Have follow'd your sad steps. You are welcome hither.

Kent. Nor no man else; all's cheerless, dark, Never, never, never, never, never! and deadly: 292

And desperately are dead.

Lear. Ay, so I think. Alb. He knows not what he says, and vain it is

That we present us to him. Edg. Very bootless, 296

Enter an Officer.

Off. Edmund is dead, my lord. That's but a trifle here. You lords and noble friends, know our in- He but usurp'd his life.

tent: What comfort to this great decay may come Shall be applied: for us, we will resign, 300 Is general woe. [To KENT and EDGAR.] Friends

During the life of this old majesty, soft my soul, you twain
To him our absolute power:—[To EDGAR and Rule in this realm, and the gor'd state sustain.

Have more than merited. All friends shall taste The wages of their virtue, and all foes 303 The cup of their deservings. O! see, see!

Lear. And my poor fool is hang'd! No. no.

Why should a dog, a horse, a rat, have life, 308

And thou no breath at all? Thou'lt come no more.

Pray you, undo this button: thank you, sir. Your eldest daughters have fordone themselves, Do you see this? Look on her, look, her lips, 312 Look there, look there! [Dies. Edg. He faints!—my lord, my lord!

Kent. Break, heart; I prithee, break.

Edg. Look up, my lord. Kent. Vex not his ghost: O! let him pass; he hates him

That would upon the rack of this tough world Stretch him out longer.

He is gone, indeed. 317 Edg. Kent. The wonder is he hath endur'd so long:

Alb. Bear them from hence. Our present business

KENT.] You, to your rights;

Kent. I have a journey, sir, shortly to go;

With boot and such addition as your honours

My master calls me, I must not say no. 324 Alb. The weight of this sad time we must

> Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say. The oldest hath borne most: we that are young, Shall never see so much, nor live so long. 328 Exeunt, with a dead march.

OTHELLO

THE MOOR OF VENICE

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

Clown, Servant to Othello.

Duke of Venice.
Brabantio, a Senator. Other Senators.
Gratiano, Brother to Brabantio. Lopovico, Kinsman to Brabantio. OTHELLO, a noble Moor; in the service of the Venetian

State.
Cassio, his Lieutenant.

RODERIGO, a Venetian Gentleman.

RODERIGO, a Venetian Gentleman.

MONTANO, Othello's predecessor in the Government Sailor, Officers, Heralds, Attendants. of Cyprus.

DESDEMONA, Daughter to Brabantio, and Wife to Othello. EMILIA, Wife to Iago. BIANCA, Mistress to Cassio.

Scene.—For the first Act, in Venice; during the rest of the Play, at a Sea-Port in Cyprus.

ACT I

Scene I .- Venice. A Street. Enter RODERIGO and IAGO.

Rod. Tush! Never tell me; I take it much

unkindly
That thou, Iago, who hast had my purse As if the strings were thine, shouldst know of

Iago. 'Sblood, but you will not hear me: 4 If ever I did dream of such a matter, Abhor me.

Rod. Thou told'st me thou didst hold him in Iago. Despise me if I do not. Three great thy hate.

ones of the city,
In personal suit to make me his lieutenant, Off-capp'd to him; and, by the faith of man, I know my price, I am worth no worse a place; But he, as loving his own pride and purposes, 12 Evades them, with a bombast circumstance

Horribly stuff'd with epithets of war; And, in conclusion, Nonsuits my mediators; for, 'Certes,' says he, 16 'I have already chose my officer.'

And what was he? Forsooth, a great arithmetician, One Michael Cassio, a Florentine, A fellow almost damn'd in a fair wife; That never set a squadron in the field, Nor the division of a battle knows More than a spinster; unless the book ish theoric, Wherein the toged consuls can propose

As masterly as he: mere prattle, without prac-Is all his soldiership. But he, sir, had the elec-

And I-of whom his eyes had seen the proof 28 At Rhodes, at Cyprus, and on other grounds Christian and heathen—must be be-lee'd and calm'd

By debitor and creditor; this counter-caster, He, in good time, must his lieutenant be, 32 And I-God bless the mark!-his Moorship's ancient.

Rod. By heaven, I rather would have been his hangman. Iago. Why, there's no remedy: 'tis the curse

of the service,
Preferment goes by letter and affection, 36 Not by the old gradation, where each second Stood heir to the first. Now, sir, be judge yourself.

Whe'r I in any just term am affin'd To love the Moor.

I would not follow him then, 40 Rod. Iago. O! sir, content you; I follow him to serve my turn upon him;

We cannot all be masters, nor all masters Cannot be truly follow'd. You shall mark 44 Many a duteous and knee-crooking knave, That, doting on his own obsequious bondage, Wears out his time, much like his master's ass, For nought but provender, and when he's old,

cashier'd; Whip me such honest knaves. Others there are Who, trimm'd in forms and visages of duty, Keep yet their hearts attending on themselves. 20 And, throwing but shows of service on their lords,

Do well thrive by them, and when they have lin'd their coats Do themselves homage: these fellows have

some soul; And such a one do I profess myself. For, sir, It is as sure as you are Roderigo, Were I the Moor, I would not be Iago: In following him, I follow but myself; Heaven is my judge, not I for love and duty, But seeming so, for my peculiar end: For when my outward action doth demonstrate The native act and figure of my heart

In compliment extern, 'tis not long after But I will wear my heart upon my sleeve For daws to peck at: I am not what I am.

If he can carry't thus!

Iago. Call up her father; 67 gennets for germans. Rouse him, make after him, poison his delight, Proclaim him in the streets, incense her kins-

And, though he in a fertile climate dwell, Plague him with flies; though that his joy be joy, Yet throw such changes of vexation on't 72 As it may lose some colour.

Rod. Here is her father's house; I'll call aloud. Iago. Do; with like timorous accent and dire

As when, by night and negligence, the fire 76 If't be your pleasure and most wise consent,-Is spied in populous cities.

Rod. What, ho! Brabantio! Signior Brabantio, ho!

Iago. Awake! what, ho! Brabantio! thieves! thieves! thieves!

Look to your house, your daughter, and your If this be known to you, and your allowance, bags! Thieves! thieves!

Enter BRABANTIO, above, at a window.

Bra. What is the reason of this terrible summons? What is the matter there?

Rod. Signior, is all your family within? 84 Iago. Are your doors lock'd?

Why? wherefore ask you this? Iago. 'Zounds! sir, you're robb'd; for shame, put on your gown;

Your heart is burst, you have lost half your soul; Let loose on me the justice of the state Even now, now, very now, an old black ram 88 For thus deluding you. Is tupping your white ewe. Arise, arise! Awake the snorting citizens with the bell. Or else the devil will make a grandsire of you. This accident is not unlike my dream;

Arise, I say.

Bra. What! have you lost your wits? 92

Bra. What! have you lost your whow Rod. Most reverend signior, do you know my voice?

Bra. Not I, what are you? Rod. My name is Roderigo.

Bra. The worser welcome: I have charg'd thee not to haunt about my doors:

In honest plainness thou hast heard me say My daughter is not for thee; and now, in mad-

Being full of supper and distempering draughts, Upon malicious knavery dost thou come 100 To start my quiet.

Rod. Sir, sir, sir!

My spirit and my place have in them power To make this bitter to thee.

Patience, good sir. 104 Bra. What tell'st thou me of robbing? this is Venice:

My house is not a grange.

Rod. Most grave Brabantio, In simple and pure soul I come to you. 107

Iago. 'Zounds! sir, you are one of those that will not serve God if the devil bid you. Because we come to do you service and you think we are Rod. What a full fortune does the thick-lips ruffians, you'll have your daughter covered with a Barbary horse; you'll have your nephews neigh to you; you'll have coursers for cousins and

Bra. What profane wretch art thou? Iago. I am one, sir, that comes to tell you. your daughter and the Moor are now making the beast with two backs.

Bra. Thou art a villain.

Iago. You are-a senator. Bra. This thou shalt answer; I know thee, Roderigo.

Rod. Sir, I will answer any thing. But, I be-

seech you,

As partly, I find, it is,—that your fair daughter. At this odd-even and dull-watch o' the night, 124 Transported with no worse nor better guard But with a knave of common hire, a gondolier, To the gross clasps of a lascivious Moor, - 127 We then have done you bold and saucy wrongs; But if you know not this, my manners tell me We have your wrong rebuke. Do not believe, That, from the sense of all civility, I thus would play and trifle with your reverence: Your daughter, if you have not given her leave, say again, hath made a gross revolt; Tying her duty, beauty, wit and fortunes 136 In an extravagant and wheeling stranger Of here and every where. Straight satisfy your-

If she be in her chamber or your house,

Strike on the tinder, ho! Give me a taper! call up all my people! Belief of it oppresses me already. Light, I say! light! [Exit, from above.

Iago. Farewell, for I must leave you: It seems not meet nor wholesome to my place To be produc'd, as, if I stay, I shall, Against the Moor; for, I do know the state, 148 However this may gall him with some check, Cannot with safety cast him; for he's embark'd With such loud reason to the Cyprus wars,-Which even now stand in act,—that, for their souls.

Another of his fathom they have none, To lead their business; in which regard, Though I do hate him as I do hell-pains, Yet, for necessity of present life, must show out a flag and sign of love, But thou must needs be sure Which is indeed but sign. That you shall surely

find him. Lead to the Sagittary the raised search; And there will I be with him. So, farewell. 160 Exit.

Enter below, BRABANTIO, and Servants with torches.

Bra. It is too true an evil: gone she is,

SCENE I And what's to come of my despised time Is nought but bitterness. Now, Roderigo, Where didst thou see her? O, unhappy girl! With the Moor, sayst thou? Who would be a

How didst thou know 'twas she? O, she deceives me

Past thought. What said she to you? Get more tapers!

Raise all my kindred! Are they married, think

Rod. Truly, I think they are. Bra. Oheaven! How got she out? O, treason of the blood:

Fathers, from hence trust not your daughters'

minds By what you see them act. Are there not charms By which the property of youth and maidhood May be abus'd? Have you not read, Roderigo, Of some such thing?

Yes, sir, I have indeed. Bra. Call up my brother. O! that you had And he requires your haste-post-haste appear-

had her. Some one way, some another! Do you know Even on the instant. Where we may apprehend her and the Moor? Rod. I think I can discover him, if you please To get good guard and go along with me. 180 Bra. Pray you, lead on. At every house I'll

I may command at most. Get weapons, ho! And raise some special officers of night. On, good Roderigo; I'll deserve your pains. 184 [Exeunt.

Scene II .- Another Street.

Enter OTHELLO, IAGO, and Attendants, with torches.

Iago. Though in the trade of war I have slain Yet do I hold it very stuff o' the conscience To do no contriv'd murder: I lack iniquity Sometimes to do me service. Nine or ten times 4 I had thought to have yerk'd him here under

the ribs.

oth. 'Tis better as it is. Nay, but he prated, Iago. And spoke such scurvy and provoking terms Against your honour That, with the little godliness I have, I did full hard forbear him. But, I pray, sir, Are you fast married? Be assur'd of this, That the magnifico is much belov'd, And hath in his effect a voice potential As double as the duke's; he will divorce you, Or put upon you what restraint and grievance The law-with all his might to enforce it on- 16 Will give him cable. Let him do his spite:

My services which I have done the signiory Shall out-tongue his complaints. 'Tis yet to know,

Which when I know that boasting is an honour I shall promulgate, I fetch my life and being From men of royal siege, and my demerits May speak unbonneted to as proud a fortune

As this that I have reach'd; for know, Iago, 24 But that I love the gentle Desdemona, I would not my unhoused free condition Put into circumscription and confine For the sea's worth. But, look! what lights come

vond? Iago. Those are the raised father and his friends:

You were best go in.
Not I; I must be found: My parts, my title, and my perfect soul Shall manifest me rightly. Is it they? Iago. By Janus, I think no.

Enter CASSIO and certain Officers, with torches.

Oth. The servants of the duke, and my lieutenant.

The goodness of the night upon you, friends! What is the news?

Cas. The duke does greet you, general, 36 ance,

Cas.

What is the matter, think you? Oth. Cas. Something from Cyprus, as I may

It is a business of some heat; the galleys 40 Have sent a dozen sequent messengers This very night at one another's heels,

And many of the consuls, rais'd and met, Are at the duke's already. You have been hotly call'd for; When, being not at your lodging to be found, The senate hath sent about three several quests

To search you out. 'Tis well I am found by you. I will but spend a word here in the house, 48 And go with you.

Cas. Ancient, what makes he here? Iago. Faith, he to-night hath boarded a land carrack;
If it prove lawful prize, he's made for ever.

Cas. I do not understand. He's married. Iago. To who? 52

Re-enter OTHELLO.

Iago. Marry, to-Come, captain, will you go? Have with you. Cas. Here comes another troop to seek for

Iago. It is Brabantio. General, be advis'd; He comes to bad intent.

Enter BRABANTIO, RODERIGO, and Officers. with torches and weapons.

Holla! stand there! 56 Rod. Signior, it is the Moor. Down with him, thief! Bra. [They draw on both sides.

Iago. You, Roderigo! come sir, I am for you. Oth. Keep up your bright swords, for the dew will rust them.

Good signior, you shall more command with

SCENE III

Than with your weapons.

Bra. O thou foul thief! where hast thou

stow'd my daughter? Damn'd as thou art, thou hast enchanted her; For I'll refer me to all things of sense, If she in chains of magic were not bound, Whether a maid so tender, fair, and happy, So opposite to marriage that she shunn'd The wealthy curled darlings of our nation, 68 Would ever have, to incur a general mock, Run from her guardage to the sooty bosom Of such a thing as thou; to fear, not to delight. Judge me the world, if 'tis not gross in sense 72 By no assay of reason; 'tis a pageant That thou hast practis'd on her with foul charms, Abus'd her delicate youth with drugs or minerals The importancy of Cyprus to the Turk, That weaken motion: I'll have't disputed on; Tis probable, and palpable to thinking. I therefore apprehend and do attach thee For an abuser of the world, a practiser Of arts inhibited and out of warrant. Lay hold upon him: if he do resist, Subdue him at his peril.

Oth. Hold your hands. Both you of my inclining, and the rest: Were it my cue to fight, I should have known it Without a prompter. Where will you that I go To answer this your charge?

To prison; till fit time 85 Of law and course of direct session Call thee to answer.

Oth. What if I do obey? How may the duke be therewith satisfied, 88 Whose messengers are here about my side, Upon some present business of the state To bring me to him?

'Tis true, most worthy signior; The duke's in council, and your noble self, 92 I am sure, is sent for.

In this time of the night! Bring him away. Mine's not an idle cause: the duke himself, Or any of my brothers of the state. Cannot but feel this wrong as 'twere their own; Your trusty and most valiant servitor, For if such actions may have passage free, Bond-slaves and pagans shall our statesmen be. With his free duty recommends. And prays you to believe him. Exeunt.

Scene III .- A Council Chamber. The DUKE and Senators sitting at a table. Officers attending. Duke. There is no composition in these news That gives them credit.

First Sen. Indeed, they are disproportion'd; My letters say a hundred and seven galleys. Duke. And mine, a hundred and forty. And mine, two hundred: 4 Sec. Sen. But though they jump not on a just account,-As in these cases, where the aim reports, 'Tis oft with difference,—yet do they all con- [To BRABANTIO.] I did not see you; welcome,

A Turkish fleet, and bearing up to Cyprus. 8 We lack'd your counsel and your help to-night. Duke. Nay, it is possible enough to judgment:

I do not so secure me in the error, But the main article I do approve In fearful sense.

Sailor, [Within.] What, ho! what, ho! what, Off. A messenger from the galleys.

Enter a Sailor.

Now, what's the business? Duke. Sail. The Turkish preparation makes for Rhodes:

So was I bid report here to the state By Signior Angelo. Duke. How say you by this change? First Sen. This cannot be,

To keep us in false gaze. When we consider And let ourselves again but understand, That as it more concerns the Turk than Rhodes. So may he with more facile question bear it. For that it stands not in such war-like brace, 24 But altogether lacks the abilities 80 That Rhodes is dress'd in: if we make thought

of this. We must not think the Turk is so unskilful To leave that latest which concerns him first, 28 Neglecting an attempt of ease and gain. To wake and wage a danger profitless.

Duke. Nay, in all confidence, he's not for Rhodes. Off. Here is more news.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. The Ottomites, reverend and gracious, Steering with due course toward the isle of Rhodes,

Have there injointed them with an after fleet. First Sen. Ay, so I thought. How many, as you guess?

Mess. Of thirty sail; and now they do re-stem How! the duke in council! Their backward course, bearing with frank appearance Their purposes toward Cyprus, Signior Mon-

> tano, With his free duty recommends you thus,

Duke. 'Tis certain then, for Cyprus. Marcus Luccicos, is not he in town? First Sen. He's now in Florence. Duke. Write from us to him: post-post-haste dispatch. First Sen. Here comes Brabantio and the valiant Moor.

Enter BRABANTIO, OTHELLO, IAGO, RODERIGO, and Officers.

Duke. Valiant Othello, we must straight employ you Against the general enemy Ottoman.

gentle signior: Bra. So did I yours. Good your grace, par-

Neither my place nor aught I heard of business Hath rais'd me from my bed, nor doth the general care

Take hold of me, for my particular grief That it engluts and swallows other sorrows And it is still itself.

Why, what's the matter? Duke. Bra. My daughter! O! my daughter.

Duke. Sen. Ay, to me; Bra.

She is abus'd, stol'n from me, and corrupted 60 By spells and medicines bought of mounte-

For nature so preposterously to err, Being not deficient, blind, or lame of sense, Sans witchcraft could not.

Duke. Whoe'er he be that in this foul proceeding

Hath thus beguil'd your daughter of herself And you of her, the bloody book of law You shall yourself read in the bitter letter 68 After your own sense; yea, though our proper

Stood in your action. Humbly I thank your Grace. Bra. Here is the man, this Moor; whom now, it seems,

Hath hither brought.

Duke. We are very sorry for it. Sen. Duke. [To OTHELLO.] What, in your own And she in mine. part, can you say to this?

Bra. Nothing, but this is so.

My very noble and approv'd good masters, That I have ta'en away this old man's daughter, I ran it through, even from my boyish days 132 It is most true; true, I have married her: The very head and front of my offending 80 Hath this extent, no more. Rude am I in my

And little bless'd with the soft phrase of peace; For since these arms of mine had seven years'

Till now some nine moons wasted, they have us'd Their dearest action in the tented field; And little of this great world can I speak, More than pertains to feats of broil and battle; And therefore little shall I grace my cause 88 In speaking for myself. Yet, by your gracious

I will a round unvarnish'd tale deliver Of my whole course of love; what drugs, what

What conjuration, and what mighty magic, 92 For such proceeding I am charg'd withal, I won his daughter.

A maiden never bold; Of spirit so still and quiet, that her motion Blush'd at herself; and she, in spite of nature, Of years, of country, credit, every thing, 97 To fall in love with what she fear'd to look on! It is a judgment maim'd and most imperfect That will confess perfection so could err 100 Against all rules of nature, and must be driven To find out practices of cunning hell,

Why this should be. I therefore youch again Is of so flood-gate and o'erbearing nature 56 That with some mixtures powerful o'er the blood,

Or with some dram conjur'd to this effect, He wrought upon her.

To youch this, is no proof, Duke. Without more certain and more overt test Than these thin habits and poor likelihoods 108 Of modern seeming do prefer against him.

First Sen. But, Othello, speak: Did you by indirect and forced courses Subdue and poison this young maid's affections:

Or came it by request and such fair question 64 As soul to soul affordeth?

I do beseech you, Oth. Send for the lady to the Sagittary, And let her speak of me before her father: 116 If you do find me foul in her report, The trust, the office I do hold of you, Not only take away, but let your sentence Even fall upon my life.

Fetch Desdemona hither. Duke. Oth. Ancient, conduct them; you best know the place.

Exeunt IAGO and Attendants. Your special mandate for the state affairs, 72 And, till she come, as truly as to heaven do confess the vices of my blood, So justly to your grave ears I'll present How I did thrive in this fair lady's love,

Duke. Say it, Othello. Oth. Her father lov'd me; oft invited me; Oth. Most potent, grave, and reverend sig- Still question'd me the story of my life 129 From year to year, the battles, sieges, fortunes That I have pass'd.

To the very moment that he bade me tell it; Wherein I spake of most disastrous chances. Of moving accidents by flood and field, Of hair-breadth 'scapes i' the imminent deadly breach.

Of being taken by the insolent foe And sold to slavery, of my redemption thence And portance in my travel's history; Wherein of antres vast and desarts idle, 140 Rough quarries, rocks and hills whose heads touch heaven,

It was my hint to speak, such was the process; And of the Cannibals that each other eat, The Anthropophagi, and men whose heads 144 Do grow beneath their shoulders. This to hear Would Desdemona seriously incline; But still the house-affairs would draw her

thence; Which ever as she could with haste dispatch, She'd come again, and with a greedy ear 149 Devour up my discourse. Which I observing, Took once a pliant hour, and found good means To draw from her a prayer of earnest heart 152 That I would all my pilgrimage dilate, Whereof by parcels she had something heard, But not intentively: I did consent;

And often did beguile her of her tears, When I did speak of some distressful stroke That my youth suffer'd. My story being done,

SCENE III

She gave me for my pains a world of sighs: She swore, in faith, 'twas strange, 'twas passing

'Twas pitiful, 'twas wondrous pitiful: thank'd me,

And bade me, if I had a friend that lov'd her, These sentences, to sugar, or to gall, I should but teach him how to tell my story, 165 And that would woo her. Upon this hint I

She lov'd me for the dangers I had pass'd, And I lov'd her that she did pity them. This only is the witchcraft I have us'd: Here comes the lady; let her witness it.

Enter DESDEMONA, IAGO, and Attendants. Duke. I think this tale would win my daughter too.

Good Brabantio. Take up this mangled matter at the best: Men do their broken weapons rather use Than their bare hands.

Bra. I pray you, hear her speak: If she confess that she was half the wooer, 176 Destruction on my head, if my bad blame Light on the man! Come hither, gentle mis-

Do you perceive in all this noble company Where most you owe obedience?

My noble father, I do perceive here a divided duty: To you I am bound for life and education; My life and education both do learn me How to respect you; you are the lord of duty, I am hitherto your daughter: but here's my Be't at her father's.

husband; And so much duty as my mother show'd To you, preferring you before her father, So much I challenge that I may profess 188

Due to the Moor my lord. God be with you! I have done. Please it your Grace, on to the state affairs: I had rather to adopt a child than get it. Come hither, Moor:

I here do give thee that with all my heart Which, but thou hast already, with all my heart I would keep from thee. For your sake, jewel, I am glad at soul I have no other child: 196 For thy escape would teach me tyranny,

To hang clogs on them. I have done, my lord. Duke. Let me speak like yourself and lay a sentence.

Which as a grize or step, may help these lovers Into your favour.

When remedies are past, the griefs are ended By seeing the worst, which late on hopes de-

pended. To mourn a mischief that is past and gone 204 Is the next way to draw new mischief on. What cannot be preserv'd when Fortune takes, Patience her injury a mockery makes.

The robb'd that smiles steals something from

He robs himself that spends a bootless grief. Bra. So let the Turk of Cyprus us beguile;

We lose it not so long as we can smile. He bears the sentence well that nothing bears But the free comfort which from thence he

She wish'd she had not heard it, yet she wish'd But he bears both the sentence and the sorrow That heaven had made her such a man; she That, to pay grief, must of poor patience bor-

> Being strong on both sides, are equivocal: But words are words; I never yet did hear That the bruis'd heart was pierced through the

168 I humbly beseech you, proceed to the affairs of state.

Duke. The Turk with a most mighty preparation makes for Cyprus. Othello, the fortitude of the place is best known to you; and though we have there a substitute of most allowed sufficiency, yet opinion, a sovereign mistress of 172 effects, throws a more safer voice on you: you must therefore be content to slubber the gloss of your new fortunes with this more stubborn and boisterous expedition.

Oth. The tyrant custom, most grave senators. Hath made the flinty and steel couch of war My thrice-driven bed of down: I do agnize 232 A natural and prompt alacrity

find in hardness, and do undertake These present wars against the Ottomites. Most humbly therefore bending to your state. I crave fit disposition for my wife, Due reference of place and exhibition, With such accommodation and besort

As levels with her breeding. If you please, 240 Duke.

I'll not have it so. Oth. Nor I. Des. Nor I: I would not there reside.

To put my father in impatient thoughts 244 By being in his eye. Most gracious duke, To my unfolding lend your gracious ear: And let me find a charter in your voice To assist my simpleness.

Duke. What would you, Desdemona? Des. That I did love the Moor to live with him,

My downright violence and storm of fortunes May trumpet to the world; my heart's subdu'd Even to the very quality of my lord; I saw Othello's visage in his mind, And to his honours and his valiant parts Did I my soul and fortunes consecrate. 256 So that, dear lords, if I be left behind, A moth of peace, and he go to the war, The rites for which I love him are bereft me, And I a heavy interim shall support By his dear absence. Let me go with him.

Oth. Let her have your voices. Vouch with me, heaven, I therefore beg it not To please the palate of my appetite, Nor to comply with heat,—the young affects In me defunct,—and proper satisfaction, But to be free and bounteous to her mind;

And heaven defend your good souls that you

Of feather'd Cupid seel with wanton dulness My speculative and offic'd instruments, 272 That my disports corrupt and taint my business, Let housewives make a skillet of my helm, And all indign and base adversities Make head against my estimation!

Either for her stay or going. The affair cries haste, And speed must answer it.

First Sen. You must away to-night. Duke. At nine i' the morning here we'll meet again.

Othello, leave some officer behind, And he shall our commission bring to you; With such things else of quality and respect 284 professed me thy friend, and I confess me knit As doth import you.

So please your Grace, my ancient; A man he is of honesty and trust: To his conveyance I assign my wife, With what else needful your good grace shall

think To be sent after me.

Let it be so. Duke. Good night to every one. [To BRABANTIO.] And, noble signior,

First Sen. Adieu, brave Moor! use Desdemona well.

She has deceiv'd her father, and may thee. [Exeunt DUKE, Senators, Officers, &c. Oth. My life upon her faith! Honest Iago, My Desdemona must I leave to thee: I prithee, let thy wife attend on her; And bring them after in the best advantage. Come, Desdemona; I have but an hour 300 Of love, of worldly matters and direction, To spend with thee: we must obey the time.

[Exeunt OTHELLO and DESDEMONA. Rod. Iago! Iago. What sayst thou, noble heart? 304 Rod. What will I do, think'st thou? Iago. Why, go to bed, and sleep. Rod. I will incontinently drown myself. Iago. Well, if thou dost, I shall never love

thee after. Why, thou silly gentleman! when death is our physician.

world for four times seven years, and since I to-morrow. Adieu. could distinguish betwixt a benefit and an injury, I never found man that knew how to love himself. Ere I would say, I would drown myself for the love of a guinea-hen, I would change my humanity with a baboon.

Rod. What should I do? I confess it is my shame to be so fond; but it is not in my virtue to amend it.

lago. Virtue! a fig! 'tis in ourselves that we are thus, or thus. Our bodies are our gardens,

I will your serious and great business scant to the which our wills are gardeners; so that if we For she is with me. No, when light-wing'd toys will plant nettles or sow lettuce, set hyssop and weedupthyme, supplyit with one gender of herbs or distract it with many, either to have it sterile with idleness or manured with industry, why, the power and corrigible authority of this lies in our wills. If the balance of our lives had not 276 one scale of reason to poise another of sensual-Duke. Be it as you shall privately determine, ity, the blood and baseness of our natures would conduct us to most preposterous conclusions; but we have reason to cool our raging motions, our carnal stings, our unbitted lusts, whereof I With all my heart, 280 take this that you call love to be a sect or scion. Rod. It cannot be.

Iago. It is merely a lust of the blood and a permission of the will. Come, be a man. Drown thyself! drown cats and blind puppies. I have to thy deserving with cables of perdurable toughness; I could never better stead thee than now. Put money in thy purse; follow these wars; defeat thy favour with a usurped beard; I say, put money in thy purse. It cannot be that Desdemona should long continue her love to the Moor,—put money in thy purse,—nor he his to her. It was a violent commencement in her, and thou shalt see an answerable sequestration; put but money in thy purse. These Moors are If virtue no delighted beauty lack,
Your son-in-law is far more fair than black. 292 changeable in their wills;—fill thy purse with money:—the food that to him now is as luscious as locusts, shall be to him shortly as bitter as coloquintida. She must change for youth: when Bra. Look to her, Moor, if thou hast eyes to she is sated with his body, she will find the error of her choice. She must have change, she must: therefore put money in thy purse. If thou wilt needs damn thyself, do it a more delicate way than drowning. Make all the money thou canst. If sanctimony and a frail vow betwixt an erring barbarian and a supersubtle Venetian be not too hard for my wits and all the tribe of hell, thou shalt enjoy her; therefore make money. A pox of drowning thyself! it is clean out of the way: seek thou rather to be hanged in compassing thy joy than to be drowned and go without her. Rod. Wilt thou be fast to my hopes, if I

depend on the issue? lago. Thou art sure of me: go, make money. I have told thee often, and I re-tell thee again and again, I hate the Moor: my cause is hearted: thine hath no less reason. Let us be conjunctive in our revenge against him; if thou canst Rod. It is silliness to live when to live is cuckold him, thou dost thyself a pleasure, me a torment; and then have we a prescription to die sport. There are many events in the womb of 312 time which will be delivered. Traverse; go: Iago. O! villanous; I have looked upon the provide thy money. We will have more of this

Rod. Where shall we meet i' the morning? lago. At my lodging.

Rod. I'll be with thee betimes. Iago. Go to; farewell. Do you hear, Roderigo?

Rod. What say you? Iago. No more of drowning, do you hear? Rod. I am changed. I'll sell all my land. Iago. Go to; farewell! put money enough in Exit RODERIGO. your purse.

light.

Thus do I ever make my fool my purse; 389 A Veronesa; Michael Cassio, For I mine own gain'd knowledge should profane. If I would time expend with such a snipe

But for my sport and profit. I hate the Moor, And it is thought abroad that 'twixt my sheets He has done my office: I know not if't be true, But I, for mere suspicion in that kind, Will do as if for surety. He holds me well; 396 And prays the Moor be safe; for they were The better shall my purpose work on him. Cassio's a proper man; let me see now: To get his place; and to plume up my will In double knavery; how, how? Let's see: 400 After some time to abuse Othello's ear That he is too familiar with his wife: He hath a person and a smooth dispose To be suspected: framed to make women false. Even till we make the main and the aerial blue The Moor is of a free and open nature, 405 An indistinct regard. That thinks men honest that but seem to be so, And will as tenderly be led by the nose As asses are. I have't; it is engender'd; hell and night Must bring this monstrous birth to the world's

ACT II

Scene I.—A Sea-port Town in Cyprus. An open place near the Quay.

Enter MONTANO and two Gentlemen. Mon. What from the cape can you discern at sea?

Exit.

First Gent. Nothing at all: it is a highwrought flood;

I cannot 'twixt the heaven and the main Descry a sail.

Mon. Methinks the wind hath spoke aloud at land:

A fuller blast ne'er shook our battlements: If it hath ruffian'd so upon the sea,

What ribs of oak, when mountains melt on them, Stand ranks of people, and they cry, 'A sail!' Can hold the mortise? what shall we hear of this?

Sec. Gent. A segregation of the Turkish fleet; For do but stand upon the foaming shore, The chidden billow seems to pelt the clouds; 12 Our friends at least. The wind-shak'd surge, with high and monstrous mane,

Seems to cast water on the burning bear And quench the guards of the ever-fixed pole: I never did like molestation view On the enchafed flood.

Mon. If that the Turkish fleet Be not enshelter'd and embay'd, they are That paragons description and wild fame; drown'd:

It is impossible they bear it out.

Enter a third Gentleman.

Third Gent. News, lads! our wars are done. The desperate tempest hath so bang'd the Turks That their designment halts; a noble ship of Venice

Hath seen a grievous wrack and sufferance On most part of their fleet. 24 Mon. How! is this true?

Third Gent. The ship is here put in,

Lieutenant to the war-like Moor Othello, Is come on shore: the Moor himself's at sea. 28 And is in full commission here for Cyprus. Mon. I am glad on't; 'tis a worthy governor.

Third Gent. But this same Cassio, though he speak of comfort

Touching the Turkish loss, yet he looks sadly 32 parted

With foul and violent tempest. Mon. Pray heaven he be: For I have serv'd him, and the man commands Like a full soldier. Let's to the sea-side, ho! 36 As well to see the vessel that's come in As to throw out our eyes for brave Othello,

Third Gent. Come, let's do so; 40 For every minute is expectancy Of more arrivance.

Enter CASSIO.

Cas. Thanks, you the valiant of this war-like That so approve the Moor. O! let the heavens Give him defence against the elements.

For I have lost him on a dangerous sea. Mon. Is he well shipp'd?

Cas. His bark is stoutly timber'd, and his pilot Of very expert and approv'd allowance;

Therefore my hopes, not surfeited to death, Stand in bold cure.

[Within, 'A sail!—a sail!—a sail!

Enter a Messenger.

Cas. What noise? Mess. The town is empty: on the brow o' the

Cas. My hopes do shape him for the governor. Guns heard. Sec. Gent. They do discharge their shot of courtesy:

Cas. I pray you, sir, go forth, And give us truth who 'tis that is arriv'd. Sec. Gent. I shall.

Mon. But, good lieutenant, is your general wiv'd? Cas. Most fortunately: he hath achiev'd a

maid One that excels the quirks of blazoning pens, And in th' essential vesture of creation Does tire the ingener.

Re-enter second Gentleman.

How now! who has put in? Sec. Gent. 'Tis one Iago, ancient to the general. Cas. He has had most favourable and happy

speed: Tempests themselves, high seas, and howling winds,

The gutter'd rocks, and congregated sands, Traitors ensteep'd to clog the guiltless keel. As having sense of beauty, do omit Their mortal natures, letting go safely by 72 The divine Desdemona.

What is she? Mon. Cas. She that I spake of, our great captain's captain,

Left in the conduct of the bold Iago, Whose footing here anticipates our thoughts 76 A se'nnight's speed. Great Jove, Othello guard, And swell his sail with thine own powerful breath.

That he may bless this bay with his tall ship. Make love's quick pants in Desdemona's arms, Give renew'd fire to our extincted spirits, 81 And bring all Cyprus comfort!

Enter DESDEMONA, EMILIA, IAGO, RODERIGO, and Attendants.

O! behold. The riches of the ship is come on shore. Ye men of Cyprus, let her have your knees. 84 Hail to thee, lady! and the grace of heaven, Before, behind thee, and on every hand, Enwheel thee round!

I thank you, valiant Cassio. Des. What tidings can you tell me of my lord? 88 Cas. He is not yet arriv'd; nor know I aught

But that he's well, and will be shortly here. Des. O! but I fear-How lost you company? skies

Parted our fellowship. But hark! a sail. [Cry within, 'A sail!—a sail!' Guns heard. Sec. Gent. They give their greeting to the But does foul pranks which fair and wise ones do. citadel:

This likewise is a friend. See for the news! Cas. [Exit Gentleman.

Good ancient, you are welcome: -[To EMILIA.] welcome, mistress. Let it not gall your patience, good Iago. That I extend my manners; 'tis my breeding That gives me this bold show of courtesy.

Kissing her. As of her tongue she oft bestows on me. You'd have enough.

Alas! she has no speech. Des. Iago. In faith, too much; I find it still when I have list to sleep: Marry, before your ladyship, I grant, She puts her tongue a little in her heart, And chides with thinking.

Emil. You have little cause to say so. 108 Iago. Come on, come on; you are pictures

out of doors, Bells in your parlours, wild cats in your kitchens, Saints in your injuries, devils being offended, Players in your housewifery, and housewives in your beds.

Des. O! fie upon thee, slanderer. You rise to play and go to bed to work.

Emll. You shall not write my praise. No, let me not. 116 Des. What wouldst thou write of me, if thou shouldst praise me?

Iggo. O gentle lady, do not put me to't, For I am nothing if not critical.

Des. Come on; assay. There's one gone to the harbour? Iago. Ay, madam.

Des. I am not merry, but I do beguile The thing I am by seeming otherwise. Come, how wouldst thou praise me? Iago. I am about it; but indeed my inven-

Comes from my pate as birdlime does from frize;

It plucks out brains and all: but my muse labours,

And thus she is deliver'd. If she be fair and wise, fairness and wit, The one's for use, the other useth it.

Des. Well prais'd! How if she be black and witty? Iago. If she be black, and thereto have a

She'll find a white that shall her blackness fit.

Des. Worse and worse. Emil. How if fair and foolish?

Iago. She never yet was foolish that was fair, For even her folly help'd her to an heir. 137

Des. These are old fond paradoxes to make Cas. The great contention of the sea and fools laugh i' the alehouse. What miserable 92 praise hast thou for her that's foul and foolish?

Iago. There's none so foul and foolish thereunto

Des. O heavy ignorance! thou praisest the worst best. But what praise couldst thou bestow on a deserving woman indeed, one that in the authority of her merit, did justly put on the vouch of very malice itself?

Iago. She that was ever fair and never proud, Had tongue at will and yet was never loud, 149 Never lack'd gold and yet went never gay, Fled from her wish and yet said 'Now I may,' She that being anger'd, her revenge being nigh, Iago. Sir, would she give you so much of her Bade her wrong stay and her displeasure fly, 153 She that in wisdom never was so frail

To change the cod's head for the salmon's tail, She that could think and ne'er disclose her mind, See suitors following and not look behind, 157 She was a wight, if ever such wight were,-

Des. To do what? Iago. To suckle fools and chronicle small beer. Des. O most lame and impotent conclusion! Do not learn of him, Emilia, though he be thy husband. How say you, Cassio? is he not a most profane and liberal counsellor? 164 Cas. He speaks home, madam; you may relish him more in the soldier than in the

scholar. Iago. [Aside.] He takes her by the palm; ay, 112 well said, whisper; with as little a web as this will I ensnare as great a fly as Cassio. Ay, smile bed to work.

Courtship, 30; 1 will give thee in thine own true, 'tis so, indeed. If Iago. Nay, it is true, or else I am a Turk: upon her, do; I will give thee in thine own

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such tricks as these strip you out of your first loved the Moor but for bragging and telling lieutenantry, it had been better you had not her fantastical lies; and will she love him still kissed your three fingers so oft, which now for prating? let not thy discreet heart think it, again you are most apt to play the sir in. Her eye must be fed; and what delight shall Very good; well kissed! an excellent courtesy! she have to look on the devil? When the blood 'tis so, indeed. Yet again your fingers to your is made dull with the act of sport, there should lips? would they were clyster-pipes for your be, again to inflame it, and to give satiety a sake! [A trumpet heard.] The Moor! I know fresh appetite, loveliness in favour, sympathy his trumpet.

Cas. 'Tis truly so. Des. Let's meet him and receive him. Cas. Lo! where he comes.

Enter OTHELLO and Attendants.

Oth. O my fair warrior!

Des. My dear Othello! To see you here before me. O my soul's joy!

death! And let the labouring bark climb hills of seas Olympus-high, and duck again as low As hell's from heaven! If it were now to die, 192 Twere now to be most happy, for I fear My soul hath her content so absolute That not another comfort like to this Succeeds in unknown fate.

Des. The heavens forbid 196 But that our loves and comforts should increase Even as our days do grow!

Oth. Amen to that, sweet powers! I cannot speak enough of this content: It stops me here; it is too much of joy: 200 And this, and this, the greatest discords be,

That e'er our hearts shall make! Iago. [Aside.] O! you are well tun'd now.

But I'll set down the pegs that make this music, tesy,

As honest as I am. Come, let us to the castle. 204 Oth.

drown'd. How does my old acquaintance of this isle? Honey, you shall be well desir'd in Cyprus;

sweet, I prattle out of fashion, and I dote In mine own comforts. I prithee, good Iago, Go to the bay and disembark my coffers. Bring thou the master to the citadel: He is a good one, and his worthiness mona,

Once more well met at Cyprus.

[Exeunt all except IAGO and RODERIGO. harbour. Come hither. If thou be'st valiant, him, that he may; for even out of that will I as they say base men being in love have then cause these of Cyprus to mutiny, whose qualia nobility in their natures more than is native to fication shall come into no true taste again but them, list me. The lieutenant to-night watches by the displanting of Cassio. So shall you have on the court of guard: first, I must tell thee this, a shorter journey to your desires by the means

be instructed. Mark me with what violence she perity.

in years, manners, and beauties; all which the Moor is defective in. Now, for want of these required conveniences, her delicate tenderness will find itself abused, begin to heave the gorge, disrelish and abhor the Moor; very nature will instruct her in it, and compel her to some second choice. Now, sir, this granted, as it is a most pregnant and unforced position, who stands Oth. It gives me wonder great as my content so eminently in the degree of this fortune as Cassio does? a knave very voluble, no further If after every tempest come such calms, 188 conscionable than in putting on the mere form May the winds blow till they have waken'd of civil and humane seeming, for the better compassing of his salt and most hidden loose affection? why, none; why, none: a slipper and subtle knave, a finder-out of occasions, that has an eye can stamp and counterfeit advantages. though true advantage never present itself; a devilish knave! Besides, the knave is handsome, young, and hath all those requisites in him that folly and green minds look after; a pestilent complete knave! and the woman hath found him already.

Rod. I cannot believe that in her; she is full

of most blessed condition.

Iago. Blessed fig's end! the wine she drinks is made of grapes; if she had been blessed she would never have loved the Moor; blessed pud-[Kissing her. ding! Didst thou not see her paddle with the palm of his hand? didst not mark that?

Rod. Yes, that I did; but that was but cour-

lago. Lechery, by this hand! an index and obscure prologue to the history of lust and foul News, friends; our wars are done, the Turks are thoughts. They met so near with their lips, that their breaths embraced together. Villanous thoughts, Roderigo! when these mutualities so marshal the way, hard at hand comes the master I have found great love amongst them. O my and main exercise, the incorporate conclusion. Pish! But, sir, be you ruled by me: I have brought you from Venice. Watch you to-night; for the command, I'll lay't upon you: Cassio knows you not. I'll not be far from you: do you find some occasion to anger Cassio, either by speaking too loud, or tainting his discipline; Does challenge much respect. Come, Desde- or from what other course you please, which the time shall more favourably minister.

Rod. Well. Iago. Sir, he is rash and very sudden in Iago. Do thou meet me presently at the choler, and haply may strike at you: provoke Desdemona is directly in love with him.

Rod. With him! why, 'tis not possible.

I shall then have to prefer them; and the impediment most profitably removed, without the lago. Lay thy finger thus, and let thy soul which there were no expectation of our pros-

Rod. I will do this, if I can bring it to any Will I look to't. opportunity.

the citadel: I must fetch his necessaries ashore. Farewell.

Exit. Rod. Adieu. Iago. That Cassio loves her, I do well be- The purchase made, the fruits are to ensue; lieve it:

That she loves him, 'tis apt, and of great credit: Good night. The Moor, howbeit that I endure him not, 300 Is of a constant, loving, noble nature; And I dare think he'll prove to Desdemona A most dear husband. Now, I do love her too; Not out of absolute lust,—though peradventure I stand accountant for as great a sin,— 305 But partly led to diet my revenge,

For that I do suspect the lusty Moor Doth like a poisonous mineral gnaw my in- the night with her, and she is sport for Jove. 17 wards:

And nothing can or shall content my soul Till I am even'd with him, wife for wife; Or failing so, yet that I put the Moor 312 At least into a jealousy so strong That judgment cannot cure. Which thing to do, If this poor trash of Venice, whom I trash For his quick hunting, stand the putting-on, I'll have our Michael Cassio on the hip; 317 Abuse him to the Moor in the rank garb, For I fear Cassio with my night-cap too, Make the Moor thank me, love me, and re-

ward me For making him egregiously an ass And practising upon his peace and quiet would fa Even to madness. 'Tis here, but yet confus'd: Othello. Knavery's plain face is never seen till us'd. 324

SCENE II.—A Street.

Enter a Herald with a proclamation; People following.

Her. It is Othello's pleasure, our noble and Turkish fleet, every man put himself into tri- weakness with any more. umph; some to dance, some to make bonfires, each man to what sport and revels his addiction gallants desire it. leads him; for, besides these beneficial news, it is the celebration of his nuptial. So much was his pleasure should be proclaimed. All offices them in. are open, and there is full liberty of feasting from this present hour of five till the bell have told eleven. Heaven bless the isle of Cyprus and our noble general Othello! [Exeunt.

Scene III.—A Hall in the Castle.

Enter OTHELLO, DESDEMONA, CASSIO, and Attendants.

Oth. Good Michael, look you to the guard to-night:

Let's teach ourselves that honourable stop, Not to outsport discretion.

Cas. Iago hath direction what to do; But, notwithstanding, with my personal eye

Iago is most honest. lago. I warrant thee. Meet me by and by at Michael, good night; to-morrow with your earliest

296 Let me have speech with you. [To DESDEMONA.] Come, my dear love,

That profit's yet to come 'twixt me and you.

[Exeunt OTHELLO, DESDEMONA, and Attendants.

Enter IAGO.

Cas. Welcome, Iago; we must to the watch. Iago. Not this hour, lieutenant; 'tis not yet ten o' the clock. Our general cast us thus early for the love of his Desdemona, who let us not Hath leap'd into my seat; the thought whereof therefore blame; he hath not yet made wanton

Cas. She's a most exquisite lady. Iago. And, I'll warrant her, full of game. Cas. Indeed, she is a most fresh and delicate

creature. Iago. What an eye she has! methinks it sounds a parley of provocation.

Cas. An inviting eye; and yet methinks right modest. Iago. And when she speaks, is it not an

alarum to love? Cas. She is indeed perfection.

Iago. Well, happiness to their sheets! Come, 320 lieutenant, I have a stoup of wine, and here without are a brace of Cyprus gallants that would fain have a measure to the health of black

Cas. Not to-night, good Iago: I have very poor and unhappy brains for drinking: I could well wish courtesy would invent some other custom of entertainment.

Iago. O! they are our friends; but one cup: I'll drink for you.

Cas. I have drunk but one cup to-night, and that was craftily qualified too, and, behold, valiant general, that, upon certain tidings now what innovation it makes here: I am unforarrived, importing the mere perdition of the tunate in the infirmity, and dare not task my

Iago. What, man! 'tis a night of revels; the

Cas. Where are they? Iago. Here at the door; I pray you, call

Cas. I'll do't; but it dislikes me. Iago. If I can fasten but one cup upon him, With that which he hath drunk to-night already, He'll be as full of quarrel and offence As my young mistress' dog. Now, my sick fool

Roderigo, Whom love has turn'd almost the wrong side out, To Desdemona hath to-night carous'd Potations pottle deep; and he's to watch. Three lads of Cyprus, noble swelling spirits, That hold their honours in a wary distance, The very elements of this war-like isle, Have I to-night fluster'd with flowing cups, And they watch too. Now, 'mongst this flock of drunkards,