A STUDY OF THE SOURCE OF THOMAS KYD'S

SOLIMAN AND PERSEDA

A THESIS
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By
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May then, though Fortune have delight in change,
Ile stay my flight, and cease to turne my wheele,
Till I haue showne by demonstration
What intrest I haue in a Tragedie.  --Soliman and Perseda
PREFACE

The first episode of Henry Wotton's Cupida Cautela has generally been accepted as the source of Thomas Kyd's Soliman and Perseda. However, a thorough study of individual lines, phrases, and plots has not been available to measure the extent of Kyd's indebtedness to this work. After a reading of Kyd's The Spanish Tragedie, I became interested in Kyd the man, the Elizabethan dramatist, and the forerunner of Shakespeare. Therefore, I have chosen to make a comparative study of Kyd's Soliman and Perseda and Wotton's Cupida Cautela. Dr. Charles E. Walton, Department of English, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, made available to me his microfilm copy of Wotton's Cupida Cautela, and Appendix B is a transcription of the document which I have made directly from this film.

I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. Walton for his helpful suggestions and generous assistance; to Dr. June Morgan, also of the Department of English, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, who assisted me as second reader of this thesis. And, last, to my family, who co-operated so beautifully during the course of this work, I express my appreciation.

August 19, 1960
Emporia, Kansas
Dedication

To Emmett C. Wells
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CHAPTER I

THE CAUTELS AND MUTABILITIE OF FORTUNE

That onely I to all men iust must be,
   And neither Gods nor men be iust to me.
   --The Spanish Tragedie (1585?)

Hieronimo’s complaint might very well be that of
Thomas Kyd, for justice was denied to him by the gods and
men. Introducing a new type of drama in 1585, Kyd was
lauded by his theatre-goers and imitated by other play-
wrights; however, he lacked the ultimate skill that is
the mark of genius and, thus, never became one of the truly
great writers of his period. His education was good, but
not complete, thereby leaving some of his work open to
ridicule. Involvement in a religious scandal lost him his
patronage, family esteem, and reputation. After death,
his fame as a writer was further reduced by the ascription
of certain works to his pen. By 1744, when The Spanish
Tragedie was again brought before the public, the name of
the author had been forgotten.

Thomas Kyd was born to Francis and Anna (Agnes) Kyd
in the autumn of 1558, and baptized at the church of St.
Mary Woolnoth on November 6 in that same year.¹ Francis,

his father was a London scrivener. Of his mother, Anna, little is known.² A sister, Ann, was born in 1561.³ As there are no records in the St. Mary Woolnoth Church of the birth of other children in the family, the John Kyd who printed for Thomas Kyd the pamphlet, The Murder of John Brewen (1592), was evidently not a brother, but a distant relative.⁴ Francis Kyd was a man of importance and fair prosperity. Able to provide a good education for his son, he entered Thomas Kyd on the register of the new Merchant Taylors' School on October 26, 1565.⁵ This school, founded in 1561, was the best grammar school in England, having, from its opening date to 1586, Richard Mulcaster for its headmaster. Mulcaster's theories of education were revolutionary for the times; he felt that physical training was of importance, and believed in the education of girls, a unique idea at this time.⁶ In addition to a thorough tutoring in the classics, the pupils at Merchant Taylors were taught music and singing, and performed masks.

³Loc. cit.
⁴Loc. cit.
⁵Ibid., p. xvi.
interludes, and plays before Queen Elizabeth and the Court. Edmund Spenser attended this school from about 1561 to early 1569, as did Thomas Lodge from 1570/71 to 1573. They were almost certainly Kyd's schoolmates. The length of Kyd's stay at Merchant Taylors' School is unknown; furthermore, no records indicate that he continued his education at either of the universities or in any of the colleges. Although Kyd did not receive a formal university education like Greene, Lodge, Lyly, Marlowe, Nashe, and Peele, he is sometimes counted among the "University Wits" on the strength of his knowledge of the classics. He devised "imperfectly" some Latin verse and prose. His chief Latin source was Seneca, but he was familiar with a great many Latin authors, among whom were Cisero, Ovid, Pliny, Claudian, Lucan, and Terence, traditional grammar school subjects. Apparently, by an earnest study of the classics in grammar school, and later, by copious reading and individual study, Thomas Kyd had learned to write knowledgeably. Of the Spanish language, it appears that he knew only a few phrases; of Spanish geography he knew even less. French and Italian he knew well enough to translate serviceably

7See cit.
8Kyd, op. cit., pp. xvi-xvii.
9Allardyce Nicoll, British Drama, pp. 73-74.
from both.\textsuperscript{10} It is quite possible that he had travelled in France.\textsuperscript{11} However, numerous errors in translation occur in his works, obviously because of his lack of knowledge of ancient history and legend and even of contemporary history and geography. Perhaps, it is toward these blunders that Kyd's contemporaries pointed with scorn, ever jealous of their own prestige as university-educated gentlemen.\textsuperscript{12}

Presumably, if one accepts Nashe's comments in his "Preface" to Robert Greene's \textit{Menaphon} as biographical evidence for the dramatist, Kyd pursued for a time his father's trade as a notary and transcriber of legal documents.\textsuperscript{13} Nashe wrote, "It is a common practise now a daies, amongst a sort of shifting companions, that runne through evey art and thriue by none to leuue the trade of Nouerint, whereto they were borne. . . ." Certainly, legal terms and technicalities do occur in \textit{The Spanish Tragedie}, \textit{Soliman and Perseda} (1585/6?), and \textit{The Murder of John Brewen}. After taking leave of his occupation as

\begin{flushleft}
\textsuperscript{10}Kyd, \textit{op. cit.}, p. xx.
\textsuperscript{11}\textit{Loc. cit.}
\textsuperscript{12}\textit{The Cambridge History of English Literature}, V, p. 141.
\textsuperscript{13}Kyd, \textit{op. cit.}, p. xxı.
\end{flushleft}
scrivener, he may have become a schoolmaster; indeed, his knowledge of the languages and the elements of mathematics would have been useful in this endeavor. Nevertheless, he soon turned to writing as his career.

Most of Kyd's works, especially his plays, were written before 1582.¹⁴ His interest in the theatre may have stemmed from the time of his participation in the Merchant Taylors' presentations under the direction of Richard Mulcaster. Also, according to allusions in The Spanish Tragedie, he witnessed the professional English dramas produced between 1570 and 1580, and, if he did visit Paris, he may have seen the performances of the French tragedians. In addition, Italian players, probably the Ravenna comedians, performed for English audiences around this same time.¹⁵

Several works had a marked effect upon Kyd's literary development. In 1578, Francis Goldsche, a friend of Kyd's father, and Henry Binneman printed Henry Wotton's Courtlie Controversie of Cupids Cautels, a translation of Jacques Yver's Printemps d'Iver (1572).¹⁶ The first of the

¹⁴Ibid., p. xxv.
¹⁵Ibid., p. xxiii.
¹⁶Loc. cit.
five stories contained in the work is that of Soliman and Perseda, used by Kyd as the interpolated play in The Spanish Tragedie and, later, in the full-length play, Soliman and Perseda. In 1579, Spenser's Shepheardes Calendar was published, as was John Lyly's Euphuues, and Kyd imitates Lyly's euphuistic comparisons and mannerisms. Thomas Watson's Nekatompthia (1582), Tasso's Padre di Famiglia (1580), and Robert Garnier's Cornelie each had its own effect upon his works.17

The work for which Thomas Kyd is best known is The Spanish Tragedie containing the lamentable end of Don Horatio and Bel-imperia: with the pittiful death of old Hieronimo. It exists in twelve extant editions, three of which are in the original form, without the additions.18 All twelve editions are anonymous, the entry of license in the Stationer's Register, October 6, 1592, giving no clue to authorship, In An Apology for Actors (1612), however, a casual reference by Thomas Heywood to "M. Kyd, in his Spanish Tragedy" records the play as Kyd's.19 The only direct evidence as to the probable date of writing

17Ibid., p. xxiv.
18Kyd, op. cit., p. xxvi.
19Thomas Heywood, An Apology for Actors, p. 45.
is found in Ben Jonson's Induction to Bartholomew Fair (1614): "He that will swear Ieronimo or Andronicus are the best plays yet, shall pass unexcepted at here as a man whose judgment shows it is constant, and hath stood still these five and twenty or thirty years." This and other evidence suggest the years 1582-7, with a date nearer 1585 to be preferred.

The dates for the eighteen-week season in which The Spanish Tragedie was staged by Philip Henslowe are recorded in his Diary (1591-2). Plays of Shakespeare, Greene, Lodge, Marlowe, and Peele were performed; financially, the greatest successes were Titus and Vespasian, The Jew of Malta, 2 Tamer Cham, 1 Henry VI., and The Spanish Tragedie.20 The performances were brought to an end by June 23, as the Privy Council halted all plays until Michaelmas. On December 29, Henslowe took up again accounts until January 28, 1593, when the plague once more intervened.21

In his Diary, Henslowe refers to two plays, one "Ieronymo," meaning The Spanish Tragedie, the other "the comodey of done oracio" or "the comodey of Ieronimo."22 One might infer, then, that Henslowe was specifying a

21Ibid., II, pp. 122-23.
22Kyd, op. cit., p. xli.
forepiece written by Kyd and presented on the night pre-
ceeding the acting of The Spanish Tragedie. It is entirely
plausible that Kyd may have written a first part, as he
did write a succeeding piece, Soliman and Perseda. But
The First Part of Ieronimo (1605) is probably not that
"comodey of Ieronimo" listed by Henslowe; the melodrama
has been mistakenly associated, perhaps, with Kyd.23
Henslowe's "spanes comodye" is not mentioned in the Diary
after 1592.24 It was never published along with The
Spanish Tragedie up to 1603; therefore, it is peculiar
that it should be published by itself in 1605. On the other
hand, Henslowe's "Ieronimo" is listed as a comedy, while
The First Part of Ieronimo appears to be an intentional
burlesque. The characters in The Spanish Tragedie are un-
like those in The First Part of Ieronimo.25 The First Part
of Ieronimo is probably the work of an anonymous writer
who seized on the revival of The Spanish Tragedie in 1602
to write a short-lived but lucrative play.26

For "adyvons" to The Spanish Tragedie, Henslowe

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23Kyd, op. cit., p. xlii.
24Ibid., p. xli.
25Ibid., pp. xlii-xliv.
26Ibid., p. xliv.
in 1601 and 1602 made payments to Ben Johnson; these appendages are the "mad" scenes which have been incorporated into the original text. Passionate and darkly beautiful, the additions tend to show Kyd's work as clumsy and crude by comparison. However, Ben Jonson is not credited by critics with the task; possibly, he hired some other dramatist, Webster or another, to do the job in his stead. 27 Regardless of authorship, these additions increased the popularity of the play immeasurably. Insanity was not a subject new to the drama. The Greek tragedians had used it; Seneca had employed it moderately; medieval drama had incorporated it. But the Elizabethan treatment of madness, beginning with Hieronimo, had greater theatrical appeal, because of the stage business which the playwrights shrewdly effected. In The Spanish Tragedie, an unsound mind is illustrated by means of the blood-stained handkerchief, Horatio's strangled body hanging in a tree, the senseless slaying of the Duke of Castile, and the severed tongue of Hieronimo. The insane character in the writings of this period was awesome, pitiful, sometimes majestic, usually cunning. However, there was no attempt in early Elizabethan drama to explain the motives of the

27 Chambers, op. cit., III, p. 396.
characters. It was not until Shakespeare that the ethical, moral, and psychological aspects were of import. Therefore, Thomas Kyd made the initial step toward character study in Hieronimo's grief, madness, urge for revenge, and triumph when vindication was achieved.

The Spanish Tragedie was acted by Lord Strange's men during that company's season with Philip Henslowe, beginning February 19, 1592. In January of 1597, The Spanish Tragedie was performed by the Admiral's men twelve times and acted again in October and November jointly with Pembroke's company for Henslowe. The play continued to be popular into the seventeenth century, both in England and abroad. Robert Brown managed the Earl of Derby's men on their fourth tour at Frankfort, Germany, in Easter of 1601, with The Spanish Tragedie included in their repertory. In 1619, Brown joined John Greene on a fifth tour to the continent and again presented The Spanish

28Ibid., II, p. 121.
29Ibid., III, p. 396.
30Nicoll, op. cit., p. 86.
31Chambers, op. cit., II, pp. 278-79.
The Tragedy of Soliman and Perseda was entered in the Stationer's Register, November 20, 1592. The author's name was omitted from all three editions now extant in the British Museum. The plot is an elaboration of Hieronimo's play in The Spanish Tragedie; the rhyme scheme and the style are the same, and numerous phrases are nearly identical. Thomas Kyd, then, is obviously the author of this companion piece to his earlier play. As it will be seen, the source is Henry Wotton's The Courtlie Controversie of Cupids Cautela (1578), an English translation of Jacques d'Iver's La Printemps d'Iver (1572). The plot has been changed only slightly from that of Wotton's story, the ending, for instance, differing for reasons of dramatic interest. Soliman and Perseda is a court version, with a complimentary reference to Queen Elizabeth; it undoubtedly was written prior to 1588, as no Englishman would have dared honor Spanish power and bravery after that date. Death's remark to the Queen belongs to 1584/5, having to do with the Babington plot, an attempt

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32 Ibid., II, pp. 284-85.
33 Kyd, op. cit., pp. liv-lv.
34 Ibid., p. lvi.
on the Queen's life.\textsuperscript{36} Since the play was not acted at Court in 1584/5, the date of composition may be fixed at 1585/6. \textit{Soliman and Perseda} is less interesting and far less exciting than the earlier work. Kyd, in both plays, adapted the Senecan drama to fit the popular taste of the day, using most of the Senecan techniques—sensational murders, a chorus to connect and relate events, and many classical allusions. In addition, his natural feeling for stagecraft united the form and style of the classicists with the ardor and enthusiasm of deeds. Where before had been merely dramatic narrative, there was now exciting action. In \textit{The Spanish Tragedie}, Kyd introduced two new types of characters. Lorenzo is probably the first English villain of the Machiavellian type, and Hieronimo is the primary diminutive tragic hero, as opposed to the earlier princely superhuman hero. In \textit{Soliman and Perseda}, a new element of comedy is also evidenced in the persons of Pisto, the knavish servant, and Basilisco, the braggart knight. Pisto's nearest counterpart in \textit{The Spanish Tragedie} is Pedringano, who is singularly cunning, but not amusing. Much of the dialogue in both plays is written in an extravagant style,

\textsuperscript{36}Loc. cit.
but occasional scenes are couched in simple prose, with a few really dramatic speeches.

The conjectural works of Kyd are numerous, in that the majority of plays in the early period of Elizabethan drama are anonymous. The Ur-Hamlet, the probable source of one of Shakespeare's plays, has been attributed to Thomas Kyd by internal evidence in Nashe's preface to Menaphon. Nashe, in his derisive attack on Kyd, says "...yet English Seneca read by candle-light yeeldes manie good sentences, as 'bloud is a beggar,' and so forth: and if you intreate him faire in a frostie morning, he will afford you whole Hamlets, I should say handfulls of tragical speeches." 37 The play was probably written in 1587 and closely parallels The Spanish Tragedie in style and Senecan technique. In the first Hamlet, the ghost of a father asks his son to revenge his death; the father in The Spanish Tragedie seeks revenge for the son's murder. Hamlet has doubts concerning his father's slaying, just as Hieronimo questions Bell-imperia's letter. Laertes resembles Lorenzo in his attitude toward his sister's choice of loves. The play-within-the-play technique is used for revenge, although Hamlet's play ends with a melee rather than with a personal reckoning. Some phrases,

37 Kyd, op. cit., p. xlv.
as well as these plot similarities, resemble those of Kyd in *The Spanish Tragedy*. The play apparently was not successful and was not printed. When it was performed by the Admiral's and Chamberlain's men in June 1594, Henslowe recorded that it brought in the sum of eight shillings. It must have appeared intermittently for fifteen years or so before Shakespeare planned his story of a tormented and indecisive mind.\(^{39}\)

*The Rare Triumphs of Love and Fortune* (1582?) has been ascribed to Kyd on the basis of its plot similarity to *Soliman and Perseda*.\(^{40}\) In the Induction, there occurs a debate among the gods of Mount Olympus as to which deity, Venus or Fortune, shall rule the lives of Hermione and Fidelia. Mercury presents a dumb-show of persons slain by Love and Fortune. The story proceeds with Love and Fortune aiding their favorite and defeating the actions of their enemy. The writing appears not to be as mature as that in the works accredited to Kyd; and it is written in twelve-syllable meters.\(^{41}\) Arden of Faversham, licensed in 1592, is the story of Arden who was murdered in 1551.

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\(^{39}\) *Loc. cit.*


by two ruffians, hired by Arden's wife and her lover. The first four acts have to do with attempts upon the unsuspecting Arden's life; finally, at the beginning of the fifth act, he is stabbed to death. The remainder is concerned with the discovery and condemnation of the murderers. Occasional fine dialogue and action occur within the play. Possibly, Arden of Feversham may be the latest and one of the best of Kyd's works.⁴² A Warning for Fair Women was entered in the Stationer's Register on November 17, 1599. It, too, concerns a murder, that of George Sanders of London, who was killed by persons in the hire of his wife. The actual murder took place in 1573.⁴³ This play encompasses more time than Arden of Feversham; it begins with the first meeting of Brown and Mrs. Sanders, and progresses through the planning and doing of the deed, to the discovery, the trial, and the pronouncement of guilt. The remorse of the guilty persons, the terror of Brown on hearing the last words of the dying man, and the presence of Sander's young son during the bitter accusations of the criminals, all denote a keen sense of drama and understanding of people.⁴⁴ Published in 1594, The True

⁴³Ibid., p. 357.
⁴⁴Ibid., p. 359.
Tragedy of Richard the Third is a mixture of prose, rhyming heptameters, and blank verse. Allusions to the Spanish Armada indicate the date of writing to be later than 1588. Truth and Poetry comprise the chorus. The history is rather vague, the characters are not well-delineated, and the comedy is limited to the moralizing of Richard's page. This play is claimed for Peele or Lodge, who were at this time known to have been re-writing a play of Kyd's. The three fragments attributed to Kyd by Robert Allott in England's Parnassus (1600) may be from the lost poems or plays. Also extant is a pamphlet, Verses of Praise and Love, which may be representative of Kyd's early hack-work.

Giving up his dramatic work in 1588, Thomas Kyd became a translator. His work The Householders Philosop...First written in Italian by that excellent orator and poet, Signor Torquato Tasso, and now translated by T. K. is a somewhat expanded version of the Padre di Famiglia (1580). In this translation, Kyd comments upon

47Kyd, op. cit., p. xxv.
48Loc. cit.
49Ibid., p. lxiv.
the various subjects of the use of make-up, the evils of usury, the problems of young marriages, second marriages, and child-raising.

From the middle of 1590 to the summer of 1593, then, Thomas Kyd was in the service of an unidentified lord. Possibly it was the same Lord Pembroke or Lord Strange, for whom Marlowe was also writing. Or, perhaps, it was Henry Radcliffe, fourth Earl of Sussex, to whose daughter-in-law Kyd later dedicated his *Cornelia*. In 1592, while still holding an appointment in the service of this man, Kyd wrote a sensational and moralizing tract, *The Murder of John Brome*.52

Christopher Marlowe and Thomas Kyd had become acquainted in 1590 while both were in the service of the same lord—Marlowe as a writer of plays, Kyd conjecturally as a tutor. In the summer of 1591, they shared the same writing room, and it is here that certain of Marlowe's papers became mixed with Kyd's.53 When, on May 12,

50Ibid., p. lxiv.
51Chambers, op. cit., III, p. 394.
52Kyd, op. cit., pp. lxiv-lxv.
53Ibid., p. lxvi.
1593, Kyd was arrested for libel against the state and his room was searched, fragments of a religious disputation were discovered. A charge of atheism was brought against him. He denied vehemently that the papers were his, and bitterly rejected any friendship with Marlowe or condonement of Marlowe's activities. How long Kyd was held in custody is not known; but according to some, Marlowe was stabbed to death on June 1, 1593, while the Council was inquiring into the case. Thomas Kyd wrote a letter to Fuckering requesting that the minister entreat a former patron in his behalf to reclaim Kyd's services, which had been discharged at the time of Kyd's arrest.

Whether because of Kyd's involvement in the political and religious scandal or because of changing public tastes after January of 1593, Henslowe records no performances of The Spanish Tragedie until 1597. Rejected by his patron and his public, Kyd found it necessary to turn, again, to the occupation of translating, this time the French work, Cornelie (1574) by Robert Garnier. On January 26, 1594, "A booke called Cornelia, Thomas Kydd beinge the Authour" was registered; the dedication page

54 Loc. cit.
was signed with Kyd's initials. The play was not intended to be acted, and it was not popular with the reading public. 56

Kyd died shortly before December 30, 1594, poor and unhappy. His parents, displeased with this latest episode in their son's life, renounced administration of his estate. 57 Although Kyd suffered much from the biting denouncements of his contemporaries, not all the criticisms were adverse. He was commemorated in Meres' Palladia Tamia (1598), in Robert Allott's England's Parnassus, and in Dekker's A Knight's Conjuring (1607). 58 He had brought plays of popular appeal to the stage. These models of technique had fine manipulation of plot, dramatic surprise, and a wealth of action. 59 But his greatest contribution was to be found in his influence upon his contemporaries and successors. 60

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56 Kyd, op. cit., p. lxxv.
57 Ibid., p. lxxvii.
58 Ibid., p. lxxviii.
59 The Cambridge History of English Literature, V, p. 163.
60 Kyd, op. cit., p. lxxviii.
CHAPTER II

ENGLISH SENECAN YELDES MANIE GOOD SENTENCES

And what are Tragedies but acts of death?
Hear means the wrathful muse, in seas of teares
And lowd laments, to tell a small tale.

---Soliman and Perseda

The production of professional dramas shortly before 1570 permitted ordinary Elizabethan citizens to enjoy plays which formerly had been reserved for the Court. Playwrights, depending on their work for a livelihood, were obliged to respect both public demand and the preference of actors. Plays never ran consecutively longer than a week and were revived later only if they were extremely popular. Therefore, rather than spend a great deal of time on the production of one fine drama, authors were compelled to write many plays in short periods of time often in collaboration with other writers. It was with no feelings of guilt that borrowing from the works of others was undertaken. Plays were apparently considered as common property, regardless of original authorship. The expanding, revising, or editing of old plays was an accepted custom. 61 Since the origin of authorship was often lost after third and fourth borrowing,

61 Bradbrook, op. cit., p. 74.
it is with difficulty that an Elizabethan source study can be achieved. The development of style, personality, and work habits of various authors, as well as the matter of progression of style within an author's works, must be observed. A study of the first episode of Wotton's *Courtlie Controversie of Cupide Cautels* as partial source for Shakespeare's *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* has been made by J. C. Pogue in his *A Reinvestigation of the Sources of The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. 62 Mr. Pogue has shown the fifth historie of Wotton's tale and *La Diana Enamorada* (1560) of Jorge de Montemayor were adapted by Shakespeare for his play. 63 Wotton's translation of d'Iver's *Le Printemps d'Iver* was originally written as proof that French writers could compose novels comparable to those of the Italian Bandello. In this endeavor he was successful, judging from the three editions of *Le Printemps d'Iver* which appeared the first year and the eleven more which were published before the century ended. 64 Within six years of publication, it had been


63 *Loc. cit.*

translated into English by Henry Wotton as *Cupid's Cautels*. It is from the first episode of this English translation that Thomas Kyd obtained his material for his drama, *Soliman and Perseda*.

For the purpose of clarity, the following list of similar dramatis personae in the two stories is presented:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soliman and Perseda</th>
<th>Cupida Cautels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brusor, Soliman's General</td>
<td>Brusor Bellerbeck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erastus</td>
<td>Erastus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferdinando, Lucina's Friend</td>
<td>Gentleman of the Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucina</td>
<td>Lucina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perseda</td>
<td>Perseda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippo, Governor of Rhodes</td>
<td>Phillip of Vichers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piston, Servant of Erastus</td>
<td>Pistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince of Cyprus</td>
<td>Prince of Cyprus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soliman, Ruler of Turkey</td>
<td>Soliman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Just as the names of characters are nearly identical, so are the plots almost parallel. For the sake of comparison, the following summary of the plot of the first episode of *Cupid's Cautels* is recorded:

Planning to be married, Perseda and Erastus exchange love tokens; however, Erastus loses his gift. The chain is discovered by a young man who gives it to his lady friend, Lucina. Perseda, spying the chain around the neck of the lady and suspecting her to be a rival, sends Erastus away as a false lover. Erastus, attempting to win back his jewel and his Perseda, plays a dice game with Lucina and regains his neck-chain. However, Lucina's gentleman, observing Erastus with the jewel and thinking it stolen, attacks Erastus and is killed in the struggle. Erastus flees to Turkey, where he is received with enthusiasm. Almost at once he is made leader of the Turkish army and becomes a dear friend of the Turkish ruler, Soliman. When Soliman invades the Isle
of Rhodes, Erastus' homeland, he finds Perseda in a
nunnery. As a captive of war, Perseda is brought to
Constantinople and placed in Soliman's harem, where she
is constantly entertained by the Sultan to submit to him.
One day, while Soliman stands outside her door, Perseda
laments her loss of Erastus and attempts suicide. Pre-
venting the fatal knife thrust, Soliman sends for
Erastus, who has retired to the country in mourning for
Rhodes and Perseda. Soliman gives a magnificent
marriage feast for the young couple and appoints Erastus
Governor of Rhodes. The lovers return to their native
land. Unfortunately, Soliman soon regrets his hasty
presentation of Perseda to Erastus; he writes a love
letter to Perseda, earnestly seeking her affections.
After Perseda's refusal, Soliman gives consent to
Brusor's plan to murder Erastus. Brusor and the other
princes are jealous of Erastus' political advancement.
Thus, Erastus is recalled to Turkey where he is
charged with treason and is beheaded. On learning of
her husband's fate, Perseda desires only death. Fistan
begs her, however, to revenge his master's murder;
Perseda fortifies her castle and is prepared to fight
when Soliman arrives. Dressed in Erastus' armor, she
is struck by two bullets from a Turkish musket. Fistan
and the other men and women of the castle continue the
battle until all are dead. Soliman, finding Perseda
dead, slays in anger as many of his soldiers as remain
near. Later, when calmer, he resolves to spend the
remainder of his life in repentance. He has built in
Rhodes a large monument in which Perseda and Erastus
are entombed. Also constructed is a large brass
pyramid from which Brusor, the wicked counselor, is
hanged.

Fundamentally, this is the essence of The First Historie of
Cupids Cautels. The plot of Kyd's Soliman and Perseda
varies only slightly from that of Wotton's tale:

After the exchange of jewels, Perseda witnesses the
tournament in which Erastus, disguised, defeats all
the knights, including the Turkish Brusor. When
Erastus' neck-chain is lost, Ferdinando finds it and
gives it to Lucina. Perseda, after seeing the neck-
lace on Lucina, denounces Erastus as a false lover. Erastus and two friends gamble with loaded dice and win the chain from Lucina. Ferdinando is killed in the struggle with Erastus over the chain. Erastus seeks refuge in Turkey; there he is appointed Captain of Janissaries and is Soliman's close friend. Basilisco, the braggart knight, also falls in love with Perseda. Soliman excuses Erastus from the invasion of Rhodes. Brusor and the Turkish army conquer Rhodes; Brusor claims Lucina for himself and Perseda for Soliman. Basilisco rejects his Christian faith to escape death. At first glimpse, Soliman loves Perseda and bids her submit to him. She refuses; Soliman attempts to kill her but cannot, for he loves her greatly. Erastus, entering upon this scene, sees his beloved, and the two lovers are married immediately by Soliman. The new Governor of Rhodes departs for his homeland with his bride. Urged by Brusor, Soliman orders Erastus to Turkey, where he is strangled. Also killed are the participants in Erastus' murder, the two hired witnesses, the two soldiers, and the Marshall. Piston relates the sad news to Perseda, who kills Lucina as one of the plotters. Piston and Perseda prepare the castle for a battle. Perseda dresses as a man and combats with Soliman, who, unaware of her identity, wounds her. When he recognizes her, he kills Piston and Basilisco, then kisses Perseda before she dies. After ordering Brusor to be beheaded, he finds in Perseda's hand a note stating that her lips are covered with poison. Soliman's last orders are that his body be interred with Perseda's and Erastus'. Then he dies.

From this plot summary of Soliman and Perseda, one may observe the striking resemblance of Kyd's play to Wotton's Cupide Cautels.

A comparative study of these two works offers convincing evidence of Kyd's indebtedness to Cupide Cautels as a direct source for the plot of Soliman and Perseda.
In *Soliman and Perseda*, the story is told by *Love, Fortune*, and *Death*, who serve as chorus. *Sire Fleur d'Amour* recounts the first historie in *Cupida Cautela*:

**Soliman and Perseda**

...knows not the historie
Of braue *Erastus* and his
Rodian Dame?

(EP, I, i, 11, 13-14)

**Cupida Cautela**

This Dameisell of whom my
discourse shall determine,
was born in the Isle of
*Rhodes*...

The young lovers, neighbors during childhood, grow
up with the understanding that they will marry. They ex-
change tokens of love, a neck-chain for Erastus, a ring for
Perseda:

**Soliman and Perseda**

...accept this carkanet:
My Grandame on her death
bed gaue it me,
And there, even there, I
vow'd unto my selfe
To keep the same, vntill
my wandering eye
Should finde a harbour for
my hart to dwell.

(EP, I, ii, 11, 32-36)

**Cupida Cautela**

...requiring you to kepe
this token for the loue of
hir, who evermore reserueth
a room for you in the se-
crete chamber of hir
loyall harte.

...and that hys sightes
shoulde serve in steede
of a fauourable barke to
harbour hir in the laste
porte of hir miseries,

---

65 Appendix "B", p. 91 (CC, p. 42).
66 Ibid., p. 93 (CC, p. 36).
67 Ibid., p. 116 (CC, p. 59).
In their city, the Prince of Cyprus is taking in marriage the daughter of a great lord. A large assembly of knights take part in the tourney in celebration of the wedding:

**Soliman and Perseda**

Each one of these approoued combatants, assembled from seuerall corners of the world, are hither come to try their force in armes, in honour of the Prince of Cipris nuptials.

*(SP, I, ii, ll. 63-65)*

---

Erastus, disguised, enters the lists and defeats all adversaries, including the Turkish knight, Brusor, and the commander of Rhodes. Unmasking Erastus, the company is astonished to discover the young knight:

**Soliman and Perseda**

Though ouer-borne, and foyled in my course, yet haue I partners in mine infamy. Tis wondrous that so yong a toward warriour should bide the shock of such approoued knights,

---

*Cupida Cautels*

...it fortuned a great lord of the Citie, did marrie his daughter unto the Prince of Cyprus, and for the honorable salemisying of thy princely wedding, great preparation was made...where (among others) a great number of the knights of Latran...were assembled. All whyche, withoute pretence of amitie, endeuored at thyfe feast to shewe theyr valour,....*

---

68 Ibid., p. 94 (*CG*, p. 37).
As he this day hath
matcht and mated too.

(SP, I, iv, ll. 33-37)

In the unmasking, however, Erastus' chain is severed
and falls to the ground, unknown to him. It is discovered
by a young gentleman of the town, who gives it to his
beloved, Lucina:

Soliman and Perseda
Therefore will I now goe
visit her,
And please her with this
Carcanet of worth
Which by good fortune I
haue found to day.

(SP, I, iv, ll. 43-45)

Erastus discovers his loss and delivers a long,
unhappy speech concerning his bad fortune:

Soliman and Perseda
Ah, treacherous Fortune,
enemy to Loue....

(SP, I, iv, l. 114)

Come therefore, gentle
death, and ease my griefe;
Cut short what malice
Fortune misintends.
But stay a while, good
Death, and let me liue;

Cupids Cautels
...for the cheyne happened
into the hands of a Gentle-
man of the town (companion
of our Martyre) who sought
the good wil of a coitrey
Damosel, neighbor unto the
Lordship of Erastus, unto
whom this amorous esquire
presently sent this chaine
for a toke. 70

69 Ibid., p. 97 (CC, p. 40).

70 Ibid., p. 102 (CC, p. 45).

71 Ibid., p. 93 (CC, p. 36).
Time may restore what
Fortune took from me:
(SP, I, iv, ll. 126-9)

What if my chains shall
never be restored?
My innocence shall clear
my negligence.
(SP, I, iv, ll. 131-32)

what if I can hear no
newes of my Jewel, shal I
therefore conjecture so
great rancour to governe
the creature in whom I
could neuer perceiue but
leastie and pittie: shall
I feare to be frustrate of
pardon, and banished his
presence for one misfortune
the which I could not
auoyde.

At this point in the drama, Soliman kills his two
brothers in an altercation over the withdrawal of Turkish
troops from Persia. The Turkish ruler next determines to
invade the isle of Rhodes:

Soliman and Perseda

And so beleager Rhodes
by sea and land,
That Key will serve to
open all the gates
Through which our pass-
age cannot finde a stop
Till it haue prickt the
hart of Christendome,
Which now that paltrie
Iland keeps from scath.
(SP, I, v, ll. 13-17)

Cupide Cautels

...and determined (consid-
ering the apt occasion
presently offered) to invade
and conquer the noble and
puissant Isle of Rhodes,
whiche was supposed to be
the invincible Key of
christendome.

---

72 Ibid., p. 101 (CC, p. 44).
73 Ibid., p. 102 (CC, p. 45).
74 Ibid., p. 111 (CC, p. 54).
...by turning of my
tickle wheele,

(SP, I, vi, l. 20)

...so greate deceyte and
ficklenesse remayneth in hir
mundayne wheele.75

Spying the love token around the neck of another
young lady, Perseda rejects as false the love of Erastus and
returns his ring:

Soliman and Perseda

To coole affection with
our woords and lookes,
If in our thoughts be
semblant sympathie.

(SP, II, i, ll. 2-3)

If heauens were iust, thy
teeth would tear they
tongue
For this thy periuorde
false disloyalty;
If heauens were iust, men
should have open breasts,
That we therein might read
their guilefull thoughts.

(SP, II, i, ll. 122-25)

why are not the teeth (seru-
ants of our sustenaunce)
reuengers of all slaunderous tongs. Or if a
double hart outrageth the
tong why is there not a
wyndowe in each mans
breast thorow the whiche
this malicious guest may
be discouered even in the
most secret gabyn of his
habitation.77

Erastus is dismayed that Perseda would doubt his
innocence concerning the loss of the chain:

78 Ibid., p. 106 (CC, p. 49).
79 Ibid., p. 75 (CC, p. 22).
80 Ibid., p. 109 (CC, p. 52).
Soliman and Perseda

Hard doome of death, before
my case be knowne;
My judge vniust, and yet I
cannot blame her,
Since Loue and ijealousie
mislead her thus:
(SP, II, 1, ll. 167-169)

Eras tus decides to regain his chain from Lucina, in
Cupida Cautels by means of an honest dice game, in Soliman
and Perseda with false dice. Lucina's beloved, encountering
Eras tus wearing the newly-regained necklace, is slain in
the ensuing struggle:

Soliman and Perseda

Dasell mine eyes, or ist
Lucinas chaine?
False treacher, lay downe
the chaine that thou
hast stole.
(SP, II, 1, ll. 244-245)

Cupida Cautels

wherefore haue I found
so vniust a ludge to
heare and determine my
favorable and rightfull
cause, as pronouncing
judgements before mine
innocencye be scanned:78

I feale my daselde eies,
By leamings lose their
light.79

Thou naughty desitesfull
villaine, where hast thou
stolen this cheyne, where-
with thou braggest in
this brauery.80

---

78 Ibid., p. 106 (CC p. 49).
79 Ibid., p. 75 (CC p. 22).
80 Ibid., p. 109 (CC p. 52).
Soleman and Perseda

the murderer will escape
Without revenge, sole salute for such a sore.

(SP, II, ii, ll. 308-309)

In Wotton's narrative, Erastus flees with his trusty servant, Piston, to Turkey, where he is recognized and praised by the spectators of the Prince's wedding and is made Colonel of the army. In the drama, Erastus leaves his servant, Pistan, somewhat of a rogue, to return the necklace to Perseda and to inform her of his misfortunes; arriving at the court of Soliman, Erastus is introduced by Brusor and is immediately appointed Captain of the Janissaries:

Soleman and Perseda

Thou shalt be Captaine of our IaniSaries,
And in our Counsell shalt thou sit with vs,
And be great Solimans adopted friend.

(SP, III, i, ll. 98-100)

Cupid's Cautela

...which greatly imprisoned the sore he sought to salute.

81 Ibid., p. 115 (CC, p. 58)

Cupid's Cautela

...he constituted him Coronel of his Janissaries (which we call captaine of the Guarde)...Wherby hee grewe in suche fauour and credite wyth hys Lorde, as hee elected him one of his Bachattles, and of his priuie Counsell.

82 Ibid., pp. 110-111 (CC, pp. 53-54)
Erastus is extremely successful as a leader and serves the Turkish ruler well; but when requested to lead armies against his homeland, the Isle of Rhodes, he refuses, preferring death to such treachery:

Soliman and Perseda

My gracious Soueraigne, without presumption, If poore Erastus may once more intreate, Let not great Solimans command, To whose bevpest I vow obedience, Inforce me sheath my slaughtering blade In the deare bowels of my countrimen; (SP, III, i, ll. 120-125)

Soliman, admiring Erastus' honorable intent, permits Erastus to remain in Turkey, while he himself leads the invasion. In the play however, Brusor is sent:

Soliman and Perseda

Well, well, Erastus, Rhodes may bless thy birth, For his sake onely will I spare them more From spoile, pillage, and oppression, Then Alexander spard war-like Thebes

Cupidis Cautela

Who after due reverencę vnto the Emperoure Soliman, humbly besought his highnesse, that althoughte iust occasion vrged him to seeke reuenge against his vngratentful Countrey, wherewith hee liued in exile: Neuerthelesse, that it woulde please hys maistie to pardon hym, that he mighte not be assistant in any expedition so vnlawfull, ....

Soliman and Perseda

And althoughte the inhab- itantes shewed themselves verye wilfull, the victo- rious Emperoure notwyth- standing (in fauour of hys gentle knyghte, of whom he was alwayes myndefull) vsed more benignitie

83 Ibid., p. 111 (CC, p. 54).
For Pindarus: or then Augustus
Sparde rich Alexandria for Arrius sake.
(SP, IV, i, ll. 54-59)
towards them, than the rigour of Warres dothe
usuallly permitte. Even as Alexander the greate
pardoned Thebes for the loue of Pindarus, and
Stagirius for the good will he bare to Aristotle:
or as the fortunate Augustus entreated rebel-
licos Alexandria at the requeste of Arrius. 84

When Rhodes is captured, Perseda is taken from a
nunnery and presented to Soliman as a prize of war. He
at once falls in love with her and they return to
Constantinople; there she is forced to learn singing and
dancing for his entertainment:

Soliman and Perseda

But this kinde Turtle is for Soliman,
That her captiuitie may
turne to blisse.
(SP, IV, i, ll. 75-76)

Soliman petitions Perseda's favors but is refused.
In the play Soliman makes an angry attempt to kill her
but fails because of his great love for her. Soliman stands
outside her door, listening to her laments; when he hears
Erastus' name and enters to find Perseda trying to

84 Ibid., pp. 111-112 (CC, pp. 54-55).
85 Ibid., p. 112 (CC, p. 55).
stab herself, he sends for Erastus and unites the two lovers. The wedding is held at once, and as a special gift, Erastus is made Governor of Rhodes:

**Soliman and Perseda**

Be thou, Erastus, Gournoun of Rhodes;
(SP, IV, i, l. 181)

**Cupids Cautels**

Soliman gaue greate and ryche giftes, and con-
stitutedoure Bradgroome Lieutenaunt and gouernoure of the Isle of Rhodes,....

Erastus' appointment to the governorship is envied by Brusor, who feels he rightfully should have the position.

**Soliman and Perseda**

Must he reape that for whiche I tooke the toile?
Come, enuie, then, and sit in friendships seate;
How can I love him that injoyes my right?
(SP, IV, i, ll. 183-185)

**Cupids Cautels**

...his Cousin Brusor Bellerbeck of Servia, who like the other Princes of Sangiaces, enuied Erastus extremely, because he had bene more advanced by the Emperour than their am-
bition could tollerate. 87

Soliman soon regrets his kind-hearted relinquishment of Perseda to Erastus. In the Wotton narrative, he writes a long letter to Perseda, pleading for her affections, which she answers with a polite refusal:

**Soliman and Perseda**

...so mooues me, that I now repent

**Cupids Cautels**

...coulde not dis-
suade him from bitter

86 Ibid., p. 118 (CC, p. 61).
87 Ibid., p. 122 (CC, p. 65).
That ere I gae away my hearts desire; repentance of his too frank offer and unadvised liberalitie:

(BP, IV, i, ll. 207-209)

Brusor persuaded Soliman that so long as Erastus lives, Perseda can not be won. Soliman determines to have his rival killed:

**Soliman and Perseda**

But whilst he liues there is no hope in her. But why liues he then to greeue great Soliman?

(SP, IV, i, ll. 234-235)

Soliman orders Erastus to come to Constantinople, where by false testimony, he is accused of treason and beheaded. In **Soliman and Perseda**, he is strangled, and the two witnesses, the two soldiers, and the marshall are all killed to prevent any from reporting the crime:

**Soliman and Perseda**

But by what means shall poore Erastus dye? This shall be the meanes: Ill fetch him backe againe,

**Cupide Cautela**

...it was supposed betweene them a thing imposs-ible to allure the rebellious and obstinate Perseda, unless she were first depeirued of Erastus,...

(Sp, IV, i, ll. 207-209)

Soliman and Perseda

But by what means shall poore Erastus dye? This shall be the meanes: Ill fetch him backe againe,

**Cupide Cautela**

...so that your Maiestitie will sende for him by your straight commaundement, the which I am certain he will not disobay, but make

---


Vnder couler of great consequence;
No sooner shall he land upon our shore,
But witness shall be ready to accuse him
Of treason done against your mightines,
And then he shall be doomd by marshall law.
O fine devise; Brusor, get thee gone;
(\textit{SP}, IV, i, ll. 243-250)
speedy repair with his whole familie: and being present, I will finde occasion he shall be accused of revolt & rebellion, wherupon being admitted to prison for the offence, judgement and execution of death may ensue. The Emperour joyfully embracing this wicked Counsellor, comended exceedingely his invention, and dispatched him presently to practise the execution of his diuelishe devise. 90

\textit{Erastus}, Lord Gouernour of Rhodes, I arrest you in the Kings name.
(\textit{SP}, V, ii, ll. 15-16)

But \textit{Brusor} vnder colour of secret and weightie affaires, allured & ledde poore \textit{Erastus} to Constantinople, where he was no soner alighted from his horse, but the Marshall of the Emperours housholde attached & committed him close prisoner vnder sure garde. 91

\ldots with speede prosecuted the processe agaynst the poore Gentleman, and by false witnesses of purpose provided, \textit{Erastus} was accussed, and convicted of treason & rebellio, for that he had consented (sayd they) to deliver the Ile of Rhodes into the possession of the Christians for which offence judgement passed vpon him, and by the Emperours comandement he was beheaded. 92

\begin{footnotes}
\item[90] \textit{Ibid.}, p. 122 (\textit{CC}, p. 65).
\item[91] \textit{Ibid.}, p. 122 (\textit{CC}, p. 65).
\item[92] \textit{Ibid.}, p. 123 (\textit{CC}, p. 66).
\end{footnotes}
When Perseda learns of her husband’s death, she goes into mourning and desires to die. Pistan, who had witnessed the murder of his master, urges her to revenge the death of Erastus. She gathers soldiers and supplies in preparation to resist Soliman:

**Soliman and Perseda**

Rhodes now shall be no longer Solymans:
Weele fortifie our waules,
and keeps the towne;
In spight of proud, insult-
ing Soliman.

(SP, V, iii, 11. 57-59)

In **Cupide Cautela**, Perseda buckles on Erastus’ armor, and then proceeds to do battle with the enemy soldiers. A bullet strikes her, and she is killed.
Pistan, the soldiers, and women of the castle fight to the death.

**Soliman and Perseda**

...thou wicked tirant,
thou murtherer, accursed
homicide,...
Ah, periu'rd and inhumaine
Soliman,
How could thy heart har-
bour a wicked thought
Against the spotlesse life
of poore Erastus?

(SP, V, iv, 11. 36-37, 40-43)

**Cupide Cautela**

Ah mischievous Barbarian,
thou cruel and vngratfulfull
wretch of mine Erastus
benefites, whose services
thou hast so tirannously
recompenced,...

93 Ibid., p. 123 (CC, p. 66).
94 Ibid., p. 124 (CC, p. 67).
Kyd's Perseda, dressed as a man, meets Soliman in hand to hand combat. Only after he has mortally wounded her does Soliman realize his opponent is his beloved Perseda; he kisses her before she dies. When Piston and Basilisco display their love for her, Soliman kills them:

### Soliman and Perseda

Ile not defend Erastus innocence,
But die maintaining of Persedas beautie,
Then they fight,
Soliman kills Perseda.
...I loved thee dearlie,
and accepte thy kisse...
Then Soliman kills Basilisco....
Then Soliman kills Piston.
Faire springing Rose, ill
pluckt before thy time.

(SP. V. iv. 11. 58-9, 69, 81)

### Cupids Cautels

...the Turkes: who taking hir for some souldier, loosed a volue of shot, among the which two bullets sent from a Musket stroke hir through the stomack,

...95

...he found no creature but the pale body of courageous Perseda, resembling a Rose by age hath lost y red liuely hue, loking so swetely as a ma would haue said she slept....96

Alas, after hée had a thousande tyme kissed hir colde mouth, hée drew his faulchion, & brandishing his paysie brond about him, hée hurt and slew as many of his people as would abide, but speedily they fled hys presence, and lefte hym alone.97

95 Ibid., p. 124 (CC, p. 67).
96 Ibid., p. 125 (CC, p. 68).
97 Ibid., p. 126 (CC, p. 69).
Next, in *Soliman and Perseda*, the ruler of Turkey kills Brusor for being a bad counselor. After reading the note in Perseda's hand, and discovering he has been poisoned by her kiss, Soliman requests that his body be buried with Perseda's where Erastus was entombed. Then, he dies. In Wotton's tale, however, Soliman enters the castle to find Perseda dead; in anger, he slays as many of his soldiers as remain near. At the last, he determines to make amends to the two young people by erecting a handsome monument in which, after bringing Erastus' head and body to Rhodes, they are enclosed. At the same time he has a brass pyramid built, from the top of which Brusor is hanged. Soliman lives the rest of his life in repentance:

*Soliman and Perseda*

Ah, was he so?  
How durst thou then, vn-gratious counsellor,  
First cause me murther such a worthy man,  
And after tempt so ver-tuous a woman?  
Be this, therefore, the last that ere thou speake---  
Ianisaries take him  
straight vnto the block;  
Off with his head, and  
suffer him not to speake.  
*(SP, V, iv, ll. 106-112)*

*Cupids Cautels*

...commanded a Piramede  
of brasse to bee erected,  
in the heighth whereof,  
hee caused the traitor Brusor to bee hanged, in  
guerdon of hys wicked counsell whereof you haue had vnderstanding.  

---

The plot of Wotton's *Cupid's Cautels* was first used by Kyd in the interpolated play within *The Spanish Tragedie*. However, Hieronimo's play differs slightly from its source for the purpose of plot progression and a suitable dénouement. Perseda is an Italian dame rather than a lady of Rhodes. Soliman's friend, the Bashaw, equivalent to Brusor, is not jealous of Erastus' advancement but of Perseda's love for Erastus. Therefore, the Bashaw persuades Soliman to kill Erastus. Perseda slays Soliman, then stabs herself to escape the Bashaw's tyranny. In this manner, Hieronimo (the Bashaw) stabs Lorenzo (Erastus). Bel-imperia (Perseda) slays Balthazar (Soliman); then kills herself. Hieronimo stabs the Duke, final successor to the throne, and, lastly, stabs himself.

Obviously, as shown by this investigation, Thomas Kyd has consciously made use of Henry Wotton's *Cupid's Cautels* as the plot source for his *Soliman and Perseda*, as well as for his play-within-the-play sequence in *The Spanish Tragedie*. 
CHAPTER III

A WORD MAKER BY OCCUPATION

It must be so; for the conclusion
Shall prove the intention, and all was good.

--The Spanish Tragedie

As is apparent from the foregoing study, Thomas Kyd made use of the basic plot of Wotton's Cupidae Cautels. It has been previously explained, however, that Wotton's English translation and the original version, Le Printemps d'Iver, were easily accessible in Kyd's time. It is conceivable, therefore, that Kyd may have based his play upon a theme commonly known to the writers of the period. Therefore, in order to show conclusively that Kyd made a conscious use of Wotton's translation, and worked, in all probability, from the actual book, one should prepare a comparative linear analysis of the two works. As a result of this analysis, one may observe in addition to the plot situation, the specific passages in Kyd's drama which derive from the actual phraseology and dialogue of Cupidae Cautela. Hereafter, for the sake of convenience, these similarities of phraseology will be referred to by means of the following specific titles: (1) synonymous vocabulary; (2) paraphrases; and (3) similar parallel structure.

Consisting of alike, or nearly alike, words or phrases,
a "synonymous vocabulary" indicates direct imitation or transcription from the source. Certainly, such words present the most obvious and convincing evidence of borrowing. The first instance of near-direct quotation is to be found in Erastus' speech concerning the loss of his chain:

**Soliman and Perseda**

Ah, treacherous Fortune,
enemy to Love,...

**Cupids Cautels**

But alas, Fortune, the
enemie of all good hap,

(SP, I, iv, l. 114) ...

99

Here one may detect Kyd's similar use of the terms Fortune and enemy. Another example of almost exact wording is found in Perseda's denunciation of Erastus:

**Soliman and Perseda**

...thy teeth would tear thy tongue....

**Cupids Cautels**

...the teeth...reueengers of all slandering tongues....

(SP, II, i, l. 122)

100

Here, one notes that the words teeth and tongue are employed under similar circumstance. It is also obvious that Kyd often merely inverted Wotton's word order, retaining the same words:

**Soliman and Perseda**

...My judge unjust,...

**Cupids Cautels**

...so unjust a Judge...

(SP, II, i, l. 168)

101

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99 Ibid., p. 93 (<CC>, p. 36).
100 Ibid., p. 105 (<CC>, p. 48).
101 Ibid., p. 106 (<CC>, p. 49).
Another example of Kyd's use of inverted word order is seen in his use of the terms Desell and eyes:

Soliman and Perseda  
Desell mine eyes...  
(CP, II, i, l. 244)  

Cupid's Cautels  
...my deselde eies....  

Although in reverse order, the following phrase is also a near-direct quotation:

Soliman and Perseda  
...the chaine that thou hast stole.  
(CP, II, i, l. 245)  

Cupid's Cautels  
...hast thou stolen this cheyne....  

One next observes Kyd's use of sore and salute in the following inversion:

Soliman and Perseda  
...salute for such a sore.  
(CP, II, ii, l. 309)  

Cupid's Cautels  
...the sore he sought to salute.  

Further evidence of Kyd's direct imitation may be seen in the ensuing phrase:

Soliman and Perseda  
...this kinde Turtle....  
(CP, IV, i, l. 75)  

Cupid's Cautels  
...hys mournefull Turtle...  

102 Ibid., p. 75 (CC, p. 22).  
103 Ibid., p. 109 (CC, p. 52).  
104 Ibid., p. 108 (CC, p. 51).  
105 Ibid., p. 112 (CC, p. 55).
As in the preceding phrase with the use of the term Turtle, only one word is similar, but it obviously parallels the Wotton statement. A further example of this repetition of single words appears in Erastus' declamation to Fortune:

Soliman and Perseda               Cupidae Cautels
...gentle death....                Oh lingering death,....
(Sp, I, iv, l. 126)               (Sp, I, iv, l. 126)

Kyd employs death in a sentence position which is parallel to Wotton's placement of the term, And the word wheele is similarly used in the following phrase:

Soliman and Perseda               Cupidae Cautels
...my tickle wheele,....           ...her mundane wheele.
(Sp, I, vi, l. 20)                (Sp, I, vi, l. 20)

Both authors make use of the word Rose, with its resulting imagery:

Soliman and Perseda               Cupidae Cautels
Faire springing Rose, ill          ...resembling a Rose
pluckt before thy time.            which by age hath lost
(Sp, V, iv, ll. 68-69)             ...red liuely hue

Obviously parallel to Wotton's use is Kyd's method of applying ouer-borne in the text of the play:

106 Ibid., p. 101 (CC, p. 44).
108 Ibid., p. 125 (CC, p. 68).
Soliman and Perseda                          Cupids Cautels
...ouer-borne,...                              ...ouerthrown,... 109
(SP, I, iv, 1. 33)

Another synonymous term may be found in Perseda's use of
the term harbour in relation to Erastus:

Soliman and Perseda                          Cupids Cautels
...a harbour for my hart                     ...a favouruable Barke to
              to dwell.                              harbours hir in the laste
              (SP, I, ii, 1. 36)                        porte....110

Soliman, in describing Rhodes, employs the words Key and
Christendome, both of which may find in the parallel
phrase from Cupids Cautels:

Soliman and Perseda                          Cupids Cautels
That Key will serue to                        ...the inuincible Key of
open all the gates...                        christendome.111
Till it haue prickt the                      Till it haue prickt the
hart of Christendome,...                     hart of Christendome,...
(SP, I, v, ii. 14, 16)

Also, when the Turkish ruler appoints Erastus to the
position of Governor, he uses the terms Gouvernor and
Rhodes in a situation similar to that in Cupids Cautels:

Soliman and Perseda                          Cupids Cautels
Be thou, Erastus, Gouver-                    ...constituted oucre

109 Ibid., p. 97 (CC, p. 40).
110 Ibid., p. 116 (CC, p. 59).
111 Ibid., p. 111 (CC, p. 54).
nour of Rhodes: 
(SF, IV, 1, l. 18) 

Bridegrooms Lieutenaut 
and governoure of the 
Isle of Rhodes, .... 112

The preceding specimens of "synonymous vocablulapy" make it evident that Kyd is indebted to Wotton's Cupids Cautels.

"Paraphrases" concern an author's reworking of ideas or thoughts in which words may have been changed, but the meaning is retained. In this first sample of paraphrasing, it may be noted that, for example, one may recognize that Kyd's words are different from Wotton's, but the meaning is the same:

Soliman and Perseda 

...accept this carkanet:

Cupids Cautels 

...kepe this token....113

(SP, I, ii, l. 32)

Also, Kyd's description of Erastus as victor in the tourneys is quite similar to Wotton's handling of this situation:

Soliman and Perseda 

...so yong a toward 
warriour....

Cupids Cautels 

...young stripling....114

(SP, I, iv, l. 35)

It is obvious, here, that in addition to paraphrasing, Kyd has employed the synonymous words yong and

112 Ibid., p. 118 (CC, p. 61).
113 Ibid., p. 93 (CC, p. 36).
114 Ibid., p. 97 (CC, p. 40).
young. Still concerning the tournament, Kyd's use of
matcht and mated certainly paraphrases Wotton's words:

Soliman and Perseda  Cupids Cautelae

As he this day hath     ...who hath received vs
matcht and mated too.    with like entertainment.115
(SP, I, iv, 1. 37)

A clear example of paraphrasing may be seen in the next phrase,
in which the "open breast" idea is succinctly implied:

Soliman and Perseda  Cupids Cautelae

...open breasts,     ...a wyndowe in each mans
That we therein might read     breast thorow the whiche
their guilefull thoughts.    the fraudulent deceites
(SP, II, i, 11. 124-25)    ... may be discovered....116

Although in the following excerpt the title given Erastus
is not common to both works, it certainly is close enough
to illustrate parallel thought:

Soliman and Perseda  Cupids Cautelae

...shalt be Captaine of    ...constituted him Coronel
our Iannisaries;....    of his Iannisaries....117
(SP, III, i, 1. 98)

One notes that Kyd paraphrases the passage in Cupids Cautelae
which deals with the invasion of Rhodes, using the word
beleager rather than the word invade:

115 Ibid., p. 97 (CC, p. 40).
116 Ibid., p. 105 (CC, p. 48).
117 Ibid., p. 110 (CC, p. 53).
Soliman and Perseda

And so beleager Rhodes by sea and land.

(SP, I, v, l. 13)

Kyd presents Soliman's regrets concerning Perseda in the ensuing parallel idea:

Soliman and Perseda

...I now repent
That ere I gave away
my hearts desire.

(SP, IV, i, ll. 207-209)

At the same time one notes, in the following example, that Kyd also employs the similar words kisse and kissed:

Soliman and Perseda

...and accepte thy kisse.

(SP, V, iv, l. 68)

Cupids Cautels

...a thousande tymes kissed hir colde mouth.

118 Ibid., p. 111 (CC, p. 54).


120 Ibid., p. 126 (CC, p. 69).

These basic similarities of thought, presented by means of "paraphrase," so present further proof that Kyd based Soliman and Perseda upon Wotton's Cupids Cautels.

Finally, one may observe Kyd's imitation of Wotton in his use of "similar parallel structure." The first instance of this parallel structure may be noted in Kyd's apparent fondness for Wotton's "what if" construction:
Soliman and Perseda

What, if my chaine shall never be restored?

(CP, I, iv, l. 131)

Again, very precisely, Kyd has paralleled the form of Cupida Cautela; however, he uses the "If--If" rather than the "why--why" structure:

Soliman and Perseda

If heauens were iust, thy teeth would teare thy tongue.

Cupids Cautela

Why are not the teeth... reuengers of all slaunderous tongues...

If heauens were iust, men should haue open brests,...in each mans breast....

Another instance of Kyd's use of a parallel structure, this time combined with the synonymous terms to coole, also occurs in Wotton's work:

Soliman and Perseda

To coole affection....

(CP, II, i, l. 2)

Cupida Cautela

...to coole his courage...!

Parallel construction and direct imitation of words are evident in Brusor's plotting:

Soliman and Perseda

No sooner shall he land

...no sooner alighted

121 Ibid., p. 102 (CC, p. 45).
122 Ibid., p. 105 (CC, p. 48).
123 Ibid., p. 109 (CC, p. 52).
Wotton's "Euen as--or as" structure was adapted by Kyd as "Then--or then." Obvious, too, is the near-direct quotation of names and places from Cupids Cautels:

Soliman and Perseda

Then Alexander spared war-like Thebes
For Pindarus: or then Augustus
Sparde rich Alexandria
for Arrius sake.  
(SP, IV, 1, ll. 57-59)

Cupids Cautels

Euen as Alexander the greate pardoned Thebas
for the loue of Pindarus, and Stagirius for the
good will he bare to Aristotle: or as the fortunate Augustus
entreated rebellious Alexandria at the requeste of Arrius.  

It is apparent that Kyd has inverted Wotton's "Ah--thou" form of sentence in this last example of "similar parallel Structure:"

Soliman and Perseda

...thou wicked tirant, thou murtherer, accursed homicide,...
Ah, periur'd and inhumaine Perseda

Cupids Cautels

Ah mischieuous Barbarian, thou cruel and vngrateful full wretch....

In this comparative study of Soliman and Perseda, one has presented evidence of Kyd's indebtedness to Wotton's

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124 Ibid., p. 122 (CC, p. 65).
125 Ibid., p. 112 (CC, p. 55).
126 Ibid., p. 124 (CC, p. 67).
first episode of *Cupid's Cautels*, by means of: (a) a comparative study of plot similarities; and (b) a close linear analysis of the two works with respect to: (1) synonymous vocabulary; (2) paraphrases; and (3) similar parallel structure. The lineal study reveals an even stronger evidence of Kyd's indebtedness to Wotton's first historie. As a consequence, one is convinced Thomas Kyd made use of Henry Wotton's *Cupid's Cautels* as his source for *Soliman and Perseda*. 
BIBLIOGRAPHY
BIBLIOGRAPHY


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APPENDIX "A"

In 1578 was published *A Courtlie Controversie of Cupida Cautela Containing five tragi-call Histories* by 3 gentleman & 2 gentle women translated out of the French by H. W. Gentleman. This English translation, printed in London by Francis Goldocke and Henry Binneman, was made by Henry Wotton. He was the son of John Wotton, or Wooton, of North Tudenham, and a brother of one Wooton, of Tuddenham, Norfolk. The Norfolk Wooton's second wife was widow of Thomas Fiennes, lord Dacre of the South. It was to his sister-in-law, the Lady Dacre of the South, that Henry Wotton dedicated his *Cupida Cautela*. The French work from which Wotton translated was Jacques d'Iver's *Le Printemps d'Iver*. Iver was born at Niort, France, in 1520 and died there in 1472, the year in which his *Le Printemps d'Iver* was published.


APPENDIX "E"

The following text has been prepared from a microfilm copy of Wotton's rare 1578 translation, procured from the British Museum with the co-operation of the Modern Language Association. Extant also are two other imperfect copies, one in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and the other in Sion College, London. In preparation of this text, all possible care has been taken to follow the original copy in exact detail. No attempt has been made to correct errors of punctuation, mechanics, or spelling, in which the work abounds. In his introduction, Wotton makes apology for any possible errors he might make in his great hurry; many of the mistakes may be attributed to the printer. The most obvious errors occur in pagination. Because these errata do exist, the following table of pagination is included; although the pagination is faulty, but for the missing pages 7 and 8, the story is continuous:

- pp. 1-6 (correctly numbered consecutively)
- pp. 7-8 (lacking)
- pp. 9-17 (correctly numbered consecutively)
  p. 17 (followed by pp. 22, 23, 20, 21, 18, 19, 24, 17, 26, 27, 20, 21, 30, 31, 24, 33, 42, 43; should be pp. 17-35)
- pp. 36-69 (correctly numbered consecutively)
- p. 69 (followed by pp. 72 and 69; should be 70 and 71)
- pp. 72-78 (correctly numbered consecutively)

As a matter of additional interest the Oxford English Dictionary defines "cautel" as follows:
(1) a crafty device, artifice, stratagem; a trick, sleight, deceit.

(2) cunning, craftiness, wiliness, trickery.

(3) caution, wariness, heedfulness.

THE TEXT

The first Historie

of

A courtlie Controviersie of Cupids Cautels

Containing fiue tragicall historyes by 3--
gentlemen and 2 gentle women Translated out of
French by Hen. Wotton & dedicated to his sister the Lady Dacre
of the South. At London Imprinted by Francis
Coldock & Henry Bynneman. 1578.
The Pleasure of the first
dayes Pastyme.

Although the Diamant, Ruby, and every precious stone, by naturall instincts, include under their simple shapes their proper prize and value: Notwithstanding each one in his kind, seemeth more rich and estimable, beeing cunningly sette in golde, by the curious workmanship of the expert goldsmith. Even so (according to my judgement) although words are wisely spoken, and deeds virtuously done, deserve great commendation: The same nevertheless shew a greater excellencie, and importe more majestie, beeing collected and placed by the diligent travell of some faourable writer, in any worke consecrated vnto immortality, and registred in the Library of eternall memory, to remayne a President or rather perpetuall Relicke, vnto all future posterities. The consideration whereof, hath gained so great authority ouer me, as (giving me no time of quiet) doth continually pricke me forward, or rather enforce me, to bring to lyght such pleasant disposites beautified with strange discourses, as with great admiration, I heard but lately, learnedly offered in a right honorable companie, least that, oblivion, which ensues seeketh to suppress and burie in hir entrayles things most memorable & shoulde both deprive the autthors of my travaile, of the honour due vnto them, and glory they have deserved: and also robbe al courteous minds faouering courtly inventions of the pleasure, whiche they may receiue by the knowledge thereof. So an mee thinketh, we are of duty bounde to endeouer our selues, to famish this infernall helbounde, which in deouering once undying seeketh to extinguish the memorie of our passed life: Yet must I needses confesse (notwithstanding the great good will, whiche vrgeth me forward) that the mistrust of my disabilitie to finishe this enterprise (the whiche giueth the perfecte knowledge of my selfe
selfe without flatterie) at the firste encounter hath for feare frozen the ynke in my penne, knowing the carping wittes ofoure age, to be so cloyed with the sower taste of loathsome disdayne, as there is no sauce sufficient (howe delicate so ever it be) to restore again their appetite or at leaste, to give them knowlege that vn-sauory sault they find in their meat, resteth in their vn-seasoned mouths. So that enuy accustomed to fatten hir slande-
rous railing phangs, upon the moste commendable works in re-
warde of their good meaning, wil not spare my simple phrase, too weake to defend it selfe against so horrible a mester, as Hercules himselfe could never cõquer. Neuerthelessse, considering that the most rightfull judges do not regard ye depositio of one witnes in matters of weighte, but haue consideration to the equitie of the cause, I am incouraged with a newe hardinesse, knowing ye determined intêt in this small Treatise is not to counterfaite ye eloquent Oratour, but rather like a faithfull secretary to report the pleasant discourses, and memorabe histories propounded to passe away the irkesomnesse of certaine yole afternoons, by a galle-
lant assembly of yong Gentlemen, and damosels of France, whiche at a feaste of Penticost were gathered together, and stedfastly purposed in their friendly visitation, with pleasure to suppress the turmoiles and disquiet receyued durynge the miserable ci-
vill warres, and to season the bitter salt, whiche might ruine the remembraunce thereof. Like as toyled mariners readye to be swallowed with every surge, rejoite to see the mightie mounting waves appeased by a quyet calme, after a tempestuous flowe, or as the small birds prune themselves among the yong greene leaves, whiche the pleasant spring lendeth to every twig, after a long and hard Winter: Even so of custome, reason tea-
cheth man, after a long and tedious trouell, to seeke the place of rest moste pleasant and agreeable to his contentment, not onely bycause diversitie of delightes doeth recreate Nature: But for so mucho as the exchaunge of euill into good, is to bee desired and very profitable.

Wherefore after the recovery of the contagious plague of Fraunce (which may be well termed afrantickes fever) beeinge
subjecte to so many infirmities, as scarcely the thirde letting of blood was sufficient to remedy the sicknesses (the poore body was so weake and bare.) Every man had free libertee to returns into his owne habitation, by the happy conclusion of a peace, con-
seuyed in the kings heart by duiine inspiration. It need not to be demaunded, with what gladnessse and contentation eche one rece-
ceived the commoditie of their possessions, so long detained from them by the rigor of the waris: surely it was no lesse then the joy of the aged father, which beheldeth the return of his only child, whose death he hath bewailed many a day, or of the condemned prisoner, when he receueth his unexpeected pardon: wherby it is manifest, that the greater grievis a man endureth, the more delight he taketh in a little case, which is verified by the Persian king, who being put to flight by his enimy, found more favor in drin-
kig a puddle water to quench his thirst, then in tasting the most delicious wines for his pleasure. I dare assure you, that in all the coasts of France no man repaired with greater contentation into their desolate houses, than the inhabitants of the country of Poyroba, who thoughte themselves possessed of newe mansions, es-
teeming whatsoever they foud vsaupplied by insolent inquirors to be gotten goode. Thus a country being quiet a every house in order, as necessitie required, nothing delighted e people more than to visit one another to comminicate together about their great losses, like friends linked in the chaine of neighborly amitie, to comfort the distresse of their common misery. This charitable use was principally practisied by nobilitie of the countryy, whose use of auntient custome to alie and vnite their houses by familie or acquaintance, and bond of kindred, wherby their estates con-
tinue more sure and their honoure more established and excell-
ent. Among the whiche, thre young Gentlemen, kinsmen, and neighbors (meeting vpon a day, as it had bene of purpose) deter-
minded at the feast of Pentecost (which was at hende) to visite a Ladie that kept the neste castell, and to passe the tyme with hir all the holydays assuring themselves she would be verie glad of their companie, as in deede they deserved to bee welcome in all places both for their honestie and good education.

E. ij.

But
The Pleasure of

But lest that I shou'de offend the parties, which I would be loath to do, in uttering their proper names, thinking thereby to aduance their credits, I haue thoughte good to imitate suche as play upon stages, who understading shapes represente the true personages of some their Comedies or Tragedies entreat. Euen so I meane, vnder counterfayte names to colours the truth, enforcing Patroclus to skirmish with the armours of Achilles. Wherefore we will dub our three Gentlemen knights, which shall be presented vpon this Theatre, and will name them according to our author Sirs Bel accueil, Sirs Fleur d'amour, and Sirs Firme Foy. And the place of their disport, the Castell du Printemps, builded long since, as is certainly reported by the famous enchautresse Malleusine, to shew the excellencie of hir secrete science, leaving therin many monuments of hir miracles interpreted by prophecies, which I would not discover, but bycause they touche the description of the place, besides the situation, the commodities whereof do well testifiye the wisedome of the build-er and glutton admiration to the beholder, so as the paserby, is constrain'd to make longer abode, than leasure permitteth, to feeke his hungry eie with the excavation of the miraculous edifice, the workmanship whereof is so curious, as those which haue viewd the Castell, do judge it to be the most sumpuous and excellent building that may be seen: yet all the strange disposition of the wonders whiche are enclosed within the same, whiche beyng well considered, yeeldeth the castel nothing inferiour to the renowned Palace of the Soudan of Vlubia, the state-linessse whereof, disdaineth the glory of the gorgeous Piramides of Yace? for the hugenesse therof is such, that a man may easilie wa-nder all his life as in a Labyrinth, among the infinit deuisions of large pauced halles, parlours, chambers, galleries, closets, porches, touras, armories, vaults, tarresses, and cloisters with other innumerabl rooms and offices, plaistred, grauen, and golde, supported with a wonderfull sorte of arches, pillers, images, monsters, serpents, beasts, and foules of all kindes, so
so cunningly carued, enriched, and beautified with suche singular kindes of coloures, (vernished after the Damaskin manner, as the very walles seeme to be of glasse, whereupon are represented a greate number of memorabell histories of olde time, wyth a thousande discriptions, epitaphes, verses, riddles, and poes containing the effect of their subiects, with diuers other strange deuises, sufficient to rauishe and astonie the most rude and lea- den wits, and to bind mans bodies with the cheines of their eies, rauishing from them all appetite of meate, drynke, or sleepe, like soules allotted with maruell. Although these things are greatly to be estemed, so it is, that greedie curiositie passing forward, she encounter newe matter of more abashement, for it seemeth that nature had debate and contention wyth the excellency of the workmanship, and enuying the same, to obtaine the victorie, added hir whole endeuer and power bountifullly to impart ther- vpon the jewels of hir precious treasure, to the ende the world should wonder at hir mightie puissance. So as she hath beau- tified the delectable soile whereon our surpassing spectacle is si- tuate, wyth a thousande fountaines, woodes, meadowes, riuers, groues, brookes, and other country commodities: as Orchards, planted with al kind of fruites trees, set in due order by line and leuell, deuided into diuers pleasasunt walke: goodly gardens, ful of gallant allies, knottes, mounts, mazes, seates, bunkes, and arbors of all sorts, yelding moste aromaticke saucers, weather from a multitude of odoriferous floures of everye kinde, besi- des a number of pleasante vniforme pondes placed in seuerail Parkes, abounding with al kindes of game, very strongly wal- led by impales, adjoynynge to the Castel. To be short, their wan- ted nothing that wisdome, wealth, or workmanship might compass: yea a man cannot imagine or desire greater perfection to bee in any earthly Paradise. Al these commodities although they deserve to bee considered with greater admiration, for theyr excellentnesse and singularitie, yet are they to bee accounted, but as fading fantasies, and mortified vanities: If two four- raigne beauties, haung theyr mansions in thyss massie body of delight like two duiine soules, did not renie the same: for as
the goldsmith doth set a stone of great value in a piece of golde finely wrought, therby to advance his cunning workmanship, or as the pleasant recording bird is kept in a delicate cage: even so it pleased the wisedom of the Almighty, to bestow this gallant harbour vpon two hostesses, whose divine perfection surmounted the Magnificence of the humaine Arte: hauyng enriched the Lady of this Castell (who was a wydowe) wyth divine beauitie, vertuous nouriture, curteous & courtly behauior, as they seemed not only to be the chosen Paragons of the earth, and creatures worthy of suche an habitation, unworthy to receuyue them, but also rather created of God, and sente from heauen, than begotten by man, and borne in the worlde. The daughter was called Mary, and the neece Margaret. These Damoyesels entertayned our three knyghts so curteously, being arived at vnwares, vnlooked for, as they had greate occasion to bee satisfied both with the great worship done to them by the Lady of the place, and with the moderate demeanour of the maydens. Thus after sundry heartie and affectionate welcomes, with one consente it was determined among them, ytterly to exclude al sadnesse, and that no care should be taken, but to inuente with what recreation they myghte passe the tyme mooste pleasantlye, and devise newe pastimes. That nyght our newe guests refreshed their weary limmes, after their travailes.

The nexte morning, the spring of the day no sooner appeared, but well was hee that coulde fyreste arise to glue the camisado to the most haggarde in the companye. Then halfe readye after the fyreste worke was presented to God, concerning the duety requisite to holynesse and devotion, not onelye requir- red to the good governement of a familie well instructed, but according to the tribute due by every good Christian, they pas- sed the same in their chamber, wyth tenne thousande pretie pastimes, vntil the Sunne displaying his beames, had abated the moysture of the fresh dewe. Then running and leaping wantonly, they romed among the fine sweet borders, wher they made large spoils of the flourles, which unfolding their tender leaues, at
the firste daye.

red, and leaue taken on all partes, every one repared to hys chamber, where they rested vntill the nexte morning, the which approching presented other newe disports. Thys courtly companye demeaned this delicate life the space of eight dayes, during the whiche time, one afternone seekynge a convenient place to shadowe their bodies from the extreme heats of the Sunne, they founde a tuft of trees very delectable for the coolenease of the place. In the midst of the same was a fountaine, at the headspryng whereof was elevate the figure of an old hermit, very workemanely caryed out of Marble stone, the whiche Image seemed to be there placed, to honoure and bewart the roomthe. The companye beholding the stone attentively, gave their judgement diversly: One sayde it was Saint Jerome mortified, another said it was Saint Anthony, appointed to keppe the A-cornes, thus every one pronounced hys seuerall opinion. And at this controwersye they stayed to reade a scroll hanging down from the hand of the Image, the content whereof was,

If thundring threats of mightie Ioue aboue,
If monstrous shapes from God among vs sente,
If bitter plagues, whereof we dayly prove,
Had power to make mankynde his lyfe repent,
\( \text{Man shoulde not neede to feare the flyeing whip,} \)
\( \text{Whiche dothe for sinne his guiltie conscience nip.} \)

The rodde wherewith the Lorde doth scourge vs still,
The promised plagues of vengeance in his ire,
Is to enforce man to obey his will,
And shunne the debt of his deserved hire.
The louing Lorde dothe warme vs day by day,
Yet we rebell, and lust to runne astray.

\( \text{Eche fishe that swimmes, eche foule that buildes a nest,} \)
\( \text{Eche blooming plante, eche hearbe and fruitfull tree,} \)
\( \text{Eche creping worme, and euer liuing beastes,} \)
\( \text{Brings forth encrease, eche one in their degree.} \)
\( \text{They prayse the Lorde according to their kinde,} \)

\( \text{C. They} \)
They Praye the Lorde according to their kinde,
They liue and dye, as nature hathe assinde.

All things on earthe, created by the lorde,
Were to sustaine the needefull life of man:
And man at laste was formed by his worde,
And of the earthe, by God possession wanne,
Redeemed eke from sinne by Christe his sonne,
Whose Godhead was before the world begonne:
Be thankfull man, repent, and turne againe,
Let not thy saucours bloude be shed in vaine.

Surveying anew the image, A scanning the effect of the verses, the lady tooke occasion to discover from the depthes the nature of man, and to imuay against his ingratitude, the mother of his misery, beginning at Adam, and declining from one generation to another vnto this latter age, which is so wicked and corrupte, as all things are moste like to retourne into their ancient confusion. To this effect (saide she) cometh to my remembrance a ditty, whiche I composed in the extremities of our late calamities, when I thought our helpe was past all recoverie. At whiche tyme bycause I could no companion, eyther to comforte me, or helpe to complaine my great sorowe, I learned to sing it to my lute, whereunto I praye you attend. Then taking the instruments, after a musicall preamble, framing hir voice to the tune of hir lute, she began in this maner:

The complaint of the giuill warres of Fraunce.

What kinde of newe suspect
Doth grudge my broylyng breaste:
What griping griefe, or straunde conceite,
Bereaues my minde of restes:
What flieng blade doth cutte my gale
By force of mortall foe?

Whose
the firste daye.

VWhose cruell bloody pawes,
So fiercely me assayles,
As still me thinkes, I feelie hym teare
My hearte with goarye nayles.

2 The flames of Arctna mounte,
VWhose smoothers pierce the aire,
Consumes not so, as I doe waste,
VWith enuy, rage and care,
To viewes in euery coaste,
The garnisons so thicke,
Of brainsicke souldeours, whom the spoiles
Of natius soile doth pricke,
And headlong doth enforce,
To baine the fieldes in bloode
Of countrie soules, without remorse
Of Fraunce their mother good.

3 VWith sorrows I consume,
Like snowe againste the Sunne,
Mine eies with teares like flowing streames
Continually doe runne;
My face with ashes foule,
My golden tresse is shorn,
My hearte in sorrowe closed fast,
My pleasant dayes are worn,
My pinching pinning pangs
My penne shall nowe disclose,
The worlde shal knowe my driery playntes
The cause of these my voues.

4 My sadde and pensiue song
Runne with dispersed lockes:
Proclayme my griefe in dolefull tunes,
Among the woodes and rockes
Goe cladde in mourners weede,
Trusse vp thy garmente rounde,
   C. iij.   Hye
The Pleasure of

Hye to the Mountes of Apennine
Doe there my verses sounde.
Where Arno floudes, and Po,
With Echo may reporte
My sighes, my sobbes, and harde mishap,
To suche as there reporte.

5 Tell them the Frenchmen they,
Who by their valiant might,
So oftentimes in fierce conflictes
Their armies put to flighte,
Nowe doe they seeke no more
Reuenge of wrong receyde, they seeke
To salue their present sore.
Tell Italy alas,
That Milan neede not feare,
But liue in peace with Naples nowe,
That France is in dispers.

6 Tell Germany la bag,
Where Mos the running flood,
Doth leades his course by mount & rocke
Through many a dale and wood
Whose people taught to crouche,
By force of our assaulltes,
Constraynde to flee their walled Townes,
And hide themselves in vaultes;
Wshe then and those that holds
The fruitfull bankes of Rhine
Like brethren now to length our liues,
With some reliefs in tyme.

7 You Europe Princes all,
Which sometime sought for peace,
Thereby to staye the Frenchmens force
Their kingdome to encrease,
the first daye.

Whome you with all your power,
Could not in forrayne soyle
Resiste, afflicted nowe you seeke
Like carion crows to spoile:
Not one is absent nowe,
The carcasse to deuoure,
Whose fleshe then in your greedy mawes
Had made your sauce but sour.

8 Thus is the Lion stoute,
Whome every beaste did feare,
Assailed nowe, and marched on
Of every trembling hare.
Oh Fraunce, whose mightie power,
And famous highe renoume,
Surmounted for hir valiantnesse
Eche country king and towne,
What dire mishap more harde,
What more vnhappy ende,
Could fortune frame, than force perforce
Thy fame to ruine sende.

9 Must needs thy fatall blade,
Not hauing whome to kill,
Against thy selfe his bloudy rage
In fury worke his will;
As noble Romaines did,
The conquerors of all,
Whoe after thousand battels wonne
Did worke their fatall fall,
When rancor taking roote,
Their mightie hands did arme
Against themselves, to rue the liues
They shoulde haue kept from harms.

10 As he that hath the goute,
Both dayly wishe for death;
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Or he that into dropsie falles,
Woulde stop his vitall breath:
Or as the man that liues
In painefull pangs, doth crie
And call for death, to end his grieue,
And yet hee can not die,
But takes some poysned druge
At laste to ende his life:
So Fraunce by murthering man and child
Woulde ende our cankerd strife.

11 The roaring Lion fierce,
Or furious Leoperds rage,
With no suche frensie trackes they pray
Their hunger to asswage:
Nor Tigre do the pursue
More Greedely, the thiefe
That steales hir yong, or faster packes
To giue hir whelpes reliefe,
Than doth our scattered trouipes,
In armes with fury fraughte,
Against themselues suche slaughter make
As bringeth all to naught.

12 The fieldes are bathed in the bloud,
Euen of their children deare,
And churchyards now of common groundes
Doe every where appeares:
And cankerd spighte hath wrought
By heapes of bodies dead,
That frothyre ryuers whyte as mylke
Are dyed scarlet redde.
Thus eche man vrged on
By madde reuenging moods,
Lyke franticke fooles do quite forget
The losse of wife and goodes.

The
the first daye.

13 The father doth not spare,
To bathe his bloody knife,
Within the bowels of the babe
That by himselfe had lyfe:
The child nowe growne a man,
Cutte off his ayers head,
And dothe rejoice with mary moode
To see his father deade:
The brother feares his ends,
Leaste brother do advaunce,
Thus all estates to ruine runne,
Throughout the realmes of Fraunce.

14 The mischiefe wrought by men,
The battering Cannons shotte,
Destroyeth castels, fortes, and townes,
That valiant Princes gotte.
The auncient myghtie walles,
VWhere stately Cities stood,
Lies flatte and beaten to the earth,
Imbrude in Burgers blode.
The wealth we wallowed in
Before our wofull wracke,
Conuerted is by country fess,
To pillage, spoyle, and sacke.

15 The reuerend aged fires
Obeye these lawlesse mates,
VWho lyke vnbridled Hulhounds, beare
Of men the nelye shapes:
They dayly seeks to haue
The wealth man can not gie,
So they do get, they do not force
 Howe hardly others lyue.
The olde distressed dames
Doe rende their grisly heare,
To see the maydes by bloody beastes,
Deflourred every where.

16 Oh tyranny vnjuaste,
Oh crueltie vnkinde,
My heare with horrour stands on end,
In yttering of my minde:
You people neybourers here,
yet farre from any blowe,
Bewaile the state of our decay,
Lament our overthrowe.
And though our ship doe sincke
In viewe of you on shore,
Let not the storme that works our wracke,
Make you reioice the more.

17 Quake at our hard mishap,
Least you befall the like,
For where the blind doth leade the blinde,
Bothe fall into the dyke.
Your kindled neighbours house,
May cause you feare your owne:
VWho dreads no harme that maye ensue,
In soonest overthrow.
VVherefore consider frendes,
That yet liue in delyghtes.
How Dogs and Ravens your fathers flesh,
Deuced in your syghtes.

18 Alas, shall euermore
Our woes engraved lye,
VWith sighes, in brasse and marble stone,
The booke of memorie;
VVherein discypred bee
The discordes and the death
Of many a noble valiant wight,
Too soone bereft of breath

Their
Their wydowes mournefull plaintes,
Theyr orphanes dolefull teares,
VVith cries of poore exiled soules,
Apparantly appeares.

19 There may you viewe with feare,
Howe daungerous a thing
Ill councell is in tender yeares,
To overthrow a king.
The seas be calme and smoothe
VVe dayly see by kynde,
No billowe mountes, but by the force
Of boysterous stormye wynde.
So royall Princes loue,
To lyue where vertue is,
If Sycophantes or Parasites
Enformde them not amisse.

20 Our realme had happie bene,
Thou Prince to vertue borne,
If that by thy too lyght beleafe,
Thy subiects now forlorna,
Had never felte thy powre
VVith sworde and Cannon shot,
VVhereby our lande destroyed lies,
And famous Fraunce forgot,
Yea thy renowne and fame
Is buried with the reste,
Of Castels, Townes, and battered fortes,
VVhiche once a king possest.

With these wordes, the Lute fell into hir lappe, and the La-
dye crossed hir armes, and tooke breath: then she began to break
the silence of all the companie, Whiche in admiration remained
without moving, as they had been enchaunted creatures. At
laste, perceyuing every one beganne to come to themselves, and
lyke amazed people beholde one another, moved wyth pitie to
see them in this melancholie moode, she chaunged hir sorowfull
countenance, like as the sunne shyneth clerely, hauing maistred
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the shadowe of a darke mistie cloude; then takyng agayne hir Lute, wyth a more mery note she began to sing as foloweth.

A welcome of Peace into Fruance.

Oh puissaunt Ioue on high,
What pleasures Musickes rare,
Dothe fill my senses with delightes
Proceeding from the ayre;
I feele my daselde eies,
By leamings lose their light,
Which farre excell the Sunny beames
Or glary morning brightes:
The sounde of straunge Consorts,
Contents my listening eare,
More gallant heauenly harmony
On earth may no man heare.

2 I see out of the cloudes,
A Virgin doth decline,
In Sattyn clad, as white as swan
With maestie divines:
Upon hir head she beares,
A garlande like the grasse,
Of Laurell tre, in hewe this Nimph:
Dame beauty doth surpasse:
Hir countenaunce presents
The glorie of the Lordes,
In hand she holdes an Olyue braunch,
The ensign of Accorde.

3 But as I doe suppose,
This Princesse I do know,
Who nowe forsakes the Heauens aboue,
To visite vs belowe:
Tis Peace, tis even the same,
Whom our incessant cries,
By earnest sute hath called downe

Euen
the first daye.

Euen from the starry Skies:
VWhere she (O noble dame)
Constrained, was to flys,
And kepe it close, to shunne the force
Of VVrath and Tiranny.

4 From whenceshe did beholde
The blody furious flame,
VVherein all Fraunce consumed is,
To our eternall shame:
Howe Discord hatches first
The fire of all our feares,
Then viewyngeour vnhaappe state,
She shed moste bitter teares:
And dyd bewayle our want
Of Peace, exile by spight,
Lamenting with a beaute heart,
Our sorrowes daye and night.

5 In this our deep distresse,
We prade with one consent,
Entreatinge Faith to be our friends
To God omnipotent.
We did present our suite,
To Christe the virgins sonne,
The mediator of mankindes,
By whome our suite was wonne:
VVherein we did beseeche,
Almightie God to cease
His plaues deserved for our sinne,
And graunt to vs his peace.

6 Our prayer being hearde
By him that seeth all,
Presented by his onely sonne,
Didde graunt his grace, and calde
Necessitie in haste,
And did dispatche wyth speedes,
From Heauen to Earth the Angell rude

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To aide vs at our neede:
VVhose force and power is suche,
Once being out of hande,
As nothing liuing in the world
Can shunne hye mightie hande

7 Thou Angell (saide the Lord)
Gius care, this is my minde,
Do thou my will vpon the earth,
As duty doth thee binde:
Goe downe into the world,
I giue thee perfecte power,
To apprehende that bloudy VWarre,
VVho doth my flocke deuoure:
Abate his cruell pride,
And see thou cheyne hym well,
Imprison hym in Limbo lake,
Among the fiendes of hell.

8 This chardge pronouned, Ioue
Did glaunce his eie aside,
And did espie the virgin peace,
VVho waited but hir tydes:
My daughter deare (quoth hee)
That haste thy dwelling place
Among my Saintes and Blessed traine,
VVith speede goe shows thy face,
Vnto the toiled troupes,
That for thy absence mourne,
Plante amite, and pittie them,
That VWarre hath quite forlorne.

9 The Angell and the Maide,
No sooner knewe the will
Of Ioue, but downe they drive amaine,
His pleasure to fulfill,
Like as the Arrowe shotte
Out of a mightie bowe,
\textbf{The first date.}

From heauen to earth, these messengers
Themselves more swiftly throws:
Aside you soldiers nowe,
Cure comforte is in place.
Nowe 	extbf{Murther, Theft, and Treason} hide
Your shamelesse cruell face.

10 Cure happy dayes approche,
Cure ioy shall nowe abounde,
And peace shall gliee vs precious oyle
To heale cure mortall wounde:
She bringeth 	extbf{Charitie},
VVith 	extbf{Concorde, Faith, and Loue},
Companions sente for cure relieve
From mightie Ioue aboue:
VVith garlandes crowned all
Of moste immortall fame,
Glue laude therfore with one accorde
To hys eternall name.

11 Delay no tyme (oh 	extbf{Fraunce})
Be gladde and nowe reioice,
Praise him on high, that hath giuen eare,
To thy lamenting voice:
Let vs (O people) kneele
Before the Lordes of might,
And humbly thanks he, sith we finde
Suche fauour in his sight,
As pleaseth him to sende
These 	extbf{Nimphes} of heauenly race,
To ease our griefe, release our woe,
And all our foes deface.

12 Peace hated of the ill,
Of God the darling deare,
VVe celebrate thy name (O Peace)
In 	extbf{Fraunce} with mery cheares:
Thy \textbf{Alter} will we buildes,
\textbf{D. iij.} \\
And
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And sacrifice will make
To thee, of Purie and Disdayne,
Which thou doste from vs take.
By heralds shall thy praise
Be blased in riche array,
And Trumpets shall thy fame resounds,
Which neuer shall decay.

13 Our weale dothe ryse by thee,
For thou by thy puissance,
Compellest Fraunce to knowe hir king,
And hym to knowe his Fraunce:
By thee, the Henries thres,
To pleasure chauenge their rage,
And doth allie their loue anow
Vnto their parentage.
All bloudycombates cease,
All malice doth assuage.
Triumphes approche to beautifie
A noble mairage.

14 All garnisons departe
Our Cities by thy stroke,
Who didde oppresse our Citizens,
By force of servile yoke.
Our fieldes are clear by thee,
From all the wicked trains,
That haue destroyde our country wealth,
And all oure tillmen slaine:
Vho to excuse the crime,
Wherein they dayly sinne,
Alleage the deede that they haue done,
Their leaders did beginne.

15 By thee the aged man,
Shall see his faithfull wyfe,
To whom with teares she will vnfolde
Hir weareye passed lyfe,
And tell what care of mynde

His
the first day.

His absence did poure,
What fear and sorrow day and night
For hym she did endure.
In recompence of pains,
The hoarie headed fire,
Renues with looke their auncient ioyes,
Reuied by desire.

16 By thee the Virgins walke
The Gardens of deyght,
Conducted by their louyng makes,
In place of open fyght:
They trace the pleasant groues,
And gather floures sweete,
They do appoynte the secret place
Of loue where they muste meetes,
And sure guages giuen,
To keepe the tyme is sette,
Where wished wedlocke trappeth them
Within hir joyfull mette.

17 By thee dame Justice shall
Hir ballance beame redresse,
To yelde the wicked their desert,
And aide the comfortlesse.
By thee the holy Churche,
Shall praye bothe day and nighte,
The merchaunt shall by thee
Applye his Traffik so,
As Tauernes shall not him compell
Hir profyte to foreslowe,

18 By thee the pesant poore,
With trauayle shall begin
To sowe, to plante, and till the lande,
That long hath barreyd bin,
The Pleasure of

His Corselet of profe
Shall stande hym nowe in steede
Vpon a poll to fraye the birdes,
That doe destroye his seedes;
His Morion of defence
He vsed for his hate,
Shal serue his wife to put in corne
To make his pulleyn fatte.

19 Thou Peace the springing well
Of every happy thing,
I can not speake, ne yet conceale
The goodnesse thou dost bring:
Thou dost rejoyce our hearts
VWith presence of thy fyghte,
More than the risyng of the Sunne
Doth iese eche earthly wight.
VVhose golden glittring beames
Dothe chase and put to flighte
Dame Sadnesse, Fear, and Drowsiness,
The daughters of the nyght.

20 They marrie moode, on Peace,
Doth cause eche thing to growe,
VVhose fruite once yelded, thou agayne
The same doste ouerthrowe:
Thou dost appease the rage
And storms on seas and lands,
To mitigate the furious force
Of heavuen, is in thy hands:
All seasons, tymes and tydes
In thee accord by kynde,
The hydeous tempeste in the ende,
By Peace a calme dothe fynde.

21 Thou makest euery bird
In tyme to buyld their nest,
Thou dost ordeyne in craggye rockes
A denne for euery beast.
the firste days.

The streames of euerye brookes
By thee their force appease,
By thee the Gallias Rowe with ores,
Amid the rolling Souns:
In fine, eche gifts of grace
Proceeding from aboue,
Like hony dewe is powrd on vs
By concorde, peace, and loue.

22 Oh blessed lucky houre,
O happy wished daies,
Wherein dissention and despight,
By peace are chas'd awaye;
Goe harbour with the Turke,
VWho pufte with pride doth swell,
Or packe you to your auncient denne
VWith Pluto god of hell.
If you on earth will bide
To Persia bye with speede,
Or Cacebas, whose enuous minded
Your cankerd counsell needs.

23 The realme of France hath sworne
That peace shall be their stay,
To whome their hand and harts be giuen
For ever to obey:
And haue decreed all,
That who so breaks his vowe
In lewe of his disloyalty,
Shall hang vpon a bough.
And he that seems to lodge
Ambition in his minde,
The same reward, that Simon had,
For his deserte shall finds.

24 If any wretche there be,
That dare presume to stande
E. Againste
The Pleasure of
Against our crowne and soueraigne peace,
With force of armed hands,
We fervently beseeche
The thundring God of myght,
That all the plagues of heaven and earth
Vpon the wretche maye lyght,
That furye freate his gall,
His payne may never cease,
He fynde no friends in his distresse,
That may his woe release.

After the auncient Lady had finished hir song, the reste remai
ned in a maruellous extasie, vntill Sire Bel Acueil breaking si
lence, whiche he supposed to continue too long, in so good com
pany, began to say: 'Surely Madam, you have sufficiently shew
ed what puissance the delectable melody of your deuine
voice hath over humaine creatures, entreating the in suche
order, as wyth one breathe you enforce them bothe to rejoyce
and lament. Whereof our eyes are euident witnesses, even
nowe bathed in the teares of compassion, and presently dried
wyth the handkercher of consolation. So as our mynde
rauished by the delightes of our eares, hath entirely unite
vd to the harmony of your Lute; the whyche you have con
ningly handled with suche seueral dauvianos, as it pleased your
noble fyngers to recorde vpon the warbling strings. Thys
compelleth me to omitte all maruaile howe Orpheus and Am
phion, by their musicke gave life to insensible bodies, sith you
have the power to render lying soules insensible, the vse of
hearing onely excepted.' In myne opinion (replied Sire Fleur
Dameur) the greatest miracle I haue here noted, is not the au
thoritie whiche the melodious song of my Ladye hathade
over our eares spirites, but the straights trideling of our tongues,
and principally of these Damoyels, who by meanes thereof
hadde very large occasion to breake vpon vs, and accuse vs,
as culpable of all these mischifes, being that menne haue be
gunne the warres, and that by women the peace is established,
especially by the moste excellent mariage of our Kyng, so as ooure ryghte vertuous Queene gyuestr vs iuste occasion to saye, that out of Germany issuad the warre, or at the leaste the warriours, and from thence also sprang the peace. Whereunto Maistresse Mary aunsawered, you haue prevented a mischiefe in speaking before you were desired, for beyng in daunger to receive a venny at my hande, you haue auncyed the same in striking your selfe. Tuske, tuske, quoth Sirs Fieme Fry, although the remembrance of endured calamities reloyceth those that are escaped, I am of opinion that as we haue laide aside our weapons, so to mortife, therewith all memerye and talke of warres, seeing that not onely the reason and lawe of Oblivion of iniuryes, but also the tyme and place procureth vs to be merye, and to bee reneged yppon ourre passed myseryes, wyth the arrerages of Pleasure so long tyme forborne. I pray God I dye, sayde Maistresse Margaret, but your counsaile is verye good: And for my parte I, will subscribe willingely therunto, consdyeryng you are not here among yourre enymyes, whose crueltie you neede to doubt, but in the company of maiens, vnto whom the onelye reporte of warre is fearefull and horrible. Ah maistresse (anwsered Sires Fieme Fry) howe differente youre talke is (pardon mee thoughhe I saye so) from reason, in that you affyrme vs to bee free, beyng in moste imminet daunger, hauing greatest occasion to stande vpponoure garde, not onely for that (as the wise man sayth) mistruste is the roote of Wisdome, but forasmeanche as not long sitthence the tyme caryed feare of warre engraued in hir forehaude, proclayning nothing but crueltice, and the name of enimy rife in all mennes mouthes, warnyng ech one to prouyde for thayr owne safegarde, in aide whereof the Sentinals and Scootes were ourre greate helpe, whose continuall watche sauad vs from beeyng assayed vs ware. Moreouer, the Trumpets aduertyd the approche and coming of the Enimye, and called vs to armes, by thayr trustye warnyng. But (O GOD) nowe the season whyche doeth testifiye Pease and E. iij. the
the name of maydens, whiche promiseth but loue and fa-
uoure, besides the wantes we haue of good espials to advertise
vs, and of sure rampires to defend vs, enforcest vs varnised to
fall into the arrogante puissance of these crueell friends, who
lying in ambush to entrappe vs vnprouided, agaisnte the truce
they promise vs by their gracious countenaunce, seduce vs lyke
as the flame of the candle deceuyeth the credulose flye. Thus
exercising with rigor their insolent victory, they entreate thyr
friends more hardly than their mortall enimies, contented with
no ransome, but only life. Alas Sir (answered maistresse Margae-
ret) what causeth you to make your selue certain of that thing, wher-
of you haue so small assurance; It appeareth your opinion is
founded but of fantaasie, and that you speake but of hearesay, or
upon euill will, whiche moueth you at pleasure to be so lacione
of your words: thanks be to God, your fresh colour and good li-
king testifieth, that melancholy consumeth not your body, al-
thouge your tongue complaineth without cause, which are evi-
dent proofes of manifest veritie. Wherefore I pray you remem-
er, that sinne against conscience is frustrate of remission, not-
withstanding by especiall grace you may receive absolution, so
that you will repente your error from the bottome of your hart.
Alas maistresse, replied Sire Firma Fox, if the diste of a stroke
breake a swords, and bleishe not the scabbarde, or a wrenche
breake a bone without perishing the fleshe or skinne whiche co-
uereth it, then it is not strange, that your soueraigne beauties
so shewe their puissance to supports no lesse force, delighteth
to stay the minde without hurting the body, which you esteeme
too vile to receive the marke of your power, by which meane
you neede not judge it nouelle, though I harbour a sorrowfull
harte under a pleasaut countenaunce. If you see my shoe new
and well shaped, yet doe you not knowe where it pincheath my
foote. Even so, though I looke merily, you know not (alas to my
paine) where my griefe is. You are abused in this similitude
(saide maistresse Mary) thinking thereby to cover your error: for
assaying a new shoe in the shomakers shop, if it fit you not well,
you are in place where you may change it at your pleasure, the
which
the first daye

which you cannot do, if you haue paid for the paire & worn the, then muste you stande to the losse, and be thought vwise in bestowling youre mony vppon the thynge will do you no service. So louers have no cause to complaine, for somache as if they feel ready to seeke further, havinge libertie to remedy their greffe, and to comforthe themselves in making exchaunge, but this priuledge is abrogated from suche as are linked to loyaltie by the lawes and stricte bandes of matrimoine. Wherefore this not hindring, you freely to confess your fault, call to remembrance, 9 to offend is humaine, to repent divine, and to perseuere diuelish. Wherevnto Sir bal Accaul (smiling) answered, it seemeth Mai-

stresse, by your speache, that loue is but a spoerte for babes, or pathes of pleasure, which are conseyued and extingushed by the appetites of wandring affections. But if you knewe with howe strong and Diamantine cheynes louers be bounde (more surely fastened, than to a ferme rocke) as Vulcans nette doth verifie, you would not speake so liberally, but woulde with pi-
tie lament their estate, (worse than the uncertaine stay of Sea-

rouers) rather than make so light accompt thereof, and woulde measure ourse ardent affections with your owne metwande. As though dame nature had enlarge to men the presemence, and credite which vnder pardon and particular prerogatiue, she hath graunted to virgins (in respect of their sexe feminine, wherof she is participate) so dispensing with them, as they are cleare from any passion of mind, except perhaps of the pleasure they receive to torment men, exercising vppon vs (as the wise man sayth) a delectable tirannya. So it is Sir, aanswerd the Gentlewoman, although the wordes I haue vtttered, do not a little gresse mee, neuerthelessse I may not gainsay them, being grounded vppon reasons which enforce me to maintaine my opinion. Where-

fore (I pray you) doe Poets, and Painters resemble the loue of men, to an infant havinge wings, and doe painte the loue of wo-

men in the shape of a Tortois lying vnder Venus feete! but only to testifys the loue of men to be volubl and vncelent lyke a birds, and the loue of women firme and stedfast like the sluggishe

C. iiij. Tortois.
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Tortois: Wherin they have great reason, seeing that Historians in their discourses entreate seldom of the disloyalitie of women, but wee heare and reade in infinite volumes, howe their bounty and simplicitie hath continually bin deceived by the malice of thir perjured and changeable louers: Whereof in maner all the most victorious and famous personages of old time are witnesses, so as throughout all ages the faithlesse Jason, Theseus, Demophon, Aeneas, and Hercules, are examples of certaine proofs that the issue of men is wandering. And although their worthy actes be defyled with the blottes of this infamie, yet are they notwithstanding placed among the Gods, yea and their starres honoured, and reported to surmounte all others in clearnesse. The occasion wherefore auncient decrees have licenced this crime in men, & so straitly forbidden it in women, the same is, because the Lawes have beene ordeyned and established by men: but that which sighteth me moste, is to view this vice so to enlarge his seignorie, as the libertie whiche in times past was onely permitted to Princes, at this dayes is common to every prouince person, so that nowe a dayes there is none so verry a vulture, who aduanceth not his dialoyaltie with such triumph as if he had obtained some glorious conquest with the ruytous disburseing the honour of suche as considering their owne offence, they are bounde to preserve and defende more delycately than their proper life. But alas, as hee that desyreth to be notorious, when hee can not aspire therunto by any vertuous acte, doeth prosecute his intente by mischief, and setteth on hyre the Temple of Diane, or committeth some other villanous facte: even so do we dalyly behold the heires of curage, seeke to make their liues famous in defacing a great number of women. This wickednesse hath not onely place in undiscrrete lust, but even in mariage it selfe, the faith and promise whereof ought to be so holy and inviolable, as the bond thereof is straight and perment. Oh what coniunction or companie may be founde more sure than the union of two: The saying of of the wyse blynde Prophet cometh to me remembreance, who
affirmed, that his mother Venus hath not power to unite their
harts togethers, declaring therby, that the amitie of wedlock re-
celaueth not a third copartner, wherveto neuerthellesse the per-
uersnesse of this world will constrayne it. And I feare, the lon-
ger we liue, the worse it will be, not onely bycause the world is
diminished from an empire to a kingdom, and our ages conver-
ted from golde into yron, but for that in tymes past before the
matche was made, which is perdurable, men were carefull
and inquisitius of the behauiour and condition of such parties
as they ment to marrie, of their stock and education, and before
any agreement passed, they wold este a bushell of salt togethers,
and winter and sommer eche other, and as the French prouerbe
saith (assembler les troys estastes) yet after all these scrupulous mi-
steries, and the observation of diuers ceremonies, they wer com-
monly decayued, and traveilled not farre before they repented
their enterprised voyage. Nowe to perswade men to take auais-
ment in choosing, to laye their hands on their harte before theyr
lips consent, and to enter leisurly into such weighty affaires
the Tortois was painted ynder Venus feect, and hir husband Vul-
can pictures lane. But now adays women are no sooner scene in
streets but by one or other they are courted for marriage, w'out
any enquirie but for welth, & as a match is made for VVhat haue
you! so al other things deped vpon VVhat will you give me! in such
wise, as vertue is despised & unitie ytterly decaiede, which resol-
ueth me, & in these sodaine contracts after frequentation, shal en-
sure knowledge & one of the other. And this knowlidge (their estates
not cating both parties) wil breed disdain, disquiet in house, & in
the end disquiet wil procure devource, & thus universally are these
mony mariages finished. Euen as a flame of kindled straw is fer-
uet but for a blast, or a plants that beare fruit very young natu-
rally enure not many yeres, & as a picture graue in wax is easi-
ly defaced, eu so these loves so quickly resiued, are as sodainly
mortified. Whervto Sire Fleur d'Amoeur answered, I cofesse mi-
strasse, your sayings are founded vpon very truth, but wil you
attribute these soden mariages only to lightnesse of me, as thogh
they alone procured same. Rather to excuse in this behalf the
The Pleasure of

the man and the woman, we will deuide the blame equally be-
twixte them: Let vs consider I praye you, howe nature hathe
not urged hir creatures of late dayes by secrete inclination to
communicate in their kinde, but that the same hathe bene from
the beginning, so as all living things seeing their essence to bee
but mortall desire (according to the generall law graued in their
hertes in their originall) to resiste their corruption, and have no
other mean to remedy this blenish, but in coupling themselves,
engendring as the instincte of nature hath instructed them, whic-
che is the onely occasion that maketh man after his deathe to
liue in his children. And we have so greate care to perpetuate
our offsprings in this manner, as the more we decaye, the more
desire we have to restore and multiply our progenies: Lyke
vynto the heade of Midas, whiche smitten from the body, imme-
diatly dothe regenerate seauen other in place thereof. Likewise
wee see for one branche of a tree stued off, that nature planteth
seauen scients vpon the same stocke: Yea if the body of a tree re-
ceive by any mọ the stroke of an axe, out of the carfe will spring
yong twiggs, which seeme not only to be the salute of the wound-
des receyued, but a revenge agaynst the toole, whiche hathe
presumed to outrage nature. The same desire of revenge is also
among men: whiche was the occasioun that after the desolation of
deluge, and the famine, and captivitie of Pharaon, the people
increased and multiplied in so greate foyson: whereto I coulde
alledge the notable destructions of the Romaines and so many
other examples, as a greate volume woulde scarcely containe.
wherein nature hathe shewed hir wisedome. And it is doubtfull
whether the lawes of Manumission to suche as maried and be-
gatte children for the waytaynance of the common wealth,
were not established by hir. The laste care of capitaine Leonidas
prepared to battel against the Persians without hope of returne,
was to perswade his wife to take no farther thought, but to get
another husbande, who might restore the hindrance she recei-
ued by forbearing of his company: it is then greate justice af-
ther the warre (wherein so many couples are separated), that they
whiche remaine proued by this secrete lawes of nature, are so
hastie
hastie and forward to recouer & repaire the losses of the wordde. Wherefore I muste commend them, whom you doe blame, allowing the opinion of prudent Licurgus, who by his statutes condemmed the single life and advanc’d suche as had ben longest married into the moste honorable dignities, as principall magistrates in tympe pase. Nowe Maistresse to the firste poynte, and touching that you affirmes that these mariages so rashly attempted, cannot long continue firmes and durable: Let vs conclude I pray you to search the original foudation from whence the faulte proceedeth: you muste needes confess, that good and precious things are allwayes rarest to finde, we dayle see greater store of Flints, than of Diamants: so men at this day, whose number are but fewe and rare as pearles, muste needes be good, the eul being all consumed in oure late furious warres. Seing then the good decayeth not, whiche if it were otherwise, no good shoulde remain: I conclude that the small number of men of our age being good, cā neuer violate mariage, but necessarily it must proceede from women, whose multitude being greater must Ergo be worse. O the vertue of God replied the lady, say you so? you that are towards mariages shoulde vsoure wordes more discretely untill your provision were furnished, for (quoth she, beholding the other two) it is as vnpossible for you to live without wines, as for blinde men to walke without guides. Cal to remembraunce what punishment Orpheus endured for the like offence, who perhaps spake not so largely, as you have done. But I perceiue you use the trade of suttle marchants, who ever dispraise the wares they determine to buy, to the ende they may bargain at their owne price. Under correction Madam (answred Sire Fleur Damour) I am content to paye for every thing according to the worth, yet for my parte I esteeme one beautie of so greate value, as if I might obtaine it with any honourable death, I would thinke I had gained the same very good cheape. And to the ende I may perswade you, that affection blindeth me not in this behalfe, I beseeche you madame, and also this fauorable companie, to licence one in your presence, not only to approve the Loue of womē to be more variable & vndiscrete, than
The first Historie.

the loue of men (whiche with small travaile I trust to confirme) by so probable reasons, as shall not bee repugnable, excepte you will demaunde for the light at highe noone: But also to bee the causes of all the misfortunes, whiche constraineth louers so to lament their hard mishapes, as from their sorrowfull eyes, floods of teares doe flows sufficient to drowne the rigor of Damoy-
sels, the whiche I truste to make you acknowlede by the briefe discourse of a piteous and memorabile Historie: whiche is this, At these wordes the whole assistaunce approched, and placed themselves rounde about this gallant preacher, who having ta-
ken breathe, began on this manner.

The firste Historie.

Such as haue imparted their travailes in reading, or at the leaste, haue but heards speake of auncient Histories, maye safely conjecture, that Greece hath alwaies bin replenished, not onely with noble, valiant, and wise personages: but if they con-
sider well the discourses of the Grecian Chroniclers, shall finde the same region, hath bin no lesse fortunate in the production of women: forsomuche as the greatest number of Dames and Da-
moysels, whose beauties haue deserved preheminence in the mouths of Historians, haue bin bred, borne, & brought up, in the said famous Monarchy of Greece: In whose glorious Fortes, to this day, is celebrated the renowne of famous Queene Hellaine, in commendation of whose excel'ët beautie the trumpets of the same us Poets doe yet sounde. But I dare affirme, that shee of whom I mean to speake, shall honor hir country much more by her vertuous life: who being nothing inferior to Paris Paragon in beautie, surmounteth hir exceedingly in bounty, apparently te-
stifying by hir soueraigne vertues, that the graces & perfections wherwith nature had endued hir, wer worthily employed.

This Damoisell of whom my discourse shall determine, was borne in the Isle of Rhodes, descended of the moste honorable fa-
mily in the whole country, educated in all good nurture, as boul-
tifully as might possibly be desired, who as soone as she grewe to the
the knowledge of good and euill, fell in liking of the behanioure and courtesie of a yong stripling, borne likewise in the same city, so accomplished in all perfections of Nature, as by due deserte, he was fancied of this beautifull minion, and battered the firste breach in hir tender hearte, who with the onely glaunces of hir alluring ele, was able to mollify the moste saluage and indurate fantasies bearing life. The Damoysele (Gentlewomen) was named Persida, and hir yong friende Erastus, vnto whome, hys father and mother newly deceased, had left abudence of wealth, and by their laste Testament, bequeathed the gouernaunce and education of this Orphane vnto his uncle, who by good aduen-
ture, was neerby vnto the faire Persida, wherby these yong-
lings ordinary frequented company. By meanes wherof, such friendly familiaritie was confirmed on bothe partes, as from their tender youth, they delight to play togither, and continually embrace and kisse eche other (a Prognostication of the future conjunction of such perfect gifts, wherwith they were bothe li-
berally fraughted by divine influence.) This couple, as they grew in age, so increased their beautie and conliness, like the rose buddes, which in the hart of the spring sprout and spread abroad their beautiful blossoms. And with their bodies likewise encreas-
ed and augmented their new conceived lous, like vnto the yong Ulme, which embraceth the tender Elme, wherwith it is so firm-
ly unted by their mutuall growth, as in fine they are incorpo-
rated togither. Thus in their tender yeres the parents and frien-
des on both partes conceiued a secrete hope, that destiny would confirme a match betwixt this likely couple, whose equall perfe-
tions commended of al men, gaus them cause to expect a happy successe, for the which there was none, but wished exacly. And I suppose if eche mans opinio might haue take place, these fine creatures had bin accepted & ofspiring of Angels: but the heauens wold not permit a Paradise on earth. These louers had now at-
tained, the man, the age of xv. yeres, & the maiden x. but to view their growth, common judgement wold haue attributed to eche threes-eyeares of advantage. So as they attended onely the expi-
ring of such tyme, as might minister occasion, to render the fruit F. ij.
of their desired marriage with no leesse good will, than the child
vnder tuition of a shrewde Tutor, wistheth the stature of a man
to escape the rod. And in establishment of this bargain Eras-
tus embracing and kissing his Persida, gave her a jewel, wherein
was a Diamante and an Emerald, so singularly cutte and
 cunningly coupled together, as they were not to bee discerned o-
 ther than one enter stone, besides the excellency of the works-
manship farre exceeded the value of the precious substance:
Requiring his beloved maistresse, in beholding this gage of hys
good wil, alwayes to resemble in loving the Emerald, which doth
rather cracke than consente to any disloyaltie: promising for hys
parts, ever to be like the Diamante, whiche through constant
and decreed stedfastnesse, sooner breaketh under the toole, than en-
dureth any newe shape, so muche the nature thereof abhorret
exchange. Persida receyued this token and pledge of Erastus his
ardent and sincere affections, wyth exceeding contentation and
pleasure, beseeching God by hys divine prouidence, so to pro-
sper their luckye beginning, as there might ensue so stricte alli-
sance, and perfette loue betwixte them in the worlde, as in the
Jewell giuen and receyued were united unseparably, two of
the richest and moste beautifull stones of the Orient. But by-
cause she woulde neither remayne indebted to hir lover in cour-
teesle or good will: she requited him wyth the gifts of a Chaine,
the linkes whereof were enterlaced with pearle and stone of dif-
uers coloures exceeding cunningly. In presenting wherof, she
delivered an amorous kisse with fervent affection, and saide: I
pray God my friends, that we may continue togethre linked in
the chayne of wedlocke, so manye yeares, as there are seuerall
linkes in this chaine, with as faithfull loyaltye as is represen-
ted by the gold therein, and so great estimation, as is in these
pearles comprehended, requiring you to keepe this token for the
loue of hir, who evermore reserveth a roome for you in the se-
create chamber of hir loyall harte. In these amorous paths our
two lovers walked long at their pleasure with wonderful cõten-
ment. But alas, Fortune, the enimie of all good hap, was con-
trarie to this blessed conclusion, which giueth vs large occasion
to
The first Historie.

...to complayn our mundain miseries, by whose wicked ordinan-
aces we are subject to such sodein alterations as when we think
our selues in moste permanent pleasures, our good houre is by
fickle Fortune cut short in a moment; yet not contented herewith
hir malice is suche towards mankinde, as she constraineth men
oftentymes to tast within hir sugred cup, the bitter liquour that
procureth their destruction. Thus ynder colour of amitie, shee
wreaketh hir malicious enuiue vpon vs, euens as the fisher en-
closeth his deadly hooke in the pleasant baite, to the ende the sim-
ple fishe mistrusting no guyle, may vnawares swallow his bane.
Alas, what ioyes may be expected in this world, with frowarde
Fortune prepared suche abundance of calamities to these inno-
cet louers, whose merits deserued euerlasting felicitie. Ah beau-
tiful chayn, soure pledge of loue, predestined to procure so great
dysaster, of rights thou deseruedst to be compared vnto the dolo-
rous gifft which Ajax presstede vnto Hector. Erastus, dere daines,
hauynge receyued this commendable chayne, knewe not what
countenance to shewe, so much he was contented therwith, con-
sidering the place from whence it came; neither coulde he de-
taine his eye from it, but embracing and kissing it continually,
remayned as one rauished with ioy. The terme of ten moneths
expired (during which tyme Erastus had enjoyed this iewell, the
whiche he had preserued as carefully as the Apple of his eye,) it
fortuned a great lord of the Citie, did marrie his daughter vnto
the Prince of Cyprus, and for the honorable salemisynge of thys
princely wedding, great preparation was made of stage plays,
bonfyres, maskes, lustes, Turneys, wrestlings, and other in-
finte pastymes, with suche continuall feastings, as the people
repaire out of all countreys adjoyning, by the brute and re-
porte of the great and sumptuous magnificence which was to
be seen at Rhodes, where (among others) a great number of the
knights of Latran, whyche we call at thys day the Esaghtes of
Malta, were assembled. All whyche, withoute pretence of ama-
tie, eddueord at thys feast to shewe thyrr valour, and to en-
graue some notable token of thoyr prowesse in the memories
of so greate a multitude.

F. 111.
It happened one day while these sportes endured, the listes
and barres being pestered with the presse of people, and the scaf-
foldes chargd with Ladies and Damesels, even as the In-
stes beganne, ther entré into the fieldes, a Knight armed at al
points in a greene armor, mounted vpon a mightie Sirian cour-
sor, caparissoned in like manner, who with braue mannages, ca-
rriers, boundes, and tournes, made the duste aboute him fée into
the ayre, and there folowed him an Esquier disguised, gallopp
ning amaine: all the troupe were amazèd at the fierce approche of
this Champion, who with courageous countenance, forsooke the
barres, and leapt into the listes, bearing vppon his helme, a
white Pennante, deliuering by his actes, so great estimation of
his valour, as there was no Damaysell that longed not to un-
derstande what hee was, nor Knight, which ferently desired not
to experiment his force: which divers more hastie, than wise,
approved to their harms. For this Worlour handled hyse horse
with suche agilitie, and encountred his adversaries so firmely
at the counterbuffe as no course escaped hym wythout the sub-
mision of a Knight to the earthe, not couching hyse launce in
vainecall the whole dayes. Thus hauyng vnhorseed a number of
the moste exparte in feates of armes, the reste committting no
great confidence to their cunning, were easely persuaded. So,
that in fine, not one approched to shewe hym sporte, whych gree-
ued muche the whole assistaunce, whose eyes were fíred vppon
this new miracle, supposing the Knights to bee some Spirite of
Flugis, or some of the race of Amadis, or Rowland, with the gol-
den launce of Bradaman, or god Mars himselfe. The trumpettes
nowe beganne to sounds the retreate, when the valiant Phillip of
Vichers, at that tyme great commander of Rhodes, disdainng to
beholdes his Knights so faintely disarsoned, in whom hee repose
Champion of singular prowesse, made choise of a greate and
mightie launce, and taking his beuer, wythout anye defaunc
tooke his course towards the Conquerour, who was not unpro-
vided to receiue him. The encounter of these Champions resem-
bled the brush of a mightie billow, beating vpon a craggie cliffe,
by the conjunctio of the clouds of contrary Elements breaking
into
into some thunder cracks, for the force of their meeting: was so furious, as by the judgement of the beholders, one stroke had finished the combat and lives of two so perfect warriors if these launces had bin as forcible as their bodies: but at the wyning they flew in truncheons, and shined even to their hands. Then the knight unknown lifting vp his eies, beholding hir vpon the scaffold, or whome his minde endured a more perilous combat, received such comforte by the faver of his pitifull countenance, as taking a newe launce from his esquier, he broched his courser with the spurre, and setting his teeth wyth a contagious despiyte, couched his staff so luckily, as the Commaundeur falling his attainte, himselfe being hitte, was enforced to auicide hyr saddle: Whereof the good olde knight somewhat ashamed, wyth a loude voice, pronounced these wordes: Sir Knight, I see well your provensse shall finde small resistance in this country, sith it may not be counterenailed in our company, wherein is assembled the floure of knighthood: Notwithstanding, I require you, if you retaine as grete courtesie, as viillanesses, that we may entreate at your hands in recompence of the shame we haue receyued, to understand, that you are, to the ende, that both you may enjoy the due honour you have this day deserved, and wee the contentment, we shall obtain in knowing your name: but the knight bending his bodie vnto the Commaundeur, whispered in his ear, beseeching hime of pardon, for that he was not willing to be known. By this time the night began to cover the heauen wyth hir brown mantell, and the people al scruellinge at the wonderful Chivalry they had vewed, he their coursing myssesse signified theyr departure, when as all estates saide wyth exceeding desire, to knowe the Champion (nowe prepared to departe) came cluttering about him in heapes, which caused him for reuerence sake to diamoet hime selfe. The the Bridgroome, for whose honoure these triumphs were celebrated, clapsynge hyr about the necke saide: Issu Sir Knight, wherefore are you displeased with the commendation and honoure whiche you shall acquire by the discouerature of your face: & there ashe seeing vpon the hinder skirt of his helmet wyth an ardente boldnesse, drew it so rudely, or
or rather happily towards him, as the latchets and buckles slipping, he openly discovered the bare head of our Rhodian Erastus, who besides his natural beautie, painted his cheeks wyth a certain shamefastnesse, like one in a mummerie, whose visarde sodainely falleth from his face in the companye, from whence he woulde departe unnowne; furthermore his golden lockes curled with the dewe of his long travaile, aduanced his countenaunce with suche a comely grace, as if his prowess gaine the price and reputation among the knightes, nowe he obtained no lesse favor among dame beauties minions, vnto whom his gracious visage was immediately knowne, but especially vnto the fair Persida, who with extreme ioy hadde sounded, if the escape of hir gallant friend from daunger of so many blowes received that day, had not tempered hir motion, waying ioy and feare in one ballance with equall counterpalse. All the knightes behelde Erastus, like men astonishe, without vnterarunce of anye sound, vntill Monsieur Philip smiling began to sayse, by the faith I owe to knighthood, we haue to our greate honour desired ri-vewee of this amiable face, and may nowe aduant our winning with shame inough, being all ouerthrown by this young strip-ling, who hath receuied vs with like entertainment. Thus speaking, he embraced the knight, blessing the hours of his birth, and the hand that so well employed the order of knighthode, where- vnto with a smiling countenaunce) Erastus answered: My lords, I haue greate cause to accompte this daye fortunate vnto me, wherein I haue gotten credite to prowe my feele force against such personages as haue left the glorious markes of their valor and chivalry in so many perilous encounters of straunge coun-tries, vouchsafing to vie in my behalfe ¶ fanour of a maister of Defence towards his prentise. I hoped the disguising of my vi-sage shold have served for a curtaine to cower my rude experience: which it hath pleased suche an honourable company to deprive me therof, at the least I basseche you, my youte maye excuse my presumption, and supplye the maske which you haue reaved from me. In doing wherof, you shall bynde me with the vter-moste of my service to acknowledge the honoure and courtesye, wherby
whereby I remayne continually at your commandements.

His tale ended, why lest every man disarmed them, to receive
the freshe ayre, Erastus leaped lightly vpon the skaffolde, where
after the entretaynement of a thousande embracings among
the Ladyes and damoysels, at length he approchde his Persida,
vnto whome (louingly clasping hir white delicate hande) softly
in hir eare he sayde: Deare Mistris, if I haue this daye deser-
ued any commendation among the professors of faith I anowe
the same bounden to doe homage and fealtie vnto your beautie,
whiche by a fauourable aspect, hath moste fortunately conducted
me to atchieue the vnexected ende of this entrance: It is
therefore good reason, I shoulde render thankes vnto your beau-
tifull eies, which by their rigorous fauour hath with one glance
rendred me both victorieous & vanquished. Euen as Persida was
prest to be reuenged, all the Lordes, Knights, and gentlemen in
courtly order, conducted their conquereur with greate triumph
vnto the pallaise of the Lorde Philochrisse father vnto the bride,
and that man thoughte hysmelfe happy, and greatly honoure,
that might carry either the launce, shielde of helmet of Erastus.
So as for that time Persida coulde not aunswere hym, but onely
by hir eye. All the company being arriued at the feast, the cheare
was such, as was requisite to entertaine the Kings of Persia:
During whiche season no talle was ministred, but of the pro-
wesse, courtesie, comlinesse, & good behauiour of the braue knight,
who in dauncing and other disputers, abrided in no pointe the
greate reputation he had gotten, giving all the aspectants suche
pleasure to see him demean himself so lustily & gallantly after
his greate toiles taken the day before, as they passed the most part
of the night without regard of any rest. Whose not haue our
greene knight as prosperous in good hap and felicitie as his hart
coulde possibly wishet: yea, who would not haue called this daye
the moste fortunate for him of all the dayes of hys lyfe, wherof
he liued with greater contentation, than Diton or Sibillao. But
alas it fell out quite contrary to his expectation: for Fortune a
continuall stepmother to suche, as she aduaunceth, determined
to present the principall personage in this tragedie, and the bet-
G.
The firste Historie.

ter to shewe the force of hir puissancce, shée sette hir proude foote so rudeley agaynste thys beautifull foundation of Loue, that shée subuered so muche of the worke, as was raised, makyng thys dayes travaile, the moste vnfortunate for the poore gentleman, the euer could happen vnto him: (so greate deceyte and ficklenesse remayneth in hir mundaye wheele. The spring of the dayes no sooner beganne to chase awaye darkenesse from the face of the Earth, but the people hied to place themselues vpon the Sea shoare, where they mighte wyth moste easye and greatest pleasure, beholde the sportes prouyded for that daye. When all the troupes were assembled, the peace, perchyng on tiptoe, dispersed their wanderyng eyes, to seeke the gentle Erastus, who not founde, after diligent enquirie, it was certificated that hee was departed sicke into the countrey verye early in the mornynge. Then although thes Eclipse contented no manne, yet was hys excuse easlye couyed, and the cause of hys disease referred to the excessive travaile he hadde endured the daye passed. But oure Parsita, pinched wyth the panges of Loue, could take this excuse for no payment of hir particular interest: so as shée woulde willingly haue plaid the Poste, to vnderstande the occasion of his soddayne departure, if Agatha hir Chamber maid hadde not detained hir from this intent, perswading hir what blemishe it shoulde bee to hir honour, bothe to departe the noble company of Ladies and Damoysells so vn-discreetely, and also by haste to discover hir loue, whyche other maydens seeke by al meanes to conceale, assuring hir maistresse of Erastus health, and that hys wisdome in so doing was verye commendable, to the ende it might appeare by hys absence, howe greatly his presence was esteemed. Vrye well (saide she) I wil crede thy wordes, but if thou deceiuest mee, I praye God thou maist possesse the plagues of Loue. Thus was the Damoysell perswaded, so as hir griefe seemed outwardlye but small, bycause she was to keepe open companye. But alas to whome coulde it appeare greate, not being knowne to anye witnesse: But thys patient, who fearing it shoulde bee perceiued, conceyued the same so couerlye from the manifeste viewes of the worlde,
The first Historie. 

worlds, as shee conceale her anguish in the bottom of her bosom. Now she shew you the occasion of this sodaine departure, you shall understand: Oure Knight hauing about his necke, the ieuell he loued so dearely, wythout the whyche he would neyther walke, eate, nor sleepe, esteming the same the onely originall of his delightes, rendring him a perpetuall remem-braunce of hir presence, who was the onely maistresse of his affections: It happened by greate mischaunce, the bridgroome plucking awaye his helmet (as I tolde you) cutte the chayne in pieces with the gorget of Erastus armoure, who being discouered (contrary to his intent) was presently disarmed; so wonder-fully raushed in delection of the greate glorye hee recceived am-
ong so manye estates, as he perceiued not when the chaine slip-
ped from him, being likewise so thronged with the presse (which greate desire urged to beholde him) as he could not heare it fall, the place being paued with harde grauell, from whence he was caried triumphantely, so beside himselfe with extremee joy, as hee perceiued not his losse. But alas, his mishap triumphed ouer his good fortune, as it was euident. In the evening when he unra-
rayed himselfe to bedwards, and missed his chaine, which caused him to passe the night in complaints of his disaster, hee calling to remembrace the wordes his maistresse spake, when shee gaue the same vnto hym, his harte died with sorrows: on the o-
ther side respecting his owne innocencie in losing it, he was con-
strained to excuse himselfe, so that he could impute no faulte, but onely in his traiterous fortune, which against all equitie, raun-
somed so shorte ease, with continuall griefe, Grief (said he) whi-
che shall accompany me vnto my dolorous death, which cannot be far from my expectation: for with what countenaunce dare I shewe my selfe in the presence of any louyng Perside, howyn so reckleselye loate the ieuell I oughte to haue preserved more dearly than my life. Oh if the heauens had so much fauored me, as I might have receaved my deadly woold so ofte, as I couched my speare in unhappie day I would haue esteemed mine estate blessed, dying in possession of the inestimable gifts presented by the fauourable grace of my deare Maistresse, and louyng fri-
ende, who might by my death haue hadde certaine testimonie

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of myn amorous duesto, where as now my disloyaltie can find no excuse, and my fault juste amédment or reparation: for who hauing found a lewell of suche value, will be so foolish to restore it: But alas shall my default bereaue my joyes for ever: Why doe I then desire life, to liue in perpetuall annoy.

In these alterations, the goode Loeuer wyth a troubled minde turmoiled his very carcasse from place to place, and distraught of all reason, soughtes his swordes to revange hys disaster vppon his comely personage, and to separate good happe yoked to the cruelly pasttime of fortune: but gayed onely by blinde fury, when he was risen from his bedde, hee knew not whether to reele for the lightnesse of hys braine, intoxicated with sundry fantasies, made him stagger like one labouring in a burning feuer, or as a man dizzie with the Waltering of a vessel, tossed by the hollowe waves of raging seas, so as in seeking the dore, he happened vppon the windowes, and supposing to bee at the beddes feete, hee clasped vppon the bolster. Thus gropynge long in vaine, to fynde the thyng he soughte, at laste hee throwed hymself vppon a benche, crossing his languishing armes vppon his woefull breast and said: Oh lingering death, why takest thou pleasure in my mischiefe: shalt thou be the fatter to deuoure me leanes and dryed with sorrowe: Alas to what misery wilt thou yet reserve mee: the worldly flyeth mee, and thou pursuest the worldly. But as the Hunter, who pleasureth not to take the yeldeing pray, thou shunneth mee, that seeketh thee in great necessitie, yea thou art alwaies deafe to those, that incessantely implore thine aide. Ah blinde bayarde, thou seest no more what is needefull to be done, then fortune, who is concluded wyth thee to worke my vter ruine. I knowe you are conspired together, but perhappe the one of you shall deceuie the other, and disaster shall lose the Interest he hopeth to haue in me. Pronouncing these wordes, hee fell by little and little into a colde sweate, the whiche through the chargeable burthen of hys intollerable tormentes, encreased a deaw ouer all his body, so as hys limmes possessed wyth a mortall agonie, constrained hym to drawe hys breathe verye painfullye. Neuerlesse by the succouer of hys good Aungell, hys Spiri- rytes retournyng vnto hym as a horse broken loose and brought againe
agayme into the stable he began to renew his tempestuous tur-
moyle. Oh senselesse creature, said he, why do I confess my
self culpable in wishing undeserved death, as though there were
no other remedie? Oh fool, why accomplis I my selfe unfortu-
nate sith every man estenmeth me happie! what moueth me thus
to be enmy to my selfe, I haue lost a thing very deare vnnto me,
shall I therefore dispaire to recover it, seeing the fauour I haue
obtained of al men! what if I can heare no newes of my Iewel,
shal I therefore conjecture so great rancour to gauern the crea-
ture in whom I coulde neuer perceiue but leuete and pitie!ic
shall I feare to be frustrate of pardon, and banished hir presence
for one misfortune the which I could not auoyde! Thus the mis-
serable Erastus taking both courage and counsel, dispatched his
servant Pistan (whose trustinesse and fidelitie he had so often pro-
ued, as he durste haue committed his life to his credite, willing
him to make searche and diligente enquirie to vnderstande who
had found his chayne, but alas all was in vayne, for the chayne
happened into the hands of a Gentleman of the town (companio-
of our Martyre) who sought the good wil of a countrey Damosel,
neighbor vnnto the Lordship of Erastus, vnco this amorous
esquire presently sent his chaine for a tokē. Immediately after,
there was a feast in the towne, at the which, this countrey Da-
mosel named Lucina, (who customable neuer escaped any) was
presente, forgettynge nothing in hir closet that might adorne hir
person, or augmented hir naturall beautie. God knoweth if the
chayne were hydde in hir pocket, but wheresoeuer it was Persida
espied it, whose rolling eyes glaunced in every corner like the
haggard Falcon, whose eye serueth for a sentinell, whilest shee
pruneth hir plumage in the sunne Persida, percyng a stranger
beautified in hir feathers, grew in such choller as fearing least
hir countenaunce shoulde bewraye the disquiet of hyr mynde;
she forsooke the company, and in excuse of hir departure sayde,
that the streygthnesse of hir gowne greeued hir so sore as she was
very ill at ease therwith, and the better to counterfeite the mat-
ter, she caused Agatha to vnclaspe her bodie: but alas she was
griped with an other claspe more vneasie to be loosed. In thys
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perplexitie she throws hir selfe vppon a bedde, and commanded hyr mayde to depart, faynyng she woulde take some reste: but by no meanse she could entreat Agatha to liasse hir alone, which indeed had bene very perilous for the yong gentlewomen, for as the heate of glowing brandes covered with ashes, are more fervente and violent when they breake out, than the flames of blazing brushe discovered and dispersed in the open ayre, whose visible showes threateneth more confusion than there is force in the fier to performe: Even so the desolate Persida cloking and disassembling cankered despight in hir feeble stomack, receyued so sodaine a Larum and sharp assault of sundry tormenting conceytes, as if teares had not presently quenched and sighs disgorges the scorching sparkes out of the furnace of hir boiling breast, she had of force immediately consumed into ashes. But as the valiant knyghte enduring, long in skirmish essayed on euerie syde with freache supplie, fynding none other issue to escape, is compelled either to die or render himself vnto the mercy of his enemies: So enuiue, hate, and jealousie pinching the tender hart of the comfortlesse mayden, with the grypes of their percing pawes, beating continually their peysant hammers vpon the anuile of loue, enforced poore Persida to yield hir languishing corpse vnder subjection of their frantike furies. Oh what annoysd nature so neuyibourly to harbour the good and evil, whereof Eternitie hath cause to complainse eche vertue, beyng placed betwixte two vices. Alas good and bad ioyne so naere together, as the one is often taken for the other, so contagious is their neybourhood. Jealousie ioynde to loue (as the pricke vnto the Rose) played his part so kindaly, as he obtained the preheminence, and hauing the aduantage, made waye of entrie to halfe suspect, who betrayed loue into the hands of his enemies, the faithful companions of his aduersarie: As it is very difficult to conuay treasure from the countous myser without being espied, whose vigilant eyes and suspitious thoughts attended continually vpon the same: Even so the absence of the perplexed Persida could not long be concealed from the amorous Erastus, who fynding hir aboude very long, imagined diverse fantasies, approching
proaching neare the truth, the which renewed his mortal wound, that not long before was almost cured by a fermentation of the syle of time, and neare skinned with hope of the recoverie of his wel beloved Iswal. Howe to satisfye his minde, finely slipping asye, he repayed to the chamber whither his hart and eye conducted the Damosel at hir departure, whom he found so extreme-ly plunged in perplexities, like one deprived of al sense, and over-pressed with passions, as she perceived him not untill he seased upon hir delicate hand. Then feeling hir troubled minde enclosed with new coloours, not able to vtter one word, with a threat-ning countenauncce and harte swollen with Ire, she turned hir disdainful face to the contrary side, whiche caused Erastus, vau-ishing his suspition by the discovered verity, with a forced spech to vtter these words: Now now deare harte, wilt thou be sicke, whilst other be merie—is there no remedie for thy griefe, nor any mean make, thee partaker of our mirth (I say our) although the sorrow I feele for thy disease justly depriueth me of al consola-tion. Whereunto the Damosell (percing him to the quicke with a cutting leooke) answered: Ah harte more trayterous and dissembling than very flatterie itselfe, is it possible that youre de-ceytful tong can with hir wel, to whom your harte meaneth so much mischiefe! It is possible your outward cououred counte-nance, can couer the disloyaltie you so lewdly pretend inward-ly: Alas can one creature be both my Phisition and murtherer! and it is possible that a body of such substance cannot comprehed one drop of pure bloode to vanquish a flattering face: Ah moc-king mouth, how long shal I be bewitched by thy faire speche, thou vyper of false wordes: Ah lyer, ah periured wretch, ah dis-loyal losel, wherfore dost thou glorie to decoyse a simple mayde whiche beleuued thee, and seekst with thy fardell of trash and trumperie to abuse hir that loved thee. Alas my childish simply-citie deserved rather grace, louse, and fauour. But vnfortunate creature that I am, sith my persevere destinie once in my syte hath bounde me to louse, wherefore hath it grafted in me a sted-faste and loyall hearte: wherefore was it not made of yron or steele to wythstande the dartes of all amorous pityye: or at the
the leaste syth the heavens deyreed to harbour in my breaste a liberall and constant mynde, why dyd they suffer me to make the moste vngratefull disloyall and waueriing beast, that suer woman bare, possessour thereof: Alas wherfore haue they ordeyned and bowed me to him, who without regard of my deserties (if constante loue and faithfull good will serue anye rewarde) hath rendered me so pittifull recompence: Haue I fre-
quented your company from my tender youth, (said she)(casting hir head into hir besome, hir eyes flowing with brinishe tears) and yet could never know you; suffering my true faith to be deceyued by your disguised semblant; could the poysen of your en-
uenomed harte lye so long hidden vnder the counterfeyte sheue of your dissembling face: Alas blinde louse, then blear
ed my sight: but now the truth hath opened mine eyes. Ah nature, wherfore hast thou giuen man a hart contrarie to his tong, that of necessitie the one must ploue the other a lyer: why are not the teeth (servants of our sustenounce) revengers of all slaunder
rous tongs. Or if a double harte outrageth the tong why is there not a wyndowe in each mans breast thorow the whiche the fraudulent deceites of this malicious guest may be discove-
red euuen in the moste secret cabyn of his habitation. If the thred
life had cracked with the faulting of faith, I had not now tra-
uailed in com plaint of him who in dispight of loyaltie triumpheth over my loyal affections. But although it were so, yet should not the entier and perfect loue which I haue borne you (O false and disloyal Erastus) be sufficiently satisfied and revenged, the which you haue so slenderly acknowledged, as turning the point of mine own weapon towards my hart, you haue obeyed a secong lo-
uer by the gage of the first, making me the only original of mine own mischiefe. Well, wel, let hir raine hir head softly, and brag in my cheyne, let hir attire & decke hir selve with my spoyles, sit
that she is inheretrix and possessed of the loue due to me only, wherof I made so great estimation, as I despised al other earth
ly delightes. Let hir glorie in my shame, and reioyce in my so-
rowe, whilst I lament and repent the peruerse planting of my pure affections. Ah Erastus, Erastus, it was not against me thou
shouldest
shouldest haue devised thy crafty collusions so cunningly conveyed: but I am a happier creature to understand them so timely. Wherefore frō henceforth I renounce the vows, and rewoke all the favour wherof thou hast bene partaker by my follye, and render thee free libertie to seekes recompense at hir hand, who is so beholding vnto thee, vntill thy wandering affections glutted with one dish of dainties, glye thee appetite to search more delicate diet. Banish me therefore for evermore from thy sight and speech, and blot me clearly out of thy remembrance: as I for my part, wil practise with al mine endeavor to regetter thy lewde demeanor in the roll of oblivion. And to the ende nothing may hinder myne entent, lo here the parted pledge of thy falsed faith, which I restore vnto the right owner, with desire thou mayest neuer thinke, how dearely I haue vntil this houre preserved it. Wherat hir fainting wordes, strangled with sobbes and sighes, died in hir appalled mouth, leaving Erastus so liuely besieged, as although he were sufficiently armed with Constancie, & strōgly fortified against this rude assault, notwithstanding he was forced to yeld the Scoone. The conquered Captaine perceuyng this cruel Alarum finished, and that it behooved him to defende his charge, except by silence he would confesse the crime, comforted his hart, and hartened his tong, and with a fainte courage, after some pause, discharging a deepe sigh he anwered: Oh God, why is my happe so harde, to be accused without deserte: wherefore haue I founds so vnitust a Judge to heare and determine my favorable and rightfull cause, as pronounceth judgements before mine innocencye be scanned: Ah deare dame, wherfore do you so greatly wrong me, as to credit by surmise the thyng you never had any occasion to conceuie: wherfore (alas) haue lyes such aduantage of thine truth: what froward fortune hath made me subject to his peruerse slander, whereof I cannot obtaine liceunce neyther to excuse or cleare my guiltlesse conscience: wherefore hath false reporte at once depreied me the grace so lucylye attained by my long and loyall service: Swete mistresse, I beseech you for Gods sake, graunt me this one favor (aboue the rest I haue receyued of your goodness,)
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ness, that before you pronounce the sentence of my death, it may please you to be advertised what misfortune bereaved me of my chayne, the onely cause of your just displeasure. Then he opened by processe, bow being unmeasurably affected vnnto the service of Mistresse, through the cautels and mutabilitie of fortune, he had lost all joy with his Iewell concluding in fine, that his mishaps had spit their spight, and that he determined speedily to be free from their puissance, by the succours of their reuenging crueltie, except you sweete heart (sayde he) in presenting vnnto hir his naked sword) by your gracious fauour deliver me out of this torment, punishing him that never offended you: The which I require you to performe, if you esteeme my poore harte worthy of so pleasuenta death as your handes shall minister vnnto me, by whose ayde I shall not languishe perpetually subjecte to the tyranny of my cruell misfortune, Beseeching you notwithstanding to imagine, that the Loue I have alwaies borne towards you, shall sooner be violate by death than by disloyalty.

The Damosell, in whom rigour and pittie skirmished, during the processe of his tale, felt hir minde so diuersely turmed, as in one moment she granted and denied victorie to bothe these Champions: so as the toung captiue to his enemies, rendered hir office vnnto the eyes (which embraced with ardent passions, darted such cutting glaunces, as no armour, howe harde and well tempered so euer it were, was able to defende the hart from the piercing poyntes thereof. Wherewith the sorrowfull Louer so wounded, as if thereby he had receyued hir dumbe condemnation, determined hir selfe to do the execution with speedie. And turning the poynt of his rapier (the miserable remedie of loue) agaynst his valiaunt breast, prodigall of his soule, with a courageouss feelelesse pressed to balance his bodie thereupon, supposing by this piteous sacrifice to appease the rigour of his fierce friende: which indeede he had perfourmeth, if Agatha perceyuing his desperate intent, running hastily, had not by great good happ[e] stryken aside the pomell of the Rapier
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Rapier with hir foote, by meanes whereof, Erastus fell flat on the floore, the Rapier vnder him, without receyuing any harme, neuerthelesse with suche noyse as divers came running into the Chamber: whereof the Louers something ashamed, fayned that the sicke Facient fell into a sounds. Thus the playe was finished without tragedie, like a Cannon hauing made a false fire. And Perside repented secretly hir extremitie, which had almoast caused a maruellous mischiefe, determining to amende at leysure hir hastie rigour. In the meane time Erastus auoyding the Chamber, durst not aproche the presence of his Mistresse without the chayn, and diven in his mynde howe he might obtayne it of Lucina, who enjoyed it, beeing altogethuer ignoraunt who gaue the Iewell vnto hir. Woulde God (sayde he) I were to deale with a man, that I might recover my losse by fine force: but sith my controuersie is agaynst a woman, it muste be wonne by loue and faucoure, wherefore he resolucd from thenceforth to purchase the Damosels good wyll by amoreus practises, wherein he played his parts so cunningly, as he quickly desuersed the name of a friends; which greatly im-payed the sore he sought to salue. For this device brede greater motion of suspectes in the ileous brayne of Perside, who by meanes thereof made full reckening of so probable evidencie agaynst Erastus, as he coulde alledge no excuse sufficient to co-lour his disloyaltie. Neuerthelesse, because she woulde be pruie to all his dealings, she planted espies, which at all times and in every place diligently attended vpon this poore Louer. Who one nightes going in a Maske to visite his newe Hy-stresse, proffered to adventure a riche Carquenet agaynst the Chayne, requirieng the same by signes in playe, the whiche after a matche concluded, by good fortune he wanne, and presently departed the ioyfullest man living, without disco-ueurte of his person. True it is, Lucina who had recyeued the Carquenet in exchange of hir Chayne, knew hir chap-man, otherwised she would hardly haue departed from the Iewell she esteemes passing all earthly treasure. But beholde H. i.j. (deare
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(Deare dames,) a cheyne recovered with gayne, whiche shall procure greate losse, as you shall heare: so contrarie all things succeede to suche as importune mishappe pursueth. The day no sooner appeared, but our Erastus, possessing the fruition of his desired Iewel, decked his comely corpse in the brauest manner, as he was accustomed, determining, wyth all con- venient speche, to repair vnto his Mistresse mansion with a chearefull countenaunce, and to make attencement of their passed quarrell. But at his presente departure from hys lodging, he encountred the lover of Lucina, who already having him in jealouse, perceyuing assurance of his suspect, redoubled his malice & malicious intent by view of the cheyne, where he knew immediatly to be the same he gane his mistresse not long before, whereby he entred into such sodaine rage, as vnable to qualifie his choler, he exclaimed in this order: Thou naughty deceitefull villain, where hast thou stolen this cheyne, where- with thou braggest in this brauery: and railing in this manner he drew the sword, aduaning to assaille Erastus, who not vn- taught his courage of such grakers, within three blowes pierced the Throte, from whence proceeded so iniurious ob- loque, hys enemy, disgorging a brooke of bloud from hys receyued wounde, dyed presently in the place. This slayne Gentleman beyng of noble parentage, and greatly friended by reason of his good qualities, which entertained and acquain- ted him among the best, was much bewayled of manye, and reuenge of his death so earnestly pursued, as if Erastus (not- withstading hys favoure and credite in Rhodes) had not by spede escape saved himselwe, he had daungerously avoyded the markes of too late repentance. Alas, beholde the manne in flyghte to shurne the summens of death, vanished hys coun- try and friends, deprifed of all worldly pleasure and com- modities, who euyn nowe possessed all ioye, honour and Barthlye felicity: Fortune hath full well sufficient occa- sion to contente hir vnconstancy, havynge for hir pleasure reduced this poore Louer from the mounte of Hirth to the vale of misery. But this grevous disaster was nothing noi-
some to his stomach, in comparison of the absence of Perside, whose remembrance and displeasure more pinched his heart, than the torment of a thousand deadly pangs. Neuerthelesse, hope, continually the faithfull companion of mishap, helde the rinde of the tree, assuring his fantasie, that hys Ladye was parraker of his paine purchased for hir love, & that he shoulde want no friends to procure the pardon of his life, reestablisshemente of his heritace, and reuocation from his dure exile. In the mean time, onely accompanied with his trustie servante Pistan, he iorneied towards Constantinople, where he was not so soone arryued, as knowen of divers Lordes and Knightes, who being witnesse of his vertue and valor that daye the Lusts and Tourneys were solemnised at Rhodes, entertained him according to his meritse, making so great estimation of hys prowess, as the published fame therof sounded in the eares of Soliman Emperoure of Turkye: Unto whose magnificence Erastus was presented by the Coronel of his armyes, with the commendation to be the mooste valiant, harde, and expertere Knight at armes living. Soliman entertained hym, and imployed his newe scouldor in pettie exploits, which he executed with such effect, as he gained greater estimation with the Emperour by hys acts, than reportes ministred cause of liking. So that, as well for the assurance of hys fideli- tie, as for hys soveraigne valiantnesse alreadye experimented, he constituted him Coronel of his Janissaries (whiche we call captaine of the Guarde) and sent him with a puissant regiment, to inneade Gavella, whiche was reuolte from the Emperours go- verniment, havine assembled all the army remaining of the Me- melusians: Where fortune (whose mutable nature constraineth hir to raise againe those she hath subuerted) was so favourable to his vertue, as she graunted him happy successe in the issue of this enterprise. And strikinge while the yron was hote, by the Turks commandeent he besieged Belgarde, and toke it, with the death of king Loyes of Hungary, after the whiche, accomplishing divers other notable exploits, hee retournd with glorious tri- umphe: Wherby hee GREWE in suche fauoure and credit wyth hys Lorde, as he elected him one of his Beshattes, and of his pri-
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The Councell. Wherein among other secrete affaires belonging to the common wealth of the Empire, it was consulted, during the mutual wars kindled betwixte France the French King, and the Emperor Charles, whereby the Christians were in way of perdition, and determined (considering the apt occasion presently offered) to invade and conquer the noble and puissant Isle of Rhodes, which was supposed to be the invincible Key of christendome. Upon the whole council resoluted and concluded, Erastus was supposed the mosteaste man among them to undertake the enterprise. Who after due renewe vnto the Emperoure Soliman, humbly besought his highnesse, that although on occasion urged him to seake revenge against his ungratefull Countrey, wherevnto hee liued in exile: Neuerthelesse, that it woulde please his seigniorie to pardon hym, that he mighte not be assistant in any expedition so unlawfull, not for any disobedience that remained in him (for he sought but occasion to testify and make apparant his faithful service) but because his duty rather consented to receive cruell deaths, Soliman advisedly considering his request, wonderfully commended his good nature, as if in his seruaunte Erastus, he had vesseled another Themistocles resuscitare from the grave, who in his time incued with singular bountie chose rather to dye couragiously than undertake the destruction of his natius Toune, which hadde vnjustly banyshed hym, fearing to be esteeme a monster generate of some viporous breed, and borne to be the death and ruine of his countrymen, countrey, and naturall mother. Therefore Soliman in person tooke his voyage wher an huge arraye, conducting all his Galleys, galleons, and Galiasses, which were infinite, before Rhodes, where his presence tooke suche effecte, as executyn dyuers secrete practises, the Islandes was rendered vnder hys obedience in the moneth of June, and in the yeare of our saluation, A thousande, five hundred twentie and two, as farre as I remember. And although the inhabitantes shewed themselves verye wilfull, the victorious Emperoure notwithstanding (in favour of hys gentle kyghtes, of vsom he was always myndefull) used more benignite towards them, than
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the rigour of Warres dothe vlysually permitte. Euen as Alexander the greate pardoned Thebes for the loue of Pindarus, and Stagirius for the good will he bare to Aristotle: or as the fortunate Augustus entreated rebellious Alexandria at the requeste of Arrius.

It was a custome among the Turkes at the taking of any Towne vpon the enimye, to make choice of the moste accom- plished Damocell in beautie and personage among all the captiue Virgins, to present vnto the principall captayne, supposing they could not offer hym a more honorable portion of the booty & pillage. This moved them to choose Persida, whose they found in a religious Monasterie of close Nunnes, whither shee was retired to demean a solitary life, hir delightes being clearely a-bandonded through the disaster and exile of Erastus hir deare friends.

This Nymph, the Turkeye troupes presented before the Emperor Soliman, who presently frying in the flame of this celestiall lampe, vowing the desolate Damocell lapped in lamentations, and almoste drowned in the streams of dißpares, which distilled abundantly from hir christall eyes, immediately commanded she should be conveyed with greate pompe towards Constantineple, shewing in hir presence, his gratious countenance and bountifull liberalitie vnto al hir kinred, how far off or neare so ever they were allied vnto hir, to the ende hir mightes thereby winne hir favoure, and pacifie hir sorowes. Our captiue departed from Rhodes, and arrivi at Constantineple, was lodged among yong Damocysels, nourished, maintained, and taught by olde cunning Munuchas, to sing, daunce, playe on instruments, and to speake the Arabian tongue, committed to their charge, as a principall thresoure to delighte the Emperoure. In thys Cage Soliman supposed hys mournefull Turtle myghte pruse at pleasure hir seltered plumage. At hys retourne he went to vi-site his prisoner, beholding with greate admiration, the giftes wherewith Nature had rendered hir viewe wonderfull. And although hys pensiusenesse, hadde exceedingly blemished hir beau-
tye, decaying it (as a sharpe shoure fadeth the garden floures) yet felte he his fantasie enimased with the love, which sometime triumphed over the heartes of Achilles at suche time as Eryseida his prisoner in hir mourning attyre vaquished him after his victorie. This enorous Emperor, after many loving embracings, & gorgeous gifts proffered vnto our desolate Persida (as he whose noble minde regarded more a willing kisse, than a forced contentment imprisoned here with amiable petitions. The Damosel, (resolved rather to dye chaste, than liue dishonoured) for aunswere of his demand, dispursed abundance of teares and sighs, as she whose hauie courage vanquished by hir proper miseries, prognosticated the future effect of noble enterprises, which caused Soliman somewhat to temper his affections, who leaving hir in this extase, departed hir chamber, staying wythout the dore, whiche was no sooner shutte, but she opened hir mouth, complete with sorrowful lamentations, and digorging soaking sighes, as hir stomacks would rieue, sometime she bewailed hir Parents, then hir Countrey, nowe hir friends and beloved companions: but all, so pitifully, as the Emperour, who harkened attentivelie hir whole discourse, in despiect of nature was urged to compassion, whiche vntill then never harboured in his flintie Turkish breaste, and constrained hir to be partaker of hir dolour. But aboue the reste, his harte was drowned in pittie, when as vnfortunate Persida folding hir languishing armes aboute the necke of hir maid Agatha, after the end of hir former complaint, began thus to exclame: Ah my trustie friend, haue I not in one moment excahanged all my delightes for euer, to leade a life overwhelmed with miseries. Yea such a life as to my envious fortune hath reserued for my laste rewardes. But alas, among so many euill hapnesse as oppresse me, there is not one to finishe my irkesome loathed life. Oh howe comfortable were the pinching pangs of death to my soule: yea howe easely shoulde my bones be lodged in my grave, if before I resigne my languishing ghost, my dimmed eyes might view mine Erastus, or my dulled senses once understand any inkeling where, or how he is bestowed. Ah Erastus, Erastus, my deare friende Erastus, what mishappe dothe hinder
hinder vs to liue happily togethier amid our cure miseries: Thy one-
ly company alas, would yeelde me a more contented lyfe in the
dungeon of despaire than depryued of thy presée, to enjoy equall
felicitie wyth the greatest Queene vppon earth. But alas, sith
the heavenly powers haue decreed to linke our strife and moste
serene affections in one, by irreuocable vowes, what contrary
destiny hath yelded such piteous successse to our happy beginning:
Ah sweete friende, I lament the torment which my loyall hearte
shall suffer, if happily anye prosperous winde whisper in thine
eare, the newes of hir death, who haung no power to liue thine,
is resolveld to dye hir owne, yet in what coaste soever thou re-
maine (at laste if thou liue) remember and pittie thy Persida,
who consecrating hir chaste lóue vnto thy merites, neuer consé-
ted to alter hir choice, or renuoke hir vowed promise, nether to
participate a straunguer with thy due, but hath seared hir faith-
full affections companions of hir turmoyled ghoste, vnto hir fa-
tall sepulcher, where they shall be reserued for thy behoofe entire
and vndefiled. The whiche I will testifie with the price of my
bloude, the onely worthy witnesse, to ratifie my constant unitie
to the ende this voluntary sacrifice of my bodye may appease
the malice of forurs, the suueraine goddesse of worldeings,
and exempte my virginitie from the puissance of an Empourc.
In this expolite, deare Erastus, I will practis the accomplishe
the charge you straightly enioined me to obserue when I recei-
ued this pretious ring, the guage of thy good will, the whych
for thy lóue (Oh flowre of faithfulnessse) I now embrase and
kisse with fervent affections, and wish that in thy hande a sure to-
ken of my last dew. Wherewithall a floude of teares trem-
bled with a stormes of sobbing sighes interrupted hir speche, and
with a mortall furye shee drewe a knife from vnder hir gowne,
whych shee hadde provided for the purpose fearing to bee pre-
seuned, by the force wherof (lyke vnto Lucretia) shee resoluded
to finishe hir wofull lyfe: And all dismayed, wyth a trembling
hande, shee sette the poynste thereof vpon hir Lyllie breaste, eu-
en the breaste, a perfect witnesse of Chastitie. When the
king, marvellouslye amased to viewe hir furious enterprise,
rushed open the dore, and at one leap foyled his cruel friend, crying: Ah deere darling, wherfore wilt thou so unkindly harme the thing which deserueth so carefully to bee preserued? Wherefore dareste thou wyth a deadly toole, force that which by hir de-
licate force, hath force to enforce the moste saluage and sense-
lesse creatures of the worlde! The poore Damosell lyke a thiefe taken with the facts, astonied, and suche grieued to bee found in this estate, but more discontented, hauyng failed the execution of the attempt, letting the knife fall from hir quies-
ring fyngers, faced hir eyes vpon the Earthe, wythoute the
vterbaunce of any speche. Then the Kyng remembring how
affectuoulye he hearde hir recorder the name of Erastus ofte
stymes in hir lamentation, speedilye dispatched a Poste, wyth
commandement from his Maistye, to repaire to the Courte
wyth al expedition: Erastus curteous audience, made hys
desolate abode in a woodde adignyng to a Wildernes, halfe a
dayes journey from the Citie, where wyth greete grieffe hee
complained the calamitie of hys Countrey, but especiallye the
disaster of hys poore maistresse, whom hys reputed evermore
forlorne, resolued in hys solitary mansion, to finishe hys mi-
serable dayes, demeaning suche sorrowe, as hys vnspakable losse worthilye deserued: yet besyng sente for, to his great
trouble, failed not to come wythoute delay arayed to encounter
nothynge but wofull tynges. Being arriued, hee presentlye
pressed to the Emperoures presence, who wylling hym to a-
rise from the whiche, leadde hym to view the desolate beautie,
from whom hee hadde taken the knife, and committed un-
der sure garde, because hee perceyued hir eares stopped, and
haerte hardened agaynst alle perswacons of consolation. The
Emperoure demandyng, if hee knewe the Damosell: Erastus
asstonied, as one newelye risen from sleepe, knewe not whether
hee waked or dreamed: Neuerthelesse, to playe true or false,
runnyng towarts hys recovered Persida, caste hys displayed
armes aboute hir necke, locking mouth to mouth the so close, with
the pleasaunte keye of extreme ioy, as therebye the soules of
their two bodies were neare unlosed from their bondes, who
decide
deuode of perseuerance, remayned in a maruelous extasie, vn-
till the fountaine of loue, streaming from their eyes, gaue li-
bertyte vnrestrained speaches. Then Erastus, embracing the
knees of the Emperoure Sultan, saide: Sir, I moaste humbly be
seeeche you, pardon youre servaunts, if vanquished by too exces-
sius loue, hee hadde no power to preserue the observation
of his Lordes commaundement, beeore his impatient desires,
for I confesse, (gratious Prince) my dutysy deserved greater di-
ligence in aunswyering youre demaunde. But I felte my fam-
sies so enforced by the renewing of an auncient fyre, kindled in
me from my youth, through the perfections of this Damosell,
as thereby forgetting myselfe, it is not strange, if I haue also
forgotten my dusty. Not with standing Syr, I suppose, if
your noble hearte hath euere tasted, and experiemtnd true
loue, mine offence shall finde excuse before youre Maistie.
The Damosell on the other side, haung chaunged hir face
of funeralles into a nuptiall countenaunce, beholding the Em-
peroure wyth an eye wherein loue, perfections, and reuerence ba-
thed their limmes, by little and little vnbrideling hir tongue,
briefly discovery vn to him the whole estate of the loue betwixte
hir and Erastus, the which they had never chaunged for all the di-
uers interacties of enuisous fortune, but had reserved allwayes en-
tire and vndefiled in the sectrate of their heartes, as the corne
preserved in the Earth from the colds of nipping frostes. Af-
firmin in fine, that shee esteemed hir disaster fortunate, that
with the presence of hir desired Erastus, haue so wel paidde and re-
warded hir painefull travaules, as shee shoulde euere acknowledge
hir selfe verye wel contented and satisfied, and that hys
sighte shoulde serue in steeede of a favourable barks to habour
hir in the laste porte of hir miseries, rending thankes vnto the
Emperoure for the benefite she then receiued of him which was
partly a recompence for the destruction of hir Countrey. Se-
liman beholding the effectes of thys vnseparable loue, embra-
ced the two Louere, maruellously astoied to wnderstannde so
strange adventures, and willingly hadde required to make
a thirde, (as didde the Tyrant Dioniaius) if the case hadde
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imported but a nexte. Then tournyng towards the Princes whiche accompanied him (he said:) By Mahound my Lorde, I haue long mused by what meanes I myghte sufficientlye re-
compence the services done to me, by thys poore Gentleman, conseryng the perilous trauailes hée hath endured in mine affaires, never fearing to aduenture hys lyfe in moste manifest daungers. Wherein my minde is at this present muche satisfied, sith occasion is offered so aptlye to acknowledge and reward the same, in making hym possessour of my Christian prysoner. Then beholding Erastus, he saide: Sir Knight, sith your louse is so sincere towards thys Dameysell, as is apparante, I gie hir vnto you as Leuer and lawfull espouse, although I am enforced to confesse, that hir beautie, wherein shee surpasseth the maeste excellent of Asia, hath vntill this presents hadde autho-
ritye to commaunde me. But in this behalfe, I will vanquishe my proper affections to glue you triumphe over my victory: as-
suring you that your aduauntage and commoditie, hath more puissaunce in me, than myne owne. Wherevnto Erastus answered: My Lorde, I humbly thank the heaven, whiche haue planted a hearte so noble and vertuous, in the breaste of my soueraigne king, to haue power to bryle his will, the whiche is vnto you a Trophies more glorious than if you hadde conquered the Occident Empire: Wherein sufficient provee condenmeth youre succession from the excellent race of the Gomang, yelding vnto you worthillye from the rule and commandement of so many goodlye Realmes and riche Regions. I render also immortall thanks vnto youre Maiestie for the greate goodnesse I haue thys daye receyued of youre liberalitie, whiche I hope to acknowledge, by all the services I maye possible do vnto your Excellencie, supposing my selfe in suche wise bounden thereto by thys admirable fauoure, as from henceforth I shall esteeme the losse of a thousande lyues, insufficient to gratify the same. Immediatlye the marriage was celebrated with great solemnitie and magnificence, whiche the Empereour honoured in person with his whole Courte, but cursed bee that ho-
noure whereby greate dishonoure ensueth, and horrible mys-
chiefe.
chiefe is comytted. Soliman gaue greate and ryche giftes, and constituted ourse Bridgrome Lieutenaunts and governours of the Isle of Rhodes, whither our fortunate Louers within fewe dayes after the wedding was ended, parted with consent of the whole Seigneurie. O what tongue can utter the joyfull delightes this couple receyued, enjoying at will that which they had so long desired, leading Fortune triumphantly, who smiled at their deceitfull contention; for so many pleasures vanished, as an Ile through a wette hande, and they alas liued not long in this amorous delight, so vncertaine are the fruits of this world, wherein we search suretie and stabilitie, yet that which ought to be found strangest is, that the mariage day which seemed most fortunate, was most unhappie, cloking vnder a coloured sweetenesse, the bitter poyson which procured the piteous death of them both. For beautiful Perseide, the more worthily to solemnize this day dedicated in hir favour, intirely rauished with contentment, was appareled so gorgiously, adorned with an invaluables number of riche stones, which covered hir naturall perfections with suche a glittering brightnesse, as she seemed rather a Goddess descedned from the heavens to amaze the worlde, than any mortall creature: and knew so well to display the treasures of hir most rare graces, as she delievered in suche sort all the delightfull gestures wherein the curtesie of hir person was to be shewed, were it in singing, daunsing, or deuising, as there was none that wholly rauished, maruayled not at hir comelynesse, and esteemed not to have gauyed great conquest and booty, in obtayning at vnwares any wandering glaunce from hir rolling eyes: so farreforth as many wished to supply the place of the Bridgrome. But aboue the rest the Empereoure Soliman touched to the quickes with the dartes of hir eyes (the languishing heetes whereof were bathed in the sugred venome of hir delicate deuices) yelded his vanquished libertie to the mercie of this divine beautie; And Iacu, whom he pretended to resist, planted his proude footes vpon the Princess heade: so as, whether by the supposed favoure he receyued at hir hande, who soughte that day to honour him with all hir ende-
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uour, which he construed to proceed of loue (as Louers take every thing for their advantage) or for that he stoode to neere this pleasaunt fire, he felt his heart so warmed, and his former intent so altered as all his determination was wholly to please his pardoned captiue, who by a cruell revenge, nowe empris- ned him so straitly, as although (reuiuing his auncient ver- tue) he was resolued to deliver hir, yet with ioyned handes he was enforced to require grace. So as this greese by little and little grewe so great, hauing taken roote by his consent, as in a while neither continuance of time (which breedeth oblivion) not the distaunce of his Louers abode, nor yet the remembrance of the services receyued of Erastue (which bounde him only not to be vngratefull, but also to mortifie his passions) coulde not dissuade him from bitter repentaunce of his too frank offer and vnaduised liberalitie: by the which he departed from a Jewel more precious and worthy of estimation vnto him, then the halfe of his Empire. Thus finding no remedie in his naturall constancie, lastly concluded to giue the bride vnto his rebellious and untamed affections, esteeming nothing impossible for him to compass, hoping that Persida vanquished by his be- nefites, would render him in the ende a gracious recompence. Wherefore determining to let hir understande the torments he endured for hir loue, taking ynk & paper, he wrote as foloweth.

If the Goddes in their creation of man had graunted him liberal favoure to goure his affections, & by mayne force to maister his rebellious passions, I had not nowe bene compul- led (faire Persida) to entreate newe succourse, to resist the as- saultes delvered me by my domesticall enimies: But hauing long skirmished in the defence of my libertie, finding my fee- ble force continuallye oppressd by a multitude of freshe assaultes, I am enforced to submit me vnto the mercy of their proude victorie, considering I am promised so fauourable com- position. You neede not demande (Maistresse) what puissant aduersarie assaileth me, sith you knowe the whole force of the world are subject vnto my power, your rigorous beautie onely excepted, which hath made so large a breach in my heart, as notwith-
notwithstanding any rampier I have sought to plant, or any
fortification I can devise, it is impossible for me to withstande
the fearefull alarms and furious assaults which night and
day represent before me the perpetuall remembrance of your
rare perfections. And although it greeueth me much to become
sume vnto my captive prisoner through the vengeance of cruel
love, because I have despised his insensible forces: So it is con-
sidering the merits of your divine graces, I have occasion to
 glory, being ordained to serve your soveraigne beautie, which
onely deserueth to commaunde a Soliman, whome al the world
abayeth. Hoping that if it be not blamished by secret obstinacy,
you will quickly recompence the painfull trausyles of
Him, who expected his onely com-forte from your favour,

Sultan Soliman

These Letters closed and sealed with the Royall Signet, were
delivered to a Page, whose fidelitie was well knowne, who in-
structed of his dutie arived with all diligence at Rhodes, where
he founde hir to whom he was sent alone with his damoycells,
for at that time Erastus was ridden on hunting. Wherefore the
Page hauing done humble reverence vnto the Lady, deliered
hir his lordes letter, with his moste loving commendations,
the which she receyued with a thousands hartie thankes for the
gracious remembrance it pleased the King to have of his
humble Lieutenaunt Erastus. Then retyring aparte, she read
the whole contentes, not without great trouble of minde. Ne-
ertheless, wisely dissembling hir thoughts with a sayling
countenaunce excellently counterfayted, she enquired of the
affayres of the whole Court, demandning if the Messenger had
any other charge, although the letters bare sufficient credite of
the contraries. Who answered, he had none other business but
to returne speedie answers of the letters he brought, wiche
caued the Lady to frequent hir closet, where often she tooke
penne in hande, which with shamefastnesse dropped out of hir
chaste fingers, untill at length solicited and pressed by dutie,
she wrote this answer.
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Vnto the puissant Prince, my Soueraigne.

My soueraigne Lorde, I haue receyued the letters which it hath pleased your highenesse to write vnto me, the superscription whereof (for the honour you vouchsafe vnto your humble seruante in taking so great paynes) gave me not more cause of joy, than the contents ministred occasion of meryayle. For considering the same, I standes doubtfull whether I sleepe or wake, beeing enforced to mistrust mine owne eyes, because I can not persuade my selfe, neither imagine howe your excellencye (the true mirrour and paternne of soueraigne vertue) could render your hande so suche enimie to your harte, as to permit the same to write the thing so alienate and altogether contrarie to your so sincere reputation: yet for as muche as I doubt not (right excellent) but your noble minde in iestings for your disport, delighteth to prove what profite I haue attayned of the vertuous examples which continually flows in your Majestie, I most humbly beseeche you (for resolute answere) that it maye please you to be assured, that the benefits of your Magnificence, hath so wise drawne me vnto your service, as I will search (and esteeme my happe fortunate) to encounter the wished meanes, which in all respects may satisfie & please your highnesse: so farreforth as the limits of chastitie & bounds of honestie shall suffer and permit. The which with my whole endeavour I will maintaine and defende ever vnto the last gaspe of my life. Acknowledging, that although he that hath made me, hath powre to marre me, yet she is never to be forced that can and will be, wherewith I shall be better contented, than dishonoured to liue a life abounding with delights and worldly honours. And so, testimonie hereof, which I will seale with my harte bloud, moste mightie Monarche, I kisse the victorious hande of your hautinesse, desirous for ever to remaine

The most humble and obedient seruante of the mightie Emperour of the Turkes.

Parsaide.

The page hauing his dispatch, without long abode with hast
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...sting spede caried these letters to his Lorde, who attended his returns in great good hope; but hauing perused them, he found small reliefs in his wise answer, whereby ignorant whereupon to resolve, he purposed for his comfort to impart his grave to his Cousen Brusen Ballerbacke of Servia, who like the other Princes of Sangiacae, envied Erastus extremely, because he had bene more aduançd by the Empourer than their ambition could tollerate. Nowe after long deliberation & counsell in the matter, it was supposed between them a thing impossible, to allure the rebellious and obstinate Persida, unless she were first deprived of Erastus, which (quoth he) will be easily compassed, notwithstanding the loye & fauour he hath obtained among the garrisons aswell of the Ianiasses, as the Estradiots, so that your Maiestie will sends for him by your straight commaundement, the which I am certain he will not disobey, but make his speedy repaire with his whole familiers and béeing present, I will finde occasion he shall be accused of revolt & rebellion, wherupon being admitted to prison for the offence, judgement and execution of death may ensue. The Empourer joyfully embracing this wicke Counsellor, comended excessively his invention, and dispatched him presently to practise the execution of his diuellish deuise. At his arriuell at Rhodes, the honourable entertainements he receyued (vntoete for a mischievous meaning) might have converted his malicous minde from the prosecution of his bloody enterprise, if courtesie and innocencie had entreated a valiant hart, as they encountered a trayterous entent. But Brusen vnder colour of secret & weightie affaires, allured & ledde poore Erastus to Constantinople, where he was no sooner alighted from his horse, but the Marshall of the Empourer householde attache & committed him close prisoner vnder sure garde. The King supposed to seyse vpon his Louer (as the hungry Hawke stoupeth like a leaden lump vpon hir pray) nothing mistrusting the feuer which detayned Persida, but he reckned without his hoste, and fare the worse for his marching. At laste finding his fancie decayed, blaming his haste, he deuised how to satisfie his faulte. Neuerthelesse, resolued to strike whyle the
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yron was hotte, with speede prosecuted the processe against the poor Gentleman, and by false witnesses of purpose provided, Erastus was accused (sayd they) to deliver the Isle of Rhodes into the possession of the Christians for which offence judgement passed upon him, and by the Emperours commandement he was beheade. Wherwith those whose minds had vertue in recommandation were so discontented, as they could not refrayne to murmur & rayse sedition. But Perside, who could not long forbear the company of hir yong husbande, shooke of hir sicknesse, purposinge to meete him homeward: But alas hir journey was soone stayed by a sodayne report of the treason so lewdly conspirde, and the lamentable death which ensued. So that enraged dolour assailed hir in such sort at these sorowfull newes, as she returned in a sounde unto the bed from whence she was so lately awaked, And by the efficacie of this mortall passion, had finished the final remainder of hir life, the which (fearing it would continue to long) she sought to aduance by the reuenging power of hir misfortune, so as brusing hir white brest, and tearing hir yellow heare, she imagined what sodaine death might dispatch hir with least payne (sith in this life there was no hope of grace to be expected for hir reliefe.) When poore Pistan her trustie seruant newly returned after the death of his good master) seeing he could neither comfort nor dissuade hir from hir pretended mischiefe, spake thus: Madame, sith you defyer the executio thereof untill you have reuenged the death of the best knight that euer bare lance, and testified what power his innocencie hath possessed in you euon after his death. Then will we depart & carie joyfull tidings unto the Paradise of blessed souls, where my master attendeth our coming. These words somewhat appeased hir fury, whereby taking a maie courage, she assembled succours, mustred soldiiers, & made provision of necessarie furniture to resist the power of barbarous Soliman, who made no long abode with gret ordinance to approch & invade this imunicable chastitie, like as the roring Lion deucureth the fearefull hinde. But contrary to
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to his expectations, the Castell was so well defended as he knew neither what he was, nor what to do, now cursing his tyranny, thes his licentious desires, for only occasion of so great mischiefs. Neuertheless, hee determined to see throughe what so befell thereof, and to see the end whatsoever it cost him. Wherin he had bin deseyed if the woffull Persia, consented to liue so long after the losse of hir deare friend (the greefe whereof permitted hir neither truce nor rest) had not ayded him, lingering happily to testifie vnto the ashes of Erastus, (the lively memorie whereof continually consumed hir) how his death extinguished not their eternal loue; whereby buckling vnto hir body the armour which sometime pertained vnto hir friend, I mean the great armour the perfect temper whereof was so doubted, after many lamentations of force to move the dumbe towers of the Fortresse to pitie hir distresse, she mounted to the top of a vaulte, where bending hir watered eyes & woful hart with ioyned hands vnto the heavens, she prayed hir creator to receive hir pure & cleane soule betwixt his armes into the company of his soule, whose body now dead liuing was the onely Lorde of hir chast & sincere desires. Then casting hir beveded eyes towards the sea side, she percyued the Turkes preparing their power to assault & enter the Castell. Among whom espying & knowing Soliman, with a sterne voype she exclaymed: Ah mischieuus barbarian, thou cruel and vngratefull wretch of mine Erastus benefites, whose services thou hast so tirannously recompenced, embrue thy bloodie paws, and glut thy greedy paunch with the blod of thy faithfull seruasunt, whom thou hast not wholly murthered, beholde here his one halfe yet liuing. Finishe therefor thy wicked brutish tyrannie, at least if it haue an ende. This sayde, she aduanced hir head and breast aboute the battellments of the wall, making semblance to discharge this Canon shot agaynst the Turkes: who taking hir for some scoudier, loosed a vole of shot, among the which two bullets sent from a Musket stroke hir through the stomack, wherewith the vertuous Dame feeling the approche of hir death, sate downe, crossing hir armes and staying hir head agaynst a stone, lyke a stacke of Corne, whose
whose binding ridge is overblown by a mysterious blast of
winds. Oh consticke meritorious of the heauens, oh death wo-
thy of eternal life, the glorious Angels conduct thy soul among
the blessed saints, and thou vngracious genne, art thou not
ordayned to despight Dame nature? Sith thy mettall, fire and
thunder, dare presume to offende hir principal handyworke. An
beautifull and vertuous Damoysell, why shewed the heauens
their liberality in bestowing their gracious gyfts so abundant-
lie vpon thee, and so nigardly to impart fortunes blessings to-
wardes thee! who because thou are not an abiet as hir other
common creatures, but vnder a humaine shape has enclosed a
precious sparke, of diuinitie, could not abide thee, like the foolishe
dolte, that esteemeth and lulleth his Sable, and stampeth pre-
cious treasure vnder his feste! Alas faire creature, deservedst
thou so cruel entreatie! whereas thou wouldest make no better
market than that thy destinie had bowed thee, to the ende the
perfectest couple among men having bin companions of a short
and sorrowfull life, might be likewise partakers of a dolorous
death. The newes of the Ladies marvellous accident was not
long concealed from them of the Castle, who astonied of so
great constancie, mused not to complayne suche a losse, but in
playing dooble or quid, determined to imitat this notable vertue,
lest they should seeme in any respect inferior to women. Where
fore as well men as women armed them as joyfully as a bride
putteeth on hir wedding apparell, and orderly marching in faire
ordinance vnder the conduct of good Pistan, issued out furiously
where beeing weere of the great slaughter of their enimies, they
skirnished so desperately, as they yeelded but only to death, who
taking them to mercy, gave the glorious manumission of mon-
daynes miseries to make their soules triumph among the inha-
itants of heauenly felicite, which treade vpon the head of per-
verse fortune. Thus the cruel Tyrant tooke possession of the
Castle, wherinto entring fearfully, he found no creature but the
pale body of courageous Paraide, resembling a Rose which by age
hath lost y red liuely hue, looking so sweetely as a may would have
said she slept if shee set eyes & losse of bloud streaming fro hir wou-
des,
The first Historie.

des, had not ministered manifest advertisement of certain death) Oh who could express the scorn of Soliman, seeing after so man
ye travailes, the beautie mortified, for the which hee liued! A-
las, after he had a thousande tymes kissed hir colde mouth, hee
drew his fuchion, & brandishing his paysie brand about him, hee
hurt and slew as many of his people as would abide, but speedi-
ly they fled his presence, and lefte hym alone. At length gathe-
ring his wittes vnto him, hee devised by what meanes hee might
amend hys faulte, and accomplishe some notable repARATION vn-
to the diseased soules of the two louers, so cruely offended. The
immediately hee sents for all the Princes and Lorde of hys coun-
trey, commendeing them honorable to conducte the heade and
body of Erastus from Constantinople to Rhodes. In the meane time
hee called togither the most cunning Caruors, Gravers, Pain-
ters, drawers of workes and limners, commendeing them to fi-
nishe a beautifull bed of white marble perfectly polishing, wher-
in the bodies of Erastus and Persida seared, washed and embaul-
med in oyle of Cedar, by the Emperours commandement were
layde vpon pillowes wrougthe and embrodered with gold and
silke, hauing firste appareled their bodies with the richest robes
that might be possible devised, where vpon pearles and precious
stones of inestimable value were not spared. Then hee caused
them to bee enclosed in a closet or cell of fine Venice Christall,
whereunto adjoyning, hee builded a quadrant Aulter quarrted
wyth Nebain, Jasper, Cosat, and Purphiry, beset with Agatttes
and Margarites, where vpon was estabisheth the Image of Faith
embracing Venus, bearing in hir hand a wheele, in the top wher-
of stood the figure of Constancia, holding in the one hande the
ring, and in the other hande the chaine whereof wee haue spoken
before, and the foure vertues Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and
Tempearence, were placed vpon the foure corners of the Altar,
who leaning their heads in their lapes, shewed a desolate consum-
tenance. The whole worke was so excellently finished as I
doubt neither the sepulchre of Loys the twelth, and Frauncie the
firste, which are at Saint Denis in Frayne, nor the famous
Tombe of Mausole are comparable to this, whiche surpassede the
K. iiij. worke-
The first Historie.

workmanship of the Colosse round about the bed wherein rested these loyall Louers, were the pictures of Pistan and Agatha, with the other Damysells which were founde deade in the bataille, sitting orderly in chaires of Corall and Juorye. This monument is yet to be scene in Rhodes, within a Chappell of blacke Marble, in the topp whereof the sorrowfull Soliman (who euery daye visiteth his workmen, bathed the worke wyth warme tears) commanded a Piramede of brasse to bee erected, in the heigh whereof, hee caused the traitor Brusor to bee hanged, in guerdon of hys wicked counsell whereof you haue had understanding. God graunte al false counsellors and seducers of princes the lyke rewarded. When all things were accomplisht to the Emperours contentation, accompanied wyth all the Princes, Lords, & Ladies of his Courte in mourning attyre, he celebrated the obsequies and funerall pompes, castyng flowers and perfumes with so greate lamentations, as they seemed rather people judged to dye, and going to their graves, than mourners lamenting the funeralles of others. Beholde howe thys poore Barbarian, with a Persian sumptuousnesse and memorable honoure of eternal fame, sought to reparie his tyrannicall crueltie committed, protesting to consume the remainder of his solitarie life in sorrowfull repentaunce, constituted from the funerall dayes for ever, a solemnymfe feast to be solemnized, whiche to day is nominated The feast of Lamentable Loue, and is yere ly renewed in the pitifull remembrance of the deade. In whose fauour the Emperour grunted greate liberties, and gauge generall pardon vnto the whole Ite. But in takyng breaths, I hadde almoste forgote howe in this Temple there was a brode plate of fyne Golde of Osir, wherein was written in Azured Letters the whole Historie, with thys Epitaph ensuyng.

In passing by this place, my frende,
Discourse thy brynishe teares,
Beholde this pearelesse Princely pile,
The whiche true recorde beares
Howe Soliman to worke hys wil,
Hath outte the fatall Greede;

And
The first Historie.

And made a wofull sacrifice
Of two that here lye dead.

2 Within this gorgious stately Tomb
These creatures are enblosde:
On whose dame Nature in their life
Hir golden gifts disposed:
In beautie, witte, and comely grace,
None liuyng might compare
With these, whose loue was lincke in one,
Their vertues were so rare.

3 That heauen with all the heauely powers
Grew euellous of these wights,
And did suppose the earth too base
To yeelde them due delightes:
They gaue the worlde auuthoritie
These louers to disdaine:
That they amid their flouring youth
Mighte with the gods remaine.

4 By Fortune, Exile, and by Death,
This couple caughte their bane,
When hars deishappes by princely power
Enforste a Virgins shame,
He in redresse of infamy
This Trophee did devise:
A memorie perpetual
Wher these two louers lies.

5 Oh Soliman thou Turquishe prince
Thy tiranny deplore,
Erastus with his Perside
Doth joy for euermore,
Whose perfecte loue and Amitie,
True witness of thy blame
Shall biased lye eternally
Triumphantly by fame.

By
The First Historie.

By this piteous tragical historie, you may conjecture (grati-ous company) my saying to be true, that all lamentations, discontentments, and misfortunes chauncing in love, proceed on the behalfe of women, who harbour this mishappe in them, (yea even the most perfecte) of force to be always the originall of some misfortune, although he be in their despight. As the example of our Parasce, maye verifie: In whom it seemeth by the error of nature, a manly hearte was lodged: for may any man finde or desire a more faire and constant loue, than hir, which stedfastly endured untill after death: And yet was hir disaster so greatte, as twice shee procured the ruine of hir friende and hir self. The first time, whë hir poore Loyer, losing by mischance hir chaine, even in hys Ladies service was perpetually banished from hir gracious presence, without memorie of his valuare newly experimented, or the merite of hys auncient loue, his fidelitie wherein so oftentimes testified, might never fynde place in the rigorous harte of his vniust mistresse. So muche women-kinde yielde vnto the mercy of vaine opinion, as they locke the gate of veritie against themselves, through the selfe loue of obstinate fantasie. The whiche the sage lawemakers of Athens considering, and afterwaerd the Romaines, forbade them the estate of judgement, knowing there is no cause so juste, whiche was not by them overthrown. The seconde tyme was, that these two lourers being by heauenly fauoure miraculously coupled together, enjoying contrary to al hope, even when they wer moste suppressed with misfortunes, the pleasure so much desired, were againe separated by the faulte of the too beautiful bride, who pleasing the king ouermuche, approced the steme so near the flare, as it caused the destruction of hir Erastus, and hir owne soune after: when keeping hir Castell, to amende hir faulte, shee couragiously preferred honor before life. Wherein I confesse shee somewhat satisfied hir deseide friende. But if any man wyll accuse Solomon, those which are lawfull Judges in the Courte of Loue will easely excuse him, when they remember how the force of Loue constrayneth vs to doe things vnpossible to nature and rightes: and that is none so constant, which can refraine to drinke
drinke, being boyled with thyrate, especially finding a fitte fountain.
Surely it was verye likely, that the poore Princes passions 
lyke untamed soltes had broken the rains of reason, by the 
amends and reparation hee imparted vppon the shadowes of the 
deceased losers. The like satisfaction was sometime made by 
the Frenche king, at the instant of his counceall, hauing un-
justly slaine Justot, whose lands hee fraunchised in all souerain-
tie, and possessed hir heyres wyth a Kyngs right in Normandy 
whiche perhaps made the soul of the murthered, more pati-
ently to tollerate his death. For Histories are repleate with ma-
ny vertuous courages, which voluntarily have lost their lies, 
by their death to gaine some aduauntage and profite vnto theur 
Countrey, kinred and friends, as our losers did, who by their 
death restored againe the auncient priuileges vnto theur naure 
Isle, reduced into the servitude of their mortall enimies. Wher-
ynto Maistresse Mary answered: Sir, you digresse somewhat 
from the matter, but leaste youe shoulde range too farre without 
our boundes, I praye you tournre bridell towards your conclusi-
on, by the which you burthen Persia to bee the occasion of the 
misery of this unfortunate loue, to whom hauing by constraint 
attributed commendation, you accuse to have stopped hir ears 
vnto the Justice of hir Erastus cause, whyche well deserved 
bothe excuse and abolution. Secondly, that she was too stude-
dious to content the Emperoure vpon hys wedding daye, 
whome you woulde excuse as vanquished, by hys vicious affec-
tions, assaile by a beautie, whyche no manne couldie resisthe, 
so greate disabilite remyneth in manne: But I praye you, 
wherefore dydde not your Soliman imitate the vertue of Aesui-
laus, who refused to kisse Megabatta: saying, Faire Ladye, re-
tayne your owne libertie without retention of mine: or 9 wise-
dome of young Alexander, who saluting the daughters of Kyng 
Darius, durste not behoude them, fearing lesthe the beautifull 
glaunces of their alluring eye mighte blemishe hys sighte: or 
the continence of the braue Romaine Emperour, who for 
hys share refused the fayre Carthaginois, whom (saide hee) 
he wold willingly haue receiued, had he bin but a simple souldier.
L. But
But hee was of opinion, that who so meddeleth to commaunde, muste shewe a greater excellencie, than those hee commaundeth, commaundint hymselfe, refusing to bee commaunded of anye. Notwithstanding your soueraine obserueth not thyss good lesson, but receuyed gladyse the presentation of the faire Rhodiana, from whom hee woulde neyther detaine hys eye, hande, nor hearte. And in one worde to defende Persida, the Theologians holde opinion, that good or euill actes are not to bee judged by their sequence, but by the motiue inuention of their originall; which cause the allurements and lubricitie of Cleopatra and Herodius to bee condemned, bycause the one was willing to please the Emperoure Antonius in despighte, to sette hir lasciuious beautie at sale, where it was euill bestowed. The other to content Herod, thereby to winne his consente vnto the death of Saint Iohn Baptiste, by an vnaduisd promise. But the beautie of Susanna, Bersaba, Judith, or Hester discovered on the behalfe of one, bycause their intents were pure and sincere. But there is no excuse to warrant men, who knowing their owne imperfections, oughte to close their eyes, leaste they viewe too much, and as the Proverbe saith, to looke vpon maidens sleeping, and yet perchance see too clearly. But such in their excuses do resemble the drunkard, who blamed the wine, which is no otherwise than to bee hidden in water for feare of the raine. Wherefore we haue better reason to excuse the beautie of Persida, and to blame the disordinate desires of the Barbarian, who beeing the sonne of the moste wicked and cruell Emperoure, that euer bare crownes (although Nero hadde then lyued) contented to surmounte his father in crueltie, to confirme the auntient prouerbe, that the Eagle hateth not a pigeon. And in so much as you blame hir, that she receyued for none payment the faire excuses of hir friend, I pray you, what coulde shee doe lesse, seeing and knowing hir chaine about the necke of a faire damoyesell (among whom ielousie accustomedly is nourished,) but suppose Erastus had gien it vnto hir, whiche if he had done, she might well thinke it was not for anye euill hée wished hir. But though you says, shee shoulde haue
have beleued him swearing the truth, my conscience will hardly consent thereunto. For if othes may take place, more woulde make a game of disloyaltie, knowing they might be acquitted by swearing. The whiche notwithstanding, hath continually mocked poore maidens, who credite whatsoever men tell them, to bee as true as they speake, and mean truly. As the nymph Ceon teacheth vs to hir donage, deceived by a simple shepheard, who besides that hee was greatly bounden vnto hir, made many solemn vows and promises to continue hir faithfull friends, which are witnessed by all the trees of mounte Ida, bearing engraven in their barks these verses:

More sooner shall the flowing floods
Of Xanthus sowe and drye;
Than Paris shall Ceon good
Forget, or once denye.

Notwithstanding hee bothe forgette, and chaunged hya affec-
tion, the floude continuing in his pristine estate. But because we will not fishe so depe, I demauande of you, (not meaning thereby to confute your argumentes) the effecte of youre poetiscall Orac-
cles, whiche teach you howe to loue, and giue you licence to de-
ceyue yong maides, not only by simple wordes, but also by othes: for the whyche, Venus by hir Bulles, indulgences, and pardons, giueth you intier absolution and remission. So as youre Jupi-
ter king of youre amorous Courte, when hee seeth anye man by swearing abuse a credulous virgin, hee leapeth for joye, to viewe the cunning of his forwarde disciple: As thogh mocc-
kery and deceites were the sauces to make loue seeme more sa-
curous. Pardon me Maistresse (replied the Gentleman) you shoote too hight to hitte the white: For whatsoever I have spoken, I desire no otherwise, but that women shoulde as well credite men, as they are beleued of them. Then all thynge woulde succeede so happily, as no contradiction shoulde neede in Loue. And touching the excuse you preferre Theologi-
callye, to couer the faulte commytted by the Ladye Perseda, so curi-
curiously entertaining the love of the Kyng, by the behauioire of hir good graces. I enquire not what she meante thereby, but sith she was not ignoraunte of the ardant affections, whyche immediately before assseted Soliman in hir behalfe: and knowing the wyre esteemed to bee extincte, oftentipes by small blo-wing growth greater and hotter than before, shee oughte with misaking lookes to have quenched the sparkes remayning. And if you will replie, that it behoved hir the same days to honour the Kyng, and that ductys bounde hir to doe no lesser: I demaunde wyth youre fauourable licence, what care oughte to haue moved hir to seeme beautiful or browne in the Kyngs conceite, sythe shee was in all respects agreeable vnto hir husbandes lyking for the greatest vertue (sayde Eubolius) resident in a woman, is to be vnowne of anye, but hir husbande: And a womans praise in a strangers mouth (according to Argeus opinion) is but hir secreate blame. Further, the same af- yrmeth it to bee a daungerous matter, for women desirous of good fame, so love to bee liked, and by alluring lookes to please others at banquettes, where the mouth is not onely prepared to excelle, but also the eye to feede vpon follies: Whych in olde tymes caused women to frequente no feastings: but if happliye anye were seene at anye banquet, they were suche as men woulde rather demaunde vnto how manye they were mo- thers, than to whom they were vives: Besides they thoughte it vnseemelye to bee openly seene, and therefore sweer in all assemblies they vsed vailes to cuver their faces. As we reade howe mightie Sulpius rebuked hye wife for walking without her vaile. This causeth cure Damysells in these daies, (sayde Sire Firme For) so willingly and carefully to maske and marche vnder scariffes, but principallye the foule and emill fauoured, whereupon thyse other daies I composed these verses.
The first Historie.

What moueth men abashed thus to stay,
As tumbled from the cloudes in suche a masse?
Sith Maidens mockes doe yeeld but mere delay:
Whose clicking scarves doth holde man at the gape,
Whilst covered close in shape of masking shows,
By deepes deceye our ioyes they overthrowe.
Beraus of their outwarde masking vayle
Yet inwardly disguised they remayne:
Their thoughtes lye hidde, their tongues of truth do fayle,
Till sugred wordes the harmlesse hart hath slayne:
If in their chaunge they fast on men their hookes,
Their smiling then convertes to louring lockes.

Let vs returne to our purpose, quoth Syr Fleur d'Amour,
I require not so great observance in hyding their faces, which
the Venetians frequent, counterfayting the Lacedemonians:
For chastitie, not coversettes, is the preservative of beautie. Nei-
ther would I haue enioyned Persida so sharpe pennaunce, as to
walke vnder a shadowe vpon hir wedding dayes, although the
Tortois is placed at the fete of a chaste woman, as it is blazed
in auncient armoure, because the tortois came vnto the ma-
rriage of Dapsila all covered and hidden: yet I would haue wi-
shed she had shewed a little more modestie. For, as Cesar sayd,
it is not onely requisite for women to eschewe the sulli, but
also the suspense of sulli. The which caused Minuira?, during the
absence of hir husbande, to keepe hir house eleuen yeres to-
gether, rather wishing to dye than to be scene looking out at hir
window. Touching the seconde poynet wherein Persida would
not beleue Braetua, declareth the incredulitie of a woman to be
oftentimes the occasion of great mischieues. And wherein I
pray you (demaunded maistresse Margaret) doe you finde wo-
men more mistrustfull than men? S. Thomas will never agree
thereunto, neyther the great Empourer, of whom you speake,
who because he would not beleue his iouer Taphurna, was mi-
serably slayne. I seeke none other profe (saif Syr Fleur d'Amour)
but that which is described in the schoole of lous, which we call
L. iiij. Paris,
Paris, videlicet, if a woman finde not hir husbande alwayes in one estate and disposition, she straight entroth into suspition of exchaunge: the whiche if he seeketh to extinguish, swearing by all the Saints of the Parishe, yet will she not credite any thing but hir fantastical imagination. But if the husbande beholde his wife playing the wanton before his face, she will make him beleue he tooke his marke amisse, or hath eaten cheruell, whose vertue is to mistake one for another, so as he may not credite his eyes, but beleue hir, yea and craue pardon for wrongfull slander. At these wordes all the Company began to laugh:

when the Stewarde of the housholde, who attended their leysure, prayed them to come to Supper;
where if it please you we will take our leave of them vntill the morning.

The ende of the first dayes Sport.