

those of under officers, where they shall draw you in a poor bubble, and, after they have kept him playing all the night long, send him away stripped naked to the skin.”—“Well, all in good time,” said Sancho: “I know there is a great deal to be said in this matter.” At the same time one of the officers came, holding a youth, and, having brought him before the governor, “If it please your worship,” said he, “this young man was coming towards us, but as soon as he perceived it was the rounds, he sheered off, and set a-running as fast as his legs would carry him—a sign he is no better than he should be. I ran after him, but had not he happened to fall, I had never come up with him.”—“What made you run away, friend?” said Sancho.—“Sir,” answered the young man, “it was only to avoid the questions one is commonly teased with by the watch.”—“What business do you follow?” asked Sancho.—“I am a weaver by trade,” answered the other.—“A weaver of what?” asked the governor.—“Of steel-heads for lances, with your worship’s good leave,” said the other.—“Oh ho,” cried Sancho, “you are a wag, I find, and pretend to pass your jests upon us. Very well. And pray whither are you going at this time of night?”—“To take the air, if it like your

worship,” answered the other.—“Good,” said Sancho; “and where do they take the air in this island?”—“Where it blows,” said the youth.—“A very proper answer,” cried Sancho. “You are a very pretty impudent fellow, that is the truth of it. But pray make account that I am the air, or the wind, which you please, and that I blow in your poop, and drive you to the round house.—Here—take him and carry him away thither directly; I will take care the youngster shall sleep out of the air to-night; he might catch cold else, by lying abroad.”—“Before George,” said the young man, “you shall as soon make me a king as make me sleep out of the air to-night.”—“Why, you young slip-string,” said Sancho, “is it not in my power to commit thee to prison, and fetch thee out again, as often as it is my will and pleasure?”—“For all your power,” answered the fellow, “you shall not make me sleep in prison.”—“Say you so!” cried Sancho; “here, away with him to prison, and let him see to his cost who is mistaken, he or I; and, lest the jailor should be greased in the fist to let him out, I will fine him in two thousand ducats if he let thee stir a foot out of prison.”—“All that is a jest,” said the other; “for I defy all mankind to make

me sleep this night in a prison.”—“Tell me, devil incarnate,” said Sancho, “hast thou some angel to take off the irons which I will have thee clapped in, and get thee out?”—“Well, now, my good lord governor,” said the young man very pleasantly, “let us talk reason, and come to the point. Suppose your lordship should send me to jail, and get me laid by the heels in the dungeon, shackled and manacled, and lay a heavy penalty on the jailor in case he let me out; and suppose your orders be strictly obeyed; yet for all that, if I have no mind to sleep, but will keep awake all night, without so much as shutting my eyes, pray can you, with all the power you have, make me sleep whether I will or no?”—“No certainly,” said the secretary; “and the young man has made out his meaning.”—“Well,” said Sancho, “but I hope you mean to keep yourself awake, and only forbear sleeping to please your own fancy, and not to thwart my will?”—“I mean nothing else indeed, my lord,” said the lad.—“Why, then, go home and sleep,” quoth Sancho, “and Heaven send thee good rest; I will not be thy hindrance. But have a care another time of sporting with justice; for you may meet with some in office, that may chance to break your head, while you

are breaking your jest.” The youth went his way, and the governor continued his rounds.

A while after came two of the officers, bringing a person along with them. “My lord governor,” said one of them, “we have brought here one that is dressed like a man, yet is no man, but a female, and no ugly one neither.” Thereupon they lifted up to her eyes two or three lanterns, and by their light discovered the face of a woman about sixteen years of age, beautiful to admiration, with her hair put up in a net-work caul of gold and green silk. They examined her dress from head to foot, and found that her stockings were of carnation silk, and her garters of white taffeta, fringed with gold and pearls. Her breeches were of gold tissue, upon a green ground, and her coat of the same stuff; under which she wore a doublet of very fine stuff, gold and white. Her shoes were white, and made like men’s. She had no sword, but only a very rich dagger, and several costly rings on her fingers. In a word, the young creature seemed very lovely to them all, but not one of them knew her. Those of the company who lived in the town, could not imagine who she was; and those who were privy to all the tricks that were to be put upon Sancho, were more at a loss than the rest, well

knowing that this adventure was not of their own contriving; which put them in great expectation of the event. Sancho was surprised at her beauty, and asked her who she was, whither she was going, and upon what account she had put on such a dress?—"Sir," said she, casting her eyes on the ground, with a decent bashfulness, "I cannot tell you, before so many people, what I have so much reason to wish may be kept a secret. Only this one thing I do assure you, I am no thief, nor evil-minded person, but an unhappy maid whom the force of jealousy has constrained to transgress the laws of maiden decency." The steward hearing this, "My lord governor," said he, "be pleased to order your attendants to retire, that the gentlewoman may more freely tell her mind." The governor did accordingly, and all the company removed to a distance, except the steward, the gentleman-waiter, and the secretary; and then the young lady thus proceeded:

"I am the daughter of Pedro Perez Mazonca, farmer of the wool in this town, who comes very often to my father's house."—"This will hardly pass, madam," said the steward, "for I know Pedro Perez very well, and I am sure he has neither son nor daughter; besides, you tell us he is your father, and at the same time, that

he comes very often to your father's house."—"I observed as much," said Sancho.—"Indeed, gentlemen," said she, "I am now so troubled in mind, that I know not what I say; but the truth is, I am the daughter of Diego de la Llana, whom I suppose you all know."—"Now this may pass," said the steward, "for I know Diego de la Llana, who is a very considerable gentleman, has a good estate, and a son and a daughter. But since his wife died, nobody in this town can say he ever saw that daughter, for he keeps her so close, that he hardly suffers the sun to look upon her; though indeed the common report is, that she is an extraordinary beauty."—"You say very true, sir," replied the young lady; "and I am that very daughter; as for my beauty, if fame has given you a wrong character of it, you will now be undeceived, since you have seen my face;" and with this she burst out into tears. The secretary, perceiving this, whispered the gentleman-waiter in the ear: "Sure," said he, "some extraordinary matter must have happened to this poor young lady, since it could oblige one of her quality to come out of doors in this disguise, and at this unseasonable hour."—"That is without question," answered the other, "for her tears, too, confirm the suspicion." Sancho

comforted her with the best reasons he could think on, and bid her not be afraid, but tell them what had befallen her, for they would all really do whatever lay in their power to make her easy.

“You must know, gentlemen,” said she, “that it is now ten years that my father has kept me close ever since my mother died. We have a small chapel, richly adorned, in the house, where we hear mass; and in all that time I have seen nothing but the sun by day, and the moon and stars by night; neither do I know what streets, squares, market-places, and churches are, no nor men, except my father, my brother, and that Pedro Perez the wool-farmer, whom I at first would have passed upon you for my father, that I might conceal the right. This confinement (not being allowed to stir abroad, though but to go to church) has made me uneasy this great while, and made me long to see the world, or at least the town where I was born, which I thought was no unlawful or unseemly desire. When I heard them talk of bull-feasts, prizes, acting of plays, and other public sports, I asked my brother, who is a year younger than I, what they meant by those things, and a world of others, which I have not seen; and he informed me as well as

he could; but that made me but the more eager to be satisfied by my own eyes. In short, I begged of my brother—I wish I never had done it”—and here she relapsed into tears. The steward, perceiving it, “Come, madam,” said he, “pray proceed, and make an end of telling us what has happened to you; for your words and your tears keep us all in suspense.”—“I have but few more words to add,” answered she, “but many more tears to shed; for they are commonly the fruit of such imprudent desires.”

That gentleman of the duke's who acted the part of Sancho's sewer, or gentleman-waiter, and was smitten with the young lady's charms, could not forbear lifting up his lantern to get another look; and, as he viewed her with a lover's eye, the tears that trickled down her cheeks seemed to him so many pearls, or some of the heavenly dew on a fair drooping flower, precious as oriental gems. This made him wish that the misfortune might not be so great as her sighs and tears bespoke it. As for the governor, he stood fretting to hear her hang so long upon the story; and therefore bid her make an end, and keep them no longer thus, for it was late, and they had a great deal of ground to walk over yet. Thereupon, with

broken sobs, and half-fetched sighs, "Sir," said she, "all my misfortune is, that I desired my brother to lend me some of his clothes, and that he would take me out some night or other to see all the town, while our father was asleep. Importuned by my entreaties, he consented; and, having lent me his clothes, he put on mine, which fit him as if they had been made for him; for he has no beard at all, and makes a mighty handsome woman. So this very night, about an hour ago, we got out; and, being guided by my father's footboy, and our own unruly desires, we took a ramble over the whole town; and as we were going home, we perceived a great number of people coming our way; whereupon said my brother, 'Sister, this is certainly the watch; follow me, and let us not only run, but fly as fast as we can; for if we should be known, it will be the worse for us.'—With that he fell a-running as fast as if he had wings to his feet. I fell a-running too, but was so frightened, that I fell down before I had gone half a dozen steps, and then a man overtook me, and brought me before you, and this crowd of people, by whom, to my shame, I am taken for an ill-creature; a bold indiscreet night-walker."—"And has nothing befallen you but this?" cried Sancho. "You talked at

first of some jealousy, that had set you a-gadding."—"Nothing else indeed," answered the damsel; though I pretended jealousy, I ventured out on no other account but a little to see the world, and that too no further than the streets of this town." All this was afterwards confirmed by her brother, who now was brought by some of the watch, one of whom had at last overtaken him, after he had left his sister. He had nothing on but a very rich petticoat, and a blue damask manteau, with a gold galloon; his head without any ornament but his own hair, that hung down in natural curls, like so many rings of gold. The governor, the steward, and the gentleman-waiter took him aside, and after they had examined him apart, why he had put on that dress, he gave the same answer his sister had done, and with no less bashfulness and concern, much to the satisfaction of the gentleman-waiter, who was much smitten with the young lady's charms.

As for the governor, after he had heard the whole matter, "Truly, gentlefolks," said he, "here is a little piece of childish folly: and to give an account of this wild frolic and slip of youth, there needed not all these sighs and tears, nor those hems and ha's, and long excuses. Could not you, without any more

ado, have said, our names are so and so, and we stole out of our father's house for an hour or two, only to ramble about the town, and satisfy a little curiosity? and there had been an end of the story, without all this weeping and wailing."—"You say very well," said the young damsel, "but you may imagine, that, in the trouble and fright I was in, I could not behave myself as I should have done."—"Well," said Sancho, "there is no harm done; go along with us, and we will see you home to your father's; perhaps you may not yet be missed. But have a care how you gad abroad to see fashions another time. Do not be too venturesome. An honest maid should be still at home, as if she had one leg broken. A hen and a woman are lost by rambling; and she that longs to see, longs also to be seen. I need say no more."

The young gentleman thanked the governor for his civility, and then went home under his conduct. Being come to the house, the young spark threw a little stone against one of the iron-barred windows; and presently a maid-servant, who sat up for them, came down, opened the door, and let him and his sister in.

The governor, with his company, then continued his rounds, talking all the way as they

went of the genteel carriage and beauty of the brother and sister, and the great desire these poor children had to see the world by night.

As for the gentleman-waiter, he was so passionately in love, that he resolved to go the next day, and demand her of her father in marriage, not doubting but the old gentleman would comply with him, as he was one of the duke's principal servants. On the other side, Sancho had a great mind to strike a match between the young man and his daughter Sanchica; and he resolved to bring it about as soon as possible; believing no man's son could think himself too good for a governor's daughter. At last his round ended for that night, and his government two or three days after; which also put an end to all his great designs and expectations, as shall be seen hereafter.