

# ALL'S

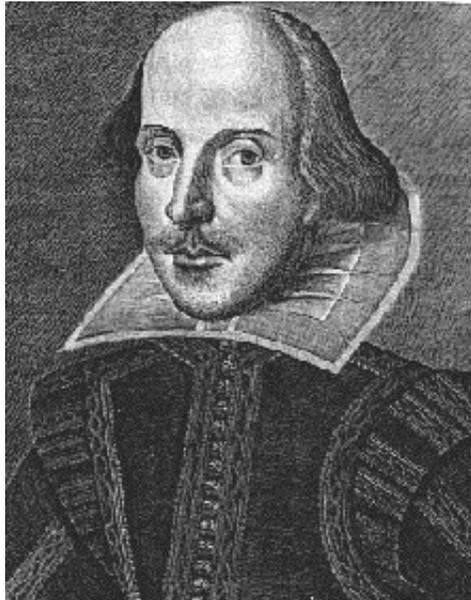
Well, that Ends Well.

by

**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

Based on the Folio Text of 1623

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# Shakespeare: First Folio

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## All's Well, that Ends Well

V1v

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### *Actus primus. Scoena Prima.*

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2 *Enter yong Bertram Count of Rossillion, his Mother, and*  
 3 *Helena, Lord Lafew, all in blacke.*

4 *Mother.*

5 In deliuering my sonne from me, I burie a se-cond  
 6 husband.

7 *Ros.* And I in going Madam, weep ore my  
 8 fathers death anew; but I must attend his maie-sties  
 9 command, to whom I am now in Ward, euermore  
 10 in subiection.

11 *Laf.* You shall find of the King a husband Madame,  
 12 you sir a father. He that so generally is at all times good,  
 13 must of necessitie hold his vertue to you, whose worthi-nesse  
 14 would stirre it vp where it wanted rather then lack  
 15 it where there is such abundance.

16 *Mo.* What hope is there of his Maiesties amendment?

17 *Laf.* He hath abandon'd his Phisitions Madam, vn-der  
 18 whose practises he hath persecuted time with hope,  
 19 and finds no other aduantage in the processe, but onely  
 20 the loosing of hope by time.

21 *Mo.* This yong Gentlewoman had a father, O that  
 22 had, how sad a passage tis, whose skill was almost as  
 23 great as his honestie, had it stretch'd so far, would haue  
 24 made nature immortall, and death should haue play for  
 25 lacke of worke. Would for the Kings sake hee were li-uing,  
 26 I thinke it would be the death of the Kings disease.

27 *Laf.* How call'd you the man you speake of Madam?

28 *Mo.* He was famous sir in his profession, and it was  
 29 his great right to be so: *Gerard de Narbon.*

30 *Laf.* He was excellent indeed Madam, the King very  
 31 latelie spoke of him admiringly, and mourningly: hee  
 32 was skilfull enough to haue liu'd stil, if knowledge could  
 33 be set vp against mortallitie.

34 *Ros.* What is it (my good Lord) the King languishes  
 35 of?

36 *Laf.* A Fistula my Lord.

37 *Ros.* I heard not of it before.

38 *Laf.* I would it were not notorious. Was this Gen-tlewoman  
 39 the Daughter of *Gerard de Narbon*?

40 *Mo.* His sole childe my Lord, and bequeathed to my  
 41 ouer looking. I haue those hopes of her good, that her  
 42 education promises her dispositions shee inherits, which  
 43 makes faire gifts fairer: for where an vncleane mind car-ries  
 44 vertuous qualities, there commendations go with  
 45 pittie, they are vertues and traitors too: in her they are  
 46 the better for their simplenesse; she deriuies her honestie,  
 47 and atcheeues her goodnesse.

48 *Lafew.* Your commendations Madam get from her  
 49 teares.

50 *Mo.* 'Tis the best brine a Maiden can season her praise  
 51 in. The remembrance of her father neuer approaches her  
 52 heart, but the turrany of her sorrowes takes all liuelihood  
 53 from her cheek. No more of this *Helena*, go too, no  
 54 more least it be rather thought you affect a sorrow, then  
 55 to haue—

56 *Hell.* I doe affect a sorrow indeed, but I haue it too.

57 *Laf.* Moderate lamentation is the right of the dead,  
 58 excessiue greefe the enemie to the liuing.

59 *Mo.* If the liuing be enemie to the greefe, the excesse  
 60 makes it soone mortall.

61 *Ros.* Maddam I desire your holie wishes.

62 *Laf.* How vnderstand we that?

63 *Mo.* Be thou blest *Bertrame*, and succeed thy father  
 64 In manners as in shape: thy blood and vertue  
 65 Contend for Empire in thee, and thy goodnesse  
 66 Share with thy birth- right. Loue all, trust a few,  
 67 Doe wrong to none: be able for thine enemie  
 68 Rather in power then vse: and keepe thy friend  
 69 Vnder thy owne lifes key. Be checkt for silence,  
 70 But neuer tax'd for speech. What heauen more wil,  
 71 That thee may furnish, and my prayers plucke downe,  
 72 Fall on thy head. Farwell my Lord,  
 73 'Tis an vnseason'd Courtier, good my Lord  
 74 Advise him.

75 *Laf.* He cannot want the best  
 76 That shall attend his loue.

77 *Mo.* Heauen blesse him: Farwell *Bertram*.

78 *Ro.* The best wishes that can be forg'd in your thoughts  
 79 be seruants to you: be comfortable to my mother, your  
 80 Mistris, and make much of her.

81 *Laf.* Farewell prettie Lady, you must hold the cre-dit  
 82 of your father.

83 *Hell.* O were that all, I thinke not on my father,  
 84 And these great teares grace his remembrance more  
 85 Then those I shed for him. What was he like?

86 I haue forgott him. My imagination  
 87 Carries no fauour in't but *Bertrams*.  
 88 I am vndone, there is no liuing, none,  
 89 If *Bertram* be away. 'Twere all one,  
 90 That I should loue a bright particuler starre,  
 91 And think to wed it, he is so aboue me  
 92 In his bright radience and colaterall light, [V2  
 93 Must I be comforted, not in his sphere;  
 94 Th' ambition in my loue thus plagues it selfe:  
 95 The hind that would be mated by the Lion  
 96 Must die for loue. 'Twas prettie, though a plague  
 97 To see him euerie houre to sit and draw  
 98 His arched browes, his hawking eie, his curles  
 99 In our hearts table: heart too capeable  
 100 Of euerie line and tricke of his sweet fauour.  
 101 But now he's gone, and my idolatrous fancie  
 102 Must sanctifie his Reliques. Who comes heere?  
 103 *Enter Parrolles*.  
 104 One that goes with him: I loue him for his sake,  
 105 And yet I know him a notorious Liar,  
 106 Thinke him a great way foole, solie a coward,  
 107 Yet these fixt euils sit so fit in him,  
 108 That they take place, when Vertues steely bones  
 109 Lookes bleake i'th cold wind: withall, full ofte we see  
 110 Cold wisdomes waighting on superfluous follie.  
 111 *Par.* Saue you faire Queene.  
 112 *Hel.* And you Monarch.  
 113 *Par.* No.  
 114 *Hel.* And no.  
 115 *Par.* Are you meditating on virginities?  
 116 *Hel.* I: you haue some staine of souldier in you: Let  
 117 mee aske you a question. Man is enimie to virginities,  
 118 how may we barracado it against him?  
 119 *Par.* Keepe him out.  
 120 *Hel.* But he assailes, and our virginities though vali-ant,  
 121 in the defence yet is weak: vnfold to vs some war- like  
 122 resistance.  
 123 *Par.* There is none: Man setting downe before you,  
 124 will vndermine you, and blow you vp.  
 125 *Hel.* Blesse our poore Virginities from vnderminers  
 126 and blowers vp. Is there no Military policy how Vir-gins  
 127 might blow vp men?  
 128 *Par.* Virginities beeing blowne downe, Man will  
 129 quicklier be blowne vp: marry in blowing him downe  
 130 againe, with the breach your selues made, you lose your  
 131 Citty. It is not politicke, in the Common- wealth of

132 Nature, to preserue virginity. Losse of Virginitie, is  
 133 rationall encrease, and there was neuer Virgin goe, till  
 134 virginitie was first lost. That you were made of, is met-tall  
 135 to make Virgins. Virginitie, by beeing once lost,  
 136 may be ten times found: by being euer kept, it is euer  
 137 lost: 'tis too cold a companion: Away with't.  
 138 *Hel.* I will stand for't a little, though therefore I die  
 139 a Virgin.  
 140 *Par.* There's little can bee saide in't, 'tis against the  
 141 rule of Nature. To speake on the part of virginitie, is  
 142 to accuse your Mothers; which is most infallible diso-bediencie.  
 143 He that hangs himselfe is a Virgin: Virgini-tie  
 144 murders it selfe, and should be buried in highwayes  
 145 out of all sanctified limit, as a desperate Offendresse a-gainst  
 146 Nature. Virginitie breedes mites, much like a  
 147 Cheese, consumes it selfe to the very payring, and so  
 148 dies with feeding his owne stomacke. Besides, Virgini-tie  
 149 is peeuish, proud, ydle, made of selfe- loue, which  
 150 is the most inhibited sinne in the Cannon. Keepe it not,  
 151 you cannot choose but loose by't. Out with't: within  
 152 ten yeare it will make it selfe two, which is a goodly in-crease,  
 153 and the principall it selfe not much the worse.  
 154 Away with't.  
 155 *Hel.* How might one do sir, to loose it to her owne  
 156 liking?  
 157 *Par.* Let mee see. Marry ill, to like him that ne're  
 158 it likes. 'Tis a commodity wil lose the glosse with lying:  
 159 The longer kept, the lesse worth: Off with't while 'tis  
 160 vendible. Answer the time of request, Virginitie like  
 161 an olde Courtier, weares her cap out of fashion, richly  
 162 suted, but vnsuteable, iust like the brooch & the tooth- pick,  
 163 which were not now: your Date is better in your  
 164 Pye and your Porredge, then in your cheeke: and your  
 165 virginity, your old virginity, is like one of our French  
 166 wither'd peares, it lookes ill, it eates drily, marry 'tis a  
 167 wither'd peare: it was formerly better, marry yet 'tis a  
 168 wither'd peare: Will you any thing with it?  
 169 *Hel.* Not my virginity yet:  
 170 There shall your Master haue a thousand loues,  
 171 A Mother, and a Mistresse, and a friend,  
 172 A Phenix, Captaine, and an enemy,  
 173 A guide, a Goddess, and a Soueraigne,  
 174 A Counsellor, a Traitoresse, and a Deare:  
 175 His humble ambition, proud humility:  
 176 His iarring, concord: and his discord, dulcet:  
 177 His faith, his sweet disaster: with a world

178 Of pretty fond adoptious christendomes  
 179 That blinking Cupid gossips. Now shall he:  
 180 I know not what he shall, God send him well,  
 181 The Courts a learning place, and he is one.  
 182 *Par.* What one ifaith?  
 183 *Hel.* That I wish well, 'tis pittie.  
 184 *Par.* What's pittie?  
 185 *Hel.* That wishing well had not a body in't,  
 186 Which might be felt, that we the poorer borne,  
 187 Whose baser starres do shut vs vp in wishes,  
 188 Might with effects of them follow our friends,  
 189 And shew what we alone must thinke, which neuer  
 190 Returnes vs thankses.  
 191 *Enter Page.*  
 192 *Pag.* Monsieur *Parrolles*,  
 193 My Lord cals for you.  
 194 *Par.* Little *Hellen* farewell, if I can remember thee, I  
 195 will thinke of thee at Court.  
 196 *Hel.* Monsieur *Parolles*, you were borne vnder a  
 197 charitable starre.  
 198 *Par.* Vnder *Mars* I.  
 199 *Hel.* I especially thinke, vnder *Mars*.  
 200 *Par.* Why vnder *Mars*?  
 201 *Hel.* The warres hath so kept you vnder, that you  
 202 must needes be borne vnder *Mars*.  
 203 *Par.* When he was predominant.  
 204 *Hel.* When he was retrograde I thinke rather.  
 205 *Par.* Why thinke you so?  
 206 *Hel.* You go so much backward when you fight.  
 207 *Par.* That's for aduantage.  
 208 *Hel.* So is running away,  
 209 When feare proposes the safetie:  
 210 But the composition that your valour and feare makes  
 211 in you, is a vertue of a good wing, and I like the  
 212 weare well.  
 213 *Paroll.* I am so full of businesses, I cannot answere  
 214 thee acutely: I will returne perfect Courtier, in the  
 215 which my instruction shall serue to naturalize thee, so  
 216 thou wilt be capeable of a Courtiers councell, and vn-derstand  
 217 what aduice shall thrust vpon thee, else thou  
 218 diest in thine vnthankfulnes, and thine ignorance makes  
 219 thee away, farewell: When thou hast leysure, say thy  
 220 praisers: when thou hast none, remember thy Friends: [V2v  
 221 Get thee a good husband, and vse him as he vses thee:  
 222 So farewell.  
 223 *Hel.* Our remedies oft in our selues do lye,

224 Which we ascribe to heauen: the fated skye  
 225 Giues vs free scope, onely doth backward pull  
 226 Our slow designes, when we our selues are dull.  
 227 What power is it, which mounts my loue so hye,  
 228 That makes me see, and cannot feede mine eye?  
 229 The mightiest space in fortune, Nature brings  
 230 To ioyne like, likes; and kisse like natiue things.  
 231 Impossible be strange attempts to those  
 232 That weigh their paines in sence, and do suppose  
 233 What hath beene, cannot be. Who euer stroue  
 234 To shew her merit, that did misse her loue?  
 235 (The Kings disease) my proiect may deceiue me,  
 236 But my intents are fixt, and will not leaue me. *Exit*  
 237 *Flourish Cornets.*  
 238 *Enter the King of France with Letters, and*  
 239 *diuers Attendants.*  
 240 *King.* The *Florentines* and *Senoyes* are by th' eares,  
 241 Haue fought with equall fortune, and continue  
 242 A brauing warre.  
 243 1.*Lo.G.* So tis reported sir.  
 244 *King.* Nay tis most credible, we heere receiue it,  
 245 A certaintie vouch'd from our Cosin *Austria*,  
 246 With caution, that the *Florentine* will moue vs  
 247 For speedie ayde: wherein our deerest friend  
 248 Preiudicates the businesse, and would seeme  
 249 To haue vs make deniall.  
 250 1.*Lo.G.* His loue and wisdomes  
 251 Approu'd so to your Maiesty, may pleade  
 252 For amplest credence.  
 253 *King.* He hath arm'd our answer,  
 254 And *Florence* is deni'de before he comes:  
 255 Yet for our Gentlemen that meane to see  
 256 The *Tuscan* seruice, freely haue they leaue  
 257 To stand on either part.  
 258 2.*Lo.E.* It well may serue  
 259 A nurserie to our Gentry, who are sicke  
 260 For breathing, and exploit.  
 261 *King.* What's he comes heere.  
 262 *Enter Bertram, Lafew, and Parolles.*  
 263 1.*Lor.G.* It is the Count *Rosignoll* my good Lord,  
 264 Yong *Bertram*.  
 265 *King.* Youth, thou bear'st thy Fathers face,  
 266 Franke Nature rather curious then in hast  
 267 Hath well compos'd thee: Thy Fathers morall parts  
 268 Maist thou inherit too: Welcome to *Paris*.  
 269 *Ber.* My thanks and dutie are your Maiesties.

270 *Kin.* I would I had that corporall soundnesse now,  
 271 As when thy father, and my selfe, in friendship  
 272 First tride our souldiership: he did looke farre  
 273 Into the seruice of the time, and was  
 274 Discipled of the brauest. He lasted long,  
 275 But on vs both did haggish Age steale on,  
 276 And wore vs out of act: It much repaires me  
 277 To talke of your good father; in his youth  
 278 He had the wit, which I can well obserue  
 279 To day in our yong Lords: but they may iest  
 280 Till their owne scorne returne to them vnnoted  
 281 Ere they can hide their leuitie in honour:  
 282 So like a Courtier, contempt nor bitternesse  
 283 Were in his pride, or sharpnesse; if they were,  
 284 His equall had awak'd them, and his honour  
 285 Clocke to it selfe, knew the true minute when  
 286 Exception bid him speake: and at this time  
 287 His tongue obey'd his hand. Who were below him,  
 288 He vs'd as creatures of another place,  
 289 And bow'd his eminent top to their low rankes,  
 290 Making them proud of his humilitie,  
 291 In their poore praise he humbled: Such a man  
 292 Might be a copie to these yonger times;  
 293 Which followed well, would demonstrate them now  
 294 But goers backward.  
 295 *Ber.* His good remembrance sir  
 296 Lies richer in your thoughts, then on his tombe:  
 297 So in approofe liues not his Epitaph,  
 298 As in your royall speech.  
 299 *King.* Would I were with him he would alwaies say,  
 300 (Me thinkes I heare him now) his plausiue words  
 301 He scatter'd not in eares, but grafted them  
 302 To grow there and to beare: Let me not liue,  
 303 This his good melancholly oft began  
 304 On the Catastrophe and heele of pastime  
 305 When it was out: Let me not liue (quoth hee)  
 306 After my flame lackes oyle, to be the snuffe  
 307 Of yonger spirits, whose apprehensiue senses  
 308 All but new things disdain; whose iudgements are  
 309 Meere fathers of their garments: whose constancies  
 310 Expire before their fashions: this he wish'd.  
 311 I after him, do after him wish too:  
 312 Since I nor wax nor honie can bring home,  
 313 I quickly were dissolued from my hiue  
 314 To giue some Labourers roome.  
 315 *2.L.E.* You'r loued Sir,

316 They that least lend it you, shall lacke you first.  
 317 *Kin.* I fill a place I know't: how long ist Count  
 318 Since the Physitian at your fathers died?  
 319 He was much fam'd.  
 320 *Ber.* Some six moneths since my Lord.  
 321 *Kin.* If he were liuing, I would try him yet.  
 322 Lend me an arme: the rest haue worne me out  
 323 With seuerall applications: Nature and sicknesse  
 324 Debate it at their leisure. Welcome Count,  
 325 My sonne's no deerer.  
 326 *Ber.* Thanke your Maiesty. *Exit*  
 327 *Flourish.*  
 328 *Enter Countesse, Steward, and Clowne.*  
 329 *Coun.* I will now heare, what say you of this gentle-woman.  
 331 *Ste.* Maddam the care I haue had to euen your con-tent,  
 332 I wish might be found in the Kalender of my past  
 333 endeouours, for then we wound our Modestie, and make  
 334 foule the clearnesse of our deseruings, when of our selues  
 335 we publish them.  
 336 *Coun.* What doe's this knaue heere? Get you gone  
 337 sirra: the complaints I haue heard of you I do not all be-leeue,  
 338 'tis my slownesse that I doe not: For I know you  
 339 lacke not folly to commit them, & haue abilitie enough  
 340 to make such knaueries yours.  
 341 *Clo.* 'Tis not vnknown to you Madam, I am a poore  
 342 fellow.  
 343 *Coun.* Well sir.  
 344 *Clo.* No maddam,  
 345 'Tis not so well that I am poore, though manie [V3  
 346 of the rich are damn'd, but if I may haue your Ladiships  
 347 good will to goe to the world, *Isbell* the woman and I  
 348 will doe as we may.  
 349 *Coun.* Wilt thou needes be a begger?  
 350 *Clo.* I doe beg your good will in this case.  
 351 *Cou.* In what case?  
 352 *Clo.* In *Isbels* case and mine owne: seruice is no heri-tage,  
 353 and I thinke I shall neuer haue the blessing of God,  
 354 till I haue issue a my bodie: for they say barnes are bles-sings.  
 356 *Cou.* Tell me thy reason why thou wilt marrie?  
 357 *Clo.* My poore bodie Madam requires it, I am driuen  
 358 on by the flesh, and hee must needes goe that the diuell  
 359 driues.  
 360 *Cou.* Is this all your worships reason?  
 361 *Clo.* Faith Madam I haue other holie reasons, such as  
 362 they are.  
 363 *Cou.* May the world know them?

364 *Clo.* I haue beene Madam a wicked creature, as you  
 365 and all flesh and blood are, and indeede I doe marrie that  
 366 I may repent.  
 367 *Cou.* Thy marriage sooner then thy wickednesse.  
 368 *Clo.* I am out a friends Madam, and I hope to haue  
 369 friends for my wiues sake.  
 370 *Cou.* Such friends are thine enemies knaue.  
 371 *Clo.* Y'are shallow Madam in great friends, for the  
 372 knaues come to doe that for me which I am a wearie of:  
 373 he that eres my Land, spares my teame, and giues mee  
 374 leaue to Inne the crop: if I be his cuckold hee's my  
 375 drudge; he that comforts my wife, is the cherisher of  
 376 my flesh and blood; hee that cherishes my flesh and  
 377 blood, loues my flesh and blood; he that loues my flesh  
 378 and blood is my friend: *ergo*, he that kisses my wife is my  
 379 friend: if men could be contented to be what they are,  
 380 there were no feare in marriage, for yong *Charbon* the  
 381 Puritan, and old *Poysam* the Papist, how somere their  
 382 hearts are seuer'd in Religion, their heads are both one,  
 383 they may ioule horns together like any Deare i'th Herd.  
 384 *Cou.* Wilt thou euer be a foule mouth'd and calum-nious  
 385 knaue?  
 386 *Clo.* A Prophet I Madam, and I speake the truth the  
 387 next waie, for I the Ballad will repeate, which men full  
 388 true shall finde, your marriage comes by destinie, your  
 389 Cuckow sings by kinde.  
 390 *Cou.* Get you gone sir, Ile talke with you more anon.  
 391 *Stew.* May it please you Madam, that hee bid *Hellen*  
 392 come to you, of her I am to speake.  
 393 *Cou.* Sirra tell my gentlewoman I would speake with  
 394 her, *Hellen* I meane.  
 395 *Clo.* Was this faire face the cause, quoth she,  
 396 Why the Grecians sacked *Troy*,  
 397 Fond done, done, fond was this King *Priams* ioy,  
 398 With that she sighed as she stood, *bis*  
 399 And gaue this sentence then, among nine bad if one be  
 400 good, among nine bad if one be good, there's yet one  
 401 good in ten.  
 402 *Cou.* What, one good in tenne? you corrupt the song  
 403 sirra.  
 404 *Clo.* One good woman in ten Madam, which is a pu-rifying  
 405 ath' song: would God would serue the world so  
 406 all the yeere, weed finde no fault with the tithe woman  
 407 if I were the Parson, one in ten quoth a? and wee might  
 408 haue a good woman borne but ore euerie blazing starre,  
 409 or at an earthquake, 'twould mend the Lotterie well, a

410 man may draw his heart out ere a plucke one.  
 411 *Cou.* Youle begone sir knaue, and doe as I command  
 412 you?  
 413 *Clo.* That man should be at womans command, and  
 414 yet no hurt done, though honestie be no Puritan, yet  
 415 it will doe no hurt, it will weare the Surplis of humilitie  
 416 ouer the blacke- Gowne of a bigge heart: I am go-ing  
 417 forsooth, the businesse is for *Helen* to come hither.  
 418 *Exit.*  
 419 *Cou.* Well now.  
 420 *Stew.* I know Madam you loue your Gentlewoman  
 421 intirely.  
 422 *Cou.* Faith I doe: her Father bequeath'd her to mee,  
 423 and she her selfe without other aduantage, may lawful-  
 424 lie make title to as much loue as shee findes, there is  
 425 more owing her then is paid, and more shall be paid  
 426 her then sheele demand.  
 427 *Stew.* Madam, I was verie late more neere her then  
 428 I thinke shee wisht mee, alone shee was, and did  
 429 communicate to her selfe her owne words to her  
 430 owne eares, shee thought, I dare vowe for her, they  
 431 toucht not anie stranger sence, her matter was, shee  
 432 loued your Sonne; Fortune shee said was no god-desse,  
 433 that had put such difference betwixt their two  
 434 estates: Loue no god, that would not extend his might  
 435 onelie, where qualities were leuell, Queene of Vir-gins,  
 436 that would suffer her poore Knight surpris'd  
 437 without rescue in the first assault or ransome after-ward:  
 438 This shee deliuer'd in the most bitter touch of  
 439 sorrow that ere I heard Virgin exclaime in, which I held  
 440 my dutie speedily to acquaint you withall, sithence in  
 441 the losse that may happen, it concernes you something  
 442 to know it.  
 443 *Cou.* You haue discharg'd this honestlie, keepe it  
 444 to your selfe, manie likelihoods inform'd mee of this  
 445 before, which hung so tottring in the ballance, that  
 446 I could neither beleeeue nor misdoubt: praie you  
 447 leaue mee, stall this in your bosome, and I thanke  
 448 you for your honest care: I will speake with you fur-ther  
 449 anon. *Exit Steward.*  
 450 *Enter Hellen.*  
 451 *Old.Cou.* Euen so it was with me when I was yong:  
 452 If euer we are natures, these are ours, this thorne  
 453 Doth to our Rose of youth rightlie belong  
 454 Our bloud to vs, this to our blood is borne,  
 455 It is the show, and seale of natures truth,

456 Where loues strong passion is imprest in youth,  
 457 By our remembrances of daies forgon,  
 458 Such were our faults, or then we thought them none,  
 459 Her eie is sicke on't, I obserue her now.  
 460 *Hell.* What is your pleasure Madam?  
 461 *Ol.Cou.* You know *Hellen* I am a mother to you.  
 462 *Hell.* Mine honorable Mistris.  
 463 *Ol.Cou.* Nay a mother, why not a mother? when I  
 464 sed a mother  
 465 Me thought you saw a serpent, what's in mother,  
 466 That you start at it? I say I am your mother,  
 467 And put you in the Catalogue of those  
 468 That were enwombed mine, 'tis often seene  
 469 Adoption striues with nature, and choise breeds  
 470 A natiue slip to vs from forraine seedes:  
 471 You nere opprest me with a mothers groane,  
 472 Yet I expresse to you a mothers care,  
 473 (Gods mercie maiden) dos it curd thy blood  
 474 To say I am thy mother? what's the matter,  
 475 That this distempered messenger of wet? [V3v  
 476 The manie colour'd Iris rounds thine eye?  
 477 — Why, that you are my daughter?  
 478 *Hell.* That I am not.  
 479 *Old.Cou.* I say I am your Mother.  
 480 *Hell.* Pardon Madam.  
 481 The Count *Rosillion* cannot be my brother:  
 482 I am from humble, he from honored name:  
 483 No note vpon my Parents, his all noble,  
 484 My Master, my deere Lord he is, and I  
 485 His seruant liue, and will his vassall die:  
 486 He must not be my brother.  
 487 *Ol.Cou.* Nor I your Mother.  
 488 *Hell.* You are my mother Madam, would you were  
 489 So that my Lord your sonne were not my brother,  
 490 Indeede my mother, or were you both our mothers,  
 491 I care no more for, then I doe for heauen,  
 492 So I were not his sister, cant no other,  
 493 But I your daughter, he must be my brother.  
 494 *Old.Cou.* Yes *Hellen*, you might be my daughter in law,  
 495 God shield you meane it not, daughter and mother  
 496 So striue vpon your pulse; what pale agen?  
 497 My feare hath catcht your fondnesse! now I see  
 498 The mistrie of your louelinesse, and finde  
 499 Your salt teares head, now to all sence 'tis grosse:  
 500 You loue my sonne, inuention is asham'd  
 501 Against the proclamation of thy passion

502 To say thou doost not: therefore tell me true,  
 503 But tell me then 'tis so, for looke, thy cheekes  
 504 Confesse it 'ton tooth to th' other, and thine eies  
 505 See it so grosely showne in thy behaiours,  
 506 That in their kinde they speake it, onely sinne  
 507 And hellish obstinacie tye thy tongue  
 508 That truth should be suspected, speake, ist so?  
 509 If it be so, you haue wound a goodly clewe:  
 510 If it be not, forswear't how ere I charge thee,  
 511 As heauen shall worke in me for thine auaille  
 512 To tell me truelie.  
 513 *Hell.* Good Madam pardon me.  
 514 *Cou.* Do you loue my Sonne?  
 515 *Hell.* Your pardon noble Mistris.  
 516 *Cou.* Loue you my Sonne?  
 517 *Hell.* Doe not you loue him Madam?  
 518 *Cou.* Goe not about; my loue hath in't a bond  
 519 Whereof the world takes note: Come, come, disclose:  
 520 The state of your affection, for your passions  
 521 Haue to the full appeach'd.  
 522 *Hell.* Then I confesse  
 523 Here on my knee, before high heauen and you,  
 524 That before you, and next vnto high heauen, I loue your  
 525 Sonne:  
 526 My friends were poore but honest, so's my loue:  
 527 Be not offended, for it hurts not him  
 528 That he is lou'd of me; I follow him not  
 529 By any token of presumptuous suite,  
 530 Nor would I haue him, till I doe deserue him,  
 531 Yet neuer know how that desert should be:  
 532 I know I loue in vaine, striue against hope:  
 533 Yet in this captious, and intemible Siue.  
 534 I still poure in the waters of my loue  
 535 And lacke not to loose still; thus *Indian* like  
 536 Religious in mine error, I adore  
 537 The Sunne that lookes vpon his worshipper,  
 538 But knowes of him no more. My deerest Madam,  
 539 Let not your hate incounter with my loue,  
 540 For louing where you doe; but if your selfe,  
 541 Whose aged honor cites a vertuous youth,  
 542 Did euer, in so true a flame of liking,  
 543 Wish chastly, and loue dearely, that your *Dian*  
 544 Was both her selfe and loue, O then giue pittie  
 545 To her whose state is such, that cannot choose  
 546 But lend and giue where she is sure to loose;  
 547 That seekes not to finde that, her search implies,

548 But riddle like, liues sweetely where she dies.  
549 *Cou.* Had you not lately an intent, speake truely,  
550 To goe to *Paris*?  
551 *Hell.* Madam I had.  
552 *Cou.* Wherefore? tell true.  
553 *Hell.* I will tell truth, by grace it selfe I sweare:  
554 You know my Father left me some prescriptions  
555 Of rare and prou'd effects, such as his reading  
556 And manifest experience, had collected  
557 For generall soueraigntie: and that he wil'd me  
558 In heedfull'st reseruatiō to bestow them,  
559 As notes, whose faculties inclusiue were,  
560 More then they were in note: Amongst the rest,  
561 There is a remedie, approu'd, set downe,  
562 To cure the desperate languishings whereof  
563 The King is render'd lost.  
564 *Cou.* This was your motiue for *Paris*, was it, speake?  
565 *Hell.* My Lord, your sonne, made me to think of this;  
566 Else *Paris*, and the medicine, and the King,  
567 Had from the conuersation of my thoughts,  
568 Happily beene absent then.  
569 *Cou.* But thinke you *Hellen*,  
570 If you should tender your supposed aide,  
571 He would receiue it? He and his Phisitions  
572 Are of a minde, he, that they cannot helpe him:  
573 They, that they cannot helpe, how shall they credit  
574 A poore vnlearned Virgin, when the Schooles  
575 Embowel'd of their doctrine, haue left off  
576 The danger to it selfe.  
577 *Hell.* There's something in't  
578 More then my Fathers skill, which was the great'st  
579 Of his profession, that his good receipt,  
580 Shall for my legacie be sanctified  
581 Byth' luckiest stars in heauen, and would your honor  
582 But giue me leaue to trie successe, I'de venture  
583 The well lost life of mine, on his Graces cure,  
584 By such a day, an houre.  
585 *Cou.* Doo'st thou beleue't?  
586 *Hell.* I Madam knowingly.  
587 *Cou.* Why *Hellen* thou shalt haue my leaue and loue,  
588 Meanes and attendants, and my louing greetings  
589 To those of mine in Court, Ile staie at home  
590 And praie Gods blessing into thy attempt:  
591 Begon to morrow, and be sure of this,  
592 What I can helpe thee to, thou shalt not misse. *Exeunt.*

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*Actus Secundus.*

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594 *Enter the King with diuers yong Lords, taking leaue for*  
595 *the Florentine warre: Count, Rosse, and*  
596 *Parrolles. Florish Cornets.*  
597 *King.* Farewell yong Lords, these warlike principles  
598 Doe not throw from you, and you my Lords farewell:  
599 Share the aduice betwixt you, if both gaine, all  
600 The guift doth stretch it selfe as 'tis receiu'd,  
601 And is enough for both.  
602 *Lord.G.* 'Tis our hope sir, [V4  
603 After well entred souldiers, to returne  
604 And finde your grace in health.  
605 *King.* No, no, it cannot be; and yet my heart  
606 Will not confesse he owes the mallady  
607 That doth my life besiege: farwell yong Lords,  
608 Whether I liue or die, be you the sonnes  
609 Of worthy French men: let higher Italy  
610 (Those bated that inherit but the fall  
611 Of the last Monarchy) see that you come  
612 Not to wooe honour, but to wed it, when  
613 The brauest questant shrinks: finde what you seeke,  
614 That fame may cry you loud: I say farewell.  
615 *L.G.* Health at your bidding serue your Maiesty.  
616 *King.* Those girles of Italy, take heed of them,  
617 They say our French, lacke language to deny  
618 If they demand: beware of being Captiuies  
619 Before you serue.  
620 *Bo.* Our hearts receiue your warnings.  
621 *King.* Farewell, come hether to me.  
622 *1.Lo.G.* Oh my sweet Lord y you wil stay behind vs.  
623 *Parr.* 'Tis not his fault the spark.  
624 *2.Lo.E.* Oh 'tis braue warres.  
625 *Parr.* Most admirable, I haue seene those warres.  
626 *Rossill.* I am commanded here, and kept a coyle with,  
627 Too young, and the next yeere, and 'tis too early.  
628 *Parr.* And thy minde stand too't boy,  
629 Steale away brauely.  
630 *Rossill.* I shal stay here the for- horse to a smocke,  
631 Creeking my shooes on the plaine Masonry,  
632 Till honour be bought vp, and no sword worne  
633 But one to dance with: by heauen, Ile steale away.  
634 *1.Lo.G.* There's honour in the theft.  
635 *Parr.* Commit it Count.  
636 *2.Lo.E.* I am your accessory, and so farewell.  
637 *Ros.* I grow to you, & our parting is a tortur'd body.

638 1.*Lo.G.* Farewell Captaine.  
639 2.*Lo.E.* Sweet Mounsier *Parolles*.  
640 *Parr.* Noble *Heroes*; my sword and yours are kinne,  
641 good sparkes and lustrous, a word good mettals. You  
642 shall finde in the Regiment of the Spinij, one Captaine  
643 *Spurio* his sicatrice, with an Embleme of warre heere on  
644 his sinister cheeke; it was this very sword entrench'd it:  
645 say to him I liue, and obserue his reports for me.  
646 *Lo.G.* We shall noble Captaine.  
647 *Parr.* *Mars* doate on you for his nouices, what will  
648 ye doe?  
649 *Ross.* Stay the King.  
650 *Parr.* Vse a more spacious ceremonie to the Noble  
651 Lords, you haue restrain'd your selfe within the List of  
652 too cold an adieu: be more expressiue to them; for they  
653 weare themselues in the cap of the time, there do muster  
654 true gate; eat, speake, and moue vnder the influence of  
655 the most receiu'd starre, and though the deuill leade the  
656 measure, such are to be followed: after them, and take a  
657 more dilated farewell.  
658 *Ross.* And I will doe so.  
659 *Parr.* Worthy fellowes, and like to prooue most si-newie  
660 sword- men. *Exeunt*.  
661 *Enter Lafew*.  
662 *L.Laf.* Pardon my Lord for mee and for my tidings.  
663 *King.* Ile see thee to stand vp.  
664 *L.Laf.* Then heres a man stands that has brought his |(pardon,  
665 I would you had kneel'd my Lord to aske me mercy,  
666 And that at my bidding you could so stand vp.  
667 *King.* I would I had, so I had broke thy pate  
668 And askt thee mercy for't.  
669 *Laf.* Goodfaith a- crosse, but my good Lord 'tis thus,  
670 Will you be cur'd of your infirmitie?  
671 *King.* No.  
672 *Laf.* O will you eat no grapes my royall foxe?  
673 Yes but you will, my noble grapes, and if  
674 My royall foxe could reach them: I haue seen a medicine  
675 That's able to breath life into a stone,  
676 Quicken a rocke, and make you dance Canari  
677 With sprightly fire and motion, whose simple touch  
678 Is powerfull to arayse King *Pippen*, nay  
679 To giue great *Charlemaine* a pen in's hand  
680 And write to her a loue- line.  
681 *King.* What her is this?  
682 *Laf.* Why doctor she: my Lord, there's one arriu'd,  
683 If you will see her: now by my faith and honour,

684 If seriously I may conuay my thoughts  
 685 In this my light deliuerance, I haue spoke  
 686 With one, that in her sexe, her yeeres, profession,  
 687 Wisedome and constancy, hath amaz'd mee more  
 688 Then I dare blame my weakenesse: will you see her?  
 689 For that is her demand, and know her businesse?  
 690 That done, laugh well at me.  
 691 *King.* Now good *Lafew*,  
 692 Bring in the admiration, that we with thee  
 693 May spend our wonder too, or take off thine  
 694 By wondring how thou tookst it.  
 695 *Laf.* Nay, Ile fit you,  
 696 And not be all day neither.  
 697 *King.* Thus he his speciall nothing euer prologues.  
 698 *Laf.* Nay, come your waies.  
 699 *Enter Hellen.*  
 700 *King.* This haste hath wings indeed.  
 701 *Laf.* Nay, come your waies,  
 702 This is his Maiestie, say your minde to him,  
 703 A Traitor you doe looke like, but such traitors  
 704 His Maiesty seldome feares, I am *Cresseds* Vncle,  
 705 That dare leaue two together, far you well. *Exit.*  
 706 *King.* Now faire one, do's your busines follow vs?  
 707 *Hel.* I my good Lord,  
 708 *Gerard de Narbon* was my father,  
 709 In what he did professe, well found.  
 710 *King.* I knew him.  
 711 *Hel.* The rather will I spare my praises towards him,  
 712 Knowing him is enough: on's bed of death,  
 713 Many receipts he gaue me, chieflie one,  
 714 Which as the dearest issue of his practice  
 715 And of his olde experience, th' onlie darling,  
 716 He bad me store vp, as a triple eye,  
 717 Safer then mine owne two: more deare I haue so,  
 718 And hearing your high Maiestie is toucht  
 719 With that malignant cause, wherein the honour  
 720 Of my deare fathers gift, stands cheefe in power,  
 721 I come to tender it, and my appliance,  
 722 With all bound humblenesse.  
 723 *King.* We thanke you maiden,  
 724 But may not be so credulous of cure,  
 725 When our most learned Doctors leaue vs, and  
 726 The congregated Colledge haue concluded,  
 727 That labouring Art can neuer ransome nature  
 728 From her inaydible estate: I say we must not  
 729 So staine our iudgement, or corrupt our hope,

730 To prostitute our past- cure malladie  
 731 To empericks, or to disseuer so  
 732 Our great selfe and our credit, to esteeme  
 733 A sencelesse helpe, when helpe past sence we deeme. [V4v  
 734 *Hell.* My dutie then shall pay me for my paines:  
 735 I will no more enforce mine office on you,  
 736 Humbly intreating from your royall thoughts,  
 737 A modest one to beare me backe againe.  
 738 *King.* I cannot giue thee lesse to be cal'd gratefull:  
 739 Thou thoughtst to helpe me, and such thankes I giue,  
 740 As one neere death to those that wish him liue:  
 741 But what at full I know, thou knowst no part,  
 742 I knowing all my perill, thou no Art.  
 743 *Hell.* What I can doe, can doe no hurt to try,  
 744 Since you set vp your rest 'gainst remedie:  
 745 He that of greatest workes is finisher,  
 746 Oft does them by the weakest minister:  
 747 So holy Writ, in babes hath iudgement showne,  
 748 When Iudges haue bin babes; great flouds haue flowne  
 749 From simple sources: and great Seas haue dried  
 750 When Miracles haue by the great'st beene denied.  
 751 Oft expectation failes, and most oft there  
 752 Where most it promises: and oft it hits,  
 753 Where hope is coldest, and despaire most shifts.  
 754 *King.* I must not heare thee, fare thee wel kind maide,  
 755 Thy paines not vs'd, must by thy selfe be paid,  
 756 Proffers not tooke, reape thanks for their reward.  
 757 *Hel.* Inspired Merit so by breath is bard,  
 758 It is not so with him that all things knowes  
 759 As 'tis with vs, that square our guesse by showes:  
 760 But most it is presumption in vs, when  
 761 The help of heauen we count the act of men.  
 762 Deare sir, to my endeaours giue consent,  
 763 Of heauen, not me, make an experiment.  
 764 I am not an Imposture, that proclaime  
 765 My selfe against the leuill of mine aime,  
 766 But know I thinke, and thinke I know most sure,  
 767 My Art is not past power, nor you past cure.  
 768 *King.* Art thou so confident? Within what space  
 769 Hop'st thou my cure?  
 770 *Hel.* The greatest grace lending grace,  
 771 Ere twice the horses of the sunne shall bring  
 772 Their fiery torcher his diurnall ring,  
 773 Ere twice in murke and occidentall dampe  
 774 Moist *Hesperus* hath quench'd her sleepy Lampe:  
 775 Or foure and twenty times the Pylots glasse

776 Hath told the theeuish minutes, how they passe:  
 777 What is infirme, from your sound parts shall flie,  
 778 Health shall liue free, and sicknesse freely dye.  
 779 *King.* Vpon thy certainty and confidence,  
 780 What dar'st thou venter?  
 781 *Hell.* Taxe of impudence,  
 782 A strumpets boldnesse, a divulged shame  
 783 Traduc'd by odious ballads: my maidens name  
 784 Seard otherwise, ne worse of worst extended  
 785 With vildest torture, let my life be ended.  
 786 *Kin.* Methinks in thee some blessed spirit doth speak  
 787 His powerfull sound, within an organ weake:  
 788 And what impossibility would slay  
 789 In common sence, sence saues another way:  
 790 Thy life is deere, for all that life can rate  
 791 Worth name of life, in thee hath estimate:  
 792 Youth, beauty, wisdome, courage, all  
 793 That happines and prime, can happy call:  
 794 Thou this to hazard, needs must intimate  
 795 Skill infinite, or monstrous desperate,  
 796 Sweet practiser, thy Physicke I will try,  
 797 That ministers thine owne death if I die.  
 798 *Hel.* If I breake time, or flinch in property  
 799 Of what I spoke, vnpittied let me die,  
 800 And well deseru'd: not helping, death's my fee,  
 801 But if I helpe, what doe you promise me.  
 802 *Kin.* Make thy demand.  
 803 *Hel.* But will you make it euen?  
 804 *Kin.* I by my Scepter, and my hopes of helpe.  
 805 *Hel.* Then shalt thou giue me with thy kingly hand  
 806 What husband in thy power I will command:  
 807 Exempted be from me the arrogance  
 808 To choose from forth the royall bloud of France,  
 809 My low and humble name to propagate  
 810 With any branch or image of thy state:  
 811 But such a one thy vassall, whom I know  
 812 Is free for me to aske, thee to bestow.  
 813 *Kin.* Heere is my hand, the premises obseru'd,  
 814 Thy will by my performance shall be seru'd:  
 815 So make the choice of thy owne time, for I  
 816 Thy resolv'd Patient, on thee still relye:  
 817 More should I question thee, and more I must,  
 818 Though more to know, could not be more to trust:  
 819 From whence thou cam'st, how tended on, but rest  
 820 Vnquestion'd welcome, and vndoubted blest.  
 821 Giue me some helpe heere hoa, if thou proceed,

822 As high as word, my deed shall match thy deed.  
 823 *Florish. Exit.*  
 824 *Enter Countesse and Clowne.*  
 825 *Lady.* Come on sir, I shall now put you to the height  
 826 of your breeding.  
 827 *Clown.* I will shew my selfe highly fed, and lowly  
 828 taught, I know my businesse is but to the Court.  
 829 *Lady.* To the Court, why what place make you spe-ciall,  
 830 when you put off that with such contempt, but to  
 831 the Court?  
 832 *Clo.* Truly Madam, if God haue lent a man any man-ners,  
 833 hee may easilie put it off at Court: hee that cannot  
 834 make a legge, put off's cap, kisse his hand, and say no-thing,  
 835 has neither legge, hands, lippe, nor cap; and in-deed  
 836 such a fellow, to say precisely, were not for the  
 837 Court, but for me, I haue an answere will serue all men.  
 838 *Lady.* Marry that's a bountifull answere that fits all  
 839 questions.  
 840 *Clo.* It is like a Barbers chaire that fits all buttockes,  
 841 the pin buttocke, the quatch- buttocke, the brawn but-tocke,  
 842 or any buttocke.  
 843 *Lady.* Will your answere serue fit to all questions?  
 844 *Clo.* As fit as ten groats is for the hand of an Attur-ney,  
 845 as your French Crowne for your taffety punke, as  
 846 *Tibs* rush for *Toms* fore- finger, as a pancake for Shroue- tuesday,  
 847 a Morris for May- day, as the naile to his hole,  
 848 the Cuckold to his horne, as a scolding queane to a  
 849 wrangling knaue, as the Nuns lip to the Friers mouth,  
 850 nay as the pudding to his skin.  
 851 *Lady.* Haue you, I say, an answere of such fitnessse for  
 852 all questions?  
 853 *Clo.* From below your Duke, to beneath your Con-stable,  
 854 it will fit any question.  
 855 *Lady.* It must be an answere of most monstrous size,  
 856 that must fit all demands.  
 857 *Clo.* But a triffle neither in good faith, if the learned  
 858 should speake truth of it: heere it is, and all that belongs  
 859 to't. Aske mee if I am a Courtier, it shall doe you no  
 860 harme to learne.  
 861 *Lady.* To be young againe if we could: I will bee a  
 862 foole in question, hoping to bee the wiser by your an-swer. [V5  
 864 *La.* I pray you sir, are you a Courtier?  
 865 *Clo.* O Lord sir theres a simple putting off: more,  
 866 more, a hundred of them.  
 867 *La.* Sir I am a poore freind of yours, that loues you.  
 868 *Clo.* O Lord sir, thicke, thicke, spare not me.

869 *La.* I thinke sir, you can eate none of this homely  
 870 meate.

871 *Clo.* O Lord sir; nay put me too't, I warrant you.

872 *La.* You were lately whipt sir as I thinke.

873 *Clo.* O Lord sir, spare not me.

874 *La.* Doe you crie O Lord sir at your whipping, and  
 875 spare not me? Indeed your O Lord sir, is very sequent  
 876 to your whipping: you would answere very well to a  
 877 whipping if you were but bound too't.

878 *Clo.* I nere had worse lucke in my life in my O Lord  
 879 sir: I see things may serue long, but not serue euer.

880 *La.* I play the noble huswife with the time, to enter-taine  
 881 it so merrily with a foole.

882 *Clo.* O Lord sir, why there't serues well agen.

883 *La.* And end sir to your businesse: giue *Hellen* this,  
 884 And vrge her to a present answer backe,  
 885 Commend me to my kinsmen, and my sonne,  
 886 This is not much.

887 *Clo.* Not much commendation to them.

888 *La.* Not much imployment for you, you vnder-stand  
 889 me.

890 *Clo.* Most fruitfully, I am there, before my legges.

891 *La.* Hast you agen. *Exeunt*

892 *Enter Count, Lafew, and Parolles.*

893 *Ol.Laf.* They say miracles are past, and we haue our  
 894 Philosophicall persons, to make moderne and familiar  
 895 things supernaturall and causelesse. Hence is it, that we  
 896 make trifles of terrours, ensconcing our selues into see-ming  
 897 knowledge, when we should submit our selues to  
 898 an vnknowne feare.

899 *Par.* Why 'tis the rarest argument of wonder, that  
 900 hath shot out in our latter times.

901 *Ros.* And so 'tis.

902 *Ol.Laf.* To be relinquisht of the Artists.

903 *Par.* So I say both of *Galen* and *Paracelsus*.

904 *Ol.Laf.* Of all the learned and authenticke fellowes.

905 *Par.* Right so I say.

906 *Ol.Laf.* That gaue him out incureable.

907 *Par.* Why there 'tis, so say I too.

908 *Ol.Laf.* Not to be help'd.

909 *Par.* Right, as 'twere a man assur'd of a—

910 *Ol.Laf.* Vncertaine life, and sure death.

911 *Par.* Iust, you say well: so would I haue said.

912 *Ol.Laf.* I may truly say, it is a noueltie to the world.

913 *Par.* It is indeede if you will haue it in shewing, you  
 914 shall reade it in what do ye call there.

915 *Ol.Laf.* A shewing of a heauenly effect in an earth-ly  
 916 Actor.  
 917 *Par.* That's it, I would haue said, the verie same.  
 918 *Ol.Laf.* Why your Dolphin is not lustier: fore mee  
 919 I speake in respect—  
 920 *Par.* Nay 'tis strange, 'tis very straunge, that is the  
 921 breefe and the tedious of it, and he's of a most facineri-ous  
 922 spirit, that will not acknowledge it to be the—  
 923 *Ol.Laf.* Very hand of heauen.  
 924 *Par.* I, so I say.  
 925 *Ol.Laf.* In a most weake—  
 926 *Par.* And debile minister great power, great tran-cendence,  
 927 which should indeede giue vs a further vse to  
 928 be made, then alone the recou'ry of the king, as to bee  
 929 *Old Laf.* Generally thankfull.  
 930 *Enter King, Hellen, and attendants.*  
 931 *Par.* I would haue said it, you say well: heere comes  
 932 the King.  
 933 *Ol.Laf.* Lustique, as the Dutchman saies: Ile like a  
 934 maide the Better whil'st I haue a tooth in my head: why  
 935 he's able to leade her a Carranto.  
 936 *Par.* *Mor du vinager*, is not this *Helen*?  
 937 *Ol.Laf.* Fore God I thinke so.  
 938 *King.* Goe call before mee all the Lords in Court,  
 939 Sit my preseruer by thy patients side,  
 940 And with this healthfull hand whose banisht sence  
 941 Thou hast repeal'd, a second time receyue  
 942 The confirmation of my promis'd guift,  
 943 Which but attends thy naming.  
 944 *Enter 3 or 4 Lords.*  
 945 Faire Maide send forth thine eye, this youthfull parcell  
 946 Of Noble Batchellors, stand at my bestowing,  
 947 Ore whom both Soueraigne power, and fathers voice  
 948 I haue to vse; thy franke election make,  
 949 Thou hast power to choose, and they none to forsake.  
 950 *Hel.* To each of you, one faire and vertuous Mistris;  
 951 Fall when loue please, marry to each but one.  
 952 *Old Laf.* I'de giue bay curtall, and his furniture  
 953 My mouth no more were broken then these boyes,  
 954 And writ as little beard.  
 955 *King.* Peruse them well:  
 956 Not one of those, but had a Noble father.  
 957 *She addresses her to a Lord.*  
 958 *Hel.* Gentlemen, heauen hath through me, restor'd  
 959 the king to health.  
 960 *All.* We vnderstand it, and thanke heauen for you.

961 *Hel.* I am a simple Maide, and therein wealthiest  
 962 That I protest, I simply am a Maide:  
 963 Please it your Maiestie, I haue done already:  
 964 The blushes in my cheekes thus whisper mee,  
 965 We blush that thou shouldst choose, but be refused;  
 966 Let the white death sit on thy cheeke for euer,  
 967 Wee'l nere come there againe.  
 968 *King.* Make choise and see,  
 969 Who shuns thy loue, shuns all his loue in mee.  
 970 *Hel.* Now *Dian* from thy Altar do I fly,  
 971 And to imperiall loue, that God most high  
 972 Do my sighes streame: Sir, wil you heare my suite?  
 973 *1.Lo.* And grant it.  
 974 *Hel.* Thankes sir, all the rest is mute.  
 975 *Ol.Laf.* I had rather be in this choise, then throw  
 976 Ames- ace for my life.  
 977 *Hel.* The honor sir that flames in your faire eyes,  
 978 Before I speake too threatningly replies:  
 979 Loue make your fortunes twentie times aboue  
 980 Her that so wishes, and her humble loue.  
 981 *2.Lo.* No better if you please.  
 982 *Hel.* My wish receiue,  
 983 Which great loue grant, and so I take my leaue.  
 984 *Ol.Laf.* Do all they denie her? And they were sons  
 985 of mine, I'de haue them whip'd, or I would send them  
 986 to'th Turke to make Eunuches of.  
 987 *Hel.* Be not afraid that I your hand should take,  
 988 Ile neuer do you wrong for your owne sake:  
 989 Blessing vpon your vowes, and in your bed  
 990 Finde fairer fortune, if you euer wed.  
 991 *Old Laf.* These boyes are boyes of Ice, they'le none [V5v  
 992 haue heere: sure they are bastards to the English, the  
 993 French nere got em.  
 994 *La.* You are too young, too happie, and too good  
 995 To make your selfe a sonne out of my blood.  
 996 *4.Lord.* Faire one, I thinke not so.  
 997 *Ol.Lord* There's one grape yet, I am sure thy father  
 998 drunke wine. But if thou be'st not an asse, I am a youth  
 999 of fourteene: I haue knowne thee already.  
 1000 *Hel.* I dare not say I take you, but I giue  
 1001 Me and my seruice, euer whilst I liue  
 1002 Into your guiding power: This is the man.  
 1003 *King.* Why then young *Bertram* take her shee's thy  
 1004 wife.  
 1005 *Ber.* My wife my Leige? I shal beseech your highnes  
 1006 In such a busines, giue me leaue to vse

1007 The helpe of mine owne eies.  
 1008 *King.* Know'st thou not *Bertram* what shee ha's  
 1009 done for mee?  
 1010 *Ber.* Yes my good Lord, but neuer hope to know  
 1011 why I should marrie her.  
 1012 *King.* Thou know'st shee ha's rais'd me from my sick-ly  
 1013 bed.  
 1014 *Ber.* But followes it my Lord, to bring me downe  
 1015 Must answer for your raising? I knowe her well:  
 1016 Shee had her breeding at my fathers charge:  
 1017 A poore Physitians daughter my wife? Disdaine  
 1018 Rather corrupt me euer.  
 1019 *King.* Tis onely title thou disdainst in her, the which  
 1020 I can build vp: strange is it that our bloods  
 1021 Of colour, waight, and heat, pour'd all together,  
 1022 Would quite confound distinction: yet stands off  
 1023 In differences so mightie. If she bee  
 1024 All that is vertuous (sauē what thou dislik'st)  
 1025 A poore Phisitians daughter, thou dislik'st  
 1026 Of vertue for the name: but doe not so:  
 1027 From lowest place, whence vertuous things proceed,  
 1028 The place is dignified by th' doers deede.  
 1029 Where great additions swell's, and vertue none,  
 1030 It is a dropsied honour. Good alone,  
 1031 Is good without a name? Vilenesse is so:  
 1032 The propertie by what is is, should go,  
 1033 Not by the title. Shee is young, wise, faire,  
 1034 In these, to Nature shee's immediate heire:  
 1035 And these breed honour: that is honours scorne,  
 1036 Which challenges it selfe as honours borne,  
 1037 And is not like the sire: Honours thriue,  
 1038 When rather from our acts we them deriue  
 1039 Then our fore- goers: the meere words, a slaue  
 1040 Debosh'd on euerie tombe, on euerie graue:  
 1041 A lying Trophee, and as oft is dumbe,  
 1042 Where dust, and damn'd obliuion is the Tombe.  
 1043 Of honour'd bones indeed, what should be saide?  
 1044 If thou canst like this creature, as a maide,  
 1045 I can create the rest: Vertue, and shee  
 1046 Is her owne dower: Honour and wealth, from mee.  
 1047 *Ber.* I cannot loue her, nor will striue to doo't.  
 1048 *King.* Thou wrong'st thy selfe, if thou shold'st striue  
 1049 to choose.  
 1050 *Hel.* That you are well restor'd my Lord, I'me glad:  
 1051 Let the rest go.  
 1052 *King.* My Honor's at the stake, which to defeate

1053 I must produce my power. Heere, take her hand,  
 1054 Proud scornfull boy, vnworthie this good gift,  
 1055 That dost in vile misprision shackle vp  
 1056 My loue, and her desert: that canst not dreame,  
 1057 We poizing vs in her defectiue scale,  
 1058 Shall weigh thee to the beame: That wilt not know,  
 1059 It is in Vs to plant thine Honour, where  
 1060 We please to haue it grow. Checke thy contempt:  
 1061 Obey Our will, which trauailes in thy good:  
 1062 Beleeue not thy disdain, but presentlie  
 1063 Do thine owne fortunes that obedient right  
 1064 Which both thy dutie owes, and Our power claimes,  
 1065 Or I will throw thee from my care for euer  
 1066 Into the staggers, and the carelesse lapse  
 1067 Of youth and ignorance: both my reuenge and hate  
 1068 Loosing vpon thee, in the name of iustice,  
 1069 Without all termes of pittie. Speake, thine answer.  
 1070 *Ber.* Pardon my gracious Lord: for I submit  
 1071 My fancie to your eies, when I consider  
 1072 What great creation, and what dole of honour  
 1073 Flies where you bid it: I finde that she which late  
 1074 Was in my Nobler thoughts, most base: is now  
 1075 The praised of the King, who so ennobled,  
 1076 Is as 'twere borne so.  
 1077 *King.* Take her by the hand,  
 1078 And tell her she is thine: to whom I promise  
 1079 A counterpoize: If not to thy estate,  
 1080 A ballance more repleat.  
 1081 *Ber.* I take her hand.  
 1082 *Kin.* Good fortune, and the fauour of the King  
 1083 Smile vpon this Contract: whose Ceremonie  
 1084 Shall seeme expedient on the now borne briefe,  
 1085 And be perform'd to night: the solemne Feast  
 1086 Shall more attend vpon the coming space,  
 1087 Expecting absent friends. As thou lou'st her,  
 1088 Thy loue's to me Religious: else, do's erre. *Exeunt*  
 1089 *Parolles and Lafew stay behind, commen-ting*  
 1090 *of this wedding.*  
 1091 *Laf.* Do you heare Monsieur? A word with you.  
 1092 *Par.* Your pleasure sir.  
 1093 *Laf.* Your Lord and Master did well to make his re-cantation.  
 1095 *Par.* Recantation? My Lord? my Master?  
 1096 *Laf.* I: Is it not a Language I speake?  
 1097 *Par.* A most harsh one, and not to bee vnderstoode  
 1098 without bloudie succeeding. My Master?  
 1099 *Laf.* Are you Companion to the Count *Rosillion*?

1100 *Par.* To any Count, to all Counts: to what is man.  
 1101 *Laf.* To what is Counts man: Counts maister is of  
 1102 another stile.  
 1103 *Par.* You are too old sir: Let it satisfie you, you are  
 1104 too old.  
 1105 *Laf.* I must tell thee sirrah, I write Man: to which  
 1106 title age cannot bring thee.  
 1107 *Par.* What I dare too well do, I dare not do.  
 1108 *Laf.* I did thinke thee for two ordinaries: to bee a  
 1109 prettie wise fellow, thou didst make tollerable vent of  
 1110 thy trauell, it might passe: yet the scarffes and the ban-nerets  
 1111 about thee, did manifoldlie dissuade me from be-leeuing  
 1112 thee a vessell of too great a burthen. I haue now  
 1113 found thee, when I loose thee againe, I care not: yet art  
 1114 thou good for nothing but taking vp, and that th'ourt  
 1115 scarce worth.  
 1116 *Par.* Hadst thou not the priuiledge of Antiquity vp-on  
 1117 thee.  
 1118 *Laf.* Do not plundge thy selfe to farre in anger, least  
 1119 thou hasten thy triall: which if, Lord haue mercie on  
 1120 thee for a hen, so my good window of Lettice fare thee  
 1121 well, thy casement I neede not open, for I look through  
 1122 thee. Giue me thy hand.  
 1123 *Par.* My Lord, you giue me most egregious indignity. [V6  
 1124 *Laf.* I with all my heart, and thou art worthy of it.  
 1125 *Par.* I haue not my Lord deseru'd it.  
 1126 *Laf.* Yes good faith, eu'ry dramme of it, and I will  
 1127 not bate thee a scruple.  
 1128 *Par.* Well, I shall be wiser.  
 1129 *Laf.* Eu'n as soone as thou can'st, for thou hast to pull  
 1130 at a smacke a'th contrarie. If euer thou bee'st bound  
 1131 in thy skarfe and beaten, thou shall finde what it is to be  
 1132 proud of thy bondage, I haue a desire to holde my ac-quaintance  
 1133 with thee, or rather my knowledge, that I  
 1134 may say in the default, he is a man I know.  
 1135 *Par.* My Lord you do me most insupportable vexati-on.  
 1137 *Laf.* I would it were hell paines for thy sake, and my  
 1138 poore doing eternall: for doing I am past, as I will by  
 1139 thee, in what motion age will giue me leaue. *Exit.*  
 1140 *Par.* Well, thou hast a sonne shall take this disgrace  
 1141 off me; scuruy, old, filthy, scuruy Lord: Well, I must  
 1142 be patient, there is no fettering of authority. Ile beate  
 1143 him (by my life) if I can meete him with any conueni-ence,  
 1144 and he were double and double a Lord. Ile haue  
 1145 no more pittie of his age then I would haue of— Ile  
 1146 beate him, and if I could but meet him agen.

1147 *Enter Lafew.*

1148 *Laf.* Sirra, your Lord and masters married, there's  
1149 newes for you: you haue a new Mistris.

1150 *Par.* I most vnfaignedly beseech your Lordshippe to  
1151 make some reseruatiō of your wrongs. He is my good  
1152 Lord, whom I serue aboue is my master.

1153 *Laf.* Who? God.

1154 *Par.* I sir.

1155 *Laf.* The deuill it is, that's thy master. Why doest  
1156 thou garter vp thy armes a this fashion? Dost make hose  
1157 of thy sleeues? Do other seruants so? Thou wert best set  
1158 thy lower part where thy nose stands. By mine Honor,  
1159 if I were but two houres yonger, I'de beate thee: mee- think'st  
1160 thou art a generall offence, and euery man shold  
1161 beate thee: I thinke thou wast created for men to breath  
1162 themselues vpon thee.

1163 *Par.* This is hard and vnderuaded measure my Lord.

1164 *Laf.* Go too sir, you were beaten in *Italy* for picking  
1165 a kernell out of a Pomgranat, you are a vagabond, and  
1166 no true traoueller: you are more sawcie with Lordes and  
1167 honourable personages, then the Commission of your  
1168 birth and vertue giues you Heraldry. You are not worth  
1169 another word, else I'de call you knaue. I leaue you.

1170 *Exit*

1171 *Enter Count Rossillion.*

1172 *Par.* Good, very good, it is so then: good, very  
1173 good, let it be conceal'd awhile.

1174 *Ros.* Vndone, and forfeited to cares for euer.

1175 *Par.* What's the matter sweet- heart?

1176 *Rossill.* Although before the solemne Priest I haue  
1177 sworne, I will not bed her.

1178 *Par.* What? what sweet heart?

1179 *Ros.* O my *Parrolles*, they haue married me:  
1180 Ile to the *Tuscan* warres, and neuer bed her.

1181 *Par.* *France* is a dog- hole, and it no more merits,  
1182 The tread of a mans foot: too'th warres.

1183 *Ros.* There's letters from my mother: What th' im-port  
1184 is, I know not yet.

1185 *Par.* I that would be knowne: too'th warrs my boy,  
1186 too'th warres:

1187 He weares his honor in a boxe vnseene,  
1188 That hugges his kickie wickie heare at home,

1189 Spending his manlie marrow in her armes  
1190 Which should sustaine the bound and high curuet

1191 Of *Marses* fierie steed: to other Regions,

1192 *France* is a stable, wee that dwell in't Iades,

1193 Therefore too'th warre.  
 1194 *Ros.* It shall be so, Ile send her to my house,  
 1195 Acquaint my mother with my hate to her,  
 1196 And wherefore I am fled: Write to the King  
 1197 That which I durst not speake. His present gift  
 1198 Shall furnish me to those Italian fields  
 1199 Where noble fellowes strike: Warres is no strife  
 1200 To the darke house, and the detected wife.  
 1201 *Par.* Will this Caprichio hold in thee, art sure?  
 1202 *Ros.* Go with me to my chamber, and aduice me.  
 1203 Ile send her straight away: To morrow,  
 1204 Ile to the warres, she to her single sorrow.  
 1205 *Par.* Why these bals bound, ther's noise in it. Tis hard  
 1206 A yong man married, is a man that's mard:  
 1207 Therefore away, and leaue her brauely: go,  
 1208 The King ha's done you wrong: but hush 'tis so. *Exit*  
 1209 *Enter Helena and Clowne.*  
 1210 *Hel.* My mother greets me kindly, is she well?  
 1211 *Clo.* She is not well, but yet she has her health, she's  
 1212 very merrie, but yet she is not well: but thankes be gi-uen  
 1213 she's very well, and wants nothing i'th world: but  
 1214 yet she is not well.  
 1215 *Hel.* If she be verie wel, what do's she ayle, that she's  
 1216 not verie well?  
 1217 *Clo.* Truly she's very well indeed, but for two things  
 1218 *Hel.* What two things?  
 1219 *Clo.* One, that she's not in heauen, whether God send  
 1220 her quickly: the other, that she's in earth, from whence  
 1221 God send her quickly.  
 1222 *Enter Parolles.*  
 1223 *Par.* Blesse you my fortunate Ladie.  
 1224 *Hel.* I hope sir I haue your good will to haue mine  
 1225 owne good fortune.  
 1226 *Par.* You had my prayers to leade them on, and to  
 1227 keepe them on, haue them still. O my knaue, how do's  
 1228 my old Ladie?  
 1229 *Clo.* So that you had her wrinkles, and I her money,  
 1230 I would she did as you say.  
 1231 *Par.* Why I say nothing.  
 1232 *Clo.* Marry you are the wiser man: for many a mans  
 1233 tongue shakes out his masters vndoing: to say nothing,  
 1234 to do nothing, to know nothing, and to haue nothing,  
 1235 is to be a great part of your title, which is within a verie  
 1236 little of nothing.  
 1237 *Par.* Away, th'art a knaue.  
 1238 *Clo.* You should haue said sir before a knaue, th'art a

1239 knaue, that's before me th'art a knaue: this had beene  
 1240 truth sir.  
 1241 *Par.* Go too, thou art a wittie foole, I haue found  
 1242 thee.  
 1243 *Clo.* Did you finde me in your selfe sir, or were you  
 1244 taught to finde me?  
 1245 *Clo.* The search sir was profitable, and much Foole  
 1246 may you find in you, euen to the worlds pleasure, and the  
 1247 encrease of laughter.  
 1248 *Par.* A good knaue ifaith, and well fed.  
 1249 Madam, my Lord will go awaie to night, [V6v  
 1250 A verie serrious businesse call's on him:  
 1251 The great prerogatiue and rite of loue,  
 1252 Which as your due time claimes, he do's acknowledge,  
 1253 But puts it off to a compell'd restraint:  
 1254 Whose want, and whose delay, is strew'd with sweets  
 1255 Which they distill now in the curbed time,  
 1256 To make the comming houre oreflow with ioy,  
 1257 And pleasure drowne the brim.  
 1258 *Hel.* What's his will else?  
 1259 *Par.* That you will take your instant leaue a'th king,  
 1260 And make this hast as your owne good proceeding,  
 1261 Strengthened with what Apologie you thinke  
 1262 May make it probable neede.  
 1263 *Hel.* What more commands hee?  
 1264 *Par.* That hauing this obtain'd, you presentlie  
 1265 Attend his further pleasure.  
 1266 *Hel.* In euery thing I waite vpon his will.  
 1267 *Par.* I shall report it so. *Exit Par.*  
 1268 *Hell.* I pray you come sirrah. *Exit*  
 1269 *Enter Lafew and Bertram.*  
 1270 *Laf.* But I hope your Lordshippe thinke not him a  
 1271 souldier.  
 1272 *Ber.* Yes my Lord and of verie valiant approofe.  
 1273 *Laf.* You haue it from his owne deliuerance.  
 1274 *Ber.* And by other warranted testimonie.  
 1275 *Laf.* Then my Diall goes not true, I tooke this Larke  
 1276 for a bunting.  
 1277 *Ber.* I do assure you my Lord he is very great in know-ledge,  
 1278 and accordinglie valiant.  
 1279 *Laf.* I haue then sinn'd against his experience, and  
 1280 transgress against his valour, and my state that way is  
 1281 dangerous, since I cannot yet find in my heart to repent:  
 1282 Heere he comes, I pray you make vs freinds, I will pur-sue  
 1283 the amitie.  
 1284 *Enter Parolles.*

1285 *Par.* These things shall be done sir.  
 1286 *Laf.* Pray you sir whose his Tailor?  
 1287 *Par.* Sir?  
 1288 *Laf.* O I know him well, I sir, hee sirs a good worke-man,  
 1289 a verie good Tailor.  
 1290 *Ber.* Is shee gone to the king?  
 1291 *Par.* Shee is.  
 1292 *Ber.* Will shee away to night?  
 1293 *Par.* As you'le haue her.  
 1294 *Ber.* I haue writ my letters, casketted my treasure,  
 1295 Giuen order for our horses, and to night,  
 1296 When I should take possession of the Bride,  
 1297 And ere I doe begin.  
 1298 *Laf.* A good Trauailer is something at the latter end  
 1299 of a dinner, but on that lies three thirds, and vses a  
 1300 known truth to passe a thousand nothings with, should  
 1301 bee once hard, and thrice beaten. God saue you Cap-taine.  
 1303 *Ber.* Is there any vnkindnes betweene my Lord and  
 1304 you Monsieur?  
 1305 *Par.* I know not how I haue deserued to run into my  
 1306 Lords displeasure.  
 1307 *Laf.* You haue made shift to run into't, bootes and  
 1308 spurres and all: like him that leapt into the Custard, and  
 1309 out of it you'le runne againe, rather then suffer question  
 1310 for your residence.  
 1311 *Ber.* It may bee you haue mistaken him my Lord.  
 1312 *Laf.* And shall doe so euer, though I tooke him at's  
 1313 prayers. Fare you well my Lord, and beleeeue this of  
 1314 me, there can be no kernell in this light Nut: the soule  
 1315 of this man is his cloathes: Trust him not in matter of  
 1316 heauie consequence: I haue kept of them tame, & know  
 1317 their natures. Farewell Monsieur, I haue spoken better  
 1318 of you, then you haue or will to deserue at my hand, but  
 1319 we must do good against euill.  
 1320 *Par.* An idle Lord, I sweare.  
 1321 *Ber.* I thinke so.  
 1322 *Par.* Why do you not know him?  
 1323 *Ber.* Yes, I do know him well, and common speech  
 1324 Giues him a worthy passe. Heere comes my clog.  
 1325 *Enter Helena.*  
 1326 *Hel.* I haue sir as I was commanded from you  
 1327 Spoke with the King, and haue procur'd his leaue  
 1328 For present parting, onely he desires  
 1329 Some priuate speech with you.  
 1330 *Ber.* I shall obey his will.  
 1331 You must not meruaile *Helena* at my course,

1332 Which holds not colour with the time, nor does  
1333 The ministration, and required office  
1334 On my particular. Prepar'd I was not  
1335 For such a businesse, therefore am I found  
1336 So much vnsetled: This driues me to intreate you,  
1337 That presently you take your way for home,  
1338 And rather muse then aske why I intreate you,  
1339 For my respects are better then they seeme,  
1340 And my appointments haue in them a neede  
1341 Greater then shewes it selfe at the first view,  
1342 To you that know them not. This to my mother,  
1343 'Twill be two daies ere I shall see you, so  
1344 I leaue you to your wisdome.  
1345 *Hel.* Sir, I can nothing say,  
1346 But that I am your most obedient seruant.  
1347 *Ber.* Come, come, no more of that.  
1348 *Hel.* And euer shall  
1349 With true obseruance seeke to eeke out that  
1350 Wherein toward me my homely starres haue faild  
1351 To equall my great fortune.  
1352 *Ber.* Let that goe: my hast is verie great. Farwell:  
1353 Hie home.  
1354 *Hel.* Pray sir your pardon.  
1355 *Ber.* Well, what would you say?  
1356 *Hel.* I am not worthie of the wealth I owe,  
1357 Nor dare I say 'tis mine: and yet it is,  
1358 But like a timorous theefe, most faine would steale  
1359 What law does vouch mine owne.  
1360 *Ber.* What would you haue?  
1361 *Hel.* Something, and scarce so much: nothing indeed,  
1362 I would not tell you what I would my Lord: Faith yes,  
1363 Strangers and foes do sunder, and not kisse.  
1364 *Ber.* I pray you stay not, but in hast to horse.  
1365 *Hel.* I shall not breake your bidding, good my Lord:  
1366 Where are my other men? Monsieur, farwell. *Exit*  
1367 *Ber.* Go thou toward home, where I wil neuer come,  
1368 Whilst I can shake my sword, or heare the drumme:  
1369 Away, and for our flight.  
1370 *Par.* Brauely, Coragio.

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*Actus Tertius.*

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1372 *Flourish. Enter the Duke of Florence, the two Frenchmen,*  
 1373 *with a troope of Souldiers.*  
 1374 *Duke.* So that from point to point, now haue you heard [X1  
 1375 The fundamentall reasons of this warre,  
 1376 Whose great decision hath much blood let forth  
 1377 And more thirsts after.  
 1378 *1.Lord.* Holy seemes the quarrell  
 1379 Vpon your Graces part: blacke and fearefull  
 1380 On the opposer.  
 1381 *Duke.* Therefore we meruaile much our Cosin France  
 1382 Would in so iust a businesse, shut his bosome  
 1383 Against our borrowing prayers.  
 1384 *French E.* Good my Lord,  
 1385 The reasons of our state I cannot yeelde,  
 1386 But like a common and an outward man,  
 1387 That the great figure of a Counsaile frames,  
 1388 By selfe vnable motion, therefore dare not  
 1389 Say what I thinke of it, since I haue found  
 1390 My selfe in my incertaine grounds to faile  
 1391 As often as I guest.  
 1392 *Duke.* Be it his pleasure.  
 1393 *Fren.G.* But I am sure the yonger of our nature,  
 1394 That surfet on their ease, will day by day  
 1395 Come heere for Physicke.  
 1396 *Duke.* Welcome shall they bee:  
 1397 And all the honors that can flye from vs,  
 1398 Shall on them settle: you know your places well,  
 1399 When better fall, for your auailles they fell,  
 1400 To morrow to'th the field. *Flourish.*  
 1401 *Enter Countesse and Clowne.*  
 1402 *Count.* It hath happen'd all, as I would haue had it, saue  
 1403 that he comes not along with her.  
 1404 *Clo.* By my troth I take my young Lord to be a ve-rie  
 1405 melancholly man.  
 1406 *Count.* By what obseruance I pray you.  
 1407 *Clo.* Why he will looke vpon his boote, and sing:  
 1408 mend the Ruffe and sing, aske questions and sing, picke  
 1409 his teeth, and sing: I know a man that had this tricke of  
 1410 melancholy hold a goodly Mannor for a song.  
 1411 *Lad.* Let me see what he writes, and when he meanes  
 1412 to come.  
 1413 *Clow.* I haue no minde to *Isbell* since I was at Court.  
 1414 Our old Lings, and our *Isbels* a'th Country, are nothing  
 1415 like your old Ling and your *Isbels* a'th Court: the brains

1416 of my Cupid's knock'd out, and I beginne to loue, as an  
 1417 old man loues money, with no stomacke.  
 1418 *Lad.* What haue we heere?  
 1419 *Clo.* In that you haue there. *Exit*  
 1420 *A Letter.*  
 1421 *I haue sent you a daughter- in- Law, shee hath recouered the*  
 1422 *King, and vndone me: I haue wedded her, not bedded her,*  
 1423 *and sworne to make the not eternall. You shall heare I am*  
 1424 *runne away, know it before the report come. If there bee*  
 1425 *breadth enough in the world, I will hold a long distance. My*  
 1426 *duty to you. Your vnfortunate sonne,*  
 1427 *Bertram.*  
 1428 This is not well rash and vnbridled boy,  
 1429 To flye the fauours of so good a King,  
 1430 To plucke his indignation on thy head,  
 1431 By the misprising of a Maide too vertuous  
 1432 For the contempt of Empire.  
 1433 *Enter Clowne.*  
 1434 *Clow.* O Madam, yonder is heaue newes within be-tweene  
 1435 two souldiers, and my yong Ladie.  
 1436 *La.* What is the matter.  
 1437 *Clo.* Nay there is some comfort in the newes, some  
 1438 comfort, your sonne will not be kild so soone as I thought  
 1439 he would.  
 1440 *La.* Why should he be kill'd?  
 1441 *Clo.* So say I Madame, if he runne away, as I heare he  
 1442 does, the danger is in standing too't, that's the losse of  
 1443 men, though it be the getting of children. Heere they  
 1444 come will tell you more. For my part I onely heare your  
 1445 sonne was run away.  
 1446 *Enter Hellen and two Gentlemen.*  
 1447 *French E.* Saue you good Madam.  
 1448 *Hel.* Madam, my Lord is gone, for euer gone.  
 1449 *French G.* Do not say so.  
 1450 *La.* Thinke vpon patience, pray you Gentlemen,  
 1451 I haue felt so many quirkes of ioy and greefe,  
 1452 That the first face of neither on the start  
 1453 Can woman me vntoo't. Where is my sonne I pray you?  
 1454 *Fren.G.* Madam he's gone to serue the Duke of Flo-rence,  
 1456 We met him thitherward, for thence we came:  
 1457 And after some dispatch in hand at Court,  
 1458 Thither we bend againe.  
 1459 *Hel.* Looke on his Letter Madam, here's my Pasport.  
 1460 *When thou canst get the Ring vpon my finger, which neuer*  
 1461 *shall come off, and shew mee a childe begotten of thy bodie,*  
 1462 *that I am father too, then call me husband: but in such a (then)*

1463 *I write a Neuer.*  
 1464 This is a dreadfull sentence.  
 1465 *La.* Brought you this Letter Gentlemen?  
 1466 *1.G.* I Madam, and for the Contents sake are sorrie  
 1467 for our paines.  
 1468 *Old La.* I prethee Ladie haue a better cheere,  
 1469 If thou engrossest, all the greefes are thine,  
 1470 Thou robst me of a moiety: He was my sonne,  
 1471 But I do wash his name out of my blood,  
 1472 And thou art all my childe. Towards Florence is he?  
 1473 *Fren.G.* I Madam.  
 1474 *La.* And to be a souldier.  
 1475 *Fren.G.* Such is his noble purpose, and beleeu't  
 1476 The Duke will lay vpon him all the honor  
 1477 That good conuenience claimes.  
 1478 *La.* Returne you thither.  
 1479 *Fren.E.* I Madam, with the swiftest wing of speed.  
 1480 *Hel.* Till I haue no wife, I haue nothing in France,  
 1481 'Tis bitter.  
 1482 *La.* Finde you that there?  
 1483 *Hel.* I Madame.  
 1484 *Fren.E.* 'Tis but the boldnesse of his hand haply, which  
 1485 his heart was not consenting too.  
 1486 *Lad.* Nothing in France, vntill he haue no wife:  
 1487 There's nothing heere that is too good for him  
 1488 But onely she, and she deserues a Lord  
 1489 That twenty such rude boyes might tend vpon,  
 1490 And call her hourelly Mistris. Who was with him?  
 1491 *Fren.E.* A seruant onely, and a Gentleman: which I  
 1492 haue sometime knowne.  
 1493 *La.* Parolles was it not?  
 1494 *Fren.E.* I my good Ladie, hee.  
 1495 *La.* A verie tainted fellow, and full of wickednesse,  
 1496 My sonne corrupts a well deriued nature  
 1497 With his inducement.  
 1498 *Fren.E.* Indeed good Ladie the fellow has a deale of  
 1499 that, too much, which holds him much to haue.  
 1500 *La.* Y'are welcome Gentlemen, I will intreate you  
 1501 when you see my sonne, to tell him that his sword can  
 1502 neuer winne the honor that he looses: more Ile intreate [X1v  
 1503 you written to beare along.  
 1504 *Fren.G.* We serue you Madam in that and all your  
 1505 worthiest affaires.  
 1506 *La.* Not so, but as we change our courtesies,  
 1507 Will you draw neere? *Exit.*  
 1508 *Hel.* Till I haue no wife I haue nothing in France.

1509 Nothing in France vntill he has no wife:  
 1510 Thou shalt haue none *Rossillion*, none in France,  
 1511 Then hast thou all againe: poore Lord, is't I  
 1512 That chase thee from thy Countrie, and expose  
 1513 Those tender limbes of thine, to the euent  
 1514 Of the none- sparing warre? And is it I,  
 1515 That driue thee from the sportiue Court, where thou  
 1516 Was't shot at with faire eyes, to be the marke  
 1517 Of smoakie Muskets? O you leaden messengers,  
 1518 That ride vpon the violent speede of fire,  
 1519 Fly with false ayme, moue the still- peering aire  
 1520 That sings with piercing, do not touch my Lord:  
 1521 Who euer shoots at him, I set him there.  
 1522 Who euer charges on his forward brest  
 1523 I am the Caitiffe that do hold him too't,  
 1524 And though I kill him not, I am the cause  
 1525 His death was so effected: Better 'twere  
 1526 I met the rauine Lyon when he roar'd  
 1527 With sharpe constraint of hunger: better 'twere,  
 1528 That all the miseries which nature owes  
 1529 Were mine at once. No come thou home *Rossillion*,  
 1530 Whence honor but of danger winnes a scarre,  
 1531 As oft it looses all. I will be gone:  
 1532 My being heere it is, that holds thee hence,  
 1533 Shall I stay heere to doo't? No, no, although  
 1534 The ayre of Paradise did fan the house,  
 1535 And Angels offic'd all: I will be gone,  
 1536 That pittifull rumour may report my flight  
 1537 To console thine eare. Come night, end day,  
 1538 For with the darke (poore theefe) Ile steale away. *Exit.*  
 1539 *Flourish. Enter the Duke of Florence, Rossillion,*  
 1540 *drum and trumpets, soldiers, Parrolles.*  
 1541 *Duke.* The Generall of our horse thou art, and we  
 1542 Great in our hope, lay our best loue and credence  
 1543 Vpon thy promising fortune.  
 1544 *Ber.* Sir it is  
 1545 A charge too heauy for my strength, but yet  
 1546 Wee'l striue to beare it for your worthy sake,  
 1547 To th' extreme edge of hazard.  
 1548 *Duke.* Then go thou forth,  
 1549 And fortune play vpon thy prosperous helme  
 1550 As thy auspicious mistris.  
 1551 *Ber.* This very day  
 1552 Great Mars I put my selfe into thy file,  
 1553 Make me but like my thoughts, and I shall proue  
 1554 A louer of thy drumme, hater of loue. *Exeunt omnes*

1555 *Enter Countesse & Steward.*  
 1556 *La.* Alas! and would you take the letter of her:  
 1557 Might you not know she would do, as she has done,  
 1558 By sending me a Letter. Reade it agen.  
 1559 *Letter.*  
 1560 *I am S[aint]. Iaques Pilgrim, thither gone:*  
 1561 *Ambitious loue hath so in me offended,*  
 1562 *That bare-foot plod I the cold ground vpon*  
 1563 *With sainted vow my faults to haue amended*  
 1564 *Write, write, that from the bloodie course of warre,*  
 1565 *My deerest Master your deare sonne, may hie,*  
 1566 *Blesse him at home in peace. Whilst I from farre,*  
 1567 *His name with zealous feruour sanctifie:*  
 1568 *His taken labours bid him me forgiue:*  
 1569 *I his despightfull Iuno sent him forth,*  
 1570 *From Courtly friends, with Camping foes to liue,*  
 1571 *Where death and danger dogges the heeles of worth.*  
 1572 *He is too good and faire for death, and mee,*  
 1573 *Whom I my selfe embrace, to set him free.*  
 1574 Ah what sharpe stings are in her mildest words?  
 1575 *Rynaldo*, you did neuer lacke aduice so much,  
 1576 As letting her passe so: had I spoke with her,  
 1577 I could haue well diuerted her intents,  
 1578 Which thus she hath preuented.  
 1579 *Ste.* Pardon me Madam,  
 1580 If I had giuen you this at ouer- night,  
 1581 She might haue beene ore- tane: and yet she writes  
 1582 Pursuite would be but vaine.  
 1583 *La.* What Angell shall  
 1584 Blesse this vnworthy husband, he cannot thriue,  
 1585 Vnlesse her prayers, whom heauen delights to heare  
 1586 And loues to grant, repreeue him from the wrath  
 1587 Of greatest Iustice. Write, write *Rynaldo*,  
 1588 To this vnworthy husband of his wife,  
 1589 Let euerie word waigh heaue of her worth,  
 1590 That he does waigh too light: my greatest greefe,  
 1591 Though little he do feele it, set downe sharpely.  
 1592 Dispatch the most conuenient messenger,  
 1593 When haply he shall heare that she is gone,  
 1594 He will returne, and hope I may that shee  
 1595 Hearing so much, will speede her foote againe,  
 1596 Led hither by pure loue: which of them both  
 1597 Is deerest to me, I haue no skill in sence  
 1598 To make distinction: prouide this Messenger:  
 1599 My heart is heaue, and mine age is weake,  
 1600 Greefe would haue teares, and sorrow bids me speake.

1601 *Exeunt*  
 1602 *A Tucket afarre off.*  
 1603 *Enter old Widdow of Florence, her daughter Violenta*  
 1604 *and Mariana, with other*  
 1605 *Citizens.*  
 1606 *Widdow.* Nay come,  
 1607 For if they do approach the Citty,  
 1608 We shall loose all the sight.  
 1609 *Diana.* They say, the French Count has done  
 1610 Most honourable seruice.  
 1611 *Wid.* It is reported,  
 1612 That he has taken their great'st Commander,  
 1613 And that with his owne hand he slew  
 1614 The Dukes brother: we haue lost our labour,  
 1615 They are gone a contrarie way: harke,  
 1616 you may know by their Trumpets.  
 1617 *Maria.* Come lets returne againe,  
 1618 And suffice our selues with the report of it.  
 1619 Well *Diana*, take heed of this French Earle,  
 1620 The honor of a Maide is her name,  
 1621 And no Legacie is so rich  
 1622 As honestie.  
 1623 *Widdow.* I haue told my neighbour  
 1624 How you haue beene solicted by a Gentleman  
 1625 His Companion. [X2  
 1626 *Maria.* I know that knaue, hang him, one *Parolles*,  
 1627 a filthy Officer he is in those suggestions for the young  
 1628 Earle, beware of them *Diana*; their promises, entise-ments,  
 1629 oathes, tokens, and all these engines of lust, are  
 1630 not the things they go vnder: many a maide hath beene  
 1631 seduced by them, and the miserie is example, that so  
 1632 terrible shewes in the wracke of maiden- hood, cannot  
 1633 for all that disswade succession, but that they are limed  
 1634 with the twigges that threatens them. I hope I neede  
 1635 not to aduise you further, but I hope your owne grace  
 1636 will keepe you where you are, though there were no  
 1637 further danger knowne, but the modestie which is so  
 1638 lost.  
 1639 *Dia.* You shall not neede to feare me.  
 1640 *Enter Hellen.*  
 1641 *Wid.* I hope so: looke here comes a pilgrim, I know  
 1642 she will lye at my house, thither they send one another,  
 1643 Ile question her. God saue you pilgrim, whether are  
 1644 bound?  
 1645 *Hel.* To S[aint]. *Iaques la grand.*  
 1646 Where do the Palmers lodge, I do beseech you?

1647 *Wid.* At the S[aint]. *Francis* heere beside the Port.  
 1648 *Hel.* Is this the way? *A march afarre.*  
 1649 *Wid.* I marrie ist. Harke you, they come this way:  
 1650 If you will tarrie holy Pilgrime  
 1651 But till the troopes come by,  
 1652 I will conduct you where you shall be lodg'd,  
 1653 The rather for I thinke I know your hostesse  
 1654 As ample as my selfe.  
 1655 *Hel.* Is it your selfe?  
 1656 *Wid.* If you shall please so Pilgrime.  
 1657 *Hel.* I thanke you, and will stay vpon your leisure.  
 1658 *Wid.* You came I thinke from *France*?  
 1659 *Hel.* I did so.  
 1660 *Wid.* Heere you shall see a Countriman of yours  
 1661 That has done worthy seruice.  
 1662 *Hel.* His name I pray you?  
 1663 *Dia.* The Count *Rossillion*: know you such a one?  
 1664 *Hel.* But by the eare that heares most nobly of him:  
 1665 His face I know not.  
 1666 *Dia.* What somere he is  
 1667 He's brauely taken heere. He stole from *France*  
 1668 As 'tis reported: for the King had married him  
 1669 Against his liking. Thinke you it is so?  
 1670 *Hel.* I surely meere the truth, I know his Lady.  
 1671 *Dia.* There is a Gentleman that serues the Count,  
 1672 Reports but coursely of her.  
 1673 *Hel.* What's his name?  
 1674 *Dia.* Monsieur *Parrolles*.  
 1675 *Hel.* Oh I beleeeue with him,  
 1676 In argument of praise, or to the worth  
 1677 Of the great Count himselfe, she is too meane  
 1678 To haue her name repeated, all her deseruing  
 1679 Is a reserued honestie, and that  
 1680 I haue not heard examin'd.  
 1681 *Dian.* Alas poore Ladie,  
 1682 'Tis a hard bondage to become the wife  
 1683 Of a detesting Lord.  
 1684 *Wid.* I write good creature, wheresoere she is,  
 1685 Her hart waighes sadly: this yong maid might do her  
 1686 A shrewd turne if she pleas'd.  
 1687 *Hel.* How do you meane?  
 1688 May be the amorous Count solicitates her  
 1689 In the vnlawfull purpose.  
 1690 *Wid.* He does indeede,  
 1691 And brokes with all that can in such a suite  
 1692 Corrupt the tender honour of a Maide:

1693 But she is arm'd for him, and keepes her guard  
 1694 In honestest defence.  
 1695 *Drumme and Colours.*  
 1696 *Enter Count Rossillion, Parrolles, and the whole Armie.*  
 1697 *Mar.* The goddes forbid else.  
 1698 *Wid.* So, now they come:  
 1699 That is *Anthonio* the Dukes eldest sonne,  
 1700 That *Escalus.*  
 1701 *Hel.* Which is the Frenchman?  
 1702 *Dia.* Hee,  
 1703 That with the plume, 'tis a most gallant fellow,  
 1704 I would he lou'd his wife: if he were honest  
 1705 He were much goodlier. Is't not a handsom Gentleman  
 1706 *Hel.* I like him well.  
 1707 *Di.* 'Tis pittie he is not honest: yonds that same knaue  
 1708 That leades him to these places: were I his Ladie,  
 1709 I would poison that vile Rascall.  
 1710 *Hel.* Which is he?  
 1711 *Dia.* That Iacke- an- apes with scarfes. Why is hee  
 1712 melancholly?  
 1713 *Hel.* Perchance he's hurt i'th battaile.  
 1714 *Par.* Loose our drum? Well.  
 1715 *Mar.* He's shrewdly vext at something. Looke he  
 1716 has spyed vs.  
 1717 *Wid.* Marrie hang you.  
 1718 *Mar.* And your curtesie, for a ring- carrier. *Exit.*  
 1719 *Wid.* The troope is past: Come pilgrim, I wil bring  
 1720 you, Where you shall host: Of inioyn'd penitents  
 1721 There's foure or fiue, to great S[aint]. *Iaques* bound,  
 1722 Alreadie at my house.  
 1723 *Hel.* I humbly thanke you:  
 1724 Please it this Matron, and this gentle Maide  
 1725 To eate with vs to night, the charge and thanking  
 1726 Shall be for me, and to requite you further,  
 1727 I will bestow some precepts of this Virgin,  
 1728 Worthy the note.  
 1729 *Both.* Wee'l take your offer kindly. *Exeunt.*  
 1730 *Enter Count Rossillion and the Frenchmen,*  
 1731 *as at first.*  
 1732 *Cap.E.* Nay good my Lord put him too't: let him  
 1733 haue his way.  
 1734 *Cap.G.* If your Lordshippe finde him not a Hilding,  
 1735 hold me no more in your respect.  
 1736 *Cap.E.* On my life my Lord, a bubble.  
 1737 *Ber.* Do you thinke I am so farre  
 1738 Deceiued in him.

1739 *Cap.E.* Beleeue it my Lord, in mine owne direct  
 1740 knowledge, without any malice, but to speake of him  
 1741 as my kinsman, hee's a most notable Coward, an infi-nite  
 1742 and endlesse Lyar, an hourelly promise- breaker, the  
 1743 owner of no one good qualitie, worthy your Lordships  
 1744 entertainment.

1745 *Cap.G.* It were fit you knew him, least reposing too  
 1746 farre in his vertue which he hath not, he might at some  
 1747 great and trustie businesse, in a maine daunger, fayle  
 1748 you.

1749 *Ber.* I would I knew in what particular action to try  
 1750 him.

1751 *Cap.G.* None better then to let him fetch off his  
 1752 drumme, which you heare him so confidently vnder-take  
 1753 to do.

1754 *C.E.* I with a troop of Florentines wil sodainly sur-prize [X2v  
 1755 him; such I will haue whom I am sure he knowes  
 1756 not from the enimie: wee will binde and hoodwinke  
 1757 him so, that he shall suppose no other but that he is car-ried  
 1758 into the Leager of the aduersaries, when we bring  
 1759 him to our owne tents: be but your Lordship present  
 1760 at his examination, if he do not for the promise of his  
 1761 life, and in the highest compulsion of base feare, offer to  
 1762 betray you, and deliuer all the intelligence in his power  
 1763 against you, and that with the diuine forfeite of his  
 1764 soule vpon oath, neuer trust my iudgement in anie  
 1765 thing.

1766 *Cap.G.* O for the loue of laughter, let him fetch his  
 1767 drumme, he sayes he has a stratagem for't: when your  
 1768 Lordship sees the bottome of this successe in't, and to  
 1769 what mettle this counterfeyt lump of ours will be mel-ted  
 1770 if you giue him not Iohn drummes entertainment,  
 1771 your inclining cannot be remoued. Heere he comes.

1772 *Enter Parrolles.*

1773 *Cap.E.* O for the loue of laughter hinder not the ho-nor  
 1774 of his designe, let him fetch off his drumme in any  
 1775 hand.

1776 *Ber.* How now Monsieur? This drumme sticks sore-ly  
 1777 in your disposition.

1778 *Cap.G.* A pox on't, let it go, 'tis but a drumme.

1779 *Par.* But a drumme: Ist but a drumme? A drum so  
 1780 lost. There was excellent command, to charge in with  
 1781 our horse vpon our owne wings, and to rend our owne  
 1782 souldiers.

1783 *Cap.G.* That was not to be blam'd in the command  
 1784 of the seruice: it was a disaster of warre that *Caesar* him

1785 selfe could not haue preuented, if he had beene there to  
1786 command.

1787 *Ber.* Well, wee cannot greatly condemne our suc-cesse:  
1788 some dishonor wee had in the losse of that drum,  
1789 but it is not to be recouered.

1790 *Par.* It might haue beene recouered.

1791 *Ber.* It might, but it is not now.

1792 *Par.* It is to be recouered, but that the merit of ser-uice  
1793 is sildome attributed to the true and exact perfor-mer,  
1794 I would haue that drumme or another, or *hic ia-cet.*

1796 *Ber.* Why if you haue a stomacke, too't Monsieur: if  
1797 you thinke your mysterie in stratagem, can bring this  
1798 instrument of honour againe into his natiue quarter, be  
1799 magnanimious in the enterprize and go on, I wil grace  
1800 the attempt for a worthy exploit: if you speede well in  
1801 it, the Duke shall both speake of it, and extend to you  
1802 what further becomes his greatnesse, euen to the vtmost  
1803 syllable of your worthinesse.

1804 *Par.* By the hand of a souldier I will vndertake it.

1805 *Ber.* But you must not now slumber in it.

1806 *Par.* Ile about it this euening, and I will presently  
1807 pen downe my dilemma's, encourage my selfe in my  
1808 certaintie, put my selfe into my mortall preparation:  
1809 and by midnight looke to heare further from me.

1810 *Ber.* May I bee bold to acquaint his grace you are  
1811 gone about it.

1812 *Par.* I know not what the successe wil be my Lord,  
1813 but the attempt I vow.

1814 *Ber.* I know th'art valiant,  
1815 And to the possibility of thy souldiership,  
1816 Will subscribe for thee: Farewell.

1817 *Par.* I loue not many words. *Exit*

1818 *Cap.E.* No more then a fish loues water. Is not this  
1819 a strange fellow my Lord, that so confidently seemes to  
1820 vndertake this businesse, which he knowes is not to be  
1821 done, damnes himselfe to do, & dares better be damnd  
1822 then to doo't.

1823 *Cap.G.* You do not know him my Lord as we doe,  
1824 certaine it is that he will steale himselfe into a mans fa-uour,  
1825 and for a weeke escape a great deale of discoueries,  
1826 but when you finde him out, you haue him euer af-ter.

1828 *Ber.* Why do you thinke he will make no deede at  
1829 all of this that so seriouslie hee dooes addressse himselfe  
1830 vnto?

1831 *Cap.E.* None in the world, but returne with an in-vention,  
1832 and clap vpon you two or three probable lies:

1833 but we haue almost imboſt him, you ſhall ſee his fall to  
 1834 night; for indeede he is not for your Lordſhippes re-ſpect.  
 1836 *Cap.G.* Weele make you ſome ſport with the Foxe  
 1837 ere we caſe him. He was firſt ſmoak'd by the old Lord  
 1838 *Lafew*, when his diſguiſe and he is parted, tell me what  
 1839 a ſprat you ſhall finde him, which you ſhall ſee this ve-rie  
 1840 night.  
 1841 *Cap.E.* I muſt go looke my twigges,  
 1842 He ſhall be caught.  
 1843 *Ber.* Your brother he ſhall go along with me.  
 1844 *Cap.G.* As't pleaſe your Lordſhip, Ile leaue you.  
 1845 *Ber.* Now wil I lead you to the houſe, and ſhew you  
 1846 The Laſſe I ſpoke of.  
 1847 *Cap.E.* But you ſay ſhe's honeſt.  
 1848 *Ber.* That's all the fault: I ſpoke with hir but once,  
 1849 And found her wondrous cold, but I ſent to her  
 1850 By this ſame Coxcombe that we haue i'th winde  
 1851 Tokens and Letters, which ſhe did reſend,  
 1852 And this is all I haue done: She's a faire creature,  
 1853 Will you go ſee her?  
 1854 *Cap.E.* With all my heart my Lord. *Exeunt*  
 1855 *Enter Hellen, and Widdow.*  
 1856 *Hel.* If you miſdoubt me that I am not ſhee,  
 1857 I know not how I ſhall aſſure you further,  
 1858 But I ſhall looſe the grounds I worke vpon.  
 1859 *Wid.* Though my eſtate be falſe, I was well borne,  
 1860 Nothing acquainted with theſe buſineſſes,  
 1861 And would not put my reputation now  
 1862 In any ſtaining act.  
 1863 *Hel.* Nor would I wiſh you.  
 1864 Firſt giue me truſt, the Count he is my huſband,  
 1865 And what to your ſworne counſaile I haue ſpoken,  
 1866 Is ſo from word to word: and then you cannot  
 1867 By the good ayde that I of you ſhall borrow,  
 1868 Erre in beſtowing it.  
 1869 *Wid.* I ſhould beleeeue you,  
 1870 For you haue ſhew'd me that which well approues  
 1871 Y'are great in fortune.  
 1872 *Hel.* Take this purſe of Gold,  
 1873 And let me buy your friendly helpe thus farre,  
 1874 Which I will ouer- pay, and pay againe  
 1875 When I haue found it. The Count he woes your  
 1876 daughter,  
 1877 Layes downe his wanton ſiedge before her beautie,  
 1878 Reſolue to carrie her: let her in fine conſent  
 1879 As wee'l direct her how 'tis beſt to beare it:

1880 Now his important blood will naught denie,  
 1881 That shee'l demand: a ring the Countie weares,  
 1882 That downward hath succeeded in his house [X3  
 1883 From sonne to sonne, some foure or fiue discents,  
 1884 Since the first father wore it. This Ring he holds  
 1885 In most rich choice: yet in his idle fire,  
 1886 To buy his will, it would not seeme too deere,  
 1887 How ere repented after.  
 1888 *Wid.* Now I see the bottome of your purpose.  
 1889 *Hel.* You see it lawfull then, it is no more,  
 1890 But that your daughter ere she seemes as wonne,  
 1891 Desires this Ring; appoints him an encounter;  
 1892 In fine, deliuers me to fill the time,  
 1893 Her selfe most chastly absent: after  
 1894 To marry her, Ile adde three thousand Crownes  
 1895 To what is past already.  
 1896 *Wid.* I haue yeilded:  
 1897 Instruct my daughter how she shall perseuer,  
 1898 That time and place with this deceite so lawfull  
 1899 May proue coherent. Euery night he comes  
 1900 With Musickes of all sorts, and songs compos'd  
 1901 To her vnworthinesse: It nothing steeds vs  
 1902 To chide him from our eeyes, for he persists  
 1903 As if his life lay on't.  
 1904 *Hel.* Why then to night  
 1905 Let vs assay our plot, which if it speed,  
 1906 Is wicked meaning in a lawfull deede;  
 1907 And lawfull meaning in a lawfull act,  
 1908 Where both not sinne, and yet a sinfull fact.  
 1909 But let's about it.

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### *Actus Quartus.*

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1911 *Enter one of the Frenchmen, with fiue or sixe other*  
 1912 *souldiers in ambush.*  
 1913 *Lord E.* He can come no other way but by this hedge  
 1914 corner: when you sallie vpon him, speake what terrible  
 1915 Language you will: though you vnderstand it not your  
 1916 selues, no matter: for we must not seeme to vnderstand  
 1917 him, vnlesse some one among vs, whom wee must pro-duce  
 1918 for an Interpreter.  
 1919 *1.Sol.* Good Captaine, let me be th' Interpreter.  
 1920 *Lor.E.* Art not acquainted with him? knowes he not  
 1921 thy voice?

1922 1.*Sol.* No sir I warrant you.  
 1923 *Lo.E.* But what linsie wolsy hast thou to speake to vs  
 1924 againe.  
 1925 1.*Sol.* E'n such as you speake to me.  
 1926 *Lo.E.* He must thinke vs some band of strangers, i'th  
 1927 aduersaries entertainment. Now he hath a smacke of all  
 1928 neighbouring Languages: therefore we must euery one  
 1929 be a man of his owne fancie, not to know what we speak  
 1930 one to another: so we seeme to know, is to know straight  
 1931 our purpose: Choughs language, gabble enough, and  
 1932 good enough. As for you interpreter, you must seeme  
 1933 very politicke. But couch hoa, heere hee comes, to be-guile  
 1934 two houres in a sleepe, and then to returne & swear  
 1935 the lies he forges.  
 1936 *Enter Parrolles.*  
 1937 *Par.* Ten a clocke: Within these three houres 'twill  
 1938 be time enough to goe home. What shall I say I haue  
 1939 done? It must bee a very plausiue inuention that carries  
 1940 it. They beginne to smoake mee, and disgraces haue of  
 1941 late, knock'd too often at my doore: I finde my tongue  
 1942 is too foole- hardie, but my heart hath the feare of Mars  
 1943 before it, and of his creatures, not daring the reports of  
 1944 my tongue.  
 1945 *Lo.E.* This is the first truth that ere thine own tongue  
 1946 was guiltie of.  
 1947 *Par.* What the diuell should moue mee to vndertake  
 1948 the recouerie of this drumme, being not ignorant of the  
 1949 impossibility, and knowing I had no such purpose? I  
 1950 must giue my selfe some hurts, and say I got them in ex-ploit:  
 1951 yet slight ones will not carrie it. They will say,  
 1952 came you off with so little? And great ones I dare not  
 1953 giue, wherefore what's the instance. Tongue, I must put  
 1954 you into a Butter- womans mouth, and buy my selfe ano-ther  
 1955 of *Baiazeths* Mule, if you prattle mee into these  
 1956 perilles.  
 1957 *Lo.E.* Is it possible he should know what hee is, and  
 1958 be that he is.  
 1959 *Par.* I would the cutting of my garments wold serue  
 1960 the turne, or the breaking of my Spanish sword.  
 1961 *Lo.E.* We cannot affoord you so.  
 1962 *Par.* Or the baring of my beard, and to say it was in  
 1963 stratagem.  
 1964 *Lo.E.* 'Twould not do.  
 1965 *Par.* Or to drowne my cloathes, and say I was stript.  
 1966 *Lo.E.* Hardly serue.  
 1967 *Par.* Though I swore I leapt from the window of the

1968 Citadell.  
 1969 *Lo.E.* How deepe?  
 1970 *Par.* Thirty fadome.  
 1971 *Lo.E.* Three great oathes would scarce make that be  
 1972 beleueed.  
 1973 *Par.* I would I had any drumme of the enemies, I  
 1974 would sweare I recouer'd it.  
 1975 *Lo.E.* You shall heare one anon.  
 1976 *Par.* A drumme now of the enemies.  
 1977 *Alarum within.*  
 1978 *Lo.E.* *Throca movousus, cargo, cargo, cargo.*  
 1979 *All.* *Cargo, cargo, cargo, villianda par corbo, cargo.*  
 1980 *Par.* O ransome, ransome,  
 1981 Do not hide mine eyes.  
 1982 *Inter.* *Boskos thromuldo boskos.*  
 1983 *Par.* I know you are the *Muskos* Regiment,  
 1984 And I shall loose my life for want of language.  
 1985 If there be heere German or Dane, Low Dutch,  
 1986 Italian, or French, let him speake to me,  
 1987 Ile discouer that, which shal vndo the Florentine.  
 1988 *Int.* *Boskos vauvado*, I vnderstand thee, & can speake  
 1989 thy tongue: *Kerelybonto* sir, betake thee to thy faith, for  
 1990 seunteene ponyards are at thy bosome.  
 1991 *Par.* Oh.  
 1992 *Inter.* Oh pray, pray, pray,  
 1993 *Manka reuania dulce.*  
 1994 *Lo.E.* *Oscorbidulchos voliuorco.*  
 1995 *Int.* The Generall is content to spare thee yet,  
 1996 And hoodwinkt as thou art, will leade thee on  
 1997 To gather from thee. Haply thou mayst informe  
 1998 Something to saue thy life.  
 1999 *Par.* O let me liue,  
 2000 And all the secrets of our campe Ile shew,  
 2001 Their force, their purposes: Nay, Ile speake that,  
 2002 Which you will wonder at.  
 2003 *Inter.* But wilt thou faithfully?  
 2004 *Par.* If I do not, damne me.  
 2005 *Inter.* *Acordo linta.*  
 2006 Come on, thou are granted space. *Exit*  
 2007 *A short Alarum within.* [X3v  
 2008 *L.E.* Go tell the Count *Rossillion* and my brother,  
 2009 We haue caught the woodcocke, and will keepe him |(mufled  
 2010 Till we do heare from them.  
 2011 *Sol.* Captaine I will.  
 2012 *L.E.* A will betray vs all vnto our selues,  
 2013 Informe on that.

2014 *Sol.* So I will sir.  
 2015 *L.E.* Till then Ile keepe him darke and safely lockt.  
 2016 *Exit*  
 2017 *Enter Bertram, and the Maide called*  
 2018 *Diana.*  
 2019 *Ber.* They told me that your name was *Fontybell.*  
 2020 *Dia.* No my good Lord, *Diana.*  
 2021 *Ber.* Titled Goddesses,  
 2022 And worth it with addition: but faire soule,  
 2023 In your fine frame hath loue no qualitie?  
 2024 If the quicke fire of youth light not your minde,  
 2025 You are no Maiden but a monument  
 2026 When you are dead you should be such a one  
 2027 As you are now: for you are cold and sterne,  
 2028 And now you should be as your mother was  
 2029 When your sweet selfe was got.  
 2030 *Dia.* She then was honest.  
 2031 *Ber.* So should you be.  
 2032 *Dia.* No:  
 2033 My mother did but dutie, such (my Lord)  
 2034 As you owe to your wife.  
 2035 *Ber.* No more a'that:  
 2036 I prethee do not striue against my vowes:  
 2037 I was compell'd to her, but I loue thee  
 2038 By Ioues owne sweet constraint, and will for euer  
 2039 Do thee all rights of seruice.  
 2040 *Dia.* I so you serue vs  
 2041 Till we serue you: But when you haue our Roses,  
 2042 You barely leaue our thornes to pricke our selues,  
 2043 And mocke vs with our barenesse.  
 2044 *Ber.* How haue I sworne.  
 2045 *Dia.* Tis not the many oathes that makes the truth,  
 2046 But the plaine single vow, that is vow'd true:  
 2047 What is not holie, that we sweare not by,  
 2048 But take the high'st to witness: then pray you tell me,  
 2049 If I should sweare by Ioues great attributes,  
 2050 I lou'd you deerely, would you beleue my oathes,  
 2051 When I did loue you ill? This ha's no holding  
 2052 To sweare by him whom I protest to loue  
 2053 That I will worke against him. Therefore your oathes  
 2054 Are words and poore conditions, but vnseal'd  
 2055 At lest in my opinion.  
 2056 *Ber.* Change it, change it:  
 2057 Be not so holy cruell: Loue is holie,  
 2058 And my integritie ne're knew the crafts  
 2059 That you do charge men with: Stand no more off,

2060 But giue thy selfe vnto my sicke desires,  
 2061 Who then recouers. Say thou art mine, and euer  
 2062 My loue as it beginnes, shall so perseuer.  
 2063 *Dia.* I see that men make rope's in such a scarre,  
 2064 That wee'l forsake our selues. Giue me that Ring.  
 2065 *Ber.* Ile lend it thee my deere; but haue no power  
 2066 To giue it from me.  
 2067 *Dia.* Will you not my Lord?  
 2068 *Ber.* It is an honour longing to our house,  
 2069 Bequeathed downe from manie Ancestors,  
 2070 Which were the greatest obloquie i'th world,  
 2071 In me to loose.  
 2072 *Dian.* Mine Honors such a Ring,  
 2073 My chastities the Jewell of our house,  
 2074 Bequeathed downe from many Ancestors,  
 2075 Which were the greatest obloquie i'th world,  
 2076 In mee to loose. Thus your owne proper wisdom  
 2077 Brings in the Champion honor on my part,  
 2078 Against your vaine assault.  
 2079 *Ber.* Heere, take my Ring,  
 2080 My house, mine honor, yea my life be thine,  
 2081 And Ile be bid by thee.  
 2082 *Dia.* When midnight comes, knocke at my cham-ber  
 2083 window:  
 2084 Ile order take, my mother shall not heare.  
 2085 Now will I charge you in the band of truth,  
 2086 When you haue conquer'd my yet maiden- bed,  
 2087 Remaine there but an houre, nor speake to mee:  
 2088 My reasons are most strong, and you shall know them,  
 2089 When backe againe this Ring shall be deliuer'd:  
 2090 And on your finger in the night, Ile put  
 2091 Another Ring, that what in time proceeds,  
 2092 May token to the future, our past deeds.  
 2093 Adieu till then, then faile not: you haue wonne  
 2094 A wife of me, though there my hope be done.  
 2095 *Ber.* A heauen on earth I haue won by wooing thee.  
 2096 *Di.* For which, liue long to thank both heauen & me,  
 2097 You may so in the end.  
 2098 My mother told me iust how he would woo,  
 2099 As if she sate in's heart. She sayes, all men  
 2100 Haue the like oathes: He had sworne to marrie me  
 2101 When his wife's dead: therfore Ile lye with him  
 2102 When I am buried. Since Frenchmen are so braide,  
 2103 Marry that will, I liue and die a Maid:  
 2104 Onely in this disguise, I think't no sinne,  
 2105 To cosen him that would vniustly winne. *Exit*

2106 *Enter the two French Captaines, and some two or three*  
 2107 *Souldiours.*  
 2108 *Cap.G.* You haue not giuen him his mothers letter.  
 2109 *Cap.E.* I haue deliu' red it an houre since, there is som  
 2110 thing in't that stings his nature: for on the reading it,  
 2111 he chang'd almost into another man.  
 2112 *Cap.G.* He has much worthy blame laid vpon him,  
 2113 for shaking off so good a wife, and so sweet a Lady.  
 2114 *Cap.E.* Especially, hee hath incurred the euerlasting  
 2115 displeasure of the King, who had euen tun'd his bounty  
 2116 to sing happinesse to him. I will tell you a thing, but  
 2117 you shall let it dwell darkly with you.  
 2118 *Cap.G.* When you haue spoken it 'tis dead, and I am  
 2119 the graue of it.  
 2120 *Cap.E.* Hee hath peruerted a young Gentlewoman  
 2121 heere in *Florence*, of a most chaste renown, & this night  
 2122 he fleshes his will in the spoyle of her honour: hee hath  
 2123 giuen her his monumentall Ring, and thinkes himselfe  
 2124 made in the vnchaste composition.  
 2125 *Cap.G.* Now God delay our rebellion as we are our  
 2126 selues, what things are we.  
 2127 *Cap.E.* Meerely our owne traitours. And as in the  
 2128 common course of all treasons, we still see them reueale  
 2129 themselues, till they attaine to their abhorr'd ends: so  
 2130 he that in this action contriues against his owne Nobility  
 2131 in his proper streame, ore- flowes himselfe.  
 2132 *Cap.G.* Is it not meant damnable in vs, to be Trum-peters  
 2133 of our vnlawfull intents? We shall not then haue  
 2134 his company to night?  
 2135 *Cap.E.* Not till after midnight: for hee is dieted to  
 2136 his houre.  
 2137 *Cap.G.* That approaches apace: I would gladly haue  
 2138 him see his company anathomiz'd, that hee might take [X4  
 2139 a measure of his owne iudgements, wherein so curiously  
 2140 he had set this counterfeit.  
 2141 *Cap.E.* We will not meddle with him till he come;  
 2142 for his presence must be the whip of the other.  
 2143 *Cap.G.* In the meane time, what heare you of these  
 2144 Warres?  
 2145 *Cap.E.* I heare there is an ouerture of peace.  
 2146 *Cap.G.* Nay, I assure you a peace concluded.  
 2147 *Cap.E.* What will Count *Rossillion* do then? Will he  
 2148 trauaile higher, or returne againe into France?  
 2149 *Cap.G.* I perceiue by this demand, you are not alto-gether  
 2150 of his councill.  
 2151 *Cap.E.* Let it be forbid sir, so should I bee a great

2152 deale of his act.

2153 *Cap.G.* Sir, his wife some two months since fledde  
2154 from his house, her pretence is a pilgrimage to Saint *Ia-ques*  
2155 *le grand*; which holy vndertaking, with most au-sterie  
2156 sanctimonie she accomplit: and there residing,  
2157 the tendernesse of her Nature, became as a prey to her  
2158 greefe: in fine, made a groane of her last breath, & now  
2159 she sings in heauen.

2160 *Cap.E.* How is this iustified?

2161 *Cap.G.* The stronger part of it by her owne Letters,  
2162 which makes her storie true, euen to the poynt of her  
2163 death: her death it selfe, which could not be her office  
2164 to say, is come: was faithfully confirm'd by the Rector  
2165 of the place.

2166 *Cap.E.* Hath the Count all this intelligence?

2167 *Cap.G.* I, and the particular confirmations, point  
2168 from point, to the full arming of the veritie.

2169 *Cap.E.* I am heartily sorrie that hee'l bee gladde of  
2170 this.

2171 *Cap.G.* How mightily sometimes, we make vs com-forts  
2172 of our losses.

2173 *Cap.E.* And how mightily some other times, wee  
2174 drowne our gaine in teares, the great dignitie that his  
2175 valour hath here acquir'd for him, shall at home be en-countred  
2176 with a shame as ample.

2177 *Cap.G.* The webbe of our life, is of a mingled yarne,  
2178 good and ill together: our vertues would bee proud, if  
2179 our faults whipt them not, and our crimes would dis-paire  
2180 if they were not cherish'd by our vertues.

2181 *Enter a Messenger.*

2182 How now? Where's your master?

2183 *Ser.* He met the Duke in the street sir, of whom hee  
2184 hath taken a solemne leaue: his Lordshippe will next  
2185 morning for France. The Duke hath offered him Let-ters  
2186 of commendations to the King.

2187 *Cap.E.* They shall bee no more then needfull there,  
2188 if they were more then they can commend.

2189 *Enter Count Rossillion.*

2190 *Ber.* They cannot be too sweete for the Kings tart-nesse,  
2191 heere's his Lordship now. How now my Lord,  
2192 i'st not after midnight?

2193 *Ber.* I haue to night dispatch'd sixteene businesses, a  
2194 moneths length a peece, by an abstract of successe: I  
2195 haue congied with the Duke, done my adieu with his  
2196 neerest; buried a wife, mourn'd for her, writ to my La-die  
2197 mother, I am returning, entertain'd my Conuoy, &

2198 betweene these maine parcels of dispatch, affected ma-ny  
 2199 nicer needs: the last was the greatest, but that I haue  
 2200 not ended yet.

2201 *Cap.E.* If the businesse bee of any difficulty, and this  
 2202 morning your departure hence, it requires hast of your  
 2203 Lordship.

2204 *Ber.* I meane the businesse is not ended, as fearing  
 2205 to heare of it hereafter: but shall we haue this dialogue  
 2206 betweene the Foole and the Soldiour. Come, bring  
 2207 forth this counterfet module, ha's deceiu'd mee, like a  
 2208 double- meaning Prophesier.

2209 *Cap.E.* Bring him forth, ha's sate i'th stockes all night  
 2210 poore gallant knaue.

2211 *Ber.* No matter, his heeles haue deseru'd it, in vsur-ping  
 2212 his spurres so long. How does he carry himselfe?

2213 *Cap.E.* I haue told your Lordship alreadie: The  
 2214 stockes carrie him. But to answer you as you would be  
 2215 vnderstood, hee weepes like a wench that had shed her  
 2216 milke, he hath confest himselfe to *Morgan*, whom hee  
 2217 supposes to be a Friar, fro[m] the time of his remembrance  
 2218 to this very instant disaster of his setting i'th stockes:  
 2219 and what thinke you he hath confest?

2220 *Ber.* Nothing of me, ha's a?

2221 *Cap.E.* His confession is taken, and it shall bee read  
 2222 to his face, if your Lordshippe be in't, as I beleue you  
 2223 are, you must haue the patience to heare it.

2224 *Enter Parolles with his Interpreter.*

2225 *Ber.* A plague vpon him, muffeld; he can say nothing  
 2226 of me: hush, hush.

2227 *Cap.G.* Hoodman comes: *Portotartarossa.*

2228 *Inter.* He calles for the tortures, what will you say  
 2229 without em.

2230 *Par.* I will confesse what I know without constraint,  
 2231 If ye pinch me like a Pasty, I can say no more.

2232 *Int. Bosko Chimurcho.*

2233 *Cap. Boblibindo chicurmurco.*

2234 *Int.* You are a mercifull Generall: Our Generall  
 2235 bids you answer to what I shall aske you out of a Note.

2236 *Par.* And truly, as I hope to liue.

2237 *Int.* First demand of him, how many horse the Duke  
 2238 is strong. What say you to that?

2239 *Par.* Fiue or sixe thousand, but very weake and vn-seruiceable:  
 2240 the troopes are all scattered, and the Com-manders  
 2241 verie poore rogues, vpon my reputation and  
 2242 credit, and as I hope to liue.

2243 *Int.* Shall I set downe your answer so?

2244 *Par.* Do, Ile take the Sacrament on't, how & which  
 2245 way you will: all's one to him.

2246 *Ber.* What a past- sauing slaue is this?

2247 *Cap.G.* Y'are deceiu'd my Lord, this is Mounsieur  
 2248 *Parrolles* the gallant militarist, that was his owne phrase  
 2249 that had the whole theoricke of warre in the knot of his  
 2250 scarfe, and the practise in the chape of his dagger.

2251 *Cap.E.* I will neuer trust a man againe, for keeping  
 2252 his sword cleane, nor beleue he can haue euerie thing  
 2253 in him, by wearing his apparrell neatly.

2254 *Int.* Well, that's set downe.

2255 *Par.* Fiue or six thousand horse I sed, I will say true,  
 2256 or thereabouts set downe, for Ile speake truth.

2257 *Cap.G.* He's very neere the truth in this.

2258 *Ber.* But I con him no thanks for't in the nature he  
 2259 deliuers it.

2260 *Par.* Poore rogues, I pray you say.

2261 *Int.* Well, that's set downe.

2262 *Par.* I humbly thanke you sir, a truth's a truth, the  
 2263 Rogues are maruailous poore.

2264 *Interp.* Demaund of him of what strength they are a  
 2265 foot. What say you to that?

2266 *Par.* By my troth sir, if I were to liue this present  
 2267 houre, I will tell true. Let me see, *Spurio* a hundred & [X4v  
 2268 fiftie, *Sebastian* so many, *Corambus* so many, *Iaques* so  
 2269 many: *Guiltian*, *Cosmo*, *Lodowicke*, and *Gratij*, two hun-dred  
 2270 fiftie each: Mine owne Company, *Chitopher*, *Vau-mond*,  
 2271 *Bentij*, two hundred fiftie each: so that the muster  
 2272 file, rotten and sound, vppon my life amounts not to fif-teene  
 2273 thousand pole, halfe of the which, dare not shake  
 2274 the snow from off their Cassockes, least they shake them-selues  
 2275 to peeces.

2276 *Ber.* What shall be done to him?

2277 *Cap.G.* Nothing, but let him haue thanks. Demand  
 2278 of him my condition: and what credite I haue with the  
 2279 Duke.

2280 *Int.* Well that's set downe: you shall demaund of  
 2281 him, whether one Captaine *Dumaine* bee i'th Campe, a  
 2282 Frenchman: what his reputation is with the Duke, what  
 2283 his valour, honestie, and expertnesse in warres: or whe-ther  
 2284 he thinkes it were not possible with well- waighing  
 2285 summes of gold to corrupt him to a reuolt. What say you  
 2286 to this? What do you know of it?

2287 *Par.* I beseech you let me answer to the particular of  
 2288 the intergatories. Demand them singly.

2289 *Int.* Do you know this Captaine *Dumaine*?

2290 *Par.* I know him, a was a Botchers Prentize in *Paris*,  
 2291 from whence he was whipt for getting the Shrieues fool  
 2292 with childe, a dumbe innocent that could not say him  
 2293 nay.  
 2294 *Ber.* Nay, by your leaue hold your hands, though I  
 2295 know his braines are forfeite to the next tile that fals.  
 2296 *Int.* Well, is this Captaine in the Duke of Florences  
 2297 campe?  
 2298 *Par.* Vpon my knowledge he is, and lowsie.  
 2299 *Cap.G.* Nay looke not so vpon me: we shall heare of  
 2300 your Lord anon.  
 2301 *Int.* What is his reputation with the Duke?  
 2302 *Par.* The Duke knowes him for no other, but a poore  
 2303 Officer of mine, and writ to mee this other day, to turne  
 2304 him out a'th band. I thinke I haue his Letter in my poc-ket.  
 2306 *Int.* Marry we'll search.  
 2307 *Par.* In good sadnesse I do not know, either it is there,  
 2308 or it is vpon a file with the Dukes other Letters, in my  
 2309 Tent.  
 2310 *Int.* Heere 'tis, heere's a paper, shall I reade it to you?  
 2311 *Par.* I do not know if it be it or no.  
 2312 *Ber.* Our Interpreter do's it well.  
 2313 *Cap.G.* Excellently.  
 2314 *Int.* *Dian, the Counts a foole, and full of gold.*  
 2315 *Par.* That is not the Dukes letter sir: that is an ad-uertisement  
 2316 to a proper maide in Florence, one *Diana*, to  
 2317 take heede of the allurement of one Count *Rossillion*, a  
 2318 foolish idle boy: but for all that very ruttish. I pray you  
 2319 sir put it vp againe.  
 2320 *Int.* Nay, Ile reade it first by your fauour.  
 2321 *Par.* My meaning in't I protest was very honest in the  
 2322 behalfe of the maid: for I knew the young Count to be a  
 2323 dangerous and lasciuious boy, who is a whale to Virgi-nity,  
 2324 and deuours vp all the fry it finds.  
 2325 *Ber.* Damnable both- sides rogue.  
 2326 *Int.Let.* *When he sweares oathes, bid him drop gold, and*  
 2327 *take it:*  
 2328 *After he scores, he neuer payes the score:*  
 2329 *Halfe won is match well made, match and well make it,*  
 2330 *He nere payes after- debts, take it before,*  
 2331 *And say a souldier (Dian) told thee this:*  
 2332 *Men are to mell with, boyes are not to kis.*  
 2333 *For count of this, the Counts a Foole I know it,*  
 2334 *Who payes before, but not when he does owe it.*  
 2335 *Thine as he vow'd to thee in thine eare,*  
 2336 *Parolles.*

2337 *Ber.* He shall be whipt through the Armie with this  
 2338 rime in's forehead.

2339 *Cap.E.* This is your deuoted friend sir, the manifold  
 2340 Linguist, and the army- potent souldier.

2341 *Ber.* I could endure any thing before but a Cat, and  
 2342 now he's a Cat to me.

2343 *Int.* I perceiue sir by your Generals lookes, wee shall  
 2344 be faine to hang you.

2345 *Par.* My life sir in any case: Not that I am afraide to  
 2346 dye, but that my offences beeing many, I would repent  
 2347 out the remainder of Nature. Let me liue sir in a dunge-on,  
 2348 i'th stockes, or any where, so I may liue.

2349 *Int.* Wee'le see what may bee done, so you confesse  
 2350 freely: therefore once more to this Captaine *Dumaine*:  
 2351 you haue answer'd to his reputation with the Duke, and  
 2352 to his valour. What is his honestie?

2353 *Par.* He will steale sir an Egge out of a Cloister: for  
 2354 rapes and rauishments he paralels *Nessus*. Hee professes  
 2355 not keeping of oaths, in breaking em he is stronger then  
 2356 *Hercules*. He will lye sir, with such volubilitie, that you  
 2357 would thinke truth were a foole: drunkennesse is his best  
 2358 vertue, for he will be swine- drunke, and in his sleepe he  
 2359 does little harme, saue to his bed- cloathes about him:  
 2360 but they know his conditions, and lay him in straw. I  
 2361 haue but little more to say sir of his honesty, he ha's eue-rie  
 2362 thing that an honest man should not haue; what an  
 2363 honest man should haue, he has nothing.

2364 *Cap.G.* I begin to loue him for this.

2365 *Ber.* For this description of thine honestie? A pox  
 2366 vpon him for me, he's more and more a Cat.

2367 *Int.* What say you to his expertnesse in warre?

2368 *Par.* Faith sir, ha's led the drumme before the Eng-lish  
 2369 Tragedians: to belye him I will not, and more of his  
 2370 souldiership I know not, except in that Country, he had  
 2371 the honour to be the Officer at a place there called *Mile- end*,  
 2372 to instruct for the doubling of files. I would doe the  
 2373 man what honour I can, but of this I am not certaine.

2374 *Cap.G.* He hath out- villain'd villanie so farre, that the  
 2375 raritie redeemes him.

2376 *Ber.* A pox on him, he's a Cat still.

2377 *Int.* His qualities being at this poore price, I neede  
 2378 not to aske you, if Gold will corrupt him to reuolt.

2379 *Par.* Sir, for a Cardceue he will sell the fee- simple of  
 2380 his saluation, the inheritance of it, and cut th' intaile from  
 2381 all remainders, and a perpetuall succession for it perpe-tually.

2383 *Int.* What's his Brother, the other Captain *Dumain*?

2384 *Cap.E.* Why do's he aske him of me?  
 2385 *Int.* What's he?  
 2386 *Par.* E'ne a Crow a'th same nest: not altogether so  
 2387 great as the first in goodnesse, but greater a great deale in  
 2388 euill. He excels his Brother for a coward, yet his Brother  
 2389 is reputed one of the best that is. In a retreat hee out-runes  
 2390 any Lackey; marrie in comming on, hee ha's the  
 2391 Crampe.  
 2392 *Int.* If your life be saued, will you vndertake to betray  
 2393 the Florentine.  
 2394 *Par.* I, and the Captaine of his horse, Count *Rossillion*.  
 2395 *Int.* Ile whisper with the Generall, and knowe his  
 2396 pleasure.  
 2397 *Par.* Ile no more drumming, a plague of all drummes,  
 2398 onely to seeme to deserue well, and to beguile the suppo-sition [X5  
 2399 of that lasciuious yong boy the Count, haue I run  
 2400 into this danger: yet who would haue suspected an am-bush  
 2401 where I was taken?  
 2402 *Int.* There is no remedy sir, but you must dye: the  
 2403 Generall sayes, you that haue so traitorously discouerd  
 2404 the secrets of your army, and made such pestifferous re-ports  
 2405 of men very nobly held, can serue the world for  
 2406 no honest vse: therefore you must dye. Come heades-man,  
 2407 off with his head.  
 2408 *Par.* O Lord sir let me liue, or let me see my death.  
 2409 *Int.* That shall you, and take your leaue of all your  
 2410 friends:  
 2411 So, looke about you, know you any heere?  
 2412 *Count.* Good morrow noble Captaine.  
 2413 *Lo.E.* God blesse you Captaine *Parolles*.  
 2414 *Cap.G.* God saue you noble Captaine.  
 2415 *Lo.E.* Captain, what greeting will you to my Lord  
 2416 *Lafew*? I am for *France*.  
 2417 *Cap.G.* Good Captaine will you giue me a Copy of  
 2418 the sonnet you writ to *Diana* in behalfe of the Count  
 2419 *Rossillion*, and I were not a verie Coward, I'de compell  
 2420 it of you, but far you well. *Exeunt*.  
 2421 *Int.* You are vndone Captaine all but your scarfe,  
 2422 that has a knot on't yet.  
 2423 *Par.* Who cannot be crush'd with a plot?  
 2424 *Inter.* If you could finde out a Countrie where but  
 2425 women were that had receiued so much shame, you  
 2426 might begin an impudent Nation. Fare yee well sir, I  
 2427 am for *France* too, we shall speake of you there. *Exit*  
 2428 *Par.* Yet am I thankfull: if my heart were great  
 2429 'Twould burst at this: Captaine Ile be no more,

2430 But I will eate, and drinke, and sleepe as soft  
 2431 As Captaine shall. Simply the thing I am  
 2432 Shall make me liue: who knowes himselfe a braggart  
 2433 Let him feare this; for it will come to passe,  
 2434 That euery braggart shall be found an Asse.  
 2435 Rust sword, coole blushes, and *Parrolles* liue  
 2436 Safest in shame: being fool'd, by fool'rie thriue;  
 2437 There's place and meanes for euery man aliue.  
 2438 Ile after them. *Exit.*  
 2439 *Enter Hellen, Widdow, and Diana.*  
 2440 *Hel.* That you may well perceiue I haue not  
 2441 wrong'd you,  
 2442 One of the greatest in the Christian world  
 2443 Shall be my suretie: for whose throne 'tis needfull  
 2444 Ere I can perfect mine intents, to kneele.  
 2445 Time was, I did him a desired office  
 2446 Deere almost as his life, which gratitude  
 2447 Through flintie Tartars bosome would peepe forth,  
 2448 And answer thanks. I duly am inform'd,  
 2449 His grace is at *Marcellae*, to which place  
 2450 We haue conuenient conuoy: you must know  
 2451 I am supposed dead, the Army breaking,  
 2452 My husband hies him home, where heauen ayding,  
 2453 And by the leaue of my good Lord the King,  
 2454 Wee'l be before our welcome.  
 2455 *Wid.* Gentle Madam,  
 2456 You neuer had a seruant to whose trust  
 2457 Your busines was more welcome.  
 2458 *Hel.* Nor your Mistris  
 2459 Euer a friend, whose thoughts more truly labour  
 2460 To recompence your loue: Doubt not but heauen  
 2461 Hath brought me vp to be your daughters dower,  
 2462 As it hath fated her to be my motiue  
 2463 And helper to a husband. But O strange men,  
 2464 That can such sweet vse make of what they hate,  
 2465 When sawcie trusting of the cosin'd thoughts  
 2466 Defiles the pitchy night, so lust doth play  
 2467 With what it loathes, for that which is away,  
 2468 But more of this heereafter: you *Diana*,  
 2469 Vnder my poore instructions yet must suffer  
 2470 Something in my behalfe.  
 2471 *Dia.* Let death and honestie  
 2472 Go with your impositions, I am yours  
 2473 Vpon your will to suffer.  
 2474 *Hel.* Yet I pray you:  
 2475 But with the word the time will bring on summer,

2476 When Briars shall haue leaues as well as thornes,  
 2477 And be as sweet as sharpe: we must away,  
 2478 Our Wagon is prepar'd, and time reuiues vs,  
 2479 All's well that ends well, still the fines the Crowne;  
 2480 What ere the course, the end is the renowne. *Exeunt*  
 2481 *Enter Clowne, old Lady, and Lafew.*  
 2482 *Laf.* No, no, no, your sonne was misled with a snipt  
 2483 taffata fellow there, whose villanous saffron wold haue  
 2484 made all the vnback'd and dowy youth of a nation in his  
 2485 colour: your daughter- in- law had beene aliue at this  
 2486 houre, and your sonne heere at home, more aduanc'd  
 2487 by the King, then by that red- tail'd humble Bee I speak  
 2488 of.  
 2489 *La.* I would I had not knowne him, it was the death  
 2490 of the most vertuous gentlewoman, that euer Nature  
 2491 had praise for creating. If she had pertaken of my flesh  
 2492 and cost mee the deerest groanes of a mother, I could  
 2493 not haue owed her a more rooted loue.  
 2494 *Laf.* Twas a good Lady, 'twas a good Lady. Wee  
 2495 may picke a thousand sallets ere wee light on such ano-ther  
 2496 hearbe.  
 2497 *Clo.* Indeed sir she was the sweete Margerom of the  
 2498 sallet, or rather the hearbe of grace.  
 2499 *Laf.* They are not hearbes you knaue, they are nose- hearbes.  
 2501 *Clowne.* I am no great *Nabuchadnezar* sir, I haue not  
 2502 much skill in grace.  
 2503 *Laf.* Whether doest thou professe thy selfe, a knaue  
 2504 or a foole?  
 2505 *Clo.* A foole sir at a womans seruice, and a knaue at a  
 2506 mans.  
 2507 *Laf.* Your distinction.  
 2508 *Clo.* I would cousen the man of his wife, and do his  
 2509 seruice.  
 2510 *Laf.* So you were a knaue at his seruice indeed.  
 2511 *Clo.* And I would giue his wife my bauble sir to doe  
 2512 her seruice.  
 2513 *Laf.* I will subscribe for thee, thou art both knaue  
 2514 and foole.  
 2515 *Clo.* At your seruice.  
 2516 *Laf.* No, no, no.  
 2517 *Clo.* Why sir, if I cannot serue you, I can serue as  
 2518 great a prince as you are.  
 2519 *Laf.* Whose that, a Frenchman?  
 2520 *Clo.* Faith sir a has an English maine, but his fisno-mie  
 2521 is more hotter in France then there.  
 2522 *Laf.* What prince is that?

2523 *Clo.* The blacke prince sir, alias the prince of darke-nesse,  
2524 alias the diuell.

2525 *Laf.* Hold thee there's my purse, I giue thee not this  
2526 to suggest thee from thy master thou talk'st off, serue  
2527 him still. [X5v

2528 *Clo.* I am a woodland fellow sir, that alwaies loued  
2529 a great fire, and the master I speak of euer keeps a good  
2530 fire, but sure he is the Prince of the world, let his No-bilitie  
2531 remaine in's Court. I am for the house with the  
2532 narrow gate, which I take to be too little for pompe to  
2533 enter: some that humble themselues may, but the ma-nie  
2534 will be too chill and tender, and theyle bee for the  
2535 flowrie way that leads to the broad gate, and the great  
2536 fire.

2537 *Laf.* Go thy waies, I begin to bee a wearie of thee,  
2538 and I tell thee so before, because I would not fall out  
2539 with thee. Go thy wayes, let my horses be wel look'd  
2540 too, without any trickes.

2541 *Clo.* If I put any trickes vpon em sir, they shall bee  
2542 lades trickes, which are their owne right by the law of  
2543 Nature. *Exit*

2544 *Laf.* A shrewd knaue and an vnhappie.

2545 *Lady.* So a is. My Lord that's gone made himselfe  
2546 much sport out of him, by his authoritie hee remaines  
2547 heere, which he thinkes is a pattent for his sawcinesse,  
2548 and indeede he has no pace, but runnes where he will.

2549 *Laf.* I like him well, 'tis not amisse: and I was about  
2550 to tell you, since I heard of the good Ladies death, and  
2551 that my Lord your sonne was vpon his returne home. I  
2552 moued the King my master to speake in the behalfe of  
2553 my daughter, which in the minoritie of them both, his  
2554 Maiestie out of a selfe gracious remembrance did first  
2555 propose, his Highnesse hath promis'd me to doe it, and  
2556 to stoppe vp the displeasure he hath conceiued against  
2557 your sonne, there is no fitter matter. How do's your  
2558 Ladyship like it?

2559 *La.* With verie much content my Lord, and I wish  
2560 it happily effected.

2561 *Laf.* His Highnesse comes post from *Marcellus*, of as  
2562 able bodie as when he number'd thirty, a will be heere  
2563 to morrow, or I am deceiu'd by him that in such intel-ligence  
2564 hath seldome fail'd.

2565 *La.* It reioyces me, that I hope I shall see him ere I  
2566 die. I haue letters that my sonne will be heere to night:  
2567 I shall beseech your Lordship to remaine with mee, till  
2568 they meete together.

2569 *Laf.* Madam, I was thinking with what manners I  
 2570 might safely be admitted.  
 2571 *Lad.* You neede but pleade your honourable priui-ledge.  
 2573 *Laf.* Ladie, of that I haue made a bold charter, but  
 2574 I thanke my God, it holds yet.  
 2575 *Enter Clowne.*  
 2576 *Clo.* O Madam, yonders my Lord your sonne with  
 2577 a patch of veluet on's face, whether there bee a scar vn-der't  
 2578 or no, the Veluet knowes, but 'tis a goodly patch  
 2579 of Veluet, his left cheeke is a cheeke of two pile and a  
 2580 halfe, but his right cheeke is worne bare.  
 2581 *Laf.* A scarre nobly got,  
 2582 Or a noble scarre, is a good liu'rie of honor,  
 2583 So belike is that.  
 2584 *Clo.* But it is your carbinado'd face.  
 2585 *Laf.* Let vs go see  
 2586 your sonne I pray you, I long to talke  
 2587 With the yong noble souldier.  
 2588 *Clowne.* 'Faith there's a dozen of em, with delicate  
 2589 fine hats, and most courteous feathers, which bow the  
 2590 head, and nod at euerie man.  
 2591 *Exeunt*

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### *Actus Quintus.*

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2593 *Enter Hellen, Widdow, and Diana, with*  
 2594 *two Attendants.*  
 2595 *Hel.* But this exceeding posting day and night,  
 2596 Must wear your spirits low, we cannot helpe it:  
 2597 But since you haue made the daies and nights as one,  
 2598 To weare your gentle limbes in my affayres,  
 2599 Be bold you do so grow in my requitall,  
 2600 As nothing can vnroote you. In happie time,  
 2601 *Enter a gentle Astringer.*  
 2602 This man may helpe me to his Maiesties eare,  
 2603 If he would spend his power. God saue you sir.  
 2604 *Gent.* And you.  
 2605 *Hel.* Sir, I haue seene you in the Court of France.  
 2606 *Gent.* I haue beene sometimes there.  
 2607 *Hel.* I do presume sir, that you are not falne  
 2608 From the report that goes vpon your goodnesse,  
 2609 And therefore goaded with most sharpe occasions,  
 2610 Which lay nice manners by, I put you to  
 2611 The vse of your owne vertues, for the which

2612 I shall continue thankefull.  
 2613 *Gent.* What's your will?  
 2614 *Hel.* That it will please you  
 2615 To giue this poore petition to the King,  
 2616 And ayde me with that store of power you haue  
 2617 To come into his presence.  
 2618 *Gen.* The Kings not heere.  
 2619 *Hel.* Not heere sir?  
 2620 *Gen.* Not indeed,  
 2621 He hence remou'd last night, and with more hast  
 2622 Then is his vse.  
 2623 *Wid.* Lord how we loose our paines.  
 2624 *Hel.* All's well that ends well yet,  
 2625 Though time seeme so aduerse, and meanes vnfit:  
 2626 I do beseech you, whither is he gone?  
 2627 *Gent.* Marrie as I take it to *Rossillion*,  
 2628 Whither I am going.  
 2629 *Hel.* I do beseech you sir,  
 2630 Since you are like to see the King before me,  
 2631 Commend the paper to his gracious hand,  
 2632 Which I presume shall render you no blame,  
 2633 But rather make you thanke your paines for it,  
 2634 I will come after you with what good speede  
 2635 Our meanes will make vs meanes.  
 2636 *Gent.* This Ile do for you.  
 2637 *Hel.* And you shall finde your selfe to be well thankt  
 2638 what e're falles more. We must to horse againe, Go, go,  
 2639 prouide.  
 2640 *Enter Clowne and Parrolles.*  
 2641 *Par.* Good Mr *Lauatch* giue my Lord *Lafew* this let-ter,  
 2642 I haue ere now sir beene better knowne to you, when  
 2643 I haue held familiaritie with fresher cloathes: but I am  
 2644 now sir muddied in fortunes mood, and smell somewhat  
 2645 strong of her strong displeasure.  
 2646 *Clo.* Truely, Fortunes displeasure is but sluttish if it  
 2647 smell so strongly as thou speak'st of: I will hencefoorth  
 2648 eate no Fish of Fortunes butt'ring. Prethee alow the  
 2649 winde.  
 2650 *Par.* Nay you neede not to stop your nose sir: I spake  
 2651 but by a Metaphor.  
 2652 *Clo.* Indeed sir, if your Metaphor stinke, I will stop  
 2653 my nose, or against any mans Metaphor. Prethee get thee  
 2654 further. [X6  
 2655 *Par.* Pray you sir deliuer me this paper.  
 2656 *Clo.* Foh, prethee stand away: a paper from fortunes  
 2657 close- stoole, to giue to a Nobleman. Looke heere he

2658 comes himselfe.

2659 *Enter Lafew.*

2660 *Clo.* Heere is a purre of Fortunes sir, or of Fortunes  
2661 Cat, but not a Muscat, that ha's falne into the vncleane  
2662 fish- pond of her displeasure, and as he sayes is muddied  
2663 withall. Pray you sir, vse the Carpe as you may, for he  
2664 lookes like a poore decayed, ingenious, foolish, rascally  
2665 knaue. I doe pittie his distresse in my smiles of comfort,  
2666 and leaue him to your Lordship.

2667 *Par.* My Lord I am a man whom fortune hath cruel-ly  
2668 scratch'd.

2669 *Laf.* And what would you haue me to doe? 'Tis too  
2670 late to paire her nailes now. Wherein haue you played  
2671 the knaue with fortune that she should scratch you, who  
2672 of her selfe is a good Lady, and would not haue knaues  
2673 thriue long vnder? There's a Cardecue for you: Let the  
2674 Iustices make you and fortune friends; I am for other  
2675 businesse.

2676 *Par.* I beseech your honour to heare mee one single  
2677 word,

2678 *Laf.* you begge a single peny more: Come you shall  
2679 ha't, saue your word.

2680 *Par.* My name my good Lord is *Parrolles*.

2681 *Laf.* You begge more then word then. Cox my pas-sion,  
2682 giue me your hand: How does your drumme?

2683 *Par.* O my good Lord, you were the first that found  
2684 mee.

2685 *Laf.* Was I insooth? And I was the first that lost thee.

2686 *Par.* It lies in you my Lord to bring me in some grace  
2687 for you did bring me out.

2688 *Laf.* Out vpon thee knaue, doest thou put vpon mee  
2689 at once both the office of God and the diuel: one brings  
2690 thee in grace, and the other brings thee out. The Kings  
2691 comming I know by his Trumpets. Sirrah, inquire fur-ther  
2692 after me, I had talke of you last night, though you  
2693 are a foole and a knaue, you shall eate, go too, follow.

2694 *Par.* I praise God for you.

2695 *Flourish. Enter King, old Lady, Lafew, the two French*  
2696 *Lords, with attendants.*

2697 *Kin.* We lost a Jewell of her, and our esteeme  
2698 Was made much poorer by it: but your sonne,  
2699 As mad in folly, lack'd the sence to know  
2700 Her estimation home.

2701 *Old La.* 'Tis past my Liege,

2702 And I beseech your Maiestie to make it

2703 Naturall rebellion, done i'th blade of youth,

2704 When oyle and fire, too strong for reasons force,  
 2705 Ore- beares it, and burnes on.  
 2706 *Kin.* My honour'd Lady,  
 2707 I haue forgiuen and forgotten all,  
 2708 Though my reuenges were high bent vpon him,  
 2709 And watch'd the time to shoote.  
 2710 *Laf.* This I must say,  
 2711 But first I begge my pardon: the yong Lord  
 2712 Did to his Maiesty, his Mother, and his Ladie,  
 2713 Offence of mighty note; but to himselfe  
 2714 The greatest wrong of all. He lost a wife,  
 2715 Whose beauty did astonish the suruey  
 2716 Of richest eies: whose words all eares tooke captiue,  
 2717 Whose deere perfection, hearts that scorn'd to serue,  
 2718 Humbly call'd Mistris.  
 2719 *Kin.* Praising what is lost,  
 2720 Makes the remembrance deere. Well, call him hither,  
 2721 We are reconcil'd, and the first view shall kill  
 2722 All repetition: Let him not aske our pardon,  
 2723 The nature of his great offence is dead,  
 2724 And deeper then obliuion, we do burie  
 2725 Th' incensing reliques of it. Let him approach  
 2726 A stranger, no offender; and informe him  
 2727 So 'tis our will he should.  
 2728 *Gent.* I shall my Liege.  
 2729 *Kin.* What sayes he to your daughter,  
 2730 Haue you spoke?  
 2731 *Laf.* All that he is, hath reference to your Highnes.  
 2732 *Kin.* Then shall we haue a match. I haue letters sent  
 2733 me, that sets him high in fame.  
 2734 *Enter Count Bertram.*  
 2735 *Laf.* He lookes well on't.  
 2736 *Kin.* I am not a day of season,  
 2737 For thou maist see a sun- shine, and a haile  
 2738 In me at once: But to the brightest beames  
 2739 Distracted clouds giue way, so stand thou forth,  
 2740 The time is faire againe.  
 2741 *Ber.* My high repented blames  
 2742 Deere Soueraigne pardon to me.  
 2743 *Kin.* All is whole,  
 2744 Not one word more of the consumed time,  
 2745 Let's take the instant by the forward top:  
 2746 For we are old, and on our quick'st decrees  
 2747 Th' inaudible, and noiselesse foot of time  
 2748 Steales, ere we can effect them. You remember  
 2749 The daughter of this Lord?

2750 *Ber.* Admiringly my Liege, at first  
 2751 I stucke my choice vpon her, ere my heart  
 2752 Durst make too bold a herauld of my tongue:  
 2753 Where the impression of mine eye enfixing,  
 2754 Contempt his scornfull Perspectiue did lend me,  
 2755 Which warpt the line, of euerie other fauour,  
 2756 Scorn'd a faire colour, or exprest it stolne,  
 2757 Extended or contracted all proportions  
 2758 To a most hideous obiect. Thence it came,  
 2759 That she whom all men prais'd, and whom my selfe,  
 2760 Since I haue lost, haue lou'd; was in mine eye  
 2761 The dust that did offend it.  
 2762 *Kin.* Well excus'd:  
 2763 That thou didst loue her, strikes some scores away  
 2764 From the great compt: but loue that comes too late,  
 2765 Like a remorsefull pardon slowly carried  
 2766 To the great sender, turnes a sowre offence,  
 2767 Crying, that's good that's gone: Our rash faults,  
 2768 Make triuiall price of serious things we haue,  
 2769 Not knowing them, vntill we know their graue.  
 2770 Oft our displeasures to our selues vniust,  
 2771 Destroy our friends, and after weepe their dust:  
 2772 Our owne loue waking, cries to see what's done,  
 2773 While shamefull hate sleepes out the afternoone.  
 2774 Be this sweet *Helens* knell, and now forget her.  
 2775 Send forth your amorous token for faire *Maudlin*,  
 2776 The maine consents are had, and heere wee'l stay  
 2777 To see our widdowers second marriage day:  
 2778 Which better then the first, O deere heauen blesse,  
 2779 Or, ere they meete in me, O Nature cesse.  
 2780 *Laf.* Come on my sonne, in whom my houses name  
 2781 Must be digested: giue a fauour from you  
 2782 To sparkle in the spirits of my daughter, [X6v  
 2783 That she may quickly come. By my old beard,  
 2784 And eu'rie haire that's on't, *Helen* that's dead  
 2785 Was a sweet creature: such a ring as this,  
 2786 The last that ere I tooke her leaue at Court,  
 2787 I saw vpon her finger.  
 2788 *Ber.* Hers it was not.  
 2789 *King.* Now pray you let me see it. For mine eye,  
 2790 While I was speaking, oft was fasten'd too't:  
 2791 This Ring was mine, and when I gaue it *Hellen*,  
 2792 I bad her if her fortunes euer stooode  
 2793 Necessitied to helpe, that by this token  
 2794 I would releue her. Had you that craft to reauue her  
 2795 Of what should stead her most?

2796 *Ber.* My gracious Soueraigne,  
 2797 How ere it pleases you to take it so,  
 2798 The ring was neuer hers.  
 2799 *Old La.* Sonne, on my life  
 2800 I haue seene her weare it, and she reckon'd it  
 2801 At her liues rate.  
 2802 *Laf.* I am sure I saw her weare it.  
 2803 *Ber.* You are deceiu'd my Lord, she neuer saw it:  
 2804 In Florence was it from a casement throwne mee,  
 2805 Wrap'd in a paper, which contain'd the name  
 2806 Of her that threw it: Noble she was, and thought  
 2807 I stood ingag'd, but when I had subscrib'd  
 2808 To mine owne fortune, and inform'd her fully,  
 2809 I could not answer in that course of Honour  
 2810 As she had made the ouerture, she ceast  
 2811 In heauie satisfaction, and would neuer  
 2812 Receiue the Ring againe.  
 2813 *Kin. Platus* himselfe,  
 2814 That knowes the tinct and multiplying med'cine,  
 2815 Hath not in natures mysterie more science,  
 2816 Then I haue in this Ring. 'Twas mine, 'twas *Helens*,  
 2817 Who euer gaue it you: then if you know  
 2818 That you are well acquainted with your selfe,  
 2819 Confesse 'twas hers, and by what rough enforcement  
 2820 You got it from her. She call'd the Saints to suretie,  
 2821 That she would neuer put it from her finger,  
 2822 Vnlesse she gaue it to your selfe in bed,  
 2823 Where you haue neuer come: or sent it vs  
 2824 Vpon her great disaster.  
 2825 *Ber.* She neuer saw it.  
 2826 *Kin.* Thou speak'st it falsely: as I loue mine Honor,  
 2827 And mak'st connecturall feares to come into me,  
 2828 Which I would faine shut out, if it should proue  
 2829 That thou art so inhumane, 'twill not proue so:  
 2830 And yet I know not, thou didst hate her deadly,  
 2831 And she is dead, which nothing but to close  
 2832 Her eyes my selfe, could win me to beleeeue,  
 2833 More then to see this Ring. Take him away,  
 2834 My fore- past proofes, how ere the matter fall  
 2835 Shall taze my feares of little vanitie,  
 2836 Hauing vainly fear'd too little. Away with him,  
 2837 Wee'l sift this matter further.  
 2838 *Ber.* If you shall proue  
 2839 This Ring was euer hers, you shall as easie  
 2840 Proue that I husbanded her bed in Florence,  
 2841 Where yet she neuer was.

2842 *Enter a Gentleman.*  
 2843 *King.* I am wrap'd in dismall thinkings.  
 2844 *Gen.* Gracious Soueraigne.  
 2845 Whether I haue beene too blame or no, I know not,  
 2846 Here's a petition from a Florentine,  
 2847 Who hath for foure or fiue remoues come short,  
 2848 To tender it her selfe. I vndertooke it,  
 2849 Vanquish'd thereto by the faire grace and speech  
 2850 Of the poore suppliant, who by this I know  
 2851 Is heere attending: her businesse lookes in her  
 2852 With an importing visage, and she told me  
 2853 In a sweet verball breefe, it did concerne  
 2854 Your Highnesse with her selfe.  
 2855 *A Letter.*  
 2856 *Vpon his many protestations to marrie mee when his wife was*  
 2857 *dead, I blush to say it, he wonne me. Now is the Count Ros-sillion*  
 2858 *a Widdower, his vovues are forfeited to mee, and my*  
 2859 *honors payed to him. Hee stole from Florence, taking no*  
 2860 *leauue, and I follow him to his Countrey for Iustice: Grant*  
 2861 *it me, O King, in you it best lies, otherwise a seducer flou-rishes,*  
 2862 *and a poore Maid is vndone.*  
 2863 *Diana Capilet.*  
 2864 *Laf.* I will buy me a sonne in Law in a faire, and toule  
 2865 for this. Ile none of him.  
 2866 *Kin.* The heauens haue thought well on thee *Lafew,*  
 2867 To bring forth this discou'rie, seeke these sutors:  
 2868 Go speedily, and bring againe the Count.  
 2869 *Enter Bertram.*  
 2870 I am a- feard the life of *Hellen* (Ladie)  
 2871 Was fowly snatcht.  
 2872 *Old La.* Now iustice on the doers.  
 2873 *King.* I wonder sir, sir, wiues are monsters to you,  
 2874 And that you flye them as you sweare them Lordship,  
 2875 Yet you desire to marry. What woman's that?  
 2876 *Enter Widdow, Diana, and Parrolles.*  
 2877 *Dia.* I am my Lord a wretched Florentine,  
 2878 Deriued from the ancient Capilet,  
 2879 My suite as I do vnderstand you know,  
 2880 And therefore know how farre I may be pittied.  
 2881 *Wid.* I am her Mother sir, whose age and honour  
 2882 Both suffer vnder this complaint we bring,  
 2883 And both shall cease, without your remedie.  
 2884 *King.* Come hether Count, do you know these Wo-men?  
 2886 *Ber.* My Lord, I neither can nor will denie,  
 2887 But that I know them, do they charge me further?  
 2888 *Dia.* Why do you looke so strange vpon your wife?

2889 *Ber.* She's none of mine my Lord.  
 2890 *Dia.* If you shall marrie  
 2891 You giue away this hand, and that is mine,  
 2892 You giue away heauens vowes, and those are mine:  
 2893 You giue away my selfe, which is knowne mine:  
 2894 For I by vow am so embodied yours,  
 2895 That she which marries you, must marrie me,  
 2896 Either both or none.  
 2897 *Laf.* Your reputation comes too short for my daugh-ter,  
 2898 you are no husband for her.  
 2899 *Ber.* My Lord, this is a fond and desp'rate creature,  
 2900 Whom sometime I haue laugh'd with: Let your highnes  
 2901 Lay a more noble thought vpon mine honour,  
 2902 Then for to thinke that I would sinke it heere.  
 2903 *Kin.* Sir for my thoughts, you haue them il to friend,  
 2904 Till your deeds gaine them fairer: proue your honor,  
 2905 Then in my thought it lies.  
 2906 *Dian.* Good my Lord,  
 2907 Aske him vpon his oath, if hee do's thinke  
 2908 He had not my virginity.  
 2909 *Kin.* What saist thou to her?  
 2910 *Ber.* She's impudent my Lord,  
 2911 And was a common gamester to the Campe.  
 2912 *Dia.* He do's me wrong my Lord: If I were so,  
 2913 He might haue bought me at a common price. [Y1  
 2914 Do not beleeeue him. O behold this Ring,  
 2915 Whose high respect and rich validitie  
 2916 Did lacke a Paralell: yet for all that  
 2917 He gaue it to a Commoner a'th Campe  
 2918 If I be one.  
 2919 *Coun.* He blushes, and 'tis hit:  
 2920 Of sixe preceding Ancestors that Iemme  
 2921 Confer'd by testament to'th sequent issue  
 2922 Hath it beene owed and worne. This is his wife,  
 2923 That Ring's a thousand proofes.  
 2924 *King.* Me thought you saide  
 2925 You saw one heere in Court could witsse it.  
 2926 *Dia.* I did my Lord, but loath am to produce  
 2927 So bad an instrument, his names *Parrolles*.  
 2928 *Laf.* I saw the man to day, if man he bee.  
 2929 *Kin.* Finde him, and bring him hether.  
 2930 *Ros.* What of him:  
 2931 He's quoted for a most perfidious slaue  
 2932 With all the spots a'th world, taxt and debosh'd,  
 2933 Whose nature sickens: but to speake a truth,  
 2934 Am I, or that or this for what he'l vtter,

2935 That will speake any thing.  
 2936 *Kin.* She hath that Ring of yours.  
 2937 *Ros.* I thinke she has; certaine it is I lyk'd her,  
 2938 And boorded her i'th wanton way of youth:  
 2939 She knew her distance, and did angle for mee,  
 2940 Madding my eagernesse with her restraint,  
 2941 As all impediments in fancies course  
 2942 Are motiues of more fancie, and in fine,  
 2943 Her insuite comming with her moderne grace,  
 2944 Subdu'd me to her rate, she got the Ring,  
 2945 And I had that which any inferiour might  
 2946 At Market price haue bought.  
 2947 *Dia.* I must be patient:  
 2948 You that haue turn'd off a first so noble wife,  
 2949 May iustly dyet me. I pray you yet,  
 2950 (Since you lacke vertue, I will loose a husband)  
 2951 Send for your Ring, I will returne it home,  
 2952 And giue me mine againe.  
 2953 *Ros.* I haue it not.  
 2954 *Kin.* What Ring was yours I pray you?  
 2955 *Dian.* Sir much like the same vpon your finger.  
 2956 *Kin.* Know you this Ring, this Ring was his of late.  
 2957 *Dia.* And this was it I gaue him being a bed.  
 2958 *Kin.* The story then goes false, you threw it him  
 2959 Out of a Casement.  
 2960 *Dia.* I haue spoke the truth. *Enter Parolles.*  
 2961 *Ros.* My Lord, I do confesse the ring was hers.  
 2962 *Kin.* You boggle shrewdly, euery feather starts you:  
 2963 Is this the man you speake of?  
 2964 *Dia.* I, my Lord.  
 2965 *Kin.* Tell me sirrah, but tell me true I charge you,  
 2966 Not fearing the displeasure of your master:  
 2967 Which on your iust proceeding, Ile keepe off,  
 2968 By him and by this woman heere, what know you?  
 2969 *Par.* So please your Maiesty, my master hath bin an  
 2970 honourable Gentleman. Trickes hee hath had in him,  
 2971 which Gentlemen haue.  
 2972 *Kin.* Come, come, to'th' purpose: Did hee loue this  
 2973 woman?  
 2974 *Par.* Faith sir he did loue her, but how.  
 2975 *Kin.* How I pray you?  
 2976 *Par.* He did loue her sir, as a Gent. loues a Woman.  
 2977 *Kin.* How is that?  
 2978 *Par.* He lou'd her sir, and lou'd her not.  
 2979 *Kin.* As thou art a knaue and no knaue, what an equi-uocall  
 2980 Companion is this?

2981 *Par.* I am a poore man, and at your Maiesties com-mand.  
 2983 *Laf.* Hee's a good drumme my Lord, but a naughtie  
 2984 Orator.  
 2985 *Dian.* Do you know he promist me marriage?  
 2986 *Par.* Faith I know more then Ile speake.  
 2987 *Kin.* But wilt thou not speake all thou know'st?  
 2988 *Par.* Yes so please your Maiesty: I did goe betweene  
 2989 them as I said, but more then that he loued her, for in-deede  
 2990 he was madde for her, and talkt of Sathan, and of  
 2991 Limbo, and of Furies, and I know not what: yet I was in  
 2992 that credit with them at that time, that I knewe of their  
 2993 going to bed, and of other motions, as promising her  
 2994 marriage, and things which would deriue mee ill will to  
 2995 speake of, therefore I will not speake what I know.  
 2996 *Kin.* Thou hast spoken all already, vnlesse thou canst  
 2997 say they are married, but thou art too fine in thy euidence,  
 2998 therefore stand aside. This Ring you say was yours.  
 2999 *Dia.* I my good Lord.  
 3000 *Kin.* Where did you buy it? Or who gaue it you?  
 3001 *Dia.* It was not giuen me, nor I did not buy it.  
 3002 *Kin.* Who lent it you?  
 3003 *Dia.* It was not lent me neither.  
 3004 *Kin.* Where did you finde it then?  
 3005 *Dia.* I found it not.  
 3006 *Kin.* If it were yours by none of all these wayes,  
 3007 How could you giue it him?  
 3008 *Dia.* I neuer gaue it him.  
 3009 *Laf.* This womans an easie gloue my Lord, she goes  
 3010 off and on at pleasure.  
 3011 *Kin.* This Ring was mine, I gaue it his first wife.  
 3012 *Dia.* It might be yours or hers for ought I know.  
 3013 *Kin.* Take her away, I do not like her now,  
 3014 To prison with her: and away with him,  
 3015 Vnlesse thou telst me where thou hadst this Ring,  
 3016 Thou diest within this houre.  
 3017 *Dia.* Ile neuer tell you.  
 3018 *Kin.* Take her away.  
 3019 *Dia.* Ile put in baile my liedge.  
 3020 *Kin.* I thinke thee now some common Customer.  
 3021 *Dia.* By Ioue if euer I knew man 'twas you.  
 3022 *King.* Wherefore hast thou accusde him al this while.  
 3023 *Dia.* Because he's guiltie, and he is not guilty:  
 3024 He knowes I am no Maid, and hee'l sweare too't:  
 3025 Ile sweare I am a Maid, and he knowes not.  
 3026 Great King I am no strumpet, by my life,  
 3027 I am either Maid, or else this old mans wife.

3028 *Kin.* She does abuse our eares, to prison with her.  
 3029 *Dia.* Good mother fetch my bayle. Stay Royall sir,  
 3030 The Jeweller that owes the Ring is sent for,  
 3031 And he shall surety me. But for this Lord,  
 3032 Who hath abus'd me as he knowes himselfe,  
 3033 Though yet he neuer harm'd me, heere I quit him.  
 3034 He knowes himselfe my bed he hath defil'd,  
 3035 And at that time he got his wife with childe:  
 3036 Dead though she be, she feeles her yong one kicke:  
 3037 So there's my riddle, one that's dead is quicke,  
 3038 And now behold the meaning.  
 3039 *Enter Hellen and Widdow.*  
 3040 *Kin.* Is there no exorcist  
 3041 Beguiles the truer Office of mine eyes?  
 3042 Is't reall that I see?  
 3043 *Hel.* No my good Lord, [Y1v  
 3044 'Tis but the shadow of a wife you see,  
 3045 The name, and not the thing.  
 3046 *Ros.* Both, both, O pardon.  
 3047 *Hel.* Oh my good Lord, when I was like this Maid,  
 3048 I found you wondrous kinde, there is your Ring,  
 3049 And looke you, heeres your letter: this it sayes,  
 3050 When from my finger you can get this Ring,  
 3051 And is by me with childe, &c. This is done,  
 3052 Will you be mine now you are doubly wonne?  
 3053 *Ros.* If she my Liege can make me know this clearly,  
 3054 Ile loue her dearely, euer, euer dearely.  
 3055 *Hel.* If it appeare not plaine, and proue vntrue,  
 3056 Deadly diuorce step betweene me and you.  
 3057 O my deere mother do I see you liuing?  
 3058 *Laf.* Mine eyes smell Onions, I shall weepe anon:  
 3059 Good Tom Drumme lend me a handkercher.  
 3060 So I thanke thee, waite on me home, Ile make sport with  
 3061 thee: Let thy curtsies alone, they are scuruy ones.  
 3062 *King.* Let vs from point to point this storie know,  
 3063 To make the euen truth in pleasure flow:  
 3064 If thou beest yet a fresh vncropped flower,  
 3065 Choose thou thy husband, and Ile pay thy dower.  
 3066 For I can guesse, that by thy honest ayde,  
 3067 Thou keptst a wife her selfe, thy selfe a Maide.  
 3068 Of that and all the progresse more and lesse,  
 3069 Resoluedly more leasure shall expresse:  
 3070 All yet seemes well, and if it end so meete,  
 3071 The bitter past, more welcome is the sweet.  
 3072 *Flourish.*  
 3073 *The Kings a Begger, now the Play is done,*

3074 *All is well ended, if this suite be wonne,*  
3075 *That you expresse Content: which we will pay,*  
3076 *With strife to please you, day exceeding day:*  
3077 *Ours be your patience then, and yours our parts,*  
3078 *Your gentle hands lend vs, and take our hearts. Exeunt omn.*

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**FINIS.**

**3080 ALL'S**

**Well, that Ends Well.**

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