A Caveat or Warning for Common Cursators.
A CAVEAT OR WARNING

FOR

Common Cursetors,

VULGARLY CALLED

Hagabonds.

SET FORTH

BY THOMAS HARMAN, ESQ.

FOR THE

UTILITY AND PROFIT OF HIS NATURAL COUNTRY.

WHEREUNTO IS ADDED,

THE TALE OF THE SECOND TAKING OF THE COUNTERFEIT CRANK, WITH

THE TRUE REPORT OF HIS BEHAVIOUR, AND ALSO HIS

PUNISHMENT FOR HIS DISEMBLING, MOST

MARVELLOUS TO THE HEARER

OR READER THEREOF

LONDON:

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1814.
TO

JOSEPH HASLEWOOD, ESQ.

AS

A TESTIMONIAL OF ESTEEM

FOR

HIS BIBLIOGRAPHICAL TALENTS AND PERSEVERING RESEARCH IN
THE REVIVAL OF ANCIENT LITERATURE,

THIS REPRINT,

OF

The Caveat for Cursetors,

(THE IMPRESSION OF WHICH IS LIMITED TO ONE HUNDRED COPIES)

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.
ADVERTISEMENT.

The illustration of the manners and customs of a country, and particularly those of our own, is always interesting. In this point of view it is hoped the present reprint will prove acceptable, as descriptive of a class of society during the reign of Elizabeth. That it must have been popular may be presumed from the circumstance of four editions (if not more) having issued from the press within a short period; and its great rarity is sufficiently obvious, from having escaped the researches of Ames and Herbert. The following editions are all that have been discovered.

1. Printed for Wylyam Gryffyth. 1566.
3. .......................... 1567. In the Collection of the Rev. H. White. This edition, though published in the same year, varies in the title, and has in addition the wood cut of the Counterfeit Crank, copied at p. 32 of the present edition.
A Caueat or warening for

Common Cursetors, vulgarely called

Magabones, set forth by Thomas Harman, Esquier, for the
vtilitie and profitt of his naturall Country. Augmented and in-
larged by the first Authour hereof. Whereunto is added
the tale of the second taking of the counterfe

Crank, with the true report of his behavi-
our and also his punishment for his to
dissembling, most maruelous to
the hearer or reader thereof.

Newly Imprinted.

ANNO 1573.

This Cart at his tayle doth draw all about,
Such pilfering pickers, that to it is tyed:
The whip with his whisks, the bloud fetcheth out,
The Baudes for baudery, and Hores therein ryed.
Three things to be noted all in
A Staff, a Besom, a With that
their kind,
will wind.

A besom of byrche for babes very feete,
A long lasting lybbet for loubbes as meet:
A wyth so wynde vp that these will notkeepe,
Bynde all vp in one, and vse it to swepe.
TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE, AND MY
singular good Lady Elizabeth Countes of
Shrewsbury, Thomas Harman wisheth all ioye
and perfect felicitie, here and in the world to come.

As of auncient and long tyme there hath bene, and is now at
this present many good godly profitable lawes and actes made
and set forth in this most noble and flourishing realme, for
the reliefe, succour, comfort and sustentacion of the pore, nedy,
impotent and miserable creatures, beeing and inhabiting in all
partes of the same. So is there (right honorable and myne especiall
good Lady) most holsome estatutes, ordinances and necessery
lawes, made, set foorth and published, for the extreme punish-
ment of all vagarants and sturdy vagabonds as passeth through
and by all partes of this famous yle, most idelly and wickedly:
and I (by good experience) well understanding and considering
your most tender, pitifull, gentle and noble nature, not only hauing
a vigilant and mercifull eye to your poore, indigët and feeble pa-
rishioners: yea not only in the parish wher your honour most
happely doth dwell, but also in others inuironing or nighe adioyn-
ing to the same. As also abundantly powring out dayly your
ardent and bountifull charitie vpon all such as commeth for
reliefe vnto your lucky gates.

I thought it good necessary, and my bounden dutye to ac-
quaynt your goodnes with the abhominable, wicked and detestable
behaviour of all these rowsey, ragged rabblement of rakehelles, that under the pretence of great misery, diseases and other innumerable calamities, which they fayne through great hipocrisie, do win and gayne great almes in all places where they wyly wander, to the utter deludynge of the good gevers: deceyuing and impouerishing of al such poore housholders both sicke and sore, as neyther can or may walke abroade for reliefe and comfort (where in deede most mercy is to be shewed,) And for that, I (most honorable Lady) being placed as a poore gentleman, haue kept a house these twenty yeares, where vnto pouerty dyily hath and dothe repayre, not without some reliefe as my poore callinge and habilitie may and doth extende: I haue of late yeares gathered a great suspicition that all should not be well: and as the proverbe sayeth: *Some thing lurke and laye hyd that dyd not playney appeare.* For I hauing more occasion (through sicknesse) to tary and remayne at home, then I haue bene accustomed, doe by my there abyding, talke and conferre daily with many of these wyly wanderars, of both sortes, as well men and women, as boyes and gyrls: by whom I haue gathered and understand their depe dissimulation and detestable dealing, being maruelous suttle and crafty in their kinde, for not one amongest twenty will discover, eyther declare their scelerous secretes: yet with fayr flattering wordes, money, and good cheere, I haue attained to the typpe by such as the meanest of thē, hath wadered these xiii. yeres, and most xvi. and som xx. and vpward, and not without faithful promisse made vnto them, neuer to discover their names or any thinge they shewed mee: for they would all saye, if the vpright men should understand thereof, they should not bee onely greeuously beaten, but put in danger of their lynes, by the sayd vpright men. There was a fewe yeares since a small breefe set foorth of
some zealous man to his country, of whom I knowe not, that made
a little shew of their names and usage, and gave a glumming light
not sufficient to persuade of their peish pelting and pynking
practises, but well worthy of prayse. But (good Madame) with
no lesse tranell then good will, I haue repayed and rigged the
ship of knowledge, and haue hoyossed vp the sayles of good for-
tune, that she may safely passe about and through all parts of
this noble realme, and there make porte sale of hir wished wares,
to the confusion of their drowsey demener, and vnlawfull lenguage,
pyllring, pycking, wyly wandering and lyking lechery, of all these
rabement of rascales that raunges about all the costes of the same,
so that their vnsemble dolefull dealing and execrable exercises
may appeare to all as it were in a glasse, that thereby the iusticers
and shreeues maye in their circuites be more vigilant to punishe
these malefactores, and the constables, baylifes and housholders,
setting asyde all feare, slouth, and pitie, may bee more circum-
spect in executing the charge gyuen them by the aforesayd iusti-
cers. Then will no more this rascal rablement raunge about
the country. Then greater reliefe may be shewed to the pouerty
of eche parish. Then shall wee keepe our horses in our pastures
vnstolen. Then our linnen clothes shall and may lye safely on
our hedges vntouched. Then shall wee not haue our clothes and
linnen hooked out at our windowes, as well by daye as by night.
Then shall wee not haue our houses broken vp in the nyght, as of
late one of my neyghbours had and twoo great buckes of clothes
stolen out, and most of the same fyn linnen. Then shall wee
safely keepe our pigges and poultries from pylffering. Then shall
wee surely passe by the high wayes leading to markets and faires
vnharmed. Then shall our shops and bothes be vnpicked and
spoiled. Then shall these vncomely companies bee dispersed and
set to labour for their living, or hastily hang for their demerites.
Then shall it encourage a great number of gentle men and others,
seeing this securitie, to set vp houses and keepe hospitalitie in the
countrie, to the comfort of their neighbours, reliefe of the poore,
and to the amendment of the common wealth. Then shal not
sinne and wyckednes so much abounde among vs. Then will God’s
wrath be much the more pacified towards vs. Then shall we not
taste of so many and sundry plagues as now daylye raigneth over
vs. And then shall this famous empyre be in more welth and
better floryshe, to the inestimable ioye and conforte of the Queenes
most excellente maiestie, whom God of his infinite goodnes, to
his great glory, long and many yeares make most prosperously to
raygne over vs, too the great felicite of all the peeres and nobles,
and to the vnspeakable ioye, reliefe and quietnes of mynde of all
hir faithfull commons and subiectes. Now, me thinketh I see
how these penuish, peruerse and pestilent people begin to fret,
fume, sweare, and stare at this my booke, theyr lyfe beinge layde
open and apparantly paynted out, that their confusion and end
draweth on apace: where as in deede if it be well wayed, it is set
forth for theyr singular profyt and commoditie, for the sure sav-
gard of their liues here in this world, that thei shorten not the
same before their time, and that by their true labour and good
lyfe, in the world to come they may saue their soules, that Christe
the second person in Trinitie hath so derely bought with his most
precious bloud: so that hereby I shall do them more good then
they could have devised for themselues. For behold, their life,
being so manifest wicked, and so apparantly knowne: the honor-
able will abhorre them: the woorshipfull will reiecte them: the
yeoman will sharplye tawnte them: the husband men ytterly de-
fye them: the labouringe men bluntlye chye them: the wemen
wyth a loude exclamation wonder at them. And all children wyth clappyinge handes crye out at them. I manye tymes musing with my selfe at these mischeuous myslyvers marueld when they toke their original and beginning, how longe they haue exercised their execrable wandringhe about: I thought it meete to confer with a very olde man that I was well acquainted with, whose witte and memory is maruelous for his yeare, being about the age of foure score, what hee knewe when hee was yonge of these lousey lewterars. And he shewed mee that when he was yonge, he wayted vpon a man of much worship in Kent, who dyed immediately after the last Duke of Buckingham was beheaded, at his buryall there was suche a number of beggers, besides poore housholders dwelling there aboutes, that vnne they might lye or stand aboute the house: then was thereto prepared for them a great and a large barne, and a great fatte oxe sod out in furmenty for them with bread and drinke abundantly to furnish out the premisses, and euery person had two pence, for such was the dole. Whene night aproched the pore housholders repaired home to their houses, the other wayfaring bold beggers remained all night in the barn, and the same barne being serched with light in the night by this old man and then yonge and others, they tolde seuen score persons of men, euery of them hauing his woman, except it were two wemen that lay alone togyther for some especiall cause. Thus hauing their makes to make mery withal: the buriall was tourned to housing and belly cheere, mourning to myrth, fasting to feasting, prayer to pastyme, and pressing of paps and lamenting to lecherye. So that it may appeare this vncomly company hath had a long continuance, but then nothinge geuen so much to pylferinge, pyckinge and spoling, and as far as I can learne or vnderstande by the examination of a number of them, their language
which they terme peddelers Frenche or canting, began but within
these XXX. yerers or little aboue, and that the first inuenter thereof
was hanged all save the head, for that is the finall ende of them
al, or elles to dye of some filthy and horrible diseases: but much
harme is done in the meane space by their continuance as some X.
xii. and xvi. yeares before they be consumed, and the number of
them doth dayly renew. I hope their sinne is nowe at the hyghest,
and that as short and as speedy redresse wil be for these, as hath
bene of late yeares for the wretched, wyly wandering vagabonds
calling and naming them selues Egyptians, deeply dissemling
and long hyding and couering their depe deceitful practises, feeding
the rude common people wholly addicted and given to novel-
ties, toyes, and new inuentions, deyling them with the straunegenes
of the attyre of their heades, and practising paulmistrye to such
as would knowe their fortunes. And to be short, all theues and
hoores (as I may well write) as some haue had true experience, a
number can well witnesse, and a great sort hath well felte it. And
nowe (thankes bee to God) through wholsome lawes and the due
execution thereof, all bee dispersed, banished, and the memory of
them cleane extinguished, that when they bee once named here-
after, our chyldren will muche marneil what kind of people they
were: and so I trust shall shortly happen of these. For what
thing doth chieffely cause these rowsey rake helles thus to con-
tinue and dayly increase? surely a number of wicked persons that
keepe typling houses in all shiers, where they haue succoure and
reliefe, and what so euer they bryng, they are sure to receyue
money for the same, for they sel good peny worthes. The byers
haue the greatest gayne, yea yf they haue neither money nor
ware, they wylbe trusted, their credit is much. I haue taken a
note of a good many of them, and will send their names and
DEDICTION.

dwelling places to such justicers as dwelleth neere or next vnto
them, that they by their good wisedomes may displace the same,
and authorise such as haue honesty. I will not blot my booke
with their names, because they be resident. But as for this fleet-
ing fellowship, I haue truly set forth the most part of them, that
be doers at this present, with their names that they be knowne by.
Also I haue placed in the end therof their lend language, callinge
the same pedlers French or canting. And now shall I ende my
prologue, making true declaration (right honorable Lady) as they
shall fall in order of their vntemely tryfelinge tyme, leude lyfe,
and pernicious practises, trusting that the same shall neyther
trouble or abashe your most tender, tymorous, and pytful nature,
to thinke the small mede should growe vnto you for such almes
so given. For God our mercyfull and most louing father, well
knoweth your harte and good entent, the gyuer neuer wanteth his
warde, accordinge to the sayinge of Sainct Augustin: as there
is (neyther shalbe) any sinne vnpunished, euen so shall there not
be any good dece ymrewarded. But how comfortably speaketh
Christ our Saviour vnto vs in his gospell (give ye and it shalbe
gyuen you agayne) behold further, good Madam, that for a cup of
colde water, Christ hath promised a good warde. Nowe sainct
Austine properly declareth why Christ speaketh of cold water,
because the poorest man that is, shall not excuse him selfe from
that charitabile work, least he would peraduenture saye that he
hath neyther wood, pot, nor pan, to warme any water with. See
further what God speaketh in the mouth of his prophet Esaye.
Break thy bread to him that is a hungred, he sayth not giue him
a whole lofe: for peradventure the poore man hath it not to gyue,
then let him gyue a piece. This much is said because the poore
that hath it should not be excused, now how much more then the
DEDICATION.

riche. Thus you see, good Madame, for your treasure here dis-
persed, where neede and lacke is, it shalbe heaped vp
aboundantly for you in heauen, wher neither rust
or moth shal corrupt or destroy the same. Vnto
which triumphant place after many good
happy, and fortunat yeres prosperously
here dispended, you may for euer
and euer, there most joyfully
remayne. Amen.
THE

EPISTLE TO THE READER.

ALTHOUGH good reader I write in playne termes, and not so playnely as truly, concerninge the matter, meaning honestly to all men, and wish them as much good as to myne owne harte, yet as there hath bene, so there is now, and hereafter wilbe curious heads to fynde faultes: wherefore I thought it necessary nowe at this second impression, to acquaint thee with a great faulte, as some taketh it, but not as I meane it, callinge these vagabondes cursetors, in the intytuling of my booke, as runners or rangers about the countrey, deriued of this Latin word (cvrro) neyther do I write it coorsetores with a oo, or cowresetors wyth a w, which hath an other signification: is there no diversitie betwene a gardein, and a garden, maynteynance, and maintenance: streytes, and stretes: those that haue vnderstanding, knowe there is a great difference: who is so ignorant in these dayes, as knoweth not the meanynge of a vagabone? and if any ydell leuterar should so bee called of any man, woulde not hee thinke it bothe odyvous and reprochfull? will he not shon the name? ye and where as he may and dare with bent browes, will reuenge that name of ignominy: yet this playn name vagabone is deriued as others be of Latin wordes, and now vse makes it common to all men: but let vs loke backe foure hundred yeares sithens, and let vs see whether this playne worde vagabon, was vised or no? I beleue not, and why? because I read of no such name, in the old estatuts of this
realm, unless it be in the margent of the booke, or in the table, which in the collection and printing was set in, but these were then the common names of these lead leuterars, saytores, robardes-men, drawlatches, and valiant beggers. If I should haue vsed such wordes, or the same order of writing, as this realm vsed in King Henry the thyrd, or Edward the firstes time. Oh what a grose, barbarous fellowe haue we here, his writing is both homely and darke, that we had nede to haue an enterpreter, yet then it was very well and in short season, a great change we see, well this delycatage shall haue his time on the othersyde, eloquence haue I none, I neuer was acquaynted with the Muses, I neuer tasted of Helycon. But accordinge to my playne order, I haue set forth this worke, simply and truly, with such usuall wordes and termes, as is amonge vs well knowne and frequented. So that as the prouerbe sayth (althoughe truth bee blamed, it shall neuer bee shamed,) well good reader, I meane not to be tedious unto thee but haue added fyue or sixe more tales, because some of them were donne whyle my booke was fyrste in the presse, and as I truste I haue deserved no rebuke, for my good will, eu'n so I desire no prayse for my payne, coste, and travell. But saythfully for the profyt and benefyte of my country, I haue done it, that the whole bodye of the realm, may see and vnderstand their lead lyfe and pernicious practises, that all maye speedely helpe to amende that is amisse. Amen say all with me.
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CAP. I.

A RUFFLAR.

The Rufflar, because he is first in degree of this odious order: and is so called in a statut made for the punishment of vagabonds: in the xxvii. yeare of King Henry the eight late of most famous memory: He shall be first placed as the worthiest of this vnruylie rablemēt. And he is so called when he goeth first abroad, either he hath served in the warres, or els he hath ben a seruing man and weary of well doing, shaking off all payne, dooth chuse him this ydle lyfe, and wretchedly wanders about the most shyres of this realme. And with stout audacity he demaundeth where he thinketh he may be bolde, and circumspecte ynough, as he seeth cause to aske charity, rufuly and lamentably, that it would make a flynty hart to relent, and pitte his miserable estate, how he hath bene maymed and broused in the warres, and peraduenture some will shew you som outward wounde, which he gotte at some dronken fraye, eyther haltinge of some prey wounde festred with a filthy fyry flankard. For be well assured that the hardiest soulldiers be eyther slayn or maymed, either if they escape all hassardes, and retourne home agayne, if they bee without reliefe of their friends, they wil surely desperatly robbe and steale, or eyther shortly bee hanged or miserably dye in prysone, for they be so much ashamed and disdayne to beg or aske charity, that rather they wil as desperatly fight for to lyue and mainteyne themselves
as manfully, and valiantly they ventred them selues in the princes quarell. Now, these Rufflers the outcastes of seruinge men when begginge or crazing fayles, then they picke and pylvr from other inferiour beggers that they mette by the way, as roges, pallyardes, mortes, and doxes: yea if they mette with a woman alone ridinge to the market, eyther old man or boye, that hee well knoweth will not resiste, such they filche and spoyle. These Rufflers, after a yeare or two at the farthest become vpright men, vnlesse thei be prevented by twinde hempe.

I had of late yeares an old man to my tenant, who customablye a great tyme, went twise in the weeke to London, eyther with fruit or with pescodes, when time serued therefore. And as hee was comming homewarde on blacke heathe, at the ende thereof next to shooters hill, he ouertoke two Rufflers, the one manerly waiting on ye other, as one had ben the maister, and the other the man or servuant carying his maister cloke: This olde man was very gladde that hee might haue their company over the hill, because that day he had made a good market, for he had seuen shillings in his purse, and an olde angell, which this pore man had thought had not bene in his purse, for he willed his wife over night to take out the same angell, and lay it vp vntill his coming home againe. And he verely thought that his wyfe had so done, which in deed forgot to doe it. Thus after salutations had, this maister rufflar entred into communciation with this simple olde man, who ryding softly beside them commoned of many matters. Thus feeding this old man with pleasant talke, vntill they were on the topp of the hyll where these rufflers myghte well behold the coast about them cleare, quickly steppes vnto this pore man, and taketh holde of his horse brydel, and leadeth him in to the wode, and demaundeth of him what and how much money he had in his purse. Now by my troth quoth this old man, you ar a mery gentleman, I knowe you meane not to take awaye any thinge from me, but rather to give me some if I should aske it of you. By and by this servuant thiefe casteth the clowk that he caried on his arme about this poore mans face, that he should not marke or vew them, with sharp words to deliuer quicly that he had and to confessse truly what was in his purse. This poore man then al
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abashed yielded and confessed he had but just seuen shillings in his purse, and the truth is he knew of no more. This old angel was fallen out of a little purse into the bottom of a great purse. Now this seuen shillings in whyt money they quickly found, thinkinge in deed that there had bene no more, yet farther groping and searching, found this old angell. And with great admiration this gentle man theefe began to blesse him, saying: good Lorde what a world is this, howe maye (quoth he) a man beleue or trust in the same, see you not (quod he) this old knaue tolde me that he had but seuen shillings, and here is more by an angell, what an old knaue and a false knaue haue we here (quoth this rufflar) our lord haue mercy on vs, will this world neuer bee better, and therewith went their waye, and lefte the olde man in the wood doing him no more harme. But sorrowfull sighinge this olde man returning home declared his misadventure, with all the words and circumstances aboue shewed, whereat for the tyme was great laughing, and this pore man for his losses among his loving neighbours well considered in the ende.

C A P. II.

A UPRIGHT MAN.

A upright man the second in sect of this vnseemely sort must be next placed, of these rainging rabement of rascales, some be serving men, artificers, and laboring men, traded vpp in husbudy: These not minding to get their living with the sweat of their face, but casting of all payne, wil wander after their wicked maner, through the most shyres of this realme.

As Sommerset shyre, Wyll shyre, Barke shyre, Oxforde shyre, Harforde shyre, Myddilsex, Essex, Suffolke, Northfolke, Sussex, Surrye, and Kent, as the chief and best shyres of reliefe. Yea not without punishment by stockes, whyppinges, and imprisonment, in most of these places aboue sayd: yet notwithstandinge they haue so good lyking in their lewe lecherous loytering, that
full quickely all their punishmentes be forgotten. And repen-
tance is never thought vpon, vntil they clyme three trees with a
ladder. These vnrewly rascales in their roylinge, disperse them
selues into severall companies, as occasion serueth, sometime
more and sometime lesse. As if they repayre to a poore husband-
mans house, hee will go alone or one with him, and stoutely de-
maund his charitie, eyther shewing how he hath served in the
warres and their maymed, eyther that he seeketh servise and sayth
he would be gladde to take payne for hys luyinge, although he
meaneth nothing lesse: If he be offered anye meat or drinke, he
utterly refuseth scornefullye, and will nought but money, and if
he espie yong pygges or poultry, he well noteth the place, and
then the next night or shortly after, he will be sure to haue some
of them, which they bringe to their stawlinge kens, whiche is their
tippling houses, as well known to them according to the olde
proverbe (as the begger knows his dishe.) For you must vnder-
stand every typplyng ale house wil neither receive them or their
wares but some certayne houses, in every shyre, especially for that
purpose, where they shalbe better welcome to them, then honester
men for by such have they most gayne, and shalbe convayd
either into some loft out of the way, or other secret corner not
common to any other, and thither repayre at accustomed tymes
their harlotes which they terme mortes and doxes, not with emty
hands, for they be as skilfull in picking, riffling and filching, as the
vpright men, and nothing inferior to them in all kinde of wickednes,
as in other places hereafter they shalbe touched. At these foresaid
pelting peish places and vnmanerly meetings, O how the pottes
walk about, their talking tongues talke at large: They bowle and
bowse one to another, and for the tyme bowising belly chere. And
after ther ruysting recreatiō if there be not rome ynough in the
house, they haue cleane straw in some barne or backe house nere
adjoining, where they couch comly togethier, as it were dogge and
byche, and he that is hardyst may haue his choyce, vnesse for a
little good maner, some wil take their own that they haue made
promyse vnto vntill they be out of sight, and accordinge to the
olde adage (out of minde.) Yet these vpright men stand so much
vpon their reputatiō, as thei wil in no case haue their wemen walke
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with them, but separate themselves for a time, a moneth or more. And mete at fayres or great markets where they mete to pilfer and steale from staules, shoppes, or boothes. At these fayres the vipright men, use commonly to lye, and lingar in hye wayes by lanes, some prety way or distance frō the place, by which wayes they be assured that company passeth still to and fro, and there they will demand with cap in hand and comly curteysye, the denution and charitie of ye people. They have been much lately whipped at fayrs. If they aske at a stout yemans or farmers house his charity, thei wil goe strong as thre or four in a company: where for feare more then good will, they often haue reliefe, they seldom or never passe by a justices house, but haue by wayes, vnlesse he dwell alone, and but weakely manned, thither will they also goe strong after a slye suttle sorte, as with their armes bounde up with kercher or lyste, havinge wrapt about the same filthy clothes, eyther their legges in such maner be wrapped halting down right, nor vnprovided of good codgelz, which they Cary to sustayne them, and as they fayne to keepe dogges from them, when they come to such good gentlemens houses, if any searche be made or they suspected for pilfering clothes of hedges, or breaking of houses which they commonly do, when the owners bée eyther at the market, church, or other wayes occupied about their business, either robb some sely man or woman by the hye way, as many times they do. The n they hygh them into wodes, great thickets, and other ruffe corners, where they lye lurking three or foure dayes togethier, and haue meate and drinke brought them by theyr mortes and doxes: and whylle they thus lye hidden in couert, in the night they be not idle, neither as the common saying is (wel occupied) for then as the wyly foxe, creping out of his den, seketh his praye for pultery, so do these for linne and any thing else worth money, that lyeth about or nere a house. As sometime a whole buck of clothes caried away at a time. When they haue a greatter booty, then they may carry away quickly to their stawlinge kennes as is aboue said, they wil hyde the same for a thre dayes in some thicke couert, and in the night time carry the same lyke good water spannels to their foresayd houses, to whom they will discover where or in what places they had the same where the
marks shalbe picked out cleane, and conuayd crafely far of to sell if the mā or woman of the house want money themselves: and if these vpright men haue nether money nor wares, at these houses they shalbe trusted for their vitalles, and it amount to twenty or thirty shillinges: yea if it fortune any of these vpright men to be taken, either suspected or charged with fellony or pety brybrye don at such a time or such a place, he will saye he was in his hostes house. And if the mā or wyfe of that house be examined by an officer, they boldly vouche that they lodged him such a time, whereby the truth cannot appeare. And if they chance to be retained into seruice, through their lamentable wordes, with any welly mā they will tary but a small time, either robbing his maister, or some of his fellowes. And some of them seeth this policy, that although they traunuill into all these shyrres abowe said, yit wil thei haue good credite, especially in one shyre, where at duers good farmers houses they be well knowne. wher thei worke a moneth in a place or morc and will for that time behaue thesmelves very honestly and paynfully. And may at any time for their good vsage haue woorke of them, and to these at a dead lift or last refuge, thei may safely repayre vnto, and be welcom, when in other places for a knacke of knaery that they haue plaid thei dare not tary. These vpright mē will sildom or neuer want, for what is gotten by any morte or doxe, if it please him hēe doth commaund the same: and if he mete any begger, whether he be sturdy or impotent, he will demand of him whether euer hēe was stalled to the roge or no. If he say he was, he will know of whom, and his name yt stalled him. And if he be not learnedly able to shew him the whole circumstance thereof, he will spoyle him of his money, either of his best garment if it be worth any money, and haue him to the bowsing ken: which is, to some toppling house next adioynge and layth ther to gage the best thing that he hath for twenty pence or two shillings: this man obeyeth for feare of beating. Then dooth this vpright man call for a gage of bowse, which is a quarte potte of drinke and powres the same upon his peld pate, adding these words I G. P. do stalle thee W. T. to the Roge, and that from henceforth it shalbe lawfull for thee to cant, that is to aske or begge for thi liuing in al
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places. Here you see that the upright man is of gret auctority for all sorts of beggers are obedient to his hests, and surmounteth all tothers in pylfring and stealing. ¶ I lately had standinge in my wele house which standeth on the backeside of my house a great cawdron of copper being then full of water, havinge in the same halfe a dozen of pewter dishes well marked and stamped with the conizance of my armes: which beeing well noted when they were taken out were set a side, the water powered out, and my cawdron taken away, being of such bignes that one man unlesse he wer of great strength was not able far to cary the same. Notwithstandinge the same was one night within this two yeres, conuayed more than half a myle from my house, into a commen or heth, and ther bestowed in a gret firbushe. I then immediatly the next day sent one of my men to London and there gaue warning in Southwark, Kent strete, and Barnewey strete, to all the Tynckars there dwelling, that if any such cawdron came thither to be sold, the bringar thereof should be stayed, and promised twenty shillings for a reward. I gave also intelligence to the watermen that kept the ferres that no such vessell should be eyther conuayed to London, or into Essex, promising the lyke reward, to haue understanding thereof. This my doing was well understand in many places about, and that the feare of espying so troubled the conscience of the stealer, that my cawdron lay untouched in the thick firbushe more then halfe a yere: after which by a great chaunce was found by hunters for coneyes: for one chaunced to runne into the same bushe where my cawdron was, and being perceyved, one thrust hys staffe into the same bushe and hyt my cawdron a great blow, the sound whereof dyd cause the man to thinke and hope that there was some great treasure hidden, wherby he thought to be the better whyle hée lyved. And in further searcing he found my cawdron, so had I the same agayn vnloked for.
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C A P. III.

¶ A HOKER OR ANGLEAR.

These hokers or Anglers be perillous and most wicked knaues, and be deriued or procede forth from the vpright men, they commonly goe in freese yerkyenes and gally sloppes, pointeth beneth the knée: these when they practise their pilfryng, it is al by night, for as they walk a day times from house to house to demaund charitie, thei vigilantely mark where, or in what place they may attayne to there pray, casting their eyes vp to euery window, wel noting what they see ther, whether apparell or linnen, hang ing neere vnto the sayde wynдовs, and that wil they be sure to haue the next night folowing, for they customably Cary with them a staffe of v. or vi. foote long, in which, within one inch of the top thereof is a little hole bored through: in which hole they putte an yron hoke, and with the same they will pluck vnto them quikly any thing that thei may reach therwith, which hoke in the day time they couerly Cary about thē, and is neruer sene. or taken out till they come to the place where they worke their feat, such haue I sene at my house and haue oft talked with them and haue handled their stanes not then understanding to what se or intent thei servēd, although I had and perceyued by their talke and behauour great likeilhode of euill suspition in them, they wil either leane vpon their staffe to hide the hole therof, when they talk with you, or hold their hande vpon the hole, and what stuffe either wollen or linnen, they thus hoke out, thei neruer Cary the same forthwith to their stauling kens, but hides the same a iii. daies in some secret corner, and after conueis the same to their houses abouesaid where their host or hostys giueth them money for the same but half the value that it is worth, or els their doxes shal a far of sell the same at the like houses. I was credibly informed that a hoker came to a farmers house in the dead of the night, and puttinge backe a drawe windowe of a low chamber, the bed standing hard by the said window, in whiche lay thriē per-
sons, a man and two bigge boyes: this hoker wyth hys staffe plucked of their garments which lay vpon them to keep them warme, with the couerlet and shete, and left them lying a slepe naked sauing their shyrtes, and had away all cleane and neuer could understand where it became. I verely suppose that when they were wel waked with cold, they surely thought that Robin good fellow, (according to the old saying) had bene with them that night.

CAP. IV.

A ROGE.

A ROGE is neither so stout or hardy as the vpright man: Many of them will go fayntly and loke piteously when they see eyther meete any person, hauing a kercher as white as my shoes tyed about their head, with a short staffe in their hand, halting althoughe they neede not, requiring almes of such as thei mete or to what house thei shal come. But you may easely perceue by their coloure that they carry both helth and hipocrisy about them, whereby they get gain, when others want that cannot fayne and dissemble. Others there be that walke sturdely about the coutry, and faineth to seke a brother or kinsman of his, dwelling within som part of the shier ether that he hath a letter to deliuer to som honest householder dwelling out of an other shyre, and wil shewe you the same fayre sealed, with the superscription to the party he speaketh of, because you shall not thinke him to runne idelly about the countrey, either haue they this shifte, they will carry a certificat or pasport about them from some justicer of the peace, with his hand and seale vnto the same, how he hath bene whipped and punished for a vagabonde according to the lawes of this realme and that he must returne to T. where he was borne or last dwelt, by a certayn day limited in the same, which shalbe a good long day. And all this fayned, because without feare they woulde wickedly wander, and wil renewe the same where or when it
pleaseth them; for they have of their affinitie that can write and reade. These also will picke and steale as the pright men, and hath their women and metings at places appoynted, and nothing to them inferiour in all kind of knauery. There be of these Roges Curtales, wearing short cokes, that will change their apparell as occasion serueth, and their end is eyther hanging, which they call Trining in their language, or dye miserably of the pockes.

¶ There was not long sithens two Roges that always did associate themselves togeather and would neuer separat themselves vnless it were for some especial causes, for thei were sworn brothers, and were both of one age and much like of favor: these two travelling into east Kent, resorted vnto an ale house, being weried with traueling, saluting with short curtesie (when they came into the house) such as thei saw sitting there: in which company was the parson of the parish, and calling for a pot of the best ale, sat down at the tables end: the liquor liked them so well that they had pot vpone pot, and sometime for a little good maner would drink and offer the cup to such as thei best fancied, and to be short they sat out al the company, for eoch man departed home about their busines: when they had well refreshed themselves, then these rowse roges requested the good man of the house with his wife to sit down and drink with them: of whom thei inquired what priest the same was and wher he dwelt, then thei faining that they had an uncle a priest, and that he should dwell in these partes, which by al presumptions it should be he, and that they came of purpose to speak with him, but because thei had not seen him sithens they were six yeares old, they durst not be bold to take acquaintance of him vntil thei were farther instructed of the truth, and began to inquire of his name, and how long he had dwelt there, and how far his house was of from the place they were in, the good wyfe of the house, thinking them honest men without disceit, because they so far enquired of their kinsman, was but of a good zelous natural intent, shewed them cheerefully that he was an honest man and wel beloned in the parish and of good welth, and had ben there resident xv. yeares at the least, but saith she, are you both brothers? yea surely said they, wee haue bene both in one belly and were twinnes: mercy God quoth this folishe woman, it
may well be, for ye be not much unlike, and went vnto her hall window calling these yong men vnto her, and looking out pointed with her finger and shewed them the house standing alone, no house neere the same by almost a quarter of a myle, that sayd she is your vncles house: nay saith one of them he is not onely my uncle, but also my godfather, it may well be quoth shee, nature will bind him to bee the better vnto you: well quod they, we be weary and mean not to trouble our vncl to night, but to morrow God willinge, wée will sée him and do our duty. But I pray you doth our vncl occupy husbandry, what company hath he in his house? alas saith shee, but one old woman and a boy, he hath no occupying at all: tush quoth this good wife you be mad men, go to him this night for he hath better lodging for you than I have and yit I speak foolishly against myne own profit, for by your tarying here I should gayn the more by you. Now by my troth quoth one of them, we thank you good hostes for your holsom counsell, and we meane to do as you will vs, we will pause a whyle and by that time it wilbe almost nyght, and I pray you geve vs a reckoning (so manerly paying for that they tooke) bad their hoste and hostes farewell with taking leave of the cup, marched merely out of the dores towards this parsons house, viewed the same well roud about and passed by two bowshots of into a yong wood where they laye consulting what they should do untill midnight: quoth one of them (of sharper wyt and subtiller then the other) to his fellow, thou seest that this house is stone walled about, and that we cannot wel break in, in any part thereof: thou seest also that the windowes be thicke of millions, that there is no kreping in betwene, wherfore we must of necessity vs some policy when strength will not serue. I have a horse locke here about me, saith he, and this I hope shall serue oure turne: so when it was about xii of the clock they came to the house and lurking nere vnto his chamber windowe: the dog of the house barked a good, that with the noise, this priest waketh out of his sleepe, and began to cough and hem: then one of these robes steps forth neerer the window and maketh a ruffall and pitifull noyse, requiring for Christ sake some relief that was both hungry and thirsty and was like to lyne without the dores all night and
starue for cold, vnles he were reléued by him with some small piece of money. Where dwellest thou, quoth this parson? alas syr sayth this roge, I haue small dwelling, and haue come out of my way: and I should now saith he, go to any towne now at this tyme of night, they would set me in the stockes and punish me: well quoth this pitifull parson, away from my house, eyther lye in some of my outhouses until the morning, and hold here is a couple of pence for thee. A God reward you, quoth this roge, and in heaven may you find it. The parson opèned his window and thrusteth out his arme to give his almes to this roge that came whining to receive it, and quickly taketh hold of his hand and calleth his fellow to him, which was redy at hand with the horse lock and clappeth the same about the wrest of his arme that the mullions standing so close togither for strength, that for his lyfe he could not pluck in his arme again, and made him beleue, vnless he would at the least give him iii. pound, they would snite of his arme from the body, so that this poore parson in feare to lose his hand, calleth vp his old woman that lay in the loft ouer him, and willed her to take out all the money he had, which was iii. markes, which he said was all the money in his house, for he had lent vi. pound to one of his neighbors not iii. days before. Well quoth they, maister parson if you haue no more, vpon this condiccion we will take of the locke that you will drink xii. pence for our sakes to morow at the ale house where we found you and thik the good wyfe for the good chere she made vs: he promised faithfully that he would so do: so they toke of the lock and went their way so far ere it was day, that the parson could neuer haue any vnderstanding more of them: now this parson sorrowfully slumbering that night betwene feare and hope, though it was but folly to make two sorows of one, he vsed cötentation for his remedy, not forgettyng in the morning to performe his promise but wët betimes to his neighbour that kept tipling, and asked angrily where the same two men were that drank with her yester daye: which two men quoth this good wyfe? the straungers that came in, when I was at your house with my neighbors yesterday: what your newes quoth she. My newes quoth this parson, I trow thou art mad. Nay by God quoth this wife, as sober as
you, for they told me faithfully that you were their uncle, but in faith are you not so in deed, for by my troth they are strangers to me, I never saw them before. O out upon them quoth the parson, the be false theues, and this night they cōped me to give them all the money in my house. Benedicite quoth this good wife, and have they so in deed? as I shall answere before God, one of them told me besides that you were godfather to him and that he trusted to have your blessinge before he departed, what did he, quoth this parson, a halter blesse him for me, me thinketh by the masse by your countenance you loked so wildly when you came in quoth this good wyfe, that somthing was amis: I use not to jest quoth this parson, when I speak so earnestly, why all your sorowes goe with it quoth this good wife, and sit downe here and I will fil a freshe pot of ale to make you mery again, yee saith this parson fill in and give me some meat, for they made me swear and promise them faithfully that I should drinke xii. pence with you this day? what did they quoth she, nowe by the mary masse they bee mery knaues, I warrant you they meane to bye no lande with your money: but how could they come vnto you in the night, your dores being shut fast? your house is very strong, then this parson shewed her all the whole circumstance how he gave the his almes, out at the window, they made such lamentable crye, that it pitied him at the hart, for he sawe but one when he put out his hand at the window, be ruled by me quoth this good wyfe, wherein quoth this parson, by my troth neuer speake more of it, when they shal understand of it in the parish they will but laugh you to skorne, why then quoth this parson, the devill goe with it, and their an ende.

C A P. V.

A WYLDE ROGE.

A wilde Roge is he that is borne a Roge, he is more subtil and more gyuen by nature to all kind of knauery then the other, as beastly begotten in barn or bushes, and from his infancy traded
vp in trechery: yea and before rypenes of yeares doth permit, wallowing in lewd lechery, but that is counted amongst them no sin. For this is their custome, that when they méete in barne at night, evry one geteth a mate to lye withall, and there chaunce to be twentye in a company, as their is sometimes more, and sometimes lesse: for to one man that goeth abroad, ther ar at the least two women, which neuer make it strange when they bee called, although shee neuer knew him before. Then when the day doth appeare, héé rouses him up and shakes his eares, and away wandering where he maye gette ought to the hurt of others. Yet before he skypoth out of his couche and departeth from his darling (if he like her well) he will appoynte her where to méete shortly after, with a warning to worke warely for some chetes, that their méeting might be the merier.

Not long sithens, a wild rogue chaunced to mete a pore neigh- bor of mine who for honesty and good nature surmounteth many. This pore man riding homeward from London, where he had made his markett: this rogue demaundèd a penny for Gods sake to keepe him a true man. This simple man beholding him wel, and saw he was of tale personage with a good quarter staffè in his hand, it much pitied him as he sayd to see him want, for he was well able to serve his prince in the warres. Thus being moved with pitie, lokèd in his purse too find out a penny, and in lokèng for the same, he plucked out viii. shillings in whyte money, and raked therein to find a single penny, and at the last finding one, doth offer the same to this wild rogue, but he seing so much mon- ey in this simple mans hand, beeing striken to the hart with a couetous desire, bid him forthwith to deliuer all that hee had, or else he would with his staffe beat out his braynes: for it was not a penny would now quench his thirst seing so much as he dyd: thus swallowing his spittell greedely down, spoyled this poore man of all the money that hee had, and lept ouer the hedge into a thicke wood, and went his way as merely as this good simple man came home sorowfullly. I once rebukièd a wilde Roge, because he wente idelly aboute: he shewed me that he was a begger by inheritance, his grandfather was a begger, his father was one, and he must nedes be one by good reason.
A CAVEAT FOR CURSETORS.

C A P. VI.

A PRIGGER OF PRAUNCERS.

A PRIGGER of Prauncers be horse stealers, for to prigge signifieth in their language to steale, and a Prauncer is a horse, so being put together, the matter was playn. These go commonly in jerkins of leather or whyte freese, and cary little wands in their hands, and will walke through grounds and pastures, to search and see horses mete for their purpose, and if they chaunce to be met and asked by the owners of the ground what they make there, they fayne strayghte that they have lost their way, and desire to be instructed the best waye to such a place. These will also repayre to gentlemen’s houses and aske their charitie, and will offer their service. And if you aske the what they can doe, they will say that they can keepe two or three geldings and wayte vpon a gentleman. These haue also their women that walking from them in other places, marke where and what they se abroade, and sheweth these priggars thereof, whē they meet, which is within a weeweke or two, and looke where they steale any thinge, they conuey the same at the least three score myles of or more.

¶ There was a gentleman, a very friend of myne, ryding from London homeward into Kent, hauinge wyth in three myles of his house businesse, alghted of his horse, and his man also, in a pretye village, where divers houses were, and looked about him where he might have a convenient person to walke his horse, because he would speake with a farmer that dwelt on the backe side of the sayde villag little abowe a quarter of a mile from the place where he lighted and had his man to waight vpon him, as it was mete for his callinge, espying a Priggar there standing, thinking the same to dwel there, charging this pretie prigg person to walke his horse well, and that they might not stand still for taking of colde, and at his returne (which he said should not be longe) he would give him a peny to drinke, and so went about his busines. This pelting Priggar, proud of his praye, walketh his horse up
and downe, tyll he sawe the gentleman out of sight, and leapes him into the saddell, and away he goeth a mayne. This gentleman returnyngge, and fyndinge not his horses, sent his man to the one end of the village, and he went himselfe vnto the other end, and enquired as he went for his horses that were walked, and began somewhat to suspecte, because neither he nor his man could see nor find him. Then this gentleman diligently enquired of thre or foure town dwellers there, whether any such person, declaring his stature, age, apparell, with so many linaments of his body as he could call to remembrance. And vna voce all sayde that no such man dwelt in their strete, neither in the parish that thei knew of, but some did well remember that such a one they saw ther lyrking and hugging twoo hours before the gentleman came thither and a straunger to them. I had thought quoth this gentleman, he had here dwelled, and marched home manerly in his botes far from the place he dwelt not. I suppose at his comming home he sent such wayes as he suspected or thought méete to searche for thys Prigger, but hetherto he never hard any tydings againe of his palfreys. I had the best gelding stolen out of my pasture that I had amongst others, whyle this booke was first a printing.

CAP. VII.

¶ A PALLYARD.

These Palliards be called also Clapperdogens, these go wit patched clokes, and haue their morts with them which they cal wiuues: and if he go to one house to aske his almes, his wyfe shall go to another, for what they get, as bread, chéese, malte, and woll, they sel the same for redy money, for so they get more, and if they went togethier, although they be thus deviued in the daye, yet they meete iompe at night: if they chance to come to some gentilmans house standinge alone, and be demaunded whether they be man and wyfe, and if he perceyue that any doubteth
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thereof, he sheweth them a testimonial with the ministers name and others of the same parish, naming a parish in some shyre far distant from the place where he sheweth the same. This writing he carieth to salue that sore: there be many Irish men that go about with counterfeit licences, and if they perceyue you will straitly examin them, they will immediately say they can speake no English.

¶ Further vnderstand for truth, that the worst and wickedst of all this beastly generation ar scarce comparable to these prating Pallyards. All for ye most part of these will either lay to their legs an herb called sperewort, either arsnicke, which is called ratesbane. The nature of this sperewort will rayse a great blyster in a night upō the soundest part of his body, and if ye same be taken away, it wil dry vp again and no harme. But this arsnick will so poysone the same legge or sore, that it wil euer after be incurable, this do thei for gayn and to be pityed. The most of these that walke about be walchmen.

C A P. VIII.

A FRATER.

Some of these Fraters wil carie black boxes at their girdel, wherein they haue a briefe of the Quenes maesties letters patents given to such poore spittle house for the relief of ye poore there, whiche brief is a coppie of the letters patents, and utterly fained, if it be in paper or in parchement without the great seal: also if ye same brief be in print, it is also of authoritie. For ye printers wil see and well vnderstād before it com in presse, that the same is lawful. Also I am credibly informed that the chief proctors of many of these houses, that seldom trauel abrod theselves, but haue their factors to gather for thē, which looke very slenderly to the impotent and miserable creatures committed to their charge, and die for wat of cherishēg whereas they and their wıues are wel crāmed and cloted and wil haue of the best: And the founders of
every such house, or the chief of the parish wher they be, would better see vnto these procurors, that they might do their duty, thei should be wel spokē of here, and in the world to come aboūdantly therefore rewarded. I had of late an honest man and of good wealth, repayred to my house to common with me about certayne affaires. I inuited the same to dinner, and dinner being done, I demaunded of him some newes of these parties where hee dwelt. Thankes be to God syr (saith he) all is well and good now. Now (quoth I) this same now declareth yt some things of late hath not bene wel. Yes syr (quoth he) the matter is not great. I had thought I should haue bene well beaten within this seuenthe night: how so (quoth I) mary syr said hee, I am constable for fault of a better, and was commaunded by the justicer to watch. The watch being set, I toke an honest man one of my neighbours with me and went vp to the end of the town as farre as the spittle house: at which house I heard a great noyse, and drawing neere stode close vnder the wall, and this was at one of the clocke after midnight, where he harde swearinge, pratinge, and wagers laying, and the pot apace walking, and xl. pence gaged upon a matter of wrastling, pitching of the barre, and casting of the sledge: and out they go in a fustian fume into the back syde, where was a great axiltry, and there fell to pitching of the bar, being three to three: the moone did shyne bright, the constable with his neigbour might see and beholde al that was done. And howe the wyfe of the house was rosting of a pyg, whyle her gestes were in their match. At the last they could not agrade vpon a caste and fell at worde, and from worde to blowes. The constable with his fellowe runnes vntoo them to parte them, and in the parting lyckes a drye blowe or two. Then the noyse increased, the constable would haue had them too the stockes. The wyfe of the house runnes out with hir good man to intreat the constable for her gestes, and leaues the pyg at the fyre alone. In commeth two or three of the next neigbours being waked with the noyse, and into the house they come and fynde none therein but the pygge well rosted, and carieth the same away with them, spit and all, with such breade and drinke also as stode vpon the table. When the goodman and the good wyfe of the house had intreated
and pacified the constable, shewinge vnto him that they were proctors and factors, all of spytte houses, and that they taryed there but to breake their faste, and woulde ryde awaye immediately after, for they have farre to goe, and therefore mente to ryde so earely. And comminge into their house agayn, fyndinge the pygge with bread and drinke al gone, made a great exclamacion, for they knew not who had the same.

The constable returning and hearing the lamentable words of the good wyfe how she had lost both meate and drinke, and sawe it was so in deed, he laughed in his sleue, and commaund her to dresse no more at vnlawful houres for any gestes: for he thought it better bestowed vpon those smel feastes his pore neighbours, then vpon suche sturdye lubbares. The next morninge betymes, the spitte and pottes were set at the spittle house doore for the owner. Thus were these factours begyled of their breakfast, and one of them had wel beaten an other: and by my troth (quoth this constable) I was glad when I was well ryd of them. Why quoth I, could they cast the barre and sledge well? I will tell you syr (quoth hée) you know there hath bene many games this sommer, I thinck verely, that if some of these lubbars had bene there, and practysed amongst others, I beleue they would have caryed awaye the best games: for they were so stronge and sturdy that I was not able to stand in their handes. Well (quoth I) at these games you speak of, both legges and armes be tred: yea (quoth this officer) they be wicked men. I haue seene some of them sithens with cloutes bounte aboute their legges, and halting with their staffe in their handes. Wherefore some of them (by God) be all naught.

CAP. IX.

M A A B R A H A M M A N.

These Abraham men be those that fayn themselves to haue bene mad, and haue bene kept either in Bethellem, or in some other pryson a good time, and not one amongst twenty that euer came
A CAVEAT FOR CURSETORS.

in prison for any such cause: yet will they say how pityonsly and moste extremely they haue bene beaten and dealt with all. Some of these be mery and very pleasures, they will daunce and sing, some others be as colde and reasonable to talke withall. These begge money, eyther when they come at farmours houses, they will demaund baken, eyther chese, or wool, or any thinke that is worth money, and if they espye small company within, they will with force countenaunce demaunde somewhat. Where for feare the maydes will giue them largely to be ryd of them.

¶ If they may conveniently come by any cheate, they will picke and steale, as the vpright man or roge, poultyre or lynnen. And all wemen that wander, be at their commandement. Of all that euere I sawe of this kinde, on one naming him selve Stradelinge, is the craftiest and moste dissemblingest knaue. Hée is able wyth hys tounge and vsage, to deceye and abuse the wysete man that is. And surely for the proporcion of his body, with euery mem-her thareunto apperayning, it cannot be amended. But as the proverbe is (God hath done his part.) This Stradling sayth he was the Lorde Sturtoms man, and when he was executed for very pensiuenes of minde he fell out of his witte, and so continued a yeare after and more, and that with the very gréefe and feare, he was taken with a marvelous palsey, that both head and handes will shake when he talketh with any and that apace or faste, whereby he is much pytied, and getteeth greatly. And if I hadde not demaunded of others both men and women, that commonly walketh as he doth, and knowne by them his dépe dissimulation, I neuer had understande the same. And thus I end with these kinde of vagabonades.

CAP. X.

¶ A FRESHE WATER MARINER OR WHIPIACKE.

These fresh water Mariners, their shippes were drowned in the playne of Salisbury. These kinde of caterpillers, counterfeith great losses on the sea, these be some western men, and moste bee Irish
men. These will runne about the countrey with a counterfet licence, fayninge eyther shipwracke, or spoyled by pyrates, neare the coaste of Cornwall or Devonshire and set a lande at some hauen towne there, hauing a large and formall writinge, as is aboue sayd, with the names and sealles of such men of woорshippe at the least foure or fiue as dwelleth neare or next to the place where they fayne their landing. And neare to those shyres will they not begge vntill they come into Wylshyre, Hamshyre, Barke-shyre, Ocefordshyre, Harfordshyre, Middelsex, and to London, and downe by the ryuer to seeke for their shippe and goods that they never hadde, then passe they through Surrey, Sussex, by the sea coastes, and so into Kent, demaunding almes to bringe them home to their countrey.

Sometime they counterfet the seale of the Admiralty, I have divers times taken awaye from them their licences of both sortes, with such money as they have gathered, and haue confiscated the same to the pouertie nhie adjoineinge to me. And they will not be longe without an other, for at any good towne they will reneue the same. Once with muche threatninge and fayre promises, I required to knowe of one companye who made their licence. And they sware that they bought the same at Portsmouth of a mariner there, and it cost them two shillings, with such warrants to bee so good and effectual, that if any of the best men of lawe or learned aboute London shoulde peruse the same, they were able to fynde no faute herewith, but would assuredly allow the same.
These two pictures lively set out,
One body and soul, God send him more grace:
This monstrous dissembler, a Cranke all about.
Uncomly coueting of eche to imbrace,
   Money or wares, as he made his race.
And somtyme a mariner, and a scruing man:
Or els an artificer, as he would fayne than.
Such shiftes he vset, being well tryed,
Abandoning labour till he was espayed:
Conding punishment for his dissimulation,
He surely receyved with much exclamation.
A CAVEAT FOR CURSETORS.

C A P. XI.

A COUNTERFET CRANKE.

These that do counterfeit the Cranke be yong knaues and yonge harlots, that deeply dissemble the falling sicknes. For the Crank in their language is the fallinge evil. I have seene some of these with faire writinges testimonials, with the names and seales of some men of worship in Shropshyre, and in other shires farre off, that I haue wel known and haue taken the same from them. Many of these do go without writings, and will go halfe naked, and looke most pitiously. And if any clothes be giuen them, they immediately sell the same, for weare it they will not, because they would be the more pitied, and weare filthy clothes on their heads, and never goe without a pence of whyte sope about them, which if they see cause or present gayn, they will priuely conuay the same into their mouth, and so worke the same there, that they will foam as it were a boore, and maruelously for a tyme torment them selues, and thus deceive they the common people, and gayne much. These haue commonly their harlots as the other.

¶ Upon Alhallonday in the morning last Anno Domini 1566, or my boke was halfe printed, I meane the first impression, there came early in the morning a counterfeit Cranke, vnder my lodgings at the whyte Fryers within the cloyster, in a little yard or court wher abouts lay two or thre great ladyes, being without the liberties of London, whereby he hoped for the greater gayne: this Cranke there lamentably lamenting, and pitifully crying to be relieved, declared to divers there his paynful and miserable disease. I being rysen and not halfe ready, hard his dolful words and ruful mournings, hearig him name the fallen sicknes, thought assuredly to my selfe, that hee was a depe desembler: so comming out at a sodayne, and beholding his ougly and yrsome attyre, his lothsom and horrible countenance, it made me in a maruelous perplexity what to think of him, whether it were fained or trueth, for after this maner went he: he was naked from ye wast vpward, saying
he had an old jerkin of leather, patched, and that was lose about him, that all his body lay out bare, a filthy foul cloth he ware on his head, being cut for the purpose, having a narrow place to put out his face, with a bauer made to truss vp his beard, and a string that tyed the same down close about his necke, with an old felt hat which he still caried in his hand, to receyue the charitye and devotion of the people, for that would he hold out from him, hauing his face from the eyes downward, all smeard with fresh bloud, as though he had new fallen, and bin tormented with his paynefull panges, his ierkin being all berayed with durte and myre, and lys hatte and hosen also, as though he had walled in the myer: surely the sight was monstrous and terrible. I called him vnto me and demaunded of him what he ayled. A good maister, quoth he, I haue the greevous and paynefull disease called the falling sickness: why, quoth I, how commeth thy ierkin, hose and hat so berayd with durt and myer, and thy skin also? A good maister I fell down on the backesyde here in a fowle lane harde by the water syde, and there I laye almost all night, and haue bled all moste all the bloude out in my body. It raynd that morninge very faste: and whyle I was thus talking with him, a honest poore woman that dwelt thereby, brought him a fayre lynnenn cloth, and bid hym wype his face therewith, and there being a tobbet standing full of rayn water, offered to give him some in a dishe, that he might make himselfe cleane, he refuseth the same: why dost thou so quoth I? A syr saith he, if I shoule washe my selfe, I should fall to bleding a fresh agayne, and then I shoule not stop my selfe: these words made me the more to suspecte hym. Then I asked of him where he was born, what his name was, how long he had this disease, and what time he had been here about London, and in what place? syr (sayth he) I was borne at Lecesstar, my name is Nicholas Genings, and I haue had this falling sicknes vij yeares, and I can get no remedy for the same, for I haue it by kinde, my father had it, and my friends before mee, and I haue bene these two yeares here about London, and a yere and a half in Bethleem: why wast thou out of thy wittes, quoth I? yea syr that I was. What is the keepers name of the house? his name is (quoth he) John Smith: then quoth I, hée muste un-
nderstande of thy disease, if thou hadest the same for the time thou wast there, he knoweth it wel, ye not only he, but all the house besyde, quoth this Cranke, for I came thens but within this fortnight. I had stand so longe reasoning the matter with him, that I was a cold and went into my chamber and made me ready, and commaundd my seruant to repayr to Bethlem and bring me true word from the keeper there, whether anye suche man hath ben with him as a prisoner, haning the disease aforesayd, and gaue him a note of his name and the keepers also: my seruant returning to my lodging, dyd assure me that neyther was there euer any such man there, neither yet any keper of any suche name, but hee that was the keeper sent mee his name in writing, aferminge that he letteth no man depart from him, vnlesse he be fet awaye by his friendes, and that none that came from him begged aboute the citie: then I sent for the printer of this booke, and shewed him of this dissembling Crank, and how I had sent to Bethlem to understand the truth, and what aunsweare I receiued againe, requiringe him that I might haue some seruant of his to watch him faythfully that daye, that I might understand trustely to what place he would repayre at night vnto, and thyther I promysed to goe my selfe, to see their order, and that I would haue him to associate me thyther: hee gladly graunted to my request, and sent two boyes that bothe diligently and vigilantly, accomplisht the charge gien them, and found the same Cranke about the Temple, where about the most parte of the day he begged, vnlesse it were about xij. of the clocke, hee wente on the backsyde of Clementes Ine without Temple barre, there is a lane that goeth into the Fieldes, there hee renewed his face agayne with freshe bloud, which he caried about him in a bladder, and dowbed on fresh dyrte uppon his ierkens, hat and hosen.

And so came backe agayne vnto the Temple, and sometyme to the water syde, and begged of all that passed by: the boyes beheld how some gaue grotes, some sice pence, some gaue more: for hee looked so ougley and yrksomly, that euery one pitied his miserable case that beheld him: to be shorte, there he passed all the daye till night approchd and when it began to be som what dark, he went to the water syde and toke a skolloer, and was set
ouer the water into Sainete Georges fieldes, contrary to my ex-
pection: for I had thought he would haue gone into Holborne,
or to saynt Gylles in the field: but these boyes with (Argues and
Lynces eyes) sette sure watch uppon him, and the one toke a boate
and followed him, and the other went back to tell his maister.

The boy that so folowed him by water, had no money to pay
for his boate hyre, but layd his penner and his ynkhorne to gage
for a penny, and by that tyme the boye was set ouer: his maister
wyth all celeritie had taken a boate and followed him a pace.
Now had they a syght still of the Cranke, whiche crossed ouer
the fieldes towards Newington, and thither he went, and by that
time they came thether, it was very darke. The printer had there
no acquaintance, neyther any kinde of weapon about him, neyther
knewe howe farre the Cranke would goe, because hee then sus-
ppected that they dogged him of purpose, hee there stayed him,
and called for ye constable, which came foorth diligently, to in-
quire what the matter was. This zelous printer charged this
officer with him as a malefactor, and a dissembling vagabond: the
constable woulde haue layd him all night in the cage that stode in
the streat: nay sayth this pytiful printer, I pray you haue him
into your house, for this is lyke to be a cold night and he is naked,
you kepe a vittelling house, let him be well cherished this night,
for he is well able to paye for the same, I knowe well his gaynes
hath ben great to day, and your house is a sufficient pryson for the
tyme, and we will there searche him: the constable agreed there-
unto, they hadde him in and caused him to washe himself: that
done, they demaunded what money hée had about him, sayth this
Cranke, so God help me I have but xij. pence, and plucked out
the same of a little purse. Why haue you no more quoth they?
no saith this Cranke, as God shall saue my soule at the day of
judgment. We must sée more quoth they and began to strip
him, then he plucked out another purse wherein was xl. pence.
Tush sayth this printer I must sée more, this Cranke sayth, I pray
God I be damned both body and soule, if I haue any more: No
saith this printer, thou false knaue here is my boye that did watch
thése al this day, and sawe when suche men gaue thée péeces of
sixe pence, grotes, and other money, and yit thou hast shewed vs
none but smal money. When this Cranke heard this, and the boy vowing it to his face, he relented and plucked out another purse wherein was eight shillings and od money, so had they in the whole that he had begged yt day xiiij shillings iii pence half peny: then they stript him starke naked, and as many as saw him, sayd they neuer saw hansummer mā, with a yellow flexen beard, and fayre skinned without any spot or greffe, then the good wyfe of the house fet her good mans old cloke, and caused the same to be cast about him, because the sight should not abashe her shamefast maydens, neither loth hir squamish sight. Thus he set him downe at the chemnes end, and called for a pot of bēere and dranke of a quart at a drafte, and called for another, and so the third, that one had ben sufficient for any reasonable man: the drynk was so stronge, that I my selfe the next morning tasted therof, but let the reader judge what, and how much he would haue dronke if he had bene out of fear. Then when they had thus wrong water out of a flint, in spoylēg hime of his euill gottē goods, his passing pence and fleting trashe. The printer with this officer were in ioly ioylitie, and desnised to search a barne for som rogues, and vpright men, a quarter of a myle from the house, that stode alone in the fieldes, and wente out about their busines, leaning this Cranke alone with hys wyfe and maydens: this crafty Crāk espaying all gon, requested ye good wife that he might go out on the backsyde to make water and to exonerat his paunch, she bad him draw the latch of the doore and go out, neither thinking or mistrusting he would haue gone away naked: but to cōclude when he was out, he cast away the cloke, and as naked as euer he was born he ran away ouer the fieldes to his own house, as hēe afterward said. Now ye next morning betimes I wente unto Newingtō to vnderstand what was don because I had worde or it was day that there my printer was, and at my comming thither I harde ye whole circūstance, as I aboue haue written: and I seeing the matter so fal out, toke order with the chief of ye parish that this xiiij. shillings and iij. pence halfpenny might be the next day equally distributed by their good discretions to the pouertie of the same parish, wherof this crafty Crank had part him selē, for he had both house and wyfe in the same parisle, as after you shall
heare. But this lewd lewterar could not laye his bones to labour
hauing got once the tast of this lewd layse lyfe, for al this fayr ad-
monition but devised other suetel sleights to maintaine his ydell
liuing, and so craftely clothed him selue in mariners apparel, and
associated him self with an other of his companions, they hauing
both mariners apparel, went abroad to aske charity of ye people,
fayning they hadde loste their shippe with all their goods by ca-
sualty on the seas, wherewith they gayned much. This crafty
Cranke fearinge to be mistrusted, fell to another kinde of begging
as bad or worse, and appareled himselfe very well with a fayre
black freese cote, a newe payre of whyte hose, a fyn condem hat on
his head, a shert of flaunders worke, esteemed to be worth xvi.
shillings: and vpon newe yeares day came agayne into the whyt
Fryers to beg: the printer hauing occasion to go that ways, not
thinking of this Cranke, by chaunce met with him who asked his
charitie for Gods sake: the printer vewing him well did mistrust
him, to be the counterfet Cranke which deceued him vpon Al-
holles daye at night, demaunded of whence he was and what was
his name, forsoth saith he, my name is Nicolas Genings, and I
came from Leicester to seeke worke, and I am a hat maker by my
occupation, and all my money is spent, and if I coulde get money
to paye for my lodging this night, I would seeke work to morowe
amongst the hatters. The printer perceiving his depe dissimu-
lation putting his hand into his purse seeming to gie him some
money, and with fayre allusions brought him into the stridede,
where he charged the constable with him, affirminge him to be
the counterfet Cranke that ranne away vpon Alholles day last.
The constable being very loth to medle with him, but the printer
knowing him and his depe disceit, desyred he mought he brought
before the debute of the ward, which straight was accomplishe,
whiche he came before the debute, he demaunded of him of
whence he was and what was his name, he answered as before he
did vnto ye printer: the debute asked the printer what he woulde
laye vnto hys charge, he answered and aleged him to be a vaga-
bond and depe deceuyer of the people, and the counterfet Crank
that ran away vpon Alhallon day last from the constable of New-
ington and him, and requested him earnestly to send him to ward:
the deputie thinking him to be deceived, but nevertheless laid his comandement upon him, so that the printer should bear his charges if he could not justify it he agreed thereunto. And so he and the constable went to carry him to the Counter, and as they were going under Ludgate, this crafty Crank took his heels and ran down the hill as fast as he could drive, the constable and the printer after him as fast as they could, but the printer of ye twain being lighter of fote, overtook him at fleet bridge, and with strong hand carried him to the counter, and safely delivered him. In ye morow ye printer sent his boy that stripped him upon Alhalon day at night to view him because he would be sure, which boy knew him very well: this Crank confessed unto the deputie, yt he had hosted the night before in Kent street in Southwarke at the sign of the Cock, which thing to be true, the printer sent to know and found him a lyer, but further, inquiring at length found out his habitation, dwelling in maister Hilles rentes, hauinge a pretie house well stuffed with a fayre foyne table, and a fayre cubbard garnished with peuter, hauing an old auncient woman to his wyfe. The printer being sure therof, repaired vnto the Counter, and rebuked him for his beastly behaviour, and told him of his false fayning, willed him to confesse it and aske forgivenes: he perceyued him to know his depe dissimulation, relented and confessed all his disceit, and so remaying in the counter three dayes, was removed to Brydwell where he was stript starke naked, and his oughly attyre put vpó him before the maisters thereof, who wondered greatly at his dissimulation: for which offence he stode upon the pillery in Cheapsyde, both in his oughly and handsome attyre. And after that went in the myll whyle his oughly picture was a drawing, and then was whyped at a cartes tayle through London, and his displayd banner caried before him, vnto his own dore, and so backe to Brydwell again, and there remayned for a tyme, and at length let at libertie on that condicio he would prove an honest man and labour truly to get his living. And his picture remayneth in Bridewell for a monymet.
These Dommerars are leude and moste subtill people, the moste part of these are Walch men, and will neuer speak, vnesse they haue extréeme punishment but will gape, and with a maruelous force will hold downe their toungs doubled, groninge for your charitie, and holding vp their handes full piteously, so that with their deepe dissimulation they get very much. There are of these many, and but one that I vnderstand of hath lost his toung in deed: hauing on a tyme occasion to ride to Dartford to speake with a priest there, who maketh all kind of cserues very well, and vseth stilling of waters. And repaying to his house, I found a Dommerar at his doore, and the priest himselfe perusing his licence, vnnder the seales and handes of certayne worshipfull men, had thought the same to be good and effectuall. I taking the same writing and reading it ouer and noting the seales, found one of the seales like unto a scale that I had about me: which scale I bought besides Charing crosse, that I was out of doubt it was none of those gentlemen's seales that had subscribed. And hauing vnderstanding before of their peusish practises, made me to conceiue that al was forged and nought. I made the more haste home for wel I wist that he would and muste of force passe through the parish where I dwelt, for there was no other way for him. And comming homeward, I found them in the towne according to my expectation, wher they where staid, for there was a Palliard associate with the Dommerar and partaker of his gaynes, which Palliard I saw not at Darford. The staiers of them was a gentleman called Chayne, and a servaunt of my Lord Kéeper, called Wostestow, which was the chief causer of the staying of them, being a surgien and cunning in his science, had seene the like practises, and as he sayd hadde caused one to speake afore that was done. It was my chaunce to come at the beginnig of the matter. Syr (quoth this surgien) I am bold here to vetter some
part of my cunning, I trust (quoth he) you shall see a myracle wrought anon: for I once (quoth he) made a dumme man to speak. Quoth I you are wel met, and somewhat you haue prevented me, for I had thought to haue done no lesse or they hadde passed this towne, for I well knowe their writing is fayned, and they depe dissemblers. The surgien made him gape, and we could see but halfe a toung. I required the surgien to put his finger in his mouth, and to pull out his toung, and so he did, notwithstanding he held strongly a pretie whyle: at the length he pluckt out the same, to the great admiration of many that stode by: yet when we sawe his touinge, hee would neither speake nor yet could heare. Quoth I to the surgien, knit two of his fingers togeth and thrust a stycke betwene them, and rubbe the same vp and downe a little whyle, and for my lyfe he speaketh by and by. Syr quoth the surgien, I pray let me practise an other way, I was well contented to see the same. He had him into a house, and tyed a halter aboute the wrestes of his handes and hoyseed him vp ouer a beam, and their did let him hang a good while at length for very paine he required for Gods sake to let him downe. So he that was both deafe and dume could in short time both heare and speake. Then I tooke that money I could find in his purse, and distributed the same to the poore people dwelling there, which was xv. pence halpeny, being all that wee could finde. That done, and this myracle madly made, I sent them with my servaunt to the justicer, where they preached on the pulleary for want of a pulpet, and were well whypped, and none did bewayle them.

C A P. XIII.

A DRONKEN TINKAR.

These dronken Tinkars called also prygges, be beastly people, and these yong knaues be ye worst: these never go without their doxes and if their woman haue any thing about them, as apparell or linnen that is worth the selling, they lay the same to gage or
sell it out right (for bene house) at their bowsing ken. And full some will they bée weary of them, and haue a new. When they happen one worke at any good house, their doxes lynger aloof, and tarry for them in some corner, and if he taryeth longe from her, then she knoweth he hath worke, and walketh neare, and sitteth downe by him. For besydes money he loketh for meate and drink for doing his dame pleasure. For if shée have three or four holes in a pan, he will make as many more for spedy gayne. And if he sée any olde kettle, chaser or peuter dish abroad in the yarde where he worketh he quickly snappeth the same up, and into the booget it goeth rounde. Thus they liue with deceyte.

¶ I was credibly informed by such as could well tell, that one of these tipling Tinkers with his dogge robbed by the high way iii. Pallyards and two Roges six persons together, and toke from them aboue foure pound in ready money, and hidd him after in a thicke wood a day or two and so escaped untaken. Thus with picking and stealing, mingled with a little worke for a colour, they passe their time.

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CAP. XIV.

¶ A SWADDER OR PEDLER.

These Swadders and Pedlers be not all euill, but of an indiffe rent behaviour. These stand in great awe of the vpright men, for they have often both wares and mony of them. But for as much as they seeke gayne unlawfully agaynst the lawes and statutes of this noble realme, they are well worthy to be registred among the number of vacabonds: and undoubtedly I have hadde some of them brought before me when I was in commission of the peace as malefactors for brybering and stealing. And now of late it is a greate practice of the vpright man, when he had gotten a botye to bestowe the same vpon a packeful of wares, and so goeth a time for his pleasure, because he would lyue without suspicition.
C A P. XV.

A JARKE MAN, AND A PATRICO.

For as much as these two names a Jarkeman and a Patrico be in the old briefe of vacabonds, and set forth as two kinds of eul doers, you shall vnderstande that a Jarkeman hath hys name of a Jarke, which is a scale in their language, as one should make writings and set scales for licences and pasports. And for true th there is none that goeth about the countrey of them that can eyther write so good and fayre a hand, eyther indite so learnedly as I haue sene and handled a number of them: but haue the same made in good townes where they come, as what can not be had for money, as the prouerbe saith, Omnia venalia Roma, and many hath confessed the same to me. Now also there is a Patrico, and not a Patriarcha, whiche in their language is a priest that should make mariages till death did depart but they have none such I am well assured, for I put you out of dout that not one amongst a hundreth of them are maried, for they take lechery for no sinne, but natural felowship and good liking loue, so that I will not blot my booke with these two that be not.

C A P. XVI.

A DEMAUNDER FOR GLYMMAR.

These Demaunders for glymmar be for the most parte women, for glymmar in their language is fyer: these goe with fayned lycences and counterfayted writings, hauing the hands and scales of suche gentlemen as dwelleth neare to the place where they fayne themselves to haue bene burnt, and their goods consumed with fyre. They will most lamentably demaund your charity and will quickly shed salt teares, they be so tender harted. They will
never begge in that shyre where their losses (as they saye) was. Some of these goe with slates at their backes, which is a sheete to lye in a nights. The vpright men be very familiar with these kinde of wemen, and one of them helps another.

A Demander of gylmmar came to a good towne in Kente, to aske the charitic of the people, hauing a sayned licëce about her that declared her misfortune by fyre done in Somershet shyre, walkinge with a wallet on her shoulders wherein she put the denotion of such as hadde no money to gyue her, that is to say, malte, wool, baken, bread and cheese: and alwayes as the same was full, so was it ready money to her when she emptyed the same, wher so euer shee traveled. This harlot was (as they terme it) snowt fayre, and hadde an vpright man or two alwayes attending on her watche (which is on her person) and yet so circumpect, that they would neuer be sëene in her company in any good towne, vnles it were in small villages, where typling houses where, eyther traveiling togither by the high wayes, but (the truth is by report) she would weekely be worth vi. or seven shillings with her begging and bychery. This gylmmerynge morte repayring to an ine in the said towne where dwelt a widow of fity yeare old, of good wealth, but shee had an vnthrifty sonne, whom she vsed as a chamberlaine to attend gestes whë thei repaired to her house, this amorous man beholding with ardant eyes thys gylmmering glaucner, was presently piteously persed to the hart, and lewdly longed to be clothen vnder her liuery, and bestowing a fewe fonde wordes with her, understood straight that she would be easely perswaded to liking lechery, and as a man mased, mused how to attayne to his purpose, for he hadde no money. Yet considering with him selfe that wares would bee welcome where money wanteth, he went with a wanion to his mothers chamber and there seeking about for odde endes, at length found a little wishell of siluer that his mother did use customably to weare on, and had forgot the same for haste that morning, and offers the same closely to this manerly marian, that if she would mete him on the backesyde of the town, and curteously kys him without constraint, she should be mystresse therof and it were much better: wel sayth she you are a wanton, and beholding the wishell, was farther in loute there-
with then ravisht with his person, and agreed to meete him presently and to accomplish his fond fancy: to be short and not tedious, a quarter of a myle from the town he merely toke measure of her vnder a bawdy bush (so she gave him that she had not, and he receyued that he could not) and taking leave of each other with a courteous kisse, she pleasantly passed forth on her iorney, and this untoward lecherous chamberlayne repayred homeward. But or these too tortylles tooke their leave, the good wyfe had missed her whistle, and sent one of her maydens into her chamber for the same, and being long sought for, none could be found, her mystres hearing that, diligent search was made for the same, and that it was taken away, began to suspecte her vnblesed babe, and demaunded of her maydens whether none of them saw hir sonne in her chamber that morning, and one of them answered that she saw him noe where but comming from thence, then had she ynoth, for well she wiste that he had the same, and sente for him, but he could not be found: then she caused her hosteler, in who she had better affiance in for his trueth, and yet not one amongst twenty of them but haue well left their honesty (as I heare a grate sort say) to come vnto her, which attended to know her pleasure, goe seeke out saith she my vntoward sonne, and bid him come speake with me. I saw him goe out saith hee, halfe an houre sithens on the backsyde, I had thought you had sent him of your arrant. I sent him not quoth she, goe looke him out.

This hollow hosteler toke his staffe in his necke, and trudged out apace that way he saw him before go, and had some understanding by one of the maydens that his mistres had her whishell stolen and suspected her sonne, and he had not gon far but that he espied him comming homeward alone, and meting him, asked where he had bene? where haue I ben quoth he, and began to smyle, now by the masse thou hast ben at some bawdy banquet: thou haste euyn tolde troth quoth this chamberlayne: surely quoth this hosteler, thou haddest the same woman that begged at our house to day, for the harmes she had by fire, wher is she quoth he? she is almost a myle by this tyme quoth this chamberlayne, where is my mistres whishel quoth this hosteler, for I am wel assured that thou haddest it, and I feare me thou hast giuen it to
that harlot. Why, is it missed quoth this chamberlayn? yea quoth this hosteler, and shewed him al the whole circumstance what was both said and thought on him for the thing. Well I wil tel thée quoth this chamberlayne, I will be playne with thée, I had in dede and have giuen the same to this woman, and I pray thée make the best of it, and helpe now to excuse the matter, and yet surely and thou wouldest take so much payne for me as to ouertake her, for she goeth but softly and is not yit farre of and take the same from her, and I am ever thyne assured friend. Why then go with me quoth this hosteler, nay in fayth quoth this chamberlayne what is freer then gift, and I had preaty pastime for the same: hauest thou so quoth this hosteler? now by the masse and I will haue some to, or I will lye in the duste or I come again. Passing with haste to ouertake this paramoure within a myle frō ye place wher he departed he overtoke hir haung an vp-right mā in her company, a strong and a sturdy vacabond, somewhat amased was this hosteler to sée one familiarly in hir company, for he had wel hoped to haue had some delicate dalianee as his fellow hadde, but séeing the matter so fal out, and being of good corage, and thinking to him selfe that one true man was better then two false knaues, and being on the high way, thought vpon helpe if neede had bene, by such as had passed to and fro: demoanded fiercely the whishell that she had even now of his fellow: why husband quoth she, can you suffer this wretch to slander your wife? auaunt verlet quoth this vpright man and letes dryue withall his force at this hosteler, and after a dosen blowes he stricks his staffe out of his hand, and as this hosteler stept backe to have taken vp his staffe agayne, this glymmerynge morte flinges a great stone at him and strake him on the head, that downe he falles with the bloud about his eares, and while hée laye thus amased, the vpright man snatches awaye his pursse, where in he hadde money of his mistresses, as well as of his owne, and there let him lye and went away with speede, that they were neuer hearde of more. When this drye beaten hosteler was come to himselfe, hée fayntly wandereth home, and créepeith into his couche and restes his ydell head: hys mysteries heard that he was come in, and layd him downe on his bed, repayred straight vnto him, and asked him what he
A CAVEAT FOR CURSETORS.

ayled, and what the cause was of his so sodden lying on his bed? what is the cause quoth this hostle, your whyshell, your wishell, speaking the same piteously threée or foure tymes: why foole quoth his mystres, take no care for that, for I do not greatly way it, it was worth but threée shillings foure pence. I would it had ben burnt for foure yeeres agoon. I pray thee why so quoth his mystres? I thinke thou arte mad. Nay not yet quoth this hostler, but I have ben madly handled: why, what is the matter quoth his mistres, and was more desirous to know the case: and you will forgiue my fellow and mee. I will shewe you, or els I will never do it: she made him presently faithfull promise that she would, then saith hée send for your sonne home again, which is ashamed to look you in the face. I agree thereto sayth she, well then quoth this hosteler, your sonne hath geuen the same mort that begged here, for the burninge of her house, a whishell, and you haue giuen her fyve shillings in money, and I haue giuen her ten shillings of myne owne: why so quoth shee, then he sadly shewed her of his mishap, with all the circumstance that you have hearde before, and how his purse was taken away, and xv. shillings in the same, whereof v. shillings was her money, and x shillings his owne money. Is this true quoth his mistres? I by my trouth quoth thys hosteler and nothing gréeues me so much, neyther my beatynge, neyther the losse of my money, as doth my euill and wretched lucke. Why, what is the matter quoth his mystres? your sonne sayth this hostler had some chere and pastime for that whishell for he lay with her, and I have ben well beaten and haue had my pursse taken from me, and you know your sonne is mery and pleasaut and can kéepe no great counsell, and then shall I be mocked and laughed to skorn in all places, when they shall heare how I haue ben serued. Nowe out vpon you knaes both, quoth his mystres, and laughes out the matter, for she well sawe it would not otherwyse preuayle.
CAP. XVII.

A BAUDY BASKET.

These Baudye Basketes be also women, and goe with baskets and capcases on their armes, where in they have laces, pinnes, nedles, whyte inkel, and round sylke gyrdels of all colours. These will bye conneskinnes, and steale linnen clothes of on hedges. And for their tryfles they will procure of mayden servaunts, when their mistres or dame is out of the waye, eyther some good péece of béefe, bakē or chéese, that shall be worth xii. pēce for ii. pence of their toyes. And as they walke by the waye, they often gaine some money with their instrument, by such as they sodaynly mete withall. The vpright men haue good acquayntance with these, and wil helpe and relieve them when they want. Thus they trade their lues in leude lothesome lechery. Amongst them all is but one honest woman, and she is of good yeares: her name is Jone Messenger. I haue had good prooffe of her, as I haue learned by the true report of divers.

There came to my gate the last sommer Anno Domini 1566, a very miserable man and much deformed as burnt in the face, blere eyde, and lame of one of his legs that he went with a crouche. I asked him wher he was borne and wher he dwelt last, and shewed him that thither he must repaire and be releued, and not to range about the countrey, and seeing some cause of charity, I caused him to haue meate and drink, and when he had dronk, I de- maunded of him whether he was never spoyled of the vpright man or roge, yes that I haue quoth he, but yet these seuen yeres, for so long haue I gon abroad I had not so much taken from me nor so evil hādled as I was within these iiiij. dayes, why, how so quoth I? in good faith sir quoth hēe, I chaunced to mete with one of these baudy basketes which had an vpright man in hir copany: and as I would haue passed quietly by her, man saith she vnto her mate, do you not see this ilfaureid windshaken knave: yes quoth the vpright man, what say you to him, this knaue oweth me ij.
shillings, for wares he had of mee halfe a yere a go, I think it well
said this uprigh man: syrra said he, pay your debts, said this poore
man I owe her none, nether did I ever bargayne with her for any
thing, and as I am aduised I never saw her before in all my lyfe,
mercy God, quoth she what a lying knaue is this, and he will not pay
you husband beat him surely, and the uprigh man gave mee thre
or foure blowes on my back and shoulders and would have beat me
worse and I had not giuen him all the money in my purse, and in
good faith for very feare I was fryn to giue him xiiiij. pens which
was al the money that I had: why said this budy basket hast
thou no more, then thou owest ten pence styll, and be well assured
that I will be payde the next tyme I meeete with thee. And so
they let me passe by them. I pray God save and blesse me and
all others in my case from such wicked persons quoth this poore
man, why whether went they, then quoth I, into east Kent, for I
met with them on this syde of Rochester. I haue diuers tymes
bene attempted but I neuer lost much before. I thanke God ther
came still company by, afore this unhappy tyme. Well quoth I,
thanke God of all, and repayre home into thy natuie countrey.

CAP. XVIII.

AUTEM MORTE.

These Autem Mortes be maried wemen, as there be but a fewe:
For Autem in their language is a Church, so shee is a wyfe mar-
ried at the church, and they be as chaste as a cowe: I haue yt
goeth to bull every moone, with what bull she careth not. These
wakke most tymes from their husbands company a moneth and
more togither, being associate with another as honest as her selfe.
These wil pilfer clothes of hedges, some of them go with children
of ten or xij. yeares of age, if time and place serue for their pur-
pose they wil send them into some house at the window to steale
and robbe, which they call in their language, milleing of the ken,
and will goe with wallets on their shoulders and slates at their
backs, there is one of these Autem Mortes, she is now a widow of fifty yeres old, her name is Alice Milson, she goeth about with a couple of great boyes, the yōgest of them is fast upon xx. yeres of age, and these two do lie with her every night, and she lyeth in the middes, she saith yt they be her children that beteled be the babes borne of such abhominable belly.

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CAP. XIX.

|| A WALKING MORTE.

These walking Mortes be not maried, these for their vnhappye yeres doth go as a Autem Morte, and will saye their husbands died either at Newhaven, Ireland, or in some seruice of the prince. These make laces vpon staues and purses that they cary in their hands and white vallance for beddes. Many of these hath hadde, and haue children: when these get ought, either with begging, bychery, or brybery as money or apparell, they are quickly shaken out of all by the vpright men, and they are in a marvelous feare to cary any thing about them that is of any value. Wherefore, this pollicy they use, they leua their money now with one and then with another trusty housholder, eyther with the good man or good wyfe, some tyme in one shyre, and then in another as they trauell: this haue I knowne yt iij. or v. shillings, yea x. shillings left in a place, and the same will they come for agayne within one quarter of a yere or some time not in halfe a yeare, and all this is to little purpose, for all their peuishe pollicie: for when they bye them lynnen or garmente, it is taken away from them and worse giuen them, or none at all.

The last sommer Anno Domini 1566, being in familiar talke with a walkèg Morte, that came to my gate, I learned by hir what I could, and I thought I had gathered as much for my purpose as I desired, I began to rebuke her for hir lead life and beastly behauior, declaring to her what punishment was prepared and heaped vp for her in the world to come for her filthy liuing
and wretched conversation, God helpe quod she how should I liue, none will take me into serviece, but I labour in haruest time honestly. I think but a whyle with honesty quoth I. Shall I tell yon quoth she, the best of us may bee amended, but yit I thanke God, I did one good deed within this xii. monthes, wherein quoth I. Saith she I would not have it spoken of again: if it be meete and necessary, quoth I, it shall lye under my feete: what mean you by that quoth she. I meane quoth I, to hide the same and never to discover it to any. Well quoth she and began to laugh as much as she could and sware by the masse that if I disclosed the same to any she would never tell me any thinge. The last sommer quoth she I was greate with childe and I traeule into east Kent by the sea coast, for I lusted maruelously after oyster and muskels and gathered many, and in the place where I found them, I opened them and eate them still, at the last in seeking more, I reached after one and stept into a hole and fel in, into the wast and there did stick, and I had ben drowned if the tide had come, and espying a man a good way of, I cryed as much as I could for helpe. I was alone, he hard me and repaired as fast to me as hee might, and finding me there fast sticking, I required for God's sake his helpe, and whether it was with stryuing and forcing my self, or for joy I had of his comming to me, I had a great colour in my face and loked red and well coloured. And to be playne with you, he lyked me so well (as he said) that I should there lye still, and I woule not graunt him that he might lye with me. And by my truth I wist not what to answere, I was in such a perplexitie, for I knew ye man well, he had a very honest woma to his wyfe and was of som welshe; and on the other syde, if I were not holpe out, I should there haue perished, and I graunted him that I would obeye to his will, then he plucked me out. And because there was no convenient place neer hand, I required him that I might go washe my selfe and make me somewhat clenly, and I would come to his house and lodge al night in his barne, whether he might repayre to me and accomplishe his desire, but let it not be quoth he before nine of the clocke at nyght, for then there wilbe small styring. And I may repayre to the town quoth I to warne and drye my self, for this was about two of the clocke
in the after none, do so quoth he, for I must be busie to looke out
my cattell here by before I can come home. So I went away
from him and glad was I, and why so quoth I, because quoth she
his wife my good dame is my very friend, and I am much beholding
to hir. And she had donne me so muche good or this, that I
were loth nowe to harme hir any way. Why so quoth I? what
and it had ben any other man and not your good dames husband.
The matter hadd bene the lesse quoth she. Tell me I pray thee
quoth I, who was the father of the childe, she studied a whyle and
sayd that it had a father, but what was hee quoth I? Nowe by my
troth I know not quoth shee, you bring me out of my matter, so
you do, well say on quoth I, then I departed strayte to the towne
and came to my dames house. And shewed her of my misfortune,
also of her husbands vsage in all pointes and that I showed her
the same for good will and bydd her take better heed to her hus-
band and to her selfe, so shee gaue mee great thankes and made
me good chéere, and bid me in anye case that I should be redy
at the barne at that time and houre we had apointed, for I know
well quoth this good wife my husband will not breake with theé.
And one thing I warne thee that thou give me a watche worde a
loude when he goeth about to haue his pleasure of theé, and that
shallée fye for shame fye, and I will be harde by you, wyth helpe.
But I charge theé kepe this secret vntil all be finished, and hold
sayth this good wyfe here is one of my peticotes I giue thee. I
thanke you good dame quoth I, and I warrante you I will bée
true and trusty vnto you. So my dame left me sittinge by a good
fyer with meate and drinke, and with the oysters I brought wyth
me, I hadde great chéere, she went strayte and repayed vnto her
gossipes dwelling thereby, and as I did after vnderstand, she made
her mone to them, what a naughtye lewed lecherous husband shee
hadde, and how that she could not have his companye for har-
lottes, and that she was in feare to take some filthy disease of
him, he was so common a man, hauing little respect whom he
hadde to do withall, and quoth she now here is one at my house a
poore woman that goeth about the countrey that he would haue
hadde to doe with all, wherefore good neighbours and louinge
gossypes as you love mee and as you would haue hélepe at my hand
another tyme, deuyse some remedy to make my husband a good man, yt I may live in some suerty without disease, and that hee may saue his soule that God so dearely bought. After she had tolde her tale they cast their persinge eyes all vpon her, but one stout dame amongst the rest had these wordes: As your pacient bearing of troubles, your honest behaviour among vs your neighbours, your tender and pitifull harte to the poore of the parish, doth moue vs to lament your case, so the unsatiable carnaliti of your faithlesse husband doth instigate and styrre vs to deuyse and iuuent some spedey redresse for your case and the amendement of his lyfe. Wherfore this is my counsell and you wil be aduertised by me, I say to you all, vnless it be this good wyfe, who is chieffely touched in this matter I haue the next cause, for hee was in hande with me not longe agoe, and company had not ben present whiche was by a maruells chauncle, he had (I thinke) forced me. For often he hadde ben tempting with me, and yet haue I sharply sayd him nay, therfore let vs assemble secretly into the place where hee hath appointed to meete this gyllot that is at your house and lyrke priuely in some corner tyll he begin to goe about his busines. And then me thought I hard you say euyn now, that you had a watch word, at which word we will all stepp forth beinge fiue of vs besides you, for you shalbe none because it is your husband, but get you to bed at your accustomed houre, and we will carry eche of vs a good byrechen rod in our laps, and we will all be muffled for knowing, and see that you goe home and acquaint that walking mort with the matter for we must haue her helpe to hold, for always foure must hold and two lay on. Alas saith this good wyfe, he is to strong for you al, I would be loth for my sake you should receive harme at his hande: feare you not quoth these stout wemen, let her not giue the watch word untill his hosen be about his legges, and I trowe we all wilbe with him to bring before he shall haue leasure to pluck them vp agayne: they with one voyce agreed to ye matter that ye way she had devised was the best: so this good wife repaire home: but before she departed frō hir gosseps she shewed thē at what hour they shuld priuely cum in on ye backside and ther to tary their good hour, so by ye time she cam in, it was almost night and found the walk-
ing morte still sitting by the fier and declared to her al this new
denise aboue said, which promised faithfullye to fulfill to her small
power as much as they had devised, within a quarter of an houre
after, in cōmest ye good man who said yt hee was about his
cattell, why what haue we here wife sitting by the fire, and if she
haue eate and dronke send her into the barne to hir lodging for
this night, for she troubleth the house: euon as you will husbande,
saith his wife, you know she commeth once in two yeres into these
quarters. Away sayth this good wyfe to your lodginge: yes good
dame saith she as fast as I can, thus by loking one on the other
ech knew others mynd, and so departed to her comely couche,
the good man of the house shrode him for joy, thinkinge to him
selfe I will make som pastime with you an one. And calling to
his wyfe for his supper set him downe and was very pleasant and
dranke to his wife and fell to his maimerings and moûched a
pace, nothing understaing of the banquet that was a preparing
for him after supper, and accordîg to the prouerbe (that sweēt
meat will have sowre sauce,) thus when he was well refreshed, his
spirites being resuied entered into familiar talk with his wyfe, of
many matters how well he had spent that day to both their pro-
fytes, saying some of his cattell were lyke to haue bin drowned in
the ditches, dryuing others of his neighbours cattell out that were
in his pasturs, and mending his fences that were broken down.
Thus profitably he had consumed the daye, nothinge talking of
his helping out of the walking morte out of the mire, neither of
his request nor yit of his promise. Thus feding hir we frendly
fantasies consumed two houres and more. Then fayning howe
hee would see in what case his horse were in and how they were
dressed, repaired courtely into the barne whereas his friendly foes
lyrked priuely vnsesse it were this manerly morte, that comly
couched on a bottel of straw. What are you come quoth she, by
ye masse I would not for a hundreth pound that my dame should
know that you wer here either any els of your house. No I war-
rant thée saith this good man, they be all safe and fast inough
at their work, and I will be at myne anon. And lay downe by
her and straight would haue had to do with her, nay fye saith she,
she, I like not this order, if ye lye with me you shal surely vn-
trusse you and put down your hosen for that way is most easiest
and best, saiest thou so quoth he, now my troth agreed: and whē
he had vntrusted himself and put down, he began to assalt the
unsatiable fort, why quoth she that was without shame, sauinge
for her promes, and are you not ashamed? neuer a whyt sayth he,
lye downe quickly, now fye for shame, fye sayth shē aloude
(which was the watch word) at the which word these fuye furious
sturdy mufed gossipes flinges out and takes sure holde of this
betrayed person, some plucking his hosen down lower, and bind-
inge the same fast about his fēete, then binding his handes and
kittinge a hande charcher about his eyes, that hēe should not
sēe, and when they had made him sure and fast, then they
laid him on vntill they were windles: be good saith this morte
unto my master for the passion of God, and layd on as fast as the
rest, and still ceased not to crye upon them too be mercyfull unto
him, and yet layd on a pace, and when they hadde well beaten
him that the bloude braste plentifully out in most places they let
him lye still bounde, with this exhortation, that he shoulde from
that time forth knowe his wyfe from other mens, and that this
punishment was but a flebyting in respect of that which should
follow, if he amended not his manners. Thus leaung him blus-
tering, blowing and fomung for payne and malencolye, that hēe
neyther might or could be reuenged of them: they vanished awaye
and had this morte with them, and safely connyd her out of the
towne: soone after commeth into the barne one of the good mens
boyes to fet some haye for his horsē. And finding his maister ly-
ing fast bōd and grēeously beaten with roddes, was sodainly
abashed and wold haue runne out agayne to have called for helpe,
but his maister byd him come vnto him and vnbinde him, and
make no woordes quoth he of this. I wil be reuenged well
ynough, yet notwithstandinge after better aduyse, the matter
being vnfronsed, he thought it meeter to let the same passe, and
not as the prouerbe sayth (to awake the sleepping dogge.) And
by my troth quoth this walking morte, I com now from that
place and was nuer there synthes this parte was playd, which is
somewhat more than a yeare. And I heare a verye good report
of him now, that he loueth his wyfe well and vseth hymselfe
uery honestly: and was not this a good acte, now how say you? It was pretely handeled quoth I, and is here all? yea quoth shee, here is the end.

CAP. XX.

A DOXE.

These Doxes be broken and spoyled of their maydenhead by the vpright men, and then they haue their name of doxes and not afore. And afterward she is common and indifferent for any that will vse her, as homo is a commo name to all men. Such as be fayre and somewhat handsome, kepe company with the walking mortes, and are redy always for the vpright men, and are chiefly mayntained by them, for others shalbe spoiled for their sakes, the other inferior sort will resorte to noble mens places, and gentlemens houses standing at the gate, eyther lurking at the backside about backe houses, eyther in hedge rowes or some other thycket, expectynge their praye, which is for the vnonely company of some courteous gest of whom they be refreshed with meate and some money, where eschaunge is made ware for ware: this bread and meate they vse to carye in their great hosen, so that these beastly brybinge breeches, serue many tymes for bandy purposes. I chaunced not long sithens familiarily to common with a Doxe that came to my gate, and surely a pleasant harlot, and not so pleasant as witty, and not so witty as voyde of all grace and goodnes. I found by her talk that she had passed her tyme lewdly eightene yeares in walking about. I thought this a necessary instrumet to attayne some knowledge by, and before I woulde grope hir mind, I made her both to eat and drynk well, that done I made her faithfull promise to gyve her some money if she woulde open and discouer to me such questions as I would demaund of hir and neuer to bewraye hir, neyther to disclose her name. And you should sayth shee I were vndone: feare not that quoth I, but I pray thee quoth I, say nothing but truth. I will not sayth shee, then firste tell me quoth I, how many vpright men
A CAVEAT FOR CURSETORS.

and roges dost thou know or hast thou knowne and bene conuer-
sant with, and what their names be? she paused a while and sayd,
why do you aske me, or wherefore? for nothing els as I sayd, but
that I would knowe them whe they come to my gate. Now by
my troth (quoth she) then are yee neuer the nearer, for all myne
acquaintance for the most part are dead. Dead quoth I? how
dyed they, for want of cherishing or of paynfull diseases? Then
she sighed and sayde they were hanged. What all quoth I, and
so many walke abroad as I dayly see? By my troth quoth she I
know not paste six or seuen by their names, and named the same
to mee. When were they hanged quoth I? Some seuen yeares
agone, some three yeares, and some with in this fortnight, and
declared the place where they were executed, which I knewe
well to be true, by report of others. Why (quoth I) dyd not this
sorrowfull and fearfull sight much greene thee, and for thy tyme
long and euill spent. I was sory quoth she, by the masse, for
some of them were good louing men, for I lackt not when they
had it, and they wanted not when I had it, and diuers of them I
neuer did forsake, untill the gallowes departed us. O mercyfull
God quoth I, and began to blesse me. Why blesse ye quoth she?
Alas good gentleman, every one must have a living. Other mat-
ters I talked of, but this now may suffice to shewe the reader as it
were in a glasse the boles beastely lyfe of these doxes. For suche
as hath gone any tyme abroade, will neuer forsake their trade, to
dye therefore. I haue hadde good profe thereof. There is one
notorious harlot of this affinitie called Besse Bottomely, she hath
but one hande, and she hath murthred two children at the least.

C A P. XXI.

A DELL.

A DELL is a yonge wenche, able for generation, and not yet known
or broken by the vpright man. These goe abroade yonge, eyther
by the death of their parentes, and no body to looke vnto them or
else by some sharpe mystres that they serue do runne awaye out of service, eyther she is naturally borne one, and then she is a wyld Dell: these are broken very yonge, when they haue ben lyen withall by the vpright man, then they bee Doxes, and no Dell. These wylde Dels being traded vp with their monstrous mothers, muste of necessitie be as euil or worse then their parents, for neyther we gather grapes from greene bryars, neyther fynges from thistels. But such buds, such blossemes, such euil seeede sowen, wel worse being growen.

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CAP. XXII.

A KYNCHING Morte.

A Kynching Morte is a little gyrl, the mortes their mothers caries them at their backes in their slates, whiche is their shetes, and brings them vp sauagely, till they growe to be rype, and soone rype, soone rotten.

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CAP. XXIII.

A Kynchen Co.

A Kinchen Co, is a young boye traded up to such pêvish purposes, as you haue hard of other young ympes before, that when he groweth vnto yeares, he is better to hang then to draw foorth.
A CAVEAT FOR CURSETORS.

CAP. XXIV.

THEIR USAGE IN THE NIGHT.

Now, I think it not unnecessary to make the reader understand how and in what manner they lodge a nights in barnes or backhouses, and of their usage there, for as much as I have acquainted them with their order and practises a day tymes. The arch and chief walkers that hath walked a long tymes, whose experience is great, because of their continuing practise, I mean all mortes and doxes, for their hansomnes and diligence, for making of their couches. The men never trouble themselves with that thing, but takes the same to be the duty of the wyfe. And she shuffles vp a quantitie of strawe or hay, into some pretty corner of the barne where she may conveniently lie, and well shaketh the same, making the heade somewhat hye, and dryues the same vpon the sydes and set lyke a bed: then she layeth her wallet or other little pack of ragges or scryppe vnder hir head in the strawe, to beare up the same, and layeth her peticote or cloke vpon and over the strawe, so made lyke a bedde and that serueth for the blanket: then she layeth her slate which is her sheete vpon that, and she have no sheete, as fewe of them go without, then she speedeth some large cloutes or rags over the same, and maketh hir ready and layeth hir drouesely downe. Many will plucke of their smockes and lay the same vpon them in stéede of their vpper sheete, and all her other pelte and trashe vpon her also, and many lyeth in their smockes. And if the rest of her clothes in cold weather bee not sufficient to kéepe her warme, then she taketh strawe or hay to performe the matter. The other sorte that have no slates, but tumble down and couche a hogshead in their clothes, these be still lousy and shall never be without vermin, vnlesse they put of their clothes, and lye as is aboue said. If the vpright man come in where they lye, hee hath his choyse, and creépeth in close by his doxe, the roge hath his léauings. If the mortes or doxes lye or be lodged in some farmers barne, and the dore be eyther locked or made fast to
them, then will not the vpriyt man presse to come in, vnless it be in barnes and outhe houses standing alone, or some distance from houses, which be commonly knowne to them: as saicnt Quintens, thre Cranes in the vintrey, Sainct Tybbes, and Knapsbery. These foure be within one myle compasse neare vnto London. Then haue you foure more in Middlesex, draw the pudding out of the fyre, in Harrow on the hill parish, the Crosse keyes in Crayford parish, saint Julians in Thystell worth parish, the house of pity in North hall parishe. These are their chief houses neare about London, where commonly they resort vnto for lodging, and may repayre thither freelly at all tymes. Sometime shall come in some roge, some pycking knaue, a nimble pryge, he walketh in softly a nightes, when they be at their reste and plucketh of as many garmente as be ought worth, that he maye come by, and worth money, and may easely cary the same, and runnesth away with the same with great selerity, and maketh port sale at some convenient place of theirs, that some be soone ready in the morning, for wante of their casters and togemans. Where in stede of blessing is cursinge, in place of praying, pestilent pratinge with odious othes and terrible threatenings. The vpright men haue giuen all these nycke names, to the places abone sayd. Yet have we two notable places in Kent, not farre from London, the one is betwene Detforde and Rothered, called the Kinges barne, standinge alone, that they haunt commonly: the other is Ketbroke standinge by Blacke heath halfe a myle from any house, there will they boldly draw the latch of the doore and go in, when the good man with his family be at supper and sit downe without leaue and eate and drink with them, and either lye in the hall by the fyre al night or in ye barn if there be no roome in the house for them. If the doore be eyther bolted or lockt, if it be not opened unto them when they will, they will breake the same open to his farther cost. And in this barne sometime do lye xl. vpright men with their doxes togethuer at one time. And this must the poore farmer suffer, or els they threaten him too burne him, and all that he hath.

Here followeth the vnruyl y balement of rascals, and the moste notorous and wickedst walkers that are living now at this presente with their true names as they be called and known by. And although I set and place here but three orders, yet good reader understande, that all the others aboue named are derived and come out from the Vpright men and Roges. Concerning the number of Mortes and Doxes, it is superfluous to write of them. I could well have done it, but the number of them is great, and would aske a large volume.

**VPRIGHT MEN.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core the Cuckolde.</td>
<td>Fraunces D awghton.</td>
<td>John Bell.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dowsabell skylfull</td>
<td>George marynar.</td>
<td>John Graye.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dauid Coke.</td>
<td>Hary Hylles, alias</td>
<td>John Rewe.</td>
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<td>Dauid Holland.</td>
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<td>Dauid Jones.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Walchman.</td>
<td>John Palmer alias Tod</td>
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<td>John Geoffrey</td>
<td>John Bascafelde</td>
<td>Thomas Cutter</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Goddard</td>
<td>Lennard Just</td>
<td>Thomas Garet</td>
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<td>John Gray the great</td>
<td>Long Greene</td>
<td>Thomas Newton</td>
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<td>John Gray the little</td>
<td>Laurence Ladd</td>
<td>Thomas Web</td>
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<td>John Williams the longer</td>
<td>Laurence Marshall</td>
<td>Thomas Graye his toes be gone</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Harwood a maker of weels, hee will take halfe his bargain in hande, and when he hath wrought ii or iii dais, he runneth away with his earnest</td>
<td>Ned Barington</td>
<td>Tom Bodell</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Peter</td>
<td>Robart Grauniger</td>
<td>Thomas Wast</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Porter</td>
<td>Robart Gerse</td>
<td>Thomas Dawsō alias Thomas Jacklin</td>
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<td>John Appowes</td>
<td>Robart Kyngere</td>
<td>Thomas Basset</td>
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<td>John Arter</td>
<td>Robart Egerton</td>
<td>Thomas Marchant</td>
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<td>John Bates</td>
<td>Robart Bell, brother to John Bell</td>
<td>Thomas Web</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Comes</td>
<td>Robyn Bell</td>
<td>Thomas Awefeld</td>
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<td>John Chiles, alias great Chyles</td>
<td>Robyn Toppe</td>
<td>Thomas Gibbins</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Leuet he maketh tappes and fausets</td>
<td>Robart Browswerd</td>
<td>Thomas Lacon</td>
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<td>John Louedall a master of fence</td>
<td>Robart Curtes</td>
<td>Thomas Bate</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Louedale</td>
<td>Richard Brimmish</td>
<td>Thomas Allen</td>
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<td>John Mekes</td>
<td>Richard Justice</td>
<td>well aryd Richard</td>
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<td>John Appowell</td>
<td>Richard Barton</td>
<td>William chambnor</td>
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<td>John Chappell</td>
<td>Richard Constance</td>
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<td>John Gryffen</td>
<td>Richard Thomas</td>
<td>William morgan</td>
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<td>John Mason</td>
<td>Richard Cadman</td>
<td>William Belson</td>
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<td>John Humfrey with the lame hand</td>
<td>Richard Aprice</td>
<td>William Ebes</td>
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<td>John Stradling with the shaking head</td>
<td>Richard Walker</td>
<td>William Garret</td>
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<td>John Franke</td>
<td>Richard Coper</td>
<td>William Robinson</td>
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<td>John Baker</td>
<td>Steuen Neuet</td>
<td>William Umeruill</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thomas Bulloke</td>
<td>William Daudis</td>
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<td>Will Pen</td>
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<td>William Jones</td>
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<td>Will Powell</td>
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<td>William Clarke</td>
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<td>Water Wirall</td>
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<td>William Browne</td>
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<td>William Grace</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>William Pickering</td>
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ROGES.

Arch Dowglas a scot. John Crewe with one Raffe Ketley.
Black Dycke. arme. Robert Harrison.
Dycke Durram. John Brown a great Symond Kyng.
Dauid Dew neuet a stammerar. Thomas Paske.
counterfet Crank. Little Dycke. Thomas Beere
Edward Ellys. Little robyn. Irish man.
Edward Anseley. Lambart rose. Thomas Smith with
George Belberby. Nicholas Adames. the skalde skin.
Gerard Gybynes, a William Carew.
counterfet cranke. Nicholas Blunt, alias William wastfield.
Harry walles with ye Wylson.
little mouth. Nicholas Genins, a William Gynkes with
counterfet Cranke. Richard Lynche. a whyte beard, a
Humfrey ward. Richard Brewton. lusty and strong
Harry Mason. Richard Horwod, wel man, he runneth
John Warren. neer lxxx. yeare old, about ye countrey
John Don with one leg he will bite a vi. to seeke worke with
peny nayle asunder a big boy his sonne,
John Elson. with his teeth and a caryinge his toles as
John Raynoles Irish a bauy dronkard. a dawber or plays-
man. terer, but littleworke
John Harrys. Richard Crane he servieth him.
James Monkaster a John Persk a coun-
counterfet Cranke. terf cranke.
John Dewe. Richard Jones.

PALLYARDS.

Bashford. John Dauids.
Dauid Powell. John Carew.
Dauid Jones a Edward Lewes, a James Lane, with one
counterfet Cranke. Dummerar. eye Irish.
Edward Heyward Hugh Jones.
hath his mortfollow- John Fisher.
ing him, which fain-
eth the Cranke. John Dewe.
PALLYARDS.

with a counterfe- Robert Lacley. Thomas Dauids.
Laurence with the Richard Hilton car- Wil Pettet bareth
great legge. riethij. kinchēmortes a kichē mort at his
Nicholas Newton ca- about him. back.
rieth a Fayned li- Richard Thomas. wylliam Bowmer.
cence.
Nicholas Decase. Swanders.

There is aboue an hundredth of Irish men and women that wan- 
der about to begge for their living, that hath come ouer within
these two yeares. They saie they haue ben burned and spoyled by
the Earle of Desmond and report well of the Earle of Urmond.

¶ All these aboue written for the most part walke aboute
Essex, Middlesex, Sussex, Surrey and Kent. Then let the reader
jude what nubes walkers in other Shieres, I feare me to great a
nuber, if they be well vnderstand.

HERE FOLLOWETH THEIR PELTING SPEECHE.

Here I set before thee good reader, the leud lousy language of
these leutering luskes, and layu lorels, wherewith they bye and sell
the common people as they passe through the country: whiche lan-
guage they terme Peddelers Frenche, an unknouen tonge onely, but
to these bold beastly bawdy beggers, and vayne vacabonds, being
halfe myngled with Englishe, when it is familiarily talked, and fyrshe
placing things by their proper names, as an introduction to this
peeuish speache.

Nab, a head. Gan, a mouth. Fambles, handes.
Nabchet, a hat or cap. A pratling chete, a toung. A fambling chete,
a ring on thy hand. Quaromes, a body.
Glasyers, eyes. Crashing chetes, teeth. Prat, a buttocke.
A smelling chete, a nose. Hearing chetes, eares.
A CAVEAT FOR CURSETORS.

Stampes,  
legs.
A caster,  
a cloke.
A togman,  
a coate.
A commission,  
a shirt.
Drawers,  
hosen.
Stampers,  
shoes.
A mofling chete,  
a napkin
A belly chete,  
an apren.
Dudes,  
clothes.
A lag of dudes,  
a bucke of clothes.
A slate  
a sheete or shetes.
Lyb bege,  
a bed.
Boung,  
a purse.
Lowre,  
money.
Mynt,  
golde.
A borde,  
a shilling.
Halfe a borde,  
sixe pence.
Flagg,  
a groat.
A wyn,  
a penny.
A make,  
a halfepeny.
Bowse,  
drink.
Bene,  
good.
Benship,  
very good.
Quier,  
nought.

A gage,  
a quart pot.
Askew,  
a cuppe.
Yannam,  
bread.
Cassam,  
cheese.
Param,  
mylke.
Lap,  
butter mylke or whey.
Pek,  
meate.
Poppelars,  
porrage.
Ruffpeck,  
baken.
A grunting chete or  
a patricos kinchen,
a pyge.
A cackling chete,  
a coke or capon.
A margeri prater,  
a hen.
A roger or tyb of the  
butery,
a gose.
A quaking chete or a  
red shanke,
a drake or a ducke.
Grannam,  
come.
A loweing chete,  
a cowe.
A bleting chete,  
a calfe or sheepe.
A praunecer,  
a horse.
Auteu,  
a church.
Salomon,  
a altar or masse.
Patrico,  
a priest.
Nosegent,  
a nunne.

A gyb,  
a writing.
A Jarke,  
a scale.
A ken,  
a house.
A stauling ken,  
a house that will re-
ceyue stollen wares.
A bowing ken,  
a ale house.
A lypken,  
a house to lye in.
Alybbe,  
a bedde.
Glymna,  
fyer.
Rome houe,  
wyne.
Lag,  
water.
A skypper,  
a barne.
Strommell,  
strawe.
A gentry cofes ke,  
a noble or gentle mans
houes.
A gyger,  
a dore.
Buie,  
a dogge.
The lightmans,  
the day.
The darkemans,  
the night.
Rome vyle,  
London.
Dewse a vyle,  
the country.
Rome mort,  
the Queene.
A gentry cofe,  
a noble or gentle man.
A gentry mort,  
a noble or gentle wo-
man.
A CAVEAT FOR CURSETORS.

The quier cuffyne,  
the justicer of peace.
The harmac beck,  
the constable.
The harmans,  
the stockes.
Quyer kyn,  
a prison house
Quyer cramp-ringes,  
bolts or fetters.
Trying,  
hanging.
Chattes,  
the gallows.
The hygh pad,  
the high way.
The ruffmans,  
the wods or bushes.
A smelling chete,  
a garden or orchard.
Crassing chetes,  
apples, pears, or any other fruit.
To fylche,  
to robbe.
To nyp a bounch,  
to cut a purse.
To skower the cramp-ringes,  
to wear boltes or fetters.
To heue a bough,  
to robbe or rifie a boweth.
To cly the gerke,  
to be whipped.
To cut benle,  
to speake gentle.
To cut bene whyddes,  
to speake or giue good words.
To cutte quyer whyddes,  
to giue euil words or euil language.
To cutte,  
to saye.
To towere,  
to see.
To house,  
to drinke.
To munde,  
to aske or require.
To stall,  
to make or ordain.
To cante,  
to speake.
To mill a ken,  
to robbe a house.
To pryge,  
to ryde.
To dup ye gyger,  
to open the dore.
To eouche a hogshede,  
to ly downe and slepe.
To nygle,  
to haue to do with a woman carnally.
Stow you,  
hold your peace.
Bynge a waste,  
go you hence.
To the ruffian,  
to the Deuill.
The ruffian cly thee,  
the deuill take thee.

¶ The vpright Cofe cateth to the Roge.
The vpright man speaketh to the Roge.

VPRIGHT MAN.

Bene Lightmans to thy quarromes in what lipken hast thou lipped in this darkemans, whether in a lybbeege or in the strumell.
  Good morowe to thy bodye, in what house hast thou lyne in all night, whether in a bedde or in the strawe?

ROGE.

I couched a hogshead in a Skypper this darkemans.
  I layd me down to sleepe in a barne this night.

VPRIGHT MAN.

I towere the strummel trine vpon the nabchet and togman.
  I see the straw hange vpon thy cap and coate.
A CAVEAT FOR CURSETORS.

ROGE.

I say by the Salomon I will lage it of with a gage of bene bouse then cut to my nose watch.
I sware by the ma... will washe it off wyth a quarte of good drinke, then say to me what thou wilt.

UPRIGH MAN.

Why hast thou any lowre in thy bonge to bouse.
Why, hast thou any money in thy purse to drinke?

ROGE.

But a flagge, a wyn and a make.
But a groate, a penny and a half penny.

UPRIGH MAN.

Why, where is the ken that hath the bene bouse.
Where is the house that hath the good drinke.

ROGE.

The morte here by at the signe of the prauncer.
The good wyfe here by at the signe of the horse.

UPRIGH MAN.

Butte it is quyer bowse, I bowsd a flagge the last darkemans.
I say it is small and naughty drinke, I dranke a groat there the last night.

ROGE.

But bowse there a bord, and thou shalt haue benship.
But drinke there a shilling, and thou shalt haue very good.
Towre ye, yander is the ken, dup the gyger and maunde that is benship.
See you, yonder is the house, open the doore, and aske for the best.

UPRIGH MAN.

This bowse is as good as Rome bowse.
This drinke is as good as wyne.
Now I tower that bene bowse makes nase nabor.
Now I see that good drinke makes a dronken head.
Maund of this morte what bene pecke is in her ken.
   Aske of this wyfe what good meate she hath in her house.

ROGE.

Shee hath a caeling chete, a gruntinge chete ruff pecke, cassan,
   and poppelars of yarum.
   Shee hath a hen, a pyge, baken, cheese, and mylke porrage.

VPRIGHT MAN.

That is benship to our watch.
   That is very good for vs.
Now we hauve well bousd, let vs strike some chete.
   Now we hauve well dronde, let vs steale some thing.
Yonder dwelleth a quiere cuffen, it were beneship to myll him.
   Yonder dwelleth a hoggish and chorlishe man, it were very well done to
   rob him.

ROGE.

Now byng we a wast to the high pad, the ruffmans is by.
   Pray let us goe hence to the high way, the wood is at hand.

VPRIGHT MAN.

So maye we happen on the harmans and elye the Jarke or to
   the quierken and skower quiare cromp-rings and so to trining on
   the chates.
   So we may chonce to syt in the stockes, eyther be whipped, eyther had to
   prison house, and their be shackeled with bolts and fetters, and then to hange on
   the gallowes.

ROGE.

Gerry gan the Ruffian elye thee.
   A torde in thy mouth, the deuill take thée.

THE VPRIGHT MAN.

What stowe you bene cofe and cut benar whyddes and byng
   we to Rome vyle to nyp a bounge, so shall we hauve lower for the
   bowing ken, and when we byng back to the deusenyle, we will
   flyche some duddes of the Ruffmans or myll the ken for a lage
   of duddes.
   What holde your peace good fellowe and speake better wordes, and go we to
   London to cut a purse, then shal wee hauve money for the ale house, and when we
come backe agayne into the countrie, we will steale some lynnen clothes of some hedge, or robbe some house for a bucke of clothes.

¶ By this little ye may holy and fully understande their vnward talk and pelting speeche mingled without measure, and as they have begon of late to deuyse some new termes for certayn things: so will they in time alter this and deuise as euill or worse. This language now being knowne and spreade abroade, yet one thing more I wil ad vn to, not meaning to English the same, because I learned that of a shameles doxe, but for the phrase of speeche I set it forth only.

There was a proud patrico and a nosegent, he toke his Jockam in his famble, and a wapping he went, he dockt the Dell he pryge to praunce, he byngd a wast into the darkemans, he fylche the Cofe without any fylch man.
A Stockes to staye sure and safely detayne,
Lasy lewd Leuterers that lawes do offend:
Impudent persons, thus punished with payne,
Hardly for all this, do mean to amende.
A CAVEAT FOR CURSETORS.

Fetters or shackels serve to make fast
Male malefactors, that on mischief do muse,
Untill the learned lawes do quite or do cast
Such subtil searchers as all euill do vse.

A whyp is a whysker that will wrest out blood,
Of backe and of body, beaten right well:
Of all the other it doth the most good.
Experience teacheth, and they can well tell.

O dolefull day, now death draweth nere,
His bitter styng doth peace me to the harte;
I take my leaue of all that be here,
Now piteously playing this tragical parte.
Nether strypes nor teachings in time could conuert,
Wherefore an ensample let me to you be,
And all that be present, now pray you for me.
Thus I conclude my bold Beggars booke,
That all estates most playnely may see,
As in a glasse well polished to looke,
Their double demeaner in eche degree.
Their lives, their language, their names as they be,
That with this warning their minds may be warmed
To amende their misdeedes and so liue unharmed.

FINIS.

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