

Approved for the Major Department

Charles. Walter

Approved for the Graduate Council

James L. Boyer

A STUDY OF THE SOURCE OF THOMAS KYD'S
SOLIMAN AND PERSEDA

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENGLISH AND THE GRADUATE COUNCIL OF THE KANSAS STATE
TEACHERS COLLEGE OF EMPORIA IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS

By
CLARICE D. MCILVAIN
August 19, 1960

May then, though Fortune haue delight in change,
Ile stay my flight, and cease to turne my wheele,
Till I haue showne by demonstration
What intrest I haue in a Tragedie.

--Soliman and Perseda

PREFACE

The first episode of Henry Wotton's Cupids Cautels has generally been accepted as the source of Thomas Kyd's Soliman and Perseda. However, a thorough study of individual lines, phrases, and plots has not been available to measure the extent of Kyd's indebtedness to this work. After a reading of Kyd's The Spanish Tragedie, I became interested in Kyd the man, the Elizabethan dramatist, and the forerunner of Shakespeare. Therefore, I have chosen to make a comparative study of Kyd's Soliman and Perseda and Wotton's Cupids Cautels. Dr. Charles E. Walton, Department of English, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, made available to me his microfilm copy of Wotton's Cupids Cautels, and Appendix B is a transcription of the document which I have made directly from this film.

I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. Walton for his helpful suggestions and generous assistance; to Dr. June Morgan, also of the Department of English, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, who assisted me as second reader of this thesis. And, last, to my family, who co-operated so beautifully during the course of this work, I express my appreciation.

August 19, 1960
Emporia, Kansas

C. D. M.

Dedication

To Emmett C. Wells

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE CAUTELS AND MUTABILITIE OF FORTUNE	1
II. ENGLISH SENECA YEELDES MANIE GOOD SENTENCES	20
III. A WORD MAKER BY OCCUPATION	41
BIBLIOGRAPHY	52
APPENDIX "A"	55
APPENDIX "B"	57

CHAPTER I

THE CAUTELS AND MUTABILITIE OF FORTUNE

That onely I to all men iust must be,
And neither Gods nor men be iust to me.
--The Spanish Tragedie (1585?)

Hieronimo's complaint might very well be that of Thomas Kyd, for justice was denied to him by the gods and men. Introducing a new type of drama in 1585, Kyd was lauded by his theatre-goers and imitated by other playwrights; however, he lacked the ultimate skill that is the mark of genius and, thus, never became one of the truly great writers of his period. His education was good, but not complete, thereby leaving some of his work open to ridicule. Involvement in a religious scandal lost him his patronage, family esteem, and reputation. After death, his fame as a writer was further reduced by the ascription of certain works to his pen. By 1744, when The Spanish Tragedie was again brought before the public, the name of the author had been forgotten.

Thomas Kyd was born to Francis and Anna (Agnes) Kyd in the autumn of 1558, and baptized at the church of St. Mary Woolnoth on November 6 in that same year.¹ Francis,

¹Dictionary of National Biography, XI, p. 349.

his father was a London scrivener. Of his mother, Anna, little is known.² A sister, Ann, was born in 1561.³ As there are no records in the St. Mary Woolnoth Church of the birth of other children in the family, the John Kyd who printed for Thomas Kyd the pamphlet, The Murder of Iohn Brewen (1592), was evidently not a brother, but a distant relative.⁴ Francis Kyd was a man of importance and fair prosperity. Able to provide a good education for his son, he entered Thomas Kyd on the register of the new Merchant Taylors' School on October 26, 1565.⁵ This school, founded in 1561, was the best grammar school in England, having, from its opening date to 1586, Richard Mulcaster for its headmaster. Mulcaster's theories of education were revolutionary for the times; he felt that physical training was of importance, and believed in the education of girls, a unique idea at this time.⁶ In addition to a thorough tutoring in the classics, the pupils at Merchant Taylors' were taught music and singing, and performed masks,

²Thomas Kyd, The Works of Thomas Kyd, ed. F. S. Boas, p. xv.

³Loc. cit.

⁴Loc. cit.

⁵Ibid., p. xvi.

⁶Dictionary of National Biography, XIII, p. 1172.

interludes, and plays before Queen Elizabeth and the Court.⁷ Edmund Spenser attended this school from about 1561 to early 1569, as did Thomas Lodge from 1570/71 to 1573. They were almost certainly Kyd's schoolmates.⁸ The length of Kyd's stay at Merchant Taylors' School is unknown; furthermore, no records indicate that he continued his education at either of the universities or in any of the colleges. Although Kyd did not receive a formal university education like Greene, Lodge, Lyly, Marlowe, Nashe, and Peele, he is sometimes counted among the "University Wits" on the strength of his knowledge of the classics.⁹ He devised "imperfectly" some Latin verse and prose. His chief Latin source was Seneca, but he was familiar with a great many Latin authors, among whom were Cicero, Ovid, Pliny, Claudian, Lucan, and Terence, traditional grammar school subjects. Apparently, by an earnest study of the classics in grammar school, and later, by copious reading and individual study, Thomas Kyd had learned to write knowledgeably. Of the Spanish language, it appears that he knew only a few phrases; of Spanish geography he knew even less. French and Italian he knew well enough to translate serviceably

⁷Loc. cit.

⁸Kyd, op. cit., pp. xvi-xvii.

⁹Allardyce Nicoll, British Drama, pp. 73-74.

from both.¹⁰ It is quite possible that he had travelled in France.¹¹ However, numerous errors in translation occur in his works, obviously because of his lack of knowledge of ancient history and legend and even of contemporary history and geography. Perhaps, it is toward these blunders that Kyd's contemporaries pointed with scorn, ever jealous of their own prestige as university-educated gentlemen.¹²

Presumably, if one accepts Nashe's comments in his "Preface" to Robert Greene's Menaphon as biographical evidence for the dramatist, Kyd pursued for a time his father's trade as a notary and transcriber of legal documents.¹³ Nashe wrote, "It is a common practise now a daies, amongst a sort of shifting companions, that runne through euery art and thriue by none to leaue the trade of Nouerint, whereto they were borne. . ." Certainly, legal terms and technicalities do occur in The Spanish Tragedie, Soliman and Perseda (1585/6?), and The Murder of Iohn Brewen. After taking leave of his occupation as

¹⁰Kyd, op. cit., p. xx.

¹¹Loc. cit.

¹²The Cambridge History of English Literature, V, p. 141.

¹³Kyd, op. cit., p. xxi.

scrivener, he may have become a schoolmaster; indeed, his knowledge of the languages and the elements of mathematics would have been useful in this endeavor. Nevertheless, he soon turned to writing as his career.

Most of Kyd's works, especially his plays, were written before 1588.¹⁴ His interest in the theatre may have stemmed from the time of his participation in the Merchant Taylors' presentations under the direction of Richard Mulcaster. Also, according to allusions in The Spanish Tragedie, he witnessed the professional English dramas produced between 1570 and 1580, and, if he did visit Paris, he may have seen the performances of the French tragedians. In addition, Italian players, probably the Ravenna comedians, performed for English audiences around this same time.¹⁵

Several works had a marked effect upon Kyd's literary development. In 1578, Francis Coldocke, a friend of Kyd's father, and Henry Binneman printed Henry Wotton's Courtlie Controuersie of Cupids Cautels, a translation of Jacques Yver's Printemps d'Iver (1572).¹⁶ The first of the

¹⁴Ibid., p. xxv.

¹⁵Ibid., p. xxiii.

¹⁶Loc. cit.

five stories contained in the work is that of Soliman and Perseda, used by Kyd as the interpolated play in The Spanish Tragedie and, later, in the full-length play, Soliman and Perseda. In 1579, Spenser's Shepheardes Calendar was published, as was John Lyly's Euphues, and Kyd imitates Lyly's euphuistic comparisons and mannerisms. Thomas Watson's Hekatompathia (1582), Tasso's Padre di Famiglia (1580), and Robert Garnier's Cornelie each had its own effect upon his works,¹⁷

The work for which Thomas Kyd is best known is The Spanish Tragedie containing the lamentable end of Don Horatio and Bel-imperia: with the pittiful death of old Hieronimo. It exists in twelve extant editions, three of which are in the original form, without the additions.¹⁸ All twelve editions are anonymous, the entry of license in the Stationer's Register, October 6, 1592, giving no clue to authorship. In An Apology for Actors (1612), however, a casual reference by Thomas Heywood to "M. Kyd, in his Spanish Tragedy" records the play as Kyd's.¹⁹ The only direct evidence as to the probable date of writing

¹⁷Ibid., p. xxiv.

¹⁸Kyd, op. cit., p. xxvi.

¹⁹Thomas Heywood, An Apology for Actors, p. 45.

is found in Ben Jonson's Induction to Bartholomew Fair (1614): "He that will swear Ieronimo or Andronicus are the best plays yet, shall pass unexcepted at here as a man whose judgment shows it is constant, and hath stood still these five and twenty or thirty years." This and other evidence suggest the years 1582-7, with a date nearer 1585 to be preferred.

The dates for the eighteen-week season in which The Spanish Tragedie was staged by Philip Henslowe are recorded in his Diary (1591-2). Plays of Shakespeare, Greene, Lodge, Marlowe, and Peele were performed; financially, the greatest successes were Titus and Vespasion, The Jew of Malta, 2 Tamar Cham, 1 Henry VI, and The Spanish Tragedie.²⁰ The performances were brought to an end by June 23, as the Privy Council halted all plays until Michaelmas. On December 29, Henslowe took up again accounts until January 28, 1593, when the plague once more intervened.²¹

In his Diary, Henslowe refers to two plays, one "Ieronymo," meaning The Spanish Tragedie, the other "the comodey of done oracio" or "the comodey of Ieronimo."²² One might infer, then, that Henslowe was specifying a

²⁰Chambers, op. cit., II, p. 122.

²¹Ibid., II, pp. 122-23.

²²Kyd, op. cit., p. xli.

forepiece written by Kyd and presented on the night preceding the acting of The Spanish Tragedie. It is entirely plausible that Kyd may have written a first part, as he did write a succeeding piece, Soliman and Perseda. But The First Part of Ieronimo (1605) is probably not that "comodey of Ieronimo" listed by Henslowe; the melodrama has been mistakenly associated, perhaps, with Kyd.²³

Henslowe's "spanes comodye" is not mentioned in the Diary after 1592.²⁴ It was never published along with The Spanish Tragedie up to 1603; therefore, it is peculiar that it should be published by itself in 1605. On the other hand, Henslowe's "Ieronimo" is listed as a comedy, while The First Part of Ieronimo appears to be an intentional burlesque. The characters in The Spanish Tragedie are unlike those in The First Part of Ieronimo.²⁵ The First Part of Ieronimo is probably the work of an anonymous writer who seized on the revival of The Spanish Tragedie in 1602 to write a short-lived but lucrative play.²⁶

For "adicyons" to The Spanish Tragedie, Henslowe

²³Kyd, op. cit., p. xlii.

²⁴Ibid., p. xli.

²⁵Ibid., pp. xlii-xliv.

²⁶Ibid., p. xliv.

in 1601 and 1602 made payments to Ben Johnson; these appendages are the "mad" scenes which have been incorporated into the original text. Passionate and darkly beautiful, the additions tend to show Kyd's work as clumsy and crude by comparison. However, Ben Jonson is not credited by critics with the task; possibly, he hired some other dramatist, Webster or another, to do the job in his stead.²⁷ Regardless of authorship, these additions increased the popularity of the play immeasurably. Insanity was not a subject new to the drama. The Greek tragedians had used it; Seneca had employed it moderately; medieval drama had incorporated it. But the Elizabethan treatment of madness, beginning with Hieronimo, had greater theatrical appeal, because of the stage business which the playwrights shrewdly effected. In The Spanish Tragedie, an unsound mind is illustrated by means of the blood-stained handkerchief, Horatio's strangled body hanging in a tree, the senseless slaying of the Duke of Castile, and the severed tongue of Hieronimo. The insane character in the writings of this period was awesome, pitiful, sometimes majestic, usually cunning. However, there was no attempt in early Elizabethan drama to explain the motives of the

²⁷Chambers, op. cit., III, p. 396.

characters. It was not until Shakespeare that the ethical, moral, and psychological aspects were of import. Therefore, Thomas Kyd made the initial step toward character study in Hieronimo's grief, madness, urge for revenge, and triumph when vindication was achieved.

The Spanish Tragedie was acted by Lord Strange's men during that company's season with Philip Henslowe, beginning February 19, 1592.²⁸ In January of 1597, The Spanish Tragedie was performed by the Admiral's men twelve times and acted again in October and November jointly with Pembroke's company for Henslowe.²⁹ The play continued to be popular into the seventeenth century, both in England and abroad.³⁰ Robert Brown managed the Earl of Derby's men on their fourth tour at Frankfort, Germany, in Easter of 1601, with The Spanish Tragedie included in their repertory.³¹ In 1619, Brown joined John Greene on a fifth tour to the continent and again presented The Spanish

²⁸Ibid., II, p. 121.

²⁹Ibid., III, P. 396.

³⁰Nicoll, op. cit., p. 86.

³¹Chambers, op. cit., II, pp. 278-79.

Tragedie.³²

The Tragedye of Soliman and Perseda was entered in the Stationer's Register, November 20, 1592.³³ The author's name was omitted from all three editions now extant in the British Museum.³⁴ The plot is an elaboration of Hieronimo's play in The Spanish Tragedie; the rhyme scheme and the style are the same, and numerous phrases are nearly identical. Thomas Kyd, then, is obviously the author of this companion piece to his earlier play. As it will be seen, the source is Henry Wotton's The Courtlie Controversie of Cupids Cautels (1578), an English translation of Jacques d'Yver's La Printemps d'Iver (1572). The plot has been changed only slightly from that of Wotton's story, the ending, for instance, differing for reasons of dramatic interest. Soliman and Perseda is a court version, with a complimentary reference to Queen Elizabeth; it undoubtedly was written prior to 1588, as no Englishman would have dared honor Spanish power and bravery after that date.³⁵ Death's remark to the Queen belongs to 1584/5, having to do with the Babington plot, an attempt

³²Ibid., II, pp. 284-85.

³³Kyd, op. cit., pp. liv-lv.

³⁴Ibid., p. lvi.

³⁵T. W. Baldwin, "On the Chronology of Thomas Kyd's Plays," Modern Language Notes, XL (June, 1925), p. 346.

on the Queen's life.³⁶ Since the play was not acted at Court in 1584/5, the date of composition may be fixed at 1585/6. Soliman and Perseda is less interesting and far less exciting than the earlier work. Kyd, in both plays, adapted the Senecan drama to fit the popular taste of the day, using most of the Senecan techniques--sensational murders, a chorus to connect and relate events, and many classical allusions. In addition, his natural feeling for stagecraft united the form and style of the classicists with the ardor and enthusiasm of deeds. Where before had been merely dramatic narrative, there was now exciting action. In The Spanish Tragedie, Kyd introduced two new types of characters. Lorenzo is probably the first English villain of the Machiavellian type, and Hieronimo is the primary diminutive tragic hero, as opposed to the earlier princely superhuman hero. In Soliman and Perseda, a new element of comedy is also evidenced in the persons of Piston, the knavish servant, and Basilisco, the braggart knight. Piston's nearest counterpart in The Spanish Tragedie is Pedringano, who is singularly cunning, but not amusing. Much of the dialogue in both plays is written in an extravagant style,

³⁶Loc. cit.

but occasional scenes are couched in simple prose, with a few really dramatic speeches.

The conjectural works of Kyd are numerous, in that the majority of plays in the early period of Elizabethan drama are anonymous. The Ur-Hamlet, the probable source of one of Shakespeare's plays, has been attributed to Thomas Kyd by internal evidence in Nashe's preface to Menaphon. Nashe, in his derisive attack on Kyd, says ". . . yet English Seneca read by candle-light yeeldes manie good sentences, as 'bloud is a beggar,' and so forth: and if you intreate him faire in a frostie morning, he will affoord you whole Hamlets, I should say handfulls of tragical speeches."³⁷ The play was probably written in 1587 and closely parallels The Spanish Tragedie in style and Senecan technique. In the first Hamlet, the ghost of a father asks his son to revenge his death; the father in The Spanish Tragedie seeks revenge for the son's murder. Hamlet has doubts concerning his father's slaying, just as Hieronimo questions Bel-imperia's letter. Laertes resembles Lorenzo in his attitude toward his sister's choice of loves. The play-within-the-play technique is used for revenge, although Hamlet's play ends with a melee rather than with a personal reckoning. Some phrases,

³⁷Kyd, op. cit., p. xlv.

as well as these plot similarities, resemble those of Kyd in The Spanish Tragedie. The play apparently was not successful and was not printed.³⁸ When it was performed by the Admiral's and Chamberlain's men in June 1594, Henslowe recorded that it brought in the sum of eight shillings. It must have appeared intermittently for fifteen years or so before Shakespeare planned his story of a tormented and indecisive mind.³⁹

The Rare Triumphs of Love and Fortune (1582?) has been ascribed to Kyd on the basis of its plot similarity to Soliman and Perseda.⁴⁰ In the Induction, there occurs a debate among the gods of Mount Olympus as to which deity, Venus or Fortune, shall rule the lives of Hermione and Fidelity. Mercury presents a dumb-show of persons slain by Love and Fortune. The story proceeds with Love and Fortune aiding their favorite and defeating the actions of their enemy. The writing appears not to be as mature as that in the works accredited to Kyd; and it is written in twelve-syllable meters.⁴¹ Arden of Feversham, licensed in 1592, is the story of Arden who was murdered in 1551

³⁸Ibid., p. liii.

³⁹Loc. cit.

⁴⁰F. G. Fleay, A Biographical Chronicle of the British Drama, 1559-1642, II, p. 26.

⁴¹A. W. Ward, A History of English Dramatic Literature, I, p. 312.

by two ruffians, hired by Arden's wife and her lover. The first four acts have to do with attempts upon the unsuspecting Arden's life; finally, at the beginning of the fifth act, he is stabbed to death. The remainder is concerned with the discovery and condemnation of the murderers. Occasional fine dialogue and action occur within the play. Possibly, Arden of Feversham may be the latest and one of the best of Kyd's works.⁴² A Warning for Fair Women was entered in the Stationer's Register on November 17, 1599. It, too, concerns a murder, that of George Sanders of London, who was killed by persons in the hire of his wife. The actual murder took place in 1573.⁴³ This play encompasses more time than Arden of Feversham; it begins with the first meeting of Brown and Mrs. Sanders, and progresses through the planning and doing of the deed, to the discovery, the trial, and the pronouncement of guilt. The remorse of the guilty persons, the terror of Brown on hearing the last words of the dying man, and the presence of Sander's young son during the bitter accusations of the criminals, all denote a keen sense of drama and understanding of people.⁴⁴ Published in 1594, The True

⁴²C. F. Tucker Brooke, The Tudor Drama, p. 356.

⁴³Ibid., p. 357.

⁴⁴Ibid., p. 359.

Tragedy of Richard the Third is a mixture of prose, rhyming heptameters, and blank verse.⁴⁵ Allusions to the Spanish Armada indicate the date of writing to be later than 1588. Truth and Poetry comprise the chorus. The history is rather vague, the characters are not well-delineated, and the comedy is limited to the moralizing of Richard's page. This play is claimed for Peele or Lodge, who were at this time known to have been re-writing a play of Kyd's.⁴⁶ The three fragments attributed to Kyd by Robert Allott in England's Parnassus (1600) may be from the lost poems or plays.⁴⁷ Also extant is a pamphlet, Verses of Praise and Love, which may be representative of Kyd's early hack-work.⁴⁸

Giving up his dramatic work in 1588, Thomas Kyd became a translator. His work The Householdiers Philosophie...First written in Italian by that excellent orator and poet, Signor Torquato Tasso, and now translated by T. K. is a somewhat expanded version of the Padre di Famiglia (1580).⁴⁹ In this translation, Kyd comments upon

⁴⁵Ibid., p. 309.

⁴⁶Fleay, op. cit., II, pp. 316-18.

⁴⁷Kyd, op. cit., p. xxv.

⁴⁸Loc. cit.

⁴⁹Ibid., p. lxiv.

the various subjects of the use of make-up, the evils of usury, the problems of young marriages, second marriages, and child-raising.

From the middle of 1590 to the summer of 1593, then, Thomas Kyd was in the service of an unidentified lord.⁵⁰ Possibly it was the same Lord Pembroke or Lord Strange, for whom Marlowe was also writing. Or, perhaps, it was Henry Radcliffe, fourth Earl of Sussex, to whose daughter-in-law Kyd later dedicated his Cornelia.⁵¹ In 1592, while still holding an appointment in the service of this man, Kyd wrote a sensational and moralizing tract, The Murder of Iohn Brewen.⁵²

Christopher Marlowe and Thomas Kyd had become acquainted in 1590 while both were in the service of the same lord--Marlowe as a writer of plays, Kyd conjecturally as a tutor. In the summer of 1591, they shared the same writing room, and it is here that certain of Marlowe's papers became mixed with Kyd's.⁵³ When, on May 12,

⁵⁰Ibid., p. lxiv.

⁵¹Chambers, op. cit., III, p. 394.

⁵²Kyd, op. cit., pp. lxiv-lxv.

⁵³Ibid., p. lxvi.

1593, Kyd was arrested for libel against the state and his room was searched, fragments of a religious disputation were discovered.⁵⁴ A charge of atheism was brought against him. He denied vehemently that the papers were his, and bitterly rejected any friendship with Marlowe or condonement of Marlowe's activities. How long Kyd was held in custody is not known; but according to some, Marlowe was stabbed to death on June 1, 1593, while the Council was inquiring into the case.⁵⁵ Thomas Kyd wrote a letter to Puckering requesting that the minister entreat a former patron in his behalf to reclaim Kyd's services, which had been discharged at the time of Kyd's arrest.

Whether because of Kyd's involvement in the political and religious scandal or because of changing public tastes after January of 1593, Henslowe records no performances of The Spanish Tragedie until 1597. Rejected by his patron and his public, Kyd found it necessary to turn, again, to the occupation of translating, this time the French work, Cornelie (1574) by Robert Garnier. On January 26, 1594, "A booke called Cornelia, Thomas Kydd beinge the Authour" was registered; the dedication page

⁵⁴Loc. cit.

⁵⁵F. S. Boas, Marlowe and His Circle, pp. 98-99.

was signed with Kyd's initials. The play was not intended to be acted, and it was not popular with the reading public.⁵⁶

Kyd died shortly before December 30, 1594, poor and unhappy. His parents, displeased with this latest episode in their son's life, renounced administration of his estate.⁵⁷ Although Kyd suffered much from the biting denunciations of his contemporaries, not all the criticisms were adverse. He was commemorated in Meres' Palladis Tamia (1598), in Robert Allott's England's Parnassus, and in Dekker's A Knight's Coniuring (1607).⁵⁸ He had brought plays of popular appeal to the stage. These models of technique had fine manipulation of plot, dramatic surprise, and a wealth of action.⁵⁹ But his greatest contribution was to be found in his influence upon his contemporaries and successors.⁶⁰

⁵⁶Kyd, op. cit., p. lxxv.

⁵⁷Ibid., p. lxxvii.

⁵⁸Ibid., p. lxxviii.

⁵⁹The Cambridge History of English Literature, V, p. 163.

⁶⁰Kyd, op. cit., p. lxxviii.

CHAPTER II

ENGLISH SENECA YEEDES MANIE GOOD SENTENCES

And what are Tragedies but acts of death?
Hear meanes the wrathful muse, in seas of teares
And lowd laments, to tell a dismall tale.

--Soliman and Perseda

The production of professional dramas shortly before 1570 permitted ordinary Elizabethan citizens to enjoy plays which formerly had been reserved for the Court. Playwrights, depending on their work for a livelihood, were obliged to respect both public demand and the preference of actors. Plays never ran consecutively longer than a week and were revived later only if they were extremely popular. Therefore, rather than spend a great deal of time on the production of one fine drama, authors were compelled to write many plays in short periods of time often in collaboration with other writers. It was with no feelings of guilt that borrowing from the works of others was undertaken. Plays were apparently considered as common property, regardless of original authorship. The expanding, revising, or editing of old plays was an accepted custom.⁶¹ Since the origin of authorship was often lost after third and fourth borrowing,

⁶¹ Bradbrook, op. cit., p. 74.

it is with difficulty that an Elizabethan source study can be achieved. The development of style, personality, and work habits of various authors, as well as the matter of progression of style within an author's works, must be observed. A study of the first episode of Wotton's Courtlie Controuersie of Cupids Cautels as partial source for Shakespeare's The Two Gentlemen of Verona has been made by J. C. Pogue in his A Reinvestigation of the Sources of The Two Gentlemen of Verona.⁶² Mr. Pogue has shown the fifth historie of Wotton's tale and La Diana Enamorada (1560) of Jorge de Montemayor were adapted by Shakespeare for his play.⁶³ Wotton's translation of d'Yver's Le Printemps d'Iver was originally written as proof that French writers could compose novels comparable to those of the Italian Bandello. In this endeavor he was successful, judging from the three editions of Le Printemps d'Iver which appeared the first year and the eleven more which were published before the century ended.⁶⁴ Within six years of publication, it had been

⁶² J. C. Pogue, A Reinvestigation of the Sources of The Two Gentlemen of Verona (unpublished Master's thesis, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, 1956).

⁶³ Loc. cit.

⁶⁴ Dorothy Atkinson, "Source of The Two Gentlemen of Verona," Studies in Philology, XL (1944), p. 223.

translated into English by Henry Wotton as Cupids Cautels. It is from the first episode of this English translation that Thomas Kyd obtained his material for his drama, Soliman and Perseda.

For the purpose of clarity, the following list of similar dramatic personae in the two stories is presented:

Soliman and Perseda

Brusor, Soliman's General
 Erastus
 Ferdinando, Lucina's Friend
 Lucina
 Perseda
 Philippo, Governor of Rhodes
 Piston, Servant of Erastus
 Prince of Cyprus
 Soliman, Ruler of Turkey

Cupids Cautels

Brusor Bellerbeck
 Erastus
 Gentleman of the Town
 Lucina
 Perseda
 Phillip of Vichers
 Pistan
 Prince of Cyprus
 Soliman
 Agatha, Maid of Perseda

Just as the names of characters are nearly identical, so are the plots almost parallel. For the sake of comparison, the following summary of the plot of the first episode of Cupids Cautels is recorded:

Planning to be married, Perseda and Erastus exchange love tokens; however, Erastus loses his gift. The chain is discovered by a young man who gives it to his lady friend, Lucina. Perseda, spying the chain around the neck of the lady and suspecting her to be a rival, sends Erastus away as a false lover. Erastus, attempting to win back his jewel and his Perseda, plays a dice game with Lucina and regains his neck-chain. However, Lucina's gentleman, observing Erastus with the jewel and thinking it stolen, attacks Erastus and is killed in the struggle. Erastus flees to Turkey, where he is received with enthusiasm. Almost at once he is made leader of the Turkish army and becomes a dear friend of the Turkish ruler, Soliman. When Soliman invades the Isle

of Rhodes, Erastus' homeland, he finds Perseda in a nunnery. As a captive of war, Perseda is brought to Constantinople and placed in Soliman's harem, where she is constantly entreated by the Sultan to submit to him. One day, while Soliman stands outside her door, Perseda laments her loss of Erastus and attempts suicide. Preventing the fatal knife thrust, Soliman sends for Erastus, who has retired to the country in mourning for Rhodes and Perseda. Soliman gives a magnificent marriage feast for the young couple and appoints Erastus Governor of Rhodes. The lovers return to their native land. Unfortunately, Soliman soon regrets his hasty presentation of Perseda to Erastus; he writes a love letter to Perseda, earnestly seeking her affections. After Perseda's refusal, Soliman gives consent to Brusor's plan to murder Erastus: Brusor and the other princes are jealous of Erastus' political advancement. Thus, Erastus is recalled to Turkey, where he is charged with treason and is beheaded. On learning of her husband's fate, Perseda desires only death. Pistan begs her, however, to revenge his master's murder: Perseda fortifies her castle and is prepared to fight when Soliman arrives. Dressed in Erastus' armor, she is struck by two bullets from a Turkish musket. Pistan and the other men and women of the castle continue the battle until all are dead. Soliman, finding Perseda dead, slays in anger as many of his soldiers as remain near. Later, when calmer, he resolves to spend the remainder of his life in repentance. He has built in Rhodes a large monument in which Perseda and Erastus are entombed. Also constructed is a large brass pyramid from which Brusor, the wicked counselor, is hanged.

Fundamentally, this is the essence of *The First Historie of Cupids Cautels*. The plot of Kyd's Soliman and Perseda varies only slightly from that of Wotton's tale:

After the exchange of jewels, Perseda witnesses the tournament in which Erastus, disguised, defeats all the knights, including the Turkish Brusor. When Erastus' neck-chain is lost, Ferdinando finds it and gives it to Lucina. Perseda, after seeing the neck-

lace on Lucina, denounces Erastus as a false lover. Erastus and two friends gamble with loaded dice and win the chain from Lucina. Ferdinando is killed in the struggle with Erastus over the chain. Erastus seeks refuge in Turkey; there he is appointed Captain of Janissaries and is Soliman's close friend. Basilisco, the braggart knight, also falls in love with Perseda. Soliman excuses Erastus from the invasion of Rhodes. Brusor and the Turkish army conquer Rhodes; Brusor claims Lucina for himself and Perseda for Soliman. Basilisco rejects his Christian faith to escape death. At first glimpse, Soliman loves Perseda and bids her submit to him. She refuses; Soliman attempts to kill her but can not, for he loves her greatly. Erastus, entering upon this scene, sees his beloved, and the two lovers are married immediately by Soliman. The new Governor of Rhodes departs for his homeland with his bride. Urged by Brusor, Soliman orders Erastus to Turkey, where he is strangled. Also killed are the participants in Erastus' murder, the two hired witnesses, the two soldiers, and the Marshall. Piston relates the sad news to Perseda, who kills Lucina as one of the plotters. Piston and Perseda prepare the castle for a battle. Perseda dresses as a man and combats with Soliman, who, unaware of her identity, wounds her. When he recognizes her, he kills Piston and Basilisco, then kisses Perseda before she dies. After ordering Brusor to be beheaded, he finds in Perseda's hand a note stating that her lips are covered with poison. Soliman's last orders are that his body be interred with Perseda's and Erastus'. Then he dies.

From this plot summary of Soliman and Perseda, one may observe the striking resemblance of Kyd's play to Wotton's Cupids Cautels.

A comparative study of these two works offers convincing evidence of Kyd's indebtedness to Cupids Cautels as a direct source for the plot of Soliman and Perseda.

In Soliman and Perseda, the story is told by Loue, Fortune, and Death, who serve as chorus. Sire Fleur d'Amour recounts the first historie in Cupids Cautels:

Soliman and Perseda

...knows not the historie
Of braue Erastus and his
Rodian Dame?
(SP, I, i, ll. 13-14)

The young lovers, neighbors during childhood, grow up with the understanding that they will marry. They exchange tokens of love, a neck-chain for Erastus, a ring for Perseda:

Soliman and Perseda

...accept this carkanet:
My Grandame on her death
bed gaue it me,
And there, euen there, I
vow'd vnto myselfe
To keepe the same, vntill
my wandring eye
Should finde a harbour for
my hart to dwell.
(SP, I, ii, ll. 32-36)

Cupids Cautels

This Damoisell of whom my
discourse shall determine,
was born in the Isle of
Rhodes,...⁶⁵

Cupids Cautels

...requiring you to keepe
this token for the loue of
hir, who euermore reserueth
a rooath for you in the se-
create chamber of hir
loyall harte.⁶⁶

...and that hys sighte
shoulde serue in steede
of a fauourable barke to
harboure hir in the laste
porte of hir miseries,
...⁶⁷

⁶⁵ Appendix "B", p. 91 (CC, p. 42).

⁶⁶ Ibid., p. 93 (CC, p. 36).

⁶⁷ Ibid., p. 116 (CC, p. 59).

In their city, the Prince of Cyprus is taking in marriage the daughter of a great lord. A large assembly of knights take part in the tourney in celebration of the wedding:

Soliman and Perseda

Each one of these
approoued combatants,
Assembled from seuerall
corners of the world,
Are hither come to try
their force in armes,
In honour of the Prince
of Cipris nuptials.
(SP, I, ii, ll. 63-65)

Cupids Cautels

...it fortun'd a great lord
of the Citie, did marrie
his daughter vnto the
Prince of Cyprus, and for
the honorable salemnising
of thys princely wedding,
great preparation was
made...where (among others)
a great number of the
knights of Latran...were
assembled. All whyche,
withoute pretence of amitie,
endeuored at thys feast to
shewe theyr valour,....⁶⁸

Erastus, disguised, enters the lists and defeats all adversaries, including the Turkish knight, Brusor, and the commander of Rhodes. Unmasking Erastus, the company is astonished to discover the young knight:

Soliman and Perseda

Though ouer-borne, and
foyled in my course,
Yet haue I partners in
mine infamy.
Tis wondrous that so yong
a toward warriour
Should bide the shock of
such approoued knights,

Cupids Cautels

...we haue to oure greate
honour desired reviewe of
this amiable face, and may
nowe aduaunt our winning
with shame inough, being
all ouerthrowen by this
young stripling, who hath
receiued vs with like

⁶⁸ Ibid., p. 94 (CC, p. 37).

As he this day hath
 matcht and mated too.
 (SP, I, iv, ll. 33-37)

entertainment,⁶⁹

In the unmasking, however, Erastus' chain is severed and falls to the ground, unknown to him. It is discovered by a young gentleman of the town, who gives it to his beloved, Lucina:

Soliman and Perseda

Therefore will I now goe
 visit her,
 And please her with this
 Carcanet of worth
 Which by good fortune I
 haue found to day.
 (SP, I, iv, ll. 43-45)

Cupids Cautels

...for the cheyne happened
 into the hands of a Gentle-
 man of the town (companion
 of our Martyre) who sought
 the good wil of a cōutrey
 Damosel, neighbor vnto the
 Lordship of Erastus, vnto
 whō this amorous esquire
 presently sent this chaine
 for a tokē.⁷⁰

Erastus discovers his loss and delivers a long, unhappy speech concerning his bad fortune:

Soliman and Perseda

Ah, treacherous Fortune,
 enemy to Lone,....
 (SP, I, iv, l. 114)

Come therefore, gentle
 death, and ease my grieffe;
 Cut short what malice
Fortune misintends.
 But stay a while, good
Death, and let me liue;

Cupids Cautels

But alas, Fortune, the
 enimie of all good hap,
⁷¹

Oh lingering death, why
 takest thou pleasure in my
 mischiefes...Ah blinde
 bayarde, thou seest no more
 what is needeful to be done
 than fortune, who is con-

⁶⁹ Ibid., p. 97 (CC, p. 40).

⁷⁰ Ibid., p. 102 (CC, p. 45).

⁷¹ Ibid., p. 93 (CC, p. 36).

Time may restore what
Fortune tooke from me:
(SP, I, iv, ll. 126-9)

cluded wyth thee to worke
my vtter ruin. I knowe
you are conspired together,
but perhappes the one of
you shall deceiue the
other, and disaster shall
lose the Interest he
hopeth to haue in me.⁷²

What if my chaine shall
neuer be restord?
My innocence shall clear
my negligence.
(SP, I, iv, ll. 131-32)

what if I can heare no
newes of my Iewel, shall I
therefore coniecture so
great rancour to gouerne
the creature in whome I
coulede neuer perceiue but
leuitie and pittie; shall
I feare to be frustrate of
pardon, and banished hir
presence for one misfortune
the which I could not
auoyde?⁷³

At this point in the drama, Soliman kills his two brothers in an altercation over the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Persia. The Turkish ruler next determines to invade the isle of Rhodes:

Soliman and Perseda

And so beleager Rhodes
by sea and land.
That Key will serue to
open all the gates
Through which our pass-
age cannot finde a stop
Till it haue prickt the
hart of Christendome,
Which now that paltrie
Iland keeps from scath.
(SP, I, v, ll. 13-17)

Cupids Cautels

...and determined (consid-
ering the apt occasion
presently offered) to inuade
and conquer the noble and
puissant Isle of Rhodes,
whiche was supposed to be
the inuincible Key of
christendome.⁷⁴

⁷²Ibid., p. 101 (CC, p. 44).

⁷³Ibid., p. 102 (CC, p. 45).

⁷⁴Ibid., p. 111 (CC, p. 54).

...by turning of my
tickle wheele,
(SP, I, vi, l. 20)

...so greate deceyte and
ficklenesse remayneth in hir
mundayne wheele.⁷⁵

Spying the love token around the neck of another young lady, Perseda rejects as false the love of Erastus and returns his rigg:

Soliman and Perseda

To coole affection with
our woords and lookes,
If in our thoughts be
semblant sympathie,
(SP, II, i, ll. 2-3)

If heauens were iust, thy
teeth would tear they
tongue
For this thy periurde
false disloyalty:
If heauens were iust, men
should haue open breasts,
That we therein might read
their guilefull thoughts.
(SP, II, i, ll. 122-25)

Cupids Cautels

...to coole his courage of
such crakers,....⁷⁶

why are not the teeth (seru-
ants of our sustenance)
reuengers of all slaun-
derous tongs. Or if a
double hart outrageth the
tong why is there not a
wyndowe in each mans
breast thorow the whiche
this malicious guest may
be discovered euen in the
most secret cabyn of his
habitation.⁷⁷

Erastus is dismayed that Perseda would doubt his innocence concerning the loss of the chain:

⁷⁸ Ibid., p. 106 (CC, p. 49).

⁷⁹ Ibid., p. 75 (CC, p. 22).

⁸⁰ Ibid., p. 109 (CC, p. 52).

Soliman and Perseda

Hard doome of death, before
 my case be knowne;
 My iudge vniust, and yet I
 cannot blame her,
 Since Loue and iealousie
 mislead her thus:
 (SP, II, i, ll. 167-169)

Cupids Cautels

wherefore haue I found
 so vniust a Iudge to
 heare and determine my
 fauorable and rightfull
 cause, as pronounceth
 iudgemente before mine
 innocenye be scanned:⁷⁸

Erastus decides to regain his chain from Lucina, in Cupids Cautels by means of an honest dice game, in Soliman and Perseda with false dice. Lucina's beloved, encountering Erastus wearing the newly-regained necklace, is slain in the ensuing struggle:

Soliman and Perseda

Dasell mine eyes, or ist
Lucinas chaine?
 False treacher, lay downe
 the chaine that thou
 hast stole.
 (SP, II, i, ll. 244-245)

Cupids Cautels

I feele my daselde eies,
 By leamings lose their
 light.⁷⁹

Thou naughty deceitefull
 villaine, where hast thou
 stolen this cheyne, where-
 with thou braggest in
 this brauery:⁸⁰

⁷⁸ Ibid., p. 106 (CC p. 49).

⁷⁹ Ibid., p. 75 (CC p. 22).

⁸⁰ Ibid., p. 109 (CC p. 52).

Soleman and Perseda

...the murtherer will
escape
Without reuenge, sole
salue for such a sore.
(SP, II, ii, ll. 308-309)

Cupids Cautels

...whiche greatly im-
payred the sore he sought
to salue.⁸¹

In Wotton's narrative, Erastus flees with his trusty servant, Piston, to Turkey, where he is recognized and praised by the spectators of the Prince's wedding and is made Colonel of the army. In the drama, Erastus leaves his servant, Pistan, somewhat of a rogue, to return the necklace to Perseda and to inform her of his misfortunes; arriving at the court of Soliman, Erastus is introduced by Brusor and is immediately appointed Captain of the Janissaries:

Soliman and Perseda

Thou shalt be Captaine of
our Ianisaries,
And in our Counsell shalt
thou sit with vs,
And be great Solimans
adopted friend.
(SP, III, i, ll. 98-100)

Cupids Cautels

...he constituted him
Coronel of his Ianissaries
(whiche we call captaine of
the Guard),...Wherby hee
grewe in suche faouere and
credite wyth hys Lorde, as
he elected him one of his
Bachattes, and of his priuie
Councell.⁸²

⁸¹ Ibid., p. 115 (CC, p. 58)

⁸² Ibid., pp. 110-111 (CC, pp. 53-54)

Erastus is extremely successful as a leader and serves the Turkish ruler well; but when requested to lead armies against his homeland, the Isle of Rhodes, he refuses, preferring death to such treachery!

Soliman and Perseda

My gracious Soueraigne,
without presumption,
If poore Erastus may
once more intreate,
Let not great Solimans
command,
To whose behest I vowe
obedience,
Inforce me sheath my
slaughtering blade
In the deare bowels of
my councitizens:
(SP, III, 1, ll. 120-125)

Cupids Cautels

Who after due reuerēce vnto
the Emperoure Soliman, humbly
besought his highnesse, that
althoughe iust occasion vrged
him to seeke reuenge against
his vngrateful Countrey,
wherevnto hee liued in exile:
Neuerthelesse, that it woulde
please hys maiestie to pardon
hym, that he mighte not be
assistant in any expedition
so vnlawfull,....⁸³

Soliman, admiring Erastus' honorable intent, permits Erastus to remain in Turkey, while he himself leads the invasion. In the play however, Brusor is sent:

Soliman and Perseda

Well, well, Erastus, Rhodes
may blesse thy birth,
For his sake onely will
I spare them more
From spoile, pillage, and
oppression,
Then Alexander spard war-
like Thebes

Cupids Cautels

And although the inhab-
itantes shewed themselues
verye wilfull, the victo-
rious Emperoure notwyth-
standyng (in fauour of hys
gentle knyghte, of whom
he was alwayes myndefull)
vsed more benignitie

⁸³ Ibid., p. 111 (CC, p. 54).

For Pindarus: or then
Augustus
 Sparde rich Alexandria
 for Arrius sake.
 (SP, IV, 1, ll. 54-59)

towardses them, than the
 rigour of Warres dothe
 vsually permitte. Euen
 as Alexander the greate
 pardoned Thebes for the
 loue of Pindarus, and
Stagirius for the good
 will he bare to Aristotle:
 or as the fortunate
Augustus entreated rebel-
 lious Alexandria at the
 requeste of Arrius.⁸⁴

When Rhodes is captured, Perseda is taken from a nunnery and presented to Soliman as a prize of war. He at once falls in love with her and they return to Constantinople; there she is forced to learn singing and dancing for his entertainment:

Soliman and Perseda

But this kinde Turtle is
 for Soliman,
 That her captiuitie may
 turne to blisse.
 (SP, IV, 1, ll. 75-76)

Cupids Cautels

In this Cage Soliman
 supposed hys mournfull
 Turtle myghte prune at
 pleasure hir seltered
 plummage.⁸⁵

Soliman petitions Perseda's favors but is refused. In the play Soliman makes an angry attempt to kill her but fails because of his great love for her. Soliman stands outside her door, listening to her laments; when he hears Erastus' name and enters to find Perseda trying to

⁸⁴ Ibid., pp. 111-112 (CC, pp. 54-55).

⁸⁵ Ibid., p. 112 (CC, p. 55).

stab herself, he sends for Erastus and unites the two lovers. The wedding is held at once, and as a special gift, Erastus is made Governor of Rhodes:

Soliman and Perseda

Be thou, Erastus, Gouvernour
of Rhodes:
(SP, IV, i, ll. 181)

Cupids Cautels

Soliman gaue greate and
ryche giftes, and con-
stituted oure Bridegroom
Lieutenant and gouvernour
of the Isle of Rhodes,....⁸⁶

Erastus' appointment to the governorship is envied by Brusor, who feels he rightfully should have the position.

Soliman and Perseda

Must he reape that for
whiche I tooke the toile?
Come, enuie, then, and sit
in friendships seate;
How can I loue him that
inioyes my right?
(SP, IV, i, ll. 183-185)

Cupids Cautels

...his Cousin Brusor
Bellerbeck of Servia, who
like the other Princes of
Sangiaces, enuied Erastus
extremely, because he had
bene more aduanced by the
Emperour than their am-
bition could tollerate.⁸⁷

Soliman soon regrets his kind-hearted relinquishment of Perseda to Erastus. In the Wotton narrative, he writes a long letter to Perseda, pleading for her affections, which she answers with a polite refusal:

Soliman and Perseda

...so mooues me, that
I now repent

Cupids Cautels

...coule not dis-
suade him from bitter

⁸⁶ Ibid., p. 118 (CC, p. 61).

⁸⁷ Ibid., p. 122 (CC, p. 65).

That ere I gaue away
 my hearts desire;
 (SP, IV, 1, ll. 207-209)

repentaunce of his too
 frank offer and vnaduised
 liberalitie:⁸⁸

Brusor persuaded Soliman that so long as Erastus
 lives, Perseda can not be won. Soliman determines to have
 his rival killed:

Soliman and Perseda

But whilst he liues there
 is no hope in her.
 But why liues he then to
 greeue great Soliman?
 (SP, IV, 1, ll. 234-235)

Cupids Cautels

...it was supposed be-
 tweene them a thing impos-
 sible to allure the
 rebellious and obstinate
Perseda, vnlesse she were
 first deprived of Erastus,
⁸⁹

Soliman orders Erastus to come to Constantinople,
 where by false testimony, he is accused of treason and
 beheaded. In Soliman and Perseda, he is strangled, and
 the two witnesses, the two soldiers, and the marshall
 are all killed to prevent any from reporting the crime:

Soliman and Perseda

But by what means shall
 poore Erastus dye?
 This shall be the meanes:
 Ill fetch him backe
 againe,

Cupids Cautels

...so that your Maiestie
 will sende for him by your
 straight commaundement, the
 which I am certain he will
 not disobay, but make

⁸⁸ Ibid., p. 119 (CC, p. 62).

⁸⁹ Ibid., p. 122 (CC, p. 65).

Vnder couler of great
consequence;
No sooner shall he land
vpon our shore,
But witnes shall be
ready to accuse him
Of treason doone against
your mightines,
And then he shall be
doomd by marshall law.
O fine deuise; Bruser,
get thee gone!
(SP, IV, 1, ll. 243-250)

Erastus, Lord Gouvernour
of Rhodes, I arrest
you in the Kings name.
(SP, V, ii, ll. 15-16)

All this is yours, quoth
he, if you consent
To leaue great Soliman
and serue in Rhodes:
Why, that was treason;
but onwards with the rest.
(SP, V, ii, ll. 45-47)

For be it spoke in secret
heere, quoth he,
Rhodes must no longer beare
the turkish yoake.
(SP, V, ii, ll. 58-59)

Thou shalt foorthwith be
bound vnto that post,
And strangled as our
turkish order is.
(SP, V, ii, ll. 84-85)

speedy repaire with his
whole familie: and being
present, I will finde
occasion he shall be accused
of reuolt & rebellion,
wherypon being admitted
to prison for the offence,
iudgement and execution of
death may ensue. The
Emperour ioyfully embracing
this wicked Counsellor,
cōmended exceedingly his
inuention, and dispatched
him presently to practise
the execution of his
diuelishe deuice.⁹⁰

But Bruser vnder colour of
secret and waightie affaires,
allured & ledde poore
Erastus to Constantinople,
where he was no soner
alighted from his horse,
but the Marshall of the
Emperours housholde attached
& committed him close
prisoner vnder sure garde.⁹¹

...with speede prosecuted
the processe agaynst the
poore Gentleman, and by
false witnesses of purpose
prouided, Erastus was ac-
cused, and conuicted of
treason & rebelliõ, for
that he had consented (sayd
they) to deliuer the Ile of
Rhodes into the possession
of the Christians for which
offence iudgement passed
vpon him, and by the Em-
perours comandement he was
beheaded.⁹²

⁹⁰ Ibid., p. 122 (CC, p. 65).

⁹¹ Ibid., p. 122 (CC, p. 65).

⁹² Ibid., p. 123 (CC, p. 66).

When Perseda learns of her husband's death, she goes into mourning and desires to die. Pistan, who had witnessed the murder of his master, urges her to revenge the death of Erastus. She gathers soldiers and supplies in preparation to resist Soliman:

Soliman and Perseda

Rhodes now shall be no
longer Solymans:
Weele fortifie our walles,
and keepe the towne,
In spite of proud, insult-
ing Soliman.
(SP, V, iii, ll. 57-59)

Cupids Cautels

...wherby taking a māly
courage, she assembled
succours, mustred souldiers,
& made prouision of
necessarie furniture to
resist the power of
barbarous Soliman,....⁹³

In Cupids Cautels, Perseda buckles on Erastus' armor, and then proceeds to do battle with the enemy soldiers. A bullet strikes her, and she is killed. Pistan, the soldiers, and women of the castle fight to the death.

Soliman and Perseda

...thou wicked tirant,
thou murtherer, accursed
homicide, ...
Ah, periur'd and inhumaine
Soliman,
How could thy heart har-
bour a wicked thought
Against the spotlesse life
of poore Erastus?
(SP, V, iv, ll. 36-37, 40-43)

Cupids Cautels

Ah mischieuous Barbarian,
thou cruel and vngratefull
wretch of mine Erastus
benefites, whose seruices
thou hast so tirannously
recompenced,....⁹⁴

⁹³ Ibid., p. 123 (CC, p. 66).

⁹⁴ Ibid., p. 124 (CC, p. 67).

Kyd's Perseda, dressed as a man, meets Soliman in hand to hand combat. Only after he has mortally wounded her does Soliman realize his opponent is his beloved Perseda; he kisses her before she dies. When Piston and Basillisco display their love for her, Soliman kills them:

Soliman and Perseda

Ile not defend Erastus
innocence,
But die maintaining of
Persedas beutie.
Then they fight,
Soliman kills Perseda.
...I loued thee deerlie,
and accepte thy kisse...
Then Soliman kills
Basillisco....
Then Soliman kills
Piston.
Faire springing Rose, ill
pluckt before thy time.
(SP, V, iv, ll. 58-9, 69, 81)

Cupids Cautels

...the Turkes: who taking
hir for some souldier,
loosed a volue of shot,
among the which two bullets
sent from a Musket stroke
hir through the stomack,
....⁹⁵
...he found no creature but
the pale body of couragious
Perseda, resembling a Rose
by age hath lost ϕ red liue-
ly hue, loking so swetely as a
ma would haue said she
slept....⁹⁶

Alas, after hee had a thou-
sande tymes kissed hir colde
mouth, hee drew his faul-
chion, & brandishing his
paysie brond about him, hee
hurt and slew as many of
his people as would abide,
but speedily they fled hys
presence, and lefte hym
alone.⁹⁷

⁹⁵ Ibid., p. 124 (CC, p. 67).

⁹⁶ Ibid., p. 125 (CC, p. 68).

⁹⁷ Ibid., p. 126 (CC, p. 69).

Next, in Soliman and Perseda, the ruler of Turkey kills Brusor for being a bad counselor. After reading the note in Perseda's hand, and discovering he has been poisoned by her kiss, Soliman requests that his body be buried with Perseda's where Erastus was entombed. Then, he dies. In Wotton's tale, however, Soliman enters the castle to find Perseda dead; in anger, he slays as many of his soldiers as remain near. At the last, he determines to make amends to the two young people by erecting a handsome monument in which, after bringing Erastus' head and body to Rhodes, they are enclosed. At the same time he has a brass pyramid built, from the top of which Brusor is hanged. Soliman lives the rest of his life in repentance:

Soliman and Perseda

Ah, was he so?
 How durst thou then, vn-
 gracious counsellor,
 First cause me murther
 such a worthy man,
 And after tempt so ver-
 tuous a woman?
 Be this, therefore, the
 last that ere thou
 speake--
 Ianisaries take him
 straight vnto the block;
 Off with his head, and
 suffer him not to speake.
 (SP, V, iv, ll. 106-112)

Cupids Cautels

...commaunded a Piramede
 of brasse to bee erected,
 in the heighth whereof,
 hee caused the traitor
 Brusor to bee hanged, in
 guerdon of hys wicked
 counsell whereof you haue
 had vnderstanding.⁹⁸

⁹⁸ Ibid., p. 72 (CC, p. 72).

The plot of Wotton's Cupids Cautels was first used by Kyd in the interpolated play within The Spanish Tragedie. However, Hieronimo's play differs slightly from its source for the purpose of plot progression and a suitable dénouement. Perseda is an Italian dame rather than a lady of Rhodes. Soliman's friend, the Bashaw, equivalent to Brusor, is not jealous of Erastus' advancement but of Perseda's love for Erastus. Therefore, the Bashaw persuades Soliman to kill Erastus. Perseda slays Soliman, then stabs herself to escape the Bashaw's tyranny. In this manner, Hieronimo (the Bashaw) stabs Lorenzo (Erastus). Bel-imperia (Perseda) slays Balthazar (Soliman), then kills herself. Hieronimo stabs the Duke, final successor to the throne, and, lastly, stabs himself.

Obviously, as shown by this investigation, Thomas Kyd has consciously made use of Henry Wotton's Cupids Cautels as the plot source for his Soliman and Perseda, as well as for his play-within-the-play sequence in The Spanish Tragedie.

CHAPTER III

A WORD MAKER BY OCCUPATION

It must be so; for the conclusion
Shall proue the intention, and all was good.
--The Spanish Tragedie

As is apparent from the foregoing study, Thomas Kyd made use of the basic plot of Wotton's Cupids Cautels. It has been previously explained, however, that Wotton's English translation and the original version, Le Printemps d'Iver, were easily accessible in Kyd's time. It is conceivable, therefore, that Kyd may have based his play upon a theme commonly known to the writers of the period. Therefore, in order to show conclusively that Kyd made a conscious use of Wotton's translation, and worked, in all probability, from the actual book, one should prepare a comparative linear analysis of the two works. As a result of this analysis, one may observe in addition to the plot situation, the specific passages in Kyd's drama which derive from the actual phraseology and dialogue of Cupids Cautels. Hereafter, for the sake of convenience, these similarities of phraseology will be referred to by means of the following specific titles: (1) synonymous vocabulary; (2) paraphrases; and (3) similar parallel structure.

Consisting of alike, or nearly alike, words or phrases,

a "synonymous vocabulary" indicates direct imitation or transcription from the source. Certainly, such words present the most obvious and convincing evidence of borrowing. The first instance of near-direct quotation is to be found in Erastus' speech concerning the loss of his chain:

Soliman and Perseda

Ah, treacherous Fortune,
 enemy to Loue,....
 (SP, I, iv, l. 114)

Cupids Cautels

But alas, Fortune, the
 enimie of all good hap,
⁹⁹

Here one may detect Kyd's similar use of the terms Fortune and enemy. Another example of almost exact wording is found in Perseda's denunciation of Erastus:

Soliman and Perseda

...thy teeth
 would teare thy tongue....
 (SP, II, i, l. 122)

Cupids Cautels

...the teeth...reuengers
 of all slaunderous tongs....¹⁰⁰

Here, one notes that the words teeth and tongue are employed under similar circumstance. It is also obvious that Kyd often merely inverted Wotton's word order, retaining the same words:

Soliman and Perseda

...My iudge uniuist,....
 (SP, II, i, l. 168)

Cupids Cautels

...so uniuist a Iudge,....¹⁰¹

⁹⁹ Ibid., p. 93 (CC, p. 36).

¹⁰⁰ Ibid., p. 105 (CC, p. 48).

¹⁰¹ Ibid., p. 106 (CC, p. 49).

Another example of Kyd's use of inverted word order is seen in his use of the terms Dasell and eyes:

Soliman and Perseda

Cupids Cautels

Dasell mine eyes, ...
(SP, II, i, l. 244)

...my daselde eies,¹⁰²

Although in reverse order, the following phrase is also a near-direct quotation:

Soliman and Perseda

Cupids Cautels

...the chaine that thou
hast stole.
(SP, II, i, l. 245)

...hast thou stolen this
cheyne,¹⁰³

One next observes Kyd's use of sore and salue in the following inversion:

Soliman and Perseda

Cupids Cautels

...salue for such a sore.
(SP, II, ii, l. 309)

...the sore he sought to
salue.¹⁰⁴

Further evidence of Kyd's direct imitation may be seen in the ensuing phrase:

Soliman and Perseda

Cupids Cautels

...this kinde Turtle....
(SP, IV, i, l. 75)

...hys mournfull Turtle...¹⁰⁵

¹⁰² Ibid., p. 75 (CC, p. 22).

¹⁰³ Ibid., p. 109 (CC, p. 52).

¹⁰⁴ Ibid., p. 108 (CC, p. 51).

¹⁰⁵ Ibid., p. 112 (CC, p. 55).

As in the preceding phrase with the use of the term Turtle, only one word is similar, but it obviously parallels the Wotton statement. A further example of this repetition of single words appears in Erastus' declamation to Fortune:

<u>Soliman and Perseda</u>	<u>Cupids Cautels</u>
...gentle death.... (SP, I, iv, l. 126)	Oh lingering death,.... ¹⁰⁶

Kyd employs death in a sentence position which is parallel to Wotton's placement of the term. And the word wheele is similarly used in the following phrase:

<u>Soliman and Perseda</u>	<u>Cupids Cautels</u>
...my tickle wheele,.... (SP, I, vi, l. 20)	...her mundayne wheele. ¹⁰⁷

Both authors make use of the word Rose, with its resulting imagery:

<u>Soliman and Perseda</u>	<u>Cupids Cautels</u>
Faire springing Rose, ill pluckt before thy time. (SP, V, iv, ll. 68-69)	...resembling a Rose which by age hath lost y red liuely hue,.... ¹⁰⁸

Obviously parallel to Wotton's use is Kyd's method of applying ouer-borne in the text of the play:

106 Ibid., p. 101 (CC, p. 44).
 107 Ibid., p. 99 (CC, p. 42).
 108 Ibid., p. 125 (CC, p. 68).

Soliman and Perseda

...ouer-borne....

(SP, I, iv, l. 33)

Cupids Cautels...ouerthrowen....¹⁰⁹

Another synonymous term may be found in Perseda's use of the term harbour in relation to Erastus:

Soliman and Perseda...a harbour for my hart
to dwell.

(SP, I, ii, l. 36)

Cupids Cautels...a fauourable Marke to
harboue hir in the laste
porte....¹¹⁰

Soliman, in describing Rhodes, employs the words Key and Christendome, both of which may find in the parallel phrase from Cupids Cautels:

Soliman and PersedaThat Key will serue to
open all the gates...
Till it haue prickt the
hart of Christendome,....
(SP, I, v, ll. 14, 16)Cupids Cautels...the inuincible Key of
christendome.¹¹¹

Also, when the Turkish ruler appoints Erastus to the position of Governor, he uses the terms Gouernour and Rhodes in a situation similar to that in Cupids Cautels:

Soliman and PersedaBe thou, Erastus, Gouer-Cupids Cautels

...constituted oure

¹⁰⁹ Ibid., p. 97 (CC, p. 40).

¹¹⁰ Ibid., p. 116 (CC, p. 59).

¹¹¹ Ibid., p. 111 (CC, p. 54).

nour of Rhodes: Bridegroome Lieutenaunt
 (SP, IV, 1, 1. 181) and gouernoure of the
 Isle of Rhodes,....112

The preceding specimens of "synonymous vocablulary" make it evident that Kyd is indebted to Wotton's Cupids Cautels.

"Paraphrases" concern an author's reworking of ideas or thoughts in which words may have been changed, but the meaning is retained. In this first sample of paraphrasing, it may be noted that, for example, one may recognize that Kyd's words are different from Wotton's, but the meaning is the same:

Soliman and Perseda

Cupids Cautels

...accept this carkanet: ...keepe this token....113
 (SP, I, ii, 1. 32)

Also, Kyd's description of Erastus as victor in the tourneys is quite similar to Wotton's handling of this situation:

Soliman and Perseda

Cupids Cautels

...so yong a toward ...young stripling....114
 warriour....
 (SP, I, iv, 1. 35)

It is obvious, here, that in addition to paraphrasing, Kyd has employed the synonymous words yong and

112 Ibid., p. 118 (CC, p. 61).

113 Ibid., p. 93 (CC, p. 36).

114 Ibid., p. 97 (CC, p. 40).

young. Still concerning the tournament, Kyd's use of matcht and mated certainly paraphrases Wotton's words:

Soliman and Perseda

Cupids Cautels

As he this day hath
matcht and mated too.
(SP, I, iv, l. 37)

...who hath receiued vs
with like entertainment. 115

A clear example of paraphrasing may be seen in the next phrase, in which the "open breast" idea is succinctly implied:

Soliman and Perseda

Cupids Cautels

...open breasts,
That we therein might read
their guilefull thoughts.
(SP, II, i, ll. 124-25)

...a wyndowe in each mans
breast thorow the whiche
the fraudulent deceites
... may be discovered.... 116

Although in the following excerpt the title given Erastus is not common to both works, it certainly is close enough to illustrate parallel thought:

Soliman and Perseda

Cupids Cautels

...shalt be Captaine of
our Ianisaries,....
(SP, III, i, l. 98)

...constituted him Coronel
of his Ianissaries.... 117

One notes that Kyd paraphrases the passage in Cupids Cautels which deals with the invasion of Rhodes, using the word beleager rather than the word inuade:

115 Ibid., p. 97 (CC, p. 40).

116 Ibid., p. 105 (CC, p. 48).

117 Ibid., p. 110 (CC, p. 53).

Soliman and PersedaCupids Cautels

And so beleager Rhodes
by sea and land.
(SP, I, v, l. 13)

...to inuade and conquer
the noble and puissant
Isle of Rhodes,...118

Kyd presents Soliman's regrets concerning Perseda in the ensuing parallel idea:

Soliman and PersedaCupids Cautels

...I now repent
That ere I gaue away
my hearts desire.
(SP, IV, i, ll. 207-209)

...bitter repentaunce of
his too frank offer and
vnaudised liberalitie:119

At the same time one notes, in the following example, that Kyd also employs the similar words kisse and kissed:

Soliman and PersedaCupids Cautels

...and accepte thy kisse....
(SP, V, iv, l. 68)

...a thousande tymes
kissed hir colde mouth,...120

These basic similarities of thought, presented by means of "paraphrase," so present further proof that Kyd based Soliman and Perseda upon Wotton's Cupids Cautels.

Finally, one may observe Kyd's imitation of Wotton in his use of "similar parallel structure." The first instance of this parallel structure may be noted in Kyd's apparent fondness for Wotton's "what if" construction:

118 Ibid., p. 111 (CC, p. 54).

119 Ibid., p. 119 (CC, p. 62).

120 Ibid., p. 126 (CC, p. 69).

Soliman and Perseda

What, if my chaine shall
 neuer be restord?
 (SP, I, iv, l. 131)

Cupids Cautels

what if I can heare no
 newes of my Iewel,....¹²¹

Again, very precisely, Kyd has paralleled the form of Cupids Cautels; however, he uses the "If--If" rather than the "why--why" structure:

Soliman and Perseda

If heauens were iust, thy
 teeth would teare thy
 tongue

.....
 If heauens were iust, men
 should haue open brests,....¹²²

Cupids Cautels

Why are not the teeth...
 reuengers of all slaun-
 derous tonges...

.....
 why is there not a wyndowe
 in each mans breast....¹²²

Another instance of Kyd's use of a parallel structure, this time combined with the synonymous terms to coole, also occurs in Wotton's work:

Soliman and Perseda

To coole affection....
 (SP, II, i, l. 2)

Cupids Cautels

...to coole his courage...¹²³

Parallel construction and direct imitation of words are evident in Brusor's plotting:

Soliman and Perseda

No sooner shall he land

Cupids Cautels

...no soner alighted

¹²¹ Ibid., p. 102 (CC, p. 45).

¹²² Ibid., p. 105 (CC, p. 48).

¹²³ Ibid., p. 109 (CC, p. 52).

vpon our shore,....
 (SP, IV, i, l. 246)

from his horse,....¹²⁴

Wotton's "Euen as--or as" structure was adapted by Kyd as "Then--or then." Obvious, too, is the near-direct quotation of names and places from Cupids Cautels:

Soliman and Perseda

Then Alexander spared war-
 like Thebes
 For Pindarus: or then
Augustus
 Sparde rich Alexandria
 for Arrius sake.
 (SP, IV, i, ll. 57-59)

Cupids Cautels

Euen as Alexander the
 greate pardoned Thebes
 for the loue of Pindarus,
 and Stagirius for the
 good will he bare to
Aristotle: or as the
 fortunate Augustus
 entreated rebellious
Alexandria at the requeste
 of Arrius.¹²⁵

It is apparent that Kyd has inverted Wotton's "Ah--thou" form of sentence in this last example of "similar parallel Structure:"

Soliman and Perseda

...thou wicked tirant,
 thou murthurer, accursed
 homicide,....
 Ah, periur'd and inhumaine
Soliman,....
 (SP, V, iv, ll. 36-37)

Cupids Cautels

Ah mischieuous Barbarian,
 thou cruel and vngratefull
 wretch....¹²⁶

In this comparative study of Soliman and Perseda, one has presented evidence of Kyd's indebtedness to Wotton's

¹²⁴ Ibid., p. 122 (CC, p. 65).

¹²⁵ Ibid., p. 112 (CC, p. 55).

¹²⁶ Ibid., p. 124 (CC, p. 67).

first episode of Cupids Cautels, by means of: (a) a comparative study of plot similarities; and (b) a close linear analysis of the two works with respect to: (1) synonymous vocabulary; (2) paraphrases; and (3) similar parallel structure. The lineal study reveals an even stronger evidence of Kyd's indebtedness to Wotton's first historie. As a consequence, one is convinced Thomas Kyd made use of Henry Wotton's Cupids Cautels as his source for Soliman and Perseda.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Adams, Joseph Quincy. A Life of William Shakespeare. London: Constable and Company Limited, 1923.
- Atkinson, Dorothy F. "The Source of Two Gentlemen of Verona," Studies in Philology, XLI (1944), pp. 223-234.
- Baldwin, Thomas W. "On the Chronology of Kyd's Plays," Modern Language Notes, XL (June, 1925).
- _____, Shakespeare's Five-Act Structures. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1947.
- _____, "Thomas Kyd's Early Company Connections," Philological Quarterly, VI (July, 1927), pp. 311-13.
- Boas, Frederick S. Marlowe and His Circle. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1929.
- Bradbrook, Muriel C. The Growth and Structure of Elizabethan Comedy. London: Chatto and Windus, 1955.
- British Authors Before 1800. Edited by Stanley Kunitz and Howard Haycraft. New York: H. W. Wilson, 1952.
- The Cambridge History of English Literature. Edited by A. W. Ward and A. R. Waller. In IV Vols. Cambridge: University Press, 1949.
- Chambers, Sir E. K. The Elizabethan Stage. In IV Vols. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1951.
- The Dictionary of National Biography. Edited by Sir Leslie Stephen and Sir Sidney Lee. In XXIII Vols. London: Oxford University Press, 1950.
- Fleay, Frederick G. A Biographical Chronicle of the English Drama, 1559-1642. In II Vols. London: Reeves and Turner, 1891.
- Gray, Henry David. "Reconstruction of a Lost Play," Philological Quarterly, VII (July, 1928), pp. 254-74.
- Heywood, Thomas. An Apology for Actors. New York: Scholars Facsimiles and Reprints, 1941.

- Kyd, Thomas. The Works of Thomas Kyd. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1901.
- Lucas, F. L. Seneca and Elizabethan Tragedy. Cambridge: University Press, 1922.
- Montemayor, Jorge de. La Diana Enamorada. Trans. by Abraham Remy. In III Vols. Paris: Au Palais par la Societe, 1624.
- Mustard, Wilfred P. "Notes on Thomas Kyd's Works," Philological Quarterly, V (January, 1926), pp. 85-86.
- Nicoll, Allardyce. British Drama, An Historical Survey from the Beginnings to the Present Time. New York: Thomas J. Crowell Company, 1925.
- Pogue, Jim. C. "A Reinvestigation of the Sources of The Two Gentlemen of Verona." Unpublished Master's theses, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, 1956.
- Schelling, Felix E. Elizabethan Drama, 1558-1642. In II Vols. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1908.
- Tucker Brooke, C. F. The Tudor Drama. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1911.
- Ward, Adolphus W. A History of English Dramatic Literature. In II Vols. London: Macmillan and Company Limited, 1899.

APPENDIX "A"

APPENDIX "A"

In 1578 was published A Courtlie Controuersie of Cupids Cautels Containing five tragicall Histories by 3 gentlemen & 2 gentle women translated out of the French by H. W. Gentleman. This English translation, printed in London by Francis Coldocke and Henry Binneman, was made by Henry Wotton. He was the son of John Wotton, or Wooton, of North Tudenham, and a brother of one Wooton, of Tudenham, Norfolk.¹²⁷ The Norfolk Wooton's second wife was widow of Thomas Piennes, lord Dacre of the South. It was to his sister-in-law, the Lady Dacre of the South, that Henry Wotton dedicated his Cupids Cautels. The French work from which Wotton translated was Jacques d'Yver's Le Printemps d'Iver. Yver was born at Niort, France, in 1520 and died there in 1472, the year in which his Le Printemps d'Iver was published.¹²⁸

¹²⁷ Dictionary of National Biography, XXI, p. 972.

¹²⁸ J. C. Fogue, A Reinvestigation of the Sources of The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Appendix "A," p. 80.

APPENDIX "B"

The following text has been prepared from a microfilm copy of Wotton's rare 1578 translation, procured from the British Museum with the co-operation of the Modern Language Association. Extant also are two other imperfect copies, one in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and the other in Sion College, London. In preparation of this text, all possible care has been taken to follow the original copy in exact detail. No attempt has been made to correct errors of punctuation, mechanics, or spelling, in which the work abounds. In his introduction, Wotton makes apology for any possible errors he might make in his great hurry; many of the mistakes may be attributed to the printer. The most obvious errors occur in pagination. Because these errata do exist, the following table of pagination is included; although the pagination is faulty, but for the missing pages 7 and 8, the story is continuous:

- pp. 1-6 (correctly numbered consecutively)
- pp. 7-8 (lacking)
- pp. 9-17 (correctly numbered consecutively)
- p. 17 (followed by pp. 22, 23, 20, 21, 18, 19, 24, 17, 26, 27, 20, 21, 30, 31, 24, 33, 42, 43; should be pp. 17-35)
- pp. 36-69 (correctly numbered consecutively)
- p. 69 (followed by pp. 72 and 69; should be 70 and 71)
- pp. 72-78 (correctly numbered consecutively)

As a matter of additional interest the Oxford English Dictionary defines cautel as follows:

- (1) a crafty device, artifice, stratagem; a trick, sleight, deceit.
- (2) cunning, craftiness, wiliness, trickery.
- (3) caution, wariness, heedfulness.

THE TEXT

The first Historie of

A courtlie Controuersie of Cupids Cautels
Containing fiue tragicall historyes by 3--
gentlemen and 2 gentle women Translated out of
French by Hen. Wotton & dedicated to his sister the Lady Dacre
of the South. At London Imprinted by Francis
Coldock & Henry Bynneman. 1578.

The Pleasure of the first
dayes Pastyme.



lthoughe the Diamant,
Rubys, and euery pretious stone, by
naturall instincte, include vnder their
simple shapes their proper price and
valure: Notwithstanding eche one
in hys kinde, seemeth more riche and
estimable, beeyng cunningly sette in
golde, by the curious workmanship
of the expert goldsmith. Euen so (ac-

cording to my iudgement) although wordes wisely spoken, and
deeds vertuously done, deserue great commendation: The same
neuerthelesse shew a greater excellencie, and importe more ma-
iestie, beyng collected and placed by the diligent trauell of some
faourable writer, in any worke consecrated vnto immortality,
and registred in the Library of eternall memory, to remayne a
President or rather perpetuall Relicke, vnto all future poster-
ities. The consideration whereof, hath gained so great authority
ouer me, as (giuing me no time of quiet) doth continually pricke
me forward, or rather enforce me, to bring to lyght such plea-
sante deuises beautified with straunge discourses, as with great
admiration, I heard but lately, learnedly offered in a right ho-
norable companie, least that, obliuion, whiche enuiously seeketh
to suppress and burie in hir entrayles things most memorable &
shoulde both deprive the aucthors of my trauaile, of the honour
due vnto them, and glory they haue deserued: and also robbe al
courteous minds faouring courtly inuentions of the pleasure,
whiche they may receiue by the knowledge thereof. So an mee
thinketh, we are of duty bounds to endeouere our selues, to fa-
mish this infernall helhoude, which in deuouring once undyng
seeketh to extinguish the memorie of our passed life: Yet must I
needes confesse (notwythstanding the greate good will, whiche
vrgeth me forward) that the mistrust of my disability to finishe
this enterprise (the whiche giueth the perfecte knowledge of my
B. selfe

The Pleasure of

selfe without flatterie) at the firste encounter hath for feare frozen the ynke in my penne, knowing the carping wittes of our age, to be so cloyed with the sower taste of loathsome disdayne, as there is no sawce sufficient (howe delicate so euer it be) to restore again their appetite or at y^e leaste, to giue them knowlege that y^e vnsauory sault they find in their meate, resteth in their vnseasoned mouths. So that enuy accustomed to fatten hir slanderous railing phangs, vpon the moste commendable works in rewarde of their good meaning, will not spare my simple phrase, too weake to defend it selfe against so horrible a môster, as Hercules himselfe could neuer cõquer. Neuerthelesse, considering that the most rightfull iudges do not regard y^e depositiõ of one witnes in matters of waigte, but haue consideration to the equitie of the cause, I am encouraged with a newe hardinesse, knowing y^e my determined intēt in this small Treatise is not to counterfaite y^e eloquent Oratour, but rather like a faithfull secretary to report the pleasant discourses, and memorable histories propounded to passe away the irkesomnesse of certain yole afternoons, by a gallant assembly of yong Gentlemen, and damosels of France, whiche at a feaste of Penticost were gathered together, and stedfastly purposed in their friendly visitation, with pleasure to suppress the turmoiles and disquiet receyued duryng the miserable civil warres, and to season the bitter salt, whiche might reuiue the remembraunce thereof. Like as toyled mariners readye to be swallowed with euery surge, reioice to see the mightie mounting waves appeased by a quyete calme, after a tempestuous flowe, or as the small birdes prune themselves among the yong greene leaves, whiche the pleasant spring lendeth to euery twig, after a long and hard Winter: Even so of custome, reason teacheth man, after a long and tedious trauell, to seeke the place of rest moste pleasant and agreeable to his contentment, not onely because diuersitie of delightes doeth recreate Nature: But for so muche as the exchange of euill into good, is to bee desired and very profitable.

Wherefore after the recouery of the contagious plague of Fraunce (which may be well termed afranticke fever) bee yng
subject

the firste daye.

3

subjecte to so many infirmitie, as scarcely the thirde letting of bloud was sufficient to remedy the sickness (the poore body was so weake and bare.) Every man had free libertie to returne into his owne habitation, by the happy conclusion of a peace, conceived in the kings heart by diuine inspiration. It need not to be demaunded, with what gladnesse and contentation eche one receiued the commoditie of their possessions, so long detained from them by the rigor of the wars: surely it was no lesse thā the ioy of the aged father, which beholdeth the return of his only child, whose death he hath bewailed many a day, or of the condemned prisoner, when he receiueth his v unexpected pardon: wherby it is manifest, that the greater grieffe a man endureth, & more delight he taketh in a little ease, which is veriefied by the Persian king, who being put to flight by his enmy, found more fauor in drinking & puddle water to quench his thirst, thā in tasting the most delicious wines for his pleasure. I dare assure you, that in all & coasts of France no man repaired with greater contentation into their desolate houses, than the inhabitants of the country of Poyroba, who thoughte themselues possessed of newe mansions, esteeming whatsoeuer they foud vnspoiled by & insolēt inquistors to be gotten goode. Thus & country being quiet & euery house in order, as necessitie required, nothing delighted & people more thā to visite one another to communicate together about their great losses, like friends linked in the chaine of neighborly amitie, to comfort the distresse of their cōmon misery. This charitable vse was principally practised by & nobilitie of the countrey, whose vse of auntient custome to allie and write their houses by familie or acquaintance, and bond of kindred, wherby their estates continue more sure and their hopoure more established and excellent. Among, the whiche, three young Gentlemen, kinsmen, and neighbors (meeting vpon a day, as it had bene of purpose) determined at the feaste of Pentecost (which was at hande) to visite a Ladie that kept the nexte castell, and to passe the tyme with hir all the holydays assuring themselues she would be verie glad of their companie, as in deede they deserued to bee welcome in all places both for their honestie and good education.

B. ij.

But

The Pleasure of

4

But lest that I shoulde offend the parties, which I would be loath to do, in vttering their proper names, thinking therby to aduance their credits, I haue thoughte good to imitate suche as play vpon stages, who vnder masking shapes represente the true personages of whome their Comedies or Tragedies entreate. Euen so I meane, vnder counterfayte names to colour the truth, enforcing Patroclus to skirmishe wyth the armours of Achilles. Wherefore we will dub our three Gentlemen knights, which shal be presented vpon this Theatre, and will name them according to our aucthour Sire Bel accueil, Sire Fleur d'amour, and Sire Firme Foy. And the place of their disport, the Castell du Prin-temps, builded long since, as is certainly reported by the famous enchauntresse Melleusine, to shewe the excellencie of hir secrete science, leauing therein many monuments of hir miracles interpreted by prophecies, which I would not discouer, but bycause they touche the description of the place, besides the situation, the commodities whereof do well testifye the wisdome of the builder and giueth admiration to the beholder, so as the passerby, is constrained to make longer abode, than leysure permitteth, to feede his hungry eie wyth the svcculation of the miraculous edifice, the workmanship whereof is so curious, as those which haue viewed the Castell, do iudge it to be the moste sumpuous and excellent building that may be seene: yet all the strange deposition of the wonders whyche are enclosed within the same, whiche beyng well considered, yeeldeth the castel nothing inferiour to the renowned Palace of the Soudan of vlubie, the stateliness wherof, disdaineth the glory of the gorgeous Piramides of Yace?: for the hugeness thereof is such, that a mā may easily wander all his life as in a Labyrinth, among the infinit deuisions of large paved halles, parlours, chambers, galleries, closets, porches, toures, armories, vaults, tarresses, and cloisters with other innumerable roomths and offices, plaistred, grauen, and gilte, supported wyth a wonderfull sorte of arches, pillers, images, monsters, serpents, beasts, and foules of all kindes,

so

the first day.

so cunningly carued, enriched, and beautified with suche singular kindes of coloures, (vernished after the Damaskin manner, as the very walles seeme to be of glasse, wherevppon are represented a greate number of memorable histories of olde time, wyth a thousande discriptions, epitaphes, verses, riddles, and poems containing the effect of their subjects, with diuers other strange deuises, sufficient to rauishe and astonie the most rude and leaden wits, and to bind mens bodies with the chaines of their eyes, rauishing from them all appetite of meate, drynke, or sleepe, like soules allotted with maruell. Although these things are greatly to be estemed, so it is, that greedie curiositie passing forward, she encounter newe matter of more abasement, for it seemeth that nature had debate and contention wyth the excellency of the workmanshippe, and enuying the same, to obtaine the victorie, added hir whole endeour and power bountifully to impart therevpon the iewels of hir precious threasury, to the ende the world shoulde wonder at hir mightie puissance. So as she hath beautified the delectable soile whereon our surpassing spectacle is situate, with a thousande fountaines, woodes, meadowes, riuers, groues, brookes, and other country commodities: as Orchards, planted with al kind of fruite trees, set in due order by line and leuell, deuided into diuers pleasaunt walkes: goodly gardens, full of gallant alliees, knottes, mounts, mazes, seates, bunkes, and arbors of all sorts, yelding moste aromaticke sauours, weather from a myltitude of odoriferous floures of euerye kinde, besides a number of pleasante vniforme pondees placed in seuerail Parkes, abounding with al kinde of game, very strongly walled by impales, adioining to the Castel. To be short, their wanted nothing that wisdom, wealth, or workmanshippe might compass: yea a man cannot imagine or desire greater perfection to bee in any earthly Paradise. Al these commodities althoughe they deserue to bee considered with greater admiration, for their excellentnesse and singularitie, yet are they to bee accepted, but as fading fantasies, and mortified vanities: If two fourraigne beauties, hauing theyr mansions in thys massie body of delight like two diuine soules, did not reuiue the same: for as

The Pleasure of

the goldsmith doth set a stone of great value in a piece of golde finely wrought, therby to aduance his cunning workmanship, or as the pleasant recording bird is kept in a delicate cage: euen so it pleased the wisdom of the Almighty, to bestow this gallant harbour vpon two hostesses, whose diuine perfection surmounted the Magnificence of the humaine Arte: hauyng enriched the Lady of this Castell (who was a wydowe) wyth diuine beautie, vertuous nouriture, curteous & courtly behauior, as they seemed not only to be the chosen Paragons of the earth, and creatures worthy of suche an habitation, vnworthy to receyue them, but also rather created of God, and sente from heauen, than begotten by man, and borne in the worlds. The daughter was called Mary, and the neece Margaret. These Damoyseles entertayned our three knyghts so curteously, being ariued at vnwares, vnlooked for, as they had greate occasion to bee satisfied both with the great worshyp doone to them by the Ladye of the place, and with the modeste demeanour of the maydens. Thus after sundry heartie and affectionate welcomes, with one consente it was determined among them, vtterly to exclude al sadnesse, and that no care should be taken, but to inuente with what recreation they myghte passe the tyme moste pleasauntlye, and deuise newe pastimes. That nyght oure newe guests refreshed theyr weary limmes, after their trauaile.

The nexte morning, the spring of the day no sooner appeared, but well was hee that coulede fyrste arise to glue the camisado to the most haggarde in the companye. Then halfe readye after the fyrste worke was presented to God, concernyng the duety requisyte to holynesse and deuotion, not onelye required to the good gouernement of a familie well instructed, but according to the tribute due by euery good Christian, they passed the same in their chamber, wyth tenne thousande preaty pastimes, vntil the Sunne displaying his beames, had abated the moysture of the fresh dewe. Then running and leaping wantonly, they romed amōg the fine sweet borders, wher they made large spoils of the floures, which vnfoldeing their tender leaues,

at

the firste daye.

red, and leaue taken on all partes, euery one repared to hys chamber, where they rested vntill the nexte morning, the which approching presented other newe disports. Thys courtly company demeaned this delicate life the space of eight dayes, during the whiche time, one afternone sseekyng a conuenient place to shadowe their bodies from the extreame heate of the Sunne, they founde a tuft of trees very delectable for the coolenease of the place. In the middest of the same was a fountaine, at the headspryng whereof was eleuate the figure of an old hermit, very workemanly carued out of Marble stone, the whiche Image seemed to be there placed, to honoure and bewtifie the roomthe. The cōpanye beholding the stone attentiuely, gaue their iudgements diuersly: One sayde it was Sainct Jerome mortified, another saide it was Sainct Anthony, appointed to keepe the A-cornes, thus euery one pronounced hys seuerall opinion. And at this controuersye they stayed to reade a scroll hanging down from the hand of the Image, the content wherof was,

If thundring threates of mightie Ioue aboue,
 If monstrous shapes from God among vs sente,
 If bitter plagues, whereof we dayly proue,
 Had power to make mankynde his lyfe repent,
 Man shoulde not neede to feare the fleying whip,
 VWhiche dothe for sinne his guiltie conscience nip.

The rodde wherewith the Lorde doth scourge vs still,
 The promised plagues of vengeance in his ire,
 Is to enforce man to obey his wyll,
 And shunne the debt of his deserued hire.
 The louing Lorde dothe warne vs day by day,
 Yet we rebell, and lust to runne astray.

Eche fishe that swimmes, eche foule that buildes a nest,
 Eche blooming plante, eche hearbe and fruitfull tree,
 Eche creping worme, and euery liuing beaste,
 Brings forth encrease, eche one in their degree.
 They prayse the Lorde according to their kinde,

C.

They

The Pleasure of

They Prayse the Lorde according to their kinde,
They liue and dye, as nature hathe assinde.

All things on earthe, created by the lorde,
VVere to sustaine the needefull life of man:
And man at laste was formed by his worde,
And of the earthe, by God possession wanne,
Redeemed eke from sinne by Christe his sonne,
VVhose Godhead was before the world begonne:
Be thankfull man, repent, and turne againe,
Let not thy sauicours bloude be shed in vaine.

Surueying anew the image, & scanning the effect of the verses, the lady tooke occasion to discouer from the depthe the nature of man, and to inuey against his ingratitude, the mother of his misery, beginning at Adam, and declining from one generation to another vnto this latter age, which is so wicked and corrupte, as all things are moste like to retourne into their auncient confusion. To this effect (saide she) cometh to my remembrance a ditty, whiche I composed in the extremitie of our late calamities, when I thought our helpe was paste all recouerie. At whiche tyme bycause I coulde finde no companion, eyther to comforte me, or helpe to complaine my great sorrowe, I learned to sing it to my lute, wherevnto I praye you attend. Then taking the instrumente, after a musicall preamble, framing hir voice to the tune of hir lute, she began in this maner:

The complaint of the ciuill warres of Fraunce.

VVhat kinde of newe suspect
Doth grudge my broylyng breaste:
VVhat griping griefe, or strange conceite,
Bereaues my minde of reste:
VVhat flieing blade, doth cutte my gale
By force of mortal foe?

VVhose

the firste daye.

VWhose cruell bloody pawes,
 So fiercely me assayles,
 As still me thinkes, I feele hym teare
 My hearte with goarye nayles.

2 The flames of Aetna mounte,
 VWhose smoothers pierce the aire,
 Consumes not so, as I doe waste,
 VWith enuy, rage and care,
 To viewe in euery coaste,
 The garnisons so thicke,
 Of brainsicke souldiours, whom the spoiles
 Of natiue soile doth pricke,
 And headlong doth enforce,
 To baine the fieldes in bloode
 Of countrey soules, without remorse
 Of Fraunce their mother good.

3 VWith sorrowe I consume,
 Like snowe againste the Sunne,
 Mine eies with teares like flowing streames
 Continually doe runne:
 My face with ashes foule,
 My golden tresse is shorne,
 My hearte in sorrowe closed fast,
 My pleasant dayes are worne,
 My pinching pining pangs
 My penne shall nowe disclose,
 The worlde shal knowe my driery playntes
 The cause of these my vvoes.

4 My sadde and pensiuie song
 Runne with dispersed lockes:
 Proclayme my griefe in dolefull tunes,
 Among the woodes and rockes
 Goe cladde in mourners weede,
 Trusse vp thy garmentes rounde,

C. ij.

Hye

The Pleasure of

Hye to the Mountes of Apennine
 Doe there my verses sounde.
 VWhere Arno floudes, and Po,
 VWith Eecho may reporte
 My sighes, my sobbes, and harde mishap,
 To suche as there reporte.

5 Tell them the Frenchmen they,
 VWho by their valiant might,
 So oftentimes in fierce conflictes
 Their armies put to flighte,
 Nowe doe they seeke no more
 Reuenge of wrong receyde, they seeke
 To salue their present sore.
 Tell Italy alas,
 That Milan neede not feare,
 But liue in peace with Naples nowe,
 That Fraunce is in dispaire.

6 Tell Germany la bas,
 VWhere Mos the running flood,
 Doth leade his course by mount & rocke
 Through many a dale and wood
 VWhose people taught to crouche,
 By force of our assaultes,
 Constraynde to flee their walled Townes,
 And hide themselves in vaultes:
 VVishe them and those that holde
 The fruitfull bankes of Rhine
 Like brethren now to length our liues,
 VWith some reliefe in tyme.

7 You Europe Princes all,
 VWhiche sometime sought for peace,
 Thereby to stave the Frenchmens force
 Their kingdome to encrease,

VVhome

the first daye.

VVhome you with all your power,
 Coulede not in ferrayne soyle
 Resiste, afflicted nowe you seeke
 Like carion crowes to spoile:
 Not one is absent nowe,
 The carkasse to deuoure,
 VVhose fleshe then in your greedy mawes
 Had made your sauce but sowre.

8 Thus is the Lion stoute,
 VVhome euery beaste did feare,
 Assailed nowe, and marched on
 Of euery trembling hare.
 Oh Fraunce, whose mightie power,
 And famous highe renoume,
 Surmounted for hir valiantnesse
 Eche country king and towne,
 VVhat dire mishap more harde,
 VVhat more vnhappy ende,
 Coulede fortune frame, than force perforce
 Thy fame to ruine sende.

9 Must needes thy fatall blade,
 Not hauing whome to kill,
 Againste thy selfe his bloody rage
 In fury werke his will:
 As noble Romaines did,
 The conquerors of all,
 VVho after thousand battels wonne
 Did werke their fatall fall,
 VVhen rancor taking roote,
 Their mightie hande did arme
 Against themselues, to rue the liues
 They shoulde haue kept from harme.

10 As he that hath the goute,
 Doth dayly wishe for death,

C. 11j.

Or

The Pleasure of

Or he that into dropsie falles,
 VVould stop his vitall breath:
 Or as the man that liues
 In painefull pangs, doth crie
 And call for death, to end his grieffe,
 And yet hee can not die,
 But takes some poysned drugges
 At laste to ende his life:
 So Fraunce by murthering man and child
 VVould ende our cankred strife.

11 The roaring Lion fierce,
 Or furious Leoperds rage,
 VVith no suche frensie trackes they pray
 Their hunger to asswage:
 Nor Tigre dothe pursue
 More Greedely, the thiefe
 That steales hir yong, or faster packes
 To giue hir whelpes reliefe,
 Than doth our scattered troupes,
 In armes with fury fraughte,
 Againste themselues suche slaughter make
 As bringeth all to naught.

12 The fieldes are bathed in the bloud,
 Euen of their children deare,
 And churchyards new of common groundes
 Doe euery where appeare:
 And cankred spighte hath wrought
 By heapes of bodies dead,
 That frothye ryuers whyte as mylke
 Are dyed scarlet redde.
 Thus eche man vrged on
 By madde reuenging moodes,
 Lyke franticke fooles do quite forget
 The lesse of wife and goodes.

The

the first daye.

13 The father dothe not spare,
 To bathe his bloody knife,
 VWithin the bowels of the babe
 That by himselfe had lyfe:
 The child nowe growne a man,
 Cuttes off his syers head,
 And dothe reioice with mary moode
 To see his father deade:
 The brother feares his ende,
 Leaste brother do aduaunce,
 Thus all estates to ruine runne,
 Throughout the realme of Fraunce.

14 The mischief wrought by men,
 The battering Cannons shotte,
 Destroyeth castels, fortes, and townes,
 That valiant Princes gotte.
 The auncient myghtie walles,
 VWhere stately Cities stooode,
 Lies flatte and beaten to the earth,
 Imbrude in Burgers bloode.
 The wealth we wallowed in
 Before our wofull wracke,
 Conuerted is by country foss,
 To pillage, spoyle, and sacke.

15 The reuerend aged fires
 Obeye these lawlesse mates,
 VWho lyke vnbridled Helhoundes, beare
 Of men the onely shapes:
 They dayly seeke to haue
 The wealth man can not giue,
 So they do get, they do not force
 Howe hardly others lyue.
 The olde distressed dames
 Doe rende their grisly heare,
 To see the maydes by bloody beastes,

Defloured

The Pleasure of

Defloured euery where.

16 Oh tiranny vniuste,
 Oh crueltie vnkinde,
 My heare with horreur stands on end,
 In vttering of my minde:
 You people neyhbours nere,
 yet farre from any blowe,
 Bewaile the state of our decay,
 Lament our ouerthrowe.
 And though our ship do sincke
 In viewe of you on shore,
 Let not the storme that works our wracke,
 Make you reioice the more.

17 Quake at our hard mishap,
 Least you befall the like,
 For where the blind doth leade the blinde,
 Bothe fall into the dyke.
 Your kindled neighbours house,
 May cause you feare youre owne:
 VWho dreads no harme that maye ensue,
 Is soonest ouerthrown.
 VWherefore consider freendes,
 That yet liue in delygtes.
 How Dogs and Rauens your fathers flesh,
 Deoured in your syghtes.

18 Alas, shal euermore
 Our woes engraued lye,
 VWith sighes, in brasse and marble stone,
 The bookes of memorie:
 VWherein discyphred bee
 The discordes and the death
 Of many a noble valiant wight,
 Too soone bereft of breath

Their

the firste daye.

Their wydowes mournefull plaintes,
 Theyr orphanes dolefull teares,
 VVith cryes of poore exiled scoules,
 Apparantly appeares.

19 There may you viewe with feare,
 Howe daungerous a thing
 Ill counsell is in tender yeares,
 To ouerthrow a king.
 The seas be calme and smoothe
 VVe dayly see by kynde,
 No billowe mountes, but by the force
 Of boysterous stormye wynde.
 So royall Princes loue,
 To lyue where vertue is,
 If Sycophantes or Parasites
 Enforme them not amisse.

20 Our realme had happie bene,
 Thou Prince to vertue borne,
 If that by thy too lyght beleefe,
 Thy subiects now forlorne,
 Had neuer felte thy powre
 VVith sworde and Cannon shot,
 VVhereby our lande destroyed lies,
 And famous Fraunce forgot,
 Yea thy renoume and fame
 Is buried with the reste,
 Of Castels, Townes, and battered fortes,
 VVhiche once a king possest.

With these wordes, the Lute fell into hir lappe, and the Lade crossed hir armes, and tooke breath: then she began to break the silence of all the companie, whiche in admiration remained without mouing, as they had been enchanted creatures. At laste, perceyuing euery one beganne to come to themselues, and lyke amazed people beholde one another, moued wyth pitie to see them in this melancholie moode, she chaunged hir sorowfull countenance, like as the sunne shyneth clerely, hauing maistred

D.

the

The Pleasure of

the shadowe of a darke mistie cloude: then takyng agayne hir Lute, wyth a more mery note she began to sing as foloweth.

A welcome of Peace into Fraunce.

Oh puissaunt Ioue on high,
 VWhat pleasures Musicke rare,
 Dothe fill my senses with delightes
 Proceeding from the ayre:
 I feele my daselde eies,
 By leamings lose their light,
 VWhich farre excell the Sunny beames
 Or glary morning brighte:
 The sounde of straunge Consorts,
 Contents my listening eare,
 More gallant heauenly harmony
 On earth may no man heare.

2 I see out of the cloudes,
 A Virgin doth decline,
 In Sattyn clad, as white as swan
 VWith maiestie diuine:
 Vpon hir heade she beares,
 A garlande like the grasse,
 Of Laurell tre, in hewe this Nimph:
 Dame beauty doth surpasse:
 Hir countenaunce presents
 The glorie of the Lorde,
 In hand she holdes an Olyue braunche,
 The ensign of Accorde.

3 But as I doe suppose,
 This Princesse I do know,
 VWho nowe forsakes the Heauens aboue,
 To visite vs belowe:
 Tis Peace, tis euen the same,
 VWhome our incessant cries,
 By earnest sute hath called downe

Euen

the first daye.

Euen from the starry Skies:
 VVhere she (O noble dame)
 Constrained, was to flye,
 And keepe ir close, to shunne the force
 Of VVrath and Tiranny.

4 From whence she did beholde
 The bloody furious flame,
 VVherin all Fraunce consumed is,
 To our eternall shame:
 Howe Discorde hatched first
 The fire of all our feares,
 Then viewyng our unhappie state,
 She shed moste bitter teares:
 And dyd bewayle our want
 Of Peace, exile by spight,
 Lamenting with a heauie heart,
 Our sorrowes daye and night.

5 In this our deepe distresse,
 VVe praide with one consent,
 Entreating Faith to be our friende
 To God omnipotent.
 He did present our sute,
 To Christe the virgins sonne,
 The mediatour of mankinde,
 By whome our sute was wonne:
 VVherein we did beseeche,
 Almighty God to cease
 His plagues deserued for our sinne,
 And graunt to vs his peace.

6 Our prayer being hearde
 By him that seeth all,
 Presented by his onely sonne,
 Dide graunt his grace, and calde
Necessitie in haste,
 And did dispatche wyth speede,
 From Heauen to Earth the Angell rude

D. ij.

To

The Pleasure of

To aide vs at our neede:
 VVhose force and power is suche,
 Once being out of hande,
 As nothing liuing in the world
 Can shunne hys mightie hande

7 Thou Angell (saide the Lord)
 Giue care, this is my minde,
 Do thou my will vpon the earth,
 As duty doth thee binde:
 Goe downe into the worlde,
 I giue thee perfecte power,
 To apprehende that bloody VWarre,
 VVho doth my flocke deuoure:
 Abate his cruell pride,
 And see thou cheyne hym well,
 Imprison hym in Limbo lake,
 Among the fiendes of hell.

8 This chardge pronounced, Ioue
 Did glaunce his eie aside,
 And did espie the virgin peace,
 VVho waited but hir tyde:
 My daughter deare (quoth hee)
 That haste thy dwelling place
 Among my Saintes and Blessed traine,
 VVith speede goe showe thy face,
 Vnto the toiled troupes,
 That for thy absence mourne,
 Plante amitie, and pittie them,
 That VWarre hath quite forlorne.

9 The Angell and the Maide,
 No sooner knewe the will
 Of Ioue, but downe they driue amaine,
 His pleasure to fulfill,
 Like as the Arrowe shotte
 Out of a mightie bowe,

the first daye.

From heauen to earth, these messengers
 Themselues more swiftly throwe:
 Auoide you souldiers nowe,
 Oure comforte is in place,
 Nowe Murther, Theft, and Treason hide
 Your shamelesse cruell face.

10 Oure happy dayes approche,
 Oure ioy shall nowe abounde,
 And peace shall giue vs precious oyle
 To heale oure mortall wounde:
 She bringeth Charitie,
 VVith Concorde, Faith, and Loue,
 Companions sente for oure reliefe
 From mightie Ioue aboue:
 VVith garlandes crowned all
 Of moste immortall fame,
 Giue laude therefore with one accorde
 To hys eternall name.

11 Delay no tyme (oh Fraunce)
 Be gladde and now reioice,
 Praise him on high, that hath giuen eare,
 To thy lamenting voice:
 Let vs (O people) kneele
 Before the Lorde of might,
 And humbly thanke him, sith we finde
 Suche fauour in his sight,
 As pleaseth him to sende
 These Nimphes of heauenly race,
 To ease our grieffe, release our woe,
 And all our foes deface.

12 Peace hated of the ill,
 Of God the darling deare,
 VVe celebrate thy name (O Peace)
 In Fraunce with mery cheare:
 Thy Altar will we builde,

D. iij.

And

The Pleasure of

And sacrifice will make
 To thee, of Furie and Disdayne,
 VVhiche thou doste from vs take.
 By Heraulds shall thy praise
 Be blasde in riche aray,
 And Trumpets shall thy fame resounde,
 VVhich neuer shall decay.

13 Our weale dothe ryse by thee,
 For thou by thy puissance,
 Compellest Fraunce to knowe hir king,
 And hym to knowe his Fraunce:
 By thee, the Henries three,
 To pleasure chaunge their rage,
 And doth allie their loue anow
 Vnto their parentage.
 All bloody combates cease,
 All malice doth assuage.
 Triumphes approche to beautifie
 A noble mariage.

14 All garnisons departe
 Our Cities by thy stroke,
 VVho didde oppresse our Citizen,
 By force of seruille yoke.
 Our fieldes are cleere by thee,
 From all the wicked traine,
 That haue destroyde our country wealth,
 And all oure tillmen slaine:
 VVho to excuse the crime,
 VVherein they dayly sinne,
 Alleage the deede that they haue done,
 Theyr leaders did beginne.

15 By thee the aged man,
 Shall see his faithfull wyfe,
 To whome with teares she will vnfolde
 Hir wearye passed lyfe,
 And tell what care of mynde

His

the first day.

His absence did proure,
 VWhat feare and sorrow day and night
 For hym she did endure.
 In recompence of paine,
 The hoarie headed fire,
 Renues with looke their auncient ioyes,
 Reuiued by desire.

16 By thee the Virgins walke
 The Gardens of deliyght,
 Conducted by their louyng makes,
 In place of open fyght:
 They trace the pleasant groues,
 And gather floures sweete,
 They do appoynte the secrete place
 Of loue where they muste meete,
 And sure guages giuen,
 To keepe the tyme is sette,
 VWhere wished wedlocke trappeth them
 VWithin hir ioyfull nette.

17 By thee dame Iustice shall
 Hir ballance beame redresse,
 To yelde the wicked their deserte,
 And aide the comfortlesse.
 By thee the holy Church,
 Shall praye bothe day and nighte,
 The merchaunt shall by thee
 Applye his Traffik so,
 As Tauernes shall not him compell
 His profyte to foreslowe,

18 By thee the pesant poore,
 VWith trauayle shall begin
 To sowe, to plante, and till the lande,
 That long hath barreyn bin,

His

The Pleasure of

His Corselet of prooffe
 Shall stande hym nowe in steede
 Vppon a poll to fraye the birdes,
 That doe destroye his seede:
 His Morion of defence
 He vsed for his hatte,
 Shal serue his wife to put in corne
 To make his pulleyne fatte.

19 Thou Peace the springing well
 Of euery happy thing,
 I can not speake, ne yet conceale
 The goodnesse thou dost bring:
 Thou doest reioyce our hearts
 VVith presence of thy fyghte,
 More than the risyng of the Sunne
 Doth ioye eche earthly wight,
 VVhose golden glittering beames
 Dothe chase and put to flighte
 Dame Sadnesse, Feare, and Drowsinesse,
 The daughters of the nyght.

20 They merrie moode, oh Peace,
 Doth cause eche thing to growe,
 VVhose fruite once yelded, thou agayne
 The same doste ouerthrowe:
 Thou doste appease the rage
 And storme on seas and lande,
 To mitigate the furious force
 Of heauen, is in thy hande:
 All seasons, tymes and tydes
 In thee accord by kynde,
 The hydeous tempeste in the ende,
 By Peace a calme dothe fynde.

21 Thou makest euery bird
 In tyme to buylde their nest,
 Thou dost ordeyne in craggye rockes
 A denne for euery beast.

The

the firste daye.

The streames of euerye brooke
 By thee their force appease,
 By thee the Gallies rowe with ores,
 Amid the rolling Seas:
 In fine, eche gifte of grace
 Proceeding from aboue,
 Like hony dewe is powrd on vs
 By concorde, peace, and loue.

22 Oh blessed lucky houre,
 O happy wished daye,
 VVherein dissention and despight,
 By peace are chasde awaye:
 Goe harbour with the Turke,
 VVho puffe with pride doth swell,
 Or packe you to your auncient denne
 VVith Pluto god of hell.
 If you on earth will bide
 To Persia bye with speede,
 Or Cacebas, whose enuious mindes
 Your cankerd counsell needs.

23 The realme of Fraunce hath sworne
 That peace shall be their stay,
 To whome their hand and harts be giuen
 For euer to obey:
 And haue decreed all,
 That who so breakes his vowe
 In lewe of his disloyaltie,
 Shall hang vpon a bough.
 And he that seemes to lodge
Ambition in his minde,
 The same rewarde, that Simon had,
 For his deserte shall finde.

24 If any wretche there be,
 That dare presuae to stande

E.

Againste

The Pleasure of

Againste our crowne and soueraigne peace,
 VWith force of armed hande.
 VVe feruently beseeche
 The thundring God of myght,
 That all the plagues of heauen and earth
 Vppon the wretche maye lyght,
 That furye freate his gall,
 His payne may neuer cease,
 He fynde no friends in his distresse,
 That may his woe release.

After the auncient Lady had finished hir song, the reste remained in a maruellous extasie, vntill Sire Bel Accueil breaking silence, whiche he supposed to continue too long, in so good company, began to say: Surely Madam, you haue sufficiently shewed what puissaunce the delectable melodie of youre deuine voice hath ouer humaine creatures, entreating them in suche order, as wyth one breathe you enforce them bothe to reioyce and lament. Whereof oure eyes are euident witnesses, euen nowe bathed in the teares of compassion, and presentlye dried wyth the handkercher of consolation. So as oure myndes rauished by the delightes of oure eares, hath entirely vnited vs to the harmony of youre Lute: the whyche you haue cunningly handled with suche seuerall deuisions, as it pleased youre nimble fyngers to recorde vppon the warbling strings. Thys compelleth me to omitte all maruaile howe Orpheus and Amphion, by their musicke gaue life to insensible bodies, sith you haue the power to render lyuing soules insensible, the vse of hearing onely excepted. In myne opinion (replied Sire Fleur Danour) the greatest miracle I haue here noted, is not the authoritie whiche the melodious song of my Ladye hath hadde ouer oure spirites, but the straighte brideling of our tongues, and principally of these Damoyseles, who by meanes thereof hadde very large occasion to breake vppon vs, and accuse vs, as culpable of all these mischiefes, being that menne haue begunne the warres, and that by women the peace is established, especially

the firste daye.

especially by the moste excellent marriage of our Kyng, so as
 oure ryghte vertuous Queene gyueth vs iuste occasion to saye,
 that out of Germany issued the warre, or at the leaste the war-
 rours, and from thence also sprang the peace. Wherevnto
 Maistresse Mary answered, you haue prevented a mischief in
 speaking before you were desired, for beyng in daunger to re-
 ceive a venny at my hande, you haue auoyded the same in stri-
 king your selfe. Tushe, tushe, quoth Sire Firme Foy, although
 the remembraunce of endured calamities reioyceth those that
 are escaped, I am of opinion that as we haue laide aside oure
 weapons, so to mortifie therewyth all memorye and talke of
 warres, seeing that not onelye the reason and lawe of Oblivi-
 on of iniuries, but also the tyme and place prouoketh vs to
 be merye, and to bee reuenged vppon oure passed myseryes,
 wyth the arrerages of Pleasure so long tyme forborne. I pray
 God I dye, sayde Maistresse Margaret, but youre counsayle is
 verye good: And for my parte I will subscribe willinglye ther-
 vnto, consydering you are not heere among youre enemyes,
 whose crueltye you neede to doubt, but in the company of mai-
 dens, vnto whome the onelye reporte of Warre is fearefull
 and horryble. Ah maistresse (answered Sire Firme Foy) howe
 differente youre talke is (pardon mee thoughte, I saye so) from
 reason, in that you affyrme vs to bee free, beeyng in moste im-
 minent daunger, hauing greatest occasion to stande vppon oure
 garde, not onely for that (as the wiseman saythe) mistruste
 is the roote of wisdom, but forasmuche as not long sithence
 the tyme caryed feare of warre engraued in hir foreheade, pro-
 clayming nothing but crueltye, and the name of enemye rife in
 all mennes mouthes, warnyng eche one to prouyde for theyr
 owne safegarde, in aide whereof the Sentinels and Scoutes
 were oure greate helpe, whose continuall watche saued vs
 from beeyng assayled vnwares. Moreouer, the Trumpets
 aduertysed the approche and coming of the Enemye, and
 called vs to armes, by theyr trustye warnyng. But (O
 GOD) nowe the season whyche doeth testifye Peace and

L. ij.

the

the name of maydens, whiche promiseth but loue and fauoure, besides the wantes we haue of good espials to aduertise vs, and of sure rampires to defend vs, enforceth vs vnarmed to fall into the arrogante puissaunce of these cruell friends, who lying in ambushe to entrappe vs vnprouided, againste the truce they promise vs by their gracious countenaunce, seduce vs lyke as the flame of the candle deceyueth the credulous flye. Thus exercising with rigor their insolent victory, they entreate their friends more hardly than their mortall enemies, contented with no ransome, but only life. Alas Sir (answered maistress Margaret) what causeth you to make your selfe certain of y thing, wherof you haue so small assuraunce: It appeareth your opinion is founded but of fantasie, and that you speake but of hearesay, or vpon euill will, whiche moueth you at pleasure to be so lauishe of your words: thanks be to God, your fresh colour and good liking testifieth, that melancholy consumeth not your body, althoughe your tongue complaine without cause, whiche are euident proofes of manifest verities. Wherefore I pray you remember, that sinne against conscience is frustrate of remission, notwithstanding by especiall grace you may receiue absolution, so that you will repente your error from the bottome of your hart. Alas maistresse, replied Sire Firme Fox, if the dint of a stroke breake a sworde, and blemishe not the scabbarde, or a wrenche breake a bone without perishing the fleshe or skinne whiche couereth it, then it is not straunge, that your soueraigne beauties so shewe their puissaunce to supports no lesse force, delighteth to stay the minde without hurting the body, which you esteeme too vile to receiue the markes of your power, by which meanes you neede not iudge it noueltie, thoughte I harbour a sorrowfull harte vnder a pleasaunt countenaunce. If you see my shoe new and well shaped, yet doe you not knowe where it pincheth my foote. Euen so, though I looke merily, you know not (alas to my paine) where my griefe is. You are abused in this similitude (saide maistresse Mary) thinking thereby to couer your error: for assaying a new shoe in the shoemakers shop, if it fit you not well, you are in place where you may change it at your pleasure, the
which

The Pleasure of

Tortois: wherein they haue greate reason, seeing that Histori-
 ens in their discourses entreate seldome of the disloyaltie of wo-
 men, but wee heare and reade in infinite volumes, howe their
 bounty and simplicitie hath continually bin deceiued by the ma-
 lice of thir periured and changeable louers: Whereof in maner
 all the most victorions and famous personages of old time are
 witnesses, so as throughout all ages the faithlesse Iason, Theseus,
Demophon, Aeneas, and Hercules, are examples of certaine prooffe
 that the loue of men is wandering. And although the wor-
 thy actes be defyled with the blottes of this infamie, yet are
 they notwithstanding placed among the Gods, yea and their
 starres honoured, and reported to surmounte all others in
 clearenesse. The occasion wherefore auncient decrees haue li-
 cenced this crime in men, & so straightly forbidden it in women.
 the same is, bycause the Lawes haue bene ordeyned and esta-
 blished by men: but that which spighteth me moste, is to viewe
 this vice so to enlarge his seignorie, as the libertie whiche in
 times paste was onely permitted to Princes, at this daye is
 common to euery priuate person, so that nowe a dayes there is
 none so verye a wretche, who aduanceth not his disloyaltie
 with such triumph as if he had obtained some glorious conquest
 with the ryetous disburssing the honour of suche as considering
 theyr owne offence, they are bounde to preserue and defende
 more dearely than their proper life. But alas, as hee that de-
 syreth to be notorious, when hee can not aspire therevnto by
 any vertuous acte, doeth prosecute his intente by mischief, and
 setteth on fyre the Temple of Diana, or committeth some o-
 ther villanous facte: euen so we dayly beholde the heires of our
 age, seeke to make their liues famous in defaming a great num-
 ber of women. This wickednesse hath not onely place in vndis-
 crete lust, but euen in marriage it selfe, the faith and promise
 whereof ought to be so holy and inviolable, as the band thereof
 is straight and permanent. Oh what coniunction or companie
 may be founde more sure than the vnion of two: The saying of
 of the wyse blynde Prophet commeth to me remembrance, who
 affirmed,

the first daye.

affirmed, that his mother Venus hath not power to vnite their harts together, declaring therby, that the amitie of wedlock receiueth not a third copartner, whervnto neuerthelesse the peruersnesse of this world will constrayne it. And I feare, the longer we liue, the worse it will be, not onely bycause the world is diminished from an empire to a kingdom, and our ages conuerted from golde into yron, but for that in tymes past before the matche was made, whiche is perdurable, men were carefull and inquisitiue of the behauiour and condition of suche parties as they ment to marrie, of their stock and education, and before any agreement passed, they wold eate a bushell of salt together, and winter and sommer eche other, and as the French prouerbe saith (assembler les troys estates) yet after all these scrupulous misteries, and the obseruation of diuers ceremonies, they wer commonly deceyued, and trauelled not farre before they repented their enterprised voiage. Nowe to perswade men to take aduisement in choosng, to laye their hande on their harte beefore theyr lips consent, and to enter leisurly into suche waighty affaires the Tortois was painted vnder Venus feet, and hir husband Vulcan pictures lame. But now adays women are no sooner seene in streets but by one or other they ar courted for marriage, w'out any enquirie but for welth, & as match is made for VVhat haue you'so al other things depéd vpon VVhat will you giue me' in such wise, as vertue is despised & unitie vtterly decayed, which resolueth me, in these sodaine contracts after frequentation, shal ensure knowledge of one of the other. And this knowlege (their estates not cõteting both parties) wil breed disdain, disquiet in house, & in the end disquiet wil porcure deuorce, & thus vniversally are these mony mariages finished. Euen as flame of kindled straw is feruēt but for a blast, or plants that beare fruit very yong naturally endure not many yeres, & as a picture grauē in wax is easily defaced, euē so these loues so quickly reuiued, are as sodainly mortified. Whervnto Sire Fleur d'Amour answered, I cõfesse mistresse, your sayings are fouded vpon very truth, but wil you attribute these soden mariages only to lightnes of mē, as thogh they alone procured same. Rather to excuse in this behalf both
the

The Pleasure of

the man and the woman, we will deuide the blame equally betwixt them: Let vs consider I praye you, howe nature hathe not vrged hir creatures of late dayes by secrete inclination to communicate in their kinde, but that the same hathe bene from the beginning, so as all liuing things seeing their essence to bee but mortall desire (according to the generall law graued in their hartes in their originall) to resiste their corruption, and haue no other mean to remedy this blemish, but in coupling themselves, engendring as the instincte of nature hath instructed them, whiche is the onely occasion that maketh man after his deathe to liue in his children. And we haue so greate care to perpetuate our offsprings in this manner, as the more we decaye, the more desire we haue to restore and multiplie oure progenies: Lyke vnto the heade of Hidra, whiche smitten from the body, immediatly dothe regenerate seauen other in place thereof. Likewise wee see for one braunche of a tree stued off, that nature planteth seauen sciens vpon the same stocke: Yea if the body of a tree receiue by any mā the stroke of an axe, out of the carfe will spring yong twigges, which seeme not only to be the salue of the wounded receyued, but a reuenge agaynste the toole, whiche hathe presumed to outrage nature. The same desire of reuenge is also among men: whiche was the occasion that after the desolation of deluge, and the famine, and captiuitie of Pharao, the people increased and multiplied in so greate foyson: whereto I coulde alleadge the notabls destructions of the Romaines and so many other examples, as a greate volume woulde scarcely containe. wherein nature hathe shewed hir wisdom. And it is doubtfull whether the lawes of Manumission to suche as married and begatte children for the mayntaynaunce of the common wealth, were not established by hir. The laste care of capitaine Leonidus prepared to battel against the Fersians without hope of returne, was to perswade his wife to take no farther thought, but to get another husbande, who might restore the hindraunce she receiued by forbearing of his company: it is then greate justice after the warre (wherein so many couples are separated), that they whiche remaine prouoked by this secrete lawe of nature, are so hestie

the firste daye.

hastie and forward to recouer & repaire the losses of the worlde. Wherefore I muste commend them, whom you doe blame, allowing the opinion of prudent Licurgus, who by his statutes condemned the single life and aduanced suche as had bene longest married into the moste honorable dignities, as principall magistrates in tyme paste. Nowe Maistresse to the firste poynte, and touching that you affirme that these mariages so rashly attempted, cannot long continue firme and durable: Let vs conclude I pray you to search the originall foundatiō from whence the faulte proceedeth: you muste needes confesse, that good and precious things are allwayes rarest to finde, we dayle see greater store of Flints, than of Diamants: so men at this day, whose number are but fewe and rare as pearles, muste needes be good, the euil being all consumed in oure late furious warres. Seing then the good decayeth not, whiche if it were otherwise, no good shoulde remain: I conclude that the small number of men of our age being good, cā neuer violate marriage, but necessarily it must proceede from women, whose multitude being greater muste Erge be worse. O the vertue of God replied the Lady, say you so! you that are towards marriage shoulde vse youre wordes more discretely vntill your prouision were furnished, for (quoth she, beholding the other two) it is as vnpossible for you to liue without wines, as for blinde men to walke without guides. Cal to remembraunce what punishment Orpheus endured for the like offence, who perhaps spake not so largely, as you haue done. But I perceiue you vse the trade of suttile marchants, who euer dispraise the wares they determine to buy, to the ende they may bargaine at their owne price. Under correction Madam (answered Sire Fleur Damour) I am content to paye for euery thing according to the worth, yet for my parte I esteeme one beautil of so greate valure, as if I might obtaine it with any honourable death, I woulde thinke I had gained the same very good cheape. And to the ende I may perswade you, that affection blindeth me not in this behalfe, I beseeche you madame, and also this fauorable companie, to licence one in your presence, not only to aproue the Loue of womē to be more variable & vndiscrete, than

F. the

The first Historie.

the loue of men (whiche with small trayaille I trust to confirme) by so probable reasons, as shall not bee repugnable, excepte you will demaunde for the light at high noon: But also to bee the causes of all the misfortunes, whiche constraineth louers so to lament their hard mishaps, as from their sorrowfull eyes, flouds of teares doe flowe sufficient to drowne the rigor of Damoy-sels, the whiche I truste to make you acknowledge by the briefe discourse of a piteous and memorable Historie: whiche is this, At these wordes the whole assistaunce approched, and placed themselves rounde about this gallant preacher, who hauing taken breathe, began on this manner.

The firste Historie.

Such as haue imparted their trauailes in reading, or at the leaste, haue but hearde speake of auncient Histories, maye safely coniecture, that Greece hath alwaies bin replenished, not onely with noble, valiant, and wise personages: but if they consider well the discourses of the Grecian Chroniclers, shall finde the same region, hath bin no lesse fortunate in the production of women: forsomuche as the greatest number of Dames and Damoy-sels, whose beauties haue deserued preheminance in the mouths of Historiens, haue bin bred, borne, & brought up, in the said famous Monarchy of Greece: In whose glorious Portes, to this day, is celebrated the renoune of famous Queene Hellaine, in commendation of whose excel'ēt beautie the trumpets of the same us Poets doe yet sounde. But I dare affirme, that shee of whom I mean to speake, shall honor hir country much more by her vertuous life: who being nothing inferior to Paris Paragon in beautie, surmounteth hir exceedingly in bounty, apparantly testifying by hir soueraigne vertues, that the graces & perfections wherwith nature had endued hir, wer worthily employed.

This Damoisell of whom my discourse shall determine, was borne in the Isle of Rhodes, discended of the moste honorable family in the whole country, educated in all good neurture, as boūtifully as might possibly be desired, who as soone as she grewe to
the

The firste Historie.

the knowledge of good and euill, fell in liking of the behauioure and courtesie of a yong stripling, borne likewise in the same city, so accomplished in all perfections of Nature, as by due deserte, he was fancied of this beautifull minion, and battered the firste breach in hir tender hearte, who with the onely glaunces of hir alluring eie, was able to mollify the moste saluage and indurate fantasies bearing life. The Damoyzell (Gentlewomen) was named Persida, and hir yong friende Erastus, vnto whome, hys father and mother newly deceassed, had left abundance of wealth, and by their laste Testament, bequeathed the gouernaunce and education of this Orphane vnto his vncle, who by good aduantage, was nighbour vnto the faire Persida, wherby these yonglings ordinary frequented company. By meanes wherof, such friendly familiaritie was confirmed on bothe partes, as from their tender youth, they delight to play together, and continually embrace and kisse eche other (a Prognostication of the future coniunction of such perfect gifts, wherwith they were bothe liberally fraughted by diuine influence.) This couple, as they grew in age, so encreased their beautie and comlinesse, like the rose budde, which in the hart of the spring sprout and spread abroad their beautiful blossoms. And with their bodies likewise encreased and augmented their new conceiued loue, like vnto the yong Vine, which embraceth the tender Elme, wherwith it is so firmly vnited by their mutuall growth, as in fine they are incorporated together. Thus in their tender yeres the parents and friends on both parties conceiued a secrete hope, that destiny would confirme a match betwixt this likely couple, whose equall perfections commended of al men, gaue them cause to expect a happy successe, for the which there was none, but wished exactly. And I suppose if eche mans opiniõ might haue takẽ place, these fine creatures had bin accõyted y offspring of Angels: but the heauens wold not permit a Paradise on earth. These louers had now attained, the man, the age of .xv. yeres, & the maiden x. but to view their growth, common iudgement wold haue attributed to eche threëyeares of aduantage. So as they attended onely the expiring of such tyme, as might minister occasion, to render the fruit
P. ij. of

The first Historie.

of their desired marriage with no lesse good will, than the childe vnder tuition of a shrewde Tutor, wisheth the stature of a man to escape the rod. And in establishment of this bargain Erastus embrasing and kissing his Persida, gaue hir a fewell, wherein was a Diamante and an Emeralde, so singularlye cutte and cunningly coupled together, as they were not to bee discerned o-ther than one entier stone, besides the excellencie of the worke-manship farre exceeded the value of the precious substaunce: Requiring his beloued maistresse, in beholding this gage of hys good wil, alwayes to resemble in loue the Emeralde, which doth rather cracke than consents to any dialoyaltie: promising for hys parte, euer to be like the Diamante, whiche throughe constante and decreed stedfastnesse, sooner breaketh vnder the tooles, than endureth any newe shape, so muche the nature thereof abhorreth exchange. Persida receyued this token and pledge of Erastus his ardent and sincere affections, wyth exceeding contentation and pleasure, beseeching God by hys diuine prouidence, so to prosper their lucky beginning, as there might ensue so stricte alli-ance, and perfecte loue betwixte them in the worlde, as in the Iewell giuen and receyued were united vnseparablye, two of the richest and moste beautifull stones of the Orient. But by-cause she woulde neither remayne indebted to hir louer in courtesie or good will: she requited him wyth the gifte of a Chaine, the linkes whereof were enterlaced with pearle and stone of diuers coloures exceeding cunningly. In presenting wherof, she deliuered an amorous kisse with feruent affection, and saide: I pray God my friende, that wee may continue together linked in the chayne of wedlocke, so many yeares, as there are seuerall linkes in this chaine, with as faithfull loyaltie as is represented by the gold therein, and so great estimation, as is in these pearles comprehended, requiring you to keepe this token for the loue of hir, who euermore reserueth a roomth for you in the secrete chamber of hir loyall harte. In these amorous paths our two louers walked long at their pleasure with wonderful contentment. But alas, Fortune, the enimie of all good hap, was contrarie to this blessed conclusion, which giueth vs large occasion
to

The first Historie.

to complayn our mundain miseries, by whose wicked ordinances we are subject to such sodein alterations as when we think our selues in moste permanent pleasures, our good houre is by fickle Fortune cut short in a moment: yet not contented herewith hir malice is suche towards mankinde, as she constraineth men oftentimes to tast within hir sugred cup, the bitter liquour that procureth their destruction. Thus vnder colour of amitie, shee wreaketh hir malicious enuie vppen vs, euen as the fisher encloseth his deadly hooke in the pleasant baite, to the ende the simple fishe mistrusting no guyle, may vnwares swallow his bane. Alas, what ioyes may be expected in this world, with frowarde Fortune prepared suche abundance of calamities to these innocent louers, whose merits deserued euerlasting felicitie. Ah beautiful chayn, y^e sure pledge of loue, predestined to procure so great dysaster, of rights thou deseruedst to be compared vnto the dolorous gift which Ajax preseted vnto Hector. Erastus, dere dames, hauyng receyued this commendable chayne, knewe not what countenance to shewe, so much he was contented therewith, considering the place from whence it came: neither coulde he detaine his eye from it, but embracing and kissing it continually, remayned as one rauished with ioy. The terme of ten moneths expired (during which tyme Erastus had enjoyed this iewell, the whiche he had preserued as carefully as the Apple of his eye,) it fortunèd a great lord of the Citie, did marrie his daughter vnto the Prince of Cyprus, and for the honorable salemnisyng of thys princely wedding, great preparation was made of stage plays, bonfyres, maskes, Iustes, Turneys, wrastlings, and other infinite pastymes, with suche continuall feastings, as the people repaired out of all countreys adioyning, by the bruite and reporte of the great and sumptuous magnificence which was to be seene at Rhodes, where (among others) a great number of the knights of Latran, whyche we call at thys day the Exayghtes of Malta, were assembled. All whyche, withoute pretence of amitie, endeoured at thys feast to shewe theyr valour, and to engrauè some notable token of theyr prowesse in the memories of so greate a multitude.

F. iij.

It

The first Historie.

It happened one day while these sportes endured, the listes and barres being pestred with the presse of people, and the scaffoldes chardged with Ladies and Damoisels, euen as the Iustes beganne, ther entred into the fieldes, a Knight armed at all points in a greene armor, mounted vpon a mightie Sirian courser, caparissoned in like manner, who with braue mannges, carriers, boundes, and tournes, made the duste aboute him flee into the ayre, and there folowed him an Esquier disguised, gallopping amaine: all the troupe were amazed at the fierce approche of this Champion, who with couragious countenance, forsooke the barres, and leapte into the listes, bearing vppon his helmet, a white Pennante, deliuering by his actes, so greate estimation of his valour, as there was no Damoyzell that longed not to vnderstande what hee was, nor Knight, which feruently desired not to experiment his force: whiche diuers more hastie, than wise, approued to their harmes. For this worriour handled hys horse with suche agilitie, and encountred his aduersaries so firmly at the counterbuffe as no course escaped hym wythout the submission of a Knight to the earthe, not couching hys launce in vaineall the whole daye. Thus hauyng vnhorsed a number of the moste experte in feates of armes, the reste committing no great confidence to their cunning, were easily perswaded. So, that in fine, not one approached to shewe hym sporte, whych greeued muche the whole assistaunce, whose eyes were fired vppon this new miracle, supposing the Knighte to bee some Spirite of Flugis, or some of the race of Amadis, or Rowland, with the golden launce of Bradamant, or god Mars himselfe. The trumpettes nowe beganne to sounde the retreat, when the valiant Phillip of Vichers, at that time great commaunder of Rhodes, disdainig to beholde his Knights so faintly disarsoned, in whome hee reposed Champion of singular prowesse, made choise of a greate and mightie launce, and taking his beuer, wythout anye defiaunce tooke his course towardes the Conquerour, who was not vnprouided to receiue him. The encounter of these Champions resembled the brush of a mightie billow, beating vpon a craggy cliffe, by the coniunctiõ of the clouds of contrary Elements breaking
into

The first Historie.

into some thunder cracke, for the force of their meeting: was so furious, as by the iudgement of the beholders, one stroke had finished the combat and liues of two so perfect warriors if these lances had bin as forcible as their bodies: but at the wying they flew in trunchions, and shiuered euen to their hands. Then the Knight vnkowen lifting vp his eyes, beholding hir vpon the scaffold, or whome his minde endured a more perilous combat, receiued such comforte by the fauor of hir pitiful countenance, as taking a newe lance from his Esquier, he broched his courser with the spurres, and setting his teeth wyth a contagious despite, couched his staffe so luckily, as the Commandeur falling his attainte, himselfe being hitte, was enforced to auoide hys saddle: wherof the good olde Knight somewhat ashamed, wyth a loude voice, pronounced these wordes: Sir Knight, I see well youre prowesse shall finde small resistance in this country, sith it may not be counteruailed in our company, wherein is assembled the floure of Knighthoode: Notwithstanding, I require you, if you retaine as greate courtesie, as viliantnesse, that we may entreate at your hands in recompence of the shame we haue receyued, to vaderstande what you are, to the ende, that both you may enjoy the due honour you haue thys day deserued, and wee the contentment, we shal obtain in knowing your name: but the Knight bending his bodie vnto y^e Commandeur, whispered in his eare, beseeching him of pardon, for that he was not willing to be knowen. By this time y^e night began to couer the Element wyth hir brown mantell, and the people al maruelling at the wonderful Chualry they had viewed, by their crowsing noyse signified theyr departure, when as all estates soued wyth exceeding desire, to knowe the Champion (nowe prepared to departe) came cluttering about him in heapes, whiche caused him for reuerence sake to dismount himself. Then the Bridegroom, for whose honoure these triumphs were celebrated, claspyng hym aboute the necke saide: Iesu Sir Knight, wherefore are you displeased with the commendation and honour whych you shal acquire by the discouerture of your face: & therewyth seazing vpon the hinder skirt of his helmet wyth an ardēt boldnes, drew it so rudely,

or

The first Historie.

or rather happily towards him, as the lachets and buckles slipping, he openly discovered the bare heade of our Rhodian Erastus, who besides his naturall beautie, painted hys cheekes wyth a certain shamefastnesse, like one in a mummerie, whose visarde sodaynely falleth from hys face in the companye, from whence he woulde departe vnknowne; furthermore his golden lockes curled with the dewe of his long trauaile, aduanced his countenance with suche a comely grace, as if his prowesse gained the price and reputation among the knightes, nowe he obtained no lesse fauor among dame beauties minions, vnto whom his gracious visage was immediately knowne, but especiallye vnto the fair Persida, who with extreme ioy hadde sounded, if the escape of hir gallant friend from daunger of so many blowes receiued that day, had not tempered hir motion, waying ioy and feare in one ballaunce with equall counterpaise. All the knights behelde Erastus, like men astonied, without vtterance of anye sound, vntill Monsieur Philip smiling began to saye, by the faith I owe to knighthoode, we haue to our greate honour desired ri-
 viewe of this amiable face, and may nowe aduaunt our winning with shame inough, being all ouerthrowen by this young strip-
 ling, who hath receiued vs with like entertainment. Thus speak-
 ing, he embraced the knight, blessing the houre of his birth, and the hand that so well employed the order of knighthoode, where-
 vnto with a smiling countenance) Erastus answered: My lords, I haue greate cause to accompte this daye fortunate vnto me, wherein I haue gotten credite to proue my feeble force againste such personages as haue left the glorious markes of their valor and chiuairy in so many perillous encounters of straunge coun-
 tries, vouchsafing to vie in my behalfe y^e fauour of a maister of Defence towards his prentise. I hoped the disguising of my vi-
 sage shold haue serued for a curtain to couer my rude experiēce: which it hath pleased suche an honourable company to depriue me therof, at the least I beseeche you, my youthe maye excuse my presumption, and supplie the maske which you haue reaved from me. In doing wherof, you shall bynde me with the vtter-
 moste of my seruice to acknowledge the honoure and curtesye,
 wherby

The first Historie.

whereby I remayne continually at youre commandementes. His tale ended, whylest euery man disarmed them, to receyue the freshe ayre, Erastus leaped lightly vpon the skaffolde, where after the entertaynement of a thousande embracings among the Ladyes and damoyseles, at length he approched his Persida, vnto whome (louingly clasping hir white delicate hande) softly in hir eare he sayd: Deare Mistresse, if I haue this daye deserued any commendation among the professors of faith I anowe the same bounden to doe homage and fealtie vnto your beautie, whiche by a fauourable aspect, hath moste fortunately conducted me to atchieue the vnexpected ende of this enterprise: It is therfore good reason, I shoulde render thankes vnto your beautiful eies, which by their rigorous fauour hath with one glance rendred me both victorious & vanquished. Euen as Persida was prest to be reuenged, all the Lordes, Knights, and gentlemen in courtly order, conducted their conquerour with greate triumph vnto the pallaice of the Lorde Philochrise father vnto the bride, and that man thoughte hymselfe happy, and greatly honoured, that might carry either the launce, shielde of helmet of Erastus. So as for that time Persida coulde not aunswere hym, but onely by hir eye. All the company being arriued at the feast, the cheare was suche, as was requisite to entertaine the Kings of Persia: During whiche season no talke was ministred, but of the prowess, courtesie, comlinesse, & good behauior of the braue knight, who in dauncing and other disportes, abridged in no pointe the greate reputation he had gotten, giuing all the aspectants suche pleasure to see him demeane himselfe so lustily & gallantly after his greate toile taken the day before, as they passed the most part of \bar{y} night without regard of any rest. Who wold not haue our greene knight as prosperous in good hap and felicitie as his hart coulde possibly wishe? yea, who wold not haue called this daye the moste fortunate for him of all the dayes of hys lyfe, wherof he liued with greater contentation, than Diton or Sibillo. But alas it fell out quite contrary to his expectation: for Fortune a continuall stepmother to suche, as she aduanceth, determined to present the principall personage in this tragedie, and the bet-
G. ter

The firste Historie.

ter to shewe the force of hir puissaunce, shée sette hir proude foote so rudelye agaynste thys beautifull foundation of Loue, that shée subuerted so muche of the worke, as was raised, making thys dayes trauaile, the moste vnfortunate for the poore gentleman, the euer could happen vnto him: (so greate deceyte and ficklenesse remaineth in hir mundayne wheele. The spring of the daye no sooner beganne to chase awaye darkenesse from the face of the Earth, but the people hied to place themselues vpon the Sea shoare, where they mighte wyth moste easye and greatest pleasure, beholde the sportes prouyded for that daye. When all the troupes were assembled, the peace perchyng on tiptoe, dispersed their wanderyng eyes, to seeke the gentle Erastus, who not founde, after diligent enquirie, it was certified that hee was departed sicke into the countrey verye early in the mornyng. Then although the thys Eclipse contented no manne, yet was hys excuse easlye coyned, and the cause of hys disease referred to the excessiue trauaile he hadde endured the daye passed. But oure Persida, pinched wyth the panges of Loue, could take this excuse for no payment of hir particular interest: so as shée woulde willingly haue plaid the Poste, to vnderstande the occasion of his sodayne departure, if Agatha hir Chamber maid hadde not detained hir from this intent, perswading hir what blemishe it shoulde bee to hir honoure, bothe to departe the noble company of Ladies and Damoyseils so vndiscreetely, and also by haste to discouer hir loue, whyche other maydens seeke by al meanes to conceale, assuring hir maistresse of Erastus health, and that hys wisdome in so doing was verye commendable, to the ende it might appeare by hys absence, howe greatlye his presence was esteemed. Verye well, (saide she) I wil credite thy wordes, but if thou deceiuest mee, I praye God thou maiste possesse the plagues of Loue. Thus was the Damoyseil perswaded, so as hir grieffe seemed outwardlye but small, bycause she was to keepe open companye. But alas to whome coulde it appeare greate, not being knowne to anye witnesse: But thys patient, who fearing it shoulde bee perceiued, conceyued the same so couertly from the manifeste viewe of the worlde,

The first Historie.

worlde, as shée concealed hir anguishes in the bottome of hir bo-
 some. Now to shew you the occasion of this sodayne departure,
 you shall vnderstande: Our Knight hauing about hys necke,
 the iewell he loued so dearly, without the whyche he woulde
 neyther walke, eate, nor sleepe, esteeming the same the one-
 ly originall of hys delightes, rendring him a perpetuall remem-
 brance of hir presence, who was the onely maistresse of his af-
 fections: It happened by greate mischaunce, the bridegroome
 plucking away his helmet (as I tolde you) cutte the chayne
 in peeces with the gorget of Erastus armoure, who being disco-
 uered (cōtrary to his intent) was presently disarmed: so wonder-
 fully rauished in delectation of the greate glorye hée receyued a-
 mong so manye estates, as he perceiued not when the chaine slip-
 ped from him, being likewise so thronged with the presse (which
 greate desire vrged to beholde him) as he coulde not heare it fall,
 the place being paued with harde grauell, from whence he was
 carried triumphantly, so beside himselfe with extreame ioy, as hée
 perceiued not his losse. But alas, his mishap triumphed ouer his
 good fortune, as it was euident. In the euening when he vnar-
 rayed himselfe to bedwarde, and missed his chaine, which caused
 him to passe the nighte in complainte of hys disaster, hée calling
 to remembrance the wordes his mistresse spake, when shée
 gaue the same vnto hym, his harte died with sorrowe: on the o-
 ther side respecting his owne innocencie in losing it, he was con-
 strained to excuse himselfe, so that he could impute no faulte, but
 onely in his traiterous fortune, which againste all equitie, raun-
 somed so shorte ease, with continuall grieffe, Grief (said he) whi-
 che shall accompany me vnto my dolorous death, whych cannot
 be far from my expectation: for with what countenance dare I
 shewe my selfe in the presence of any louyng Persida, hauyng
 so reckeleslye loste the iewell I oughte to haue preserued more
 dearly than my life. Oh if the heauens had so much fauored me,
 as I might haue receiued my deadly wound so oftē, as I couched
 my speare that vnhappy day I would haue esteemed mine estate
 blessed, dying in possession of the inestimable gifte presented by
 the fauourable grace of my deare Maistresse, and louyng fri-
 ende, who might by my death haue hadde certaine testimonye
 G. ij. of

The firste Historie.

of myn amorous duetée, where as now my disloyaltie can find no excuse, and my fault juste amédment or reparation: for who hauing found a Iewell of suche value, will be so foolish to restore it: But alas shall my default bereaue my ioyes for euer: Why doe I then desire life, to liue in perpetual annoy.

In these altercations, the goode Louer wyth a troubled minde turmoiled his very carcasse from place to place, and distraught of all reason, soughte his sworde to reuenge hys disaster vppon his comely personage, and to separate good hadde yoked to the cruell pasttime of fortune: but gayded onely by blinde fury, when he was risen from his bedde, hee knew not whether to reele for the lightnesse of hys braine, intoxicated with sundry fantasies, made him stagger like one labouring in a burning feuer, or as a man dizzie with the waltering of a vessel, tossed by the hollowe waues of raging seas, so as in seeking the dore, he happened vppon the windowe, and supposing to bee at the beddes feete, hee clasped vppon the bolster. Thus groping long in vaine, to fynde the thyng he soughte, at laste hee threwe hymselfe vppon a benche, crossing his languishing armes vpon his wofull breast and saide: Oh lingering death, why takest thou pleasure in my mischief: shalt thou be the fatter to deuoure me leane and dryed with sorowe: Alas to what misery wilt thou yet reserue mee! the worlde flyeth mee, and thou pursuest the worlde. But as the Hunter, who pleasurith not to take the yelding pray, thou shun- neth me, that seeketh thee in great necessitie, yea thou art alwaies deafe to those, that incessauntlye implore thine aide. Ah blinde bayarde, thou seest no more what is needefull to be done, than fortune, who is concluded wyth thee to worke my vtter ruine. I knowe you are conspired togither, but perhappes the one of you shall deceiue the other, and disaster shall lose the Interest he hopeth to haue in me. Pronouncing these wordes, hee fell by little and little into a colde sweate, the whiche through the chargeable burthen of hys intollerable tormentes, encreased a deaw ouer all his body, so as hys limmes possessed wyth a mortall agonie, constrayned hym to drawe hys breathe verye painfullye. Neuerlesse by the succoure of hys good Aungell, hys Spirytes retournyng vnto hym as a horse broken loose and brought againe

The first Historie.

agayne into the stable he began to renew his tempestuous turmoyles. Oh senselesse creature, said he, why do I confesse my self culpable in wishing vnderdeserued death, as though there were no other remediet? Oh foole, why accompte I my selfe vnfortunate sith euery man esteemeth me happie! what moueth me thus to be enemy to my selfe. I haue lost a thing very deare vnto me, shall I therefore dispaire to recouer it, seing the fauour I haue obtained of al men! what if I can heare no newes of my Iewel, shal I therefore coniecture so great rancour to gouerne the creature in whome I could neuer perceiue but leuitie and pittie! shall I feare to be frustrate of pardon, and banished hir presence for one misfortune the which I could not auoyde? Thus the miserable Erastus taking both courage and counsel, dispatched hys seruant Pistan (whose trustinesse and fidelitye he had so often proued, as he durste haue committed his life to his credite, willing him to make searche and diligente enquirie to vnderstande who had found his chayne, but alas all was in vayne, for the cheyne happened into the hande of a Gentleman of the town (companiō of our Martyre) who sought the good wil of a cōtrey Damosel, neighbor vnto the Lordship of Erastus, vnto whō this amorous esquire presently sent this chaine for a tokē. Immediately after, there was a feast in the towne, at the which, this cōtrey Damosel named Lucina, (who customablie neuer escaped any) was presente, forgetting nothing in hir closet that might adorne hir person, or augmente hir naturall beautie. God knoweth if the chayne were hyddē in hir pocket, but whersoouer it was Persida espied it, whose rolling eyes glaunched in euery corner like the haggard Falcon, whose eye serueth for a sentinell, whilest shee pruneth hir plumage in the sunne Persida, perceyuing a stranger beautified in hir feathers, grew in such choller as fearing least hir countenance shoulde bewraye the disquiet of hyr mynde, she forsooke the company, and in excuse of hir departure sayde, that the streightnesse of hir gown greued hir so sore as she was very ill at ease therwith, and the better to counterfeite the matter, she caused Agatha to vnclasp her bodie: but alas she was griped with an other claspe more vneasye to be loosed. In thys

G. iij. per-

The first Historie.

perplexitie she threwe hir selfe vpon a bedde, and commaunded
 hyr mayde to depart, faynyng she woulde take some reste: but
 by no meanse she could entreate Agatha to leaue hir alone, whi-
 ch indeed had bene very perilous for the yong gentlewoman, for
 as the heate of glowing brandes couered with ashes, are more
 feruents and violent when they breake out, than the flames of
 blazing brushe discouered and dispersed in the open ayre, whose
 visible shewe threateneth more confusion than there is force
 in the fier to perforce: Euen so the desolate Persida cloying
 and dissembling cankered despiht in hir feeble stomach, recey-
 ued so sodaine a Larum and sharp assault of sundry tormenting
 conceytes, as if teares had not presently quenched and sighs dis-
 gorges the scorching sparkes out of the furnace of hir boyling
 breast, she had of force immediately consumed into ashes. But
 as the valiaunt knight enduring, long in skirmishe assayed on
 euerye syde with freshe supplie, fynding none other issue to
 escape, is cōpelled either to die or render himself vnto the mercy
 of his enemies: So enuie, hate, and ieaalousie pinching the tender
 hart of the comfortlesse mayden, with the grypes of their per-
 cing pawes, beating continually their peysant hammers vpon
 the anuile of loue, enforced poore Persida to yeld hir languishing
 corpse vnder subiection of their frantike furies. Oh what mo-
 ued nature so neyghbourly to harbour the good and euill,
 whereof Eternitie hath cause to complayne eche vertue, beyng
 placed betwixte two vices. Alas good and bad ioyne so neare
 together, as the one is often taken for the other, so contagious
 is their neyghbourhoode. Jealousie ioyned to loue (as the pricke
 vnto the Rose) played his part so kindely, as he obtained the pre-
 heminance, and hauing the aduantage, made way of entrie to
 halfe suspect, who betrayed loue into the hands of his enemies,
 the faithful companions of his aduersarie: As it is very difficult
 to conuey treasure from the couetous myser without being e-
 spied, whose vigilant eyes and suspitious thoughts attended con-
 tinually vpon the same: Euen so the absence of the perplexed Per-
 sida could not long be concealed from the amorous Brastus, who
 fynding hir aboude very long, imagined diuerse fantasies, ap-
 proching

The first Historie.

proching neare the truth, the which renewed his mortal wound, that not long before was almost cured by a formentation of the ayle of time, and neare skinned with hope of the recouerie of his wel beloued Iewel. Howe to satisfye his minde, finely slipping asyde, he repayred to the chamber whither his hart and eye cōducted the Damosel at hir departure, whom he foud so extremely plunged in perplexities, like one deprived of al sense, and ouerpressed with passions, as she perceiued him not vntill he ceased vpon hir delicate hand. Then feeling hir troubled minde enclosed with new dolours, not able to vtter one word, with a threatening countenaunce and harte swollen with Ire, she turned hir disdainful face to the cōtrary side, whiche caused Erastus, vāquishing his suspition by the discovered verity, with a forced spech to vtter these words: Now now deare hart, wilt thou be sicke, whilst other be merie--is there no remedie for thy grieffe, nor any mean make thee partaker of our mirth (I say our) although the sorow I feele for thy disease iustly depriueth me of al consolation. Wherevnto the Damosell (percing him to the quicke with a cutting looke) answered: Ah harte more trayterous and disesembling than very flatterie itself, is it possible that youre de- ceytful tong can with hir wel, to whom your harte meaneth so much mischief! It is possible your outward couloured counte- nance, can couer the disloyaltie you so lewdly pretend inward- ly! Alas can one creature be both my Phisition and murtherer! and it is possible that a body of such substance cannot comprehend one drop of pure bloude to vanquishe a flattering face! Ah mee- king mouth, how long shal I be bewitched by thy faire speche, thou vyper of false wordes! Ah lyer, ah periured wretch, ah dis- loyal losel, wherefore dost thou glorie to deceiue a simple maydē whiche beleued thee, and sekest with thy fardell of trash and trumperie to abuse hir that loued thee. Alas my childish simply- citie deserued rather grace, loue, and fauour. But vnfortunate creature that I am, sith my peruerse destinie once in my syte hath bounde me to loue, wherefore hath it grafted in me a sted- faste and loyall hearte: wherefore was it not made of yron or steele to wythstande the dartes of all amorous pittye: or at
the

The first Historie.

the leaste syth the heauens decreed to harbour in my breaste a liberall and constant mynde, why dyd they suffer me to make the moste vngratefull disloyall and wauering beast, that euer woman bare, possessour thereof: Alas wherefore haue they ordeyned and bowed me to him, who without regard of my desertes (if constante loue and faithful good will merite anye rewarde) hath rendered me so pittiful recompence: Haue I frequented your company from my tender youth, (said she) (casting hir head into hir besome, hir eyes flowing with brinishe teares) and yet could neuer know you: suffering my true faith to be decayed by your disguised semblant: could the poyson of your enuened harte lye so long hidden vnder the counterfeyte shewe of your dissembling face: Alas blinde loue, then bleared my sight: but now the truth hath opened mine eyes. Ah nature, wherfore hast thou giuen man a hart contrarye to his tong, that of necessitie the one must proue the other a lyer: why are not the teeth (seruants of our sustenance) reuengers of all slaundersous tongs. Or if a double harte outrageth the tong why is there not a wyndowe in each mans breast thorow the whiche the fraudulent deceites of this malicious guest may be discouered euen in the most secret cabyn of his habitation. If the threde of life had cracked with the falting of faith, I had not now traualled in cōplaint of him who in dispight of loyaltie triumpheth ouer my loyal affections. But although it were so, yet should not the entier and perfect loue which I haue borne you (O false and disloyal Erastus) be sufficiently satisfied and reuenged, the which you haue so slenderly acknowledged, as turning the point of mine own weapon towards my hart, you haue obteyned a second louer by the gage of the first, making me the only original of mine own mischiefe. Well, wel, let hir raine hir head softly, and brag in my cheyne, let hir attire & decke hir selfe with my spoyles, sith that she is inheretrix and possessed of the loue due to me only, wherof I made so great estimation, as I despised al other earthly delightes. Let hir glorie in my shame, and reioyce in my sorowe, whilst I lament and repent the peruerse planting of my pure affections. Ah Erastus, Erastus, it was not against me thou shouldst

The firste Historie.

shouldest haue deuised thy crafty collusions so cūningly conueyed: but I am a happie creature to vnderstand them so timely. Wherefore frō henceforth I renounce the vowes, and reuoke al the fauour wherof thou hast bene partaker by my follye, and render thee free libertie to seeke recompence at hir hand, who is so beholding vnto thee, vntill thy wandering affections glutted with one dish of dainties, giue thee appetite to search more delicate diet. Banish me therefore for euermore from thy sight and speech, and blot me clearely out of thy remembrance: as I for my part, wil practise with al mine endeuor to regester thy lewde demeanor in the roll of obliuion. And to the ende nothing maye hinder myne entent, lo here the parted pledge of thy falsed faith, which I restore vnto the right owner, wyth desire thou mayest neuer thinke, how dearely I haue vntil this houre preserued it. Wherat hir fainting wordes, strangled with sobbes and sighes, died in hir appalled mouth, leauing Erastus so liuely besieged, as although he were sufficiently armed with Constance, & strōgly fortified againste this rude assault, notwithstanding he was forced to yeld the Sconce. The conquered Captaine perceyuing this cruel Alarum finished, and that it behoued him to defende his charge, except by silence he would confesse the crime, comforted his hart, and hartened his tong, and with a fainte courage, after some pause, discharging a deepe sigh he answered: Oh God, why is my happe so harde, to be accused without deserte: wherefore haue I founde so vniust a Iudge to heare and determine my faorable and rightfull cause, as pronounceth iudgemente before mine innocencye be scanned: Ah deare dame, wherefore do you so greatly wrong me, as to credit by surmise the thyng you neuer had any occasion to conceiue: Wherefore (alas) haue lyes such aduantage of ¶ truth: what froward fortune hath made me subiect to his peruerse slaunder, whereof I cannot obtaine licence neyther to excuse or cleare my guiltlesse conscience: wherefore hath false reporte at once depriued me the grace so luckylye attained by my long and loyall seruice: Swete mistresse, I beseech you for Gods sake, graunt me this one fauor (about the rest I haue receyued of your goodnesse,)

H.

nesse,)

The first Historie.

nesse, that before you pronounce the sentence of my death, it may please you to be aduertised what misfortune bereeued me of my chayne, the onely cause of your iust displeasure. Then he opened by processe, how beeing vnmeasurably affected vnto the seruice of Mistresse, through the cautels and mutabilitie of fortune, he had lost all ioy with his Iewell; concluding in fine, that his mishaps had spit their spight, and that he determined speedily to be free from their puissance, by the succours of their reuenging crueltie, except you sweete heart (sayde he) in presenting vnto hir his naked sword) by your gracious fauour deliuer me out of this torment, punishing him that neuer offended you: The which I require you to performe, if you esteeme my poore harte worthy of so pleasaunt death as your handes shall minister vnto me, by whose ayde I shall not languishe perpetually subiecte to the tyrannie of my cruell misfortune. Beseeching you notwithstanding to imagine, that the Loue I haue alwaies borne towardses you, shal sooner be violate by death than by disloyaltie.

The Damoyzell, in whom rigour and pittie skirmished, during the processe of his tale, felt hir minde so diuersly turmoyled, as in one moment she graunted and denied victorie to bothe these Champions: so as the young captiue to his enemies, rendered hir office vnto the eyes (which embraced with ardent passions, darted such cutting glaunces, as no armour, howe harde and well tempered so euer it were, was able to defende the hart from the pearcing poyntes thereof. Wherewith the sorowfull Louer so wounded, as if thereby he had receyued hir dumbe condemnation, determined him selfe to do the execution with speede. And turning the poynt of his rapier (the miserable remedie of loue) agaynst his valiaunt breast, prodigall of his soule, with a couragious feeblenesse pressed to balance his bodie therevpon, supposing by this piteous sacrifice to appease the rigour of his fierce friende: which indeede he had perfourmeth, if Agatha perceyuing his desperate intent, running hastily, had not by great good happe stryken aside the pomell of the
Rapier

The firste Historie.

Rapier with hir foote, by meanes whereof, Erastus fell flat on the floore, the Rapier vnder him, without receyuing any harme, neuerthelesse with suche noyse as diuers came running into the Chamber: whereof the Louers something ashamed, fayned that the sicke Patient fell into a sounde. Thus the playe was finished without tragedie, like a Cannon hauing made a false fire. And Persida repented secretly hir extremitie, which had almost caused a maruellous mischief, determining to amende at leysure hir hastie rigour. In the meane time Erastus auoyding the Chamber, durst not approche the presence of his Mistresse without the chayne, and deuised in his mynde howe he might obtayne it of Lucina, who enioyed it, beeing altogether ignorant who gaue the Iewell vnto hir. Woulde God (sayd he) I were to deale with a man, that I might recouer my losse by fine force: but sith my controuersie is agaynst a woman, it muste be wonne by loue and fauoure. Wherefore he resolued from thencefoorth to purchase the Damosels good wyll by amorous practises, wherein he played his parte so cunningly, as he quickly deserued the name of a friende: which greatly impayed the sore he sought to salua. For this deuce bredde greater motion of suspecte in the ielous brayne of Persida, who by meanes thereof made full reckoning of so probable euidence agaynst Erastus, as he coulde alledge no excuse sufficient to colour his disloyaltie. Neuerthelesse, because she woulde be priuie to all his dealings, she planted spies, which at all times and in euery place diligently attended vppon this poore Louer. Who one nighte going in a Maske to visite his newe Mystrisse, proffered to aduenture a riche Carquet agaynst the Chayne, requiring the same by signes in playe, the whiche after a matche concluded, by good fortune he wanne, and presently departed the loyfullest man liuing, without discoverture of his person. True it is, Lucina who had receyued the Carquet in exchange of hir Chayne, knew hir chapman, otherwise she would hardly haue departed from the Iewell she esteemed passing all earthlye treasure. But beholde

The first Historie.

(deare dames,) a cheyne recouered with gayne, whiche shall procure greate losse, as you shall heare: so contrarie all things succede to suche as importune mishappe pursueth. The day no sooner appeared, but our Erastus, possessing the fruition of his desired Iewel, decked his comely corpse in the brauest manner, as he was accustomed, determining, wyth all convenient speeche, to repaire vnto his Mistresse mansion with a chearefull countenance, and to make attonement of their passed quarrell. But at his presente departure from hys lodging, he encountred the louer of Lucina, who already hauing him in iealousie, perceyuing assurance of his suspect, redoubled his malice & malicious intent by viewe of the cheyne, whiche he knew immediatly to be the same he gaue his mistresse not long before, whereby he entred into such sodaine rage, as vnable to qualifye his choler, he exclaimed in this order: Thou naughty deceitefull villaine, where hast thou stolen this cheyne, wherewith thou braggest in this brauery: and railing in this manner he drew the sword, aduancing to assaile Erastus, who not vntaught to coole his courage of such crakers, within three blowes pierced the Throte, from whence proceeded so iniurious obloquie, hys enemye disgorging a brooke of bloud from hys receyued wounde, dyed presently in the place. This slayne Gentleman beyng of noble parentage, and greatly friended by reason of his good qualities, which entertained and acquainted him among the best, was such bewayled of manye, and reuenge of his death so earnestly pursued, as if Erastus (notwithstanding hys faouere and credite in Rhodes) had not by speedie escape saued himselfe, he had dangerously auoyded the markes of too late repentaunce. Alas, beholde the manne in flyghte to shunne the summons of death, vanished hys countrey and friendes, deprived of all worldly pleasure and commodities, who euen nowe possessed all ioye, honour and Earthly felycitye: Fortune hathe full well sufficient occasion to contente hir vnconstancy, hauing for hir pleasure reduced this poore Louer from the mounte of Mirth to the vale of misery. But this greuous disaster was nothing noi-
some

The first Historie.

some to his stomacke, in comparison of the absence of Persida, whose remembrance and displeasure more pinched his hearte, than the tormentes of a thousande deadly pangs. Neuerthelesse, hope, continuallye the faithfull companion of mishap, helde the rinde of the tree, assuring his fantasie, that hys Ladye was partaker of his paine purchased for hir loue, & that he shoulde want no friendes to procure the pardon of his life, reestablisshement of his heritage, and reuocation from his dure exile. In the mean time, onely accompanied with his trustie seruante Pistan, he iorned towards Constantinople, where he was not so soone arriued, as knowne of diuers Lordes and Knightes, who being witnessse of his vertue and valor that daye the Iusts and Tourneys were solemnized at Rhodes, entertained him according to his merites, making so greate estimation of hys prowesse, as the published fame therof sounded in the eares of Soliman Emperoure of Turkye: Unto whose magnificence Erastus was presented by the Coronel of his armies, with the commendation to be the moste valiant, hardy, and experte Knight at armes liuing. Soliman entertained hym, and employed his newe souldior in pettie exploites, which he executed with such effect, as he gained greater estimation with the Emperour by hys acts, than reportes ministred cause of liking. So that, as well for the assurance of hys fidelitie, as for hys soueraigne valiauntnesse alreadye experimented, he constituted him Coronel of his Ianissaries (whiche we call capitaine of the Guarde) and sent him with a puissaunt regiment, to inuade Gasella, whiche was reuolted from the Emperoures gouerniment, hauing assembled al the army remaining of the Mamelusians: Where fortune (whose mutable nature constraineth hir to raise againe those she hath subuerted) was so fauourable to his vertue, as she graunted him happy successe in the issue of this enterprise. And striking while the yron was hote, by the Turks cõmaundement he besieged Belgarde, and toke it, with the death of King Loys of Hungary, after the whiche, accomplishing diuers other notable exploites, hee retourned with glorious triumphe: Wherby hee grewe in suche fauoure and credit wyth hys Lorde, as he elected him one of his Bachattes, and of his pri-
uie

the Councell. wherein among other secrete affaires belonging to the common wealth of the Empire, it was consulted, during the mutuall warres kindled betwixt Frauncis the french King, and the Emperoure Charles, whereby the Christians were in way of perdition, and determined (considering the apt occasion presently offered) to invade and conquer the noble and puissaunt Isle of Rhodes, whiche was supposed to be the inuincible Key of christendome. Herupon the whole councell resolved and concluded, Erastus was supposed the meeteste man among them to undertake the enterprise. Who after due reuerence vnto the Emperoure Soliman, humbly besought his highnesse, that although the iust occasion vrged him to seeke reuenge against his vngrateful Country, wherevnto hee liued in exile: Neuerthelesse, that it would please his maiestie to pardon him, that he might not be assistant in any expedition so vnlawfull, not for any disobedience that remained in him (for he sought but occasion to testifie and make apparant his faithful seruice) but because his duty rather consented to receiue cruell death, Soliman aduisedly considering his request, wonderfully commended his good nature, as if in his seruante Erastus, he had vewed another Theistocles resuscitate from the graue, who in his time indued with singular bountie chose rather to dye courageously than undertake the destruction of his natiue Towne, whiche hadde vniustly banished him, fearing to be esteemed a monster generate of some viperous breed, and borne to be the death and ruine of his countrey, and naturall mother. Wherefore Soliman in person tooke his voyage with an huge armye, conducting all his Gallies, galleons, and Galliassees, whiche were infinite, before Rhodes, where his presence tooke suche effecte, as executyng dyuers secrete practises, the Islande was rendered vnder his obeysaunce in the moneth of Iune, and in the yeare of our saluation, A thousande, fife hundred twentie and two, as farre as I remember. And although the inhabitantes shewed themselues verie wilfull, the victorious Emperoure notwithstanding (in fauour of his gentle knyghte, of whome he was alwayes myndefull) used more benignitie towardes them, than the

The first Historie.

the rigour of Warres dothe vsually permitte. Euen as Alexander the greate pardoned Thebes for the loue of Pindarus, and Stagirius for the good will he bare to Aristotle: or as the fortunate Augustus entreated rebellious Alexandria at the requeste of Arrius.

It was a custome among the Turkes at the takyng of any Towne vpon the eniyme, to make choise of the moste accomplished Damoisell in beautie and personage among all the captiue Virgins, to present vnto the principall captayne, supposing they could not offer hym a more honorable portion of the booty & pillage. This moued them to choose Persida, whome they found in a religious Monasterie of close Nunnes, whither shee was retired to demean a solitary life, hir delightes being clearely abandoned through the disaster and exile of Erastus hir deare friende.

This Nimphe, the Turkeische troupe presented beefore the Emperour Soliman, who presently fryng in the flame of this celestiall lampe, vewing the desolate Damoisell lapped in lamentations, and almoste drowned in the streams of dispare, which distilled abundantly from hir christall esies, immediatlye commaunded she should be conueyed with greate pompe towardes Constantinople, shewing in hir presence, his gracious countenance and bountifull liberalitie vnto al hir kinred, how far off or neare so euer they were allied vnto hir, to the ende hee mighte thereby winne hir fauoure, and pacifie hir sorrowes. Our captiue departed from Rhodes, and arriued at Constantinople, was lodged among yong Damoyssels, nourished, maintained, and taught by olde cunning Eunuches, to sing, daunce, playe on instruments, and to speake the Arabian tongue, committed to their charge, as a principall treasure to delighte the Emperoure. In thys Cage Soliman supposed hys mournfull Turtle myghte proue at pleasure hir seltered plumage. At hys retourne he went to visite his prisoner, beholding with greate admiration, the giftes wherewith Nature had rendered hir viewe wonderfull. And althoughe pensiuensesse, hadde exceedingly blemished hir beautie

The first Historie.

tye, decaying it (as a sharpe showre fadeth the garden floures) yet felte he his fantasie enflamed with the loue, which sometime triumphed ouer the hearte of Achilles at suche time as Bryseida his prisoner in hir mourning attyre vāquished him after his victorie. This amorous Emperour, after many louing embracings, & gorgeous gifts profered vnto our desolate Persida (as he whose noble minde regarded more a willing kissee, than a forced contentment imprisoned here with amiable petitions. The Damo- sel, (resolued rather to dye chaste, than liue dishonoured) for answer of his demaund, dispursed abundance of teares and sighs, as she whose haucie courage vāquished by hir proper miseries, prognosticated the future effect of noble enterprises, which caused Soliman somewhat to temper his affections, who leauing hir in this extasie, departed hir chamber, staying wythout the dore, whiche was no sooner shutte, but she opened hir mouth, complete with sorrowful lamentations, and disgorging soaking sighes, as hir stomacke would rieuē, sometime she bewailed hir Parents, then hir Countrey, nowe hir friendes and beloued companions: but all, so pitifully, as the Emperoure, who harkened attentiuely hir whole discourse, in despite of nature was vrged to compassion, whiche vntill then neuer harboured in his flintie Tur- kische breaste, and constrained him to be partaker of hir dolour. But aboue the reste, his harte was drowned in pittie, when as vnfortunate Persida folding hir languishing armes aboute the necke of hir maide Agatha, after the end of hir former complaint, began thus to exclaime: Ah my trustie friend, haue I not in one moment exchanged all my delightes for euer, to leade a life ouerwhelmed with miseries. Yea such a life as to my enuious fortune hath reserued for my laste rewarde. But alas, among so many euill happes as oppresse me, there is not one to finishe my irkesome loathed life. Oh howe comfortable were the pinching pangs of death to my soule: yea howe easily shoulde my bones be lodged in my graue, if before I resigne my languishing ghost, my dimmed eies might viewe mine Erastus, or my dulled senses once vnderstand any inkeling where, or how he is bestowed. Ah Erastus, Erastus, my deare friende Erastus, what mishappe dothe hinder

The first Historie.

hinder vs to liue happily together amid oure miseries: Thy onely companye alas, would yeelde me a more contented lyfe in the dungeon of dispaire than deprived of thy presēce, to enioy equall felicitie wyth the greatest Quēene vppon earth. But alas, sith the heauenly powers haue decreed to linke our strife and moste sincere affections in one, by irreuocable vowes, what contrary destiny hath yeluded such piteous successe to our happy beginning: Ah sweete friende, I lament the torment which my loyall hearte shall suffer, if happily anye prosperous winde whisper in thine eare, the newes of hir death, who hauing no power to liue thine, is resolued to dye hir owne, yet in what coaste soeuer thou remaine (at leaste if thou liue) remember and pittie thy Persida, who consecrating hir chaste loue vnto thy merites, neuer consented to alter hir choice, or reuoke hir vowed promise, neyther to participate a straunger with thy due, but hathe caried hir faithful affections companions of hir turmoyled ghoste, vnto hir fatal sepulcher, where they shall be reserued for thy behoofe entire and vndefiled. The whiche I will testifie with the price of my bloude, the onely worthy witness, to ratifye my constant unitie to the ende this voluntary sacrifice of my bodye maye appease the malice of fortune, the soueraigne goddess of worldlings, and exempte my virginities from the puissance of an Emperour. In this exploite, deare Erastus, I will practise to accomplishe the charge you straightly enioined me to obserue when I receued this pretious ring, the guage of thy good will, the whych for thy loue (Oh flower of faithfulnessse) I nowe embrace and kisse with feruent affection, and wishe it in thy hande a sure token of my last adew. Wherewithall a floude of teares trembled with a storme of sobbing sighes interrupted hir speeche, and with a mortall furye shē drew a knife from vnder hir gowne, whyche shēe hadde prouided for the purpose fearing to bee preuented, by the force whereof (lyke vnto Lucretia) shēe resolued to finishe hir wofull lyfe: And all dismayed, wyth a trembling hande, shēe sette the poynte thereof vppon hir Lyllie breaste, euen the breaste, a perfect witness of Chastitie. When the king, marvellouslye amazed to viewe hir furious enterprise,

I.

rushed

The firste Historie.

rushed open the dore, and at one leape foyled his cruel friende, crying: Ah deare darling, wherfore wilt thou so vnkindly harme the thing which deserueth so carefully to bee preserued! Wherfore darest thou wyth a deadly toole, force that which by hir delicate force, hath force to enforce the moste saluage and senselesse creatures of the worlde! The poore Damoyzell lyke a thiefe taken with the facte, astonied, and muche griued to bee found in this estate, but more discontented, hauyng failed the execution of the attempt, letting the knife fall from hir quivering fyngers, faced hir eyes vppon the Earthe, wythoute the vtterance of anye speeche. Then the Kyng remembering how affectuouslye he hearde hir recorde the name of Erastus oftentimes in hir lamentation, speedilye dispatched a Poste, wyth commaundement from his Maistye, to repaire to the Courte wyth al expedition: Erastus curteous audience, made hys desolate abode in a woodde adioynyng to a Wildernesse, halfe a dayes iourney from the Citie, where wyth greate grieffe hee complained the calamitie of hys Countrey, but especiallye the disaster of hys poore maistresse, whome hee reputed euermore forlorne, resolved in thys solitary Mansion, to finishe hys miserable dayes, demeaning suche sorrowe, as hys vnspeakeable losse worthilye deserued: yet besyng sente for, to his great trouble, failed not to come wythoute delay armed to encounter nothyng but wofull tydings. Being arriued, hee presentlye pressed to the Emperoures presence, who wylling hym to arise from the whiche, leadde hym to viewe the desolate beutie, from whome hee hadde taken the knife, and committed vnder sure garde, because hee perceyued hir cares stopped, and hearte hardened agaynst all perswasions of consolation. The Emperoure demaundyng, if hee knewe the Damoyzell: Erastus astonied, as one newlye risen from sleepe, knewe not whether hee waked or dreamed: Neuerthelesse, to playe true or false, runnyng towards hys recouered Persida, caste hys displayed armes aboute hir necke, locking mouth to mouthe so close, with the pleasaunte keye of extreame ioy, as thereby the soules of their two bodies were neare unlosed from their bondes, who deuouide

deuouide of perseuerance, remayned in a maruelous extasie, vntill the fountaine of loue, streaming from their eyes, gaue libertye vnto restrained speeche. Then Erastus, embracing the knees of the Emperoure Sultan, saide; Sir, I moste humbly be seeche you, pardon youre seruante, if vanquished by too excessive loue, hee hadde no power to preserue the obseruation of his Lordes commaundement, beefore hys impatient desires, for I confesse, (gracious Prince) my duty deserued greater diligence in aunswering youre demaunde. But I felte my fantasies so enforced by the renewing of an auncient fyre, kindled in me from my youth, through the perfections of this Damoisell, as thereby forgetting myselfe, it is not strange, if I haue also forgotten my dutye. Not with standing Syr, I suppose, if your noble hearte hathe euer tasted, and experimentd true loue, mine offence shall finde excuse before youre Maistie. The Damoyzell on the other side, hauing changed hir face of funeralles into a nuptiall countenance, beholding the Emperoure wyth an eye wherein loue, perfections, and reuerence bathed their limmes, by little and little vnbrideling hir tongue, briefly discouered vnto him the whole estate of the loue betwixte hir and Erastus, the which they had neuer changed for all the diuers iniuries of enuious fortune, but had reserued allwayes entire and vndefiled in the secrete of their heartes, as the corne preserued in the Earthe from the colde of nipping frostes. Affirming in fine, that shee esteemed hir disaster fortunate, that with the presence of hir desired Erastus, haue so wel paide and rewarded hir painefull trauailes, as shee shoulde euer acknowledge hir selfe verye well contented and satisfied, and that hys sighte shoulde serue in steele of a fauourable barke to harbour hir in the laste porte of hir miseries, rending thankes vnto the Emperoure for the benefite she then receiued of him which was partely a recompence for the destruction of hir Countrey. Soliman behouldyng the effecte of thys vnseparable loue, embraced the two Louers, maruellouslye astonied to vnderstande so strange aduentures, and willingly hadde required to make a thirde, (as didde the Tyrant Dionisius) if the case hadde

I. ij. imported

The firste Historie.

imported but a nexte. Then tournyng towards the Princes whyche accompanied him (he said:) By Mahound my Lordes, I haue long mused by what meanes I myghte sufficientlye recompence the seruices done to mee, by thys poore Gentleman, consieryng the perillous trauailes hee hath endured in mine affaires, neuer fearing to aduenture his lyfe in moste manifest daungers. Wherein my minde is at this present muche satisfied, sith occasion is offered so aptlye to acknowledge and reward the same, in makyng hym possessour of my Christian prysoner. Then beholding Erastus, hee saide: Sir Knight, sith your loue is so sincere towards thys Damoyzell, as is apparante, I giue hir vnto you as Louer and lawfull espouse, although I am enforced to confesse, that hir beautie, wherein shee surpasseth the waste excellent of Asia, hath vntyll this presente hadde authoritye to commaunde mee. But in this behalfe I will vanquishe my proper affections to giue you triumphe ouer my victory: assuring you that your aduantage and commoditie, hath more puissance in mee, than myne owne. Wherevnto Erastus answered: My Lorde, I humbly thanke the heauens, whyche haue planted a hearte so noble and vertuous, in the breaste of my so-ueraigne King, to haue power to brydle his will, the whiche is vnto you a Trophee more glorious than if you hadde conquered the Occident Empire: wherein sufficient prooffe condemneth youre succession from the excellent race of the Othomans, yeelding vnto you worthilye from the rule and commaundement of so many goodlye Realmes and riche Regions. I render also immortall thanks vnto youre Maiestie for the greate goodnesse I haue thys daye receyued of youre liberalitie, whyche I hope to acknowledge, by all the seruices I maye possible do vnto your Excellencie, supposyng my selfe in suche wise bounden thereto by thys admirable fauoure, as from henceforthe I shall esteeme the losse of a thousande lyues, insufficient to gratifye the same. Immediately the marriage was celebrated with great solemnitie and magnificence, whiche the Emperoure honoured in person wyth his whole Courte. But cursed bee that honoure whereby greate dishonoure ensueth, and horrible myschiefe.

The first Historie.

chiefe is comytted. Soliman gaue greate and ryche giftes, and constituted oure Bridegroome Lieutenaunt and gouernoure of the Isle of Rhodes, whither our fortunate Louers within fewe dayes after the wedding was ended, parted with consent of the whole Seignurie. O what tongue can vtter the ioyfull delightes this couple receyued, enjoying at will that which they had so long desired, leading Fortune triumphantly, who smiled at their deceitfull contentation! for so many pleasures vanished, as an Ile through a wette hande, and they alas liued not long in this amorous delight, so vnconstant are the fruits of this world, wherin we search suretie and stabilitie, yet that which ought to be found strangest is, that the mariage day which seemed most fortunate, was most vnhappie, cloking vnder a coloured sweetnesse, the bitter poyson which procured the piteous death of them both. For beautiful Persida, the more worthily to solemnize this day dedicated in hir fauour, intirely rauished with contentment, was appareled so gorgeously, adorned with an inuauable number of riche stones, which couered hir naturall perfections with suche a glittering brightnesse, as she seemed rather a Goddess descended from the heauens to amaze the worlde, than any mortall creature: And knewe so wel to display the treasures of hir most rare graces, as she deliuered in suche sort all the delightfull gestures wherein the curtesie of hir person was to be shewed, were it in singing, daunsing, or deuising, as there was none that wholly rauished, marueyled not at hir comelynesse, and esteemed not to haue gayned great conquest and booty, in obtayning at vnwares any wandering glauce from hir rolling eye: so farrefoorth as many wished to supply the place of the Bridegroome. But aboute the rest the Emperoure Soliman touched to the quicke with the dartes of hir eyes (the languishing heates whereof were bathed in the sugred venome of hir delicate deuices) yelded his vanquished libertie to the mercie of this diuine beautie: And loue, whom he pretended to resist, planted his proude foote vpon the Princes heade: so as, whether by the supposed fauoure he receiued at hir hands, who soughte that day to honour him with all hir ende-

The first Historie.

uour, which he construed to proceede of loue (as Louers take euery thing for their aduantage) or for that he stode to neere this pleasaunt fire, he felt his heart so warmed, and his former intent so altered as al his determination was wholly to please his pardoned captiue, who by a cruell reuenge, nowe emprisoned him so straightly, as although (reuiuing his auncient vertue) he was resolu'd to deliuer hir, yet with ioyned handes he was enforced to require grace. So as this grieffe by little and little grewe so great, hauing taken roote by his consent, as in a while neither continuance of time (which breedeth obliuion) not the distaunce of his Louers abode, nor yet the remembrance of the seruices receyued of Erastus (which bounde him only not to be vngratefull, but also to mortifie his passions) coule not dissuade him from bitter repentaunce of his too frank offer and vnaduis'd liberalitie: by the which he departed from a Jewel more precious and worthy of estimation vnto him, than the halfe of his Empire. Thus finding no remedie in his naturall constancie, lastly concluded to giue the bride vnto his rebellious and vntamed affections, esteeming nothing impossible for him to compasse, hoping that Persida vanquished by his benefites, would render him in the ende a gracious recompence. Wherefore determining to let hir vnderstande the torments he endured for hir loue, taking ynk & paper, he wrote as foloweth.

If the Goddess in their creation of man had graunted him liberal fauour to gouerne his affections, & by mayne force to maister his rebellious passions, I had not nowe bene compelled (faire Persida) to entreate newe succours, to resist the assaults deliuered me by my domesticall enimies: But hauing long skirmished in the defence of my libertie, finding my feeble force continuallye oppressed by a multitude of freshe assaults, I am enforced to submit me vnto the mercy of their proude victorie, considering I am promised so fauourable composition. You neede not demaunde (Maistresse) what puissant aduersarie assaileth me, sith you knowe the whole force of the world are subiect vnto my power, your rigorous beautie onely excepted, which hath made so large a breach in my heart, as
notwith-

The first Historie.

notwithstanding any rampier I haue sought to plant, or any fortification I can devise, it is impossible for me to withstande the fearefull alarums and furious assaults which night and day represent before me the perpetuall remembrance of your rare perfections. And although it grieueth me much to become saue vnto my captiue prisoner through the vengeance of cruell loue, because I haue despised his inuincible forces: So it is considering, the merite of your diuine graces, I haue occasion to glory, being ordayned to serue your soueraigne beautie, which onely deserueth to commaunde a Soliman, whome al the world abayeth. Hoping that if it be not blemished by secret obstinacy, you will quickly recompence the painfull trauayles of

Him, who expected his onely com-
forte from your fauour,

Sultan Soliman

These Letters closed and sealed with the Royall Signet, were deliuered to a Page, whose fidelitie was well knowne, who instructed of his duetie ariued with all diligence at Rhodes, where he founde hir to whom he was sent alone with hir damoyells, for at that time Erastus was ridden on hunting. Wherefore the Page hauing done humble reuerence vnto the Lady, deliuered hir his Lordes letter, with his moste louing commendations, the which she receyued with a thousande hartie thankes for the gracious remembrance it pleased the King to haue of his humble Lieutenaunt Erastus. Then retyring aparte, she read the whole contentes, not without great trouble of minde. Neuerthelesse, wisely dissembling hir thoughtes with a sayling countenance excellantly counterfayted, she enquired of the affayres of the whole Court, demanding if the Messenger had any other charge, although the letters bare sufficient credite of the contrarie. Who answered, he had none other business but to returne speedie answere of the letters he brought, whiche caused the Lady to frequent hir closet, where often she tooke penne in hande, which with shamefastnesse dropped out of hir chaste fingers, vntill at length solicited and pressed by duetie, she wrote this answere.

Vnto

The first Historie.

Vnto the puissant Prince, my Soueraigne.

My soueraigne Lords, I haue receyued the letters which it hath pleased your Highnesse to write vnto me, the superscription whereof (for the honour you vouchsafe vnto your humble seruaunt in taking so great paynes) gaue me not more cause of ioy, than the contents ministred occasion of meruayle. For considering the same, I stande doubtfull whether I sleepe or wake, being enforced to mistrust mine owne eyes, because I can not perswade my selfe, neither imagine howe your excellencie (the true mirrour and patterne of soueraigne vertue) could render your hands so muche enimie to your harte, as to permit the same to write the thing so alienate and altogether contrarie to your so sincere reputation: yet for as much as I doubt not (right excellent) but your noble minde in iesting for your disport, delighteth to proue what profite I haue attained of the vertuous examples which continually flowe in your Maiestie, I most humbly beseeche you (for resolute answer) that it maye please you to be assured, that the benefites of your Magnificence, hath is such wise drawne me vnto your seruice, as I will search (and esteeme my happy fortunate) to encounter the wished meanes, which in all respectes may satisfie & please your highnesse: so farrefoorth as the limits of chastitie & bounds of honestie shall suffer and permit. The which with my whole endeouour I will mainteine and defende euer vnto the last gaspe of my life. Acknowledging, that although he that hath made me, hath powre to marre me, yet she is neuer to be forced that can and will be, wherewith I shall be better contented, than dishonoured to liue a life abounding with delightes and worldly honours. And so, testimonie hereof, which I will seale with my harte bloud, moste mightie Monarchs, I kisse the victorious hands of your hautinesse, desirous for euer to remaine
 The most humble and obedient seruaunt of
 the mightie Emperour of the Turkes.

Persida.

The page hauing his dispatch, without long abode with hastening

sting speede caried these letters to his Lorde, who attended his returne in great good hope; but hauing perused them, he found small reliefe in hir wise answer, whereby ignoraunt wherupon to resolute, he purposed for his comfort to impart his grieefe vnto his Cousin Brusor Bellerbeck of Seruia, who like the other Princes of Sangiaces, envied Erastus extremely, because he had bene more aduanced by the Emperour than their ambition could tollerate. Nowe after long deliberation & counsell in the matter, it was supposed betweene them a thing impossibill, to allure the rebellious and obstinate Persida, vnlesse she were first deprived of Erastus, which (quoth he) will be easily compassed, notwithstanding the loue & fauour he hath obtained among the garrisons aswell of the Ianissaries, as the Estradiots, so that your Maiestie will sende for him by your straight commaundement, the which I am certain he will not disobay, but make his speedy repaire with his whole familie: and being present, I will finde occasion he shal be accused of reuolt & rebellion, wherupon being admitted to prison for the offence, iudgement and execution of death may ensue. The Emperour ioyfully embracing this wicked Counsellor, comended exceedingly his inuention, and dispatched him presently to practise the execution of his diuelishe deuice. At his arriuall at Rhodes, the honourable entertainements he receyued (vnmeete for a mischæuous meaning) might haue conuerted his malicious minde from the prosecution of his bloody enterprize, if courtesie and innocencie had entreated a valiant hart, as they encountered a trayterous entent. But Brusor vnder colour of secret & waightie affaires, allured & ledde poore Erastus to Constantinople, where he was no soner alighted from his horse, but the Marshall of the Emperours householde attached & committed him close prisoner vnder sure garde. The King supposed to seize vpon his Louer (as the hungry Hawke stoupeth like a leaden lump vpon hir pray) nothing mistrusting the feuer which detayned Persida, but he reckned without his hoste, and fared the worse for his marching. At laste finding his fancie deceyued, blaming his haste, he deuised howe to satisfie his faulte. Neuerthelesse, resolved to strike whyle the

The first Historie.

yron was hotte, with speede prosecuted the processe agaynst the
 poore Gentleman, and by false witnesses of purpose prouided,
Erastus was accused, and conuicted of treason & rebelli^s, for that
 he had consented (sayd they) to deliuer the Ile of Rhodes into the
 possession of the Christians for which offence iudgement passed
 vpon him, and by the Emperours comandement he was behea-
 ded. Wherwith those whose minds had vertue in recomendati^s
 were so miscontented, as they could not refrayne to murmure &
 rayse sedition. But Persida, who could not long forbear the
 company of hir yong husbando, shooke of hir sicknesse, purposing
 to meete him homeward: But alas hir iourney was soone stayed
 by a sodayne report of the treason so lewdly conspired, and the
 lamentable death which ensued. So that enraged dolour assai-
 led hir in such sort at these sorowfull newes, as she returned in
 a sounde vnto the bed from whence she was so lately awaked.
 And by the efficacia of this mortall passion, had finished the
 final remainder of hir life, the which (fearing it would continue
 to long) she sought to aduance by the reuenging power of hir
 misfortune, so as brusing hir white brest, and tearing hir yelow
 heare, she imagined what sodaine death might dispatch hir with
 least payne (sith in this life there was no hope of grace to be ex-
 pected for hir reliefe.) When poore Pistan her trusty seruaunt
 newly returned after ^{the} death of his good master) seeing he could
 neither comfort nor dissuade hir from hir pretended mischiefe,
 spake thus: Madame, sith you defer the executi^s therof vntil
 you haue reuenged the death of the best knight that euer bare
 launce, and testified what power his innocencie hath possessed in
 you euen after his death. Then will we depart & carie ioyfull ti-
 dings vnto the Paradise of blessed soules, where my master at-
 tendeth our coming. These words somewhat appeased hir fury,
 wherby taking a maly courage, she assembled succours, mustred
 souldiers, & made prouision of necessarie furniture to resist the
 power of barbarous Soliman, who made no long abode with
 gret ordinance to apprech & inuade this inuincible chastitie, like
 as the roring Lion deuoureth the fearefull hinde. But contrary
 to

The firste Historie.

to his expectations, the Castell was so well defended as he knew neither wher he was, nor what to do, now cursing his tyranny, the his licentious desires, & only occasion of so great mischiefes. Neuerthelesse, hee determined to goe through what so befell therof, & to see the ende whatsoever it cost him. Wherin he had bin deceyued if the wofull Persida, consenting to liue so long after the losse of hir deare friend (the grieffe wherof permitted hir neither truce nor rest) had not ayded him, lingering happily to testifie vnto the ashes of Erastus, (the liuely memorie whereof continually consumed hir) how his death extinguished not their eternal loue: wherby buckling vnto hir body the armour which sometime pertained vnto hir friend, I meane the greate armour the perfect temper wherof was so doughted, after many lamentations of force to moue the dumbe towers of the Fortresse to pitie hir distresse, she mounted to the top of a vaulte, where bending hir watered eyes & woful hart with ioyned hands vnto the heauens, she prayed hir creator to receiue hir pure & cleane soule betwixt his armes into the company of his soule, whose body now dead liuing was the onely Lorde of hir chaste & sincere desires. Then casting hir bedewed eyes towards the sea side, she perceyued the Turkes preparing their power to assault & enter the Castell. Among whom espying & knowing Soliman, with a sterne voyce she exclayned: Ah mischionous Barbarian, thou cruell and vngratefull wretch of mine Erastus benefites, whose seruices thou hast so tirannously recompenced, embrue thy bloodie pawes, and glut thy greedy paunch with the blod of thy faithfull seruant, whom thou hast not wholly murdered, behold here his one halfe yet liuing. Finishe therfore thy wicked brutish tyrannie, at lest if it haue an ende. This sayde, she aduanced hir head and breast aboue the battlements of the wall, making semblaunce to discharge this Canon shot agaynst the Turkes: who taking hir for some souldier, loosed a volue of shot, among the which two bullets sent from a Musket stroke hir through the stomach, wherwith the vertuous Dame feeling the approche of hir death, sate downe, crossing hir armes and staying hir head agaynst a stone, lyke a stacke of Corne,

K. ij.

whose

The first Historie.

whose binding ridge is ouerblown by a mysterious blaste of winde. Oh constancie meritorious of the heauens, oh death worthy of eternal life, the glorious Angels conduct thy soul among the blessed saincts, and thou vngracious gemme, art thou not ordayned to dispiight Dame nature: Sith thy mettall, fire and thunder, dare presume to offende hir principal handyworke. Ah beautifull and vertuous Damoyzell, why shewed the heauens their liberalitie in bestowing their gracious gyfts so abundantlie vpon thee, and so nigardly to impart fortunes blessings towards thee! who because thou are not an abiect as hir other common creatures, but vnder a humaine shape has enclosed a precious sparke of diuinitie, could not abide thee, like the foolish dolte, that esteemeth and lulleth his Babe, and stampeth precious treasure vnder his fete! Alas faire creature, deseruedst thou so cruell entreatie! vnlesse thou wouldest make no better market than that thy destinie had vowed thee, to the ende the perfectest couple among men hauing bin companions of a short and sorrowfull life, might be likewise partakers of a dolorous death. The newes of the Ladies maruellous accident was not long concealed from them of the Castle, who astonied of so great constancie, mused not to complayne suche a losse, but in playing dooble or quid, determined to imitat this notable vertue, lest they should seeme in any respect inferiour to women. Wherefore as well men as women armed them as loyfully as a bride putteth on hir wedding apparell, and orderly marching in faire ordinance vnder the conduct of good Pistan, issued out furiously where being weerie of the gret slaughter of their enimies, they skirmished so desperately, as they yeelded but only to death, who taking them to mercy, gaue the glorious manumission of mundayne miseries to make their soules triumph among the inhabitants of heauenly felicitie, which treade vpon the head of peruerse fortune. Thus the cruell Tyrant tooke possession of the Castle, wherinto entring fearfully, he found no creature but the pale body of couragious Persida, resembling a Rose which by age hath lost y red liuely hue, loking so swetely as a ma would haue said she slept if hee set eies & losse of bloud streaming fro hir woũdes,

The first Historie.

des, had not ministred manifest aduertisement of certain death) Oh who could expresse the sorow of Soliman, seeing after so many traoules, the beautie mortified, for the whiche hee liued! A-las, after he had a thousande tymes kissed hir colde mouth, hee drew his faulchion, & brandishing his paysie brond about him, hee hurt and slew as many of his people as would abide, but speedily they fled hys presence, and lefte hym alone. At length gathering his wittes vnto him, hee deuised by what meanes hee might amend hys faulte, and accomplishe some notable reparation vnto the diseased soules of the two louers, so cruelly offended. The immediatly hee sente for al the Princes and Lordes of hys countrey, commaunding them honorable to conducte the heade and body of Erastus from Constantinople to Rhodes. In the meane time hee called together the moste cunning Caruers, Grauers, Painters, drawers of workes and limners, commaunding them to finishe a beautifull bed of white marble perfectly polished, wherein the bodies of Erastus and Persida seared, washed and embaulmed in oyle of Ceder, by the Emperours commaundement were layde vpon pillowes wroughte and embrodered with gold and silke, hauing firste appparelled their bodies with the richest robes that might be possible deuised, where vpon pearles and pretious stones of inestimable valure were not spared. Then hee caused them to bee enclosed in a closet or cell of fine Venice Christall, wherevnto adioyning, hee builded a quadrant Altar quartred wyth Habain, Jasper, Gest, and Furphiry, beset with Agattes and Margarites, where vpon was eleuate the Image of Faith embracing Venus, bearing in hir hand a wheele, in the top whereof stode the figure of Constancie, holdyng in the one hande the ring, and in the other hande the chaine whereof wee haue spoken before, and the foure vertues Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperaunce, were placed vpon the foure corners of the Altar, who leaning their heads in their lappes, shewed a desolate countenance. The whole worke was so excellently finished as I doubt neither the sepulchre of Loy the twelfth, and Frauncis the firste, which are at Saint Denis in Fraunce, nor the famous Tombe of Mausole are comparable to this, whiche surpassed the

The first Historie.

workmanship of the Colosse round about the bed wherin rested these loyall Louers, were the pictures of Pistan and Agatha, with the other Damoyssells whiche were founde deade in the battaile, sitting orderly in chaires of Corall and Iuorye. This monument is yet to be seene in Rhodes, wythin a Chappell of blacke Marble, in the toppe whereof the sorrowfull Soliman (who euery daye viseting his workemen, bathed the worke wyth warme tears) commaunded a Piramide of brasse to bee erected, in the height whereof, hee caused the traitor Brusor to bee hanged, in guerdon of hys wicked counsell whereof you haue had vnderstanding. God graunte al false counsellors and seducers of princes the lyke rewarde. When all things were accomplished to the Emperoures contentation, accompanied wyth all the Princes, Lordes, & Ladies of his Courte in mourning attyre, he celebrated the obsequies and funerall pompes, castyng flowers and perfumes with so greate lamentations, as they seemed rather people iudged to dye, and going to theyr graues, than mourners lamenting the funeralles of others. Beholde howe thys poore Barbarian, with a Persican sumptuousnesse and memorable honoure of eternal fame, sought to repaire his tyrannicall crueltie committed, protesting to consume the remainder of his solitarie life in sorrowfull repentaunce, constituted from the funerall daye for euer, a solemyne feaste to be solemnized, whiche to day is nominated The feast of Lamentable Loues, and is yere ly renewed in the pitifull remembraunce of the deade. In whose fauour the Emperoure graunted greate liberties, and gaue generall pardon vnto the whole IKe. But in takyng breathe, I hadde almoste forgote howe in this Temple there was a brode plate of fyne Golde of Osir, wherein was written in Azured Letters the whole Historie, with thys Epitaph ensuyng.

In passing by this place, my frende,

Disbourse thy brynishe teares,

Beholde this pearelesse Princely pile,

The whiche true recorde beares

Howe Soliman to worke hys wil,

Hath outte the fatall Greede,

And

The first Historie.

And made a wofull sacrifice
Of two that here lye dead.

2 Within this gorgious stately Tombe
These creatures are enblosde,
On whome dame Nature in their life
Hir golden gifts disposed:
In beautie, witte, and comely grace,
None liuyng might compare
With these, whose loue was lincke in one,
Their vertues were so rare.

3 That heauen with al the heauēly powers
Grewe iellous of these wights,
And did suppose the earth too base
To yeelde them due delightes:
They gaue the worlde auctoritie
These louers to disdain:
That they amid their flouring youth
Mighte with the gods remaine.

4 By Fortune, Exile, and by Death,
This couple caughte their bane,
When harde mishappe by princely power
Enforste a Virgins shame,
He in redresse of infamy
This Trophee did deuise:
A memorie perpetual
Vvher these two Louers lies.

5 Oh Soliman thou Turkishe prince
Thy tiranny deplore,
Erastus with his Persida
Doth loy for euermore,
Vvwhose perfecte loue and Amitie,
True witnessse of thy blame
Shall blased liue eternally
Triumphantly by fame.

By

The first Historie.

By this piteous tragicall historie, you maye coniecture (grati-
ous company) my saying to bee true, that all lamentations,
miscontentmentes, and misfortunes chauncing in loue, proceede
on the behalfe of women, who harbour this mishappe in them,
(yea euen the most perfecte) of force to be alwayes the originall
of some misfortune, although it be in their despight. As the ex-
ample of oure Perseda, maye verifie: In whome it seemeth by the
errour of nature, a manly hearte was lodged: for may any man
finde or desire a more firme and constant loue, than hers, which
stedfastly endured vntill after death: And yet was hir disaster
so greate, as twice shee procured the ruine of hir friends and hir
self. The first time, wh^{er} hir poore Lower, losing by mischance hir
chaine, euen in hys Ladies seruice was perpetually banished
from hir gracious presence, without memorie of his valure new-
ly experimented, or the merite of hys auncient loue, his fideli-
tie wherein so oftentimes testified, might neuer fynde place in
the rigorous harte of his vniust maistresse. So muche women-
kinde yielde vnto the mercy of vaine opinion, as they locke the
gate of veritie against themselues, through the seife loue of
obstinate fantasie. The whiche the sage lawemakers of Athens
considering, and afterwarde the Romaines, forbade them the e-
state of iudgement, knowing there is no cause so iuste, whiche
was not by them ouerthrowne. The seconde tyme was, that
these two louers being by heauenly fauoure miraculously cou-
pled together, enioying contrary to al hope, euen when they wer
moste suppressed with misfortunes, the pleasure so much desired,
were againe separated by the faulte of the too beautiful bride,
who pleasing the King ouermuche, approched the steme so neare
the flare, as it caused the destruction of hir Eragus, and hir owne
soone after: when keping hir Castell, to amende hir faulte, shee
couragiously preferred honor before life. wherein I confesse shee
somewhat satisfied hir deade friends. But if any man wyll ac-
cuse Soliman, those which are lawfull Iudges in the Courte of
Loue will easely excuse him, when they remember how the force
of Loue constraineth vs to doe things vnpossible to nature and
righte: and that is none so constant, which can refraine to
drinke

The first Historie.

drinke, being boiled with thyrste, especially finding a fitte fountaine. Surely it was verrye likelye, that the poore Princes passions lyke vntamed coltes had broken the raines of reason, by the amends and reparation hee Imparted vppon the shadowes of the deceased louers. The like satisfaction was sometime made by the Frenche king, at the instaunce of his counsell, hauyng vnjustly slaine Iuetot, whose lande hee fraunchised in all souerain- tie, and possessed hir heyres wyth a Kyngs right in Normandy whiche perhappes caused the soule of the murdered, more pati- ently to tollerate his death. For Histories are replete with ma- ny vertuous courages, which voluntarily haue lost their liues, by their death to gaine some aduantage and profite vnto theyr Countrey, kinred and friendes, as oure louers did, who by their death restored againe the auncient priuiledges vnto theyr natieue Isle, reduced into the seruitude of their mortall enimies. Wher- vnto Maistresse Mary answered: Sir, you digresse somewhat from the matter, but leaste wee shoulde range too farre without our boundes, I praye you tourne bridle towardes your conclusi- on, by the which you burthen Persida to bee the occasion of the misery of this vnfortunate loue, to whome hauyng by constraint attributed commendation, you accuse to haue stopped hir eares vnto the Iustice of hir Erastus cause, whyche well deserued bothe excuse and absolution. Secondly, that she was too stu- dious to content the Emperoure vppon hys wedding daye, whome you woulde excuse as vanquished, by hys vicious affe- ctions, assailed by a beautie, whyche no manne coulde resiste, so greate disabilitie remayneth in menne: But I praye you, wherefore dydde not youre Soliman imitate the vertue of Agesi- lau, who refused to kisse Basabatta: saying, Faire Ladye, re- tayne your owne libertie without retention of mine: or of wise- dome of young Alexander, who saluting the daughters of Kyng Barius, durste not behoulde them, fearing leaste the beautifull glaunces of their alluring eye mighte blemishe hys sighte: or the continencie of the braue Romaine Emperoure, who for hys share refused the fayre Carthaginoise, whome (saide hee) he wold willingly haue receiued, had he bin but a simple souldier.

L.

But

The firste Historie.

But hee was of opinion, that who so meddeleth to commaunde, muste shewe a greater excellencie, than those hee commaundeth, commaundint hymselfe, refusing to bee commaunded of anye. Notwithstanding youre Turke obserued not thys good lesson, but receyued gladlye the presentation of the faire Rhodiane, from whom hee woulde neyther detaine hys eye, hande, nor hearte. And in one worde to defende Persida, the Theologians holde opinion, that good or euill actes are not to bee iudged by their sequels, but by the motiue inuention of their originall; whiche cause the allurementes and lubricitie of Cleopatra and Herodius to bee condemned, bycause the one was willing to please the Emperoure Antonius in despighte, to sette hir lasciuious beautie at sale, where it was euill bestowed. The other to content Herod, thereby to winne his consente vnto the death of Saint Iohn Baptiste, by an vnaduised promise. But the beautie of Susanna, Bersaba, Iudith, or Hester discovered on the behalfe of one, bycause their intents were pure and sincere. But there is no excuse to warrant men, who knowing their owne imperfections, oughte to close their eyes, leaste they viewe too much, and as the Pro-uerbe saith, to looke vpon maidens sleeping, and yet perchance see too clearly. But such in their excuses do resemble the drunkard, who blamed the wine, which is no otherwise than to bee hidden in water for feare of the raine. Wherefore we haue better reason to excuse the beautie of Persida, and to blame the disordinate desires of the Barbarian, who beeing the sonne of the moste wicked and cruell Emperoure, that euer bare crowne (althoughe Nero hadde then lyued) contented to surmounte his father in crueltie, to confirme the auntient prouerbe, that the Egle hat- edeth not a pigeon. And in so much as you blame hir, that she receyued for none paiement the faire excuses of hir friend, I pray you, what coulde shee doe lesse, seeing and knowing hir chaine about the necke of a faire damoyzell (among whome ielousie accustomedly is nourished,) but suppose Erastus had giuen it vnto hir, whiche if he had done, she might well thinke it was not for anye euill hee wished hir. But though you saye, shee shoulde haue

The first Historie.

haus beleued him swearing the truth, my conscience will hardly consent therevnto. For if othes may take place, more woulde make a game of disloyaltie, knowing they might be acquitted by swearing. The which notwithstanding, hath continually socked poore maidens, who credite whatsoever men tell them, to bee as true as they speake, and mean truly. As the nimph Cenon teacheth vs to hir damage, deceiued by a simple shepheard, who besides that hee was greatly bounden vnto hir, made many solemayne vowes and promises to continue hir faithfull friende, which are witnessed by all the trees of mounte Ida, bearing engraued in their barke these verses:

More sooner shall the flowing floode
Of Xanthus sowe and drye:
Than Paris shall Cenon good
Forget, or once denye.

Notwithstanding hee bothe forgatte, and changed hys affection, the floode continuing in his pristine estate. But bicause we will not fishe so deepe, I demaunde of you, (not meaning thereby to confute your argumentes) the effecte of youre poeticall Oracles, whiche teach you howe to loue, and giue you licence to deceyue yong maidens, not only by simple wordes, but also by othes: for the whyche, Venus by hir Bulles, indulgences, and pardons, giueth you intier absolution and remission. So as youre Iupiter king of youre amorous Courte, when hee seeth anye man by swearing abuse a credulous virgin, hee leapeth for ioye, to viewe the cunnynge of his forward disciple: As, though hee mockery and deceite were the sauces to make loue seeme more sauerous. Pardon me Maistrasse (replied the Gentleman) you shoote too highe to hitte the white: For whatsoever I haue spoken, I desire no otherwyse, but that women shoulde as well credite men, as they are beleued of them. Then all thynges woulde succede so happily, as no contradiction shoulde neede in Loue. And touching the excuse you preferre Theologically, to couer the faulte commytted by the Ladye Perseda, so

The firste Historie.

curiously entertaining the loue of the Kyng, by the behauioure of hir good graces: I enquire not what shee meante thereby, but sith shee was not ignoraunte of the ardent affections, whyche immediately beefore assetted Soliman in hir behalfe: and knowing the fyre esteemed to bee extincte, oftentimes by small blowing groweth greater and hotter than before, shee oughte with misaking lookes to haue quenched the sparkes remayning. And if you will replie, that it behoued hir the same daye to honour the Kyng, and that detye bounde hir to doe no lesse: I demaunde wyth youre fauourable licence, what care oughte to haue moued hir to seeme beautiful or browne in the Kyngs conceite, sythe shee was in all respectes agreeable vnto hir husbandes lyking: for the greatest vertue (sayde Euboidus) resident in a woman, is to be vnkowne of anye, but hir husbande: And a womans praise in a straungers mouthe (according to Argeus opinion) is but hir secrete blame. Further, the same affyrmeth it to bee a dangerous matter, for women desirous of good fame, so loue to bee liked, and by alluring lookes to please others at banquettes, where the mouth is not onely prepared to excelle, but also the eyes to feede vpon follies: Whych in olde tyme caused women to frequente no feasting: but if happiye anye were seene at anye banquet, they were suche as men woulde rather demaunde vnto how manye they were nothers, than to whome they were wiues: Besides they thoughte it vnseemelye to bee openlye seene, and therefore euer in all assemblies they vsed vailles to couer their faces. As we reade howe mightie Sulpitius rebuked hys wife for walking withoute hir vaille. This causeth oure Damoyseils in these daies, (sayde Sire Firme Foy) so willingly and carefully to maske and marche vnder scarffes, but principallye the foule and euill fauoured, wherevpon thys other daye I composed these verses.

VVhat

The first Historie.

VVhat moueth men abashed thus to stay,
 As tumbled from the cloudes in suche a mase?
 Sith Maidens mockes doe yeelde but mere delay:
 VVhose cloking scarfes doth holde man at the gase,
 VVhilst covered close in shape of masking showe,
 By deepe deceyte our ioyes they ouerthrowe.
 Bereaue them of their outwarde masking vayne
 Yet inwardly disguised they remayne:
 Their thoughtes lye hidde, their tounges of truth do fayle,
 Till sugred wordes the harmlesse hart hath slayne:
 If in their change they fast on men their hookes,
 Their smiling then conuertes to louring lookes.

Let vs returne to our purpose, quoth Syr Fleur d'Amour,
 I require not so great obseruance in hyding their faces, which
 the Venetians frequent, counterfaying the Lacedemonians: For
 chastitie, not couersittes, is the preseruatiue of beautie. Nei-
 ther would I haue enioyned Persida so sharpe penance, as to
 walke vnder a shadowe vpon hir wedding daye, although the
 Tortois is placed at the fêete of a chaste woman, as it is blazed
 in auncient armore, because the tortois came vnto the ma-
 riage of Dapsile all covered and hidden: yet I would haue wi-
 shed she had shewed a little more modestie. For, as Cesar sayd,
 it is not onely requisite for women to eschewe the euill, but
 also the suspicion of euill. The which caused Minuira?, during
 the absence of hir husbände, to kéepe hir house eleuen yeres to-
 gither, rather wishing to dye than to be séene looking out at hir
 window. Touching the seconde poynt wherin Persida would
 not beleue Erastus, declareth the incredulitie of a woman to be
 oftentimes the occasion of great mischiefes. And wherein I
 pray you (demaunded maistresse Margaret) doe you finde wo-
 men more mistrustfull than men? S. Thomas will neuer agréed
 therevnto, neyther the great Emperour, of whom you speake,
 who because he would not beleue his louer Taphurna, was mi-
 serably slayne. I séeke none other proefe (saif Syr Fleur d'Amour)
 but that which is described in the schoole of loue, which we call
 L. iij. Paris,

The first Historie.

Paris, videlicet, if a woman finde not hir husbände alwayes in one estate and disposition, she straight entreth into suspition of exchange: the whiche if he seeke to extinguishe, swearing by all the Saintes of the Parishe, yet will she not credite any thing but hir fantasticall imagination. But if the husbände beholde his wife playing the wanton before his face, she will make him beleue he tooke his marke amisse, or hath eaten cheruell, whose vertue is to mistake one for another, so as he may not credite his eyes, but beleue hir, yea and craue pardon for wrongfull slauder. At these wordes all the Company began to laugh: when the Stewarde of the housholde, who attended their leysure, prayed them to come to Supper, where if it please you we will take our leaue of them vntill the morning.

The ende of the first dayes Sport.