GREENES

Newes both from

Heauen and Hell.

Prohibited the first for writing of Bookes, and banished out of the last for displaying of Conny-catchers.

Commended to the Presse
By B. R.

AT LONDON,
Printed, Anno. Domini.
1593.
To the renowned Gregory Coolie,
chiefe Burgermaister of the Castle of Clonarde,
Marqueffe of merry conceits, and Grande Caualier amongst
Bouve companions and all good fellowship; At his
chaste Chamber at Dublyne in Irelande,
B. R. sendeth greeting.

T was my fortune (Sir) not long since, to trauaile between
Pancredge Church & Pye-corner, beeing somewhat late in the Eue-
ning, about an houre after the setting of the Sunne: and cafting vp
mine eyes towards the skyes, to beholde the twinkling starres
that had then but newly discouerecthemselves, I might see how the Man of the Moone was
beating of his dogge. Thys fearfull aspect did wonderfullie
daunt mee, with doubt of some angry accident that might
shortly betide me; And I had not paced many steppes, but
directly in the path before me, there appeared a most grislie
ghoft wrapt vp in a sheete, his face onely discouered, with a
penne vnder his eare, and holding a scrowle of written paper
in his hande. I crossed the way of purpose to shunne him, but
crosse as I could he was euer-more before mee, that passe I
might not, vnlesse I should runne over him; I remembred
my selfe how old Fathers were wont to say, that Spirits in such
cases, had no power to speake to any man, vntill they were
first spoken vnto, and therefore taking vnto me a constrained
courage, I asked him what he was, & what was his meaning

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to trouble mee in my passage? who aunswered thus. I am (saide he) a Spirite, yet feare thou nothing, for my comming is not to doe thee any manner of harme, but to request a matter at thy handes which thou maift not deny me, for thou must vnderstand, I am the spirite of Robert Greene, not vn-5 knowne vnfo thee (I am sure) by my name, when my wrytings lately priuiledged on euery post, hath giuen notice of my name vnfo infinite numbers of people that neuer knewe me by the view of my perfon.

The matter that I would request thee to performe, is the 10 committing of these papers to the Prefs, wherein, because I haue there manifested the very drift of mine owne deuife, I may therefore be the more sparing vnfo thee, in relating the circumstances: thys may suffife, nor faile not thou to doe as I haue willed thee.

Heere-withall, popping the papers into my hand, I can not tell what account I should make of his departure, or whether I might say he flew into the ayre, or funck into the earth, he was so fuddainly vanisht out of my sight, but I was gladde I was ridde of his companie, and home-wards I went haftilie 20 to my lodging: where calling for a light, I began by my selfe to peruse ouer these lynes, wherein I founde such a meffe of altogether, that I knew not what I should make of the med-lie.

Spyced it was heere and there with Myflin, a kinde of 25 graine that is made of Knaue and Rye, mixed both together, pleasurable it was in many places to be read, and therefore fittest for melancholie humors. And bethinking mee of my freendes to whom I might commend it, in the end I resolued of your owne good selfe: and the rather finding it to be de-30 lightfull and pleasfant, I thought it a fit restorative to recall you from that melancholie conceite, that hath so long pefterd your braines, for the losse of a Myll, dismembred and shaken downe by the rage of a pelting pufhe of winde, but such a paultry tempeft should not dismay a man of your spyrite, 35 when it is well knowne to every Gamfter, that although the knaue of trumpes be the second Carde at Mawe, yet the piue-finger

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fiue-finger may commaunde both him and all the rest of the pack. I could tel you a tale (Maifter Gregory) of an Asle, who leauing the place where he was first foald, fortuned to stray into a strange Forrest, and finding the beastes of that Defart to be but simple, and had neuer seene the maiestie of the Lyon, neyther had they felt the cruelty of the Tygar, nor had any manner of wayes beene wronged by the oppressions of the Leopard, the Beare, the Panther, or any other deouuring or rauening beastes.

10 Thys paltry Asle, seing their simple plainnesse, founde means to wrap himselfe in a Lyons skinne, and then with proude lookes and loftie countenaunce, raunging among the Heardes, he would stretch out his filthy throate, bellowing and braying (as nature had taught him) with so hideous and horrible a noyse, that the poore beastes that were within hys hearing beganne already to tremble & shake for feare. Then he began to tyrannifie, commaunding what himselfe pleased amongst them, and not contenting himselfe with that obey-sance, which had beene fit for an honorable beast, and more then was due to an Asle, would many times take vppon him some duties proper to the person of the Lyon himselfe: and in the end became a notable sheepe-byter, worryng and deuouring whole flockes of poore sheepe, that happened within his precincte or iurisdiction.

25 The Wolfe that had layne all this while close amongst the Mountains, and hauing gotten vnderstanding of the nature and disposition of this Asle, thought him a fit compani-on for his comfortshyppe, and combyned with him in such a frendly league, that betweene them, the one taking opportunity to filch and steale in the night, the other vsing his tyrany to rauen and deououre in the day, the poore harmelss Cattle that liued within their reach, were stil oppresed, & neuer free frō perril. The Asle grew to that greatnes that he was furnamed Tarquinius Superbus, not that Tarquine that rauihed Lu-

30 cretia of her honour, but it was that Tarquine that rauihed a Church of her lyuings: and an Asle I founde him, and so I will leave him.

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Peraduenture (Ma. Gregory) you expected a wiser conclusion, but what would you looke to come from a man that hath beene lately so skarred with sprites, that he hath not yet recouered the right vse of his fences: it may be true that deuils are afraid to passe by a crosse, but I am sure knaues are not afraide to shroude themselues behinde a Condite. You may perceiue (Syr) my wits are sette a wandering, but knowing your discretion enough to conceiue my meaning, I will trouble you no further, but with this abrupt conclusion will bid you hartily farewell.

Your assured freend.

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Greenes newes both from Heauen and Hell.

Be not dismayed (my good freends) that a deade man shoulde acquaint you with newes, for it is I, I per se I, Robert Greene, in Artibus Magister, he that was wont to sollicite your mindes with many pleasant conceits, & to fit your fancies at least every quarter of the yere, with strange & quaint deuises, best befitting the season, and most answerable to your pleasures. Having therefore so many times taken the true measure of your appetites, & finding the very height of your dispositions inclined to nouelties, that you might the rather see howe willing I am to satisfie your humors, I haue sent you heere the whole discourse of my adventures, what hath betyde mee since I left the terrestiall worlde, with a very true report of my infernal trauailes. Strange peraduenture for you to understand of, but for the truth of the matter, if you shall any where stand in doubt, doo but compare the place with that golden volume of Legenda Aurea, or with the workea of that famed wife man Syr Thomas More, in his Booke of Quoth I to your freend, and quoth your freend to me, in his discourse of Eutopia, & The Suppllication of Soules in Purgatory. If your conscience be yet scrupel'd, and that these authentike authorities will not fully satisfie you: turne over then to the Remish Testament, and leauing the Chapters and wordes of the Euangelistes, looke into the notes inserfted by that holy fraternitie of Iesuites, and that blessed broode of Seminaries, and tel me then if you do not find matter seemeing more incredible the any by me here alleaged, and yet I dare boldly auouch it, (and that without blushing) if you consider duly of the circumstances, you
you shall finde no leffe cause to laugh at the one, then to beleeue the other. Having thus prepared your mindes to receive the certaintie of my discourse, now likewise fette open your eares, and be attentiue to the rest, for thus it foloweth.

When pittiles Death had sommoned my soule to leaue his tranitory estate, infusing his froesty humour through all the parts of my body, leauing my breathles corps a fitte pray for the sepulcher, my deceafed ghost wandring now to and fro in many obscure & vnknown waies, defirous to find a place of rest, at the length lighted into a straight and narrow tract, so ouergrowne with bryers & brambles, that there was almost no passage left, and as it should seeme vnto me, did lead vnto some ruinated place, where all former trade & traffique was decayed, the solitarines wherof (me thought) was beft befittitng & anfwerable to my humor: so that with great difficulty scratching through the bushes, it brought me at the length to the foote of a mighty steepe Hil, whose height I was not able to discerne, but by the vnpleasantnes of y path, leading ouer monstrous Rocks craggy & illfavoured to passe, I perceiued it to be the high way to Heauen. But should I tel you heere the toile y I had to clime this Mountaine, with what labor I attained it, how many breathings I tooke by the way before I could reach it, what folly I found in my felfe to vnder-take it, and should I discribe vnto you at large howe many inconueniences they finde that vndertakes thys passaże to Heauen, peraduenture I might so discourage you, that a great number would never desire to come there at all, but thys I can assure you for your better comforts, he that hath a willing minde to vndertake thys trauaile, let hym bring with hym a pottle of that lyquour, which I was wont to drinke with my Hofteffe, at the Redde latteffe in Tormoyle freete, and hee shall finde it more available in the furthe ring of hys iourney, then a whole poke full of the Popes pardons.

When I was gotten vp to the toppe of the Hill, after thys I had a little panted for breath, looking forwarde ouer a fayre greene, (as my high way did direct mee) I myght perceiue
both from Heauen and Hell.

perceiue (a little distant from mee) where two were faft together by the eares: weapons they had none, more than their bare fists, but with them they laide on such load, that I perceiued the one was loath to remayne in the others debt; and I somwhat mending my pace, when I was come vnto them, prefently knew them both to be of mine olde acquaintance, the one Velvet breeches, the other Cloth breeches, betweene whom I had (not long before) bee a stickler, and (as I supposd) had taken a quyet order betweene them for ending of all controuerfies. But they neuer the more vppon my ariuall forbare the one the other, but somtimes with downe-right blowes, enough to haue feld a Bullocke: some-time with bobbes at the lippes, able to haue da{}st out their teeth: otherwhiles lugging one an other by the eares, as if they had committed some offence in liftning too lightly after foolifh speeches: but Velvet breeches being in the French fashion, with a goodly locke hanging downe his left cheeke, wherein Cloth breeches had so snarled his fingers, that when I thrust in betweene them to haue parted them, I could not pluck away his hand, tyll he had pluckt away hayre and all that he had holde on: but hauing once put them a funder, I wild them as they were men to hold their hands, why (qd. I) doo you know what you doo, or doo you remember the place where you are? I am sure wee be not farre from Heauen gates, and if S. Peter should vnderstand of your abuse, I knowe he would commit you both to the Porters Lodge.

Velvet breeches, who was so farre out of breath that hee was not able to speake, in the end, when he had a while well blu{stred and blowne, deliuered mee these words.

This base fellowe, whom I haue eu{er disdayned, and although in our late controuerfie, by the inconsideration of a partiall Iurie, he preuayled against me, sentence being giuen on his side, the which I thinke dooth encourage him the rather in his presumpti{on toward mee, but I eu{er scorning him, denying him (as he is) vnworthy to conuerse with a Gentleman of any qualitie or trayning vp: and as I was yerwhiles quetyly, travelling all alone in a solitarie muse,
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how I might behauie my selfe when I came to heauen, what salutations I might render to the Saints, with what grace I might giue the Bafeles manes to the Monarches and great Princes that had raigned in the world, and what countenance I might carry, beft befitting a Gentleman of my reputation & calling, newly comming amongst so many strangers of all forts, amongst whom I was altogether vnknown, and had no manner of acquaintance: as I was painfully and with great difficultie travelling vp the hill, in these & other like cogitations, this barbarous fellow (whose rude training vp hath better enabled him to indure labour & toile, than those that haue lyued in pleasure & eafe) was followed hard at my heeles before I was aware of him, which in truth at the first made me halfe afraide, but looking back & seeing who it was, my feare was turned into disdain, and my stomacke uailoufly began to swell against him: but without any manner of word speaking vnto him I kept my way, the which being fo straight (as you know) that there can passe but one at once, I held him behinde me, till I was gotten vp to the very height of the hill, where the passage growing more spacious, he makes no more ado at the matter, but without any word speaking steps afore, & began to hold on his way as though I had beene but his man, and should haue waited on him in his journey, the which my stomacke not able to brooke, I reprooved his malipart sauciness; he by and by began to grow in to comparisons, both of my selfe and my petegree, when it is well knowne that Veluet breeches was never lesse than a Gentleman, and Cloth breeches never more than a Peasant, and that I haue euer kept company, where such a vessell as he is might be ashamed to shew his face, and therefore holde it in great scorne, that he should take the way of me, now travelling to so glorious a presence. Cloth breeches, that stood all this while with his head hanging on the one side, and biting of his nether lyppe, aunswered him thus.

Veluet breeches, touching thy parentage, from whence thou art descended, what thou maist claime for thy gentilitie, and how thou maintaynest thy brauery, thou knowest hath beene
both from Heauen and Hell.

beene already sufficiently disputed vpon betweene vs, and by the verdict of a Iury, (whom thou falsely accusest of inconsiderat partiality) they haue pronounced against thee, and decreede on my side, the which sentence, vntill by a new tryall thou dooest feke to auerre, thou art not till then able to auoid:

I wil not therefore reitterate any matter already handled and fully concluded, but briefly to aunswere thy passed speeches; Thou saydest thou werst halfe afraine when I first ouertooke thee, and I beleue thee, for I perceiued by thy blushing, that either thou waft in doubt of a Cunstable, that had followed thee with Hue and crye, or of a Bayliffe, with a writ out of the Kings Bench, that had come to arrest thee: for the geneeositie thou braggest of, acknowledging thy selfe to be a gentleman, & accounting me for a pesant, I wil deale plainly with thee in that: there be some foole in deed like thyselfe, that doo cal thee Master Velvet breeches, & mee they call goodman Cloth breeches, but looke generally through al the parts of England, and you shall see the goodman Cloth breeches at home keeping good Hospitalitie, when Ma. Velvet breeches fels away his house, or keepes his doores shut and will not be spoken withall: for the company which thou sayst thou haft kept, wher I might be ashamed to shew my face, I know not wher it shold be, vnlesse in some brothel house, for those be the places where thou most frequenteft: wherin thou haft truely spokē, for there in deed I would be much ashamed to be seene.

Velvet breeches would faine haue replyed, but that I interrupted him in these words, saying.

My Masters and very good friends both, I perceiue you haue not read al my bookes, which I haue purposly put forth for the benefite of my Countrymen, for if you had but seene Greens farewell to folly, me thinkes the bare tytle, without turning ouer leafe to looke further into the matter, might haue moued you to this consideration, that the very ground of your contention is meere folly and flat foolishnes, the which you should haue shaken hands withall, and so to haue bid it adieu, taking a faire farewell of a foule oversight: and in one other of my bookes, called Greens groats worth of wit: why, if there were but one peny worth of wit equally distributed...
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betweene you both, you would neuer yfe to quarrell, & fall togethers by the cares as you trauell by the way: blame me not my good Countrymen, though I yfe bitter expulsfues to expel your groffe errors, you are trauelling I perceiue to a place of blessed peace & quiet rest, what wold you think to enter with 5 malicious mindes? no, the Porter is circumspect, & can looke narrowly into mens dispositions. You Maifter Veluet breeches, you are a Gentleman, and you are brauely futed & gallantly apparrelled, and you peraduenture will looke for preheminence: but doo you think that either your great tytle or gay clothes will any thing at all ftand you in steede: no, for S. Peter will first looke into your Scutchine, (for if you be a Gentleman you muft shewe your armes, otherwise you will be proued but a counterfeit, and those S. Peter cannot abide) and if there shall be found either in the coate or creft, any bloody or cruell beaft, any rauenous or deouring foule, or any other marke or token whatfoeuers, whereby it may appere, that your gentry hath beene adauanced by rape, by rauen, by bribery, by deceit, by oppression, by extortion, by v fury, by periury, and to make short, by any maner of fraud and subtiltie, you are vttterly vndoone, he will locke the gates against you, hee will not suffer you to enter. And you good man Cloth breeches, peraduenture you vnder your fimple attyre and homely habit, you thinke to find so much the more fauour: but I can tell you it will not serue the turne, for S. Peter thuts out fortie faffe knaues in a yeere, that come creeping thether in Fryers coates, and Monkes Coules.

I am now to put you in mind of an other of my Bookes, called Greenes neuer too late: O that you had but read ouer that Booke in time, but nowe it is too late for me to spend 30 such wishes, and more later for you to redresse your former follies, it refeth then that we agree together like friends, and trauell together like louing Countreymen: let vs not exhibite complaints one against an other, for you shall finde we shall be charged with matters more than we shall well 35 be able to aunswere.

Truely said Veluet breeches, your wife perswasions hath
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so lenefied my chollaricke passiôn, that I am contented for this present iourney, to admit of Cloth breeches as a companion: neither is it himselfe that I doe so much dispise, but his meane and simple attyre.

5 And for my part (answerèd Cloth breeches) I can be contented to passe in friendly maner with Velvet breeches: neyther is it his gay apparrell that I find fault withall, but with his feueral and fundry abuses.

Well then (said I) I hope the greatest part of this quar-
el is at an end for the present, let vs therefore spend no longer time with any further discourfings, but let vs goe forwards till wee haue likewise ended our iourney: agreede saied they, and forwardes wee went, and within a very small distance we might perceiue a farre more cleere and radiant light, than euer before till that present wee had,beholde, and immedi-
ately wee might beholde the tops of the heauenly buildings, whose towers and turrets were of such exceeding brightnes, that our eyes dazeled, we were not able directly to looke vpon them, which gave vs so great comfort, that we mended our pace, tyll at the laft we might heare the most sweete and de-
lectable melody, that euer (I thinke) happened to any eares, the harmony not possible to bee defcrybed; and by this time we were come hard to heauen gates, which we found shutte and faft locked, and at the leaft, a hundred persons walking vp and downe with sad and heauie countenances, conferring now and then by two or three together, making semblance by the shewe of their behauior, that their mindes were per-
plexed with some distrefsted grieffe. This spectacle made mee wonderfully to muse, what I might think of the matter, but

we three holding still in company, pased too and fro by them, and they lykewise by vs, we knowing none of them, nor they knowing none of vs: at the laft meeting with one al alone by himselfe, whose graue & sober aspects, argued a stayed and di-
crete mind, and leaving my company for the time, I singled him out, first saluting him with a courteous Conge, the which he as kindly returning me agayne, I began in this fort to enter parle with him.
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Courteous Syr, if a strangers boldnesse might not breed offence, I would request you to satifie mee but in this one demand, I am (as you may perceiue) vnacquainted in this place, haueing taken a tedious and painfull trauell, and being now arrived, would be glad to understand the successe of my journey, and I haue walked too & fro heere this long hower, and in all this space I could never see any one passe either in or out, nor the gate so much as opened, which seemeth strange vnsto mee, considering the multitude which doo frequented the place, it makes me ienalous, that all should not be well in heauen, and to growe into iuspition of I know not what.

Truely my good friend (answered this graue sir) it should seeme you haue neuer bin a futer, that wold looke for so quick a dispatch, you haue walked vp and down (you say) heere this hower, and there be heere in this company that haue trauelled as farre as you, and haue walked vp and downe heere this moneth, peraduenture a yeere, perhaps more, and would bee glad if they might be dispatched yet, within a weeke, a fortnight, or a moneth, yea, if it were somewhat more, they would bee glad eu'en then to come to an end of their futes, you must (Syr) therefore be contented to stay your time, & to take your fortune, and thinke you came hether in a very happy houre, if you be dispatched in a quarter of a yeere. Your news sir (said I) doth not a little make me wonder, but if without offence I might but deale thus much farther with you, what might be the cause I beseeche you, that there is no more regard to your dispatching of poore futers, that haue laboured & tyred the selues many wayes in hope to haue heere a speedy release, aswe for your redresse of their sustained wrongs, as also to be rewarded as they shalbe found worthy by desart? for as it is supposed, this is the very place where Iustice & right is most duely administered, & therefore is accounted the only place of comfort: but can there be any greater wrong, than for a man to be so long deferred from his right? or may there be a more discomfort, than when a man shal neuer hope to haue end of his futes?

My good friend (answered the other againe) although you haue saied no more than is truth: but yet something for your better satisfaction, your consideration must haue some reference
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rence to ã time, for one of ã greatest matters that doth hinder
the forwarding of ãtes at this instant, ouer it hath beene in
times past, is this, in briefe to be spoken, the wonderfull af-
fayres of great importance, and the continuall busines that
5 S. Peter is dayly troubled withall.

What I pray sir (fayd I) is S. Peter more troubled with
business now, than in times past he hath beene?

O sir (faid the other) you neede not doubt of that, & there is
great reason for it, that it can not otherwise be, he hath so ma-
10 ny affaires to run through, that it is almost thought impos-
sible how he should execute the all: for first, he is Knight Por-
ter heere of heauen gates, a place I warrant you of no leffe
charge than trouble: then, he is constituted the Prince of the
Apostles, & confirmed in that authority by all the Popes for
15 this three or foure hundreth yeere, so that all the rest of the Apostles
can doo nothing without his allowance, and whatsoeuer he dooth
they cannot recall: then, he is the Popes Factor, & hath the hand-
ling & determining of all causes for him, and hath lately bin more
troubled with his brablements, for the holding vp of S. Peters
20 chayre, than with all the Kings & Princes again in Christendom:
fourthly, he is the Mafter of the Requests, chosen by the papists
to present their prayers to God, and they ply him every day with
moe pelting petitions, than his leysure will permit to looke ouer
in a moneth after: these & so many other matters hee hath still to
25 looke into, that if he had fixe able bodies, they were all too little
to run through his other affayres.

Why (faide I) this is a pitteous case, that hauing such infinite
busines, as I perceiue by your speeches, that he hath not some as-
fistantst to helpe him, & that so many troubles should not lye all on
30 one mans necke.

Well (faid he) this is your opinion, you haue gyuen your ver-
dit, buthauue you notlearned, Quod supra nos, nihil ad nos: it is not
for you & me to say what is behouefull for Saints, they knowe
their times & what is necessary, better than you or I can instrue
35 thë, & therefore not to be found fault with in any of their dealings.

These speeches ended, giuing him great thankes for his
curtefie, I returned againe to my two Companions, Velvet
breeches and Cloth breeches, to whom I imparted all my
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newes, which strooke them both into a fuddain dumpe, but especially Cloth breeches, whose trayning vppe had not beeene accustomed much to giue attendance, but it fell out, the very same after noone, that our Lady, with the eleauen thousand Virgins, had beeene walking in the garden to take the ayre, & in her comming backe, fortuning to looke out at a Casement, she sawe vs altogether as we were walking, and calling to her Gentleman vs her, shee demaundd what wee were. He answered, that we were Suters, which there did giue our attendance. Alas poore foules (sai) shee) I did perceiue in deede by their pittious lookes, that their minds were troubled with forrowe and grieffe, and without any other wordes speaking, she departed, and causinge all other busines to be for the time set a part, shee take order that all futers shou'd presently be dispachted.

The next morning something early, S. Peter came forth to a place where he vseth to fit for the hearing of causes, for that there is a custome, that if any man doe but once get his feete within heauen gates, hee is neuer after thrust out, and therefore hee taketh assured order that none may enter, but such as shalbe thought worthy for their desarts to continue the place. S. Peter haung nowe seate himselfe, order was taken that euery futer shoulde succeffuely bee heard, he that had remayned longest to be first called, and so to proceede to the second in due course accordingly. I and my two companions were the latest that were there arrived, and therefore the last to be dispachted: the rest were examin'd by one and one, and that in such seuer and straight manner, that amongst euery ten, there were scarce one admitted to haue entrance into heauen, the Articles that were objectted against them, were too many in this place to bee rehearsed, but one thing I noted well, which was, there were some that shewed him the Popes Pasport, seald with lead vnnder his priuie Sygnet, but Iefus how S. Peter did be foole them, to shewe him such a writing, being not confirmed vnnder the handes of the foure Evangelysts, he commaundd them presently to auoyde and to come no more in his sight.

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Our turns being now come to say for our felues, I was the first of the three that was called for: S. Peter demanded of me what might be my name, and what trade I had vfed. I tolde him my name was Robert Greene, by profession a Scholler, and commenced Maister of Artes. O (quoth S. Peter) I haue heard of you, you haue beeene a busie fellowe with your penne, it was you that wirt the Bookes of Cony-catching, but firra, could you finde out the base abuses of a company of petty varlets that liued by pilsering cosonages, and could you not as well haue discryed the subtill and fraudulent practifes of great Conny-catchers, such as rides vpon footeclothes, and sometime in Coatches, and walkes the streetes in long gownes and veluet coates: I am sure you haue beeene in Westminster Hall, where you haue seene poore Clyants animated to commence actions, and to prosecute futes till they haue brought themselues to beggery, & when all is spent they are turned off like fooles, and sent home by weeping-croffe. And let me see now if any of your Crosbysters, your Lysters, your Nyppers, your Foysters, or any other of the whole rabblemint of your Conny-catchers, cal him by what name you lift, be like vnto these, or more mischivious in a Common-wealth. Then haue you couitous Landlords, that dooth daily so exact and cheate of their poore Tennants, that they were better light into the laps of a Cutpurse, then to dwell within the precincts of a Cut-throte. Yet haue you a pride kinde of Conny-catchers, that hauing but a Penner and yncchorne hanging at his gyrdle, yet creeping into some great mans fauour to become his Clarke or Secretary, by plaine Conny-catching, within very fewe yeeres, will purchase three or foure hundred pound land a yeere.

Or shoulde I put you in mind of great Conny-catchers, placed in Offices, who are continually building of houses, and still purchasing of reuenewes to leave to theyr heyres, perhaps by deceiuing the Prince, or coffoning the Subieft, but how shoulde they compasse so great aboundance, but by some practife in Conny-catching: vnilfie they be such which the Prince dooth fauour, of whom she bestoweth many gracious
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cious and liberall gyfts: I will not say there bee Conny-catchers amongst Clergy men, that will catch at a Benefice sometime before it falles, and nowe and then by Simonie or other corruption having catched two or three, can be contented likewise to catch their Tythes from their poore flock, but very seldome to feede them, or to catch any of their soules to the kingdom of heauen. But now my freend take this for your anfwer, you that couldse buffe your selfe to fable out so many follies without indifferency, and to become a wryter with such partialitie, I must tell you truth, heauen is no habitation for any man that can looke with one eye and wincke with the other, for there must none rest there that dooth vice to haulte, but such as be plaine and true dealing people.

I woulde very faine haue replied in mine owne excuse, but S. Peter cut me off, telling me that I was aanswered, and that hauing mine aunswered, I shoulde trouble him no further. And foorthwith speaking to hym that stood next mee, asked hym his name. Who told hym that he was called Veluet breeches. S. Peter asked hym further, what Countreymen he was. He aanswered an Englishman. I cannot think you to be a naturall Englishman, sayd S. Peter, for that I never heard of any of your name in that Country. Yes Syr (if it please you) said Veluet breeches, my auncefters came in with the Conquest, and my predeceftours have still continued Gentlemen both of Worship and credite.

As Veluet breeches had ended these words, there happened to come by, diuers Princes that had raigned Kinges of England, all of them mounted vpon great Horsles, and had beene abroade vpon the greene running at the Ring: the which Princes being espyed by S. Peter, he called vnto the, requesting them a little to stay: and then poynting to Veluet breeches, he demaunded if any of them did knowe hym, or any of hys name remaining in Englande, in the tyme of theyr raignes and gouernments? But they denyed altogether that euer they had seene hym, or euer known any Gentleman of English byrth that was of his name.

Amongst this royall troupe, was King Henry the thyrd,
both from Heauen and Hell.
and he confidently protested, *in the time of his raigne, there was no such person to be found, for said hee, I sent one of my seruants to buy me a payre of hose, and hee returned againe with a payre that was but of fixe shillinges and eyght pence the price: wherewith I being displeased, tolde him that I would haue had hym bestowed a marke of a payre, but hee said there were none such to be gotte. But as for the other *Cloth breeches that standeth by hym, I know him very wel by his lookes, he dooth so much re semble his auncesters, and hath the very liuely picture of his Predecessours, the which were very honest plaine dealing men, without any manner of falshood or deceite.*

S. Peter thanked them of their paines, and thus the Princes departed, who beeing gone, S. Peter faide: You haue heard Ma. *Veluet breeches* what hath pased, but yet because you haue auouched your selfe to be a Gentleman, you shall haue thys fauour, we will examine some other of later time, who peraduenture may better call you to remembrance.

There floode a Messenger by, whom S. Peter willed presently to goe fetch hym some *Englishman*, that was but of some tenne or twenty yeeres residence in the place, charging hym to goe with speed, and to make a quicke returne. The Messenger met with a company that were newe come out of a Tennis courte, amongst whom was a Mearcer, that within these tenne yeeres had dwelt in *Cheapside*, hym the Messenger brought to S. Peter, who demaundd of him, if he did know a Gentleman in *England*, called by the name of Ma. *Veluet breeches*. Yea marry sayde the Mearcer, I know him to my coft, for thys is he that standes by me, and heere I auouch it before his face that hee is no Gentleman, but a proude dissembler, and a cofoning counterfeite: which if it shal pлеase you to giue me leaue, I will proue before this holy companie. Saint Peter aunswered, we doo not onelie giue you leaue, but also doe straightly commaunde you to speake a truth, and withall, to speake no more then is truth, what you are able to charge him withall, and howe you are able to proue your words.
The Mearcer aunswered, it were too much impiety for a man in my cafe to raife any flander, or maliciously to accuse any man wrongfully: but to the end the trueth of the matter might more euidently appeare, I muft craue pardon a little to vfe circumstances, and thus it followeth.

About fourteene or fifteene yeeres since, when I kept a shop in Cheapside, following there my trade, this counterfet Gentleman, being conforted with another of his owne pitch; a byrde of the fame feather, although in times paft, his onely familiaritie was but with Dukes, Earles, Lordes, and fuch other worthy personages, yet at this day an ordinary companion, and conuersant with every skypiacke, and himfelfe of bafe condition and a common Coferner, his name called Silke stockings. These two copefmates, Veluet breeches and Silke stockings changing their names, and because I will not be offensive to other Gentlemen, that peraduenture be of the fame name which they then tooke to themfelues, I will call Veluet breeches maifter White, and Silke stockings, he shall be maifter Black, these two counterfeite Gentlemen, maifter White and maifter Black, prouiding themfelues of Lodgings, Maifter White as it might be in Graties streete, in a house where no body knewe him, and Maifter Blacke in Fanchurch streete, faft by where he found as little acquaintance. Their Lodgings being thus prouided, Maifter White walking into Poules, and feeing many bills fette vp on the Weft doore by fuch as wanted Maifters, perufing the bylles, and finding one that he thought might be fitte for his purpofe, (and in truth was as cofoning a knaue as hee himfelfe) gaue notice vnder the bill, that he shoulde repaque into Graties streete, and at fuch a signe enquire for Maifter White.

The fellow finding his bill subscribed, (and hoping now to light vpon some cheate) made haft the fame night, & came to Ma. Whites Chamber: Sir (faith hee) I perceiue your Worship wants a feruant, and I am the party whose byll it hath pleaded you to subscribe, and would be glad to take any paines with a good Maifter to please him. O fayes Ma. White
both from Heauen and Hell.

White art thou he? Marry it is truth, I would giue entertainement to a young fellowe that woulde be dilligent and trufthy. If it please you Sir, (answered the party that meant nothing but deceite) I will finde you suerties for my trueth
and good behauiour. Thou sayest well (sayes Ma. White,) but trust me, I like thy lookes well, mee thinkes thou haft a
good honest face: but tel me if thou wilt be with me, I must
haue thee immediatly.

Sir, answere the other, if it please you to giue me leaue
till the Morning, that I might fetch some few things that I
haue to shift me withall, I will then attend your Worshyp.
Very well (says Mr. White,) thou maist doo so, and till then
farewell.

Heere was now a Maister and a man well met, for the
Maister meant to vse his man but to serue his turne for a
poynct of cofonage, and the man meant to vse his Maister, til
he might finde oportunity, to runne away with his purfe or
some other of his apparrell, as he had doone before with ma-
ny others. But according to appointment, in the Morning
trufthy Roger came, and was receiued of hys Maister, who
now with his man at hys heele, frequented his freend Ma.
Blacks Chamber for a day or two, and the one of them could
not be without the others companie, but maister Black muft
dyne with maister White at his Chamber, and Ma. White
muft suppe wyth maister Blacke in his Chamber: but the se-
quell was, maister White with his seruant attending of
hym, walking into Cheapside, and lighting into my shoppes,
demaunded of my seruants where their Maister was, they
told him that I was within, & that if it pleased him to haue
any thing with me, they would call me. Yes marry would I
(sayes he,) I pray you call him, for I wold speake with him.
One of them telling me that there was a Gentleman in the
shoppes that would speake with me, I came downe, and Ma.
White first curteously saluting me, began in this sort to dif-
course with me.

Sir, I am a Gentleman, belonging to such a Noble man
in the North parts of England, and in trueth the Steward of
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hys house, and having now some busines for my Lord heere in the Citty, which I am come to dispatch, I must disburse some mony vpon Veluets & other Silkes both for my Lorde and Lady, and I tell you trueth they are such wares as I haue little skyl to make choyce of: the matter why I was 5 desirous to speake with you, was but to commit that trueth to your selue which I durft not adventure with your man, and my request is, that you would deale so honestly with me, as I might not be deceived in the choyce of my stuffe, the benefit that you shall winne by your good vflage is, you shall receive ready mony for such wares as I meane at this present to buy, and you shall winne a customer, of whom heereafter you may take greater summes.

I hearing his smooth speeches deliuered vnder pretence of honesty, and seeming otherwise, both in the shew of his apparrell and the dutifull attendance of his man, that hee had beene (indeede) some Gentleman of reputation and good reconing, desirous so much the rather to win such a customer, I tolde him that I wolde not onely fitte him with as good stuffe as any man in London should shew hym, but also in the price I would vsse him with such reason, as in any other place they were able to affoorde him: the which promise (in very deede) I meant faithfully to performe.

Heere-withall, he drew a paper foorth of his pocket, wherein he began to reade: Item for my Lord, two yarde and a halfe of Blacke velvet, and two yarde and a halfe of Ruffet veluet, for two payre of Hose, with three yarde and a halfe of Black fattine, and as much of Ruffet for dublyting. Item for my Lady, fourteene yarde of the beft three pylede veluet for a loofe Gowne, with five yarde of Peach-coloured fatine for her Petticoate. Item for Mistris Jane & Mistris Fraunces, fourteene yarde of double turffed Taffita for each of the a Gowne: and twelue yarde of Coronation fatine for theyr Petticoates. To conclude he brought me out so many Items, that the prices of the wares amounted to 50. and od pounds, the which when I had forted him out, he began to find fault that they were too high rated, praying me to sette my lowest price,
both from Heauen and Hell.

price, for that he meant to pay ready money, and therefore if
I would not be reasonable, hee must be druen to seeke some
other shoppe. I very loath to drieue him away, pitcht him a
price so reaonable, as in truth I was not able better cheape
to affoord them: but hys mind being onely sette vpon colo-
nage, told me he durst not aduenture to gyue so much mony,
and thus away he went.

Within an houre after, hauing sent away his man,
which of purpose he had doone, he returned againe, and find-
ing me in my shop, he asked me if I would abate no money
in my stuffe: I thinking hee had beene some other where to
cheapen, told him I had rated them so reaonably, as I was
able to affoord them: and that I was sure, in anie shoppe
where he had since beene, he had not found the like wares for
the like price.

Nay truelie, (sayde hee) I haue not beene in any other
place to cheapen any such stuffe, but yet since I left your
house I haue disbursed fortie poundes in other things, that
I haue sent to my Lodging by my man: but I see you are
hard, and yet eth I haue dealt thus farre with you, I will
not forfake you, come there therefore and cutte me of the parcels.
The which accordingly I did, and laying them together, hee
desired me to cast the totall summe, the which as before I
haue sayd, amounted to fifty and od poundes.

Syr, (sayd hee) I must craue to borrow one of your ser-
uaunts, to helpe me home with thys stuffe, and hee shall
bring you your money: I haue sent mine owne man about
bufines, and haue no body heere nowe to helpe mee. Very
well Syr sayd I, my man shall waite vpon you, or doe any
other curtefie.

And thus willing one of my men to take vp the stuffe
and follow him, I deliuered him a note what mony he was
to receiue. Together they goe, til they came to his Cham-
ber in Graties streeet, where they found hys man remaining,
who (indeed) was somewhat perplexed in hys mind, becaufe
there was nothing there of hys Maisters, that was woorth
the carrying away, vnlesse he should haue taken the sheetes
from
from the bedde, but that he deferred, hoping shortly to lyght of a better cheate. But Ma. White demaunded of his man, if Maister Black had not beene there since his comming into the Chamber? who answered him no, neither had hee seene him all that day.

Maister White with that seemed as though he began to be angry, and willed his man presently to haft to his Chamber, and to will him withall speede, to bring away the two hundred pounds y he was to receiue, or at the leaft to bring one of them with hym immediatly, for that hee was to pay the greatest part of it to one that staid in hys Chamber for it. Away went hys man, and in the meane time Ma. White entertained my man in this manner. He asked him if he had any acquaintance with fome Goldsmith in the row that was his freend, and would vfe him well in the buying of a Chaine and a payre of Bracelets, and not to exact too much of him for the fashion. My man told hym, that he was well acquainted with two or three that would deale very reasonably wyth hym.

Hee seemed to gyue my man great thanks, and told him, that fo soone as hys man was returned, and that he had payd hym his money, he would himfelfe goe backe with hym and buy them. Hys owne man in thys meane space, was come to Maister Blacks Chamber, whom hee founde within, provided for the purpose, and was as busie with a Standishe, a great many of papers lying before hym, and a whole fette of Counters in hys hand, as though he had beene casting vppe of as huge summes as the King of Spayne receiueth from the Indyes. He had likewise lying before hym, a great bagge full stuffed, making shewe as if it had beene a great bagge of mony: the sight whereof gaue the Messenger so good an appetite, that he wished the bagge and hymfelfe tenne myles out of the place. But dooing hys Maisters message, maifter Black answered hym that he was so full of preffent busines, that he could not ftirre foorth from hys Chamber, but (fayth he, the money thou feest where it lyeth, and if he will come hymfelfe, or fend fome other to tell it and receiue it. Why

Syr
both from Heauen and Hell.

Syr (sayde the other) if you please to deliuer me the money, I can carry it. Yea (sayes Maister Black) but your Maister I perceiue is in such haffe, as hee would be offended if you should stay the telling of it, but goe your wayes to him and tell him what I haue saied, and then let him chosse whether he will come or send, the money is heere ready for him, away goes this companion, comforting him with the assured hope, that the carrying of this bagge would haue lighted to his lot, which if it had, he ment to haue giuen them all the flyp, or his cunning should haue sayled him: but comming to his Mai-fter, hee tolde him that Maister Black was so busie in his Chamber casting vp of accounts, that he could not come, but Syr (saide he) the money I did see lying vpun the Table rea-dy for you, and he would haue deliuered it vnto me, but that I feared my long stayeing in the telling of it might haue off-fended you.

Why then (saide Maister White) goe your waiues backe agayne, and I will intreate this good fellow to goe with you, (meaning by my man) to whom he further saied: I pray thee my good friende doe so much as goe with my man, and first pay your selfe according to your note, and helpe him then to tell out the rest, for I thinke his skiill will scarce serue him to tell so much money, and drawing out of hys pocket, a payre of gold weights, which he deliuered to my man, he sayd, and I beseech you if any part of his payment be in gold, see that it be neither crackt nor craied, and that it carries weight, and I pray you in your comming backe againe with my man, doo so much as call in heere, and I in the mean time will dispatch a little busines, and will by that time be ready to goe with you vnto the Goldsmythes rowe, where I must craue your helpe for the buying of this Chayne and Bracelets. My man suspecting no manner of deceit, went a long with hys man: but comming to Maister Blacks Chamber, there was no body to be founde, neyther coulde any of the Seruants of the House, saie whither hee was gone, they sawe him goe foorth but a little before their comming in, but whi-ther he went they could not tell; whereupon, they both toge-geth-

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ther returned backe againe to certifie Maifter White: but comming to his Chamber, he was likewise gone, and had carried away all the fame stuffe which my Seruant had left with him: my man beginning but nowe to suspect, when it was too late, immedeiatly caused the Officers to lay holde of Maister Whites man, and hee was carried directly to the Counter, where hee beganne to curse the time that euer hee mette with such a service, confessing that hee had coofoned many Maysters before, but nowe hee had met with a Maiifter that had a little ouer-reached him. But I vpon my mans returne, came to the places where they had beeene lodged, and made what inquiry I could, but there was no body that had any manner of knowledge of them, for they came thether not aboue foure or fiue dayes before, making shewe that they were newe come foorth of the Countrrey, and that the Carryers were not yet come with theire Trunckes and apparell, and during the time of their aboade, had never spent peny in the house, for meate, drinke, nor lodging, which made them protest, it shoulde bee a warning vnto them, what guesstes they receiued againe fo long as they kept house, and heere was all the remedy that I could haue, but in the ende I had intelligence of many other like coosonages, they had committed in the Cittie, and the parties were well knowne to bee Maister Velvet breeches & Maister Silke stockings, two counterfeit Gentlemen, that to maintain their brauery, practised such deceits, and would not stick many times to rob by the high way: for the Varlet comitted to the Counter, whom I could no waies charge with any practise towards mee, I released him freely, but for some other villainies which before he had committed to others, and by himselfe confessed, he was whipped at a Cartes arfe, and after burnt through the eare, and so commanded to auoyde the Cittie.

Thus much (as it hath pleased you to command me) I haue truely signified, what knowledge I haue had of thys Gentleman, Maister Velvet breeches.

S. Peter standing vp, faide: Velvet breeches, thou haft heard

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heard what hath beene auouched against thee, and I wonder howe thou durft prefume to prefent thy selfe in this place, knowing the guiltinesse of thine owne conscience: but I fee thou art shamelesse, and for such persons as thou art there is an other place prepared, to the which thou muft depart, for heere thou mayft not bide: then speaking to Cloth breeches he laied, and for thee Cloth breeches, of whom I haue heard so good report, thou maist seperat thy selfe from thy two companions, & enter into that bliffe, where thou shalt find a happy reward for an honest life; and thus as hee was (by feeming) ready to depart, he espyed where one was comming alone by himselfe, within a little distance, whom S. Peter perceyuing to be a straunger, stayed his comming, and then speaking vn- to him, he demaunded of him what he was: who aunswered, that he was a poore Yorkefyre man, a Brick-layer by his occupation, and one that had truely laboured for his lyuings all the dayes of his life: and (fayde he) our Maifter Vicar hath many times tolde vs, that if we get our lyuings honestly with the sweat of our browes, wee shall goe to heauen, and there we hold haue such peace, such quyet, such joy, such com- fort, such pleasure, and fo many God morrowes, I cannot tel what, but (of his words) I haue had but an ill-fauoured iour- ney hether, and what I shall find I cannot tell yet.

S. Peter seeing his simplicite, sayde, why then my freind come and followe me, and tell me heereafter howe thou likeft of the place.

The fellowe haftily replyed, saying: I pray sir let mee first aske you a question, doo ye to let any women come into Heauen amongst you?

Why not (saide Sainct Peter) what should make thee to doubt of that?

Why then I pray sir (fayde the other) did there not a woman come hether about a fix weekees a goe, with a blear eye, a snottie nose, a blabber lippe, a stincking breath, her voyce was very thrill, and her speach thicke and short.

But how doost thou call her name (fayde S. Peter) whom thou haft described, with so many louely tokens?

Her

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Her name (faide the other) is called Margery Sweete, but yet more oftner called by the name of Mannerly Margery.

Why she is in heauen (faide S. Peter) and if thou haft any thing to say to her, thou mayst there finde her?

Mary God bless me from thence (faide the other) if she be there, I knowe her fashions too well, to come any more where she is, she was my wife, and I was married to her sixteene or seuentene yeeres, and I faith all heauen would be too little for her and mee, and if we should once meete againe, but I am now ridde of her, and I hope I will keepe mee so, she shal not cast it in my teeth, that I was so far in loue with her to follow her, as she hath many times done: telling me, that if I had not beene she might haue had a Minstrell, that would haue got more money in a weeke with his Fiddle, than I could get in a moneth, with laying of Brick.

S. Peter, with the rest of the company, hearing the mad disposition of the fellowe, departed, leaving behinde him, my selfe, Veluet breeches, and this Brick-layer, who forsooke to goe into heauen because his wife was there; you may easily geffe, Veluet breeches and I were perplexed with sorrowe enough, but it was too late owne for vs to bethinke our selues what we should haue done, and rested onely for vs to determine what we must doe, & the further wee found our selues bereaued of all possibilitie, to recouer agayne what wee had lost, the neerer approached the horror of our griefe and torment: but we had receiued our finall sentence, and there was no place longer for vs to stay in, the comfort that was left vs, was to see if wee could finde means to gette into Purgatorie, hoping there to finde some releafe, by the prayers and charitable deuotions of good people, and with this resolution we set forward of our journey: the Brick-layer outaking vs, desired vs to accept of hys company, protesting that he would be a partaker of our fortunes, whatfoeuer did betide vs.

Veluet breeches demaunded of him what was his name: The other tolde him that before he was marryed, they called him Ruffling Richard, but after that he was marryed, they neuer
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neuer vfed better addition than playne Dick. Truely friend Richard (faide Velvet breeches) me thinkes you are too plain, and more simple, to forfake heauen because your wife is there. I pray you fir (faide Richard) were you euer married?

Yes mary was I, (sayde Velvet breeches) but what of that? I doo not vnderstand you faide Richard) for I demaund of you, if euer you had a wife? And I tell thee I had a wife, (faide Velvet breeches) why doost thou aske me that? Good Lord (faide Richard) I neuer heard a wife man make so foolifh an aunfwere, for I aske you if you were marryed?

and you say yes: and when I demaunde if euer you had a wife, you aunfwere, I mary had I, and what then? And doost thou call that a foolish aunfwere (faide Velvet breeches) what, wouldft thou haue mee say, yes fooftooth?

No fir, no, (faide Richard) but I will teach you some wit how to aunfwere to such a question; when a man dooth aske you if you have a wife, you must say, yes I thanke God, or, yes I cry God mercy, for so a man shall directly vnderstand you: for if you say, yes I thanke God, by that we may vnderstand you have a good wife, for the which you are bound to thanke God highly, because fewe men dooth happen of the like: but if your aunfwere be, yes I cry God mercy, Sub intelegitur, such a wife as mine was, and then you would neuer haue accounted mee simple, to leave heauen to fhuone her companie, because a man shall liue more quietly amongst all the diuellles of hell, than it is possible for him to doo, that lights on such a wife.

Hearing these plesaunt speeches in this manner deliuered by Richard, I could not choose but smile, notwithstanding my caufe of grieue: and taking it to bee a benefit of fortune, that had vouchsafed to fauour vs with the company of this merry conceited Brick-layer, whereby to beguile our pensiue thoughts with his plesaunt discourses, in this our tedious trauell. I questioned with him of his wife, what shee was when hee married her, whether a widdowe or a mayde, by what meanes shee came acquainted with her, and howe shee became so vnruely. Richard in this fort began to discourse.
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When I was young (faide he) I was as hansome a fellowe, as any was in the parifh where I was borne: and for my valour, I durst haue trauelled into any Gentlemans Buttery, when all the Barrels had beene full, without either sword or dagger about me: for my resolution, if I had once gotten vnnder a maydens Chamber windowe, I would never haue started, till they had emptied a Camber pot on my heade: for my courage, I durst haue gone into any baudy house, and woule haue come out agayne as honest a man, as when I went first in: for my credit, I might haue runne on the skore for fix pottes, wyth any Alewife that kept house within five myles where I dwelt: for my qualitie every manner of way, I had the preheminence amongst all the youthes that were in our quarters, for at May-tyde, who was the ring-leader for the fetching home of a May-pole, but I: at Mid-summer, I was chosen the Sommer Lorde: at euerie Bridall, who must daunce with the Bryde, but Ruffling Richard: Thus for a pleafant life, the Cunjiable of the Parifh liued not more merrily than I, and for my reputati-
on, I was almoft as much reuerenced as our Church-war-
dens: but, as the stoutest Stond of Ale, at laft is set a tilte, and the fatteft Goose comes sooneft to the spitte; so, my former fortunes were drawne to their latest date, and my prime of pleasures concluded with mishappe: but oh loue, O cruel loue, that waft the first frunte to my felicities: But who can resist loue, if it be once crept into the bottome of a mans belly? O what a rumbling it makes in his guttes, and howe it bethrobs him about the heart: and see nowe the sequel of my mishap. I fortuned to be at a Sheepe-shearing, where I met with Margery, she that was my wife, in a fine red petticoate, with damaske uper bodies, a white apron before her, & upo her head a broad felt hat, with a braue braunch of rosemary sticking in her bosom, appointed amongst her rest with a payre of sheeres, to helpe sheare Sheep, and I hauing brought forth a lusty young Ramme, would haue laid him in her lap, but she refusing to take him, said vnto mee: now good friend

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friend Richard if you loue mee, bring mee none but poulde sheep, for of al things in the world, I cannot away with these hornded beastes. When I heard these milde words, thus gently spoken, & howe kindly she pronounced this sentence (Good friend Richard if you loue me) O heauens (thought I) what a sweete charme is this: then noting her modesty, that shee could not abide the sight of a hornded beast, I began to thinke with my selfe, how happy might that man be accounted, that could light of such a wife, & hauing but a little thus giue scope to mine own affectiøs, Loue, that had his tinder box ready to strike fire, by this time had set my fanfie of such a flame, that not longer able to endure the heate without a cup of Sack, I faide vnto her; Margery, your manner of phrase hath wonderfully troubled mee, for in your firft speeches you call mee your good friend Richard, and then you come in with a doubtfull demaund, in these words, (if you doe loue me) as though I could bee your good friende and yet did not loue you: but Margery, fith you haue popt mee such a doubfull question, if you and I were alone by our felues, I would poppe you such an aunswere, that you shoulde well find that I loued you, and that heereafter you might leave out your if, and say, Richard affe you loue me.

With these words pretily castinge her head at one side, she gaue me such a learing looke, that might as well haue daunted me with dispaire, as giuen mee comfort & hope of grace: for the one of her eyes was bleard, and seemed as though she wept, the other was a pretty narrow pinckeney, looking euer as though she smylde, so that in her very countenance at one instant, you might behold pleasure and paine, pitty and rygor, curtesie and crueltie, loue and disdayne: and then wyth a sweete voyce, lyke one that were askinge an almes, shee sayde.

Richard, if you loue mee as you faye, your loue shall not bee loft, but men are so crafty nowe a dayes before they are married, that they will make a mayde beleue they loue her, tyll they haue gotte vppe her bellie, and then they will not sticke to denye their owne children, and [ 31 ]
and that makes women when they be once married, to play their husbands such a cast, that they shal not knowe their own children: but if your loue be no such loue Richard, you shal not finde me vnkinde. When I heard the widsom of the wench, it made my pulses so to beate, that I had thought my 5 codpiffe point would haue fallen a funder: but for aunfwere I faide.

Margery, your sober speeches so wisely deliuered, together with your sweet countenance so louely placed, hath so prouayled with your good friend Richard, that for the better confyrmation of my loue, receiue here this token, as a pledge of my good will: and taking then a two peny pece which I had in my purfe, I bowed it and gaue it to her, the which when she had receyued, she fald.

Well Richard, nowe I doo account you as mine owne, and at night when my Mother is gone to bed, if you will come home, we will there talke farther of this matter: & for your welcome, I will bestowe of you a meffe of Creame.

Margery (faide I) looke you keepe your promise, for I wil be there, and becaus you will be at so much cost with a meffe of Creame, I will bring with mee a peny worth of spycakes: And although we had thus referred ouer farther speeches till our next meeting, yet during the time that wee remayned there in place, O how many amorous glaunces and louing countenances there passed still too and fro betweene vs: but at night my appointed time being come, thether I went, and Margery was at the windowe watching for my comming, who hauing once espied mee, she opened the doore, where shee receiued mee with such a sweete kisse, as if her breath had been lately perfumed for the purpose, whose dainty smell was as sauery, as if it had beene a red herring that had beene newly roasted: her lovely lippes pleafant and soft, like a locke of wooll that was but then come out of the faeme bafket: but should I tel you of all the other loue tricks that passed betweene her and me that night, I might either oppreffe your stomack to thinke of it, or otherwife perhaps make you ashamed to heare it: but let thys suffyce, before I departed
both from Heauen and Hell.

departed, our marriage day was appointed, and Margery in
time made her Mother acquainted with the matter, who no-	hing misliking of her Daughters choyce, gave her her ble-
fing, with many other good helps to furnish forth her bridall
5 day, the which when time had drawne to be solemnized, and
that the lustie youtnes of the Parrish were gathered toge-
ther to goe with vs to Church, & the young Damofels were
flocked on a heape to waite on the Bride, attending her com-
ming forth. The good old woman her Mother, who had been
euer chary of the louely Chickin her daughter, and euen at
the very inftant when we were ready to goe to Church, fhee
was fcooling of her with this exhortation.

Margery, (fayd fhe) the day is nowe come for the which
you haue fo much longed after, it is twenty yeeres agoe since
15 you first wished for a Husband, and byr Lady daughter you
were then feauenteene or eyghtene yeeres of age, so that at
this prefent you want not aboue two or three of forty: nowe
if wit went by yeeres, you are olde enough to be wife, but I
being your Mother, besides my many yeeres which might
20 aduaunce my skil, so I haue buried foure severall husbands,
(the heauens be praising for it) which hath fo much the more
confirmed my experience in the dispositions of men, and can
the better judge of their naturall inclinations: and by all
that I haue gathered by mine owne profe and practife, I
25 haue found it still by tryall, that the fantasies of men, are e-
ermore beft fitted with the follies of women. But leauing
gereralities, and to come to fo much as concerneth but thy
selfe, that art now to be married to a husband, who in refpecSt
of his age thou mighteft be his Mother: and couldeft thou
30 now but consider, what a comfort it is for an olde Woman,
to be louingly embraced by a youg man, O daughter daugh-
ter, thy mothers mouth begins to water, but with the verie
imagination to thinke of the pleafure, and therefore happie
maieft thou deeme thy selfe, that art fo likely to enjoy it.
35 But heere is now a great piece of discretion to be vsed,
for as age conceiueth such contentment with the societie of
fresh and pleafant youth, fo youth will quickly fall a loathing

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of cold and crooked age, if the parties be not wise to enforce that by arte, that they are otherwise daened by nature: which is, to shew a youthfull disposed minde, how farre fouver they be spent in yeeres: for it is a tyred lade that cannot cry weehee, and a sorry Mare that cannot wag her taile. 5

Thou art nowe to consider the inequalitie of the yeeres betweene thy felfe and thy husbande, and therefore a little to whet him on to make him to like of thee the better, it shal not be amifie for thee to fhew some youthfull conceite, especially being thy bridall day, it is tollerable for thee a little to play the wanton.

I can tell thee daughter, men are well pleased to see theyr Wiues youthfully gyuen, and there is nothing ſ doth more delight them, then to see them wantonly disposed: and thys is the meane to winne your husbands liking, and to drawe him to ſ appetite, which your many yeeres might quenche: remember therefore what I haue told you, and fayle not for your aduantage, to fhew some youthfull tricke.

Margery making a mannerly curtfie, faid: Yes forfooth Mother, I will remember all that you haue told me. 20

By this time all things being prepared, to Church we went, where the Prieft hauing once doone his office, we returned againe, and were accompanied with our neighbours and frendes that went home to dinner with vs: for whom there was prouided Fyrmentie and Minced Pyes, besides 25 other good meate both rofte and fodde: the which being all ready, Margery was placed at the vpper end, between two of the moft fubftantiall honest men, according to the cuftome of the Parrifh, and my felfe likewise, (as the manner was) did waite that day at the Table, with a napkin hanging on my shouder.

But O what a comfort it was vnto me, to see how dain-tily Margery fedde of euery dish that came neere her, and how luftily she laid about her for her victuales And (thought I) if it be true as some will fay, that a good feeding Horse 35 will goe through with his labour, then I warrant if I gyue Margery her meate, I neede not feare to ryde her where I lyft.
both from Heauen and Hell.

lyft. But Dinner beeing almost at an ende, and the Cakebreade and Cheefe ready to be sette on the Table, the good old Woman her Mother, who had likewise beene very busy that day in taking paynes to fill the pottes, and to carry away emptie dishes, beganne to cheere vppe the companie, bidding them welcome, and telling them she was sorry there was no better cheere for them.

Margery presently vpon the sight of her Mother bethought herselxe what she had to doo, and calling now to minde what lesson she had gyuen her, and howe she had willed her that day to shewe some youthfull tricke, thereby to purchase the fauour of her husband, and picking out at that very instant a fitte opportunity to performe it, she called to her Mother in thys youthfull manner, Munna, vppe and cacke. The olde Woman hearing her Daughter, sayd: Why how now Margerie? Fie for shame, will you speake bugges wordes? Could you not pretily haue faide: I pray you Mother haue me vppe to picke a Rose, nay nowe I fee you play the wanton too much.

Then speaking to the company that sate by, she sayde: I pray you beare with my Daughters childishnes, for I know it is the Firmentie that dooth so much anoy her, for euen from her very infancie, if she had taken any spoone meate, she was still troubled in the bottome of her back-side with a great ventofitie.

The neighbours seeing the clenlinesse of the wench, did ever after that call her by the name of Mannerlie Margerie. Thus much to answere your former demand concerning my wife, whether she were a widdow or a mayd: by the circumstances wherof, you may perceive she was a maid, although a very old one, and yet not so far spent in yeeres but she was able to play a youthfull trick. And now for the rest ye concerneth but the tragedy of mine own mis-fortune: to signify the matter at large, would be tedious for you to heare, & fearfull for me to declare, the very memory wherof were enough to make me tremble, but that I know I am farre enough from her that was the minifter of my woe.

E 2.  

Let
Greenes newes

Let thy suffe, within a very fewe Monethes after I was married, Margery beganne to grow ielous, for if shee had once beene thirsty, and that I wanted money to sende to the Ale-house, she wold tell me that I spent away my thrist amongst some other young Queanes: heere began our first 5 falling out, and to set forward the matter, there dwelt at the very next house by me, a Tayler, who had a wife whose was sure once a day to measure the breadth of her husbands shoulders with his owne mete-yard.

Margery and this Taylors wife grew to be acquainted, and amongst other conclusions it was agreed between them, that to prevent diseases, and to preferue them in health, they would euery morning next their harts, take a phisical dyet, which was, a full quarte of the quintinfence drawne from an Ale-tub, warmed by the fire, with a grated Nutmeg, halfe a yarde of Black-pudding rosted on a grydyron, a quantitie of salt, with a measure of fine Wheate-flower, first made into paste, and after baked in a loaf of breade: these ingredients, after they had incorporated altogether, they would afterwards lightly fast till noone. And they founde such a commoditie in vsing this Medicine, that if the Tayler and I had not euery morning giuen them mony to pay for the simples, it had not beene good for vs to haue come that day after in their sights: for the Taylors wife, shee could handle a mete-yard or a cudgel passing nimbly, but Margery had gotten the practife of all manner of weapons. For besides that she had ye se of her nayles, which she employed many times about my face, she could likewise handle a payre of bellowes about my pate, a payre of tongues a thwart my shins, a fire-brand sometimes should flye at my head, a ladle full of scalding liquor other-whiles in my boosome, a three footed stoole, a pot, a candlesticke, or any other thing what focuer came next her hand, all was one to her: and shee had learned such a dexteritie in the deliverie, that they should haue come whirling about mine eares.

In the ende, deuising with my selfe a remedy for these mischieues, I found the meanes to be made the Cunstable, hoping [ 36 ]
both from Heauen and Hell.

hoping that mine Office woulde haue beene a protection to me for a yeere, and that she durst not haue striken her Maie-
sties Officer. But within a day or two, it was my fortune to hit on a pot of strong Ale, which she had sette vp in a corner 5 for her owne drinking, and I (beeing thirsty) gaue it such a soupe, that I left very little behind. The which afterwarde when she came to seeke for, and founde her flore so pittifullie impaired, against my comming home at night, she provided her selfe of a wafter, and I was no sooner entred the doores, 10 but foorth she comes with her cudgell in her hand, and wyth such a terrible countenaunce, that were able to affright anie man that shoulde behold it.

Richard, sayd shee, I had thought you would never haue gyuen me occasion to be ielous of you, but now I see you loue 15 a cuppe of strong Ale better then you loue me, and do you not thinke then that I haue great reason to be displeased wyth your vnkinde, and I was no sooner entred the doores, but foorth she comes with her cudgell in her hand, and wyth such a terrible countenaunce, that were able to affright anie man that shoulde behold it.

Margery, sayd I, take heede what you doo, for you know 20 that I am her Maiesties Officer, and heere I charge you in the Queenes name, that you holde your handes. What Maister Cunstable, said she, haue you gotten an enchaunt-
ment for me, or doo you thinke that your charme shal ferue to excuse you? No sir no, for nowe you haue deserued double 25 punishment: first, you being an Officer if you offer wrong, your punishment must be fo much the more greeuous, and is it not meere iniuste to take that which was not prouided for you: next, you haue deserued to be well punished, for the little reuerence you haue vpved in the execution of your office: 

30 commaundinge me in the Queenes name to hold my handes with your cap on your head, nor vsing any other duty or re-
uerence: but Maister Cunstable, I will teache you howe to vse an Office, and with that she let flye at my heade, at my shoulders, at my armes, and still she would cry, remember 35 hereafter how you doo your Office, remember your duty to the Queene, remember when you commaund in her Mai-
esties name, that you put off your cap, and doo it with reuere-

E 3
Greenes newes

rence: and such a number of other remembrances she gaue mee, as I thinke there was neuer poore Constable before nor since, so instructed in an office as I was. To tell you of many other like remembrances which at other times shee bestowed on me, I shold but trouble you, but the conclusion is, I am now ridde of her, and they say that the distance between Heauen and Hell is great, but if they were a funder five times further then they be, if I might understand where shee were in the one, I woulde neuer rest till I were gotte to the other.

Richard hauing thus discoursed the whole course of hys life, of his lyking, of his loue, of his pleasure, of his paine, although the subject of the matter were scarce worth the hearing, yet considering the place whether we were going, it kept a fitte Decorum with the iourny we had in hande: and as the tale it selfe was tedious, so by this time we were ouer passed a long and wearisome way: the best commoditie, the tract was large and spacious, and still descended downe a Hill into the bothome of a Valley, glooming and melancholy to behold, where we might espie one with a Waxe Candle lighted in his hand, who was walking by himselfe, prying and tooting in euery corner, and many times stumbling, and ready to fall where the way was plaine and smooth, that we tooke him to be some blind man that had lost his way, wher-at we began to wonder what he shold doo with candle light, that could not see to guide his steppes at high noone dayes. But we keeping on our way, were drawn so neere him that we might perceiue he had the use of his eyes, yet hee neuer perceived vs, till I saluted him, and bade him God speede. Whereat he suddeineely started, as if he had beene halfe in a fright, but when he had awhile taken the gaze on vs, hee demanded of vs how farre we had come that way. I tolde him that we were come from Heauen, and that we were going to seeke out the place of Purgatory, desiring hym that if he were acquainted in those quarters, that he would direct vs the ready way to goe thither.

Alas Gentlemen (said he) that is the place that I haue beene
both from Heauen and Hell.

been seeking for this long Moneth together, and I thinke there is no corner betwene thys and Hell that I haue lefte vnsearched: and were it not for thys holy Candle, whose vertue is able to defend me from the inchauntment of anie spirit or deuill, I would thinke I were Goblyn lead, I haue wandered so farre about, euermore hitting into daungerous high wayes that leadeth to Hell, and coulde neuer finde out the path that should bring me to Purgatory.

Truely my freend (faid I) if I be not deceiued, the lyght which you carry in your hand (wherin you repose your great confidence) is the very meane of your mistaking, & hath so much dimmed your sight and dazeled your eyes, that you cannot see the right way, but makes you thus to run flumbling about, and to wander to and fro, that you your selfe knowes not whether, I would wish you therefore to leaue it, and you shall see so much the better howe to direct your steps. What said he, would you haue mee leaue my holy Candle, marry God and good S. Frauncis blesse me out of that mind: but if you be of that Religion, I would be forry to tarrie in your company, vnlefse I might induce you by perfwasion to thinke more reuerently of holy things.

Truely (fayde I) a lyttle inducement shal suffise to per-swade me to any reasonable matter, and good counfell is euermore to be embraced, but especially at this instant, my case being now as it is.

Why then (said he) I will tell you a true tale, wherein you shall perceiue the wonderfull effect that Holy water hath in working against the deuill, and this it is. There was not not long since, a very proper young woman, that was pos-sessed of a fiend, who did so torment & vexe her, that although she would not goe to any Sermons, nor would euer receive the Communion, yet she would sometimes goe to Church, and say her Pater nofster in English, and now and then eate flesh on Fridaies, and would commit many other herefies, which thys deuill tempted and led her to doe. But you shall see now, there was a good honest holy Priest that was a Se-minarie, who beeing in place where thys Woman was, and
and lyking her very well, did begin to pitty her cafe, and of meere denotion prickt forward by a fanctified loue, he deu-
ised with himselfe, how he might fully reclaime her to the ho-
lie Church: and hauing attempted many practises in vaine, and finding that neyther perfwasion, charme, nor any man-
er of conjuration, was able to remoue the wicked f pyrite
from her, his laft helpe was, hee gaue her a glifter of holie
Water, the which hee had no sooner put vp into her bodie, but the deuil immediatly forfooke her, that the after became
a moft Catholique vefsell, and was able to reafon fo pro-
foundly in that Religion, that but with a little blaft of her
back fide, she wold haue made the proudest Protestant that
fìoued next her to ftop his nose.

An other like miracle I am able to proteft of mine owne
knowledge, and this is it. There was a Gentleman that 15
is liuing at this present houre, whose name and dwelling
place if I lift I coulde deliuer: thys Gentleman had beene
married full out tenne yeeres, during which space he neuer
had iflue, although both himselfe and his wife were very de-
sirous to haue children. But it fell out that a holy Father 20
Iesuite was priuily harboured in thys Gentlemans house,
who feeing the Gentlewoman to be a lufty and well-lyking
wench to beare children, did minifter vnto her the holy fa-
crament of extreme vnction, anoyling her partes of genera-
tion with holy oyle, and laying the signe of the croffe ouer 25
her as fhe lay on her bed, and thys Gentlewoman for three
yeeres together that thys holy father lay in her houfe, had e-
uery yeere a childe: and therafter moft happy may thoes peo-
ple thinke themselues, that doth retaine and foffter fuch holie
guestes nowe in these dangerous tymes, if it were but to 30
haue theyr Wiues hallowed, and to be made hollie vefsels.

But if I shouulde heere enlarge further, what miracles
hath beene wrought, by Holie Water, Holy Candles, Holy
Ashes, Holy Oyles, Holie Lambes, and many other holy
Reliques, I knowe I shouulde minifter fo much contentment 35
to your conceite, as the pleafure would make you hartily to
laugh.

Sir,
both from Heauen and Hell.

Syr fayde I, your myracles are strange, and they may be true, but yet I am of opinion, that for the casting out of dianelles, the name of God is of greater authoritie, than a whole tubbe full of holy water, and for a woman to be made fruitefull in children, is likewise the blessing of God, and I doo thinke that for the attaynment of any thing that is good, it is rather to be requested in the name of the Creator, then otherwise to be sought for, by the meanes of the creature.

The other aunfwered againe, but men that bee of your Religion, are not able to looke into theyr owne errors: for if they were not wilfully blinde, they should finde it in common experience, that hee that will looke to preuaile in hys futes, shall sooner bee dispatched by the mediation of the Sainfts, than if he presumed to preferre his cause to GOD himselfe, and should finde more grace by the meanes of the creature, then if he requested in the name of the Creator: and because I would bee glad to confirme you the better, I will shewe you you an example.

Admitte nowe that your selfe were in a Princes Court, and had some fute, that might not onely concerne your own, but that it stretcheth so farre, as to the aduauement of Gods glory, the profite of the Prince, and the generall benefite of the whole Countrey. You are nowe to preferre thys fute: what, will you goe to the Prince himselfe? (who in this place representeth God) why you shall attende a longe while before you shall come to his presence, and then, although he be milde, affable, gracious, and full of clemencie, and in deede with as many royall vertues as appertayneth to a godly Prince, yet he will turne you of to some one graue Counfayler, or some other great personage that is about him, to looke into your caufe and to consider of it: (who in this place dooth represent the holy Sainfts, which muft bee your Mediator:) Now this Counfayler is so troubled with so many other affayyres, and such busines of great impor-
ance, that he hath no leyufure in the world to remember you: then must you ply his Secretary, or some other that is neere about him, and you come to him (whith your cappe in your hand

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hand and lowe courtefie) and say, I befeech you Syr remember my fute to your Maiftcr, I haue lyen long heere, and I haue spent all that I am able to make, and I pray you Syr euen for Chriftes fake, and for the tender mercy of God, get me an aunswere: (heere you come in the name of the Creator:) Nowe sir, I will (for example fake) make my selfe an aduerfe against you, and I will come to the fame partie, and say vnto him, Sir, I vnderstand that such a one (meaning you) hath prefented such a fute, and I befeech you Syr, euen as you loue an hundred Angels, (I come heere in the name of the creature) procure me your Mayfters lets against him, and let mee haue your affiftance for the stay of his fute: tell mee nowe your owne conscience, will not these visible creatures, glistering in this mans eyes, worke a quicker expedition, than the bare name of your invisible Creator but founding in his eares? I am sure you will neuer make question of the matter: for the very presence of an hundred angels but looking him in the face, will make him to enter into any attempt, yea, and sometimes to abuse his Maiftcr, be he neuer fo wife, be he neuer fo graue, or be he neuer fo honorable, and to make him by his information perhappes to commit some error.

Syr (faide 1) if the matter were worth the reasoning, I could easilie aunswere your fond comparifons, but I am not disposed to argue of these matters, & wil therefore let them reste with this conclusion, that God is God, and onely good, & men are men, & no man without fault, nor free from offence. This is very true (answered Richard) for the Vicar of our parifh in a Sermon that he made on Midlent Sunday, did speake so much in Latine and sayde, Nemo sine briberi viuit: I re-member his words well enough, and brought so much of his Sermon away.

Richard had no sooner thus added his finatiue conclusion, but we might sodainly heare a loud & pitteous skrike, which by the shrilnes of the noife, seemed to be some womans voice, that was put into some feare, or offered some vviolence: and bending both our eyes and our steppes, towards the place.
both from Heauen and Hell.

from whence the noice refounded to our cares, we might see a woman hastily comming towards vs, with a truffle or fardle vnnder her arm, to whom I faide; Good woman, it seemeth you shold be distrefsted, although I know not for what cause, 5 but say, what is the matter of this your hafty flight? Alas sir, (fayd she) as I was travellling towards hell, with certaine wares that I haue heere in my fardle, which I am sent with-all to shewe them to Proserpina: saft by heere in the high way, there encountered with mee the moft deformed and 10 yll-fauoured Monster, that euer I did fette myne eyes on, whose ougly countenaunce dyd so affright mee, that it maketh mee in this fort to retyre, not daring to holde on my course.

I pray thee goodwife (faide I) what wares shold they be, 15 that thou art carrying to hell? or dooest thou carry them to fell? or be they sent as a present?

Syr sayde she, I haue heere Perewigs of the newe curle, Roules, and other attyres for the heade of the new fashion, Ruffes of the newe fette, newe Cuttes, newe 20 Stitches, newe gardes, newe imbroyders, newe deuyfed French Verdingales, newe French bodyes, newe bumbafting, newe bolftering, newe vnderlayings, and twentie newe deuydes more than I haue nowe spoken of, which I am carrying to hell amongst the Ladies and Gentlewomen that are there, who when they lyued in the worlde woulde let slippe no fashion: and I am sure nowe they bee there, would be right glad of the fashions nowe in vse, both to see them and to haue them.

In good faith (faide I) they be wares fit for fuch customers, 30 for from hell they came, and thether they will, there they were firft deuyfed, and therefore fitteft to serue that Market.

You are much deceuyed sir (fayd she) for I haue fashions heere that neuer a Lady nor Gentlewoman that is in hell, euer fawe the like, nor neuer a Curtsfan, or any other 35 ftrumpet that liued in the world, did euer weare the like, such perewigs, curled and firifled by art, such roules of hayre perfumed and platted by proportion, such ruffes as will aske one whole
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whole day to wash and starch, and an other daies labour but to pinne them in the fashion, that (alas poore women) they are faine to take great paynes to goe to the diuell: but I beseech you Gentlemen, if your occasions be not the greater, doo so much as conden mee a lyttle part of the way, tyll I bee 5 past this ill fauoured Monster that hath so affright me. We yeelding to her request, had not gone farre but we might discerne a most deformed creature, with a monstrous payre of hornes, growing from the uppermost part of his Fore-head, the tippes whereof turned round into his eyes, and growing there agayne into his head, had made him stark blinde, that he had no manner of sight; Our Companion so confidently perswaded in the vertue of his holy Candle, that he thought no spirite was able to hurt him, stepping forward sayde, In nomine Patris, what art thou that walkest in this fort, thus disturbing the High wayes.

The other aunswered, What I am thou mayst see very well, but howe I came to bee thus perplexed, that thou must vnderstand by a further cyrcumftaunce. Knowe then that I was a Myller, sometimes dwelling in Kent, where I kept a 20 Mill, which (as it feldome tymes wanted water, so at no time it wanted grift) for that it had the custome of the Countrie, at the leaft fiue or six myles about: It fortuned that a very wealthy and substantial Farmer, dwelling two or three miles from me, sent a sacke of Corne to my Mill by his daughter, which came on horse-backe to haue her corne grownd, intending to haue gone backe againe with it before night: which might very well haue beene done, sauing that wee Myllers are tyed to this custome, which is, when any young women dooth fortune thus to come to the Mill, wee vfe as 30 well to take toule of themselues, as of their sackes: and I, fixing mine eyes vpon the wench, seeing her to be a very hansome young Mayden, not aboue nineteene or twentie yeeres of age, was very loath to let her escape toule-free, and therefore set downe a plot howe I might acquaintance her with our 35 custome: the which I could not by any meanes perfourme, but by making her to stay all night, wherefore I purposly put
both from Heauen and Hell.

put my Myll out of temper, and spent all the after noone in repaying and trimming of my Myll, and brought her corne to the hopper, whose the day was so far passed, that it was not possible it could bee ground off, tyll it were very late in the 5 night; But the young Mayden seeing her Corne vpon the Myll, and desirous to have it home with her, stayed with the better will, the which being once ground off, notwithstanding the euening was very farre spent, yet shee would haue departed home: but I, pretending much good will to her Father, tolde her that if a dogge of her Fathers, were in my house at this time of the night, I would not shutte him forth of the doores for his Maffers sake, much lesse your Fathers daughter: wherefore I will intreate you to stay this night in my house, and you shall have a homely bed, and a cleane 15 paire of sheetes, with such fare as I hope shall content you, and for your horse, hee shall likewise bee turned into a good pasture fau of my Mill, and in the morning all things shall be ready for you to depart so soone as you please.

The maiden being well persuaded by my faire speeches, 20 seemed content, and I went to my wife, & tolde her that for as much as my Mill had beene out of temper all the day, I must fit vpppe all night to grind, willing her further to make ready a spare Chamber, for the young Maiden my Neighbours daughter: who had stayed so long for the grinding of her 25 Corne, that it was too late for her to goe home, & willed her, to better our supper with a capon or a dish of chickins, as she her seelle thought good; But my wife, who many times before had taken the true measure of my foote, and had picked out at her fingers enedes the whole drift of my pretence, 30 winking a little with one of her eyes, aanswerd smoothly, Husband all shall be done as you have willed: & although I had beene sufficiently instructed in this olde Axiome, which sayth, Trust not an olde queane, if she once begins to winke: yet by my wiuues smooth demeanure, I was free from all suf-

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and that we were called in to such cates as shee had provided, & we likewise having ended our supper, I told the young wench, that when she were disposed to take her rest, my wife should bring her to her Chamber, and wild my wife likewise at her owne leysure to get her to bed, for that I was to watch all night, that I might bee ready in the morning to serve my customers according to my promise: and thus leaving them twayne together, I departed about my busines; but, my wife that had conceiued the very depth of my deuife, lodged the mayde in her owne bed, and having but one other Chamber, which I alwayes referved for a friend, and where I thought the mayde should haue beene placed, there my wife stily & cunningly lodged her selfe: but I that was more doubtfull of mine owne fortune, than suspicious of my wiues pracie, perceyuing euery body to bee in bedde, did thinke it nowe high time to make tryall of my pretence, and conueying my selfe featy into the Chamber, and then comming to the bedde side (with a soft and lowe voyce) I beganne to perswade thys young Mayden (as I had thought) that shee shoulde not stande in doubt or feare of him who was come vnto her onely for good will, whom loue and liking had made bolde and hardie, to requete some curtesie and kindnesse at her handes, and heere-withall, throwing one of mine armes ouer her, I beganne to hunte after her lyppes, and to haue bestowed of her a louing kisse.

But my wife, whose cunning had servued her to traine me into this mistaking, could tell howe to behaue her selfe in the rest, to confirme mee in mine error: for, although she would render me no manner of speeches, whereby I might discouer her by her voice, yet in the rest of her demeanure she counterfeited so cunningly, such a kind of maydenly nyctie, that a man would rather haue taken her for some young ignorant puny, that had neuer dealt the cardes, than for an old beaten gamster, that knewe well enough howe to make the stakes: for although shee knewe what it was whereat I leuelled, and was most desirous to haue had me hit the marke, yet she delayed mee off with a counterfeit kinde of striuing, and
both from Heauen and Hell.

and would neuer yeelde, tyll seeming for want of breath shee was not able to reft, and then panting (as it were to take the ayre) shee seemed to bee overcome (as it were) by force: and I, that was not better able to discerne of Cats in the darke, but that they were all gray, feast my selfe with a fulsome repast, in feast of a daytie dish, for blinde conceit had gyuen mee an appetite to feeede on that dyet, which if I had seene, woulde quickly haue cloyed my stomacke: but hauing well satisfied my selfe, and that I was now at leysure to looke into mine owne fortune, and consider what perrill might ensue for a little pleasure past, if the wench shoulde fortune to complayne of that one nights lodging fortie weekes after, the which would not onely redounde to my great shame and reproch, but lyke enough to fall out to my wracke and vtter vndooing, her Father beeing an able and wealthye man, that woulde not let to seeke reuenge; to preuent these and other mischieves, I did bethinke me of this deuise.

I had a lufty young fellowe to my man, called Rafe, about the age of foure or fiue and twentie yeeres, whom I had left to fee to my Myll nowe in myne absence; this Companion I knewe woulde be pat for my purpose, and one I was sure that woulde neuer flynch, to spende hys fix pence at his drinke or his drabbe: and calling to minde an olde president, drawne from one of myne owne coate, I meane, from the Miller that had taught hys man to counterfeit so long, tyll hee was hanged vp in hys Mayfters roome, I determined with my selfe likewise, to make mine own man the instrument that should stand betweene mee and all future mischieves.

Heere-uppon sayning an occasion to goe looke to my Mill, and taking my leave for the instant with a kisle, I came where my man was, and questionning with him of many idle matters, amongst the rest I demaund of him how he lyked of the young mayden?

Mary Mayfter (sayde hee) I doo lyke so well of her, that I woulde thinke it a moft happie turne for men of

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our occupation, if all the diuelles of hell were such as she is, because there are very few Millers that doo vfe to goe to hea-
uen: and then if hell were no worfe furnifhved than with such, I wold not care if I did take my journey thethere-wards

to morrowe fo foone as it were day.

Why Rafe (sayd I) thou knoweft where she lyeth in the
guest Chamber, & what wilt thou giue me if I turne thee in
to her, and giue thee inftuction howe thou shalt behaue thy
selfe, that thee shall not refufe to render courtesie for thy
kindnesse. I coulde scarce make an ende of my wordes, but

my man, as if he had stayed too long, haftily anfwered.

Maifter, I haue nothing in the world, but a fheepe and a
Lambe, which (as you knowe) doo goe in the Mill clofe, per-
fourme your words, and I will giue you them both, and that
with all my heart.

I reioycing in mine owne conceit, to thinke howe kindly
I had coofoned my man, would needes clappe handes wyth
him for the better confirmanda of the bargaine: the which
beeing thus agreeede on betweene vs, I wylld him to goe in-
to the Chamber, and without any feare to get to the maydes
bed, and there to vfe no manner of speaches, but to worke all
his enterprifes, but onely by dumbe perfwafions.

But will you fee howe cunning was heere caught in his
owne nette: I had thought to haue coofoned my man, but he
kift me kindly for my acquaintance, and (according as I had
directed him) into the Chamber he went, where my wife in
the darke could no better dicerne betweene me and my man,
than I was able before to judge betweene her and the maid:
but he, vsing no wordes because I had fo inftucted him, and
she forbearing to speake for marring her owne Market, but
thus in sylence betweene them, I was coofoned on both
fides, for they agreeede fo well together, that I thinke they
were loath to part, for my man seemed to like fo well of hys
entertainment, that the day was ready to breake, before hee
would leaue his game. My wife on the other fide, in condi-
tion like vnto thofe, that when they haue sped well, cannot
keepe their owne counfaile: shee gat her felfe vp immediatly

after,
both from Heauen and Hell.

after, and then calling the young maiden, who had flept quietly all night, knowing nothing how matters had passed amongst vs, and the day light being by this time a little cleared vp, between my man and I we sette her vpon her horfe, with her sacke of meale vnder her: and she gyuing me harty thanks for my curtesie, departed thus towards her Fathers house.

Heere beganne Rafe and I againe to recreate our felues with the remembrance of our nights plearesure, I smild in my fleue to think how I had cosoned my man: my man laugh-ed to remember how he had deceiued the maide: and beeing thus together in the midst of our sports, in comes my Wife, seeming by her countenaunce to be as merry as the best, and taking me by the hand, she prayed me to goe in with her, I thinking she had somewhat to say, comming into the house, shee had prouided for my breakefaft a warme caudle dauntie made, with a couple of Chickins rosted, and stooode hote vppon the Table. I that fawe this extraordinary diet, meruailing what conceite was gotte into her head: asked her what myght be the cause of thys her suddaine kindnesse: she that lookt me in the face as wantonly as if she had come lately where the frolike had runne rounde about the house, aunswered me thus.

Byr lady husband you haue taken paynes to night, and I perceiue you are not yet so farre ouer fpent, but that you are worth the cherishing: you haue deserued a better breakefaft then thys: for he that hath watcht as you haue doone all night, had neede be well comforted in the morning. These suspicious words thus deliuered by my wife, brought mee well neere into the fitte of an Ague: but beeing desirous to be better satis-fied in her meaning, I said.

And what paynes haue I taken thys night, more then I haue doone at other tymes? I haue watched manie a night before thys, when I found no such kindnes at your hande in the morning.

Husband (said shee) how so euer you haue watched in times past, I know not, but this nights labor hath deserued no
Greene's newes

no leffe then a comfortable restoratiue, and in steed of *Potato* rootes, I haue made you a warme Caudle next your hart: be not ashamed man of that you haue done, for it was I that supplyed the young wenches place to night in the guest Chamber, and it was you that came thether and playde the propper man. But I thinke husband, how foeuer you haue ouer-reached me before, I haue cryed quittance with you to night. And nowe comfort your selfe whilest your meate is warme, plucke vppe your stomake and fall to your breakfast.

I that was not able with patience to endure her words, bursting out in choller, faide. The deuill take thee and thy breakefaft, for thou haft giuen me a breakfast and a dynner to, that will tick in my stomacke whilest I liue. And going my way in this chafe into my Myll, where my man perceiving my fuddaine paflion, demaunded of me the cause of my vnquietnes? Vilaine (faid I) thy selfe art the cause why I am thus perplexed, for thou haft lyne with my Wife: I Maister (faid he) you are much deceiued, and I protest I would not doo you so much wrong, for so much corne as wold fill the Hopper.

Thou haft done it (faid I) for she hath confess it vnto me, and it was she that did lye to night in the outer Chamber in the young wenches roome. That was more then I knew of (faid my man,) but sith it was so, I will haue my Sheepe and my Lambe againe, for the bargaine was betweene vs, that you should haue sent me in to the Maide, and I vpon thys condition, promised you my Sheepe & my Lambe, but sith you haue broke your promise, by Saint Anne I will not stand to my bargaine.

These speachses of thys varlet, dyd more vexe and grieue me then before: and yet I wift not how I should be reuenged, nor better remedy could I deuise, but after I had treated my sill, I commaunded the knaue to take his sheepe and his Lambe, and presently to gette him out of my seruice, nor neuer after to come within my doores, nor into any other place in my wiuers company.

Thys [ 50 ]
both from Heauen and Hell.

Thys gaule of griefe continually fretting and gnawing in my conscience, myght haue beene thought a sufficient punishment though Rigore hymselfe had pronounced the sentence: but my terrestrial penaunce not enough to appease the angry Goddes, they haue decreed thys final conclusion: that as I was the author of myne owne harmes by myne owne blindness, so mine owne hornes shall for euermore so grow in myne owne light, that beeing not able to discerne which way or how to direct my steppes, I should wander in this solitarry place, bereft of all other societie, and so to continue world without end.

The Woman that stoode by all thys whyle, and had eyuen attentiuue eare to thys discourse, striken as it hold seeme into some remorse, vpon what consideration I know not, but thus she sayd.

Alas poore Myller, if thy punishment be so greuous for a small escape ignorantly committed, woe is mee to be-thinke what shall betide to an infinite number ye are daile infecte with thys common calamitie, this horne-plague I meane, the generall sicknes of our time: a maladie that hath so much infecte both Citty, Towne, and Country, that there are few places free, which are not spiced heere & there, with this forked generation: amongst the which there be a number of honester Gentlemen, some of them my verie good frends and customers, whose hornes doth hang so much in theyr owne lights, that they are well contented to suffer theyr wiues to pranke themseleues vp in euery new fashion, whereby to set theseleues to sale, & to make open shew how lightly they are disposed: but the horne-plague shal neuer depart his house, that hath his wife so garishly inclined.

But alas for pitty, what shall become of a number of kind harted Wittoles, that will not onely be contented to hoode-winke themseleues from theyr Wiues adulteries, but also to become Bawdes and Brokers, yea and sometymes will not stickie to keepe the doores, whilst their Wiues shall bee within, playing the harlots wyth theyr customers.
Blame not me that am touched with some remorfe, for these be the people that I doe liue by, for what shoulde I doe with my new-fangled trashe, if there were not as lycencious Women to buy them? And why shoulde they deck themselves so Curtifan-like to the view of the world, but to manifest their vnchaft appetites, that they might be the rather desired of men.

The woman had no sooner ended these speeches, but she as suddainly burft out into such a vehement laughter, that for the time, she was not able to deliuer a word: but in the end, with much a doe, recoveringe the vs of her tongue, she sayd: Now truely I cannot chufe but laugh to think of my husbande, howe ill fauoured he will looke with such a payre of spectakles hanging ouer hys browes as thys Myller hath gotte.

Wee that stoode by, and were more mindfull to see an end of our trauailes then disposed to prolong the time in idlenes: I asked of the Miller if he did knowe where abouts the place of Purgatory was, or if he could giue vs any direction which way we myght gette thither, he answered thus.

My good Freendes, what soeuer you be, you shall understand, that thirtie yeeres and odde are already ouer passed sith I first frequented these infernall pathes, in which meane space, though I haue not been able to discerne mine owne footesteppes, yet by the reports of sundry trauailers that hath passed these waies, I haue learned thus much concerning Purgatory.

The persons that were the first founders of the place, were not perfectly sighted, but like as the Owle which cannot abide the light of the Sunne, flyeth euermore in y night, so those men, not able to endure that excellent brightnesse which is the onely true light to every perfect understanding, framing all thev'r platformes in obscuritie and darknesse, amongst other idle inuentiones, wolde needes take vppon them the building of Purgatorie. The place where they had feated it, was so obscured with such fogges and filthy mystes, that no man that had the perfect vs of hys wittes,
both from Heauen and Hell.

was euer able to find the situation. The foundation wheron it was layd, was Iyes and foolish fantasies, the rest of the upper buildings, was dreames and doting deuises. All the whole edifice, was of such lyght and rotten stuffe, that after 5 they had beene two or three hundred yeeres patching & pec-
cing it together, a poore silly Swaine naked and thred bare, called Truth, blowing against the building but with a little blaft of breath, the gale was of such force against it, that the whole matter & substance, together with the Founders, Pa-
trons, Proctors, Protectors & Defenders, were al blown im-
mediately into Hell: so that who focuer he be that seeketh for Purgatory, there hee shall be sure to finde it: and for these thirty yeeres that I haue wandred in these places, there neuer came any to enquire after it but madde men and fooles.

15 Why then sayd I (to our companion that stoode by with hys Candle,) I perceiue you had some reason to bring light with you when you came to seeke Purgatory, sith the place is so darke and so dauntie to be found. But nowe you know affuredly where you may finde it, your Candle will stand

you in some steede to light you to Hell.

Hee breaking out into sundry passions, some-times ra-
ging against the Myller, saying that he was but an ignorant and a lying Heretique: then calling to his memory the long tyme he had spent in seeking of Purgatory, hee beganne as 25 vehemently to rayle against the Pope, and as bitterly to ex-
claime against hys Iesuites and Seminaries, that had promi-
fed to instruct hym in the high way to Heauen, and direclie sent him the verie next way to Hell.

In these angry fittes hee blewe out hys Candle, and 30 throwing it from him, was contented to hold vs companie in the rest of our iourny.

Whilft we were wandring thus together, we had not paced the distance of a furlong, but we might heare the founde of a Horne, which was blowne with such shrilnesse, 35 that the Eccho redoubled againe in the ayre, and looking a-
bout vs, we might perceiue a farre of, where one came ry-
ding post all in black as fast as his horse was able to fling,
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and with his quicke speede immediately paffing by vs, wee knewe him by his balde pate and his Coule hanging at hys backe, that he was a fatte squaddy Monke, that had beene well fedde in some Cloyftre, who with his great hafe was suddainly out of our sights: and we had not trauailed farre, but we might see Hell gates standing wide open, with a boundaunce of people that were flocking out of all quarters, preasing in as thicke, as if in the Term time they were thronging to Westminster Hall. And presently we might behold a cleere auoydance in the gates, and a multitude com- ming forth, with Belles, with Banners, with Torches, with Crofles and with Copes, in a very solemnne manner of Proceffion, singing Salue festa dies.

Wee standing still in a gaze as they paffed by, I demanded of one of the traine what myght be the meaning? Who answered mee that there was a Post newly come from Rome, with newes that the Popes Legate was hard at hand, with some great Embaffage: and that solemnitie was onely to entertaine him, to fhew what reuerence they dyd beare to hys Maifter. The thronge that followed was fo exceeding, that we were mightily fhouldered to and fro amongst the company, but Velvet breeches & I, determining to see what would follow, we tooke the one the other by the hand, following in the preafe til at length this holy Legate was feene where he was coming, so that it was not long but they met. The Legate y was a chuffe-headed Cardinall with a paire of fulsome cheekes, stretched out like one that were playing on a bag-pipe, alighted from his palfry, and prefenting him-selfe before Lucifer, who was there in place to receiue him, he fel down vpon his knees, praying the Prince of darkneffe, to beftow his fatherly benediction vpon the Popes holines, hys chiefe Vicar & Vizegerent vpon earth: the only man that he was especially beholding vnto, who sent him from time to time whole Millions of soules for the increasing of his king-dome: from whom I am sent with matters of much impor- tance to be heere considered of, and whose person in this place I doo now reprefent.

Lucifer
both from Heauen and Hell.

Lucifer lyfting vp one of hys pawes, and waging it ouer the Legates head, sayd: That blesling that God gaue vnto Caine for the killing of hys Brother Abel, lyght vppon thy Maister and hys succeffours for euer. Then taking hym by the arme, he sayd.

Stand vppe, for considering whose Embassadour thou art, it were an embacing to thine estate, if thou shouldest shew any signe of humility or lowlines. Thou doost heere represent the person of Antichrist, whose pride coulde neuer yet surrender it selfe to any manner of obedience, I will not therefore in this place ſ any thing be imbeifed, that might derogate the leaſt dignity from that Chayre of pestilence, I meane the holy Sea of Rome.

Then was there brought foorth a moſt ſtately Chayre, which was prepared of purpose, in which Chayre Ambition and Pryde hauing placed the Cardinal, olde Ignorance and young Obstincacy, (the one blind, the other froward,) taking it vpon theyr shoulders, as if the Pope himſelſe were carried in his Pontificalibus, and then a rich & ſumptuous Canapie beeing ſpred ouer him, and borne by foure supporters, which were, Idolatry, Hipocrifie, Hereſie, and Blasphemy, thus in this pompsious manner (beeing placed in the Procession next Lucifer himſelſe) they returned to Hell, whose gates I noted to be fo large and ſpacious, that a Princes Army though it were martialed in any proportion of battaule, with Fylleſts, Troupes and Winges, might well haue marched in without any manner of dyſorder. And although the inner roomes did fo exceede in greatnes, that it paffeth humaine reaſon to conceiue of them ariſing, yet he that shoulde behold the aboundance of people that reforte thether daily, and the infinite number that are there to be ſeen flocking in euery corner therof, wold more wonder to thinke what place coulde fo containe them.

Beeing thus come into Hell, they went to the Chappel, where Pope Hildebrand the firſt founder of Traſubſtantiaſion was ready to say Maffe, the which beeing ended, Satan (who can in no wise endure the deferring of matters that
Greenes newes

that dooth concerne his owne estate, went immediatly into the Convocation house, where calling about him a most abhominal company of Popes, Cardinals, Bishops, Pryors, Abbots, and other Clergy men, that hath beene for this foure or fие hundred yeeres, still of his priuie Counfaile, the Legate was willed to deliuer the effect of his message, who making hys entrance with a breefe Oration, tending to the commendation of the Popes carefulneffe, how many stratagames he had endeuoured against Englande, Fraunce, and Ireland, for the better establlishing of the Kingdome of Ante-christ in those places: and he was nowe to let them understand, first for England. Where he had thought to have accomplished hys purpofes by the meanes of his Ieuites and Seminaries, whom he sent thereth in flockes, to withdrawe the people from theyr obedience, to styrrre them to sedition, rebellion and vprore: to praftife treafons against theyr Soueraigne, yea and to vndertake many horrible enterprifes against the person of the Prince, whom God hath fil migh-tie defended, not onely preferuing her from their traitorous praftises, but likewise hath fo reveale the conspiracies of the praftisers, that from time to time they have been still apprehended, and so sent to Tyburne, to say In manus tuas.

Beeing therefore exempted from all manner of hope to find any good succeffe in these former platformes, his Holinesse craueth your Hellifh instructions, what course hee might now follow for the recovery of that Country.

For Fraunce, it would aske a long time heere to be dy-courfed, what trecheries, what treafons, what mischieues, what murthers, and what massacres hys Holines hath there from time to time effected: and although hee hath now stirred yppe hys vaſſaille the King of Spayne, who hath from the dignitie of a magnificint Prince, surrendred himselfe to become a flaeue to the Pope, to come and goe as he appoints him, and to be the executor of all his damnable deuifes, and hath hys forces nowe in that Countrcy, in the affistance of Traytors and Rebels, against theyr naturall Prince and lawfull King: yet hys Holines can haue no assured hope to
both from Heauen and Hell.

to suppreffe the light of the Gospell retayned amongst them, or utterly to subuer the profesors of it, without some diuellish devise, platted and contriued from this infernall pitte of hell.

5 Nowe lastly for Ireland, if that Countrey might stille bee continued in that state as it now standeth, there were many hopes to be expected, not necessary in this place to bee openly revealeed: for although the naturall people of that Countrey, (yea euyn in the moist barbarous places) be of the selues very zealously inclyned, & without all peraduenture, would easily be drawn to the true knowledge and worship of God, if they had such a Minister amongst them, as might instruct them, aswell in wholesome doctrine, as in good example of life: but the Pope hath so well provided for the place, that the whole Country dooth swarme with Iesuits, Seminaries, and maffing Priefts, yea, and Fryers, that haue recourse into Dublyne it selue, and these doo keepe such a continuall and daylie bazing in the poore peoples eares, that they are not onely ledde from all duety and obedience of their Prince, but also drawne from God by superflitious Idolatarie, and so brought head-long by heapes into hell: for through the whole Countrey, the people are so confidently perswaded in the doctrine of Antechrist, that they thinke our Lord will doe nothing without the mediation of our Lady, of Mary, or of John. And to speak truly of the Clergy of that Realme, if there be one that seeketh to vpholde the glory of God, there is ten for that one that seeketh to vpholde the kingdome of Antechrist; neyther is it to be doubted, but that there be some fewe, which both in preaching and lyuing sheweth all sinceritie and godlynesse of life: but there be a number of others, which neither say nor doe, neither preach well, nor liue well. Some other there be that now and then will get vp into a Pulpit, and there they will spend an howre, chyding against the Pope in the course of their speaking, and they are no sooner come down but they will deifie God himselfe halfe a yeere after, in the manner of their lyuing: and this example of their vngodly behauiour, is no little corrasfiue to weake consciences, that doe beholde
their wickednes. For what is it for a Clergy man, be he Par- 7
son, be he Vicar, be he Deacon, be he Archdeacon, be he By-
shop, be he Archbishop, or let him be what he wil, if he be one 12
that will rather endeouour himselfe to fleece his flocke than to 17
feed it, that hath not so much care of the children of God, com- 22
mitted to his charge, which he suffereth dayly to perih: as 27
he hath to prouyde marriages for his own children, in theyr 32
very infancie, and when they are vnder age: that dooth builde 37
houfes, and purchase rents by corruption, extortion, 42
and briberie, that dooth eat and drinke the finnes of the igno- 47
rant people dayly at his table: that will not admit of a par- 52
don from the Pope, yet dares not bee without fiue or fix 57
feueral pardons from the Prince, for treason, for murther, for 62
theft, for robbery, for conspyracy, for confederacy, for rasyng, 67
for forging, for extortion, for briberie, and for many other 72
filthy matters, shamefull to be spoked off, were it not before 77
this haggish assembly: and what though from a base and 82
beggerly parentage, he could shewe himselfe lofty in minde, 87
lofty in looks, and lofty in all the ref: of his demeanures: 92
Would not such a Prelate be fit for the deuilles Chappell? 97
The Legat had no sooner made an end of these latter words, 102
but in comes Dick Tarlton, apparrelled like a Clowne, and 107
singing this piece of an olde song.

If this be trewe as true it is,
Ladie Ladie:
God fend her life may mende the mife,
Most deere Ladie.

This fuddaine left brought the whole company into such 122
a vehement laughter, that not able agayne to make them 127
keepe silence, for that present tyme they were faine to breake 132
vppe: and as Veluet breeches and I were walking arme in 137
arme through the prease, wee fortuned to meete with Com- 142
mens, one that some fewe yeeres agoe, had beene a Sargeant 147
in London, who no sooner espyed Veluet breeches, but hee 152
got vp a fire-brand, wherewith he gaue hym such a stroake 157
ouer the shoulders, that the coales flewe all about the place. 162
Veluet breeches againe vppe with his fist, and gaue hym 167
such
both from Heauen and Hell.

such a blowe vnder the eare, that had lyke to haue ftryken him ouer: with this they clofed, and begunne to pommell one an other as faft as theyr fifts coulde walke, the company that floode by begunne to cry Clubbes, Clubbes, Clubbes, and immediatly they came rushing in about vs, wyth flesh-hookes, with Coale rakes, wyth Fyre-forckes, and with fuch other furniture, as a man would haue thought were all come out of a Kytchin: and wyth some little a-doe they parted the fray, and the partyes were prefently by the Officers brought before Lucifer, and I beeing a ftrauenger in the place, was lykewise carryed with them for company: where Commens beeing charged to bee the first Authour of the broyle, in his owne excuse rendred this reafon.

I was (fayde hee) sometimes an Officer vnder the Sheriffes of London, and being feede by a Towns man to arrest Velvet breeches, I was brought vnto him where hee was in a Barbers shoppe, fitting with a Bafon before hym, full of fopie water, wherewith the Barber was rubbing hys cheekes, and dashing of hym about the lippes, and I seeing hym thus in trymning, thought of curtefie to forbeare the dooing of myne ofyce, tyll the Barber had ended his bufineffe, and fetting my felfe downe without any worde speaking, Velvet breeches by chaunce espying my Mace vnder my Gowne, suspecting a-ryght the caufe of my comming, fuddaynelie (before I was a-ware of hym) threwe all the water fo directly in my face, that the Sope getting into myne eyes, did fo smart and grieue mee, that for my life I was not able to holde them o-pen: But whilst I floode flarke blinde for the tyme, wyping and rubbing of myne eyes, Velvet breeches packt himsfelfe out of the doores, that I could neuer after come where hee was tyll thyrs present, and I vowed then to bee reuenged of him the next time that eu'r I fawe him: and I am now to craue the priuiledge of the place, for it is directly against our auncient custome, that there shoule be any quarrelles or controuerfies taken vp heere, or that there shoule bee
Greene's newes

be found any peace-makers in hell: with this the whole multitude began to growe into an vprore, and they fell immediatlie to taking of parts: and first there stood vp in Commens behalfe, a great number of cruell creditors, crafty Lawyers, Merchants, Retaylers, Scriueners, Broakers, and a most shamefull and filthy company of vilurers.

*Velvet breeches* on the other side, he wanted no friends, for there were a great many that knew him: and those that tooke hys part, were swashers, swearers, whore-maisters, theeues, robbers, ruffyans, roysters, and cooferers.

As they were growing into this commotion amongst themselves, there were gathered together an infinite number of *Cony-catchers*, which came to take part with *Velvet breeches*: who seeing me to stand by, they beganne to growe into confused exclamations against mee, some faide, let vs teare the villaine in pieces, that hath written so many bookees against vs: other saide, let vs fley of his skinne, and cut the the flesh from his bones in small gobbets, that hath so manifested the secrets of our trade and profession, to the world: some other saide, let vs cut the tongue out of his head, and put out both his eyes, that hath beeane an enemie to the arte of *Cony-catching*, and hath so shamefully inuyed against the practifes; Then came there foorth an infinite number of wo- men *Cony-catchers*, and they sware they would geld me, for marring theyr Market, and hindering them of theyr taking.

Thus was I threatned on all sades, every man stooode wondering at mee, no man to take my part: But *Lucifer* perceiuing the cause of their griefes, by the manner of their clamors, & willing to appease their passions with any punishment, commaunded mee presently to bee thrust foorth of hell gates and charging me so to remaine a restless spirete, wandering through the world, and neuer after to make any retourne agayne to that place.

Thus for the writing of bookees, I was first banished frō Heauen for my ouer much parciallitie, and nowe exiled from hell, for my too much plainnesse: I remayne now (as I have told you) a walking spyrite, restless and remediless to wander
both from Heauen and Hell.
der through the world; I woulde therefore with my friends
to beware howe they walke late a nights, for I will bee the
maddeft Gobline, that euer vsed to walke in the Moone-
shine. For I will sometimes bee a spirite of the Buttery,
and I will so intoxicate their heads, that doo frequent the
places of my haunt, that at night they shall not be able to find
the way to their beds, tyll they haue taken their first sleepe
on the flore.

Sometimes I will bee Robin Goodfellowe, and will
meete with a wanton wench in a darke corner, and let her
bless and croffe her selfe as well as she can, I will put her in
such a bodily feare, that for fortie weekes after, shee shall
thinke that young bugges are crawling in her belly.

Sometimes I will shew such dreames & vyfions to wo-
men whilst they be sleeping, that they shall make theyr Hu-
bands Cuckolds when they are waking.

Sometimes I will tranf-forme my selfe into diuers
shapes, and will walke through all trades, all Sciences, and
all occupations, and some I will infect with the spirite of A-
uarice, some with miserie, some with deceipt and all manner
of subtilltie, that they shall leaue no practife vnought for,
whereby to rake and gather pelfe, to leaue to theyr heyres,
that the olde Prouerbe might bee verified: Happy are those
children, whose Fathers goe to the deuill.

In the Tearme time, I will be in Westminster hall a-
mongst the Lawyers, whom I will make fo capable in the
quyllities of the Lawe, that they shall coosen twentie Cly-
ents of theyr coyne, before they will bring one to an ende of
hys caufe; and will not sticke nowe and than to get me vp
to the bench, amongst the Judges themselues, to let them taft
a little of the sweetnesse of corruption.

You may easilly thinke that I meane to frequent the
Court, where I will oppose my selfe a professed enimie a-
gainst Good dejart, and let him come thether and pleade his
many yeeres seruice in the warres: let him shew his wounds
and maymes, gotten in his Countreyes defence: let him sig-
nifie his time and patrimony spent in his Princes quarrell,
to maintayne himselfe, and to relieve such as were about him: or let him pretend many other indeuours, in the service of hys Soueraigne, that might worthily move a fauourable consideration, if there shall bee founde one that will affoorde him a fauourable looke, or a comfortable speech, there shall be two for that one to require him with disdainfull countenance, and churlish checks.

I will not tell all, howe grieuous I will be to Largeffe and Lyberallitte, nor how miserable I will shew my selfe in shutting vp of the Princes bountie: Let this suffice, hee that shall become a Suter at the Court, without golde in his purse to see a brybing Groome, let him looke for small grace in his futes: for I will strike such a deafness into the eares of the Clarkes and Secretaries, appertayning to great men, that when a penyless Suter comes vnto them with cap and curtefie, they shall not understand what the foole meaneth, nor be able to heare one worde that he speaketh, without a bribe. I might marre all if I should tell all, how I ment to befirre my selfe amongst the Courtiers of all sorts, but they say, Enough is as good as a Feast.

The Cleargy must not thinke to escape me scotfree, for I must needs be acquainted with these double benefited men, and will many times conuerse with such as be Non residents; and sometimes I will get vp into the Pulpit and preach, but you may easily discerne mee, for my text shall be, Doo as I say, but not as I doo; My conclusion is, Good friends take heede how you come in those places where I walke, for you may perceiue I am bent vpon mischiefe, I can but therefore wish you to looke to your selues: and so fare you well.

FINIS.