

A wonderful, strange, and miraculous astrological prognostication for this year of our Lord
God 1591.

Discovering such wonders to happen this year as never chanced since Noah's flood.

Wherein if there be found one lie, the author will lose his credit forever.

By Adam Foulweather, student in ass-tronomy.
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To the Readers, health.

Sitting, gentlemen, upon Dover cliffs to quaint myself with the art of navigation and know the course of the tides, as the Dansk crows gather on the sands against a storm, so there appeared on the downs such a flock of knaves that by astrological conjectures I began to gather that this year would prove intemperate by an extreme heat in summer, insomuch that the stones in Cheapside should be so hot that divers persons should fear to go from Paul's to the Counter in the Poultry. Whereupon I betook me to my ephemerides, and erecting a figure, have found such strange accidents to fall out this year, Mercury being lord and predominate in the house of Fortune, that many fools shall have full coffers and wise men walk up and down with empty purses, that if Jupiter were not joined with him in a favourable aspect, the butchers of Eastcheap should do little or nothing all Lent but make pricks. Seeing therefore the wonders that are like to fall out this present year, I have, for the benefit of my countrymen, taken in hand to make this prognostication, discoursing briefly of the eclipses both of sun and moon with their dangerous effects like to follow, which, if God prevent not, many poor men are like to fast on Sundays for want of food, and such as have no shoes to go barefoot if certain devout cobblers prove not the more courteous. But yet astrology is not so certain but it may fail, and therefore divers hostesses shall chalk more this year than their guests will wipe out, so that I conclude, whatsoever is said by art, *Sapiens dominabitur astris*.

Your friend and student in ass-trology, Adam Foulweather.

Of the eclipses that shall happen this present year, to the great and fearful terrifying of the beholders.

If we may credit the authentical censures of Albumazar and Ptolemy about the motions of celestial bodies, whose influence doth excitate and procure continual mutability in the lower region, we shall find that the moon this year shall be eclipsed, which shall happen in one of the 12 months and some of the four quarters of the year, whose points, as they shall be totally darkened, so the effects shall be wondrous and strange. For Cancer being the sole house of the moon, doth presage that this year fruits shall be greatly eaten with caterpillars, as brokers, farmers and flatterers which, feeding on the sweat of other men's brows, shall greatly hinder the beauty of the spring and disparage the growth of all hottest herbs unless some northerly wind of God's vengeance clear the trees of such caterpillars with a hot plague and the pestilence. But Cancer being a watery sign and chief governor of floods and streams, it foreshoweth that fishmongers, if they be not well looked to, shall go down as far as Gravesend in wherries and forestall the market to the great prejudice of the poor that all Lent ground their fare on the benefit of salt fish and red herring. Besides, it signifieth that brewers shall make havoc of Thames water and put more liquor than they were accustomed amongst their malt, to the overthrow of certain crazed ale-knights, whose morning draughts of strong beer is a great stay to their stomachs, a lamentable case if it be not looked into and prevented by some speedy supplication to the worshipful order of aleconners. But in this we have great hope that, because the effects cannot surprise the cause, divers tapsters shall trust out more than they can get in, and although they fill their pots but half full, yet for want of true dealing die in the brewer's debt.

Thus much for the watery sign of Cancer, and because this eclipse is little visible in our horizon, I pass it over with this proviso to all seafaring men, to carry more shirts than one with them a-shipboard, lest to their great labour they spend many hours in murdering their vermin on the hatches.

The eclipse of the sun.

The eclipse of the sun, according to Proclus' opinion, is like to produce many hot and pestilent infirmities, especially amongst sumners and pettifoggers, whose faces, being combust with many fiery inflammatives, shall show the dearth that by their devout drinking is like to ensue of barley if violent death take not away such consuming malt-worms. Divers are like to be troubled with such hot rheums in their heads that their hair shall fall off, and such hot agues shall reign this year, with strange fevers and calamities, that if the sun were not placed in a cold sign, Rhenish wine would rise to tenpence a quart before the latter end of August. But divers good planets being retrograde foretelleth that lemons this year shall be plenty, insomuch that many shall use them to bedward for the qualifying of their hot and inflamed stomachs. And Mars being placed near unto the sun showeth that there shall be a great death among people; old women that can live no longer shall die for age, and young men that have usurers to their father shall this year have great cause to laugh, for the devil hath made a decree that, after they are once in hell, they shall never rise again to trouble their executors. Beside that by all conjectural arguments the influence of Mars shall be so violent that divers soldiers in parts beyond the seas shall fall out for want of their pay, and here in our meridional clime great quarrels shall be raised between man and man, especially in cases of law; gentry shall go checkmate with justice, and coin out-countenance oft-times equity; the poor sitting on Penniless Bench shall sell their coats to strive for a straw, and lawyers laugh such fools to scorn as cannot keep their crowns in their purses.

Further, there is like to be great falling out amongst churchmen, and certain fond sects of religion like to trouble the commons; self-conceiters and over-holy counterfeits that delight

in singularity shall rise up and despise authority, presuming even to abuse the higher powers if Saturn with a frowning influence did not threaten them with Tyburn's consequence. But whereas the sun in darkened but by digits, and that upon the south points, it presageth great miseries to Spain and those southerly countries. Friars and monks shall heat them so this year with confessing of harlots that their crowns shall wax bald of the one accord, to the great impoverishing of the Spanish barbers; surgeons in Spain shall wax rich and their hospitals poor, such a pestilent mortality is like to fall amongst those hypocritical mass-mongers. The dukes, marquesses and counties shall have their doublets closed with such Spanish buttons that they shall never prove good choristers for the hot and inflamed rheums fallen down into their throats. It is further to be feared that, because the eclipse happeneth in July, there will through the extreme heat grow such abundance of fleas that women shall not go to bed before twelve o'clock at night for the great murders and stratagems they are like to commit upon those little animals.

And whereas this eclipse falleth out at three of the clock in the afternoon, it foreshoweth that many shall go soberer into taverns than they shall come out, and that he which drinks hard and lies cold shall never die of the sweat, although Gemini combust and retrograde showeth that some shall have so sore a sweating that they may sell their hair by the pound to stuff tennis balls. But if the beadles of Bridewell be careful this summer, it may be hoped that Petticoat Lane may be less pestered with ill airs than it was wont, and the houses there so clear cleansed that honest women may dwell there without any dread of the whip and the cart. And I find that the altitude of that place and of Shoreditch are all one elevated, and 2 degrees, and under the zenith or vertical point of Venus, which presageth that sundry sorts of men and women shall be there resident; some shall be so short-heeled and so queasy-stomached that they shall lie in their beds while noon, by which means they shall grow so full of gross humours that they shall be troubled with strange tympanies and swellings in their bellies, uncurable for forty weeks until they be helped by the advice of some skilful midwife.

Besides, other of the same sex and faction shall learn to cozen young novices and fetch in young gentlemen, to the great overthrow of youth if some sharp and speedy redress be not fetched from the worshipful college of the physicians in the parish of St. Brides. But here by the way, gentle reader, note that this eclipse showeth that this year shall be some strange births of children produced in some monstrous form, to the grief of the parents and fearful spectacle of the beholders. But because the eclipse chanceth southerly, it is little to be feared that the effects shall fall in England. Yet somewhat it is to be doubted that divers children shall be born that, when they come to age, shall not know their own fathers; others shall have their fingers of the nature of lime twigs, to get most part of their living with five and a reach; some shall be born with feet like unto hares, that they shall run so swift that they shall never tarry with master, but trudge from post to pillar till they take up Beggar's Bush for their lodging; others shall have noses like swine, that there shall not be a feast within a mile but they shall smell it out. But especially it is to be doubted that divers women this year shall be born with two tongues, to the terrible grief of such as shall marry them, uttering in their fury such rough-cast eloquence that *knave* and *slave* shall be but holiday words to their husbands. And whereas this fearful eclipse doth continue but an hour and a half, it signifieth that this year women's loves to their husbands shall be very short, some so momentary that it shall scarce continue from the church-door to the wedding-house, and that hens, capons, geese and other pullen shall little haunt poor men's tables, but fly away with spits in their bellies to fat churls' houses, that pamper themselves up with delicates and dainties. Although very few other effects are to be prognosticated, yet let me give this caveat to my countrymen as a clause to this wonderful eclipse: let such as have clothes enow keep themselves warm from taking of cold, and I would wish rich men all this winter to sit by a good fire and hardly to go to bed without a cup of sack, and that so qualified with sugar that they prove not rheumatic. Let them feed daintily and take ease enough, and no doubt,

according to the judgment of Albumazar, they are like to live as long as they can, and not to die one hour before their time.

Thus much for this strange eclipse of the sun.

Of the second eclipse of the moon, which is like to fall out when it chanceth, either before the 31 of December, or else not at all this present year, 1591.

The second eclipse of the moon shall be but little seen in England, whereupon the effects shall be nothing prejudicial to our clime, yet as the body of the moon is never obscure in part or in whole but some dangerous events do follow, so I mean to set down briefly what is to be looked for in these western parts of the world.

First, therefore, it is to be feared that the Danes shall this year be greatly given to drink, insomuch that English beer shall there be worth fivepence a stoup, that their hofs and tap-houses shall be more frequented than the parish churches, and many shall have more spruce beer in their bellies than wit in their heads, whereupon shall grow apoplexies and cold palsies in their legs, that they shall divers times not be able to stand on their feet. Upon this shall grow great commodity to the potters and glassmakers, for it is like there shall be a great overthrow of them if there be not some act made for drinking in Black Jacks. But if the weather prove seasonable and the harvest great and the barns full of corn, rye is like to be cheap in Denmark and bread to be of a reasonable size, for the relieving of the poor. Marry, France is like to have a great dearth of honest men if the King prevail not against these mutinous rebels of the League, and papists in divers places to be plenty if God or the King rout them not out with a sharp overthrow. But this hope we have against that rascal rabble of those shavelings, that there was found in an old book this prophecy spoken about Jerusalem long since by a Jew: *The tree that God hath not planted shall be pulled up by the roots*. Some curious astronomers of late days, that are more propheticall than judicial, affirm that Martin the Kill-hog (for his devout drinking by the Pope canonized a saint) shall rise again in the apparel of a minister, and tickle some of the baser sort with such lusty humours in their brains that divers self-conceited fools shall become his disciples, and grounding their witless opinion on an heretical foundation, shall seek to ruinate authority and pervert all good orders established in the Church, to the great prejudice of unity and religion, titling themselves by the name of Martinist, as the Donatists grew from Donatus, were it not that the moon being in Taurus, which governs the neck and throat, shows that the squinancy shall reign amongst them, and divers for want of breath die of the strangling. Now for that Capricornus is a sign wherein Luna is often resident, it prognosticateth a great death amongst horned beasts. The butchers shall commit wilful murder upon sheep and oxen, and divers keepers kill store of bucks, and reserve no other fees to theirselves but the horns, insomuch that, if the parson of Hornchurch in Essex take not heed, there may hap to prove this year some cuckolds in his parish.

But there is like to be concluded by an act set down in Gravesend barge that he that wipes his nose and hath it not shall forfeit his whole face, and that all such as are jealous over their wives without cause are worthy to be punished with the horn-plague for their labour. And whereas this eclipse is far from the sign Pisces, it shows that there shall be much stinking fish this year at Billingsgate, and that Quinborough oyster-boats shall oft-times carry knaves as well as honest men. But let the fishwives take heed, for if most of them prove not scolds, yet because Pisces is a sign that governs the feet, they shall wear out more shoes in Lent than in any two months beside through the whole year, and get their living by walking and crying because they slandered Ram Alley with such a tragical infamy. The rest I conceal as frivolous, and little necessary to be touched in this prognostication.

A declaration of the disposition of sundry conceited qualities incident unto men's minds & natures throughout these four quarters of the year by the merry influence of the planets, with some other tragical events and observations worthy the noting contained under each separate revolution.

And first of the inclination of the winter quarter.

Winter, the first astronomical quarter of the year according to my usual account, whatsoever Ptolemy says, beginneth sooner with poor men than with rich, granted so by the malignant influence of Saturn, whose constellation is that such as have no money nor credit shall want coals & wood, and be fain to stand and starve for cold, while old penny-fathers sit and toast themselves by the fire. The winter beginning at that instant when the sun makes his entrance into the first degree of Capricornus, that hiemal solstitial sign shows that by natural inclination this quarter is generally phlegmatic, and that ale shall be of such great authority that the baker's basket shall give the wall unto the brewer's barrel, and a halfpenny dry do homage unto a halfpenny wet, the weather and season being so cold that divers for fear of the frost shall sit all day at tables and cards while their poor wives and families fast at home for their follies. And in respect that I find three of the seven planets to be in watery signs, as Jupiter, Mars and the moon, it signifieth that divers persons, both men and women, for want of wine or strong drink shall go to bed sober against their wills, that seafaring men shall have ill luck if either their ships hit against rocks or stick in the sands, that there shall be such great hoary frosts that men and women shall creep to bed together, and some of them lie so long till they be fetched out with a basin. Here Saturn retrograde in Gemini shows that there shall this winter fall such great fogs and mists that divers rich men shall lose their purses by the highway side, and poor men be so weather-beaten by the craft of usurers that they shall beg their bread by the extremity of such extortion, but Mercury and Venus being congregated in Sagittary prognosticateth that for want of fair weather such as have but one shirt shall go woolward till that be a-washing, and that watermen that want fares shall sit and blow their fingers till their fellows row betwixt the Old Swan and Westminster. And by reason that Mars, that malignant planet, hath nothing to do in that hiemal revolution, soldiers this winter for the most part shall lie still in garrisons, and shall not be troubled with more money than is necessary. Being also greatly to be feared that through the extreme cold divers poor men shall die at rich men's doors, pity shall be exiled, good works trussed over the sea with Jack-a-Lent, and hospitality banished as a sign of popish religion, and were it not that some moist showers shall moderate the hardness of the frost, charity should for want of house-room lie and freeze to death in the streets. Divers great storms are this year to be feared, especially in houses where the wives wear the breeches, with such loud winds that the women shall scold their husbands quite out of doors, whereupon is like to fall great hailstones as big as joint-stools, that some shall have their heads broken, and all through the froward disposition of Venus. But Mars comes in and plays the man, who being placed in Gemini, that governs arms and shoulders, presageth that sundry tall fellows shall take heart of grace, who, armed with good cudgels, shall so lamback these stubborn housewives that the wind shall turn into another quarter, and the weather wax more calm and quiet. Such great floods are like to ensue through this hiemal distemperature that divers men shall be drowned on dry hills, and fish, if they could not swim, were utterly like to perish. Eels are like to be dear if there be few or none taken, and plenty of pouts to be had in all places, especially in those coasts and countries where women have not their own wills. Now, gentle reader, in respect of divers particular circumstances drawn from the daily motions, progressions, stations, retrogradations, aspects, and other appointments of fixed and wandering stars, I am induced to set down that such as have no fire shall feel most cold, and that wire-drawers, if they ply not their work, shall feel not great heat, that they in Russia shall suffer more prejudice by the sharpness of winter than the Spaniards, and yet one thing is to be hoped for at the hands of Mercury, that this winter money shall have a fall, for

Philip and Mary shillings that heretofore went for 12d shall now pass from man to man for 6d apiece.

The distemperature of this quarter is like to breed many sicknesses and sundry diseases as well in young as in old, proceeding either of corrupt and vicious blood or of superabundance of crude and raw phlegmatic humours, as cephalalgies or pains in the head which shall make men dizzy, that some shall stagger & stumble up & down the streets till they have stolen a nap to quiet their brains. Ache in the shoulders shall reign amongst divers women that have shrews to their husbands, and divers drunken men shall be pestered with surfeits. Maidens this winter shall have strange stitches & gripings of the colic, which diseases proceed by too much lying upright, and men shall be troubled with such pain in the eyes that they shall not know their own wives from other women, with coughs, rheums, and itchings, which I omit.

Of the springtime.

Winter being finished with the last grade of the watery sign Pisces, at the sun's joyful progress into the first degree of Aries the second quarter of our usual year, commonly called the spring, cometh next, which beginneth when grass begins to sprout & trees to bud. But to treat of this present season, forasmuch as I find the planets to be contradictorily disposed in signs and mansions of diverse and repugnant qualities, I gather that this spring will be very ill for scholars, for they shall study much and gain little, they shall have more wit in their heads than money in their purses, dunces shall prove more wealthy than divers doctors, insomuch that sundry unlettered fools should creep into the ministry if the provident care of good bishops did not prevent them. And by the opinion of Proclus, women are like to grow wilful, & so variable that they shall laugh and weep, and all with a wind. Butchers shall sell their meat as dear as they can, and if they be not careful, horn beasts shall be hurtful unto them, and some shall be so wedded to swine's flesh that they shall never be without a sow in their house as long as they live. This spring or vernal revolution, being naturally hot and moist, is like to be very forward for sprouting fields and blooming trees, and because Saturn is in his proper mansion, old men are like to be froward, and crafty knaves shall need no brokers, usury shall be called good husbandry, and men shall be counted honest by their wealth, not by their virtues. And because Aquarius hath something to do with this quarter, it is to be doubted that divers springs of water will rise up in vintners' cellars, to the great weakening of their Gascon wine & the utter ruin of the ancient order of the red noses. March beer shall be more esteemed than small ale.

Out of the old stock of heresy this spring, it is to be feared, will bloom new schismatical opinions and strange sects, as Brownists, Barrowists, and such balductum devises, to the great hindrance of the unity of the church & confusion of the true faith if the learned doctor, Sir T. Tyburn, be not tasked to confute such upstart companions with his plain and Dunstable philosophy. Cancer is busy in this spring-tide, and therefore it is like that flourishing blooms of young gentlemen's youth shall be greatly annoyed with caterpillars, who shall entangle them in such statutes & recognizances that they shall cry out against brokers as Jeremy did against false prophets. Besides, though this last winter nipped up divers masterless men & cutpurses, yet this spring is like to afford one every term this ten year in Westminster Hall. Barbers, if they have no work, are like to grow poor, and for that Mercury is combust, and many quarrels like to grow amongst men, lawyers shall prove rich, & wear side gowns and large consciences, having their mouths open to call for fees and their purses shut when they should bestow alms. But take heed, O you generation of wicked ostlers that steal hay in the night from gentlemen's horses and rub their teeth with tallow that they may eat little when they stand at livery, this I prognosticate against you, that this spring whichsoever of you dies shall leave a knave's carcass in the grave behind him,

and that they which live shall hop a harlot in his clothes all the year after. But above all let me not hide this secret from my countrymen, that Jupiter being in aspect with Luna discovereth that divers men shall drink more than they bleed, & tailors shall steal nothing but what is brought unto them, that poulters shall be pestered with rotten eggs, & butchers' dogs make libels against Lent, that affords no food but herring-cobs for their diet.

Diseases incident to this quarter, as by astrological & philosophical conjectures I can gather, are these following: prentices that have been sore beaten shall be troubled with ache in their arms, and it shall be ill for such as have sore eyes to look against the sun. The plague shall reign mortally amongst poor men, that divers of them shall not be able to change a man a groat. Old women that have taken great cold may perhaps be troubled with the cough, and such as have pain in their teeth shall be grievously troubled with the toothache. Beside, sick folk shall have worse stomachs than they which be whole, and men that cannot sleep shall take very little rest, with other accidental infirmities which I do overpass.

A declaration of the disposition and inclination of the summer quarter.

When the sun hath made his course through the vernal signs Aries, Taurus, & Gemini, at his passage unto the solstitial estival sign Cancer the third part of an English year called summer taketh his beginning, this year, as Ptolemy saith, the twelfth of June, but as my skill doth conjecture it beginneth when the weather waxeth so hot that beggars scorn barns and lie in the field for heat, and the worms of Saint Pancras church build their bowers under the shadow of Coleman Hedge. The predominant qualities of this quarter is heat and dryness, whereby I do gather that through the influence of Cancer bottle-ale shall be in great authority, and wheat shall do knight's service unto malt. Tapsters this quarter shall be in greater credit than cobblers, and many shall drink more than they can earn. And yet, because Mercury is a sign that is now predominant, women shall be more troubled with fleas than men, and such as want meat shall go supperless to bed. Besides, this quarter great hurly-burlies are like to be feared, and great stratagems like to be performed through the opposition of Mars and Saturn, for butchers are like to make great havoc amongst flies, and beggars on sunshine days to commit great murders upon their rebellious vermin, and the knights of Coppersmiths' Hall to do great deeds of arms upon cups, cans, pots, glasses, and Black Jacks, not ceasing the skirmish till they are able to stand on their legs.

Further it is to be doubted that, because Venus is in the house of Love, that millers, weavers, and tailors shall be counted as thievish as they are knavish, and maids this quarter shall make syllabubs for their lovers till some of them calve with the cow for company. But Jupiter in his exaltation presageth that divers young gentlemen shall creep further into the mercer's book in a month than they can get out in a year, and that sundry fellows in their silks shall be appointed to keep Duke Humfrey company in Paul's because they know not where to get their dinner abroad. If there be great plenty of cherries this summer, they are like to come to a penny the pound, and costermongers this summer shall be licensed by the wardens of their hall to wear and carry baskets of apples on their heads to keep them from the heat of the sun. But Libra adust and retrograde foretelleth that there is like to be a league between divers bakers & the pillory for making their bread so light, and the sun shall be so hot that it shall melt away the consciences of divers covetous men, and that by the means of Venus, which is in the house of Scorpion, women shall be so lovesick that sumners and civil lawyers shall have great fees through the abundance of such sinful clients, and divers spirits in white sheets shall stand in Paul's and other churches to make their confessions. But this by the way learn of me, shoemakers shall prove so proud that they shall refuse the name of souters, and the tailor and the louse are like to fall at martial variance were it not the worshipful company of the botchers have set down this order, that he that lies in his bed while his clothes be mending need not have a man to keep his

wardrobe. But amongst all, the smiths have put up a supplication to the aleconners that he which goes drunk to bed, and as soon as he wakes dares not carouse a hearty draft the next morning, shall drink two days together small ale for his penance.

This variable season is like to bring variable accidents for divers diseases which will much molest the people, namely the pleurisies which shall grieve many that they shall have far more knavery than they have honesty; divers fluxes, and especially in poor men's purses, for they shall be so laxative that money shall run out faster than they can get it; the small-pox among children, and great amongst men; infirmities in the tongue, some shall do nothing but lie, with others which I let pass.

A declaration of the inclination and disposition of the autumnal or harvest quarter.

Harvest and the last quarter of this year beginneth, as I conjecture, when corn is ripe. But for the nature of this autumnal revolution, because it beginneth in Libra I gather there shall be more holes open this quarter than in all the year beside, and strange events shall chance, for knaves shall wear smocks, and women shall have holes in their hearts, that as fast as love creeps in at one, it shall run out at another. Yet Leo, being a fiery sign, foreshoweth that divers men shall have their teeth longer than their beards, and some shall be so sunburnt with sitting in the ale-house that their noses shall be able to light a candle. Others shall for want of money pawn their cloaks and march mannerly in their doublet and their hose. And some shall this year have barns, and yet want corn to put in them. Rye this year shall be common in England, and knaves shall be licensed to sell it by the pound, and he that will not this quarter spend a penny with his friend by the counsel of Albumazar shall be thrust quite out of all good company for his labour.

It may be doubted that some strange sickness and unknown diseases will happen, as hollowness of the heart, that a man shall not know a knave from an honest man, and uncouth consumptions of the liver, that divers men of good wealth shall by their kind hearts spend all and die bankrupts; some shall be troubled with diseases in the throat which cannot be helped without Bull the hangman play the skilful chirurgeon Amongst the rest, many that have fair wives shall be troubled with great swelling in the brows, a disease as incurable as the gout. Some shall be troubled with the stone, and seek to cunning women to cure them of that disease, an infirmity easily amended and the doctors of Bridewell did not punish such women physicians by a statute. But the greatest disease that is to be feared is the cataphalusy, that is to say, good-fellows this year for want of money shall oft-times be contented to part company.

And thus (gentle reader) thou hast my prognostication, gathered by art and confirmed by experience, and therefore take it in good worth, for *Quod gratis grate*, and so farewell.