ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.

A COMEDY.

By Mr. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

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Dramatis Personae.

KING of France.
Duke of Florence.
Bertram, Count of Rouvillon.
Lafeu, an old Lord.
Parolles, a parasitical follower of Bertram, a coward, but vain, and a great pretender to valour.
Several young French Lords, that serve with Bertram in the Florentine war
Steward, 7 Servants to the Countess of Rouvillon.

Countess of Rouvillon, mother to Bertram.
Hélèna, Daughter to Gerard de Narbon, a famous physician, some time since dead.
An old widow of Florence.
Diana, Daughter to the widow.
Violenta, 7 Neighbours and friends to the widow.
Mariana, 7 Lords attending on the King, Officers, Soldiers, &c.

SCENE: lies partly in France; and partly in Tuscany.

The plot taken from Boccace, Decam. 3. Nov. 9.
ALL'S well that ENDS well.

ACT I. SCENE I.

Roufillon in France.

Enter Bertram, the Countess of Roufillon, Helena, and Lafeu in mourning.

COUNTESS.

No delivering my son from me, I bury a second Husband.

Ber. And in going, madam, I weep o'er my father's death anew; but I must attend his Majesty's command, to whom I am now in ward, ever-more in subjection.

Laf. You shall find of the King a husband, madam; you, Sir, a father. He that so generally is at all times good, must of necessity hold his virtue to you, whose worthinefs would flir it up where it wanted, rather than lack it where there is fuch abundance.

Count. What hope is there of his Majesty's amendment?

Laf. He hath abandon'd his physicians, madam, under whole practices he hath persecuted time with hope, and finds no other advantage in the process, but only the losing of hope by time.

Count. This young gentlewoman had a father, (O that had! how sad a passage 'tis!) whose skill was almost as great as his honesty: had it stretch'd so far, it would
would have made nature immortal, and death should have play for lack of work. Would, for the King's sake, he were living, I think it would be the death of the King's disease.

Las. How call'd you the man you speak of, madam?

Count. He was famous, Sir, in his profession, and it was his great right to be so: Gerrard de Narbon.

Las. He was excellent indeed, madam; the King very lately spoke of him admiringly and mourningly: he was skilful enough to have liv'd still, if knowledge could be set up against mortality.

Ber. What is it, my good lord, the King languishes of?

Las. A fistula, my lord.

Ber. I heard not of it before.

Las. I would it were not notorious. Was this gentlewoman the daughter of Gerard de Narbon?

Count. His sole child, my lord, and bequeathed to my overlooking, I have those hopes of her good, that her education promises her; disposition she inherits, which makes fair gifts fairer; for where an unclean mind carries virtuous qualities, there commendations go with pity, they are virtues and traitors too: in her they are the better for their simpleness, she derives her honesty, and atchieves her goodness.

Las. Your commendations, madam, get tears from her.

Count. "Tis the best brine a maiden can season her praise in. The remembrance of her father never approaches her heart, but the tyranny of her sorrows takes all livelihood from her cheek. No more of this, Helena, go to, no more, left it be rather thought yet affect a sorrow, than to have——

Hel. I do affect a sorrow indeed, but I have it too.

Las. Moderate lamentation is the right of the dead, excessive grief the enemy to the living.

Count. If the living be enemy to the grief, the excess makes it soon mortal.

Ber. Madam, I desire your holy wishes.
Laf. How understand we that?

Count. Be thou blest, Bertram, and succeed thy father
In manners as in shape: thy blood and virtue
Contend for empire in thee, and thy goodness
Share with thy birth-right. Love all, trust a few,
Do wrong to none: be able for thine enemy
Rather in power than use; and keep thy friend
Under thy own life's key: be check'd for silence,
But never tax'd for speech. What heav'n more will,
That thee may furnish, and my prayers pluck down,
Fall on thy head. Farewel, my lord, 'Tis an unseason'd courtier, good my lord,
Advise him.

Laf. He cannot want the best
That shall attend his love.

Count. Heav'n bless him. Farewel, Bertram,

[Exeunt Count.]

Ber. [to Hel.] The best wishes that can be forg'd in
your thoughts be servants to you: be comfortable to my
mother, your mistress, and make much of her.

Laf. Farewel, pretty lady, you must hold the credit
of your father.

[Exeunt Ber. and Laf.]

Hel. Oh, were that all—I think not on my father,
And these great tears grace his remembrance more
Than those I shed for him. What was he like?
I have forgot him. My imagination
Carries no favour in it, but my Bertram's.
I am undone, there is no living, none,
If Bertram be away. It were all one
That I should love a bright particular star.
And think to wed it; he is so above me:
In his bright radiance and collateral light
Must I be comforted, not in his sphere.
Th' ambition in my love thus plagues it self;
The hind that would be mated by the lion,
Must die for love. 'Twas pretty, tho' a plague,
To see him every hour, to sit and draw
His arched brows, his hawking eye, his curls
In our heart's table: heart too capable
Of every line and trick of his sweet favour.
But now he's gone, and my idolatrous fancy
Must sanctifie his relics. Who comes here?

Enter Parolles.

One that goes with him: I love him for his sake,
And yet I know him a notorious liar;
Think him a great way fool, solely a coward;
Yet these fix'd evils fit so fit in him,
That they take place, when virtue's feely bones
Look bleak in the cold wind; full oft we see
Cold wisdom waiting on superfluous folly.

Par. Save you, fair Queen.

Hel. And you, monarch.

Par. No.

Hel. And no.

Par. Are you meditating on virginity?

Hel. Ay: you have some stain of soldier in you;
let me ask you a question. Man is enemy to virginity,
how may we barricado it against him?

Par. Keep him out.

Hel. But he affails; and our virginity, though valiant,
in the defence yet is weak: unfold to us some warlike resistance.

Par. There is none: man setting down before you,
will undermine you and blow you up.

Hel. Bless our poor virginity from underminers and blowers up. Is there no military policy how virgins
might blow up men?

Par. Virginity being blown down, man will quicklier be blown up: marry, in blowing him down again,
with the breath your elves made, you lose your city. It is not politic in the commonwealth of nature
to preserve virginity. Loss of virginity is rational encrease, and there was never virgin got, till virginity
was first lost. That you were made of is metal to make virgins. Virginity, by being once lost, may be
ten times found; by being ever kept, it is ever lost; 'tis
too cold a companion; away with't.

Hel. I will stand for't a little, though therefore I die
a virgin.

Par. There's little can be said in't; 'tis against the rule
rule of nature. To speak on the part of virginity, is to accuse your mother; which is most infallible disobedience. 'He that hangs himself is a virgin: Virginity murthers itself, and should be buried in high ways out of all sanctified limit, as a desperate effendress against nature. Virginity breeds mites; much like a cheese, consumes itself to the very paring, and so dies with feeding its own stomach. Besides, virginity is peevish, proud, idle, made of self-love, which is the most prohibited sin in the canon. Keep it not, you cannot chuse but lose by't. Out with't: within ten years it will make itself two, which is a goodly increase, and the principal itself not much the worse. Away with't.

Hel. How might one do, Sir, to lose it to her own liking?

Par. Let me see. Marry ill, to like him that rever it likes. 'Tis a commodity will lose the gloss with lying. The longer kept, the less worth: Off with't while 'tis vendible. Answer the time of request. Virginity, like an old courtier, wears her cap out of fashion, richly futed, but unutable, just like the brooch and the tooth-pick, which we wear not now: Your date is better in your pye and your porridge, than in your cheek; and your virginity, your old virginity, is like one of our French whither'd pears; it looks ill, it eats drily; marry, 'tis a wither'd pear: It was formerly better, marry, yet 'tis a wither'd pear. Will you any thing with it?

Hel. Not my virginity yet.

There shall your matter have a thousand loves,
A mother, and a mistres, and a friend,
A phanix, captain, and an enemy,
A guide, a godde's, and a sovereign.
A counsellor, a traitores, and a dear;
His humblest ambition, proud humility,
His jarring concord; and his discord dulcet,
His faith, his sweet disalter; with a world
Of pretty fond adoption charlendoms
That blinking Cupid goslings. 'Now shall he——
All's well that Ends well.

I know not what he shall—God fend him well—
The court's a learning place—and he is one—

Par. What one, i'faith?
Hel. That I wish well — 'tis pity——

Par. That wishing well had not a body in't,
Which might be felt, that we the poorer born,
Whose bafer stars do shut us up in wishes,
Might with effects of them follow our friends,
And shew what we alone must think, which never
Returns us thanks.

Enter Page.

Page. Monsieur Parolles,
My lord calls for you.

Par. Little Helen farewell, if I can remember thee, I
will think of thee at court.

Hel. Monsieur Parolles, you were born under a
charitable star.

Par. Under Mars, I.
Hel. I especially think, under Mars.

Par. Why under Mars?
Hel. The wars have kept you so under, that you
must needs be born under Mars.

Par. When he was predominant.
Hel. When he was retrograde, I think rather.

Par. Why think you so?
Hel. You go so much backward when you fight.

Par. That's for advantage.

Hel. So is running away, when fear proposes safety:
But the composition that your valour and fear makes
in you, is a virtue of a good wing, and I like the wear
well.

Par. I am so full of business, I cannot answer thee
acutely: I will return perfect courtier, in the which
my instruction shall serve to naturalize thee, so thou
wilt be capable of courtiers counsel, and understand what
advice shall thrust upon thee; else thou diest in thine
unthankfulness, and thine ignorance makes thee away;
farewel. When thou hast leisurc, say thy prayers;
when thou hast none, remember thy friends; get thee a
good
”Well. Our remedies oft in our selves do lie, Which we ascribe to heav’n. The fated sky Gives us free scope, only doth backward pull Our slow designs, when we our selves are dull. What power is it which mounts my love so high, That makes me fee, and cannot feed mine eye? The mightieth space in fortune, nature brings To join like likes, and kifs like native things. Impossible be strange attempts to those That weigh their pain in fense, and do suppose What hath been, cannot be. Who ever trye To shew her merit, that did miss her love? The King’s disease—my project may deceive me, But my intents are fix’d, and will not leave me. 

Flourish Cornets. Enter the King of France with letters, and divers attendants.

King. The Florentines and Senys are by th’ ears, Have fought with equal fortune, and continue A braving war.

1 Lord. So ’tis reported, Sir,

King. Nay, ’tis moft credible; we here receive it, A certainty vouch’d from our cousin Austria; With caution, that the Florentine will move us For speedy aid; wherein our dearest friend Prejudicates the busines, and would feem To have us make denial.

2 Lord. His love and wisdom, Approv’d so to your majesty, may plead For ample Credence.

King. He hath arm’d our anfw’r, And Florence is deny’d before he comes: Yet for our gentlemen that mean to fee The Tuscan service, freely have they leave To stand on either part.

2 Lord. It may well serve A nursery to our gentry, who are fick For breathing and exploit.
All's well that Ends well.

King. What's he comes here?

Enter Bertram, Lafeu and Parolles.

Lord. It is the Count Rousillon, my good lord, Young Bertram.

King. Youth, thou bear'st thy father's face.
Frank nature, rather curious than in haste,
Compos'd thee well. Thy father's moral parts
May't thou inherit too. Welcome to Paris.

Ber. My thanks and duty are your majesty's.

King. I would I had that corporal soundness now,
As when thy father and my self in friendship
First try'd our soldiership: he did look far
Into the service of the time, and was
Discipled of the bravest. He lasted long,
But on us both did haggish age steal on,
And wore us out of act. It much repairs me
To talk of your good father: in his youth
He had the wit, which I can well observe
To day in our young lords; but they may jest,
Till their own scorn return to them unnoted,
Ere they can hide their levity in honour;
So like a courtier, no contempt or bitterness
Were in his pride, or sharpness; if they were,
His equal had awak'd them, and his honour
Clock to itself, knew the true minute when
Exception bid him speak; and at that time
His tongue obey'd his hand. Who were below him
He us'd as creatures of another place,
And bow'd his eminent top to their low ranks,
Making them proud of his humility,
In their poor praise he humbled: such a man
Might be a copy to these younger times;
Which follow'd well, would now demonstrate them
But goers backward.

Ber. His remembrance, Sir,
Lies richer in your thoughts, than on his tomb:
So in approof lives not his epitaph,
As in your royal Speech.
King. Would I were with him; he would always say,
(Methinks I hear him now) his plaudive words
He scatter'd not in ears, but grafted them
To grow there and to bear; let me not live,
(Thus his good melancholy oft began
On the catastrophe and heel of puttime
When it was out) let me not live, quoth he,
After my flame lacks oil, to be the snuff
Of younger spirits, whose apprehensive senses
All but new things disdain; whole judgments are
Mere fathers of their garments; whose constancies
Expire before their fashions; this he wish'd.
I after him, do after him with too
(Since I nor wax nor honey can bring home,) I
quickly were dissolved from my hive.
To give some labourers room.
  Lord. You're loved, Sir;
They that least lend it you, shall lack you first.
  King. I fill a place, I know't. How long is't, Count,
Since the physician at your father's died?
He was much fam'd.
  Ber. Some six months since, my Lord.
  King. If he were living, I would try him yet;
Lend me an arm; the self have worn me out
With several applications; nature and sickness
Debate it at their leisure. Welcome, Count,
My son's no dearer.
  Ber. Thanks to your majesty. [Exeunt.

Enter Countess, Steward and Clown.

Count. I will now hear, what say you of this gentle-
woman?
  Stew. Madam, the care I have had to even your
content, I wish might be found in the calender of my
past endeavours: for then we wound our modesty, and
make foul the clearness of our deservings, when of our
selves we publish them.
  Count. What does this knave here? get you gone,
Sirrah: the complaints I have heard of you, I do not
all believe; 'tis my flowness that I do not, for I know
you
you lack not folly to commit them, and have ability enough to make such knaveries yours.

Clo. 'Tis not unknown to you, madam, I am a poor fellow.

Count. Well, Sir.

Clo. No, madam, 'tis not so well that I am poor, tho' many of the rich are damn'd; but if I have your ladyship's good will to go the world, Isbel the woman and I will do as we may.

Count. Wilt thou needs be a beggar?

Clo. I do beg your good will in this case.

Count. In what case?

Clo. In Isbel's case and mine own; service is no heritage, and I think I shall never have the blessing of God, 'till I have issue o' my body; for they say bearns are blessings.

Count. Tell me the reason why thou wilt marry.

Clo. My poor body, madam, requires it. I am driven on by the flesh, and he must needs go that the devil drives.

Count. Is this all your worship's reason?

Clo. Faith, madam, I have other holy reasons, such as they are.

Count. May the world know them?

Clo. I have been, madam, a wicked creature, as you and all flesh and blood are, and, indeed, I do marry that I may repent.

Count. Thy marriage sooner than thy wickedness.

Clo. I am out of friends, madam, and I hope to have friends for my wife's sake.

Count. Such friends are thine enemies, knave.

Clo. Y'are shallow, madam, in great friends? for the knaves come to do that for me which I am weary of; he that eroes my land, spares my team, and gives me leave to inne the crop; if I be his cuckold, he's my drudge; he that comforts my wife, is the cherisher of my flesh and blood; he that cherisheth my flesh and blood, loves my flesh and blood; he that loves my flesh and blood, is my friend: Ergo, he that kisses my wife is my friend. If men could be contented to be what they are, there were no fear in marriage;
marriage; for young Charbon the puritan, and old Peyjam
the papist, howsoever their hearts are fever'd in religion,
their heads are both one, they may joul horns together
like any deer i' th' herd.

Count. Wilt thou ever be a foul-mouth'd and cal-
umnious knave?

Clo. A prophet I, madam, and I speak the truth the
next way,
For I the ballad will repeat, which men fell true shall
find,
Your marriage comes by destiny, your cuckow sings by
kind.

Count. Get you gone, Sir, I'll talk with you more
anon.

Stevo. May it please you, madam, that he bid Helen
come to you, of her I am to speak.

Count. Sirrah, tell my gentlewoman I would speak
with her, Helen, I mean.

Clo. Was this fair face the cause, qouth she,
Why the Grecians lacked Troy?
Was this King Priam's joy?
With that she sigh'd as she flood,
And gave this sentence then;
Among nine bad if one be good,
There's yet one good in ten.

Count. What, one good in ten! You corrupt the song,
sirrah.

Clo. One good woman in ten, madam, which is a
purifying o' th' song: Would God would serve the world
so all the year, we'd find no fault with the tithe woman
if I were the parson; one in ten, qouth a'! an we might
have a good woman born but every blazing star, or at an
earthquake, 'twould mend the lottery well; a man may
draw his heart out, ere he pluck one.

Count. You'll be gone, Sir knave, and do as I com-
mand you.

Clo. That man that should be at a woman's command,
and yet no hurt done! tho' honestly be no puritan, yet
it will do no hurt; it will wear the surplis of humility
over
over the black gown of a big heart: I am going, for-
footh, the business is for Helen to come hither. [Exit.

Count. Well now.

Stew. I know, madam, you love your gentlewoman
intirely.

Count. Faith, I do; her father bequeath'd her to me;
and she herself, without other advantages, may lawfully
make title to as much love as she finds; there is more
owing her than is paid, and more shall be paid her than
she'll demand.

Stew. Madam, I was very late more near her than
I think she wish'd me; alone she was, and did com-
municate to her self, her own words to her own ears;
she thought, I dare vow for her, they touch'd not any
stranger. Her matter was, she lov'd your son; Fortune,
she said, was no Goddess, that had put such
difference betwixt their two estates; Love, no God, that
would not extend his might, only where qualities were
level: Complain'd against the queen of virgins, that
would suffer her poor Knight to be surpriz'd without
rescue in the first assault, or ransom afterward. This
she deliver'd in the most bitter touch of sorrow that e'er
I heard a virgin exclaim in, which I held it my duty
speedily to acquaint you withal; thence in the los that
may happen, it concerns you something to know it.

Count. You have discharge'd this honesty, keep it to
your self; many likelihoods inform'd me of this before,
which hung so tottering in the balance, that I could
neither believe nor misdoubt: Pray you leave me, flall
this in your bosom, and I thank you for your honest
care; I will speak with you further anon.

[Exit Steward.

Enter Helena.

Count. Ev'n so it was with me when I was young;
If we are nature's, these are ours: This thorn
Doth to our rose of youth rightly belong,
Our blood to us, this to our blood is born;
It is the show and seal of nature's truth,
Where love's strong passion is impress'd in youth;
By your remembrances of days foregone,
Such were our faults, or then we thought them none.

Her eye is sick on't, I observe her now.

_Hel._ What is your pleasure, madam?

_Count._ Helen, you know, I am a mother to you.

_Hel._ Mine honourable mistress.

_Count._ Nay, a mother; Why not a mother? when I had a mother,
Methought you saw a serpent; what's in mother,
That you start at it? I say, I'm your mother,
And put you in the catalogue of those
That were enwombed-mine; 'tis often seen
Adoption strives with nature, and choice breeds
A native slip to us from foreign seeds,
You ne'er oppress me with a mother's groan,
Yet I express to you a mother's care:

_God's mercy_, maiden, do's it curd thy blood,
To say I am thy mother? what's the matter,
That this diitemper'd messenger of wet,
The many colour'd Iris rounds thine eyes?

_Why—_ that you are my daughter?

_Hel._ That I am not.

_Count._ I say, I am your mother.

_Hel._ Pardon, madam.

_The Count Roussillon cannot be my brother:_
I am from humble, he from honour'd name;
No note upon my parents, his all noble.
My master, my dear lord he is, and I
His servant live, and will his vassal die:
He must not be my brother,

_Count._ Nor I your mother?

_Hel._ You are my mother, madam; would you were
(So that my lord your son were not my brother)
Indeed my mother—_or were you both our mothers_
I care no more for, than I do for heav'n,
So I were not his sister: Can't no other?
But I your daughter, he must be my brother.

_Count._ Yes, _Helen_, you might be my daughter-in-law,
God shield you mean it not, daughter and mother
So strive upon your pulse; what, pale again?
My fear hath catch'd your fondness. Now I see
The mystery of your loveness, and find
Your faint tears head; now to all sense 'tis gross,
You love my son; invention is abham'd
Against the proclamation of thy passion,
To say thou dost not; therefore tell me true,
But tell me then 'tis so. For look, thy cheeks
Confess it one to th' other, and thine eyes
See it so grossly shown in thy behaviour,
That in their kind they speak it: only sin
And hellish oblivincy tie thy tongue,
That truth should be suspected; speak, is't so?
If it be so, you've wound a goodly clew:
If it be not, forswear't; how'er I charge thee,
As heav'n shall work in me for thine avail,
To tell me truly.

_Hel._ Good madam, pardon me.
_Count._ Do you love my son?
_Hel._ Your pardon, noble mistress.
_Count._ Love you my son?
_Hel._ Do not you love him, madam?
_Count._ Go not about; my love hath in't a bond,
Whereof the world takes note: Come, come, disclose
The state of your affection, for your passions
Have to the full appeach'd.

_Hel._ Then I confess
Here on my knee, before high heav'ns and you;
That before you, and next unto high heav'n,
I love your son:
My friends were poor, but honest; so's my love;
Be not offended, for it hurts not him
That he is lov'd of me; I follow him not
By any token of presumptuous suit,
Nor would I have him, till I do deserve him,
Yet never know how that desert shall be:
I know I love in vain, strive against hope;
Yet in this captious and intenable five,
I still pour in the water of my love,
And lack not to lose still; thus Indian like,
Religious in mine error, I adore
The sun that looks upon his worshipper,
But know of him on more. My dearest madam,
Let not your hate encounter with my love,
For loving where you do; but if your self,
Whose aged honour cites a virtuous youth,
Did ever in so true a flame of liking
With chaftly, and love dearly, that your Diana
Was both her self and love; O then give pity
To her whose state is such, that cannot chuse
But lend and give where she is sure to lose;
That seeks not to find that which search implies,
But riddle-like, lives sweetly where she dies.

Count. Had you not lately an intent, speak truly,
To go to Paris?

Hel. Madam, I had.

Count. Wherefore? tell true.

Hel. I will tell truth, by grace it self I swear.
You know my father left me some prescriptions
Of rare and prov’d effects, such as his reading
And manifest experience had collected
For general sov’reignty; and that he will’d me
In heedfull’t reservation to bestow them,
As notes, whose faculties inclusive were,
More than they were in note: Amongst the rest,
There is a remedy, approv’d set down,
To cure the desperate languishings, whereof
The King is render’d lost.

Count. This was your motive for Paris, was it, speak?

Hel. My lord, your son made me to think of this;
Else Paris, and the medicine, and the King,
Had from the conversation of my thoughts
Haply been absent then.

Count. But think you, Helen,
If you should tender your supposed aid,
He would receive it; he and his physicians
Are of a mind; he, that they cannot help him:
They, that they cannot help. How shall they credit
A poor unlearned virgin, when the schools,
Embowell’d of their doctrine, have left off
The danger to it self?
Hel. There's something in't
More than my father's skill, which was the great'it
Of his profession, that his good receipt
Shall for my legacy be sanctified
By th' luckiest stars in heav'n; and would your honour
But give me leave to try success, I'd venture
The well-lost life of mine on his grace's cure,
By such a day and hour.

Count. Do'ft thou believe't?
Hel. Ay, madam, knowingly.

Count. Why, Helen, thou shalt have my leave and

Means and attendants, and my loving greetings
To those of mine in court. I'll stay at home,
And pray God's blessing into thy attempt:
Begone to-morrow, and be sure of this,
What I can help thee to thou shalt not miss.

ACT II.

Enter the King, with divers young Lords taking leave for
the Florentine War. Bertram and Parolles. Flourish
Cornets.

King. F A R E W E L, young Lords: these warlike
principles
Do not throw from you: you, my lords, farewel;
Share the advice betwixt you. If both gain,
The gift doth stretch it self as 'tis receiv'd,
And is enough for both.

1 Lord. 'Tis our hope, Sir,
After well-enter'd soldiers, to return
And find your Grace in health.

King. No, no, it cannot be; and yet my heart
Will not confess it owns the malady
That doth my life besiege; farewel, young lords,
Whether I live or die, be you the sons
Of worthy French men; let higher Italy,
(Th'ose bated that inherit but the fall
Of the last monarchy) see that you come
Not to woo honour, but to wed it; when
The braves fqueifant shrinks, find what you seek,
That fame may cry you loud: I say, farewel.

2 Lord. Health at your bidding serve your majesty.

King. Th'ose girls of Italy, take heed of them;
They fay our French lack language to deny
If they demand: beware of being Captives
Before you serve.

Both. Our hearts receive your warnings.

King. Farewel. Come hither to me.

[To Bert.]

[Exit.

1 Lord. Oh, my sweet lord, that you will stay behind us.

Par. 'Tis not h's fault, the spark ———

1 Lord. Oh, 'tis brave wars.

Par. Most admirable; I have seen those wars.

Ber. I am commanded here, and kept a coil with Tooyoung, and the next year, and 'tis too early.

Par. And thy mind ——— stand too it, boy; flee away bravely.

Ber. Shall I stay here the forehorfe to a smock,
Creeking my shoes on the plain masonry,
'Till honour be brought up, and no fword worn
But one to dance with? by heav'n I'll flee away.

1 Lord. There's honour in the theft.

Par. Commit it, Count.

2 Lord. I am your accifary, and fo, farewel.

Ber. I grow to you, and our parting is a tortur'd body.

1 Lord. Farewel, captain.

2 Lord. Sweet Monsieur Parolles.

Par. Noble heroes, my fword and yours are kin;
good sparks and luftrous. A fword, good metals.
You shall find in the regiment of the Spinii, one cap-
tain Spuria his cicatrice, with an Emblem of war here
on his finifter cheek; it was this very fword entrench'd it; fay to him, I live, and obferv'e his Reports of me.

1 Lord. We fhall, noble captain.

Par.
Par. Mars doat on you for his novices? what will ye do?

Ber. Stay; the King. [Ex. Lords.

Par. Use a more spacious ceremony to the noble lords, you have restrain'd your self within the list of too cold an adieu; be more expressive to them, for they wear themselves in the cap of the time, there do muster true gate, eat, speak, and move under the influence of the most receiv'd star; and tho' the devil lead the measure, such are to be follow'd: after them, and take a more dilated farewell.

Ber. And I will do so.

Par. Worthy fellows, and like to prove most finewy sword men.

Enter the King and Lafeu.

Laf. Pardon, my lord, for me and for my tidings.

King. I'll see thee to stand up.

Laf. Then here's a man stands that hath brought his pardon.

I would you had kneel'd, my lord, to ask me mercy, And that at my bidding you could so stand up.

King. I would I had, so I had broke thy pate, And ask'd thee mercy for't.

Laf. Good faith across; but, my good lord, 'tis thus; Will you be cur'd of your Infirmity?

King. No.

Laf. O will you eat no grapes, my royal fox; Yes, but you will, my noble grapes, and if My royal fox could reach them; I have seen a Med'cine That's able to breath life into a stone, Quicken a rock, and make you dance canary With sprightly fire and motion, whose simple touch Is powerful to raise King Pippen, nay, To give great Charlemain a pen in's hand And write to her a love-line.

King. What her is this?

Laf. Why doctor she: my lord, there's one arriv'd, If you will see her: now, by my faith and honour, If seriously I may convey my thoughts In this my light deliverance, I have spoke
With one, that in her sex, her years, profession,  
Wisdom and constancy, hath amaz'd me more  
Than I dare blame my weakness: will you see her,  
For that is her demand, and know her business?  
That done, laugh well at me.

**King.** Now, good Lafeu,  
Bring in the admiration, that we with thee  
May spend our wonder too, or take off thine,  
By wond'ring how thou took'st it.

**Laf.** Nay, I'll fit you,  
And not be all day neither.

**King.** Thus he his special nothing ever prologues.

**Laf.** Nay, come your ways.  
**King.** This haft hath wings indeed.

**Laf.** Nay, come your ways,

This is his majesty, say your mind to him;  
A Traitor you do look like, but such traitors  
His majesty seldom fears; I'm Creffid's uncle  
That dare leave two together; fare you well.  

**[Exit.**

**King.** Now, fair one, do's your business follow us?

**Hel.** Ay, my good lord.

**Gerard de Narbon** was my father,  
In what he did profess, well found.

**King.** I knew him.

**Hel.** The rather will I spare my praise towards him  
Knowing him is enough: on's bed of death  
Many Receipts he gave me, chiefly one,  
Which as the dearest issue of his practice,  
And of his old experience, th'only darling  
He bade me flore up, as a triple eye,  
Safer than mine own two: more dear I have so;  
And hearing your high majesty is touch'd  
With that malignant cause, wherein the honour  
Of my dear father's gift stands chief in power,  
I come to tender it, and my appliance,  
With all bound humbleness.

**King.** We thank you, maiden;  
But may not be so credulous of cure,  
When our most learned doctors leave us, and  
The congregated college have concluded,
That labouring art can never ransome nature
From her unaidable estate: we must not
So stain our judgment, or corrupt our hope,
To prostitute our past-cure malady
To empericks, or to disagree so
Our great self and our credit, to esteem
A senseless help; when help past sense we deem.

*Hel.* My duty then shall pay me for my pains:
I will no more enforce my office on you,
Humbly intreating from your royal thoughts
A modest one to bear me back again.

*King.* I cannot give thee less, to be call'd grateful;
Thou thought'st to help me, and such thanks I give,
As one near death to those that wish him live;
But what at full I know, thou know'st no part,
I knowing all my peril, thou no art.

*Hel.* What I can do, can do no hurt to try,
Since you set up your rest against remedy:
He that of greatest works is finisher,
Oft does them by the weakest minister:
So holy writ, in babes hath judgment shown,
When judges have been babes; great floods have flown
From simple sources; and great seas have dry'd,
When miracles have by th' greatest been deny'd.
Oft expectation fails, and most oft there
Where most it promises: And oft it hits
Where hope is coldest, and despair most fits.

*King.* I must not hear thee; fare thee well, kind maid,
Thy pains not us'd, must by thy self be paid.
Proffers not took, reap thanks for their reward.

*Hel.* Inspir'd merit so by breath is bar'd:
It is not so with him that all things knows
As 'tis with us that square our guess by shows:
But most it is presumption in us, when
The help of heav'n we count the act of men.
Dear Sir, to my endeavours give consent,
Of heav'n, not me, make an experiment.
I am not an impostor that proclaim
My self against the level of mine aim,
But know I think, and think I know most sure,
My art is not past power, nor you past cure.

King. Art thou so confident? within what space
Hop't thou my cure?

Hel. The greatest lending grace,
Ere twice the horses of the sun shall bring
Their fiery torcher his diurnal ring.
Ere twice in murk and occidental damp
Moist Hefferus hath quench'd his sleepy lamp;
Or four and twenty times the pilot's glass
Hath told the thievish minutes how they pass,
What is infirm from your sound parts shall fly,
Health shall live free, and sickness freely die.

King. Upon thy certainty and confidence,
What car't thou venture?

Hel. Tax of Impudence?
A strumpet's boldness, a divulged shame
Traduc'd by odious ballads; my maiden's name
Sear'd otherwise, no worse of worst extended,
With vilest torture let my life be ended.

King. Methinks in thee some blessed spirit doth speak
His powerful sound, within an organ weak;
And what impossibility would slay
In common sense, sense saves another way.
Thy life is dear, for all that life can rate
Worth name of life, in thee hath estimate:
Youth, beauty, wisdom, courage all
That happiness and prime can happy call;
Then this to hazard, needs must intimate
Skill infinite, or monstrous desperate.
Sweet practiser, thy physick I will try,
That minifters thine own death if I die.

Hel. If I break time, or flinch in property
Of what I spoke, unpitied let me die,
And well deserv'd; not helping, death's my fee;
But if I help, what do you promise me?

King. Make thy demand.

Hel. But will you make it even?

King. Ay, by my scepter, and my hopes of help.
Hel. Then shalt thou give me, with thy kingly hand,  
What husband in thy power I will command.  
Exempted be from me the arrogance  
To chuse from forth the royal blood of France,  
My low and humble name to propagate  
With any branch or image of thy state:  
But such a one thy vassal, whom I know  
Is free for me to ask, thee to bestow.  

King. Here is my hand, the premises observ'd,  
Thy will by my performance shall be serv'd:  
To make the choice of thine own time, for I,  
Thy resolv'd patient, on thee still rely.  
More should I question thee, and more I must,  
Tho' more to know could not be more to trust:  
From whence thou cam'st, how tended on, but rest  
Unquestion'd welcome, and undoubted blest.  
Give me some help here, hoa! if thou proceed  
As high as word, my deed shall match thy deed. [Ex.  

Enter Countess and Clown.  

Count. Come on, Sir, I shall now put you to the  
eight of your breeding.  

Clown. I will shew my self highly fed, and lowly  
taught; I know my business is but to the court.  

Count. To the court! why what place make you  
special, when you put off that with such contempt?  
but to the court!  

Clo. Truly, madam, if God have lent a man any  
manners he may easily put it off at court: he that  
cannot make a leg, put off's cap, kiss his hand, and  
fay nothing, has neither leg, hands, lip, nor caps; and  
indeed such a fellow, to say precisely, were not for  
the court: but for me, I have an answer will serve all  
men.  

Count. Marry, that's a bountiful answer that fits all  
questions.  

Clo. It is like a barber's chair, that fits all buttocks;  
the pin buttock, the quatch buttock, the brawn but-  
tock, or any buttock.  

Count. Will your answer serve fit to all questions?  

Clo.
As fit as ten groats is for the hand of an attorney, as your French crown for your taffety punk, as Tib's ruth for Tom's fore-finger, as a pancake for Shrove-Tuesday, a morris for May-day, as the nail to his hole, the cuckold to his horn, as a scolding quean to a wrangling knave, as the nun's lip to the friar's mouth, nay, as the pudding to his skin.

Count. Have you, I say, an answer of such fitness for all questions?

Clo. From below your Duke, to beneath your constable, it will fit any question.

Count. It must be an answer of most monstrous size that must fit all demands.

Clo. But a trifle neither, in good faith, if the learned should speak truth of it: here it is, and all that belongs to't. Ask me if I am a courier, it shall do you no harm to learn.

Count. To be young again, if we could: I will be a fool in a question, hoping to be the wiser by your answer. I pray you, Sir, are you a courtier?

Clo. O lord, Sir — there's a simple putting off; more, more, a hundred of them.

Count. Sir, I am a poor friend of yours, that loves you.

Clo. O lord, Sir — thick, thick, spare not me.

Count. I think, Sir, you can eat none of this homely meat.

Clo. O lord, Sir — nay, put me to't, I warrant you.

Count. You were lately whipp'd, Sir, as I think.

Clo. O lord, Sir — spare not me.

Count. Do you cry, O lord, Sir, at your whipping, and spare not me? indeed, your O lord, Sir, is very frequent to your whipping: you would answer very well to a whipping if you were but bound to't.

Clo. I ne'er had worse luck in my life, in my O lord, Sir; I see things may serve long, and not serve ever.

Count. I play the noble huswife with the time, to entertain it to merrily with a fool.
Clo. O lord, Sir—why there's serves well again.
Count. An end, Sir; to your business; give Helen this,
And urge her to a present answer back.
Commend me to my kinsmen, and my son:
This is not much.
Clo. Not much commendation to them.
Count. Not much employment for you, you understand me.
Clo. Most fruitfully, I am there before my legs.
Count. Haife you again.
[Exeunt]

Enter Bertram, Lafeu, and Parolles.

Laf. They say miracles are past, and we have our philosophical persons to make modern and familiar things supernatural and causeless. Hence is it, that we make trifles of terrors, ensconcing our selves into seeming knowledge, when we should submit our selves to an unknown fear.
Par. Why 'tis the rarest argument of wonder that hath shot out in our latter times.
Ber. And so 'tis.
Laf. To be relinquish'd of the artists.
Par. So I say, both of Galen and Paracelsus.
Laf. Of all the learned and authentick fellows,
Par. Right, so I say.
Laf. That gave him out incurable.
Par. Why there 'tis, so say I too.
Laf. Not to be help'd.
Par. Right, as 'twere a man affur'd of an—
Laf. Uncertain life; and sure death.
Par. Just, you say well: so would I have said.
Laf. I may truly say, it is a novelty to the world.
Par. It is, indeed, if you will have it in shewing, you shall read it in what do you call there—
Laf. A shewing of a heav'nly effect in an earthly actor.
Par. That's it, I would have said the very fame.
Laf. Why your dolphin is not lustier: for me, I speak in respect—
Par. Nay, 'tis strange, 'tis very strange, that is the brief and the tedious of it, and he's of a most facine-
rous spirit, that will not acknowledge it to be the—
Laf. Very hand of heav'n.
Par. Ay, so I say.
Laf. In a most weak——
Par. And debile minister, great power, great tran-
scendence, which should, indeed, give us a further use
to be made than only the recov'ry of the King, as to
be——
Laf. Generally thankful.

Enter King, Helena, and attendants.

Par. I would have said it, you said well: here comes
the King.
Laf. Lustick, as the Dutchman says: I'll like a maid
the better while I have a tooth in my head: why he's
able to lead her a corranto.
Par. Mort du Vinagre, is not this Helen?
Laf. *Fore God, I think so,
King. Go call before me all the lords in court.
Sit, my preserver, by thy patient's side,
And with this healthful hand, whose banish'd sense
Thou hast repeal'd, a second time receive
The confirmation of my promis'd gift,
Which but attends thy naming.

Enter three or four Lords.

Fair maid, send forth thine eye; this youthful parcel
Of noble batchelors stand at my bestowing,
O'er whom both sov'reign power and father's voice
I have to use; thy frank election make,
Thou hast pow'r to chuse, and they none to forfake.

Hel. To each of you, one fair and virtuous mistress
Fall, when love please: marry, to each but one.
Laf. I'd give bay curtal and his furniture,
My mouth no more were broken than these boys,
And writ as little beard.

King. Peruse them well:
Not one of those, but had a noble father.

B 2
[She addresses herself to a Lord.

Hel. Gentlemen, heav'n hath, through me, restor'd the King to health.

All. We understand it, and thank heav'n for you.

Hel. I am a simple maid, and therein wealthiest, That I protest I simply am a maid——
Please it your majesty, I have done already:
The blushes in my cheeks thus whisper me,
We blush that thou should'st chuse; but be refus'd;
Let the white death fit on thy cheek for ever,
We'll ne'er come there again.

King. Make choice and see.

Who shuns thy love, shuns all his love in me.

Hel. Now Dian from thy altar do I fly,
And to imperial Love, that God most high,
Do my sighs stream? Sir, will you hear my suit?

1 Lord. And grant it.

Hel. Thanks, Sir; all the rest are mute.

Laf. I had rather be in this choice, than throw Ames-ace for my Life.

Hel. The honour, Sir, that flames in your fair eyes,
Before I speak, too threateningly replies:
Love make your fortunes twenty times above
Her that so wishes, and her humble love.

2 Lord. No better, if you please.

Hel. My wish receive,
Which great Love grant, and so I take my leave.

Laf. Do all they deny her? if they were sons of mine, I'd have them whipp'd, or I would send them to the Turk to make eunuchs of.

Hel. Be not afraid that I your hand should take,
I'll never do you wrong for your own sake:
Blessing upon your vows, and in your bed
Find fairer fortune, if you ever wed.

Laf. These boys are boys of ice, they'll none of her: sure they are bastards to the English, the French ne'er got 'em.

Hel. You are too young, too happy, and too good
To make your self a son out of my blood.

4 Lord. Fair one, I think not so.
There's one grape yet, I am sure my father drunk wine; but if thou be'lt not an as, I am a youth of fourteen: I have known thee already.

Hel. I dare not say I take you, but I give Me and my service, ever whilst I live, Into your guiding power: this is the man. [To Bertram.

King. Why then young Bertram take her, she's thy wife.

Ber. My wife, my liege! I shall beseech your highness
In such a business give me leave to use
The help of mine own eyes.

King. Know'st thou not, Bertram,
What she hath done for me?

Ber. Yes, my good lord,
But never hope to know why I should marry her.

King. Thou know'st she rais'd me from my sickly bed.

Ber. But follows it, my lord, to bring me down
Must answer for your raising? I know her well:
She had her breeding at my father's charge:
A poor physician's daughter, my wife! disdain
Rather corrupt me ever.

King. 'Tis only title thou disdains't in her, the which
I can build up: strange is it that our bloods
Of colour, weight, and heat, pour'd all together,
Would quite confound distinction; yet stand off
In differences so mighty. If she be
All that is virtuous, (save what thou dislik'st,) A poor physician's daughter, thou dislik'st,
Of virtue for the name: but do not so.
From lowest place, whence virtuous things proceed,
The place is dignify'd by th' doer's deed.
Where great addition swells, and virtue none,
It is a dropfied honour; good alone,
Is good without a name. Vileness is so;
The property by what it is should go,
Not by the title. She is young, wise, fair:
In these, to nature she's immediate heir;
And these breed honour: That is honour's scorn,
Which challenges it self as honour's born,
And is not like the fire. Honours best thrive,
When rather from our acts we them derive
Than our for-goers: The mere Word's a slave
Debaught on every tomb, on every grave;
A lying trophy, and as oft is dumb,
Where dust and damn'd oblivion is the tomb,
Of honour'd bones indeed, what should be said?
If thou canst like this creature as a maid,
I can create the rest: Virtue and she,
Is her own dow'r; honour and wealth from me.

_Ber._ I cannot love her, nor will strive to do't.

_King._ Thou wrong'dst thy self, if thou should'rt strive
to choose.

_Hel._ That you are well restor'd, my Lord, I'm glad: Let the rest go.

_King._ My honour's at the stake, which to defeat
I must produce my power: Here, take her hand,
Proud, scornful boy, unworthy this good gift,
That dost in vile misprision shackle up
My love, and her desert; that canst not dream,
We poizing us in her defective scale,
Shall weigh thee to the beam; that wilt not know,
It is in us to plant thine honour where
We please to have it grow. Check thy contempt:
Obey our will, which travels in thy good,
Believe not thy disdain, but presently
Do thine own fortunes that obedient right
Which both thy duty owes, and our power claims:
Or I will throw thee from my care for ever
Into the flaggers, and the careless lapse
Of youth and ignorance; my revenge and hate
Let loose upon thee in the name of justice,
Without all terms of pity. Speak thine answer.

_Ber._ Pardon, my gracious lord; for I submit
My fancy to your eyes. When I consider
What great creation, and what dole of honour
Flies where you bid: I find that she, which late
Was in my nobler thoughts most base, is now
The praised of the King; who so ennobled,
Is as 'twere born so.

King. Take her by the hand,
And tell her she is thine: To whom I promise
A counterpoize; if not in thy estate,
A balance more replete.

Ber. I take her hand,

King. Good fortune, and the favour of the King
Smile upon the contract; whose ceremony
Shall seem expedient on the now-born brief,
And be perform'd to-night; the solemn feast
Shall more attend upon the coming space,
Expecting absent friends. As thou lov'st her,
Thy love's to me religious; else does err. [Exeunt.

Manent Parolles and Lafeu.

Laf. Do you hear, Monsieur? a word with you.
Par. Your pleasure, Sir.
Laf. Your lord and master did well to make his re-
cantation.
Par. Recantation! my lord! my master!
Laf. Ay, is it not a language I speak?
Par. A most harsh one, and not to be understood
without bloody succeeding. My master!
Laf. Are you companion to the count Roufflon?
Par. To any count; to all counts; to what is man.
Laf. To what is count's man; count's master is of an-
other stile.
Par. You are too old, Sir; let it satisfy you, you are
too old.
Laf. I must tell thee, sirrah, I write man; to which
title, age cannot bring thee.
Par. What I dare too well do, I dare not do.
Laf. I did think thee, for two ordinaries, to be a pretty
wife fellow; thou didst make tolerable vent of thy tra-
vel, it might pass; yet the scarfs and the bannerets a-
bout thee did manifoldly dissuade me from believing
thee a vesse1 of too great a burthen. I have now found
thee; when I lose thee again, I care not: Yet art thou
good
good for nothing but taking up, and that thou'rt scarce worth.

Par. Hadst thou not the privilege of antiquity upon thee——

Laf. Do not plunge thy self too far in anger, lest thou hasten thy tryal; which is, Lord have mercy on thee for a hen; so, my good window of lattice, fare thee well. thy casement I need not open. I look through thee. Give me thy hand.

Par. My lord, you give me most egregious indignity.

Laf. Ay, with all my heart, and thou art worthy of it.

Par. I have not, my lord, deserv'd it.

Laf. Yes, good faith, ev'ry dram of it; and I will not bate thee a scruple.

Par. Well, I shall be wiser——

Laf. Ev'n as soon as thou can'it, for thou hast to pull at a smack o'th' contrary. If ever thou beest bound in thy scarf and beaten, thou shalt find what it is to be proud of thy bondage. I have a desire to hold my acquaintance with thee, or rather my knowledge, that I may say in the default, he is a man I know.

Par. My lord, you do me most insupportable vexation.

Laf. I would it were hell pains for thy sake, and my poor doing eternal: For doing I am past, as I will by thee, in what motion age will give me leave. [Exit.

Par. Well, thou halt a son shall take this disgrace off me; scurvy, old, filthy, scurvy lord: Well, I must be patient, there is no fettering of authority. I'll beat him, by my life, if I can meet him with any convenience, an he were double and double a lord. I'll have no more pity of his age than I would have of—— I'll beat him; an if I could but meet him again.

Enter Lafeu.

Laf. Sirrah, your lord and master's married, there's news for you: You have a new mistress.

Par. I most unsheignedly beseech your lordship to make some reservation of your wrongs. He, my good lord, whom I serve above, is my master. 

Laf.
Laf. Who? God?
Par. Ay, Sir.

Laf. The devil it is, that's thy matter. Why dost thou garter up thy arms o' this fashion? dost make hole of thy sleeves? do other servants so? thou wert best set thy lower part where thy nose stands. By mine honour, if I were but two hours younger, I'd beat thee: Me-thinks thou art a general offence, and every man should beat thee. I think thou wast created for men to breathe themselves upon thee.

Par. This is hard and undeserved measure, my lord.

Laf. Go to, Sir; you were beaten in Italy for picking a kernel out of a pomegranate; you are a vagabond, and no true traveller: You are more fawcy with lords and honourable personages, than the commission of your birth and virtue gives you heraldry. You are not worth another word, else I'd call you knave. I leave you.

[Exit.

Enter Bertram.

Par. Good, very good, it is so then. Good, very good, let it be conceal'd a while.

Ber. Undone, and forfeited to cares for ever!

Par. What is the matter, sweet heart?

Ber. Although before the solemn Priest I've sworn; I will not bed her.

Par. What? what, sweet heart?

Ber. O my Paroles, they have married me: I'll to the Tuscan wars, and never bed her.

Par. France is a dog hole, and it no more merits the tread of a man's foot: To th' wars.

Ber. There's Letters from my mother: what the import is, I know not yet.

Par. Ay, that would be known: To th' wars my boy, to th' wars.

He wears his honour in a box unseen,
That hugs his kickefy wickefy here at home,
Spending his manly marrow in her arms,
Which should sustain the bound and high curvet
Of Mars's fiery steed: To other regions
France is a flable, we that dwell in't jades, 
Therefore to th' war.

Ber. It shall be so, I'll send her to my house, 
Acquaint my mother with my hate to her, 
And wherefore I am fled; write to the King 
That which I durst not speak. His present gift 
Shall furnish me to those Italian fields 
Where noble fellows strike. War is no strife 
To the dark house, and the detested wife.

Par. Will this capricio hold in thee, art sure?

Ber. Go with me to my chamber, and advise me. 
I'll send her straight away: To-morrow 
I'll to the wars, she to her single sorrow.

Par. Why these balls bound, there's noise in it. 
'Tis hard 
A young man married, is a man that's marr'd: 
Therefore away, and leave her bravely; go, 
The King has done you wrong: But hush, 'tis so.

Enter Helena and Clown.

Hel. My mother greets me kindly, is she well?

Clo. She is not well, but yet she has her health; she's 
very merry, but yet she is not well: But thanks be 
given she's very well, and wants nothing i' th' world; 
but yet she is not well.

Hel. If she be very well, what does she ail, that she's 
not very well?

Clo. Truly she's very well, indeed, but for two things.

Hel. What two things?

Clo. One, that she's not in heav'n, whither God send 
er her quickly; the other, that she's in earth, whence God 
send her quickly.

Enter Parolles.

Par. Blefs you, my fortunate lady.

Hel. I hope, Sir, I have your good will to have mine 
own good fortune.

Par. You had my prayers to lead them on; and to 
keep them on, have them still. O my knave, how does my
my old lady?

Clo. So that you had her wrinkles and I her mony,
I would she did as you say.

Par. Why I say you nothing.

Clo. Marry, you are the wiser man; for many a man's
tongue shakes out his master's undoing: To say nothing,
to do nothing, to know nothing, to have nothing, is to
be a great part of your title, which is within a very little
of nothing.

Par. Away, thou'rt a knave.

Clo. You should have said, Sir, before a knave, th'art
a knave; that's before me th'art a knave; This had
been truth, Sir.

Par. Go to, thou art a witty fool, I have found thee.

Clo. Did you find me in your self, Sir? or were you
taught to find me? the search, Sir, was profitable, and
much fool may you find in you, even to the world's plea-
ture, and the encrease of laughter.

Par. A good knave i'faith, and well fed.
Madam, my lord will go away to-night,
A very serious business call on him.
The great prerogative and rite of love,
Which, as your due time claims, he does acknowledge,
But puts it off by a compell'd restraint:
Whose want, and whose delay, is firewed with sweets
Which they distil now in the curbed time,
To make the coming hour o'ershow with joy,
And pleasure drown the brim.

Hel. What's his will else?

Par. That you will take your instant leave o'th' King,
And make this haste as your own good proceeding,
Strengthen'd with what apology you think
May make it probable need.

Hel. What more commands he?

Par. That having this obtain'd, you presently
Attend his further pleasure.

Hel. In every thing I wait upon his will,

Par. I shall report it so. [Exit Par.

Hel. I pray you come, Sirrah, Exit.
Enter Lafeu and Bertram,

Laf. But I hope your lordship think not him a soldier.

Bar. Yes, my lord, and of very valiant approof.

Laf. You have it from his own deliverance.

Ber. And by other warranted testimony.

Laf. Then my dial goes not true, I took this lark for a bunting.

Ber. I do assure you, my lord, he is very great in knowledge, and accordingly valiant.

Laf. I have then sinned against his experience, and transgress'd against his valours, and my state that way is dangerous, since I cannot yet find in my heart to repent: Here he comes, I pray you make us friends, I will pursue the amity.

Enter Parolles

Par. These things shall be done, Sir.

Laf. I pray you, Sir, who's his taylor?

Par. Sir?

Laf. O, I know him well, I, Sir, he fits a good workman, a very good taylor.

Ber. Is she gone to the King? [Aside to Parolles.

Par. She is.

Ber. Will she away to-night?

Par. As you'll have her.

Ber. I have writ my letters, casketed my treasure, given order for our horses; and to-night, when I should take possession of the bride——— and ere I do begin———

Laf. A good traveller is something at the latter end of a dinner; but one that lies three thirds, and utes a known truth to pass a thousand nothings with, should be once heard and thrice beaten———God save you, captain.

Ber. Is there any unkindness between my lord and you, Monsieur?

Par. I know not how I have deserved to run into my lord's displeasure.
Laf. You have made shift to run into't, boots and spurs, and all, like him that leapt into the custard; and out of it you'll run again, rather than suffer question for your residence.

Ber. It may be you have mistaken him, my lord.

Laf. And shall do so ever, tho' I took him, at's prayers. Fare you well, my lord, and believe this of me, there can be no kernel in this light nut: The soul of this man is his clothes. Trust him not in matter of heavy consequence: I have kept of them tame, and know their natures. Farewel, Monseur, I have spoken better of you, than you have or will deserve at my hand, but we must do good against evil. [Exit.

Par. An idle lord, I swear.

Ber, I think so.

Par. Why, do you not know him?

Ber. Yes, I do know him well, and common speech gives him a worthy pass. Here comes my clog.

Enter Helena.

Hel. I have, Sir, as I was commanded from you, Spoke with the King, and have procur'd his leave For present parting; only he desires Some private speech with you.

Ber. I shall obey his will.

You must not marvel, Helen, at my course, Which holds not colour with the time, nor does The ministration and required office On my particular. Prepar'd I was not For such a busines:; and am therefore found So much unsettled: This drives me to intreat you, That presently you take your way for home, And rather mu: than ask why I intreat you; For my respects are better than they seem, And my appointments have in them a need Greater than shews it self at the first view, To you that know them not. This to my mother.

[Giving a letter. 'Twill be two days ere I shall see you, so
I leave you to your wisdom.

Hel. Sir, I can nothing say,
But that I your most obedient servant.
Ber. Come, come, no more of that.

Hel. And ever shall

With true observance seek to eke out that
Wherein tow'rd me my homely stars have fail'd
To equal my great fortune.

Ber. Let that go:

My haste is very great. Farewel; hie home

Hel. Pray, Sir, your pardon.

Ber. Well, what would you say?

Hel. I am not worthy of the wealth I owe,
Nor dare I say 'tis mine, and yet it is?
But, like a tim'rous thief, most fain would steal
What law does vouch mine own.

Ber. What would you have?

Hel. Something, and scarce so much — nothing in

deed —

I would not tell you what I would, my lord — 'faith

yes —

Strangers and foes do sunder, and not kifs.

Ber. I pray you say not, but in haste to horse.

Hel. I shall not break your bidding, good my lord:
Where are my other men? Monsieur, farewel. [Exit.

Ber. Go thou tow'rd home, where I will never come,

Whilst I can shake my sword, or hear the drum:
Away, and for our flight.

Par. Bravely, Couragio!

[Exeunt.}

A C T III.

Flourish. Enter the Duke of Florence, two French Lords,
with Soldiers.

Duke. So that from point to point now have you heard?
The fundamental reasons of this war,
Whose great decision hath much blood let forth,
And more thirsts after.

1 Lord. Holy seems the quarrel
Upon your grace's part; but black and fearful
On the opposer.

Duke. Therefore we marvel much, our cousin France
Would, in so just a business, shut his bosom
Against our borrowing prayers.

2 Lord. Good, my Lord,
The reasons of our state I cannot yield,
But like a common and an outward man,
That the great figure of a council frames
By self-unable motion, therefore dare not
Say what I think of it, since I have found
My self in my uncertain grounds to fail
As often as I guess.

Duke. Be it his pleasure.

2 Lord. But I am sure the younger of our nation,
That surfeit on their case, will day by day
Come here for phyfick.

Duke. Welcome shall they be:
And all the honours that can fly from us,
Shall on them settle. You know your places well.
When better fall, for your avails they fell.
To morrow to the field.

[Exeunt.

Enter Countess and Clown.

Count. It has happen'd all as I would have had it:
Save that he comes not along with her.
Clo. By my troth, I take my young lord to be a very
melancholy man.

Count. By what observance, I pray you?

Clo. Why he will look upon his boot, and sing;
mend his ruff, and sing; ask questions, and sing; pick
his teeth, and sing. I knew a man, that had this trick
of melancholy, sold a goodly manor for a song.

Count. Let me see what he writes, and when the means
to come.

Clo. I have no mind to Isels since I was at court.
Our old ling, and our Isel o'th' country, are no-
thing
thing like your old Jil, and your Isbel of'th court: the brain of my Cupid's knock'd out, and I begin to love, as an old man loves money, with no stomach.

Count. What have we here?
Clo. In that you have there. [Exit.

Countess reads a letter.

I have sent you a daughter-in-law: she hath recovered the King, and undone me. I have wedded her, not bedded her; and sworn to make the riot eternal. You shall hear I am run away; know it before the report come. If there be breadth enough in the world, I will hold a long distance. My duty to you.

Your unfortunate son,

Bertram.

This is not well, rash and unbridled boy,
To fly the favours of so good a King,
To pluck his indignation on thy head,
By the misprizing of a maid, too virtuous
For the contempt of empire.

Enter Clown.

Clo. O madam, yonder is heavy news within bet- between two soldiers and my young lady.

Count. What is the matter?
Clo. Nay, there is some comfort in the news, some comfort, your son will not be kill'd so soon as I thought he would.

Count. Why should he be kill'd?
Clo. So say I, madam, if he run away, as I hear he does; the danger is in standing to't; that's the loss of men, though it be the getting of children. Here they come will tell you more. For my part, I only hear your son was run away.

Enter Helena and two Gentlemen.

1 Gen. Save you, good madam.
Pel. Madam, my lord is gone, for ever gone.
2 Gen. Do not say so.

Count.
Count. Think upon patience: 'pray you, gentlemen, I've felt so many quirks of joy and grief, That the first face of neither on the start Can woman me unto't. Where is my son?

2 Gen. Madam, he's gone to serve the duke of Florence.

We met him thitherward, from thence we came; And after some dispatch in hand at court, Thither we bend again.

Hel. Look on this letter, madam, here's my passport.

*When thou canst get the ring upon my finger, which never shall come off, and shew me a child begotten of thy body that I am father to, then call me husband: But in such a Then I write a Never.*

This is a dreadful sentence.

Count. Brought you this letter, gentlemen?

1 Gen. Ay, madam, and, for the contents faked are sorry for our pains.

Count. I pr'y thee, lady, have a better cheer.

If thou engrossest all the griefs as thine, Thou rob'st me of a moiety: he was my son, But I do wash his name out of my blood, And thou art all my child. Towards Florence is he?

2 Gen. Ay, madam.

Count. And to be a soldier?

2 Gen. Such is his noble purpose; and believe't

The duke will lay upon him all the honour That good convenience claims.

Count. Return you thither?

1 Gen. Ay, madam, with the swiftest wing of speed.

Hel. 'Till I have no wife, I have nothing in France: 'Tis bitter.

Count. Find you that there?

Hel. Yes, madam.

1 Gen. 'Tis but the boldness of his hand happily which his heart was not consenting to.

Count. Nothing in France until we have no wife? There's nothing here that is too good for him But only she, and she deserves a lord.
That twenty such rude boys might tend upon,  
And call her hourly mistress. Who was with him?  
1 Gen. A servant only, and a gentleman  
Which I have some time known.  
Count. Parolles, was't not?  
1 Gen. Ay, my good lady, he.  
Count. A very tainted fellow, full of wickedness:  
My son corrupts a well-derived nature  
With his inducement.  
1 Gen. Indeed, good lady, the fellow has a deal of  
that too much, which holds him much to have.  
Count. Y'are welcome, gentlemen; I will intreat  
you, when you see my son, to tell him that his sword  
can never win the honour that he loses: more I'll in-  
treat you written to bear along.  
2 Gen. We serve you, madam, in that and all your  
worstest affairs.  
Count. Not so, but as we change our courtesies.  
Will you draw near?  
Hel. 'Till I have no wife; I have nothing in France.  
Nothing in France until he has no wife!  
Thou shalt have none, Rouillon, none in France,  
Then haft thou all again. Poor lord! is't I  
That chase thee from thy country, and expose  
Those tender limbs of thine to the event  
Of the none-sparing war? and is it I,  
That drive thee from the sportive court, where thou  
Wast shot at with fair eyes, to be the mark  
Of smoaky muskets? O you leaden messengers,  
That ride upon the violent speed of fire,  
Fly with false aim, move the still-piercing air  
That sings with piercing, do not touch my lord:  
Whoever shoots at him, I set him there.  
Whoever charges on his forward breast,  
I am the caitiff that do hold him to it;  
And tho' I kill him not, I am the cause  
His death was so effected. Better 'twere  
I met the rav'ning lion when he roar'd  
With sharp constraint of hunger: better 'twere  
That all the miseries which nature owes  
Were
Were mine at once. No, come thou home, Rousillon,
Whence honour but of danger wins a scar,
As oft it loses all. I will be gone:
My being here it is that holds thee hence.
Shall I stay here to do't? no, no, although
The air of paradise did fan the house,
And angels off't all; I will be gone,
That pitiful rumour may report my flight
To consolate thine ear. Come night and day,
For with the dark, poor thief, I'll steal away. [Exit.

Flourish. Enter the Duke of Florence, Bertram, drum
and trumpets, soldiars, Parolles.

Duke. The general of our horse thou art, and we
Great in our hope, lay our best love and credence
Upon thy promising fortune.
Ber. Sir, it is
A charge too heavy for my strength; but yet
We'll strive to bear it for your worthy sake,
To th' extream edge of hazard.
Duke. Then go forth,
And fortune play upon thy prosp'rous helm,
As thy auspicious mistress.
Ber. This very day,
Great Mars, I put my self into thy sile;
Make be but like my thoughts, and I shall prove
A lover of thy drum; hater of love. [Exit.

Enter Countess and Steward.

Count. Alas! and would you take the letter of her?
Might you not know she would do, as she has done,
By sending me a letter? Read it again.

LETTER.

I am St. Jaques' pilgrim, thither gone;
Ambitious love hath in me offended,
That bare-foot pldd I the cold ground upon,
With fainted voice my faults to have amended.
Write, write, that from the blood course of war,
My dearest master, your dear son, may bee;
All's well that Ends well.

Bless him at home in peace, whilst I from far
His name with zealous fervour sanctified.
His taken labours bid him me forgive;
I his delightful Juno sent him forth
From courtly friends, with camping foes to live,
Where death and danger dog the heels of worth.
He is too good and fair for death and me,
Whom I my self embrace, to set him free.

Ah, what sharplings are in her mildest words?
Rynaldo, you did never lack advice so much,
As letting her pass so; had I spoke with her,
I could have well diverted her intents,
Which thus she hath prevented.

Sext. Pardon, madam,
If I had given you this at over-night
She might have been o'er-ta'en; and yet she writes
Pursuit would be but vain.

Count. What angel shall
Bless this unworthy husband? he cannot thrive,
Unless her prayers, whom heav'n delights to hear,
And loves to grant, reprieve him from the wrath
Of greatest justice. Write, write, Rynaldo,
To this unworthy husband of his wife;
Let every word weigh heavy of her worth,
That he does weigh too light: my greatest grief,
'Tho' little do he feel it, set down sharply.
Dispatch the most convenient messenger;
When haply he shall hear that she is gone,
He will return, and hope I may that she,
Hearing so much, will speed her foot again,
Led hither by pure love. Which of them both,
Is dearest to me, I've no skill in sense
To make distinction; provide this messenger;
My heart is heavy, and mine age is weak,
Grief would have tears, and sorrow bids me speak.

Enter an old widow of Florence, Diana, Violenta, and,
Mariana with other Citizens.

Wid. Nay, come. For if they do approach the city, We
we shall lose all the sight.

Dia. They say the French Count has done most honourable service.

Wid. It is reported that he has taken their greatest commander, and that with his own hand he slew the Duke's brother. We have lost our labour, they are gone a contrary way: hark, you may know by their trumpets.

Mar. Come, let's return again, and suffice our selves with the report of it. Well, Diana, take heed of this French Earl; the honour of a maid is her name, and no legacy is so rich as honesty.

Wid. I have told my neighbour how you have been solicited by a gentleman his companion.

Mar. I know that knave, hang him, one Parolles, a filthy officer, he is in those suggestions for the young Earl; beware of them, Diana; their promises, enticements, oaths, tokens, and all these engines of lust are not the things they go under; many a maid hath been seduced by them, and the misery is, example, that so terrible shews in the wreck of maiden-hood, cannot for all that diffuse succession, but that they are limed with the twigs that threaten them. I hope I need not to advise you further, but I hope your own grace will keep you where you are, tho' there were no further danger known, but the modesty which is so lost.

Dia. You shall not need to fear me.

Enter Helena disguised like a Pilgrim.

Wid. I hope so. Look here comes a pilgrim; I know she will lye at my house; thither they lend one another; I'll question her: God save you pilgrim, whither are you bound?

Hel. To St. Jacques le grand. Where do the palmers lodge, I do beseech you?

Wid. At the St. Francis here beside the port.

Hel. Is this the way? [A march afar off.

Wid. Ay, marry is't. Hark you, they come this way.

If
If you will tarry, holy pilgrim, but till the troops come by,
I will conduct you where you shall be lodg'd;
The rather, for I think I know your hostels
As ample as my self.

Hel. Is it your self?

Wid. If you shall please so, pilgrim.

Hel. I thank you, and will stay upon your leisure.

Wid. You came, I think, from France?

Hel. I did so.

Wid. Here you shall see a country-man of yours,
That has done worthy service.

Hel. His name, I pray you?

Dia. The Count Rieuxillon: know you such a one?

Hel. But by the ear that hears most nobly of him;

His face I know not,

Dia. Whatsoe'er he is,
He's bravely taken here. He stole from France,
As 'tis reported; for the King had married him,
Against his liking. Think you it is so?

Hel. Ay surely, meer the truth, I know his lady.

Dia. There is a gentleman that serves the Count:
Reports but courteously of her.

Hel. What's his name?

Dia. Monsieur Parolles.

Hel. Oh I believe with him,

In argument of praise, or to the worth
Of the great Count himselfe, she is too mean
To have her name repeated; all her deserving
Is a reserved honesty, and that
I have not heard examin'd.

Dia. Ah, poor lady!
'Tis a hard bondage to become the wife
Of a detesting lord.

Wid. Ah! right good creature! wheresoe'er she is,
Her heart weighs sadly; this young maid might do her
A shrewd turn, if she pleas'd.

Hel. How do you mean?

May be, the am'rous Count sollicites her
In the unlawful purpose.

Wid.
Wid. He does indeed,
And breaks with all than can in such a suit
Corrupt the tender honour of a maid:
But she is arm'd for him, and keeps her guard
In honest defence.

Enter Bertram, Parolles, Officers and Soldiers attending.

Wid. So now they come:
That is Antonio, the Duke's eldest son;
That Escalus.

Hel. Which is the Frenchman?
Dia. He;
That with the plume; 'tis a most gallant fellow,
I would he lov'd his wife: if he were honefter
He were much goodlier. Is't not a handsome gentle-
man?

Hel. I like him well.
Dia. 'Tis pity he is not honest; yond's that fame
knave.

That leads him to these places; were I his lady,
I'd poison that vile rascal.

Hel. Which is he?
Dia. That jack-an-apes with scarfs. Why is he me-
lancholy?

Hel. Perchance he's hurt i'th battel.
Par. Lofe our drum! well.
Mar. He's shrewdly vex'd at something. Look he
has spied us.

Wid. Marry, hang you. [Exeunt Ber. Par. &c.
Mar. And your curtesie, for a ring-carrier.

Wid. The troop is past: come pilgrim; I will bring
you
Where you shall host: of injoyn'd penitents
There's four or five, to great St. Jaques bound,
Already at my house.

Hel. I humbly thank you:
Please it this matron, and this gentle maid
To eat with us to-night, the charge and thanking
Shall be for me: and to requite you further,
I will bestow some precepts on this virgin
Worthy the note.

Both. We'll take your offer kindly. [Exit.

Enter Bertram and the two French Lords.

1 Lord. Nay, good my lord, put to him to't: let him have his way.

2 Lord. If your lordship find him not a hilding, hold me no more in your respect.

1 Lord. On my life, my lord, a bubble.

Ber. Do you think I am so far deceiv'd in him.

1 Lord. Believe it, my lord, in mine own direct knowledge, without any malice, but to speak of him as my kinsman; he's a most notable coward and, infinite and endless liar, an hourly promise-breaker, the owner of no one good quality worthy your lordship's entertainment.

2 Lord. It were fit you knew him, lest reposing too far in his virtue, which he hath not, he might at some great and trusty business in a main danger fail you.

Ber. I would I knew in what particular action to try him.

2 Lord. None better than to let him fetch off his drum; which you hear him so confidently undertake to do.

1 Lord. I, with a troop of Florentines, will suddenly surprize him; such I will have, whom I am sure he knows not from the enemy: we will bind and hoodwink him so that he shall suppose no other but that he is carried into the league of the adversaries, when we bring him to our own tents; be but your lordship present at his examination, if he do not for the promise of his life, and the highest compulsion of base fear, offer to betray you, and deliver all the intelligence in his power against you, and that with the divine forfeit of his soul upon oath, never trust my judgment in any thing.

2 Lord. O, for the love of laughter, let him fetch his drum; he says he has a stratagem for't; when
your lordship fees the bottom of his success in't, and to what metal this counterfeit lump of ours will be melted, if you give him not John Drum's entertainment, your inclining cannot be removed. Here he comes.

Enter Parolles.

1 Lord. O, for the love of laughter, hinder not the honour of his design, let him fetch off his drum in any hand.

Ber. How now, monsieur? this drum sticks sorely in your disposition,

2 Lord. A pox on't, let it go, 'tis but a drum.

Par. But a drum! is't but a drum? a drum so lost! there was excellent command! to charge in with our horse upon our own wings, and to rend our own soldiers.

2 Lord. That was not to be blamed in the command of the service; it was a disaster of war that Cæsar himself could not have prevented, if he had been there to command.

Ber. Well, we cannot greatly condemn our success: some dishonour we had in the loss of that drum, but it is not to be recover'd.

Par. It might have been recover'd.

Ber. It might, but it is not now.

Par. It is to be recover'd; but that the merit of service is seldom attributed to the true and exact performer, I would have that drum or another, or hic jacet.

Ber. Why, if thou have a stomach to't, Monsieur; if you think your mystery in stratagem can bring this instrument of honour again into his native quarter, be magnanimous in the enterprise, and go on, I will grace the attempt for a worthy exploit: if you speed well in it, the duke shall both speak of it, and extend to you what further becomes his greatness, even to the utmost syllable of your worthiness.

Par. By the hand of a soldier I will undertake it.

Ber. But you must not now slumber in it.
Par. I'll about it this evening, and I will presently pen down my dilemma's, encourage my self in my certainty, put my self into my mortal preparation; and by midnight look to hear further from me.

Ber. May I be bold to acquaint his Grace you are gone about it?

Par. I know not what the success will be, my lord; but the attempt, I vow.

Ber. I know th'art valiant, and to the possibility of thy soldieryship, will subscribe for thee; farewell.

Par. I love not many words. [Exit.

1 Lord. No more than a fish loves water. Is not this a strange fellow, my lord, that so confidently seems to undertake this business, which he knows is not to be done; dams himself to do it, and dares better be damn'd than don't?

2 Lord. You do not know him, my lord, as we do; certain it is, that he will fleal himself into a man's favour, and for a week escape a great deal of discoveries; but when you find him out, you have him ever after.

Ber. Why do you think he will make no deed at all of this that so seriously he does address himself unto?

2 Lord. None in the world, but return with an invention, and clap upon you two or three probable lies; but we have almost imboft him, you shall see his fall to-night; for indeed he is not for your lordship's respect.

1 Lord. We'll make you some sport with the fox ere we case him. He was first smoak'd by the old lord Lafeu; when his disguise and he is parted, tell me what a sprat you shall find him, which you shall see this very night.

2 Lord. I must go and look my twigs; he shall be caught.

Ber. Your brother he shall go along with me.

2 Lord. As't please your lordship. I'll leave you.

Ber. Now will I lead you to the house, and shew you.

The
The last I spoke of.

1 Lord. But you say she's honest.

Ber. That's all the fault: I spoke with her but once, And found her wondrous cold; but I sent to her, By this same coxcomb that we have 'tis wind, Tokens and letters, which she did refend; And this is all I've done: she's a fair creature; Will you go see her?

1 Lord. With all my heart, my Lord. [Exeunt.

Enter Helena and Widow.

Hel. If you misdoubt me that I am not she, I know not how I shall assure you further. But I shall lose the grounds I work upon.

Wid. Tho' my estate be fallen, I was well born, Nothing acquainted with these busineses, And would not put my reputation now In any staining act.

Hel. Nor would I wish you. First give me trust, the Count he is my husband, And what to your sworn counsel I have spoken, Is so from word to word; and then you cannot, By the good aid that I of you shall borrow, Err in bestowing it.

Wid. I should believe you, For you have shew'd me that which well approves Y'are great in fortune.

Hel. Take this purse of gold, And let me buy your friendly help thus far. Which I will over-pay and pay again When I have found it. The Count wooes your daughter, Lays down his wanton siege before her beauty, Resolves to carry her; let her consent, As we'll direct her how 'tis best to bear it. Now his importunate blood will nought deny That she'll demand: a ring the Count does wear That downward hath succeeded in his house From son to son, some four or five defcents, Since the first father wore it. This rings he holds
In most rich choice; yet in his idle fire,
To buy his will, it would not seem too dear,
Howe'er repented after.

Wid. Now I see the bottom of your purpose.

Hel. You see it lawful then. It is no more,
But that your daughter, ere she seems as won,
Desires this ring; appoints him an encounter;
In fine, delivers me to fill the time,
Her self most chaftely absent: after this,
To marry her, I'll add three thousand crowns
To what is past already.

Wid. I have yielded:
Instruct my daughter how she shall persever,
That time and place, with this deceit so lawful,
May prove coherent. Every night he comes
With musick of all sorts, and songs compos'd
To her unworthinesse: it nothing steads us
To chide him from our eyes, for he persits,
As if his life lay on't.

Hel. Why then to-night
Let us aßay our plot, which if it speed,
Is wicked meaning in a lawful deed;
And lawful meaning in a lawful act,
Where both not sin, and yet a sinful fact.
But let's about it.

A C T I V. S C E N E I.

Continues in Florence.

Enter one of the French Lords, with five or six Soldiers
in am­busb

Lord. He can come no other way but by this hedge­
corner; when you sally upon him, speak
what terrible language you will, though you understand
it not your selves, no matter; for we must not seem to
understand him, unless some one amongst us, whom we
must produce for an interpreter.
Sol. Good captain, let me be th' interpreter.
Lord. Art not acquainted with him? knows he not thy voice?
Sol. No, Sir, I warrant you.
Lord. But what linifie-woolfie hast thou to speak to us again?
Sol. Ev'n such as you speak to me.
Lord. He must think us some band of strangers i'th' adversaries entertainment. Now he hath a smack of all neighbouring languages; therefore we must every one be a man of his own fancy, not to know what we speak one to another; so we seem to know is to know straight our purpose: cough's language, gabble enough, and good enough. As for you, interpreter, you must seem very politicke. But couch, hoa, here he comes, to beguile two hours in a sleep, and then to return and swear the lies he forges.

Enter Parolles.

Par. Ten a clock; within these three hours 'twill be time enough to go home. What shall I say I have done? it must be a very plauifie invention that carries it. They begin to smock me, and disgraces have of late knock'd too often at my door; I find my tongue is too fool-hardy, but my heart hath the fear of Mars before it and of his creatures, not daring the reports of my tongue.

Lord. This is the first truth that e'er thine own tongue was guilty of.

Par. What the devil should move me to undertake the recovery of this drum, being not ignorant of the impossibility, and knowing I had no such purpose? I must give my self some hurts, and say, I got them in exploit; yet slight ones will not carry it. They will say, came you off with so little? and great ones I dare not give; wherefore what's the instance? tongue, I must put you into a butter-woman's mouth, and buy my self another of Bajazet's mule, if you prattle me into these perils.

C 3 Lord.
All's well that Ends well.

Lord. Is it possible she should know what he is, and
be that he is? [Aside.
Par. I would the cutting of my garments would serve
the turn, or the breaking of my Spanish sword.
Lord. We cannot afford you so. [Aside.
Par. Or the baring of my beard, and to say it was in
stratagem.
Lord. 'Twould not do. [Aside.
Par. Or to drown my cloaths, and say I was stript.
Par. Though I swore I leap'd from the window of
the citadel.
Lord. How deep?
Par. Thirty fathom.
Lord. Three great oaths would scarce make that be
believed. [Aside.
Par. I would I had any drum of the enemies, I
would swear I recover'd it.
Lord. You shall hear one anon. [Aside.
Par. A drum now of the enemies. [Alarum within.
Lord. Throco movousus, cargo, cargo, cargo,
All. Cargo, cargo, williando par corbo, cargo.
Par. O ransom, ransom: do not hide mine eyes.
[They seize him and blindfold him.

Inter. Baskos thromaldo beskos.

Par. I know you are the Muskos regiment,
And I shall lose my life for want of language.
If there be here German, or Dane, low Dutch,
Italian, or French, let him speak to me,
I'll discover that which shall undo the Florentine.

Inter. Baskos wawvado, I understand thee, and can
speak thy tongue, Kerelybonto, Sir, betake thee to thy
faith, for seventeen poniards are at thy bosom.
Par. Oh!

Int. Oh! pray, pray, pray,
Mancha ravanche dulche.

Lord. Osceoribi dulchos volivoro

Int. The general is content to spare thee yet,
And, hood-winkt as thou art, will lead thee on
To gather from thee. Haply thou may'st inform

Something
Something to save thy life.
Par. Oh let me live,
And all the secrets of our camp I'll shew;
Their force, their purposes: nay, I'll speak that
Which you will wonder at.
Int. But wilt thou faithfully?
Par. If I do not, damn me.
Int. Acordo linta.
Come on, thou art granted space. [Exit.

Lord. Go, tell the Count Roussillon and my brother,
We've caught the woodcock, and will keep him muffled
'Till we do hear from them.
Sol. Captain, I will.
Lord. He will betray us all unto our selves,
Inform 'em that.
Sol. So I will, Sir.
Lord. 'Till then I'll keep him dark and safely lockt.
[Exeunt.

Enter Bertram and Diana.

Ber. They told me that your name was Fontibell.
Dia. No, my good lord, Diana.
Ber. Titled goddess,
And worth it with addition! but, fair soul,
In your fine frame hath love no quality?
If the quick fire of youth light not your mind,
You are no maiden, but a monument:
When you are dead you should be such a one
As you are now, for you are cold and stern;
And now you should be as your mother was
When your sweet self was got.
Dia. She then was honest.
Ber. So should you be.
Dia. No.
My mother did but duty, such, my lord,
As you owe to your wife.
Ber. No more o’ that;
I pr'ythee do not strive against my vows.

C 4
I was compell'd to her, but I love thee
By love's own sweet constraint, and will for ever
Do thee all rights of service.

Dia. Ay, so you serve us
'Till we serve you: But when you have our rosset,
You barely leave our thorns to prick our selves,
And mock us with our bareness.

Ber. How have I sworn!

Dia. 'Tis not the many oaths that make the truth,
But the plain single vow that is vow'd true;
What is not holy that we swear not by.
But take the high'st to witness: Then pray tell me;
If I should swear by Jove's great attribute
I lov'd you dearly, would you believe my oaths,
When I did love you ill? this has no holding
To swear by him whom I protest to love,
That I will work against him. Therefore your oaths
Are words, and poor conditions but unseal'd,
At least in opinion.

Ber. Change it, change it:
Be not so holy cruel. Love is holy,
And my integrity ne'er knew the crafts
That you do charge men with: Stand no more off,
But give thy self unto my sick desires,
Which then recover. Say thou art mine, and ever
My love, as it begins, shall so persever.

Dia. I see that men make hopes in such affairs
That we'll forfake our selves. Give me that ring.

Ber. I'll lend it thee, my dear, but have no power
To give it from me.

Dia. Will you not, my lord?

Ber. It is an honour 'longing to our house,
Bequeathed down from many ancestors,
Which were the greatest obloquy i'th' world
In me to lose.

Dia. Mine honour's such a ring,
My chastity's the jewel of our house,
Bequeathed down from many ancestors,
Which were the greatest obloquy i'th' world
In me to lose. Thus your own proper wisdom
Brings in the champion honour on my part,
Against your vain assault.

Ber. Here, take my ring,
My house, my honour, yea, my life be thine,
And I'll be bid by thee.

Dia. When midnight comes, knock at my chamber window;
I'll order take, my mother shall not hear.
Now will I charge you in the band of truth,
When you have conquer'd my yet maiden-bed,
Remain there but an hour, nor speak to me:
My reasons are most strong, and you shall know them
When back again this ring shall be deliver'd;
And on your finger, in the night, I'll put
Another ring, that, what in time proceeds,
May token to the future our past deeds.
Adieu 'till then, then fail not: You have won
A wife of me, tho' there my hope be done.

Ber. A heav'n on earth I've won by wooing thee.

Dia. For which live long to thank both heav'n and me.
You may so in the end.
My mother told me just how he would woo,
As if the fate in's heart; she says, all men
Have the like oaths: He had sworn to marry me
When his wife's dead: Therefore I'll lye with him.
When I am buried. Since Frenchmen are so braid,
Marry that will, I'll live and die a maid;
Only in this disguise, I think't no sin
To cozen him that would unjustly win.

Enter the two French Lords, and two or three Soldiers.

1 Lord. You have not given him his mother's letter?
2 Lord. I have deliver'd it an hour since; there is
something in't that stings his nature, for on the reading
it he chang'd almost into another man.

1 Lord. He has much worthy blame laid upon him
for shaking off so good a wife and so sweet a lady.

2 Lord. Especially he hath incurred the everlasting
displeasure of the King, who had even turn'd his bounty

C 5
to sing happiness to him. I will tell you a thing, but you shall let it dwell darkly with you.

1 Lord. When you have spoken it, 'tis dead, and I am the grave of it.

2 Lord. He hath perverted a young gentlewoman here in Florence, of a most chaste renown, and this night he fleshes his will in the spoil of her honour; he hath given her his monumental ring, and thinks himself made in the unchaste composition.

1 Lord. Now God delay our rebellion; as we are our selves, what things are we!

2 Lord. Meekly our own traitors; and as in the common course of all treasons, we still see them reveal themselves, 'till they attain to their abhor'd ends; so he that in this action contrives against his own nobility in his proper stream, o'erflows himself.

1 Lord. Is it not meant damnable in us to be the trumpeters of our unlawful intents? we shall not then have his company to-night?

2 Lord. Not 'till after midnight; for he is dieted to his hour.

1 Lord. That approaches apace: I would gladly have him in his company anatomiz'd, that he might take a measure of his own judgment, wherein so curiously he had set his counterfeit.

2 Lord. We will not meddle with him 'till he come: for his presence must be the whip of the other.

1 Lord. In the mean time, what hear you of these wars?

2 Lord. I hear there is an overture of peace.

1 Lord. Nay, I assure you a peace concluded.

2 Lord. What will count Rouffillon do then? will he travel higher, or return again into France?

1 Lord. I perceive by this demand, you are not altogether of his council.

2 Lord. Let it be forbid, Sir, so should I be a great deal of his aid.

1 Lord. Sir, his wife some two months since fled from his house, her pretence is a pilgrimage to St. Jaques le grand; which holy undertaking, with a most austere sanctimony,
fanctimony, she accomplish'd; and there residing, the
tenderness of her nature became as a prey to her grief;
in fine, made a groan of her last breath, and now she sings
in heaven.

2 Lord. How is this justified?
1 Lord. The stronger part of it by her own letters,
which makes her story true, even to the point of her
death; her death it felt (which could not be her office
to say is come) was faithfully confirm'd by the rector of the
place.

2 Lord. Hath the Count all this intelligence?
1 Lord. Ay, and the particular confirmations, point
from point, to the full arming of the verity.

2 Lord. I am heartily sorry that he'll be glad of this.
1 Lord. How mightily sometimes we make us com-
forts of our losses!

2 Lord. And how mightily some other times we drown
our gain in tears! the great dignity that his valour hath
here acquired for him, shall at home be encounter'd with
a shame as ample.

1 Lord. The web of our life is of a mingled yarn,
good and ill together: Our virtues would be proud if
our faults whipt them not; and our crimes would de-
pair if they were not cherish'd by our virtues.

Enter a Servant.

How now? where's your master?

Ser. He met the Duke in the street, Sir, of whom he
hath taken a solemn leave: His lordship will next morn-
ing for France. The Duke hath offered him letters of
commendations to the King.

2 Lord. They shall be no more than needful there, if
they were more than they can commend.

Enter Bertram.

1 Lord. They cannot be too sweet for the King's
tenderness: Here's his lordship now. How now, my lord,
is't not after midnight?

Ber. I have to-night dispatch'd sixteen businesse, a
month's length a-piece, by an abstract of success; I have
congied.
congied with the Duke, done my adieu with his neariell; buried a wife, mourn'd for her; writ to my lady mother, I am returning; entertain'd my convey; and between these main parcels of dispatch, effected many nicer needs: The last was the greatest, but that I have not ended yet.

2 Lord. If the business be of any difficulty, and this morning your departure hence, it requires haste of your lordship.

Ber. I mean the business is not ended, as fearing to hear of it hereafter. But shall we have this dialogue between the fool and the soldier? come, bring forth this counterfeit module; h'as deceiv'd me, like a double-meaning prophet.

2 Lord. Bring him forth; h'as fate in the stocks all night, poor gallant knave.

Ber. No matter, his heels have deserv'd it in usurping his spurs so long. How does he carry himself?

1 Lord. I have told your lordship already: The stocks carry him. But to answer you as you would be understood, he weeps like a wench that had shed her milk, he hath confess'd himself to Morgan, whom he supposeth to be a friar, from the time of his remembrance to this very instant disaster of his setting i'th' stocks; and what think you he hath confess'd?

Ber. Nothing of me, has he?

2 Lord. His confession is taken, and it shall be read to his face; if your lordship be in't, as I believe you are, you must have the patience to hear it.

Enter Parolles with his interpreter.

Ber. A plague upon him, muffled! he can say nothing of me; hush.

1 Lord. Hoodman comes: Portotartarossa.

Par. He calls for the tortures; what will you say without him?

Par. I will confess what I know without constraint; if ye pinch me like a pasty, I can say no more.

Int. Bosko Chimurcho.

2 Lord. Bibliordo chicurmuco...
Int. You are a merciful general: Our general bids you answer to what I shall ask you out of a note.

Par. And truly, as I hope to live.

Int. First demand of him, how many horse the Duke is strong. What say you to that?

Par. Five or six thousand, but very weak and unserviceable; the troops are all scatter'd, and the commanders very poor rogues, upon my reputation and credit, and as I hope to live.

Int. Shall I set down your answer for?

Par. Do, I'll take the sacrament on't, how and which way you will: All's one to me.

Ber. What a past-saving slave is this?

1 Lord. Y'are deceiv'd, my Lord, this is Monsieur Parolles, the gallant militarist, that was his own phrase, that had the whole theory of war in the knot of his scarf, and the practice in the shape of his dagger.

2 Lord. I will never trust a man again for keeping his sword clean, nor believe he can have every thing in him by wearing his apparel neatly.

Int. Well, that's set down.

Par. Five or six thousand horse I said, I will say true, or thereabouts set down, for I'll speak truth.

1 Lord. He's very near the truth in this.

Ber. But I con him no thanks for't, in the nature he delivers it.

Par. Poor rogues, I pray you say.

Int. Well, that's set down.

Par. I humbly thank you, Sir, a truth's a truth, the rogues are marvellous poor.

Int. Demand of him of what strength they are afoot. What say you to that?

Par. By my troth, Sir, if I were to live this present hour I will tell true. Let me see, Spurio a hundred and fifty, Sebastian so many, Corambus so many, Jaques so many; Guiltian, Cosmo, Lodrvick, and Gratii, two hundred and fifty each; mine own company, Chimpfer, Vaumond, Bentii, two hundred and fifty each; so that the muster file, rotten and found, upon my life, amounts not to fifteen thousand pole, half of the which dare not
shake the snow from off their cassock, left they shake themselves to pieces.

Ber. What shall be done to him?

1 Lord. Nothing, but let him have thanks. Demand of him my conditions, and what credit I have with the Duke.

Int. Well, that's set down. You shall demand of him, whether one captain Dumain be i'th camp, a Frenchman; what his reputation is with the Duke, what his valour, honesty, and expertness in war; or, whether he thinks it were not possible with well-weighing sums of gold to corrupt him to revolt. What say you to this? what do you know of it?

Par. I beseech you let me answer to the particular of the Interrogatories. Demand them singly.

Int. Do you know this captain Dumain?

Par. I know him, he was a botcher's prentice in Paris, from whence he was whipt for getting the sheriff's fool with child, a dumb innocent, that could not say him nay.

Ber. Nay, by your leave hold your hands, tho' I know his brains are forfeit to the next tile that falls.

Int. Well, is this captain in the Duke of Florence's camp?

Par. Upon my knowledge he is, and lowsie.

1 Lord. Nay, look not to upon me, we shall hear of your lordship anon.

Int. What is his reputation with the Duke?

Par. The Duke knows him for no other but a poor officer of mine, and writ to me the other day to turn him out o'th' band. I think I have his letter in my pocket.

Int. Marry, we'll search.

Par. In good fasness I do not know, either it is there, or it is upon the file with the Duke's other letters in my tent.

Int. Here 'tis, here's a paper, shall I read it to you?

Par. I do not know if it be it or no.

Ber. Our interpreter does it well.

2 Lord. Excellently.

Int. Dian; the Count's a fool, and full of gold.

Par.
Par. That is not the Duke's letter, Sir; that is, an advertisement to a proper maid in Florence, one Diana, to take heed of the allurement of one Count Rouillon, a foolish idle boy, but for all that very ruttilish. I pray you, Sir, put it up again.

Int. Nay, I'll read it first, by your favour.

Par. My meaning in't, I protest, was very honest in the behalf of the maid; for I knew the young Count to be a dangerous and lascivious boy, who is a whale to virginity, and devours up all the fry it finds.

Ber. Damnable! both sides rogue.

Interpreter reads the letter.

When he swears oaths, bid him drop gold, and take it.

After he scores, he never pays the score:

Half won is match well made, match and well make it:

He never pays after-debts, take it before.

And say a soldier (Dian) told thee this:

Men are to smell with, boys are but to kis.

For count of this, the Count's a fool, I know it.

Who pays before, but not when he does owe it.

Thine, as he vow'd to thee in thine ear,

Parolles.

Ber. He shall be whipt through the army with this rhime in his forehead.

2 Lord. This is your devoted friend, Sir, the manifold linguist, and the arm-potent folder.

Ber. I could endure any thing before but a cat, and now he's a cat to me.

Int. I perceive, Sir, by the general's looks, we shall be fain to hang you.

Par. My life, Sir, in any case; not that I am afraid to die, but that my offences being many, I would repent out the remainder of nature. Let me live, Sir, in a dungeon, 'th' stocks, any where, so I may live.

Int. We'll see what may be done, so you confess freely; therefore once more to this captain Dumain: You have
have answer'd to his reputation with the Duke, and to his valour. What is his honesty?

Par. He will steal, Sir, an egg out of a cloister: For rapes and ravishments he parallels Nefus. He professes not keeping of oaths; in breaking them he is stronger than Hercules. He will lie, Sir, with such volubility, that you would think truth were a fool: Drunkenness is his best virtue, for he will be swine-drunk, and in his sleep he does little harm, save to his bed-cloaths about him; but they know his conditions, and lay him in straw. I have but little more to say, Sir, of his honesty, he has every thing that an honest man should not have; what an honest man should have, he has nothing.

1 Lord. I begin to love him for this.

Ber. For this description of thine honesty? a pox upon him for me, he is more and more a cat.

Int. What say you to his expertness in war?

Par. Faith, Sir, he has led the drum before the English tragedians: To belie him I will not, and more of his soldieryship I know not, except in that country, he had the honour to be the officer at a place there call'd Mile-end, to instruct for the doubling of files. I would do the man what honour I can, but of this I am not certain.

1 Lord. He hath out-villain'd villany so far that the rarity redeems him.

Ber. A pox on him, he's a cat still.

Int. His qualities being at this poor price, I need not to ask you if gold will corrupt him to revolt.

Par. Sir, for a Quart-d'ecu he will sell the fee-simple of his salvation, the inheritance of it, and cut th'intail from all remainders, and a perpetual succession for it perpetually.

Int. What's his brother, the other captain Dumain?

2 Lord. Why does he ask him of me?

Int. What's he?

Par. E'en a crow 'oth' fame nest; not altogether so great as the first in goodness, but greater a great deal in evil. He excels his brother for a coward, yet his
brother is reputed one of the best that is. In a retreat he out-runs any lackey; marry, in coming on he has the cramp.

*Int.* If your life be saved, will you undertake to betray the Florentine?

*Par.* Ay, and the captain of his horse, Count *Fosillon*.

*Int.* I'll whisper with the general and know his pleasure.

*Par.* I'll no more drumming, a plague of all drums; only to seem to deserve well, and to beguile the supposition of that lascivious young boy the Count, have I run into danger; yet who would have suspected an ambush where I was taken? [ Aside.

*Int.* There is no remedy, Sir, but you must die; the general says, you that have so traitorously discovered the secrets of your army, and made such pestiferous reports of men very nobly held, can serve the world for no honest use; therefore you must die. Come, headsman, off with his head.

*Par.* O lord, Sir, let me live, or let me see my death.

*Int.* That shall you, and take your leave of all your friends. [Unbinding him.

So, look about you; know you any here?

*Ber.* Good morrow, noble captain.

2 *Lord.* God bless you, captain *Parolles*.

1 *Lord.* God save you, noble captain.

2 *Lord.* Captain, what greeting will you to my Lord *Lafeu*? I am for France.

1 *Lord.* Good captain, will you give me a copy of that same sonnet you writ to *Diana* in behalf of the Count *Rousillon*? if I were not a very coward, I'd compel it of you; but fare you well. [Exeunt.

*Int.* You are undone, captain, all but your scarf, that has a knot on't yet.

*Par.* Who cannot be crush'd with a plot?

*Int.* If you could find out a country where but women were that had receiv'd so much shame, you might begin
begin an impudent nation. Fare you well, Sir, I am for France too, we shall speak of you there. [Exit.

Par. Yet I am thankful: If my heart were great, 'Twould burst at this. Captain, I'll be no more, But I will eat and drink, and sleep as soft As captain shall. Simply the thing I am Shall make me live: Who knows himself a braggart, Let him fear this; for it will come to pass, That every braggart shall be found an ass. Rust sword, cool blushes, and Paroles live Safest in shame; being fool'd by fool'ry, thrive; There's place and means for every man alive, I'll after them. [Exit.

[Enter Helena, Widow, and Diana.

Hel. That you may well perceive I have not wrong'd you,
One of the greatest in the christian world
Shall be my surety; 'fore whose throne 'tis needful, Ere I can perfect mine intents, to kneel.
Time was I did him a desired office
Dear almost as his life, which gratitude Through flinty Tartars bosom would peep forth,
And answer thanks. I duly am inform'd,
His Grace is at Marseilles, to which place
We have convenient convoy; you must know I am supposed dead; the army breaking,
My husband hies him home, where heaven aiding And by the leave of my good lord the King, We'll be before our welcome.

Wid. Gentle madam,
You never had a servant to whose trust
Your business was more welcome.

Hel. Nor you, mistress,
Ever a friend, whose thoughts more truly labour To recompence your love: Doubt not but heav'n Hath brought me up to your daughter's dowre, As it hath fated her to be my motive And helper to a husband. But, O strange men! That can such sweet use make of what they hate, When saucy trusting of the cczen'd thoughts Desiles
Desiles the pitchy night, so Luft doth play
With what it loaths, for that which is away.
But more of this hereafter. You Diana,
Under my poor instructions yet must suffer
Something in my behalf.

Dio. Let death and honesty
Go with your impositions, I am yours
Upon your will to suffer.

Hel. Yet I pray you:
But with the word the time will bring on summer,
When briars shall have leaves as well as thorns,
And be as sweet as sharp: We must away,
Our waggon is prepar'd, and time revives us;
All's well that ends well, still that finds the crown;
Whate'er the course, the end is the renown. [Exeunt.

Enter Countefs, Lafeu, and Clown.

Laf. No, no, no, your son was mis-led with a snip	taffata fellow there, whose villainous saffron would have made all the unbak'd and dowy youth of a na-
tion in his colour. Your daughter-in-law had been alive at this hour, and your son here at home more ad-
vanc'd by the King than by that red-tail'd humble-bee I speak of.

Count. I would I had not known him, it was the death of the most virtuous gentlewoman that ever na-
ture had praise for creating; if she had partaken of my flesh, and cost me the dearest groans of a mother, I could not have owed her a more rooted love.

Laf. 'Twas a good lady, 'twas a good lady. We may pick a thousand fallets ere we light on such another herb.

Clo. Indeed, Sir, she was the sweet marjoram of the fallet, or rather the herb of grace.

Laf. They are not fallet-herbs, you knave, they are nose-herbs.

Clo. I am no great Nebuchadnezzar, Sir, I have not much skill in grais.

Laf. Whether dost thou profess thy self, a knave or a fool?
Alb's well that Ends well.

Clo. A fool, Sir, at a Womans Service, and a knave at a man's.

Laf. Your distinction?

Clo. I could cozen the man of his wife, and do his service.

Laf. So you were a knave at his Service indeed.

Clo. And I would give his Wife my bauble, Sir, to do her service.

Laf. I will subscribe for thee, thou art both knave and fool.

Clo. At your service.

Laf. No, no, no.

Clo. Why, Sir, if I cannot serve you, I can serve as great a Prince as you are.

Laf. Who's that, a Frenchman?

Clo. Faith, Sir, he has an English name, out his phisonomy is more hotter in France than there.

Laf. What prince is that?

Clo. The black Prince, Sir, alias, the Prince of darkness, alias the devil.

Laf. Hold thee, there's my purse; I give thee not this to seduce thee from thy master thou talk'st of, serve him still.

Clo. I'm a woodland fellow, Sir, that always lov'd a great fire, and the master I speak of ever keeps a good fire, but sure he is the Prince of the World, let his nobility remain in's court. I am for the house with the narrow gate, which I take to be too little for pomp to enter: some that humble themselves may, but the many will be too chill and tender, and they'll be for the flowry way that leads to the broad gate and the great fire.

Laf. Go thy ways, I begin to be a weary of thee, and I tell thee so before, because I would not fall out with thee. Go thy ways, let my horses be well look'd to, without any tricks.

Clo. If I put any tricks upon 'em, they shall be jades tricks: which are their own right by the law of nature.

[Exit.

Laf. A shrew'd knave, and an unhappy.

Count. So he is. My lord that's gone, made him-
self much sport out of him; by his authority he remains here, which he thinks is a patent for his service; and indeed he has no pace, but runs where he will.

Laf. I like him well, 'tis not amis; and I was about to tell you, since I heard of the good lady's death, and that my lord your son was upon his return home, I mov'd the King my matter to speak in the behalf of my daughter; which in the minority of them both, his Majesty, out of a self-gracious remembrance, did first propose; his Highness hath promis'd me to do it; and to stop up the displeasure he hath conceiv'd against your son, there is no fitter matter. How do's your ladyship like it?

Count. With very much content, my lord, and I wish it happily effected.

Laf. His Highness comes post from Marseilles, of as able a body as when he number'd thirty; he will be here to-morrow, or I am deceiv'd by him that in such intelligence hath seldom fail'd.

Count. It rejoices me that I hope I shall see him ere I die. I have letters that my son will be here to-night: I shall beseech your lordship to remain with me 'till they meet together.

Laf. Madam, I was thinking with what manners I might safely be admitted.

Count. You need but plead your honourable privilege.

Laf. Lady, of that I have made a bold charter; but I thank my God it holds yet.

Enter Clown.

Clow. O madam, yonder's my lord your son, with a patch of velvet on's face; whether there be a fear under't or no the velvet knows, but 'tis a goodly patch of velvet; his left cheek is a cheek of two pile and a half, but his right cheek is worn bare.

Count. A fear nobly got, or a noble fear, is a good livery of honour. So belike is that.

Clow. But it is your carbinado'd face.
Laf. Let us go see your Son, I pray you: I long to talk with the young noble soldier.

Clo. 'Faith, there's a dozen of 'em with delicate fine hats and most courteous feathers, which bow the head, and nod at every man.

[Exeunt.

ACT V.

Enter Helena, Widow, and Diana, with two attendants.

Helena. BUT this exceeding-posting day and night Must wear your spirits low; we cannot help it. But since you've made the days and nights as one To wear your gentle limbs in my affairs, Be bold, you do so grow in my requital As nothing can unroot you. In happy time.

Enter a Gentleman.

This man may help me to his Majesty's ear, If he would spend his power. God save you, Sir, Gent. And you.

Hel. Sir, I have seen you in the court of France
Gent. I have been sometimes there.

Hel. I do presume, Sir, that you are not fallen From the report that goes upon your goodness; And therefore goaded with most sharp occasions; Which lay nice manners by, I put you to The use of your own virtues, for the which I shall continue thankful.

Gent. What's your will?

Hel. That it will please you To give this poor petition to the King, And aid me with that store of power you have, To come into his presence.

Gent.
Gent. The King's not here.
Hel. Not here, Sir!
Gent. Not, indeed.
He hence remov'd last night, and with more haste
Than is his use.

Wid. Lord, how we lose our pains!
Hel. All's well that ends well yet,
Tho' time seem to adverse, and means unfit:
I do beseech you, whither is he gone?

Gent. Marry, as I take it, to Rouillon,
Whither I'm going.
Hel. I beseech you, Sir,
Since you are like to see the King before me,
Commend the paper to his gracious hand,
Which, I presume, shall render you no blame,
But rather make you thank your pains for it,
I will come after you with what good speed
Our means will make us means.

Gent. This I'll do for you.
Hel. And you shall find yourself to be well thank'd
What-e'er falls more. We must to horse again.
Go, go, provide.

Enter Clown and Parolles.

Par. Good Mr. Le-vatch, give my lord Lafeu this letter.
I have ere now, Sir, been better known to you, when I
have held familiarity with fresher cloaths; but I am
now, Sir, muddied in fortunes mood, and smell some-
what strong of her strong displeasure.

Chlo. Truly fortune's displeasure is but fluttish, if it
smell so strongly as thou speake'lt of: I will hence-
forth eat no fish of Fortune's buttring. Pry'thee, al-
low the wind.

Par. Nay, you need not to stop your nose, Sir; I
spake but by a metaphor.

Chlo. Indeed, Sir, if your metaphor flink, I will
stop my nose against any man's metaphor. Pry'thee get
thee further.

Par. Pray you, Sir, deliver me this paper.

Chlo. Foh! pr'ythee stand away; a paper from for-
tune's
tune's close-stool, to give to a nobleman! look here he comes himself.

Enter Lafeu.

Clo. Here is a pur of fortunes, Sir, or of fortune's cat (but not a muscat;) that hath fall'n into an unclean fishpond of her displeasure, and, as he says, is mud-died within. Pray you, Sir, use the carp as you may, for he looks like a poor, decayed, ingenious, foolish, rascally knave. I do pity his distress in my smiles of comfort, and leave him to your lordship.

Par. My lord, I am a man whom fortune hath cruelly scratch'd.

Laf. And what would you have me to do? 'tis too late to pare her nails now. Wherein have you play'd the knave with fortune, that she should scratch you, who of her self is a good lady, and would not have knaves thrive longer under her? there's a Quart d'ecu for you: let the justices make you and fortune friends; I am for other business.

Par. I beseech your honour to hear me one single word.

Laf. You beg a single penny more: come you shall ha't, s'ave your word.

Par. My name, my good lord, is Parolles.

Laf. You beg more than one word then. Cox my passion, give me your hand: how does your drum?

Par. O my good lord, you were the first that found me.

Laf. Was I, insooth? and I was the first that lost thee.

Par. It lies in you, my lord, to bring me in some grace, for you did bring me out.

Laf. Out upon the knave, doft thou put upon me at once both the office of God and the devil? one brings thee in grace, and the other brings thee out. The Kings coming, I know by his trumpets. Sirrah, inquire further after me, I had talk of you last night; tho' you are a fool and a knave, you shall eat; go to, follow.
Par. I praise God for you. [Exeunt.

Flourish. Enter King, Countess, Lafeu, the two French Lords, with attendants.

King. We lost a jewel of her, our esteem
Was made much poorer by it; but your son,
As mad in folly, lack'd the sense to know
Her estimation home.

Count. 'Tis past, my Liege;
And I beseech your Majesty to make it
Natural Rebellion, done i'th'blade of youth,
When oil and fire, too strong for reason's force,
O'beares it, and burns on.

King. My honour'd lady,
I have forgiven and forgotten all;
Tho' my revenges were high bent upon him,
And watch'd the time to shoot.

Laf. This I must say,
But first I beg my pardon; the young lord
Did to his majesty, his mother, and his lady;
Offence of mighty note; but to himself
The greatest wrong of all. He lost a wife,
Whose beauty did astonish the survey
Of richest eyes; whose words all ears took captive;
Whose dear perfection, hearts that scorn'd to serve,
Humbly call'd mistress.

King. Praising what is lost,
Makes the remembrance dear. Well—call him hither,
We're reconcil'd, and the first view shall kill
All repetition: let him not ask our pardon.
The nature of his great offence is dead,
And deeper than oblivion we do bury
Th' incensing relics of it. Let him approach
A stranger, no offender: and inform him
So 'tis our will he should.

Gent. I shall, my Liege.

King. What says he to your daughter?

Have you spoke?

Laf. All that he is hath reference to your Highness.

King. Then shall we have a match. I have letters lent me.
That sent high in fame.

Enter Bertram.

Laf. He looks well on't.
King. I'm not a day of season,
For thou may'st see a sun-shine and a hail
In me at once; but to the brightest beams
Distracted clouds give way, so stand thou forth,
The time is fair again.
Ber. My high-repented blames,
Dear Sovereign, pardon to me.
King. All is whole,
Not one word more of the consumed time,
Let's take the instant by the forward top;
For we are old, and on our quick'it decrees
Th' inaudible and noiseless foot of time,
Steals, ere we can effect them. You remember
The daughter of this lord?
Ber. Admiringly, my liege. At first
I stuck my choice upon her, ere my heart
Durst make too bold a herald of my tongue:
Where the impression of mine eye ensixing,
Contempt his scornful perspective did lend me,
Which warp'd the line of every other favour,
Scorn'd a fair colour, or express'd it floll'n,
Extended or contracted all proportions
To a most hedious object: thence it came,
That she, whom all men prais'd, and whom my self,
Since I have lost, have lov'd, was in mine eye
The dust that did offend it.
King. Well excus'd:
That thou didst not love her, strikes some scores away
From the great 'compt; but love that comes too late,
Like a remorseful pardon slowly carried,
To the great fender, turns a soure offence;
Crying, that's good that is gone: our rash faults
Make trivial price of serious things we have,
Not knowing them, until we know their grave;
Oft our displeasures to our selves unjust,
Destroy our Friends, and after weep their dust:

Our
Our own love waking, cries to see what's done,
While shameful hate sleeps out the afternoon.
Be this sweet Helen's knell, and now forget her.
Send forth your amorous token for fair Maudlin,
The main consents are had, and here we'll stay
To see our widower's second marriage day:
Which better than the first, O dear heav'n bless,
Or, ere they meet, in me, O nature, cease.

Laf. Come on my son, in whom my house's name
Must be digested: give a favour from you
To sparkle in the spirits of my daughter,
That she may quickly come. By my old beard,
And ev'ry hair that's on't, Helen that's dead
Was a sweet creature: such a ring as this,
The last that e'er she took her leave at court,
I saw upon her finger.

Ber. Her's it was not.

King. Now pray you let me see it. For mine eye,
While I was speaking, oft was fallen'd to't:
This ring was mine, and when I gave it Helen,
I bad her, if her fortunes ever stood
Necessitated to help, that by this token
I would relieve her. Had you that craft to reave her
Of what should stead her most?

Ber. My gracious sovereign,
How'er it pleaseth you to take it so,
The ring was never her's.

Count. Son, on my life
I've seen her wear it, and she reckon'd it
At her life's rate.

Laf. I'm sure I saw her wear it.

Ber. You are deceiv'd, my lord, she never saw it:
In Florence was it from a casement thrown me,
Wrap'd in a paper, which contain'd the name
Of her that threw it: noble she was, and thought
I flood engag'd, but when I had subscrib'd
To mine own fortune, and inform'd her fully,
I could not answer in that course of honour
As she had made the overture, she ceaft.
In heavy satisfaction, and would never
Receive the ring again.

King. Plutus himself,
'That knows the tint and multiplying medicine,
Hath not in nature's mystery more science,
Than I have in this ring. 'Twas mine, 'twas Helen's,
Whoever gave it you: then if you know
That you are well acquainted with your self,
Confess 'twas hers, and by what rough enforcement
You got it from her. She call'd the saints to surety,
That she would never put it from her finger,
Unless she gave it to your self in bed,
(Where you have never come) or sent it us
Upon her great disaster.

Ber. She never saw it.

King. Thou speak'st it falsly, as I love mine honour;
And make conjectural fears to come into me,
Which I would fain shut out; if it should prove
That thou art so inhuman — 'twill not prove so —
And yet I know not — thou didst hate her deadly,
And she is dead, which nothing but to close
Her eyes my self, could win me to believe,
More than to see this ring. Take him away.

[Guards seize Bertram.]

My forepast proofs, however the matter fall,
Shall tax my fears of little vanity,
Having vainly fear'd too little. Away with him,
We'll sift this matter further.

Ber. If you shall prove
This ring was ever hers, you shall as easie
Prove that I husbanded her bed in Florence,
Where yet she never was.

[Exit Bertram guarded.]

Enter a Gentleman.

King. I am wrap'd in dismal thinking.

Gent. Gracious sovereign,
Whether I've been to blame or no, I know not:
Here's a petition from a Florentine.
Who hath for four or five removes come short
To tender it her self. I undertook it,
Vanquish'd thereto by the fair grace and speech
Of the poor suppliant, who by this I know
Is here attending: her business looks in her
With an importuning visage, and she told me
In a sweet verbal brief, it did concern
Your highness with her self.

The King reads a letter.

Upon his many protestations to marry me, when his wife
was dead, I blush to say it, he won me. Now is the Count
Rousillon a widower, his vows are forfeited to me, and
my honour's paid to him. He stole from Florence, taking no
leave, and I follow him to this country for justice: grant it
me, O King, in you it best bles, otherwise a seducer foun-
rishes, and a poor maid is undone.

Diana Capulet.

Laf. I will buy me a son-in-law in a fair, and toll for
this. I'll none of him.

King. The heavens have thought well on thee, Lafieu,
To bring forth this discov'ry. Seek these suitors:
Go speedily, and bring again the Count.

Enter Bertram.

I am afraid the life of Helen (lady)
Was fouly snatch'd.

Count. Now justice on the doers.

King. I wonder, Sir, wives are so monstrous to you,
And that you fly them as you swear to them;
Yet you desire to wed. What woman's that!

Enter Widow and Diana.

Dia. I am, my lord, a wretched Florentine,
Derived from the antient Capulet;
My suit, as I do understand, you know,
And therefore know how far I may be pitied.

Wid. I am her mother, Sir, whose age and honour
Both suffer under this complaint we bring,
And both shall cease without your remedy.

King. Come hither, Count; do you know these wo-

men?
Ber. My lord, I neither can nor will deny
But that I know them; do they charge me further?
Dia. Why do you look so strange upon your wife?
Ber. She's none of mine, my lord.
Dia. If you shall marry,
You give away this hand, and that is mine;
You give away heav'n's vows, and those are mine;
You give away my self, which is known mine;
For I by vow am so embodied yours,
That she which marries you must marry me,
Either both or none.
Laf. Your reputation comes too short for my daughter, you are no husband for her. [To Bertram.]
Ber. My lord, this is a fond and desperate creature,
Whom sometime I have laugh'd with: Let your highness
Lay a more noble thought upon mine honour
Than e'er to think that I would sink it here.
King. Sir, for my thoughts, you have them ill to friend,
'Till your deeds gain them fairer: prove your honour,
Than in my thought it lies.
Dia. Good my lord,
Ask him upon his oath, if he does think:
He had not my virginity.
King. What say'st thou to her?
Ber. She's impudent, my lord,
And was a common gamester to the camp.
Dia. He does me wrong, my lord; if I were fo
He might have bought me at a common price.
Do not believe him. O behold this ring,
Whose high respect and rich validity
Did lack a parallel: Yet for all that
He gave it to a commoner o'th' camp,
If I be one.
Count. He blushes, and 'tis his:
Of six preceding ancestors, that gemm
Conferr'd by testament to the subsequent issue,
Hath it been ow'd and worn. This is his wife,
'That ring's a thousand proofs.
Jirs

Ends well.

King, Methought you said
You saw one here in court could witness it.
Dia. I did, my lord, but loth am to produce
So bad an instrument; his name's Parolles,
Laf. I saw the man to-day, if man he be.
King. Find him, and bring him hither.
Ber. What of him?
He's quoted for a most perfidious slave,
With all the spots o'th' world, tax'd and debo'd,
Which nature sickens with: But to speak truth,
Am I or that, or this, for what he'll utter,
That will speak any thing?
King. She hath that ring of yours.
Ber. I think she has; certain it is I lik'd her,
And boarded her i'th' wanton way of youth:
She knew her distance, and did angle for me,
Madding my eagerness with her restraint;
As all impediments in fancy's course
Are motives of more fancy, and in fine,
Her intuit coming with her modern grace,
Subdu'd me to her rate: She got the ring,
And I had that which any inferior might
At market-price have bought.
Dia. I must be patient:
You that turn'd off a first so noble wife,
May justly diet me. I pray you yet,
Since you lack virtue, I will lose a husband,
Send for your ring, I will return it home,
And give me mine again.
Ber. I have it not.
King. What ring was yours, I pray you?
Dia. Sir, much like the same upon your finger.
King. Know you this ring, this ring was his of late.
Dia. And this was it I gave him, being a-bed.
King. The story then goes false, you threw it him
Out of a casement,
Dia. I have spoke the truth.

Enter Parolles.

Ber. My lord, I do confess the ring was hers.
King. You boggle shrewdly, every feather starts you: Is this the man you speak of?
Dia. It is, my lord.

King. Tell me, sirrah, but tell me true, I charge you, Not fearing the displeasure of your master, Which on your just proceeding I'll keep off; By him and by this woman here, what know you?

Par. So please your Majesty, my master, hath been an honourable gentleman. Tricks he hath had in him, which gentlemen have.

King. Come, come, to the purpose; did he love this woman?
Par. 'Faith, Sir, he did love her, but how!

King. How, I pray you?
Par. He did love her, Sir, as a gentleman loves a woman.

King. How is that?
Par. He lov'd her, Sir, and lov'd her not.

King. As thou art a knave, and no knave; what an equivocal companion is this?
Par. I am a poor man, and at your majesty's command.

Laf. He's a good drum, my lord, but a naughty orator.
Dia. Do you know he promis'd me marriage?

Par. 'Faith, I know more than I'll speak.

King. But wilt thou not speak all thou know'st?

Par. Yes, so please your majesty. I did go between them, as I said; but more than that, he lov'd her: For indeed he was mad for her, and talk'd of Satan, and of limbo, and of furies, and I know not what; yet I was in that credit with them at that time, that I knew of their going to bed, and of other motions, as promising her marriage, and things that would derive me ill-will to speak of; therefore I will not speak what I know.

King. Thou hast spoken all already, unless thou canst say they are married; but thou art too fine in thy evidence; therefore stand aside. This ring, you say, was yours?

Dia. Ay, my good lord.

King. Where did you buy it? or who gave it you?

Dia.
Dia. It was not given me, nor did I buy it.
King. Who lent it you?
Dia. It was not lent me neither.
King. Where did you find it then?
Dia. I found it not.
King. If it were yours by none of all these ways,
How could you give it him.
Dia. I never gave it him.
Laf. This woman's an easie glove, my lord, she goes
off and on at pleasure.
King. This ring was mine, I gave it his first wife.
Dia. It might be yours, or hers, for ought I know.
King. Take her away, I do not like her now,
To prison with her: And away with him.
Unless thou tell'lt me where thou hadst this ring,
Thou diest within this hour.
Dia. I'll never tell you.
King. Take her away.
Dia. I'll put in bail, my Liege.
King. I think thee now some common customer.
Dia. By Jove, if ever I knew man, 'twas you.
King. Wherefore hast thou accus'd him all this while?
Dia. Because he's guilty, and he is not guilty;
He knows I am no maid, and he'll swear to't;
I'll swear I am a maid, and he knows not.
Great King, I am no strumpet, by my life;
I'm either maid, or else this old man's wife.

(Pointing to Lafeu.)
King. She does abuse our ears; to prison with her.
Dia. Good mother, fetch my bail. Stay, royal Sir,

[Ex. Widow.

The jeweller that owes the ring is sent for,
And he shall surety me. But for this lord,
[To Bert.
Who hath abus'd me, as he knows himself,
Tho' yet he never harm'd me, here I quit him.
He knows himself my bed he hath defil'd,
And at that time he got his wife with child;
Dead tho' she be, she feels her young one kick;
So there's my riddle, one that's dead is quick.
And now behold the meaning.

Enter
All's well that Ends well

Enter Helena and Widow.

King. Is there no exorcist
Beguiles the truer office of mine eyes?
Is't real that I see?

Hel. No, my good lord,
'Tis but a shadow of a wife you see,
The name, and not the thing.

Ber. Both, both, oh pardon!

Hel. Oh, my good lord, when I was like this maid,
I found you wond'rous kind; there is your ring,
And look you, here's your letter: This it says,
*When from my finger you can get this ring,*
*And are by me with child, &c.* This is done.
Will you be mine, now you are doubly won?

Ber. If she, my Liege, can make me know this clearly.
I'll love her dearly, ever, ever dearly.

Hel. If it appear not plain, and prove untrue,
Deadly divorce step between me and you.
O, my dear mother, do I see you living?

[To the Countess.]

Laf. Mine eyes smell onions, I shall weep anon:
*God Tom Drum,* lend me a handkerchief, [To Parolles.
So, I thank thee, wait on me home. I'll make sport with thee: Let thy courtesies alone, they are scurvy ones.

King. Let us from point to point this story know,
To make the even truth in pleasure flow:
If thou beest yet a fresh uncropped flower, [To Diana,
Chuse thou thy husband, and I'll pay thy dower;
For I can guess, that by thy honest aid,
Thou kept't a wife her self, thy self a maid.
Of that and all the progress more or less,
Resolvedly more leisure shall express:
All yet seems well, and if it end so meet,
The bitter past, more welcome is the sweet. [Exeunt.

FINIS.
EPILOGUE.

Spoken by the KING.

THE King's a beggar, now the play is done:
All is well ended, if this suit be won,
That you express content; which we will pay,
With strife to please you, day exceeding day;
Ours be your patience then, and yours our parts.
Your gentle hands lend us, and take our hearts.
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Ignorance of what Plays are Shakespeare's, did,
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pus King of Thebes, as one of Shakespeare's
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Lear instead of Shakespeare's, and in that and
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