PROVERBS IN JESTS

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OR

THE TALES

OF

CORNAZANO

(XVth century)

Literally translated into English

With the Italian text

ISIDORE LISEUX

19, Passage Choiseul

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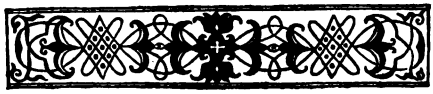


PREFACE[1]

roverbii in Facetie is one of the most agreeable collections of Tales bequeathed us by Italy, so rich in this kind of literature; it was a small popular book, sold in the sixteenth century, ornamented with woodcuts of a workmanship as primitive

(1) Translated from the French edition: *Les Proverbes en facéties d'Antonio Cornazano* (XVe *siècle*). *Traduit pour la première fois, texte Italien en regard* [par M. Alcide Bonneau]. *Paris, Liseux,* 1884, in-16.

as those of the *Bon Berger* (Good Shepherd), by Jehan de Brie. The publishers issued twenty editions of it from 1518 to 1560, which did not prevent its becoming exceedingly rare. Renouard published at Didot, the elder's, in 1812, a new edition which, without becoming common, is more easily had than the former ones, and the text of which, being less inaccurate, has served us for the present translation.

ANTONIO CORNAZANO, the author of a work which has been in such vogue, is hardly known except through it, although he wrote several others. Like so many other laborious literati of his time, he had founded his renown on voluminous works in which he fancied that he had concentrated all his genius, and posterity reads but a few amusing pages of them, penned in his most mirthful hours. His famous poem *De fide et vita Christi* (*On the Faith and Life of Christ*) in *terza rima*, which overwhelmed his contemporaries with admiration and made him Dante's equal, is now quite neglected; and the Germans, who know everything, are doubtless ignorant that,

previous to Klopstock, he had composed a Messiad. His *terze rime* in honor of the Virgin Mary have shared the same fate, as well as his didactic poem, in nine cantos, on the art of war; the six books of Commentaries which he carefully composed in Latin, on one of the great captains of his time, Bartolommeo Coleoni, are lost among the vast compilations of Grævius and Burmann. It is not as rival of Dante and Petrarch, nor as continuator of Vegetius and Frontinus that he has escaped from oblivion.

He was born at Piacenza in 1431. A few biographers pretend that he was born at Ferrara, where he resided during the last twenty years of his life; but he himself speaks, in various parts of his works, of Piacenza as his native town, and even assumes the title, at one of their headings, of *poeta Placentinus* (Piacenzian poet). Passano relates, in his short note consecrated to him *(Novellieri Italiani in prosa,* 1878, vol. 1*)*, that while pursuing his studies, being then about twelve years old, he fell madly in love with a young girl; and that his father, in order to cure him, sent him to the University of Siena. We have

found this fact verified, though it is of but little importance, in a place where we should not have thought of looking for it, namely: in his poem to the Virgin: *De la sanctissima vita di Nostra Donna, a la illustrissima Madonna Hippolyta Visconti, duchessa di Calabria*, in 4° without date or name of the place of publication and of the greatest rarity (1). The poet states therein that he had passed his twenty eighth year:

Da ch' io nacque.....
Ch' or compisce il vigesimo octavo anno,
Sempre in amare ho la mia vita frusta;

« Since I was born..... but I have accomplished my twenty-eighth year, I have spent my life in constantly wooing. »

and he adds:

Uno angel vivo, un pin co i fructi a'oro
El fior de giorni miei posseduto hanno
Fra sedeci anni.....

« A living angel, a gold-fruit-pine have during

(1) It is to be had at the Library of the Arsenal, Paris.

these sixteen years possessed the flower of my days. »

Twelve and sixteen are indeed twenty-eight, which proves that, in spite of his exile at Siena, he remained faithful, and this *gold-fruit-pine* would indicate to us the family of his adored one, if we were sufficiently initiated into the mysteries of the blazon.

He lived from 1455 till 1466 at the Court of the Duke Francesco Sforza, at Milan. He had come to the Duke's in search of fortune, and was warmly received and kept by him until his death in 1466. While he was there he composed the greater part of his works. The poem we have already mentioned was not his first literary essay, and he had made his debut by compositions of quite another kind, and more in accordance with his amorous temper; for he says in his Invocation of the debut to the Madonna :

E pria che Morte in me l'arco suo schocchi,
Redrizza, prego, in laude de tei rai,
Le mie lascive rime e i versi sciocchi.

« Before Death lets fly his arrow at me, repair,

I beseech thee! my wanton rimes, and foolish verses, in praise of thy rays. »

These wanton rhymes and foolish verses are perhaps among Cornazano's numerous manuscripts which are deposited in the libraries of Modena and Florence, and which the biographers of the poet, some of whose extracts appear in the *Thesaurus* of Grævius and Burmann, call *Elogia quædam*, *Poemata varia*, *Carmina in oculorum laudem*, Latin titles which most likely designate works written in Italian. There is another great poem, and, as the preceding one, it is in *terza rima*: *Opera bellissima de l'arte militar, del excellentissimo poeta miser Antonio Cornazano*, printed only in 1493 (Venice, in folio). It ought to be also attributed to the same epoch; for the author speaks of it elsewhere as a work of his youth, as well as the *De fide et vita Christi*, which was published in 1472. Cornazano held moreover with the Duke Francesco Sforza the office which poets of the court, admitted into intimacy with princes, usually do hold : he wrote his love letters. "Words," says he, "can also give pleasure to lovely young wo-

men; I can fairly answer for that, I, who was some twelve years in the Duke's Court, and often requested by his Lordship to compose for him love letters and sonnets." (1)

Cornazano passed in 1466 from the service of Francesco Sforza to that of Bartolommeo Coleoni, the famous condottiere, then general of the Venetian Republic. He wrote down the general's lofty exploits most minutely, and from his own lips too, for the recital is not followed up to the Captain's death. This interesting work in Latin is a sort of epitome of the history of Italy during the second half of the fifteenth century, Coleoni having been actively engaged in all the wars of his time. Cornazano had not had it published during his lifetime; Grævius and Burmann having found out this manuscript, they inserted it in the ninth volume, part seven, of their *Thesaurus antiquitatum et historiarum Italiæ* (Treasure of Antiquities and Histories of Italy). Coleoni having died in 1475, Cornazano returned to Piacenza, and was sent in 1479, as

(1) *Novella ducale,* inserted at the end of the *Proverbii in Facetie,* in the old editions.

ambassador, to Milan; he went also to France, as he relates in his poem *De fide et vita Christi*, but nobody knows when or on what occasion. He passed in 1480 or 1481 to the Court of Hercules d'Esta, at Ferrara, where he was received and entertained with profound respect. He married rather late in life, Taddea de Varro, of ancient and noble pedigree, and he died some twenty years afterwards in the year 1500. He was interred in the church of the Servites. Zilioli is satisfied with stating in his *Vite de' Poeti Italiani* (Lives of Italian Poets), that he knew Greek just as well as Latin, and that he wrote different works in Italian which are both useful and amusing: an honorable occupation in which he gaily spent his life and attained a good round old age. "His style, in verses," he adds, "was agreeable and easy and not wanting in elegance; but he was licentious in his choice of words, though nothing more, and used terms which persons of taste can not read without blushing."

This over exaggerated criticism can not be applied to any of Cornazano's works, to which we have already alluded, nor much less to any of the others belonging to the

same class, such as the treaty *Del modo di reggère e di regnare* (On the Manner of Ruling and Reigning) and the *Triumphus Caroli Magni* (Triumph of Charles the Great), of which there was in Renouard's library a magnificent parchment manuscript with silver letters and initials in gold and colouring; it solely aims at the *Proverbs in Jests* that exist under two forms, namely : in elegiac Latin verses and Italian prose, without its being precisely determined which of the two languages Cornazano had at first preferred.

The Latin collection, published three years after the author's death, bears the following title : *Antonii Cornazani Placentini novi poetæ facetissimi quod de Proverbiorum inscribitur opus nunquam alias impressum, adeo delectabile et jocosum variisque facetiis refertum, ut unicuique etiam penitus mæsto hilaritatem maximam afferat. Impressum Mediolani per Petrum Martyrem de Mantegatiis, anno salutis MCCCCCIII, die ultima Septembris* (A work, by a most witty poet, the late Antonio Cornazano, of Piacenza, which, written under the heading "Proverbs," is so delightful and witty and told in various jests, that it excites the greatest mirth in every

one who reads it though he be exceedingly sad, is now published for the first time. Publisher, Peter Martyr, of Mantegazzi, Milan, the year of our Lord, one thousand five hundred and three, on the last day of September). There is another undated edition, which contains under exactly the same heading the *nunquam alias impressum*, and it differs only in the name of the editor : *impresso in Milano per Gotardo da Ponte* (published in Milan by Gotardo da Ponte). It is considered by all bibliographers, Brunet, Passano, etc., to be a second edition or counterfeit of the first. Both are of the greatest rarity. The volume is composed of a Prologue and ten poems of unequal length, but they are all longer than the tales of the Italian collection, and treat of the following proverbs :

I. *Quare dicatur : Pur fieno che gli è paglia d'orzo.*

II. *Quare dicatur : Futuro caret.*

III. *Quare dicatur : Non me curo de pompe pur che sia ben vestita.*

IV. *Quare dicatur : La va de Fiorentino a Bergamasco.*

V. *Quare dicatur : Dove il Diavolo non pò mettere il capo gli mette la coda.*

VI. *Quare dicatur : Chi fa li fatti suoi non s'imbratta le mani.*

VII. *Quare dicatur : Si crede Biasio.*

VIII. *Quare dicatur : Se ne accorgerebero gli orbi.*

IX. *Quare dicatur : El non è quello, vel : Tu sei quello.*

X. *Quare dicatur : Tu hai le noce et io ho le voce.*

The Prologue is addressed *Ad magnificum et potentem Ciccum Simonetum, ducalem consiliarium dignissimum* (To the magnificent and powerful Cicco Simonetta, most worthy minister of councils), namely : Francesco Simonetta, a Milanese statesman, who was first prime minister of Francesco Sforza, then of Galeas-Maria, and finally of Bonne of Savoy, regent of the Duchy during the minority of John-Galeas. Ludovic the Moor had him beheaded in 1480, when he seized on the Estates of his nephew. Cornazano speaks in it as of a time

already far back; he speaks of his youth, his writings on war, the slight profit they brought him then; but Piacenza honors me now, he adds, on an equal footing with the grandest poets :

Tantaque bella meæ cecini sub flore juventæ
Ut Martis galeam me tenuisse putes;
Est et opus patrii juvenes quod ad æthera jactant,
Sed me par meritum non habuisse dolent.
Hactenus ut nullos enixa Placentia vates
Me colit, Aonidum sum sibi primus honor.

« I sung of so many wars in the flower of my years, that thou wouldst fancy I wore the helmet of Mars; the youths of my time extol this work to the skies, but grieve I have not had a just reward for it. Matchless Piacenza honors me now more than any other poet; in her eyes I am the brightest glory of Aonia. »

It is therefore when his native town, of which he had become one of the first citizens, sent him as ambassador to Milan, that he dedicated his work to Simonetta, then at the climax of his favor, but on the threshold of his tragical death.

The Italian collection is not a translation,

as Libri and a few other bibliographers assert, nor even an abridgment of the former. Of the sixteen short tales explaining the same number of proverbs contained therein, only four, I, VI, VII, XV, have their equivalents in Latin. The two oldest known editions of it, namely, that of Venice, 1518, *per Francesco Bindoni e Maffeo Pasini compagni* (marked out by Passano), and that of Venice, 1523, contain only fourteen tales. We can accurately describe the second, which is kept in the Library of the Arsenal. It is entitled : *Proverbii de messer Antonio Cornazano in facecia, et Luciano de Asino aureo, et historiati novamente stampati sub pœna excommunicationis latæ sententiæ, come nel breve appare. Stampatan ella inclyta Città di Venetia, per Nicolo Zoppino e Vincentio compagno, nel* MCCCCCIII, a di XXII de Agosto. Regnante lo inclito Principe messer Andrea Gritti (Proverbs in Jests, by Mister Antonio Cornazano, and the Golden Áss, by Lucian, and stories recently printed. Sentences passed under pain of excommunication, as appears in the Brief. Printed in the renowned city of Venice, by Nicolo Zoppino and his partner, Vincentio, in 1523, on the twenty-second day of

August. The renowned Prince, Mister Andrea Gritty reigning.) The translation of Lucian's *Golden Ass* is due to count Boiardo, author of the *Enamoured Orlando;* the stories are composed solely of Cornazano's *Novella ducale*, of which the hero is the Duke Francesco Sforza, and from which we have already given extracts. But as it does not enter the domain of the book of *Proverbii in facetie*, we have not thought fit to reproduce it. As to the Pontifical privilege, it is all a joke. We see indeed on the other side of the title a Brief threatening counterfeiters with a fine; but this Brief refers to quite another book than the Proverbs: *Historia rerum in Italia ab anno Domini MCCCCVC usque in hodiernum ferme gestarum* (A history of the things performed in Italy from the year of our Lord 1495 to about the present day), published by the same booksellers, Nicolo Zoppino and his partner, Vincentio; it was placed there only to frighten those who did not know Latin. In all the editions issued from 1525 (and we count not fewer than sixteen up to that of Didot's in 1812) we read as a sub-title: *con tre proverbii aggiunti e due Dialoghi*, although

two only were really added; these are two double versions of one and the same adage: namely, *Anzi corna che croce*, and *Tutta è fava*. We may lawfully doubt of their being Cornazano's, especially as the first of them is in the *Convito* of Gio-Baptista Modio, printed in 1558.

Passano concludes from this that the Latin work, *De origine proverbiorum*, may alone be attributed with certainty to Cornazano. According to him, the Italian collection of *Proverbii in facetie* would be nothing more than a mere compilation placed by some anonymus author under the cover of a renowned writer. Sebastiano Poli on the contrary believes, in his *Modi di dire Toscani* (1761, in-8o), after the adage; *Adio fave*, that Cornazano is the author of both; that he had written the Italian version before the Latin one, of which we should find the indication in a distich of the Prologue adressed to Francesco Simonetta:

Illaque materno quia sunt sermone, puellæ
Me sæpe in foribus prætereuntes legunt...

And he affirms moreover, that the work was in blank verse (*in verso sciolto*), printed

since through the ignorance of the typographers, as if it was in prose. We shall not decide about the thorough exactness of this second allegation; but the first is wholly false. The distich, of which there is question, only becomes applicable to what they will have it mean, when they detach it from that which precedes :

Per me habet hic cautæ quæ scribat amator [amicæ,
Nec responsa sua negliget ipsa manu,
Illaque, materno quia sunt sermone, puellæ
Me sæpe in foribus prætereunte legunt.

« Through me the lover knows how to write to his cunning mistress; nor does she neglect the answers in her hand : as they are in our language, the young girls are often reading them at their doors, when I am passing. »

We see by this extract only an allusion to a certain work, every trace of which, except the above quotation, seems lost. It must have been a sort of Lovers' Letter-Writer, unless it was a translation or an imitation of Ovid's *Heroids*. Cornazano must have indeed published some small book of this kind; for here is

what we read at the end of his *terza rima* in honor of Christ:

Nè qui prometto un stil gayo e giocondo,
Come hebbi gia fral gregge di Cupido,
Nel quale era el mio colpo più profondo;

Altro è legger d'un stral percossa Dido,
E donna dardeggiar con vano amante,
Aprendogli esso el cor per fargli nido:

Altro è legger virtuti e cose sante,
E contemplar el figlio di Maria
Pendante in croce per l'homo peccante.

« I do not promise here that gay and pleasing style I lately had in Cupid's troop in which my pitch was deeper. It is one thing to read Dido transpierced by an arrow, a woman goring with darts her silly lover who opens to her his heart to make her a nest; but it is quite another thing to read virtues and holy works, and contemplate the son of Mary hanging from the cross for sinful man. "

However it be, this handbook of love correspondence which the young girls used to be reading on their door steps, and in which they found ther inspiration in order to write to the gallants, has nothing to do with the *Proverbii in facetie*. The bibliographer beats about the fields while giving the two verses of

the Prologue a sense that can not possibly be theirs.

We nevertheless believe, as he does, that the Italian collection is really Cornazano's; it has been always attributed to him; and moreover it could not be the production of any ordinary compiler. It is the offspring of a masterly writer, full of art and finish, equal in style to that of the best storytellers, surpassing some of them by its originality of invention. The idea of taking ordinary proverbs and assigning them, by means of amusing stories, quite an unexpected origin, is most ingenious indeed. Cynthio degli Fabritii, in his *Origine delli volgari Proverbii* (1527, in-folio), another very curious book (1), began the same kind of work after him; and while treating sometimes

(1) Exceedingly rare, having been suppressed as soon as published. One of the forty-five Tales contained in this work has been recently translated into French, under the title : *Le Couvent hospitalier, conte tiré du Livre de l'Origine des Proverbes d'Aloyse Cynthio degli Fabritii, littéralement traduit pour la première fois* [par M. Alcide Bonneau], *texte italien en regard* (Paris Lisieux, 1885, in-16).

of the same subjects, he spins them out to a dangerous length, and says in several thousand verses what Cornazano slightly sketched in two or three pages. These short and amusing stories will be read with the greatest interest. They possess all the charm of those of Boccacio, together with the keenness of Poggio's *Facetiæ*.

PROVERBS IN JESTS

PROVERBII IN FACETIE

PROVERBIO PRIMO

PERCHE SI DICE : Pur fieno che gli è paglia d'orzo.

APERE *dovete, che gli è un proverbio molto frequentato, che a troppo tediosi si risponde per tutto quasi il mondo populato; che quando uno è molto importuno addimandare, e quello che è chiesto dar non po nè vole, gli risponde:* Pur fieno che gli

PROVERBS IN JESTS

FIRST PROVERB

WHY THEY SAY : *For want of hay there is barley straw.*

YOU must know there is a much used proverb, which, in almost every part of the inhabited world, is said to over troublesome people; when anybody asks with great importunity, and when he who is asked neither can nor wishes to give, he answers him : *For want of hay*

è paglia d'orzo. *Fù l'origine sua di tal natura :*

Nella regione nostra d'Italia, alla provincia formosa di Toscana, fù una richissima vedova di ville e di castelli, Monna Cecca chiamata volgarmente; nè figli haveva, eccetta una fanciulla che s'aspettava herede a tanta richezza et a tanta robba, d'età circa d'anni dieciotto, bella se mai fù bella pittura, et era l'occhio destro della madre, la quale quanto contento al mondo havere sperava, era di videre a quella figlia un bel marito, el quale nelle fatiche nutiali fusse robusto e non temesse scontro: parendo a lei ch'altro a perfetto ben di questa vita non le mancasse, nè mancare potesse, siendo ella rica, giovane, famosa e del sangue gentile di Toscana. E gia repulsa a molti haveva dato, ricchi e nobili ancho essi, che chiederla per donna la facevano, parendo ad

there is barley straw. The origin of this saying was thus :

In our country of Italy, in the lovely province of Tuscany, there lived a widow very rich in lands and dominions, and commonly called Monna Cecca. She had no children, save one daughter, about eighteen years old, handsome if ever painting was such, and destined to remain the heiress of so much riches and wealth. She was her mother's right eye, whose whole content in this world would consist as she hoped in seeing a good husband with her daughter : a husband who would be robust against the nuptial fatigues and fearless of the shock; it seeming to her that nothing else was or could be wanting her during this life, since she was rich, young, well reputed and of the noble blood of Tuscany. She had already rejected a number of suitors, though they too were rich, noble, and had had her asked in marriage, because she

ella in loro phisionomia che in le notturne zuffe non dovessero essere molto valenti.

Accade perseverando in questo proposito, che un giorno devotissimo a noi di tutto l'anno, chiamato il Venere santo, nel quale tutte le donzelle ascoste si menan de lor madre alle perdonanze, Monna Cecca, con la figliuola avanti e quatro donne dreto in compagnia, cosi cercando le indulgentie ditte, e per la beltà mirabile della figlia ovunque andava se le faceva circulo, concorrendo la vaga gioventute a contemplarla. Hor entrando in una chiesa assai divota, un giovinastro della terra, bello, di circa anni vinticinque o meno, se gli fe inanti con alguni seguaci; e vista questa, sbardellato e pronto, disse con gli compagni : — « Hai me di qua e di la, che farei io, se » l'havessi una notte entro le braccia! » Gli compagni, chel sapevano esser poten-

fancied she read by their physiognomies that they must not be very valiant in the nightly assaults.

While she was still brooding over this idea, arrives the most solemn day in the year among us, called Good Friday, the day on which all the young girls that live a retired life are brought by their mothers for the Pardons. Monna Cecca, with her daughter before her and four handmaids behind her, set out for the said indulgences; and owing to the daughter's marvellous beauty, the people formed in rings everywhere she passed, amorous youths running up to contemplate her. But as she was going into the church, which was quite thronged, a handsome young countryman of about twenty five got right before her with a few of his comrades, and after having viewed her well, badly rigged out and, prompt as was his habit, he says to the others : « Look here! what would I do, » if I had her for a night in my arms! »

tissimo in tal campo, dissero: — « Sandro » (che così havea nome), « quante miglia, » per la fede tua? — Dieci, » rispose quello, « per lo corpo mio! e sì piacevole » la potrei trovare, che sarian dodici. » La madre della giovane, nel trapassare udito hebbe costui, e mostrando voltarsi alle sue vecchie, gli gittò l'occhio adosso e guardollo fisso. Egli era grande, formoso di membri, un occhio maschio largo entro la testa, ma male in punto di gambe e del dosso, che venuto dal soldo frescamente, ferruginoso e tutto d'arme tinto era, le stringhe anchor delle braccia pendenti, parse a lei che troppo ben gl'impisse l'occhio, e disse, entrato il tempio, alla figliuola: — « Per mia fè, quantunque hoggi sia dì » di Passione, costui non parla male; » egli è uno bello homo. » Et ella, rivoltata inver la madre, dimanda: — « Havete

His comrades, who knew he was very bold in this field, said to him : « Sandro » (this was his name), « how many miles, » upon your faith? — Ten, upon my » body! » he answers, « and I would » find her so amiable that I should go to » twelve. » The young lady's mother happening to hear him, and turning towards her old maids by the way, stuck her eyes on him and kept staring at him. He was tall, well shaped, a manly eye wide open in his face, but badly provided in legs and back : lately returned from the camp, covered with the rust and grease of arms, his sleeve strings still hanging down, he nevertheless seemed right enough to her to fill her eye, and having entered the church, she says to the daughter : — « Faith, although this » is Passion day, that fellow there does » not speak too badly; he is a fine man. » The young lady turned towards her mother : — « Have you heard? » she asked her; « twelve miles, said he,

» udito? dodici miglia, disse, in una notte; » tentate, investigate chi e costui. » La madre in breve, lassando gli Giudei intorno a Christo, attese a la passione de la figliuola e con alcune donne pratiche sermonando, anzi che de li si partisse, inteso costui essere un gagliardo homo, non nobil molto, nè molto anchor vile, povero e senza niuna alimonia al mondo, tornata a casa el dice alla figliuola; e non curando lei sangue nè robba, mostrò che molto il giovin le piacesse. La madre senza indugia mandò per lui, e concluse dargli la figlia, dicendo a quello che robba hanno d'avanzo e ponnolo nobilitare e farlo grande, attenda pure a ben trattare la sposa. Esso, piegato el capo alla fortuna, la donna accetta e la eccellente dota; et in mano posergli ducento fiorini,

» in one night; inquire, try to know
» who he is. »

Briefly, the mamma, leaving the Jews round Christ, occupied herself with her daughter's passion; and talking over the matter with a few experienced women, learned even before coming out of church, that he was a brave boy, not very noble, or too meanly extracted either; poor and without any patrimony in this world. On her arrival home, she told the news to the daughter, and as the latter did not preoccupy herself about either birth or fortune, she hinted that this young man pleased her very much. The mother, without further delay, sent for him and agreed to give him the daughter, telling him that as to riches she had even spares, how they could ennoble and make him a great fellow; but that he should apply himself to treat his wife well. He, bowing his head at the fortune, accepted the woman as well as the good dowry; they handed him two

che s'adornasse e si mettesse in ponto, e fenno ben lucire tutto d'argento, con grande ammiratione di tutta la provincia.

Venuto el dì che doveva accompagnarsi, se n'ando all' hora statuita al letto, ove trovata la aspettante sposa, come poco uso a carezze muliebri, senza altri abbracciamenti, salire alla militare volse a cavallo; la nobil giovine, del rustico modo sgomentata, volendo per la prima volta farsi schiva, si tira in sponda e ributtalo con mani, et in quelle altercationi gli venne dato al marito in uno occhio e graffiçato alquanto in su una gota. Esso, come detto è, d'amore di donne rigido et inetto, benche valente poi nelle opere fusse, se tragge anche esso sopra la sua sponda, e sentendosi la gota sanguinare, fa sacramento nell' animo suo di mai, per fin che lei el preghi

hundred florins with which he should dress himself up very grand : they made him shine all over with silver, to the great wonder of the whole province.

The day on which he was to be wedded having arrived, he was off at the appointed hour to the bed, where finding the bride who was waiting for him, he, like a man little accustomed to women's caresses, wanted, without further embracings, to mount horse, as a bold soldier. The noble child, maddened by such rustic proceedings and desirous of showing herself reserved at the first approach, draws back to the bed-side, pushing him off with her hand, and, in the scuffle, has just given some of her fist in one of her husband's eyes and scratches his cheek. He being, as we have said, rude and awkward in love, although very valiant afterwards at the business, withdraws also on his side and, feeling his cheek bleeding, takes an oath in his innermost conscience never again to

lui, non la toccare; e con questo proposito el giorno venne.

La giovine alla madre per la primera notte non hebbe ardire di dimostrarsi mesta; passa dimane e passa l'altro giorno. Perseverando lui nel sacramento, insurgunt tædia corvo, *e la madre incominciò la tristitia della figlia intendere; che entrata nella lor camera una mane a bonotta, vide fra se gran spatio di montagna, segno di nulla approssimatione; e dimandata in secreto la figlia, risposele essere quella ch'era anzi che'l vedesse mai. La madre, ch'altro desiderio non hebbe mai che di vedere contenta la figliuola in questa parte, cominciò battere di palme per casa, sospirando e sborrandolo : « Figliuola » cara, dove t' ho io affocata? figliuola » mia, ove t' ho io seppelita? Io non cu- » rava se non darti uno huomo, et hoti*

touch his wife before she begs him to do so; thereupon the day dawned.

For this first night, the young girl had not the courage to let her mother see her chagrin. The day after, the following day passed. He perseveres in his oath, *insurgunt tædia corvo,* and the mother begins to perceive her daughter's sadness. Entering their room early one morning, she beholds the large interval of a mountain between them, no token of *rapprochement,* and having secretely questioned the daughter, receives from her as an answer that she was such as she had ever before seen her. The mother, who had no other desire in life but to see her daughter contented on this point, sets to clapping her hands through the house, sighing and exclaiming : « — Darling » daughter, where have I drowned thee? » my child, where have I buried thee? » I cared only to give thee a man, and » I have given thee a worthless block of » wood! that man is not a man, he is a

» dato un vil pezzo di legno! costui huomo » non è, gli è un saccone. » E cosi continuando in queste querele, le sopragiunse lo sposo e tutto intese; e perchè se haveva udito appellare non essere huomo, fece sua scusa con poche parole, mostrandole la parte grafficata la prima notte che toccare la volse. Poscia, per prova che 'l non fusse femina, sguainava una misura di cordone di sì notabil forma, quale mai a lei paresse havere più vista. — « Madonna, » disse, « questo è tutto mio; se Lisa si vole » (che cotale era il nome della sposa), « con- » vien che lo dimandi a me, non io più a » lei, perche feci sacramento all' hora, » quando l'unghie mi pose intro la gotta, » non gli ne dare, se non me ne chiedeva, » ch' io non son qua per combattere con » gatti. » Madonna Cecca, al scoprir del membro, ben presto con le dita aperte coprì

» sack of bran. » And while continuing thus her wailings, the spouse rejoins her and hears all. As it had been heard said that he was not a man, he excused himself in few words, showing the place scratched on the first night that he wanted to come at her. Then, to prove he was not a woman, he exhibited a stump of a bodkin of such notable size, that it seemed indeed to her that she had never beheld so great a one. « — Ma-
» donna, » he added, « that tool there
» is wholly mine; if Lisa will have any
» of it » (this was the bride's name),
« she must ask it of me, and not that
» I should ask anything from her;
» because I took an oath, when she
» stuck her nails in my cheek, to give
» her only as much of it as she should
» demand of me. I am not come here to
» fight with cats. » Madonna Cecca, at the exhibition of the member, very quickly covers her face with her hand, the fingers scattered, as when one looks

el viso, come chi detro una gradizza guardi; e visto et udito la rasone dello sponso, sen corse alla figliuola, ad esclamarle : — « Lisa, figliuola, tu hai molto errato; » costui è un huomo maschio et è compito; » beata te, se tu sai festeggiarlo! Tu te » potevi ben mostrar donzella senza cacciar » l'unghie entro la faccia; chiamati in » colpa e richiedilo lui, ch'io ti prometto » egli ha come servirti. » La figlia, cupida e putibonda tutto ad un tratto : — « Madre, » risponde, « dolcissima mia, » come debbo io a questo mai inclinarmi? » ch' io, che voglio mostrarmi donzella, » m' inchini a chiedere lui : Fammi tale » cosa? » La madre all' hora : — « Lo » conciarò questo fatto, » le disse; « tu ver- » gognosa sei e lui soldato; tel farò di- » mandare per modo occulto, che haverai » il debito tuo, salvando lui il suo sacra-

through a grating; and having fairly seen and heard the reasons of her son-in-law, ran off to her daughter to scold her. « Lisa, » my dear daughter, thou art greatly » mistaken. Thy husband is a male, an » accomplished male; good luck is thine, » if thou only knowest how to feast on » him! Thou couldst very well show » thyself a maiden without sticking thy » nails into his face. Acknowledge thyself » in fault, and request him for it; I pro- » mise thee he has it in his power to » serve thee. » Then quite ashamed and forsaken at the same time: — « Mother, » she answers, « my very kind mother, » how can I ever stoop to that? I, who » wish to show myself a well behaved » girl, how could I abase myself so low » as to bid him : Do me that? » Then the mother : « — I shall settle matters, » she says to her; « thou art bashful, and » he is a soldier. I will get thee to ask » him in a round-about way, so that » thou mayest have what is due to thee,

» mento, e tu il tuo honore. Digli, come a » letto sete : Da del fieno a mio cavallo. » La figlia disse : — « Per mia fè, mi » piace ; andate a chiedere lui sel si » contenta. »

Mossa la madre all' hora ambasciatrice, scontra el genero in mezzo de la sala, e dice : — « Sai com' è, Sandro ; » mia figliuola è garzona e vergognosa ; » non aspettasti tu mai che te disse fora : » Fammi cosi ; ma poiche tu se' stato » soldato, tene dimanderà che intenderai. » Rispose Sandro : — « Pur che intendo, » basta. » Ella disse : — « Ti dirà : » Da del fien al mio cavallo. — A ponto, » rispose Sandro, « non voglio altro ; mi » parrà essere ritornato in campo, è cor- » rerò la lanza alla polita. » Concluso adunque questo ordine fra loro, e fatta sera, come fur sotto coltre i sposi entrati, la giovine disse al marito : — « Da del » fien al mio cavallo, » e subito esso il

» he keeping his oath, and thou thy
» honor. When you are in bed, say to
» him : Give my horse hay. » The
daughter replied : — « Upon my word,
» that will do nicely; go and ask him if
» he will be satisfied with it. »

The mother, transformed into an ambassadress, sets off, meets the son-in-law in the middle of the hall, and says to him : « Thou art aware how it is, Sandro.
» Thou hast never expected that she will
» bid thee : Do me that; but, since
» thou hast been a soldier, she will ask
» thee for it in such a way as thou
» understandest. — Provided I under-
» stand, suffices, » answers Sandro. The mother continued : — « She will say
» to thee : Give my horse hay. — All
» right, » says Sandro; « I want nothing
» else. It will seem to me, as it were, I
» am gone back to the camp, and fixed
» bayonet merrily. » This agreed upon between them, and, the evening arrived

debito suo fece, empiendo ben la rastelliera vota; ma quello ronzino anchor presto hebbe fame et entrò sotto la seconda volta: « Sandro, date del fieno al mio cavallo. » Sandro del fieno al modo usato gli da; cosi la terza, la quarta e quinta fece, fino alla somma de nove bracciate, dimandando pur lei ghiotta del cibo, senza debito intervallo: « Dagli del fieno. » Ma essendosi il marito ritratto alquanto verso la sua sponda, per riposo e per potere alquanto prendere fiato, ben con opinione di giungere alli dodici, questa indiscreta e lecca del boccone se gli ridusse intorno a tediarlo, e come lo sentì ronfiare alquanto, che gia volontà haveva di dormire, e cominciò con gomiti e ginocchi a tempestarlo: « Sandro, da del fieno al mio cavallo. » All' hora lui scorgendo la stoltitia della donna, pose presto la mano in la lettiera, e presa un manciata grandissima di paglia, gliela pose fra le gambe al loco che

when the two spouses were under the blankets, the young girl says to her husband : — « Give my horse hay; » and thereupon he does his duty, thoroughly filling her empty manger. But the charger was soon hungry again, and she says to him for the second time : — « Sandro, give my horse hay. » Sandro gave him hay in the accustomed way, and did the same for the third, fourth and fifth time, up to the total of nine arm-fulls, the greedy one continually demanding, without observing the requisite interval : — « Give him hay. » But the husband having retired a little to his side of the bed in order to repose himself and catch his breath a while, remaining fully resolved to go to the dozen, this indiscreet one, this glutton of the sweet bit drew herself over to him, to torment him, and hearing him snoring (for he had a great mind to sleep), she gets at punching him with her elbow and knees : « — Sandro, give my horse hay! » Then

tanto fieno haveva mangiato, e disse : — « Madonna, non ci è più fieno, questa è » paglia d'orzo; sel vostro cavallo ha » fame, mangi di questa; se non ne vole, » habbia patientia. » La dileggiata giovine con ragione tirossi in su il suo lato a spagliucarsi, e tacita quello resto della notte stette, possando il marito affannato; il quale levato, contando la novella per lo popolo, diede principio al proverbio allegato, il quale dall' hora in qua sempre a troppo importuni allegare suolsi.

remarking the folly of his wife, he plunged his hand into the paillasse, and taking a big fistful of straw, thrusted it up between her legs, into the place which had already devoured so much hay, and says : — « Madonna, there is no more » hay, here is some barley straw; if your » nag is hungry, let him eat it; why, if » he does not want it, let him have » patience. » The young lass, rightly made a fool of, withdrew to her side, to get out the straw, and kept quiet the rest of the night, while her tired husband was reposing himself. He, as soon as he had risen, told the story in the neighbourhood, and gave rise to the aforesaid proverb which, up to the present moment, is still quoted to over troublesome people.

PROVERBIO SECONDO

PERCHE SI DICE : Chi cosi vuole, cosi habbia.

REQUENTASI *ancor molto in molte parti dire a persone che son di sua testa, istimandosi più di quello che vagliano :* Chi cosi vuole, cosi habbia, *dapoi che riuscito gli è il pensiero in male. La forma del proverbio ha questa origine :*

Un giovine Fiorentino haveva una donna prudentissima e bella ; lui debile era, ma superbo molto, et haveva alquanto del milantatore. S'accorse costui la donna

SECOND PROVERB

WHY THEY SAY : *Thou wouldst have it, thou shalt have it.*

T is still said in many places to people that think and esteem themselves more than they are worth: *Thou wouldst have it, thou shalt have it,* when one of their schemes has turned out bad. The form of the proverb had the following origin :

A young Florentine had a very wise and pretty wife; he was himself poorly constituted, but exceedingly proud and a bit of a wag. He finds out that his wife was

sua esser da un bel giovane vagheggiata, del quale, ben che lei gia in mille chiari inditii accorta fusse, non però mai, come savia e cauta, ne haveva relatione fatta al marito, per non fondare principio a qualche scandalo; ma stavasi in suoi termini, poco mostrando accorgersi di lui. Il marito deliberò di sfastidirsi, e chiamata un dì la moglie sola disse: — « Non mi » t'ascondere da quello ch' è palese; io so » che Bindone ti vagheggia » (che cosi era il nome del giovane); « delibero del tutto » amazzarlo, o almen segnarlo, si che'l » stia da canto. Fagli bon volto e donagli » la posta; in altro modo io a te torrò la » vita. » La donna, ben conoscendo la poca prosperità del suo marito e la robustità de l'altro giovane, che grande e grosso era, et animoso ancora, e Parmesan per patria, che più da fatti son che da parole, mal volintieri accettava di farlo; ma pur, per ispurgare ogni sospetto appresso quello

courted by a handsome youngster; although she had herself already perceived it by a thousand distinct marks, she, like a wise and prudent woman, said nothing about it to her husband, in order to give rise to no scandal, but kept reserved, showing herself little uneasy about him. The husband deliberated how to remove this annoyance; and, having one day called his wife aside, says to her : — « Do not » try to conceal from me what is noto- » rious. I know that Bindone » (this was the young man's name) « is courting you; » I am resolved to kill him or at least to » brand him in such a manner as he will » remain quiet. Receive him kindly and » give him a rendezvous; if not, it is » your own life I shall take. » The wife, knowing perfectly her husband's weak health, and the vigorous strength of the other, a tall stout jolly fellow, courageous into the bargain, native of Parmesa, a race rather of action than words, resigned herself most unwillingly to do so; but at

con cui sempre havea a vivere, fessi obsequente all' imperio del marito, e cominciò di dargli alquanto vista, e non molti dì poi le die la posta.

Il marito, avisatone da lei, s'ascose con la spada sotto il letto; il giovane alla hora data non fallì di ponto, ma quasi imaginandosi quello ch' era, venne con un mantello e corazzina sotto alla secreta, e con la spada e'l broccolieri a canto, che giocava benissino di scrimia. Gionto in la camera con la donna e gittato giù il mantello, cava la spada e fa una levata, fulminando qua e la de tich, tach, e dimandando sempre: — « Dove sono questi » poltroni? se fossero dieci, io gli voglio » affrontare; se non son più che dua, » voglio il maggiore boccone sia l'orec- » chia. » Il marito, tutto ciò udendo, incominciò a tremare fin sotto il letto. Il giovane, quando gli parse, pigliò la donna e gittolla sul letto, e cominciato gia caricar

length to rid the man with whom she had always to live of all suspicion, she obeys her husband's behest, receives the gallant kindly, and, a few days after, gave him a rendezvous.

Warned by her, the husband, sword in hand, hides himself under the bed. The young man did not fail to come at the appointed time; but as he had imagined what really was so, he came with his cloak which concealed his cuirass, sword and shield at his side; for he was very skilful at fencing. Having come into the room with the lady and thrown off his cloak, he draws ont his sword, goes through the passes, fetching here and there tick tacks, and ever enquiring: — « Where » are the poltroons? Even though they » were ten, I will pepper them; and if » they are not more than two, the least » morsel shall be the ear. » The husband, who was listening to all this, fell ashaking under the bed. The gallant, when the notion took him, seized the lady, stretch-

l'orza, vedendo lei che'l marito non usciva per tema, si stette patiente a quei malanni, sempre sul fatto dicendo : « — Chi cosi » vuole, cosi habbia ; chi cosi vuole, cosi » habbia. » Il giovane, havendo il primo miglio fatto, non consentì alla donna anchor levarsi, ma pur gridendo a lei : « — Di che temete ? per vostro amore non » temerei dieci huomini ! » batte due ferri gagliardissimamente ad una calda, e poi smontato giuso et fatta anchor per la camera una levata, diè due basi alla donna, e libero, senza offesa, indi partissi.

ed her upon the bed. She on seeing, as he was beginning to hoist the sail, how her husband did not dare show himself for fear, patiently bore the misadventure, saying unceasingly : — « Thou » wouldst have it, thou shalt have it; » thou wouldst have it, thou shalt have » it. » The young man, having furnished the first mile, did not allow the lady to get up; and while saying to her : — « Of what are you afraid? for your sake » I should not fear ten of them, » merrily beats her out two nails with one heating; then lighted off his saddle; and, having performed a few more passes through the room, he gave the lady two kisses, and free of encumbrances he went away.

PROVERBIO TERZO

PERCHE SI DICE : A buono intenditore poche parole.

DICESI *spesso per ogni provincia, quando uno intende l'animo d'un altro che gli parla lungo, e pare a lui che men ciancie gli bastino :* A buono intenditore poche parole; *di tal proverbio il nascimento è questo :*

Un gentilhuomo geloso e vecchio anchor, rispetto della moglie, per la bellezza d'essa e per la sua clemenza, che forse era maggiore che el non voleva, entrò in tanto sos-

THIRD PROVERB

WHY THEY SAY : *Few words to the intelligent.*

IN every province, when anyone understands what another person that is speaking a long while means, and when it seems to him that less prating would do, it is said : *Few words to the intelligent.* The origin of the proverb was thus :

An old gentleman, jealous of his wife's beauty and goodness which was, perhaps, greater than he would have wished, conceived so violent a suspicion, that he had

petto di costei, che nè giorno nè notte non haveva bene, e molto chiusa la tenea e con gran guardia; e tanto più che conoscendo la impotentia (che gelosia spesso vien da poco animo), cassò quanti famigli che ello havea in casa, quali per esser giovani et intelligenti dubitava di quello ch' essere potea, et un solo schiavo, non possendo senza, comprò, menato dal monte di Barca giovinastro. Era di buona persona, ma intendea nulla di nostro linguaggio, e subito come fù in casa gli pose nome Buono intenditore, e battizollo in tutto per lo contrario, che niente intendendo, alluse all' imperitia del famiglio.

La moglie, visto questo novo garzone ignaro al tutto del Italian parlare, e benche fusse negro era pur giovine, promettente anco nell' aspetto un buon manico sotto di misura, disse in la mente sua

no rest day or night and kept her strictly shut up under safe custody. He worked himself into such a state that, knowing his impotency (for jealousy often proceeds only from want of courage), he drove away all the servants she kept in the house, mistrusting what might happen with them for their being young and intelligent; but unable to get on altogether without any, he bought a slave brought quite young from the Balkan mountains. He was well built in person, but understood nothing of our language; and his master, as soon as he got home, christened him Quickwit, in allusion to his non-intelligence, quite the contrary to what he was.

The wife, on seeing this new waiter entirely ignorant of Italian, and, though he was black, full of youth, promising moreover by his countenance to have underneath a good sized handle, says to herself, against her husband : « I wish » this fellow to work at me, when thou » burstest at it, jealous cuckold. For one

contro il marito : « Io voglio che costui » mi calchi, ancor che crepi, becco geloso; » che per un male io ne vo far sei, poi » che tanto serrata voi tenermi, che gli » uccelli del aere a pena veggio! » Un dì, sendo il marito in casa su i suoi conti dentro lo studio, lo famiglio in la camera con lei, si gittò sopra il letto in quella forma che serviva al marito, e segna a quello che di sopra le monti, perche intendeva ancor parola nulla. Il famiglio, parendo a lui dover fare uno gran fallo, si tira indietro e su montare non vuole, temendo ancor d'esser così isperimentato, e poi battuto. La donna, vedendo che montar rifiuta, si leva fulminando a fin che'l marito oda : — « E che diavol è » questo? debbo io esser fantesca d'un can » moro? Egli ha cacciati via i buoni fa- » migli e tolto un boia che non vole fare » nulla; se io gli comando, el par che

» evil, I will render thee six; since thou
» pretendest to keep me locked up, and
» it is with difficulty that I am allowed to
» see the birds flying in the air. » One day, the husband being in his cabinet with his nose over his accounts, and the slave in the room with her, she throws herself on the bed, in the position in which she used to put herself with her husband, and beckons to him to climb up, as he did not yet understand a single word. The negro, believing that he would commit a gross fault, draws back and refuses to mount, fearing moreover that they only wanted to try him thus, then beat him. The wife, seeing he refused to mount, gets up storming furiously, so that the husband should hear: — « And what the devil is that? Am I to be
» always the servant of a negro dog? He
» sent away our good footmen and took
» a beggar who will do nothing; if I or-
» der him, one would say he was making
» game of me! » The husband, at the

» mi dileggi ! » Il marito, al udire delle querele, che pur l'amava caldissimamente, esce dello studio e viensene da lei, dimandò : — « Che è questo, caro thesoro » mio ? perchè t'adiri ? » Lei intra con furia lo lamento, lo schiavo incolpa che non l'ubedisse ; lui prima escusa quello, che non intende, poscia si rivolta minacciandolo : — « O Buono intenditore ! pol- » tron gaglioffo ! se tu non ubidisci a » Petronella, ti romperò le ossa ! » (Petronella haveva nome la mogliera ;) « e » fa, » gli dice, « che lei più presto servi » che me stesso. »

Detto cosi, si partì, e come el fù nello studio, la moglie concia anco alla prima forma gli fa cenno chel monti sul letto e la cavalchi : esso di nuovo anchor dinega farlo, e le volta le spalle, come stando in proposito di partirsi. All'hora lei presto si leva suso, e gridando anco se ne va al marito : — « Guardate che poltrone havete

noise of these complaints, comes out of his cabinet, walks up to her, for he was very fond of his wife, and cries out : — « What is the matter ? my darling trea- » sure, why art thou in a passion ? » She redoubles most furiously her wailings and accuses the slave of not obeying her ; he, quite at first, excuses him on the plea that he does not understand what is said to him, then turning round towards him while threatening him : — « O Quick- » wit ! You wretched lazybones, if you » do not obey Petronella, I'll break your » back. » (Petronella was the wife's name.) « Try, » he adds, « and wait on » her more promptly than myself. »

Having said this, he walks off, and as soon as he had entered his cabinet, the wife, putting herself into the same position as before, beckons to the negro to get upon the bed and ride her. He refuses again and turns his back to her, as if he was about going away. Then she gets up and runs to find her hushand, crying ont

» compro! Io gli ho cucito il zaccho tutto » rotto, et è sul vostro letto; hor ch'io li » segno chel lo spumi e netti per potervi » pulito venirvi dentro, mi volta le spalle » e si mi smatta. » Il marito all' hor for se ne vien con furia, e pigliato uno stanghetto gli dava zacconate a man tenente. Il garzone sgratiato comincia a piangere, e pur tanto seppe proferire in nostra lingua, che disse : — « Messer, mi non » intendere. » Rispose lui : — « Chi tu » non intendere? un cenno basta ; » e levò il dito guardandolo fisso, replicandogli pure : « Un cenno basta, poche parole » bisogna ; fa, come ella alza il dito, che » tu voli. » Il Moro, benche non intendesse la parola, pur notava li segni del marito, che pur teneva il dito alzato saldo, dicendo ancor : « A buon intenditore poche » parole ; sè non intendi il parlare, un » cenno basta ; » e gli fa cenno proprio

as she was : — « Look what an idler you » bought ! I have sewed his frock which » was all torn ; it is on your bed ; as I » made a sign to him to beat and brush » it, that it might be clean when he goes » for you, he turned his back to me with » a jeering air. » The husband steps out in a rage, seizes a wattle and administers him a sound twigging. The poor boy sets up a pitiful crying and is just able to muster enough of words to say : — « Master, » me not understand. » The master bawls out : — « Who you not understand ? one » sign suffices ; » and, pointing his finger, while rivetting his eyes upon him, he repeats : — « One sign suffices ; no need of » words ; try and fly as soon as she lifts » her finger. » The negro, though not understanding the language, remarked however the signs of the husband who was holding his finger straight up and stiff. « Few words to the intelligent ; if » you do not understand speech, a sign » suffices, » he added, while showing him

verso il suo zaccho ch' era sul letto, mettutoli da lei a gran cautela; e poi si partì con questo rebuffo.

Come il fù in studio, che la moglie il conobbe alla campanella del uscio che corriva, di novo montò lei sul letto, acconciandosi ut supra, *e segna ancora a lui che su le monte, leva el dito come fè il marito, parendo a lei che a quello che notare li vide battendolo il messere, si dovesse pur movere per paura. Et alhora lo schiavo, credendosi essere stato battuto per non montare suso, salì sul letto cosi piangolento, e dirizzato il cordone, calca costei; e come, per vendetta del suo male, davale botte molto impetuose, sempre sgunucando, rancognando seco, donde credeva farle un gran dispetto, faceva tutto quello che lei cercava. Il marito che l' udiva infin dallo studio, pero che un sol parete il divideva,*

on the bed the frock which the wife had very cunningly laid there. After this rebuke, he went off.

And as soon as he was in his closet, which the wife knew by the creaking of the door, she tosses herself on the bed again, fixing herself *ut supra*, and beckons to the negro to mount, while holding up her finger as her husband had done. She was expecting that he would make up his mind to do, through fear what her husband had pointed out to him while flogging him. The slave, on thinking then that he had been flogged, because of his being unwilling to mount, bestrode the bed crying as he was, and, with a strong cock-stand sets to working at the woman. And, so as to revenge himself for the stripes he received, he went at it with most violent shocks, grunting and snorting the while within himself; thinking he was giving her great displeasure, he administered her precisely what she was in search of. The husband, who overheard

diceva : — « Hai poltrone! sgnotolozzi » bene! tu sei parente de gatti, si? che » fanno quello fatto e piangono. » Credeva lui chel fusse intorno al zacco a nettegiarlo, e spacciava la moglie in altra guisa. Caricato un tratto l'orza, incominciò a costui sapergli buono, e ritornò a l'officio altre due fiate avanti che'l messere di studio uscisse, il quale, poscia venuto a desinare, trovò ogn' uno allegro; e la moglie, a cui era sommamente piacciuto il manico dello schiavo, disse : — « Da quelle botte in qua, è deventato » troppo da bene; il giova alle volte » grattarli un pochetto. — Ti diceva » bene, mia Petronella, » risponde il beccaccio, « chel si butterà un bon garzone, » e tutta volta, sendo lui presente, gli ride in volto e ragiona con ella, industriandosi lei molto a queste demostrationi, acciochè lo schiavo credesse chel messere havesse un gran piacere ch' ella spacciasse,

him from the end of his closet, being separated from them only by a partition, hallooed : « Ah ! rascal, you are grunting ! » you are a near akin to cats, eh ? which » do that while purring. » He imagined that the negro was busy in thumping his frock, whereas he was thumping his wife in quite another way. The sail being once hoisted, he took a liking to it, returning twice to the charge before the master should come out of his closet. When he did come out afterwards to dine, he found everyone contented. The wife, who was exceedingly well pleased with the slave's handle, opens the conversation : — « Ever since the wattling you gave him, » he has become very good ; he is in » need of a beating occasionally. — I told » you so, my Petronella, » replied the cuckold, « that he would succeed in mak- » ing himself useful ; » and everytime he looked at him, smiled, while talking with his wife ; she devising how to make these demonstrations clearer, in order

e dissegli la moglie, poscia che l'hebbe comendato assai : — « Voglio che gli » comprate hoggi un paro di calze et un » buon zuppetto. » E cosi, come presto hebbe pranzato, andò in mercato collo schiavo e gli le pose in dosso, rimandandolo a casa a fare i letti, e nel partire gli disse : — « Buono intenditore, tu » m' hai inteso ; ve, un segno basta, » et alza pure il prelibato dito. Lo schiavo il guarda, e dice pur : — « Mi intendere » ben, messere ; poche parole. — Poche » parole, » responde il messere ; « ubidisci » a Petronella ; un cenno basta. »

Giunto lo schiavo a casa tutto ripolito, la prima cosa abbraccia la patrona, credendosi havere havuto dal marito questa commissione sino in mercato, e guadagnate le calze per quello, et in breve altre due fiate anchor la inchiava ; e seguendo sto stile, ogni fiata che'l marito iva in

that the slave should be brought to believe that his master was highly delighted because he thumped her ; and she said, after having praised herself warmly for it : — « I wish you to buy him this very day a » pair of hose and a good vest. » It is precisely what he did. As soon as he had dined, he went off to the market with the slave, puts the goods he bought on his back, and then, despatching him home to make the beds, did not fail to say to him on parting : — « Quickwit, you have un- » derstood me ? go, one sign suffices, » and he held up his finger. The slave looks at him and says : — « Me well under- » stand, master, few words. — Few » words, » answers the master ; « obey » Petronella ; one sign suffices. »

The slave, newly decked out, reaches home ; the first thing he does is to embrace mistress, believing that this had been the husband's commission at the market. Having earned his hose, he worked twice more at her, and continued in

mercato, rimandandolo a casa con qualche cosa comprata, gli diceva nel partire: — « Buono intenditore, un cenno basta; » ricordare volendogli chel fusse obediente, e lui pur rispondeva: — « Poche parole, » messere; » quasi con dire: « Tu vuoi, » come a casa son, monti suso, e cosi » farò io. » Poi se ne ritornava o con cauli o con pesce, ma a pena era giunto che metteva giù i cauli, e piantava su i porri, appendea il pesce et inspedava carne.

Molto continuò questa tal prattica, per la sagacità di questa donna, non forse mai più audita che con costui che non sapeva parlare. Vende il marito fin tanto che si sentì gravida; lo schiavo s'amalò per troppo premere. Ella, sentendo subito il suo caso, usò maggior industria della prima, che rendendosi certa partorir figliuol negro come'l padre, fecesi fare un

the same style; every morning that the husband went to market and sent him back home with some object he had bought, he used to say to him on parting: — « Quickwit, one sign suffices; » to remind him how he ought to be obedient, and the negro used to answer : — « Few » words, master, » thinking to mean thereby : « You wish me, as soon as » I enter, to climb upon mistress; that » is what I am going to do. » Then he returned either with cabbage or fish; but hardly arrived when he quickly laid down the cabbage and planted the leak, or hung up the fish and stuck the spit into the meat.

This practice lasted a long time, thanks to the wife's subterfuge, never perhaps better understood than by this negro who could not speak. At length, the husband went so often to market, that she felt herself growing bulky, and that the slave was falling ill by dint of working at her. Seeing what was happening herself, she

capocielo dal letto con l'arme del suo parentado sotto, che era un Moro nudo sopra uno scoglio, e subornò il medico che serviva alla casa con cento ducati di zecca, acciò che a partorire lei fusse presente, e visto il figliuolo negro, causasse et affermasse che, per la imagine del sopracielo del letto, il parto generato fosse negro, dicendo che imaginatione fa caso in medicina, e la donna concipiente col marito, per tegnire gli occhi fitti in tal figura, haveva mutato il seme in embrione.

Or cosi giunto il tempo a partorir due gemelli tinti come il padre, il medico onto, con allegatione gli fù presente, sì che il marito se l' hebbe in pace. Lo schiavo stette quattro mesi in letto, estenuato per

made use of a stratagem, cleverer still than the former one; and, certain of being brought to bed with a son who would be black, like his father, she got herself made a tester, ornamented with the family coat of arms, which was a naked black upon a rock; then, by the aid of a hundred silver ducats, corrupted the family Doctor to preside over her childbed and, on seeing the little black, to state and affirm that, owing to the image on the tester, the engendered foetus was transformed into a negro; that the imagination occupies a vast space in medicine; that the woman having duly conceived of her husband, had, by force of staring at this image, changed the seed into embryo.

When her time came, she gave birth to a pair of twins, black like the father; and the Doctor, whose hand was tipped, assisted her so well with his allegations, that the husband took everything very peaceably. The slave remained four months

troppo lambiccare in fino all' ossa, a cui andando il medico per curarlo, domandogli : — « Che male hai? che ti dole? » Buono intenditore non rispondea, nè sapeva respondere altro, se non che diceva : — « Poche parole, messere; poche parole. » Nè mai di quanto interrogò il suo male, potè cavarne altro, se non : « A buono » intenditore poche parole, messere; » volendoli per questo significare che per troppo tirar l'arco se moriva. Il medico, credendo lui chel volesse dire che parlare gli nocesse, il lassò peggiorare nella mal' hora; ma conosciutolo a l'orina poi, che sfilato era il mal hormai incurabile, lassolo andare a Dio, et i dinari hebbe; e la historia in la terra per lui poi divolgata diè principio al proverbio sopradetto, il quale molti della causa ignari allegano fuor del suo essere, et abusivamente hanno usurpato.

in bed, quite extenuated having worn himself out to the bones. And the Doctor, when going to look after him, asks him : — « What illness have you? whereabouts » is it you suffer? » Quickwit simply answered and only knew how to answer either : — « Few words, master; few » words; » he would have vainly questioned him about his illness, nor would he have ever got anything else out of him but : — « To the intelligent few words, » master; » which in his eyes signified that he was dying from having shot two much out of the bow. The Doctor thought he meant by this that talking made him suffer, so he let him run on from bad to worse; and, having discovered by the urine that the disease was henceforth incurable, he let him go to God, and carried off his emoluments. The story being afterwards divulged by him in the town, gave rise to the aforesaid proverb, which many people, ignorant of its origin, quote out of season, and make an abuse of it.

PROVERBIO QUARTO

PERCHE SI DICE : Anzi corna che croce.

UN *altro pur geloso e un poco grosso levò il proverbio in piè si divulgato, quando alcuno parlando della moglie si vole mostrare di non curare che faccia, lassandola come vole fare, et non volendo per lei fare questione mettersi a pericolo della vita. Onde all' hor si dice :* Anzi corna che croce.

FOURTH PROVERB

WHY THEY SAY : *Horns rather than crosses.*

ANOTHER jealous man, somewhat of a simpleton, gave rise to the so frequently quoted proverb; when anybody, in speaking of his wife, wants to show that he does not care what she does; when he allows her to act according to her own good pleasure, being unwilling to quarrel or risk his life on her account. Then they say : *Horns rather than crosses.*

Fù uno mercante forestiero con bella donna, della quale vivendo poco sicuro per dover navicare, essendo lei forte amata e vagheggiata molto, s'ingegnò di fare ch'ella peccar non posse ancor volendo, e fè fare alla Siriana uno paro di brache di cui Semiramis per gelosia del figliuolo fù l'inventrice, e lasciatole solo i busi necessarii all' oportune cose, le cinse quella e ritenne la chiave, volendola portar seco in Levante. La moglie di questo niente si mostrò turbata, ma el di dreto gli disse :
— « Marito mio, come farei s' io parto-
» rissi inanzi il tornar vostro, ch' io mi
» sento piena ? » A cui il marito disse :
— « Tu hai ragione, dolcissima mogliere ;
» io non haveria gia pensato in questo. »
E levole le brache prestamente, quasi con opinione di non cercare altro, e lasciar in

There was a foreign merchant, who had a pretty wife, and having to take shipping and not being sure of her, because she suffered herself to be much loved and courted, he set his wits to work at how he could manage to prevent her from falling, even though she was willing; so he got one of those girdles of which Semiramis, through the jealousy of her young son, was the inventress, fabricated in the Syrian style. This girdle leaving the woman only the openings requisite for the necessities of nature, he fastened it on her and kept the key thereof, fully resolved to carry it with him to the Levant. The wife did not seem in the least startled at these proceedings, but she says to him, the day before his departure :

« My dear husband, what shall I do » if I am brought to bed before you » come back? for I feel big with child. » He answers her : — « You are right, » my dearest wife; I never thought of

suo arbitrio con buono animo. Ma essendo gia aviato per andare al porto et entrare in nave, sentì alcuni gioveni dicenti l'un l'altro: — « Che mercatante è quello che » va la? — El tale. — Oh! quante » corna se gli apparecchiano anzi chel » torni! Ti so dire ch' egli ha una moglie » che si fara dar entro le carni. » Costui, udendo le parole mordenti et odiose, col capo basso, e ritornato a casa fingendo altro, s'inaginò di tutta industria che non potesse esser dato, come inteso havea, alla bella mogliere entro le carni, e presa una croce, gli cinse la cordella al traverso dei fianchi, e la croce per modo che proprio le pendeva in su quel fatto, dicendo a lei: — « Hormai me ne vo sicuro; » che'l saria ben Giudeo e traditore quello » che volesse dar entro la croce; » e pen-

» that. » He quickly removed the girdle, almost decided not to look for another, but heartly leave her to her own free will. But as he had set out on his way for the place of embarking, he hears some young fellows saying to one another : — « What merchant is that going » by? — He is such a one. — Oh! » what a lot of horns they will plant for » him before he comes back! I can tell » you he has a wife that will get some » stuck into her belly. » On hearing these sarcastic and hard words, he went back home with his head down, feigning quite another motive; he thought over all sorts of means to hinder them from bestowing any of them to his wife's belly, as he had heard. And taking a cross, he fastens it on her with a rope twisted round her flanks, so that the cross hung right over the suspected spot. Then he says to her : — « Now, I am » going away tranquil. He who would » transgress in spite of the cross is indeed

sando in suo core se costei cento fiate il dì le gambe aprisse a cento homine in ordine, ognun tornaria in drieto per non voler dare entro la croce, e strinse la mogliere a sacramento che non la moveria fin chel tornasse; e cosi se aviò verso la nave, allegro d'essere troppo assicurato.

Come esso fù entrato in mare e lontano circa miglia sei, piena la vela di secondo vento, scontrò in un batello circa dieci pescatori e marinari, gioveni tutti fieri in giupparello, i quali remirandoli indi d'appresso, perche tutti eran cognoscenti suoi e famigliarissimi di casa, che venivano alla città, salutò domesticamente e disse : — « Fratelli miei e figliuoli, vi » raccomando la casa e Madaluza » (cosi si dimandava la mogliera). Loro tutti ad una voce : — « Andate, » dissero,

» a Jew. » Being persuaded, in the bottom of his soul, that his wife would all the same open her legs a hundred times a day to a hundred fellows willing to act, that every one would draw back immediately refusing to enter in contempt of the cross, he obliged her to swear that she should not remove it from there until he should return. And, quite delighted at being so secure, he made his way again for the ship.

When he was out at sea about six miles from land, driving at full sail before a favorable wind, he met a bark with a dozen fishermen and sailors, all young robust fellows in short jackets. On viewing them closely, he recognises them all as acquaintances and familiar friends making for the town. He saluted them friendly and says to them : — « My » brethren, my dear children, I recom- » mend to you my house and Madaluza. » (This was the name of his wife). They cried out unanimously : « Go, sir; go

« messere, alla bon' hora : non vi date » pensiero ; che per lo corpo mio ! per » servire Madonna noi dariemo tutti den- » tro la croce. — Ohime ! » gridò quello, « peccatori voi ! » E non disse altro, ma in sua mente pensò : « Costoro sono peggio » che cani o che Zudei ; non ho fatto » covelle a legarle la croce in su val cava, » che costoro hanno sacramento darle » dentro ; pare che sappino tutto ciò ho » fatto. » E così detto, fè voltare la nave, disarborando e cogliendo la vela, dicendo havere scordato importantissisme cose al suo viaggio, e ritornò per onde era venuto. Giunse alla casa sua ove la moglie trovò non l'aspettando e tutta stupefatta del suo intrare. — « Madaluza, » disse quello, « non ti maravigliare ; io son tornato a » dislegare la croce, tu sei con questa in

» without fear; don't give yourself the
» spleen. By my body! we would all of
» us pass through the cross to wait on
» Madonna. — Hold! » cried the other;
« what wicked fellows you are! » And
he added not a word more, but set at
thinking within himself: « These fellows
» are worse than dogs or Jews. I did
» nothing worth while by fastening the
» cross over the hollow vale; they have
» sworn to traverse it, and seem to know
» everything I have done. » Having
soliloquized thus, he made the ship re-
trace her track, lowered the mast, and
plied the sail, under the pretext of having
forgotten something of great importance
for his voyage, and reaches the place
from which he had set out. He arrived
home, where he found his wife, who
was but little expecting him, quite asto-
nished at seeing him stepping in. —
« Madaluza, » he says to her, « be not
» surprised; I have come to take off your
» cross; you are more in danger with it

» pericolo maggiore che non sei senza: » alcuni marinari e pescatori me hanno » giurato venire qua per tuo amore e » darle dentro. Io non hebbi timore a » cento per uno di quelli che mi minacciò » in piazza delle corna, e pero prima io » voglio corna che croce. » Cosi fattala resupinare levò la croce e seguì lui il viaggio suo, e lei sua usanza. La quale historia intesa per la terra fù fondamento del proverbio ditto.

» than without it. Certain sailors and » fishermen swore in my presence that » they were going to come here for » your sake, and to stick it into you. I » am a hundred times less afraid of horns, » compared with what they threaten me, » and consequently, I prefer horns to » crosses. » Having placed her again on her back, he took off the cross and continued his voyage, and she her usual way of living. This story, being soon spread over the country, was the reason of the said proverb.

PROVERBIO QUINTO

ALITER PERCHE SI DICE : Anzi corna che croce.

L *proverbio de :* Inanzi corna che croce *nacque in questo modo :*

Fù un gentil' huomo Padovano, giovane e bello, della casa de quelli della Croce, il quale desideroso di fare il mestier del soldo, essercitio pertinente ad huomini nobili, si deliberò di andarsi a fornir d'armi per suo bisogno a Brescia, e con duo famigli honorevolmente posto in ca-

FIFTH PROVERB

AN OTHER EXPLANATION, WHY THEY SAY : *Horns rather than crosses.*

THE proverb *Horns rather than crosses* originated in this way:

There was a Paduan gentleman, a young and handsome fellow of the house of *La Croce,* who, desirous of embracing the profession of soldier, a profession which suits noblemen, resolved to go and supply himself at Brescia with the arms that were necessary for him; and having set out on his way, honorably attended by two footmen,

mino, pervenne presso alla sera tra Vicentia e Verona ad uno loco chiamato Torre de' Confini, dove mandò innanzi uno de gli famigli suoi, accioche facesse provedere per la cena e per l'albergo. Il famiglio non fù cosi presto giunto all' hostaria, che'l vide un prete con una croce che li entrava dentro per torre un corpo morto. Onde senza dare altro ordine e senza dir causa alcuna, stette tanto li fermo che il patrone sopragiunse, il quale, havendogli addimandato dell' ordine che dato havea, intese da lui come non havea fatto nulla. Et all' hora uscì fuori il sacerdote con la croce inanzi, e con uno fanciullo morto tanto piccolo che un solo il portava. Vedendo questo, il patrone disse a gli famigli : — « Non state per questa croce di » intrar dentro, di alloggiare i cavalli e » di farvi dar camera per noi, ch' io me » la piglio per bono augurio, essendo » stata antica insegna di casa mia. »

arrives towards evening, between Venice and Verona, at a place called Torre de' Confini, where he had sent before him one of his men to get supper and lodgings ready. The footman had no sooner drawn near the inn, than he beheld a priest entering, who, preceded by the cross, was going to look for someone dead. For this reason, without giving any order and without saying a word, he stood there stock-still, awaiting the arrival of his master, who, having asked him what orders he had given, learned from him that he had done nothing. At this moment the priest was going out, the cross before him, accompanying a dead child, so little that one man carried it. On seeing this, the gentleman said to his men : — « Let not this cross hinder » you from entering, lodging the horses » and from making them give you rooms » for us; I take this as a good foreboding, » since it is the ancient blazon of my » family. » Themselves and their horses

E cosi alloggiati loro e gli cavalli, furono male attrattati di mangiare e peggio di dormire. Vero è che la mattina fecero lor scusa, dicendo che per esser morto un figliuolo a l'hoste, che unico haveva, non gli havevano atteso come meritava, per la occupatione del dolore e del pianto.

Il gentil' huomo, montato a cavallo, a Verona se ne andò, dove espedito di alcune sue facende, giunse a Peschiera molto tardi, e vedendo presso al ponte una hostaria, di alloggiarli si dispose; e volendo entrar dentro, vidde sopra all' uscio due grandi et arborose corna di cervo, le quali l'hoste, ch' era gran cacciatore, per vana gloria d'un cervo che havea preso quella settimana, posto gli haveva; e subito che l' hebbe vedute, disse: — « Dio me faccia » del bene! a l' altra hostaria me incon- » trai in una croce e fui male attrattato, » et a questa vedo un paio di corna! » Pur essendo sera, e non volendo andar

lodged, they were badly treated at table, and still worse in bed. The truth is that, owing to the death of the inn-keeper's son, an only son, they could not treat him as he deserved, plunged as they were in sorrow and tears.

The gentleman mounted horse and was off to Verona, and having forwarded some of his things, reached Peschiera very late; espying an inn near the bridge, he made up his mind to lodge there and, as he was entering, saw over the door two enormous and branchy stag's horns : the inn-keeper, who was a great sportsman, had, through vanity of a stag which he had levelled that week, nailed them there. The gentleman, as soon as he beheld them, cried out : — « God be good to me! at the other » inn I met with a cross and was badly » treated; at this one I see a pair of » horns! » But as it was night and he did not wish to go farther, he sent the

più innanzi, mandò gli cavalli alla stalla et ordinò che gli mettessero ad ordine la cena, e si fece dare una camera.

L'hoste non ci era, che era andato a Trento da un suo fratello che stava co'l Vescovo, che l'havea mandato a dimandare; ma ci era la moglie, giovanetta e bella, con un famiglio e con una serva. La quale mandò il famiglio alla stalla per attendere a gli cavalli, et a se chiamò la serva per darle le linzuola e le altre cose necessarie per la camera; e perche haveva visto il gentil'huomo, che per esser giovanetto e bello molto le era piacciuto, tener non si puote che non le dicesse: — « Vuoi ch'io ti dica, Giacomina? questo » mi pare un piacevol giovane, et è più » bello che non è mio marito. — Madonna » mia, » rispose ella, « sapete come'l è; » el si vol torre del bene fin che se ne po » havere. Se voi facessi a mio modo, dor- » mirestivi seco in questa notte; egli è

horses to the stable, ordered that a supper be got ready for him and made them give him a room.

The inn-keeper was not there; he had gone to Trent, to one of his brother's, who was staying at the Bishop's and had sent for him; but his wife was there, young and graceful, with one footman and one female servant. She sent the footman to the stable to look after the horses, called the female servant to give him sheets and the other articles necessary for the room, and as she caught sight of the gentleman who, as for being young and handsome, had pleased her, she could not abstain from saying to her : — « Shall I tell thee, Giacomina? » he seems to me to be a very agreeable » young man, and a much finer fellow » than my husband. — Madonna, » replied the servant, « you know how it » is : we should take the ball in the hop. » If you would act after my way, you » would sleep with him to-night; he is

» forastieri, non si saperà mai, e potrete » cacciar il famiglio a dormire alla » stalla, con scusa di guardare che a gli » cavalli non fussero robati gli forni- » menti, et acciò che ancora non facessero » questione e rumore. — Deh! va in mal' » hora tua! » disse ella; — « Deh! » perche non ho io quel bel volto che havete » voi! » rispose la serva; « ch' io so ben » che non perderei una cosi bella ventura, » nè una cosi buona e dolce notte. »

La Madonna, che gia tutta ardeva di voglia, disse: — « Tu dirai pur della » tua tu; quanto per me, non saprei mai » come dovessi fare. — Lasciate questo » incarico a me, » rispose ella; e tolta la chiave di una camera dovo era il più tristo e peggior letto che fusse in tutta l'hostaria, gli condusse dentro il padrone e dissegli: « Questo sarà lo alloggiamento vostro » per riposare. » E subito ch' egli fù dentro, rivolse gli occhi intorno al letto,

» a stranger, it will never be found out, » and you can send the footman to sleep » in the stable, under pretext of keeping » people from stealing the horses' har- » nesses, or again for fear they might » fight and make a noise. — Oh! go to » blazes! » cried out the innkeeper. — « Oh! that I had the lovely face you » have, » replied the servant; « I know » jolly well I should not let so fine an » opportunity be lost, or so good and » pleasant a night. »

The Madonna, who was burning all alive with longing, said : — « You may » say what you like; I should never know » how to come about it. — Leave it to » me, » replied the other; and having taken the key of a room in which there was the worst and meanest bed in the whole inn, she led the gentleman into it and said to him : « Here is your sleeping- » room. » As he was inside the room, he cast his eyes on the bed and at seeing it so tattered, so out of order, he cried

e vedendolo tanto tristo e mal in ordine, disse : — « Credete voi ch' io uso di dor- » *mire a casa mia su la paglia ? —* » *Messer, nò,* » *rispose la Giacomina,* « *ma in tutta questa hostaria non è altro* » *che un buon letto, sopra al quale dorme* » *la moglier dell' hoste, e se ella mutasse* » *alloggiamento, andaria a pericolo di* » *amalarsi, per esser bella e delicatamente* » *allevata. — Io non vorrei gia,* » *disse il gentil' huomo ;* « *ma vorrei pur dormir* » *questa notte in un bon letto anch' io, che* » *questa passata son stato in un tanto* » *tristo, che mai non ho potuto dormire.* » *— Io ho pensato un modo che tutti dua* » *potrete dormire adagio ; voi dormirete* » *in quel bon letto da capo,* » *disse la serva,* « *et ella vi dormirà da piedi.* » *Il giovane, che l'havea vista e che molto gli era piacciuta, rispose : — « Io farò tutto* » *quello che ella comanderà ; fate pur che* » *ci sia ben da cena. — Ogni cosa sarà*

out : — « Do you fancy that I am used
» at home to sleep on the straw? — No,
» Sir, » replied la Giacomina, « but
» throughout the whole inn there is
» only one good bed, upon which the
» inn-keeper's wife sleeps; if she were
» to change it, she would run the risk of
» falling ill, pretty and delicately reared
» as she is. — I do not wish for that, »
said the gentleman, « but I should however
» like to lie also on a good bed; last
» night I had so bad a one that I could
» not sleep. — I have thought of an
» expedient by means of which you can
» both of you sleep at your ease: you
» should lie at the head of the bed, »
said the servant, « and my mistress
» should lie at the foot. » The young
man, who had seen the mistress whom
he had pleased very much, answered : —
« I shall do as she likes; try in the
» meanwhile and let us have a good
» supper. — Every thing shall be as it

» in ordine, » rispose ella; e subito tornata dalla Madonna e narratole il tutto, si dierno a far la cena, la quale fù abbondantissima non solamente di varie sorte de carni e di uccelli, ma di trute e di carpioni e di tutte le maniere di pesci che si potero haver nel lago di Garda, presso al quale erano.

Da poi c' hebbero cenato, la Giacomina condusse il gentil' huomo nella camera di sua madonna, la qual si havea gia acconcio il capo per andar a dormire, et egli datogli la bona notte, disse : — « Madonna, el » m'incresce ben di disconciarvi. — Il » vostro star adagio a me è il maggior » acconcio del mondo, » rispose ella. Disse all' hor la Giacomina : — « Non » vi rincresca aspettar un poco, c' hor » hora io vengo. » Et havendo tolto da far collatione, ritornò subito e disse : « Io era » andata per portare un capezzale per » conciarvi da piedi, ma subito che son

» ought, » she replied, and returned at once to Madonna; after having related the affair to her, they set about getting ready the supper which was very copious, not only in meats and all sorts of game, but in trout and fishes of all kinds that could be had from Lake Garda, near which the inn was situated.

After they had supped, la Giacomina led the gentleman into the room of her mistress, who had already accommodated her head for sleeping, and on bidding her good night, he said to her : — « Madonna, I am very sorry for dis- » turbing you. — Provided you are well, » this is the best arrangement in the » world for me, » she replied. La Giacomina then said : — « Be not impatient » to wait a little while for me, I shall » be back directly; » and having been to take what was necessary to form a light supper, she returns and says : « I » was going to look for a pillow to » accommodate you at the foot of the

» stata fuori de l'uscio, m'è venuto in » mente quello che l'altro giorno s'anegò » qui nel lago, et ho havuta si gran » paura, che quasi son caduta morta; si » che, dormite pur tutti da un capo. » Il giovane e la Madonna intendendo questo cominciarno a ridere e dissero: — « Gia- » comina, dati pace e vatene a dormir, che » noi si acconciaremo al meglio che sia » possibile; » e cosi tutti se n'andarono al letto. Il giovane, c'havea desiderio d'imparare il mestier de l'armi, si portò tanto bene in questi primi incontri, che in meno di due hore ruppe quattro lancie. Cessati che furono alquanto questi colpi furiosi, egli cominciò a ridere; la donna che l'udì gli adimandò di che rideva, et egli rispose: — « Di una cosa che mi è » venuta in mente. — Deh! narratemela » se ella si po dire, » disse la giovane. — « Io ve la dirò, » rispose egli all'hora. « Hier sera, all'entrar de la hostaria,

» bed, but as soon as I had gone out of
» the door, the idea of him that drowned
» himself the other day in the Lake,
» quite near hand, rushed into my head,
» and I was so much afraid that I almost
» dropped dead; lie therefore both of
» you at the same side. » The youg man and Madonna, thoroughly understanding her meaning, burst out in laughter, and replied : — « Giacomina, be not uneasy
» and go off to bed; we shall arrange
» ourselves as best we can. » The young man, longing to learn the profession of arms, behaved so well in this first encounter that, in less that two hours, he had entered the lists four times. These furious discharges being somewhat appeased, he fell alaughing; the mistress, who heard him, asked him what he was laughing at, and he answered her: — « At
» an idea which has run into my mind.
» — Eh! tell it to me, if it may be
» told, » said the young woman. —
« Most willingly; » he continued then :

» mi riscontrai in una croce, e me la tolsi » in bono augurio, e fù tutto in contra- » rio, perchè mal cenai e peggio dormii; » questa sera, ritrovai sopro l' uscio un » paio di corna, e vedete qual cena e quale » bona notte è questa! — Voi potrete » adunque dire: Inanzi corna che croce, » disse la donna. — « E quanto; » rispose il giovane; e così cominciata un' altra giostra, disse sempre mentre che durò: « Inanzi corna che croce; » et in tal modo se lo tolse in uso, che mai altro non diceva che questo proverbio.

« Yesterday evening, when I was enter-
» ing the inn, I met with a cross which
» I took to be a good foreboding, and it
» was quite the contrary, for I was badly
» fed and lodged worse; this evening I
» met with a pair of horns over the
» door, and you see what a good supper
» and night I have had! — You may
» therefore say : Horns rather than
» crosses, » replied Madonna. — « Yes,
» much rather, » answered the young
man, and having set about beginning
another tilting, he never ceased so long
as it lasted from saying : Horns rather
than crosses, and he put it to such con-
stant use, that he was never heard saying
anything else but this proverb.

PROVERBIO SEXTO

PERCHÈ SI DICE : Non mi curo di pompe, pur che sia ben vestito.

ON mi curo di pompe, pur che sia ben vestito. *Questo proverbio è antico e manifesto a pochi; el quale solemo in proposito dire quando volemo mostrar che ogni avantagio e bene accetto havemo. Fù il principio primo suo per tale maniera :*

Fù una una garzonetta, la quale circa di dodici anni e forse meno fù per rispetto d' alcune hereditati maritata in bello e

SIXTH PROVERB

WHY THEY SAY : *I have no need of pomp, provided I am well dressed.*

have no need of pomp, provided I am well dressed. This is an old proverb, but few people understand its meaning; we are accustomed to make use of it, when we want to show that we are sure of any gain or advantage as agreed upon. It first originated thus :

There was quite a young girl who, from the age of twelve and perhaps younger, was, by reason of certain inhe-

grande omo di circa anni ventiotto o fino in trenta, et era di più famosi homini in fornimento da sposa che havesse quella terra o quella etade. Andando questa garzona a marito, che fù menata alle nozze, intese pure d'alcune vecchie del instrumento smisurato del marito; e fatta sera, e male voluntieri andata a letto per timore de tale arme, come il marito se le fù appressato, diede uno sguizzo d'anguilla in saltare fuora. Lui lusinghevolmente tenendole dietro, con buone parole l'assicura, pregandola stia ferma a compiacerlo, che di tale piagha mai non morì donna; e cosi parlando, le da il cordone in mano, credendosi per questa commoverla più lei ad obseguirli. Ma essa, apena tanto la forma tocca, cominciò a pianger forte e stringere la camisa entro le gambe. Hor sono molti di cotale natura, che bisognandoli combattere quello che con feste e con piacere

ritances, married to a tall and fine man of about twenty-eight or thirty, who was admirably well supplied with a husband's tackles and the most famous there was in the country at the time. This young girl, while being brought the wedding day to be married, hears a few old women talking about her husband's huge tool; the night having come, she went very unwillingly to bed, because of the great fear she was in of such weapons; as soon as he wanted to get near her, she slipped like an eel to escape from him. He held unto her caressingly, encouraged her with kind words, beseeching her to keep still and comply with him, and assuring her that no woman had ever died from such wounds; while thus speaking to her, he introduced his cock into her hand, thinking thereby to work her the better into submission. But she had hardly touched the lump, than she began to cry very loud and squeeze her chemise between her thighs. Now, many persons are of such stuff that, if they

debe farsi, rimangono perduti e senza ardire; s'abbassa la cresta al loro uccello, sì che disutili poi sono agli assalti. Costui adunque di natura tale, ritrattosi sdegnato in la sua posta, dise a costei: — « Stati » in la mal' hora che Dio ti dia, mozo- » nosa pissotta che tu sei! io mi credeva » haver tolta una donna, et ho tolto una » pittima assaltare; ma te ne pagherò, » renditi certa. Io voglio che tu torni » onde venisti, e tormi in letto chi da me » non fuga. » Con questo sdegno, ador- menzato in fine, stettesi fino al dì senza dire altro; ma cosi presto come lucire vide, chiamò la moglie: « Levasu, asi- » nella! » e levatosi anchora esso e vestito, le fa aprire i cassoni de le vesti di lei, che riccamente l'haveva adobbata, e fino ad una minima zacchetta le tolse quante veste le haveva fatte, e chiamato

must obtain through strife what ought to be done in merriment and joyously, they stand bewildered and discouraged; their bird's crest falls and all attempts become useless. The husband belonged to this stamp; he therefore withdrew for his part, bawling out : — « Stay with the » evil luck God bestows on you, naughty » little pisser that you are! I thought I » had taken a woman and I have taken a » little bitch that won't keep in a posi- » tion; but you shall pay me for it, be » certain of it. I will have you go back » to where you came from, and take to » my bed one who does not want to » flee from me. » Thereupon being all in a rage, he finished by falling asleep and remained until day-break without uttering another word; but as soon as he beheld the day-light, he called out to his wife : « Get up, you donkey! » and having got up himself also and dressed, he made her open the trunks in which she kept her gowns, for he had richly supplied her

uno famiglio, gliele da sotto el mantello, e con seco si parte di casa, dicendo a lei : » Ritorna a toi parenti, che te vestino ; » e vassene alloggiare con uno suo caro compagno non molto longe dalla stanza sua, e le vesti gli da che le governi.

Non era anco nella casa delle nozze alcun levato ; la garzonetta, spogliata de suoi mobili, sulla banca del letto, in camisola, s'assetta a lachrimare e stare dolente. Levatasi poi la turba per la casa, le donne più domestiche entrano in la camera dello sposo novello, e credendo trovare la putta in festa, la trovarono fra pianti in camisotto. Fannosi intorno tutte meste, e dimandono che è questo e dove è lo sposo. La garzona si muove a contarle ciò che ha fatto, corrucciatosi con ella e tolti i panni, perchè non è voluta star

with them, and took back from her everything he had had made for her in the shape of clothing, even to the smallest frock; then having called a footman, put the bundle on his back under his cloak and left the house with him while saying: « Go home to your parents, they will » dress you. » He returned to lodge at one of his friend's who lived near hand, and gave the effects into his keeping.

Nobody had as yet risen where the wedding took place; the young girl stripped of her effects sat in her chemise on the bed-stead, weeping and sobbing. Then the people of the house having got up, the intimate women came into the room of the bridegroom, and thinking to find the little one merry, they found her in her chemise weeping. They, all of them sad, are gathering about her, asking what does that mean and where is the bridegroom. The little one ventures to tell them what she has done; how he became angry with her and carried off her effects,

li salda, havendo troppo smisurato manico. Una matrona all'hora delle piacenti, e che mentre fù giovine mai per homo sarebbe fuggita, leva la mano e dalle un gran boffetto : — « Ghiotta, » dicendo; « garzona da poco ! poscia che tu hai » paura di corda grossa, oltre la mal' » hora, mai ti vorrò bene. Iddio t'ha » fatto una bella ventura, e tu, disgratiata, non l'intendi ? » — La giovinetta all'hora, asciuti gli occhi, comincia a dimandar se gli è pericolo, et elle tutte ad un tratto cominciano a riderla. — « Semplice che tu sei, » dicono quelle; « noi tutte ti facciamo la sicurtade; sta » salda allo scontro, e sapiati ben regere : » che se male ti dee fare, sarà nel tragere » fora, in mettere nulla, e cosi tu ne con- » fesserai poi. La piaga di quello loco » mai non dolse. » La sposa all'hora, lascivetta e viva :— « Mandate adunque, » dissele, « a cercarlo, ch'io non fuggirò

she not having wished it to be done with her, because he had too huge a handle. Thereupon a matron, who was still one of the most comical and who during her youth would never have fled from a man, lifting her hand gave her a smart slap on the cheek in bawling out : — « You silly » thing, you little wench of nothing at all! » since you are afraid of a thick rope, » besides the evil that befalls you I shall » never wish you well. God bestowed a » great favor upon you, and you do not » profit by it. » The little child then wipes her eyes and begins to enquire if there is any danger : they all begin to laugh at her. — « How silly you are! » the women say to her, « we are all here » to assure you of the contrary. Be steady » for the shock and learn to keep your- » self properly; if it is to hurt you, it is » in taking it out and not in putting it in: » you will own so to us afterwards. Never » wound in that spot kills. » Then the bride all sprightly and merry : — « Send

» più sopra di voi, che havete tutte queste » cose provate. » All' hora si mossero a mandare messi atorno, e quella che le haveva dato il boffetto, imaginando dove dovea essere, proprio mandolo dal compagno, e fattolo venire sopra di lei, promettendoli la sposa mitigata, se li fa incontro a l' uscio : — « Adio, scudiero » da bene, pocha fatica te sarà ; » e con tale parole intrando innanzi, con quella che in camisa era ancho, el chiude in camera.

La garzona, come insegnato havevanle le più pratiche, si leva con un riselto in verso lui, e con le braccia aperte al collo li salta, amorizandolo di lingua e di basi che haveriano eccitati i morti entro le tombe. El marito la vuole gittare sul letto ; lei dice : — « Io voglio una gratia » da voi, che mi rendiate tutte le mie » vesti, poi di me fate ciò che v'è in pia-

» for him therefore, » she says; « I shall » flee no more than you, who have all » done it. » They sent out messengers to look about for him, and she that had given the slap thinking where he could be, went precisely to seek him at his friend's, and prevailed upon him to came back to his wife, promising him that she was greatly softened down; going before him as far as the door: — « Good » luck to you, brave knight, » she says to him, « you will have but little to » weary »; and so saying she shut him up in the room with the young one, who was still in her chemise.

The damsel, as the most expert matrons had taught her, got up before him making all sorts of smiles at him, and with outstretched arms flys to his neck, exciting him by licking and kisses that would have recalled to life the dead within the tomb. The husband wishes to toss her over on the bed, and she says: — « I desire one » favor from you, namely, that you give

» cere. » Lui che la cognosceva pomposetta, realmente disse : — « Per infino adesso le » vesti son tue, ma servimi d'animo e » non fuggire, ch'io voglio per ogni dito » in traverso del cordone che tu ricevi, » farti un altro vestito di che colore vuoi, » e cosi ti prometto realissimamente. » Ella, vanetta troppo d'essere adorna, animosa responde : — « Io son contenta, » e saltata sul letto come cerva, accetta el sposo come intendere deesi ; et era gia il cordone a meza strada in una impulsa, ch'ella comincia a numerare le dita per havere una vesta del promesso, e dice : — « È uno ! » Segue il marito e da ciò che gli resta : — « È dui ! » disse la garzona, numerando per due dita in traverso quello che era un palmo e mezo, e forse meglio. Ridea el cauto marito in mezo l'opra, e seguendo per finire el fatto suo, la sposa, come se niente anco sentisse, li disse : « Andate oltra con dell'altro. » Rispose

» me back my things; then do what you
» like with me. » He, knowing she was
coquet, answers her candidly : — « From
» this moment all the gowns are yours,
» but comply with me as a friend, and do
» not flee away; I shall for every inch of
» the bodkin that enters your belly, get you
» made as many others of whatever color
» you wish; this I promise you in earn-
» est. » She, only too proud of attire,
eagerly answers : — « I am glad of it, »
and leaping on the bed like a hind, receiv-
es her husband as that may be under-
stood; the bodkin was with a single thrust
already half ways, when she begins to
count the inches that had entered, to have
one of the promised dresses, and shouts
out : — « One! » The husband thrusts
in the remainder : — « Two! » says the
damsel, counting as two inches what was
worth a span and a half, and perhaps
more. The husband was laughing in the
very heat of the business, and had just
finished when the bride, as if she felt

quello : — « Io non n'ho più ; » e rideva pure, essercitandosi della constantia della garzonetta. Lei sentì pur la borsa de sonagli che gli sbattea a quello modo nel quaderno ; vi pone la mano e dimanda al marito : — « Che è questo altro ? » Et il marito che s'appressa ad ungharla : — » Sta salda, » disse per torla di proposito semplicetto ; « sono duo tali che s'attacano » li per una pompa, ma da officio nes- » suno. » Disse all' hora lei : — « Adun- » que io non guadagno se non dui vestiti ? » povereta me! hor mettiti oltra quest' » altri, ch' io non mi curo de pompe, pur » che sia ben vestita. »

Questa fù la risposta della giovinetta sposa, tanto poco inanti timida e paventosa di grande arma ; la quale risposta se meritò essere per singulare facetia divulgata ; intendere el po chi ha letta l' historia onde 'l proverbio ditto se diceva.

nothing, says to him : « Have at it again » for another inch. — There is no more » of it, » he answers while laughing, amazed at the young lass's firmness. She then perceives the little bell-purse which was striking along her quaternary, and laying her hand on it asks the husband : — « What is that? » The husband, who was getting ready to give her a good greasing, answers her in order to remove from her such an over foolish idea : — « Do not » trouble yourself about it, these are trifles » we place there for pomp, but which are » good for nothing at all. — I shall have » then earned only two dresses, » she shouts : « how poor am I! Come, thrust » these into it also; I have no need of » pomp, provided I am well dressed. » Such was the reply of the young bride, a little before so afraid of and scared at big weapons, a reply which, on account of its strange drollery, deserved to be published, as whoever has read the story from which the said proverb springs may understand.

PROVERBIO SETTIMO

PERCHÈ SI DICE : Chi fa li fatti suoi non s'imbratta le mani.

SIMILE *simplicitade o vero materia levò il dettato quello, che spesso dicono i solliciti, i quali intenti molto su gli avanzi, dicono in escusatione di suo essercitio :* Chi fa li fatti suoi non s'imbratta le mani.

Una gentil madonna Milanese, vedova del primo marito, tolse il secondo non mai maritato, castellano, rico e giovine bri-

SEVENTH PROVERB

WHY THEY SAY : *Who does his own business does not soil his hands.*

A like simplicity or rather drollery has given rise to this adage, which interested people often apply to themselves when, too attentive to lose anything, they say in excuse of their way of acting : *Who does his own business does not soil his hands.*

A noble Milan lady, the widow of a first husband, took a second who had never been married before, being a rich lord of a manor and a mettlesome young

gante. Hor per mostrarsi costei modesta troppo, credendo per tal sospitione bestiale piacerli più, la prima notte che se gli accompagnò, si pose uno guanto in mano e su la destra, con la quale sapea, come si fa, che haveva a toccare i membri del marito, et cætera. *El marito vedendo questo e trovando el guanto in quella mano ove volea porre altro, si rise seco, e pur non disse altro, e fece dal suo canto el debito del letto. L'altra sera, venuta l'hora di colcarse, comanda alla moglie che vada a letto e tienele mente che si mette il guanto. All' hora lui, spogliatosi nudo, che era d'estate, piglia un gran paro di sonagli che prima haveva preparati a questo, et attacatogli a mezo del cordone, passeggia per la camera un gran pezo, risonando tin, ton, e tach, tach. La mogliera guarda costui e molto maravigliasi dell' atto, pur non dice altro e l'aspetta nel letto. El marito de li ad un poco le va presso; lei*

man. Now, she, wishing to show herself over modest and thinking to please him the better by this nonsensical prudery, clapped on a glove, the first night they passed together, on the right hand, like a woman who knows what she is going about, and that she would have to take hold of her husband's member *et cætera*. He in taking notice of it and feeling a glove on the hand into which he intended to put something else, laughs to himself, but says nothing, and performed himself the office of the bridal bed. The next evening at bed hour, he orders his wife to go to bed, and observes her again putting on the glove. Then having stripped himself stark naked, for they were in the heart of summer, he takes a large pair of bells which he had prepared beforehand, and having fastened them on to the middle of his hangers, walks a considerable while through the room, causing at every step a ding, dong, tack, tack. The wife eyes him, being greatly surprised at the pro-

tiene il guanto, e lui tiene i sonagli, e facendo l'officio del connubio, sona intorno al quaderno della moglie, e pare essere el cento par de diavoli; ancho non ha tutto quello che la vorria, peroche la grossezza de sonagli attaccati gli toglieva molto del carnale paese.

Passano dui, tre, quattro e sei giorni, costei perseverando col guanto et lui con i sonagli; e parendo ad ella perdere molto del sagio che gli diè la prima notte, comunicò questa disgratia sua con le vicine, come'l marito si mettea i sonagli circa al cordone et usava seco con quelle tampelle intorno al mantice, de cui perdeva quasi un terzo presso. Le vicine, udendo el novo modo de concubito, risero tanto quanto sia credibile, poi volto verso lei che si doleva, dissero : — « Madonna Gabriella » (che

ceedings, but yet says nothing and waits for him in bed. He soon gets close to her; she keeps on the glove, he the bells and, while performing the conjugal duty, jingles about his wife's quaternary, that one would say there were a hundred pairs of devils; yet she did not get so much of it as she would have wished : the space occupied by the bells which were fastened to it, deprived her of a good part of the carnal region.

Two, three, four, six days passed by, she obstinately putting on the glove, he the bells; and as it appeared to her that she was losing very much of what she had tasted on the first night, she related her misfortune to the neighbours : how her husband used to attach bells to his rope and had meddled with her having this ironware round the bellows, so that she lost one third of it. The neighbours, on hearing of this new mode of operating, begin to laugh as much as is credible, then turning towards the plaintiff, they say :

cosi si chiamava), « guardate che voi non » vi date cagione che cosi faccia; questi » suoi sonagli el se gli attacchi in vostro » smaccamento, volendo esser inteso senza » parlare. Che novità usate voi come » dormite con lui? » Ella rispose all'hora: — « Donne mie care, non mi ascondo » da voi; per mostrargli di me qualche » modestia, mi ho sempre in mano mettuto » un guanto, accioche facendomi toccare » quella facenda, mi conoscesse lui netta » e schifa di tal vitupero. » Hor se gli fù a ridere alquanto prima, a questa fiata gliene fù a pien gorza, e dissero tutte: — « Questa è la cagione; voi » monstrate dita de andare a sparaviero, » togliendo il guanto, e lui al falcone » tollendo i sonagli di quella grandezza, » e si vi scorge per una santa città, et » ha ragione. Hora andate e mettete giù » quello guanto, e se non basta una mano » nuda a torlo suso, mettete entrambe

— « Madonna Gabriella » (such was her name), « see you do not offer him the » occasion of acting thus; he being willing » to make himself understood without » speaking, fixes on these bells to make » game of you. What novelty do you then » use when you sleep with him? » She answers: — « My dear ladies, I do not wish » to mantle myself from you; to show » myself somewhat reserved with him, I » have always put on a glove, so that it » happening he made me handle what » you know, he saw how clean and » careful I am about sparing myself such » a contact. » If they had laughed a little at first, this time they laughed their belly full, and they all shouted out: — « That » is the reason; you show him your » fingers in putting on gloves as if » you were going ahawking: he lets » you see he is falcon-hunting by » putting on such large sized bells; he » takes you for a town saint, and he is » quite right. Come then, leave aside the

» due per fare el fatto vostro, et havere
» tutto. »

Havuto adunque questo amonimento, Madonna Gabriella la sera andando a letto col marito, prese per la cordella il ditto guanto, e gettolo nel mezzo della camera, vedente lui. All' hor el benigno marito che gia si haveva gli sonagli al cordon cinti, disciolsegli e gettogli dietro el guanto, et entrò presso la donna, entrando in castello di ultima potentia che li ne fusse. La moglie all'hora sentendo, per haver gettato el guanto, gran differentia in la misura per li sonagli che più non gli erano attaccati, disse :
« Per certo, queste nostre vicine son pur
» donne d'assai ; io conosco bene hora che
» esse hanno ragione. » E preso sempre da l'hora inanzi el cordone con ambi le mani, come le havevano ditto, se escusò verso il

» glove, and if one naked hand is not
» enough to take hold of it, put the two
» to it, and do your own business : you
» will gain thereby in having all. »

Being thus kindly admonished, Madonna Gabriella, when going to bed at night with her husband, took the aforesaid glove by the lace and flung it into the middle of the room under his eyes. Then the kind husband, the same as had already the bells tied on to his rope, unknotted them and cast them with the glove; after this he lay close to his wife and forced his way into her citadel with all the strength he could. The wife then feeling, as the glove was thrown away, that there was a great difference of size because of the bells which were no longer tied on to it, cried out : — « To be sure, those neigh-
» bouring women of ours are wise, and
» I now confess they are right. » Henceforth she took hold of the rope with the two hands as they had told her, and excused herself in presence of her husband

marito di quella importunità tanto ansiosa dicendo : « Chi fa li fatti suoi non » s'imbratta le mani. » El quale proverbio, conosciuto el caso, fù con non poco riso fra il popolo grandissimo diffuso.

for this importunate eagerness, in saying : — « Who does his own business does not » soil his hands. »

This proverb, the event being known, spread widely among the people, not without being a cause of merriment.

PROVERBIO OTTAVO

PERCHÈ SI DICE : Tu potresti ben essere corritore, ma non hai gia la vista.

ANCHORA *senza intentione d'huomini o donne, da gli animali son tratti alcuni proverbj, regnando in essi più sentimento spesso che non pare e più cautela; come si legge del granchio che é di tanta astutia, quando ha fame, che insidia a l'hostrega su i sassi, e come vede aprirla, un lapillo parato nelle branche gli pone entro, e più non puo*

EIGHTH PROVERB

WHY THEY SAY : *You may be a good runner, but you do not look like it.*

SOME few proverbs are also taken from animals, without there being question of men or women; beasts having sometimes more judgment and skill than it would seem, as we read of the crab, which is so cunning when hungry that it lays siege to the oyster in the rocks : as soon as it sees it opening, it throws between its shells a pebble which it holds quite ready in its claws, so that the shell can

serrarsi, onde all' hora lui si pasce di sua industria.

Un gambero adunque, animale peggiore di pravità, errando un dì su la riva d'un acqua, fù trovato da una volpe traversante quei campi; la quale, vedendo questo tanto strano d'aspetto, lentissimo di modo, et oltre di ciò che andava tanto indrieto e più che inanzi, si maravigliò forte e tutta mirabonda el contemplava; poi, non bastando questo, gli da delle zampe, e vole intendere pure che animale è. El gambero, alzato el ceffo: — « Sorello, » dice, « va per la fede tua, per li tuoi fatti, e » lassa a me, che non ti do impazo, fare » li miei. » Risponde la volpe: — « Che sai » tu fare? che virtù è la tua? » e con tal parlare ridicolo el dileggia, poi dice: « Per gentillezza faciamo a correre tu et » io un mezo miglio insieme. » Ella el vedeva andare cosi retrogrado, e perciò

no longer be closed; it then eats it up and feeds itself by the wiles of its trade.

A lobster then, being a still more malicious animal, while wandering one day on the brink of the water, was met by a fox that was crossing these coasts. The fox, on seeing this strange looking creature, of so slow a gait, and which moreover was walking backwards much more than forwards, wondered exceedingly and began to gaze at it; not being satisfied with that, he gives it a few strokes of his paw, wishing to know what sort of animal it is. The lobster, raising its head, says : — « Dear little brother, upon your faith! » mind your own business, and I that » am in no way disturbing you, let me » mind mine. — What can you do? » enquires the fox; « what talent have you? » Having defied it by these bitter words, he next says : « Let us, to amuse our- » selves, run a mile together, you or I » for it; » he saw it walking backwards

con tali modi lo beffegiava. El gambero all' hora animosamente tolle l'invito, e mette pegno, e non solo acceta correre seco, ma gli proferisce dargli avantagio tanto quanto è longa. La volpe, credendolo di scorgiere doppiamente : « Per la mia fè ! » risponde, « ogni avantagio è bono ; io son » contenta. » E cosi ditto, si gli acconcia innanzi, e lui de dietro, dicendo : — « Non ti levare infin che non tel dico ; » e quetamente si gli attaccha con le branche entro la cauda, poi dice a la volpe : « Tira » via ! » El peso era leggiero e tegnia pocho loco ; la volpe se mette in gambe inverso il segno, e gionta, si volta indietro, non credendolo vedere ancho mosso ; è lui, lassato giuso, gli dice : « Ove guardi » tu, sorella ? io son quà prima di te ; » e che sia 'l vero, vedi che ti son dreto » più prossimo al segno. » La volpe si volta, e vedendo haver perso, riman morta ; poi muta anchora e stupefatta, il

and thus laughed at it. The lobster gladly accepts the challenge, puts in his wager and, not only wishes to beat him well, but proposed to give the fox a start of his own length. The latter, thinking to make game of it two-fold, replies : — « Upon » my faith! every advantage is good » to be taken; I accept most willingly. » Having said this, he places himself ahead, the lobster getting behind, saying : — « Do » not start until I tell you, » and she quietly holds on to his tail by her claws, then cries out to the fox : « Forward! » The weight was light and occupied but little space; the fox gallops off at full speed for the winning-post, reaches it and immediately turns round thinking indeed to see the lobster still in the same place, but she lets herself drop down and says : — « Where are you looking, little bro- » ther? I have got in before you, in proof » whereof you see me here behind you » nearer the winning-post. » The fox turns about and, seeing that he has lost, stands

mira pur dinanzi e poi de dreto, sempre el vede andare alla riversa, infin stringe ne le spalle e dice : « Tu potresti bene » essere corridore, ma non hai gia la » vista. » Il quale proverbio se usurpano le persone in suo proposito, quando uno frappa e promette più di quello che stima altrui che valere possa.

as dead ; mute with stupefaction, he looks before, behind, and sees her always going backwards; finally, he scuds his shoulders and says : — « You may be a » very good runner, but you do not look » like it, » a proverb which is quoted seasonably when anybody boasts and promises to do more than he is thought capable of.

PROVERBIO NONO

PERCHÈ SI DICE : Meglio è tardi che non mai.

DALLI *diserti di Thebaida venuto è a noi quel trito et usitato proverbio che dice:* Meglio è tardi che non mai; *il quale in questo modo avvenne :*

Fù adunque un buon huomo de li beni di fortuna agiato assai, il quale haveva una mogliera molto bella e da lui sommamente amata, che nel parto gli morì, lasciandogli il nato figliuol cagion della

NINTH PROVERB

WHY THEY SAY : *Better late than never.*

THIS common and frequently quoted proverb has come to us from the depths of the Thebaidan deserts : *Better late than never*, and here is how it took place :

There was a good man pretty well supplied with the gifts of fortune and married to a very lovely woman, whom he loved immensely and who died in child-bed, while leaving him an infant whose birth was the

morte sua. Il qual dato alla nutrice, fù da lei con gran diligentia nutricato, fin che pervenne alla età di torgli il latte. Il buon huomo abbandonato da quella che egli quanto se stesso amava, reputandosi di non mai più essere contento al mondo, si dispose di ridursi al diserto a fare heremitica vita, e condur seco il figliuolo, il quale, come ho detto, gia poteria vivere senza la nutrice. E cosi data ogni sua facultate per l'amor di Dio, con l'unico figliuol se gli condusse, dove ritrovato un loco assai, secondo il diserto, ameno per alcune palme che l'adombravano, e per un lucido fonte che nel mezzo gli sorgeva, quivi ad habitar si pose, et al figliuolo, che grandicello veniva, ogni di insegnava sue certe orationi ch'egli sapeva, amaestrandolo nelle cose della fede. Et in questo modo, il padre vivendo de frutti e d'herbe, e bevendo l'acqua viva,

cause of her death. The child, being entrusted to a nurse, was by her great care reared up until it reached the age of being weaned. The good man, bereaved of her whom he loved as much as himself, fearing to be never again happy in this world, prepared himself to retire to the desert and lead the life of a hermit, bringing with him his child who, as already stated, could get on without his nurse. Having bestowed all his wealth for God's sake, he went there with his sole offspring; and after having lit upon a place agreeable enough for a desert, owing to a few palm-trees which shaded it, and a clear stream that flowed through the midst of it, he stopped there with the intention of abiding in it. He taught his growing up son a few prayers daily which he knew, and instructed him on matters of religion; in this way, the father living on fruit, herbs, and drinking

parvenne alla senettute et il figliuol alla gioventute.

Il padre alcuna volta andava alla cittate, lasciando il figliuolo, e ne portava quando pane e quando altre cose, si come per elemosina da gli amici accattar poteva. E cosi la sua miserabil vita gran pezzo sostenne, et essendo gia fatto debile e vecchio, e non potendo la fatiga sostenere, il suo salvatico figliuolo seco di condurre un dì deliberossi, accioche in cambio suo da gli amici e domestici suoi, come haveva per consuetudine, andare per la elemosina ne tempi futuri potesse; e fatta la deliberatione, ad effetto la mise. Onde pervenuto il rusticano et inesperto giovane nella cittate, molto si maravigliava di tutte le cose che vedeva, le quale da lui mai più non erano state vedute; alle quali il padre poneva il nome che gli pareva, secondo che dal figliuolo ne era addimandato. Hora, andanto cosi insieme, si abatterono

of the clear water, attained old age, and the son manhood.

The father used to go sometimes to the town, leaving his son behind, and he used to bring from it now bread, now something else, accordingly as he could procure alms of his friends. He thus prolonged his existence a good while, and, having now grown old and feeble, being no longer able to bear the fatigue, he resolved one day to fetch his son with him, that he might go in his stead and ask, as he himself used to do, alms from his friends and acquaintances; having taken his resolution, he put it into execution. The rustic and unexperienced young man, having arrived at the town, was greatly astonished at everything he saw, having as yet seen nothing; and the father, accordingly as he was questioned by his son, named every thing as it seemed fit to him. Now, while they were both walking together, they fell across a few lovely young girls who, with their hair nicely

in alcune bellissime giovani che molto bene in ordine dalla chiesa venivano, et addimandatone il padre dal figliuolo, gli rispose : — « Ohime ! segnati, figliuol » mio, che queste sono le male cose, perchè » il Demonio, che vedi tanto bruto con le » corna e con gli piedi d'ocha, per mezzo » di queste inganna gli huomini, per » modo che nell' Inferno, dove è il fuoco » cosi ardente e dove boglieno tante cal- » dare piene di pece, gli conduce. » Il figliuolo, poiche si hebbe segnato, non puote fare che non dicesse : « Padre, di » tutte le cose che mi hai mostrato, non » ho veduto anchora alcuna più bella, ne » che più di queste mi piaccia. » Vedendo il padre che più poteva il naturale che l'accidentale, di haverlo seco condutto gl'increbbe, e con la maggior prestezza che puote all' heremo ne lo rimenò, sempre dicendogli, per quanto fù longo il camino, mal de le femine, per modo che gli cacciò

done up, were returning from church; and the father, being interrogated by the son upon this, answers : — « Oh! cross » yourself, my child; those are evil crea- » tures, because the Devil, whom you » know and who is so ugly with his horns » and cloven hoofs, makes use of them » to lead men into error and hurl them » into Hell, where the fire is so hot and » where so many caldrons of pitch are » boiling. » The son, after having blessed himself, could not retain himself from saying : — « Father, of all the things » you have shown me, I have seen none » finer, or which pleased me more. » The father, on seeing that the natural was far more powerful than the accidental, regretted having brought him with him and led him as soon as he could back to the desert, talking to him all along the way, however long it was, of the evil of women, so that he succeeded in putting

in fantasia che assai peggio del Diavolo erano, ne mai più di quel diserto loco uscir gli permise.

Non dopo molto il padre, rendendo il debito alla Natura, di questa vita passò, et il figliuolo solo rimase; il quale cibandosi di fruti e d' herba, e dicendo ogni giorno quelle poche orationi che il padre insegnato gli haveva, molti anni visse. Fra questi tempi avvenne che essendo appresso a Palestina un divoto Monasterio, nel quale erano molti giovani monachi senza lora Abate, che in quelli giorni gli era mancato, loro si deliberorono di crearne uno per Superiore a tutti. Ma perche erano tutti giovani, di lor stessi diffidandosi, di cercarne uno nel diserto si disposero, e cosi questo huomo agresto e selvatico ritrovarono, il quale dopo molti preghi con loro si condusse al Monasterio, et Abate lo fecero. E perchè, come è detto, il Monasterio era molto presso alla cittate,

into his head that they were worse than the Devil, and never again allowed him to leave their solitude.

The father, in a short time after, paying his tribute to Nature, departed this life, and the son remained alone. Nourishing himself with fruit and herbs, offering up every day those few prayers which his father had taught him, be lived many long years. At this time it happened there was near Palestine a holy Monastery in which many young monks were living without their Abbot, who had been missing during those days; they resolved to elect one, that would be their common Superior. But they being all of them young, mistrusting themselves, they prepared to look for one in the desert, and lighting upon this wild and uncultivated man whom, by force of entreaties, they succeeded in bringing to the Convent, they made him their Abbot. As this Monastery was not, as stated, far from the town, many persons frequented it, and

era dalle genti assai frequemtato e specialmente dalle femine, delle quali la maggior parte qui veniva a confessarsi. Il rozzo e restico Abate, che anchor nel core serbato havea gli precetti paterni, vedendo queste femine, subito impaurito si faceva il segno de la croce e fuggiva. Un Monacho, che molte volte gli haveva veduto fare quell' atto, gli disse: — « Perchè fuggite, » Padre, queste donne che vengono da noi » per consiglio? — Perchè sono la mala » cosa, » rispose, e narrogli tutte quelle baie che li havea dette il padre. Il Monacho, cognoscendo l'ignorantia sua, gli disse come queste erano le nostre matri, e che mantenevano la natura humana, et in fine gli soggionse che il maggior piacer che al mondo fusse era ad usar carnalmente con loro, e che a lui pareva, come gia molte volte havea provato, che questa fusse parte della dolcezza della eterna beatitudine. L'Abate, che era huomo grossis-

especially women, the greater part of whom came there to confession. The rough and rustic Abbot, who conserved in the bottom of his heart the paternal precepts, suddenly seized with dread at seeing these women, crossed himself and fled. A Monk, who had often seen him act thus, says : — « Why do you run » away, my Father, from these women » who come to us for advice ? — Because » they are the evil, » he answers, and he related to him all the idle tales his father had told him. The Monk, on seeing his ignorance, told him that they were our mothers, how they were perpetuating the human species ; finally, he added that the greatest pleasure in this world was to use it carnally with them, and that tc him, who had tasted it many times, it seemed to be a part of the sweetness ot the eternal beatitude. The Abbot, who was the simplest of men, considered about making a trial of it, on the Monk's kind assurances ; and the latter, in order to

simo, deliberò, per le bone persuasioni del Monaco, di provarlo, et egli, per fargli cosa grata, subito li ritrovò una contadinotta morbida e grassa, amica sua, et insegnatogli como a fare havea, seco all' amoroso duello il mise. L'Abate, venuto al fine del suo camino, e sentendo la dolcezza che il Monaco gli havea detto, stralucando gli occhi e credendo di spirar l'anima, disse: « Habbi tu cura de gli » altri monachi, che in Paradiso me ne » vado! » Ma pur, sendo finito il lavorio, e vedendosi vivo anchora, a piangere cominciò. Il Monaco pietoso, credendo ch' egli il facesse per lo peccato, al meglio che gli era possibile il confortava, dicendo che Iddio che era misericordiosissimo perdonava maggior eccesso assai. L'Abate rispose: « Di questo non piango io, ma » della disgratia mia, che son stato tanto » ad imparare et ad approvarlo. — Pa» dre, » dice il Monaco, « meglio è

please him, procured him on the spot a little fat round village girl, who was his good friend, and taught him what he had to do, engaging him with her in the amorous duel. The Abbot, having arrived at the end of his journey and feeling the sweetness of which the Monk had spoken to him coming, with his eyes jumping out of his head and thinking he was about giving up the ghost, crys out : — « Take » the direction of the other Monks, I am » going away to Paradise ! » But having finished the work and seeing himself still alive, began to sob. The Monk, being seized with compassion and thinking he was weeping for the sin committed, consoled him as best he could by telling him that God was full of pity, and that he would pardon the most grievous faults. — « It is not for that I am weeping, » says the Abbot ; « I am weeping over my » misfortune, for having been so long » without knowing and tasting it. — Fa- » ther, » says the Monk, « better late

» tardi che non mai. — Meglio è tardi » che non mai, » risponde l'Abate. — « Meglio è tardi che non mai, » replica il Monaco. Infin altro non dicea l'Abate in ogni cosa; se alcuno si veniva a confessare, se alcuno veniva a messa o portava elemosina, l'Abate dicea: — « Meglio è » tardi che non mai; » e tanto si sparse e divulgò questo proverbio, che fino nelle parti nostre venne. E pero, meglio è tardi che non mai che voi l'habbiate apparato et intenso.

» than never. — Better late than never, » replied the Abbot. — « Better late than » never, » replied the Monk. In short, the Abbot could no longer say anything else; if anybody came to confess, if anybody came to mass or offered any alms : — « Better late than never, » the Abbot used to say; and the proverb spread about and was divulged in such a way as to reach our countries. Therefore better late than never that you have heard and learned it yourselves.

PROVERBIO DECIMO

PERCHÈ SI DICE: Tutta è fava.

I *villa alla città ne venne un' altro, el quale se allega assai frequentemente quando alcuno, dimandante per sottile qualche grossezza per comparatione d'un altra cosa, chi è più perito risponde a quella interrogatione:* Tutta è fava, *volendo per tal proverbio denotare che sia tutta una cosa quello in cui crede qualche differentia. Di questo il nascimento è facetissimo.*

TENTH PROVERB

WHY THEY SAY : *It is all beans.*

THERE came from the borough to the town another adage, which is pretty often quoted when anybody asks in exchange for a small object, another comparatively much larger ; the interested party answers : *It is all beans,* as wishing to denote by this proverb that it is all one, although he knows very well there is a big difference. The origin of this saying is very amusing.

Uno villano del contado d'Imola, huomo grosso de ingegno e povero d'instrumento, tolse per moglie una garzona molto astuta, trentonizata per tutto il paese, e tolsela il castrone per donzella, mostrandosi anchor lei quando s'accompagnò, che di piccolo cordone ben le facesse intolerabile male, e tutti gli atti facendogli sotto che fatica et impotentia persuadere ponno. Hora il marito gli credea ogni cosa per non havere mai più coito usato, se non a squassarse il fusto entro le macchie, e cosi passò in questa opinione parecchi giorni che havesse havuto la mogliera citela, et impacciandosi seco le facesse uno grandissimo male di poca cosa.

Hora era in questa villa un fante a piede che non vedea lume, cecato d'ambe gli occhi per certi maleficii, et havea gia conosciuta la moglie; con lo qual questo villano, anchora avanti che 'l menasse

A country fellow from Imola, a thick headed man and badly furnished with tool, took for wife a cunning little lass whom the whole country had many times repassed at thirty-one; and the dunce took her for a maiden, from this that on the wedding night she pretended that he, with his short stump of a cock, caused her an insupportable pain, making under him all sorts of faces suitable to convince him of the fatigue and impossibility in which she was. The husband believed everything, having never before made use of any coition, save when he rubbed his handle sometimes in the brambles; he was a long while of opinion that he had had his wife a maiden, and that in doing business with her he did her a lot of harm with his nothing at all.

Now there was in this borough a certain foot-soldier who did not see clear, having lost the sight of his two eyes by some accident, and who knew the woman long beforehand; the rustic, even before his

costei, haveva una singulare domestichezza e sempre le feste era in sua compagnia, che gli pareva pure, perch' era scorto, imparare qualche cosa alla giornata. Havea questo fante a piede orbo il più bel membro che per grossezza mai veduto fosse, e la misura proportionatamente li seguiva. Un giorno ad arte havendo lui questo villano tratto de casa, el condusse con varii ragionamenti ad un campo di fave, che all' hora n' era il tempo, et era il campo di detto villano. Quivi assettati a ragionare come gli ociosi fanno, di più lascivie, el villano raccontò come la donna sua appena el puo aspettare in su quell' atto, tanto è inesperta lei di simili cose. Il fante all' hora si fa mostrare la verga, e dice: — « He! son perciò poche, o vero nessune » donne che per gran membro mai si fug- » gino di sotto: loro natura da loco ad » ogni grand cosa. » Dice il villano: — « Non credesti questo; poco più ch' io ne

marriage, was a very intimate friend of his, and, they were always together at feasts, imagining to learn something daily from him, as the soldier was malicious. This blind foot-soldier had the finest tackle that was ever seen; its proportional size and length were also noteworthy. Having one day by chance made the peasant come out, he led him along talking of one thing or another to a field of beans which belonged to the peasant, it being then the bean-season. There they sat down to talk, as it happens between persons out of work, blackguards, and the countryman began to relate how his wife could hardly bear him when he did that, she was so fresh at the business. The soldier got him to show his rod and says : — « Eh ! there are however very few » women, or to speak more justly, there » is not one that would flee from under » a man, however large his member be ; » their nature gives shelter to the largest » tool. — Believe nothing of the sort, »

» havessi, io non potrei impacciarmi con » lei; » e cosi confabulando insieme, il fante infustato del proposito, che'l conosceva per huomo grosso e di poco ingegno, cava il cordone suo e fa vederglielo. Il villano, stupefatto di tanta presentia : — « Oh! » oh! » disse; « questa è una magna » cosa; la mia femina non potrebbe gia » lei ricevere questo. — Si bene, » disse » il fante; ella lo torrebbe tutto, per lo » ciel de Dio! » Giura il villan che la no 'l torria mai. — « Voi tu metter pe- » gno che s' io te la faccio star ferma, » non potrai far nulla? — Per mia » fè! » risponde il fante, « va, menala » qua lei sola, ch'io voglio mettere pegno » dieci lire. — Et io, » dice il villano, » questo campo di fave, che non ho altro » al mondo. » E ditone ordiva a menare la femina, alla quale giunto, menandola al campo, gli narra questa guaia che ha

replys the countryman; « however little » more of it I had, I could do nothing » with her. » While talking thus, the soldier, being put into humor by the discourse, and knowing his friend to be a loggerhead, of little brain, exhibits his rope and makes him look at it. The countryman, astounded at so large a size, cries out: — « Oh! » oh! there is a big tool; my wife could » never receive it. — Yes! » replies the soldier; « she would receive it entire, by » heaven! » The countryman swears that it would never enter: — « Will you bet » something that, even if I held her still, » you could do nothing? — By my » faith! » replys the soldier, « go, fetch » her here alone, I will bet ten livres. » — And I, » says the countryman, « I » bet this field of beans, although it is all » I have in the world. »

Having said this, he goes off to look for his wife, meets her and, while bringing her to the field of beans, relates to her the dispute he had just had, not without

mettuto, e'l smisurato cordone di quel fante. — « Ah! » disse lei, « non du- » *bitasti gia, marito mio, havete vinto;* » *el non potra giamai farmelo ricevere.* » *— Di questo son certo,* » *risponde il marito;* « *stringi pur bene, che la meta di* » *questi danari voglio che sian tuoi, da* » *farti un guarnello; e vedi che non per-* » *dessimo le fave, che moriremo da fame* » *quest' anno.* »

E con questo parlare giunsero dal fante, il quale ancho infustato e distringato, presto s'acconciò appresso a costei, come puo intendersi, e mentre che s'appara a far la prova su la riva d'un fosso in ditto campo, trova con mano e con le cose molte ortiche e spine per lo campo male curato, nelle quali pungendosi dimanda al villano: — « Che diavolo d'herba è questa? » *io mi pungo tutto. — Na, na,* » *dice il villano,* « *tu vorresti pentirti; va pure* » *inanzi, tutta è fava;* » *e tutto stava*

alluding to the soldier's huge rope. — » Ah! » she cried, « make no doubt » about it, my dear husband, you have » won; he can never stick it into me. — » I am sure of it, » replys the husband, « but squeeze your thighs tight; I wish » you to have half the money for yourself » and that you get a petticoat made for » it. Take care we do not lose our beans, » we should have no other alternative but » to die of hunger this year. »

While talking in this manner, they reach the soldier who, with the mast still lifted and the canvass unlaced, is not long about getting himself into a position near her, as may be supposed; but as he was preparing to make his trial in the gripe of a ditch of the said field, he grazed with his hand and thighs a heap of nettles and briars, the field not having been well trimmed; he pricks himself there and asks the country-man : — « What devilish » herbs are those? I have pricked myself » all over. — Na, na, » replies the coun-

basso nel fosso, guardando per sotto s' ella il ricevea. Sta anco un pochetto il fante, e per le razze se straza i testicoli, li quali serpiggiavano per terra, et ancor grida : — « Ohime! che cosa è quest' altro! » El villano ride, credendosi che 'l dica per non potere, et cætera, *e pur risponde: — « Tutta è fava. » Il fante in fine, superato ortiche, spine et ogni contrasto, entrò in possessione e fè l'officio. Il villano piegato, come vide il cordone tutto a coperto, cominciò fare un siffilo, torcendo il mostazzo in verso il campo, e disse: « A Dio, » fave! » La moglie alzò la testa sotto il fante e rispose: — « In verità, marito » mio, mai non l'haveria creduto; ma » lassate, che anchora non havete perso, » io v'insegnarò un punto che vi pia- » cerà. » Se levò suso e cosi fornita l'o-*

tryman, « you would like to recant; » come, push, it is all beans; » and he kept himself crippled up in the gripe looking underneath to see if she received him. The soldier waited a little longer in suspense, and peels the skin off his testicles with the briars, which dragged along the ground; he shouts out: — « Ho there! » what is that again? » The countryman splits his sides with laughing, thinking the other is prating thus for want of being able, *et cætera*, and replies anew: — « It is all beans. » The soldier at last, triumphing over the nettles, briars and all other obstacles, takes possession and performs the office. The countryman, doubled up into two, as soon as he sees the rope entirely lodged, begins whistling and, tuning his snout to the field, shouts out: — Good-bye, beans! » The wife lifts her head from under the soldier and says: — « Indeed, my dear husband, » I should never have thought it; but » leave it to me, you have not yet lost,

pra, persuade al marito che debbi negare tutto al fante a piede, che non gli essendo testimonio non perderà nulla. E così fatto come la disse, il fante dimandò di provarlo un' altra volta; onde determinarono il dì seguente iterar l'opera, come lei cercava, stando a sententia del prete de la villa, che in quello campo pigliarono ordine che fusse presente. Il quale, sì come il villano principio diè al proverbio: Tutta è fava, *così diè il prete all' altro succedente, come narraremo, che spesso si dice:* Gliene fusse pur anco!

» and I shall teach you a dodge that will » not displease you. » She stood up, the business being done, and persuades her husband to deny the soldier all: the latter having no witnesses, they would lose nothing. He did as she said, and the soldier then asked to give proof of it a second time; they therefore resolved to recommence the thing on the next day, just what she wanted, in referring to the arbitration of the parish priest, whom they managed in such a way as to have him present in the said field. The parish priest, as well as the countryman had given rise to the proverb: *It is all beans*, gave, as we are going to relate, rise to the following, which is frequently said: *Why he has no more of it!*

PROVERBIO UNDECIMO

PERCHÈ SI DICE : Gliene fusse pur anchora !

VENUTO *l'altro giorno, poi ch' alle spese del villano ben pransato hebbe, el prete e lui e la mogliere, a cui pareva uno athomo mille anni di pervenire alla pastura, appresentarono al campo, secondo il dato ordine, ove trovato l'orbo, e salutato, dissegli il villano : — « Per levare » via ciascheduna differentia, prova » quello che tu dici di fare ; » et accon-*

ELEVENTH PROVERB

WHY THEY SAY : *Why he has no more of it!*

THE next day came; after having dined well at the country-man's expense, the latter, the parish priest and the woman, to whom every minute seemed a thousand years she longed so much to get into her clover, betook themselves to the field, according to the agreement, and having found and saluted the blind-man there, the country-man says: — « To put an end to the dispute, prove » what you have pretended you were able

ciato el prete in la vedetta con gli occhiali al naso, perchè era vecchio, si getta lui la moglie del villano sotto e lavora, sennandole el marito che pur stringa; ma presto el prete dette la sententia, che veduto manifestamente havea l'arma in fodro. Levò gli occhiali e disse: — « Gliene fusse pur » ancho! Tu hai perse le fave, » disse al villano. Esso non fece motto, se non congionto le braccia: — « Potta di San » Martello! tu l' hai ben duro! »

» to do. » The priest, having then placed himself in a line of observation, with the spectacles on his nose, by reason of his being old, the soldier stretched under him the peasant's wife and set to the work, the husband nodding to the wife to close her thighs tight; but thereupon the parish priest pronounced the sentence: he had distinctly seen the weapon entering the scabbard. He took off his spectacles and exclaimed: — « Why he has no » more of it! You have lost the beans, » he says to the country-man. The latter did not breathe a word, save that, in crossing his arms, he exclaimed: — « *Potta di San Martello!* You have dealt » a hard blow! »

PROVERBIO DUODECIMO

ALITER PERCHÈ SI DICE : Tutta è fava.

LTRI *dicono il proverbio precedente havere havuto la sua origine per questo altro modo :*

Una gentilissima Madonna in Lombardia havea marito, ma principe di terre insatiabili per la gran moltitudine di femine; al quale un dì fra gli altri la donna, appassionata dall' ingiuria, ch' era stato molti giorni con quelle a piacere, fece un bellissimo convito e fondato in gran

TWELFTH PROVERB

AN OTHER EXPLANATION, WHY THEY SAY :
It is all beans.

THERS pretend that the preceding proverb has its origin in this source :

A very noble Madonna of Lombardy had for husband a prince who, by his temper, was insatiable of women, and loving them all; one day among the rest, the lady, provoked by the injury he was doing her, having stayed away several days to amuse himself with them, got a magnificent banquet ordered, well

moralitade, volendogli con questo dargli intendere che da donna a donna sia nessuna differentia, se non quanto al soperchio appetito gli la fece. Et in summa, venuto el Principe alla mensa con i Baroni seco discombenti, el scalcho di Madama porta in tavola vivande delicate e pretiose, con condimento di zuchari e d'ogni bona speciaria; ma la sustantia sua tutta era fava, che l'havea el cuocho di migliori del mondo. Vennero in tavola marzapan di fava, gambari, pesci di mille maniere e torte, dentro i quali, benche la loro materia tutta fusse fava, oltre le forme diverse delle cose, era il gusto diversificato con mille sapori, si che al Signore parse meglio che mai fusse. Ricevuto da lei in questo convito e gionto al fine, le dimandò che cibi erano quei si ben conditi, prima quelli marzapani, e poi quei pesci. La Madonna risponde : — « Signore, en- » *trambe dui erano fava. — Quello altro*

grounded on morality, with the intention of giving him to understand that there was no difference between one woman and another, and that it is the vivacity of the appetite which makes one. In fine, the Prince having arrived at table with his Barons, who seated themselves about him, the knight of Madam serves out rare and delicate dishes, seasoned with sugar and all kinds of spices; but, the substance of each was but beans, the lady having one of the best cooks in the world. They served out bean marchpanes, lobsters, fishes of all kinds, pies; and these dishes, though all of them set off with beans, had, besides the diversity of their appearance, yet all different savours, so that they appeared to the Prince the best he had ever tasted. After she had made him perform the honors of the banquet, which came last, he asked her what were these dishes that were so well seasoned, first of all what were these marchpanes, then those fishes. Madonna answers : —

» arrosto che venne poi? » dice il Signore. La Madonna risponde : — « Tutta è » fava. — Quelle anguille e lamprede? » dice anchora ello ; e lei : — « Signore, » tutta è fava. » A l'ultimo : — « Quella » torta tanto bona, che cosa è? » dimanda anchora. — « Tutta è fava, Signore, » pur responde essa. All'hora lui con li Baroni suoi, tratti in guardarsi, conobbero questo convito fatto non senza grande arte, e ricordandosi lui del passato di che gli era stato con le concubine, subito il cor gli disse : — « Ecco la causa. » E cominciati tutti a rallegrarsi ; — « Ma- » donna, » disse il Principe, « voi havetime » ricevuto all' imperiale di cibi quadrage- » simali ; io da hora avanti voglio ricevere » voi de cibi di carnevale, e mangiarete » sola con meco sempre mai ad un ta- » gliere ; » e sorridendo presela per mano et andarono in camera ringratiandola de l'honesta e faceta correttione che gli havea

« Signor, the one and the other were » only beans. — And that roast meat » which came next? » the Prince inquired. — « It was all beans, » says Madonna. — « And those eels, those lampreys? » he inquired again. — « Still beans, » says she. In fine : — « And that pie which » was so good? — Nothing but beans, » she replies. Then the Prince and Barons, staring at one another, understood that the banquet had been ordered not without great art, and as he had just recalled to mind the past day which he had spent with his mistresses, his heart says to him : « There is the cause thereof. » They all began to laugh : « Madonna, » says the Prince, « you have treated me » imperially with Lent dishes ; henceforth » I will feast you on good carnival dishes ; » you shall always eat alone with me and » at the same table ; » and smiling he took her by the hand. He went off with her into her room, thanking her for the honest and funny rebuke she had made

data; e licentiate tutte le concubine, ritenne lei come debito era; onde il proverbio poi si pose in uso.

him and, having taken leave of his mistresses, remained near her as he should. The proverb passed since into use.

PROVERBIO TREDICESIMO

PERCHÈ SI DICE : Non ten darei quella.

UN *altro pur villano, non men del primo grosso d'ingegno e simplicione, levò il proverbio :* Non ten darei quella, *il quale vien detto quando uno espetta più di quello che' l merita, e parendo a quello che deve dare che l'habbia torto, gli risponde, scocchato el dito di meze co'l pollice :* Non te ne darei quella. *El corso è questo :*

THIRTEENTH PROVERB

WHY THEY SAY : *I would not give you that for it.*

ANOTHER countryman, not less thick headed and silly than the other, gave rise to the proverb : *I would not give you that for it*, which is said to anybody that counts on more than he deserves; he who is to pay, judging that the other counts wrongly, answers him by snapping his middle finger against his thumb : *I would not give you that for it*. The story was thus :

Un pecoraro Bresciano di Valtroppia, molto grosso quanto sia possibile, com' è detto, tolse una bella giovane per moglie, e la prima notte che s' accompagnò non fè nulla, però non havendo mai più toccata donna, credeva doversegli dal marito a tutte fare quello buco col cordone, e postosi intorno alla mogliere con tale pensiero, hora nel ventre, hora nel petto et hor nelli fianchi, le premeva indarno quello che andar altrove dovea, si che disutile stette con lei la prima notte. Cercò assai con man se l' haveva buco, et in ogni loco, se non là dov' era, che mai non si havrebbe persuaso che 'l fusse stato ascosto intra le gambe. Et in summa, levatosi la mane, et andato a i pistori, un suo compagno cauto più di lui li domanda dei portamenti che havea con la mogliere usato. — « Ah! oh! de! de! » risponde il pecoraro,

A Brescian shepherd of Valtroppia, as great a blockhead as possible, took for wife a pretty girl, and the first night he slept with her, did nothing at her : having never touched a woman, he thought that the husband should bore them all a hole with his bodkin, and, in this intent he began by turning all round his wife; he planted now in her belly, now in her corset, now in her flanks, quite uselessly, what he had to communicate to her elsewhere, so that he was of no use to her this first night. His hands looked out curiously if she had a hole, they searched every place except where it was, for he would never have imagined that it was concealed between the thighs; in fine, having got up in the morning and gone to find the other shepherds, one of his comrades, more expert than he, asked him how he had got on with his wife. — « Ah! oh! ba! ba! » answered the shepherd, « I could do » nothing; impossible to find or make

» non ho potuto far niente, che non ho po-
» tuto trovare nè fare el buco. » Dice
il compagno : — « Non te ne maravi-
» gliare, fratello ; che'l si convien fare
» con una gran fatica. — Ah ! oh ! de !
» de ! » risponde il pecoraro, « se vuoi
» durare per mi questa fatica e farghe el
» buco ti la prima volta, son contento
» pagarti alcuna cosa. — Ve, » dice
l'altro, « è gene va da fare, ma pur per
» tuo amore, se tu mi paghi, farò si che
» senza una stenta tu potrai poi agiata-
» mente fare il tuo fatto. » Et in summa
il pecoraro gli promisse cinque pecore, e
la seguente notte el colchò in letto con la
mogliere sua, la quale non se ne fè niente
schiffa, per essere il marito stato uno pol-
trone la notte dinanzi. Fè l'officio magni-
ficamente, e venuta la mattina, dice al
pecoraro : — « Va mo a tua posta, e cerca

» the hole. — Do not be surprised at it, » brother, » replied the other, « you » must bore it with great toil. — Ah! » oh! ba! ba! » replied the shepherd, » if you wish to undertake this toil for » me and form out this hole once for all » in her, I shall be glad to pay you » something. — There is a lot to be » done, » says the other, « but if you » pay me, I shall do it so well that you » can afterwards without sweating set to » the business quite at your ease. » In short, the shepherd promised him five sheep and, the night after, put him in bed with his wife who showed herself no way unruly, her husband having proved himself good for nothing the first night. He fulfilled his office admirably well and, when the morning came, says to the shepherd : — « Come, have at it » yourself, now; look well at the bottom » of the belly, you will find where to » take your pleasure without any toil; » but do not forget to give me my

» ben in fondo del corpo, che tu troverai » dove darti piacere senza fatica alcuna, » ma ricordati de darmi le mie pecore. » — Lassami prima provare, » disse il pecoraro, « se sta bene, e ciò che t' ho pro- » messo te lo attenderò. » E l'altra notte accostatosi alla moglie, le dimando ov' è'l buco che gli ha quel compagno fatto. Ella gli mostra e dice : — « Fra le gambe ; » e breviter *la calvacò due fiate senz' altro dolore, non mostrandosi però di restare contento. La mattina, el compagno gli fù innanzi e gli dimanda se gli ha ben servito ; lo pecoraro lo confessa molto fredamente ; colui dimanda che'l vol cinque pecore : il pecoraro non gli presta audientia. Fallo in fine acetare avanti al vicario, homo anco lui rotondo in quella valle, il quale, udita la loro differentia, dimanda al pecoraro : « Se'l t'ha tolto la fatica a » farle il buco, perchè non gli dai tu le » cinque pecore, come promettesti ? » All'*

» sheep. — Let me try first, » says the shepherd, « if the work is well done, » and what I have promised you, I shall » give. » Having gone to bed the next night with his wife, he asks her where was the hole that his friend had made her; she shows it to him and says : — « There, between my thighs; » and *breviter* he mounted her twice without pain, not seeming however to be well satisfied. His comrade come up to him in the morning and asks whether he has done him much service; the shepherd only agrees to it coldly, and when the other tells him he wants his five sheep, he refuses to listen to him. The other then summons him before the bailiff, a straight forward man also in this valley, who, having heard the dispute, says to the shepherd : — « If he has spared you » the trouble of making a hole in your » wife, why do you not give him the » five sheep, according to your pro- » mise? » The shepherd then, snapping

hora il pecoraro scocchato el dito com' è ditto sopra : — « Messer, » disse alto, « non gene darei quella ; el gelo ha fatto » troppo presso al buco di sotto, io fallo » quasi ogni volta. » Rise la turba all' hora, e da poi in qua si è detto il qual proverbio.

his fingers, as stated further back : — « Mister, » he cried aloud, « I would » not give him that for it; he made it » too near the hole underneath, and I » am mistaken almost every time. » Those who were present began to laugh, and since then the proverb spread about.

PROVERBIO QUATORDICESIMO

PERCHÈ SI DICE : Pissa chiaro, indorme al medico.

ISSA chiaro, et indorme al medico, *usurpa, dico, ogni generatione del mondo, solo in proposito di mostrar fede e lealtade a suoi maggiori. El proverbio hebbe la sua origine altramente che non si costuma d'allegare, e fù in tal forma :*

Un Medico ignorante, come sono molti, entrò in le montagne Genovesi a Chiavari, piene e populose d'huomini grossi, disposto

FOURTEENTH PROVERB

WHY THEY SAY : *Piss clear, and laugh at the Doctor.*

iss clear, and laugh at the Doctor, all sorts of people say that, simply to show confidence in, and attachment to, our ancestors. The proverb had quite a different origin from the one usually alleged, and here it is :

An ignorant Doctor, as there are many of them so, came with the intention of establishing himself among the moun-

seco di arrichire ivi. E per le prime prove che fece di se, trovando quelle ville e valli tutte piene di garzone da marito che eran texitrici di lana e di lino, gittò e sparse lo nome di sapere conciare le fighe storte; e perchè fù sempre fama che tutte le texitrici l'hanno storta, per quella confricatione et in suso e in giuso, molte garzone da marito secretamente andavano da lui, le quali acconciàndo sopra un banco preparato a questo e facendo il dovere, diceva questa essere la formà di indrizarle. Ello haveva uno cordone formato e duro, pareva ad esse le servisse bene, e molte ne tirò sotto trappola, e con grande utile e piacere suo s'acquistò in breve tempo una gràn fàma, sì che frà le femine non si

tains of Genoa, at Chiavari, a place crowded and inhabited only by big blockheads. And as first proofs of his capacity, he published and spread about the rumor that he could redress sprained figs, as he found throughout the various boroughs and valleys numbers of marriageable girls employed as woollen and hemp weavers; and as people always pretended that such weavers have it sprained owing to the frictional movement of their legs, many of these girls came secretly to consult him. He laid them on a bench designed for the purpose, operated on them, intimating thereby that this was the only way of setting it right again. His tool was of fine size and form; they all seemed to have been well treated, and by causing several of them to fall into the trap, he acquired in a short time great renown to his good profit and pleasure. The women talked among themselves only of master

diceva altro se non di maestro Ghirardone da Bobbio, ch' era così il suo nome.

Un mulatiere, in fine, di questo loco, che haveva la mogliera vecchia e molto inferma, pregandolo ella di questo Medico, et havendo lei opinione che la spacciasse, come havea per inanzi inteso che 'l faceva all' altre, glielo fece venire per fino a casa, che l' uno e l' altro era bene staghente di roba. E come fù entrato el Medico, dimanda de la infermità della donna; dice il marito: — « Lei ve la dirà, entrate » in camera. » Entrato quello, la vecchia diè di mano all' uscio e disse: — « Messere, io vorrei che me la drizaste, » perchè tutto il tempo della vita mia son » stata texitrice; so che sete magnanimo » di tal virtute. » El Medico, vedendo questa vecchia stomachosa, dice: — » Madonna, ogni mal vecchio è incura- » bile, ma lassatemi vedere l'orina vos- » tra, c' havete forse qualche altra infer-

Ghirardone da Bobbio, as he styled himself.

In fine, a muleteer of the neighbourhood being requested by his wife, already old and weak, to fetch her the Doctor in the hope that he would cure her also in the same way as the others, brought him to his house, as they were well-to-do people. As soon as the Doctor entered, he inquired what was the woman's illness. — « She will tell you, » replied the husband; « go into her room. ». The moment he went in, the woman pushed the door and said : — « Mister, I should » like you to redress it for me; I have » been a weaver all my life, and I know » your talent for this purpose is re- » markable. » The Doctor, on seeing this disgusting old hag, says : — « Ma- » donna, every inveterate disease is » incurable; but let me see your urine. » Perhaps you have quite another infir- » mity from the one you think. » He said this to get some money out of her,

» mità che non credete; » e questo disse per cavarle alle mani danari, che la conoscea riccha. All' hora lei, orinato in un bicchiere, gli mostra l' acqua; el Medico tutto attonito la guarda, dicendo essere quella acqua molto torbida, e fa entrar el marito. — « Che vuoi tu che ti doni, » dice questo, « e fa in tal modo ch' ella » guarisca, sì che possa pisciar chiaro? » Disse el Medico: — « Non voglio patto, » ma dami dui ducati inanti tratto, poi » de giorno in giorno secondo la mia » cura. » Dice el Mulatiere: — « Come » la pissa chiaro, sarà ella poi guarita » e libera? — Si, » rispose ello: « come » la pissa chiaro, indormi al medico. »

La vecchia, che per altro lo haveva fatto domandare, cioè per voglia di menare i mantici, notò la parola che come pissava chiaro ne dovesse indormire al Medico, e tennesela a mente. Onde tenendola in cura più che non le pareva che fare dovesse

because he knew she was rich. The woman, having then urined in a cup, shows him her water; the Doctor looks at it quite astonished and says it is very muddy, then brings in the husband. — » What shall I give you, » inquired the latter, « in order that you try and » cure her and that she finishes by » pissing clear? — I will have no for- » feit, » replies the Doctor; « but give » me two ducats this very day, then you » shall give me as much every day » during the whole time of my atten- » dance. — When she will piss clear, » said the Muleteer, « will she be cured » and rid of her illness? — Yes, » he replies; « when she pisses clear, let her » laugh at the Doctor. »

The old hag, who had him come for a very different object, namely, through the desire of working the bellows, noted down the word that, when she would piss clear, should laugh at the Doctor, and she stowed it up in her memory. As

per pelarla pur bene, disse al marito:
— « Vedi tu, Gavocchio » (che così si
chiamava), « questo poltrone Medico non
» confesserà mai ch'io pissi chiaro, solo
» per rapinarmi i miei danari, e tu pur
» vedi ch' io pisso chiarissimo. Non
» voglio che 'l licentiamo, perchè de da-
» nari spesi me ne haverei il danno, ma
» voglio, se tu farai a mio senno, che
» guadagnamo trenta boni ducati con
» lui; che gli è per andar in Polzevera a
» torre robe e danari che li ha lassati;
» voglio che quelli siano tutti nostri. »
El marito dice: — « Ordina come vuoi
» ch' io faccia, che lo farò, peroche ancho
» a me pare che tu pissi chiaro. — Egli
» lo convien fare confessare per forza, »
dice la moglie; « el modo adunque è
» questo. Prendi una utria della gran-
» dezza che è la mia persona, e venirai
» all' hora che 'l deve tornare con gli

he was making the cure last longer than she thought reasonable, in order to fleece her, she says to her husband : « Do you » see, Gavocchio » (this was his name); « this goodfornothing Doctor will never » confess I piss clear, simply to rob me » of my money, and you see how I piss » as clear as anybody. I do not wish to » take leave of him, because I should » lose the money he made us shell out » to him, but I wish, if you do as I am » going to tell you, to win back from » him thirty fine ducats; he is about » going to Polzevera to look after some » effects and money he left there: I wish » all that to be ours. — Command » whatever you wish me to do, » says the husband, « I shall do it; it appears » to me also that you piss clear. — We » must make him to own it by force, » says the wife, « and here is the means : » Take a leather bottle of the same size » as I, and set out at the same hour, as » he is to return with the money. Con-

» *danari. Menami con un mulo in su el*
» *tal fosso, e li aspettamo; in questo*
» *mezo, mi coprirai di frasche, che non*
» *mi parrà carne in verun loco, e cosi*
» *quell' altra utria, per dar colore a*
» *quel che vogliamo fare. Habbi poi un*
» *compagno tuo fidato, dal quale mostra*
» *volere comprare queste utrie, e come'l*
» *Medico passa, chiamalo a consigliarti*
» *ciò che gliene pare.* » *A pena cosi disse che 'l marito non la lassò andar più oltre, e le rispose subito:* — « *Io t' intendo,*
» *tu li voi pissare e trombeggiare sotto la*
» *barga; esso crederà che tu sii un' utria*
» *e dirà che tu pissi chiaro, e tu voi*
» *amolare et indormirne al Medico;*
» *altro modo non ci è da vindicarsi. Tu*
» *parli benissimo.* »

E cosi havuto per spia el dì che 'l Medico dovea tornare con gli danari, se

» duct me on a mule to such a ditch, and
» we shall await him there. You shall
» cover me over with leaves, in such a
» way that no part of my flesh shall be
» visible nowhere, and you shall do in
» like manner with the leather bottle,
» the better to palliate what we want to
» do. Have then a friend on whom you
» may rely; you will pretend you want
» to buy these two leather bottles from
» him, and, when the Doctor comes up,
» call him to have his advice on what you
» are to do. » She had hardly said this, when the husband interrupted her and exclaimed : — « I understand you; you
» want to piss on him and fart in his
» beard; he will take you for a leather
» bottle and say you piss clear; you
» want to bombard and make a fool of
» the Doctor. There is no better means
» of taking vengeance; you speak to the
» purpose. »

This being agreed upon, and having learned by spying the day on which the

n' andò Gavocchio con la moglie sua su un mulo, et una utria et un suo compare a piede, su'l fosso di d'onde dovea passare, e qui smontato, taglia molte frasche e fa mettere la vecchia giuso in quattro, nuda, con gli ginocchi piegati e le gambe molto raccolte sotto; poi la copre di frasche intorno, come suole fare chi camina con utrie per caldo e per gran sole, come era all' hora. El simile fa all' altra utria per colorire la fallacia de quella, sì che ogni persona se ne sarebbe stata ingannata. Eccoti all' hora giungere il Medico in su una muletta, con due bolze di dietro et i danari dentro, circa ducati sessanta e quatro tazze. Al qual Gavocchio tutto misericordioso si fu sotto, dicendo: — « Caro messere, se de vaia, ve prego per » carità, desmontate un poco a vedere che » vi pare di queste utrie che questo huomo

Doctor was to return with the money, Gavocchio and his wife planted on a mule, with a leather bottle and a companion, make for the ditch near which he was to pass. Having alighted there, he cuts down a lot of boughs and places the old hag quite naked and doubled up in four, her knees bent up and her legs well gathered underneath; he next covers her quite with leaves, as people travelling do with leather bottles during the great heat and under the sun, as at that time. He does the same thing with the second leather bottle, to hide the deceit of the first, so well indeed that any one would be mistaken to know which was which. The Doctor arrives on his little mule, with two bags containing the money behind, about sixty ducats and four goblets; Gavocchio, very humble looking, goes before him, saying : — « My worthy » Sir, if you please, I beg you for cha- » rity sake, dismount a moment and see » what you think of those leather bottles

» da bene mi vorria vendere; voi sete phi-
» losopho, consigliero di Dio: se seguo il
» parer vostro, non posso male spendere. »
El Medico, ch' era grossolano assai, s'allegrava nelle laude sue; in fine smontò e lassò la muletta con le bolze in groppa sotto un albero, e venuto sul fosso ove son le utrie, si piega apunto a quella dove è la vecchia sotto. El marito gli dice: — « Tenete in mano un poco la bocca di » questa, » e gli fa prendere la pendogliera della moglie infra le frasche, che parea propria la bocca pilosa de una utria, e tenendo li labbri schizi con le dita, el marito a cavallone la premea su li fianchi, sì che la vecchia cominciò a pissare. El Medico disse all' hora: — « Questa » utria e rotta, la scompissa per tutto. » Dice Gavocchio: — « Guardate pure, » messere, se le vien chiara, che la non fusse

» which this good man wishes to sell
» me; you are a philosopher, a counsellor
» of God : if I follow your advice, I
» shall not spend my money wrongfully. »
The Doctor, quite innocent, was elated at his eulogy; at last he alights, leaves the mule under a tree, with the bags behind, and arriving at the ditch, bends himself up into two under the one represented by the old hag. — « Take a little
» of the mouth of this one into your
» hand, » says the husband, and he makes him take hold of under the boughs his wife's pouch which looked very much like the hairy mouth of a leather bottle; himself holding his lips closed with his fingers, the husband astraddle on the top operated a pressure upon her flanks, so that the old hag began pissing. — « This bottle is full
» of holes, » exclaimed the Doctor; « it is
» pissing from all parts. — Look close,
» master, » says Gavocchio, « if it
» pisses clear, that it is not damaged in
» the inside. — Yes, it pisses very clear, »

» dannegiata dentro.» El Medico risponde: — « Si, la pissa chiarissimo, » scompissandogli pur sempre la vecchia per mano e per braccia; la quale come hebbe inteso che 'l Medico confessò che la pissava chiaro, si raccordò del ditto d' esso, che la dovesse indormire al Medico, e cominciò amolare e trarre spingarde. El Medico udendo, dice Gavocchio: — « Deh! » messere, anasate di che sa. » El Medico le pone el naso fra la fessa e 'l bucho de l' herbe, e tira el spirito e gridò: — « Hoi! hoi! non la comprasti, la puza » di stercho, e tanto che la nega; ella è » amorbata dentro. » La vecchia all' hora salta in piedi, e con un calcio in petto il getta in fosso, dicendo: — « Tu » menti per la gola; io son guarita; tu » hai confessato gia che pisso chiaro, e » chi pissa chiaro ne indorme al medico, » e cosi ho fatto. » Mentre che 'l Medico precipitato in fosso chiama aiuto, Gavoc-

says the Doctor whose hands and arms the old hag sprinkled abundantly. When she heard him confessing that she pissed clear, she bethought herself of his words, that it remained to her to laugh at him: she began farting and letting fly cannon shots. As the Doctor was holding out his ear, Gavocchio says to him : — « Eh! » master, smell then what it is like. » The Doctor sticks his nose between the slit and boughs, breathes strongly and cries out : — « Oh! oh! do not buy it, » it stinks farting to smother one; it is all » rotten inside. » Then the old hag jumps to her feet, and with a kick of her heel right in his breast sends him spinning into the gripe on his back, saying : — « You are a liar down your throat; I am » cured. You have confessed I piss clear, » and who pisses clear laughs at the » Doctor; that is what I am doing. » While the Doctor lay in the bottom of the gripe, calling for help, Gavocchio makes for the mule, climbs upon it and

chio corre alla muletta, monta suso, e la vecchia infraschata in su la groppa, fuggendo tutti via con li danari e lassando nella pacchiera il Medico sepolto, dal quale sempre mai po per la beffa fattagli si disse: Pissa chiaro, et indorme al medico.

taking the old hag up behind him, still covered with boughs, sets off with the money, leaving the Doctor buried in the muck; consequently, in remembrance of the good trick that had been played on him, they never ceased from saying : *Piss clear, and laugh at the Doctor.*

PROVERBIO QUINTODECIMO

PERCHÈ SI DICE : Tu non sei quello.

A *una bella donzella di Piacenza nacque questo motto si proverbiato, quanto alcuno presumendo di se o di uno altro di cui parla sopra il vero, se gli responde :* « Tu non sei quello, *overo :* Il non è quello; *e cosi fù sua origine :*

Era in la terra di Piacenza un polito scudiera, e ben fornito di gioie per la sposa, il quale era de' belli danzatori che

FIFTEENTH PROVERB

WHY THEY SAY: *You are not he.*

THIS adage, now so widely spread about, sprang from a lovely young lady of Piacenza; when anybody thinking too much of himself or another, brags of more than is true, he is answered : *You are not he*, or : *He is not you*, and here is how it had its rise :

There was in the town of Piacenza a gallant knight, well supplied with a bridegroom's jewls, and one of the best dancers

mai si videro, e ben venduto per tale virtute da tutte le donne; et havea questa gentilezza in se, che con quante ballava, che s' accorgesse da loro essere amato, le ponea in mano il cordone se si la vedeva bella, e specialmente essendo immascherato. Hora era costui tanto in gratia e fama delle donne per sua beltade e virtù di danzare, e poi per quest' altra parte c' habbiam detta, che beata quella era che poteva amicarsegli. Essendo venute le feste di Carnevale, che costui molto andava a torno su le feste travestito, e dovendosi in casa d' un cittadino fare una mobil festa alla quale esso doveva venire, una bellissima donzella di contrada, informata de gli atti di costui dall' altre donne, con molti preghi impetrò dal padre andar a questa festa, alla quale lei d' industria si fece in-

ever known, highly appreciated by all the ladies on this account. Among other petty tricks, he used, especially when masked, to put his bodkin into the hand of all those with whom he danced and whom he saw he pleased, provided they were pretty. And he was held in such favor and renown among the ladies, owing to his beauty and skill in the dance, as also for the said particularity, that she who could make herself sought after by him deemed herself blessed. The carnival festivities having arrived, during which he went disguised to all the meetings, as there was to take place at the house of a noble citizen a grand ball to which he had promised to come, a very lovely young lady of the neighbourhood, being informed by other ladies of his ways of acting begged earnestly her father's leave to go and had herself skilfully invited, as she was desirous of feeling the bodkin. The father having given her his permission, she was off with her mother on the feast day to the house

vitare, desiderosa di toccare la corda. Il padre concessale licentia, con la madre el dì de la festa andossene alla casa del convitatore, e dopo pranzo, cominciato a danzare, eccoti in breve venuto costui immascherato, e fù alla giovane per l' altre donne dimostrato. Presto essa conosciutolo, con gli occhi di pietà incominciò a solecitarlo e dimostrargli ardentissimo amore, per le quali viste costui andò ad invitarla di ballare, e date con ella alcune volte per sala al saltarello, segna al sonatore che gli faccia una piva che li serva più in proposito di darle in mano la reliquia detta; e cosi, mutato il suono, cominciarono a menarla più trita, essendo seco in ballo una gran turba. E poi che gli ha li mani alquanto strette, e lei risposto con distringere di mani, in quello accelerare della misura, che 'l ballo da chi lo mena si trahe in tondo, le pose in mano il

of him who issued the invitations, and, after meal when they began to dance, the man of whom there is question was seen coming at the same instant; he was masked, and the other ladies pointed him out to this young lady. She began, as soon as she had distinguished him, to cast most wistful glances at him, and feel a burning love for him; he perceived it and invited her to dance. When he had taken several rounds of the hall with her in dancing the *saltarello,* he made a sign to the fiddler to play an air of the bag-pipes, that he might have a better opportunity of slipping the said relic into her hand, and on this change of measure they began to whirl round more quickly, there being a large crowd to dance with them. After having squeezed her hands a while, a pressure which she answered by letting them go with him, in that acceleration of time which takes place when the dance forms in a ring by the command of him who leads it, he slipped into her hand the little beast quite

bestiolo in ordine, nè lei fugi la presa e tenne fermo fin che celatamente tenere pote, e questo fè da una volto in suso.

Hor volse la fortuna che uno vecchio amante di costei qui si trovasse, il quale in sei anni di tempo mai haveva havuto da lei uno piacere nè pure un atto di benignitade; onde havendo visto manifestamente questo atto di costei con ditto danzatore, disse con un compagno suo, pieno di dolore: — « Ahi! femine puttane! « maladetto da Dio che in voi si sfida! » et al compagno narrò quanto havea visto. Poi disse seco: « Dapoi che cosi è, pur » che ti piaccia toccar la corda all' huomo, » io mi havrò da te questo contento, che » ti metterò in mano ciò che ti cerchi; » e partito de li, va subito a stravestirsi tutto in la foggia ch' era questo altro, el quale come partito fù, che l'hebbe per spia, stette pochetto e poi andò lui su la

duly, and far from refusing to take it, she held it firmly as long as she could secretly hold it, and she repeated it again at another heat.

Now, chance would have it that there should be there one of her old sweethearts, who during six years could obtain from her neither pleasure nor even one act of pure benevolence; having clearly seen what she had done with the fine dancer, he, full of chagrin, says to one of his comrades : — « Ah! whorish women! » Curse of God on him who relies on » you! » and he related to him all he had seen. Then he says to himself : « Since it » is so, and since you like to handle » man's tool, I shall have this pleasure » from you, and I shall put into your » hand what you are looking for. » Having gone out, he goes off at once to disguise himself exactly like the other, and when the latter was gone away, which he found out by having him watched, he waited a moment and entered the ball soon after. He

detta festa. Egli era di persona pare a lui, e di foggie similissime in tutto, siche costei senza dubbio el credea essere quello. Come si venne all' opera di danzare, che questo secondo l' hebbe tolta suso, a tempo e loco fè come fece il primo e diede in mano el tabernacolo, non sapendo lui che 'l precessore fusse a dieci per uno meglio fornito; la qual facenda come questa donzella in mano el strinse, trovandosi sì in grosso essere fraudata, prèsto levò la mano e lo rigittò indreto, dicendo : — « In la mal' hora tua! Tu non sei » quello; » e lassandolo in ballo, andò a sedere, contando alle compagne fidate ciò che le era intervenuto. El giovine scornato per piccolo fornimento uscì di sala, e narrata l' historia per la terra, levò il proverbio impiè : Tu non sei quello; *nè da quello tempo in qua giovine alcuna Piacentina porse la mano, se non a dis-*

was quite like his rival in height and costume, so much so that she had not the slightest doubt but that it was still he. When the dancing moment had come and this second masquerader had led her out with him, he did at the same time and spot like the former, and placed the tabernacle in her hand, ignoring that his predecessor was ten times better furnished; but when the young lady held this affair between her fingers, finding herself so grossly outwitted, she quickly takes her hand away, flings the man back exclaiming: — « Woe to you! you are not he; » and abandoning him in the midst of the ball, she went and sat down; not without relating to her surest friends what had just befallen her. The young man, whose slight supply had made a fool of him, left the hall, and the story having been spread throughout town, set on foot the proverb: *You are not he.* From that time down to the present, no young girl of Piacenza would give her hand any longer, except

coperto, el quale costume anchora se osserva e tiense, che se uno immascherato invita donne, elle gli dicono : « Scopritivi el » volto, e dapoi danzarò. »

openly, a custom which is still observed and mantained, and if a masquerader invites ladies, they answer him : « Strip » your face, then I shall dance. »

PROVERBIO SESTODECIMO

PERCHÈ SI DICE: A chi la va, Dio lo benedica:

L'ARCIVESCOVO *di Romagna, chiamato Andreasso da Cingoli, hebbe una sorella delle belle donne di quel tempo, ma troppo ghiotta de' dolci bocconi, siche servandola lui per maritarla, lei fugge con un suo amante; ma ribavuta pure, con destro modo ombreggiando la sua fuga esser stata a certo monasterio, par fare di lei qualche bon parentado, anchora tramava pur di maritarla.*

SIXTEENTH PROVERB

WHY THEY SAY : *Who goes to bed with her, may God bless him!*

THE Archbishop of Romagna, called Andreasso da Cingoli, had a sister who was the finest woman of the time, but too dainty mouthed for sweet bits, so that while he was keeping her for wedlock, she ran off with one of her gallants; after he had succeeded in finding her out, having cleverly mantled her flight in pretending she had gone into a monastery, he nevertheless occupied himself about getting her married, in order to get her into a good

Fuggi anchor lei la seconda e la terza volta con alcun contestabile della chiesa, e l'Arcivescovo, scomunicando chi la retenesse, anchora rihebbela e con molte humane castigationi cercò correggierla. Non stette lei per questo che la fuga pigliò la quarta volta, e fù per molte mani all' hora sbalzata, sì che, inanzi che rihavere più si potesse, intervenero molte obsecrationi et escomunicamenti in la catedrale chiesa; e pure insieme anchora la riscosse.

La quale chiamata inanzi a se el fratello, presenti alcuni principali parenti et alcuni canonici di gran gravitade, la cominciaron a riprendere acerbamente, ricordandogli quanta vergogna per lei ello haveva in fronte, el poco honore che la facea al suo sangue, e molte altre esclamationi intermiscendo. La giovane, poi c' hebbe udito, non spaventata in nulla, rispose subito, guardandolo fisso : —

connection. She ran off a second time, then a third with a provost of the church. The Archbishop, by excommunicating him who kept her away, rescued her again and by the help of honest rebukes tried to correct her. That did not hinder her from taking the flight a fourth time; she passed then through many hands, and before she could be found again, it was necessary to pronounce a number of interdictions and excommunications in the cathedral; he rescued her however again.

The brother having summoned her before him in presence of the nearest relations and a few of the gravest canons, all began to reprimand her sharply, to recall to her with what shame she was covering their brow, the little honor she did their blood, underlining their complaints with many exclamations. The young girl not in the least troubled, after having heard them, answers immediately, while gazing at him : — « Monsignor and » brother, shall I tell you? — Say all

« *Monsignor e fratello, vuoi ch' io ti dica? — Di ciò che voli,* » *rispose quello.* — « *Quando una femina ha passato gli* » *dui, non la terrebbe il cento diavoli* » *che non arrivassi fino a cento.* » *L'Arcivescovo ridendo, tutti i circostanti udito quello, si trinse nelle spalle e commandò che si sonasse a predica, mettuta lei in la libertà sua. E congregato a udire huomini e donne, lui montò in sul pulpito e disse : —* » *Huomini miei e voi, donne* » *putane, la cagione della mia predica* » *è questa : io ho per quella mia sorella* » *fuggitiva scomunicato spesso terrieri e* » *soldati; ultimamente riprendendola* » *de' falli suoi, mi risponde* coram omnibus *che quando una femina ha passato gli dui, non la terrebbe il cento* » *diavoli che la non arrivasse fino a cento.* » *Io recomunico ogn' un che l' ha goduta,* » *et da hora inanzi, a chi la va San* » *Piero lo benedica; bon prò gli possa*

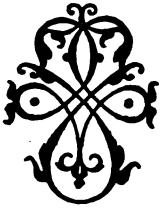
» you like, » he answered. — « When a » woman has passed by two, the hundreth » devil would not hinder her from going » to a hundred. » The Archbishop, with all the audience having heard this answer, buried himself while laughing in his shoulders and ordered the bell to be rung for the sermon, after having set his sister free. Then men and women pressing up to hear him, he ascended the pulpit and said : « Good men and you, whorish women, » the object of my sermon is this : I often » excommunicated my fellow countrymen » and soldiers for my sister who had run » away; in a word, as I rebuked her for » her errors, she answered me *coram omnibus,* that when a woman has passed » by two, the hundreth devil would not » hinder her from going to a hundred. I » unbind all those who have enjoyed her, » from excommunication, and may Saint » Peter bless henceforth whoever goes » to bed with her, much good may » it do him! But see, my dear country-

» *fare! Ma guardate, cittadeni miei, come*
» *noi stiamo. Son stato confessore prima*
» *che vescovo, nè mai confessai donna da*
» *dieci anni in suso che non havesse pas-*
» *sati quei dui. Voi sete tutte, femine,*
» *puttane, e noi huomini siamo tutti cor-*
» *nuti. Io dalla parte mia non voglio*
» *più affanno; a chi la va, San Piero*
» *lo benedica!* » *E data questa benedi-*
tione, smontò di pergolo, lassando quello
proverbio in bocca al popolo, el quale
anchora a nostri dì s' allega.

FINE.

» men, how it turns out. Before being a
» bishop I was a confessor, and I never
» confessed women of more than ten
» years old but had passed this number
» two. You, women, you are all whores,
» and we men are all cuckolds. For what
» is mine, I wish no more annoyance;
» whoever goes to bed with her, may
» Saint Peter bless him! » Having given this benediction, he came down from the pulpit, leaving in the mouths of the people this proverb, which is still quoted in our days.

END.



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