

A Quip For An Upstart Courtier
or
A quaint dispute between velvet breeches and cloth breeches,
Wherein is plainly set down the disorders in all estates and trades.

London.

Imprinted by John Wolfe, and are to be sold at his shop at Paul's Chain.

1592.

The rope-maker replied that honestly journeying by the way he acquainted himself with the collier, & for no other cause pretended. And whither are you a-going, qd. I? Marry sir, qd. he, first to absolve your question, I dwell in Saffron Walden and am going to Cambridge to three sons that I keep there at school, such apt children, sir, as few women have groaned for, and yet they have ill luck. The one, sir, [Richard] is a divine to comfort my soul, & he indeed, though he be a vainglorious ass as divers youths of his age be, is well given to the show of the world and writ alate *The Lamb Of God*, and yet his parishioners say he is the limb of the devil and kisseth their wives with holy kisses, but they had rather he should keep his lips for Madge, his mare. The second, sir, [John] is a physician or a fool, but indeed a physician, & had proved a proper man if he had not spoiled himself with his *Astrological Discourse* of the terrible conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter. For the eldest, [Gabriel], he is a civilian, a wondrous-witted fellow, sir-reverence sir, he is a Doctor, and as Tubalcain was the first inventor of music, so he, God's benison light upon him, was the first that invented English hexameter, but see how in these days learning is little esteemed: for that and other familiar letters and proper treatises he was orderly clapped in the Fleet, but sir, a hawk and a kite may bring forth a kestrel, and honest parents may have bad children. Honest with the devil, qd. the collier, etc. (McKerrow, v.5, Supplement, pp.75-6)