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THE Merry Wiues of Windsor.

Actus primus, Scena prima.

Enter Iustice Shallow, Slender, Sir Hugh Euans, Master Page, Falstoffe, Bardolph, Nym, Pistoll, Anne Page, Mistresse Ford, Mistresse Page, Simple.

rem

remShallow.

*S*Ir Hugh, perswade me not: I will make a Star-Chamber matter of it, if hee were twenty Sir Iohn Falstoffs, he shall not abuse Robert Shallow Esquire.

rem

remSlen.

In the County of Glocester, Iustice of Peace and (Coram.

rem

remShal.

I (Cosen Slender) and Cust-alorum.

rem

remSlen.

I, and Rato lorum too; and a Gentleman borne (Master Parson) who writes himselfe Armigero, in any Bill, Warrant, Quittance, or Obligation, Armigero.

rem

remShal.

I that I doe, and haue done any time these three hundred yeeres.

rem

remSlen.

All his successors (gone before him) hath don't: and all his Ancestors (that come after him) may: they may giue the dozen white Luces in their Coate.

rem

remShal.

It is an olde Coate.

rem

remEuans.

The dozen white Louses doe become an old Coat well: it agrees well passant: It is a familiar beast to man, and signifies Loue.

rem

remShal.

The Luse is the fresh-fish, the salt-fish, is an old Coate.

rem

remSlen.

I may quarter (Coz).

rem

remShal.

You may, by marrying.

rem

remEuans.

It is marring indeed, if he quarter it.

rem

remShal.

Not a whit.

rem

remShal.

Yes per-lady: if he ha's a quarter of your coat, there is but three Skirts for your selfe, in my simple coniectures; but that is all one: if Sir Iohn Falstaffe haue committed disparagements vnto you, I am of the Church and will be glad to do my beneuolence, to make attonements and compremises betweene you.

rem

remShal.

The Councell shall heare it, it is a Riot.

rem

remEuan.

It is not meet the Councell heare a Riot: there is no feare of Got in a Riot: The Councell (looke you) shall desire to heare the feare of Got, and not to heare a Riot: take your viza-ments in that.

rem

remShal.

Ha; o' my life, if I were yong againe, the sword should end it.

rem

remEuans.

It is petter that friends is the sword, and end it: and there is also another deuice in my praine, which peradventure prings goot discretions with it. There is Anne Page, which is daughter to Master Thomas Page, which is pretty virginity.

rem

remSlen.

Mistris Anne Page? she has browne haire, and speakes small like a woman.

rem

remEuans.

It is that ferry person for all the orld, as iust as you will desire, and seuen hundred pounds of Moneyes, and Gold, and Siluer, is her Grand-sire vpon his deaths-bed, (Got deliuer to a ioyfull resurrections) giue, when she is able to ouertake seuentene yeeres old. It were a goot motion, if we leaue our pribbles and prabbles, and desire a marriage betweene Master Abraham, and Mistris Anne Page.

rem

remSlen.

Did her Grand-sire leaue her seauen hundred pound?

rem

remEuan.

I, and her father is make her a petter penny.

rem

remSlen.

I know the young Gentlewoman, she hasgood gifts.

rem

remEuan.

Seuen hundred pounds, and possibilities, is goot gifts.

rem

remShal.

Wel, let vs see honest Mr Page: is Falstaffe there?

rem

remEuan.

Shall I tell you a lye? I doe despise a lyer, as I doe despise one that is false, or as I despise one that is not true: the Knight Sir Iohn is there, and I beseech you be ruled by your well-willers: I will peat the doore for Mr. Page. What hoa? Got-please your house here.

rem

remMr. Page.

Who's there?

rem

remEuan.

Here is go't's plessing and your friend, and Iustice Shallow, and heere yong Master Slender: that peraduentures shall tell you another tale, if matters grow to your likings.

rem

remMr. Page.

I am glad to see your Worships well: I thanke you for my Venison Master Shallow.

rem

remShal.

Master Page, I am glad to see you: much good doe it your good heart: I wish'd your Venison better, it was ill killd: how doth good Mistresse Page? and I thank you alwaies with my heart, la: with my heart.

rem

remM. Page.

Sir, I thanke you.

rem

remShal.

Sir, I thanke you: by yea, and no I doe.

rem

remM.Pa.

I am glad to see you, good Master Slender.

rem

remSlen.

How do's your fallow Greyhound, Sir, I heard say he was out-run on Cotsall.

rem

remM.Pa.

It could not be iudg'd, Sir.

rem

remSlen.

You'll not confesse: you'll not confesse.

rem

remShal.

That he will not, 'tis your fault, 'tis your fault: 'tis a good dogge.

rem

remM.Pa.

A Cur, Sir.

rem

remShal.

Sir: hee's a good dog, and a faire dog, can there be more said? he is good, and faire.

Is Sir Iohn Falstaffe heere?

rem

remM.Pa.

Sir, hee is within: and I would I could doe a good office betweene you.

rem

remEuan.

It is spoke as a Christians ought to speake.

rem

remShal.

He hath wrong'd me (Master Page.)

rem

remM.Pa.

Sir, he doth in some sort confesse it.

rem

remShal.

If it be confessed, it is not redressed; is not that so (M. Page?) he hath wrong'd me, indeed he hath, at a word he hath: beleue me, Robert Shallow Esquire, saith he is wronged.

rem

remMa.Pa

Here comes Sir Iohn.

rem

remFal.

Now, Master Shallow, you'll complaine of me to the King?

rem

remShal.

Knight, you haue beaten my men, kill'd my deere, and broke open my Lodge.

rem

remFal.

But not kiss'd your Keepers daughter?

rem

remShal.

Tut, a pin: this shall be answer'd.

rem

remFal.

I will answeere it strait, I haue done all this:

That is now answer'd.

rem

remShal.

The Councell shall know this.

rem

remFal.

'Twere better for you if it were known in councell: you'll be laugh'd at.

rem

remEu.

Pauca verba; (Sir Iohn) good worts.

rem

remFal.

Good worts? good Cabidge; Slender, I broke your head: what matter haue you against me?

rem

remSlen.

Marry sir, I haue matter in my head against you, and against your cony-catching Rascalls, Bardolf, Nym, and Pistoll.

rem

remBar.

You Banbery Cheese.

rem

remSlen.

I, it is no matter.

rem

remPist.

How now, Mephostophilus?

rem

remSlen.

I, it is no matter.

rem

remNym.

Slice, I say; pauca, pauca: Slice, that's my humor.

rem

remSlen.

Where's Simple my man? can you tell, Cosen?

rem

remEua.

Peace, I pray you: now let vs understand: there is three Vmpires in this matter, as I vnderstand; that is, Master Page (fidelicet Master Page,) & there is my selfe, (fidelicet my selfe) and the three party is (lastly, and finally) mine Host of the Gater.

rem

remMa.Pa

We three to hear it, & end it between them.

rem

remEuan.

Ferry goo't, I will make a priefe of it in my note-booke, and we wil afterwards orke upon the cause, with as great discreetly as we can.

rem

remFal.

Pistoll.

rem

remPist.

He heares with eares.

rem

remEuan.

The Tewill and his Tam: what phrase is this? he heares with eare? why, it is affectations.

rem

remFal.

Pistoll, did you picke M. Slenders purse?

rem

remSlen.

I, by these gloues did hee, or I would I might neuer come in mine owne great chamber againe else, of seauen groates in mill-sixpences, and two Edward Shouelboards, that cost me two shilling and two pence a peece of Yead Miller: by these gloues.

rem

remFal.

Is this true, Pistoll?

rem

remEuan.

No, it is false, if it is a picke-purse.

rem

remPist.

Ha, thou mountaine Forreyner: Sir Iohn, and Master mine, I combat challenge of this Latine Bilboe: word of deniall in thy labras here; word of denial; froth, and scum thou liest.

rem

remSlen.

By these gloues, then 'twas he.

rem

remNym.

Be auis'd sir, and passe good humours: I will say marry trap with you, if you runne the nut-hooks humor on me, that is the very note of it.

rem

remSlen.

By this hat, then he in the red face had it: for though I cannot remember what I did when you made me drunke, yet I am not altogether an asse.

rem

remFal.

What say you Scarlet, and Iohn?

rem

remBar.

Why sir, (for my part) I say the Gentleman had drunke himselfe out of his fiue sentences.

rem

remEu.

It is his fiue sences: fie, what the ignorance is.

rem

remBar.

And being fap, sir, was (as they say) casheerd: and so conclusions past the Car-eires.

rem

remSlen.

I, you spake in Latten then to: but 'tis no matter; Ile nere be drunk whilst I liue againe, but in honest, ciuill, godly company for this tricke: if I be drunke, Ile be drunke with those that haue the feare of God, and not with drunken knaues.

rem

remEuan.

So got-udge me, that is a vertuous minde.

rem

remFal.

You heare all these matters deni'd, Gentlemen; you heare it.

rem

remMr.Page.

Nay daughter, carry the wine in, wee'll drinke within.

rem

remSlen.

Oh heauen: This is Mistresse Anne Page.

rem

remMr.Page.

How now Mistris Ford?

rem

remFal.

Mistris Ford, by my troth you are very wel met: by your leaue good Mistris.

rem

remMr.Page.

Wife, bid these gentlemen welcome: come, we haue a hot Venison pasty to dinner; Come gentlemen, I hope we shall drinke downe all vnkindnesse.

rem

remSlen.

I had rather then forty shillings I had my booke of Songs and Sonnets heere: How now Simple, where haue you beene? I must wait on my selfe, must I? you haue not the booke of Riddles about you, haue you?

rem

remSim.

Booke of Riddles? why did you not lend it to Alice Short-cake vpon Alhallowmas last, a fortnight afore Michaelmas.

rem

remShal.

Come Coz, come Coz, we stay for you: a word with you Coz: marry this, Coz: there is as 'twere a tender, a kinde of tender, made a farre-off by Sir Hugh here: doe you vnderstand me?

rem

remSlen.

*I Sir, you shall finde me reasonable; if it be so,
I shall doe that that is reason.*

rem

remShal.

Nay, but vnderstand me.

rem

remSlen.

So I doe Sir.

rem

remEuan.

Giue eare to his motions; (Mr. Slender) I will description the matter to you, if you be capacity of it.

rem

remSlen.

Nay, I will doe as my Cozen Shallow saies: I pray you pardon me, he's a Iustice of Peace in his Countrie, simple though I stand here.

rem

remEuan.

But that is not the question: the question is concerning your marriage.

rem

remShal.

I, there's the point Sir.

rem

remEu.

Marry is it: the very point of it, to Mr. An Page.

rem

remSlen.

Why if it be so; I will marry her vpon any reasonable demands.

rem

remEu.

But can you affection the 'o-man, let vs command to know that of your mouth, or of your lips: for diuers Philosophers hold, that the lips is parcell of the mouth: therefore precisely, can¹ you carry your good wil to y maid?

rem

remSh.

Cosen Abraham Slender, can you loue her?

rem

remSlen.

I hope sir, I will do as it shall become one that would doe reason.

rem

remEu.

Nay, got's Lords, and his Ladies, you must speake possitable, if you can carry-her your desires towards her.

rem

remShal.

That you must: Will you, (vpon good dowry) marry her?

rem

remSlen.

I will doe a greater thing then that, vpon your request (Cosen) in any reason.

rem

remShal.

Nay conceiue me, conceiue mee, (sweet Coz): What I doe is to pleasure you (Coz:) can you loue the maid?

rem

remSlen.

I will marry her (Sir) at your request; but if there bee no great loue in the beginning, yet Heauen may decrease it vpon better acquaintance, when wee are married, and haue more occasion to know one another: I hope vpon familiarity will grow more content: but if you say mary-her, I will mary-her, that I am freely dissolued, and dissolutely.

rem

remEu.

It is a fery discretion-answere; saue the fall is in the 'ord, dissolutely: the ort is (according to our meaning) resolutely: his meaning is good.

rem

remSh.

I: I thinke my Cosen meant well.

rem

remSl.

I, or else I would I might be hang'd (la.)

rem

remSh.

Here comes faire Mistris Anne; would 1 I were yong for your sake, Mistris Anne.

rem

remAn.

¹cā

The dinner is on the Table, my Father desires your worships company.

rem

remSh.

I will wait on him, (faire Mistris Anne.)

rem

remEu.

Od's plessed-wil: I wil not be absence² at the grace.

rem

remAn.

Wil't please your worship to come in, Sir?

rem

remSl.

No, I thank you forsooth, hartely; I am very well.

rem

remAn.

The dinner attends you, Sir.

rem

remSl.

I am not a-hungry, I thanke you, forsooth: goe, Sirha, for all you are my man, goe wait vpon my Cosen Shallow: a Iustice of peace sometime may be beholding to his friend, for a Man; I keepe but three Men, and aBoy yet, till my Mother be dead: but what though, yet I liue like a poore Gentleman borne.

rem

remAn.

I may not goe in without your worship: they will not sit till you come.

rem

remSl.

I'faith, ile eate nothing: I thanke you as much as though I did.

rem

remAn.

I pray you Sir walke in.

rem

remSl.

I had rather walke here (I thanke you) I bruiz'd my shin th' other day, with playing at Sword and Dagger with a Master of Fence (three veneyes for a dish of stew'd Prunes) and by my troth, I cannot abide the smell of hot meate since. Why doe your dogs barke so? be there Beares ith' Towne?

rem

remAn.

I thinke there are, Sir, I heard them talk'd of.

rem

remSl.

I loue the sport well, but I shall as soone quarrell at it, as any man in England: you are afraid if you see the Beare loose, are you not?

rem

²absēce

remAn.

I indeede Sir.

rem

remSl.

That's meate and drinke to me now: I haue seene Saskerson loose, twenty times, and haue taken him by the Chaine: but (I warrant you) the women haue so cride and shrekt at it, that it past: But women indeede, cannot abide 'em, they are very ill-fauour'd rough things.

rem

remMa.Pa

Come, gentle M. Slender, come; we stay for you.

rem

remSl.

Ile eate nothing, I thanke you Sir.

rem

remMa.Pa

By cocke and pie, you shall not choose, Sir: come, come.

rem

remSl.

Nay, pray you lead the way.

rem

remMa.Pa.

Come on, Sir.

rem

remSl.

Mistris Anne: your selfe shall goe first.

rem

remAn.

Not I Sir, pray you keepe on.

rem

remSl.

Truely I will not goe first: truly-la: I will not doe you that wrong.

rem

remAn.

I pray you Sir.

rem

remSl.

Ile rather be vnmanerly, then troublesome: you doe your selfe wrong indeede-la.

Scena Secunda.

Enter Euans, and Simple.

rem

remEu.

Go your waies, and aske of Doctor Caius house, which is the way; and there dwels one Mistris Quickly; which is in the manner of his Nurse; or his dry-Nurse; or his Cooke; or his Laundry; his Washer, and his Ringer.

rem
remSi.

Well Sir.

rem
remEu.

*Nay, it is petter yet: giue her this letter; for it is a 'oman that altogeathers acquaint-
tance³ with Mistris Anne Page; and the Letter is to desire, and require her to sollicite
your Masters desires, to Mistris Anne Page: I pray you be gon: I will make an end
of my dinner; ther's Pippins and Cheese to come.*

Exeunt.

Scena Tertia.

Enter Falstaffe, Host, Bardolfe, Nym, Pistoll, Page.

rem
remFal.

Mine Host of the Garter?

rem
remHo.

What saies my Bully Rooke? speake schollerly, and wisely.

rem
remFal.

Truely mine Host; I must turne away some of my followers.

rem
remHo.

Discard, (bully Hercules) casheere; let them wag; trot, trot.

rem
remFal.

I sit at ten pounds a weeke.

rem
remHo.

*Thou'rt an Emperor (Cesar, Keiser and Pheazar) I will entertaine Bardolfe: he shall
draw; he shall tap; said I well (bully Hector?)*

rem
remFa.

Doe so (good mine Host.

rem
remHo.

I haue spoke; let him follow: let me see thee froth, and liue: I am at a word: follow.

rem
remFal.

*Bardolfe, follow him: a Tapster is a good trade: an old Cloake, makes a new Ierkin:
a wither'd Seruingman, a fresh Tapster: goe, adew.*

rem

³acquaintāce

remBa.

It is a life that I haue desir'd: I will thriue.

rem

remPist.

O base hungarian wight: wilt yu the spigot wield.

rem

remNi.

He was gotten in drink: is not the humor conceited⁴?

rem

remFal.

I am glad I am so acquit of this Tinderbox: his Thefts were too open: his filching was like an vnskilfull Singer, he kept not time.

rem

remNi.

The good humor is to steale at a minutes rest.

rem

remPist.

Conuay: the wise it call: Steale? foh: a fico for the phrase.

rem

remFal.

Well sirs, I am almost out at heeles.

rem

remPist.

Why then let Kibes ensue.

rem

remFal.

There is no remedy: I must conicatch, I must shift.

rem

remPist.

Yong Rauens must haue foode.

rem

remFal.

Which of you know Ford of this Towne?

rem

remPist.

I ken the wight: he is of substance good.

rem

remFal.

My honest Lads, I will tell you what I am about.

rem

remPist.

Two yards, and more.

rem

remFal.

⁴cōceited

No quips now Pistoll: (Indeede I am in the waste two yards about: but I am now about no waste: I am about thrift) briefly: I doe meane to make loue to Fords wife: I spie entertainment in her: shee discourses: shee carues: she giues the leere of inuitation: I can construe the action of her familier stile, & the hardest voice of her behauior (to be english'd rightly) is, I am Sir Iohn Falstafs.

rem

remPist.

He hath studied her will; and translated her will: out of honesty, into English.

rem

remNi.

The Anchor is deepe: will that humor passe?

rem

remFal.

Now, the report goes, she has all the rule of her husbands Purse: he hath a legend of Angels.

rem

remPist.

As many diuels entertaine: and to her Boy say I.

rem

remNi.

The humor rises: it is good: humor me the angels.

rem

remFal.

I haue writ me here a letter to her: & here another to Pages wife, who euen now gaue mee good eyes too; examind my parts with most iudicious illiads: sometimes the beame of her view, guilded my foote: sometimes my portly belly.

rem

remPist.

Then did the Sun on dung-hill shine.

rem

remNi.

I thanke thee for that humour.

rem

remFal.

O she did so course o're my exteriors with such a greedy intention, that the appetite of her eye, did seeme to scorch me vp like a burning-glasse: here's another letter to her: She beares the Purse too: She is a Region in Guiana: all gold, and bountie: I will be Cheaters to them both, and they shall be Exchequers to mee: they shall be my East and West Indies, and I will trade to them both: Goe, beare thou this Letter to Mistris Page; and thou this to Mistris Ford: we will thriue (Lads) we will thriue.

rem

remPist.

Shall I Sir Pandarus of Troy become,

And by my side weare Steele? then Lucifer take all.

rem

remNi.

I will run no base humor: here take the humor-Letter; I will keepe the hauior of reputation.

rem

remFal.

Hold Sirha, beare you these Letters tightly,

Saile like my Pinnasse to these golden shores.

Rogues, hence, auaunt, vanish like haile-stones; goe,

Trudge; plod away ith' hoofe: seeke shelter, packe:

Falstaffe will learne the honor of the age,

French-thrift, you Rogues, my selfe, and skirted Page.

rem

remPist.

Let Vultures gripe thy guts: for gourd, and

Fullam holds: & high and low beguiles the rich & poore,

Tester ile haue in pouch when thou shalt lacke,

Base Phrygian Turke.

rem

remNi.

I haue opperations,

Which be humors of reuenge.

rem

remPist.

Wilt thou reuenge?

rem

remNi.

By Welkin, and her Star.

rem

remPist.

With wit, or Steele?

rem

remNi.

With both the humors, I:

I will discusse the humour of this Loue to Ford.

rem

remPist.

And I to Page shall eke vnfold

How Falstaffe (varlet vile)

His Doue will proue; his gold will hold,

And his soft couch defile.

rem

remNi.

My humour shall not coole: I will incense Ford to deale with poyson: I will possesse him with yellownesse, for the reuolt of mine is dangerous: that is my true humour.

rem

remPist.

Thou art the Mars of Malecontents: I second thee: troope on.

Exeunt.

Scœna Quarta.

Enter Mistris Quickly, Simple, Iohn Rugby, Doctor, Caius, Fenton.

rem

remQu.

What, Iohn Rugby, I pray thee goe to the Casement, and see if you can see my Master, Master Docter Caius comming: if he doe (I'faith) and finde any body in the house; here will be an old abusing of Gods patience, and the Kings English.

rem

remRu.

Ile goe watch.

rem

remQu.

Goe, and we'll haue a posset for't soone at night, (in faith) at the latter end of a Sea-cole-fire: An honest, willing, kinde fellow, as euer seruant shall come in house withall: and I warrant you, no tel-tale, nor no breede-bate: his worst fault is, that he is giuen to prayer; hee is something peeuish that way: but no body but has his fault: but let that passe. Peter Simple, you say your name is?

rem

remSi.

I: for fault of a better.

rem

remQu.

And Master Slender's your Master?

rem

remSi.

I forsooth.

rem

remQu.

Do's he not weare a great round Beard, like a

Glouers pairing-knife?

rem

remSi.

No forsooth: he hath but a little weeface; with a little yellow Beard: a Caine colourd Beard.

rem

remQu.

A softly-sprighted man, is he not?

rem

remSi.

I forsooth: but he is as tall a man of his hands, as any is betweene this and his head: he hath fought with a Warrener.

rem

remQu.

How say you: oh, I should remember him: do's he not hold vp his head (as it were?) and strut in his gate?

rem

remSi.

Yes indeede do's he.

rem

remQu.

Well, heauen send Anne Page, no worse fortune:

Tell Master Parson Euans, I will doe what I can for your

Master: Anne is a good girle, and I wish—

rem

remRu.

Out alas: here comes my Master.

rem

remQu.

We shall all be shent: Run in here, good young man: goe into this Closset: he will not stay long: what Iohn Rugby? Iohn: what Iohn I say? goe Iohn, goe enquire for my Master, I doubt he be not well, that hee comes not home: (and downe, downe, adowne'a. &c.

rem

remCa.

Vat is you sing? I doe not like des-toyes: pray you goe and vetch me in my Closset, vnboyteene verd; a Box, a greene-a-Box: do intend vat I speake? a greene-a-Box.

rem

remQu.

I forsooth ile fetch it you:

I am glad hee went not in himselfe: if he had found the yong man he would haue bin horne-mad.

rem

remCa.

Fe, fe, fe, fe, mai foy, il fait for ehando, Ie man voi a le

Court la grand affaires.

rem

remQu.

Is it this Sir?

rem

remCa.

Ouy mette le au mon pocket, de-peeche quickly:

Vere is dat knaue Rugby?

rem

remQu.

What Iohn Rugby, Iohn?

rem

remRu.

Here Sir.

rem

remCa.

You are Iohn Rugby, and you are Iacke Rugby:

Come, take-a-your Rapier, and come after my heele to the Court.

rem

remRu.

'Tis ready Sir, here in the Porch.

rem

remCa.

By my trot: I tarry too long: od's-me: que ay ie oublie: dere is some Simples in my Closset, dat I vill not for the varld I shall leaue behinde.

rem

remQu.

Ay-me, he'll finde the yong man there, & be mad.

rem

remCa.

O Diable, Diable: vat is in my Closset?

Villanie, La-roone: Rugby, my Rapier.

rem

remQu.

Good Master be content.

rem

remCa.

Wherefore shall I be content-a?

rem

remQu.

The yong man is an honest man.

rem

remCa.

What shall de honest man do in my Closset: dere is no honest man dat shall come in my Closset.

rem

remQu.

I beseech you be not so flegmaticke: heare the truth of it. He came of an errand to mee, from Parson Hugh.

rem

remCa.

Vell.

rem

remSi.

I forsooth: to desire her to—

rem

remQu.

Peace, I pray you.

rem

remCa.

Peace-a-your tongue: speake-a-your Tale.

rem

remSi.

To desire this honest Gentlewoman (your Maid) to speake a good word to Mistris Anne Page, for my Master in the way of Marriage.

rem

remQu.

This is all indeed-la: but ile nere put my finger in the fire, and neede not.

rem

remCa.

Sir Hugh send-a you? Rugby, ballow mee some paper: tarry you a littell-a-while.

rem

remQui.

I am glad he is so quiet: if he had bin throughly mowed, you should haue heard him so loud, and so melancholly: but notwithstanding man, Ile doe yoe your Master what good I can: and the very yea, & the no is, y French Doctor my Master, (I may call him my Master, looke you, for I keepe his house; and I wash, ring, brew, bake, scowre, dresse meat and drinke, make the beds, and doe all my selfe.)

rem

remSimp.

'Tis a great charge to come vnder one bodie's hand.

rem

remQui.

Are you a-uis'd o'that? you shall finde it a great charge: and to be vp early, and down late: but notwithstanding, (to tell you in your eare, I wold haue no words of it) my Master himselve is in loue with Mistris Anne Page: but notwithstanding that I know Ans mind, that's neither heere nor there.

rem

remCaius.

You, Iack'Nape: giue-'a this Letter to Sir Hugh, by gar it is a shallenge: I will cut his troat in de Parke, and I will teach a scuruy Iack-a-nape Priest to meddle, or make: — you may be gon: it is not good you tarry here: by gar I will cut all his two stones: by gar, he shall not haue a stone to throw at his dogge.

rem

remQui.

Alas: he speakes but for his friend.

rem

remCaius.

It is no matter 'a ver dat: do not you tell-a-me dat I shall haue Anne Page for my selfe? by gar, I will kill de Iack-Priest: and I haue appointed mine Host of de Iarteer to measure our weapon: by gar, I wil my selfe haue Anne Page.

rem

remQui.

Sir, the maid loues you, and all shall bee well:

We must giue folkes leaue to prate: what the good-ier.

rem

remCaius.

Rugby, come to the Court with me: by gar, if I haue not Anne Page, I shall turne your head out of my dore: follow my heeles, Rugby.

rem

remQui.

You shall haue An-fooles head of your owne: No, I know Ans mind for that: neuer a woman in Windsor knowes more of Ans minde then I doe, nor can doe more then I doe with her, I thanke heauen.

rem

remFenton.

Who's with in there, hoa?

rem

remQui.

Who's there, I troa? Come neere the house I pray you.

rem

remFen.

How now (good woman) how dost thou?

rem

remQui.

The better that it pleases your good Worship to aske?

rem

remFen.

What newes? how do's pretty Mistris Anne?

rem

remQui.

In truth Sir, and shee is pretty, and honest, and gentle, and one that is your friend, I can tell you that by the way, I praise heauen for it.

rem

remFen.

Shall I doe any good thinkst thou? shall I not loose my suit?

rem

remQui.

Troth Sir, all is in his hands aboue: but notwithstanding (Master Fenton) Ile be sworne on a booke shee loues you: haue not your Worship a wart aboue your eye?

rem

remFen.

Yes marry haue I, what of that?

rem

remQui.

Wel, thereby hangs a tale: good faith, it is such another Nan; (but (I detest) an honest maid as euer broke bread: wee had an howres talke of that wart; I shall neuer laugh but in that maids company: but (indeed) shee is giuen too much to Allicholy and musing: but for you— well— goe too

rem

remFen.

Well: I shall see her to day: hold, there's money for thee: Let mee haue thy voice in my behalfe: if thou seest her before me, commend me.

rem

remQui.

Will I? I faith that wee will: And I will tell your Worship more of the Wart, the next time we haue confidence, and of other wooers.

rem

remFen.

Well, fare-well, I am in great haste now.

rem

remQui.

Fare-well to your Worship: truly an honest Gentleman: but Anne loues hiim not: for I know Ans minde as well as another do's: out vpon't: what haue I forgot.

Exit.

Actus Secundus. Scena Prima.

Enter Mistris Page, Mistris Ford, Master Page, Master Ford, Pistoll, Nim, Quickly, Host, Shallow.

rem

remMist.Page.

What, haue scap'd Loue-letters in the holly-day-time of my beauty, and am I now a subiect for them? let me see? Aske me no reason why I loue you, for though Loue vse Reason for his precisian, hee admits him not for his Counsaillour: you are not yong, no more am I: goe to then, there's simpathie: you are merry, so am I: ha, ha, then there's more simpathie: you loue sacke, and so do I: would you desire better simpathie? Let it suffice thee (Mistris Page) at the least if the Loue of Souldier can suffice, that I loue thee: I will not say pittie mee, 'tis not a Souldier-like phrase; but I say, loue me:

By me, thine owne true Knight, by day or night:

Or any kinde of light, with all his might,

For thee to fight. Iohn Falstaffe.

What a Herod of Iurie is this? O wicked, wicked world:

One that is well-nye worne to peeces with age

To show himselfe a yong Gallant? What an vnwaied

Behauiour hath this Flemish drunkard pickt (with

The Deuills name) out of my conuersation, that he dares

In this manner assay me? why, hee hath not beene thrice

In my Company: what should I say to him? I was then

Frugall of my mirth: (heauen forgiue mee:) why Ile

Exhibit a Bill in the Parliament for the putting downe

of men: how shall I be reueng'd on him? for reueng'd I

will be? as sure as his guts are made of puddings.

rem

remMis.Ford.

Mistris Page, trust me, I was going to your house.

rem

remMis.Page.

And trust me, I was comming to you: you looke very ill.

rem

remMis.Ford.

Nay Ile nere beleeee that; I haue to shew to the contrary.

rem

remMis.Page.

'Faith but you doe in my minde.

rem

remMis.Ford.

Well: I doe then: yet I say, I could shew you to the contrary: O Mistris Page, giue mee some counsaile.

rem

remMis.Page.

What's the matter, woman?

rem

remMi.Ford.

O woman: if it were not for one trifling respect,I could come to such honour.

rem

remMi.Page.

Hang the trifle (woman) take the honour: what is it? dispence with trifles: what is it?

rem

remMi.Ford.

If I would but goe to hell, for an eternall moment, or so: I could be knighted.

rem

remMi.Page.

What thou liest? Sir Alice Ford? these Knights will hacke, and so thou shouldst not alter the article of thy Gentry.

rem

remMi.Ford.

Wee burne day-light: heere, read, read: perceiue how I might bee knighted, I shall thinke the worse of fat men, as long as I haue an eye to make difference of mens liking: and yet hee would not sweare: praise womens modesty: and gaue such orderly and wel-behaued reproofe to al vncomelinesse, that I would haue sworne his disposition would haue gone to the truth of his words: but they doe no more adhere and keep place together, then the hundred Psalms to the tune of Greensleeues: What tempest (I troa) threw this Whale, (with so many Tuns of oyle in his belly) a'shoare at Windsor? How shall I bee reuenged on him? I thinke the best way were, to entertaine him with hope, till the wicked fire of lust haue melted him in his owne greace: Did you euer heare the like?

rem

remMis.Page.

Letter for letter; but that the name of Page and Ford differs: to thy great comfort in this mystery of ill opinions, heere's the twyn-brother of thy Letter: but let thine inherit first, for I protest mine neuer shall: I warrant he hath a thousand of these Letters, writ with blancke-space for different names (sure more): and these are of the second edition: hee will print them out of doubt: for he cares not what hee puts into the presse, when he would put vs two: I had rather be a Giantesse, and lye vnder Mount Pelion: Well; I will find you twentie lasciuious Turtles ere one chaste man.

rem

remMis.Ford.

Why this is the very same: the very hand: the very words: what doth he thinke of vs?

rem

remMis.Page.

Nay I know not: it makes me almost readie to wrangle with mine owne honesty: Ile entertaine my selfe like one that I am not acquainted withall: for sure vnlesse hee know some straine in mee, that I know not my selfe, hee would neuer haue boarded me in this furie.

rem

remMi.Ford.

Boording, call you it? Ile bee sure to keepe him aboue decke.

rem

remMi.Page.

So will I: if hee come vnder my hatches, Ile neuer to Sea againe: Let's bee reueng'd on him: let's appoint him a meeting: giue him a show of comfort in his Suit, and lead him on with a fine baited delay, till hee hath pawn'd his horses to mine Host of the Garter.

rem

remMi.Ford.

Nay, I wil consent to act any villany against him, that may not sully the charinesse of our honesty: oh that my husband saw this Letter: it would giue eternall food to his ieaousie.

rem

remMis.Page.

Why look where he comes; and my good man too: hee's as farre from ieaousie, as I am from giuing him cause, and that (I hope) is an vnmeasurable distance.

rem

remMis.Ford.

You are the happier woman.

rem

remMis.Page.

Let's consult together against this greasie Knight: Come hither.

rem

remFord.

Well: I hope, it be not so.

rem

remPist.

Hope is a curtall-dog in some affaires:

Sir Iohn affects thy wife.

rem

remFord.

Why sir, my wife is not young.

rem

remPist.

He wooes both high and low, both rich & poor, both yong and old, one with another (Ford) he loues the

Gally-mawfry (Ford) perpend.

rem

remFord.

Loue my wife?

rem

remPist.

With liuer, burning hot: preuent:

Or goe thou like Sir Acteon he, with

Ring-wood at thy heeles: O, odious is the name.

rem

remFord.

What name Sir?

rem

remPist.

The horne I say: Farewell:

Take heed, haue open eye, for theeues doe foot by night.

Take heed, ere sommer comes, or Cuckoo-birds do sing.

Away sir Corporall Nim:

Beleeue it (Page) he speakes sence.

rem

remFord.

I will be patient: I will find out this.

rem

remNim.

And this is true: I like not the humor of lying: hee hath wronged mee in some humors: I should haue borne the humour'd Letter to her: but I haue a sword: and it shall bite vpon my necessitie: he loues your wife; There's the short and the long: My name is Corporall Nim: I speak, and I auouch; 'tis true: my name is Nim: and Falstaffe loues your wife: adieu, I loue not the humour of bread and cheese: adieu.

rem

remPage.

The humour of it (quoth'a?) heere's a fellow frights English out of his wits.

rem

remFord.

I will seeke out Falstaffe.

rem

remPage.

I neuer heard such a drawling-affecting rogue.

rem

remFord.

If I doe finde it: well.

rem

remPage.

I will not beleeeue such a Cataian, though the Priest o' th' Towne commended him for a true man.

rem

remFord.

'Twas a good sensible fellow: well.

rem

remPage.

How now Meg?

rem

remMist.Page.

Whether goe you (George?) harke you.

rem

remMis.Ford.

How now (sweet Frank) why art thou melancholy?

rem

remFord.

I melancholy? I am not melancholy:

Get you home: goe.

rem

remMis.Ford.

Faith, thou hast some crochets in thy head,

Now: will you goe, Mistris Page?

rem

remMis.Page.

Haue with you: you'll come to dinner George? Looke who comes yonder: shee shall bee our Messenger to this paltrie Knight.

rem

remMis.Ford.

Trust me, I thought on her: shee'll fit it.

rem

remMis.Page.

You are come to see my daughter Anne?

rem

remQui.

I forsooth: and I pray how do's good Mistresse Anne?

rem

remMis.Page.

Go in with vs and see: we haue an houres talke with you.

rem

remPage.

How now Master Ford?

rem

remFord.

You heard what this knaue told me, did you not?

rem

remPage.

Yes, and you heard what the other told me?

rem

remFord.

Doe you thinke there is truth in them?

rem

remPag.

Hang 'em slaues: I doe not thinke the Knight would offer it: But these that accuse him in his intent towards our wiues, are a yoake of his discarded men: ve-ry rogues, now they be out of seruice.

rem

remFord.

Were they his men?

rem

remPage.

Marry were they.

rem

remFord.

I like it neuer the beter for that,

Do's he lye at the Garter?

rem

remPage.

I marry do's he: if hee should intend this voyage toward my wife, I would turne her loose to him; and what hee gets more of her, then sharpe words, let it lye on my head.

rem

remFord.

I doe not misdoubt my wife: but I would bee loath to turne them together: a man may be too confident: I would haue nothing lye on my head: I cannot be thus satisfied.

rem

remPage.

Looke where my ranting-Host of the Garter comes: there is eyther liquor in his pate, or mony in his purse, when hee lookes so merrily: How now mine Host?

rem

remHost.

How now Bully-Rooke: thou'rt a Gentleman

Caueleiro Iustice, I say.

rem

remShal.

I follow, (mine Host) I follow: Good-euen, and twenty (good Master Page.) Master Page, wil you go with us? we haue sport in hand.

rem

remHost.

Tell him Caualeiro-Iustice: tell him Bully-Rooke.

rem

remShall.

Sir, there is a fray to be fought, betweene Sir Hugh the Welch Priest, and Caius the French Doctor.

rem

remFord.

Good mine Host o'th' Garter: a word with you.

rem

remHost.

What saist thou, my Bully-Rooke?

rem

remShal.

Will you goe with vs to behold it? My merry Host hath had the measuring of their weapons; and (I thinke) hath appointed them contrary places: for (beleue mee) I heare the Parson is no Iester: harke, I will tell you what our sport shall be.

rem

remHost.

Hast thou no suit against my Knight? my guest-Caualeire?

rem

remShal.

None, I protest: but Ile giue you a pottle of burn'd sacke, to giue me recourse to him, and tell him my name is Broome: onely for a iest.

rem

remHost.

My hand, (Bully:) thou shalt haue egresse and regresse, (said I well?) and thy name shall be Broome. It is a merry Knight: will you goe An-heires?

rem

remShal.

Haue with you mine Host.

rem

remPage.

I haue heard the Frenchman hath good skill in his Rapier.

rem

remShal.

Tut sir: I could haue told you more: In these times you stand on distance: your Passes, Stoccado's, and I know not what: 'tis the heart (Master Page) 'tis heere, 'tis heere: I haue seene the time, with my long-sword, I would haue made you foure tall fellowes skippe like Rattes.

rem

remHost.

Heere boyes, heere, heere: shall we wag?

rem

remPage.

Haue with you: I had rather heare them scold, then fight.

rem

remFord.

Though Page be a secure foole, and stands so firmly on his wiues frailty; yet, I cannot put-off my opinion so easily: she was in his company at Pages house: and what they made there, I know not. Well, I wil looke further into't, and I haue a disguise, to sound Falstaffe; if I finde her honest, I loose not my labor: if she be otherwise, 'tis labour well bestowed.

Exeunt.

Scœna Secunda

Enter Falstaffe, Pistoll, Robin, Quickly, Bardolffe, Ford.

rem

remFal.

I will not lend thee a penny.

rem

remPist.

Why then the world's mine Oyster, which I, with sword will open.

rem

remFal.

Not a penny: I haue beene content (Sir,) you should lay my countenance to pawne: I haue grated vpon my good friends for three Repreeues for you, and your Coach-fellow Nim; or else you had look'd through the grate, like a Geminy of Baboones: I am damn'd in hell, for swearing to Gentlemen my friends, you were good Souldiers, and tall-fellowes. And when Mistresse Briget lost the handle of her Fan, I took't vpon mine honour thou hadst it not.

rem

remPist.

Didst not thou share? hadst thou not fifteene pence?

rem

remFal.

Reason, you roague, reason: thinkst thou Ile endanger my soule, gratis? at a word, hang no more about mee, I am no gibbet for you: goe, a short knife, and a throng, to your Mannor of Picket-hatch: goe, you'll not beare a Letter for mee you roague? you stand vpon your honor: why, (thou vnconfinable basenesse) it is as much as I can doe to keepe the termes of my honor precise: I, I, I my selfe sometimes, leauing the feare of heauen on the left hand, and hiding mine honor in my necessity, am faine to shuffle: to hedge, and to lurch, and yet, you Rogue, will en-sconce your raggs; your Cat-a-Mountaine-lookes, your red-lattice phrases, and your bold-beating-oathes, vnder the shelter of your honor? you will not doe it? you?

rem

remPist.

I doe relent: what would thou more of man?

rem

remRobin.

Sir, here's a woman would speake with you.

rem

remFal.

Let her approach.

rem

remQui.

Giue your worship good morrow.

rem

remFal.

Good-morrow, good-wife.

rem

remQui.

Not so, and't please your worship.

rem

remFal.

Good maid then.

rem

remQui.

Ile be sworne,

As my mother was the first houre I was borne.

rem

remFal.

I doe beleue the swearer; what with me?

rem

remQui.

Shall I vouch-safe your worship a word, or two?

rem

remFal.

Two thousand (faire woman) and ile vouchsafe thee the hearing.

rem

remQui.

There is one Mistresse Ford, (Sir) I pray come a little neerer this waies: I my selfe dwell with M. Doctor Caius:

rem

remFal.

Well, on; Mistresse Ford, you say.

rem

remQui.

Your worship saies very true: I pray your worship come a little neerer this waies.

rem

remFal.

I warrant thee, no-bodie heares: mine owne people, mine owne people

rem

remQui.

Are they so? heauen-blesse them, and make them his Seruants.

rem

remFal.

Well; Mistresse Ford, what of her?

rem

remQui.

Why, Sir; shee's a good-creature; Lord, Lord, your Worship's a wanton: well: heauen forgiue you, and all of vs, I pray—

rem

remFal.

Mistresse Ford: come, Mistresse Ford.

rem

remQui.

Marry this is the short, and the long of it: you haue brought her into such a Canaries, as 'tis wonderfull: the best Courtier of them all (when the Court lay at Windsor) could neuer haue brought her to such a Canarie: yet there has beene Knights, and Lords, and Gentlemen, with their Coaches; I warrant you Coach after Coach, letter after letter, gift after gift, smelling so sweetly; all Muske, and so rushling, I warrant you, in silke and golde, and in such alligant termes, and in such wine and suger of the best, and the fairest, that would haue wonne any womans heart: and I warrant you, they could neuer get an eyewinke of her: I had my selfe twentie Angels giuen me this morning, but I defie all Angels (in any such sort, as they say) but in the way of honesty: and I warrant you, they could neuer get her so much as sippe on a cup with the proudest of them all, and yet there has beene Earles: nay, (which is more) Pentioners, but I warrant you all is one with her.

rem

remFal.

But what saies shee to mee? be briefe my good shee-Mercurie.

rem

remQui.

Marry, she hath receiu'd your Letter: for the which she thankes you a thousand times; and she giues you to notifie, that her husband will be absence from his house, betweene ten and eleuen.

rem

remFal.

Ten, and eleuen.

rem

remQui.

I, forsooth: and then you may come and see the picture (she sayes) that you wot of: Master Ford her husband will be from home: alas, the sweet woman leades an ill life with him: hee's a very iealousie-man; she leads a very frampold life with him, (good hart.)

rem

remFal.

Ten, and eleuen.

Woman, commend me to her, I will not faile her.

rem

remQui.

Why, you say well: But I haue another messenger to your worship: Mistresse Page hath her heartie commendations to you to: and let mee tell you in your eare, shee's as fartuous a ciuill modest wife, and one (I tell you) that will not misse you morning nor euening prayer, as any is in Windsor, who ere bee the other: and shee bade me

tell your worship, that her husband is seldome from home, but she hopes there will come a time. I neuer knew a woman so doate vpon a man; surely I thinke you haue charmes, la: yes in truth.

rem

remFal.

Not I, I assure thee; setting the attraction of my good parts aside, I haue no other charmes.

rem

remQui.

Blessing on your heart for't.

rem

remFal.

But I pray thee tell me this: has Fords wife, and Pages wife acquainted each other, how they loue me?

rem

remQui.

That were a iest indeed: they haue not so little grace I hope, that were a tricke indeed: But Mistris Page would desire you to send her your little Page of al loues: her husband has a maruellous infection⁵ to the little Page: and truely Master Page is an honest man: neuer a wife in Windsor leades a better life then she do's: doe what shee will, say what she will, take all, pay all, goe to bed when she list, rise when she list, all is as she will: and truly she deserues it; for if there be a kinde woman in Windsor, she is one: you must send her your Page, no remedie.

rem

remFal.

Why, I will.

rem

remQu.

Nay, but doe so then, and looke you, hee may come and goe betweene you both: and in any case haue a nay-word, that you may know one anothers minde, and the Boy neuer neede to vnderstand any thing; for'tis not good that children should know any wickednes: olde folkes you know, haue discretion, as they say, and know the world.

rem

remFal.

Farethee-well, commend mee to them both: there's my purse, I am yet thy debter: Boy, goe along with this woman, this newes distracts me.

rem

remPist.

This Puncke is one of Cupids Carriers,

Clap on more sailes, pursue: vp with your fights:

Giue fire: she is my prize, or Oceanwhelme them all.

rem

remFal.

⁵infectiō

Saist thou so (old Iacke) go thy waies: Ile make more of thy olde body then I haue done: will they yet looke after thee? wilt thou after the expence of so much money, be now a gainer? good Body, I thanke thee: let them say 'tis grossely done, so it bee fairely done, no matter.

rem

remBar.

Sir Iohn, there's one Master Broome below would faine speake with you, and be acquainted with you; and hath sent your worship a mornings draught of Sacke.

rem

remFal.

Broome is his name?

rem

remBar.

I Sir.

rem

remFal.

Call him in: such Broomes are welcome to mee, that ore'flowes such liquor: ah ha, Mistresse Ford and Mistresse Page, haue I encompass'd you? goe to, via.

rem

remFord.

'Blesse you sir.

rem

remFal.

And you sir: would you speake with me?

rem

remFord.

I make bold, to presse, with so little preparation vpon you.

rem

remFal.

You'r welcome, what's your will? giue vs leaue Drawer.

rem

remFord.

Sir, I am a Gentleman that haue spent much, my name is Broome.

rem

remFal.

Good Master Broome, I desire more acquaintance of you.

rem

remFord.

Good Sir Iohn, I sue for yours: not to charge you, for I must let you vnderstand, I thinke my selfe in better plight for a Lender, then you are: the which hath something emboldned me to this vnseason'd intrusion: for they say, if money goe before, all waies doe lye open.

rem

remFal.

Money is a good Souldier (Sir) and will on.

rem

remFord.

Troth, and I haue a bag of money heere troubles me: if you will helpe to beare it (Sir Iohn) take all, or halfe, for easing me of the carriage.

rem

remFal.

Sir, I know not how I may deserue to bee your Porter.

rem

remFord.

I will tell you sir, if you will giue mee the hearing.

rem

remFal.

Speake (good Master Broome) I shall be glad to be your Seruant.

rem

remFord.

Sir, I heare you are a Scholler: (I will be briefe with you) and you haue been a man long knowne to me, though I had neuer so good means as desire, to make my selfe acquainted with you. I shall discover a thing to you, wherein I must very much lay open mine owne imperfection: but (good Sir Iohn) as you haue one eye vpon my follies, as you heare them vnfolded, turne another into the Register of your owne, that I may passe with a reproofe the easier, sith you your selfe know how easie it is to be such an offender.

rem

remFal.

Very well Sir, proceed.

rem

remFord.

There is a Gentlewoman in this Towne, her husbands name is Ford.

rem

remFal.

Well Sir.

rem

remFord.

I haue long lou'd her, and I protest to you, bestowed much on her: followed her with a doating obseruance: Ingross'd opportunities to meete her: fee'd euery slight occasion that could but nigardly giue mee sight of her: not only bought many presents to giue her, but haue giuen largely to many, to know what shee would haue giuen: briefly, I haue pursu'd her, as Loue hath pursued mee, which hath beene on the wing of all occasions: but whatsoever I haue merited, either in my minde, or in my meanes, meede I am sure I haue receiued none, vnlesse Experience be a Iewell, that I haue purchased at an infinite rate, and that hath taught mee to say this,

“Loue like a shadow flies, when substance Loue pursues,

“Pursuing that that flies, and flying what pursues.

rem

remFal.

Haue you receiu'd no promise of satisfaction at her hands?

rem

remFord.

Neuer.

rem

remFal.

Haue you importun'd her to such a purpose?

rem

remFord.

Neuer.

rem

remFal.

Of what qualitie was your loue then?

rem

remFord.

Like a fair house, built on another mans ground, so that I haue lost my edifice, by mistaking the place, where I erected it.

rem

remFal.

To what purpose haue you vnfolded this to me?

rem

remFor.

When I haue told you that, I haue told you all: Some say, that though she appeare honest to mee, yet in other places shee enlargeth her mirth so farre, that there is shrewd construction made of her. Now (Sir Iohn) here is the heart of my purpose: you are a gentleman of excellent breeding, admirable discourse, of great admittance, authenticke in your place and person, generally allow'd for your many warlike, court-like, and learned preparations.

rem

remFal.

O Sir.

rem

remFord.

Beleeue it, for you know it: there is money, spend it, spend it, spend more; spend all I haue, onely giue me so much of your time in exchange of it, as to lay an amiable siege to the honesty of this Fords wife: use your Art of wooing; win her to consent to you: if any man may, you may as soone as any.

rem

remFal.

Would it apply well to the vehemency of your affection that I should win what you would enioy? Methinkes you prescribe to your selfe very preposterously.

rem

remFord.

O, vnderstand my drift: she dwells so securely on the excellency of her honor, that the folly of my soule dares not present it selfe: shee is too bright to be look'd against. Now, could I come to her with any detection in my hand; my desires had instance and argument to commend themselues, I could driue her then from the ward of her purity, her reputation, her marriage-vow, and a thousand other her defences, which now are too-too strongly embattaild against me: what say you too't, Sir Iohn?

rem

remFal.

Master Broome, I will first make bold with your money: next, giue mee your hand: and last, as I am a gentleman, you shall, if you will, enioy Fords wife.

rem

remFord.

O good Sir.

rem

remFal.

I say you shall.

rem

remFord.

Want no money (Sir Iohn) you shall want none.

rem

remFal.

Want no Mistresse Ford (Master Broome) you shall want none: I shall be with her (I may tell you) by her owne appointment, euen as you came in to me, her assistant, or goe-betweene, parted from me: I say I shall be with her betweene ten and eleuen: for at that time the ielialous-rascally-knaue her husband will be forth: come you to me at night, you shall know how I speed.

rem

remFord.

I am blest in your acquaintance: do you know Ford Sir?

rem

remFal.

Hang him (poore Cuckoldly knaue) I know him not: yet I wrong him to call him poore: They say the ielous wittolly-knaue hath masses of money, for the which his wife seemes to me well-fauourd: I will use her as the key of the Cuckoldly-rogues Coffe, & ther's my haruest-home.

rem

remFord.

I would you knew Ford, sir, that you might auoid him, if you saw him.

rem

remFal.

Hang him, mechanical-salt-butter rogue; I wil stare him out of his wits: I will awe-him with my cudgell: it shall hang like a Meteor ore the Cuckolds horns: Master Broome, thou shalt know, I will predominate ouer the pezant, and thou shalt lye with his wife. Come to me soone at night: Ford's a knaue, and I will aggrauate his stile: thou (Master Broome) shalt know him for knaue, and Cuckold. Come to me soone at night.

rem

remFord.

What a damn'd EpicurianRascall is this? my heart is ready to cracke with impatience: who saies this is improuident ielousie? my wife hath sent to him, the howre is fixt, the match is made: would any man haue thought this? see the hell of hauing a false woman: my bed shall be abus'd, my Coffers ransack'd, my reputation gnawne at, and I shall not onely receiue this villainous wrong, but stand vnder the adoption of abhominable termes, and by him that does mee this wrong: Termes, names:

Amaimon sounds well: Lucifer, well: Barbason, well: yet they are Diuels additions, the names of fiends: But Cuckold, Wittoll, Cuckold? the Diuell himselfe hath not such a name. Page is an Asse, a secure Asse; hee will trust his wife, hee will not be iealous: I will rather trust a Fleming with my butter, Parson Hugh the Welshman with my Cheese, an Irish-man with my Aqua-vitæ-bottle, or a Theefe to walke my ambling gelding, then my wife with her selfe. Then she plots, then shee ruminates, then shee deuises: and what they thinke in their hearts they may effect; they will breake their hearts but they will effect. Heauen bee prais'd for my iealousie: eleuen o'clocke the howre, I will preuent this, detect my wife, bee reueng'd on Falstaffe, and laugh at Page. I will about it, better three houres too soone, then a mynute too late: fie, fie, fie: Cuckold, Cuckold, Cuckold.

Exti.

Scena Tertia.

Enter Caius, Rugby, Page, Shallow, Slender, Host.

rem

remCaius.

Iacke Rugby.

rem

remRug.

Sir.

rem

remCaius.

Vat is the clocke, Iack.

rem

remRug.

'Tis past the howre (Sir) that Sir Hugh promis'd to meet.

rem

remCai.

By gar, he has saue his soule, dat he is no-come: hee has pray his Pible well, dat he is no-come: by gar (Iack Rugby) he is dead already, if he be come.

rem

remRug.

Hee is wise Sir: hee knew your worship would kill him if he came.

rem

remCai.

By gar, de herring is no dead, so as I vill kill him: take your Rapier, (Iacke) I vill tell you how I vill kill him.

rem

remRug.

Alas sir, I cannot fence.

rem

remCai.

Villaine, take your Rapier.

rem

remRug.

Forbeare: heer's company.

rem

remHost.

'Blesse thee, bullyDoctor.

rem

remShal.

'Sawe you Mr. Doctor Caius.

rem

remPage.

Now good Mr. Doctor.

rem

remSlen.

'Giue you goodmorrow, sir.

rem

remCaius.

Vat be all you one, two, tree, fowre, come for?

rem

remHost.

To see thee fight, to see thee foigne, to see thee trauerse, to see thee heere, to see thee there, to see thee passe thy puncto, thy stock, thy reuerse, thy distance, thy montant: Is he dead, my Ethiopian? Is he dead, my Francisco? ha Bully? what saies my Esculapius? my Galien? my heart of Elder? ha? is he dead bully-Stale? is he dead?

rem

remCai.

By gar, he is de Coward-Iack-Priest of de vorld: he is not show his face.

rem

remHost.

Thou art a Castalion-king-Vrinall: Hector of Greece (my Boy)

rem

remCai.

I pray you beare witnesse, that me haue stay, sixe or seuen, two tree howres for him, and hee is no-come.

rem

remShal.

He is the wiser man (M.Docto) rhe(M. Doctor) he is a curer of soules, and you a curer of bodies: if you should fight, you goe against the haire of your professions: is it not true, Master Page?

rem

remPage.

Master Shallow; you haue your selfe beene a great fighter, though now a man of peace.

rem

remShal.

Body-kins M. Page, though I now be old, and of the peace; if I see a sword out, my finger itches to make one: though wee are Iustices, and Doctors, and Church-men

(M. Page) wee haue some salt of our youth in vs, we are the sons of women (M. Page.)

rem

remPage.

'Tis true, Mr. Shallow.

rem

remShal.

It wil be found so, (M. Page:) M. Doctor Caius, I am come to fetch you home: I am sworn of the peace: you haue show'd your selfe a wise Physician, and Sir Hugh hath showne himselfe a wise and patient Churchman: you must goe with me, M. Doctor.

rem

remHost.

Pardon, Guest-Iustice; a Mounseur Mockewater

rem

remCai.

Mock-vater? vat is dat?

rem

remHost.

Mock-water, in our English tongue, is Valour (Bully.)

rem

remCai.

By gar, then I haue as much Mock-vater as de Englishman: scuruy-Iack-dog-Priest: by gar, mee vill cut his eares.

rem

remHost.

He will Clapper-claw thee tightly (Bully.)

rem

remCai.

Clapper-de-claw? vat is dat?

rem

remHost.

That is, he will make thee amends.

rem

remCai.

By-gar, me doe looke hee shall clapper-de-claw me, for by-gar, me vill haue it.

rem

remHost.

And I will prouoke him to't, or let him wag.

rem

remCai.

Me tanck you for dat.

rem

remHost.

And moreouer, (Bully) but first, Mr. Ghuest, and M. Page, & eeke Caualeiro Slander, goe you through the Towne to Frogmore.

rem

remPage.

Sir Hugh is there, is he?

rem

remHost.

He is there, see what humor he is in: and I will bring the Doctor about by the Fields: will it doe well?

rem

remShal.

We will doe it.

rem

remAll.

Adieu, good M. Doctor.

rem

remCai.

By-gar, me vill kill de Priest, for he speake for a Iack-an-Ape to Anne Page.

rem

remHost.

Let him die: sheath thy impatience: throw cold water on thy Choller: goe about the fields with mee through Frogmore, I will bring thee where Mistris Anne Page is, at a Farm-house a Feasting: and thou shalt wooe her: Cride-game, said I well?

rem

remCai.

By-gar, mee dancke you vor dat: by gar I loue you: and I shall procure 'a you de good Guest: de Earle, de Knight, de Lords, de Gentlemen, my patients.

rem

remHost.

For the which, I will be thy aduersary toward Anne Page: said I well?

rem

remCai.

By-gar, 'tis good: vell said.

rem

remHost.

Let vs wag then.

rem

remCai.

Come at my heeles, Iack Rugby.

Exeunt.

Actus Tertius. Scœna Prima.

Enter Euans, Simple, Page, Shallow, Slender, Host, Caius, Rugby.

rem

remEuans.

I pray you now, good Master Slenders seruingman, and friend Simple by your name; which way haue you look'd for Master Caius, that calls himselfe Doctor of Phisicke.

rem

remSim.

Marry Sir, the pittie-ward, the Parke-ward: euey way: olde Windsor way, and euey way but the Towe-way.

rem

remEuan.

I most-fehemently desire you, you will also looke that way.

rem

remSim.

I will sir.

rem

remEuan.

'Plesse my soule: how full of Chollors I am, and trempling of minde: I shall be glad if he haue deceiued me: how melancholies I am? I will knog his Vrinalls about his knaues costard, when I haue good opportunities for the orke: 'Plesse my soule: To shallow Riuers to whose falls: melodious Birds sings Madrigalls: There will we make our Peds of Roses: and a thousand fragrant posies. To shallow: 'Mercie on mee, I haue a great dispositions to cry. Melodious birds sing Madrigalls: —When as I sat in Pabilon: and a thousand vagram Posies. To shallow, &c.

rem

remSim.

Yonder he is comming, this way, Sir Hugh.

rem

remEuan.

Hee's welcome: To shallow Riuers, to whose fals:

Heauen prosper the right: what weapons is he?

rem

remSim.

No weapons, Sir: there comes my Master, Mr. Shallow, and another Gentleman; from Frogmore, ouer the stile, this way.

rem

remEuan.

Pray you giue mee my gowne, or else keepe it in your armes.

rem

remShal.

How now Master Parson? good morrow good Sir Hugh: keepe a Gamester from the dice, and a good Student from his booke, and it is wonderfull.

rem

remSlen.

Ah sweet Anne Page.

rem

remPage.

'Saue you, good Sir Hugh.

rem

remEuan.

'Plesse you from his mercy-sake, all of you.

rem

remShal.

What? the Sword, and the Word?

Doe you study them both, Mr. Parson?

rem

remPage.

And youthfull still, in your doublet and hose, this raw-rumaticke day?

rem

remEuan.

There is reasons, and causes for it.

rem

remPage.

We are come to you, to doe a good office, Mr. Parson.

rem

remEuan.

Fery-well: what is it?

rem

remPage.

Yonder is a most reuerend Gentleman; who (be-like) hauing receiued wrong by some person, is at most odds with his owne grauity and patience, that euer you saw.

rem

remShal.

I haue liued foure-score yeeres, and vpward: I neuer heard a man of his place, grauity, and learning, so wide of his owne respect.

rem

remEuan.

What is he?

rem

remPage.

I thinke you know him: Mr. Doctor Caius the renowned French Physician.

rem

remEuan.

Got's-will, and his passion of my heart: I had as lief you would tell me of a messe of porredge.

rem

remPage.

Why?

rem

remEuan.

He has no more knowledge in Hibocrates and Galen, and hee is a knaue besides: a cowardly knaue, as you would desires to be acquainted withall.

rem

remPage.

I warrant you, hee's the man should fight with him.

rem

remSlen.

O sweet Anne Page.

rem

remShal.

It appeares so by his weapons: keepe them asunder: here comes Doctor Caius.

rem

remPage.

Nay good Mr. Parson, keepe in your weapon.

rem

remShal.

So doe you, good Mr. Doctor.

rem

remHost.

Disarme them, and let them question: let them keepe their limbs whole, and hack our English.

rem

remCai.

I pray you let-a-mee speake a word with your eare; vherefore vill you not meet-a me?

rem

remEuan.

Pray you use your patience in good time.

rem

remCai.

By-gar, you are de Coward: de Iack dog: Iohn Ape.

rem

remEuan.

Pray you let vs not be laughing-stocks to other mens humors: I desire you in friendship, and I will one way or other make you amends: I will knog your Vrinal about your knaues Cogs-combe.

rem

remCai.

Diable: Iack Rugby: mine Host de Iarterer: haue I not stay for him, to kill him? haue I not at de place I did appoint?

rem

remEuan.

As I am a Christians-soule, now looke you: this is the place appointed, Ile bee iudgement by mine Host of the Garter.

rem

remHost.

Peace, I say, Gallia and Gaule, French & Welch, Soule-Curer, and Body-Curer.

rem

remCai.

I, dat is very good, excellant.

rem

remHost.

Peace, I say: heare mine Host of the Garter,

Am I politicke? Am I subtle? Am I a Machiuell?

Shall I loose my Doctor? No, hee giues me the Potions and the Motions. Shall I loose my Parson? my Priest? my Sir Hugh? No, he giues me the Prouerbes, and the No-verbis. Giue me thy hand (Celestiall) so: Boyes of Art, I haue deceiu'd you both: I haue directed you to wrong places: your hearts are mighty, your skinnes are

whole, and let burn'd Sacke be the issue: Come, lay their swords to pawne: Follow me, Lad of peace, follow, follow, follow.

rem

remShal.

Trust me, a mad Host: follow Gentlemen, follow.

rem

remSlen.

O sweet Anne Page.

rem

remCai.

Ha' do I perceiue dat? Haue you make-a-de-sot of vs, ha, ha?

rem

remEua.

This is well, he has made vs his vlowting-stog: I desire you that we may be friends: and let vs knog our praines together to be reuenge on this same scall-scuruy-cogging-companion the Host of the Garter.

rem

remCai.

By gar, with all my heart: he promise to bring me where is Anne Page: by gar he deceiue me too.

rem

remEuan.

Well, I will smite his noddles: pray you follow.

Scena Secunda.

Mist. Page, Robin, Ford, Page, Shallow, Slender, Host, Euans, Caius.

rem

remMist.Page.

Nay keepe your way (little Gallant) you were wont to be a follower, but now you are a Leader: whether had your rather lead mine eyes, or eye your ma sters heeles?

rem

remRob.

I had rather (forsooth) go before you like a man, then follow him like a dwarfe.

rem

remM. Pa.

O you are a flattering boy, now I see you'l be a (Courtier.

rem

remFord.

Well met mistris Page, whether go you.

rem

remM. Pa.

Truly Sir, to see your wife, is she at home?

rem

remFord.

I, and as idle she may hang together for want of company: I think if your husbands were dead, you two would marry.

rem

remM.Pa.

Be sure of that, two other husbands.

rem

remFord.

Where had your this pretty weather-cocke?

rem

remM.Pa.

I cannot tell what (the dickens) his name is my husband had him of, what do you cal your Knights name (sirrah?

rem

remRob.

Sir Iohn Falstaffe.

rem

remFord.

Sir Iohn Falstaffe.

rem

remM. Pa.

He, he I can neuer hit on's name: there is such a league between my goodman, and he: is your Wife at (home indeed?

rem

remFord.

Indeed she is.

rem

remM.Pa.

By your leaue sir, I am sicke till I see her.

rem

remFord.

Has Page any braines? Hath he any eies? Hath he any thinking? Sure they sleepe, he hath no use of them: why this boy will carrie a letter twentie mile as easie, as a Canon will shoot point-blanke twelue score: hee peeces out his wiues inclination: he giues her folly motion and aduantage: and now she's going to my wife, Falstaffes boy with her: A man may heare this showre sing in the winde; and Falstaffes boy with her: good plots, they are laide, and our reuolted wiues share damnation together. Well, I will take him, then torture my wife, plucke the borrowed vaile of modestie from the so-seeming Mist. Page, divulge Page himselve for a secure and wilfull Acteon, and to these violent proceedings all my neighbors shall cry aime. The clocke giues my Qu, and my assurance bids me search, there I shall finde Falstaffe: I shall be rather praisd for this, then mock'd, for it is as possitiue, as the earth is firme, that Falstaffe is there: I will go.

rem

remShal. Page &c.

Well met Mr Ford.

rem

remFord.

Trust me a good knotte; I haue good cheere at home, and I pray you all go with me.

rem

remShal.

I must excuse my selfe Mr. Ford.

rem

remSlen.

And so must I Sir,

We haue appointed to dine with Mistris Anne,

And I would not breake with her for more mony

Then Ile speake of.

rem

remShal.

We haue linger'd about a match betweene An Page, and my cozen Slender, and this day wee shall haue our answer.

rem

remSlen.

I hope I haue your good will Father Page.

rem

remPag.

You haue Mr Slender, I stand wholly for you,

But my wife (Mr Doctor) is for you altogether.

rem

remCai.

I be-gar, and de Maid is loue-a-me: my nursh-a-Quickly tell me so mush.

rem

remHost.

What say you to yong Mr Fenton? He capers, he dances, he has eies of youth: he writes verses, hee speakes holliday, he smels April and May, he wil carry't, he will carry't, 'tis in his buttons, he will carry't.

rem

remPage.

Not by my consent I promise you. The Gentleman is of no hauing, hee kept companie with the wilde Prince, and Pointz: he is of too high a Region, he knows too much: no, hee shall not knit a knot in his fortunes, with the finger of my substance: if he take her, let him take her simply: the wealth I haue waits on my consent, and my consent goes not that way.

rem

remFord.

I beseech you heartily, some of you goe home with me to dinner: besides your cheere you shall haue sport, I will shew you a monster: Mr Doctor, you shal go, so shall you Mr Page, and you Sir Hugh.

rem

remShal.

Well, fare you well:

We shall haue the freer woing at Mr Pages.

rem

remCai.

Go home Iohn Rugby, I come anon.

rem

remHost.

Farewell my hearts, I will to my honest Knight Falstaffe, and drinke Canarie with him.

rem

remFord.

I thinke I shall drinke in Pipe-wine first with him, Ile make him dance. Will you go Gentles?

rem

remAll.

Haue with you, to see this Monster.

Exeunt.

Scena Tertia.

Enter M.Ford, M.Page, Seruants, Robin, Falstaffe, Ford, Page, Caius, Euans.

rem

remMist.Ford.

What Iohn, what Robert.

rem

remM.Page.

Quickly, quickly: Is the Buck-basket—

rem

remMis.Ford.

I warrant. What Robin I say.

rem

remMis.Page.

Come, come, come.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Heere, set it downe.

rem

remM.Pag.

Giue your men the charge, we must be briefe.

rem

remM.Ford.

Marrie, as I told you before (Iohn & Robert) be ready here hard-by in the Brew-house, & when I sodainly call you, come forth, and (without any pause, or staggering) take this basket on your shoulders: yt done, trudge with it in all hast, and carry it among the Whitsters in Dotchet Mead, and there empty it in the muddie ditch, close by the Thames side.

rem

remM.Page.

You will do it?

rem

remM.Ford.

I ha told them ouer and ouer, they lacke no (direction.

Be gone, and come when you are call'd.

rem

remM.Page.

Here comes little Robin.

rem

remMist.Ford.

How now my Eyas-Musket, what newes (with you?

rem

remRob.

My M. Sir Iohn is come in at your backe doore

(Mist. Ford, and requests your company.

rem

remM.Page.

You litle Iack-a-lent, haue you bin true to vs

rem

remRob.

I, Ile be sworne: my Master knowes not of your being heere: and hath threatned to put me into euerlasting liberty, if I tell you of it: for he sweares he'll turne me away.

rem

remMist.Pag.

Thou'rt a good boy: this secrecy of thine shall be a Tailor to thee, and shal make thee a new doublet and hose. Ile go hide me.

rem

remMi.Ford.

Do so: go tell thy Master, I am alone: Mistris Page, remember you your Qu.

rem

remMist.Pag.

I warrant thee, if I do not act it, hisse me.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Go-too then: we'l vse this vnwholsome humidity, this grosse-watry Pumpion; we'll teach him to know Turtles from Iayes.

rem

remFal.

Haue I caught thee, my heauenly Iewell? Why now let me die, for I haue liu'd long enough: This is the period of my ambition: O this blessed houre.

rem

remMist.Ford.

O sweet Sir Iohn.

rem

remFal.

Mistris Ford, I cannot cog, I cannot prate (Mist. Ford) now shall I sin in my wish; I would thy Husband were dead, Ile speake it before the best Lord, I would make thee my Lady.

rem

remMist.Ford.

I your Lady Sir Iohn? Alas, I should bee a pittifull Lady.

rem

remFal.

Let the Court of France shew me such another: I see how thine eye would emulate the Diamond: Thou hast the right arched-beauty of the brow, that becomes the Ship-tyre, the Tyre-valiant, or any Tire of Venetian admittance.

rem

remMist.Ford.

A plaine Kerchiefe, Sir Iohn:

My browes become nothing else, nor that well neither.

rem

remFal.

Thou art a tyrant to say so: thou wouldst make an absolute Courtier, and the firme fixture of thy foote, would giue an excellent motion to thy gate, in a semi-circled Farthingale. I see what thou wert if Fortune thy foe, were not Nature thy friend: Come, thou canst not hide it.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Beleeue me, ther's no such thing in me.

rem

remFal.

What made me loue thee? Let that perswade thee. Ther's something extraordinary in thee: Come, I cannot cog, and say thou art this and that, like a-manie of these lisping-hauthorne buds, that come like women in mens apparrell, and smell like Bucklers-berry in simple time: I cannot, but I loue thee, none but thee; and thou deseru'st it.

rem

remM.Ford.

Do not betray me sir, I fear you loue M Page.

rem

remFal.

Thou mightst as well say, I loue to walke by the Counter-gate, which is as hatefull to me, as the reeke of a Lime-kill.

rem

remMis.Ford.

Well, heauen knowes how I loue you,

And you shall one day finde it.

rem

remFal.

Keepe in that minde, Ile deserue it.

rem

remMist.Ford.

*Nay, I must tell you, so you doe;
Or else I could not be in that minde.*

rem

remRob.

*Mistris Ford, Mistris Ford: heere's Mistris Page at the doore, sweating, and blowing,
and looking wildely, and would needs speake with you presently.*

rem

remFal.

She shall not see me, I will ensconce mee behind the Arras.

rem

remM.Ford.

Pray you do so, she's a very tatling woman.

Whats the matter? How now?

rem

remMist.Page.

O mistris Ford what haue you done?

You'r sham'd, y'are ouerthrowne, y'are vndone for euer.

rem

remM.Ford.

What's the matter, good mistris Page?

rem

remM.Page.

*O weladay, mist. Ford, hauing an honest man to your husband, to giue him such
cause of suspition.*

rem

remM.Ford.

What cause of suspition?

rem

remM.Page.

What cause of suspition? Out vpon you:

How am I mistooke in you?

rem

remM.Ford.

Why (alas) what's the matter?.

rem

remM.Page.

*Your husband's comming hether (Woman) with all the Officers in Windsor, to search
for a Gentleman, that he sayes is heere now in the house; by your consent to take
an ill aduantage of his absence: you are vndone.*

rem

remM.Ford.

'Tis 1ot so, I hope.

rem

remM.Page.

*Pray heauen it be not so, that you haue such a man heere: but 'tis most certaine
your husband's comming, with halfe Windsor at his heeles, to serch for such a one,
I come before to tell you: If you know your selfe cleere, why I am glad of it: but if*

you haue a friend here, conuey, conuey him out. Be not amaz'd, call all your senses to you, defend your reputation, or bid farwell to your good life for euer.

rem

remM.Ford.

What shall I do? There is a Gentleman my deere friend: and I feare not mine owne shame so much, as his perill. I had rather then a thousand pound he were out of the house.

rem

remM.Page.

For shame, neuer stand (you had rather, and you had rather:) your husband's heere at hand, bethinke you of some conueyance: in the house you cannot hide him. Oh, how haue you deceiu'd me? Looke, heere is a basket, if he be of any reasonable stature, he may creepe in heere, and throw fowle linnen vpon him, as if it were going to bucking: Or it is whiting time, send him by your two men to Datchet-Meade.

rem

remM.Ford.

He's too big to go in there: what shall I do?

rem

remFal.

Let me see't, let me see't, O let me see't:

Ile in, Ile in: Follow your friends counsell, Ile in.

rem

remM.Page.

What Sir Iohn Falstaffe? Are these your Letters, Knight?

rem

remFal.

I loue thee, helpe mee away: let me creepe in heere: ile neuer

rem

remM.Page.

Helpe to couer your master (Boy:) Call your men (Mist. Ford.) You dissembling Knight.

rem

remM.Ford.

What Iohn, Robert, Iohn; Go, take vp these cloathes heere, quickly: Wher's the Cowle-staffe? Look how you drumble? Carry them to the Landresse in Datchet mead: quickly, come.

rem

remFord.

'Pray you come nere: if I suspect without cause,

Why then make sport at me, then let me be your iest,

I deserue it: How now? Whether beare you this?

rem

remSer.

To the Landresse forsooth?

rem

remM.Ford.

Why, what haue you to doe whether they beare it? You were best meddle with buck-washing.

rem

remFord.

Buck? I would I could wash my selfe of y Buck:

Bucke, bucke, bucke, I bucke: I warrant you Bucke,

And of the season too; it shall appeare.

Gentlemen, I haue dream'd to night, Ile tell you my dreame: heere, heere, heere bee my keyes, ascend my Chambers, search, seeke, finde out: Ile warrant wee'le vnkennell the Fox. Let me stop this way first: so, now vncape.

rem

remPage.

Good master Ford, be contented:

You wrong your selfe too much.

rem

remFord.

True (master Page) vp Gentlemen,

You shall see sport anon:

Follow me Gentlemen.

rem

remEuans.

This is fery fantasticall humors and ieaalousies.

rem

remCaius.

By gar, 'tis no-the fashion of France:

It is not ieaalous in France.

rem

remPage.

Nay follow him (Gentlemen) see the yssue of his search.

rem

remMist.Page

Is there not a double excellency in this?

rem

remMist.Ford.

I know not which pleases me better,

That my husband is deceiued, or Sir Iohn.

rem

remMist.Page.

What a taking was hee in, when your husband askt who was in the basket?

rem

remMist.Ford.

I am halfe affraid he will haue neede of washing: so throwing him into the water, will doe him a benefit.

rem

remMist.Page.

Hang him dishonest rascall: I would all of the same straine, were in the same distresse.

rem

remMist.Ford.

I thinke my husband hath some speciall suspition of Falstaffs being heere: for I neuer saw him so grosse in his ieaalousie till now.

rem

remMist.Page.

I will lay a plot to try that, and wee will yet haue more trickes with Falstaffe: his dissolute disease will scarce obey this medicine.

rem

remMis.Ford.

Shall we send that foolishion Carion, Mist. Quickly to him, and excuse his throwing into the water, and giue him another hope, to betray him to another punishment?

rem

remMist.Page.

We will do it: let him be sent for to morrow eight a clocke to haue amends.

rem

remFord.

I cannot finde him: may be the knaue bragg'd of that he could not compasse.

rem

remMis.Page.

Heard you that?

rem

remMis.Ford.

You use me well, M. Ford? Do you?

rem

remFord.

I, I do so.

rem

remM.Ford.

Heauen make you better then your thoghts

rem

remFord.

Amen.

rem

remMi.Page.

You do your selfe mighty wrong (M. Ford)

rem

remFord.

I, I: I must beare it.

rem

remEu.

If there be any pody in the house, & in the chambers, and in the coffers, and in the presses: heauen forgiue my sins at the day of iudgement.

rem

remCaius.

Be gar, nor I too: there is no-bodies.

rem

remPage.

Fy, fy, M. Ford, are you not asham'd? What spirit, what diuell suggests this imagination? I wold not ha your distemper in this kind, for y welth of Windsor castle.

rem

remFord.

'Tis my fault (M. Page) I suffer for it.

rem

remEuans.

You suffer for a pad conscience: your wife is as honest a o'mans, as I will desires among five thousand, and five hundred too.

rem

remCai.

By gar, I see 'tis an honest woman.

rem

remFord.

Well, I promisd you a dinner: come, come, walk in the Parke, I pray you pardon me: I wil hereafter make knowne to you why I haue done this. Come wife, come Mi. Page, I pray you pardon me. Pray hartly pardon me.

rem

remPage.

Let's go in Gentlemen, but (trust me) we'l mock him: I doe inuite you to morrow morning to my house to breakfast: after we'll a Birding together, I haue a fine Hawke for the bush. Shall it be so:

rem

remFord.

Any thing.

rem

remEu.

If there is one, I shall make two in the Companie

rem

remCa.

If there be one, or two, I shall make-a-theturd.

rem

remFord.

Pray you go, M. Page.

rem

remEua.

I pray you now remembrance to morrow on the lowsie knaue, mine Host.

rem

remCai.

Dat is good by gar, withall my heart.

rem

remEua.

A lousie knaue, to haue his gibes, and his mockeries.

Exeunt.

Scoena Quarta.

Enter Fenton, Anne, Page, Shallow, Slender, Quickly, Page, Mist. Page.

rem

remFen.

I see I cannot get thy Fathers loue,

Therefore no more turne me to him (sweet Nan.)

rem

remAnne.

Alas, how then?

rem

remFen.

Why thou must be thy selfe.

He doth obiect, I am too great of birth,

And that my state being gall'd with my expence,

I seeke to heale it onely by his wealth.

Besides these, other barres he layes before me,

My Riots past, my wilde Societies,

And tels me 'tis a thing impossible

I should loue thee, but as a property.

rem

remAn.

May be he tels you true.

No, heauen so speed me in my time to come,

Albeit I will confesse, thy Fathers wealth

Was the first motiue that I woo'd thee (Anne:)

Yet wooing thee, I found thee of more valew

Then stampes in Gold, or summes in sealed bagges:

And 'tis the very riches of thy selfe,

That now I ayme at.

rem

remAn.

Gentle M. Fenton,

Yet seeke my Fathers loue, still seeke it sir,

If opportunity and humblest suite

Cannot attaine it, why then harke you hither.

rem

remShal.

Breake their talke Mistris Quickly,

My Kinsman shall speake for himselfe.

rem

remSlen.

Ile make a shaft or a bolt on't, slid, tis but ventu(ring.

rem

remShal.

Be not dismaid.

rem

remSlen.

No, she shall not dismay me:

I care not for that, but that I am affeard.

rem

remQui.

Hark ye, M. Slender would speak a word with you

rem

remAn.

I come to him. This is my Fathers choice:

O what a world of vilde ill-fauour'd faults

Lookes handsome in three hundred pounds a yeere?

rem

remQui.

And how do's good Master Fenton?

Pray you a word with you.

rem

remShal.

Shee's comming; to her Coz:

O boy, thou hadst a father.

rem

remSlen.

I had a father (M. An) my vncke can tel you good iests of him: pray you Vncke, tel Mist. Anne the iest how my Father stole two Geese out of a Pen, good Vnckle.

rem

remShal.

Mistris Anne, my Cozen loues you.

rem

remSlen.

I that I do, as well as I loue any woman in Glocestershire.

rem

remShal.

He will maintaine you like a Gentlewoman.

rem

remSlen.

I that I will, come cut and long-taile, vnder the degree of a Squire.

rem

remShal.

He will make you a hundred and fiftie pounds ioynture.

rem

remAnne.

Good Maister Shallow let him woo for himselfe.

rem

remShal.

Marrie I thanke you for it: I thanke you for that good comfort: she cals you (Coz) Ile leaue you.

rem

remAnne.

Now Master Slender.

rem

remSlen.

Now good Mistris Anne.

rem

remAnne.

What is your will?

rem

remSlen.

My will? Odd's-hart-lings, that's a prettie iest indeede: I ne're made my Will yet (I thanke Heauen:) I am not such a sickely creature, I giue Heauen praise.

rem

remAnne.

I meane (M. Slender) what wold you with me?

rem

remSlen.

Truely, for mine owne part, I would little or nothing with you: your father and my vnclie hath made motions: if it be my lucke, so; if not, happy man bee his dole, they can tell you how things go, better then I can: you may aske your father, heere he comes.

rem

remPage.

Now Mr Slender; Loue him daughter Anne.

Why how now? What does Mr Fenter here?

You wrong me Sir, thus still to haunt my house.

I told you Sir, my daughter is disposd of.

rem

remFen.

Nay Mr Page, be not impatient.

rem

remMist.Page.

Good M. Fenton, come not to my child.

rem

remPage.

She is no match for you.

rem

remFen.

Sir, will you heare me?

rem

remPage.

No, good M. Fenton.

Come M. Shallow: Come sonne Slender, in;

Knowing my minde, you wrong me (M. Fenton.)

rem

remQui.

Speake to Mistris Page.

rem

remFen.

Good Mist. Page, for that I loue your daughter

In such a righteous fashion as I do,

Perforce, against all checkes, rebukes, and manners,

I must aduance the colours of my loue,

And not retire. Let me haue your good will.

rem

remAn.

Good mother, do not marry me to yond foole.

rem

remMist.Page.

I meane it not, I seeke you a better husband.

rem

remQui.

That's my master, M. Doctor.

rem

remAn.

Alas I had rather be set quick i'th earth,

And bowl'd to death with Turnips.

rem

remMist.Page.

Come, trouble not your selfe good M.

Fenton, I will not be your friend, nor enemy:

My daughter will I question how she loues you,

And as I finde her, so am I affected:

Till then, farewell Sir, she must needs go in,

Her father will be angry.

rem

remFen.

Farewell gentle Mistris: farewell Nan.

rem

remQui.

This is my doing now: Nay, saide I, will you cast away your childe on a Foole, and a Physitian:

Looke on M. Fenton, this is my doing.

rem

remFen.

I thanke thee: and I pray thee once to night,

Giue my sweet Nan this Ring: there's for thy paines.

rem

remQui.

Now heauen send thee good fortune, a kinde heart he hath: a woman would run through fire & water for such a kinde heart. But yet, I would my Maister had Mistris Anne, or I would M. Slender had her: or (in sooth) I would M. Fenton had her; I will do what I can for them all three, for so I haue promis'd, and Ile bee as good as my word, but speciously for M. Fenton. Well, I must of another errand to Sir Iohn Falstaffe from my two Mistresses: what a beast am I to slacke it.

Exeunt

Scena Quinta.

Enter Falstaffe, Bardolfe, Quickly, Ford.

rem

remFal.

Bardolfe I say.

rem

remBar.

Heere Sir.

rem

remFal.

Go, fetch me a quart of Sacke, put a tost in't. Haue I liu'd to be carried in a Basket like a barrow of butchers Offall? and to be throwne in the Thames? Wel, if I be seru'd such another tricke, Ile haue my braines 'tane out and butter'd, and giue them to a dogge for a New-yeares gift. The rogues slighted me into the riuer with as little remorse, as they would haue drown'de a blinde bitches Puppies, fifteene i'th litter: and you may know by my size, that I haue a kinde of alacrity in sinking: if the bottome were as deepe as hell, I shold down. I had beene drown'd, but that the shore was sheluy and shallow: a death that I abhorre: for the water swelles a man; and what a thing should I haue beene, when I had beene swel'd? I should haue beene a Mountaine of Mummie.

rem

remBar.

Here's M. Quickly Sir to speake with you.

rem

remFal.

Come, let me poure in some Sack to the Thames water: for my bellies as cold as if I had swallow'd snowbals, for pilles to coole the reines. Call her in.

rem

remBar.

Come in woman.

rem

remQui.

By your leaue: I cry you mercy?

Giue your worship good morrow.

rem

remFal.

Take away these Challices:

Go, brew me a pottle of Sacke finely.

rem

remBard.

With Egges, Sir?

rem

remFal.

Simple of it selfe: Ile no PulletSpersme in my brewage. How now?

rem

remQui.

Marry Sir, I come to your worship from M. Ford.

rem

remFal.

Mist. Ford? I haue had Ford enough: I was thrown into the Ford; I haue my belly full of Ford.

rem

remQui.

Alas the day, (good-heart) that was not her fault: she do's so take on with her men; they mistooke their erection.

rem

remFal.

So did I mine, to build vpon a foolish Womans (promise.

rem

remQui.

Well, she laments Sir for it, that it would yern your heart to see it: her husband goes this morning a birding; she desires you once more to come to her, betweene eight and nine: I must carry her word quickly, she'll make you amends I warrant you.

rem

remFal.

Well, I will visit her, tell her so: and bidde her thinke what a man is: Let her consider his frailety, and then iudge of my merit.

rem

remQui.

I will tell her.

rem

remFal.

Do so. Betweene nine and ten saist thou?

rem

remQui.

Eight and nine Sir.

rem

remFal.

Well, be gone: I will not misse her.

rem

remQui.

Peace be with you Sir.

rem

remFal.

I meruaile I heare not of Mr Broome: he sent me word to stay within: I like his money well.

Oh, heere he comes.

rem

remFord.

Blesse you Sir.

rem

remFal.

Now M. Broome, you come to know

What hath past betweene me, and Fords wife.

rem

remFord.

That indeed (Sir Iohn) is my businesse.

rem

remFal.

M. Broome I will not lye to you,

I was at her house the houre she appointed me.

rem

remFord.

And sped you Sir?

rem

remFal.

very ill-fauouredly M. Broome.

rem

remFord.

How so sir, did she change her determination?

rem

remFal.

No (M. Broome) but the peaking Curnuto her husband (M. Broome) dwelling in a continual larum of ielousie, coms me in the instant of our encounter, after we had embrast, kist, protested, & (as it were) spoke the prologue of our Comedy: and at his heeles, a rabble of his companions, thither prouoked and instigated by his distemper, and (forsooth) to serch his house for his wiues Loue.

rem

remFord.

What? While you were there?

rem

remFal.

While I was there.

rem

remFord.

And did he search for you, & could not find you?

rem

remFal.

You shall heare. As good lucke would haue it, comes in one Mist. Page, giues intelligence of Fords approach: and in her inuention, and Fords wiues distraction, they conuey'd me into a bucke-basket.

rem

remFord.

A Buck-basket?

rem

remFal.

Yes: a Buck-basket: ram'd mee in with foule Shirts and Smockes, Socks, foule Stockings, greasie Napkins, that (Master Broome) there was the rankest compound of villanous smell, that euer offended nostrill.

rem

remFord.

And how long lay you there?

rem

remFal.

Nay, you shall heare (Master Broome) what I hau1 sufferd, to bring this woman to euill, for your good: Being thus cram'd in the Basket, a couple of Fords knaues, his Hindes, were cald forth by their Mistris, to carry mee in the name of foule Cloathes to Datchet-lane: they tooke me on their shoulders: met the ieaious knaue their Master in the doore; who ask'd them once or twice what they had in their Basket? I quak'd for feare least the Lunatique Knaue would haue search'd it: but Fate (ordaining he should be a Cuckold) held his hand: well, on went hee, for a search, and away went I for foule Cloathes: But marke the sequell (Master Broome) I suffered the pangs of three seuerall deaths: First, an intollerable fright, to be detected with a ieaious rotten Bell-weather: Next to be compass'd like a good Bilbo in the circumference of a Pecke, hilt to point, heele to head. And then to be stopt in like a strong distillation with stinking Cloathes, that fretted in their owne grease: thinke of that, a man of my Kidney; thinke of that, that am as subiect to heate as butter; a man of continuall dissolution, and thaw: it was a miracle to scape suffocation. And in the height of this Bath (when I was more then halfe stew'd in grease (like a Dutch-dish) to be throwne into the Thames, and coold, glowing-hot, in that serge like a Horseshoo; thinke of that; hissing hot: thinke of that (Master Broome.)

rem

remFord.

In good sadnesse Sir, I am sorry, that for my sake you haue sufferd all this.

My suite then is desperate: You'll vndertake her no more?

rem

remFal.

Master Broome: I will be throwne into Etna, as I haue beene into Thames, ere I will leaue her thus; her Husband is this morning gone a Birding: I haue receiued

from her another ambassie of meeting: 'twixt eight and nine is the houre (Master Broome.)

rem

remFord.

'Tis past eight already Sir.

rem

remFal.

Is it? I will then addresse mee to my appointment: Come to mee at your conuenient leisure, and you shall know how I speede: and the conclusion shall be crowned with your enioying her: adiew: you shall haue her (Master Broome) Master Broome, you shall cuckold Ford.

rem

remFord.

Hum: ha? Is this a vision? Is this a dreame? doe I sleepe? Master Ford awake, awake Master Ford: ther's a hole made in your best coate (Master Ford:) this 'tis to be married; this 'tis to haue Lynnen, and Buck-baskets: Well, I will proclaime my selfe what I am: I will now take the Leacher: hee is at my house: hee cannot scape me: 'tis impossible hee should: hee cannot creepe into a halfe-penny purse, nor into a Pepper-Boxe: But least the Diuell that guides him, should aide him, I will search impossible places: though what I am, I cannot auoide; yet to be what I would not, shall not make me tame: If I haue hornes, to make one mad, let the prouerbe goe with me, Ile be hornemad.

Exeunt.

Actus Quartus. Scœna Prima.

Enter Mistris Page, Quickly, William, Euans.

rem

remMist.Pag.

Is he at M. Fords already think'st thou?

rem

remQui.

Sure he is by this; or will be presently; but truely he is very couragious mad, about his throwing into the water. Mistris Ford desires you to come sodainely.

rem

remMist.Pag.

Ile be with her by and by: Ile but bring my yong-man here to Schoole: looke where his Master comes; 'tis a playing day I see: how now Sir Hugh, no Schoole to day?

rem

remEua.

No: Master Slender is let the Boyes leaue to play.

rem

remQui.

'Blessing of his heart.

rem

remMist.Pag.

Sir Hugh, my husband saies my sonne profits nothing in the world at his Booke: I pray you aske him some questions in his Accidence.

rem

remEua.

Come hither William; hold vp your head; come.

rem

remMist.Pag.

Come-on Sirha; hold vp your head; answeere your Master, be not afraid.

rem

remEua.

William, how many Numbers is in Nownes?

rem

remWill.

Two.

rem

remQui.

Truely, I thought there had bin one Number more, because they say od's-Nownes.

rem

remEua.

Peace, your tatlings. What is (Faire) William?

rem

remWill.

Pulcher.

rem

remQu.

Powlcats? there are fairer things then Powlcats, sure.

rem

remEua.

You are a very simplicity o'man: I pray you peace. What is (Lapis) William?

rem

remWill.

A Stone.

rem

remEua.

And what is a Stone (William?)

rem

remWill.

A Peeble.

rem

remEua.

No; it is Lapis: I pray you remember in your praine.

rem

remWill.

Lapis.

rem

remEua.

That is a good William: what is he (William) that do's lend Articles.

rem

remWill.

Articles are borrowed of the Pronoun; and be thus declined. Singulariter nominatiuo hic, hæc, hoc.

rem

remEua.

Nominatiuo hig, hag, hog: pray you marke: genitiuo huius: Well: what is your Accusatiue-case?

rem

remWill.

Accusatiuo hinc.

rem

remEua.

I pray you haue your remembrance (childe) Accusatiuo hing, hang, hog.

rem

remQu.

Hang-hog, is latten for Bacon, I warrant you.

rem

remEua.

Leaue your prables (o'man) What is the Focatiue case (William?)

rem

remWill.

O, Vocatiuo, O.

rem

remEua.

Remember William, Focatiue, is caret,

rem

remQu.

And that's a good roote.

rem

remEua.

O'man, forbear.

rem

remMist.Pag.

Peace.

rem

remEua.

What is your Genitiue case plurall (William?)

rem

remWill.

Genitiue case?

rem

remEua.

I.

rem

remWill.

Genitiue horum, harum, horum.

rem

remQu.

'Vengeance of Ginyes case; fie on her; neuer name her (childe) if she be a whore.

rem

remEua.

For shame o'man.

rem

remQu.

You doe ill to teach the childe such words: hee teaches him to hic, and to hac; which they'll doe fast enough of themselues, and to call horum; fie vpon you.

rem

remEuans.

O'man, art thou Lunaties? Hast thou no vnderstandings for thy Cases, & the numbers of the Genders? Thou art as foolish Christian creatures, as I would desires.

rem

remMi.Page.

Pre'thee hold thy peace.

rem

remEu.

Shew me now (William) some declensions of your Pronounes.

rem

remWill.

Forsooth, I haue forgot.

rem

remEu.

It is Qui, que, quod; if you forget your Quies, your Ques, and your Quods, you must be preeches: Goe your waies and play, go.

rem

remM.Pag.

He is a better scholler then I thought he was.

rem

remEu.

He is a good sprag-memory: Farewel Mis. Page.

rem

remMis.Page.

Adieu good Sir Hugh:

Get you home boy, Come we stay too long.

Exeunt.

Scena Secunda.

Enter Falstoffs, Mist.Ford, Mist.Page, Seruants, Ford, Page, Caius, Euans, Shallow.

rem

remFal.

Mi. Ford, Your sorrow hath eaten vp my sufferance; I see you are obsequious in your loue, and I professe requitall to a haire bredth, not onely Mist. Ford, in the simple office of loue, but in all the accustrement, complement, and ceremony of it: But are you sure of your husband now?

rem

remMis.Ford.

Hee's a birding (sweet Sir Iohn.)

rem

remMis.Page.

What hoa, gossip Ford: what hoa.

rem

remMis.Ford.

Step into th'chamber, Sir Iohn.

rem

remMis.Page.

How now (sweete heart) whose at home besides your selfe?

rem

remMis.Ford.

Why none but mine owne people.

rem

remMis.Page.

Indeed?

rem

remMis.Ford.

No certainly: Speake louder.

rem

remMist.Pag.

Truly, I am so glad you haue no body here.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Why?

rem

remMis.Page.

Why woman, your husband is in his olde lines againe: he so takes on yonder with my husband, so railes against all married mankinde; so curses all Eues daughters, of what complexion soeuer; and so buffettes himselfe on the for-head: crying peere-out, peere-out, that any madnesse I euer yet beheld, seem'd but tamenesse, ciuility, and patience to this his distemper he is in now: I am glad the fat Knight is not heere.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Why, do's he talke of him?

rem

remMist.Page.

Of none but him, and swears he was carried out the last time hee search'd for him, in a Basket: Protests to my husband he is now heere, & hath drawne him and the rest of their company from their sport, to make another experiment of his suspition: But I am glad the Knight is not heere; now he shall see his owne foolerie.

rem

remMist.Ford.

How neere is he Mistris Page?

rem

remMist.Pag.

Hard by, at street end; he wil be here anon.

rem

remMist.Ford.

I am vndone, the Knight is heere.

rem

remMist.Page.

*Why then you are vtterly sham'd, & hee's but a dead man. What a woman are you?
Away with him, away with him: Better shame, then murther.*

rem

remMist.Ford.

*Which way should he go? How should I bestow him? Shall I put him into the basket
again?*

rem

remFal.

No, Ile come no more i'th Basket:

May I not go out ere he come?

rem

remMist.Page.

*Alas: three of Mr. Fords brothers watch the doore with Pistols, that none shall issue
out: otherwise you might slip away ere hee came: But what make you heere?*

rem

remFal.

What shall I do? Ile creepe vp into the chimney.

rem

remMist.Ford.

There they alwaies use to discharge their Birding-peeeces: creepe into the Kill-hole.

rem

remFal.

Where is it?

rem

remMist.Ford.

*He will seeke there on my word: Neyther Presse, Coffe, Chest, Trunke, Well, Vault,
but he hath an abstract for the remembrance of such places, and goes to them by his
Note: There is no hiding you in the house.*

rem

remFal.

Ile go out then.

rem

remMist.Ford.

If you goe out in your owne semblance, you die Sir Iohn, vnlesse you go out disguis'd.

rem

remMist.Ford.

How might we disguise him?

rem

remMist.Page.

Alas the day I know not, there is no womans gowne bigge enough for him: otherwise he might put on a hat, a muffler, and a kerchiefe, and so escape.

rem

remFal.

Good hearts, devise something: any extremitie, rather then a mischiefe.

rem

remMist.Ford.

My Maids Aunt the fat woman of Brainford, has a gowne aboue.

rem

remMist.Page.

On my word it will serue him: shee's as big as he is: and there's her thrum'd hat, and her muffler too: run vp Sir Iohn.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Go, go, sweet Sir Iohn: Mistris Page and I will looke some linnen for your head.

rem

remMist.Page.

Quicke, quicke, wee'le come dresse you straight: put on the gowne the while.

rem

remMist.Ford.

I would my husband would meete him in this shape: he cannot abide the old woman of Brainford; he sweares she's a witch, forbad her my house, and hath threatned to beate her.

rem

remMist.Page.

Heauen guide him to thy husbands cudgell: and the diuell guide his cudgell afterwards.

rem

remMist.Ford.

But is my husband comming?

rem

remMist.Page.

I in good sadnesse is he, and talkes of the basket too, howsoever he hath had intelligence.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Wee'l try that: for Ile appoint my men to carry the basket againe, to meete him at the doore with it, as they did last time.

rem

remMist.Page.

Nay, but hee'l be heere presently: let's go dresse him like the witch of Brainford.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Ile first direct direct my men, what they shall doe with the basket: Goe vp, Ile bring linnen for him straight.

rem

remMist.Page.

Hang him dishonest Varlet,

We cannot misuse enough:

We'll leaue a prooffe by that which we will doo,

Wiues may be merry, and yet honest too:

We do not acte that often, iest, and laugh,

'Tis old, but true, Still Swine eats all the draugh.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Go Sirs, take the basket againe on your shoulders: your Master is hard at doore: if hee bid you set it downe, obey him: quickly, dispatch.

rem

rem1 Ser.

Come, come, take it vp.

rem

rem2 Ser.

Pray heauen it be not full of Knight againe.

rem

rem1 Ser.

I hope not, I had liefе as beare so much lead.

rem

remFord.

I, but if it proue true (Mr. Page) haue you any way then to vnfoole me againe. Set downe the basket villaine: some body call my wife: Youth in a basket:

Oh you Panderly Rascals, there's a knot: a gin, a packe, a conspiracie against me: Now shall the diuel be sham'd.

What wife I say: Come, come forth: behold what ho nest cloathes you send forth to bleaching.

rem

remPage.

Why, this passes M. Ford: you are not to goe loose any longer, you must be pinnion'd.

rem

remEuans.

Why, this is Lunaticks: this is madde, as a mad dogge.

rem

remShall.

Indeed M. Ford, this is not well indeed.

rem

remFord.

So say I too Sir, come hither Mistris Ford, Mistris Ford, the honest woman, the modest wife, the vertuous creature, that hath the iealious foole to her husband: I suspect without cause (Mistris) do I?

rem

remMist.Ford.

Heauen be my witnesse you doe, if you suspect me in any dishonesty.

rem

remFord.

Well said Brazon-face, hold it out: Come forth sirrah.

rem

remPage.

This passes.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Are you not asham'd, let the cloths alone.

rem

remFord.

I shall finde you anon.

rem

remEua.

'Tis vnreasonable; will you take vp your wiues cloathes? Come, away.

rem

remFord.

Empty the basket I say.

rem

remM.Ford.

Why man, why?

rem

remFord.

Master Page, as I am a man, there was one conuay'd out of my house yesterday in this basket: why may not he be there againe, in my house I am sure he is: my Intelligence is true, my ieaalousie is reasonable, pluck me out all the linnen.

rem

remMist.Ford.

If you find a man there, he shall dye a Fleas death.

rem

remPage.

Heer's no man.

rem

remShal.

By my fidelity this is not well Mr. Ford: This wrongs you.

rem

remEuans.

Mr Ford, you must pray, and not follow the imaginations of your owne heart: this is ieaalousies.

rem

remFord.

Well, hee's not heere I seeke for.

rem

remPage.

No, nor no where else but in your braine.

rem

remFord.

Helpe to search my house this one time: if I find not what I seeke, shew no colour for my extremity: Let me for euer be your Tablesport: Let them say of me, as iealous as Ford, that search'd a hollow Wall-nut for his wiues Lemman. Satisfie me once more, once more serch with me.

rem

remM.Ford.

What hoa (Mistris Page,) come you and the old woman downe: my husband will come into the Chamber.

rem

remFord.

Old woman? what old womans that?

rem

remM.Ford.

Why it is my maids Aunt of Brainford.

rem

remFord.

A witch, a Queane, an olde couzening queane: Haue I not forbid her my house. She comes of errands do's she? We are simple men, wee doe not know what's brought to passe vnder the profession of Fortune-telling. She workes by Charmes, by Spels, by th'Figure, & such dawbry as this is, beyond our Element: wee know nothing. Come downe you Witch, you Hagge you, come downe I say.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Nay, good sweet husband, good Gentlemen, let him strike the old woman.

rem

remMist.Page.

Come mother Prat, Come giue me your hand.

rem

remFord.

Ile Prat-her: Out of my doore, you Witch, you Ragge, you Baggage, you Poulcat, you Runnion, out, out: Ile coniure you, Ile fortune-tell you.

rem

remMist.Page.

Are you not asham'd?

I thinke you haue kill'd the poore woman.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Nay he will do it, 'tis a goodly credite for you.

rem

remFord.

Hang her witch.

rem

remEua.

By yea, and no, I thinke the o'man is a witch indeede: I like not when a o'man has a great peard; I spie a great peard vnder his muffler.

rem

remFord.

Will you follow Gentlemen, I beseech you follow: see but the issue of my ieaalousie: If I cry out thus vpon no traile, neuer trust me when I open againe.

rem

remPage.

Let's obey his humour a little further:

Come Gentlemen.

rem

remMist.Page.

Trust me he beate him most pittifully.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Nay by th'Masse that he did not: he beate him most vnpittifully, me thought.

rem

remMist.Page.

Ile haue the cudgell hallow'd, and hung ore the Altar, it hath done meritorious seruice.

rem

remMist.Ford.

What thinke you? May we with the warrant of woman-hood, and the witnessse of a good conscience, pursue him with any further reuenge?

rem

remM.Page.

The spirit of wantonnesse is sure scar'd out of him, if the diuell haue him not in fee-simple, with fine and recouery, he will neuer (I thinke) in the way of waste, attempt vs againe.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Shall we tell our husbands how wee haue seru'd him?

rem

remMist.Page.

Yes, by all meanes: if it be but to scrape the figures out of your husbands braines: if they can find in their hearts, the poore vnuertuous fat Knight shall be any further afflicted, wee two will still bee the ministers.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Ile warrant, they'l haue him publiquely sham'd, and me thinkes there would be no period to the iest, should he not be publikely sham'd.

rem

remMist.Page.

Come, to the Forge with it, then shape it: I would not haue things coole.

Exeunt

Scena Tertia.

Enter Host and Bardolfe.

rem

remBar.

Sir, the Germane desires to haue three of your horses: the Duke himselfe will be to morrow at Court, and they are going to meet him.

rem

remHost.

What Duke should that be comes so secretly? I heare not of him in the Court: let mee speake with the Gentlemen, they speake English?

rem

remBar.

I Sir? Ile call him to you.

rem

remHost.

They shall haue my horses, but Ile make them pay: Ile sauce them, they haue had my houses a week at commaund: I haue turn'd away my other guests, they must come off, Ile sawce them, come.

Exeunt

Scena Quarta.

Enter Page, Ford, Mistris Page, Mistris Ford, and Euans.

rem

remEua.

'Tis one of the best discretions of a o'man as euer I did looke vpon.

rem

remPage.

And did he send you both these Letters at an instant?

rem

remMist.Page.

VVithin a quarter of an houre.

rem

remFord.

Pardon me (wife) henceforth do what yu wilt:

I rather will suspect the Sunne with gold,

Then thee with wantonnes: Now doth thy honor stand

(In him that was of late an Heretike)

As firme as faith.

rem

remPage.

'Tis well, 'tis well, no more:

Be not as extreme in submission, as in offence,

But let our plot go forward: Let our wiues

*Yet once againe (to make vs publike sport)
Appoint a meeting with this old fat-fellow,
Where we may take him, and disgrace him for it.*

rem

remFord.

There is no better way then that they spoke of.

rem

remPage.

How? to send him word they'll meete him in the Parke at midnight? Fie, fie, he'll neuer come.

rem

remEu.

You say he has bin throwne in the Riuers: and has bin greeuously peaten, as an old o'man: me-thinkes there should be terrors in him, that he should not come: Me-thinkes his flesh is punish'd, hee shall haue no desires

rem

remPage.

So thinke I too.

rem

remM.Ford.

*Deuise but how you'l vse him when⁶ he comes,
And let vs two deuise to bring him thether.*

rem

remMis.Page.

*There is an old tale goes, that Herne the
Hunter (sometime a keeper heere in Windsor Forrest)
Doth all the winter time, at still midnight
Walke round about an Oake, with great rag'd-hornes,
And there he blasts the tree, and takes the cattle,
And make milch-kine yeeld blood, and shakes a chaine
In a most hideous and dreadfull manner.
You haue heard of such a Spirit, and well you know
The superstitious idle-headed-Eld
Receiu'd, and did deliuer to our age
This tale of Herne the Hunter, for a truth.*

rem

remPage.

*Why yet there want not many that do feare
In deepe of night to walke by this Hernes Oake:
But what of this?*

rem

remMist.Ford.

⁶whē

*Marry this is our deuise,
That Falstaffe at that Oake shall meete with vs.*

rem

remPage.

*Well, let it not be doubted but he'll come,
And in this shape, when you haue brought him thether,
What shall be done with him? What is your plot?*

rem

remMist.Pa.

*That likewise haue we thoght vpon: & thus:
Nan Page (my daughter) and my little sonne,
And three or foure more of their growth, wee'l dresse
Like Vrchins, Ouphes, and Fairies, greene and white,
With rounds of waxen Tapers on their heads,
And rattles in their hands; vpon a sodaine,
As Falstaffe, she, and I, are newly met,
Let them from forth a saw-pit rush at once
With some diffused song: Vpon their sight
We two, in great amazednesse will flye:
Then let them all encircle him about,
And Fairy-like to pinch the vncleane Knight;
And aske him why that houre of Fairy Reuell,
In their so sacred pathes, he dares to tread
In shape prophane.*

rem

remFord.

*And till he tell the truth,
Let the supposed Fairies pinch him, sound,
And burne him with their Tapers.*

rem

remMist.Page.

*The truth being knowne,
We'll all present our selues; dis-horne the spirit,
And mocke him home to Windsor.*

rem

remFord.

*The children must
Be practis'd well to this, or they'll neu'r doo't.*

rem

remEua.

*I will teach the children their behauiours: and I will be like a Iackean-Apes also, to
burne the Knight with my Taber.*

rem

remFord.

That will be excellent,

Ile go buy them vizards.

rem

remMist.Page.

My Nan shall be the Queene of all the Fairies, finely attired in a robe of white.

rem

remPage.

That silke will I go buy, and in that time

Shall M. Slender steale my Nan away,

And marry her at Eaton: go, send to Falstaffe straight.

rem

remFord.

Nay, Ile to him againe in name of Broome,

Hee'l tell me all his purpose: sure hee'l come.

rem

remMist.Page.

Feare not you that: Go get vs properties

And tricking for our Fayries.

rem

remEuans.

Let vs about it,

It is admirable pleasures, and ferry honest knaueries.

rem

remMis.Page.

Go Mist. Ford,

Send quickly to Sir Iohn, to know his minde:

Ile to the Doctor, he hath my good will,

And none but he to marry with Nan Page:

That Slender (though well landed) is an Ideot:

And he, my husband best of all affects:

The Doctor is well monied, and his friends

Potent at Court: he, none but he shall haue her,

Though twenty thousand worthier come to craue her.

Scena Quinta.

Enter Host, Simple, Falstaffe, Bardolfe, Euans, Caius, Quickly.

rem

remHost.

*What wouldst thou haue? (Boore) what? (thick skin) speake, breathe, discusse:
breefe, short, quicke, snap.*

rem

remSimp.

Marry Sir, I come to speake with Sir Iohn Falstaffe from M. Slender.

rem

remHost.

There's his Chamber, his House, his Castle, his standing-bed and truckle-bed: 'tis painted about with the story of the Prodigall, fresh and new: go, knock and call: hee'l speake like an Anthropophaginian vnto thee: Knocke I say.

rem

remSimp.

There's an olde woman, a fat woman gone vp into his chamber: Ile be so bold as stay Sir till she come downe: I come to speake with her indeed.

rem

remHost.

Ha? A fat woman? The Knight may be robb'd: Ile call. BullyKnight, Bully Sir Iohn: speake from thy Lungs Military: Art thou there? It is thine Host, thine Ephesian cal.

rem

remFal.

How now, mine Host?

rem

remHost.

Here's a Bohemian-Tartar taries the comming downe of thy fat-woman: Let her descend (Bully) let her descend: my Chambers are honourable: Fie, priuacy? Fie.

rem

remFal.

There was (mine Host) an old-fat-woman euen now with me, but she's gone.

rem

remSimp.

Pray you Sir, was't not the Wise-woman of Brainford?

rem

remFal.

I marry was it (Mussel-shell) what would you with her?

rem

remSimp.

My Master (Sir) my master Slender, sent to her seeing her go thorough the streets, to know (Sir) whether one Nim (Sir) that beguil'd him of a chaine, had the chaine, or no.

rem

remFal.

I spake with the old woman about it.

rem

remSim.

And what sayes she, I pray Sir?

rem

remFal.

Marry shee sayes, that the very same man that beguil'd Master Slender of his Chaine, cozon'd him of it.

rem

remSimp.

I would I could haue spoken with the Woman her selfe, I had other things to haue spoken with her too, from him.

rem

remFal.

What are they? let vs know.

rem

remHost.

I: come: quicke.

rem

remFal.

I may not conceale them (Sir.)

rem

remHost.

Conceale them, or thou di'st.

rem

remSim.

Why sir, they were nothing but about Mistris Anne Page, to know if it were my Masters fortune to haue her, or no.

rem

remFal.

'Tis, 'tis his fortune.

rem

remSim.

What Sir?

rem

remFal.

To haue her, or no: goe; say the woman told me so.

rem

remSim.

May I be bold to say so Sir?

rem

remFal.

I Sir: like who more bold.

rem

remSim.

I thanke your worship: I shall make my Master glad with these tydings.

rem

remHost.

Thou art clearkly: thou art clearkly (Sir Iohn) was there a wise woman with thee?

rem

remFal.

I that there was (mine Host) one that hath taught me more wit, then euer I learn'd before in my life: and I paid nothing for it neither, but was paid for my learning.

rem

remBar.

Out alas (Sir) cozonage: meere cozonage.

rem

remHost.

Where be my horses? speake well of them varletto.

rem

remBar.

Run away with the cozoners: for so soone as I came beyond Eaton, they threw me off, from behinde one of them, in a slough of myre; and set spurres, and away; like three Germane-diuels; three Doctor Faustaffes.

rem

remHost.

They are gone but to meete the Duke (villaine) doe not say they be fled: Germanes are honest men.

rem

remEuan.

Where is mine Host?

rem

remHost.

What is the matter Sir?

rem

remEuan.

Haue a care of your entertainments: there is a friend of mine come to Towne, tels mee there is three Cozen-Iermans, that has cozend all the Hosts of Reading, of Maidenhead; of Cole-brooke, of horses and money: I tell you for good will (looke you) you are wise, and full of gibes, and vlouting-stocks: and 'tis not conuenient you should be cozoned. Fare you well.

rem

remCai.

Ver' is mine Host de Iarteere?

rem

remHost.

Here (Master Doctor) in perplexitie, and doubtfull delemma.

rem

remCai.

I cannot tell vat is dat: but it is tell-a-me, dat you make grand preparation for a Duke de Iamanie: by my trot: der is no Duke that the Court is know, to come: I tell you for good will: adieu.

rem

remHost.

Huy and cry, (villaine) goe: assist me Knight, I am vndone: fly, run: huy, and cry (villaine) I am vndone.

rem

remFal.

I would all the world might be cozond, for I haue beene cozond and beaten too: if it should come to the eare of the Court, how I haue beene transformed; and how my transformation hath beene washd, and cudgeld, they would melt mee out of my fat drop by drop, and liquor Fishermens-boots with me: I warrant they would whip me

with their fine wits, till I were as crest-falne as a dride-peare: I neuer prosper'd, since I forswore my selfe at Primero: well, if my winde were but long enough; I would repent: Now? Whence come you?

rem

remQui.

From the two parties forsooth.

rem

remFal.

The Diuell take one partie, and his Dam the other: and so they shall be both bestowed; I haue suf fer'd more for their sakes; more then the villanous inconstancy of mans disposition is able to beare.

rem

remQui.

And haue not they suffer'd? Yes, I warrant; speciously one of them; Mistris Ford (good heart) is beaten blacke and blew, that you cannot see a white spot about her.

rem

remFal.

What tell'st thou mee of blacke, and blew? I was beaten my selfe into all the colours of the Rainebow: and I was like to be apprehended for the Witch of Braineford, but that my admirable dexteritie of wit, my counterfeiting the action of an old woman deliuer'd me, the knaue Constable had set me ith'Stocks, ith'common Stocks, for a Witch.

rem

remQu.

Sir: let me speake with you in your Chamber, you shall heare how things goe, and (I warrant) to your content: here is a Letter will say somewhat: (good-hearts) what a-doe here is to bring you together? Sure, one of you do's not serue heauen well, that you are so cross'd.

rem

remFal.

Come vp into my Chamber.

Exeunt.

Scena Sexta.

Enter Fenton, Host.

rem

remHost.

Master Fenton, talke not to mee, my minde is heauy: I will giue ouer all.

rem

remFen.

Yet heare me speake: assist me in my purpose,

And (as I am a gentleman) ile giue thee

A hundred pound in gold, more then your losse.

rem

remHost.

*I will heare you (Master Fenton) and I will (at the least) keepe your counsell.
rem
remFen.*

*From time to time, I haue acquainted you
With the deare loue I beare to faire Anne Page,
Who, mutually, hath answer'd my affection,
(So farre forth, as her selfe might be her chooser)
Euen to my wish; I haue a letter from her
Of such contents, as you will wonder at;
The mirth whereof, so larded with my matter,
That neither (singly) can be manifested
Without the shew of both: fat Falstaffe
Hath a great Scene; the image of the iest
Ile show you here at large (harke good mine Host:)
To night at Hernes-Oke, iust 'twixt twelue and one,
Must my sweet Nan present the Faerie-Queene:
The purpose why, is here: in which disguise
VWhile other Iests are something ranke on foote,
Her father hath commanded her to slip
Away with Slender, and with him, at Eaton
Immediately to Marry: She hath consented: Now Sir,
Her Mother, (euen strong against that match
And firme for Doctor Caius) hath appointed
That he shall likewise shuffle her away,
While other sports are tasking of their mindes,
And at the Deanry, where a Priest attends
Strait marry her: to this her Mothers plot
She seemingly obedient) likewise hath
Made promise to the Doctor: Now, thus it rests,
Her Father meanes she shall be all in white;
And in that habit, when Slender sees his time
To take her by the hand, and bid her goe,
She shall goe with him: her Mother hath intended
(The better to deuote her to the Doctor;
For they must all be mask'd, and vizarded)
That quaint in greene, she shall be loose en-roab'd,
With Ribonds-pendant, flaring 'bout her head;
And when the Doctor spies his vantage ripe,
To pinch her by the hand, and on that token,
The maid hath giuen consent to go with him.*

rem

remHost.

Which meanes she to deceiue? Father, or Mother.

rem

remFen.

Both (my good Host) to go along with me:

And heere it rests, that you'l procure the Vicar

To stay for me at Church, 'twixt twelue, and one,

And in the lawfull name of marrying,

To giue our hearts vnited ceremony.

rem

remHost.

Well, husband your deuiice; Ile to the Vicar,

Bring you the Maid, you shall not lacke a Priest.

rem

remFen.

So shall I euermore be bound to thee;

Besides, Ile make a present recompence.

Exeunt

Actus Quintus. Scœna Prima.

Enter Falstoffs, Quickly, and Ford.

rem

remFal.

Pre'thee no more prattling: go, Ile hold, this is the third time: I hope good lucke lies in odde numbers:

Away, go, they say there is Diuinity in odde Numbers, either in natiuity, chance, or death: away.

rem

remQui.

Ile provide you a chaine, and Ile do what I can to get you a paire of hornes.

rem

remFall.

Away I say, time weares, hold vp your head & mince. How now M Broome? Master Broome, the matter will be knowne to night, or neuer. Bee you in the Parke about midnight, at Hernes-Oake, and you shall see wonders.

rem

remFord.

Went you not to her yesterday (Sir) as you told me you had appointed?

rem

remFal.

I went to her (Master Broome) as you see, like a poore-old-man, but I came from her (Master Broome) like a poore-old-woman; that same knaue (Ford hir husband) hath the finest mad diuell of ieaousie in him (Master Broome) that euer gouern'd

Frensie. I will tell you, he beate me greuously, in the shape of a woman: (for in the shape of Man (Master Broome) I feare not Goliah with a Weauers beame, because I know also, life is a Shuttle) I am in hast, go along with mee, Ile tell you all (Master Broome:) since I pluckt Geese, plaide Trewant, and whipt Top, I knew not what 'twas to be beaten, till lately. Follow mee, Ile tell you strange things of this knaue Ford, on whom to night I will be reuenged, and I will deliuer his wife into your hand. Follow, straunge things in hand (M. Broome) follow.

Exeunt.

Scena Secunda.

Enter Page, Shallow, Slender.

rem

remPage.

Come, come: wee'll couch i'th Castle-ditch, till we see the light of our Fairies. Remember son Slender, my

rem

remSlen.

I forsooth, I haue spoke with her, & we haue a nay-word, how to know one another. I come to her in white, and cry Mum; she cries Budget, and by that we know one another.

rem

remShal.

That's good too: But what needes either your Mum, or her Budget? The white will decipher her well enough. It hath strooke ten a'clocke.

rem

remPage.

The night is darke, Light and Spirits will become it wel: Heauen prosper our sport. No man means euill but the deuill, and we shal know him by his hornes. Lets away: follow me.

Exeunt.

Scena Tertia.

Enter Mist.Page, Mist.Ford, Caius.

rem

remMist.Page.

Mr Doctor, my daughter is in green, when you see your time, take her by the hand, away with her to the Deanerie, and dispatch it quickly: go before into the Parke: we two must go together.

rem

remCai.

I know vat I haue to do, adieu.

rem

remMist.Page.

Fare you well (Sir:) my husband will not reioyce so much at the abuse of Falstaffe, as he will chafe at the Doctors marrying my daughter: But 'tis no matter; better a little chiding, then a great deale of heartbreake.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Where is Nan now? and her troop of Fairies? and the Welch-deuill Herne?

rem

remMist.Page.

They are all couch'd in a pit hard by Hernes Oake, with obscur'd Lights; which at the very instant of Falstaffes and our meeting, they will at once display to the night.

rem

remMist.Ford.

That cannot choose but amaze him.

rem

remMist.Page.

If he be not amaz'd he will be mock'd: If he be amaz'd, he will euery way be mock'd.

rem

remMist.Ford.

Wee'll betray him finely.

rem

remMist.Page.

Against such Lewdsters, and their lechery,

Those that betray them, do no treachery.

rem

remMist.Ford.

The houre drawes-on: to the Oake, to the Oake.

Exeunt.

Scena Quarta.

Enter Euans and Fairies.

rem

remEuans.

Trib, trib Fairies: Come, and remember your parts: be pold (I pray you) follow me into the pit, and when I giue the watch-'ords, do as I pid you: Come, come, trib, trib.

Exeunt

Scena Quinta.

Enter Falstaffe, Mistris Page, Mistris Ford, Euans, Anne Page, Fairies, Page, Ford, Quickly, Slender, Fenton, Caius, Pistoll.

rem

remFal.

The Windsor-bell hath stroke twelue: the Minute draweson: Now the hot-bloodied-Gods assist me: Remember Ioue, thou was't a Bull for thy Europa, Loue set on thy hornes. O powerfull Loue, that in some respects makes a Beast a Man: in som other, a Man a beast. You were also (Iupiter) a Swan, for the loue of Leda: O omnipotent Loue, how nere the God drew to the complexion of a Goose: a fault done first in the forme of a beast, (O Ioue, a beastly fault:) and then another fault, in the semblance of a Fowle, thinke on't (Ioue) a fowle-fault. When Gods haue hot backes, what shall poore men do? For me, I am heere a Windsor Stagge, and the fattest (I thinke) i'th Forrest. Send me a coole rut-time (Ioue) or who can blame me to pisse my Tallow? Who comes heere? my Doe?

rem

remM.Ford.

Sir Iohn? Art thou there (my Deere?)

My male-Deere?

rem

remFal.

My Doe, with the blacke Scut? Let the skie raine Potatoes: let it thunder, to the tune of Greenesleeues, haile-kissing Comfits, and snow Eringoes: Let there come a tempest of prouocation, I will shelter mee heere.

rem

remM.Ford.

Mistris Page is come with me (sweet hart.)

rem

remFal.

Diuide me like a brib'd-Bucke, each a Haunch: I will keepe my sides to my selfe, my shoulders for the fellow of this walke; and my hornes I bequeath your husbands. Am I a Woodman, ha? Speake I like Herne the Hunter? Why, now is Cupid a child of conscience, he makes restitution. As I am a true spirit, welcome.

rem

remM.Page.

Alas, what noise?

rem

remM.Ford.

Heauen forgiue our sinnes.

rem

remFal.

What should this be?

rem

remM.Ford. M.Page.

Away, away.

rem

remFal.

I thinke the diuell wil not haue me damn'd,

Least the oyle that's in me should set hell on fire;

He would neuer else crosse me thus.

Enter Fairies.

rem

remQui.

*Fairies blacke, gray, greene, and white,
You Moone-shine reuellers, and shades of night.
You Orphan heires of fixed destiny,
Attend your office, and your quality.
Crier Hob-goblyn, make the Fairy Oyes.*

rem

remPist.

*Elues, list your names: Silence you aiery toyes.
Cricket, to Windsor-chimnies shalt thou leape;
Where fires thou find'st vnrak'd, and hearths vnswept,
There pinch the Maids as blew as Bill-berry,
Our radiant Queene, hates Sluts, and Sluttery.*

rem

remFal.

*They are Fairies, he that speaks to them shall die,
Ile winke, and couch: No man their workes must eie.*

rem

remEu.

*Wher's Bede? Go you, and where you find a maid
That ere she sleepe has thrice her prayers said,
Raise vp the Organs of her fantasie,
Sleepe she as sound as carelesse infancie,
But those as sleepe, and thinke not on their sins,
Pinch them armes, legs, backes, shoulders, sides, & shins.*

rem

remQu.

About, about:

*Search Windsor Castle (Elues) within, and out.
Strew good lucke (Ouphes) on euery sacred roome,
That it may stand till the perpetuall doome,
In state as wholesome, as in state 'tis fit,
Worthy the Owner, and the Owner it.
The seuerall Chaires of Order, looke you scowre
With iuyce of Balme; and euery precious flowre,
Each faire Instalment, Coate, and seu'rall Crest,
With loyall Blazon, euermore be blest.
And Nightly-meadow7#x2011;Fairies, looke you sing
Like to the Garters-Compasse, in a ring*

*Th'expressure that it beares: Greene let it be,
 More fertile-fresh then all the Field to see:
 And, Hony Soit Qui Mal-y-Pence, write
 In Emrold-tuffes, Flowres purple, blew, and white,
 Like Saphire-pearle, and rich embroiderie,
 Buckled below faire Knight-hoods bending knee;
 Fairies use Flowres for their characterie.
 Away, disperse: But till 'tis one a clocke,
 Our Dance of Custome, round about the Oke
 Of Herne the Hunter, let vs not forget.*

rem

remEuan.

*Pray you lock hand in hand: your selues in order (set:
 And twenty glow-wormes shall our Lanthornes bee
 To guide our Measure round about the Tree.
 But stay, I smell a man of middle earth.*

rem

remFal.

*Heauens defend me from that Welsh Fairy,
 Least he transforme me to a peece of Cheese.*

rem

remPist.

Vilde worme, thou wast ore-look'd euen in thy birth.

rem

remQu.

*With Triall-fire touch me his finger end:
 If he be chaste, the flame will backe descend
 And turne him to no paine: but if he start,
 It is the flesh of a corrupted hart.*

rem

remPist.

A triall, come.

rem

remEua.

Come: will this wood take fire?

rem

remFal.

Oh, oh, oh.

rem

remQui.

*Corrupt, corrupt, and tainted in desire.
 About him (Fairies) sing a scornfull rime,
 And as you trip, still pinch him to your time.*

The Song.

Fie on sinnfull phantasie: Fie on Lust, and Luxurie:

Lust is but a bloody fire, kindled with vchaste desire,

Fed in heart whose flames aspire,

As thoughts do blow them higher and higher.

Pinch him (Fairies) mutually: Pinch him for his villanie.

Pinch him, and burne him, and turne him about,

Till Candles, & Star-light, & Moone-shine be out.

rem

remPage.

Nay do not flye, I thinke we haue watcht you now: VVill none but Herne the Hunter serue your turne?

rem

remM.Page.

I pray you come, hold vp the iest no higher.

Now (good Sir Iohn) how like you Windsor wiues?

See you these husband? Do not these faire yoakes

Become the Forrest better then the Towne?

rem

remFord.

Now Sir, whose a Cuckold now?

Mr Broome, Falstaffes a Knaue, a Cuckoldly knaue,

Heere are his hornes Master Broome:

And Master Broome, he hath enioyed nothing of Fords, but his Buck-basket, his cudgell, and twenty pounds of money, which must be paid to Mr Broome, his horses are arrested for it, Mr Broome.

rem

remM.Ford.

Sir Iohn, we haue had ill lucke: wee could neuer meete: I will neuer take you for my Loue againe, but I will alwayes count you my Deere.

rem

remFal.

I do begin to perceiue that I am made an Asse.

rem

remFord.

I, and an Oxe too: both the proofes are extant.

rem

remFal.

And these are not Fairies: I was three or foure times in the thought they were not Fairies, and yet the guiltinesse of my minde, the sodaine surprize of my powers, droue the grossnesse of the foppery into a receiu'd beleefe, in despite of the teeth of all rime and reason, that they were Fairies. See now how wit may be made a Iacke-a-Lent, when 'tis vpon ill imployment.

rem

remEuant.

Sir Iohn Falstaffe, serue Got, and leaue your desires, and Fairies will not pinse you.

rem

remFord.

VVell said Fairy Hugh.

rem

remEuans.

And leaue you your iecalouzies too, I pray you.

rem

remFord.

I will neuer mistrust my wife againe, till thou art able to woo her in good English.

rem

remFal.

Haue I laid my braine in the Sun, and dri'de it, that it wants matter to preuent so grosse ore-reaching as this? Am I ridden with a Welch Goate too? Shal I haue a Coxcombe of Frize? Tis time I were choak'd with a peece of toasted Cheese.

rem

remEu.

Seese is not good to giue putter; your belly is al putter.

rem

remFal.

Seese, and Putter? Haue I liu'd to stand at the taunt of one that makes Fritters of English? This is enough to be the decay of lust and late-walking through the Realme.

rem

remMist.Page.

Why Sir Iohn, do you thinke though wee would haue thrust vertue out of our hearts by the head and shoulders, and haue giuen our selues without scruple to hell, that euer the deuill could haue made you our delight?

rem

remFord.

What, a hodge-pudding? A bag of flax?

rem

remMist.Page.

A puft man?

rem

remPage.

Old, cold, wither'd, and of intollerable entrailles?

rem

remFord.

And one that is as slanderous as Sathan?

rem

remPage.

And as poore as Iob?

rem

remFord.

And as wicked as his wife?

rem

remEuan.

And giuen to Fornications, and to Tauernes, and Sacke, and Wine, and Metheglins, and to drinkings and swearings, and starings? Pribles and prables?

rem

remFal.

Well, I am your Theame: you haue the start of me, I am deiected: I am not able to answer the Welch Flannell, Ignorance it selfe is a plummet ore me, use me as you will.

rem

remFord.

Marry Sir, wee'l bring you to Windsor to one Mr Broome, that you haue cozon'd of money, to whom you should haue bin a Pander: ouer and aboue that you haue suffer'd, I thinke, to repay that money will be a biting affliction.

rem

remPage.

Yet be cheerefull Knight: thou shalt eat a posset to night at my house, wher I will desire thee to laugh at my wife, that now laughes at thee: Tell her Mr Slender hath married her daughter.

rem

remMist.Page.

Doctors doubt that;

If Anne Page be my daughter, she is (by this) Doctour Caius wife.

rem

remSlen.

Whoa hoe, hoe, Father Page.

rem

remPage.

Sonne? How now? How now Sonne,

Haue you dispatch'd?

rem

remSlen.

Dispatch'd? Ile make the best in Glostershire know on't: would I were hang'd la, else.

rem

remPage.

Of what sonne?

rem

remSlen.

I came yonder at Eaton to marry Mistris Anne Page, and she's a great lubberly boy. If it had not bene i'th Church, I would haue swing'd him, or hee should haue swing'd me. If I did not thinke it had beene Anne Page, would I might neuer stirre, and 'tis a Post-masters Boy.

rem

remPage.

Vpon my life then, you tooke the wrong.

rem

remSlen.

What neede you tell me that? I think so, when I tooke a Boy for a Girle: If I had bene married to him, (for all he was in womans apparrell) I would not haue had him.

rem

remPage.

Why this is your owne folly,

Did not I tell you how you should know my daughter,

By her garments?

rem

remSlen.

I went to her in greene, and cried Mum, and she cride budget, as Anne and I had appointed, and yet it was not Anne, but a Post-masters boy.

rem

remMist.Page.

Good George be not angry, I knew of your purpose: turn'd my daughter into white, and indeede she is now with the Doctor at the Deanrie, and there married.

rem

remCai.

Ver is Mistris Page: by gar I am cozoned, I ha married oon Garsoon, a boy; oon pesant, by gar. A boy, it is not An Page, by gar, I am cozoned.

rem

remM.Page.

VWhy? did you take her in white?

rem

remCai.

I bee gar, and 'tis a boy: be gar, Ile raise all Windsor.

rem

remFord.

This is strange: Who hath got the right Anne?

rem

remPage.

My heart misgiues me, here comes Mr Fenton. How now Mr Fenton?

rem

remAnne.

Pardon good father, good my mother pardon

rem

remPage.

Now Mistris:

How chance you went not with Mr Slender?

rem

remM.Page.

Why went you not with Mr Doctor, maid?

rem

remFen.

You do amaze her: heare the truth of it,

You would haue married her most shamefully,

Where there was no proportion held in loue:
 The truth is, she and I (long since contracted)
 Are now so sure that nothing can dissolue vs:
 Th'offence is holy, that she hath committed,
 And this deceit looses the name of craft,
 Of disobedience, or vnduteous title,
 Since therein she doth euitate and shun
 A thousand irreligious cursed houres
 Which forced marriage would haue brought vpon her.

rem

remFord.

Stand not amaz'd, here is no remedie:

In Loue, the heauens themselues do guide the state,
 Money buyes Lands, and wiues are sold by fate.

rem

remFal.

I am glad, though you haue tane a special stand to strike at me, that your Arrow
 hath glanc'd.

rem

remPage.

Well, what remedy? Fenton, heauen giue thee ioy, what cannot be eschew'd, must
 be embrac'd.

rem

remFal.

When night-dogges run, all sorts of Deere are chac'd.

rem

remMist.Page.

Well, I will muse no further: Mr Fenton,
 Heauen giue you many, many merry dayes:
 Good husband, let vs euery one go home,
 And laugh this sport ore by a Countrie fire,
 Sir Iohn and all.

rem

remFord.

Let it be so (Sir Iohn:)

To Master Broome, you yet shall hold your word,
 For he, to night, shall lye with Mistris Ford:

Exeunt

FINIS.