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LIFE AND WORKS

OF

ROBERT GREENE, M.A.

VOL. X.

A NOTABLE DISCOUERY OF COOSNAGE.

THE SECOND PART OF CONNY-CATCHING.

THE THIRDE AND LAST PARTE OF CONNY-CATCHING.

AND

A DISPUTATION BETWEENE A HEE AND SHEE CONNY-CATCHER.

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

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

CAMBRIDGE AND OXFORD.

IN TWELVE VOLUMES.

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

BY THE REV.
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VOL. X.—PROSE.
A NOTABLE DISCOURSE OF COOSNAGE.
THE SECOND PART OF CONNY-CATCHING.
THE THIRDS AND LAST PARTE OF CONNY-CATCHING.
AND
A DISPUTATION BETWEEENE A HEE AND SHEE CONNY-CATCHER
1591—1592.

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1881—83.

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

Dean Donne (‘Fuller Worthies' Library,' 2 vols.: vol. i. pp. 45, 48).
A NOTABLE DISCOUERY OF COOSNAGE.

1591.
NOTE.

'A Notable Discovery of Coifnage' was the first of a singularly popular group of books of the same type. They are brought together now for the first time. The 'Notable Discovery' I reproduce from the original edition of 1591; but in Notes and Illustrations I add certain Various Readings from a second edition of 1592 in the Bodleian. Throughout the quaint woodcut illustrations are very much repetitions of the 'Cony' or 'Rabbit.' I furnish in facsimile—in all the forms of the 'Huth Library'—all of these in any way characteristic, or as are required for understanding of the text. See annotated Life in Vol. I.—G.
A
Notable Discovery of Coofnage
Now daily practised by sundry lewd persons, called Connie-catchers, and Croffe-biter.

Plainely aying open those pernicious sleights that hath brought many igno-
rant men to confusion.

Written for the general benefit of all Gentlemen, Citizens, Apprentises, Countrey Farmers
and yeomen, that may hap to fall into the company of such cozening companions.

With a delightfull discourse of the coofnage of Colliers.

Nascimur pro patria. By R. Greene, Maister of Arts.

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

Iogenes, Gentlemen, from a counterfeit
Coiner of money, became a currant corrector
of manners, as absolute in the one, as disso-
olute in the other: time refineth mens affec-
ts, and their
humors grow different by the distinction of age. Poore
Ouid that amorously writ in his youth the art of love,
complained in his exile amongst the Getes, of his wanto
follies. And Socrates age was vertuous though his
prime was licentious. So, Gentlemen, my younger
yeeres had uncertaine thoughtes, but now my ripe
daiies calis on to repentant deedes, and I sorrow as
much to see others wilful, as I delighted once to be
wanton. The odde mad-caps I haue beene mate too,
not as a companion, but as a spie to haue an insight
into their knaueries, that seeing their traines I might
eschew their snares: those mad fellows I learned at last to loath, by their owne gracelesse villenies, and what I saw in them to their confusion, I can fore-warn in others to my countreis commodity. None could decipher Tyranisme better then Aristippus, not that his nature was cruell, but that he was nourtured with Dionisius: The simple swaine that cuts the Lapidaries stones, can distinguish a Ruby from a Diamond onely by his labour: though I haue not practized their deceits, yet conversing by fortune, and talking uppon purpose with such copes-mates, hath geuen mee light into their conceiptes, and I can decipher their qualities, though I utterly mislike of their practises. To be briefe Gentlemen, I haue seen the world and rounded it, though not with travell, yet with experience, and I crie out with Salomon, Omnia sub sole vanitas. I haue smyled with the Italian, and worn the vipers head in my hand, and yet ftopt his venome. I haue eaten Spanishe Mirabolanes, and yet am nothing the more metamorphosed. Fraunce, Germanie, Poland, Denmarke, I knowe them all, yet not affected to any in the fourme of my life: onlie I am English borne, and I haue English thoughts, not a dewill incarnate because I am Italianate, but hating the pride of Italie, because I know their peeuishnes: yet in all these Countreyes where I haue travelled, I haue not seene more exceffe of vanitie then wee Englishe men practife through vain
TO THE READER.

glory: for as our wits be as ripe as any, so our wills are more ready then they all, to put in effect any of their licentious abuses: yet amongst the rest, letting ordinary finances passe, because custom hath almost made them a law, I will only speake of two such notable abuses, which the practitioners of the shadow with the name of Arts, as never haue been heard of in any age before. The first and chiefe, is called the Art of Cunny-catching; the second, the Arte of Cros-biting; two such pestilent and preiudiciall practices, as of late haue been the ruine of infinite persons, and the subversion and overthrow of many Marchaunts, Farmers, and honest minded yeomen. The first is a deceit at Cardes, which growing by enormitie into a Coosening, is able to draw (by the subtilly shewe thereof) a man of great judgement to consent to his owne confusion. Yet Gentlemen when you shall reade this booke, written faithfullie to discover these coosening practices, thinke I goe not about to disproue or disallow the most auncient and honest pastime or recreation of Card play, for thus much I know by reading: when the City of Thebes was besieged by them of Lacedemonia, being girt within strong fenced walles, and having men enough, and able to rebat the enemie, they found no inconuenience of force to breed their ensuing bane but famine, in that | when viictuals waxed scant, hunger would either make them yeeld by a fainting composition, or a miserable death. Where vpon to wearie
the foe with wintering at the sedge, the Thebanes devised this pollicie, they found out the Method of Cards and Dice, and so busied their braines with the pleasantnesse of that new inuention, passing away the time with strange recreations and pastimes, beguiling hunger with the delight of the new sports, and eating but every third day, and playing two, so their frugall sparing of viuitals kept them from famine, the Cittie from Sacking, and rayed the foe from a mortall sedge. Thus was the use of Cards and Dice first inuented, and since amongst Princes highly esteemed, and allowed in all common wealths, as a necessarie recreation for the mind: But as in time and malice of mans nature hatcheth abuse, so good things by ill wits are wrested to the worfe, and so in Cardes: for from an honest recreation it is grown to a prejudiciall praefice, and most high degree of cozenage, as shalbe discovered in my Art of Cuny-catching, for not onely simple swaines: whose wits is in their hands, but yoong Gentlemen, and Marchants, are all caught like Cunnies in the hay, and so led like lambs to their confusion.

The poore man that commeth to the Tearme to trie his right, and layeth his land to morgadge to gette some Crownes in his purfe to fee his lawyer, is drawn in by these diuelish Cuny-catchers, that at one cut at Cardes looseth all his money, by which means, he, his wife and children, is brought to utter ruine and
TO THE READER.

miserie. The poore Prentice, whose honest minde aymeth only at his Maisters profits, by these pestilent vipers of the commonwealth, is smoothly inti'd to the hazard of this game at Cardes, and robd of his Maisters money, which forceth him oftimes eyther to run away, or banckrout all, to the ouerthrow of some honest and wealthy Cittizen. Seeing then such a daungerous enormity groweth by them, to the discredite of the estate of England, I would wishe the Justices appoynted as seoure Censors of such fatall mischieves, to shew themselues patres patriae, by weeding out such worms as eat away the sappe of the Tree, and rooting this base degree of Coofeners out of so peaceable and prosperous a countrey, for of all diuelish praSfifes this is the most preiudicial. The high Lawyer that challengeth a purse by the highway side, the foist, the nip, the stake, the snap, I meane the pick-pockets and cut-purfes are nothing fo daungerous to meete with all, as these Coofening Cunny-catchers. The Chetors that with their false Dice make a hande, & strike in at Hazard or Passage with their Dice of aduauntage, are nothing fo daungerous as these base minded Caterpillers. For they have their vies and their revies vppon the poore Cunnies backe, till they fo ferrette beate him, that they leave him neither haire on his skin, nor hole to harbour in. There was before this many yeeres agoe a praSife put in use by such shifting companions, which was called the Barnards Law,
wherein as in the Arte of Cunny-catching, four persons were required to perfourm their coothing commodity. The taker-up, the Verfer, the Barnard and the Rutter, and the manner of it indeed was thus. The Taker vp seemeth a skilful man in all things, who hath by long trauell learned without Booke a thousand pollicies to insinuate himself into a mans acquaintance: Talke of matters in law, he hath plenty of Cases at his fingers ends, and he hath seene, and tried, and ruled in the Kings Courtes: Speake of graising and husbandry, no man knoweth more sbires then hee, nor better which way to raise a gaine full commodity, and how the abuses and ouerture of prices might be redressed. Finally, enter into what discourse they lift, were it into a Bromemans facultie, hee knoweth what gaines they have for olde Bootes and Shooes. Yea, and it shall scape him hardly, but that ere your talke breake off, hee will be your Countrey man at leaft, and peraduenture either of kinne, aly, or stale sb to you, if your reach farre furmount not his. In case hee bring to passe that you be glad of his acquaintance, then doeth hee carry you to the Tauernes, and with him goes the Verfer, a man of more wor shippe then the Taker vp, and hee hath the countenance of a landed man. As they are set, comes in the Barnard stumbling into your companie, like some aged Farmer of the Countrey, a straunger untuo you all, that had beene at some market Towne thereabout,
buying and selling, and there tipped so much Malmesie, that he had never a ready word in his mouth, and is so careless of his money, that out he throweth some fortie Angels on the boards end, and standing somewhat aloofe, calleth for a pint of wine, and faith: Masters, I am somewhat bold with you, I pray you be not grieved if I drinke my drinke by you: and thus ministers such idle drunken talke, that the Verfer who counterfeited the landed man, comes and drawes more near to the plaine honest dealing man, and prayeth him to call the Barnard more neare to laugh at his folly. Betweene them two the matter shall be so workemanly conueied and finely argued, that out commeth an olde paire of Cardes, whereat the Barnard teacheth the Verfer a new game, that hee faies cost him for the learning two pots of Ale not two houres agoe: the first wager is drinke, the next two pence or a groat, and lastly to be briefe they use the matter so, that he that were an hundred yeere olde, and never played in his life for a penny, cannot refuse to be the Verfers halfe, and consequently at one game at Cardes hee loogeth all they play for, be it a hundred pound. And if perhaps when the mony is lost (to use their word of Arte) the poore Countrey man beginne to smoake them, and sweares the drunken knaue shall not get his money so, then standeth the Rutter at the doore and draweth his sword and picketh a quarrell at his owne shadowe, if he lacke an Ofsler or a Tapster
or some other to brabble with, that while the streete and company gather to the fray, as the manner is, the Barnard theales away with all the coine, and gets him to one blinde Tauerne or other, where these Coofeners had appointed to meete.

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

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

What goodman Barton, how fare al our friends
about you? you are well met, I haue the wine
for you, you are welcome to town. The poore
countryman hearing himselfe named by a man he
knows not, maruels, & answers that he knowes
him not, and craues pardon. Not me goodman
Barton, haue you forgot me? Why I am such a
mas kinsman, your neighbor not far off: how doth
this or that good gentleman my friend? good Lord
that I should be out of your remembrance, I haue
beene at your house divers times. Indeede sir, 
faith the farmer, are you such a mans kinsman?
surely sir if you had not chalenged acquaintance of
me, I should never haue knowen you, I haue clean
forgot you, but I know the good gentleman your
cosin well, he is my very good neighbor: & for
his sake, faith \textit{\&} feret-claw him at cardes, \textit{\&} they leaue
him as bare of mony, as an ape of a taile. Thus
haue the filthie felows their subtle fetches to draw
on poor men to fal into their cozening practices:
thus like confuming moths of the common welth,
they pray vpon the ignorance of such plain foules,
as measure al by their own honesty, not regarding
either conscience, or the fatal revenge that's threatened for such idle & licentious persons, but do imploy all their wits to overthrow such as with their handy-thriftie satisfy their harty thirst: they preferring cozenage before labor, and chusing an idle practice before any honest form of good living. Wel, to this method again of taking vp their conies. If the poore countreyman smoake them still, and will not stoupe vnto either of their lures: then one, either / the verfer, or the setter, or some of their crue, for there is a general fraternity betwixt them, stteppeth before the Cony as he goeth, and letteth drop twelue pence in the high way, that of force the cony must see it. The countreyman spying the shilling, maketh not daintie, for *quis nisi mentis inops oblatum repuit aurum*, but stoupeth very mannerlie and taketh it vp: then one of the cony catchers behind, crieth halfe part, and so chalengeth halfe of his finding. The countriman content, offereth to change the money. Nay faith frend, faith the verfer, tis ill luck to keepe found mony, wele go spend it in a pottle of wine, or in a breakefaft, dinner or supper, as the time of day requires: If the conye say he wil not, then answeres the verfer, spende my part: if stil the cony refuse, he taketh halfe, and away. If they spy the countriman to be of a hauing and couetous mind, then haue they a further policie to draw him on: another
that knoweth the place of his abode, meeteth him and faith Sir, wel met, I haue run haftely to ouer-take you, I pray you dwel you not in Darbishire, in such a village? Yes marry doe I frend faith the cony: then replies the verfer, truely Sir I haue a sute to you, I am going out of town, & must send a letter to the parson of your parifh: you shall not refufe to do a stranger such a favor as to cary it him, haply, as men may in time meet, it may lie in my lot to do you as good a turn, and for your paines I will giue you xii pence. The poor cony in meer simpliciy faith, Sir, Ile do so much for you with al my hart: where is your letter? I haue it not good Sir ready written, but may I entreat you to step into some tauern or alhoufe? wele drink the while, and I wil write but a line or two: at this the cony stoupes, and for greedines of the mony, and vpon courtefie goes with the fetter into the tauerne. As they walke, they meet the verfer, and then they all three goe into the tauern together.

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

wele drink a pint faith. the fetter, & play a game at cards for it, respecting more the sport then the losse: content q\(^d\). the verser, go cal for a paire: and while he is gone to fetch the, he faith to the cony, you shal see me fetch ouer my yong master for a quart of wine finely, but this you must do for me, when I cut the cards, as I will not cut aboue fiue off, mark then of all the greatest pack which is vndermost, & when I bid you cal a card for me, name that, and you shal see wele make him pay for a quart of wine straight: truly faith the cony, I am no great player at cards, and I do not wel vnderstand your meaning: why, faith he, it is thus: I wil play at mum-chaunce, or decoy, that hee shal shuffle the cards, and I wil cut: now eyther of vs must call a card: you shal call for me, and he for himselfe, and whose card comes first, wins: therefore when I haue cut \(\frac{1}{2}\) cards, then mark the nethermost of the greatest heap, that I set vpon the cards which I cut off, & always cal that for me. O now faith the cony, I vnderstand you, let mee alone, I warrant Ile fit your turne: with that in comes the fetter with his cards, and asketh at what game they shal play. Why faith the verser, at a new game called mum-chance, that hath no policie nor knauerie, but plain as a pike staff: you shal shuffle and Ile cut, you shal cal a card:, and this honeste man, a stranger almoast to vs both, shal cal
another for me, and which of our cards comes first, shal win: content faith the setter, for that's but meer hazard, & so he shuffles the cards, and the verfer cuts of some four cards, and then taking vp the heape to set vpon them, gueth the conny a glance of the bottom card of that heap, and faith, now fir, call for me. The cony to blind the setters eyes, asketh as though he were not made priuy to the game, what shal I / cut? what card faith the verfer? why what you wil, either hart, spade, club or diamond, cote-card or other. O is it so, faith the connie? why then you shal haue the four of harts, which was the card he had a glaunce of: and faith the setter (holding the cards in his hand, and turning vp the uppermost card, as if hee knew not wel the game) Ile haue the knaue of trumpes. Nay faith the verfer, there is no trump, you may cal what card you wil: then faith he Ile haue the ten of spades. With that he draws and the four of harts comes first: wel faith the setter, tis but hazard, mine might haue come as wel as yours, fiue is vp, I fear not y fet: so they shuffle and cut, but the verfer winnes. Well faith the setter, no butter wil cleaue on my bread, what, not one draught among fiue: drawer, a freshe pinte, Ile haue another bout with you: but fir, I beleeue, faith he to the cony, you see some card, that it goes so cros on my side. I faith the cony, nay I
hope you think not so of me, tis but hazard and chaunce, for I am but a meere stranger vnto the game: as I am an honest man I never saw it before.

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

Thus are the poore conies robbed by these base minded caterpillers: thus are seruing men oft entisfed to play, and lofe al: thus are pretisfes induced to be Connies, and so are cofened of their masters mony, yea yoong gentlemen, merchants, and others, are fetcht in by these damnable rakehels: a plague as ill as hell, which is, present losse of money, & ensuing miserie. A lamentable case in England, when such vipers are suffred to breed and are not cut off with the sword of iustice. This enormity is not onely in London but now generally dispersd through all / England, in euery shire, city, and town of any receipt, and many complaints are heard of their egregious cofenage. The poore farmer simply going about his busines, or vnto his attournys chamber, is catcht vp & cofened of all. The seruing-man sent with his Lordes treasure,
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lofeth oftimes moft part to these worms of the commonwelth: the prentice haung his masters mony in charge, is spoiled by them, and from an honest servuant either driuen to run away, or to liue in discredite for euuer. The gentleman lofeth his land, the marchant his stock, and all to these abominable conny-catchers, whose means is as ill as their liuing, for they are all either wedded to whores, or so addicted to whores, that what they get from honest men, they spend in bawdy houses among harlots, and consume it as vainly as they get it villanously. Their eares are of adamant, as pitiles as they are trecherous, for be the man neuer fo poore, they wil not return him one peny of his los. I remember a merry ieff done of late to a welchman, who being a meere stranger in Londô, and not wel acquainted with the English tongue, yet chaunced amongst certaine cony-catchers, who spying the gentleman to haue mony, they so dealt with him, that what by signes, and broken English, they got him in for a cony, and fleefed him of every peny that he had, and of his sword: at laft the ma moaikt them, and drew his dagger vpon them at Ludgate, for thereabouts they had catcht him, and would haue stabde one of them for his mony: people came and stoppt him, and the rather because they could not vnderstand him, though he had a card in one hand, and his dagger in the other, and
faid as wel as he could, a card, a card, Mon dieu. In the mean while the conny-catchers were got into Paules, and so away. The welchman folowed them, seeking them there vp and down in the church, stil with his naked dagger and the card in his hand, and the gentlemen marueld what he meant thereby: at laft one of his countrimen met him, and enquired the caufe of his choler, and then he told / him how he was cofened at cards, and robbed of all hys mony: but as his losse was voluntary, so his seeking them was meer vanity, for they were stept into some blind ale house to deuide the shares.

Neere to S. Edmunds Burie in Suffolk, there dwelt an honeft man a Shomaker, that hauing some twenty markes in his purse, long a gathering, and neerly kept, came to the market to buy a dicker of hides, and by chaunce fell among cony-catchers, whose names I omit, because I hope of their amendment. This plain countrimen drawn in by these former deuifes, was made a cony, and so straight stript of all his xx. marke, to his utter vndoing: the knaues scapt, and he went home a forowful man. Shortly after, one of these cony-catchers was taken for a suspected person, and laid in Bury gaole. The feffions comming, and he produced to the bar, it was the fortune of this poore shomaker to be there, who spying this roage to be arained, was glad, and
said nothing vnto him, but lookt what would be the issue of his appeaurence. At the lafte hee was brought before the Iustices, where he was examined of his life, and being demanded what occupation he was, said none: what profession then are you of, how liue you? Marry quoth he, I am a gentleman, and liue of my friends. Nay, that is a lie quoth the poor shoemaker, vnder correction of the worshipful of the bench, you haue a trade, and are by your art a Cony-catcher. A cony-catcher said one of the Iustices, and smiled, what is he a warriner fellow? whose warren keepeth hee, canst thou tel? Nay sir, your worship mistaketh me q^4. the shoemaker, he is not a wariner, but a cony-catcher. The bench, that neuer heard this name before, smilde, attributing the name to the mans simplicitie, thought he meant a warriner: which the shoemaker spying, aanswered, that some conies this felow catcht were worth twenty mark a peece, and for proof quoth he, I am one of them: and so discoursft the whole order of the art, and the basenes of the cosening: wherevpon the Iustices looking into his life, ap/pointed him to be whipt, and the shoemaker desired that he might geue him his paiment, which was graunted. When he came to his punishment, the shoemaker laught, saying, tis a mad world when poor conies are able to beate their catchers, but he lent him so frendly
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lashes, that almost he made him pay an ounce of blood for every pound of silver. Thus we see how the generation of these vipers increase, to the confusion of many honest men: whose practices to my poor power I have discovered and set out, with the villainous sleights they use to intrap the simple: yet have they clokes for the raine, and shadowes for their vilanies, calling it by the name of art or law: as cony-catching art, or cony-catching law. And herof it riseth, ye like as law, when the terme is truely considered signifieth ye ordinance of good men, established for the commonwealthe, to repreffe al vicious liuing, so these cony-catchers turne the cat in the pan, geuing to divers vile patching shiftes, an honest & godly title, calling it by the name of a law, because by a multitude of hateful rules, as it were in good learning, they exercise their villanies to the destruction of sundry honest persons. Herevpon they geue their false conveyance, the name of cony-catching law, as there be also other lawes; as high law, facking lawe, figging law, cheting law and barnards law. If you maruail at these misteries and queynt words, consider, as the Carpeter hath many termes familiar inough to his prentices, that other vnderstand not at al, so haue the cony-catchers, not without great cause: for a falshood once detected, can neuer com-passe the desired effect. Therefore will I presently
acquaint you with the signification of the termes, in a Table. But leauing them til time and place, coming downe Turnmil street the other day, I met one whom I suspeeted a cony-catcher: I drew him on to Æ tauern, and after a cup of wine or two, I talkt with him of the maner of his life, & told him I was fory for his frends fake, Æ he tooke fo / bad a course, as to liue vpon the spoile of poore men, and specially to desereue the name of coni-catching, diffwading him from that bafe kind of life, that was fo ignominious in the world, and fo lothforme in the fright of God. Tut fir, quoth he, calling me by my name, as my religion is fmal, fo my deuotion is leffe: I leaue God to be disputed on by diuines: the two ends I aime at, are gaine and eafe, but by what honest gaine I may get, neuer comes within Æ compaffe of my thoughts. Thogh your experience in trauaile be great, yet in home matters mine be more, yea, I am sure you are not fo ignorant, but you know that fewe men can liue vprightly, vnleffe hee haue some pretie way, more then the world is witnes to, to helpe him withall: Think you some lawyers could be such purchasers, if all their pleas were fhort, and their procedeinges iustice and conscience? that offices would be fo dearely bought, and the buiers fo foone enriched, if they counted not pilage an honest kind of purchase? or do you think that men of
hādie trades make all their commodities without falshood, when so many of them are become daily purchasers? nay what wil you more? who so hath not some sinifter way to help himselfe, but foloweth his nose alwaies ftraight forward, may wel hold vp the head for a yeare or two, but thirde he muft needs sink, and gather the wind into begers hauen: therfore, sir, ceafe to perfwade me to the contrarie, for my resolucion is to beat my wits, and spare not to bufie my braines to faue and help me by what means soeuer I care not, so I may awoide the danger of the lawe: whervpon, seeing this cony-catcher resolued in his forme of life, leauing him to his lewdnes I went away, wondering at the basenes of their minds, that would fpend their time in such detestable fort. But no maruell, for they are geuen vp into a reprobate fence, and are in religion meeere atheists, as they are in trade flat dissemblers. If I should spend many sheetes in deciphering their shiftes, it were friuelous, in that they be many, and ful of variety: for euery /day they inuent new tricks, and fuch queint deuifes as are secret, yet passing dangerous, that if a man had Argus eyes, he could scant prie into the bottom of their practifes. Thus for the benefit of my countrey I haue briefly discouered the law of Cony-catching, desiring all Iustices, if fuch cofeners light in their precinct, euen to vi(c) summum ius against
them, because it is the basest of all villanies. And that London prentices, if they chance in such conny-catchers company, may teach them London law, that is, to defend the poore men that are wronged, and learn the caterpillers the highway to Newgate: where if Hind fauour them with the heaviest irons in all the house, & giue the his vnkindest entertain-ment, no doubt his other pety finnes halfe halfe pardoned for his labour: but I woulde it might be their fortune to happen into Nobles, Northward in white chappel: there in faith round Robin his deputie, would make them, like wretches, feel the weight of his heaviest fetters. And so desiring both honourable and worshipful, as well Iuftices, as other officers, and all estates, from the prince to the beggar, to rest professed enemies to these base-minded cony-catchers, I take my leaue.

Nascimur pro patria.

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

1 High law  robbing by the highway side.
2 Sacking law lecherie.
3 Cheting law play at false dice.
4 Cros-biting law cozenage by whores.
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These are the eight lawes of villanie, leading the high waie to infamie.

The Theefe is called a High lawier.
He that seteth the Watch, a Scrippet.

In High Lawe,
He that standeth to watch, an Oake
He that is robd, the Martin
When he yeeldeth, ftouping.

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

Pardon me Gentlemen for although no man could better then myself discouer this lawe and his tearmes, and the name of their Cheats, Barddice, Flats, Forgers, Langrets, Gourds, Demies, and many other, with their nature, & the crosfes and contraries to them ypon aduantage, yet for some speciall reaons, herein I will be filent.
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In Crof-bit ing lawe.

The whore, the Traffique
The man that is brought in, the Simpleer.
The villaines that take them, the Cros-biter.

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

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

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

In Barnards lawe.
He that fetcheth the man, the Taker
He that is taken, the Coofin
The landed man, the Verfer
The dronken man, the Barnard
And he that makes the fray, the Rutter.

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

The art of Cros-biting.

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

They haue sundry praies that they cal simplers,
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which are men fondly and wantonly geuen, whom for a penaltie of their luft, they fleece of al that euer they haue: some marchants, prentices, feruing-men, gentlemen, yeomen, farmers, and all degrées, and this is their forme: there are resident in London & the suburbes, certain men attired like Gentlemen, braue fellowes, but basely minded, who liuing in want, as their laft refuge, fall vnto this cros-biting law, and to maintein themselues, either marry with some flâle whore, or els forsooth keep one as their fredd: and these persons be commonly men of the eight lawes before rehearsed: either high Lawiers, Verfers, Nips, Conny-catchers, or / such of the like fraternitie. These when their other trades fail, as the Cheater, when he has no coffin to grime with his flop dice, or ÿ high lawier, when he hath no set match to ride about, and the Nip when there is no tearme, faire, nor time of great assembilie, then to maintaine the maine chance, they vfe the benefite of their wiuers or friends, to the cros-biting of such as luft after their filthie enormities: some simple men are drawn on by subtil meanes, which neuer intended such a bad matter. In summer evenings, and in the winter nightes, these traffickes, these common truls I meane, walke abroad either in the fields or streetes that are commonly hanted, as stales to drawe men into hell: and a farre of, as attending apple squires, certaine cros-bitters stand aloofe, as if
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they knew them not: now so many men so many affections. Some unruly mates that place their content in lust, letting slippe the libertie of their eies on their painted faces, feede vpon their vnchast beauties, till their hearts be set on fire: then come they to these minions, and court them with many sweeet words: alas their loues needs no long futes, for they are forthwith entertained, and either they go to the Tauerne to sacle vp the match with a pottle of Ipocras, or straight she carries him to some bad place, and there picks his pocket, or else the Cros-biters comes swearing in, & so out-face the dismaied companion, that rather then hee would be brought in question, he would disburse all that he hath present. But this is but an easie cosnage. Some other, meeting with one of that profession in the street, wil question if she will drinke with him a pint of wine? their trade is never to refuse, and if for manners they doe, it is but once: & then scarce shall they be warme in the roome, but in comes a terrible fellow, with a side haire, & a fearefull beard, as though he were one of Polyphemus cut, & he comes frowning in & faith, what haft thou to doe base knaue, to carrie my sifter or my wife to the tauern? by his ownes you whore, tis some of your companiones: I wil haue/ you both before the Iustice, Deputie, or Constable, to bee examined. The poore servingman, appren-
tife, farmer, or whatsoever he is, seeing such a terrible huffe snuffe, swearing with his dagger in his hand, is fearfull both of him and to be brought in trouble, and therfore speaks kindly and courteousely vnto him, and desires him to be content, he meant no harm. The whore, that hath teares at command, fals a weeping, and cries him mercy. At this submision of them both he triumphs like a bragard, and will take no compassion: yet at last, through intrety of other his companions comming in as strangers, hee is pacified with some forty shillings, and the poor man goes sorrowful away, fighting out that which Salomon hath in his proverbs. A shameles woman hath honie in her lippes, and her throte as sweet as honie, her throte as soft as oyle: but the end of her is more bitter then Aloes, and her tongue is more sharp then a two edged sword, her feet go vnto death, and her steppes leade vnto hell.

Again these truls when they haue got in a nouice, then straight they pick his purse, and then haue they their cros-bites redy, to whom they conuey the mony and so offer themselues to be searcht: but the poore man is so out faced by these cros-biting Ruffians, that hee is glad to goe away content with his losse: yet are these easie practises. O might the Iustices send out spials in the night, they shold see how these street walkers wil iet in rich garded gowns, queint periwigs, rufs
of the largest size, quarter and halfe deep, gloried richly with blew starch, their cheekes died with surfuling water: thus are they trickt vp, and either walke like stales vp and down the streets, or stande like the deuils Si quis at a tauern or ale house, as if who shoulde say, if any be so minded to satisfie his filthie luft, to lende me his purfe, and the deuil his soule, let him come in and be welcome. Now sir comes by a countrey farmer, walking from his inne to perform some busines, and seeing such a gorgeous damzel, hee wondring at such a braue wench, stands staring her on the face, or perhappes doth but cast a glance, and bid her good speed, as plain simple swains haue their lustie humors as well as others: the trull straight beginning her exordium with a smile, faith, how now my friend, what want you? would you speake with anie body here? If the fellow haue anie bolde spirit, perhaps he will offer the wine, & then he is caught: tis inough, in he goes, and they are chamberd: then sends she for her husband, or hir friend, and there either the farmers pocket is stript, or else the cros-biters fall vpon him, and threaten him with bridewill and the law: then for feare he giues them all in his purse, and makes them some bill to paie a summe of monie at a certaine daie. If the poore Farmer bee bashfull, and passeth by one of these shamelesse strumpets, then will she verse it with him, and
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claime acquaintance of him, and by some pollicie or other fall aboard on him, and carrie him into some house or other: if he but enter in at the doores with her (though the poore Farmer neuer kist her) yet then the cros-biters, like vultures, will pray vpon his purse, and rob him of euerie pennie. If there bee anie yong gentleman that is a nouice and hath not fçene theyr traines, to him will some common filth (that neuer knew loue) faine an ardent and honest affection, till she and her cros-biters haue verft him to the beggers estate. Ah gentlemen, marchants, yeomen and farmers, let this to you all, and to euery degréé elfe, be a caueat to warn you from luft, that your inordinate desire be not a meane to impouerish your purses, discredit your good names, condemne your soules, but also that your wealth got with the sweat of your browes, or left by your parents as a patrimo nie, shall be a praiie to those coosning cros-biters. Some fond men are so farre in with thefè detestable trugs, that they confume what they haue vpon them, and find nothing but a Neapolitan fauor for their labor. Reade the feuenth of Salomons proverbs, and there at large view the decription of a shameles and impudent curtizan. Yet is there an other kind of cros-biting which is moft peftilent, and that is this. There liues about this towne certaine householders, yet meere shifters and coosners,
who learning some insight in the ciuill law, walke abrode like parators, fumners and informers, beeing none at all either in office or credit, and they go spying about where any marchant, or marchants prentise, citizen, wealthie farmer, or other of credit, either accompany with anie woman familiarly, or else hath gotten some maide with child, as mens natures be prone to sin: straight they come ouer his fallows thus: they send for him to a tauern, & there open the matter vnto him, which they haue cunningly larned out, telling him he must be presented to the Arches, & the scitation shalbe peremptorily serued in his parish church. The partie afraid to haue his credit crackt with the worshipfull of the Citie, and the rest of his neighbors, & grieuing highly his wife should heare of it, straight takes composition with this cosner for some twentie markes, nay I heard of forty pound cros-bitten at one time, & the the cosning informer or cros-biter promiseth to wipe him out of the booke, & discharges him from the matter, when it was neither knownen nor presented: so go they to the woman, and fetch her off if she be married, and though they haue this grosse sum yet oft-times they cros-bite hir for more: nay thus do they feare citizens, prentises, & farmers, that they find but any waie suspitious of the like fault. The cros-biting bauds, for no better can I tearme them, in that for lucre
they conceale the fin, and smoother vp luft, do not onely inrich themselues mightily thereby, but also discredite, hinder, and prejudice the court of the Arches, and the Officers belonging to the same. There are some pore blinde patches of that facultie, that haue their Tenements purchased, and their plate on the boorde verie solemnly, who onely get their gaines by cros-biting, as is afore rehearsed. But leauing them to the deepe inight of such as be appointed with iustice to correct vice, againe to the crue of my for/mer cros-biters, whose fee simple to liue vppon, is nothing but the following of common, dishonest and idle truls, and thereby maintain themselues braue, and the strumpets in handfome furniture. And to end this art with an English demonstration, ile tel you a pretie tale of late performd in bishopgate streët: there was there fiue traffiques, pretty, but common huswius, that stood fast by a tauern dore, loking if some pray would passe by for their purpose. Anone the eldeft of them, and most experienced in that law, called Mal B. spied a master of a ship comming along: here is-a simpler quoth she, Ile verfe him, or hang me. Sir, sayde shee, God euen, what, are you so liberal to bestow on three good wenches that are drie, a pint of wine? In faith, faire women qud. he, I was neuer nigard for so much, and with that he takes one of them by the hand, and
ties them all into the tavern: there he bestowed cheare and ipocras vpon them, drinking hard til the shot came to a noble, so that they iii. carousing to the gentleman, made him somewhat tipsey, and then & venus in vinis, ignis inigne fuit. Wel, night grew on, and hee would away, but this mistres Mall B. stoop his iorney thus: gentleman, qd. she, this vndeferued fauor of yours makes vs so deeplie beholding to you, that our abilitie is not able any way to make sufficient satisfacion, yet to shew vs kind in what we can, you shall not deny me this request, to see my simple house before you go. The gentleman a little whitled, consented, & went with them, so the shot was paid, & away they goe: Without the tauern dore stood two of their husbands, J. B. & J. R. and they were made priuy to the pra6tife. Home goes the gentleman with these lustie huswiues, stumbling: at lafte hee was welcome to M. Mal's house: and one of the three went into a chamber, and got to bed, whose name was A. B. After they had chatted a while, the gentleman would haue been gone, but she told him that before he went, hee shoulde see al the roomes of her house, and so ledde him vp into the chamber where the party lay in bed. Who is here saide the Gentleman? Marie faith Mal, a good pretie wench sir, and if you be not well, lie downe by her, you can take no harm of her: dronkennes.
desires luft, and so the Gentleman begins to dallie, and awaie goes he with the candle, and at last he put of his clothes and went to bed: yet he was not so dronke, but he could after a while remember his mony, and feeling for his purse, all was gone, and three linkes of his whistle broken off: the sum that was in his purse was in gold and siluer, twentie nobles. As thus hee was in a maze, though his head were well laden: in comes J. B. the goodman of the house, and two other with him, and speaking somewhat loud, peace husband quoth she, there is one in bed, speake not so loud. In bed, faith he, gogs nownes, ile go see: and so will I, faith the other: you shall not faith his wife, but streue against him, but vp goes he and his cros-biter with him, & seeing the Gentleman in bed, out with his dagger, and asked what base villain it was that there sought to dishonest his wife? well, he sent one of them for a constable, and made the gentleman rise, who halfe dronk yet had that remembrance to speake faire, and to intreate him to keep his credit: but no intretie could serue, but to the Counter he must, & the Constable must be sent for: yet at the last one of them intreated that the gentleman might be honestly vfed, and caried to a Tauerne to talke of the matter till a constable come. Tut, faith J. B. I wil haue law vpon him: but the base cros-biter at last stoopt, and to the
TAUERNE they go, where the Gentleman laide his whistle to pawne for mony, & there bestowed as much of them as came to ten shillings, and sate drinking and talking vntill the next mornor. By that, the Gentleman had stollen a nap, and waking it was daie light, and then seeing himselfe compassed with these cros-biters, and remembring his nights worke, soberly smiing, asked them if they knew what he was: they anfwered, not wel. Why then quoth he, you base coofning roguues, you shall ere we part: and with that drawing his fword, kept them into the chamber, defiring that the conftable might be fent for: but / this braue of his could not diſmay M. MALL, for shee hadidden a sharper brunt before: witnes the time of her martir-dome, when vpon her fhourders was engrauen the history of her whorifh qualities: but shee replying swore, fith he was fo lufty, her husband shoule not put it vp by no meanes. I will tel thee thou base cros-bitIng baud, quoth he, and you coofning companions, I ferue a nobleman, & for my credit with him, I refer me to the penaltie hee will impose on you, for by God I wil make you an example to al cros-biters ere I ende with you: I tel you villaines, I ferue, and with that he namde his Lord. When the guilty whores and coſeners heard of his credite and feruice, they began humbly to intreat him to be good to the: then quoth he, firft deliuer me my x.
mony: they vpon that gladly gaue him all, and restored the linkes of his chaine. When hee had all, he smiled, and sware afresh that he would torment them for al this, that the feueritie of their punishment might be a caueat to others to beware of the like coosenage: and vppon that knockt with his foote, and sayde hee would not let them go till he had a constable. Then in general they humbled themselves, so recompencing the partie, that he agreed to passe ouer the matter, conditionallie beside, that they would pay the sixteeene shillinges hee had spent in charges, which they also performed. The Gentleman stept his way, and said, you may see the olde prouerbe fulfilled, Fallere fallentem non est fraud.

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

Nascimur pro patria.

FINIS.
A PLEASANT DISCOVERY OF

the coosenage of Colliars.

Althought (courteous Readers) I did not put in amongst the lawes of cosening, the law of legering, which is a deceit wherewith colliers abuse the commonwelth, in having vnlawful sacks, yet take it for a pettie kinde of craft or mystery, as prejudicial to the poore, as any of the other two, for I omitted divers other diueltish vices; as the nature of the lift, the black art, & the curbing law, which is the filchers and theues that come into houses or shops, & lift away anything: or picklocks, or hookers at windowes, thogh they be as species and branches to the table before rehearsed. But leaving them, again to our law of legering. Know therefore, that there be inhabiting in & about London, certaine caterpillers (coliers I should say) that terme thefelles
(among themselues) by the name of *legers*, who for that the honorable the L. Maior of the citie of *London*, & his officers, looke straitly to the meauring of coales, doe (to preuent the execution of his iustice,) plant themselues in & about the suburbs of *London*, as *Shorditch, White-chappel, Southwark*, & such places, and there they haue a house or yard, that hath a back gate, because it is the more convenient for their cofening purpose, and the reason is this ; the *Leger*, the crafty collier I meane, riſeth very early in the morning, and either goeth towards *Croyden, Whetſone, Greenwitch, or Romford*, and there meeteth the countrey Colliers, who bring coles to ferue the markette: there, in a foreſtallling manner, this *leger* bargayneth / with the Countrie Collier for his coales, and paieth for them nineteene shillings or twentie at the moſt, but commonly fiftenee and ſixteene, and there is in the load 36 fackes: so that they paie for euerie couple about fourteene pence. Now hauing bought his coales, euerie facke containing full foure bushels, he carrieth the Countrie Collier home to his legering place, and there at the backe gate caufeth him to vnloade, and as they faie, ſhoote the coales downe. As soone as the Countrie Collier hath diſpatcht and is gone, then the Leger who hath three or foure hired men vnder him, bringeth forth his own facks, which be long and narow, holding at the
moft not three bufhels: fo that they gaine in the change of euerie facke a bufhell for their pains. Tufh, yet this were somwhat to be borne withal, although the gaine is monftrous, but this sufficeth not, for they fill not these fackes full by far, but put into them some two bufhels & a halfe, laying in the mouth of the facke certaine great coles, which they call fillers, to make the fack fhew faire, although the rest be small wilow coles, and halfe dros. Whē they haue thus not filled their facks, but thruft coles into thē, that which they lay uppemost, is bett filled, to make the greater fhew: then a tall flurdie knaue, that is all ragd, and durtie on his legs, as thogh he came out of the Countrie (for they durtie theyr hose and shoos on purpose to make themselfes feem countrie colliers:) Thus with two facks a peree they either go out at the back gate or thieal out at the street fide, and so vp and downe the suburbs, & sel their coales in summer for fourteene and fixteenepence a couple, and in winter for eightene or twentie. The poore cookes & other citizens that buy them, thinke they be countrie colliers, that haue left some coles of their load, and would gladly haue monie, supposing (as the statute is) they be good and lawfull fackes, are thus coofned by the legers, & haue but two bufhels and a halfe for foure bufhels, and yet are extreamlie rackt in the price, which is
not onely a great hinderance to her Maiesties poore commons, but greatly prejudiciall to the master Colliers, that bring true sacks & measure out of the countrie. Then consider (gentle readers) what kind of coofnage these legers vse, that make of thirty sacks some 56. which I haue seen, for I haue set downe with my pen how many turnes they haue made of a load, and they make 28., euery turne being two sacks, so that they haue got an intolerable gains by their false measure. I could not be silent seeing this abuse, but thought to reveale it for my countries commoditie, and to giue light to the worshipfull Justices, and other her Maiesties officers in Middlesex, Surrey, and elsewhere, to looke to such a grosse coofnage, as contrarie to a direct statute, doth defraud & impoverish her Maiesties poore comons. Well may the honorable and worshipful of London florish, who carefully looke to the countrie coales, & if they finde not 4 busheles in euery sacke, do fell the to the poore as forfeit, & distribut the mony to them that haue need, burning the sacke, & honoring or rather dishonoring the pillarie with the Colliers dufty faces: & wel may the honorable & worshipful of the suburbs prosper, if they loke in juicke to these legers who deferue more punishment than the statute appoints for them, which is whipping at a carts taile, or with fauor the pillorie.
A plaine Discoverie.

For fewell or firing being a thing necessary in a commonwealth, and charcoal vsed more then any other, the poore not able to buy by the load, are fain to get in their fire by the facke, & so are greatly coofned by the retaile. Seeing therefore the carefull lawes her Maiestie hath appointed for the wealth of her commons, and succor of the poore, I would humbly entreat all her Maiesties officers, to looke into the life of these legers, and to root them out, that the pore feele not the burden of their incollacionable gaines. I heard with my eares a pore woman of Shorditch who had bought coles of a leger, with weeping teares coplain and raile against him in the streete, in her rough eloquence calling him coofning knaue, & saying, tis no maruell, villain (quoth she) if men compare you colliers to the deuill, seeing your consciences are worser then the deuilles, for hee takes none but those souls whom God hates: and you vndo the poore whome God loues.

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

There be also certaine Colliers that bring coles to London in Barges, and they be called Gripers: to these comes the leger, & bargens with him for his coles, & sels by retaile with the like coofnage of fackes as I rehearsed before. But these mad Legers (not content with this monstrous gaine) do besides mix among their other fackes of coales, store of shruffe duft and small cole, to their great aduantage. And for proofe hereof, I will recite
THE ART OF CONNY-CATCHING.

you a matter of truth, lately performed by a Cookes wife vpon a coofning Collier.

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

T chanced this Summer that a load of coles came forth of Kent to Billin[g]sgate, and a Leger bought them, who thinking to deceiue the Citizens, as he did those in the suburbs, furnisht himselfe with a couple of fackes, and comes vp Saint Marie hill to fell them. A Cookes wife bargained with the collier, and bought his coales, and they agreed vpon fourteeene pence for the couple: which being done, hee carried the coales into the house, and shot them: and when / the wife fawe them, and perceiving there was scarce five bushels for eight, she calles a little girle to her, and bad her go for the Constable: for thou coosening rogue, quoth she, (speaking to the collier) I wil teach thee how thou shalt coosen me with thy false sacks, whatsoeuer thou doest to others, and I wil haue thee before my Lord Maior: with that she caught a spit in her hand, and sware if he offered to stir, shee would therewith broach him. At which words the Collier was amazed, and the feare of the pillerie put him in such a fright, that he said he would go to his boat, & returne againe.
to answere whatsoeuer she durst obiect against him, and for pledge heereof (quoth the Collier) keepe my fackes, your mony, and the coales also. Wher-upon the woman let him go: but as soone as the collier was out of doores, it was needles to bid him runne, for downe he gets to his boate, & awaie he thrusts from Billin{g}gate, and so immediately went downe to Wapping, and neuer after durst returne to the Cookes wife to demand either monie, fackes, or coales.

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

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

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shewed them the coagnage, & defired their aide to her in tormenting the Collier: which they promifed to performe, & thus it fell out. She conueid them into a back roome (some sixteen of them) euery one hauing a good cudgell under her apron; ftraight comes the Collier, and faith, Miftres, here be your coales: welcome good Collier, quoth she, I praine thee follow me into the backe fide, & shoot them in an other roome. The Collier was content, and went with her: but as foone as he was in, the good wife lockt the doore, and the Collier seeing fuch a troupe of wiues in the roome, was amazed, yet faid God speed you all fhrews: wel-come, quoth one iolly Dame, being appointed by them all to giue fentence againft him: who fo foon as the collier had shot his facks, faid Sirrha collier, know that we are here all assembled as a grâd Iurie, to determine of thy villanies, for felling vs falfefackes of coales, & know that thou art here indited upon coagnage, therefore hold vp thy hand at the bar, & either faie, guiltie, or not guiltie, and by whom thou wilt be tried, for thou muft receive condigne punishment for the fame ere thou depart. The Collier who thought they had but iefted, smiled & faid Come on, which of you fhall be my ludge? Marry, quoth one iolly Dame, that is I, and by God you knaue, you fhall finde I will pronounce fentence againft you feuerely, if you be founde guiltie. When the Collier faw they were in earneft, he faid, Come come, open the doore, and let me
go: with that fiue or fix started vp, and fell upon the Collier, and gaue unto him halfe a score of sound lambeakes with their cudgels, and bad him speake more reverently to their Principall. 

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

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

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

FINIS.
SECOND PART OF CONNIE CATCHING.

1591.
NOTE.

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

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

As the nature of

{The blacke Art,  {Picking of lockes.
{The Vincents Law,
{The Prigging Law,
{The Courbing Law,
{The Lifting Law,
{The Foist,
{The Nippe,

Coosenage at Bowls.
Horfe stealeing.
Hooking at windows.
Stealing of parcels.
The pickepocket.
The cut purfe.

With sundrie pithy and pleafant Tales worthy the reading of all eftates, that are ennemies to fuch base and dishonest practifes.

Mallum non efe quam non prodeffe patrie.

R. G.

LONDON
Printed by John Wolfe for William Wright, and are to be fould at his fhop in Pauls Church yard, neare to the French schoole.

1591.
TO ALL YOONG GENTLEMEN,
marchants, citizens, apprentices, yeomen,  
and plaine countrey farmers,  
Health.

When Sceuola, Gentlemen, saw his natuie citie besieged by Porfenna, and that Rome the mistress of the world, was readie to be maistred by a proffessed foe to the publicke estate: hee entred boldly into the enemies camp, and in the Tent of the king (taking him for the king) flew the kings Secretarie: whereupon condemned, brought to the fire, he thrust his right hand into the flame, burning it off voluntarie, because it was so infortunat to miffe the fatal stab he had intended to his countreys enimies, and then with an honourable resolution, breathd out this, 
Mallem non esse quam non prodeffe patriae. This instace of Sceuola greatly hath emboldened mee to thinke no pains nor danger too great that groweth to the benefit of my countrie, & though I cannot
as he mannadge with my courtlax, nor attempt to vnleager Porfenna: yet with my pen I will indevor to display the nature and secrets of diuers coosenages more preiudiciall to England then the inuaision of Porfenna was to Rome. For when that valiant king faw the resolutilo of Sceuola: as one dismaid at the honour of his thoughtes, he sorrowed so braue a man had so desperatly loft his hand, and there-upon grewe friends with the Romans. But gentlemen these Conny-catchers, these vultures, these fatall Harpies, that putrisfe with their infecciones this flourishing estate of England, as if they had their consciences / feared with a hot iron, & that as men deliuered vp into a reprobate fence, grace were ytterly exild from their harts, so with the deafe Adder they not only stop their eares against the voice of the charmer, but disolutely without any sparke of remorse, stand vpon their brauados, and openly in words & actions maintain their palpable and manifeft coosenages, swearing by no leffe then their enemies bloud, euë by God him selfe, that they will make a massacre of his bones, and cut off my right hand, for penning downe their abominable practifes: but alas for the, poore snakes, words are wind, & looks but glances: euery thunderclap hath not a bolt, nor euery Conny-catchers oath an execution. I liue stille, & I liue to display their villanies, which, gentlemen you shal see set down
in most ample maner in this smal treatife: but heere by the way, giue me leaue to answere an obiection, that some inferred against me, which was, that I shewed no eloquent phraſes, nor fine figuratiue couneionce in my first booke as I had done in other of my workes: to which I reply that το πρέπειν, a certaine decorum is to bee kept in euery thing, and not to applie a high stile in a base subject: beside the facultie is so odious, and the men so feruile and flauifh minded, that I should dis Honor that high misterie of eloquence, and derogate from the dignitie of our English tongue, eyther to employ any figure or beftow one choyce English word vpon fuch disdained rakes as thofe Conny-catchers. Therefore humbly I craue pardon and defire I may write basely of fuch base wretches who liue onely to liue dishonestly. For they feeke the spoyle and ruine of all, and like droanes eate away what others labor for. I haue set downe diuers other laws vntoucht in the first, as their Vincents law, a notable cooßenage at bowles, when certain idle companions ſtand and make bettes, being compaeted with / the bowlers, who looke like honeft minded citizens, either to win or loose, as their watch-worde ſhall appoint: then the Prigger or Horſesteleaſer, with all his ginnes belonging to his trade, and theyr ſubtill cawtels to amend the ſtatute: next the curbing law, which some call but
too basely hookers, who eyther diue in at windows, or else with a hook, which they call a curb, doe fetch out whatsoever, either apparell, linnen, or wollen, that be left abroad. Befide, I can set downe the subtiltie of the blacke Art, which is picking of lockes, a coosenage as prejudiciall as any of the rest, and the nature of the Lift, which is he that stealeth any parcels, and flily taketh them away. This (Gentlemen) haue I searcht out for your commodities, that I might lay open to the world the villanie of these coosening caterpillers, who are not onely abhorred of men, but hated of God, liuing idlely to themselues, & odiously to the worlde: they be those foolish children that Salomon speakes of, that feedes themselues fatte with iniquitie, those vntamed heifers, that will not breake the yoke of labor, but get their liuings by the painfull thrift of other mens hands. I cannot better compare them, then vnto Vipers, who while they liue are hated & shunned of all men as most prejudiciall creatures: they feed vpon hemlocke and Aconiton, and such fatall & impoisoned herbs, but the learned apothecaries takes them, cuts off their heades, and after they be imbowedelled of their flesh, they make the most pretious Mithridate: so these Conny-catchers, Foists, Nips, Priggers, & Lifts, while they liue are most improfitable members of the common-wealth: they
glut themselues as Vipers uppon the most lothsome and detestable sinnes, seeking after folly with greedinesse, neuer doing any thing that is good, till they be trust vp at Tiburn: and then is a most wholesome Mithridate made of the, for by their deaths others are forewarned for falling into the like enormities. And as the Gangrena is a disease incurable by the censure of the Chirurgians, vnlesse the member where it is first be cut off: so this vntoward generation of loose Libertines, can by no wholesome counfailes, nor aduised perswaions be diffwaded from their lothfom kind of life, till by death they be fatally, and finally cut off from the commonwealth, whereof spake Ouid well in his Metamorphosis.

*Immedicabile vulnus,*

*Enfe refecandum est ne pars sincera trahitur.*

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

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

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

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

\textit{A pleasant storie of a horse-stealer.}

Not farre from Tenro in Cornewall, a certaine Priggar, a horse-stealer being a lance-man, surueying the pastures thereabouts, spied a fayre blacke horse without any white spot at all about
him: the horse was so faire and luftie, wel proportioned, of a high creft, of a lusty countenance, well buttocket, and strongly trust, which set the Priggars teeth a water to have him: well he knew the hardest happe was but a halter, and therefore hee ventered faire, and stoll away the prancer: and seeing his stomack was so good as his limmes, he kept him well, and by his policie feared him in the forehead, and made him spotted in the backe, as if he had been saddlle bitten, and gaue him a marke in both eares, whereas he had but a mark in one. Dealing thus with his horfe, after a quarter of a yeere, that all hurly burly was past for the horse, hee came / riding to Tenro to the market, and there offered him to be fold. The Gentleman that lost the horse, was there present, and looking on him with other Gentlemen, likte him passling well, and commended him: insomuch that he bet the prize of him, bargained, & bought him: and so when he was tould, and that the horfe-stealer clap[t] him good lucke: Well my friend quoth the gentleman, I promife thee I like the horse the better, in that once I lost one as like him as might be, but that mine wanted these saddlle spots, and this starre in the forehead. It may be so sir, saide the Priggar, and so the Gentleman and he parted: the next day after, he caused a letter to be made, and sent the Gentleman word
that he had his horse again that he lost, only he had given him a mark or two, and for that he was well rewarded, having twenty marks for his labour. The gentleman hearing how he was cofened by a horse-stealer, and not only robbed, but mocked, let it pass till he might conveniently meete with him to revenge it. It fortuned not long after, that this lanceman Priggar was brought to Tenro Gayle for some such matter, and indeed it was about a Mare that he had stolne: but as knaves have friends, especially when they are well monied, he found divers that spake for him, and who saide it was the first fault: and the party plaintife gaue but slender evidence against him, so that the judge spake favourably in hys behalfe: the gentleman as then, sat in the bench, and calling to minde the Priggar's countenance, howe hee had stolne his horse and mocked him, remembred hee had the letter in his pocket that he sent him, and therefore rising vp, spake in his behalf, and highly commended the man, and defired the judges for one fault he might not be cast away, and besides, may it please you (quoth hee) I had this morning a certificate of his honestie and good behauior sent me: and with that he delivered them the letter, and the judge and the rest of the bench smiled at this conceite, and aske the fellow if he neuer stoll a horse from / that Gentleman: no quoth the Priggar, I know x.
him not: your honors mistakes me, said the gentleman, he did but borrow a blacke horse of me, and markt him with aftar[e] in the forehead, and askt twenty marke of me for his labour, and so discourst the whole matter: whereupon the quest went vpon him, and condemned him: and so the Priggar went to heauen in a string, as many of his facultie had done before.

The Vincents law, with the discovery therof.

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

A Table of the Lawes contained in this second part.

1 Blacke arte. Picking of lockes.
2 Combing Law. Hooking at windowes.
3 Vincents Law. Coofenage at Bowls.
4 Prigging Law. Horfe thefting.
5 Lifting Law. Stealing of any parcels.

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

In blacke Art.
{ The Pickelocke is called a Charme.
{ He that watcheth, a Stond.
{ Their engins, Wrefters.
{ Picking the lock, Farfing.
{ The gaines gotten, Pelfrey.
{ He that hooks, the Comber.
{ He that watcheth, the Warpe.

In Combining Law.
{ The hooke, the Combe.
{ The good, Snappings.
{ The gin to open the windowe, the Trickar./
{ He that first thefteth, the Lift.
{ He that receiues it, the Markar.
{ He that standeth without and carries it away, the Santar.
{ The goods gotten, Garbage.
They which play booty, the Bankars.

He that betteth, the Gripe.

He that is coosened, the Vincent.

Gaines gotten, Termage.

The horse stealer, the Priggar.

The horse, the Prancar.

The towling place, All-hallowes.

The towler, the Rifler.

The suertees, Querris.

For the Foist and the Nip, as in the first Booke.
The Second Part

of Conie-chatching.

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

_A pleasant tale of the Connie-chatchers._

_Not long since, certaine Exceter marchants came vp to London to traffick such wares as their Citty commodities affords, & one of them whose name I conceale, called maister F., hauing leasure at will, walked about the [Citie], to visite his friendes, and by chance mette with two or three conny-catchers: amongst whom was one of his old and familiar acquaintance. This gentleman at that time taking the Setters office vpon him, seeing such a fat Connie so fit for his purpose, began to pitch his haie with this courteous and clawing gratulation. What maister F. (quoth he) welcome to London, and well are you mette: I see time may draw friends together, little did I thinke to haue seeene you heere, but fith oportunitie hath granted me such a fauour to meete with such an vnlookt-
for man, wele at the next Tauerne drinke a pint of wine together, to your welcome, and the health of our friendes. The Marchant hearing the gentle-man ply him with such plausible entertainment, stoopt as a poore Connie, and granted to take his courtesie, and with them went the Verfer, a luftie fellow, well apparelled, and as smooth toonged as if euer word came out of an Orators inck-horne: this iolly squire that plaied the Verfer, when hee came at the Tauerne doore, would needs drop away, and offered to be gone: but the Setter said to him, nay I pray you fir stay, and drink with this friend of mine, for I haue not a more familiar acquaintance in Exeter. The Marchant simly also intreated him, and with few wordes he was satisfied, and as three of them went in together, and aske for a roume, the boy shewed them vp into a chamber, and assoone as they came to, the Verfer, haung a payre of Cardes in his pocket, for they thought it too suspicious to call for a payre, stept to the window, and clapt his hand on the ledge, and laught, Gogs wounds (quoth he) a man can neither come into Tauerne, nor Alehoufe, but he shall find a payre of Cardes in the window: Here hath beene some praying, and haue left their bookes behinde them. Boy (quoth he) throw me a couple of fagots on the fire, and set a pottle of Secke too, and burne it, and fir he sayes to the
SETTER, thou and I will play at Cardes who shall pay for it. Content faies the Setter, so you will plaie at a game that I can play at, which is called Mum-chance. I knowe it well, faies the Verfer: haue with you for a pottle of burnt Secke, and so to it they go, as before in my first part I describe it unto you: the poore Marchant the simple honest Connie, calling the Card: well the Verfer lost, and at last they reveale the policie to the Conny, who wondered at the strange devise, and solemnly swore it was impossible for him eyther to loose, or the other to winne: As thus they sat drinking, the Setter shewed him divers trickes at Cardes, to passe away the time, because theyr Barnacle staied ouer-long: who at last, attiered like a Servuing-man, came and thrust open the doore, and saide, maitsters by your leauè, I looke for a grey-hound that hath broken my flip, & is run into this house. In faith friend, quoth the Setter, heere is none, nor did we see any: Then by your leauè gentlemen (quoth he) and sit you merrie, I had rather haue giuen fortie shillinges then haue lost the dog: Nay staie sir (quoth the Verfer) and drinke a cup of Secke with vs: at that the Barnacle came in, and courteously tooke it of them, and made sore lament for his dogge, saying he durft scarce looke his maister in the face: but I hope (quoth he) he is run to the farmers house, where hee was brought vp, and
therefore Ile seeke him no where to day: with that he called for a pint of wine, to requite theyr courtesies /withall, and the Verfer anfwered that they would take none of him as a gift, but if he would play for a pint or a quart, hee should be welcome into their companie: at this hee fette down, and fayd hee woulde: then they induced him to play at mum-chance, and the Conny calld the Card, fo the Barnacle loft all: who being in a great chafe, curfe his lucke, and the Cards, and offered to play three games, xii. pence: the Setter tooke him vp, and fecretly afted the Cony if he would be his half, or play with him himfelfe. In faith faies the marchant, I dare play with him, as long as fieue fhillinges laft, and fo much I will venter: with that the Barnacle drew out a purse with fome three or foure pence in it, and to this game they go, with vie and reuie, till the Barnacle had loft all his money: then hee blafphemd the name of God mightily, and laide his fword and his cloke to pawne to the good man of the house, and borrowed money of it, to the value of fome xx. fhillings. The Conny fmiiled at this, for he counted all his own, & winkt vpon the Verfer, and the Setter: againe they go to it, and they make fieue games for ten fhillinges, and euery Card to be vied at the loosers pleafure: the Conny wonne three of them, and the Barnacle neuer a one: then he exclaimed
against Fortune, and swore hee woulde make short worke, and of a ring he borrowed thirtie shillings more, and vied hard: wel that game he woon, and got some twentie shillinges of the Conny, who thought it was but a chance, that coulde not hit in feuen yeares againe, and the next game they vied, and laid some fiue pound by on the belt, so that the vie and call, came to some feuen pound: then the Barnacle stroke in his chopt Card, and wipe[d] the Connies / mouth cleane for trobling his purse, with any of those crowns, yea he so handled \^ poore marchaunt, that of nine pound he had in his purse, these three base Conny-catchers left him neuer a penny: although he was fore nipt on the head, with this hard Fortune, yet he brookt it with patience, and little suspected that his Countreyman the Setter had fiste him out of his money, and therefore druncke to him frendly, and tooke his leave without smoaking them at all, and went quiet though discontent to his lodging. The Conny-catchers they shard the purchase, and went singeing home as winners doe that haue leave and leisfure to laugh at the spoile of such wealthie and honest marchants. Not long after this, the cony chanced to come to my chamber to visit me for old acquaint- ance, where he found a book of Cony-catching new come out of the press, which when he had smilde at, for the strangenesse of the title: at laft
he began to reade it, and there saw how simplicie hee was made a conny, and stript of hys crownes: with that he fetched a great sigh, and said: sir, if I had seene this booke but two dayes since, it had saued me nine pound in my purse, and then hee rehearst the whole discourse, howe kindly hee was made a conny. Thus you may see that these base conny-catchers spare not their owne acquaintance nor familiar friends: but like Vultures seek to pray vpon them, and like the Harpie, infectes that house wherein they harbour: so odious is their base and detestable kind of cozenage, that the very Nips, the cut-purses I meane, desire to smoake them, and haue them in as great contempt, as they themselves are despised of others: holding the conny-catcher for their inferiour: for say the Nips, I disdaine to use my occupation against any friend, or to drawe a purse from him that I am familiarly acquainted with: whereas the conny-catcher praieth moste vpon his countreymen and friendes, and at the first hand comes with a smiling face to embrace that man whome presently he meanes to spoyle and coosen. Againe, the Nip vseth his knife, and if he see a Boung lie faire, strikes the stroke, and vnters his necke for it if he be taken, which is a certaine point (say they) of resolution, though in the baseft degree: but the conny-catcher, like a coward, keepes himself within compass of lawe,
as the picture of a faint hearted coofener: like a fawning curre wagges hys tayle vpon him hee meanes moft deadly to bite. Then let this be a caueat for all men, and all degrees, to take heede of such preiudiciall pesants: who like wormes in a nut eat the kernell wherein they are bred, and are fo venemous minded, that like the Viper they desparage whomsoeuer they light on: I know I shall haue many braues vttered againft me for this ineffectue: but so I may profit my countrimen, I will hazard my selfe against their deepeft villanies: and therefore sLEEPING neuer a whit the worse for their brauado, I commit such enemies of the flourishing Estate of England, to the consideration of the Justices: who I hope will looke into the loose life of bad, base and dishonest caterpillers.
A pleasant Tale of a Horse, how at Vxbridge, hee coosened a Conny-catcher, and had like to [haue] brought him to his Neckuerse.

It fortuned that not long since certaine Conny-catchers met by hap a Prancar or horf-steale[r]
at 

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

Now Gentlemen, Marchants, Farmers, and termers, yea who soever he be, that vieth to carry money about him, let him attent/tuely heare what a peece of newe fond Philosophie, I will lay open to you, whose opinions, principles, Aphorismes, if you carefully note and retain in
memorie, perchappes faue some crownes in your purfe ere the yeare passe, and therefore thus: The Nip & the foift, although their subieéct is one which they worke on, that is, a well lined purfe, yet their manner is different, for the Nip viéth his knife, and the Foist his hand: the one cutting the purfe, the other drawing the pocket: but of these two scuruiue trades, the Foist holdeth himselfe of the higheft degree, and therefore, they tearme themselues Gentlemen foists, and fo much disdain to be called cut-purfses, as the honest man that liues by his hand or occupation, in so much that the Foist refuseth euen to weare a knife about him to cut his meat withal, leaft he might be suspeéted to grow into the nature of the Nippe, yet as I faié before is their subieéct and haunt both alike, for their gaines lies by all places of resort and assemblies: therfore their chiefe walks is Paules, Westminster, the Exchange, Plaies, Beare garden, running at Tilt, the Lorde Maiors day, any festiual meetings, fraies, shootings, or great faires: to be short, where fo euer there is any extraordinarie resort of people, there the Nippe and the Foist haue fittest oportunity to shewe their iugling agillitie. Commonly, when they spie a Farmer or Marchant, whome they suspeéct to be well monied, they followe him hard vntill they see him drawe his purfe, then spyuing in what place he puts it vppe, the stall or
the shadowe beeing with the Foist or Nip, meets
the man at some straight turne & iustles him so
hard, that the man marueling, and perhaps quarrel-
ing with him, the whilest the foist hath his purfe
and / bids him fare-well. In Paules (especiallie in
the tearme time) betweene ten and eleuen, then is
their howers, and there they walke, and perhaps, if
there be great presfe, strike a stroke in the middle
walk, but that is vpon some plaine man that stands
gazing about, hauing neuer seene the Church
before: but their chiefeft time is at diuine seruice,
when men deuoutly giuen doe go vp to heare
either a fermon, or els the harmonie of the Queere
and the Organes: their the Nip, and the Foist
as deuoutly as if he were some zealous parfon,
standeth soberlie, with his eies eleuated vnto heauen,
when his hand is either on the purfe or in the pocket,
surueing euerie corner of it for coyne: then when
the seruice is done and the people presfe away, he
thrusteth amidst the throng, and there worketh his
villanie. So like wise in the markets, they note
how euer one putteth vp his purfe, and there
either in a great presfe, or while the partie is
cheapning of meat, the Foist is in their pocket
and the Nip hath the purfe by the strings, or some
times cuts out the bottome, for they haue still their
stals following them, who thrusteth and iustleth
him or her whome the Foist is about to draw: So
likewise at plaies, the Nip standeth there leaning like some manerly gentleman against the doore as men go in, and there finding talke with some of his companions, spieth what euerie man hath in his purse, and where, in what place, and in which fleue or pocket he puts the boung, and according to that so he worketh either where the thruff is great within, or els as they come out at the dores: but suppose that the foift is smoakt, and the man misseth his purs, & apprehendeth him for it, then straight he either conuaieth it to his stall, or els dropeth / the boong, and with a great braue hee defieth his accuser: and though the purse be found at his foote, yet because he hath it not about him, hee comes not within compasse of life. Thus haue they their shifts for the law, and yet at laft, so long the pitcher goeth to the brooke that it commeth broken home, and so long the Foists put their villanie in praefte, that west-ward they go, and there solemnely make a rehearssall sermon at Tibourne. But againe, to their places of resort, Westminfter, I marie, that is their chiefeft place that brings in their profite: the Tearme-time is their haruest: and therefore, like prouident husband-men they take time while time serues, and make hay while the Sunne shines, following their clients, for they are at the Hall verie early and there they worke like bees, haunting euerie Court, as the
Exchequer chamber, the Starre-chamber, the Kings-bench, the Common-pleas, and euery place where the poore Client standeth to heare his Lawyer handle his matter, for alasse the poore Countrey Gentleman or Farmer is so busied with his causes, and hath his mind so full of cares to see his counsell and to plie his Atorney, that the least thing in his thought is his purse: but the Eagle-eied Foist or Nip he watcheth, and seeing the Client draw his purse to pay some charges or fees necessarie for the Court, marketh where he putteth it, and then when he thruseth into the throng, either to answer for himselfe, or to stand by his Counsellor to put him in minde of his cause, the Foist drawes his pocket and leaues the poore client pennileffe. This doe they in all courts, and go disguised like Servuing-men, wringing the simple people by this iugling subtel[.]ie: well might therefore the honorable & worship/full of those courts doe to take order from suche vile and bafe minded cutpurses, that as the lawe hath prouided death for them if they be taken, so they might be rooted out especially from Westminster, where the poore clients are vndone by suche rogith catchers. It boots not to tell their course at euery remoue of her Maiestie, when the people flock together, nor at Bartholomew faire, or the Queens day, at the Tilt-yard and at al other places of assemblie: for let this suffice, at any great
preffe of people or meeting, there the Foift and the Nippe is in his kingdome: Therefore let all men take this caueat, that when they walke abroad amid anie of the fore-named places or like assem- blies, that they tak[e] great care for their purfe how they place it, and not leaue it carelesse in their pockets or hoafe, for the Foift is so nimble handed that hee exceeds the iugler for agility, and hath his legier de maine as perfectly: thersore an exquisite Foisf must haue three properties that a good Surgion shoulde haue, and that is an Eagles eie, a Ladies hand, and a Lyons heart: an Eagles eie to spie a purchase, to haue a quicke insight where the boong lies, and then a Lyons heart not to feare what the end will bee, and then a Ladies hand to be little and nimble, the better to diue into the pocket. These are the perfect properties of a Foisf: but you must note that there be diversities of this kind of people, for there be cittie Nips & countrey Nips, which haunt from faire to faire, and neuer come in London, vnlesse it be at Bartholomewe faire, or some other great and extraordinarie assemblies: Nowe there is a mortall hate betweene the Countrey Foisf and the Cittie Foisf, for if the citie Foisf spie one of the connies in London, ftraight he seekes / by some meanes to smoake him, and so the Countrey Nip if he spie a Cittie Nip in any faire, then hee smoakes him ftraight, and
brings him in danger, if he flee not away the more speedily; beside there be women Foisfs and women Nips, but the woman FoiSt is most dangerous, for commonly there is some old hand, or mouthfair ftrumpet, who inueigleth either some ignorant man or some young youth to folly: she hath straight her had in his poket, and so foists him of all that hee hath: but let all men take heed of such common harlots, who either sit in the streets in evenings, or else dwell in bawdy houses and are pliant to every man's lure: such are alwaies Foisfs and Pickpockets, and seek the spoile of all such as meddle with them, and in confaining of such base minded leachers as giue the selues to such leud companie, are woorthy of what so euer befals, and sometime they catch such a Spanish pip, that they haue no more hair on their head then on their nails. But leauing such ftrumpets to their soules confusion and bodies correction in Bride-well: Againe, to our Nips and Foisfs, who have a kind of fraternity or brother-hood among them, having a hall or place of meeting, where they confer of weightie matters, touching their workmanship, for they are provident in that: euerye one of them hath some trustie friend whom he calleth his treasurer, and with him he laies vp some ratable portion of euery purse hee drawes, that when need requires, and he is brought in danger, he may haue money to make
composition with the partie: But of late, there hath bene a great scourge fallen amongst them, for now if a purse bee drawn of any great valew, straight the partie maketh friends to some one or other of the Counsell or other inferior her Maiesties Justices, and then they send out warrants if they cannot learne who the Foist is, to the keepers of Newgate that they take vp all the Nips and Foisfts about the cittie, and let them lie there while the money be reanswered vnto the party, so that some pay three pound, nay five pound at a time, according as the same losse did amount vnto, which doth greatly impouerishe their trade, and hinder their figging law. Therefore about such causes grows their meeting, for they haue a kinde of corporation, as hauing wardens of their company, and a hall: I remember their hall was once about Bushops gate, neere vnto fishers follie, but because it was a noted place, they haue remoued it to Kent-street, and as far as I can learne, it is kept at one Laurence Pickerings house, one that hath bene if he be not still, a notable Foist. A man of good calling he is, and well allied, brother in law to Bull the hangman: there keepe they their feasts and weekly meetinges, fit for their company. Thus haue I partyle fet downe the nature of the Foist, and the Nip, with their speciall haunts, as a caueat to al estates to beware
of such wicked persons, who are as prejudiciall to the Common-wealth as anie other faculty what foeuer, and although they be by the great discretion of the Judges and Justices dailie trust vp, yet still there springeth vppe yoong that grow in time to beare fruit fit for the gallowes: let then every man be as carefull as possibly hee may, and by this caueat take heed of his purs, for the pray makes the theefe, and there and end.

_A merry tale how a Miller had his purs cut in New gate market._

I T fortuned that a Nip and his staul drinking at the three Tuns in Newgate market, sitting in one of the roomes next to the ftreete, they might perceiue wher a meale man stood selling of meale, and had a large bag by his side, where by coniecture there was some store of money: the old Coole, the old cut purs I mean, spying this, was delighted with the shew of so glorious an obiecct, for a full purs is as pleasing to a Cut purs eie, as the curious Phisnomy of _Venus_ was to the amorous god of war, and entring to a merry vaine as one that counted that purchase his own, discouered it to the Nouice and bad him goe & nip it: the young toward scholler although perhaps he had striken some few strokes before, yet seeing no great pressi
of people, and the meale-mans hande often vppon his bagge, as if hee had in times past smoakte some of their faculty, was halfe afraide and doubted of his owne experience, and so refused to doe it.-Away villaine faith the old Nippe, art thou fainte hартd? belongs it to our trade to despaire? If thou wilt onely doe common worke, and not make experience of some harde matters to attempt, thou wilt neuer be maister of thine occupation, therefore try thy wits and doe it: at this the young stripling stalkes me out of the Tauern, and feeling if his Cuttle boung were glibbe and of a good edge, went to this meale-man to enter combate hand to hand with his purfe, but seeing the meale-mans eye was still abroade, and for want of other sfort that he plaied with his purfe, he was afraide to trust eyther to his witte or Fortune, and therefore went backe againe without any act atchieued. How now faith the olde Nip, what haft thou done? nothing quoth he, the knaue is so wary, that it is vnpossible to get any purchase there, for he stands plaing with his purfe for want of other exercife. At this his fellowe lookes out and smiles, making this reply. And doest thou count it impossible to haue the meale-mans boung? lend me thy knife, for mine is left at home, & thou shalt see me strike it straight, and I will shew thee a Methode, how perhaps hereafter to doe the like after my example, and to
make thee a good scholler: and therefore goe with me and doe as I shall instruct thee: begin but a fained quarrell, and when I give thee a watche woord, then throwe flower in my face, and if I misse his purse let me be hanged for my labour: with that he gaue him certaine principles to obserue, and then paide for the wine and out they went together. As soon as they were come to the meale-man, the olde Nippe began to ieft with the other about the Millers facke, and the other replied as knauishlye: at laft the elder called the younger Roague: Roague thou Swaine, quoth hee, doest thou or dareft thou dis honour mee with such a base title? And with that, taking a whole hand full of meale out of the facke, threw it full in the olde Nippes necke and his brest, and then ranne away. Hee being thus dusted with meale, intreated the meale man to wipe it out of his necke, and floopte downe his head: the meale man laughing to see him so rayed and whited, was willing to shake off the meale, and the whilft, while hee was busie about that, the Nippe had stroken the purse and done his feate, and both courteously thanked the meale man and closely went away with his purchase. The poore man thinking little of this Cheate, began againe to play with his purse stringes, and suspected nothing till he had solde a pecke of meale, and offered to change money, and then hee found his purse
bottomlesse: which strooke such a colde quandary to his stomack, as if in a frosty morning hee had druncke a draught of small beere next his heart: hee began then to exclaime against such villaines, and called to minde how in shaking the dust out of the Gentlemans necke, he shake his money out of his purse, and so the poore meale man fetch[ed] a greatfigh, knit vp his sacke and went forrowing home.
While I was writing this discovery of foisting, 
& was desirous of any intelligence that 
might be given mee, a Gentleman a friend of mine, 
reported unto me this pleasant tale of a Foist, & 
as I well remember, it grew to this effect. Ther 
walked in the middle walk a plain countrey farmer, 
a man of good wealth, & that had a well lined 
purse, onely barely thrust vppe in a round flop, 
which a crue of Foists having perceiued, ther harts 
were set on fire to haue it, and euery one had a 
fling at him, but all in vaine; for he kept his hand 
close in his pocket, and his purse faft in his fist like 
a subtil churle, that either had been forwarnd of 
Paules, or else had afore time smoked some of that 
faculty: well how so ever it was vnpossible to doe 
any good with him, he was so wary. The Foists 
spying this, strained their wits to the highest string 
how to compass this boung, yet could not all their 
polliticke conceits fetch the farmer over, for iustle 
him, chat with him, offer to shake him by the 
hand, all would not serue to get his hand out of 
his pocket. At last one of the crue that for 
his skil might haue bin Doctorat in his mistery, 
amongst them all chose out a good Foist, one 
of a nimble hand & great agility, and said to the
CONNY-CATCHING.

rest thus: Masters, it shall not be said such a base peasaunt shall slip away from such a crew of Gentle-men Foistes as wee are, and not have his purse drawn, and therefore this time I'll play the staule my selfe, and if I hitte him not home, count me for a bungler for euer: and so he left them and went to the farmar and walkt directly before him & next him three or foure turnes: at last standing still hee / cryed alas honest man helpe me, I am not well: and with that funcke downe suddenly in a sowne: the poor Farmer seeing a proper yong gentlema (as he thought) fall dead afore him, stopt to him, helde him in his armes, rub'd him and chafte him: at this there gathered a greate multitude of people about him, and the whilst the Foiste drewe the Farmers pursfe and awaye: by that the other thought the feate was done, he began to come something to himselfe again, and so halfe stagger-ing, stumbled out of Poules, and went after the crue where they had appointed to meete, and there boasted of his wit and experience. The Farmer little suspecting this villanye, thrust his hand into his pocket and mist his pursfe, searcht for it, but lyning and shelles and all was gon, which made the country man in a great maze, that he stood still in a dump so long, that a gentleman perceiuing it asked what he ayld: what aile I sir quoth he, truely I am thinking how men may long as well as women:
why doost thou conjecture that honest man quoth he? marry sir answers the Farmer, the gentleman euen now that found here I warrant him breeds his wives child, for the cause of his sodaine qualme that he fell downe deade grew of longing: the gentleman demaunded how he knew that: well inough sir quoth he, and he hath his longing too, for the poore man longed for my purse, and thankes be to God he hath it with him. At this all the hearers laught, but not so merrilye as the Foiste and his fellowes, that then were sharing his money./

A quaint conceite of a Cutler & a cutpurse.

A Nippe having by fortune lost his Cuttle boung or having not one fit for his purpose, went to a cunning Cutler to have a newe made, and prescribed the Cutler such a method and forme to make his knife, and the Fashion to be so stronge, giving such a charge of the finenes of the temper and well setting of the edge, that the Cutler won-dered what the gentleman would do with it, yet because he offered so largely for the making of it, the Cutler was silent and made fewe questions, onely he appointed him the time to come for it, and that was three daies after: Well, the time being expired, the Gentleman Nip came, and seeing his knife liked it passinger well, and gave him his
money with advantage. The Cutler desirous to know to what vfe hee woulde put it, faide to the Cutpurse thus, fir quoth he, I haue made many kniues in my dayes, and yet I neuer sawe any of this forme, fashion, temper or edge, & therfore if without offence, I pray you tell me how or to what will you vfe it? While thus he stood talking with the Nippe, he spying the purfle in his aprone, had cut it paffing cunningly, and then hauing his pur- chase close in his hand, made answer, in faith my friend to dissemble is a folly, tis to cut a purfle withall and I hope to haue good handell: you are a merry gentlema quoth the Cutler: I tell true faid the Cutpurfle and away he goes. No sooner was he gone from the stalle, but there came an other and bought a knife and shoulde haue fingle money againe: the Cutler thinking to put his hand in his bagge, thrust it quight through at the bottom: all his money was gone, & the purfle cut/: perceiuing this, and remembrring how the man praiede he might haue good handell, he fetcht a great fighe and faide, now I see he that makes a snare, firft falles into it himfelfe: I made a knife to cut other mens purffes and mine is the firft handell: well, reuenge is fallen vpon me, but I hope the roape will fall vpon him: and so he smoothed vp the matter to himfelfe, leaft men shoulde laugh at his strange fortune.
The discovery of the Lifting Law.

The Lift, is he that stealeth or prowleth any Plate, Juells, boultes of Satten, Veluet, or such parcels from any place, by a slight conveyance under his cloke, or so secretly that it may not be espied: of Lifts there be divers kindes as their natures be different: some base roges that lift when they come into Alehousees quart potts, platters, clokes, swords, or any such paltrie trash, which commonly is called pilfering or petulacerie: for under the cullour of spending two or three pots of ale, they lift awaye any thing that commeth within the compasse of their reache, hauing a fine & nimble agilitie of the hand as the Foift had: these are the common and rascall fortes of Lifts, but the higher degrees and gentlemen Lifts haue to the performance of their faculty three parties of necessitie: the Lift, the Markar and the Santar: the Lift attired in the forme of a ciuell Country gentleman, comes with the Marker into some Mercers shop, Haberdashers, Goldsmiths, or any such place where any particular parcels of worth are to be conuaid, and there he calles to see a boulte of Satten, Veluet or any such commoditie, and not liking the pyle, culler or bracke, he calles for more, and the whiles he begins / to resolue which of them most fitly may be lifted, and what Garbage (for so he calles the goods stolne)
may be most easily conuaid, then he calle to the Mercers man and fayes, sirrha reach me that peece of veluet or fatté, or that Juel, chaine or peece of Plate, and whilst the fellow turns his backe, he commits his Garbage to the Marker: for note, the Lift is without his cloke, in his dublet & hose, to auoide the more sfuspicion: the Marker which is the receiuer of the Lifts luggage, giues a winke to the Santar that walkes before the windowe and then the Santar going by in great haft, the Marker cals him & faies, fir a worde with you, I haue a meffage to do vnto you from a very frend of yours, and the errand is of some importaunce: truely fir faies the Santar I haue very vrgent busines in hand, and as at this time I cannot flaye: but one worde and no more faies the Marker, and then he deliuerers him whatfoeuer the Lift hath conuaide vnto him, and then the Santar goes his way, who neuer came within the shop, and is a man vnknowne to them all: suppose he is fmoakte and his liftinge is lookt into, then are they vpon their pantophles, because there is nothing found about them: they defie the world for their honestie, because they be as dishonest as any in the world, and sware as God fhall judge the they neuer sawe the parcell loft: but Oathes with them are like winde out of a bellowes, which being coole kindleth fier: so their vowes are without confcience and so they call for
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revenge: Therefore let this be a cauеat to all occupacions, sciences and misteryes, that they beware of the gentleman Lift, and to haue an eye to such as cheapen their wares and not when they call to see new stuffe to leave the olde behinde them: for the fingers of Lifts are fourmed / of Adamant, though they touche not yet they haue vertue attractive to drawe any pelfe to them as the Adamant dooth the Iron. But yet these Lifts haue a subtill shift to blinde the worlde, for this close kind of cofonage they haue when they want money: one of them apparelles him selfe like a Country Farmer, & with a Memorandum drawen in some legall forme, comes to the chamber of some Counsayler or Sergeant at Law with his Marker and his Santar, and there tells the Lawyer his case and desires his Counsaiie, the whilest the Marker and the Santar lay the platforme for any Rapier, dagger, cloake, gowne or any other parcell of worth that is in the withdrawing or vttter chaber, and asfoone as they haue they goe their way: then when the Lawyer hath giuen his opinio of the case the Lift requires, then he puts in some demurre or blinde, and faies he will haue his caufe better discouered and then he will come to his worship againe, so taking his leave without his ten shillings fee, he goes his waiies to share what his companyons had gotten: the like method they use with Scriueneres, for comming
by the shop and seeing any Garbage worth the lifting on, starteth in to have an Obligation or Bill made in haste, and while the Scrivener is busy, the Lift bringeth the Marker to the blow, and so the luggage is carried away. Now, these Lifts have their special receivers of their stolen goods, which are two sundry parties, either some notorious Bawdes in whose houses they lye, and they keep commonly tapping houses and have yong trugges in their house, which are confortes to these Lifts and love them so deere, that they never leave them till they come to the gallowes, or else they be Brokers, a kind of idle sort of liuers as pernicious as the / Lift, for they receive at their handes whatsoever Garbage is conveyed, be it linnen, wollen, plate, Juells: and this they do by a bill of saile, making the bill in the name of Iohn a Nokes or Iohn a Styles, so that they shadow the Lift & yet keepe them selues without the danger of the law. Thus are these Brokers and Bawdes as it were, efficient causer of the Lifters villany, for were it not their alluring speeches and their secret concealings, the Lift for want of receivers should be faine to take a new course of life, or else be continually driuen into great extremes for selling his Garbage: and thus much breefely for the nature of the Lift.
The diouery of the Courbing Law.

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

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

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

Of the subtilty of a Curber in coofoning a Maide.

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

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

The Discouverie of the Blacke Art.

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

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

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

FINIS.
xxiv.

THE
THIRDE AND LAST PARTE
OF
CONNY-CATCHING.

1592.
NOTE.

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

WITH THE NEW DEVISED
knauish Art of Foole-taking.

The like Cofenages and Villenies neuer before
discouered.

By R. G.

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

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

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

In this quiet and most blissfull time of peace, when all men (in course of life) should shew themselues most thankful for so great a benefit, this famous citie is pestered with the like, or rather worse kinde of people, that beare outward shew of civill, honest, and gentlemanlike disposition, but in very deed their behaviour is most infamous to be spoken of. And as now by their close villanies they cheate, cofen, prig, lift, nippe, and such like tricks now used in their Conie-catching Trade, to the hurt and undoing of many an honest Citizen, and other: So if God should in iustice be
angrie with vs, as our wickednesse hath well deserued, 
and (as the Lorde forfend) our peace should be 
molesft as in former time, even as they did, so will 
these be the first in seeking domesticall spoile and 
ruine: yea so they may haue it, it | skilles not how 
they come by it. God raife such another as was 
worthie Whittington, that in time may bridle the 
headstrong course of this hellish crew, and force them 
live as becometh honest Subiefts, or els to abide the 
reward due to their loosenesse.

By reading this little treatife ensuing, you shall 
see to what maruellous subtil pollicies these deceiuers 
haue atteyned, and how daylie they praefife driftes 
for their purpose. I say no more, but if all these 
forewarnings may be regarded, to the benefite of the 
well minded, and iust controll of these carelesse 
wratches, it is all I desife, and no more 
then I hope to see.

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

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

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

Hat lawes are vsed among this hellish
crew, what words and termes they giue
themselfes and their copesmates, are at
large set downe in the former two bookes: let
it suffise yee then in this, to read the simple true
discourses of suche as haue by extraordinarie cu-
ning and trecherie beeene deceived, and remembring
their subtle meanes there, and fiie practises here,
be prepared against the reaches of any such com-
panions.

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

In faith Maisters, these things are pretily done, common sleights, expressing no deép reach of wit, and I wonder men are so fimple to be so beguiled. I would fain fée some rare artificiall feat indeed, that som admiration and fame might enfue the doing thereof. I promife ye, I disdaine these base and pettie paltries, and may my fortune iumpe with my resolution, ye shal heare my boies within a day or two, that I will accomplifh a rare strata-geme indeed, of more value then forty of yours, and when it is done shal carie some credit with it. They wondring at his wordes defired to fée the succeffe of them, and fo dispersing themselues as they were accustomed, left this frollicke fellow pondering on his affaires. A Civtizens house in London, which he had diligently eied and aimed at for a fortnights space, was the place wherein he muft performe this exploit, and hauing learned one of the fervant maids name of the houfe, as also where shee was borne, and her kindred: Vpon a Sunday in the afternone, when it was her turne to attend on her maifter and mistres to the garden in Finsbury fields, to regard the children while they sported about, this craftie mate hauing dulie
watched their coming forth, and seeing that they intended to goe downe S. Laurence lane, stepped before them, ever casting an eie back, least they should turn some contrarie way. But their following still fitting his owne desire, neere vnto the Conduit in Alderman-bury, hee crossed the waye and came vnto the maid, and kissing her said: Cofen Margaret, I am very glad to see you well, my vnckle your father, and all your friends in the Countrey are in good health God be praifed. The Maid hearing her selfe named, and not knowing the man, modestly blushed, which hee perceiuing helde way on with her amongst her fellowe Apprentifes, and thus began a / gaine. I see Cofen you knowe mee not, and I doe not greatlie blame you, it is so long since you came forth of the Countrey: but I am such a ones sonne, naming her Vnclle right, and his sonnes name, which shee very well remembred, but had not seene him in eleuen yeares. Then taking forth a bowed groat, and an olde pennie bowed, hee gave it her as being sent from her Vnclle and Aunt, whom hee tearmed to bee his Father and Mother: Withall (quoth hee) I haue a Gammon of bacon and a Cheefe from my Vnclle your Father, which are sent to your Maister and Mistrefle, which I receiued of the Carrier, because my Vnclle enioynde mee to deliuer them, when I muft intreat your mistres, that at Whit-
fontide next shée will giue you leaue to come
downe into the Countrey. The Maide thinking
fimplie all hee sayd was true, and as they so farre
from their parents, are not onely glad to heare of
their welfare, but also reioyce to see any of their
kindred: so this poore Maid, well knowing her
Vnkle had a fonne so named as hee called himfelfe,
and thinking from a boy (as he was at her leauing
the Countrey) hee was now growen such a proper
handsome young man, was not a little ioyfull to
see him: beseide, shee seemed proud that her
kinsman was so neat a youth, and so shee helde
on questioning with him about her friendes: hee
soothing each matter so cuningly, as the maide
was confidently perfwaded of him. In this time,
one of the children steppe to her mother and
sayd, Our marget (mother) hath a fine coofen come
out of the Country, and he hath a Cheefe for my
Father and you: wherevpon shée looking backe,
said: maid, is that your kinsman? Yea forsooth
mitres, quoth shée, my Vncles son, whome I left
a little one when I came forth of the countrey.

The wily Treacher, beeing maifter of his trade,
woulde not let slippe this opportunitie, but cour-
eteouflie stepping to the Mistresse, (who louing
her maid well, because indeede shée had beene a
very good feruant, and from her first comming
to London had dwelt with her, toould her husband
thereof) coyned such a smooth tale vnto them both, fronting it with the Gammon of Bacon and the Chéese sent from their maides Father, and hoping they would giue her leaue at Whitfontide to visite the countrey, as they with verie kinde wordes entertained him, inviting him the next night to supper, when he promised to bring with him the Gammon of bacon and the cheefe. Then framing an excuse of certaine busines in the town, for that time hee tooke his leaue of the Maiyster and Miftresse, and his newe Cofen Ma[r]garet, who gaue manie a looke after him (poore wench) as hee went, ioying in her thoughts to haue such a kinseman.

On the morrow hee prepared a good Gammon of bacon, which he closed vp in a soiled linnen cloath, and sewed an old card vpon it, whereon he wrote a superinscription vnto the Maiyster of the Maide, and at what signe it was to be deliuered, and afterward scraped some of the letters halfe out, that it might seeme they had bene rubd out in the carriage. A good Chéese hee prepared likewise, with inscription accordingly on it, that it could not bee discerned, but that some vnskilfull writer in the Country had done it, both by the grosse proportion of the letters, as also the bad Ortographie, which amongst plaine husband-men is verie common, in that they haue no better instruction. So
hiring a Porter to carry them, betwéene fiue and fixe in the euening hée comes to the Cittizens house, and entring the shop, receiues them of the Porter, whom the honest meaning Cittizen woulde haue paied for his paines, but this his maids new found Cofen faide hée was satisfied alreadie, and so straining courtesie would not permit him: well, vp are carried the Bacon and the Cheese, where God knowes, Margaret / was not a little busie, to haue all things fine and neat againft her Cofens comming vp, her mistreflėlikewise, (as one well affectingevery good chĕere, fet all her plate on the Cubboorde for shewe, and beautified the house with Costeons, Carpets, shools and other deuifes of needle worke, as at such times diuers will doo, to haue the better report made of their credite amongst their seruants friends in the Countrey, albeit at this time (God wot) it turned to their owne after-forrowing. The maister of the house, to delay the time while Supper was readie, hée likewise shewes this dissemblere his shop, who seeing things fadge so pat to his purpose, could question of this sort, and that wel enough I warrant you, to discerne the best from the worst and their appointed places, purposing a further reach then the honest Cittizen dreamed of: and to bée plaine with ye, such was this occupiers trade, as though I may not name it, yet thus
much I dare utter, that the worst thing he could carry away, was worth above 20 nobles, because hee dealt altogether in whole and great sale, which made this companion forge this kindred and acquaintance: for an hundred pound or twaine was the very least hee aimed at. At length the mistrefs sendes worde supper is on the Table, where vpon vppe hee conducts his guest, and after divers welcomes, as also thankes for the Cheefe and Bacon: To the Table they sit, where let it suffice, hee wanted no ordinarie good fare, wine and other knackes, besides much talke of the Coun-

try, how much his friendes were beholding for his Cofen Margaret, to whome by her mistress leaue hee dranke twise or thrise, and shee poore soule dooing the like againe to him with remembrance of her Father and other kindred, which he still smoothened very cunningly. Countenaunce of talke made them careles of the time, which flippd from them [twister] then they were aware of, nor did the deceiuer haften his departing, because he expected what indeed followed, which was, that being past tenne of the clocke, and hee feigning his lodging to be at Saint Gyles in the field, was intreated both by the good man and his wife, to take a bed there for that night: for fashion fake (though verie glad of this offer) hee said he would not trouble them, but giuing the many thanks, would to his lodging
though it were further. But woonderfull it was to see howe earnest the honest Citizen and his wife laboured to perswade him, that was more willing to stay then they could bee to bidde him, and what dissembled willingnesse of departure hee vfed on the other side, to couer the secret villanie intended. Well, at the length, with much adoe, he is contented to stay, when Margaret and her mistresse presently stirred to make ready his bed, which the more to the honest mans hard hap, but all the better for this artificiall Conny-catcher, was in the same roume where they supped, being commonly called their hall, and there indeede stoode a verie faire bed, as in such fighthly roumes it may easily bee thought, Citizens use not to haue anie thing meane or simpie. The mistresse, leaft her guest should imagine she disturbed him, suffered all the plate to stand still on the cupbord: and when she perceiued his bed was warmed, and euery thing els according to her mind, she and her husband bidding him good night: tooke themselves to their chamber, which was on the same floore, but inward, hauing another chamber betweene them and the hall, where the maides and children had their lodging. So desiring him to call for anything hee wanted, and charging Margaret to looke it should be so, to bed are they gone: when the Appren-
tifes hauing brought vp the keyes of the street
dore, and left them in their maisters chamber as they were woont to do, after they had saied praiers, their euening exercise, to bed go they likewise, / which was in a Garret backward ouer their maisters chamber. None are nowe vp but poore Margaret and her counterfeit coosen, whom she loth to offend with long talke, because it waxed late: after some fewe more speeches, about their parentes and friendes in the countrey, she seeing him laid in bed, and all such thinges by hym as shee deemed needfull, with a low courtezie I warrant ye, commits him to his quiet, and so went to bed to her fellowes, the maidservantes. Well did this hypocrite perceiue the keyes of the doores carried into the good mans chamber, whereof he being not a little glad, thought now they would imagine all things sure, and therefore doubtleffe sleepe the founder: as for the keyes, hee needed no helpe of them, because such as hee go neuer vnprouided of instrumëts fitting their trade, and so at this time was this notable trecher. In the dead time of the night, when found sleepe makes y eare vnapt to heare the verie leaft noyse, he forlaketh his bed, & hauing gotten all the plate bound vp togither in his clocke, goeth downe into the shop, where well rememb-ring both the place and percels, maketh vp his pack with some twenty pounds-worth of goods more. Then fetling to his engin, he getteth
the doore off the hindges, and being forth, lysteth close to againe, and so departes, meeting within a dozen paces, three or foure of his companions that lurked therabouts for the purpose. Their word for knowing ech other, as is faid, was Quest, and this villaines comfortable newes to them, was Twag, signifying he had sped: ech takes a fleece for easier carriage, and so away to Bellbrow, which, as I haue heard is as they interpret it, the house of a théefe receiuer, without which they can do nothing, and this house with an apt porter to it, stands redie for them all houres of the night: too many such are there in London, the maisters whereof beare countenance of honest substantiall men, but all their liuing is gotten in this order, the end of such (though they scape awhile) will be sayling westward in a Cart to Tiborn. Imagine these villaines there in their iollitie, the one reporting point by point his cunning deceit, and the other (fitting his humour) extolling the deede with no meane commendations. But returning to the honest Citizen, who finding in the morning how dearly he paid for a gammon of Bacon, and a cheéfe, and how his kinde courtesie was thus trecherously requited: blames the poore maid, as innocent herein as himselfe, and imprisoning her, thinking so to regaine his owne, grieve with ill cherishing there shortens her life: And thus ensueth
one hard hap vpon another, to the great griefe
both of maifter and mistresse, when the trueth was
knowne, that they so wronged their honest seruant.
How [this] may forewarne others, I leaue to your
own opinions, that see what extraordinarie deuises
are now adayes, to beguile the simple and honest
liberall minded.

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

A Crew of these wicked companions being one
day met togethiter in Pauls Church, (as that
is a usuall place of their assembly, both to deter-
mine on their driftes, as also to speede of manie a
bootie) seeing no likelihood of a good afternoone,
so they tearme it, either forenoon or after, when
ought is to be done: some dispersed themselues
to the plaies, other to the bowling Allies, and
not past two or three stayed in the Church: Quoth
one of them, I haue vowed not to depart but
something or other Ile haue before I go: my
minde /gives me, that this place yet will yeeld vs
all our suppers this night: the other holding
like opinion with him, there likewise walked vp
and downe, looking when occasion would serue for
fome Cash. At length they espied a Gentleman toward the lawe, entring in at the little North doore, and a countrey Clyent going with him in very hard talke: the Gentleman holding his gowne open with his armes on either fide as verie manie doe, gaue fight of a faire purple veluet purfe, which was halfe put vnder his girdle: whiche I warrant you the resolute fellow that woulde not depart without some thing, had quickly espied. A game, qd. he to his fellows, marke the fstand, and so separating themselues walked aloofe, the Gentleman going to the nether steppe of the ftaires that ascend vp into the Quire, and there he walked still with his cyent. Oft this crew of mates met together, and faid there was no hope of nipping the boung because he held open his gowne fo wide, and walked in fuch an open place. Base knaues, quoth the frolicke fellowe, if I fay I will haue it, I muft haue it, though hee that owes it had fworne the contrarie. Then looking afide, hee spied his trugge or queane comming vp the Church: Away, quoth he to the other, go looke you for some other purchafe, this wench and I are fufficient for this. They go, he leiffons the drab in this forte, that fhee fould to the Gentleman, whose name fhe verie well knew, in that fhee had holpe to coofen him once before, & preteding to be fent to him frō one he was wel acquainted with for his councell, fould giue him
his fee for avoiding suspicion, and so frame some wrong done her, as well enough she could: when her mate (taking occasion as it served) would worke the meane, she should strike, & so they both preuaile. The queane well inured with such courses, because she was one of ye most skilfull in that profession, walked vp and downe alone in the Gentleman's sight, that he might discerne she staied to speake with him, and as he turned toooward her, he saw her take money out of her purse, whereby he gathered some benefite was toward him: which made him the sooner dispatch his other client, when she stepping to him, tolde such a tale of commendations from his verie friend, that he had sent her to him as she said, that he entertained her very kindly, and giuing him his fee, which before her face he put vp into his purse, and thrust it vnder his girdle againe: she proceeded to a verie found discourse, whereto he listened with no little attention. The time seruing fit for the fellows purpose, he came behind the Gentleman, and as many times one friend will familiarly with another, claps his handes ouer his eyes to make him guesse who he is, so did this companion, holding his handes fast ouer the Gentlemans eyes, saide: who am I? twice or thrife, in whiche time the drab had gotten the purse and put it vp. The Gentleman thinking it beene some merrie friend of his,
reckoned the names of three or foure, when letting him go, the craftie knaue dissembling a bashfull flame of what he had done, said: By my troth sir I crie ye mercy, as I came in at the Church doore I tooke ye for such a one (naming a man) a vere friend of mine, whome you very much resemble. I beseech ye be not angrie, it was very boldly done of me, but in penance of my fault, so please you to accept it, I will bestow a gallon or two of wine on ye, and so laboured him earnestly to go with him to the tauerne, still alledging his sorrow for mistaking him. The Gentleman little suspecting how who am I, had handled him, seeing how forie he was, and seeming to be a man of no such base condition: tooke all in good part, saying: No harme sir, to take one for another, a fault wherein any man may easily erre: and so excusing the acceptation of his wine, because he was busie there with a Gen/tlewoman his friend: the Trecher with courtesie departed, and the drab (having what she would) shortning her tale, he desiring her to com to his chamber the next morning, went to the place where her copes-mate & she met, and not long after, divers others of the crue, who hearing in what manner this act was perfourmed, smiled a good thereat, that she had both got the Gentlemans purse, her owne money againe, and his advisse for iust no thing. He that had done
this tall exploit, in a place so open in view, so hardly to be com by, and on a man that made no mean estéeme of his wit: bids his fellowes keep the woorthlesse name of a Conny-catcher to themselfes: for hee hence-forth would be tearmed a Foole-taker, and such as could imitate this quaint example of his (which hee would set downe as an entrance into that art) should not thinke scorne to become his schollers.

Night drawing on apace, the Gentleman returned home, not all this while missing his purse, but being set at supper, his wife intreated a pint of Secke, which hee minding to send for: drewe to his purse, and seeing it gone, what strange lookes (beside sighs) were between him and his wife, I leave to your supposing, and blame them not: for as I haue heard, there was seuen pound in Golde, beside thirty shillings and odd white money in the purse. But in the middest of his griefe hee remembred him that said, who am I? Wherewith hee brake forth into a great laughter, the cause whereof his wife being desirous to know, hee declared all that passed betwéene him and the deceiuer, as also how sone afterward the queane abreviated her discoursé and followed: so by troth wife (quoth he) betwéene who am I and the drab, my purse is gone: let his losse teach others to looke better to theirs. /
An other Tale of a coofening companion, who would needs trie his cunning in this new inuented art, and how by his kuauery (at one infiant) he beguiled half a dozen and more.

Of late time there hath a certaine base kind of trade been vsed, who though diuers poor men, & doubtles honest apply themselves to, only to relieue their need: yet are there some notorious varlets to the fame, being compacted with such kind of people, as this present treatife manifefteth to the worlde; and what with outward simplicity on the one side, and cunning close trechery on the other, diuers honest Cittizens and day-labouring men, that ressort to such places as I am to speake of, onely for recreation as opportunity serueth, haue bin of late sundry times deceiued of their purfes. This trade, or rather vnsufferable loytring qualitie, in sunging of Ballets and fongs at the doores of such houses where plaies are vsed, as also in open markets and other places of this Cittie, where is most resort: which is nothing els but a fly fetch to draw many togethther, who liftning vnto an harmelesse dittie, afterward walke home to their houses with heauie hearts: from such as are heereof true witneseses to their cost, do I deliuer this example. A subtill fellow, belike imboldned by acquaintance with the former
deceit, or els béeing but a beginner to practife the same, calling certaine of his companions together, would try whether he could attaine to be maister of his art or no, by taking a great many of fools with one traine. But let his intent and what els bëside, remaine to abide the cenfure after yat mater is heard, & come to Gracious stëheet, where this villanous pranke was performed. A roging mate, & such another with him, were there got vpö a ftal finging of balets, which belike was som pretty toy, for very many gathered / about to heare it, & diuers buying, as their affections servued, drew to their purses, & paid the fingers for the. The flye mate and his fellowes, who were dispersed among them that stood to heare the fonges: well noted where euerie man that bought, put vp his purse againe, and to such as would not buy, counterfeit warning was fundrie times giuen by the rogue and his associate, to beware of the cut-purse, and looke to their purses, which made them often feel where their purses were, either in fleueue, hose, or at girdle, to know whether they were safe or no. Thus the craftie copefmates were acquainted with what they most desired, and as they were scattered, by shouldring, thrüsting, feigning to let fall someting, and other wilie tricks fit for their purpose: heere one loft his purse, there another had his pocket pickt, and to
fay all in breife, at one instant, vpon the complaint of one or two that sawe their purfes were gone, eight more in the same companie, found themselues in like predicament. Some angrie, others sorrowfull, and all greatly discontented, looking about them, knewe not who to suspect or challenge, in that the villaines themselues that had thus beguiled them, made shewe that they had sustained like loss. But one angrie fellow, more impatient then al the rest, he falles vpon the ballade finger, and beating him with his fists well fauouredly, sayes if he had not listened his singing, he had not lost his purse, and therefore woulde not be otherwise perswaded, but that they two and the cut-purses were compacted together. The rest that had lost their purses likwise, and saw that so many complaints together: they jumpe in opinion with the other fellow, & begin to tug & hale the ballad fingers, when one after one the false knaues began to shrinke awaie with their purses. By meanes of some officer then being there prefet, the two rogues wer had before a Iustice, and vpon his discréeete examination made, it was found / that they and the Cut-purses were compacted together, and that by this vnusupected villanie, they had deceiued many. The fine Foole-taker himselfe, with one or two more of that companie, was not long after appre-hended: when I doubt not but they had their
reward answerable to their deserving: for I hear of their journey westward, but not of their return: let this forewarn those that listen singing in the streets.

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

A Friend of mine sent me this note, and assuring me the truth thereof, I thought necessary to set it downe amongst the rest: both for the honest simplicitye on the one side and most cunning knauerye vsed on the other; and thus it was. Two young men of familiar acquaintance, who delighted much in musicke, because themselves therein were somewhat expert, as on the virginals, Bandora, Lute and such like: were one euening at a common Inne of this town (as I haue heard) where the one of them shewed his skil on the Virginals, to the no little contentment of the hearers. Nowe as divers guests of the house came into the room to listen, so among the rest entered an artificall Conny-catcher, who as occasion serued, in the time of ceasing betwene the severall toyes and fancies hee plaied: very much commended his cunning, quicke hand, and such qualities praifeworthy in such a professour.
The time being come, when these young men craued leaue to depart, this politique varlet stepping to them, desired that they would accept a quart of wine at his hand, which he would, most glad-/ lie he would, bestow vpon them: besides, if it liked him that played on the Virginals to instruct, he would helpe him to so good a place, as happily might aduantage him for euer. These kind words, deliuered with such honest outward shew, caufed the young men, whose thoughts were free from any other opinion, than to be as truely and plainely dealt withall as themselves meant, accepted his offer, because he that played on the Virginalles was defirous to haue some good place of service, and here vpon to the Tauerne they goe, and being set, the wily companion calleth for two pintes of wine, a pinte of white, and a pinte of claret, casting his cloake vpon the Table, and falling to his former communication of preferring the young man. The wine is brought, and two cuppes with-all, as is the usuall manner: when drinking to them of one pinte, they pledge him, not vnthankfull for his gentlenesse. After some time spent in talke, and as he perceiued fit for his purposè, hee takes the other cup, and tasteth the other pinte of wine: wherewith he finding fault, that it dranke somewhat harde, sayde, that Rose-watar and Sugar would do no harme: whereupon he leaues his seate,
faying he was well acquainted with one of the
feruants of the house, of whom he could haue two
pennywoorth of. Rosewater for a peny, and so
of Sugar likewise, wherefore he would step to the
barre vnto him: so taking the cup in his hand, he
did, the young men neuer thinking on any such
treachery as ensued, in that he seamed an honest
man, and beseide left his cloke lying on the table
by them. No more returnes the yonker with Rose-
water and Sugar, but stepping out of doores, vnseene
of any, goes away roundly with the cup. The
young men not a little wondering at his long
tarrying, by the comming of the seruants to see
what they wanted, who tooke no regarde of his
sudden departure, find themselues there left, not
onlie to pay for the wine, but for the Cuppe alfo,
beeing rashly supposed by the maifter and his
seruantes to be copartners with the treacherous
villaine: but their honest behauiour well knowne,
as also their simplicitie too much abusfed, well
witnessed their innocencie: notwithstanding they
were faine to pay for the cuppe, as afterward they
did, hauing nothing towards their charge but a
threede bare cloake not woorth two shillinges. Take
heede how you drinke wine with any such com-
panions.
Of an honest houholder which was cunningly deceived by a subtil companion, that came to hire a Chamber for his Maister.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

_of a yoong Nip that cunningly beguiled an antient profes sor of that trade, and his queane with hym, at a play._

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

A Gentleman of the Cuntrye, who (as I haue heard since the time of his mishap, wherof I am now to speake) had about halfe a yeer before buried his wife & belike thinking well of some other Gentlewoman, whom he ment to make account of as his second choise: vþo good hope or otherwise perfwaded, he came vp to London to prouide himselfe of such necessaries as the Cuntry is not usuallly stored withall. Befides, filkes, veluets, cambrickes and fuch like, he bought a Chaine of Golde that cost him lvij. pounds and odde money, wher of because he would haue the maydenhead or first wearing himselfe, he presently put it on in the Goldsmiths shop, and so walked therwith about London as his occasions ferued. But let not the Gentleman be offended, who if this Booke come to his handes, can best auouch the trueth of this discours, if here by the way I blame his rash pride, or simple credulitie: for betweene the one and other, the Chaine he paide so deere for about ten of the clock in the morning, the Cunny-catchinges the fame day ere night shared amongſt them: a matter whereat he may well greue, and I be forie, in respect he is
my very good freend: but to the purpose. This Gentleman walking in Paules, with his Chaine faire glittering about his necke, talking with his man about some busines: was well viewed and regarded by a crewe of Co/ny-catchers, whose teeth watred at his goodly Chaine, yet knew not how to come by it hanging as it did, and therefore entred into secret conspiration among themselues, if they could not come by all the Chain, yet how they might make it lighter by half a score poundes at the leaft. Still had they their eyes on the honest Gentleman, who little doubted any such treason intended againste his so late bought bargaine: and they hauing laid their plot, eche one to be affistant in this enterprife, saw when the Gentleman dismissed his servuant, to go about such affaires as he had appointed him, himselfe still walking there vp and downe the middle Ifle. One of these mates, that stoode moft on his cunning in these exploytes, folowed the servuingman foorth of the Church, calling him by diuers names, as Iohn, Thomas, William, &c. as though he had knowne his right name, but could not hit on it: which whether he did or no I know not, but well I wot the seruingman turned back againe, and seeing him that called him seemed a Gentleman, booted and cloaked after the newest fashion, came with his hat in his hand to him, saying: Sir, do ye call me? Marie do I my
friend quoth the other, doonest not thou serve such a Gentleman? and named one as himself please. No truely Sir, answered the servingman, I know not any such Gentleman as you speake of. By my troth, replyed the Conny-catcher, I am assured I knew thee, and thy Master, though now I cannot suddenly remember my self. The servingman fearing no harme, yet fitting the humour of this trecherous companion, tolde right his Master's name whome he servèd, and that his Master was even then walking in Paules. O Gods will (quoth the Cony-catcher, repeating his masters name) a very honest Gentleman, of such a place is he not? naming a shire of the Country: for he must knowe both name, Country and somtimes what Gentlemen dwell neere the partie that is to be ouer reached, ere he can proceed. No indeed Sir (answered the servingman, with such reverence as it had beene to an honest Gentlemæ in deed) my Master is of such a place, a mile from such a Towner, and hard by such a knights house: by which report the deceiuer was halfe instructed, because though he was ignorant of the fellows Master, yet well he knew the Country, and the knight named. So craving pardon that he had mistaken him, he returnes againe into the Church, and the servingman trudgeth about his assigned busines. Being come to the rest of the crewe,
he appointes one of them (whome he knewe to be expert in deed) to take this matter in hand, for himselfe might not do it, leaft the seruingman shoulde return and knowe him: he schooled the rest likewise what euery man shoulde do when the pinch came, and changing his cloke with one of his fellowes, walked by him selfe, attending the feate: and euery one being as ready, the apointed fellow makes his sallye foorth, and comming to the Gentleman, calling him by his name, giues him the courtesie and embrace, likewise thanking him for good cheere he had at his house, which he did with such seemly behauiour and protestatio, as the Gentleman (thinking the other to be no leffe) vied like action of kindenes to him. Now as Country Gentlemen haue many visiters both with neere dwelling neighbours, and freends that iourney from farre, whome they can hardly remember, but some principall one that serues as countenance to the other: so he not discrediting the cunning mates woordes, who still at euery point alleaged his kinred to the knight, neighbour to the Gentleman, which the poor seruing man had (doubting no ill) reuealed before, and that both there and at his own house in hawking time with that knight and other Gentlemen of the Cuntrey he had liberally tafted his kindnes: desiring pardon that / he had forgotten him, and offered him the courtesie of the
CONNY-CATCHING.

Citie. The Conny catcher excused him selfe for that time, saying, at their next meeting he would beftow it on him. Then feeming to haue espyed his Chaine, and commending the fairenes and woorkmanship thereof: fayes, I pray ye fir take a little coufel of a freend, it may be you will returne thankes for it. I wonder quoth he, you dare weare fuch a costly Iewell fo open in sight, which is euen but a baite to entice bad men to adventure time and place for it, and nowhere fooner then in this Cittie, where (I may fay to you) are fuch a number of Connycatchers, Cofloners and fuch like, that a man can fcarcely keep anything from them, they haue fo many reaches and fleights to beguile withall: which a very efpeciall freend of mine found too true not many daies fince. Heervppon he tolde a very folemne tale, of villanies and knaueries in his owne profeffion, wherby he reported his freend had loft a watch of golde: shewing how clofely his freende wore it in his bosome, and how strangely it was gotten from him, that the gentleman by that difcourage waxed halfe affraide of his Chaine. And givings him many thanks for this good warning, prefently takes the Chaine from about his necke, and tying it vp faft in a handkercher, put it into his fleue, faying, If the Conny-catcher get it heere, let him not fpare it. Not a little did the tretcher fmile in his fleue, hearing the rash
securitie, but in deed simplicitie of the gentleman, and no sooner sawe he it put vp, but presently he counted it sure his owne, by the assistance of his complices, that lay in an ambuscado for the purpose: with embraces and courtesies on either side, the Conny catcher departes, leauing the gentleman walking there still: whereat the crew were not a little offended, that he still kept in the Church, and would not goe abroad. Well, at length (belike remembering some / business) the Gentleman taking leaue of an other that talked with him, hafted to go forth at the furthest west doore of Paules, which he that had talked with him, and gaue him such counsell perceiving, hied out of the other doore, and got to the entraunce ere he came foorth, the rest following the gentleman at an inch. As hee was stepping out, the other steped in, and let fall a keie, hauing his hat so low ouer his eyes, that he could not wel discerne his face, and stooping to take vp the keie, kepeth the gentleman from going backeward or forward, by reasone his legge was ouer the threshold. The formost Conny-catcher behind, pretending a quarrell vnto him that stooped, rapping out an oath, and drawing his dagger, faide: Doe I meete the villaine? Nay, hee shall not scape mee now, and so made offer to strike him.

The gentleman at his standing vp, seeing it was hee that gaue him so good counsaile, and pretended
himselfe his verie friend, but neuer imagining this traine was made for him, steppt in his defence: when the other following tript vp his heele: so that hee and his counsellour were downe together, and two more vpon them, striking with their daggers verie eagerly: marie indeede the gentleman had most of the blowes, and both his handkercher with the chaine, and also his purse with threee and fiftie shillinges in it, were taken out of his pocket in this strugling, euene by the man that himselfe defended.

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

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

Within the Cittie of London, dwelleth a worthy man who hath very great dealing in his trade, and his shop very well frequented with Customers: had such a shrewd mischaunce of late by a Cunny catcher, as may well serue for an example to others leafte they haue the like. A Cunning villaine, that had long time haunted this Citizens house, and gotten many a cheat which he carried awaye safely: made it his custome when he wanted money, to helpe him selfe euer where he had sped so often: diuers thinges he had which were never mist, especiallly such as appertained to the Citi/zens trade, but when anye were found wanting, they could not devise which way they were gone, so pollitiquely this fellow alwayes behaued himselfe: well knew he what times of greatest busines this Cittizen had in his trade, and when the shop is most stormed with Chapmen: then
would he step vp the staires (for there was and is another door to the house besides that which entreteth into the shop) and what was next hand came euery away with. One time aboue the rest, in an euening about Candlemas, when daylight shuts in about fix of the clock, he watched to do some feate in the house, and seeing the mistresse goe foorth with her maid, the goodman and his folkes very busie in the shop: vp the staires he goes as he was wonte to doo, and lifting vp the latcher of the hall portall doore, saw nobody neere to trouble him: when stepping into the next chamber, where the Citizen and his wife usually lay, at the beds feete there stood a hansome truncke, wherein was very good linnen, a faire gilt falte, two silver french bowles for wine, two silver drinking pots, a stone Jugge couered with silver, and a dozen of silver spoons. This truncke he brings to the staires head, and making fast the doore againe, drawes it downe the steppes so softlye as he could, for it was so bigge and heauy, as he could not easily carry it: hauing it out at the doore, vnseene of any neighbour or anybody else, he stood strugling with it to lift it vp on the stall, which by reason of the weight trobled him very much. The goodman comming foorth of his shop, to bid a customer or two far well, made the fellowe affraide he should now be taken for all togither: but calling his
wittes together to escape if he could, he stood gazing vp at the signe belonging to the house, as though he were desirous to knowe what signe it was: which the Citizen perceiuing, came to him and asked him what he fought for? I looke for the signe of the blew / bell sir, quoth the fellowe, where a gentleman hauing taken a chamber for this tearme time, hath sent me hether with this his Troncke of apparell: quoth the Citizen, I know no such signe in this streete, but in the next (naming it) there is such a one indéede, and there dwelleth one that letteth foorth the chambers to gentlemen. Truely sir quoth the fellowe, thats the house I should go to, I pray you sir lend me your hand but to help the Trunke on my back, for I thinking to ease me a while vpon your stall, set it shorte, and now I can hardly get it vp againe. The Citizen not knowing his owne Trunke, but indeede never thinking on any such notable deceite: helpes him vp with the Truncke, and so sends him away roundly with his owne goods. When the Truncke was mist, I leave to your conceits what houfholde greefe there was on all sides, especiallye the goodman himselfe, who remembring how hee helpt the fellow vp with a Truncke, perceiued that hereby hee had beguyled himselfe, and loste more then in haste hee should recover againe. How this may admonish others, I leave to the judgement
of the indifferent opinion, that see when honest meaning is so craftily beleagerd, as good foresight must be vsed to preuent such daungers. / 

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Being sure the Tayler should be kept absent, hee sends another mate home to his house, who abused his seruants with this deuise: That the Ladies man had met their master abroad, and had him to the other Ladie to take mesure of her, and left they should delay the time too long, hee was sent for the satten and lace, declaring the token appointed, and withall geuing their masters signet ring for better confirmation of his message. The seruants could doe no leffe then deliuer it, being commaunded (as they supposed) by so credible testimonie: Neither did the leyfure of any one serue to goe with the messenger: who seemed an honest young Gentleman, and caried no cause of distruf in his countenance. Wherefore they delivered him the lace and satten foulded vp together as it was, and desired him to will their master to make some speede home, both for cutting out of worke, and other occasions.

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

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

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

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

1592.
NOTE.

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

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

DISCOVERING THE SECRET VILLAINIES of alluring Strumpets.

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

Reade, laugh, and learne.

Nascimur pro patria.

R. G.

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

Gentlemen, Countrey men, and kinde friends, for so I value all that are honest and enemies of bad actions, although in my bookes of Conny-catching I haue discoverd divers formes of cowonings, and painted out both the facking and crosbyting lawes, which Trumpets vfe to the destruction of the simple, yet willing to search all the substance, as I haue glauncft at the shadow, & to enter into the nature of villanie, as I haue broacht vp the secretes of vice, I haue thought good to publish this Dialogue, or disputacion, betweene a hee Conny-catcher, and a shee Conny-catcher, whether of them are most prejudiciall to the Common-wealth: discoursing the base qualitities of them both, and discouering the inconuenience that growes to men, through the lightnes of inconstant wantons, who being wholy giuen to the spoyle, seeke the ruine of such as light into their companie. In this Dialogue, louing Country-men
fhall you finde what prejudice ensues by haunting of whore-houses, what dangers grows by dallying with common harlottes, what inconuenience followes the inordinate pleasures of vnchaft Libertines, (not onely by their confuming of their wealth, and impouerishment of their goods and landes, but to the great indangering of their health). For in conuerfing / with them, they aime not simply at the loffe of goods, and blemish of their good names, but they sith for diseaues, ficknesse, fores incurable, vlcers brusting out of the ioyntes, and fault rhumes, which by the humour of that villanie, lepte from Naples into Fraunce and from Fraunce into the bowels of Englande: which makes many crye out in their bones, whilst goodman Surgion laughs in his purfe: a thing to be feared as deadly while men liue, as hell is to be dreaded after death, for it not only infecteth the bodie, consumeth the soule, and waiste[th] wealth and worship, but ingraues a perpetuall shame in the forehead of the partie so abusfed. Whereof Maister Huggins hath well written in his Myrror of Magiftrates, in the perfon of Memprycaius, exclaiming against harlots: the verses be these:

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

*Quatuor his casibus fine dubio cadet adulter,*  
*Aut hic pauper e[r]it, aut hic subito morietur,*  
*Aut cadet in causum qua debet iudice vinci,*  
*Aut aliquod membrum cafu vell crimine perdet.*

Which I Englished thus:

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

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

Farewell.

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

Laurence.

Aire Nan well met, what newes about your Vine Court that you looke fo blythe? your cherry cheekes discouers your good fare, and your braue apparell bewraies a fat purse: is Fortune now alate growne fo fauourable to Foyftes, that your husband hath lighted on some large purchase, or hath your smooth lookes linckt in some yong Nouice to sweate for a fauour all the byte in his Bounge, and to leaue himzelfe as many Crownes as thou haft got good conditions, and then hee fhall bee one of Pierce penileffe fraternitie: how is it sweete wench, goes the worlde on wheele, that you tread fo daintily on your typtoes?
Nan. Why Laurence are you pleasant or pessish, that you quip with such breefe girdes? thinke you a quarterne winde cannot make a quicke faile, that easie lyftes cannot make heavy burthens, that women haue not wiles to compasse crownes as wel as men? yes & more, for though they be not so strong in the fists, they bee more ripe in their wittes: and tis by wit that I liue and will liue, in dispight of that pessish scholler, that thought with his conny-catching bookees to haue crofbyt our trade. Doest thou maruell to see me thus brikt? fayre wenches cannot want favours, while the world is so full of amorous foolese: where can such girles as my selfe bee blemisht with a threebare coat, as long as country Farmers haue full purses, and wanton Citizens pockets full of pence?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nan. And have you no stronger arguments
goodman Laurence, to argue your excellencie in
villanie but this? then in faith put vp your pipes,
AND A SHEE CONNY-CATCHER.

and giue mee leave to speake: your choplodgicke
hath no great subteltie for simple: you reason of
foyfting, & appropriate that to your selues, to you
men I meane, as though there were not women
Foyfts and Nippes, as neat in that Trade as you,
of as good an eye, as fine and nimble a hand, and
of as resolute a heart, yes Laurence, and your good
mistresses in that mystery: for we without like
supplication can passe in your walke under the couler
of simplicitie to Westminster, with a paper in our
hand, as if we were distressed women, that had
some supplication to put vp to the Judges, or some
bill of information to deliver to our Lawyers, when
God wot, we shuffle in for a boung as well as the
best of you all, yea as your selfe Laurence, though
you be called King of Cut-purses: for though they
smoke you, they will hardly mistrust vs, and sup-
pose our stomacke stand against it to foyst, yet
who can better playe the staule or the shadowe
then wee? for in a thrust or throng if we shoule
hard, who is hee that will not sauour a woman,
and in giuing place to vs, giue you free passage
for his purse? Againe, in the market, when euerie
wife hath almost her hand on her boung, and that
they crie beware the Cutpurse and Conny-catchers,
then I as faft as the best with my hand basket as
mannerly as if I were to buye great store of butter
and egges for prouision of my house, do exclaime

x. 14
against them with my hand on my purse, and say the world is bad when a woman cannot walk safely to market for fear of these villainous Cut-purses, when as the first bourg I come to, I either nip or foyst, or else staule an other while he hath straken, dispatch, and gone: now I pray you gentle sir, wherein are we inferior to you in foysting? and yet this is nothing to the purpose. For it is one of our most simplest shifts: but yet I pray you, what thinke you when a farmer, gentleman, or Citizen, come to the Tearme, perhaps he is wary of his purse, and watch him never so warily, yet he will never be brought to the blow, is it not possible for vs to pinch him ere he pass? hee that is most charie of his crowns abroad, and will cry ware the Conny-catchers, will not be atraide to drinke a pinte of wine with a pretty wench, / and perhaps goe to a truggling house to ferry out one for his purpose: then with what cunning we can feede the simple fop, with what fayre wordes, sweete kisses, faied sighes, as if at that instant we fell in love with him that we never saw before: if we meet him in an euening in the street, if the farmer or other whatsoever, bee not so forward as to motion some curtesie to vs, we straight insinuate into his company, and claime acquaintance of him by some meanes or other, and if his minde be set for lust, and the diuell drieve him on to match him.
felse with some dishonest wanton, then let him looke to his purse, for if he do but kiss me in the streete, Ie haue his purse, for a farewell, although hee neuer commit any other act at all. I speake not this onely by my selfe, Lawrence, for there bee a hundredth in London more cunning then my selfe in this kinde of cunny-catching. But if hee come into a house, then let our trade alone to verse vpon him: for first we faine ourselues hungry, for the benefit of the house, although our bellies were neuer so ful, and no doubt the good Pander or Bawde shee comes foorth like a sober Matron, and sets store of Cates on the Table, and then I fall aboord on them, and though I can eate little, yet I make hauocke of all, and let him be sure euery dish is well faucst, for hee shall pay for a pipping Pye that cost in the Market four pence, at one of the Trugging houses xvii. pence: tush what is daintie if it bee not deare bought? and yet he must come off for crownes besides, and when I see him draw to his purse, I note the putting vp of it well, and ere wee part, that worlde goes hard if I foyst him not of all that hee hath: and then suppose the worst, that he misse it, am I so simply acquainted or badly prouided, that I haue not a friend, which with a few terrible oathes and countenance set, as if he were the proudest Souldado that euer bare armes against Don Iohn of Austria, will
face him quite out of his money, and make him walke lyke a woodcocke homeward by weeping crosse, and so buy repentance with all the crownes in his purse? How say you to this Lawrence, whether are women Foystes inferiour to you in ordinarie cousonage or no?

\textit{Laur.} Excellently well reasoned Nan, thou haft told mee wonders, but wench though you be wily and strike often, your blowes are not so big as ours.

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

\textit{Laur.} I and bethrow me, but you reason quaintly, yet wil I proue your wittes are not so ripe as ours, nor so readie to reach into the subtilties of kinde cousonage, and though you appropriate to your selfe the excellencie of Conny-catchinge, and that you doo it with more Art then we men do, because of your painted flatteries and fugred words, that you florish rethorically like nettes to catch fooles, yet will I manifeft with a merry instance, a feate done by a Foyst, that exceeded any that euer was done by any mad wench in England.
A pleasant Tale of a Country Farmer, that tooke it in scorn to haue his purse cut or drawne from him, and how a Foyst serued him.

T was told me for a truth that not long since here in London, there laie a country Farmar, with diuers of his neighbours about Law matters, amongst whom, one of them going to Westminster Hall, was by a Foyst stript of all the pence in his purse, and comming home, made great complaint of his misfortune: some lamented his losse, and others exclaimed against the Cutpurfes, but this Farmer he laught loudly at the matter, and said such fooles as could not keep their purses no suuer, were well serued, and for my part quoth hee, I so much sorne the Cutpurfes, that I would thank him hartily that would take paines to foyst mine: well faies his neighbor, then you may thank me, sith my harmes learnes you to beware, but if it be true, that many things fall out between the cup and the lip, you know not what hands Fortune may light in your owne lap: tush quoth the Farmar, heeres fortie pounds in this purse in gold, the proudest Cutpurfe in England win and weare it: as thus he boasted, there stood a subtill Foyst by and heard all, smilting to himselfe at the folly of the proude Farmar, and vowed to haue his purse, or venture his necke for it, and so went home and bewrayed
it to a crue of his companions, who taking it in dudgion, that they should be put down by a Peasant, met either at Laurence Pickerings, or at Lambeth: let the Blackamore take heede I name him not, leaft an honorable neighbor of his frowne at it, but wherefoever they met, they held a conuocation, and both consulted and concluded all by a generall consent, to bend all their wits to bee possiflers of this Farmers Boung, and for the execution of this their vow, they haunted about the Inne where he laie, and dogd him into diuers places, both to Westminfter Hall and other places, and yet could neuer light vpon it: he was fo watchfull and smoakt them fo narrowly, that all their trauell was in vaine: at laft one of them fledde to a more cunning pollicie, and went and learnde the mans name and where hee dwelt, and then hyed him to the Counter and entered an Action againft him of trefpaffe, damages two hundreth pounds: when hee had thus done, hee feed the Sargiants, and carried them downe with him to the mans lodging, wifthing them not to arrest him till he commaunded them: well agreed they were, and downe to the Farmers lodging they came, where were a crue of Foyfes, whom he had made priuy to the end of his praftife, flood wayting, but he tooke no knowledge at all of them, but walkt vp and downe: the Farmer came out and went to
Powles, the Cutpurse bad staie, and would not yet suffer the Officers to medle with him, til he came into the West end of Paules Churchyard, and there he willed them to do their Office, and they stepping to the Farmer arrested him: the Farmer amazed, beeing amongst his neighbors, asked the Sargent at whose suite hee was troubled? at whose suite soeuer it be, sayd one of the Cutpurses that stood by, you are wrongd honest man, for hee hath arrested you here in a place of priuiledge, where the Sherifses nor the Officers haue nothing to do with you, and therefore you are vnwise if you obey him: tush saies an other Cutpurse, though the man were so simple of himselfe, yet shall hee not offer the Church so much wrong, as by yeelding to the Mace, to imboldish Paules libertie, and therefore I will take his part, and with that hee drew his sword: another tooke the man and haled him away, the Officer he tooke hard to him, and sayd hee was his true prisoner, and cride Clubbes: the Prentises arose, and there was a great hurly burly, for they tooke the Officers part, so that the poore Farmer was mightily turmoyld amongst them, and almost haled in pecces: whilst thus the strife was, one of the Foyltes had taken his purse away, and was gone, and the Officer carried the man away to a Tauerne, for he swore he knew no such man, nor any man that he was indebted too: as then
they fatte drinking of a quart of wine, the Foyft that had caused him to be arrested sent a note by a Porter to the Officer that he should release the Farmer, for he had mistaken the man, which note the Officer shewed him, and bid him pay his fees and go his waies: the poore Country-man was content with that, and put his hand in his pocket to feele for his purse, and God wot there was none, which made his heart far more cold then the arrest did, and with that fetching a great sigh he sayd, alas maisters I am vndone, my purse in this fraie is taken out of my pocket, and ten pounds in gold in it besides white money. Indeed sayd the Sargiant, commonly in such brawles the cut-purses be busie, and I pray God the quarell was not made vpon purpose by the pickpockets: well saies his neighbor, who shall smile at you now? the other day when I lost my purse you laught at mee: the Farmer brooke all, and fat malecontent, and borowed money of his neighbors to paye the Sargiant, and had a learning I beleewe [n]euer after to braue the cutpurse.

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

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

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

_There came out of the country a Foyft, to trie his experience here in Westminfter Hall, and strooke a hand or two, but the diuell a snap he would giue to our citizen Foyftes, but wrought warily, and could not be fetcht off by no meanes, and yet it was knowne he had some twentie poundes about him, but hee had planted it so cunningly in his doublet that it was sure inough for finding. Although the cittie Foyftes layde all the plottes they could, as well by discouerying him to the Gaylors as other wayses, yet hee was so politique, that they could not verfe vpon him by any meanes, which greeued them so, that one day at a dinner, they held a counfayle amongst them- fellows how to couzen him, but in vain, til at laft_
a good wench that sat by, undertook it, so they would swear to let her have all that he had: they confirmed it solemnly, and she put it in practice thus: she subtly insinuated her selfe into this Foysts company, who seeing her a pretty wench, began after twice meeting to wax familiar with her, and to question about a nights lodging: after a little nice loving & bidding, she was content for her supper and what else he would of courtesy bestowe upon her, for she held it scorn shame said, to set a salarie price on her bodie: the Foyst was glad of this, and yet he would not trust her, so that he put no more but ten shillings in his pocket, but he had above twenty pounds twitled in his doublet: well, to be short, supper time came, and thither comes my gentle Foyst, who making good cheere, was so eager of his game, that he would straight to bedde by the leave of dame Bawde, who had her fee too, and there he lay till about midnight, when three or foure old Hackstes whom she had provided upon purpose came to the dooore and rapt lustuely: who is there? fayes the Bawde looking out of the window: marry fay they, such a Justice, and named one about the Cittie that is a mortal enemy to Cutpurfs: who is come to search your house for a Jesuite and other suspected persons: alas sir fayes shee I have none heere: well quoth they, oape the dooore: I will fayes
fhee, and with that fhee came into the Foyftes Chamber, who heard all this, and was afraide it was some search for him, so that hee defired the Bawde to helpe him that hee might not be feene: why then quoth fhee, steppe into this Closet: hee whipt in haftely and neuer remembred his cloathes: she lockt him in safe, and then let in the crue of Rakehels, who making as though they searcht euerye chamber, came at laft into that where his Lemman laie, and asked her what fhee was? fhee as if she had been afrayde, defired their worshippes to bee good to her, fhee was a poore Countrey mayde come vp to. the Tearme: and who is that quoth they, that was in bedde with you? none forsooth faiies fhee: no faiies one, that is a lye, here is the print of two, and besides, wherefoeuer the Foxe is, here is his skinne, for this is his doublet and hoafe: then downe she falles vpon her knees, and faiies indeed it was her husband: your husband quoth they, nay that cannot be so Minion, for why then wold you haue denied him at the first: with that one of them turnde to the Bawd, and did question with her what he was, and where hee was: truly sir fayes she, they came to my house and sayd they were man and wife, and for my part I know them for no other: and hee being afrayd, is indeed to confesse the troth, shut vp in the Closet. No doubt if it please your worship his faiies one rakehell,
I warrant you hee is some notable Cutpurse or pickpocket, that is afrayd to shew his face: come and open the Clozet, and let vs looke on him: nay sir faies she not for tonight, I beseech your worship carry no man out of my house: I will giue my word hee shall bee foorth comming tomorrow morning: your word dame Bawde faies one, tis not worth a straw: you huswife that faies ye are his wife, ye hall go with vs, and for him that we may be sere hee may not sart, Ile take his doublet, hose and cloake, and tomorrow Ile send them to him by one of my men: were there a thousand poundes in them, there shall not be a peny diminisht: the whore kneeled downe on her knees and fayne to cry pittifuly, and defired the Iustice which was one of her companions, not to carry her to prifon: yes huswife quoth he, your mate and you shall not tarry togither in one house, that you may make your tales all one: and therefore bring her away, and after ye dame Bawde fee you lend him no other cloaths, for I wil send his in the morning betimes, and come you with him to anfwer for lodging him. I will sir faies she, and fo away goes the wench & her companions laughing, and left the Bawde and the Foyst: asloone as the Bawde thought good, shee vnlockt the Clozet and curft the time that euer they came in her house: now quoth shee, here wil be a fayre adoo, how will you answere for your
felfe, I feare mee I shall be in danger of the Cart: well quoth he, to be shot, I would not for fortie poundes come afore the Iustice: marry no more would I quoth the, let me shift if you were conuayed hence, but I haue not a rag of mans apparell in the house: why quoth he, seeing it is early morning, lend me a blanket to put about me, and I wil scape to a friends house of mine: then leaue me a pawne quoth the Bawde: alas I haue none saies he but this ring on my finger: why that quoth the, or tarry while the Iustice comes: so he gaue it her, tooke the blanket and went his waies, whether I know not but to some friends house of his. Thus was this wily Foyst by the wit of a subtill wench, cunningly stript of all that hee had and turnde to graffe to get more fat.

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

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

_Nan._ Why then belike shee was of our facultie, and a Matrone of my profession, nimble of her handes, quick of toong, and light of her taile: I shoulde haue put in sir reuerence, but a foule word is good inough for a filthie knaue.

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

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

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

Nan. Stay thee a word, I thought thou hadft spoken of R. B. of Long Lane and his wife: take heed, they be parlous folks and greatly acquainted with keepers and Gaylers: therefore meddle not you with them, for I heare fay R. G. hath sworne x. 15
in despite of the brafill staffe, to tell such a fowle Tale of him in his blacke Booke, that it will cost him a daungerous Ioynt.

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

Nan. Who is that Lawrence?

Laur. Nay I will not name him.

Nan. Why then I prythie what misfortune befell him?

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

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

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

_Nan._ Suppose you are good at the lift, who be more cunning thē we / women in that we are more trusted, for they little suspeʃt vs, and we haue as close conueyance as you men: though you haue Cloakes, we haue skirts of gownes, handbaskets, the crownes of our hattes, our plackardes, and for a need, falʃe bagges vnder our smockes, wherein we can conuey more clofely then you.

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

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

_Laur._ Why tis impoffible.

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

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

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

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

*The conversion of an English Courtizan.*

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

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

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

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

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

A watch-word to wanton Maidens.

Ozen, I see the fayrest Hawke hath oftentimes the sickest feathers, that † hoteft day hath the most sharpest thunders, the brightest sunne, the most suddaine showre, & the youngest Virgins, the most daungerous fortunes: I speake as a kinsman, and wish as a friend: the blossome of a Maidens youth, (such as your selfe) hath attending vpon it many frofts to nyp it, and many cares to consume it, so that if it be not carefully looked
A Virgins honour, consisteth not onely in the gyfts of Nature, as to be fayre and beautifull, though they bee fauours that grace Maidens much: for as they be glistering, so they be momentary, readie to be wore with euery winters blaff, and parched with euery Summers funne: there is no face so fayre, but the leaft Moale, the flendereft skarre, the smalllest brunt of sickness, will quickly blemishe.

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

Forma bonum fragile est quantumque accedit ad
Annos
Fit minor et spacio Carpitur ipsa suo.

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

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

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

A maide that hazards herselfe in much company, may venture the freédome of her hart by the folly of her eye: for so long the pot goes to the water, that it comes broken home, and such as looke much muft néédés like at laft: the Fly dallyes with a flame, but at length she burneth, flax and fire put together will kindle, a maid in companie of yonge men shall be constrayned to listen to the wanton allurements of many cunning speeches: if she hath not eyther with Vlifes tafted of Moly, or flópt her eares warily, shee may either bee entífed with the Syrens, or enchanted by Cyrces: youth is apt to yeeld to swéet perffwafions, and thersore cozen thinke nothing more daungerous than to gad abroade: neithe cozen doe I allowe this wanton dauncing in yonge virgins: tis more comendation for them to moderate their manners, than to measure their feete, and better to heare nothing than to listen vnto vnreuerent Muficke: Sylence is a precious Iewell, and nothing so much worth as a countenaunce full of chafltie: light behauiour is a signe of lewd thoughts, and men
will say, there goes a wanton that will not want one, if a place and person were agreeable to her desires: if a maidens honor be blemisht, or her honestie cald in question, she is halfe deflowered, and therefore had maidens neede to bee chary, least enuy report them for vnchaft. Cozen I speake this generally, which if you apply particularly to your selfe, you shall find in time my words were well saide.

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

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

It fortuned that as many fought to win me, so amongst the rest there was an od companion that dwelt with a Gentleman hard by, a fellowe of small reputation, and of no lyuing, neither had he any excellent quallities but thrumming on the gittron:
AND A SHEE CONNY-CATCHER.

but of pleafant disposition he was, and could gawll out many quaint & ribadrous ligges & songs, and so was favoured of the foolish feect for his foppery. This shifting companion, futable to my felfe in vanitie, would oft times be iefting with me, and I fo long dallying with him, that I beganne deepely (oh let me blufli at this confeflion) to fall in loue with him, and fo conftrued of all his actions, that I confented to my owne ouerthowe: for as smoake will hardly be concealed, fo loue will not be long smothred, but will bewray her owne secrets: which was manifeft in mee, who in my sporting with him, so bewrayed my affection, that hee fpying I fauoured him, began to strike when the yron was hotte, and to take opportunitie by the forehead: and one day finding me in a merry vaine, began to queftion with me of loue: which although at the firft I flanderly denied him, yet at laft I graunted, fo that not onely I agreed to plight him my faith, but that night meeting to haue farther talke, I lasciously confented that hee cropt the flower of my virginity. When thus I was fpoyled by fuch a base companion, I gaue my felfe to content his humor, and to fatisfie the sweet of mine owne wanton defires. Oh here let me breath and with teares bewaile the beginning of my miseries, and to exclayme againft the folly of my Parents, who by too much fauouring mee in my vanitie in my
tender youth, layde the first plot of my ensuing repentance: Had they with one correction chastised my wantonnesse, and supprest my foolish will with their graue aduise, they had made mee more vertuous and themselues lesse sorrowfull. A fathers frowne is a bridle to the childe, and a mothers check is a stay to the stubborne daughter. Oh had my parents in ouerlouing mee not hated me, I had not at this time cause to complaine. Oh had my father regarded the saying of the wise man, I had not beene thus woe begone.

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

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

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

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

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

Had my parents with care considered of this
holy counsaille, and leuell'd my life by the loadstone of vertue: had they lookt narrowly into the faultes of my youth, and bent the tree while it was a wand, and taught the hound while he was a puppie, this blemish had neuer befortuned me, nor so great dishonour had not befallen them. Then by my example, let all Parents take heed, leaft in louing their children too tenderly, they subuert them utterly, leaft in manuring the ground too much with the unskilful husbandman, it waxe too fat, and bring fourthe more weeds then floures, leaft cockering their children vnder their winges without correction, they make them carelesse, and bring them to destruction: as their nurture is in youth, so will their nature grow in age. If the Palme tree be supprest while it is a fien, it wil contrary to nature be crooked when it is a Tree.

Quo semel est imbuta recens servabit odorente stab diu.

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

There was a Gentleman (to give him his due) an Esquire here in England, that was married to a young Gentlewoman, faire and of a modest behauiour, vertuous in her lookes, howsoever she was in her thoughts, and one that every way with her dutifull indeuour and outward aparance of honestie, did breed her husbands content, insomuch that the Gentleman so deeply affected her, as he counted al those houre ill spent which he past not away in her company: besetting so himselfe in the beautie of his wife, that his onely care was to haue her euery way delighted: liuing thus pleasantly togither, he had one spetiall friend amongst the rest, whom he so dearly affected, as euer Da/mon did his Pythias, Pilades his Orebes, or Tytus his Gisippus, he vnfolded all his secrets in his bofome, and what passion hee had in his minde that either ioyed him or perplexed him, he revealed vnto his friend, & directed his actions according to the sequel of his counfailes, so that they were two bodies and one soule. This Gentleman for all the inward favour shoune him by his faithfull friend, could not so withstand the force of fancy, but he grew enamoured of his friendes wife, whom he courted
with many sweet words and faire promises, charms that are able to enchant almost the chasteft eares, and so subtilly couched his arguments, discouered such loue in his eyes, and such sorrow in his lookes, that dispaire seemed to fit in his face, and swore, that if shee granted not him *Le don du merci*, the end of a louers sighes, then would present his hart as a Tragicke sacrifice to the sight of his cruel mistresse: the Gentlewoman waxing pitifull, as women are kinde harted and are loth Gentlemen should die for loue, after a few excuses, let him dub her husband knight of the forked order, and so to satisfy his humor, made forfeyt of her owne honor. Thus these two louers continued by a great space in such plesures as vnchaft wantons count their felicitie, hauing continually fith opportunitie to exercise their wicked purpose, fith the gentleman himself did give them free libertie to loue, neither suspecting his wife, or suspecting his friend: at laft as such traytous abuses will burst fourth, it fell so out, that a mayd who had been an old servuant in the house began to grow suspitious, that there was too much familiaritie betweene her mistresse and her maifters friend, and vpon this watcht them divers times so narrowly, that at laft shee found them more priuate then either agreed with her maifters honor, or her own honestie, and thereupon re-
uealed it one day vnsto her maifter: he little credulous of the light behauior of his wife, blamed the mayd, and bad her take heed, leaft she sought to blemish her vertues with flaunder, whom hee loued more tenderly then his owne life: the mayd replied, that she spake not of enuy to him, but of meere loue she beare vnsto him, and the rather that hee might shadow such a fault in time, and by some meanes preuent it, leaft if others shoule note it as well as she, his wiuues good name and his friends shoule bee cald in question: at these wise words spoken by so baue a drug as his mayd, the Gentleman waxed aftarished and listeneth to her discourshe, wisheing her to discouer how she knew or was so priuay to the folly of her mistrefte, or by what meanes he might haue assured proofe of it: shee tolde him / that her owne eyes were witnesse, for shee saw them vnlawfully to-gethether, and pleafe it you sir quoth shee, to faine your selfe to-go from home, and then in the back houfe to keepe you secret, I will let you see as much as I haue manifeested vnsto you: vpon this the maifter agreed, and warned his mayd not so much as to make it knowne to any of her fellowes. Within a day or two after, the Gentleman sayd, hee would goe a hunting, and so rife verie early, and causyng his men to couple vp his Houndes, left his wife in bed and went abroad: asloone as he
was gone a myle from the house, he commanded his men to ryde afore and to start the Hare and follow the chafe; and wee will come faire and softly after: they obeying their maisters charge, went theyr wayes, and he returned by a backway to his house, and went secretly to the place where his mayd and he had appointed. In the meane time, the mistresse thinking her husband safe with his Houndes, sent for her friend to her bed chamber, by a truftie seruant of hers, in whom shee assured that was a secret Pandar in such affairs, and the Gentleman was not flacke to come, but making all the haste hee could, came and went into the chamber, asking for the Maister of the house very familiarly: the old mayd noting all this, asloone as she knew them together, went and cald her maister, and carried him vp by a secret pair of staires to her mistresse chamber doore, where peeping in at a place that the mayd before had made for the purpose, he saw more then he lookt for, and so much as pincht him at the very heart, causing him to accuse his wife for a ftrumpet, and his friend for a traytor: yet for all this, valuing his owne honour more then their dishonestie, thinking if he should make an vprore, he shoule but ayme at his owne discredit, and cause himself to be a laughing game to his enemies, he concealed his sorrow with silence, and taking the mayd apart, charged her to keepe all secret, what-
for if she did bewray it to any, hee himselfe would with his Swoord make an ende of her daies: and with that putting his hand in his sceeue, gaue the poore mayd sixe Angels to buy her a new gowne: the wench glad of this gift, swore solemnely to tread it vnder foote, and fith it pleased him to confseale it, neuer to reuеale it as long as she liued: vpon this they parted, she to her drudgery, and he to the field to his men, where after hee had kild the Hare hee returned home, and finding his friend in the Garden, that in his absence had been grafting hornes in the Chimnies, and entertained him with his woonted familiaritie, and shewed no bad countenance to his wife, but dissembled al his thoughts, to the full. Asfoone as dinner was done, and that he was gotten solitarie by himselfe, he beganne to determine of reuenge, but not as euerie man would haue done, how to haue brought his wife to flame, & her loue to confusion, but he busied his braines how hee might reverue his honour inuiolate, reclaime his wife, and keep his friend: meditating a long time how he might bring all this to passe, at laft a humour fell into his head, how cunningly to compasse all three and therefore he went & got him a certaine slips, which are counterfeyt pieces of mony being brasfe, & couered ouer with filuer,
which the common people call slips: having fur-
nished himselfe with these, hee put them in his
purse, and at night went to bed as he was wont
to doo, yet not using the kind familiaritie that
he accustomed: notwithstanding, he abstained not
from the use of her body, but knew his wife as
aforetimes, and every time hee committed the act
with her, he layd the next morning in the window
a slip, where he was sure shee might finde it, and
so many times as it pleased him to be carnally
pleasant with his wife, so many slips he still layd
down vpon her cufhnet. This he vsed for the
space of a fortnight, till at last, his wife finding
every day a slip, or sometime more or lesse, wondred
how they came there, and examining her wayting
maydes, none of them could tell her anything
touching them, wherevpon shee thought to question
with her husband about it, but being out of her
remembrance, the next morning as he & she lay
dallying in bed, it came into her minde, and she
asked her husband if he layd those slipses on her
cufhnet, that she of late found there, having never
seene any before. I marry did I quoth hee, and
I haue layd them there upon speciall reason, and it
is this. Euer since I haue been married to thee,
I haue deemed thee honest, and therefore vsed and
honored thee as my wife, parting coequall fauours
betwixt vs as true loues, but alate finding the
contrary, & with these eyes seeing thee play the whore with my friend in whom I did repose all my trust, I fought not as many would haue done, to haue reveaged in blood, but for the safetie of mine owne honor, which otherwise would haue been blemisht by thy dishonestie, I haue bin silent, and haue neyther wronged my quandom friend, nor abused thee, but still do hold bed with thee, that the world shou'd not suspect any thing, and to quench the desire of luft I do use thy body, but not so lovingly as I would a wife, but carelesly as I would a strumpet, and therefore eu'n as to a whoore, so I giue thee hyer, which is for euerie time a slip, a counterfeit coyne: which is good enouogh for such a sliperie wanton, that will wrong her husband that loued her so tenderly: / and thus will I use thee for the safetie of mine owne honour, til I haue assured prooue that thou becommest honest: and thus with teares in his eyes, and his heart readie to burft with sighes, he was silent, when his wife striken with remorse of conscience, leaping out of her bedde in her smocke, humbly confeffing all, craued pardon, promifing if he should pardon this offence which was new begun in her, shee would become a new reformed woman and neuer after so much as in thought, giue him any occasion of suspicion of ielousie: the patient husband not willing to vrge his wife, tooke her at her word,
and told her that when he found her so reclaimed, he would as afore he had done, vse her louingly and as his wife, but till he was so perswaded of her honestie, he wold pay her stil slips for his pleasure, charging her not to reuеale any thing to his friend, or to make it knowne to him that hee was priuy to their loues. Thus the debate ended, I gesse in some kinde greeting, and the Gentleman went abroad to see his pastures, leaving his wife in bed full of sorrow and almoft rending her heart asunder with sighs: asfoone as he was walked abroad, the Gentleman his friend came to the house and asked for the goodman: the pander that was priuy to all their practifes, said, that his maifter was gone abroad to see his pastures, but his mistresse was in bed: why then saies he, I will go and raise her vp: so comming into the chamber and kissing her, meaning as hee was wont to have vshed other accustomed dalliance, shee desired him to abstaine, with broken sighes & her eyes full of teares: he wonders what shold make her thus discontent, asked her what was the cause of her sorrow, protesting with a solemne oath, that if any had done her injury, he wold reuenge it, were it with hazard of his life: she then tolde him, scarce being able to speake for weeping, that shee had a fute to moue him in, which if he granted vnto her, shee would hold him in loue and affection without change next her
husband for euer: he promis'd to do whatsoeuer it was: then saies whe, sware vpon a Byble you will do it without exception: with that he tooke a Byble that laie in the window & sware, that whatsoeuer she request'd him to do, were it to the loss of his life, he would without exception performe it. Then she holding downe her head and blushing, began thus. I need not quoth shee make manifest how grofully and greeuoufully you and I haue both offended God, and wronged the honest Gentleman my hus-

band and your friend, hee putting a speciall trust in vs both, & assuring such earnest affiance in your vnfaithfull friendship, that hee euen committeth me his wife, his loue, his second life, into your boosome: this loue haue I requited with inconstancy, in playing the harlot, that faith that he reposeth in you, haue you returned with trechery and falshood, in abusing mine honesty and his honor, now a remorse of conscience toucheth me for my sines, that I hartily repent, and vow euer hereafter to liue onely to my husband, and therefore my sute is to you, that from henceforth you shall neuer so much as motion any dishonest question vnto mee, nor seeke any vnlawfull pleasure or converfing at my handes: this is my sute, and herevnto I haue swarene you, which oath if you obserue as a faithfull gentleman, I will conceale from my husband what is paft, and rest in honest fort your faithfull
friend for euer: at this shee burst afresh into teares, and uttered such sighes, that he thought for very griefe her hart would haue claue afunder. The Gentleman aftaried at this straunge Metamorphesis of his mistresse, sat a good while in a maze, and at laft taking her by the hand, made this reply, so God helpe mee faire sweeting, I am glad of this motion, and wondrous ioyfull that God hath put such honest thoughts into your mind, & hath made you the meanes to reclaime mee from my folly: I feele no leffe remorse then you doo, in wronging so honest a friend as your husband, but this is the frailnesse of man: and therefore to make amends, I protest a new, neuer hereafter so much as in thought, as to motion you of dishonestie, onely I craue you be silent: she promised that and so they ended. And so for that time they parted: at noone the gentleman came home and cheerfully saluted his wife and asked if dinner were ready, and sent for his friend, vsing him wonderfully familiarly, giuing him no occasion of mistrust, and so pleasantly they past away the day togither: at night when his wife and he went to bed, shee told him all what had past betweene her and his friend, and how she had bound him with an oath, and that hee voluntarily of himselfe swore as much, being hartily sorry that hee had so deeply offended so kinde a friend: the gentleman commended her wit,
and found her afterward a reclaimed woman, she living so honestly that she never gave him any occasion of mistrust. Thus the wise gentleman reclaimed with silence a wanton wife, and retained an assured friend.

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

Si nihil attuleris ibis homere foras.

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

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

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

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

But amongst all these blythe and merry Ieves, a little by your leaue, if it be no farther then Fetter lane: oh take heed, thats too nye the Temple: what then, I will draw as neare the signe of the white Hart as I can, and breathing my selfe by the bottle Ale-houfe, Ile tell you a merry Ieft, how a Conny-catcher was v*ed.

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

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

FINIS.
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.
I. NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

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

A NOTABLE DISCOVERY OF COOSNAGE.

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

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

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

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

These must suffice.
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17, l. 1, 'browne study'—see Glossarial-Index
s.v. for a full note: l. 16, 'fallowes' = meta-
phor from fallow ground ploughed up? l.
23, 'smack'—properly 'taste,' but here
used in a canting sense for 'smoke' = sus-
ppect.
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

Page 18, l. 22, 'firet-claw'—see note on p. 9, l. 23.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"30, l. 21, 'fleest' = fleeced.
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

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

” 32, l. 12, ‘warriner’ = keeper of a warren.

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

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

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

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

” 39, l. 20, ‘reuersion’ = back motion.

” 40, l. 7, ‘braue fellowes’—i.e. bravely attired. Cf. p. 43, l. 11: l. 15, ‘cosin’—cf. p. 38, versing law and Barnard’s law: l. 15,
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

'grime'—apparently a cant term, probably = cheat.

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

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

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

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

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

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

47, l. 3, 'shot' = reckoning: ib., 'noble'—according as he meant the 'angel' noble, 1 1/-, or 'Rose' noble, 14/6; the 'George' noble was 9/-: l. 13, 'whitted'—literally 'cut'—still in use (very frequently in United States), i.e. intoxicated.

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

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

A PLEASANT DISCOVERY, ETC.

51, l. 5, 'legering'—from French leger or legier, light: l. 6, 'colliers'—it must be remembered throughout that 'coals' here mean 'charcoal,' and 'colliers' = charcoal sellers. Hence p. 53, l. 9, we have 'wilow coles' as small and of a bad or poor kind. Cf. p. 55, l. 3; p. 56, l. 27: l. 10, 'left, etc.'—explained further on in text.
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

Page 52, l. 12, 'Whetstone' = a place near Finchley, about five or six miles from town,—the others well known.
" 53, l. 4, 'wilow coles'—see note on p. 51, l. 6.
" 56, l. 13, 'Bul'—the hangman of the time, as onward: l. 27, 'shruffe' = light rubbish, wood.
" 57, l. 23, 'broche' = spit: Fr. broche-r.
" 58, l. 17, 'cheaped'—much as 'chap' to bargain or purchase—hence Cheapside in London, etc., etc.
" 59, l. 8, 'backe side'—see Glossarial-Index s.v. for a full note, ut freq.: l. 12, 'shrews'—used in a would-be jocular manner, he being already "mazed" who uses it.
" 60, l. 3, 'lambeakes' = strokes—verb also used, 'lambeak'—one root, 'lam,' to beat.
" 61, l. 2, 'pate or two' = pate broken here and there: l. 3, 'Jack Drum'—see full note in Index of Names, s.n., and annotated Life in Vol. I.

SECOND PART OF CONNIE CATCHING.

Page 70, l. 1, 'courtlax' = cutlass, ut freq.: l. 2, 'unleager' = raise the siege.
" 71, l. 3, 'inferred' = brought in: l. 5, 'conveiance'—see note on p. 33, l. 20: l. 27, 'cawteis' = cunning devices.
" 72, l. 15, 'feedes themselves'—on this and numerous verb forms see annotated Life
in Vol. I.: l. 17, 'breake the yoke'—qy. misprint for 'beare the yoke'? l. 18, 'painfull'—painingstaking.

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

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

" 76, l. 22, 'blind Faires' = obscure fairs. Cf. note on p. 12, l. 4: l. 24, 'value' = value. So 'valour,' p. 77, l. 4.

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

" 78, l. 2, 'cantle and boulsters'—'cantle' = fore-part or arched part of the saddle—other terms technical and familiar: l. 3, 'bombast'—stuffing, cotton wool was so called: ib., 'with'—qy. 'which'? l. 4, 'vices may' = devices; more likely "hinges or the like": l. 7, 'Scotch brake'—a 'brake' is a snaffle—apparently there was then some special one known as Scotch: l. 8, 'feately' = neatly: l. 19, 'vntould' = without paying the legal tax on such a transaction. See the word 'touler,' p. 79, l. 4—evidently the officer appointed to take these tolls.
Page 79, l. 10, 'knightes of the post'—fellows who could be hired at the posts outside the Courts of Law to swear anything or go bail for any one—for a small consideration: l. 14, 'Querries'—a cant term which may or may not be a corruption of 'equerries': ib., 'there' = their.

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

82, l. 20, 'affected'—qy. 'aspected'?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

96, l. 6, 'kindly' = naturally—with perhaps an equivoke, as his betrayer had been his friend: l. 10, 'Harpie'—see Glossarial-
Index, s.v.: l. 24, 'Boung.' See p. 38, l. 19.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

105, l. 22, 'I marie' = ay marry.

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

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

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

" 109, l. 10, 'reanswered' = the same amount given back: ib., 'while' = until, ut freq.: l. 21, 'Lawrence Pickering;' and l. 24,
'Bull'—see on p. 56, l. 13—repeated: l. 23, 'good calling'—a curious phrase considering what has just preceded. Does he mean 'of [a] good calling,' i.e. that his tavern, etc., was otherwise respectable, or 'of good reputation [except among those who knew better]'? Page 110, l. 4, 'dailie trust up'—what a bloody code were the laws of the death-penalty then and far onward! Of course, with no colonies whither to banish criminals, the problem was a difficult and terrible one how to dispose of them, while the taxation that would have been required to build jails, etc., would have raised a rebellion, and the cost swallowed up the revenue. Still, it is frightful to realize to-day how light was the Elizabethan-Jacobean estimate of human life, and how high the estimate of "property, property": l. 9, 'and' = an: l. 12, 'staul.' See p. 103, l. 28, and cf. p. 104, l. 27, and p. 108, l. 11, his "shadow," helper, or as he calls him l. 24, his 'Novice': l. 15, 'old Coole'—this has not been given as cant for a "cut-purse." Can it be our cant "old Cole," as in the old song "Old King Cole was a merry old soul," etc.?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lyly in his Euphues says that "the finest velvet has his bracke."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE THIRDE PART.

Title-page—In the original is a rough woodcut of a Fool and a gay dressed female with a 'coney' in her hand—cards lying about.

Page 140, l. 3, 'Whittington College'—College Hill, Upper Thames Street, is so called after the College St. Spirit and St. Mary, founded by Richard Whittington. It was suppressed by the statute of Edward VI. See Stow's Survey, edited by Thoms, p. 91. It may be here noted that in the title-page of the anonymous "Defence" against Greene's tractates on Conny-catching, Cuthbert Cunny-catcher describes himself as "Licentiate of Whittington College." See the "Defence" in next vol.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

" 167, l. 9, 'house-rent' = the rent of an extra-large house, involving higher 'housekeeping' : ll. 9, 24, 'commodity' = advantage or gain, as before : l. 13, 'serving-man'
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—see note on page 93, l. 15: l. 20, ‘regarded’ = looked after, observed or watched: l. 21, ‘frustrate’ = frustrated, ‘t’ being the final consonant.

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

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

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

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

" 173, l. 1, ‘the Bull’—not the play-house afterwards called ‘the Red Bull,’ but the Inn, as shown by the word ‘stable’ (l. 6). The play was performed, as frequently, or usually, in the yard or court. See Collier’s “Annals of the Stage,” iii. 324. It must have been ‘good custom’ for ‘mine host’: x. 20

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

178, l. 7, ‘attending’ = waiting for, expecting:
1. 26, ‘liberally’—misprinted ‘literally’ in the original: ll. 21-7—this sentence (ut frequenter) discloses Greene’s haste. We must take—‘who still . . . his kind-
ness’ as one long parenthesis: thus the ‘he not discrediting’ is the [he] desiring pardon. Cf. similar haste in p. 182, l. 13: l. 28, ‘curtesie of the Citie’ = offering him wine at a tavern? or generally attention of citizens to a visitor-stranger?

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

182, l. 1, ‘happen’—error for ‘happened’: l. 10, ‘worthy’—misprinted ‘worldly’ in the original.
Page 184, l. 16, 'stall'—the 'stall' that formed the front of the shop, there being then no window fronts. See the story of the knave overhearing what was said in the tailor's shop, p. 186: l. 17, 'shorte'—i.e. he would say that he had let it down 'shorte' or missingly of the 'stall,' and so had really let it down a longer distance, namely, to the pavement: l. 21, 'roundly' = clearly, fully, openly—so used because the *rotundus* or circle or sphere, from which the word is derived, has no secret points, etc., about it.

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

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

A DISPVTAION BETWEEENE A HEE CONNY-CATCHER, ETC.

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

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

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

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

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

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

" 204, l. 3, ‘quarterne’ = a wind on the quarter
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309

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

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

207, l. 11, 'presse'—throng.

209, l. 1, 'choplodgicke'—smatterer?

210, l. 5, 'until'—while, ut freq.: l. 18, 'trugging house'—house of ill fame. See Catalogues, as before.

211, l. 19, 'pipping'—pippin.

212, l. 2, 'woodcock'—a fool.

214, l. 4, 'Blackamore'—used much as we use 'blackleg': l. 18, 'Counter'—prison so named, ut freq.

215, l. 16, 'imbollish'—apparently a Greene coinage from Italian Imbolare, to filch or steal. Cf. p. 230, l. 25.

216, l. 19, 'brooke all'—not clear whether = broke all, i.e. broke up altogether, or an error for 'brooke[d] all,' i.e. bore, all that was said, patiently [as he had not done before].

217, l. 3, 'Muse'—hole or burrow, otherwise Muset: l. 6, 'fetch'—trick: l. 8, 'quit'—requite: l. 21, 'for'—against, as before.
Page 218, l. 8, 'bidding' = inviting ; l. 14, 'twilted' = quilted ? l. 21, 'Hacksters' = cutters, swaggerers, swash-bucklers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

" 230, l. 16, ‘bucklars’—see note on p. 222, l. 7:
   l. 25, ‘imboUish’—see note on p. 215, l. 16.

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

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

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

" 235, l. 16, 'laizers' = lazars, lepers.
" 236, l. 5, 'Hamborough knife' = Hamburgh—probably a sort of bowie knife: l. 20, 'bilbowe blades' = Bilbao swords.
" 237, l. 1, 'Ryfling' = raffling? l. 8, 'Bed-roll' = Bede-roll.
" 239, l. 20, 'prick-song' = the music written or 'pricked down.'
" 240, l. 10, 'licentious'—like 'wanton,' was then sometimes used in a more modified sense than now: l. 16, 'ipsi'—misprinted 'ipse' in the original: l. 20, 'ordinary dancer' = a dancer who ordinarily or usually danced when opportunity was given.

" 243, l. 1, 'admirable' = worthy of being admired: l. 2, 'gards' = ornamental pieces or welts on garments: l. 17, 'garish' = fine, or foolishly fine: l. 20, 'iEt abroad' = strut
abroad and (implied) go abroad more than is common. Cf. l. 22, and ll. 25-7, and p. 244, l. 2.

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

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

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

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

250, l. 26, 'brute' = rumour, report.

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

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

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

255, l. 18, 'credulous' = credible.

257, l. 12, 'forked' = cornuted.

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

II. PROVERBS, PROVERBIAL SAYINGS, PHRASES, ETC.

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

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

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

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

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

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

" 13, l. 3, 'the pickpockets (sir reverence I meane)'

—the blunt name 'pickpockets' being held
for indecorous, the euphemism of 'sir reuerence' is added.

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

17, l. 16, 'he comes ouer his fallowes kindly': l. 24, 'smels a rat.'

19, l. 18, 'crieth halfe part.'

21, l. 26, 'plain as a pike staf.'

22, l. 23, 'no butter will cleaue on my bread,'

24, l. 26, 'now gramercie sir for this trick.'

26, l. 19, 'I came hether in an ill houre.'

27, l. 19, 'ile haue you on the lurch anone.'

32, l. 25, 'geue him his paiment': l. 27, 'tis a mad world,' etc.

33, l. 7, 'yet haue they clokes for the raine': l. 14, 'turne the cat in the pan'—this is a good example of the meaning of this saying the reverse procedure.

34, l. 21, 'some pretie way, more then the world is witnes to.'

35, l. 4, 'foloweth his nose alwaies straight forward': l. 9, 'beat my wits,' etc.

39, l. 7, 'bidding them adue to the deuil.'

40, l. 19, 'maintaine the maine chance.'

41, l. 1, 'so many men so many affections.'

42, l. 14—these are earlier versions of Scripture proverbs than the Breeches Bible.

46, l. 7, 'their plate on the boorde verie solemnly.'

49, l. 1, 'laide his whistle to pawne for mony.'

59, l. 19, 'hold vp thy hand at the bar.'

60, l. 8, 'tried by the verdit of the smock': l. 27, 'might overcomes right.'
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

Page 70, l. 24, 'words are wind, & looks but glances':
l. 25, 'every thunderclap hath not a bolt, nor
every Conny-catchers oath an execution.'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

105, l. 16, 'so long the pitcher goeth to the brooke
that it commeth broken home': l. 25, 'they
take time while time serues and make hay
while the Sunne shines.'
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

Page 116, l. 3, 'breeds'—this shows that in the phrase "bred and born" bred is in its proper place and refers not to the breeding after birth pace a recent discussion in Notes and Queries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

163, l. 11, 'beating him with his fists well fawouredly.'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

199, l. 13, 'drawne on to the bent of their bow.'
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

Page 200, l. 6, 'he that medles with pitch, cannot but be defiled.'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

222, l. 5, 'short heele.'

223, l. 12, 'fetching nouices ouer the coales.'

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

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

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

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

241, l. 4, 'as tyde nor tyme tarrieth no man':
l. 18, 'the fayrest Hawke hath oftentimes the sickest feathers' . . . 'of hottest day hath the most sharpest thunders, the brightest sunne, the most suddaine showre, & the youngest Virgins, the most daungereous fortunes.'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A. B. G.

END OF VOL. X.