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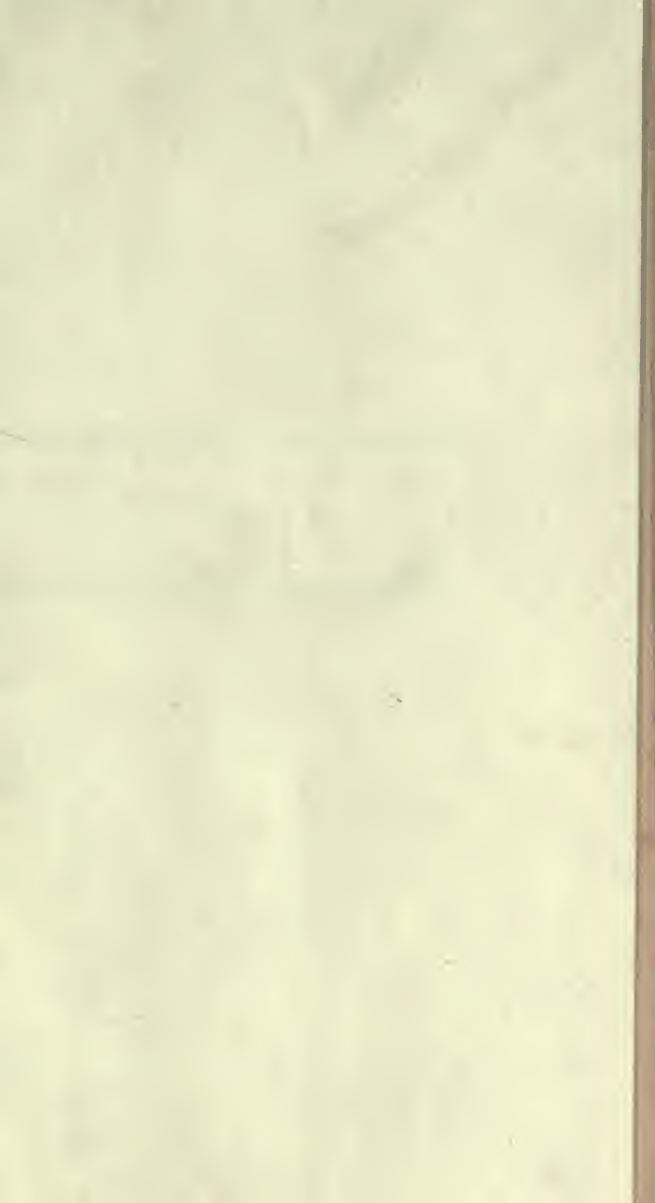
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ESSAYES AND CHARACTERS

OF A

PRISON AND PRISONERS.

ESSAYES
AND
CHARACTERS
OF A
PRISON AND PRISONERS.

BY *Minshull*
GEFFRAY (MYNSHUL,
OF GRAYES-INN, GENT.

Minshull de Minshull



EDINBURGH:
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A PRISON IS A HOUSE OF CARE,
A PLACE WHERE NONE CAN THRIVE,
A TOUCHSTONE TRUE TO TRY A FRIEND,
A GRAVE FOR ONE ALIVE.
SOMETIMES A PLACE OF RIGHT,
SOMETIMES A PLACE OF WRONG,
SOMETIMES A PLACE OF ROGUES AND THIEVES,
AND HONEST MEN AMONG.

NOTICE.



THE *Essayes and Characters of a Prison* were originally published in 1618, in a small quarto volume. A second edition was printed in 1638, *with some new additions*, according to the information of the title-page. This notice appears to have been a mere device of the publisher to secure the sale of his book, because the contents of the two editions are precisely the same.* Both are now extremely rare.

* Earle's *Microcosmography*, Ed. 1811, p. 273.

The personal history of the author is altogether unknown. A Dedication, however, to *his most loving and ever respective kind uncle, Mr Mathew Mainwaring of Nantwich, in Cheshire*, † suggests the county of which we may reasonably presume Mynshul to have been a native, and this again affords a clue for ascertaining the family from which, in all probability, he must have been descended.

There appear to have been originally two distinguished families in Cheshire of the name of Mynshul, or Minshull, according to a more usual orthography. The

† The Mainwarings were a considerable family in Nantwich, and its neighbourhood. *Leycester's Hist. Antiq.* p. 186. *King's Vale Royal of England*, p. 57.

Minshulls of Minshull dwelt on the west, and the Minshulls of Erdswick on the east of the river Weever, a few miles north of Nantwich. Although Erdswick is represented to have been *an ancient inheritance, with a fair house and domain*,* its possessors resided principally, from an early period, at Sand in Staffordshire. The residence of the Minshulls of Minshull, was at the Hall of Minshull, on the Weever, *a very ancient seat, which hath continued the successions of a worshipful race in its own name*;† and from this family there is reason to suppose the author of the *Essays* was descended.‡

* King's Vale Royal, p. 74.

† Vale Royal, p. 74.

‡ Earle's Microcosmography, p. 273.

In 1616, when the materials were prepared by Smith and Webb, which, in 1656, were published by King, under the title of the Vale Royal of England, the Hall of Minshull was possessed by John Minshull, a person of *gentlemanly parts*.* At the same period, *Geffery Minshull* is mentioned among the knights, esquires, gentlemen, and freeholders of the County Palatine of Chester, residing in the Hundred of Nantwich, and, from the place assigned to him in the list, we may presume this person to have been a cadet of the family of Minshull Hall. It is more than probable, too, that he was the author of the *Essays and Characters of a Prison*.†

* Vale Royal, p. 74.

† In the Church of St Mary at Nant-

Geffray Mynshul appears to have been a member of *Graves-Inne*, but his *Essayes* give no explanation of the circumstances under which his legal pursuits were interrupted by a visit to the King's Bench Prison, from whence they are dated. Mr Bliss's conjecture, however, is sufficiently probable, that the author's extravagance and imprudence made him acquainted with the scenes which he paints with so much truth and bitterness.* His homely advice to those who are compelled to borrow, to pay as soon as they can, evidently

wich, there is a monument erected by Geofrey Minshull, to the memory of his ancestors. The arms attached to it are,—a star of eight points, issuing from between the horns of a crescent. *Hist. Account of Nantwich*, 8vo. 1774, p. 33. Earle's *Microcos*. p. 274.

* Earle's *Microcos*. p. 274.

comes from a man smarting under the difficulty of discharging debts unwisely contracted, and anxious to preserve others from similar sufferings. The character of his sorrows is sufficiently intelligible. *Creditors with iron bands,—merciless jailors, who draw blood upon the bosomes of Christians made like themselves, and Prisons, containing within them all the elements of woe, guilt, and reckless profligacy, mixed with a gaiety which is, if possible, still more appalling than the scenes of wretchedness it is intended to alleviate, are not unknown in these days,—* although, perhaps, of less frequent occurrence than in the times when Mynshul was an inhabitant of the King's Bench. Prison discipline is a science still but imperfectly

understood. The progress of its improvement has been slow, and philanthropy has yet much to do, ere the anticipations of Howard can be realised.

Mynshul seems to have composed his *Essays* as an amusement during his captivity, without any view to publication, and in the hope that some friend might find them after his death, and profit by his example. They were originally sent in manuscript to his uncle, Mr Mainwaring, of whom he speaks in terms of great affection and gratitude, and to whom he looked for assistance under his misfortunes,—*Why should I feare, since you have alwayes beene my anchor, when I have beene shipwrackt, and many times saued my poore barque when it was ready to*

split? His misery, and the gloominess of his thoughts, are not sought to be disguised. His work is brought to the font as a *Child of Sorrow*. He derives his *judgment* from *Saturne*, and his *invention* from the *night-bird*. He writes with a quill taken from the *raven's wing*, and *dipt in the inke of misery*. The *Essayes* are such as might be expected from these materials,—severe, sarcastic, querulous, and melancholy.

Mynshul's style is quaint, but not without fancy, and his *Observations upon Character* are extremely acute, although their range is confined to the walls of a prison. His illustrations are pointed and classical, and his work withal lively and amusing. It will probably, however, only appear so to

those who are fond of the *olden time*, and who can be gratified by a certain degree of raciness, even where elegance and delicacy are wanting. In these qualities Mynshul's *Essays* are certainly defective; and the reader, therefore, is guarded against disappointment by learning, in the outset, what he may expect to find in them. His repast will be composed of harsh and gloomy views of human nature, expressed in language of a similar character. But the practical lessons which Mynshul inculcates are not ill suited to days of embarrassment, and they suggest a remedy for evils such as those under which he suffered. His rule is,—borrow as little, and pay as soon as possible; for, *Vsury and*

extortion bite deep, and credit once crackt is not easily recovered, nor all creditors of one mind; for some will in pitty forbear, and others will shew the greatest severity. The miserable life in prison is sketched with great vigour.

The Observations of a Prison, which compose the last Essay, are humorous, although somewhat indelicate. Without this the colouring could not have been true to nature, and any fastidious shadowing or softening must have injured the reality of the picture. The *slang* of the prison and its inmates is abundantly curious, and supplies a deficiency in the *canting* vocabularies of the day.

The Bishop of Salisbury's character of a prison, is, in many re-

spects, similar to that of Mynshul. He represents it as “the grave of the living, where they are shut up from the world and their friends ; and the worms that knaw upon them their own thoughts and the jaylor. A house of meagre looks and ill smells, for lice, drink, and tobacco are the compound. Pluto’s court was expressed from this fancy ; and the persons are much about the same parity that is there. You may ask, as Menippus in Lucian, which is Nireus, which Ther-sites, which the beggar, which the knight ;—for they are all suited in the same form of a kind of nasty poverty. Only to be out at elbows is in fashion here, and a great indecorum not to be thread-bare.”—“Mirth here is stupidity

or hard-heartedness, yet they feign it sometimes to slip melancholy, and keep off themselves from themselves, and the torment of thinking what they have been."* This accidental coincidence of thought, is not remarkable between two writers, in depicting a scene so melancholy, and of so little variety, as the interior of a prison. †

Mynshul, like some other writers, affects, in his Dedication, a character for modesty, and pretends to publish with reluctance, what was only intended for his friends.

* Microcos. p. 156, 157.

† The Appendix to Mr Bliss's edition of Earle's Microcosmography, contains an extensive and curious *Chronological List of Books of Characters*, accompanied by Extracts and Bibliographical Notices. *Mynshul's Essayes* form the seventh article in this list. p. 246-314.

There is no great want of charity in suspecting that he was somewhat *inamoured with his own piece*, and that he felt no indisposition to transmit it in print to the *worthy young gentlemen of Grayes-Inne*, as a reward for their kindness in visiting him in the *enchanted castle*, where he lay bound with *sorcerer's charmes*—or, to use language less metaphorical, in the King's Bench, where he was imprisoned for debt. The merit of the *Essays* may atone for the vanity of their author. They are certainly illustrative of the manners, and habits of thinking of the times in which he lived, and therefore worthy of being reprinted.

The present impression is limited to one hundred and fifty copies for sale. The edition of

1618 has been followed in correcting the press, and a fac-simile of its title is given, containing a wood-cut, by Bewick, of a Gaoler in the *insignia* of his office. The arms of the family of Minshull of Minshull, have also been engraved from the Vale Royal, as a vignette for the title-page.

MAY 12, 1821.

ESSAYES AND CHARACTERS OF A PRISON AND PRISONERS.

Written by G. M. of *Grayes-Inne*, Gent.



Hee's a true Jaylor scrips the Diuell in ill.

Those that keepe mee, I keepe; if can, will fill;

Printed at LONDON for *Mathew Walbancke*, and are to be folde at
his Shops at the New and Old Gate of *Grayes-Inne*, 1618.

Handwritten text, possibly a title or header, including the word "PROCESO" and other illegible characters.





TO THE MOST WORTHY

Young Gentlemen (my noble visitants) of Grayes-Inne.



WORTHY Friends, (and noblest society of Gentlemen) do not think that with Pigmalion, I am inamoured with my owne Piece, in that once more I wash ouer the picture which was drawne but the Tearme going before ; for neither the colours laid on then nor these now, are worthy to bee preferred to eyes so iudicious, as yours are ; I come now not to re-sing, but to re-cant the errours both of my pen and iudgment, so rashly to thrust my selfe into a printer's presse, though against my will : Ad prælum quasi ad prælium. I undertooke a warre, when I aduen-

2 *The Epistle Dedicatorie.*

tured to speake in print, (not in print as Puritan's ruffes are set) but to haue the criticall fingers of euery mewing censure to fillip mee as I lye on a stationer's stall: for ten thousand bullets haue bene spitefully shot at me for that one poore paper bullet of which I shot vp and downe Fleetstreet. Carpes haue bin good cheap this Lent, for I haue had more then I desired for nothing, some being sent from the table of Jaylors, who hauing no great appetite, (though insatiable mawes of themselves) to other meates, did their best to whet their stomackes vpon me, but they shall sooner finde me to be a choak-peare in going downe, then a gudgeon, easily to be deuoured, especially by their sore throats. Such teeth may bite me, but shal not draw blood of me. I make an apologie to none but to you, (most worthy to bee by me respected) what others thinke I care not, so you taxe not my weaknes; signe you my pardon, and I weigh not who else condemnes me. I haue now put my name to my Book, (without tergeuer-

sation or turne coating the letters,) not that I feared to dare so much before, but my loue ayiming onely to hit your fauors, I know my meaning could not lye hidden to you, for your sakes especially (noble Friends) who haue beene louing visitants to me in this enchanted Castle, where I lye bound with sorcerer's charmes, before did, and I doe now with whole miriads of thanks, send these papers full of my loue, in retribution of your singular expression bestowed vpon me. And so not doubting of a continuation of your good thoughts towards me, I commend my selfe not onely to you, whose personall embraces have added heate to my affection, but to all the rest of my fellow-students incorporated into your most worthy society.

Your's in the highest degree of
friendship to be commanded,

G. M.

From the King's Bench Prison,
in Southwark, this 6. of June,
Anno. Dom. 1618.



TO HIS MOST LOVING
AND EVER RESPECTIVE
KIND Vncle, Mr MATHEW
MAINWARING, of Namptvich,
in Cheshire.



INCE my comming into
this Prifon, what with the
ftrangenefse of the place,
and ftrictnefse of my li-
berty, I am fo transported that I could
not follow that ftudy wherein I tooke
great delight and chiefe pleafure, and
to fpend my time idley would but
adde more difcontentments, to my
troubled brest; and being in this *Cha-
os* of difcontentments, fantasies muft
arife, which will bring forth the fruits
of an idle braine, for *e malis mini-
mum*. It is farre better to giue fome

account of time, though to little purpose, then none at all. To which end I gathered a handfull of Effayes, and few Characters of such things as by my owne experience I could say, *Probatum est*: not that thereby I should either please the reader, or shew exquisitenes of inuention, or curious stile; seeing what I write of is but the Child of sorrow, bred by discontentments, and nourisht vp with misfortunes, to whose help melancholly *Saturne* gaue his judgement, the night-bird her inuention, and the ominous *Rauen* brought a quill taken from his owne wing, dipt in the inke of misery, as chiefe ayders in this architect of sorrow.

This Child is borne and brought to the Font, all things ready, onely there wants a patron. *Hoc difficillimum est*: For who will defend sorrow and misery? Who will giue him entertainment? Who will countenance this worke the author being misera-

ble? Who will respect the matter, the man being an abject? Who will cherish the circumstance when the substance is almost perished? Surely *non in his diebus*, for friendship is banished, love extinguished, naturall affection gone to trauell, gold is dearer then a friend, treasure is nearer then a kinsman, and Mammon better beloved then a sonne. Yet in this famine of true friends, I will venter vpon you (most louing vnclē) as a God-father to this my first-borne, though in misery. I can haue but a denyall, which if you doe, it must die in obliuion. But why should I feare, since you haue alwayes beene my anchor when I haue been shipwrackt, and many times saued my poore barque when it was ready to split? Why then should I doubt of your friendly patronage, which haue neuer fayled me? Be bold then, and goe thy way, thou shalt be entertained, though not for any worth which

is in thee, yet in respect thou dost but show a willing heart, and dost endeavour to expell ingratitude, a thing most odious not onely to man but God, not to Christians but heathens, not to heathens but beasts.

What then should I giue to you for all your kindneses which you haue continually bestowed vpon mee, which are so many, that if I should endeavour to recite (*Ante diem clauso componet vesper Olympo,*) but to shew my willingnes to my power, though I am not able to requite (for *ultra posse non est esse,*) doe offer vp vnto the oracle of your loue the sacrifice of a louing heart, hoping that what is amisse you will impute it to the slendernes of my judgement, and the dulnes of my braine, which this place hath made worse, (and not to the least defect of good will,) and that you would let none but yourself see my imperfections, which are sufficiently diuulged by mine owne

actions, and would bee vnwilling to haue a second edition of them by my writing. This was the cheefest cause I tooke this in hand ; another was because that happily some friend of mine (*post mea funera,*) by accident may find this paper and read them, and by my example, say, *Fælix sum, quem pericula hujus Authoris faciunt me cautum,* for *qui ante non cauet post dolebit,* and that they may be afraid to enter into debt any farther then necessity vrgeth, and if they bee forced to borrow, to pay as soone as they can, for vsury and extortion bite deepe, and credit once crackt is not easly recouered, nor all creditors of one mind, for some will in pittty forbear, and others will shew the greatest feuerity. So hoping you will accept *non donum sed animum,* I rest this 27. of *January, Anno 1617.*

From the King's-Bench Prison in
Southwarke,

Your ever-louing Nephew,
GEFFRAY MYNSHVL.

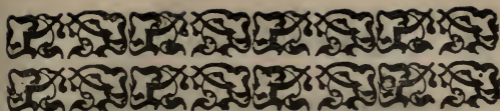
TO THE COVRTEOVS
READER.



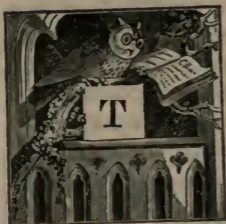
COURTEOUS READER, only to banish melancholly, and to wade through tedious time, tedious in respect of this place, I gathered a few Essayes and Characters, with an intent not to haue them seene of any, but to him to whom they were sent, being one that I might truely ground a certainty of, who would excuse my imperfections, and judge charitably of my slendernesse of judgement; this cobby by accident came to some of my friends hands, who hauing perused it, wished me to put it in print, which I altogether refused, because I would not presume of my own judgement, or dare to venter to put my selfe to the censure of so many vnderstanding readers, into whose hands it is subject to fall. These perswasions preuailed not, intreaties were laid aside, and I must

cither diuulge them, or else loose their loue: This was the first motiue that with an unwilling willingnesse, caused me to put my booke to censure: Another was in respect some obdurate creditors may read it, and by reading mollifie their strong hearts: The last reason, because it may bee as a caueat to young gallants, to terrifie them how they run in debt, wherein they may know that imprisonment is of all miseries most lamentable.

So hoping that the judicious will with fauourable censure mitigate my many imperfections, and the other judge fauourably of my intention, which if it take well, is better then I can expect, if otherwise they do not injury me in giuing desert his reward.



ESSAYES OF A
PRISON.



O what end or purpose should I intreat helpe of the Muses, for the aide of invention ; or *Cicero* to adorne my phraze with eloquence ; or *Horace's* deepe judgment, to write judiciously ; or implore ayde of *Martial*, to speake mystically ; or *Virgil's* heroicke stile, to please the hearers, since what I write is nothing but of sorrow ; the subject but discontentment, and the whole matter but an index of many miseries ; and therefore my phraze shall be altogether

vnpolished, being the seruant of my more dull apprehension.

*Vade, sed incultus, qualem decet exulis esse,
Infœlix habitum temporis huius habe.*

My purpose is, with dim water-colours to line me out a heart, yea such a heart, so discontented and oppressed, that I need not be curious in fitting euery colour to his place, or to chuse the pleasantest chamber to draw it in, because in it I am to lay downe the bounds of those tempestuous seas, in which tenne thousands are euery day tossed, if not ouerwhelmed, which is so vsuall here amongst vs, that euery one is arts master in this workmanship, and euery minute something or other is still added to this distressed picture, whose ponderous waight is so great, that the frame is scarce able to beare the *effigies*.

My trauels hither to this infernall iland hath been but a short voyage,

and my abode here as yet but few moneths, but it seemes longer to mee then an East-Indian voyage, and I am sure farre more dangerous: for if from the Indies of sixty men twenty come home safe it is well; but in this, if eighty of an hundred be not cast ouer board it is a wonder.

Being once arriued, no starre of comfort here can be seene to sayle by, no hauen of happinesse neare, no anchor of hope to cast out, top-sayle, fore-sayle, sprit-sayle, mizen, maine sheate, bollings, and drablers are all torne by the windes, and the barke it selfe so weather beaten, that there is few can come neare to touch at the Cape of *Bona Speranza*.

Being once arriued at, all are not onely staid, but the enchantments are so strong, that it transformeth all that come thither. First, the greatest courages are here wracked, the fairest reuenues doe here come aground; it maketh a wise man to lose his wits,

Loci in-
commodi-
tas.

a foole to know himselfe, it turnes a rich man into a begger, and leaues a poore man desperate; he whom neyther snowes nor Alpes can vanquish, but hath a heart as constant as *Hannibal*, him can the miseries of a prison ouercome.

The Character of a Prison.

A prison is a graue to bury men aliue, and a place wherein a man for halfe a yeares experience may learne more law, then hee can at *Westminster* for an hundred pound.

It is a *Microcosmus*, a little world of woe, it is a map of misery, it is a place that will learne a young man more villany, if he be apt to take it, in one halfe yeare, then he can learne at twenty dicing-houses, bowling-alies, brothell-houses or ordinaries; and an old man more policie then if he had been pupil to *Machiauel*.

It is a place that hath more diseases predominant in it, then the Pest.

house in the plague-time, and it stinkes more then the Lord-Mayor's dogge-house or Paris-garden in August.

It is a little commonwealth although littlewealth be common there; it is a desart, where desert lyes hoodwinckt; it is a famous citie wherein are all trades, for here lies the Alchymist that can rather make *ex auro non aurum*, then *ex non auro aurum*.

It is as intricate a place as *Rosamond's* Labyrinth, and it is so full of blinde meanders, and crooked turnings, that it is vnpossible to finde the way out, except he be directed by a siluer clue, and can neuer ouercome the *Minotaure* without a golden ball to worke his owne safety.

It is as Innes of Court; for herein Lawyers inhabit, that haue crochets to free other men, yet all their quirks and quiddities cannot enfranchize themselves.

It is the Doctors-Commons, where skilfull Physitians frequent, who like

Æsculapius, can cure other mens diseases, yet cannot quintessence out of all their vegetals and minerals, a balsamum or elyxir to make a soueraine plaister to heale the surfet the Mace hath giuen them.

It is the Chyrurgions-Hall, where many rare artists liue, that can search other men's wounds, yet cannot heale the wound the Serjeant hath giuen them.

It is your Bankrupt's banquetting-house, where he sits feasting with the sweet meates borrowed from other men's tables, hauing a voluntary disposition neuer to repay them againe.

It is your Prodigal's *ultimum refugium*, wherein he may see himselfe as in a glasse, what his excesse hath brought him to; and lest he should surfet, comes hither to physicke himselfe with moderate dyet, and lest that his bed of downe should breed too many diseases, comes hither to

change his bed, where he is scarce able to lye downe.

It is a purgatory which doth afflict a man with more miseries then euer he reaped pleasures.

It is a Pilgrimage to extenuate finnes, and absolue offences; for here be seminaries and masse-priests, which doe take downe the pride of their flesh more then a voyage to the Holy Land, or a hayre shirt in Lent.

It is an exile which doth banish a man from all contentments, wherein his actions doe so terrifie him, that it makes a man grow desperate.

To conclude, what is it not? In a word, it is the very idea of all misery and torments; it conuerts joy into sorrow, riches into pouertie, and ease into discontentments.

Of Prisoners.

I could wish that euery one that comes to prison, should not be dismayed, but carry it out brauely and

with resolution, and to consider that no misery in this world is endlesse. After stormes calmes will arise, and though sorrow be ouer night, yet joy will come in the morning; and, to say as *Cæsar* did to the pilot that carryed him when hee was afraid; quoth he, *Thou carriest Cæsar*. So euery generous minde ought to be arm'd with resolution to meete all stormes of aduersite, and to consider that man was borne to misery, and therefore naturall to him.

Omnis homo miser.

But thou wilt peradventure say, the name of a prisoner is loathsome to thee. Is it because thou art cooped vnder locke and key? Is it because thou feelest wants? Is it because thou art barred of freedome? Is it because thy friends looke strangely on thee, or forsake thee? Is it because thou art disgraced and holden in scorne? Is it because thou lodgest hardly, and peradventure with an ill bed-fellow? Yet let not all these dismay thee, for

hadst thou the whole country to walke in, yet thy soule is still imprisoned in thy corrupted body. Let not want discourage thee, for thy Redeemer suffered hunger and colde to fulfill thy wants. Let not want of freedome trouble thee, thy Sauour was fettered and manacled to enfranchise thee. Let not the coy lookes of thy friends dismay thee, thy Lord was scorned of all men, to bring thee into fauour. Let not disgraces molest thee, the King of Kings was most disgraced to honour thee. Let not thy lodging, or forced chamber fellowes afflict thee, the *Pilot* of thy safety was lodged in a *Manger*, and made a companion for theeues. But looke into thy owne bosome, and learne but a short rule, yet very difficult, viz. (*Nosce teipsum,*) and thou shalt find *Nosce teipsum.* that it is not imprisonment that afflicts thee, but the euill which is in thyselfe, makes thee so distastful, for hadst thou all things at will, yet still

*Nemo vi-
vit conten-
tus.*

thou wouldst wish for more. The greatest monarch liues not without some discontentment; and comfort thyselfe that one day thou shalt be enfranchised, and goe to that place and mansion-house which is prepared for thee, where all scores shall be paid, all cares banished, and all teares wiped away.

Varlets and catchpoles arrest thee, fret not at it, if law have power to whet an axe, she must pick out a hangman to strike the mace; this doth but onely put thee in remembrance of that arrest, which shall summon thee to appear at the Imperial Court of Heauen.

*Redde ra-
tionem.*

Thy actions are many and great which are against thee, yea, some of you come to a tormenting execution; grieue not at this, it doth but teach thee, that thy accounts must be brought against thee, to draw thee to a reckoning, to make thee know that thou owest a reckoning to Hea-

uen as well as to man, and justice will execute her power, not to driue thee to dispaire, but to amendement.

Further, I perswade myfelfe there are many prisoners whose resolutions are so noble, that before they would yeeld to the threats of an insulting creditour, they would cheerfully thrust their neckes into the yoke of aduersity, if no more veynes herein were cut but their owne; but here is none so poor which dyes in prison, but the last gaspe doth cracke the heart-strings of a wife, children, father, mother, friends, or allies; therefore art thou bound to take pittie of thy selfe, and to hang out the flag of truce to thy bloody-minded creditor, and seeke for ransome to pay all, so that thou maist escapewith life, though it be vpon some ignoble termes, and much losse to thee; if none of these respects, yet for thy countrie's sake, to whom thou art a traytor, if thou giue thy selfe to thine enemies hand,

*Parentes
et Liberi
sunt churi.*

*Non nobis
sed Patria.*

when vpon parley thy peace may be made, come forth of prison, and dye not there, that thou mayst honour thy King, and doe seruice to thy countrey, and pay thy debts so farre as thou art able, because the greatest debt that euer thou didst owe, was paid for thee.

Prisoners of another nature.

*Bank-
rupts.*

Some there bee which haue gotten other men's goods, and so lye heere to defraud them; these, of all men, deserue no pity or compassion, which tye their own hands, and make themselves gally-slaues, onely to wear golden fetters; how canst thou say thy prayers and expect a blessing should bee poured on thee, that so willingly erreest from the type of a just man, which is, (*Suum cuique attribuere.*) I will not speake much of thee, because it must be all gall: onely this in hope to amend thee, the gallowes on which the poor theefe hangeth is

*Fac aliis
feri quod
velis ipse
tibi.*

most fit for thee ; hee robbeth one man, thou whole families : he is a felon to man onely, thou art a felon to God and man ; if he kill, he doth it sodainely, and but one, when thou with a lingring death, destroyest father, mother, children, and peradventure many orphans left to their charge.

But look to it, that although thou compound for two shillings, or three shillings in the pound, the ouerplus which thou so ill hest got, will bring thy soule into such debt, that the remainder will not pay the interest, to saue the forfeiture of thy soule to the diuell, which will damne thee and thy angells, with him and his angells ; and thy issue or allies which shall enjoy them, shall neuer prosper with them.

*Diuitiæ
faciunt
homines
potentiores
non meliores.*

*Bona male
parta, male
dilabuntur.*

The Character of a Prisoner.

A prisoner is an impatient patient, lingring vnder the rough hands of a cruell phisitian, his creditor hauing cast his water knowes his disease,

and hath power to cure him, but takes more pleasure to kill him. He is like *Tantalus*, who hath freedome running by his doore yet cannot enjoy the least benefit thereof; his greatest griefe is, that his credit was so good and now no better: his land is drawne within the compasse of a sheepes skin, and his owne hand the fortification that barres him of entrance: he is fortune's tossing-bal, an object that would make mirth melancholly: to his friends an abject, and a subject of nine day's wonder in euery barber's shop; and a mouthfull of pity (that he had no better fortune) to midwiues and talkatiue gossips; and all the content that this transitory life can giue him, seemes but to flout him, in respect the restraint of liberty barres the true vse. To his familiars hee is like a plague, whom they dare scarce come nigh for fear of infection, he is a monument ruined by those which

rayfed him, hee spends the day with a *hei mihi, vœ miserum*, and the night with a *nullis est medicabilis herbis*.

Of Creditors.

A *creditor* hath two paire of hands, one of flesh and blood, and that nature gaue him ; another of iron, and that the law giues him : but the one is more predominant then the other, for mercy guides the one, and mammon the other. But if hee once consider what hee goeth about to doe, and that it is the image of God whom hee laboureth to deface and oppresse with miseries and calamities ; then the softnesse of the one doth so operate, that it meets with the hardnes of the other, which neuer comes to passe, but when Grace and Mercy kisse Law and Justice ; but such dayes are seldome set downe in our calenders, but I perswade myselfe that for a strange meridian is that almanacke calculated in which they are found.

*Deus fecit
hominem
secundum
imaginem
suam.*

I by mine owne experience (though little, yet too much to learne it heere) haue knowne of my owne knowledge a hundred creditors which haue laid their debtors in irons, as relentless as themselues, and of those hundred, if I should adde a hundred more, I thinke I should nominate but one onely, and onely one of a mercifull brest, who did not onely grieue to see his debtor opprest with misery, but also laid money out of his purse to free him, he shot a second arrow to find the first, and suppose he shot both away, doe you think his quiuer was the emptier? No, he scattered a handfull of corne, and reaped a bushell, hee receiued treble interest, he gained by this new security, and suche as would not faile him at the day, God became his debtor, and paid him more than his accompt came to.

Ironia.

Thou that art a creditor wilt not beleue this; doe not. But in stead

of this man's weeping make thy debtor melt into teares, and in stead of his lamentation, rejoyce hee is in thy hands to vse him cruelly, and flatter thy selfe in saying thou hast no reason to loose so much by him, but I will haue his body, or in perswading thyselfe that his friends will not let him lye for such a debt, and that thou wilt not forgiue him, but *nolens volens* wilt bee satisfied, or else he shall starue and rot : O thou wicked man, thou neuer dost consider what teares thy Sauour shed to free thee, and when thou wast giuen vp to the prison of hell, by the hands of thy cruell creditor the deuell, to be cruelly tormented, yet Christ paid all thy scores with his most precious blood, and how canst thou lye downe on thy pillow, to pray to God to forgiue thee a million of debts ; nay, they run into *infinitum*, which will not forgiue thy brother one debt. And when all thy friends would not re-

Homo homini lupus.

deeme thee, thy Sauour freed thee, how canst thou do these things with a safe conscience? Dost thou not sleepe on the pillow of thy owne damnation, thy prayers turn into curfings, and thou dost but mocke him that thou prayest to.

Consider what a great scoare thou art to pay, what an accompt thou art to make, and how thou shalt not escape if thou vse such cruelty till thou hast paid the vttermoſt farthing, thou that art a cruell murderer, whom the reuenge and wrongs of a wife, children, parents, and orphans, will, like the blood of *Abell*, call to heauen for vengeance on thee and thy posterity: doe but consider of this, and then thou wilt be affraid to torment thy brother. But imitate the Romanes, who rather builded a temple for the reliefe of those which were fallen into decay and pouerty, then find a prison to starue them in, and follow *Titus Vespasian*, who ha-

uing omitted but one day to doe justice, caused that day to be put forth of the calender. So that day when thou shalt haue but a thought of tormenting thy poore brother, do but looke into thy owne conscience, and it will make thee repent that euer thou hast liued such a day wherein thou hast plaid the tyrant in thy heart. The rockes haue yeelded reliefe to men opprest, but thou more harder then they, art the cause of their misery. Be thou as great a tyrant ouer thy poore debtor as *Nero* was to Rome, as cruell as *Phalaris*, as inhumane as *Lycaon*, and in the end thou dost with these get a staffe to breake thy owne head, and lay a snare which thou thy selfe shalt fall into, for though thy owne person escape, yet thy posterity shall be sure to feele the punishment.

Thou that vauntest, and wilt make dice of thy debtor's bones ; be these the words of a man ? No ; of a mon-

ster? no, but a diuell; nay, worse then a diuell, a thing not worthy name: for these words thou art as infamous, as the Jews hateful for casting of dice for our Lord's garment, that garment was but a senseless thing, but thou casts dice for a piece of thy Redeemer's body.

Thou takest with one clap of a varlet's hand, from the courtier his honour, from the lawyer his tongue, from the merchant the seas, from the citizen his credit, from the scholler his preferment, from the husbandman the earth it selfe, and from all men, (as much as thou maist,) the brightnesse and warmth of the sunne of heauen. In a word, if nothing will make thy stony heart relent, thou in being cruell to thy debtor art worse then the hang-man; hee before he strikes begs pardon, thou takest a pride to condemne where thou maist saue.

But it may be thy estate is sicke,

thy credit much ingaged, and to saue thy selfe thou art forced to doe this.

In so doing thou doest well ; if another weare thy coate, and thou goest cold, thou maist plucke it from his shoulders. If thou art hungry and another keepes thy meate, thou maist take it off his table : if hee be able to cure thy wound, which for his sake thou hast made, thou hast reason to seeke thy remedy ; but if he which hath borrowed thy coate hath worne it out, and hath not a ragge to couer him with, wilt thou trample vpon his naked body ? If with the Jew of Malta, instead of coyne, thou requirest a pound of flesh next to thy debtor's heart, wilt thou cut him in pieces ? If thy debtor offer thee his bed hee lyes in, his chamber hee sleeps in, his dish hee drinkes in ; nay, all that he hath, so that he leaues himselfe, wife, and children as naked as they came into the world, wilt thou for all this suffer him to

lye in prison? If thou be mercifull to thy debtor that cannot pay thee, alas, what is it? No more then if thou shouldest lift vp the head of a sicke man vpon his pillow to ease him, he may recouer and doe as much for thee. In prison pouerty is made beggery, and so thereby thou dost not onely vndoe thy debtor, but loose all; therefore be mercifull and pitifull, and thou shalt not lose thy reward.

Parricides.

Lycurgus being askt why hee made no law for parricides, he answered, because he thought there were none so vnnaturall: so if I should haue studied all the dayes of my life, and that my yeares should be doubled, I should neuer haue imagined either to haue inuented, or to haue been an eye-witnesse of such vnnaturalnesse as is here exemplary; as the sonne who being bound for his father, to free himselfe hath laid his father vp

in clofe prifon, and here hath de-
tayned him feauen yeares, neuer
yeelding to any compofition, but his
poore father liues at his mercileffe
mercy ; and againe, the father fuf-
fers his fonne to be imprifoned for
his owne debt at his owne fuite ;
furely a thing fo abhord, that I
tremble to write it, and none can
reade it without blufhing.

What will this world come to,
when the mammon of this world
fhall fet father againft fonne, fonne
againft father, and make them more
mercileffe then *tygers*, and more vn-
naturall then beafts : for a beaft for-
fakes not his own, but man respect-
eth gold before his friend, and the
father coyne before the fonne of his
body, flefh of his flefh. And the
fonne, the God of this world before
his father, which gaue him life and
being, whom hee ought to cherifh,
and vndergoe all troubles to eafe
him. But looke to it, both fathers

and children, least in a moment the just judgement of God fall vpon you, and damne you and your gold together, louing it better then those whom you ought to cherish, and the one to bee but a thing of the basest esteeme, in respect of the other. I could exemplifie it with histories as well forraine as domestique, but that it is not my purpose, for *Ex paucis plurima concipit ingenium.*

*Ex paucis
dictis plu-
rima in-
tendere
potes.*

The Character of a Creditor.

A creditor is a man whose estate is wrapped vp in sheep-skins, his rising growes by his debtor's fall, his credit relies vpon his debtor's performance, and the death of a young gallant's father, is more pleasing to him then fasting dayes to an vsurer, or death to a broker, hee growes rich onely by putting forth commodities, which immediately conuertes to discommodities; hee will not put out money for ten in the hundred,

for vsury is hatefull to him, but he loues extortion and makes that his *summum bonum*, for hee will marchandize with you, whereby he will gaine fixty in a hundred; hee is your cities honest man, which is, to speak the truth, more then a knaue, for a knaue that is crafty needes no broker, but he cannot liue without one. Hee is a man composed of all loue, and protesting kindnesse to pleasure the occasions of his gallant debtor, with his much affirmation of his respect, how willing hee is to doe his worship a pleasure, whereby the chiefe ayme of his pleasure is to haue a footing vpon some capital messuage, or else to bee fingring some petty lordship, or comely mannor, who hauing no sooner glutted himselfe with the rich banquet of his debtor's deerecost, but immediately to phisicke himselfe, hee is at the charge of a faire hackney coach with three most absolute jades to draw him

*Similis si-
mili gau-
det.*

(whether he most willingly is drawne) with his curious wife, and two or three of his owne conditioned neighbours, to see this goodly purchase, who prepare themselves some fortnight beforehand, and prune themselves vpp in their peacock's feathers, like the puppets in a Lord Mayor's pageant; and for this his great act hee is admired at amongst his neighbours, as the owle in the day time amongst other birds, and esteemed of with as much respect as that Captaine *Pigmi* was, which was commander in that bloody warre against the terrible black crows.

A *creditor* may further be said to be either *homo*, *monstrum*, or *dæmon*. A man, when hee casts his debtor into prison with a determination to seeke his owne, not to ruine him, and if he bee not able to pay all, to take what hee can spare, and giue him day for the rest, and so release him; this man is (*homo homini Deus*)

that as he doth punish so he doth preferue.

A monster, when hee hath not onely extended his substance, but casts him in prison, and is as deafe as an adder to heare of release till hee haue paid him the vttermost farthing.

A diuell, when he hath ruined him, doth rejoyce to see him fall, and in stead of coyne will haue his car-kasse: But to find a creditor both *Homo et Angelus*, that will release his prisoner when he is not able to pay him, and that will consider, that *ultra posse non est esse*. Such a one is *Rara avis in terris, &c.*

Of Choyce of Company in Prison.

Wouldest thou learne to dispute well? Bee an excellent sophister. Wouldest thou dispute of forraigne affaires, and bee an excellent linguist? I counsell thee to trauell. Wouldest thou bee of a pleasing and affectionate behauiour? Frequent the

court. Wouldest thou diue into the secreet villanies of man? Lye in prison.

Via periculosa.

Take heed when thou entrest into this wilder nesse of wilde beasts, what path thou takest, some guide is necessary, or else vnawares thou wilt with the Romane Emperour's steward fal into a pit, where cruel deuouring beasts are intrapped, which will ruine thee.

Society is the string at which the life of man hangeth, without which is no musicke, two in this maske is but a vnion; *Adam* had his *Eue*, and euery sonne of *Adam* hath his brother whom he loues.

No chariot runs with one wheele, two makes it steddy, a third is superfluous, foure too cumbersome: thou must choose one and but one, who walkes alone is lame.

Men of all conditions are forced into prison, as all riuers run into the sea; therefore it is good to bee fami-

liar with all, acquainted with few, and if with any, *eandem cantilenam cano*, but with one, make triall what the vessell will hold, before thou powre thy selfe into him; and bewary what thou sayest or doest, for thou shalt haue the eyes of enuy, not of reproofe, which will looke vpon thee, to malice thee if thou doest well, and if thou deny to follow them in their humors, and to dance after their owne pipe, thou shalt be more emulated then the boy was of the two ladies when he preferred *Venus* before in giuing her the golden ball; and if by accident thou dost any thing amisse, as *humanum est errare*, thou shalt bee more vilified, and with inueterate mallice more profecuted to disgrace thee, then the Parisiens did the Hugonites.

Bee wary, therefore, of thy company, for to bee a bowle for euery alley, and run into euery company, proues thy mind to haue no bias.

Thy comming into prison, is like a traoueller comming into strange countries, who takes vp feuerall lodgings, hath many welcomes, but they are not to him, but to his money.

If thou wilt dwell with thy selfe, bee not giddy, but composed; for hee that is euery where is no where, therefore bee wary whom thou selecatest, for heere bee of all sorts, for thou shalt as well find a flattering *Gnatho*, as a dissembling *Sinon*; and if thou haue store of crownes, then shalt thou bee sure to bee humored, and be beloued with outward respects; and then they will counsell and aduise thee, with protestations of their loue, but looke to such, whose counsell to heare and not imbrace, will not hurt, but may much improue thee; but, if once taken, it will operate as the apple which *Valentine*, Dutchesse of Orleans cast to the young Princes, which, once tasted, will so poyson

thee with corruption, that thou art vncurable.

Further, heere bee vaine-glorious and talkatiue-headed fooles, fuch will more trouble thee then any action of debt which is laid on thee ; heere bee common drunkards, which lie heauier on thee then an execution.

But if thou suffer a man to lye long in thy bofome, albeit his conditions bee full of flawes, yet labour to peece and feame vp his vices, rather then to cast him off, leaft that it call thine owne judgement in question.

All men haue imperfections, and, being in prifon, wee muft not look to haue them ftarres ; this place is no *orbe* for fuch constellations. *Humanum est errare.*

Let not thy companion be a miserable bafe-minded fellow, for then niggardlineffe will hold her fingers on thy purfe-ftings ; let him not be a prodigall, for then he will draw thee to riot ; if adulterer, to luft ; if a fwearer, to damned oaths ; if a pot-

*Diuitia
faciunt
homines
potentiores
non melio-
res.*

companion, to drunkenesse; acquaint thyselfe, therefore, not with the most but best, not the best in cloaths or money, but in vertue; if there bee none such in prison, then keepe company with thy selfe; in thy chamber keepe company with *Plutarke*, and *Se-*

*Cum bonis
bonus.*

neca, *Perkins*, and *Greenham*; the one will teach thee to liue well, the other to dye well.

The Character of Companions in Prison.

Quot homines tot sententiæ.

All companies are not alike, neither is there an vnion in their dispositions. I will therefore touch but three kinds of persons, which thou shalt bee sure to find in prison, viz.

1. *A Parasite.*
2. *A John indifferent.*
3. *A True-harted Titus.*

The first loueth thee better for thy meanes then merit, thy substance then thyselfe, who will rip open thy bosome to thy enemie; and when thy money begins to sinke, will flye from thee, and will bee the first that will disgrace thee. He is like a whore, who will no longer faune then thou wilt feed him. He is a trencher rascal, which will more hate thee when thou leauest to releue him, then euer hee did seeme to loue thee.

The second is one that will flatter thee, and will neither absolutely loue thee nor hate thee, but, when present, will bee with thee, when absent, against thee; hee is *hic et ubique*, heere and euery where, and, in very truth, hee is no where.

The last of these thou maist call the masculine sweet heart, which may be resembled to truth, whose bosome is always bare, and hath a breast of chrystall, that thou maist looke through his body to his heart; hee

*Verus
amicus op-
timus the-
saurus.*

is one that will loue thee in aduerfity, he will respect thee in the kitchen, as well as in the parlour, hee will reuerence thee in the Hole as well as in the Master's side, hee will looke on thee in rags, as well as in robes, and will acknowledge thee in fetters as well as in a feather-bed : Come stormes, come calmes, come tempests, come sun-shine, come what can come, he will be thine, and sticke to thee.

Of Visitants in Prison.

Nullus ad amiffas ibit amicus opes.

From a ruinous house euery man flyes : they that are abroad aske euery day how thou doest ; when in prison they protest they are sorry for thy misfortunes, but neuer come to thee : such are like idle passengers pressing about a barber's shop, when a man is carryed in wounded, who will peepe in and climbe about the windowes,

but dare not enter into the shop for feare they should fall into a swoond to see him drest. A prisoner is as much beholding to such leape-frogge acquaintance, as a man shaken with an ague to euery gossipping woman hee meetes, who will teach him an hundred medicines, and not one worth taking.

But if thy abilitie be such that thou workest thy libertie, then thou shalt haue as many hands imbracing thee as *Centimanus* had; much wine with little loue bestowed vpon thee, with oaths infinite, that they were coming forty times to see thee; but this or that occasion hindred them, when indeed they were afraid thou shouldst haue had occasion to vse them: and they had purposed to haue come this day, but they are happy that thy so much desired liberty hath preuented them; to such giue no credit, onely salute them with a *salue* and a *vale*.

Others will come to thee with

weeping and sighing to cheare thee vp, such are like Robin-red-breasts, that bring strawes in their charitable bills to couer the dead.

Others will promise to lend thee money, but try them before thou haue occasion to vse them, which if they deny thee when thou art at liberty, be then vnto them as a shadow. But true friends in a prison, are like strawberries in a barren country, that one can hardly get a handfull of them in a whole yeare; nay, they are like your roses herein Christmas, a thousand to one if in an age one be found, so in prison it is a great ods, if of a thousand kinsmen, allies, and acquaintance, I finde but one true friend.

*Donec eris sc̄elix multos numerabis amicos,
Tempora si fuerint nubila, solus eris.*

But, if in this great dearth of friends wherein wee liue, vnder what fortunate planet may I judge my selfe to

be borne, and that the constellations of the starres haue much fauoured mee, that amongst all my flesh and blood, I haue found one true *Damon* or faithfull *Pylades*, and amongst all my acquaintance, haue found some faithfull, and more constant in their loue and respect to me in this place, then when I was at liberty, they did make shew of. Such maists that so faue me in such wracks, I must euer loue ; with such dolphins, in all my dangers, let me euer meete.

The Character of Visitants.

Visitants are men, for the most part, composed all of protesting promises, and little or no performance ; they are like your almanacks, which, when they prognosticate faire weather, it is a million to a mite if it proue not contrary : they are like the German clocks, which seldome goe right ; their tongues run faster then the clocke on Shroue-Tuesday,

the pissing conduit in Cheapside, or an Irish man's paire of heeles when hee runnes on a wager. They will tyre thine eares more in one howre with their loud protestations, then a scholler, citizen, or taylor will a hackney horse in halfe a dayes riding, but, in performance, will bee as slow as a snayle in her pace; and when thy messenger comes to them for money, then they will bee sure to haue the strangullion or cholick, that they cannot speake, and looke as rustily on thy messenger, as a lawyer will on his clyent, which sueth vnder *forma pauperis*; your letters as acceptable as water into a shippe, the King's priuie seale to an vsurer, a subpœna to a country gentleman, or a catchpole amongst the friendly society of gallants.

They are like the rings and chaines bought at S. Martines, that weare faire for a little time, but shortly after will proue alchimy, or rather pure copper.

Laſtly, They are like the apples which grow on the bankes of *Gomorrhah*, they haue crimſon and beautifull rindes, but when they come to gather them, they crumble all to duſt.

Of Entertainment in Priſon.

As ſoone as thou commeſt before the gate of the priſon, doe but thinke thou art entring into Hell, and it will extenuate ſomewhat of thy miſery, for thou ſhalt be ſure not only to find hell, but fiends and vgly monſters, which with continuall torments will afflict thee; for at the gate there ſtands *Cerberus*, a man in ſhew, but a dogge in nature, who at thy entrance will fawne vpon thee, bidding thee welcome, in reſpect of the golden cruſt which hee muſt haue caſt him; then hee opens the doore with all gentlenes, ſhewing thee the way to miſery is very facile, and being once in, hee ſhuts it with ſuch

fury that it makes the foundation shake and the doore and windowes so barricadoed, that a man so loofeth himselfe with admiration, that hee can hardly finde the way out and be a sound man. Now for the most part your porter is either some broken cittizen, who hath plaid Jack-of-all-trades, some pander, broker, or hangman, that hath plaid the knaue with all men, and for the more certainty his embleme is a red beard, to which sacke hath made his nose coufin german.

No sooner shall a man passe this fury, but hee is conducted to little ease his chamber, where hee no sooner hath entred, but (hard vsage) his chamberlaine salutes him, and protests hee hath lodged thee with as honest a man as himselfe, when as in truth a paire of sheres cannot part the knaue betwixt them, and protesteth thou shalt haue a cleane paire of sheetes, and of the best, who

having no sooner fingered thy coyne, but sends thee a paire of sheets, fitter for a horse then a man, who having plaid the jade so with thee, then leaves thee. Hee no sooner departs, but Thredbare and Moniesse thy chamber-fellowes come vpon thee for a garnish, which if thou deny them or hast no money, then *exit* cloake from thy shoulders, and enter two dosen of pots, and one dosen of pipes; this is the pillow which shall be giuen thee to sleepe on the first night: now thou must bee saluted in the morning, or else peradventure thou wilt thinke thyselfe not welcome.

In the morning at thy vprising, (*Pothearbe*) the Gardiner appears in his likenesse and hee will haue *unguentum aureum*, for the narrow path thou hast to walke in.

Then to whet on thy stomach to dinner comes (*Cut-throat*) the Steward for his crowne, who profes-

feth much kindnesse hee will shew thee, for thou hast bound him with thy courtesie, to cousen thee, not onely in thy meat but money.

Next after this comes (*Mistresse Mutton-chops*) the head Cooke, who protesteth thou shalt command her, who hauing no sooner greased her fingers with thy siluer, but euer after shee will haue a hand in thy dish, doe what thou canst to preuent it, so on all sides the blood of thy purse must bee poured out to maintaine such mercilesse blood-hounds, and continuall purse-leaches.

These furies, as they haue diuers shapes, so haue they seuerall kindes of temptations; for after thou hast bene some fortnight in prison, they will come to thee to cheere thee, least thou shouldst adde melancholly to discontentment; and will tell thee they wish thee well, and thou shalt command them; and in their opinion the sight of the street will much

content thee, and they will attend thee to the tauerne within the rule, where thou must quench their thirst with sacke ; and what is got of thee is well got, being obtained by rule, for he that liues by rule cannot erre.

Suppose thou either perceiuest these things by others, or by thy owne experience, and so refuse this profered curtesie of theirs, purchased for their pleasures at thy owne cost. Then if at any time vpon just occasion thou desirest it, thou must giue them a cup of *aurum potabile*, or else expect not the least fauour or smallest courtesie, for no penny no pater-noster, no gold no friendship.

If thou continually be offered injuries beare them patiently, or else thou shalt be laid in irons for satisfaction.

If they perceiue thou art like to continue, and hast good meanes, thou shalt want no content that prison can

yeeld, but euery dram of content will cost thee a pound of filuer.

When they heare thou art vpon discharge, then will they bee very forry and make all the best meanes that possibly they can to detaine thee; but if there be no remedy but thou must needs depart, then what with their three halfe pence a pound for action money, and three in the pound for execution, they will make such a large bill which will be more vnconscionable then a taylor's, for hee will abate of the *summa totalis*, but in this heere is nothing to bee abated; all their speech is *legem pone*, or else with their ill custome they will detaine thee, for thy denyall is an execution without triall by law; for notwithstanding that amongst just men, *malus vsus abolendus est*, heere, *conseruandus et preseruandus*, and so the entrance into prifon, the continuance

in prison, and the discharge out of prison, will be nothing but racking the heartstrings of poore prisoners, and exhausting the substance of the distressed, whatsoeuer their wants be, holding it for a maxime, that *summa iniuria est summum jus*.

Of Keepers which goe abroad with Prisoners.

Haſt thou a deſire to goe abroad, thy *Argos* which attends thee, will be more chargeable then the Lord Mayor's gally ſoiſt on *Simon* and *Judes* day, or a cittizen's wife to her huſband when ſtrawberries and cherries are firſt cryed in the ſtreets, and will conſume thee if thou forbear not; thou maiſt better cheape ride on thy foot-cloth, then go abroad with thy keeper.

4 ſhillings
per diem
cum *Cerere*
et *Buccho*.

If thou walkeſt abroad with thy keeper, uſe him friendly, but not reſpectiuely; ſo manage him that he ſhall rather thinke himſelfe behold-

ing to thee then thou to him; for howsoever he faunes vpon thee with complements, standing bare with officious attendance, yet know, he serues in his place but as the dog the butcher; he is to thee as a cur to a droue of beasts; if thou goest on quietly (be it to thy slaughter among griping cittizens, and cruell creditors to worke thy own freedom) hee waites gently and brings thee to the doore, but if thou once offer to stray hee worries thee.

Remember his eye shootes at two whites, thy person and thy purse; the one is to guard thee, the other to feed him; thou art compelled to protect thy carcase vnder his shelter as a sheepe in a terrible storme vnder a bryer, and be sure thy standing there is to haue some of thy wooll torne off.

The Character of Keepers.

Your keepers most commonly are

insinuating knaves, and mercenary rascals, wearing their maister's livery, but their owne badge, which is flauē: in full proportion they looke like the picture of Enuy, with their hands continually diuing into poore prisoners' pockets, with their heads vncovered, still profering courtesies when their harts make answer what kindnes they doe is (*non tibi sed pecuniæ*) they most commonly feed well to their maister's credit, but the tabler's charge. Now if any take exception of the badge knaue which I haue giuen them, as the old prouerbe is, touch a gald horse and he will kicke. I will maintaine what I say out of their owne authors, a bird of their owne nest, yet not altogether so ill, who said to me that he was weary of his flauish life, in respect he must bee knaue in his place; who said, if hee were true to his maister, hee must be knaue to prisoners, if true to prisoners, knaue to his maister. So

be hee honest in his vocation or dishonest, hee must be still knaue ; for *mala mens malus animus*.

There are abundance of these snakes which lie lurking in this place, whose chiefest felicity is to talke of so many new prisoners which are committed, and are ready to faint if they but heare of release, and all the dogges at Paris-garden keep not such a bawling as these currees euery morning in the Tearme, to goe abroad with poore prisoners by rule, onely to prey and feize vpon their coyne, and they will not abate one penny of their extortion, though the poore prisoner fast a week with bread and water. And they rejoyce more for a *habeas corpus* in the vacation, then the husbandman for a plentifull haruest, or the merchant for the safe landing of his ship.

For money, they will doe any thing, bee it neuer so ill, so thereby they may purchase coyne, holding it a *maxime*, that siluer is well gotten

if by any means obtained, and to vse cruelty to prifoners is policy and wifedome; becaufe now is the time or neuer, for being once infranchifed, they will bee as wary to come in againe as the bird which hath escaped the fouler's net.

Effayes and Characters of Jaylors and Keepers of Prifon.

Thefe are *diuerfa*, but not *contra-ria*, they are all one in nature, in place onely they differ, (*nomine tantum*,) the Keeper is the roote, body, and bulke of the tree, the Jaylors are but branches, fome flip off by losse of a prifoner, by being giuen to drunkennes or whoring, (adjuncts infeperable to them,) or by any other debauchednes, at the pleasure of their commander.

The Maifter of a prifon is the *primum mobile*, in that euerlasting motion (a jayle) and thofe key-turners, and ftreet-walkers, are the petty and

necessary flauish wheeles, which runne like horses in milles continually ; by day with their feete, quicke eyes, and obseruing faces, by night with their feares, that doore should flye open, and prisioners escape.

Many men (borne well, of gentle blood, and extraordinary education) forsake the calmes of their owne happy fortunes, to arriue on these quick-fanded shores, and either by strength of purse, or free gift of great persons, haue such places of command confer'd vpon them, (I speake heere of the better sort which are the Maisters,) yet I know not whether the peruerse vn-rulines of prisioners, with whom they are to wrastle, or whether the fate of such star-croft houses, or what other maleuolent aspect sticks vpon them ; I know not, I say, whether one of these single, or all of them together, alter soft and noble inclinations into cruell and crooked ones, neither is my complaint or condemnation of

them generall, for I know some of this file, may and doe march in the rankes of men, both worthy, and full of commisseration towards those poore people vnder their charge.

But for the second sort, which properly are jaylors indeed, they are commonly either base tradesmen that haue broken, and by a little money pared off from other men's goods, buy such offices; els are they lazy seruing men, who beeing weary of carrying the cloake-bagge, think it a braue life to come and command as good, and sometimes better men then their maisters, within the stinking precincts of a prison; or take the best choyce you can, they are but out-worne soldiers, but indeed for the most part the very off-scum of the rascall multitude, as cabbage-carriers, decoyes, bum-bayliffes, disgraced purseuants, botchers, chandlers, and a rabble of such stinkardly companions; with whom no man of

any reasonable fashion, but would scorn to conuerse : but in these unfortunate caues of misery, where prisoners are tyed vp like dogges, and these are the Beare-wards, that hold no life sweeter then to insult ouer their betters.

These are *Niobes*, children turned into stones, these are double-tongu'd monsters, who fawne vpon prisoners with flattering speeches, and behinde their backs cut their throates to their master.

Nay, these turne-coates take off the very nop of their master's gentle disposition ; and when they heare him promise to a gentleman any fauour of going abroad, or speaking to a creditor in his behalfe, one of these Furies (bearing some secret spight) drawes bloud of the prisoner, by poisoning the master's good intention, so that hee crossing ouer the water, or walking scarce to the crosse in Cheape from the Compter, or

from the Fleete so farre as to one of the cookes shops in the Lane, there drownes the vow of any promise.

Nay, such opinion puts hee in these flattering spaniels, and insinuating pefants, that the basest report and palpablest lye of them shall bee sooner credited then any oath or contestation of the worthiest gentleman, making confrontation against them.

Porters in prisons haue in these close fights terrible teeth, and are good bloud-hounds, or rather mercileffe bloud-suckers.

Whatsoever they whisper in the master's eare is to him a *Credo*.

Hinc illæ lachrymæ.

This is the gall which so many noble spirits being forced to drinke downe, doe so complaine against the cruelty of their keepers, neyther are their tyrannies of one nature, but

their whips haue feuerall knots, and euery knot a seuerall smarting.

A broker takes forty in the hundred, and is called vnconscionable diuell for it, but these men thinke they may (without danger to their soules) wring fifty pounds *per annum* (out of prifoners afflictions and vtterly vndone estates,) for one nasty chamber, hung with cobweb-lawne for the greater grace, and haunted with lice and rats for want of better company.

A scriuener is reputed mercileffe in taking the forfeiture of a bond, but these men haue with *Judas*, for thirty pence, taken the forfeiture of a prifoner's life, for the want of so much money to discharge him, suffering him to dye in prifon.

A rich farmer is esteemed most inhumane, and no Christian, to take but the house or tenement ouer the head of a poore tenant then resident in it; but these make it nothing to

take diuers lodgings from a common gayle, which belonged for the ease and reliefe of diuers poore prisoners, to conuert them to the maister's side, and the benefit redownding to their owne purses, which is at the least 100 pound *per annum*.

Againe are all thy actions discharged, and is there any hope that thou shalt haue any fortunes abroad, or that thou hast good friends to maintaine thee in prison, bee sure then that vpon thy going out thou shalt bee put backe, (when all fees are paid) though thy very foote stand on the threshold, if knaues and varlets, clarkes and catch-poles, can, by trotting vp and downe to any man to whom thou owest money, finde any springe to catch thee in like a wood-cocke.

And albeit thou art as free from any debts, as when thou wert borne, yet rather then faile, actions shall bee entred vpon thee in a name thou

knowest not, neuer hadst to deale with, or neuer heardest of: Great pittie that the reuerend judges of our land haue not eyes to look through the very heart of such villanies, or are not certified of the miserable dealing and cruell extortion continually offered to prisoners, to ease them, as they are both able, and haue ready hands to punish them.

Shall I adde this one thing more, which I doe with a compatible commiseration of those, who I know lye groaning vnder it. Is thy creditor's heart softened so gently, that hee hath compounded with thee for all the money thou owest him, yet comming to take leaue with thy keeper, thou art thrust back into a worse prison then before; a booke of charges lies open before thee, and neither vintners nor taylors billes are so terrible as the *items* of the house, nor perhaps so vnconscionable, besides all vnreasonablenes to giue threepence in the

pound for execution money, and three halfe-pence for action, which many times arife to as much as a twelue-months expences.

Offer good men's bonds, offer lands, offer any plate, offer any paune whatfoeuer,

Ibis, redibis nunquam, in Bello peribis.

Backe muſt thou goe, to the place from whence thou art ſo deſirous to come, and in that conflict betweene thy owne wants and thy keeper's cruelty, periſh, vnleſſe thou payeſt the vttermoſt penny; neither the language of intreaties, the promiſes of friends, the reſpect of any of the excellent parts in thee, whatſoeuer they bee, nor any other motiue (but money) can preuaile in the wonderfull miracle of thy liberty.

*Pecunia
omnia po-
teſt.*

Of mercileſſe Jaylors.

Enough is ſpoken in the Eſſay going before, yet too much being too

little, with often inculcation, into eares so deafe from being penetrated.

A voyce lowd as thunder had need to roare and to awaken them. One venny more, and if that hit, so, if not (but if their hearts are not to bee pierced,) I will lay downe the bucklers, and suffer them to take them vp; yet fall back, fall edge, thus traueise wee our ground.

I loue to see a mother hugge her infant, or a father stroake his sonne on the head, these are bonds in nature, so strangely and strongly sealed, that to infringe them violates the very lawes of heauen: but when I see man exercise wilful tyranny vpon man, it is as if the stars should in enuy burne one another to extinguish one another's light, and so confound that spheare in malicious darke-nes.

Barbarous cruelty is a Belluine quality; tygers, panthers, beares,

and bandogs, haue it by naturall inclination ; it is no fhame for them, it is in them a basenes if they degenerate to mildneffe, and loofe their courages ; they haue mouths, jawes, teeth, pawes, and limbs, proportionable to their fauage difpofition.

But man is borne weake, gentle, vnapt to do hurt, vnable to offer violence, and to fall from that goodnes, is to fall with the angells ; how much then doe they derogate from their noble creation, who turne the sharpneffe of their nailes, which God armes them with for their own beauty and defence, to draw blood vpon the bofomes of Christians made like themfelues ? Such are mercileffe, inexorable jaylors, (I exempt thofe tender-hearted ones, which I neuer found other,) but moft certaine fuch may bee found within a fmall compaffe, who vfe and exercife all cruelty.

Cruelty becomes them worft of

all men : a prisoner is a poore weather-beaten bird, who hauing lost the shoare, is driuen by tempest to hang vpon the sailes and tacklings of a prison : the jaylor is the saylor, and if hee beate that bird off to sinke her in the seas, when by climbing vp to the maine top, or perhaps by lifting vp his hand, hee may take it and lend it heat from his warme bosome, it is an argument that his heart is made of the same rocks, that lie in wait to destroy ships in the ocean.

Pitty is a Godlike property, but hardnes of heart, selfe-willd tyranny, currish dealing, and imperious domineering ouer men dejected, argue base, ignoble, cowardly, and diuellish dispositions.

It is a *maxime* in the schoole of valour, that no coward can bee an honest man ; what then are flint-breasted jaylors, who dare not strike but when they see men lye fettered at their feet : So dead lions may bee

bitten and torne in pieces by cures, which before durst not quetch for terror of their pawes; so that hee who descends to that pouerty of minde, as to fat himselfe by other men's misery, can no longer write Man but *Misanthropos*, Man-hater, or rather *Anthropophagus*, Man-eater.

If remorcelesse keepers of prisons, (for drawing now mine arrow, beare witnes you who giue ayme, that I shoot at none) or if marble-hearted jaylors were so haplesse happy as to bee mistaken, and be made kings, they would instead of iron to their grates haue barres made of men's ribbes, Death should stand at doore for porter, and the diuell every night come gingling of keyes, and rapping at doors to lock men vp.

The ten-penny and nine-penny ordinaries should neuer bee more in the Fleet, Gatehouse, or the two infernall compters, for Hunger would lay the cloth, and Famine should

play the leane-fac'd seruingman, to take away the trenchers.

Neroe's cruelty in respect of these would be counted the peaceable raigne of *Augustus Cæsar*, the persecutions of the Romane Emperours vpon the primitiue Christians should be painted tragedies to reall massacres, compared to the inhumane blood-thrifty exercises which these tyrants would put prisoners to, if they durst doe what they haue minde to doe.

Ob. It may happily bee thought that I am too bitter, and write vntruths out of a malicious pen.

Res. Let the world bee judge : for when I see or heare that many noble, braue, and generous spirits, borne to great fortunes, well descended, of courages not to bee baffled, but by the arme of base fortune, and the irresistible violence of lawes fighting against them for debts : when, I say, I see or heare that such gentlemen,

vpon one afternoones going abroad, might free themfelues from bondage, and offer to goe pinyond peraduenture with leashes of keepers, and giuing besides profferd security of worthy friends, oaths, faiths, honors, and reputations of gentlemen to come back safe, when an inflexible jaylor can with a word let them goe, yet spitefully stops them : oh misery ! what shall I speake of this, on whom complaine ? Are there no such keepers of prisons in this kingdome, then I doe none wrong.

But I will giue you the picture of one farre worse, neither will I thereby infer all are faulty by one man's fault, God forbid ; but thus I bestow him vpon you.

There was liuing within lesse then seauen yeares past, in one of the petty prisons of this land, or not farre from it, a jaylor, who hauing some poore men vnder his custody, lying for debts, and wanting all releefe of

friends, dwelling (as charity does still) many miles out of the way, was so vnmercifull to them, that they hauing but little money, were glad to buy of him the liuers of bullocks, which hee begged of butchers for a dogge that hee kept, and to pay a halfe penny for a quart of water. But what became of this monster? hee went one euening in perfect health to bed, at midnight started vp roaring and rauing, and crying out the chamber was all on fire, and the deuill at his bedside catching at him, and so dyed in desperation. His wife after his death keeping the same jayle, fell sodainly extreame poore, and his children doe at this houre goe a begging, for *qualis vita finis ita*. Neuer was it heard that any hard hearted jaylor did dye rich, or if hee did, yet curses followed him to his graue, infamy fate euer vpon it, his end was wretched, his wealth melted to nothing, his fa-

*De male
quæsitis
non gaudet
tertius
hæres.*

mily hath not prospered, his wife and posterity haue beene beggars, and hee that exhausteth a heape of riches out of the blood of prisoners, hath God's mercie drawne away from him : I write this not to defame the good, but to reclaime the bad.

Of the Miserable Life in Prison.

To bee a slaue to a Turke is not so much, because hee is a Turke, a monster whose teeth are sharpned of purpose, (by diuine sufferance) to bite and draw blood : A bull's pizle is as proper to his hand, as a turbant to his head.

Cruelty is a genuine quality, but for a Christian to bee slaue to a Christian, as a prisoner is to an insulting jaylor, is as repugnant to nature, as for an elder brother to eat scraps from a younger brother's trencher.

The bondage is doubled in the

baseness of those petty insolent rake-hells, vnder whom the prisoner with a patience perforce suffers. For hee is a slaue in the eye of all freedome, fettered in the lap of his mother, (his country,) and what misery can bee greater then to see shore and yet be cast away?

To a free borne generous spirit no jewells are halfe so precious as his natie liberty, gold to that as durt, and albeit with a masculine courage he indures the braues of pefants when his body is confined, yet the nobility of his mind indures such wounds, as a woman in labor doth her throwes, the stroakes of death are easie to her passions.

Some cannot belieue, that so base a creature as a bandog dare set vpon the lyon, but fresh experience teaches vs the contrary, for that majesticall beast was not onely barked at, but bitten in his own lodging (the Tower) not many yeares past: So when

thou art hurried through the streets, in thy thundring caroch, all eyes open vpon thee, foot-men running by thee, thy body gliftring in gold, thy minde swelling with pride, thy bagges full, thy attendants many, all men standing bare before thee at thy bed and board, how wouldst thou take it in scorne, if a wizzard (by the almanack of thy riots, poyn-ting to an il fac'd catchpole, bayliffe, or jaylor, as he passeth by that pompe) should prognosticate and say, one of yonder mastiffes shall one day teare thee, when thou shalt not dare to spurne him, wouldest thou beleue this? Wouldest thou thinke so poore a snake durst euer sting thee? But when for heauy debts thou shalt bee tossed from pen to pen, (of pleaders,) into a prison, when hauing hardly wintered within that garrison of woe, thy face shall not be thine, but the picture of care and discontentment,

when though thou slumbrest, thy griefe shall still lie awake, when thy angells shall haue their wings clipt, and thy silkes be turned into course freefe, then that dogge whom thou scornedst to haue kept thy gate, shall in thy very chamber snarle at thee, thy bread by his kneading shall bee full of grauell, and thou must eat it, thy drinke by his bitterneffe turned into gall, yet thou must drinke it: thou shalt bee driuen to thy bed with as much loathing, as a wretch, that is to lye on a hurdle, and not suffered to rise vntill his iron hand plucke thee vp. So pent vp wilt thou be from ayre, that it shall almost make thee forget there is a sunne in Heauen: where is the edge of thy courage now? how poorely is all thy former brauery at-tired? dares this butcher's curre now fasten vpon the lyon? yes hee shall, and therefore,

*Thus know him : If thou like not his harsh
note,*

*He grumbles, barks, and ee'n to bite thy
throat*

*Has heart (if hee durst doot) because has
power.*

*As Lyons are lock'd vp within the Tower :
So heere great spirits are forc't to abide the
braues,*

*Base checks and surly lookes of groomes and
knaues,*

*Prisoners to jaylors, rise that wretched trade
Of common fiddlers ; each one dare vpbraid
And call them base ; what euer grieffe or wrongs
Lye at their hearts, they must chant merry
songs,*

*Like birds in cages, and are glad to sing
Sweet tunes to those, who them to thraldome
bring,*

*Who goe at freedome, at these hells may guesse,
None know them right, but they whose soules
they presse.*

A Locker vp at Nights

Is an *Ignis fatuus*, (or fire drake,) that glides from roome to roome, and frights euery prisoner vpon whom hee sheds his light, if hee prayes well, hee cannot but bee a good Christian, for hee is sure to watch.

Hee might be a foldier by his walking the round, but that the poore rascall seldome or neuer goes with a *piece about him, his cloathes and hee are of one threed-bare wearing, and very hardly get a nap.

* *Two and
twenty
shillings.*

Sometimes his eares are boxt for the glibnes of his tongue, and though euery night nothing bee giuen him, yet he is sure to catch cold.

The varlet is a rank begger, yet many coxcombs thinke hee hath much in his keeping, because hee is still locking vp; the belman of the citty and he haue almost offices alike, yet heerein they differ, that the belman hath his dog following him, but this night-walker growes into the habit of a dog by his currishnes.

A noble understanding Prisoner

Is a booke so truely printed, that Fortune (with all her mistakings) cannot find in him any *errata*. He comes to prifon, as a great ship in a

storme to shoare shewing more noble emblems of constant suffering, then the seas could sticke vpon it of their tyranny.

He beholds jaylors as a valiant foldier looks vpon his wounds, which (how dangerous foeuer) yet hee smiles vpon his surgeon, and will indure dressing with an vndaunted countenance, because he knowes it is to fetch him off from danger.

No *Jacob's-staffe* can take the height of a starre so truely, as his resolution can both of his owne misery and his keeper's cruelty: which albeit they moue in one spheare, yet their motions are contrary; for the one turnes still to his owne goodnes, and the other to his maister's guilt and confusion.

Hee is the oyle which swims on the top of affliction with courage, and cleerenes, that part which is downwards shines as brightly as that aboue, and no turbulence can make

it finke to the bottome. Of all geometricall figures, a circle is the moſt perfect, and the hardeſt propoſition is to bring it into a ſquare, for ſome ſmall fraction muſt bee ſtill left out : ſo it fares with this man's dimenſions, addition makes him imperfect, and to caſt off any thing leaues him lame. *Ouid's* verſe and hee are one and the ſame, word nor ſyllable are too much, nor too little; in breife hee can (with judgement) know when to beat a faucy jaylor, and when to haue him fawne and make a ſhillings-worth of legges.

Obferuations of a Priſon.

1. The deareſt meat in priſon is a tabler's cheeſe, and his firſt welcome.

2. The cheapeſt drinkes are garniſhes, one pottle of that is worth ten which you ſhall pay for in any tauerne about London : but it is far

more pleafant to drinke his part of ten in a tauerne.

3. Hee that comes fresh into a prifon, if hee flye into the parlor for victualls, is called a Woodcocke, if not thither but at randome, then a Snipe, howfoeuer you terme them, both are fure to be caught, and to be put all into one cage, the Woodcocke only is now and then a little finelier trimmed vp with green boughes, and reason, for the inferiour petty jaylors hold him to be the better meate, and therefore neuer leaue feeding vpon him vntill they haue pickt him to the bare bones.

4. In prifons, gentlemen and burften cittizens meet as vpon the Exchange, but the newes of both are not alike, for the gentleman fhall be fure to heare of nothing but wracks, but the politique cheating bankrupt heares ftill that his fhipe comes home with rich lading, this is his fafeft landing place.

5. Fat mutton-chops out of the kitchen, make leane commons in a prifoner's chamber.

6. You fhall fee fome in a chamber, who hauing fcarce cloths to couer them with, yet fingring good ftore of money, the pottle pot fhall neuer ceafe filling vntill the hogsh-head of their filuer bee cleane emptied, albe they wafh their dry mouths a fortnight after with fmalle beere. Such fellowes are like fome fcurray players, whofe ambition is to play the greateft parts, yet performing them ilfauordly are hift at for their labour.

7. A nafty ftinking lodging in a jayle is fweeter land then any gardenhoufe about *Bun-hill*.

8. A tobacco fhop and a baudy houfe, are in the fhirts of the fuburbs counted inmates, but in a prifon their tenure is all one.

9. A prifon is nothing elfe but a great ale-houfe, for euery chamber

is nothing els but a continuall drinking roome.

10. *Adam* was driuen out of *Eden* for eating of a poore apple, and a prisoner for want of sixepence shall be kept out of the garden: Euery *Cerberus* must haue his soppe.

11. The porter's lodge is a martin's nest, a knaue porter's fauour is bought as men fell deale bords, (by the foot) so of him for a fixe-penny bribe thou shalt haue an inch of liberty measured out by the rule.

12. It is flowing water in a prison, when there is no roome in the celler for a man to drinke a cup of beere in; ebbing water when *John Batty* sits nodding for want of company.

13. It is full sea when three men are forced to lye thrusting in one bed.

14. A snorting bedfellow is that great organ pipe, whose base found sets all the quire a roaring.

15. The easiest commodities to be taken vp in a prison are smocks, but trust no man with a shirt, no though he be a Knight of *Malta*, *S. Jago*, *Santa Cruz*, or the *Sepulcher*, though he steale his band of tenne thousand *Dam-meas*.

16. Many fine rings are to be had in a prison, the mettall of them is right touch, but most of the stoncs are counterfeit.

17. The sunne euery yeare passeth through the 12 signes of the Zodiacke, and the same signes serue as twelue houses belonging to a prison.

1. The signe is in *Aries* when a country ram and a citty goat meeting full But in a prison vpon going to law one goares another.

2. In *Taurus*, when the poore debtor is tossed vpon the hornes of his aduersarie's malice, from the country jayle to London, first to the King's Bench and then to the Fleet.

3. In *Gemini*, when halfe the prifon are drunke in couples, this is a hot figne.

4. In *Cancer*, when a prifoner fcorning to greafe the groomeporter with oyle of filuer, requests to come into the Lodge or walke into the rule, but is forced (with a *cancros imitere*) to goe backward.

5. In *Leo*, when there is a mutiny in the houfe, breaking open locks, and battering downe doors.

6. In *Virgo*, when a pretty wench comes to haue her action entred in a clofe chamber.

7. In *Libra*, when the fhauing jaylor and fharking creditor equally fleece the prifoner, and turne him out like a new shorne sheepe.

8. In *Scorpio*, when beds are lousie.

9. In *Sagitarious*, when a tabler eating too deepe into fcore, is shot from full platters, and feeds on two-penny chops and pottage.

10. In *Capricornus*, when a prisoner's wife taking hold on time's forelocke, giues her husband a bugle hatband.

11. In *Aquarius*, when a prisoner at his first coming into prison, giues sixpence for an earthen pisse-pot.

12. In *Pisces*, when he payes eightpence in the kitchin for dressing a groat's worth of fish.

18. Sure they are no aldermen that ly in prison, for if you see fourescore of them in one house, threescore and eightene of those haue giuen vp their cloaks.

19. *Amsterdam* and a jayle are peopled alike, Religion in both places goes antickeley attired, for here whilst some are busie at a sermon, others are as busie at their halfe cans, one man sits bareheaded to heare seruice, and the very next to him with his hat on stitching of Bodies, one man with his spectacles on read-

ing the first lesson, another hard by him sticking on the vpper soles of a payre of shooes.

20. Prisoners in the King's Bench common jayle, are able to doe good seruice both by sea and land, for some haue cabins, but most of them keep horses.

21. The King's Guard are counted the strongest archers, but heere are better fuitors.

*Their beds
are called
horses.*

22. A whore entring into a prison is a hony-pot, about which all the flyes come buzzing, as crowes to a carrion.

23. The lease of euery prison is forfeited, if euery prisoner goe sober to bed.

24. Some are of opinion that English prisons lock vp none but English men, but I say they are all Hungarians.

25. Execution of the law is a satisfaction to the law, all men ther-

fore in execution, haue paid their debts.

26. They that being at liberty were euer held to speake truth, are in prison horrible lyers.

27. Men study no game at cards so much in prison as Maw.

28. To borrow money is called striking, but the blow can hardly or neuer be recouered.

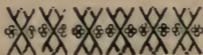
29. Euery prisoner is a Piece, and no maruell if he breakes, being so greatly charged.

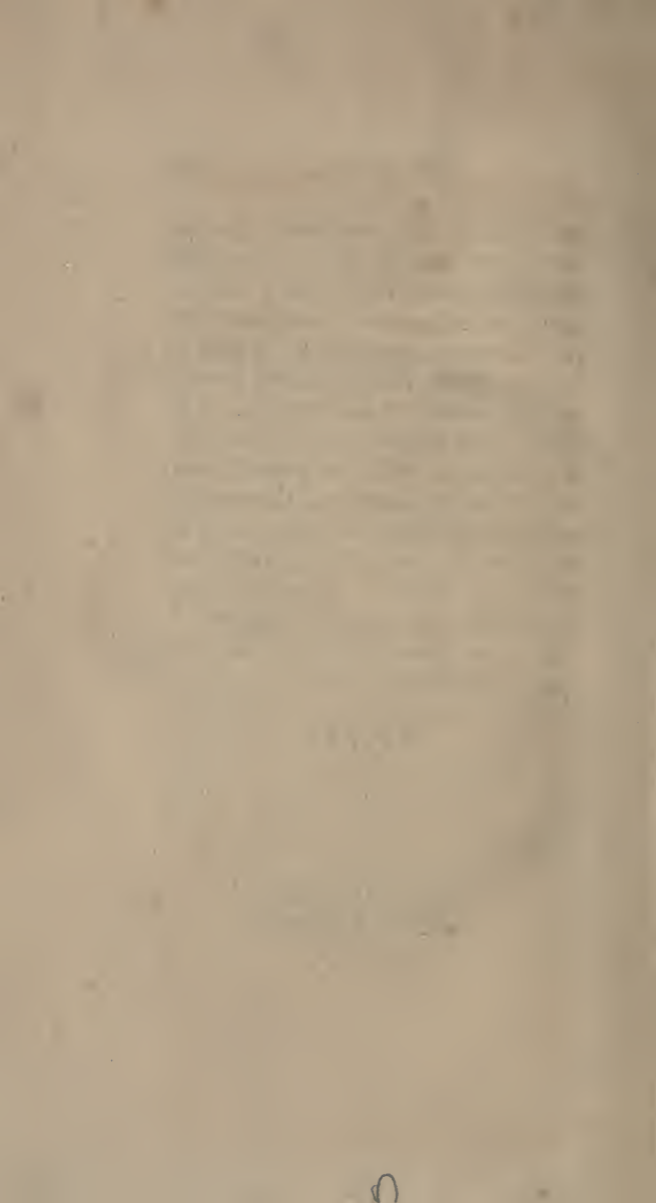
30. A jaylor has a diuinish stomach, for he eats men.

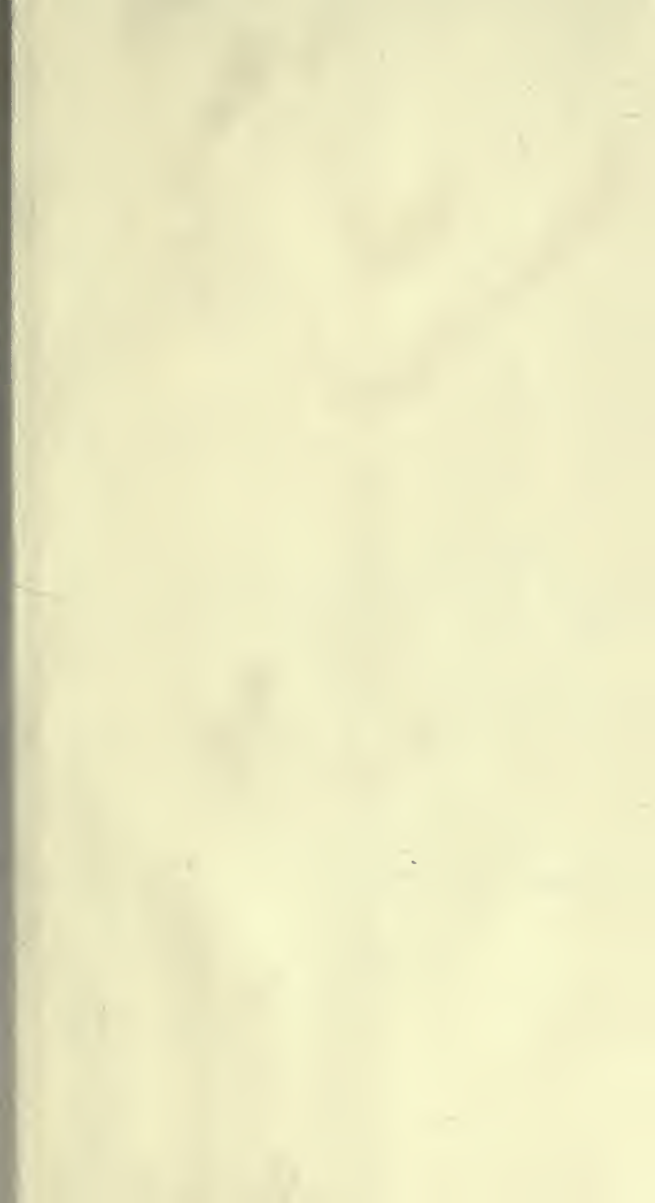
31. *Stow* your own countryman, and writer of chronicles, cannot be beleued by many touching the re-motion of lands by earthquakes, and yet to confirme him goe but to the King's Bench, and it is a wonder if you find not *Hockley in the Hole* about the house, which yee all know was planted farther off; fame is as windy as any of the 4 quarters which

trumpetting his judgement in government abroad hath commended his assistance to this place; soldiers are something more exorbitant then prisoners, and since he knew how to menace them, doubt not but he will quickly learne to manage vs. This is the greatest vnlikelihood, yet heere it is ratified. What els ye shall heare both touching the place, the persons, and their hangers on, hang me if the tryall make you not say report hath beene too sparing. I wish to euery man faith to beleue all this, but deliuerance from tasting of the least part that others suffer.

FINIS.











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