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Philip Massinger.
A NEW WAY TO PAY OLD DEBTS

A Play written by
PHILIP MASSINGER

Edited with a Preface, Notes and Glossary by
GEORGE STRONACH, M.A.

J. M. DENT AND CO.
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PREFACE

Characteristics. Comparatively little is known of the lives of the Elizabethan and Jacobean dramatists—even the life of the greatest, Shakespeare, is wrapped in a shroud of mystery and 'possibility.' So with the life of Philip Massinger, the author of *A New Way to Pay Old Debts*, one of the few early plays, apart from the Shakespearean dramas, that have held the stage since its earliest production, assigned to a year previous to 1633, when in quarto form it first reached the hands of the public.

No apology is needed for the inclusion of Massinger's famous work in *The Temple* Series of distinguished dramatists. It is a great play in every sense of the word—a play of which even Shakespeare would not have been ashamed, and certainly far superior to the quality of 'the seven contemptible dramas,' as Mr. Sidney Lee styles them, 'in which Shakespeare had no hand that were published with his name or initials on the title-page while his fame was at its height.'

According to Henry Hallam, the historian, Massinger, as a tragic writer, is second only to Shakespeare, and in the higher comedy scarcely inferior to Jonson, and is a dramatist who, in conception of character, excels both Jonson and Fletcher—deservedly worthy praise and thoroughly just, as Hallam made few mistakes in his literary judgments of literary predecessors or contemporaries. 'Every modern critic,' says Hallam, 'has been struck by the peculiar beauty of his language. In his
A New Way to

harmonious swell of numbers, in his pure and genuine idiom, which a text by good fortune and the diligence of its last editor, far less corrupt than that of Fletcher, enables us to enjoy, we find an unceasing charm. The poetical talents of Massinger were very considerable, his taste superior to that of his contemporaries; the colouring of his imagery is rarely overcharged; a certain redundancy, as some may account it, gives fulness, or what the painters would call impasto, to his style, and if it might not always conduce to effect on the stage, is on the whole suitable to the character of his composition.'

This is critical praise indeed. But Sir Walter Scott adds, in no less doubtful language as to the dramatic merits of Massinger's works:—

'Although Massinger's plays are altogether irregular, yet he well understood the advantage of a strong and defined interest; and in unravelling the intricacy of his intrigues, he often displays the management of a master. Art, therefore, not perhaps in its technical but its most valuable sense, was Massinger's as well as Jonson's, and in point of composition, many passages of his plays are not unworthy of Shakespeare. Were we to distinguish Massinger's peculiar excellence, we should name that first of dramatic attributes, a full conception of character, a strength in bringing it out, and consistency in adhering to it. He does not indeed always introduce his personages to the audience in their own proper character; it dawns forth gradually in the progress of the piece, as in the hypocritical Luke or the heroic Marullo. But upon looking back we are always surprised and delighted to trace from the very beginning intimations of what the personage is to prove as the play advances.'

Life. Who was this dramatist whom Hallam and Scott

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Pay Old Debts

PREFACE

delighted to honour by no faint praise, as one of our chief English dramatists? The facts of his life are meagre, but what we have of them is of great literary interest.

Like Ben Jonson, a bricklayer, who afterwards had the degree of M.A. conferred on him by Oxford and Cambridge, Philip Massinger was of humble birth—son of a simple retainer of the Earl of Pembroke. He was born in a castle, certainly, but a 'retainer' is not a Rothschild. The Pembroke family admired and respected their 'retainer,' who had served them for many years faithfully and well, and they sent their retainer's boy 'after some time had passed over,' to St. Alban's Hall, at Oxford. Young Massinger went up to Oxford, as many others have done before and since, full of enthusiasm, and when he reached his destination, as Anthony à Wood tells us, instead of settling down to his proper studies at the University, spent his time in reading 'poetry and romances' rather than 'logic and philosophy, which he ought to have done, as he was patronised to the end.' We know what his patron, the Earl, desired when he sent young Philip to College; but 'logic and philosophy' were not in his protégé's mind—he studied in another way, and as the result, instead of a treatise on logic or philosophy, we have got A New Way to Pay Old Debts—a sufficient contradiction to the accusation of wasted time. If the Earl of Pembroke lost a chaplain, the world has gained what is worth a thousand homilies.

Massinger left college without a degree—like Bacon he despised it—and at the same time lost his patron's favour. But with the Poeta nascitur non fit idea in his mind, he made tracks vii
for London, and on his arrival started his dramatic career by botching up old plays, till sixteen years afterwards he startled the metropolis with his first unaided effort, *The Virgin Martyr*. He had assisted Fletcher in many of his plays; and till the end of a busy life he was employed in dramatic work, including *A New Way to Pay Old Debts*, *The Fair Penitent*, *A Fatal Dowry*, and *The City Madam*, all of them classic dramas. Very laborious work it was—the last of his long series of dramas appearing only six weeks before his death, which took place on March 17, 1640, at the Bankside, where the Globe Theatre was situated, the scene of all Shakespeare's successes. As 'a stranger' he was buried in St. Saviour's Churchyard, but as a dramatist he will live to the end of time, a rival of Shakespeare and Ben Jonson, and a worthy rival, too, if he had written nothing else than *A New Way to Pay Old Debts*. This play as Dr. Ireland says, possesses many qualifications for the stage. During its progress many dramatic incidents occur. No play of Massinger is marked with more variety or seriousness of moral. The character of Overreach is drawn with great force, and is one which has been played by all the leading actors on the English stage. He is divided, as Dr. Ireland shows, between avarice and vanity. Avarice, which grows from his nature as its proper fruit, and vanity, which is grafted upon the success of his avarice. Here we come upon strong marks of a basely aspiring disposition. His harshness is agreeably relieved by the mild dignity of Lovell and Lady Allworth, and a similar effect is produced by the attractive innocence and simplicity of Margaret and her lover. But suddenly and whimsically, not for the only time with Massinger, this simplicity is lost by the lovers, and they become crafty beyond their years, their nature, and their know-

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ledge of the world—a stroke of genius not unknown to our greatest dramatist. There can be no doubt that Overreach is a real character—drawn from life, and the object of direct and urgent satire, rather than the sportiveness and versatility of comic wit.

**Sources of the Play.** According to Gifford, Sir Giles Mompesson was the prototype of Sir Giles Overreach. He and one Michael had obtained from James I. a patent for the sole manufacture of gold and silver thread, which they grossly abused. ‘They found out,’ says Wilson, ‘a new alchemistical way to make gold and silver lace with copper and other sophistical materials, to couzen and deceive the people. And so poysonous were the drugs that made up this deceitful composition, that they rotted the hands and arms, and brought lameness upon those that wrought it; some losing their eyes, and many their lives, by the venom of the vapours that came from it.’ The clamours were so great that the King was obliged to call in the patent and prosecute the offenders.

Mompesson’s partner in iniquity was Michael, a poor sneaking justice, whom Massinger depicts as Greedy, while his clerk is delineated by the dramatist as the ‘term-driving’ Marrall, their connection accounting for his knowledge of the ‘minerals, incorporated in the ink and wax’ of Wellborn’s bond, the inscription on which so marvellously disappears (Act v. Scene i.).

*A New Way to Pay Old Debts* is one of the most powerful in the history of the English drama, and of itself sufficient to make the reputation of any playwright in any language.
Editions of the Play. Subsequent to the first edition in quarto of A New Way to Pay Old Debts, published in 1633, the best editions of Massinger’s plays are:—

(1) Dramatic Works, revised by T. Coxeter, with notes, critical and explanatory. 4 vols. 1761.

(2) Dramatick Works. Revised and corrected, with notes critical and explanatory, by J. M. Mason. 4 vols. 1779.

(3) Plays of Massinger, with notes critical and explanatory, by W. Gifford. 4 vols. 1805.

To the Right Honourable
ROBERT, EARL OF CARNARVON
Master Falconer of England.

MY GOOD LORD,

Pardon, I beseech you, my boldness, in presuming to shelter this Comedy under the wings of your lordship's favour and protection. I am not ignorant (having never yet deserved you in my service) that it cannot but meet with a severe construction, if, in the clemency of your noble disposition, you fashion not a better defence for me, than I can fancy for myself. All I can allege is, that divers Italian princes, and lords of eminent rank in England, have not disdained to receive and read poems of this nature; nor am I wholly lost in my hopes, but that your honour (who have ever expressed yourself a favourer, and friend to the Muses) may vouchsafe, in your gracious acceptance of this trifle, to give me encouragement to present you with some laboured work, and of a higher strain, hereafter. I was born a devoted servant to the thrice noble family of your incomparable lady, and am most ambitious, but with a becoming distance, to be known to your lordship, which, if you please to admit, I shall embrace it as a bounty, that while I live shall oblige me to acknowledge you for my noble patron, and profess myself to be,

Your honour's true servant,
PHILIP MASSINGER.
DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

LORD LOVELL
SIR GILES OVERREACH, a cruel extortioner
FRANK WELLBORN, a Prodigal
TOM ALLWORTH, a young Gentleman, Page to Lord Lovell
GREEDY, a hungry Justice of Peace
MARRALL, a Term-Driver; a creature of Sir Giles Overreach
ORDER, Steward
AMBLE, Usher
FURNACE, Cook
WATCHALL, Porter
WILLDO, a Parson
to Lady Allworth
TAPWELL, an Alehouse Keeper
Creditors, Servants, &c.

LADY ALLWORTH, a rich Widow
MARGARET, Daughter of Sir Giles Overreach
FROTH, Wife of Tapwell
Chambermaid
Waiting Woman

SCENE—The Country near Nottingham.
A NEW WAY TO PAY OLD DEBTS

ACT I

SCENE I

Before Tapwell's House.

Enter Wellborn in tattered apparel, Tapwell and Froth.

Well. No bouse? nor no tobacco?
Tap. Not a suck, sir;
Nor the remainder of a single can
Left by a drunken porter, all night palled too.
Froth. Not the dropping of the tap for your morning's
draught, sir:
'Tis verity, I assure you.
Well. Verity, you brache!
The devil turned precisian! Rogue, what am I?
Tap. Troth, durst I trust you with a looking-glass,
To let you see your trim shape, you would quit me r0
And take the name yourself.
Well. How, dog!
Tap. Even so, sir.
And I must tell you, if you but advance
ACT I. SC. I.

Your Plymouth cloak you shall be soon instructed
There dwells, and within call, if it please your wor-
ship,
A potent monarch called the constable,
That does command a citadel called the stocks;
Whose guards are certain files of rusty billmen
Such as with great dexterity will hale
Your tattered, lousy—

Well. Rascal! slave!

Froth. No rage, sir.

Tap. At his own peril: Do not put yourself
   In too much heat, there being no water near
   To quench your thirst; and sure, for other liquor,
   As mighty ale, or beer, they are things, I take it,
   You must no more remember; not in a dream, sir.

Well. Why, thou unthankful villain, dar'st thou talk thus!
   Is not thy house, and all thou hast, my gift?

Tap. I find it not in chalk; and Timothy Tapwell
   Does keep no other register.

Well. Am not I he
   Whose riots fed and clothed thee? wert thou not
   Born on my father's land, and proud to be
   A drudge in his house?

Tap. What I was, sir, it skills not;
   What you are, is apparent: now, for a farewell,
   Since you talk of father, in my hope it will torment you,
   I'll briefly tell your story. Your dead father,
My quondam master, was a man of worship,
Old Sir John Wellborn, justice of peace and quorum,
And stood fair to be custos rotulorum;
Bore the whole sway of the shire, kept a great house,
Relieved the poor, and so forth; but he dying,
And the twelve hundred a year coming to you,
Late Master Francis, but now forlorn Wellborn——

Well. Slave, stop! or I shall lose myself.

Froth. Very hardly;
You cannot out of your way.

Tap. But to my story:
You were then a lord of acres, the prime gallant,
And I your under-butler; note the change now;
You had a merry time of’t; hawks and hounds,
With choice of running horses; mistresses
Of all sorts and all sizes, yet so hot,
As their embraces made your lordship melt;
Which your uncle, Sir Giles Overreach, observing,
(Resolving not to lose a drop of them,)
On foolish mortgages, statutes, and bonds,
For a while supplied your looseness, and then left you.

Well. Some curate hath penned this invective, mongrel,
And you have studied it.

Tap. I have not done yet:
Your land gone, and your credit not worth a token,
You grew a common borrower; no man ’scaped
Your paper-pellets, from the gentleman
ACT I. SC. I.  

To the beggars on highways, that sold you switches  
In your gallantry.  

Well. I shall switch your brains out.  

Tap. Where poor Tim Tapwell, with a little stock,  
Some forty pounds or so, bought a small cottage;  
Humbled myself to marriage with my Froth here,  
Gave entertainment—  

Well. Yes, to whores and canters,  
Clubbers by night.  

Tap. True, but they brought in profit,  
And had a gift to pay for what they called for,  
And stuck not like your mastership. The poor income  
I gleaned from them hath made me in my parish —  
Thought worthy to be scavenger, and in time  
I may rise to be overseer of the poor;  
Which if I do, on your petition, Wellborn,  
I may allow you thirteen-pence a quarter.  
And you shall thank my worship.  

Well. Thus, you dog-bolt,  
And thus—                        [Beats and kicks him.  

Tap. [to his wife.] Cry out for help!  

Well. Stir, and thou diest:  
Your potent prince, the constable, shall not save you.  
Hear me, ungrateful hell-hound! did not I  
Make purses for you? then you licked my boots,  
And thought your holiday cloak too coarse to clean them.
'Twas I that, when I heard thee swear if ever
Thou couldst arrive at forty pounds thou wouldst
Live like an emperor, 'twas I that gave it
In ready gold. Deny this, wretch!

_Tap._ I must, sir;
For, from the tavern to the taphouse, all,
On forfeiture of their licenses, stand bound
Ne'er to remember who their best guests were,
If they grew poor like you.

_Well._ They are well rewarded
That beggar themselves to make such cuckolds rich.
Thou viper, thankless viper! impudent bawd!—
But since you are grown forgetful, I will help
Your memory, and tread you into mortar,
Nor leave one bone unbroken. [Beats him again.

_Tap._ Oh!
_Froth._ Ask mercy.

_Enter Allworth._

_Well._ 'Twill not be granted.
_All._ Hold—for my sake, hold.
Deny me, Frank! they are not worth your anger.

_Well._ For once thou hast redeemed them from this sceptre;
But let them vanish, creeping on their knees,
And, if they grumble, I revoke my pardon.

_Froth._ This comes of your prating, husband; you presumed
On your ambling wit, and must use your glib tongue,  
Though you are beaten lame for't.  

Tap. Patience, Froth;  
There's law to cure our bruises.  

[They crawl off on their hands and knees.

Well. Sent to your mother?

All. My lady, Frank, my patroness, my all!  
She's such a mourner for my father's death,  
And, in her love to him, so favours me,  
That I cannot pay too much observance to her.  
There are few such stepdames.

Well. 'Tis a noble widow,  
And keeps her reputation pure, and clear  
From the least taint of infamy; her life,  
With the splendour of her actions, leaves no tongue  
To envy or detraction. Prithee tell me,  
Has she no suitors?

All. Even the best of the shire, Frank,  
My lord excepted; such as sue and send,  
And send and sue again, but to no purpose:  
Their frequent visits have not gained her presence.  
Yet she's so far from sullenness and pride,  
That I dare undertake you shall meet from her  
A libel entertainment: I can give you  
A catalogue of her suitors' names.

Well. Forbear it,  
While I give you good counsel: I am bound to it.  
Thy father was my friend, and that affection
Pay Old Debts

ACT I. SC. I.

I bore to him, in right descends to thee; Thou art a handsome and a hopeful youth, Nor will I have the least affront stick on thee, If I with any danger can prevent it.

All. I thank your noble care; but, pray you, in what Do I run the hazard?

Well. Art thou not in love? Put it not off with wonder.

All. In love, at my years!

Well. You think you walk in clouds, but are transparent. I have heard all, and the choice that you have made, And, with my finger, can point out the north star By which the loadstone of your folly’s guided; And, to confirm this true, what think you of Fair Margaret, the only child and heir Of Cormorant Overreach? Does it blush and start, To hear her only named? blush at your want Of wit and reason.

All. You are too bitter, sir.

Well. Wounds of this nature are not to be cured With balms, but corrosives. I must be plain: Art thou scarce manumised from the porter’s lodge And yet sworn servant to the pantofle, And dar’st thou dream of marriage? I fear ’Twill be concluded for impossible That there is now, or e’er shall be hereafter, A handsome page or player’s boy of fourteen
But either loves a wench or drabs love him; Court-waiters not exempted.

*All.* This is madness.

Howe'er you have discovered my intents,
You know my aims are lawful; and if ever
The queen of flowers, the glory of the spring,
The sweetest comfort to our smell, the rose,
Sprang from an envious briar, I may infer
There's such disparity in their conditions
Between the goodness of my soul, the daughter,
And the base churl her father.

*Well.* Grant this true,

As I believe it, canst thou ever hope
To enjoy a quiet bed with her whose father
Ruined thy state?

*All.* And yours too.

*Well.* I confess it;

True; I must tell you as a friend, and freely,
That, where impossibilities are apparent,
'Tis indiscretion to nourish hopes.
Canst thou imagine (let not self-love blind thee)
That Sir Giles Overreach, that, to make her great
In swelling titles, without touch of conscience
Will cut his neighbour's throat, and I hope his own
too,
Will e'er consent to make her thine? Give o'er,
And think of some course suitable to thy rank,
And prosper in it.
Pay Old Debts

All. You have well advised me.
    But in the mean time you that are so studious
    Of my affairs wholly neglect your own:
    Remember yourself, and in what plight you are.

Well. No matter, no matter.

All. Yes, 'tis much material:
    You know my fortune and my means; yet something
    I can spare from myself to help your wants.

Well. How's this?

All. Nay, be not angry; there's eight pieces
    To put you in better fashion.

Well. Money from thee!
    From a boy? a stipendiary! one that lives
    At the devotion of a stepmother
    And the uncertain favour of a lord!
    I'll eat my arms first. Howsoe'er blind Fortune
    Hath spent the utmost of her malice on me—
    Though I am vomited out of an alehouse,
    And thus accoutred—know not where to eat,
    Or drink, or sleep, but underneath this canopy—
    Although I thank thee, I despise thy offer:
    And as I in my madness broke my state
    Without the assistance of another's brain,
    In my right wits I'll piece it; at the worst,
    Die thus and be forgotten.

All. A strange humour!

[Exeunt.]
ACT I. SC. 2.  

SCENE II

A Room in Lady Allworth's House.

Enter Order, Amble, Furnace, and Watchall.

Ord. Set all things right, or, as my name is Order,  
And by this staff of office that commands you,  
This chain and double ruff, symbols of power,  
Whoever misses in his function,  
For one whole week makes forfeiture of his breakfast,  
And privilege in the wine-cellar.

Amb. You are merry,  
Good master steward.

Furn. Let him; I'll be angry.

Amb. Why, fellow Furnace, 'tis not twelve o'clock yet,  
Nor dinner taking up; then, 'tis allowed,  
Cooks, by their places, may be choleric.

Furn. You think you have spoke wisely, goodman  
Amble,  
My lady's go-before!

Ord. Nay, nay, no wrangling.

Furn. Twit me with the authority of the kitchen!  
At all hours, and all places, I'll be angry;  
And thus provoked, when I am at my prayers  
I will be angry.

Amb. There was no hurt meant.
Pay Old Debts

ACT I. SC. 2.

Furn. I am friends with thee; and yet I will be angry.

Ord. With whom?

Furn. No matter whom: yet, now I think on it,
    I am angry with my lady.

Watch. Heaven forbid, man!

Ord. What cause has she given thee?

Furn. Cause enough, master steward.
    I was entertained by her to please her palate,
    And, till she forswore eating, I performed it.
    Now, since our master, noble Allworth, died, 30
    Though I crack my brains to find out tempting
    sauces,
    And raise fortifications in the pastry
    Such as might serve for models in the Low
    Countries;
    Which, if they had been practisèd at Breda,
    Spinola might have thrown his cap at it, and ne’er
    took it.

Amb. But you had wanted matter there to work on.

Furn. Matter! with six eggs, and a strike of rye meal,
    I had kept the town till doomsday, perhaps longer.

Ord. But what’s this to your pet against my lady?

Furn. What’s this? marry this; when I am three parts
    roasted 40
    And the fourth part parboiled, to prepare her viands,
    She keeps her chamber, dines with a panada
    Or water-gruel, my sweat never thought on.

Ord. But your art is seen in the dining-room.
Furn. By whom?
    By such as pretend love to her, but come
To feed upon her. Yet, of all the harpies
That do devour her, I am out of charity
With none so much as the thin-gutted squire
That's stolen into commission.

Ord. Justice Greedy?

Furn. The same, the same; meat's cast away upon him,
    It never thrives; he holds this paradox,
Who eats not well, can ne'er do justice well:
    His stomach's as insatiate as the grave,
Or strumpet's ravenous appetites. [Knocking within.

Watch. One knocks.

Ord. Our late young master!

Re-enter Watchall and Allworth.

Amb. Welcome, sir.

Furn. Your hand;
    If you have a stomach, a cold bake-meat's ready.

Ord. His father's picture in little.

Furn. We are all your servants.

Amb. In you he lives.

All. At once, my thanks to all;
    This is yet some comfort. Is my lady stirring?

Enter Lady Allworth, Waiting Woman, and
    Chambermaid.

Ord. Her presence answers for us.
Pay Old Debts

L. All. Sort those silks well.
   I’ll take the air alone.

   [Exeunt Waiting Woman and Chambermaid.

Furn. You air and air;
   But will you never taste but spoon-meat more?
   To what use serve I?

L. All. Prithee, be not angry;
   I shall ere long; i’ the mean time, there is gold
   To buy thee aprons, and a summer suit.

Furn. I am appeased, and Furnace now grows cool.

L. All. And, as I gave directions, if this morning
   I am visited by any, entertain them
   As heretofore; but say, in my excuse,
   I am indisposed.

Ord. I shall, madam.

L. All. Do, and leave them.
   Nay, stay you, Allworth.

   [Exeunt Order, Amble, Furnace, and Watchall.

All. I shall gladly grow here,
   To wait on your commands.

L. All. So soon turned courtier!

All. Style not that courtship, madam, which is duty
   Purchased on your part.

L. All. Well, you shall o’ercome;
   I’ll not contend in words. How is it with
   Your noble master?

All. Ever like himself,
   No scruple lessened in the full weight of honour.
He did command me, pardon my presumption,
As his unworthy deputy, to kiss
Your ladyship's fair hands.

_L. All._ I am honoured in
His favour to me. Does he hold his purpose
For the Low Countries?

_All._ Constantly, good madam;
But he will in person first present his service.

_L. All._ And how approve you of his course? you are yet
Like virgin parchment, capable of any
Inscription, vicious or honourable.
I will not force your will, but leave you free
To your own election.

_All._ Any form you please,
I will put on; but, might I make my choice,
With humble emulation I would follow
The path my lord marks to me,

_L. All._ 'Tis well answered,
And I commend your spirit; you had a father,
Blessed be his memory! that some few hours
Before the will of Heaven took him from me,
Who did commend you, by the dearest ties
Of perfect love between us, to my charge;
And, therefore, what I speak, you are bound to hear
With such respect as if he lived in me.
He was my husband, and howe'er you are not
Son of my womb, you may be of my love,
Provided you deserve it.
Pay Old Debts

All. I have found you,
Most honoured madam, the best mother to me;
And, with my utmost strengths of care and service,
Will labour that you never may repent
Your bounties showered upon me.

L. All. I much hope it.
These were your father's words: "If e'er my son
Follow the war, tell him it is a school
Where all the principles tending to honour
Are taught, if truly followed: but for such
As repair thither as a place in which
They do presume they may with license practise
Their lusts and riots, they shall never merit
The noble name of soldiers. To dareboldly,
In a fair cause, and for their country's safety,
To run upon the cannon's mouth undaunted;
To obey their leaders, and shun mutinies;
To bear with patience the winter's cold
And summer's scorching heat, and not to faint,
When plenty of provision fails, with hunger;
Are the essential parts make up a soldier,
Not swearing, dice, or drinking."

All. There's no syllable
You speak, but is to me an oracle,
Which but to doubt were impious.

L. All. To conclude:
Beware ill company, for often men
Are like to those with whom they do converse;
And, from one man I warn you, and that’s Wellborn: Not ’cause he’s poor, that rather claims your pity; But that he’s in his manners so debauched, And hath to vicious courses sold himself. ’Tis true, your father loved him, while he was Worthy the loving; but if he had lived To have seen him as he is, he had cast him off, As you must do.

**All.** I shall obey in all things.

**L. All.** Follow me to my chamber, you shall have gold To furnish you like my son, and still supplied, As I hear from you.

**All.** I am still your creature. [Exeunt.

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**SCENE III**

A Hall in the same.

**Enter Overreach, Greedy, Order, Amble, Furnace, Watchall, and Marrall.**

**Greedy.** Not to be seen!

**Over.** Still cloistered up! Her reason, I hope, assures her, though she make herself Close prisoner ever for her husband’s loss, ’Twill not recover him.

**Ord.** Sir, it is her will,
Pay Old Debts

Which we, that are her servants, ought to serve,
And not dispute: howe'er, you are nobly welcome;
And, if you please to stay, that you may think so,
There came, not six days since, from Hull, a pipe
Of rich Canary, which shall spend itself
For my lady's honour.

Greedy. Is it of the right race?
Ord. Yes, Master Greedy.
Amb. How his mouth runs o'er!
Furn. I'll make it run, and run. Save your good worship!

Greedy. Honest Master Cook, thy hand; again: how I love thee!
Are the good dishes still in being? speak, boy.

Furn. If you have a mind to feed, there is a chine
Of beef, well seasoned.

Greedy. Good!
Furn. A pheasant, larded.

Greedy. That I might now give thanks for't!
Furn. Other kickshaws.
Besides, there came last night, from the forest of Sherwood,
The fattest stag I ever cooked.

Greedy. A stag, man!
Furn. A stag, sir; part of it prepared for dinner,
And baked in puff-paste.

Greedy. Puff-paste too! Sir Giles,
A ponderous chine of beef! a pheasant larded!

ACT I. SC. 3.
ACT 1. SC. 3.

And red deer too, Sir Giles, and baked in puff-paste! All business set aside, let us give thanks here.

Furn. How the lean skeleton's rapt!

Over. You know we cannot.

Mar. Your worshipships are to sit on a commission,
And if you fail to come, you lose the cause.

Greedy. Cause me no causes. I'll prove't, for such dinner,
We may put off a commission: you shall find it

Henrici decimo quarto.

Over. Fie, Master Greedy!
Will you lose me a thousand pounds for a dinner?
No more, for shame! we must forget the belly
When we think of profit.

Greedy. Well, you shall o'er-rule me;
I could e'en cry now.—Do you hear, Master Cook,
Send but a corner of that immortal pasty,
And I, in thankfulness, will, by your boy,
Send you—a brace of three-pences.

Furn. Will you be so prodigal?

Enter Wellborn.

Over. Remember me to your lady. Who have we here?
Well. You know me.

Over. I did once, but now I will not;
Thou art no blood of mine. Avaunt, thou beggar!
If ever thou presume to own me more,
I'll have thee caged and whipped.

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Pay Old Debts

**Greedy.** I’ll grant the warrant.
Think of pie-corner, Furnace!

[Exeunt Overreach, Greedy, and Marrall.]

**Watch.** Will you out, sir?
I wonder how you durst creep in.

**Ord.** This is rudeness,
And saucy impudence.

**Amb.** Cannot you stay
To be served, among your fellows, from the basket,
But you must needs press into the hall?

**Furn.** Prithee, vanish
Into some outhouse, though it be the pigstye;
My scullion shall come to thee.

**Enter Allworth.**

**Well.** This is rare:
Oh, here’s Tom Allworth. Tom!

**All.** We must be strangers;
Nor would I have you seen here for a million. [Exit.

**Well.** Better and better. He contemns me too!

**Enter Waiting Woman and Chambermaid.**

**Woman.** Foh, what a smell’s here! what thing’s this?

**Cham.** A creature
Made out of the privy; let us hence, for love’s sake,
Or I shall swoon.

**Woman.** I begin to feel faint already.

[Exeunt Waiting Woman and Chambermaid.]
ACT I. SC. 3.

Watch. Will you know your way;
Amb. Or shall we teach it you,
      By the head and shoulders?
Well. No; I will not stir;
      Do you mark, I will not: let me see the wretch
That dares attempt to force me. Why, you slaves,
Created only to make legs, and cringe;
To carry in a dish, and shift a trencher;
That have not souls only to hope a blessing
Beyond black-jacks or flagons; you, that were born
Only to consume meat and drink, and batten
Upon reversions!—who advances? who
Shews me the way?

Ord. My lady!

Enter Lady Allworth, Waiting Woman, and
    Chambermaid.

Cham. Here's the monster.

Woman. Sweet madam, keep your glove to your nose.

Cham. Or let me
      Fetch some perfumes may be predominant;
      You wrong yourself else.

Well. Madam, my designs
      Bear me to you.

L. All. To me!

Well. And though I have met with
      But ragged entertainment from your grooms here,
      I hope from you to receive that noble usage
Pay Old Debts

As may become the true friend of your husband,
And then I shall forget these.

L. All. I am amazed
To see and hear this rudeness. Darest thou think,
Though sworn, that it can ever find belief,
That I, who to the best men of this country
Denied my presence since my husband's death,
Can fall so low as to change words with thee
Thou son of infamy! forbear my house,
And know and keep the distance that's between us;
Or, though it be against my gentler temper,
I shall take order you no more shall be
An eyesore to me.

Well. Scorn me not, good lady;
But, as in form you are angelical,
Imitate the heavenly natures, and vouchsafe
At the least awhile to hear me. You will grant
The blood that runs in this arm is as noble
As that which fills your veins; those costly jewels,
And those rich clothes you wear, your men's observance,
And women's flattery, are in you no virtues,
Nor these rags, with my poverty, in me vices.
You have a fair fame, and, I know, deserve it;
Yet, lady, I must say, in nothing more
Than in the pious sorrow you have shewn
For your late noble husband.

Ord. How she starts!
ACT I. SC. 3.

**Furn.** And hardly can keep finger from the eye, To hear him named.

*L. All.* Have you aught else to say?

**Well.** That husband, madam, was once in his fortune Almost as low as I; want, debts, and quarrels Lay heavy on him: let it not be thought A boast in me, though I say, I relieved him. 'Twas I that gave him fashion; mine the sword, That did on all occasions second his; I brought him on and off with honour, lady; And when in all men's judgments he was sunk, And, in his own hopes, not to be buoyed up, I stepped unto him, took him by the hand, And set him upright.

**Furn.** Are not we base rogues. That could forget this?

**Well.** I confess, you made him Master of your estate; nor could your friends, Though he brought no wealth with him, blame you for it; For he had a shape, and to that shape a mind Made up of all parts, either great or noble; So winning a behaviour, not to be Resisted, madam.

*L. All.* 'Tis most true, he had.

**Well.** For his sake, then, in that I was his friend, Do not contemn me.

*L. All.* For what's past excuse me,
Pay Old Debts

ACT I. SC. 3.

I will redeem it. Order, give the gentleman
A hundred pounds.

Well. No, madam, on no terms:
I will nor beg nor borrow sixpence of you,
But be supplied elsewhere, or want thus ever.
Only one suit I make, which you deny not
To strangers; and 'tis this. [Whispers to her.

L. All. Fie! nothing else?

Well. Nothing, unless you please to charge your servants
To throw away a little respect upon me.

L. All. What you demand is yours.

Well. I thank you, lady.
Now what can be wrought out of such a suit
Is yet in supposition: [Aside.]—I have said all;
When you please, you may retire. [Exit Lady All.

Nay, all's forgotten; [To the Servants.
And, for a lucky omen to my project,
Shake hands, and end all quarrels in the cellar.

Ord. Agreed, agreed.

Furn. Still merry Master Wellborn. [Exeunt. 177
ACT II

SCENE I

A Room in Overreach's House.

Enter Overreach and Marrall.

Over. He's gone, I warrant thee; this commission crushed him.

Mar. Your worships have the way on't, and ne'er miss To squeeze these unthriftings into air: and yet, The chapfallen justice did his part, returning For your advantage the certificate, Against his conscience, and his knowledge too, With your good favour, to the utter ruin Of the poor farmer.

Over. 'Twas for these good ends I made him a justice; he that bribes his belly, Is certain to command his soul.

Mar. I wonder, Still with your license, why, your worship having The power to put this thin-gut in commission, You are not in't yourself?

Over. Thou art a fool;
Pay Old Debts

ACT II. SC. I.

In being out of office I am out of danger;
Where, if I were a justice, besides the trouble,
I might or out of wilfulness or error
Run myself finely into a premunire,
And so become a prey to the informer.
No, I'll have none of't; 'tis enough I keep
Greedy at my devotion: so he serve
My purposes, let him hang or damn, I care not;
Friendship is but a word.

Mar. You are all wisdom.

Over. I would be worldly wise; for the other wisdom,
That does prescribe us a well governed life,
And to do right to others as ourselves,
I value not an atom.

Mar. What course take you,
With your good patience, to hedge in the manor
Of your neighbour, Master Frugal? as 'tis said
He will nor sell, nor borrow, nor exchange;
And his land, lying in the midst of your many lordships,
Is a foul blemish.

Over. I have thought on't, Marrall,
And it shall take. I must have all men sellers,
And I the only purchaser.

Mar. 'Tis most fit, sir.

Over. I'll therefore buy some cottage near his manor,
Which done, I'll make my men break ope his fences,
Ride o'er his standing corn, and in the night
Set fire on his barns, or break his cattle's legs:
These trespasses draw on suits, and suits' expenses,
Which I can spare, but will soon beggar him.
When I have harried him thus two or three year,
Though he sue in forma pauperis, in spite
Of all his thrift and care, he'll grow behindhand.

Mar. The best I ever heard! I could adore you.

Over. Then, with the favour of my man of law,
I will pretend some title: want will force him
To put it to arbitrement; then, if he sell
For half the value, he shall have ready money,
And I possess his land.

Mar. 'Tis above wonder!
Wellborn was apt to sell, and needed not
These fine arts, sir, to hook him in.

Over. Well thought on.
This varlet, Marrall, lives too long, to upbraid me
With my close cheat put upon him. Will nor cold
Nor hunger kill him?

Mar. I know not what to think on't.
I have used all means; and the last night I caused
His host, the tapster, to turn him out of doors;
And have been since with all your friends and
   tenants,
And, on the forfeit of your favour, charged them,
Though a crust of mouldy bread would keep him
   from starving,
Yet they should not relieve him. This is done, sir.
Over. That was something, Marrall; but thou must go further,
And suddenly, Marrall.
Mar. Where, and when you please, sir.
Over. I would have thee seek him out, and, if thou canst,
Persuade him that 'tis better steal than beg;
Then, if I prove he has but robbed a henroost,
Not all the world shall save him from the gallows.
Do any thing to work him to despair;
And 'tis thy masterpiece.
Mar. I will do my best, sir.
Over. I am now on my main work with the Lord Lovell,
The gallant-minded, popular Lord Lovell,
The minion of the people's love. I hear
He's come into the country, and my aims are
To insinuate myself into his knowledge,
And then invite him to my house.
Mar. I have you;
This points at my young mistress.
Over. She must part with
That humble title, and write honourable,
Right honourable, Marrall, my right honourable daughter,
If all I have, or e'er shall get, will do it.
I'll have her well attended; there are ladies
Of errant knights decayed and brought so low,
That for cast clothes and meat will gladly serve her.
And 'tis my glory, though I come from the city,
To have their issue whom I have undone,
To kneel to mine as bondslaves.

Mar. 'Tis fit state, sir.

Over. And therefore, I’ll not have a chambermaid
That ties her shoes, or any meaner office,
But such whose fathers were right worshipful.
'Tis a rich man’s pride! there having ever been
More than a feud, a strange antipathy,
Between us and true gentry.

Enter Wellborn.

Mar. See, who’s here, sir.

Over. Hence, monster! prodigy!

Well. Sir, your wife’s nephew;
She and my father tumbled in one belly,

Over. Avoid my sight! thy breath’s infectious, rogue!
I shun thee as a leprosy, or the plague.

Come hither, Marrall—this is the time to work him.

[Aside, and exit.

Mar. I warrant you, sir.

Well. By this light I think he’s mad.

Mar. Mad! had you ta’en compassion on yourself,
You long since had been mad.

Well. You have ta’en a course,
Between you and my venerable uncle,
To make me so.

Mar. The more pale-spirited you.
That would not be instructed. I swear deeply——
**Pay Old Debts**

_**Well.** By what?

**Mar.** By my religion.

**Well.** Thy religion!

The devil's creed:—but what would you have done?

**Mar.** Had there been but one tree in all the shire,
Nor any hope to compass a penny halter,
Before, like you, I had outlived my fortunes,
A withe had served my turn to hang myself.
I am zealous in your cause; pray you hang yourself,
And presently, as you love your credit.

**Well.** I thank you.

**Mar.** Will you stay till you die in a ditch, or lice devour you?

Or, if you dare not do the feat yourself,
But that you'll put the state to charge and trouble,
Is there no purse to be cut, house to be broken,
Or market-woman with eggs, that you may murder,
And so dispatch the business?

**Well.** Here's variety,

I must confess; but I'll accept of none
Of all your gentle offers, I assure you.

**Mar.** Why, have you hope ever to eat again,

Or drink? or be the master of three farthings?
If you like not hanging, drown yourself! take some course

For your reputation.

**Well.** 'Twill not do, dear tempter,

With all the rhetoric the fiend hath taught you.
ACT II. SC. i.

I am as far as thou art from despair;
Nay, I have confidence, which is more than hope,
To live, and suddenly, better than ever.

Mar. Ha! ha! these castles you build in the air
Will not persuade me to give or lend
A token to you.

Well. I'll be more kind to thee:
Come, thou shalt dine with me.

Mar. With you!

Well. Nay more, dine gratis.

Mar. Under what hedge, I pray you? or at whose cost?
Are they padders or abram-men that are your consorts?

Well. Thou art incredulous; but thou shalt dine
Not alone at her house, but with a gallant lady;
With me, and with a lady.

Mar. Lady! what lady?
With the Lady of the Lake, or queen of fairies?
For I know it must be an enchanted dinner.

Well. With the Lady Allworth, knave.

Mar. Nay, now there's hope
Thy brain is cracked.

Well. Mark there, with what respect
I am entertained.

Mar. With choice, no doubt, of dog-whips.

Why, dost thou ever hope to pass her porter?

Well. 'Tis not far off, go with me; trust thine own eyes.

Mar. Troth, in my hope, or my assurance rather,
Pay Old Debts

ACT II. SC. 2.

To see thee curvet, and mount like a dog in a blanket, If ever thou presume to cross her threshold, I will endure thy company. Well. Come along then.

[Exeunt.

SCENE II

A Room in Lady Allworth's House.

Enter Allworth, Waiting Woman, Chambermaid, Order, Amble, Furnace, and Watchall.

Woman. Could you not command your leisure one hour longer? Cham. Or half an hour? All. I have told you what my haste is: Besides, being now another's, not mine own, Howe'er I much desire to enjoy you longer, My duty suffers, if, to please myself, I should neglect my lord.

Woman. Pray you do me the favour To put these few quince-cakes into your pocket; They are of mine own preserving. Cham. And this marmalade; Tis comfortable for your stomach.

Woman. And, at parting, Excuse me if I beg a farewell from you.
ACT II. SC. 2.  A New Way to

Cham. You are still before me. I move the same suit, sir. [Allworth kisses them severally.]

Furn. How greedy these chamberers are of a beardless chin!
I think the tits will ravish him.

All. My service
To both.

Woman. Ours waits on you.
And shall do ever.

Ord. You are my lady's charge, be therefore careful
That you sustain your parts.

Woman. We can bear, I warrant you.

[Exeunt Waiting Woman and Chambermaid.]

Furn. Here, drink it off; the ingredients are cordial,
And this the true elixir; it hath boiled
Since midnight for you. 'Tis the quintessence
Of five cocks of the game, ten dozen of sparrows,
Knuckles of veal, potatoe-roots and marrow,
Coral and ambergris: were you two years older,
And I had a wife, or gamesome mistress,
I durst trust you with neither: you need not bait
After this, I warrant you, though your journey's long;
You may ride on the strength of this till to-morrow morning.

All. Your courtesies overwhelm me: I much grieve
To part from such true friends, and yet find comfort,
My attendance on my honourable lord,
Pay Old Debts

Whose resolution holds to visit my lady,
Will speedily bring me back.

[Knocking within. Exit Watchall.

Mar. [within.] Dar'st thou venture further?  
Well. [within.] Yes, yes, and knock again.
Ord. 'Tis he; disperse!
Amb. Perform it bravely.
Furn. I know my cue, ne'er doubt me.

[Exeunt all but Allworth.

Re-enter Watchall, ceremoniously introducing Wellborn and Marrall.

Watch. Beast that I was, to make you stay! most welcome;
You were long since expected.
Well. Say so much
To my friend, I pray you.
Watch. For your sake, I will, sir.
Mar. For his sake!
Well. Mum; this is nothing.
Mar. More than ever
I would have believed, though I had found it in my primer.
All. When I have given you reasons for my late harshness,
You'll pardon and excuse me; for, believe me.
Though now I part abruptly, in my service
I will deserve it.
A New Way to

ACT II. SC. 2.

Mar. Service! with a vengeance!
Well. I am satisfied: farewell, Tom.
All. All joy stay with you!

Re-enter Amble.

Amb. You are happily encountered; I yet never
    Presented one so welcome as I know
    You will be to my lady.
Mar. This is some vision,
    Or, sure, these men are mad, to worship a dunghill;
    It cannot be a truth.
Well. Be still a pagan,
    An unbelieving infidel; be so, miscreant,
    And meditate on “blankets, and on dog-whips!”

Re-enter Furnace.

Furn. I am glad you are come; until I know your
    pleasure
    I knew not how to serve up my lady’s dinner.
Mar. His pleasure! is it possible?
Well. What’s thy will?
Furn. Marry, sir, I have some grouse, and turkey
    chicken,
    Some rails and quails, and my lady willed me ask
    you,
    What kind of sauces best affect your palate,
    That I may use my utmost skill to please it.
Mar. The devil’s entered this cook: sauce for his palate!
Pay Old Debts

That, on my knowledge, for almost this twelvemonth, Durst wish but cheese-parings and brown bread on Sundays.

**[Aside. 80**

**Well.** That way I like them best.

**Furn.** It shall be done, sir. **[Exit.**

**Well.** What think you of “the hedge we shall dine under?” Shall we feed gratis?

**Mar.** I know not what to think; Pray you make me not mad.

**Re-enter Order.**

**Ord.** This place becomes you not; Pray you walk, sir, to the dining room.

**Well.** I am well here, Till her ladyship quits her chamber. **90**

**Mar.** Well here, say you? ’Tis a rare change! but yesterday you thought Yourself well in a barn, wrapped up in peas-straw.

**Re-enter Waiting Woman and Chambermaid.**

**Woman.** O! sir, you are wished for.

**Cham.** My lady dreamt, sir, of you.

**Woman.** And the first command she gave, after she rose, Was (her devotions done) to give her notice When you approached here.
ACT II. SC. 2.

Cham. Which is done, on my virtue.
Mar. I shall be converted; I begin to grow
Into a new belief, which saints nor angels
Could have won me to have faith in.
Woman. Sir, my lady!

Enter Lady Allworth.

L. All. I come to meet you, and languished till I saw you.
This first kiss is for form; I allow a second
To such a friend. [Kisses Wellborn.

Mar. To such a friend! Heaven bless me!
Well. I am wholly yours; yet, madam, if you please
To grace this gentleman with a salute——

Mar. Salute me at his bidding!
Well. I shall receive it
As a most high favour.

L. All. Sir, you may command me.

[Advances to kiss Marrall, who retires.

Well. Run backward from a lady! and such a lady!
Mar. To kiss her foot is, to poor me, a favour
I am unworthy of. [Offers to kiss her toot.

L. All. Nay, pray you rise;
And since you are so humble, I’ll exalt you:
You shall dine with me to-day, at mine own table.

Mar. Your ladyship’s table! I am not good enough
To sit at your steward’s board.

L. All. You are too modest:
I will not be denied.
Re-enter Furnace.

Furn. Will you still be babbling
    Till your meat freeze on the table? the old trick still;
    My art ne'er thought on!
L. All. Your arm, Master Wellborn:——
    Nay, keep us company. [To Marrall.
Mar. I was ne'er so graced.

[Exeunt Wellborn, Lady Allworth, Amble,
    Marrall, Waiting Woman, and Chambermaid.

Ord. So! we have played our parts, and are come off well;
    But if I know the mystery, why my lady
    Consented to it, or why Master Wellborn
    Desired it, may I perish!
Furn. Would I had
    The roasting of his heart that cheated him,
    And forces the poor gentleman to these shifts!
    By fire! for cooks are Persians, and swear by it,
    Of all the griping and extorting tyrants
    I ever heard or read of, I ne'er met
    A match to Sir Giles Overreach.

Watch. What will you take
    To tell him so, fellow Furnace?
Furn. Just as much
    As my throat is worth, for that would be the price on't.
    To have a usurer that starves himself,
And wears a cloak of one and twenty years
On a suit of fourteen groats, bought of the hangman,
To grow rich, and then purchase, is too common:
But this Sir Giles feeds high, keeps many servants,
Who must at his command do any outrage;
Rich in his habit, vast in his expenses;
Yet he to admiration still increases
In wealth and lordships.

*Ord.* He frights men out of their estates,
And breaks through all law-nets, made to curb ill men,
As they were cobwebs. No man dares reprove him.
Such a spirit to dare and power to do were never
Lodged so unluckily.

*Re-enter Amble laughing.*

*Amb.* Ha! ha! I shall burst.

*Ord.* Contain thyself, man.

*Furn.* Or make us partakers
Of your sudden mirth.

*Amb.* Ha! ha! my lady has got
Such a guest at her table!—this term-driver, Marrall,
This snip of an attorney—

*Furn.* What of him, man?

*Amb.* The knave thinks still he's at the cook's shop in
Ram Alley,
Where the clerks divide, and the elder is to choose;
And feeds so slovenly!

*Furn.* Is this all?
Amb. My lady
   Drank to him for fashion sake, or to please Master
   Wellborn;
As I live, he rises, and takes up a dish
In which there were some remnants of a boiled
   capon,
And pledges her in white broth!
Furn. Nay, 'tis like
   The rest of his tribe.
Amb. And when I brought him wine,
   He leaves his stool, and, after a leg or two,
   Most humbly thanks my worship.
Ord. Risen already!
Amb. I shall be chid.

Re-enter Lady Allworth, Wellborn, and Marrall.

Furn. My lady frowns.
L. All. You wait well!
   [To Amble.
   Let me have no more of this; I observed your jeering:
Sirrah, I'll have you know, whom I think worthy
To sit at my table, be he ne'er so mean,
When I am present, is not your companion.
Ord. Nay, she'll preserve what's due to her.
Furn. This refreshing
   Follows your flux of laughter.
L. All. [To Wellborn.] You are master
   Of your own will. I know so much of manners,
As not to inquire your purposes; in a word,
ACT II. SC. 3.

To me you are ever welcome, as to a house
That is your own.

Well. Mark that.

Mar. With reverence, sir,
    An it like your worship.

Well. Trouble yourself no further,
    Dear madam; my heart's full of zeal and service,
    However in my language I am sparing.
    Come, Master Marrall.

Mar. I attend your worship.

Wellborn and Marrall.

L. All. I see in your looks you are sorry, and you know
    me
    An easy mistress: be merry: I have forgot all.
    Order and Furnace, come with me; I must give you
    Further directions.

Ord. What you please.

Furn. We are ready.

SCENE III

The Country near Lady Allworth's House.

Enter Wellborn, and Marrall bare-headed.

Well. I think I am in a good way.

Mar. Good! sir; the best way,
    The certain best way,
Well. There are casualties
    That men are subject to.
Mar. You are above them;
    And as you are already worshipful,
    I hope ere long you will increase in worship,
    And be right worshipful.
Well. Prithee do not flout me:
    What I shall be, I shall be. Is't for your ease,
    You keep your hat off?
Mar. Ease! an it like your worship!
    I hope Jack Marrall shall not live so long,
    To prove himself such an unmannerly beast,
    Though it hail hazel-nuts, as to be covered
    When your worship's present.
Well. Is not this a true rogue,
    That, out of mere hope of a future cozenage,
    Can turn thus suddenly? 'tis rank already. [Aside.
Mar. I know your worship's wise, and needs no counsel,
    Yet if, in my desire to do you service,
    I humbly offer my advice, (but still
    Under correction,) I hope I shall not
    Incur your high displeasure.
Well. No; speak freely.
Mar. Then, in my judgment, sir, my simple judgment,
    (Still with your worship's favour,) I could wish you
    A better habit, for this cannot be
    But much distasteful to the noble lady
    (I say no more) that loves you: for, this morning,
ACT II. SC. 3.

To me, and I am but a swine to her,
Before the assurance of her wealth perfumed you,
You savoured not of amber.

Well. I do now then!

Mar. This your batoon hath got a touch of it.—

[Kisses the end of his cudgel.

Yet, if you please, for change, I have twenty pounds here,
Which, out of my true love, I’ll presently
Lay down at your worship’s feet; ’twill serve to buy you
A riding suit.

Well. But where’s the horse?

Mar. My gelding
Is at your service: nay, you shall ride me,
Before your worship shall be put to the trouble
To walk afoot. Alas? when you are lord
Of this lady’s manor, as I know you will be,
You may with the lease of glebe land, called Knave’s-acre,
A place I would manure, requite your vassal.

Well. I thank thy love, but must make no use of it;
What’s twenty pounds?

Mar. ’Tis all that I can make, sir.

Well. Dost thou think, though I want clothes, I could not have them,
For one word to my lady?

Mar. As I know not that!
**Pay Old Debts**  

**ACT II. SC. 3.**

**Well.** Come, I will tell thee a secret, and so leave thee.  
I will not give her the advantage, though she be  
A gallant-minded lady, after we are married,  
(There being no woman but is sometimes froward,)  
To hit me in the teeth, and say, she was forced  
To buy my wedding-clothes, and took me on  
With a plain riding-suit, and an ambling nag.  
No, I'll be furnished something like myself,  
And so farewell: for thy suit touching Knave's-acre.  
When it is mine, 'tis thine.  

**Mar.** I thank your worship.  
How was I cozened in the calculation  
Of this man's fortune! my master cozened too,  
Whose pupil I am in the art of undoing men;  
For that is our profession! Well, well, Master Wellborn,  
You are of a sweet nature, and fit again to be cheated:  
Which, if the Fates please, when you are possessed  
Of the land and lady, you, sans question, shall be.  
I'll presently think of the means.  

[Exit.]

**Enter Overreach, speaking to a Servant within.**

**Over.** Sirrah, take my horse.  
I'll walk to get me an appetite; 'tis but a mile,  
And exercise will keep me from being pursy.  
Ha! Marrall! is he conjuring? perhaps  

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ACT II. SC. 3.

The knave has wrought the prodigal to do
Some outrage on himself, and now he feels
Compunction in his conscience for't: no matter,
So it be done. Marrall!

Mar. Sir.

Over. How succeed we
In our plot on Wellborn?

Mar. Never better, sir.

Over. Has he hanged or drowned himself?

Mar. No, sir, he lives;
Lives once more to be made a prey to you,
A greater prey than ever.

Over. Art thou in thy wits?
If thou art, reveal this miracle, and briefly.

Mar. A lady, sir, is fallen in love with him.

Over. With him? what lady?

Mar. The rich Lady Allworth.

Over. Thou dolt! how dar'st thou speak this?

Mar. I speak truth.
And I do so but once a year, unless
It be to you, sir: we dined with her ladyship,
I thank his worship.

Over. His worship!

Mar. As I live, sir,
I dined with him, at the great lady’s table,
Simple as I stand here; and saw when she kissed him,
And would, at his request, have kissed me too:
Pay Old Debts

But I was not so audacious as some youths are, That dare do anything, be it ne'er so absurd, And sad after performance.

Over. Why, thou rascal! To tell me these impossibilities. Dine at her table! and kiss him! or thee!—

Impudent varlet, have not I myself, To whom great countesses' doors have oft flew open, Ten times attempted, since her husband's death, In vain, to see her, though I came—a suitor? And yet your good solicitorship, and rogue Well-born, Were brought into her presence, feasted with her!—

But that I know thee a dog that cannot blush, This most incredible lie would call up one On thy buttermilk cheeks.

Mar. Shall I not trust my eyes, sir, Or taste? I feel her good cheer in my belly.

Over. You shall feel me, if you give not over, sirrah: Recover your brains again, and be no more gullèd With a beggar's plot, assisted by the aids Of serving-men and chambermaids, for beyond these Thou never saw'st a woman, or I'll quit you From my employments.

Mar. Will you credit this yet? On my confidence of their marriage, I offered Well-born—
ACT II. SC. 3.

I would give a crown now I durst say his worship—

[Aside. 130

My nag and twenty pounds.

Over. Did you so, idiot! [Strikes him down.

Was this the way to work him to despair,
Or rather to cross me?

Mar. Will your worship kill me?

Over. No, no; but drive the lying spirit out of you.

Mar. He’s gone.

Over. I have done then: now, forgetting

Your late imaginary feast and lady,
Know, my Lord Lovell dines with me to-morrow.

Be careful nought be wanting to receive him;
And bid my daughter’s women trim her up,
Though they paint her, so she catch the lord, I’ll thank them:

There’s a piece for my late blows.

Mar. I must yet suffer:

But there may be a time—

[Aside.

Over. Do you grumble?

Mar. No, sir.

[Exeunt.]
ACT III

SCENE I

The Country near Overreach's House.

Enter Lord Lovell, Allworth, and Servants.

Lov. Walk the horses down the hill: something in private

I must impart to Allworth.

[Exeunt Servants.

All. O, my lord,

What a sacrifice of reverence, duty, watching,

Although I could put off the use of sleep,

And ever wait on your commands to serve them;

What dangers, though in ne'er so horrid shapes,

Nay death itself, though I should run to meet it,

Can I, and with a thankful willingness suffer!

But still the retribution will fall short

Of your bounties showered upon me.

Lov. Loving youth,

Till what I purpose be put into act,

Do not o'erprize it; since you have trusted me

With your soul's nearest, nay, her dearest secret,
ACT III. SC. 1.

A New Way to

Rest confident 'tis in a cabinet locked
Treachery shall never open. I have found you
(For so much to your face I must profess,
Howe'er you guard your modesty with a blush for't)
More zealous in your love and service to me
Than I have been in my rewards.

All. Still great ones,
Above my merit.

Lov. Such your gratitude calls them:
Nor am I of that harsh and rugged temper
As some great men are taxed with, who imagine
They part from the respect due to their honours
If they use not all such as follow them,
Without distinction of their births, like slaves
I am not so conditioned: I can make
A fitting difference between my footboy
And a gentleman by want compelled to serve me.

All. 'Tis thankfully acknowledged; you have been
More like a father to me than a master:
Pray you, pardon the comparison.

Lov. I allow it:
And, to give you assurance I am pleased in't,
My carriage and demeanour to your mistress,
Fair Margaret, shall truly witness for me
I can command my passions.

All. 'Tis a conquest
Few lords can boast of when they are tempted—Oh!

Lov. Why do you sigh? can you be doubtful of me?
Pay Old Debts

ACT III. SC. 1.

By that fair name I in the wars have purchased,
And all my actions, hitherto untainted,
I will not be more true to mine own honour
Than to my Allworth!

All. As you are the brave Lord Lovell,
Your bare word only given is an assurance
Of more validity and weight to me
Than all the oaths, bound up with imprecations.
Which, when they would deceive, most courtiers
practise;
Yet being a man, (for, sure, to style you more
Would relish of gross flattery,) I am forced,
Against my confidence of your worth and virtues,
To doubt, nay more, to fear.

Lov. So young, and jealous!

All. Were you to encounter with a single foe,
The victory were certain; but to stand
The charge of two such potent enemies,
At once assaulting you, as wealth and beauty,
And those too seconded with power, is odds
Too great for Hercules.

Lov. Speak your doubts and fears,
Since you will nourish them, in plainer language,
That I may understand them.

All. What's your will,
Though I lend arms against myself, (provided
They may advantage you,) must be obeyed.
My much-loved lord, were Margaret only fair,
The cannon of her more than earthly form,
Though mounted high, commanding all beneath it,
And rammed with bullets of her sparkling eyes,
Of all the bulwarks that defend your senses
Could batter none, but that which guards your sight.

But when the well-tuned accents of her tongue
Make music to you, and with numerous sounds
Assault your hearing, (such as Ulysses, if he
Now lived again, howe'er he stood the Syrens,
Could not resist,) the combat must grow doubtful
Between your reason and rebellious passions.
Add this too; when you feel her touch, and breath
Like a soft western wind when it glides o'er Arabia, creating gums and spices;
And, in the van, the nectar of her lips,
Which you must taste, bring the battalia on,
Well armed, and strongly lined with her discourse,
And knowing manners, to give entertainment;—
Hippolytus himself would leave Diana,
To follow such a Venus.

lov. Love hath made you
Poetical, Allworth.

all. Grant all these beat off,
Which if it be in man to do, you’ll do it,
Mammon, in Sir Giles Overreach, steps in
With heaps of ill-got gold, and so much land,
To make her more remarkable, as would tire
Pay Old Debts

A falcon's wings in one day to fly over.
O my good lord! these powerful aids, which would
Make a mis-shapen negro beautiful,
(Yet are but ornaments to give her lustre,
That in herself is all perfection,) must
Prevail for her: I here release your trust;
'Tis happiness enough for me to serve you
And sometimes, with chaste eyes, to look upon her.

Lov. Why, shall I swear?

All. O, by no means, my lord;
And wrong not so your judgment to the world
As from your fond indulgence to a boy,
Your page, your servant, to refuse a blessing
Divers great men are rivals for.

Lov. Suspend
Your judgment till the trial. How far is it
To Overreach's house?

All. At the most, some half hour's riding;
You'll soon be there.

Lov. And you the sooner freed
From your jealous fears.

All. O that I durst but hope it! [Exeunt.]
SCENE II

A Room in Overreach's House.

Enter Overreach, Greedy, and Marrall.

Over. Spare for no cost; let my dressers crack with the weight
Of curious viands.


Over. That proverb fits your stomach, Master Greedy.
And let no plate be seen but what's pure gold,
Or such whose workmanship exceeds the matter
That it is made of; let my choicest linen
Perfume the room, and, when we wash, the water,
With precious powders mixed, so please my lord,
That he may with envy wish to bathe so ever.

Mar. 'Twill be very chargeable.

Over. Avaunt, you drudge!
Now all my laboured ends are at the stake,
Is't a time to think of thrift? Call in my daughter.

[Exit Marrall.

And, Master Justice, since you love choice dishes,
And plenty of them——

Greedy. As I do, indeed, sir,
Almost as much as to give thanks for them.

Over. I do confer that providence, with my power
Pay Old Debts

Of absolute command to have abundance,
To your best care.

Greedy. I'll punctually discharge it,
And give the best directions. Now am I,
In mine own conceit, a monarch; at the least,
Arch-president of the boiled, the roast, the baked;
For which I will eat often, and give thanks
When my belly's braced up like a drum, and that's
pure justice. [Exit.

Over. It must be so: should the foolish girl prove modest,
She may spoil all; she had it not from me,
But from her mother; I was ever forward,
As she must be, and therefore I'll prepare her.

Enter Margaret.

Alone—and let your women wait without.

Marg. Your pleasure, sir?

Over. Ha! this is a neat dressing!
These orient pearls and diamonds well placed too!
The gown affects me not, it should have been
Embroidered o'er and o'er with flowers of gold;
But these rich jewels and quaint fashion help it.
And how below? since oft the wanton eye,
The face observed, descends unto the foot,
Which being well proportioned, as yours is,
Invites as much as perfect white and red,
Though without art. How like you your new woman,
The Lady Downfallen?
ACT III. SC. 2.

Marg. Well, for a companion;

Not as a servant.

Over. Is she humble, Meg,

And careful too, her ladyship forgotten?

Marg. I pity her fortune.

Over. Pity her! trample on her.

I took her up in an old tamin gown,

(Even starved for want of twopenny chops,) to serve thee,

And if I understand she but repines

To do thee any duty, though ne'er so servile,

I'll pack her to her knight, where I have lodged him,

Into the counter, and there let them howl together.

Marg. You know your own ways: but for me, I blush

When I command her, that was once attended

With persons not inferior to myself

In birth.

Over. In birth! why, art thou not my daughter,

The blest child of my industry and wealth?

Why, foolish girl, was't not to make thee great

That I have run, and still pursue, those ways

That hale down curses on me, which I mind not?

Part with these humble thoughts, and apt thyself

To the noble state I labour to advance thee;

Or, by my hopes to see thee honourable,

I will adopt a stranger to my heir,

And throw thee from my care: do not provoke me.
Pay Old Debts

Marg. I will not, sir; mould me which way you please.

Re-enter Greedy.

Over. How! interrupted!

Greedy. 'Tis matter of importance.

The cook, sir, is self-willed, and will not learn
From my experience: there's a fawn brought in, sir,
And, for my life, I cannot make him roast it
With a Norfolk dumpling in the belly of it;
And, sir, we wise men know, without the dumpling
'Tis not worth three-pence.

Over. Would it were whole in thy belly,

To stuff it out! cook it any way; prithee, leave me.

Greedy. Without order for the dumpling?

Over. Let it be dumpled

Which way thou wilt; or tell him, I will scald him
In his own caldron.

Greedy. I had lost my stomach

Had I lost my mistress dumpling; I'll give thanks
for't.

[Exit.

Over. But to our business, Meg; you have heard who
dines here?

Marg. I have, sir.

Over. 'Tis an honourable man;

A lord, Meg, and commands a regiment
Of soldiers, and, what's rare, is one himself,
A bold and understanding one: and to be

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ACT III. SC. 2.

A New Way to

A lord, and a good leader, in one volume,  
Is granted unto few but such as rise up  
The kingdom's glory.

Re-enter Greedy.

Greedy. I'll resign my office,  
If I be not better obeyed.  

Over. 'Slight art thou frantic?  
Greedy. Frantic! 'twould make me frantic, and stark mad,  
Were I not a justice of peace and quorum too,  
Which this rebellious cook cares not a straw for.  
There are a dozen of woodcocks—

Over. Make thyself  
Thirteen the baker's dozen.

Greedy. I am contented,  
So they may be dressed to my mind; he has found out  
A new device for sauce, and will not dish them  
With toasts and butter; my father was a tailor,  
And my name, though a justice, Greedy Woodcock;  
And, ere I'll see my lineage so abused,  
I'll give up my commission.

Over. [loudly.] Cook!—Rogue, obey him!  
I have given the word, pray you now remove yourself  
To a collar of brawn, and trouble me no further.

Greedy. I will, and meditate what to eat at dinner.

[Exit.]
Pay Old Debts

ACT III. SC. 2.

Over. And as I said, Meg, when this gull disturbed us,
This honourable lord, this colonel,
I would have thy husband.

Marg. There's too much disparity
Between his quality and mine, to hope it.

Over. I more than hope, and doubt not to effect it.
Be thou no enemy to thyself; my wealth
Shall weigh his titles down, and make you equals.
Now for the means to assure him thine, observe me;
Remember he's a courtier, and a soldier,
And not to be trifled with; and, therefore, when
He comes to woo you, see you do not coy it:
This mincing modesty has spoiled many a match
By a first refusal, in vain after hoped for.

Marg. You'll have me, sir, preserve the distance that
Confines a virgin?

Over. Virgin me no virgins!
I must have you lose that name, or you lose me.
I will have you private—start not—I say, private;
If thou art my true daughter, not a bastard,
Thou wilt venture alone with one man, though he came
Like Jupiter to Semele, and come off, too;
And therefore, when he kisses you, kiss close.

Marg. I have heard this is the strumpet's fashion, sir,
Which I must never learn.

Over. Learn any thing,
ACT III. SC. 2.

A New Way to

And from any creature that may make thee great; From the devil himself.

Marg. This is but devilish doctrine! [Aside.

Over. Or, if his blood grow hot, suppose he offer Beyond this, do not you stay till it cool, But meet his ardour; if a couch be near, Sit down on't, and invite him.

Marg. In your house, Your own house, sir; for Heaven's sake, what are you then? Or what shall I be, sir?

Over. Stand not on form; Words are no substances.

Marg. Though you could dispense With your own honour, cast aside religion, The hopes of Heaven, or fear of hell, excuse me, In worldly policy, this is not the way To make me his wife; his whore, I grant it may do. My maiden honour so soon yielded up, Nay, prostituted, cannot but assure him I, that am light to him, will not hold weight Whene'er tempted by others; so, in judgment, When to his lust I have given up my honour, He must and will forsake me.

Over. How! forsake thee! Do I wear a sword for fashion? or is this arm Shrunk up or withered? does there live a man Of that large list I have encountered with
Can truly say I e'er gave inch of ground
Not purchased with his blood that did oppose me?
Forsake thee when the thing is done! he dares not.
Give me but proof he has enjoyed thy person,
Though all his captains, echoes to his will,
Stood armed by his side to justify the wrong,
And he himself in the head of his bold troop,
Spite of his lordship, and his colonelship,
Or the judge's favour, I will make him render
A bloody and a strict account, and force him,
By marrying thee, to cure thy wounded honour! 180
I have said it.

Re-enter Marrall.

Mar. Sir, the man of honour's come,
   Newly alighted.
Over. In, without reply;
   And do as I command, or thou art lost.

Exit Margaret.

Is the loud music I gave order for
Ready to receive him?

Mar. 'Tis, sir.
Over. Let them sound
   A princely welcome. [Exit Marrall.] Roughness
   awhile leave me;
For fawning now, a stranger to my nature,
Must make way for me.
A New Way to

ACT III. SC. 2.

Loud music. Enter Lord Lovell, Greedy, Allworth, and Marrall.

Lov. Sir, you meet your trouble.
Over. What you are pleased to style so is an honour Above my worth and fortunes.

All. Strange, so humble. [Aside.

Over. A justice of peace, my lord. [Presents Greedy to him.

Lov. Your hand, good sir.

Greedy. This is a lord, and some think this a favour; But I had rather have my hand in my dumpling. 200 [Aside.

Over. Room for my lord.

Lov. I miss, sir, your fair daughter To crown my welcome.

Over. May it please my lord To taste a glass of Greek wine first, and suddenly She shall attend my lord.

Lov. You'll be obeyed, sir. [Exeunt all but Overreach.

Over. 'Tis to my wish: as soon as come, ask for her! Why, Meg! Meg Overreach.—

Re-enter Margaret.

How! tears in your eyes! Hah! dry them quickly, or I'll dig them out. 211 Is this a time to whimper? meet that greatness 60
That flies into thy bosom, think what 'tis
For me to say, My honourable daughter;
And thou, when I stand bare, to say, Put on;
Or, Father, you forget yourself. No more:
But be instructed, or expect—he comes.

Re-enter Lord Lovell, Greedy, Allworth, and Marrall.

A black-browed girl, my lord,

[Lord Lovel kisses Margaret.

Lov. As I live, a rare one.
All. He's ta'en already: I am lost. [Aside. 220
Over. That kiss
Came twangling off, I like it; quit the room.
[Exeunt all but Overreach, Lovell, and Margaret.

A little bashful, my good lord, but you,
I hope, will teach her boldness.

Lov. I am happy
In such a scholar: but—

Over. I am past learning,

And therefore leave you to yourselves:—remember.

[Aside to Margaret and exit.

Lov. You see, fair lady, your father is solicitous,
To have you change the barren name of virgin
Into a hopeful wife.

Marg. His haste, my lord,
Holds no power o'er my will.
Lov. But o'er your duty.
Marg. Which forced too much, may break.
ACT III. SC. 2.

Lov. Bend rather, sweetest:
Think of your years.

Marg. Too few to match with yours:
And choicest fruits too soon plucked, rot and wither.

Lov. Do you think I am old?
Marg. I am sure I am too young.
Lov. I can advance you.
Marg. To a hill of sorrow;
Where every hour I may expect to fall,
But never hope firm footing. You are noble,
I of a low descent, however rich;
And tissues matched with scarlet suit but ill.
O, my good lord, I could say more, but that
I dare not trust these walls.

Lov. Pray you, trust my ear then.

Re-enter Overreach behind, listening.

Over. Close at it! whispering! this is excellent!
And, by their postures, a consent on both parts.

Re-enter Greedy behind.

Greedy. Sir Giles, Sir Giles!

Over. The great fiend stop that clapper!

Greedy. It must ring out, sir, when my belly rings noon.
The baked-meats are run out, the roasts turned powder.

Over. I shall powder you.
Pay Old Debts

ACT III. SC. 2.

_Greedy._ Beat me to dust, I care not;
   In such a cause as this, I'll die a martyr.

_Over._ Marry, and shall, you barathrum of the shambles!

[Strikes him.

_Greedy._ How! strike a justice of peace! ’tis petty treason,
   _Edwardi quinto_: but that you are my friend,
   I would commit you without bail or mainprize.

_Over._ Leave your bawling, sir, or I shall commit you
   Where you shall not dine to-day: disturb my lord,
   When he is in discourse!

_Greedy._ Is’t a time to talk
   When we should be munching!

_Lov._ Hah! I heard some noise.

_Over._ Mum, villain; vanish! shall we break a bargain
   Almost made up?

[Thrusts Greedy off.

_Lov._ Lady, I understand you,
   And rest most happy in your choice, believe it;
   I’ll be a careful pilot to direct
   Your yet uncertain bark to a port of safety.

_Marg._ So shall your honour save two lives, and bind us
   Your slaves for ever.

_Lov._ I am in the act rewarded,
   Since it is good; howe’er, you must put on
   An amorous carriage towards me to delude
   Your subtle father

_Marg._ I am prone to that.

_Lov._ Now break we off our conference.—Sir Giles!
   Where is Sir Giles?

[Overreach comes forward.
ACT III. SC. 2.

A New Way to

Re-enter Allworth, Marrall, and Greedy.

Over. My noble lord; and how
Does your lordship find her?
Lov. Apt, Sir Giles, and coming;
And I like her the better.

Over. So do I too.

Lov. Yet should we take forts at the first assault,
'Twere poor in the defendant; I must confirm her
With a love-letter or two, which I must have
Delivered by my page, and you give way to't.

Over. With all my soul:—a towardly gentleman!
Your hand, good Master Allworth; know my house
Is ever open to you.

All. 'Twas shut till now.

[Aside.

Over. Well done, well done, my honourable daughter!
Thou'rt so already: know this gentle youth,
And cherish him, my honourable daughter.

Marg. I shall, with my best care.

[Noise within, as of a coach.

Over. A coach!

Greedy. More stops
Before we go to dinner! O my guts!

Enter Lady Allworth and Wellborn.

L. All. If I find welcome,
You share in it; if not, I'll back again,
Now I know your ends; for I come armed for all
Can be objected.
Pay Old Debts

ACT III. SC. 2

Lov. How! the Lady Allworth!

Over. And thus attended!

[Lovell kisses Lady Allworth, Lady Allworth kisses Margaret.

Mar. No, “I am a dolt!
The spirit of lies hath entered me!”

Over. Peace, Patch;
’Tis more than wonder! an astonishment
That does possess me wholly!

Lov. Noble lady,
This is a favour, to prevent my visit,
The service of my life can never equal.

L. All. My lord, I laid wait for you, and much hoped
You would have made my poor house your first inn:
And therefore doubting that you might forget me,
Or too long dwell here, having such ample cause,
In this unequalled beauty, for your stay,
And fearing to trust any but myself
With the relation of my service to you,
I borrowed so much from my long restraint
And took the air in person to invite you.

Lov. Your bounties are so great, they rob me, madam,
Of words to give you thanks.

L. All. Good Sir Giles Overreach. [Kisses him.
—How dost thou, Marrall? liked you my meat so ill,
You’ll dine no more with me?
ACT III. SC. 2.

Greedy. I will, when you please,
An it like your ladyship.

L. All. When you please, Master Greedy;
If meat can do it, you shall be satisfied.
And now, my lord, pray take into your knowledge
This gentleman; howe'er his outside's coarse.

[Presents Wellborn.

His inward linings are as fine and fair
As any man's; wonder not I speak at large:
And howsoe'er his humour carries him
To be thus accoutred, or what taint soever,
For his wild life, hath stuck upon his fame,
He may, ere long, with boldness, rank himself
With some that have contemned him. Sir Giles
Overreach,
If I am welcome, bid him so.

Over. My nephew!
He has been too long a stranger: faith you have,
Pray let it be mended.

[Lovell confers aside with Wellborn.

Mar. Why, sir, what do you mean?
This is "rogue Wellborn, monster, prodigy,
That should hang or drown himself;" no man of worship,
Much less your nephew.

Over. Well, sirrah, we shall reckon
For this hereafter.
Pay Old Debts

ACT III. SC. 2.

Mar. I'll not lose my jeer,
    Though I be beaten dead for't.

Well. Let my silence plead
    In my excuse, my lord till better leisure
    Offer itself to hear a full relation
    Of my poor fortunes.

Lov. I would hear, and help them.

Over. Your dinner waits you.

Lov. Pray you lead, we follow.

L. All. Nay, you are my guest; come, dear Master Wellborn. [Exeunt all but Greedy.

Greedy. "Dear Master Wellborn!" So she said:
    Heaven! Heaven!
    If my belly would give me leave, I could ruminate
    All day on this: I have granted twenty warrants
    To have him committed, from all prisons in the shire,
    To Nottingham gaol; and now, "Dear Master Wellborn!"
    And, "My good nephew!"—but I play the fool
    To stand here prating, and forget my dinner.

    Re-enter Marrall.

Are they set, Marrall?

Mar. Long since; pray you a word, sir.

Greedy. No wording now.

Mar. In troth, I must; my master,
    Knowing you are his good friend, makes bold with you,
ACT III. SC. 2.

And does entreat you, more guests being come in
Than he expected, especially his nephew,
The table being full too, you would excuse him,
And sup with him on the cold meat.

**Greedy.** How! no dinner,
After all my care?

**Mar.** 'Tis but a penance for
A meal; besides, you broke your fast.

**Greedy.** That was
But a bit to stay my stomach: a man in commis-

Give place to a tatterdemalion!

**Mar.** No bug words, sir;
Should his worship hear you——

**Greedy.** Lose my dumpling too,
And buttered toasts, and woodcocks!

**Mar.** Come, have patience.
If you will dispense a little with your worship,
And sit with the waiting women, you'll have dump-

Woodcock, and buttered toasts too.

**Greedy.** This revives me:
I will gorge there sufficiently.

**Mar.** This is the way, sir.

[Exeunt.]
SCENE III

Another room in Overreach's House.

Enter Overreach, as from dinner.

Over. She's caught! O women!—she neglects my lord,
And all her compliments applied to Wellborn!
The garments of her widowhood laid by,
She now appears as glorious as the spring,
Her eyes fixed on him, in the wine she drinks,
He being her pledge, she sends him burning kisses,
And sits on thorns, till she be private with him.
She leaves my meat to feed upon his looks,
And if in our discourse he be but named,
From her a deep sigh follows. And why grieve I to
At this? it makes for me; if she prove his,
All that is hers is mine, as I will work him.

Enter Marrall.

Mar. Sir, the whole board is troubled at your rising.
Over. No matter, I'll excuse it: prithee, Marrall,
Watch an occasion to invite my nephew
To speak with me in private.
Mar. Who? "the rogue
The lady scorned to look on?"
Over. You are a wag.
Enter Lady Allworth and Wellborn.

Mar. See, sir, she's come, and cannot be without him. 20

L. All. With your favour, sir, after a plenteous dinner,
    I shall make bold to walk a turn or two,
    In your rare garden.

Over. There's an arbour too,
    If your ladyship please to use it.

L. All. Come, Master Wellborn.

[Exeunt Lady Allworth and Wellborn.

Over. Grosser and grosser! now I believe the poet
    Feigned not, but was historical, when he wrote
    Pasiphaë was enamoured of a bull:
    This lady's lust's more monstrous.—My good lord, 30

Enter Lord Lovell, Margaret, and the rest.

Excuse my manners.

Lov. There needs none, Sir Giles,
    I may ere long say father, when it pleases
    My dearest mistress to give warrant to it.

Over. She shall seal to it, my lord, and make me happy.

Re-enter Wellborn and Lady Allworth.

Marg. My lady is returned.

L. All. Provide my coach,
    I'll instantly away; my thanks, Sir Giles,
    For my entertainment.
Pay Old Debts

Over. 'Tis your nobleness
   To think it such.
L. All. I must do you a further wrong
   In taking away your honourable guest.
Lov. I wait on you, madam; farewell, good Sir Giles.
L. All. Good Mistress Margaret! nay, come, Master
    Wellborn,
    I must not leave you behind; in sooth, I must not.
Over. Rob me not, madam, of all joys at once;
    Let my nephew stay behind: he shall have my coach,
    And, after some small conference between us,
    Soon overtake your ladyship.
L. All. Stay not long, sir.
Lov. This parting kiss: [Kisses Margaret] you shall every
day hear from me,
    By my faithful page.
All. 'Tis a service I am proud of.
    [Exeunt Lord Lovell, Lady Allworth, Allworth, and Marrall.
Over. Daughter, to your chamber.— [Exit Margaret.
—You may wonder, nephew,
    After so long an enmity between us,
    I should desire your friendship.
Well. So I do, sir;
    'Tis strange to me.
Over. But I'll make it no wonder;
    And what is more, unfold my nature to you.
ACT III. SC. 3.

A New Way to

We worldly men, when we see friends and kinsmen
Past hopes sunk in their fortunes, lend no hand
To lift them up, but rather set our feet
Upon their heads, to press them to the bottom;
As, I must yield, with you I practised it:
But, now I see you in a way to rise;
I can and will assist you; this rich lady
(And I am glad of 't) is enamoured of you;
'Tis too apparent, nephew.

Well. No such thing:
Compassion rather, sir.

Over. Well, in a word,
Because your stay is short, I'll have you seen
No more in this base shape: nor shall she say
She married you like a beggar, or in debt.

Well. He'll run into the noose, and save my labour.

[Aside.

Over. You have a trunk of rich clothes, not far hence,
In pawn; I will redeem them; and that no clamour
May taint your credit for your petty debts,
You shall have a thousand pounds to cut them off,
And go a free man to the wealthy lady.

Well. This done, sir, out of love, and no ends else——

Over. As it is, nephew.

Well. Binds me still your servant.

Over. No compliments, you are staid for: ere you have supped
Pay Old Debts

You shall hear from me. My coach, knaves, for my nephew.
To-morrow I will visit you.

Well. Here's an uncle
In a man's extremes! how much they do belie you,
That say you are hard-hearted!

Over. My deeds, nephew,
Shall speak my love; what men report I weigh not.

[Exeunt.]
ACT IV

SCENE I

A Room in Lady Allworth's House.

Enter Lord Lovell and Allworth.

Lov. 'Tis well; give me my cloak; I now discharge you
From further service: mind your own affairs,
I hope they will prove successful.

All. What is blest
With your good wish, my lord, cannot but prosper.
Let aftertimes report, and to your honour,
How much I stand engaged, for I want language
To speak my debt; yet if a tear or two
Of joy, for your much goodness, can supply
My tongue's defects, I could——

Lov. Nay, do not melt:
This ceremonial thanks to me's superfluous.

Over. [within.] Is my lord stirring?

Lov. 'Tis he! oh, here's your letter: let him in.

Enter Overreach, Greedy, and Marrall.

Over. A good day to my lord!
Pay Old Debts

LOV. You are an early riser, Sir Giles.

OVER. And reason, to attend your lordship.

LOV. And you, too, Master Greedy, up so soon!

GREEDY. In troth, my lord, after the sun is up,
I cannot sleep, for I have a foolish stomach
That croaks for breakfast. With your lordship's favour,
I have a serious question to demand
Of my worthy friend Sir Giles.

LOV. Pray you use your pleasure.

GREEDY. How far, Sir Giles, and pray you answer me
Upon your credit, hold you it to be
From your manor-house, to this of my Lady’s Allworth’s?

OVER. Why, some four mile.

GREEDY. How! four mile, good Sir Giles—
Upon your reputation, think better;
For if you do abate but one half-quarter
Of five, you do yourself the greatest wrong
That can be in the world; for four miles riding
Could not have raised so huge an appetite
As I feel gnawing on me.

MAR. Whether you ride,
Or go afoot, you are that way still provided,
An it please your worship.

OVER. How now, sirrah? prating
Before my lord! no difference! Go to my nephew,
ACT IV. SC. I.

See all his debts discharged, and help his worship
To fit on his rich suit.

Mar. I may fit you too.
Tossed like a dog still! [Aside, and exit.

Lov. I have writ this morning
A few lines to my mistress, your fair daughter.

Over. 'Twill fire her, for she's wholly yours already:—
Sweet Master Allworth, take my ring; twill carry you
To her presence, I dare warrant you; and there plead
For my good lord, if you shall find occasion.
That done, pray ride to Nottingham, get a licence,
Still by this token. I'll have it dispatched,
And suddenly, my lord, that I may say,
My honourable, nay, right honourable daughter.

Greedy. Take my advice, young gentleman, get your breakfast;
'Tis unwholesome to ride fasting: I'll eat with you,
And eat to purpose.

Over. Some Fury's in that gut:
Hungry again! did you not devour, this morning, 60
A shield of brawn, and a barrel of Colchester oysters?

Greedy. Why, that was, sir, only to scour my stomach,
A kind of a preparative. Come, gentleman,
I will not have you feed like the hangman or Flushing,
Alone, while I am here.
Pay Old Debts

ACT IV. SC. I.

Lov. Haste your return.

All. I will not fail, my lord.

Greedy. Nor I, to line
My Christmas coffer. [Exeunt Greedy and Allworth.

Over. To my wish : we are private.

I come not to make offer with my daughter
A certain portion, that were poor and trivial:
In one word, I pronounce all that is mine,
In lands or leases, ready coin or goods,
With her, my lord, comes to you; nor shall you have
One motive to induce you to believe
I live too long, since every year I'll add
Something unto the heap, which shall be yours too.

Lov. You are a right kind father.

Over. You shall have reason
To think me such. How do you like this seat?
It is well wooded, and well watered, the acres
Fertile and rich; would it not serve for change,
To entertain your friends in a summer progress?
What thinks my noble lord?

Lov. 'Tis a wholesome air,
And well-built pile; and she that's mistress of it,
Worthy the large revenue.

Over. She the mistress!
It may be so for a time: but let my lord
Say only that he likes it, and would have it,
I say, ere long 'tis his.
Lov. Impossible.

Over. You do conclude too fast, not knowing me,
Nor the engines that I work by. 'Tis not alone
The Lady Allworth's lands, for those once Well-
born's,
(As by her dotage on him I know they will be,) Shall soon be mine; but point out any man's
In all the shire, and say they lie convenient,
And useful for your lordship, and once more
I say aloud, they are yours.

Lov. I dare not own
What's by unjust and cruel means extorted;
My fame and credit are more dear to me,
Than so to expose them to be censured by
The public voice.

Over. You run, my lord, no hazard.
Your reputation shall stand as fair,
In all good men's opinions, as now;
Nor can my actions, though condemned for ill,
Cast any foul aspersion upon yours.
For, though I do contemn report myself
As a mere sound, I still will be so tender
Of what concerns you, in all points of honour,
That the immaculate whiteness of your fame,
Nor your unquestioned integrity,
Shall e'er be sullied with one taint or spot
That may take from your innocence and candour.
All my ambition is to have my daughter
Pay Old Debts

Right honourable, which my lord can make her: 120
And might I live to dance upon my knee
A young Lord Lovell, born by her unto you,
I write *nil ultra* to my proudest hopes.
As for possessions and annual rents,
Equivalent to maintain you in the port
Your noble birth and present state requires,
I do remove that burthen from your shoulders,
And take it on mine own: for, though I ruin
The country to supply your riotous waste, 129
The scourge of prodigals, want, shall never find you.

*Lov.* Are you not frighted with the imprecations
And curses of whole families, made wretched
By your sinister practices?

*Over.* Yes, as rocks are,
When foamy billows split themselves against
Their flinty ribs; or as the moon is moved,
When wolves, with hunger pined, howl at her brightness.
I am of a solid temper, and, like these,
Steer on, a constant course: with mine own sword,
If called into the field, I can make that right, 140
Which fearful enemies murmured at as wrong.
Now, for these other piddling complaints
Breathed out in bitterness; as when they call me
*Extortioner*, tyrant, *cormorant*, or intruder
On my poor neighbour's right, or grand incloser
Of what was common, to my private use;
ACT IV. SC. I.

Nay, when my ears are pierced with widows' cries,
And undone orphans wash with tears my threshold,
I only think what 'tis to have my daughter
Right honourable; and 'tis a powerful charm
Makes me insensible of remorse, or pity,
Or the least sting of conscience.

Lov. I admire
The toughness of your nature.

Over. 'Tis for you,
My lord, and for my daughter, I am marble;
Nay more, if you will have my character
In little, I enjoy more true delight
In my arrival to my wealth these dark
And crooked ways than you shall e'er take pleasure
In spending what my industry hath compassed.
My haste commands me hence; in one word, therefore,
Is it a match?

Lov. I hope, that is past doubt now.

Over. Then rest secure; not the hate of all mankind here,
Nor fear of what can fall on me hereafter,
Shall make me study aught but your advancement
One story higher: an earl! if gold can do it.
Dispute not my religion, nor my faith;
Though I am borne thus headlong by my will,
You may make choice of what belief you please,
To me they are equal; so, my lord, good morrow.

[Exit.]
Pay Old Debts

ACT IV. SC. I.

Lov. He's gone—I wonder how the earth can bear
Such a portent! I, that have lived a soldier,
And stood the enemy's violent charge undaunted,
To hear this blasphemous beast am bathed all over
In a cold sweat: yet, like a mountain, he
(Confirmed in atheistical assertions)
Is no more shaken than Olympus is
When angry Boreas loads his double head
With sudden drifts of snow.

Enter Lady Allworth, Waiting Woman, and Amble.

L. All. Save you, my lord!
Disturb I not your privacy?

Lov. No, good madam;
For your own sake I am glad you came no sooner,
Since this bold bad man, Sir Giles Overreach,
Made such a plain discovery of himself,
And read this morning such a devilish matins,
That I should think it a sin next to his
But to repeat it.

L. All. I ne'er pressed, my lord,
On others' privacies; yet, against my will,
Walking, for health' sake, in the gallery
Adjoining to your lodgings, I was made
(So vehement and loud he was) partaker
Of his tempting offers.

Lov. Please you to command
Your servants hence, and I shall gladly hear
Your wiser counsel.

L. All. 'Tis, my lord, a woman's,
But true and hearty;—wait in the next room,
But be within call; yet not so near to force me
To whisper my intents.

Amb. We are taught better
By you, good madam.

W. Wom. And well know our distance.

L. All. Do so, and talk not; 'twill become your breeding,
[Exeunt Amble and Woman.]

Now, my good lord; if I may use my freedom,
As to an honoured friend——

Lov. You lessen else
Your favour to me.

L. All. I dare then say thus;
As you are noble (howe'er common men
Make sordid wealth the object and sole end
Of their industrious aims) 'twill not agree
With those of eminent blood, who are engaged
More to prefer their honours than to increase
The state left to them by their ancestors,
To study large additions to their fortunes,
And quite neglect their births:—though I must grant,
Riches, well got, to be a useful servant,
But a bad master.

Lov. Madam, 'tis confessed;
But what infer you from it?
Pay Old Debts

ACT IV. SC. I.

L. All. This, my lord;
That as all wrongs, though thrust into one scale,
Slide of themselves off when right fills the other
And cannot bide the trial; so all wealth,
I mean if ill-acquired, cemented to honour
By virtuous ways achieved, and bravely purchased, 230
Is but as rubbish poured into a river,
(Howe'er intended to make good the bank,)
Rendering the water, that was pure before,
Polluted and unwholesome. I allow
The heir of Sir Giles Overreach, Margaret,
A maid well qualified and the richest match
Our north part can make boast of; yet she cannot,
With all that she brings with her, fill their mouths,
That never will forget who was her father;
Or that my husband Allworth's lands, and
Wellborn's, 240
(How wrung from both needs now no repetition,)
Were real motives that more worked your lordship
To join your families, than her form and virtues:
You may conceive the rest.

Lov. I do, sweet madam,
And long since have considered it. I know,
The sum of all that makes a just man happy
Consists in the well choosing of his wife:
And there, well to discharge it, doth require
Equality of years, of birth, of fortune; 250
For beauty being poor, and not cried up

83
By birth or wealth, can truly mix with neither.
And wealth, where there such difference in years,
And fair descent, must make the yoke uneasy:—
But I come nearer.

L. All. Pray you do, my lord.

Lov. Were Overreach's states thrice centupled, his daughter

Millions of degrees much fairer than she is,
Howe'er I might urge precedents to excuse me,
I would not so adulterate my blood
By marrying Margaret, and so leave my issue
Made up of several pieces, one part scarlet,
And the other London blue. In my own tomb
I will inter my name first.

L. All. I am glad to hear this.——

[Aside.
Why then, my lord, pretend your marriage to her?
Dissimulation but ties false knots
On that straight line by which you, hitherto,
Have measured all your actions.

Lov. I make answer,

And aptly, with a question. Wherefore have you,
That, since your husband's death, have lived a strict
And chaste nun's life, on the sudden given your-
self
To visits and entertainments? think you, madam,
'Tis not grown public conference? or the favours
Which you too prodigally have thrown on Wellborn
Being too reserved before, incur not censure?
L. All. I am innocent here; and, on my life, I swear
   My ends are good.

Lov. On my soul, so are mine
   To Margaret; but leave both to the event:
   And since this friendly privacy does serve
   But as an offered means unto ourselves,
   To search each other further, you having shewn
   Your care of me, I my respect to you,
   Deny me not, but still in chaste words, madam,
   An afternoon’s discourse.

L. All. So I shall hear you.

SCENE II

Before Tapwell’s House.

Enter Tapwell and Froth.

Tap. Undone, undone! this was your counsel, Froth.

Froth. Mine! I defy thee: did not Master Marrall
   (He has marred all, I am sure) strictly command us,
   On pain of Sir Giles Overreach’ displeasure,
   To turn the gentleman out of doors?

Tap. ’Tis true;
   But now he’s his uncle’s darling, and has got
   Master Justice Greedy, since he filled his belly,
   At his commandment, to do anything;
   Woe, woe to us!
Froth. He may prove merciful.

Tap. Troth, we do not deserve it at his hands.
Though he knew all the passages of our house,
As the receiving of stolen goods, and bawdry,
When he was rogue Wellborn no man would believe him,
And then his information could not hurt us;
But now he is right worshipful again,
Who dares but doubt his testimony? methinks,
I see thee, Froth, already in a cart,
For a close bawd, thine eyes even pelted out
With dirt and rotten eggs; and my hand hissing,
If I scape the halter, with the letter R
Printed upon it.

Froth. Would that were the worst!
That were but nine days wonder: as for credit,
We have none to lose, but we shall lose the money
He owes us, and his custom; there’s the hell on’t.

Tap. He has summoned all his creditors by the drum,
And they swarm about him like so many soldiers
On the pay day: and has found out such a new way
To pay his old debts, as ’tis very likely
He shall be chronicled for it!

Froth. He deserves it
More than ten pageants. But are you sure his worship
Pay Old Debts

ACT IV. SC. 2.

Comes this way, to my lady's?

[A cry within: Brave master Wellborn!]

Tap. Yes:—I hear him.

Froth. Be ready with your petition, and present it
To his good grace.

Enter Wellborn in a rich habit, followed by Marrall,
Greedy, Order, Furnace, and Creditors; Tapwell
kneeling, delivers his petition.

Well. How's this! petitioned too?—
But note what miracles the payment of
A little trash, and a rich suit of clothes,
Can work upon these rascals! I shall be,
I think, Prince Wellborn.

Mar. When your worship's married,
You may be—I know what I hope to see you.
Well. Then look thou for advancement.

Mar. To be known
Your worship's bailiff, is the mark I shoot at.

Well. And thou shalt hit it.

Mar. Pray you, sir, despatch.
These needy followers, and for my admittance.
Provided you'll defend me from Sir Giles,
Whose service I am weary of, I'll say something
You shall give thanks for.

Well. Fear me not Sir Giles.

Greedy. Who, Tapwell? I remember thy wife brought me
Last new-year's tide, a couple of fat turkeys.
ACT IV. SC. 2.  

_Tap._ And shall do every Christmas, let your worship  

But stand my friend now.  

_Greedy._ How! with Master Wellborn?  

I can do anything with him on such terms.—  

See you this honest couple, they are good souls  

As ever drew out fosset: have they not  

A pair of honest faces?  

_Well._ I o'erheard you,  

And the bribe he promised. You are cozened in  

them;  

For, of all the scum that grew rich by my riots,  

This, for a most unthankful knave, and this,  

For a base bawd and whore, have worst deserved  

me,  

And therefore speak not for them: by your place  

You are rather to do me justice; lend me your  

ear:  

—Forget his turkeys, and call in his license,  

And, at the next fair, I'll give you a yoke of oxen  

Worth all his poultry.  

_Greedy._ I am changed on the sudden  

In my opinion! come near; nearer, rascal.  

And, now I view him better, did you e'er see  

One look so like an archknave? his very coun-  

tenance,  

Should an understanding judge but look upon him,  

Would hang him, though he were innocent.  

_Tap._ Froth. Worshipful sir.
Pay Old Debts

ACT IV. SC. 2.

Greedy. No, though the great Turk came, instead of turkeys,
To beg my favour, I am inexorable.
Thou hast an ill name: besides thy musty ale,
That hath destroyed many of the king's liege people,
Thou never hadst in thy house, to stay men's stomachs,
A piece of Suffolk cheese or gammon of bacon,
Or any esculent, as the learned call it,
For their emolument, but sheer drink only.
For which gross fault I here do damn thy license, 90
Forbidding thee ever to tap or draw;
For, instantly, I will, in mine own person,
Command the constable to pull down thy sign,
And do it before I eat.

Froth. No mercy?

Greedy. Vanish!
If I shew any, may my promised oxen gore me!

Tap. Unthankful knaves are ever so rewarded.

[Exeunt Greedy, Tapwell, and Froth.

Well. Speak; what are you?

1st Cred. A decayed vintner, sir,
That might have thrived, but that your worship broke me
With trusting you with muscadine and eggs,
And five pound suppers, with your after drinkings,
When you lodged upon the Bankside.

Well. I remember.
1st Cred. I have not been hasty, nor e'er laid to arrest you;
And therefore, sir—
Well. Thou art an honest fellow,
I'll set thee up again; see his bill paid.—
What are you?

2nd Cred. A tailor once, but now mere botcher.
I gave you credit for a suit of clothes,
Which was all my stock, but you failing in payment,
I was removed from the shopboard, and confined
Under a stall.
Well. See him paid; and botch no more.

2nd Cred. I ask no interest, sir.
Well. Such tailors need not;
If their bills are paid in one and twenty year,
They are seldom losers.—O, I know thy face,

[To 3rd Creditor.

Thou wert my surgeon: you must tell no tales;
Those days are done. I will pay you in private.

Ord. A royal gentleman!
Furn. Royal as an emperor!
He'll prove a brave master; my good lady knew
To choose a man.

Well. See all men else discharged;
And since old debts are cleared by a new way,
A little bounty will not misbecome me;
There's something, honest cook, for thy good
breakfasts;
Pay Old Debts

And this, for your respect: [To Order] take’t, ’tis good gold,
And I able to spare it.
Ord. You are too munificent.
Furn. He was ever so.
Well. Pray you, on before.
3rd Cred. Heaven bless you!
Mar. At four o’clock; the rest know where to meet me.

[Exeunt Order, Furnace, and Creditors.

Well. Now, Master Marrall, what’s the weighty secret
You promised to impart?
Mar. Sir, time nor place
Allow me to relate each circumstance,
This only, in a word; I know Sir Giles
Will come upon you for security
For his thousand pounds, which you must not consent to.
As he grows in heat, as I am sure he will,
Be you but rough, and say he’s in your debt
Ten times the sum, upon sale of your land;
I had a hand in’t (I speak it to my shame)
When you were defeated of it.
Well. That’s forgiven.
Mar. I shall deserve it: then urge him to produce
The deed in which you passed it over to him,
Which I know he’ll have about him, to deliver
To the Lord Lovell, with many other writings,
And present monies; I’ll instruct you further,
ACT IV. SC. 3.

As I wait on your worship: if I play not my prize
To your full content, and your uncle's much vexation,
Hang up Jack Marrall.

_Well._ I rely upon thee. [Exeunt.

SCENE III

_A Room in Overreach's House._

_Enter Allworth and Margaret._

_All._ Whether to yield the first praise to my lord's
Unequalled temperance or your constant sweetness,
That I yet live, my weak hands fastened on
Hope's anchor, spite of all storms of despair,
I yet rest doubtful.

_Marg._ Give it to Lord Lovell;
For what in him was bounty, in me's duty.
I make but payment of a debt to which
My vows, in that high office registered,
Are faithful witnesses.

_All._ 'Tis true, my dearest:
Yet, when I call to mind how many fair ones
Make wilful shipwreck of their faiths, and oaths
To God and man, to fill the arms of greatness,
And you rise up no less than a glorious star,
To the amazement of the world,—hold out
Against the stern authority of a father,
And spurn at honour, when it comes to court you;
I am so tender of your good, that faintly,
With your wrong, I can wish myself that right
You yet are pleased to do me.

Marg. Yet, and ever.
To me what's title, when content is wanting?
Or wealth, raked up together with much care,
And to be kept with more, when the heart pines
In being dispossessed of what it longs for
Beyond the Indian mines? or the smooth brow
Of a pleased sire, that slaves me to his will,
And, so his ravenous humour may be feasted
By my obedience, and he see me great,
Leaves to my soul nor faculties nor power
To make her own election?

All. But the dangers
That follow the repulse——

Marg. To me they are nothing;
Let Allworth love, I cannot be unhappy.
Suppose the worst, that, in his rage, he kill me,
A tear or two, by you dropt on my hearse,
In sorrow for my fate, will call back life
So far as but to say, that I die yours;
I then shall rest in peace: or should he prove
So cruel, as one death would not suffice
His thirst of vengeance, but with lingering torments
In mind and body I must waste to air,
In poverty joined with banishment; so you share
ACT IV. SC. 3. A New Way to

In my afflictions, which I dare not wish you,
So high I prize you, I could undergo them
With such a patience as should look down
With scorn on his worst malice.

All. Heaven avert
Such trials of your true affection to me!
Nor will it unto you, that are all mercy,
Shew so much rigour: but since we must run
Such desperate hazards, let us do our best
To steer between them.

Marg. Your lord's ours, and sure;
And, though but a young actor, second me
In doing to the life what he has plotted,

Enter Overreach behind.

The end may yet prove happy. Now, my Allworth. [Seeing her father.

All. To your letter, and put on a seeming anger.

Marg. I'll pay my lord all debts due to his title;
And when with terms, not taking from his honour,
He does solicit me, I shall gladly hear him.
But in this peremptory, nay, commanding way,
To appoint a meeting, and, without my knowledge,
A priest to tie the knot can ne'er be undone
Till death unloose it, is a confidence
In his lordship will deceive him.

All. I hope better,
Good lady.
Pay Old Debts

**Marg.** Hope, sir, what you please: for me
  I must take a safe and secure course; I have
  A father, and without his full consent,
  Though all lords of the land kneeled for my favour,
  I can grant nothing.

**Over.** I like this obedience: [**Comes forward.**]
  But whatsoe'er my lord writes, must and shall be
  Accepted and embraced. Sweet Master Allworth,
  You shew yourself a true and faithful servant
  To your good lord; he has a jewel of you.

**Marg.** A piece of arrogant paper, like the inscriptions.

**Over.** [**Reads.**] “Fair mistress, from your servant learn
  all joys
  That we can hope for, if deferred, prove toys;
  Therefore this instant, and in private, meet
  A husband, that will gladly at your feet
  Lay down his honours, tendering them to you
  With all content, the church being paid her due.”
  —Is this the arrogant piece of paper? fool!

**Over.** Will you still be one? in the name of madness what
  Could his good honour write more to content you?
  Is there aught else to be wished, after these two,
  That are already offered; marriage first,
  And lawful pleasure after: what would you more?

**Marg.** Why, sir, I would be married like your daughter;
  Not hurried away i’ the night I know not whither,
Without all ceremony; no friends invited
To honour the solemnity.

All. An't please your honour,
For so before to-morrow I must style you,
My lord desires this privacy, in respect
His honourable kinsmen are afar off,
And his desires to have it done brook not
So long delay as to expect their coming;
And yet he stands resolved, with all due pomp,
As running at the ring, plays, masks, and tilting,
To have his marriage at court celebrated,
When he has brought your honour up to London.

Over. He tells you true; 'tis the fashion, on my knowledge:
Yet the good lord, to please your peevishness,
Must put it off, forsooth! and lose a night,
In which perhaps he might get two boys on thee.
Tempt me no further, if you do, this goad
[Points to his sword.]

Shall prick you to him.

Marg. I could be contented,
Were you but by, to do a father's part,
And give me in the church.

Over. So my lord have you,
What do I care who gives you? since my lord
Does purpose to be private, I'll not cross him.
I know not, Master Allworth, how my lord
May be provided, and therefore there's a purse.
Of gold, 'twill serve this night's expense; to-morrow
I'll furnish him with any sums: in the mean time,
Use my ring to my chaplain; he is beneficed
At my manor of Got'em, and called Parson Willdo:
'Tis no matter for a licence, I'll bear him out in't.

_Marg._ With your favour, sir, what warrant is your ring?
He may suppose I got that twenty ways, 130
Without your knowledge; and then to be refused
Were such a stain upon me!—if you pleased, sir,
Your presence would do better.

_Over._ Still perverse!
I say again, I will not cross my lord;
Yet I'll prevent you too.—Paper and ink, there!

_All._ I can furnish you.

_Over._ I thank you, I can write then.  [Writs.

_All._ You may, if you please, put out the name of my lord,
In respect he comes disguised, and only write, 140
Marry her to this gentleman.

_Over._ Well advised.
'Tis done; away;—[Margaret kneels.] My blessing,
girl? thou hast it.
Nay, no reply, be gone:—good Master Allworth,
This shall be the best night's work you ever made.

_All._ I hope so, sir.  [Exeunt Allworth and Margaret.

_Over._ Farewell!—Now all's cocksure:
Methinks I hear already knights and ladies
Say, Sir Giles Overreach, how is it with
Your honourable daughter? has her honour
ACT IV. SC. 3. A New Way to

Slept well to-night? or, will her honour please
To accept this monkey, dog, or paroquito,
(This is state in ladies), or my eldest son
To be her page, and wait upon her trencher?
My ends, my ends are compassed—then for Well-
born
And the lands; were he once married to the widow—
I have him here—I can scarce contain myself,
I am so full of joy, nay, joy all over.       [Exit.
ACT V

SCENE I

A Room in Lady Allworth's House.

Enter Lord Lovell, Lady Allworth, and Amble.

L. All. By this you know how strong the motives were
That did, my lord, induce me to dispense
A little, with my gravity, to advance,
In personating some few favours to him,
The plots and projects of the down-trod Wellborn.
Nor shall I e'er repent, although I suffer
In some few men's opinions for't, the action;
For he that ventured all for my dear husband
Might justly claim an obligation from me
To pay him such a courtesy; which had I
Coyly or over-curiously denied,
It might have argued me of little love
To the deceased.

Lov. What you intended, madam,
For the poor gentleman hath found good success;
For, as I understand, his debts are paid,
And he once more furnished for fair employment:
But all the arts that I have used to raise
The fortunes of your joy and mine, young Allworth,
Stand yet in supposition, though I hope well:
For the young lovers are in wit more pregnant
Than their years can promise; and for their desires,
On my knowledge, they are equal.

L. All. As my wishes
Are with yours, my lord; yet give me leave to
fear
The building, though well grounded: to deceive
Sir Giles, that's both a lion and a fox
In his proceedings, were a work beyond
The strongest undertakers; not the trial
Of two weak innocents.

Lov. Despair not, madam:
Hard things are compassed oft by easy means;
And judgment, being a gift derived from Heaven,
Though sometimes lodged in the hearts of worldly
men,
That ne'er consider from whom they receive it,
Forsakes such as abuse the giver of it.
Which is the reason that the politic
And cunning statesman, that believes he fathoms
The counsels of all kingdoms on the earth,
Is by simplicity oft over-reached.

L. All. May he be so! yet, in his name to express it,
Is a good omen.

Lov. May it to myself
Prove so, good lady, in my suit to you!
What think you of the motion?

L. All. Troth, my lord,
My own unworthiness may answer for me;
For had you, when that I was in my prime,
My virgin flower uncropped, presented me
With this great favour; looking on my lowness
Not in a glass of self-love, but of truth,
I could not but have thought it, as a blessing
Far, far beyond my merit.

Lov. You are too modest,
And undervalue that which is above
My title, or whatever I call mine.
I grant, were I a Spaniard, to marry
A widow might disparage me; but being
A true-born Englishman, I cannot find
How it can taint my honour: nay, what’s more,
That which you think a blemish is to me
The fairest lustre. You already, madam,
Have given sure proofs how dearly you can cherish
A husband that deserves you; which confirms me,
That, if I am not wanting in my care
To do you service, you’ll be still the same
That you were to your Allworth: in a word,
Our years, our states, our births are not unequal,
You being descended nobly, and allied so;
If then you may be won to make me happy,
ACT V. SC. I.

But join your lips to mine, and that shall be
A solemn contract.

L. All. I were blind to my own good,
Should I refuse it; [Kisses him] yet, my lord, receive me
As such a one, the study of whose whole life
Shall know no other object but to please you.

Lov. If I return not, with all tenderness,
Equal respect to you, may I die wretched!

L. All. There needs no protestation, my lord,
To her that cannot doubt.—

Enter Wellborn, handsomely apparelled.

You are welcome, sir. 80

Now you look like yourself.

Well. And will continue
Such in my free acknowledgment, that I am
Your creature, madam, and will never hold
My life mine own, when you please to command it.

Lov. It is a thankfulness that well becomes you;
You could not make choice of a better shape
To dress your mind in.

L. All. For me, I am happy
That my endeavours prospered. Saw you of late 90
Sir Giles, your uncle?

Well. I heard of him, madam,
By his minister, Marrall; he’s grown into strange passions
Pay Old Debts

About his daughter: this last night he looked for
Your lordship at his house, but missing you,
And she not yet appearing, his wise head
Is much perplexed and troubled.

*Lov.* It may be,
Sweetheart, my project took.

*L. All.* I strongly hope.

*Over.* [within.] Ha! find her, booby, thou huge lump
of nothing,
I’ll bore thine eyes out else.

*Well.* May it please your lordship,
For some ends of mine own, but to withdraw
A little out of sight, though not of hearing,
You may, perhaps, have sport.

*Lov.* You shall direct me.

[Steps aside.]

*Enter Overreach, with distracted looks, driving in*
*Marrall before him, with a box.*

*Over.* I shall sol fa you, rogue!

*Mar.* Sir, for what cause
Do you use me thus?

*Over.* Cause, slave! why, I am angry,
And thou a subject only fit for beating,
And so to cool my choler. Look to the writing;
Let but the seal be broke upon the box
That hast slept in my cabinet these three years,
I’ll rack thy soul for’t.
Mar. I may yet cry quittance,
    Though now I suffer, and dare not resist.  [Aside.
Over. Lady, by your leave, did you see my daughter, lady?
    And the lord her husband? are they in your house?
If they are, discover, that I may bid them joy;
And, as an entrance to her place of honour,
See your ladyship be on her left hand, and make courtsies
    When she nods on you; which you must receive
As a special favour.
L. All. When I know, Sir Giles,
    Her state requires such ceremony, I shall pay it;
    But in the meantime, as I am myself,
I give you to understand, I neither know
    Nor care where her honour is.
Over. When you once see her
    Supported, and led by the lord her husband,
You'll be taught better.——Nephew.
Well. Sir.
Over. No more!
Well. 'Tis all I owe you.
Over. Have your redeemed rags
    Made you thus insolent?
Well. Insolent to you!
    Why, what are you sir, unless in your years,
At the best, more than myself?
Pay Old Debts

Over. His fortune swells him:
'Tis rank, he's married.

[Aside.

L. All. This is excellent!

Over. Sir, in calm language, though I seldom use it,
I am familiar with the cause that makes you
Bear up thus bravely; there's a certain buzz
Of a stolen marriage, do you hear? of a stolen marriage,
In which 'tis said, there's somebody hath been cozened;
I name no parties.

Well. Well, sir, and what follows?

Over. Marry, this; since you are peremptory. Remember,
Upon mere hope of your great match, I lent you
A thousand pounds: put me in good security,
And suddenly, by mortgage or by statute,
Of some of your new possessions, or I'll have you
Dragged in your lavender robes to the gaol: you know me,
And therefore do not trifle.

Well. Can you be
So cruel to your nephew, now he's in
The way to rise? was this the courtesy
You did me "in pure love, and no ends else?"

Over. End me no ends! engage the whole estate,
And force your spouse to sign it, you shall have
Three or four thousand more, to roar and swagger
And revel in bawdy taverns.

Well. And beg after;
Mean you not so?

Over. My thoughts are mine, and free.
Shall I have security?

Well. No, indeed you shall not,
Nor bond, nor bill, nor bare acknowledgment;
Your great looks fright not me.

Over. But my deeds shall.
Outbraved!

L. All. Help, murder! murder!

Enter Servants.

Well. Let him come on,
With all his wrongs and injuries about him,
Armed with his cut-throat practices to guard him;
The right that I bring with me will defend me,
And punish his extortion.

Over. That I had thee
But single in the field!

L. All. You may; but make not
My house your quarrelling scene.

Over. Were’t in a church,
By Heaven and Hell, I’ll do’t!

Mar. Now put him to
The shewing of the deed.  [Aside to Wellborn.]

Well. This rage is vain, sir;
Pay Old Debts

ACT V. SC. I.

For fighting, fear not, you shall have your hands full,
Upon the least incitement; and whereas
You charge me with a debt of a thousand pounds,
If there be law, (howe'er you have no conscience,)
Either restore my land, or I'll recover
A debt, that's truly due to me from you,
In value ten times more than what you challenge.

Over. I in thy debt! O impudence! did I not purchase
The land left by thy father, that rich land,
That had continued in Wellborn's name
Twenty descents; which, like a riotous fool,
Thou didst make sale of it? Is not here, inclosed,
The deed that dost confirm it mine?

Mar. Now, now!

Well. I do acknowledge none; I ne'er passed over
Any such land: I grant, for a year or two
You had it in trust; which if you do discharge,
Surrendering the possession, you shall ease
Yourself and me of chargeable suits in law,
Which, if you prove not honest, as I doubt it,
Must of necessity follow.

L. All. In my judgment,
He does advise you well.

Over. Good! good! conspire
With your new husband, lady; second him
In his dishonest practices; but when
This manor is extended to my use,
You'll speak in an humbler key, and sue for favour.
L. All. Never: do not hope it.

Well. Let despair first seize me.

Over. Yet, to shut up thy mouth, and make thee give
   Thyself the lie, the loud lie, I draw out
   The precious evidence; if thou canst forswear
   Thy hand and seal, and make a forfeit of

   [Opens the box, and displays the bond.]

   Thy ears to the pillory, see! here's that will make
   My interest clear—ha!

L. All. A fair skin of parchment.

Well. Indented, I confess, and labels too;
   But neither wax nor words. How! thunderstruck?
   Not a syllable to insult with? My wise uncle,
   Is this your precious evidence, this that makes
   Your interest clear?

Over. I am o'erwhelmed with wonder!
   What prodigy is this? what subtle devil
   Hath razed out the inscription? the wax
   Turned into dust!—the rest of my deeds whole
   As when they were delivered, and this only
   Made nothing! do you deal with witches, rascal?
   There is a statute for you, which will bring
   Your neck in an hempen circle; yes, there is;
   And now 'tis better thought for, cheater, know
   This juggling shall not save you.

Well. To save thee,
   Would beggar the stock of mercy.

Over. Marrall!
Pay Old Debts

ACT V. SC. 1.

Mar. Sir.

Over. Though the witnesses are dead, your testimony
Help with an oath or two: and for thy master,
Thy liberal master, my good honest servant,
I know thou wilt swear anything, to dash
The cunning sleight: besides, I know thou art
A public notary, and such stand in law
For a dozen witnesses: the deed being drawn too
By thee, my careful Marrall, and delivered
When thou wert present, will make good my title.
Wilt thou not swear this? [Aside to Marrall.

Mar. I! no, I assure you:
I have a conscience not seared up like yours;
I know no deeds.

Over. Wilt thou betray me?

Mar. Keep him
From using of his hands, I'll use my tongue,
To his no little torment.

Over. Mine own varlet
Rebel against me!

Mar. Yes, and uncase you too.
“The idiot, the patch, the slave, the booby,
The property fit only to be beaten
For your morning exercise,” your “football,” or
“The unprofitable lump of flesh,” your “drudge,”
Can now anatomise you, and lay open
All your black plots, and level with the earth
Your hill of pride, and, with these gabions guarded
Unload my great artillery, and shake,
Nay pulverize, the walls you think defend you.

L. All. How he foams at the mouth with rage!
Well. To him again.

Over. O that I had thee in my gripe, I would tear thee
Joint after joint!

Mar. I know you are a tearer,
But I'll have first your fangs pared off, and then
Come nearer to you; when I have discovered,
And made it good before the judge, what ways,
And devilish practices, you used to cozen with
An army of whole families, who yet alive,
And but enrolled for soldiers, were able
To take in Dunkirk.

Well. All will come out.

L. All. The better.

Over. But that I will live, rogue, to torture thee,
And make thee wish, and kneel in vain, to die,
These swords that keep thee from me should fix here,
Although they made my body but one wound,
But I would reach thee.

Lov. Heaven's hand is in this;
One bandog worry the other! [Aside.

Over. I play the fool,
And make my anger but ridiculous:
There will be a time and place, there will be, cowards,
When you shall feel what I dare do.

Well. I think so:
Pay Old Debts

ACT V. SC. 1.

You dare do any ill, yet want true valour
To be honest, and repent.

Over. They are words I know not,
Nor e'er will learn. Patience, the beggar's virtue,

Enter Greedy and Parson Willdo.

Shall find no harbour here:—after these storms
At length a calm appears. Welcome, most welcome!
There's comfort in thy looks; is the deed done?
Is my daughter married? say but so, my chaplain, 310
And I am tame.

Willdo. Married! yes, I assure you.

Over. Then vanish all sad thoughts! there's more gold
for thee.

My doubts and fears are in the titles drowned
Of my honourable, my right honourable daughter.

Greedy. Here will be feasting! at least for a month,
I am provided: empty guts, croak no more.
You shall be stuffed like bagpipes, not with wind,
But bearing dishes.

Over. Instantly be here? [Whispering to Willdo. 320
To my wish! to my wish! Now you that plot
against me,
And hoped to trip my heels up, that contemned me,
Think on't and tremble:—[Loud music]—they come!
I hear the music.
A lane there for my lord!

Well. Think sudden heat
ACT V. SC. 1.

May yet be cooled, sir.

Over. Make way there for my lord!

Enter Allworth and Margaret.

Marg. Sir, first your pardon, then your blessing, with
Your full allowance of the choice I have made.
As ever you could make use of your reason,

[Kneeling]

Grow not in passion; since you may as well
Call back the day that’s past, as untie the knot
Which is too strongly fastened: not to dwell
Too long on words, this is my husband.

Over. How!

All. So I assure you; all the rites of marriage,
With every circumstance, are past. Alas! sir,
Although I am no lord, but a lord’s page,
Your daughter and my loved wife mourns not for it;
And, for right honourable son-in-law, you may say,
Your dutiful daughter.

Over. Devil! are they married?

Willdo. Do a father’s part, and say, Heaven give them joy!

Over. Confusion and ruin! speak, and speak quickly,
Or thou art dead.

Willdo. They are married.

Over. Thou hadst better

Have made a contract with the king of fiends,
Than these:—my brain turns!
Pay Old Debts

Willdo. Why this rage to me?
    Is not this your letter, sir, and these the words?
    "Marry her to this gentleman."

Over. It cannot—
    Nor will I e'er believe it, 'sdeath! I will not;
    That I, that in all passages I touched
    At worldly profit have not left a print
    Where I have trod for the most curious search
    To trace my footsteps, should be gulled by children,
    Baffled and fooled, and all my hopes and labours 360
    Defeated and made void.

Well. As it appears,
    You are so, my grave uncle.

Over. Village nurses
    Revenge their wrongs with curses; I'll not waste
    A syllable, but thus I take the life
    Which, wretched, I gave to thee.

[Attempts to kill Margaret.

Lov. [coming forward.] Hold, for your own sake!
    Though charity to your daughter hath quite left you,
    Will you do an act, though in your hopes lost here, 370
    Can leave no hope for peace or rest hereafter?
    Consider; at the best you are but a man,
    And cannot so create your aims, but that
    They may be crossed.

Over. Lord! thus I spit at thee,
    And at thy counsel; and again desire thee,
    And as thou art a soldier, if thy valour
Dares shew itself where multitude and example
Lead not the way, let's quit the house, and change
Six words in private.

Lov. I am ready.

L. All. Stay, sir,
    Contest with one distracted!

Well. You'll grow like him,
    Should you answer his vain challenge.

Over. Are you pale?
    Borrow his help, though Hercules call it odds,
    I'll stand against both as I am, hemmed in—
    Thus!
Since, like a Libyan lion in the toil,
My fury cannot reach the coward hunters,
And only spends itself, I'll quit the place:
Alone I can do nothing; but I have servants
And friends to second me; and if I make not
This house a heap of ashes (by my wrongs,
What I have spoke I will make good!) or leave
One throat uncut,—if it be possible,
Hell, add to my afflictions!

[Exit.

Mar. Is't not brave sport?

Greedy. Brave sport! I am sure it has ta'en away my
    stomach;
    I do not like the sauce.

All. Nay, weep not, dearest,
    Though it express your pity; what's decreed
Above, we cannot alter.
Pay Old Debts

L. All. His threats move me
No scruple, madam.

Mar. Was it not a rare trick,
An it please your worship, to make the deed nothing?
I can do twenty neater, if you please
To purchase and grow rich; for I will be
Such a solicitor and steward for you,
As never worshipful had.

Well. I do believe thee;
But first discover the quaint means you used
To raze out the conveyance?

Mar. They are mysteries
Not to be spoke in public: certain minerals
Incorporated in the ink and wax—
Besides, he gave me nothing, but still fed me
With hopes and blows; but that was the inducement
To this conundrum. If it please your worship
To call to memory, this mad beast once caused me
To urge you or to drown or hang yourself;
I'll do the like to him, if you command me.

Well. You are a rascal! he that dares be false
To a master, though unjust, will ne'er be true
To any other. Look not for reward
Or favour from me; I will shun thy sight
As I would do a basilisk's; thank my pity,
If thou keep thy ears; howe'er, I will take order
Your practice shall be silenced.
ACT V. SC. 1.

Greedy. I'll commit him,
    If you'll have me, sir.
Well. That were to little purpose;
    His conscience be his prison.  Not a word,
    But instantly be gone.
Ord. Take this kick with you.
Amb. And this.
Furn. If that I had my cleaver here,
    I would divide your knave's head.
Mar. This is the haven
    False servants still arrive at.

Re-enter Overreach.

L. All. Come again!
Lov. Fear not, I am your guard.
Well. His looks are ghastly.
Willdo. Some little time I have spent, under your favour,
    In physical studies, and if my judgment err not,
He's mad beyond recovery: but observe him,
    And look to yourselves.

Over. Why, is not the whole world
    Include in yourself? to what use then
Are friends and servants? Say there were a squadron
    Of pikes, lined through with shot, when I am mounted
Upon my injuries, shall I fear to charge them?
No: I'll through the battalia, and that routed,

[FLOURISHING HIS SWORD SHEATHED.

I'll fall to execution.—Ha! I am feeble:
Some undone widow sits upon mine arm,
And takes away the use of't; and my sword,
Glued to my scabbard with wronged orphans' tears,
Will not be drawn. Ha! what are these? sure, hangmen,

That come to bind my hands, and then to drag me
Before the judgment-seat: now they are new shapes,
And do appear like Furies, with steel whips
To scourge my ulcerous soul. Shall I then fall
Ingloriously, and yield? no; spite of Fate,
I will be forced to hell like to myself.
Though you were legions of accursed spirits,
Thus would I fly among you.

[RUSHES FORWARD AND FLINGS HIMSELF ON THE GROUND.

Well. There's no help;
Disarm him first, then bind him.

GREEDY. Take a mittimus,
And carry him to Bedlam.

LOV. How he foams!

WELL. And bites the earth!

WILLDO. Carry him to some dark room,
There try what art can do for his recovery.

MARG. O my dear father! [They force OVERREACH OFF.

ALL. You must be patient, mistress.

LOV. Here is a precedent to teach wicked men,
ACT V. SC. 1.

That when they leave religion, and turn atheists, 480
Their own abilities leave them. Pray you take comfort,
I will endeavour you shall be his guardians
In his distractions: and for your land, Master Wellborn,
Be it good or ill in law, I'll be an umpire
Between you, and this, the undoubted heir
Of Sir Giles Overreach: for me, here's the anchor
That I must fix on.

All. What you shall determine,
My lord, I will allow of.

Well. 'Tis the language
That I speak too; but there is something else
Beside the repossession of my land,
And payment of my debts, that I must practise.
I had a reputation, but 'twas lost
In my loose course; and until I redeem it
Some noble way, I am but half made up.
It is a time of action; if your lordship
Will please to confer a company upon me
In your command, I doubt not in my service
To my king and country but I shall do something 500
That may make me right again.

Lov. Your suit is granted,
And you loved for the motion.

Well. [coming forward.] Nothing wants then
But your allowance—and in that our all
Pay Old Debts

Is comprehended; it being known, nor we,
Nor he that wrote the comedy, can be free,
Without your manumission; which if you
Grant willingly, as a fair favour due
To the poet's and our labours, (as you may,
For we despair not, gentlemen, of the play,)
We jointly shall profess your grace hath might
To teach us action, and him how to write. [Exeunt.
GLOSSARY

ABRAM-MAN, an impudent impostor, who, under the garb of a lunatic, begged over the country, after the dissolution of the religious houses; II. i. 158.

ADMIRATION, wonder. This is the archaic use of the word; II. ii. 152.

AFTER-DRINKINGS, liquor taken after or between meals; IV. ii. 103.

BANDOG, a dog always kept tied up on account of his fierceness, and with a view to increase that quality in him; v. i. 297.

BARATHRUM, an abyss, pit, gulf, especially a deep pit at Athens into which criminals condemned to death were thrown. Applied also to an insatiable extortioner or glutton; III. ii. 260.

Basilisk, a fabled creature of the African desert, whose breath and look were fatal; v. i. 429.

BATOON, a stout staff or stick used as a weapon. Superseded by the word baton; II. iii. 36.

Battalia, a large body of men in battle array, a marshalled force or host, whether constituting the whole of an army or one of its great divisions or battalions; III. i. 86; v. i. 455.

Bearing-Dishes, substantial, sustaining dishes; portly viands; v. i. 319.

Bedlam, a corruption of Bethlehem. The Hospital of St. Mary of Bethlehem, used as an asylum for the reception and cure of mentally deranged persons, originally situated in Bishopsgate, in 1676 rebuilt near London Wall, and in 1815 transferred to Lambeth; v. i. 472.

Billmen, men who carried bills—pikes or halberds, borne by English foot-soldiers and watchmen; i. i. 19.

Botcher, mender of clothes in a careless fashion; IV. ii. 111.

Bouse, the modern spelling is booze, used as a slang term. Strong drink; also a drinking bout, a carouse; i. i. 1.

Black-Jacks, large leather cans coated with pitch, and used for holding small beer; i. iii. 88.

Brache, a hound bitch, a hunting-dog, generally of a small kind. Also applied as a common term of abuse; i. i. 7.

Bug-words, words meant to frighten or terrify. From bug, a hobgoblin or bogy, the original meaning of the word; III. ii. 389.

Canters, whining beggars. From 'cant'—or 'chant'—to sing or whine; i. i. 75.

Chamberers, chambermaids; II. ii. 16.

Conundrum, a whin, a conceit; v. i. 421.
GLOSSARY

CORROSIVES, strong remedies—written also corsey, corsive, and corzie in the old dramatists; I. i. 165.

COY IT, behave with coyness or diffidence; play the prude; III. ii. 128.

CUSTOS ROTULORUM, 'custodian of the rolls,' keeper of the county records; I. i. 43.

DOG-BOLT, a term of reproach, synonymous with 'dog,' 'contemptible fellow,' 'mean wretch.' The origin of the term is unknown; I. i. 86.

EXTENDED, a law term for seized, by writ of execution, for forfeiture of a bond; V. i. 218.

FOSSET, or faucet, as it is commonly spelt, is a peg or spigot to stop the vent-hole in a cask or in a tap; IV. ii. 63.

GABIONS, wicker baskets filled with earth used to shelter men from fire when digging a trench; V. i. 274.

GUARD, to adorn with guards, a word applied by the early dramatists to trimmings, facings, or other ornaments applied upon a dress; III. i. 19.

INDENTED, having counterparts severed by a zig-zag line. Indentures were made in duplicate, and both were written on the same sheet, which was cut in two by a crooked line in order that the fitting of the two parts might prove the genuineness of the document in case of dispute; V. i. 229.

KICKSHAWS, fancy French dishes. From French quelque chose; I. iii. 24.

LAVENDER, to lay a thing in lavender. To pawn; v. i. 158.

LINE, to strengthen; III. i. 87.

LOADSTONE (properly lodestone, i.e., 'way stone'), used as synonymous with the magnetic needle of the compass; I. i. 157.

LONDON BLUE, blue was formerly the colour of the distinguishing dress of servants, beadles, and other officials; IV. i. 263.

MAINPRIZE, a writ commanding the sheriff to take bail, where he has refused to do so, or where the offence is not bailable by him or other inferior authority; III. ii. 263.

MANUMISED, same as manumit, to liberate from service, to free; I. i. 166.

MANURE (contraction of manoeuvre), to cultivate by manual labour, the original meaning of the word. The modern meaning is 'to apply manure, or other fertilising substance; II. iii. 48.

MARRY, a corruption of Marie, as an asseveration confirmed by the name of the Virgin Mary; I. ii. 40.

MINCING, showing affected niceness. III. ii. 129.

MINION, one who is beloved. French, mignon, darling. The more common meaning is a servile favourite, a low dependent; II. i. 82.

MITTIMUS, a writ of committal by a magistrate. It begins mittimus ad, we send to; V. i. 471.
### Glossary

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NOTES.

I. i. 15. Plymouth Cloak. The explanation of this expression will be found in the Glossary. Coxeter, Massinger's first editor ignorant of the meaning, transformed the words into pile-worn cloak—a ridiculous substitution.

I. i. 19. Rusty Billmen. The word rusty applies to the bills, not to the men who carried them. Both Coxeter and Mason read lusty for rusty.

I. i. 154. For transparent the older reading was transient—an obvious misprint.

I. i. 166. The Porter's Lodge in the days of Massinger, when the great claimed, and also exercised, the right of chastising their servants, was the usual place of punishment.

I. i. 218. This Canopy. The additional words ‘of heaven’ are understood, as ‘in the open air’ is what is meant.

I. ii. 21. I am friends with thee. ‘Friends’ here is used for the singular or adverbially for ‘friendly.’ So with needs and thanks. (IV. i. 12.)

I. ii. 34. Breda. This attack on Breda was one of the most famous sieges of Massinger’s time, and is frequently mentioned by our old dramatists. Spinola invested the town on 26th August, 1624, and took it on 1st July, 1625, after the besieged had endured great hardships. The raising of ‘fortifications’ in pastry (I. ii. 32) was a fashionable practice of the day, as in accounts of all great entertainments the ‘fortifications’ of the cook or the confectioner are duly chronicled in the days of Queen Elizabeth and James I.

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NOTES

I. iii. 58. Pie-corner. Referring to a corner of the pastry, and also alluding to "Pie-corner," at Giltspur Street, which was the place reached by the Great Fire of London.

I. iii. 64. From the Basket. From the broken bread and meat which, in great houses, was distributed at the porter's lodge (I. i. 66), or reserved to be carried every night to the debtors' prisons.

II. i. 158. Abram-men, or Abraham-men. According to the Fraternitye of Vacabondes, 1575, 'An Abraham-man is he that walketh bare-armed, and bare-legged, and fayneth hymselfe mad, and caryeth a packe of wool, or a stycke with baken on it, or such lyke toy, and nameth himselfe poore Tom.' They are alluded to by Shakespeare under the name of 'Bedlam Beggars' (Lear, ii. iii. 14), and their still more usual appellation was 'Tom of Bedlam.' According to Grose, the expression 'to sham Abram,' a cant term, is to pretend sickness, which Nares, in his Glossary, thinks may have some connection with the other term.

II. i. 163. The Lady of the Lake. This refers to the enchantress Vivien, a prominent character, mistress of the seer Merlin, in Morte d'Arthur, and in many of our old romances—a veritable Circe of the dark ages.

II. i. 171. Pass her Porter. See Notes I. iii. 64 and I. i. 166. The 'porter's lodge' was a favourite reference by Massinger, and, in connection with chastisement, crops up in more than one of his dramas.

II. i. 174. To see thee curvet, and mount like a dog in a Blanket. This refers to an old game played by boys in the days of Queen Elizabeth, when one of them was tossed up in a blanket, a dog occasionally taking the place of the delinquent subjected to the indignity to which Wellborn had afterwards to submit.

II. ii. 167. Ram Alley. A street or lane between the Temple and Fleet Street, where there were many restaurants or cook shops.
II. iii. 34. Amber. Used for ambergris, a perfume in common use at the time, especially for cooking purposes (cf. II. ii. 30).

III. i. 79. He Stood the Syrens. This refers to the Sirens, whose inducements prevailed on Ulysses to stop the ears of his companions on approaching their island and cause himself to be bound to the mast of the ship so that he might avoid their seduction.

III. i. 89-90. Hippolytus himself would leave Diana To follow such a Venus. This allusion is to the classical story of Hippolytus, the son of Theseus, who was proof against the inducements of his step-mother, Phaedra, when she accused him of tempting her after the manner of Pharaoh’s wife. See the Phaedra of Euripides.

III. ii. 56. Into the Counter. This is a reference to one or other of the three prisons in London designated as ‘the Counter,’ two of them in the City and one in Southwark. All of them are frequently referred to in Elizabethan and Jacobean dramatic literature.

III. iii. 27, 28. The poet feigned not. This refers to the story of Pasiphaë, and the ball related in Ovid’s Metamorphoses, xv. 500.

IV. i. 49. Take my Ring. It was common in Massinger’s day to use a subject ring as a sign of authority or as a passport. It is said that Queen Elizabeth gave such a ring to the Earl of Essex, with an undertaking that she would pardon him any offence if he sent it to her when in danger, and that it was retained by the Countess of Nottingham.

IV. i. 12. Thanks. In the singular number, like needs and friends (I. ii. 21).

IV. i. 68-69. Nor I to Line my Christmas Coffer. The ‘Christmas Coffer’ was a box in which the London apprentices used to collect their subscriptions—an earthen piece of ware which could only be broken to get at the contents.

IV. i. 180-181. Than Olympus is When angry Boreas loads his
double head With sudden drifts of snow. In this passage Massinger, as did many of his contemporaries, confuses Olympus with Parnassus; cf. Shakespeare’s, “Let the russian Boreas once enrage the gentle Thetis.”

IV. i. 145–146. Or Grand Incloser, of what was common. This has reference to the enclosure of public land by private possessors, which was bitterly opposed by Bacon, and supported by Shakespeare, who resisted his fellow townsmen in their efforts to prevent the enclosure of certain lands at Stratford. In this respect Massinger was more generous than his great contemporary, and in The Guardian he again refers in contemptuous terms to those who would rob the poor of their rights to common land.

IV. iii. 127. My Manor of Got‘em. Evidently a play on the word Gotham, pronounced Gotam, as well as a reference to the rapacity of Overreach.

v. i. 475. Dark Room. The room to which lunatics were formerly consigned, and not altogether unknown in private asylums, in much later times, as an alternative of the cold bath, in the treatment of the mentally afflicted.
Massinger, Philip
A new way to pay old debts

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