

A LETTER

wherein part of the entertainment
unto the Queen's Majesty
at Killingworth Castle in Warwickshire
in this summer's progress, 1575, is signified;
from a friend officer
attendant in the court, unto
his friend a citizen
and merchant
of London.

DE REGINA NOSTRA ILLUSTRISSIMA

Dum laniata ruant vicina ab Regna tumultu
Laeta suos inter genialibus *ILLA* diebus
(Gratia Diis) fruitur: Rumpantur et ilia Codro.

Unto my good friend, Master Humfrey Martin, Mercer.

After my hearty commendations, I commend me heartily to you. Understand ye that since through God and good friends I am placed at court here (as ye wot) in a worshipful room, whereby I am not only acquainted with the most and well known to the best and every officer glad of my company, but also have power adays (while the Council sits not) to go and to see things sight-worthy and to be present at any show or spectacle anywhere this progress represented unto her Highness, and of part of which sports, having taken some notes and observations (for I cannot be idle at any hand in the world), as well to put from me suspicion of sluggardy as to pluck from you doubt of any my forgetfulness of friendship, I have thought it meet to impart them unto you as frankly, as friendly and as fully as I can. Well wot ye the Black Prince was never stained with disloyalty of ingratitude toward any; I dare be his warrant he will not begin with you, that hath at his hand so deeply deserved.

But herein, the better for conceiving of my mind and instruction of yours, ye must give me leave a little, as well to preface unto my matter, as to discourse somewhat of Killingworth Castle, a territory of the right honourable my singular good Lord, my Lord the Earl of Leicester, of whose incomparable cheering and entertainment there unto her Majesty now I will show you a part here that could not see all, nor had I seen all could well report the half, where things, for the persons, for the place, time, cost, devices, strangeness and abundance, of all that ever I saw (and yet have I been -- what under my master Bumstead and what on my own affairs while I occupied merchandise -- both in France and Flanders long and many a day), I saw none anywhere so memorable, I tell you plain.

**Killingworth
Castle**

The castle hath name of Killingworth, but of truth grounded upon faithful story, Kenilworth. It stands in Warwickshire, a 74 mile north-west from London and as it were in the navel of England, four mile somewhat south from Coventry, a proper city, and a like distance from Warwick, a fair shire-town on the north, in air sweet and wholesome, raised on an easy-mounted hill, is set evenly coasted with the front straight into the east, hath the tenants and town about it, that pleasantly shifts from dale to hill sundrywhere with sweet springs bursting forth, and is so plentifully well sorted on every side into arable, meadow, pasture, wood, water and good airs as it appears to have need of nothing that may pertain to living or pleasure. To advantage hath it -- hard on the west, still nourished with many lively springs - - a goodly pool of rare beauty, breadth, length, depth and store of all kind freshwater fish -- delicate, great and fat -- and also of wild-fowl beside. By a rare situation and natural amity seems this pool conjoined to the castle that on the west lays the head as it were upon the castle's bosom, embraceth it on either side south and north with both the arms, settles itself as in a reach a flight-shot broad, stretching forth body and legs a mile or two westward, between a fair park on the one side which by the brayes is linked to the castle on the south, sprinkled at the entrance with a few conies that, for colour and smallness of number, seem to be suffered more for pleasure than commodity and, on the other side north and west, a goodly chase -- waste, wide, large and full of red deer and other stately game for hunting, beautified with many delectable, fresh and umbrageous bowers, arbours, seats and walks that with great art, cost and diligence were very pleasantly appointed, which also the natural grace by the tall and fresh fragrant trees and soil did so far forth commend as Diana herself might have deigned there well enough to range for her pastime. The left arm of this pool northward had my Lord adorned with a beautiful bracelet of a fair timbered bridge that is of a 14 foot wide and a six hundred foot long, railed all on both sides, strongly planked for passage, reaching from the chase to the castle, that thus in the midst hath clear prospect over these pleasures on the back part and forward over all the town and much of the country beside. Hereto a special commodity at hand of sundry quarries of large building stone, the goodness whereof may the easilier be judged in the building and ancience of the castle that

(as by the name and by stories well may be gathered) was first reared by Cenwulf and his young son and successor Kenelm, born both indeed within the realm here but yet of the race of Saxons, and reigned kings of Marchland from the year of Our Lord 798 to 23 years together above 770 year ago, although the castle hath one ancient strong and large keep that is called Caesar's tower, rather (as I have good cause to think) for that it is square and high-formed after the manner of Caesar's forts than that ever he built it.

Nay, now I am a little in, Master Martin, I'll tell ye all.

This Marchland that storiers call Mercia is numbered in their books the fourth of the seven kingdoms that the Saxons had whilom here divided among them in the realm. Began in Anno Domini 616, 139 year after Horsus and Engist; continued in the race of a 17 kings a 259 year together, and ended in Anno 875, raised from the rest (says the book) at first by Penda's presumption, overthrown at last by Buthred's hascardy and so fell to the kingdom of the West Saxons.

And Marchland had in it London, Middlesex -- herein a bishopric. Had more of shires Gloucester, Worcester and Warwick -- and herein a bishopric. Chester (that now we call Cheshire), Derby and Stafford -- whereunto one bishop that had also part of Warwick and Shrewsbury and his see at Coventry that was then aforetime at Lichfield. Hereto Hereford -- wherein a bishopric that had more to jurisdiction half Shrewsbury, part of Warwick and also of Gloucester, and the see at Hereford. Also had Oxford, Buckingham, Hertford, Huntingdon and half of Bedford, and to these Northampton, part of Leicester and also Lincoln -- whereunto a bishop whose see at Lincoln city, that sometime before was at Dorchester. Hereto, the rest of Leicester, and in Nottingham that of old had a special bishop whose see was at Leicester, but after put to the charge of the Archbishop of York.

Now touching the same that of old records I understand -- and of ancient writers I find -- is called Kenilworth: since most of the 'worths' in England stand nigh unto like lakes, and are either small islands, such one as the seat of this castle hath been and easily may be, or is land-ground by pool or river whereon willows, alders or such-like do grow, which Althamerus writes precisely that the Germans of old call 'werd', joining these two together with the nighness also of the words and sibred of the tongues, I am the bolder to pronounce that, as our English 'worth' with the rest of our ancient language was left us from the Germans, even so that their 'werd' and our 'worth' is all one thing in signifiante, common to us both even at this day. I take the case so clear that I say not as much as I might. Thus proface ye with the preface, and now to the matter.

On Saturday the ninth of July at Long Itchington, a town and lordship of my Lord's within a seven mile of Killingworth, his Honour made her Majesty great cheer at dinner and pleasant pastime in hunting by the way after, that it was eight o'clock in the evening ere her Highness came to Killingworth where, in the park, about a flight-shot from the brayes and first gate of the castle, one of the ten Sibyls that (we read) were all fatidicae and theobulae (as parties and privy to the gods' gracious goodwills), comely clad in a pall of white silk, pronounced a proper poesy in English rime and metre, of effect how great gladness her gracious presence brought into every stead where it pleased her to come, and specially now into that place that had so long longed after the same, ended with prophecy certain of much and long prosperity, health and felicity. This her Majesty benignly accepting, passed forth unto the next gate of the brayes which, for the length, largeness and use -- as well it may so serve -- they call now the tilt-yard, where a porter, tall of person, big of limb and stern of countenance, wrapped also all in silk, with club and keys of quantity according, had a rough speech full of passions in metre aptly made to the purpose whereby (as her Highness was come within his ward) he burst out in a great pang of impatience to see such uncouth trudging to and fro, such riding in and out, with such din and noise of talk within the charge

Florileg. fol.
221 & 225

Guil. Mal-
mesb. li I

Upon Tacitus
fol. 142

The Germans
call werk that
we work;
welt: world;
wermut:
wormwood.

So viel wert: so
much worth.

Sibyl

The porter

of his office whereof he never saw the like nor had any warning afore ne yet could make to himself any cause of the matter; at last, upon better view and advisement as he pressed to come nearer, confessing anon that he found himself pierced at the presence of a personage so evidently expressing an heroic sovereignty over all the whole estates and high degrees there beside, calmed his storms, proclaims open gates and free passage to all, yields up his club, his keys, his office and all, and on his knees humbly prays pardon of his ignorance and impatience. Which, her Highness graciously granting, he caused his trumpeters that stood upon the wall of the gate there to sound up a tune of welcome which, beside the noble noise, was so much the more pleasant to behold because these trumpeters, being six in number, were every one an eight foot high, in due proportion of person beside, all in long garments of silk suitable, each with his silvery trumpet of a five foot long, formed taperwise, and straight from the upper part unto the nether end where the diameter was a 16 inches over, and yet so tempered by art that, being very easy to the blast, they cast forth no greater noise nor a more unpleasant sound for time and tune than any other common trumpet, be it never so artificially formed. These harmonious blasters, from the foreside of the gate at her Highness' entrance where they began, walking upon the walls unto the inner, had this music maintained from them very delectably while her Highness all along this tilt-yard rode unto the inner gate next the base-court of the castle where the Lady of the Lake (famous in King Arthur's book) with two nymphs waiting upon her arrayed all in silks attending her Highness' coming, from the midst of the pool where, upon a movable island bright blazing with torches she -- floating to land -- met her Majesty with a well-penned metre and matter after this sort: first, of the ancienty of the castle, who had been owners of the same even till this day -- most always in the hands of the Earls of Leicester -- how she kept this lake since King Arthur's days and now, understanding of her Highness' hither coming, thought it both office and duty in humble wise to discover her and her estate, offering up the same, her lake and power therein, with promise of repair unto the court. It pleased her Highness to thank this lady and to add withal, *We had thought indeed the lake had been ours, and do you call it yours now? Well, we will herein common more with you hereafter.*

Lady of the
Lake

This pageant was closed up with a delectable harmony of hautboys, shawms, cornets and such other loud music that held on while her Majesty pleasantly so passed from thence toward the castle gate whereunto, from the base-court over a dry valley cast into a good form, was there framed a fair bridge of a twenty foot wide and a seventy foot long, gravelled for treading, railed on either part with seven posts on a side that stood a twelve foot asunder, thickened between with well-proportioned pillars turned.

The bridge
Seven pair of
posts

Upon the first pair of posts were set two comely square wire cages, each a three foot long, two foot wide and high; in them, live bitterns, curlews, shovellers, heronsews, godwits and such-like dainty birds, of the presents of Sylvanus, the god of fowl.

Sylvanus'
presents 1

On the second pair, two great silvered bowls featly apted to the purpose, filled with apples, pears, cherries, filberts, walnuts fresh upon their branches, and with oranges, pomegranates, lemons and pippins, all for the gifts of Pomona, goddess of fruits.

Pomona 2

The third pair of posts in two such silvered bowls had (all in ears, green and old) wheat, barley, oats, beans and peas, as the gifts of Ceres.

Ceres 3

The fourth post on the left hand in a like silvered bowl had grapes in clusters, white and red, gracified with their vine leaves; the match post against it had a pair of great white silver livery pots for wine and, before them, two glasses of good capacity filled full, the tone with white wine, the tother with claret, so fresh of colour and of look so lovely smiling to the eyes of many that, by my faith, methought by their leering they could have found in their hearts (as the evening was hot) to have kissed them sweetly and thought it no sin. And these for the potential presents of Bacchus, the god of wine.

Bacchus 4

Neptunus 5

The fifth pair had each a fair large tray strewed a little with fresh grass, and in them conger, birt, mullet, fresh herring, oysters, salmon, crayfish and such-like from Neptunus, god of the sea.

Mars 6

On the sixth pair of posts were set two ragged staves of silver as my Lord gives them in arms, beautifully glittering of armour thereupon depending -- bows, arrows, spears, shield, head-piece, gorget, corslets, swords, targets and such-like for Mars' gifts, the god of war. And the aptlier (methought) was it that those ragged staves supported these martial presents, as well because these staves by their tines seem naturally meet for the bearing of armour, as also that they chiefly in this place might take upon them principal protection of her Highness' person, that so benignly pleased her to take harbour.

Phoebus 7

On the seventh post, the last and next to the castle, were there pight two fair bay branches of a four foot high, adorned on all sides with lutes, viols, shawms, cornets, flutes, recorders and harps, as the presents of Phoebus, the god of music for rejoicing the mind and also of physic for health to the body.

Over the castle was there fastened a table beautifully garnished above with her Highness' arms, and featly with ivy-wreaths bordered about, of a ten foot square, the ground black, whereupon in large white capital Roman fair written a poem mentioning these gods and their gifts thus presented unto her Highness which, because it remained unremoved, at leisure and pleasure I took it out, as followeth:

AD MAIESTATEM REGIAM

Iupiter huc certos cernens TE tendere gressus,
 Coelicolas PRINCEPS actutum convocat omnes:
 Obsequium praestare iubet TIBI quenque benignum,
 Unde suas Sylvanus aves, Pomonaque fructus,
 Alma Ceres fruges, hilarantia vina Lyaeus,
 Neptunus pisces, tela et tutantia Mavors,
 Suave melos Phoebus, solidam longamque salutem,
 Dii TIBI REGINA haec (cum SIS DIGNISSIMA) prebent:
 Haec TIBI cum Domino dedit se et Werda Kenelmi.

All the letters that mention her Majesty which here I put capital, for reverence and honour were there made in gold.

But the night well spent, for that these verses by torch-light could not easily be read, by a poet therefore in a long ceruleous garment with a side and wide sleeves Venetian wise drawn up to his elbows, his doublet sleeves under that crimson, nothing but silk, a bay garland on his head and a scrow in his hand, making first an humble obeisance at her Highness' coming, and pointing unto every present as he spake, the same were pronounced. Pleasantly thus viewing the gifts as she passed, and how the posts might agree with the speech of the poet, at the end of the bridge and entry of the gate was her Highness received with a fresh delicate harmony of flutes, in performance of Phoebus' presents.

So passing into the inner court, her Majesty (that never rides but alone) there set down from her palfrey, was conveyed up to chamber, when after did follow so great a peal of guns and such lightning by firework a long space together as Jupiter would show himself to be no further behind with his welcome than the rest of his gods, and that would he have all the country to know, for indeed the noise and flame were heard and seen a twenty mile off.

Thus much, Master Martin (that I remember me) for the first day's bienvenue. Be ye not weary, for I am scant in the midst of my matter.

Sunday 2

On Sunday, the forenoon occupied (as for the Sabbath-day) in quiet and vacation from work and in divine service and preaching at the parish church, the afternoon in excellent music of sundry sweet instruments and in dancing of lords and ladies and other worshipful degrees, uttered with such lively agility and commendable grace as, whether it might be more strange to the eye or pleasant to the mind, for my part indeed I could not discern, but exceedingly well it was (methought) in both.

At night late, as though Jupiter the last night had forgot for business -- or forborne for courtesy and quiet -- part of his welcome unto her Highness appointed, now entering at first into his purpose moderately (as mortals do) with a warning piece or two, proceeding on with increase, at last the altitonant displays me his main power with blaze of burning darts flying to and fro, leams of stars coruscant, streams and hail of fiery sparks, lightnings of wild-fire a water and land, flight and shot of thunderbolts, all with such continuance, terror and vehemency that the heavens thundered, the waters surged, the earth shook -- in such sort, surely, as had we not been assured the fulminant deity was all but in amity and could not otherwise witness his welcoming unto her Highness, it would have made me, for my part, as hardy as I am, very vengeably afeard. This ado lasted while high midnight was past, that well was me soon after when I was couched in my cabin. And this for the second day.

Monday 3

Monday was hot, and therefore her Highness kept in till a five o'clock in the evening, what time it pleased her to ride forth into the chase to hunt the hart of force which, found anon and after sore chased and chafed by the hot pursuit of the hounds, was fain of fine force at last to take soil. There to behold the swift fleeting of the deer afore with the stately carriage of his head in his swimming, spread (for the quantity) like the sail of a ship, the hounds harrowing after as had they been a number of skiffs to the spoil of a carvel, the tone no less eager in purchase of his prey than was the tother earnest in safeguard of his life, so as the earning of the hounds in continuance of their cry, the swiftness of the deer, the running of footmen, the galloping of horses, the blasting of horns, the hallooing and huing of the huntsmen, with the excellent echoes between-whiles from the woods and waters in valleys resounding, moved pastime delectable in so high a degree as for any person to take pleasure by most senses at once, in mine opinion there can be none any way comparable to this, and specially in this place that of nature is formed so feat for the purpose. In faith, Master Martin -- if ye could with a wish -- I would ye had been at it. Well, the hart was killed, a goodly deer, but so ceased not the game yet.

The hunting of
the hart of
force

The savage man

For about nine o'clock at the hither part of the chase where torch-light attended, out of the woods in her Majesty's return roughly came there forth hombre salvaje with an oaken plant plucked up by the roots in his hand, himself forgrown all in moss and ivy who, for personage, gesture and utterance beside, countenanced the matter to very good liking and had speech to effect that, continuing so long in these wild wastes wherein oft had he fared both far and near, yet happed he never to see so glorious an assembly afore, and now cast into great grief of mind for that neither by himself could he guess nor knew where else to be taught what they should be or who have estate. Reports some had he heard of many strange things, but broiled thereby so much the more in desire of knowledge. Thus in great pangs bethought he and called he upon all his familiars and companions -- the fauns, the satyrs, the nymphs, the dryads and the hamadryads -- but none making answer, whereby his care the more increasing, in utter grief and extreme refuge called he aloud at last after his old friend Echo -- Echo that he wist would hide nothing from him, but tell him all if she were here. *Here, quoth Echo. Here, Echo? and art thou there?* says he. *Ah, how much hast thou relieved my careful spirits with thy courtesy onward. Ah, my good Echo, here is a marvellous presence of dignity. What are they, I pray thee? Who is sovereign? Tell me, I*

Echo

beseech thee, or else how might I know? I know, quoth she. Knowest thou? says he. *Marry, that is exceedingly well. Why, then, I desire thee heartily, show me what majesty (for no mean degree is it) have we here -- a king or a queen? A queen,* quoth Echo. *A queen?* says he, pausing and wisely viewing awhile, *now full certainly seems thy tale to be true.* And proceeding by this manner of dialogue with an earnest beholding her Highness awhile, recounts he first how justly that former reports agree with his present sight touching the beautiful lineaments of countenance, the comely proportion of body, the princely grace of presence, the gracious gifts of nature, with the rare and singular qualities of both body and mind in her Majesty conjoined and so apparent at eye. Then, shortly rehearsing Saturday's acts -- of Sibyl's salutation, of the porter's proposition, of his trumpeters' music, of the lake-lady's oration, of the seven gods' seven presents, he reporteth the incredible joy that all estates in the land have always of her Highness wheresoever it comes, endeth with presage and prayer of perpetual felicity and with humble subjection of him and hisn and all that they may do. After this sort the matter went, with little difference, I guess, saving only in this point, that the thing which here I report in unpolished prose was there pronounced in good metre and matter, very well indited in rime, Echo finely framed most aptly by answers thus to utter all. But shall I tell you, Master Martin, by the mass, of a mad adventure? As this savage for the more submission brake his tree asunder, cast the top from him, it had almost light upon her Highness' horse's head, whereat he startled, and the gentleman much dismayed. See the benignity of the prince: as the footmen looked well to the horse, and he of generosity soon calmed of himself, *No hurt, no hurt,* quoth her Highness, which words, I promise you, we were all glad to hear, and took them to be the best part of the play.

Tuesday 4 Tuesday, pleasant passing of the time with music and dancing, saving that toward night it liked her Majesty to walk afoot into the chase over the bridge where it pleased her to stand, while upon the pool out of a barge fine appointed for the purpose, to hear sundry kinds of very delectable music. Thus recreated, and after some walk, her Highness returned.

Wednesday 5 Wednesday, her Majesty rode into the chase a hunting again of the hart of force. The deer, after his property, for refuge took the soil, but so mastered by hot pursuit on all parts that he was taken quick in the pool; the watermen held him up hard by the head while, at her Highness' commandment, he lost his ears for a ransom and so had pardon of life.

**The hart
pardoned.**

Thursday 6 Thursday, the fourteenth of this July, and the sixth day of her Majesty's coming, a great sort of bandogs were there tied in the utter-court, and thirteen bears in the inner. Whosoever made the panel, there were enow for a quest and one for challenge, and need were. A wight of great wisdom and gravity seemed their foreman to be had it come to a jury, but it fell out that they were caused to appear there upon no such matter, but only to answer to an ancient quarrel between them and the bandogs in a cause of controversy that hath long depended, been obstinately full often debated with sharp and biting arguments a both sides and could never be decided, grown now to so marvellous a malice that, with spiteful upbraids and uncharitable chafings always they fret as far as anywhere the tone can hear, see or smell the tother, and indeed at utter deadly foehood. Many a maimed member (God wot), bloody face and a torn coat hath the quarrel cost between them -- so far likely the less yet now to be appeased as there wants not partakers to back them a both sides.

A quest of bears

Well sir, the bears were brought forth into the court, the dogs set to them to argue the points even face to face; they had learned counsel also a both parts. What, may they be counted partial that are retained but a'to side? I ween, no. Very fierce both tone and tother, and eager in argument; if the dog in pleading would pluck the bear by the throat, the bear with traverse would claw him again by the scalp -- confess and a list -- but avoid a could not that was bound to the bar, and his counsel told him that it could be to him no policy in pleading.

Therefore thus with fending and proving, with plucking and tugging, scratting and biting, by plain tooth and nail a'toside and tother, such expense of blood and leather was there between them as a month's licking, I ween, will not recover -- and yet remain as far out as ever they were.

It was a sport very pleasant of these beasts, to see the bear with his pinkenyes leering after his enemy's approach, the nimbleness and wait of the dog to take his advantage and the force and experience of the bear again to avoid the assaults; if he were bitten in one place, how he would pinch in another to get free that -- if he were taken once -- then what shift with biting, with clawing, with roaring, tossing and tumbling, he would work to wind himself from them and, when he was loose, to shake his ears twice or thrice with the blood and the slaver about his physiognomy, was a matter of goodly relief.

**Gunshot &
firework**

As this sport was had a day-time in the castle, so was there abroad at night very strange and sundry kinds of fireworks, compelled by cunning to fly to and fro and to mount very high into the air upward and also to burn unquenchable in the water beneath -- contrary, ye wot, to fire's kind. This intermingled with a great peal of guns which all gave, both to the ear and to the eye, the greater grace and delight for that with such order and art they were tempered, touching time and continuance, that was about two hours' space.

**Tumbling of
the Italian**

Now within also in the meantime was there showed before her Highness by an Italian such feats of agility in goings, turnings, tumblings, castings, hops, jumps, leaps, skips, gambols, somersaults, capretties and flights -- forward, backward, sidewise, downward, upward, and with such windings, gyrings and circumflexions -- all so lightly and with such easiness, as by me in few words it is not expressible by pen or speech, I tell you plain. I blessed me, by my faith, to behold him, and began to doubt whether a was a man or a spirit and, I ween, had doubted me till this day had it not been that anon I bethought me of men that can reason and talk with two tongues and with two persons at once, sing like birds, courteous of behaviour, of body strong and in joints so nimble withal that their bones seem as lithy and pliant as sinews. They dwell in a happy island (as the book terms it) four months' sailing southward beyond Ethiop.

**Diodor. Sicul.
De anti.
Egyptiorum
gestia li 3
Mithrid.
Gesneri**

Nay, Master Martin, I tell you no jest, for both Diodorus Siculus, an ancient Greek historiographer, in his third book of the old Egyptians, and also from him Conrad Gesnerus, a great learned man and a very diligent writer in all good arguments of our time (but deceased), in the first chapter of his Mithridates reporteth the same. As for this fellow, I cannot tell what to make of him save that I may guess his back be metallled like a lamprey, that has no bone but a line like a lute-string.

Well, sir, let him pass and his feats, and this day's pastime withal, for here is as much as I can remember me for Thursday's entertainment.

**Friday 7
Saturday 8**

Friday and Saturday were there no open shows abroad because the weather inclined to some moisture and wind that very seasonably tempered the drought and the heat caused by the continuance of fair weather and sunshine afore, all the while since her Majesty's thither coming.

Sunday 9

A bridal

A Sunday, opportunely the weather brake up again, and after divine service in the parish church for the Sabbath-day, and a fruitful sermon there in the forenoon, at afternoon in worship of this Kenilworth Castle and of God and Saint Kenelm, whose day, forsooth, by the calendar this was, a solemn bridal of a proper couple was appointed, set in order in the tilt-yard, to come and make their show before the castle in the great court whereas was pight a comely quintain for feats at arms which, when they had done, to march out at the north gate of the castle homeward again into the town.

And thus were they marshalled. First, all the lusty lads and bold bachelors of the parish, suitably every wight with his blue buckram bride-lace upon a branch of green broom (cause rosemary is scant there) tied on his left arm (for a that side lies the heart) and his alder pole for a spear in his right hand, in martial order ranged on afore, two and two in a rank, some with a hat, some in a cap, some a coat, some a jerkin, some for lightness in his doublet and his hose, clean trussed with a point afore, some boots and no spurs, he spurs and no boots, and he neither nother, one a saddle, another a pad or a panel fastened with a cord (for girths were geason), and these to the number of a sixteen wight-riding men and well-beseen. But the bridegroom foremost in his father's tawny worsted jacket (for his friends were fain that he should be a bridegroom before the Queen), a fair strawen hat with a capital crown steeplewise on his head, a pair of harvest gloves on his hands as a sign of good husbandry, a pen and ink-horn at his back -- for he would be known to be bookish -- lame of a leg that in his youth was broken at football, well beloved yet of his mother that lent him a new muffler for a napkin that was tied to his girdle for losing. It was no small sport to mark this minion in his full appointment, that through good schoolation became as formal in his action as had he been a bridegroom indeed, with this special grace by the way, that ever as he would have framed him the better countenance, with the worse face he looked.

Well, sir, after these horsemen, a lively morris-dance according to the ancient manner -- six dancers, Maid Marian, and the fool. Then, three pretty pucelles as bright as a breast of bacon, of a thirty year old apiece, that carried three special spice-cakes of a bushel of wheat (they had it by measure out of my Lord's bakehouse) before the bride, sizely, with set countenance and lips so demurely simpering as it had been a mare cropping of a thistle. After these, a lovely lubber-worts, freckle-faced, red-headed, clean trussed in his doublet and his hose, taken up now indeed by commission for that he was so loath to come forward -- for reverence belike of his new cut canvas doublet. And would by his goodwill have been but a gazer, but found to be a meet actor for his office, that was to bear the bride-cup formed of a sweet sucket barrel, a fair turned foot set to it, all seemly besilvered and parcel-gilt, adorned with a beautiful branch of broom gaily begilded for rosemary, from which two broad bride-laces of red and yellow buckram begilded and gallantly streaming by such wind as there was (for he carried it aloft). This gentle cup-bearer yet had his freckled physiognomy somewhat unhappily infested as he went by the busy flies that flocked about the bride-cup for the sweetness of the sucket that it savoured on, but he -- like a tall fellow -- withstood their malice stoutly (see what manhood may do), beat them away, killed them by scores, stood to his charge and marched on in good order.

Then followed the worshipful bride led (after the country manner) between two ancient parishioners, honest townsmen. But a stale stallion and a well-spread (hot as the weather was), God wot, and an ill-smelling was she -- a 35 year old, of colour brown-bay, not very beautiful indeed but ugly, foul, ill-favoured, yet marvellous fain of the office because she heard say she should dance before the Queen, in which feat she thought she would foot it as finely as the best. Well, after this bride came there by two and two a dozen damsels for bridesmaids that, for favour, attire, for fashion and cleanliness, were as meet for such a bride as a treen ladle for a porridge-pot; more -- but for fear of carrying all clean -- had been appointed, but these few were enow.

As the company in this order were come into the court, marvellous were the martial acts that were done there that day.

Running at quintain

The bridegroom, for pre-eminence, had the first course at the quintain, brake his spear très hardiment, but his mare in his manage did a little so titubate that much ado had his manhood to sit in his saddle and to scape the foil of a fall; with the help of his hand yet he recovered himself, and lost not his stirrups (for he had none to his saddle), had no hurt as it happed,

but only that his girth burst and lost his pen and ink-horn that he was ready to weep for. But his handkerchief, as good hap was, found he safe at his girdle; that cheered him somewhat, and had good regard it should not be filed. For though heat and coolness upon sundry occasions made him sometime to sweat and sometime rheumatic, yet durst he be bolder to blow his nose and wipe his face with the flappet of his father's jacket than with his mother's muffler. 'Tis a good matter when youth is mannerly brought up in fatherly love and motherly awe.

Now, sir, after the bridegroom had made his course ran the rest of the band, awhile in some order but soon after tag and rag, cut and long-tail, where the specialty of the sport was to see how some for his slackness had a good bob with the bag, and some for his haste to topple downright and come tumbling to the post, some striving so much at the first setting out that it seemed a question between the man and the beast whether the course should be made a-horseback or afoot and, put forth with the spurs, then would run his race bias among the thickest of the throng, that down came they together hand over head; another, while he directed his course to the quintain, his jument would carry him to a mare among the people, so his horse as amorous as himself adventurous. Another to run and miss the quintain with his staff and hit the board with his head.

Many such gay games were there among these riders who by and by after, upon a greater courage left their quintaining and ran one at another. There to see the stern countenance, the grim looks, the courageous attempts, the desperate adventures, the dangerous courses, the fierce encounters whereby the buff at the man and the counterbuff at the horse, that both sometime came toppling to the ground. By my troth, Master Martin, 'twas a lively pastime. I believe it would have moved some man to a right merry mood, though had it be told him his wife lay a dying.

Hock Tuesday
by the
Coventry men.

Florileg. li. I
fo. 300

And hereto followed as good a sport (methought), presented in an historical cue by certain good-hearted men of Coventry, my Lord's neighbours there who, understanding among them the thing that could not be hidden from any, how careful and studious his Honour was that by all pleasant recreations her Highness might best find herself welcome and be made gladsome and merry (the groundwork indeed and foundation of his Lordship's mirth and gladness of us all) made petition that they might renew now their old storial show, of argument how the Danes whilom here in a troublous season were for quietness borne withal and suffered in peace, that anon by outrage and importable insolency, abusing both Ethelred the King then and all estates everywhere beside, at the grievous complaint and counsel of Huna, the King's chieftain in wars, on Saint Brice's night, Anno Domini 1012 (as the book says) that falleth yearly on the thirteenth of November, were all dispatched and the realm rid. And for because the matter mentioneth how valiantly our English women for love of their country behaved themselves, expressed in actions and rimes after their manner, they thought it might move some mirth to her Majesty the rather.

The thing, said they, is grounded on story, and for pastime wont to be played in our city yearly, without ill example of manners, papistry or any superstition, and else did so occupy the heads of a number that likely enough would have had worse meditations; had an ancient beginning and a long continuance, till now of late laid down, they knew no cause why unless it were by the zeal of certain their preachers, men very commendable for behaviour and learning and sweet in their sermons, but somewhat too sour in preaching away their pastime; wished therefore that, as they should continue their good doctrine in pulpit, so for matters of policy and governance of the city they would permit them to the mayor and magistrates and said, by my faith, Master Martin, they would make their humble petition unto her Highness that they might have their plays up again.

Captain Cox

But aware, keep back, make room now, here they come. And first, Captain Cox, an odd man, I promise you, by profession a mason, and that right skilful; very cunning in fence, and hardy as Gawain, for his tonsword hangs at his tables' end. Great oversight hath he in matters of story, for as for King Arthur's book, Huon of Bordeaux, The Four Sons of Aymon, Bevis of Hampton, The Squire of Low Degree, The Knight of Courtesy and the Lady Faguell, Frederick of Gene, Sir Eglamour, Sir Tryamour, Sir Lamwell, Sir Isenbras, Sir Gawain, Oliver of the Castle, Lucrece and Eurialus, Virgil's Life, The Castle of Ladies, The Widow Edith, The King and the Tanner, Friar Rush, Owl-glass, Gargantua, Robin Hood, Adam Bell, Clim of the Clough, and William of Cloudesley, The Churl and the Bird, The Seven Wise Masters, The Wife Lapped in a Morel's Skin, The Sack Full of News, The Sergeant That Became a Friar, Skogan, Colin Clout, The Friar and the Boy, Elinor Ruming, and The Nut-brown Maid, with many more than I rehearse here, I believe he have them all at his fingers' ends.

Then, in philosophy both moral and natural I think he be as naturally overseen, beside poetry and astronomy and other hid sciences, as I may guess by the umberty of his books, whereof part, as I remember, The Shepherds' Calendar, The Ship of Fools, Daniel's Dreams, The Book of Fortune, Stans Puer Ad Mensam, The Highway to the Spittle-house, Julian of Brainford's Testament, The Castle of Love, The Budget of Demands, The Hundred Merry Tales, The Book of Riddles, The Seven Sorrows of Women, The Proud Wife's Pater Noster, The Chapman of a Pennyworth of Wit, besides his ancient plays, Youth and Charity, Hickscorner, New Guise, Impatient Poverty, and herewith Doctor Boord's Breviary of Health. What should I rehearse here what a bunch of ballads and songs, all ancient, as Broom, Broom on Hill, So Woe Is Me Begone, Trolylow, Over a Whinny, Meg, Hey Ding a Ding, Bonny Lass Upon A Green, My Bonny One Gave Me a Beck, By a Bank As I Lay, and a hundred more he hath fair wrapped up in parchment and bound with a whipcord.

And as for almanacs of antiquity (a point for ephemerides) I ween he can show from Jasper Laet of Antwerp unto Nostradamus of France, and thence unto our John Securis of Salisbury.

To stay no longer herein, I dare say he hath as fair a library for these sciences, and as many goodly monuments both in prose and poetry, and at afternoons can talk as much without book as any innholder betwixt Brainford and Bagshot, what degree soever he be.

Beside this in the field a good marshal at musters, of very great credit and trust in the town here, for he has been chosen aleconner many a year when his betters have ston'd by, and ever quitted himself with such estimation as yet to foretaste of a cup of nippitate, his judgment will be taken above the best in the parish, be his nose ne'er so red.

**The Coventry
play**

Captain Cox came marching on valiantly before, clean trussed and gartered above the knee, all fresh in a velvet cap (Master Goldingham lent it him) flourishing with his tonsword, and another fence-master with him, thus in the foreward making room for the rest. After them proudly pricked on foremost the Danish lance-knights on horseback, and then the English, each with their alder pole martially in their hand. Even at the first entry the meeting waxed somewhat warm, that by and by kindled with courage a both sides grew from a hot skirmish unto a blazing battle, first by spear and shield, outrageous in their races as rams at their rut, with furious encounters that together they tumble to the dust -- sometime horse and man -- and after fall to it with sword and target, good bangs a both sides. The fight so ceasing, but the battle not so ended, followed the footmen, both the hosts, tone after tother, first marching in ranks, then warlike turning, then from ranks into squadrons, then in two triangles, from that into rings, and so winding out again. A valiant captain of great prowess, as fierce as a fox assaulting a goose, was so hardy to give the first stroke; then get they grisly together that great was the activity that day to be seen there a both sides, tone very eager for purchase

of prey, tother utterly stout for redemption of liberty. Thus, quarrel inflamed fury a both sides. Twice the Danes had the better, but at the last conflict beaten down, overcome, and many led captive for triumph by our English women.

This was the effect of this show that, as it was handled, made much matter of good pastime, brought all indeed into the great court, e'en under her Highness' window to have been seen - - but (as unhappy it was for the bride) that came hither too soon (and yet was it a four o'clock). For her Highness beholding in the chamber delectable dancing indeed, and herewith the great throng and unruliness of the people, was cause that this solemnity of bridal and dancing had not the full muster was hoped for, and but a little of the Coventry play her Highness also saw; commanded therefore on the Tuesday following to have it full out, as accordingly it was presented, whereat her Majesty laughed well. They were the jocunder, and so much the more because her Highness had given them two bucks and five mark in money to make merry together. They prayed for her Majesty long happily to reign and oft to come thither that they might see her -- and what rejoicing upon their ample reward and what triumphing upon the good acceptance, they vaunted their play was never so dignified nor ever any players afore so beatified.

Thus though the day took an end, yet slipped not the night all sleeping away, for as neither office nor obsequy ceased at any time to the full to perform the plot his Honour had appointed, so after supper was there a play presented of a very good theme, but so set forth by the actors' well-handling that pleasure and mirth made it seem very short, though it lasted two good hours and more. But stay, Master Martin, all is not done yet.

After the play, out of hand followed a most delicious and (if I may so term it) an Ambrosial banquet whereof, whether I might more muse at the daintiness, shapes and the cost, or else at the variety and number of the dishes (that were a three hundred), for my part I could little tell them, and now less, I assure you. Her Majesty eat smally or nothing -- which understood, the courses were not so orderly served and sizely set down, but were by and by as disorderly wasted and coarsely consumed, more courtly methought than courteously; but that was no part of the matter -- might it please and be liked and do that it came for, then was all well enough.

Unto this banquet there was appointed a masque, for riches of array of an incredible cost, but the time so far spent and very late in the night now was cause that it came not forth to the show. And thus for Sunday's season, having stayed you the longer (according to the matter), here make I an end. Ye may breathe ye awhile.

Monday 10

Monday, the eighteenth of this July, the weather being hot, her Highness kept the castle for coolness, till about five o'clock her Majesty in the chase hunted the hart (as afore) of force, that whether were it by the cunning of the huntsmen or by the natural desire of the deer, or else by both, anon he gat him to soil again, which raised the accustomed delight, a pastime indeed so entirely pleasant, as whereof, at times, who may have the full and free fruition can find no more society (I ween) for a recreation than of their good viands at times for their sustentation.

Psalm 24

Triton

Well, the game was gotten and, her Highness returning, came there upon a swimming mermaid (that from top to tail was an eighteen foot long), Triton, Neptune's blaster, who, with his trumpet formed of a wrinkled whelk, as her Majesty was in sight, gave sound very shrill and sonorous in sign he had an embassy to pronounce. Anon her Highness was come upon the bridge, whereunto he made his fish to swim the swifter, and he then declared how the supreme salsipotent monarch Neptune, the great god of the swelling seas, prince of profundities, the sovereign seignior of all lakes, fresh waters, rivers, creeks and gulfs, understanding how a cruel knight, one Sir Bruce sans pity, a mortal enemy unto ladies of

estate, had long lain about the banks of this pool in wait with his bands here to distress the Lady of the Lake, *whereby she hath been restrained not only from having any use of her ancient liberty and territories in these parts, but also of making repair and giving attendance unto you, noble Queen, quoth he, as she would, she promised, and also should. Doth therefore signify, and hereto of you as of his good liege and dear friend make this request that ye will deign but to show your person toward this pool, whereby your only presence shall be matter sufficient of abandoning this uncourteous knight, and putting all his bands to flight, and also of deliverance of the lady out of this thralldom.* Moving herewith from the bridge and fleeting more into the pool, chargeth he in Neptune's name both Aeolus with all his winds, the waters of his springs, his fish and fowl, and all his clients in the same, that they ne be so hardy in any force to stir, but keep them calm and quiet while this Queen be present. At which petition her Highness staying, it appeared straight how Sir Bruce became unseen, his bands skailed and the Lady by and by with her two nymphs, floating upon her movable islands (Triton on his mermaid skimming by) approached toward her Highness on the bridge as well to declare that her Majesty's presence hath so graciously thus wrought her deliverance, as also to excuse her not coming to court as she promised, and chiefly to present her Majesty (as a token of her duty and good heart) for her Highness' recreation with this gift, which was Arion, that excellent and famous musician, in tire and appointment strange, well seeming to his person, riding aloft upon his old friend the dolphin (that from head to tail was a four and twenty foot long) and swam hard by these islands; herewith Arion for these great benefits, after a few well-couched words unto her Majesty of thanksgiving in supplement of the same, began a delectable ditty of a song well apted to a melodious noise, compounded of six several instruments all covert, casting sound from the dolphin's belly within, Arion the seventh sitting thus singing (as I say) without.

Now, sir, the ditty in metre so aptly indited to the matter, and after by voice so deliciously delivered; the song by a skilful artist into his parts so sweetly sorted; each part in his instrument so clean and sharply touched; every instrument again in his kind so excellently tunable; and this in the eveing of the day, resounding from the calm waters, where presence of her Majesty and longing to listen had utterly damped all noise and din, the whole harmony conveyed in time, tune and temper thus incomparably melodious; with what pleasure (Master Martin), with what sharpness of conceit, with what lively delight this might pierce into the hearers' hearts, I pray ye imagine yourself as ye may for, so God judge me, by all the wit and cunning I have, I cannot express, I promise you. Mais j'ai bien vu çela, Monsieur, que fort grand est le pouvoir qu'a la très noble science de musique sur les esprits humains. Perceive ye me? I have told ye a great matter now. As for me, surely I was lulled in such liking and so loath to leave off, that much ado a good while after had I to find me where I was. And take ye this by the way, that for the small skill in music that God hath sent me (ye know it is somewhat) I'll set the more by myself while my name is Laneham, and grace a God. Ah, music is a noble art.

Ah, stay awhile; see a short wit. By my troth, I had almost forgot. This day was a day of grace beside, wherein were advanced five gentlemen of worship unto the degree of knighthood: Sir Thomas Cecil, son and heir unto the right honourable the Lord Treasurer; Sir Henry Cobham, brother unto the lord Cobham; Sir Thomas Stanhope, Sir Arthur Basset and Sir Thomas Tresham; and also by her Highness' accustomed mercy and charity, nine cured of the painful and dangerous disease called the king's evil, for that kings and queens of the realm without other medicine (save only by handling and prayers) only do cure it. Bear with me though perchance I place not these gentlemen in my recital here after their estates, for I am neither good herald of arms nor yet know how they are set in the subsidy books. Men of great worship I understand they are all.

Knights made

Tuesday 11

Tuesday, according to commandment, came our Coventry men; what their matter was, of her Highness' mirth and good acceptance and reward unto them and of their rejoicing thereat, I showed you afore, and so say the less now.

Wednesday 12

Wednesday, in the forenoon, preparation was in hand for her Majesty to have supped in Wedgenall, a three mile west from the castle, a goodly park of the Queen's Majesty's. For that cause a fair pavilion and other provision accordingly thither sent and prepared, but by means of weather not too clearly disposed, the matter was countermanded again. That had her Highness happened this day to have come abroad, there was made ready a device of goddesses and nymphs which, as well for the ingenious argument as for the well-handling of it in rime and inditing would undoubtedly have gained great liking and moved no less delight. Of the particularities whereof I cease to entreat lest, like the bungling carpenter, by mis-sorting the pieces, I mar a good frame in the bad setting up, or by my fond tampering aforehand emblemish the beauty when it should be reared up indeed.

A this day also was there such earnest talk and appointment of removing that I gave over my noting and hearkened after my horse.

Marry, sir, I must tell you. As all endeavour was to move mirth and pastime (as I told ye), even so a ridiculous device of an ancient minstrel and his song was prepared to have been proffered if meet time and place had been found for it. Once in a worshipful company where, full appointed, he recounted his matter in sort as it should have been uttered, I chanced to be; what I noted, here thus I tell you. A person very meet seemed he for the purpose, of a 14 years old, apparelled partly as he would himself. His cap off, his head seemly rounded tonster wise, fair kemb, that with a sponge daintily dipped in a little capon's grease was finely smoothed to make it shine like a mallard's wing. His beard smugly shaven, and yet his shirt after the new trink with ruffs fair starched, sleeked and glistening like a pair of new shoes, marshalled in good order with a setting-stick, and strut that every ruff stood up like a wafer; a side gown of Kendal green, after the freshness of the year now, gathered at the neck with a narrow gorget, fastened afore with a white clasp and a keeper close up to the chin, but easily for heat to undo when he list. Seemly begirt in a red caddis girdle; from that a pair of capped Sheffield knives hanging a'toside. Out of his bosom drawn forth a lappet of his napkin, edged with a blue lace and marked with a true-love, a heart and a D for Damian, for he was but a bachelor yet.

His gown had side sleeves down to mid leg, slit from the shoulder to the hand and lined with white cotton. His doublet sleeves of black worsted, upon them a pair of poignets of tawny camlet laced along the wrist with blue threaden points, a welt toward the hand of fustian a-napes; a pair of red netherstocks, a pair of pumps on his feet with a cross cut at the toes for corns, not new indeed yet cleanly blacked with soot and shining as a shoeing-horn.

About his neck a red riband suitable to his girdle; his harp in good grace dependent before him, his wrest tied to a green lace and hanging by. Under the gorget of his gown a fair flagon-chain (pewter, for silver) as a squire minstrel of Middlesex that travelled the country this summer season unto fairs and worshipful men's houses. From his chain hung a scutcheon with metal and colour resplendent upon his breast of the ancient arms of Islington -- upon a question where he, as one that was well schooled and could his lesson perfect without book to answer at full if question were asked him, declared how the worshipful village of Islington in Middlesex, well known to be one of the most ancient and best towns in England next London at this day, for the faithful friendship of long time showed, as well at Cooks' feast in Aldersgate Street yearly upon Holy Rood day as also at all solemn bridals in the city of London all the year after, in well serving them of frumenty for porridge, not over sod till it be too weak; of milk for their flaws, not yet pilled nor

chalked; of cream for their custards, not frothed nor thickened with flour; and of butter for their pasties and pie paste, not made of wellcurds nor gathered of whey in summer, nor mingled in winter with salt butter watered or washed, *did obtain long ago their worshipful arms in colour and form as ye see, which are the arms, a field argent -- as the field and ground indeed wherein the milk-wives of this worthy town and every man else in his faculty doth trade for his living; on a fesse tenny, three plates between three milk-tankards proper. The three milk-tankards as the proper vessel wherein the substance and matter of their trade is to and fro transported. The fesse tenny, which is a colour betokening doubt and suspicion, so as suspicion and good heed taking as well to their markets and servants as to their customers -- that they trust not too far -- may bring unto them plates, that is coined silver; three, that is sufficient and plenty, for so that number in armory may well signify.*

**The
hornspoons**

For crest, upon a wad of oat-straw for a wreath, a bowl of frumenty -- wheat (as ye know) is the most precious gift of Ceres -- and in the midst of it sticking a dozen horn spoons in a bunch, as the instruments meetest to eat frumenty porridge withal -- a dozen, as a number of plenty complete for full cheer or a banquet, and of horn, as of a substance more estimable than is made for a great deal, being neither so churlish in weight as is metal nor so froward and brittle to manure as stone, nor yet so soily in use nor rough to the lips as wood is, but light, pliant and smooth, that with a little licking will always be kept as clean as a die. With your patience, gentlemen, quoth the minstrel, be it said, were it not indeed that horns be so plenty, horn ware I believe would be more set by than it is, and yet are there in our parts that will not stick to avow that many an honest man both in city and country hath had his house by horning well upholden and a daily friend also at need. And this with your favour may I further affirm, a very ingenious person was he that for dignity of the stuff could thus by spooning devise to advance the horn so near to the head.

Ovid. Met. li. 9

With great congruence also were these horn spoons put to the wheat as a token and portion of cornucopia, the horn of Achelous, which the naiades did fill with all good fruits, corn and grain, and after did consecrate unto abundance and plenty.

This scutcheon, with beasts aptly agreeing both to the arms and to the trade of the bearers, gloriously supported between a grey mare (a beast meetest for carrying of milk-tankards), her panel on her back as always ready for service at every feast and bridal at need, her tail splayed at most ease, and her filly-foal, fallow and a flaxen mane after the sire.

Salern ca. 9

In the scrow undergraven, quoth he, is there a proper word, an hemistich, well squaring with all the rest, taken out of Salern's chapter, of things that most nourish man's body, Lac, caseus infans -- that is, good milk and young cheese. And thus much gentlemen, and please you, quoth he, for the arms of our worshipful town. And therewithal made a mannerly leg, and so held his peace.

As the company paused and the minstrel seemed to gape after a praise for his beau parler, and because he had rendered his lesson so well, said a good fellow of the company, *I am sorry to see how much the poor minstrel mistakes the matter, for indeed the arms are thus:*

Three milk-tankards proper in a field of clouted cream, three green cheeses upon a shelf of cake-bread. The frumenty bowl and horn spoons, cause their profit comes all by horned beasts. Supported by a mare with a galled back, and therefore still covered with a panel, fisking with her tail for flies, and her filly-foal neighing after the dam for suck. This word Lac caseus infans, that is, a fresh cheese and cream, and the common cry that these milk-wives make in London streets yearly betwixt Easter and Whitsuntide, and this is the very matter, I know it well enough, and so ended his tale and sat him down again.

Hereat every man laughed a-good save the minstrel, that though the fool were made privy all was but for sport, yet to see himself thus crossed with a contrary cue that he looked not for, would straight have geen over all, waxed very wayward, eager and sour; howbeit at last by some entreaty and many fair words, with sack and sugar, we sweetened him again, and after became as merry as a pie. Appears then afresh in his full formality with a lovely look, after three lowly curtsies, cleared his voice with a hem and a reach and spat out withal, wiped his lips with the hollow of his hand -- for filing his napkin -- tempered a string or two with his wrest, and after a little warbling on his harp for a prelude, came forth with a solemn song, warranted for story out of King Arthur's acts, the first book and 26th chapter, whereof I gat a copy, and that is this:

King
book Arthur's

So it befell upon a Pentecost Day,
When King Arthur at Camelot kept court royal
With his comely Queen, dame Gaynor the gay,
And many bold barons, sitting in hall,
Ladies appavelled in purple and pall,
When heralds in hukes heried full high,
Largess, largess, chevaliers très hardis!

A doughty dwarf to the uppermost dais
Right pertly gan prick and, kneeling on knee,
With steven full stout amidst all the press
Said, *Hail, Sir King, God thee save and see.*
King Ryens of North Wales greeteth well thee
And bids that thy beard anon thou him send
Or else from thy jaws he will it off rend.

For his robe of state, a rich scarlet mantle,
With eleven kings' beards bordered about,
He hath made late, and yet in a cantle
Is left a place the twelfth to make out
Where thine must stand, be thou never so stout.
This must be done I tell thee no fable,
Maugre the power of all thy round table.

When this mortal message from his mouth was past
Great was the bruit in hall and in bower.
The King fumed, the Queen shrieked, ladies were aghast,
Princes puffed, barons blustered, lords began to lour,
Knights stamped, squires startled, as steeds in a stour,
Yeomen and pages yelled out in the hall,
Therewith came in Sir Kay, the seneschal.

Silence, my sovereigns, quoth the courteous knight,
And in that stound the chirm became still.
The dwarf's dinner full dearly was dight,
For wine and wastel he had his will,
And when he had eaten and fed his fill,
One hundred pieces of coined gold
Were given the dwarf for his message bold.

Say to Sir Ryens, thou dwarf, quoth the King,
That for his proud message I him defy
And shortly with basins and pans will him ring

*Out of North Wales, whereas he and I
With swords and no razors shall utterly try
Which of us both is the better barber,
And therewith he shook his sword Excalibur.*

At this, the minstrel made a pause and curtsy for primus passus. More of the song is there, but I gat it not. As for the matter, had it come to the show, I think the fellow would have handled it well enough.

Her Highness tarried at Killingworth till the Wednesday after, being the 27th of this July, and the nineteenth (inclusive) of her Majesty's coming thither.

For which seven days, perceiving my notes so slenderly answering, I took it less blame to cease and thereof to write you nothing at all than in such matters to write nothing likely. And so much the rather (as I have well bethought me) that if I did but ruminare the days I have spoken of, I shall bring out yet somewhat more meet for your appetite (though a dainty tooth have ye) which I believe your tender stomach will brook well enough.

The sevens

Where part is, first, how according to her Highness' name ELIZABETH, which I hear say out of the Hebrew signifieth (among other) 'the seventh of my God', divers things here did so justly in number square with the same. As first, her Highness' hither coming in this seventh month; then, presented with the seven presents of the seven gods, and after, with the melody of the seven-sorted music in the dolphin, the lake-lady's gift.

Then to consider how fully the gods (as it seemed) had conspired most magnificently in abundance to bestow their influences and gifts upon her court there to make her Majesty merry.

Saturn & Pallas

Sage Saturn himself in person (that because of his lame leg could not so well stir), in chair therefore to take order with the grave officers of household, holpen indeed with the good advice of his prudent niece Pallas, that no unruly body or disquiet disturb the noble assembly or else be once so bold to enter within the castle gates.

Away with all rascals, captives, melancholic, wayward, froward, conjurers and usurers, and to have labourers and under-workmen for the beautifying of any place always at hand as they should be commanded.

Jupiter

Jupiter: Sent personages of high honour and dignity -- barons, lords, ladies, judges, bishops, lawyers, doctors; with them, virtue, nobleness, equity, liberality and compassion, due season and fair weather, saving that at the petition of his dear sister Ceres he granted a day or two of some sweet showers for ripening of her corn that was so well set, and to set forward harvest. Herewith bestowed he such plenty of pleasant thunder, lightning and thunderbolts by his halting son and fire-master Vulcan, still fresh and fresh framed, always so frequent, so intellable and of such continuance in the spending (as I partly told ye) consumed, that surely he seems to be as of power inestimable so, in store of munition, unwastable, for all Ovid's censure that says:

Vulcan

*Si, quoties peccant homines sua fulmina mittat
Iupiter; exiguo tempore inermis erit.*

If Jove should shoot his thunderbolts as oft as men offend,
Assure you his artillery would soon be at an end.

What a number of estates and of nobility had Jupiter assembled there guess ye by this, that of the sort worshipful there were in the court daily above forty -- whereof the meanest of a thousand mark yearly revenue, and many of much more. This great gift beside did his deity cast upon her Highness, to have fair and seasonable weather at her own appointment, according whereunto her Majesty so had. For her gracious presence therefore with this great gift endued, Lichfield, Worcester and Middleton, with many places more, made humble suit unto her Highness to come; to such whereof as her Majesty could, it came, and they [sic?] season acceptable.

- Phoebus** Phoebus: Besides his continual and most delicious music (as I have told you), appointed he princes to adorn her Highness' court, counsellors, heralds and sanguine youth pleasant and merry, costly garments, learned physicians, and no need of them.
- Juno** Juno: Gold chains, ouches, jewels of great price and rich attire, worn in much grace and good beseming, without pride or emulation of any.
- Mars** Mars: Captains of good conduct, men skilful in feats of arms, politic in stratagems, good courage in good quarrels, valiant and wise-hardy, abandoning pick-quarrels and ruffians; appointing also pursuivants, couriers and posts still feeding her Highness with news and intelligences from all parts.
- Venus** Venus: Unto the ladies and gentlewomen, beauty, good favour, comeliness, gallant attire, dancing with comely grace, sweet voice in song and pleasant talk, with express commandment and charge unto her son, on her blessing, that he shoot not a shaft in the court all the while her Highness remained at Killingworth.
- Mercury** Mercury: Learned men in sciences, poets, merchants, painters, carvers, players, engineers, devisers, and dexterity in handling of all pleasant attempts.
- Luna** Luna: Calm nights for quiet rest, and silver moonshine that nightly indeed shone for most of her Majesty's being there.
- Plutus** Blind Plutus: Bags of money, customers, exchangers, bankers, store of riches in plate and in coin.
- Bacchus** Bacchus: Full cups everywhere, every hour, of all kinds of wine.
- Neptune** There was no dainty that the sea could yield, but Neptune (though his reign at the nearest lie well-nigh a hundred mile off) did daily send in great plenty, sweet and fresh. As for freshwater fish, the store of all sorts was abundant.
- Ceres** And how bountiful Ceres in provision was, guess ye by this, that in little more than a three days' space, 72 tun of ale and beer was piped up quite; what that might whilst with it of bread, beside meat, I report me to you. And yet Master Controller, Master Cofferer and divers officers of the court, some honourable and sundry right worshipful, placed at Warwick for more room in the Castle. But here was no ho, Master Martin, in devout drinking always, that brought a lack unlooked for which, being known to the worshipful my Lord's good neighbours, came there in a two days' space from sundry friends a relief of a 40 tun till a new supply was gotten again, and then to our drinking afresh as fast as ever we did.
- Flora** Flora: Abroad and within the house ministered of flowers so great a quantity, of such sweet savour, so beautifully hued, so large and fair of proportion and of so strange kinds and

shapes, that it was great pleasure to see, and so much the more as there was great store yet counterfeit and formed of feathers by art, like glorious to the show as were the natural.

Protheus Proteus: His tumbler, that could by nimbleness cast himself into so many forms and fashions.

Pan Pan: His merry morris-dance with their pipe and tabor.

Bellona Bellona: Her quintain-knights and proper bickerings of the Coventry men.

Polyphemus Polyphemus: Neptune's son and heir (let him, I pray, and it be but for his father's sake, and for his goodwill, be allowed for a god), with his bear-whelps and bandogs.

Aeolus Aeolus: Holding up his winds while her Highness at any time took pleasure on the water, and staying of tempests during abode here.

Sylvanus Sylvanus: Beside his plentiful provision of fowl for dainty viands, his pleasant and sweet-singing birds, whereof I will show you more anon.

Echo Echo: Her well-indited dialogue.

Faunus Faunus: His jolly savage.

Genius Genius loci: His tempering of all things within and without with apt time and place to pleasure and delight.

Charities Then the three Charities, Aglaia, with her lightsome gladness; Thalia, her flourishing freshness; Euphrosyne, her cheerfulness of spirit; and with these three in one assent, Concordia, with her amity and good agreement. That to how great effects their powers were poured out here among us, let it be judged by this, that by a multitude thus met of a three or four thousand every day, and divers days more, of so sundry degrees, professions, ages, appetites, dispositions and affections, such a drift of time was there passed, with such amity, love, pastime, agreement and obedience where it should, and without quarrel, jarring, grudging or (that I could hear) of ill word between any. A thing, Master Martin, very rare and strange, and yet no more strange than true.

Parcae The Parcae (as erst I should have said) the first night of her Majesty's coming, they hearing and seeing so precious ado here, at a place unlooked for, in an uplandish country so far within the realm, pressing into every stead where her Highness went, whereby so duddled with such variety of delights, did set aside their housewifery, could not for their hearts tend their work a whit. But after they had seen her Majesty abed, gat them a prying into every place -- old hags, as fond of newelries as young girls that had never seen court afore. But neither full with gazing nor weary with gadding, left off yet for that time and at high midnight gat them giggling (but not aloud) into the presence-chamber, minding indeed with their present diligence to recompense their former slackness.

So, setting themselves thus down to their work, *Alas*, says Atropos, *I have lost my shears*. Lachesis laughed apace and would not draw a thread. *And think ye, dames, that I'll hold the distaff while both ye sit idle? Why no, by my mother's soul*, quoth Clotho. Therewith, fair lapped in a fine lawn, the spindle and rock that was dizened with pure purple silk laid they safely up together, that of her Majesty's distaff for an eighteen days there was not a thread spun, I assure you.

The two sisters after that (I heard say) began their work again, that long may they continue, but Atropos heard no tidings of her shears, and not a man that moaned her loss. She is not beloved surely, for this can I tell you, that -- whether it be for hate to the hag or love to her Highness, or else for both -- every man prays God she may never find them for that work, and so pray I daily and duly with the devoutest.

Thus partly ye perceive now how greatly the gods can do for mortals and how much always they love where they like, that what a gentle Jove was this, thus courteously to contrive here such a train of gods. Nay then, rather, Master Martin (to come out of our poeticalities and to talk no more serious terms), what a magnificent lord may we justly account him, that could so highly cast order for such a Jupiter and all his gods besides, that none with his influence, good property or present were wanting, but all always ready at hand in such order and abundance for the honouring and delight of so high a prince, our most gracious Queen and sovereign. A prince (I say) so singular in pre-eminence and worthiness above all other princes and dignities of our time, though I make no comparison to years past. To him that in this point, either of ignorance (if any such can be) or else of malevolence would make any doubt, sit liber iudex (as they say), let him look on the matter and answer himself; he has not far to travel.

As for the amplitude of his Lordship's mind, albeit that I, poor fool, can in conceit no more attain unto than judge of a gem -- whereof I have no skill, yea, though daily worn and resplendent in mine eye -- yet some of the virtues and properties thereof, in quantity or quality so apparent as cannot be hidden but seen of all men might I be the bolder to report here unto you -- but as for the value, your jewellers by their carats let them cast and they can.

And first, who that considers, unto the stately seat of Kenilworth Castle, the rare beauty of building that his Honour hath advanced, all of the hard quarry-stone, every room so spacious, so well belighted and so high-roofed within. So seemly to sight by due proportion without, a day-time on every side so glittering by glass, anights by continual brightness of candle, fire and torch-light transparent through the lightsome windows, as it were the Egyptian Pharos relucant unto all the Alexandrian coast, or else (to talk merrily with my merry friend) thus radiant as though Phoebus for his ease would rest him in the castle, and not every night so to travel down unto the antipodes. Hereto so fully furnished of rich apparel and utensils apted in all points to the best.

The garden

Unto this, his Honour's exquisite appointment of a beautiful garden, an acre or more of quantity, that lieth on the north there. Wherein hard all along the castle wall is reared a pleasant terrace of a ten foot high and a twelve broad, even underfoot and fresh of fine grass, as is also the side thereof toward the garden, in which, by sundry equal distances, with obelisks, spheres and white bears all of stone upon their curious bases by good show were set; to these, two fine arbours redolent by sweet trees and flowers, at each end one. The garden plot under that with fair alleys green by grass, even voided from the borders a both sides and some (for change) with sand, not light or too soft, or soily by dust, but smooth and firm, pleasant to walk on as a sea-shore when the water is aaved. Then, much gracified by due proportion of four even quarters, in the midst of each upon a base a two foot square and high, seemly bordered of itself, a square pilaster rising pyramidally of a fifteen foot high, symmetrically pierced through from a foot beneath until a two foot from the top, whereupon, for a capital, an orb of a ten inches thick; every of these (with his base) from the ground to the top of one whole piece, hewn out of hard porphyry and with great art and heed (thinks me) thither conveyed and there erected.

Where further also by great cast and cost the sweetness of savour on all sides, made so respirant from the redolent plants and fragrant herbs and flowers, in form, colour and

quantity so deliciously variant, and fruit-trees bedecked with their apples, pears and ripe cherries.

The cage

And unto these in the midst against the terrace a square cage, sumptuous and beautiful, joined hard to the north wall (that a that side guards the garden, as the garden the castle) of a rare form and excellency was raised, in height a twenty foot, thirty long and a fourteen broad. From the ground strong and close, reared breast-high, whereat a soil of a fair moulding was couched all about. From that upward, four great windows afront, and two at each end, every one a five foot wide; as many more, even above them divided on all parts by a transom and architrave, so likewise ranging about the cage. Each window arched in the top and parted from other in even distance by flat fair bolteled columns, all in form and beauty like, that supported a comely cornice couched all along upon the whole square which, with a wire net, finely knit, of meshes six-square, an inch wide (as it were for a flat roof) and likewise the space of every window, with great cunning and comeliness, even and tight was all overstrained. Under the cornice again, every part beautified with great diamonds, emeralds, rubies and sapphires, pointed, tabled, rock and round, garnished with their gold, by skilful head and hand and by toile and pencil so lively expressed as it might be great marvel and pleasure to consider how excellency of art could approach unto perfection of nature.

Bear with me, good countryman, though things be not shown here as well as I would or as well as they should. For indeed I can better imagine and conceive that I see, than well utter or duly declare it. Holes were there also and caverns in orderly distance and fashion voided into the wall, as well for heat, for coolness, for roost anights and refuge in weather as also for breeding when time is. More -- fair, even and fresh holly-trees for perching and preening set within, toward each end one. Hereto, their diversity of meats, their fine several vessels for their water and sundry grains. And a man skilful and diligent to look to them and tend them.

But (shall I tell you) the silver-sounded lute without the sweet touch of hand, the glorious golden cup without the fresh fragrant wine or the rich ring with gem without the fair-featured finger is nothing indeed in his proper grace and use. Even so his Honour accounted of this mansion till he had placed there tenants according. Had it therefore replenished with lively birds -- English, French, Spanish, Canarian, and (I am deceived if I saw not some) African. Whereby, whether it became more delightsome in change of tunes and harmony to the ear or else in difference of colours, kinds and properties to the eye, I'll tell you if I can when I have better bethought me.

The gardener

One day (Master Martin) as the garden door was open, and her Highness a hunting, by licence of my good friend Adrian I came in at a beck but would scant out with a thrust, for sure I was loath so soon to depart.

Well may this (Master Martin) be somewhat to magnitude of mind, but more thereof -- as ye shall know more cause -- ye shall have so to think; hear out what I tell you, and tell me when we meet.

The fountain

In the centre (as it were) of this goodly garden was there placed a very fair fountain, cast into an eight-square, reared a four foot high, from the midst whereof a column up set in shape of two atlantes joined together a back-half, the tone looking east, tother west, with their hands upholding a fair-formed bowl of a three foot over, from whence sundry fine pipes did lively distil continual streams into the receipt of the fountain, maintained still two foot deep by the same fresh-falling water, wherein pleasantly playing to and fro and round about carp, tench, bream and -- for variety -- perch and eel, fish fair-liking all and large. In the top, the ragged staff which, with the bowl, the pillar, and eight sides beneath were all

hewn out of rich and hard white marble. A one side, Neptune with his tridental fuskin triumphing in his throne, trailed into the deep by his marine horses. On another, Thetis in her chariot drawn by her dolphins. Then Triton by his fishes. Here Proteus herding his sea-bulls. There Doris and her daughters solacing a sea and sands. The waves surging with froth and foam, intermingled in place with whales, whirlpools, sturgeons, tunny, conches and whelks, all engraven by exquisite device and skill, so as I may think this not much inferior unto Phoebus' gates which (Ovid says) -- and peradventure a pattern to this -- that Vulcan himself did cut, whereof such was the excellency of art that the work in value surmounted the stuff, and yet were the gates all of clean massy silver.

Here were things, ye see, might inflame any mind to long after looking, but whoso was found so hot in desire, with the wrest of a cock was sure of a cooler, water spurting upward with such vehemency as they should by and by be moistened from top to toe. The hes to some laughing, but the shes to more sport. This sometime was occupied to very good pastime.

A garden then so appointed as wherein aloft upon sweet-shadowed walk of terrace in heat of summer to feel the pleasant whisking wind above or delectable coolness of the fountain spring beneath; to taste of delicious strawberries, cherries and other fruits even from their stalks; to smell such fragrancy of sweet odours breathing from the plants, herbs and flowers; to hear such natural melodious music and tunes of birds. To have in eye, for mirth sometime these underspringing streams; then, the woods, the waters (for both pool and chase were hard at hand in sight), the deer, the people (that out of the east arbour, in the base-court, also at hand in view), the fruit-trees, the plants, the herbs, the flowers, the change in colours, the birds flittering, the fountain streaming, the fish swimming, all in such delectable variety, order and dignity whereby at one moment, in one place, at hand without travel, to have so full fruition of so many God's blessings, by entire delight unto all senses -- if all can take -- at once; for etymon of the word worthy to be called paradise, and though not so goodly as Paradise for want of the fair rivers, yet better a great deal by the lack of so unhappy a tree. Argument most certain of a right noble mind, that in this sort could have thus all contrived.

Paradisus
Graec.

Hortus
amoenis. Aut
Hebrae. Pardes
id est. Hortus.

But, Master Martin, yet one windlass must I fetch to make ye one more fair course and I can, and cause I speak of one, let me tell you a little of the dignity of onehood wherein always all high deity, all sovereignty, pre-eminence, principality and concord without possibility of disagreement is contained -- as one God, one Saviour, one faith, one prince, one sun, one phoenix and -- as one of great wisdom says -- *One heart, one way*. Where onehood reigns, there quiet bears rule and discord flies apace. Three, again, may signify company, a meeting, a multitude, plurality -- so all tales and numberings from two unto three, and so upward, may well be counted numbers till they mount unto infinity or else to confusion, which thing the sum of two can never admit nor itself can well be counted a number but rather a friendly conjunction of two ones that, keeping in a sincerity of accord, may purport unto us charity each to other, mutual love, agreement and integrity of friendship without dissimulation. As is in these: the two Testaments, the Two Tables of the Law, the two great lights, duo luminaria magna, the sun and moon. And but mark a little, I pray, and see how of all things in the world our tongues in talk do always so readily trip upon twos, pairs and couples, sometimes as of things in equality, sometime of difference, sometime of contraries or for comparison, but chiefly, for the most part, of things that between themselves do well agree and are fast linked in amity, as first, for pastimes: hounds and hawks, deer red and fallow, hare and fox, partridge and pheasant, fish and fowl, carp and tench; for wars: spear and shield, horse and harness, sword and buckler; for sustenance: wheat and barley, peas and beans, meat and drink, bread and meat, beer and ale, apples and pears.

The number 1

But lest by such dualities I draw you too far, let us here stay and come nearer home. See what a sort of friendly binities we ourselves do consist and stand upon. First, our two feet, two legs, two knees, so upward; and above, two shoulders, two arms and two hands. But chiefly, our principal two, that is, body and soul; then in the head where all our senses meet, and almost all in twos: two nostrils, two ears and two eyes. So are we of friendly twos, from top to toe. Well, to this number of binities, take ye one more for an upshot, and here an end.

The two dials

Two dials nigh unto the battlements are set aloft upon two of the sides of Caesar's tower, one east, thother south, for so stand they best to show the hours to the town and country, both fair, large and rich, by bice for ground and gold for letters, whereby they glitter conspicuous a great way off. The clock-bell -- that is good and shrill -- was commanded to silence at first, and indeed sang not a note all the while her Highness was there; the clock stood also still withal. But mark now, whether were it by chance, by constellation of stars, or by fatal appointment (if fates and stars do deal with dials), thus was it indeed, the hands of both the tables stood firm and fast always pointing to just two o'clock, still at two o'clock. Which thing beholding by hap at first, but after seriously marking indeed, imprinted into me a deep sign and argument certain, that this thing among the rest was for full signifiante of his Lordship's honourable, frank, friendly and noble heart toward all estates. Which, whether come they to stay and take cheer, or straight to return, to see or to be seen, come they for duty to her Majesty or love to his Lordship or for both, come they early or late, for his Lordship's part they come always all at two o'clock, e'en jump at two o'clock, that is to say, in good heart, good acceptance, in amity, and friendly welcome. Who saw else that I saw, in right must say as I say. For so many things beside, Master Humfrey, were herein so consonant unto my construction that this pointing of the clock (to myself), I took in amity as an oracle certain. And here is my windlass, like your course as please ye.

The dials at II
o'clock

But now, sir, to come to end. For receiving of her Highness and entertainment of all thother estates, since of delicates that any way might serve or delight, as of wine, spice, dainty viands, plate, music, ornaments of house, rich arras and silk (to say nothing of the meaner things), the mass by provision was heaped so huge, which the bounty in spending did after bewray; the conceit so deep in casting the plat at first; such a wisdom and cunning in acquiring things so rich, so rare, and in such abundance by so immense and profuse a charge of expense, which, by so honourable service and exquisite order, courtesy of officers and humanity of all, were after so bountifully bestowed and spent -- what may this express, what may this set out unto us, but only a magnific mind, a singular wisdom, a princely purse, and an heroical heart? If it were my theme, Master Martin, to speak of his Lordship's great honour and magnificence, though it be not in me to say sufficiently, as bad a pen-clerk as I am, yet could I say a great deal more.

The great tent

But being here now in magnificence and matters of greatness, it falls well to mind: the greatness of his Honour's tent, that for her Majesty's dining was pight at Long Itchington the day her Highness came to Killingworth Castle -- a tabernacle indeed for number and shift of large and goodly rooms, for fair and easy offices, both inward and outward all so likesome in order and eyesight that justly for dignity may be comparable with a beautiful palace, and for greatness and quantity with a proper town or rather a citadel. But to be short, lest I keep you too long from the Royal Exchange now, and to cause you conceive much matter in fewest words, the iron bedstead of Og the King of Basan (ye wot) was four yards and a half long and two yards wide, whereby ye consider a giant of a great proportion was he. This tent had seven cart-load of pins pertaining to it; now for the greatness, guess as ye can.

Deut. 3

And great as it was (to marshal our matters of greatness together) -- not forgetting a wether at Grafton, brought to the court, that for body and wool was exceeding great (the measure I took not) -- let me show you with what great marvel a great child of Leicestershire at this Long Itchington by the parents was presented; great (I say) of limbs and proportion, of a

four foot and four inches high, and else lanuginous as a lad of eighteen years, being indeed avowed to be but six year old, nothing more bewraying his age than his wit that was, as for those years, simple and childish.

Terent. As for unto his Lordship, having with such greatness of honourable modesty and benignity so passed forth as *Laudem sine invidia et amicos parit*; by greatness of well-doing, won with all sorts to be in such reverence, as *De quo mentiri fama veretur*; in sincerity of friendship so great as no man more devoutly worships, *Illud amicitiae sanctum et venerabile nomen*; so great in liberality as hath no way to heap up the mass of his treasure, but only by liberal giving and bounteous bestowing his treasure, following (as it seems) the law of Martial that saith:

*Extra fortunam est, quicquid donatur amicis:
Quas dederis, solas semper habebis opes.*

Out of all hazard dost thou set that to thy friends thou givest,
A surer treasure canst thou not have ever while thou livest.

What may these greatnesses bode but only as great honour, fame and renown for these parts hereaway as ever was unto those two noble 'greats', the Macedonian Alexander in Emathia or Greece, or to Roman Charles in Germany or Italy? Which, were it in me any way to set out, no man of all men by God (Master Martin) had ever more cause. And that hereby consider you it pleased his Honour to bear me goodwill at first, and so to continue. To have given me apparel even from his back, to get me allowance in the stable, to advance me unto this worshipful office so near the most honourable Council, to help me in my licence of beans (though, indeed, I do not so much use it for, I thank God, I need not), to permit my good father to serve the stable.

Whereby I go now in my silks, that else might ruffle in my cut canvas; I ride now a-horseback, that else many times might manage it afoot; am known to their honours and taken forth with the best, that else might be bidden to stand back myself. My good father a good relief that he fares much the better by. And none of these for my desert, either at first or since, God He knows. What say ye, my good friend Humfrey, should I not forever honour, extol him all the ways I can? Yes, by your leave, while God lends me power to utter my mind. And (having as good cause of his Honour as Virgil had of Augustus Caesar) will I poet it a little with Virgil and say:

Eglog. 1

*Namque erit ille mihi semper Deus, illius aram
Saepe tener nostris ab ovilibus imbuet agnus.*

For he shall be a god to me, till death my life consumes,
His altars will I sacrifice with incense and perfumes.

A singular patron of humanity may he be well unto us towards all degrees, of honour, toward high estates, and chiefly whereby we may learn in what dignity, worship and reverence her Highness is to be esteemed, honoured and received. That was never indeed more condignly done than here, so as neither by the builders at first, nor by the Edict of Pacification after, was ever Kenilworth more nobled than by this, his Lordship's receiving her Highness here now.

But Jesu, Jesu, whither am I drawn now? But talk I of my Lord once, e'en thus it fares with me: I forget all -- my friends, and myself too. And yet you, being a mercer, a merchant as I am, my countryman born and my good friend withal, whereby I know ye are compassioned

with me, methought it my part somewhat to impart unto you how it is here with me and how I lead my life, which indeed is this.

A-mornings I rise ordinarily at seven o'clock. Then, ready, I go into the chapel; soon after eight, I get me commonly into my Lord's chamber or into my Lord President's. There at the cupboard after I have eaten the manchets served overnight for livery (for I dare be as bold, I promise you, as any of my friends the servants there, and indeed could I have fresh if I would tarry, but I am of wont jolly and dry a-mornings), I drink me up a good bowl of ale; when in a sweet pot it is defecated by all night's standing, the drink is the better, take that of me, and a morsel in a morning with a sound draught is very wholesome and good for the eyesight. Then I am fresh all the forenoon after as had I eaten a whole piece of beef. Now, sir, if the Council sit, I am at hand; wait at an inch, I warrant you. If any make babbling, *Peace*, say I, *wot ye where ye are?* If I take a listener or a prier in at the chinks or at the lock-hole, I am by and by in the bones of him, but now they keep good order, they know me well enough. If a be a friend, or such one as I like, I make him sit down by me on a form or a chest -- let the rest walk, a God's name. And here doth my languages now and then stand me in good stead -- my French, my Spanish, my Dutch and my Latin. Sometime among ambassadors' men if their master be within with the Council, sometime with the ambassador himself if he bid call his lackey or ask me what's o'clock. And, I warrant ye, I answer him roundly, that they marvel to see such a fellow there; then laugh I and say nothing. Dinner and supper I have twenty places to go to, and heartily prayed, too. And sometime get I to Master Pinner -- by my faith a worshipful gentleman, and as careful for his charge as any her Highness hath. There find I always good store of very good viands; we eat and be merry, thank God and the Queen. Himself in feeding very temperate and moderate as ye shall see any, and yet, by your leave, of a dish -- as a cold pigeon or so -- that hath come to him at meat more than he looked for, I have seen him e'en so by and by surfeit as he hath plucked off his napkin, wiped his knife and eat not a morsel more, like enough to stick in his stomach a two days after (some hard message from the higher officers, perceive ye me?). Upon search, his faithful dealing and diligence hath found him faultless. In afternoons and anights, sometime am I with the right worshipful Sir George Howard, as good a gentleman as any lives, and sometime at my good Lady Sidney's chamber, a noblewoman that I am as much bound unto as any poor man may be to so gracious a lady, and sometime in some other place, but always among the gentlewomen by my goodwill (O, ye know that comes always of a gentle spirit). And when I see company according, then can I be as lively too; sometime I foot it with dancing, now with my gittern and else with my cithern, then at the virginals -- ye know nothing comes amiss to me -- then carol I up a song withal that by and by they come flocking about me like bees to honey, and ever they cry, *Another, good Langham, another*. Shall I tell you? when I see Mistress (ah, see a mad knave, I had almost told all) that she gives once but an eye or an ear, why then, man am I blessed; my grace, my courage, my cunning is doubled. She says sometime she likes it, and then I like it much the better; it doth me good to hear how well I can do. And to say the truth, what with mine eyes, as I can amorously gloat it, with my Spanish suspires, my French heighs, mine Italian dulcets, my Dutch hoves, my double relish, my high reaches, my fine feigning, my deep diapason, my wanton warbles, my running, my timing, my tuning and my twinkling, I can gracify the matter as well as the proudest of them, and was yet never stained, I thank God. By my troth, countryman, it is sometime high midnight ere I can get from them. And thus have I told ye most of my trade all the livelong day; what will ye more? God save the Queen and my Lord, I am well, I thank you.

Up syn hove

Herewith meant I fully to bid ye farewell had not this doubt come to my mind that here remains a doubt in you, which I ought (methought) in any wise to clear. Which is, ye marvel perchance to see me so bookish. Let me tell you in few words: I went to school, forsooth, both at Paul's and also at Saint Anthony's; in the fifth form, past Aesop's fables, iwis, read Terence, Vos istaec intro auferte, and began with my Virgil, Tytire tu patulae. I

could my rules, could conster and parse with the best of them. Since that, as partly ye know, have I traded the feat of merchandise in sundry countries, and so gat me languages, which do so little hinder my Latin as (I thank God) have much increased it. I have leisure sometime when I tend not upon the Council whereby now I look on one book, now on another. Stories I delight in -- the more ancient and rare, the more likesome unto me. If I told ye I like William of Malmsbury so well because of his diligence and antiquity, perchance ye would conster it because I love malmsey so well, but i' faith, it is not so, for sipped I no more sack and sugar (and yet never but with company) than I do malmsey, I should not blush so much adays as I do, ye know my mind. Well now, thus fare ye heartily well. I' faith, if with wishing it could have been, ye had had a buck or two this summer, but we shall come nearer shortly and then shall we merely meet and grace a God. In the meantime, commend me, I beseech you, unto my good friends, almost most of them your neighbours -- Master Alderman Pullison, a special friend of mine, and in any wise to my good old friend Master Smith, Customer, by that same token: *Set my horse up to the rack, and then let's have a cup of sack.* He knows the token well enough, and will laugh, I hold ye a goat. To Master Thorogood and to my merry companion (a mercer, ye wot, as we be), Master Denman, mio fratello in Christo; he is wont to summon me by the name of Ro. La. of the county of Nosingham, gentleman. A good companion, i' faith. Well, once again, fare ye heartily well. From the court at the city of Worcester, the 20th of August, 1575.

Your countryman, companion and friend assuredly, mercer, merchant-adventurer and clerk of the Council chamber door, and also keeper of the same, El principe negro. Par me. R.L. Gent. Mercer.

DE MAIESTATE REGIA

Benigno.

Cedant arma togae, concedat laurea linguae,
Iactanter Cicero, at iustius illud habe:
Cedant arma togae, vigil et toga cedat honori,
Omnia concedant Imperioque suo.

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