EVERY MAN OUT OF HIS HUMOUR

TO THE NOBLEST NURSERIES OF HUMANITY AND LIBERTY IN THE KINGDOM

THE INNS OF COURT

I understand you, Gentlemen, not your houses: and a worthy succession of you, to all time, as being born the judges of these studies. When I wrote this poem, I had friendship with divers in your societies; who, as they were great names in learning, so they were no less examples of living. Of them, and then, that I say no more, it was not despised. Now that the printer, by a doubled charge, thinks it worthy a longer life than commonly the air of such things doth promise, I am careful to put it a servant to their pleasures, who are the inheritors of the first favour born it. Yet, I command it lie not in the way of your more noble and useful studies to the public: for so I shall suffer for it. But when the gown and cap is off, and the lord of liberty reigns, then, to take it in your hands, perhaps may make some bencher, tinted with humanity, read and not repent him. By your true honourer,

BEN JONSON.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

ASPER, the Presenter.
MACILENTE.
PUNTAVKLO,—his Lady.—Waiting Gent.—Huntsman.—Servingmen.
—Dog and Cat.
CARLO BUFFONE.
FASTIDIOUS BRISK,—Cino, his Page.
DELIRO, FALLACE,—Fido, their Servant.—Musicians.

SAVIOLINA.
SORDIDO,—His Hind.
FUNGOSO.—Tailor, Haberdasher.
Shoemaker.
SOGLIARDO.
SHIFT.—Rustics.
NOTARY.
CLOVE, ORANGE.—A Groom.—
Drawers.—Constable, and Officers.
GREX.—CORDATUS—MITIS.

THE CHARACTERS OF THE PERSONS

ASPER, he is of an ingenious and free spirit, eager and constant in reproach, without fear controlling the world's abuses. One whom no servile hope of gain, or frosty apprehension of danger, can make to be a parasite, either to time, place, or opinion.

MACILENTE, a man well parted, a sufficient scholar, and travelled; who, wanting that place in the world's account which he thinks his merit capable of, falls into such an envious apoplexy, with which his judgment is so dazzled and distast, that he grows violently impatient of any opposite happiness in another.

PUNTAVKLO, a vain-glory knight, over-englanding his travels, and wholly consecrated to singularity; the very Jacob's staff of compliment; a sir that hath lived to see the revolution of time in most of his apparel. Of presence good enough, but so palpably affected to his own praise, that for want of flatterers he commends himself, to the floutage of his own family. He deals upon returns, and strange performances, resolving, in despite of public derision, to stick to his own fashion, phrase, and gesture.

CARLO BUFFONE, a public, scurrilous, and profane jester, that more swift than Circe, with absurd similes, will transform any person into deformity. A good feast-hound or banquet-beagle, that will scent you out a supper some three miles off, and swear to his patrons, damn him! he came in ours, when he was but wafted over in a sculler. A slave that hath an extraordinary gift in pleasing his palate, and will swell up more sack at a sitting than would make all the guard a posset. His religion is railing, and his discourse ribaldry.
FAScIDIOUS BRISK, a neat, spruce, affecting courtier, one that wears clothes well, and in fashion; practiseth by his glass how to salute; speaks good remnans, notwithstanding the base viol and tobacco; swears tersely, and with variety; cares not what lady's favour he belies, or great man's familiarity: a good property to perfume the boot of a coach. He will borrow another man's horse to praise, and backs him as his own. Or, for a need, on foot can post himself into credit with his merchant, only with the gingle of his spur, and the jerk of his wand.

DELIRO, a good doting citizen, who, it is thought, might be of the common-council for his wealth; a fellow sincerely besotted on his own wife, and so wrapt with a conceit of her perfections, that he simply holds himself unworthy of her. And, in that hood-wink'd humour, lives more like a suitor than a husband; standing in as true dread of her displeasure, as when he first made love to her. He doth sacrifice two-pence in juniper to her every morning before she rises, and wakes her with villainous-out-of-tune music, which she out of her contempt (though not out of her judgment) is sure to dislike.

FALLACE, Deliro's wife, and idol; a proud mincing peat, and as perverse as he is officious. She dotes as perfectly upon the courtier, as her husband doth on her, and only wants the face to be dishonest.

SAVIOLINA, a court-lady, whose weightiest praise is a light wit, admired by herself, and one more, her servant Briak.

SORDIDO, a wretched hob-nailed chuff, whose recreation is reading of almanacks; and felicity, foul weather. One that never pray'd but for a lean dearth, and ever wept in a fat harvest.

FUNGOSO, the son of Sordido, and a student; one that has revelled in his time, and follows the fashion afar off, like a spy. He makes it the whole bent of his endeavours to wring sufficient means from his wretched father, to put him in the courtiers' cut; at which he earnestly alms, but so unluckily, that he still lights short a suit.

SOGLIARDO, an essential clown, brother to Sordido, yet so enamoured of the name of a gentleman, that he will have it, though he buys it. He comes up every term to learn to take tobacco, and see new motions. He is in his kingdom when in company where he may be well laughed at.

SHIRT, a thread-bare shark; one that never was a soldier, yet lives upon lendings. His profession is skeldring and odling, his bank Paul's, and his warehouse Picthatch. Takes up single testons upon oaths, till doomsday. Falls under executions of three shillings, and enters into five-groat bonds. He way-lays the reports of services, and cons them without book, damming himself he came new from them, when all the while he was taking the diet in the bawdy-house, or lay pawned in his chamber for rent and victuals. He is of that admirable and happy memory, that he will salute one for an old acquaintance that he never saw in his life before. He usurps upon cheats, quarrels, and robberies, which he never did, only to get him a name. His chief exercises are, taking the whiff, squiring a cockatrice, and making privy searches for imparters.

CLOVE and ORANGE, an inseparable case of coxcombs, city born; the Gemini, or twins of fancy; that like a pair of wooden foils, are fit for nothing but to be practised upon. Being well flattered they'll lend money, and repent when they have done. Their glory is to invite players, and make suppers. And in company of better rank, to avoid the suspect of insufficiency, will inforce their ignorance most desperately, to set upon the understanding of any thing. Orange is the most humorous of the two, (whose small portion of juice being squeezed out,) Clove serves to stick him with commendations.

CORDATUS, the author's friend; a man inly acquainted with the scope and drift of his plot; of a discreet and understanding judgment; and has the place of a moderator.

MITTS, is a person of no action, and therefore we afford him no character.
Every Man Out of His Humour

THE STAGE. After the second sounding.

Enter Cordatus, Asper, and Mitis.

Cor. Nay, my dear Asper.
Mit. Stay your mind.
Asp. Away!
Who is so patient of this impious world,
That he can check his spirit, or rein his tongue?
Or who hath such a dead unfeeling sense,
That heaven's horrid thunders cannot wake?
To see the earth crack'd with the weight of sin,
Hell gaping under us, and o'er our heads
Black, ravenous ruin, with her sail-stretch'd wings,
Ready to sink us down, and cover us.
Who can behold such prodigies as these,
And have his lips seal'd up? Not I: my soul
Was never ground into such oily colours,
To flatter vice, and daub iniquity:
But, with an armed and resolved hand,
I'll strip the ragged follies of the time
Naked as at their birth—

Cor. Be not too bold.
Asp. You trouble me—and with a whip of steel,
Print wounding lashes in their iron ribs.
I fear no mood stamp'd in a private brow,
When I am pleased to unmask a public vice.
I fear no strumpet's drugs, nor ruffian's stab,
Should I detect their hateful luxuries:
No broker's, usurer's, or lawyer's gripe,
Were I disposed to say, they are all corrupt.
I fear no courtier's frown, should I applaud
The easy flexure of his supple hams.
Tut, these are so innate and popular,
That drunken custom would not shame to laugh,
In scorn, at him, that should but dare to tax 'em:
And yet, not one of these, but knows his works,
Knows what damnation is, the devil, and hell;
Yet hourly they persist, grow rank in sin,
Puffing their souls away in perjurous air,
To cherish their extortion, pride, or lusts.

Mit. Forbear, good Asper; be not like your name.
Asp. O, but to such whose faces are all seal,
And, with the words of Hercules, invade
Such crimes as these! that will not smell of sin,
But seem as they were made of sanctity!
Religion in their garments, and their hair
Cut shorter than their eye-brows! when the conscience
Is vaster than the ocean, and devours
More wretches than the counters.
Mit. Gentle Asper,
Contain your spirits in more stricter bounds,
And be not thus transported with the violence
Of your strong thoughts.
Cor. Unless your breath had power,
To melt the world, and mould it new again,
It is in vain to spend it in these moods.
Asp. [turning to the stage.] I not observed this thronged round till now!
Gracious and kind spectators, you are welcome;
Apollo and the Muses feast your eyes.
Ben Jonson's Plays

With graceful objects, and may our Minerva
Answer your hopes, unto their largest strain!
Yet here mistake me not, judicious friends;
I do not this, to beg your patience,
Or servilely to fawn on your applause,
Like some dry brain, despairing in his merit.
Let me be censured by the austerest brow,
Where I want art or judgment, tax me freely.
Let envious censors, with their broadest eyes,
Look through and through me, I pursue no favour;
Only vouchsafe me your attentions,
And I will give you music worth your ears.
O, how I hate the monstrousness of time,
Where every servile imitating spirit,
Plagued with an itching leprosy of wit,
In a mere hailing fury, strives to fling
His ulcerous body in the Thespian spring,
And straight leaps forth a poet! but as lame
As Vulcan, or the founder of Cripplegate.
Mit. In faith this humour will come ill to some,
You will be thought to be too peremptory.
Asp. This humour? good! and why this humour, Mitis?
Nay, do not turn, but answer.
Mit. Answer, what?
Asp. I will not stir your patience, pardon me,
I urged it for some reasons, and the rather
To give these ignorant well-spoken days
Some taste of their abuse of this word humour.
Cor. O, do not let your purpose fall, good Asper;
It cannot but arrive most acceptable,
Chiefly to such as have the happiness
Daily to see how the poor innocent word
Is rack'd and tortured.
Mit. Ay, I pray you proceed.
Asp. Ha, what? what is't?
Cor. For the abuse of humour.
Asp. O, I crave pardon, I had lost my thoughts.
Why, humour, as 'tis ens, we thus define it,
To be a quality of air, or water,
And in itself holds these two properties,
Moisture and fluxure: as, for demonstration,
Pour water on this floor, 'twill wet and run:
Likewise the air, forced through a horn or trumpet,
Flows instantly away, and leaves behind
A kind of dew; and hence we do conclude,
That whatsoever hath fluxure and humidity,
As wanting power to contain itself,
Is humour. So in every human body,
The choler, melancholy, phlegm, and blood,
By reason that they flow continually
In some one part, and are not continent,
Receives the name of humours. Now thus far
It may, by metaphor, apply itself
Unio the general disposition:
As when some one peculiar quality
Doth so possess a man, that it doth draw
All his affects, his spirits, and his powers,
In their confections, all to run one way,
This may be truly said to be a humour.
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But that a rook, by wearing a pyed feather,
The cable hat-band, or the three-piled ruff,
A yard of shoe-tye, or the Switzer's knot
On his French garters, should affect a humour!
O, it is more than most ridiculous.

Cor. He speaks pure truth; now if an idiot
Have but an apish or fantastic strain,
It is his humour.

Asp. Well, I will scourge those aspes,
And to these courteous eyes oppose a mirror,
As large as is the stage whereso we act;
Where they shall see the time's deformity
Anatomised in every nerve, and sinew,
With constant courage, and contempt of fear.

Mit. Asper, (I urge it as your friend,) take heed,
The days are dangerous, full of exception,
And men are grown impatient of reproof.

Asp. Ha, ha!
You might as well have told me, yond' is heaven,
This earth, these men, and all had moved alike.—
Do not I know the time's condition?

Yes, Mitis, and their souls; and who they be
That either will or can except against me.
None but a sort of fools, so sick in taste,
That they contern all physic of the mind,
And, like gnl'd camels, kick at every touch.

Good men, and virtuous spirits, that loath their vices,
Will cherish my free labours, love my lines,
And with the fervour of their shining grace
Make my brain fruitful, to bring forth more objects,
Worthy their serious and intensive eyes.

But why enforce I this? as fainting? no.
If any here chance to behold himself,
Let him not dare to challenge me of wrong;
For, if he shame to have his follies known,
First he should shame to act 'em: my strict hand
Was made to seize on vice, and with a gripe
Squeeze out the humour of such spongy souls,
As lick up every idle vanity.

Cor. Why, this is right furor poeticus!
Kind gentlemen, we hope your patience
Will yet conceive the best, or entertain
This supposition, that a madman speaks.

Asp. What, are you ready there? Mitis, sit down,
And my Cordatus. Sound ho! and begin.
I leave you two, as censors, to sit here:
Observe what I present, and liberally
Speak your opinions upon every scene,
As it shall pass the view of these spectators.

Nay, now your tedious, sirs; for shame begin.
And, Mitis, note me; if in all this front
You can espy a gallant of this mark,
Who, to be thought one of the judicious,
Sits with his arms thus wreath'd, his hat pull'd here,
Cries meow, and nods, then shakes his empty head,
Will shew more several motions in his face
Than the new London, Rome, or Niniveh,
And, now and then, breaks a dry biscuit jest,
Which, that it may more easily be chew'd,
Ben Jonson’s Plays

He steeps in his own laughter.
Cor. Why, will that
Make it be sooner swallowed?
Asp. O, assure you.
Or if it did not, yet as Horace sings,
Mean cates are welcome still to hungry guests.
Cor. ’Tis true; but why should we observe them, Asper?
Asp. O, I would know ’em; for in such assemblies
They are more infectious than the pestilence:
And therefore I would give them pills to purge,
And make them fit for fair societies.
How monstrous and detested is’t to see
A fellow that has neither art nor brain,
Sit like an Aristarchus, or stark ass,
Taking men’s lines with a tobacco face,
In snuff still spitting, using his wry’d looks,
In nature of a vice, to wrest and turn
The good aspect of those that shall sit near him,
From what they do behold! O, ’tis most vile.
Mit. Nay, Asper.
Asp. Peace, Mitis, I do know your thought;
You’ll say, your guests here will except at this:
Pish! you are too timorous, and full of doubt.
Then he, a patient, shall reject all physic,
’Cause the physician tells him, you are sick:
Or, if I say, that he is vicious,
You will not hear of virtue. Come, you are fond.
Shall I be so extravagant, to think,
That happy judgments, and composed spirits,
Will challenge me for taxing such as these?
I am ashamed.
Cor. Nay, but good, pardon us;
We must not bear this peremptory sail,
But use our best endeavours how to please.
Asp. Why, therein I commend your careful thoughts,
And I will mix with you in industry
To please: but whom? attentive auditors,
Such as will join their profit with their pleasure,
And come to feed their understanding parts:
For these I’ll prodigiously spend myself,
And speak away my spirit into air;
For these, I’ll melt my brain into invention,
Coin new conceits, and hang my richest words
As polish’d jewels in their bounteous ears?
But stay, I lose myself, and wrong their patience:
If I dwell here, they’ll not begin, I see.
Friends, sit you still, and entertain this troop
With some familiar and by-conference,
I’ll haste them sound. Now, gentlemen, I go
To turn an actor, and a humorist,
Where, ere I do resume my present person,
We hope to make the circles of your eyes
Flow with distilled laughter; if we fail,
We must impute it to this only chance,
Art hath an enemy call’d ignorance.
Cor. How do you like his spirit, Mitis?
Mit. I should like it much better, if he were less confident.
Cor. Why, do you suspect his merit?
Mit. No; but I fear this will procure him much envy.
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Cor. O, that sets the stronger seal on his desert: if he had no enemies, I
should esteem his fortunes most wretched at this instant.

Mit. You have seen his play, Cordatus: pray you, how is it?

Cor. Faith, sir, I must refrain to judge; only this I can say of it, 'tis
strange, and of a particular kind by itself, somewhat like Vetus Comœdia;
a work that hathbounceously pleased me; how it will answer the general
expectation, I know not.

Mit. Does he observe all the laws of comedy in it?

Cor. What laws mean you?

Mit. Why, the equal division of it into acts and scenes, according to the
Terentian manner; his true number of actors; the furnishing of the scene
with Grex or Chorus; and that the whole argument fall within compass of a
day's business.

Cor. O no, these are too nice observations.

Mit. They are such as must be received, by your favour, or it cannot be
authentic.

Cor. Troth, I can discern no such necessity.

Mit. No!

Cor. No, I assure you, signior. If those laws you speak of had been
delivered us ab initio, and in their present virtue and perfection, there had
been some reason of obeying their powers; but 'tis extant, that that which we
call Comœdia, was at first nothing but a simple and continued song, sung by
one only person, till Susario invented a second; after him, Epicharmus a
third; Phormus and Chionides devised to have four actors, with a prologue
and chorus; to which Cratinus, long after, added a fifth and sixth: Eupolis,
more; Aristophanes, more than they; every man in the dignity of his spirit
and judgment supplied something. And, though that in him this kind of
poem appeared absolute, and fully perfected, yet how is the face of it changed
since, in Menander, Philemon, Cecilius, Plautus, and the rest! who have
utterly excluded the chorus, altered the property of the persons, their names,
and natures, and augmented it with all liberty, according to the elegancy and
disposition of those times wherein they wrote. I see not then, but we should
enjoy the same license, or free power to illustrate and heighten our invention,
as they did; and not be tied to those strict and regular forms which the niceness
of a few, who are nothing but form, would thrust upon us.

Mit. Well, we will not dispute of this now; but what's his scene?

Cor. Marry, Insula Fortunata, sir.

Mit. O, the Fortunate Island: mass, he has bound himself to a strict law
there.

Cor. Why so?

Mit. He cannot lightly alter the scene, without crossing the seas.

Cor. He needs not, having a whole island to run through, I think.

Mit. No! how comes it then, that in some one play we see so many seas,
countries, and kingdoms, passed over with such admirable dexterity?

Cor. O, that but shows how well the authors can travel in their vocation,
and outrun the apprehension of their auditors. But, leaving this, I would
they would begin at once: this protraction is able to sour the best-settled patience
in the theatre.

[The third sounding.

Mit. They have answered your wish, sir; they sound.

Cor. O, here comes the Prologue.

Enter PROLOGUE.

Now, sir, if you had stay'd a little longer, I meant to have spoke your prologue
for you, faith.

Prol. Marry, with all my heart, sir, you shall do it yet, and I thank you.

[Going.

Cor. Nay, nay, stay, stay; hear you?

Prol. You could not have studied to have done me a greater benefit at the
instant; for I protest to you, I am unperfect, and, had I spoke it, I must of
necessity have been out.
Ben Jonson's Plays

Cor. Why, but do you speak this seriously?

Prol. Seriously! ay, wit's my help, do I; and esteem myself indebted to your kindness for it.

Cor. For what?

Prol. Why, for undertaking the prologue for me.

Cor. How! did I undertake it for you?

Prol. Did you! I appeal to all these gentlemen, whether you did or no. Come, com's, it pleases you to cast a strange look on't now; but 'twill not serve.

Cor. 'Fore me, but it must serve; and therefore speak your prologue.

Prol. An I do, let me die poisoned with some venomous hiss, and never live to look as high as the two-penny room again. [Exit.

Mit. He has put you to it, sir.

Cor. 'Sdeath, what a humorous fellow is this! Gentlemen, good faith I can speak no prologue; howsoever his weak wit has had the fortune to make this strong use of me here before you: but I protest—

Enter CARLO BUFFONE, followed by a Boy with wine.

Car. Come, come, leave these juxtian protestations; away, come, I cannot abide these grey-headed ceremonies. Boy, fetch me a glass quickly, I may bid these gentlemen welcome; give them a health here. [Exit Boy.] I marle whose wit it was to put a prologue in your sackbut's mouth; they might well think he'd be out of tune, and yet you'd play upon him too.

Cor. Hang him, dull block!

Car. O, good words, good words: a well-timber'd fellow, he would have made a good column, as he had been thought on, when the house was a building—

Re-enter Boy with glasses.

O, art thou come? Well said; give me, boy; fill so! Here's a cup of wine sparkles like a diamond. Gentlewomen (I am sworn to put them in first) and gentlemen, around, in place of a bad prologue, I drink this good draught to your health here, Canary, the very elixir and spirit of wine. [Drinks.] This is that our poet calls Castalian liquor, when he comes abroad now and then, once in a fortnight, and makes a good meal among players, where he has canimum appetitum; marry, at home he keeps a good philosophical diet, beans and buttermilk; an honest pure rogue, he will take you off three, four, five of these, one after another, and look villainously when he has done, like a one-headed Cerberus.—He does not hear me, I hope.—And then, when his belly is well ballaced, and his brain rigged a little, he sails away withal, as though he would work wonders when he comes home. He has made a play here, and he calls it, Every Man out of his Humour: but an he get me out of the humour he has put me in, I'll trust none of his tribe again while I live. Gentles, all I can say for him is, you are welcome. I could wish my bottle here amongst you; but there's an old rule, No pledging your own health. Marry, if any here be thirsty for it, their best way (that I know) is, sit still, seal up their lips, and drink so much of the play in at their ears. [Exit.

Mit. What may this fellow be, Cordatus?

Cor. Faith, if the time will suffer his description, I'll give it you. He is one, the author calls him Carlo Buffone, an impudent common jester, a violent railler, and an incomprehensible epicure; one whose company is desired of all men, but beloved of none; he will sooner lose his soul than a jest, and profane even the most holy things, to excite laughter: no honourable or reverend personage whatsoever can come within the reach of his eye, but is turned into all manner of variety, by his adulterate similes.

Mit. You paint forth a monster.

Cor. He will prefer all countries before his native, and thinks he can never sufficiently, or with admiration enough, deliver his affectionate conceit of foreign atheistical policies. But stay—

Enter MACILENTE.

Observe these: he'll appear himself anon.

Mit. O, this is your envious man, Macilente, I think.

Cor. The same, sir.
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ACT I

SCENE I.—The Country.

Enter MACILENTO, with a book.

Maci. Viri est, fortuna cæcitatem facile ferre.
'Tis true; but, Stoic, where, in the vast world,
Doth that man breathe, that can so much command
His blood and his affection? Well, I see
I strive in vain to cure my wounded soul;
For every cordial that my thoughts apply
Turns to a corsive and doth eat it farther.
There is no taste in this philosophy;
'Tis like a potion that a man should drink,
But turns his stomach with the sight of it.
I am no such pill'd Cynick to believe,
That beggary is the only happiness;
Or with a number of these patient fools,
To sing: My mind to me a kingdom is,
When the lank hungry belly barks for food,
I look into the world, and there I meet
With objects, that do strike my blood-shot eyes
Into my brain: where, when I view myself,
Having before observ'd this man is great,
Mighty and fear'd; that lov'd and highly favour'd:
A third thought wise and learn'd; a fourth rich,
And therefore honour'd; a fifth rarely featur'd;
A sixth admired for his nuptial fortunes:
When I see these, I say, and view myself,
I wish the organs of my sight were crack'd;
And that the engine of my grief could cast
Mine eyeballs, like two globes of wildfire, forth,
To melt this unproportion'd frame of nature.
Oh, they are thoughts that have transfix'd my heart,
And often, in the strength of apprehension,
Made my cold passion stand upon my face,
Like drops of dew on a stiff cake of ice.

Cor. This alludes well to that of the poet,
Invidus suspitrat, gemini, incultique dentes,
Sudat frigidus, intuens quod odit.

Mit. O, peace, you break the scene.

Enter SOGLIARDO and CARLO BUFFONE.

Maci. Soft, who be these?
I'll lay me down awhile till they be past. [Lies down.

Cor. Signior, note this gallant, I pray you.

Mit. What is he?

Cor. A tame rook, you'll take him presently; list.
Sog. Nay, look you, Carlo; this is my humour now! I have land and money, my friends left me well, and I will be a gentleman whatever it cost me.

Car. A most gentlemanlike resolution.

Sog. Tut! an I take an humour of a thing once, I am like your tailor’s needle, I go through: but, for my name, signior, how think you? will it not serve for a gentleman’s name, when the signior is put to it, ha?

Car. Let me hear; how is it?

Sog. Signior Insulso Sogliardo: methinks it sounds well.

Car. O excellent! tut! an all fitted to your name, you might very well stand for a gentleman: I know many Sogliardos gentlemen.

Sog. Why, and for my wealth I might be a justice of peace.

Car. Ay, and a constable for your wit.

Sog. All this is my lordship you see here, and those farms you came by.

Car. Good steps to gentility too, marry: but, Soglia-do, if you affect to be a gentleman indeed, you must observe all the rare qualities, humours, and compliments of a gentleman.

Sog. I know it, signior, and if you please to instruct, I am not too good to learn, I’ll assure you.

Car. Enough, sir.—I’ll make admirable use in the projection of my medicine upon this lump of copper here. [Aside.]—I’ll bethink me for you, sir.

Sog. Signior, I will both pay you, and pray you, and thank you, and think on you.

Cor. Is this not purely good?

Maci. S’blood, why should such a prick-ear’d hind as this
Be rich, ha? a fool! such a transparent gull
That may be seen through! wherefore should he have land,
Houses, and lordships? O, I could eat my entrails,
And sink my soul into the earth with sorrow.

Car. First, to be an accomplished gentleman, that is, a gentleman of the time, you must give over housekeeping in the country, and live altogether in the city amongst gallants: where, at your first appearance, ’twere good you turn’d four or five hundred acres of your best land into two or three trunks of apparel—you may do it without going to a conjurer—and be sure you mix yourself still with such as flourish in the spring of the fashion, and are least popular; study their carriage and behaviour in all; learn to play at primero and passage, and ever (when you lose) have two or three peculiar oaths to swear by, that no man else swears: but, above all, protest in your play, and affirm, Upon your credit. As you are a true gentleman, at every cast; you may do it with a safe conscience, I warrant you.

Sog. O admirable rare! he cannot choose but be a gentleman that has these excellent gifts: more, more, I beseech you.

Car. You must endeavour to feed cleanly at your ordinary, sit melancholy, and pick your teeth when you cannot speak: and
when you come to plays, be humorous, look with a good starch'd face, and ruffle your brow like a new boot, laugh at nothing but your own jests, or else as the noblemen laugh. That's a special grace you must observe.

_Sog._ I warrant you, sir.

_Car._ Ay, and sit on the stage and flout, provided you have a good suit.

_Sog._ O, I'll have a suit only for that, sir.

_Car._ You must talk much of your kindred and allies.

_Sog._ Lies! no, signior, I shall not need to do so, I have kindred in the city to talk of: I have a niece is a merchant's wife: and a nephew, my brother Sordido's son, of the Inns of court.

_Car._ O, but you must pretend alliance with courtiers and great persons: and ever when you are to dine or sup in any strange presence, hire a fellow with a great chain, (though it be copper, it's no matter,) to bring you letters, feign'd from such a nobleman, or such a knight, or such a lady, _To their worshipful, right rare, and nobly qualified friend and kinsman, signior Insulso Sogliardo_: give yourself style enough. And there, while you intend circumstances of news, or enquiry of their health, or so, one of your familiars, whom you must carry about you still, breaks it up, as 'twere in a jest, and reads it publicly at the table: at which you must seem to take as unpardonable offence, as if he had torn your mistress's colours, or breath'd upon her picture, and pursue it with that hot grace, as if you would advance a challenge upon it presently.

_Sog._ Stay, I do not like that humour of challenge, it may be accepted; but I'll tell you what's my humour now, I will do this: I will take occasion of sending one of my suits to the tailor's, to have the pocket repaired, or so; and there such a letter as you talk of, broke open and all shall be left; O, the tailor will presently give out what I am, upon the reading of it, worth twenty of your gallants.

_Car._ But then you must put on an extreme face of discontentment at your man's negligence.

_Sog._ O, so I will, and beat him too: I'll have a man for the purpose.

_Mac._ You may; you have land and crowns: O partial fate!

_Car._ Mass, well remember'd, you must keep your men gallant at the first, fine pied liveries laid with good gold lace; there's no loss in it, they may rip it off and pawn it when they lack victuals.

_Sog._ By 'r Lady, that is chargeable, signior, 'twill bring a man in debt.

_Car._ Debt! why that's the more for your credit, sir: it's an excellent policy to owe much in these days, if you note it.

_Sog._ As how, good signior? I would fain be a politician.

_Car._ O! look where you are indebted any great sum, your creditor observes you with no less regard, than if he were bound to you for some huge benefit, and will quake to give you the least cause of offence, lest he lose his money. I assure you, in these
times, no man has his servant more obsequious and pliant, than
gentleman their creditors: to whom, if at any time you pay but a
moiety, or a fourth part, it comes more acceptably than if you gave
them a new-year's gift.

Sog. I perceive you, sir: I will take up, and bring myself in
credit, sure.

Car. Marry this, always beware you commerce not with bank-
rupts, or poor needy Ludgathians; they are impudent creatures,
turbulent spirits, they care not what violent tragedies they stir, nor
how they play fast and loose with a poor gentleman's fortunes, to
get their own. Marry, these rich fellows that have the world, or
the better part of it, sleeping in their counting-houses, they are
ten times more placable, they; either fear, hope, or modesty,
restrains them from offering any outrages: but this is nothing to
your followers, you shall not run a penny more in arrearage for
them, an you list, yourself.

Sog. No! how should I keep 'em then?

Car. Keep 'em! 'shblood, let them keep themselves, they are no
sheep, are they? what, you shall come in houses, where plate,
apparel, jewels, and divers other pretty commodities lie negligently
scattered, and I would have those Mercurys follow me, I trow,
should remember they had not their fingers for nothing.

Sog. That's not so good, methinks.

Car. Why, after you have kept them a fortnight, or so, and
shew'd them enough to the world, you may turn them away, and
keep no more but a boy, it's enough.

Sog. Nay, my humour is not for boys, I'll keep men, an I keep
any; and I'll give coats, that's my humour: but I lack a cullisen.

Car. Why, now you ride to the city, you may buy one; I'll
bring you where you shall have your choice for money.

Sog. Can you, sir?

Car. O, ay: you shall have one take measure of you, and make
you a coat of arms to fit you, of what fashion you will.

Sog. By word of mouth, I thank you, signior; I'll be once a little
prodigal in a humour, 't faith, and have a most prodigious coat.

Mac. Torment and death! break head and brain at once,
To be deliver'd of your fighting issue.
Who can endure to see blind Fortune dote thus?
To be enamour'd on this dusty turf,
This clod, a whoreson puck-fist! O G——!
I could run wild with grief now, to behold
The rankness of her bounties, that doth breed
Such bulrushes; these mushroom gentlemen,
That shoot up in a night to place and worship.

Car. [seeing Macilente.] Let him alone; some stray, some stray.

Sog. Nay, I will examine him before I go, sure.

Car. The lord of the soil has all wefts and strays here, has
he not?

Sog. Yes, sir.
Every Man Out of His Humour

Car. Faith then I pity the poor fellow, he's fallen into a fool's hands.

Sog. Sirrah, who gave you a commission to lie in my lordship?

Mac. Your lordship!

Sog. How! my lordship? do you know me, sir?

Mac. I do know you, sir.

Car. He answers him like an echo.

Sog. Why, Who am I, sir?

Mac. One of those that fortune favours.

Car. The periphrasis of a fool. I'll observe this better.

Sog. That fortune favours! how mean you that, friend?

Mac. I mean simply: that you are one that lives not by your wits.

Sog. By my wits! no, sir, I scorn to live by my wits, I. I have better means, I tell thee, than to take such base courses, as to live by my wits. What, dost thou think I live by my wits?

Mac. Methinks, jester, you should not relish this well.

Car. Ha! does he know me?

Mac. Though yours be the worst use a man can put his wit to, of thousands, to prostitute it at every tavern and ordinary; yet, methinks, you should have turn'd your broadside at this, and have been ready with an apology, able to sink this hulk of ignorance into the bottom and depth of his contempt.

Car. Oh, 'tis Macilente! Signior, you are well encountered; how is it? O, we must not regard what he says, man, a trout, a shallow fool, he has no more brain than a butterfly, a mere stuff suit; he looks like a musty bottle new wicker'd, his head's the cork, light, light! [Aside to Macilente.]—I am glad to see you so well return'd, signior.

Mac. You are! gramercy, good Janus.

Sog. Is he one of your acquaintance? I love him the better for that.

Car. Od's precious, come away, man, what do you mean? an you knew him as I do, you'd shun him as you would do the plague.

Sog. Why, sir?

Car. O, he's a black fellow, take heed of him.

Sog. Is he a scholar, or a soldier?

Car. Both, both; a lean mongrel, he looks as if he were chop-fallen, with barking at other men's good fortunes: 'ware how you offend him; he carries oil and fire in his pen, will scald where it drops: his spirit is like powder, quick, violent; he'll blow a man up with a jest: I fear him worse than a rotten wall does the annnon; shake an hour after at the report. Away, come not near him.

Sog. For God's sake let's be gone; an he be a scholar, you know I cannot abide him; I had as lieve see a cockatrice, specially as cockatrices go now.

Car. What, you'll stay, signior? this gentleman Sogliardo, and I, are to visit the knight Puntarvolo, and from thence to the city; we shall meet there. [Exit with Sogliardo.

Mac. Ay, when I cannot shun you, we will meet.

'Tis strange! of all the creatures I have seen,
I envy not this Buffone, for indeed
Neither his fortunes nor his parts deserve it:
But I do hate him, as I hate the devil,
Or that brass-visaged monster Barbarism.
O, 'tis an open-throated, black-mouth'd cur,
That bites at all, but eats on those that feed him.
A slave, that to your face will, serpent-like,
Creep on the ground, as he would eat the dust,
And to your back will turn the tail, and sting
More deadly than the scorpion: stay, who's this?
Now, for my soul, another minion
Of the old lady Chance's! I'll observe him.

Enter Sordido with an Almanack in his hand.

Sord. O rare! good, good, good, good, good!
I thank my stars, I thank my stars for it.

Mac. Said I not true? doth not his passion speak
Out of my divination? O my senses,
Why lose you not your powers, and become
Dull'd, if not deade, with this spectacle?
I know him, it is Sordido, the farmer,
A boor, and brother to that swine was here. [Aside.

Sord. Excellent, excellent, excellent! as I would wish, as I
would wish.

Mac. See how the strumpet fortune tickles him,
And makes him swoon with laughter, O, O, O!

Sord. Ha, ha, ha! I will not sow my grounds this year. Let me
see, what harvest shall we have? June, July?

Mac. What, is't a prognostication raps him so?

Sord. The 20, 21, 22 days, rain and wind. O good, good! the 23,
and 24, rain and some wind, good! the 25, rain, good still! 26, 27,
28, wind and some rain; would it had been rain and some wind!
well, 'tis good, when it can be no better. 29, inclining to rain:
inclining to rain! that's not so good now: 30, and 31, wind and no
rain: no rain! 'slid, stay: this is worse and worse: What says he
of St. Swithin's? turn back, look, saint Swithin's: no rain!

Mac. O, here's a precious, dirty, damned rogue,
That fatt's himself with expectation
Of rotten weather, and unseason'd hours;
And he is rich for it, an elder brother!
His barns are full, his ricks and mows well trod,
His garners crack with store! O, 'tis well; ha, ha, ha!
A plague consume thee, and thy house!

Sord. O here, St. Swithin's, the 15 day, variable weather, for the
most part rain, good! for the most part rain: why, it should rain
forty days after, now, more or less, it was a rule held, afore I was
able to hold a plough, and yet here are two days no rain; ha! it
makes me muse. We'll see how the next month begins, if that be
better. August 1, 2, 3, and 4, days, rainy and blustering: this is well
now: 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, rainy, with some thunder; Ay marry, this is excellent; the other was false printed sure: the 10 and 11, great store of rain; O good, good, good, good, good! the 12, 13, and 14 days, rain; good still: 15, and 16, rain; good still: 17 and 18, rain, good still: 19 and 20, good still, good still, good still, good still, good still! 21, some rain; some rain! well, we must be patient, and attend the heaven's pleasure, would it were more though: the 22, 23, great tempests of rain, thunder and lightning.
O good again, past expectation good!
I thank my blessed angel; never, never
Laid I [a] penny better out than this,
To purchase this dear book: not dear for price,
And yet of me as dearly prized as life,
Since in it is contain'd the very life,
Blood, strength, and sinews, of my happiness.
Blest be the hour wherein I bought this book;
His studies happy that composed the book,
And the man fortunate that sold the book!
Sleep with this charm, and be as true to me,
As I am joy'd and confident in thee. [Puts it up.

Enter a Hind, and gives SORDIDO a paper to read.

Mac. Ha, ha, ha!
Is not this good? Is it not pleasing this?
Ha, ha, ha! God pardon me! ha, ha!
Is't possible that such a spacious villain
Should live, and not be plagued? or lies he hid
Within the wrinkled bosom of the world,
Where Heaven cannot see him? S'blood! methinks
'Tis rare, and strange, that he should breathe and walk,
Feed with digestion, sleep, enjoy his health,
And, like a boisterous whale swallowing the poor,
Still swim in wealth and pleasure! is't not strange?
Unless his house and skin were thunder proof,
I wonder at it! Methinks, now, the hectic,
Gout, leprosy, or some such loath'd disease,
Might light upon him; or that fire from heaven
Might fall upon his barns; or mice and rats
Eat up his grain; or else that it might rot
Within the hoary ricks, even as it stands:
Methinks this might be well; and after all
The devil might come and fetch him. Ay, 'tis true!
Meantime he surfeits in prosperity,
And thou, in envy of him, gnaw'st thyself:
Peace, fool, get hence, and tell thy vexed spirit,
Wealth in this age will scarcely look on merit. [Rises and exit.

Sord. Who brought this same, sirrah?

Hind. Marry, sir, one of the justice's men; he says 'tis a precept, and all their hands be at it.
Ben Jonson's Plays

Sord. Ay, and the prints of them stick in my flesh,
Deeper than in their letters: they have sent me
Pills wrapt in paper here, that, should I take them,
Would poison all the sweetness of my book,
And turn my honey into hemlock-juice.
But I am wiser than to serve their precepts,
Or follow their prescriptions. Here's a device,
To charge me bring my grain unto the markets:
Ay, much! when I have neither barn nor garner,
Nor earth to hide it in, I'll bring 't; till then,
Each corn I send shall be as big as Paul's.
O, but (say some) the poor are like to starve.
Why, let 'em starve, what's that to me? are bees
Bound to keep life in drones and idle moths? no:
Why such are these that term themselves the poor,
Only because they would be pitied,
But are indeed a sort of lazy beggars,
Licensious rogues, and sturdy vagabonds,
Bred by the sloth of a fat plenteous year,
Like snakes in heat of summer, out of dung;
And this is all that these cheap times are good for:
Whereas a wholesome and penurious earth
Purges the soil of such vile excrements,
And kills the vipers up.
Hind. O, but master,
Take heed they hear you not.
Sord. Why so?
Hind. They will exclaim against you.
Sord. Ay, their exclaims
Move me as much, as thy breath moves a mountain.
Poor worms, they hiss at me, whilst I at home
Can be contented to applaud myself,
To sit and clap my hands, and laugh, and leap,
Knocking my head against my roof, with joy
To see how plump my bags are, and my barns.
SIRRah, go hee you home, and bid your fellows
Get all their flails ready again I come.
Hind. I will, sir.
Sord. I'll instantly set all my hinds to thrashing
Of a whole rick of corn, which I will hide
Under the ground; and with the straw thereof
I'll stuff the outsidies of my other mows:
That done, I'll have them empty all my garners,
And in the friendly earth bury my store,
That, when the searchers come, they may suppose
All's spent, and that my fortunes were belied.
And to lend more opinion to my want,
And stop that many-mouthed vulgar dog,
Which else would still be baying at my door,
Every Man Out of His Humour

Each market-day I will be seen to buy
Part of the purest wheat, as for my household;
Where when it comes, it shall increase my heaps;
’Twill yield me treble gain at this dear time,
Promised in this dear book: I have cast all.
Till then I will not sell an ear, I’ll hang first.
O, I shall make my prices as I list;
My house and I can feed on peas and barley.
What though a world of wretches starve the while;
He that will thrive must think no courses vile.  [Exit.

Cor. Now, signior, how approve you this? have the humourists exprest themselves truly or no?
Mit. Yes, if it be well prosecuted, ’tis hitherto happy enough: but methinks Macilente went hence too soon; he might have been made to stay, and speak somewhat in reproof of Sordido’s wretchedness now at the last.
Cor. O, no, that had been extremely improper; besides, he had continued the scene too long with him, as ’twas, being in no more action.
Mit. You may enforce the length as a necessary reason; but for propriety, the scene would very well have borne it, in my judgment.
Cor. O, worst of both; why, you mistake his humour utterly then.
Mit. How do I mistake it? Is it not envy?
Cor. Yes, but you must understand, signior, he envies him not as he is a villain, a wolf in the commonwealth, but as he is rich and fortunate; for the true condition of envy is, dolor alienae felicitatis, to have our eyes continually fixed upon another man’s prosperity that is, his chief happiness, and to grieve at that. Whereas, if we make his monstrous and abhorrd actions our object, the grief we take then comes nearer the nature of hate than envy, as being bred out of a kind of contempt and loathing in ourselves.
Mit. So you’ll infer it had been hate, not envy in him, to reprehend the humour of Sordido?
Cor. Right, for what a man truly envies in another, he could always love and cherish in himself; but no man truly reprehends in another, what he loves in himself; therefore reprehension is out of his hate. And this distinction hath he himself made in a speech there, if you marked it, where he says, I envy not this Buffone, but I hate him.
Mit. Stay, sir: I envy not this Buffone, but I hate him. Why might he not as well have hated Sordido as him?
Cor. No, sir, there was subject for his envy in Sordido, his wealth: so was there not in the other. He stood possess of no one eminent gift, but a most odious and flend-like disposition, that would turn charity itself into hate, much more envy, for the present.
Mit. You have satisfied me, sir. O, here comes the fool, and the jester again, methinks.
Cor. ’Twas pity they should be parted, sir.
Mit. What bright-shining gallant’s that with them? the knight they went to?
Ben Jonson’s Plays

Cor. No, sir, this is one monsieur Fastidious Brisk, otherwise called the fresh Frenchified courtier.
Mit. A humourist too?
Cor. As humorous as quicksilver; do but observe him; the scene is the country still, remember.

ACT II

SCENE I.—The Country; before Pantavolo’s House.

Enter Fastidious Brisk, Cinedo, Carlo Buffone, and Sogliardo.

Fast. Cinedo, watch when the knight comes, and give us word.
Cin. I will, sir. [Exit.
Fast. How lik’st thou my boy, Carlo?
Car. O, well, well. He looks like a colonel of the Pigmies horse, or one of these motions in a great antique clock; he would show well upon a haberdasher’s stall, at a corner shop, rarely.
Fast. 'Sheart, what a damn’d witty rogue’s this! How he confounds with his similes!
Car. Better with similes than smiles: and whither were you riding now, signior?
Fast. Who, I? What a silly jest’s that! Whither should I ride but to the court?
Car. O, pardon me, sir, twenty places more; your hot-house, or your whore-house—
Fast. By the virtue of my soul, this knight dwells in Elysium here.
Car. He’s gone now, I thought he would fly out presently. These be our nimble-spirited catsos, that have their evasions at pleasure, will run over a bog like your wild Irish; no sooner started, but they’ll leap from one thing to another, like a squirrel, heigh! dance and do tricks in their discourse, from fire to water, from water to air, from air to earth, as if their tongues did but e’en lick the four elements over, and away.
Fast. Sirrah, Carlo, thou never saw’st my gray hobby yet, didst thou?
Car. No; have you such a one?
Fast. The best in Europe, my good villain, thou’lt say when thou seest him.
Car. But when shall I see him?
Fast. There was a nobleman in the court offered me a hundred pound for him, by this light: a fine little fiery slave, he runs like a—oh, excellent, excellent!—with the very sound of the spur.
Car. How! the sound of the spur?
Fast. O, it’s your only humour now extant, sir; a good gingle, a good gingle.
Car. S’blood! you shall see him turn morrice-dancer, he has got him bells, a good suit, and a hobby-horse.
Every Man Out of His Humour

Sog. Signior, now you talk of a hobby-horse, I know where one
is will not be given for a brace of angels.

Fast. How is that, sir?

Sog. Marry, sir, I am telling this gentleman of a hobby-horse; it
was my father's indeed, and, though I say it—

Car. That should not say it—on, on.

Sog. He did dance in it, with as good humour and as good regard
as any man of his degree whatsoever, being no gentleman: I have
danc'd in it myself too.

Car. Not since the humour of gentility was upon you, did you?

Sog. Yes, once; marry, that was but to shew what a gentleman
might do in a humour.

Car. O, very good.

Mit. Why, this fellow's discourse were nothing but for the word
humour.

Cor. O bear with him; an he should lack matter and words too,
'twere pitiful.

Sog. Nay, look you, sir, there's ne'er a gentleman in the country
has the like humours, for the hobby-horse, as I have; I have the
method for the threading of the needle and all, the—

Car. How, the method?

Sog. Ay, the leigery for that, and the whigham, and the daggers
in the nose, and the travels of the egg from finger to finger, and all
the humours incident to the quality. The horse hangs at home in
my parlour. I'll keep it for a monument as long as I live, sure.

Car. Do so; and when you die, 'twill be an excellent trophy to
hang over your tomb.

Sog. Mass, and I'll have a tomb, now I think on't; 'tis but so
much charges.

Car. Best build it in your lifetime then, your heirs may hap to
forget it else.

Sog. Nay, I mean so, I'll not trust to them.

Car. No, for heirs and executors are grown damnable careless,
'specially since the ghosts of testators left walking.—How like you
him, signior?

Fast. 'Fore heavens, his humour arrides me exceedingly.

Car. Arrides you!

Fast. Ay, pleases me: a pox on't! I am so haunted at the
court, and at my lodging, with your refined choice spirits, that it
makes me clean of another garb, another sheaf, I know not how! I
cannot frame me to your harsh vulgar phrase, 'tis against my genius.

Sog. Signior Carlo!           [Takes him aside.]

Cor. This is right to that of Horace, Dum vivant stulti vitia, in
contraria currunt; so this gallant, labouring to avoid popularity, falls
into a habit of affectation, ten thousand times hatefuller than the former.

Car. [pointing to Fastidious.] Who, he? a gull, a fool, no salt in
him i' the earth, man; he looks like a fresh salmon kept in a tub;

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he'll be spent shortly. His brain's lighter than his feather already, and his tongue more subject to lye, than that is to wag; he sleeps with a musk-oot every night, and walks all day hang'd in pomander chains for penance; he has his skin tann'd in civet, to make his complexion strong, and the sweetness of his youth lasting in the sense of his sweet lady; a good empty puff, he loves you well, signior.

Sog. There shall be no love lost, sir, I'll assure you.

Fast. [advancing to them.] Nay, Carlo, I am not happy in thy love I see: pray thee suffer me to enjoy thy company a little, sweet mischief: by this air, I shall envy this gentleman's place in thy affections, if you be thus private, 'faith.

Enter CINEDO.

How now! Is the knight arrived?

Cin. No, sir, but 'tis guess'd he will arrive presently, by his fore-runners.

Fast. His hounds! by Minerva, an excellent figure; a good boy.

Car. You should give him a French crown for it; the boy would find two better figures in that, and a good figure of your bounty beside.

Fast. Tut, the boy wants no crowns.

Car. No crown; speak in the singular number, and we'll believe you.

Fast. Nay, thou art so capriciously conceited now. Sirrah damnation, I have heard this knight Puntarvolo reported to be a gentleman of exceeding good humour, thou know'st him; prithee, how is his disposition? I never was so favour'd of my stars, as to see him yet. Boy, do you look to the hobby?

Cin. Ay, sir, the groom has set him up.

[As Cinedo is going out, Sogliardo takes him aside.

Fast. 'Tis well: I rid out of my way of intent to visit him, and take knowledge of his—— Nay, good Wickedness, his humour, his humour.

Car. Why, he loves dogs, and hawks, and his wife well; he has a good riding face, and he can sit a great horse; he will taint a staff well at tilt; when he is mounted he looks like the sign of the George, that's all I know; save, that instead of a dragon, he will brandish against a tree, and break his sword as confidence upon the knotty bark, as the other did upon the scales of the beast.

Fast. O, but this is nothing to that's delivered of him. They say he has dialogues and discourses between his horse, himself, and his dog; and that he will court his own lady, as she were a stranger never encounter'd before.

Car. Ay, that he will, and make fresh love to her every morning; this gentleman has been a spectator of it, Signior Insulso.

Sog. I am resolute to keep a page.—Say you, sir?

[Leaps from whispering with Cinedo.

Car. You have seen Signior Puntarvolo accost his lady?
Every Man Out of His Humour


Fast. And how is the manner of it, prithee, good signior?

Sog. Faith, sir, in very good sort; he has his humours for it, sir; as first, (suppose he were now to come from riding or hunting, or so,) he has his trumpet to sound, and then the waiting-gentlewoman she looks out, and then he speaks, and then she speaks,—very pretty, i'faith, gentlemen.

Fast. Why, but do you remember no particulars, signior?

Sog. O, yes, sir, first, the gentlewoman, she looks out at the window.

Car. After the trumpet has summon'd a parle, not before?

Sog. No, sir, not before; and then says he,—ha, ha, ha, ha!

Car. What says he? be not rapt so.

Sog. Says he,—ha, ha, ha, ha!

Fast. Nay, speak, speak.

Sog. Ha, ha, ha!—says he, God save you, says he;—ha, ha!

Car. Was this the ridiculous motive to all this passion?

Sog. Nay, that that comes after is,—ha, ha, ha, ha!

Car. Doubtless he apprehends more than he utters, this fellow; or else—[A cry of hounds within.

Sog. List, list, they are come from hunting; stand by, close under this terras, and you shall see it done better than I can show it.

Car. So it had need, 'twill scarce poise the observation else.

Sog. Faith, I remember all, but the manner of it is quite out of my head.

Fast. O, withdraw, withdraw, it cannot be but a most pleasing object.

[They stand aside.

Enter Puntarvolto, followed by his Huntsman leading a greyhound.

Punt. Forester, give wind to thy horn.—Enough; by this the sound hath touch'd the ears of the inclos'd; depart, leave the dog, and take with thee what thou hast deserved, the horn and thanks.

[Exit Huntsman.

Car. Ay, marry, there is some taste in this.

Fast. Is't not good?

Sog. Ah, peace; now above, now above!

[A Waiting-gentlewoman appears at the window.

Punt. Stay; mine eye hath, on the instant, through the bounty of the window, received the form of a nymph. I will step forward three paces; of the which, I will barely retire one; and, after some little flexure of the knee, with an erected grace salute her; one, two, and three! Sweet lady, God save you!

Gent. [above.] No, forsooth; I am but the waiting-gentlewoman.

Car. He knew that before.

Punt. Pardon me: humanum est errare.

Car. He learn'd that of his chaplain.

Punt. To the perfection of compliment (which is the dial of the thought, and guided by the sun of your beauties,) are required these
three specials; the gnomon, the puntillos, and the superficies: the superficies is that we call place; the puntillos, circumstance; and the gnomon, ceremony; in either of which, for a stranger to err, 'tis easy and facile; and such am I.

Car. True, not knowing her horizon, he must needs err; which I fear he knows too well.

Punt. What call you the lord of the castle, sweet face?

Gent. [above.] The lord of the castle is a knight, sir: signior Puntarvolo.

Punt. Puntarvolo! O——

Car. Now must he ruminate.

Fast. Does the wench know him all this while, then?

Car. O, do you know me, man? why, therein lies the syrup of the jest; it's a project, a designment of his own, a thing studied, and rehearst as ordinarily at his coming from hawking or hunting, as a jig after a play.

Soq. Ay, e'en like your jig, sir.

Punt. 'Tis a most sumptuous and stately edifice! Of what years is the knight, fair damsel?

Gent. Faith, much about your years, sir.

Punt. What complexion, or what stature bears he?

Gent. Of your stature, and very near upon your complexion.

Punt. Mine is melancholy,—

Car. So is the dog's, just.

Punt: And doth argue constancy, chiefly in love. What are his endowments? is he courteous?

Gent. O, the most courteous knight in Christian land, sir.

Punt. Is he magnanimous?

Gent. As the skin between your brows, sir.

Punt. Is he bountiful?

Car. 'Slud, he takes an inventory of his own good parts.

Gent. Bountiful! ay, sir, I would you should know it; the poor are served at his gate, early and late, sir.

Punt. Is he learned?

Gent. O, ay, sir, he can speak the French and Italian.

Punt. Then he has travelled?

Gent. Ay, forsooth, he hath been beyond seas once or twice.

Car. As far as Paris, to fetch over a fashion, and come back again.

Punt. Is he religious?

Gent. Religious! I know not what you call religious, but he goes to church, I am sure.

Fast. 'Slid, methinks these answers should offend him.

Car. Tut, no; he knows they are excellent, and to her capacity that speaks them.

Punt. Would I might but see his face!

Car. She should let down a glass from the window at that word, and request him to look in't.

Punt. Doubtless the gentleman is most exact, and absolutely qualified; doth the castle contain him?
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Gent. No, sir, he is from home, but his lady is within.
Punt. His lady! what, is she fair, splendidious, and amiable?
Punt. Prithee, dear nymph, intreat her beauties to shine on this side of the building. [Exit Waiting-gentlewoman from the window.
Car. That he may erect a new dial of compliment, with his gnomons and his puntiles.
Fast. Nay, thou art such another cynic now, a man had need walk uprightly before thee.
Car. Heart, can any man walk more upright than he does? Look, look; as if he went in a frame, or had a suit of wainscot on: and the dog watching him, lest he should leap out on't.
Fast. O, villain!
Car. Well, an e'er I meet him in the city, I'll have him jointed, I'll pawn him in Eastcheap, among the butchers, else.
Fast. Peace; who be these, Carlo?

Enter SORDIDO and FUNGOSO.

Sord. Yonder's your godfather; do your duty to him, son.
Sog. This, sir? a poor elder brother of mine, sir, a yeoman, may dispense some seven or eight hundred a year; that's his son, my nephew, there.
Punt. You are not ill come, neighbour Sordido, though I have not yet said, well-come; what, my godson is grown a great proficient by this.
Sord. I hope he will grow great one day, sir.
Fast. What does he study? the law?
Sog. Ay, sir, he is a gentleman, though his father be but a yeoman.
Car. What call you your nephew, signior?
Sog. Marry, his name is Fungoso.
Car. Fungoso! O, he look'd somewhat like a sponge in that pink'd yellow doublet, methought; well, make much of him; I see he was never born to ride upon a mule.
Gent. [reappears at the window.] My lady will come presently, sir.
Sog. O, now, now!
Punt. Stand by, retire yourselves a space; nay, pray you, forget not the use of your hat; the air is piercing.

[Sordido and Fungoso withdraw.

Fast. What! will not their presence prevail against the current of his humour?
Car. O, no; it's a mere flood, a torrent carries all afore it.

[Lady Puntarvolo appears at the window.

Punt. What more than heavenly pulchritude is this,
What magazine, or treasury of bliss?
Dazzle, you organs to my optic sense,
To view a creature of such eminence:
O, I am planet-struck, and in yon sphere
A brighter star than Venus doth appear!
Fast. How! in verse!
Cor. An extacy, an extacy, man.
Lady P. [above.] Is your desire to speak with me, sir knight?
Cor. He will tell you that anon; neither his brain nor his body are yet moulded for an answer.
Punt. Most debonair, and luculent lady, I decline me as low as the basis of your altitude.

Cor. He makes congios to his wife in geometrical proportions.
Mit. Is it possible there should be any such humourist?
Cor. Very easily possible, sir, you see there is.

Punt. I have scarce collected my spirits, but lately scattered in the admiration of your form; to which, if the bounties of your mind be any way responsible, I doubt not but my desires shall find a smooth and secure passage. I am a poor knight-errant, lady, that hunting in the adjacent forest, was, by adventure, in the pursuit of a hart, brought to this place; which hart, dear madam, escaped by enchantment: the evening approaching, myself and servant wearied, my suit is, to enter your fair castle and refresh me.
Lady. Sir knight, albeit it be not usual with me, chiefly in the absence of a husband, to admit any entrance to strangers, yet in the true regard of those innated virtues, and fair parts, which so strive to express themselves, in you; I am resolved to entertain you to the best of my unworthy power; which I acknowledge to be nothing, valued with what so worthy a person may deserve. Please you but stay while I descend. [Exit from the window.
Punt. Most admired lady, you astonish me.
[Walks aside with Sordido and his son.

Cor. What! with speaking a speech of your own penning?
Fast. Nay, look; prithee, peace.
Cor. Pox on't! I am impatient of such foppery.
Fast. O let us hear the rest.
Cor. What! a tedious chapter of courtship, after sir Lancelot and queen Guenever? Away! I marle in what dull cold nook he found this lady out; that, being a woman, she was blest with no more copy of wit but to serve his humour thus. 'Slud, I think he feeds her with porridge, I: she could never have such a thick brain else.

Sog. Why, is porridge so hurtful, signior?
Cor. O, nothing under heaven more prejudicial to those ascending subtle powers, or doth sooner abate that which we call acumen ingenii, than your gross fare: Why, I'll make you an instance; your city-wives, but observe 'em, you have not more perfect true fools in the world bred than they are generally; and yet you see, by the fineness and delicacy of their diet, diving into the fat capons, drinking your rich wines, feeding on larks, sparrows, potato-pies, and such good unctuous meats, how their wits are refined and rarified; and sometimes a very quintessence of conceit flows from them, able to drown a weak apprehension.
Enter Lady PUNTARVOLO and her Waiting-woman.

Fast. Peace, here comes the lady.
Lady. Gad's me, here's company! turn in again.

[Exit with her woman.

Fast. 'Slight, our presence has cut off the convoy of the jest.
Car. All the better, I am glad on't; for the issue was very per-
spicuous. Come let's discover, and salute the knight.

[They come forward.

Punt. Stay; who be these that address themselves towards us? What Carlo! Now by the sincerity of my soul, welcome; welcome, gentlemen: and how dost thou, thou Grand Scourge, or Second Untruss of the time?

Car. Faith, spending my metal in this reeling world (here and there), as the sway of my affection carries me, and perhaps stumble upon a yeoman-feuterer, as I do now; or one of fortune's mules, laden with treasure, and an empty cloak-bag, following him, gaping when a bag will untie.

Punt. Peace, you bandog, peace! What brisk Nymphadoro is that in the white virgin-boot there?

Car. Marry, sir, one that I must intreat you to take a very particular knowledge of, and with more than ordinary respect; monsieur Fastidious.

Punt. Sir, I could wish, that for the time of your vouchsafed abiding here, and more real entertainment, this my house stood on the Muses hill, and these my orchards were those of the Hesperides.

Fast. I possess as much in your wish, sir, as if I were made lord of the Indies; and I pray you believe it.

Car. I have a better opinion of his faith, than to think it will be so corrupted.

Sog. Come, brother, I'll bring you acquainted with gentlemen, and good fellows, such as shall do you more grace than—

Sord. Brother, I hunger not for such acquaintance: Do you take heed, lest—

[Carlo comes toward them.

Sog. Huah! My brother, sir, for want of education, sir, some-
what nodding to the boor, the clown; but I request you in private, sir.

Fung. [looking at Fastidious Brisk.] By heaven, it is a very fine suit of clothes.

[Aside.

Cor. Do you observe that, signior? There's another humour has
new-crack'd the shell.

Mit. What! he is enamour'd of the fashion, is he?
Cor. O, you forestall the jest.

Fung. I marle what it might stand him in.

Sog. Nephew!

Fung. 'Fore me, it's an excellent suit, and as neatly becomes
him. [Aside.]—What said you, uncle?
Ben Jonson's Plays

Sog. When saw you my niece?
Fung. Marry, yesternight I supp'd there.—That kind of boot does very rare too. [Aside.
Sog. And what news hear you?
Fung. The gilt spur and all! Would I were hang'd, but 'tis exceeding good. [Aside.]-Say you, uncle?
Sog. Your mind is carried away with somewhat else: I ask what news you hear?
Fung. Troth, we hear none.—In good faith [looking at Fastidious Brisk] I was never so pleased with a fashion, days of my life. O an I might have but my wish, I'd ask no more of heaven now, but such a suit, such a hat, such a band, such a doublet, such a hose, such a boot, and such a— [Aside.
Sog. They say, there's a new motion of the city of Nineveh, with Jonas and the whale, to be seen at Fleet-bridge. You can tell, cousin?
Fung. Here's such a world of questions with him now!—Yes, I think there be such a thing, I saw the picture.—Would he would once be satisfied! Let me see, the doublet, say fifty shillings the doublet, and between three or four pound the hose; then boots, hat, and band: some ten or eleven pound will do it all, and suit me for the heavens! [Aside.
Sog. I'll see all those devices an I come to London once.
Fung. Ods 'slid, an I could compass it, 'twere rare. [Aside.]-Hark you, uncle.
Sog. What says my nephew?
Fung. Faith, uncle, I would have desired you to have made a motion for me to my father, in a thing that—Walk aside, and I'll tell you, sir; no more but this: there's a parcel of law books (some twenty pounds worth) that lie in a place for a little more than half the money they cost; and I think, for some twelve pound, or twenty mark, I could go near to redeem them; there's Plowden, Dyar, Brooke, and Fitz-Herbert, divers such as I must have ere long; and you know, I were as good save five or six pound, as not, uncle. I pray you, move it for me.
Sog. That I will: when would you have me do it? presently?
Fung. O, ay, I pray you, good uncle: [Soghiardo takes Sordido aside.]-send me good luck, Lord, an't be thy will, prosper it! O my stars, now, now, if it take now, I am made for ever.
Fast. Shall I tell you, sir? by this air, I am the most beholden to that lord, of any gentleman living; he does use me the most honourably, and with the greatest respect, more indeed than can be utter'd with any opinion of truth.
Punt. Then have you the count Gratiano?
Fast. As true noble a gentleman too as any breathes; I am exceedingly endear'd to his love: By this hand, I protest to you, signior, I speak it not gloriously, nor out of affectation, but there's he and the count Frugale, signior Illustre, signior Luculento, and a sort of 'em, that when I am at court, they do share me amongst
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them; happy is he can enjoy me most private. I do wish myself sometime an ubiquitary for their love, in good faith.

Car. There's ne'er a one of these but might lie a week on the rack, ere they could bring forth his name; and yet he pours them out as familiarly, as if he had seen them stand by the fire in the presence, or ta'en tobacco with them over the stage, in the lord's room.

Punt. Then you must of necessity know our court-star there, that planet of wit, madona Saviolins?

Fast. O Lord, sir, my mistress?

Punt. Is she your mistress?

Fast. Faith, here be some slight favours of hers, sir, that do speak it, she is; as this scarf, sir, or this ribbon in my ear, or so; this feather grew in her sweet fan sometimes, though now it be my poor fortune to wear it, as you see, sir: slight, slight, a foolish toy.

Punt. Well, she is the lady of a most exalted and ingenious spirit.

Fast. Did you ever hear any woman speak like her? or enriched with a more plentiful discourse?

Car. O villainous! nothing but sound, sound, a mere echo; she speaks as she goes tired, in cobweb-lawn, light, thin; good enough to catch flies withal.

Punt. O manage your affections.

Fast. Well, if thou be'st not plagued for this blasphemy one day—

Punt. Come, regard not a jester: It is in the power of my purse to make him speak well or ill of me.

Fast. Sir, I affirm it to you upon my credit and judgment, she has the most harmonious and musical strain of wit that ever tempted a true ear; and yet to see!—a rude tongue would profane heaven, if it could.

Punt. I am not ignorant of it, sir.

Fast. Oh, it flows from her like nectar, and she doth give it that sweet quick grace, and exornation in the composure, that by this good air, as I am an honest man, would I might never stir, sir, but—she does observe as pure a phrase, and use as choice figures in her ordinary conferences, as any be in the Arcadia.

Car. Or rather in Green's works, whence she may steal with more security.

Sord. Well, if ten pound will fetch 'em, you shall have it; but I'll part with no more.

Fung. I'll try what that will do, if you please.

Sord. Do so; and when you have them, study hard.

Fung. Yes, sir. An I could study to get forty shillings more now! Well, I will put myself into the fashion, as far as this will go, presently.

Sord. I wonder it rains not: the almanack says, we should have a store of rain to-day.

[Aside.]

Punt. Why, sir, to-morrow I will associate you to court myself, and from thence to the city about a business, a project I have; I will expose it to you, sir; Carlo, I am sure, has heard of it.
Car. What's that, sir?

Punt. I do intend, this year of jubilee coming on, to travel: and because I will not altogether go upon expense, I am determined to put forth some five thousand pound, to be paid me five for one, upon the return of myself, my wife, and my dog from the Turk's court in Constantinople. If all or either of us miscarry in the journey, 'tis gone: if we be successful, why, there will be five and twenty thousand pound to entreat time withal. Nay, go not, neighbour Sordido; stay to-night, and help to make our society the fuller. Gentlemen, frolic: Carlo! what! dull now?

Car. I was thinking on your project, sir, an you call it so. Is this the dog goes with you?

Punt. This is the dog, sir.

Car. He does not go barefoot, does he?

Punt. Away, you traitor, away!

Car. Nay, afore God, I speak simply; he may prick his foot with a thorn, and be as much as the whole venture is worth. Besides, for a dog that never travell'd before, it's a huge journey to Constantinople. I'll tell you now, an he were mine, I'd have some present conference with a physician, what antidotes were good to give him, preservatives against poison; for assure you, if once your money be out, there'll be divers attempts made against the life of the poor animal.

Punt. Thou art still dangerous.

Fast. Is signior Deliro's wife your kinswoman?

Sog. Ay, sir; she is my niece, my brother's daughter here, and my nephew's sister.

Sord. Do you know her, sir?

Fast. O Lord, sir! signior Deliro, her husband, is my merchant.

Fung. Ay, I have seen this gentleman there often.

Fast. I cry you mercy, sir; let me crave your name, pray you.

Fung. Fungoso, sir.

Fast. Good signior Fungoso, I shall request to know you better, sir.

Fung. I am her brother, sir.

Fast. In fair time, sir.

Punt. Come, gentlemen, I will be your conduct.

Fast. Nay, pray you, sir; we shall meet at signior Deliro's often.

Sog. You shall have me at the herald's office, sir, for some week or so at my first coming up. Come, Carlo. [Exeunt.

Mit. Methinks, Cordatus, he dwelt somewhat too long on this scene; it hung in the hand.

Cor. I see not where he could have insisted less, and to have made the humours perspicuous enough.

Mit. True, as his subject lies; but he might have altered the shape of his argument, and explicated them better in single scenes.

Cor. That had been single indeed. Why, be they not the same persons in this, as they would have been in those? and is it not an
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object of more state, to behold the scene full, and relieved with variety of speakers to the end, than to see a vast empty stage, and the actors come in one by one, as if they were dropt down with a feather into the eye of the spectators?

Mit. Nay, you are better traded with these things than I, and therefore I'll subscribe to your judgment; marry, you shall give me leave to make objections.

Cor. O, what else? it is the special intent of the author you should do so; for thereby others, that are present, may as well be satisfied, who haply would object the same you would do.

Mit. So, sir; but when appears Macilente again?

Cor. Marry, he stays but till our silence give him leave: here he comes, and with him signior Deliro, a merchant at whose house he is come to sojourn: make your own observation now, only transfer your thoughts to the city, with the scene: where suppose they speak.

SCENE II. A Room in Deliro's House.

Enter Deliro, Macilente, and Fido with flowers and perfumes.

Deli. I'll tell you by and by, sir,—
Welcome, good Macilente, to my house,
To sojourn' even for ever; if my best
In cates, and every sort of good entreaty,
May move you stay with me. [He censuseth: the boy streus flowers.

Maci. I thank you, sir,—
And yet the muffled Fates, had it pleased them,
Might have supplied me from their own full store.
Without this word, I thank you, to a fool.
I see no reason why that dog call'd Chance,
Should fawn upon this fellow more than me;
I am a man, and I have limbs, flesh, blood,
Bones, sinews, and a soul, as well as he:
My parts are every way as good as his;
If I said better, why, I did not lie.
Nath less, his wealth, but nodding on my wants,
Must make me bow, and cry, I thank you, sir. [Aside.

Deli. Dispatch! take heed your mistress see you not.

Fido. I warrant you, sir, I'll steal by her softly. [Exit.

Deli. Nay, gentle friend, be merry; raise your looks
Out of your bosom: I protest, by heaven,
You are the man most welcome in the world.

Maci. I thank you, sir.—I know my cue, I think. [Aside.

Re-enter Fido, with more perfumes and flowers.

Fido. Where will you have them burn, sir?

Deli. Here, good Fido.

What, she did not see thee?

Fido. No, sir.

Deli. That is well.
Strew, strew, good Fido, the freshest flowers; so!

_Maci._ What means this, signior Deliro? all this censing?
_Deli._ Cast in more frankincense, yet more; well said.—
O Macilente, I have such a wife!

So passing fair! so passing-fair-unkind!
But of such worth, and right to be unkind,
Since no man can be worthy of her kindness—

_Maci._ What, can there not?
_Deli._ No, that is as sure as death,
No man alive. I do not say, is not,
But cannot possibly be worth her kindness,
Nay, it is certain, let me do her right.
How, said I? do her right! as though I could,
As though this dull, gross tongue of mine could utter
The rare, the true, the pure, the infinite rights,
That sit, as high as I can look, within her!

_Maci._ This is such dotage as was never heard.
_Deli._ Well, this must needs be granted.
_Maci._ Granted, quoth you?
_Deli._ Nay, Macilente, do not so discredite

The goodness of your judgment to deny it.
For I do speak the very least of her:
And I would crave, and beg no more of Heaven,
For all my fortunes here, but to be able
To utter first in fit terms, what she is,
And then the true joys I conceive in her.

_Maci._ Is't possible she should deserve so well,
As you pretend?

_Deli._ Ay, and she knows so well
Her own deserts, that, when I strive t'enjoy them,
She weighs the things I do, with what she merits;
And, seeing my worth out-weigh'd so in her graces,
She is so solemn, so precise, so froward,
That no observance I can do to her
Can make her kind to me: if she find fault,
I mend that fault; and then she says, I faulted,
That I did mend it. Now, good friend, advise me,
How I may temper this strange spleen in her.

_Maci._ You are too amorous, too obsequious,
And make her too assured she may command you.
When women doubt most of their husbands' loves,
They are most loving. Husbands must take heed
They give no gluts of kindness to their wives,
But use them like their horses; whom they feed
Not with a mangerful of meat together,
But half a peck at once; and keep them so
Still with an appetite to that they give them.
He that desires to have a loving wife,
Must bridle all the show of that desire:
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Be kind, not amorous; nor bewraying kindness,
As if love wrought it, but considerate duty.
Offer no love rites, but let wives still seek them,
For when they come unsought, they seldom like them.

Deli. Believe me, Macilente, this is gospel.

O, that a man were his own man so much,
To rule himself thus. I will strive, 'tis faith,
To be more strange and careless; yet I hope
I have now taken such a perfect course,
To make her kind to me, and live contented,
That I shall find my kindness well return'd,
And have no need to fight with my affections.
She late hath found much fault with every room
Within my house; one was too big, she said,
Another was not furnish'd to her mind,
And so through all; all which, now, I have alter'd.
Then here, she hath a place, on my back-side,
Wherein she loves to walk; and that, she said,
Had some ill smells about it: now, this walk
Have I, before she knows it, thus perfumed
With herbs, and flowers; and laid in divers places,
As 'twere on altars consecrate to her,
Perfumed gloves, and delicate chains of amber,
To keep the air in awe of her sweet nostrils:
This have I done, and this I think will please her.
Behold, she comes.

Enter Fallace.

Fal. Here's a sweet stink indeed!
What, shall I ever be thus crosst and plagued,
And sick of husband? O, my head doth ache,
As it would cleave asunder, with these savours!
All my rooms alter'd, and but one poor walk
That I delighted in, and that is made
So fulsome with perfumes, that I am fear'd,
My brain doth sweat so, I have caught the plague!

Deli. Why, gentle wife, is now thy walk too sweet?
Thou said'st of late, it had sour airs about it,
And found'st much fault that I did not correct it.

Fal. Why, an I did find fault, sir?

Deli. Nay, dear wife,
I know thou hast said thou hast loved perfumes,
No woman better.

Fal. Ay, long since, perhaps;
But now that sense is alter'd: you would have me,
Like to a puddle, or a standing pool,
To have no motion, nor no spirit within me.
No, I am like a pure and sprightly river,
That moves for ever, and yet still the same;
Or fire, that burns much wood, yet still one flame.

Del. But yesterday, I saw thee at our garden,
Smelling on roses, and on purple flowers;
And since, I hope, the humour of thy sense
Is nothing changed.

Fal. Why, those were growing flowers,
And these within my walk are cut and strewed.

Del. But yet they have one scent.

Fal. Ay! have they so?

In your gross judgment. If you make no difference
Betwixt the scent of growing flowers and cut ones,
You have a sense to taste lamp oil, 'faith:
And with such judgment have you changed the chambers,
Leaving no room, that I can joy to be in,
In all your house; and now my walk, and all,
You smoke me from, as if I were a fox,
And long, belike, to drive me quite away:
Well, walk you there, and I'll walk where I list.


Mac. Out on thee, dotard! what star ruled his birth,
That brought him such a Star? blind Fortune still
Bestows her gifts on such as cannot use them:
How long shall I live, ere I be so happy
To have a wife of this exceeding form? [Aside.

Del. Away with 'em! would I had broke a joint
When I devised this, that should so dislike her.
Away, bear all away. [Exit Fido, with flowers, etc.

Fal. Ay, do; for fear
Aught that is there should like her. O, this man,
How cunningly he can conceal himself,
As though he loved, nay, honour'd and ador'd!—

Del. Why, my sweet heart?

Fal. Sweet heart! O, better still!
And asking, why? wherefore? and looking strangely,
As if he were as white as innocence!
Alas, you're simple, you: you cannot change,
Look pale at pleasure, and then red with wonder;
No, no, not you! 'tis pity o' your naturals.
I did but cast an amorous eye, e'en now,
Upon a pair of gloves that somewhat liked me,
And straight he noted it, and gave command
All should be ta'en away.

Del. Be they my bane then!

What, sirrah, Fido, bring in those gloves again
You took from hence.

Fal. 'Sbody, sir, but do not:
Bring in no gloves to spite me; if you do—

Del. Ay me, most wretched; how am I misconstrued!

Mac. O, how she tempts my heart-strings with her eye,
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To knit them to her beauties, or to break!
What mov'd the heavens, that they could not make
Me such a woman! but a man, a beast,
That hath no bliss like others? Would to heaven,
In wreak of my misfortunes, I were turn'd
To some fair water-nymph, that; set upon
The deepest whirl-pit of the rav'rous seas,
My adamantine eyes might headlong hale
This iron world to me, and drown it all. [Aside.

Cor. Behold, behold, the translated gallant.
Mit. O, he is welcome.

Enter Fungoso, apparelled like Fastidious Brisk.

Fung. Save you, brother and sister; save you, sir! I have commendations for you out o' the country. I wonder they take no knowledge of my suit: [Aside.]—Mine uncle Sogliardo is in town. Sister, methinks you are melancholy; why are you so sad? I think you took me for Master Fastidious Brisk, sister, did you not?

Fal. Why should I take you for him?

Fung. Nay, nothing.—I was lately in Master Fastidious's company, and methinks we are very like.

Del. You have a fair suit, brother, 'give you joy on't.

Fung. Faith, good enough to ride in, brother; I made it to ride in.

Fal. O, now I see the cause of his idle demand was his new suit.

Del. Pray you, good brother, try if you can change her mood.

Fung. I warrant you, let me alone: I'll put her out of her dumps.

Sister, how like you my suit!

Fal. O, you are a gallant in print now, brother.

Fung. Faith, how like you the fashion? it is the last edition, I assure you.

Fal. I cannot but like it to the desert.

Fung. Troth, sister, I was fain to borrow these spurs, I have left my gown in gage for them, pray you lend me an angel.

Fal. Now, beahrew my heart then.

Fung. Good truth, I'll pay you again at my next exhibition. I had but bare ten pound of my father, and it would not reach to put me wholly into the fashion.

Fal. I care not.

Fung. I had spurs of mine own before, but they were not ginglers. Monsieur Fastidious will be here anon, sister.

Fal. You jest!

Fung. Never lend me penny more while you live then; and that I'd be loth to say, in truth.

Fal. When did you see him?

Fung. Yesterdaj; I came acquainted with him at Sir Puntravolo's: nay, sweet sister.

Mac. I fain would know of heaven now, why yond fool Should wear a suit of satin? he? that rook,
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That painted jay, with such a deal of outside:
What is his inside, trow? ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!
Good heaven, give me patience, patience, patience.
A number of these popinjays there are,
Whom, if a man confer, and but examine
Their inward merit, with such men as want;
Lord, lord, what things they are! [Aside.
Fal. [Gives him money.] Come, when will you pay me again, now?
Fung. O lord, sister!
Mact. Here comes another.

Enter Fastidious Brisk, in a new suit.

Fast. Save you, signior Deliro! How dost thou, sweet lady? let me kiss thee.
Fung. How! a new suit? ah me!
Deit. And how does master Fastidious Brisk?
Fast. Faith, live in court, signior Deliro; in grace, I thank God, both of the noble masculine and feminine. I must speak with you in private by and by.
Deit. When you please, sir.
Fal. Why look you so pale, brother?
Fung. 'Slid, all this money is cast away now.
Mact. Ay, there's a newer edition come forth.
Fung. 'Tis but my hard fortune! well, I'll have my suit changed, I'll go fetch my tailor presently but first, I'll devise a letter to my father. Have you any pen and ink, sister?
Fal. What would you do withal?
Fung. I would use it. 'Slight, an it had come but four days sooner, the fashion. [Exit.
Fast. There was a countess gave me her hand to kiss to-day, i' the presence: did me more good by that light than—and yesternight sent her coach twice to my lodging, to intreat me accompany her, and my sweet mistress, with some two or three nameless ladies more: O, I have been graced by them beyond all aim of affection: this is her garter my dagger hangs in: and they do so commend and approve my apparel, with my judicious wearing of it, it's above wonder.
Fal. Indeed, sir, 'tis a most excellent suit, and you do wear it as extraordinary.
Fast. Why, I'll tell you now, in good faith, and by this chair, which, by the grace of God, I intend presently to sit in, I had three suits in one year made three great ladies in love with me: I had other three, undid three gentlemen in imitation: and other three gat three other gentlemen widows of three thousand pound a year.
Deit. Is't possible?
Fast. O, believe it, sir; your good face is the witch, and your apparel the spells, that bring all the pleasures of the world into their circle.
Fal. Ah, the sweet grace of a courtier!
Maci. Well, would my father had left me but a good face for my portion yet! though I had shared the unfortunate wit that goes with it, I had not cared; I might have passed for somewhat in the world then.

Fast. Why, assure you, signior, rich apparel has strange virtues: it makes him that hath it without means, esteemed for an excellent wit: he that enjoys it with means, puts the world in remembrance of his means: it helps the deformities of nature, and gives lustre to her beauties; makes continual holiday where it shines; sets the wits of ladies at work, that otherwise would be idle; furnishest your two-shilling ordinary; takes possession of your stage at your new play; and enricheth your oars, as scorning to go with your scull.

Maci. Pray you, sir, add this; it gives respect to your fools, makes many thieves, as many strumpets, and no fewer bankrupts.

Fast. Out, out! unworthy to speak where he breatheth.

Fast. What's he, signior?

Deli. A friend of mine, sir.

Fast. By heaven I wonder at you citizens, what kind of creatures you are!

Deli. Why, sir?

Fast. That you can consort yourselves with such poor seam-rent fellows.

Fast. He says true.

Deli. Sir, I will assure you, however you esteem of him, he's a man worthy of regard.

Fast. Why, what has he in him of such virtue to be regarded, ha?

Deli. Marry, he is a scholar, sir.

Fast. Nothing else!

Deli. And he is well travell'd.

Fast. He should get him clothes; I would cherish those good parts of travel in him, and prefer him to some nobleman of good place.

Deli. Sir, such a benefit should bind me to you for ever, in my friend's right; and I doubt not, but his desert shall more than answer my praise.

Fast. Why, an he had good clothes, I'd carry him to court with me to-morrow.

Deli. He shall not want for those, sir, if gold and the whole city will furnish him.

Fast. You say well, sir: faith, signior Deliero, I am come to have you play the alchemist with me, and change the species of my land into that metal you talk of.

Deli. With all my heart, sir; what sum will serve you?

Fast. Faith, some three or four hundred.

Deli. Troth, sir, I have promised to meet a gentleman this morning in Paul's, but upon my return I'll dispatch you.

Fast. I'll accompany you thither.

Deli. As you please, sir; but I go not thither directly.
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Fast. 'Tis no matter, I have no other designament in hand, and therefore as good go along.

Deli. I were as good have a quartain fever follow me now, for I shall ne'er be rid of him. Bring me a cloak there, one. Still, upon his grace at court, I am sure to be visited; I was a beast to give him any hope. Well, would I were in, that I am out with him once, and—Come, signior Macilente, I must confer with you, as we go. Nay, dear wife, I beseech thee, forsake these moods: look not like winter thus. Here, take my keys, open my counting-houses, spread all my wealth before thee, choose any object that delights thee: if thou wilt eat the spirit of gold, and drink dissolved pearl in wine, 'tis for thee.

Fal. So, sir!

Deli. Nay, my sweet wife.

Fal. Good lord, how you are perfumed in your terms and all! pray you leave us.

Deli. Come, gentlemen.

Fast. Adieu, sweet lady. [Exeunt all but Fallace.

Fal. Ay, ay! let thy words ever sound in mine ears, and thy graces disperse contentment through all my senses! O, how happy is that lady above other ladies, that enjoys so absolute a gentleman to her servant! A countess gives him her hand to kiss: ah, foolish countess! he's a man worthy, if a woman may speak of a man's worth, to kiss the lips of an empress.

Re-enter Fungoso, with his Tailor.

Fung. What's master Fastidious gone, sister?

Fal. Ay, brother.—He has a face like a cherubin! [Aside.

Fung. 'Ods me, what luck's this? I have fetch'd my tailor and all: which way went he, sister, can you tell?

Fal. Not I, in good faith—and he has a body like an angel! [Aside.

Fung. How long is't since he went?

Fal. Why, but e'en now; did you not meet him?—and a tongue able to ravish any woman in the earth. [Aside.

Fung. O, for God's sake—I'll please you for your pains, [to his Tailor.]—But e'en now, say you? Come, good sir: 'slid, I had forgot it too: if any body ask for mine uncle Sogliardo, they shall have him at the herald's office yonder, by Paul's.

[Exit with his Tailor.

Fal. Well, I will not altogether despair: I have heard of a citizen's wife has been beloved of a courtier; and why not I? heigh, ho! well, I will into my private chamber, lock the door to me, and think over all his good parts one after another. [Exit.

Mit. Well, I doubt, this last scene will endure some grievous torture.

Cor. How? you fear 'twill be rack'd by some hard construction?

Mit. Do not you?

Cor. No, in good faith: unless mine eyes could light me beyond
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I see no reason why this should be more liable to the rack than the rest: you'll say, perhaps, the city will not take it well that the merchant is made here to doat so perfectly upon his wife; and she again to be so Fastidiously affected as she is.

Mit. You have utter'd my thought, sir, indeed.

Cor. Why, by that proportion, the court might as well take offence at him we call the courtier, and with much more pretexct, by how much the place transcends, and goes before in dignity and virtue: but can you imagine that any noble or true spirit in court, whose sinewy and altogether unaffected graces, very worthily express him a courtier, will make any exception at the opening of such an empty trunk as this Brisk is? or think his own worth impeached, by beholding his motley inside?

Mit. No, sir, I do not.

Cor. No more, assure you, will any grave, wise citizen, or modest matron, take the object of this folly in Delrio and his wife; but rather apply it as the foil to their own virtues. For that were to affirm, that a man writing of Nero, should mean all emperors; or speaking of Machiavel, comprehend all statesmen; or in our Sordido, all farmers; and so of the rest: than which nothing can be uttered more malicious or absurd. Indeed there are a sort of these narrow-eyed decyphers, I confess, that will extort strange and abstruse meanings out of any subject, be it never so conspicuous and innocently delivered. But to such, where'er they sit concealed, let them know, the author defies them and their writing-tables; and hopes no sound or safe judgment will infect itself with their contagious comments, who, indeed, come here only to pervert and poison the sense of what they hear, and for nought else.

Enter Cavalier Shift, with two Si-quisses (bills) in his hand.

Mit. Stay, what new mute is this, that walks so suspiciously?

Cor. O, marry, this is one, for whose better illustration, we must desire you to presuppose the stage, the middle aisle in Paul's, and that, the west end of it.

Mit. So, sir, and what follows?

Cor. Faith, a whole volume of humour, and worthy the unclasping.

Mit. As how? What name do you give him first?

Cor. He hath shift of names, sir: some call him Apple-John, some signior Whiffe; marry, his main standing name is cavalier Shift: the rest are but as clean shirts to his natures.

Mit. And what makes he in Paul's now?

Cor. Troth, as you see, for the advancement of a si quis, or two; wherein he has so varied himself, that if any of 'em take, he may hull up and down in the humorous world a little longer.

Mit. It seems then he bears a very changing sail?

Cor. O, as the wind, sir: here comes more.
Ben Jonson’s Plays

ACT III

SCENE I.—The Middle Aisle of St. Paul’s.

Shift. [coming forward.] This is rare, I have set up my bills without discovery.

Enter Orange.

Orange. What, signior Whiffe! what fortune has brought you into these west parts?

Shift. Troth, signior, nothing but your rheum; I have been taking an ounce of tobacco hard by here, with a gentleman, and I am come to spit private in Paul’s. ’Save you, sir.


Enter Clove.

Clove. Master Apple-John! you are well met; when shall we sup together, and laugh, and be fat with those good wenches, ha?

Shift. Faith, sir, I must now leave you, upon a few humours and occasions; but when you please, sir. [Exit.

Clove. Farewell, sweet Apple-John! I wonder there are no more store of gallants here.

Mit. What be these two, signior?

Cor. Marry, a couple, sir, that are mere strangers to the whole scope of our play; only come to walk a turn or two in this scene of Paul’s, by chance.

Orange. Save you, good master Clove!

Clove. Sweet master Orange.

Mit. How! Clove and Orange?

Cor. Ay, and they are well met, for ’tis as dry an Orange as ever grew: nothing but salutation, and O lord, sir! and, It pleases you to say so, sir! one that can laugh at a jest for company with a most plausible and extemporal grace; and some hour after in private ask you what it was. The other monsieur, Clove, is a more spiced youth; he will sit you a whole afternoon sometimes in a bookseller’s shop, reading the Greek, Italian, and Spanish, when he understands not a word of either; if he had the tongues to his suits, he were an excellent linguist.

Clove. Do you hear this reported for certainty?

Orange. O lord, sir.

Enter Puntarvolo and Carlo, followed by two Serving-men, one leading a dog, the other bearing a bag.

Punt. Sirrah, take my cloak; and you, sir knave, follow me closer. If thou losest my dog, thou shalt die a dog’s death; I will hang thee.

Cor. Tut, fear him not, he’s a good lean slave; he loves a dog
well, I warrant him; I see by his looks, I.—Mass, he's somewhat like him. 'Slud [to the Servant.] poison him, make him away with a crooked pin, or somewhat, man; thou may'st have more security of thy life; and—So, sir; what! you have not put out your whole venture yet, have you?

Punt. No, I do want yet some fifteen or sixteen hundred pounds; but my lady, my wife, is Out of her Humour, she does not now go.

Car. No! how then?

Punt. Marry, I am now enforced to give it out, upon the return of myself, my dog, and my cat.

Car. Your cat! where is she?

Punt. My squire has her there, in the bag; sirrah, look to her. How lik'est thou my change, Carlo?

Car. Oh, for the better, sir; your cat has nine lives, and your wife has but one.

Punt. Besides, she will never be sea-sick, which will save me so much in conserves. When saw you signior Sogliardo?

Car. I came from him but now; he is at the herald's office yonder; he requested me to go afore, and take up a man or two for him in Paul's, against his cognisance was ready.

Punt. What, has he purchased arms, then?

Car. Ay, and rare ones too; of as many colours as e'er you saw any fool's coat in your life. I'll go look among yond' bills, an I can fit him with legs to his arms.

Punt. With legs to his arms! Good! I will go with you, sir. [They go to read the bills.

Enter FASTIDIOUS, DELIRO, and MACILENTE.

Fast. Come, let's walk in Mediterraneo: I assure you, sir, I am not the least respected among ladies; but let that pass: do you know how to go into the presence, sir?

Maci. Why, on my feet, sir.

Fast. No, on your head, sir; for 'tis that must bear you out, I assure you; as thus, sir. You must first have an especial care so to wear your hat, that it oppress not confusedly this your predominant, or foretop; because, when you come at the presence-door, you may with once or twice stroking up your forehead, thus, enter with your predominant perfect; that is, standing up stiff.

Maci. As if one were frightened?

Fast. Ay, sir.

Maci. Which, indeed, a true fear of your mistress should do, rather than gum-water, or whites of eggs; is't not so, sir?

Fast. An ingenious observation. Give me leave to crave your name, sir?

Deli. His name is Macilente, sir.

Fast. Good signior Macilente, if this gentleman, signior Deliro, furnish you, as he says he will, with clothes, I will bring you, to-morrow by this time, into the presence of the most divine and acute lady in court; you shall see sweet silent rhetorick, and dumb
eloquence speaking in her eye, but when she speaks herself, such
an anatomy of wit, so sinewised andarterised, that ’tis the goodliest
model of pleasure that ever was to behold. Oh! she strikes the
world into admiration of her; O, O, O! I cannot express them,
believe me.

Mack. O, your only admiration is your silence, sir.

Punt. ’Fore God, Carlo, this is good! let’s read them again.

[Reads the bill.

If there be any lady or gentlewoman of good carriage that is desirous
to entertain to her private uses, a young, straight, and upright gentleman,
of the age of five or six and twenty at the most; who can serve in the
nature of a gentleman-usher, and hath little legs of purpose, and a
black satin suit of his own, to go before her in; which suit, for the
more sweetening, now lies in lavender; and can hide his face with her
fan, if need require; or sit in the cold at the stair foot for her, as well
as another gentleman: let her subscribe her name and place, and
diligent respect shall be given.

Punt. This is above measure excellent, ha!

Car. No, this, this! here’s a fine slave. [Reads.

If this city, or the suburbs of the same, do afford any young gentleman
of the first, second, or third head, more or less, whose friends are but
lately deceased, and whose lands are but new come into his hands, that,
to be as exactly qualified as the best of our ordinary gallants are, is
affected to entertain the most gentleman-like use of tobacco; as first,
to give it the most exquisite perfume; then, to know all the delicate
sweet forms for the assumption of it; as also the rare corollary and
practice of the Cuban ebolition, curipus and whiff, which he shall
receive or take in here at London, and evaporate at Uxbridge, or farther,
if it please him. If there be any such generous spirit, that is truly
enamoured of these good faculties: may it please him, but by a note
of his hand to specify the place or ordinary where he uses to eat and
lie; and most sweet attendance, with tobacco and pipes of the best sort,
shall be ministered. Stet, queso, candide Lector.

Punt. Why, this is without parallel, this.

Car. Well, I’ll mark this fellow for Sogliardo’s use presently.

Punt. Or rather, Sogliardo, for his use.

Car. Faith, either of them will serve, they are both good pro-
erties: I’ll design the other a place too, that we may see him.

Punt. No better place than the Mitre, that we may be spectators
with you, Carlo. Soft, behold who enters here:

Enter SOGLIARDO.

Signior Sogliardo! save you.

Sog. Save you, good sir Punatarvolo; your dog’s in health, sir,
I see: How now, Carlo?

Car. We have ta’en simple pains, to choose you out followers
here. [Shews him the bills.
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**Punt.** Come hither, signior.

**Clove.** Monsieur Orange, yon gallants observe us; prithee let's talk fustian a little, and gull them; make them believe we are great scholars.

**Orange.** O lord, sir!

**Clove.** Nay, prithee let us, believe me,—you have an excellent habit in discourse.

**Orange.** It pleases you to say so, sir.

**Clove.** By this church, you have, la; nay, come, begin—Aristotle, in his daemonologia, approves Scaliger for the best navigator in his time; and in his hypercritics, he reports him to be Heautontimoromenos:—you understand the Greek, sir?

**Orange.** O, good sir!

**Mac.** For society's sake he does. O, here be a couple of fine tame parrots!

**Clove.** Now, sir, whereas the ingenuity of the time and the soul's synderisis are but embries in nature, added to the panch of Esquiline, and the inter-vallum of the zodiac, besides the ecliptic line being optic, and not mental, but by the contemplative and theoretic part thereof, doth demonstrate to us the vegetable circumference, and the ventosity of the tropics, and whereas our intellectual, or mincing capreal (according to the metaphysicks) as you may read in Plato's Histriomastix—You conceive me, sir?

**Orange.** O lord, sir!

**Clove.** Then coming to the pretty animal, as reason long since is fled to animals, you know, or indeed for the more modelising, or enamelling, or rather diamondising of your subject, you shall perceive the hypothesis, or galaxia, (whereof the meteors long since had their initial inceptions and notions,) to be merely Pythagorical, mathematical, and aristocratical—For, look you, sir, there is ever a kind of concinnity and species—Let us turn to our former discourse, for they mark us not.

**Fast.** Mass, yonder's the knight Puntarvolo.

**Deli.** And my cousin Sogliardo, methinks.

**Mac.** Ay, and his familiar that haunts him, the devil with the shining face.

**Deli.** Let 'em alone, observe 'em not.

[Sogliardo, Puntarvolo, and Carlo, walk together.]

**Sog.** Nay, I will have him, I am resolute for that. By this parchement, gentlemen, I have been so toiled among the harrots yonder, you will not believe! they do speak in the strangest language, and give a man the hardest terms for his money, that ever you knew.

**Car.** But have you arms, have you arms?

**Sog.** T'faith, I thank them; I can write myself gentleman now; here's my patent, it cost me thirty pound, by this breath.

**Punt.** A very fair coat, well charged, and full of armory.

**Sog.** Nay, it has as much variety of colours in it, as you have seen a coat have; how like you the crest, sir?
Punt. I understand it not well, what is't?
Sog. Marry, sir, it is your boar without a head, rampant. A boar without a head, that's very rare!
Car. Ay, and rampant too! troth, I commend the herald's wit, he has decyphered him well: a swine without a head, without brain, wit, anything indeed, ramping to gentility. You can blazon the rest, signior, can you not?
Sog. O, ay, I have it in writing here of purpose; it cost me two shillings the tricking.
Car. Let's hear, let's hear.
Punt. It is the most vile, foolish, absurd, palpable, and ridiculous escutcheon that ever this eye survived.—Save you, good monsieur Fastidious. [They salute as they meet in the walk.
Car. Silence, good knight; on, on.
Sog. [Reads.] Gyrony of eight pieces; azure and gules; between three plates, a chevron engrailed chequy, or, vert, and ermins; on a chief argent, between two annulets sable, a boar's head, proper.
Car. How’s that! on a chief argent?
Sog. [Reads.] On a chief argent, a boar's head proper, between two annulets sable.
Car. 'Slud, it's a hog's cheek and puddings in a pewter field, this.
[Here they shift. Fastidious mixes with Puntarvolo; Carlo and Sogliardo; Deliro and Macilente; Clove and Orange; four couple.
Sog. How like you them, signior?
Punt. Let the word be, Not without mustard: your crest is very rare, sir.
Car. A frying-pan to the crest, had had no fellow.
Fast. Intreat your poor friend to walk off a little, signior, I will salute the knight.
Car. Come, lap it up, lap it up.
Fast. You are right well encounter'd, sir; how does your fair dog?
Punt. In reasonable state, sir; what citizen is that you were consorted with? A merchant of any worth?
Fast. 'Tis signior Deliro, sir.
Punt. Is it he?—Save you, sir! [They salute.
Del. Good sir Puntarvolo!
Mac. O what copy of fool would this place minister, to one endued with patience to observe it!
Car. Nay, look you, sir, now you are a gentleman, you must carry a more exalted presence, change your mood and habit to a more austere form; be exceeding proud, stand upon your gentility, and scorn every man; speak nothing humbly, never discourse under a nobleman, though you never saw him but riding to the star-chamber, it's all one. Love no man: trust no man: speak ill of no man to his face; nor well of any man behind his back. Salute fairly on the front, and wish them hanged upon the turn. Spread yourself upon his bosom publicly, whose heart you would eat in private. These be principles, think on them; I'll come to you again presently. [Exeit.
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_**Punt.** [_to his servant._] Sirrah, keep close; yet not so close: thy breath will thaw my ruff._

_Sog._ O, good cousin, I am a little busy, how does my niece? I am to walk with a knight, here.

_Enter Fungoso with his Tailor._

_Fung._ O, he is here; look you, sir, that's the gentleman.

_Tai._ What, he in the blush-coloured satin?

_Fung._ Ay, he, sir; though his suit blush, he blushes not, look you, that's the suit, sir: I would have mine such a suit without difference, such stuff, such a wing, such a sleeve, such a skirt, belly and all; therefore, pray you observe it. Have you a pair of tables?

_Fast._ Why, do you see, sir, they say I am fantastical; why, true, I know it, and I pursue my humour still, in contempt of this censorious age. 'Slight, an a man should do nothing but what a sort of stale judgments about this town will approve in him, he were a sweet ass: I'd beg him, i'faith. I ne'er knew any more find fault with a fashion, than they that knew not how to put themselves into it. For mine own part, so I please mine own appetite, I am careless what the fusty world speaks of me. Puh!

_Fung._ Do you mark, how it hangs at the knee there?

_Tai._ I warrant you, sir.

_Fung._ For God's sake do, note all; do you see the collar, sir?

_Tai._ Fear nothing, it shall not differ in a stitch, sir.

_Fung._ Pray heaven it do not! you'll make these linings serve, and help me to a chapman for the outside, will you?

_Tai._ I'll do my best, sir: you'll put it off presently.

_Fung._ Ay, go with me to my chamber you shall have it—but make haste of it, for the love of a customer; for I'll sit in my old suit, or else lie a bed, and read the Arcadia till you have done._

[Exit with his Tailor.

_Re-enter Carlo._

_Car._ O, if ever you were struck with a jest, gallants, now, now, now, I do usher the most strange piece of military profession that ever was discovered in Insula Paulina.

_Fast._ Where? where?

_Punt._ What is he for a creature?

_Car._ A pimp, a pimp, that I have observed yonder, the rarest superficies of a humour; he comes every morning to empty his lungs in Paul's here; and offers up some five or six hecatombs of faces and sighs, and away again. Here he comes; nay, walk, walk, be not seen to note him, and we shall have excellent sport.

_Enter Shift; and walks by, using action to his rapier._

_Punt._ 'Slid, he vented a sigh e'en now, I thought he would have blown up the church.

_Car._ O, you shall have him give a number of those false fires ere he depart.

E 489
Fast. See, now he is expostulating with his rapier: look, look!
Car. Did you ever in your days observe better passion over a hilt?
Punt. Except it were in the person of a cutler's boy, or that the fellow were nothing but vapour, I should think it impossible.
Car. See again, he claps his sword o' the head, as who should say, well, go to.
Fast. O violence! I wonder the blade can contain itself, being so provoked.
Car. With that the moody squire thumped his breast,
And rear'd his eye to heaven for revenge.
Sog. Troth, an you be good gentlemen, let's make them friends,
And take up the matter between his rapier and him.
Car. Nay, if you intend that, you must lay down the matter; for this rapier, it seems, is in the nature of a hanger-on, and the good gentleman would happily be rid of him.
Fast. By my faith, and 'tis to be suspected; I'll ask him.
Mac. O, here's rich stuff! for life's sake, let us go:
A man would wish himself a senseless pillar,
Rather than view these monstrous prodigies:
Nil habet infelix pauertas durius in se,
Quam quod ridiculos homines facit—
[Exit with Deliro.
Fast. Signior.
Shift. At your service.
Fast. Will you sell your rapier?
Car. He is turn'd wild upon the question; he looks as he had seen a sergeant.
Shift. Sell my rapier! now fate bless me!
Punt. Amen.
Shift. You ask'd me if I would sell my rapier, sir?
Fast. I did indeed.
Shift. Now, lord have mercy upon me!
Punt. Amen, I say still.
Shift. 'Slid, sir, what should you behold in my face, sir, that should move you, as they say, sir, to ask me, sir, if I would sell my rapier?
Fast. Nay, let me pray you, sir, be not moved: I protest, I would rather have been silent, than any way offensive, had I known your nature.
Shift. Sell my rapier? 'ods lid!—Nay, sir, for mine own part, as I am a man that has serv'd in causes, or so, so I am not apt to injure any gentleman in the degree of falling foul, but—sell my rapier! I will tell you, sir, I have served with this foolish rapier, where some of us dare not appear in haste; I name no man; but let that pass. Sell my rapier!—death to my lungs! This rapier, sir, has travell'd by my side, sir, the best part of France, and the Low Country: I have seen Flushing, Brill, and the Hague, with this rapier, sir, in my Lord of Leicester's time; and by God's will, he that should offer to disrapier me now, I would——Look you, sir, you presume to be a gentleman of sort, and so likewise your friends here; if you have
any disposition to travel for the sight of service, or so, one, two, or all of you, I can lend you letters to divers officers and commanders in the Low Countries, that shall for my cause do you all the good offices, that shall pertain or belong to gentleman of your——

[Lowering his voice.] Please you to shew the bounty of your mind, sir, to impart some ten groats, or half a crown to our use, till our ability be of growth to return it, and we shall think ourself——

'Sblood! sell my rapier!

Sog. I pray you, what said he, signior? he's a proper man.

Fast. Marry, he tells me, if I please to shew the bounty of my mind, to impart some ten groats to his use, or so——

Punt. Break his head, and give it him.

Car. I thought he had been playing o' the Jew's trump, I.

Shift. My rapier! no, sir; my rapier is my guard, my defence, my revenue, my honour;—if you cannot impart, be secret, I beseech you—and I will maintain it, where there is a grain of dust, or a drop of water. [Sighs.] Hard is the choice when the valiant must eat their arms, or clench. Sell my rapier! no, my dear, I will not be divorced from thee, yet; I have ever found thee true as steel, and—— You cannot impart, sir?—Save you, gentlemen;—nevertheless, if you have a fancy to it, sir——

Fast. Prithee away: Is signior Deliro departed?

Car. Have you seen a pimp outface his own wants better?

Sog. I commend him that can dissemble them so well.

Punt. True, and having no better a cloak for it than he has neither.

Fast. Od's precious, what mischievous luck is this! adieu, gentlemen.

Punt. Whither in such haste, monsieur Fastidious?

Fast. After my merchant, signior Deliro, sir. [Exit.

Car. O hinder him not, he may hap lose his tide; a good flounder, i'faith.

Orange. Hark you, signior Whiffe, a word with you.

[Orange and Clove call Shift aside.

Car. How! signior Whiffe?

Orange. What was the difference between that gallant that's gone and you, sir?

Shift. No difference; he would have given me five pound for my rapier, and I refused it; that's all.

Clove. O, was it no otherwise? we thought you had been upon some terms.

Shift. No other than you saw, sir.


Car. How! Whiffe, and Apple-John too? Heart, what will you say if this be the appendix or label to both yon indentures?

Punt. It may be.

Car. Resolve us of it, Janus, thou that look'st every way; or thou, Hercules, that hast travelled all countries.

Punt. Nay, Carlo, spend not time in invocations now, 'tis late.

Car. Signior, here's a gentleman desirous of your name, sir.
Ben Jonson’s Plays

Shift. Sir, my name is cavalier Shift: I am known sufficiently in this walk, sir.

Car. Shift! I heard your name varied even now, as I take it.

Shift. True, sir, it pleases the world, as I am her excellent tobaconist, to give me the style of signior Whiffe; as I am a poor esquire about the town here, they call me master Apple-John. Variety of good names does well, sir.

Car. Ay, and good parts, to make those good names; out of which I imagine you bills to be yours.

Shift. Sir, if I should deny the manuscripts, I were worthy to be banished’d the middle aisle for ever.

Car. I take your word, sir: this gentleman has subscribed to them, and is most desirous to become your pupil. Marry, you must use expedition. Signior Insulso Sogliardo, this is the professor.

Sog. In good time, sir: nay, good sir, house your head; do you profess these sleights in tobacco?

Shift. I do more than profess, sir, and, if you please to be a practitioner, I will undertake in one fortnight to bring you, that you shall take it plausibly in any ordinary, theatre, or the Tilt-yard, if need be, in the most popular assembly that is.

Punt. But you cannot bring him to the whiffe so soon?

Shift. Yes, as soon, sir; he shall receive the first, second, and third whiffe, if it please him, and, upon the receipt, take his horse, drink his three cups of canary, and expose one at Hounslow, a second at Stains, and a third at Bagshot.

Car. Baw-waw!

Sog. You will not serve me, sir, will you? I’ll give you more than countenance.

Shift. Pardon me, sir, I do scorn to serve any man.

Car. Who! he serve? ’sblood, he keeps high men, and low men, he! he has a fair living at Fullam.

Shift. But in the nature of a fellow, I’ll be your follower, if you please.

Sog. Sir, you shall stay, and dine with me, and if we can agree, we’ll not part in haste: I am very bountiful to men of quality. Where shall we go, signior?

Punt. Your Mitre is your best house.

Shift. I can make this dog take as many whiffes as I list, and he shall retain, or effume them, at my pleasure.

Punt. By your patience, follow me, fellows.

Sog. Sir Puntarvolo!

Punt. Pardon me, my dog shall not eat in his company for a million.

[Exit with his Servants.

Car. Nay, be not you amazed, signior Whiffe, whatever that stiff-necked gentleman says.

Sog. No, for you do not know the humour of the dog, as we do: Where shall we dine, Carlo? I would fain go to one of these ordinaries, now I am a gentleman.

Car. So you may; were you never at any yet?
Every Man Out of His Humour

Sog. No, faith; but they say there resorts your most choice gallants.

Cor. True, and the fashion is, when any stranger comes in amongst 'em, they all stand up and stare at him, as he were some unknown beast, brought out of Africk; but that will be helped with a good adventurous face. You must be impudent enough, sit down, and use no respect: when anything's propounded above your capacity, smile at it, make two or three faces, and 'tis excellent; they'll think you have travelld; though you argue, a whole day, in silence thus, and discourse in nothing but laughter, 'twill pass. Only, now and then, give fire, discharge a good full oath, and offer a great wager; 'twill be admirable.

Sog. I warrant you, I am resolute; come, good signior, there's a poor French crown for your ordinary.

Shift. It comes well, for I had not so much as the least portcullis of coin before.

Mit. I travail with another objection, signior, which I fear will be enforced against the author, ere I can be deliver'd of it.

Cor. What's that, sir?

Mit. That the argument of his comedy might have been of some other nature, as of a duke to be in love with a countess, and that countess to be in love with the duke's son, and the son to love the lady's waiting-maid; some such cross wooing, with a clown to their servingman, better than to be thus near, and familiarly allied to the time.

Cor. You say well, but I would fain hear one of these autumn-judgments define once, Quid sit comedia? if he cannot, let him content himself with Cicero's definition, till he have strength to propose to himself a better, who would have a comedy to be imitatitio vita, speculum consuetudinis, imago veritatis; a thing throughout pleasant and ridiculous, and accommodated to the correction of manners: if the maker have fail'd in any particle of this, they may worthily tax him; but if not, why—be you, that are for them, silent, as I will be for him; and give way to the actors.

SCENE II.—The Country.

Enter Sordido, with a halter about his neck.

Sord. Nay, God's precious, if the weather and season be so respectless, that beggars shall live as well as their betters; and that my hunger and thirst for riches shall not make them hunger and thirst with poverty; that my sleep shall be broken, and their hearts not broken; that my coffers shall be full, and yet care; their's empty, and yet merry;—'tis time that a cross should bear flesh and blood, since flesh and blood cannot bear this cross.

Mit. What, will he hang himself?

Cor. Faith, ay; it seems his prognostication has not kept touch with him, and that makes him despair.

Mit. Beshrew me, he will be OUT OF HIS HUMOUR then indeed.
Sord. Tut, these star-monger knaves, who would trust them? One says dark and rainy, when 'tis as clear as chrystal; another says, tempestuous blasts and storms, and 'twas as calm as a milk-bowl; here be sweet rascals for a man to credit his whole fortunes with! You sky-staring coxcombs you, you fat-brains, out upon you; you are good for nothing but to sweat night-caps, and make ruggowns dear! you learned men, and have not a legion of devils à votre service / à votre service/ by heaven, I think I shall die a better scholar than they: but soft—

Enter a Hind, with a letter.

How now, sirrah?

Hind. Here's a letter come from your son, sir.

Sord. From my son, sir! what would my son, sir? some good news, no doubt. [Reads.

Sweet and dear father, desiring you first to send me your blessing, which is more worth to me than gold or silver, I desire you likewise to be advertised, that this Shrove-tide, contrary to custom, we use always to have revels; which is indeed dancing, and makes an excellent shew in truth; especially if we gentlemen be well attired, which our seniors note, and think the better of our fathers, the better we are maintained, and that they shall know if they come up, and have anything to do in the law; therefore, good father, these are, for your own sake as well as mine, to re-desire you, that you let me not want that which is fit for the setting up of our name, in the honourable volume of gentility, that I may say to our calumniators, with Tully, Ego sum ortus domus meae, tu occasus tum. And thus, not doubting of your fatherly benevolence, I humbly ask your blessing, and pray God to bless you.

Yours, if his own, [Fungoso.]

How's this! Yours, if his own! Is he not my son, except he be his own son? belike this is some new kind of subscription the gallants use. Well! wherefore dost thou stay, knave? away; go. [Exit Hind.] Here's a letter, indeed! revels? and benevolence? is this a weather to send benevolence? or is this a season to revel in? 'Slid, the devil and all takes part to vex me, I think! this letter would never have come now else, now, now, when the sun shines, and the air thus clear. Soul! if this hold, we shall shortly have an excellent crop of corn spring out of the high ways: the streets and houses of the town will be hid with the rankness of the fruits, that grow there in spite of good husbandry. Go to, I'll prevent the sight of it, come as quickly as it can, I will prevent the sight of it. I have this remedy, heaven. [Clambers up, and suspends the halter to a tree.] Stay; I'll try the pain thus a little. O, nothing, nothing. Well now! shall my son gain a benevolence by my death? or anybody be the better for my gold, or so forth? no; alive I kept it from them, and dead, my ghost shall walk about it, and preserve it. My son and daughter shall starve ere they touch it; I have hid it as deep as hell from the sight of heaven, and to it I go now. [Fings himself off.
Every Man Out of His Humour

Enter five or six Rustics, one after another.

1 Rust. Ah me, what pitiful sight is this! help, help, help!
2 Rust. How now! what's the matter?
1 Rust. O, here's a man has hang'd himself, help to get him again.
2 Rust. Hang'd himself! 'Slid, carry him afore a justice, 'tis chance-medley, o' my word.
3 Rust. How now, what's here to do?
4 Rust. How comes this?
2 Rust. One has executed himself, contrary to order of law, and by my consent he shall answer it. [They cut him down.
5 Rust. Would he were in case to answer it!
1 Rust. Stand by, he recovers, give him breath.
Sord. Oh!
5 Rust. Mass, 'twas well you went the footway, neighbour.
1 Rust. Ay, an I had not cut the halter—
Sord. How! cut the halter! ah me, I am undone, I am undone!
2 Rust. Marry, if you had not been undone, you had been hang'd, I can tell you.
Sord. You thread-bare, horse-bread-eating rascals, if you would needs have been meddling, could you not have untied it, but you must cut it; and in the midst too! ah me!
1 Rust. Out on me, 'tis the caterpillar Sordido! how curst are the poor, that the viper was blest with this good fortune!
2 Rust. Nay, how accurst art thou, that art cause to the curse of the poor?
3 Rust. Ay, and to save so wretched a caitiff?
4 Rust. Curst be thy fingers that loos'd him!
2 Rust. Some desperate fury possess thee, that thou may'st hang thyself too!
5 Rust. Never may'st thou be saved, that saved so damn'd a monster!
Sord. What curses breathe these men! how have my deeds
Made my looks differ from another man's,
That they should thus detest and loathe my life!
Out on my wretched humour! it is that
Makes me thus monstrous in true humane eyes.
Pardon me, gentle friends, I'll make fair 'mends
For my foul errors past, and twenty-fold
Restore to all men, what with wrong I robb'd them:
My barns and garner's shall stand open still
To all the poor that come, and my best grain
Be made alms-bread, to feed half-famish'd mouths.
Though hitherto amongst you I have lived,
Like an unsavoury muck-hill to myself,
Yet now my gather'd heaps being spread abroad,
Shall turn to better and more fruitful uses.
Bless then this man, curse him no more for saving
My life and soul together. O how deeply
The bitter curses of the poor do pierce!
I am by wonder changed; come in with me
And witness my repentance: now I prove,
No life is blest, that is not graced with love.    [Exit.

2 Rust. O miracle! see when a man has grace!
3 Rust. Had it not been pity so good a man should have been cast away?

2 Rust. Well, I'll get our clerk put his conversion in the Acts and Monuments.

4 Rust. Do, for I warrant him he's a martyr.

2 Rust. O God, how he wept, if you mark'd it! did you see how the tears trill'd?

5 Rust. Yes, believe me, like master vicar's bowls upon the green, for all the world.

3 Rust. O neighbour, God's blessing o' your heart, neighbour, 'twas a good grateful deed.    [Exeunt.

Cor. How now, Mitis! what's that you consider so seriously?

Mit. Troth, that which doth essentially please me, the warping condition of this green and soggy multitude; but in good faith, signior, your author hath largely outstript my expectation in this scene, I will liberally confess it. For when I saw Sordido so desperately intended, I thought I had had a hand of him, then.

Cor. What! you supposed he should have hung himself indeed?

Mit. I did, and had framed my objection to it ready, which may yet be very fitly urged, and with some necessity; for though his purposed violence lost the effect, and extended not to death, yet the intent and horror of the object was more than the nature of a comedy will in any sort admit.

Cor. Ay! what think you of Plautus, in his comedy called Cistellaris? there, where he brings in Alcensimarchus with a drawn sword ready to kill himself, and as he is e'en fixing his breast upon it, to be restrained from his resolved outrage, by Silenium and the baud? Is not his authority of power to give our scene approbation?

Mit. Sir, I have this only evasion left me, to say, I think it be so indeed; your memory is happier than mine: but I wonder, what engine he will use to bring the rest out of their humours!

Cor. That will appear anon, never pre-occupy your imagination withal. Let your mind keep company with the scene still, which now removes itself from the country to the court. Here comes Macilente, and signior Brisk freshly suited; lose not yourself, for now the epitasis, or busy part of our subject, is in act.

SCENE III.—An Apartment at the Court.

Enter Macilente, Fastidious, both in a new suit, and Cinedo, with tobacco.

Fast. Well, now, signior Macilente, you are not only welcome to the court, but also to my mistress's withdrawing chamber.—Boy,
get me some tobacco. I'll but go in, and shew I am here, and come to you presently, sir. [Exit.

Mac. What's that he said? by heaven, I mark'd him not:
My thoughts and I were of another world,
I was admiring mine own outside here,
To think what privilege and palm it bears
Here, in the court! be a man ne'er so vile,
In wit, in judgment, manners, or what else;
If he can purchase but a silken cover,
He shall not only pass, but pass regarded:
Whereas, let him be poor, and meanly clad,
Though ne'er so richly parted, you shall have
A fellow that knows nothing but his beef,
Or how to rince his clammy guts in beer,
Will take him by the shoulders, or the throat,
And kick him down the stairs. Such is the state
Of virtue in bad clothes!—ha, ha, ha, ha!
That raiment should be in such high request!
How long should I be, ere I should put off
To the lord chancellor's tomb, or the shrives' posts?
By heav'n, I think, a thousand, thousand year.
His gravity, his wisdom, and his faith
To my dread sovereign, graces that survive him,
These I could well endure to reverence,
But not his tomb; no more than I'd command
The chapel organ for the gilt without,
Or this base-viol, for the varnish'd face.

Re-enter Fastidious.

Fast. I fear I have made you stay somewhat long, sir; but is my tobacco ready, boy?

Cin. Ay, sir.

Fast. Give me; my mistress is upon coming, you shall see her presently, sir. [Puffs.] You'll say you never accosted a more piercing wit.—This tobacco is not dried, boy, or else the pipe is defective.—Oh, your wits of Italy are nothing comparable to her: her brain's a very quiver of jests, and she does dart them abroad with that sweet, loose, and judicial aim, that you would—here she comes, sir. [Saviolina looks in, and draws back again.

Mac. 'Twas time, his invention had been bogged else.

Sav. [within.] Give me my fan there.

Mac. How now, monsieur Brisk?

Fast. A kind of affectionate reverence strikes me with a cold shivering, methinks.

Mac. I like such tempers well, as stand before their mistresses with fear and trembling; and before their Maker, like impudent mountains!

Fast. By this hand, I'd spend twenty pound my vaulting horse stood here now, she might see me do but one trick.
Ben Jonson’s Plays

Maci. Why, does she love activity?
Cin. Or, if you had but your long stockings on, to be dancing a galliard as she comes by.
Fast. Ay, either. O, these stirring humours make ladies mad with desire; she comes. My good genius embolden me: boy, the pipe quickly.

Enter Saviolina.

Maci. What! will he give her music?
Fast. A second good morrow to my fair mistress.
Sav. Fair servent, I’ll thank you a day hence, when the date of your salutation comes forth.
Fast. How like you that answer? is’t not admirable?
Maci. I were a simple courtier, if I could not admire trifles, sir.
Fast. [Talks and takes tobacco between the breaks.] Troth, sweet lady, I shall [puffs]—be prepared to give you thanks for those thanks, and—study more officious, and obsequious regards—to your fair beauties.—Mend the pipe, boy.
Maci. I never knew tobacco taken as a parenthesis before.
Fast. Fore God, sweet lady, believe it, I do honour the meanest rush in this chamber for your love.
Sav. Ay, you need not tell me that, sir; I do think you do prize a rush before my love.
Maci. Is this the wonder of nations!
Fast. O, by this air, pardon me, I said for your love, by this light: but it is the accustomed sharpness of your ingenuity, sweet mistress, to [takes down the viol, and plays]—mass, your viol’s new strung, methinks.
Maci. Ingenuity! I see his ignorance will not suffer him to slander her, which he had done most notably, if he had said wit for ingenuity, as he meant it.
Fast. By the soul of music, lady—hum, hum.
Sav. Would we might hear it once.
Fast. I do more adore and admire your—hum, hum—predominant perfections, than—hum, hum—ever I shall have power and faculty to express—hum.
Sav. Upon the viol de gambo, you mean?
Fast. It’s miserably out of tune, by this hand.
Sav. Nay, rather by the fingers.
Maci. It makes good harmony with her wit.
Fast. Sweet lady, tune it. [Saviolina tunes the viol.]—Boy, some tobacco.
Maci. Tobacco again! he does court his mistresse with very exceeding good changes.
Fast. Signior Macilente, you take none, sir?
Maci. No, unless I had a mistresse, signior, it were a great indecorum for me to take tobacco.
Fast. How like you her wit?

[ Talks and takes tobacco between again.

Maci. Her ingenuity is excellent, sir.
Every Man Out of His Humour

Fast. You see the subject of her sweet fingers there—Oh, she tickles it so, that—She makes it laugh most divinely;—I'll tell you a good jest now, and yourself shall say it's a good one: I have wished myself to be that instrument, I think, a thousand times, and not so few, by heaven!—

Maci. Not unlike, sir; but how? to be cased up and hung by on the wall?

Fast. O, no, sir, to be in use, I assure you; as your judicious eyes may testify.—

Sav. Here, servant, if you will play, come.

Fast. Instantly, sweet lady.—In good faith, here's most divine tobacco!

Sav. Nay, I cannot stay to dance after your pipe.

Fast. Good! Nay, dear lady, stay; by this sweet smoke, I think your wit be all fire.—

Maci. And he's the salamander belongs to it.

Sav. Is your tobacco perfumed, servant, that you swear by the sweet smoke?

Fast. Still more excellent! Before heaven, and these bright lights, I think—you are made of ingenuity, l—

Maci. True, as your discourse is. O abominable!

Fast. Will your ladyship take any?

Sav. O peace, I pray you; I love not the breath of a woodcock's head.

Fast. Meaning my head, lady?

Sav. Not altogether so, sir; but, as it were fatal to their follies that think to grace themselves with taking tobacco, when they want better entertainment, you see your pipe bears the true form of a woodcock's head.

Fast. O admirable simile!

Sav. 'Tis best leaving of you in admiration, sir. [Exit.

Maci. Are these the admired lady-wits, that having so good a plain song, can run no better division upon it? All her jests are of the stamp March was fifteen years ago. Is this the comet, monsieur Fastidious, that your gallants wonder at so?

Fast. Heart of a gentleman, to neglect me afore the presence thus! Sweet sir, I beseech you be silent in my disgrace. By the muses, I was never in so vile a humour in my life, and her wit was at the flood too! Report it not for a million, good sir; let me be so far endeared to your love.

[Exeunt.

Mit. What follows next, signior Cordatus? this gallant's humour is almost spent; methinks it ebbs apace, with this contrary breath of his mistress.

Cor. O, but it will flow again for all this, till there come a general drought of humour among all our actors, and then I fear not but his will fall as low as any. See who presents himself here!

Mit. What, in the old case?

Cor. Ay, faith, which makes it the more pitiful; you understand where the scene is?
ACT IV

SCENE I.—A Room in Deliro's House.

Enter Fungoso, Fallace following him.

Fal. Why are you so melancholy, brother?
Fung. I am not melancholy, I thank you, sister.
Fal. Why are you not merry then? there are but two of us in all the world, and if we should not be comforts one to another, God help us!
Fung. Faith, I cannot tell, sister; but if a man had any true melancholy in him, it would make him melancholy to see his yeomanly father cut his neighbours' throats, to make his son a gentleman; and yet, when he has cut them, he will see his son's throat cut too, ere he make him a true gentleman indeed, before death cut his own throat. I must be the first head of our house, and yet he will not give me the head till I be made so. Is any man termed a gentleman, that is not always in the fashion? I would know but that.
Fal. If you be melancholy for that, brother, I think I have as much cause to be melancholy as any one: for I'll be sworn, I live as little in the fashion as any woman in London. By the faith of a gentlewoman, beast that I am to say it! I have not one friend in the world besides my husband. When saw you master Fastidious Brisk, brother?
Fung. But a while since, sister, I think: I know not well in truth. By this hand I could fight with all my heart, methinks.
Fal. Nay, good brother, be not resolute.
Fung. I sent him a letter, and he writes me no answer neither.
Fal. Oh, sweet Fastidious Brisk! O fine courtier! thou art he makest me sigh, and say, how blessed is that woman that hath a courtier to her husband, and how miserable a dame she is, that hath neither husband, nor friend in the court! O sweet Fastidious! O fine courtier! How comely he bows him in his court'sy! how full he hits a woman between the lips when he kisses! how upright he sits at the table! how daintily he carves! how sweetly he talks, and tells news of this lord and of that lady! how cleanly he wipes his spoon at every spoonful of any whitemeat he eats! and what a neat case of pick-tooths he carries about him still! O sweet Fastidious! O fine courtier!

Enter Deliro at a distance, with Musicians.

Deli. See, yonder she is, gentlemen. Now, as ever you'll bear the name of musicians, touch your instruments sweetly; she has a delicate ear, I tell you: play not a false note, I beseech you.
Mus. Fear not, signior Deliro.
Deli. O, Begin, begin, some sprightly thing: lord, how my imagination labours with the success of it! [They strike up a lively
Every Man Out of His Humour

Ful. Hey—da! this is excellent! I'll lay my life this is my husband's dotage. I thought so; nay, never play bo-peep with me; I know you do nothing but study how to anger me, sir.

Deli. [coming forward.] Anger thee, sweet wife! why, didst thou not send for musicians at supper last night thyself?

Ful. To supper, sir! now, come up to supper, I beseech you: as though there were no difference between supper-time, when folks should be merry, and this time when they should be melancholy. I would never take upon me to take a wife, if I had no more judgment to please her.

Deli. Be pleased, sweet wife, and they shall have done; and would to fate my life were done, if I can never please thee!

[Exeunt Musicians.

Enter Macilente.

Maci. Save you, lady; where is master Deliro?

Deli. Here, master Macilente: you are welcome from court, sir; no doubt you have been graced exceedingly of master Brisk's mistress, and the rest of the ladies for his sake.

Maci. Alas, the poor fantastic! he's scarce known
To any lady there; and those that know him,
Know him the simplest man of all they know:
Deride, and play upon his amorous humours,
Though he but apishly doth imitate
The gallant'st courtiers, kissing ladies' pumps,
Holding the cloth for them, praising their wits,
And servilely observing every one
May do them pleasure: fearful to be seen
With any man, though he be ne'er so worthy,
That's not in grace with some that are the greatest.
Thus courtiers do, and these he counterfeits,
But sets no such a slyly carriage
Upon their vanities, as they themselves;
And therefore they despise him: for indeed
He's like the zany to a tumbler,
That tries tricks after him, to make men laugh.

Ful. Here's an unthankful spiteful wretch! the good gentleman vouchsafed to make him his companion, because my husband put him into a few rags, and now see how the unrude rascal backbites him! [Aside.

Deli. Is he no more graced amongst them then, say you?

Maci. Faith, like a pawn at chess: fills up a room, that's all.

Ful. O monster of men! can the earth bear such an envious caitiff? [Aside.

Deli. Well, I repent me I ever credited him so much: but now I see what he is, and that his masking vizor is off, I'll forbear him no longer. All his lands are mortgaged to me, and forfeited; besides, I have bonds of his in my hand, for the receipt of now fifty pounds
now a hundred, now two hundred; still, as he has had a fan but wagged at him, he would be in a new suit. Well, I'll salute him by a serjeant, the next time I see him i'faith, I'll suit him.

**Maci.** Why, you may soon see him, sir, for he is to meet signior Puntarvolo at a notary's by the Exchange, presently; where he means to take up, upon return.

**Fal.** Now, out upon thee, Judas! canst thou not be content to backbite thy friend, but thou must betray him! Wilt thou seek the undoing of any man? and of such a man too? and will you, sir, get your living by the counsel of traitors?

**Deli.** Dear wife, have patience.

**Fal.** The house will fall, the ground will open and swallow us: I'll not bide here for all the gold and silver in heaven.

[Exit with Fungoso.

**Deli.** O, good Macilente, let's follow and appease her, or the peace of my life is at an end. [Exit.

**Maci.** Now pease, and not peace, feed that life, whose head hangs so heavily over a woman's manger! [Exit.

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**SCENE II.—Another Room in the same.**

**Enter Fallace and Fungoso running; she claps to the door.**

**Fal.** Help me, brother! Ods body, an you come here I'll do myself a mischief.

**Deli.** [within.] Nay, hear me, sweet wife; unless thou wilt have me go, I will not go.

**Fal.** Tut, you shall never have that vantage of me, to say, you are undone by me. I'll not bid you stay, I. Brother, sweet brother, here's four angels, I'll give you towards your suit: for the love of gentry, and as ever you came of Christian creature, make haste to the water side, (you know where master Fastidious uses to land,) and give him warning of my husband's malicious intent; and tell him of that lean rascal's treachery. O heavens, how my flesh rises at him! Nay, sweet brother, make haste: you may say, I would have writ to him, but that the necessity of the time would not permit. He cannot choose but take it extraordinarily from me: and commend me to him, good brother; say, I sent you. [Exit.

**Fung.** Let me see, these four angels, and then forty shillings more I can borrow on my gown in Fetter Lane.—Well, I will go presently, say on my suit, pay as much money as I have, and swear myself into credit with my tailor for the rest. [Exit.

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**SCENE III.—Another Room in the same.**

**Enter Deliro and Macilente.**

**Deli.** O, on my soul you wrong her, Macilente. Though she be froward, yet I know she is honest.

**Maci.** Well, then have I no judgment. Would any woman, but one that were wild in her affections, have broke out into that
immodest and violent passion against her husband? or is't possible—

Deli. If you love me, forbear; all the arguments i' the world shall never wrest my heart to believe it. [Exeunt.

Cor. How like you the deciphering of his dotage?
Mit. O, strangely: and of the other's envy too, that labours so seriously to set debate betwixt a man and his wife. Stay, here comes the knight adventurer.
Cor. Ay, and his scrivener with him.

SCENE IV.—PUNTARVOLO'S Lodgings.

Enter PUNTARVOLO, Notary, and Servants with the dog and cat.

Punt. I wonder monsieur Fastidious comes not! But, notary, if thou please to draw the indentures the while, I will give thee thy instructions.

Not. With all my heart, sir; and I'll fall in hand with them presently.

Punt. Well then, first the sum is to be understood.

Not. [writes.] Good, sir.

Punt. Next, our several appellations, and character of my dog and cat, must be known. Shew him the cat, sirrah.

Not. So. sir.

Punt. Then, that the intended bound is the Turk's court in Constantinople; the time limited for our return, a year; and that if either of us miscarry, the whole venture is lost. These are general, conceiv'est thou? or if either of us turn Turk.

Not. Ay, sir.

Punt. Now, for particulars: that I may make my travels by sea or land, to my best liking; and that hiring a coach for myself, it shall be lawful for my dog or cat, or both, to ride with me in the said coach.

Not. Very good, sir.

Punt. That I may choose to give my dog or cat, fish, for fear of bones; or any other nutriment that, by the judgment of the most authentical physicians where I travel, shall be thought dangerous.

Not. Well, sir.

Punt. That, after the receipt of his money, he shall neither, in his own person, nor any other, either by direct or indirect means, as magic, witchcraft, or other such exotic arts, attempt, practise, or comploit any thing to the prejudice of me, my dog, or my cat: neither shall I use the help of any such sorceries or enchantments, asunctions to make our skins impenetrable, or to travel invisible by virtue of a powder, or a ring, or to hang any three-forked charm about my dog's neck, secretly conveyed into his collar; (understand you?) but that all be performed sincerely, without fraud or imposture.

Not. So. sir.

Punt. That, for testimony of the performance, myself am to
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bring thence a Turk's mustachio, my dog a Grecian hare's lips, and my cat the train or tail of a Thracian rat.

Not. [writes.] 'Tis done, sir.

Punt. 'Tis said, sir; not done, sir. But forward; that, upon my return, and landing on the Tower-wharf, with the aforesaid testimony, I am to receive five for one, according to the proportion of the sums put forth.

Not. Well, sir.

Punt. Provided, that if before our departure, or setting forth, either myself or these be visited with sickness, or any other casual event, so that the whole course of the adventure be hindered thereby, that then he is to return, and I am to receive the pre-nominated proportion upon fair and equal terms.

Not. Very good, sir; is this all?

Punt. It is all, sir; and dispatch them, good notary.

Not. As fast as is possible, sir. [Exit.

Enter Carlo.

Punt. O Carlo! welcome: saw you monsieur Brisk?

Car. Not I: did he appoint you to meet here?

Punt. Ay, and I muse he should be so tardy; he is to take an hundred pounds of me in venture, if he maintain his promise.

Car. Is his hour past?

Punt. Not yet, but it comes on apace.

Car. Tut, be not jealous of him; he will sooner break all the commandments, than his hour; upon my life, in such a case trust him.

Punt. Methinks, Carlo, you look very smooth, ha!

Car. Why, I came but now from a hot-house; I must needs look smooth.

Punt. From a hot-house!

Car. Ay, do you make a wonder on't? why, it is your only physic. Let a man sweat once a week in a hot-house, and be well rubb'd, and frothed, with a good plump juicy wench, and sweet linen, he shall ne'er have the pox.

Punt. What, the French pox?

Car. The French pox! our pox: we have them in as good a form as they, man; what?

Punt. Let me perish, but thou art a salt one! was your new-created gallant there with you, Sogliardo?

Car. O porpoise! hang him, no: he's a leiger at Horn's ordinary, yonder; his villainous Ganymede and he have been droning a tobacco-pipe there ever since yesterday noon.

Punt. Who? signior Tripartite, that would give my dog the whiffie?

Car. Ay, he. They have hired a chamber and all, private, to practise in, for the making of the patoum, the receipt reciprocal, and a number of other mysteries not yet extant. I brought some dozen or twenty gallants this morning to view them, as you'd do a piece of perspective, in at a key-hole; and there we might see Sogliardo
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sit in a chair, holding his snout up like a sow under an apple-tree, while the other open'd his nostrils with a poking-stick, to give the smoke a more free delivery. They had spit some three or fourscore ounces between 'em, afore we came away.

Punt. How! spit three or fourscore ounces?

Car. Ay, and preserv'd it in porringers, as a barber does his blood, when he opens a vein.

Punt. Out, pagan! how dost thou open the vein of thy friend?

Car. Friend! is there any such foolish thing in the world, ha? 'slid, I never relished it yet.

Punt. Thy humour is the more dangerous.

Car. No, not a whit, signior. Tut, a man must keep time in all; I can oil my tongue when I meet him next, and look with a good sleek forehead; 'twill take away all soil of suspicion, and that's enough: what Lynceus can see my heart? Pish, the title of a friend! it's a vein, idle thing, only venerable among fools; you shall not have one that has any opinion of wit affect it.

Enter Deliro and Macilente.

Deli. Save you, good sir Puntarvolo.

Punt. Signior Deliro! welcome.

Deli. Pray you, sir, did you see master Fastidious Brisk?

I heard he was to meet your worship here.

Punt. You heard no figment, sir; I do expect him at every pulse of my watch.

Deli. In good time, sir.

Car. There's a fellow now looks like one of the patricians of Sparta; marry, his wit's after ten i' the hundred: a good blood-hound, a close-mouthed dog, he follows the scent well; marry, he's at a fault now, methinks.

Punt. I should wonder at that creature is free from the danger of thy tongue.

Car. O, I cannot abide these limbs of satin, or rather Satan indeed, that will walk, like the children of darkness, all day in a melancholy shop, with their pockets full of blanks, ready to swallow up as many poor unthrifts as come within the verge.

Punt. So! and what hast thou for him that is with him, now?

Car. O, d——n me! immortality! I'll not meddle with him; the pure element of fire, all spirit, extraction.

Punt. How, Carlo! ha, what is he, man?

Car. A scholar, Macilente; do you not know him? a rank, raw-boned anatomy, he walks up and down like a charged musket, no man dares encounter him: that's his rest there.

Punt. His rest! why, has he a forked head?

Car. Pardon me, that's to be suspended; you are too quick, too apprehensive.

Deli. Troth, now I think on't, I'll defer it till some other time.

Maci. Not by any means, signior, you shall not lose this opportunity, he will be here presently now.
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Del. Yes, faith, Macilente, ’tis best. For, look you, sir, I shall so exceedingly offend my wife in’t, that—

Maci. Your wife! now for shame lose these thoughts, and become the master of your own spirits. Should I, if I had a wife, suffer myself to be thus passionately carried to and fro with the stream of her humour, and neglect my deepest affairs, to serve her affections? ’Slight, I would geld myself first.

Del. O, but signior, had you such a wife as mine is, you would—

Maci. Such a wife! Now hate me, sir, if ever I discern’d any wonder in your wife yet, with all the speculation I have: I have seen some that have been thought fairer than she, in my time; and I have seen those, have not been altogether so tall, esteem’d properer women; and I have seen less noses grow upon sweeter faces, that have done very well too, in my judgment. But, in good faith, signior, for all this, the gentlewoman is a good, pretty, proud, hard-favour’d thing, marry not so peerlessly to be doted upon, I must confess: nay, be not angry.

Del. Well, sir, however you please to forget yourself, I have not deserv’d to be thus played upon; but henceforth, pray you forbear my house, for I can but faintly endure the savour of his breath, at my table, that shall thus jade me for my courtesies.

Maci. Nay, then, signior, let me tell you, your wife is no proper woman, and by my life, I suspect her honesty, that’s more, which you may likewise suspicion, if you please, do you see? I’ll urge you to nothing against your appetite, but if you please, you may suspect it.

Del. Good, sir. [Exit.

Maci. Good, sir! now horn upon horn pursue thee, thou blind, egregious dotard!

Car. O, you shall hear him speak like envy.—Signior Macilente, you saw monsieur Brisk lately: I heard you were with him at court.

Maci. Ay, Buffone, I was with him.

Car. And how is he respected there? I know you’ll deal ingenuously with us; is he made much of amongst the sweeter sort of gallants?

Maci. Faith, ay; his civet and his casting-glass
Have helpt him to a place amongst the rest:
And there, his seniors give him good slight looks,
After their garb, smile, and salute in French
With some new compliment.

Car. What, is this all?

Maci. Why say, that they should shew the frothy fool
Such grace as they pretend comes from the heart,
He had a mighty windfall out of doubt!
Why, all their graces are not to do grace
To virtue or desert; but to ride both
With their gilt spurs quite breathless, from themselves.
’Tis now esteem’d precisianism in wit,
And a disease in nature, to be kind
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Toward desert, to love or seek good names.
Who feeds with a good name? who thrives with loving?
Who can provide feast for his own desires,
With serving others?—ha, ha, ha!
'Tis folly, by our wisest worldlings proved,
If not to gain by love, to be beloved.

Car. How like you him? is't not a good spiteful slave, ha?
Punt. Shrewd, shrewd.

Car. D—n me! I could eat his flesh now; divine sweet villain!

Maci. Nay, prithee leave: What's he there?

Car. Who? this in the starched beard? it's the dull stiff knight
Puntarvolo, man; he's to travel now presently: he has a good
knotty wit; marry, he carries little on't out of the land with him.

Maci. How then?

Car. He puts it forth in venture, as he does his money upon the
return of a dog and cat.

Maci. Is this he?

Car. Ay, this is he; a good tough gentleman: he looks like a
shield of brawn at Shrove-tide, out of date, and ready to take his
leave; or a dry pole of ling upon Easter-eve, that has furnish'd the
table all Lent, as he has done the city this last vacation.

Maci. Come, you'll never leave your stabbing similes: I shall
have you aiming at me with 'em by and by; but—

Car. O, renounce me then! pure, honest, good devil, I love thee
above the love of women: I could e'en melt in admiration of thee,
now. Ods so, look here, man; Sir Dagonet and his squire!

Enter Sogliardo and Shift.

Sog. Save you, my dear gallantos: nay, come, approach, good
cavalier: prithee, sweet knight, know this gentleman, he's one that
it pleases me to use as my good friend and companion; and there-
fore do him good offices: I beseech you, gentle, know him, I know
him all over.

Punt. Sir, for signior Sogliardo's sake, let it suffice, I know you.

Sog. Why, as I am a gentleman, I thank you, knight, and it shall
suffice. Hark you, sir Puntarvolo, you'd little think it; he's as
resolute a piece of flesh as any in the world.

Punt. Indeed, sir!

Sog. Upon my gentility, sir: Carlo, a word with you; do you
see that same fellow, there?

Car. What, cavalier Shift?

Sog. O, you know him; cry you mercy: before me, I think him
the tallest man living within the walls of Europe.

Car. The walls of Europe! take heed what you say, signior,
Europe's a huge thing within the walls.

Sog. Tut, an 'twere as huge again, I'd justify what I speak.
'Slid, he swagger'd even now in a place where we were—I never
saw a man do it more resolute.
Car. Nay, indeed, swaggering is a good argument of resolution. Do you hear this, signior?
Mac. Ay, to my grief. O, that such muddy flags, For every drunken flourish should achieve The name of manhood, whilst true perfect valour, Hating to shew itself, goes by despised! Heart! I do know now, in a fair just cause, I dare do more than he, a thousand times: Why should not they take knowledge of this, ha! And give my worth allowance before his? Because I cannot swagger.—Now, the pox Light on your Pickt-hatch prowess!
Sog. Why, I tell you, sir; he has been the only Bid-stand that ever kept New-market, Salisbury-plain, Hockley i' the Hole, Gads-hill, and all the high places of any request: he has had his mares and his geldings, he, have been worth forty, threescore, a hundred pound a horse, would ha' sprung you over hedge and ditch like your greyhound: he has done five hundred robberies in his time, more or less, I assure you.
Punt. What, and scaped?
Sog. Scaped! 'tis faith, ay: he has broken the gaol when he has been in irons and irons; and been out and in again; and out, and in; forty times, and not so few, he.
Mac. A fit trumpet, to proclaim such a person.
Car. But can this be possible?
Shift. Why, 'tis nothing, sir, when a man gives his affections to it. Sog. Good Pylades, discourse a robbery or two, to satisfy these gentlemen of thy worth.
Shift. Pardon me, my dear Orestes; causes have their quiddits, and 'tis ill jesting with bell-ropes.
Car. How! Pylades and Orestes?
Sog. Ay, he is my Pylades, and I am his Orestes: how like you the conceit?
Car. O, 'tis an old stale interlude device: no, I'll give you names myself, look you; he shall be your Judas, and you shall be his elder-tree to hang on.
Mac. Nay, rather let him be captain Pod, and this his motion: for he does nothing but shew him.
Car. Excellent: or thus; you shall be Holden, and he your camel.
Shift. You do not mean to ride, gentlemen?
Punt. Faith, let me end it for you, gallants: you shall be his Countenance, and he your Resolution.
Sog. Troth, that's pretty: how say you, cavalier, shall it be so?
Car. Ay, ay, most voices.
Shift. Faith, I am easily yielding to any good impressions.
Sog. Then give hands, good Resolution.
Car. Mass, he cannot say, good Countenance, now, properly, to him again.
Punt. Yes, by an irony.
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Maci. O, sir, the countenance of Resolution should, as he is, be altogether grim and unpleasant.

Enter Fastidious Brisk.

Fast. Good hours make music with your mirth, gentlemen, and keep time to your humours!—How now, Carlo?

Punt. Monsieur Brisk! many a long look have I extended for you, sir.

Fast. Good faith, I must crave pardon: I was invited this morning, ere I was out of my bed, by a bevy of ladies, to a banquet: whence it was almost one of Hercules’s labours for me to come away, but that the respect of my promise did so prevail with me. I know they’ll take it very ill, especially one, that gave me this bracelet of her hair but over night, and this pearl another gave me from her forehead, marry she—what! are the writings ready?

Punt. I will send my man to know. Sirrah, go you to the notary’s, and learn if he be ready: leave the dog, sir. [Exit Servant.

Fast. And how does my rare qualified friend, Sogliardo? Oh, signior Macilente! by these eyes, I saw you not; I had saluted you sooner else, o’ my troth. I hope, sir, I may presume upon you, that you will not divulge my late check, or disgrace, indeed, sir.

Maci. You may, sir.

Car. He knows some notorious jest by this gull, that he hath him so obsequious.

Sog. Monsieur Fastidious, do you see this fellow there? does he not look like a clown? would you think there were any thing in him?

Fast. Any thing in him! beshrew me, ay; the fellow hath a good ingenious face.

Sog. By this element he is as ingenious a tall man as ever swagger’d about London: he, and I, call Countenance and Resolution; but his name is cavalier Shift.

Punt. Cavalier, you knew signior Clog, that was hang’d for the robbery at Harrow on the hill?

Sog. Knew him, sir! why, ’twas he gave all the directions for the action.

Punt. How! was it your project, sir?

Shift. Pardon me, Countenance, you do me some wrong to make occasions public, which I imparted to you in private.

Sog. God’s will! here are none but friends, Resolution.

Shift. That’s all one; things of consequence must have their respects; where, how, and to whom.—Yes, sir, he shewed himself a true Clog in the coherence of that affair, sir; for, if he had managed matters as they were corroborated to him, it had been better for him by a forty or fifty score of pounds, sir; and he himself might have lived, in despight of fates, to have fed on woodcocks, with the rest: but it was his heavy fortune to sink, poor Clog! and therefore talk no more of him.

Punt. Why, had he more aiders then?
Sog. O lord, sir! ay, there were some present there, that were
the Nine Worthies to him, 'tis faith.

Shift. Ay, sir, I can satisfy you at more convenient conference:
but, for mine own part, I have now reconnoitred myself to other
courses, and profess a living out of my other qualities.

Sog. Nay, he has left all now, I assure you, and is able to live
like a gentleman, by his qualities. By this dog, he has the most
rare gift in tobacco that ever you knew.

Cnr. He keeps more ado with this monster, than ever Banks did
with his horse, or the fellow with the elephant.

Mact. He will hang out his picture shortly, in a cloth, you shall
see.

Sog. O, he does manage a quarrel the best that ever you saw, for
terms and circumstances.

Fast. Good faith, signior, now you speak of a quarrel, I'll acquaint
you with a difference that happened between a gallant and myself;
sir Puntarvol, you know him if I should name him, signior Lucu-
leto.

Punt. Luculento! what inauspicious chance interposed itself to
your two loves?

Fast. Faith, sir, the same that sundered Agamemnon and great
Thetis' son; but let the cause escape, sir: he sent me a challenge,
mixt with some few braves, which I restored, and in fine we met.
Now, indeed, sir, I must tell you, he did offer at first very desperately,
but without judgment: for, look you, sir, I cast myself into this
figure; now he comes violently on, and withal advancing his rapier
to strike, I thought to have took his arm, for he had left his whole
body to my election, and I was sure he could not recover his guard.
Sir, I mist my purpose in his arm, rash'd his doublet-sleeve, ran him
close by the left cheek, and through his hair. He again lights me
here,—I had on a gold cable hatband, then new come up, which I
wore about a murey French hat I had,—cuts my hatband, and yet
it was massy goldsmith's work, cuts my brims, which by good
fortune, being thick embroidered with gold twist and spangles,
disappointed the force of the blow: nevertheless, it grazed on my
shoulder, takes me away six purls of an Italian out-work band I
wore, cost me three pound in the Exchange but three days
before.

Punt. This was a strange encounter.

Fast. Nay, you shall hear, sir: with this we both fell out, and
breath'd. Now, upon the second sign of his assault, I betook
me to the former manner of my defence; he, on the other side,
abandon'd his body to the same danger as before, and follows me
still with blows: but I being loth to take the deadly advantage that
lay before me of his left side, made a kind of stramazoun, ran him
up to the hilts through the doublet, through the shirt, and yet
miss'd the skin. He, making a reverse blow,—falls upon my em-
bose'd girdle, I had thrown off the hangers a little before—strikes
off a skirt of a thick-laced satin doublet I had, lined with four
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taffetas, cuts off two panes embroidered with pearl, rends through
the drawings out of tissue, enters the linings, and skips the flesh.

Car. I wonder he speaks not of his wrought shirt.

Fast. Here, in the opinion of mutual damage, we paused; but,
ere I proceed, I must tell you, signior, that, in this last encounter,
not having leisure to put off my silver spurs, one of the rowels
catch'd hold of the ruffle of my boot, and, being Spanish leather,
and subject to tear, overthrows me, rends me two pair of silk
stockings, that I put on, being somewhat a raw morning, a peach
colour and another, and strikes me some half inch deep into the side
of the calf: he, seeing the blood come, presently takes horse, and
away: I, having bound up my wound with a piece of my wrought
shirt—

Car. O! comes it in there?

Fast. Rid after him, and, lighting at the court gate both together,
embraced, and march'd hand in hand up into the presence. Was
not this business well carried?

Maci. Well! yes, and by this we can guess what apparel the
gentleman wore.

Punt. 'Fore valour, it was a designment begun with much
resolution, maintain'd with as much prowess, and ended with more
humanity.—

Re-enter Servant.

How now, what says the notary?

Serv. He says, he is ready, sir; he stays but your worship's
pleasure.

Punt. Come, we will go to him, monsieur. Gentlemen, shall we
entreat you to be witnesses?

Sog. You shall entreat me, sir.—Come, Resolution.

Shift. I follow you, good Countenance.

Car. Come, signior, come, come. [Exeunt all but Macilente.

Maci. O, that there should be fortune
To clothe these men, so naked in desert!
And that the just storm of a wretched life
Beats them not ragged for their wretched souls,
And, since as fruitless, even as black, as coals! [Exit.

Mit. Why, but signior, how comes it that Fungoso appeared not
with his sister's intelligence to Brisk?

Cor. Marry, long of the evil angels that she gave him, who have
indeed tempted the good simple youth to follow the tail of the fashion,
and neglect the imposition of his friends. Behold, here he comes, very
worshipfully attended, and with good variety.
SCENE V.—A Room in Deliro's House.

Enter Fungoso in a new suit, followed by his Tailor, Shoemaker, and Haberdasher.

Fung. Gramercy, good shoemaker, I'll put to strings myself. [Exit Shoemaker.]—Now, sir, let me see, what must you have for this hat?

Habe. Here's the bill, sir.

Fung. How does it become me, well?

Tai. Excellent, sir, as ever you had any hat in your life.

Fung. Nay, you'll say so all.

Habe. In faith, sir, the hat's as good as any man in this town can serve you, and will maintain fashion as long; never trust me for a great else.

Fung. Does it apply well to my suit?

Tai. Exceeding well, sir.

Fung. How lik'est thou my suit, haberdasher?

Habe. By my troth, sir, 'tis very rarely well made; I never saw a suit sit better, I can tell on.

Tai. Nay, we have no art to please our friends, we!

Fung. Here, haberdasher, tell this same. [Gives him money.

Habe. Good faith, sir, it makes you have an excellent body.

Fung. Nay, believe me, I think I have as good a body in clothes as another.

Tai. You lack points to bring your apparel together, sir.

Fung. I'll have points anon. How now! Is't right?

Habe. Faith, sir, 'tis too little; but upon farther hopes—Good morrow to you, sir. [Exit.

Fung. Farewell, good haberdasher. Well, now, master Snip, let me see your bill.

Mit. Me thinks he discharges his followers too thick.

Cor. O, therein he saucily imitates some great man. I warrant you, though he turns off them, he keeps this tailor, in place of a page, to follow him still.

Fung. This bill is very reasonable, in faith: hark you, master Snip—Troth, sir, I am not altogether so well furnished at this present, as I could wish I were; but—if you'll do me the favour to take part in hand, you shall have all I have, by this hand.

Tai. Sir—

Fung. And but give me credit for the rest, till the beginning of the next term.

Tai. A lord, sir—

Fung. Fere God, and by this light, I'll pay you to the utmost, and acknowledge myself very deeply engaged to you by the courtesy.

Tai. Why, how much have you there, sir?

Fung. Marry, I have here four angels, and fifteen shillings of white money: it's all I have, as I hope to be blest.
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Tai. You will not fail me at the next term with the rest?
Fung. No, an I do, pray heaven I be hang'd. Let me never breathe again upon this mortal stage, as the philosopher calls it! By this air, and as I am a gentleman, I'll hold.

Cor. He were an iron-hearted fellow, in my judgment, that would not credit him upon this volley of oaths.

Tai. Well, sir, I'll not stick with any gentleman for a trifle: you know what 'tis remains?
Fung. Ay, sir, and I give you thanks in good faith. O fate, how happy I am made in this good fortune! Well, now I'll go seek out monsieur Brisk. 'Ods so, I have forgot riband for my shoes, and points. 'Slid, what luck's this! how shall I do? Master Snip, pray let me reduct some two or three shillings for points and ribands: as I am an honest man, I have utterly disfurnished myself, in the default of memory; pray let me be beholding to you; it shall come home in the bill, believe me.

Tai. Faith, sir, I can hardly depart with ready money; but I'll take up, and send you some by my boy presently. What coloured riband would you have?
Fung. What you shall think meet in your judgment, sir, to my suit.
Tai. Well, I'll send you some presently.
Fung. And points too, sir?
Tai. And points too, sir.
Fung. Good lord, how shall I study to deserve this kindness of you, sir! Pray let your youth make haste, for I should have done a business an hour since, that I doubt I shall come too late. [Exit Tailor.] Now, in good faith, I am exceeding proud of my suit.

Cor. Do you observe the plunjes that this poor gallant is put to, signior, to purchase the fashion?
Mit. Ay, and to be still a fashion behind with the world, that's the sport.
Cor. Stay: O, here they come from seal'd and deliver'd.

SCENE VI.—PUNTARVOLO'S Lodgings.

Enter PUNTARVOLO, FASTIDIOUS BRISK in a new suit, and Servants with the dog.

Punt. Well, now my whole venture is forth, I will resolve to depart shortly.
Fast. Faith, sir Puntarvolo, go to the court, and take leave of the ladies first.
Punt. I care not, if it be this afternoon's labour. Where is Carlo?
Fast. Here he comes.
Enter CARLO, SOGLIARDO, SHIFT, and MACILENTE.

Car. Faith, gallants, I am persuading this gentleman [points to Sogliardo] to turn courtier. He is a man of fair revenue, and his estate will bear the charge well. Besides, for his other gifts of the mind, or so, why they are as nature lent him them, pure, simple, without any artificial drug or mixture of these two threadbare beggarly qualities, learning and knowledge, and therefore the more accommodate and genuine. Now, for the life itself——

Fast. O, the most celestial, and full of wonder and delight, that can be imagined, signor, beyond thought and apprehension of pleasure! A man lives there in that divine rapture, that he will think himself i’ the ninth heaven for the time, and lose all sense of mortality whatsoever, when he shall behold such glorious, and almost immortal beauties; hear such angelical and harmonious voices, discourse with such flowing and ambrosial spirits, whose wits are as sudden as lightning, and humorous as nectar; oh, it makes a man all quintessence and flame, and lifts him up, in a moment, to the very crystal crown of the sky, where, hovering in the strength of his imagination, he shall behold all the delights of the Hesperides, the Insulae Fortunatae, Adonis’ Gardens, Temp, or what else, confined within the amplest verge of poetry, to be mere umbra, and imperfect figures, conferred with the most essential felicity of your court.

Maci. Well, this ecomium was not extemportal, it came too perfectly off.

Car. Besides, sir, you shall never need to go to a hot-house, you shall sweat there with courting your mistress, or losing your money at primero, as well as in all the stoves in Sweden. Marry, this, sir, you must ever be sure to carry a good strong perfume about you, that your mistress’s dog may smell you out amongst the rest; and, in making love to her, never fear to be out; for you may have a pipe of tobacco, or a bass viol shall hang o’ the wall, of purpose, will put you in presently. The tricks your Resolution has taught you in tobacco, the whiffie, and those sleights, will stand you in very good ornament there.

Fast. Ay, to some, perhaps; but, an he should come to my mistress with tobacco (this gentleman knows) she’d reply upon him, i’faith. O, by this bright sun, she has the most acute, ready, and facetious wit that——tut, there’s no spirit able to stand her. You can report it, signor, you have seen her.

Punt. Then can he report no less, out of his judgment, I assure him.

Maci. Troth, I like her well enough, but she’s too self-conceited, methinks.

Fast. Ay, indeed, she’s a little too self-conceited; an ’twere not for that humour, she were the most-to-be-admired lady in the world.

Punt. Indeed, it is a humour that takes from her other excellences.
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Mac. Why, it may easily be made to forsake her, in my thought.
Fast. Easily, sir! then are all impossibilities easy.
Mac. You conclude too quick upon me, signior. What will you say, if I make it so perspicuously appear now, that yourself shall confess nothing more possible?
Fast. Marry, I will say, I will both applaud and admire you for it.
Punt. And I will second him in the admiration.
Mac. Why, I'll show you, gentlemen.—Carlo, come hither.


Sog. Good faith, I have a great humour to the court. What thinks my Resolution? shall I adventure?
Shift. Troth, Countenance, as you please; the place is a place of good reputation and capacity.
Sog. O, my tricks in tobacco, as Carlo says, will show excellent there.
Shift. Why, you may go with these gentlemen now, and see fashions; and after, as you shall see correspondence.
Sog. You say true. You will go with me, Resolution?
Shift. I will meet you, Countenance, about three or four o'clock; but, to say to go with you, I cannot; for, as I am Apple-John, I am to go before the cockatrice you saw this morning, and therefore pray, present me excused, good Countenance.
Sog. Farewell, good Resolution, but fail not to meet.
Shift. As I live. [Exit.
Punt. Admirably excellent!
Mac. If you can but persuade Sogliardo to court, there's all now.
Car. O, let me alone, that's my task. [Goes to Sogliardo.
Fast. Now, by wit, Macilente, it's above measure excellent; 'twill be the only court-exploit that ever proved courtier ingenious.
Punt. Upon my soul, it puts the lady quite out of her humour, and we shall laugh with judgment.
Car. Come, the gentleman was of himself resolved to go with you, afore I moved it.
Mac. Why, then, gallants, you two and Carlo go afore to prepare the jest; Sogliardo and I will come some while after you.
Car. Pardon me, I am not for the court.
Punt. That's true; Carlo comes not at court, indeed. Well, you shall leave it to the faculty of monsieur Brisk, and myself; upon our lives, we will manage it happily. Carlo shall bespeak supper at the Mitre, against we come back: where we will meet and dimple our cheeks with laughter at the success.
Car. Ay, but will you promise to come?
Punt. Myself shall undertake for them; he that fails, let his reputation lie under the lash of thy tongue.
Car. Ods so, look who comes here!

Enter Fungoso.

Sog. What, nephew!
Fung. Uncle, God save you; did you see a gentleman, one monsieur Brisk, a courtier? he goes in such a suit as I do.
Sog. Here is the gentleman, nephew, but not in such a suit.
Fung. Another suit!
Sog. How now, nephew?
Fast. Would you speak with me, sir?
Car. Ay, when he has recovered himself, poor Poll!
Punt. Some rosa-solis.
Maci. How now, signior?
Fung. I am not well, sir.
Maci. Why, this it is to dog the fashion.
Car. Nay, come, gentlemen, remember your affairs; his disease is nothing but the flux of apparel.
Punt. Sirs, return to the lodging, keep the cat safe; I'll be the dog's guardian myself. [Exeunt Servants.
Sog. Nephew, will you go to court with us? these gentlemen and I are for the court; nay, be not so melancholy.
Fung. 'Slid, I think no man in Christendom has that rascally fortune that I have.
Maci. Faith, you suit is well enough, signior.
Fung. Nay, not for that, I protest; but I had an errand to monsieur Fastidious, and I have forgot it.
Maci. Why, go along to court with us, and remember it; oome, gentlemen, you three take one boat, and Sogliardo and I will take another; we shall be there instantly.
Fast. Content: good sir, vouchsafe us your pleasance.
Punt. Farewell, Carlo: remember.
Car. I warrant you: would I had one of Kemp's shoes to throw after you.
Punt. Good fortune will close the eyes of our jest, fear not: and we shall frolick. [Exeunt.

Mit. This Macilente, signior, begins to be more sociable on a sudden, methinks, than he was before: there's some portent in it, I believe.
Cor. O, he's a fellow of a strange nature. Now does he, in this calm of his humour, plot, and store up a world of malicious thoughts in his brain, till he is so full with them, that you shall see the very torrent of his envy break forth like a land-flood: and, against the course of all their affections, oppose itself so violently, that you will almost have wonder to think, how 'tis possible the current of their dispositions shall receive so quick and strong an alteration.
Mit. Ay, marry, sir, this is that, on which my expectation has dwelt all this while; for I must tell you, signior, though I was loth to interrupt the scene, yet I made it a question in mine own private discourse, how he should properly call it Every Man out of his Humour, when I saw all his actors so strongly pursue, and continue their humours?
Cor. Why, therein his art appears most full of lustre, and approacheth nearest the life; especially when in the flame and height of their humours, they are laid flat, it fills the eye better, and with more contentment. How tedious a sight were it to behold a proud exalted tree
lopt, and cut down by degrees, when it might be fell'd in a moment, and to set the axe to it before it came to that pride and fulness, were, as not to have it grow.

Mit. Well, I shall long till I see this fall, you talk of.

Cor. To help your longing, signior, let your imagination be swifter than a pair of oars: and by this, suppose Puntarvolo, Brisk, Funuso, and the dog, arrived at the court-gate, and going up to the great chamber. Macilente and Sogliardo, we'll leave them on the water, till possibility and natural means may land them. Here come the gallants, now prepare your expectation.

ACT V

SCENE I.—The Palace Stairs.

Enter Puntarvolo, with his dog, followed by Fastidious Brisk and Fungoso.

Punt. Come, gentle, Signior, you are sufficiently instructed.

Fast. Who, I, sir?

Punt. No, this gentleman. But stay, I take thought how to bestow my dog; he is no competent attendant for the presence.

Fast. Mass, that's true, indeed, knight; you must not carry him into the presence.

Punt. I know it, and I, like a dull beast, forgot to bring one of my cormorants to attend me.

Fast. Why, you were best leave him at the porter's lodge.

Punt. Not so; his worth is too well known amongst them, to be forth-coming.

Fast. 'Slight, how will you do then?

Punt. I must leave him with one that is ignorant of his quality, if I will have him to be safe. And see! here comes one that will carry coals, ergo, will hold my dog.

Enter a Groom, with a basket.

My honest friend, may I commit the tuition of this dog to thy prudent care?

Groom. You may, if you please, sir.

Punt. Pray thee let me find thee here at my return; it shall not be long, till I will ease thee of thy employment, and please thee. Forth, gentle.

Fast. Why, but will you leave him with so slight command, and infuse no more charge upon the fellow?

Punt. Charge! no; there were no policy in that; that were to let him know the value of the gem he holds, and so to tempt frail nature against her disposition. No, pray thee let thy honesty be sweet, as it shall be short.

Groom. Yes, sir.

Punt. But hark you, gallants, and chiefly monsieur Brisk: when we come in eye-shot, or presence of this lady, let not other matters
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carry us from our project; but, if we can, single her forth to some
place—
    Fast. I warrant you.
    Punt. And be not too sudden, but let the device induce itself
with good circumstance. On.
    Fung. Is this the way? good truth, here be fine hangings.
[Exeunt Punt., Fast., and Fungoso.

Groom. Honesty! sweet, and short! Marry, it shall, sir, doubt
you not; for even at this instant if one would give me twenty
pounds, I would not deliver him; there's for the sweet: but now,
if any man come offer me but two-pence, he shall have him; there's
for the short now. 'Slid, what a mad humorous gentleman is this
to leave his dog with me! I could run away with him now, an he
were worth any thing.

Enter Macilente and Sogliardo.

Maci. Come on, signior, now prepare to court this all-witted lady,
most naturally, and like yourself.

Sog. Faith, an you say the word, I'll begin to her in tobacco.

Maci. O, fie on't! no; you shall begin with, How does my sweet
lady, or, Why are you so melancholy, madam? though she be very
merry, it's all one. Be sure to kiss your hand often enough; pray
for her health, and tell her, how more than most fair she is. Screw
your face at one side thus, and protest: let her seer, and look
askance, and hide her teeth with her fan, when she laughs a fit, to
bring her into more matter, that's nothing: you must talk forward,
(though it be without sense, so it be without blushing,) 'tis most
court-like and well.

Sog. But shall I not use tobacco at all?

Maci. O, by no means; 'twill but make your breath suspected,
and that you use it only to confound the rankness of that.

Sog. Nay, I'll be advised, sir, by my friends.

Maci. Od's my life, see where sir Puntarvolo's dog is.

Groom. I would the gentleman would return for his follower here,
I'll leave him to his fortunes else.

Maci. 'Twere the only true jest in the world to poison him now;
ha! by this hand I'll do it, if I could but get him of the fellow.
[Aside.] Signior Sogliardo, walk aside, and think upon some device
to entertain the lady with.

Sog. So I do, sir.    [Walks off in a meditating posture.

Maci. How now, mine honest friend! whose dog-keeper art thou?

Groom. Dog-keeper, sir! I hope I scorn that, 'tis faith.

Maci. Why, dost thou not keep a dog?

Groom. Sir, now I do, and now I do not: [throws off the dog.] I
think this be sweet and short. Make me his dog-keeper!    [Exit.

Maci. This is excellent, above expectation! nay, stay, sir;
[seizing the dog.] you'd be travelling; but I'll give you a dram
shall shorten your voyage, here.    [Gives him poison.] So, sir, I'll be
bold to take my leave of you. Now to the Turk's court in the
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devil's name, for you shall never go o' God's name. [Kicks him out.]—Sogliardo, come.

Sog. I have it, faith now, will sting it.

Mac. Take heed you leese it not, signior, ere you come there; preserve it. [Exit Mac.]

Cor. How like you this first exploit of his?

Mit. O, a piece of true envy; but I expect the issue of the other device.

Cor. Here they come will make it appear.

SCENE II.—An Apartment in the Palace.

Enter Saviolina, Puntarvolo, Fastidious Brisk, and Fungoso.

Sav. Why, I thought, sir Puntarvolo, you had been gone your voyage?

Punt. Dear and most amiable lady, your divine beauties do bind me to those offices, that I cannot depart when I would.

Sav. 'Tis most court-like spoken, sir; but how might we do to have a sight of your dog and cat?

Fast. His dog is in the court, lady.

Sav. And not your cat? how dare you trust her behind you, sir.

Punt. Troth, madam, she hath sore eyes, and she doth keep her chamber; marry, I have left her under sufficient guard, there are two of my followers to attend her.

Sav. I'll give you some water for her eyes. When do you go, sir?

Punt. Certe, sweet lady, I know not.

Fast. He doth stay the rather, madam, to present your acute judgment with so courtly and well parted a gentleman as yet your ladyship hath never seen.

Sav. What is he, gentle monsieur Brisk? not that gentleman?

[Points to Fungoso.

Fast. No, lady, this is a kinsman to justice Silence.

Punt. Pray, sir, give me leave to report him. He's a gentleman, lady, of that rare and admirable faculty, as, I protest, I know not his like in Europe; he is exceedingly valiant, an excellent scholar, and so exactly travelled, that he is able, in discourse, to deliver you a model of any prince's court in the world; speaks the languages with that purity of phrase, and facility of accent, that it breeds astonishment; his wit, the most exuberant, and, above wonder, pleasant, of all that ever entered the concave of this ear.

Fast. 'Tis most true, lady; marry, he is no such excellent proper man.

Punt. His travels have changed his complexion, madam.

Sav. O, sir Puntarvolo, you must think every man was not born to have my servant Brisk's feature.

Punt. But that which transcends all, lady; he doth so peerlessly imitate any manner of person for gesture, action, passion, or whatever—
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Fast. Ay, especially a rustic or a clown, madam, that it is not possible for the sharpest-sighted wit in the world to discern any sparks of the gentleman in him, when he does it.

Sav. O, monsieur Biski, be not so tyrannous to confine all wits within the compass of your own; not find the sparks of a gentleman in him, if he be a gentleman!

Fung. No, in truth, sweet lady, I believe you cannot.

Sav. Do you believe so? why, I can find sparks of a gentleman in you, sir.

Punt. Ay, he is a gentleman, madam, and a reveller.

Fung. Indeed, I think I have seen your ladyship at our revels.

Sav. Like enough, sir; but would I might see this wonder you talk of; may one have a sight of him for any reasonable sum?

Punt. Yes, madam, he will arrive presently.

Sav. What, and shall we see him clown it?

Fast. I’faith, sweet lady, that you shall; see, here he comes.

Enter MACHERLENT and SOCOLARDO.

Punt. This is he! pray observe him, lady.

Sav. Beshrew me, he clowns it properly indeed.

Punt. Nay, mark his courtship.


Sav. Beautiful, an it please you, sir, but not lusty.

Sog. O ho, lady, it pleases you to say so, in truth: And how does my sweet lady? in health? Bona roba, queso, que novelles? que novelles? sweet creature!

Sav. O excellent! why, gallants, is this he that cannot be deciphered? they were very blear-witted, i’faith, that could not discern the gentleman in him.

Punt. But you do, in earnest, lady?

Sav. Do I, sir! why, if you had any true court-judgment in the carriage of his eye, and that inward power that forms his countenance, you might perceive his counterfeiting as clear as the noon-day; alas—nay, if you would have tried my wit, indeed, you should never have told me he was a gentleman, but presented him for a true clown indeed; and then have seen if I could have deciphered him.

Fast. 'Fore God, her ladyship says true, knight: but does he not affect the clown most naturally, mistress?

Punt. O, she cannot but affirm that, out of the bounty of her judgment.

Sav. Nay, out of doubt he does well, for a gentleman to imitate; but I warrant you, he becomes his natural carriage of the gentleman, much better than his clownery.

Fast. 'Tis strange, in truth, her ladyship should see so far into him!

Punt. Ay, is it not?

Sav. Faith, as easily as may be; not decipher him, quoth you!

Fung. Good sadness, I wonder at it.
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Maci. Why, has she deciphered him, gentlemen?
Punt. O, most miraculously, and beyond admiration.
Maci. Is it possible?
Fast. She hath gather'd most infallible signs of the gentleman in him, that's certain.
Sav. Why, gallants, let me laugh at you a little: was this your device, to try my judgment in a gentleman?
Maci. Nay, lady, do not scorn us, though you have this gift of perspicacity above others. What if he should be no gentleman now, but a clown indeed, lady?
Punt. How think you of that? would not your ladyship be Out of your Humour?
Fast. O, but she knows it is not so.
Sav. What if he were not a man, ye may as well say? Nay, if your worships could gull me so, indeed, you were wiser than you are taken for.
Maci. In good faith, lady, he is a very perfect clown, both by father and mother; that I'll assure you.
Sav. O, sir, you are very pleasurable.
Maci. Nay, do but look on his hand, and that shall resolve you; look you, lady, what a palm here is.
Sog. Tut, that was with holding the plough.
Maci. The plough? did you discern any such thing in him, madam?
Fast. Faith no, she saw the gentleman as bright as noon-day, she; she deciphered him at first.
Maci. Truth, I am sorry your ladyship's sight should be so suddenly struck.
Sav. O, you are goodly beagles!
Fast. What, is she gone?
Sog. Nay, stay, sweet lady: que nouvelles? que nouvelles?
Sav. Out, you fool, you! [Exit in anger.
Fung. She's Out of her Humour, 'tis faith.
Fast. Nay, let's follow it while 'tis hot, gentlemen.
Punt. Come, on mine honour we shall make her blush in the presence; my spleen is great with laughter.
Maci. Your daughter will be a child of a feeble life, I believe, sir.
[Aside.]—Come, signor, your looks are too dejected, methinks; why mix you not mirth with the rest?
Fung. Od's will, this suit frets me at the soul. I'll have it alter'd to-morrow, sure.

SCENE III.—The Palace Stairs.

Enter Shift.

Shift. I am come to the court, to meet with my Countenance, Sogliardo; poor men must be glad of such countenance, when they can get no better. Well, need may insult upon a man, but it shall never make him despair of consequence. The world will say, 'tis
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base: tush, base! 'tis base to live under the earth, not base to live above it by any means.

Enter Fastidious, Puntarvolo, Sogliardo, Fungoso, and Macilente.

Fast. The poor lady is most miserably out of her humour, i'faith.
Punt. There was never so witty a jest broken, at the tilt of all the court wits christen'd.
Maci. O, this applause taints it foully.
Sog. I think I did my part in courting.—O, Resolution!
Punt. Ay me, my dog!
Maci. Where is he?
Fast. 'Sprecious, go seek for the fellow, good signior.

[Exit Fungoso.
Punt. Here, here I left him.
Maci. Why, none was here when we came in now, but cavalier Shift; enquire of him.
Fast. Did you see sir Puntarvolo's dog here, cavalier, since you came?
Shift. His dog, sir! he may look his dog, sir; I saw none of his dog, sir.
Maci. Upon my life, he has stolen your dog, sir, and been hired to it by some that have ventured with you; you may guess by his peremptory answers.
Punt. Not unlike; for he hath been a notorious thief by his own confession. Sirrah, where is my dog?
Shift. Charge me with your dog, sir! I have none of your dog, sir.
Punt. Villain, thou liest.
Shift. Lie, sir! s'blood,—you are but a man, sir.
Punt. Rogue and thief, restore him.
Sog. Take heed, sir Puntarvolo, what you do; he'll bear no coals, I can tell you, o' my word.
Maci. This is rare.
Sog. It's marle he stabs you not: By this light, he hath stabbed forty, for forty times less matter, I can tell you of my knowledge.
Punt. I will make thee stoop, thou abject.
Sog. Make him stoop, sir! Gentlemen, pacify him, or he'll be kill'd.
Maci. Is he so tall a man?
Sog. Tall a man! if you love his life, stand betwixt them. Make him stoop!
Punt. My dog, villain, or I will hang thee; thou hast confess robberies, and other felonious acts, to this gentleman, thy Countenance—
Sog. I'll bear no witness.
Punt. And without my dog, I will hang thee, for them.

[Shift kneels.

Sog. What! kneel to thine enemies!
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Shift. Pardon me, good sir; God is my witness, I never did robbery in all my life.

Re-enter Fungoso.

Fung. O, sir Puntarvolo, your dog lies giving up the ghost in the wood-yard.

Maci. Heart, is he not dead yet? [Aside.]

Punt. O, my dog, born to disastrous fortune! pray you conduct me, sir. [Exit with Fungoso.

Sog. How! did you never do any robbery in your life?

Maci. O, this is good! so he swore, sir.

Sog. Ay, I heard him; and did you swear true, sir?

Shift. Ay, as I hope to be forgiven, sir, I never robbed any man; I never stood by the highwayside, sir, but only said so, because I would get myself a name, and be counted a tall man.

Sog. Now out, base villain! thou my Resolution! I thy Countenance! By this light, gentlemen, he hath confest to me the most inexorable company of robberies, and damn'd himself that he did 'em: you never heard the like. Out, scoundrel, out! follow me no more, I command thee; out of my sight, go, hence, speak not; I will not hear thee: away, camoufleau! [Exit Shift.

Maci. O, how I do feed upon this now, and fat myself! here were a couple unexpectedly dishumour'd. Well, by this time, I hope, sir Puntarvolo and his dog are both out of humour to travel. [Aside.]—Nay, gentlemen, why do you not seek out the knight, and comfort him? our supper at the Mitre must of necessity hold to-night, if you love your reputations.

Fast. 'Fore God, I am so melancholy for his dog's disaster—but I'll go.

Sog. Faith, and I may go too, but I know I shall be so melancholy.

Maci. Tush, melancholy! you must forget that now, and remem-ber you lie at the mercy of a fury: Carlo will rack your sinews asunder, and rail you to dust, if you come not. [Exeunt.

Mit. O, then their fear of Carlo, belike, makes them hold their meeting.

Cor. Ay, here he comes; conceive him but to be enter'd the Mitre, and 'tis enough.

SCENE IV.—A Room at the Mitre.

Enter Carlo.

Car. Holla! where be these shot-sharks?

Enter Drawer.

Draw. By and by; you are welcome, good master Buffone.

Car. Where's George? call me George hither, quickly.

Draw. What wine please you have, sir? I'll draw you that's neat, master Buffone.
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Car. Away, neophite, do as I bid thee, bring my dear George to me:

Enter George.

Mass, here he comes.

George. Welcome, master Carlo.
Car. What, is supper ready, George?
George. Ay, sir, almost: Will you have the cloth laid, master Carlo?
Car. O, what else? Are none of the gallants come yet?
George. None yet, sir.
Car. Stay, take me with you, George; let me have a good fat loin of pork laid to the fire, presently.
George. It shall, sir.
Car. And withal, hear you, draw me the biggest shaft you have out of the butt you wot of; away, you know my meaning, George; quick!
George. Done, sir. [Exit.
Car. I never hungered so much for anything in my life, as I do to know our gallants' success at court; now is that lean, bald-rib Maolente, that salt villain, plotting some mischievous device, and lies a soaking in their frothy humours like a dry crust, till he has drunk 'em all up: Could the pumice but hold up his eyes at other men's happiness, in any reasonable proportion, 'slid, the slave were to be loved next heaven, above honour, wealth, rich fare, apparel, wenches, all the delights of the belly and the groin, whatever.

Re-enter George with two jugs of wine.

George. Here, master Carlo.
Car. Is it right, boy?
George. Ay, sir, I assure you 'tis right.
Car. Well said, my dear George, depart: [Exit George.]—Come, my small gambler, you in the false scabbard, away, so! [Puts forth the Drawer, and shuts the door.] Now to you, sir Burgomaster, let's taste of your bounty.

Mit. What, will he deal upon such quantities of wine, alone?
Cor. You will perceive that, sir.

Car. [drinks.] Ay, marry, sir, here's purity; O, George—I could bite off his nose for this now, sweet rogue, he has drawn nectar, the very soul of the grape! I'll wash my temples with some on't presently, and drink some half a score draughts; 'twill heat the brain, kindle my imagination, I shall talk nothing but crackers and fire-works to-night. So, sir! please you to be here, sir, and I here: so.
[Sets the two cups sounder, drinks with the one, and pledge with the other, speaking for each of the cups, and drinking alternately.

Cor. This is worth the observation, signior.

Car. 1 Cup. Now, sir, here's to you; and I present you with so much of my love.
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2 Cup. I take it kindly from you, sir [drinks], and will return you the like proportion; but withal, sir, remembering the merry night we had at the countess's, you know where, sir.

1 Cup. By heaven, you put me in mind now of a very necessary office, which I will propose in your pledge, sir; the health of that honourable countess, and the sweet lady that sat by her, sir.

2 Cup. I do vail to it with reverence [drinks]. And now, Signior, with these ladies, I'll be bold to mix the health of your divine mistrees.

1 Cup. Do you know her, sir?

2 Cup. O lord, sir, ay; and in the respectful memory and mention of her, I could wish this wine were the most precious drug in the world.

1 Cup. Good faith, sir, you do honour me in't exceedingly. [Drinks.]

Mit. Whom should he personate in this, signior?
Cor. Faith, I know not, sir; observe, observe him.

2 Cup. If it were the basest filth, or mud that runs in the channel, I am bound to pledge it respectively, sir. [Drinks.] And now, sir, here is a replenish'd bowl, which I will reciprocally turn upon you, to the health of the count Frugale.

1 Cup. The count Frugale's health, sir? I'll pledge it on my knees, by this light. [Kneels.

2 Cup. Will you, sir? I'll drink it on my knees, then, by the light.

Mit. Why this is strange.
Cor. Have you heard a better drunken dialogue?

2 Cup. Nay, do me right, sir.
1 Cup. So I do, in faith.
2 Cup. Good faith you do not; mine was fuller.
1 Cup. Why, believe me, it was not.
2 Cup. Believe me it was; and you do lie.
1 Cup. Lie, sir!
2 Cup. Ay, sir.
1 Cup. 'Swounds! you rascal!
2 Cup. O, come, stab if you have a mind to it.
1 Cup. Stab! dost thou think I dare not?

Cor. [speaks in his own person.] Nay, I beseech you, gentlemen, what means this? nay, look, for shame respect your reputations. [Overturns wine, pot, cups, and all.

Enter Macilente.

Maci. Why, how now, Carlo! what humour's this?
Cor. O, my good mischief! art thou come? where are the rest, where are the rest?

Maci. Faith, three of our ordinance are burst.
Cor. Burst! how comes that?
Maci. Faith, overcharged, overcharged.
Car. But did not the train hold?
Mac. O, yes, and the poor lady is irrecoverably blown up.
Car. Why, but which of the munition is miscarried, ha?
Mac. Imprimes, sir Puntarvolo; next, the Countenance and Resolution.
Car. How, how, for the love of wit?
Mac. Troth, the Resolution is proved recreant; the Countenance hath changed his copy; and the passionate knight is shedding funeral tears over his departed dog.
Car. What! is his dog dead?
Mac. Polson’d, 'tis thought; marry, how, or by whom, that's left for some cunning woman here o' the Bank-side to resolve. For my part, I know nothing more than that we are like to have an exceeding melancholy supper of it.
Car. 'Slife, and I had purposed to be extraordinarily merry, I had drunk off a good preparative of old sack here; but will they come, will they come?
Mac. They will assuredly come; marry, Carlo, as thou lov'st me, run over 'em all freedly to-night, and especially the knight; spare no sulphurous jest that may come out of that sweaty forge of thine; but ply them with all manner of shot, minion, saker, culverin, or anything, what thou wilt.
Car. I warrant thee, my dear case of petrionels; so I stand not in dread of thee, but that thou'lt second me.
Mac. Why, my good German tapster, I will.
Car. What George! Lomtero, Lomtero, etc. [Sings and dances.

Re-enter George.

George. Did you call, master Carlo?
Car. More nectar, George: Lomtero, etc.
George. Your meat's ready, sir, an your company were come.
Car. Is the loin of pork enough?
George. Ay, sir, it is enough. [Exit.
Mac. Pork! heart, what dost thou with such a greasy dish? I think thou dost varnish thy face with the fat on't, it looks so like a glue-pot.
Car. True, my raw-boned rogue, and if thou wouldst farce thy lean ribs with it too, they would not, like ragged laths, rub out so many doublets as they do; but thou know'st not a good dish, thou. O, it's the only nourishing meat in the world. No marvel though that saucy, stubborn generation, the Jews, were forbidden it; for what would they have done, well pamper’d with fat pork, that durst murmur at their Maker out of garlick and onions? 'Slight! fed with it, the whoreson strumpet-patch’d, goggled-eyed grumble-dorles, would have gigantomachised—

Re-enter George with wine.

Well said, my sweet George, fill, fill.

Mit. This savours too much of profanation.
Cor. 0 ———— Servetur ad imum,  
Qualis ab incuncto processerit, et sibi constet.  
The necessity of his vein compels a toleration, for; bar this, and dash  
him out of humour before his time.

Car. 'Tis an axiom in natural philosophy, what comes nearest the  
nature of that it feeds, converts quicker to nourishment, and doth sooner  
essential. Now nothing in flesh and entrails assimilates or resembles  
man more than a hog or swine.  

[Drinks.  
Macci. True; and he, to requite their courtesy, oftentimes doffeth  
his own nature, and puts on theirs; as when he becomes as churlish  
as a hog, or as drunk as a sow; but to your conclusion.  

Car. Marry, I say, nothing resembling man more than a swine,  
it follows, nothing can be more nourishing; for indeed (but that it  
abhors from our nice nature) if we fed upon one another, we should  
shoot up a great deal faster, and thrive much better; I refer me  
to your usurous cannibals, or such like; but since it is so contrary,  
pork, pork, is your only feed.

Macci. I take it, your devil be of the same diet; he would never  
have desired to have been incorporated into swine else.—O, here  
comes the melancholy mess; upon 'em, Carlo, charge, charge!

Enter Puntarvolo, Fastidious Brisk, Sogliardo, and  
Fungoso.

Car. 'Fore God, sir Puntarvolo, I am sorry for your heaviness:  
body o' me, a shrew'd mischance! why, had you no unicorn's horn,  
nor bezoar's stone about you, ha?  
Punt. Sir, I would request you be silent.  
Macci. Nay, to him again.

Car. Take comfort, good knight, if your cat have recovered her  
catarrh, fear nothing; your dog's mischance may be holpen.

Fast. Say how, sweet Carlo; for, so God mend me, the poor  
knight's moans draw me into fellowship of his misfortunes. But  
be not discouraged, good sir Puntarvolo, I am content your adventure  
shall be performed upon your cat.

Macci. I believe you, musk-cod, I believe you; for rather than  
thee would'st make present repayment, thou would'st take it upon  
his own bare return from Calais.  

[Aside.  
Car. Nay, 'slife, he'd be content, so he were well rid out of his  
company, to pay him five for one, at his next meeting him in Paul's.  
[Aside to Macilente.]—But for your dog, sir Puntarvolo, if he be not  
out-right dead, there is a friend of mine, a quack-salver, shall put  
life in him again, that's certain.

Fung. O, no, that comes too late.  
Macci. 'Spacious! knight, will you suffer this?  
Punt. Drawer, get me a candle and hard wax presently.  

[Exit George.

Sog. Ay, and bring up supper; for I am so melancholy.  
Car. O, signior, where's your Resolution?
Car. Why, how so?
Sog. O, the arrantest crocodile that ever Christian was acquainted with. By my gentry, I shall think the worse of tobacco while I live, for his sake: I did think him to be as tall a man—
Mac. Nay, Buffone, the knight, the knight. [Aside to Carlo.
Car. ‘Slid, he looks like an image carved out of box, full of knots; his face is, for all the world, like a Dutch purse, with the mouth downward, his beard the tassels; and he walks—let me see—as melancholy as one o’ the master’s side in the Counter.—Do you hear, sir Puntarvolo?
Punt. Sir, I do entreat you, no more, but enjoin you to silence, as you affect your peace.
Car. Nay, but dear knight, understand here are none but friends, and such as wish you well, I would have you do this now; fay me your dog presently (but in any case keep the head) and stuff his skin well with straw, as you see these dead monsters at Bartholomew fair.
Punt. I shall be sudden, I tell you.
Car. O, if you like not that, sir, get me somewhat a less dog, and clap into the skin; here’s a slave about the town here, a Jew, one Yohan: or a fellow that makes perukes will glue it on artificially, it shall never be discern’d; besides, ’twill be so much the warmer for the hound to travel in, you know.
Mac. Sir Puntarvolo, death, can you be so patient?
Car. Or thus, sir; you may have, as you come through Germany, a familiar for little or nothing, shall turn itself into the shape of your dog, or any thing, what you will, for certain hours—[Puntarvolo strikes him]—Ods my life, knight, what do you mean? you’ll offer no violence, will you? hold, hold!

Re-enter George, with wax, and a lighted candle.
Punt. ’Sdeath, you slave, you ban-dog, you!
Car. As you love wit, stay the enraged knight, gentlemen.
Punt. By my knighthood, he that stirs in his rescue, dies.—
Drawer. begone! [Exit George.
Car. Murder, murder, murder!
Punt. Ay, are you howling, you wolf?—Gentlemen, as you tender your lives, suffer no man to enter till my revenge be perfect. Sirrah, Buffone, lie down; make no exclamations, but down; down, you cur, or I will make thy blood flow on my rapier hilts.
Car. Sweet knight, hold in thy fury, and ’fore heaven I’ll honour thee more than the Turk does Mahomet.
Punt. Down, I say! [Carlo lies down.]—Who’s there?[Knocking within.
Cons. [within.] Here’s the constable, open the doors.
Car. Good Macilente——
Punt. Open no door; if the Adalantado of Spain were here he
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should not enter: one help me with the light, gentlemen; you
 knock in vain, sir officer.

Car. Et tu, Brute!

Punt. Sirrah, close your lips, or I will drop it in thine eyes, by
 heaven.

Car. O! O!

Cons. [within.] Open the door, or I will break it open.

Maci. Nay, good constable, have patience a little; you shall
 come in presently; we have almost done.

[Puntarvolo seals up Carlo's lips.

Punt. So, now, are you Out of your Humour, sir? Shift, gentle-
 men.

[They all draw, and run out, except Fungoso, who conceals himself
 beneath the table.

Enter Constable and Officers, and seize Fastidious as he is
 rushing by.

Cons. Lay hold upon this gallant, and pursue the rest.

Fast. Lay hold on me, sir, for what?

Cons. Marry, for your riot here, sir, with the rest of your com-
 panions.

Fast. My riot! master constable, take heed what you do. Carlo,
did I offer any violence?

Cons. O, sir, you see he is not in case to answer you, and that
 makes you so peremptory.

Re-enter George and Drawer.

Fast. Peremptory! 'Slife, I appeal to the drawers, if I did him
 any hard measure.

George. They are all gone, there's none of them will be laid any
 hold on.

Cons. Well, sir, you are like to answer till the rest can be found
 out.

Fast. 'Slid, I appeal to George here.

Cons. Tut, George was not here: away with him to the Counter,
sirs.—Come, sir, you were beat get yourself drest somewhere.

[Exeunt Const. and Officers, with Fast. and Cur.

George. Good lord, that master Carlo could not take heed, and
 knowing what a gentleman the knight is, if he be angry.

Drawer. A pox on 'em, they have left all the meat on our hands;
 would they were choaked with it for me!

Re-enter Macilente.

Maci. What, are they gone, sirs?

George. O, here's master Macilente.

Maci. [pointing to Fungoso.] Sirrah, George, do you see that
 concealment there, that napkin under the table?

George. 'Ods so, signior Fungoso!

Maci. He's good pawn for the reckoning; be sure you keep him

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here, and let him not go away till I come again, though he offer to discharge all; I'll return presently.

*George.* Sirrah, we have a pawn for the reckoning.

*Draw.* What, of Macilente?

*George.* No; look under the table.

*Fung.* [creeping out.] I hope all be quiet now; if I can get but forth of this street, I care not: masters, I pray you tell me, is the constable gone?

*George.* What, master Fungoso!

*Fung.* Was't not a good device this same of me, sirs?

*George.* Yes, faith; have you been here all this while?

*Fung.* O lord, ay; good sir, look an the coast be clear, I'd fain be going.

*George.* All's clear, sir, but the reckoning; and that you must clear and pay before you go, I assure you.

*Fung.* I pay! 'Slight, I eat not a bit since I came into the house, yet.

*Draw.* Why, you may when you please, 'tis all ready below that was bespoken.

*Fung.* Bespoken! not by me, I hope?

*George.* By you, sir! I know not that; but 'twas for you and your company, I am sure.

*Fung.* My company! 'Slid, I was an invited guest, so I was.

*Draw.* Faith we have nothing to do with that, sir: they are all gone but you, and we must be answered; that's the short and the long on't.

*Fung.* Nay, if you will grow to extremities, my masters, then would this pot, cup, and all were in my belly, if I have a cross about me.

*George.* What, and have such apparel! do not say so, signior; that mightily discredits your clothes.

*Fung.* As I am an honest man, my tailor had all my money this morning, and yet I must be fain to alter my suit too. Good sirs, let me go, 'tis Friday night, and in good truth I have no stomach in the world to eat any thing.

*Draw.* That's no matter, so you pay, sir.

*Fung.* 'Slight, with what conscience can you ask me to pay that I never drank for?

*George.* Yes, sir, I did see you drink once

*Fung.* By this cup, which is silver, but you did not; you do me infinite wrong: I looked in the pot once, indeed, but I did not drink.

*Draw.* Well, sir, if you can satisfy our master, it shall be all one to us.

*Within.* George!

*George.* By and by. [Exeunt.

*Cor.* Lose not yourself now, signior.
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SCENE V.—A Room in DELIBRO’s House.

Enter MACILENTE and DELIBRO.

MACI. Tut, sir, you did bear too hard a conceit of me in that; but I will now make my love to you most transparent, in spite of any dust of suspicion that may be raised to cloud it; and henceforth, since I see it is so against your humour, I will never labour to persuade you.

DELI. Why, I thank you, signior; but what is that you tell me may concern my peace so much?

MACI. Faith, sir, ’tis hus. Your wife’s brother, signior Fungo, being at supper to-night at a tavern, with a sort of gallants, there happened some division amongst them, and he is left in pawn for the reckoning. Now, if ever you look that time shall present you with an happy occasion to do your wife some gracious and acceptable service, take hold of this opportunity, and presently go and redeem him; for, being her brother, and his credit so amply engaged as now it is, when she shall hear, (as he cannot himself, but he must out of extremity report it,) that you came, and offered yourself so kindly, and with that respect of his reputation; why, the benefit cannot but make her dote, and grow mad of your affections.

DELI. Now, by heaven, Macilente, I acknowledge myself exceedingly indebted to you, by this kind tender of your love; and I am sorry to remember that I was ever so rude, to neglect a friend of your importance.—Bring me shoes and a cloak here.—I was going to bed, if you had not come. What tavern is it?

MACI. The Mitre, sir.

DELI. O! Why, Fido! my shoes.—Good faith, it cannot but please her exceedingly.

Enter FALACE.

FAL. Come, I marle what piece of night-work you have in hand now, that you call for a cloak, and your shoes: What, is this your pander?

DELI. O, sweet wife, speak lower, I would not he should hear thee for a world—

FAL. Hang him, rascal, I cannot abide him for his treachery, with his wild quick-set beard there. Whither go you now with him?

DELI. No, whither with him, dear wife; I go alone to a place, from whence I will return instantly.—Good Macilente, acquaint not her with it by any means, it may come so much the more accepted; frame some other answer.—I’ll come back immediately. (Exit.  FAL. Nay, an I be not worthy to know whither you go, stay till I take knowledge of your coming back.

MACI. Hear you, mistress Delibro.

FAL. So, sir, and what say you?

MACI. Faith, lady, my intents will not deserve this slight respect, when you shall know them.
Fal. Your intents! why, what may your intents be, for God's sake?
Mac. Troth, the time allows no circumstance, lady, therefore
know this was but a device to remove your husband hence, and
bestow him securely, whilst, with more conveniency, I might report
to you a misfortune that hath happened to monsieur Brisk—Nay, comfort, sweet lady. This night, being at supper, a sort of young
gallants committed a riot, for which he only is apprehended and
carried to the Counter, where, if your husband, and other creditors,
should but have knowledge of him, the poor gentleman were undone
for ever.
Fal. Ah me! that he were.
Mac. Now, therefore, if you can think upon any present means
for his delivery, do not foreslow it. A bribe to the officer that
committed him will do it.
Fal. O lord, sir! he shall not want for a bribe; pray you, will you
commend me to him, and say I'll visit him presently.
Mac. No, lady, I shall do you better service, in protracting your
husband's return, that you may go with more safety.
Fal. Good truth, so you may; farewell, good sir. [Exit Maci.]—
Lord, how a woman may be mistaken in a man! I would have
sworn upon all the Testaments in the world he had not loved master
Brisk. Bring me my keys there, maid. Alas, good gentleman, if
all I have in this earthly world will pleasure him, it shall be at his
service. [Exit.
Mit. How Macilente swears in this business, if you mark him!
Cor. Ay, you shall see the true picture of spite, anon: here comes
the pawn and his redeemer.

SCENE VI.—A Room at the Mitre.

Enter Deliro, Fungoso, and George.

Del. Come, brother, be not discouraged for this, man; what!
Fung. No, truly, I am not discouraged; but I protest to you,
brother, I have done imitating any more gallants either in purse or
apparel, but as shall become a gentleman, for good carriage, or so.
Del. You say well.—This is all in the bill here, is it not?
George. Ay, sir.
Del. There's your money, tell it: and, brother, I am glad I met
with so good occasion to shew my love to you.
Fung. I will study to deserve it in good truth an I live.
Del. What, is it right?
George. Ay, sir, and I thank you.
Fung. Let me have a capon's leg saved, now the reckoning is paid.
George. You shall, sir. [Exit.

Enter Macilente.

Mac. Where's signior Deliro?
Del. Here, Macilente.
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Mac. Hark you, sir, have you dispatch'd this same?
Del. Ay, marry have I.
Mac. Well then, I can tell you news; Brisk is in the Counter.
Del. In the Counter!
Mac. 'Tis true, sir, committed for the stir here to-night. Now would I have you send your brother home afore him, with the report of this your kindness done him, to his sister, which will so pleasingly possess her, and out of his mouth too, that in the meantime you may clap your action on Brisk, and your wife, being in so happy a mood, cannot entertain it ill, by any means.
Del. 'Tis very true, she cannot, indeed, I think.
Mac. Think! why 'tis past thought; you shall never meet the like opportunity, I assure you.
Del. I will do it.—Brother, pray you go home afore (this gentleman and I have some private business), and tell my sweet wife I'll come presently.
Fung. I will, brother.
Mac. And, signior, acquaint your sister, how liberally, and out of his bounty, your brother has used you (do you see?), made you a man of good reckoning; redeem'd that you never were possess of, credit; gave you as gentlemanlike terms as might be; found no fault with your coming behind the fashion; nor nothing.
Fung. Nay, I am out of those humours now.
Mac. Well, if you be out, keep your distance, and be not made a shot-clog any more.—Come, signior, let's make haste. [Exeunt.

Scene VII.—The Counter.

Enter Fallace and Fastidious Brisk.

Fal. O, master Fastidious, what pity is it to see so sweet a man as you are, in so sour a place! [Kisses him.

Cor. As upon her lips, does she mean?
Mit. O, this is to be imagined the Counter, belike.

Fast. Troth, fair lady, 'tis first the pleasure of the fates, and next of the constable, to have it so: but I am patient, and indeed comforted the more in your kind visit.

Fal. Nay, you shall be comforted in me more than this, if you please, sir. I sent you word by my brother, sir, that my husband laid to 'rest you this morning; I know not whether you received it or no.

Fast. No, believe it, sweet creature, your brother gave me no such intelligence.

Fal. O, the lord!

Fast. But has your husband any such purpose?

Fal. O, sweet master Brisk, yes: and therefore be presently discharged, for if he come with his actions upon you, Lord deliver you! you are in for one half-a-score year; he kept a poor man in Ludgate once twelve year for sixteen shillings. Where's your keeper? for
love's sake call him, let him take a bribe, and despatch you. Lord,
how my heart trembles! here are no spies, are there?

Fast. No, sweet mistress. Why are you in this passion?

Fal. O lord, master Fastidious, if you knew how I took up my
husband to-day, when he said he would arrest you; and how I
raged at him that persuaded him to it, the scholar there (who, on
my conscience, loves you now), and what care I took to send you
intelligence by my brother; and how I gave him four sovereigns for
his pains: and now, how I came running out hither without man or
boy with me, so soon as I heard on't; you'd say I were in a passion
indeed. Your keeper, for God's sake! O, master Brisk, as 'tis in
Euphues, Hard is the choice, when one is compelled either by silence to
die with grief, or by speaking to live with shame.

Fast. Fair lady, I conceive you, and may this kiss assure you,
that where adversity hath, as it were, contracted, prosperity shall
not—Od's me! your husband.

Enter Deliro and Macilente.

Fal. O me!
Deli. Ay! Is it thus?

Maci. Why, how now, signior Deliro! has the wolf seen you, ha?
Hath Gorgon's head made marble of you?

Deli. Some planet strike me dead!

Maci. Why, look you, sir, I told you, you might have suspected
this long afore, had you pleased, and have saved this labour of
admiration now, and passion, and such extremities as this frail lump
of flesh is subject unto. Nay, why do you not do not now, signior?
methinks you should say it were some enchantment, deceptio visus,
or so, ha! If you could persuade yourself it were a dream now,
'twere excellent: faith, try what you can do, signior: it may be
your imagination will be brought to it in time; there's nothing
impossible.

Fal. Sweet husband!

Deli. Out, lascivious strumpet! [Exit.

Maci. What! did you see how ill that stale vein became him
afore, of sweet wife, and dear heart; and are you fallen just into the
same now, with sweet husband? Away, follow him, go, keep state:
what! remember you are a woman, turn impudent; give him not
the head, though you give him the horns. Away. And yet,
methinks, you should take your leave of enfant perdu here, your
forlorn hope. [Exit Fal.]—How now, monsieur Brisk? what!
Friday night, and in affliction too, and yet your pulpenta, your
delicate morsels! I perceive the affection of ladies and gentle-
women pursues you wheresoever you go, monsieur.

Fast. Now, in good faith, and as I am gentle, there could not
have come a thing in this world to have distracted me more, than
the wrinkled fortunes of this poor dame.

Maci. O yes, sir; I can tell you a thing will distract you much
better, believe it: Signior Deliro has entered three actions against
you, three actions, monsieur! marry, one of them (I'll put you in comfort) is but three thousand, and the other two, some five thousand pound together: trifles, trifles.

Fast. O, I am undone.

Mac. Nay, not altogether so, sir; the knight must have his hundred pound repaid, that will help too; and then six score pounds for a diamond, you know where. These be things will weigh, monsieur, they will weigh.

Fast. O heaven!

Mac. What! do you sigh? this is to kiss the hand of a countess, to have her coach sent for you, to hang poniards in ladies' garters, to wear bracelets of their hair, and for every one of these great favours to give some slight jewel of five hundred crowns, or so; why, 'tis nothing. Now, monsieur, you see the plague that treads on the heels o' your soppery: well, go your ways in, remove yourself to the two-penny ward quickly, to save charges, and there set up your rest to spend sir Puntarvolo's hundred pound for him. Away, good pomander, go! [Exit Fastidious.

Why, here's a change! now is my soul at peace:
I am as empty of all envy now,
As they of merit to be envied at.
My humour, like a flame, no longer lasts
Than it hath stuff to feed it; and their folly
Being now raked up in their repentant ashes,
Affords no ampler subject to my spleen.
I am so far from malicing their states,
That I begin to pity them. It grieves me
To think they have a being. I could wish
They might turn wise upon it, and be saved now,
So heaven were pleased; but let them vanish, vapours!—
Gentlemen, how like you it? has not been tedious?

Cor. Nay, we have done censuring now.
Mit. Yes, faith.

Mac. How so?

Cor. Marry, because we'll imitate your actors, and be out of our humours. Besides, here are those round about you of more ability in censure than we, whose judgments can give it a more satisfying allowance; we'll refer you to them. [Exeunt Cordatus and Mitis.

Mac. [coming forward.] Ay, is it even so?—Well, gentlemen, I should have gone in, and return'd to you as I was Asper at the first; but by reason the shift would have been somewhat long, and we are loth to draw your patience farther, we'll entreat you to imagine it. And now, that you may see I will be out of humour for company, I stand wholly to your kind approbation, and indeed am nothing so peremptory as I was in the beginning: marry, I will not
Ben Jonson's Plays

do as Plantus in his Amphytryo, for all this, summi Jovis causâ plaudite; beg a plaudite for God's sake; but if you, out of the bounty of your good-liking, will bestow it, why, you may in time make lean Macilente as fat as sir John Falstaff. [Exit.

THE EPILOGUE

AT THE

PRESENTATION BEFORE QUEEN ELIZABETH

BY MACILENTE.

Never till now did object greet mine eyes
With any light content: but in her graces
All my malicious powers have lost their stings.
Envy is fled from my soul at sight of her,
And she hath chased all black thoughts from my bosom,
Like as the sun doth darkness from the world,
My stream of humour is run out of me,
And as our city's torrent, bent t'infest
The hallow'd bowels of the silver Thames,
Is check'd by strength and clearness of the river,
Till it hath spent itself even at the shore;
So in the ample and unmeasured flood
Of her perfections, are my passions drown'd;
And I have now a spirit as sweet and clear
As the more rarefied and subtle air:—
With which, and with a heart as pure as fire,
Yet humble as the earth, do I implore,
O heaven, that She, whose presence hath effected
This change in me, may suffer most late change
In her admired and happy government:
May still this Island be call'd Fortunate,
And rugged Treason tremble at the sound,
When Fame shall speak it with an emphasis.
Let foreign polity be dull as lead,
And pale Invasion come with half a heart,
When he but looks upon her blessed soil.
The throat of War be stopt within her land,
And turtle-footed Peace dance fairy rings
About her court; where never may there come
Suspect or danger, but all trust and safety.
Let Flattery be dumb, and Envy blind
In her dread presence; Death himself admire her;
And may her virtues make him to forget
The use of his inevitable hand.
Fly from her, Age; sleep, Time, before her throne;
Our strongest wall falls down, when she is gone.

[Kneels.]