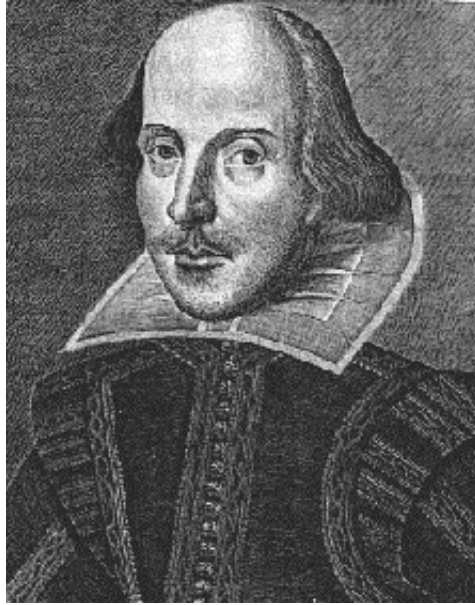


The Merchant of Venice.

by

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Based on the Folio Text of 1623



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Shakespeare: First Folio

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The Merchant of Venice

O4

Actus primus.

2 *Enter Anthonio, Salarino, and Salanio.*

3 *Anthonio.*

4 In sooth I know not why I am so sad,
 5 It wearies me: you say it wearies you;
 6 But how I caught it, found it, or came by it,
 7 What stuffe 'tis made of, whereof it is borne,
 8 I am to learne: and such a Want- wit sadnesse makes of
 9 mee,

10 That I haue much ado to know my selfe.

11 *Sal.* Your minde is tossing on the Ocean,
 12 There where your Argosies with portly saile
 13 Like Signiors and rich Burgers on the flood,
 14 Or as it were the Pageants of the sea,
 15 Do ouer- peere the pettie Traffiquers
 16 That curtsie to them, do them reuerence
 17 As they flye by them with their wouen wings.

18 *Salar.* Beleeue me sir, had I such venture forth,
 19 The better part of my affections, would
 20 Be with my hopes abroad. I should be still
 21 Plucking the grasse to know where sits the winde,
 22 Peering in Maps for ports, and peers, and rodes:
 23 And euery obiect that might make me feare
 24 Misfortune to my ventures, out of doubt
 25 Would make me sad.

26 *Sal.* My winde cooling my broth,
 27 Would blow me to an Ague, when I thought
 28 What harme a winde too great might doe at sea.
 29 I should not see the sandie houre- glasse runne,
 30 But I should thinke of shallows, and of flats,
 31 And see my wealthy *Andrew* docks in sand,
 32 Vailing her high top lower then her ribs
 33 To kisse her buriall; should I goe to Church
 34 And see the holy edifice of stone,
 35 And not bethinke me straight of dangerous rocks,
 36 Which touching but my gentle Vessels side
 37 Would scatter all her spices on the streame,
 38 Enrobe the roring waters with my silkes,
 39 And in a word, but euen now worth this,

40 And now worth nothing. Shall I haue the thought
 41 To thinke on this, and shall I lacke the thought
 42 That such a thing bechaunc'd would make me sad?
 43 But tell me, I know *Anthonio*
 44 Is sad to thinke vpon his merchandize.
 45 *Anth.* Beleeue me no, I thanke my fortune for it,
 46 My ventures are not in one bottome trusted,
 47 Nor to one place; nor is my whole estate [
 48 Vpon the fortune of this present yeere:
 49 Therefore my merchandize makes me not sad.
 50 *Sola.* Why then you are in loue.
 51 *Anth.* Fie, fie.
 52 *Sola.* Not in loue neither: then let vs say you are sad
 53 Because you are not merry: and 'twere as easie
 54 For you to laugh and leape, and say you are merry
 55 Because you are not sad. Now by two-headed *Ianus*,
 56 Nature hath fram'd strange fellowes in her time:
 57 Some that will euermore peepe through their eyes,
 58 And laugh like Parrats at a bag- piper.
 59 And other of such vineger aspect,
 60 That they'll not shew their teeth in way of smile,
 61 Though *Nestor* sweare the iest be laughable.
 62 *Enter Bassanio, Lorenzo, and Gratiano.*
 63 *Sola.* Heere comes *Bassanio*,
 64 Your most noble Kinsman,
 65 *Gratiano*, and *Lorenzo*. Faryewell,
 66 We leaue you now with better company.
 67 *Sola.* I would haue staid till I had made you merry,
 68 If worthier friends had not preuented me.
 69 *Ant.* Your worth is very deere in my regard.
 70 I take it your owne busines calls on you,
 71 And you embrace th' occasion to depart.
 72 *Sal.* Good morrow my good Lords.
 73 *Bass.* Good signiors both, when shall we laugh? say, |(when?
 74 You grow exceeding strange: must it be so?
 75 *Sal.* Wee'll make our leysures to attend on yours.
 76 *Exeunt Salarino, and Solanio.*
 77 *Lor.* My Lord *Bassanio*, since you haue found *Anthonio*
 78 We two will leaue you, but at dinner time
 79 I pray you haue in minde where we must meete.
 80 *Bass.* I will not faile you.
 81 *Grat.* You looke not well signior *Anthonio*,
 82 You haue too much respect vpon the world:
 83 They loose it that doe buy it with much care,
 84 Beleeue me you are maruellously chang'd.
 85 *Ant.* I hold the world but as the world *Gratiano*,

86 A stage, where euery man must play a part,
 87 And mine a sad one.
 88 *Grati.* Let me play the foole,
 89 With mirth and laughter let old wrinckles come,
 90 And let my Liuer rather heate with wine,
 91 Then my heart coole with mortifying grones.
 92 Why should a man whose bloud is warme within,
 93 Sit like his Grandsire, cut in Alablaster?
 94 Sleepe when he wakes? and creep into the Iaundies [O4v
 95 By being peeuish? I tell thee what *Anthonio*,
 96 I loue thee, and it is my loue that speakes:
 97 There are a sort of men, whose visages
 98 Do creame and mantle like a standing pond,
 99 And do a wilfull stilnesse entertaine,
 100 With purpose to be drest in an opinion
 101 Of wisdom, grauity, profound conceit,
 102 As who should say, I am sir an Oracle,
 103 And when I ope my lips, let no dogge barke.
 104 O my *Anthonio*, I do know of these
 105 That therefore onely are reputed wise,
 106 For saying nothing; when I am verie sure
 107 If they should speake, would almost dam those eares
 108 Which hearing them would call their brothers fooles:
 109 Ile tell thee more of this another time.
 110 But fish not with this melancholly baite
 111 For this foole Gudgin, this opinion:
 112 Come good *Lorenzo*, faryewell a while,
 113 Ile end my exhortation after dinner.
 114 *Lor.* Well, we will leaue you then till dinner time.
 115 I must be one of these same dumbe wise men.
 116 For *Gratiano* neuer let's me speake.
 117 *Gra.* Well, keepe me company but two yeares mo,
 118 Thou shalt not know the sound of thine owne tongue.
 119 *Ant.* Far you well, Ile grow a talker for this geare.
 120 *Gra.* Thankes ifaith, for silence is onely commendable
 121 In a neats tongue dri'd, and a maid not vendible. *Exit.*
 122 *Ant.* It is that any thing now.
 123 *Bas.* *Gratiano* speakes an infinite deale of nothing,
 124 more then any man in all Venice, his reasons are two
 125 graines of wheate hid in two bushels of chaffe: you shall
 126 seeke all day ere you finde them, & when you haue them
 127 they are not worth the search.
 128 *An.* Well: tel me now, what Lady is the same
 129 To whom you swore a secret Pilgrimage
 130 That you to day promis'd to tel me of?
 131 *Bas.* Tis not vnknowne to you *Anthonio*

132 How much I haue disabled mine estate,
 133 By something shewing a more swelling port
 134 Then my faint meanes would grant continuance:
 135 Nor do I now make mone to be abridg'd
 136 From such a noble rate, but my cheefe care
 137 Is to come fairely off from the great debts
 138 Wherein my time something too prodigall
 139 Hath left me gag'd: to you *Anthonio*
 140 I owe the most in money, and in loue,
 141 And from your loue I haue a warrantie
 142 To vnburthen all my plots and purposes,
 143 How to get cleere of all the debts I owe.
 144 *An.* I pray you good *Bassanio* let me know it,
 145 And if it stand as you your selfe still do,
 146 Within the eye of honour, be assur'd
 147 My purse, my person, my extreamest meanes
 148 Lye all vnlock'd to your occasions.
 149 *Bass.* In my schoole dayes, when I had lost one shaft
 150 I shot his fellow of the selfesame flight
 151 The selfesame way, with more aduised watch
 152 To finde the other forth, and by aduenturing both,
 153 I oft found both. I vrge this child- hooode prooffe,
 154 Because what followes is pure innocence.
 155 I owe you much, and like a wilfull youth,
 156 That which I owe is lost: but if you please
 157 To shoote another arrow that selfe way
 158 Which you did shoot the first, I do not doubt,
 159 As I will watch the ayme: Or to finde both,
 160 Or bring your latter hazard backe againe, [
 161 And thankfully rest debter for the first.
 162 *An.* You know me well, and herein spend but time
 163 To winde about my loue with circumstance,
 164 And out of doubt you doe more wrong
 165 In making question of my vttermost
 166 Then if you had made waste of all I haue:
 167 Then doe but say to me what I should doe
 168 That in your knowledge may by me be done,
 169 And I am prest vnto it: therefore speake.
 170 *Bass.* In *Belmont* is a Lady richly left,
 171 And she is faire, and fairer then that word,
 172 Of wondrous vertues, sometimes from her eyes
 173 I did receiue faire speechlesse messages:
 174 Her name is *Portia*, nothing vnderallewd
 175 To *Cato's* daughter, *Brutus Portia*,
 176 Nor is the wide world ignorant of her worth,
 177 For the four windes blow in from euery coast

178 Renowned sutors, and her sunny locks
 179 Hang on her temples like a golden fleece,
 180 Which makes her seat of *Belmont Cholchos* strond,
 181 And many *Iasons* come in quest of her.
 182 O my *Anthonio*, had I but the meanes
 183 To hold a riuall place with one of them,
 184 I haue a minde presages me such thrift,
 185 That I should questionlesse be fortunate.
 186 *Anth.* Thou knowst that all my fortunes are at sea,
 187 Neither haue I money, nor commodity
 188 To raise a present summe, therefore goe forth
 189 Try what my credit can in *Venice* doe,
 190 That shall be rackt euen to the vttermost,
 191 To furnish thee to *Belmont* to faire *Portia*.
 192 Goe presently enquire, and so will I
 193 Where money is, and I no question make
 194 To haue it of my trust, or for my sake. *Exeunt.*
 195 *Enter Portia with her waiting woman Nerissa.*
 196 *Portia.* By my troth *Nerrissa*, my little body is a wea-rie
 197 of this great world.
 198 *Ner.* You would be sweet Madam, if your miseries
 199 were in the same abundance as your good fortunes are:
 200 and yet for ought I see, they are as sicke that surfet with
 201 too much, as they that starue with nothing; it is no smal
 202 happinesse therefore to bee seated in the meane, super-fluitie
 203 comes sooner by white haire, but competencie
 204 liues longer.
 205 *Portia.* Good sentences, and well pronounc'd.
 206 *Ner.* They would be better if well followed.
 207 *Portia.* If to doe were as easie as to know what were
 208 good to doe, Chappels had beene Churches, and poore
 209 mens cottages Princes Pallaces: it is a good Diuine that
 210 followes his owne instructions; I can easier teach twen-tie
 211 what were good to be done, then be one of the twen-tie
 212 to follow mine owne teaching: the braine may de-uisse
 213 lawes for the blood, but a hot temper leapes ore a
 214 colde decree, such a hare is madnesse the youth, to skip
 215 ore the meshes of good counsaile the cripple; but this
 216 reason is not in fashion to choose me a husband: O mee,
 217 the word choose, I may neither choose whom I would,
 218 nor refuse whom I dislike, so is the wil of a liuing daugh-ter
 219 curb'd by the will of a dead father: it is not hard *Ner-rissa*,
 220 that I cannot choose one, nor refuse none.
 221 *Ner.* Your father was euer vertuous, and holy men
 222 at their death haue good inspirations, therefore the lot-terie
 223 that hee hath deuised in these three chests of gold,

224 siluer, and leade, whereof who chooses his meaning, [O5
 225 chooses you, wil no doubt neuer be chosen by any right-ly,
 226 but one who you shall rightly loue: but what warmth
 227 is there in your affection towards any of these Princely
 228 suters that are already come?

229 *Por.* I pray thee ouer- name them, and as thou namest
 230 them, I will describe them, and according to my descrip-tion
 231 leuell at my affection.

232 *Ner.* First there is the Neopolitane Prince.

233 *Por.* I that's a colt indeede, for he doth nothing but
 234 talke of his horse, and hee makes it a great appropria-tion
 235 to his owne good parts that he can shoo him him-selfe:
 236 I am much afraid my Ladie his mother plaid false
 237 with a Smyth.

238 *Ner.* Than is there the Countie Palentine.

239 *Por.* He doth nothing but frowne (as who should
 240 say, and you will not haue me, choose: he heares merrie
 241 tales and smiles not, I feare hee will proue the weeping
 242 Phylosopher when he growes old, being so full of vn-mannerly
 243 sadnesse in his youth.) I had rather to be marri-ed
 244 to a deaths head with a bone in his mouth, then to ei-ther
 245 of these: God defend me from these two.

246 *Ner.* How say you by the French Lord, Mounsier
 247 *Le Boune?*

248 *Por.* God made him, and therefore let him passe for a
 249 man, in truth I know it is a sinne to be a mocker, but he,
 250 why he hath a horse better then the Neopolitans, a bet-ter
 251 bad habite of frowning then the Count Palentine, he
 252 is euery man in no man, if a Trassell sing, he fals straight
 253 a capring, he will fence with his owne shadow. If I should
 254 marry him, I should marry twentie husbands: if hee
 255 would despise me, I would forgiue him, for if he loue me
 256 to madnesse, I should neuer requite him.

257 *Ner.* What say you then to *Fauconbridge*, the yong
 258 Baron of *England?*

259 *Por.* You know I say nothing to him, for hee vnder-stands
 260 not me, nor I him: he hath neither *Latine*, *French*,
 261 nor *Italian*, and you will come into the Court & swear
 262 that I haue a poore pennie- worth in the *English*: hee is a
 263 proper mans picture, but alas who can conuerse with a
 264 dumbe show? how odly he is suited, I thinke he bought
 265 his doublet in *Italie*, his round hose in *France*, his bonnet
 266 in *Germanie*, and his behaiour euery where.

267 *Ner.* What thinke you of the other Lord his neigh-bour?

269 *Por.* That he hath a neighbourly charitie in him, for
 270 he borrowed a boxe of the eare of the *Englishman*, and

271 swore he would pay him againe when hee was able: I
 272 thinke the *Frenchman* became his suretie, and seald vnder
 273 for another.

274 *Ner.* How like you the yong *Germaine*, the Duke of
 275 *Saxonies* Nephew?

276 *Por.* Very vildely in the morning when hee is sober,
 277 and most vildely in the afternoone when hee is drunke:
 278 when he is best, he is a little worse then a man, and when
 279 he is worst, he is little better then a beast: and the worst
 280 fall that euer fell, I hope I shall make shift to go with-out
 281 him.

282 *Ner.* If he should offer to choose, and choose the right
 283 Casket, you should refuse to performe your Fathers will,
 284 if you should refuse to accept him.

285 *Por.* Therefore for feare of the worst, I pray thee set
 286 a deepe glasse of Reinish- wine on the contrary Casket,
 287 for if the diuell be within, and that temptation without,
 288 I know he will choose it. I will doe any thing *Nerrissa*
 289 ere I will be married to a sponge.

290 *Ner.* You neede not feare Lady the hauing any of
 291 these Lords, they haue acquainted me with their deter-minations,
 292 which is indeede to returne to their home,
 293 and to trouble you with no more suite, vnlesse you may
 294 be won by some other sort then your Fathers impositi-on,
 295 depending on the Caskets.

296 *Por.* If I liue to be as olde as *Sibilla*, I will dye as
 297 chaste as *Diana*: vnlesse I be obtained by the manner
 298 of my Fathers will: I am glad this parcell of wooers
 299 are so reasonable, for there is not one among them but
 300 I doate on his verie absence: and I wish them a faire de-parture.

302 *Ner.* Doe you not remember Ladie in your Fa-thers
 303 time, a *Venecian*, a Scholler and a Souldior that
 304 came hither in companie of the Marquesse of *Mount-ferrat*?

306 *Por.* Yes, yes, it was *Bassanio*, as I thinke, so was hee
 307 call'd.

308 *Ner.* True Madam, hee of all the men that euer my
 309 foolish eyes look'd vpon, was the best deseruing a faire
 310 Lady.

311 *Por.* I remember him well, and I remember him wor-thy
 312 of thy praise.

313 *Enter a Seruingman.*

314 *Ser.* The four Strangers seeke you Madam to take
 315 their leaue: and there is a fore- runner come from a fift,
 316 the Prince of *Moroco*, who brings word the Prince his
 317 Maister will be here to night.

318 *Por.* If I could bid the fift welcome with so good

319 heart as I can bid the other foure farewell, I should be
 320 glad of his approach: if he haue the condition of a Saint,
 321 and the complexion of a diuell, I had rather hee should
 322 shriue me then wiue me. Come *Nerrissa*, sirra go before;
 323 whiles wee shut the gate vpon one wooer, another
 324 knocks at the doore. *Exeunt.*
 325 *Enter Bassanio with Shylocke the Iew.*
 326 *Shy.* Three thousand ducates, well.
 327 *Bass.* I sir, for three months.
 328 *Shy.* For three months, well.
 329 *Bass.* For the which, as I told you,
 330 *Anthonio* shall be bound.
 331 *Shy.* *Anthonio* shall become bound, well.
 332 *Bass.* May you sted me? Will you pleasure me?
 333 Shall I know your answere.
 334 *Shy.* Three thousand ducats for three months,
 335 and *Anthonio* bound.
 336 *Bass.* Your answere to that.
 337 *Shy.* *Anthonio* is a good man.
 338 *Bass.* Haue you heard any imputation to the con-trary.
 340 *Shy.* Ho no, no, no, no: my meaning in saying he is a
 341 good man, is to haue you vnderstand me that he is suffi-cient,
 342 yet his meanes are in supposition: he hath an Argo-sie
 343 bound to Tripolis, another to the Indies, I vnder-stand
 344 moreouer vpon the Ryalta, he hath a third at Mexi-co,
 345 a fourth for England, and other ventures hee hath
 346 squandred abroad, but ships are but boords, Saylers but
 347 men, there be land rats, and water rats, water theeues,
 348 and land theeues, I meane Pyrats, and then there is the
 349 perrill of waters, windes, and rocks: the man is not with-standing
 350 sufficient, three thousand ducats, I thinke I may
 351 take his bond.
 352 *Bas.* Be assured you may. [O5v
 353 *Iew.* I will be assured I may: and that I may be assu-red,
 354 I will bethinke mee, may I speake with *Antho-nio*?
 356 *Bass.* If it please you to dine with vs.
 357 *Iew.* Yes, to smell porke, to eate of the habitation
 358 which your Prophet the Nazarite coniuered the diuell
 359 into: I will buy with you, sell with you, talke with
 360 you, walke with you, and so following: but I will
 361 not eate with you, drinke with you, nor pray with you.
 362 What newes on the Ryalta, who is he comes here?
 363 *Enter Anthonio.*
 364 *Bass.* This is signior *Anthonio*.
 365 *Iew.* How like a fawning publican he lookes.
 366 I hate him for he is a Christian:

367 But more, for that in low simplicitie
 368 He lends out money gratis, and brings downe
 369 The rate of vsance here with vs in *Venice*.
 370 If I can catch him once vpon the hip,
 371 I will feede fat the ancient grudge I beare him.
 372 He hates our sacred Nation, and he railes
 373 Euen there where Merchants most doe congregate
 374 On me, my bargaines, and my well- worne thrift,
 375 Which he cals interest: Cursed by my Trybe
 376 If I forgiue him.
 377 *Bass. Shylock*, doe you heare.
 378 *Shy.* I am debating of my present store,
 379 And by the neere gesse of my memorie
 380 I cannot instantly raise vp the grosse
 381 Of full three thousand ducats: what of that?
 382 *Tuball* a wealthy Hebrew of my Tribe
 383 Will furnish me: but soft, how many months
 384 Doe you desire? Rest you faire good signior,
 385 Your worship was the last man in our mouthes.
 386 *Ant. Shylocke*, albeit I neither lend nor borrow
 387 By taking, nor by giuing of excesse,
 388 Yet to supply the ripe wants of my friend,
 389 Ile breake a custome: is he yet possest
 390 How much he would?
 391 *Shy.* I, I, three thousand ducats.
 392 *Ant.* And for three months.
 393 *Shy.* I had forgot, three months, you told me so.
 394 Well then, your bond: and let me see, but heare you,
 395 Me thoughts you said, you neither lend nor borrow
 396 Vpon aduantage.
 397 *Ant.* I doe neuer vse it.
 398 *Shy.* When *Iacob* graz'd his vnclē *Labans* sheepe,
 399 This *Iacob* from our holy *Abram* was
 400 (As his wise mother wrought in his behalfe)
 401 The third possesser; I, he was the third.
 402 *Ant.* And what of him, did he take interest?
 403 *Shy.* No, not take interest, not as you would say
 404 Directly interest, marke what *Iacob* did,
 405 When *Laban* and himselfe were compremyz'd
 406 That all the eanelings which were streakt and pied
 407 Should fall as *Iacobs* hier, the Ewes being rancke,
 408 In end of Autumne turned to the Rammes,
 409 And when the worke of generation was
 410 Betweene these woolly breeders in the act,
 411 The skilfull shepherd pil'd me certaine wands,
 412 And in the dooing of the deede of kinde,

413 He stucke them vp before the fulsome Ewes,
414 Who then conceauing, did in eaning time
415 Fall party- colour'd lambs, and those were *Iacobs*.
416 This was a way to thriue, and he was blest:
417 And thrift is blessing if men steale it not.
418 *Ant.* This was a venture sir that *Iacob* seru'd for,
419 A thing not in his power to bring to passe,
420 But sway'd and fashion'd by the hand of heauen.
421 Was this inserted to make interest good?
422 Or is your gold and siluer Ewes and Rams?
423 *Shy.* I cannot tell, I make it breede as fast,
424 But note me signior.
425 *Ant.* Marke you this *Bassanio*,
426 The diuell can cite Scripture for his purpose,
427 An euill soule producing holy witsnesse,
428 Is like a villaine with a smiling cheeke,
429 A goodly apple rotten at the heart.
430 O what a goodly outside falsehood hath.
431 *Shy.* Three thousand ducats, 'tis a good round sum.
432 Three months from twelue, then let me see the rate.
433 *Ant.* Well *Shylocke*, shall we be beholding to you?
434 *Shy.* Signior *Anthonio*, many a time and oft
435 In the Ryalto you haue rated me
436 About my monies and my vsances:
437 Still haue I borne it with a patient shrug,
438 (For suffrance is the badge of all our Tribe.)
439 You call me misbeleueer, cut- throate dog,
440 And spet vpon my Iewish gaberdine,
441 And all for vse of that which is mine owne.
442 Well then, it now appeares you neede my helpe:
443 Goe to then, you come to me, and you say,
444 *Shylocke*, we would haue moneyes, you say so:
445 You that did voide your rume vpon my beard,
446 And foote me as you spurne a stranger curre
447 Ouer your threshold, moneyes is your suite.
448 What should I say to you? Should I not say,
449 Hath a dog money? Is it possible
450 A curre should lend three thousand ducats? or
451 Shall I bend low, and in a bond- mans key
452 With bated breath, and whispring humblenesse,
453 Say this: Faire sir, you spet on me on Wednesday last;
454 You spurn'd me such a day; another time
455 You cald me dog: and for these curtesies
456 Ile lend you thus much moneyes.
457 *Ant.* I am as like to call thee so againe,
458 To spet on thee againe, to spurne thee too.

459 If thou wilt lend this money, lend it not
460 As to thy friends, for when did friendship take
461 A breede of barraine mettall of his friend?
462 But lend it rather to thine enemie,
463 Who if he breake, thou maist with better face
464 Exact the penalties.
465 *Shy.* Why looke you how you storme,
466 I would be friends with you, and haue your loue,
467 Forget the shames that you haue staine me with,
468 Supplie your present wants, and take no doite
469 Of vsance for my moneyes, and youle not heare me,
470 This is kinde I offer.
471 *Bass.* This were kindnesse.
472 *Shy.* This kindnesse will I showe,
473 Goe with me to a Notarie, seale me there
474 Your single bond, and in a merrie sport
475 If you repaie me not on such a day,
476 In such a place, such sum or sums as are
477 Exprest in the condition, let the forfeite
478 Be nominated for an equall pound
479 Of your faire flesh, to be cut off and taken
480 In what part of your bodie it pleaseth me.
481 *Ant.* Content infaith, Ile seale to such a bond,
482 And say there is much kindnesse in the Iew. [O6
483 *Bass.* You shall not seale to such a bond for me,
484 Ile rather dwell in my necessitie.
485 *Ant.* Why feare not man, I will not forfait it,
486 Within these two months, that's a month before
487 This bond expires, I doe expect returne
488 Of thrice three times the valew of this bond.
489 *Shy.* O father *Abram*, what these Christians are,
490 Whose owne hard dealings teaches them suspect
491 The thoughts of others: Praie you tell me this,
492 If he should breake his daie, what should I gaine
493 By the exaction of the forfeiture?
494 A pound of mans flesh taken from a man,
495 Is not so estimable, profitable neither
496 As flesh of Muttons, Beefes, or Goates, I say
497 To buy his fauour, I extend this friendship,
498 If he will take it, so: if not adiew,
499 And for my loue I praie you wrong me not.
500 *Ant.* Yes *Shylocke*, I will seale vnto this bond.
501 *Shy.* Then meete me forthwith at the Notaries,
502 Giue him direction for this merrie bond,
503 And I will goe and purse the ducats strait.
504 See to my house left in the fearefull gard

505 Of an vnthrifitie knaue: and presentlie
 506 Ile be with you. *Exit.*
 507 *Ant.* Hie thee gentle *Iew.* This Hebrew will turne
 508 Christian, he growes kinde.
 509 *Bass.* I like not faire tearmes, and a villaines minde.
 510 *Ant.* Come on, in this there can be no dismaie,
 511 My Shippes come home a month before the daie.
 512 *Exeunt.*

Actus Secundus.

514 *Enter Morochus a tawnie Moore all in white, and three or*
 515 *foure followers accordingly, with Portia,*
 516 *Nerrissa, and their traine.*
 517 *Flo. Cornets.*
 518 *Mor.* Mislike me not for my complexion,
 519 The shadowed lierie of the burnisht sunne,
 520 To whom I am a neighbour, and neere bred.
 521 Bring me the fairest creature North- ward borne,
 522 Where *Phoebus* fire scarce thawes the ysicles,
 523 And let vs make incision for your loue,
 524 To proue whose blood is reddest, his or mine.
 525 I tell thee Ladie this aspect of mine
 526 Hath feard the valiant, (by my loue I sweare)
 527 The best regarded Virgins of our Clyme
 528 Haue lou'd it to: I would not change this hue,
 529 Except to steale your thoughts my gentle Queene.
 530 *Por.* In tearmes of choise I am not solie led
 531 By nice direction of a maidens eies:
 532 Besides, the lottrie of my destenie
 533 Bars me the right of voluntarie choosing:
 534 But if my Father had not scanted me,
 535 And hedg'd me by his wit to yeelde my selfe
 536 His wife, who wins me by that meanes I told you,
 537 Your selfe (renowned Prince) than stood as faire
 538 As any commer I haue look'd on yet
 539 For my affection.
 540 *Mor.* Euen for that I thanke you,
 541 Therefore I pray you leade me to the Caskets
 542 To trie my fortune: By this Symitare
 543 That slew the Sophie, and a Persian Prince
 544 That won three fields of Sultan Solyman,
 545 I would ore- stare the sternest eies that looke:
 546 Out- braue the heart most daring on the earth:

547 Plucke the yong sucking Cubs from the she Beare,
 548 Yea, mocke the Lion when he rores for pray
 549 To win the Ladie. But alas, the while
 550 If *Hercules* and *Lychas* plaie at dice
 551 Which is the better man, the greater throw
 552 May turne by fortune from the weaker hand:
 553 So is *Alcides* beaten by his rage,
 554 And so may I, blinde fortune leading me
 555 Misse that which one vnworthier may attaine,
 556 And die with grieuing.
 557 *Port.* You must take your chance,
 558 And either not attempt to choose at all,
 559 Or swear before you choose, if you choose wrong
 560 Neuer to speake to Ladie afterward
 561 In way of marriage, therefore be aduis'd.
 562 *Mor.* Nor will not, come bring me vnto my chance.
 563 *Por.* First forward to the temple, after dinner
 564 Your hazard shall be made.
 565 *Mor.* Good fortune then, *Cornets.*
 566 To make me blest or cursd'st among men. *Exeunt.*
 567 *Enter the Clowne alone.*
 568 *Clo.* Certainly, my conscience will serue me to run
 569 from this Iew my Maister: the fiend is at mine elbow,
 570 and tempts me, saying to me, *Iobbe, Launcelet Iobbe*, good
 571 *Launcelet*, or good *Iobbe*, or good *Launcelet Iobbe*, vse
 572 your legs, take the start, run awaie: my conscience saies
 573 no; take heede honest *Launcelet*, take heed honest *Iobbe*,
 574 or as afore- said honest *Launcelet Iobbe*, doe not runne,
 575 scorne running with thy heeles; well, the most coragi-ous
 576 fiend bids me packe, *fia* saies the fiend, away saies
 577 the fiend, for the heauens rouse vp a braue minde saies
 578 the fiend, and run; well, my conscience hanging about
 579 the necke of my heart, saies verie wisely to me: my ho-nest
 580 friend *Launcelet*, being an honest mans sonne, or ra-ther
 581 an honest womans sonne, for indeede my Father did
 582 something smack, something grow too; he had a kinde of
 583 taste; wel, my conscience saies *Lancelet bouge not*, bouge
 584 saies the fiend, bouge not saies my conscience, conscience
 585 say I you counsaile well, fiend say I you counsaile well,
 586 to be rul'd by my conscience I should stay with the *Iew*
 587 my Maister, (who God blesse the marke) is a kinde of di-uell;
 588 and to run away from the *Iew* I should be ruled by
 589 the fiend, who sauing your reuerence is the diuell him-selfe:
 590 certainly the *Iew* is the verie diuell incarnation,
 591 and in my conscience, my conscience is a kinde of hard
 592 conscience, to offer to counsaile me to stay with the *Iew*;

593 the fiend giues the more friendly counsaile: I will runne
 594 fiend, my heeles are at your commandement, I will
 595 runne.
 596 *Enter old Gobbe with a Basket.*
 597 *Gob.* Maister yong- man, you I praie you, which is the
 598 waie to Maister *Iewes*?
 599 *Lan.* O heauens, this is my true begotten Father, who
 600 being more then sand- blinde, high grauel blinde, knows
 601 me not, I will trie confusions with him.
 602 *Gob.* Maister yong Gentleman, I praie you which is
 603 the waie to Maister *Iewes*.
 604 *Laun.* Turne vpon your right hand at the next tur-ning, [O6v
 605 but at the next turning of all on your left; marrie
 606 at the verie next turning, turne of no hand, but turn down
 607 indirectlie to the *Iewes* house.
 608 *Gob.* Be Gods sounties 'twill be a hard waie to hit, can
 609 you tell me whether one *Launcelet* that dwels with him
 610 dwell with him or no.
 611 *Laun.* Talke you of yong Master *Launcelet*, marke
 612 me now, now will I raise the waters; talke you of yong
 613 Maister *Launcelet*?
 614 *Gob.* No Maister sir, but a poore mans sonne, his Fa-ther
 615 though I say't is an honest exceeding poore man,
 616 and God be thanked well to liue.
 617 *Lan.* Well, let his Father be what a will, wee talke of
 618 yong Maister *Launcelet*.
 619 *Gob.* Your worships friend and *Launcelet*.
 620 *Laun.* But I praie you *ergo* old man, *ergo* I beseech you,
 621 talke you of yong Maister *Launcelet*.
 622 *Gob.* Of *Launcelet*, ant please your maistership.
 623 *Lan.* *Ergo* Maister *Lancelet*, talke not of maister *Lance-let*
 624 Father, for the yong gentleman according to fates and
 625 destinies, and such odde sayings, the sisters three, & such
 626 branches of learning, is indeede deceased, or as you
 627 would say in plaine tearmes, gone to heauen.
 628 *Gob.* Marrie God forbid, the boy was the verie staffe
 629 of my age, my verie prop.
 630 *Lau.* Do I look like a cudgell or a houell- post, a staffe
 631 or a prop: doe you know me Father.
 632 *Gob.* Alacke the day, I know you not yong Gentle-man,
 633 but I praie you tell me, is my boy God rest his soule
 634 aliue or dead.
 635 *Lan.* Doe you not know me Father.
 636 *Gob.* Alacke sir I am sand blinde, I know you not.
 637 *Lan.* Nay, indeede if you had your eies you might
 638 faile of the knowing me: it is a wise Father that knowes

639 his owne childe. Well, old man, I will tell you newes of
640 your son, giue me your blessing, truth will come to light,
641 murder cannot be hid long, a mans sonne may, but in the
642 end truth will out.

643 *Gob.* Praie you sir stand vp, I am sure you are not
644 *Lancelet* my boy.

645 *Lan.* Praie you let's haue no more fooling about
646 it, but giue mee your blessing: I am *Lancelet* your
647 boy that was, your sonne that is, your childe that
648 shall be.

649 *Gob.* I cannot thinke you are my sonne.

650 *Lan.* I know not what I shall thinke of that: but I am
651 *Lancelet* the *Iewes* man, and I am sure *Margerie* your wife
652 is my mother.

653 *Gob.* Her name is *Margerie* indeede, Ile be sworne if
654 thou be *Lancelet*, thou art mine owne flesh and blood:
655 Lord worshipt might he be, what a beard hast thou got;
656 thou hast got more haire on thy chin, then *Dobbin* my
657 philhorse has on his taile.

658 *Lan.* It should seeme then that *Dobbins* taile
659 growes backward. I am sure he had more haire of his
660 taile then I haue of my face when I last saw him.

661 *Gob.* Lord how art thou chang'd: how doost thou
662 and thy Master agree, I haue brought him a present; how
663 gree you now?

664 *Lan.* Well, well, but for mine owne part, as I haue set
665 vp my rest to run awaie, so I will not rest till I haue run
666 some ground; my Maister's a verie *Iew*, giue him a pres-ent,
667 giue him a halter, I am famisht in his seruice. You
668 may tell euerie finger I haue with my ribs: Father I am
669 glad you are come, giue me your present to one Maister
670 *Bassanio*, who indeede giues rare new Liuories, if I serue
671 not him, I will run as far as God has anie ground. O rare
672 fortune, here comes the man, to him Father, for I am a
673 *Iew* if I serue the *Iew* anie longer.

674 *Enter Bassanio with a follower or two.*

675 *Bass.* You may doe so, but let it be so hasted that
676 supper be readie at the farthest by fiue of the clocke:
677 see these Letters deliuered, put the Liuories to mak-ing,
678 and desire *Gratiano* to come anone to my lodg-ing.

680 *Lan.* To him Father.

681 *Gob.* God blesse your worship.

682 *Bass.* Gramercie, would'st thou ought with me.

683 *Gob.* Here's my sonne sir, a poore boy.

684 *Lan.* Not a poore boy sir, but the rich *Iewes* man that
685 would sir as my Father shall specifie.

686 *Gob.* He hath a great infection sir, as one would say
687 to serue.

688 *Lan.* Indeede the short and the long is, I serue the
689 *Iew*, and haue a desire as my Father shall specifie.

690 *Gob.* His Maister and he (sauing your worships reue-rence)
691 are scarce catercosins.

692 *Lan.* To be briefe, the verie truth is, that the *Iew*
693 hauing done me wrong, doth cause me as my Father be-ing
694 I hope an old man shall frutifie vnto you.

695 *Gob.* I haue here a dish of Doues that I would bestow
696 vpon your worship, and my suite is.

697 *Lan.* In verie briefe, the suite is impertinent to my
698 selfe, as your worship shall know by this honest old man,
699 and though I say it, though old man, yet poore man my
700 Father.

701 *Bass.* One speake for both, what would you?

702 *Lan.* Serue you sir.

703 *Gob.* That is the verie defect of the matter sir.

704 *Bass.* I know thee well, thou hast obtain'd thy suite,
705 *Shylocke* thy Maister spoke with me this daie,
706 And hath prefer'd thee, if it be preferment
707 To leaue a rich *Iewes* seruice, to become
708 The follower of so poore a Gentleman.

709 *Clo.* The old prouerbe is verie well parted betweene
710 my Maister *Shylocke* and you sir, you haue the grace of
711 God sir, and he hath enough.

712 *Bass.* Thou speak'st well; go Father with thy Son,
713 Take leaue of thy old Maister, and enquire
714 My lodging out, giue him a Liuerie
715 More garded then his fellowes: see it done.

716 *Clo.* Father in, I cannot get a seruice, no, I haue nere
717 a tongue in my head, well: if anie man in *Italie* haue a
718 fairer table which doth offer to sweare vpon a booke, I
719 shall haue good fortune; goe too, here's a simple line
720 of life, here's a small trifle of wiues, alas, fiftene wiues
721 is nothing, a leuen widdowes and nine maides is a sim-ple
722 comming in for one man, and then to scape drow-ning
723 thrice, and to be in perill of my life with the edge
724 of a featherbed, here are simple scapes: well, if Fortune
725 be a woman, she's a good wench for this gere: Father
726 come, Ile take my leaue of the *Iew* in the twinkling.
727 *Exit Clowne.*

728 *Bass.* I praie thee good *Leonardo* thinke on this,
729 These things being bought and orderly bestowed
730 Returne in haste, for I doe feast to night
731 My best esteemd acquaintance, hie thee goe.

732 *Leon.* my best endeours shall be done herein. *Exit Le.*
 733 *Enter Gratiano.*
 734 *Gra.* Where's your Maister. [P1
 735 *Leon.* Yonder sir he walkes.
 736 *Gra.* Signior *Bassanio.*
 737 *Bas.* *Gratiano.*
 738 *Gra.* I haue a sute to you.
 739 *Bass.* You haue obtain'd it.
 740 *Gra.* You must not denie me, I must goe with you to
 741 Belmont.
 742 *Bass.* Why then you must: but heare thee *Gratiano,*
 743 Thou art to wilde, to rude, and bold of voyce,
 744 Parts that become thee happily enough,
 745 And in such eyes as ours appeare not faults;
 746 But where they are not knowne, why there they show
 747 Something too liberall, pray thee take paine
 748 To allay with some cold drops of modestie
 749 Thy skipping spirit, least through thy wilde behaiour
 750 I be misconsterd in the place I goe to,
 751 And loose my hopes.
 752 *Gra.* Signor *Bassanio,* heare me,
 753 If I doe not put on a sober habite,
 754 Talke with respect, and sweare but now and than,
 755 Weare prayer bookes in my pocket, looke demurely,
 756 Nay more, while grace is saying hood mine eyes
 757 Thus with my hat, and sigh and say Amen:
 758 Vse all the obseruance of ciuillitie
 759 Like one well studied in a sad ostent
 760 To please his Grandam, neuer trust me more.
 761 *Bas.* Well, we shall see your bearing.
 762 *Gra.* Nay but I barre to night, you shall not gage me
 763 By what we doe to night.
 764 *Bas.* No that were pittie,
 765 I would intreate you rather to put on
 766 Your boldest suite of mirth, for we haue friends
 767 That purpose merriment: but far you well,
 768 I haue some businesse.
 769 *Gra.* And I must to *Lorenzo* and the rest,
 770 But we will visite you at supper time. *Exeunt.*
 771 *Enter Iessica and the Clowne.*
 772 *Ies.* I am sorry thou wilt leaue my Father so,
 773 Our house is hell, and thou a merrie diuell
 774 Did'st rob it of some taste of tediousnesse;
 775 But far thee well, there is a ducat for thee,
 776 And *Lancelet,* soone at supper shalt thou see
 777 *Lorenzo,* who is thy new Maisters guest,

778 Giue him this Letter, doe it secretly,
 779 And so farewell: I would not haue my Father
 780 see me talke with thee.
 781 *Clo.* Aduē, teares exhibit my tongue, most beautifull
 782 Pagan, most sweete Iew, if a Christian doe not play the
 783 knaue and get thee, I am much deceiued; but adue, these
 784 foolish drops doe somewhat drowne my manly spirit:
 785 adue. *Exit.*
 786 *Ies.* Farewell good *Lancelet*.
 787 Alacke, what hainous sinne is it in me
 788 To be ashamed to be my Fathers childe,
 789 But though I am a daughter to his blood,
 790 I am not to his manners: O *Lorenzo*,
 791 If thou keepe promise I shall end this strife,
 792 Become a Christian, and thy louing wife. *Exit.*
 793 *Enter Gratiano, Lorenzo, Salarino, and Salanio.*
 794 *Lor.* Nay, we will slinke away in supper time,
 795 Disguise vs at my lodging, and returne all in an houre.
 796 *Gra.* We haue not made good preparation.
 797 *Sal.* We haue not spoke vs yet of Torch- bearers.
 798 *Sol.* 'Tis vile vnlesse it may be quaintly ordered,
 799 And better in my minde not vndertooke.
 800 *Lor.* 'Tis now but foure of clock, we haue two houres
 801 To furnish vs; friend *Lancelet* what's the newes.
 802 *Enter Lancelet with a Letter.*
 803 *Lan.* And it shall please you to breake vp this, shall it
 804 seeme to signifie.
 805 *Lor.* I know the hand, in faith 'tis a faire hand
 806 And whiter then the paper it writ on,
 807 Is the faire hand that writ.
 808 *Gra.* Loue newes in faith.
 809 *Lan.* By your leaue sir.
 810 *Lor.* Whither goest thou?
 811 *Lan.* Marry sir to bid my old Master the *Iew* to sup
 812 to night with my new Master the Christian.
 813 *Lor.* Hold here, take this, tell gentle *Iessica*
 814 I will not faile her, speake it priuately:
 815 Go Gentlemen, will you prepare you for this Maske to
 816 night,
 817 I am prouided of a Torch- bearer. *Exit. Clowne.*
 818 *Sal.* I marry, ile be gone about it strait.
 819 *Sol.* And so will I.
 820 *Lor.* Meete me and *Gratiano* at *Gratianos* lodging
 821 Some houre hence.
 822 *Sal.* 'Tis good we do so. *Exit.*
 823 *Gra.* Was not that Letter from faire *Iessica*?

824 *Lor.* I must needs tell thee all, she hath directed
 825 How I shall take her from her Fathers house,
 826 What gold and iewels she is furnisht with,
 827 What Pages suite she hath in readinesse:
 828 If ere the *Iew* her Father come to heauen,
 829 It will be for his gentle daughters sake;
 830 And neuer dare misfortune crosse her foote,
 831 Vnlesse she doe it vnder this excuse,
 832 That she is issue to a faithlesse *Iew*:
 833 Come goe with me, pervse this as thou goest,
 834 Faire *Iessica* shall be my Torch- bearer. *Exit.*
 835 *Enter Iew, and his man that was the Clowne.*
 836 *Iew.* Well, thou shall see, thy eyes shall be thy iudge,
 837 The difference of old *Shylocke* and *Bassanio*;
 838 What *Iessica*, thou shalt not gurmandize
 839 As thou hast done with me: what *Iessica*?
 840 And sleepe, and snore, and rend apparrell out.
 841 Why *Iessica* I say.
 842 *Clo.* Why *Iessica*.
 843 *Shy.* Who bids thee call? I do not bid thee call.
 844 *Clo.* Your worship was wont to tell me
 845 I could doe nothing without bidding.
 846 *Enter Iessica.*
 847 *Ies.* Call you? what is your will?
 848 *Shy.* I am bid forth to supper *Iessica*,
 849 There are my Keyes: but wherefore should I go?
 850 I am not bid for loue, they flatter me,
 851 But yet Ile goe in hate, to feede vpon
 852 The prodigall Christian. *Iessica* my girle,
 853 Looke to my house, I am right loath to goe,
 854 There is some ill a bruing towards my rest,
 855 For I did dreame of money bags to night.
 856 *Clo.* I beseech you sir goe, my yong Master
 857 Doth expect your reproach.
 858 *Shy.* So doe I his.
 859 *Clo.* And they haue conspired together, I will not say
 860 you shall see a Maske, but if you doe, then it was not for
 861 nothing that my nose fell a bleeding on blacke monday [P1v
 862 last, at six a clocke ith morning, falling out that yeere on
 863 ashwensday was foure yeere in th' afternoone.
 864 *Shy.* What are their maskes? heare you me *Iessica*,
 865 Lock vp my doores, and when you heare the drum
 866 And the vile squealing of the wry- neckt Fife,
 867 Clamber not you vp to the casements then,
 868 Nor thrust your head into the publique streete
 869 To gaze on Christian fooles with varnisht faces:

870 But stop my houses eares, I meane my casements,
 871 Let not the sound of shallow fopperie enter
 872 My sober house. By *Iacobs* staffe I sweare,
 873 I haue no minde of feasting forth to night:
 874 But I will goe: goe you before me sirra,
 875 Say I will come.
 876 *Clo.* I will goe before sir,
 877 Mistris looke out at window for all this;
 878 There will come a Christian by,
 879 Will be worth a Iewes eye.
 880 *Shy.* What saies that foole of *Hagars* off- spring?
 881 ha.
 882 *Ies.* His words were farewell mistris, nothing else.
 883 *Shy.* The patch is kinde enough, but a huge feeder:
 884 *Snaile-* slow in profit, but he sleepes by day
 885 More then the wilde- cat: drones hiue not with me,
 886 Therefore I part with him, and part with him
 887 To one that I would haue him helpe to waste
 888 His borrowed purse. Well *Iessica* goe in,
 889 Perhaps I will returne immediately;
 890 Doe as I bid you, shut dores after you, fast binde, fast
 891 finde,
 892 A prouerbe neuer stale in thriftie minde. *Exit.*
 893 *Ies.* Farewell, and if my fortune be not crost,
 894 I haue a Father, you a daughter lost. *Exit.*
 895 *Enter the Maskers, Gratiano and Salino.*
 896 *Gra.* This is the penthouse vnder which *Lorenzo*
 897 Desired vs to make a stand.
 898 *Sal.* His houre is almost past.
 899 *Gra.* And it is meruaile he out- dwels his houre,
 900 For louers euer run before the clocke.
 901 *Sal.* O ten times faster *Venus* Pidgions flye
 902 To steale loues bonds new made, then they are wont
 903 To keepe obliged faith vnforfaited.
 904 *Gra.* That euer holds, who riseth from a feast
 905 With that keene appetite that he sits downe?
 906 Where is the horse that doth vntread againe
 907 His tedious measures with the vnbated fire,
 908 That he did pace them first: all things that are,
 909 Are with more spirit chased then enioy'd.
 910 How like a yonger or a prodigall
 911 The skarfed barke puts from her natiue bay,
 912 Hudg'd and embraced by the strumpet winde:
 913 How like a prodigall doth she returne
 914 With ouer- wither'd ribs and ragged sailes,
 915 Leane, rent, and begger'd by the strumpet winde?

916 *Enter Lorenzo.*
 917 *Salino.* Heere comes *Lorenzo*, more of this here-after.
 919 *Lor.* Sweete friends, your patience for my long a-bode,
 921 Not I, but my affaires haue made you wait;
 922 When you shall please to play the theeues for wiues
 923 Ile watch as long for you then: approach [
 924 Here dwels my father Iew. Hoa, who's within?
 925 *Iessica aboue.*
 926 *Iess.* Who are you? tell me for more certainty,
 927 Albeit Ile swaere that I do know your tongue.
 928 *Lor.* *Lorenzo*, and thy Loue.
 929 *Ies.* *Lorenzo* certaine, and my loue indeed,
 930 For who loue I so much? and now who knowes
 931 But you *Lorenzo*, whether I am yours?
 932 *Lor.* Heauen and thy thoughts are witness that thou
 933 art.
 934 *Ies.* Heere, catch this casket, it is worth the paines,
 935 I am glad 'tis night, you do not looke on me,
 936 For I am much asham'd of my exchange:
 937 But loue is blinde, and louers cannot see
 938 The pretty follies that themselues commit,
 939 For if they could, *Cupid* himselfe would blush
 940 To see me thus transformed to a boy.
 941 *Lor.* Descend, for you must be my torch- bearer.
 942 *Ies.* What, must I hold a Candle to my shames?
 943 They in themselues goodsooth are too too light.
 944 Why, 'tis an office of discouery Loue,
 945 And I should be obscur'd.
 946 *Lor.* So you are sweet,
 947 Euen in the louely garnish of a boy: but come at once,
 948 For the close night doth play the run- away,
 949 And we are staid for at *Bassanio's* feast.
 950 *Ies.* I will make fast the doores and guild my selfe
 951 With some more ducats, and be with you straight.
 952 *Gra.* Now by my hood, a gentle, and no Iew.
 953 *Lor.* Beshrew me but I loue her heartily.
 954 For she is wise, if I can iudge of her.
 955 And faire she is, if that mine eyes be true,
 956 And true she is, as she hath prou'd her selfe:
 957 And therefore like her selfe, wise, faire, and true,
 958 Shall she be placed in my constant soule.
 959 *Enter Iessica.*
 960 What, art thou come? on gentlemen, away,
 961 Our masking mates by this time for vs stay. *Exit.*
 962 *Enter Anthonio.*
 963 *Ant.* Who's there?

964 *Gra.* Signior Anthonio?
 965 *Ant.* Fie, fie, *Gratiano*, where are all the rest?
 966 'Tis nine a clocke, our friends all stay for you,
 967 No maske to night, the winde is come about,
 968 *Bassanio* presently will goe aboard,
 969 I haue sent twenty out to seeke for you.
 970 *Gra.* I am glad on't, I desire no more delight
 971 Then to be vnder saile, and gone to night. *Exeunt.*
 972 *Enter Portia with Morrocho, and both their traines.*
 973 *Por.* Goe, draw aside the curtaines, and discouer
 974 The seuerall Caskets to this noble Prince:
 975 Now make your choyse.
 976 *Mor.* The first of gold, who this inscription beares,
 977 Who chooseth me, shall gaine what men desire.
 978 The second siluer, which this promise carries,
 979 Who chooseth me, shall get as much as he deserues.
 980 This third, dull lead, with warning all as blunt,
 981 Who chooseth me, must giue and hazard all he hath.
 982 How shall I know if I doe choose the right? [P2
 983 How shall I know if I doe choose the right.
 984 *Por.* The one of them containes my picture Prince,
 985 If you choose that, then I am yours withall.
 986 *Mor.* Some God direct my iudgement, let me see,
 987 I will suruay the inscriptions, backe againe:
 988 What saies this leaden casket?
 989 Who chooseth me, must giue and hazard all he hath.
 990 Must giue, for what? for lead, hazard for lead?
 991 This casket threatens men that hazard all
 992 Doe it in hope of faire aduantages:
 993 A golden minde stoopes not to showes of drosse,
 994 Ile then nor giue nor hazard ought for lead.
 995 What saies the Siluer with her virgin hue?
 996 Who chooseth me, shall get as much as he deserues.
 997 As much as he deserues; pause there *Morocho*,
 998 And weigh thy value with an euen hand,
 999 If thou beest rated by thy estimation
 1000 Thou doost deserue enough, and yet enough
 1001 May not extend so farre as to the Ladie:
 1002 And yet to be afeard of my deseruing,
 1003 Were but a weake disabling of my selfe.
 1004 As much as I deserue, why that's the Lady.
 1005 I doe in birth deserue her, and in fortunes,
 1006 In graces, and in qualities of breeding:
 1007 But more then these, in loue I doe deserue.
 1008 What if I strai'd no farther, but chose here?
 1009 Let's see once more this saying grau'd in gold.

1010 Who chooseth me shall gaine what many men desire:
 1011 Why that's the Lady, all the world desires her:
 1012 From the foure corners of the earth they come
 1013 To kisse this shrine, this mortall breathing Saint.
 1014 The Hircanion deserts, and the vaste wildes
 1015 Of wide Arabia are as throughfares now
 1016 For Princes to come view faire *Portia*.
 1017 The waterie Kingdome, whose ambitious head
 1018 Spets in the face of heauen, is no barre
 1019 To stop the forraine spirits, but they come
 1020 As ore a brooke to see faire *Portia*.
 1021 One of these three containes her heauenly picture.
 1022 Is't like that Lead containes her? 'twere damnation
 1023 To thinke so base a thought, it were too grose
 1024 To rib her searecloath in the obscure graue:
 1025 Or shall I thinke in Siluer she's immur'd
 1026 Being ten times vnderualue'd to tride gold;
 1027 O sinfull thought, neuer so rich a Iem
 1028 Was set in worse then gold! They haue in England
 1029 A coyne that beares the figure of an Angell
 1030 Stamp't in gold, but that's insculpt vpon:
 1031 But here an Angell in a golden bed
 1032 Lies all within. Deliuier me the key:
 1033 Here doe I choose, and thriue I as I may.
 1034 *Por.* There take it Prince, and if my forme lye there
 1035 Then I am yours.
 1036 *Mor.* O hell! what haue we here, a carrion death,
 1037 Within whose emptie eye there is a written scroule;
 1038 Ile reade the writing.
 1039 *All that glisters is not gold,*
 1040 *Often haue you heard that told;*
 1041 *Many a man his life hath sold*
 1042 *But my outside to behold;*
 1043 *Guilded timber doe wormes infold:*
 1044 *Had you beene as wise as bold,*
 1045 *Yong in limbs, in iudgement old,*
 1046 *Your answere had not beene inscrol'd,*
 1047 *Fareyouwell, your suite is cold,*
 1048 *Mor.* Cold indeede, and labour lost,
 1049 Then farewell heate, and welcome frost:
 1050 *Portia* adew, I haue too grieu'd a heart
 1051 To take a tedious leaue: thus loosers part. *Exit.*
 1052 *Por.* A gentle riddance: draw the curtaines, go:
 1053 Let all of his complexion choose me so. *Exeunt.*
 1054 *Enter Salarino and Solanio.*
 1055 *Flo.* *Cornets.*

1056 *Sal.* Why man I saw *Bassanio* vnder sayle;
1057 With him is *Gratiano* gone along;
1058 And in their ship I am sure *Lorenzo* is not.
1059 *Sol.* The villaine *Iew* with outcries raisd the Duke.
1060 Who went with him to search *Bassanios* ship.
1061 *Sal.* He comes too late, the ship was vnder saile;
1062 But there the Duke was giuen to vnderstand
1063 That in a Gondilo were seene together
1064 *Lorenzo* and his amorous *Iessica*.
1065 Besides, *Anthonio* certified the Duke
1066 They were not with *Bassanio* in his ship.
1067 *Sol.* I neuer heard a passion so confusd,
1068 So strange, outragious, and so variable,
1069 As the dogge *Iew* did vtter in the streets;
1070 My daughter, O my ducats, O my daughter,
1071 Fled with a Christian, O my Christian ducats!
1072 Iustice, the law, my ducats, and my daughter;
1073 A sealed bag, two sealed bags of ducats,
1074 Of double ducats, stolne from me by my daughter,
1075 And iewels, two stones, two rich and precious stones,
1076 Stolne by my daughter: iustice, finde the girle,
1077 She hath the stones vpon her, and the ducats.
1078 *Sal.* Why all the boyes in Venice follow him,
1079 Crying his stones, his daughter, and his ducats.
1080 *Sol.* Let good *Anthonio* looke he keepe his day
1081 Or he shall pay for this.
1082 *Sal.* Marry well remembred,
1083 I reason'd with a Frenchman yesterday,
1084 Who told me, in the narrow seas that part
1085 The French and English, there miscaried
1086 A vessell of our countrey richly fraught:
1087 I thought vpon *Anthonio* when he told me,
1088 And wisht in silence that it were not his.
1089 *Sol.* You were best to tell *Anthonio* what you heare.
1090 Yet doe not suddainely, for it may grieue him.
1091 *Sal.* A kinder Gentleman treads not the earth,
1092 I saw *Bassanio* and *Anthonio* part,
1093 *Bassanio* told him he would make some speede
1094 Of his returne: he answered, doe not so,
1095 Slubber not businesse for my sake *Bassanio*,
1096 But stay the very riping of the time,
1097 And for the *Iewes* bond which he hath of me,
1098 Let it not enter in your minde of loue:
1099 Be merry, and imploy your chiefest thoughts
1100 To courtship, and such faire ostents of loue
1101 As shall conueniently become you there;

1102 And euen there his eye being big with teares,
 1103 Turning his face, he put his hand behinde him,
 1104 And with affection wondrous sencible
 1105 He wrung *Bassanios* hand, and so they parted.
 1106 *Sol.* I thinke he onely loues the world for him,
 1107 I pray thee let vs goe and finde him out
 1108 And quicken his embraced heauinesse
 1109 With some delight or other.
 1110 *Sal.* Doe we so. *Exeunt.*
 1111 *Enter Nerrissa and a Seruiture.*
 1112 *Ner.* Quick, quick I pray thee, draw the curtain strait, [P2v
 1113 The Prince of Arragon hath tane his oath,
 1114 And comes to his election presently.
 1115 *Enter Arragon, his traine, and Portia.*
 1116 *Flor.* *Cornets.*
 1117 *Por.* Behold, there stand the caskets noble Prince,
 1118 If you choose that wherein I am contain'd,
 1119 Straight shall our nuptiall rights be solemniz'd:
 1120 But if thou faile, without more speech my Lord,
 1121 You must be gone from hence immediately.
 1122 *Ar.* I am enioynd by oath to obserue three things;
 1123 First, neuer to vnfold to any one
 1124 Which casket 'twas I chose; next, if I faile
 1125 Of the right casket, neuer in my life
 1126 To wooe a maide in way of marriage:
 1127 Lastly, if I doe faile in fortune of my choyse,
 1128 Immediately to leaue you, and be gone.
 1129 *Por.* To these iniunctions euery one doth sweare
 1130 That comes to hazard for my worthlesse selfe.
 1131 *Ar.* And so haue I adrest me, fortune now
 1132 To my hearts hope: gold, siluer, and base lead.
 1133 Who chooseth me must giue and hazard all he hath.
 1134 You shall looke fairer ere I giue or hazard.
 1135 What saies the golden chest, ha, let me see.
 1136 Who chooseth me, shall gaine what many men desire:
 1137 What many men desire, that many may be meant
 1138 By the foole multitude that choose by show,
 1139 Not learning more then the fond eye doth teach,
 1140 Which pries not to th' interior, but like the Martlet
 1141 Builds in the weather on the outward wall,
 1142 Euen in the force and rode of casualtie.
 1143 I will not choose what many men desire,
 1144 Because I will not iumpe with common spirits,
 1145 And ranke me with the barbarous multitudes.
 1146 Why then to thee thou Siluer treasure house,
 1147 Tell me once more, what title thou doost beare;

1148 Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserues:
 1149 And well said too; for who shall goe about
 1150 To cosen Fortune, and be honourable
 1151 Without the stampe of merrit, let none presume
 1152 To weare an vndererued dignitie:
 1153 O that estates, degrees, and offices,
 1154 Were not deriu'd corruptly, and that cleare honour
 1155 Were purchast by the merrit of the wearer;
 1156 How many then should couer that stand bare?
 1157 How many be commanded that command?
 1158 How much low pleasantry would then be gleaned
 1159 From the true seede of honor? And how much honor
 1160 Pickt from the chaffe and ruine of the times,
 1161 To be new varnisht: Well, but to my choise.
 1162 Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserues.
 1163 I will assume desert; giue me a key for this,
 1164 And instantly vnlocke my fortunes here.
 1165 *Por.* Too long a pause for that which you finde there.
 1166 *Ar.* What's here, the portrait of a blinking idiot
 1167 Presenting me a scedule, I will reade it:
 1168 How much vnlike art thou to *Portia*?
 1169 How much vnlike my hopes and my deseruings?
 1170 Who chooseth me, shall haue as much as he deserues.
 1171 Did I deserue no more then a fooles head,
 1172 Is that my prize, are my deserts no better?
 1173 *Por.* To offend and iudge are distinct offices,
 1174 And of opposed natures.
 1175 *Ar.* What is here?
 1176 *The fier seauen times tried this,*
 1177 *Seauen times tried that iudgement is,*
 1178 *That did neuer choose amis,*
 1179 *Some there be that shadowes kisse,*
 1180 *Such haue but a shadowes blisse:*
 1181 *There be fooles aliue I wis*
 1182 *Siluer'd o're, and so was this:*
 1183 *Take what wife you will to bed,*
 1184 *I will euer be your head:*
 1185 *So be gone, you are sped.*
 1186 *Ar.* Still more foole I shall appeare
 1187 By the time I linger here,
 1188 With one fooles head I came to woo,
 1189 But I goe away with two.
 1190 Sweet adue, Ile keepe my oath,
 1191 Patiently to beare my wroath.
 1192 *Por.* Thus hath the candle sing'd the moath:
 1193 O these deliberate fooles when they doe choose,

1194 They haue the wisdome by their wit to loose.
 1195 *Ner.* The ancient saying is no heresie,
 1196 Hanging and wiuing goes by destinie.
 1197 *Por.* Come draw the curtaine *Nerrissa*.
 1198 *Enter Messenger.*
 1199 *Mes.* Where is my Lady?
 1200 *Por.* Here, what would my Lord?
 1201 *Mes.* Madam, there is a- lighted at your gate
 1202 A yong Venetian, one that comes before
 1203 To signifie th' approaching of his Lord,
 1204 From whom he bringeth sensible regreets;
 1205 To wit (besides commends and curteous breath)
 1206 Gifts of rich value; yet I haue not seene
 1207 So likely an Ambassador of loue.
 1208 A day in Aprill neuer came so sweete
 1209 To show how costly Sommer was at hand,
 1210 As this fore- spurrer comes before his Lord.
 1211 *Por.* No more I pray thee, I am halfe a- feard
 1212 Thou wilt say anone he is some kin to thee,
 1213 Thou spend' st such high- day wit in praising him:
 1214 Come, come *Nerryssa*, for I long to see
 1215 Quicke *Cupids* Post, that comes so mannerly.
 1216 *Ner.* *Bassanio* Lord, loue if thy will it be. *Exeunt.*

Actus Tertius.

1218 *Enter Solanio and Salarino.*
 1219 *Sol.* Now, what newes on the Ryalto?
 1220 *Sal.* Why yet it liues there vncheckt, that *Anthonio*
 1221 hath a ship of rich lading wrackt on the narrow Seas; the
 1222 Goodwins I thinke they call the place, a very dangerous
 1223 flat, and fatall, where the carcasses of many a tall ship, lye
 1224 buried, as they say, if my gossips report be an honest wo-man
 1225 of her word.
 1226 *Sol.* I would she were as lying a gossip in that, as euer
 1227 knapt Ginger, or made her neighbours beleeeue she wept
 1228 for the death of a third husband: but it is true, without
 1229 any slips of prolixity, or crossing the plaine high- way of
 1230 talke, that the good *Anthonio*, the honest *Anthonio*; o that
 1231 I had a title good enough to keepe his name company!
 1232 *Sal.* Come, the full stop.
 1233 *Sol.* Ha, what sayest thou, why the end is, he hath lost
 1234 a ship. [P3
 1235 *Sal.* I would it might proue the end of his losses.

1236 *Sol.* Let me say Amen betimes, least the diuell crosse
 1237 my praier, for here he comes in the likenes of a *Iew*. How
 1238 now *Shylocke*, what newes among the Merchants?
 1239 *Enter Shylocke.*
 1240 *Shy.* You knew none so well, none so well as you, of
 1241 my daughters flight.
 1242 *Sal.* That's certaine, I for my part knew the Tailor
 1243 that made the wings she flew withall.
 1244 *Sol.* And *Shylocke* for his owne part knew the bird was
 1245 fledg'd, and then it is the complexion of them al to leaue
 1246 the dam.
 1247 *Shy.* She is damn'd for it.
 1248 *Sal.* That's certaine, if the diuell may be her Iudge.
 1249 *Shy.* My owne flesh and blood to rebell.
 1250 *Sol.* Out vpon it old carrion, rebels it at these yeeres.
 1251 *Shy.* I say my daughter is my flesh and bloud.
 1252 *Sal.* There is more difference betweene thy flesh and
 1253 hers, then betweene Iet and Iuorie, more betweene your
 1254 bloods, then there is betweene red wine and rennish: but
 1255 tell vs, doe you heare whether *Anthonio* haue had anie
 1256 losse at sea or no?
 1257 *Shy.* There I haue another bad match, a bankrout, a
 1258 prodigall, who dare scarce shew his head on the Ryalto,
 1259 a begger that was vsd to come so smug vpon the Mart:
 1260 let him look to his bond, he was wont to call me Vsurer,
 1261 let him looke to his bond, he was wont to lend money
 1262 for a Christian curtsie, let him looke to his bond.
 1263 *Sal.* Why I am sure if he forfait, thou wilt not take
 1264 his flesh, what's that good for?
 1265 *Shy.* To baite fish withall, if it will feede nothing
 1266 else, it will feede my reuenge; he hath disgrac'd me, and
 1267 hindred me halfe a million, laught at my losses, mockt at
 1268 my gaines, scorned my Nation, thwarted my bargaines,
 1269 cooled my friends, heated mine enemies, and what's the
 1270 reason? I am a *Iewe*: Hath not a *Iew* eyes? hath not a
 1271 *Iew* hands, organs, dementions, sences, affections, passi-ons,
 1272 fed with the same foode, hurt with the same wea-pons,
 1273 subiect to the same diseases, healed by the same
 1274 meanes, warmed and cooled by the same Winter and
 1275 Sommer as a Christian is: if you pricke vs doe we not
 1276 bleede? if you tickle vs, doe we not laugh? if you poison
 1277 vs doe we not die? and if you wrong vs shall we not re-uenge?
 1278 if we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you
 1279 in that. If a *Iew* wrong a *Christian*, what is his humility,
 1280 reuenge? If a *Christian* wrong a *Iew*, what should his suf-ferance
 1281 be by Christian example, why reuenge? The vil-lanie

1282 you teach me I will execute, and it shall goe hard
1283 but I will better the instruction.
1284 *Enter a man from Anthonio.*
1285 Gentlemen, my maister *Anthonio* is at his house, and
1286 desires to speake with you both.
1287 *Sal.* We haue beene vp and downe to seeke him.
1288 *Enter Tuball.*
1289 *Sol.* Here comes another of the Tribe, a third cannot
1290 be matcht, vnlesse the diuell himselfe turne *Iew.*
1291 *Exeunt Gentlemen.*
1292 *Shy.* How now *Tuball*, what newes from *Genowa*? hast
1293 thou found my daughter?
1294 *Tub.* I often came where I did heare of her, but can-not
1295 finde her.
1296 *Shy.* Why there, there, there, there, a diamond gone
1297 cost me two thousand ducats in Franckford, the curse ne-uer
1298 fell vpon our Nation till now, I neuer felt it till now,
1299 two thousand ducats in that, and other precious, preci-ous
1300 iewels: I would my daughter were dead at my foot,
1301 and the iewels in her eare: would she were hearst at my
1302 foote, and the duckets in her coffin: no newes of them,
1303 why so? and I know not how much is spent in the search:
1304 why thou losse vpon losse, the theefe gone with so
1305 much, and so much to finde the theefe, and no satisfa-ction,
1306 no reuenge, nor no ill luck stirring but what lights
1307 a my shoulders, no sighes but a my breathing, no teares
1308 but a my shedding.
1309 *Tub.* Yes, other men haue ill lucke too, *Anthonio* as I
1310 heard in *Genowa*?
1311 *Shy.* What, what, what, ill lucke, ill lucke.
1312 *Tub.* Hath an *Argosie* cast away comming from *Tri-polis.*
1313 *Shy.* I thanke God, I thanke God, is it true, is it true?
1314 *Tub.* I spoke with some of the *Saylers* that escaped
1315 the wracke.
1316 *Shy.* I thanke thee good *Tuball*, good newes, good
1317 newes: ha, ha, here in *Genowa.*
1318 *Tub.* Your daughter spent in *Genowa*, as I heard, one
1319 night fourescore ducats.
1320 *Shy.* Thou stick'st a dagger in me, I shall neuer see my
1321 gold againe, fourescore ducats at a sitting, fourescore du-cats.
1322 *Tub.* There came diuers of *Anthonios* creditors in my
1323 company to Venice, that swaere hee cannot choose but
1324 breake.
1325 *Shy.* I am very glad of it, ile plague him, ile torture
1326 him, I am glad of it,
1327 *Tub.* One of them shewed me a ring that hee had of

1330 your daughter for a Monkie.
 1331 *Shy.* Out vpon her, thou torturest me *Tuball*, it was
 1332 my Turkies, I had it of *Leah* when I was a Batcheler: I
 1333 would not haue giuen it for a wilderness of Monkies.
 1334 *Tub.* But *Anthonio* is certainly vndone.
 1335 *Shy.* Nay, that's true, that's very true, goe *Tuball*, see
 1336 me an Officer, bespeake him a fortnight before, I will
 1337 haue the heart of him if he forfeit, for were he out of Ve-nice,
 1338 I can make what merchandize I will: goe *Tuball*,
 1339 and meete me at our Sinagogue, goe good *Tuball*, at our
 1340 Sinagogue *Tuball. Exeunt.*
 1341 *Enter Bassanio, Portia, Gratiano, and all their traine.*
 1342 *Por.* I pray you tarrie, pause a day or two
 1343 Before you hazard, for in choosing wrong
 1344 I loose your companie; therefore forbear a while,
 1345 There's something tels me (but it is not loue)
 1346 I would not loose you, and you know your selfe,
 1347 Hate counsailes not in such a quallitie;
 1348 But least you should not vnderstand me well,
 1349 And yet a maiden hath no tongue, but thought,
 1350 I would detaine you here some month or two
 1351 Before you venture for me. I could teach you
 1352 How to choose right, but then I am forsworne,
 1353 So will I neuer be, so may you misse me,
 1354 But if you doe, youle make me wish a sinne,
 1355 That I had beene forsworne: Beshrow your eyes,
 1356 They haue ore- lookt me and deuided me,
 1357 One halfe of me is yours, the other halfe yours,
 1358 Mine owne I would say: but of mine then yours,
 1359 And so all yours; O these naughtie times
 1360 Puts bars betweene the owners and their rights.
 1361 And so though yours, not yours (proue it so)
 1362 Let Fortune goe to hell for it, not I.
 1363 I speake too long, but 'tis to peize the time,
 1364 To ich it, and to draw it out in length,
 1365 To stay you from election. [P3v
 1366 *Bass.* Let me choose,
 1367 For as I am, I liue vpon the racke.
 1368 *Por.* Vpon the racke *Bassanio*, then confesse
 1369 What treason there is mingled with your loue.
 1370 *Bass.* None but that vglie treason of mistrust.
 1371 Which makes me feare the enjoying of my loue:
 1372 There may as well be amitie and life,
 1373 'Tweene snow and fire, as treason and my loue.
 1374 *Por.* I, but I feare you speake vpon the racke,
 1375 Where men enforced doth speake any thing.

1376 *Bass.* Promise me life, and ile confesse the truth.
 1377 *Por.* Well then, confesse and liue.
 1378 *Bass.* Confesse and loue
 1379 Had beene the verie sum of my confession:
 1380 O happie torment, when my torturer
 1381 Doth teach me answers for deliuerance:
 1382 But let me to my fortune and the caskets.
 1383 *Por.* Away then, I am lockt in one of them,
 1384 If you doe loue me, you will finde me out.
 1385 *Nerryssa* and the rest, stand all aloofe,
 1386 Let musicke sound while he doth make his choise,
 1387 Then if he loose he makes a Swan- like end,
 1388 Fading in musique. That the comparison
 1389 May stand more proper, my eye shall be the streame
 1390 And watrie death- bed for him: he may win,
 1391 And what is musique than? Than musique is
 1392 Euen as the flourish, when true subiects bowe
 1393 To a new crowned Monarch: Such it is,
 1394 As are those dulcet sounds in breake of day,
 1395 That creepe into the dreaming bride- grooms eare,
 1396 And summon him to marriage. Now he goes
 1397 With no lesse presence, but with much more loue
 1398 Then yong *Alcides*, when he did redeeme
 1399 The virgine tribute, paied by howling *Troy*
 1400 To the Sea- monster: I stand for sacrifice,
 1401 The rest aloofe are the Dardanian wiues:
 1402 With bleared visages come forth to view
 1403 The issue of th' exploit: Goe Hercules,
 1404 Liue thou, I liue with much more dismay
 1405 I view the sight, then thou that mak'st the fray.
 1406 *Here Musicke.*
 1407 *A Song the whilst Bassanio comments on the*
 1408 *Caskets to himselfe.*
 1409 *Tell me where is fancie bred,*
 1410 *Or in the heart, or in the head:*
 1411 *How begot, how nourished. Replie, replie.*
 1412 *It is engendred in the eyes,*
 1413 *With gazing fed, and Fancie dies,*
 1414 *In the cradle where it lies:*
 1415 *Let vs all ring Fancies knell.*
 1416 Ile begin it.
 1417 *Ding, dong, bell.*
 1418 *All. Ding, dong, bell.*
 1419 *Bass.* So may the outward showes be least themselues
 1420 The world is still deceiu'd with ornament.
 1421 In Law, what Plea so tainted and corrupt,

1422 But being season'd with a gracious voice,
 1423 Obscures the show of euill? In Religion,
 1424 What damned error, but some sober brow
 1425 Will blesse it, and approue it with a text,
 1426 Hiding the grosenesse with faire ornament:
 1427 There is no voice so simple, but assumes
 1428 Some marke of vertue on his outward parts;
 1429 How manie cowards, whose hearts are all as false
 1430 As stayers of sand, weare yet vpon their chins
 1431 The beards of *Hercules* and frowning *Mars*,
 1432 Who inward searcht, haue lyuers white as milke,
 1433 And these assume but valors excrement,
 1434 To render them redoubted. Looke on beautie,
 1435 And you shall see 'tis purchast by the weight,
 1436 Which therein workes a miracle in nature,
 1437 Making them lightest that weare most of it:
 1438 So are those crisped snakie golden locks
 1439 Which makes such wanton gambols with the winde
 1440 Vpon supposed fairenesse, often knowne
 1441 To be the dowrie of a second head,
 1442 The scull that bred them in the Sepulcher.
 1443 Thus ornament is but the guiled shore
 1444 To a most dangerous sea: the beautious scarfe
 1445 Vailing an Indian beautie; In a word,
 1446 The seeming truth which cunning times put on
 1447 To intrap the wisest. Therefore then thou gaudie gold,
 1448 Hard food for *Midas*, I will none of thee,
 1449 Nor none of thee thou pale and common drudge
 1450 'Tweene man and man: but thou, thou meager lead
 1451 Which rather threatnest then dost promise ought,
 1452 Thy palenesse moues me more then eloquence,
 1453 And here choose I, ioy be the consequence.
 1454 *Por.* How all the other passions fleet to ayre,
 1455 As doubtfull thoughts, and rash imbrac'd despaire:
 1456 And shuddring feare, and greene-eyed ieaalousie.
 1457 O loue be moderate, allay thy extasie,
 1458 In measure raine thy ioy, scant this excesse,
 1459 I feele too much thy blessing, make it lesse,
 1460 For feare I surfeit.
 1461 *Bas.* What finde I here?
 1462 Faire *Portias* counterfeit. What demie God
 1463 Hath come so neere creation? moue these eies?
 1464 Or whether riding on the bals of mine
 1465 Seeme they in motion? Here are seuer'd lips
 1466 Parted with suger breath, so sweet a barre
 1467 Should sunder such sweet friends: here in her haire

1468 The Painter plaies the Spider, and hath wouen
 1469 A golden mesh t' intrap the hearts of men
 1470 Faster then gnats in cobwebs: but her eies,
 1471 How could he see to doe them? hauing made one,
 1472 Me thinkes it should haue power to steale both his
 1473 And leaue it selfe vnfurnisht: Yet looke how farre
 1474 The substance of my praise doth wrong this shadow
 1475 In vnderprising it, so farre this shadow
 1476 Doth limpe behinde the substance. Here's the scroule,
 1477 The continent, and summarie of my fortune.
 1478 *You that choose not by the view*
 1479 *Chance as faire, and choose as true:*
 1480 *Since this fortune fals to you,*
 1481 *Be content, and seeke no new.*
 1482 *If you be well pleasd with this,*
 1483 *And hold your fortune for your blisse,*
 1484 *Turne you where your Lady is,*
 1485 *And claime her with a louing kisse.*
 1486 *Bass.* A gentle scroule: Faire Lady, by your leaue,
 1487 I come by note to giue, and to receiue,
 1488 Like one of two contending in a prize
 1489 That thinks he hath done well in peoples eies:
 1490 Hearing applause and vniuersall shout,
 1491 Giddie in spirit, still gazing in a doubt
 1492 Whether those peales of praise be his or no. [P4
 1493 So thrice faire Lady stand I euen so,
 1494 As doubtfull whether what I see be true,
 1495 Vntill confirm'd, sign'd, ratified by you.
 1496 *Por.* You see my Lord *Bassiano* where I stand,
 1497 Such as I am; though for my selfe alone
 1498 I would not be ambitious in my wish,
 1499 To wish my selfe much better, yet for you,
 1500 I would be trebled twenty times my selfe,
 1501 A thousand times more faire, ten thousand times
 1502 More rich, that onely to stand high in your account,
 1503 I might in vertues, beauties, liuings, friends,
 1504 Exceed account: but the full summe of me
 1505 Is sum of nothing: which to terme in grosse,
 1506 Is an vnlessoned girle, vnschool'd, vnpractiz'd,
 1507 Happy in this, she is not yet so old
 1508 But she may learne: happier then this,
 1509 Shee is not bred so dull but she can learne;
 1510 Happiest of all, is that her gentle spirit
 1511 Commits it selfe to yours to be directed,
 1512 As from her Lord, her Gouvernour, her King.
 1513 My selfe, and what is mine, to you and yours

1514 Is now conuerted. But now I was the Lord
1515 Of this faire mansion, master of my seruants,
1516 Queene ore my selfe: and euen now, but now,
1517 This house, these seruants, and this same my selfe
1518 Are yours, my Lord, I giue them with this ring,
1519 Which when you part from, loose, or giue away,
1520 Let it presage the ruine of your loue,
1521 And be my vantage to exclaime on you.
1522 *Bass.* Maddam, you haue bereft me of all words,
1523 Onely my bloud speakes to you in my vaines,
1524 And there is such confusion in my powers,
1525 As after some oration fairely spoke
1526 By a beloued Prince, there doth appeare
1527 Among the buzzing pleased multitude,
1528 Where euery something being blent together,
1529 Turnes to a wilde of nothing, saue of ioy
1530 Exprest, and not exprest: but when this ring
1531 Parts from this finger, then parts life from hence,
1532 O then be bold to say *Bassanio's* dead.
1533 *Ner.* My Lord and Lady, it is now our time
1534 That haue stood by and seene our wishes prosper,
1535 To cry good ioy, good ioy my Lord and Lady.
1536 *Gra.* My Lord *Bassanio*, and my gentle Lady,
1537 I wish you all the ioy that you can wish:
1538 For I am sure you can wish none from me:
1539 And when your Honours meane to solemnize
1540 The bargaine of your faith: I doe beseech you
1541 Euen at that time I may be married too.
1542 *Bass.* With all my heart, so thou canst get a wife.
1543 *Gra.* I thanke your Lordship, you haue got me one.
1544 My eyes my Lord can looke as swift as yours:
1545 You saw the mistres, I beheld the maid:
1546 You lou'd, I lou'd for intermission,
1547 No more pertaines to me my Lord then you;
1548 Your fortune stood vpon the caskets there,
1549 And so did mine too, as the matter falls:
1550 For wooing heere vntill I swet againe,
1551 And swearing till my very rough was dry
1552 With oathes of loue, at last, if promise last,
1553 I got a promise of this faire one heere
1554 To haue her loue: prouided that your fortune
1555 Atchieu'd her mistresse.
1556 *Por.* Is this true *Nerrissa*?
1557 *Ner.* Madam it is so, so you stand pleas'd withall.
1558 *Bass.* And doe you *Gratiano* meane good faith?
1559 *Gra.* Yes faith my Lord.

1560 *Bass.* Our feast shall be much honored in your marriage.
 1562 *Gra.* Weele play with them the first boy for a thousand
 1563 ducats.
 1564 *Ner.* What and stake downe?
 1565 *Gra.* No, we shal nere win at that sport, and stake
 1566 downe.
 1567 But who comes heere? *Lorenzo* and his Infidell?
 1568 What and my old Venetian friend *Salerio*?
 1569 *Enter Lorenzo, Iessica, and Salerio.*
 1570 *Bas.* *Lorenzo* and *Salerio*, welcome hether,
 1571 If that the youth of my new interest heere
 1572 Haue power to bid you welcome: by your leaue
 1573 I bid my verie friends and Countrimen
 1574 Sweet *Portia* welcome.
 1575 *Por.* So do I my Lord, they are intirely welcome.
 1576 *Lor.* I thanke your honor; for my part my Lord,
 1577 My purpose was not to haue seene you heere,
 1578 But meeting with *Salerio* by the way,
 1579 He did intreate mee past all saying nay
 1580 To come with him along.
 1581 *Sal.* I did my Lord,
 1582 And I haue reason for it, Signior *Anthonio*
 1583 Commends him to you.
 1584 *Bass.* Ere I ope his Letter
 1585 I pray you tell me how my good friend doth.
 1586 *Sal.* Not sicke my Lord, vnlesse it be in minde,
 1587 Nor wel, vnlesse in minde: his Letter there
 1588 Wil shew you his estate.
 1589 *Opens the Letter.*
 1590 *Gra.* *Nerrissa*, cheere yond stranger, bid her welcom.
 1591 Your hand *Salerio*, what's the newes from Venice?
 1592 How doth that royal Merchant good *Anthonio*;
 1593 I know he will be glad of our successe,
 1594 We are the *Iasons*, we haue won the fleece.
 1595 *Sal.* I would you had won the fleece that hee hath
 1596 lost.
 1597 *Por.* There are some shrewd contents in yond same
 1598 Paper,
 1599 That steales the colour from *Bassianos* cheekes,
 1600 Some deere friend dead, else nothing in the world
 1601 Could turne so much the constitution
 1602 Of any constant man. What, worse and worse?
 1603 With leaue *Bassanio* I am halfe your selfe,
 1604 And I must freely haue the halfe of any thing
 1605 That this same paper brings you.
 1606 *Bass.* O sweet *Portia*,

1607 Heere are a few of the vnpleasant'st words
 1608 That euer blotted paper. Gentle Ladie
 1609 When I did first impart my loue to you,
 1610 I freely told you all the wealth I had
 1611 Ran in my vaines: I was a Gentleman,
 1612 And then I told you true: and yet deere Ladie,
 1613 Rating my selfe at nothing, you shall see
 1614 How much I was a Braggart, when I told you
 1615 My state was nothing, I should then haue told you
 1616 That I was worse then nothing: for indeede
 1617 I haue ingag'd my selfe to a deere friend,
 1618 Ingag'd my friend to his meere enemy
 1619 To feede my meanes. Heere is a Letter Ladie,
 1620 The paper as the bodie of my friend,
 1621 And euerie word in it a gaping wound
 1622 Issuing life blood. But is it true *Salerio*, [P4v
 1623 Hath all his ventures faild, what not one hit,
 1624 From Tripolis, from Mexico and England,
 1625 From Lisbon, Barbary, and India,
 1626 And not one vessell scape the dreadfull touch
 1627 Of Merchant- marring rocks?
 1628 *Sal.* Not one my Lord.
 1629 Besides, it should appeare, that if he had
 1630 The present money to discharge the Iew,
 1631 He would not take it: neuer did I know
 1632 A creature that did beare the shape of man
 1633 So keene and greedy to confound a man.
 1634 He pyles the Duke at morning and at night,
 1635 And doth impeach the freedome of the state
 1636 If they deny him iustice. Twenty Merchants,
 1637 The Duke himselfe, and the Magnificoes
 1638 Of greatest port haue all perswaded with him,
 1639 But none can driue him from the enuious plea
 1640 Of forfeiture, of iustice, and his bond.
 1641 *Iessi.* When I was with him, I haue heard him sweare
 1642 To *Tuball* and to *Chus*, his Countri- men,
 1643 That he would rather haue *Anthonio's* flesh,
 1644 Then twenty times the value of the summe
 1645 That he did owe him: and I know my Lord,
 1646 If law, authoritie, and power denie not,
 1647 It will goe hard with poore *Anthonio*.
 1648 *Por.* Is it your deere friend that is thus in trouble?
 1649 *Bass.* The deerest friend to me, the kindest man,
 1650 The best condition'd, and vnwearied spirit
 1651 In doing curtesies: and one in whom
 1652 The ancient Romane honour more appeares

1653 Then any that drawes breath in Italie.
 1654 *Por.* What summe owes he the Iew?
 1655 *Bass.* For me three thousand ducats.
 1656 *Por.* What, no more?
 1657 Pay him sixe thousand, and deface the bond:
 1658 Double sixe thousand, and then treble that,
 1659 Before a friend of this description
 1660 Shall lose a haire through *Bassanio's* fault.
 1661 First goe with me to Church, and call me wife,
 1662 And then away to Venice to your friend:
 1663 For neuer shall you lie by *Portias* side
 1664 With an vnquiet soule. You shall haue gold
 1665 To pay the petty debt twenty times ouer.
 1666 When it is payd, bring your true friend along,
 1667 My maid *Nerrissa*, and my selfe meane time
 1668 Will liue as maids and widdowes; come away,
 1669 For you shall hence vpon your wedding day:
 1670 Bid your friends welcome, show a merry cheere,
 1671 Since you are deere bought, I will loue you deere.
 1672 But let me heare the letter of your friend.
 1673 *Sweet Bassanio, my ships haue all miscarried, my Credi-tors*
 1674 *grow cruell, my estate is very low, my bond to the Iew is*
 1675 *forfeit, and since in paying it, it is impossible I should liue, all*
 1676 *debts are cleerd between you and I, if I might see you at my*
 1677 *death: notwithstanding, vse your pleasure, if your loue doe not*
 1678 *perswade you to come, let not my letter.*
 1679 *Por.* O loue! dispatch all busines and be gone.
 1680 *Bass.* Since I haue your good leaue to goe away,
 1681 I will make hast; but till I come againe,
 1682 No bed shall ere be guilty of my stay,
 1683 Nor rest be interposer twixt vs twaine. *Exeunt.*
 1684 *Enter the Iew, and Solanio, and Anthonio,*
 1685 *and the Iaylor.*
 1686 *Iew.* Iaylor, looke to him, tell not me of mercy,
 1687 This is the foole that lends out money *gratis*.
 1688 Iaylor, looke to him.
 1689 *Ant.* Heare me yet good *Shylok*.
 1690 *Iew.* Ile haue my bond, speake not against my bond,
 1691 I haue sworne an oath that I will haue my bond:
 1692 Thou call'dst me dog before thou hadst a cause,
 1693 But since I am a dog, beware my phangs,
 1694 The Duke shall grant me iustice, I do wonder
 1695 Thou naughty Iaylor, that thou art so fond
 1696 To come abroad with him at his request.
 1697 *Ant.* I pray thee heare me speake.
 1698 *Iew.* Ile haue my bond, I will not heare thee speake,

1699 Ile haue my bond, and therefore speake no more,
 1700 Ile not be made a soft and dull ey'd foole,
 1701 To shake the head, relent, and sigh, and yeeld
 1702 To Christian intercessors: follow not,
 1703 Ile haue no speaking, I will haue my bond. *Exit Iew.*
 1704 *Sol.* It is the most impenetrable curre
 1705 That euer kept with men.
 1706 *Ant.* Let him alone,
 1707 Ile follow him no more with bootlesse prayers:
 1708 He seekes my life, his reason well I know;
 1709 I oft deliuer'd from his forfeitures
 1710 Many that haue at times made mone to me,
 1711 Therefore he hates me.
 1712 *Sol.* I am sure the Duke will neuer grant
 1713 this forfeiture to hold.
 1714 *An.* The Duke cannot deny the course of law:
 1715 For the commoditie that strangers haue
 1716 With vs in Venice, if it be denied,
 1717 Will much impeach the iustice of the State,
 1718 Since that the trade and profit of the city
 1719 Consisteth of all Nations. Therefore goe,
 1720 These greefes and losses haue so bated mee,
 1721 That I shall hardly spare a pound of flesh
 1722 To morrow, to my bloody Creditor.
 1723 Well Iaylor, on, pray God *Bassanio* come
 1724 To see me pay his debt, and then I care not. *Exeunt.*
 1725 *Enter Portia, Nerrissa, Lorenzo, Iessica, and a man of*
 1726 *Portias.*
 1727 *Lor.* Madam, although I speake it in your presence,
 1728 You haue a noble and a true conceit
 1729 Of god- like amity, which appeares most strongly
 1730 In bearing thus the absence of your Lord.
 1731 But if you knew to whom you shew this honour,
 1732 How true a Gentleman you send releefe,
 1733 How deere a louer of my Lord your husband,
 1734 I know you would be prouder of the worke
 1735 Then customary bounty can enforce you.
 1736 *Por.* I neuer did repent for doing good,
 1737 Nor shall not now: for in companions
 1738 That do conuerse and waste the time together,
 1739 Whose soules doe beare an egal yoke of loue.
 1740 There must be needs a like proportion
 1741 Of lynniaments, of manners, and of spirit;
 1742 Which makes me thinke that this *Anthonio*
 1743 Being the bosome louer of my Lord,
 1744 Must needs be like my Lord. If it be so,

1745 How little is the cost I haue bestowed
 1746 In purchasing the semblance of my soule;
 1747 From out the state of hellish cruelty,
 1748 This comes too neere the praising of my selfe,
 1749 Therefore no more of it: heere other things
 1750 *Lorenzo* I commit into your hands, [P5
 1751 The husbandry and mannage of my house,
 1752 Vntill my Lords returne; for mine owne part
 1753 I haue toward heauen breath'd a secret vow,
 1754 To liue in prayer and contemplation,
 1755 Onely attended by *Nerrissa* heere,
 1756 Vntill her husband and my Lords returne:
 1757 There is a monastery too miles off,
 1758 And there we will abide. I doe desire you
 1759 Not to denie this imposition,
 1760 The which my loue and some necessity
 1761 Now layes vpon you.
 1762 *Lorens.* Madame, with all my heart,
 1763 I shall obey you in all faire commands.
 1764 *Por.* My people doe already know my minde,
 1765 And will acknowledge you and *Iessica*
 1766 In place of Lord *Bassanio* and my selfe.
 1767 So far you well till we shall meete againe.
 1768 *Lor.* Faire thoughts & happy houres attend on you.
 1769 *Iessi.* I wish your Ladiship all hearts content.
 1770 *Por.* I thanke you for your wish, and am well pleas'd
 1771 To wish it backe on you: faryouwell *Iessica.* *Exeunt.*
 1772 Now *Balthaser*, as I haue euer found thee honest true,
 1773 So let me finde thee still: take this same letter,
 1774 And vse thou all the indeauor of a man,
 1775 In speed to Mantua, see thou render this
 1776 Into my cosins hand, Doctor *Belario*,
 1777 And looke what notes and garments he doth giue thee,
 1778 Bring them I pray thee with imagin'd speed
 1779 Vnto the Tranect, to the common Ferrie
 1780 Which trades to Venice; waste no time in words,
 1781 But get thee gone, I shall be there before thee.
 1782 *Balth.* Madam, I goe with all conuenient speed.
 1783 *Por.* Come on *Nerissa*, I haue worke in hand
 1784 That you yet know not of; wee'll see our husbands
 1785 Before they thinke of vs?
 1786 *Nerrissa.* Shall they see vs?
 1787 *Portia.* They shall *Nerrissa*: but in such a habit,
 1788 That they shall thinke we are accomplished
 1789 With that we lacke; Ile hold thee any wager
 1790 When we are both accoutered like yong men,

1791 Ile proue the prettier fellow of the two,
 1792 And weare my dagger with the brauer grace,
 1793 And speake betweene the change of man and boy,
 1794 With a reede voyce, and turne two mising steps
 1795 Into a manly stride; and speake of frayes
 1796 Like a fine bragging youth: and tell quaint lyes
 1797 How honourable Ladies sought my loue,
 1798 Which I denying, they fell sicke and died.
 1799 I could not doe withall: then Ile repent,
 1800 And wish for all that, that I had not kil'd them;
 1801 And twentie of these punie lies Ile tell,
 1802 That men shall sweare I haue discontinued schoole
 1803 About a twelue moneth: I haue within my minde
 1804 A thousand raw tricks of these bragging Iacks,
 1805 Which I will practise.
 1806 *Nerris.* Why, shall wee turne to men?
 1807 *Portia.* Fie, what a questions that?
 1808 If thou wert nere a lewd interpreter:
 1809 But come, Ile tell thee all my whole deuce
 1810 When I am in my coach, which staves for vs
 1811 At the Parke gate; and therefore haste away,
 1812 For we must measure twentie miles to day. *Exeunt.*
 1813 *Enter Clowne and Iessica.*
 1814 *Clown.* Yes truly; for looke you, the sinnes of the Fa-ther
 1815 are to be laid vpon the children, therefore I promise
 1816 you, I feare you, I was alwaies plaine with you, and so
 1817 now I speake my agitation of the matter: therefore be of
 1818 good cheere, for truly I thinke you are damn'd, there is
 1819 but one hope in it that can doe you anie good, and that is
 1820 but a kinde of bastard hope neither.
 1821 *Iessica.* And what hope is that I pray thee?
 1822 *Clow.* Marrie you may partlie hope that your father
 1823 got you not, that you are not the Iewes daughter.
 1824 *Ies.* That were a kinde of bastard hope indeed, so the
 1825 sins of my mother should be visited vpon me.
 1826 *Clow.* Truly then I feare you are damned both by fa-ther
 1827 and mother: thus when I shun *Scilla* your father, I
 1828 fall into *Charibdis* your mother; well, you are gone both
 1829 waies.
 1830 *Ies.* I shall be sau'd by my husband, he hath made me
 1831 a Christian.
 1832 *Clow.* Truly the more to blame he, we were Christi-ans
 1833 enow before, e'ne as many as could wel liue one by a-nother:
 1834 this making of Christians will raise the price of
 1835 Hogs, if wee grow all to be porke- eaters, wee shall not
 1836 shortlie haue a rasher on the coales for money.

1837 *Enter Lorenzo.*

1838 *Ies.* Ile tell my husband *Lancelet* what you say, heere
1839 he comes.

1840 *Loren.* I shall grow iealous of you shortly *Lancelet*,
1841 if you thus get my wife into corners?

1842 *Ies.* Nay, you need not feare vs *Lorenzo*, *Launcelet*
1843 and I are out, he tells me flatly there is no mercy for mee
1844 in heauen, because I am a Iewes daughter: and hee saies
1845 you are no good member of the common wealth, for
1846 in conuerting Iewes to Christians, you raise the price
1847 of Porke.

1848 *Loren.* I shall answere that better to the Common-wealth,
1849 than you can the getting vp of the Negroes bel-lie:
1850 the Moore is with childe by you *Launceler*?

1851 *Clow.* It is much that the Moore should be more then
1852 reason: but if she be lesse then an honest woman, shee is
1853 indeed more then I tooke her for.

1854 *Loren.* How euerie foole can play vpon the word, I
1855 thinke the best grace of witte will shortly turne into si-lence,
1856 and discourse grow commendable in none onely
1857 but Parrats: goe in sirra, bid them prepare for dinner?

1858 *Clow.* That is done sir, they haue all stomacks?

1859 *Loren.* Goodly Lord, what a witte- snapper are you,
1860 then bid them prepare dinner.

1861 *Clow.* That is done to sir, onely couer is the word.

1862 *Loren.* Will you couer than sir?

1863 *Clow.* Not so sir neither, I know my dutie.

1864 *Loren.* Yet more quarreling with occasion, wilt thou
1865 shew the whole wealth of thy wit in an instant; I pray
1866 thee vnderstand a plaine man in his plaine meaning: goe
1867 to thy fellowes, bid them couer the table, serue in the
1868 meat, and we will come in to dinner.

1869 *Clow.* For the table sir, it shall be seru'd in, for the
1870 meat sir, it shall bee couered, for your comming in to
1871 dinner sir, why let it be as humors and conceits shall go-uerne.

1872 *Exit Clowne.*

1873 *Lor.* O deare discretion, how his words are suted,
1874 The foole hath planted in his memory
1875 An Armie of good words, and I doe know
1876 A many fooles that stand in better place,
1877 Garnisht like him, that for a tricksie word
1878 Defie the matter: how cheer'st thou *Iessica*,
1879 And now good sweet say thy opinion, [P5v
1880 How dost thou like the Lord *Bassiano*'s wife?

1881 *Iessi.* Past all expressing, it is very meete
1882 The Lord *Bassanio* liue an vpriight life

1883 For hauing such a blessing in his Lady,
 1884 He findes the ioyes of heauen heere on earth,
 1885 And if on earth he doe not meane it, it
 1886 Is reason he should neuer come to heauen?
 1887 Why, if two gods should play some heauenly match,
 1888 And on the wager lay two earthly women,
 1889 And *Portia* one: there must be something else
 1890 Paund with the other, for the poore rude world
 1891 Hath not her fellow.
 1892 *Loren.* Euen such a husband
 1893 Hast thou of me, as she is for a wife.
 1894 *Ies.* Nay, but aske my opinion to of that?
 1895 *Lor.* I will anone, first let vs goe to dinner?
 1896 *Ies.* Nay, let me praise you while I haue a stomacke?
 1897 *Lor.* No pray thee, let it serue for table talke,
 1898 Then how som ere thou speakst 'mong other things,
 1899 I shall digest it?
 1900 *Iessi.* Well, Ile set you forth. *Exeunt.*

Actus Quartus.

1902 *Enter the Duke, the Magnificoes, Anthonio, Bassanio, and*
 1903 *Gratiano.*
 1904 *Duke.* What, is *Anthonio* heere?
 1905 *Ant.* Ready, so please your grace?
 1906 *Duke.* I am sorry for thee, thou art come to answere
 1907 A stonie aduersary, an inhumane wretch,
 1908 Vncapable of pittie, voyd, and empty
 1909 From any dram of mercie.
 1910 *Ant.* I haue heard
 1911 Your Grace hath tane great paines to qualifie
 1912 His rigorous course: but since he stands obdurate,
 1913 And that no lawful meanes can carrie me
 1914 Out of his enuies reach, I do oppose
 1915 My patience to his fury, and am arm'd
 1916 To suffer with a quietnesse of spirit,
 1917 The very tiranny and rage of his.
 1918 *Du.* Go one and cal the Iew into the Court.
 1919 *Sal.* He is ready at the doore, he comes my Lord.
 1920 *Enter Shylocke.*
 1921 *Du.* Make roome, and let him stand before our face.
 1922 *Shylocke* the world thinkes, and I thinke so to
 1923 That thou but ledest this fashion of thy mallice
 1924 To the last houre of act, and then 'tis thought

1925 Thou'lt shew thy mercy and remorse more strange,
 1926 Than is thy strange apparant cruelty;
 1927 And where thou now exact'st the penalty,
 1928 Which is a pound of this poore Merchants flesh,
 1929 Thou wilt not onely loose the forfeiture,
 1930 But touch'd with humane gentlesse and loue:
 1931 Forgiue a moytie of the principall,
 1932 Glancing an eye of pittie on his losses
 1933 That haue of late so hudled on his backe,
 1934 Enow to presse a royall Merchant downe;
 1935 And plucke commiseration of his state
 1936 From brassie bosomes, and rough hearts of flints,
 1937 From stubborne Turkes and Tarters neuer traird [
 1938 To offices of tender curtesie,
 1939 We all expect a gentle answer Iew?
 1940 *Iew.* I haue possest your grace of what I purpose,
 1941 And by our holy Sabbath haue I sworne
 1942 To haue the due and forfeit of my bond.
 1943 If you denie it, let the danger light
 1944 Vpon your Charter, and your Cities freedome.
 1945 You'l aske me why I rather choose to haue
 1946 A weight of carrion flesh, then to receiue
 1947 Three thousand Ducats? Ile not answer that:
 1948 But say it is my humor; Is it answered?
 1949 What if my house be troubled with a Rat,
 1950 And I be pleas'd to giue ten thousand Ducates
 1951 To haue it bain'd? What, are you answer'd yet?
 1952 Some men there are loue not a gaping Pigge:
 1953 Some that are mad, if they behold a Cat:
 1954 And others, when the bag- pipe sings i'th nose,
 1955 Cannot containe their Vrine for affection.
 1956 Masters of passion swayes it to the moode
 1957 Of what it likes or loaths, now for your answer:
 1958 As there is no firme reason to be rendred
 1959 Why he cannot abide a gaping Pigge?
 1960 Why he a harmlesse necessarie Cat?
 1961 Why he a woollen bag- pipe: but of force
 1962 Must yeeld to such ineuitable shame,
 1963 As to offend himselfe being offended:
 1964 So can I giue no reason, nor I will not,
 1965 More then a lodg'd hate, and a certaine loathing
 1966 I beare *Anthonio*, that I follow thus
 1967 A loosing suite against him? Are you answered?
 1968 *Bass.* This is no answer thou vnfeeling man,
 1969 To excuse the currant of thy cruelty.
 1970 *Iew.* I am not bound to please thee with my answer.

1971 *Bass.* Do all men kil the things they do not loue?
 1972 *Iew.* Hates any man the thing he would not kill?
 1973 *Bass.* Euerie offence is not a hate at first.
 1974 *Iew.* What wouldst thou haue a Serpent sting thee
 1975 twice?
 1976 *Ant.* I pray you thinke you question with the Iew:
 1977 You may as well go stand vpon the beach,
 1978 And bid the maine flood baite his vsuall height,
 1979 Or euen as well vse question with the Wolfe,
 1980 The Ewe bleate for the Lambe:
 1981 You may as well forbid the Mountaine Pines
 1982 To wagge their high tops, and to make no noise
 1983 When they are fretted with the gusts of heauen:
 1984 You may as well do any thing most hard,
 1985 As seeke to soften that, then which what harder?
 1986 His Iewish heart. Therefore I do beseech you
 1987 Make no more offers, vse no farther meanes,
 1988 But with all briefe and plaine conueniencie
 1989 Let me haue iudgement, and the Iew his will.
 1990 *Bas.* For thy three thousand Ducates heere is six.
 1991 *Iew.* If euerie Ducat in sixe thousand Ducates
 1992 Were in sixe parts, and euery part a Ducate,
 1993 I would not draw them, I would haue my bond?
 1994 *Du.* How shalt thou hope for mercie, rendring none?
 1995 *Iew.* What iudgement shall I dread doing no wrong?
 1996 You haue among you many a purchast slaue,
 1997 Which like your Asses, and your Dogs and Mules,
 1998 You vse in abiect and in slauish parts,
 1999 Because you bought them. Shall I say to you,
 2000 Let them be free, marrie them to your heires?
 2001 Why sweate they vnder burthens? Let their beds
 2002 Be made as soft as yours: and let their pallats
 2003 Be season'd with such Viands: you will answer [P6
 2004 The slaues are ours. So do I answer you.
 2005 The pound of flesh which I demand of him
 2006 Is deerely bought, 'tis mine, and I will haue it.
 2007 If you deny me; fie vpon your Law,
 2008 There is no force in the decrees of Venice;
 2009 I stand for iudgement, answer, Shall I haue it?
 2010 *Du.* Vpon my power I may dismisse this Court,
 2011 Vnlesse *Bellario* a learned Doctor,
 2012 Whom I haue sent for to determine this,
 2013 Come heere to day.
 2014 *Sal.* My Lord, heere stayes without
 2015 A Messenger with Letters from the Doctor,
 2016 New come from Padua.

2017 *Du.* Bring vs the Letters, Call the Messengers.
 2018 *Bass.* Good cheere *Anthonio*. What man, corage yet:
 2019 The Iew shall haue my flesh, blood, bones, and all,
 2020 Ere thou shalt loose for me one drop of blood.
 2021 *Ant.* I am a tainted Weather of the flocke,
 2022 Meetest for death, the weakest kinde of fruite
 2023 Drops earliest to the ground, and so let me;
 2024 You cannot better be employ'd *Bassanio*,
 2025 Then to liue still, and write mine Epitaph.
 2026 *Enter Nerrissa.*
 2027 *Du.* Came you from Padua from *Bellarario*?
 2028 *Ner.* From both.
 2029 My Lord *Bellarario* greets your Grace.
 2030 *Bas.* Why dost thou whet thy knife so earnestly?
 2031 *Iew.* To cut the forfeiture from that bankrout there.
 2032 *Gra.* Not on thy soale: but on thy soule harsh Iew
 2033 Thou mak'st thy knife keene: but no mettall can,
 2034 No, not the hangmans Axe beare halfe the keenesse
 2035 Of thy sharpe enuy. Can no prayers pierce thee?
 2036 *Iew.* No, none that thou hast wit enough to make.
 2037 *Gra.* O be thou damn'd, inexecrable dogge,
 2038 And for thy life let iustice be accus'd:
 2039 Thou almost mak'st me wauer in my faith;
 2040 To hold opinion with *Pythagoras*,
 2041 That soules of Animals infuse themselues
 2042 Into the trunkes of men. Thy currish spirit
 2043 Gouern'd a Wolfe, who hang'd for humane slaughter,
 2044 Euen from the gallowes did his fell soule fleet;
 2045 And whil'st thou layest in thy vnhallowed dam,
 2046 Infus'd it selfe in thee: For thy desires
 2047 Are Woluish, bloody, steru'd, and rauenous.
 2048 *Iew.* Till thou canst raile the seale from off my bond
 2049 Thou but offend'st thy Lungs to speake so loud:
 2050 Repaire thy wit good youth, or it will fall
 2051 To endlesse ruine. I stand heere for Law.
 2052 *Du.* This Letter from *Bellarario* doth commend
 2053 A yong and Learned Doctor in our Court;
 2054 Where is he?
 2055 *Ner.* He attendeth heere hard by
 2056 To know your answer, whether you'l admit him.
 2057 *Du.* With all my heart. Some three or four of you
 2058 Go giue him curteous conduct to this place,
 2059 Meane time the Court shall heare *Bellarioes* Letter.
 2060 *Your Grace shall vnderstand, that at the receite of your*
 2061 *Letter I am very sicke: but in the instant that your mes-senger*
 2062 *came, in louing visitation, was with me a yong Do-ctor*

2063 *of Rome, his name is Balthasar: I acquainted him with*
 2064 *the cause in Controuersie, betweene the Iew and Anthonio*
 2065 *the Merchant: We turn'd ore many Bookes together: hee is*
 2066 *furnished with my opinion, which bettred with his owne lear-ning,*
 2067 *the greatnesse whereof I cannot enough commend, comes*
 2068 *with him at my importunity, to fill vp your Graces request in*
 2069 *my sted. I beseech you, let his lacke of years be no impediment*
 2070 *to let him lacke a reuerend estimation: for I neuer knewe so*
 2071 *yong a body, with so old a head. I leaue him to your gracious*
 2072 *acceptance, whose trial shall better publish his commendation.*
 2073 *Enter Portia for Balthazar.*
 2074 *Duke.* You heere the learn'd *Bellarion* what he writes,
 2075 And heere (I take it) is the Doctor come.
 2076 Giue me your hand: Came you from old *Bellarion*?
 2077 *Por.* I did my Lord.
 2078 *Du.* You are welcome: take your place;
 2079 Are you acquainted with the difference
 2080 That holds this present question in the Court.
 2081 *Por.* I am enformed throughly of the cause.
 2082 Which is the Merchant heere? and which the Iew?
 2083 *Du.* *Anthonio* and old *Shylocke*, both stand forth.
 2084 *Por.* Is your name *Shylocke*?
 2085 *Iew.* *Shylocke* is my name.
 2086 *Por.* Of a strange nature is the sute you follow,
 2087 Yet in such rule, that the Venetian Law
 2088 Cannot impugne you as you do proceed.
 2089 You stand within his danger, do you not?
 2090 *Ant.* I, so he sayes.
 2091 *Por.* Do you confesse the bond?
 2092 *Ant.* I do.
 2093 *Por.* Then must the Iew be mercifull.
 2094 *Iew.* On what compulsion must I ? Tell me that.
 2095 *Por.* The quality of mercy is not strain'd,
 2096 It droppeth as the gentle raine from heauen
 2097 Vpon the place beneath. It is twice blest,
 2098 It blesseth him that giues, and him that takes,
 2099 'Tis mightiest in the mightiest, it becomes
 2100 The throned Monarch better then his Crowne.
 2101 His Scepter shewes the force of temporall power,
 2102 The attribute to awe and Maiestie,
 2103 Wherein doth sit the dread and feare of Kings:
 2104 But mercy is about this sceptred sway,
 2105 It is enthroned in the hearts of Kings,
 2106 It is an attribute to God himselfe;
 2107 And earthly power doth then shew likest Gods
 2108 When mercie seasons Iustice. Therefore Iew,

2109 Though Iustice be thy plea, consider this,
 2110 That in the course of Iustice, none of vs
 2111 Should see saluation: we do pray for mercie,
 2112 And that same prayer, doth teach vs all to render
 2113 The deeds of mercie. I haue spoke thus much
 2114 To mittigate the iustice of thy plea:
 2115 Which if thou follow, this strict course of Venice
 2116 Must needes giue sentence 'gainst the Merchant there.
 2117 *Shy.* My deeds vpon my head, I craue the Law,
 2118 The penaltie and forfeite of my bond.
 2119 *Por.* Is he not able to discharge the money?
 2120 *Bas.* Yes, heere I tender it for him in the Court,
 2121 Yea, twice the summe, if that will not suffice,
 2122 I will be bound to pay it ten times ore,
 2123 On forfeit of my hands, my head, my heart:
 2124 If this will not suffice, it must appeare
 2125 That malice beares downe truth. And I beseech you
 2126 Wrest once the Law to your authority.
 2127 To do a great right, do a little wrong,
 2128 And curbe this cruell diuell of his will.
 2129 *Por.* It must not be, there is no power in Venice
 2130 Can alter a decree established:
 2131 'Twill be recorded for a President, [P6v
 2132 And many an error by the same example,
 2133 Will rush into the state: It cannot be.
 2134 *Iew.* A *Daniel* come to iudgement, yea a *Daniel*.
 2135 O wise young Iudge, how do I honour thee.
 2136 *Por.* I pray you let me looke vpon the bond.
 2137 *Iew.* Heere 'tis most reuerend Doctor, heere it is.
 2138 *Por.* *Shylocke*, there's thrice thy monie offered thee.
 2139 *Shy.* An oath, an oath, I haue an oath in heauen:
 2140 Shall I lay periurie vpon my soule?
 2141 No not for Venice.
 2142 *Por.* Why this bond is forfeit,
 2143 And lawfully by this the Iew may claime
 2144 A pound of flesh, to be by him cut off
 2145 Neerest the Merchants heart; be mercifull,
 2146 Take thrice thy money, bid me teare the bond.
 2147 *Iew.* When it is paid according to the tenure.
 2148 It doth appeare you are a worthy Iudge:
 2149 You know the Law, your exposition
 2150 Hath beene most sound. I charge you by the Law,
 2151 Whereof you are a well- deseruing pillar,
 2152 Proceede to iudgement: By my soule I sweare,
 2153 There is no power in the tongue of man
 2154 To alter me: I stay heere on my bond.

2155 *An.* Most heartily I do beseech the Court
 2156 To giue the iudgement.
 2157 *Por.* Why then thus it is:
 2158 You must prepare your bosome for his knife.
 2159 *Iew.* O noble Iudge, O excellent yong man.
 2160 *Por.* For the intent and purpose of the Law
 2161 Hath full relation to the penaltie,
 2162 Which heere appeareth due vpon the bond.
 2163 *Iew.* 'Tis verie true: O wise and vpright Iudge,
 2164 How much more elder art thou then thy lookes?
 2165 *Por.* Therefore lay bare your bosome.
 2166 *Iew.* I, his brest,
 2167 So sayes the bond, doth it not noble Iudge?
 2168 Neerest his heart, those are the very words.
 2169 *Por.* It is so: Are there ballance heere to weigh the
 2170 flesh?
 2171 *Iew.* I haue them ready.
 2172 *Por.* Haue by some Surgeon *Shylock* on your charge
 2173 To stop his wounds, least he should bleede to death.
 2174 *Iew.* It is not nominated in the bond?
 2175 *Por.* It is not so exprest: but what of that?
 2176 'Twere good you do so much for charitie.
 2177 *Iew.* I cannot finde it, 'tis not in the bond.
 2178 *Por.* Come Merchant, haue you any thing to say?
 2179 *Ant.* But little: I am arm'd and well prepar'd.
 2180 Giue me your hand *Bassanio*, fare you well.
 2181 Greeue not that I am falne to this for you:
 2182 For heerein fortune shewes her selfe more kinde
 2183 Then is her custome. It is still her vse
 2184 To let the wretched man out- liue his wealth,
 2185 To view with hollow eye, and wrinkled brow
 2186 An age of pouerty. From which lingring penance
 2187 Of such miserie, doth she cut me off:
 2188 Commend me to your honourable Wife,
 2189 Tell her the processe of *Anthonio*'s end:
 2190 Say how I lou'd you; speake me faire in death:
 2191 And when the tale is told, bid her be iudge,
 2192 Whether *Bassanio* had not once a Loue:
 2193 Repent not you that you shall loose your friend,
 2194 And he repents not that he payes your debt.
 2195 For if the Iew do cut but deepe enough,
 2196 Ile pay it instantly, with all my heart.
 2197 *Bas.* *Anthonio*, I am married to a wife, [
 2198 Which is as deere to me as life it selfe,
 2199 But life it selfe, my wife, and all the world,
 2200 Are not with me esteem'd aboue thy life.

2201 I would loose all, I sacrifice them all
 2202 Heere to this deuill, to deliuer you.
 2203 *Por.* Your wife would giue you little thanks for that
 2204 If she were by to heare you make the offer.
 2205 *Gra.* I haue a wife whom I protest I loue,
 2206 I would she were in heauen, so she could
 2207 Intreat some power to change this currish Iew.
 2208 *Ner.* 'Tis well you offer it behinde her backe,
 2209 The wish would make else an vnquiet house.
 2210 *Iew.* These be the Christian husbands: I haue a daugh-|(ter
 2211 Would any of the stocke of *Barrabas*
 2212 Had beene her husband, rather then a Christian.
 2213 We trifle time, I pray thee pursue sentence.
 2214 *Por.* A pound of that same marchants flesh is thine,
 2215 The Court awards it, and the law doth giue it.
 2216 *Iew.* Most rightfull Iudge.
 2217 *Por.* And you must cut this flesh from off his breast,
 2218 The Law allowes it, and the Court awards it.
 2219 *Iew.* Most learned Iudge, a sentence, come prepare.
 2220 *Por.* Tarry a little, there is something else,
 2221 This bond doth giue thee heere no iot of blood,
 2222 The words expresly are a pound of flesh:
 2223 Then take thy bond, take thou thy pound of flesh,
 2224 But in the cutting it, if thou dost shed
 2225 One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods
 2226 Are by the Lawes of Venice confiscate
 2227 Vnto the state of Venice.
 2228 *Gra.* O vpright Iudge,
 2229 Marke Iew, o learned Iudge.
 2230 *Shy.* Is that the law?
 2231 *Por.* Thy selfe shalt see the Act:
 2232 For as thou vrgest iustice, be assur'd
 2233 Thou shalt haue iustice more then thou desirest.
 2234 *Gra.* O learned Iudge, mark Iew, a learned Iudge.
 2235 *Iew.* I take this offer then, pay the bond thrice,
 2236 And let the Christian goe.
 2237 *Bass.* Heere is the money.
 2238 *Por.* Soft, the Iew shall haue all iustice, soft, no haste,
 2239 He shall haue nothing but the penalty.
 2240 *Gra.* O Iew, an vpright Iudge, a learned Iudge.
 2241 *Por.* Therefore prepare thee to cut off the flesh,
 2242 Shed thou no blood, nor cut thou lesse nor more
 2243 But iust a pound of flesh: if thou tak'st more
 2244 Or lesse then a iust pound, be it so much
 2245 As makes it light or heauy in the substance,
 2246 Or the deuision of the twentieth part

2247 Of one poore scruple, nay if the scale doe turne
 2248 But in the estimation of a hayre,
 2249 Thou diest, and all thy goods are confiscate.
 2250 *Gra.* A second *Daniel*, a *Daniel* Iew,
 2251 Now infidell I haue thee on the hip.
 2252 *Por.* Why doth the Iew pause, take thy forfeiture.
 2253 *Shy.* Giue me my principall, and let me goe.
 2254 *Bass.* I haue it ready for thee, heere it is.
 2255 *Por.* He hath refus'd it in the open Court,
 2256 He shall haue meerly iustice and his bond.
 2257 *Gra.* A *Daniel* still say I, a second *Daniel*,
 2258 I thanke thee Iew for teaching me that word.
 2259 *Shy.* Shall I not haue barely my principall?
 2260 *Por.* Thou shalt haue nothing but the forfeiture,
 2261 To be taken so at thy perill Iew.
 2262 *Shy.* Why then the Deuill giue him good of it:
 2263 Ile stay no longer question. [Q1
 2264 *Por.* Tarry Iew,
 2265 The Law hath yet another hold on you.
 2266 It is enacted in the Lawes of Venice,
 2267 If it be proued against an Alien,
 2268 That by direct, or indirect attempts
 2269 He seeke the life of any Citizen,
 2270 The party gainst the which he doth contriue,
 2271 Shall seaze one halfe his goods, the other halfe
 2272 Comes to the priuie coffer of the State,
 2273 And the offenders life lies in the mercy
 2274 Of the Duke onely, gainst all other voice.
 2275 In which predicament I say thou standst:
 2276 For it appeares by manifest proceeding,
 2277 That indirectly, and directly to,
 2278 Thou hast contriu'd against the very life
 2279 Of the defendant: and thou hast incur'd
 2280 The danger formerly by me rehearst.
 2281 Downe therefore, and beg mercy of the Duke.
 2282 *Gra.* Beg that thou maist haue leaue to hang thy selfe,
 2283 And yet thy wealth being forfeit to the state,
 2284 Thou hast not left the value of a cord,
 2285 Therefore thou must be hang'd at the states charge.
 2286 *Duk.* That thou shalt see the difference of our spirit,
 2287 I pardon thee thy life before thou aske it:
 2288 For halfe thy wealth, it is *Anthonio's*
 2289 The other halfe comes to the generall state,
 2290 Which humblenesse may driue vnto a fine.
 2291 *Por.* I for the state, not for *Anthonio*.
 2292 *Shy.* Nay, take my life and all, pardon not that,

2293 You take my house, when you do take the prop
 2294 That doth sustaine my house: you take my life
 2295 When you doe take the meanes whereby I liue.
 2296 *Por.* What mercy can you render him *Anthonio*?
 2297 *Gra.* A halter *gratis*, nothing else for Gods sake.
 2298 *Ant.* So please my Lord the Duke, and all the Court
 2299 To quit the fine for one halfe of his goods,
 2300 I am content: so he will let me haue
 2301 The other halfe in vse, to render it
 2302 Vpon his death, vnto the Gentleman
 2303 That lately stole his daughter.
 2304 Two things prouided more, that for this fauour
 2305 He presently become a Christian:
 2306 The other, that he doe record a gift
 2307 Heere in the Court of all he dies possest
 2308 Vnto his sonne *Lorenzo*, and his daughter.
 2309 *Duk.* He shall doe this, or else I doe recant
 2310 The pardon that I late pronounced heere.
 2311 *Por.* Art thou contented Iew? what dost thou say?
 2312 *Shy.* I am content.
 2313 *Por.* Clarke, draw a deed of gift.
 2314 *Shy.* I pray you giue me leaue to goe from hence,
 2315 I am not well, send the deed after me,
 2316 And I will signe it.
 2317 *Duke.* Get thee gone, but doe it.
 2318 *Gra.* In christning thou shalt haue two godfathers,
 2319 Had I been iudge, thou shouldst haue had ten more,
 2320 To bring thee to the gallowes, not to the font. *Exit.*
 2321 *Du.* Sir I intreat you with me home to dinner.
 2322 *Por.* I humbly doe desire your Grace of pardon,
 2323 I must away this night toward Padua,
 2324 And it is meete I presently set forth.
 2325 *Duk.* I am sorry that your leysure serues you not:
 2326 *Anthonio*, gratifie this gentleman,
 2327 For in my minde you are much bound to him.
 2328 *Exit Duke and his traine.*
 2329 *Bass.* Most worthy gentleman, I and my friend
 2330 Haue by your wisdome beene this day acquitted
 2331 Of greeuous penalties, in lieu whereof,
 2332 Three thousand Ducats due vnto the Iew
 2333 We freely cope your curteous paines withall.
 2334 *An.* And stand indebted ouer and aboue
 2335 In loue and seruice to you euermore.
 2336 *Por.* He is well paid that is well satisfied,
 2337 And I deliuering you, am satisfied,
 2338 And therein doe account my selfe well paid,

2339 My minde was neuer yet more mercinarie.
 2340 I pray you know me when we meete againe,
 2341 I wish you well, and so I take my leaue.
 2342 *Bass.* Deare sir, of force I must attempt you further,
 2343 Take some remembrance of vs as a tribute,
 2344 Not as fee: grant me two things, I pray you
 2345 Not to denie me, and to pardon me.
 2346 *Por.* You presse mee farre, and therefore I will yeeld,
 2347 Giue me your gloues, Ile weare them for your sake,
 2348 And for your loue Ile take this ring from you,
 2349 Doe not draw backe your hand, ile take no more,
 2350 And you in loue shall not deny me this?
 2351 *Bass.* This ring good sir, alas it is a trifle,
 2352 I will not shame my selfe to giue you this.
 2353 *Por.* I wil haue nothing else but onely this,
 2354 And now methinkes I haue a minde to it.
 2355 *Bas.* There's more depends on this then on the valew,
 2356 The dearest ring in Venice will I giue you,
 2357 And finde it out by proclamation,
 2358 Onely for this I pray you pardon me.
 2359 *Por.* I see sir you are liberall in offers,
 2360 You taught me first to beg, and now me thinkes
 2361 You teach me how a beggar should be answer'd.
 2362 *Bas.* Good sir, this ring was giuen me by my wife,
 2363 And when she put it on, she made me vow
 2364 That I should neither sell, nor giue, nor lose it.
 2365 *Por.* That scuse serues many men to saue their gifts,
 2366 And if your wife be not a mad woman,
 2367 And know how well I haue deseru'd this ring,
 2368 Shee would not hold out enemy for euer
 2369 For giuing it to me: well, peace be with you. *Exeunt.*
 2370 *Ant.* My L[ord]. *Bassanio*, let him haue the ring,
 2371 Let his deseruings and my loue withall
 2372 Be valued against your wiues commandement.
 2373 *Bass.* Goe *Gratiano*, run and ouer- take him,
 2374 Giue him the ring, and bring him if thou canst
 2375 Vnto *Anthonios* house, away, make haste. *Exit Grati.*
 2376 Come, you and I will thither presently,
 2377 And in the morning early will we both
 2378 Flie toward *Belmont*, come *Anthonio*. *Exeunt.*
 2379 *Enter Portia and Nerrissa.*
 2380 *Por.* Enquire the Iewes house out, giue him this deed,
 2381 And let him signe it, wee'll away to night,
 2382 And be a day before our husbands home:
 2383 This deed will be well welcome to *Lorenzo*.
 2384 *Enter Gratiano.*

2385 *Gra.* Faire sir, you are well ore- tane:
 2386 My L[ord]. *Bassanio* vpon more aduice,
 2387 Hath sent you heere this ring, and doth intreat
 2388 Your company at dinner.
 2389 *Por.* That cannot be;
 2390 His ring I doe accept most thankfully,
 2391 And so I pray you tell him: furthermore,
 2392 I pray you shew my youth old *Shylockes* house.
 2393 *Gra.* That will I doe.
 2394 *Ner.* Sir, I would speake with you: [Q1v
 2395 Ile see if I can get my husbands ring
 2396 Which I did make him sweare to keepe for euer.
 2397 *Por.* Thou maist I warrant, we shal haue old swearing
 2398 That they did giue the rings away to men;
 2399 But weele out- face them, and out- sweare them to:
 2400 Away, make haste, thou know'st where I will tarry.
 2401 *Ner.* Come good sir, will you shew me to this house.
 2402 *Exeunt.*

Actus Quintus.

2404 *Enter Lorenzo and Iessica.*
 2405 *Lor.* The moone shines bright. In such a night as this,
 2406 When the sweet winde did gently kisse the trees,
 2407 And they did make no noyse, in such a night
 2408 *Troylus* me thinkes mounted the Troian walls,
 2409 And sigh'd his soule toward the Grecian tents
 2410 Where *Cressed* lay that night.
 2411 *Ies.* In such a night
 2412 Did *Thisbie* fearefully ore- trip the dewe,
 2413 And saw the Lyons shadow ere himselfe,
 2414 And ranne dismayed away.
 2415 *Loren.* In such a night
 2416 Stood *Dido* with a Willow in her hand
 2417 Vpon the wilde sea bankes, and waft her Loue
 2418 To come againe to Carthage.
 2419 *Ies.* In such a night
 2420 *Medea* gathered the enchanted hearbs
 2421 That did renew old *Eson*.
 2422 *Loren.* In such a night
 2423 Did *Iessica* steale from the wealthy Iewe,
 2424 And with an Vnthrif Loue did runne from Venice,
 2425 As farre as Belmont.
 2426 *Ies.* In such a night

2427 Did young *Lorenzo* sweare he lou'd her well,
 2428 Stealing her soule with many vowes of faith,
 2429 And nere a true one.
 2430 *Loren.* In such a night
 2431 Did pretty *Iessica* (like a little shrow)
 2432 Slander her Loue, and he forgauē it her.
 2433 *Iessi.* I would out- night you did no body come:
 2434 But harke, I heare the footing of a man.
 2435 *Enter Messenger.*
 2436 *Lor.* Who comes so fast in silence of the night?
 2437 *Mes.* A friend.
 2438 *Loren.* A friend, what friend? your name I pray you |(friend?
 2439 *Mes.* *Stephano* is my name, and I bring word
 2440 My Mistresse will before the breake of day
 2441 Be heere at Belmont, she doth stray about
 2442 By holy crosses where she kneeles and prayes
 2443 For happy wedlocke houres.
 2444 *Loren.* Who comes with her?
 2445 *Mes.* None but a holy Hermit and her maid:
 2446 I pray you is my Master yet return'd?
 2447 *Loren.* He is not, nor we haue not heard from him,
 2448 But goe we in I pray thee *Iessica*,
 2449 And ceremoniously let vs prepare
 2450 Some welcome for the Mistresse of the house,
 2451 *Enter Clowne.*
 2452 *Clo.* Sola, sola: wo ha ho, sola, sola.
 2453 *Loren.* Who calls?
 2454 *Clo.* Sola, did you see M[aster]. *Lorenzo*, & M[aster]. *Lorenzo*, sola,
 2455 *Lor.* Leauē hollowing man, heere.
 2456 *Clo.* Sola, where, where?
 2457 *Lor.* Heere?
 2458 *Clo.* Tel him ther's a Post come from my Master, with
 2459 his horne full of good newes, my Master will be here ere
 2460 morning sweete soule.
 2461 *Loren.* Let's in, and there expect their comming.
 2462 And yet no matter: why should we goe in?
 2463 My friend *Stephen*, signifie pray you
 2464 Within the house, your Mistresse is at hand,
 2465 And bring your musique foorth into the ayre.
 2466 How sweet the moone- light sleepes vpon this banke,
 2467 Heere will we sit, and let the sounds of musicke
 2468 Creepe in our eares soft stilnes, and the night
 2469 Become the tutches of sweet harmonie:
 2470 Sit *Iessica*, looke how the floore of heauen
 2471 Is thicke inlayed with pattens of bright gold,
 2472 There's not the smallest orbe which thou beholdst

2473 But in his motion like an Angell sings,
 2474 Still quiring to the young eyed Cherubins;
 2475 Such harmonie is in immortall soules,
 2476 But whilst this muddy vesture of decay
 2477 Doth grosly close in it, we cannot heare it:
 2478 Come hoe, and wake *Diana* with a hymne,
 2479 With sweetest tutches pearce your Mistresse eare,
 2480 And draw her home with musicke.
 2481 *Iessi*. I am neuer merry when I heare sweet musique.
 2482 *Play musicke*.
 2483 *Lor*. The reason is, your spirits are attentiu:
 2484 For doe but note a wilde and wanton heard
 2485 Or race of youthful and vnhandled colts,
 2486 Fetching mad bounds, bellowing and neighing loud,
 2487 Which is the hot condition of their blood,
 2488 If they but heare perchance a trumpet sound,
 2489 Or any ayre of musicke touch their eares,
 2490 You shall perceiue them make a mutuall stand,
 2491 Their sauage eyes turn'd to a modest gaze,
 2492 By the sweet power of musicke: therefore the Poet
 2493 Did faine that *Orpheus* drew trees, stones, and floods.
 2494 Since naught so stockish, hard, and full of rage,
 2495 But musicke for time doth change his nature,
 2496 The man that hath no musicke in himselfe,
 2497 Nor is not moued with concord of sweet sounds,
 2498 Is fit for treasons, stratagemes, and spoyles,
 2499 The motions of his spirit are dull as night,
 2500 And his affections darke as *Erobus*,
 2501 Let no such man be trusted: marke the musicke.
 2502 *Enter Portia and Nerrissa*.
 2503 *Por*. That light we see is burning in my hall:
 2504 How farre that little candell throwes his beames,
 2505 So shines a good deed in a naughty world.
 2506 *Ner*. When the moone shone we did not see the can-|(dle?
 2507 *Por*. So doth the greater glory dim the lesse,
 2508 A substitute shines brightly as a King
 2509 Vntill a King be by, and then his state
 2510 Empties it selfe, as doth an inland brooke
 2511 Into the maine of waters: musique, harke. *Musicke*.
 2512 *Ner*. It is your musicke Madame of the house.
 2513 *Por*. Nothing is good I see without respect,
 2514 Methinkes it sounds much sweeter then by day?
 2515 *Ner*. Silence bestowes that vertue on it Madam.
 2516 *Por*. The Crow doth sing as sweetly as the Larke [Q2
 2517 When neither is attended: and I thinke
 2518 The Nightingale if she should sing by day

2519 When every Goose is cackling, would be thought
 2520 No better a Musitian then the Wren?
 2521 How many things by season, season'd are
 2522 To their right praise, and true perfection:
 2523 Peace, how the Moone sleepes with Endimion,
 2524 And would not be awak'd.
 2525 *Musicke ceases.*
 2526 *Lor.* That is the voice,
 2527 Or I am much deceiu'd of *Portia*.
 2528 *Por.* He knowes me as the blinde man knowes the
 2529 Cuckow by the bad voice?
 2530 *Lor.* Deere Lady welcome home?
 2531 *Por.* We haue bene praying for our husbands welfare
 2532 Which speed we hope the better for our words,
 2533 Are they return'd?
 2534 *Lor.* Madam, they are not yet:
 2535 But there is come a Messenger before
 2536 To signifie their comming.
 2537 *Por.* Go in *Nerrissa*,
 2538 Giue order to my seruants, that they take
 2539 No note at all of our being absent hence,
 2540 Nor you *Lorenzo*, *Iessica* nor you.
 2541 *A Tucket sounds.*
 2542 *Lor.* Your husband is at hand, I heare his Trumpet,
 2543 We are no tell- tales Madam, feare you not.
 2544 *Por.* This night methinkes is but the daylight sicke,
 2545 It lookes a little paler, 'tis a day,
 2546 Such as the day is, when the Sun is hid.
 2547 *Enter Bassanio, Anthonio, Gratiano, and their*
 2548 *Followers.*
 2549 *Bas.* We should hold day with the Antipodes,
 2550 If you would walke in absence of the sunne.
 2551 *Por.* Let me giue light, but let me not be light,
 2552 For a light wife doth make a heauie husband,
 2553 And neuer be *Bassanio* so for me,
 2554 But God sort all: you are welcome home my Lord.
 2555 *Bass.* I thanke you Madam, giue welcom to my friend
 2556 This is the man, this is *Anthonio*,
 2557 To whom I am so infinitely bound.
 2558 *Por.* You should in all sence be much bound to him,
 2559 For as I heare he was much bound for you.
 2560 *Anth.* No more then I am wel acquitted of.
 2561 *Por.* Sir, you are verie welcome to our house:
 2562 It must appeare in other waies then words,
 2563 Therefore I scant this breathing curtesie.
 2564 *Gra.* By yonder Moone I sweare you do me wrong,

2565 Infaith I gaue it to the Iudges Clearke,
 2566 Would he were gelt that had it for my part,
 2567 Since you do take it Loue so much at hart.
 2568 *Por.* A quarrel hoe alreadie, what's the matter?
 2569 *Gra.* About a hoope of Gold, a paltry Ring
 2570 That she did giue me, whose Poesie was
 2571 For all the world like Cutlers Poetry
 2572 Vpon a knife; *Loue mee, and leaue mee not.*
 2573 *Ner.* What talke you of the Poesie or the valew:
 2574 You swore to me when I did giue it you,
 2575 That you would weare it til the houre of death,
 2576 And that it should lye with you in your graue,
 2577 Though not for me, yet for your vehement oaths,
 2578 You should haue beene respectiue and haue kept it.
 2579 Gaue it a Iudges Clearke: but wel I know
 2580 The Clearke wil nere weare haire on's face that had it.
 2581 *Gra.* He wil, and if he liue to be a man.
 2582 *Nerrissa.* I, if a Woman liue to be a man.
 2583 *Gra.* Now by this hand I gaue it to a youth,
 2584 A kinde of boy, a little scrubbed boy,
 2585 No higher then thy selfe, the Iudges Clearke,
 2586 A prating boy that begg'd it as a Fee,
 2587 I could not for my heart deny it him.
 2588 *Por.* You were too blame, I must be plaine with you,
 2589 To part so slightly with your wiues first gift,
 2590 A thing stucke on with oathes vpon your finger,
 2591 And so riueted with faith vnto your flesh.
 2592 I gaue my Loue a Ring, and made him swear
 2593 Neuer to part with it, and heere he stands:
 2594 I dare be sworne for him, he would not leaue it,
 2595 Nor plucke it from his finger, for the wealth
 2596 That the world masters. Now in faith *Gratiano*,
 2597 You giue your wife too vnkinde a cause of greefe,
 2598 And 'twere to me I should be mad at it.
 2599 *Bass.* Why I were best to cut my left hand off,
 2600 And swear I lost the Ring defending it.
 2601 *Gra.* My Lord *Bassanio* gaue his Ring away
 2602 Vnto the Iudge that beg'd it, and indeede
 2603 Deseru'd it too: and then the Boy his Clearke
 2604 That tooke some paines in writing, he begg'd mine,
 2605 And neyther man nor master would take ought
 2606 But the two Rings.
 2607 *Por.* What Ring gaue you my Lord?
 2608 Not that I hope which you receiu'd of me.
 2609 *Bass.* If I could adde a lie vnto a fault,
 2610 I would deny it: but you see my finger

2611 Hath not the Ring vpon it, it is gone.
2612 *Por.* Euen so voide is your false heart of truth.
2613 By heauen I wil nere come in your bed
2614 Vntil I see the Ring.
2615 *Ner.* Nor I in yours, til I againe see mine.
2616 *Bass.* Sweet *Portia*,
2617 If you did know to whom I gaue the Ring,
2618 If you did know for whom I gaue the Ring,
2619 And would conceiue for what I gaue the Ring,
2620 And how vnwillingly I left the Ring,
2621 When nought would be accepted but the Ring,
2622 You would abate the strength of your displeasure?
2623 *Por.* If you had knowne the vertue of the Ring,
2624 Or halfe her worthinesse that gaue the Ring,
2625 Or your owne honour to containe the Ring,
2626 You would not then haue parted with the Ring:
2627 What man is there so much vnreasonable,
2628 If you had pleas'd to haue defended it
2629 With any termes of Zeale: wanted the modestie
2630 To vrge the thing held as a ceremonie:
2631 *Nerrissa* teaches me what to beleeeue,
2632 Ile die for't, but some Woman had the Ring?
2633 *Bass.* No by mine honor Madam, by my soule
2634 No Woman had it, but a ciuill Doctor,
2635 Which did refuse three thousand Ducates of me,
2636 And beg'd the Ring; the which I did denie him,
2637 And suffer'd him to go displeas'd away:
2638 Euen he that had held vp the verie life
2639 Of my deere friend. What should I say sweete Lady?
2640 I was inforc'd to send it after him,
2641 I was beset with shame and curtesie,
2642 My honor would not let ingratitude
2643 So much besmeare it. Pardon me good Lady,
2644 And by these blessed Candles of the night,
2645 Had you bene there, I thinke you would haue beg'd
2646 The Ring of me, to giue the worthie Doctor? [Q2v
2647 *Por.* Let not that Doctor ere come neere my house,
2648 Since he hath got the ieuell that I loued,
2649 And that which you did sweare to keepe for me,
2650 I will become as liberall as you,
2651 Ile not deny him any thing I haue,
2652 No, not my body, nor my husbands bed:
2653 Know him I shall, I am well sure of it.
2654 Lie not a night from home. Watch me like Argos,
2655 If you doe not, if I be left alone,
2656 Now by mine honour which is yet mine owne,

2657 Ile haue the Doctor for my bedfellow.
 2658 *Nerrissa.* And I his Clarke: therefore be well aduis'd
 2659 How you doe leaue me to mine owne protection.
 2660 *Gra.* Well, doe you so: let not me take him then,
 2661 For if I doe, ile mar the yong Clarks pen.
 2662 *Ant.* I am th' vnhappy subiect of these quarrels.
 2663 *Por.* Sir, grieue not you,
 2664 You are welcome notwithstanding.
 2665 *Bas. Portia,* forgiue me this enforced wrong,
 2666 And in the hearing of these manie friends
 2667 I sweare to thee, euen by thine owne faire eyes
 2668 Wherein I see my selfe.
 2669 *Por.* Marke you but that?
 2670 In both my eyes he doubly sees himselfe:
 2671 In each eye one, sweare by your double selfe,
 2672 And there's an oath of credit.
 2673 *Bas.* Nay, but heare me.
 2674 Pardon this fault, and by my soule I sweare
 2675 I neuer more will breake an oath with thee.
 2676 *Anth.* I once did lend my bodie for thy wealth,
 2677 Which but for him that had your husbands ring
 2678 Had quite miscarried. I dare be bound againe,
 2679 My soule vpon the forfeit, that your Lord
 2680 Will neuer more breake faith aduisedlie.
 2681 *Por.* Then you shall be his suretie: giue him this,
 2682 And bid him keepe it better then the other.
 2683 *Ant.* Heere Lord *Bassanio*, swear to keep this ring.
 2684 *Bass.* By heauen it is the same I gaue the Doctor.
 2685 *Por.* I had it of him: pardon *Bassanio*,
 2686 For by this ring the Doctor lay with me.
 2687 *Ner.* And pardon me my gentle *Gratiano*,
 2688 For that same scrubbed boy the Doctors Clarke
 2689 In lieu of this, last night did lye with me.
 2690 *Gra.* Why this is like the mending of high waies
 2691 In Sommer, where the waies are faire enough:
 2692 What, are we Cuckolds ere we haue deseru'd it.
 2693 *Por.* Speake not so grossely, you are all amaz'd;
 2694 Heere is a letter, reade it at your leysure,
 2695 It comes from Padua from *Bellario*,
 2696 There you shall finde that *Portia* was the Doctor,
 2697 *Nerrissa* there her Clarke. *Lorenzo* heere
 2698 Shall wnesse I set forth as soone as you,
 2699 And but eu'n now return'd: I haue not yet
 2700 Entred my house. *Anthonio* you are welcome,
 2701 And I haue better newes in store for you
 2702 Then you expect: vnseale this letter soone,

2703 There you shall finde three of your Argosies
 2704 Are richly come to harbour sodainlie.
 2705 You shall not know by what strange accident
 2706 I chanced on this letter.
 2707 *Antho.* I am dumbe.
 2708 *Bass.* Were you the Doctor, and I knew you not?
 2709 *Gra.* Were you the Clark that is to make me cuckold.
 2710 *Ner.* I, but the Clark that neuer meanes to doe it,
 2711 Vnlesse he liue vntill he be a man.
 2712 *Bass.* (Sweet Doctor) you shall be my bedfellow,
 2713 When I am absent, then lie with my wife.
 2714 *An.* (Sweet Ladie) you haue giuen me life & liuing;
 2715 For heere I reade for certaine that my ships
 2716 Are safelie come to Rode.
 2717 *Por.* How now *Lorenzo*?
 2718 My Clarke hath some good comforts to for you.
 2719 *Ner.* I, and Ile giue them him without a fee.
 2720 There doe I giue to you and *Iessica*
 2721 From the rich Iewe, a speciall deed of gift
 2722 After his death, of all he dies possess'd of.
 2723 *Loren.* Faire Ladies you drop Manna in the way
 2724 Of starued people.
 2725 *Por.* It is almost morning,
 2726 And yet I am sure you are not satisfied
 2727 Of these euent at full. Let vs goe in,
 2728 And charge vs there vpon intergatories,
 2729 And we will answer all things faithfully.
 2730 *Gra.* Let it be so, the first intergatory
 2731 That my *Nerrissa* shall be sworne on, is,
 2732 Whether till the next night she had rather stay,
 2733 Or goe to bed, now being two houres to day,
 2734 But were the day come, I should wish it darke,
 2735 Till I were couching with the Doctors Clarke.
 2736 Well, while I liue, Ile feare no other thing
 2737 So sore, as keeping safe *Nerrissas* ring.
 2738 *Exeunt.*

FINIS.

The Merchant of Venice.
