grace and favour in them.

Emil. I have laid those sheets you bade me on the bed.

Des. All's one:—Good father! how foolish are our minds!—

If I do die before thee, pr'ythee, shroud me in one of those same sheets.

Emil. Come, come, you talk.

Des. My mother had a maid call'd—Barbara; She was in love: and he, she lov'd, prov'd mad.†

And did forsake her: she had a song of—wild, An old thing 'twas, but it express'd her fortune,

And she died singing it: That song, to-night, Will not go from my mind; I have much to do, But to go hang my head all at one side, And sing it like poor Barbara. Pr'ythee, despatch.

Emil. Shall I go fetch your night-gown?

Des. No, unpin me here.—

This Lodovico is a proper man.

Emil. A very handsome man.

Des. And he speaks well.

Emil. I know a lady in Venice, who would have walked barefoot to Palestine, for a touch of his nether lip.

I.

Des. *The poor soul sat sighing by a sycamore tree,*

Sing all a green willow; [Singing.]
Her hand on her bosom, her head on her knee,
Sing willow, willow, willow:

The fresh streams ran by her, and murmur'd her moans;

Sing willow, &c.

Her salt tears fell from her, and soften'd the stones;

Lay by these:

Sing willow, willow, willow;

Pr'ythee, hie thee; he'll come anon.—

Sing all a green willow must be my garland.

II.

Let nobody blame him, his scorn I approve,—
Nay, that's not next.—Hark! who is it that knocks?

Emil. It is the wind.

Des. *I call'd my love, false love; but what said he then?*

Sing willow, &c.

If I court mo' women, you'll couch with mo men.

So, get thee gone; good night. Mine eyes do both that bode weeping? [itch;

Emil. 'Tis neither here nor there.

Des. I have heard it said so.—O, these men, these men!— [lia,—

Dost thou in conscience think,—tell me, Emil,—that there be women who abuse their husbands in such gross kind?

Emil. There be some such, no question.

Des. Wouldst thou do such a deed for all the world?

Emil. Why, would not you?

Des. No, by this heavenly light!

Emil. Nor I neither by this heavenly light: I might do't as well i'the dark.

Des. Wouldst thou do such a deed for all the world?

Emil. The world is a huge thing: 'Tis a great price

For a small vice.

Des. Good troth, I think thou wouldst not.

Emil. By my troth, I think I should; and undo't, when I had done. Marry, I would not do such a thing for a joint-ring; nor for measures of lawn; nor for gowns, petticoats, nor caps, nor any petty exhibition: but, for the whole world,—Why, who would not make her husband a cuckold, to make him a monarch? I should venture purgatory for't.

Des. Beshrew me, if I would do such a wrong for the whole world.

Emil. Why, the wrong is but a wrong i'the world; and, having the world for your labour, 'tis a wrong in your own world, and you might quickly make it right.

Des. I do not think there is any such woman.

Emil. Yes, a dozen; and as many To the vantage, as would store the world they play'd for.

But, I do think, it is their husbands' faults, If wives do fall: Say, that they slack their duties,

And pour our treasures into foreign laps; Or else break out in peevish jealousies, Throwing restraint upon us: or, say, they strike us,

Or scant our former having† in despite; Why, we have galls; and, though we have some grace, [know,

Yet we have some revenge. Let husbands Their wives have sense‡ like them: they see, and smell,

And have their palates both for sweet and sour As husbands have. What is it that they do,

When they change us for others? Is it sport? I think it is; And doth affection breed it?

I think, it doth; Is't frailty, that thus errs? It is so too: And have not we affections?

Desires for sport? and frailty, as men have? Then, let them use us well: else, let them know,

The ills we do, their ills instruct us to.

* Immediately.

† Wild, inconstant.

* Mo for more.

† Our former allowance of expense.

‡ Sensation.

Des. Good night, good night: Heaven me
such usage send,
Not to pick bad from bad; but, by bad, mend!
[*Exeunt.*]

ACT V.

SCENE I.—A Street.

Enter IAGO and RODERIGO.

Iago. Here, stand behind this bulk; straight
will he come;
Wear thy good rapier bare,* and put it home:
Quick, quick; fear nothing; I'll be at thy el-
bow:

It makes us, or it mars us; think on that,
And fix most firm thy resolution.

Rod. Be near at hand; I may miscarry in't.

Iago. Here, at thy hand; be bold, and take
thy sword. [*Retires to a little distance.*]

Rod. I have no great devotion to the deed;
And yet he has given me satisfying reasons:—
'Tis but a man gone:—forth, my sword; he
dies. [*Goes to his stand.*]

Iago. I have rubb'd this young quat almost
to the sense,† [*Cassio,*

And he grows angry. Now, whether he kill
Or Cassio him, or each do kill the other,
Every way makes my gain: Live Roderigo,
He calls me to a restitution large

Of gold, and jewels, that I bobb'd ‡ from him,
As gifts to Desdemona;

It must not be: if Cassio do remain,
He hath a daily beauty in his life,
That makes me ugly; and, besides, the Moor
May unfold me to him; there stand I in much
peril:

No, he must die:—But so, I hear him coming.

Enter CASSIO.

Rod. I know his gait, 'tis he;—Villain, thou
diest.

[*Rushes from his post, and makes a pass at
CASSIO.*]

Cas. That thrust had been mine enemy in-
deed,

But that my coat is better than thou think'st;
I will make proof of thine.

[*Draws, and wounds RODERIGO.*]

Rod. O, I am slain!

[*Iago rushes from his post, cuts CASSIO
behind in the Leg, and exit.*]

Cas. I am maim'd for ever:—Help, ho! mur-
der! murder! [*Falls.*]

Enter OTHELLO, at a distance.

Oth. The voice of Cassio:—Iago keeps his
word.

Rod. O, villain that I am!

Oth. Hark! 'tis even so.

Cas. O, help! ho! light! a surgeon!

Oth. 'Tis he:—O brave Iago, honest, and
just, [*wrong!*]

That hast such noble sense of thy friend's
Thou teachest me,—Minion, your dear lies
dead,

And your fate hies apace:—Strumpet, I come:
Forth of my heart those charms, thine eyes,
are blotted;

Thy bed, lust-stain'd, shall with lust's blood be
spotted. [*Exit OTHELLO.*]

Enter LODOVICO and GRATIANO, at a distance.

Cas. What, ho! no watch? no passage? *
murder! murder!

Gra. 'Tis some mischance; the cry is very
direful.

Cas. O, help!

Lod. Hark!

Rod. O wretched villain!

Lod. Two or three groans;—it is a heavy†
night:

These may be counterfeits; let's think't unsafe
To come in to the cry, without more help.

Rod. No body come? then shall I bleed to
death.

Enter IAGO, with a light.

Lod. Hark!

Cra. Here's one comes in his shirt, with light
and weapons.

Iago. Who's there? whose noise is this, that
cries on murder?

Lod. We do not know.

Iago. Do you not hear a cry?

Cas. Here, here: for heaven's sake, help me.

Iago. What's the matter?

Gra. This is Othello's ancient, as I take it.

Lod. The same, indeed, a very valiant fel-
low.

Iago. What are you here that cry so grievous-
ly?

Cas. Iago? O, I am spoil'd, undone by vil-
lains; Give me some help. [*Iains;*]

Iago. O me, lieutenant! what villains have
done this?

Cas. I think, that one of them is hereabout,
And cannot make away.

Iago. O treacherous villains!—

What are you there? come in, and give some
help. [*To LODOVICO and GRATIANO.*]

Rod. O, help me here.

Cas. That's one of them.

Iago. O murderous slave! O villain!

[*IAGO stabs RODERIGO.*]

Rod. O damn'd Iago! O inhuman dog!—
O! O! O!

Iago. Kill men i'th' dark?—Where be these
bloody thieves?

How silent is this town!—Ho! murder! mur-
der!

What may you be? are you of good or evil?

Lod. As you shall prove us, praise us.

Iago. Signior Lodovico?

Lod. He, Sir.

Iago. I cry you mercy; Here's Cassio hurt
By villains.

Gra. Cassio?

Iago. How is it, brother?

Cas. My leg is cut in two.

Iago. Marry, heaven forbid!—

Light, gentlemen; I'll bind it with my shirt.

Enter BIANCA.

Bian. What is the matter, ho? who is't that
cried?

Iago. Who is't that cried?

Bian. O my dear Cassio! my sweet Cassio!
O Cassio! Cassio! Cassio!

Iago. O notable strumpet!—Cassio, may you
suspect [*you?*]

Who they should be, that have thus mangled
Cas. No.

Gra. I am sorry, to find you thus: I have
been to seek you.

* Unsheathed.

† Fished.

‡ To the quick.

§ Out.

* No passengers.

† Thick, cloudy.

Iago. Lend me a garter : So.—O, for a chair,
To bear him easily hence !

Bian. Alas, he faints :—O Cassio ! Cassio !
Cassio !

Iago. Gentlemen all. I do suspect this trash
To be a party in this injury.—

Patience awhile, good Cassio.—Come, come :
Lend me a light.—Know we this face, or no ?

Alas ! my friend, and my dear countryman,
Roderigo ? no :—Yes, sure ; O heaven, Roderi-
go.

Gra. What, of Venice ?

Iago. Even he, Sir ; did you know him ?

Gra. Know him ? ay.

Iago. Signior Gratiano ? I cry you gentle
pardon ; [ners,]
These bloody accidents must excuse my man-
That so neglected you.

Gra. I am glad to see you.

Iago. How do you, Cassio ?—O, a chair, a
chair !

Gra. Roderigo !

Iago. He, he, 'tis he :—O, that's well said ;
—the chair :— [A Chair brought in.]
Some good man bear him carefully from hence ;
I'll fetch the general's surgeon.—For you, mis-
tress, [To BIANCA.]

Save you your labour. He that lies slain here,
Cassio,
Was my dear friend ; What malice was be-
tween you ?

Cas. None in the world ; nor do I know the
man.

Iago. [To BIAN.] What, look you pale ?—
O, bear him out o'the air.

[CAS. and ROD. are borne off.]

Stay you, good gentlemen :—Look you pale,
mistress ?

Do you perceive the gastness of her eye ?—
Nay, if you stare, we shall hear more anon :—
Behold her well ; I pray you, look upon her ;
Do you see, gentlemen ? nay, guiltiness will
Though tongues were out of use. [speak,

Enter EMILIA.

Emil. Alas, what's the matter ; what's the
matter, husband ?

Iago. Cassio hath here been set on in the
dark,

By Roderigo, and fellows that are scap'd :
He's almost slain, and Roderigo dead.

Emil. Alas, good gentleman ! alas, good
Cassio !

Iago. This is the fruit of whoring.—Pr'ythee,
Emilia,

Go know of Cassio where he supp'd to-
night :—

What, do you shake at that ?

Bian. He supp'd at my house, but I there-
fore shake not.

Iago. O, did he so ? I charge you, go with
me.

Emil. Fie, fie upon thee, strumpet !

Bian. I am no strumpet : but of life as honest,
As you that thus abuse me.

Emil. As I ? foh ! fie upon thee !

Iago. Kind gentlemen, let's go see poor Cas-
sio dress'd :— [tale.—

Come, mistress, you must tell us another
Emilia, run you to the citadel,
And tell my lord and lady what has happ'd.—
Will you go on, I pray ?—This is the night,

That either makes me, or fordoes* me quite.
[Aside.]

[Exeunt.]

* Undoes.

SCENE II.—A Bedchamber : DESDEMONA in
Bed asleep.—A Light burning.

Enter OTHELLO.

Oth. It is the cause, it is the cause, my
soul,—

Let me not name it to you, you chaste stars !—
It is the cause.—Yet I'll not shed her blood ;
Nor scar that whiter skin of hers than snow,
And smooth as monumental alabaster,

[Takes off his Sword.]

Yet she must die, else she'll betray more men.
Put out the light, and then put out the light :
If I quench thee, thou flaming minister,
I can again thy former light restore,

Should I repent me :—but once put out thine,
Thou cunning'st pattern of excelling nature,
I know not where is that Promethean heat,
That can thy light relume. When I have

pluck'd thy rose,
I cannot give it vital life again,
It needs must wither :—I'll smell it on the
tree.— [Kissing her.]

O balmy breath, that dost almost persuade
Justice to break her sword !—One more, one
more.—

Be thús when thou art dead, and I will kill
thee,

And love thee after ;—One more, and this the
last :

So sweet was ne'er so fatal. I must weep,
But they are cruel tears : This sorrow's heav-
enly ;

It strikes, where it doth love.—She wakes—

Des. Who's there ? Othello ?

Oth. Ay, Desdemona.

Des. Will you come to bed, my lord ?

Oth. Have you pray'd to-night, Desdemona ?

Des. Ay, my lord.

Oth. If you bethink yourself of any crime,
Unreconcil'd as yet to heaven and grace,
Solicit for it straight.

Des. Alas, my lord, what may you mean by
that ?

Oth. Well, do it, and be brief ; I will walk
by :

I would not kill thy unprepared spirit :
No,—Heaven forbid !—I would not kill thy
soul.

Des. Talk you of killing ?

Oth. Ay, I do.

Des. Then heaven

Have mercy on me !

Oth. Amen, with all my heart !

Des. If you say so, I hope you will not kill
me.

Oth. Humph !

Des. And yet I fear you : for you are fatal
then,

When your eyes roll so : Why I should fear, I
know not,

Since guiltiness I know not : but yet, I feel I
fear.

Oth. Think on thy sins.

Des. They are loves I bear to you.

Oth. Ay, and for that thou diest.

Des. That death's unnatural, that kills for
loving.—

Alas, why gnaw you so your nether lip !
Some bloody passion shakes your very frame :
These are portents ; but yet, I hope, I hope,
They do not point on me!

Oth. Peace, and be still !

Des. I will so ; What's the matter ?

* I. e. The light of life.

Oth. That handkerchief, which I so lov'd,
and gave thee,
Thou gav'st to Cassio.
Des. No, by my life and soul ;
Send for the man, and ask him.
Oth. Sweet soul, take heed, [bed.
Take heed of perjury : thou'rt on thy death-
Des. Ay, but not yet to die.
Oth. Yes, presently :
Therefore confess thee freely of thy sin ;
For to deny each article with oath, [tion,
Cannot remove, nor choke, the strong concep-
That I do groan withal. Thou art to die.
Des. Then, Lord have mercy on me !
Oth. I say, amen.
Des. And have you mercy too ;—I never did
Offend you in my life ; never lov'd Cassio,
But with such general warranty of heaven
As I might love : I never gave him token.
Oth. By heaven, I saw my handkerchief in
his hand.
O perjur'd woman ! thou dost stone my heart,
And mak'st me call, what I intend to do,—
A murder, which I thought a sacrifice : *
I saw the handkerchief.
Des. He found it then ;
I never gave it him :—Send for him hither,
And let him confess a truth.
Oth. He hath confess'd.
Des. What, my lord ?
Oth. That he hath—us'd thee.
Des. How ? unlawfully ?
Oth. Ay.
Des. He'll not say so.
Oth. No, his mouth is stopp'd ;
Honest Iago hath ta'en order for't. †
Des. My fear interprets then,—What, is he
dead ?
Oth. Had all his hairs been lives, my great
revenge
Had stomach for them all.
Des. Alas ! he is betray'd, and I undone.
Oth. Out, strumpet ! Weep'st thou for him
to my face ?
Des. O, banish me, my lord, but kill me
not.
Oth. Down, strumpet !
Des. Kill me to-morrow, let me live to-night.
Oth. Nay, if you strive,——
Des. But half an hour.
Oth. Being done,
There is no pause.
Des. But while I say one prayer.
Oth. It is too late. [He smothers her.
Emil. [Within.] My lord, my lord ! what,
ho ! my lord ! my lord !
Oth. What noise is this ?—Not dead ! not yet
quite dead ?
I, that am cruel, am yet merciful ;
I would not have thee linger in thy pain.—
So, so. ‡
Emil. [Within.] What ho ! my lord, my
lord !
Oth. Who's there ?
Emil. [Within.] O, good my lord, I would
speak a word with you.
Oth. Yes ;—'tis Emilia :—by and by.—She's
dead.
'Tis like she comes to speak of Cassio's death ;
The noise was high.—Ha ! no more moving ?

* A sacrifice atoning for thy crime.

† Has taken measures.

‡ It is supposed that some theatrical direction has been omitted, and that, when Othello says, "So so," he then stabs her. After the repetition of wounds, Desdemona might speak again with propriety, and yet very soon expire.

Still as the grave. Shall she come in ? Were't
good ? [best ?

I think, she stirs again :—No.—What's the
If she come in, she'll sure speak to my wife :
My wife ! my wife ! what wife ?—I have no
wife :

O, insupportable ! O heavy hour !
Methinks it should be now a huge eclipse
Of sun and moon ; and that the affrighted globe
Should yawn at alteration.

Emil. [Within.] I do beseech you I may
speak with you,

O, good my lord !

Oth. I had forgot thee : O, come in, Emi-
lia :— [draw.—

Soft,—by and by :—Let me the curtains
Where art, thou ? What's the matter with thee
now ? [Unlocks the door.

Enter EMILIA.

Emil. O, good my lord, yonder's foul mur-
der done.

Oth. What ? now ?

Emil. But now, my lord.

Oth. It is the very error of the moon ;
She comes more near the earth than she was
And makes men mad. [wont ;

Emil. Cassio, my lord, has kill'd a young
Venetian,
Call'd—Roderigo.

Oth. Roderigo kill'd ?

And Cassio kill'd ?

Emil. No, Cassio is not kill'd.

Oth. Not Cassio kill'd ? Then murder's out
of tune,

And sweet revenge grows harsh.

Des. O, falsely, falsely murder'd !

Emil. Alas ! what cry is that ?

Oth. That ! what ?

Emil. Out, and alas ! that was my lady's
voice :—

Help ! help, ho ! help !—O lady, speak again !
Sweet Desdemona ! O, sweet mistress, speak !

Des. A guiltless death I die.

Emil. O, who hath done

This deed ?

Des. Nobody ; I myself ; farewell :

Commend me to my kind lord ; O, farewell. [Dies.

Oth. Why, how should she be murder'd ?

Emil. Alas, who knows ?

Oth. You heard her say herself, it was not I.

Emil. She said so ; I must needs report the
truth.

Oth. She's, like a liar, gone to burning hell ;
'Twas I that kill'd her.

Emil. O, the more angel she,

And you the blacker devil !

Oth. She turn'd to folly, and she was a
whore.

Emil. Thou dost belie her, and thou art a
devil.

Oth. She was false as water.

Emil. Thou art rash as fire, to say

That she was false ; O, she was heavenly true !

Oth. Cassio did tup her ; ask thy husband
else.

O, I were damn'd beneath all depth in hell,
But that I did proceed upon just grounds

To this extremity ; Thy husband knew it all.

Emil. My husband ?

Oth. Thy husband.

Emil. That she was false to wedlock ?

Oth. Ay, with Cassio.

Nay, had she been true,

If heaven would make me such another world

Of one entire and perfect chrysolite,*
I'd not have sold her for it.

Emil. My husband?

Oth. Ay, 'twas he that told me first;
An honest man he is, and hates the slime
That sticks on filthy deeds.

Emil. My husband?

Oth. What needs this iteration,† woman? I
say, thy husband.

Emil. O mistress, villany hath made mocks
with love!—

My husband say that she was false?

Oth. He, woman;

I say, thy husband: Dost understand the word?
My friend, thy husband, honest, honest Iago.

Emil. If he say so, may his pernicious soul
Rot half a grain a day! he lies to the heart;
She was too fond of her most filthy bargain.

Oth. Ha!

Emil. Do thy worst:

This deed of thine is no more worthy heaven,
Than thou wast worthy her.

Oth. Peace, you were best.

Emil. Thou hast not half the power to do
me harm,

As I have to be hurt,‡ O gull! O dolt!

As ignorant as dirt! thou hast done a deed,—
I care not for thy sword; I'll make thee
known,

Though I lost twenty lives:—Help! help, ho:
help!

The Moor has killed my mistress; Murder!
murder!

Enter MONTANO, GRATIANO, and IAGO.

Mon. What is the matter?—How now, ge-
neral?

Emil. O, are you come, Iago? you have done
well,

That men must lay their murders on your
neck.

Gra. What is the matter?

Emil. Disprove this villain, if thou be'st a
man:

He says, thou told'st him that his wife was
false:

I know, thou didst not, thou'rt not such a vil-
Speak, for my heart is full. [lain;

Iago. I told him what I thought; and told
no more

'Than what he found himself was apt and true.

Emil. But did you ever tell him, she was
false?

Iago. I did.

Emil. You told a lie; an odious, damned lie;

Upon my soul, a lie; a wicked lie:—

She false with Cassio?—Did you say, with
Cassio?

Iago. With Cassio? mistress; Go to, charm
your tongue.

Emil. I will not charm my tongue; I am
bound to speak;

My mistress here lies murder'd in her bed.

All. O heavens forfend!§

Emil. And your reports have set the murder
on.

Oth. Nay, stare not, masters; it is true, in-
deed.

Gra. 'Tis a strange truth.

Mon. O monstrous act!

Emil. Villany, villany, villany!—

I think upon't,—I think,—i smell't;—O vil-
lany!

I thought so then;—I'll kill myself for grief.—
O villany, villany!

Iago. What, are you mad? I charge you, get
you home.

Emil. Good gentlemen, let me have leave
to speak;

'Tis proper I obey him, but not now:—
Perchance, Iago, I will ne'er go home.

Oth. O! O! O! [*Haunting over his wife.*

Emil. Nay, lay thee down and roar;
For thou hast kill'd the sweetest innocent,
That e'er did lift up eye.

Oth. O, she was foul! [*Rising.*

I scarce did know you, uncle: There lies your
niece,

Whose breath, indeed, these hands have new-
ly stopp'd:

I know, this act shows horrible and grim.

Gra. Poor Desdemona! I am glad thy fa-
ther's dead;

Thy match was mortal to him, and pure grief
Shore his old thread in twain: did he live now,
This sight would make him do a desperate turn,
Yea, curse his better angel from his side,
And fall to reprobation.

Oth. 'Tis pitiful: but yet Iago knows,
That she with Cassio hath the act of shame
A thousand times committed; Cassio con-
fess'd it:

And she did gratify his amorous works
With that recognizance and pledge of love
Which I first gave her; I saw it in his hand;
It was a handkerchief, an antique token
My father gave my mother.

Emil. O heaven! O heavenly powers!

Iago. Come, hold your peace.

Emil. 'Twill out, 'twill out;—I hold my
peace, Sir? no;

No, I will speak as liberal* as the air;
Let heaven, and men, and devils, let them all,
All, all, cry shame against me, yet I'll speak.

Iago. Be wise, and get you home.

Emil. I will not.

[IAGO offers to stab his Wife.

Gra. Fie!

Your sword upon a woman?

Emil. O thou dull Moor! that handkerchief
thou speak'st of,

I found by fortune, and did give my husband;
For often, with a solemn earnestness,

(More than, indeed, belong'd to such a trifle,)
He begg'd of me to steal it.

Iago. Villanous whore!

Emil. She gave it Cassio! no, alas; I found
And I did give't my husband. [it,

Iago. Filth, thou liest.

Emil. By heaven, I do not; I do not, gen-
tlemen:

O murderous coxcomb! what should such a
fool

Do with so good a wife?

[IAGO stabs EMILIA, then runs out.

Oth. Are there no stones in heaven,
But what serve for the thunder?—Precious
villain!

Gra. The woman falls; sure, he has kill'd
his wife.

Emil. Ay, ay; O, lay me by my mistress'
side!

Gra. He's gone, but his wife's kill'd.

Mon. 'Tis a notorious villain. Take you this
weapon,

Which I have here recover'd from the Moor:
Come, guard the door without; let him not
pass,

* Free.

* A precious stone. † Repetition.
‡ "More can I bear than you dare execute."
§ Forbid.

But kill him rather; I'll after that same villain,

For 'tis a damned slave

[*EXECUT MONTANO and GRATIANO.*]

Oth. I am not valiant neither.

But every puny whipster gets my sword:—

But why should honour outlive honesty?

Let it go all.

Emil. What did thy song bode, lady?

Hark, canst thou hear me? I will play the swan,

And die in music:—*Willow, willow, willow.*—
Moor, she was chaste; she lov'd thee, cruel Moor;

So come my soul to bliss, as I speak true:

So speaking as I think, I die,—I die. [*Dies.*]

Oth. I have another weapon in this chamber,
It is a sword of Spain, the ice-brook's temper;*

O, here it is:—Uncle, I must come forth.

Gra. [*Within.*] If thou attempt it, it will cost thee dear;

Thou hast no weapon, and perforce must suffer.

Oth. Look in upon me then, and speak with me,

Or, naked as I am, I will assault thee.

Re-enter GRATIANO.

Gra. What's the matter?

Oth. Behold! I have a weapon;

A better never did itself sustain

Upon a soldier's thigh: I have seen the day,

That, with this little arm, and this good sword,
I have made my way through more impediments

Than twenty times your stop:—But, O vain boast!

Who can control his fate? 'tis not so now,
Be not afraid, though you do see me weapon'd;

Here is my journey's end, here is my butt,
And very sea-mark of my utmost sail.

Do you go back dismay'd? 'tis a lost fear;

Man but a rush against Othello's breast,

And he retires:—Where should Othello go?—

Now, how dost thou look now? O ill-star'd wench!

Pale as thy smock! when we shall meet at court,†

This look of thine will hurl my soul from heaven,
And fiends will snatch at it. Cold, cold, my girl!

Even like thy chastity,—

O cursed, cursed slave!—Whip me, ye devils,

From the possession of this heavenly sight!

Blow me about in winds! roast me in sulphur!

Wash me in steep-down gulfs of liquid fire!—

O Desdemona! Desdemona! dead?

Dead? O! O! O!

Enter LODOVICO, MONTANO, CASSIO, carried in a Chair, and Officers, with IAGO prisoner.

Lod. Where is this rash and most unfortunate man?

Oth. That's he, that was Othello; here I am.

Lod. Where is that viper? bring the villain forth.

Oth. I look down towards his feet;‡—but that's a fable:

If that thou be'st a devil, I cannot kill thee.

[*OTHELLO wounds IAGO.*]

Lod. Wrench his sword from him.

Iago. I bleed, Sir; but not kill'd.

Oth. I am not sorry neither; I'd have thee live;

For, in my sense, 'tis happiness to die,

Lod. O thou Othello, that was once so good,
Fall'n in the practice* of a cursed slave,

What shall be said to thee?

Oth. Why, any thing:

An honourable murderer, if you will;

For nought I did in hate, but all in honour.

Lod. This wretch hath in part confess'd his villany:

Did you and he consent in Cassio's death?

Oth. Ay.

Cas. Draw general, I never gave you cause.

Oth. I do believe it, and I ask your pardon.

Will you, I pray you, demand that demi-devil,

Why he hath thus ensur'd my soul and body?

Iago. Demand me nothing: What you know, you know:

From this time forth I never will speak word.

Lod. What? not to pray?

Gra. Torments will open your lips.

Oth. Well, thou dost best.

Lod. Sir, you shall understand what hath befall'n,

Which, as I think, you know not: Here is a letter,

Found in the pocket of the slain Roderigo;

And here, another; the one of them imports

The death of Cassio to be undertook

By Roderigo.

Oth. O villain!

Cas. Most heathenish, and most gross!

Lod. Now here's another discontented paper,

Found in his pocket too; and this, it seems,
Roderigo meant to have sent this damn'd villain;

But that, belike, Iago in the interim

Came in and satisfied him.

Oth. O the pernicious catiff!—

How came you, Cassio, by that handkerchief
That was my wife's?

Cas. I found it in my chamber:

And he himself confess'd, but even now,

That there he dropp'd it, for a special purpose,
Which wrought to his desire.

Oth. O fool! fool! fool!

Cas. There is, besides, in Roderigo's letter,—

How he upbraids Iago, that he made him

Brave me on the watch; whereon it came

That I was cast: and even but now he spake

After long seeming dead,—Iago hurt him,

Iago set him on.

Lod. You must forsake this room, and go with us;

Your power and your command is taken off,

And Cassio rules in Cyprus. For this slave,—

If there be any cunning cruelty,

That can torment him much, and hold him

long,

It shall be his: You shall close prisoner rest,

Till that the nature of your fault be known

To the Venetian state:—Come, bring him

away.

Oth. Soft you; a word or two, before you

go.

I have done the state some service, and they

know it;

No more of that;—I pray you, in your letters,

When you shall these unlucky deeds relate,

Speak of me as I am; nothing extenuate,

Nor set down aught in malice: then must you

speak

Of one, that lov'd not wisely, but too well;

* By the stratagem.

* Steel is hardened by being put red-hot into very cold water.

† Account.

‡ To see if his feet be cloven.

Of one, not easily jealous, but, being wrought,
Perplex'd in the extreme ; of one, whose hand,
Like the base Judean, threw a pearl away,
Richer than all his tribe ; of one, whose sub-
du'd eyes,

Albeit unused to the melting mood,
Drop tears as fast as the Arabian trees
Their medicinal gum : Set you down this :
And say, besides,—that in Aleppo once,
Where a malignant and a turban'd Turk
Beat a Venetian, and traduc'd the state,
I took by the throat the circumcised dog,
And smote him—thus.

Lod. O bloody period!

Gra. All, that's spoke, is marr'd.

Oth. I kiss'd thee, ere I kill'd thee ;—No
way but this,

[Falling upon DESDEMONA.]

Killing myself, to die upon a kiss. [Dies.]

Cas. This did I fear, but thought he had no
weapon ;

For he was great of heart.

Lod. O Spartan dog,
More fell than anguish, hunger, or the sea !
Look on the tragic loading of this bed ;

[To IACO.]

This is thy work : the object poisons sight :—
Let it be hid.—Gratiano, keep the house,
And seize upon the fortunes of the Moor,
For they succeed to you.—To you, lord gover-
nor,

Remains the censure* of this hellish villain ;
The time, the place, the torture,—O enforce
it !

Myself will straight abroad ; and, to the state,
This heavy act with heavy heart relate.

[Exeunt.]

* Judgement

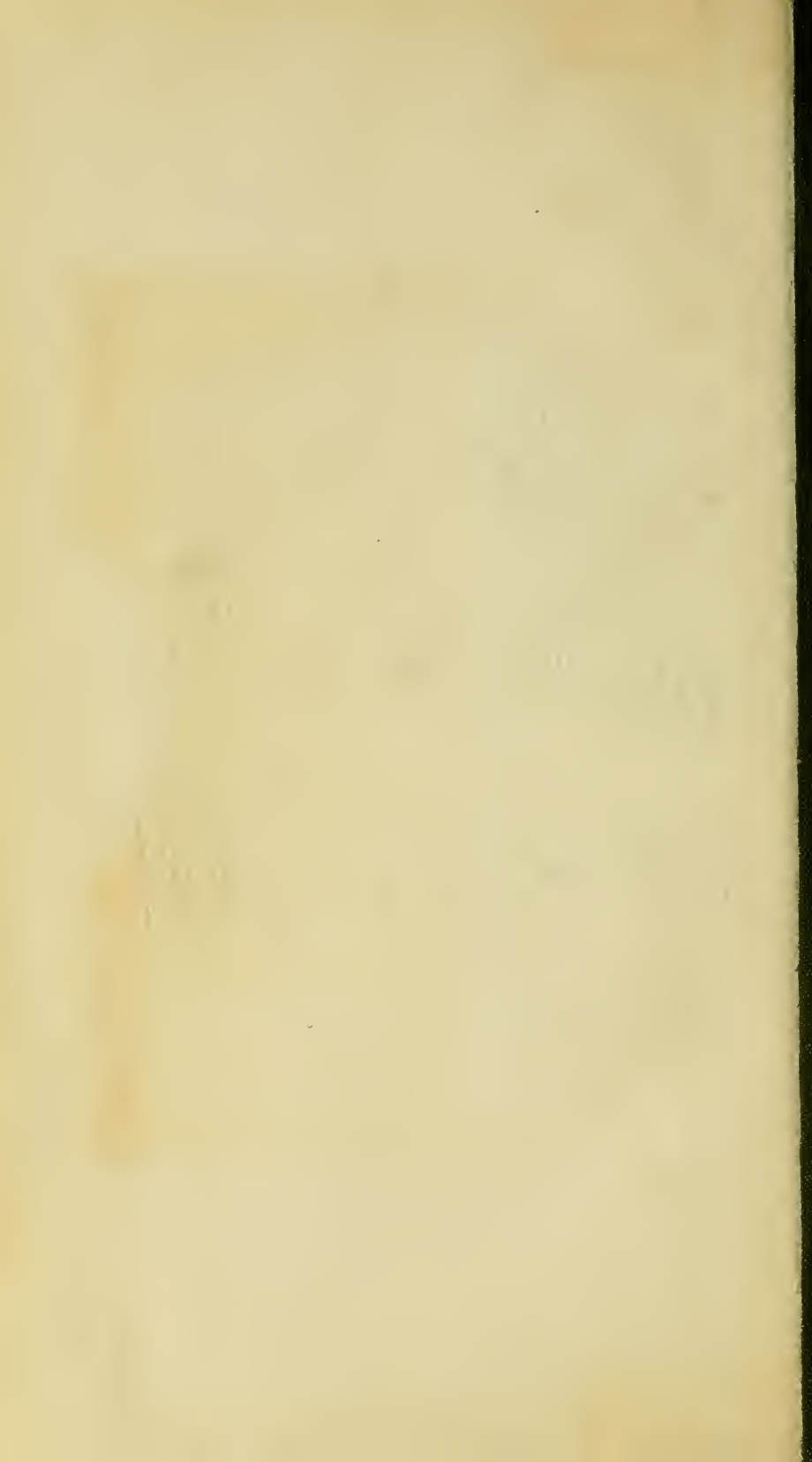
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