Strange Newes,

Of the intercept-
ing certaine Letters, and a Con-
vooy of Verfes, as they were going Priuillie to
viætuall the Low Countries.

*Vnda impellant urunda.*


Printed at London by *John Danter*, dwelling in
Hofier-Lane neere Holburne
Conduit, 1593.
To the most copious Carminist
of our time, and famous perfuscutor of Priscian his
verie friend Maifter Apis lapis: Tho. Nash wish-eth new strings to his old tawnie Purfe, and
all honourable increafe of acquaintance in the Cellar.

GENTLE M. William, that learned writer
Rhenifh wine & Sugar, in the firft booke
of his Comment upon Red-noses, hath this
faying: veterem ferendo injuriam inuitas nouam,
which is as much in English, as one Cuppe of nipi-
taxy pulz on another. In moyft consideration whereof,
as also in zealous regard of that high countenance
you shew unto Schollers, I am bolde, in steade of new
wine, to carowze to you a cuppe of newes: which if
your worship (according to your wonted Chaucerifme)
shall accept in good part, Ile be your daily Orator
to pray, that that pure sanguine complexion of yours
may neuer be famisht with potte-lucke, that you may
taft till your laft gaspe, and line to see the confusion
of both your speciall enemies, Small Beere and Grammer rules.

It is not unknowne to report, what a famous potle-pot Patron you haue beeene to olde Poets in your daies, & how many pounds you haue spent (and, as it were, throwne into the fire) vpon the durt of wisedome called Alcumie: Yea, | you are such an infinite Mecenas to learned men, that there is not that morfell of meat they can carue you, but you will eate for their fakes, and accept very thankefully. Thinke not, though vnder correction of your boone-companion-ship, I am dispo[d] to be a little pleasant, I condemn you of anie immoderation either in eating or drinking, for I know your gouvernement and carriage to bee every way Canonicall. Verilie, verilie, all poore Schollers acknowledge you as their patron, prouiditore, and supporter, for there cannot a threedbare Cloake sooner peepe forth, but you strait preffe it to bee an out-brother of your bountie: three decaid Students you kept attending vpon you a long time.

Shall I presume to dilate of the grauitie of your round cap, and your dudgion dagger? It is thought they wil make you be cald vpon shortly to bee Alderman of the Stilliard. And thats well remembred: I heard faie, when this last Term was removed to Hartford, you fell into a greate studie and care by your selfe, to what place the Stilliard should be re-mooued. I promise you truelie it was a deepe medi-
tation, & such as might well have beenemed Eldertons parliament of noxes to have set upon.

A tauerne in London, onlie upon the motion, mourned al in blacke, and forbare to girt hir temples with iuie, because the grandame of good fellowship was like to depart from among them. And I wonder verie much, that you samplownd not your selse into a consumpation with the profound cogitation of it.

Diu viuas in amore iocisque, whatsoever you do, beware of keeping diet. Sloth is a sinne, and one sinne (as one poijon) must be expelled with another. What can he doe better that hath nothing to do, than fal a drinking to keep him from idlenesse?

Fah, me thinks my ieafts begin alreadie to smell of the cakke, with talking so much of this liquid prouinder.

In earnest thus; There is a Doctor and his Fart that haue kept a foule stinking stirre in Paules Churchyard; I crie him mercie, I flaundred him, he is scarfe a Doctor till he hath done his Acts: this dodipoule, this didopper, this professed poetical bragart hath raild vpon me, without wit or art, in certaine foure penniworth of Letters and three farthing-worth of Sonnets; nor do I meane to present him and Shakerley to the Queens foole-taker for coatch-horjes: for two that draw more equallie in one Oratoriall yoke of vaine-glorie, there is not vnder heauen.

N. II.
What saie you, Maister Apis lapis, will you with your eloquence and credit shield me from carpers? Haue you anie odde shreds of Latine to make this letter-munger a cockscumbe of?

It stands you in hande to arme your seldse against him; for he speaks against Connicatchers, and you are a Connicatcher, as Connicatching is divided into three parts, the Verfer, the Setter, and the Barnacle.

A Setter I am sere you are not; for you are no Mustitian: nor a Barnacle; for you never were of the order of the Barnardines: but the Verfer I cannot acquite you of, for M. Vaux of Lambeth brings in fore evidence of a breakefaft you wonne of him one morning at an unlawful game cald riming. What lies not in you to amend, plaie the Doctor and defend.

A fellow that I am to talke with by and by, being told that his Father was a Rope-maker, excused the matter after this sort; And hath neuer faint had reprobate to his Father? They are his owne worde, hee cannot goe from / them. You see heere hee makes a Reprobate and a Ropemaker voces convertibles. Go too, take example by him to washe out durt with inke, and run vp to the knees in the channell, if you bee once wetshod. You are amongst graue Doctors, and men of judgement in both Lawes every daie: I pray, aske them the question in my absence, whether
such a man as I haue describ'd this Epiftler to be, one that hath a good handsome pickerdeuant, and a prettie leg to studie the Ciuill Law with, that hath made many proper rimes of the olde cut in his daies, and deferved infinitely of the state by extolling himfelfe and his two brothers in euery booke he writes: whether (I faie) such a famous piller of the Preffe, now in the fourteenth or fifteenth yeare of the raigne of his Rhetorike, giuing mony to haue this his illiterat Pamphlet of Letters printed (whereas others haue monie giuen them to sufferers themselves to come in Print) it is not to bee counted as flat j Simonie, and be liable to one and the fame penalitie?

I tell you, I meane to trounce him after twentie in the hundred, and have a bout with him with two statues and a pike for this geare.

If he get any thing by the bargaine, lette whatsoeuer I write hence-forward bee condemned to wrappe bumbast in.

Carouse to me good lucke, for I am resolutely bent; the best bloud of the brothers shall pledge me in vineger. O would thou hadst a quaffing boule, which, like Gawens scull, should containe a pecke, that thou mightst swappe off a hartie draught to the successe of this voyiage.

By whatsoeuer thy visage holdeth most pretious I befeech thee, by John Dauies foule, and the blew Bore in the Spittle, I conjure thee, to draw out thy purse,
and give me nothing for the dedication of my Pam-
phlet.

Thou art a good fellow I know, and hadst rather
spend ieasfts than monie. Let it be the taske of thy
best tearmes, to safeconduct this booke through the
enemies countrey.

Procede to cherish thy surpaʃing carminicall arte
of memorie with full cuppes (as thou doft): let
Chaucer bee new scourd against the day of battaile,
and Terence come but in nowe and then with the
snufe of a sentence, and Dictum puta, Weele strike
it as dead as a doore naile; Haud teruntii estimo.
We haue cattes meate and dogges meate inough for
these mungrels. However I write merrilie, I love
and admire thy pleasant wittie humor, which no care
or crosse can make unconuersable. Stil bee constant
to thy content, love poetry, hate pedantisme. Vade,
vale, caue ne titubes, mandataq; frangas.

Thine intirely,
Tho. Nafhe.
To the Gentlemen Readers.

GENTLEMEN, the strong faith you have conceiued, that I would do workes of supererrogation in answer-ing the Doctor, hath made mee to breake my daye with other important busines I had, and stand darting of quils a while like the Porpentine.

I know there want not welwillers to my disgrace, who say my onely Muse is contention; and other, that with Tiberius Caesar pretending to see in the darke, talke of strange obieétes by them discovered in the night, when in truth they are nothing else but the glimmering of their eies.

I will not holde the candle to the Deuill, vnmaske my holiday Muse to enuie; but if any such deepe insfighted detracter will challenge mee to whatsoeuer quiet aduenture of Art, wherein he thinkes mee leaft conuersant, hee shall finde that I am Tam Mercurio quàm Marti, a Scholler in some thing else but contention.

If idle wittes will needes tye knottes on smooth bulrushes with their tongues, faith, the worlde
might thinke I had little to attend, if I should goe about to vnloose them with my penne.

I cannot tell how it comes to passe, but in these ill eide daies of ours, euery man delights with Ixion to beget children of clouds, digge for Pearles in dunghils, and wrest oyle out of iron.

Poore Pierce Pennileffe haue they turnd to a conjuring booke, for there is not that line in it, with which they doo not seeke to raife vp a Ghoft, and, like the hog that converts the fixth part of his meate into bristels, so haue they converted fixe parts of my booke into bitternes.

Aretine, in a Commedie of his, wittily complaineth that vpstart Commenters, with their Annotations and gloses, had extorted that sene and Morall out of Petrarch, which if Petrarch were alieue, a hundred Strappadoes might not make him confesse or subscrib too; So may I complaine that rash heads, vpstart Interpreters, haue extorted & rakte that vnreuerent meaning out of my lines, which a thousand deaths cannot make me ere grant that I dreamd off.

To them that are abused by their owne jealous collections, and no determined trefpasse of mine, this advice, by the way of example, will I giue.

One comming to Doctour Perne on a time, and telling him that hee was miserably raile on such a day in a Sermon in Saint Maries in Cam-
bridge, I but quoth he, (in his puling manner of speaking) did he name me, did he name me? I warrant you, goe and ask him, and hee will say he meant not mee; So they that are vn-groundedly offended at any thing in Pierce Pen-nileffe, first let them looke if I did name them; if not, but the matter hangeth in suspence, let them fend to mee for my exposition, and not buy it at the seconde hand, and I doe not doubt but they will be throughly satisfied.

Hee / that wraps himselfe in earth, like the Foxe, to catch birds, may haps haue a heavy cart go ouer him before he be aware, and breake his backe.

A number of Apes may get the glowworme in the night and thinke to kindle fire with it, because it glisters so, but, God wote, they are beguiled, it proues in the end to be but fools fire: the poore worme alone with their blowing warmed, they starud for colde whiles their wood is vntoucht. Who but a Foppe wil labour to anatomize a Flye? Fables were free for any bondman to speake in old time, as Æsopè for an instance: their allusion was not restrained to any particular humor of spite, but generally applyed to a generall vice. Now a man may not talke of a dog, but it is surmised he aimes at him that giueth the dog in his Crest: hee cannot name
fraw, but hee must plucke a wheate sheaffe in pieces, \textit{Intelligendo faciunt ut nihil intelligent}.

What euer they be that thus persecute Art (as the Alcumists are said to persecute Nature) I would wish them to abate the edge of their wit, and not grinde their colours so harde: hauing founde that which is blacke, let them not, with our forenamed Gold-falsifiers, seeke for a substancte that is blacker than black, or angle for frogs in a cleare fountaine.

From the admonition of these vncurteous misconsterers, I come to \textit{The kilcow champion of the three brethren}; hee forsooth wil be the first that shal giue \textit{Pierce Penileffe a non placet}.

It is not inough that hee bepift his credite, about twelue yeeres ago, with \textit{Three proper and wittie familiar letters}, but still he must be running on the \textit{letter}, and abusing the Queenses English without pittie or mercie.

Bee / it knowne vnto you (Christian Readers) this man is a forestaller of the market of fame, an ingroffer of glorie, a mountebancke of strange wordes, a meere marchant of babies and conny-skins.

Hold vp thy hand, G. H., thou art heere indited for an incrocher vpon the fee-simpe of the Latin, an enemie to Carriers, as one that takes their occupation out of their hands, and doft
nothing but transport letters vp and downe in thy owne commendation, a conspiratour and practiser to make Printers rich, by making thyselfe ridiculous, a manifest briber of Bookefellers and Stationers, to helpe thee to sell away thy bookes (whose impressio thou paidst for) that thou mayst have money to goe home to Trinitie Hall to discharge thy commons.

I say no more but Lord haue mercie vpon thee, for thou art falne into his hands that will plague thee.

Gentlemen, will you be instructed in the quarrell that hath causd him lay about him with his penne and incke horne so couragiously? About two yeeres since (a fatall time to familiar Epiftles) a certayne Theologicall gimpanado, a demie diuine, no higher than a Tailors pressing iron, brother to this huge booke-beare, that writes himselfe One of the Emperour Iustinians Courtiers, tooke vppon him to set his foote to mine, and ouer crow mee with comparatiue tearmes. I protest I never turnd vp any cowheard to looke for this scarabe flye. I had no conceit as then of discouering a breed of fooles in the three brothers bookes: marry, when I beheld ordinance planted on edge of the pulpit against me, & that there was no remedy but the blind Vicar would needs let flie at me with his Churchdore keies, & curse me with bel, book and
candle, because in my Alphabet of Idiots I had over / skipt the Hs, what could I doe but draw vpon him with my penne, and defende my selfe with it and a paper buckler as well as I might.

Say, I am as verie a Turke as hee that three yeeres ago ranne vpon ropes, if euer I speld eyther his or anie of his kindreds name in reproch, before hee barkt against mee as one of the enemies of the Lambe of God, and fetcht allusions out of the Buttery to debase mee.

Heere beginneth the fray. I vpbraid godly predication with his wicked conuerfation, I squrt inke into his decayed eyes with iniquitie to mend their diseased sight, that they may a little better descend into my schollership and learning. The Ecclesiastical duns, instead of recoverie, waxeth starke blind thereby (as a preferuative to some, is poyson to others): hee gets an olde Fencer, his brother, to be reuenged on me for my Phificke; who, flourishing about my eares with his two hand sworde of Oratory and Poetry, peraduenture shakes some of the ruft of it on my shoulders, but otherwise strikes mee not but with the shadowe of it, which is no more than a flappe with the false scabberd of contumalie: whether am I in this case to arme my selfe against his intent of iniurie, or sitt still with my finger in my mouth, in hope to bee one of simplicities martyrs?
TO THE GENTLEMEN READERS.

A queft of honorable minded Cavalliers go vppon it, and if they fhall find by the Law of armes or of ale, that I, beeing firft prouokt, am to bee inioynde to the peace, or be fworne true fervant to cowardize & patience, when wrong presfeth mee to the warres; then will I bind my felfe pretife to a Cobler, and fresh vnderlay all those writings of mine that haue trodde awrie.

Be aduertised (gentle audience) that the Doctors proceedings haue thrust vpon mee this fowlerly Metaphor, who, firft contribuiing his confutation in a short Pamphlet of fix leaues, like a paire of fummer pumps: afterward (winter growing on) clapt a paire of double foales on it like a good husband, added eight fheets more, and prickt thofe fheets or foales, as full of the hob-nayles of reprefion as they could fticke.

It is not thoſe his new clowted startops iwis, that fhall carry him out of the durt.

Sweet Gentlemen, be but indifferent, and you fhall see me desperate. Heere lies my hatte, and there my cloake, to which I reſembe my two Epiftles, being the vpper garments of my booke, as the other of my body: Saint Fame for mee, and thus I runne vpon him.

Tho. Nashe.
The foure Letters Confuted.

ABRIEL, and not onely Gabriel, but Gabriellissime Gabriel, no Angell but Angelos, id est, Nuntius, a Fawnguest Messenger twixt Maister Bird and Maister Demetrius: Behold, here stands he that will make it good, on thy foure Letters bodie, that thou art a filthy vaine foole. Thy booke I commend; as very well printed: and like wondrous well, because all men dislike it.

I agree with thee that there are in it some matters of note, for there are a great many bare-foote rimes in it, that goe as iumpe as a Fiddle, with euery ballet-makers note: and if according to their manner, you had tun'd them ouer the head, it had beene nere the worfe, for by that meanes you might haue had your name chaunted in euery corner of the streeete, then the which there can be nothing more melodiouslie addoulce to
your deuine Entelechy. O they would haue trowld off brauely to the tune of O man in Desperation, and, like Marenzos Madrigals, the mournefull note naturally haue affected the miserable Dittie.

Doe you knowe your owne misbegotten bodgery Entelechy / and addoulce? With these two Hermophrodite phraſes, being halfe Latin and halfe English, haft thou puld out the very guts of the inkehorne.

LETTERS.

To all curteous mindes that will vouchsafe the reading.

Comment.

In their abfence, this be deliuered to Megge Curtis in Shorditch, to stop muſtard pots with.

The particular Contents.

L. A Praſface to courteous mindes.

C. As much to say as Proſace, much good do it you, would it were better for you.

L. A Letter to M. Emanuel Demetrius, with a fonnet thereto annexed.

C. That is, as it were a purgation vpon a vomit, buſkines vpon pantophles.

L. A Letter to M. Bird.

C. Or little matter wrapt vp in many words.

L. A Letter to euerie fauorable and indifferent Reader.
C. *Id ets*, An exhortation to all Readers, that they shall reade nothing but his works.

L. Another letter to the fame, extorted after the rest.

C. By interpretation, a Letter whereof his invention had a hard stoole, and yet it was for his eafe, though not for his honestie: and so forth, as the Text shall direct you at large.

Heere / beginneth the first Epistle and first Booke of Orator Gabriell to the Catilinaries or Philippicks.

Wherein is divulged that venum is venum and will infect, that that which is done cannot (de fadto) be undone, that fauour is a curteous Reader, and G. H. your thankfull debter.

A Comment upon the Text.

The learned Orator in this Epistle taketh precife order he will not be too eloquent, and yet it shall be (1) as well for enditing vnworthie to be published, as for publishing vnworthie to be endited.

C. He had many adherfaries in those times that he wrote, amongst the which Cloth-breeches and Veluet-breeches (his fathers pouerty, and his owne pride, were none of the meanef). After them start up one Pierce Pennileffe, and
hee likewise was a stumbling blocke in his way. (Penurie not long tarries after pride; pray all the ropes in Saffron Walden that I do not prophesie). Amen, Amen, quoth M. Bird and M. Demetrius.

Hee forbeares to speake much in this place of the one or the other, because his letters are more forward to accuse them than their owne books to condemne them; yet for a touch by the way, hee talks that Greene is no liuerey / for this winter, it is pitifully blasted and faded in euerie meade, by the strong breath of his barbarifme.

Hee hath a twitch at Pierce Pennileffe too, at the parting file, and tearms him the Deuils Orator by profession, and his Dames Poet by practice: wherein mee thinks (the surreuerence of his works not impaired) he hath verie highly ouerhotte himselfe: for no more is Pierce Pennileffe to be cald the Deuils Orator for making a Supplication to the Deuill, than hee is to bee helde for a Rhethoritian, for setting foorth Gabrielis Scuruei Rhetor, wherein hee thought to haue knockt out the braines of poore Tullies Orator, but in veritie did nothing else, but gather a flaunting vnfauory fore-horse nosegay out of his well furnish'd garland.

The advancemët of the Deuils Oratorship, which he ascribeth to Pierce Pennileffe, me thinks had beene a fit place for his Doctorship, when hee mist
the Oratorship of the Vniuersitie, of which in the sequele of his booke, he moft flanderously complaineth. Doctor Perne, Greene, no dead man he spareth.

What he shoulde subaudi by his Dames Poet, I scarce apprehend, except this, that Pierce his Father was Dame Lawes' Poet, and writte many goodly stories of her in An Almond for [a] Parrat.

Those that will take a Lecture in our Orators letters must not read, excuse, commend, credite or beleeue anie approoued truth in Pierce Pennileffe, especialmente if it be anything that vpbraideth the great Baboune his brother.

Hee will stoppe the beginning, id est, when hee hath come behind a man and broke his head, seeke to bind him to the good abearing, or els the ende were like to prove pernicious and perillous to his confusion.

Some what hee mutters of defamation and iust commendation, & what a hell it is for him, that hath built his heauen in vaine-glory, to bee puld by the sleeue and bidde respice finem, looke backe to his Fathers house; but I ouerflippe it as friuolous, because all the world knowes him better than he knowes himselse, & though he play the Pharisie neuer so in iustifying his owne innocence, theres none will beleeue him.

Let this bee spoken once for all, as I haue a
foule to saue, till this day in all my life, with
tongue nor penne, did I euer in the leaft worde or
tittle derogate from the Docttor. If his brother
(without any former prouocation on my part, God
is my witnesse) rayld on me grossely, expresly
namde mee, compard me to Martin, indeuord to
take from mee all estimation of Arte or witte,
haue I not cause to bestirre mee?

Gabriell, I will bestirre mee, for all like an
Alehoufe Knight, thou crau'ft of Iustice to do thee
reason; as for impudencie and calumny, I returne
them in thy face, that, in one booke of tenne sheets
ot paper, haue published aboue two hundred lies.

Had they beene wittie lies, or merry lies, they
would neuer haue green'd mee: but palpable lies,
dammed lies, lies as big as one of the Guardes
chynes of beeze, who can abide?

Ile make thee of my counfaile, because I loue
thee (not): when I was in Cambridge, and but a
childe, I was indifferently perfwaded of thee: mee
thought by thy apparell and thy gate, thou shouldst
haue beeene a fine fellow: Little did I suspeet that
thou wert brother to Io. Pwan (whom inwardly I
alwaies grudgd at for writing against Aristotle) or
any of the Hs of Hempehall, but a Causalier of a
clean contrary house: now thou haft quite spoild
thy selfe, from the foote to the head I can tell
how thou art fashioned.
Teterrime frater, and not fraterrime frater, maist thou verie wofully exclaiume, for in helping him, thou haft crackt thy credit through the ring, made thy infamie currant as farre as the Queenses coyne goes.

But it may be thou haft a fider cloke for this quarrell: thou wilt object, thy Father was abufd, & that made thee write. What, by mee, or Greene, or both?

If by Greene and not mee, thou shouldest haue written against Greene and not mee. If by both, I will answere for both, but not by both, therefore I will answere but for one.

Give an instance, if thou canst for thy life, wherein in any leafe of Pierce Penileffle I had so much as halfe a fillables relation to thee, or offred one iot of indignite to thy Father, more than naming the greatest dignite he hath, when for varietie of Epithites, I calde thy brother the sonne of a Ropemaker.

We shall have a good sonne of you anone, if you be ashamed of your fathers occupation: ah thou wilt nere thriue, that art beholding to a trade, and canst not abide to heare of it.

Thou dost liue by the gallows, & wouldst not haue a shooe to put on thy foot, if thy father had no traffike with the hangman. Had I a Rope-maker to my father, & some body had cast it in
my teeth, I would forthwith haue writ in praiе of Ropemakers, & prou'd it by fou'd sillogiftry to be one of the 7 liberal sciences.

Somewhat I am priuie to the cause of Greenes inueighing against the three brothers. Thy hot-spirited brother Richard (a notable ruffian with his pen) hauing first tooke vpon him in his blundring Persifual, to play the Iacke of both sides twixt Martin and vs, and snarl'd priuily at Pap-hatchet, Pafquill, & others, that oppos'de themselfes against the open flaunder of that mightie plattermer of Atheisme, prefently after dribbed forth another foole's bolt, a booke I shoule say, which he christened The Lambe of God.

That booke was a learned booke, a labourd booke; for three yere before he put it in print, he had preacht it all without booke.

I my selfe haue some of it in a booke of Sermons that my Tutor at Cambridge made mee gather euery Sunday. Then being very yoong, I counted it the abieste and frothiest forme of Diuinitie that came in that place. Now more confirmed in age and Art, I confirme my ill opinion of it.

Neither do I urge this, as if it were a hainous thing for a man to put sermons in print after hee preacht them, but obserue the proud humor of the pert Didimus, that thinks nothing he speakes but
CONFUTED.

defercues to be put in print, and speakes not that sentence in the Pulpit, which before he rough-hewes not ouer with his penne. Besides, I taxe him for turning an olde coate (like a Broker) and selling it for a new.

These and a thouand more imperfections, might haue beene buried with his bookes in the bottome of a drie-fatte, and there slept quietly amongst the shauings of the Preffe, if in his Epistle he had not beene so arrogantly censoriall.

Not mee alone did hee reuile and dare to the combat, but glickt at Pap-hatchet once more, and mistermed all our other Poets and writers about London, piperly make-plaies and make-bates.

Hence Greene, beeing chiefe agent for the companie (for hee writ more than foure other, how well I will not say: but Sat citi$d, $i f$at bene) tooke occasion to canuaze him a little in his Cloth-breeches and /Veluet-breeches, and becausse by some probable collections hee geft the elder brothers hand was in it, he coupled them both in one yoake, and, to fulfill the prouerbe Tria sunt omnia, thrust in the third brother, who made a perfect parriall of Pamphleters.

About some seauen or eight lines it was which hath pluckt on an inve&iue of so many leaues. Had hee liu'd, Gabriel, and thou shouldst so vnarteficially and odiously libeld against him as
thou haft done, he would haue made thee an example of ignominy to all ages that are to come, and driuen thee to eate thy owne booke butterd, as I sawe him make an Apparriter once in a Tauern eate his Citation, waxe and all, very handsomly seru'd twixt two dishes.

Out vppon thee for an arrant dog-killer, strike a man when he is dead?

So Hares may pull dead Lions by the beards.

Memorandum. I borrowed this sentence out of a Play. The Theater Poets hall, hath many more such proverbes to persecute thee with, because thou haft so scornfully derided their profession, and despitefully malignted honest sports.

Before I vnbowell the leane Carcase of thy booke any further, Ie drinke one cup of lambswool to the Lambe of God and his enemies.

In the first foure leaves of it, I haue singled out these Godly and fruitfull obseruations.

Noble Lord, I doe it even upon former premisses, not for any future consequents.

My booke is not worthy of so honorable specialitie as your Patronage.

I will not prosecute it with Theological peculiars, but from the mouth of the sword I speake, &c.

The hearts of the wicked pant, their spirits faile them, they may well call for butter out of a Lordlie dish.
You that bee gentle Readers, doe you not laugh at this Lawiers englifh of former premissses and future consequents?

O finicalitie, your patronages speciallitie, but if he prosecute it with Theologicall peculiars, we must needs thrust him inter oues et boues & reliqua pecora campi.

From the mouth of the sword I speake it, that butter out of a Lordly dish is but lewd diet for the Pulpit.

But this is not halfe the littour of incke-hornifme, that those four pages haue pigd. I must tell you of the Octonarium of Ramus, the Sesquiamus of Phrigius, the Carthusianisme of Gulielmus Rikel, of Annals, Diaries, Chronologies, & Tropologicall schoolemen, the Abetilis of the Æthiopians or Pretoiennans, of Gulielmus minatenfis, & S. Ierome allegorized, Abdias, Lyra, Gryfon, Porta, Pantaleon.

All which hee reckons vp to make the world beleue he hath read much, but alleadgeth nothing out of them: Nor, I thinke, on my conscience, euer read or knew what they meane, but he hath stole them by the wholesale out of some Booksellers Catalogue, or a table of tractats.

Here are some of his profounde Annotations: Iacob tooke Leah, for his bedfellow in the darke by night, insteede of Rachell, whereby I learne to buy
my wife candle to goe to bed withall, and admit her not by darke, but by light.

Iacob was deceived by Labans words: ergo, Obligations are better than bills, and we must believe no man, except he will waxe and multiplie in words, and call inke & parchment to witnes.

Iacob laide pilled rods with white strakes in the watring places of the sheepe, whereby I note that in carnal mixture the sences are opened.

Judge you that be Fathers of the Church, whether this be fit matter to edifie or no.

It was not for nothing brother Richard, that Greene told you you kift your Parishioners wiues with holy kisses, for you that wil talk of opening the sences by carnal mixture (the very act of lecherie) in a Theological Treatife, and in the Pulpit, I am afraide, in a priuater place you will practife as much as you speake: Homines raro, nisi male locuti, male faciunt. Olet hircum, olet hircum, anie modest eare would abhorre to heare it.

Farewell vnCLEANE Vicar, and God make thee an honest man, for thou art too baudy for mee to deale withall.

It followes in the Text,

To my verie good friend Maister Emanuell Démetrius.

This letter of M. Bird to M. Demetrius, shoulde seeme, by all reference or collation of stiles, to
bee a Letter which M. Birds secretarie, Doctor Gabriell, indited for him in his owne praise, and got him to sette his hand to when he had done. Or rather, it is no letter, but a certificate (such as Rogues haue) from the head man of the Parish where hee was borne, that Gabriell is an excellent generall Scholler, and his Father of good behauiour.

We will not beleue it except wee see the Towne seale sette to it: but, say wee should beleue it, what doth it make for thee? Haue the Townesmen of Saffron Waldon euer heard thee preach, that they should commend thee for an excellent generall scholler? or (because thou professest thy self a Civilian) haft thou sollicited any of their caufes in the bawdy Courtes therabouts? If not, go your wayes a dolt as you came: Maifter / Birds Letter shall not repriue you from the ladder.

But Veluet-breeches and Cloth-breeches (by the judgement of the beft man of none of the leaft towns in Essex) is a fantasticall and fond Dialogue, and one of the most licentious intollerable inuesities that euer hee read.

Why?

In it is abused an auncient neighbour of his.

How is he abused?

In stead of his name, hee is called by the craft hee gets his liuing with.
He hath borne office in Walden above twenty yere since (hoc est, had the keeping of the Towne flocke, alias the flocks) Ergo he is no Rope-maker.

He hath maintaing foure Jonnes at Cambridge; Ergo Greene is a lewd fellow to say he gets his living backward.

Three of his Jonnes universally ridiculouslie reputed of (for inamoratos on their owne works) in both Univerfities and the whole Realme. The fourth is shrunke in the wetting, or else the Print shoulde haue heard of him.

One of the three (whom the Quipe entitles the Phyfition) returning sicke from Norwicke to Linne in July laßt, was past writing any more Almanackes, before Greene ere imagined God had thought so well of him to take him to him.

Liuor post fata quiescat. Mother Luiers of Newington is a better fortune-teller than he was a Phisition.

A / Dash through the Dudgen Sonnet against Greene.

Put vp thy fmiter O gentle Peter,
Author and halter make but ill meeter.

I scorne to answer thy mishapen rime:
Blocks haue cald schollers bayards ere this time.

I would trot a false gallop through the rest of
his ragged Verses, but that if I should retort his rime dogrell aright, I must make my verses (as he doth his) run hobling like a Brewers Cart upon the stones, and observe no length in their feete; which were absurdum per absurdus, to infect my vaine with his imitation.

The Analafis of the whole is this: an olde mechanical meeter-munger would faine raile, if he had anie witte. If Greene were dogge-ficke and brain-ficke, sure he (poore secular Satirift) is dolt-ficke and brainleffe, that with the tooth-leffe gums of his Poetry so betuggeth a dead man.

But I cannot be induced to beleue a graue man of his sort should be so raugingly bent: when all comes to all, shortest vowels and longest mutes will bewray it to bee a webbe of your owne loomes, M. Gabriel: you mute foorth many such phraſes in the course of your booke, which I will point at as I passe by.

I will not robbe you of your due commendation in anything: in this Sonnet you haue counterfeited the fīle of the olde Vice in the Morals, as right vp and downe as may be.

Let. Greene, the Connycatcher, of this dreame the author,

For his daintie deuife deserueth the hauter.
Vice. / Hey nan anon sir, soft let me make water,
Whip it to go, Ile kiss me maifters daughter.
Tum diddy, tum da, falangte do diddle:
Sol la me fa fol, conatus in fiddle.

I am afraide your Doctors fart will fall out to be
a fatall foyst to your breeches, if we followe you
at the hard heeles as we haue begun.
Thou shalt not breath a whit, trip and goe,
turne ouer a new leafe.

Maifter Bird, in the abfence of M. Demetrius.
Perge porrò. I found his wife curteous: barlady
sir, but this is fufpitious.

A woman is well holpen vp that does you any
curtesie in the abfence of her husband, when you
cannot keepe it to your felfe, but you muft blab it
in print.

If it were any other but Mistris Demetrius
(whome I haue heard to be a modést fober woman,
and indued with many vertues) I would play vp
on it a little more. In regard that shee is so, I for-
beare ; and craue pardon in that I haue spoken so
much.

Yet would I haue her vnderftand how well the
generall scholler her gueft, hath rewarded hir for
his kind entertainment, by bringing her name in
queftion in print.

M. Bird and Demetrius, I knowe neither of
you by fight, but this I le say, being of that welth you are, you had better haue spent a great deale of money, than come in the mouth of this base companion.

What reafon haue I (seeing your names subscribed as his bolsterer, in a matter of defame that concerns mee) but to go through stitch with you, as well as him?

He thinks to ouer-beare vs as poore beggers with the / great oftentation of your rich acquaintance.

Lette all Noblemen take heede how they giue this Thrafo the leaft becke or countenance, for if they bestowe but halfe a glaunce on him, hele straight put it verie solemnly in print, and make it ten times more than it is.

I le tell you a merry ieaft.

The time was when this Timothie Tiptoes made a Latine Oration to her Majestie. Her Highn'es as she is vnto all her subiects most gratious : so to schollers she is more louing and affable than any Prince vnnder heauen. In which repect, of her owne vertue and not his desert, it pleased hir so to humble the height of hir judgment, as to grace him a little whiles he was pronouncing, by these or such like tearmes. Tis a good pretie fellow, a lookes like an Italian, and after hee had concluded, to call him to kiffe her royall hand. Herevppon he goes home to his studie, all intraunced, and
writes a whole volume of Verses; first, *De vultu Italia*, of the countenance of the Italian; and then *De osculo manus*, of his kissting the Queenes hande. Which two Latin poems he publisht in a booke of his cald *Ædes Valdinenses*, proclaiming thereby (as it were to England Fraunce, Italie and Spaine) what fauour hee was in with her Maiestie.

I dismiss this *Parenthesis*, and *come to his next businesse*: which indeede is his firft businesse: for tyll Greene awakte him out of his selfe admiring contemplation, hee had nothing to doe but walke vnder the Ewe tree at Trinitie hall, and say:

What may I call this tree, an Ewe tree, O bonny Ewe tree, 
Needes to thy boughs will bow this knee, and vaile my bonnetto.

Or / make verses of weathercocks on the top of steeptles, as he did once of the weathercocke of Alhallowes in Cambridge:

*O thou weathercocke that stands on the top of the church of Alhallowes,* 
*Come thy waies down if thou darst for thy crowne, and take the wall on vs.*

*O Heathenifh and Pagan Hexamiters, come thy waies down frō thy Doxtourship,* & learne thy Primer of Poetry ouer again, for certainly thy pen is in state of a Reprobate with all men of judg-ment and reckoning.

*Come thy waies down from thy Doxtourship,*
said I? *Erraui demens,* thou neuer wenst vp to it yet.

Fie on hypocrisy and Diffimulation, that men should make themselfes better than they are!

Alas a Gods will, thou art but a plaine moth-eaten Master of Art, and neuer pollutedst thy selfe with any plaiftrie or dawbing of Doctourship.

Lift Pauls Churchyard (the peruser of euerie mans works, & Exchange of all Authors), you are a many of you honest fellows, and fauour men of wit.

So it is that a good Gowne and a well pruned paire of moustachios, hauing studied sixtene yeare to make thirteene ill english Hexameters, came to the University Court regentium & non, to sue for a commission to carry two faces in a hoode: they not vthing to deny honour to any man that deserued it, bad him performe all the Schollerlike ceremonies and disputatiue right appertaining thereto, and he should bee installed.

*Noli me tangere:* he likt none of that.

A stripling that hath an indifferente pretie stocke of reputation abroade in the worlde already, and some credit amongst his neighbours, as he thinketh, would be / loth to ieoperd all at one throwe at the dice.

If hee should haue disputed for his degree, descended in arenam & puluerem Philosophicum, and
haue been foild, *Ah me quoth Wit in lamentable sort*, what should haue become of him? hee might haue beene shot through ere hee were aware, with a Sillogisme.

No point, *Ergo*, it were wisely done of goodman Boores sonne, if he should goe to the warres for honor, and returne with a wodden legge, when he may buy a Captaineship at home better cheape.

*Pumps and Pantofles*, because they were well blackt and glistered iolly freshly on it, being rubd ouer with inke, had their grace at length to be Doctour, *Ea lege*, that they should do their acts (that is, performe more than they were able).

Curst be the time that euer there were any obligations made with conditions, *Vnde habeas querit nemo, sed oportet habere*, Howe Dorbell comes to bee Doctour none asks, but Doctour hee muft bee to make him right worshipfull.

Acts are but idle wordes, and the Scripture faith, wee muft giue account for euery idle word.

Pumps and Pantofles sweare they will iet away with a cleare conscience at the daie of iudgement, and therfore do no Acts, giue no offence with idle words, onelie like a Hauke let flie at a Partridge, that turns the taile and betakes her to a walnut-tree, so to Oxford they trudge, hauing their grace *ad disputandum*, and there are confirmed in the fame degree they tooke at Cambridge: which is
as if a Prentifhe heere in London, as foone as hee
is enrould, should runne to some fuch Towne as
Ipswich, and there craue to haue his Freedome
confrmed as of London: which, in truth is / no
Freedome, because hee hath not feru'd out his
prentifhip.

Trust mee not for a dodkin, if there bee not all
the Doctourship hee hath, yet will the insolent
ince worne write himfelfe Right worshipfull of
the Lawes, and perfonate this man and that man,
calling him my good friend Maifter Doctour at
every word.

Doctour or no Doctour, Greene surfeted not of
pickled hearing, but of exceeding feare of his Fam-
iliar Epiftles.

Hee offered in his extreamest want twentie shillings
to the Printer to leaue out the matter of the three
brothers.

Haud facile credo, I am sure the Printer beeing
of that honestie that I take him for, will not
affirme it.

Marry this I must say, there was a learned
Doctour of Phificke (to whom Greene in his
sicknesse fent for counfaile) that hauing read ouer
the booke of Veluetbreeches and Clothbreeches, and
laughed merrilie at the three brothers legend, wild
Green in any cafe either to mittigate it, or leaue it
out: Not for any extraordinarie account hee made

N. II.

14
of the fraternitie of fooles, but for one of them was proceeded in the fame facultie of phisicke hee profeft, and willinglie hee would haue none of that excellent calling ill spoken off.

This was the caufe of the altring of it, the feare of his Phisitions displeasure, and not anie feare else.

I keepe your conscious minde, with all other odde ends of your halfe fac’d englifh, till the full conclusion of my booke, where in an honorable Index they shall be placed according to their degree and seignioritie.

Wee / are to vexe you mightely for plucking Elderton out of the ashes of his Ale, and not letting him inioy his nappie muse of ballad making to himselfe, but now, when he is as dead as dead beere, you muft bee finding fault with the brewing of his meeters.

Hough Thomas Delone, Phillip Stubs, Robert Armin, &c., your father Elderton is abuf’d. Reuenge, reuenge on course paper and want of matter, that hath most facriligioufly contaminated the diuine spirit & quinteffence of a penny a quart.

Helter skelter, feare no colours, course him, trounce him, one cup of perfect bonaenture licour will inspire you with more wit and Schollership than hee hath thrust into his whole packet of Letters.

You that bee lookers on, perhaps imagine I
talke like a merry man, and not in good earneft, when I say that Eldertons ghost and Gabriel are at such odds: but then you knowe nothing, for there hath bee a monstrous emulation twixt Elderton and him time out of mind. Yea, they were riuals in riming foure yeare before the great frost. Hee expressely writ against him, 1580, In his short but sharpe and learned iudgement of Earthquakes.

Broome boyes, and cornecutters, (or whatsoeuer trade is more contemptible) come not in his way, stand fortie foote from the execution place of his furie, for else in the full tide of his standish, he will carrie your occupations handsmoth out of towne before him, beismeare them, drowne them: downe the riuere they goe Priuily to the Ile of Dogges with his Pamphlets.

O it is a pestilent libeller against beggers: hee meanes shortly to set foorth a booke cald his Paraphrase vpon Paris Garden, wherein hee will so tamper / with the interpreter of the Puppits, and betoufe Harry of Tame and great Ned, that Titius shall not upbraid Caius with euerie thing and nothing nor Zoylus anie more flurt Homer, nor Therfitses fling at Agamemnon.

Holla, holla, holla, flurt, fling, what reafty Rhetoricke haue we here? certes, certes, brother hoddy doddy, your penne is a coult by cockes body.
As touching the libertie of Orators and Poets, I will conferre with thee somewhat grauely, although thou beeft a goose-cappe and haft no judgement.

A libertie they haue thou sayst, but no liberty without bounds, no licence without limitation.

Iesus what mistre wonders doft thou tell us? euery thing hath an end, and a pudding hath two.

That libertie, Poets of late in their inuectuues haue exceeded: they haue borne their sword vp where it is not lawfull for a poynado that is but the page of prowesse, to intermeddle.

Thou bringft in Mother Hubbard for an instance. Go no further, but here confesse thy selfe a flat nodgcombe before all this congregation; for thou haft dealt by thy friend as homely as thou didft by thy father.

Who publikely accusde or of late brought Mother Hubbard into question, that thou shouldest by rehearsall rekindle against him the sparkes of displeasure that were quenched?

Forgot he the pure sanguine of his Fairy Queene, sayst thou?

A pure sanguine fot art thou, that in vaine-glory to haue Spencer known for thy friend, and that thou haft some interest in him, cenfereft him worfe than his deadliest enemie would do.

If any man were vndeferuedly toucht in it,
thou hast reuied his disgrace that was so toucht in it, by renaming it, when it was worn out of all mens mouths and minds.

Besides, whereas before I thought it a made matter of some malitious moralizers against him, and no substance of slander in truth, now, when thou (that proclaimest thy selfe the only familiar of his bosome, and therefore shouldst know his secretes) giues it out in print that he overshotte himselfe therein; it cannot chuse but be suspected to be so indeed.

Immortall Spencer, no frailtie hath thy fame, but the imputation of this Idiots friendship: vpon an vns锜pt Pegasus should thy gorgeous attired Fayrie Queene ride triumphant through all reports dominions, but that this mud-born bubble, this bile on the browe of the Vniuerstie, this bladder of pride newe blowne, challengeth some interest in her prosperitie.

Of pitch who hath any use at all, shall be abusd by it in the end.

High grasse that florisheth for a seacon on the house toppe, fadeth before the haruest cals for it, and maye well make a fayre shewe, but hath no sweetnesse in it. Such is this Asse in presenti, this grosse painted image of pride, who would faine counterfeite a good witte, but scornfull pittie, his best patron, knows it becomes him as ill, as an
vnweldy Elephant to imitate a whelpe in his wantonnes.

I wote not how it falls out, but his inuention is ouerweaponed; he hath some good words, but he cannot writhe them and toffe them to and fro nimbly, or so bring them about, that he maye make one freight thrust at his enemies face.

Coldly and dully *idem per idem*, who cannot indite? but with life and spirit to limne deadnes it selfe, *Hoc eft oratoris proprium*.

L. *Inuestitues by fauour have beene too bolde, and Satires by usurpation too presumptuous*. What pleasure brings this to the reader? Iacke of the Falcon in Cambridge can say as much, and giue no reason for it.

But I can prompt you with a demonstration wherein Inuestitues haue been too bold. Do you remember what you writ in your Item for Earthquakes, of *double fac'd Iani, changeable Camelions, Aspen leaues, painted sheathes, and sepulchers, Asses in Lions skinnes, dunghill cockes, slipperie eels, dormife, &c.*? Besides your testimoniall of Doctour Perne, wherein it pleased you, of your singuler liberalitie and bountie, to beftowe vpon [him] this beautifull *Encomium*:—*A busie and dizzie head, a brazen forehead, a leaden braine, a wodden witte, a copper face, a stonie brest, a factious and eluiish heart, a founder of nouelties, a confounder of his owne and...*
his friendes good giftes, a morning booke-worme, an afternoon malt-worme, a right Lugler, as full of his sleightes, wiles, fetches, cafts of legerdemaine, toyes to mocke Apes withall, odde shifts and knaish practises, as his skinne can holde.

Notwithstanding all this, you defie, cut and long-taile, that can accuse you of any scandalous part either in word or deed.

Tully, Horace, Archilochus, Aristophanes, Lucian, Iulian, Aretine, goe for no paiment with you: their declamatory stiles, brought to the grand test of your judgement, are found counterfeit, they are a venomous and viprous brood of railers, because they have brought in a new kind of a quicke fight, which your decrepite flow-mouing capacitie cannot fadge with.

Tush, tush, you take the graue peake vpon you too/much: who would think you could so easily shake off your olde friendes? Did not you in the fortie one Page, line 2, your Epiftles to Collin Clout vfe this speech?

Extra iocum, I like your Dreames passing well: and the rather because they favor of that singular extraordinary vaine and inuention which I ever fancied most, and in a manner admired onely in Lucian, Petrarch, Aretine, Pasquil.

Dic fodes (godamercie on Dicke Sothis soule, for he was a better dauncer than thou art an enditer,
& with his legges he made some Musicke (there is none in thy letters) answere mee briefly, I say, to the point, haue I varied one vowell from thy originall text in this allegation? If not, I cannot see how the Doctours may well be reconcil'd, one while to commend a man because his writings fauour of that singular extraordinarie vaine, which he onely admired in Lucian, Petrarch, Aretine, Pafquil: and then in another booke afterward, to come and call those singular extraordinarie admired men a venemous and viperous brood of railers.

The auncienters fort of Poets and Oratours shall plead their owne worthinesse.

Tullie neuer ouerreached himself in railing so much as in flatterie. His Phillippicks (sound Phyfick applide to a body that could not disgeft it) are the things that especially commended him to this art-thriuing age of ours, and had not these beene, hee would certainly haue beene sentenced by a generall verdit of histories for a timorous time-pleaser.

Who cannot draw a curtaine before a deformed picture? Plautus perforated no Parasite, but he made him a flaue or a bondman.

Fawning and crouching are the naturall gestures of feare, and if it bee a vertue for a vassaile to licke a mans shooes with his tongue, sure it is
but borrowed from the dogges; and so is biting too, if it bee accompanied with ouer lowd barking, or in such wise as it cannot pinch but it must breake the flesh and drawe bloud.

Horace, Perseus, Juvenall, my poore judgment lendeth you plentiful allowance of applaufe: yet had you, with the Phrigian melodie, that stirreth men vp to battaile and furie, mixt the Dorian tune, that fauoreth mirth and pleafure, your vn-fugred pilles (howeuer excellently medicinable) would not haue beene so harsh in the swallowing. So likewise Archilochus, thou like the preachers to the Curtizans in Roome, that expound to them all Lawe and no Gofpell, art all gall and no spleene. Hence came it to passe, that with the meere efficacie of thy incensed Lambicks, thou mad'ft a man runne and hang himfelfe that had angered thee.

Thee I imbrace Aristophanes, not so much for thy Comedie of the clowd, which thou wrotft against philosophers, as for in al other thy inuentions thou interfusest delight with reprehension.

Lucian, Iulian, Aretine, all three admirably blest in the abundant giftes of art and nature: yet Religion, which you fought to ruinate, hath ruinated your good names, and the opposing of your eyes againft the bright sunne, hath caufd the worlde condemne your fight in all other
things. I protest, were you ought else but abominable Atheistes, I would obstinately defende you, onely because Laureate Gabriell articles against you.

This I will iustifie against any Dromidote Ergonist whatsoever, there is no other vnласciuous use or end of /poetry, but to infamize vice, and magnifie vertue, and that if they assemble all the examples of verse-founders from Homer to Hugh Copland, they shall not find anie of them but hath encountred with the generall abuses of the times.

Whatsoever harpeth not of one of these two strings of praise and reprofe, is as it were a Dirige in pricksong without anie dittie set to it, that haply may tickle the eare, but neuer edifies.

In the Romaine common-wealths it was lawful for Poets to reprove that enormitie in the higheft chairs of authoritie, which none else durft touch, alwaies the sacred Maieftie of their Augustus kept inuiolate: for that was a Plannet exalted aboue their Hexameter horizon, & it was capitall to them in the higheft degree to dispute of his setting and rising, or search inquisitiuely into his predominance and influence.

The secrets of God muft not be searcht into. Kings are Gods on earth, their actions muft not be founded by their subiects.

Seneca, Nerces tutor, founde his death in no
verse but Oætavia. Imperious Lucan sprinkled but one drop of bloud on his imperiall chayre, and perisht by him also.

Ouid once saw Augustus in a place where he would not haue beeene seene ; he was exilde pre- fently to those countries no happy man hears of.

Long might hee, in a blinde Metamorphosis, haue playd vppon all the wenches in Roome, and registred their priuie scapes, vpbrayded inhospiti- talitie with the fable of Licaon: alluded to some Ambodexter Lawyer vnder the storie of Battus: haue described a noted vnthrift, whose subftaunce hawkes and hounds haue deuoured, in the tale of Aëteon, that was eaten vp / by his owne dogges: mockt Alcumiftes with Midas: picturde inamartatos vnder Narcissus: and shrouded a picked effeminate Carpet Knight vnnder the fic- tionate perfon of Hermophroditus; with a thousand more such vnexileable ouer-thwart merrimentes, if luft had not led him beyond the prospect of his birth, or hee seene a meaner man finning than an Emperor.

Sancta Maria ora pro nobis, how hath my pen loft it selfe in a croude of Poets.

Gaffer Lobbernoule, once more well ouer-taken, how doft thou? how doft thou? holde vp thy heade, man, take no care: though Greene be dead, yet I may liue to doe thee good.
But by the meanes of his death thou art deprived of the remedie in lawe, which thou intendedst to have against him, for calling thy father Ropemaker. Mas, thats true: what action will it beare? Nihil pro nihilo, none in law: what it will doe vpon the stage I cannot tell; for there a man maye make action besides his part, when he hath nothing at all to say: and if there, it is but a clownish action that it will beare: for what can bee made of a Ropemaker more than a Clowne? Will Kempe, I mistrust it will fall to thy lot for a merriment, one of these dayes.

In short tearmes, thus I demur vpon thy long Kentish-tayld declaration against Greene.

Hee inherited more vertues than vices: a iolly long red peake, like the spire of a steeple, hee cherisht continually without cutting, whereat a man might hang a Jewell, it was so sharpe and pendant.

Why should art answer for the infirmities of maners? Hee had his faultes, and thou thy follyes.

Debt and deadly sinne, who is not subiect to? With any notorious crime I neuer knew him tainted; (& yet tainting is no infamous surgerie for him that hath beene in so many hote skirmishes).

A good fellowe hee was, and would haue drunke
with thee for more angels then the Lord thou libeldst on gaue thee in Christs Colledge; and in one yeare hee pift as much against the walls, as thou and thy two brothers spent in three.

In a night & a day would he haue yarkt vp a Pamphlet as well as in feauen yeare, and glad was that Printer that might bee so blest to pay him deare for the very dregs of his wit.

Hee made no account of winning credite by his workes, as thou doft, that doft no good workes, but thinkes to bee famoised by a strong faith of thine owne worthines: his onely care was to haue a speel in his purse to conjure vp a good cup of wine with at all times.

For the lowifie circumstance of his pouerty before his death, and sending that miserable writte to his wife, it cannot be but thou lyeft, learned Gabriell.

I and one of my fellowes, Will Monox (Haft thou neuer heard of him and his great dagger?) were in company with him a month before he died, at that fatall banquet of Rhenish wine and pickled hearing (if thou wilt needs haue it so) and then the inuentorie of his apparrell came to more than three shillings (though thou faift the contrarie). I know a Broker, in a spruce leather jerkin with a great number of golde Rings on his fingers, and a bunch of keies at his girdle, shall
giue you thirty shillings for the doublet alone, if you can helpe him to it. Harke in your eare, hee had a very faire Cloake with fleuees, of a graue goose turd greene: it would serue you as fine as may bee: No more words if you bee wise, play the good husband / and listen after it, you may buy it ten shillings better cheape than it cost him. By S. Siluer, it is good to bee circumspect in casting for the worlde, therese a great many ropes go to ten shillings. If you want a greasy paire of silke stockings also, to shew yourselfe in at the Court, they are to be had too amongst his moveables. *Frustra fit per plura quod fieri potest per pauciora*: It is policie to take a rich penniworth whiles it is offred.

*Alas euem his fellow writer, that proper yong man, almost scorns to cope with thee, thou art such a crow troden Asse: doft thou in some respects with him well and spare his name? in some respects so doth hee with thee as well? (hoc est, to be as well knowne for a foole as my Lord Welles) and promiseth by me to talke very sparingly of thy praise. For thy name, hee will not stoupe to plucke it out of the mire, and put it in his mouth.*

By this blessed cuppe of sacke which I now holde in my hand, and drinke to the health of all Christen soules in, thou art a puissant Epitapher.

Yea? thy Mufes foot of the twelues ; old long
Meg of Westminster? Then, I trowe thou wilt stride ouer Greenes graue and not stumble: If you doe, wee shall come to your taking vp.

Letter.
Here lies the man whom Mistris Ifam crownd with bays,
She she that ioyd to heare her nightingales sweete lays.

Comment.
Here Mistris Ifam; Gabriel floutes thy bays:
Scratch out his eyes that printeth thy dispraise.

She she she will scratch, and like a scritching night-owle come and make a dismal noife vnder thy chamber / windowe, for deriding her so dunftically. A bigge fat lufty wench it is, that hath an arme like an Amazon, and will bang thee abominationly, if euer shee catch thee in her quarters. It is not your Poet Garisb, and your forehorse of the parish that shall redeeme you from her fingers, but shee will make actuall proofe of you, according as you desire of God in the vnder following lines.

The next weeke, Maifter Bird (if his inke-pot haue a cleare current) hee will haue at you with a cap-cafe full of French occurrences, that is, shape you a meffe of newes out of the second course of his conceit, as his brother is said out of the fabulous
abundance of his braine to haue inuented the newes out of Calabria (John Doletas prophesie of flying dragons, commets, Earthquakes, and inundations).

I am sure it is not yet wore out of mens scorn, for euery Miller made a comment of it, and not an oyster wife but mockt it.

When that fly-boat of Frenchery is once launcht, your trenchor attendant, Gamaliel Hobgoblin, intends to tickle vp a Treatife of the barly kurnell, which you set in your garden, out of which there sprung (as you auouched) twelue feuerall cares of corne at one time.

Redoubted Parma was never so matcht if hee kindle the match of his meeterdome, and let drive at him with a volley of verses. Let not his principalitie trust too much to it, because his name is Latin for a shield; for Poet Hobbinoll, hauing a gallant wit and a brazen penne, will honourably bethinke him, and eu en ambitiously frame his stile to a noble emulation of Liuie, Homer and the divinest spirites of all ages, as hee hath done to the emulation of Tullie heeretofore, when hee com/piled a Pamphlet called Ciceronis Consolatio ad Dolobellam, and publisht it as a newe part of Tullie, which had bin hidde in a Wall a thousand and odde yeares, and was found out by him before it euer found beeing.
The circumstance was this; going downe the water at Cambridge one summer euening, and asking certaine questions of the Eccho at Barnewell wall (as the manner is paffing by) holding her verie narrowly to the poyn, she revealed vnto him what a treasure shee had hidden amongst her stones; namely, this new part of *Gabrielis Ciceronis consolation ad Dolobellam* : and though she was verie loath to disclose it, yet because shee knewe not how soone God might call her; *videlicet*, how sodainely shee might fall; to discharge her conscience before her death, shee would deliver it vp as freely vnto him as euer it was hers: come and digge for it, hee shoulde haue it. Neuer more glad was shee in her life, that since shee must needes surrender it to the light, she had chaunst vpon such a Cardinall Corrigidore of incongruitie, and *Tullies* nexte and immediate succesour, vnder Curre, to whose carefulfull repolishing she might commit it.

Keepe it, quoth she?

No, if it were a booke of golde it is thine: reade it, new print it, dedicate it from thy gallery at *Trinitie Hall* to whom thou wilt.

Whether hee vvide a spade or a mattocke for the unburying of it I know not, but extant it is, and of a hundred I haue heard that it is his.

O Gabriell, if thou haft any manhood in thy starcht peake, looke vpon me and weepe not.

N. II. 15
From this day forward shall a whole armie of boies come / wondering about thee, as thou goest in the street, and cry kulleloo, kulleloo, with whup hoo, there goes the Ape of Tully: thine he he, steale Tully, steale Tully, away with the Assè in the Lions skinne.

Nay, but in sadnesse, is it not a sinfull thing for a Scholler & a Christian to turne Tully? a Turke would neuer doe it.

Be counsafeid in thy calamitie, write no more Consolatios ad Dolabelam, but Consolatio ad Doctorem Gabrielem; thy selfe comfort thy selfe, and learn to make a vertue of contempt.

Ad ruentem parietem ne inclina, is a proverbe which would haue preuented all this, if thou couldst haue suffered thy selfe to haue beene directed by it: for first and formost, hadst not thou stept forth to vnder-prop the ruinous wall of thy brothers reputation, I had neuer medled with thee; if thou hadst not leand too much to an olde wall, when thou pluckst Tullie out of a wall, the damnation of this Iesf had bin yet vbegotten.

He that hath borne faile in two tempests of shame, makes a sport of shippewracke of good name euer after.

The wall of the welfare of Fraunce that is started from her King, her true foundation, thy writinges, (more wretched than France) would
faine cleaue vnto, if they could tell how, and count it a felicity to haue the oportunitie of so heroicall an argument.

God helpe Alexander, if hee haue no other Poet to emblazon his atchieuements but Cherillus.

High resolued Earle of Effex, and victorious Sir John Norris, Englands champions, enuied tranquillities confidence, vnworthy are your adventuress Liades to bee reported by such a ragged reede as the iar/ring Pipe of this Batillus. The Portugals & Frenchmens feare will lend your Honors richer ornaments, than his low-flighted affection (fortunes summer follower) can frame them.

The seale that I haue set to your vertues be silence; the argument of prayse is vnauthorized in any mans mouth but olde age.

When the better parte of youthes seruence is boyld away, and that the showres of many sorrowes haue seafond our greene heads with experience, with the wither-fac'd weather-beaten Mariner, that talks quaking and shudderingly of a storme that hee hath newly toyld through, our wordes will bee written in our vifage.

Euen as the sunne, so no science shines in his compleate glory till it be ready to decline.

These be the conclusions, that gray hairs prune & cut downe the prosperitie of yong yeares with as faft as it aspires, but let the feare Oake looke
himselfe in the glasse of truth, and he shal find that Methusalems blessing is imbecillitie, bestowed on any creature but the Foxe, who neuer is a right Foxe till he be ripe for the dunghill.

If my stile holde on this sober Mules pace but a sheete or two further, I shall haue a long beard lyke an Irish mantle, droppe out of my mouth before I be aware.

Marry God forfend, for at no hand can I endure to haue my cheeks muffled vp in furre like a Muscouian, or weare any of this Welch freeze on my face.

O it is a miserable thing to dreffe haire like towe twixt a mans teeth, when one cannot drinke but hee muft thruft a great spunge into the cup, & so cleanse his coole porridge, as it were, through a strayner ere it comes to his lippes.

This second Epistle I haue said prettily well too: I thinke we were best begin THIRDLY WHEREAS, for feare a volume steale vpon vs vnlookt for.
The Arraignment and Execution of the Third Letter.

To euerie Reader faavourably or indifferently affected.

To euerie Reader faavourably or indifferently affected.

Text, stand to the Barre. Peace there belowe.

Albeit for these twelue or thirteene yeares no man hath beene more loath, or more scrupulous than my selfe, &c.

The body of mee, hee begins like a proclamation: sufficeth it wee knowe you, your minde, though you say no more.

Is not this your drift? you would haue the worlde suppose you were vrgde to that which proceeded of your owne good nature: like some that will seeme to bee intreated to take a high place of preferment vppon them, which priuillie before they haue prayde and payde for, and put all their strength to clymbe vp to.

You would soift in non causam pro causa, haue it thought your flight from your olde companions obscuritie and silence, was onely, with Aeneas, to carry your Father on your backe, through the fire of slander, and by that shift, with a false plea of patience, vnjustly driuen from his kindome, filch a way the harts of the Queenes liege people.

The backe of those creple excuses I haue broke in / the beginning of my booke: if you haue anie new infringement to deftitute the inditement of forgerie that I bring against you, so it is.
Heere enters Argumentum a testimonio humano, like Tamberlaine drawne in a chariot by foure Kings.

I THAT IN MY YOUTH FLATTERD NOT MY SELFE WITH THE EXCEEDING COMMENDATION OF THE GREATEST SCHOLLER IN THE WORLD, &C.

Ille ego qui quondam gracili modulatus auena.

Ah neighbourhood, neighbourhood, dead and buried art thou with Robinhood: a poore creature here is faine to commend himselfe, for want of friendes to speake for him.

Not the least, but the greatest Schollers in the world haue not only but exceedingely fedde him fat in his humor of Braggadochio Gloriofo.

Yea Spencer him hath often Homer tearmd,
And Mounfier Bodkin vowed as much as he;
Yet cares not Nashe for him a halfepeny.

Lamentable, lamentable, that an indifferent vn-toward ciuill Lawyer, who hath read Plutarch de vtilitate capienda ab inimicis, & can talke of Titius and Sempronius, should be no more set by, but set by, thruft aside, while his betters carry the bredth of the street before them.

Misery will humble the haughtieft heart in the world: Habemus reum confitente: he confesseth himself a sinner in vn sufficiency; yet for all that
the aduerfitie of / vniuersall obloquy hath laide a heauie hande on him, till he retaineth (like concealed land) some part of his proud mind in a beggers purse, scorneth to say Fortune my foe, or aske a good word for Gods sake of anie man.

In the plainnesse of his puff vp nature, he will defie anie man that dare accuse him of that he is.

Why, why infractissime Pistlepragmos, though you were yong in yeares, fresh in courage, greene in experience, and ouer-weaning in conceipt (we will refuse nothing that you glue vs) when you privately wrote the letters that afterward (by no other but your selse) were publiquely divulged; yet when the bladder is burst that held you vp swimming in selse loue, you must not be discontented though you sink.

I haue toucht the ulcer of your Oratourship, in requiting the nick-name of The Devils Oratour. An Ulcer you may well christen it, as an ulcer is a swelling, for it was a swelling of ambition, no modest petition of anie merit of yours that did craue it.

The olde Foxe Doxtour Perne throughly discovered you for a yong Soppe, or else halfe a word of our high Chauncelors commendation had stood with him inviolable as an Act of Parliament.

Great men, in writing to those they are acquainted with, haue priuie watch-wordes of
denyall, even in the highest degree of praising; they haue many followers, whose dutifull service must not bee disgrac'd with a bitter repulse in anie fuite, though vnlawfull.

It may bee, some of these long defersuers of his followers labourd him for thee: hee, like Argus, hauing eyes that pierce into all estates, saw thee when thou wert vnseene of thy selfe, and knowing thee to bee vnworthy / of any place of worth, would not discountenance his men in so smal a matter, but writ for thee very vehemently outwardly, when the soule of his letter (into which thy shallowe braine could not descend) included thy utter mislike.

Yong blood is hot, youth haftie, ingenuity open, abuse impatient, choller stomachous, temptations busie. In a word, the Gentleman was vext, and cutte his bridle for verie anger.

The tickling and stirring inuenctiue vaine, the puffing and swellling Saturicall spirit came vpon him, as it came vpon Coppingier and A[r]thington, when they mounted into the pease-cart in Cheape-side and preacht: needes hee must cast vp certaine crude humours of English Hexameter Verses that lay vpon his stomacke: a Noble-man stoode in his way, as he was vomiting, and from top to toe he all to berayd him with Tuscanisme.

The Mappe of Cambridge lay not farre off
when he was in the depth of his drudgery, some part of the excrements of his anger fell vpon it: poor Doftour Pernes picture stooode in a corner of that Mappe, and by the misdeeanour of his mouth it was cleane defac'd.

Signior Immerito (so called because he was and is his friend undeservedly) was counterfeitly brought in to play a part in that his Enterlude of Epiftles that was hift at, thinking his very name (as the name of Ned Allen on the common stage) was able to make an ill matter good.

I durft on my credit vndertake, Spencer was no way priuie to the committing of them to the print. Committing I may well call it, for in my opinion G. H. should not haue reapt so much diskredite by beeing com/mitted to Newgate, as by committing that misbeleeuing profe to the Presfe.

I haue vsually feene vncircumcised doltage haue the porch of his Panim pilfries very hugely pestred with praifes. Hay gee (Gentlemen) comes in with his Plowmans whistle in prayfe of Peter Scurfe the penne-man, and Turlery Ginkes, in a light foote ligge, libels in commendation of little witte verie loftily; but for an Author to renounce his Christendome to write in his owne commendation, to refufe the name which his Godfathers and Godmothers gaue him in his baptifme, and call himfelfe a well-willer to both the writers, when hee is the onely
writer himselfe; with what face doe you thinke he can aunswere it at the day of judgement? *Eft in te facies sunt apti lusibus anni:* Gabriell, thou canst play at faft and loose as well as anie man in England.

I will not lye and backbite thee as thou haft done mee, but are not these thy wordes to the curteous Buyer?

*Shew mee or* Immerito, *two English letters in print, in all pointes equall to these, both for the matter it selfe, and also for the manner of handling, and say wee neuer saw good English in our liues.*

Againe, *I esteeme them for two of the rarest and finest treaties, as well for ingenuous deuising, as significant uttering, & cleanly conueying of his matter, that euery I read in this tongue, & I hartily thank God for bestowing upon vs such proper and able men with their penne.*

You muft conceit, hee was his chamber-fellowe welwillers cloke, when he spake this: the white-liuerd slaue was modest, and had not the hart to say so much in his owne person, but he muft put on the vizard of an undiscreete friend.

It is not worth the rehearsal: *he scribled it in ieaste for exercise of his speech and stile, &c., and it was the sinifter hap of those unfortunate letters to be derided & scofft at throughout the whole realme.*

*The sharpest part of them were read ouer at*
CONFUTED.

Counsell Table, and he referd ouer to the Fleet, to beare his old verfe-fellow noble M. Valanger company.

There was no remedie for it but melancholy patience.

A recantation he was glad to make by way of articles or pofitions, which hee moderates with a milder name of an apologie, & that recantation purchaft his libertie. Wherefore in grateful lieu of the benefit he receiu’d by it (although he hath hitherto vnworthily suppresse it) yet he means to take occasion by this extraordinary provocation to publish it, with not so few as fortie such Academicall exercises, and sundrie other politike discourses.

And I deeme he will be as good as his word, for euer yet it hath beene his wont, if he writ but a letter to any friend of his, in the way of thanks for the potte of butter, gámon of bacon, or cheefe that he sent to him, straight to giue coppies of it abroad in the world, and propound it to yong gentlemen he came in company with, as a more necessarv & refined methode of familiar Epiftles than the English tongue had hitherto been priuie to.

Lord that men shoulde bee so malitiously bent to frame a matter of some thing: he takes a pleasurable delight to behaue himself jo that he may be laught at: how would you prate and insult, if you knewe as much by him, as he knows by himzelfe.
Nashe, do thy worft, the three brothers bid a Fico for thee: difcommend thou them neuer fo much, they will palpably praife, and fo consequently difpraife, / themfelves more in one booke they fet foorth, than thou canft disparage them in tenne: yea, rather than faile, Maifter Bird fhall leaue copyng out letters of newes, and meeter it mischieuously in maintenance of their fcurrilitifhip and ruditie.

Three to one, par ma fo\(y\), is oddes: not one of them writes an Almanacke, but hee reckons vp all his brothers.

Bee it spoken heere in priuate, Musa Richardetti fratrizat fat bene pretty: the Muse of dappert Dickie doth fing as fweet as a cricket.

Nos\(i\) manum & pilum, Gabriel? it is thine owne verfe in \(\text{Æ}des\) Valdinenses, all faue the inferting of pretty instead of certè, for rimes fake.

Had phifition John liu'd, or not dyde, a little afore Dog-dayes, a finode of Pifpots would haue concluded, that Pierce Pennileffe shou'd be confoüded without reprieu.

The Spanyards cald their inuaflue fleete agaynft England the Nauie invincible, yet it was overcame. Lowe fhrubbes haue. outliu'd high Cedars: one true man is stronger than two theeues: Gabriell & Richard, I proclaime open warres with you: March on, \(\text{iocu}, \text{Ludus}, \text{Lepos}, \) my valiaunt men
at armes, and forrage the frontiers of his \textit{Fantaisti-callitie} as you haue begun.

\textit{Tubalcan, alias Tuball, first founder of Farriers Hall, heere is a great complaint made, that \textit{otriusque Academiei Robertus Greene} hath mockt thee, because hee faide, that thou wert the first inuenter of Musicke: so \textit{Gabriell Howliglaffe} was the first inuenter of English \textit{Hexameter} verses. \textit{Quid respondes?} canst thou brooke it, yea or no? Is it any treason to thy well tuned hammers to say they begat so renowned a childe as Musicke? Neither thy hammers nor thou, I know, if they were put to their booke oaths, will ever say it.}

The \textit{Hexameter verse}, I graunt to be a Gentleman of an auncient house (so is many an english begger), yet this Clyme of ours hee cannot thrive in; our speech is too craggy for him to set his plough in: hee goes twitching and hopping in our language like a man running upon quagmiers, vp the hill in one Syllable, and down the dale in another, retaining no part of that stately smooth gate, which he vaunts himselfe with amongst the Greeks and Latins.

\textit{Homer and Virgil, two valorous Authors, yet were they neuer knighted: they wrote in Hexameter verses: \textit{Ergo, Chaucer}, and \textit{Spencer}, the Homer and Virgil of England, were farre ouerseene that they wrote not all their Poems in Hexameter verses also.}
In many Countries velvet and Satten is a commoner weare than cloth among vs: Ergo, wee must leaue wearing of cloth, and goe euerie one in velvet and fatten, because other Countries vse so.

The text will not beare it, good Gilgilis Hobber-dehoy.

Our english tongue is nothing too good, but too bad to imitate the Greeke and Latine.

Maister Stannyhurst (though otherwise learned) trod a foule lumbrong boystrous wallowing measure, in his translation of Virgil. He had neuer been praifd by Gabriel for his labour, if therein hee had not bin so famoufly absurd.

Greene for dispraising his practife in that kinde, is the Greene Maisfer of the blacke Art, the founder of vglie oathes, the father of mibbegotten Infortunatus, the scruener of Crossebiters, the Patriark of Shifters, &c. The Monarch of Crossebiters, the wretched fellowe Prince / of Beggars: Emperour of Shifters, hee had cald him before, but like a drunken man, that remembers not in the morning what he speakes ouer night, still he fetcheth Metaphors from conny-catchers, & doth nothing but torment vs with tautologies.

Why thou arrant butter whore, thou cotqueane & scrattop of scoldes, wilt thou neuer leaue afflicting a dead Carcasfe, continually read the rethorick
lecture of Ramme Allie? a wispe, a wispe, rippe, rippe, you kitchin-stuffe wrangler!

Wert thou put in the Fleete for pamphleting? Bedlem were a meeter place for thee. Be not ashamed of your promotion: they did you honor that said you were Fleete-bound, for men of honor have failde in that Fleete.

Waft paper made thee betake thy selfe to Limbo Patrum: had it beene a booke that had beene vendible yet, the opproby had beene the less, but for Chandlers merchandize to be so massacred, for sheets that serue for nothing but to wrappe the excrements of huswuerie in, Proh Deum, what a spite is it. I have seen your name cutte with a knife in a wall of the Fleete, I, when I went to visit a friend of mine there.

Let Maister Butler of Cambridge, his testimoniall end this controwersie, who at that time that thy ioyes were in the Fleeting, and thou crying for the Lords fake out at an iron windowe, in a lane not farre from Ludgate hill, questiond some of his companions verie inquisituelie that were newlie come from London, what nouelties they brought home with them, amongst the rest, he broke into this Hexamiter interrogatorie very abruptlie,

But ah what newes doe you hear of that good Gabriel huffe fnuffe,
Knowne to the world for a foole, and clapt in the Fleete for a Rimer.
Ift true Gibraltar? haue I found you? It was not without foundation that you burst into that magnifical infultation,—I that in my yovth flatterd not my selfe, &c.,—for M. Butler, for a Phifition being none of the leaft Schollers, hath commended you exceedingly for a foole & a Rimer. *He that threatened to conjure vp Martins wit*, hath written some thing too, in your praiſe, in Paphatchet: for all you accuse him to haue courtlie incenſt the Earle of Oxford againſt you. Marke him well: hee is but a little fellow, but hee hath one of the best wits in England. Should he take thee in hand againe (as he flieth from ſuch inferior concertation), I prophecie that there woulde more gentle Readers die of a merrie mortality, ingendred by the eternall iefts he would maule thee with, than there haue done of this laſt infection. I my self, that inioy but a mite of wit in compariſon of his talét, in pure affection to my native country, make my ſtyle carry a prefſe faile, am fain to cut off half the ſtreame of thy ſport-breeding confusion, for feare it shoulde cause a generall hicket throughout England.

Greene, I can ſpare thy reuenge no more roome in this booke: thou haſt Phifition Iohn with thee; cope thou with him, & let me alone with the Ciuilian & Deuine, whom, if I liue, I will fo vnceffantly haunt, that to auoid the hot chafe of my
fierie quill, they shalbe constraind to ensconce them-
sehues in an olde Vrinall case that their brother left behind him. Yet ere I bid thee good night, receive some notes as touching his phisicallity deceased. *He had his grace to be Doctor ere he died.*

As time may worke all things. *In Norfolke where hee practisèd, he was reputed a proper toward man at a medicine for the toothake, & one of the skilfullest Phisitions, in caffing the heauens water, that euer came there.*

*How well beloued of the chiefeft Gentlemen (& Gentlewomen especially) in that shire, it is incredible to bee spoken.* *Astra petit disertus:* hee is gone to heauen to write more Astrological discourses: his brothers liue to inherite his olde gownes, and remember his notable sayings, amongst the which was one: *Vale Galene,* farewell, mine owne deare Gabriell: *Valete humane artes,* heart and good will, but neuer a ragge of money.

*Tunc tua res agitur paries cum proximus ardet.*

Cloth-breeches house is burnt, and the flame goes a feasting to *Pierce Penileffe* house next.

Neuer til now, *Gregory Habberdine,* went thy foure letters vp Newgate, vp Holborne, vp Tiburne, to hanging.

Gentlemen, by that which hath been already laid open, I doe not doubt but you are vnwaueer-ingly resolued, this indigested Chaos of Doctour-
ship, and greedy pothunter after applause, is an apparent Publican and sinner, a selfe-loue surfetted sot, a broken-winded galdbacke Iade, that hath borne vp his head in his time, but now is quite foundred & tired; a scholler in nothing but the scum of schollership, a stale foker at Tullies Offices, the droane of droanes, and maister drumble-bee of non proficients. What hath he wrote but hath had a wofull end? When did he dispute but hee duld all his auditorie? his Poetry more spiritleffe than smal beere, his Oratory Arts bastard, not able to make a man rauishingly weepe, that hath an Onion at his eye. In Latin, like a louse, he hath manie legges, many lockes fleece'd from Tullie, to carry away and cloath a little body of matter, but yet hee moues but flowly, is appraiild verie poorely.

In English, ice is not so cold, yet on the ice of ignorance/will he slide. No wise man pittie him that perisheth so wilfully.

Iudge the world, iudge the highest Courts of appeale from the miscarried worlds judgement (Cambridge and Oxford) wherein I haue trespassed in Pierce Pennileffe, that hee shoulde talke of gnashing of teeth, yong Phaetons, yong Icari, yong Chorebi, yong Babingtons.

Neuer was I in earneft, til thus he twitted me with the comparison of a traitour.
Babington, high was thy birth, I a bondflaue of fortune in comparison of thee: thy fall greater than Phaetons, thy offence as heynous as Iudaffes. May neuer more such foule seeds of offence be sowne in so faire a shape, may they be markt always to mischiefe that meane as thou didst. The braunches of thy stocke remaines yet vn-blasted with anie disobedience. God forbid that our forheades should euer bee blotted with our forefathers misdemeaneors. Die, ill deeds, with your vngratious ill doers: the liuing haue no portion with the dead: hell once paid his due, heauen gates are open to succeeding posteritie.

Prate of Pierce Penneleffe and his paltrie as long as thou wilt, I will play at put-pinne with thee for all that thou art woorth, but of thy betters gette thee a better discoursing penne before thou descantes of,

L. Greenes inwardeft companion pinched with want, vexed with discred, tormented with other mens felicitie, and ouerwhelmed with his own misery, in a rauing and frantike moode, most desperately exhibiteth a Supplication to the Deuill.

C. Heerein thou thinkest thou haft won the spurs from all writers, but God and Dame Fiction knows thou/art farre wide of thy ayme; for neither was I Greenes companion any more than for a carowse or two, nor pincht with any vn-
FOUR LETTERS

gentleman-like want when I invented Pierce Penni-leffe.

_Pauper non est cui rerum suppetit vos_: only the discontented meditation of learning, generally now a dayes little valued, and her professors set at naught & dishartened, caused mee to handle that plaintife subiect more seriously.

_Vex tua disredit_ (Gabriel) I neuer was, as thou haft beene euuer since _Familiaritas peperit contemtā_, thy familiar epiftles brought thee into contempt.

Though I haue been pincht with want (as who is not one time or another, _Pierce Pennileffe_) yet my muse neuer wept for want of maintenance as thine did in _Mufarum lachrimae_, that was miserably flouted at in _M. Winkfields Comœdie of Pedantius_ in Trinitie Colledge.

How am I tormented with other mens felicitie, otherwise thā saying, I know a Cobler that was worth fiue hundred pound, an hostler that had built a goodly Inne, & might dispend forty pound yearly by his land, a Carman that had whipt a thousand pound out of his horfe taile; if I had likewise reckond vp a ropemaker, that by tormenting of hempe, & going backward (which the Deuill would nere doe) had turnd as many Mill sixpences ouer the thumbe, as kept three of his sonnes at Cambridge a long time, & that which is more, three proud sonnes, that when they met the
hangman (their Fathers best chapman) would scarce put of their hats to him, why then thou shouldst haue had some colour of quarell: thy accusatiō might justly haue entred his title pro aris et focis, whereas now it is friuolous and forcelesse.

The / sharpest wits, I perceiue, haue none of the best memories: if they had, thou wouldst nere haue toucht mee with tormenting my selfe with other mens felicitie; for how didst thou torment thyselfe with other mens felicitie when in the 28 page of thy first tome of Epiftles, thou exclaimst, that in no age so little was so much made of, nothing advaunst to be something, Numbers made of Ciphars, that is, by interpretatio, all those that were advaunst either in the Court or commonwealth at that time, had little to commend them, nothing in account worthy preferment, but were meere meacocks & Ciphars in comparison of thy excellent out-caft selfe that liu’dst in Cambridge vnmounted.

Hang thee, hang thee, thou common coofoener of curteous readers, thou groffe shifter for shitten tapsterly iefts, haue I imitated Tarltons play of the seaven deadly sinnes in my plot of Pierce Penileffe? whom haft thou not imitated then in the course of thy booke? thou haft borrowed aboue twenty phraifes and epithites from mee, which in sober sadnesse thou makst vse of as thy owne, when thou wouldst exhort more effectuall.
Is it lawfull but for one preacher to preach of the ten commandements? hath none writ of the fiue senses but Aristotle? was sinne so utterly abolished with Tarlions play of the seuen deadly sins, that ther could be nothing said supra of that argument?

Canst thou exemplifie vnto mee (thou impotent moate-catching carper) one minnum of the particular deuice of his play that I purloind? There be manie men of one name that are nothing a kindred. Is there any further distribution of sins, not shadowed vnder these 7 large spreading branches of iniquity, on which a man may worke, and not tread on Tarletons heele? If not, what blemish is it to Pierce Pennileffe to begin where the Stage doth ende, to build vertue a Church on that foundation that the Deuill built his Chappell?

Gabriell, if there be anie witte or industrie in thee, now I will dare it to the uttermost: write of what thou wilt, in what language thou wilt, and I will confute it and answere it. Take truths part, and I wil prove truth to be no truth, marching out of thy dug-voiding mouth.

Diuinitie I except, which admits no dalliance: but in any other art or profession, of which I am not yet free, and thou shalt challenge me to trie maiftries in, Ile bind my selfe Prentise too, and studie throughly, though it neuer stand mee in
any other stead while I live, but to make one reply, only because I will have the last word of thee.

I would count it the greatest punishment that In speech could lay upon me, to be bound to study the Danish tongue, which is able to make any Englishman have the mumpes in his mouth, that shall but plunge through one full point of it, yet the Danish tongue, or any Turks, or hogs or dogs tongue whatsoever, would I learn rather than bee put downe by such a ribauldry Don Diego as thou art.

Heigh drawer, fill vs a fresh quart of new-found phraſes, since Gabriell faies we borrow all our eloquence from Tauerne: but let it be of the mighty Burdeaux grape, pure vino de monte, I conjure thee, by the fame token that the Deuils dauncing schoole in the bottome of a mans purse that is emptie, hath beene a gray-beard Proverbe two hundred yeares before Tarlton was borne: Ergo, no gramercy, Dicke Tarlton. But the summe of summes is this, I drinke to you, M. Gabriell, on / that condition, that you shall not excruciate your braine to be conceited, and have no wit.

Since we are here, on our prating bench in a close roome, and that there is none in company but you, my approoued good friends, foure Letters
and certain Sonnets, your Pages, I will rehearse vnto you some part of the Methode of my demeanour in Pierce Pennileffe.

First, in so much as the principall scope of it is a most liuelie anatomic of sinne, the diuell is made speciall superuisor of it, to him it is dedicated: as if a man shoulde compile a curious examined discouerrie of whoredome, and dedicate it to the quarter Maifters of Bridewell, because they are beft able to punish it.

Wherfore as there is no fire without some smoke, no complaint without some precedent cause of aggreeuance, I introduce a discontented Scholler vnnder the person of Pierce Pennileffe, tragicallie exclaiming vpon his partial-eid fortune, that kept an Almes boxe of compasion in store for every one but himselfe. He tells how he tost his imagination like a dogge in a blanket, searcht euerie corner of the house of Charitie, to see if he could light on any that would set a new nappe of an old threedbare Cloake: but, like him that hauing a letter to deliuer to a Scottish Lorde, when hee came to his house to enquire for him, found no bodie at home but an ape that sate in the Porch and made mops and mows at him; so he, deliuering his vnperufde papers in Powles Churchyard, the first that took them vp was the Ape Gabriel, who made mops and mows at them,
beflauering the outside of them a little, but could not enter into the contents, which was an ase beyonde his vnderstanding.

With the first and second leafe hee plaies verie pretillie, and in ordinarie termes of extenuating, verdicts Pierce Pennileffe for a Grammar Schoole wit; saies his Margine is as deeplie learnd as Fauffte precor gelida, that his Muse jobbeth and groneth verie piteoufie, bids him not cast himself headlong into the horrible gulph of desperation, comes over him that hee is a creature of wonderfull hope, as his own inspired courage diuinely suggefteth, wils him to inchaunt some magnificent Mecenas, to honour himselfe in honouring him, with a hundred such grace-wanting Ironies, cutte out against the woll, that woulde jeopard the beft joint of Poetica Licentia to procure laughter, when there crinckled crabbed countenance (the verie resemblance of a sodden dogges face) hath sworne it woulde neuer consent thereunto.

Not the moft exquisite thing that is, but the Coufel Table Affe, Richard Clarke, may so Carterly deride.

Euerie milke-maide can gird with Ift true? How saie you lo? who would haue thought it? Good Beare, bite not? A man is a man, though hee hath but a hose on his head.

No such light paiment, Gabriel, haft thou at my
hands: I tell thee where, when, and how thou shewedst thy selfe a Dunsiuall.

Onely externall defects thou caft in my dish: nothing internall in thee, but I prooue that it is altogether excrementall.

A fewe Elegiacall verses of mine thou pluckeſt in pieces moſt ruthfullie, and quotes them against mee as advantageable, together with some dismembred Margine notes, but all is inke caft away, you recouer no costs and charges. With one minutes studie Ile diſtroie more, than thou art able to build in ten daies.

Squeife/ thy hart into thy inkehorne, and it shall but congeal into clodderd garbage of confutatiō, thy soule hath no effects of a soule, thou canſt not sprinkle it into a sentence, & make euerie line leape like a cup of neat wine new powred out, as an Orator muſt doe that lies aright in wait for mens affectiones.

Whome haſt thou wonne to hate mee by light crawling ouer my Text like a Cankerworme?

Some superficial ſlime of poifon haſt thou driueld from thy pen in thy ſhallow footed ſliding through my Supplication, which one pen ful of repurified inke will exceſſuere wash out. Shall I informe thee (that vnfruitfullie endeavorſt to informe authoritie againſt me) why I infixed those Poeticall latine marget notes to some fewe pages in the beginning
of *Pierce Pennileffe*? I did it to explain to such expected spiefauls as thou art, that it was no vncoth abhorrence from the custome of former writers, for a man openly to bewaile his undeserved destenie.

In the vncaeing of thy brother *Richard*, I calculated the Natiuittie of the *Astrologicaall Discourse*: I apparentlie suggested what a lewd piece of Prophecie it was: I registred the infinite scorne that the whole Realme entertaing it with, the Adages that ran vpon it, *Taritons* and *Eldertons nigrum theta* set to it, yet wilt thou, that art the fonne and heire to shamelesse impudence, the vnlineall vfurper of judgement from all his true owners, the Hoyden and pointing stock recreation of Trinitie hall, *Vanitas vanitatis & omnia vanitas*, inuest that in the higheste throne of Art and Schollership, which a scrutinie of so manie millions of wel discerning condemnations hath concluded to be viler than newesmungrie, & that which is vilest of all, no leffe vile than thy Epiftles.

Moyst voices, moyst voices, moyst voices; who is on my side who? Whether is the *Astrologicaall Discourse* a better booke than *Pierce Pennileffe*? Gabriel hangtelow saies it is: I am the Defendant, and deny it, and yet I doe not ouercull my owne workes: His assertion he countermures him thus:

*Pierce Pennileffe is a man better acquainted with*
the Duels of hell than the Starres of Heauen: Ergo, the Astrologicall Discourse is better than the notorious diabolical discourse of Pierce Pennileffe.

Once againe I denie his Argument to bee of lawfull age. 
Pierce Pennileffe is a better Star-munger than a Diuelmunger, which needeth no other for to corroborate it but this, that my yea, at all times, is as good as his nay.

How is the Supplication a diabolical Discourse, otherwise than as it intreats of the diuerse natures and properties of Diuils and spirits? in that far fetcht sense may the famous defensative against supposed Prophecies, and the Discouerie of Witchcraft be called notorious Diabolicall discourses, as well as the Supplication, for they also intreate of the illusions and fundrie operations of spirits: Likewise may I say that those his foure Letters nowe on their triall, are foure notorious lowifie Discourses, because they lyingly discourse little else saue Greenes lowifie estate before his death.

M. Churchyard, our old quarrel is renued, when nothing else can bee faftned on mee: this Letter leapper vpbraideth mee with crying you mericie: I cannot tell, but I think you will have a faying to him for it. Ther's no reason that such a one as he should presume to intermeddle in your matters, it cannot be done with any intent but to stirre mee vp to write againft you afresh, which nothing
vnder heau’n shall draw mee to doe. . I love you vnfainedly, and admire your aged Muse, that may well be grand-mother to our grandeloquentest Poets at this present:

Sanftum & venerabile vetus omne Poema.

Shores wife is yong, though you be stept in yeares, in her shall you liue when you are dead.

For that vnadvised indammagement I haue done you heretofore, He be your champion henceforward against any that dare write against you. Onely as euer you would light vpon a good cuppe of old sacke when you are most drie, pocket not vp this slie abuse at a rakehell rampalions hands, one that, when an iniurie is deepe buried in the graue of obliuion, shall seeke to digge it vp againe, recall that into mens memories which was consumed and forgotten.

Whoreson Ninihammer, that wilt assault a man & haue no stronger weapons.

The Italian faith, a man must not take knowledge of iniurie till he be able to reuenge it.

Nay but, in plaine good fellowship, art thou so innocent & vnconceiuing that thou shouldst ere hope to dash mee quite out of request by telling mee of the Counter, and my hofesse Penia?

I yeeld that I haue dealt vpon spare commodities of wine and capons in my daies, I haue
fung George Gascogne Counter-tenor; what then? Wilt thou peremptorily define that it is a place where no honest man, or Gentleman of credit, euer came?

Heare what I say: a Gentleman is neuer throughly entred into credit till he hath beene there; & that Poet, or nouice, be hee what he will, ought to suspeect his wit, and remaigne halfe in doubt that it is not authentickall, till it hath beene seene and allowd in vnthrifts / consistory.

Grande doloris ingenium. Let foolees dwell in no stonger houses than their Fathers built them, but I protest I shoule neuer haue writ passon well, or beene a piece of a Poet, if I had not arriu’d in those quarters.

Trace the gallantest yonthes and brauest revellers about Towne in all the by-paths of their expence, & you shal vnfallibly finde, that once in their life time they haue visited that melancholy habitation.

Come, come: if you will goe to the sound truth of it, there is no place of the earth like it, to make a man wise.

Cambridge and Oxford may stande vnder the elowe of it.

I vow if I had a fonne, I would sooner send him to one of the Counters to learne lawe, than to the Innes of Court or Chauncery.

My hostesse Penia, thats a bugges word: I pry
thee what Morrall haft thou vnnder it? I will
depose, if thou wilt, that till now I neuer heard of
anie fuch English name.

There is a certayne thing cald *christian veritie*,
& another hight *common fense*, and a third cleapt
*humilitie*: they are more requisite and necessary
for thee than *modesty or discretion for mee and my
companions*, of which thou shouldft vnnderstand, we
are fo well prouided that we can lend thee and thy
brother *Richard* a great deale, and yet keepe more
than wee shall haue need of for ourselves.

Wilt thou be fo hardy and iron-vifaged to gain-
fay that thy brother Vicars Batchlours hood was
not turnd ouer his eares for abusing of *Aristotle*?
I know thou haft more grace than fo, thou doft
not contradict /it flatly, but flubbers it ouer faintly,
and comes to recapitulate, not confute some of the
phrases I vfe in the vnhandfoming of his diuiniti-
ship.

I my felfe, in the fame order of disgracing thou
fingles them foorth, will haue them vp againe, and
fee if thou, or anie man, can absurdifie the worst of
them.

I say, and will make it good that in the *Astro-
logicall Discourse thy brother (as if hee had
lately cast the heau'ns water, or beene at the
anatomizing of the skies intrailes in Surgeons
hall) prophesieth of such strange wonders to
ensue from the starrces distemperature, and the unusuall adulterie of plannets, as none but hee that is bawd to those celestiall bodies, could ever descrie.

This too I will ratifie for truthable & legible English, that his Astronomy broke his day with his creditors, and Saturne & Jupiter prou'd honester men than all the world tooke them for.

That the whole Universitie hift at him, Tarlton at the Theater made leafles of him, and Elderton consumed his ale crammed noke to nothing, in beare-baiting him with whole bundels of Ballads.

All this he barely repeates without any disproouement or denudation at all, as if it were so lame in it selfe that it would adnihilate it selfe with the onelie rehearfall of it.

For the gentilitie of the Nashes (though it might seeme a humor borrowed from thee to bragge of it) yet some of vs who neuer fought into it til of late, can proove the extancy of our auncestors before there was ever a ropemaker in England. Wee can vaunt larger petigrees than patrimonies, yet of such extrinsecall things, common to tenne thousand calues and oxen, would I not willingly vaunt, only it hath pleased M. Printer, both in this booke and Pierce Penileffe, to intaile /a vaine
title to my name, which I care not for, without my consent or priuitie I here auouch.

But on the gentilitie of T. N. his beard, the maister Butler of Pembroke hall, till I will stand to the death; for it is the very prince Elector of peaks, a beard that I cannot bee perswaded but was the Emperour Dionisius his, surnamed the Tyrant, when hee playde the schoolemaister in Corinth.

Gabriell, thou haft a prety polwigge sparrowes tayle peake, yet maist thou not compare with his: thy Father, for all by thy owne confession hee makes haires, had neuer the art to twilt vp such a grim triangle of haire as that.

Be not offended, honest T. N., that I am thus bold with thee, for I affect thee for the names fake, as much as any one man can do another, and know thee to be a fine fellow, and fit to discharge a farre higher calling than that wherein thou liu'ft.

What more stuffe lurketh behind in this letter to be distributed into shop-duft?

Pierce Pennileffe is as childish and garish a booke as ever came in print: when he talks of the sheepish discourse of the Lambe of God and his enemies, he saies, it is monstrous and absurd, and not to bee sufferd in a Christian congregatiō; that Richard hath cumd over the schoolmen, and of the froth of their folly made a dish of Divinitie brewlesse, which the Dogs would not eate.

N. II.
If he saide so (as hee did) and can proue it (as hee hath done) by Sainte Lubecke, then The Lambe of God is as childish and garish stuffe as euer came in print, indeede.

I, but how doth Pierce Pennileffe expiate the coinquination of these obiections?

Richard, whom (because hee is his brother, he therefore / censures more curious and rigorous, in calling him M. H. than hee would haue done other-wise) red the Philosophie Lecture in Cambridge with good liking and singular commendation, when A per se a was not so much as Idoneus auditor ciuillis scientiae, Ergo, the Lambe of God beares a better Fleece than hee giues out it doth.

A per se a is improoed in nothing since, excepting his old Flores Poetarum and Tarletons surmounting rethorique, with a little euphuisme and Greeneffe inough.

Gabriel reports him to the fauourablest opinion of those that know A per se a his Prefaces, rimes, and the very timpanie of his Tarltonizing wit, his Supplication to the Diuel.

Quiet your selues a little, my Maifters, and you shal fee me disppearse all those cloudes well inough. That Richard red the Philosophie Lecture at Cambridge, I doe not withstand, but how?

Verie Lentenlie and scantlie, (farre bee it wee shuld flander him so much as his brother Richard
hath done, to saie he read it with good liking and singularity). Credite mee, any that hath but a little refuse Colloquium Latine, to interfere a Lecture with, and can saie but Quapropter vos mei auditores, may reade with equuall commendation and liking.

I remember him woondrous well. In the chiefe pompe of that his false praise, I both heard him, and heard what was the vniversal slender valuation of him.

There was eloquent Maister Knox, (a man whose losse all good learning can neuer sufficiently deplore); twas he and one Maister Jones of Trinitie Colledge, that, in my time, with more speciall approbation conuerft in those Readings.

Since / I haue heard of two rare yong men, M. Meriton, and another, that in supplying that place of succesion haue surmounted all former mediocritie, and wonne themselfes an euerafting good name in the Vniuersitie.

These thou shouldest haue memoriz’d, if any, but thou art giuen to speake well of none but thy selfe and thy two brothers.

Thrice fruitfull S. Iohns, how many hundred perfecter Schollers than the three brothers haft thou nurft at thy paps, that yet haue not shakte off obscuritie?

Mellifluous Playfere, one of the chief props of
our aged & auntientest, & absolutest Universties present flourishing. Where doe thy supereminent gifts shine to themselues, that the Court cannot bee acquainted with them?

Few such men speake out of Fames highest Pulpits, though out of her highest Pulpits speake the purest of all speakers.

Let me adde one word, and let it not bee thought derogatorie to anie. I cannot bethinke mee of two in England in all things comparable to him for his time. Seldome haue I beheld so pregnant a pleasaunt wit coupled with a memorie of such huge incomprehensible receipt, deepe reading and delight, better mixt than in his Sermons.

*Sed quorsum hæc, how doe these digressions linke in without subießum circa quod?*

Flaunting Richard and his Philosophie Lecture, was vnder our fingers euens now, howsoever wee haue loft him. Hold the candle, and you shall see me cast a figure for him extempore: Oh hoh, I haue founde him without any further seeking. Gieue me your eares: *Io / Paxan*, God faue them, they are long ones.

Now, betweene you and me declare, as if you were at christ, whether you be not a superlatiue blocke for al you readd the Philosophie Lecture at Cambridge: Brieflie, brieflie: let mee not stand all daie about you.
His conscience accuseth him, hee is stroke starke dumbe; onely by signes he craves to bee admitted in forma pauperis, that we should let him passe for a pore fellow, and he will sell his birthright in learning, with Esau, for a mess of porrige.

Curae leues loquuntur: he hath but a little cure to look too. Maiores stupent, more living would make him studie more.

For this once wee dispence with you, because you looke so penitentlie on it, but let me not catch you selling any more such twife sodden sawdust divinitie as the Lambe of God and his enemies, for if I do, Ile make a dearth of paper in Pater-nofter-rowe (such as was not this feauen yeare) onelie with writing against thee.

A per se a can doe it: tempt not his clemencie too much. A per se a?

Paffion of God, howe came I by that name? My godfather Gabriel gaue it mee, and I muft not refuse it. Nor if you were priuie whence it came would you hold it worthie to be refused; for before I had the reuersion of it hee beftow'd it on a Nobleman, whose new fashiond apparell and Tuscanish gestures, cringing side necke, eies glancing, fignomie fmerking hauing described to the full, he concludes with this verse:

Euerie inch A per se a his termes and braueries in print.
Hold you your peace Nashe: that was before you were Idoneus auditor civilis scientiae. It may bee so, for thou wert a Libeller before I was borne. Yet vnder / correction bee it spoken, I haue come to the schooles and purg'd rheume in my time, when your brother was Philosophie Lecturer; he wanted no supplosus pedu, to spend away his houre, that I could help him with.

What since I am improved you partly haue prooued to your cost; and may doe more at large, if God send vs more leysure.

As for Flores Poetarum, they are flowers that yet I neuer smelt too. Ile pawne my hand to a halfe-penny, I haue read more good Poets thorough than thou euer hardst of.

The floures of your Foure Letters it may be I haue ouerlookt more narrowlie, and done my best deuoire to assemble them together into patheticall poifie, which I will here present to Maister Orator Edge for a Newyeares gift, leauing them to his wordie discretion to be censured, whether they be currant in inkehornifme or no.

Conciscus mind: canicular tales: egregious an argument: when as egregious is neuer vsed in english but in the extreame ill part. Ingenuitie: Ioniall mind: valarous Authors: inkehorne adventures: inkehorne pads: putatiue opinions: putatiue artifis: energeticall persuaasions: Rascallitie: materiallitie:

Nor are these all, for euerie third line hath some of this ouer-rackt abfonisme. Nor do I altogether scum off all these as the newe engendred some of the Englifh, but allowe some of them for a neede to fill vp a verfe; as Traynment, and one or two wordes more, which the libertie of profe might well haue spar'd. In a verfe, when a worde of three fillables cannot thruft in but fidelings, to ioynt him euen, we are oftentimes faine to borrowe some lesser quarry of elocution from the Latine, alwaies retaining this for a principle, that a leake of indefinence, as a leake in a fhippe, muft needly bee ftopt with what matter focuer.

Chaucers authoritie, I am certaine, shalbe alleadgd against me for a many of these balduetums.
Had Chaucer liued to this age, I am verily persuaded hee would haue discarded the tone halfe of the harfe her fort of them.

They were the Ooufe which ouerflowing barbarifme, withdrawne to her Scottifh Northren chanell, had left behind her. Art, like yong graffe in the spring of Chaucers florishing, was glad to peepe vp through any slime of corrup- tion, to be beholding to she car'd not whome for apparaile, trauailing in those colde countries. There is no reafon that shee, a banifht Queene into this barraine foile, haung monarchizd it fo long amongst the Greeks and Romanes, should (although warres furie had humbled her to some extremitie) still be constrained, when she hath recouerd her state, to weare the robes of aduersitie, ict it in her old rags, when she is wedded to new prosperitie.

Vtere /moribus præteritis, faith Caius Cæsar in Aulus Gellius, loquere verbis præsentibus.

Thou art mine enemie, Gabriell, and, that which is more, a contemptible vnder-foote enemie, or else I would teach thy old Trewantship the true vfe of words, as alfo how more inclinable verse is than profe, to dance after the horrizonant pipe of inueterate antiquitie.

It is no matter, fince thou haft brought godly instruction out of loue with thee, vfe thy own
destruction, raigne sole Emperour of inkehornifme:
I wish vnto thee all superabundant increase of the
singular gifts of absurditie, and vaine glory: from
this time forth for euer, euer, euer, euermore maift
thou be canonized as the Nonparreille of impious
epiftlers, the short shredder out of fandy sentences
without lime, as Quintillian tearmed Seneca all lime,
and no fande, all matter and no circumstance; the
factor for the Fairies and night Vrchins, in sup-
planting and setting aside the true children of
the English, and suborning inkehorne changlings
in their steade, the galemasfrier of all flies in one
standifh, as imitating euerie one, & hauing no
seperate forme of writing of thy owne; and to
conclude, the onely feather-driuer of phraifes, and
putter of a good word to it when thou haft once
got it, that is betwixt this and the Alpes. So
bee it worlde without ende. Chroniclers heare my
praiers: good Maifter Stowe, be not vnmindfull
of him.

Thats well remembred, now I talke of Chronic-
clers: I founde the Astrologall discoursfe the other
night in the Chronicle. Gabriell will outface vs, it
is a worke of such deepe arte & iudgement, when
it is expressly past vnder record for a cooifening
prognostication. The wordes are thefe, though
somewhat abbreui/ated, for he makes a long
circumlocution of it.
In the yeare 1583, by meanes of an Astrologicall discourse uppon the great and notable conjunction of Saturne and Jupiter, the common sort of people were almost driu'n out of their wits, and knew not what to doe; but when no such thing hapned, they fell to their former securitie, and condemned the discouerler of extreme madnisse and sollie.

_Iphissima sunt Aristotelis verba_, they are the verie words of _John Tell-truth_, in the 1357 folio of the last edition of the great Chronicle of England.

_Mehercule quidem_, if it be so taken vp, _Pierce Pennileffe_ may cast his cappe after it for euver ouertaking it. But some thing euen now, _Gabriell_, thou wert girding against my _prefaces and rimes_, and the timpanie of my _Tarltonizing wit_.

Well, these be your words, _prefaces and rimes_: let me _studie_ a little, _prefaces and rimes._

_Minis me verò, si ais nego._ I neuer printed rime in my life, but those verfes in the beginning of _Pierce Pennileffe_, though you haue set foorth

_The stories quaint of manie a doute flie,_
_And read a lecture to the ventrous elfe._

And so forth as followeth in chambling rowe.

_Prefaces_ two, or a paire of _Epiftles_, I will receyue into the protection of my parentage: out of both which, sucke out one _folæcisme_, or mishapen English word, if thou canft for thy guts.
CONFUTED. 267

Wherein haue I borrowed from Greene or Tarlton, that I should thanke them for all I haue? Is my stile like Greenes, or my ieasts like Tarltons?

Do I talke of any counterfeit birds, or hearbs, or ftones, or rake vp any new-found poetry from under the wals of Troy? If I do, trip mee with it; but I doe not, therefore Ile bee/fo faucy as trip you with the grand lie. Ware stumbling of whetftones in the darke there my maifters.

This I will proudly boaft (yet am I nothing a kindred to the three brothers) that the vaine which I haue (be it a median vaine, or a madde man) is of my own begetting, and cals no man father in England but my felfe, neyther Euphues, nor Tarlton, nor Greene.

Not Tarlton nor Greene but haue beene contented to let my simple judgement ouerrule them in some matters of wit. Euphues I readd when I was a little ape in Cambridge, and I then thought it was Ipse ille: it may be excellent good still, for ought I know, for I lookt not on it this ten yeare: but to imitate it I abhorre, otherwise than it imitates Plutarch, Ouid and the choiceft Latine Authors.

If you be aduifie, I tooke shortest vowels and longest mutes in the beginning of my booke, as suspitious of being accesarie to the making of a Sonnet wherto Maifter Christopher Birds name is
fet, there I faide that you mute forth many such phrases in the course of your booke, which I would point at as I past by: Heere I am as good as my word, for I note that thou being afaide of beraying thy selfe with writing, wouldst faire bee a mute, when it is too late to repent. Againe, thou reuieft on vs and faift that mutes are courfed and vowels haunted. Thou art no mute, yet shalt thou be haunted and coursed to the full. I will neuer leaue thee as long as I am able to lift a pen.

Whether I seeke to bee counted a terrible bul-begger or no, Ile baite thee worfe than a bull, so that thou shalt desire some body on thy knees to helpe thee with letters of commendation to Bull, the hangman, that he may dispatch thee out of the way before/more affliction come vpon thee.

All the inuefiue and satiricall spirits shall then bee thy familiars, as the furies in hell are the familiars of sinfull ghofts, to follow them and torment them without intermission: thou shalt bee double girt with girds, and scoft at, till those that stand by do nothing but cough with laughing.

Thou faieft I professe the art of railing: thou shalt not say so in vaine, for, if there bee any art or depth in it more than Aretine or Agrippa haue discovered or diu'd into, looke that I will found it and search it to the uttermoft, but ere I haue done
with thee ile leave thee the miserablest creature that
the sunne euer sawe.

There is no kind of peaceable pleasure in poetrie,
but I can drawe equally in the same yoke with the
haughtiester of those foule-mouthed backbiters that
say I can do nothing but raile.

I haue written in all sorts of humors privately,
I am perswaded more than any yoong man of my
age in England.

The weather is cold, and I am wearie with
confuting: the remainder of the colde contents
of this Epistle be these.

He enviously induors, since he cannot reuenge
himselfe, to incense men of high calling against
me, and wold inforce it into their opinions, that
whatsoever is spoke in Pierce Pennileffe concerning
Pefants, Clownes & hiperccritically hot-spurs, Midasses,
Buckram Giants, & the mightie Prince of Darkness,
is meant of them: let him proue it, or bring the
man to my face to whome I euer made any
vndutiefull exposition of it. I am to be my own
interpreter in this first case: I say, in Pierce Penni-
lesse I haue set downe nothing but that which I/
haue had my president for, in forraine writers, nor
had I the leaft allusion to any man set aboue mee
in degree, but onely glanc'd at vice generallie.

The tale of the Beare and the Foxe, how euer
it may set fooles heads a worke a farre off, yet I
FOUR LETTERS

had no concealed ende in it, but in the one to
describe the right nature of a bloudthirfty tyrant,
whose indefinite appetite all the pleasures in the
earth haue no power to bound in goodnes, but
he muft seeke a new felicitie in varietie of cruelty,
and destroying all other mens prosperitie; for the
other, to figure an hypocrite; let it be Martin, if
you will, or some old dog that bites forer than hee,
who secretlie goes and seduceth country Swaines.

Makes them beleue that honny which their bees
brought forth was popsonous and corrupt.

That they may buy honny cheaper than by being
at such charges in keeping bees.

That is not necessary they should haue such
stately hives, or lie lucking at such precious
honnicombs.

If this (which is nothing else but to swim with
the streame) be to tell tales as shrewdly as mother
Hubbard, it should seeme mother Hubbard is no
great shrewe, however thou, treading on her heeles
so oft, shee may bee tempted beyonde her ten
commandements.

A little before this, the foresaid fanaticall Phobetor,
geremumble, tirleriwhisco, or what you will, cald
forth the biggest gunshot of my thundering tearmes,
steept in Aqua fortis and gunpowder, to come and
trie them felues on his paper Target.

But that it is no credite, Galpogas, to discharge
a Cannon against a lowse, thou shouldst not call in vaine: thou shouldst heare Tom a Lincolne roare with /a witnes. Woe worth the daie & the yeare when thou hearest him. I seareblaft thee nowe but with the winde of my weapon. With the waft of my words I lay waft all the feeble fortifications of thy wit. Shewe mee the Vniuersities hand and seale that thou art a Doctour sealed and deliuered in the presence of a whole Commenement, and Ile present thee with my whole artillerie store of eloquence.

A bots on thee for mee for a lumpish, leaden heeld letter dawber, my stilte, with treading on thy clammie steps, is growne as heauie gated, as if I were bound to an Aldermans pace, with the irons at Newgate cald the widows Almes.

Ere I was chained to thee thus by the necke, I was as light as the Poet Accius, who was so lowe and so slender, that hee was faine to put lead in his shooes for feare the winde shoulde blowe him into another Countrie.

Those that catch Leopards set cups of wine before them: those that will winne liking and grace of the readers must set before them continually that which shall cheare them and reuiue them.

Gabriell, thou haft not done so, thou canst not doe so, therefore thy works neither haue, nor can any way hinder mee, nor benefit the Printer.
Euen in the packing vp of my booke, a hot ague hath mee by the backe. Maugre ficknesse worst, a leane arme put out of the bed shall grind and pash euerie crum of thy booke into pin-duft.

The next piece of seruice thou doeft against Pierce Pennileffe is naming of him wofull poueretto, and pleasant supposing thou puldst him by the ragged sleeue. Then matchest thou thy selfe to Vlisses, and him to Irus: Irrita sunt hae omnia: it is a sleeuelesse ieast. I haue / besliu’d thee already for it: it toucheth the body and not the minde. Befides, I was neuer altogether Peter Poveretto, vterly throwne downe, desperately seperated from all means of releeuing my selfe, since I knew how to separate a knaue from an honest man, or throw my cloake ouer my nofe, when I failed by the Counters.

The ragged cognizance on the sleeue, I may say to thee, carried meate in the mouth when time was: doe not dispraise it yet, for it hath many high partakers. Quae sequuntur hujusmodi sunt.

Thou turmoilst thy pia mater to proue base births better than the ofspring of many discents, because thou art a mushrumpe sprung vp in one night, a seely mouse begotten on a moulehill, that wouldst payne pearch thy selfe on the mountaines, when thy legges are too short to overcome such a long iourney of glorie.
My margent note, *Meritis expendite causam*, thou would'st rather than any thing wrest to an endit-
ment of arrogance, & so branch mee into thy 
tiptoe stocke. I cannot see how thou canst com-
passe it: For though I bad them weigh the cause 
by deserts, yet I did not assure too much to my
owne deserts, when I expostulated, why Coblers, 
Hostlers and Carmen should be worth so much,
and I, a scholler and a good fellow, a begger. 
How thou haft arrogated to thy selfe more than 
*Lucifer*, or any *Miles gloriosus* in the worlde would 
doe, I haue already noted at large in his due place 
and order. If thou bestowst any curtesie on mee,
and I do not requite it, then call mee cut, and say
I was brought vp at Hoggenorton, where pigges 
play on the Organs.

Wert thou well acquainted with me, thou 
should'st per/ceiue that I am very franke where I 
take, &t send away none empty-handed that giue 
me mee but halfe an ill worde.

It is a good signe of grace in thee, that thou 
conseffest thou haft offences enough of thy owne to 
aunswer, through thou best not chargd with thy 
Fathers. Once in thy life thou speakest true yet. 
I beleue thee and pittie thee. God make thee 
a good man, for thou haft beene a wilde youth 
hietherto.

Thy Hexameter versés, or thy hue and crie

N. 11.
after a person as clear as Christall, I do not so deeply commend, for al Maister Spencer long since imbrast it with an ouer-louing sonnet.

Why should friends dissemble one with another? they are very vgly and artleffe. You will neuer leave your olde trickes of drawing M. Spencer into euerie pybald thing you do. If euer he praifd thee, it was because he had pickt a fine vaine foole out of thee, and he would keepe thee stille a foole, by flattring thee, til such time as he had brought thee into that extreame loue with thy selfe, that thou shouldest run mad with the conceit, and so be scorned of all men.

Yet yet, Gabriell, are not we set non plus: thy roiſter-doiſterdome hath not dafht vs out of countenance. If anie man use boiftrous horse play, or bee beholding to Carters Logique, it is thy selfe; for with none but clownish and roynish ieasts doft thou rush vpon vs, and keepft such a flurting and a flinging in euerie leafe, as if thou wert the onely reaſtly iade in a country.

**Scolding, thou faieſt, is the language of shrewes, railing the ſtyle of rakehels:** what concludſt thou from thence? Do I scold? Do I raile?

Scolding & railing is loud miscalling and reuiling one another without wit, speaking euery thing a man knows / by his neighbour, though it bee neuer so contrary to all humanitie and good manners, and
would make the standers by almost perbrake to heare it. Such is thy inuective against Greene, where thou talkst of his lowfines, his surfeting, his beggerie and the mother of Infortunatus infirmities. If I scold, if I raile, I do but cum ratione insanire: Tully, Ouid, all the olde Poets, Agrippa, Aretine, and the rest are all scolds and railers, and by thy conclusion flat shrewes and rakehels: for I do no more than their examples do warrant mee.

The intoxicate spirit of grisly Euridice, I can toffe ouer as lightly to thee, as thou haft puft it to mee. My hart is præoccupied with better spirits, which haue left her no house-roome: thou haft no spirite, as it should appeare by thy writing: intertwaine her and the spirit of the buttery out of hand, or thou wilt be beaten hand-smooth out of Bucklarsbury.

When I parted with thy brother in Pierce Penni-leffe I left him to be tormented world without ende of our Poets and writers about London, for calling them piperly make-playes and make-hates, not doubting but they would drue him to this illue, that he should be constrained to goe to the chief beame of his benesice, and there beginning a lamettable speech, with cur scrips, cur perii, ende with Prauum praua decent, iuuat inconcesso voluptas, & so with a trice, trulle vp his life in the string of his sauce-bell. Now heere thou thankst God thou art not so vncharitably bent to put so much
wit in a speech: like a Parson in Lancashire, that kneeld down on his knees in a zealous passion, and very hartily thankt God he neuer knew what that vile Antichristian Romish Popish Latine meant. Did I exhort inke and paper to pray that they might not bee troubled with him any more? Inke and paper, if they bee true Protestants, will pray that they may not be contaminated any more with such abomination of desolation, as the three brothers Apocripha pamphleting.

After all this foule weather ensueth a calme dilatement of others too forward harmefulnes, and thy owne backward irefulnesse: thats dispatcht; the court hath found it otherwise.

Then thou goest about to bribe mee to giue ouer this quarrell, and faist, if I will holde my peace, thou wilt beftowe more complements of rare amplification vpon mee, than euer thou beftowdft on Sir Philip Sidney, and gentle Maister Spencer.

Thou flatterft mee, and praifeft mee.

To make mee a small seeming amendes for the injuries thou haft done mee, thou reckonft mee vp amongst the deare louers and professed fonnes of the Muses, Edmund Spencer, Abraham France, Thomas Watson, Samuell Daniell.

With a hundred blessings, and many praiers, thou intreatft mee to loue thee.
Content thy selfe, I will not.
Thou protest'st it was not my person thou mistak't (I am afraide thou wilt make mee thy Ingle) but my fierce running at Parson Richard, excusest mee by my youth, & promisest to cancell thy impertinent Pamphlet.

It were good hanging thee now, thou art in such a good mind; yet for all this, a dogge will be a dogge, & returne to his vomit doe what a man can: thou must haue one squibbe more at the Deuils Orator, & his Dames Poet, or thy penne is not in cleane life. I will permit thee to say what thou wilt, to vnderlie, (as thou desirft) the verdit of Fame her selfe, so I may lie aboue thee. Lie aboue thee, tell a greater lie than thou dost, no man is able.

Thus O heauenly Mufe, I thanke thee, for thou haft giu'n me the patience to trauel through the tedious wildernesse of this Gomorian Epistle. Not Hercules, when he cleansed the stables of Aegæas, vnder-tooke such a stinking vnfavorie exploit. By thy assistaunce through a whole region of golden lanes haue I journeied, & now am safely arriu'd at not speedily dispatcht, but hastily bungled vp as you see. Graunt that all such flow dispatchers & hastie bunglers, may haue a long time of reproach to repent them in, and not come abroad to corrupt the aire, & imposehumate mens ears with their pan-pudding profe any more. So bee it, say all
English people after mee, that haue cears to heare or cies to reade.

Feci, feci, feci, had I my health, now I had leyfure to be merry, for I haue almoft wahst my hands of the Doctour.

His own regenerate verses of the jolly Fly, & Gibeline and Gwelph, some peraduenture may expeft that I should anfwer. So I would if there were anie thing in them which I had not anfwerd before, but there is nothing; if there were, havin’ driuen his fword to his head, I respect not what he can do with his dagger. Onely I will looke vpon the laft fonnet of M. Spencers to the right worshipfull Maifter G. H., Doctour of the lawes: or it may fo fall out that I will not looke vpon it too, becaufe (Gabriell) though I vehemently fufpeft it to bee of thy owne doing, it is popt foorth vnder M. Spencers name, and his name is able to fanctifie any thing, though falsely ascribed to it.

The fourth letter of our Orators, to the fame fauourable or indifferent reader, was a letter which this many a long summers day, I dare ieopard my maydenhead / had line hidden in his defke; for it is a shipmans hofe, that will serue any man as well as Green or mee.

To make short, in it, as fortie times before, he brides it and fimpers out a crie, No, forfooth, God dild you hee would not, that hee would: None fo
defirous of quiet as hee, good olde man, who with
a pure intent of peace, firft put fire to the flame
that hath hedgde him in.

He hath preuented Maifter Bunnie of the second
part of his treatife of Pacification; for like some
craffie ringleader of rebellion, when hee hath
flirred vp a dangerous commotion, and findes, by
the too late examination of his forevnexamined
defects in himselfe, that so sweet a roote will
hardlie effect correspondent fruits, strait, in pollicie
to get his pardon, hee strikes faile to the tempeft
of sedition, and is thrice as earnest in preaching
pacification, obedience, and submission: so Gabriel,
when he hath flir'd vp against me what tumults he
can in stationers Shops, and left the quiuer of his
enuie not an arrow vndrawne out, hee finds, by the
audit of his ill consumed defectes, that he is not
of force inough to hold out: wherefore in pollicie,
to avoid further arrearages of infamie, hee tires
the text of reconciliation out of breath, and hopeth
by the interceffion of a cuppe of white wine and
sugar, to be made friends with his fellow writers.

It cannot choofe but he muft of necessitie be a
very fore fellow, that is so familiar with white wine
& sugur, for white wine, in a maner, is good for
nothing but to wash fores in, and fmounte vp
withered beauty with. Well, for all hee would
haue Pierce make no warres on him, he makes
warres on Pierce Pennileffe, he bebeggereth him again in this epiftle verie bountifullie: hee faies that Lords must take heede how they Lord it in his presence.

That the Affe is the onelie Author he alleadgeth.

That Greene is an Affe in print, and he a calfe in print.

That they are both chieftaines in licentiousnesse and that truth can faie the abhominable villainies of such base shifting companions, good for nothing but to cast away themselves, spoile their adherents, &c.

For my beggerie, let that trauell the countries: I haue faide more for it than a richer man would haue done, but that I take vppon me to Lord it ouer great Lords, thou art a moft lewd tungd lurden to faie it.

MufT they take heede how they Lord it in my presence, what must they doe in thy presence?

That sitting like a looker on
Of this worlds stage, doft note with critique pen
The sharpe dislikes of each condition;
Ne fawnest for the fauour of the great,
Nor fearest foolish reprehenfion,
But freelie doft of what thee lift intreate,
Like a great Lord of peerelesse libertie,
Lifting the good up to high honours feate,
And th' euill damning euermore to die:
For life and death is in thy doomefull writing.
Whereas thou failest the Ass, in a manner, is the only Author I alleadge, I must know how you define an Ass before I can tell how to answere you; for Cornelius Agrippa maketh all the Philosophers, Oratours, and Poets that ever were, Asses: and if so, you vnderstand that I alleadge no Author but the Ass; for [if] all Authors are Asses, why I am for you; if otherwise, thou art worse than a Cumane Ass, to leape before thou lookft, and condemme a man without cause.

What Authors dost thou alleadge in thy booke? not two but any Grammer Scholler might haue alleadgd.

There is not three kernels of more than common learning in all thy Four Letters. Common learning? not common fende in some places.

Of force I must graunt that Greene came oftner in print than men of judgement allowed off, but neverthelesse he was a dainty flawe to content the taile of a Tearme, and fluffe Servuing mens pockets.

An Ass, Gabriel, it is harde thou shouldst name him: for calling me Calfe, it breakes no square, but if I bee a calfe, it is in comparison of such an Oxe as thy selfe.

The chieftaines of licentiousnesse, and truth can say the abominable villanies of such base foisting companions, good for nothing, &c. I am of the mind wee shall not digeſt this neither.
Answere me succintè & expedite, what one period any way leaning to licentiousnes, canst thou produce in Pierce Pennileffe?

I talke of a great matter when I tell thee of a period, for I know two feverall periods or full pointes, in this last epistle, at least fortie lines long a piece.

For the order of my life, it is as ciuil as a ciuil orenge: I lurke in no corners, but conuerse in a house of credit, as well gouerned as any Colledge, where there bee more rare quallified men, and selected good Schollers than in any Noblemans house that I knowe in England.

If I had committed such abominable villanies, or were a base shifting companion, it floode not with my Lords honour to keepe me, but if thou haft saide it, & canst not prove it, what flandrous dishonor haft thou done him, to giue it out that he keepes the committers of such abominable villanies and base shifting companions, when they are farre honefter than thy selfe.

If I were by thee, I would plucke thee by the beard, and spit in thy face, but I would dare thee, and vrge thee beyonde all excuse, to disclose and proue for thy heart bloud, what villanie or base shifting by mee thou canst. I defie all the worlde in that respect.

Because thou vfedst at Cambridge to shift for
thy Friday nights suppers, and cofen poore victuallers and pie-wiues of Doctours cheese and puddinges, thou thinkeft me one of the same religion too.

What Greene was, let some other anfwere for him as much as I haue done: I had no tuition ouer him: he might haue writ another Galatæo of manners, for his manners euery time I came in his companie: I faw no fuch base shifting or abhominable villanie by him. Something there was which I haue heard, not feene, that hee had not that regarde to his credite in which had beene requisite he shoulde.

What a Calimunco am I to plead for him, as though I were as neere him as his owne skinne. A thousande there bee that haue more reafon to speake in his behalfe than I, who, since I first knew him about town, haue beene two yeares together and not feene him.

But Ile doe as much for any man, especially for a dead man, that cannot speake for himselfe. Let vs heare how we are good for nothing but to caft awaie our felves, spoile our adherents, praie on our fauourers, dishonour our Patrons. Haue I euer tooke any likelie course of cafting away my felfe?

Whom canft thou name that kept me company, and reapt any discommoditie by mee? I can name
divers good Gentlemen that haue beene my adherents
and fauourers a long time. Let them report howe
I haue spoilde them, or praid on them, or put them
to one pennie detriment since I first conforted with
the.

Haue an eie to the maine-chaunce, for no sooner
shall they understand what thou hast said by mee
of them, but theyle goe neere to haue thee about
the eares for this geare, one after another.

My Patrons, or anie that bind me to them by
the leaft good turne, there is no man in England
that is, or shall (for my small power) bee more
thankefull vnto than I. Neuer was I vnthankefull
vnto any, no, not to those of whome for deedes I
receiued nothing but vnperformed deede promising
words. It is an honor to be accusde, and not
conuinft.

One of these months I shall challenge martir-
dome to my felse, and writ large stories of the
persecution of tongues. Troth I am as like to
persecute as be perfecuted. Let him take vp his
Croffe and bleffe himselfe that crosseth mee, for I
will crosse shinnes with him though euerie sentence
of his were a thousande tunnes of discourses, as
Gabriel faith, euerie sentence of his is a discourse.
Quods, quods giue me my Text pen againe, for I
haue a little more Text to launce.

The secretaries of art and nature, if it were not
CONFUTED.

for friuolous contentions, might bestead the commo- welth with manie puissant engins. As, for example, Bacon's brazen nose, Architas wodden doue, dancing bals, fire breathing gourdes, artificial flies to hang in the aire by themselfes, an egshell that shall run vp to the toppe of a speare.

Archimedes made a heau'n of braffle, but we haue nothing to do with olde braffle and iron.

Apollonius Regimontanus did manie pretie iugling tricks, but wee had rather drinke out of a glaffe than a Jugge: we a little brittle wit of our owne, than borrow any miracle mettall of the Deuils.

Amongst all other stratagems and puissant engins, what say you to Mates Pumpe in Cheapside, to pumpe ouer mutton and porridge into Fraunce? this colde weather our fouldiors, I can tell you, haue need of it, and, poore field mife, they haue almost got the colicke and stone with eating of prouant.

Consider of it well, for it is better than all Bacon, Architas, Archimedes, Apollonius or Regimontanus deuices; for Gabriell, that professeth all these, with all their helpe cannot make the bias bowle at Saffron Walden run downe the hill, when it is throwne downe with the hardest hand that may bee, but it will turne vp the hill againe in spite of a mans teeth, and, that which is worst, glue no reason for it.
The Parrat and the Peacock haue leisur to renewe 
and repolish their expired workes. You speake 
like a friend: wele listen to you when you haue 
repolished and expired your perfected degree. A 
Demy Doctor, what a shame is it?

Because your books do call for a litle more 
drinke, and a fewe more clothes when they are 
gone to bed, that is, when they lie dead, you 
thinke ours do so too. No, no, we doe not vse 
to clappe a coat ouer a ierkin, or thruft any of 
the children of our braine into their mothers 
wombe againe, & beget them a new after they 
are once borne. If it bee a horne booke at his 
first conception, let it be a horne booke still, and 
turne not eat in the panne, convert the Paternoster 
to a Primer, when it hath begd it selfe out at the 
elbowes vp and downe the cuntrey.

Thou didst thou knewst not what in eeking this 
thy short-wafted Pamphlet, iwis, as thou faist of 
thy selfe / Thou art an old trewant, fitter to plaie 
the dumbe dogge with some antients, than the hissing 
snake.

Who be those antient dumbe dogs? we shall 
haue you a Martiniift when all comes to all, because 
you cannot thrive with the Ciuill Law, and that 
you may marry her for any thing you are a kindred 
to her: therfore you will compare Whitegift and 
Cartwright, white and blacke together, name the
higheft gouernours of the Church without giuing them anie reuereence or titles of honour, imbrace anie religion which will be euen with the profeflion that fauors not you.

There is no baile or mainprife for it, but wee muft haue you in the firft peeping forth of the spring, preaching out of a Pulpit in the woods: you haue put on wolues raiment already, seduced manie simple people vnder the habit of a sheepe and Wolfes print. If you protest & lie any more, it is not your ending here like a fermon, that will make you bee reputed for a faint.

Readers, a decaied student, lately shipwrackt with Si vales bene est, hauing foure Lightors of Letters, cleane cast away on the rocks called the Bifhop & his Clarks, desires you all to pray for him, and he will recommend you all to God the next fermon he penneth, or his brother Richard.

He hath a mind to pay every man his owne, though hee hath sustained great losse in fight, that which he cannot effeSt he befeecheth the Lord to accomplish, and euem to worke a miracle vpon the deafe.

Lord if it be thy will, let him be an Asfe still. Gentlemen, I haue no more to say to the Docttor dispose of the victorie as you please: shortly I will present you with something that shal be better than nothing, onely giue mee a gentle hire for my
durtie day labor, and I am your bounden Orator for euer.

Son / netto.

Were there no warres, poore men should haue no peace:
Vnceffant warres with waspes and droanes I crie:
Hee that begins, oft knows not how to cease,
They haue begun, Ile follow till I die.

Ile heare no truce, wrong gets no graue in mee,
Abuse pell mell encounter with abuse:
Write hee againe, Ile write eternally.
Who feedes reuenge hath found an endlessse Muse.

If death ere made his blacke dart of a pen,
My penne his speciall Baily shal becoming:
Somewhat Ile be reputed of mongft men,
By striking of this duns or dead or dum.

Awaite the world the Tragedy of wrath:
What next I paint shal tread no common path.

Aut nunquam tentes aut perfice.

Tho. Nashe.
Obseruations for the Readers of this Booke.

Item, whatsoever for the most part is here in this booke in change of letter, is our aduerclaries owne Text, and unvaried words, either in this his convicted Foure Letters, or some other suitie treatise, set forth by him heretofore.

Then, that I am wrecked and utterly divorced from my owne invention, & constrained still still, before I am warne in any one baine, to start away sodainely, and follow him in his vanitie.

Finally, Printers haue many false stitches, which are thus to bee drawn vp.

In the second page of c for Baboune brother, reade Baboune his brother: in the 7 for allegorized & Abdias, reade allegorized Abdias: in the 8 for set hand, reade, set his hand: idem for headmen read headman. In the first of d for liuor post quiescat, reade Liuor post fata quiescat: in the 5 for plaister of Doctourship, reade plaistrie or dawbing of Doctourship: in the 7 for insolent inckehorne worme, reade insolent incke worme: in the 2 of e for Asfe in present, read Asfe in presenti: in the 3 for bestow vpon, reade bestow vpon him: in the 5 for effect, reade efficacie. In the 4 of f
FOURE LETTERS CONFUTED.

for vertuous Syr John Norris, read victorious Syr John Norris: in the 5 page of h for I introduce in a discontented Scholler, read I introduce a discontented Scholler: in the 8 for His affentrion, reade His assertion. In the 5 of I for verie company, reade verie timpanie. In the 5 page of k for in this first case, reade first in this case. [Corrected in the places.—G.]

FINIS.