GREENES
CARDE OF FANCIE.

Wherein the Folly of those carpet Knights is deciphered, which guiding their course by the compasse of Cupid, either dash their ship against most dangerous Rocks, or else attain the haven with pain & peril.

Wherein also is described in the person of Gwydemus a cruelle Combate between Nature and Necessitie.

By ROBERT GREEN Master of Art, in Cambridge.

AT LONDON,
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1587.
TO THE RIGHT HONO-

rable, Edward de Vere Earle of Oxen-

ford, Vicount Bulbeck, Lord of Escales

and Badlesmire, and Lord great Chamber-

lain of England: Robert Green wi-

sheth long life with increase

of Honour.

He poet Castilian Frontino (Right
Honourable) being a very vnskil-
ful Painter, presented Alphonius,
the Prince of Aragon, with a most
imperfect Picture, which the King
thankfully accepted, not that hee liked the work,
but that hee lov'd the art. The paltering Poet
Cherillus, dedicated his duncing Poems to that
mightie Monarch Alexander, saying that he knew
assuredly if Alexander would not accept them, in
[that] they were not pithie, yet he would not
utterly reject them, in that they had a shew of
Poetry. Cesar oft times praised the Souldiers for
their wit, altho' they wanted skil: & Cicero as well commended stammering Leatulus for his paynfull industrie, as learned Lelius for his passyng eloquence, which considered (although wisdom did me not wil to strain/further than my sleeue would stretch) I thought good to present this imperfect Pamphlet to your Honours Proteccion; hoping your Lordship will deign to accept the manner in that it seemeth to be prose, tho' something vnfaourie for want of skil, and take my wel meaning for an excuse of my boldnesse, in that my poor will is not on the wane, whatsoeuer this imperfect work do want. The Emperour Traian, was neuer without suiters, because courteously he would heare euery complaint. The Lapidarie continually frequented the Court of Adrobrandinhus, because it was his chief study to search out the nature of Stones; All that courted Atlanta were hunters, and none sued to Sapho but Poets; Whosoever Mecenas lodgeth, thither no doubt will Schollers flock. And your Honour being a worthy fauorer and fartherer of Learning, hath forced many, thro' your exquisite virtue to offer the fruits of their study at the shrine of your Lordships courte. But though they have waded farre and found mires, and I gadded abroad to get nothing but mites, yet this I assure myself, they neuer presented vnto your Honour their treasure with a more willing minde,
THE EPISTLE DEDICATORY.

then I do this simple Truth; which I hope your Lordship will so accept. Resting therefore vpon your Honours wonted Clemencie, I commit your Lordship to the Almighty.

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Your Lordship's most dutifuly to command

ROBERT GREENE.
TO THE GENTLE-
men Readers, health.

A\nAN blowing vpon an Oten pipe a little homelie Musick, & hearing no man dispraised his small cunning, began both to plaie so loude, and so long, that they were more wearie in hearing his musick, than he in shewing his skill, till at last to claw him and excuse themselues, they said his pipe was out of tune: So Gentlemen, because I haue before time rashlie retcht aboue my pitch, & yet your curtesie such as no man haue accused me, I haue once again adventured vpô your patience (but I doubt so far) as to be rid of my follie, you will at the leaft saie, as Augustus said to the Grecian, that gaue him oft times many rude verses: Thou hadst need (quoth he) reward me wel, for I take more paines to reade thy workes, than thou to write them. But yet willing to abide this quip, because I may counteruaile it with your former curtesie, I put my selfe to your patience, and commit you to the Almighty. Farewell.

Robert Greene.
AD LECTOREM IN
laudem Authoris.

Pvllulat en stirpi simili speciosa propago
Aureolusq; nouo reuirescit ramus amoris.
Vere: (tuo verè iam verè dicandus honori:)
Ista salus Iuueni, Comiti sit gloria nosse
Accepisse decus: Comites vbi passibus æquis
Ales amor virtusq; fagax decurrere norunt.
Ventilat iste faces, restinguët at illa furentes
Tædas. Nec tædet Pueri sic tædia caeci
Fallere, qui, cæcis conuoluit viscera flammis.
Ergo refer grates qui deuitere cupisti
Spumosos Veneris fluetus, scopulosq; minaces
Qui fragilem tumidam cymbam mersisse procellis
Possent. Hac iter est, hac dirige, tutior ibis.

Richardus Portingtononus.
THE CARDE OF
Fancie.

Here dwelled in the Citie of Metelyne, a certain Duke called Clerophonies, who through his prowess in all martiall exploites waxed so proude and tyrannous, vsing suche mercileffe crueltie to his forraigne enemies, & suche modelesse rigour to his native citizens, that it was doubtfull whether he was more feared of his foes for his crueltie, or hated of his friends for his tyrannie: yet as the water weede springeth vp more brauely then the wholsomest herbe, & as the crookedst tree is commonly laden with moast fruit, so this rigorous Duke was so favoured and fostered vp by fortune, his estate being so establisht with honour, and so beautified with wealth, so deckt with the Diadem of dignitie, and endued with fortunate prosperitie, hauing in
warres such happie successse against his foes, & in peace such dutifull reverence of his friends (although more for feare then fauor) as he seemed to want nothing that eyther fortune or the fates could allow him, if one onely fore which bred his sorrow, could haue beene salued. But this grieue so galled his conscience, and this curfed care so combred his minde, y his happinesse was greatly furccharged with heauinesse, to see the caufe of his care could by no meanes be cured. For this Clerophonetes, was indued with two children, the one a Daughter named Lewcippa, and the other a sonne called Gwydonius: this Lewcippa, was so perfect in the complection of her bodie, and so pure in the constitution of her minde, so adorned with outward beautie, and endued with inward bountie, so pollisshed with rare vertues and exquisit qualities, as she seemed a seemely Venus, for her beautie, and a second Vesta, for her virginitie: yea, Nature and the Gods hadde so bountifully bestowed their giftes vpon her, as Fame her selfe was doubtfull whether shee should make greater report of her excellent vertue, or exquisit beautie. But his sonne Gwydonius, was so contrarie to his sister Lewcippa, (though not in the state of his body, yet in the stay of his minde) as it made all men meruaile how two such contrarie items could spring out of the selfe same stocke: His personage
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

in deede was so comely, his feature so well framed, each lim so perfectlie couched, his face so faire, and his countenance so amiable, as he seemed a heauenly creature in a mortall carcasse.

But his minde was so blemished with detestable qualities, and so spotted with the stain of voluptuousness, that he was not so much to be condemned for the proportion of his bodie, as to be condemned for the imperfection of his minde. He was so endued with vanitie, and so imbrued with vice, so nursed vp in wantonness, & so nusled vp in wilfulness, so carelesse to obserue his Fathers commaund, and so retchlesse to regard his counsell, that neither the dread of Gods wrath, nor the feare of his fathers displeasure, could drive him to desist from his detestable kinde of liuing. Nay, there was no fact so filthie, which he would not commit, no mischief so monstrous, which he would not entreprise: no daunger so desperate, which he would not aduenture: no perill so fearefull, which he would not performe: nor no action so diuelish, which he would not execute. So immodest in his manners, so rude in his iestures, yea, and so prodigall in his expences, as mines of golde were not able to maintaine such / witlesse prodigalitie. This loathsome lyfe of Gwydonius, was such a cutting corafue to his Fathers carefull conscience, and such a haplesse clogge to his heauie heart, that
no ioye could make him inioye any ioye, no mirth
could make him merrie, no prosperitie could make
him pleasan, but abandoning all delight, and
auoyding all companie, he spent his dolefull dayes
in dumpes and dolors, which he vtttered in these
words.

Now (quoth he) I prowe by experience, the say-
ing of Sophocles to be true, that the man which
hath many children shall neuer liue without some
mirth, nor die without some sorowe: for if they be
vertuous, he shall haue caufe whereof to reioyce, if
vicious, wherefore to be sad, which sayinge I trye
performed in my selfe, for as I haue one childe
which delights mee with her vertue, so I haue
another that despighte mee with his vanitie, as
the one by dutie brings me ioye, so the other by
disobedience breeds my anoye: yea, as if one is a
comfort to my mynde, so the other is a fretting
corauie to my heart: for what grieue is there more
griping, what paine more pinching, what croffe
more combersome, what plague more pernicious,
yea, what trouble can torment mee worse, then to
see my sonne, mine heire, the inheritour of my
Dukedom, which should be the piller of my
parentage, to consume his time in roystaffe and
ryot, in spending and spoiling, in swearing and
swaishing, and in following wilfullye the furie of
his owne frantike fancie. Alasfe, most miserable
& lamentable case, would to God the destinies had decreed his death in \( \diamond \) swadling clouts, or \( \diamond \) the fates had prescribed his end in his infancy. Oh \( \diamond \) the date of his birth had beene \( \diamond \) day of his burial, or \( \diamond \) by some sinister storme of fortune he had beene stifled on his mothers knees, so \( \diamond \) his vntimely death might haue preveted my ensuing sorrowes, and his future calamities: for I see that \( \diamond \) young frie will alwaies proue old frogs, that the crooked twig will / prooe a crabbed tree, that the flower bud will neuer be sweete blossome, how that which is bredde by the bone wil not easly out of the flesh, that he which is careless in youth, will be lesse carefull in age, that where in prime of yeeres vice raigneth, there in ripe age vanitie remaineth. Why Clerophon, if thou feest the sore, why doest thou not apply the salue, and if thou doest perceiue the mischiefe, why doest not [thou] prevent it with medicine: take away the cause and the effect faileth: if Gwydonius be the cause of thy ruth, cut him off betimes, leasst he bring thee to ruine: better hadst thou want a sonne then neuer want sorrow. Perhaps thou wilt suffer him so long till he fall sick of the Father, and then he will not onely seeke thy lands and living, but life and all, if thou prevent not his purpose: yea, and after thy death he will be through his lasciuious lyfe the ouerthrow of thy house, the consumer of
thy Dukedome, the wrack of thy common weale, and the verie man that shall bring the state of Metelyne, to mischiefe & miserie. Sith then thy sonne is such a sinke of sorrowes, in whose life lies hid a loathsome masse of wretched mishaps, cut him of as a gracelesse graft, vnworthie to grow out of such a stocke. Alasfe Clerophontes, shalt thou be so vnnatural as to seeke the spoile of thine owne childe, wilt thou be more sausage then the brute beasts in committing such crueltie: no, alasfe, the least misfortune of our children doth so moue vs, that as the Spider feeleth if her web be prickt, so if they be toucht but with the point of a pinne, so if they be toucht but with the leaft trouble, wee feele the paines thereof with prickinge griefe to pinch vs. Why, hath not nature then caused loue to ascend as wel as to descend, and placed as dutifull obedience in the childe as louing affection in the father: & with that he Fetcht such a deepe sigh, that it was a signe of the extreame sorrow he conceived for his sonnes witlesse folly. But as he was readie againe to enter into his dole/ful discoursse, to aggravate his griefe the more, & increase his care, certaine complaints were brought him by fundrie Citizens, of the outrageous behauiour of his son Gwydonius, which being attendiuely heard he in great cholar called for his sonne, against whome he thundered out such threatning reproches, laying
before his face the miserie that would infue of such recklesse mischiefes, and promising that if he directed not his course by a new compasse, and levelled his life by a new line, he would not onely repay his folly with the penaltie of the lawe, but also by consent of his Commons, disinherit him of his Dukedom: that Gwydonius, greatly incensed with the seuerer censure of his Father, broyling with furious rage, stubbornly burst forth into these stubborn tearmes.

Sir (quoth he) if Terence his Menodonus were alive, and heard these your fond and fantastical reasons, he would as readily condemn you of crabbedness, as he accused Chremes of currishness: for as he by too much austeritie procured his sonnes mishappe, so you by too much seueritie seeke to breede my misfortune. You old men moost inuistly, or rather inuieriously measure our staylesse moode by your stayer mindes, our young yeeres by your hoarie haires, our flourishing youth by your withered age, thinking to directe our doings by your doatings, our wills by your wits, our youthfull fancies by your aged affections, and to quench our sierie flames by your dead coales and cinders: yea, supposing that the Leueret should be as skilfull in making of a head, as the olde Hare, that the young Cubs should as soone tapish, as if old Fox, that if young Frie shoulde as well avoide the net as the olde Fish, and that the
young wantons should be as warie as the old wyrfards. But this sir, is to make fire frost, to change heate to colde, mirth to mourning, singing to sadnesse, pleasure to paine, and to tye the Ape and / the Beare in one tedder: sith then young stemmes will not be set on a withered stocke, that the young twig liketh not vnder the olde tree, that the toyish conceites of youth are unfit for the testie cogitations of age: I meane for your satisfaction and my solace, to depart from the Court, and to spend my dayes in trouell.

Clerophonites no sooner heard this determination of his sonne Gwydonius, but his sorrow was halfe suffred, and his care almost cured, thinking that by trouell hee should either ende his life, or amend his lewdnesse, and therefore both hearted and hastened his sonne in this his newe course, least delay might breede daunger, or time by some toye cause him tourne his tippet, furnishing and finishing all thinges necessarie for his sonnes iournie, who readie to goe (more willing to trouell, than his father to intreate him) had this friendly farewell giuen him by Clerophonites.

Sonne (quoth he) there is no greater doubt which dooth more deeply distresse the minde of a younge man, then to determine with himselfe what course of life is best to take, for there is such a confusled Chaos of contrarie conceites in young wits,
that whiles they looke for that they cannot like, they are lost in such an endless laberinth, as neither choice nor chance can draw them out to their wished desires, for so many vaines so many vanities: if vertue draweth one way, vice driueth another way: as profit perswades the, so pleasures prouokes the: as wit weigheth, will wresteth: if friends counsel them to take this, fancie forceth them to choose that: so that desire so long hangs in doubt, as either they choose none, or else chaunce on the worst. But in my opinion, the fittest kinde of life for a young gentleman to take (who as yet hath not subdued the youthfull conceites of fancie, nor made a conquest of his will by witte) is to spende his time in trauell, wherein he shall finde both pleasure and profit: yea, and buye that by experience, which otherwise with all the treasure in the world hee cannot purchase. For what chaungeth vanitie to vertue, staylesse wit to stayed wisefome, fonde fantasies to firme affections, but trauell: what represseth the rage of youth, and redresseth the witlesse furie of wanton yeeres, but trauell: what tourneth a secure lyfe to a carefull living, what maketh the foolish wife, yea, what increafeth witte and augmenteth skill, but trauell: in so much that the fame Vlifes wonne, was not by the tenne yeeres hee lay at Troy, but by the time he spent in trauell. But there is nothing Gwydonius,
so precious, which in some respect is not perillous, 
nor nothing so pleasant which may not be painefull: 
the finest Gold hath his droffe, the purest Wine 
has his lees, the brauest Rose his prickles, eache 
sweete hath his fower, eache ioye his annoye, eache 
weale his woe, and euerie delight his daunger.

So travaile Gwydonius, is a course of lyfe very 
pleasant, and yet verie perillous, wherein thou maist 
practise vertue if thou take heede, or purchase 
discredit if thou beest carelesse: where thou maist 
reape renowne if thou beest vertuous, and gaine 
reproche if thou beest vicious: whereout doe springe 
wisdome and follie, freedome and bondage, 
treasure and trash, fame and discredit, honour and 
shame, according to the disposition of him which 
either utfeth it to his profit, or abuseth it to his 
discommoditie. Sith then thou shalt beare faile in 
such perillous Straightes, take heede least thou dashe 
thy Shippe against most daungerous Rockes. It is 
a saying Gwydonius, not so common as true, that 
he which will heare the Syrens sing, must with 
Vlifes, tye himselfe to the masts of a ship, least 
happely he be drowned. Who so meanes to be a 
sutor to Circes, must take a Preferuatiue, vnlesse 
he will be inchaunted. He/that will fish for the 
Torpedo, must anoint his hand with the oyle of 
Nemiphar, least he be charmed, & who so meaneth 
to enter combat with vanitie, must first surely
defence himselfe with the target of vertue, vnlesse he meane to be a captiue to care, or calamitie. I speake this 
Gwydonius by experience, which afterwarde thou shalt know by proove, for to trauell thou shalt finde such subtilly Syrens, as will indaunger thee, such forcering Circles, as will inchaunt thee, such poyfoned Torpedos, as will not onely charme thy hand, but thy heart, if by my experience and other mens perills thou learne not to beware. Firft Gwydonius, be not to sumptuous, leaft thou seeme prodigall, nor too couetous, leaft they compt thee a niggard: for by spending in excess, thou shalt be thought a vaine glorious foole, and by to much sparing, a couetous pesant. Be not wilfull in thy doings, that they count thee not witlesse, nor to rash, that they think thee not deuoyde of reaason: be not to merrie, that they count thee not immodest, nor to sober, leaft they call thee fullen, but shew thy selfe to be an olde man for thy grauitie, and a young youth for thy actiuitie: so shall all men haue cause to prayse thee for thy manners, and commend thee for thy modestie. Be not to curious Gwydonus, that they deeme thee not proud, nor to curteous, leaft they call thee counterfaite. Be a friend to all, & a foe to none, and yet truft not without triall, nor commit any secret to a friendlye stranger, leaft in to much truft lye treason, and thou be forced by
repentaunce to crye Peccavi. The sweetest Muske is fower to be tastted, the finest Pils most bitter to be chewed, and the flattering friend most tickle being tried: then beware lest faire words make fooles faine, & glozing speeches cause had I wift to come to late. Lend not Gwydonius, a lifting eare to the alarums of Loue, nor yeeld not thy freedome to the assault of lust, be not dazeled with the beames of fading beautie, nor daunted with / the desire of euerie delicate damsell, for in time such blissse will prowe but bane, and such delightfull ioy, but despitefull anoie. Lust Gwydonius will prowe an enimie to thy purse, and a foe to thy person, a canker to thy minde, and a corruke to thy conscience, a weakener of thy wit, a molester of thy minde, a besotter of thy senses, and finalie, a mortall bane to all thy bodie, so that thou shalt finde pleasure the pathwaie to perdition, and lustyng Loue the load-stone to ruth and ruine. Seeke not then Gwydonius, greedelie to devour that bait, where-vnder thou knowest a hurtfull hooke to bee hidden: frequent not that pleasure which will turne to thy poison, nor couet not that company which will convert to thy confusion, least through such follie thou haue cause in time to be sad, and I to be sorrowfull. Now Gwydonius that thou haft heard the advertisement of a louing father, followe my advyce as a dutifull child, and
the more to binde thee to performe my former precepts, that this my counsaile bee not drowned in obliuion, I giue thee this Ring of golde, wherin is written this sentence, Pramontius, Premunitus. A posie pretie for the wordes, and pithie for the matter, short to bee rehearsed, and long to bee related, inferring this sense, that hee which is forewarned by friendlie counsaile of imminent daungers, is fore-armed against all future mishappe and calamitie, so that hee may by fore-warning preuent perilles if it be possible, or if by finister fortune hee cannot eschue them, yet hee may beare the cross with more patience and leffe grieue. Keepe this Ring Gowydonius carefullie, that thou maist shew thy selfe to respect thy owne case, and regarde my counsaile: and in so doing thou shalt please mee, and pleasure thy selfe.

Clerophonies hauing thus ended his discours, embracing his sone with fatherlie affection, and giuing / him his blessing, went secretlie into his Chamber, the more to couer his grieue, which he conceived for his sones departure: vnwilling his sone should perceiue by his sorrow how vnfainedlie hee both liked and loued him.

Well, Gowydonius hauing taken his leave of his Father, furnished both with counsaile and coine, with advice of wisedome and aide of wealth, passed on his iourney verie solemplie, vntill hee was past
the bounds of his Fathers Dukedome, and then as merrie as might bee, he travailed by the space of seauen weekes without anie residence, vntill he came to a Citie called Barutta, where (whether he were delighted with the scitation of the place, or deluded with the perfwasion of some Parasitcall persons) hee securelie seteled himselfe by the space of a whole yeere: in which time hee so careleslie floated in the seas of voluptuousnesse, and so reckleslie raunged in licentious and lawlesse libertie, thinking himselfe a peasant if he were not prodigall, counting nothing comelie, if not costlie, nothing seemelie if not sumptuous, ving such monstrous exceffe in all his actions, that the Citizens of Barutta noted him for a myrrour of immoderate lyfe, and a verie patterne of widesse prodigalitie: yea, his exceediue expences daylie so increased, that Mines of golde had not beene sufficient to main-taine his pompeous magnificence, insomuch, that the Magistrates of Barutta, not onelie meruailed where hee had coine to counteruaile his expences, but alio beganne to suspect him eyther for some skilfull Alcumnist, or that hee hadde some large commision to take vp those purses that fell into lapf, for want of sufficient defence: whereupon beeing called before the Magistrates and strictlye examined what trade he vfed, why hee stayed / so long in the Citie, and how hee was able to mainaine
fo princelie a porte as he carried: Gwydonius vn-willing to haue them priuie to his parentage, began to coyne a scufe, yet not fo cunninglie but hee was trapt in his owne talke, and fo cast in prizon, where he laie clogged with care and deuoide of comfort, hauing not so much as one truistie friend, amongst all those trothlesse flatterers which in prosperitie had so frequented his companie: the ingratitude of whom so perplexed his molestted minde, as furcharged with forow, hee burst forth into these tearmes.

Alasse (quothe hee) now haue I bought that by haplesse experience, which if I had beene wise, I might haue got by happie counsaile: Nowe am I taught that with paine and perill, which if selse-loue had not besotted my senses, I might haue learned with profite and pleasur, that in the fayrest Sandes is most ficklenesse, out of the brauest Blossome moste commonlie springeth the worste Fruite, that the finest flower feldome hath the best smell, that the moste glistening Stone hath often-times the least vertue, and that in the greaste fhew of good will, lyes ofte times the smallest effect of friendship, in most flatterie, least fayth, in the fayrest face, the falsest heart, in the smoothest Tale the smalles Truth, and in the sweetest gloses most fower ingratitude: Yea, I see nowe (quothe hee) that in truth lies treafon,
that faire wordes make foules faine, and that the
state of these fained friendes are lyke to the Marie-
golde, which as long as the Sunne shineth openeth
her leaues, but with the leaft Clowde, beginneth
to close, lyke the Violettes in America, which in
Summer yeelde an odoriferous smell, and in
Winter a moft pestilent sauour: so these Parasites
in prosperitie professe moft, but in aduersitie per-
forme leaft: when Fortune sauoureth, they laughe,
when shee frowneth they lowre: at euerie full Sea,
they flourishe, but at euery dead Neape, they fade:
Like to the fith Palerna, which beeing perfeitlie
white in the Calme, yet turneth passing blacke at
euerie ftorrne: to the trees in the desarts of Africa,
that flourishe but while the South winde bloweth, or
to the Celedonie stone, which retaineth his vertue
no longer than it is rubbed with golde.

Sith then Gwydonius (quoth hee) thou findes
such falshehooode in friendshippes, and such faithlesse
deeds in such painted speeches, shake off these
fawning curres with the flag of defiance, and from
hence forth trie ere thou truft. I, but (quoth
hee) it is too late to applie the salue when the sore
is incurable, to crie alarum when the Citie is over-
runne, to seeke for couert when the storme is pait,
and to take heede of such flattering mates, when
alreadie thou art deceived by such fawning mer-
chants: now thou wilt crie Caeue when thy coine is
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

consumed, and beware when thy wealth is wracked: when thou haft nothing whereof to take charge, thou wilt bee charie, and when follie hath alreadie giuen thee a mate, thou wilt by wisedome seeke to auoide the checke, but nowe thou trieft it true that thy Father foretolde thee, that so long thou wouldeft be carelesse, as at laft Repentaunce woulde pull thee by the sleeue, and then had I wift woulde come too late.

Wel Gwydonius, fith that which is once past can neuer bee recalde againe, if thou haft by follie made a fault, seeke by wisedome to make amends, and heape not care vpon care, nor adde not grieve to sorrow, by thefe pittifull complaintes, but cheere vp thy selfe and take heart at graffe, for the ende of woe is the beginning of weale, and / after miserie alwaies insueth most happie felicite.

Gwydonius hauing thus dolorouslie discoursed with himselfe, remained not aboue tenne daies in prison, but that the Senate taking pittie of his cafe, and seeing no accusations were inferred against him, set him free from his Purgatorie, and gaue him good counsaille that heereafter hee shoulde beware by such witlesse prodigalitie to incurre such suspi- tion. Theseus neuer triumphed more after hee had escaped the danger of the perillous laborinth, than poore Gwydonius did when he was set free from this pernitious Limbo: now the bitternesse of bondage
made his freedome seeme farre more sweete, and
his danger so happelie escaped, caused his deliuerie
seeme far more delightfull. Yet hee conceiued such
discourses against the Citizens, for repaying his
liberall good will with such loathsome ingratitude,
that the next morning he departed from Barutta,
not stowed with too much monie for molesting his
minde, nor ouercharged with coine for combering
his conscience with too much care, but hauing
remaining of all his treasure onelie that ring which
his Father gaue him, trauailing verie solemmlie to-
ward Alexandria.

Where at that time there raigned a certaine
Duke named Orlanio, who was so famous and
fortunate, for the peaceable government of his
Dukedom, administering justice with such sin-
ceritie, and yet tempering the extremitie of the
law with such lenitie, as he both gained the good
will of strangers on hearing his vertue, and won
the heartes of his subiects in feeling his bountie,
counting him vnworthie to beare the name of a
Soueraigne, which knew not according to desert,
both to cherish and chaftise his subiects.

Fortune and the fates willing to place him in
the pal/ace of earthlie prosperitie, endowed him
with two children, the one a sonne named Therfan-
dro, and the other a daughter called Caßania, either
of them so adorned with the giftes of Nature, and
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

beautified with good nurture, as it was hard to know whether beautie or vertue held the supremacy. But left by this happie estate Orlanio should bee too much puffed vp with prosperitie, Fortune sparing him the mate, yet gaue him a slender checke, to warne him from securitie, for before his daughter came to the age of foureteene yeeres, his wife died, leauing him not more sorrowfull for the losse of her whom he most entirelie loued, than carefull for the well bringing vp of her whome he so dearelie liked. Knowing that as his Court was a schoole of vertue to such as brideled their mindes with discretion, so it was a nurse of vice to those tender yeeres that measured their willes with witlesse affection, esteeming libertie as perillous to the state of youth, as precious to the state of age, and that nothing so soon allureth the minde of a young maide to vanitie, as to passe her youth without feare in securitie. Feared with the consideration of these premises, to avoide the inconueniences that might happen by suffering Casnania to leade her lyfe in lawlesse libertie, hee thought it best to choose out some vertuous Ladie to keepe her companie, who might direct her course by so true a compass, and leuell her lyfe by so right a line, that although her young yeeres were verie apt to bee intangled in the snares of vanitie, yet by her counsaile and companie, shee might steddilie
tread her steppes in the trace of vertue: and none hee could finde more fit for the purpose, than a certaine old Widdowe, called Madame Melytta, honoured for her vertuous lyfe throughout all Alexandria, who beeing sent for to the Court, hee saluted on this manner.

Madame / Melytta, (quoth hee) the reporte of thy honest conditions, and the renowne of thy vertuous qualities are such, as thereby thou hast not onelie purchased great praisfe, but wonne great credit throughout all the Countrie. Infomuch that I incensed by this thy singular commendation, I haue selected thee as the onelie woman to whome I meine to commit my chiefeast treasure, I meine Melytta, my Daughter Cassania, to whome I will haue thee be both a companion and a counsailour, hoping thou wilt take such care to traine her vp in vertue, and trace her quite from vice, to winne her minde to honestie, and weane her quite from vanitie, that she in her ripe yeares shall haue cause to thanke thee for thy paines, and I occasion to regard thee as a friend, and reward thee for thy diligence.

First Melytta, see that shee leade her lyfe both charilie and chastlie. Let her not haue her owne will, least shee proue too wilfull: or too much libertie, least shee become too light. The Palme tree presst downe, groweth notwithstanding but too fast. The hearbe Spatania, though troden on,
groweth verie tall, and youth although stricte restrained will proue but too stubburne.

The vessell sauoureth alwaies of that licour wherewith it was first seasoned, and the minde retaineth those qualities in age wherein it was trained vp in youth. The tender twigge is sooner broken than the stronge branch, the young stem more brittle than the olde stocke, the weake bramble shaken with euerie winde, and the wavering will of youth tossed with euerie pufe of vanitie, readie to bee wracked in the waues of wantonnesse, vnlesse it bee cunninglie guided by some wise and warie Pilot.

Then / Melitta, youth is so easilie entrapped with the alluring traine of foolish delightes, and so soone entangled with the trash of pernicious pleasures, suffer not my Daughter to passe her time in idlenes, least happilie being taken at discouer, shee become a careless captiue to securitie, for when the minde once floateth in the surging seas of idle conceites, then the pusses of voluptuous pleasures, and the stiffeling stormes of vnbrided fancie, the raging blastes of alluring beautie, and the sturdie gale of glozing vanitie, so shake the shippe of recklesse youth, that it is dailie in doubt to suffer most daungerous shipwracke. But let her spend her time in reading such auncient authors as may sharpen her wit by their pithie sayings, and learne
her wisedome by their perfect sentences. For where nature is vicious, by learning it is amended, and where it is virtuous, by skill it is augmented. The stone of secret vertue is of greater price if it bee brauelie polished, the Golde though never so pure of it selfe, hath the better coulour if it bee burnished, and the minde though never so virtuous, is more noble if it bee enriched with the gifts of learning. And Melytta, for recreation sake, let her vse such honest sportes as may drive awaye dumpes, leaft she bee too pensive, and free her minde from foolish conceites, that she bee not too wanton.

Thus (Madame) as you haue hearde my fatherlie aduise, so I praie you giue my Daughter the lyke friendlie aduertisement, that heereafter she may haue both cause to reverence mee, and to reward thee.

Melytta hauing hearde with attentive heede the minde of Orlanio, conceiued such ioye in this newe charge, and such delight in this happie chaunce, as with cheerfull countenaunce she repaid him this aunswere.

Sir/(quoth shee) although in the largest Seas are the forest tempestes, in the broadest wayes most boysterous windes, in the hig[h]est hilles, most dangerous haps, and the greatest charge the greatest care, yet the duetie which I owe you as my Soueraigne, and the loue I beare you as a subiect,
the care I have to please you as my Prince, and to please you as a Potentate, the trust you repose in my truth without sufficient triall, the confidence you put in my conscience without sure prooфе, the curtesie your Grace doeth shew mee without anie desert, haue so inflamed the forepassed fire of dutifull affection, and so encouraged mee to encounter your Graces curtesie, with willing constancie, that there is no happe so harde which I would not hazard, no daunger so desperate which I would not adventure, no burthen so heauie which I woulde not beare, no perill so huge which I would not passe, no charge so great, which both willinglie and warilie I would not performe. For, since it hath pleased your Grace to vouchsafe so much of my simple calling, as to assigne me for a companion for your daughter Caßania, I will take such care in the charie performance of my charge, and indeavour with such diligence both to counsaile and comfort Caßania, as your Grace shall perceive my dutie in pleasing you, and my diligence in pleasing her.

The Duke hearing the friendlie and faithfull protestation of the good Ladie Mellyta, tolde her that although it were great trouble for one of her age to frame her selse as a companion to such yong youth, and that some care belonged to such a charge, yet hee woulde so counteruaile her painfull
labour with princelie liberalitie, that both shee and all Alexandria should haue cause to speake of his bountie.

Melitta / thanking the Duke for such undeserved curtesie, setting her householde affaires in good order, repaired to the Court as speedelie as might be. But leaving her with Caftania, againe to Gwydonius. Who now being arrived in Alexandria, pinched with pouertie, and distressed with want, having no coine lefte wherewith to counteruaile his expenses, thought it his best course, if it were possible, to compass the Dukes service: repairing therefore to the Court, he had not stayed there three daies before hee found fit opportunitie to offer his service to Orlanio, whom verie dutifullie he saluted in this manner.

The report (right worthie Prince) of your incomparable curtesie and peerelesse magnanimitie, is so blazed abroad throughout all Countries, by the golden trumpe of Fame, that your Grace is not more loued of your subiects which taft of your liberall bountie, than honoured of straungers, which onelie heare of your princelie vertue. Infomuch that it hath forced me to leaue my natie soile, my parents, kindred, and familiar friends, and pilgrime like to passe into a straunge Countrie, to trie that by experience heere, which I haue heard by report at home. For it is not (right worthie Sir) the state
of your Countrie that hath allured me (for I deeme Bohemia, whereof I am, no lesse pleasant than Alexandria,) neither hath want of living or hope of gaine intisied mee, for I am by birth a Gentleman, and issued of such parents as are able with sufficient patrimonie to maintaine my estate, but the desire, not onelie to see, but also to learne such rare curtesie and vertuous qualities as fame hath reported to be put in practice in your Court, is the onelie occasion of this my journey. Now if in recompence of this my travaile, it shall pleafe your Grace, to vouchsafe of my service, I shall thinke my selfe fullie satisfied, and / my paines sufficiently requited.

Orlanio hearing this dutifull discourse of Gwydonius, marking his manners, and musing at his modestie, noting both his excellent curtesie and exquisite beautie, was so inflamed with friendlie affection toward this young youth, that not onelie he accepted of his service, but also preferred him as a companion to his sonne TherSandro, promising that since he had left his Countrie & parents for this cause, he would so counteruaile his dutifull desert with fauour and friendship, as he shound never haue cause to accuse him of ingratitude.

Gwydonius repaying heartie thankes to the Duke for his undeserved curtesie, being now brought
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

from woe to weale, from despaire to hope, from bale to blisse, from care to securitie, from want to wealth, yea from hellish miserie to heauenlie prosperitie, behaued himselfe so wiselie and warilie, with such curtesie in conuerfation, and modestie in manners, that in short time he not onelie purchased credit & countenance with Orlanio, but was most entirelie liked and loued of Thersand[r].

Now there remained in the Court, a young knight, called Signor Valericus, who by chance casting his glancing eies on the glittering beautie of Castania, was so fettered in the snare of fancie, and so entangled with the trap of affection, so perplexed in the Laborinth of pinching loue, and so inchaunted with the charme of Venus Sorcerie, that as the Elephant reioyceth greatlie at the sight of a Rose, as the Bird Halciones delighteth to view the feathers of the Phænix, and as nothing better contenteth a Roebuck, than to gaze at a red cloth, so ther was no obiect that could allure the wauering eies of Valericus, as the surpasing beautie of Castania, yea, his onelie blisse, pleasure, joy, and delight, was in feeding his fancie with staring on the heauenlie face of his Goddesse. But alas he her beautie bredde his bane, her lookes, his losse, her sight his sorrow, her exquisitie perfections his extreame passions, that as the Ape by seeing the Snaile is infected, as the Leopard falleth in a
trance at the sight of the Locust, as the Cockatrice dieth with beholding the Chrisfolite, so poore Valerius was pinched to the heart with viewing her comelie countenance, was griped with galing grieve, and tortured with insupportable torments, by gazing vpon the gallant beautie of so gorgious a dame: yea, he so framed in his fancie the forme of her face, and so imprinted in his heart the perfection of her person, that the remembrance thereof would suffer him take no rest, but he passed the daie in dolour, the night in sorrow, no minute without mo[u]rning, no houre without heauinesse, that falling into pensiue passions he began thus to parle with himselfe.

Why how now Valerius (quoth hee) art thou haunted with some hellish hagge, or possest with some frantike furie? art thou enchanted with some magickall charme, or charmed with some bewitching Sorcerie, that so sodainlie thy minde is perplexed with a thousand fundrie passions? alate free, and now fettered, alate swimming in rest, and now sinking in care, erewhile in securitie, and now in captivitie, yea, turned from mirth to mourning, from pleasure to paine, from delight to despight, hating thy selfe, and louing her who is the chiefe cause of this thy calamitie. Ah Valerius, haft thou forgot the sayng of Propertius, that to loue howsoever it bee, is to loose, and to fancie, how
charie so euer thy choice be, is to haue an ill chance, for Loue though neuer so fickle, is but a Chaos of care, and fancie, though neuer so fortunate, is but a masse of miserie: for if thou inioye the beautie of Venus, thou shalt finde it small vauntage, if thou get one as wise as Minerva, thou maiest put thy winninges in thine eie, if as gorgeous as Iuno, thy accountes beeing cast, thy gaine shall be but losse: yea, bee she vertuous, be she chaft, be she curteous, be she constant, bee she rich, bee she renowned, bee she honest, be she honourable, yet if thou bee wedded to a woman, thinke thou shalt finde in her sufficient vanitie to counteruaile her vertue, that thy happinesse will bee matcht with heavinesse, thy quiet with care, thy contentation with vexation: that thou shalt sowe seede with sorrow, and reape thy corne with sadnesse, that thou shalt neuer liue without grieue, nor die without repentence, for in matching with a wife there is such mischieves, and in marriage such miseries, that Craterus the Emperour wishing some finifter fortune to happen vpon one of his foes, praied vnto the Gods, that he might be married in his youth, and die without issue in his age, counting marriage such a cumbersome crosse, and a wife such a pleasant plague, that hee thought his foe could haue no worse torment, than to bee troubled with such noisome trash. Oh Valericus, if the consideration
of these premises be not sufficient to perfwade thee: if the sentence of Propertius cannot quench thy flame, nor the saying of Craterus coole thy fancie, call to minde what miseries, what mischiefs, what woes, what wailings, what mishapnes, what murthers, what care, what calamities haue happened to such, as haue beene befotted with the balefull beautie of women, enjoying more care than commoditie, more paine than profite, more cost than comfort, more grieue than good: yea, reaping a tunne of droffe for euerie dramme of perfect golde.

What carelesse inconstancie ruled Eriphila? What currish crueltie raigned in Philomela? How inceftuous a life lead Aeuropa? And how miserable was that man that married Sthuolea? What gaines got Teres in winning Progne, but a loathsome death for a little delight. Agamemnon in possesing the beautie of Crecida, caused the Grecian armie most grievouslie to be plagued. Candau / les was slaine by his murthering wife whom so intirelie he loued. Who was thought more happie than the husband of Helena, and yet who in time lesse fortunate? What haplesse chances insued of the chaftitie of Penelope? What broiles in Rome by the vertue of Lucrecia? The one caused her futors, most horrible, to be slaine, and the other that Tarquine and all his posteritie were rooted out of their regall dignities. Phaedra
in louing killed her haplesse sonne *Hippolitus*, and *Clitemnestra* in hating slewe her louing husband *Agamemnon*. Alasfe *Valerius*, how daungerous is it then to deale with such dames, which if they loue, they procure thy fatall care: and if they hate thee, thy finall calamitie?

But ah blasphemous beast that I am, thus reckleslie to raile and rage without reason, thus currishlie to exclaime against thosse, without whom our life though neuer so lucklie, should seeme most loathsome: thus *Tymon* like, to condemne thosse heauenlie creatures, whose onelie sight is a sufficient value against all hellish sorrowes: is this right, to conclude generallie of perticular premistes? Is it iustice to accuse all for the fault of some? Is it equitie to blame the state of vertuous women, for the state of vicious wantons? Doest thou thinke *Valerius* to shake off the shackles of fancie with this follie? Or to eschue the baite of beautie, by breathing out such blasphemie? No, no, assure thy selfe, that these thy raging reasons, will in time bee most rigorouslie reuenged, that the Gods themselfes will plague thee for braying out such iniurious speeches. Alasfe, Loue wanting desire, maketh the minde desperate: and fired fancie bereaued of loue tourneth into furie. The loiall faith I beare to *Castaia*, and the loathsome seare of her ingratitude, the deepe desire which inforceth
my hope, and the deadly despair which infringeth
my happe, so tosteth / my minde with contrarie
cogitations, that I neither regard what I faie to my
harme, nor respect what I doe, to my owne hurt:
yea, my sensess are so besotted with pinching loue,
and my minde so fretted with frying fancie, that
death were thrice more welcome, than thus to linger
in despairing hope.

And with that to passe awaie those pensiue
passions, hee floung out of his Chamber with his
Hauke on his fist, thinking by such sport to driue
awaie this melancholie humour, which so molested
his minde.

But as hee was passing through the Court, hee
was luckelie encountered by Melitta and Caßania,
who minding to haue some sporte with Valericus
before hee did passe: had the onset thus pleafantlie
giuen him by Caßania.

It is hard Signor Valericus (quoth she) to take
you either without your Hauke on your fist, or
your heart on your halfepenie, for if for recreation
you bee not retreuing the Partridge with dogs, you
are in solempne meditation driuing awaie the time
with dumpes, neither caring for companie to solace
your sadnesse, nor pleafantlie discoursing of some
amorous Parle: which makes the Gentlewomen of
this Court think, that you are either an Apostata
to Loue, as was Narcissus, or haue displayed the
flagge of defiance against Fancie, as dyd Tyaneus. If these their surmise coniiecstures bee true, Valericus, I warne thee as a friend to beware by other mens harmes, least if thou imitate their actions, thou bee mangled with the like miserie, or maimed with the lyke misfortune.

Valericus hearing his Saint pronouncing this fugered harmonie, feeling himselfe somewhat toucht with this quipping talke, was so rapte in admiration of her eloquence, and so rauisht in the contemplation of her beautie, that hee stoode in a mafe, not able to vttter one word, vntill at laft gathering his wits together, he burst forth in these speeches.

Madame (quoth he) what it pleafeth the Gentlewomen of this Court to surmise of my solitariness, I know not, but if they attribute it to curiousnesse, or coinesse, to strangeness or stateliness, either that I am an enimie to loue, or a foe to fancie, that I detest their bountie with Narcissus, or contemple their beautie with Tianeus, they offer me great injurie so rashlie to conjecture of my diseafe, before rightlie they haue caft my water. But to put your Ladiship out of doubt what is the cause of my dumpes, so it is that of late raunging the fieldes, my heart (my Hauke I should saie Madame), houered at such a princelie praine, and yet mist of her flight, that since she hath neither prunde her selfe, nor I taken anie pleasure. Marie, if the fates
should so favour mee, or fortune so shrowde mee vp in prosperitie, that my desire might obtenie her wish, I would not onelie chaunge my mourning to mirth, my dolour to delight, and my care to securitie, but I would thinke to haue gotten as rich a praie as euer Cæfar gained by conquest.

Surelie Signor Valericus (quoth Melytta) no doubt the praie is passing princelie, since the value thereof is rated at so precius a price, and therefore we haue neither cause to condemp[n]e your Hauke of haggardnesse, for want of pruning, nor you of foolishnesse for want of pleasure. And if your heart (your Hauke I should saie, Signor Valericus) hath reacht farther with her eie, than she is able to mount with her wing, although I am no skilfull Fawlkener, yet I thinke you had better keepe her on the fift still, and so feede her with hope, than let her misse/againe of her flight, and so she turne taile and be foiled.

In deede Madame (quoth Valericus) your counsayle is verie good, for as there is no better confess to a crazed minde, than hope, so there is no greater corasfue to a carefull man, than dispare, and the Fawlkeners also impane with you in the same verdite, that the Hauke which misseth her praie, is doubtfull to foare aloofe and proue haggard. Yet if shee were so tickle, as she wold take no stand, so ramage as she would be reclaimed with no
lure, I had rather happelie hazard her for the gain-
ing of so peerelesse a praine, though I both lost her, and wanted of my wish, than by keeping her still in the Bines, to proue her a kite, or me a coward.

In deede Sir (quoth Caftania) Fortune euer fauoureth them that are valiant, and things the more hard, the more haughtie, high and heauenlie: neither is anie thing harde to bee accomplished, by him that hardelie enterpriseth it. But yet take heede that you fishe not so faire, that at lengthe you catch a Frogge, and then repentance make you mumble vp a maffe with Miserere.

No Madame (quoth hee) it is neuer seene that he which is contented with his chance, shoulde euer haue cause to repent him of his choice.

And yet (quoth shee) hee that buies a thing too deere, may be content with his chaffer, and yet wish he had ben more charie.

Truth Madame (quoth Valericus) but then it is trash and no treasure, for that which is precious is neuer ouer-prisef, and a bad thing though neuer so cheape is thought too chargeable.

Oh Sir (quoth Melytta) and is it not an olde saying, that a man maye buy golde too deare, and that Jewelles though neuer so precious, may bee set at too high /a price. I see if you had no better skill in manning of a Hauke, than in making of a bargaine, you woulde proue but an ill Fawlkener.
But since we haue so long troubled you with our talke, we will now leaue you to your sport, and so bid you farewell.

Valerius with a courteous Conge, repaying their curtesie, and with a glauncing eie giuing his Goddesse the dolefull Adio, went solitarilie into the secret woods, where laying him downe in the shade, he fell into these musing meditations.

What greater prosperitie (quoth hee) can happen vnto anie earthlie wight, than if hee bee crostled with care, to finde a confect to cure his calamitie: then if hee bee pinched with paines, to get a plaister for his passions: if hee bee drenched in distresse, to finde a meanes to mitigate his miserie, which I see by prooste performed in my seelie seel: for the fight of my Goddesse hath so salued my fore-pased sorrowes, her sweete wordes hath so healed my heauie woundes, that where before I was plunged in perplexitie, I am nowe placed in felicitie: where before I was oppressed with care, I am now refreshed with comfort. O friendlie Fortune, if from hence forth thou furiouslie frowne vpon mee, if thou daunt mee with disastere mishappe, or crose mee with perpetual care, yet this thy friendlie curtesie shall bee sufficient to counteruaile all future enormities.

But alasse, I see euery prosperous puffe hath his boisterous blaste, euery sweete hath hisower,
euerie weale his woe, euerie gale of good lucke, 
his storme of sinister fortune: yea, euerie commoditie 
his discommoditie annexed: the bloud of the 
Viper is most healthfull for the sight, and most 
hurtfull for the stomacke, the / stone Celonites is 
verie precious for the backe, and verie perillous to 
the braine: the flower of India pleasant to be seene, 
but who so smelleth to it, feeleth present smart: so 
as the ioye of her presence procureth my delight, 
the annoie of her absence breedeth my despight: 
yea, the seare that she will not repaie my loue with 
liking, and my fancie with affection, that she will 
not consent to my request, but rather meanes to 
stiffle me with the raging stormes of repulse, and 
daunt me with the doome of deadlie denialls, so 
fratteth my haplesse minde with hellish furie, that no 
plague, no paine, no torment, no torture can worse 
molesf mee, than to be distressed with this dreadfull 
despaire.

Alasfe, her calling is too high for me to climbe 
vnto, her roaill state is farre aboue my reach, her 
haughtie minde is too loftie for mee to aspire: no 
doubt if I offer my sute vnto her, shee will proue 
lyke the Stone of Silicia, which the more it is 
beaten, the harder it is: or like the spices of Ionia, 
which the more they are pounded the leffe sauour 
they yeeld: lyke to the Iphilon, which yeeldeth forth 
o iuyce though neuer so well brused: so, though I
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

should with neuer so great devotion offer vp at her Shrine, prayers, promises, sighes, sobbes, teares, troth, faith, freedome, yea, and my heart itselue, as a pledge to pleade for pittie, yet shee would make so small account of these my cares, and as lyttele regarde my ruth and ruine, as Eriphila did her faithfull friend Infortunio.

But oh vilde wretch that I am, why doe I thus without cause condemne Caftania? Why doe I accuse her of crueltie, in whom raigneth nothing but curtesie? Why doe I appeach her of coinesse, in whome bountie sheweth small curiousnesse? How / friendlie, how familiarie, yea, how faithfullie did she talke with me, what a cheerefull countenance did shee carrie towards mee, what sodaine glaunces, what louelie lookes, which no doubt are signes, that though shee repulse mee at the first, she will not refuse mee at the last: though she be straieght in words, she will not be straunge in minde: though shee giue mee some bitter pilles of denial, it shall bee but for the better triall. And shall I then beeing fedde with this hope proue such a mecocke, or a milkesoppe, as to bee feared with the tempestuous Seas of aduerfitie, when as at length I shall arriue at the hauen of happie estate: shall I dread to haue my ship shaken with some angrie blastes, hoping to be safelie landed on the shoare, and so haue my share of that, which the
flowers of shrewde Fortune for a time hath denied mee. No, no, Dulcia non meruit, qui non gustauit amara. Hee is not worthie to sucke the sweete, which hath not first sauoured the sowe: hee is not worthie to eate the kernell which hath not crackt the shell, hee desuereth not to haue the crowne of victorie, which hath not abidde the brunt of the battaile: hee meriteth not to posseffe the praie, which will not willinglie take some parte of the paine: Neyther is hee worthie of so heauenlie a Dame as Castania, that woulde not spend the most precious bloud in his bodie, in the pursuite of so peerelesse a pееce.

Valerius thus mitigating his paine with the milde medicine of hope, and rooting out the dead flesh of despaire with the plaister of truift, deter-
minded to strike on the Stith while the yron was hot, and to pursue his purpose while his Mistresse was in her good moode. And therfore leaving his sport for this time, highe: him to / the Court in haft; where insinuating himselfe into the societie of the Ladies and Gentlewomen, hee shewed him-
selfe in sport so pleasant, in talke so wittie, in manners so modeft, in conceites so cunning, in parole so pithie, and in all his conuerstion so comelie, that whereas before hee was speciallie loued of none, now hee was generallie liked of all: insomuch that for a time there was no talke in the
Court but of the Metamorphosis of *Valerius* minde. Who oftentimes determining in plaine tearmes to present his sute to Caflania, when he came to the point, feare of offence, and dreade of deniall, disappoointed his purpose, that hee remained mute in the matter: but at laft perceiuing delaie breddde daunger, seeing his miftrefse fit alone in his presence, houering betweene feare and hope, hee began the assault with this march.

Madame (quoeth he) for that I see you fittiing thus solitarie in dumps, I am the bolder to prease in place, although the most vnworthie man to supplie it. Hoping you will pardon my rudenesse for troubling thus rashlie your musing meditations, and count my companie the leffe offensive in that I see you busied with no such serious matters wherevnto my presence may bee greatlie prejudiciall. *Cynneas* the Philosopher, Madame, was of this minde, that when the Gods made beautie, they skipt beyond their skill, in that they framed it of greater force than they themselfes were able to resift: if then there is none so wise or worthie whome beautie cannot wracke, nor none issued of such princelie birth whome beautie cannot bend, though I haue beene intangled with the snare of fancie, and haue listned to the lure of beautie, I am the more to be borne with, and the leffe to be blamed. For I must of
force confess Madame, that the gifts of nature so abundantlie bestowed vpon you, your excellent / beautie and exquisite vertue, have so scaled the wals of my fancie, and sacked the fort of my freedome, that for my last refuge I am forced to appeale vnto your curtesie, as the onelie medicine which may cure my intolerable diseafe. Naie incurable I may wel call it, for (I speake with teares outwardlie, and droppes of bloud inwardlie) vnlesse the misling flowers of your mercie mitigate the force of my fancie, the droppes of your princelie fauour quench the flame of my affection, and the guerdon of your good will giue a soueraigne plaister for my secret sore, I am like to passe my life in more miserie, than if I had taken the infernall torments. But I hope it is not possible, that out of a sugered Fount should distill a bitter streame, out of a fragrant flower a filthie fappe, and from such diuine beautie should proceed hate and hellish crueltie.

It is Madame, your beautie which hath wrought my wo, and it is your bountie which must worke my weale. It is your heauenlie face which hath depreiued mee of libertie, and your curteous consent must be the meanes to redeeme mee from captuittie: for as he that eateth of the Briane leafe, and is infected, can by no meanes bee cured, vnlesse hee taste of the same roote: As hee which is wounded
of the Porcuntine, can neuer be healed vnlesse his wounds be waft with the bloud of the same beast: as there is nothing better against the stinging of a Snake, than to be rubbed with an Adders slough, and as he which is hurt of the Scorpion [must] seeke a false from whom he receiued the sore, so Loue onelie is remedied by Loue, and fancie by mutuall affection: You Madame, must minister the medicine, which procured the maladie, and it onelie lies in your power to applie the plaister which inferred the paine.

Therefore I appeale to your good grace and fauour, and at the barre of your beautie, I humblie holde vp my handes, /resting to abide your sentence, either of consent unto life, or of deniall unto death.

Casania hearing this solempne discourse of Valericus, was driuen into a maze with this vnlookt for motion, musing that hee woulde so farre ouerstoote himselfe, as to attempt so vn-likelie a match, and therefore with disdainefull countenaunce shee gaue him this daunt.

As your present ariual Signor Valericus, dooth not greatlie preijudice my muses, so I thinke it will as little profit your motion: as your company pleaseth me regarding the perfon, so it much misliketh me, respecting the parole: that your countes beeing once cast, you shall finde your
absence might haue more pleasured you, and better contented mee. For it is vnpossible Valericus, to call the Fawlkon to that Lure wherein the pens of a Camelion are pricked, because she doth deadlie detest them, it is hard to traine the Lyon to that trappe which sauoureth of Diagredium, because he loatheth it. And it is as impossible to persuade mee to enter league with fancie, which am a mortall foe to affection, and to vow my seruice to Venus, which am alreadie addicte to Diana.
No, no sir, I meane not to loue leaft I live by the loss, nor to choose, leaft my skill being small, I repent my chance. She that is free and willinglie runneth into fetters is a foole, & who so becommeth captiue without constraint, may be thought either wilfull or witlesse. It is good by other mens harms to learne to beware, and to looke before a man doth leap, leaft in skipping beyond his skill, he light in the mire. Who so considereth the fickleneffe of mens affections, and the fleeting fondnese of their fading fancie, who carefullie looketh at the lightnesse of their loue, and marketh the inconstancie of their wauering / minde, who readeth the records which make mention of their deepe dissemblings, faithlesse protestations, false vowes, periured promises, fained loue, and forged flatterie: how poore Ariadne was abused, how Medea was mocked, how Dido was deceiued, how
**THE CARDE OF FANCIE.**

Oenone was reiectd, and how Phillis was forsaken, and yet would be allured to the traine with such filthie scraps, I woulde count her chaunce too good, were her choice neuer so bad. But leauing these necessarie doubtes, Valericus, I tell you for troth, if I meant to loue, it is not you I meane to like, if affection forced me, it is not your person I meane to fancie: your patrimonie is not sufficient to counteruaile my parentage, nor your bringing vp my birth, and therefore I would wish you to sow the seede of your sute in a more fertile soile, for in me you shall finde no grafts of grant to grow, nor no consent to bee cropped, for I neither like of your vnlikelye loue, nor meane not to be framed to your fancie.

Valericus being pricked with this pike, thought it a signe of small courage to yeeld at the first foine, and therefore looking more narrowlie to his ward, and gathering himselfe within his weapon, he stood to his tackling with this replie.

Madame (quoth hee) if you condemne mee of follie for climbing a staffe too high, or accuse me of fondnesse for laying my loue on a person of such princelie parentage, if I seeme to make an ill market in cheaping such precious chaffer, as the price thereof is far aboue my reach, yet my offence is to small to beare anie weightie penance, sith where the fault proceedeth of loue, ther the
pardon infueth of course, but your beautie shall beare all the blame, as the onelie spurre of this my rash enterprise. For as it is impossible for the yron to resift the operation of the Adamant, or the filie strawe the vertue of the fucking / Jeat, so as impossible it is for a loower to withstande the brunt of beautie, to freeze if he stand by the flame, or to pervert the lawes of Nature. So that madame, if you knew what a breach your beautie hath made into my breast, and how deeply I have shrined the Idoll of your person in my happeleffe heart, I assure my selfe though my person and parentage, my birth and bringing vp be farre vnfit for such a mate, yet you would deeme my loue and loyaltie to deserve no lesse. Loyaltie I call it madame, for as all things are not made of one mould, so all men are not of one minde, as the Serpentine poudre is quickly kindled, and quickly out, so the Salamander stone once set on fire can neuer be quenched, as the soft Waxe is apt to receive euerie impression, so the hard mettall neuer chaungeth forme without melting. Iason was neuer so troubleffe as Troylus was trustie: Paris was neuer more fickle then Pyramus was faithfull: Aeneas was neuer so light as Leander was faithfull: And sure madame, I call the Gods to witnesse, I speake without faining, that sith your beautie and vertue eyther by fate or fortune is so deepely shrined
in my heart, if it please you to accept mee for your 
flaue or servaunt, and admitte mee so farre into your 
favour, as that I may freely enjoy the sight of your 
weeete face, and feede my fancie in the contempla-
tion of your beautie: in liewe thereof, I will repaie 
such dutifull service, as the betrothed faith of 
Ersaia to his Perfida, shal not compare with the 
love of Valericus and Caftania.

Caftania hearing these perplexed passions, pro-
ceede from woffull Valericus, pricked forwarde 
to take some remorse of his tormentes, felte within 
her minde a careful conflict betweene fancie & 
the fates, loue & the destinies: fancie perswaded 
her to take pitie of his paines, τ fates forced her 
to giue him the repulse: loue wisht / her to re-
tourne his good will with gaine, the destinies draue 
her to denie his request: toffed thus with contrarie 
cogitations, at last she burst forth into these doubt-
full speeches.

Valericus, as I am not altogether to rewarde thy 
good wil with hate, so I cannot repaie it with 
loue, because fancie denies me to like: to mary I 
meane not, to retaine servants I may not. Marie, 
to let thee either to loue qr looke, take this for an 
aunswere, I neither can nor will.

And with that she went her waye, leaving 
Valericus greatlie daunted with this doubtfull 
aunswere, with feare and hope so fiercely affailed,
56  

THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

that being left alone, he beganne thus to consider of his amorous conceits.

If euer wofull creature had cause to complaine his wofull case, then undoubtedly may I preace for the formost place, for there is no sorrow more lower, no torment more terrible, no griefe more grievous, no heauinesse more hurtfull, then to haue desire requited with despight, and good will with hate, then to like vpon hope of courtesie, and to finde nothing but hate and hellish crueltie.

Alasfe poore Valericus, is thy true loue thus triflingly accounted of? is this the guerdon for thy good will? Doeth thy deepe desire merite no better desert? then haft thou no choice, but either to dye desperatelie, or else to liue loathsomlie? Why fonde foole, doest thou count her cruel, that at the first giues not a free consent? Doest thou thinke her coyse that commeth not at the first call? wouldeft thou haue the match made at the first motion? Shee that is wonne with a word, will be lost with a winde, the Hauke that bates at euerie caft of the / Lure will neuer be stedfaft on the ftonde, the woman that frame[th] her will to euerie with will proue but a blinde wanton. No, no Valericus, let not her denials daunt thee, let not the fower taste of her talke quat thy queasy stomacke, confider all things at the best: tho' her cenfure was very feuere, yet shee knit vp her talke with a
courteous close. The hound which at the first
defaulte giueth over the Chace, is called but a curre.
The Knight that finding the first encounter
cumbersom giueth over the queft, is counted but
a coward, and the loyer that at the first deniall is
daunted with despaye is neyther worthie to obtaine
his desire, nor to enioye his desert. And with that
he flung out of his chamber both to avoid the
melancholy which tormented his mind and see if
he could haue a fight of his goddesse.

But Caftania altogether vnwillig to parle with
her new patient, kept herself out of his sight:
which Valericus espying was no whit amazed, but
like a valiant soldiour gaue the fort a fresh assault,
with a new kinde of batterie, seeking to obtaine
that with writing which he could not gaine with
words, and therefore speedilye framed a letter to
this effect.

Signor Valericus, to the Ladye Caftania, health.

There is no Creature (Madame Caftania) so
bereaued of reason, or depriued of sense, which being
 oppressed with direfull calamities, findeth not by
mere instinct of nature, a present remedy for his
malady, man only excepted, who by reason of this
want, may iustly accuse the injurious gods of iustice
with iustice. The Tigre, though never so deadlye
wounded taketh the roote of the Tamariske, and
is presently cured: The Deere being stroke, though never so deep, feedeth on the herb *Distanum*, and forth with is healed: The Lyon faueth his sickness by eating the Sea Woolfe, and the Unicorne recouereth his health, by swallowing vp the buds of a Date-tree. But man being crosed with care, or oppressed with griefe, pinched with fancie, or perplexed with loue, findeth no herbe so wholesome, nor medicine so milde, no plaister so perfect nor no salue so soueraigne, which by their secrete virtues can appease his passions: the which *Madame*, I knowe by profe & now speake by experience: for your diuine beautie and secrete vertue, the perfection of your bodie and the beautie of your mind, hath kindled such a flaming fire in my hoplesse heart that by no meanes it may be quenched, but will turne my bodie into drie earth and cinder, vnlesse by the droppes of your pittie it be speedily redressed. Then *Madame* fith your beauty is my bale, let it be my blisse: since it hath wrought my woe, let it work my weale, and let not my faithfull service & loyal loue be recom-penced with such rigorous refusals. Strieue not for my life, since you haue my liberty, seeke not my death, since you are the Saint to whom I offer vp my devotion. But good *Madame*, let the sweete balme of thy beneuolence salue the sore that so painfully afflieteth my careful conscience. And with the
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

deawe of your grace redeame him fro moost hellish
tormentes, whose life and death standeth in your
aunswere, which I hope shall be such as belongeth
to the desert of my loue, and the shewe of your
beautie.

Yours, if he may be,
Don Valericus.

Valericus / hauing thus finishe his Letter, sent
it, with as much speed as might be by his
Page, to Caftania, who finding her at conuenient
leisure, with moost reuerent dutie deliuered it.
Caftania, at the firste sight, coiecturing the contents,
with scornfull looks, and disdainfull countenance,
unripped the seales, where seeing and reading his
deep devotion, she perceived that his affection
was no lesse indeede than he professed in word;
She notwithstanding would take no remorse at
his torment, but to drue him more into doleful
dumps shee returned him this damp.

Caftania to Seignor Valericus.

As it is impossible (Seignor Valericus) to straine
moist liquor out of the dry flint, & procure
flaming heate in that which is already nipped with
the chilling cold, to force the sturdy streames to run
against their common course, so as hard is it to
win unwilling loue, either with tears or truth. For
if thy birth or patrimony could counteruaile my
Parentage, if my Father were content to knit the
knot, yet neither his command nor thy entreatye,
should make me to choose without my owne loue
and liking. Sith then thou art the man whome I
rather loathe then like, cease from thy sute, make
a vertue of necessitie, and assuage the flame thy
selfe which no other will quench. By importunate
persuading in thy purpose, where no hope is, thou
provest thy selfe rather a desperate sot, then a
discrete souldier. To hop against the hill, is ex-
treme fondnesse; to strive against the streame,
mere folly: then Valericus, avoide the one, &
eschewe the other, for if thou wilt seeke to gain
my good-will, thou shalt turne the endlessse stone
with Sisphus, and therefore take my nay for
answer. For / if I would I cannot, and if I could
I will not, and so farewell.

No way yours

Castania.

Valericus hauing receiued this rigorous Letter
frō ruthlesse Castania, seeing with what great
disdain she reiecte his dutifull devotion, and how
with coy countenance she rewarded his loyall loue,
he began with reaion somewhat to vent his rage,
and with wisdom to redresse his witlessse folly; for
comparing her crueltie with his own curtesie, and
her wilful disdain with his willing dutie, his dis-
ordinate desire began not only to decay, but his
extreme love turned to his extreme hate, in- 
much, that forced to despight, he sent her (in 
revenge) these raging lines.

*Valericus the despisf, to despightfull Caflania.*

*Logenes* being demandmed why so extremely 
hee hated woman, answered, (quoth hee) 
because they be women. So if thou ask of me 
why so rudely I raile against thy recklesse folly, I 
aunswere, because thou art *Caflania*, whose merciflesse 
minde is so misled with ingratitude, & whose 
currish nature is foyled with carelesse inconstancy, 
that like *Menechmus Subreptus* his wife, thou dost 
not begin to loue, ere again thou seekest to hate. 
Thou plaieft like the young Eagles, which being 
hatcht by the bird *Olyphaga*, neuer seek to pearke 
on loftie mounts but to / fitte in durtie Dales, and 
lyke the greedie Kyte which leaueth the sweete 
fleshe, to praye on the stincking carrion. But why 
doe I so farre forget my selfe? Is she to be blamed 
that leaueth her choyce to haue a better chaunce, 
or is the Faulchon to be accused of baftardie, that 
leaueth the Starling to praye on the Larke? No: 
and no doubt such is thy case, for if it bee true 
that all speake, or at the least speakest, thou art 
lyke by thy louers Parentage to become a great 
Potentate: for if armes bee the bewrayer of 
auncient discentes, no doubt hee is come of an olde
house. Yea, thy Father Orlanio may reioyce if he liue to see the daye that his Daughter shall be so well wedded as to such a wrangling Wifard. But Pasiphae preferred a Bull before a King, and Venus a sneered Smith before Mars the God of bataille. Tufh, Psomneticus was father to Rhodopes children, whoseoeuer begat them, and that cloake is of a courfe spining, that cannot keepe of the raine. Farewell.

Living he hopes to revenge thy injuries.

Wofull Valericus.

Castania no sooner hadde read these despiteful lynes of Valericus, but her minde fired with the flames of furie, and her breast boyled with raging wrath, in such sorte, that she could not be in quiet nor take any rest: she busied her selfe so carefullie in studying with what kinde of reuenge she might best wreake her wrath vppon him, and requisite his spitefull speeches. At last womanlike, she found her tongue the beast weapon, & with that she plagued him in this sort.

Castania / to Valericus, neither health nor good hap.

The Maffiffe Dogge (Valericus) can neuer quest like a Spaniell, but he must alwaies barke lyke a Curre: it is naturall for the Pie to chatter, for the Jaye to iangle, and for thee to raile and
rage like a frantike foole. Doest thou thinke (Valericus) by brawling lyke a beggar to become a King, or by thy moodeleffe follie to obtaine my fauour? no, as I knowe thy knauerie, so I passe not for thy brauerie: neither can those vauntes stand for paiment, where the partie is prickt for a peeuifh paltering patch. It is no meruaile if thy doggishe Letters fauour of Diogenes doctrine, for in troth thou art such a Cinicall kinde of Dunce, that thy fond felicitie is in biting bitterlie those whom otherwise thou canst not reuenge. In deede, gentle Balaams Asse, if I had beeene so light as to haue loued you, I might iustlie haue beeene accused to haue beeene a Curre or a Kiftrell, for in faith shee that feedes her fancie on thy face, may onelie reape this profite, to fill her eyes full with the figure of a foole. For my louers armes, Valericus, they are imblased in such a coate, as it is harde for thee to controule. But I knowe thou boasteft that thou haft gotten thy antiquitie by conquewt, and keepest thy Letters pattents in the beggars boxe. Thus adieu Sir Dunce, the more you mislike mee, the better I loue my selfe.

Thy deteste d fo,
Caßania.

Valericus his heart was so hardned with hate, as hee was nothing dismaied with this rigorous replie, but thought himselfe halfe satisfied, that he
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

haddde thus kinde/lie toucht her to the quicke, praying the Gods, that sith it was not in his possi-bilitie to make anie sufficient reuenge, they would by some finifter meanes requite her crueltie. But leaung him to his dumpes, at laft to Gwydonius, who besides the beautie of his bodie, and the bountie of his minde (whereat all Alexandria wondered) had by good gouernment and perfect praftise, obtayned such a dexteritie in all thinges, as in feates of armes no man more forward, in exercize none more actiue, in plaie none more politike, in parle none more pleasantz, amongst his auncients verie wise, amongst the youthfull who more merrie: so that there was no time, person, nor place, whereto aptlie he applied not himselfe: insomuch that hee entered into such fauour and familiaritie with Therfandro and Caftania, that hee was the onelie man whose companie they desired to injoy. But especiallie Caftania, who by casting a gazing glaunce sometime vpon the beautie of Gwydonius, felte a certaine restraint of lybertie in her affectiions, an alteration of minde, and as it were a ciuile assault within her selfe: but hauning small praftise in the pangs of loue, shee could not conieçture the secrete caufe of these her sodaine passions, thinking that as it was a toie lightlie taken, so it would as lightlie be left: and vpon this still she rested, conceiuing onelie an ordinarie kinde of liking towards Gwydonius.
Who bathing thus in the streams of blisse, 
and safely harboured in the hauen of happi-
ness, wanting nothing which might content his 
minde, either for pleasure or profit, thought it a 
point of meere follie either to seeke or wish for 
more than inough, knowing that to strain further 
than the sleeue would stretch, was but to make 
the arme bare, and to skippe beyond a mans 
skill, was to leape, but not to know where to 
light: to avoid therefore haftiness in hazard-
ing, he fell a flumering in the carelessse seate of 
securitie.

But as it is impossible for a man to sleepe by 
the viper and not bee inuenomed, to gaze vpon 
the Cockatrice and not be infected, to stare vpon 
the Sunne and not be dazeled, to looke vpon Med-
usas head and not be transformed, to wade in the 
waues and not be drenched, to handle coales and 
not be scorched, so it was as impossible for yong 
Guydonius to gaze vpon the beautie of Castania 
and not be galled, to fixe his eies vpon her feature 
& not be fettered, to see her vertuous qualities and 
not be insueigled: for her curtesie had so encountred 
him, her modestie had so amazed him, and her 
charie chastitie so inchaunted him, that whereas he 
came to Orlanio his Court free from affection, hee 
was now become a servile slave to fancie, before a 
foe to luft, now a friend to loue, yea hee felte such
an alienation of his senses, and such a strange Metamorphosis of his minde, as reason was tourned to rage, mirth to mourning, joye to annoie, delight to despight, weale to woe, bliffe to bale: in fine, suche contrarie passions so perplexed the doubfull Patient, as maugre his face, hee yeelded the forte to fancie, and pulde in the former flagge of defiance, intreated for truce, and beganne to enter parle with Cupide on this manner.

O Guydonius (quoth he) what strange chaunce, nay, what rare chaunce, what solempne motion, nay, what sodaine madnesse, what foolish phrenzie, or rather what frantike affection hath possesed thee? Is thy lawelesse lybertie tourned to a slauish captiuitie? Is thy freedome fettered? Are thy senses besotted? Is thy wit inueigled? Wert thou of late a defier of Venus, and art thou now a defender of vanitie? Didst thou of late renounce beautie as a foe, and wilt thou nowe embrace her as a friend? Is this the carefull keeping of thy Fathers commandement? Or is this the diligent dutie in obseruing the counsayle of thy olde Sire Clerophontes? Haft thou so soone forgot his fatherlie preceptes, or committed to obliuion his friendlie aduertisement? Did hee carefullie warne thee to beware of loue, and wilt thou careleslie wed thy selfe to luft? Did hee shew thee what poisoned bane is hidden vnder the
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

painted baites of beautie, and wilt thou bee haled to the hooke?

O haplesse case: nay rather, if the charie charge thy Father gaue thee will bee no constraint, if his counsayle will not command thee, if his warning will not make thee warie, nor his advice bee thy aduertisement: yet let imminent perilles, and insuing daungers bee a precious preferuatie against future calamities. Consider with thy selse *Gwydonius*, what difference is betweene freedome and bondage, betweene libertie and captiuitie, mirth and mourning, pleasure and paine, rest and care. happinesse and heauinesse: and so farre doth hee which is free from affection, differ from him which is fettered in fancie.

Why but *Gwydonius*, why doest thou thus reck leslie rage against reason? Why doest thou thus fondlie exclame against thine owne welfare? Why doest thou condemn thy selse of that crime whereof thou art not guiltie?

Thy Father warned thee to beware of fickle fancie, but this thy lyking is firme affection. His counsayle was to perswade thee from lewele lust, but not from lawfull loue, from vanitie, not from vertue: yea, his will was to wishe thee from liking such a lewele minion, who had neither birth, wealth, nor vertue, but / a little fading beautie to be either her credite or thy countenance, not to warne thee
from louing such a chaste maiden, nay, a peerless Princess, whose birth may countenance thy calling, whose power may promote thee, whose living may enrich thee, whose virtue may advance thee: yea, in obtaining whome, thou shalt gain both honour, and perhaps the inheritaunce of a Duke-dome.

Doeest thou thinke then Gwydonius, in winning so worthie a pice, to purchase thy Fathers displeasure, nay assure thy selfe he will not onelie be content with thy chaunce, but he will thinke thou hast runnne a happier race, than Hyppomanes did in winning Atlante. Content with thy chance. Why Gwydonius, art thou so fond a foole, as to count the Castle conquered, that as yet thou hast not compassed: to suppose the Citie sacked, which thou hast not besieged: to thinke the Bulwarke beaten, which as yet thou hast not battered: or to count the Ladie wonne, whome as yet thou hast not wooed? Naie Gwydonius, if thou weigh thy case in the equall ballance, thou hast more cause of feare than of hope, of doubt than of assurance, of missing thy pretence, than of obtaining thy purpose.

The Faulkon (Gwydonius) seldom seeketh with the Merline, the Lion seldom lodgeth with the Mouse, the Hart seldom feedeth with the Pricket, Aquila non capit Muscas, and a Dame induced with
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

Nobilitie vouchsafeth not to match with a man of meane Gentilitie. Of meane Gentilitie Gwydonius? Yea trulie, for Castania rather thinketh thespring of some poore peasant, than of anie princielie personage.

Besides, alasfe, Fortune her selfe denieth mee anie such favour: my good will as yet hath desuered no such guerdon, my desire is farre aboue my deserts, my ambition/aboue my condition, and the poore state of wandering Gwydonius, farre vnfit for the princielie state of worthie Castania. But put case shee did will as I did, with that shee were pricked in the same veine, caught in the same snare, trapped with the like traine, and fired with the like fancie, yet the Duke her Father wil neither condescend to her minde, nor consent to my motion, neither thinke well of her liking nor of my loue, nay if he should but once heare of such recklesse follie, as he hath wrought my promotion, so he would worke my confusion, as hee hath beene my friend, so he would be my foe, and in troth Gwydonius, not without cause, for art thou so voide of vertue, or vowed to vice, so nurfed vp in vanitie, & nurled vp in villanie, as to requite his liberalitie with such disloialtie, to returne the trust which he repofeth in thee, with such treason? Tush, Loue is aboue Lord or Lawe, friend or faith. Where Loue leadeth, no maister is made account off: no king
cared for, no friend forced off, no dutie respected, but all things done according to the qualitie that is predominant. Why Gwydonius, what doubts are these that thou thus dreamest on? Why dost thou cast beyond the Moone, and feare before thou art in daunger to fall: knowing that Loue and fortune desireth not them that are daftards, nor carest not for them that are cowards? The Captaine that retreteth from the walles before he hath the repulse, shall never returne a conquerour, the souliour that fainteth before the bataille bee fought, shall never vaunt himselfe of victorie. Hee that feareth euerie tempest is not fit to bee a trauailer. Hee that doubteth euerie wawe shall never prove a perfect Pilot, and he that in loue dreads euerie chip of mishance, may well encounter, but never obtaine the conquest. Sith then Gwydonius, harde venturing is a signe of happie victorie, found out the march with the trumpet of truift, begin the assault, give the onset. Laie the battering / peeces of loue, against the bulwarke of beautie, and no doubt thy successe shall be such as thou shalt triumph with Caesar, and saie, Veni, Vidi, Vici. And art thou so presumptuous fond foole, as to promise thy selfe the conquest? knowest thou not that the path of loue is perillous? And with that he fell into such melancholike passions, such contrarie cogitations, such doubtfull thoughts,
such fearfull supposes, that as hee which eateth of
the Goorde roote looseth his memorie, and as the
Elephant when hee eateth of the Heliotropian leafe,
is then verie sleepe, so Gwydonius was so perplexed
with these vnacquainted passions, that contrarie to
his custome he had drieuen mirth into mourning,
pleasent conceites into painfull cares, laughing into
lowring, sighing into sorowe, as beeing thus
befotted: to solace himselfe, he went into a Parke
adjoyning to the Dukes Pallace, where sitting vnder
the shade of a Beech tree, leaning his head on his
hand, he laie as one in a slumber. But fortune
willing somwhat to sauour this young nouice,
brought it so to passe, that Thersandro, Valericus,
Caftania, & Melytta, with diuerse other Gentlemen,
were for recreation sake ranging in the same Parke,
who espying ghostly Gwydonius sitting as one in a
trance, Caftania passing before the rest, pulling
him by the sleue, draue him thus out of his
dumpe.

Why how now Gwydonius (quoth she) are you
dreaming or doubting, or is your minde musing
upon some metaphusical motions, that you sit thus
as a man halfe mortified? your solemne iesture
makes me remember the picture of Pigmalion, which
once I sawe portraied out by a skilfull painter, who
leaning his head on his Marble mistres (that so
vnfainedlie he loued) fate with his eyes as one in
a slumber, hauing his face notwithstanding so bedewed with brinish teares, as his outward plaintes / did sufficientlie bewraie his inward passions. In truth Gwydonius, I had taken thee for Pigmalion, if thou haddest had teares as thou wert in a trance, for thou doest not greatlie differ from him neither in countenance nor colour: well, if it were but a dreame Gwydonius, that thus cumbered thy conscience, or a doubt that made thee thus dumpish, I will deuine the one if it be not too darke, or decide the other if it bee not too secret: marie, if the case be cumbersome, I leaue it to the judgement of these Gentlemen.

Gwydonius wakened out of his musing slumber with this sugered harmonie, seeing before his eies his glorious Goddesse, the verie Saint, at whose shrine he was offering vp scalding sighs, farre fetched sobes, plaints, praiers, and protestations, was so apalde with her presence, that as the Basiliske looseth his senses, with the sight of a naked man, as the Torteife seeing the North starre is benummed, as the Hermeline looking on the stone Echites, is greatly amazed, so Gwydonius seeing the incomperable beautie of his best beloued Castrania, was so astonished, yea, so inchanted with the rare perfection of this heauenlie Pallas, that as one besotted he lase senselesse, not beeing able to vetter one word, vntill at length reuied with the
view of her cheerefull countenance, hee repaide her with this pleafant anfwer.

*Adame* (quoth he) whereas ifteetinglie you faie, that at the first sight you had taken mee for perplexed *Pigmalion* by my pittifull plaintes and carefull countenance, but that I wanted trickeling teares to decypher my sorrowe, I anfwered, that woe maye verie well bee without watrie wailinges, for when the Stone *Garatides* frieth without, it freezeth within, the Germaunder leafe, when it is moft full of moifture, looketh then / moft drie, where the streame is moft deepe, there it is moft flill, and where is the smallest shew of teares, there is the greatest signe of sorrow. And also I call the heauens to witneffe, that when you wakened mee out of my dreame by your diuine eloquence, I tooke you either for beautie to bee *Venus*, for comelineffe to bee *Pallas*, or for porte and honour to bee *Iuno*, so that both your presence and curtesie daunted my minde: your presence in dazeling my eyes so sodainlie with so solemne a fight, your curtesie, in that your Ladyship without curiositie would vouchsafe to talke with fo meane a Gentleman. But Madame, fith that I perceiue your skill in nauigation to be greate, in that you made fo cunning a conie creature, and without anie great aiming, fo rightlie hit the marke, to put you out of doubt, I confesse I was both in a dreame and a
doubt, wherein fith it pleaseth your honour to take so much paine, I will craue your aide to deuine the one, and decide the other.

The Dreame.

I was walking (Madame Caßania) in my dreame (as I suppos'd) solitarie by the sea side, whereas I tooke delight to see the Dolphins leape, (which as the Mariners saye, is a signe of imminent tempest) I forthwith espied a rocke in the Sea, whereupon stood a Ladie arrayd with roabes of burnish't golde, so formed and framed, so adorn'd and decked with the giftes of Nature, as at the first I tooke her to be Thetis, that had so gorgeoulesly clad her selfe, to welcome home her lover and Lord Neptunus. But viewing her countenance more narrowlie, I perceiued her to be a mortall creature (though vnworthie such diuine beautie shoulde be shrouded in the substance of an earthlie carcasse) which so inflamed my affecion, so fired my fancie, & so kindled my desire, that the tormentes / of Tantalus, the torture of Ixion, the sorrow of Sisphus, were not halfe comparable to the perplexed passions that pinched my haplesse heart, when I saw all hope cut awaye from inioying this earthly Goddesse: the sea which compassed the rocke was so deepe and daungerous, the cliffs so steep-downe and fearefull, as to descend was no lesse daunger then death
it selfe: thus as I surged in greife, and wandered vp and downe in woe, I spied a bridge a farre off, whereby was a passage to the rocke, which fight to salued my forepassed sorrow, and so reuied my daunted minde, as I was druen into an extasie for ioy, to see so good means to inioy my wished desire. Comming to the bridge, I found it built of glasse so cunningly and so curiously, as if Nature her selfe hadde sought to purchase credit by framing so curious a peece of workmanship. But yet so slenderly, as ye least weight was able to pass it into innumerable peecees, and vnderneath the bridge did run so terrible a sea, such bouncing billowes, such tumbling waues, such fearefull surges, such roaring streams, such hideous goulfs, as it made the passage seeme a thousand times more perilous. This terrible sight was such a cooling Card to my former conceits, as hope was turned to seare, bliss to bale, & supposed happinesse to assured heauinesse. And yet my fancie was not quenched, but rather far the more inflamed, my desire was not diminished, but augmented, & my liking no lesse, but rather inlarged, so that to liue in loue without hope was loathsome, to seeke redresse was losse of life, to want my wish, was horror: to inioy my will, was hel: to liue in care without comfort, was calamitie: to seeke for cure, was more then miserie: not to possesse the pray,
was hellish danger: to venture for the prize was hapless death. Thus crossed with cares, & daunted with such divers doubts, desperate hope so repulsed direfull feare, that encouraged by ventrous desire, I had either obtained my wish, or wanted of my will, if your Ladiship hadde not so sodainly wakened mee out of my slumber. Thus madame Castania, you haue heard my dreame: now the doubt is, whether it had beene better to haue ventured vpon the brickle bridge, and so either desperately to haue ended cares with death, or else valiantly to haue inioyed desire with renowne, or still like a fearefull dastard to haue ended my dayes in lingering loue with miserie?

Castania hearing the surmise of Gwydonius, both smelld the fetch, and smiled at the follie of this young youth, knowing that these fantastical visions and pre-supposed passions, would in time (if he tooke not heede) proue but too true: to preuent therefore such imminent perills, she nipt her young nouice on the pate with this parole.

Gwydonius (quoth shee) I haue listenned to thy drouifie dreame, with deepe devotion, by so much the more desirous attentively to heare it, by how much the more I finde it strange and wonderfull: yea, so strange, as if I my selfe had not wakened thee out of thy slumber, I would either haue thought it a fained vision, or a fantastical inuen-
tion, but sith these Gentlemen heere present, and mine owne Eyes, are witnesses, and thine owne tongue a testimonie of thy talke, suffice I beleeue it, though I cannot diviue it: to giue a verdite where the evidence is not vnderstoode, is vanitie: to yeelde a reacond of an vnknowne case, is meere follie: and to interpret so strange a dreame without great praetise, is but to skip beyond my skill, and to lye fast in the mire.

Yet least I might seeme to promise much and performe nothing, I will decide your doubt, if you please to take my doome for a censure.

It is a saying Gwydonius, not so common as true, that the hastie manne neuer wants woe, and that he which is rash without reason, seldome or neuer sleepeoth without repentance. To venture amiddesst the Pikes when perills cannot bee eschewed, is not fortitude but folly, to hazarde in daungers, when death ensueth, is not to bee worthely minded, but wilfully mooued. Vertue alwayes consifteth between extremeties, that as too much fearefulnessse is a signe of a quaking coward, so too much rashnesse betokeneth a desperate Ruffian. Manhood to Gwydonius consifteth in measure and worthinesse, in fearing to hazard without hope. But to giue a verdite by thine owne voyce, I perceiue thou art guiltie of the same crime, for when the brickle-nesse of the Bridge portendeth, and the surging
Seas inferred losse of lyfe, yet desirf draue thee to aventure so desperate a daunger.

Better it is Gwydonius, to liue in griefe, then to die desperately without grace: better to choose a lingering life in miserie, then a speedie death without mercie, better to be tormented with haplesse fancie, then with hellish fiends, for in life it is possible to repressre calamitie, but after death neuer to redresse miserie. Tully, Gwydonius, in his Tusculans questions, discoursing of the happinesse of life and heauinesse of death, faith, that to liue we obteaine it of the louing Gods, but to dye, of the vnluckie deftinies: meaning heereby, that life though neuer so loathsome, is better then death, though neuer so welcome: whereby I conclude Gwydonius, that to liue carefully, is better than to die desperately.

Gwydonius perceiuing that Caftanias parle was nothing to the purpose, and that shee toucht not that point whereof hee desired mofte to bee abolued, but meant to shake him off with a sleeuelesse aunswere, beganne to draue her to the Trappe with this traine.

Madame Caftania (quoth he) I confesse that rashnesse neuer raigneth without repentance, nor hastie hazarding without haplesse harmes, that he which aventureth desperate dangers is a foole, & he that paffeth ineuitable perills is worse than an
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

affe: yet from these so generall rules, Madame, I exempt these particular exceptions, namelie Loue and Necesfitie, which two are tied within no bonds, nor limited within no lawe, for whom the diuell driues he must needs runne, be the passage neuer so perilous: and whom Loue or Necesfitie forceth he must v[e]nture, be the danger neuer so des-perate: for as there is no enterprize so easie, which to an vnwilling man seemeth not verie hard to be atchieued, so there is no encounter so cumberstome where will wißheth, that seemeth not passing easie to be performed: now this will is with nothing sooner pricked forward, than either with the force of Loue, or sting of Necesfitie. So that whosoeuer aduentureth in a danger, though neuer so desperate, is not to be blamed, if inforced by fancie, or incouraged by affection, and especiallie where the perill is in possibilitie to bee passed without death, and in the performance thereof, the possession of such a prize, as the passionate person more esteemeth than landes, lims, or life it selfe, bee it neuer so sweete. In which case (Madame) my cause con-fisteth. For the Ladie who was an heauenlie obieçt to my glazing eies, was so beautified with the gifts of nature, and so perfectlie polished with more than naturall perfection, that with the onelie view of such divine beautie, my senses were so besotted, my wit and wil so inueigled, my affection so in-
flamed, and my freedome so fettered, yea, loue alreadie hath made so great a breach into the bulwarke of my breast, that to obtaine so gorieous a Goddesse, I thought death no daunger, though neuer so direfull, nor losse of life no torment, though neuer so terrible.

In /deed Gwydonius (quoth Thersandro) I agree with thee in this point, that there is no carpet Knight so cowardly, that would not passe most perillous pikes to possesse so liuely a Dame as thou doft decipher, nor no daftard so daunted with dread, which would not greatlie indanger himselfe to inioy so louely a damfell, in ʃ fruition of whome consifteth nothing but ioy, blisse, reft, contentation of minde, delight, happinesse, yea, all earthlie felicitie.

And yet Sir (quoth Gwydonius) your sister Castania, condemnes mee of follie, in ventring for so precious a price, when as hope perswaded mee, that no hazarde could be haplesse, and assuered mee that Loue & Fortune fauoureth them that are bold : that the gods themselues seeing my perplexed passions, would of pittie defend mee from those perillous daungers. For if Theseus by Diuine power, were ayed againste the force of the monfrous Minotaure, or if Iason, who constrained with a couetous desire to obtaine the golden Fleece, arriuing at Colchos, was preferued
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

by the Gods, from the dint of the deadly Dragons, no doubt Jupiter himself would either haue made the staggeringe bridge more strong (considering that no hope of wealth, no desire of riches, no greedinesse of gaine, no loue of lucre, but beautie hir selfe was the victorie I meant to vaunt off,) or else if I had fowled in the roaring Seas, he would haue prouided some happie Dolphin, that Arion like, I might ariue at the desired Rocke: and then my daungers should haue bene tourned into delight, my perills into pleasures, my hazarding into happinesse: yea, I should haue posseffed that heauenly paragon, and enioyed the loue of that louelie Venus, whose onely fight were a sufficient false, against all fore-passed sorrowes.

Stay there Master Gwydonius (quoth the Ladie Me Lýtta) for I see to graunt one false proposition, is to open a doore to innumerable absurdities, and that by suffering you to long, of these supposed premisses, you will inferre some cauilling conclusion to your former reasons: thus I replye. That I confesse necessitie to haue no law, but I graunt not the same of Loue: for if it be lawlesse, it is lewde: if without limits, lasciuious: if contained within no boundes, beastlie: if obserued with no order, odious: so that laweleffe Loue without reason, is the verie Load-stone to ruth and ruine.
Sith then Master Gwydonius, as your selfe affirm, this was the pricke that pufht you into perill, how can the effete be good, when the cause was naught, or how can you clarkely defend your desperate motion, proceeding of such a fond and foolish occasion. But it was the perfection of her comelie person, her exquisite feature, and rare beautie, that so kindled thy desire, and so bewitched thy fences: for, who is so fearefull that beautie will not make bolde? who so doubtfull, that beautie will not make desperate? yea, what so harde that a man will not hazard, to obtaine so diuine a thing, as beautie.

Oh Gwydonius, haft thou not heard y the Fift Remora, lyftening to the sound of a Trumpet is caught of the Fishers, that while the Porcupine standeth staring at the glimmering of the starrs, he is overtaken with dogges, that the Deare gazing at the bow is striken with the bolte, that the Leopard looking at the Panthers painted skinne, is taken as a praeie, and that hee which taketh too much delight to gaze vpon beautie, is oftentimes galled with grief and miserie. Yea, his pleasure shall inferre such profite, and his good will such gaine, as if he reapt the beautifull apples of Tantalus, which / are no sooner toucht, but they tourne to ashes.

Beautie Gwydonius, no sooner flourisheth but it
fadeth, and it is not fullie ripe before it beginne to rot: it no sooner blossometh, but it withereth, and scarcely beeing toucht it staineth, like to the Guyacam leafe, that hath the one halfe parched, before the other halfe be perfect: to the Birde Acanthus, which hatched white, yet tourneth blanke at the first storme: or lyke to the Stone Abytes, that chaungeth colour with the onelie breath of a man.

If then Gwydonius, Beautie be so fading, so fickle, so momentarie, so mouing, so withering, so waning, so soone passed, and so soone parched: is this the Jewell, which you count more deere than life? and the Jemme which you thinke worthie to be purchased with the danger of death? No doubt Gwydonius, if you wonne the victorie, you might vaunt of a great Conquest, and if your long hope were repayed with a great happe, it shoulde be much lyke to his, which thinking to embrace Juno, caught nothing but a vanishing clowde.

You doe well Madame (quoth Caphania) to put an If, in it, because hee that vaunteeth of victorie before hee hath wonne the fielde, may proue himselfe a foole: hee that bragges of gaines before the accompts be cast, may perhappes put his winnings in his eyes: and hee that bloweth the Mort before the fall of the Buck, may verie well misse of his fees: so hee that counts himselfe a speeder before he be a
woer, sheweth himselfe a vaine person or a vaunting patch.

Might it not be I pray you master Gwydonius, that passing the bridge, escaping the dangerous seas, & happily arriving at the desired Rock, yet you might misse of your purpose? Yes forsooth: for, many a man bendeth his bow, that never killeth his game, layeth the ftrap that never catch/eth the foole, pitcheth the Net that never getteth the Fish, & long time are heauie woers that never proue happie speeders.

So perhaps Gwydonius, you might be crossed with a chippe of the same mischaunce, and the gorgeous Dame whome you adore for a Goddeffe, might repaie your liking with loathing, your loue with hate, your good will with despite, and your fixed fancie with small affection, either that she liked you too little, or loued another too much. All these doubts Gwydonius, are carefully to be cast, and wisedome it is to seare the worst, and finde the best: but you Sir, like a lustie champion, thinke a Ladie wonne at the first looke, and the good will of women gained at ª first glaunce, thinking the Gods themselves are to be accused of iniustice, if they be not aiders to your enterprisef, in somuch that if in ventring over the perillous passage, you had by disaftter Fortune fallen into the dangerous Seas, you doubted not but that Jupiter
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

would haue sent a Dolphin, that Arion like, you might escape the fearefull surges: but Gwydonius, be not so ventrous, leaft though you harpe verie long, you get not the like hap. These premisses considered, if my cenfure might stande for a sentence, I deeme it better to be counted a daftardly coward, than a desperate caitife, better to forfake your Goddesse than your God, better to liue pinched with a few momentarie passions, than with desperate death to destroy both soule and bodie: for there is no fore such, which in time may not be salued, no care such which cannot be cured, no fire so great which may not be quenched, no loue, liking, fancie, or affection, which in time may not either be represed, or redressed.

Valericus hearing this rough replie of Caftania, suppos'd that although she levelled at Gwydonius, yet she shot at him, and fearing the forte should be to much shaken / with this fierce assault, hee fiftie defended the walls with this fresh alarum.

Madame (quoeth he) I see you will fift nigh the wals eare you bee thrust out for a wrangler, and that you will speake against your owne con-
sience, but you will haue the conquest: for my owne parte Madame, howsoeuer I feeme to like it, I will not faie I mislike it, but I am forrie you Madame Melitta shoulde so blasphemoslie imblaze the armes of beautie, and so reckleslie raile againft
the sacred lawes of loue : take heede for crossing Cupide so crabbedlie, for though hee forgiue and forget, Venus is a woman, and wil seeke reuenge.

Valericus (quoth she) take no care what daunger I incurre for speakeing the truthe: if I chaunce to bee harmed, it is mine owne mishappe, and for Venus reuenge I care for it the lesse, because I feare it not : if I speake against my selfe, you may see I am the fitter to bee a Judge, because I am not partiall, nor haue anie respect of perfons.

These quips Madame (quoth Guydonius) are nothing to the purpose, therefore in the behalfe of my selfe and beautie, thus I answere. That as there is nothing that so soone procureth a man to loath, as deformitie, so there is nothing which sooner procureth a man to loue than beautie: for the most precious stone is chosen by the most glistering hiew, the purest golde by the most perfect coulour, the best fruit by the brauest blossomes, and the best conditions by the sweetest countenance, so that where beautie raigneth, there vertue remaineth, and vnder a faire face resteth a faithful heart. Since then beautie and bountie cannot bee parted, what man is hee so brutish, whome the leaft of these will not make to breake or bend?

And whereas you condemne me of vanitie in vaunting before the victorie, I saie, that if fortune had so fauoured me, that I had gained the presence
of my Goddeffe, I would neuer haue doubted to haue obtained my desire: for if shee had seene the desperate daunger which I aduentured, and the fearefull perills which I passed for her sake, shee could not but of conscience, repaire my loue with vnfained loialtie, and my good will with treble gaine. And in troth I thynke it vn possibile, that such heauenlie beautie shoulde bee eclipsed with crueltie, and such perfect comelineffe bee blemisht with curious coynesse.

Why Gwydonius (quoth shee) doest thou call it crueltie, not to condescend to the request of euerie one that wooeth, or doest thou tearme it coinesse, not to yeeld to the assault of euerie flattering louer? Then in my judgement, it were good for euerie woman to be both cruel and coie, that by crueltie she might auoide the traine of trothlesse wooers, and by coinesse eschue the troupe of faithlesse futors.

And so Madame (quoth Valericus) she shoulde reape small comfort and lesse credit.

Tush Signor Valericus (quoth Gwydonius) it pleaseth her thus merlie to iest, whereas I know shee doth account more of a curteous dame, than of a curious damfell, and that her Ladifhippe so deteiseth the name of crueltie, that shee would bee loth to bee thought to haue a minde deuoide of mercie. And in troth to leaue these perticular in-
staunces, women in generall, or for the most parte, are bountifull, courteous, sober, chaste, demure, not imbrued with vice, but indued with vertue: so that by how much womens bodies are weaker than mens, by so much their mindes are more strong and vertuous.

What Gwydonius (quoth the) doe you thinke to be a free / man in Wales, for offering a Leeke to Saint Dauie, or to bring Pan into a fooles Paradise by praising his Pipe.

Not so Madame (quoth hee) but I hope in extolling a fouldiers life to haue Saint George to my friend, and in giuing verdit with Venus, to gaine her good will, and to reape the reward that Paris had for his cenfure.

Marie sir (quoth Castania) if you haue no better gettings, you may gaine long inough, and yet liue by the losse: for in obtaining one friend, you shall reape two foes, as Paris did, who was more plagued by Pallas and Iuno, than pleasured by flattering Venus.

And yet Madame (quoth he) his mishap shal not make me to beware: for if Venus woulde graunt me but one Ladie in the world, whom most entirleie I love, I wold neither respect Pallas, Iuno, nor Diana her selfe, were she neuer so de-spiteful.

Yes but you would (quoth she) if she pinched
you but with Aétions plague, to pester your head with as many hornes as a Hart: It woulde cause you coniecture your new mistres were too much giuen to the game, or that you were come from Cornetto by descent.

Tuflh Madame (quoth he) doe you count Aétions hap such a great harme? the onelie sight in seeing Diana naked, was a recompence for all his insuing sorrowes, & if my selfe might inioy my wish, and obtaine the heauenlie dame that so hartilie I desire, the plague of Aétion, nay, the griping griefes the ghostlie spirits doe suffer, should not counteruaile the ioy I should conceiuie in inioying so peerelesse a iewell.

Trulie (quoth Thersandro) thou art worthie Gwydonius to bee a chapman, that thou bidft so well for thy chaffer, and in my mind she is not in Alexandria, who for her beautie is so to be loued, or at the leaft would deeme thee not worthie to be liked. But leauing these amorous dis/courses, let vs hie vs in haft to the Court, leaft in tarrying Orllano misse vs, and so we be shent. The companie obeying the minde of Thersandro, passed as speedelie as might be to the pallace, where being ariued, they departed euerie man to his owne lodging.

Caßania had no sooner conuicied her selfe closelie into her chamber, but her mind was moued with a
thousand sundrie motions, and she felt such a cruel conflict in her haplesse heart, by the assault of diuerse contrarie passions, that how stoutlie so euer she defended the wals, she found her force too weake to resift the rage of so recklesse a tyrant. Now the praiers Valerius poured forth came to effect, now Venus meant to bee revenged for the crueltie she vsed to her valiant Captaine, Valerius, who so valiantlie had fought under the flagge of affection, & yet could by no meanes preuaile. For Castania hearing the fugered eloquence, which so sweetlie flowed from the sappie wit of Gwydonius, framing in her fancie the forme of his face, and printing in her heart the perfection of his person, was so intangled in the snares of loue, as shee could by no reason redresse her miserie, but will she, nill she, fell into these bitter complaints.

Alass wittlesse wretch (quoth she) that I am, what fierie flames of fancie doe frie within mee? What desire, what lust, what hope, what trust, what care, what dispaire, what feare, what furie? That to be pained with these perplexed passions, to me that never felt the force of them before, is no lesse dolour than death it selfe, be it never so direfull. O Gods, where are now become those loftie lookes I vsed to Valerius? Where is the disdainfull dealings, the coie countenaunces, the curious congies, the causelesse crueltie? Yea, the
hard heart, which so rigorously rejected the love of him / which so entirely liked mee? Could I, fond fool that I am, valiantly withstand the assaults of a worthy Gentleman, and shall I cowardly yield to an unknown stranger? Did I loathe him, whose parentage was little inferior to mine, and shall I love another of base and vile birth? Did I dissemble to look at the lure, and shall I now stoop without stile, come without call, yea, and to such an empty fist? O lawless Love, O witless will, O fancie, fraught full of phrensie and furie. Alas! if I should be so careless as to consent to this frantike toie, what will they saie, that praised me for my vertue? Will they not as fast dispraise me for my vanitie? Will not my father fret, my kinsfolk crie out, my friends bee sore, my foes, & especiallie Valerius, laugh me to scorne, and triumph of this my mishap? Yea, will not all the world wonder to see me alate giuen to chaftitie, and now shake hands with virtitude, to yield my dearest jewel & chiefest treasure into the hands of a fragling stranger, who came to my fathers Court without countenance or coin, wealth or worship, credit or calling: yea, who by his owne report is but a person of small parentage. Seeke then Castania to assuage this flame, and to quench this fire, which as it commeth without cause, so it will consume without reason: For the greatest flow
hath the soonest ebbe, the forest tempest hath the
most sodaine calme, the hottest loue hath his coldest
end, and of the deepest desire oft times inueth the
deadliest hate: so that she which settles her affection
with such speed as shee makes her choice without
discretion, may call her corne she knowes not where,
and reapes she wots not what, and for her hastie
chooing, may perhaps get a heauie bargaine.
Alasfe, I know this counfaile is good, but what
then? Can I denye that which the destinies haue
decreed? Is it in my power to peruerd y which
the Planets haue placed? Can I resift that which
is stirred vp by the starrs? No, what neede / I
then make this exclamacion, sith I am not the first
nor shall not be the last, whom the frantike phrenzie
of flickering fancie, hath with more wrong and
greater vantage pittiouslie oppressed. What though
Gwydonius be not wealthie, yet he is wise, though
he be not of great parentage, yet he is of comelie
perfonage: it is not his coine that hath conquered
me, but his countenaunce, not his vading riches,
but his renowned vertues, and I farre more esteeme
a man than money: I, but the Duke my father is
not so bafe minded, as to bestow me vpon so meane
a Gentleman, he never wil consent that poore
Gwydonius shoulde inioy y which he hopeth some
peerelesse Prince shall possesse. What then? Shall
I prefer my Fathers weale before mine owne will.
his liking before mine owne loue? no, no, I will choose for my selfe whatsoeuer my choice bee. Why, but perchance Gwydonius will no more esteeme thee than thou didst Valericus, & repaire thee with as small fancie, as thou him with affections? Tush, doubt it not Caßania, thou art the dame which he so deciphered in his dreame, thou art that Venus which he saw in his vision, thou art that Goddesse, whose beautie hath so bewitched him, thou art that iuwell to possess the which there is no hap so hard which he wold not hazard, no danger so desperate which he would not adventure, no burthen so heauie which he would not beare, nor no perill so huge which he would not passe. And shall not then Gwydonius be my servuant, sith I am his Saint, sith I like him which loueth me, sith he is my joy, sith I not inioy him? Yes, Gwydonius is mine, and shalbe mine in despite of the fates and fortune.

Caßania hauing thus pittifullly poured out her plaints, would gladly haue giuen Gwydonius intelligence (with modestie if she might) of her good will towards him, and God knowes how faine Gwydonius wold haue discovered his fervent affection, if too much feare had not astonished him, & too great bashfulness staied her. She therefore houering betweene feare and hope, persuered so long in her pensiue passions and carefull cogitations, that by
court concealing of her inward sorrow, the flame so furiously fired within her, that she was constrained to keep her bed. Whereupon *Melytta* conjecturing the cause of her care by the colour of her countenance, thought to sift out the occasion of her sorrow, that by this means she might apply a medicine to her malady, and finding fit opportunity, she brake with her in this wise.

Madame *Caftania* (quoth she) since I have by the Duke your father been assigned to you as a companion, I have in such loving wise both comforted & counseled you, as I hope you have just cause to say, y I have most carefully tendered your estate, for perceiving how willing you were to follow my direction, I counted your wealth my weale, your pleasure my profit, your happiness my joy, & your prosperity my felicity. Which friendly care if it were not to be considered, if I should shew you what great sorrow I sustaine by your haughtiness, you would judge my wordes to proceede either of follie or flattery, but if your fore be such as it may be valued, if your care may be cured, if your griefe may be redressed, or your malady mitigated by my means, command me good *Caftania*, in what I may to pleasure thee, & thou shalt finde me so charilie to performe my charge, as my willing minde shall evidentlie bewraie my wel meaning. I see *Caftania*, of late, such a strange Metamorphosis
in thy minde, as for pleasant conceits thou dost vse pensiue cogitations, thy cheerefull countenance is changed into lowring lookes, thy merrie deuises into mournfull dumps, and yet I cannot conieecture no cause of this sodaine alteration. If want of riches shou'd work thy wo, why, thou swimst in wealth, if losse of friends, thou haft infinite of noble parentage, which loues thee most entrelie. If thou meanest no longer to leade / a single life, no doubt thy father will prouide thee of such a princible match, as shal content thee for his person, and countenaunce thee with his parentage. But if in all these supposes I haue mist the marke, and haue not tought the case of thy calamitie, vnfolded vnto me Casania, what the paine is that thus doth pinch thee, and assure thy selfe I will be so secret in thy affaires, as euer Lampsana was to her Ladie Cleophila.

Casania hearing this friendlie discourse of Melytta, thought for all this faire glofe, the text might bee too intricate, and that these painted speeches would proue but rotten pillers: fearing therefore the fetch, and doubting the worst, if she bewraie her minde, she framed her this answere.

Madame (quoth she) the incomparable curtesie and vnstained friendship which since your first comming I haue found in you by experience, will neither suffer mee to suspect your Ladishippe of
flatterie, nor my selue willinglie to bee accused of
ingratitued, for your diligence hath bene so great,
& my deerts so small, that if I might but liue to
requite some part of your good will, it were the
second felicitie I looke for in this life. But touching
the pensiue passions which thus diuerSLie perplexed
mee, I answere, that as he which is wounded of the
Bores tuske, if his fore take aire, is verie hardlie
healed, as hee which stroken with a Scorpion, if his
wound take wind can neuer be cured: so Madame,
many inward maladies carrie this nature, that if
they be once discouered, they are farre the more
hardlie recovered, that it is better to conceale them
with grieue, than reueale them in hope of releefe.

Not so Castania, your principle is not true, for
if your passions proceeded of loue, which of all
other inward sores requireth greatest secrecie, yet
vndoubtedlie the more it / is discouered, the sooner
it is cured, for as the stone of Armenia beeing
couered with Sand, burneth moost extreamlie, and
no sooner taketh aire, but it cooleth, so the fire
flames of loue raked vp in silence, frie moost furia-
ouslie, but being by discourse disclosed, they soone
conuert from flame to fume and smoke. Where-
fore good Castania impart vnto me the matter
which doth import thee so neere, and I sweare
vnto thee by the sacred rites of Cares, which is
so honoured in Alexandria, that if thou doest loue
where thy friends doe not like, and thy wish be contrarie to their will, yet I will seeke all meanes possible to redresse thy sorrow.

Alas, good Madame, rather than you should thinke mee so incredulous or suspitious, as not to beleue your oth, or doubt of your secret dealing, I will without delaie make you priuie to the cause of my paine, what perill so euer I incurre by revealing it. So it is Melytta, that the perfection of Gwydonius, his exquisite qualities, and excellent vertues, haue fiercly assaulted the forte of my fancie, as I am perforce constrained to resigne my libertie captiue unto his curtesie, and to make his person the prison of my heart. This lucklesse and vnlikelie loue madame, is the cause of my care, and the sum of my sorrow: this frantike affection hath driuen my drooping heart to shew forth these drouife lookes, this is it which hath made me an enemie to my selfe, a foe to all good companie, & to delight in nothing but sorrow and solitariness: yea, this is the fore, which if in time it be not salued, will preuent by death all other miseries.

And is this (quoth Melytta) the paine that so greatlie perplexeth you? Is this the care which so cumbers your conscience? Is this the danger which driues you into such deepe distresse? Do you thinke so superstitiouslie of Gwydonius, or so abiecitlie of your selfe, that you deeme this matter
impossible to bee brought to passe? no, no, doubt not / Caßania, I my seile dare absolutelie promise thee, that thy loue shall fort to such happie successse, as thou thy self doest seeke for.

And with that Melytta staid by a sodaine sight shee had of † Saint that Caßania so hartely serued, for Gwydonius was entering in at the chamber doore with a dish of delicates, which Orlanio hearing his Daughter was sicke, had sent her. Melytta seeing † Cupid began to fauour the cause of his clients, in giuing them such fit opportunitie to discouer their cares, went her waie, leauing Gwydonius the first man to plaie his part in this tragical Comedie, who seeing his goddesse thus surprized with sicknesse, was so galled with grieue, so pinched with hellish passions, & so tortured with extreame torments, † his colour began to change & he fetcht a deep sigh or two, which, Caßania hearing, shee perceiued without touching his pulses, the cause of these his sodaine passions. In fine, such melancholike motions so amazed his minde, that he was almoft mute in his meassage, yet at length encouraging himselfe, he presented it vnto her in this wise.

Madame (quoth he) the Duke your Father hearing of your sodaine sickenesse, in token of his fatherlie affectioun, amongst all his dainties, hath sent you this dish, which hee thinkes most meete
for your diet, wishing your Ladiship to let no
doubtfull motions distresse your minde, nor no
carefull thoughts cumber your conscience, for you
shall lacke nothing if you reveale to him your
want, which either your will or wish can desyre.
And trulie Madame, to manifest my willing duetie
(if the praiers of a poore Gentleman may be heard
of the heauenlie Gods) I wish that before you taft
of this foode, it may turne to Nectar, whereby not
onelie your sickenesse should bee salued, but your
diuine beautie and vertue according to deset,
should be crowned with immortalitie.

Castania perceiuing with what fervent affection
Gwydonius / vttred these words, began to cheere
vp her selfe, in hope that her good will should not
be repaid with ingratitud : taking therefore the
present at his hands, and liking it neuer the worse for
his sake that brought it, she returned him this replie.

Gwydonius (quoth she) as I haue cause most
reuerentlie to accept of my fathers louing curtesie,
& to repaire his naturall affectio with moft dutifull
obedience, so I haue cause to thanke thee for thy
paines, and to thinke well of thee for thy wish,
promising in recompence of thy good will, if in
any respect I may pleasure thee, to seeke and sue to
my father for preferment.

Madame, I account the performance of my
message no paine, but pleasure, and I thinke my
selfe as much honored by this office, and thrice more happie than if I should in Ganimedes place, present the cup to Iupiter. But Madame, sith that to stop the streame, is to make the shoud flow more fiercelie, to represse the fire, is to make it flame more furiously, and to restraine the force of loue, is to kindle a greater flame, leaft too long delaie should breede too greate daunger, and by concealing my sorrowe I should make the sore incurable, I thought good eyther presently to heare the curteous sentence of my life, or the cruell doome of my death. So it is Madame, that too long gazng vpon the beames of your heauenlie beautie, and too narrowlie construing ouer your vertuous conditions, I remaine so caught in the share of your bountie, and so thraled in the threed of your vertue, that the stie of my life hangeth in your hands, either to driue me downe to hellish miferie, or to hoist mee vp to heauenlie felicitie. For although I haue not heeretofore by dutifull servise made manifest the loyaltie of my loue, yet since I first framed in my fancie (as in a mirrour) the shape of your furpassing beautie, my heart hath bene crossed with such cruell Camizados for your sake, as if with the Target of hope, I had not withstood the furious force of such raging furies, I had by ditpaire bene dashed against most dangerous rockes. Sith then Madame, the sight of your sweete face
hath fast fettered my fancie in the linkes of loue, as without your meanes I can neither be redressed nor released: I humblie desire you neither to refite the motion of my well meaning, nor to reieft the deuotion of my good will, but to accept your poore Gymonius as a faithfull servant.

CASTANIA hearing diligentlie the faithfull discouerlie of distresse Gymonius, percieuing by his sighs, the pinching sorrow of his thoughts, & seeing him so fast fettered in follie, on a sodaine to giue her the slip, had that she desired: and now her louing lookes was turned to lowring glances, her de-lightfull curtesie, to disdainfull coinesse, & she thought to repaire the sweet meate wherewith before she fed him, with most fowre sauce: not that she misliked of his loue, for it was the onelie thing she desired, but to make him the more seruent in affection, uttering these or such like words to her selfe secretelie.

And is not (CASTANIA) the victorie moost accounted of, where the conquest is moost doubtfull? Is not the Castle which abideth the longest battery, thought the richest bootie? Are not those pearles which are scarcelie found and hardlie gotten, euer of greatest value? what so is gained by perill, is thought alwaies precious, hardlie come by, warilie kept. The maide that by long sute & much trauel is obtained, by how much the more
she was hard in the winning, by so much the more she will be sweet in $\frac{1}{2}$ wearing: she which in her virginitie is charie of her chastitie, in her marriage will be as warie of her honestie: therfore I will qualifie the hot loue of Gwydonius with a colde potion: & with that she made him this waspish answere.

Why Gwydonius, shall the olde Prouerbe be verified in thee, that the Priest forgetts himselfe that euer he was a / clarke, that too much familiaritie breedes contempt. I see well if Appelles that cunning Painter, suffer the greasiie Souter to take a view of his curious worke, hee will grow so malapert, as to meddle with his picture: if the proude Centaure Ixion bee bidden to the Feast of the Gods, no lesse than Iuno her selfe will suffice him for his choice.

Set a beggar on horse backe, they say, and hee will neuer alight. Extoll one of base stocke to anie degree of dignitie, and who so proud and haughtie? I speake this Gwydonius to thy reprouse: is thy stomacke alate waxen so queasie, that no diet will downe but my Fathers owne dish? Will no meaner mate suffice thee, vnles thou match with a Prince? Is there no Ladie will like thee, but my loue? Is there no courser Dame to couet, vnlesse thou court vnto me? Did my Father promote thee to this thou art, from the state of a begger, and wilt thou
now presume to be my better? Haue my lookes bene so louing, my countenance so curteous, my glaunces so full of good will, as to promise so much as thou doest presume? No: but one onelie countenance in a senuile mind is too much incour-
agement. Doeft thou thinke Gwydonius, that I account so meanelie of my person, as to match with a man of thy pitch? Shall I so farre cracke my credit, as to cumber my selfe with one of thy calling? Shall I so staine my state, as to stoope to thy lure? No. Where is thy coine to main-
taine my countenance? Where is thy wealth to vphold my worship? Where is thy patrimonie to counteruaile my personage? But put case I accepted of thy fute, doeft thou thinke euer to gaine my fathers good will? Doeft thou thinke it is possible to compasse his consent? Doeft thou hope euer to take him in such a vaine, as he will be willing to giue his verdite on thy side? No Gwydonius, but if he were priuie to this thy pre-
sumption, hee would repaie thy follie with/too much furie, hee would vnplume thee of all his feathers, that like AEops Crowe thou mightest receive the reward of thy rashnesse. If therefore thou loue thine owne welfare, keepe thy selfe within thy bounds, and striue not farther than thy sleeue will stretch, leaft in climing to high, thou catch the forer fall.
Castania hauing thus sharplie shaken vp my young youth Gwydonius, thought she had given him a sufficient cooling Card: but he no whit dismaied with this denial, like a lustie champion entered peece meale with her in this wise.

Madame (quoth he) the poore shoemaker was not blamed for viewing Appelles picture, but because in finding fault hee went beyond his shoe: the Centaure Ixion was not reproved for his familiaritie with Iuno as he was a guest, but in that his fute tended to the sacking of her honestie: familiaritie neuer breeds contempt in a good minde, neither am I to be accused of that crime, for the most steruile slaue in Alexandria (I call the heauens as witnesses of my wordes) doth not with more louing dutie reverence and honour your person and parentage, than doth your poore servant Gwydonius. Well Madame, though my nature and nurture be such in your sight, as they bewraie my bringing vp and birth to be so base, as if I meant to drawe my descent (I must as you saie) imblaze mine armes in the beggers coate: yet thus much I answere in respect of my parents, and without arroganie, thus farre I stand on my pantuffles, that the credite I haue in your fathers Court, is not coequall with the calling I haue in mine owne Countrie, if I did not count it more greater credite and honour, in that I haue sometime injoyed a curteous counten-
ance of your sweete selfe since my comming. But if I were the most famous Prince in the world, I so esteeme your diuine beautie and exquisitete vertue, as I would thinke my selfe farre / vnworthie to possesse such heauenlie perfection: which if I could obtaine, the displeasure of your Father could no whit discourage mee, his thundering threates could no whit amaze mee, no, death itselfe could neuer daunt my minde, were it neuer so despitefull. But who (faie you) can laie their loue where is no desert, & where want breedes a flat denial?

Ah Casania, Nature by her secret motion hath indued all creatures with some perfect qualities, to supplie that want which breedes misliking. The Moule depriv'd of sight hath a wonderfull hearing: the Hare beeing verie fearefull is most swift: the fishe hauing no eares, hath most cleare eies: so though want of dignitie disgrace mee, though want of coinne discountenance mee, though lacke of wealth impaires my credit, yet Nature hath giuen mee such a loyall and louing heart, as I hope in the perfection of that, shee hath supplied the want of all the rest: so that Madame, though I want coine, I doe not want conftrancie, though I haue no lands, yet I lacke not loyaltie, though I want wealth, yet I want not will to end my life to doe you good, or spend my time to doe you seruice.
Gwydonius hauing thus pithelie replied, draue Caftania into a great doubt, whether she should presentlie consent to his demand, or still drue him off with delays, whether she should yeelde the forte at the first skirmish, or stand to the doubtfull event of battaile: at length least she should digresse from the course of womankinde, she thought best to deny that she most of all desired, and therefore then gave him this answere.

Gwydonius (quoth she) in what state you came to my Fathers Court I knowe, what you are by descent I know not, nor I care not, and if I did, it availeth not, but this I saie, that it is harde taking of Fowle, when the net is descried, and ill catching of fish, when the hooke is bare: impossible it is Gwydonius, to inferre beleefe, when no credite will bee giuen, and to deceive her that spieth the fetch: when the string is broken, it is harde to hit the white, and when a mans credite is called in question, persuasions can little preuaile. It is a religion amongst lowers to sweare and forswere, to promisfe mountaines, and performe moullhilles, to bee ripe without and rotten within, to carrie a rustie blade in a velvet scabberde, and a siluer Bell with a leaden clapper. Therefore Gwydonius, I had rather mistrust too soone than mislike too late, I hadde rather feare my choice than rue my chaunсе, I had rather stop at the brim than at the bottome: for the Signet being set, it is
too late to reclaime affection. For the loue of a
woman is lyke the Oyle of Flint, which being once
conieald will neuer bee dissolued: lyke the Diamond,
which being once rubbed with the gum of a Pine
tree, will neuer bee broken: so if I fancie anie, sith
I meane not to fleete, it shall bee such a one, as I
neede not repent mee.

And whereas you faie Gwydonius, that in despight
of Fortune, Nature hath giuen you a louing heart,
I my selfe surely did neuer deeme anie lesse, but
thought you of the crue of those louers that loue
too much, hauing as many Ladies as they haue
wits, and that is not a few: who count that euerie
face must haue a new fancie, and if they see a
thousand, they must be all viewed with a sigh, which
considered Gwydonius, I meane not to like nor to
loue neither you nor anie other.

And shall then Madame (quoth hee) my merite
be repaide with no meede? Shall my good wil
be requited with no gaine? shal I haue in lieu of my
loue no liking? will you so swarue from Justice, as
not to giue euerie one according to his desert? at
the leaft recompence not desire with despight and
heartie loue, with loathing hate, for as the Poet
saythe: Quis enim succenset amanti.

Well Gwydonius, as I wil not be thy priuie friend,
so I will not be thine open foe, and as I cannot bee
so curteous as to requite thee for thy paines, so I
will not be so cruell as to despight thee for thy presumption, and whereas thou crauest gaines for thy good will, I am content to remaine thy unwilling debter.

Yet Madame (quoth he) where the debte is confessed, there remaineth some hope of recovery, for though the creditor be neuer so unwilling to pay, the debt being due, hee shall by constraint of lawe and his owne confession (maugre his face) be forced to make restitution.

Truth Gwydonius (quoth she) if he commence his action in a right case, and the plea he puts in, prove not imperfect. But yet take this by way, it is hard for that plaintiffe to recover his costs, where the defendant being Judge, sets downe the sentence.

Gwydonius feeling himselfe pincht to the quick with this pretie quip, made no further reply, but leaft his long tarying might breed suspicion, wishing his mistres welfare, tooke his leave verie solemnely and sorrowfully, of Castania: who seeing him gone and her selfe alone, began thus to muse and meditate vpon the sharpe aunsweres she had giuen her best beloved Gwydonius.

Why Castania, what frantike follie hath made thee thus far to forget thy selfe? Is the bird inticed to the strappe by the shew of the nettes? is the Foxe allured to the traine by the view of the
THE CARDE OF FANCIE. 109

trappe? will the Moufe march vnder that Ensigne, where the Cat proclai'meth her / selse Captaine? wil the fillie Doue lay her Egges in the Fawlichons neaft? or is it the meanes to haue him to thy frend, whome with bitter blowes thou doeft rebuke? is there no other call for courtefe but crueltie? doeft thou finde no fitter meanes to obtaine a reasonable request but by a rigorous repulse? or is it the nature of women to defie that outwardlie which they most desire inwardlie, to loath that in their mouth, which they loue in their minde, to receiue in their heart? Dost thou thinke Caftania, to draw Gwydonius to thy desire, by detesting him? Doest thou thinke to allure him to thy loue, by loathing him? Doest thou suppose to win him to thy will by these waspish aunsweres? No: and what, doest thou know what perill will infue of this repulse, what daunger will follow of this deniall? Is it like he will put it vp patientlie? No sure, either looke to haue his extreme loue tourned to extreme hate, or that he will persift no longer in the pursu'te of his purpose.

Oh would to God Gwydonius, thou wert againe to begin thy demaund, and I to frame mine aunsweres: then would Ivalue thy fores with sweet sirrops, not with cutting corafues: the would I.
mittigate thy maladie with easie medicines, not with pinching plaisters: then would I comfort thee with consent, not daunt thee with denials. But alas, had I wist now comes to late, and therefore Caßania, if thou haste made a faulte, seeke to make amends, & recom pense this his injurie with most friendly courtesie.

And with that came Melitta, who comforting Caßania, passed away the rest of the day in parle.

But Gwydonius, who all this while hadde a flea in his eare, was druen into a quandarie with the taunting quips of his Miftresse, feareing that although his accomplts / were great, his gains should be little, & though he made a verie long haruest, yet he should reap but a verie small croppe, thinking that vnder such fower speeches, a sugred minde could not be contained: yet at last entring into deeper consideration with himselfe, he fell into these tearmes.

But by the sweete (quoth hee) how should we know the fower: but by the blacke how should we know the white: he neuer greatlie accomplteh of prosperitie which hath not bene before pinched with aduersitie: which perchaunce Caßania meanes to make me trie by experience, thinking to seeke me first with bitter broaths, that hereafter daintie fare may more delight mee: to daunt mee with the
raging storms of denial, that the calm of her consent may more content mee: to make mee taft the bitter pills of annoie, that heareafter I maie enioie the greater ioye: for the chilling colde of winter makes the sprowting spring time seeme farre more pleasant, the parching heate of Summer, makes the coole shade more delightfull, and the frowning lookes of Caftania, will make her smilling countenaunce seeme more cheerefull. Then cease Gwydonius, to pursue thy fute with endless paine, either to enjoy her curtesie, or taft of her crueltie, to thy great happinesse or extreeme heauinesse.

Gwydonius thus like a valiant champion, neuer amazed with anie chip of misfortune, neuer feared to giue the assault for all the first repulse, but onely sought opportunitie how he might in close combat once againe incoater with Caftania, vowing either to return with some signe of victorie, or else to put lim & life in hazard. But fortune meaning pleafatlie to sport with this young nouice, wold neuer minifter such fit occasio, y he might haue solitarie acceffe to his goddes, for Caftania of preteded purpoſe / so warelie avoide his companie, and with such disdainful lookes so reieeted his dutie as Gwydonius was constrained to seeke his courfe by a new compaffe, deleyuering vnto one of her maides, a friendlie letter, to this effect.
Disdained Gwydonius to his desired Caftania, health.

Who so taisteth (Madame Caftania) of the River Licos in India, feeleth such a continual flame to frye and fret his intrayles, as it is more torture than to bee tormented with the hellish furies, and this griefe can neuer be redressed, but with drinking ʃ bloud of his deerest frend. And as he that is venomed by the Phalanga, feeleth such painefull passions, as he runneth mad, and is onely cured [by] the meanes of most harmonious Musicke: so Madame, the furious heate of fancie, dooth so scorch and scale my haplesse heart, and doth perplexe mee with such hellish pangues, as death it selfe were thrice more desired, than thus to drue my dayes in dolour. And I haue so greedely swallowed vp the fugred poyson of your diuine beautie, as through the extremitie of pinching griefe, which so direfullie distresseth mee, I rest as one distracte from his senses, not possible to obtaine a cure for this my calamitie, vnlesse with the deaw of mutuell affection you mitigate my maladie, or with the pleasant harmonie of your Musicall consent, you appease my miserie.

Sith then madam, my care proceedeth from your beautie, let my sore be cured by your bountie, sith the perfection of your person hath wrought my bane, let the effect of your courtesie procure my
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

bliffe, and reiect him not so / rigorously which respecteth you so reuerently: loath him not so hately, which loueth you so heartelie: nor repie not his dutifull amitie, with such deadlie enmitie. The pike fatallie prosecuteth the fish Mugra, as his mortall foe, and yet seeing him shared on the fishers hooke, he speedelie shreideth the line in funder, to deliever him: the Snake most deadlie detesteth the field-moufe, & yet shee heapeth vp in her hole store of provision to preuent her enimies penurie: and shal then madame, your crueltie so farre exceede these senseleffe creatures? shall your rigour be so voide of reason, as to requite your friend with paine, when they repie their foes with pleasure? to drive your friends into distresse, when they redeeme their foes from daunger? no, madame, I hope you will not counteruaile my constancie with such discourtesie, nor so reckleslie regard your poore Gwydonius, whose loue & loyaltie is so great, that as the stones which are founde in the riuere Lyncestis, the lower the winde bloweth, & the deeper they are drencht in the water, the more they burne and blaze: so the more you seeke to coole my fancie with disdain, the more my affection is kindled with desire: the more you loath, the more I like: the greater dispaire you drive me into by denialls, the greater hope (incouraged by constancie) I haue to obtaine my
request: in which fervent affection, I mean to remaine without chaunge, craving in lieue of this my loyaltie, that you will speedelie sende the messenger of present consolation, to him which pineth awaie, and is yours onelie, and euere.

Still in hope, Gwydonius.

Castania, hauing receiued this letter from her assured friend Gwydonius, although she perceiued by her contents / that his loue was not counterfait, but constant: not light, but loiall: not floting, but faithfull: and that she should not finde him immutable in prosperitie, which was so permanent in adversitie. Yet (whether it were for coinesse in consent, or charinesse of choise I know not) she once againe thought to found him more deeper, to keepe out still the flagge of defiaunce, and to spende one Vollee of shot in the face of her enimie, to see if a hot skirmish would make him fly the fielde. And if like a valiant souldier he did manfullie march on, and not refuse the brunt of the bataille, she would then resigne the fort of her freedome into his hands, and yeeld vp the bulwarke of her breast, which so long he had battered, that triumphantlie he might sette vp Trophees in signe of a most victorious conquest. To put therefore the matter in question, she returned him this answere.
Maister Gwydonius, your letter being more hastelie receiued then heartelie read, I perceiue by the contents, that you are stil perplexed with your pen-sick passions, and that your disease is incurable, for if your paines may be appeased, or your maladie mitigated by no medicine, but by my means, you are like either to pay your due vnto death, or stil to linger in distresse. My cunning is to smal to enterprize the composition of anie secrete simples, & my calling to great to become a Phisition to such a paltering patient, so that I neither can nor wil cure another mans harms by mine owne mishap. To loue him whome I cannot like, were but to wreast against mine owne will, to flatter him whome I meane not to fancie, is but a meere tricke of extreame follie.

What the cause is Gwydonius, that thy good will reaps so small gaine, and that so rigoroulsie I repaie thy loue with hate, I know not, vnlesse the constellation of the Starres by some secrete influence haue so appointed it in the calculation of our natuittie. But this I am sure, that as no Serpent can abide the smell of a harts horne, as the Panther escheweth the companie of the Owne, as the Vulture is mortal enimie to the Eele, and as it is impossible to hatch vp a Swanne in an Eagles
neast, to temper Oile & Pitch together in one vessel, to mixe the bloud of a Lion and a Woolfe, in one bowle, and to procure amitie betweene the Fawlcon called Tile, and the Foxe, so hard is it to procure me by rulthful request to be thy friend, which am by instinct of nature thy protestted foe, and as hard to winne me to thy wife, who so little likes of thy loue, that the verie remembrance of thy person makes me fall into most hatefull passions. Cease then Gwydonius, to condemnne me of crueltie, and leave off at last to appeale to my curtesie, for thou shalt alwaies bee sure to feede the one, & neuer to finde the other. Yet least thou shouldest accuse me of ingratitude, though I cannot inwardlie mitigate thy miserie, yet I will outwardlie teach thee to applie such plaisters (as if the experience of them prove true) shall greatlie appease thy paine. Plinie Gwydonius reporteth, that he which drinketh of the River Auerna, cooleth and mortifieth his affections, but if the water be toucht by anie means before it be drunk, the vertue thereof is of no value. He that weareth the feathers of the Birde Ezalon about him, shall euer bee fortunate in his loue, but if they be not pulde when the Sunne is eclipsed, they are of no force: and to conclude, there is nothing that sooner driueth awaie amorous conceits, then to rub thy temples of thy head with thy sweat of an Asse,
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

which if you canne performe it, as no doubt you may put it in practise, I hope you shall be redressed from your intollerable griefe, and I released from such an importunate sute.

Forced by the destinies still
to deny thee, Caphania.

Gwydonius hauing viewed and reviewed ouer this letter, seeing the rigorous resolution of his mistres, could by no meanes be removed, and that a most seuerer sentence was pronounced against him by a most iniurios Judge, was driuen into a doubt whether he should still with plaints sue for pittie, or else blasphemously exclame against her brutish crueltie, whether he should bewraye his parents and parentage to the Duke and her, or still stand to the doubtfull chaunce of Fortune, to pursue his purpose still with plaints: her hellish crueltie perfwaded him, to blaspheme against her: the sinceritie of his loue, would not let him to bewray his birth: diuerse daungers might infuse: to stande to the chaunce of Fortune, was still to hazard without hope: combred thus with diuers cogitations, at last he determined to breake vp the batterie, and to laie too an inuincible hold, but to returne with as much speede as might bee to his Father Clerophontes Court, there by absence to mittigate the maladie which so grieuoueslie molested
him: yet he thought before his departure to give her a friendlie farewell, that might both confirme his constancie, and contempte her crueltie: which he framed to this effect.

Gwydonius to Caßania, prosperous
successe in all her affaires.

I meane not, most mercileffe mistresse, any longer to sue for mercie, nor with pittifull plaints to trouble your patience, sith to stirre that which the Starres hath staied, is to striue against the streame, and to force that which the fates haue framed, is to couet to be counted a foole, but as one whome fortune meanes to make a myrroure of miserie, and ouer whome Venus her selfe meanes to vaunt as of a moft haplesse vasal, I sorrowfully send you this fainting farewell, as a faithfull token of my fervent affection: for seing neither my person can please, nor my liuing like you, nor my base calling content you, nor I my selfe reape anie guerdon for my good will, to avoide remembrance of these passions, which renue my pains, and to asswage the rigour of my raging loue, I purpose as speedely as winde & weather wil permit me, to abandon the place of your abode: not incensed by furie, as one in despyght, but inforced by the rage of fancie to depreue my selfe of all delight, either to consume in solitarie cares without compassion, or by absence
to mitigat some part of my martirdome: for to hope stil, I see is but to heap wope vpon wretched-
neffe, & care upon calamitie. Yet madame thus
much I say, that *Dido Queene of Carthage* loued
*Aeneas*, a banished exile, & a strangling stranger.
*Enphinia* daughter to the king of *Corinth*, & heire
apparent to his crowne, who for her feature
was famous throughout all the East countries,
vouchsafed to applie a souereigne plaister to the
furious passions of *Acharisto*, her fathers bondman.
The dutcheffe of *Malphey* chose for her husband
her servuant *Viriico*: and *Venus*, who for her
surpassing beautie, was canonized for a Goddesse,
disdained not the loue of limping *Vulcan*. They
madame, respected the man, & not their money,
their wills, & not their wealth, their loue, not
their liuings: their constancie, not their coine:
their person, not their parentage: and the inward
vertue, not the outward value. But you are to
addicted to / the opinion of *Danae*, that vnleffe
*Jupiter* himselfe be shrouded in your lappe, vnder
the shape of a shower of golde, he shall haue
the repulse, for all his deitie: seeing then it is not
in my poore power, either to performe or practise
it, I cease off to seeke for impossibilities: promisifying
in what coast or Countrie so euer I shall remaine,
to haue my heart whollie dedicated to your diuine
beautie and vertue, both by dutie and seruice, and
so commending my health to the Gods, I bid you farewell.

Yours while he is Gwydonius, sans espoier.

Caštania hauing received this Letter from Gwydonius, perceiving the constant minde of the yong Gentleman, that these his protestations were not vanitie, but veritie: not trising, but troth: no signes of fleeting fancie, but of a firme affection: standing a while in a dump, at last she fell into this discourse.

I now (quoth she) both see and trie by experience, that there is no fissh so fickle, but will come to the baite: no Doe so wilde, but will stande at the gaze: no Hauke so haggard, but will stoope at the lure: no Nieffe so ramage, but will be reclaimed to the Lunes: no fruit so fine, but the Caterpiller will consume it: no Adamant so hard but will yelde to the File: no mettal so strong, but will bend to the stampe: no maide so free, but Loue will bring her to bondage and thrdlome. And doe I call it bondage, fond foole, to bee bound vnto beautie? is it flauerie to be subieect vnto vertue? is it thrdlome to liue in league with him who will like mee in my youth, and loue mee in my age, in whome I shal finde nothing but pleasure and contentation: who will be the hauen of my
happinesse, wherein I may rest: and the port of my prosperitie, wherein I may be safe harboured from the tempests / of froward fortune, & shroud mee frō ſ bitter blasts of bale? Shall I repent mee fith my bargaine is good, or complaine of the losse of libertie, fith I haue a change for farre more worthie chaffier? Shall I grudge when the gods are agreed, or defer it, when the destinies drive it: or froune at it, fith fortune frames it? No, Gwydonius is my Saint, and him will I serue, he is my ioye, and him will I iioye. He hath laide the siege, and he shallo sacke the citie, he hath abode the batterie, and he shall haue the bulwarke of my breast: he hath fought the combat, and he shall be victor in the conquest. For I cannot be so vnnaturall, to reward his loue with loathing: so without reason, to defraude him of his right: so diuellish for his deepe desire, to giue him a dolefull diſh of dispaire. No, no, I haue setteleed with my selfe, that if euuer I marrie, Gwydonius shall bee the man I will match with. And therefore as I haue driuen him with delayes, & fed him with follie, so now I will send him a setteleed aunfwere of my good will and fauor, as I haue giuen him cutting coraſues, so I will send him confects of comfort. As I have bene fearefull to shew my liking for the better tryall, so now I will be bolde to shew my loue in token of a
better truf, and with that she wrote him a Letter to this effect.

Caftania to Gwydonius, wishing him such happie successe, as either fortune or the fates can allow him.

Plato Gwydonius, being demaded why he wold neuer codescend to y' requests of his moft deeref friends wout great entrey & log fute, answered, y' things lightly granted (though neuer so costly) are smally accounted off: which saying Gwydonius, I take as a sufficiet excuse for my folly: for my straighthnes in words was no stragnes in minde, / my bitter speeches were written with my hand, not wrought with my heart, my deniall was onelie for the better triall, and thofe rigorous repulfes were either to rip vp thy fained fancie, or fervent affection: for if thou hadift retired at the firft foile I would haue thought thy fancie but a flash, readie to bee quenchd with the leaft misling deaw of misfortune. But since thou haft kept thy course so rightlie by thy compaffe, amidst moft dangerous rockes, and haft stooke to thy tackling againt all the blustering blafts of fortune. Affure thy felfe in liew of this thy loue, thou haft not heeretofore found me fo disdainfull, as hereafter thou shalt finde me dutifull, neither did I euer reiece thee so currifhlie, as I will accept thee curteouslie, being readie to restore the injurie I haue offred thee,
with anie curtesie that thou maist either honesstlie require, or I iustlie affoord. But alasfe Gwydonius, what curtesie shal I euer be able to shew thee, that may counteruaile thy kindnesse? How entirely shal I loue thee to requite thy loialtie? What dutie can be a due recompence to this thy good will: yea, if by anie meanes I can quit this thy loue, I neuer doubt to be deemed vngratefull while I liue. Thy worthie constancie (Gwydonius) hath won the caste which many haue besieged, and thou hast obtained that which diuerse haue sought to gain: yet it is not the shape of thy beautie, but the hope of thy loialtie, which entiseth me, not thy faire face, but thy faithfull heart: not thy comelie countenance, but thy modest curtesie, not thy wordes, but thy vertues: not thy wealth, but thy wit: for she that builds her fancie vpon such famed subiects, tieth her loue to the inconstant wheele of fortune. And what though the Duke my father be incensed against me, for making (in his minde) so carelessse a choice? What care I for his friendship, so I haue thy favoure: let him fret, let my friends frowne, let liuings be lost, hap what hap will, no misling showers of mischance, no/ boysterous blasts of aduersitie, no terrible tempest of disastuer fortune, shall make my constant minde in any respect to moue: no torments, no trauaille, no care, no calamitie, no penurie, no pouertie, no,
onelie the losse of life, shall diminish my loue: in liew whereof remaine thou but constant, and in pledge of my proteced good will, haue here my heart and hande, to be thine in dust and ashes.

Thine, though the Gods say no:
Caftania.

This Letter being most luckelie deliuered into the hands of Gwydonius, I leave you to judge Gentlemen into what a quandarie this young youth was brought, to see such a sodaine chaunge, and so happie a chaunce, as to haue his hellish bale requited with heauenlie blisse, his despightfull annoy, with delightfull ioye: his heauiness with happinesse, & doubtfull despaire tourned to affured hope: to see Fortune which of late defied him as a foe, now to imbrace him as a friend, and to wil that he did with: to see his mistresse crueltie tourned to curtesie, her disdain to desire, her bitter pilles to sugered potions, her stormie repulses to calme consent, and her contemptuous protestations, to most constant promises. For if the carefull captiue, who by the doome of \\ Judge expecteth eache houre to dye, reioyseth when he heareth his pardon pronounced, no doubt Gwydonius ioye could be no lesse, sith denial was his death, and consent the conferue to heale his woundes: the greater care, the greater ioy, the more paine, the
greater pleasure, the more hellish miserie, the more heauenlie felicité. Yea, Gwydonius was druen into such an extasie for ioye, that he was in doubt, whether this letter was preferred to him / in deede, or presented to him in a vision, whether hee were wrapt into a Traunce, or rauished with some drowsie slumber: but at last perceiving it to be no fained fantasié, such a deepe desire inforced his affection, as hee thought euerie moment a month, euerie houre a yeare, euerie day a thousand, vntill he might freeli inioye the presence and sight of his loue and Ladie Castania. Fortune meaning to advancse him to the toppe of her inconstant wheele, brought it fo to passe, that beeefore the weeke was ended, he spied Castania walking alone in the garden: which sodaine sight fo reuised his fences, that without any dread or doubt, he manfullie marcht on towards her, and was as haftelie and hartelie incont doubted by Castania: who embracing Gwydonius in her armes, welcommed him with this salutation.

As the Whale (Gwydonius) maketh alwaies signe of great ioye at the sight of the fishe called Talpa Marina, as the Hinde greatlie delighteth to see the Leopard, as the Lion fawneth at the view of the Unicorne, and as he which drinketh of the Fountaine Hipenis in Scithia, seeleth his mind fo drowned in delight, that no griefe though neuer
so great, is able to assuage it: so Gwydonius I conceive such surpassing pleasure in thy presence, and such heavenslie felicitie in the sight of thy perfection, that no miserie though never so monstruous, is able to amaze mee, no dolour though never so direfull, is able to daunt mee, nor no mishap though never so perilous, is able to make mee sinke in sorrow, as long as I joy thy presence, which I count a soueraine preservative against all carefull calamities. That as he which tasteth of the hearbe Phacinthus is never combred with care, and as he that weareth the stone Agathes about him, is surelie defenced against all infuing sorrowes, so joying the sight of thy seemly selfe, and feeding / mine eyes with the forme of thy feature, I think my selfe sufficiently shrowded against all the tempestuous floweres of sinister fortune. And to proove these my promises to be no fained vanities but faithfull veritie, I commit my selfe, my staye, and state, into thy hands, to dispose of mee at thy pleasure, wishing rather to liue with thee in most distrested penurie, than to linger heere in most fortunate prosperitie.

Gwydonius listening attentuellerie to this fugred harmonie, was so rauished with the sight of her sweete face, and so rapt into a traunce with the contemplation of her beautie, that as the Lyon taasting of the gumme Arabicke becommeth sense-
leffe, as the Bull by brouging on the barke of a Juniper tree falleth a sleepe, as the Camill standeth astonished at the sight of a Rat: to Gtwydonius seeing in his armes the Saint whome in heart he did honour, and imbracing the Goddesse whome with most deepe devotion he did adore, was so amazed, that he was not able to utter one worde, as witnesse of his happiness: vntill at laft gathering his wits together, he began thus to replie.

Castania (quoth hee) it is an axiome in Philosophie, that the colour ioyned hard to the sighte, hindereth the fence, the flower putte into the nofe-thrill, stoppeth the smelling: the Wine vessell being full, lettes passe no Wine, though neuer so well vented: the water-pot beeing filled to the brimme, yeelds foorth no licour, though hauing a thousand holes: so where the minde is surcharged with ouermuch ioy, or to much pleasure, ther y tongue is both tied, & the fencs so restrained, y the heart is neither able to conceiue y ioye, nor the tongue able to expresse y pleASURE. Which Castania I now speake/by prooufe, and know by experience, for I am so drowned in delight by inioying that princely Jemme, which I esteeme the rarest and richest Jewell, not onelie in Alexandria, but in all the worlde, and so puffed vp in pleASURE by thy diuine presence. Yea, thy
faithfull and vnfained affection, the promise of thy constancie, and the hope of thy loyalty, the report of thy chastitie, and the renowne of thy modeste, the force of thy beautie, and the fame of thy vertue. But aboue all, thy prodigall bountie, in bestowing these heauenlie perfections on thy poore Gwydonius, being by person and parentage most vnworthie to possesse them, so surchargeth my fullie heart with excessiue ioye, that my tongue not being able in part to expresse the extreame pleasure of my minde, I am with Philistion the Comical Poet, constrained by silence to unfold that affection, which in words, the filed phrase of Demosthenes, were not able to decipher. But this assure thy selfe Castania, that if Iuno would aduance mee to bee Monarch of the world, if Pallas would preferre mee to exceede haute Hercules in valour, if Venus would present mee with some princelie piece of heauenlie perfection, yet would I not so gladlie receive their proffers, as I doe gratefullie accept the promise of thy loue and loyalty. No, I acount the treasure of Cæfus but trash, in respect of the guerdon of thy good will: I acount the fortune of Caesar but follie, respecting the fruietes of thy favor: I esteeme the dignities of Priamus as dreggs, in respect of thy diuine perfection. Yea, Castania, I am so shar’d with thy beautie, and so intangled in the trap of thy bountie, as I shall
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

neuer leaue to loue thee, nor euer beginne to like anie other.

It is easie Gwydonius (quoth Castrania) to purchase credite, where the partie is alreadie perfwaded, and to infer beleefe, wher euer word is counted an Oracle: there/fore omitting these friuolous protestations, thus much I say touching the purpose. Cecilius Metellus was wont to say, that as it was necessar[i]e y olde men shoule be graue in coun-saile, so it was expedient yong men shoule be secret in loue, and therefore when the contract was made between Fulvius and his daughter, he sealed vp their lippes with his signet, meaning that to violate the secret conference of louers, was to commit a second sacrilege. I speake thus Gwy-donius, as one carefull of thy staye and my state: for if Orlanio my father shoule but once heare of our loue, or suspeet our liking, it would breede thy mishap and my miserie: yea, no doubt hee would speedelie preuent our pretence, which would bee thy care and my calamitie. Dispose our affaires at thy pleasure, but discover not our purpose: if thou haft won the castell, vaunt not of the conquest: if thou haft made a good market, bragge not of thy gaines: leaft by boasting of thy bootie, thou lose thy praiie, and be thought a prater. And Gwy-donius aboue all men beware of Valericus, leaft vnder the shape of a friend, he prowe in time thy
mortal foe, lest his fained amitie prove faithlesse enmitie: that in trusting too much without triall, thou finde not treason: and then though thou repent, yet had I wist commeth too late, and so thou wist thou hadst neuer loued, and I neuer liked.

Thus Castania (quoth Gwydonius) he that is afraide to venter on the Bucke, because he is tapisht in the briers, shall neuer haue hunters hap, and he that puttes his doubt in loue for euerie chaunce, shall neuer haue louers lucke. Cannot the Cat catch Mice, without she haue a bell hanging at her eare? Cannot the Hobbie seaze on his praine, but he must check? Cannot the Spaniell retriue the Partridge, but he must quest?/ And cannot we deale so warilie but all the world must wonder at it? Yes, it is a subtile Bird that breeds among the aerin of Hawkes, and a shifting sheepe that lambs in the Foxes den, and he shall looke narrowlie that spies mee halting. Let Orlanio not onelie weigh our workes, but our wordes, and let Valericus both deeme our deedes and deuine our thoughtes, and yet I hope wee will deale so secretlie in our affaires, as neither the one shall haue caufe to suspect our familiaritie, nor the other to detect our affection. And therefore Castania, lest (if wee bee spied) the time and place giue occasion of mistrust, I will leave you as I found you, and so farewell.
Well, these two lovers placed thus by fortune in the palace of earthlie prosperity, floated so securelie in the streams of bliss, as they thought no chippes of mishance might change their present happinesse to future heauinesse, as long as their priiue contract was kept so secret to themselves. But as they which cannot see fire in the strawe are stone blind: so he that cannot see the flame of fancie is a foole. It is harde to couer smoake, but more harde to conceale loue, which these two lovers in tract of time tried true. Who as closelie as they kept their cloake, yet it was most easie to espie the lining: for fancie secretlie restrained, is like the sparke couered with ashe, which at length bursteth into a great flame. For there passed betweene Gwydonius [and Cاثania] such amourous glaunces, such louing lookes, such curteous congies, such countenances, and such friendlie familiaritie, such often meetinges, such open greetinges, such sighes, such sobbes, and such strange passions, as not onelie Valericus, but all the Court (though they poore soules thought to daunce in a Net and not bee seene) perceived how entirelie they loued and liked eache other. Which as it dyd not displease many which loued Gwydonius as their friend, so it greatlie despighted Valericus which was his foe, to see one of small countenance preferred before one of his calling: that Gwydonius shoulde winne the bulwarke
which he so long had battered: that he pitching the field, another should obtaine the conquest: that he laying the siege, another should vaunt of the victorie: that while he beate the bush, another should catch the birds: and that the meede of his merite, should be giuen to one of small desert. Being cumbered with these cholerike cogitations, and perplexed with these despightfull passions, inflamed with wrathfull furie, he fell into these tearmes.

O Gods (quoth hee) what curtesie is there to bee found in such Kites of Cresius kinde? Or what constancie is there to be hoped for in such daintie disdaining Dames? Whose waueering willes and staylesse wits, both waxe and wane with the Moone, whose lunatike mindes chaunge with euerie sodaine motion: yea, whose lightnesse and leawdnesse is such, as they delight with the Rauen to feede on the moste loathsome flesh, with the shee Woulfe to choose the foulest make, with Aesops Cocke to prefer the Barlie Corne before a most precious Pearle, and with Glaucus to make a change of his golden armour for brasen Harnesse.

Did not Euphinia forfake most famous Princes, and embrace a most infamous bondflaue? Did not Sirithia the Princesse of Denmarke reiect most principelie Potentates, and at last accepte a poore peasant? Yea, dydde not Venus her selfe with the Beetle disdaine/all daie to light on the most
fragrant flowers, and at night vouchsafeth to lodge
in a filthy cowheard: I meane, did not refuse the
renowned Gods, & choose a most deformed Smith?

Why, but Valerius, is it fancy that forceth them
in this folly? Doth love lead them? Do the
definies drive them? Doth beauty allure them?
Is it their countenance that constraineth them? No,
they are clowns: Is it their person or parentage
that perfwadeth them? No, they are pefrants. But
like craftie Caliphas, they thinke by these unequall
matches to rule the roaft after their owne diet, to be
souveraine mistres of their owne mindes, with Venus
to let Vulcan possesse the tree, and Mars enjoe the
fruit, to haue their husbands feede the sheep, and
some other reap the fleece: vnder the shadowe of
his head, doe defend themselues from such heate
as would otherwife greatlie scorch their credite, to
make him followe the bent of their bowe, although
he set the Cuckoldes end vpward. It is a simple
cloake that cannot couer one from a shower of
raine, and a feelie husband that is not able to
father that another doth beget. But to see howe
these gallant girles if they like not the partie, what
shew of shamefastnesse they will make, howe they
will vale their face with the visour of virginitie,
how they will cloake themselues with the coulour
of continencie, how charie they will be of their
chaftitie: whereas if they fancy, who so loose of
their lippes, and free of their flesh as they? But *Valerius*, why doest thou thus reckleslie raile and rage against womankinde? It is not *Caftania* that thus croseth thee with care, but *Gwydonius* that breedeth thy griefe. It is not she that inferreth thy fore, but he that procureth thy sickness. She is not the meanes of thy maladie, but hee the hinderer of thy medicine. She is not the worker of thy woe, but he is theower / of thy sorow. And shall he be puffed vp with prosperitie, and I pressed downe with miserie? Shal he swim in wealth, and I sinke in want? Shall he bath in blisse, and I waile in woe? Shall he be pampered vp with pleasure, and I pinde awaie with penurie? No, I will either spoile him, or spill my selfe, in despite of the fates and fortune.

While thus *Valerius* fought opportunitie to reuenge his wrath vppon guiltlesse *Gwydonius*, Fortune minding to bewraie her immutabilitie, brought it so to passe, that whereas *Orlanio* was accustomed to paie a yeerelie tribute to the Duke of *Metelnye*, which surmounted to the sum of thirtie thousand Duckets, either wilfullie or wittinglie he with-held this debt, which *Clerophantes* claimed as his due, insomuch that beeing demanded by embassage for the paiment of this tribute, hee flatlie answered, that he would not from hence forth disburse one denier, & he was forie that in
paying it heretofore he proued himselfe such a
foole. Whereupon Clerophontes being fraught with
raging furie, was so incensed against Orlanio, that
taking counsaile of his nobilitie, hee determined
with as much speede as might bee, to wage bataile
against him, and to obtaine that by constraint,
which he denied him of curtesie. As thus he was
musing with himselfe whom he should appoint
Captaine generall of his armie, because hee meant
not in proper person to abide the hazard of the
bataile, the remembrance of his sonne Gwydonius
came into his minde, which not onelie amazed him,
but so molested him, as he was druen into most
distresed dolour: now hee called to minde his
mercilesse crueltie in correcting his faults, and his
moodlesse rigour in rebuking his follie: now hee
bewailed his long absence, and wished his speedie
presence: yea, he was so diuerselie perplexed, as he
began thus dolorous/lie to discoursse with himselfe.

Alasse (quoth he) now I see the saying of Cicero
to bee true, that whoso wilfullie peruereth the
lawes of nature, seemeth to, proclaime himselfe an
enimie to the Gods, for that Nature neuer framed
anie thing amisse: wherein I haue most grieuouslie
offended: For in beastlie rage I haue surpassed
the brute bestes, and in crueltie, the fenceellesse
creatures: I haue beeene more dewoide of pittie
than the Fowles of the aire, and more vnnaturall
than the Fishes of the sea. The Birde called Apis Indica, seeing the venymous Viper readie to devour her young ones in the neast, presenteth her selfe to death, to preferre them from destruction. The Eagle is so carefull ouer her young, that if it happe by her default one of them doe perish, she willinglie woundeth her selfe in many places with her owne beake. The Lion so louinglie fostereth vp her Whelpes, that shee neuer tateeth of the praine vntill they bee fullie satisfiied. The Foxe is so carefull ouer her cubbes, that shee willinglie falleth into the Hunters handes to defend her young from harme. But I vilde wretch (as though I had drunke of the Riuere Lincesbis in Bohemia, which presentlie turneth whatsoeuer it toucheth into stones). In stead of friendlie courteous haue abused mine owne sonne with frowning crueltie, the fatherlie affection I haue shewed him, hath beene raging furie: yea, my rigorous Nature, naye rather my vnnatural rage hath beene such towards him, as hee liueth a banished exile in a fraunge Countrie, perchappes pinched with penurie, oppressed with pouertie, wandering in the wilde Desartes, in danger of deououring, in perill of spoyling, afflicted not onelie with the maladie of the bodie, but the miserie of the minde: so that no doubt she wisheth that / I had neuer bene Father to such a sonne, or he neuer sonne to such a Father.
Alas! what joy can I now enjoy when I want my onelie ioye? What comfort can I haue to see my childe in calamitie? What pleasure can I take while hee toyleth in penurie, who nowe in mine age shoulde bee the staffe whereon to staie, that by his valiant courage and warlike prowesse (wherewith from his infancie hee hath beene indewed) might defend mee from mine enimies, and reuenge mee of my foes. But alas! I lament too late, the calme commeth out of time, when the Shippe alreadie hath suffered shipwracke, and these pittifull plaintes little preuaile, where the Patient is alreadie pushed into peril. No, no, my rage hath beene too greate to heare of his haftie returne, my peruerse furie hath beene such, as hee dare not abide my presence: and surelie my sorowe is too greate euer to be salved.

And with that Clerophantes statt vp, minding to reuenge these his cholerike cogitations by bloudie battaile vpon the confines of Alexandria, and therefore in great haft musterd all his men, made great prouisions for the warre, and causd his Nauie to bee rigged, for that hee meant to conuie his armie by sea into Alexandria.

While thus there was no worde through the whole Dukedome of Metelyne but warre, warre and no newes but of the cruell conflict that shoulde
infue betwene the two Dukes. Certaine Merchants of Alexandria, which then roade in the Hauen, durft not goe a shoare to sell their Commodities, but as fast as winde and weather would ferue them, highed them out of the harbour, and coasted speedelie into their owne Countrie: where they no sooner arriued, but they made reporte thereof to Orlanio, who driuen into a dumpe with this noisome / newes, whether he doubted of the puissant power of Clerophonates, who was such a worthie warriour, and in battaile so bolde, that no man durft abide him, or whether he feared his owne force was not able to resist the furie of his raging enimie. He presentlie summomed all his Lordes to a Parliament, where after some conference, it was concluded that Thersandro should bee sent Embassadour to Metelyne to parle of peace with Clerophonates: which determination was no whit deferred, but with as much speed as might be, the Barke wherein he should passe was prouded, the charge of the Embassage was giuen him, & he accompanied with a traine of braue Gentlemen, departed.

But if this newes was dolefull to Orlanio, no doubt it was death it selfe to Gwydonius, who hearing that his Father would bend his force against the place, wherein hee was, sawe all possibilitie taken awaie from obtayning his purpose: for hee
feared death if hee were knowen to Orlania, and hee doubted despightfull hate at the leaft, if he bewraide himselfe to Caftania. Which double dolour so distrested him, as he felt himselfe diversifie perplexed with dumpish passions: his mirth was turned to mourning, his pleafant conceites, to painfull cogitations: his wanton toies, to wailing thoughtes: now he abandoned all good companie, and delighted onelie in solitarie life, the wildsome woods were his wish'd walkes, and the secret shades the couert he chieflie courted. In fine, he seemed rather a Tymon of Athenes than a Gentleman of Alexandria, fo that all the Court meruailed at this fo sodaine a chaunge, but especiallie Caftania, who coniecturing his dolefull heart by his drouifie lookes, was astonifhed at this his strange state, cafting in her minde whether she had gien him anie caufe of this care, or whether by her occasion, he was crofled w this calamitie. But alas poore soule, howsoever she aimed she mift the marke, for Gwydonius felt his disease so secret, as he knew none could but himselfe deuine the caufe of his maladie, which no doubt was such, that it would haue inferred present death, if he hadde not hoped for some happie newes by Thurfandro.

Who no sooner luckely ariued at Metelyne, but Clerophontes was certified that the Dukes sonne of Alexandria was come to impart with his grace
some waightie matters of importaunce. Now at this instant when the message was brought him, his Daughter Lewcippa was by, who (as the nature of women is, desirous to see and bee seene) thought she should both heare the parle, and view the person of this young Embassadour, and therefore found fish on her fingers, that she might staye still in the chamber of presence: whether presently Therlandro was sent for: who curteously and curiously dooing his obeysfance to the Duke, deliuered his Embassage in this manner.

Whereas (right worthie sir) Orlanio, the Duke of Alexandria, more unwittingly then wilfullie denied certaine tribute, which hee confesseth both hee and his predecessours haue paide to you & your auncefours. Hearing that hereupon your grace meaneth rather to wage battale, then to loose any part of your due, although he feareth not your force, as one able euer way to withstand it, nor passeth of your puissance, as a Potentate sufficient to refist your power. Yet, the care hee hath of his subiects safetie, & the loue he hath to preserue the life of his commons, the regard he hath to paye and performe that which conscience and custome requireth: and lastly, meaning with Tully, Iniquissimam pacem iustissimo bello anteponere. He hath sent mee both to sue for conditions of peace, and to paye the tribute, which if your grace
THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

shall refuse, of force he must put his hope / in the hazard of Fortune.

Thisandro hauinge thus pithelie performed his charge, Clerophonotes tolde him that vpon a sodaine he would not dispact so weightie a matter: but meant first both to consult and take counsaile of his Nobles: which done, within three dayes hee shoulde haue an aunswere. In the meane time hee commaunded Lucianus the Steward of his house, verie courteoufli to entreate both Thisandro and his traine, and to feast them with such sumptuous fare, as they might haue cause most highlie to extoll his magnificence.

But leaving Clerophonotes, to consult with his learned counsaileours, and Thisandro to accompanie with the lustie Courtiers, againe to Lewcippa, who while this young youth was telling of his tale, neuer markte the matter, but the man: nor regarded not the parle, but respected the person: neuer noted the contenentes, but viewed his countenaunce: In such sort, that she was so scorched with the fire of fancie, and so scalded with the flame of affection, so bewitched with his beautie, and so inueigled with his bountie, as hee was the onely man that made her checke at the praie, bate at the Lure, and willinglie yeeldde to the first assault of fancie. And on the other side, Fortune so faoureied, that Thisandro printing in his heart the perfection of
Lewcippas person, felt his freedome so fettered by the view of her heauenlie face, and so shared in the beames of her amorous glaunces, that hee wisht that either this discention had neuer growen, or that hee hadde not beeene the deliuerer of the message: for hee felte his heart alreadie so ouergrowen with good will, towards this young Princeffe, as no salue but her selfe was able to mitigate his sorrow, no medicine but her courtesie was able to cure his calamitie: and hee thought to preferre his sute to his professed foe, was follie: to linger still in loue, was death and miferie: to seeke for helpe at her handes, neither would the present state permitte him, nor time suffer him to prosecute his purpose: daunted with these diuerse doubts, to ayoyde the melancholike motions that molested his minde, hee presentlie went from his lodging to the Court, that by companie he might drye away these dumpes: where hee found in the great chamber diuerse Ladies and gentlewomen, passing awaye the time in pleasaunt parole: amongst whome was that pearelesse Paragon, princely Lewcippa: who (after due reuerence done to the Gentlewomen in generall) was singled out by Therfandro, and courted in this wise.

Madame (quoth hee) if any creature hath iuft occasion to accuse either nature or the gods of iniustice, man onelie hath the greatest cause to
made this complaint: for there is none either so
depriued of reason, so deuoide of fense, which by
some naturall instinct doth not skilfully presage of
perills before they come, & warily preuent ere
they be past.

The Goates of *Lybia*, know certainlie when the
Canicular daies beeginne, wherein commonlye they
fall blinde, and therefore by eating the hearbe
*Polpodium*, they prouidentlie preuent their disea$.e.
When the Lion leaueth his Lawnes, and raung$eth
in forrain De$erts, hee alwaies foresheweth a
drought. When the Fish called *Vranascapos*
sinketh downe to the bottome of the Sea, hee
beewrayeth great tempe$tes to bee imminent. But
man is so farre from this secret foresight, that not
onely he cannot deuine of these ensuing daun$ers,
but rather wilfully or willing: pusheth himselfe into
mo$t manifest perills, which Madame, I speake, as
/feeling my selfe distrested with this want. For
if I had bene indued with this sacred prescience,
perfectly to presage of ensuing perills, I had not
bene cro$wed with such cares as I am like to incurre,
nor hadde cause to repent this my present ariuall.
But $ith lacke of such skil$ hath procured my los$e,
and that when the hurt is hadde it is too late to
take heede, though reuealing of my mishappe can-
not heale my miserie, nor repeating of my paines
redresse my sorrow: yet, I meane to participate
my passions to your good grace, that though you cannot or will not mitigat my maladie, yet you may pittie my estate, which will somewhat ease my heauinesse.

I came to your Fathers Court, Madame, a free man of Alexandria, and am like to retourne a captiue of Metelyne: I ariued deuoide of care, and am like to departe, drenched with calamitie: I landed free from affection, but feare to passe hence fraught with fancie: my charge was onely to parle of peace, but my chaunce is to discourse of passions. Yea, your beautie hath so fettered my freedome, and so snared my heart in the linkes of your loue, that it shall never bee raced out by anie sinister meanes of Fortune, although I see it is almost impossible to obtaine it.

For I doubt our parents are lyke to proclaime themselfes professd foes, and the vrgent necessitie of my affaires, forceth mee to departe so speedelie, as want of time will not suffice to make tryall of my loue, whereby I might claime a sufficient guerdon for my good wil: yet howsoever the matter shall happe, whether my hope be voide, or my happe be vaine, I meane madame to remaine yours for euer.

Lewspipa took such delight in hearing Therandro discourse so louingly as she could scarcely keep her countenaunce from bewraying the pleasure she
conceived in this / parle, seeing that her loue was requited with liking, and her fancie encountered with the like affectiou. Yet, leaft Therandro shou'd thinke her to curteous if shee should come at the first call, and verie light of loue, to like at the first looke, she framed this aunswere.

Sir (quoth she) if of your fute for conditions of peace there infue no better successe than the renealing of your passions shall reape pittie at my hands, or if the intreatie for truce be as lightlie respected by my Father, as either your person or petition is regarded by mee, you are like to carrie home colde newes to your countrie, and to vaunt that you bad faire, but bought little: that your Harueft was long, but your corne not worth the cropping: that your venter was much, but your gaines such, as if your winning prove no better, you are like to liue by the losse. For sir, doe you suppose mee so sofitish, as to thinke euerie one that flatters doeth fancie, or so addicted to selfe loue, as by a few filed phrases to be brought into a foolees Paradise: knowing that it is the fashion of men by their fained subtiltie to deceiue our faithfull simplicitie. No, for if you meane to counterfaite, take this for a rule, it is ill halting before a creple. But sir, this your sodaine liking bewraies the lightenesse of your loue: this your fond affectiou, imports the fickleenesse of your fancie: for soone
hot, soone colde: easely inflamed, as quicklie 
quenched: like to the Apples of *Arabia*, which begin 
to rot, ere they be halfe ripe. And if I meant to 
love, had I none to like but my Fathers foe? 
should I desire him whome my Father doth desett? 
And if I should so farre forget mine owne stay 
or my Fathers state, as to content, it were im-
possible either to appease his wrath, or to get the 
graunt of his good will, so / that to desire that 
which I can neuer injoy, were to drieve my selfe 
whollie into dispare, which would finallly profit 
you, and greatlie displeasure mee: and therefore 
cease to sue for that, which may well be wisht, but 
neuer obtained.

*Thersandro* although he heard *Letocippa* decide 
the case sufficientlie, yet he was so wilfull, that he 
would not take her doome for a verdite, but 
retourned her this replie.

Madame (quoth he) where in liew of hate there 
insueth loue, it is alwayes the signe of the greater 
affectioun: and that it is a thing either confirmed by 
the Fates, or appointed by the Gods. *Tereus* the 
Prince of *Thrace*, being sent by his Father to defie 
*Pandion* the king of *Athens*, was enamoured of his 
daughter *Progne*, whereby betweene the Parents 
in steede of fatall enmitie, there infuad friendly 
amitie. When as the bloudie warres betweene 
*Atis* the king of *Libia*, and *Lycabas* the Prince of
Assur, was most hot, young Admetus being sent Ambassadour into Libia, was so frowen in loue with Alcest, onely Daughter to his fathers foe, and she repaying his lyking with fuch loyalty, as death it selfe could never dissolve their amitie. If Madame, these premisses may perswade you to take pittie of my passions, or these examples induce you, not to let the hatred of our parents, be a hinderaunce of our loue, whether your father reiect mee as a foe, or accept me as a friend, I doubt not but the destinies will drieue the bargaine through, in despight of them and fortune.

Sir (quoth she) I confesse Progne poore wench loued Tereus, but how wretchedly dyd he reward her loyaltie? and Scilla was enamored of Minos her fathers foe, but how tyrannouslie dyd he repaie her loue with trecherie? Tarpeia betrayed the Tower of Rome to one of the Sabynes whome she most entirely loued, but the meede of her merite, was extreme miserie. Shall I then Therandro see the traine and yet fall into the trappe? shall I spie the nettes and yet strike at the stale? shall I see the mishap, and yet wilfullie incure the mischaunce? no, I meane not for an inch of ioye, to reape an ell of annoy, for a moment of mirth, a month of miserie: for a dram of pleasure, a whole pound of paine, and by procuring mine owne delight, to purchase my fathers death and destruction. But
let this suffice Thersandro to signifie how I pittie thy passions, and thinke well of thy person, that if my Fathers will might be framed to my wish, if he would condiscend as I would consent, thou onely arte the man who in the way of marriage should dispose of mee at thy pleasure. But fith the frowning state of Fortune denies our loue to haue suche happie successe, hope well, and reft vppon this point, that I wil alwaies like thee as a friend, though not loue thee as my phere.

As Thersandro was readie to reply, and to seale vp the bargaine of their loue vpon her sweete lippes, Clerophonies came in, who marred all their market, and tourned their sweete to lower, for he gaue Thersandro his aunswere before Lewciapa, which was this. That he neither ment to accept of the conditions of peace, nor to receive the tribute, but to claime his due by the doubtfull euent of battaile. That he shortly pretended in person, to visite Orlanio, and within the walles of Alexandria to demand his debt, and that he would beftow his Fathers Dukedome vpon a Lord of his called Lucianus, in dowrie with his Daughter Lewciapa.

Thersandro was nothing amazed with the first part of the message, but when he heard how Clerophonies meant presumptuously both to deprauie him of his liuuing, and depriuе him of his Loue, he
was so puffed vp with wrath and choller, as hap what hap would, he fell into these tearmes.

I Remember (quoth he) that Caligula the Em-perour, prouding a mightie armie to subdue great Britaine, when he was come to the Sea, readie to post ouer his Souldiours in his Nauie, he left off his endleffe enterprize, and set them to gather Cockles. Siphax boldly boasting that he would bestow the kingdome of Numidia vpon his second Sonne, was by Massinissa ouerthrown, and fold as captiue to the Romans. I dare not sir inferre comparifons, because they be odious, nor apply the examples, fith time and place forbids mee: but this I say, that to fish before the net, is alwaies counted folly, and to vaunt before the victorie, is but vanitie. Yea, and if I hadde as good right to your Daughter Lewcippa, as I haue to the suppost Dowrie which you affigne her, I would in despfight of Lucianus and the diuell him selfe, dispofe her at my pleasure.

Clerophontes hearing the cholericke conclusion of Thersandro, could scarcely bridle his frantike furie from raging without reason against this young youth, yet somewhat mitigating his moode, he breathed out these cruell threatnings.

If the law of armes (quoth he) did not both safelie protect thee, and surely forbid mee to hurt thee in that thou art a messenger, I would with
such severitie chastise these thy presumptuous speeches, as thou shouldest learn hereafter to answer with more reverence: yet I wish thee not to stand too stiffly upon this point, least if thou be so recklessly as to break the bonds of reason, I see so forgetful as to pass the limits of the law. Thou hast received a determinate answer for the Embassage, and there I charge thee this present to depart out of my Dominions.

Thersandro fearing the tyranny of this cruel Clerophontes, presentlie passed out of the Chamber of Presence, taking his leave of Ladie Lewcippa, onelie with loving lookes, which shee requited with such glances of good will, that they were sufficient signes what insupportable sorrow shee received by his so sudden departure: yet knowing that her fancie was encountered with mutual affection, she droue awaie the mystic cloudes of despair, hoping that the Gods seeing their faithfull amitie, would take pittie of their passions, & in time redresse their miserie.

But Thersandro having with speedie dispatch his affaires (all his traine being set aboord, and they coafting the straights with a luckie gale) was so cumbered with care, and so over-grown with griefe, that hee pass'd no houre, minute, nor moment, without woeful wailing, sorrowfull sobs, and far fetcht sighs, so that the Gentlemen his
companions, supposing that he was thus painfullie perplexed for feare of Clerophontes puissance, began both to comfort and incouarge him, not to doubt or dreade the force of the enimie, fith his Father was able to repulse him, without anie daunger to himselfe, or anie great damage to his subiects. But these their perfwasions could no whit preuaile to aßwage his passions, this their incouragement could not cure his care.

But as there is no greater bane to the bodie, than trouble of the minde: so Thersandro so long continued in these pensiue passions and carefull cogitations, concealing his griefe so couertlie, which so much the more furieoußlie flamed within him, that hee was conßrayned to / keepe his Cabbine till his arriuall at Alexandria. Where being set on shore, and presentlie conuied to the Court, hee remained for the space of three dayes so strangeli perplexed, as he was not able to make reporte of his mesßage: which so gripped Olanio with such inspeakable griefe, as he wished rather to haue died valiantlie with the force of his enimie, then to put the death of his sonne in hazard by passing so perillous a journey. But Thersandro seeing that sorrow would not salue his sore, but rather increase his sicknesse: that mourning would not appease his maladie, but rather augment his miserie: began to take heart at grasse, and within few daies began to
recoyer his former health. And then hee declared
to his Father what he had in charge from Clero-
phantes, how he meant speedelie to wage warre
against him, and by force of armes to drive him
out of his Dukedom, which he had alreadie
promisef to one Lucianus in dowrie with his
daughter.

Orlanio hearing this proude presumption of this
bragging Duke, thought the greatest barkers were
not alwaiyes the forest biters, and that it was farre
more easie with wordes to obtaine the victorie,
then with deeds to attaine the Conquest. Yet,
least hee might bee taken at vnwares, hee made a
general muster thorought all his Dominions, pro-
viding in euerie place necessarie munition for the
defence of his Countrie. And assemblign his
Nobilitie to giue their verdite, who were fittest to
bee Captaines in this skirmishe: after some consul-
tation hadde in this cause, they concluded, that since
Clerophantes meant to ioyne battayle in his owne
person, that lykewise hee should bee Generall of
the fielde, and Gwydonius who surpassef all the rest
in martiaall exploites, shoulde be Lieuettanent, and
conduct the armie: which he no sooner heard
but hee was tormented with inspeakable griefe: he
beganne to pull/downe his Peacockes feathers, to
hang his wings, and crie creake: euerie man hoping
to winne fame was merrie, but he alone mourning:
euerie man laughed, and he alone lowred: info-
much that hee was generally suspected to be a
fearful coward, and that dreade of daunger draue
him into these dolesfull dumpes. But as they
rashlie coniectured the cause of his sorrowe, so they
myst the nature of his sicknesse: for Gwydonius
seeing that of this cruell conflict his calamitie
should infue, and that this bloudie broyle woulde
breede his bane, hee fell into such solitarie surmises,
and such musing meditations, that Valericus his
open friend, and yet his secrete foe, sought by
sundrie meanes to search out the cause of his care,
but not being able to wring out anie thing, either
by flattering promises, or fained protestations, he
ceased from his importunate suit. But frowarde
Fortune brought it so to passe, that Valericus
comming by the chamber of Gwydonius, heard him
thus desperatlie dis couring with himselfe.

Alas (quoth he) I see the Sun being at the
highest declineth, the Sea being at the full tide
ebbeth: calme continueth not long without a
storme, neither is happinesse had long without
heauinesse, blisse without bale, weale without wo,
mirth without mourning. For who a late so
floated in the flouds of felicitie as I, which now
by the sinister meanes of frowning Fortune am
sowled in the seas of sorrow, exalted alate to the
highest degree of happinesse, am now driuen to the
greatest extremity of euill: alate puffed vp with prosperitie, and now pushed downe with aduersitie: yea, alate placed in Paradifie, and now plunged in perplexitie.

Oh Gwydonius, if thy Fathers friendlie preceptes might haue perswaded thee; if his aduice had beene thy aduertisement, and thou hadst carefullie kept his counsaile, then by his fore-warning, thou hadst bene fore-armed against all mishap and miserie. The force of fickle fancie had not then giuen thee the foile, Loue had not so lightlie procured thy losse, nor the painted shew of beautie had not so soone procured thy bane. My bane? Why fond foole, beautie hath bredded my blisse, fancie hath not giuen me the foile, but hath yeilded mee the forte: Loue hath not wrought my losse, but requited mee with treble gaine!

Hath not Caphanion requited my loue with loyaltie, and repayed my good will with mutuall affection? Is shee not my Saint, and I her servaunt? Are wee not contracted together by loue, and shall continue together by laue? May I not dispose of her in the waie of Marriage at my pleasure? Yes, but what then? The more is my grieue, and the greater my care. For if her presence procureth my delight, will not her absence breede my despight? If her consent preferued my life, will not her contempt inferre my death? Yes. For
alasse, since the destinies meane to dissolue that fancie hath decreed, since the frowning fates seeke to vnloose that which love hath linked, since froward fortune meanes to breake the bonds wherein beautie hath bound vs, since these bloudie broiles will cause Caftania, (where before shee accepted mee for a friend) now to reiect mee for a foe: What better lucke can I looke for than a loathsome life, or what better happe can I hope for than horror and heauinesse? Yea, which waie so euer I tourne mee, I fee nothing but woe and wretchednesse. For if Orlanio perceiued our liking, howe woulde hee storme at our loue? If he knew my chaunce, how woulde hee fret at his Daughters choyce? Woulde hee euer consent, that / Caftania should match with so meane a mate, that her princelie personage should be disgraced with my base parentage, that her calling should be crazed with my slender countenance? no, hee would no doubt first banish me out of all his dominions. Tush Gwydonius, would God this were the worst, and then thou mightest hope in time by some meanes to redresse this doubt. But if Orlanio shoulde knowe thou were heire apparant to the Dukedome of Metelyne, and onelie sonne to Clerophonites his fatall foe, what torment were there so terrible, which thou shouldest not trie? What paine so pinching, which thou shouldest not passe?
What hap so hard which thou shouldest not hazard? Yea, what death so direfull, which at his cruell handes thou shouldest not suffer? And what if Caßania were priuie to thy state, doest thou thinke her so constant as to consent to her fathers foe? Doest thou thinke she wold wish the sonnes weale, when the father wisheth her mishap? No, assure thy selfe if thy state be once knownen, that Caßania will most deadlie detest thee, which will be more grieuous to thee than death it selfe, be it neuer so terrible. Sith then Gwydonius, thou must shortlie either go in armes against thine owne father, or else loose both thy loue and thy life, let not delaie breede daunger, but strike on the flight while the yron is hot: Caßania hath promised to forfake both father, friends, and her owne Countrie, to passe where and when it pleaseth thee: she doubteth no daungers, she forseth of no misfortune, she careth for no calamitie, she paffeth for no perils, so she enioy thy desired companie, and therefore as speedelie as may be, conuey her closelie into the confines of Meteline, before either she know thy state or thy state. And shall I so practife her with pollicies? Shall I so sift her with subteltie? Shall I put so little truist in her troth, and so small confidence in her constancie, as to conceale from her anie secret? No, come woe, come wretchednesse, / come death, come daunger,
hap what hap will, I will presentlie impart vnto her my present state, and my pretended purpose.

Valericus hearing this doubtfull discourse of Gwydonius, was druen into an extasie for ioy, to see that he had found such fit meanes, whereby hee might not onelie purchase the Dukes fauour, aspire vnto honour and dignitie, but also obtaine the loue of Caßania, for hee meant speedelie to preuent the pretence of Gwydonius, by vnfolding to the Duke the sum of his secret purpose, affuring himselfe, that after Orlanio knew his parents and parentage, that he was sonne and heire to Clerophonites, no price though neuer so precious, no ransome though neuer so rich, might redeeme him from the most despightfull death that could be devised. And of these premises he inferred this conclusion, that if the caufe be taken awaie the effect faileth: that Gwydonius being rejected, he should be receiued: that he being despighted with hate, he should be requited with loue, and vpon this hope he went presentlie to bewray this matter to Orlanio, whom he found with his sonne Ther-sandro, and diuerse other noble men consulting what course they had best take against Clerophonites, whom Valericus saluted in this wise.

Plato (right worthie Prince) that graue and wise Philosopher, whose sentences in all ages haue bene holden as most diuine Oracles, portrayeth out in
his bookes of the Common wealth, the picture of a perfect Citizen, whose liniaments being first
levelled, he tricketh vp with these colours, that
hee loue his Prince loiallie, keepe the lawes
carefullie, and defend his Countrie valiantlie, in
which three pointes (faith he) consisteth the chiefe
duetie of a trustie subject: This saying of Plato
throughlie considered, and calling to minde the
fundrie good / turnes which without desert your
grace hath bestowed vpon mee, I thought if I
shoulde not repaie your favour with faithfulnesse,
and your trust you repose in mee with inuolable
troth, I might bee counted a vicious vassall deuoide
of all vertues, a trecherous Citizen, rather then a
trustie subject, a carelesse slave, than a carefull
Gentleman: yea, a gracelesse monstre, nuiled
with ingratitude. I am come (right worthie Sir)
not to betraie my foe, but to bewraie my friend, not
to discover the fault of my enimie, but to disclose
his essence, which liueth with mee in perfect amitie,
in whose companie hetherto hath beene all my
joy, pleasure and delight: but since his presence
is greatlie prejudicial to your graces person, I
thought to preferre your profite before mine owne
pleasure, and the commoditie of my Countrie
before mine owne private contention. So it is,
that Gwydonius, whome your Grace hath honoured
and all the Court esteemed, is sonne and heire
to Clerophontes the Duke of Metelyne, who by the peeuifh pollicie of his Father, ynder the pretence of seruice, is purposed to procure your fatall death, and the finall destruccion of your Dukedome. And the better to perfore this diuellish praetise, he hath contracted himselfe to my Ladie Caffania, who blinded with his beautie, and inueigled with his wit, hath consented not onelie to keepe his counsaile to your confusion, but also cloeslie to conuey her self with him into his Countrie. Which pretence if your Grace doth not speedely preuent you shal finde that delay breeds daunger, and that procrastination in perils is but the mother of mishap.

And haue I (quoth Orlanio) brought vp the Birde that will picke out mine owne eies? Haue I fostered vp the Serpent in my bosome that will breede my bane? Haue I giuen her life, that seekes to yeeld mee death? Haue I cherisht her beeing young, and will shee consume me being older: Was there none to choose but Gwydonius, nor none to loue, but the sonne of her fathers foe? Will she prefer her luft before my life, her private pleasure before the safetie of my person? Wel, as she forgets the dutie of a childe, so I will forget the naturall affection of a father, and therefore Valerius, goe speedelie with these noble men to Gwydonius chamber, and apprehend him, that I
may requite his hatefull trecherie with most hellish torments. And Thersandro, see you that Caftania be closelie kept vntill we haue caught the traitor, leaft she vnderstanding that their deuise is discloesed, shee saue her selfe by flight.

Valericus hauing this Commissiion giuen him from the Duke, made no delaie, but pasied to Gwydonius lodging with as much speede as might be: but fortune who after every chip of mischance, fendeth some lot of good lucke, and after euerie storme of aduersitie, fendeth a quiet calme of prosperitie, so carefully prouided to free Gwydonius from mishap, that he was newlie gone towards Caftania, to impart vnto her this his pretence, but before he came to her chamber, he was encountered by Thersandro, who stearnlie taking Gwydonius by the bosome, pulling out his Rapier, commanded him as a traitour to stand, or else without anie farther doome, he should seele the dint of death.

Gwydonius amazed with this sodaine motion, stoode as one in a traunce, neither being able to defend himselfe with word or weapon, but yeelded himself into the hands of Thersandro, who shakt him vp with these bitter speeches.

Thou traiterous wretch (quoth he) as it is im-possible for the flame so closelie to bee couered, but it will bee spied, so it is impossible, but that
treason, though never so secret, should in tract of
time be disclosed, which now by experience is
verified in thee, for although thou hast hitherto
falsefie fained thyselfe to be a stranger of a
foreign nation, thou art now known to be sonne
and heire to Clerophonites that cruel tyrant my
Fathers foe, by whose pervers pollicie thou hadst
not onely brought the common wealth to con-
fusion, but didst pretend to be prejudicial to my
fathers person, if thy deadly practise and diuellish
purpose had not by Valericus his meanes beene
prevented. Hast thou bene so trained vp in
treacherie, or is thy minde so spotted with villanie,
as to repaire my Fathers good will with such
barbarous ingratitude, and to devise his destruction
which simply foresought thy preferment? Yea, to
counsell my siter Castania, not onely to consent to
thy desire, but to my fathers death? Is this the
manner of Metelyne, or the custome of thy countrie,
to be such coothing counterfaits? Well, since I
have happelie attached thee as a traitur, & as a
villanous rebell, both transgressing humaine and
diueine lawes, thou shalt abide the paine & punish-
ment due to such diuellish offenders. Now let
thy cruel fire Clerophonites, free thee from those
torments which thou art like to suffer for thy
treacherie, & let the Lords of Metelyne deliever
thee from his hands, who meanes in most miserable
wise to martyr thee. Yea, let thy Concubine Caßania, who is like for her gracelesse disobedience, to sippe of the same sorrow, see, if her teares will now preuaile to mooue Orlanio to pittie. No, if Jupiter him selfe sent Mercurie to mitigate his moode, neither the authoritie of the one, nor the eloquence of the other might preuaile to pacifie his furie.

Gwydonius seeing that not onely his purpose was preuented, and his secrets discloosed, but that also Valericus most villanously had accused him and Caßania of that which they never so much as once imagined, was so perplexed, and druen into such dumps, as he seemed by silence / to auerre that which Thersandro had alleaged: yet at last he began thus to reply.

Thersandro (quoth hee) as I meane not to affirme that which is false, so I will not denie that which is true, but come dolor, come death, come miferie, come martirdome, come torture, come torments, I wil neither accuse my selfe iniustly, nor excuse my selfe by periurie. I confesse Thersandro, that I am fonne and heire to the Duke of Meteline, and contracted to thy sifter Caßania, that Clerophontes is my Father by the lawe of nature, and Caßania my wife by the league of loue, but that I either pretended or purposed to be preiudiciall to Orlanios person, or that Caßania was counsailed or euer
confented to her fathers confusion, I not onely deny, but I will proue by combat, that Valericus most villanously doth accuse vs of that whereof we are altogether sacklesse.

Why Gwydonius, (quoth he) wilt thou seeke to proue thy selfe loyall, when the hearers deeme thee a lyar, or to make a tryall of thy troth, when thy wordes can haue no truft? Doft thou think my fathers furie wil suffer thee to fable? Doft thou think his wrathful rage wil abide thy reasons, or that he will be so patient as to heare thee pleade thine owne caufe? No, if thou wert as cleere from these crimes alseadged against thee by Valericus as I am, yet in that thou art sonne to Clerophontes, the coine of Crafus, and kingdomes of Cesar, were not sufficient raunsome to redeeme thee from death. But Gwydonius, since thy health hangeth in my handes, and thy lyfe or death is in my power, I will neither bee so bloudie minded as to breede thy bane, nor so cruell as to be the cause of thy confusion. The guerdon Gwydonius I craue for this my good will, and the recompence I claime for this curtesie, is, that when thou commest to Metelyne, / thou certifie thy sister and my loue and Ladie Lewcippa, that for her sake I haue procured thy safetie, that her perfection hath preserued thee from perill, the loue I beare her hath saued thy life, the duetifull deuotion I owe vnto her,
hath redeemed thee from death & danger. And in token of this my unfeigned affection, I will lift my hande against none that commeth from Metelyne, but against Lucianus onely.

Before Thersandro was able fullie to unfold his minde, or that Gwydonius had time to yeeld him thanks for the safegarde of his lyfe, they heard a great noyse, which made Gwydonius fie, and Thersandro hie him haftely to Caftanias lodging. Now the companie which came, was Orlanio himselfe, who certified by Valericus that Gwydonius could not be found, laid not onely watch and ward throughout all his Dukedome to attach him, but went in proper person with his Gard to apprehend Caftania, and lay her in close prison: whome he found all blubbered with teares, for that she had understoode the cause before of her brother Thersandro: Orlanio no sooner spied her thus weeping, but he raged against her in this wise.

Hath the force of loue, nay rather the furie of luft (vild wretch) so blinded thy understanding, that to acceplish it, thou pa theft not to peruer all humane and diuine lawes? Doth lasciuious affection and fleshly fancie so furiously frite within thee, as thou wouldest procure thy fathers death to purchase thy diuellish desire? Could no rules of reason, no prick of conscience, no respect of honestie, no feare of God, nor dread of man,
prohibit thee from pretending such a monstrous mischief, as to conclude with my mortal foe to worke my fatal confusion? The young Storkes so tender the old ones in their age, as they will not suffer the so much as to fly to get their own living. The Bird called Apis Indica, being young, seeing the olde ones through age grown so weake, as they are not able to waue their wings, carrie them continually from place to place on their backs: these savage creatures have but onely sense, and are obedient, thou haft both reason & sense, & art more vnnatural: these brute beasts are most dutiful to their parents, and thou a reasonable creature art most disobedient to thy Father: yea, contrarie both to the lawes of Nature and nurture, thou seest to bath thy hands in his guiltlesse bloud, & without care or conscience, to commit most cruell murther: which is hateful to all things, as the fencelesse plants & stones most deadlie detest such villanie. The Oliue tree so hatefully abhorreth a Parasite, that who so being guiltie of that crime, attempteth to plant it, doth not onely himselfe presently perish, but the tree forthwith wayneth and withereth. The stone Episfrites, so loatheth this offence, counting it a fact so repugnant to Nature, that it will not vouchsafe to be worn by a murtherer. And shall I then let thee liue, whom the fencelesse creatures doe so deadly
loath? No, this hand which cherisht thee beeing a childe, shall now chastise thee being such a cursed caitife. And with that he drew out his Faulcon readie to have slaine her. But that Thersandro kneeling downe, defire him that he would not so in his furie forget himselfe, as without the sentence of the law put her to death, but to commit her to warde, vntill the warres betweene him and Clerophonites were happily ended, and then vpon more straight examination, if she were found faultie, to assigne her a punishment due for such an offence. Orlanio, somewhat pacified with his sonnes perswasion, commannded that presently she should be carried to prison, and the ladie Melytta with her, as an actor in this Tragedie. And that with all speede they shuld post the countrie for the attaching of the traytor Gurydonius. Who after that he parted from Thersandro, seeing before his eyes the terror of torments, and the hellish horror of death, was driuen forward so with the dread of danger, and fear of imminent perills, that knowing perfectly the coast of the Countrey, he passed so secretlie and speedelie, as he was not so much as once descried by the Postes that pursued him, but scaped safelie out of the Dukedome of Alexandria. Beeing now without the dint of the Dukes daunger, seeing that although he had escaped himselfe, yet he had left his Loue and Ladie Castania in hazarde
of her life, he began thus to exclaime against his owne follie.

Ah Gwydonius (quoth he) what folly haft thou committed by this fearefull flight, what carefull calamitie is like to infue of this thy cowardise, in auoiding Scilla thou art falne into Charibdis, in preuenting one daunger, thou art like to be plagued with a thousand discommodities. Had it not bene better for thee to haue died in Alexandria with honor, than to liue heere with shame and reproch, to haue suffered mishap with Caffania, then to linger heere in miserie? Doest thou thinke that she will euer count of such a prating Parasite, as will loue her in prosperitie, and leaue her in aduerfitie, as preferreth his owne safetie before her securitie, his life before her loue, and draweth himselfe out of daunger to leauie her in distresse? No, she will contempte thee as a coward, more fit to be a mate to some countrie slut, than a match for such a courtly Princeffe: she will think thy greatest faith was but fained ficklenesse, thy forged loue was but filthie luft, thy promisses was but periuries, and that thy greatest amitie was but most dissembled enmitie: so that of a professed friend, she will become thy professed foe: her desire will tourne to despite, and her loue to most hellish hate. /

Why alas, would my paine haue pleased her,
would my martirdome haue contented her minde, had my peril procured her profit, or my care her commoditie? Nay, rather would not my daunger haue beene her death, my mishap her miserie, my torture her torments, and my fatall destinie her finall destruction? By sauing my lyfe, in time we may enjoy our loue, but by death no hope had bene left for obtaining our desire: so that I assure my self, Caflania wil rather allow of my policie by preuenting perills by flight, than mislike of my practise in procuring mine owne safetie. And vpon this point I rest, hoping that the Gods seeing how vniustly Valericus hath accused vs, will in tract of time ridde vs from blame, & reward him with shame.

Gwydonius was not more distrested with dolour, than poore Caflania was combred with care, to see so strage a chaunce, and so sodaine a chaunge, that she who of late was a royall Princesse, was now a ruthfull prisoner, that her freedome was tourned to fetters, her dignitie to miserie, and her happie state to a most hellish state: that after flouds of teares which fell from her Chrystal eyes, she burst forth into these tearsmes.

Alas (quoth she) what poore damosell was euer driuen into such doubtfull distresse? What Princes was euer perplexed with such doleful passiouns? what maid was euer crossed with such mishap? nay,
what creature euer was clogged with the like calamitie? Haue the spightfull deuotions decreed my destruction, or \\n\[\text{peruerse Planets conspried my bitter bane? Doeth froward fortune meane to make mee a mirrour of her mutabilitie, or is this the rewarde that Cupid beftowes vppon his Clyents? Is euerie one that doth fancie, maimed with the/ like misfortune, or is loue alwaies accompanied with such haplesse lucke? Alas no, for their loue is laufull, \\n\& mine lewde and lascuious: their fancie is fixed vpon vertue, and mine vpon vanitie, they make their matche with consent of their parents, and I my market without my Fathers counfaile: so that I am like in chooing such chaffre, to chop and chaunge and liue by the loffe: yea, to buy repentance at an vnreasonable rate. Had it not bene better for thee Castania, to haue condescended to the requests of Valericus, than consented to the sufte of Gwydonius: to haue liked thine owne Countrie man, than loued a straggeling stranger: to haue satisfied thy selfe with assuance, than vainele to fish for hope? Truth, but what then? Can the strawe resist the vertue of the pure Jet? Can the flaxe resist the force of the fire? Can a louver withstand the brunt of beautie? Freeze, if he stand by the flame: peruert the lawes of nature, or eschue that which is framed by the fates, or flie from the force of fancie? No, for
who so escapeth the deadly darts of Cupid, shall be scorched with his fire, and she that with the dew of chastity quencheth this flame, shall be ouertaken with his wings, so that to seeke by flight to eschew affection is foolishlie to enterprize that which can neuer be atchieued.

But alas, if I must needes lende a listening care to the allurements of loue, was there none to like but thy Fathers foe? How fonde foole, couldest thou shew him courtesie, that intendes to repaye thee with crueltie? How couldest thou choosë the sonne to thy mate, when the Father seekest thy miferie? It is not possile to mixe the bloud of a Bull and a Beare, together in one vessell. The Lions whelpes will neuer companie with the yong Wolues: the Fawlchons called Pelagre, will neuer flye with the yong Lauarets, and if the Egges of a Crowe and a Curlewe bee put in one nest, they both / forthwith burft in sunder, because there is such ancient enmitie betwene the olde ones. And wilt thou then bee so wilfull to loue him whome thy Father doth loath, or so peruerse as to place thy selfe in that parentage, where there is such mortall hatred betwene the Parents? Wilt thou so farre forget the dutie of a childe, as more to respect thy fatall enimie than regarde thy naturall Father? But why vide wretch doe I thus fondlie fable, though Clero-
phonets be my Fathers foe, yet Gwydonius is my faithfull frend: though the one seeke to procure my paine, the other seekes to purchase my pleasure: though the olde fire striues to subuert my Fathers state, yet the sonne neuer sought to be preiudiciall to his perfon: although that periured Parasite Valericus hath moft vniustlie accuufed him of trecherie. Shall I then hate him who hath alwaies honored me? Shall I worke his wo that wisheth my weale? Shal I be his bane, who hath bred my bliffe? Shal I deteft him which serueth me with moft deepe devotion? No, I heere heartelie powre out moft pittifull plaintes to the gods to preferue my Gwydonius from perill, and that Fortune may so favour him as he may passe out of Alexandria without death or danger. What though I heere in prifon pine in paine? What though I finke in sorrow? What though I be distressed with griefe and oppresed with miserie? What though I be croffed with care, and cumbered with calamitie? Tush, let my Father fret and fume in his furie, let my brother rage and raile, let that traitor Valericus triumph, and all the Countrie moft bitterlie curfe me, yea, let them martyr mee moft miserablie, let them torment me moft terrible, yet direfull death shall not feare me, as long as I know Gwydonius is deuoide of danger. For I hope though Fortune frowne, though the
destinies denie it, though the fates forswear it, yea, though the Gods themselves saie no, yet in time wee shall haue such / happie sucesse, as the loyaltie of our loue, and the cleerenesse of our conscience by the lawe of iustice doe deserve. And therefore Gwydonius shall bee the Planet whereby to direct my doings, he shall be the starre shall guide my compasse, he shall be the haven to harbour in, and the Saint at whose shrine I meane to offer my devotion.

Castaania having thus discoursed with her selfe, shee determined when the warres were ended, if shee could haue no hope to inioy the loue of Gwydonius, to confesse her faults, and to sue for mercie at the barre of her Fathers curtseye: not that shee meant to live without Gwydonius, or to loue or like anie other, but to prolong her daies in dolour, that she might moost rigorously revenge the villanie of Valericus, and by bathing in his bloude, she might both satisfie her selfe and signifie to Gwydonius how entrelie shee loued and liked him. But leauing her perplexed with these passions, againe to Clerophontes.

Who fying still in his frantike furie, was not anie whit perswaded to conclude peace with Orlanio, but hauing mustered his men, as speedelie as might he, imbarke them, and with a luckie gale arriued at the coast of Alexandria, where the
borderers not able to abide his force, were con-
strained to saue themselves by flight. But hee as
a man hauing exiled from his heart both pietie and
pittie, bathed his handes in guiltlesse bloud, firing
euerie fort, battering downe euerie bulwarke,
sacking each Cittie, racing downe the walles to the
ground, and commanding his foultiours vpon
paine of moost grievous punishment, not to haue
anie respect of persons, neither to regard the hoarie
haires of the aged Citizens, nor the tender yeeres
of the fucking Infants, but to imbrue their blades
with the bloud of all men, of what degree so
euer. /

Orlanio hearing how Clerophonnes had inuaded
his dominions, and with what barbarous crueltie
hee hadde murthered his subiects, hauing also intel-
ligence by his Scowtes, that his armie was passing
huge, the better to resifi the furious force of his
enimie, hired out of other Countries a great
multitude of Mercenarie soultiours, so that he
gathered a meruailous great hoast, wherein was
an infinit number indued with great skil and long
experience.

Furnished thus sufficienlie both with men and
munition, like a wise and warie Captaine, seeing
that he no waie else might resifi the puissant power
of so mightie a Prince, determined without further
delaie to meete him and giue him present battaile,
having meruailous affiance in the approued man-hoode and vertue of his souldiours.

Clerumphontes likewise being of such a valiant and invincible courage, as he seemed from his infancie to be vowed to Mars and martiall affaires, manfullie marched forward to meete with his enemies, which he performed so speedelie, that within few daies, both the armies were within view: which Clerumphontes seeing, hee began to incourage his souldiours on this sort.

Although most trustie subiects (quoth he) I neyther doubt of your prowesse, nor haue cause to feare your manhood, as having mine armie fraught with ye most courageous Captaines, and boldest blouds of Metelyne, yet I with you to consider how desperatlie wee haue adventured vpon the conquest of this Dukedom: which if we atchieue, we shall not onelie gaine perpetuall fame and renowne, but reape such riches and treasure, as shall sufficientlie counteruailde our travaile. But to obtaine this victorie wee must behaue our selues valiantlie, neither dreading any daunger, though neuer so desperate, nor / doubting any perill though neuer so fearefull. Before our face we haue enimies, behinde our backes the surging seas so that fight we must, but flie we cannot: in being courageous we winne the field and returne conquerours: in prouing cowards, we both loose our
liues and the conquest: if we foile our foes, we returne with triumph, if we faint and flie, we haue no hope of safetie, but death and desperation is imminent. Be then hardie to hazard, and valiant to venture amidst the prease of your enemies, that daunted with your valour, they may bee forced to flie, and wee both triumph and inioye the treasure.

Clerophontes hauing thus louinglie incouraged his souldiours, Orlanio on the other side seeing his men began to feare the force of the enimie, and were amazed with such a monstrous multitude, prickt them forward with this parle.

That mightie Monarch Alexander the great, who for his martiaall exploits was a mirrour to all his posteritie, whose prowesse was such, as he danted Darius, & by his invincible courage made a conquest of the whole world: hearing on a time one of his captaines to demand what multitude was in their enimies campe, answered, that it was not the point of a good souldior, to inquire how many the enimies were, but where they were: meaning that to feare the multitude is rather the signe of cowardise, than a token of courage. Which saying I wish you carefully to consider, that the huge armie of Clerophontes neither amaze your minds, nor abate your valor, sith that the equitie of our cause doth more than counteruaile his com-
panie. He inuadeth our realme without reason, & we defend but our owne right: he cruelly seeketh to deprive vs of freedome, & we lawfully doe maintain our own liberty. He / tyrannouslie striueth to make vs bondslaves, and we fight to free our felues from captuuite. If hee preuaile let vs looke for no pittie, but that we shall be murthered without mercie: wee shall see before our face our wiues rauished, our daughters deslowred, our parents put to death, our children slaine, our goods spoiled, our Citie sacked, and our felues brought to ytter ruth and ruine. Sith then we are placed betweene two extremities, either to possesse our owne with plentie, or to passe our liues in penurie: let vs valiantlie venter whatsoeuer we gaine, let vs fight without feare: for better it is to die with honor, than to liue with shame.

By that time Orlanio had ended his Oration, the armies met in a Plaine, within thirty leagues of Alexandria. Where both of them ordering (as became good Captaines) their people, there began in the breake of the daie the most cruell and terrible battaile that earest was heard of, considering the number on both parties, their experience and pollicie, with the valiaunt prowesse and courage of the Captaines. Thus continued they in fight euen almost vntill euen, with meruailous slaughter on both sides, the victorie yet doubtfull, till in the
end the *Alexandrians* began to faint and fly, more oppressed with the excess of the multitude, than distressed for want of manhood: for there were two and forty thousand slain, but not one taken prisoner: and of *Clerophon*es companie eight and twenty thousand slain, and six hundred mortally wounded. This monstrous massacre, and fearfull slaughter, so amazed the minde of these two Captaines, that for the better burying of the dead, and healing of them which were hurt, they concluded a truce between them for fifteen dayes, in which time *Orlania* sent Ambassadors to parle of peace with *Clerophon*es, but in vaine: for hee was resolved either valiantlie to die in the field with glorie, or to enioye the Dukedome of *Alexandria* with renowne. Yet as a worthie Prince, preferring the securitie of his souldiers before the safetie of his owne person, he offered them the combat, which *Orlania*, to avoid the effusion of blood, most willingly accepted. Now it was agreed & concluded betweene them, that two champions might be chosen, who by the dint of the sword shuld stint the strife betweene these two armies. If he of *Metelyne* remained victor, then *Orlania* should not onlie paise his former tribute, but deliver vp his Dukedome into the hands of *Clerophon*es. But if the *Alexandrians* obtained he conquest, the Duke of *Meteline* should peaceably
depart the Countrie, release the tribute, and also resigne his state, and become a subject to Orlanio. And for the better keeping and confirming of these conditions, they presently despatch Embassadours to Fernandus the king of Bohemia, to intreate his maiestie that he would vouchsafe to become judge in the combat, who for that he wished wel to both these Dukes, granted to their requeste, and with as much speed as might bee, came to Alexandria. But in the mean time there was some difference about the champions, for Clerophonates sayd, that fith in loosing the field confisted the losse of liuing, life, and libertie, and in getting the victorie the gaine of a Dukedom, he woulde in proper person fight the combat, and trie the chance of Fortune: and therefore made a challenge to Orlanio. But bee finding himselfe farre vnfit to resist his furious force, refused it. Yet promising, that none vnlesse he were descended of Nobilitie, should enter the lists: wherewith Clerophonates was verie well contented. Nowe while this truce continued, which was prolonged for thirtie daies, it was lawfull for them of Alexandria to come and view the campe of Metelyne, and for the Metelynes to goe and see the Citie. Wherevpon Clerophonates desireous to see Orlanio / and his Court, went oneli accompanied with his gard to Alexandria: where hee was moft
roiallie enterained, and sumptuouslie feastted by
Orlanio, both of them remitting the rigour of their
mallice, till it shoulde bee shewed in effect by reason
of their manhood. But as soone as Therandro & the
other Lordes saw Clerophontes, that he was rather a
monster than a man, hauing each lim so stronglie
couched, ech part so proportioned, so huge of
stature, & so fierce of countenance, they were so
danted with the fight of his person, as they almost
feared to come in his presence, sayng: that three
of the boldest bloods in Alexandria were not able
to abide the force of Clerophontes. Who now
peaceably departing to his hoast, left Orlanio as
greatlie perplexed: for assiebling his nobilitie to-
gether, amongst whom he appointed the champion
should be chosen. They not onelie with one
consent withstood his command, but began to
murmure and mutine against him, condemning him
of follie that he would so vnaduisedlie commit his
own state & their state to the doubtful hazard of
one mans hap. Orlanio seeing it was now no
time to chastise this their presumption, vntil he
meant to raise ciuill dissention in the citie, which
were the next waie to confirme the enimie, & breed
his owne confusion, he dissedled his cholar, &
began to work a new waie. For first he freed
Castania out of prifon, then made general pro-
clamation throughout the Dukedome, that what
Lord so euer within his land would trie to combat with Clerophontes, if he remained victor in the conquest, he woulde not onelie giue him his Daughter Caftania to wife [and] let him posseffe peaceable the dukedome of Meteline as her dowrie, but be content to acknowledge him as his liege, and paie him tribute, as he was wont to Clerophontes.

While he lingred and lifted how this proclamation would preuaile, Caftania hearing this seuer sentence, doe fully doome pronounced, seeing she should not onelie bee forced to forfake Gwydonius, but be constrained to match in marriage with one whome she should neither love nor like, burst forth into these bitter complaints.

Alas! (quoth she) how pinching a paine is it to be perplexed with diuerse passions, what a noisome care it is to be cumbered with sundrie cogitations, what a wo it is to hang betwene desire and despaire, and what a hell it is to houer betwene feare and hope. For as to him which is assured to die, death is no dolor, in that he perfectlie knowes there is no salue can cure his sorrow, so to him which feares to die, and yet hopes to liue, death were thrice more welcome, than to linger in such doubt. In which cursed care alas! my care consisteth, for as out of the riuer Cea in Sicilia bursteth most fearefull flames, and yet the streame is passing colde, neither is the water able to quench
the fire, nor the fire cause the water to bee hotte, so the heate of hope flameth out of the chilling fountaine of feare, and yet the force of the one is not able to asswage the vehementie of the other, but still my heauie heart is diuerslie assailed with them both. If my Father Orlanio win the conquête, I doubt my desire shall neuer haue happie successe, if Clerophonies triumph as victor, I greatlie feare his crueltie is such, as I shall not escape most haplesse death. And yet againe I hope that then my owne Gwydonius will accept mee for his, and with triumphant armes embrace me. But alasse, will Clerophonies suffer him to match with his mortall foe, will he not rather preuent it by my perill? Yes no doubt, if he returne with triumph my father shall serue him as a subieect, my brother shall become his vassall, my friends shal bee forlorne, my Cittie sackt, and my natie Countrie brought to utter confusion. And shall I for the loue of a straunger with these strange stratagems? Shall I to feede mine owne fancie, and content my lusting minde, / with my Fathers death, my Brothers bane, my friends mishap, my Countries confusion, and perhaps my owne miserie? For though Gwydonius loued mee when our parents were friendes, hee will not now lyke me being foes: but to reuenge the injuries my Father offered him, will subtillie secke to sacke my honour and
honestie, and so triumph of my shame and discredit. Had I not better praise my Father may win the combat, and then shall I bath in the streams of blisse, and flowe in the foulds of felicitie? then shall I dreade no danger, no feare, no perils: then shall I see my Father, friends, and Countrie, flourish in most happie prosperitie: then shall I injoy some iollie Gentleman, who will loue me being young, and cherish me being olde, and possess the Dukedom of Metelyne for my dowrie. And canst thou Caftania bee so ingratefull, as to will his woe which wisith thy weale, to desire his destruction which praieth for thy prosperitie? Canst thou be so covetous as to crave that for thy possession, which is thy Gwydonius patrimonie, or so suspicous, as to accuse him of trecherie, which hath ben but too trustie: to count him a counter-fait, which hath alwaies been constant? No, come what come will, let froward fortune fauour whom she please, so I may ioy and safelie injoy my onelie ioy Gwydonius.

As Caftania had thus ended her complaint, Gwydonius who all this while lurked about the borders of Alexandria, heard what successe Orlanios affaires had with his Father Clerophonies, how verie few or none at all durfte trie the combat with him, that his louve and Ladie Caftania was the prize that he should get that gained the conquest. Which
things considered, supposing that Caßania had cast him off, and that she plaid, out of sight, out of minde, by a secret and trustie messenger, he presented her with this Letter. /

Gwydonius to Caßania, health.

The fine spice Caßania, the more it is pounded, the sweeter finel it yeelds, the Camomil increaseth most being trodden on, the Palme tree the greater weight it beareth, the straigther it groweth: the stone Terpißretes, the more it is beaten, the harder it is, and loyall loue is not weakened by the stolines of aduerstie, but rather far the more fortified by the froward state of frowning fortune: which Madame I speake by proosse and experience, for since I haue sipped of the lower dregs of sorrow, and bene pestered with the bitter pills of penurie, since finisfer fortune hath crossed me with mishaps, & disafter fates haue druen mee downe to miserie, my fancie hath so furiously assaulted my mynde, and affection hath so incessantly battered the bulwarke of my breast, as ye sparks of loue which were kindled in mee in prosperitie, are turned to fierce and firie flames by aduerstie. So that madame, your presence did not before procure me such pleasure, as your absence doth paine, neither was I so drowned in delight, in frequenting your companie, as I am drenched with despight, by
leading my life in sorrowfull calamitie. Alasfe Caflania, what vnspakable griefe hath tormented mee? what direfull dolour hath distressd mee? what hellish horrour hath haunted me? yea, what woe and wretchednesse hath wrackt my wittes, since thou haft bene proclaimed a pray to him whosoeuer winneth the prise in the combat. How ofte haue I wished that I might bee the champion to make the challenge, that I might venture my life to purchase thy libertie, that my death might redeeme thee from daunger.

But alasfe, I see to wish is in vaine, to craue of the Gods, that thy Father shoulde vaunt of the victorie, is but to wish that your loue shoulde haue haplesse miserie: to pray that Clerophontes shoulde returne with conquest, thou wilt deeme I desyre thy friends misfortune: thus affaile with diuers doubts, I driue of my dayes in dolour: hoping howsoeuer fortune frowne, that the fates will assigne vs a perfect calme of permanent felicitie, for this sturdie storme of pinching miserie.

Thine euer, exiled
Gwydonius.

Caflania hauing receiued this Letter, seeing that no sinister chaunce of fortune was able to change the fixed fancie of Gwydonius, conceiued such assured hope in his constancie, as now she thought
his troth was filed with no spot of trecherie, that
his faith was quite deuoide of flatterie, and that
whatsoever chaunced, she might safely repose her
state & state in his loyaltie. Insomuch y to driue
out the euill opinion which she thought her brother
Thersandro hadde conceiued of Gwydonius conspi-
racie, shee secretlylye showed him the Letter,/which
after he had read ouer, and carefully construed
euerie clause, he began both to detect and detect
the villanie of Valericus, desiring his sister Caftania
that she would earnestly perswade Gwydonius in
disguised apparell speedelie to repaire to her
lodging, promising with solempe vowes and
facred oathes, not to bee preiudciall to his person:
Caftania affying greatly in her brothers faith, and
desiring to haue a sight of her louing Gwydonius,
returned him these few lines.

Caftania to Gwydonius, prosperitie.

Who so taisteth Gwydonius of the hearbe Mely
Sophilos is neuer tormented with the sting of
aduerfitie, and she that weareth the stone Mephithe
about her, neuer sorroweth at finister fortune: who
so fancieth without faining neuer proueth fickle,
and she that loueth loyallie may well be croosed
with calamitie, but neuer iustly accused of incon-
stancie. Account thy Caftania good Gwydonius to
be in the same predicament, for let disastuer mishap
driue mee downe to most deadlie mifierie, lette the cruell fates compass mee with cursed care, let fortune and the destinies conclude my confusion, yet it shall not diminish my fancie, but rather increase my affection. I wil still in weale, in woe, in bale, in blisse, in mirth & mifierie, say I loue, and it is onely Gwydonius. For shall our fancie bee such as it shal be foiled with misfortune? no, but as Thetis chaunging into manie shapes, at last returned into her owne forme, so into what mishap I be driuen by mifierie, yet I will stand in mine olde state in despight of fates and fortune. Come therefore Gwydonius to the Court in disguised apparell, but without care, for thou shalt finde me so trustie, as my troth shall be without spotte, and thy health without hazard. Thus wishing thy curtesie to confer well of my constancie, I bid thee farewell.

Thine or not her owne,
constant Caflania.

Gwydonius hauing carefully confirued over the contents of this louing letter, although f rigor of Orlanio might haue giue him sufficiët cause of suspitio, yet the cleerenes of his owne conscience, & the loue he bare to Caflania, would not suffer him either to suspeet any treason, or to doubt of any deceit, but determined without any delay
to put the safety of his person and the safegarde of his life into her handes. But leaving him to bring his purpose luckily to passe, againe to Orlanio.

Who seeing that his proclamation could not preuaile, and that his nobles preferred their owne safety before his securitie, was perplexed with such hellish passions, and griped with such pinching griefe, as the Ghosts tormented with grisly fiends, felt no such haplesse furie. To fight with Clemophtotes, he felt his strength farre vnfit to resist his force: to deny the combat, he neither could nor would, although he brought himselfe to confusion, & his children to captuittie, so that howsoever he tourned himselfe, he saw before his face death and despaire, woe and wretchednesse, mishap and miserie. Combred thus with this curelesse care, and sitting solitarily in sorrow, seeing the dismall day drew on, and hearing that Fernandus the king of Bohemia was lately landed, he fell into more furious passions, vntill he was driven out of his dumps by his sonne Thersandro: who perceiving his father thus dolefully daunted, he began most louingly to comfort him, promising that since none durft venter to deale with Clemophtotes, hee himselfe would fight the combat, and either worthelie winne the conquest with renowne, or manfully dye on the field with honour.
Orlanio hearing the bold courage of this new champion, felt his sorrow somewhat valued by this profer, perfwading himselfe that his sonne was better able to abide the brunt then hee, and hoping that the Gods would favour the equitie of the cause, and assuredly by iustice graunt him the victorie. Resting I saye, vpon this hope, and thanking Thersandro for his naturall affection, and praying him for his noble courage, hee presently went to meete Fernandus, whom he most princely entertained, condueting him very royally into Alexandria, where hee most sumptuously feasted him and all his traine. But as they passed away the time in pastime and pleasure, so poore Thersandro spent the daye in dolour and the night in sorrow. For although to comfort his Father he made light of the combat, and valiantly offered himselfe to trye the chaunce of Fortuqe, yet seeing his enemies force far to exceed his feeble strengthe, he began to faint, although like a worthie Gentleman he couered his dreadfull courage with a desperate countenance, raunging vp and downe the fieldes to driue away his melancholy: wher by chace in disguised apparaile he met Gwydonius, to whom after some parle paft between them, he bewraied the whole state of the matter: how he was to enter combat with Clerophonies, and that he doubted greatlie of the evet of the victorie,
fearing the force of his Father, and fainting at his owne imbecilitie. Which Gwydonius hearing, he made this short aunswere.

Therfandro (quoth hee) it is vaine with long talke to passe awaye the time when delaye breedes daunger, and follye to hope for faire weather when the Aire is ouercast with cloudes: leauing off therefore all oathes to confirme my faith, thus much to the purpose. If it please thee to truft mee without tryall, and to giue any confidence to my wordes, I heere promife both to make manifeft my loyall loue to Castania, and to repay thy courtesie, that I will, resembling thy person, and disguised in thy armour, enter combat with my Father Clerophonies, either intending by win- ing the victorie to obtaine my will, or by looing the conquest to want my wish: if this my profer please thee, I will passe priuelie to the Court, if not, good Therfandro, let me goe as I came. /  

Therfandro commending the subtill deuise of Gwydonius caried him as couerly as could be to Castania, to whome he was farre more welcome than soone come, remaining closely in her closet till the next morning: Castania notwithstanding knowing nothing of their pretence.

Fernandum king of Bohemia, the next day being gone with all his nobilitie to the place appointed
for the combat, Orlanio, Caftania, and all the Lords of Alexandria, clad in mourning attire followed him, thinking this dismal day should be the date of their destruction. And Clerophontes as a balefull wretch thirsting after bloud, and glorying in the hope of his supposed conquest, floode in the lites, expecting his fatal foe. To whome Gwydonius his sonne furnished with the armour of Therfandro, presented himselfe. Who seeing, that forced by the fond allurements of loue, he was to fight, not with his mortall foe, but with his naturall father, he fell into these doubtfull dumps.

Alas poore Gwydonius (quoth he) how art thou combred with divers cogitations, what a cruell conflict dost thou finde in thy minde betweene loue and loyaltie, nature and necesfitie? who euer was so wilfull as willingly to wage battaile against his owne father? who so cruell as to enter combat with his owne fire? Alas, duetie perswades mee not to practise so monstrous a mischiefe: but the deuotion I owe to Caftania, drives mee to perfrome the deed, were it thrice more daungerous or desperate. The honour I owe to my Father, makes mee faint for feare but once to imagine so brutish a fact: the loue I owe to Caftania, constraineth mee to defend the combat if Jupiter himselfe made the challenge. And is not (fond foole) necesfitie above nature, is not the law of
loue aboue King or Keyfar, Father or friend, God or the diuell?  Yes.  And so I meane to take it: for either I will valiantly win the conquest and my Caftania, or lose the victorie, and so by death ende my miseries.

With that the Trumpets sounded, and Gwydonius lustfully leaping into the lyftes, fell presently into furious fight with his Father, driving not onely Fernandus and Orlanio, but also both the armies into a great doubt, for although Clerophonites most cruelly prosecuted him, yet he alwaies received the strokes, but never so much as once returned one blow: till at last looking aloft, & spying Caftania, his courage increas'd, that all feare set aside, he carelessly flung away his sword and shield & ranne vpon his Father, not onely tearing from him his Target, but violentlie casting him vpon the ground, & speedely vnlassing his Helmet, offered to cut of his head with his owne sword: but Clerophonites crying out confessed himselfe captiue, and graunted his enimie the conquest.  Where-pon they of Alexandria, gaue a mightie shout, and Fernandus and Orlanio came downe ready to carrie Clerophonites captiue to the Citie.  But Gwydonius first demanded of Orlanio if he was content to performe that which he promised by proclamation, to whom Fernandus answered, that he would and shoulde, or else as he was his friend,
so he should be his foe. *Gwydonius* hearing this faithfull assertion of the king, pulling down his beauer, began to speake in this manner.

I let thee *Orlanio* (quoth he) and the worthie king of *Bohemia* to know, that I am *Gwydonius*, sonne and heire to this conquered *Clerophontes*, who for the loue of thy Daughter *Caftania*, haue not spared contrarie to the law of nature, to fight with mine owne Father, hoping the destinies by my meanes haue decreed, not onely of fatall foes to make you faithfull friends, but to finish vppe our loue which otherwise could not haue bene perfoumed. / I haue wonne *Orlanio* my Fathers Duke-dome by victorie, and thy daughter by conquest, the one I had before by inheritaunce, and the other by loue, yet I would willingly haue thy good will: which if thou graunt, I hope my father will both pardon my offence, and thinke well of my proffer.

*Clerophontes* kissing and imbracing *Gwydonius*, tolde him his care was halfe cured, in that such a good Captaine had wonne the Conquest. *Fernandus* and *Orlanio* froode astonisched at this strange Tragedie, doubting whether they dreamt of such a rare deuice, or saw it in effect. At last *Orlanio* as one wakened out of a trance, with trickling teares, imbraced *Clerophontes*, honouring him as his Soueraigne, and promisifg not onelye to giue
CASTANIA to GWYDONIUS, but also halfe his Dukedom in dowrie. CLEROPHONTES thanking him for his courtesie, consented most willingly to this motion, so that before FERNANDUS departed, the marriage betweene GWYDONIUS and CASTANIA, THERSANDRO and LEO-CIPPA: was most sumptuously solemnized.

FINIS.