

{Illustration – full page}

THE SECOND
Tome o the Palace of
**Pleafure containyng store of goodlye
Hiftories, Tragical matters, & other**
Morall arguments, very requi-
fite for delight and
profite.

Chofē and felected out
*of divers good and commendable Au-
thors, and now once again correc-
ted and encreafed.*

By Vviliam Painter, Clerke of the
Ordinance and Armarie

☞ [. . .] ☞

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MARSHE. ☞ [1582] ☞

{TM}

Rhomeo , and Iulietta.

The goodly Hyftory of the true, and conftant Loue between *RHOMEO* and *IVLIETTA*, the one of whom died of Poyfon, and the other of forrow, and heuineffe: wherein be compryfed many aduentures of Loue, and other deuifes touchinge the fame.

The XXV. Nouell.

I am fure that they which
meafure the Greatneffe of Goddes
workes accordinge to the capacity
of their Rude , and fimple vnder-
5 ftandinge, wyll not lightly adhibite
credite vnto thys Hiftory, fo wel for
the variety of ftraunge Accidents
which be therein described, as for the
nouelty of fo rare, and perfect ami-
10 ty. But they that haue read Plinie, Valerius Maximus, Plutarche,
and diuers other Writers, do finde, that in olde time a great num-
ber of Men , and Women haue died, fome of exceffiue ioy, fome
of ouermutch forrow , and fome of other paffions : and amongs
the fame, Loue is not the leaft, whych when it feazeth vppon any
15 kynde and gentle fubiect, and findeth no refiftaunce to ferue for a
rampart to ftay the violence of his courfe, by little, & little vnder-
mineth, melteth and confumeth the vertues of naturall powers in
futch wyfe as the fpyrite yealdinge to the burden, abandoneth the
place of lyfe : Which is verified by the pitifull, and infortunate
<Zv> death

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20 death of two Louers that furrendered their laft Breath in one
Toumbe at Verona a City of Italy, wherein refofe yet to thys
day (with great maruell) the Bones , and remnauntes of their
late louing bodies : An hyftory no leffe wonderfull than true. If
then perticular affection which of goodright euery man ought to
25 beare to the place where he was borne , doe not deceyue thofe that
trauayle, I thincke they will confefle wyth me, that few Citties in
Italy, can furpaffe the fayd City of Verona, afwell for the Na-
uigable riuer called Adiffa, which paffeth almoft through the midft
of the fame, and thereby a great trafique into Almayne, as alfo for
30 the profpect towards the Fertile Mountaynes, and pleafant Va-
leys whych do enuiron the fame, with a great number of very clere
and lyuely Fountaynes, that ferue for the eafe and commodity of
the place . Omittinge (bifides many other fingularities) foure
Bridges, and an infinite number of other honourable Antiquities
35 daily apparaunt vnto thofe, that be to curious to viewe and looke
vpon them. Which places I haue fomewhat touched , bycaufe
thys moft true Hiftory which I purpofe hereafter to recite, depen-
deth thereupon, the memory whereof to thys day is fo wel known
at Verona, as vnneths their blubbred Eyes, be yet dry, that faw &
40 beheld that lamentable fight.

When the Senior Efcala was Lorde of Verona, there were two
families in the City , of farre greater fame than the reft, afwell
for riches as Nobility : the one called the Montefches, and the o-
ther the Capellets : But lyke as moft commonly there is difcorde
45 amongs theym which be of femblable degree in honour, euen fo
there hapned a certayne enmity betweene them: and for fo much
as the beginning thereof was vnlawfull, and of ill foundation, fo
lykewyfe in proceffe of time it kindled to futch flame, as by diuers
and fundry deuyfes practifed on both fides, many loft their lyues.
50 The Lord Bartholmew of Efcala, (of whom we haue already fpo-
ken) being Lord of Verona , and feeing futch diforder in his cō-
mmon weale, affayed diuers and fundry waies to reconcile thofe two
houfes, but all in vayne : for their hatred, had taken futch roote,
as the fame could not be moderated by any wyfe counfell or good
55 aduice : betweene whom no other thing could be accorded, but ge-

Z 2.<r> uing ouer

Rhomeo , and Iulietta. <Fo.180 v>

uing ouer Armour , and Weapon for the time, attending some o-
ther feafon more conuenient,and with better leyfure to appeafe the
refit. In the time that thefe things were adoing,one of the fami-
ly of Montefches called R homeo, of the age of. 20. or. 21. yeares,
60 the comlieft and beft conditioned Gentleman that was amonges
the Veronian youth,fell in loue with a yong Gentlewoman of Ve-
rona,and in few dayes was attached with hir Beauty, and good
behaiour, as he abādoned all other affaires,& bufines to ferue,&
honour hir. And after many Letters, Ambaffades, and prefents,
65 he determined in the ende to fpeake vnto hir , and to difclofe hys
paffions, which he did without any other practife. But fhe which
was vertuoufly brought vp, knew how to make him fo good an-
fwere to cut of his amorous affections, as he had no luft after
that time to returne any more,and fhewed hir felfe fo auftere, and
70 fharpe of Speech, as fhe vouchsafed not with one looke to behold
him. But how mutch the young Gentleman faw hir whift, and fi-
lent, the more he was inflamed : And after he had continued cer-
tayne months in that feruice wythout remedy of his grieffe, he de-
termined in the ende to depart Verona, for prooffe if by change
75 of the place he might alter his affection,faying to himfelfe. What
do I meane to loue one that is fo vnkinde,and thus doth difdayn
me, I am all hir owne,& yet fhe flieth from me. I can no lōger liue,
except hir prefence I doe enioy : and fhe hath no contented mynde,
but when fhe is furtheft from me . I will then from henceforth
80 Eftraunge my felfe from hir,for it may fo come to paffe by not be-
holding hir,that thys fire in me which taketh increafe and nourifh-
ment by hir fayre Eyes,by little,and little may dy and quench.But
minding to put in prooffe what he thought, at one infant hee was
reduced to the contrary, who not knowing whereupon to refolue,
85 paffed dayes and nights in marueilous Playnts, and Lamenta-
tions. for Loue vexed him fo neare,and had fo well fixed the gen-
tlewomans Beauty within the Bowels of his heart, and mynde,
as not able to refift, hee faynted with the charge, and confumed by
little , and little as the Snow agaynft the Sunne. Whereof hys
90 Parenttes , and kinred did maruayle greatly , bewaylinge hys
<Z 2. v> miffortune,

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miffortune , but aboue all other one of hys Companions o
riper Age , and Counfell than hee , began sharpely to rebuke
him. For the loue that he bare him was fo great as hee felt hys
Martirdome,and was pertaker of hys paffion:which caufed him
95 by ofte viewyng his friends difquietneffe in amorous panges, to
fay thus vnto him:Rhomeo, I maruell much that thou fpendeft
the beft time of thine age,in purfute of a thing , from which thou
feeft thy felf defpifed and banifhed,wythout respecte either to thy
prodigall difpenfe,to thine honor,to thy teares,or to thy myferable
100 lyfe,which be able to moue the moft constant to pity.Wherefore I
pray thee for the Loue of our auncient amity,and for thyne health
fake,that thou wilt learn to be thine owne man,and not to alenat
thy lyberty to any fo ingrate as fhe is:for fo farre as I coniecture
by things that are paffed betwene you,either fhe is in loue with
105 fome other,or elfe determineth neuer to loue any . Thou arte
yong,rich in goods and fortune,and more excellent in beauty than
any Gentleman in thys Cyty:thou art well learned,and the onely
fonne of the houfe wherof thou commeft.What gryef would it bee
to thy poore olde Father and other thy parentes,to fee the fo drow
110 ned in this dongeon of Vyce,fpecially at that age wherein thou
oughteft rather to put them in fome Hope of thy Vertue? Begyn
then from henceforth to acknowledge thyne Error, wherein thou
haft hitherto lyued,doe away that amorous vaile or couerture
whych blyndeth thyne Eyes and letteth thee to folow the ryghte
115 path,wherein thine auncestors haue walked:or elfe if thou do feele
thy felf fo fubiect to thyne owne wyll,yelde thy hearte to fome o=
ther place,and chofe some Miftrefse accordyng to thy worthyneffe ,
and henceforth doe not fow thy Paynes in a Soyle fo barrayne
whereof thou reapeft no Fruycte :the tyme approacheth when al
120 the Dames of the Cyty fhall affemble , where thou mayft behold
futch one as fhall make the forget thy former Gryefs . Thys
younge Gentleman attentyuely hearyng all the perfuadyng rea=
fons of hys fryend , began fomewhat to moderate that Heate
and to acknowledge all the exhortatyons which hee had made
125 to be directed to good purpofe. And then determined to put them

Z 3.<r> in

Rhomeo and Iulietta <Fo.181 v>

in al the feasts and affen.blies of the City , without bearing affect-
tion more to one W oman than to an other.And continued in thys
manner of Lyfe . ii . or iii.Monthes,thinking by that meanes to
quench the sparks of auncient flames.It chaunced thē within few
130 dayes after,about the feaft of Chryftmaffe,when feasts and ban-
kets moft commonly be vfed , and makkes accordinge to the cuf=
tome frequented:that Anthonie Capellet being the Chief of that
Famillye , and one of the Principall Lords of the City too , made
a banquet, and for the better Solempnization thereof,inuited all the
135 Noble men and Dames,to which Feaft reforted the moſte parte of
the youth of V erona. The family of the Capellets(as we haue de-
clared in the beginninge of thys Hyftory)was at variance with the
Montefches , which was the caufe that none of that family repai=
red to that Banquet , but onelye the yong Gentleman Rhomeo,
140 who came in a Maſke after ſupper with certayne other yong Gen-
tlemen. And after they had remained a certayne ſpace with their
Viſards on , at length they did put of the ſame,and Rhomeo very
ſhamefaſt,withdrew himſelf into a Corner of the Hall:but by rea-
ſon of the light of the Torches which burned very bright ,he was by and
145 by knowen and loked vpon of the whole Company,but ſpe-
cially of the Ladies, for beſides his Natiue Beauty wherewith
Nature had adorned him , they maruelled at his audacity how hee
durft perfume to enter ſo ſecretly into the Houſe of that F amylye
which had litle caufe to do him any good.Notwithſtanding , the
150 Capellets difſembling their mallice,either for the honor of the com-
pany,or elſe for reſpect of his Age , did not miſuſe him eyther in
Worde or Deede.By meanes whereof wyth free liberty he behelde
and viewed the Ladies at hys Pleaſure, which hee dyd ſo well,
and wyth grace ſo good , as there was none but did very well,lyke
155 the preſence of his perſon. And after hee had particularly giuen
Iudgement vppon the excellency of each one, according to his af-
fection , hee ſawe one Gentlewoman amonges the reſte of fur-
paſſinge Beautye who (althoughe hee had neuer ſeene hir
tofore)pleaſed him aboute the reſt,and attributed vnto hir in heart
160 the Chyefeſt place for all perfection in Beautye . And fea=
ſtyng hir inceſſantlye with piteous lookes,the Loue whych hee
<Z 3. v> bare

Rhomeo and Iulietta . Fo.182

bare to his firft Gentlewoman, was ouercomen with this newe
fire,that tooke futch norifhment and vigor in his hart,as he was
not able neuer to quench the fame but by Death onely:as you may
165 vnderftande by one of the strangeft difcourfes,that euer any mor-
tal man deuifed.The yong Rhomeo then felying himfelfe thus tof-
fed wyth thys newe Tempeft , could not tell what countenance to
vfe , but was fo furprifed and chaunged with thefe laft flames , as
he had almoft forgotten him felfe,in futch wife as he had not auda
170 city to enquyre what fhee was, and wholly bente himfelf to feede
hys Eyes with hir fighte , wherewyth hee moyftened the fweete a-
morous venome , which dyd fo empoyfon him , as hee ended hys
Dayes with a kinde of moft cruell Death. The Gentlewoman
that dydde put Rhomeo to futch payne, was called Iulietta, and
175 was the Daughter of Capellet,the mayfter of the houfe wher that
affembly was,who as hir Eyes did rolle and wander too and fro,
by chaunce espied Rhomeo, which vnto hir feemed to be the good-
lieft perfonage that euer fhee fawe. And Loue(which lay in
wayte neuer vntill that time,)affayling the tender heart of that yong
180 Gentlewoman,touched hir fo at the quicke,as for any refiftance
fhe coulde make,was not able to defende his forces, and then be-
gan to fet at naught the royalties of the feaft,and felt no pleafure
in hir heart,but when fhe had a glimpfe by throwing or receiuing
fome fight or looke of Rhomeo.And after they had contented eche
185 others troubled heart with millions of amorous lookes which of-
tentimes interchangeably encountred and met together , the bur-
ning Beames gaue fufficient testimony of loues priuy onfettes.
Loue hauing made the heartes breache of thofe two louers,as they
two fought meanes to fpeake together,Fortune offered them a ve-
190 ry meete and apt occafion. A certayne Lord of that Troupe and
Companye tooke Iulietta by the Hande to Daunce , wherein fhee
behaued hir felfe fo well,and wyth fo excellent grace , as fhee
wanne that Daye the prife of Honour from all the Damofels of
Verona. Rhomeo,hauyng forefeene the Place wherevnto fhee
195 mynded to retire , approched the fame , and fo dycretelye v-
fed the matter , as hee founde the meanes at hir returne
Z 4.<r> to fit

Rhomeo and Iulietta <Fo.182 v>

to fit beside hir.Iulietta when the daunce was finished , returned to
the very place where she was set before,and was placed between
Rhomeo and an other gentleman called Mercutio , which was a
200 courtlyke Gentleman,very well be loued of all men, and by reason
of his pleafaunt and curteous behauior was in euery company wel
intertayned.Mercutio that was of audacity among Maydens,as a
Lyon is among Lambes seized incontynently vpon the Hande of
Iulietta,whose hands wontedly were fo cold both in Wynter and
205 Sommer as the Mountayne yce,although the fires heat did warm
the fame.Rhomeo whych sat vpon the left side of Iulietta , feyng
that Mercutio held hir by the right hand,toke hir by the other that
he myght not be deceiued of his purpose,and straying the fame | a
little,he felt himself fo preft wyth that newe fauor, as he remained
210 mute,not able to aunfwer.But she perceuyng by his chaunge of
color,that the fault proceded of the vehemence of Loue, defyryng to
speake vnto hym,turned hir selfe towards hym , and wyth tremb=
lyng voyce ioyned with Virginal shamefastnesse,intermedled with
a certayn bashfulnesse,fayd to hym :Blessed be the Houe of your
215 neare approche:but mynding to procede in further talke,loue had
fo clofed vp hir mouth,as she was not able to end hir Tale.
Wherunto the yong Gentleman all rauished with ioy and con-
tentation,fighing,asked hir what was the cause of that right Fortu-
nate blessing.Iulietta fomwhat more emboldened with pytyful loke
220 and smyling countenance said vnto him : Syr do not maruell yf I
do bleffe your comminge hither,bicaufe fir Mercutio a good tyme
wyth frosty hand hath wholly frofen mine,and you of your curtesy
haue warmed the same agayne.Wherunto immediatly Rhomeo re-
plyed:Madame, if the heauens haue ben fo fauorable to employe me to
225 do you some agreeable seruice being repaired hither by chance amongs
other Gentlemen,I esteeme the same well bestowed , cra-
uyng no greater Benefite for satisfaction of all my contentations receiued
in this World , than to serue obey and honor you fo long
as my lyfe doth last,as experience shall yeld more ample prooffe
230 when it shall please you to geue further affaye. Moreouer,if you
haue receiued any Heat by touche of my Hand,you may be well af-
fured that those flames be dead in respect of the lyuely Sparkes &
<Z 4. v> violēt

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violent fire which forteth from your fayre Eyes,which fire hath fo
fiercely inflamed all the moft fenfible parts of my body,as If I
235 be not fuccored by the fauoure of your good graces,I do attend the
time to be confumed to duft,Scarfe had he made an ende of thofe
laft Words but the daunce of the Torche was at an end.Whereby
Iulietta which wholly burnt in loue,ftaightly clafpyng her Hand
with hys,had no leifure to make other aunfwer,but foftly thus to
240 fay:My deare frend, I know not what other affured wytnesse you
defire of Loue,but that I let you vnderftand that you be no more
your own,than I am yours,beyng ready and dyfpofed to obey you
fo farre as honour fhall permyt,befeechying you for the prefent tyme
to content your felfe wyth thys aunfwere, vntyll fome other feafon
245 meeter to Communicate more fecretly of our Affaires . Rhomeo
feeing himfelfe preffed to part of the Company , and for that hee
knew not by what meanes he myght fee hir agayne that was hys
Life and Death,demaunded of one of his Friends what fhee was,
who made aunfwer that fhe was the daughter of Capellet,the lord
250 of the houfe,and Mayfter of that dayesfeaft(who wroth beyond
meafure that fortune had fet him to fo daügerous a place,th ought
it impoffible to bring to end his enterprife begon.) Iulietta coue-
tous on the other fide,to know what yong gentlemā he was which
had fo courteoufly intertayned hir that Nyght,and of whome fhee
255 felt the new wound in hir heart,called an olde Gentlewoman of ho
nor which had nurffed hir and brought her vp,vnto whom fhe fayd
leaning vpon hir fhoulder:Mother,what two young Gentlemen be
they which firft goe forth with the two Torches before them.Vn=
to whome the old Gentlewomā told the name of the Houfes wher=
260 of they came.Then fhe asked hir againe, what young Gentleman
that was which holdeth the vifarde in his Hand , wyth the Da-
mafke cloke about him:It if(quod fhe) Romeo Montefche , the
fonne of youre Fathers capytall Enimye and deadly foe to all
your kinne, But the Mayden at the onely Name of Montefche
265 was altogyther amazed , despayrynge for euer to attayne to
Hufband hir great affectyoned fryend Rhomeo , for the aunicy-
ent hatreds betweene thofe two Families . Neuertheleffe fhe knewe
fo

<Z 5.> fo

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fo well how to difsemble hir grief and Difcontented Minde, as the
olde Gentlewoman perceiued nothing,who then began to perfuade
270 hir to retire into hir Chamber:whom ſhe obeyed:and being in bed,
thinking to take hir wonted reſt,a great tēpeſt of diuers thoughtes
began to enuiron and trouble hir Mynde , in futch wyſe as ſhee
was not able to cloſe hir Eyes,but turninge heere and there,fanta-
fied diuers things in hir thought,fometimes purpoſed to cut of the
275 whole attempte of that amorous practiſe, ſometimes to continue
the fame. Thus was the poor pucell vexed with two contraries,
the one comforted hir to purſue hir intent,the other propoſed the
immymente Perill wherevnto vndyſcretly ſhe headlong threwe hir
ſelf. And after ſhe had wandred of long time in this amorous La=
280 berinth,ſhe knew not whereuppon to reſolue,but wept inceſſantly,
and accuſed hir ſelf,faying:Ah Caitife and myſerable Creature
from whence do riſe theſe vnaccuſtomed Trauayles which I feele
in Mynde , prouokynge mee to looſe my reſte : but infortūate
Wretch,what doe I know if that yong Gentleman doe loue mee
285 as hee ſayeth. It may be vnder the vaile of fugred woordes he go=
eth about to ſteale away mine honore, to be reuenged of my Pa=
rentes whych haue offended his, and by that meanes to my euer=
laſtinge reproche to make me the fable of the Verona people. ”
Afterwardes ſodainly as ſhe condempned that which ſhe ſuſpec=
”
290 ted in the beginning,fayd: Is it poſſible that vnder futch beautye ”
and rare comelyneſſe , dyſloyaltye and Treafon may haue theyr ”
Syedge and Lodgynge ? If it bee true that the Face is the ”
faythfull Meſſanger of the Myndes Conceypte , I may bee af=
”
fured that hee doeth loue mee : for I marked ſo many chaun=
”
295 ged Colours in his Face in time of his talke with me, and ſawe ”
him ſo tranſported and beſides himſelfe, as I cannot wyſhe ”
any other more certayne lucke of Loue , wherein I wyll per=
”
fyft immutable to the laſte gaſpe of Lyfe , to the intende I ”
may haue hym to bee my huſband . For it maye ſo come to ”
”
300 paſſe , as this newe aliaunce ſhall engender a perpetuall peace ”
and Amity betweene hys Houſe and mine . Arreſtinge then vp=
”
pon this determynation ſtyll , as ſhe ſaw Rhomeo paſſinge before ”
”
<Z 5. v> hir

Rhomeo and Iulietta Fo.184

hir FathersGate,he shewed hir selfe with merry Countenance,and followed him so with loke of Eye,vntill she had loft his sight .

305 And continuing this manner of Lyfe for certaine Dayes , Rhomeo not able to content himself with lookes,daily did behold and marke the situation of the house,and one day amongs others hee espied Iulietta at hir Chamber Window,boūding vpon a narrow Lane,ryght ouer against which Chamber he had a Gardein,which
 310 was the cause that Rhomeo fearing discouery of their loue, began the day time to passe no more before the Gate, but so soone as the Night with his browne Mantell had couered the Earth,hee walked alone vp and downe that little streat. And after he had bene there many times,miffing the chiefest cause of his comming,Iulietta impacient of hir euill,one night repaired to hir window, & perceiued throughe the bryghtneffe of the Moone hir Friend Rhomeo vnder hir Window , no lesse attended for,than hee hymselfe was weighting Then she secretly with Teares in hir Eyes, & with voyce interrupted by sighes,sayd: Signior Rhomeo, me thinke that
 320 you hazarde your person to mutch,and commyt the fame into great Daunger at thys time of the Nyght,to protrude your self to the Mercy of them which meane you little good Who yf they had takē would haue cut you in pieces,and mine honor(which I esteeme dearer than my Lyfe,)hindred and suspected for euer.Madame aunfwered Rhomeo,my Lyfe is in the Hand of God,who only can difpose the fame:howbeyt yf any Man had foughte menes to beryeue mee of my Lyfe , I should (in the pefence of you)haue made him knowen what mine ability had ben to defend the fame . Notwythstandyng Lyfe is not so deare, and of futch estimation wyth me, but
 330 that I coulde vouchsafe to facryfice the fame for your sake : and althoughe my myfhappe had bene so greate , as to bee dyfpatched in that Place , yet had I no cause to be forrye therefore , excepte it had bene by losyng the meanes , and way how to make you vnderftande the good wyll and duety which I beare you , defyryng not to conferue the fame for anye commoditye that I hope to haue thereby , nor for anye other respecte , but onelye to Loue , Serue , and Honor you , so long

<Z 6.r> as

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as breath fhall remaine in me. So foone as he had made an end of
his talke, loue and pity began to feaze vpon the heart of Iulietta, &
340 leaning hir head vpon hir hand, hauing hir face all besprent with
teares, she said vnto Rhomeo: Syr Rhomeo, I pray you not to re-
newe that grief agayne: for the onely Memory of futch inconueny-
ence, maketh me to counterpoyse betwene death and Lyfe, my heart
being so vnited with yours, as you cannot receyue the least Iniury
345 in this world, wherein I shall not be so great a Partaker as your
self: beseechyng you for conclusion, that if you desire your owne
health and mine, to declare vnto me in fewe Wordes what youre
determinacion is to attaine: for if you couet any other secrete thing
at my Handes, more than myne Honoure can well allowe, you are
350 maruelously deceiued: but if your desire be godly, and that the frēd-
ship which you proteft to beare mee, be founded vpon Vertue,
and to bee concluded by Maryage, receiuing me for your wyfe and
lawfull Spoufe, you shall haue futch part in me, as whereof with-
out any regard to the obedience and reuerence that I owe to my
355 Parentes, or to the auncient Enimity of oure Famylyes, I wyll
make you the onely Lord and Mayster, and of all the thyngys that
I poffesse, being prest and ready in all poyntes to folow your com-
maundement: But if your intent be otherwyfe, and thinke to reape
the Fruycte of my Virginity, vnder pretense of wanton Amity, you
360 be greatly deceiued, and doe pray you to auoide and suffer me from
henceforth to lyue and rest amongs myne equals. Rhomeo which
looked for none other thyng holding vp his Handes to the Hea-
uens, wyth incredible ioy and contentation, aunfwered Madame
for so much as it hath pleased you to doe me that honour to accepte
365 me for futch a one, I accorde and consent to your request, and doe of-
fer vnto you the best part of my heart, which shall remayn with you
for guage and fure testimony of my saying, vntill futch tyme as god
shall giue me leaue to make you the entier owner and possessor of
the same: And to the intent I may begyn myn enterpryse, to mor-
370 row I will to the Frier Laurence for counsell in the same, who be-
sides that he is my ghostly father is accustomed to giue me instruc-
tion in al my other secreet affaires, and fayle not (if you please) to
meete
<Z 6. v>

meete me agayne in this place at this very hour, to the intent I
may giue you to vnderstand the deuice betwene him and me, which
375 the lyked very well, and ended their talke for that time. Rhomeo
receyuing none other fauour at hir hands for that night , but only
Wordes . Thys Fryer Laurence of whom hereafter wee shall
make more ample mention, was an auncient Doctor of Diuinity,
of the order of the Fryres Minors, who besides the happy profes-
380 sion which he had made in study of holy writ, was very skilful in
Philofophy , and a great searcher of natures Secrets, and excee-
ding famous in Magike knowledge, and other hidden & secret sci-
ences, which nothing diminished his reputation, because hee did
not abuse the fame. And this Frier through his vertue and piety,
385 had so well won the citizens hearts of Verona, as he was almost
the Confessor to them all, and of all men generally reuerenced and
beloued : And many tymes for his great prudence was called by
the lords of y^e Citty, to the hearing of their weighty causes. And a-
monges other he was greatly fauored by the Lorde of Escal, that
390 tyme the principall gouernor of Verona, and of all the Family of
Montefches, and of the Capellets, and of many other. The young
Rhomeo (as we haue already declared) from his tender age, bare
a certayne particuler amity to Frier Laurence, & departed to him
his secrets, by meanes whereof so soone as he was gone from Iu-
395 lietta, went strayght to the Fryers Franciscians, where fro point
to point he discoursed the successe of his loue to that good Father
and the conclusion of mariage betwene him and Iulietta, adding
vpon the ende of talke , that hee woulde rather choose shamefull
death, than to fayle hir of his promise. To whom the good Frier
400 after he had debated diuers matters, and propofed al the inconue-
niences of that secret mariage, exhorted hym to more mature deli-
beration of the same : notwithstanding, all the alleged perfluafions
were not able to reuoke his promyse. Wherefore the Frier
vanquished with his stubborneffe, & also forecasting in his mynde y
405 the mariage might be some meanes of reconciliation of those two
houses, in th'end agreed to his request, intreating him, y^t he myght
haue one dayes respit for leyfure to excogitate what was best to be
done. But if Rhomeo for his part was carefull to prouide for his
<Z 7.1> affayres

Rhomeo, and Iulietta. <Fo.185 v>

affayres, Iulietta lykewife did her indeuour. For seeing that shee
410 had none about her to whom she might discouer her passions, shee
deuifed to impart the whole to hir Nurse which lay in her Cham=
ber, appoynted to wayte vppon hir, to whom she committed the
intier secrets of the loue between Rhomeo and hir. And although
the olde Woman in the beginninge refifted Iulietta hir intent, yet
415 in the ende she knew so wel how to persuade and win hir, that she
promifed in all that she was able to do, to be at hir cōmaundement.
And then she sent hir with all diligence to speake to Rhomeo, and
to know of him by what means they might be married, and that
he would do hir to vnderstand the determination betwene Fryre
420 Laurence and him. Whom Rhomeo aunfwered, how the first day
wherein he had informed Fryre Laurence of the matter, the sayde
Fryre deferred aunfwere vntil the next, which was the very same,
and that it was not past one houre fithens he returned with final
resolution, and that Frier Laurence and he had deuifed, that she the
425 Saterdag following, should craue leaue of hir mother to go to cō=
fession, and to repayre to the Church of faynet Francis, where in a
certayne Chappell secretly they should be married, praying hir in a=
ny wyfe not to fayle to be there. Which thinge she brought to passe
with futch discretion, as hir mother agreed to hir request: and ac=
430 companied onely wyth hir gouerneffe, and a young mayden, she re=
payred thither at the determined day and tyme. And so soone as
she was entred the Church, she called for the good Doctor Fryer
Laurence, vnto whom answere was made that he was in the shrin=
ing Chappell, and forthwith aduertifement was gieuen him of
435 hir comming. So soone as Fryer Laurence was certified of Iuli=
etta, hee went into the body of the Church, and willed the olde
Woman and yong mayden to go heare seruice, and that when hee
had heard the confession of Iulietta, he would fend for them agayn.
Iulietta beinge entred a little Cell wyth Frier Laurence, he shut
440 fast the dore as he was wont to do, where Rhomeo & he had bin to=
gether shut fast in, the space of one whole hour before. Then Frier
Laurence after that he had shrined them, sayd to Iulietta: Daugh=
ter, as Rhomeo here present hath certified me, you be agreed, & con=
<Z 7. v> tented to

Rhomeo, and Iulietta. Fo. 186.

tented to take him to husband, and he likewise you for his Espouse
445 and Wyfe. Do you now still persist and continue in that mynde?
The Louers answered that they desired none other thing. The
Fryer seeing they conformed & agreeable willes, after he had dis-
coursed somewhat vpon the commendation of mariage dignity,
450 pronounced the vfull wordes of the Church, and the hauing re-
ceyued the Ring from Rhomeo, they rose vp before the Fryer, who
sayd vnto them : If you haue any other thing to conferre together,
do the same wyth speede : For I purpose that Rhomeo shall goe
from hence so secretly as he can . Rhomeo for to goe from Iuliet-
ta sayde secretly vnto hir , that shee shoulde send vnto hym after
455 dinner the old Woman, and that he would cause to be made a cor-
ded Ladder the same euening, thereby to climbe vp to her Chäber
window, where at more leifure they would deuise of their affaires.
Things determined betwene them, either of them retired to their
house with incredible cōtentation, attendinge the happy houre for con-
460 summation of their mariage. Whē Rhomeo was come home to his
house, he declared wholly what had passed betwene him and Iuliet-
ta, vnto a Seruaunt of his called Pietro, whose fidelity he had so
greatly tryed, as he durst haue trusted him with hys life, and com-
maunded hym wyth expedition to prouide a Ladder of Cordes
465 wyth 2. strong Hookes of Iron fastned to both endes, which hee
easily did, because they were much vsed in Italy . Iulietta did not
forget in the Euening about fife of the Clocke, to send the olde
Woman to Rhomeo, who hauing prepared all things necessary,
caused the Ladder to be deliuered vnto her, and prayed hir to re-
470 quire Iulietta the same euening not to fayle to bee at the accusto-
med place. But if this Iorney seemed long to these two passioned
Louers , let other Iudge , that haue at other tymes assayed the
lyke : for euery minute of an houre seemed to them a Thousande
yeares, so that if they had power to commaund the Heauens (as
475 Iofua did the Sunne) the Earth had incontinently bene shadowed
wyth darkeft Cloudes. The apoynted houre come, Rhomeo put
on the most sumptuous apparell hee had, and conducted by good
fortune neere to the place where his heart tooke lyfe , was so fully
determined of hys purpose , as easily hee clymed vp the Garden
<Z 8.r> wall.

Rhomeo, and Iulietta. <Fo.186 v>

wall. Beinge arriued hard to the Wyndow, he perceyued Iulietta ,
who had already so well faftned the Ladder to draw him vp , as
without any daunger at all, he entred hir chambre, which was fo
clere as the day, by reafon of the Tapers of virgin Wax, which
Iulietta had caufed to be lighted ,that fhe might the better beholde
485 hir Rhomeo. Iulietta for hir part, was but in hir night kerchief:
Who fo foon as fhe perceyued him colled him about the Neck, &
after fhee had kiffed and rekiffed hym a million of times, began to
imbrace hym betwene hir armes, hauing no power to fpeake vn-
to him, but by Sighes onely, holding hir mouth clofe againft his,
490 and being in this traunce beheld him with pitifull eye, which made
him to liue and die together. And afterwards fomewhat come to
hir felfe, fhe fayd w^t fighes deeply fetched from the bottom of hir
heart : Ah Rhomeo, the exampler of al vertue & gentlenes, moft
hartely welcome to this place, wherein for your lacke, & abfence, &
495 for feare of your perfon, I haue gulhed forth fo many Teares as y^e
fpring is almoft dry: But now that I hold you betwen my armes,
let death & fortune doe what they lift. For I count my felfe more
than fatiffied of all my forrowes paf, by the fauour alone of your
prefence : Whom Rhomeo with weeping eye , giuing ouer filence
500 aunfwered : Madame for fomutch as I neuer receyued fo mutch
of fortunes grace, as to make you feele by liuely experience what
power you had ouer me, and the torment euery minute of the day
fultained for your occafion. I do affure you the leaft grief that vex-
eth me for your abfence, is a thoufand times more paynefull than
505 death, which long time or this had cut of the threede of my lyfe, if
the hope of this happy Iourney had not bene, which paying mee
now the iuft Tribute of my weepings paf, maketh me better cō-
tent , and more glad, than if the whole Worlde were at my com-
maundement , befecching you (without further memory of aunci-
510 ent grieffe) to take aduice in tyme to come how we may content our
paffionate hearts, and to fort our affayres with futch Wyfedome,
and difcretion as our enimies without aduantage may let vs con-
tinue the remnant of our Dayes in reft and quiet. And as Iulietta
was about to make anfwere, the Olde woman came in the meane
515 time, & fayd vnto them: He that waiteth time in talke, recouereth
<Z 8. v> the fame

the same to late . But for so much as eyther of you hath endu-
red futch mutuall paynes, behold (quoth shee) a campe which I
haue made ready,(shewing them the Fielde bed which shee had
prepared and furnished,) whereunto they easily agreed, and being
520 then betwene the Sheets in priuy bed, after they had gladded and
cherished themselues with al kinde of delicate embracemēt which
loue was able to deuise. Rhomeo vnloofing the holy lines of vir-
ginity, tooke possession of the place, which was not yet besieged w^t
futch ioy and cōtentation as they can iudge which haue assayed like
525 delites. Their marriage thus consummate, Rhomeo perceyuing
the morning make to hafty approach, tooke his leaue , making pro-
mise that he would not fayle wythin a day or two to refort agayne
to the place by lyke meanes, and semblable time, vntil Fortune had
prouided fure occasion vnfearfully to manyfest their marriage to
530 the whole Worlde. And thus a month or twayne, they continued
their ioyful mindes to their incredible satisfaction, vntil Lady for-
tune enuious of their prosperity, turned hir Wheele to tumble thē
into such a bottomlesse pit, as they payed hir vfury for their plea-
sures past, by a certayne most cruell and pitifull death, as you shal
535 vnderftand hereafter by the difcourse that followeth. Now as we
haue before declared , the Capellets and the Montefches were not
so well reconciled by the Lord of Verona, but that there rested in
them futch sparks of auncient displeafures, as either partes wai-
ted but for some light occasion to draw together, which they did
540 in the Easter holy dayes , (as bloody men commonly be most wil-
lingly difposed after a good time to commit some nefarious deede)
besides the Gate of Bourfarie leading to the olde castel of Verona,
a troupe of Capellets rencountred with certayne of the Montef-
ches, and without other woordes began to fet vpon them. And the
545 Capellets had for Chiefe of their Glorious enterprife one called
Thibault, cofin Germayne to Iulietta, a yong man strongly made, &
of good experiēce of armes, who exhorted his Companions with
ftout stomakes to repress the boldnes of the Montefches, that ther
might from that time forth no memory of them be left at all. The
550 rumoure of this fray was disperffed throughout al the corners of
Aa.<r> Verona,

Rhomeo , and Iulietta. <Fo.187 v>

Verona, that succour might come from all partes of the Citty to depart the fame . Whereof R homeo aduertized, who walked alonges the Citty with certayne of his Companions, hafted him fpeadily to the place where the flaughter of his Parents and alies
555 were committed : and after he had well aduifed and beholden many wounded and hurt on both fides, he fayd to hys Companions : My frēds let vs part thē,for they be fo fleht one vpō an other,as will all be hewed to pieces before the game be done. And faying fo, he thruft himfelfe amids the troupe, and did no more but part the
560 blowes on eyther fide, crying vpon them aloud. My freends,no more it is time henceforth thatour quarel ceafe. For befides y^e pro- uocation of Gods iuft wrath, our two families be flaundersous to the whole World,and are the caufe that this common wealth doth grow vnto diforder . But they were fo egre and furious one a-
565 gaynft the other, as they gaue no audiēce to Rhomeo his counsel and bent theymfelues too kyll , dyfmember and teare eche other in pieces . And the fyght was fo cruell and outragious between them as they which looked on , were amafed to fee theym endure thofe blowes , for the grounde was all couered with armes,leg-
570 ges, thighes, and bloude, wherein no figne of cowardnes appeared , and mayntayned their feyghte fo longe ,that none was able to iudge who hadde the better , vntill that Thibault Coufin to Iulietta inflamed with ire and rage , turned towardes Rhomeo thinkinge with a pricke to runne him through.But he was fo wel
575 armed and defended with a priuye coate whiche he wore ordinarily for the doubt he had of the Capellets,as the pricke rebounded: vnto whom Rhomeo made anfwere:Thibault thou maieft know by the pacience which I haue had vntill this present tyme , that I came not hether to fyght with thee or thyne , but to feeke peace &
580 attonemente betweene vs, and if thou thinkeft that for defaulte of courage I haue fayled myne endeuor, thou doeft greate wronge to my reputacion . And impute thys my fuffrance to fome other particular refpecte,rather than to wante of ftomacke . Wherefore abuse mee not but be content with this greate effufion of Bloude
585 and murders already committed. And prouoke mee not I befeche thee to paffe the boundes of my good will and mynde. Ah tray-

<Aa. v> tor

Rhomeo, and Iulietta. Fo. 188

Traitor sayd Thibaulte thou thinkeste to faue thy selfe by the
plotte of thy pleafaunt tounge ,but see that thou defende thy selfe
els presently I will make thee feele that thy tounge shal not gard
590 thy corps ,nor yet be the Buckler to defende the same from pre=
sent death . And saying so he gaue him a blow with such furye , as
hadde not other warded the same hee had cutte of his heade from
his shoulders, and the one was no readyer to lende , but the other
incontinentlye was able to paye agayne , for hee being not onelye
595 wroth with the blowe that hee had receiued,but offended with the
iniury which the other had don,began to purfue his ennemy with
suche courage and viuacity , as at the third blowe with his fwerd
hee caused him to fall backwarde starke deade vpon the grounde
with a pricke vehementlye thruft into his throte , whiche
600 hee followed till hys Sworde appeared throughe the hyn=
der parte of the same ,by reason wherof the conflicte ceassed .
For besides that Thibault was the chiefe of his companye he was
also borne of one of the Noblest houfes within the Cittye which
caused the Potestate to affemble his Souldiers with diligence
605 for the apprehension and imprisonment of Rhomeo , who seyeng
yl fortune at hande,in secrete wife conuayed him selfe to Fryer Lau
rence at the Friers Franciscanes. And the Fryer vnderstandinge
of his facte , kepte him in a certayne secreteplace of his couente
vntil fortune did otherwyfe prouyde for his safe goinge abroade.
610 The brute spred throughout the citty , of this chaunce don vpon
the Lorde Thibault,the Capellets in mourning weedes caused the
deade bodye to be caryed before the fygnory of Verona, so well to
moue them to pytty , as to demaunde iustice for the murder : be=
fore whom came also the Montefches declaryng the innocencye of
615 Rhomeo,and the wilfull affault of the other.The councell affem=
bled and witneses heard on both partes a straight commaunde=
mente was geuen by the Lorde of the Cittye to geeue ouer their
weapons , and touchinge the offence of Rhomeo,because he hadde
killed the other in his owne defence,he was banished Verona for
620 euer. This cōmō misfortune published throughout the Citty ,was
generally forowed and lamented. Som complayneth the death of y^e
Lorde Thibault so well for his dexteritye in armes as for the
Aa 2.<r> hope

Rhomeo , and Iulietta. <Fo.188 v>

hope of his great good seruice in time to come,if hee hadde not
bene preuented by futch cruell Death. Other bewailed(fpecially
625 the Ladies and Gentlewomen)the ouerthrow of yong Rhomeo,) who be-
fides his beauty and good grace wherwith he was enriched had a certayne naturall allure-
ment,by vertue whereof he drew vn-
to him the hearts of eche man,like as the ftony Adamante doth the
canced iron,in futch wife as the whole nation and people of Ve-
630 rona lamented his mischaunce : But aboute all infortunate Iuliet-
ta, who aduertified both of the death of hir cofin Thibault, and of
the banishment of hir husband,made the Ayre found with infinite
number of mornefull playnts and miferable lamentations. Then
feeling hirselfe to much outraged with extreeme paffion, she went
635 into hir chamber, and ouercome with forrowe threwe hir selfe v-
pon hir bed,where she began to reinforce hir dolor after fo ftraunge
fashion,as the moft constant would haue bene moued to pittie. The
like one out of hir wits, she gazed heere and there, and by Fortune
beholding the Window wher at Rhomeo was wont to enter in=
640 to hir chamber , cried out : Oh vnhappy Windowe , Oh entry ”
moft unlucky, wherein were wouen the bitter toyle of my former ”
misfaps, if by thy meanes I haue receyued at other tymes fome ”
light pleafure or tranfitory contentation, thou now makeft me pay ”
a tribute fo rigorous and paynefull, as my tender body not able a- ”
645 ny longer to fupport the fame , fhall henceforth open the Gate to ”
that lyfe where the ghofth difcharged from this mortal burden, fhall ”
feeke in fome place els more affured reft. Ah Rhomeo , Rhomeo ”
when acquayntaunce firft began betweene vs , and reclined myne ”
eares vnto thy fuborned promiffes,confirmed with fo many othes, ”
650 I would neuer haue beleued that in place of our continued amy- ”
ty, and in appeafing of y^e hatred of our houfes,thou wouldeft haue ”
fought occafion to breake the fame by an acte fo fhamefull,where=
by thy fame fhall be spotted for euer, and I miferable wretch defo- ”
late of Spoufe, and Companion . But if thou haddeft beene fo ”
655 greedy after the Cappelletts bloud,wherefore didft thou fpare the ”
deare bloud of mine owne heart when fo many tymes,and in futch ”
fecret place the fame was at the mercy of thy cruell handes ? The ”

<Aa 2. v> victory

victory which thou shouldest haue gotten ouer me, had it not bene
glorious inough for thine ambitious minde, but for more trium=
660 phant folempnity to bee crowned wyth the bloude of my dearest
kinfman ? Now get thee hence therefore into some other place to
deceiue some other, so vnhappy as my selfe. Neuer come agayne
in place where I am , for no excufe shall heereafter take holde to
affwage mine offended minde. In the meane tyme I shall lament
665 the rest of my heauy lyfe, with futch store of teares , as my body
dried vp from all humidity , shall shortly searck reliefe in Earth.
And hauing made an ende of those hir wordes, hir heart was so
grieuously strayned, as shee coulde neyther weepe nor speake, and
ftoode so immouable, as if she had bene in a traunce. Then being
670 somewhat come agayne vnto hirselfe , with feeble voyce shee sayd :
Ah murderous tongue of other mens honor, how darest thou so
infamously to speake of him whom his very enimies doe commēd
and prayse ? How presumeft thou to impute the blame vpon Rho=
meo, whose vnguiltines and innocent deede euery man alloweth ?
675 Where from henceforth shall be hys refuge ? fith she which ought
to bee the onely Bulwarke , and assured rampire of his distresse,
doth pursue and defame him ? Receyue, receyue then Rhomeo the
satisfaction of mine ingratitude by the sacrifice which I shall make
of my proper lyfe , and so the faulte which I haue committed
680 agaynste thy loyaltie , shall bee made open to the Worlde,
thou being reuenged and my selfe punished . And thinking to vse
some further talke , all the powers of hir body fayled hir with
signes of present death But the good olde Woman whych could
not imagine the cause of Iulietta hir longe absence, doubted very
685 much that she suffred some passion, and sought hir vp and downe
in euery place wythin hir Fathers Pallace , vntill at length shee
founde hir lying a long vpon hir Bed , all the outwarde parts of
hir body so colde as Marble . But the goode Olde woman which
thought hir to bee deade, began to cry like one out of hir Wittes,
690 saying : Ah deare Daughter, and Noursechylde , howe much doeth
thy death now grieue mee at the very heart ? And as she was
feeling all the partes of hir body, shee perceyued some sparke of
Lyfe to bee yet within the same, whych caused hir to call hir many
Aa 3.<r> tymes by

Rhomeo and Iulietta . <Fo.189 v>

many tymes by her name til at length she brought her oute of her
695 founde Then sayde vnto her: Why Iulietta, myne owne deare ”
darelyng , what meane you by this tormoylinge of your selfe ? I ”
cannot tel from whence this youre behaiour & that immoderate ”
heauines doe proceede , but wel I wot that within this houre I ”
thought to haue accompanied you to the graue . Alas good mo= ”
700 ther aunfwered woful Iulietta)do you not moft evidently perceiue ”
and fee what iuft caufe I haue too forrow and complayne, loofyng ”
at one instante two perfons of the world which wer vnto mee moft ”
deare ? Methinke, aunfweared the good woman , that it is not ”
seemely for a Gentlewoman of your degree to fall into fuch extre- ”
705 metye . For in tyme of tribulation wyfedome fould moft preuaile ”
And if the lord Thibault be deade do you thinke to get him again ”
by teares ? What is he that doth not accufe his ouermutch prefū ”
tion : woulde you that Rhomeo hadd done that wronge to him, ”
and hys houle to fuffer himfelfe outraged and affayled by one to ”
710 whom in manhood and prowefse he is not inferioure ? Suf- ”
ficeth you that Rhomeo is alyue , and his affayres in futch ”
efstate whoe in tyme may be called home agayne from banifhmente ”
for he is a greate lorde,and as you know well allied and fauored ”
of all men, wherefore arme your selfe from henceforth with pacy= ”
715 ence.For albeit that Fortune doth estraunge him from you for a ”
tyme,yet fure I am,that hereafter fhee will reftore him vnto you ”
agayne wyth greater ioye and Contentatyon than before . And ”
to the Ende that wee bee better affured in what ftate he is,yf you ”
wyll promyfe me to gyue ouer your heauyneffe , I wyll to Daye ”
720 knowe of Fryer Laurence whether he is gone. To which request ”
Iulietta agreed & then the good womā repayredto S.Frauncif,wher ”
fhee founde Fryer Laurence who tolde her that the fame nyghte ”
Rhomeo would not fayle at hys accuftomed houre to vifite ”
Iulietta , and there to do hir to vnderftande what he purposed ”
725 to doe in tyme to come. This iorney then fared like the voiages of ”
mariners , who after they haue ben toft by greate and troublous ”
tempeft feeyng fome Sunne beame pearce the heuens to lighten ”
the lande, affure,themfelues agayne,and thinkinge to haue auoy=
ded fhipwracke , and fodaynlye the feas begynne to fwell , the
<Aa 3. v> waues

Rhomeo and Iulietta Fo.190

730 waues do roare,with futch vehemence and noyfe,as if they were
fallen agayne into greater danger than before. The affigned hour
come , Rhomeo fayled not accordinge to hys promife to bee in his
Garden, where he founde his furniture preft to mount the Cham=
ber of Iulietta,who with difplayed armes, began fo ftrayghtly to
735 imbrace hym, as it feemed that the foule would haue abandoned
hir body. And they two more than a large quarter of an hour were
in futch agony,as they were not able to pronounce one word, and
wetting ech others Face faft clofed together, the teares trickeled ”
downe in futch abundance as they feemed to be throughly bathed ”
740 therein,which Rhomeo perceyuing, thinking to ftay thofe immo=
derate teares , fayd vnto hir : Myne owne deareft freend Iulietta, ”
I am not now determined to recite the particulars of the ftraung ”
happes of frayle and inconstaunte Fortune,who in a moment hoi= ”
fteth a.man vp to the hygheft degree of hir wheele, and by,and by, ”
745 in leffe fpace than in the twynckeling of an eye , fhe throweth hym ”
downe agayne fo lowe, as more mifery is prepared for him in one ”
day, than fauour in one hundred yeares : whych I now proue, & ”
haue experiance in my felfe , which haue bene nourifhed delicately ”
amonges my friends,and maynteyned in futch prosperous ftate,as ”
750 you doe little know,(hoping for the full perfection of my felicity) ”
by meanes of our mariage to haue reconciled our Parents , and ”
friends,and to conduct the refidue of my lyfe,according to the fcope ”
and lot determined by Almighty God : And neuertheleffe all ”
myne enterprifes be put backe , and my purpofes tourned cleane ”
755 contrary, in futch wife as from henceforth I muft wander lyke a ”
vagabonde through diuers Prouinces , and fequestrate my felfe ”
from my Friends, wythout affured place of myne abode, whych I ”
defire to let you weete, to the intent you may be exhorted, in tyme ”
to come, patiently to beare fo well myne abfence, as that whych it ”
760 fhall pleafe God to appoint.But Iulietta,al affrighted wyth teares ”
and mortal agonies, would not fuffer hym to paffe any further,but ”
interruptinge his purpofe,fayd vnto hym : Rhomeo , how canft ”
Aa. 4.<f> thou be ”
”

Rhomeo and Iulietta <Fo.190 v>

thou be fo harde hearted and voyde of all pity,to leaue mee here
lone , besieged , with fo manye deadlye myferies ? There is ”
765 neyther houre nor Minute,wherein death doth not appeare a thou= ”
sand tymes before mee,and yet my misfehappe is futch , as I can ”
not dye,and therefore doe manyfestlye perceyue,that the fame death ”
preferueth my lyfe,of purpose to delight in my gryefes , and try= ”
umphe ouer my euyls.And thou lyke the mynifter and tyrante of ”
770 hir cruelty,doest make no confcience(for ought that I can fee) ha- ”
uing atchieued the Summe of thy defyres and pleafures on me, to ”
abandon and forsake me.Whereby I well perceyue,that all the la- ”
wes of Amity are deade and vtterly extinguyfhed,forfomutch as he ”
in whom I had greateft hope and confidence , and for whose sake ”
775 I am become an enimy to my self,doth difdayne and contemne me. ”
No no Rhomeo, thou must fully resolue thy selfe vppon one of ”
these.ii.points either to see me incontinently thrown down head- ”
long from this high Window after thee:or else to suffer me to ac- ”
company thee into that Countrey or Place whither Fortune fhall ”
780 guide thee:for my heart is fo much transformed into thine,that fo ”
foone as I fhall vnderstande of thy departure,presently my lyfe ”
will depart this wofull body:the continuance whereof I doe not ”
desire for any other purpose,but only to delight my selfe in thy pre- ”
sence,to bee pertaker of thy misfortunes,And therefore if euer there ”
738 lodged any pity in the heart of gentleman,I beseeche the Rhomeo ”
with al humility,that it may now finde place in thee,and that thou ”
wilt vouchsafe to receyue me for thy seruauant,and the faithful com- ”
panion of thy mishaps.And if thou thinke that thou canst not con- ”
ueniently receyue me in the estate and habite of a Wyfe, who fhall ”
790 let me to chaunge myne apparell? Shall I be the first that haue v- ”
fed like shifts ,to escape the tyranny of parentes? Dofte thou doubt ”
that my seruice will not bee fo good vnto thee as that of Petre thy ”
seruauante?Wyll my loyaltye and fidelity be lesse than his?My beau- ”
ty which at other tymes thou hast fo greatly commended,it is not ”
795 esteemed of thee?My teares, my loue, and the aunciente pleafures ”
and delights that you haue taken in mee shal they be in obliuion ?
Rhomeo feing hir in these alterations,fearing that worffe inconue-
nience would chaunce , tooke hir agayne betweene hys armes,and
<Aa. 4v> kiffing

Rhomeo and Iulietta Fo.191

kiffing hir amoroufly ,sayd: Iulietta.the onely mistresse of my heart, ”
 800 I pray thee in the Name of God,and for the feruent Loue which ”
 thou bearest vnto me,to doe away those vayne cogitations, excepte ”
 thou meane to seeke and hazard the destruction of vs both : for yf ”
 thou perfeuer in this purpose, there is no remedye but wee muste ”
 both perish : for so foone as thyne absence shalbe knowen , thy Fa= ”
 805 ther will make futch earnest purfute after vs,that we cannot chose ”
 but be difcried and taken,and in the ende cruelly punished , I as a ”
 theefe and stealer of thee,and thou as a dyfobedyent Daughter to ”
 thy Father:and so in stead of pleasaunt and quiet Lyfe,our Dayes ”
 shalbe abridged by most shamefull Death. But if thou wylt recline ”
 810 thy self to reason,(the ryght rule of humane Lyfe,)and for y^e tyme ”
 abandon our mutuall delygths, I will take futch order in the time ”
 of my banishment,as within three or foure Months wythoute any ”
 delay,I shalbe reuoked home agayne.But if it fall out otherwyse ”
 (as I trust not ,)howfoeuer it happen,I wyll come agayne vnto ”
 815 thee,and with the helpe of my Fryendes wyll fetch the from Vero= ”
 na by strong Hand , not in Counterfeit Apparell as a straunger, ”
 but lyke my spouse and perpetuall companion . In the meane ”
 tyme quyet your selfe,and be sure that nothing else but death shall ”
 deuide and put vs a funder. The reasons of Rhomeo so mutch ”
 820 preuailed with Iulietta , as shee made hym thys aunfwere : My ”
 deare fryend I wyll doe nothing contrary to your wyll and plea= ”
 sure. And to what place so euer you repayre,my hearte shall bee ”
 your owne,in like forte as you haue giuen yours to be mine . In ”
 the meane while I pray you not to faile oftentimes to aduertise me ”
 825 by Frier Laurence,in what state your affaires be,and specially of ”
 the place of your abode. Thus these two pore louers passed the ”
 Night together,vntil the day began to appeare which did dyuyde ”
 them,to their extreame forrow and gryef. Rhomeo hauinge taken ”
 leaue of Iulietta,went to S.Fraunces,and after he hadde aduerty- ”
 830 fed Frier Laurence of his affaires,departed from Verona in the ”
 habit of a Marchaunt straunger,and vsed futch expedytyon,as w^t= ”
 out hurt he arriued at Mantuona,(accompanied onely wyth Petre ”
 his Seruaunt,whome hee haftily sente backe agayne to Verona , to ”

<Aa. 5r> ferue

Rhomeo and Iulietta <Fo.191 v>

erue his Father (where he tooke a Houfe: and lyuying in honora-
835 ble Companie, affayed certayne Monthes to put away the gryefe
whych fo tormented him. But duryng the tyme of his abfence, mi-
ferable Iulietta could not fo cloke hir forrow, but that through the
euyll colour of hir Face, hir inwarde paffion was difcryed. By
reafon whereof hir Mother, who heard hir oftentimes fighting,
840 and inceffantly complaining, coude not forbear to fay vnto hir:
Daughter if you continue long after thys fort, you wyll haften the ”
Death of your good Father and me, who loue you fo dearely as ”
our owne lyues: wherefore henceforth moderate your heauineffe, and ”
endeuor your felf to be mery: think no more vpon the Death of ”
845 your cofin Thibault, whome (fith it pleafed God to cal away) do you ”
thinke to reuoke wyth Teares, and fo withftande his Almightye ”
will? But the pore Gentlewoman not able to dyffemble hir griefe, ”
fayd vnto hir: Madame long time it is fithens the laft Teares for ”
Thibault were poured forth, and I beleue that the fountayne is fo ”
850 well foked and dried vp, as no more will fpryng in that place. The ”
mother which could not tell to what effect thofe Woords were fpo- ”
ken held hir peace, for feare fhe fhould trouble hir Daughter: and ”
certayne Dayes after feeing hir to continue in heauineffe and conti- ”
nuall grieff, affaied by al meanes poffible to know, afwell of hir, ”
855 as of other the houfholde Seruauntes, the occafion of their for- ”
row: but al in Vayne: wherwith the pore mother vexed beyond
meafure, purpofed to let the Lord Antonio hir Hufband to vnder-
ftand the cafe of hir Daughter. And vppon a day feeing him at
conuenient leifure, fhe fayd vnto him: My Lord, if you haue mar-
860 ked the Countenance of our Daughter, and hir kinde of behaiour
fithens the Death of the Lord Thibault hir Cofyn, you fhall per-
ceiue fo ftraunge mutation in hir, as it will make you to maruell
for fhe is not onely contented to forgoe meate, drinke and flepe, but
fhe fpendeth hir tyme in nothinge elfe then in Weeping and Lamen-
865 tatyon, delighting to kepe hir felf folytarye wythin hir Chamber
where fhe tormenteth hir felf fo outragioufly, as yf wee take not
heede, hir Lyfe is to be doubted, and not able to knowe the Ory-
ginall of hir Payne, the more difficile fhall bee the remedye for
<Aa. 5 v> ferue albeit

Rhomeo and Iulietta Fo.192

albeit that I haue fought meanes by all extremity , yet cannot I
870 learne the cause of hir sicknesse.And where I thought in the be-
ginning,that it proceded vpon the Death of hir Cofin,now I doe
manifestly perceiue the contrary,pecially when she hir self did af-
fure me that she had already wept and shed the last teares for him
that she was mynded to doe . And vncertayne whereuppon to
875 resolue,I do thinke verily that she mourneth for some despote,to see
the most part of theyr Companions married,and she yet vnprouy-
ded,perfuadingwith hir selfe(it may be)that wee hir Parents do
not care for hir.Wherefore deare Husband,I heartely beseech you
for our rest and hir quiet,,that hereafter ye be carefull to prouyde
880 for hir some maryage worthy of our state:whereunto the Lord An-
tonio,willingly agreed , saying vnto hir:Wyfe I haue many times
thought vpon that whereof you speake,notwythstandyng sith as
yet thee is not attained to the age of.xviii.yeares,I thought to pro-
uide a husband at leysure. Neuerthelesse things beinge come to
885 these Termes , and knowing the Virgins chafity is a dange-
rous Treafure,I wyll be mindfull of the same to your contenta-
tion,and she matched in futch wyfe ,as she shall thynke the tyme hi-
therto well delayed . In the meane while marke dylygently why-
ther she bee in loue wyth any to the end that we haue not so greate
890 regarde to goodes,or the Nobylity of the houle wherein we mean
to bestow hir,as to the Lyfe and Health of our Daughter who is
to me so deare as I had rather die a Begger without Landes or
goods,than to bestow hir vpon onewhich shall vse and intreat hir il.
Certayne dayes after that the Lorde Antonio had bruted the ma-
895 ryage of his daughter,many Gentlemen were suters,so wel for the
excellency of hir Beauty,as for hir great Rycheffe and reuenue.
But aboue all others the alyaunce of a young Earle named Paris,
the Counte of Lodronne,lyked the Lord Antonio:vnto whom ly-
berally he gaue his consent,and told his Wyfe the party vppon
900 whom he dyd mean to bestow his Daughter.The mother very ioy
ful that they had found so honest a Gentleman for theyr Daughter
caused hir secretly to be called before hir,doynge hir to vnderstande
what things had passed between hir father & y^e Couite Paris,discour-
sing vnto hir y^e beauty & good grace of y^e yōg Couite,the vertues for
<Aa. 6r> which

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905 which he was commended of al men,ioyning therevnto for conclu-
sion the great richeffe and fauor which he had in the goods of for=
tune,by means whereof she and hir Fryends should liue in eternal
honor.But Iulietta which had rather to haue ben torne in pieces
than to agree to that maryage,answered hir mother with a more ”
910 than accuftomed ftoutneffe:Madame, I mutch maruel,and there- ”
withal am aftonned that you being a Ladye difcrete and honorable, ”
wil be fo liberal ouer your Daughter as to commit hir to the plea= ”
fure and wil of an other before,you do know how hir mind is bent: ”
you may do as it pleafeth you,but of one thing I do wel affure you ”
915 that if you bring it to paffe,it fhall be againft my wil. And touching the ”
regard and eftimation of Coüte Paris,I fhall firft lofe my Lyfe ”
before he fhall haue powerto touchany part of my body:which being ”
done,it is you that fhall be counted the murderer,by deliueryng me ”
into the handes of him,whome I neyther can,wil,or know whiche ”
920 way to loue.Wherefore I praye you to fuffer me henceforth thus ”
to lyue,without taking any further care of me , for fo mutche as ”
my cruell fortune hath otherwyfedifpofed of me. ”

The dolorous Mother which knewe not what Iudgement to
fixe vpon hir daughters aunfwere,lyke a woman confused and be ”
925 fides hir felfe went to feeke the Lord Antonio,vnto whom without ”
conceyling any part of hir Daughters aunfwer,she dyd him vnder=
ftand the whole.The good olde man offended beyond meafure, cō
maunded her incontinently by Force to be brought before him,
if of hir own good will she would not come.So foone as she came
930 before hir Father,hir eyes full of tears ,fel down at his fete which
she bathed with the luke warme drops y^e that diftilled from hir Eyes
in great abundance,and thynkyng to open hir mouth to crye him mer=
cy,the fobbes and fighes many tymes ftopt hir fpeech,that fhee re=
mained dumbe not able to frame a Woorde. But the olde man
935 nothing moued with his Daughters Teares,fayd vnto hir in
great rage:Come hither thou vnkynd and dyfobedient Daughter,
haft thou forgotten how many tymes thou haft hearde fpoken at
the Table,of the puiffance and authority our auncyente Romane
Fathers had ouer their Chyldren?vnto whom it was not onelye
940 lawfull to fell ,guage , and otherwyfe difpofe them(in theyr ne-

<Aa. 6 v> ceffity

their necessity) at their pleasure, but also which is more, they had
 absolute power over their Death and Life? With what torments,
 with what torments, with what racks would those good Fathers
 945 chasten and correct thee if they were alive againe, to see that ingrati-
 tude, misbehavior and disobedience which thou vset towards thy
 Father, who with many prayers and requestes hath provided one
 of the greatest Lords of this prouince to be thy husband, a Gentle-
 man of best renoume, and indued wyth all kynde of Vertues, of
 950 whom thou and I be vnworthy, both for the notable masse of goods
 and substance wherewith he is enriched, as also for the Honoure
 and generositie of the house whereof hee is descended, and yet thou
 playest the parte of an obstinate and rebellious Chylde agaynst thy
 Fathers will, I take the omnipotency of that Almightye God to
 955 witnesse, which hath vouchsafed to bring the forth into this world
 that if vpon Tuesday nexte thou failest to prepare thy selfe to be at
 my Castell of Villafranco, where the Counte Paris purposeth to
 meete vs, and there giue thy consent to that which thy Mother and
 I haue agreed vpon, I will not onely deprive thee of my worldly
 960 goodes, but also will make the espouse & marie a pryson so straight
 and sharpe, as a thousande times thou shalt curse the Day & tyme
 wherein thou wast borne. Wherefore from henceforth take aduise-
 ment what thou doest, for excepte the promise be kept which I haue
 made to the Counte Paris, I will make the feele how greate y^e iust
 965 choler of an offended Father is agaynst a Chylde vnkynde. And
 without staying for other answer of his Daughter, the olde man
 departed the Chamber, and left hir vpon hir knees. Iulietta
 knowing the fury of hir Father, fearing to incurre his indignati-
 on, or to prouoke his further wrath: retired for y^e day into hir Cha-
 970 ber, and contriued y^e whole Nyght more in weeping then slepyng.
 And the next Morning fayning to goe heare seruice, she went forth
 with the Woman of hir Chamber to the Fryers, where she caused
 father Laurence to be called vnto hir, and prayed him to heare hir
 confession. And when she was vpon hir knees before hym, she be-
 975 gan hir Confession wyth Teares, tellinge him the greate mischyeffe
 that was prepared for hir, by the maryage accorded betweene hir
 <Aa. 7r> father

Rhomeo, and Iulietta. <Fo.193 v>

Father, and the Counte Paris. And for concludion sayd vnto him : ”
Sir, for so much as you know that I cannot by Gods Law bee ”
married twice, and that I haue but one God, one husband and one ”
980 faith, I am determind when I am from hence!) with these two ”
hands which you see ioyned before you, this Day to ende my sorow= ”
ful lyfe, that my foule may beare wytnesse in the Heauens , and my ”
bloude vpon the Earth of my faith and loyalty preserued. Then ”
hauyng ended hir talke, shee looked about hir, and seemed by hir ”
985 wyld countenance, as though she had deuifed some finifter pur= ”
pose. Wherefore Frier Laurence, astonned beyonde measure , fea= ”
ryng leaft she would haue executed that which she was determy= ”
ned, sayd vnto hir: Mistresse Iulietta: I pray you in the name of god ”
by little and little to moderate youre conceiued grieffe , and ”
990 to content your self whilst you bee heere, vntill I haue prouided ”
what is best for you to doe, for before you part from hence , I will ”
giue you such consolation and remedy for your afflictions, as you ”
shall remaine sathyffed and contented. And resolued vpon this ”
good minde, he speedily wente out of the Church vnto his cham= ”
995 ber, where he began to consider of many things, his conscience be= ”
yng moued to hinder the marriage betwene the Counte Paris and ”
hir, knowing by his meanes she had espoused an other, and callinge ”
to remembrance what a dangerous enterprife he had begonne ”
by committynge hymself to the mercy of a fymple damofell, and that ”
1000 if shee fayled to bee wyfe and secreete, all theyr doyngs should be dif- ”
crid, he defamed, and Rhomeo hir spouse punished. Hee then af- ”
ter he had well debated vpon infinite nombre of deuifes, was in the end ”
ouercome with pity, and determind rather to hazarde his ho- ”
nour, than to suffer the Adultery of the Counte Paris with Iulietta. ”
1005 And being determind herevpon, opened his closet, and takynge a
vyall in his Hande, returned agayne to Iulietta whom he founde
lyke one that was in a Traunce, wayghtinge for Newes, eyther of
Lyfe or Death. Of whome the good olde Father demaunded
vpon what Day hir maryage was appointed . The firste Daye
1010 of that appoyntment(quod shee) is vpon Wednesdays, which
is the Daye ordeyned for my Confente of Maryage accorded
<Aa. 7 v> between

betweene my father and Counte Paris, but the Nuptiall solemnitie ”
 is not before the .x. day of September. We then (quod the religi- ”
 ous father) be of good cheere daughter, for our Lord God hath ”
 1015 opened a way vnto me both to deliuer you and Rhomeo from the ”
 prepared thraldom. I haue knowne your husband from his cradle, ”
 and hee hath daily committed vnto me the greateft secretes of hys ”
 Conscience, and I haue so dearely loued him agayne, as if hee had ”
 ben mine owne sonne. Wherefore my heart can not abide that anye ”
 1020 man should do him wrong in that specially wherein my Counsell ”
 may stande him in stede. And for so much as you are his wyfe, ”
 I ought lykewyse to loue you, and feke meanes to deliuer you frō ”
 the martyrdom and Anguifh wherewith I see your heart belie- ”
 ged. Vnderstande then (good Daughter of a secrete which, I ”
 1025 purpose to manifest vnto you, and take heede aboute all thinges ”
 that you declare it to no liuing creature, for therein confiteth your ”
 life and Death Ye be not ignorant by the common report of the Ci- ”
 tyzens of this City, and by the fame published of me, that I haue ”
 trauailed throughe all the Prouinces of the habyttable Earthe, ”
 1030 wherby duryng the continuall tyme of .xx. yeres, I haue foughte no ”
 rest for my wearied body, but rather haue many times protruded ”
 the same to the mercy of brute beafts in the Wyldernesse, and many ”
 times also to the mercieffe Waues of the Seas, and to the pity of ”
 common Pirates together with a thousand other Daungers and ”
 1035 shipwracks vpon Sea and Land. So it is good Daughter that ”
 all my wandring Voyages haue not bene altogether vnprofitable. ”
 For besides the incredible contētation receiued ordinarily in mind, ”
 I haue gathered some particular fruyct, whereof by the grace of ”
 god you shall shortly feele some experience. I haue proued the se- ”
 1040 crete properties of Stones, of Plants, Metals, and other thinges ”
 hydden within the Bowels of the Earth, wherewith I am able to ”
 helpe my selfe againste the common Lawe of Men, when necessity ”
 doth serue: specially in thyngs wherein I know mine eternal god ”
 to be least offended. For as thou knowest I beyng approached as ”
 1045 it were, euen to the Brymme of my Graue, and that the Tyme ”
 draweth neare for yeldyng of myne Accompte before the ”
 Audytors of all Audytors, I oughte therefore to haue some ”
 <Aa. 8r> deepe

Rhomeo, and Iulietta. <Fo.194 v>

deepe knowledge and apprehension of Gods iudgement more thā ”
I had when the heat of confidered youth did boyle within my lufty ”
1050 body. Know you therefore good daughter, that with thofe graces, ”
and faouours which the learned and proued of long time the com- ”
pofition of a certayne Paaſte, which I make of diuers foporife- ”
rous fimples, which beaten afterwards to Pouder , and dronke ”
wyth a quantyty of Water , within a quarter of an houre after, ”
1055 bringeth the receiuer into futch a sleepe , and burieth fo deeply ”
the fenfes and other fprits of life ; that the cunningeft Phifitian ”
will iudge the party dead : and beſides that it hath a more maruei- ”
lous effect, for the perſon which vſeth the ſame feeleth no kinde of ”
griefe, and according to the quantity of the dough , the pacient re- ”
1060 mayneth in a ſweete sleepe, but when the operation is wrought & ”
done, hee returneth into his firſt eſtate . Now then Iulietta receiue ”
myne inſtruction, put of all Feminine affection by taking vppon ”
you a manly ſtomacke for by the only courage of your minde con- ”
fiſteth the hap or miſhap of your affayres . Beholde here I geue ”
1065 you a Vyale which you ſhall keepe as your owne propre heart, ”
and the night before your mariage, or in the morning before day, ”
you ſhall fil the ſame vp with water, and drink ſo mutch as is con- ”
tayned therein. And then you ſhall feele a certayne kynde of plea- ”
faunt sleepe , which incroching by litle and litle all the partes of ”
1070 your body, wil conſtrayne them in futch wyſe, as vnmoueable they ”
ſhal remayne : and by not doing their accuſtomed dueties , ſhall ”
loofe their naturall feelinges , and you abide in futch extaſie the ”
ſpace of. 40. houres at the leaſt, without any beating of poulfe or ”
other perceptible motion, which ſhall ſo aſtonne them that come to ”
1075 ſee you, as they will iudge you to be deade, & according to the cuſ- ”
tome of our Citty, you ſhal be caried to the Churchyarde hard by ”
our Church, where you ſhall be Intoumbed in the common mo- ”
nument of the Capellets your aunceſtors, & in the meane tyme we ”
will fend word to Lord Rhomeo by a ſpeciall meſſanger of the ef- ”
1080 fect of our deuice, who now abideth at Mantua. And the night fol- ”
lowing I am ſure he will not fayle to be heere, then he and I to- ”
gether will open the graue, and lift vp your body, and after the o- ”
peration of the Pouder is paſt , hee ſhall conuey you ſecretly to ”

<Aa. 8 v> Mantua

Rhomeo, and Iulietta. Fo.195

Mantua, vnknown to all your Parents and frends.Afterwards
1085 (it may be.) Tyme, the mother of Truth shall caufe concord be=
twene the offended City of Verona,and Rhomeo. At which time
your common caufe may be made open to the general contentaci=
on of all your frends. The words of the good father ended, new
ioy furprised the heart of Iulietta , who was fo attentiu to his
1090 talke as she forgot no one poynt of hir leffon. Then she sayd vnto
him: Father,doubt not at all that my heart shall fayle in performance
of your commaundement : For were it the strongest Poyfon, or
moft pestiferous Venome, rather woulde I thrust it into my bo-
dy , than to consent to fall in the hands of him, whom I vtterly
1095 mislike : With a right strong reason then may I fortifie my selfe,
and offer my body to any kinde of mortall daunger to approach and
draw neare to him,vpon whom wholly dependeth my Life and all
the folace I haue in this World. Go your wayes then my daugh=
ter (quod the Frier) the mighty hand of God keepe you,and hys
1100 surpaffing power defende you , and confirme that will and good
mynde of yours , for the accomplishment of this worke. Iulietta
departed from frier Laurence,and returned home to hir fathers
Pallace about. ii. of the clock, where she found hir mother at the
Gate attending for hir : And in good deuotion demaunded if shee
1105 continued still in hir former follies ? But Iulietta with more glad-
some cheere than she was wont to vse, not suffering hir mother to
aske agayne, sayd vnto hir . Madame I come from S. Frauncis
Church,where I haue taried longer peradventure than my duety
requireth : How be it not without fruit and great rest to my af-
1110 flicted conscience,by reason of the godly persuasions of our ghoft-
ly Father Frier Laurence , vnto whom I haue made a large de-
claration of my life. And chiefly haue communicated vnto him in
confession,that which hath past betwene my Lord my father and
you,vpon the mariage of Countee Paris and me. But the good
1115 man hath reconciled me by his holy words,and commendable ex-
hortations , that where I had minde neuer to mary , now I am
well difpofed to obey your pleasure and commaundement.Wher=
fore Madame I beseech you to recouer the fauor and good wyl of
Bb.<I> my fa-

Rhomeo , and Iulietta. <Fo.195 v>

my father,afke pardon in my behalfe,and say vnto him(if it please
1120 you) that by obeying his Fatherly requeft, I am ready to meete
the Countee Paris at Villafranco,and there in your prefence to ac=
cept him for my Lorde and husband : In affuraunce whereof, by
your pacience, I meane to repayre into my Clofet, to make choife
of my moft pretious Jewels , that I being richly adorned, and
1125 decked,may appeare before him more agreeable to his mynde,and
pleafure.The good mother rapt with exceeding great ioy,was not
able to aunfwere a word, but rather made fpeede to feeke out hir
husband the Lord Antonio,vnto whom fhe reported the good will
of hir daughter, and how by meanes of Frier Laurence hir minde
1130 was changed. Whereof the good olde man maruellous ioyfull,
prayfed God in heart , faying : Wife this is not the firfte good
turne which we haue receiued of that holy man, vnto whom euery
Cittizen of this Common wealth is dearely bounde. I would to
God that I had redeemed. 20. of his yeares with the third parte
1135 of my goods,fo grieuous is to me his extreme old age.The felfe
fame houre the Lorde Antonio went to feeke the Countee Paris,
whom hee thought to perfwade to goe to Villafranco . But the
countee told him agayne,that the charge would be to great , and
that better it were to referue that coft to the mariage day, for the
1140 better celebration of the fame . Notwithftanding if it were his
pleafure, he would himfelfe goe vifite Iulietta : And fo they went
together . The Mother aduertifed of his comming, caufed hir
Daughter to make hir felfe ready, and to fpare no coftly Jewels
for adorning of hir beauty agaynft the Countees comming,which
1145 fhe beftowed fo well for garnifhing of hir Perfonage, that before
the Countee parted from the houfe , fhee had fo ftolne away his
heart,as he liued not from that time forth, but vpon meditation of
hir beauty,and flacked no time for acceleration of the mariage day
ceaft not to be importunate vpon father and mother for th'ende
1150 and cōfumation thereof : And thus with ioy inough paffed forth
this day and many others vntil the day before the mariage,againft
which time the mother of Iulietta did fo well prouide, that there
wanted nothing to fet forth the magnificence and nobility of their
houfe. Villafranco whereof we haue made mention, was a place
of plea-
<Bb. v>

Rhomeo, and Iulietta. Fo.196

1155 of pleafure,where the Lord Antonio was wont many tymes to re=
 createhimfelfe a mile or two from Verona,there the Dynner was
 prepared,for fo mutch as the ordinary folemnyty of neceffity muft
 be done at Verona.Iulietta perceyuing hir time to approache dyf=
 fembled the matter fo well as fhee coulde : and when tyme forced
 1160 hir to retire to hir Chamber,hir Woman would have waited vp=
 pon hir, and haue lyen in hir Chambre , as hir cuftome was :
 But Iulietta fayd vnto hir : Good and faithfull mother, you know
 that to morrow is my maryage Day,and for that I would fend
 the moft parte of the Nyght in prayer , I pray you for this time to
 1165 let me alone,and to morrow in the Mornynge about.vi.of the clocke
 come to me agayne to helpe make mee readie. Then good olde
 woman willing to follow hir minde,suffred hir alone,and doubted
 nothyng of that which fhe did meane to do. Iulietta beinge within
 hir Chambre hauing an eawer ful of Water ftanding vppon the
 1170 Table filled the viole which the Frier gaue hir : and after fhe had
 made the mixture,fhe fet it by hir bed fide ,and went to Bed . And
 being layde,new Thoughtes began to affaile hir , with a conceipt
 of grieuous Death,which brought hir into futch cafe as fhe could
 not tell what to doe,but playning inceffantly fayd. Am not I the
 1175 moft vnhappy and desperat creature,that euer was borne of Wo=
 man?for mee there is nothyng left in this wretched Worm but mif=
 hap,mifery,and mortall woe,my diftreffe hath brought me to futch
 extremity,as to faue mine honor and confcience, I am forced to de=
 uoure the drynke whereof I know not the vertue:but what know
 1180 I(fayd fhe)whether the Operatyon of thys Pouder will be to foone or
 to late , or not correfpondent to the due tyme,and that my fault be=
 ing difcouered,I fhall remayne a Fable to the People ? What
 know I moreouer,if the Serpents & other venomous and crau=
 ling Wormes,which commonly frequent the Graues and pittes
 1185 of the Earth wyll hurt me , thynkyng that I am deade?. But howe
 fhall I indure the ftynce of fo many carions and Bones of myn
 aunceftors whych reft in the Graue , yf by Fortune I do awake
 before Rhomeo and Fryer Laurence doe come to help me?And as
 fhee was thus plunged in the deepe contemplatyon of thynges,

Bb. 2.<r> fhe

Rhomeo , and Iulietta. <Fo.196 v>

1190 she thought that she saw a certayn vision or fanſie of hir Couſin
Thibault,in the very ſame fort as ſhee ſawe him wounded and im=
brued wyth Bloud,and muſing how that ſhemuſt be buried quick
amongſ ſo many dead Carcaſes and deadly naked bones,hir ten=
der and delycate body began to ſhake and tremble, and hir yelow
1195 lockes to ſtare for feare, in futch wyſe as fryghtned with terroure
a cold ſweate beganne to pierce hir heart, and bedewe the reſte of
al hir membres,in futch wiſe as ſhe thought that an hundred thou=
ſand Deathes did ſtande about hir,haling hir on euery ſide , and
plucking hir in pieces,and feelyng that hir forces diminyſhed by
1200 lyttle and lyttle,fearing that through to great debilyty ſhe was not
able to do hir enterpryſe,like a furious and infernate Woman,with
out further care,gulped vp the Water wythin the V oyal,then croſ=
ſing hir armes vpon hir ſtomacke,ſhe loſt at that inſtante all the
powers of hir Body,reſtyng in a Traunce.And when the morning
1205 lyght began to thruſt his head out of his Oryent , hir Chaumber
Woman which had lockte hir in with the key,did open the doore,
and thynkyng to awake hir,called hir many tymes,and ſayd vnto
hir : Miſtreſſe,you ſleepe to long,the Counte Paris will come to
raiſe you.The poore olde Woman ſpake vnto the Wall , and ſâge
1210 a ſong vnto the deafe. For if all the horrible and tempeſtuouſ
foundes of the world had bene cannoniſed forth out of the greateſt
bombardes,and founded through hir delycate Eares,hir ſpyrites
of Lyfe were ſo faſt bounde and ſtopt,as ſhe by no meanes coulde
awake,wherewith the pore olde Woman amazed , began to ſhake
1215 hir by the armes and Handes , whych ſhe found ſo colde as mar=
ble ſtone . Then puttyng Hande vnto hir Mouthe,ſodainely per=
ceyued that ſhe was dead , for ſhee perceyued no breath in hir.
Wherefore lyke a Woman out of hir Wyttes , ſhee ranne to tell
hir Mother , who ſo madde as a Tigre,bereſte of hir Faües hi=
1220 ed hir ſelfe into hir Daughters Chaumber , and in that pitiful
ſtate beholdynge hir Daughter,thinkyng hir to be deade,cried out
Ah cruell Death,which haſt ended all my ioye and Blyſſe, vſe the
laſt ſcourge of thy Wrathfull ire agaynſt me , leaſt by ſufferyng
mee to liue the reſt of my woeful Dayes , my Torment doe in=
<Bb. 2. v> creafe

Rhomeo and Iulietta Fo.197

1225 creafe : then she began to fetch futch straying fighes, as hir heart
 did seeme to cleaue in pieces. And as hir cries began to encrease,
 behold the Father, the County Paris, and a great troupe of Gen=
 1230 rowfull dumpes as he which had beheld their Faces would easi=
 ly haue iudged that the same had ben a day of ire and pity, special=
 ly the Lord Antonio, whose heart was frapped with futch surpaf=
 fing woe, as neither teare nor word could iffue forth, & knowing not
 what to doe, straight way sent to seeke the most expert Phifitians
 1235 of the towne, who after they had inquired of the life past of Iuliet=
 ta, deemed by common reporte, that melancoly was the cause of
 that fodayne death, & then their sorows began to renue a fresh. And
 if euer day was Lamentable, Piteous, Vnhappy, and Fatall, tru=
 ly it was that wherein Iulietta hir death was published in Vero=
 1240 na : for shee was so bewayled of great and small, that by the cō=
 mon playnts, the Common wealth seemed to be in daunger, and
 not without cause. For besides hir naturall beauty accompanied
 with many vertues wherewith nature had enriched hir) she was
 elfe so humble, wife and debonaire, as for that humility and curte=
 1245 fie she had stollen away the hearts of euery wight, and there was
 none but did lament hir Miffortune. And whilest these thinges
 were in this lamented state, Frier Laurence with diligence dispat=
 ched a Frier of his Couent, named Frier Anfelme, whom hee
 trusted as himselfe, and deliuered him a Letter written with hys
 1250 owne hande, commaunding him expreffely not to giue the same to
 any other but to Rhomeo, wherein was conteyned the chauce
 which had passed betwene him and Iulietta, specially the vertue of
 the Pouder, and commanded him the nexte enfuinge Nighte
 to speede himselfe to Verona, for that the operation of the
 1255 Pouder that time would take ende, and that he should cary with
 him back agayne to Mantua his beloued Iulietta, in diffembled ap=
 parell, vntill Fortune had otherwise prouided for them. The fri=
 ermade futch haft as (to late) hee arriued at Mantua, within a
 while after. And bicaufe the maner of Italy is, that the Frier tra=
 1260 uayling abroade ought to take a companion of his Couent to doe

Bb. 3.<r> is Af=

Rhomeo and Iulietta. <Fo.197 v>

his affaires wythin the City , the Fryer went into his couent , and
for that he was within,it was not lawfull for him to come oute a-
gaine that Day,bicaufe that certain Dayes before ,one relygious
of that couent as it was fayd,dyd dye of the Plague . Wherefore
1265 the Magiftrates appoynted for the health and vifitation of the fick,
commaunded the Warden of the Houfe that no Friers fhould wā
der abrode the city ,or talke with any Citizen,vntilthey were li-
cenced by the officers in that behalfe appoynted,which was y^e caufe
of the great miſhap,which you ſhal heare hereafter. The Friar be-
1270 ing in this perplexitye,not able to goe forth,and not knowyng what
was contayned in the Letter,deferred hys Iorney for that Day.
Whilft things were in thys plyght,preparation was made at Ve
rona,to doe the obſequies of Iulietta . There is a cuſtome alfo
(which is common in Italy,)to laye all the beſt of one lignage and
1275 Familie in one Tombe ,wherevppon Iulietta was intoumbed in
the ordinary Graue of the Capelletes , in a Churcheyarde,hard
by the Church of the Fryers ,where alfo the Lord Thibault was ”
interred whoſe Obſequies honorably done ,euery man returned: ”
whereūto Pietro,the ſeruāt of Rhomeo gaue hysaffyftāce. For as ”
1280 we haue before declared ,hys Mayfter ſente hym backe agayne ”
from Mantua to Verona,to do his father ſeruice,and to aduertife ”
him of that which ſhould chaunce in his abſence there:who ſeeyng ”
the Body of Iulietta,incloſed in Toumbe,thinkyng with the reſte ”
that ſhee had bene dead in deede,incontinently tooke poſte horſe,and ”
1285 with dyligence rode to Mantua,where he founde his Mayfter in ”
his wonted houſe,to whom he fayde,wyth hys Eyes full of Tea= ”
res:Syr,there is chaunced vnto you ſo ſtraunge a matter as if ſo ’
be you do not arme your ſelfe with Conſtancye, I am afrayed that ”
I ſhall be the cruell minyſter of your Death,Be it known vnto you ”
1290 fir,that yeſterday morning my miſtreſſe Iulietta left hir Lyfe in ”
thys Worlde to ſeeke reſt in an other:and wyth theſe Eyes I ſaw ”
her buryed in the Churchyarde of S . Frauncis.At the founde of ”
why ch heauey meſſage , Rhomeo begann woefullye to La- ”
mente,as thoughe hys Spyrites gryeued wyth the Tormente of ”
hys
<Bb. 3. v>

Rhomeo and Iulietta Fo.198

1295 hys Paffion at that infant would haue abandoned his Bodye.
 But ftronge Loue which wouldenot permytte him to faynt vntyl
 the extremity, framed a thoughte in hys fantefie,that if it were pof-
 fyble for him to dye befides hir his Death fould be more glory=
 ous ,and fhee(as he thought)better contented.By reafon whereof,
 1300 after hee had wafhed his face for feare to difcouer his forrowe, hee
 wente out of his Chamber,and commaunded hys man to tarry be=
 hynd him , that he myght walke through out all the Corners of
 the Citye , to finde propre remedye(if it were poffyble) for hys
 gryefe . And amonges others , beholdynge an Apoticarye's fhop
 1305 of lyttle furnytüre and leffe ftore of Boxes and other thinges re=
 quifite for that fcyence , thought that the verye pouerty of the may=
 fter Apothecarye would make hym wyllingle yeld to that which he
 pretended to demaunde. And after he had taken hym afide,fecret-
 ly fayde vnto him: Syr,if you be the Mayfter of the Houfe, as I
 1310 thynke you be,beholde here Fifty Ducates,whych I gyue you to
 the intent you delyuer me fome ftrong and vyolente Poyfon that
 within a quarter of an houre is able to procure Death vnto hym
 that fhall vfe it. The couetous Apothecarye entyfed by gayne , a=
 greed to his requeft ,and faynyng to gyue hym fome other medy-
 1315 cine before the Peoples Face,he speedily made ready a ftrong and
 cruell Poyfon,afterwardes he fayd unto him foftly:Syr , I gyue
 you more than is needefull , for the one halfe is able to deftroys the
 ftrongeft manne of the world:who after he hadde receyued the poy=
 fon,retourned home ,where he commaunded his man to departe
 1320 with diligence to Verona,and that he fould make prouifion of can-
 dels,a tynder Boxe,and other Inftumentesmeete for the opening
 of the graue of Iulietta,and that aboue all things hee fhoulde not
 fayle to attende his commynge befides the Churchyarde of
 S . Frauncis ,and vppon Payne of Life to keepehys intente
 1325 in filēce.Which Pietro obeied in order as hys maifter had requy-
 red,and made therin futch expedyō ,as he arriued in good time to
 Verona,taking order for al things that wer cōmaunded him. Rho=

B b 4 <r> meo

Rhomeo and Iulietta. <Fo.198 v>

m e o in the meane while being folycyted wyth mortall thoughtes
caufed incke and paper to be b oughte vnto hym,and in few words
1330 put in wryting all the difcourfe of his loue,the mariage of him and
Iulietta, the meane obserued for confummation of the fame , the
helpe that he had of Frier Laurence,the buying of his Poyfon,and
laft of all his death. Afterwardes hauing finifhed his heauy tra-
gedy,hee clofed the letters,and fealed the fame with his feale , and
1335 directed the Superfcription thereof to hys Father : and puttynge
the letters into his purffe,he mounted on horfebacke , and vfed
futch dylygence,as he arriued vppon darke Nyght at the Citye of
Verona,before the gates were fhut,where he founde his feruaunte
taryng for him with a Lanterne and inftrumetes as is before
1340 fayd,meete for the opening of the graue,vnto whome hee laid Pie-
tro,helpe mee to open this Tombe,and fo foone as it is open I
commaunde thee vppon payne of thy life,not to come neere mee,nor
to ftay me from the thing I purpofe to doe.Beholde,there is a let-
1345 ther which thou fhalt prefent to morrow in the mornyng to my Fa-
ther at his vpryng , which peraduenture fhall pleafe him better
than thou thinkeft.Pietro ,not able to imagine what was his mai-
fters intent,ftode fomewhat aloofe to beholde his maifter's geftes
and Countenance. And when they had opened the Vaulte, Rho-
meo defcended downe two fteppes,holdyng the candel in his hand
1350 and began to behold wyth pityfull Eye,the body of hir,which was
the organ of his Eyes,and kyft it tenderly,holdyng it harde between
his Armes,and not able to fatiffie him felfe with hir fight,put hys
farefull handes vppon the colde ftomacke of Iulietta. And after
he had touched hir in many places , and not able to feele anye
1355 certayne Iudgemente of Lyfe ,he drewe the Poyfon out of hys
Boxe , and fwallowyng downe a great quantytye of the fame,
cryed out:O Iulietta , of whome the Worlde was vnworthye,
what Death is it poffyble my Hearte coulde choofe oute more
agreeable than that whych yt fuffereth harde by thee ? What
1360 Graue more Glorious,than to bee buried in thy Tombe? What
more woorthy or excellent Epytaphe can bee vowed for Me-
morye , than the mutuall and pytyfull Sacryfice of our lyues?
<B b 4. v> And

Rhomeo and Iulietta Fo.199

And thinkinge to renue his sorrowe ,his hearte began to frette
 through the vyolence of the Poyson,which by lyttle and lyttle affai=
 1365 led the fame , and lookyng about hym, espied the Bodye of the
 Lorde Thibault,lying nexte vnto Iulietta,whych as yet was not al
 together putrified, and speakyng to the Bodye as though it hadde
 bene alyue ,fayde : In what place fo euer thou arte (O Coufyn
 Thibault) I most heartely do crye the mercye for the offence which
 1370 I haue done by de pryuing of thy Lyfe:and yf thy Ghost doe wythe
 and crye out for Vengeaunce vppon mee,what greater or more
 cruell fatyffaction canste thou defyre to haue , or henceforth hope
 for,than to see him whych murdered thee,to bee empoyfoned with
 his owne handes, and buried by thy fide ? Then endynge hys
 1375 talk,felyng by lyttle and lyttle that his Lyfe began to fayle falling
 prostrate vppon his knees,wyth feeble voyce hee softely fayd: O
 my Lord God,which to redeeme me didest discend from the bosom
 of thy Father , and tookest humane fleshe in the Wombe of the
 Vyrgine , I acknowledge and confesse,that this body of myne is
 1380 nothing else but Earth and Duft. Then feazed vppon wyth def=
 perate sorrow,he fell downe vppon the Body of Iulietta with futch
 vehemence,as the heart faint and attenuated with too great tor=
 ments,not able to beare so hard a vyolence , was abandoned of all
 his sence and Naturall powers, in futch forte as the siege of hys
 1385 soule fayled him at that infant,and his members stretched forthe,
 remayned stiffe and colde . Fryer Laurence whych knew the cer=
 tayne tyme of the pouders operation , maruelled that he had no
 anfwere of the Letter which he sent to Rhomeo by his fellowe
 Fryer Anfelme,departed from S. Frauncis and with Instruments
 1390 for the purpose,determined to open the Graue to let in aire to Iu=
 lietta,whych was ready to wake:and approchyng the place ,hee
 espied a Lyght within,which made him afraide vntyll that Pie=
 tro whych was hard by,had certyfyed hym that Rhomeo was with
 in , and had not ceafed there to Lamente and Complayne the
 1395 space of halfe an Houre . And when they two were entred the
 Graue and finding Rhomeo without Lyfe,made futch sorrowe as
 they can well conceyue whych Loue their deare Fryende with
 <Bb. 5.r> lyke

Rhomeo and Iulietta <Fo.199 v>

lykeperfection.And as they were making theyr cōplaints, Iulietta
rifingout of hir traunce,& beholding light within y^e Toumbe, vn-
1400 certayne wheather it were a dreame or fantafie that appearedbe=
fore his eyes, comming agayne to hir felfe,knew Frier Laurence,
vnto whom she said : Father I pray thee in the name of G O D
to perfourme thy promife,for I am almost deade. And then Frier
Laurence concealing nothing from hir,(bycaufe he feared to beta-
1405 ken through his too long abode in that place) faithfully rehearfed
vnto hir,how he had sent Frier Anfelme to Rhomeo at Mantua,
from whom as yet hee had receiued no aunfwere. Notwithstan-
ding he found Rhomeo dead in the graue,whofe body he poynced
vnto,lyinge hard by hir , praying hir fith it was fo, patiently to
1410 beare that sodayne miffortune,and that if it pleased hir ,he would
conuey hir into some monastery of women where she might in time
moderate hir forrow,and giue rest vnto hir minde. Iulietta had no
fooner caft eye vppon the deade corps of Rhomeo, but began
to breake the fountayne pipes of gushing teares, which ran forth
1415 in futch aboundance,as not able to fupport the furor of hir grieffe,
she breathed without ceasing vpon his mouth, and then thrown
hir felfe vppon his body,and embracing it very hard, feemed that
by force of fighes and fobs, she would haue reuiued, and brought
him againe to life,& after she had kiffed and rekiffed hym a million ”
1420 of times,she cried out : Ah the fweete refte of my cares,& the onely ”
port of all my pleasures and pafimes, hadft thou fo fure a hearte ”
to choofe thy Churchyarde in this place betwene the armes of thy ”
perfect Louer, and to ende the courfe of thy life for my fake in ”
the floure of thy Youth when lyfe to thee fhould have bene moft ”
1425 deare and delectable ? How had this tender body power to refift the ”
furious Combat of death, very death it felfe here prefent? How ”
coulede thy tender and delicate youth willingly permit that thou ”
fhouldeft approch into this filthy and infected place, where from ”
henceforth thou fhalt be the pafure of Worms vnworthy of thee? ”
1430 Alas,alas,by what meanes fhall I now renue my playnts,which ”
time & long pacience ought to haue buried & clearely quenched ? ”
Ah I miferable, and Caitife wretch, thinking to finde remedy ”
for my griefs , haue fharpned the Knife that hath gieuen me this ”
”

<Bb. 5. v> crue

Rhomeo and Iulietta Fo.200

1435 cruell blow, whereof I receiue the caufe of mortall wound . Ah
happy and fortunate graue which fhalt ferue in world to come for
witneffe of the moft perfect aliaunce that euer was betwene two
moft infortunate louers, receyue now the laft fobbing fighes, and
intertayment of the moft cruell of all the cruell fubiects of ire &
death. And as ſhe thought to continue hir complaynts, Pietro ad-
1440 uertified Frier Laurence that he heard a noyfe besides the citadell,
wherewyth being afraid, they ſpeedily departed , fearing to be ta-
ken . And then Iulietta feeing hir ſelfe alone, and in full Liberty,
tooke agayne Rhomeo betweene hir armes, kiſſing him with futch
affection, as ſhe ſeemed to be more attaynted with loue than death,
1445 and drawing out the Dagger which Rhomeo ware by his ſide,
ſhe pricked hir ſelfe with many blowes againſt the heart, ſayinge
with feeble & pitiful voice: Ah death the end of forrow, & beginning
of felicity , thou art moſt hartely welcome : feare not at this time
to ſharpen thy dart : giue no longer delay of life, for feare that my
1450 ſprite trauayle not to finde Rhomeos ghoſt amongs futch nūber of
carion corpes . And thou my deare Lord and loyall huſband Rho-
meo, if there reſt in thee any knowledge, receyue hir whom thou
haſt ſo faythfully loued, the onely caufe of thy violent death, which
frankely offreth vp hir ſoule that none but thou fhalt ioy the loue
1455 whereof thou haſt made ſo lawfull conqueſt, and that our ſoules
paſſing from this light, may eternally liue together in the place of
euerlaſting ioy : And when ſhe had ended thoſe wordes ſhee yel-
ded vp hir ghoſt. While theſe thinges thus were done, the garde
and watch of the Citty by chance paſſed by, and feeing light with
1460 in the graue, ſuſpected ſtraight that there were ſome Necroman-
cers which had opened the Toumbe to abuſe the deade bodies for
ayde of their arte : And deſirous to knowe what it ment , went
downe into the vault, where they found Rhomeo and Iulietta, with
their armes imbracing ech others neck, as though there had bene
1465 ſome token of lyfe. And after they had well viewed them at ley-
fure, they perceyued in what caſe they were. And then all amazed
they fought for y^e Theeues which (as they thought) had done the
murther , and in the ende founde the good Father Fryer Lau-
rence , and Pietro the Seruaunte of deade Rhomeo (which
1470 had hid themſelues under a ſtall) whom they caryed to Pryſon, &

<Bb. 6.r>

Rhomeo and Iulietta <Fo.200 v>

aduertyfed the Lord of Efcala, and the Magiftrates of Verona of
that horrible murder, which by and by was publifhed throughout
the City. Then flocked together al the Citizens, women and chil-
dren leauyng their houfes, to loke vppon that pityful fighte and to
1475 the Ende that in prefence of the whole Cytie, the murder fhould be
knowne, the Magiftrates ordayned that the two deade Bodies
fhould be erected vppon a ftage to the view and fight of the whole
World, in futch forte and manner as they were found withyn the
Graue, and that Pietro and frier Laurence fhould publively bee
1480 examyned, that afterwarde there myght be no murmure or other
pretended caufe of ignoraunce. And thys good olde Frier beyng
vppon the Scaffold, hauinge a whyte Bearde all wet and bathed
with Teares, the Iudges commaunded him to declare vnto them
who were the Authors of that Murder, fith at vntimely houre hee
1485 was apprehended with certayne Irons befides the Graue. Fryer
Laurence a rounde and franke Man of talke, nothyng moued with
that accufation, answered them with ftoute and bolde voyce : My
maifters, there is none of you all (if you haue respect vnto my fore-
paffed Life, and to my aged Yeres, and therewithall haue confide-
1490 ration of this heauy fpectacle, whereunto vnhappy fortune hath
prefently brought me) but doeth greatly maruell of fo fodaine mu-
tation and change vnlooked for fo mutch as thefe three fcore and
Ten or twelue Yeares fithens I came into this Worlde, and be-
gan to proue the vanities thereof. I was neuer fufpected, touched,
1495 or found guilty of any crime which was able to make me blufhe, or
hide my face, although (before God) I doe confefse my felf to be the
greateft and moft abhominable finner of al the redeemed flocke of
Chrift. So it is notwythftanding, that fith I am preft and ready
to render mine accompte, and that Death, the Graue and wormes
1500 do dailye fummon this wretched Corps of myne to appeare before
the Iuftyce feate of God, ftill wayghtyng and attending to be car-
ried to my hoped Graue, this is the houre I fay, as you likewife
may thinke wherein I am fallen to the greateft damage and preiu-
dice of my Lyfe and honeft porte, and that which hath ingendred
1505 thys fynyfter opynyon of mee, may peraduenture bee thefe greate
Teares which in abundaunce tryckle downe my Face as though
the

<Bb. 6.r>

though the holy Scriptures do not witnesse, that Iesus Christ moued with humayne pittie, & compaffion, did weepe, and pour forth teares, and that many times teares be the faythfull meffengers of
1510 a mans innocency. Or elfe the moft likely euidence, and prefump-
tion, is the fufpected hour, which (as the magiftrate doth fay) doth
make mee culpable of the murder, as though all houres were not
indifferently made equall by God their Creator, who in his owne
perfon declareth vnto vs that there be twelue houres in the Day,
1515 fhewing thereby that there is no exception of houres nor of Mi-
nutes, but that one may doe eyther good or ill at all times indiffe-
rently, as the party is guided or forfaken by the fprite of God :
touching the Irons which were founde about me, needfull it is
not now to let you vnderftand for what vfe Iron was firft made,
1520 and that of it felfe it is not able to increafe in man eyther good or
euill, if not by the mifchieuous minde of hym which doth abufe it .
Thus much I haue thought good to tell you, to the intent that
neyther teares, nor Iron, ne yet fufpected houre, are able to make
me guilty of the murder, or make me otherwyfe than I am, but
1525 only the witnesse of mine owne confcience, which alone if I were
guilty fhould be the accufer, the witnesse, and the hangman, which
(by reafon of mine age and the reputation I haue had amonges
you, and the little time that I haue to liue in this World fhoulde
more torment me within, than all the mortall paynes that coulde
1530 be deuifed. But (thanks be to myne eternall God) I feele no
Worme that gnaweth, nor any remorfe that pricketh me touching
that fact, for which I fee you all troubled and amazed. And to fet
your harts at reft, and to remoue the doubts which hereafter may
torment your confciences, I fweare vnto you by all the heauenly
1535 parts wherein I hope to be, that forthwith I will difclofe from
firft to laft the entire difcourfe of this pitifull Tragedy, which
peraduenture fhall driue you into no leffe wondre and amaze, than
thofe two poore paffionate Louers were ftrong and pacient, to ex-
pone themfelues to the mercy of death, for the feruent and indiffo-
1540 luble loue betwene them. Then the Fatherly Frier began to re-
peate the beginning of the loue betwene Iulietta, and Rhomeo,
which by certayne fpace of time confirmed, was profecuted by
<Bb. 7.r> wordes at

Rhomeo, and Iulietta. <Fo.201 v>

wordes at the first, then by mutual promise of mariage, vnknown
to the world. And as within few dayes after, the two Louers fee=
1545 linge themfelues fharpned & incited with ftronger onfet, repaired
vnto him vnder colour of confeffion, protesting by othe that they
were both married, and that if he woulde not folempnize that ma-
riage in the face of the Church, they fhould be conftrayned to of=
fend God to liue in difordred luft. In confideration whereof, and
1550 fpecially feeing their alliaunce to be good, and comfortable in dig-
nity, richeffe and Nobility on both fides, hoping by that meanes
perchaunce to reconcile the Montefches, and Capellets, and that
by doing futch an acceptable worke to God, he gaue thē y^e churches
bleffing in a certayne Chappel of y^e friers church whereof y^e night
1555 following they did confūmate y^e mariage fruicts in the Pallace of
the Capellets. For testimony of which copulation, y^e womā of Iu-
liettaes Chāber was able to depofe: Adding moreouer, y^e murder
of Thibault, which was Coufin to Iulietta: By reason whereof
the banifhment of Rhomeo did followe, and howe in the abfence
1560 of the fayd Rhomeo, the mariage being kept fecret betwene them,
a new Matrimony was intreated wyth the Countee Paris, which
mifliked by Iulietta, ſhe fell prostrate at his feete in a Chappel of
S. Frauncis Church, with full determination to haue killed hirfelf
with hir owne hands, if he gaue hir not counsell how ſhe fhould a-
1565 uoyde the mariage agreed betwene hir father and the Countee Paris.
For cōclufion, he fayd, that although he was refolued by reason of
his age, and neareneffe of death to abhorre all fecrete Sciences,
wherein, in his younger yeares he had delight, notwithstanding,
preffed with importunity, and moued with pittie, fearing leaft Iu-
1570 lietta fhould do ſome cruelty agaynft hirfelfe, he ftrayned his con-
fciēce, and choſe rather with ſome little fault to grieue his minde,
than to fuffer the young Gentlewoman to deftroy hir body, and
hazarde the daunger of hir foule. And therefore he opened ſome
part of his auncient cunning, and gaue her a certayne Pouder to
1575 make hir fleepe, by meanes whereof ſhe was thought to be deade.
Then he tolde them how he had ſent Frier Anfelme to cary let-
ters to Rhomeo of their enterpriſe, whereof hitherto he had no
<Bb. 7. v> aunfwere.

aunfwere. Then briefly he concluded how he found Rhomeo dead
 within the graue, who as it is most likely did impoyson himselfe,
 1580 or was otherwise smothered or suffocated with forow by finding
 Iulietta in that state, thinking shee had bene dead . Then he tolde
 them how Iulietta did kill herselfe with the Dagger of Rhomeo
 to beare him company after his death, and how it was impossible
 for them to faue hir for the noyse of the watch which forced them
 1585 to flee from thence. And for more ample approbation of his say-
 ing, he humbly befought the Lord of Verona & the Magiftrats to
 send to Mantua for Frier Anfelme to know the cause of his slack
 returne, that the contēt of the letter sent to Rhomeo might be seene.
 To examine the Woman of the Chamber of Iulietta, and Pietro
 1590 the seruauant of Rhomeo, who not attending for further request,
 sayd vnto them : My Lordes when Rhomeo entred the graue, he
 gaue me this Pacquet, written as I suppose with his owne hand,
 who gaue me expresse commaundement to deliuer it to his father.
 The Pacquet opened, they founde the whole effect of this story,
 1595 specially the Apothecaries name which told him the Poyson, the
 price, and the cause wherefore he vsed it, and all appeared to be
 cleare and euident, as there rested nothing for further verificati-
 on of the fame, but their presence at the doing of the particulers
 thereof, for the whole was so well declared in order, as they were
 1600 out of doubt that the fame was true. And then the Lord Bartho-
 lomew of Escala , after he had debated with the Magiftrates of
 these euent, decreed that the Woman of Iulietta hir Chamber
 should bee banished, because shee did conceale that priuy marriage
 from the Father of Rhomeo , which if it had bene knowne in
 1605 tyme, had bred to the whole Citty an vniuerfall benefit. Pietro be-
 cause he obeyed hys Mayfters commaundement, and kept close
 hys lawfull secrets, according to the well conditioned nature of a
 trusty seruauant, was set at liberty . The Poticary taken, rackt,
 and founde guilty, was hanged. The good olde man Frier Lau-
 1610 rence(as well for respect of his aunient seruice which he had
 done to the cōmon wealth of Verona, as also for his vertuous life
 (for the which hee was specially recommended) was let goe in
 peace, without any note of Infamy.

<Bb. 8.r> Notwith-

Rhomeo, and Iulietta. <Fo.202 v>

Notwithftanding by reafon of his age, he voluntarily gaue ouer
1615 the World, and clofed himfelfe in an Hermitage, two miles from
Verona, where he liued.5.or. 6.yeaes,and fpent hys tyme incō-
tinuall prayer,vntil he was called out of this tranfitory worlde,
into the blifful ftate of euerlafting ioy. And for the compaffion of
fo ftraunge an infortune, the Montefches, and Capellets poured
1620 forth futch abundaunce of teares, as with the fame they did eua=
cuate their auncient grudge and choler , whereby they were then
reconciled. And they which coulde not bee brought to atonement
by any wifedome or humayne counsell, were in the ende vanqui-
fhed and made frends by pity . And to immortalizate the memory
1625 of fo intier and perfect amity, the Lord of Verona ordayned , that
the two bodies of thofe miraculous Louers fhould be faft intoū-
bed in the graue where they ended their lyues, in which place
was erected a high marble Piller,honoured with an infinite
number of excellent Epytaphes, which to this day be ap-
1630 paraunt, with futch noble memory,as amongs all the
rare excellencies,wherewith that City is furnifhed,
there is none more Famous than the Monu-
ment of Rhomeo, and Iu-
lietta.

<Bb. 8.r> Two