A

Most pleasant and excellent conceited Comedy,

of Sir Iohn Falstaffe, and the merry VViues of VVindsor.

VVith the swaggering vaine of Ancient *Pistoll*, and Corporall *Nym*.

Written by W. SHAKESPEARE.

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A Pleasant conceited Comedie of Sir IOHN FALSTAFFE, *and the merry wiues of VVindsor.*

Enter Iustice Shallow, Sir Hugh, Master Page, and Slender.

S*Hal.* Nere talke to me, Ile make a star-chamber matter of it.
The Councell shall know it.
Page. Nay good M. *Shallow* be perswaded by me.
Slen. Nay surely my Vncle shall not put it vp so.
Sir Hugh. Will you not heare reasons, M. *Slender?*
You should heare reasons.
Shal. Though he be a Knight, he shall not thinke to carry it so away.
Master *Page* I will not be wronged. For you
Sir, I loue you, and for my cousin,
He comes to looke vpon your daughter.
Pag. And heeres my hand, and if my daughter
Like him so well as I, wee'l quickly haue't a match:
In the meane time let me entreate you to soiourne
Heere a while: and on my life
Ile vndertake to make you friends.
Sir Hugh. I pray you M. *Shallow* let it be so.

The matter is put to arbitarments.
The first man is Master *Page*, videlicet Master *Page*.
The second is my selfe, videlicet my selfe.
The third and last man, is mine host of the Garter.

Enter Sir Iohn Falstaffe, Pistoll, Bardolffe, and Nym.

Heere is sir *Iohn* himselfe now, looke you.

Fal. Now M. *Shallow*, you'l complaine of me to the Councell, I heare.

Shal. Sir *Iohn*, sir *Iohn*, you haue hurt my Keeper, Kild my dogs, stolne my Deere.

Fal. But not kissed your keepers daughter.

Shal. Well, this shall be answered.

Fal. Ile answer it strait. I haue done all this. This is now answered.

Shal. Well, the Councell shall know it.

Fal. Twere better for you twere knowne in counsell. You'l be laught at.

Sir Hugh. Good vrdes sir *Iohn*, good vrdes.

Fal. Good vrdes, good Cabedge.

Slender I brake your head,
What matter haue you against me?

Slen. I haue matter in my head against you and your cogging companions, *Pistoll* and *Nym*. They carried me to the Tauerne, and made me drunke, and afterward pickt my pocket.

Fal. What say you to this *Pistoll*, did you picke Master *Slenders* purse, *Pistoll?*

Slen. I by this handkercher did he. Two faire shouel-

boord

boord ſhillings, beſide ſeuen groats in mill ſixpences.

Fal. What ſay you to this, *Piſtoll?*

Piſt. Sir *Iohn* and Maſter mine, I combate craue
Of this ſame laten bilbo. I do retort the lie
Euen in thy gorge, thy gorge, thy gorge.

Slen. By this light it was he then.

Nym. Sir, my honor is not for many words,
But if you run bace humors of me,
I will ſay marry trap. And there's the humor of it.

Fal. You heare theſe matters denide gentlemen,
You heare it.

Enter Miſtreſſe Ford, Miſtreſſe Page, and her Daughter Anne.

Pag. No more now,
I thinke it be almoſt dinner time,
For my wife is come to meete vs.

Fal. Miſtreſſe *Foord*, I thinke your name is,
If I miſtake not.

Sir Iohn kiſſes her.

Miſ. For. Your miſtake ſir is nothing but in the Miſtreſſe. But my husbands name is *Foord* ſir.

Fal. I ſhall deſire your more acquaintance.
The like of you, good Miſtris *Page*.

Miſ. Page. With all my heart ſir *Iohn*.
Come husband, will you goe?
Dinner ſtaies for vs.

Pa. With all my heart, come along Gentlemen.

Exit all but Slender and Miſtreſſe Anne.

Anne. Now forsooth, why do you stay me?
What would you with me?

Slen. Nay, for my owne part, I would little or nothing with you. I loue you well, and my Vnckle can tell you how my liuing stands. And if you can loue me, why so. If not, why then happy man bee his dole.

Anne. You say well, Master *Slender.*
But first you must giue me leaue
To be acquainted with your humor,
And afterward to loue you if I can.

Slen. Why by God theres neuer a man in Christendome can desire more. What, haue you Beares in your Towne, Mistresse *Anne*, your dogs barke so?

Anne. I cannot tell Master *Slender*, I think there be.

Slen. Ha, how say you? I warrant y'are afeard of a Beare let loose, are you not?

Anne. Yes trust me.

Slen. Now that's meate and drinke to me,
Ile run to a Beare, and take her by the muzzle,
You neuer saw the like.
But indeed I cannot blame you,
For they are maruellous rough things.

Anne. Will you go in to dinner, Master *Slender?*
The meate stayes for you.

Slen. No faith, not I, I thanke you,
I cannot abide the smell of hot meate
Nere since I broke my shin. Ile tell you how it came
By my troth. A Fencer and I plaid three venies
For a dish of stewd pruines, and I with my ward
Defending my head, he hit my shin: yes faith.

Enter

Enter Maſter Page.

Page. Come, come Maſter *Slender*, dinner ſtaies for you.

Slen. I can eate no meate I thanke you.

Page. You ſhall not chuſe, I ſay.

Slen. Ile follow you ſir, pray leade the way.
Nay by God Miſtris *Anne*, you ſhall go firſt,
I haue more manners then ſo, I hope.

Anne. Well ſir, I will not be troubleſome.

Exit omnes.

Enter Sir Hugh and Simple from dinner.

Sir Hugh. Harke you *Simple*, pray you beare this letter to Doctor *Cayus* houſe, the French Doctor. He is twell vp along the ſtreete, and enquire of his houſe for one Miſtris *Quickly*, his woman, or his try Nurſe, and deliuer this Letter to her, it is about M. *Slender*. Looke you, will you do it now?

Sim. I warrant you ſir.

Sir Hugh. Pray you do, I muſt not be abſent at the grace.
I will go make an end of my dinner,
There is pepions and cheeſe behinde.

Exit omnes.

Enter Sir Iohn Falſtaffes Hoſt of the Garter, Nym, Bardolfe, Piſtoll, and the boy.

Fal. Mine Hoſt of the Garter.

Hoſt.

Host. What saies my bully Rooke?
Speake schollerly and wisely.

Fal. Mine Host, I must turne away some of my followers.

Host. Discard bully, *Hercules* cashire.
Let them wag, trot, trot.

Fal. I sit at ten pound a weeke.

Host. Thou art an Emperor *Caesar*, *Phesser* and *Kesar* bully.
Ile entertaine *Bardolfe*. He shall tap, he shall draw.
Said I well, bully *Hector?*

Fal. Do good mine Host.

Host. I haue spoke. Let him follow. *Bardolfe*,
Let me see thee froth, and lyme.
I am at a word. Follow, follow.

Exit Host.

Fal. Do *Bardolfe*, a Tapster is a good trade,
An old Cloake will make a new Ierkin,
A withered seruingman, a fresh Tapster:
Follow him *Bardolfe*.

Bar. I will sir, Ile warrant you Ile make a good shift to liue.

Exit Bardolfe.

Pis. O base gongarian wight, wilt thou the Spicket weeld?

Nym. His minde is not heroick. And there's the humor of it.

Fal. Well my Laddes, I am almost out at the heeles.

Pis. Why then let cybes ensue.

Nym. I thanke thee for that humor.

Fal.

Falſtaffe. Well, I am glad I am ſo rid of this tinder boy.

His ſtealth was too open, his filching was like
An vnskilfull ſinger, he kept not time.

Nym. The good humour is to ſteale at a minutes reſt.

Piſ. Tis ſo indeed *Nym*, thou haſt hit it right.

Falſtaffe. Wel, afore God I muſt cheate, I muſt conycatch.

Which of you knowes *Foord* of this Towne?

Piſ. I ken the wight, he is of ſubſtance good.

Fal. Well my honeſt Lads, Ile tell you what I am about.

Piſ. Two yards and more.

Fal. No gibes now *Piſtoll*; indeed I am two yards
In the waſte, but now I am about no waſte:
Briefly, I am about thrift you rogues you,
I do intend to make loue to *Foords* wife,
I eſpy entertainment in her. She carues, ſhe
Diſcourſes, ſhe giues the lyre of inuitation,
And euery part to be conſtured rightly is, I am
Sir *Iohn Falſtaffes.*

Piſ. Hee hath ſtudied her well, out of honeſty into Engliſh.

Fal. Now the report goes,
She hath all the rule of her husbands purſe.
She hath Legions of Angels.

Piſ. As many diuels attend her.
And to her boy ſay I.

Fal. Heeres a Letter to her. Heeres another to Miſtreſſe *Page.*

Who euen now gaue me good eyes too, examined my exteriors with such a greedy intention, with the beames of her beauty, that it seemed as shee would a scorged me vp like a burning glasse. Heere is another Letter to her, she beares the purse too. They shall be Exchequers to me, and Ile be cheaters to them both. They shall be my East and West Indies, and Ile trade to them both. Heere, beare thou this Letter to Mistris *Foord*. And thou this to Mistresse *Page*. Wee'l thriue Lads, we will thriue.

Pist. Shall I sir Panderowes of *Troy* become?
And by my sword weare steele.
Then Lucifer take all.

Nym. Here, take your humor Letter againe,
For my part, I will keepe the hauior
Of reputation. And theres the humor of it.

Fal. Heere sirra, beare me these Letters titely,
Saile like my Pinnice to the golden shores:
Hence slaues, avant. Vanish like hailstones, goe.
Falstaffe will learne the humor of this age,
French thrift you rogue, my selfe and scirted Page.

Exit Falstaffe and the boy.

Pis. And art thou gone? Teaster Ile haue in pouch
When thou shalt want, base Phrygian Turke,

Nym. I haue operations in my head, which are humors of reuenge.

Pis. Wilt thou reuenge?

Nym. By *Welkin* and her Fairies.

Pis. By wit, or sword?

Nym. With both the humors I will disclose this loue to *Page*. Ile poses him with Iallowes,

And

And theres the humor of it.

Piſ. And I to *Foord* will likewiſe tell
How *Falſtaffe* varlet vilde,
Would haue her loue, his doue would proue,
And eke his bed defile.

Nym. Let's about it then.

Piſ. Ile ſecond thee : ſir Corporall *Nym* troope on.

Exit omnes

Enter Miſtreſſe Quickly, and Simple.

Quic. M. *Slender* is your Maſters name ſay you?

Sim. I indeed that is his name.

Quick. How ſay you. I take it he is ſomwhat a weakly man:
And he has as it were a whay coloured beard.

Sim. Indeed my Maſters beard is kane coloured.

Quic. Kane colour, you ſay well.
And is this Letter from ſir *Yon*, about Miſtris *Anne*,
Is it not?

Sim. I indeed is it.

Quic. So, and your Maſter would haue me as it were to ſpeake to Miſtris *Anne* concerning him: I promiſe you my Maſter hath a great affectioned minde to Miſtreſſe *Anne* himſelfe. And if he ſhould know that I ſhould as they ſay, giue my verdit for any one but him ſelfe, I ſhould heare of it throughly: For I tell you friend, he puts all his priuities in me.

Sim. I by my faith, you are a good ſtay to him.

Quic. Am I? I if you knew all you'd ſay ſo:
Waſhing, Brewing, Baking, al goes throgh my hands,
Or elſe it would be but a woe houſe.

Sim. I beſhrew me, one woman to do all this,

Is very painfull.

Quick. Are you aduis'd of that? I, I warrant you,
Take all, and pay all, all goe through my hands,
And he is such an honest man, if he should chance
To come and finde a man heere, we should
Haue no hoe with him. Hee's a parlous man.

Sim. Is he indeed?

Quic. Is he, quoth you? God keepe him abroad:
Lord blesse me, who knocks there?
For Gods sake step into the Counting-house,
While I goe see who's at the doore.

He steps into the Counting-house.

What *Iohn Rugby Iohn*,
Are you come sir, already?

She opens the doore.

Doct. I be-gar I be forget my oyntment,
Where be *Iohn Rugby?*

Enter Iohn.

Rug. Heere sir, do you call?

Doct. I you be *Iohn Rugby*, and you be *Iacke Rugby*,
Goe run vp met your heeles, and bring away
De oyntment in de vindoe present:
Make haste *Iohn Rugby*. O I am almost forgot
My simples in a box in de Counting-house:
O Ieshu vat be here, a deuella, a deuilla?
My Rapier *Iohn Rugby*; vat be you, vat make
You in my Counting-house?
I tincke you be a teefe.

Quick. Ieshu blesse me, we are all vndone.

Sim. O Lord sir no: I am no theefe,
I am a Seruingman.

My

My name is *Iohn Simple*, I brought a Letter ſir
From my M. *Slender*, about miſtris *Anne Page*
Sir: Indeed that is my comming.

Doct. I be-gar is dat all? *Iohn Rugby* giue a ma Pen an
Incke: tarche vn pettit tarche a little.

The Doctor writes.

Sim. O God what a furious man is this?

Quick. Nay it is well he is no worſe:
I am glad he is ſo quiet.

Doc. Here, giue that ſame to ſir *Hu*, it ber ve chalenge
Be-gar tell him I will cut his naſe, will you?

Sim. I ſir, Ile tell him ſo.

Doc. Dat be vell, my Rapier *Iohn Rugby*, follow may.

Exit Doctor.

Quick. Well my friend, I cannot tarry,
Tell your Maſter Ile do what I can for him,
And ſo farewell.

Sim. Marry will I, I am glad I am got hence.

Exit omnes.

Enter Miſtreſſe Page, reading of a Letter.

M. Pa. Miſtris *Page* I loue you. Aske me no reaſon,
Beeauſe they'r impoſſible to alledge. You are faire,
And I am fat. You loue ſacke, ſo do I:
As I am ſure I haue no mind but to loue,
So I know you haue no hart but to grant
A ſoldior doth not vſe many words, wher he knowes
A letter may ſerue for a ſentence. I loue you,
And ſo I leaue you.

Yours, Sir Iohn Falſtaffe.

Now Iesu blesse me, am I metaphorphosed?
I think I know not my selfe. Why what a Gods name doth this man see in me, that thus he shootes at my honesty? Well, but that I know my owne heart, I should scarsely perswade my selfe I were hand. Why what an vnreasonable woolsacke is this? He was neuer but twice in my company, and if then I thought I gaue such assurance with my eyes, Ide pull them out, they should neuer see more holy-daies. Well, I shall trust fat men the worse while I liue for his sake. O god, that I knew how to be reuenged of him. But in good time, heeres Mistris *Foord*.

Enter Mistresse Foord.

Mis.For. How now Mistris *Page*, are you reading
Loue Letters? How do you woman?

Mis.Pag. O woman, I am I know not what:
In loue vp to the hard eares. I was neuer in such a case in my life.

Mis.Foord. In loue, now in the name of God with whom?

Mis.Pa. With one that sweares he loues me,
And I must not choose but do the like againe:
I prethee looke on that Letter.

Mis.For. Ile match your letter iust with the like,
Line for line, word for word. Onely the name
Of Mistresse *Page*, and Mistresse *Foord* disagrees:
Do me the kindnesse to looke vpon this.

Mis.Pa. Why this is right my Letter.
O most notorious villaine!
Why what a bladder of iniquity is this?
Let's be reuenged what so ere we do.

Mis.

Miſ.For. Reuenged, if we liue wee'l be reuenged.
O Lord, if my husband ſhould ſee this Letter,
Ifaith this would euen giue edge to his Iealouſie.

Enter Foord, Page, Piſtoll, and Nym.

Miſ.Pa. See where our husbands are,
Mine's as far from Iealouſie,
As I am from wronging him.

Piſ.Foord, the words I ſpeake are forc'ſt:
Beware, take heed, for *Falſtaffe* loues thy wife;
When *Piſtoll* lyes, do this.

Foord. Why ſir, my wife is not young.

Piſ. He wooes both yong & old, both rich & poore,
None comes amiſſe. I ſay he loues thy wife:
Faire warning do I giue, take heed,
For ſummer comes, and Cuckoo birds appeare;
Page beleeue him what he ſes. Away ſir corporal *Nym.*

Exit Piſtoll.

Nym. Sir, the humour of it is, he loues your wife,
I ſhould haue borne the humor Letter to her:
I ſpeake, and I auouch tis true: My name is *Nym.*
Farwell, I loue not the humour of bread and cheeſe,
And there's the humour of it. *Exit Nym.*

Page. The humor of it, quoth you;
Heeres a fellow frites humor out of his wits.

Miſ.Pa. How now ſweete hart, how doſt thou?

Enter Miſtreſſe Quickly.

Pa. How now man? how do you Miſtris *Foord*?

Miſ.Foord. Well I thanke you good M. *Page.*
How now husband, how chance thou art ſo melancholy?

Foord. Melancholy, I am not melancholy.

Goe

Goe get you in, goe.

Mis.Ford. God saue me, see who yonder is,
Wee'l set her a worke in this business.

Mis.Pa. O shee'l serue excellent.
Now you come to see my daughter *Anne* Ime sure.

Quic. I forsooth that's my comming.

Mis.Pa. Come goe in with me. Come Mis.*Ford.*

Mis.For. I follow you, Mistresse *Page.*

Exit Mi.Ford, Mi.Page, and Quickly.

For. M.*Page*, did you heare what these fellows said.

Pa. Yes Master *Ford*, what of that sir?

For. Do you thinke it is true that they told vs?

Pag. No by my troth do I not,
I rather take them to be paltry lying knaues,
Such as rather speake of enuy,
Then of any certainty they haue
Of any thing. And for the Knight, perhaps
He hath spoke merrily, as the fashion of fat men
Are: But should he loue my wife,
Ifaith Ide turne her loose to him:
And what he got more of her,
Then ill lookes, and shrewd words,
Why let me beare the penalty of it.

For. Nay I do not mistrust my wife,
Yet Ide be loth to turne them together,
A man may be too confident.

Enter Host and Shallow.

Pa. Heere comes my ramping Host of the Garter,
There's eyther licker in his head, or mony in his purse,
That he lookes so merrily. Now mine Host.

Host. God blesse you my bully rooks, God bles you.

Caualera

Caualera Iuſtice I ſay.

Shal. At hand mine hoſt, at hand M. *Ford*, god den t'e
God den an twenty good M. *Page*.
I tell you ſir we haue ſport in hand.

Hoſt. Tell him caualira Iuſtice; tell him bully rooke.

Ford. Mine Hoſt of the Garter.

Hoſt. What ſaies my bully rooke?

Ford. A word with you ſir.

Ford and the Hoſt talkes:

Sh. Harke you ſir, Ile tell you what the ſport ſhalbe
Doctor *Cayus* and ſir *Hugh* are to fight,
My merry Hoſt hath had the meaſuring
Of their weapons, and hath appointed them
Contrary places. Harke in your eare.

Hoſt. Haſt thou no ſhute againſt my Knight,
My gueſt, my Caualera.

For. None I proteſt: But tell him
My name is *Brooke*, onely for a ieſt.

Hoſt. Thy hand bully; thou ſhalt
Haue egres and regres, and thy
Name ſhall be *Brooke*: Sed I well bully Hector?

Shal. I tell you what M. *Page*, I beleeue
The Doctor is no ieaſter, hee'l lay it on:
For though we be Iuſtices and Doctors,
And Church-men, yet we are
The ſonnes of women M. *Page*.

Page. True Maſter *Shallow*.

Shal. It will be found ſo Maſter *Page*.

Pa. Maſter *Shallow*, you your ſelfe
Haue beene a great fighter,
Though now a man of peace.

Shal: M. *Page*, I haue ſeene the day that yong
Tall fellowes with their ſtroke and their paſſado,
I haue made them trudge Maſter *Page*,
A tis the heart, the heart doth all:
I haue ſeene the day, with my two hand ſword
I would a made you foure tall Fencers
Scipped like Rats.

Hoſt: Here boyes, ſhall we wag, ſhall we wag?

Shal. Ha with you mine hoſt.

Exit Hoſt and Shallow.

Page: Come M. *Ford*, ſhall we to dinner?
I know theſe fellowes ſticks in your minde.

For: No in good ſadneſſe, not in mine:
Yet for all this Ile try it further,
I will not leaue it ſo:
Come M. *Page*, ſhall we to dinner?

Page. With all my heart ſir, Ile follow you.

Exit omnes.

Enter Sir Iohn and Piſtoll.

Fal: Ile not lend thee a peny.

Piſtoll: I will retort the ſum in equipage.

Fal: Not a peny: I haue bin content you ſhould lay my countenance to pawne: I haue grated vppon my good friends for three repriues, for you and your Coach-fellow *Nym*, elſe you might haue looked thorough a grate like a geminy of Baboones. I am damned in hel for ſwearing to Gentlemen y'are good ſoldiers and tall fellowes: And when miſtris *Bridget* loſt the handle of her Fan, I tooke it on my honeſty thou hadſt it not.

Piſ.

Piſtoll: Didſt thou not ſhare? hadſt thou not fifteene pence?

Fal: Reaſon you rogue, reaſon.

Doſt thou thinke Ile endanger my ſoule gratis?
In briefe, hang no more about me, I am no gybite for you. A ſhort knife and a throng to your manner of pickt-hatch, goe. You'l not beare a Letter for me you rogue you: you ſtand vpon your honour. Why thou vnconfinable baſeneſſe thou, tis as much as I can doe to keepe the termes of my honor preciſe. I, I my ſelfe ſomtimes, leauing the feare of God on the left hand, am faine to ſhuffle, to filch and to lurch. And yet you ſtand vpon your honour, you rogue: you, you.

Piſtoll: I do recant, what woldſt thou more of man?

Fal: Well, go too, away, no more.

Enter Miſtreſſe Quickly.

Quic: Good you god den ſir.

Fal: Good den faire wife.

Quic: Not ſo ant like your worſhip.

Fal: Faire maid then.

Quic: That I am Ile be ſworne, as my Mother was
The firſt houre I was borne.
Sir, I would ſpeake with you in priuate.

Fal: Say on I prethee, heeres none but my owne houſhold.

Quic: Are they ſo? Now God bleſſe them, & make them his ſeruants.
Sir, I come from Miſtris *Foord.*

Fal: So, from miſtris *Foord.* Goe on.

Quic: I ſir, ſhe hath ſent me to you to let you
Vnderſtand ſhe hath receiued your Letter,

And I tell you, she is one that stands on her credit.

Fal. Well, come Mistris *Ford*, Mistris *Ford*.

Quic. I sir, and as they say, she is not the first
Hath bene led in a fooles paradice.

Fal. Nay prethee be briefe, my good she *Mercury*

Quic. Marry sir, shee'd haue you meete her
Betweene eight and nine.

Fal. So, betweene eight and nine.

Qu. I forsooth, for then her husband goes a birding

Fal. Well, commend me to thy Mistris, tell her
I will not faile her: Boy, giue her my purse.

Quic. Nay sir, I haue another errant to do to you,
From Mistris *Page*.

Fal. From Mistris *Page*? I prethee what of her?

Qu. By my troth I think you work by inchantments.
Else could they neuer loue you as they do.

Fal. Not I, I assure thee; setting the attraction
Of my good parts aside, I vse no other inchantments.

Quick. Well sir, she loues you extremely,
And let me tell you, shee's one that feares God,
And her husband giues her leaue to do all:
For he is not halfe so iealous as M. *Ford* is.

Fal. But hark thee, hath mistris *Page* & mistris *Ford*
Acquainted each other how dearely they loue me?

Quic. O God no sir; there were a iest indeed.

Fal. Well farwell, commend me to Mistris *Foord*,
I will not faile her say.

Quic. God be with your Worship.

Exit Mistresse Quickly.

Enter Bardolfe.

Bar. Sir, heeres a Gentleman,

One

One M.*Brooke*, would ſpeake with you,
He hath ſent you a cup of ſacke.

Fal. M.*Brooke*, hee's welcome, bid him come vp,
Such *Brookes* are alwaies welcome to me:
A *Iacke*, will thy old body yet hold out?
Wilt thou after the expence of ſo much money,
Be now a gayner? Good booty I thanke thee,
And ile make more of thee then I haue done:
Ha, ha, miſtris *Ford*, and miſtris *Page*, haue
I caught you ath the hip? go too.

Enter Ford diſguiſed like Brooke.

For. God ſaue you ſir.

Fal. And you too, would you ſpeake with me?

For. Marry would I ſir, I am ſomewhat bold
To trouble you. My name is *Brooke*.

Fal. Good M.*Brooke*, y'are very welcome.

For. Ifaith ſir Ime a gentleman and a traueller,
That haue ſeene ſomewhat. And I haue often heard
That if mony goes before, all waies lye open.

Fal. Mony is a good ſouldior ſir, and will on.

For. Ifaith ſir, and I haue a bag here,
Would you would helpe me to beare it.

Fal. O Lord, would I could tell how to deſerue
To be your Porter.

For. That may you eaſily ſir *Iohn*: I haue an earneſt
Sute to you. But good ſir *Iohn*, when I haue
Told you my griefe, caſt one eye of your owne
Eſtate, ſince your ſelfe knew what tis to be
Such an offender.

Fal. Very well ſir, proceed.

For: Sir, I am deeply in loue with one *Fords* wife of this towne. Now sir *Iohn* you are a gentleman of good discoursing, well beloued among Ladies, a man of such parts that might win twenty such as she.

Fal: Oh good sir.

For: Nay beleeue it sir *Iohn*, for tis time.
Now my loue is so grounded vpon her,
That without her loue I shall hardly liue.

Fal: Haue you importuned her by any meanes?

Foord: No, neuer sir.

Fal: Of what quality is your loue then?

Foord: Ifaith sir, like a faire house set vpon
Another mans foundation.

Fal: And to what end haue you vnfolded this to me

For: O sir, when I haue told you that, I told you all:
For she sir stands so pure in the firme state
Of her honesty, that she is too bright to be looked
Against: Now could I come against her
With some detection, I should sooner perswade her
From her marriage vow, and a hundred such nice
Tearmes that shee'l stand vpon.

Fal: Why would it apply well to the veruensie of your affection,
That another should possesse what you wold enioy?
Me-thinks you prescribe very preposterously to your selfe.

For: No sir, for by that means should I be certain of that which I now misdoubt.

Fal: Wel M. *Brook*, Ile first make bold with your (mony,
Next giue me your hand. Lastly, you shall
If you will, enioy *Foords* Wife.

Ford:

Foord. Oh good ſir.

Fal. Maſter *Brooke*, I ſay you ſhall.

For. Want no mony Sir *Iohn*, you ſhal want none.

Fal. Want no miſtris *Foord*, maſter *Brooke*,
You ſhall want none. Euen as you came to me,
Her ſpokes mate, her go betweene parted from me;
I may tell you M. *Brooke*, I am to meete her
Betweene eight and nine, for at that time the ielous
Cuckally knaue her husband will be from home,
Come to me ſoone at night, you ſhall know
How I ſpeed, M. *Brooke*.

Ford. Sir, do you know *Foord?* (not,

Fal. Hang him poore cuckally knaue, I know him
And yet I wrong him to call him poore. For they
Say the cuckally knaue hath legions of Angels,
For the which his wife ſeemes to me well fauoured,
And Ile vſe her as the key of the cukally knaues
Coffer, and there's my randeuowes.

Foord. Me-thinks ſir it were good that you knew
Foord, that you might ſhun him.

Fal. Hang him cuckally knaue, Ile ſtare him
Out of his wits, Ile keepe him in awe
With this my cudgell: it ſhall hang like a meator
Ore the wittolly knaues head, M. *Brooke* thou ſhalt
See I will predominate ore the peaſant,
And thou ſhalt lye with his wife. Maſter *Brooke*,
Thou ſhalt know him for knaue and cuckold,
Come to me ſoone at night.

Exit Falſtaffe.

Foord. What a damned Epicurian is this?
My wife hath ſent for him, the plot is laid:

Page is an Asse, a foole, a secure Asse,
Ile sooner trust an Irishman with my
Aquauita bottle, Sir *Hu* our Parson with my cheese,
A theefe to walke my ambling gelding, then my wife
With her selfe: then she plots, then she ruminates,
And what she thinks in her heart she may effect,
Shee'l breake her heart but she will effect it.
God be praised, God be praised for my iealousie:
Well, Ile go preuent him, the time drawes on,
Better an houre too soone, then a minute too late,
Gods my life, cuckold, cuckold. *Exit Ford.*

Enter the Doctor and his man.

Doct. Iohn Rugby, go look met your eyes ore de stal,
And spie and you can see the Parson.

Rug. Sir, I cannot tell whether he be there or no,
But I see a gteat many comming.

Doct. Bully moy, mon rapier *Iohn Rugby*, be-gar de
Herring be not so dead as I shall make him.

Enter Shallow, Page, Host, and Slender.

Page. God saue you M. Doctor *Cayus.*

Shal. How do you Master Doctor?

Ho. God blesse thee my bully doctor, God bles thee.

Doct. Vat be all you, Van to tree come for a?

Host. Bully to see thee fight, to see thee foine, to see thee trauerse, to see thee heere, to see thee there, to see thee passe the punto: the stocke, the reuerse, the distance, the montnce is a dead my francoyes? Is a dead my Ethiopian? Ha, what saies my gallon? my Escuolapis? Is a dead bullies taile, is a dead?

Doct.

Doct. Be-gar de preeſt be a coward Iacke knaue,
He dare not ſhew his face.

Hoſt. Thou art a caſtallian King, Vrinall.
Hector of Greece my boy.

Shal. He hath ſhewne himſelfe the wiſer man, M. Doctor.
Sir *Hugh* is a Parſon, and you a Phyſition. You muſt
Goe with me, M. Doctor.

Hoſt. Pardon bully Iuſtice. A word mounſir mock-(water.

Doct. Mockwater, vat be dat?

Hoſt. That is in our Engliſh tongue, Vallor bully, vallor.

Doct. Be-gar den I haue as mockuater as de Inglisſh Iacke dog, knaue.

Hoſt. He will claperclaw thee titely bully.

Doct. Claperclaw, vat be dat?

Hoſt. That is, he will make thee amends.

Doct. Begar I do looke he ſhall claperclaw me den,
And Ile prouoke him to do it, or let him wag:
And moreouer bully, but M. *Page* and M. *Shallow*,
And eke Caualera *Slender*, goe you all ouer the fields to Frogmore.

Pa. Sir *Hugh* is there, is he?

Hoſt. He is there; go ſee what humor he is in,
Ile bring the Doctor about by the fields;
Will it do well?

Shal. We will do it my Hoſt. Farwell M. Doctor.

Exit all but the Hoſt and Doctor.

Doct. Be-gar I will kill de cowardly Iack preeſt,
He is make a foole of moy.

Hoſt. Let him die, but firſt ſheath your impatience,

Throw cold water on your collor, come go with me
Through the fields to *Frogmore*, and Ile bring thee
Where Mistris *Anne Page* is feasting at a farm house,
And thou shalt wear her cried game: sed I well bully

Doct. Begar excellent vel: and if you speake pour moy, I shall procure you de guests of all de gentlemẽ mon patients. I be-gar I sall.

Host. For the which Ile be thine aduersary
To Mistris *Anne Page*: Sed I well?

Doct. I be-gar, excellent.

Host. Let vs wag then.

Doct. Alon, alon, alon.

Exit omnes.

Enter Sir Hugh and Simple.

Sir Hu. I pray you do so much as see if you can espy
Doctor *Cayus* comming, and giue me intelligence,
Or bring me vrde if you please now.

Sim. I will sir.

Sir Hu. Ieshu ples me, how my hart trobes & trobes
And then she made him bedes of Roses,
And a thousand fragrant poses,
To shallow riuers. Now so kad vdge me, my hart
Swels more and more. Me-thinks I can cry
Very well. There dwelt a man in *Babylon*,
To shallow riuers and to falles,
Melodious birds sing Madrigalles.

Sim. Sir, here is M. *Page*, and M. *Shallow*,
Comming hither as fast as they can.

Sir Hu. Then it is very necessary I put vp my sword,
Pray giue me my cowne too, marke you.

Enter

Enter Page, Shallow, and Slender.

Pa. God ſaue you Sir *Hugh.*

Shal. God ſaue you M. Parſon.

Sir Hu. God ples you all frõ his mercies ſake now.

Page. What, the word and the ſword, doth that agree well?

Sir Hugh. There is reaſons and cauſes in all things, I warrant you now.

Page. Well ſir *Hugh*, we are come to craue
Your helpe and furtherance in a matter.

Sir Hugh. What is it I pray you?

Page. Ifaith tis this ſir *Hugh.* There is an auncient friend of ours, a man of very good ſort, ſo at ods with one patience, that I am ſure you would hartily grieue to ſee him. Now ſir *Hugh*, you are a ſcholler well red, and very perſwaſiue, we would entreate you to ſee if you could intreate him to patience.

Sir Hugh. I pray you who is it? Let vs know that.

Page. Ime ſure you know him, tis Doctor *Cayus.*

Sir Hug. I had as leeue you ſhould tell mee of a meſſe of porredge,
He is an arrant lowſie beggerly knaue:
And he is a coward beſide.

Page. Why Ile lay my life tis the man
That he ſhould fight withall.

Enter Doctor and the Hoſt, they offer to fight.

Shal. Keep them aſunder, take away their weapons.

Hoſt. Diſarme, let them queſtion.

Shal. Let them keepe their limbes hole, and hacke our Engliſh.

Doct. Harke van vrd in your eare: you be vn daga
And de Iack coward Preest.

Sir Hugh. Harke you, let vs not be laughing stockes to other mens humors. By Iesu I will knock your vrinals about your knaues coxcomb, for missing your meetings and appointments.

Doct. O Iesu, mine Host of the Garter, *Iohn Rugby*,
Haue not I met him at de place he make apoint,
Haue I not?

Sir Hu. So kad vdge me, this is the pointment place,
Witnesse by my Host of the Garter.

Ho. Peace I say *gawle* and *Gawlia*, *French* and *Welch*,
Soule-curer and body-curer.

Doct. This be very braue, excellent.

Host. Peace I say, heare mine host of the garter,
Am I wise? am I polliticke? am I Matchauill?
Shal I lose my Doctor? No, he giues me the motions
And the potions. Shal I lose my Parson, my sir *Hugh*?
No, he giues me the prouerbs, and the nouerbs:
Giue me thy hand terestiall,
So giue me thy hand celestiall:
So boyes of Art I haue deceiu'd you both,
I haue directed you to wrong places,
Your hearts are mighty, your skins are whole,
Bardolfe, lay their swords to pawne.
Follow me Lads of peace, follow me.
Ha, ra, la. Follow. *Exit Host.*

Shal. Afore God a mad host, come let's goe.

Doct. I be-gar, haue you mocka may thus?
I will be euen met you my Iack Host.

Sir Hugh. Giue me your hand Doctor *Cayus*,

Wee

We be all friends:
But for mine hoſts fooliſh knauery, let me alone.
Doct. I dat be vell begar, I be friends.

Exit omnes.

Enter Maſter Foord.

For. The time drawes on he ſhold come to my houſe
Well wife, you had beſt worke cloſely,
Or I am like to goe beyond your cunning:
I now will ſeeke my gueſts that come to dinner,
And in good time, ſee where they all are come.

Enter Shallow, Page, Hoſt, Slender, Doctor, and ſir Hugh.

By my faith a knot well met: y'are welcome all.
Page. I thanke you good M. *Foord.*
For. Welcome good M. *Page.*
I would your daughter were here.
Page. I thanke you ſir, ſhe is very well at home.
Slen. Father *Page*, I hope I haue your conſent
For Miſtris *Anne.*
Pag. You haue ſonne *Slender*, but my wife here,
Is altogether for Maſter Doctor.
Doct. Be-gar I tanke her heartily.
Hoſt. But what ſay you to yong maſter *Fenton*?
He capers, he dances, he writes verſes, he ſmels
All Aprill and May: he will cary it, he will carit,
Tis in his betmes he will carite.
Pa. My hoſt not with my conſent:
The gentleman is wilde, he knowes too much:
If he take her, let him take her ſimply;
For my goods goes with my liking;

And my liking goes not that way.

For. Well, I pray go home with me to dinner:
Besides your cheare, Ile shew you wonders:
Ile shew you a monster. You shall go with me
M. *Page*, and so shall you sir *Hugh*,
And you Master Doctor.

Sir Hu. If there be one in the company, I shall make (two

Doct. And dere be ven two, I sall make de tird.

Sir Hugh. In your teeth for shame.

Shal. Well, well, God be with you, we shall haue the fairer wooing at M. *Pages*.

Exit Shallow and Slender.

Host. Ile to my honest Knight sir *Iohn Falstaffe*,
And drinke Canary with him. *Exit Host.*

For. I may chance to make him drink in pipe wine,
First come gentlemen. *Exit omnes.*

Enter Mistresse Foord, with two of her men, and a great Buck-basket.

Mis. For. Sirra, if your M. aske you whither
You carry this basket, say to the Landerers,
I hope you know how to bestow it.

Ser. I warrant you Mistris. *Exit Seruant.*

Mis. For. Go get you in. Well sir *Iohn*,
I beleeue I shall serue you such a tricke,
You shall haue little minde to come againe.

Enter Sir Iohn.

Fal. Haue I caught my heauenly Iewell?
Why now let me dye. I haue liued long enough,
This is the happy houre I haue desired to see,

Now

Now ſhall I ſin in my wiſh,
I would thy husband were dead.

Miſ.For. Why how then ſir *Iohn*?

Fal. By the Lord, Ide make thee my Lady.

Miſ.For. Alaſſe ſir *Iohn*, I ſhould be a very ſimple Lady.

Fal. Goe too, I ſee how thy eye doth emulate the Diamond.

And how the arched bent of thy brow
Would become the ſhip tire, the tire vellet,
Or any venetian attire, I ſee it.

M:For. A plaine kercher ſir *Iohn* would fit me better.

Fal. By the Lord thou art a traitor to ſay ſo:
What made me loue thee? Let that perſwade thee
There's ſome-what extraordinary in thee:
Goe too, I loue thee:
Miſtris *Foord*, I cannot cog, I cannot prate,
Like one of theſe fellowes that ſmels like
Bucklers-bery, in ſimple time,
But I loue thee, and none but thee.

M: For. Sir *Iohn*, I am afraid you loue Miſtris *Page*.

Fal. I, thou mightſt as well ſay
I loue to walke by the Counter-gate,
Which is as hateſull to me
As the reake of a lime kill.

Enter Miſtreſſe Page.

M:Page. Miſtris *Ford*, miſtris *Ford*, where are you?

M:For. O Lord ſtep aſide good ſir *Iohn*.

Falſtaffe ſtands behinde the Arras.

How now Miſtris *Page*, what's the matter?

Mis.Pa. Why your husband woman is coming,
With halfe *Windsor* at his heeles,
To looke for a gentleman, that he saies
Is hid in this house: his wifes sweet-heart.

Mis.For. Speake louder. But I hope tis not true Mistris *Page.*

Mis.Pa. Tis too true woman. Therefore if you haue any heere, away with him, or y'are vndone for euer.

Mi.For. Alasse Mistris *Page*, what shall I do?
Heeres a gentleman my Friend, how shall I do?

Mis.Page. Gods body woman, do not stand what shall I do, and what shall I do. Better any shift, rather then you shamed. Looke here, heere's a Buck-basket, if he be a man of any reasonable size, hee'l in heere.

Mis.For. Alasse, I feare he is to big.

Fal. Let me see, let me see, Ile in, Ile in,
Follow your friends counsell.

Mis.Page. Fie sir *Iohn*, is this your loue? Go too.

Fal. I loue thee, and none but thee:
Helpe me to conuey me hence,
Ile neuer come heere more.

Sir Iohn goes into the Basket, they put cloathes ouer him, the two men carries it away: Foord meetes it, and all the rest, Page, Doctor, Priest, Slender, Shallow.

Ford. Come pray along, you shall see all.
How now who goes heere? Whither goes this?
Whither goes it? set it downe.

Mis.Ford. Now let it go, you had best meddle with buck-washing.

Foord.

Ford. Buck, good bucke, pray come along,
Maſter *Page*, take my keyes: helpe to ſearch.
Good Sir *Hugh* pray come along, helpe a little,
A little, ile ſhew you all.

Sir Hu. By Ieſhu theſe are iealouſies & diſtempers.

Exit omnes.

Miſ: Page. He is in a pittifull taking.

Miſ: Foord. I wonder what he thought
When my husband bad them ſet downe the basket.

Miſ: Page. Hang him diſhoneſt ſlaue, we cannot vſe
Him bad enough. This is excellent for your
Husbands iealouſie.

Miſ: For. Alas poore ſoule, it grieues me at the hart,
But this will be a meanes to make him ceaſe
His iealous fits, if *Falſtaffes* loue increaſe.

M: Page. Nay we will ſend to *Falſtaffe* once againe,
Tis great pitty we ſhould leaue him ſo:
What, wiues may be merry, and yet honeſt too.

M: For. Shall we be condemnd becauſe we laugh?
Tis old, but true; ſtill ſowes eate all the draffe.

Enter all.

M: Pa. Here comes your husband, ſtand aſide.

For. I can finde no body within, it may be he lyed.

Miſ: Page. Did you heare that?

Miſ: Ford. I, I, peace.

For. Well, ile not let it go ſo, yet ile try further.

Sir Hu. By Ieſhu if there be any body in the kitchin
Or the Cuberts, or the Preſſe, or the Buttery,
I am an arrant Iew: Now God pleſſe me:
You ſerue me well, do you not?

Page. Fie M. *Ford*, you are too blame.

Mis:Page. Ifaith tis not well M. *Ford* to suspect her thus without a cause.

Doct. No by my trot it be no vell.

For. Well, I pray beare with me, M. *Page* pardon me I suffer for it, I suffer for it.

Sir Hu. You suffer for a bad conscience, look you now

Foord. Well, I pray no more, another time Ile tell you all:

The meane time go dine with me, pardon me wife,
I am sorry; M. *Page*, pray go in to dinner,
Another time Ile tell you all.

Pa. Well let it be so, and to morrow I inuite you all to my house to dinner: and in the morning wee'l a birding, I haue an excellent Hawke for the bush.

Ford. Let it be so: Come M. *Page*, come wife;
I pray you come in all, y'are welcome, pray come in.

Sir Hugh: By so kad vdge me, M. *Foord* is not in his right wits. *Exit omnes.*

Enter Sir Iohn Falstaffe, and Bardolfe.

Fal. Bardolfe, brew me a pottle of sacke presently.

Bar: With Egges sir?

Falstaff. Simply of it selfe, Ile none of these Pullets sperme in my drinke: goe make haste. Haue I liued to be carried in a basket and throwne into the thames like a Barow of butchers offoll. Well, if I be serued such another tricke, Ile giue them leaue to take out my braines and butter them, and giue them to a Dog for a new-yeares gift. Sbloud, the rogues slided me in with as little remorse as if they had gone to drowne a blinde Bitches puppies in the litter: and they might know

know by my ſize I haue a kinde of alacrity in ſinking: if the bottome had bin as deep as hell I ſhould down. I had bene drowned, but that the ſhore was ſheluie and ſomewhat ſhallow: a death that I abhorre. For you know the water ſwels a man: and what a thing ſhould I haue bene when I had bene ſwelled? By the Lord a mountaine of money. Now is the Sacke brewed?

Bar. I ſir, there's a woman below would ſpeak with you.

Fal. Bid her come vp. Let me put ſome ſack among this cold water, for my belly is as cold as if I had ſwallowed ſnow-bals for pilles.

Enter Miſtreſſe Quickly.

Now what's the newes with you?

Quic. I come from Miſtris *Foord* forſooth.

Fal. Miſtris *Ford*, I haue had Ford enough,
I haue bene throwne into the Foord,
My belly is full of Foord: ſhe hath tickled me.

Quic. O Lord ſir, ſhe is the ſorrowfulleſt woman that her ſeruants miſtooke, that euer liued. And ſir, ſhe would deſire you of all loues you will meete her once againe, to morrow ſir, betweene ten and eleuen, and ſhe hopes to make amends for all.

Fal. Ten and eleuen, ſaiſt thou?

Quic. I forſooth.

Fal. Well, tell her Ile meet her. Let her but think
Of mans frailty: Let her iudge what man is,
And then thinke of me. And ſo farwell.

Quic. You'l not faile sir?

Exit Mistris Quickly.

Fal. I will not faile. Commend me to her.
I wonder I heare not of M. *Brooke*, I like his
Mony well. By the masse heere he is.

Enter Brooke.

Ford: God saue you sir.

Fal. Welcome good M. *Brook*. You come to know how matters goes.

Ford: That's my comming indeed sir *Iohn*.

Fal. Master *Brooke* I will not lye to you sir,
I was there at my appointed time.

For. And how sped you sir?

Fal. Very ilfauouredly sir.

For. Why sir, did she change her determination?

Fal: No M. *Brooke*, but you shall heare. After we had kissed and imbraced, and as it were amid the prologue of our encounter, who should come, but the iealous knaue her husband, and a rabble of his companions at his heeles, thither prouoked and instigated by his distemper. And what to do thinke you? to search for his wiues Loue. Euen so, plainly so.

For: While ye were there?

Fal: Whilst I was there.

For: And did he search and could not finde you?

Fal: You shall heare sir, as God would haue it,
A little before comes me one *Pages* Wife,
Giues her intelligence of her husbands
Approch: and by her inuention, and *Fords* wiues
Distraction, conueyed me into a buck-basket.

Ford. A buck-basket!

Fal.

Fal. By the Lord a buck-basket, ram'd me in
With foule ſhirts, ſtockins, greaſie napkins,
That M. *Brooke*, there was a compound of the moſt
Villanous ſmell, that euer offended noſtrill.
Ile tell you M. *Brooke*, by the Lord for your ſake
I ſuffered three egregious deaths: Firſt to be
Crammed like a good bilbow, in the circumference
Of a pack, hilt to point, heele to head: and then to
Be ſtewed in my owne greaſe like a dutch diſh;
A man of my kidney; by the Lord it was maruell
I eſcaped ſuffication; and in the heate of all this,
To be throwne into Thames like a horſhooe hot:
Maiſter *Brooke*, thinke of that hiſſing heate,
Maſter *Brooke*.

Foord. Well ſir, then my ſute is voide,
You'l vndertake it no more?

Fal. Maſter *Brooke*, Ile be throwne into *Etna*
As I haue beene in the Thames,
Ere thus I leaue her: I haue receiued
Another appointment of meeting,
Betweene ten and eleuen is the houre.

Ford. Why ſir, tis almoſt ten already.

Fal. Is it? why then will I addreſſe my ſelfe
For my appointment: M. *Brooke*, come to me
Soone at night, and you ſhall know how I ſpeed,
And the end ſhall be, you ſhall enioy her loue:
You ſhall cuckold *Foord*: Come to me ſoone at night.

Exit Falſtaffe.

Ford. Is this a dreame? Is it a viſion?
Maſter *Ford*, maſter *Ford*, awake maſter *Ford*,
There is a hole made in your beſt coat M. *Foord*.

And a man shall not onely endure this wrong,
But shall stand vnder the taunt of names,
Lucifer is a good name, *Barbason* good: good
Diuels names: But cuckold, wittoll, godso
The diuell himselfe hath not such a name:
And they may hang hats heere, and napkins heere
Vpon my hornes: Well Ile home, Ile ferit him,
And vnlesse the diuell himselfe should aide him,
Ile search vnpossible places: Ile about it,
Least I repent too late.

Exit omnes.

Enter M. Fenton, Anne Page, and Mistresse Quickly.

Fen. Tell me sweet *Nan*, how dost thou yet resolue,
Shall foolish *Slender* haue thee to his wife?
Or one as wise as he, the learned Doctor?
Shall such as they enioy thy maiden heart?
Thou knowst that I haue alwayes loued thee deare,
And thou hast oft-times swore the like to me.

Anne. Good M. *Fenton*, you may assure your selfe
My heart is setled vpon none but you,
Tis as my Father and Mother please:
Get their consent, you quickly shall haue mine.

Fen. Thy father thinks I loue thee for his wealth,
Though I must needs confesse at first that drew me,
But since thy vertues wiped that trash away,
I loue thee *Nan*, and so deare is it set,
That whilst I liue, I nere shall thee forget.

Quick. Gods pitty here comes her father.

Enter M. Page, his wife, M. Shallow, and Slender.

Page. M. *Fenton*, I pray what make you heere?

You

You know my anſwer ſir, ſhee's not for you:
Knowing my vow, too blame you are to vſe me thus.

Fen. Pray heare me ſpeake ſir.

Page. Pray ſir get you gone:
Come hither daughter, Sonne *Slender*
Let me ſpeake with you. *They whiſper.*

Quick. Speake to Miſtris *Page.*

Fen. Pray Miſtris *Page* let me haue your conſent.

Miſ:Pa. Ifaith M. *Fenton* tis as my husband pleaſe,
For my part, Ile neyther hinder you, nor further you.

Quick. How ſay you, this was my doings,
I bad you ſpeake to Miſtris *Page.*

Fen. Here nurſe, theres a brace of angels to drink,
Worke what thou canſt for me, farwell.

Exit Fenton.

Quick. By my troth ſo I will, good hart.

Pa. Come wife, you & I will in, wee'l leaue M. *Slender*
And my daughter to talke together. M. *Shallow*,
You may ſtay ſir if you pleaſe.

Exit Page and his Wife.

Shal: Marry I thanke you for that:
To her couſin, to her.

Slen: Ifaith I know not what to ſay.

Anne. Now M. *Slender*, what's your will?

Slen. Godeſo, there's a ieaſt indeed:
Why Miſtris *Anne* I neuer made will yet:
I thanke God I am wiſe enough for that.

Shal. Fie cuſſe fie, thou art not right,
O thou hadſt a Father.

Slen. I had a father Miſtris *Anne*, good Vnckle
Tell the Ieſt how my father ſtole the Gooſe out of

The

The henloft. All this is nought,
Harke you mistresse *Anne*.

Shal. Hee will make you ioynter of three hundred pound a yeare, he shall make you a Gentlewoman.

Slend. I by God that I will, come cut and longtaile, as good as any is in *Glostershire*, vnder the degree of a Squire.

Anne. O God, how many grosse faults are hid
And couered in three hundred pound a yeate?
Well M. *Slender*, within a day or two ile tell you more

Slen. I thanke you good mistris *Anne*; Vnckle I shal haue her.

Quic. M. *Shallow*, M. *Page* would pray you to come in, and you M. *Slender*, and you mistris *Anne*.

Slend. Well Nurse, if you'l speake for me,
Ile giue you more then Ile talke of.

Exit all but Quickly.

Quic. Indeed I will, Ile speake what I can for you,
But specially for Master *Fenton*,
But specially of all for my Master.
And indeed I will do what I can for them all three.

Exit.

Enter Mistris Foord and her two men.

Mis: For. Do you heare? when your Master comes take vp this basket as you did before, and if your Master bid you set it downe, obey him.

Ser. I will forsooth.

Enter Sir Iohn.

Mis. foord. Sir *Iohn*, welcome.

Fal. What, are you sure of your husband now?

Mis. foord. He is gone a birding sir *Iohn*, & I hope will

will not come yet.

Enter Miſtreſſe Page.

Gods body here is Miſtris *Page*,
Step behinde the Arras good ſir *Iohn*.

He ſteps behinde the Arras.

Miſ: Pa. Miſtris *Foord*, why woman, your husband is in his old vaine againe, hee's comming to ſearch for your ſweete-heart, but I am glad he is not here.

Miſ: For. O God miſtris *Page*, the Knight is here,
What ſhall I do?

Miſ: Pa. Why then y'are vndone woman,
Vnleſſe you make ſome meanes to ſhift him away.

Miſ: For. Alaſſe I know no meanes,
Vnleſſe we put him in the basket againe.

Fal: No Ile come no more in the basket,
Ile creepe vp into the chimney.

Miſ: For. There they vſe to diſcharge their fowling peeces.

Fal: Why then Ile go out of doores.

Miſ: Pa. Then you are vndone, y'are but a dead man

Fal: For Gods ſake deuiſe any extremity,
Rather then a miſchiefe.

Miſ: Pa. Alaſſe I know not what meanes to make,
If there were any womans apparell would fit him,
He might put on a gowne and a muffler,
And ſo eſcape.

Miſ: For. That's well remembred, my maids Ant *Gillian* of *Brainford*, hath a gowne aboue.

Miſ: Pa. And ſhe is altogether as fat as he.

Miſ: For. I that will ſerue him of my word.

Miſ: Page. Come goe with me ſir *Iohn*,

Ile helpe to dresse you.

Fal. Come for Gods sake, any thing.

Exit Mis: Page, and Sir Iohn.

Enter Foord, Page, Hugh, Shallow, the two men carries the Basket, and Foord meetes it.

For. Come along I pray, you shal know the cause,
How now, whither goe you? Ha, whither go you?
Set downe the Basket you slaue,
You panderly rogue set it downe.

Mis: For. What is the reason that you vse me thus?

For. Come hither, set downe the basket,
Mistris *Foord* the modest woman,
Mistris *Foord* the vertuous woman,
She that hath the icalous foole to her husband,
I mistrust you without cause, do I not?

Mis: For. I God's my record do you,
If you mistrust me in any ill sort.

Foord. Well sed brazen face, hold it out,
You youth in a basket, come out heere,
Pull out the cloathes, search.

Hu. Ieshu ples me, will you pul vp your wiues cloths

Page. Fie M. *Foord*, you are not to go abroad if you be in these fits.

Sir Hugh. So kad vdge me, tis very necessary
He were put in pethlem.

For. M. *Page*, as I am an honest man M. *Page*,
There was one conueyd out of my house here yesterday out of this basket, why may he not be here now?

Mis: For. Mistris *Page*, bring the old woman downe.

For. Olde woman, what olde woman?

Mis: Foord.

Miſ: For. Why my maids Ant, *Gillian* of *Brainford*.

For. A witch, haue I not fore-warnd her my houſe?
Alaſſe we are ſimple we, we know not what
Is brought to paſſe vnder the color of fortune-telling.
Come downe you witch, come downe.

Enter Falſtaffe diſguiſed like an olde woman, & Miſtris Page with him, Foord beates him, and he runs away.

Away you witch, get you gone.

Hu. By Ieſhu I verily thinke ſhe is a witch indeed,
I eſpied vnder her muffler a great beard.

Foord. Pray come helpe me to ſearch, pray now.

Page. Come, wee'l go for his mindes ſake.

Exit omnes.

Miſ. For. By my troth he beate him moſt extremely.

Miſ: Pa. I am glad of it, what ſhall we proceede any further?

Miſ: For. No faith, now if you will let vs tell our husbands of it. For mine Ime ſure hath almoſt fretted himſelfe to death.

Miſ: Pa. Content, come wee'l go tell them all,
And as they agree, ſo will we proceed. *Exit both.*

Enter Hoſt and Bardolfe.

Bar. Sir, heere be three Gentlemen come from the Duke the ſtranger ſir, would haue your horſe.

Hoſt. The Duke, what Duke? let mee ſpeake with the Gentlemen, do they ſpeake Engliſh?

Bar. Ile call them to you ſir.

Hoſt. No *Bardolfe*, let them alone, Ile ſauce them:

They haue had my house a weeke at command,
I haue turned away my other guests,
They shall haue my horses *Bardolfe*,
They must come off, Ile sawce them. *Exit omnes*

Enter Foord, Page, and their wiues, Shallow, Slender, and Sir Hugh.

Ford. Well wife, here take my hand, vpon my soule I loue thee dearer then I do my life, and ioy I haue so true and constant wife, my iealousie shall neuer more offend thee.

Mis: For. Sir I am glad, & that which I haue done, Was nothing else but mirth and modesty.

Page. I mistris *Ford*, *Falstaffe* hath all the greefe, And in this knauery my wife was the chiefe.

Mis: Pa. No knauery husband, it was honest mirth.

Hugh. Indeed it was good pastimes and merriments

Mis: Foord. But sweet-heart shall we leaue old *Falstaffe* so?

Mis: Page. O by no meanes, send to him againe.

Page. I do not thinke hee'l come, being so much deceiued.

Foord. Let me alone, Ile to him once againe like *Brooke*, and know his minde whether hee'l come or not.

Page. There must be some plot laide, or hee'l not come.

Mis: Page. Let vs alone for that. Heare my deuice.
Oft haue you heard since *Horne* the Hunter dyed,
That women to affright their little children,
Saies that he walkes in shape of a great stag.

Now

Now for that *Falſtaffe* hath bene ſo deceiued,
As that he dares not venter to the houſe,
Wee'l ſend him word to meete vs in the field,
Diſguiſed like *Horne*, with huge hornes on his head,
The houre ſhalbe iuſt betweene twelue and one,
And at that time we will meete him both:
Then would I haue you preſent there at hand,
With little boyes diſguiſed and dreſt like Fairies,
For to affright fat *Falſtaffe* in the woods.
And then to make a period to the ieſt,
Tell *Falſtaffe* all, I thinke this will do beſt.

Page. Tis excellent, and my daughter *Anne*
Shall like a little Fairy be diſguiſed.

Miſ: Page. And in that Maske Ile make the Doctor ſteale my daughter *Anne*, & ere my husband knowes it, to carry her to Church, and marry her.

Miſ: Foord. But who will buy the ſilkes to tyre the boyes?

Page. That will I do, and in a robe of white
Ile cloathe my daughter, and aduertiſe *Slender*
To know her by that ſigne, and ſteale her thence,
And vnknowne to my wife, ſhall marry her.

Hu: So kad vdge me the deuice is excellent,
I will alſo be there, and be like a Iackanapes,
And pinch him moſt cruelly for his lecheries.

Miſ: Pa. Why then we are reuenged ſufficiently:
Firſt he was carried and throwne in the Thames,
Next beaten well, Ime ſure you'l witneſſe that.

Miſ: For. Ile lay my life this makes him nothing fat.

Page. Well, lets about this ſtratagem, I long
To ſee deceit deceiu'd, and wrong haue wrong.

For. Well send to *Falstaffe*, and if he come thither,
Twill make vs smile and laugh one month together.

Exit omnes.

Enter Host and Simple.

Ho. What would thou haue boore, what thick-skin?
Speake, breathe, discusse, short, quick, briefe, snap.

Sim. Sir, I am sent from my M. to sir *Iohn Falstaffe.*

Host. Sir *Iohn*, there's his Castle, his standing-bed, his trundle-bed, his Chamber is painted about with the story of the prodigall, fresh and new, goe knocke, hee'l speake like an Antripophigian to thee: Knocke I say.

Sim. Sir I should speake with an old woman that went vp into his Chamber.

Host. An old woman, the Knight may be robbed, Ile call bully Knight, bully sir *Iohn.* Speake from thy lungs military: it is thine host, thy Ephesian calles.

Fal. Now mine host. *he speakes aboue.*

Host. Here is a Bohemian tartar bully, tarries the comming downe of the fat woman: Let her descend bully, let her descend, my chambers are honourable, pah priuasie, fie.

Fal. Indeed mine Host there was a fat woman with me, but she is gone.

Enter Sir Iohn.

Sim. Pray sir, was it not the wise woman of *Brainford?*

Fal. Marry was it Musselshel, what would you?

Sim. Marry sir my Master *Slender* sent me to her,
To know whether one *Nym* that hath his chaine,
Cousened him of it, or no.

Fal.

Fal. I talked with the woman about it.

Sim. And I pray you ſir what ſes ſhe?

Fal. Marry ſhe ſes the very ſame man
That beguiled Maſter *Slender* of his chaine,
Couſened him of it.

Sim. May I be bold to tell my Maſter ſo ſir?

Fal. I Tike, who more bolde.

Sim. I thanke you ſir, I ſhall make my maſter a glad man at theſe tydings, God be with you ſir. *Exit.*

Hoſt. Thou art clarkly ſir *Iohn*, thou art clarkly,
Was there a wiſe woman with thee?

Fal. Marry was there mine hoſt, one that taught me more wit then I learned this ſeuen year, and I paid nothing for it, but was paid for my learning.

Enter Bardolfe.

Bar. O Lord ſir, couſenage, plaine couſenage.

Hoſt. Why man, where be my horſes?
Where be the Germanes?

Bar. Rid away with your horſes:
After I came beyond Maiden-head,
They flung me in a ſlow of myre, and away they ran.

Enter Doctor.

Doct. Where be my Hoſt de gartir?

Hoſt. O here ſir in perplexity.

Doct. I cannot tell vad be dad,
But be-gar I will tell you van ting,
Dear be a Germane Duke come to de Court,
Has coſened all the Hoſts of *Brainford*,
And *Redding*: be-gar I tell you for good will,
Ha, ha, mine Hoſt, am I euen met you? *Exit.*

Enter

Enter Sir Hugh.

Sir Hugh. Where is mine Host of the garter?
Now my Host, I would desire you looke you now,
To haue a care of your entertainments,
For there is three sorts of cosen garmombles,
Is cosen all the Host of Maiden-head and Redings,
Now you are an honest man, and a scuruy beggerly
lowsie knaue beside,
And can point wrong places,
I tell you for good will, grate why mine Host.

Exit.

Host. I am cosened *Hugh*, and coy *Bardolfe*,
Sweete Knight assist me, I am cosened. *Exit.*

Fal. Would all the world were cosened for me,
For I am cosened and beaten too,
Well, I neuer prospered since I forswore
My selfe at *Primero*: and my winde
Were but long enough to say my prayers,
Ide repent, now from whence come you?

Enter Mistresse Quickly.

Quic. From the two parties forsooth.

Fal. The diuell take the one party,
And his dam the other,
And they'l be both bestowed:
I haue endured more for their sakes,
Then man is able to endure.

Quic. O Lord sir, they are the sorrowfulst creatures
That euer liued: specially Mistris *Foord*,
Her husband hath beaten her that she is all
Blacke and blew poore soule.

Fal:

Fal: What telleſt me of blacke and blew,
I haue beaten all the colours in the Rainbow,
And in my eſcape like to haue bin apprehended
For a witch of *Brainford*, and ſet in the ſtockes.

Quick. Well ſir, ſhe is a ſorrowfull woman,
And I hope when you heare my errant,
You'l be perſwaded to the contrary.

Fal: Come go with me into my Chamber,
And Ile heare thee. *Exit omnes.*

Enter Hoſt and Fenton.

Hoſt. Speake not to me ſir, my minde is heauy,
I haue had a great loſſe.

Fen. Yet heare me, and as I am a gentleman,
Ile giue you a hundred pound toward your loſſe.

Hoſt. Well ſir Ile heare you, and at leaſt keep your counſell.

Fen. Then thus my hoſt. Tis not vnknown to you,
The feruent loue I beare to young *Anne Page*,
And mutually her loue againe to me:
But her father ſtill againſt her choiſe,
Doth ſeeke to marry her to fooliſh *Slender*,
And in a robe of white this night diſguiſed,
Wherein fat *Falſtaffe* had a mighty ſcare,
Muſt *Slender* take her and carry her to *Catlen*,
And there vnknowne to any, marry her.
Now her mother's ſtill againſt that match,
And firme for Doctor *Cayus*, in a robe of red
By her deuice, the Doctor muſt ſteale her thence,
And ſhe hath giuen conſent to goe with him.

Hoſt. Now which meanes ſhe to deceiue,
Father or Mother?

Fen. Both my good Host, to go along with me.
Now here it rests, that you would procure a Priest,
And tarry ready at the appointed place,
To giue our hearts vnited matrimony.

Host. But how will you come to steale her from among them?

Fen. That hath sweete *Nan* and I agreed vpon,
And by a robe of white, the which she weares,
With ribons pendant flaring bout her head,
I shall be sure to know her, and conuey her thence,
And bring her where the priest abides our comming,
And by thy furtherance there be married.

Host. Well, husband your deuice, Ile to the Vicar,
Bring you the maide, you shall not lacke a Priest.

Fen. So shall I euermore be bound vnto thee,
Besides Ile alwayes be thy faithfull friend.

Exit omnes.

Enter Sir Iohn with a Bucks head vpon him.

Fal. This is the third time, well Ile venter,
They say there is good lucke in odde numbers,
Ioue transform'd himselfe into a Bull,
And I am heere a Stag, and I thinke the fattest
In all *Windsor* Forrest: Well, I stand heere
For *Horne* the Hunter, waiting my Does comming.

Enter Mistresse Page and Mistresse Foord.

Mis: Page. Sir *Iohn*, where are you?

Fal. Art thou come my Doe? what & thou too?
Welcome Ladies.

Mis: For. I sir *Iohn*, I see you will not faile,
Therefore you deserue far better then our loues,
But it grieues me for your late crosses.

Fal.

Fal. This makes amends for all.
Come diuide me betweene you, each a hanch,
For my hornes, Ile bequeath them to your husbands,
Do I ſpeake like *Horne* the hunter, ha?

Miſ: Pa. God forgiue me, what noiſe is this?

There is a noiſe of hornes, the two women run away.
Enter Sir Hugh like a Satyr, and boyes dreſt like Fairies, Miſtreſſe Quickly, like the Queene of Fairies: they ſing a ſong about him, and afterward ſpeake.

Qui. You Fayries that do haunt theſe ſhady groues
Looke round about the wood if you can eſpy
A mortall that doth haunt our ſacred round:
If ſuch a one you can eſpy, giue him his due,
And leaue not till you pinch him blacke and blew:
Giue them their charge *Puck* ere they part away.

Sir Hugh. Come hither *Peane*, goe to the Country houſes,
And when you finde a ſlut that lyes aſleepe,
And all her diſhes foule, and roome vnſwept,
With your long nailes pinch her till ſhe cry,
And ſweare to mend her ſluttiſh huſwifery.

Fai. I warrant you I will performe your will.

Hu. Wher's *Pead*? go you and ſee wher brokers ſleep,
And Fox-eyed Seriants with their Mace,
Goe lay the Proctors in the ſtreet,
And pinch the lowſie Seriants face:
Spare none of theſe when th'are a bed,
But ſuch whoſe noſe lookes blew and red.

Quic. Away be gone, his minde fulfill,
And looke that none of you ſtand ſtill.

Some do that thing, some do this,
All do something, none amis.

Sir Hugh. I smell a man of middle earth.

Fal. God blesse me from that welch Fairy.

Quic. Looke euery one about this round,
And if that any here be found,
For his presumption in this place,
Spare neither legge, arme, head, nor face.

Sir Hugh. See I haue spied one by good lucke,
His body man, his head a Buck.

Fal. God send me good fortune now, and I care not.

Quick. Go strait, and do as I command,
And take a Taper in your hand,
And set it to his fingers ends,
And if you see it him offends,
And that he starteth at the flame,
Then is he mortall, know his name:
If with an F. it doth begin,
Why then be sure hee's full of sinne.
About it then, and know the truth,
Of this same metamorphosed youth.

Sir Hugh. Giue me the Tapers, I will try
And if that he loue venery.

They put the Torches to his fingers, and he starts.

Sir Hugh. Tis right indeed, he is full of lecheries and iniquitie.

Quick. A little distant from him stand,
And euery one take hand in hand,
And compasse him within a ring,
First pinch him well, and after sing.

Here they pinch him, and ſing about him, and the Doctour comes one way and ſteales away a boy in red. And Slender another way, he takes a boy in greene: And Fenton ſteales Miſtris Anne, beeing in white. And a noiſe of hunting is made within; and all the Fairies run away. Falſtaffe puls off his Bucks head, and riſes vp. And enters M. Page, M. Foord, and their wiues, M. Shallow, Sir Hugh.

Fal: *Horne* the hunter quoth you: am I a ghoſt?
Sblood the Fairies hath made a ghoſt of me:
What, hunting at this time at night?
He lay my life the mad Prince of *Wales*
Is ſtealing his fathers Deare.
How now who haue we here, what is all *Windſor* ſtirring? Are you there?

Shal. God ſaue you ſir *Iohn Falſtaffe.*

Sir Hugh. God pleſſe you ſir *Iohn*, God pleſſe you.

Page. Why how now ſir *Iohn*, what a paire of horns in your hand?

For. Thoſe horns he meant to place vpon my head,
And M. *Brooke* and he ſhould be the men:
Why how now ſir *Iohn*, why are you thus amazed?
We know the Fairies man that pinched you,
Your throwing in the Thames, your beating well,
And what's to come ſir *Iohn*, that can we tell.

Miſ: Pa. Sir *Iohn* tis thus, your diſhoneſt meanes
To call our credits into queſtion,
Did make vs vndertake to our beſt,
To turne your lewd luſt to a merry ieſt.

Fal. Ieſt, tis well, haue I liued to theſe yeares
To be gulled now, now to be ridden?

Why then these were not Fairies?

Mis:Page. No sir *Iohn*, but boyes.

Fal. By the Lord I was twice or thrice in the minde
They were not, and yet the grosenesse
Of the foppery perswaded me they were.
Well, if the fine wits of the Court heare this,
They'l so whip me with their keene ieasts,
That they'l melt me out like tallow,
Drop by drop out of my grease. Boyes!

Sir Hu. I trust me boyes Sir *Iohn*, and
I was also a Fairy that did helpe to pinch you.

Fal. I, tis well I am your May-pole,
You haue the start of me,
Am I written too with a welch goate?
With a peece of toasted cheese?

Sir Hugh. Butter is better then cheese sir *Iohn*,
You are all butter, butter.

For. There is a further matter yet sir *Iohn*,
Ther's 20. pound you borrowed of M. *Brooke* Sir *Iohn*,
And it must be paid to M. *Foord* Sir *Iohn*.

Mis:For. Nay husband let that go to make amends,
Forgiue that sum, and so wee'l all be friends.

For. Well here's my hand, all is forgiuen at last.

Fal. It hath cost me well,
I haue beene well pinched and washed.

Enter the Doctor.

Mis:Pa. Now M. Doctor, sonne I hope you are.

Doct. Sonne, be-gar you be de ville voman,
Be-gar I tinck to marry metres *Anne*, and begar
Tis a whorson garson Iack boy.

Mis:Page. How, a boy?

Doct.

Doct. I be-gar a boy.

Page. Nay be not angry wiſe, Ile tell thee true,
It was my plot to deceiue thee ſo:
And by this time your daughter is married
To M. *Slender*, and ſee where he comes.

Enter Slender.

Now ſonne *Slender*, wher'es your Bride?

Slen. Bride, by Gods lyd I thinke there's neuer a man in the worell hath that croſſe fortune that I haue: by God I could cry for very anger.

Page. Why what's the matter ſonne *Slender*?

Slen. Sonne, nay by God I am none of your ſonne.

Page. No, why ſo?

Slen. Why ſo God ſaue me, tis a boy that I haue married.

Page. How, a boy? why did you miſtake the word?

Slen. No neyther, for I came to her in red as you bad me, and I cried mum, and he cried budget, ſo well as euer you heard, and I haue married him.

Sir Hugh. Ieſhu M. *Slender*, cannot you ſee but marry boyes?

Page. O I am vext at heart, what ſhall I do?

Enter Fenton and Anne Page.

Miſ. Pa. Here comes he that hath deceiu'd vs all,
How now daughter, where haue you bin?

Anne. At Church forſooth.

Page. At Church, what haue you done there?

Fen. Married to me, nay ſir neuer ſtorme,
Tis done ſir now, and cannot be vndone.

Foord. Ifaith M. *Page* neuer chafe your ſelfe,
She hath made her choiſe wheras her hart was fixt,

Then

Then tis in vaine for you to storme or fret.

Fal. I am glad yet that your arrow hath glanced.

Mis: For. Come mistris *Page*, Ile be bold with you,
Tis pitty to part loue that is so true.

Mis: Page. Althogh that I haue missed in my intent
Yet I am glad my husbands match was crossed,
Here M. *Fenton*, take her, and God giue thee ioy.

Sir Hugh. Come M. *Page*, you must needs agree.

For. Ifaith sir come, you see your wife is pleased.

Pa. I cannot tell, and yet my hart's well eased,
And yet it doth me good the Doctor missed.
Come hither *Fenton*, and come hither Daughter,
Go too, you might haue staied for my good will,
But since your choise is made of one you loue,
Hete take her *Fenton*, and both happy proue.

S. Hugh. I wil dance & eate plums at your wedding.

For: All parties pleased, now let's in to feast,
And laugh at *Slender*, and the Doctors ieast.
He hath got the maiden, each of you a boy
To waite vpon you, so God giue you ioy,
And sir *Iohn Falstaffe* now you shall keep your word,
For *Brooke* this night shall lye with Mistris *Ford*.

Exit omnes.

FINIS.