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LIFE AND WORKS

OF

ROBERT GREENE, M.A.

VOL. X.

A NOTABLE DISCOUERY OF COOSNAGE.
THE SECOND PART OF CONNY-CATCHING.
THE THIRDE AND LAST PARTE OF CONNY-CATCHING.

AND

A DISPVTAION BETWEENE A HEE AND SHEE CONNY-CATCHER.

1591—1592.
WHEN the sword glitters o'er the judge's head
And fear has coward churchmen silenced,
Then is the poet's time, 'tis then he drawes,
And single, fights forsaken Vertue's cause.
He, when the wheel of empire whirleth back
And though the world's disjointed axle crack,
Sings full of ancient rights and better times,
Seeks wretched good, arraigns successful crimes.

ANDREW MARVELL ('Fuller Worthies' Library,' 4 vols.: vol. i. p. 239).
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THE LIFE AND COMPLETE WORKS
IN PROSE AND VERSE
OF
ROBERT GREENE, M.A.
CAMBRIDGE AND OXFORD.

IN TWELVE VOLUMES.

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

BY THE REV.
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VOL. X.—PROSE.
A NOTABLE DISCOUERY OF COOSNAGE.
The Second Part of Conny-Catching.
The Thirde and Last Parте of Conny-Catching.
And
A DISPVTAION BETWEENE A HEE AND SHEE CONNY-CATCHER
1591—1592.

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1881—83.

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CATCHER . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 193
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Thou shalt not laugh, in this leafe, Muse, nor they
Whom any pity warms. He which did lay
Rules to make Courtiers, he being understood
May make good courtiers, but who courtiers good?
Frees from the sting of jests all who in extreme
Are wretched or wicked; of those two a them
Charity and liberty give me. What is he
Who Officers' rage and Suitors misery
Can write in jest? . . . . . . .
O wretch, that thy fortunes should moralize
Æsop's fables, and make tales, prophesies.
Thou art the swimming dog, whom shadows cozeneth,
Which di'v'st, near drowning, for what vanisheth.

Dean Donne ('Fuller Worthies' Library,' 2 vols.: vol. i. pp. 45, 48).
XXII.

A NOTABLE DISCOUERY OF COOSNAGE.

1591.
NOTE.

'A Notable Discovery of Coofnage' was the first of a singularly popular group of books of the same type. They are brought together now for the first time. The 'Notable Discovery' I reproduce from the original edition of 1591; but in Notes and Illustrations I add certain Various Readings from a second edition of 1592 in the Bodleian. Throughout the quaint woodcut illustrations are very much repetitions of the 'Coy' or 'Rabbit.' I furnish in facsimile—in all the forms of the 'Huth Library'—all of these in any way characteristic, or as are required for understanding of the text. See annotated Life in Vol. I.—G.
A
Notable Discovery of Coofnage
Now daily practised by sundry lewd persons, called Connie-catchers, and Crossie-biters.
Plainely aying open those pernicious sleights that hath brought many ignorant men to confusion.
Written for the general benefit of all Gentlemen, Citizens, Apprentices, Country Farmers and yeomen, that may hap to fall into the company of such confewing companions.
With a delightfull discourse of the coofnage of Colliers.
Nascimur pro patria. By R. Greene, Maister of Arts.

LONDON.
Printed by John Wolfe for T. N. and are to be fold ouer against the great south doore of Paules. 1591.
TO THE YONG GENTLEMEN, Marchants, Apprentises, Farmers, and plain Countreymen

Health.

Oogenes, Gentlemen, from a counterfait Coiner of money, became a currant correitor of manners, as absolute in the one, as diſſolute in the other: time refineth mens affectis, and their humors grow different by the diſſection of age. Poore Ouid that amorously writ in his youth the art of love, complained in his exile amongst the Getes, of his wantō follies. And Socrates age was vertuous thougħ his prime was licentious. So, Gentlemen, my younger yeeres had uncertaine thoughtes, but now my ripe daies cals on to repentant deedes, and I sorrow as much to see others wilful, as I delighted once to be wanton. The odde mad-caps I haue beene mate too, not as a companion, but as a spie to have an insighſ into their knaueries, that seeing their traines I might
eschew their snares: those mad fellows I learned at last to loath, by their owne gracesse villenies, and what I saw in them to their confusion, I can fore-warne in others to my countreis commodity. None could decipher Tyrannisme better then Aristippus, not that his nature was cruell, but that he was nourtured with Dionisius: The simple swaine that cuts the Lapidaries stones, can distinguish a Ruby from a Diamond onely by his labour: though I have not practis'd their deceits, yet conuersing by fortune, and talking vpon purpose with such copes-mates, hath geuen mee light into their conceiptes, and I can decipher their qualities, though I utterly mislike their practis'es. To be briefe Gentlemen, I haue seen the world and rounded it, though not with trauell, yet with experience, and I crie out with Salomon, Omnia sub sole vanitas. I haue smyled with the Italian, and worn the vipers head in my hand, and yet stopt his venome. I haue eaten Spanishe Mirobolanes, and yet am nothing the more metamorphosed. Fraunce, Germanie, Poland, Denmarke, I knowe them all, yet not affected to any in the fourme of my life; onlie I am English borne, and I haue English thoughts, not a dewill incarnate because I am Italianate, but hating the pride of Italie, because I know their peevishnes: yet in all these Countreyes where I haue travelled, I haue not seene more exceede of vanitie then wee English men practice through vain
glory: for as our wits be as ripe as any, so our wills are more ready then they all, to put in effect any of their licentious abuses: yet amongst the rest, letting ordinary sinnes passe, because custom hath almost made them a law, I will only speake of two such notable abuses, which the practitioners of the shadow with the name of Arts, as never have been heard of in any age before. The first and chiefe, is called the Art of Cunny-catching; the second, the Arte of Cros-biting; two such pestilent and prejudicial practices, as of late have been the ruine of infinite persons, and the subversion and overthrow of many Marchaunts, Farmers, and honest minded yeomen. The first is a deceit at Cardes, which growing by enomitiie into a Coozenage, is able to draw (by the subtle shewe thereof) a man of great judgement to consent to his owne confusion. Yet Gentlemen when you shall reade this booke, written faithfullie to discover these coozening practices, thinke I goe not about to disproue or disallow the most auncient and honest pastime or recreation of Card play, for thus much I know by reading: when the Cittie of Thebes was besieged by them of Lacedemonia, being girt within strong fenced walles, and having men enough, and able to rebat the enemie, they found no inconuenience of force to breed their ensuing bane but famine, in that when viéuals waxed scant, hunger would either make them yeeld by a fainting composition, or a miserable death. Whereupon to wearie
TO THE READER.

The foe with wintering at the sedge, the Thebanes devised this pollicie, they found out the Method of Cards and Dice, and so busied their braines with the pleasantnesse of that new invention, passing away the time with strange recreations and pastimes, beguiling hunger with the delight of the new sports, and eating but every third day, and playing too, so their frugall sparing of victuals kept them from famine, the Cittie from sacking, and rayzed the foe from a mortall sedge. Thus was the use of Cards and Dice first invented, and since amongst Princes highly esteemed, and allowed in all common wealths, as a necessarie recreation for the mind: But as in time and malice of mans nature hatcheth abuse, so good things by ill wits are wrested to the worfe, and so in Cardes: for from an honest recreation it is grown to a prejudicial praetice, and most high degree of cozenage, as halfe discovered in my Art of Cuny-catching, for not onely simple swaines: whose wits is in their hands, but yoong Gentlemen, and Marchants, are all caught like Cunnies in the hay, and so led like lambs to their confusion.

The poore man that commeth to the Tearme to trie his right, and layeth his land to morgadge to gette some Crownes in his purse to see his lawyer, is drawn in by these diuelfish Cunny-catchers, that at one cut at Cardes looseth all his money, by which meanes, he, his wife and children, is brought to utter ruine and
miserie. The poore Prentice, whose honest minde aymeth only at his Maisters profites, by these pestilent vipers of the commonwealth, is smoothly intiji'd to the hazard of this game at Cardes, and robd of his Maisters money, which forceth him oftimes eyther to run away, or banckrout all, to the overthow of some honest and wealthy Cittizen. Seeing then such a daungerous enormity groweth by them, to the discredite of the estate of England, I would wishe the Justices appoynted as feuere Cenfors of such fatal mischiefs, to shew themselues patres patriae, by weeding out such worms as eat away the sappe of the Tree, and rooting this base degree of Coofeners out of jo peaceable and prosperous a countrey, for of all diuelish praIfifes this is the most preiudicial. The high Lawyer that chal- lengeth a purse by the highway fide, the foift, the nip, the fale, the fnap, I meane the pick-pockets and cut-purses are nothing jo daungerous to meeete with all, as these Coofening Cunny-catchers. The Chetors that with their false Dice make a bande, & fstrike in at Hazard or Paffage with their Dice of aduauntage, are nothing jo daungerous as these base minded Caterpillers. For they have their vies and their revies upon the poore Cunnies backe, till they fo ferrette beate him, that they leve him neither haire on his fkin, nor hole to harbour in. There was before this many yeeres agoe a praIfife put in use by fuch shifting companions, which was called the Barnards Law,
wherein as in the Arte of Cunny-catching, four persons were required to perform their cooing commodity. The taker-vp, the Verfer, the Barnard and the Rutter, and the manner of it indeed was thus. The Taker vp seemeth a skilful man in all things, who hath by long trauell learned without Booke a thousand policies to insinuate himself into a mans acquaintance: Talke of matters in law, he hath plenty of Casis at his fingers ends, and he hath seene, and tryed, and ruled in the Kings Courtes: Speake of graising and husbandry, no man knoweth more fbires then hee, nor better which way to raise a gainefull commodity, and how the abuses and ouerture of prices might be redressed. Finally, enter into what discourse they lift, were it into a Bromemans facultie, hee knoweth what gains they haue for olde Bootes and Shooes. Yea, and it shall speke him hardly, but that ere your talke breake off, hee will be your Countrey man at leaft, and peraduenture either of kinne, aly, or stale fib to you, if your reach farre farmount not his. In case hee bring to passe that you be glad of his acquaintance, then doeth hee carry you to the Tauernes, and with him goes the Verfer, a man of more wor-shippe then the Taker vp, and hee hath the counte-
aunce of a landed man. As they are set, comes in the Barnard stumbling into your companie, like some aged Farmer of the Countrey, a straunger vnto you all, that had beene at some market Towne thereabout,
buying and selling, and there tipled so much Malmesie, that he had neuer a ready word in his mouth, and is so carelesse of his money, that out he throweth some fortie Angels on the boords end, and standing somewhat aloofe, calleth for a pint of wine, and faith: Masters, I am somewhat bold with you, I pray you be not grieved if I drinke my drinke by you: and thus ministers such idle drunken talke, that the Verfer who counterfeited the landed man, comes and drawes more near to the plaine honest dealing man, and prayeth him to call the Barnard more neare to laugh at his follie. Betweene them two the matter shal be so workemany conueied and finely argued, that out commeth an olde paire of Cardes, whereat the Barnard teacheth the Verfer a new game, that hee saies cost him for the learning two pots of Ale not two houres agoe: the first wager is drinke, the next two pence or a groat, and lastly to be briefe they use the matter so, that he that were an hundred yeere olde, and neuer played in his life for a penny, cannot refuse to be the Verfer's halfe, and consequently at one game at Cardes hee loogeth all they play for, be it a hundred pound. And if perhaps when the mony is lost (to use their word of Arte) the poore Countrey man beginne to smoake them, and sweares the drunken knaue shall not get his money so, then standeth the Rutter at the doore and draweth his sword and picketh a quarrell at his owne shadowe, if he lacke an Ofler or a Tapfer
or some other to brabble with, that while the streete and company gather to the fray, as the manner is, the Barnard steales away with all the coine, and gets him to one blinde Tauerne or other, where these Coofeners had appointed to meete.

Thus Gentlemen I haue glaunft at the Barnardes Lawe, which though you may perceiue it to bee a preiudiciall insinuating coopenage, yet is the Art of Cunny-catching so farre beyond it in subtiltie, as the deuill is more honest then the holieft Angell: for so unlikelie is it for the poore Cunny to leefe, that might he pawn his flake to a pound, he would lay it that he cannot be crofбитten in the cut at cards, as you shaull perceiue by my present discouerie. Yet Gentlemen am I fore threatened by the hackfters of that filthie facultie, that if I set their praſſifes in print, they will cut off that hande that writes the Pamphlet, but how I feare their brauadoes, you shaull perceiue by my plaine painting out of them, yea,fo little doe I esteeme such base minded braggarde, that were it not I hope of their amendment, I would in a schedule set downe the names of ſuch coopening Cunny-catchers. Well, leaving them and their course of life to the honourable and the worshipfull of the lande, to be censors of with iustice, haue about for a blowe at the Art of Crof-biting: I meane not Cros biters at dice, when the Chetor, with a langret, cut contrarie to the vantage, will crof-bite a Card cator tray: Nor I meane
not when a broaking knaue cros-biteth a Gentleman with a bad commoditie: nor when the Foist, the pick-pockets (for reverence I meane) is cros-bitten by the Snap, and so smoakt for his purchase: nor when the Nip, which the common people call a Cut-purse, hath a cros-bit by some brybing officer, who threatening to carry him to prison, takes away all the mony, and lets him slippe without any punishment: But I meane a more dishonourable Arte, when a base Rogue, eyther keepeth a whore as his friende, or marries one to be his mainteyner, and with her not onely cros-bites men of good calling, but especially poor ignoraunt countrey Farmers, who God wotte be by them ledde like sheep to the slaughter. Thus gentle Readers, haue I giuen you a light in briefe, what I meane to prosecute at large, and so with an humble fute to all Iustices, that they will seeke to root out these two roagish Artes, I commit you to the Almighty.

Yours Rob. Greene./
THE ART OF CON-
ny-catching.

Here be requisit effectually to act the Art of Cony-catching, three several parties: the Setter, the Verfer, and the Barnackle. The nature of the Setter, is to draw any person familiarly to drinke with him, which person they call
the Conie, & their methode is according to the man they aime at: if a Gentleman, Marchant, or Apprentice, the Connie is the more easily caught, in that they are soone induced to plaie, and therefore I omit the circumstance which they use in catching of them. And for because the poore countrie farmer or Yeoman is the marke which they most of all shoote at, who they know comes / not emptie to the Terme, I will discover the means they put in practife to bring in some honest, simple & ignorant men to their purpose. The Conny-catchers, apprarelled like honest ciuil gentlemen, or good fellows, with a smooth face, as if butter would not melt in their mouthes, after dinner when the clients are come from Westminster hal, and are at leasure to walke vp and downe Paules, Fléetstéet, Holborne, the stron, and such common hanted places, where these costing companions attend only to spee out a praie: who as soone as they see a plaine countrie fellow well and cleanly apprarelled, either in a coat of home spun ruffet, or of freeze, as the time requires, and a side pouch at his side, there is a connie, faith one. At that word out flies the Setter, and ouertaking the man, begins to salute him thus: Sir, God faue you, you are welcom to London, how doth all our good friends in the countrie, I hope they be all in health? The countrie man seeing a man so curteous he
knowes not, halfe in a browne study at this strange salutation, perhaps makes him this aunswere. Sir, all our friends in the countrie are well, thankes bee to God, but truly I know you not, you must pardon me. Why sir, faith the setter, gefling by his tong what country man hee is, are you not such a cuntry man? : if he says yes, then he creeps vpon him closely: if he say no, thē straight the setter comes ouer him thus: In good sooth sir, I know you by your face & haue bin in your compagnie before, I praie you (if without offence) let me craue your name, and the place of your abode. The simple man straight tels him where he dwels, his name, and who be his next neighbors, and what Gentlemen dwell about him. After he hath learned al of him, then he comes ouer his fallowes kindly: sir, though I haue bin somewhat bold to be inquisitive of your name, yet holde me excused, for I tooke you for a friend of mine, but since by mistaking I haue made you flacke your busines, wele drinke a quart of wine, or a pot of Ale togethers: if the foole be so readie as to go, then the Connie is caught: but if he / smack the setter, and smels a rat by his clawing, and will not drinke with him, then away goes the setter, and discourseth to the verfer the name of the man, the parish hee dwels in, and what gentlemen are his near neighbours: with that away goes he, & croffing the man
at some turning, meets him full in the face, and greetes him thus.

What Goodman Barton, how fare al our friends about you? you are well met, I haue the wine for you, you are welcome to town. The poore countryman hearing himselfe named by a man he knows not, maruels, & answeres that he knowes him not, and craves pardon. Not me Goodman Barton, haue you forgot me? Why I am such a mas kinsman, your neighbor not far off: how doth this or that good gentleman my friend? good Lord that I should be out of your remembrance, I haue bêene at your house divers times. Indeede sir, faith the farmer, are you such a mans kinsman? surely sir if you had not chalenged acquaintance of me, I should neuer haue knowen you, I haue clean forgot you, but I know the good gentleman your cosin well, he is my very good neighbor: & for his sake, faith ñ verfer, weel drink afore we part: haply the man thanks him, and to the wine or ale they goe: then ere they part, they make him a cony, & so feret-claw him at cardes, ñ they leaue him as bare of mony, as an ape of a taile. Thus haue the filthie felows their subtle fetches to draw on poor men to fal into their cofening practifes: thus like consuming moths of the common welth, they pray vpon the ignorance of such plain foules, as measure al by their own honesty, not regarding
either conscience, or the fatal revenge that's threatened for such idle & licentious persons, but do employ all their wits to overthrow such as with their handy-thriftie satisfy their harty thirst: they preferring covenage before labor, and chusing an idle practise before any honest form of good living. Wel, to a method again of taking vp their conies. If the poore countreyman smoake them still, and will not stoupe vnto either of their lures: then one, either / the verfer, or the fetter, or some of their crue, for there is a general fraternity betwixt them, stéppeth before the Cony as he goeth, and letteth drop twelue pence in the high way, that of force the cony must see it. The countreyman spying the shilling, maketh not daintie, for quis nisi mentis inops oblatum respuit aurum, but stoupeth very mannerlie and taketh it vp: then one of the cony catchers behind, crieth halfe part, and so chalengeth halfe of his finding. The countriman content, of Freth to change the money. Nay faith frend, faith the verfer, tis ill luck to keepe found mony, wele go spende it in a pottle of wine, or in a breake-faft, dinner or supper, as the time of day requires: If the conye say he wil not, then answeres the verfer, spende my part: if stil the cony refuse, he taketh halfe, and away. If they spy the countriman to be of a hauing and couetous mind, then haue they a further policie to draw him on: another
that knoweth the place of his abode, meeteth him and faith Sir, wel met, I haue run haftely to ouer-take you, I pray you dwel you not in Darbishire, in such a village? Yes marry doe I frend faith
the cony: then replies the verfer, truely sir I haue
a sute to you, I am going out of town, & must
send a letter to the parson of your parish: you shall
not refufe to do a stranger such a favor as to Cary
it him, haply, as men may in time meet, it may lie
in my lot to do you as good a turn, and for your
paines I will giue you xii pence. The poor cony
in meer simplicitie faith, sir, Ile do so much for you
with al my hart: where is your letter? I haue it
not good sir ready written, but may I entreate you
to step into some tauerne or alehouse? wele drink
the while, and I wil write but a line or two: at
this the cony stopes, and for greedines of the
mony, and vpon courtefie goes with the setter into
the tauerne. As they walke, they meet the verfer,
and then they all three goe into the tauerne together.

Sée Gentlemen what great logicians these cony-
catchers be, that haue such rethoricall perfsaions
to induce / the poor countrie man to his confusion,
and what varietie of villany they haue to strip the
poore farmer of his mony. Wel, imagine the
connie is in the tauerne: then fits down the verfer,
and faith to the setter, what sirrha, wilt thou geue
mee a quart of wine, or shall I geue thee one?
THE ART OF CONNY-CATCHING.

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wele drink a pint faith the fetter, & play a game at cards for it, respecting more the sport then the lose: content q\(^{4}\) the verfer, go cal for a paire: and while he is gone to fetch th\(\bar{e}\), he faith to the cony, you shall see me fetch ouer my yong master for a quart of wine finely, but this you must do for me, when I cut the cards, as I will not cut above five off, mark then of all the greatest pack which is vndermost, & when I bid you cal a card for me, name that, and you shall see wele make him pay for a quart of wine straight: truly faith the cony, I am no great player at cards, and I do not wel vnderstand your meaning: why, faith he, it is thus: I wil play at mum-chaunce, or decoy, that h\(\acute{e}\) shal shuffle the cards, and I wil cut: now eyther of vs must call a card: you shal call for me, and he for himselfe, and whose card comes first, wins: therefore when I haue cut \(\breve{y}\) cards, then mark the nethermost of the greatest heap, that I set vpon the cards which I cut off, & always cal that for me. O now faith the cony, I vnderstand you, let mee alone, I warrant Ile fit your turne: with that in comes the fetter with his cards, and asketh at what game they shal play. Why faith the verfer, at a new game called mum-chance, that hath no policie nor knauerie, but plain as a pike ft\(\bar{a}\): you shal shuffle and Ile cut, you shal cal a card:; and this honeste man, a stranger almoost to vs both, shal cal
another for me, and which of our cards comes first, shall win: content faith the setter, for that's but meer hazard, & so he shuffles the cards, and the verfer cuts of some four cards, and then taking vp the heape to set vp on them, gueth the conny a glance of the bottom card of that heap, and faith, now sir, call for me. The cony to blind the setters eyes, asketh as though he were not made privy to the game, what shall I cut? what card faith the verfer? why what you wil, either hart, spade, club or diamond, cote-card or other. O is it so, faith the connie? why then you shall have the four of harts, which was the card he had a glance of: and faith the setter (holding the cards in his hand, and turning vp the uppermost card, as if he knew not well the game) Ile have the knaue of trumpes. Nay faith the verfer, there is no trump, you may call what card you wil: then faith he Ile have the ten of spades. With that he draws and the four of harts comes first: wel faith the setter, tis but hazard, mine might have come as well as yours, five is vp, I fear not they fet: so they shuffle and cut, but the verfer winnes. Well faith the setter, no butter will cleave on my bread, what, not one draught among five: drawer, a faire pinte, Ile have another bout with you: but sir, I beleeue, faith he to the cony, you see some card, that it goes so cros on my side. I faith the cony, nay I
hope you think not so of me, tis but hazard and chaunce, for I am but a meere stranger vnto the game: as I am an honest man I never saw it before.

Thus this simple cony clofeth vp smoothly to take the versers part, only for greediness to haue him winne the wine: wel answeres the setter, then Ile haue one caft more, and to it they go, but he loseth all, and beginneth to chafe in this maner: were it not quoth he, that I care not for a quart of wine, I could swear as many othes for anger, as there be haires on my head: why shoulde not my luck be as good as yours, and fortune favor me as wel as you? what, not one cald card in ten cuttes, Ile forsware the game for euer. What, chafe not man faith the Verfer, seeing we haue your quart of wine, Ile shew you the game: and with that discourfeth all to him, as if he knew it not. The setter, as simpily as if the knaue were ignorant, faith, I mary, I thinke so, you must needs winne, whē he knowes what card to cal. I might haue plaide long enough before I had got a set. Truely faies the cony, tis a pretie game, for tis not possible for him to lose that cuts / the cardes: I warrant the other that shuffles may looſe Saint Peters cope if he had it. Wel, Ile carrie this home with me into the cuntrie, and win many a pot of ale with it. A fresh pint, sayth the Verfer, and then wele away: but seeing sir, you are going homeward, Ile learne
you a trick worth the noting, that you shall win many a pot with in the winter nights: with that he culs out the four knaues, & prickes one in the top, one in the midst, and one in the bottome. Now, sir, faith he, you see these three knaues apparently, thruft them downe with your hand, & cut where you will, & though they be so far asunder, Ile make them all come together. I praine you lets see that trick, sayth the connie, me thinkes it should be impossible. So the Verfer drawes, and all the three knaues comes in one heap: this he doth once or twice, then the connie wonders at it, and offers him a pint of wine to teach it him. Nay faith the verfer, Ile do it for thanks, and therefore marke me where you haue taken out the four knaues, lay two together aboue and draw vp one of them that it may be seene, then prick the other in the midst, & the third in the bottome, so when any cuts, cut he neuer so warily, three knaues must of force come together, for the bottom knaue is cut to lie vpon both the upper knaues. I marrie, faith the setter, but then the 3. knaues you shewed come not together. Truth faith the verfer, but one among a thousand marke not y, it requires a quick eie, a sharp wit, and a reaching head to spy at the firft. Now gramerckie sir for this trick, faith the connie, Ile dominere with this amofigt my neibors. Thus doth the verfer and the setter feine
friendship to the conie, offering him no shew of cofnage, nor once to draw him in for a pint of wine, y more to shadow their vilany, but now begins the sporte: as thus they fit tipling, comes the Barnacle and threfts open the doore, looking into the roome where they are, and as one bashfull steppeth back againe, and faith, I crie you mercie gentlemen, I thought a friend of mine had bin here, pardon my boldnes. No harme faith / the Verfer, I praiie you drinke a cup of wine with vs, and welcome: so in comes the Barnacle, and taking the cup, drinkes to the Connie, and then faith, what, at cards gentlemen? were it not I shoulde be offen-siue to the company I would play for a pint till my friend come that I looke for. Why sir, faith the Verfer, if you will fit downe you shalbe taken vp for a quart of wine. With all my heart, faith the Barnacle, what will you play at, at Primero, Primo vifo, Sant, one and thirtie, new cut, or what shal be the game? Sir, faith the Verfer, I am but an ignorant man at cards, & I see you haue them at your fingers end, I will play with you at a game wherein can be no deceit: it is called mum-chance at cardes, and it is thus: you shal shuffle the cards and I will cut, you shal cal one, and this honest countrie yoman shal call a card for me, and which of our cards comes first shal win: here you see is no deceit, and this Ile play. No truly, faith
the Connie, me thinkes there can be no great craft in this: well faith the barnacle, for a pint of wine haue at you: so they play as before, fiue vp, and the verfer wins. This is hard luck, sayth the Barnacle, and I beléeue the honest man spies some carde in the bottom, and therefore Ile make this, alwaies to prick the bottom card: content faith the verfer, and the Connie to cloak the matter, faith: fir, you offer me iniury to think that I can call a card, when I neither touch them, shuffle, cut, nor draw them: Ah fir, faith the barnacle, giue loofers leave to speake: wel, to it they go againe, and then the barnacle knowing the game beft, by chopping a card winnes two of the fiue, but lets the verfer win the set: then in a chafe he sweareth tis but his ill luck, and he can see no deceit in it, and therefore he will play xii. d. a cut. The verfer is content, & wins ii. or iii. s. of the barnacle: whereat hee chafes, and faith, I came hether in an ill houre: but I will win my monie again, or loose al in my purfe: with that he draws out a purfe with some three or four pound, & claps it on the bord: the verfer asketh the conie secretly by signs / if he will be his halfe, he saies I, and straight seeks for his purfe: well, the barnacle shuffles the cards throughly, and the verfer cuts as before. The Barnacle when he hath drawen one card, faith, Ile either win somthing or loose somthing, therfore Ile vie and reuie
every card at my pleasure, till either yours or mine come out, and therefore twelue pence vpon this card, my card coms firft for twelue pence: no faith the Verfer, I faith the Connie, and I durft holde twelue pence more. Why I holde you, faith the Barnacle: and so they vie and reuie till some ten shillings bee on the flake: and then next comes forth the versers card, that the Connie called, and so the Barnacle loseth: wel, this flesheth the Conny, the sweetnes of gaine maketh him frolike, and no man is more readie to vie and reuie then he. Thus for three or four times the barnacle looefeth: at laft to whet on the Connie, he striketh his chopt card, and winneth a good flake. Awaie with the witch, cries the Barnacle, I hope the cards will turne at laft. I much, thinketh the connie, twas but a chance that you askt so right, to aske one of the fiue that was cut off; I am sure there was forty to one on my side, and ile haue you on the lurch anone. So stil they vie and reuie, and for once that the barnacle winnes, the conie gets fiue: at laft when they mean to haue the conie cleane of all his coine, the barnacle chafeth, and vpon a pawne borroweth some monie of the Tapfter, & sweares he wil vie it to the uttermoft. Then thus he chops his card to cros-bite the connie: he first lookes on the bottome Carde, which he knowes to be uppemost, then fets he downe the cards, and
the Verfer to encourage the Connie, cut of but three cards, whereof the barnacles card must needs be the vuppermoft. Then shewes he the bottome carde of the other heape cut off to the connie, and sets it vpon the barnacles card which he knowes, so that of force the carde that was laide vppermoft, must come forth first, and then the barnacle calles that carde. They drawe a carde, and then the / Barnacle vies, and the countriman vies vpon him: for this is the law, as often as one vies or reuies, the other must see it, els he loseth the stake. Wel, at laft the barnacle plies it so, that perhaps he vies more mony then the cony hath in his purfe. The cony vpon this, knowing his card is the third or fourth card, and that hee hath forty to one against the Barnacle, pawns his rings if hee haue any, his fword, his cloke, or els what he hath about him, to maintaine the vie, and when he laughs in his fleue, thinking he hath flees the barnacle of all, then the barnacles card comes forth, and strikes such a cold humor vnto his heart, that hee fits as a man in a traunce, not knowing what to doe, and fighing while his hart is redy to breake, thinking on the mony that he hath loft. Perhaps the man is very simple and patient, and whatsoeuer he thinks, for feare goes his way quiet with his losse, while the conny-catchers laugh and deuide the spoyle, and being out of the dores, poore man, goes to his
lodging with a heavy hart, pensiue & sorrowful, but too late, for perhaps his state did depend on that mony, and so he, his wife, his children, and his familie, are brought to extream miserie. Another perhaps more hardy and subtil, smokes the cony-catchers, and smelleth cosenage, and faith, they shal not haue his mony so, but they answere him with braues, and thogh he bring them before an officer, yet the knaues are so fauored, that the man neuer recouers his mony, and yet he is let flippe vnpunished.

Thus are the poore conies robbed by these base minded caterpillers: thus are seruing men oft entisef to play, and lose al: thus are prentifes induced to be Connies, and so are cosened of their masters mony, yea yoong gentlemen, merchants, and others, are fetcht in by these damnable rakehels: a plague as ill as hell, which is, present loss of money, & ensuing miserie A lamentable case in England, when such vipers are suffred to breed and are not cut off with the sword of iustice. This enormity is not onely in London but now generally dispersed through all / England, in euery shire, city, and town of any receipt, and many complaints are heard of their egregious cosenage. The poore farmer simply going about his busines, or unto his attorneys chamber, is catcht vp & cosened of all. The seruing-man sent with his Lordes treasure,
lofeth oftentimes most part to these worms of the commonwealth: the prentice having his masters mony in charge, is spoiled by them, and from an honest servant either driven to run away, or to liue in discredite for euer. The gentleman lofeth his land, the marchant his stock, and all to these abominable conny-catchers, whose meanes is as ill as their liuing, for they are all either wedded to whores, or so addicted to whores, that what they get from honest men, they spend in bawdy houses among harlots, and consume it as vainly as they get it villanously. Their eares are of adamant, as pitiles as they are trecherous, for be the man never so poore, they wil not return him one peny of his los. I remember a merry iest done of late to a welchman, who being a meere stranger in Londo, and not wel acquainted with the English tongue, yet chaunced amongst certayne cony-catchers, who spyng the gentleman to haue mony, they so dealt with him, that what by signes, and broken English, they got him in for a cony, and fleext him of every peny that he had, and of his sword: at last the mafoakt them, and drew his dagger vpon them at Ludgate, for thereabouts they had catcht him, and would haue stabde one of them for his mony: people came and stoppt him, and the rather because they could not understand him, though he had a card in one hand, and his dagger in the other, and
faid as wel as he could, a card, a card, Mon dieu. In the mean while the conny-catchers were got into Paules, and so away. The welchman folowed them, seeking them there vp and down in the church, stil with his naked dagger and the card in his hand, and the gentlemen marueld what he meant thereby: at laft one of his countrimen met him, and enquired the caufe of his choler, and then he told / him how he was costened at cards, and robbed of all hys mony: but as his losse was voluntary, fo his seeking them was meer vanity, for they were stept into some blind ale house to deuide the shares.

Neere to S. Edmunds Burie in Suffolk, there dwelt an honest man a Shomaker, that hauing some twenty markes in his purse, long a gathering, and neerly kept, came to the market to buy a dicker of hides, and by chaunce fel among cony-catchers, whose names I omit, because I hope of their amendment. This plain countriman drawn in by these former deuises, was made a cony, and so straight stript of all his xx. marke, to his vetter vndoing: the knaues scapt, and he went home a sorowful man. Shortly after, one of these cony-catchers was taken for a suspected person, and laid in Bury gaole. The sessions comming, and he produced to the bar, it was the fortune of this poore shomaker to be there, who spying this roage to be arained, was glad, and
said nothing vnto him, but lookt what would be the issue of his appearance. At the lasfe hee was brought before the Iuftices, where he was examined of his life, and being demanded what occupation he was, said none: what profession then are you of, how liue you? Marry quoth he, I am a gentle-
man, and liue of my friends. Nay, that is a lie quoth the poor fhoomaker, vnnder correction of the worshipful of the bench, you haue a trade, and are by your art a Cony-catcher. A cony-catcher said one of the Iuftices, and smiled, what is he a warriner fellow? whose warren keepeth hee, canft thou tel? Nay sir, your worship miiftaketh me q". the fhoomaker, he is not a wariner, but a cony-catcher. The bench, that neruer heard this name before, smilde, attributing the name to the mans simplicitie, thought he meant a warriner: which the fhoomaker spying, aunswered, that some conies this fellow catcht were worth twenty mark a peece, and for proof quoth he, I am one of them: and fo discoursft the whole order of the art, and the basenes of the cosening: wherevpon the Iuftices looking into his life, ap/pointed him to be whipt, and the fhoomaker defired that he might geue him his paiment, which was graunted. When he came to his punishment, the fhoomaker laught, saying, tis a mad world when poor conies are able to beate their catchers, but he lent him so frendly
lares, that almoft he made him pay an ounce of bloud for every pounde of siluer. Thus we see how the generation of these vipers increase, to the confusion of many honest men: whose practises to my poore power I haue discouered and set out, with the villainous sleightes they vfe to intrap the simple: yet haue they clokes for the raine, and shadowes for their vilanies, calling it by the name of art or law: as cony-catching art, or cony-catching law. And herof it rifeth, y like as law, when the terme is truely considered signifieth y ordinance of good men, established for the commonwelth, to repreffe al vicious liuing, fo these cony-catchers turne the cat in the pan, geuing to diuers vile patching shiftes, an honest & godly title, calling it by the name of a law, because by a multitude of hateful rules, as it were in good learning, they exercise their villanies to the destruc ti o of sundry honest persons. Herevpon they geue their false conueyance, the name of cony-catching law, as there be also other lawes; as high law, faeking lawe, figging law, cheting law and barnards law. If you maruail at these misteries and queynt words, confider, as the Carpeter hath many termes familiar inough to his prentices, that other vnderstand not at al, fo haue the cony-catchers, not without great cause: for a falshood once detected, can neuer com-passe the desired effect. Therefore will I presently x. 3
acquaint you with the signification of the termes, in a Table. But leaving them til time and place, coming downe Turnmil street the other day, I met one whom I suspected a cony-catcher: I drew him on to the tavern, and after a cup of wine or two, I talkt with him of the maner of his life, & told him I was sorry for his friends sake, he tooke so bad a course, as to liue vpon the spoile of poore men, and specially to deserve the name of cony-catching, dissuading him from that base kind of life, that was so ignominious in the world, and so lothsome in the sight of God. Tut sir, quoth he, calling me by my name, as my religion is fmal, so my deuotion is leffe: I leave God to be disputed on by diuines: the two ends I aime at, are gaine and eafe, but by what honest gaine I may get, never comes within the compasse of my thoughts. Thogh your experience in trauaile be great, yet in home matters mine be more, yea, I am sure you are not so ignorant, but you know that fewe men can liue vprightly, vnlesse hee haue some pretie way, more then the world is witnes to, to helpe him withall: Think you some lawyers could be such purchasers, if all their pleas were short, and their proceedinges iustice and conscience? that offices would be so dearely bought, and the buiers so soone enriched, if they counted not pilage an honest kind of purchase? or do you think that men of
hādie trades make all their commodities without falshood, when so many of them are become daily purchasers? nay what wil you more? who so hath not some sinister way to help himselfe, but followeth his nose alwaies straight forward, may wel hold vp the head for a yeare or two, but ʃ third he must needs sink, and gather the wind into begers hauen: therfore, sir, ceafe to perfwade me to the contrarie, for my resolulion is to beat my wits, and spare not to busie my braines to saue and help me by what meanes foeuer I care not, so I may awoide the danger of the lawe: wherupon, seeing this cony-catcher resolued in his forme of life, leaving him to his lewdnes I went away, wondering at the basenes of their minds, that would spend their time in such detestable fort. But no maruell, for they are geuen vp into a reprobate fence, and are in religion meere atheists, as they are in trade flat dissimblers. If I shoulde spend many sheets in deciphering their shifts, it were friuelous, in that they be many, and ful of variety: for euery / day they invent new tricks, and such queint deuises as are secret, yet passing dangerous, that if a man had Argus eyes, he could scant prie into the bottom of their practifes. Thus for the benefit of my counotre I haue briefly discouered the law of Cony-catching, desiring all Iustices, if such coznens light in their precinet, euen to vite fumnum ius against
them, because it is the basest of all villainies. And that London prentices, if they chance in such conny-catchers companie, may teach them London law, that is, to defend the poore men that are wronged, and learn the caterpillers the highway to Newgate: where if Hind fauour them with the heaviest irons in all the house, & giue the his vnkindest entertainment, no doubt his other pety finnes halfe halfe pardoned for his labour: but I wouulde it might be their fortune to happen into Nobles, Northward in white chappel: there in faith round Robin his deputie, would make them, like wretches, feel the weight of his heaviest fetters. And so desiring both honourable and worshipful, as well Iuftices, as other officers, and all estates, from the prince to the beggar, to rest professed enemies to these base-minded cony-catchers, I take my leave.

Nascimur pro patria.

A table of the words of art, vsed in the effecting these base villainies.
Wherein is discovered the nature of euery terme, being proper to none but to the professors thereof.

1 High law  robbing by the high way side.
2 Sacking law  lecherie.
3 Cheting law  play at false dice.
4 Cros-biting law  cosenage by whores.
The Art of Conny-catching.

These are the eight lawes of villanie, leading the high waie to infamie.

The Theefe is called a High lawier.
He that setteth the Watch, a Scrippet.
He that standeth to watch, an Oake
He that is robd, the Martin
When he yeeldeth, ftouping.

The Bawd if it be a woman, a Pander
The Bawd, if a man, an Apple squire
The whoore, a Commodity
The whoore house, a Truggling place.

Pardon me Gentlemen for although no man could better then myself discouer this lawe and his tearmes, and the name of their Cheats, Barddice, Flats, Forgers, Langrets, Gourds, Demies, and many other, with their nature, & the crosles and contraries to them ypon aduantage, yet for some speciaall reasons, herein I will be silent.
THE ART OF CONNY-CATCHING.

In Crof-biting law.
The whore, the Traffique
The man that is brought in, the Simpler.
The villaines that take them, the Cros-biters.
The partie that taketh vp the Connie, the Setter.

In Coni-catch-ing law.
He that plaieth the game, the Verfer
He that is coofned, the Connie,
He that comes in to them, the Barnackle
The monie that is won, Purchafe.

In Verfing law.
He that bringeth them in, the Verfer
The poore Countrie man, the Coofin
And the dronkard that comes in, the Suffier
He that bringeth him in, a Nip
He that is halfe with him, the Snap
The knife, the Cuttle boung

In Figging law.
The picke pocket, a Foin
He that faceth the man, the Stale
Taking the purfe, Drawing
Spying of him, Smoaking
The purfe, the Bong
The monie, the Shels
The Act doing, striking
He that fetcheth the man, the Taker
He that is taken, the Coofin

In Barnards lawe.
The landed man, the Verfer
The dronken man, the Barnard
And he that makes the fray, the Rutter.

Cum multis aliis quæ nunc præscribere longum est.
THE ART OF CONNY-CATCHING.

These quaint termes do these base arts use to shadow their villanie withall; for, *multa latent quae non patent*, obscuring their filthie crafts with these faire colours, that the ignorant may not espie what their subtiltie is: but their end will be like their beginning, hatcht with *Cain*, and consumed with *Judas*: and so bidding them due to the deuil, and you farewell to God, I end. And now to the art of Cros-biting.

The art of Cros-biting.

The Cros-biting law is a publique profession of shameles cozenage, mixt with incestuous whoredomes, as il as was practised in *Gomorpha* or *Sodom*, though not after the same vnnatural manner: for the method of their mischievous art (with blushing chekes & trembling hart let it be spoken) is, that these villanous vipers, vnworthy the name of men, base roagues (yet why doe I terme them so well?) being outcafts from God, vipers of the world, and an excremental reuersion of sin, doth consent, nay confrayne their wiues to yeeld the vse of their bodies to other men, that taking them together, he may cros-bite the party of all the crownes he can presently make: and that the world may see their monstrous practises, I wil briefly set downe the manner.

They haue sundry praies that they cal simplers,
THE ART OF CONNY-CATCHING.

which are men fondly and wantonly given, whom for a penaltie of their luft, they fleece of al that ever they haue: some marchants, prentices, feruing-men, gentlemen, yeomen, farmers, and all degrées, and this is their forme: there are resident in London & the suburbes, certain men attired like Gentlemen, braue fellowes, but basely minded, who liuing in want, as their last refuge, fall vnto this cros-biting law, and to maintein themselves, either marry with some stale whore, or els forsooth keep one as their freed: and these persons be commonly men of the eight lawes before rehearsed: either high Lawiers, Verfers, Nips, Conny-catchers, or such of the like fraternitie. These when their other trades fail, as the Cheater, when he has no coffin to grime with his stop dice, or y high lawier, when he hath no set match to ride about, and the Nip when there is no tearme, faire, nor time of great assemblie, then to maintain the maine chance, they vse the benefite of their wiuces or friends, to the cros-biting of such as luft after their filthie enormities: some simple men are drawn on by subtill meanes, which neuer intended such a bad matter. In summer evenings, and in the winter nightes, these traffickes, these common truls I meane, walke abroad either in the fields or streets that are commonly hanted, as stales to drawe men into hell: and a farre of, as attending apple squires, certaine cros-bitters stand aloofe, as if
they knew them not: now so many men so many affections. Some vnruly mates that place their content in lust, letting slippe the libertie of their eies on their painted faces, feede vp on their vnchaft beauties, till their hearts be set on fire: then come they to these minions, and court them with many sweett words: alas their loues needs no long futes, for they are forthwith entertained, and either they go to the Tauerne to seale vp the match with a pottle of Ipocras, or straight she carries him to some bad place, and there picks his pocket, or else the Cros-biter comes swearing in, & so out-face the dismaied companion, that rather then hee would be brought in question, he would disburse all that he hath present. But this is but an easie cofnage. Some other, meeting with one of that profession in the street, wil question if she will drinke with him a pint of wine? theyr trade is neuer to refuse, and if for manners they doe, it is but once: & then scarce shall they be warme in the roome, but in comes a terrible fellow, with a side haire, & a fearefull beard, as though he were one of Polyphemus cut, & he comes frowning in & faith, what haft thou to doe base knaue, to carry my fister or my wife to the tauern? by his ownes you whore, tis some of your companions: I wil haue/ you both before the Iustice, Deputie, or Constable, to bee examined. The poore seruingman, appren-
tise, farmer, or whatsoever he is, seeing such a terrible huffe huffe, swearing with his dagger in his hand, is fearfull both of him and to be brought in trouble, and therfore speakes kindly and courteously vnto him, and desires him to be content, he meant no harm. The whore, that hath teares at command, fals a weeping, and cries him mercy. At this submission of them both he triumphs like a bragard, and will take no compassion: yet at last, through intreathy of other his companions comming in as strangers, hee is pacified with some forty shillings, and the poor man goes sorrowful away, fighting out that which Solomon hath in his proverbs. A shameles woman hath hony in her lippes, and her throte as sweet as hony, her throte as soft as oyle: but the end of her is more bitter then Aloes, and her tongue is more sharp then a two edged sword, her feet go vnto death, and her steppes leade vnto hell.

Again these truls when they haue got in a nouice, then straight they pick his purse, and then haue they their cros-bites redy, to whom they conuey the mony and so offer themselfes to be searcht: but the poore man is so out faced by these cros-biting Ruffians, that hee is glad to goe away content with his losse: yet are these easie practices. O might the Iustices send out spials in the night, they shold see how these street walkers wil iet in rich garded gowns, queint periwigs, ruf
of the largest size, quarter and halfe deep, gloried richly with blew starch, their cheekes died with surfuling water: thus are they trickt vp, and either walke like stales vp and downe the streets, or stande like the deuils *Si quis* at a tauern or ale house, as if who shoulde say, if any be so minded to satisfie his filthie luft, to lende me his purfe, and the deuil his soule, let him come in and be welcome. Now sir comes by a countrey farmer, walking from his inne to perform some busines, and seeing such a gorgeous damzel, hee wondering at such a braue wench, stands staring her on the face, or perchapse doth but cast a glance, and bid her good speed, as plain simple swains haue their lustie humors as well as others: the trull straight beginning her *exordium* with a smile, faith, how now my friend, what want you? would you speake with anie body here? If the fellow haue anie bolde spirit, perhaps he will offer the wine, & then he is caught: tis inough, in he goes, and they are chamberd: then sends she for her husband, or her friend, and there either the farmers pocket is stript, or else the cros-biter fall vpun him, and threaten him with bridewill and the law: then for feare he gives them all in his purfe, and makes them some bill to paie a summe of monie at a certaine daie. If the poore Farmer bee bashfull, and paffeth by one of these shamelesse trumpets, then will she verse it with him, and
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clai'me acquaintanc'e of h'rn, and by some pollicie
or other faI' abo'rd on h'm, and carrie h'm intto
some houfe or other: if he but enter in at the
doors with her (though the poore FaIrner neuer
kift h'er) yet then the cros-biters, like vul'tures, will
pray upon h'rs purfe, and rob h'm of euerie pennie.
If there bee anie yong gentleman that is a nolice
and hath not feene theyr traines, to h'm will some
common filth (that neuer knew loue) faI'e an
ardent and honest affection, till she and her cros-
biters have veft h'm to the beggers estate. Ah
gentlemen, marchants, yeomen and farmers, let
this to you all, and to every degrée else, be a
caveat to warn you from luft, that your inordinate
desire be not a meane to impouerifh your purses,
discredit your good names, condemne your Soules,
but also that your wealth got with the sweat of
your browes, or left by your parents as a patri-
monie, fhall be a praie to thofe coofning cros-biters.
Some fond men are fo farre in with these deteft-
able trugs, that they confume what they haue vpon
them, and find nothing but a Neapolitan fauor for
their labor. Reade the feuenth of Salomens pro-
erbs, and there at large view the defcription of a
fhomeles and impudent curtizan. Yet is there an
/ other kind of cros-biting which is moft peftilent,
and that is this. There lies about this towne
certaine howfholders, yet meere shifters and coofners,
who learning some insight in the ciuill law, walke abrode like parators, fumners and informers, beeing none at all either in office or credit, and they go spying about where any marchant, or marchants prentife, citizen, wealthie farmer, or other of credit, either accompany with anie woman familiarly, or else hath gotten some maide with child, as mens natures be prone to sin: straigh they come ouer his fallows thus: they send for him to a tauern, & there open the matter vnto him, which they haue cunningly larned out, telling him he must be pre-fented to the Arches, & the fcitation shalbe per-emptorily serued in his parish church. The partie afraid to haue his credit crackt with the worshipfull of the Citie, and the rest of his neighbors, & grieuing highly his wife shoulde heare of it, straighe takes compoition with this coisner for some twentie markes, nay I heard of forty pound cros-bitten at one time, & the the coisning informer or cros-biter promiseth to wipe him out of the booke, & discharge him from the matter, when it was neither knownen nor presented: so go they to the woman, and fetch her off if she be married, and though they haue this grosse sum yet oft-times they cros-bite hir for more: nay thus do they feare citizens, prentifes, & farmers, that they find but any waie suspitious of the like fault. The cros-biting bauds, for no better can I tearme them, in that for lucre
THE ART OF CONNY-CATCHING.

they conceale the fin, and smoother vp luft, do not onely inrich themselves mightily thereby, but also discredite, hinder, and prejudice the court of the Arches, and the Officers belonging to the same. There are some pore blinde patches of that facultie, that haue their Tenements purchased, and their plate on the boorde verie solemnly, who onely get their gaines by cros-biting, as is afore rehearsed. But leaving them to the deepe inight of such as be appointed with iustice to correct vice, againe to the crue of my for / mer cros-biters, whose fee fime to liue vppon, is nothing but the following of common, dishonest and idle truls, and thereby maintain themselves braue, and the strumpets in handsome furniture. And to end this art with an English demonstration, ile tel you a pretie tale of late performd in bishopgate street: there was there fiue traffiques, pretty, but common huswiues, that stood fast by a tauern dore, loking if some pray would passe by for their purpose. Anone the eldest of them, and most experienced in that law, called Mal B. spied a master of a ship comming along: here is a simpler quoth she, Ile vere him, or hang me. Sir, sayde shee, God euen, what, are you fo liberal to bestow on three good wenches that are drie, a pint of wine? In faith, faire women qd. he, I was neuer nigard for fo much, and with that he takes one of them by the hand, and
caries them all into the tavern: there he bestowed cheare and ipocras vpon them, drinking hard til the shot came to a noble, so that they iii. carousing to the gentleman, made him somewhat tipsy, and then & venus in vinis, ignis inigne fuit. Wel, night grew on, and hee would away, but this mistres Mall B. flopt his iorney thus: gentleman, qd. she, this vndeferued favor of yours makes vs so deeplie beholding to you, that our abilitie is not able any way to make sufficient satisfaction, yet to shew vs kind in what we can, you shal not deny me this request, to see my simple house before you go. The gentleman a little whited, consented, & went with them, so the shot was paid, & away they goe: Without the tavern dore stood two of their husbands, J. B. & J. R. and they were made priuy to the praftife. Home goes the gentleman with these luffie huswiues, stumbling: at lafte hee was welcome to M. Mal's house: and one of the three went into a chamber, and got to bed, whose name was A. B. After they had chatted a while, the gentleman would haue been gone, but she told him that before he went, hee shoulde see al the roomes of her house, and so ledde him vp into the chamber where the party lay in bed. Who is here faide the Gentleman? Marie faith Mal, a good pretie wench sir, and if you be not well, lie downe by her, you can take no harm of her: dronkennes
desires luft, and so the Gentleman begins to dallie, and awaie goes she with the candle, and at last he put of his clothes and went to bed: yet he was not so dronke, but he could after a while remember his mony, and feeling for his purse, all was gone, and three linkes of his whistle broken off: the sum that was in his purse was in gold and fluer, twentie nobles. As thus hee was in a maze, though his head were well laden: in comes J. B. the goodman of the house, and two other with him, and speaking somewhat loud, peace husband quoth she, there is one in bed, speak not so loud. In bed, faith he, gogs nownes, ile go see: and so will I, faith the other: you shall not faith his wife, but stroue against him, but vp goes he and his cros-biter with him, & seeing the Gentleman in bed, out with his dagger, and asked what base villain it was that there sought to dishonest his wife? well, he sent one of them for a constable, and made the gentleman rise, who halfe dronk yet had that remembrance to speake faire, and to intreate him to keep his credit: but no intreatie could serue, but to the Counter he muft, & the Constable muſt be sent for: yet at the last one of them intreated that the gentleman might be honestly vſed, and caried to a Tauerne to talke of the matter till a constable come. Tut, faith J. B. I wil haue law vpon him: but the base cros-biter at last ftoopt, and to the
THE ART OF CONNY-CATCHING. 49

Tauerne they go, where the Gentleman laide his whistle to pawne for mony, & there bestowed as much of them as came to ten shillings, and late drinking and talking vntill the next morrow. By that, the Gentleman had stolen a nap, and waking it was daie light, and then seeing himselfe compassed with these cros-bitters, and remembring his nights worke, soberly smilung, asked them if they knew what he was: they anfwered, not wel. Why then quoth he, you base coofning rogues, you shalere we part: and with that drawing his sword, kept them into the chamber, defiring that the conftable might be fent for: but / this braue of his could not dismay M. Mall, for shee had bin'd a sharper brunt before: witnes the time of her martirdome, when vpon her shoulders was engrauen the history of her who'ish qualities: but she replying swore, fith he was so lufty, her husband should not put it vp by no meanes. I will tel thee thou base cros-biting baud, quoth he, and you coofning companions, I ferve a nobleman, & for my credit with him, I refer me to the penaltie hee will impose on you, for by God I wil make you an example to al cros-bites ere I ende with you: I tel you villaines, I ferve, and with that he namde his Lord. When the guilty whores and coifeners heard of his credite and ferveice, they began humbly to intreat him to be good to thē: then quoth he, first deliuer me my x.
mony: they vpon that gladly gaue him all, and restored the linkes of his chaine. When hee had all, he smiled, and sware afresh that he would torment them for al this, that the feueritie of their punishment might be a caueat to others to beware of the like coosenage: and vppon that knockt with his foote, and sayde hee would not let them go till he had a constable. Then in general they humbled themselves, so recompening the partie, that he agreed to passe over the matter, conditionallie beside, that they would pay the sixteene shillinges hee had spent in charges, which they also performed. The Gentleman stept his way, and said, you may see the olde prouerbe fulfilled, Fallere fallentem non est fraus.

Thus haue I deciphered an odious practife, not worthy to be named: and now wishing al, of what estate soever, to beware of filthy luft, and such damnable stales as drawes men on to inordinate desires, and rather to spend their coine amongst honest companie then to bequeath it to such base cros-biters as praye vpon men, like rauens vpon dead carcafes, I end with this praier, that Cros-biting and Conny-catching may be as little knownen in England, as the eating of swines-flesh was amongst the Jewes. Farewel.

Nascemur pro patria.

FINIS.
A PLEASANT DISCOVERY OF

the coosenage of Colliars.

Although (courteous Readers) I did not
put in amongst the lawes of coifening,
the law of legering, which is a deceit
wherewith colliers abuse the commonwelth, in
hauing vnlawful sacks, yet take it for a pettie
kinde of craft or mystery, as preiudicial to the
poore, as any of the other two, for I omitted diuers
other diuelish vices; as the nature of the lift, the
black art, & the curbing law, which is the filchers
and theues that come into houses or shops, & lift
away anything: or picklocks, or hookers at win-
dowes, thogh they be as species and branches to the
table before rehearsed. But leauing them, again
to our law of legering. Know therefore, that there
be inhabiting in & about London, certaine cater-
pillers (coliers I shold say) that terme thefeslues
(among themselues) by the name of legers, who for that the honorable the L. Maior of the citie of London, & his officers, looke straitly to the measur-
ing of coales, doe (to preuent the execution of his iustice,) plant themselues in & about the suburbs 
of London, as Shorditch, White-chappel, Southwark, & such places, and there they haue a house or yard, that hath a back gate, because it is the more con-
venient for their cofening purpose, and the reason is this ; the Leger, the crafty collier I meane, rifeth
very early in the morning, and either goeth to-
wardes Croyden, Whetstone, Greenwitch, or Romford, and there meeteth the countrey Colliers, who bring coles to serue the markette: there, in a forefattling manner, this leger bargayneth / with the Countrie Collier for his coales, and paieth for them nineteene shillings or twentie at the moft, but commonly fifteene and sixteene, and there is in the load 36 fackes: so that they paie for euerie couple about fourteen pence. Now hauing bought his coales, euerie facke containing full foure bushels, he car-
rieth the Countrie Collier home to his legering place, and there at the backe gate caufeth him to vnloade, and as they faie, shoote the coales downe. As soone as the Countrie Collier hath dispatccht and is gone, then the Leger who hath three or foure hired men vnder him, bringeth forth his own 
facks, which be long and narow, holding at the
moft not three bufhels: so that they gaine in the change of euerie facke a bufhell for their pains. Tuft, yet this were somwhat to be borne withal, although the gaine is monftrous, but this sufficeth not, for they fill not these fackes full by far, but put into them some two bufhels & a halfe, laying in the mouth of the facke certaine great coles, which they call fillers, to make the fack shew faire, although the reft be small wilow coles, and halfe dros. Whē they haue thus not filled their facks, but thruft coles into thē, that which they lay vppermoſt, is best filled, to make the greater shew: then a tall fтурдіе knaue, that is all ragd, and durtie on his legs, as thogh he came out of the Countrie (for they durtie their hose and shoos on purpose to make themfeldues feem countrie colliers:) Thus with two facks a peece they either go out at the back gate or ftéal out at the ftreed fide, and so vp and downe the fuburbs, & sel their coales in summer for fourteene and sixteenepence a couple, and in winter for eightene or twentie. The poore cookes & other citizens that buy them, thinke they be countrie colliers, that haue left some coles of their load, and would gladly haue monie, supposing (as the ſtatute is) they be good and lawfull fackes, are thus coofned by the legers, & haue but two bufhels and a halfe for foure bufhels, and yet are extreamlye rackt in the price, which is
not onely a great hinderance to her Maiesties poore cōmons, but greatly preiudiciall to the master Colliers, that bring true sacks & measure out of the countrie. Then consider (gentle readers) what kind of coofnage these legers vse, that make of thirty sacks some 56. which I haue seen, for I haue set downe with my pen how many turnes they haue made of a load, and they make 28., euerie turne being two sacks, so that they haue got an intollerable gains by their false measure. I could not be silent seeing this abuse, but thought to reuell it for my countries commoditie, and to giue light to the worshipfull Iustices, and other her Maiesties officers in Middlesex, Surrey, and elsewhere, to looke to such a grosse coofnage, as contrarie to a direct statute, doth defraud & impouerish her Maiesties poore cōmos. Well may the honorable and worshipful of London florish, who carefully looke to the countrie coales, & if they finde not 4 busheles in euerie sacke, do fell the to the poore as forfeit, & distribut the mony to them that haue need, burning the sacke, & honoring or rather dishonoring the pillarie with the Colliers dutye faces: & wel may the honorable & worshipfull of the suburbs prosper, if they loke in iustice to these legers who deferue more punishment than the statute appoints for them, which is whipping at a carts taile, or with favor the pillorie.
For fewell or firing being a thing necessary in a commonwealth, and charcoal used more than any other, the poore not able to buy by the load, are fain to get in their fire by the sacke, & so are greatly coosned by the retaile. Seeing therefore the carefull lawes her Maiestie hath appointed for the wealth of her commons, and succor of the poore, I would humbly entreat all her Maiesties officers, to looke into the life of these legers, and to root them out, that the pore feele not the burden of their incloccionable gaines. I heard with my eares a pore woman of Shorditch who had bought coles of a leger, with weeping teares cooplain and raile against him in the streete, in her rough eloquence calling him coosning knaue, & saying, tis no maruell, villain (quoth she) if men compare you colliers to the deuill, seeing your conscience are worser then the deuilles, for hee takes none but those souls whom God hates: and you vndo the poore whom God loues.

What is the matter good wife (quoth I) that you vse such inuestiue words against the collier: a collier sir (faith she) he is a theefe and a robber of the common people. Ile tel you sir, I bought of a Countrie collier two sackes for thirteene pence & I bought of this knaue three sackes, which cost me
22. pence: and sir, when I measured both their fackes, I had more in the two fackes by three pecks, then I had in the three. I would (quoth she) the Iustices would looke into this abuse, and that my neighbors would ioyne with me in a supplication, and by God I would kneele before the Queene, and intreate that such coofening Colliers might not onlie bee punished with the / bare pillerie, (for they haue such blacke faces, that no man knowes them again, and so are they careles) but that they might leaue their eares behind them for a forfeit: & if that would not mend them, that Bul with a faire halter might root them out of the world, that liue in the world by such grosse and dishonest coofnage. The collier hearing this went smiling awaie, because he knew his life was not lokt into, & the woma wept with anger that she had not some one by that might with iustice reuenge her quarrell.

There be also certaine Colliers that bring coles to London in Barges, and they be called Gripers: to these comes the leger, & bargens with him for his coles, & fels by retaile with the like coofnage of fackes as I rehearsed before. But these mad Legers (not content with this monstrous gaine) do besides mix among their other fackes of coales, store of shruffe dust and small cole, to their great aduantage. And for proofe hereof, I will recite
you a matter of truth, lately performed by a Cookes wife vpon a coofning Collier.

How a Cookes wife in London did lately ferue a Collier for his coosnage.

T chanced this Summer that a load of coles came forth of Kent to Billinqgate, and a Leger bought them, who thinking to deceiue the Citizens, as he did thofe in the suburbs, furnisht himſelfe with a couple of fackes, and comes vp Saint Marie hill to fell them. A Cookes wife bargained with the collier, and bought his coales, and they agreed vpon fourteene pence for the couple: which beeing done, hee carried the coales into the house, and shot them: and when / the wife fawe them, and perceiuing there was scarce five bushels for eight, she cals a little girle to her, and bad her go for the Conſtable: for thou cooſening rogue, quoth she, (ſpeaking to the collier) I wil teach thee how thou ſhalt cooſen me with thy falſe facks, whatſoever thou doeft to others, and I wil haue thee before my Lord Maior: with that ſhe caught a spit in her hand, and ſwore if he offered to ſtir, ſhee would therewith broach him. At which words the Collier was amazed, and the feare of the pillerie put him in ſuch a fright, that he ſaid he would go to his boat, & returne againe
to answer whatsoever she durst object against him, and for pledge heereof (quoth the Collier) keepe my fackes, your mony, and the coales also. Wher-upon the woman let him go: but as soon as the collier was out of doors, it was needes to bid him runne, for downe he gets to his boate, & awaie he thrusts from Billin[g]gate, and so immediately went downe to Wapping, and never after durst returne to the Cookes wife to demand either monie, fackes, or coales.

How a Flaxe wife and her neighbours used a coof-ning Collier.

Now Gentlemen by your leave, and heare a merry jest: There was in the suburbs of London a Flaxe wife that wanted coles, and seeing a leger come by with a couple of fackes, that had before deceuied her in like sorte, cheaped, bargained & bought them, & so went in with her [to] shoote them in her cole-house. As soon as she saw her coles, she easely gett there was scarce five bushels, yet dissembling the matter, she paid him for the, and bad him bring her two facks more: the Collier went his waie & in the mean time the flax wife measured the coles, and there was iust five bushels and a peck. Hereupon she cald to her neighbours, being a companie of women, that before time had also bene pincht in their coles, and
THE ART OF CONNY-CATCHING.

shewed them the cofnage, & desired their aide to her in tormenting the Collier: which they promised to performe, & thus it fell out. She conueid them into a backe roome (some sixteen of them) euerie one hauing a good cudgell under her apron; straight comes the Collier, and faith, Mistres, here be your coles: welcome good Collier, quoth she, I praie thee follow me into the backe side, & shoot them in an other roome. The Collier was content, and went with her: but as soone as he was in, the good wife lockt the doore, and the Collier seeing such a troupe of wives in the roome, was amazed, yet said God speed you all shrews: welcome, quoth one iolly Dame, being appointed by them all to giue sentence against him: who so soon as the collier had shot his sacks, said Sirrha collier, know that we are here all assembled as a græd Iurie, to determine of thy villanies, for felling vs falsfackes of coales, & know that thou art here indited upon cofnage, therefore hold vp thy hand at the bar, & either faie, guiltie, or not guiltie, and by whom thou wilt be tried, for thou must receive condigne punishment for the same ere thou depart. The Collier who thought they had but iefted, smiled & said Come on, which of you shall be my ludge? Marry, quoth one iolly Dame, that is I, and by God you knaue, you shall finde I will pronounce sentence against you severely, if you be founde guiltie. When the Collier saw they were in earnest, he said, Come come, open the doore, and let me
go: with that fife or fix started vp, and fell vpon the Collier, and gaue vnto him halfe a score of sound lambeakes with their cudgels, and bad him speake more reuerently to their Principall.

The Collier feeling it smart, was afraid, & thought mirth & courteste would be the best mean to make amends for his villany, and therefore said he would be tried by the verdit of the smock. Upon this they panneld a iurie, and the flax-wife gaue evidence; and because this unaccustomed iury required witnes, she measured the coles before the colliers face, vppon which he was found gilty, & she that fat as principal to giue iudgement upon him, began as followeth.

Collier, thou art condemned here by profe, of flatte ccenage, and I am now appointed in conscience to giue sentence against thee, being not only moued therevnto because of this poor woman, but also for the general commodi[ti]e of my countrey, and therefore this is my sentence: we haue no pillery for thee, nor cart to whip thee at, but here I do award that thou shalt haue as many baftinadoes as thy bones will beare, and then to be turned out of dores without sacks or mony. This sentence being pronounced, she rose vp, and gaue no respit of time for th' execution, but according to the sentence before expressed, al the women fel vpon him, beating him extremely, among whom he lent some lusty buffets. But might ouercomes right, and therefore Ne Hercules contra duos. The women so crusht
him, that he was not able to lift his handes to his head, and so with a broken pate or two, he was paid, & like Jack Drum, faire and orderly thrust out of dores.

This was the reward that the collier had, and I pray God all such colliers may be so serued, and that good wives when they buy such sacks, may geue them such payments, and that the honorable and worshipful of this land may look into this gros abuse of Coliers, as well for charity sake, as also for the benefit of the poore. And so wishing colliers to amende their deceitfull and disordered dealings herein, I end.

FINIS.
SECOND PART OF CONNIE CATCHING.

1591.
NOTE.

The 'Second Part of Connie Catching' is rare. I am indebted for it to the Huth Library. I have not traced another exemplar, though other two are believed to be in existence. See annotated Life in Vol. I.—G.
THE SECOND PART
of Connie-catching.
THE SECOND  
part of Conny-catching.

Contayning the discouery of certaine wondrous  
Coosenages, either superficiallie past ouer, or  
vterlie vntoucht in the first.

As the nature of  
\{The blacke Art,  
The Vincents Law,  
The Prigging Law,  
The Courbing Law,  
The Lifting Law,  
The Foift,  
The Nippe,  \\  
Picking of lockes.  
Coosenage at Bowls.  
Horfe stealeing.  
Hooking at windows.  
Stealing of parcels.  
The pickepocket.  
The cut purfe.

With sundrie pithy and pleafant Tales worthy the reading of all e-  
flates, that are ennemies to fuch base and dishonest praftifes.

\textit{Mallam non e{\textsc{s}}e quam non prode{\textsc{s}}e patrie.}

R. G.

LONDON  
Printed by John Wolfe for William Wright, and  
are to be fold at his fhop in Pauls Church  
yard, neare to the French schoole.  
1591.
TO ALL YOONG GENTLEMEN,

wardants, citizens, apprentices, yeomen,

and plaine countrey farmers,

Health.

When Sceuola, Gentlemen, saw his native citie besiegéd by Porsenna, and that Rome the mistresse of the world, was readie to be maistred by a professed foe to the publicke estate: hee entred boldly into the enemies camp, and in the Tent of the king (taking him for the king) flew the kings Secretarie: whereupon condemnéd, brought to the fire, he thrust his right hand into the flame, burning it off voluntarie, because it was so infortunat to mifse the fatal stab he had intended to his coûtries enimies, and then with an honourable resolution, breathd out this, Mallem non esse quâ non prodesse patriæ. This instruct of Sceuola greatly hath emboldened mee to thinke no pains nor danger too great that groweth to the benefit of my countrie, & though I cannot
as he mannadge with my courtlax, nor attempt to vnleager *Porfenna*: yet with my pen I will indeuor to display the nature and secrets of diuers coosenages more preiudiciall to *England* then the inuasion of *Porfenna* was to *Rome*. For when that valiant king faw the resolutiō of *Sceuola*: as one dismaid at the honour of his thoughtes, he sorrowed so braue a man had so desperatly loft his hand, and there-upon grewe friends with the Romans. But gentle-men these Conny-catchers, these vultures, these fatall Harpies, that putrifie with their infecciones this flourishing estate of *England*, as if they had their consciences / feared with a hot iron, & that as men delivered vp into a reprobate fence, grace were vtterly exild from their harts, so with the deafe Adder they not only stop their eares against the voice of the charmer, but disolutely without any sparke of remorse, stand vpon their brauados, and openly in words & actions maintain their palpable and manifeft coosenages, swearing by no leffe then their enemies bloud, euē by God him felfe, that they will make a massacre of his bones, and cut off my right hand, for penning downe their abominable practifes: but alas for the, poore snakes, words are wind, & looks but glances: euery thunderclap hath not a bolt, nor euery Conny-catchers oath an execution. I liue ftil, & I liue to display their villanies, which, gentlemen you shal see set down
in most ample maner in this fmal treatise: but heere by the way, giue me leaue to anfwere an obiection, that fome inferred againft me, which was, that I fhwed no eloquent phraffes, nor fine figuratiue conueiance in my firft booke as I had done in other of my workes: to which I reply that το πρεπον, a certaine decorum is to bee kept in euery thing, and not to applie a high ftille in a base subjicct: beſide the facultie is fo odious, and the men fo feruile and defauifli minded, that I fhould dishonor that high mifterie of eloquence, and derogate from the dignitie of our English toonge, eyther to employ any figure or beftow one choyce English word vpon fuch disdained rakehels as thofe Conny-catchers. Therefore humbly I craue pardon and defire I may write banely of fuch base wretches who liue onely to liue dishonestly. For they fecke the fpoyle and ruine of all, and like droanes eate away what others labor for. I haue fet downe diuers other laws vntoucht in the firft, as their Vincents law, a notable coofenage at bowles, when certain idle companions fstand and make bettes, being compacuted with / the bowlers, who looke like honeft minded citizens, either to win or loofe, as their watch-worde fhall appoint: then the Prigger or Horfefeeler, with all his ginnes belonging to his trade, and theyr subtill cawtels to amend the fstatute: next the curbing law, which fome call but
too basely hookers, who eyther diue in at windows, or else with a hook, which they call a curb, doe fetch out whatsoever, either apparell, linnen, or wollen, that be left abroad. Befide, I can set downe the subtiltie of the blacke Art, which is picking of lockes, a coosenage as prejudiciall as any of the rest, and the nature of the Lift, which is he that stealeth any parcels, and flily taketh them away. This (Gentlemen) haue I searcht out for your commodities, that I might lay open to the world the villanie of these cooening caterpillers, who are not onely abhorred of men, but hated of God, liuing idlely to themselues, & odiously to the worlde: they be those foolish children that Salomon speakes of, that feedes themselues fatte with iniquitie, those vntamed heifers, that will not breake the yoke of labor, but get their liuinges by the painfull thrift of other mens hands. I cannot better compare them, then vnto Vipers, who while they liue are hated & shunned of all men as most prejudiciall creatures: they feede vpon hemlocke and Aconiton, and such fatall & impoisoned herbs, but the learned apothecaries takes them, cuts off their heades, and after they be imb Gowelled of their flesh, they make the most preious Mithridate: so these Conny-catchers, Foists, Nips, Priggers, & Lifts, while they liue are most improfitable members of the common-wealth: they
glut themselues as Vipers vpon the most lothsome and detestable finnes, seeking after folly with greedinesse, neuer doing any thing that is good, till they be truſt vp at Tiburn: and then is a moſt wholesome Mithridate made of the, for by their deaths others are forewarned for falling into the like enormities. And as the Gangrena is a disease incurable by the censure of the Chirurgians, vnlesſe the member where it is first be cut off: so this vntoward generation of loose Libertines, can by no wholesome counfailes, nor aduised perfwafions be diffwaded from their lothſom kind of life, till by death they be fatally, and finally cut off from the commonwealth, whereof ſpake Ouid well in his Metamorphofis.

Immedicabile vulnus,

Enfe reſecandum eſt ne pars sincera trahitur.

Sith then this curved crue, theſe Machauilians, that neither care for God nor devill, but set with the Epicures gaine, and eafe, their fummum bonum, cannot be called to anie honest course of liuing: if the honorable and worshipfull of this land looke into their liues, and cut off ſuch vpſtarting ſuckars that consume the sap from the roote of the Tree: they ſhall neither looſe their reward in heauen, nor paſſe ouer anie day wherein there wil not be many faithful praieres of the poore, exhibited for their
profperous successe and welfare: so deeply are these monstruous coofeners hated in the common wealth. Thus Gentlemen I haue discouered in briefe, what I meane to prosecute at large: though not eloquently, yet so effectually, that if you be not altogether carelesse, it may redownd to your commoditie: forewarned, forearmed: burnt children dread the fire, and such as neither counfaile, nor other mens harms, may make to beware, are worthie to liue long, and stil by the losse. But hoping these secrets I haue set abroach, and my labours I haue taken in searching out those base villanies, sshall not be onely taken with thankes, but applied with care: I take my leave with this farewell. God either confound, or conuert such base minded Coofeners.

Yours R. G.
The Second Part
of Conny-catching.

The discovery of the Prigging Law or nature of horse stealing.

So the effecting of this base villany of Prigging or horse stealing, there must of necessity be two at the least, and that is the Priggar and the Martar. The Priggar is
he that steales the horse, and the Martar is he that receiues him, and chops and chaungeth him away in any Faire, Mart, or other place where any good vent for horses is: and their methode is thus. The / Priggar if he be a Launce man, that is, one that is already horst, then he hath more followers with him, and they ride like Gentlemen, and commonly in the fourme of Drouers, & so comming into pasture grounds or inclosures, as if they ment to furuey for Cattle, doe take an especiall and perfect view where Prankers or horses be, that are of worth, and whether they be trameld or no, that is whether they haue horflocks or no: then lie they houering about till fit oportunity serue, and in the night they take him or them away, and are skilfull in the blacke Art, for picking open the tramels or lockes, and so make haft til they be out of those quarters. Now if the Priggars steale a horse in Yorkshire, commonly they haue vent for him in Surrey, Kent, or Sussex, and their Martars that receive them at his hand, chops them away in some blind Faires after they haue kept them a moneth or two, till the hue and cry be ceaft and past over. Now if their horse be of any great value and fore sought after, and so branded or eare markt, that they can hardlie fell him without extreame daunger, either they brand him with a crosse brand vpon the former, or take away his
eare mark, and so keep him at hard meat til he be hole, or else sell him in Cornwall or Wales, if he be in Cumberland, Lincolnshire, Northfolke or Suffolke: but this is if the horse bee of great valour and worthy the keeping: Marry if he bee onely coloured and without brands, they will straight spotte him by sundry pollicies, and in a blacke horse, marke saddel-spots, or starre him in the fore-head and change his taile, which secretes I omit, leaft I shoulde giue too great a light to other to praetise much lewd villanies. But againe to our Launce men Priggars, who as before I said, cry with the Lapwing farthest from their nest, and from their place of residence, where the[m] most abode is, furthest from thence they steal their horses, and then in another quarter as farre of they make sale of them by the Martars meanes, without it be some base / Priggar that steales of meere necessity, and beside is a Trailer. The Trailer is one that goeth on foote, but meanely attired like some plaine gran of the Countrey, walking in a paire of bootes without spurrees, or else without bootes, hauing a long staffe on his necke, and a blacke buckram bag at his backe, like some poore Client that had some writing in it, and there he hath his saddel, bridle and spurs, stirhops and stirhop leathers, so quaintly and artificially made that it may bee put in the flop of a mans hose, for
his saddle is made without any tree, yet hath both cantle & boulfters, only wrought artificially of cloth and bombast, with foulds to wrap vp in a short roome: his stirrups are made with vices and gins that one may put them in a paire of gloues, and fo are his spurrees, and then a little white leather headstal and raines with a small Scottish brake or snaffle: all fo feately fornde, that as I said before they may be put in a buckram bag. Now this Trailer he bestrides the horse which he priggeth, and saddles and bridles him as orderly as if he were his own, and then carries him far from the place of his breede, and there fels him. Oh will some man say, it is easier to steale a horse then to fell him, considering that her Maiesty and the honourable priuy Counfaile, hath in the laft Act of Parliament made a strikt Statute for horse stealing, and the sale of horses, whose Prouifo is this: That no man may buy a horse vntould, nor the toule be taken without lawfull witnesses that the party that felleth the horse is the true owner of him, vpon their oath and special knowledge, and that who buieth a horse without this certificate or proofe, shall be within the natur[e] of Fellony, as well as the party that stealeth him. To this I aunfwere that there is no Act, Statute, nor Lawe so strickt conueyed, but there be stright found starting holes to auoide it, as in this. The Priggar when
he hath stolen a horse and hath agreeed with his Martar, or with any other his confederate, or with any honest person to sell the horse, bringeth / to the touler, which they call the rifer, two honest men, eyther apparelled like citizens, or plain country yeomen, and they not onely affirm, but offer to depose, that they know the horse to be his, vpon their proper knowledge, although perhaps they neuer saw man nor horse before: and these periurd knaues be commonly old knightes of the poft, that are foisted off from being taken for bale at the kings bench, or other places, and seeing for open periuries they are refused there, they take that course of life, and are wrongly called Querries: but it were necessarie and verie much expedient for the common wealth, that such base roagues should be lookt into, and be punifht as well with the pillorie, as the other with the halter. And thus haue I reuealed the nature of Priggars, or horse-stealers briefly, which if it may profit, I haue my desire: but that I may recreate your mindes with a pleasant historie, marke the sequeale.

A pleasant storie of a horse-stealer.

Not farre from Tenro in Cornewall, a certaine Priggar, a horse-stealer being a lance-man, surueying the pastures thereabouts, spied a fayre blacke horse without any white spot at all about
THE SECOND PART OF

him: the horse was so faire and luftie, wel proportioned, of a high creft, of a lufty countenance, well buttocket, and strongly truft, which set the Priggars teeth a water to haue him: well he knew the hardeft happe was but a halter, and therefore hee ventered faire, and ftoll away the prancer: and seeing his stomack was so good as his limmes, he kept him well, and by his pollicie feared him in the forehead, and made him spotted in the backe, as if he had been saddle bitten, and gaue him a marke in both eares, whereas he had but a mark in one. Dealing thus with his horse, after a quarter of a yeere, that all hurly burly was paft for the horse, hee came / riding to Tenro to the market, and there offered him to be sold. The Gentleman that loft the horse, was there present, and looking on him with other Gentlemen, likte him pasling well, and commended him: insomuch that he bet the prife of him, bargained, & bought him: and so when he was tould, and that the horse-stealer clap[†] him good lucke: Well my friend quoth the gentleman, I promife thee I like the horse the better, in that once I loft one as like him as might be, but that mine wanted these saddle spots, and this starre in the forehead. It may be so sir, said the Priggar, and so the Gentleman and he parted: the next day after, he caused a letter to be made, and sent the Gentleman word
CONNY-CATCHING.

that he had his horse againe that he lost, onely he had giuen him a mark or two, and for that he was wel rewarded, hauing twentie marke for his labour. The gentleman hearing how he was cofened by a horse-ftealer, and not onely robd, but mockt, let it passe till he might conueniently meete with him to reuenge it. It fortuned not long after, that this lanceman Priggar was brought to Tenro Gayle for some such matter, and indeede it was about a Mare that he had stolne: but as knaues haue friends, especially when they are wel monied, he found diuers that spake for him, and who saide it was the first fault: and the party plaintiffe gaue but slender evidence against him, so that the judge spake fauourably in hys behalfe: the gentleman as then, sat in the bench, and calling to minde the Priggars countenance, howe hee had stolne his horfe and mockt him, remembred hee had the letter in his pocket that he sent him, and therefore rising vp, spake in his behalf, and highly commended the man, and defired the iudges for one fault he might not be caft away, and besides, may it please you (quoth hee) I had this morning a certificate of his honestie and good behauior sent me: and with that he deliuered them the letter, and the iudge and the rest of the bench smiled at this conceite, and afkt the fellow if he neuer stoll a horfe from / that Gentleman: no quoth the Priggar, I know x.
him not: your honors mistakes me, said the gentleman, he did but borrow a blacke horse of me, and marke't him with a star[e] in the forehead, and askt twenty marke of me for his labour, and so discourf't the whole matter: whereupon the quest went vpon him, and condemned him: and so the Prigggar went to heauen in a string, as many of his facultie had done before.

*The Vincents law, with the discovery therof.*

The Vincents Law is a common deceit or cofenance vfed in Bowling-allies amongst the baser sort of people, that commonly haunt such leud and unlawful places: for although I will not discommend altogether the nature of bowling, if the time, place, persons, and such necessary circumstances be observed: yet as it is now vfed, practised & suffred, it groweth altogether to the maintenance of vnthrifts that idlely and disorderly make that recreation or cofenance. Nowe the manner and forme of their deuise is thus affected: the Bawkers, for so are the common haunters of the Alley termed, appareled like very honest and substantial citizens come to bowle, as though rather they did it for sport then gains, & vnder that colour of carelesnes, doe shadow their pretended knauery: well, to bowles they goe, and then there refort of all sortes of people to beholde them: some simple men
brought in of purpose by some cofening companions to be stript of his crownes, others, Gentlemen or Marchants, that delighted with the sport, stand there as beholders to passe away the time: amongst these are certaine old fokers, which are lookers on, and listen for bets, either euern or odde, and these are called grypes: and these fellows will refuse no lay if the ods may grow to their aduantage, for the Gripe and the Bawkers are confederate, and their fortune at play euer forts according as the Gripe haue placed their bets, for the Bawker / he marketh how the laies goes, and so throes his casting: so that note this, the bowlers caste euer booty, and doth win or loose as the bet of the Gripe doth lead them, for suppose seaven be vppe for the game, and the one hath three and the other none; then the vincent, for that is the simple man that stands by & is not acquainted with their cofenage, nor doth so much as once imagine that the Bawkers that carry such a countenance of honest substantiall men, would by any meanes, or for any gaines be perfwaded to play booty. Well, this vincent, for so the Coofeners or Gripe please to terme him, seeing three to none, beginneth to offer ods on that fide that is faireft to win: what ods faies the gripe? three to one faies the vincent: no faies the Gripe it is more, and with that they come to foure for none: then the vincent offers to
lay four to one: I take six to one sakes the Gripe, I lay it sakes the vincent, and so they make a bet of some six crownes, shillings, or pence as the vincent is of ability to lay, & thus will fundry take their ods of him: well then, the Bawkers go forward with their bowles, and winne another caft which is five, then the vincent grows proud, & thinks both by the ods and goodnes of the play, that it is impossible for his side to loose, and therefore takes and laies bets freely: then the Bawkers fortune begin to change, and perhaps they come to three for five, and til as their luck changes, diuerstie of bets growes on, til at last it comes to five and five, and then the Gripe comes vpon the vincent and offers him ods, which if the vincent take he loseth all, for vpon what side the Gripe laies, that side euer winnes, how great foeuer the ods bee at the first on the contrary part, so that the covenage grows in playing bootie, for the Gripe and the Bawker meet at night, & there they share what foeuer tearmage they haue gotten: for so they call the money that the poore vincent lootheth vnto them: Now to shadow the matter the more; the bawker that winnes and is afore-hand with the game, will lay franckely that hee shal win, and will bet hard and lay great / ods, but with whom? either with them which play with him that are as crafty knaues as himselfe, or els with the Gripe,
and this makes the poore innocent vincent stoope to the blow, and to loose all the money in his purfe: Besides, if any honest men that holdes them-selues skilful in bowling, offer to play any set match against these common bawkers, if they feare to haue the woorfe or suspeéct the others play to be better then theirs, then they haue a tricke in watering of the alley to giue such a moisiture to the banke, that hee that offers to strike a bowle with a shoare, shal neuer hit it whilst he liues, because the moisiture of the bank hindres the proportion of his aiming. Diuers other practises there are in bowling teining vnto coosenage, but the greatest is booty, and therefore would I wish al men that are carefull of their coine, to beware of such cooseners, and not to come in such places where a haunt of such hel-rakers are resident, & not in any wise to stoope to their bets, leaft hee bee made a vincent, for so manifest and palpable is their coosenage, that I haue seen men ston-blind offer to lay bets franckly, although they can see a bowle come no more then a poft, but onely hearing who plaies, and howe the olde Gripes make their laies: seeing then as the game is abused to a deceit, that is made for an honest recreation, let this little be a caueat for men to haue an infight into their knauery. /
THE SECOND PART OF

A Table of the Lawes contayned in this second part.

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The disscouery of the wordes of Art used in these Lawes.

In blacke Art.

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In Combing Law.

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<td>The hooke, the Combe.</td>
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In Lifting Law.

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<td>He that standeth without and carries it away, the Santar.</td>
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{They which play booty, the Bankars.

In Vincents {He that betteth, the Gripe.

Law. {He that is cooshened, the Vincent.
{Gaines gotten, Termage.
{The horse stealer, the Priggar.

In Prigging {The horse, the Prancar.
{The towling place, All-hallowes.
{The towler, the Rifier.
{The fuertees, Querris.

For the Foist and the Nip, as in the first Booke. /
The Second Part
of Conie-chatching.

The professours of this Law, beeing some-
what daught, and their trade greatlie
impouerished by the late editions of
their secret villanies, seeke not a newe meanes of
life, but a newe methode how to fetch in their
Connies and to play their pranckes: for as greeuuous is it for them to let slippe a Countrey farmer come to the tearm that is well apparelled, and in a dirtie pair of boots (for that is a token of his newe comming vp, and a full /purse) as it was for the boyes of Athens to let Diogenes passe by without a hisse. But the country men hauing had partly a caueat for their coosneng, feare their favorable speeches and their courteous falutations, as deadlie as the Greekes did the whistle of Poliphemus. The Conie-catcher now no sooner commeth in company, and calleth for a paire of cards, but straight the poore Conie smokes him, and faies: maisters, I bought a booke of late for a groate that warres me of Card-play, leaft I fall amongst Conie-catchers: What, doest thou take vs for such faies the Verfer? no Gentlemen faies the cony, you may bee men of honest disposition, but yet pardon me, I haue for-sworne cards euuer since I read it: at this replie God wot, I haue many a coofening curse at these Connie-catchers handes, but I solemplny sticke to the old prouerbe: the Foxe the more he is curst, the better hee fares: but yet I will discouer some of their newest deuises, for these caterpillers resemble the nature of the Syrens, who fitting with their watching eies vpon the rockes to allure Sea-passen- gers to their extreame preiudice, found out moft heauenlie melodie in such pleasing cords, that who
so listens to their harmony, lends his eare vnto his owne bane and ruine: but if anie warie \textit{Vllifes} passe by and ftop his eares against their enchantments, then haue they most delightfull jewels to shewe him, as glorious obiectes, to inueagle his eie with fuch pleafant vanities, that comming more nie to beholde them, they may dafh their fhippe againft a rocke and fo vtterly perifh. So these Conie-catchers, for that I smoakt them in my laft booke, and laid open their plots and policies, wherewith they drew poore Connies into their laie, seeking with the Orators / \textit{Benevolentiam captare}, and as they vfe rethoricall tropes and figures, the better to drawe their hearers with the delight of varietie: so these moathes of the Common-wealth, apply their wits to wrap in wealthy farmers with ftraunge and vncoth conceits. Tush, it was fo easie for the Setter to take vppe a Connie before I discouered the cosenage that one \textit{stigmati-call shamelesse companion} amongft the rest, would in a brauerie wea[r]fparly in his hat, and faid he wanted but \textit{Aqua vita} to take a Connie with, but fince, he hath lookt on his feet, and valed his plumes with the Peacocke, and sweares by all the fhooes in his fhop, I shall be the next man hee meanes to kill, for spoyling of his occupation: but I laugh at his brauadoes, and though he speakes with his Eunuches voice, and weares a long fworde
like a morrice pike, were it not I thinke hee would with Batillus hang himselfe at my inuestiue, his name should bee set downe with the nature of his follies: but let him call himselfe home from this course of life and this cofenage, and I shall bee content to shadow what he is with pardon: but frō this digression againe to the double diligence of these Connie-catchers, whose new fleights, because you shall the more easily perceiue, I will tell you a story pleasant and worth the noting.

A pleasant tale of the Connie-chatchers.

Not long since, certaine Exceter marchants came vp to London to traffick such wares as their Citty commodities affords, & one of them whose name I conceale, called maister F., hauing leasure at will, walked about the / Citie, to visite his friendes, and by chance mette with two or three conny-catchers: amongst whome was one of his old and familiar acquaintance. This gentleman at that time taking the Setters office vpon him, seeing such a fat Connie to fit for his purpose, began to pitch his haie with this courteous and clawing gratulation. What maister F. (quoth he) welcome to London, and well are you mette: I see time may draw friends together, little did I thinke to haue seene you heere, but fith oportunity hath granted me such a fauour to meete with such an vnlookt-
for man, wele at the next Tauerne drinke a pint of wine together, to your welcome, and the health of our friendes. The Marchant hearing the gentleman ply him with such plausible entertainment, sloopt as a poore Connie, and granted to take his courtesie, and with them went the Verfer, a lustie fellow, well apparellled, and as smooth tonged as if euery worde came out of an Orators ink-horne: this ibly squire that plaied the Verfer, when hee came at the Tauerne doore, would needs drop away, and offered to be gone: but the Setter said to him, nay I pray you fir stay, and drink with this friend of mine, for I haue not a more familiar acquaintance in Exeter. The Marchant simly also intreated him, and with few wordes he was satisfied, and as three of them went in together, and asked for a roume, the boy shewed them vp into a chamber, and asfoone as they came to, the Verfer, haung a payre of Cardes in his pocket, for they thought it too suspicious to call for a payre, stept to the window, and clapt his hand on the ledge, and laught, Gogs wounds (quoth he) a man can neither come into Tauerne, nor Alehouse, but he shall find a payre / of Cardes in the window: Here hath beene some praying, and haue left their bookes behinde them. Boy (quoth he) throw me a couple of fagots on the fire, and set a pottle of Secke too, and burne it, and fir he fayes to the
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Setter, thou and I will play at Cardes who shall pay for it. Content faiies the Setter, so you will plaie at a game that I can play at, which is called Mum-chance. I knowe it well, faiies the Verfer: haue with you for a pottle of burnt Secke, and so to it they go, as before in my first part I describe it vnto you: the poore Marchant the simple honest Connie, calling the Card: well the Verfer lost, and at last they reveale the pollicie to the Conny, who wondered at the strange deuise, and solemnly swore it was impossible for him eyther to loose, or the other to winne: As thus they sat drinking, the Setter shewed him divers trickes at Cardes, to passe away the time, because theyr Barnacle staied ouer-long: who at last, attiered like a Seruing-man, came and thrust open the doore, and faiide, maisters by your leve, I looke for a grey-hound that hath broken my slip, & is run into this house. In faith friend, quoth the Setter, heere is none, nor did we see any: Then by your leve gentlemen (quoth he) and fit you merrie, I had rather haue giuen fortie shillinges then haue loft the dog: Nay staie sir (quoth the Verfer) and drinke a cup of Secke with vs: at that the Barnacle came in, and courteously tooke it of them, and made fore lament for his dogge, saying he durft scarce looke his maister in the face: but I hope (quoth he) he is run to the farmers house, where hee was brought vp, and
therefore Ile seeke him no where to day: with that he called for a pint of wine, to requite their courtesies / withall, and the Verfer anwered that they would take none of him as a gift, but if he would play for a pint or a quart, hee should be welcome into their companie: at this hee fate down, and saine hee woulde: then they induced him to play at mum-chance, and the Conny cald the Card, so the Barnacle loft all: who being in a great chafe, curst his lucke, and the Cards, and offered to play three games, xii. pence: the Setter take him vp, and secretly askt the Cony if he would be his half, or play with him himselfe. In faith faies the marchant, I dare play with him, as long as five shillinges laft, and so much I will venter: with that the Barnacle drew out a purse with some three or foure pence in it, and to this game they go, with vie and revie, till the Barnacle had loft all his money: then hee blasphemed the name of God mightily, and laide his sword and his cloke to pawne to the good man of the house, and borrowed money of it, to the value of some xx. shillings. The Conny smiled at this, for hee counted all his own, & winkt vpon the Verfer, and the Setter: againe they go to it, and they make five games for ten shillings, and euery Card to be vied at the loosers pleasure: the Conny wonne three of them, and the Barnacle neuer a one: then he exclaimed
against Fortune, and swore he would make short worke, and of a ring he borrowed thirtie shillings more, and vied hard: wel that game he woon, and got some twentie shillinges of the Conny, who thought it was but a chance, that coulde not hit in feuen yeares againe, and the next game they vied, and laid some fiue pound by on the belt, so that the vie and call, came to some feuen pound: then the Barnacle stroke in his chopt Card, and wipe[d] the Connies mouth cleane for trobling his purse, with any of those crowns, yea he so handled ʒ poore marchaunt, that of nine pound he had in his purse, these three base Conny-catchers left him never a penny: although he was fore nipt on the head, with this hard Fortune, yet he brookt it with patience, and little suspected that his Countreyman the Setter had sifted him out of his money, and therefore druncke to him frendly, and tooke his leaue without smoking them at all, and went quiet though discontent to his lodging. The Conny-catchers they hard the purchase, and went singing home as winners doe that haue leaue and leisuer to laugh at the spoile of such wealthie and honest marchants. Not long after this, the cony chanced to come to my chamber to visit me for old acquaintance, where he found a book of Cony-catching new come out of the preffe, which when he had smilde at, for the strangenesse of the title: at laft
he began to reade it, and there saw how simplie hee was made a conny, and stript of hys crownes: with that he fetched a great sigh, and sayd: sir, if I had seene this booke but two dayes since, it had saved me nine pound in my purse, and then hee reheard the whole discourse, howe kindly hee was made a conny. Thus you may see that these base conny-catchers spare not their owne acquaintance nor familiar friends: but like Vultures seek to pray vpon them, and like the Harpie, infectes that house wherein they harbour: so odious is their base and detestable kind of cozenage, that the very Nips, the cut-purses I meane, desire to smoake them, and haue them in as great contempt, as they themselves are despised of others: holding the conny-catcher for their inferiour: for say the Nips, I disdaine to use my / occupation against any friend, or to drawe a purse from him that I am familiarly acquainted with: whereas the conny-catcher praieth moste vpon his countreymen and friendes, and at the first hand comes with a smiling face to embrace that man whome presently he meanes to spoyle and coosen. Againe, the Nip vieth his knife, and if he see a Boung lie faire, strikes the stroke, and ventures his necke for it if he be taken, which is a certaine point (say they) of resolution, though in the basest degree: but the conny-catcher, like a coward, keepes himself within compass of lawe,
as the picture of a faint hearted coofener: like a fawning curre wagges hys tayle vpon him hee meanes most deadly to bite. Then let this be a caueat for all men, and all degrees, to take heede of such preuidiciall pesants: who like wormes in a nut eat the kernell wherein they are bred, and are so venemous minded, that like the Viper they desparage whomfoeuer they light on: I know I shall haue many braues vttered againft me for this inuective: but so I may profit my countrimen, I will hazard my selfe against their deepest villanies: and therefore sleepeing neuer a whit the worse for their brauado, I commit such enemies of the flourishing Estate of England, to the consideration of the Juftices: who I hope will looke into the loose life of bad, base and dishonest caterpillers. /
A pleasant Tale of a Horse, how at Vxbridge, hee coosened a Conny-catcher, and had like to [haue] brought him to his Neckuerse.

It fortuned that not long since certaine Conny-catchers met by hap a Prancar or horf-steale[r]
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at Vxbridge, who took vp his inne where those honest cruces lodged, & as one vice follows another, was as redy to haue a caft / at cardes as he had a hazard at a horfe: the Conny-catchers who fupt with him, feeling him pliat to receiue the blow, began to lay the plot how they might make him stoope all the money in his purse, & so for a pint of wine drew him in at cards by degrees, as these rakehels do, Lento gradu, measure all things by minutes: he fell from wine to money, and from pence to pounds, that hee was stript of all that euer he had, as well Crownes [and] apparell as Jewels, that at laft to maintain the main and to checke vies with reuies, he laide his horfe in the hazard, and loft him. When the Priggar had smoakt the game, and perceiued he was bitten of all the bite in his bung, and turned to walke penyleffe in Marke lane, as the old prouerbe is, he began to chafe, and to sweare, and to rap out goggs Nownes, and his pronouns, while at voluntarye he had sworne through the eight parts of speech in the Accidence, auowing they had coofened him both of his money and horfe. Whereupon the grosse Asse more hardy then wise, vnderstanding the Conny-catchers were gone, went to the Constable and made hue & cry after them, faying: They had robde him of his horfe: at this the head Boroughs followed amaine, and by chaunce met with an other
hue and cry that came for him that had stolen, which hue and cry was servued upon the horse-stealer, and at that time as farre as I can either conjecture or calculate, the Conny-catchers were taken suspective for the same horse, and the rather for that they were found loose liuers & could yeeld no honest methode or meanes of their maintenance: vpon this for the horse they were apprehended, & bound over to the Sessions at Westminister, to answer what might / be objected against them in her maiesties behalf. Well, the horse-stealer brake from his keepers and got away, but the rest of the raScall crue, the Conny-catchers I mean, were brought to the place of judgement, and there like valiant youths they thrust twelve men into a corner, who founde them guiltlesse for the fact, but if great favor had not bin shewn they had ben condemned & burnt in the ears for rogues. Thus the horse-stealer made hue & cry after the Conny-catchers, and the man that had lost the horse he pursuued the horse-stealer, so that a double hue and cry passed on both sides, but the Cony-catchers had the wors, for what they got in the bridle they lost in the saddle, what they coosened at cardes had like to cost them their necks at the Sessions, so that when they were free and acquited, one of the Conny-catchers in a merry vaine, said, he had catcht many Connies, but now a horse had like to
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[haue] caught him, and so deeply quoth he, that Miserere mei had like to haue beene my best mattins. Thus we may see Fallere fallentem non est fraus, euery deceipt hath his due, he that maketh a trap falleth into the snare him selfe, and such as couet to cooffen all, are crost them selues often times almost to the croffe, and that is the next neighbor to the gallows. Well Gentlemen thus I haue bewraied much and gotten little thankes, I mean of the dishonest sort, but I hope such as measure vertue by her honours, will iudge of me as I deferue. Marry the good men Conny-catchers, those base excrements of dishonesty, they in their huffes report they haue got one ( ) I wil not bewray his name, but a scholler they say he is, to make an inuectiuе against me, in that he is a fauourer of those base reprobates, but let / them, him, and all know, the proudest peasant of them all, dare not lift his plumes in disparagement of my credit: for if he doe, I will for reuenge onely appoint the Jakes farmers of London, who shall cage them in their filthy vesseles, and carrye them as dung to manure the barrain places of Tibourne: and so for Conny-catchers an end.
A discourse, or rather discovery of the Nip and the Foist, laying open the nature of the Cut-purse and Picke-pocket.

Now Gentlemen, Marchants, Farmers, and termers, yea who soever he be, thateth to carry money about him, let him attent/tuely heare what a peece of newe fond Philosophie, I will lay open to you, whose opinions, principles, Aphorismes, if you carefully note and retain in
memorie, perhapses faue some crownes in your purfe ere the yeare passe, and therefore thus: The Nip & the foift, although their subieckt is one which they worke on, that is, a well lined purfe, yet their manner is different, for the Nip vseth his knife, and the Foist his hand: the one cutting the purfe, the other drawing the pocket: but of these two scruvie trades, the Foist holdeth himselfe of the higheft degree, and therefor, they tearme themselves Gentlemen foists, and so much disdaine to be called cut-purses, as the honest man that liues by his hand or occupation, in so much that the Foist refuseth euen to weare a knife about him to cut his meat withal, leaft he might be suspected to grow into the nature of the Nippe, yet as I fayer before is their subieckt and haunt both alike, for their gaines lies by all places of ressort and assemblies: therefor their chiefe walks is Paules, Westminifter, the Exchange, Playes, Beare garden, running at Tilt, the Lorde Maiors day, any festiuial meetings, fraies, shootings, or great faires: to be short, where so euer there is any extraordinarie ressort of people, there the Nippe and the Foist haue fittest oportu- nity to shewe their iugling agilitie. Commonly, when they spie a Farmer or Marchant, whome they suspected to be well monied, they followe him hard vntill they see him drawe his purfe, then spying in what place he puts it vppe, the stall or
the shadowe beeing with the Foift or Nip, meets the man at some straight turne & iustles him so hard, that the man marueling, and perhaps quarreling with him, the whilest the foift hath his purfe and bids him fare-well. In Paules (especiallie in the tearme time) betweene ten and eleuen, then is their howers, and there they walke, and perhaps, if there be great presfe, strike a stroke in the middle walk, but that is vpon some plaine man that stands gazing about, hauing neuer seene the Church before: but their chiefeft time is at diuine seruice, when men deuoutly giuen doe go vp to heare either a sermon, or els the harmonie of the Queere and the Organes: their the Nip, and the Foift as deuoutly as if he were some zealous parfon, standeth soberlie, with his eies eleuated vnto heauen, when his hand is either on the purfe or in the pocket, surueing euery corner of it for coyne: then when the seruice is done and the people presse away, he thrufsteth amidst the throng, and there worketh his villanie. So like wise in the markets, they note how euery one putteth vp his purfe, and there either in a great presfe, or while the partie is cheapning of meat, the Foift is in their pocket and the Nip hath the purfe by the ftrings, or some times cuts out the bottome, for they haue still their ftals following them, who thrufsteth and iustleth him or her whome the Foift is about to draw: So
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likewise at plaies, the Nip standeth there leaning like some manerly gentleman against the doore as men go in, and there finding talke with some of his companions, spie what euery man hath in his pursé, and where, in what place, and in which slegeue or pocket he puts the boung, and according to that so he worketh either where the thrust is great within, or els as they come out at the dores: but suppose that the foist is smoakt, and the man misseth his purs, & apprehendeth him for it, then straight he either conuaieth it to his sfall, or els dropeth / the boong, and with a great braue hee defieth his accuser: and though the purs be found at his foote, yet because he hath it not about him, hee comes not within compasse of life. Thus haue they their shfits for the law, and yet at last, so long the pitcher goeth to the brooke that it commeth broken home, and so long the Foisfts put their villanie in pra[c]tise, that west-ward they go, and there solemnely make a rehearfall sermon at Tibourne. But againe, to their places of ressort, Westminser, I marie, that is their chiepest place that brings in their profite: the Tearme-time is their haruest: and therefore, like prouident husband-men they take time while time serues, and make hay while the Sunne shines, following their clients, for they are at the Hall verie early and there they worke like bees, haunting euery Court, as the
Exchequer chamber, the Starre-chamber, the Kings-bench, the Common-pleas, and euery place where the poore Client standeth to heare his Lawyer handle his matter, for alasse the poore Countrey Gentleman or Farmer is so busied with his caufes, and hath his mind so full of cares to see his counsell and to plie his Attorney, that the leaft thing in his thought is his purfe: but the Eagle-eied Foift or Nip he watcheth, and seeing the Client draw his purfe to pay some charges or fees necessarie for the Court, marketh where he putteth it, and then when he thrufteth into the throng, either to anfwer for himfelfe, or to stand by his Counfeller to put him in minde of his caufe, the Foift drawes his pocket and leaues the poore client pennileffe. This do they in all courts, and go disguifed like Seruing-men, wringing the simple people by this iugling subteltie: well might therefore the honorable & worship/full of thofe courts doe to take order from fuche vide and base minded cutpurfes, that as the lawe hath prouided death for them if they be taken, fo they might be rooted out especially from Westminster, where the poore clients are vndone by fuch rogith catchers. It boots not to tell their courfe at euery remoue of her Maieftie, when the people flock together, nor at Bartholomew faire, or the Queens day, at the Tilt-yard and at al other places of assemblie: for let this fuffice, at any great
preffe of people or meeting, there the Foist and the Nippe is in his kingdom: Therefore let all men take this caueat, that when they walke abroad amid anie of the fore-named places or like assem- blies, that they tak[e] great care for their purse how they place it, and not leave it carelesse in their pockets or hoafe, for the Foist is so nimble handed that hee exceeds the iugler for agility, and hath his legier de maine as perfectly: therefore an exquisite Foist must haue three properties that a good Surgion should haue, and that is an Eagles eie, a Ladies hand, and a Lyons heart: an Eagles eie to spie a purchase, to haue a quicke insight where the boong lies, and then a Lyons heart not to feare what the end will bee, and then a Ladies hand to be little and nimble, the better to diue into the pocket. These are the perfect properties of a Foist: but you must note that there be diversities of this kind of people, for there be cittie Nips & countrey Nips, which haunt from faire to faire, and neuer come in London, vnlesse it be at Bartholomewe faire, or some other great and extraordinarie assemblies: Nowe there is a mortall hate beweene the Countrey Foist and the Cittie Foist, for if the citie Foist spie one of the connies in London, straight he seekes / by some meanes to smoake him, and so the Countrey Nip if he spie a Cittie Nip in any faire, then hee smoakes him straight, and
brings him in danger, if he flee not away the more speedilie: beside there be women Foists and women Nips, but the woman Foist is most daungerous, for commonlie there is some olde hand, or mout[h]fair ftrumpet, who inueigleth either some ignorat man or some yoong youth to folly: she hath straight her had in his poket, and so foists him of all that hee hath: but let all men take heed of such common harlots, who either fit in the ftreets in euenings, or els dwel in baudy houses and are pliant to euery mans lure: such are alwaies Foists and Pickepockets, and seeke the spoile of all such as meddle with them, and in cofening of such base minded leachers as giue thefelues to such leud companie, are woorthy of what so euer befals, and sometime they catch such a Spanish pip, that they haue no more hair on their head then on their nails. But leauing such ftrumpets to their soules confusion and bodies correction in Bride-well: Againe, to our Nips and Foists, who haue a kind of fraternity or brother-hood among them, hauing a hall or place of meeting, where they conuer of waightie mat ters, touching their workemanship, for they are prouident in that: euerye one of them hath some trusttie friend whom he calleth his treasurer, and with him he laies vp some ratable portion of euery purse hee drawes, that when need requires, and he is brought in danger, he may haue money to make
composition with the partie: But of late, there hath bene a great scourge fallen amongst them, for now if a purse bee drawen of any great valew, straight the partie maketh friends to some one or other of the Counsell or other / inferior her Maiesties Justices, and then they send out warrants if they cannot learne who the Foist is, to the keepers of Newgate that they take vp all the Nips and Foists about the cittie, and let them lie there while the money be reanfwered vnto the party, so that some pay three pound, nay five pound at a time, according as the same losse did amount vnto, which doth greatly impouerifhe their trade, and hinder their figging law. Therefore about such causes grows their meeting, for they haue a kinde of corporation, as hauing wardens of their company, and a hall: I remember their hall was once about Bushops gate, neere vnto fis hers follie, but because it was a noted place, they haue remoued it to Kent-street, and as far as I can learne, it is kept at one Laurence Pickerings house, one that hath bene if he be not still, a notable Foist. A man of good calling he is, and well allied, brother in law to Bull the hangman: there keepe they their feasts and weekly meetinges, fit for their company. Thus haue I partyle set downe the nature of the Foist, and the Nip, with their speciall haunts, as a caueat to al estates to beware
of such wicked persons, who are as prejudiciall to the Common-wealth as anie other faculty what foeuer, and although they be by the great discretion of the Judges and Justices dailie truft vp, yet still there springeth vppe yoong that grow in time to beare fruit fit for the gallowes: let then every man be as carefull as possibibly hee may, and by this cauæt take heed of his purs, for the pray makes the theefe, and there and end.

A merry tale how a Miller had his purse cut in New gate market.

It fortuned that a Nip and his staul drinking at the three Tuns in Newgate market, sitting in one of the roomes next to the streete, they might perceiue wher a meale man stood felling of meale, and had a large bag by his side, where by coniecture there was some store of money: the old Coole, the old cut purse I mean, spying this, was delighted with the shew of so glorious an obiect, for a full purse is as pleasing to a Cut purse eie, as the curious Phisnomy of Venus was to the amorous god of war, and entring to a merry vaine as one that counted that purchase his own, discouered it to the Nouice and bad him goe & nip it: the young toward scholler although perhaps he had striken some few stroks before, yet seeing no great presse
of people, and the meale-mans hande often vpon
his bagge, as if hee had in times past smoakte some
of their faculty, was halfe afraide and doubted of
his owne experience, and so refused to doe it.
Away villaine faith the old Nippe, art thou fainte
harter? belongeth it to our trade to despaire? If
thou wilt onely doe common worke, and not make
experience of some harde matters to attempt, thou
wilt neuer be maifter of thine occupation, therefore
try thy wits and doe it: at this the young stripling
stalkes me out of the Tauern, and feeling if his
Cuttle boung were glibbe and of a good edge, went
to this meale-man to enter combate hand to hand with
his purse, but seeing the meale-mans eye was still
abroade, and for want of other sport that he plaied
with his purse, he was afraide to truft eyther to his
witte or Fortune, and therefore went backe againe
without any act atchieued. How now faith the
olde Nip, what haft thou done? nothing quoth he,
the knaue is so wary, that it is vnpossible to get
any purchase there, for he stands plaing with his
purse for want of other exercife. At this his
fellowe lookes out and smiles, making this reply.
And doest thou count it impossible to haue the
meale-mans boung? lend me thy knife, for mine is
left at home, & thou shalt see me strike it straignt,
and I will shew thee a Methode, how perhaps
hereafter to doe the like after my example, and to
make thee a good scholler: and therefore goe with me and doe as I shall instruét thee: begin but a fained quarrell, and when I give thee a watche woord, then throwe flower in my face, and if I misse his purse let me be hanged for my labour: with that he gaue him certaine principles to obferue, and then paide for the wine and out they went together. As soon as they were come to the mealeman, the olde Nippe began to ieft with the other about the Millers facke, and the other replied as knauifhlye: at laft the elder called the younger Roague: Roague thou Swaine, quoth hee, doeft thou or dareft thou difhonour mee with such a bafe title? And with that, taking a whole hand full of meale out of the facke, threw it full in the olde Nippes necke and his breft, and then ranne away. Hee being thus dufted with meale, intreated the meale man to wipe it out of his necke, and flopte downe his head: the meale man laughing to see him fo rayed and whited, was willing to shake off the meale, and the whilft, while hee was busie about that, the Nippe had froken the purfe and done his feate, and both courteoufly thanked the meale man and closely / went away with his purchafe. The poore man thinking little of this Cheate, began againe to play with his purfe fringes, and suspected nothing till he had folde a pecke of meale, and offered to change money, and then hee found his purfe
bottomlesse: which strooke such a colde quandary to his stomack, as if in a frosty morning hee had druncke a draught of small beere next his heart: hee began then to exclaime against such villaines, and called to minde how in shaking the dust out of the Gentlemans necke, he shakte his money out of his purse, and so the poore meale man fetch[ed] a great figh, knit vp his sacke and went sorrowing home.
A kinde concept of a Foift performed in Paules.

While I was writing this discovery of foisting, & was deisrous of any intelligence that might be giuen mee, a Gentleman a friend of mine, reported vnto me this pleafant tale of a Foift, & as I well remember, it grew to this effect. Ther walked in the middle walk a plain countrey farmar, a man of good wealth, & that had a well lined purfe, onely barely thrust vppe in a round flop, which a crue of Foifts having perceiued, ther harts were set on fire to haue it, and every one had a fling at him, but all in vaine; for he kept his hand close in his pocket, and his purfe faft in his fift like a subtil churle, that either had been forwarnd of Paules, or else had afore time snoakt some of that faculty: well how fo euer it was vnpossiblle to doe any good with him, he was fo wary. The Foifts spying this, strained their wits to the higheft string how to cōpasse this boung, yet could not all their polliticke conceipts fetch the farmar ouer, for iuftle him, chat with him, offer to shake him by the hand, all would not serue to get his hand out of his pocket. At laft one of the crue that for his skil might haue bin Doctorat in his miftery, amongst them all chose out a good Foift, one of a nimble hand & great agility, and said to the
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rest thus: Masters it shal not be said such a base peasaunt shal fly away from such a crue of Gentle-
men Foiftes as wee are, and not haue his purse drawen, and therfore this time Ile play the staule
my selfe, and if I hitte him not home, count me for
a bungler for euer : and so he left them and went
to the farmar and walkt directely before him & next
him three or foure turnes : at laft standing still hee
/ cryed alas honest man helpe me, I am not well:
and with that funcke downe suddenly in a sowne:
the poor Farmer seeing a proper yong gentlema
(as he thought) fall dead afore him, stept to him.
helde him in his armes, rub'd him and chafte him:
at this there gathered a greate multitude of people
about him, and the whilst the Foifte drewe the
Farmers purse and awaye: by that the other
thought the feate was done, he began to come
somtething to himselfe again, and so halfe stagger-
ing, stumbled out of Poules, and went after the
crue where they had appointed to meete, and there
boasted of his wit and experience. The Farmer
little suspeeting this villanye, thurst his hand into
his pocket and mist his purse, searcht for it, but
lyning and shelles and all was gon, which made
the country man in a great maze, that he stood still
in a dump so long, that a gentleman perceiuing it
asked what he ayld: what aile I sir quoth he, truely
I am thinking how men may long as well as women:
why dooſt thou conieſtūre that honest man quoth he? marry ſir anſwers the Farmer, the gentlemaſſ euen now that fownd here I warrant him breeds his wiues child, for the cauſe of his fodore qualme that he fell downe deade grew of longing: the gentleman demaunded how he knew that: well inough ſir quoth he, and he hath his longing too, for the poore man longed for my purſſe, and thankes be to God he hath it with him. At this all the hearers laught, but not so merrilye as the Foifte and his fellowes, that then were sharing his money. /

A quaint conceit of a Cutler & a cutpurſſe.

A Nippe having by fortune loft his Cuttle boung or havinq not one fit for his purpoſe, went to a cunning Cutler to haue a newe made, and preſcribed the Cutler ſuch a method and forme to make his knife, and the fashion to be so ſtronge, giuing ſuch a charge of the finenes of the temper and well ſetting of the edge, that the Cutler won-derd what the gentlemaſſ would do with it, yet becauſe he offred so largely for the making of it, the Cutler was ſilent and made fewe queſtions, onely he appointed him the time to come for it, and that was three daies after: Well, the time beeing expired, the Gentleman Nip came, and seeing his knife liked it passing well, and gaue him his
money with advantage. The Cutler desirous to know to what vfe hee woulde put it, faide to the Cutpurse thus, sir quoth he, I haue made many kniues in my dayes, and yet I neuer sawe any of this forme, fashion, temper or edge, & therfore if without offence, I pray you tell me how or to what will you vfe it? While thus he stood talking with the Nippe, he spying the purse in his aprone, had cut it paffing cunningly, and then hauing his purchase close in his hand, made answer, in faith my friend to dissemble is a folly, tis to cut a purse withall and I hope to haue good hanfell: you are a merry gentlemā quoth the Cutler: I tell true faid the Cutpurse and away he goes. No sooner was he gone from the ftable, but there came an other and bought a knife and shoulde haue single money againe: the Cutler thinking to put his hand in his bagge, thruft it quight through at the bottom: all his money was gone, & the purse cut /: perceiuing this, and remembring how the man praide he might haue good hanfell, he fetcht a great sfigh and faide, now I see he that makes a snare, first falles into it himselfe: I made a knife to cut other mens purses and mine is the first hanfell: well, reuenge is fallen vpon me, but I hope the roape will fall vpon him: and so he smoothed vp the matter to himselfe, leaft men shoulde laugh at his strange fortune.
The discovery of the Lifting Law.

The Lift, is he that stealeth or prowleth any Plate, Juells, boultes of Satten, Veluet, or such parcels from any place, by a flight coueyance vnder his cloke, or so secretly that it may not be espyed: of Lifts there be diuers kindes as their natures be different: some base roges that lift when they come into Alehouses quart potts, platters, clokes, swords, or any such paltrie trash, which commonly is called pilfering or petulacerie: for vnder the cullour of spending two or three pots of ale, they lift awaye any thing that commeth within the compasse of their reache, haung a fine & nimble agilitie of the hand as the Foift had: these are the common and rascal fortes of Lifts, but the higher degrees and gentlemen Lifts haue to the performance of their faculty three parties of neceffitie: the Lift, the Markar and the Santar: the Lift attired in the forme of a ciuell Country gentleman, comes with the Marker into some Mercers shop, Haberdashers, Goldsmiths, or any such place where any particular parcels of worth are to be conuaid, and there he calles to see a boulte of Satten, Veluet or any such commoditie, and not liking the pyle, culler or bracke, he calles for more, and the whiles he begins / to resolue which of them most fitly may be lifted, and what Garbage (for so he calles the goods stolne)
may be most easily conuaid, then he calles to the Mercers man and sages, sirtha reach me that piece of veluet or fatté, or that Juel, chaine or piece of Plate, and whilst the fellow turns his backe, he commits his Garbage to the Marker: for note, the Lift is without his cloke, in his dublet & hose, to auoide the more suppicion: the Marker which is the receuier of the Lifts luggage, gies a winke to the Santar that walkes before the windowe and then the Santar going by in great haft, the Marker cals him & sages, sir a worde with you, I haue a message to do vnto you from a very frend of yours, and the errand is of some importaunce: truely sir sages the Santar I haue very vrge nt busines in hand, and as at this time I cannot staye: but one worde and no more sages the Marker, and then he deliuers him whatsoeuer the Lift hath conuaid vnto him, and then the Santar goes his way, who neuer came within the shop, and is a man vnknowne to them all: suppose he is smoakte and his liftinge is lookt into, then are they vpon their pantophles, because there is nothing found about them: they defie the world for their honestie, because they be as dis-honest as any in the world, and sweare as God shall judge they neuer sweare the parcell loft: but Oathes with them are like winde out of a bellowes, which being coole kindleth fier: so their vowes are without conscience and so they call for
Therefore let this be a caueat to all occupacions, sciences and misteryes, that they beware of the gentleman Lift, and to haue an eye to such as cheapen their wares and not when they call to see new stuffe to leau the olde behinde them: for the fingers of Lifts are fourmed / of Adamant, though they touche not yet they haue vertue attractive to drawe any pelfe to them as the Adamant dooth the Iron. But yet these Lifts haue a subtill shift to blinde the worlde, for this close kind of cofonage they haue when they want money: one of them apparelles him selfe like a Country Farmer, & with a Memorandú drawen in some legall forme, comes to the chamber of some Counsayer or Sergeant at Law with his Marker and his Santar, and there tells the Lawyer his case and desires his Counsaile, the whilest the Marker and the Santar lay the platforme for any Rapier, dagger, cloake, gowne or any other parcell of worth that is in the withdrawing or utter châber, and asfoone as they haue they goe their way: then when the Lawyer hath giuen his opinio of the case the Lift requires, then he puts in some demurre or blinde, and faies he will haue his caufe better discovered and then he will come to his worship againe, so taking his leaue without his ten shillings fee, he goes his waies to share what his companyons had gotten: the like method they vse with Scriueners, for comming
by the shop and seeing any Garbage worth the lifting on, starteth in to have an Obligation or Bill made in haste, and while the Scriuener is busy, the Lift bringeth the Marker to the blow, and so the luggage is carried away. Now, these Lifts have their speciall receiuers of their stolen goods, which are two sundrye parties, either some notorious Bawdes in whose houses they lye, and they keep commonly tapping houses and have yong trugges in their house, which are conquestes to these Lifts and loue them so deere, that they never leaue them till they come to the gallowes, or else they be Brokers, a kind of idle sort of liuers as pernicious as the Lift, for they receive at their handes whatsoever Garbage is conveyed, be it linnen, wollen, plate, Juells: and this they do by a bill of faille, making the bill in the name of Iohn a Nokes or Iohn a Styles, so that they shadow the Lift & yet keepe them selues without the danger of the law. Thus are these Brokers and Bawdes as it were, efficient cauases of the Lifters villany, for were it not their alluring speeches and their secret confealings, the Lift for wante of receiuers should be faine to take a new course of life, or else be continually driuen into great extreames for selling his Garbage: and thus much breefely for the nature of the Lift.
The discovery of the Courbing Law.

The Courber, which the common people call the Hooker, is he that with a Curbe (as they tearme it) or hooke, do pull out of a windowe any loose linnen cloth, apparell, or else any other household stuffe what soeuer, which stolne parcells, they in their Art call snappings: to the performance of this law there be required, onely two persons, the Courber and the Warpe: the Courber his office is to spy in the day time fit places where his trade may be practised at night, and comming to any window if it be open, then he hath his purpose, if shut, then growing into the nature of the blacke Art, hath his trickers, which are engines of Iron so cunningly wrought, that he will cut a barr of Iron in two with them so easilie, that scarcelye shall the standers by hear him: then when he hath the window open and spyes any fat snappings worth the Courbing, then freight he sets the Warpe to watch, who hath a long cloak to couer whatsoeuer he gets, then / doth the other thrust in a long hooke some nine foote in length (which he calleth a Curbe) that hath at the end a crooke with three tynes turned contrary, so that tis vnpossible to misse if there be anye snappings abroade: Now this longe hooke they call a Curbe, and because you shall not wonder how they carry it for being espied, know this that
it is made with ioyntes like an angle rod, and can be conuaid into the forme of a trunchion & worn in the hand like a walking staffe, vntill they come to their purpose: and then they let it out at the length and hooke or curbe what soever is loose and within the reache, and then he conueyes it to the Warpe, and from thence (as they lift) their snappinges goes to the Broker or to the Bawd, and there they haue as ready money for it as Merchants haue for their ware in the Exchaunce: beside, there is a Dyuer, which is in the very nature of the Courber, for as he puts in a hooke, so the other puts in at the windowe some little figging boy, who playes his parte notably, and perhaps the youth is so well instrucred that he is a scholler in the blacke Arte, and can pick a Locke if it be not to[o] crosse warded, and deliuer to the Dyuer what snappinges he findes in the chamber. Thus you heare what the Courber doth and the Dyuer, and what inconuenience growes to many by their base villanyes: therefore I do wi[th] all men seruants and maids, to be carefull for their Maisters commodities, and to leaue no loose endes abroade, especially in chambers where windowes open to the streete, leaft the Courber take them as snappinges, and conuaye them to the coufeninge Broker.

Let this suffise, and now I will recreate your wits with a merry Tale or two.
Of a Courber, and how cunningly he was taken.

It fortuned of late that a Courber & his Warpe, went walking in the dead of the night, to spy out some window open for their purpose, & by chance came by a Noble mans house about London and saw the windowe of the porters lodge open, and looking in, spyed fatte snappings, and bad his Warpe watch carefully, for there would be purchase, & with that took his Courb and thurst it into the chamber, and the Porter lying in his bed was awake & sawe all, and so was his bedfellow that was yeoman of the wine feller: the Porter stole out of his bed to marke what would be done, and the firste snapping the Courber light on, was his Luierey coate: as he was drawing it to the windowe, the Porter easillye lifted it off and so the Courber drew his hook in vaine, the whilst his bedfellow stole out of the chamber and rayfed vp two or three more and went about to take them, but still the rogue he plyed his busines and lighted on a gowne that he vsed to fit in in the Porters lodge, and warily drew it, but when it came at the windowe, the Porter drew it off so lightly that the hooker perceiued it not: then when he saw his Courbe would take no holde, he swore and chaffe and tolde the Warp he had holde of two good snappes and yet mist them both and that the fault
was in his Courb: then he fell to sharpning and hammering of the hook to make it keep better hold, and in againe he thrusts it and lightes vpon a paire of buffe hofe, but when he had drawn them to the windowe the Porter tooke them off againe, which made the Courber almost mad, & swore he thought the deuill was abrode to night he had such hard fortune: naye sayes the yeoman of the feller, there is three abroade, and we are come to fetche you and your hookes to hell: so they apprehended these base rogues & carried them into the Porters lodge and made that their prifon. In the morning a crue of Gentlemen in the house, satte for Judges (in that they would not trouble their Lord with such filthy Caterpillers) and by them were found guiltie, and condemned to abide forty blowes a peece with a baftinado, which they had sollempnly paide, and so went away without any further damage.

Of the jubililty of a Curber in coofoning a Maide.

A Merrye ieft and as subtile, was reported to me of a cunning Courber, who had apparrelde him selfe maruelous braue, like some good wel-fauoured yong Gentleman, and in stead of a man had his Warpe to waite vpon him: this smoothe faced rogue comes into More Feelds, and caused his man to carry a pottell of Ipocras vnder his
cloak, and there had learnd out amongst others that was drying of clothes, of a very well fauoured maide, that was there with her Flaskit of linnen, what her Maifter was, where she dwelt, and what her name: hauing gotten this intelligēce, to this maide he goes, and courteously salutes her, and after some prittye chatte, tels her how he sawē her sundry times at her Maisters doore, and was so besotted with her beauty, that he had made inquiry what her qualities were, which by the neighbours he generally heard to be so vertuous, that his desire was the more inflamed, and therevpon in signe of good will, and in further acquaintance, he had brought her a pottle of Ipocras: the maid seeing him a good proper man, tooke it very kindlye, and thankt him, and so they drunke the Wine, and after a little Louers prattle, for that time they parted.

The Maids hart was set on fire, that a Gentleman was become a futer vnto her, and she began to think better of her selfe then euer she did before, and waxed so proud that her other futers were counted too base for her, and there might be none welcome but this new come gentleman her louer. Wel, diuerse times they appointed meetings, that they grew very familiar, and he oftentimes would come to her Maisters house, when all but she and her fellow maides were a bed, so that he and the
Warpe his man did almost know everye corner of the house: It fortuned that so long he dallied, that at length he meant earnest, but not to marrye the Maide whatsoever he had done els, and comming into the Feeldes to her on a washing daye, sawe a mightie deale of fine Linnen, worth twenty pound as he conieuctured: whereupon he thought this night to set downe his rest, and therefore he was very pleasant with his Louer, and told her that that night after her Maister and Mistres were to bed, he would come and bring a bottell of Sacke with him and drinke with her: the maide glad at these newes, promised to fit vp for him and so they parted; till about tenne a clock at night, when he came and brought his man with him, and one other Courber with his tooles, who should stand without the doores. To be bref, welcome he came, and so welcome as a man might be to a maide: he that had more minde to spie the clothes, then to looke/on her fauour, at laft perceiued them in a Parlour that stood to the street ward, and there would the maid have had him sit: no sweeting quoth he, it is too neere the streete, we can neither laugh nor be mery but every one that passeth by must heare vs: vpon that they remoued into another roome, and pleasent they were, and tipped the Sacke round, till all was out, and the Gentleman swore that he would have another
pottle, and so sent his man, who tolde the other Courber that stoode without, where the window was he shold worke at, & away goes he for more Sacke and brings it verye orderly, and then to their cuppes they fall againe, while the Courber without had not left one ragge of Linnen behinde. Late it grew, and the morning began to wax graye, and away goes the Courber and his man, leaving the maid very pleasant with his flattering promises, vntill such time as poore soule she went into the Parlor, and mist all her Maisters Linnen: then what a sorrowful hart she had, I refer to them that haue greeued at the like losse.

The Discoverie of the Blacke Art.

The Black Arte is picking of Lockes, and to this busie trade two persons are required, the Charme and the Stand: the Charm is he that doth the feate, and the Stand is he that watcheth: There be more that belong to the burglary for conuaying away the goods, but only two are imploide about the lock: the Charme hath many keyes and wretts. which they call picklocks, and for every sundry fashion they haue a sundry term, but I am ignorant of their woords of art, and therfore I omit them, onely this, they haue such cunning in opening a Lock, that they will vnndo the hardeft Lock though neuer so well warded, euen while a man
may turne his backe: some haue their instruments from Italie made of steele, some are made heere by Smiths, that are partakers in their villanous occupations: but howsoever, well may it be called the blacke Art, for the Deuil cannot doo better then they in their facultie. I once saw the experience of it my selfe, for being in the Counter vpon a commandement, there came in a famous fellow in the blacke art, as strong in that qualitye as Samson: The partie now is dead, and by fortune died in his bed: I hering that he was a charm, began to enter familiaritie with him, and to haue an insight into his art: after some acquaintance he tolde me much, and one day being in my Chamber I shewed him my Deske, and askt him if he could pick that little lock that was so well warded, and too little as I thought for any of his ginnes. Why sir saies he, I am so experienced in the blacke Art, that if I doo but blowe vpon a Lock it shall fly opē, and therfore let me come to your Deske, and doo but turne fiue times about, and you shall see my cunning: with that I did as he bad me, and ere I had turned fiue times, his hand was rifling in my Deske verye orderlye. I wondred at it, and thought verily that the Deuill and his Dam was in his fingers: much discommodity growes by this black Art in shops and noble mens houses for their plate: therefore are they most feuerely to be lookt into
by the honourable and worshipfull of England; and to end this discourse as pleasantly as the rest, I will rehearse you a true tale done by a most worshipfull Knight in Lancashire, against a Tinker that professed the Black Art.

A true and merry Tale of a Knight, and a Tinker that was a pick-locke.

Not far off from Bolton in the Mores, there dwelled an auncient Knight, who for curtesie and hospitallitie was famous in those partes: diuers of his Tennantes making repaire to his house, offred diuers complaints to him how their lockes were pickt in the night and diuers of them utterly vndoon by that meanes: and who it should be they could not tell, onely they suspefted a Tinker that went about the Country and in all places did spend verye lauifhlye: the Knight willing, heard what they exhibited, and promised both redresse and reuenge if he or they could learne out the man. It chaunced not long after their complaints, but this iollye Tinker (fo experte in the black arte) came by the house of this Knight, as the olde gentleman was walking afore the gate, and cryed for worke: the Knight straight coniecturing this should be that famous rogue that did so much hurt to his Tennantes, cald in and afkt him if they had any worke for the Tinker: the Cooke
aunswered there was three or foure old Kettles to mend, come in Tinker: so this fellowe came in, laide downe his budget and fell to his worke: a black Jacke of beere for this Tinker sayes the Knight, I know tinkers haue drye soules: the Tinker he was pleasant and thankt him humblye, the Knight sate down by him and fell a ranfackling his budget, and asked wherefore this toole serued and wherefore that: the tinker tolde him all: at last as he tumbled amongst his old brasse, the Knight spyed three or fower bunches of pick-lockes: he turnd them ouer quickly as though he had not seene them and saide, well tinker I warrant thou art a passing cunning fellow & well skild in thine occupation by the store of tooles thou haft in thy budget: In faith if it please your worship quoth he, I am thankes be to God my craftes maister. I, so much I perceiue that thou art a passing cunning fellowe quoth the Knight, therefore let vs haue a fresh Jacke of beere and that of the best and strongest for the Tinker: thus he paft away the time pleasantlye, and when he had done his worke he asked what he would haue for his paines? but two shillinges of your worship quoth the Tinker: two shillinges sayes the Knight, alas Tinker it is too little, for I see by thy tooles thou art a passing cunning workeman: holde there is two shillinges, come in, shalt drinke a cup of wine before thou
goest: but I pray tell me which way trauaileft thou? faith fir quoth the Tinker all is one to me, I am not much out of my way wherfoeuer I goe, but now I am going to Lancaster: I praye thee Tinker then quoth the Knight, carry me a Letter to the Jaylor, for I sent in a fellow thither the other day and I would send word to the Jaylor he shou'd take no bale for him: marry that I will in most dutifull manner quoth he, and much more for your woorship then that: giue him a cup of wine quoth the Knight, and frrha (speaking to his Clarke) make a Letter to the Jaylor, but then he whispered to him nd bad him make a mittimus to fend the Tinker to prifon: the Clarke answered he knewe not his name: Ile make / him tell it thee him selfe sayes the Knight, and therefore fall you to your pen: the Clarke began to write his mittimus, and the Knight began to aske what Countryman he was, where he dwelt, & what was his name: the Tinker tolde him all, and the Clarke fet it in with this prouifo to the Jaylor, that he shou'd keep him faft bolted, or else he would break awaye. Afione as the mittimus was made, sealed and subscribed in forme of a Letter, the Knight took it and deliuered it to the Tinker and said, giue this to the cheefe Jaylor of Lancaster & heres two shillings more for thy labour: so the Tincker tooke the Letter and the money and with many a cap &
knee thanked the olde Knight and departed: and made hafte til he came at Lancaster, and stayed not in the town so much as to taate one cup of nappy ale, before he came at the Jailor, and to him very briskly he deliuered his letter: the jailor took it and read it and smilde a good, and said tinker thou art welcom for such a Knights fake, he bids me giue thee þ best entertainment I may: I sir quoth the tinker the Knight loues me wel, but I pray you hath þ courteous gentlemæ remembred such a poore man as I? I marry doth he tinker, and therefore sirra q. he to one of his men, take þ tinker in þ lowest ward, clap a strong pair of bolts on his heeles, and a basil of 28. pound weight, and then sirra see if your pick lock wil serue the turne to bale you hence? at this the tinker was blank, but yet he thought the jailor had but iefted: but whē he heard the Mittimus, his hart was colde, and had not a word to fay: his conscience accused: and there he lay while the next seffions, and was hangd at Lancaster, and all his skil in the black art could not serue him.

FINIS./
XXIV.

THE
THIRDE AND LAST PARTE
OF
CONNY-CATCHING.

1592.
NOTE.

The 'Thirde Part of Conny-catching,' 1592, is also extremely rare. Our text is from the British Museum. See annotated Life in Vol. I.—G.
THE THIRDE

and last Part of Conny-catching.

WITH THE NEW DEISED

knauish Art of Foole-taking.

The like Cosenages and Villenies neuer before discovered.

By R. G.

Imprinted at London by Thomas Scarlet, for
Cutberd Burbie, and are to be folde at his shoppe in the
Poultrie, by S. Mildreds Church. 1592.
TO ALL
SUCH AS HAVE

received either pleasure or profit
by the two former published bookes of this
Argument, and to all beside, that desire
to know the wonderful flie de-
uises of this hellish crew of
Cony-catchers.

In the time of king Henrie the fourth,
as our English Chronyclers haue kept in
remembrance, liued diuerse sturdtie and loose
companions, in sundrie places about the Citie of
London, who gaue themselues to no good course of
life, but because the time was somewhat troublesome,
watched diligently, when by the leaft occasion of
mutinie offered, they might praise upon the goods of
honest Citizens, and so by their spoile inrich them-
selues. At that time likewise liued a worthie Gentle-
man, whose many very famous deedes (whereof I. am
forie I may here make no rehearsal, because neither
time nor occasion will permitte me) renowne his name
to all ensuing posterities: he being called Sir Richard
Whittington, the founder of Whittington Colledge in
London, and one that bare the office of Lord Maior of
this Citie three feuerall times. This worthie man
wel noting the dangerous disposition of that idle kinde
of people, tooke such good and discreet order (after hee
had sent divers of them to serue in the kings warres,
and they loath to doe so well, returned to their former
vomite) that in no place of or about London they
might haue lodging, or entertainment, except they
applied themselves to such honest trades and exercices,
as might witnessse their maintaining was by true and
honest meanes. If any to the contrarie were founde,
they were in iustice so sharply proceeded against, as
the most hurtfull and dangerous enemies to the
commonwealth.

In this quiet and most blissfull time of peace, when
all men (in course of life) should shew themselves most
thankfull for so great a benefit, this famous citie is
pestered with the like, or rather worse kinde of people,
that beare outward shew of civill, honest, and gentle-
manlike disposition, but in very deed their behaviour
is most infamous to be spoken of. And as now by
their close villanies they cheate, cofen, prig, lift, nippe,
and such like tricks now used in their Conie-catching
Trade, to the hurt and undoing of many an honest
Citizen, and other: So if God should in iustice be
TO THE READER.

angrie with us, as our wickednesse hath well deservéd, and (as the Lorde forfend) our peace should be molested as in former time, even as they did, so will these be the first in seeking domesticall spoile and ruine: yea so they may haue it, it skilles not how they come by it. God raie such another as was worthie Whittington, that in time may bridle the headstrong course of this hellish crew, and force them liue as becommeth honest Subjects, or els to abide the reward due to their looseesse.

By reading this little treatise ensuing, you shall see to what marueylous subtill pollicies these deceivers haue atteyned, and how daylie they practiſse driftes for their purpose. I say no more, but if all these forewarnings may be regarded, to the benefite of the well minded, and iust contrall of these careleſſe wretches, it is all I deſire, and no more then I hope to see.

Yours in all he may

R. G.
The third and last part of Conny-
CATCHING WITH THE NEW
deuised knauish Arte of Foole-
taking.

Being by chance inuited to supper, where were present divers, both of worship and good accompt, as occasion serued for entercourse of talke, the present trecheries and wicked deuifes of the world was called in queftion. Amongst other most hatefull and well worthy reprehension, the woondrous villanies of loose and lewd perfons, that beare the shape of men, yet are monsters in condition, was specially remembred, and not only they, but their complices, their con-
federates, their base natured women and close compacters were noted: Namely, such as tearme
themselfes Conny-catchers, Croffe-biteres, with their appertayning names to their feuerall coofening qualities, as alreadie is made knowne to the worlde, by two feuerall imprinted books, by meanes where- of, the prefent kind of conference was occasioned. Quoth a Gentleman sitting at the Table, whose deepe step into age deciphered his experience, and whose grauitie in speche reported his discretion, quoth he, by the two published bookees of Conny-catchinge: I haue feene diuers things wherof I was before ignorant, notwithstanding, had I beeene acquainted with the author: I could haue giuen him such notes of notorious matters that way intenting, as in neither of the pamphlets are the like set downe. Befide, they are fo necessarie to be knowne, as they will both fore arme anie man against such trecherous vipers, and forewarne the simpler sort from confuerfing with them. The Gentleman being knowne to be within commiffion of the peace, and that what hee spake of either came to him by examinations, or by riding in the circuits as other like officers do: was intreated by one man aboue the reft (as his leisur[e ferued him) to acquaint him with those notes, and hee would fo bring it to passe, as the writer of the other two bookees should haue the fight of them, and if their quantitie would serue, that hee should publishe them as a third, and more necessarie part then the
former were. The Gentleman replied, all suche notes as I speake, are not of mine owne knowledge, yet from suche men haue I receiued them, as I dare assure their truth: and but that by naming men wronged by such mates, more displeasure would ensue then were expedient, I could set downe both time, place, and parties. But the certaintie shall suffice without anie such offence. As for such as shall see their injuries discovered, and (byting the lip) say to themselues, thus was I made a Conny: their names being shadowed, they haue no cause of anger, in that the example of their honest simplicitie beguiled, may shield a number more endangered from tafting the like. And seeing you haue promised to make them knowne to the author of the former two Bookes, you shall the sooner obtaine your request: assuring him thus mucho vpon my credite and honestie, that no one vntrueth is in the notes, but euerie one credible, and to be iustified if neede serue. Within a fortnight, or thereabout afterward, the Gentleman performed his promise, in seuerall papers sent the notes, which heere are in our booke compiled together: when / thou haft read, say, if euer thou heardeft more notable villainies discovered. And if thou or thy friends receive anie good by them, as it cannot be but they will make a number more carefull of themselues: thanke the honest Gentle-
man for his notes, and the writer that published both the other and these, for generall example.


A pleasant tale how an honest substantiall Citizen was made a Connie, and simply entertained a knaue that carried awaie hys goods very politickely.

Hat lawes are vsed among this hellish crew, what words and termes they giue themselues and their copesmates, are at large set downe in the former two booke: let it suffice yee then in this, to read the simple true discourses of suche as haue by extraordinarie cunning and trecherie beene deceiued, and remembrance their subtile meanes there, and flie practises here, be prepared against the reaches of any such companions.

Not long since, a crewe of Conny-catchers meeting togither, and in conference laying downe suche courses as they severally should take, to shunne suspeet, and returne a common benefit among them: the Carders received their charge, the Dicers theirs, the hangers about the court theirs, the followers of Sermons theirs, and so the rest to their offices. But one of them especiallie, who at their
woonted meetinges, when reporte was made how euerie purchase was gotten, / and by what pollicie eache one preuailed: this fellowe in a kind of priding scorne, would vnuallie faye.

In faith Maifters, these things are pretily done, common fleights, expressing no deep reach of wit, and I wonder men are so simple to be so beguiled. I would fain fee fome rare artificiall feat indeed, that from admiration and fame might enflue the doing thereof. I promise ye, I disdaine these base and pettie paltries, and may my fortune iumpe with my resolution, ye shal heare my boies within a day or two, that I will accomplifh a rare stratageeme indeed, of more value then forty of yours, and when it is done shal Cary fome credit with it. They wondring at his wordes defired to see the successe of them, and fo dispersing themselves as they were accustomed, left this frollicke fellow pondering on his affaires. A Cittizens house in London, which he had diligently eied and aimed at for a fortnights space, was the place wherein he must performe this exploit, and hauing learned one of the servant maids name of the house, as also where shee was borne, and her kindred: Vpon a Sunday in the afternone, when it was her turne to attend on her maifter and mistres to the garden in Finsbury fields, to regard the children while they sported about, this craftie mate hauing dulie
watched their comming foorth, and séeing that they intended to goe downe S. Laurence lane, stepped before them, euer cafting an eie back, least they should turn some contrarie way. But their following still fitting his owne desire, néere vnto the Conduit in Alderman-bury, hée crossed the waye and came vnto the maid, and kissting her sáid: Cofen Margaret, I am very glad to sée you well, my vnckle your father, and all your friends in the Countrey are in good health God be praifed. The Maid hearing herselfe named, and not knowing the man, modéstly blushed, which hée perceiving helde way on with her amongst her fellowe Apprentifes, and thus began a / gaine. I sée Cofen you knowe mee not, and I doe not greatlie blame you, it is so long since you came forth of the Countrey: but I am such a ones sonne, naming her Vncle right, and his sonnes name, which sée very well remembred, but had not séeene him in eleuen yeares. Then taking foorth a bowed groat, and an olde pennie bowed, hée gaue it her as being sent from her Vncle and Aunt, whome hee tearmed to bee his Father and Mother: Withall (quoth hee) I haue a Gammon of bacon and a Chéefe from my Vncle your Father, which are sent to your Maiifter and Miftresse, which I receiued of the Carrier, because my Vncle enioynde mee to deliuer thom, when I muft intreat your mistres, that at Whit-
fontide next shee will giue you leaue to come downe into the Countrey. The Maide thinking simplie all hee sayd was true, and as they so farre from their parents, are not onely glad to heare of their welfare, but also reioyce to see any of their kindred: so this poore Maid, well knowing her VnCLE had a sonne so named as hee called himselfe, and thinking from a boy (as he was at her leauing the Countrey) hee was now growen such a proper handsome young man, was not a little ioyfull to see him: béside, shee seemed proud that her kinsman was so neat a youth, and so shee helde on questioning with him about her friendes: hee soothing each matter so cunningly, as the maide was confidently perswaded of him. In this time, one of the children steppe to her mother and sayd, Our marget (mother) hath a fine coosen come out of the Country, and he hath a Cheeste for my Father and you: wherevpon shee looking backe, said: maid, is that your kinsman? Yea forsooth mistres, quoth shee, my Vncles son, whome I left a little one when I came forth of the countrey.

The wily Treacher, beeing maister of his trade, woulde not let slippe this opportunitie, but courteoufflie / stepping to the Mistresse, (who louing her maid well, because indeed shee had beeene a very good seruant, and from her first comming to London had dwelt with her, toould her husband
thereof) coyned such a smooth tale vnto them both, fronting it with the Gammon of Bacon and the Cheefe sent from their maides Father, and hoping they would giue her leaue at Whitfontide to viste the countrey, as they with verie kinde wordes entretained him, inviting him the next night to supper, when he promised to bring with him the Gammon of bacon and the cheefe. Then framing an excuse of certaine busines in the town, for that time hee tooke his leaue of the Maister and Mistrefse, and his newe Cofen Ma[r]garet, who gaue manie a looke after him (poore wench) as hee went, ioying in her thoughts to haue fuch a kinsman.

On the morrow hee prepared a good Gammon of bacon, which he closed vp in a foiled linnen cloath, and sewed an old card vpon it, whereon he wrote a superscription vnto the Maister of the Maide, and at what signe it was to be delivered, and afterward scraped some of the letters halfe out, that it might seeme they had bene rubd out in the carriage. A good Cheefe hee prepared likewise, with inscription accordingly on it, that it could not bee discerned, but that some vnskilfull writer in the Country had done it, both by the grosse proportio of the letters, as also the bad Ortographie, which amongst plaine husband-men is verie common, in that they haue no better instruction. So
hiring a Porter to carry them, betwéene five and sixe in the euening hée comes to the Cittizens house, and entring the shop, receiues them of the Porter, whom the honést meaning Cittizen woulde haue paied for his pains, but this his maids new found Cofen saide hée was satisfied alreadie, and so straining courtesie would not permit him: well, vp are carried the Bacon and the Cheefe, where God knowes, Margaret / was not a little busie, to haue all things fine and neat against her Cofens comming vp, her mistrefle likewise, (as one well affecting her seruaunt) had prouided verie good chéeere, fet all her plate on the Cubboorde for shewe, and beautified the house with Cusheons, Carpets, stools and other deuifes of needle worke, as at such times diuers will doo, to haue the better report made of their credite amongst their seruants friends in the Countrey, albeit at this time (God wot) it turned to their owne after-forrowing. The maifter of the house, to delay the time while Supper was readie, hée likewise shewes this disSEMBLER his shop, who seeing things fadge so pat to his purpose, could question of this fort, and that wel enough I warrant you, to discerne the best from the worst and their appointed places, purposing a further reach then the honést Cittizen dreamed of: and to bée plaine with ye, such was this occu-Piers trade, as though I may not name it, yet thus
much I dare utter, that the worst thing he could carry away, was worth about 20 nobles, because hee dealt altogeather in whole and great sale, which made this companion forge this kindred and acquaintance: for an hundred pound or twaine was the very least hée aimed at. At length the mistresse fendes worde supper is on the Table, where vpon vppe hee conducts his guest, and after divers welcomes, as also thankes for the Cheefe and Bacon: To the Table they sit, where let it suffice, hee wanted no ordinarie good fare, wine and other knackes, beside much talke of the Coun-try, how much his friendes were beholding for his Cofen Margaret, to whome by her mistresse leaue hée dranke twise or thrise, and hée poore soule dooing the like againe to him with remembrance of her Father and other kindred, which he still smoothed very cunningly. Countenance of talke made them careles of the time, which slipp'd from them [twifter] then they were aware of, nor did the deceiuer haften his departing, because he expected what indeed followed, which was, that being past tenne of the clocke, and hée feigning his lodging to be at Saint Gyles in the field, was intreated both by the good man and his wife, to take a bed there for that night: for fashion fake (though verie glad of this offer) hée saide he would not trouble them, but giuing the many thanks, would to his lodging
though it were further. But woonderfull it was to see howe earnest the honest Citizen and his wife laboured to perfwade him, that was more willing to stay then they could bee to bidde him, and what dissembled willingnesse of departure hee vfed on the other side, to couer the secret villanie intended. Well, at the length, with much adoe, he is contented to stay, when Margaret and her mistrefse presently stirred to make ready his bed, which the more to the honest mans hard hap, but all the better for this artificall Conny-catcher, was in the fame roume where they supped, being commonly called their hall, and there indeede stoode a verie faire bed, as in such fightly roumes it may easily bee thought, Citizens vfe not to haue anie thing meane or simple. The mistrefse, leaft her guest should imagine she disturbed him, suffered all the plate to stand still on the cupbord: and when she perceived his bed was warmed, and euery thing els according to her mind, she and her husband bidding him good night: tooke themselues to their chamber, which was on the fame floore, but inward, having another chamber betweene them and the hall, where the maides and children had their lodging. So desiring him to call for anything hee wanted, and charging Margaret to looke it should be fo, to bed are they gone: when the Apprentifes having brought vp the keyes of the ftreet
dore, and left them in their maisters chamber as they were woont to do, after they had said praiers, their euening exercise, to bed go they likewise, / which was in a Garret backward ouer their maisters chamber. None are nowe vp but poore Margaret and her counterfeit coofen, whom she loth to offend with long talke, because it waxed late: after some fewe more speeches, about their parentes and friendes in the countrey, she seeing him laid in bed, and all such thinges by hym as she déemed needfull, with a low courtesie I warrant ye, commits him to his quiet, and so went to bed to her fellowes, the maidservantes. Well did this hypocrite perceiue the keyes of the doores carried into the good mans chamber, whereof he being not a little glad, thought now they would imagine all things sure, and therefore doubtlesse sleep the founder: as for the keyes, shee needed no helpe of them, because such as he goe neuer vnprovized of instrumëts fitting their trade, and so at this time was this notable trecher. In the dead time of the night, when found sleep makes ye eare vnapt to heare the verie leaft noyse, he forlaketh his bed, & having gotten all the plate bound vp together in his cloke, goeth downe into the shop, where well remembring both the place and percels, maketh vp his pack with some twenty pounds-worth of goods more. Then setling to his engin, he getteth
the doore off the hindges, and being foorth, lifteth close to againe, and so departes, meeting within a dozen paces, three or foure of his companions that lurked therabouts for the purpose. Their word for knowing ech other, as is saide, was Quest, and this villaines comfortable newes to them, was Twag, signifying he had sped: ech takes a fleece for easier carriage, and so away to Bellbrow, which, as I haue heard is as they interpret it, the house of a theefe receuier, without which they can do nothing, and this house with an apt porter to it, stands redie for them all houres of the night: too many such are there in London, the maisters whereof beare countenance of honest substantiall men, but all their liuing is gotten in this order, the end of such (though they scape awhile) will be sayling westward in a Cart to Tiborn. Imagine these villaines there in their iollitie, the one reporting point by point his cunning deceipt, and the other (fitting his humour) extolling the deede with no meane commendations. But returning to the honest Citizen, who finding in the morning how deerly he paid for a gammon of Bacon, and a cheefe, and how his kinde courtesie was thus trecherously requited: blames the poore maid, as innocent herein as himselfe, and imprifoning her, thinking so to regaine his owne, grieue with ill cherishing there shortens her life: And thus ensueth
one hard hap vpon another, to the great griefe both of maifter and mistresse, when the trueth was knowne, that they so wronged their honest seruant. How [this] may forewarne others, I leaue to your own opinions, that see what extraordinarie deuifes are now adayes, to beguile the simple and honest liberall minded.

Of a notable knaue, who for his cunning deceiuing a Gentleman of his purfe: scorned the name of a Conny-catcher, and woulde needes be termed a Foole-taker, as maister and beginner of that new found Arte.

A Crew of these wicked companions being one day met togither in Pauls Church, (as that is a vsuall place of their assembly, both to determine on their driftes, as also to speede of manie a bootie) seeing no likelihood of a good afternoone, so they tearme it, either forenoon or after, when ought is to be done: some dispersfed themselues to the plaies, other to the bowling Allies, and not past two or three stayed in the Church: Quoth one of them, I haue vowed not to depart but something or other Ile haue before I go: my minde / giues me, that this place yet will yeelde vs all our suppers this night: the other holding like opinion with him, there likewife walked vp and downe, looking when occasion would serue for
CONNY-CATCHING.

fome Caph. At length they espied a Gentleman toward the lawe, entring in at the little North doore, and a countrey Clyent going with him in very hard talke: the Gentleman holding his gowne open with his armes on either fide as verie manie doe, gaue fight of a faire purple veluet purfe, which was halfe put vnder his girdle: whiche I warrant you the resolute fellow that woulde not depart without some thing, had quickly espied. A game, qd. he to his fellows, marke the fìand, and fo separating themselves walked aloofe, the Gentleman going to the nether fteppe of the ftaires that ascend vp into the Quire, and there he walked fìll with his clyent. Oft this crew of mates met together, and faid there was no hope of nipping the boung because he held open his gowne fo wide, and walked in fuch an open place. Bafe knaues, quoth the frolicke fellowe, if I fay I will haue it, I muſt haue it, though hee that owes it had fwarne the contrarie. Then looking aside, hee spied his trugge or queane comming vp the Church: Away, quoth he to the other, go looke you for some other purfhafe, this wench and I are fufficient for this. They go, he leffons the drab in this forte, that shée shou’d to the Gentleman, whose name she verie well knew, in that shee had holpe to coofen him once before, & preteding to be fent to him frō one he was wel acquainted with for his councell, shou’d giue him
his fée for avoiding suspicion, and so frame some wrong done her, as well inough she coulde: when her mate (taking occasion as it serued) would worke the meane, she shold strike, & so they both preuaile. The queane well inured with such courses, because she was one of y most skilfull in that profession, walked vp and downe alone in the Gentlemans fight, that he might discerne she staid to speake with him, and as he turned tooward her, he saw her take money out of her purse, whereby he gathered some benefite was toward him: which made him the sooner dispatch his other clyent, when she stepping to him, tolde such a tale of commendations from his verie friend, that he had sent her to him as she said, that he entertained her very kindly, and giuing him his fee, which before her face he put vp into his purse, and thurf it vnder his girdle againe: she proceeded to a verie found discourse, whereto he listened with no litle attention. The time seruing fit for the fellows purpose, he came behind the Gentleman, and as many times one friend will familiarly with another, claps his handes ouer his eyes to make him guesse who he is, so did this companion, holding his handes faft ouer the Gentlemans eyes, saide: who am I? twice or thrife, in whiche time the drab had gotten the purse and put it vp. The Gentleman thinking it beene some merrie friend of his,
reckened the names of three or foure, when letting him go, the craftie knaue dissembling a bashfull flame of what he had done, said: By my troth sir I crie ye mercy, as I came in at the Church doore I tooke ye for such a one (naming a man) a verie friend of mine, whome you very much resemble. I beseech ye be not angrie, it was very boldly done of me, but in penance of my fault, so please you to accept it, I will bestow a gallon or two of wine on ye, and so laboured him earnestly to go with him to the tauerne, still alledging his sorrow for mistaking him. The Gentleman little suspeciting how who am I, had handled him, seeing how sore he was, and seeming to be a man of no such base condition: tooke all in good part, saying: No harme sir, to take one for another, a fault wherein any man may easily erre: and so excusing the acceptation of his wine, because he was busie there with a Gen/tlewoman his friend: the Trecher with courtezie departed, and the drab (hauing what she would) shortning her tale, he desiring her to com to his chamber the next morning, went to the place where her copes-mate & she met, and not long after, divers others of the crue, who hearing in what manner this act was perfourmed, smiled a good threat, that she had both got the Gentlemans purse, her owne money againe, and his aduise for iust no thing. He that had done
this tall exploit, in a place so open in view, so hardly to be com by, and on a man that made no mean estéeme of his wit: bids his fellowes keepe the woorthlesse name of a Conny-catcher to them-selves: for hee hence-foorth would be tearmed a Foole-taker, and such as could imitate this quaint example of his (which hee would set downe as an entrance into that art) should not thinke scorne to become his schollers.

Night drawing on apace, the Gentleman returned home, not all this while missing his purse, but béeing set at supper, his wife intreated a pint of Secke, which hée minding to send for: drewe to his purse, and seeing it gone, what straunge lookes (beside sighs) were between him and his wife, I leaue to your supposing, and blame them not: for as I haue heard, there was seven pound in Golde, beside thirty shillings and odde white money in the purse. But in the midst of his griefe hée remembred him that said, who am I? Wherewith hée brake forth into a great laughter, the cause whereof his wife béeing desirous to know, hée declared all that passe betweene him and the deceiver, as also how done afterward the queane abreviated her discourse and followed: so by troth wife (quoth he) betweene who am I and the drab, my purse is gone: let his losse teach others to looke better to theirs.
An other Tale of a coosening companion, who would needs trie his cunning in this new invented art, and how by his kuauery (at one infant) he beguiled half a dozen and more.

Of late time there hath a certayne base kind of trade been vsed, who though divers poor men, & doubtles honest apply themselves to, only to relieue their need: yet are there some notorious varlets to the same, beeing compacted with such kind of people, as this present treatife manifeesteth to the worlde; and what with outward simplicitie on the one side, and cunning close trechery on the other, duiers honest Cittizens and day-labouring men, that refort to such places as I am to speake of, onely for recreation as opportunity serueth, haue bin of late sundry times deceived of their purses. This trade, or rather unsufferable luytring qualitie, in singeing of Ballets and songs at the doores of such houses where plaies are vsed, as also in open markets and other places of this Cittie, where is most refort: which is nothing els but a fly fetch to draw many togethether, who listning vnto an harmelesse dittie, afterward walke home to their houses with heavie hearts: from such as are heereof true witnesses to their cost, do I deliuer this example. A subtill fellow, belike imboldned by acquaintance with the former X.

II
deceit, or els bêeing but a beginner to practife the
same, calling certaine of his companions together,
would try whether he could attaine to be maister
of his art or no, by taking a great many of fools
with one traine. But let his intent and what els
beside, remaine to abide the cenfure after ™ mater
is heard, & come to Gracious streëet, where this
villanous pranke was performed. A roging mate,
& fuch another with him, were there got vpô a
ftal finging of balets, which belike was som prety
toy, for very many gathered / about to heare it,
& diuers buying, as their affections servued, drew
to their purses, & paid the fingers for thē. The
flye mate and his fellowes, who were dispersfed
among them that stoode to heare the fonges: well
noted where euerie man that bought, put vp
his pursē againe, and to fuch as would not buy,
counterfeit warning was fundrie times giuen by
the rogue and his associate, to beware of the
cut-purse, and looke to their purses, which made
them often feel where their purses were, either in
flēeue, hose, or at girdle, to know whether they
were safe or no. Thus the craftie copefmates
were acquainted with what they moﬆ desired, and
as they were scattered, by shouldring, thrusting,
feigning to let fall something, and other wilie
tricks fit for their purpose: heere one loft his
purse, there another had his pocket pickt, and to
fay all in briefe, at one instant, vpon the complaint of one or two that faue their purses were gone, eight more in the same companie, found themselves in like predicament. Some angrie, others sorrowfull, and all greatly discontented, looking about them, knewe not who to suspect or challenge, in that the villaines themselves that had thus beguiled them, made shewe that they had sustained like losse. But one angrie fellow, more impatient then al the rest, he falles vpon the ballade finger, and beating him with his fists well fauouredly, sayes if he had not listened his singing, he had not lost his purse, and therefore woulde not be otherwise perswaded, but that they two and the cut-purses were compared together. The rest that had lost their purses likwise, and saw that so many complained together: they iumpe in opinion with the other fellow, & begin to tug & hale the ballad fingers, when one after one the false knaues began to shrinke awaie with y purses. By meanes of some officer then being there prefet, the two roges wer had before a justice, and vpon his discrete examination made, it was found / that they and the Cut-purses were compared together, and that by this unsuspected villanie, they had deceived many. The fine Foole-taker himselfe, with one or two more of that companie, was not long after apprehended: when I doubt not but they had their
reward aunfwerable to their deferuing: for I heare of their iourney westward, but not of their returne: let this forewarne thofe that listen finging in the streets.

*Of a craftie mate, that brought two young men to a Tauerne, where departing with a Cup, he left them to pay both for the wine and Cup.*

A Friend of mine sent me this note, and affuring me the truth thereof, I thought necessary to set it downe amongst the rest: both for the honest simplicyte on the one fide and moft cunning knauerye vsed on the other; and thus it was. Two young men of familiar acquaintaunce, who delighted much in musicke, because them-felues therein were somwhat expert, as on the virginals, Bandora, Lute and fuch like: were one euening at a common Inne of this town (as I haue heard) where the one of them shewed his skill on the Virginals, to the no little contentment of the hearers. Nowe as diuers guefts of the house came into the room to listen, fo among the rest entered an artificiall Conny-catcher, who as occasion ferued, in the time of ceiffing betwene the feueral toyes and fancies hée plaied: very much commended his cunning, quicke hand, and fuch qualities praiseworthy in fuch a professour.
The time being come, when these young men craued leaue to depart, this politique varlet stepping to them, desir'd that they would accept a quart of wine at his hand, which he would, most glad-/lie he would, bestow vpon them: besides, if it liked him that played on the Virginals to instruct, he would helpe him to so good a place, as happily might aduantage him for euer. These kind words, deliuered with such honest outward shew, cauf'd the young men, whose thoughts were free from any other opinion, than to be as truely and plainly dealt withall as themselfes meant, accepted his offer, because he that played on the Virginalles was desirous to haue some good place of service, and here vpon to the Tauerne they goe, and being set, the wily companion calleth for two pintes of wine, a pinte of white, and a pinte of claret, casting his cloake vpon the Table, and falling to his former communication of preferring the young man. The wine is brought, and two cuppes with-all, as is the usuall manner: when drinking to them of one pinte, they pledge him, not vnthankfull for his gentlenesse. After some time spent in talke, and as he perceiued fit for his purpose, hee takes the other cup, and taftes the other pinte of wine: wherewith he finding fault, that it dranke somewhat harde, sayde, that Rose-watar and Sugar would do no harme: whereupon he leaues his feate,
yng he was well acquainted with one of the servants of the house, of whom he could have two pennyworth of Rosewater for a penny, and so of Sugar likewise, wherefore he would step to the barre vnto him: so taking the cup in his hand, he did, the young men never thinking on any such treachery as ensued, in that he seemed an honest man, and beside left his cloke lying on the table by them. No more returnes the yonker with Rosewater and Sugar, but stepping out of doores, vnseen of any, goes away roundly with the cup. The young men not a little wondering at his long tarrying, by the coming of the servants to see what they wanted, who tooke no regarde of his sudden departure, find themselues there left, not onlie to pay for the wine, but for the Cuppe also, beeing rashly supposed by the maister and his servantes to be copartners with the treacherous villaine: but their honest behauiour well known, as also their simplicitie too much abusfed, well witnesed their innocencie: notwithstanding they were faine to pay for the cuppe, as afterward they did, hauing nothing towards their charge but a threede bare cloake not woorth two shillinges. Take heede how you drinke wine with any such companions.
Of an honest householder which was cunningly deceyued by a subtil companion, that came to hire a Chamber for his Maister.

Not farre from Charing crosse dwelleth an honest yoong man, who beeing not long since married, and hauing more roomes in his house than himselfe occupyeth, eyther for terme time, or the Court lying so neere, as diuers do, to make a reasonable commoditie, and to eafe house-rent, which (as the worlde goeth now is none of the cheapest) letteth foorth a chamber or two, according as it may be spared. In an euening but a while since, came one in the manner of a Serving man to this man and his wife, and he must needs haue a Chamber for his Maister, offering fo largely, as the bargaine was foone concluded betwene them. His intent was to haue fingered some bootive in the house, as by the sequele it may be likelieft gathered: but belike no fit thing lying abroad, or hee better regarded then happily he woulde be, his expectation that way was frustrate: yet as a resolute Conny-catcher indeede, that scorneth to attempt without some succeffe, and rather / will pray vpon smal commodity, then returne to his fellows disgraced with a loft labour: he summons his wits together, and by a smooth tale owre-reached both the man and his wife. He tels them, that
his Maiستر was a captaine late come from the Sea,
and had costly apparell to bring thither, which for
more easie carriage, he entreats them lend him a
sheet to bind it vp in: they suspeeting no ill, because
hee required their boy shou'd goe with him to
helpe him carry the stuffe, the good wife steppes
unto her Cheff, where her linnen lay finelie sweeted
with Rose-leaues and Lauender, and lends him a
very good sheet in deed.

This succeffe made him bolde to venter a little
further, and then he tells them, his Maisterol a
great deal of broken Sugar, and fine spices that
lay negligently abroad in his lodging as it was
brought from the Shippe: all which hee was assured
his Maiƨter would bestow on them, so hee could
deuise howe to get it brought thither.

These liberall promisses, prevailing with them
that lightlie belieued, and withall were somewhat
couetous of the Sugar and spices: The woman
demanded if a couple of pillow-beères would not
ferue to bring the Sugar and spices in? Yes marry
(quoth hee) so the Sugar may best be kept by it
selfe, and the spices by themselfes. And (quoth hee)
because there are many craftie knaues abroad,
(gréeuing that any shou'd bee craftier then him-
selфе) and in the euening the linnen might quicklie
bee snatched from the boy: For the more safety,
hee would carry the sheet and pillow-beères him-
felfe, and within an hower or little more, returne with the boye againe, because he would haue all things ready before his Maifter came, who (as hee said) was attending on the Councell at the court. The man and his wife crediting his smooth spéeches, sends their boy with him, and so along toward / Juie-bridge goe they. The Conny-catcher seeing himselfe at freé libertie, that hee had gotten a very good sheet, and two fine pillow-beeres: steps to the wall, as though he would make water, bidding the boy go faire and softlie on before. The boy doubting nothing, did as hee willed him, when presently he stept into some house hard by fit to entertaine him: and neuer since was hee, his Maifter, the Sugar, spices, or the linnen heard off. Manie haue beene in this manner deceiued, as I heare: let this then giue them warning to beware of any such vnprofitable guefts.

Of one that came to buy a knife, and made first profe of his trade on him that folde it.

One of the Conning Nippes about the Towne, came vnto a poore Cutler to haue a Cuttle made according vnto his owne mind, and not aboue three inches would hee haue both the knife and the haft in length: yet of such pure mettall, as possiblre may be. Albeit the poore man neuer made the like before, yet being promised foure
times the value of his stuffe and paines, he was contented to doe this, and the day béeing come that hée should deliuer it, the partie came, who liking it exceedingly, gaue him the mony promisèd, which the poore man gladly put vp into his purse, that hung at a button hole of his wascoat before his brest, smilling that he was so wel paid for so small a trifle. The party perceiuing his merry countenaunce, and imagining hee geft for what purpose the knife was, sayde, honest man, whereat smille you? By my troth sir (quoth the Cutler) I smille at your knife, because I neuer made one so little before: and were it not offensiue vnto you, I / would request to knowe to what vse you will put it too: Wilt thou keepe my counfaile (quoth the Nip?) yea on mine honestie (quoth the Cutler.) Then hearken in thy eare, saide the Nip, and so rounding with him, cut the poore mans purse that houng at his bosome, he neuer feeling when hée did it: with this knife (quoth the Nippe) meane I to cut a purse: marry god forbid (quoth the Cutler) I cannot thinke you to be such a kind of man, I see you loue to iest; and so they parted.

The poore man, not so wise as to remember hys owne purse, when by such a warning he might haue taken the offendour dooing the deed, but rather proud (as it were) that his money was so easily earned: walkes to the Alchouse, which was
within a house or two of his owne, and finding there were three or four of his neighbors, with whome hee began to ieft very pleasantly: swarees by cocke and pie hee would spend a whole great vppon them, for hee had gotten it and more, cleerly by a good bargaine that morning.

Though it was no maruel to sée him so liberall, because indeede hee was a good companion: yet they were loth to put him vnto fuch coft: notwithstanding he would needes doe it, and so farre as promise stretcht, was presently fild in and fet vpon the boord. In the drinking time often he wisht to meet with more fuch cuftomers as hee had done that morning, and commended him for a verie honest Gentleman I warraunt you. At length, when the reckoning was to be paied, hee drawes to his purse, where finding nothing left but a piece of the string in the button hole: I leaue to your judgement, whether hee was now as forie as he was merrie before.

Blancke and all amort fits the poore Cutler, and with such a pittifull countenaunce, as his neighbours did not a little admire his Solemn alteration, & desirous to know the cause thereof, from point to point he discourseth / the whole manner of the tragedie, neuer naming his new cuftomer, but with such a farre fetcht sigh, as foule and body would haue parted in fundr. And in midst of all his
griefe, he brake forth into these tearmes. Ile beleue a man the better by his worde while I knowe him: the knife was bought to cut a purse indeed, and I thank hym for it he made the first proofe of the edge with me. The neighbours, greeuing for his losse, yet smilling at his folly to be so ouerreached, were faine to pay the groat the cutler called in, because he had no other money about him, and spent as much more beseide to druie away his heauinesse.

This tale, because it was somewhat misreported before, vpon talke had with the poore Cutler him-selfe, is set downe now in true forme and maner howe it was done, therefore is there no offence offered, when by better consideration, a thing may be enlarged or amended, or at leaft the note be better confirmed. Let the poore Cutlers mifhap example others, that they brag not ouer haftily of gaine easely gotten, leaft they chance to pay as dearely for it as he did.

Of a yong Nip that cunningly beguiled an antient professour of that trade, and his queane with hym, at a play.

A Good fellowe that was newly entered into the nipping craft, and had not as yet attained to any acquaintance with ý chiefe and cunning maistors of that trade: In the Christmas holydaies
laft came to see a play at the Bull within Bishopsgate, there to take his benefit as time and place would permit him. Not long had hee staied in the preafe, but he had gotten a yoong mans purse out of his pocket, which when he had, hee stepped into the stable to take out the mony, and to conuey away the purse. But looking on his commoditie, he found nothing therin but white counters, a thimble and a broken thréepeence, which belike the fellowe that ought it, had done of purpose to deceiue the cut purse withall, or else had plaid at the cardes for counters, and so carried his winninges about him till his next fitting to play. Somewhat displeased to be so ouertaken, he looked aside, and spied a lustie youth entring at the doore, and his drab with him: this fellow he had heard to be one of the finest Nippers about the towne, and euer carried his queane with him, for conuissance when the stratageme was performed: he puts vp the counters into the purse againe, and follows close to see some peece of their seruice. Among a company of seemely men was this lustie companion and hys minion gotten, where both they might best beholde the play, and worke for aduantage, and euer this yoong Nip was next to him, to marke when he should attempt any exploit, standing as it were more then halfe betwéene the cunning Nip and his drab, onely to learne some
part of their skill. In short time the deed was performed, but how, the young Nip could not easily discern, onely he felt him shift his hand toward his Trug, to convey the purse to her, but she being somewhat mindfull of the play, because a merriment was then on the stage, gave no regard: whereby thinking hee had puld her by the coat, he twitcht the young Nip by the cloke, who taking advantage of this offer, put downe his hand and received the purse of him. Then counting it discourtesie to let him loose all his labour, he softly pluckt the queane by the coate, which she feeling, and imagining it had beene her companions hand: receiued of him the first purse with the white counters in it. Then fearing leaft his stay should hinder him, and seeing the other intending to haue more purses ere he departed: away goes the young Nip with the purse he got so easilly, wherin (as I haue heard) was xxxvii. shillings, and odde mony, which did so much content him, as that he had beguiled so ancient a stander in that profession. What the other thought when he found the purse, and could not guess howe hee was coosened: I leave to your censures, onely this makes me smile, that one false knaue can beguile another, which biddes honest men looke the better to their purses.
How a Gentleman was craftily deceived of a Chaine of Golde and his purse, in Paules Church in London.

A Gentleman of the Countrie, who (as I have heard since the time of his mishap, wheroof I am now to speake) had about halfe a yer before buried his wife & belike thinking well of some other Gentlewoom, whom he ment to make account of as his second choise: vpō good hope or otherwise perfwaded, he came vp to London to prouide himfelfe of fuch necessaries as the Countrie is not usuallly ftored withall. Befides, filkes, veluets, cambrickes and fuch like, he bought a Chaine of Golde that cost him lvij. pounds and odde money, wher of because he would haue the maydenhead or firft wearing himfelfe, he presently put it on in the Goldsmiths fhop, and fo walked therwith about London as his occasions ferued. But let not the Gentleman be offended, who if this Booke come to his handes, can beft auouch the trueth of this discouerfe, if here by the way I blame his rash pride, or fimple credulitie: for betwene the one and other, the Chaine he paide fo déere for about ten of the clock in the morning, the Cunny-catchers the fame day ere night shared amongst them: a matter whereat he may well gréeue, and I be forie, in respeft he is
my very good freend: but to the purpose. This Gentleman walking in Paules, with his Chaine faire glittering about his necke, talking with his man about some busines: was well viewed and regarded by a crewe of Co/ny-catchers, whose teeth watred at his goodly Chaine, yet knew not how to come by it hanging as it did, and therefore entred into secret conspiration among themselues, if they could not come by all the Chain, yet how they might make it lighter by half a score poundes at the leaft. Still had they their eyes on the honest Gentleman, who little douted any such treason intended againfte his so late bought bargaine: and they hauing laid their plot, eche one to be assistant in this enterprife, saw when the Gentleman dismissed his seruant, to go about such affaires as he had appointed him, himselfe still walking there vp and downe the middle Ifle. One of these mates, that stooode moft on his cunning in these exploytes, folowed the seruingman foorth of the Church, calling him by diuers names, as Iohn, Thomas, William, &c. as though he had knowne his right name, but could not hit on it: which whether he did or no I know not, but well I wot the seruingman turned back againe, and feeing him that called him seemed a Gentleman, booted and cloaked after the newest fashion, came with his hat in his hand to him, saying: Sir, do ye call me? Marie do I my
fréend quoth the other, doost not thou servue such a Gentleman? and named one as himselfe pleased. No truely Sir, answered the servuingman, I know not any such Gentleman as you speake of. By my troth, replyed the Conny-câtcher, I am assurred I knew the, and thy Master, though now I cannot suddendly remember my selfe. The servuingman fearing no harme, yet fitting the humour of this trecherous companion, tolde right his Masters name whome he servued, and that his Master was euen then walking in Paules. O Gods will (quoth the Cony-catcher, repeating his masters name) a very honest Gentleman, of such a place is he not? naming a shire of the Country: for he must knowe both name, Country and somtimes what Gentle-men dwell /nëere the partie that is to be over reached, ere he can proceed. No indeed Sir (answered the servuingman, with such reuerence as it had beene to an honest Gentlemä in deed) my Master is of such a place, a mile from such a Towne, and hard by such a knights house: by which report the deceiuer was halfe instructed, because though he was ignorant of the fellows Master, yet well he knew the Country, and the knight named. So crauing pardon that he had mistaken him, he returnes againe into the Church, and the servuingman trudgeth about his assignd busines. Béeing come to the rest of the crewe,
he appointes one of them (whome he knewe to be expert in deed) to take this matter in hand, for himselfe might not do it, leaft the seruingman shoulde return and knowe him: he schooled the rest likewise what euery man shoulde do when the pinch came, and changing his cloke with one of his fellowes, walked by him selfe, attending the seate: and euery one being as ready, the apointed fellow makes his sallye foorth, and comming to the Gentleman, calling him by his name, giues him the courtesie and embrace, likewise thanking him for good chéere he had at his house, which he did with such seemly behauiour and protestatió, as the Gentleman (thinking the other to be no leffe) vied like acþion of kindenes to him. Now as Country Gentlemen haue many visifters both with neere dwelling neighbours, and freends that journey from farre, whome they can hardly remember, but some principall one that serues as countenance to the other: so he not discrediting the cunning mates woordes, who still at euery point alleaged his kinred to the knight, neighbour to the Gentleman, which the poor seruing man had (doubling no ill) reuealed before, and that both there and at his own house in hawking time with that knight and other Gentlemen of the Cuntrey he had liberally tafted his kindnes: desiring pardon that / he had forgotten him, and offered him the curtesie of the
Citie. The Conny catcher excused him selfe for that time, saying, at their next meeting he would bestow it on him. Then seeming to have espied his Chaine, and commending the fairenes and workmanship thereof: says, I pray ye sir take a little counsel of a freend, it may be you will returne thankes for it. I wonder quoth he, you dare weare such a costly Iewell so open in sight, which is even but a baite to entice bad men to adventure time and place for it, and nowhere sooner then in this Cittie, where (I may say to you) are such a number of Connycatchers, Coysnors and such like, that a man can scarcely keep anything from them, they have so many reaches and sleights to beguile withall: which a very especiall freend of mine found too true not many daies since. Heereupon he tolde a very solemn tale, of villanies and knaueries in his owne profession, wherby he reported his freend had lost a watch of golde: shewing how closely his freende wore it in his bosome, and how strangely it was gotten from him, that the gentleman by that discourse waxed halfe affraide of his Chaine. And giving him many thanks for this good warning, presently takes the Chaine from about his necke, and tying it vp fast in a handkercher, put it into his fleue, saying, If the Conny-catcher get it heere, let him not spere it. Not a little did the tretcher smile in his fleue, hearing the rash
securitie, but in deed simplicitie of the gentleman, and no sooner fawe he it put vp, but presently he counted it sure his owne, by the assistance of his complices, that lay in an ambuscadado for the purpose: with embraces and courtesies on either side, the Conny catcher departes, leauing the gentleman walking there still: whereat the crew were not a little offended, that he still kept in the Church, and would not goe abroad. Well, at length (belike remembring some / businesse) the Gentleman taking leaue of an other that talked with him, hafted to go forth at the furthest west doore of Paules, which he that had talked with him, and gaue him such counsell perceyuing, hied out of the other doore, and got to the entraunce ere he came foorth, the rest following the gentleman at an inch. As hee was stepping out, the other stept in, and let fall a keie, hauing his hat so low ouer his eyes, that he could not wel discerne his face, and stooping to take vp the keie, kepte the gentleman from going backward or forward, by reaason his legge was ouer the threshold. The formost Conny-catcher behind, pretending a quarrell vnto him that stooped, rapping out an oath, and drawing his dagger, faide: Doe I meete the villaine? Nay, hée shall not scape mée now, and so made offer to strike him.

The gentleman at his standing vp, seeing it was hée that gaue him so good counfaile, and pretended
CONNY-CATCHING.

himselfe his verie friend, but neuer imagining this traine was made for him, stept in his defence: when the other following tript vp his heele: so that hee and his counsellour were downe together, and two more vppon them, striking with their daggers verie eagerly: marie indeed the gentleman had most of the blowes, and both his handkercher with the chaine, and also his purse with threee and fiftie shillinges in it, were taken out of his pocket in this strugling, euen by the man that himselfe defended.

It was maruellous to behold, how not regarding the villaines wordes uttered before in the Church, nor thinking vpon the charge about him (which after hee had thus treacherously lost vnwittingly: hee stands pacifying them that were not discontented but onely to beguyle him. But they vowing that they would presentely goe for their weapons, & so to the field, tolde the Gentleman he labourd but in vaine, for fight they must and would, and so going downe by Paules Chaine, left the Gentleman made a Conny, going vp toward Fleet street, forry for his new Counseller and freend, and wishing him good lucke in the fight: which in deedde was with nothing but wine pots, for joy of their late gotten bootie. Neere to Saint Dunstones Church, the Gentleman remembred himselfe, and feeling his pocket so light, had suddenly more greefe at his
hart, than euer happen to him or any man agaïne. Backe he comes to see if he could espysye any of them, but they were farre inough frô him: God send him better happe when he goes next a wooing, and that this his losse may be a warning to others.

How a cunning knaue got a Truncke well stuffed with linnen and certaine parcells of plate out of a Citizens house, and how the Master of the house holpe the deceiuer to carry away his owne goods.

Within the Cittie of London, dwelleth a worthy man who hath very great dealing in his trade, and his shop very well frequented with Customers: had such a shrewd mischaunce of late by a Conny catcher, as may well serue for an example to others leaste they haue the like. A Cunning villaine, that had long time haunted this Citizens house, and gotten many a cheat which he carried awaye safely: made it his custome when he wanted money, to helpe him selfe euer where he had sped so often: diuers thinges he had which were neuer mist, especialy such as appertained to the Citizens trade, but when anye were found wanting, they could not devise which way they were gone, so politiquely this fellow always behaued himselfe: well knew he what times of greatest busines this Citizen had in his trade, and when the shop is most stored with Chapmen: then
would he step vp the staires (for there was and is another door to the house besides that which entreth into the shop) and what was next hand came euer away with. One time aboue the rest, in an euening about Candlemas, when daylight shuts in about fix of the clock, he watched to do some feate in the house, and seeing the mistresse goe foorth with her maid, the goodman and his folkes very busie in the shop: vp the staires he goes as he was wonte to doo, and lifting vp the latch of the hall portall doore, saw nobody neere to trouble him: when stepping into the next chamber, where the Citizen and his wife usually lay, at the beds feete there stood a handsome truncke, wherein was very good linnen, a faire gilt falte, two siluer french bowles for wine, two siluer drinking pots, a stone Jugge couered with siluer, and a dofen of siluer spoons. This trucke he brings to the staires head, and making faft the doore againe, drawes it downe the steppes so softlye as he could, for it was so bigge and heavie, as he could not easily carry it: hauing it out at the doore, vnseene of any neighbour or anybody else, he stood strugling with it to lift it vp on the stall, which by reason of the weight troubled him very much. The goodman comming foorth of his shop, to bid a cuftomer or two far well, made the fellowe affraide he should now be taken for all togither: but calling his
wittes together to escape if he could, he stood gazing vp at the signe belonging to the house, as though he were desirous to knowe what signe it was: which the Cittizen perceiuing, came to him and asked him what he fought for? I looke for the signe of the blew / bell sir, quoth the fellowe, where a gentleman hauing taken a chamber for this tearme time, hath sent me hether with this his Troncke of apparell: quoth the Citizen, I know no such signe in this streete, but in the next (naming it) there is such a one indeede, and there dwelleth one that letteth foorth the chambers to gentlemen. Truely sir quoth the fellowe, thats the house I should go to, I pray you sir lend me your hand but to help the Trunke on my back, for I thinking to ease me a while vpon your tall, set it shorte, and now I can hardly get it vp againe. The Citizen not knowing his owne Trunke, but indeede neuer thinking on any such notable deceite: helpes him vp with the Trunkke, and so sends him away roundly with his owne goods. When the Trunkke was mift, I leaue to your conceits what housholde greefe there was on all sides, especiellye the goodman himselfe, who remembiring how hee helpt the fellow vp with a Trunkke, perceiued that hereby hee had beguyled himselfe, and lofte more then in haffe hee shoulde recouer againe. How this may admonish others, I leaue to the judgement
of the indifferent opinion, that see when honest meaning is so craftily beleagerd, as good foresight must be vsed to preuent such daungers. / 

How a broker was cunninglie ouer-reached by as craftie a knaue as himselfe, and brought in danger of the Gallowes.

How a broker was cunninglie ouer-reached by as craftie a knaue as himselfe, and brought in danger of the Gallowes.

It hath beene vsed as a common byword, a craftie knaue neeedeth no Broker, wherby it should appeare that there can hardlie bee a craftier knaue then a Broker. Suspende your iudgements till you haue heard this Discourse ensuing, & then as you please censure both the one and the other.

A Ladie of the Countrie sent vp a servant whom she might well put in trust, to provide her of a gowne answerable to such directions as she had geuen him: which was of good price, as may appeare by the outside and lace, wherto doubtles was euery other thing agreeable. For the Tayler had seuentene yardes of the beft black fatten could be got for monie, and so much gold lace, beside spangles, as valued thirteene pound: what els was beside I know not, but let it suffice thus much was loft, and therfore let vs to the maner how.

The fatten and the lace beeing brought to the Tayler that should make the gown, and spred abroad on the shop boord to be measured, certain good felows of the Conny-catching profession
chaunced to goe by; who seeing so rich lace, and so excellent good fatten, began to commune with themselfes how they might / make some purchase of what they had seene: and quickly it was to be done or not at all. As euer in a crewe of this qualitie, there is some one more ingenious and politick then the rest, or at leastwise that couets to make himselfe more famous then the rest, so this instant was there one in this companie that did sware his cunning should deepelie deceiue him, but he would haue both the lace and fatten. When having layd the plot with his companions, how and which way their helpe might stand him in stead, this way they proceeded.

Wel noted they the seruingman that stood in the shop with the Tailer, and gathered by his diligent attendance, that he had some charge of the gowne there to be made: wherefore by him must they worke their trecherie intended, and vse him as an instrument to beguile himselfe. One of them sitting on a seate neere the Tailers stal, could easilie heare the talke that pass'd between the seruingman and the Tailer, where among other communication, it was concluded that the gowne should be made of the自我 same fashion in every poynct, as another Ladies was who then lay in the Citie, and that measure being taken by her, the same would fitlie serue the Lady for whom the gown was to be
made. Now the seruingman intended to go speake with the Ladie, and upon a token agreed betweene them (which he careleslie spake so lowd that the Conny-catcher heard it) hee would as her leyfure serued, certifie the Tayler, and hee should bring the stuffe with him, to haue the Ladies opinion both of the one and the other.

The seruingman being gone about his affaires, the subtil mate that had liftnd to al their talke, acquaints his felows both with the determination, and token appointed for the Tailers comming to y Lady. The guid and leader to al the rest for villanie, though / there was no one but was better skilde in such matters then honestie: he appoints that one of them shou'd go to the tauern, which was not farre off, and laying two fagots on the fire in a roome by himselfe, and a quart of wine filled for countenance of the trecherie: another of that crue shou'd geue attendance on him, as if he were his master, being bareheaded, and Sir, humblie anfwering at euery worde. To the tauern goes this counterfeit gentlemen, and his seruant waiting on him, where euery thing was performed as is before rehearsed. When the master knaue calling the drawer, demanded if there dwelt neere at hand a skilful Tayler, that could make a fuite of veluet for himselfe: mary it was to be done with very great speed.
The Drawer named the Tailer that wee nowe speake of, and vpon the drawers commending his cunning, the man in all haft was sent for to a gentleman, for whom he must make a fute of veluet foorthwith. Vpon talke had of the stuffe, how much was to be bought of euery thing appertayning thereto: hee must immediatly take measure of this counterfette gentleman, because hee knewe not when to returne that way againe: afterward they would goe to the Merscers.

As the Tailer was taking measure on him bare headed, as if he had been a substantiall gentleman indeede, the craftie mate had cunningly gotten his purse out of his pocket, at the one string whereof was fastened a little key, and at the other his signet ring: This bootie he was sure of already, whether he shoulde get any thing els or no of the mischief intended: Stepping to the window, he cuts the ring from the purse, and by his supposèd man (rounding him in the eare) sends it to the plot-layer of this knauerie, minding to trayne the tayler along with him, as it were to the mercers, while he in the mean time took order for ſ还有什么其他

Afterwarde speaking alowd to his man, Sirrha, quoth he, dispatch what I bad you, and about foure of the clock meeete me in Paules, by that time I hope the Tayler and I shal haue dispatcht. To
Cheapside goeth the honest Tayler with this notorious dissembler, not missing his purse for the space of two hours after, in less than half a which time the satten and golde lace was gotten likewise by the other villain from the Taylers house in this order.

Being sure the Tayler should be kept absent, hee sends another mate home to his house, who abused his servants with this devise: That the Ladies man had met their master abroad, and had him to the other Ladie to take measure of her, and left they should delay the time too long, hee was sent for the satten and lace, declaring the token appointed, and withall giving their masters signet ring for better confirmation of his message. The servants could doe no less then deliver it, being commanded (as they supposed) by so credible testimonie: Neither did the leisure of any one servue to goe with the messenger: who seemed an honest young Gentleman, and carried no cause of distrust in his countenance. Wherefore they delivered him the lace and satten fouled vp together as it was, and desired him to will their master to make some speed home, both for cutting out of worke, and other occasions.

To a Broker fit for their purpose, goes this deceiuer with the Satten lace, who knowing well they could not come honestly by it, nor anie thing
else hee bought of that crew, as often before he had delt much with them: either gaue them not so much as they would haue, or at left as they judged they could haue in another place, for which the ring-leader of this coofnage, vowed in his minde to be reuenged on the Broker. The maister knaue, who had spent two hours and more in vaine with the Tailer, & would not like of anie veluet hee sawe, when hee perceiued that he misst his purse, and could not deuise howe or where he had loft it, shewed himselfe very sory for his mishap, and saiied in the morning hee would fende the veluet home to his house, for he knew where to speed of better then anie [he] had seene in the shops. Home goes the Tailer verie fadly, where he was entertayned with a greater mischance, for there was the Ladies seruing-man swearing and stamping, that hee had not seene their maister since the morning they parted, neither had he sent for the fatten and lace, but when the seruants iustified their innocencie, beguiled both with the true token rehearsed, and their maisters signet ring, it exceedeth my cunning to fette downe answerable wordes to their exceeding grieve and amazement on either part, but most of all the honest Tailer, who sped the better by the Brokers wilfulnes: as afterward it happened, which made him the better brooke the losse of his purse. That night all meanes
were vfed that could bee, both to the Mercers, Brokers, Goldsmiths, Goldfiners, and such like, where happenie such things doe come to bee sold: but all was in vaine, the only helpe came by the inventor of this villanie, who scant sleeping al night, in regard of the brokers extreame gayning, both by him, and those of his profession: the next morning he came by the Taylers house, at what time hee espied him with the Ladies seruingman, comming foorth of the dores, and into the tauern he went to report what a mishap he had vpon the sending for him thether the day before.

As he was but newlie entred his sad discourse, in comes the partie offended with the Broker, and having heard all (whereof none could make better report then himselfe) he takes the Tayler & seruingman / aside, and pretending great griefe for both their caufes, demaundes what they would thinke him worthie off that could help them to their good again. On condition to meet with such a frende, offer was made of five pound, and after sundry speeches passing between them alone, he seeming that he would worke the recouerie thereof by arte, and they promising not to discose the man that did them good, he drew foorth a little booke out of his bofom,—whether it were latin or englifh it skilled not, for he could not read a worde on it, —then desiring them to spare him alone a while,
they should perceiue what he would do for them. Their hearts encouraged with some good hope, kept all his words secrete to themselues: and not long had they fitten absent out of the roome, but he called them in againe, and seeming as though he had bin a scholler indeed, saie he found by his figure that a Broker in such a place had their goods loft, and in such a place of the house they should find it, bidding them goe thether with al speed, and as they found his wordes, so (with referuing to themselues how they came to knowledge thereof) to meet him there againe in the euening, and reward him as he had deferred.

Away in haft goes the tayler and the feruingma, and entring the house with the constable, found them in the place where he that reueald it, knew the broker alway laid such gotten goods. Of their joy againe, I leaue you to coniec'ture, and think you see the Broker with a good paire of bolts on his hëeles, readie to take his farewell of the world in a halter, when time shall serve. The counter-fette cunning man, and artificiall Cony-catcher, as I heard, was payd his five pounds that night. Thus one craftie knaue beguiled another: let each take heed of dealing with any such kinde of people.

FINIS.
A Disputation betweene a Hee Conny-catcher and a Shee Conny-catcher.
NOTE.

This 'Difpvtation' (1592) is also fetched from the Huth Library, and completes the series. See annotated Life in Vol. I.—G.
A DISPUTATION

Betweene a Hee Conny-catcher, and a Shee Conny-catcher, whether a Theefe or a Whoore, is most hurtfull in Cousemage, to the Common-wealth.

DISCOVERING THE SECRET VILLAINIES of alluring Strumpets.

With the Conuersion of an English Courtizen, reformed this present yeare. 1592.

Reade, laugh, and learne.

Nascimur pro patria.

R. G.

Imprinted at London, by A. I. for T. G. and are to be folde at the West ende of Paules. 1592.
To all Gentlemen, Marchants, Apprentises, and Countrey Farmers, health.

Gentlemen, Countrey men, and kinde friends, for so I value all that are honest and enemies of bad actions, although in my bookes of Conny-catching I haue discouered diuers formes of cosonings, and painted out both the facking and crosbyting lawes, which strumpets vfe to the destruction of the simple, yet willing to search all the substance, as I haue glauncft at the shadow, & to enter into the nature of villanie, as I haue broacht vp the secretes of vice, I haue thought good to publish this Dialogue, or disputa-tion, betweene a hee Conny-catcher, and a shee Conny-catcher, whether of them are most, preiu-ditiall to the Common-wealth: discoursing the base qualilities of them both, and discouering the incon-uenience that growes to men, through the lightnes of inconstant wantons, who being wholly giuen to the spoyle, seeke the ruine of such as light into their companie. In this Dialogue, louing Country-men
shall you finde what prejudice ensues by haunting of whore-houses, what dangers grows by dallying with common harlottes, what inconvenience followes the inordinate pleasures of vnchaft Libertines, (not onely by their consuming of their wealth, and impouerifhment of their goods and landes, but to the great indangering of their health). For in conuerfing / with them, they aime not simly at the losse of goods, and blemifh of their good names, but they fih for diseases, ficknesse, fores incurable, vlers brusting out of the ioyntes, and fault rhumes, which by the humour of that villanie, lepte from Naples into Fraunc and from Fraunc into the bowels of Englande: which makes many crye out in their bones, whilst goodman Surgion laughs in his purse: a thing to be feared as deadly while men liue, as hell is to be dreaded after death, for it not only infecteth the bodie, consumeth the soule, and waste[th] wealth and worship, but ingraues a perpetuall shame in the forehead of the partie fo abusfed. Whereof Maifter Huggins hath well written in his Myrror of Magiftrates, in the perfon of Memprycaius, exclaiming against harlots: the verses be these:

Eschue vile Venus toyes, seee cutes off age,
And learne this leffon oft, and tell thy frend,
By Pockes, death Jodaine, begging, Harlots end.
Besides I have layde open the wily wisedome of ourerwise Curtizens, that with their cunning, can drawe on, not only poore nouices, but such as hold themselfes maisters of their occupation. What flatteries they use to bewitch, what sweet words to ingueagle, what simple holines to intrap, what amorous glaunces, what smirking Ocyliades, what cringing curtesies, what stretching Adios, following a man like a bloodhound, with their eyes white, laying out of haire: what frouncing of trefles, what paintings, what Ruffes, Cuffes, and brauerries, and all to betraie the eyes of the innocent nouice: whom when they have drawne on to the bent of their bow, they strip like the prodigall childe, and turne out of doores like an outcaft of the world. The Crocodile hath not more teares, Proteus, more shape, Ianus more faces, the Hieria, more sundry tunes to entrap the passangers, then our English Curtizens, to bee plaine, our English whores: to set on fire the hearts of lasciuious and gazing strangers. These common, or rather consuming strumpets, whose throathes are softer then oyle, and yet whose steppes leade vnto death. They haue their Ruffians to rifie, when they cannot fetch ouer with other cunning, their croSBbiters attending vpon them, their foystes, / their bufts, their nipples, and such like. Being wayted on by these villaines, as by ordinary servuantes, so that who thinkes him-
felse wife inough to escape their flatteries, him they crofbyte, who holds himfelfe to rule, to be bitten with a counterfeyt Apprater, him they rifle: if hee be not fo to bee verft vpon, they haue a foyst or a nyppe vpon him, and fo fling him to the quicke. Thus he that medles with pitch, cannot but be defiled, and he that acquainteth himfelfe or conuerfeth with any of thefe Conny catching ftrumpets, cannot but by some way or other bee brought to confusion: for either hee muft hazard his foule, blemish his good name, loose his goods, light vppon difeases, or at the leaft haue beene tyed to the humor of an harlot, whose quiuer is open to euery arrow, who likes all that have fat purses, and loues none that are deftitute of pence. I remember a Monke in Diebus illis, writ his opinion of the end of an Adulterer, thus:

Quatuor his casibus sinè dubio cadet adulter,
Aut hic pauper erit, aut hic jubito morietur,
Aut cadet in caufum qua debet iudice vinci,
Aut aliquod membrum cafu vell crimine perdet.

Which I Engliflied thus:

He that to Harlots lures do yeeld him thrall,
Through fowre misfortune too bad end shall fall:
Or fowre death, or beggerie shall him chance,
Or guilt before a Judge his shame inhanche:
Or els by fault or fortune he shall leefe
Some member, sure, escape[d] from one of these.

Seeing then such inconvenience grows from the
caterpillers of the Common-wealth, and that a
multitude of the monsters here about London,
particularly and generally abroad in England, to
the great overthrew of many simple men that are
inveagled by their flatteries, I thought good not
only to discouer their villanies in a Dialogue, but
also to manifest by an example, howe prejuditall
their life is, to the state of the land: that such as are
warned by an instance, may learne and looke before
they leape: / to that end kind Country-men, I
haue set downe at the ende of the disputation, the
wonderful life of a Curtezin, not a fiction, but a
truth of one that yet liues; not now in an other
forme repentant. In the discourse of whose life,
you shall see how dangerous such truls be to all
estates that be so simple as to trust theyr fained
subtilties: heere shall parents learne, how hurtfull
it is to cocker vp their youth in their follies, and
haue a deepe infight how to bridle their daughters,
if they see them any waies grow wantons: wishing
thefore my labors may be a caueat to my country-
men, to auoyde the companie of such cousoning
Courtezins.

Farewell.

R. G. /
A disputation between Laurence a Fofit and faire Nan a Traffique, whether a Whore or a Theefe is most preijuditiall.

Laurence.

Aire Nan well met, what newes about your Vine Court that you looke so blythe? your cherry cheekes discouers your good fare, and your braue apparell bewraies a fat purfe: is Fortune now alate growne so fauourable to Foyfetes, that your husband hath lighted on some large purchase, or hath your smooth lookes linckt in some yong Nouice to sweate for a fauour all the byte in his Bounge, and to leaue himselfe as many Crownes as thou haft got good conditions, and then hee shall bee one of Pierce penileffe fraternitie: how is it sweete wench, goes the worlde on wheeles, that you tread so daintily on your typtoes?
Nan. Why Laurence are you pleafant or peeuifh, that you quip with fuch breefe girdes? thinke you a quarterne winde cannot make a quicke faile, that easie lyftes cannot make heauy burthens, that women haue not wiles to compaffe crownes as wel as men? yes & more, for though they be not fo strong in the fifts, they bee more ripe in their wittes: and tis by wit that I liue and will liue, in difpight of that peeuifh scholler, that thought with his conny-catchinge bookees to haue crofybt our trade. Doeft thou maruell to fee me thus brift? fayre wenches cannot want favours, while the world is fo full of amorous fooles: where can fuch girles as my felfe bee blemifht with a threedbare coat, as long as country Farmers haue full purses, and wanton Citizens pockets full of pence?

Laur. Truth, if fortune fo fauour thy husband, that hee be neither smoakt nor cloyed, for I am fure all thy brauery comes by his Nipping, Foyft-ing, and lifting.

Nan. In faith sir no, did I get no more by mine own wit, then I reap by his purchafe, I might both go bare & penileffe the whole yere, but minè eyes are ftauls, & my hands lime twigs (els were I not worthie the name of a fhe Connycatcher). Cyrces had neuer more charms, Calipjo more enchantments, the Syrens more subtil tunes, the I haue crafty flightes to inueagle a Conny, and fetch in a country
Farmer. / Laurence, beleeeue mee, you men are but fooles, your gettings is vncertaine, and yet you still figh for the gallowes: though by some great chance you light vpon a good boung, yet you faft a great while after, whereas, as we mad wenches haue our tennants (for so I call euerie simple letcher and amorous Fox) as wel out of Tearme as in Tearm to bring vs our rentes, alas, were not my wits and my wanton pranks more profitable then my husbands foyfting, we might often go to bed supper-leffe for want of furfetting: and yet I dare fweare, my husband gets a hundredth pounds a yeare by boungs.

Lau. Why Nan, are you growne so ftifFe, to thincke that your faire lookes can get as much as our nimble fingers, or that your sacked can gaine as much as our foyfting? no, no, Nan, you are two bowes downe the wind, our foyft will get more then twentie the proudest wenches in all London.

Nan. Lye a little further & giue mee some roome: what Laurence your toong is too lauifh, all fteads vpon prooфе, and fith I haue leifure and you no great bufines, as being now when Powles is fhu t vp, and all purchafies and Connies in their burrowes, let vs to the Tauerne and take a roome to our felues, and there for the price of our fuppers, I will proue that women, I meane of our facultie, a trafficque, or as base knaues tearme vs ftrumpets,
are more subtil, more dangerous, in the common-
wealth, and more full of wyles to get crownes,
then the cunningest Foyst, Nip, Lift, Pragges, or
whatsoever that liues at this day.

Laur. Content, but who shall be moderater in
our controuersies, Sith in disputing pro & contra
betwixt our felues, it is but your yea and my nay,
and so neither of vs will yeeld to others victories.

Nan. Trust me Laurence, I am so assured of
the conquest offeringe so in the strengthe of mine
owne arguments, that when I haue reasoned, I will
referre it to your judgement and censure.

Laur. And truft mee as I am an honest man, I
will bee indifferent.

Nan. Oh swear not so deeply, but let mee first
heare what you can say for your selve.

Laur. What? why more Nan, then can be
painted out in a great volume, but briefly this, I
need not discribe the lawes of villanie, because
R. G. hath so amply pend them downe in the first
part of Conny-catching, that though I be one of
the facultie, yet I cannot disco/uer more then hee
hath layde open. Therefore first to the Gentle-
men Foyst, I pray you what finer qualitie: what
Art is more excellent either to trie the ripenes
of the wit, or the agilitie of the hand then that? for
him that wil be maister of his Trade, muft passe
the proudest Jugler aliue, the poynets of Leger de
maine: he must haue an eye to spye the boung or pursse, and then a heart to dare to attempt it, for this by the way, he that feares the Gallowes shal neuer be good theefe while he liues: hee must as the Cat watch for a Mouse, and walke Powles, Westminister, the Exchange, and such common haunted places, and there haue a curious eye to the person, whether he be Gentleman, Citizen or Farmer, and note, either where his boung lyes, whether in his hoafe or pockets, and then dogge the partie into a press where his staule with heauing and shouing shal so moleft him, that hee shall not feele when wee strip him of his boung, although it be neuer so fast or cunningly coucht about him: what poore Farmer almoft can come to plead his case at the barre, to attend vpon his Lawyers at the bench, but looke he neuer so narrowly to it we haue his pursse, wherein some time there is fat purchase, twentie or thirtie poundes: and I pray you how long would one of your Traffiques be earning so much with your Chamber worke? Befides, in faires and markets, and in the circuites after Judges, what infinit mony is gotten from honest meaning men, that either bufie about their necess-farie affaires, or carelesfly looking to their Crownes, light amongst vs that be foyfts: tush wee dissemble in show, we goe so neat in apparrell, so orderly in outward appearance, some like Lawyers Clarkes,
others like Seruingmen that attended there about their maisters businesse, that wee are hardly smoakt: versifing vpon all men with kinde courtesies and faire wordes, and yet being so warily watchfull, that a good purfe cannot be put vp in a faire, but wee sigh if wee share it not amongst vs, and though the bookes of Conny-catching hath somewhat hindred vs, and brought many braue foyfts to the haulter, yet some of our Country farmers, nay of our Gentlemen and Citizens, are so carelesse in a throng of people, that they shew vs the praise, and so draw on a theefe, and bequeath vs their purses whether we will or no: for who loues wyne so ill, that hee will not eate grapes if they fall into his mouth, and who is so base, that if he see a pocket faire before him, wil not foyft in if he may, or if foyfting will not serue, vs his knife and nip? for althogh there bee some foyfts that will not vse their kniues, yet I hold him not a perfect worke-man / or maister of his Mysterie, that will not cut a purfe as well as Foyft a pocket, and hazard any limme for so sweet a gaine as gold: how answere you me this briefe obiection Nan? can you compare with either our cunning to get our gaines in purchase?

Nan. And haue you no stronger arguments goodman Laurence, to argue your excellencie in villanie but this? then in faith put vp your pipes,
and giue mee leave to speake: your choplodgicke hath no great subtiltie for simple: you reason of foysting, & appropriate that to your selues, to you men I meane, as though there were not women Foysts and Nippes, as neat in that Trade as you, of as good an eye, as fine and nimble a hand, and of as resolute a heart, yes Laurence, and your good mistresses in that mystery: for we without like suspition can passe in your walkes vnnder the couler of simplicitie to Westminister, with a paper in our hand, as if we were distressed women, that had some supplication to put vp to the Judges, or some bill of information to deliver to our Lawyers, when God wot, we shuffle in for a boung as well as the beft of you all, yea as your selfe Laurence, though you be called King of Cut-purses: for though they smoke you, they will hardly mistrust vs, and suppose our stomacke stand against it to foyst, yet who can better playe the staule or the shadowe then wee? for in a thrust or throng if we shoue hard, who is hee that will not fauour a woman, and in giuing place to vs, giue you free passage for his purse? Againe, in the market, when euery wife hath almost her hand on her boung, and that they crie beware the Cutpurse and Conny-catchers, then I as faft as the beft with my hand basset as mannerly as if I were to buye great store of butter and egges for provisio of my house, do exclaime

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against them with my hand on my purse, and say the world is bad when a woman cannot walk safely to market for fear of these villainous Cut-
purses, when as the first bourg I come to, I either nip or foyst, or els ftaule an other while he hath broken, dispatched, and gone: now I pray you gentle sir, wherein are we inferior to you in foyst-
ing? and yet this is nothing to the purpose. For it is one of our most simplest shifts: but yet I pray you, what thinke you when a farmer, gentleman, or Citizen, come to the Tearme, perhaps he is wary of his purse, and watch him never so warily, yet he will never be brought to the blow, is it not possible for vs to pinch him ere he pass? hee that is most charie of his crownes abroad, and will cry ware the Conny-catchers, will not be afaide to drinke a pint of wine with a pretie wench, / and perhaps goe to a trugging house to ferry out one for his purpose: then with what cunning we can feeede the simple fop, with what fayre wordes, sweete kifles, fained fighes, as if at that inftant we fell in loue with him that we neuer saw before: if we meet him in an euening in the street, if the farmer or other whatfoever, bee not so forward as to motion some curtesie to vs, we ftraight insinuate into his company, and claime acquaintance of him by some meanes or other, and if his minde be set for luft, and the diuell drue him on to match him
felfe with some dishonest wanton, then let him looke to his purse, for if he do but kiss me in the streete, Ile haue his purse, for a farewell, although hee neuer commit any other act at all. I speake not this onely by my selfe, Lawrence, for there bee a hundredth in London more cunning then my selfe in this kinde of cunny-catching. But if hee come into a house, then let our trade alone to verse vpon him: for first we faine ourselues hungry, for the benefit of the house, although our bellies were neuer so ful, and no doubt the good Pander or Bawde shee comes foorth like a sober Matron, and sets store of Cates on the Table, and then I fall aboord on them, and though I can eate little, yet I make hauocke of all, and let him be sure euery dish is well faucst, for hee shall pay for a pipping Pye that cost in the Market four pence, at one of the Truggling houses xviii. pence: tush what is daintie if it bee not deare bought? and yet he must come off for crownes besides, and when I see him draw to his purse, I note the putting vp of it well, and ere wee part, that worlde goes hard if I foyst him not of all that hee hath: and then suppose the worst, that he misse it, am I so simply acquainted or badly prouided, that I haue not a friend, which with a few terrible oathes and countenance set, as if he were the proudest Soulado that euery bare armes against Don John of Austria, will
face him quite out of his money, and make him walke lyke a woodcocke homeward by weeping croffe, and so buy repentance with all the crownes in his purfe? How fay you to this Lawrence, whether are women Foyfes inferiour to you in ordinarie coufonage or no?

Laur. Excellently well reaoned Nan, thou haft told mee wonders, but wench though you be wily and ftrike often, your blowes are not fo big as ours.

Nan. Oh but note the subiect of our disputation, and that is this, which are more subtil and daungerous to the Common-wealth? and to that I argue.

Laur. I and beffrow me, but you reaon quaintly, yet wil I proue your wittes are not fo ripe as ours, nor fo readie to reach into the subtilties of kinde coufonage, and though you appropriate to your felfe the excellencie of Conny-catching, and that you doo it with more Art then we men do, because of your painted flatteries and fugred words, that you florifh rethorically like nettes to catch fooles, yet will I manifeft with a merry inffance, a feate done by a Foyf, that exceeded any that euer was done by any mad wench in England.
A pleasant Tale of a Country Farmer, that tooke it in scorn to have his purse cut or drawn from him, and how a Foyst serued him.

It was told me for a truth that not long since here in London, there laie a country Farmar, with diuers of his neighbours about Law matters, amongst whom, one of them going to Westminster Hall, was by a Foyst stript of all the pence in his purse, and comming home, made great complaint of his misfortune: some lamented his losse, and others exclaimed against the Cutpurfes, but this Farmer he laught loudly at the matter, and said such fooles as could not keep their purses no surer, were well serued, and for my part quoth hee, I so much scorne the Cutpurfes, that I would thank him hartily that would take paines to foyst mine: well faies his neighbor, then you may thank me, Sith my harms learne you to beware, but if it be true, that many things fall out between the cup and the lip, you know not what hands Fortune may light in your owne lap: tush quoth the Farmar, heeres fortie pounds in this purse in gold, the proudest Cutpurfe in England win and weare it: as thus he boasted, there stood a subtil Foyft by and heard all, smiling to himselfe at the folly of the proude Farmar, and vowed to haue his purse, or venture his necke for it, and so went home and bewrayed
it to a crue of his companions, who taking it in dudgion, that they should be put down by a Pefant, met either at Laurence Pickerings, or at Lambeth: let the Blackamore take heede I name him not, leaft an honorable neighbor of his frowne at it, but wherefoever they met, they held a conuocation, and both consulted and concluded all by a generall consent, to bend all their wits to bee possi of this Farmers Boung, and for the execution of this their vow, they haunted about the Inne where he laie, and dogd him into diuers places, both to Westminftter Hall and other places, and yet could neuer light vpon it: he was so watchfull and smoakt them so narrowly, that all their trauell was in vaine: at laft one of them fledde to a more cunning pollicie, and went and learnde the mans name and where hee dwelt, and then hyed him to the Counter and entered an Action against him of trespasse, damages two hundreth pounds: when hee had thus done, hee feed the Sargiants, and carried them downe with him to the mans lodging, wiishing them not to arrest him till he commanded them: well agreed they were, and downe to the Farmers lodging they came, where were a crue of Foystes, whom he had made priuy to the end of his pracliffe, flood wayting, but he tooke no knowledge at all of them, but walkt vp and downe: the Farmer came out and went to
AND AS A SHEE CONNY-CATCHER.

Powles, the Cutpurse had staie, and would not yet suffer the Officers to medle with him, till he came into the West end of Paules Churchyard, and there he willed them to do their Office, and they stepping to the Farmer arrested him: the Farmer amazed, beeing amongst his neighbors, asked the Sargiant at whose suite hee was troubled? at whose suite soever it be, sayd one of the Cutpurses that stood by, you are wrongd honest man, for hee hath arrested you here in a place of priuilege, where the Sherifes nor the Officers haue nothing to do with you, and therefore you are vnwise if you obey him: tush faies an other Cutpurse, though the man were so simple of himselfe, yet shall hee not offer the Church so much wrong, as by yeelding to the Mace, to imbolish Paules libertie, and therefore I will take his part, and with that hee drew his swoord: another tooke the man and haled him away, the Officer he tooke hard to him, and sayd hee was his true prisoner, and cride Clubbes: the Prentises arose, and there was a great hurly burly, for they tooke the Officers part, so that the poore Farmer was mightily turmoyle amongst them, and almost haled in peeces: whilst thus the strife was, one of the Foyltes had taken his purse away, and was gone, and the Officer carried the man away to a Tauerne, for he swore he knew no such man, nor any man that he was indebted too: as then
they fatte drinking of a quart of wine, the Foyft that had caused him to be arrested sent a note by a Porter to the Officer that he should release the Farmer, for he had mistaken the man, which note the Officer shewed him, and had him pay his fees and go his waies: the poore Country-man was content with that, and put his hand in his pocket to feele for his purse, and God wot there was none, which made his heart far more cold then the arrest did, and with that fetching a great sigh he sayd, alas maisters I am undone, my purse in this fraie is taken out of my pocket, and ten pounds in gold in it besides white money. Indeed sayd the Sargiant, commonly in such brawles the cut-purses be busie, and I pray God the quarell was not made vpon purpose by the pickpockets: well saies his neighbor, who shall smile at you now? the other day when I lost my purse you laught at mee: the Farmer brooke all, and fat malecontent, and borrowed money of his neighbors to paye the Sargiant, and had a learning I beleue [n]ever after to braue the cutpurse.

How say you to this mistresse Nan, was it not well done? what choyce witted wench of your facultie, or the Foyft, hath euer done the like? tussh Nan, if we begin once to apply our wittes, all your inuentions are follies towards ours.

Nan. You say good goodman Laurence, as
though your subtilties were sodaine as womens are, come but to the olde Prouerbe, and I put you downe, Tis as hard to find a Hare without a Mufe, as a woman without a fcufe, and that wit that can deuise a cunnyng lye, can plot the intent of deep villanies: I grant this fetch of the foyft was prettie, but nothing in respect of that we wantons can compasse, and therefore to quit your tale with an other, heare what a mad wench of my profession did alate to one of your facultie.

A passing pleasant Tale, how a whore Conny-catcht a Foyft.

Here came out of the country a Foyft, to trie his experience here in Westminister Hall, and strooke a hand or two, but the diuell a snap he would giue to our citizen Foyftes, but wrought warily, and could not be fetcht off by no meanes, and yet it was knowne he had some twentie poundes about him, but hee had planted it so cunningly in his doublet that it was sure inough for finding. Although the cittie Foyfts layde all the plottes they could, as well by discouerying him to the Gaylors as other wayes, yet hee was so politique, that they could not verfe vpon him by any meanes, which greeued them so, that one day at a dinner, they held a counfayle amongst them-felues how to couzen him, but in vain, til at laſt
a good wench that sat by, undertook it, so they would sweare to let her have all that hee had: they confirmed it solemnly, and she put it in practice thus: she subtilly infused her selfe into this Foylst company, who seeing her a prettie wench, began after twise meeting to wax familiar with her, and to question about a nights lodging: after a little nyce loving & bidding, she was content for her supper and what els hee would of curtesie bestowed vpon her, for she held it scorne she sayd, to set a salarie price on her bodie: the Foylst was gladde of this, and yet hee would not trust her, so that hee put no more but tenne shillings in his pocket, but hee had aboue twentie poundes twilted in his doublet: well, to be short, supper time came, and thither comes my gentle Foylst, who makyng good cheere, was so eager of his game, that hee would straight to bedde by the leave of dame Bawde, who had her fee too, and there hee laye till about midnight, when three or foure old Hacksters whom she had provided vpon purpose came to the doore and rapt lustely: who is there? sayes the Bawde looking out of the window: marry say they, such a lustice, and named one about the Cittie that is a mortall enemy to Cutpurses: who is come to search your house for a Jesuite and other suspected persons: alas sir sayes shee I haue none heere: well quoth they, oape the doore: I will sayes
AND A SHEE CONNY-CATCHER.

fhee, and with that fhee came into the Foyfstes Chamber, who heard all this, and was afraide it was some search for him, so that hee desiered the Bawde to helpe him that hee might not be seene: why then quoth fhee, steppe into this Closet: hee whipt in hastely and neuer remembred his cloathes: she lockt him in safe, and then let in the crue of Rakehels, who making as though they searcht euerye chamber, came at laft into that where his Lemman laie, and asked her what fhee was? fhee as if she had been afrayde, desiered their worshippes to bee good to her, fhee was a poore Countrey mayde come vp to the Tearme: and who is that quoth they, that was in bedde with you? none forsooth faiies fhee: no faiies one, that is a lye, here is the print of two, and besides, wherefoeuer the Foxe is, here is his fkinne, for this is his doublet and hoafe: then downe she falles vpon her knees, and faiies indeed it was her husband: your husband quoth they, nay that cannot be so Minion, for why then wold you haue denied him at the first: with that one of them turnde to the Bawd, and did question with her what he was, and where hee was: truly sir fayes she, they came to my house and sayd they were man and wife, and for / my part I know them for no other: and hee being afrayd, is indeed to confesse the troth, shut vp in the Closet. No doubt if it please your worships faiies one rakehell,
I warrant you hee is some notable Cutpurse or pickpocket, that is afrayed to shew his face: come and open the Closet, and let vs looke on him: nay sir faies she not for tonight, I beseech your worship carry no man out of my house: I will give my word hee shall bee foorth comming tomorrow morning: your word dame Bawde faies one, tis not worth a straw: you huswife that faies ye are his wife, ye shall go with vs, and for him that we may be sure hee may not start, Ile take his doublet, hoafe and cloake, and tomorrow Ile send them to him by one of my men: were there a thousand poundes in them, there shall not be a peny diminisht: the whore kneeled downe on her knees and faynef to cry pittifullly, and defired the Justice which was one of her companions, not to carry her to prifon: yes huswife quoth he, your mate and you shall not tarry together in one house, that you may make your tales all one: and therefore bring her away, and after ye dame Bawde see you lend him no other cloaths, for I wil send his in the morning betimes, and come you with him to answer for lodging him. I will sir faies she, and so away goes the wench & her companions laughing, and left the Bawde and the Foyft: asfoone as the Bawde thought good, shee vnlockt the Closet and curst the time that euer they came in her house: now quoth shee, here wil be a fayre adoo, how will you answere for your
felfe, I feare mee I shall be in danger of the Cart: well quoth he, to be short, I would not for fortie poundes come afore the Iustice: marry no more would I quoth she, let me shift if you were conueyed hence, but I haue not a rag of mans apparell in the house: why quoth he, seeing it is early morning, lend me a blanket to put about me, and I wil scape to a friends house of mine: then leaue me a pawne quoth the Bawde: alas I haue none faies he but this ring on my finger: why that quoth she, or tarry while the Iustice comes: so he gaue it her, tooke the blanket and went his waies, whether I know not but to some friends house of his. Thus was this wily Foyft by the wit of a subtill wench, cunningly stript of all that hee had and turnde to graffe to get more fat.

_Nan._ How say you to this deuice _Lawrence_, was it not excellent? What thinke you of a womans wit if it can woorke such woonders?

_Laur._ Marry I thinke my mother was wiser then all the honest / women of the parrish besides.

_Nan._ Why then belike shee was of our facultie, and a Matrone of my profesion, nimble of her handes, quick of toong, and light of her taile: I should haue put in sir reverence, but a soule word is good enouh for a filthie knaue.

_Laur._ I am glad you are so pleafant _Nan_, you were not so merry when you went to _Dunstable_:
but indeede I must needs confesse that women Foyfts if they be careful in their trades are (though not so common) yet more daungerous then men Foyftes: women haue quicke wittes, as they haue short heele, and they can get with pleasure, what wee fishe for with danger: but now giuing you the bucklers at this weapon, let me haue a blow with you at another.

Nan. But before you induce any more argu-
ments, by your leaue in a litle by talke, you know Laurence that though you can foyft, nyp, prig, lift, courbe, and vse the blacke Art, yet you cannot crofbite without the helpe of a woman, which cros-
biting now adaies is growne to a maruellous profitable exercis: for some cowardly knaues that for feare of the gallows, leaue nipping and foyfting, become Crofbites, knowing there is no danger therein but a little punishment, at the moft the Pillorie, and that is faued with a litle Vnguantum Aureum: as for example, Jacke Rhoades is now a reformed man: whatfoever he hath been in his youth, now in his latter daies hee is growne a corrector of vice, for whomfoever hee takes suspicio
ous with his wife, I warrant you he fets a sure fine on head, though he hath nothing for his mony but a bare kiff: and in this Art wee poore wenches are your surest props and staie. If you will not beleue mee, ask poore A. B. in Turnmill street, what a
fawcie Signor there is, whose purblind eyes can scarcely discern a Lowfè from a Flea, and yet hee hath such insight into the mysticall Trade of Crofbiting, that hee can furnish his boord, with a hundreth poundes worth of Plate? I doubt the sandeyde Asfè, will kicke like a Western Pugge if I rubbe him on the gaule, but tis no matter if hee finde himselfe toucht and stirre, although hee boastes of the chiefe of the Clargies fauour, yet Ile so set his name out, that the boyes at Smithfield barres shal chalke him on the backe for a Crofbite: tush you men are foppes in fetching nouices ouer the coales: hearken to me Lawrence, Ile tell thee a woonder. Not far off from Hog/don, perhaps it was there, and if you thinke I lye, aske master Richard Chot, and master Richard Strong, two honest gentle men that can witnesse as well as I, this profe of a womans witte. There dwelte here somtimes a good auncient Matron that had a faire wench to her daughter, as yong and tender as a morrow maffe priests Lemman: her, shee set out to sale in her youth, and drew on fundrie to bee suters to her daughter, some wooers, and some speeders, yet none married her, but of her bewtie they made a profite, and inueagled all, till they had spent upon her what they had, and then forfoot, she and her yoong Pigion turne them out of doores like prodigall children: she was acquainted with
Dutch & French, Italian & Spaniard, as well as English, & at last, as so often the Pitcher goes to the brooke that it comes broken home, my faire daughter was hit on the master vaine and gotten with childe: now the mother to colour this matter to save her daughters marriage, begins to weare a Cushman vnder her owne kirtle, and to faine her selfe with childe, but let her daughter passe as though she ailde nothing: when the fortie weakes were come, & that my young mistres must needs cry out forsooth, this olde B. had gotten huswives answerable to her selfe, and so brought her daughter to bed, and let her go vp and downe the house, and the old Croane lay in childbed as though shee had been deliuered, and sayd the childe was hers, and so faued her daughters scape: was not this a wittie wonder maister Lawrence, wrought by an olde Witch, to haue a childe in her age, and make a yoong whoore seeme an honest virgin: tuft this is little to the purpose, if I should recite all, how many shee had coused vnder the pretence of marriage: well poore plaine Signor, See, you were not stiffe enough for her, although it cost you many crownes and the losse of your seruice. Ile say no more, perhaps she will amend her maners. Ah Lawrence how lyke you of this gear? in Crobyting wee put you downe, God wot it is little lookt too in and about London, and yet I may say to thee,
many a good Citizen is Crofbyt in the yeare by odde Walkers abroad: I heard some named the other day as I was drinking at the Swanne in Lam-bethe Marshe: but let them aloane, tis a foule byrd that defiles the owne neaft, and it were a shame for me to speake agaft any good wenches or boon Companions, that by their wittes can wrest mony from a Churle. I feare me R. G. will name them too foone in his black booke: a pestilence on him, they fay, hee hath there fet downe my husbandes pettigree, and yours too Lawrence: if he do it, I feare me your brother in law Bul, is like to be troubled with you both. / 

Laur. I know not what to fay to him Nan [he] hath plagued mee alreadie: I hope hee hath done with me, and yet I heard fay, hee would haue about at my Nine boales: but leaving him as an enemy of our trade, again to our disputation. I cannot deny Nan, but you haue fet downe strange Presidents of womens preiuditial wits, but yet though you be Crofbites, Foyfts, and Nips, yet you are not good Lifs, which is a great helpe to our facultie, to filche a boulte of Satten or Veluet.

Nan. Stay thee a word, I thought thou hadft spoken of R. B. of Long Lane and his wife: take heed, they be parlous folks and greatly acquainted with keepers and Gaylers: therefore meddle not you with them, for I heare fay R. G. hath sworne x.
in despight of the brasill staffe, to tell such a fowle Tale of him in his blacke Booke, that it will coft him a daungerous Joynt.

Laur. Nan, Nan, let R. G. beware, for had not an ill fortune falne to one of R. B. his friends, he could take little harme.

Nan. Who is that Lawrence?

Laur. Nay I will not name him.

Nan. Why then I prythie what misfortune befell him?

Laur. Marry Nan, hee was strangely washt alate by a French Barbar, and had all the haire of his face miraculoufly shaued off by the Sythe of Gods vengeance, in so much that some sayd he had that he had not: but as hap was howfoeuer his haire fell off, it stood him in some stead when the brawle was alate, for if hee had not caft off his beard and so being vnknowne, it had coft him some knockes, but it fell out to the best.

Nan. The more hard fortune that hee had such ill hap, but hastie iournies breed dangerous sweates, and the Phisitians call it the Ale Peria: yet omitting all this, againe to where you left.

Laur. You haue almost brought me out of my matter, but I was talking about the Lift, commend- ing what a good quallitie it was, and how hurtfull it was, seeing we practise it in Mercers shops, with Haberdashers of small wares, Haberdashers of
Hattes and Cappes, amongst Marchaunt Taylors for Hoafe and Doublets, and in such places getting much gains by Lifting, when there is no good purchase abroad for Foyfting.

_Nan._ Suppose you are good at the lift, who be more cunning the we / women in that we are more trusted, for they little suspect us, and we have as close conveyance as you men: though you have Cloakes, we have skirts of gowns, handbaskets, the crowns of our hattes, our plackardes, and for a need, false bagges vnder our smockes, wherein we can convey more closely then you.

_Laur._ I know not where to touch you, you are so wittie in your answeres, and have so many starting hoales, but let mee bee pleasant with you a little, what say you to priggin or horse stealing? I hope you neuer had experience in that facultie.

_Nan._ Alas simplerot, yes and more shift to shunne the gallowes then you.

_Laur._ Why tis impossible.

_Nan._ In faith sir no, and for prooue, I will put you downe with a storie of a madde, merry, little, dapper, fine wench, who at _Spilsby_ Fayre had three horse of her owne or an others mans to fell: as shee her husband, and an other good fellow, walkt them vp and downe the faire, the owner came and apprehended them all, and clapt them in prison: the Taylor not keeping them close prisoners, but letting
them lye all in a Chamber, by her wit she so in-
structed them in a formall tale, that she saued all 
their liues thus. Being brought the next morrow 
after their apprehension, before the Juftices, they 
examined the men how they came by thofe horses, 
and they confefs they met her with them, but 
where shee had them they knewe not: then was my 
prettie peate brought in, who being a handsome 
Trul, blusht as if she had been full of grace, and 
being demanded where she had the horses, made 
this anfwere, may it pleafe your worships, this man 
being my husband, playing the vnthrift as many 
more haue done, was abfent from mee for a quarter 
of a yeare, which greeued me not a little, infomuch 
that defirous to fee him, and hauing intelligence 
he wold be at Spifby faire, I went thither euen for 
pure loue of him on foote, and beeing within fome 
tenne myles of the Towne, I waxed paffing weary 
and refed me often and grew very faynt: at laft 
there came ryding by me a Servuing man in a blew 
coat, with three horses tyed one at anothers tayle, 
which he led as I geft to fell at the faire: the 
Servuingman feeing mee fo tyred, tooke pitie on me, 
and afked me if I would ride on one of his emptie 
horses, for his owne would not beare double: I 
thankt him hartily, and at the next hill got vp, and 
roade till we came to a Towne within three miles 
of Spifby, where the Servuingman alighted at a /
house, and bad me ride on afore, and he would presently ouertake mee: well forward I road halfe a myle, and looking behinde mee could see no bodie, so being alone, my heart began to rife, and I to thinke on my husband: as I had ridde a little farther, looking downe a lane, I saw two men comming lustily vp as if they were weary, & marking them earnestly, I saw one of them was my husband, which made my heart as light as before it was sad: so staying for them, after a little vnkinde greeting betwixt vs, for I chid him for his vnthrifty-nesse, he asked me where I had the horfe, and I tolde him how curteously the Servingman had vised me: why then faies hee, staie for him: nay quoth I, let's ryde on, and get you two vp on the emptie horses, for he will ouertake vs ere we come at the Towne: hee rydes on a stout lustie yoong gelding: so forward wee went, and looke often behinde vs, but our Servingman came not: at laft we comming to Spilby alighted, & broake our faft, and tied our horses at the doore, that if he passed by, seeing them, hee might call in: after wee had broake our faft, thinking hee had gone some other way, wee went into the horfe faire, and there walkt our horses vp and downe to meete with the Servingman, not for the intent to fell them. Now may it please your worship, whether hee had stolne the horses from this honest man or no, I knowe not,
but alas, simply I brought them to the horfe faire, to let him that deliuered me them haue them againe, for I hope your worshipes doth imagine, if I had stolne them as it is suspefted, I would neuer haue brought them into so publicke a place to fell, yet if the law bee any way dangerous for the foolish deed because I know not the Seruingman it is, I muft bide the punishment, and as guiltlesse as any heere: and so making a low courtfie she ended. The Iustice holding vp his hand and wondering at the womans wit that had cleared her husband and his friend, and faued her selfe without compasse of law. How like you of this Lawrence, cannot wee wenches prigge well.

Laur. By God Nan, I thincke I shal be faine to giue you the bucklars.

Nan. Alas good Lawrence, thou art no Logitian, thou canst not reaſon for thy selfe, nor haft no wittie arguments to draw me to an exigent, and therefore giue mee leaue at large to reaſon for this supper: remember the subiect of our disputation, is this positive question, whether whores or theeeues are moft preiuditiall to the Commonwealth? alas, you poore theeeues do only steale and purloine from men, / and the harme you do is to imbolliſh mens goods, and bring them to pouertie: this is the only end of mens theeeuery, and the greatest preiudice that growes from robbing or filching: so much do
we by our theft, and more by our lecherie, for what is the end of whoredome but confuming of goods and beggary? and besides perpetuall infamie, we bring yoong youthes to ruine and vetter destruction: I pray you Lawrence whether had a Marchants sonne hauing wealthie parents, better light vpon a whoore then a Cutpurfe, the one only taking his money, the other bringing him to vetter confusion? for if the Foyft light vpon him or the Conny-catcher, he looseth at the moft some hundreth poundes, but if hee fall into the companie of a whoore, shee flatters him, shee inueagles him, shee bewitcheth him, that hee spareth neither goods nor landes to content her, that is onely in loue with his coyne: if he be married, hee forfakes his wife, leaues his children, despieth his friendes, onely to satisfe his luft with the loue of a base whoore, who when he hath spent all vpon her and hee brought to beggerie, beateth him out lyke the Prodigall childe, and for a small reward, brings him if to the fairest ende to beg, if to the second, to the gallowes, or at the laft and worft, to the Pocketes, or as preiuditiall diseases. I pray you Lawrence when any of you come to your confession at Tyborne, what is your last sermon that you make? that you were brought to that wicked and shamefull ende by following of harlots, for to that end doo you steale to maintaine whoores, and to con-
tent their bad humors. Oh Lawrence enter into your owne thoughts, and thinke what the faire wordes of a wanton will do, what the smiles of a strumpet will driue a man to act, into what jeopardie a man will thrust himselfe for her that he loues, although for his sweete villainie, he be brought to loathsome leprosie: tuhe Lawrence, they say the Poxe came from Naples, some from Spaine, some from France, but wherfoever it first grew, it is so surely now rooted in England, that by S. (Syth) it may better be called A Morbus Anglicus then Gallicus, and I hope you will graunt, all these Frenche fauours grewe from whoores: besides in my high louing or rather creeping, I meane where men and women do robbe togither, there alwaies the woman is most bloodie, for she alwayes vrgeth vnto death, and though the men wold only satisfie themselues with the parties coyne, yet shee endeth her theft in blood, murthering parties so deeply as she is malicious. I hope gentle Lawrence you cannot contradict these reasons they bee so openly manifestly probable. For mine owne part, I hope you doo not imagine but I haue had some friendes besides poore George my husband: alas, hee knowes it, and is content lyke an honest simple suffragen, to bee corriual with a number of other good companions, and I haue made many a good man, I meane a man that hath a houfholde, for the loue
of mee to goe home and beate his poore wife, when God wotte I mocke him for the money hee spent, and hee had nothing for his pence but the waste beleauings of others beaftly labours. Lawrence, Lawrence, if Concubines could inueagle Salomon, if Dalilah could betraie Sampfon, then wonder not if we more nice in our wickednes then a thousand such Dalilahs, can seduce poore yoong Nouices to their utter destruotions. Search the Gayles, there you shall heare complaintes of whoores, looke into the Spittles and Hospitalles, there you shall see men diseased of the French Marbles, giuing in-ftruction to others that are sayd to beware of whoores: bee an Auditor or eare witneffe at the death of any theefe, and his laft Testament is, Take heed of a whoore: I dare scarce speake of Bridewell because my shoulders tremble at the name of it, I haue so often deservued it, yet looke but in there, and you shall heare poore men with their handes in their Piggen hoales crye, Oh fie vpon whoores, when Fouler giues them the terrible lafh: examine beggars that lye lame by the highway, and they say they came to that miserie by whoores: some threedge citizens that from Marchants and other good trades, grow to bee base Infourmers and Knightes of the Poste, crye out whē they dine with Duke Humfrey, Oh what wickednes comes from whoores: Prentifes that runnes from their
maifters, cryes out vpon whoores. Tufh Lawrence, what enormities proceeds more in the Common-wealth then from whooredome? But fith tis almoft supper time, and myrth is the friend to digestion, I meane a little to bee pleafant. I pray you how many badde profittes againe growes from whoores? Bridewell would haue verie fewe Tenants, the Hospitall would want Patientes, and the Surgians much woorke, the Apothecaries would haue furphaling water and Potato rootes lye deade on theyr handes, the Paynters coulde not dispatche and make away theyr Vermigion, if tallow faced whoores vnde it/ not for their cheekes: how shoulel sir Johns Broades men doo if wee were not? why Lawrence, the Gally would bee moord and the blewe Boore fo leane, that he would not be mans meate, if we of the Trade were not to supply his wants: doo you thinke in conscience the Peacocke could burnifh his faire tayle, were it not the whore of Babilon and fuch like, makes him luftie with crownes? no no, though the Talbot hath bitten some at the game, yet new fresh huntifmen shake the fie crue out of the cupples. What shoulel I fay more Lawrence, the Suberbes shoulel have a great miffe of vs, and Shordib wold complaine to dame Anne a Cleare, if we of the fifterhood shoulel not vphold her iollitie: who is that Lawrence comes in to heare our talke? Oh tis the boy, Nan, that tells vs supper
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is readie: why then Lawrence what say you to me? haue I not prooued that in foyfting and nipping we excell you, that there is none so great inconvenience in the Common wealth, as growes from whores, first for the corrupting of youth, infecting of age, for breeding of brawles, whereof ensues murther, in so much that the ruine of many men comes from vs, and the fall of many youthes of good hope, if they were not seduced by vs, doo proclaime at Tyborne, that wee be the meanes of their miserie: you men theeues touch the bodie and wealth, but we ruine the foule, and indanger that which is more pretious then the worldes treasure: you make worke onely for the gallowes, we both for the gallowes and the diuel, I and for the Surgian too, that some liues like loathsome laizers, and die with the French Marbles. Whereupon I conclude, that I haue wonne the supper.

Laur. I confesse it Nan, for thou haft tolde mee such wonderous villanies, as I thought never could haue been in women, I meane of your profession: why you are Crocodiles when you weepe, Basilifks when you smile, Serpents when you dieuife, and diuels cheefest broakers to bring the world to destruction. And so Nan lets sit downe to our meate and be merry.
Thus Countrymen you have heard the disputation between these two coining companions, wherein I have shak't out the notable villany of whores, although mistresse Nan this good Oratresse, hath sworn to wear a long Hamborough knife to stab me, and all the cruell haue protested my death: and to prove they meant good earnest, they beleged me about in the Saint Iohns head within Ludgate: / being at supper, there were some fourteen or fifteen of them met, and thought to have made that the fatal night of my overthrowe, but that the courteous Citizens and Apprentises took my part, and so two or three of them were carryed to the Counter, although a Gentleman in my company was fore hurt. I cannot deny but they beginne to waste away about London, and Tyborne (since the setting out of my booke) hath eaten vp many of them: and I will plague them to the extremitie: let them doe what they dare with their bilbowe blades, I feare them not: and to giue them their last adue, looke shortly Countrimen for a Phamphet against them, called The blacke Booke, contaying foure newe Lawes neuer spoken of yet, The creeping Law of petty theeeues, that rob about the Suburbes, The lymiting Lawe, discouraging the orders of such as followe Judges, in their circuites, and goe about from Fayre to Fayre. The lugging Law, wherein I will fet out the
disorders at Nyneholes and Ryffling, how they are onely for the benefite of the Cutpurses. *The stripping Lawe*, wherein I will lay open the lewde abusès of sundry Taylors in England. Befide, you shall see there what house there bee about the Suburbes and townes ende, that are receuyers of Cut purses stolne goods, Lifts, and such like. And lastly, looke for a Bed-roll or Catalogue, of all the names of the Foyftes, Nyps, Lifts, and Priggars, in and about *London*: and although some say I dare not doe it, yet I will shortly set it abroach, and whosoever I name or touch, if hee thinke himselfe greeued, I will aunswer him before the Honourable priuie Counsayle.

*The conversion of an English Courtizan.*

Sith to discouer my parentage, would double the griefe of my lyuing Parents, and reuieue in them, the memory of my great amiffe, and that my vntoward fall, would be a dishonour to the house from whence I came. Sith to ma / nisst † place of my birth would be a blemish (through my beastly life so badly misledde) to the Shyre where I was borne: sith to discourse my name, might be holden a blot in my kindreds browe, to haue a finew in their stocke of so little grace. I will conceale my parents, kin, and Country, and shroude my name
with silence, leaft enuie myght taunt others for my wantonnesse. Know therefore, I was borne about threescore miles from London, of honest and welthy parents, who had many children, but I their onely daughter, and therefore the Iewell wherein they moft delighted, and more, the youngest of all, and therefore the more fauoured: for beeing gotten in the wayning of my parents age, they doted on me aboue the rest, and fo fet theyr harts the more on fire. I was the fairest of all, and yet not more beautifull then I was witty, inſomuch that beeing a pretty Parrat, I had ſuch quaint conceipts, and witty words in my mouth, that the neighbours faid, I was too soone wife, to be long olde. Would to God, eyther the Prouerbe had been authenticall, or their ſayings prophecies, then had I by death in my nonage, buried many blemishes that my riper yeeres brought me to. For the extreme loue of my parents, was the very efficient cause of my follies, reſembling heerin the nature of the Ape, that euer killeth that young one which he loueſt moft, with embracing it to ferueſtly. So my father and mother, but the moft of all, although he to much, fo cockered me vp in my wantonnes, that my wit grew to the worſt, and I waxed vpwards with the ill weedes: what foever I dyd, were it neuer fo bad, might not be found fault withall, my Father would ſmile at it and ſay, twas but the
tricke of a child, and my Mother allowed of my vnhappy parts, alluding to this prophane and old prouerbe, an vntowarde gyrle makes a good Woman.

But now I find, in sparing the rod, they hated the chyld, that ouer kind fathers, make vnruuly daughters. Had they bent the wand while it had beeene greene, it woulde haue beeene plyant, but I, ill growne in my yeeres, am almost remedies. The Hawk that is moft perfect for the flight and will, feldome proueth hagarde, and children that are vertu / ously nurtured in youth, will be honestly matured in age: fie vpon such as say, young Saints, olde deuils: it is no doubt a deuillish and damnable saying, for what is not bent in the Cradle, will hardly be bowed in the Sadle. My selfe am an instance, who after I grew to be fixe yeeres olde, was fette to Schoole, where I profited so much that I writ and read excellently well, playd vpon the virginals, Lute & Cytron, and could fing prick-fong at the firft sight: in so much, as by that time I was twelue yeeres olde, I was holden for the moft faire, and beft qualified young girle in all that Countrey, but with this, bewailed of my wel-wifhers, in that my parents suffered me to be so wanton.

But they so tenderly affected mee, and were so blinded with my excellent quallities that they had
no insight into my ensuing follies. For I growing to be thirteene yeere old, feeling the rayne of liberty loose on myne owne necke, began with the wanton Heyfer, to ayme at mine own wil, and to measure content, by the sweetnes of mine owne thoughts, in so much, that pryde creeping on, I beganne to prancke my selfe with the proudest, and to holde it in dideaine, that any in the Parish, should exceed me in brauery. As my apparrell was costly, so I grew to be licencious, and to delight to be looke on, so that I haunted and frequented all feasts and weddings, & other places of merry meetings, where, as I was gazed on of many, so I spared no glaunces to furuiew all with a curious eye-fauour: I olferued Ouid's rule right: *Spætatun veniunt, veniunt speætatur vt ipsi.*

I went to see & be seen, and deckt my selfe in the highest degree of brauerie, holding it a glory when I was wayted on with many eyes, to make cenasure of my birth. Befide, I was an ordinary dauncer, and grewe in that quality so famous, that I was noted as the chiefeft thereat in all the Country, yea, and to foothe me vp in these follies, my Parents tooke a pride in my dauncing, which afterward prooued my ouerthrow, and their hart breaking.

Thus as an vnbridled Colte, I carelesly led foorth my youth, and wantonly spent the flower of my
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yeeres, holding such Maidens as were modest, fools, and such as were not as wilfully wanton as my selfe, puppies, ill brought vppe and without manners: growing on in yeeres, as tyde nor tyme tarrieth no man, I began to waxe passion-proud, and think her not worthy to lyue: that as divers young men began to fauour me for my beautie, so I beganne to cenfure of some of them partially, and to delight in the multitude of many wooers, beinge ready to fall from the Tree, before I was come to the perfection of a blossome: which an Unckle of myne feeing, who was my Mothers brother, as carefull of my welfare as nie to me in kinne, finding fit opportunity to talke with mee, gaue mee this wholesome exhortation.

A watch-word to wanton Maidens.

C Ozen, I see the fayrest Hawke hath oftentimes the sickest feathers, that y hotest day hath the most sharpest thunders, the brightest sunne, the most suddaine shoure, & the youngest Virgins, the most daungerous fortunes: I speake as a kinsman, and wish as a friend: the blossome of a Maidens youth, (such as your selfe) hath attending vpon it many frofts to nyp it, and many cares to consume it, so that if it be not carefully looked x.
A DISPUTATION BETWEENE A HEE

unto, it will perish before it come to any perfection.

A Virgins honour, consisteth not onely in the gifts of Nature, as to be fayre and beautifull, though they bee fauours that grace Maidens much: for as they be glistering, so they be momentary, readie to be worn with euery winters blaffe, and parched with euery Summers sunne: there is no face so fayre, but the leaft Moale, the slenderest scarre, the smallest brunt of sickness, will quickly blemishe.

Beauty Cozen, as it florisheth in youth, so it fadeth in age, it is but a folly that feedeth mans eye, a painting that Nature lends for a tyme, and men allowe on for a while, in so much, that such as onely ayme at your faire lookes, tye but their loues to an apprentishippe of beauty: which broken eyther with cares, mis-fortune, or yeeres, their desdesties are at liberty, and they beginne to lothe you, and like of others.

*Forma bonum fragile est quantumque accedit ad Annos*

*Fit minor et spacio Carpitur ipsa suo.*

Then Cozin, stand not too much on such a slippery glorie, that is as brittle as glasse, be not proud of beauties painting, that hatched by tyme, perisheth in short tyme: neyther are Women the
more admirable of wife men for theyr gay apparr-rell, though fooles are fed with gards: for a womans ornaments, is the excellencie of her vertues: and her inward good qualities, are of farre more worth then her outward braueries: imbroydred hayre, bracelets, filkes, rich attire, and such trash, doo rather bring the name of a young Maide in question, then adde to her fame any title of honour.

The Vestall Virgins were not reuerenced of the Senators for their curious clothing, but for their chastitie. Cornelia was not famozed for ornaments of golde, but for excellent vertues. Superfluity in apparrrell, sheweth rather lightnes of mind, then it importeth any other inward good quality: and men iudge of Maydens rareneffe by the modestie of their rayment, holding it rather garish then glorious, to be trickt vp in superfluous and exceeding braueries. Neither Cozen, is it seemely for Maydes, to iet abroade, or to frequent too much company.

For shee that is looked on by many, cannot chuse but bee hardly spoken of by some, for report hath a blister on her tongue, and Maydens actions are narrowly measured. Therefore woulde not the auncient Romaines, suffer theyr Daughters, to goe any further then theyr Mothers lookes guided them. And therefore Diana is painted
with a Tortuse vnder her feete, meaning that a Maid shoulde not be a stragler, but like the Snayle, carry her house on her heade, and keepe at home at her worke, so to keepe her name without blemishe, and her vertues from the flaunder of enuie. 

A maide that hazards herselfe in much company, may venture the freéedome of her hart by the folly of her eye: for so long the pot goes to the water, that it comes broken home, and such as looke much muést neédes like at laft: the Fly dallyes with a flame, but at length she burneth, flax and fire put together will kindle, a maid in companie of yonge men shall be confrayned to listen to the wanton allurements of many cunning speeches: if she hath not eyther with Vlijfes tafted of Moly, or flopt her eares waryly, shee may either bee entifed with the Syrens, or enchanted by Cyrces: youth is apt to yeeld to sweete perfwafions, and thersfore cozen thinke nothing more daungerous than to gad abroade: neither cozen doe I allowe this wanton dauncing in yonge virgins: tis more comendation for them to moderate their manners, than to measure their feete, and better to heare nothing than to listen vnto vnreuerent Musicke: Sylence is a precious Iewell, and nothing so much worth as a countenaunce full of chaftitie: light behavioure is a signe of lewd thoughts, and men
will say, there goes a wanton that will not want one, if a place and person were agreeable to her desires: if a maidens honor be blemisht, or her honestie cald in question, she is halfe deflowered, and therefore had maidens neede to bee chary, leaft enuy report them for vnchaft. Cozen I speake this generally, which if you apply particularly to your selfe, you shal find in time my words were well saide.

I gaue him slender thankes, but with such a frump that he perceiued how light I made of his counfayle: which hee perceiuing, shakt his head, and with teares in his eyes departed. But I whom wanton desires had drawne in delight, still presumde in my former follies, and gaue my selfe either to gad abroad, or else at home to read dissolute Pamphlets; which bred in mee many ill affected wishes, so that I gaue leaue to loue and lust to enter into the center of my heart, where they harboured tyll they wrought my finall and fatall preiudice.

Thus leading my life loosely, and being sooathed vp with the applause of my too kind and louing parents, I had many of every degree that made loue vnto me, as wel for my beaute, as for the hope of wealth that my father would bestowe vpon mee: sundry tutors I had, and I allowed of all, though I particularly graunted loue to none, yeeld-
ing them friendly favours, as being proud I had more wooers then any maid in the parish beside: amongst the rest there was a welthy Farmer that wished me well, a man of some forty yeeres of age, one too worthy for one of so little worth as myselfe, and him my father, mother, and other friendes, would have had mee match my self withall: but I that had had the raynes of lybertie too long in mine owne hands, refused him and would not bee ruled by their perswasions, and though my mother with teares intreated mee to consider of mine owne estate, & how wel I sped if I wedded with him, yet carelesly I despised her counfayle, and flatly made aunswere that I would none of him: which though it pinched my Parentes at the quicke, yet rather than they would displease me, they left me in mine owne liberty to loue. Many there were beside him, mens sons of no meane worth, that were wooers vnto mee, but in vaine: either my fortune or deftenie droue me to a worser ende, for I refused them all, and with the Beetle, refusong to light on the sweteste flowers all day, nestled at night in a Cowsheard.

It fortuned that as many fought to win me, so amongst the rest there was an od companion that dwelt with a Gentleman hard by, a fellowe of small reputation, and of no lyuing, neither had he any excellent quallities but thrumming on the gittron:
but of pleasant disposition he was, and could gawll out many quaint & ribadrous ligges & songs, and so was fauoured of the foolish sect for his foppery. This fifting companion, futable to my felfe in vanitie, would oft times be iefting with me, and I fo long dallying with him, that I beganne deéepely (oh let me blufli at this confeffion) to fall in loue with him, and so construed of all his actions, that I confented to my owne overthowe: for as smoake will hardly be concealed, so loue will not be long smothred, but will bewray her owne secrets: which was manifeft in mee, who in my sporting with him, so bewrayed my affeétion, that hee fpying I fauoured him, began to strike when the yron was hotte, and to take opportunitie by the forehead: and one day finding me in a merry vaine, began to queftion with me of loue: which although at the firft I f slanderly denied him, yet at laft I graunted, so that not onely I agreed to plight him my faith, but that night meeting to haue farther talke, I lafciuously confented that hee cropt the flower of my virginity. When thus I was spoyled by fuch a base companion, I gaue my felfe to content his humor, and to satisfie the sweet of mine owne wanton defires. Oh here let me breath and with teares bewaile the beginning of my miseries, and to exclayme againft the folly of my Parents, who by too much fauouring mee in my vanitie in my
tender youth, layde the first plot of my ensuing repentance: Had they with one correction chastised my wantonness, and supprest my foolish will with their graue advice, they had made mee more vertuous and themselves lesse sorrowfull. A fathers frowne is a bridle to the childe, and a mothers check is a stay to the stubborne daughter. Oh had my parents in ouerlouing mee not hated me, I had not at this time cause to complaine. Oh had my father regarded the saying of the wise man, I had not beene thus woe begone.

If thy daughter bee not shamefast holde her straightly, leaft shee abuse her selfe through ouer much libertie.

Take heede of her that hath an vnshamefast eye, & maruell not if shee trespass against thee.

The daughter maketh the father to watch secretly, and the carefulnesse he hath for her taketh away his sleepe.

In her virginitie, leaft shee should be deflowered in her fathers house.

If therefore thy daughter be vnshamefast in her youth, keepe her straightly, leaft shee cause thine enemies to laugh thee to scorne, and make thee a common talke in the Cittie, and defame thee among the people, and bring thee to publique shame.

Had my parents with care considered of this
holy counsaile, and leuell'd my life by the loadstone of vertue: had they lookt narrowly into the faultes of my youth, and bent the treé while it was a wand, and taught the hound while he was a puppie, this blemish had never befortuned me, nor so great dishonour had not befallen them. Then by my example, let all Parents take heed, leaft in louing their children too tenderly, they subuert themutterly, leaft in manuring the ground too much with the vnskilful husbandman, it waxe too fat, and bring forth more weeds then floures, leaft cockering their children vnder their winges without correction, they make them carelesse, and bring them to destruction: as their nurture is in youth, so will their nature grow in age. If the Palme tree be suppreft while it is a sien, it wil contrary to nature be crooked when it is a Tree.

Quo semel est imbuta recens seruabit odorente jo diu.

If then vertue be to be ingrafted in youth, leaft they prooue obstinate in age, reforme your children betimes both with correction and counsaile, so shall you that are parentes glorie in the honour of their good indeuours: but leauing this digression, againe to the loosenesse of mine owne life, who now hauing lost the glorie of my youth, and suffered such a base slaue to possesse it, which many men of woorth had desired to enioy, I waxed bold in
fin & grew shameles, in so much he could not desire so much as I did grant: whereupon, seeing hee durst not reueale it to my father to demand me in marriage, hee resolued to carry me away secretly, and therefore wifht me to prouide for my selfe, and to furnish mee every way both with money and apparrell, hoping as he sayd, that after we were departed, and my father saw wee were married, and that no meanes was to amend it, he would giue his free consent and vs vs as kindly, and deale with vs as liberally as if wee had matcht with his good wil. I that was apt to any il, agreed to this, and so wrought the matter, that hee carried mee away into a strange place, and then vng me a while as his wife, when our mony began to wax low he resolued secretly to go into the Country where my father dwelt, to heare not only how my father tooke my departure, but what hope we had of his enfuing fauour: although I was loath to be left alone in a strange place, yet I was willing to heare from my friends, who no doubt conceiued much heart sorrow for my unhappy fortunes, so that I parted with a few tears and enioyned him, to make all the hast he might to returne: hee being gone, as the Eagles alwaies refort where the carrion is, so the brute being spred abroad of my bewtie, and that at such an Inne laie such a faire yoong Gentlewoman, there reforted thither many braue
youthfull Gentlemen, and cutting companions, that tickled with lust, aymed at the possession of my favour, and by sundry meanes sough to haue a sight of me: which I easily graunted to all, as a woman that counted it a glory to be wondred at by many mens eyes, insomuch that comming amongst them, I set their harts more and more on fire, that there rofe diuers brawls who should bee most in my company: béeing thus haunted by such a troupe of lustie Rufflers, I beganne to finde mine owne folly, that had plac'd my first affection so losely, and therefore beganne as deeply to loath him that was departed, as earst I likte him, when hee was present, vowing in my selfe though hee had the spoyle of my virginitie, yet neuer after should he triumph in the possession of my favour, and therefore beganne I to affection these new come guests, and one aboue the rest, who was a braue yoong Gentleman, and no lesse addiceted vnto mee then I deuoted vnto him: for daily hee courted mee with amorous Sonnets, and curious proude letters, and sent me Jewels, and all that I might grace him with the name of my servaunt: I returned him as louyng lines at laft, and so contented his lufting desire, that secretly and vnknowne to all the rest, I made him sundry nights my bed-fellow where I so bewitcht him with sweet wordes, that he began deeply to doate vpon me, insomuch
that selling some portion of land that he had hee put it into readie money, and providing Horse and all things conuenient, carried mee secretly away, almost as farre as the Bathe. This was my second choyce, and my second shame: thus I went forward in wickednesse and delighted in chaunge, hauing left mine olde loue to looke after some other mate more fit for her purpose: how hee tooke my departure when hee returned I little cared, for now I had my content, a Gentleman, yoong, lustie, and indued with good qualities, and one that loued mee more tenderly then himselfe: thus liued this new entertained friend and I togither vnmarried, yet as man and wife for a while, so louingly as was to his content and my credite: but as the Tygre though for a while shee hide her clawes, yet at laft shee will reuAle her crueltie, and as the Agnus Caftus leafe when it lookes most drye, is then most full of moisture, so womens wantonneffe is not qualifled by their warinesse, nor doe their chari-
nesse for a moneth, warrant their chaftitie for euer: which I prooued true, for my supposèd husband beeing every way a man of worth could not couertly hide himselfe in the country, though a stranger, but that he fel in acquaintance with many braue Gentlemen whom he brought home to his lodging, not only to honour them with his liberall courtesie, but also to see mee, being proude of any
man of woorth, applawded my bewtie. Alas poore Gentleman, too much bewitcht by the wilinesse of a woman, had hee deemed my heart to bee a harbour for euerie new desire, or mine eie a futor to euerie new face, hee would not haue beene so fonde as to haue brought his companions into my company, but rather would haue mewed mee up as a Henne, to haue kept that feuerall to himfelfe by force, which hee could not retaine by kindneffe: but the honest minded Nouice little suspected my chaunge, although I God wot placed my delight, in nothing more then the desire of new choyce, which fell out thus: Amongft the rest of the Gentlemen that kept him company, there was one that was his moft familiar, and hee reposed more truft and confidence in him then in all the rest: this Gentleman beganne to bee deepely inamoured of mee, and shewed it by many signes which I easilly perceiued, and I whose eare was pliant to euerie sweete word, and who so allowed of all that were bewtifull, affected him no lesse, so that loue prevailing aboue friendship, hee broake the matter with mee, and made not many suites in vaine before hee obteined his purpose, for hee had what hee wishte, and I had what contented mee. I will not confesse that any of the rest had some fildome favours, but this Gentleman was my second felfe, and I loued him more for the time at the heele,
then the other at the heart, so that though the
other youth beare the charges and was made sir
pay for all, yet this newe friend was hee that was
maister of my affections: which kindnesse betwixt
vs, was so vnwisely cloaked, that in short time it
was manifest to all our familiars, which made my
supposed husband to figh and others to smile, but
hee that was hit with the horne was pincht at
the heart: yet so extreame was the affection hee
bare to me, that he had rather conceale his greefe,
then any way make me discontent, so that hee
smoothered his sorrow with patience, and brookt
the inuiurie with silence, till our loues grew so broad
before, that it was a woonder to the worlde: where-
upon one day at dinner, I being verie pleafant
with his choisen friend and my choyce louer, I
know not how, but either by fortune, or it may
be some set match, there was by a gentleman,
there present a question popt in about womens
passions, and their mutabilitie in affection, so that
the controuerfie was defended, / pro and contra :
with arguments, whether a woman might have a
second friend or no? at laft it was concluded, that
loue and Lordshippe brookes no fellowship, and
therefore none so baseminded to beare a riuall.
Hereupon arose a question about friendes that
were put in truft, how it was a high point of
treason, for one to betray an other, especially in
loue, in so much that one gentleman at the board, protested by a solemn oath, that if any friend of his made priuie and favoured with the sight of his mistresse whom hee loued, whether it were his wife or no, should secretly seek to incroach into his roome and offer him that dishonour to partake his loue, he would not use any other reuenge, but at the next greeting stabbe him with his Poynado, though hee were condemned to death for the action. All this fitted for the humor of my supposed husband, and strooke both mee and my friend into a quandarie, but I scornfully jeasted at it, when as my husband taking the ball before it fel to the ground, began to make a long discourse what faithlesse friends they were that would faile in loue, especially where a resolued trust of the party beloued was committed vnto them: and here upon to make the matter more credulous, and to quip my folly, and to taunt the baseness of his friends minde, that so he might with curtesie both warne vs of our wantones, and reclaime vs from ill, he promised to tell a pleasent storie, performed as he sayd not long since in England, and it was to this effect.
A pleasant discourse, how a wife wanton by her husband's gentle warning, became to be a modest Matron.

There was a Gentleman (to give him his due) an Esquire here in England, that was married to a young Gentlewoman, faire and of a modest behauiour, vertuous in her lookes, howsoever she was in her thoughts, and one that every way with her dutifull indeuour and outward apparance of honestie, did breed her husbands content, insomuch that the Gentleman so deeply affected her, as he counted al those houres ill spent which he past not away in her company: besotting so himselfe in the beautie of his wife, that his onely care was to haue her euery way delighted: liuing thus pleasantly togither, he had one spatiale friend amongst the rest, whom he so dearly affected, as euer Da/mon did his Pythias, Pilades his Oreste, or Tytus his Gisippus, he vnfolded all his secrets in his bofome, and what passion hee had in his minde that either ioyed him or perplexed him, he revealed vnto his friend, & directed his actions according to the sequel of his counsailes, so that they were two bodies and one soule. This Gentleman for all the inward fauour shoune him by his faithfull friend, could not so withstand the force of fancy, but he grew enamoured of his friendes wife, whom he courted
with many sweet words and faire promises, charms that are able to enchant almost the chasteft eares, and so subtly couched his arguments, discouered such loue in his eyes, and such sorrow in his lookes, that dispaire seemed to fit in his face, and swore, that if shee granted not him *Le don du merci*, the end of a louers sighes, then would present his hart as a Tragick sacrifice to the sight of his cruel mistresse: the Gentlewoman waxing pitifull, as women are kinde harterd and are loth Gentlemen should die for loue, after a few excuses, let him dub her husband knight of the forked order, and so to satisifie his humor, made forfeyt of her owne honor. Thus these two louers continued by a great space in such plesures as vnchaft wantons count their felicitie, hauing continually with opportunitie to exercise their wicked purpose, with the gentleman himself did giue them free libertie to loue, neither suspecting his wife, or suspecting his friend: at laft as such traytous abuses will burst forth, it fell so out, that a mayd who had been an old seruant in the house began to grow suspitious, that there was too much familiaritie betweene her mistresse and her maisters friend, and vpon this watcht them divers times so narrowly, that at laft she found them more priuate then either agreed with her maisters honor, or her own honestie, and thereupon re-
uealed it one day vnto her maister: he little credulous of the light behaviour of his wife, blamed the mayd, and bad her take heed, leaft she sought to blemish her vertues with flaunder, whom hee loued more tenderly then his owne life: the mayd replied, that she spake not of enuy to him, but of meere loue she beare vnto him, and the rather that hee might shadow such a fault in time, and by some meanes preuent it, leaft if others should note it as well as shee, his wiues good name and his friends shouled bee cald in question: at these wise words spoken by so bafe a drug as his mayd, the Gentleman waxed astonished and listened to her discourse, wishing her to discouer how she knew or was so priuy to the folly of her mistrefse, or by what meanes he might haue assured prooфе of it: shee tolde him / that her owne eyes were witnesse, for shee saw them unlawfully together, and pleafe it you sir quoth shee, to saine your felfe to goe from home, and then in the back houfe to keepe you secret, I will let you see as much as I haue manifested vnto you: vpon this the maister agreed, and warned his mayd not so much as to make it knowne to any of her fellowes. Within a day or two after, the Gentleman sayd, hee would goe a hunting, and so rife verie early, and causıng his men to couple vp his Houndes, left his wife in bed and went abroad: afloone as he
was gone a myle from the house, he commanded his men to ryde afore and to start the Hare and follow the chafe; and wee will come faire and softly after: they obeying their maisters charge, went their wayes, and he returned by a backway to his house, and went secretly to the place where his mayd and he had appointed. In the meane time, the mistresse thinking her husband safe with his Houndes, sent for her friend to her bed chamber, by a truifie servant of hers, in whom shee assured that was a secret Pander in such affaires, and the Gentleman was not slacke to come, but making all the haste hee could, came and went into the chamber, asking for the Maister of the house very familiarly: the old mayd noting all this, asloone as she knew them together, went and cald her maister, and carried him vp by a secret pair of staires to her mistresse chamber doore, where peeping in at a place that the mayd before had made for the purpose, he saw more then he lookt for, and so much as pincht him at the very heart, causing him to accuse his wife for a strumpet, and his friend for a traytor: yet for all this, valuing his owne honour more then their dishonestie, thinking if he should make an vprore, he shoule but ayme at his owne discredit, and cause himself to be a laughing game to his enemies, he concealed his sorrow with silence, and taking the mayd apart, charged her to keepe all secret, what-
locuer she had seene, euen as she esteemed of her owne life, for if shee did bewray it to any, hee himselfe would with his Swoord make an ende of her daies: and with that putting his hand in his slegeue, gaue the poore mayd five Angels to buy her a new gowne: the wench glad of this gift, swore solemnely to tread it vnder foote, and fith it pleased him to conseale it, never to reveale it as long as she liued: vpon this they parted, she to her drudgery, and he to the field to his men, where after hee had kild the Hare hee returned home, and finding his friend in the Garden, that in his absence had been grafting hornes in the Chimmies, and entertamed him with his woonted familiaritie, and shewed no bad countenance to his wife, but dissembled al his thoughts, / to the full. Asoone as dinner was done, and that he was gotten solitarie by himselfe, he beganne to determine of reuenge, but not as euerie man would haue done, how to haue brought his wife to shame, & her louse to confusion, but he busied his braines how hee might referue his honour inuiolate, reclaine his wife, and keep his friend: meditating a long time how he might bring all this to passe, at laft a humour fell into his head, how cunningly to compasse all three and therefore he went & got him a certaine slips, which are counterfeyted pieces of mony being brasie, & couered ouer with siluer,
which the common people call flips: having furnish'd himselve with these, hee put them in his purse, and at night went to bed as he was wont to doo, yet not using the kind familiaritie that he accustomed: notwithstanding, he abstained not from the use of her body, but knew his wife as aforesaid, and every time hee committed the act with her, he layd the next morning in the window a flip, where he was sure shee might finde it, and so many times as it pleas'd him to be carnally pleasant with his wife, so many flips he still layd down upon her cushnet. This he used for the space of a fortnight, till at last, his wife finding euery day a flip, or sometime more or lesse, wondred how they came there, and examining her wayting maydes, none of them could tell her anything touching them, wherevpon shee thought to question with her husband about it, but being out of her remembrance, the next morning as he & she lay dallying in bed, it came into her minde, and she asked her husband if he layd those slippes on her cushnet, that she of late found there, having neuer seene any before. I marry did I quoth she, and I haue layd them there upon speciall reason, and it is this. Euer since I haue been married to thee, I haue deemed thee honest, and therefore used and honored thee as my wife, parting coequall favours betwixt vs as true loues, but alate finding the
contrary, & with these eyes seeing thee play the whore with my friend in whom I did repose all my trust, I fought not as many would have done, to have avenged in blood, but for the safety of mine own honor, which otherwise would have been blotted by thy dishonesty, I have been silent, and have neyther wronged my quandom friend, nor abused thee, but still do hold bed with thee, that the world should not suspect any thing, and to quench the desire of lust I do use thy body, but not so lovingly as I would a wife, but carelessly as I would a strumpet, and therefore even as to a whore, so I give thee hyer, which is for every time a slip, a counterfeit coyne: which is good enough for such a slipperie wanton, that will wrong her husband that loved her so tenderly: and thus will I use thee for the safety of mine own honour, til I have assured proofe that thou becomest honest: and thus with tears in his eyes, and his heart readie to burst with sighs, he was silent, when his wife striken with remorse of conscience, leaping out of her bedde in her smocke, humbly confessing all, craued pardon, promising if he should pardon this offence which was new begun in her, shee would become a new reformed woman and neuer after so much as in thought, give him any occasion of suspicion of ieloufie: the patient husband not willing to urge his wife, tooke her at her word,
and told her that when he found her so reclaimed, he would as afore he had done, vse her louingly and as his wife, but till he was so perswaded of her honestie, he wold pay her stil slips for his pleasure, charging her not to reueale any thing to his friend, or to make it knowne to him that hee was priuy to their loues. Thus the debate ended, I geffe in some kinde greeting, and the Gentleman went abroad to see his pastures, leauing his wife in bed full of forrow and almost rending her heart asunder with sighs: asfoone as he was walked abroad, the Gentleman his friend came to the house and asked for the goodman: the pander that was priuy to all their practifes, said, that his maifter was gone abroad to see his pastures, but his mistresse was in bed: why then saies he, I will go and raffe her vp: so comming into the chamber and kissing her, meaning as hee was wont to have vshed other accustomed dalliance, shee desired him to abstaine, with broken sighes & her eyes full of teares: he won-
dring what should make her thus discontent, asked her what was the cause of her forow, protest
ing with a solemne oath, that if any had done her injury, he wold reuenge it, were it with hazard of his life: she then tolde him, scarce being able to speake for weeping, that shee had a fute to moue him in, which if he granted vnto her, she would hold him in loue and affection without change next her
husband for euer: he promised to do whatsoever it was: then faies shee, I swere vpon a Byble you will do it without exception: with that he tooke a Byble that laie in the window & swore, that whatsoever she requested him to do, were it to the losse of his life, he would without exception performe it. Then she holding downe her head and blushing, began thus. I need not quoth shee make manifest how groffly and greeuoufly you and I haue both offended God, and wronged the honest Gentleman my husband and your friend, hee putting a speciall trust in vs both, & assuring such earnest affiance in your vnfaithed friendship, that hee euen committeth me his wife, his loue, his second life, into your bosome: this loue haue I requited with inconstancy, in playing the harlot, that faith that he reposeth in you, haue you returned with trechery and falshood, in abusing mine honesty and his honor, now a remorse of conscience toucheth me for my sinnes, that I hartily repent, and vow euer hereafter to liue onely to my husband, and therefore my fute is to you, that from henceforth you shall neuer so much as motion any dishonest question vnto mee, nor seeke any vnlawfull pleasure or conuerfing at my handes: this is my fute, and herevnto I haue sworne you, which oath if you obserue as a faithfull gentleman, I will conceale from my husband what is past, and rest in honest fort your faithfull
friend for euer: at this shee burst afresh into teares, and uttered such sighes, that he thought for very griefe her hart would haue claue afunder. The Gentleman astonied at this straunge Metamorphesis of his mistrefse, fat a good while in a maze, and at laft taking her by the hand, made this reply, so God helpe mee faire sweeting, I am glad of this motion, and wondrous ioyfull that God hath put such honest thoughts into your mind, & hath made you the meanes to reclaime mee from my folly: I feele no leffe remorse then you doo, in wronging so honest a friend as your husband, but this is the frailnesse of man: and therefore to make amends, I protest a new, neuer hereafter so much as in thought, as to motion you of dishonestie, onely I craue you be silent: she promised that and so they ended. And so for that time they parted: at noone the gentleman came home and cheerfully saluted his wife and asked if dinner were ready, and sent for his friend, vsing him wonderfully familiarly, giuing him no occasion of mistrust, and so pleasantly they past away the day togethier: at night when his wife and he went to bed, shee told him all what had past betweene her and his friend, and how she had bound him with an oath, and that hee voluntarily of himselfe swore as much, being hartily fory that hee had so deeply offended so kinde a friend: the gentleman commended her wit,
and found her afterward a reclaimed woman, she living so honestly that she never gave him any occasion of mistrust. Thus the wise gentleman reclaimed with silence a wanton wife, and retained an assured friend.

At this pleasant Tale all the boord was at a mutinie, and they said the gentleman did passing wisely that wrought so cunningly for the safety of his owne honor, but highly exclaiming against such a friend/as would to his friend offer such villany, all condemning her that wold be false to so loving a husband. Thus they did diversely descant & past away dinner, but this Tale wrought little effect in me, for as one past grace, I delighted in change, but the gentleman that was his familiar and my Paramour, was so touched, that never after he would touch me dishonestly, but reclaimed himselfe, abstained from me and became true to his friend. I wondering that according to his wonted custome, he did not seek my company, he and I being one day in the chamber alone, and he in his dumpes, I began to dally with him, and to ask him why he was so strange, and vsed not his accustomed favours to me. He solemnly made answere, that though he had playd the foole in setting his fancy vpon an other mans wife, & in wronging his friend, yet his conscience was now touched with remorse: & euer since he
heard the Tale afore rehearfed, hee had vowed in himselfe neuer to do my husband the like wrong againe: my husband quoth I, he is none of mine, he hath brought me from my friends and keepes mee here unmarried, and therefore am I as free for you as for him, & thus began to grow clamorous, because I was debard of my luft: the gentleman seeing me shamelesse, wisht me to be silent, and sayd, although you be but his friend, yet he hold[s] you as deare as his wife, and therfore I will not abuse him, neither would I wish you to be familiar with any other, seeing you haue a friend that loues you so tenderly: much good counfaile he gaue me, but all in vaine, for I scorned it, and began to hate him, and resolued both to be ridde of him and my supposed husband, for falling in [with] an other familiar of my husbands, I so inueagled him with sweet words, that I caused him to make a peece of mony to steale me away, and so carry me to London, where I had not liued long with him, ere he seeing my light behauiour, left mee to the world, and to shift for my selfe. Here by my example may you note the inconstant life of Courtezens and common harlots, who after they haue loft their honestie, care not who grow into their fauour, nor what villany they commit: they fancy all as long as crownes laft, and only ayme at pleasure and easie: they cleaue like Caterpillars
to the tree, and consume the fruit where they fall, they be Vultures that prey on men alive, and like the Serpent stinging the bosom wherein they are nourished. I may best discourse their nature, because I was one of their profession, but now being metamorphosed, I holde it meritorious for mee to warne women from being such wantons, and to giue a cautel to men, least they adder themselves to such stragling strumpetts, as loue none though they like all, but affectionate only for profit, and when he hath spent all, they beate him out of doores with the prodigall childe: but stopping heere, till occasion serve mee fitter to discover the manner of Courtezins, to my selfe, who now being brought to London, and left here at random, was not such a house doue while any friend stayed with me, but that I had visite[d] some houses in London, that could harbour as honest a woman as my selfe: when as therefore I was left to my selfe, I removed my lodging, and gat mee into one of those houses of good hospitatitie whereunto persons resort, commonly called a Trugging house, or to be plaine, a whore house, where I gaue my selfe to entertaine all companions, fitting or standing at the doore like a staule, to allure or draw in wanton passengers, refusing none that wold with his purse purchase me to be his, to satisfie the disordinate desire of his filthie lust: now I began
not to respect parsonage, good qualities, to the gratious favour of the man, when eye had no respect of person, for the oldest lecher was as welcom as the youngest lover, so he broght meate in his mouth, otherwise I pronounce[d] against him,

\[Si\ nihil\ attuleris\ ibis\ homere\ foras.\]

I waxed thus in this hell of voluptuousnes, daily worse & worse, yet hauing as they terme it, a respect to the maine chance, as neare as I could to auoyd diseases, and to keepe my selfe brate in apparell, although I payd a kind of tribute to the Bawde, according as the number and benefite of my companions did exceed, but neuer could I bee brought to be a pickpocket or theeuish, by any of their perfwasions, although I wanted daily no instructions to allure me to that villany: for I thinke nature had wrought in me a contrary humor, otherwise my bad nourture, and converfing with such bad company had brought me to it: mary in all their vices I carried a brazen face & was shameleffe, for what Ruffian was there in London that would vttter more desperate oaths then I in mine anger? what to spet, quaffe, or carouse more diueltishly or rather damnable then my selfe? & for beastly communication Messalyna of Rome might haue bin wayting mayd: besides, I grew so grafted in sin, that Confueto peccandi tollebat sensum
A DISPUTATION BETWEENE A HEE

peccati, Custome of sin, tooke away the feeling of the sin, for I so customably use[d] my selfe to all kinde of vice, that I accounted swearing no sinne: whordome, why I smile[d] at that, and could prophanely faie, that it was a sin which God laught at: gluttony I held good fellowship, & wrath / honor and resolution: I dispised God, nay in my conscience I might easily have been persuaded there was no God: I contemned the preachers, and when any wish'd mee to reforme my life, I bad away with the Puritan, and if any young woman refused to be as vitious euery way as my selfe, I would then say, gip saine soule, a young Saint will prove an old diuel: I neuer would go to the Church and Sermons, I utterly refused, holding them as needles Tales told in a Pulpit: I would not bend mine eares to the hearing of any good discourse, but still delighted in iangling Ditties of rybaudrie: thus to the greefe of my friends, hazard of my soule, and consuming of my bodie, I spent a yeare or two in this base and bad kinde of life, subieet to the whistle of euery desperate Ruffian, till on a time, there resorted to our house a Cloathier, a proper young man, who by fortune, comming first to drinke, espying mee, asked mee if I would drinke with him: there needed no great intreate, for as then I wanted company, and so clapt me downe by him, and began verie plea-
fantly then to welcome him: the man being of himselfe modest and honest, noted my personage, and iudicially reasoned of my strumpetlike behauiour, and inwardly, as after he reported vnto mee, greeuued that so soule properties were hidden in so good a proportion, and that such rare wit and excellent bewtie, was blemisht with whoredomes base deformitie: insomuch that hee began to think well of me, and to wifh that I were as honest as I was bewtiful. Againe, see how God wrought for my conversion, since I gaue my selfe to my loose kinde of life, I neuer liked any so well as him, insomuch that I began to judge of euerie part, and me thought he was the propereft man that euer I saw: thus we sat both amorous of other, I lasciuously, & he honestly: at laft he questioned with me what country woman I was, and why being so proper a woman, I would besem to dwel or lie in a base Alehouse, especially in one that had a bad name: I warrant you hee wanted no knauifh reply to fit him, for I tolde him the house was as honest as his mothers: marry if there were in it a good wench or two, that would pleasure their friends at a neede, I gesse[d] by his noafe what porredge hee loued, and that hee hated none such: well, seeing me in that voice, hee said little, but shaked his head, payd for the beere and went his way, only taking his leave of me with a kisse,
which me thought was the sweetest that euer was giuen mee: assoone as hee was gone I began to thinke what a handsome man hee was, and wisht that he wold come and take a nights lodging with me: /fitting in a dumpe to thinke of the quaintnes of his personage, til other companions came in, that shakte mee out of that melancholie, but assoone againe as I was secrete to my selfe, hee came into my remembrance: passing ouer thus a day or two, this Cloathier came againe to our house, whose sight cheared mee vp, for that spying him out at a Casement, I ranne downe the staires and met him at the doore, and hartily welcomed him, & asked him if he wold drinke: I come for that purpose saies he, but I will drinke no more below but in a Chamber: marry sir quoth I you shal, and so brought him into the fairest roome, in there sitting togither drinking: at laft the Cloathier fell to kissing and other dalliance, wherein he found me not coy: at laft told mee that he would willingly haue his pleasure of mee, but the roome was too lightsome, for of all things in the world, he could not in such actions away with a light Chamber: I consented vnto him, and brought him into a room more darke, but still hee saied it was too light: then I carried him into a farther Chamber, where drawing a buckram curtain afor the window, and cloasing the curtaines of the
bed, I asked him smiling, if that were close inough: no sweet loue faies he, the curtain is thin & not broad inough for the window, peraduenture some watching eye may espie vs, my heart misdoubts, & my credit is my life: good loue if thou haft a more close room then this, bring me to it: why then quoth I follow me, & with that I brought him into a backe loft, where stood a little bed only appointed to lodge suspitious persons, so darke that at noone daies it was impossible for any man to see his owne hands: how now sir quoth I, is not this darke inough? he fitting him downe on the bed side, fetched a deep sigh, & said indifferent, so, so, but there is a glimpse of light in at the tyles, some bodie may by fortune see vs: in faith no quoth I, none but God; God saies hee, why can God see vs here? good sir quoth I, why I hope you are not so simple, but Gods eyes are so cleare, and penetrating that they can pierce through wals of brasse, and that were we inclosed neuer so secretly, yet we are manifestly seene to him: and alas quoth he sweet loue, if God see vs shal we not be more ashamed to doo such a filthy act before him then before men? I am sure thou art not so shameles but thou woldst blush & be afraid to haue the meanest commoner in London see thee in the actio of thy filthy lust, and doest thou not shame more to haue God, the maker of all things see thee, who
reuengeth sin with death, he whose eyes are clearer then the Sun, who is the searcher of the heart, and holdeth vengeance in his handes to punish sinners. Consider sweete loue, that if man and wife would be ashamed to haue any of their friendes see them in the act of generation, or performing the rights of marriage which is lawfull, and allowed before God, yet for modestie do it in the most couert they may, then how impudent or gracelesse should we bee, to fulfill our filthie lust before the eyes of the Almighty, who is greater then all kings or princes on the earth. Oh let vs tremble that we but once durft haue fuch wanton communication in the hearing of his diuine Maieftie, who pronounceth damnation for fuch as giue themselues ouer to adultery.

It is not possible saith the Lorde, for any whore-maister or lasciuious wanton, to enter into the kingdome of God: for fuch sinnes whole Cities haue funcke, kingdomes haue beene destroyed: and though God suffreth fuch wicked liuers to escape for a while, yet at length he payeth home, in this world with beggarie, shame, diseases, or infamy, and in the other life, with perpetuall damnation: weigh but the inconuenience that growes through thy loose life, thou art hated of all that are good, despifed of the vertuous, and only well thought of, of reprobats, raskals, ruffians,
and such as the world hates, subject to their lust, and gaining thy living at the hands of every diseased teacher. Oh what a miserable trade of life is thine that liuest of the vomit of sin, in hunting after maladies: but suppose, while thou art young, thou art faoured of thy companions, when thou waxest old, and that thy beautie is vaded, then thou shalt be loathed and despised, euen of them that profeest most loue vnto thee: then good sister call to minde the basenesse of thy life, the hainous outrage of thy sin, that God doth punish it with the rigor of his justice: oh thou art made bewtiful, faire, and well fourmed, and wilt thou then by thy filthie lust make thy bodie, which if thou bee honest, is the Temple of God, the habitation of the diuel? Consider this, and call to God for mercy, and amend thy life: leave this house, and I will become thy faithfull friend in all honestie, and vs thee as mine owne sister: at this, such a remorse of conscience, such a fearefull terror of my sin stroke into my minde, that I kneeled downe at his feete, and with teares besought him he would helpe me out of that misery, for his exhortation had caused in me a loathing of my wicked life, and I wold not only become a reformed woman, but hold him as dear as my father that gaue me life: whereupon he kift me with teares, and so we went downe togither, where wee
had further communication, and presently he provided me an other lodging, where I not only vide / my selfe so honestly, but also was so penitent every day in teares for my former folly, that he tooke me to his wife: and how I haue liued since, and loathed filthie luft, I referre my selfe to the Maiestie of God, who knoweth the secrets of all hearts.

Thus Country men I haue publisht the conversion of an English Courtizen, which if any way it bee profitable either to forewarne youth, or with draw bad persons to goodnesse, I haue the whole end of my desire, only craving every father would bring vp his children with carefull nourture, and every young woman respect the honour of her virginitie.

But amongst all these blythe and merry Leftes, a little by your leave, if it be no farther then Fetter lane: oh take heed, thats too nye the Temple: what then, I will draw as nere the signe of the white Hart as I can, and breathing my selfe by the bottle Ale-house, Ile tell you a merry Left, how a Conny-catcher was vide.

_A merry Tale taken not far from Fetter Lane end, of a new found Conny-catcher, that was Conny-catcht himselfe._

_So it fell out, that a Gentleman was sick and purblinde, and went to a good honest mans_
house to sojourn, and taking vp his Chamber grew so sick, that the goodman of the house hired a woman to keep and attend day and night upon the Gentleman: this poore woman hauing a good conscience, was carefull of his welfare, and lookte to his dyet, which was so flender, that the man although sicke, was almost famisht, so that the woman would no longer staie, but bad his Hoste prouide him of some other to watch with him, sith it greeued her to see a man ly and starue for want of foode, especially being set on the score for meate and drinke in the space of a fortnight, four poundes. The goodman of the house at laft, hearing how that poore woman did finde fault with his scoring, the Gentleman not only put her out of doores without wages, but would have arrested her, for taking away his good name, and defaming and slaundering him, and with that calling one of his neighbours to him, sayd neighbour, whereas such a bad toongued woman hath reported to my discredite, that the Gentleman that lyes sicke in my house wants meat, and yet runnes very much on the score, I pray you judge by his diet whether hee bee famisht or no: first in the morning he hath a Cawdell next his heart, halfe an houre after that, a quart of Sugar sops, halfe an houre after that a neck of mutton in broath, halfe an houre after that Chickens in forrell sops, and
an houre after that, a Ioynt of roft meate for his dinner: now neighbour, hauing this prouision, you may iudge whether he be fpoyld for lacke of meate or no, and to what great charges his dyet will arise: whereas in truth, the poore Gentleman would haue beene glad of the leaft of these: for he could get none at all, but the coufoning knaue, thought to verfe vpon him, and one day seeing mony came not brieyly to the Gentleman, tooke some of his apparrell, his cloake I gefle, and pawnde it for fortie shillings: whereas God wot, all he eate in that time was not woorth a Crowne: well, the Gentleman seeing how the knaue went about to Conny-catch him, and that he had taken his cloake, fmoothered all for reuenge, and watcht opportunitie to do it, and on a time, seeing the goodman out, borrowed a cloake far better then his owne, of the boy, faying that he would goe to a friend of his to fetch money for his maifter & discharge the house: the boy lending it him, away walks the Gentleman though weake after this great diet, and neuer came at the Taylors house to anfwere him cloake or mony. And thus was he Conny-catcht himselfe, that thought to haue verft vp-on another.

FINIS.
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.
I. Notes and Illustrations.

"* See general explanatory remarks prefixed to Notes and Illustrations in Vol. II., pp. 301-2.

A NOTABLE DISCOVERY OF COOSNAGE.

Agreeably to 'Note' (page 2), I record here a few representative examples of Various Readings as between the text of 1591 and 1592. It would have been superfluous pains to have registered mere orthographical and punctuation changes.

Title-page—'Printed by Thomas Scarlet for Thomas Nelson... 1592.'

Page 15—The wood-cut not in 1592. The following are examples of orthographical differences: l. 1, 'requisite effectually' for 'requisit effectualy': l. 4, 'barnacle' for 'Barnackle': l. 5, 'anie' for 'any.' So p. 16, l. 3, 'cony' for 'Concie': l. 11, 'coni' for 'Conny.'

,, 16, l. 6, 'for' not in '92.
,, 17, l. 15, 'country' inserted before 'Gentlemen.'
,, 30, l. 18, 'yet' not in '92: l. 25, 'but people stopt him' '92.
,, 31, l. 1, 'saying' for 'said': l. 11, 'for them' '92: l. 15, 'who' for 'that': l. 16, 'ingathering' '92: l. 18, 'amongst' for 'among': l. 21, 'so straight... all' not in '92.
,, 33, l. 24, 'as Carpeters haue' for 'as the Carpeter hath': l. 25, 'their' for 'his.' So onward plural for singular frequently.
,, 38, l. 12, 'The Cutpurse, a Nip' inserted in '92: l. 15, 'Foist' for 'Foin.'
,, 48, l. 9, 'al' for 'well': l. 21, 'remembrance to giue faire words' '92.

These must suffice.
Page 5, l. 5, 'a counterfeit Coiner of money' = a coiner of counterfeit money: l. 6, 'corrector' —misprinted 'correstor' in the original: l. 8, 'affects' = affections: last l., 'traines' = the things leading up to the 'snares,' ut freq.

6, l. 4, 'commodity' = benefit. So p. 10, l. 2: l. 5, 'decipher' = unfold, ut freq.: l. 9, 'onely by his labour' = by his labour only: l. 11, 'copesmates' = associates: l. 26, 'peeuishnes' —'peevish' is given = Sp. Pertinaz, stubborne, perverse, obstinate, by Florio. Similarly by Cotgrave and Sherwood, and by Minsheu, as Delirus and foolish, overthwarte, Drate: l. 19, 'Mirabolanes'—an Eastern fruit used medicinally as a purgative. Parkinson gives five kinds, M. Citrina, etc.—called 'Spanishe,' because brought by the Spaniards from the East. A fruit so called is now used by tanners, it being astringent.

7, l. 24, 'rebat' = beat back, repel (Fr. rebatre).

8, l. 14, 'hatcheth abuse'—an inversion = abuse hatcheth: l. 18-19—the punctuation should be reversed: . . . , instead of , . . . : l. 21, 'Cunnies in the hay'—the hay = the hedge, enclosure or net: l. 24, 'morgadge' —note spelling of this present-day word.

9, l. 6, 'banckrout' = bankrupt. The technical terms and names being all explained in the book are not annotated.
Page 9, The whole of these, and others, will be found in their places in the Glossary. See pp. 36-8 as examples of abounding technical terms: l. 20, 'make a hand'—now only a term used at cards for taking a hand or part: l. 23, 'firrette beate' = ferret beat, i.e. seize on him and overcome him, as a ferret does a cony or rabbit.

10, l. 9, 'Casis'—whether Law English or Latin, should be the plural 'Cases': l. 13, 'ouverture'—if not an error = opening, because opening or first prices are low: l. 15, 'Broremans'—looks like some press error. Query—Brokermans?: l. 18, 'your countrey man' = of your [part of the] country: l. 20, 'stale sib'—'sib' seems to be used here—looking to the apparent degradation of terms—kinne, al[ly], sib, in the sense of intimate or associate rather than a relative; and 'stale' may mean 'of a former time or long ago,' or there may be a sub-reference to the meaning of 'stale' or 'decoy': l. 24, 'worship' = one to whom higher deference was due.

12, l. 1, 'brabble' = quarrel, as still in use: l. 4, 'blinde Taverne'—an obscure or small out-of-the-way tavern. Cf. Gosson's 'Schoole of Abuse'—“Chenas a blind village in comparison of Athens”: Holinshed's History of Ireland, p. 24: of England, p. 200: Nomenclator, p. 9, Destour... a by-way, a crooked way; also a blind corner between
hills, or in a house, wherein men may hide themselves (Halliwell-Phillipps, s.v. 'Blind'). Cf. p. 31, l. 12 ; p. 46, l. 5 ; p. 76, l. 22 : l. 10, 'honest'—i.e. seeming honest. Greene's choice of this oddly-worded comparison is to be found explained in the context, where the subtlety is so 'seeming honest' as to be unlikely, etc. To 'pawne his stake to a pound' means, lay his 'stake' [presumably much greater] against a pound, or as we might say 100 to 1, that he must win: l. 27, 'langret' = dice so loaded as to throw more frequently a 4 or 3; but the Editor does not understand what a 'card quarter tray' is, unless it be an error for or a corruption of a quarre (Fr. carre or carré), a square or honest quarter tray. 'Card' in Northumberland is 'crooked,' but this doesn't yield sense here.

Page 13, l. 6, 'brybing'—an excellent example of the loose use of participles in —ing, it evidently meaning an officer open to a bribe or that is bribed.

16, l. 5, 'circumstance'—we use 'circumstances': l. 22, 'side pouch' = long pouch? or is 'side' used reduplicatively?

17, l. 1, 'browne study'—see Glossarial-Index s.v. for a full note: l. 16, 'fallowes' = metaphor from fallow ground ploughed up? l. 23, 'smack'—properly 'taste,' but here used in a canting sense for 'smoke' = suspect.
Page 18, l. 22, 'firet-claw'—see note on p. 9, l. 23.

19, l. 4, 'handy-thrifte' = handicraft: l. 27, 'hauing' = greed-gaining.

20, l. 23, 'induce' = lead in, ut freq.

21, l. 3, 'paire'—as at p. 11, l. 14, this and 'deck' were the ordinary terms for a pack of cards.

22, l. 9, 'cut' = to take off part of the pack and then place the lower half on top of it; i.e. reverse the two portions. Here, however, as the 'cutting' has taken place, it must be a misprint or slip for 'call' or 'cull': l. 11, 'cote-card'—what we now call a Court Card, i.e. a pictured one, one that has a coat or other garment on. We call them 'Court Cards' because they are the King and Queen and the attendant or Knave: l. 22, 'fiue .... set'—he means the 'set' or number of games they play (the rubber) is 'fiue' such, and he loses them all of course. It may as well be noted here that Greene appears to have omitted to tell us that after the cutting, the cards seem to have been turned face upwards—or, as is more likely, the cards were then drawn one by one from the bottom of the pack, not from the top—otherwise, it being the lowermost of the larger pack, the chances would be that the card named by the other would turn up first; but he provides against this chance by cutting only five cards from the top,
then on facing them upwards, the chances are against the other card being in the upper four or five.

Page 23, l. 19, 'I' = aye.

" 24, l. 26, 'dominere' = rule. An odd use of this word is found in the title-page of one of the many attacks on Bp. Wren called "Wren's Anatomy." It bears to have been printed "in the yeare that Wren ceased to domheere," 1641.

" 26, l. 13, 'chopping' = changing, much like the trick now called "passing."

" 27, l. 13, 'he striketh his chapt card'—he draws the card whose place he had privily changed—not the card spoken of p. 26, l. 13, but a card in this new game: l. 18, 'forty to one'—this ratio (repeated p. 28, l. 15), and the cony's supposition that the 'Barnacle' had won by chance, "asking for," i.e. calling or naming a card that happened to be in the small packet of five cut from the top, are also proofs of what has been stated under p. 22, l. 22: ll. 27-8, 'the bottome carde . . . uppermost'—the explanation of this will afford a further proof. The Verser cuts three cards from the top, the uppermost of these being stated to be a card seen by the Barnacle when shuffling. Then the Verser lifting the remainder of the pack, shows its bottom card to the Cony and places it on the three cards that were first cut. The Barnacle's card is then the
third from the bottom and the Cony’s fourth, therefore the Barnacle must and does win when they draw, first the bottom card and then those that immediately follow. The explanation of our phrase therefore must be this: before shuffling the Barnacle takes notice of the lowest or “bottom” card and in shuffling manages to make it the “uppermost.” The comma (,) after ‘Carde,’ should probably be removed to after ‘knaves,’ and we must suppose either that Greene has written very carelessly, or that he or the compositor has omitted some such words as “knaves [and chops it] to be,” thus explaining the “chopping” that he says he will explain in the previous clause.

Page 29, l. 8, ‘braues’ = bravadoes : l. 10, ‘he is’—an example of how carelessly Greene wrote this piece or this part at least. The ‘he’ cannot be the ‘Cony,’ but must refer to the ‘knaues,’ and should be ‘they are.’ We have a similar example p. 34, l. 20, “fewe men . . . vnlesse hee . . . . him.” But in 1592 text various of these slips are put right. See at the beginning of these Notes and Illustrations: l. 17, ‘rakehels’—the derivation of this may be (1) him for whom hell must be raked, i.e. the dregs of hell; or (2) he who rakes hell in order to gain his wicked ends: l. 24, ‘receipt’—we now say (similarly) of ‘any account.’

“30, l. 21, ‘fleest’ = fleeced.
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

Page 31, l. 11, 'vanity' = vainness or uselessness, as in "vanity and vexation of spirit": l. 11, 'blind'—see note on p. 12, l. 4: l. 16, 'neerly' = carefully or even miserly kept. We still use the phrase "he is very near," etc.: l. 17, 'dicker' = a bundle of ten, applied most frequently to hides or skins.

32, l. 12, 'warriner' = keeper of a warren.

33, l. 20, 'conveyance'—an earlier instance of "Convey, the wise it call steal," etc. (Merry Wives of Windsor, i. 3); and there are other instances in this piece.

35, l. 3, 'purchasers'—i.e. of lands or houses, as in p. 34, l. 24: l. 7, 'begers hauen'—as 'Beggars.' Bush = the rendezvous for beggars, and by consequence and metaphor, beggary.

36, l. 6, 'Hind'—see Index of Names, and so l. 10, 'Noble,' and l. 11, 'Round Robin.'

37, l. 20, 'Barddice'—dice barred or prevented from (so often) throwing up certain numbers, as the 4 and 3. On 'Langrets' see note on p. 12, l. 27: 'Gourds'—dice scooped out on one side or more, as fullams were loaded on one or more sides, the effect being similar, namely, that of making the lighter side turn uppermost. On 'Flats,' 'Forgers,' 'Demies,' see Glossarial-Index, s.v.

39, l. 20, 'reuersion' = back motion.

40, l. 7, 'braue fellowes'—i.e. bravely attired. Cf. p. 43, l. 11: l. 15, 'cosin'—cf. p. 38, versing law and Barnard's law: l. 15,
'grime'—apparently a cant term, probably = cheat.

Page 41, l. 10, 'Ipocras,' or Hippocras = drink, spice and sugar strained; a sieve being said to be called in apothecaries' language 'Hippocrates' sleeve': l. 21, 'side hair' = long hair? or whiskers?: l. 25, 'ownes' = wounds. Cf. p. 48, l. 13.

'' 42, l. 2, 'huffe-snuffe'—"one who readily takes pepper in the nose," or, as here, "appears to do so," a swaggerer or bully: last l., 'garted gowns' = faced, banded or trimmed.

'' 43, l. 2, 'blew starch'—the fashionable starch of the day: l. 3, 'surfuling water'—water containing sulphur or mercury with which the skin was washed to beautify it: l. 4, 'stales' = decoys: l. 5, 'Si quis' = If any one—the commencement of advertisements put up in St. Paul's, etc., by persons seeking for employment. Cf. Every Man out of his Humour, ii. 2 ad fin.: l. 18, 'verse'—here, as in p. 44, l. 11, a cant term for passing off bad money, etc. See p. 37, l. 2; p. 46, l. 23.

'' 44, l. 2, 'aboord on him'—see Glossarial-Index, under 'boord,' etc., ut freq.: l. 8, 'traines' = decoys or lures, ut freq.: l. 21, 'trugs' = harlots. Cf. p. 37, l. 17: 'Neapolitan favor' = lu. ven.

'' 45, l. 2, 'parators' = apparitors, beadles or messengers of the Courts spiritual: l. 12, 'Arches' = Court of Arches: l. 23, 'fetch
her off' = cozen her: l. 25, 'feare' in causal sense, cause to fear.

Page 46, l. 5, 'blind patches'—'blind' = obscure. See note on p. 12, l. 4. 'Patches' are generally fools, so called from their parti-coloured dress, but here it would seem to mean one whose poverty caused him to be patched, and so a discreditable fellow: l. 18, 'traffiques' = harlots. Cf. p. 38, l. 1; p. 40, l. 24.

" 47, l. 3, 'shot' = reckoning: ib., 'noble'—according as he meant the 'angel' noble, 11/-, or 'Rose' noble, 14/6; the 'George' noble was 9/-: l. 13, 'whistled'—literally 'cut'—still in use (very frequently in United States), i.e. intoxicated.

" 48, l. 6, 'linkes of [the chain of] his whistle. Cf. p. 49, l. 2; p. 50, l. 2: l. 13, 'gogs nownes'—an attempt at making innocent the oath 'God's wounds': l. 23, 'Counter' prison so called.

" 49, l. 3, 'of' = on or to: l. 13, 'braue' = bravado: l. 14, 'bidden' = bide, as in 'bid the base.'

A PLEASANT DISCOVERY, ETC.

" 51, l. 5, 'legering'—from French leger or legier, light: l. 6, 'colliers'—it must be remembered throughout that 'coals' here mean 'charcoal,' and 'colliers' = charcoal sellers. Hence p. 53, l. 9, we have 'wilow coles' as small and of a bad or poor kind. Cf. p. 55, l. 3; p. 56, l. 27: l. 10, 'left, etc.'—explained further on in text.
Page 52, l. 12, 'Whetstone' = a place near Finchley, about five or six miles from town,—the others well known.

" 53, l. 4, 'wilow coles'—see note on p. 51, l. 6.
" 56, l. 13, 'Bul'—the hangman of the time, as onward: l. 27, 'shruffe' = light rubbish, wood.
" 57, l. 23, 'broche' = spit: Fr. broche-r.
" 58, l. 17, 'cheap'd'—much as 'chap' to bargain or purchase—hence Cheapside in London, etc., etc.
" 59, l. 8, 'backe side'—see Glossarial-Index s.v. for a full note, ut freq.: l. 12, 'shrews'—used in a would-be jocular manner, he being already "mazed" who uses it.
" 60, l. 3, 'lambeakes' = strokes—verb also used, 'lambeak'—one root, 'lam,' to beat.
" 61, l. 2, 'pate or two' = pate broken here and there: l. 3, 'Jack Drum'—see full note in Index of Names, s.n., and annotated Life in Vol. I.

SECOND PART OF CONNIE CATCHING.

Page 70, l. 1, 'courtla' = cutlass, ut freq.: l. 2, 'vnleager' = raise the siege.

" 71, l. 3, 'inferred' = brought in: l. 5, 'con-ueiance'—see note on p. 33, l. 20: l. 27, 'cawtels' = cunning devices.
" 72, l. 15, 'feedes themselves'—on this and numerous verb forms see annotated Life
in Vol. I.: l. 17, ‘breake the yoke’—qy. misprint for ‘beare the yoke’? l. 18, ‘painfull’—painstaking.

Page 73, l. 6, ‘for’—against, ut freq.: l. 7, ‘Gangrena’ = gangrene or mortification: l. 8, ‘censure’ = judgment, ut freq.: l. 20, ‘ease’—the sentence will be more easily understood if we read ‘ease,’ [as] their s. b.

" 74, l. 10, ‘long . . . losse’—he means to speak scoffingly, i.e. worthy to live long and go ever down hill: l. 11, ‘abroach’ = a-running, as still in use.


" 77, l. 23, ‘gran’—qy. misprint for gra[n] used figuratively, or for ‘man’: l. 26, ‘artificially’ = skilfully: l. 28, ‘slop’ = the baggy thigh portion.

" 78, l. 2, ‘cantle and boulsters’—‘cantle’ = forepart or arched part of the saddle—other terms technical and familiar: l. 3, ‘bombast’—stuffing, cotton wool was so called: ib., ‘with’—qy. ‘which’? l. 4, ‘vices may’ = devices; more likely “hinges or the like”: l. 7, ‘Scotch brake’—a ‘brake’ is a snaffle—apparently there was then some special one known as Scotch: l. 8, ‘feitely’ = neatly: l. 19, ‘vntould’ = without paying the legal tax on such a transaction. See the word ‘touler,’ p. 79, l. 4—evidently the officer appointed to take these tolls.
Page 79, l. 10, 'knightes of the post'—fellows who could be hired at the posts outside the Courts of Law to swear anything or go bail for any one—for a small consideration: 

l. 14, 'Queries'—a cant term which may or may not be a corruption of 'equeries': 

ib., 'there' = their.

" 80, l. 3, 'trust'—a horse is said to be well 'trussed' when he is of a compact make and not too long or spare between his lowest rib and his haunch: l. 8, 'seared'—we learn that he was marked with a 'starre,' and as this cannot (I think) be done by searing, probably Greene simply meant "marked" or as we might say "cered." A waxed or cered cloth was then spelt 'sear-cloth': l. 13, 'hurly hurly' = noise and tumult: l. 19, 'bet the prise' = beat down the price asked: l. 21, 'clapped' = shaking hands.

" 82, l. 20, 'affected'—qy. 'aspected'? 
" 83, l. 5, 'soken' = drunkards: l. 7, 'grypes'—possibly from the bird so called (see Bateman xviii. c. 56), though the word existed and the bird was so called from its grasping propensities: l. 8, 'lay' = bet, as still in use: ll. 15, 23, 'booty'—apparently a phrase then equal to 'confederately for advantage' or the like.

" 84, l. 20, 'tearmage.' See next clause and p. 87, l. 4.

" 85, l. 10, 'shoare' = a slant stroke, i.e. one that
reaches its mark by a curve: l. 17, *hel-rakers.* See note on p. 29, l. 17.

Page 89, l. 5—transpose the ) after 'vp.'

90, l. 21, *parsley*—the speaker "in a braverie" carried himself beforehand as a conqueror, "parsley" having been worn as a garland by victors.

91, l. 1, *morrice pike*—a large pike formerly used in England, and according to Nares derived from the Moors: l. 22, *to pitch his haie* = to pitch his toils, "haie" from the French, a hedge or fence, enclosure, net or snare in the then English. See "haie" in Glossarial-Index, s.v.

92, l. 28, *seck*—ut freq.—this spelling (and pronunciation) goes to support the etymology from the French. See p. 93, l. 5.

93, l. 15, *serving man*—not our "servant," but an attendant (who might be of gentle blood) on some one of rank, as shown by his sword, cloak, and ring, and by his belt being as a pawn worth £5, pp. 94-5.

95, l. 8, *call* = the sum first laid (before the vie and revie) when each called or chose his card?: l. 7, *belt*—I presume his sword-belt, the sword having been already pawned. As to relative values of the sword and belt, compare Osric's "carriages very dear to fancy."

96, l. 6, *kindly* = naturally—with perhaps an equivocation, as his betrayer had been his friend: l. 10, *Harpie*—see Glossarial-
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

Index, s.v.: l. 24, 'Boung.' See p. 38, l. 19.

Page 97, l. 8, 'desparage'—this seems to mean 'injure,' and therefore = lower the value of, but an odd use of the word: l. 13, 'brauado' = boastful threat, as still in use.

98, l. 5, 'Prankar'—this has been explained as cant for a horse—hence the present passage should be read as though it were a Prancar or horse-stealer, i.e. a Prancar-stealer (or horse-stealer).

99, l. 3, 'cast'—chance hand or game: l. 7, 'stoop'—cant term for 'lose,' as before: l. 13, 'main' = the main original stake, separate from the vies and revies: l. 20, 'pronouns'—an easily understood jocular addition—probably commonly used in those times when one heard such an oath as 'gogges nownes,' and of course meant to express frequent swearing. In like manner 'swearing through the eight parts of speech' was a stronger expression, implying more continuous swearing, in "every word an oath" style. "At voluntary" is intended to intensify this, his only cause being his loss.

100, l. 5, 'taken suspicious'—an odd phrase for "taken on suspicion": l. 15, 'thrust . . . corner'—qy. they were tried? or that they "got over" their jury, etc.? : l. 18, 'burnt in the eares'—to be noted as a punishment (as well as shearing them off).
Page 101, l. 7, "crosse"—that stamped on coin and frequently used for coin itself. We should rather say 'to a crosse,' i.e. to his last half-penny; and it is this circumstance, and not the cross itself, that is "next neighbour to the gallows," or leads to it: l. 14, 'huffes'—displeasures, tempers: l. 15, 'a scholler they say he is, to make an inuicine against me.' See it reproduced in Vol. XI.: l. 22, 'cage'—it is 'caze' in the original, a misprint for 'cage' or 'case'—probably the latter, as the contents of the jakes were 'cased' and not 'caged' in their barrels, etc.

" 102, l. 5, 'Termers'—visitors who came up at (Law) term time: l. 7, 'fond'—found.

" 103, l. 1—here is another instance of Greene's carelessness and haste; for it seems rather an omission of Greene's than of the compositor, that there is wanting "[you]" or "[you will]" perhappes," etc., or "[may] perhappes": l. 19, 'Beare gardens'—often mentioned in Ben Jonson, etc.—see Index of Names, s.v.: ibid., 'running at Tilt'—Tilt-yard: l. 20, 'fraies'—frays, i.e. quarrellings and fightings, which of course called a crowd.

" 104, l. 2, 'straight'—strait: l. 14, 'their'—there—then interchanged.

" 105, l. 22, 'I marie'—ay marry.

" 106, l. 20, 'vilde'—vile: l. 25, 'remoue'—Nichols' "Progresses" remain to reveal to
us the "state and circumstance" of good Queen Bess's moves and removes.

Page 107, l. 9, 'legier de maine'—the words were scarcely yet naturalized as 'legerdemain': l. 13, 'purchase'—a most distinct proof that the word was then cant for what is stolen. Cf. 1 Henry IV. ii. 1: Henry V iii. 1. Cf. p. 110, l. 21; p. 111, l. 21; and p. 112, l. 24: l. 25, 'connies'—a more than curious term for a "Country Foist": l. 26, 'smoake'—used not merely, as before, and as now, to discover for himself what he is, but in the usual sense of causing him to be discovered or of discovering him to others.

,, 108, l. 4, 'moust[h]fair'—fair-spoken—of course such a word might be readily coined; but qy. a misprint for 'snout-fair'? :) l. 7, 'foists' = pickpockets: l. 16, 'Spanish pip' = l. ven.: ll. 13-17—again an instance of Greene's carelessness, etc. 'In cosening' refers to the female Foists, but 'are worthy,' etc., must refer to such dupes 'as glue themselves,' etc.; though by the wording, the nominatives to 'are worthy' are these 'Female Foists': l. 21, 'a hall.' Cf. p. 109, ll. 16—26. 'Smugglers' similarly held meetings for their own profit and protection.

,, 109, l. 10, 'reanswared' = the same amount given back: ib., 'while' = until, ut freq.: l. 21, 'Lawrence Pickering;' and l. 24,
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

'Bull'—see on p. 56, l. 13—repeated: l. 23, 'good calling'—a curious phrase considering what has just preceded. Does he mean 'of [a] good calling,' i.e. that his tavern, etc., was otherwise respectable, or 'of good reputation [except among those who knew better]'?

Page 110, l. 4, 'dailie trust up'—what a bloody code were the laws of the death-penalty then and far onward! Of course, with no colonies whither to banish criminals, the problem was a difficult and terrible one how to dispose of them, while the taxation that would have been required to build jails, etc., would have raised a rebellion, and the cost swallowed up the revenue. Still, it is frightful to realize to-day how light was the Elizabethan-Jacobean estimate of human life, and how high the estimate of "property, property": l. 9, 'and' = an: l. 12, 'staul.' See p. 103, l. 28, and cf. p. 104, l. 27, and p. 108, l. 11, his "shadow," helper, or as he calls him l. 24, his 'Novice': l. 15, 'old Coole'—this has not been given as cant for a "cut-purse." Can it be our cant "old Cole," as in the old song "Old King Cole was a merry old soul," etc.?

"111, l. 14, 'eye was still abroad'—wakeful and watchful, almost the converse of our use of the phrase.

"112, l. 24, 'closely' = secretly.
Page 113, l. 1, 'quandary'—properly a perplexity. Its use in this figurative sense is unusual:
l. 3, 'small beere'—early use of a present-day term, and found earlier still. See Glossarial-Index, s.v.

" 114, l. 8, 'middle walk' = middle aisle [of St. Paul's]: l. 20, 'strained'—taken either from the musical or tenter's art: l. 23, 'fetch' = take in.

" 115, l. 24, 'lyning of shelles'—see Catalogue, s.v. = money.

" 116, l. 5, 'died' = insensible, or, as we still say, 'in a dead faint.' So p. 115, l. 12: l. 14, 'Cuttle bong' = a cut-purse's knife. See Catalogue.

" 117, l. 12, 'hansell' = earnest money: l. 16, 'single money' = small money or change.

" 118, l. 2, 'prowleth' = a use probably due to its derivation from 'prowe,' prow-el, to make or obtain profit: l. 3, 'boultes' = the pieces (before cutting of definite length) now generally from their different form called 'rolls.' A 'bolt' of ship's canvas is said in dictionaries to be 28 ells long, but Admiral Smyth gives it as 39 nominal (and generally 40 real) yards: l. 4, 'conueyance.' See note on p. 33, l. 20: ib., 'slight' = sleight: l. 10, petulacerie' —this does not read like a cant word. Did Greene derive it from Ital. petulantia? which Florio gives as " wantones, saucines, malapertnes, ribaudrie, lecherous wantones,
reproachful speaking, dishonestie, im- pudence." And Petulante, as "... dishonest ... readie to do wrong, one that passeth not how ill he speaketh or doth to a man": l. 25, 'bracke' = flaw or imperfection. Lyly in his Euphues says that "the finest velvet has his bracke."

Page 119, l. 21, 'upon their pantophles' = upon their slippers, or, as we should say, 'upon their tiptoes,' or 'upon their high horse.'

" 120, l. 6, 'adamant' = magnet: l. 20, 'utter' = outer—noteworthy because of the other term 'withdrawing.' Much might be said on the insight given into the then manners by this leaving of rapiers, etc.: l. 26, 'ten shillings fee'—noteworthy, especially when we compare it with the usual physician's fee—a groat.

" 121, l. 2, 'on'—There are six other places in this sheet where there is more or less confusion of pronouns. Here, where there seems to be 'they,' and the verb in singular 'starteth,' I note because it may be a compositor's error rectified by punctuating 'lifting, on' and taking 'on' as = one. The other instances are pp. 113, l. 6; 117, l. 8; 119, l. 21; 120, l. 4; 124, ll. 16, 22: l. 9, 'tapping houses' = tap-houses: l.27, 'for' = in order to.

" 122, l. 23, 'tynes' = prongs.

" 124, l. 14, 'light' = lighted, as before.

" 125, l. 27, 'pottell' = a measure of two quarts;
and on 'Ipocras' see note p. 41, l. 10; in p. 127, l. 11, 'bottel' is an error for 'pottel,' as appears by p. 128, l. 1.

Page 126, l. 3, 'Flasket' = clothes-basket, and also a shallow washing-tub in various counties (Halliwell-Phillipps, s.v).

" 128, l. 21, 'wrests'—punctuate 'wrests,' [explained in next clause].

" 129, l. 7, 'Counter' = prison so named—destroyed in our own time only: l. 11, 'charm'—see last Catalogue: l. 17, 'ginnes' = engines of deceit, here pick-locks, etc.

" 130, l. 8, 'Bolton in the Mores' = Bolton le Moor: l. 27, 'cald .... him'—some slip or blundering of printer here. It may be rectified by transposing the words thus —'cald him in and askt,' etc., or it might be 'ask [t]h[e]m,' i.e. the servants inside.

" 131, l. 3, 'budget' = a bag, sack, or bundle, etc.: l. 4, 'blacke Jacke'—a can, or as Nares, speaking from observation, says, a pitcher of leather. It was called 'black' either from its colour after use, or from its difference from the metal cans or pots: l. 25, 'alias'—an interjection merely, or at most a sham-pitying one.

" 133, l. 3, 'nappy ale' = strong ale. The derivation is doubtful. Palsgrave says 'nappy ale vigoreux'; Minsheu, 'either because it takes you by the nape of the neck or makes you sleepy'; Sherwood, 'brew
forte': l. 6, 'a good.' So p. 160, l. 25
-used much as 'a late,' now 'alate,' etc.,
and = well (or fully or broadly): l. 14,
'basil' = a clog of some kind, usually
spelt 'brasil' or 'brasill.' See p. 226,
l. 1, etc.: l. 20, 'while' = until. Cf. p. 151,
l. 20, ut freq.

THE THIRDE PART.

Title-page—In the original is a rough woodcut of
a Fool and a gay dressed female with a
'coney' in her hand—cards lying about.
Page 140, l. 3, 'Whittington Colledge'—College
Hill, Upper Thames Street, is so called
after the College St. Spirit and St. Mary,
founded by Richard Whittington. It was
suppressed by the statute of Edward VI.
See Stow's Survey, edited by Thoms,
p. 91. It may be here noted that in the
title-page of the anonymous "Defence"
against Greene's tractates on Conny-
catching, Cuthbert Cunny-catcher describes
himself as "Licentiate of Whittington
College." See the "Defence" in next vol.

"141, l. 2, 'forfend' = forbid or fend or ward us
against, much as in the word (spoken of
witches) 'forespoke': l. 13, 'driftes' =
devices.

"144, l. 7, 'deciphered' = unfolded, ut freq.: ll.
9—10, 'quoth he, . . . catching': punctuate
'he; . . . catching,' So p. 147, ll. 22-4,
we have 'exploit . . . kindred: Vpon'
where we should reverse the punctuation. But from p. 152, l. 10, and frequent similar, this seems to have been Greene's own punctuation. Cf. p. 153, l. 21; p. 155, l. 25, etc., etc.: l. 14, 'intenting' = leading, stretching toward.

Page 145, l. 11, 'shadowed' = concealed.

Page 146, l. 10, 'copesmates' = associates, ut freq.

Page 147, l. 8, 'artificial' = art-made, or artful. Cf. p. 153, l. 11: l. 11, 'paltries' = trifles or peltries.

Page 148, l. 20, 'a bowed groat'—as now 'a crooked sixpence.'

Page 149, l. 14, 'as'—used where we should use 'that' or 'as that': l. 23, 'Treacher' = traitor.

Page 150, l. 25, 'Ortographie'—note spelling—Greene frequently drops the h of the θ (theta).

Page 151, l. 21, 'fadge' = suit or fit.

Page 153, l. 14, 'sightly'—apparently used as = open to sight.

Page 154, l. 28, 'fetling' = preparing or getting ready: 'engin' = wit, Latin ingenium.

Page 155, l. 7, 'a fleece'—probably a slang term.

Page 156, l. 24, 'gives' = tells. We still say in an opposite sense 'my mind misgives me.'

Page 157, l. 10, 'marke the stands'—a term in hunting = mark where the game is: l. 19 'owes' = owns, ut freq.: l. 20, 'trugge' = harlot, ut freq.: l. 26, 'holpe' = holpen.

Page 158, l. 4, 'meane' = medium: l. 28, [had]—
but perhaps 'it beene' was a way of expressing our 'it had been.'

Page 159, l. 9, 'a gallon or two'—hence it is clear that the wines then in use were much lighter than those now commonly used, or else the capacity to drink of our forefathers was greater: l. 21, 'he . . . . morning'—read these words as though within ( ).

161, l. 9, 'compacted' = in pact with, confederated. So p. 163, l. 15: l. 19, 'such houses' = inns, etc., as well as play-houses proper, where plays at that time were often performed. Cf. "in open markets," etc. See also note on p. 173: l. 22, 'fetch' = device, lure or bringing in, ut freq.

162, l. 5, 'traine' = stratagem or snare, ut freq.: l. 7, 'Gracious' = Gracechurch? l. 18, 'counterfeit' = deceiving: l. 22, 'sleeue, etc.'—noteworthy as showing the habits and customs of the time. It may be noted that the hose, or as we call them 'breeches,' were slop or bombast fashion.

163, l. 17, 'iumpe' = agree: l. 26, 'Foole-taker' = Cony-catcher, as on title-page, etc.

164, l. 2, 'journey westward' = to Tyburn, as before: l. 16, 'Bandora'—see Glossarial-Index, s.v.: l. 22, 'artificiall,' ibid.

167, l. 9, 'house-rent' = the rent of an extra-large house, involving higher 'housekeeping': II. 9, 24, 'commoditie' = advantage or gain, as before: l. 13, 'serving-man'
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

—see note on page 93, l. 15: l. 20, 'regarded' = looked after, observed or watched: l. 21, 'frustrate' = frustrated, 't' being the final consonant.

Page 168, l. 20, 'pillow-beeres' = pillow-slips or cases.

" 169, l. 19, 'Of one,' etc.—the insertion of this story, differing in no essential from a former tale, though Greene would explain that it was more accurate, suggests (as much else does) that he simply wrote these tractates when specially impecunious and needy: l. 22, 'Conning' = conny-ing; or qy. = cunning?

" 170, l. 18, 'rounding' = whispering; but see Glossary, s.v.

" 171, l. 4, 'by cocke and pie'—an attempted innocent variation of 'by God,' and (it is said) the pie, or book of sacred offices; but qy. was not the original word pix — the vessel containing the Host?: l. 11, 'was presently'—an instance of the licence in writing of the day, for it requires before it [the wine]: l. 21, 'all a-mort,' etc. Howell translates it in his lexicon by 'triste, pensatif.'

" 173, l. 1, 'the Bull'—not the play-house afterwards called 'the Red Bull,' but the Inn, as shown by the word 'stable' (l. 6). The play was performed, as frequently, or usually, in the yard or court. See Collier's "Annals of the Stage," iii. 324. It must have been 'good custom' for 'mine host':

x. 20
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

l. 8, 'counters' = pseudo-money: l. 10, 'ought' = owned: l. 20, 'conusiance'—qy. misprint for 'conueiance'? See p. 174, l. 4: l. 25, 'minion' = mistress (in a bad sense). See Glossarial-Index, s.v.

Page 177, l. 18, 'reuerence' = of cap and knee.

" 178, l. 7, 'attending' = waiting for, expecting: l. 26, 'liberally'—misprinted 'literally' in the original: ll. 21-7—this sentence (ut frequenter) discloses Greene's haste. We must take—'who still . . . his kindness' as one long parenthesis: thus the 'he not discrediting' is the [he] desiring pardon. Cf. similar haste in p. 182, l. 13: l. 28, 'curtesie of the Citie' = offering him wine at a tavern? or generally attention of citizens to a visitor-stranger?

" 179, l. 8, 'Jewell'—note the word as applied to a gold chain: l. 14, 'reaches' = over-reaches: l. 21, 'Paules Chaine'—Cassell's "Old and New London" (p. 266) says it was so called from a chain that used to be drawn across the carriage way of the Churchyard to preserve silence during service. From the text 'going down' while the gentleman 'went up' Fleet Street, it was probably applied (both name and chain) to the Cheapside outlet from the Churchyard.

" 182, l. 1, 'happen'—error for 'happened': l. 10, 'worthy'—misprinted 'worldly' in the original.
Notes and illustrations.

Page 184, l. 16, 'stall'—the 'stall' that formed the front of the shop, there being then no window fronts. See the story of the knave over hearing what was said in the tailor's shop, p. 186: l. 17, 'shorte'—i.e. he would say that he had let it down 'shorte' or missingly of the 'stall,' and so had really let it down a longer distance, namely, to the pavement: l. 21, 'roundly' = clearly, fully, openly—so used because the rotundus or circle or sphere, from which the word is derived, has no secret points, etc., about it.

190, l. 24, 'their'—misprinted 'this' in the original.

192, l. 19, 'bolts' = shackles.

A DISPVTATION BETWEENE A HEE CONNY-CATCHER, ETC.

Title-page—has a rude woodcut of rabbit-headed persons, as in prior tractates.

Page 197, l. 8. So p. 235, l. 16. See Cant-terms as explained frequenter: l. 12, 'broacht up' = spitted, or as one nails up vermin on a barn-door.

198, l. 11, 'brusting'—note spelling. Baret's 'Alvearie' (1580) gives both forms: l. 19, 'worship' = reverence, i.e. character: l. 20, 'forehead'—he refers to a particular and frequent result of lues ven.: l. 21, 'Master Huggins'—see Index of Names, s.n.
Page 199, l. 7, 'Oeyliades'—press error for Oeyliades, Fr. *Oeilliades*, amorous glances or looks: l. 8, 'Adios' = Spanish for 'adieu': l. 10, 'frouncing' = curling, or wrinkling, i.e. crinkling, waving or crisping: l. 17, 'Hieria'—The Hyena from Pliny's days was said to counterfeit men's voices in order to entrap them and others (though not to sing), and (Natural History, B. 28, c.8) Holland translates—"...in the Hyæna itselfe there is a certain magicall vertue, attributing a wonderful power thereto, in transporting the mind of man or woman, and ravishing their senses so as that it will allure them unto her very strangely." But qy.—odd as the misprint is, is it a blunder for Sirens? The context 'tunes' and 'passengers' suggests this: l. 22, 'throathes'—note spelling: l. 26, 'bufts'—cant term, as before. See Glossarial-Index, s.v.

" 200, l. 3, 'Apparater' = the legal functionary who cites or summons one to appear: l. 4, 'verst'—see as on p. 199, l. 26, *et freq.*

" 201, l. 16, 'not'—an evident example of a not uncommon mistake of the compositor for 'but.'

" 203, l. 6, 'Vine Court'—see Index of Names, s.n.: l. 16, 'Pierce penilesse' = beggarhood, with a tacit reference to the tractates under this name: l. 17, 'byte' = bit: or it may be = bite.

" 204, l. 3, 'quarterne' = a wind on the quarter
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

(the most favourable): l. 4, 'lystes'—seemingly error for 'lystes,' i.e. lifts—the cant term for stealing from windows, etc., as before described: l. 11, 'briskt'—we say 'briskt up,' pranked up: l. 18, 'clayed'—intruded upon by others claiming a share—a thieves' cant term: l. 24, 'stauls' = stales, lures. Cf. p. 210, l. 5, and Catalogues, as before.

Page 206, l. 3, 'Pragges' = prigges. Cf. p. 222, l. 11: l. 10, 'offeing'—press error for 'afifeing,' i.e. affying.

" 207, l. 11, 'presse = throng.
" 209, l. 1, 'choplodgicke' = smatterer ?
" 210, l. 5, 'until' = while, ut freq.: l. 18, 'truggage house' = house of ill fame. See Catalogues, as before.
" 211, l. 19, 'pipping' = pippin.
" 212, l. 2, 'woodcock' = a fool.
" 214, l. 4, 'Blackamore'—used much as we use 'blackleg': l. 18, 'Counter' = prison so named, ut freq.
" 215, l. 16, 'imbollish'—apparently a Greene coinage from Italian Imbolare, to filch or steal. Cf. p. 230, l. 25.
" 216, l. 19, 'brooke all'—not clear whether = broke all, i.e. broke up altogether, or an error for 'brooke[d] all,' i.e. bore, all that was said, patiently [as he had not done before].
" 217, l. 3, 'Muse' = hole or burrow, otherwise Muset: l. 6, 'fetch' = trick: l. 8, 'quit' = requite: l. 21, 'for' = against, as before.

', 219, l. 9, 'Lemman' = mistress.

', 222, l. 7, 'giving you the bucklers' = confess myself vanquished : l. 9, 'induce' = bring in or introduce : l. 10, 'by talk' = side talk or talk by the way and not to the purpose in hand : l. 19, 'Vnguantum' = Vnguentum—Greene here and elsewhere adapted his Latinity to his 'vulgar' characters : l. 20, 'Jack Rhoades'—see Index of Names : l. 25, 'on head'—probably press error for 'on [his] head.'

', 223, l. 6, 'sandeyde'—same as 'purblind,' as above : ib., 'Western Prigge'—see Glossarial-Index, s.v.: l. 9, 'chiefe of the Clargies favour'—an impudent boast : l. 14, 'Hogsdon . . . Chat and Strong'—see Index of Names, s.n. : l. 21, 'a morrow masse priest'—see Glossarial-Index for note (s.v.)

', 225, l. 9, 'his blacke booke.' See page 236, l. 22. It was published immediately—viz. in 1592 (see next Vol.) : l. 12, 'Bull' = the hangman, as before : l. 17, 'Nine boales.' See p. 237, l. 1—qy. = nine holes? l. 23, 'boulte'—see note on p. 118, l. 3.

', 226, l. 1, 'brasill'—see note on p. 133, l. 14 : l. 3, 'a daungerous Ioynyt'—see Glossarial-Index, s.v. : l. 11, 'washt'—the tale is purposely made obscure and ambiguous.
The word French would lead us to think of the lues ven.; but the words "he had that he had not," and the word 'Ale Peria'—an error for Alopecia, the medical name for sickness or mange, leading to baldness, seems to forbid this.

Page 227, l. 10, *pluckards* = plackets or a pocket in the dress or petticoat (Halliwell-Phillipps), not as Nares and Dyce, the petticoat itself: l. 17, 'starting hoales'—a figure from conies, which have many openings to their burrows that they may more readily escape: l. 23, 'Spilsby' = town in Lincolnshire.

" 228, l. 8, 'peate' = 'pet' variant: or more likely of 'peart.'

" 230, l. 16, 'bucklars'—see note on p. 222, l. 7: l. 25, 'imbollish'—see note on p. 215, l. 16.

" 232, l. 7, 'loathsome leprosie' = secondary effects of l. ven.: l. 10, 'S (Sythi)'—see Index of Names, s.n.: l. 25, 'suffragen' = suffragan—one who assists, and therefore his other co-rivals.

" 233, l. 4, 'beleauings' = leavings: l. 12, 'French Marbles.' So p. 235, l. 17. Not seen this before, but easily understandable: l. 20, 'Piggen hoales' = pigeon holes, or those through which the punished persons passed their hands (as in the pillory): l. 21, 'Fouler'—see Index of Names, s.n. = jailor: l. 26, 'Knightes of the Poste'—see on p. 79, l. 10: l. 27, 'dine with Duke
Humfrey,' i.e. lounged in St. Paul's where was the tomb of D. H., not being able to dine at all.

Page 234, l. 9, 'surphaling water' = surphuling, i.e. a cosmetic wash, as before: l. 10, 'Potato rootes'—not long introduced—odd to find them in apothecaries' shops; but were then held to be provocative: l. 13, 'Broades men'—board men or sides men? l. 15, 'Gally, etc.'—names of inns or taverns apparently: l. 23, 'cupples' = the coupling lines, etc., of hounds: l. 25, 'Shordish' = Shoreditch—and see Index of Names, s.n., for note.

" 235, l. 16, 'laizers' = lazars, lepers.
" 236, l. 5, 'Hamborough knife' = Hamburgh—probably a sort of bowie knife: l. 20, 'bilbowe blades' = Bilbao swords.
" 237, l. 1, 'Ryfling' = rafling? l. 8, 'Bed-roll' = Bede-roll.
" 239, l. 20, 'prick-song' = the music written or 'pricked down.'
" 240, l. 10, 'licentious'—like 'wanton,' was then sometimes used in a more modified sense than now: l. 16, 'ipsi'—misprinted 'ipse' in the original: l. 20, 'ordinary dancer' = a dancer who ordinarily or usually danced when opportunity was given.
" 243, l. 1, 'admirable' = worthy of being admired: l. 2, 'gards' = ornamental pieces or welts on garments: l. 17, 'garish' = fine, or foolishly fine: l. 20, 'iet abroad' = strut
abroad and (implied) go abroad more than is common. Cf. l. 22, and ll. 25-7, and p. 244, l. 2.

Page 244, l. 16, 'Moly'—the bulbous plant given by Hermes to Ulysses to preserve him from the debaucheries of Circe.

247, l. 1, 'gawle'—bawl, and spelt 'gale'—cry or scream (Halliwell-Phillipps, s.v.): l. 2, 'ribadrous'—ribald.

248, l. 1, 'plot'—ground, being used as plot of ground: l. 12 onward—quotations from Ecclesiasticus, (1) (2) from Ecclus. xxvi. 10, 11, (3) from Ecclus. xlii. 9–11.

249, l. 16, 'sien'—scion: l. 18, 'odorentesta,' sic: qy. misprint for 'adolescentia'?

250, l. 26, 'brute'—rumour, report.

251, l. 1, 'cutting'—lewd: l. 10, 'Rufflers'—riotous fellows: l. 17, 'affection'—noun used as verb.

252, l. 4, 'Bathe'—I suppose the city so named: l. 8, 'his'—misprinted 'her' in the original: l. 28, 'if'—misprinted 'of' in the original.

254, l. 22, 'with'—misprinted 'which' in the original.

255, l. 18, 'creduulous'—credible.

257, l. 12, 'forked'—cornuted.

258, l. 7—Greene's liking for contrast phrases, and the (apparent) sense, seem to require, that the first 'him' here should be 'her': l. 8, 'shadow'—overshadow, place in the shade, hide: l. 12, 'drug'—drudge. Cf.
p. 260, l. 10: l. 20, 'back-house' = separate and back menial offices, etc.


" 260, l. 27, 'slips'—see context for description, but 'a' is an inadvertent insertion.

" 261, l. 12, 'cushnet'—the explanation of this is somewhat difficult, the more so that Greene has previously said (ll. 8-9) that he laid the slips in the window. Nares' examples s.v. 'Cushionet' do not lessen the difficulty. The word clearly means 'a small cushion,' and as Cotgrave has s.v. Coussinet "... also a cushionet or boulster of folded linnen, laid on the plaister of a wound," so it may have meant a quilted and similarly-formed ladies' pocket.

" 262, l. 7, 'quandom' = quondam.

" 263, l. 7, 'I gesse'—the still quick Yankee phrase. So pp. 271, l. 24, and 278, l. 10.

" 265, l. 7, 'sweeting' = darling.

" 267, l. 19, 'to make a piece of money' = caused him to turn something (his possessions, etc.) into money.

" 268, l. 18, 'as honest'—of course ironical, as proved by his 'houses of great hospitalitie,' etc.: l. 25, 'staule' = stale, lure.

" 269, l. 1, 'parsonage' = personage: l. 9, 'maine chance'—a kind of cant phrase still for profit or advantage.

" 270, l. 13, 'gip.' See it used "Marie gippe Giglet" in Greene's 'Neuer Too Late to
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

Mend,' and note there. Same as the exclamation to a horse 'gee up.'

Page 274, l. 8, 'couert' = hidden place.

" 278, l. 9, 'briefly' = quickly: or perhaps it agrees better with its sense in King John iv. 3, where Nares says, "it seems to be used for ripe, a corruption still heard among the vulgar."

II. PROVERBS, PROVERBIÁL SAYINGS, PHRASES, ETC.

Page 5, l. 8, 'time refineth mens affects.'

" 6, l. 18, 'I haue smyled with the Italian, and worne the vipers head in my hand, and yet stopt his venome,' etc.

" 7, l. 1, 'as our wits be as ripe as any, so our willes are more ready then they all': l. 4, 'custome hath almost made them a law.'

" 8, l. 13, 'as in time and malice of mans nature hatcheth abuse'—see Notes and Illustrations on the place: l. 19, 'whose wits is in their hands': l. 20, 'like Cunnies in the hay'—see Notes and Illustr. on the place: l. 26, 'at one cut at Cardes loseth all his money.'

" 10, l. 6, 'by long trauell learned without Booke.'

" 12, l. 10, 'the devill is more honest then the holiest Angell.'

" 13, l. 3, 'the pickpockets (sir reuereunce I meane)'—the blunt name 'pickpockets' being held
for indecorous, the euphemism of 'sir reverence' is added.

Page 16, l. 6, 'the poore countrie farmer or Yeoman is the marke which they most of all shoote at.'

17, l. 16, 'he comes over his fellowes kindly':
1. 24, 'smells a rat.'
19, l. 18, 'crieth halfe part.'
21, l. 26, 'plain as a pike staf.'
22, l. 23, 'no butter will cleaue on my bread,'
24, l. 26, 'now gramercie sir for this trick.'
26, l. 19, 'I came hether in an ill houre.'
27, l. 19, 'ile haue you on the lurch anone.'
32, l. 25, 'geue him his paiment': l. 27, 'tis a mad world,' etc.
33, l. 7, 'yet haue they clokes for the raine':
1. 14, 'turne the cat in the pan'—this is a good example of the meaning of this saying — the reverse procedure.
34, l. 21, 'some pretie way, more then the world is witnes to.'
35, l. 4, 'foloweth his nose alwaies straight for-ward': l. 9, 'beat my wits,' etc.
39, l. 7, 'bidding them adue to the deuil.'
40, l. 19, 'maintaine the maine chance.'
41, l. 1, 'so many men so many affections.'
42, l. 14—these are earlier versions of Scripture proverbs than the Breeches Bible.
46, l. 7, 'their plate on the boorde verie solemnly.'
49, l. 1, 'laide his whistle to pawn for mony.'
52, l. 19, 'hold vp thy hand at the bar.'
60, l. 8, 'tried by the verdit of the smock': l. 27, 'might overcomes right.'
Page 70, l. 24, 'words are wind, & looks but glances':
   l. 25, 'every thunderclap hath not a bolt, nor
every Conny-catchers oath an execution.'

    74, l. 7, 'forewarned, forearmed' . . 'burnt
children dread the fire': l. 10, 'still by the
losse.'

    77, l. 12, 'cry with the Lapwing farthest from
their nest.'

    80, l. 4, 'the hardest happe was but a halter.'

    85, l. 20, 'I have seen men ston-blind offer to
lay bets franckly.'

    89, l. 22, 'the Foxe the more he is curst, the
better he fares.'

    90, l. 21, 'weare parsly in his hat'—see Notes
and Illustr. on the place: l. 23, 'lookt on his
feet, and valed his plumes with the Peacocke.'

    91, l. 22, 'pitch his haie'—see Notes and Illustr.
on the place.

    93, l. 21, 'sit you merrie.'

    99, l. 9, 'measure all things by minutes': l. 13,
'maintain the main and to checke vies with
revies': l. 17, 'turned to walk penylesse in
Marke lane'—see Notes and Illustr. in
this place on the other proverbs, etc., here.

    100, l. 23, 'what they got in the bridle they lost
in the saddle.'

    101, l. 4, 'he that maketh a trap falleth into the
snare himselfe.'

    105, l. 16, 'so long the pitcher goeth to the brooke
that it commeth broken home': l. 25, 'they
take time while time serues and make hay
while the Sunne shines.'
Page 116, l. 3, 'breeds'—this shows that in the phrase
"bred and born" bred is in its proper place
and refers not to the breeding after birth
pace a recent discussion in Notes and Quer"ies.

" 117, l. 22, 'I see he that makes a snare, first
falles into it himselse.'

" 119, l. 21, 'are they upon their pantophles'—see
Notes and Illustrations on the place.

" 121, l. 4, 'Lift bringeth the Marker to the blow.'

" 127, l. 8, 'set downe his rest.'

" 131, l. 5, 'I know tinkers haue drye soules.'

" 151, l. 7, 'so straining courtesie.'

" 160, l. 20, 'remembred him that said, who am
I?' See p. 158, l. 25.

" 163, l. 11, 'beating him with his fistis well
faouredly.'

" 171, l. 4, 'by cocke and pie'—see Notes and
Illustrations on this in the place.

" 174, l. 25, 'one false knaue can beguile another.'

" 176, l. 6, 'teeth watred at his goodly Chaine.'

" 179, l. 27, 'Not a little did the tretcher [traitor
or treacherous person] smile in his sleeue.'

" 180, l. 16, 'the rest following the gentleman at an
inch.'

" 182, l. 13, 'a shrewd mischaunce.'

" 184, l. 26, 'lost more then in haste hee should
recouer againe.'

" 185, l. 7, 'a craftie knaue needeth no Broker.'

" 192, l. 24, 'Thus one craftie knaue beguiled
another.'

" 199, l. 13, 'drawne on to the bent of their bow.'
Page 200, l. 6, 'he that medles with pitch, cannot but be defiled.'

" 201, l. 12, 'learne and looke before they leape.'

" 204, l. 14, 'byte in his Bounge': l. 17, 'goes the world on wheeles,' etc.

" 205, l. 17, 'you are two bowes downe the wind':
  l. 20, 'Lye a little further.'

" 207, l. 4, 'as the Cat watch for a Mouse.'

" 208, l. 28, 'in faith put vp your pipes.'

" 210, l. 13, 'neuer be brought to the blow.'

" 212, l. 2, 'byke a woodcocke homeward by weeping crosse': l. 9, 'strike often,' etc.

" 213, l. 19, 'many things fall out between the cup and the lip.'

" 217, l. 3, 'Tis as hard to find a Hare,' etc.

" 221, l. 15, 'turnde to grasse,' etc.: l. 25, 'a foule word is good inough for a filthie knaue':
  l. 28, 'not so merry when you went to Dunstable.'

" 222, l. 5, 'short heeles.'

" 223, l. 12, 'fetching nouices over the coales.'

" 224, l. 2, 'as often as the Pitcher goes,' etc.

" 225, l. 4, 'tis a foule byrd that defiles the owne neast.'

" 238, l. 14, 'I was too soone wise to be long olde':
  l. 25, 'I waxed upwards with the ill weedes.'

" 239, l. 3, 'an untowarde gyrl makes a good woman': l. 6, 'over kind fathers, make unruly daughters': l. 13, 'young Saints, olde deuils': l. 15, 'what is not bent in the Cradle, will hardly be bowed in the Sadle.'

" 241, l. 4, 'as tyde nor tyme tarrieth no man':
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

1. 18, 'the fayrest Hawke hath oftentimes the sickest feathers' . . . 'of hottest day hath the most sharpest thunders, the brightest sunne, the most suddaine showre, & the youngest Virgins, the most daungerous fortunes.'

Page 244, l. 9, 'so long the pot goes to the water, that it comes broken home' . . . 'the Fly dallyes,' etc.

" 247, l. 14, 'to strike when the yron was hotte, and to take opportunity by the forehead.'

" 249, l. 3, 'bent the tree while it was a wand, and taught the hound while he was a puppie,' etc.

" 253, last l, 'I loued him more, for the time, at the heele, then the other at the heart.' From p. 254, ll. 3-4 = she loved him more as does a dog that follows its master than as one who loved from the heart.

" 254, l. 8, 'hee that was hit with the horne was pincht at the heart.'

" 255, l. 13, 'taking the ball before it fell to the ground.'

" 256, l. 23, 'they were two bodies and one soule.'

" 260, l. 4, 'putting his hand in his sleeve gaine,' etc.: l. 7, 'swore solemnly to tread it under foote' = to keep secret: l. 13, 'grafting hornes in the Chimnies': l. 16, 'dissembled al his thoughts.'

" 266, l. 6, 'all the boord was at a mutinie.'

" 267, l. 18, 'to make a peece of money'—see Notes and Illustrations on the place.
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

Page 270, l. 13, 'a yoong Saint will prooue an old diuel.'

" 271, l. 24, 'I gesse by his noase what porredge hee loued'—I suppose à la Bardolph.

" 274, l. 22, 'at length he payeth house;' etc.

" 278, l. 20, 'discharge the house.'

A. B. G.

END OF VOL. X.