

A facsimile copy of

Joseph Swetnam

‘The Schoole of Defence’ 1617

PART 2

Scanned from a copy of the original provided by Patri Pugliese.

Purists would like to know that I have made some corrections to the original page numbering where it was incorrect and I have made a very slight change to the ‘type setting’ of page 187.

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Stuart Huntley, May 2000

*The fore-hand guard at Rapier and
Dagger.*

PVt thy Rapier hand vnder the hilt of thy Dagger, alwaies keeping the point of thy Rapier something variable, and yet something directly about the girdle-stead of thy enemy, and the point of thy Dagger in a manner vpright, or a verie little leaning towards thy left side, and both thy Dagger and thy Rapier hilts together, and both so low as thy girdle-stead: those being guarded, if thy enemy doe charge thee with a thrust, carrie thy Dagger quicke over towards thy right side, and make a present answer by chopping out the point of thy Rapier, and so hastily into thy guard againe, expecting a fresh charge.

The broad Warde.

BEare out both your armes right out from your bodie stiffe at the armes end, and a foote at the left a sunder, and turne both the Rapier and Dagger hilts so high as your brest or hier, leauing all your bodie open, or vngarded to seeme so, and when your enemy doth charge you with a thrust, strike it with your Dagger towards your right side, and withall answer him againe with an ouer-hand thrust vnto his Dagger shoulder, but you must keepe your thumb vpon the blade of your rapier, for then shall you put in your thrust the more steddie, and the more stronger.

The

The names of the chiefeſt thruſts, which are uſed at Rapier and Dagger, with the manner how to performe them.

A Right Stock, or Stockata, is to bee put in vppwards with ſtrength and quickneſſe of the bodie, and the guard for the putting in a ſtoke is leaning ſo farre backe with your face and bodie as you can, and the hilts of your Rapier ſo neere the ground, or ſo low as you can, but of this guard I haue ſpoken ſufficientlie alreadie.

A ſlope Stocke is to be made vnto your enemies breſt, or vnto his Rapier ſhoulder, if hee doe looke ouer his Rapier, but in putting it in, you muſt wheele about your Rapier hand, towards your left ſide, turning your knuckles inward, this thruſt being put in ſlopewiſe as aforeſaid, will hit thy enemy which lieth vpon the Croſſe-guard, or the Careleſſe-guard, or the Broad-ward, when a right Stock or plaine fore right thruſt will not hit.

An Imbrokata, is a falſifying thruſt, firſt to proffer it towards the ground, ſo low as your enemies knee, and then preſently put it home vnto your enemies Dagger-ſhoulder, or vnto anie part of his Dagger-arme, for hee will put downe his Dagger to defend your fained thruſt, but cannot recouer his Dagger againe before you haue hit him in the Dagger arme, Shoulders or Face, whether you will your ſelfe, for in proffering this thruſt, there is no waie to defend the vpper part, the Dagger being once downe, but onely with ſingle Rapier, and except a man doe expect it, it cannot be ſo defended neither.

An

An other thrust called a Reuerse.

A Reuerse is to be made, when your enemy by gathering in vpon you, causeth you to fall backe with your right foote, and then your left foote being formost, keeping vp your dagger to defend, and hauing once broken your enemies thrust with your dagger, presently come in again with your right foote, and hand together, and so put in your reuerse vnto what part of his bodie you please, for it will come with such force that it is hard to be preuented.

A thrust called a Mountanto.

THe Mountanto is to be put in with a good celeritie of the bodie and in this manner, you must frame your guard when you intend to charge your enemy with this thrust, beare your Rapier hard vpon, or so neere the ground as you can, lying verie low with your bodie, bowing your left knee verie nere the ground also, and either vpon your enemies thrust or in lying in his guard you may strike his rapier point toward your right side with your dagger so that it may passe cleere vnder your rapier arme, and with the same motion as you strike his rapier, sodainely mount vp your Rapier hand higher then your head, turning your knuckles vward, but turne the point of your Rapier downewards ouer his Rapier arme into his breast or shoulder, and you must be quicke in the performance of this thrust, and likewise nimble you must leape out againe. This thrust must bee put in by the stepping forward of your left leg: now if you vse this thrust more then once, your
 enemy

emie will expect your comming aloft with him as you did before, but then put it in the second or third time vnderneath, and you shall hit him about the girdle-stead, and so because at this time I will not bee ouer tedious I leaue to speake of manie other thrusts.

The best way for the holding of a Dagger, either to breake blow or thrust, and foure waies bad as followeth.

First, if you hold your dagger too high, you may be hit vnder the Dagger-arme.

Secondly, and if too low, you may bee hit ouer the Dagger-arme, either in the arme, shoulder or face.

Thirdly, & if you beare your dagger too much towards your rapier-shoulder, then you may bee hurt on the out-side of the arme by bearing narrow, for so we call the carriage of him, being borne in this manner before spoken of.

Fourthly, if too wide from your bodie you may bee hurt on the in-side of the arme, face or breast: if the dagger-elbowe ioynnt bee crooked, then there is small force in the dagger-arme for the defence of blow, or thrust, but the dagger being borne out stiffe at the armes end, defendeth a blow strongly, as you shall heare by and by.

Foure waies naught to breake a thrust.

First, if you breake a thrust downe-wards, it may hit you in the bottom of the bellie.

Secondly, if you breake him vpwards it may
T endan-

endanger you in the face.

Thirdly, and if you breake your enemies thrust towards your Rapier-side, it may hit you in the Rapier-arme.

Fourthly, or in breaking a thrust, if you let the weight of your Dagger carrie your Dagger-arme backe behinde you, then your enemy may with a double thrust hit you before you can recouer vp your Dagger in his place againe.

A good way to defend a thrust or blow.

THe best holding of a Dagger is right out at the armes end, and the hilt euen from your left checke, and the point compassing your bodie, I meane bowing towards your Rapier-shoulder, and when you breake a thrust, turne but only your hand-wrist about, letting fall the point of your Dagger downe-ward, but keepe out your Dagger-arme so stiffe as you can, so shall you bee readie to defend twentie thrusts one after another, if they come neuer so thicke, and likewise you are as readie for a blow; whereas if you fall your arme when you breake your thrust, your enemy may hit you with a second thrust before you can recouer your Dagger in his place to defend it, for a thrust goeth more swifter then an arrow shot out of a bow, wherefore a man cannot bee too ready, nor too sure in his gard; Now both for defence and Offence of euery blow and thrust, thou must turne thy knuckles vp-ward, or downe-ward; inward or out-ward, alwaies turning your hand according to the nature of the guard, that you frame your selfe vnto, or according as when you see your enemies

mies guard, then you must determine before you charge your enemy either with blow, or thrust, in what manner to turne your hand in your Offence or Defence, sometimes after one manner, and sometimes after another, as both before and hereafter shalbe sufficiently satisfied more at large.

The true guard for the single Rapier.

Keepe your Rapier point something sloping towards your left shoulder, and your Rapier hand so low, as your girdle-stead, or lower, and beare out your Rapier hand right at the armes end, so farre as you can, and keepe the point of your Rapier something leaning outwards toward your enemy, keeping your Rapier alwaies on the out-side of your enemies Rapier, but not ioyning with him, for you must obserue a true distance at all weapons, that is to say, three foote betwixt the points of your weapons, and twelue foote distance with your fore foote from your enemies fore foote, you must bee carefull that you frame your guard right, now you must not beare the Rapier hand-wide of the right side of your bodie, but right forward from your girdle-stead, as before-said.

*The Reasons of this guard.*

IN keeping your point something sloping or compassing your face, your enemy cannot offend you with a wrist blow, which if you keep your point directly upright, you may verie easily bee hit in the face.

Being guarded as before said, if your enemy discharge a thrust at you, carrie your Rapier hand over your bodie towards your left side, keeping your point directly in his place untill you haue defended your enemies assault, then presently after let fall the point of your Rapier, turning your knuckles inwards, and discharge your thrust at your enemies thigh, or bodie, as you see occasion.

There are likewise many other guards to be framed
at

at single Rapier, as that one of the short Sword is a good guard at some times, and for some purposes, if a man be perfect in it, by skill and practise aforehand, as heereafter you shall see the manner thereof more at large, when I come to that weapon.

Now another fashion is, by holding your left hand vpon the blade, and so with the strength of your forefinger and thumbe of your left hand, you may breake your enemies thrust cleere off your bodie, by turning of your rapier point downe-ward or vp-ward accordingly, as your enemy chargeth you; and then charge your enemy againe with a quicke answer.

Now another is, by standing vpon the stocke, ready to choppe in vpon your enemies assault, but you must turne in your left shoulder to your enemy nearer then the right, onelie to be as it were a baite vnto him, but when he doth thrust at you, wheele about your bodie, falling backe with your left foote; but withall, thrust out your rapier, and so you may hit, and defend, onelie with the shift of the bodie, and you shall find that the oppressor will come vpon his owne death, by proffering at that shoulder, which you make shew to be open vnto him: but you must not offer to defend it with your rapier, but only trust vnto the shift of your bodie.

False play at the single Rapier.

IF your enemy doe lie in this guard, according to this Picture, then proffer or faine a thrust vnto his left side, but presently plucke backe your hand, and thrust it home vnto his right arme shoulder or face; for hee will carry his rapier ouer his bodie, to defend

the fained thrust, but can hardly bring him backe againe to faue your second or determined thrust, except hee be very skilfull, a&tiue, or nimble: now if he doe not beare his Rapier to defend the fained thrust when you proffer it, then you may hit him with a plaine thrust the second time, if you put it home without falsing it at all.

Another deceit.

Likewise, you may proffer or faine a thrust two foot wide of your enemy his right side, and presently thrust it home to his breast, for hee will beare his rapier beyond the compasse of true defence, by reason it will seeme vnto a cunning player that your intention is to hit him on the out side of the Rapier arme, so that when he thinketh to strike your point from offending his arme, by that means hee will open his bodie, although he open himselfe but a little, yet with your second thrust you may hit him as aforesaid.

The defence of this false play.

You must be very carefull that you doe not over-carry your Rapier in the defence of anie manner of thrust, yet you must carrie him a little against euery proffer which your enemy doth make: for if a man be verie skilfull, yet is he not certaine when his enemy doth charge his point vpon him, and proffer a thrust, whether that thrust will come home, or no: wherefore (as I said) you must beare your Rapier against euery thrust to defend it, but beare him but halfe

halfe a foote towards the left side, for that will cleare the bodie from danger of his thrust, and so quicke backe againe in his place, whereby to meete his weapon on the other side, if he charge you with a second thrust, thinking to deceiue you as aforesaid.

A slippe at single Rapier.

NOW if your enemy doe charge you with a blow, when as you see the blow comming, plucke in your Rapier, and let the blow slippe, and then answer him againe with a thrust, but bee carefull to plucke in your rapier to that cheeke which hee chargeth you at, so that if the blow doe reach home, you may defend him according vnto the rule of the back-sword.

The defence of this slippe is to forbear strike at all, but if you doe strike, not to ouer-strike your Sword, but so strike your blow as you may recover him into his place hastily againe; for in fight if you doe strike, you must forbear strong blowes, for with a strong blow, you may fall into diuers hazzards; therefore strike an easie blow, and doe it quicke, but no thrust, and not strike at all, is to thy best aduantage.

Another slippe.

PUt your thumbe long wayes, or forward vpon the handie of your rapier according vnto the natural fashion, and your enemy lying in this guard, ioine your Rapier according as the Picture, and so soone as you haue ioyned, turne the heele of your hand

hand vppward, and your point downeward, and so bring your point, compassing vnder your enemies right elbow; and then with the strength of the thumb turne it into his breast: the like you may doe if your enemy offer to close with you at single rapier, for if hee come hastily vpon you, you can not drawe out your point whereby to offend him, but by turning it in as before-said, you may hit the skilfullest man that is in his comming in: Now, if hee doe defend your point below, you may by a sodaine turning vp your point, thrust it home to his right shoulder or face, whether you will your selfe.

The defence of this slippe.

IF your enemy doe ioyne his weapon with yours, to close or to turne in a slippe, then make your selfe readie quickly, by putting your thumbe vpon your rapier, as aforesaid, when he falleth his point towards his left hand, to fetch the compasse of your rapier arme; then fall your point the contrary way, I meane towards your left hand, so shall you meete with his weapon below againe, and this will defend your selfe; and when he raiseth his point againe, then doe you raise yours likewise into his place againe.

Another Slippe.

IF your enemy doe ioyne his rapier with yours, and doe beare him strongly against you, thinking to ouer-beare you by strength of arme, then so soone as hee beginneth to charge you strongly, beare your rapier a little against him, and then sodainely let fall
your

your point so low, as your gerdle-steel, and thrust it home withall, and so you may hit him, for by letting his Rapier goe away sodainely, he swayeth away beyond the compasse of defence, so that you may hit him, and fall away againe before hee can recouer his Rapier to endanger you.

A dazeling thrust at single Rapier or Backe-sword.

PROffer or faine a thrust at the fairest part of your enemies bodie which lieth most vnguarded, and then more quicker then I can speake it, thrust it in on the other side, and so changing three or foure times, and then choppe it home sodainely, and you shall find his bodie vnguarded, by reason that he will carrie his Rapier or Sword this way or that way, thinking to defend the false thrust, because he supposeth them to be true thrusts : for there is no man so cunning, that knoweth if a thrust be proffered within distance, but that it may hit him, or whether it will be a false thrust, or no, the defender knowes not, and therefore he must prepare his defence against euery thrust, that is proffered.

A close at single Rapier or at Backe-sword.

FIRST, charge your enemy with a thrust aloft with an ouer-hand thrust, directly at your enemies face, and withall follow it in close, bearing your your enemies point ouer your head, by the carrying vp of your Rapier hand, and then may you make seisure on the hilt of your enemies Rapier or Sword, or on his hand-wrist with your left hand, and then hauing made seisure of his weapon, you may then vse

what execution you wil, I mean either blow or thrust,
or trip vp his heeles.



The guard for the Backe-sword.

CArrie your Sword-hilt out at the armes end, and
your point leaning or sloping towards your left
shoulder, but not ioyning with your enemies
weapon, as this Picture seemeth, but so long as you
lie in your guard, let there be three foote distance
betwixt your weapons, but if your enemy do charge
you, either with blow or thrust, carrie your Sword
ouer your bodie against your enemies assault, and
so crosse with him according to the Picture, beare al-
so your point stedie ouer your bodie, something slo-
ping towards your left shoulder; I meane the point
must goe so farre as the hilt, but not turning your
point the contrarie waie, but carrie them both toge-
ther,

ther. I will make it plainer by and by, because I would haue thee to vnderstand it wisely, for hauing with a true defence defended your enemies blow or thrust by crossing with him, or by bearing your weapon against his assault (as before said) the danger being past, then presently at the same instant, and with one motion turne downe the point of your Sword, turning your knuckles inward, and so thrusting it home to your enemies thigh, but with all, steppe forth with your foote and hand together.

But there is a great obseruation to be had in your practise concerning the true carriage of your point, for in your defence if you do not carrie your Sword, true, then it is hard to defend either blowe or thrust; for if you carrie the hilt of your Sword against either blow or thrust, and doe not carrie the point withall leuell, euen as you lay in your guard according to the Picture; then your hand and face is endangered, but bearing the hilt and the point about a foot ouer your bodie towards your left side; and likewise to beare your Sword stiffe out at the armes end, without bowing of your elbow ioynt: prouided alwaies, that your Sword being in your right hand, you must look with both your eies on the in-side of your Sword, for then you haue but one kinde of defence, so that the point of your Sword be sloping toward the left shoulder: but otherwise, if you keepe the point of your Sword vpright, then your enemy hath three waies to endanger you, especiallie, if you carrie your Sword right before the middest of your bellie, with the point vpright, as I haue knowne some hold an opinion of that waie to be good, but I say, hee that trusteth to that guard, may be hit in the head with a sodaine wrist-

blow, if his practise were neuer so good : and likewise both his armes are vnguarded, and to bee endangered, either with blow or thrust ; but if you guard your selfe after my direction, then your enemy hath but onelie the left side of your head, and your legges open, and they are easie to be defended ; the legge, by plucking him vp, the which you must doe vpon euery blow, which your enemy chargeth you withall, and with the same defend the head and bodie, carrying your Sword ouer your bodie towards your left side, the point and hilt both steadie, as I haue before said.

Now although I heere speake altogether of a Backe-Sword, it is not so meant, but the guard is so called : and therefore, whether you are weaponed with a two edged Sword, or with a Rapier, yet frame your garde in this manner and forme, as before said.

Another very sure and dangerous guard at the Backe-Sword, called the Vnicorne guard, or the fore-hand guard.

BEare the Sword hilt so high as your face, keeping him out at the armes end, without bowing of your elbow ioynt, and alwaies keepe your point directly vpon your enemies face, and your knuckles of your sword hand vpward ; but if your enemy doe charge you with a blow to the right side of your head, then turne but your Sword hilt, and your knuckles outward, still keeping your Sword arme stiffe in his place, turning but onelie your wrist and your hand : this is a very dangerous guard to your enemy.

emie being carried with a strong arme, for by reason that you keepe him out at the points end, being so directly in his face, that hee cannot come neare you without great danger, either of blow or thrust, but indeed if your sword be not carried out with a strong arme, then your enemy may endanger your head by striking of two blowes together, the one being strooke at the point of your sword to stricke him downe and the other to your head but they must bee strooke both together verie sodainely, or else there is small danger in them, now if you are warie in watching when hee makes his first blow, sodainely plucke in the point of your sword to you, and so by that slippe his first stroake hee will ouer carrie him, so that if you turne an ouer-hand blow to his head, you may hit him before hee can recouer his sword to strike his second blow, or defend himselfe lying in this long guard, you may slippe euerie blow that is strooke, plucke in your sword euen as you see your enemy stricke and turne it ouer to the right side of his head.

A close at back-sword.

Lying in thy guard according vnto the picture at single Rapier, and when you meane to close, lift vp the hilt of thy word so high as thy cheeke, and charge thy enemy with a thrust directly at his face, and with the same motion steppe in with thy hindmost foote, turning the knuckles of thy Sword-hand inward, and so bearing thy enemies point ouer thy head, and then catch hold on thy enemies Sword-hilt, or on his hand-wrist with thy left hand,

but on his hilt is the surest to hold , and then you may either trip vp his heeles , or cut, or thrust him with your weapon , and in this manner you maie close with a Rapier also, if you can make your partie good at the gripe or close , for your enemy in bearing ouer his Sword ouer his bodie to defend his face from your thrust, he there by carieth awaie his point, so that hee cannot endanger you if you follow it in close and quicke.

False play with the Back-sword.

YOur enemy being in his guard , and lying at watch for aduantage , you maie faine a blow at the right-side of his head, and presently with the turning of your hand-wrist, strike it home to his left-side, which being done quicke you may hit a reasonable good plaier, for he will beare his sword against the fained blow, and by that meanes vnguard his left-side but at no hand you must not let the fained blow touch your enemies sword, but giue your sword a sodaine checke and so strike it to the contrarie-side , for if your feined blow do ioine with your enemies sword, it will staie his sword within the compasse of true defence, so that hee will be readie to defend your false blow, but otherwise if you touch not his sword hee will carrie him beyond the true compasse of defence, of the second blow, which you determine to hit him withall, so likewise you may faine your blow at the left-side of your enemies head, but presentlie strike it home to the right-side of his head, in manner as aforesaid.

Another false play.

A Gaine, you may ioine your sword within you enemies sword according vnto the picture, but presentlie so soone as you haue ioyned, strike it downe to his legge, but nimblie recouer your sword in his place againe falling a little awaie withall, for so soone as you haue discharged your blow, you may verie easilie before hee can endanger you recouer your guard and distance: likewise you maie giue a back-blow vnto the right side of his head, and presentlie withall, fall downe againe with another blow vnto the inside of his legge, stepping home with your second blow, for when you haue made your first blow as aforesaid, it may bee your enemy will winke, and so you may hit his legge before his eies open againe, so that you do it quick, but if he doe not winke, yet a good plaier will thinke that when hee hath defended your first blow a loft, hee will not expect a blow so sodainelie as this ought to be strooke, and therefore may be hit with a second blow, yea although hee looke well to himselfe, and the rather that manie doth not allow in there teaching a backe-sword blow to be stroken at the legge, but I say a man may giue a square, or fore-hand blow to the inside of his enemies legge, and yet verie well recouer vp your sword againe before your enemy can endanger you.

Another deceipt.

STanding in your guard, and your enemy charging you with a blow, pluck in your sword sodainelie, and let his blow slippe, and so soone as his blow
is

is past, answere him againe, either with blow or thrust whether you will, but if it bee at blunt with a blow, put in right with a thrust, or by plucking in your sword, and alwaies haue a care you plucke him in vnto that side of the head which hee chargeth you at, for in so doing, if his weapons point do reach home, yet you are at a guard of defence, but with this skill and a little withdrawing your bodie with all, his weapon will passe cleare, for the force of his blow will ouerswaie his weapon, and he will so ouer carrie his bodie, that in a manner his backe wilbe towards you, so that with a quick answere you may but him at your pleasure or close with him if you thinke you can make your partie good at the gripe: likewise you may cloose vpon the crosse, by ioyning weapon to weapon, but when you haue made your cloose in your first encounter, take hold on your enemies hand-wrist, or else on the hilt of your enemies weapon, for then hee cannot well offend you being but single weaponed. But to trie your man-hood, at the length of your weapon, I hold it the best fight and lesse danger to both, for there is no more certaine defence in a close, then is in a passage, for they are both verie dangerous.

Another deceipt.

YOur enemy lying in guard, you may strike a backe blow vnto his right eare, although it light vpon his sword, that is all one, for in striking it aboue, it may cause him to wink, or he will thinke you haue don, but so soone as you haue deliuered your blow aboue, then presentlie, I meane more quicker then

then I can speake it, strike it downe into the inside of his right-legge, or if you doe but touch his sword in ioyning him close as the picture standeth, and so soone as you haue but touched his Backe-sword on the out-side, strike it downe vnto the in-side of the legge presentlie, yet alwaies haue a care to recouer your sword into his place againe for your owne defence, the which you may easilie doe, yea although you encounter with a verie skilfull man, but if you strike a plaine blow at the legge without profering it aboue first, as is before said, then you endanger your owne head, but in presenting it aboue, you busie him to defend the first fained blow, so that he cannot be readie prepared to charge you with anie blow of danger before you haue recovered your guard, the which you may well doe, although he answere you neuer so quicke.

*An other verie cunning deceipt with the
Back-sword.*

SStrike a blow to the in-side of the right leg, or foot of thy enemy, but draw it to thee, striking it something short, and then presently strike it home againe to the left eare of a right handed man, but it must be done more quicker then I can speake it, and thou shalt finde his left eare vngarded, for hee will looke for it at the right side, and it were not amisse to strike it once or twice from the leg to the right eare first, for then he will looke for the same blow againe, but yet I would not haue you make all your play at the legge, but sometimes to offer a blow at the one side of the head, and then to the other, so by making

king often change of your blow, is the best waie to deceiue thy enemye.

*A verie dangerous blow at Back-
sword.*

THy enemye lying in this guard, soddenly plucke in the pummell of thy sword to thy breast, and with all turne thy knuckles inward, and the presentlie proffer a thrust towards thy enemies breast, but turne it ouer with a blow to his right eare, with the which blow thou maist hit a good plaier, if he bee not aware of it before hand, for hee must beare his sword against the thrust for the defence thereof, now if he do ouer carrie him neuer so little further then he ought to doe for his true defence, then hee cannot bring him back time enough to defend the blow before you haue hit him, as before said.

*This blow is also good for a Left-handed man, or
against a Left-handed man.*

IF you would hit a Left-handed man with this blow, then present your thrust full at his face by a sodaine lifting vp the hilt of your sword so high as your head, and withall you must now turne your knuckles outward, and so soone as you haue presented your thrust, presently strike it home vnto the left side of his head.

A

A false thrust to be vsed in fight at Back-sword.

PRoffer your thrust two or three foot wide of thy enemies left eare, and withall let fall thy point so low as thy enemies girdle-stead or lower, and then presently with the same motion, raise thy point on the other side of thy enemies sword, and chop it home vnto his right arme, shoulder or face whether you will your selfe, for in bearing his sword ouer his bodie to defend the fained thrust, hee cannot well recouer him backe againe to defend your second thrust before you haue hit him, as before said, except hee hath by much practise beene vsed to that false thrust before hand.

An other dangerous blow.

THy enemy lying in his guard, strike a blow to the in-side of his right leg, and presentlie with as much speed as possible thou canst strike it home vnto his left cheeke, for he will beare ouer his sword to defend the first proffer, and so with-draw himselfe into his guard, so that he will be vnprovided for the defence of his left side, if it bee struck in with a quicke hand. All manner of false blowes, slips and thrusts at what weapon soeuer, are to be auoided and defended with the true carriage of thy weapon, as at Rapier and Dagger, if a false thrust be made below, it must be defended with the Dagger below, and with the Rapier aboue. And if either blow or thrust be falsified at the Back-sword, or at Sword and Dagger, thou must beare thy Sword against euery proffer,

but be sure thou do not ouer-carrie him, but that thou maist be quick backe againe, to meete his second blow on the other side, as bringing thy weapon into his place by practise, thou shalt finde thy selfe surely guarded as in some places in this booke thou shalt finde the defence.

After the false play at euerie weapon, although I haue not set downe the defence of euerie slip, nor of euerie fault, which had beene verie necessarie: for as euerie lesson on a fiddle hath a seuerall tune, euen so euerie guard and euerie falsitie hath a seuerall kinde of Offence, and Defence, but heere thou shalt finde the Defence that belongeth vnto manie of them, and the rest I left out for want of leasure to write them, but they shall follow in the next Impression.

*The true guard for the Staffe, which we will
call the Low guard.*

Keepe the point of your Staffe right in your enemies face, holding one hand at the verie butt end of the Staffe, and the other a foote and a halfe distant, looking ouer your Staffe with both your eyes and your feet a foot and a half distance, or thereabouts, according to this picture, alwaies standing crosse with your enemy, I meane, if his right hand and foote be foremost, let yours be so likewise, and if his left-hand and foote be foremost, then make you your change and crosse with him also.

Now



Now, if your enemy doe charge you, either with blow or thrust, you lying in the guard, as above shewed, then your defence is thus : and if he charge you above the girdle-steade, either with blow or thrust, strike your selfe against it, keeping vp the point of your staffe, so high as your head; but so soone as you haue defended, whether it be blow or thrust, presently answer your enemy againe with a thrust, and then hastily recouer your guard againe, and in giuing of a thrust, you may let goe your fore-hand from off your Staffe, but hold the butte end fast in one hand: and so soone as you haue discharged your thrust, plucke backe your Staffe, and clap both your hands on him againe, and recouer your guard; but yet stay not long, to see whether your enemy will beginne with you, but begin with him first, with a false thrust,

as anone you shall see the manner how to doe it : and when you can doe it, what neede you to stand long about that which may be done presently, and without danger?

Now if hee proffer either blow or thrust vnto your lower parts vnder your gerdle-stead, if it be a thrust, strike it awaie, by turning the point of your Staffe towards the ground, but be sure to strike it with that large compasse, that the point of your Staffe maie pitch, not in the ground, for so you may deceiue your selfe in your defence, if he charge you so lowe with a blow, then you may strike it as you do a thrust, or you may pitch the point of your staffe into the ground two or three foote wide of that side which he chargerh you at, and you may in the pitching downe of your Staffe, let goe your fore-hand, that hee doe not hit him, and then all parts is defended so high as your head, so that you alwaies haue a care to keepe your staffe in his right place, that is to say, if your right hand and foote be formost, then leaue all your bodie open, so that your enemye can not endanger you on the out-side of your staffe, but if hee will hit you, he must needs strike or thrust on the in-side of your staffe, and then you must defend all blowes or thrusts, by bearing your staffe ouer your bodie towards the left side, for this we call the Fore hand Defence, and this defence consumeth no time : but if in holding your staffe in the right hand, as before is said; and yet for your garde doe beare your Staffe ouer towards the left hand, then you leaue your right shoulder arme or face, open or vnguarded, the which must bee defended backward, but you may defend twentie thrusts or blowes before hand, better then

then one backward; for the backe defence is nothing so readie, nor so certaine, as the fore-hand defence is, and therefore keepe and continue your guard, according vnto the Picture, for then if hee proffer a thrust on the out-side of your Staffe: you neede not to feare nor offer to defend it, for there is no place in anie danger, but all is guarded, especiallie from the gerdle-stead vpward.

And in your defence, haue alwaies a care to the true carriage of your Staffe, that you doe not carrie him beyond the compasse of true defence, for feare of the false plaie: for if you ouer-carrie your Staffe, I meane further then neede doth require, you can not recouer him backe againe quicke enough to defend the false. Now, if your enemy doe assault you vpon the contrarie side, you must change both your foote and hand to crosse with him, as before: but take heed when you change, you do not come in with your hinder foote, but let him stand firme and fall backe with the fore-most foot vpon euerie change. And hauing defended your enemies assault, with a little encreasing in, answere him with a thrust, thrusting out your staffe with your hindermost hand, and stepping forth withall, with your foremost foote, and in the same instant of your proffer, let goe your fore-hand, but after your offence presently recouer your hand vpon your staffe againe: now if your staffe be shorter then your enemies, then (for your better aduantage) step in with your hinder foote with your answere, but at no hand, neuer strike one blow with your Staffe; for hee that doth but lift vp his Staffe to strike, may easily be hit by the defender with a thrust, for in the same motion that the oppressour doth lift vp his staffe to strike

Strike the defender, may with a speedie thrust hit him in the breast, and holde him off vpon the point of his staffe, if the Defender thrust out his staffe with his hinder hand, especially if their staues be both of one length, then hee that striketh, cannot endanger the other with a blow, for hee that striketh, holdeth both his hands vpon his staffe, vntill hee hath discharged his blow, whereby hee that thrusteth, hath two foot oddes of him in length that striketh, so that hee putteth out his staffe, to his most aduantage, as before-said.

It is necessary, that hee which vseth the Staffe, should haue vse of both his hands alike, for thereby he may the better shift his staffe from hand to hand, whereby to lie crosse alwaies with your enemy, changing your hand and foote, as hee changeth for lying the one with the right hand and foote for-most, and the other with the left, then he that striketh first, cannot choose but endanger the others hand, but if you cannot change your Staffe to lie crosse with your enemies Staffe: then for your defence of a blow, pitch the point of your Staffe into the ground, and let go your fore-hand, and when you haue discharged the blow with as much speed as you can, answer his blow with a thrust, for the greatest secret of all most chiefly to be remembred at this weapon, is, if your enemy doe but once offer to lift vp his hand to strike, then presently choppe in with a thrust at his breast, shoulder, or face, for so you may hit him as you will your selfe, so that you take your time of answering.

If your enemy strike with his staffe, hee holdeth him fast in both his hands when hee deliuereth his blow, by reason thereof, he which thrusteth and looseth

The Schoole of Defence.

seth his fore-hand , when hee dischargeth his thrust or draweth in the fore-hand close vnto the hinder hand which holdeth the butte end of his Staffe , and so thrust him out withall , you may keepe the striker vpon the point of your Staffe , so that with his blow hee can not reach you , being equally matched in length, but must come vpon his owne death, or danger himselfe greatly.

The high guard for the Staffe.

Looke vnder your Staffe with both your eies, with the point hanging slope-waies downe-wards by your side , bearing out your Staffe at the armes end , higher then your head alittle according to this Picture.



In looking vnder your Staffe it will seeme to your enemye, that your defence is onelie for your head, then he wil thinke to hit you in the body with a thrust, for the bodie seemeth to lie very open vnto him, and if hee doe charge you with a thrust, carry the point of your Staffe ouer your bodie close by the ground towards the other side, and hauing defended the thrust, turne vp the point of your staffe presently towards your enemies breast, and charge him with a thrust: againe, if your enemy charge you with a blowe at your head, lift vp the point of your staffe & meete the blow halfe way, and withal, draw back your hands, for feare of endangering your fingers: hauing striken away his staffe, answer him againe with a thrust (as before said:) Now if your enemy charge you with a blow at your side, either pitch the point of your staffe into the ground to defend it, or else change into thy low gard and so crosse with him; if your enemy do strike a full blow at your head, you need not feare neither of your hands, but by striking with your staffe to meete his blow, you shall defend it vpon the middle, or neere the point of your staffe, although hee doe strike purposely at your hand, yet can he not touch your hands nor any other part of your body: but vpon the defence of your body draw backe your hands. Now it beho- ueth you to be perfect, not only in this gard, but also in changing your staffe from hand to hand, according to your enemies lying: to do well you should change, as hee changeth, sometimes the point of your staffe should be hanging downe by the right side of your body, and sometimes by the left, according to your enemies lying, the best way to make your change, is to let your staffe slippe through your hands, like a Wea-
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ners shuttle, for this is a more speedie change then to shift him after the common manner, and by a little practise you may grow perfect in it.

The best guard for a darke night at Staffe.

IF thou meet with thine enemy in the night, and he charge vpon thee, the best means for thy defence, is presently to chop vp into this high guard, except thy staffe be of a sufficiēt length, to keep him off, with charging the point vpon him, or else the third means is to trust to thy heeles, but if thou wilt trust to thine hands, then either keep him off with thy point, or else about all parts, chiefly defend thy head, which is not to be done, but only by this guard, except a man may see the blow before it do light; now thou must put thy hands a little further asunder, then thou dost for the day, that the blow may be defended, by taking him vpon thy staffe betwixt both thy hands: if it light at your head, as it is the fashion of most men to strike at the head (as I haue said before) rather then to any part of the bodie. Now hauing taken the blowe betwixt your hands, withall, run in and close with him, for if you stand off at the length in fight, anie time, being in the night, it cannot chuse but be verie dangerous, if you suffer him to discharge many blows, but either answer him with a thrust, or else close with him, and turne the butte end of your staffe into his breast or face, as you see occasion: now if it be in the day, or that you can see the blow before it light; if your enemy charge you with a blow at the side, meet his blow by carrying ouer to the other side, & pitch the point of your staffe in the ground, and loose your foremost hand for dangering of your fingers, but hold the hin-

der hand fast at the butte end of your staffe. But now, vpon this high guard you can not defend the false sowel, nor so sure, as when you lie on the low gard; for if your enemy doe proffer a thrust on the one side your staffe, and presently chop it home to the other side, he may endanger, nay, hee may hit a skilfull and cunning player, especially if you ouer-carrye your staffe in defence of the fained blow or thrust.

Wherefore, if you lie on the low guard with your staffe or pike, you shall defend a thrust with the point of your weapon long before it come neare you, & yet your point is readie to answer more speedily then it is when you lie on any other guard, but he which lieth with his point of the staffe or pike on the ground, hath verie little space to his bodie, no more then the length of his arme wherein hee holdeth his weapon: therefore he which suffreth a thrust to come so neare, it will quickelie come to the face or bodie, yet because most souldiers heretofore haue vsed this fashion of lying, and are not experienced in the low guard, according to the first Picture of the Staffe; but if in your practise you vse both, you shall find the benefit thereof the better; now if you frame your selfe into the high guard, your staffe must not be, in length, above eight foot at the most, but rather shorter, for else in defending your enemies thrust, a long staffe will hit in the ground, and by that means, your enemies thrust may endanger you: therefore, for this high gard, you must looke that your staffe be of that length, that you may carrie the point cleane from the ground in defending of a thrust, but for the low gard it is no matter of what length your staffe be.

Questions and answeres betwixt the
Master and Scholler, concer-
ning the Staffe.

The Scholler.

YOU haue giuen me directions for two sorts of guards, which doe you commend best that I may repose my felfe vpon?

The Master.

I commend the low guard best, for that it serueth with the Quarter-staffe of seauen or eight foot, or for the Long-staffe of twelue foote, and for the Pike of eighteene foote, for I haue made triall with men of good experience which haue lien in other guards according to their practise, as some at Quarter-staffe will lay their point vpon the ground ouerthwart their bodie, holding the butte-end of their Staffe so low as their girdle-stead: he that thus lieth the best waie to hit him is to proffer, or faine a thrust at his face, and presently put it home below, for hee will carrie his Staffe vp to saue his face, but cannot put him downe againe before you haue hit him vnderneath as before said, but with quicknesse you may hit him in the face or breast, and neuer falsifie your thrust but put it in sodainely, turning the heele of hinder hand vpward withall: and if your enemy lie at Halfe-staffe, holding him in the midst, his hands that so lieth, are in danger of euerie blow that cometh, but the best way to hit him that so lieth without danger to thy selfe, is with a false thrust, and that is to

proffer it on the one side of his staffe, and to put it home on the other, according to the direction of the false play that followeth: but first let me make an end of that which I haue begunne, and so wee will proceed, some will lie with the Long-staffe, or Pike with the point on the ground, and the butte end so high as his head or higher; indeed this hath beene and is common fight with the Pike amongst the souldiers, and the defence of this guard either for blow or thrust, is to swerue his vper-hand, this way, or that way, according as he seeth the danger of the oppressors assault, and then presently launch out the Staffe or Pike by lifting them vp, vpon the out-side of their foote or else by gathering him vp on their left arme, and so launch him out as afore said: he that vseth this guard, must be strong, and verie active, and nimble, but whatsoeuer hee be, high or low, weake or strong, the low guard is best.

The Scholler.

If the low guard be so strong for my defence what need haue I to learne any other?

The Master.

It is true, a man can be but sure if hee practise all the daies of his life, but it is not amisse for thee to know more then euer thou shalt haue occasion to vse; for hauing the perfect vse of the low and high guard, you may close with any Staffe man, if you thinke you can make your partie good with him when you haue closed.

The Scholler.

I pray you direct me the best manner of closing.

The Master.

When you encounter with any man that hath a Staffe,

Staffe, a Welch-hooke, or a Halbert, and your selfe being armed with any one of these weapons, present a thrust to the face of your enemy, and withall, follow it in with your hind-most foote also; and as you incroach in, clap vp your Staffe into the high guard, and you shall carrie your enemies point ouer your head by that meanes, but you must not be slack in following of it in, for hee will beare the point of his weapon so high to defend his face, that he cannot recover his Staffe by no meanes to endanger you, and when you haue made your close, you may turne the But-end of your Staffe in his face if you list, or you may trip vp his heeles, if you be cunning in wrestling: but if hee haue any short weapons about him, then I wish you to take him about the middle and vn-arme him of it, or else to hold him fast that hee hurt you not, but if you bee armed with a Bill or a Hooke, then in your halfe-close you may fall away turning the edge of your Bill or Hooke towards his legges, and so by a drawing blow rake him ouer the shins, and keeping vp the But-end of the Staffe for the defence of your owne head, and so you may fall out of his distance, and recover your guard before he can any way endanger you.

If your enemy close with you after this manner, and doe offer the But-end of his Staffe vnto your face or breast, then fall backe with your fore foote, and make a quicke change, and you shall haue him at great aduantage, both for defence and likewise to turne in the But-end of your Staffe vnto his face or breast, and if you list this is a sure defence for such an assault, belecue it, for I know it, he that is perfect in the low guard, may with a Staffe encounter against
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the Welch-hooke, Holbert, Partizan, or Gleave, and I hold that a Staffe with a Pike to haue oddes against any such long weapon, being equally matched in length, for oddes in length with any weapon is verie much aduantage, where I wish if any doe appoint the field with any of these aforefaid weapons, it is not amisse for the one of them to condition to bring a hatchet or some other edged toole into the field to cut the longest staffe, except you match them before hand.

The Scholler.

I pray you let me here your reason, for many thinke that the hooke or any edged weapon hath great ods against the Staffe.

The Master.

Indeed without cunning and skill, the Welch-hooke, and these other weapons are more fearefull vnto the ignorant, but hee that is cunning in the false play and slippes, belonging vnto the Staffe may with a false thrust or with slipping his blow endanger any other, being weaponed with any other of these weapons aforefaid. For if you falsifie your thrust according to my direction in the false play, that is, to proffer your thrust on the one side, and then to put home the second determined thrust vnto the other side of his weapon, and then if your enemy haue a Hooke, Halbert, or Bill in defending the false, the head of his weapon will so ouer-carrie him by the reason of the weight, that hee cannot command him nimble backe againe, whereby to defend the false, if your enemy bee armed with a Hooke, Holbert or Partizan or Gleave, if hee charge you with a blow, then slippe his blow, either by plucking
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in of your Staffe, keeping of the point vpright vntill his blow be past, and then you may answere him againe, either with blow or thrust, for by flipping a blow, the weight of the head of any of these aforesaid weapons will goe with such a swing that it will turne his body in a manner round, I meane beyond the compasse of defence.

Againe if you thinke that your face is out of his reach, he which chargeth you with a blow with any of these aforesaid weapons, you may let fall the point of your staffe, so that his blow may passe cleere ouer your staffe, and so choppe home a thrust withall vnder your enemies weapons, and then recouer the point of your Staffe vp hastily againe.

The Scholler.

What if I bee armed with any of these weapons aforesaid, what guard will your direct mee to frame my selfe vnto?

The Master.

I still commend the low guard for any long weapon, whether it be Staffe, Pike, Hooke, Halbert, Partizan or Gleaue, my reason is the point being so high as your head, and the But-end so low as your thigh, then is your weapon more readier to defend either blow or thrust, if you bee charged neuer so sodainely, whereas if your point hang downe-wards toward the ground, you can neuer lift him vp quick againe to defend your thrust, but a blow may be defended easily, for that a blow commeth more leasurably, for why it is fetcht with a greater compasse, and a thrust goeth with farre more celerity then a blow, being put in cunningly, but of these weapons shall follow more at large in the second booke.

Z

Now

Now if thy enemy haue oddes in length in his Staffe, then let thy enemy make the first assault, and vpon defence of his assault steppe forth with thy hindermost foote, and so thou shalt gaine sixe foote at the least in reach, but if your staues bee both of one length, then vpon a charge or answere, increase in onely with thy fore foote, and stand fast with thy hinder foote, onely to plucke backe thy body againe, and if thou make the first assault, and thy enemy defend it, and so hee make a sodaine answere, then it wilbe hard to recouer vp thy staffe into his place, to defend it according to the low guard: but for a sodaine shift the best defence is bearing your vpper-hand ouer your body, and letting your point fall to the ground, according to the olde common order of the fight with the Pike, at single hand, I meane, hand to hand, or I may say, man to man.

The Scholler.

I pray you how would you direct mee to frame my guard with my staffe, if I were to encounter with my enemy, being armed with Sword and Dagger, or Rapier and Dagger?

The Master.

I hold the low guard best, charging thy point directly to the enemies breast, and alwaies haue a speciall regard, that thou possesse not a blow, for so hee may defend it double on the Back-sword and Dagger, and runne in vnder the Staffe, likewise if thou proffer a thrust, let not thy Staffe loose out of thy fore-hand, but hold him fast, that thereby thou maist bee the more readie to charge him againe, and againe if hee encroach in vpon thee, for if thou let
goc.

goe one hand, then may thy enemy very well defend the thrust of a staffe, according as I haue directed in the description of the Rapier and Dagger, concerning the staffe, for with that one defence, being experienced in it, thou maist endanger any Staffe-man, that is not wary, and withall, well experienced in both these weapons, so that thou take thy opportunity vpon his assault, I mean in answering him quick, so soone as you haue defended his assault, whether it be blow or thrust.

Now if thy enemy doe strike at the point of thy Staffe, thinking to cut him off, then, as you see his blow comming, let fall the point of your Staffe, and presently chop home a thrust, for in so doing his blow will flie ouer your Staffe, as by your practise you may be perfect in this slippe, for so wee call it. I haue knowen a man with a Sword and Dagger hath cut off the end of a Pike-staffe, but I hold him an ignorant and an vnskilfull man, that hath held the staffe, for though I hold, that a man skilfull at the Sword and Dagger may encounter against a reasonable Staffe-man, the same opinion I hold stil, and my reasons thou shalt heare; if extreame need require, and vpon a necessity, then the best meanes is to be vsed wherfore to be furnished with the best means before hand at the time of neede, it may greatly stead thee, for euery common man hath not knowledge of the best rule, except hee haue learned it and practised it by those which could shew it, for it cometh not by nature to none, yet euery ignorant dunce, when hee is perswaded to goe learne skill, will say, when I am put to my shift I will doe the best I can: so a man may, and yet without skill bee killed, although

hee doe his best , my opinion further of this followeth.

Now the best guard with a Sword and Dagger, or Rapier and Dagger against a Staffe , is this , put your Dagger on the in-side of your Rapier or Sword , and ioine them both together , making your crosse with them within a foote or thereabouts of the hilt of your Rapier or Sword , and looking cleere with both your eyes vnder them , or betwixt both your weapons , and then if your enemy charge you with a blow at your head with his Staffe , beare them both double against the blow , and hauing defended it , turne your point and turne your knuckles inward of your right-hand , and so to goe in a maine vpon him.

But if hee charge you with a thrust , then presently let fall the point of your Rapier downe-ward , and force him downe the more stronger , and more quicker with your Dagger , for to that end I doe appoint you to put your Dagger in the in-side of your Rapier or Sword . Loe in this manner you may defende either blow or thrust of the Staffe , yet I must needes confesse , there is great oddes in the Staffe , if the Staffe-man bee verie skilfull , but otherwise the Rapier and Dagger hath the oddes being furnished with skill.

False play to be used at the Staffe.

IF you both lie in the low gard , according vnto my former direction , then proffer or faine a thrust vnto your enemies face to the fairest side of the staffe , which to your seeming lieth most open or vngarded ,
but

but the presently in the same motion let fall the point of your staffe so low as his girdle-sted, so that you may passe cleare vnder the But end of his staffe; for if with any part of his staffe he touch or intangle your staffe, then you can not put in your false so directly as you should, or as you may, if you passe cleare with your first offer, then may you bring vp your point on the other side of his staffe, and thrusting it home, you may hit him in the shoulder or face, as you will your selfe, yea although he be verie skilfull or cunning, so that you haue the true stroke of it: as to make it plainer, then in offering your false, doe but fall the point of your staffe, striking it as it were a blowe, but let it fall two foote wide of that side, which lieth open, and then bring it vp againe on the other side, and put it in with a thrust, for hee will carrie his staffe to defend your false, and so by that meanes open the side which lieth well guarded, and alwaies marke which part of your enemies bodie lieth open or most discouered vnto you, there proffer you your fained thrust, first to the fairest, but hit him with your second or determined thrust to the contrarie side, and if you faine your thrust to the right side, then thrust it home to the left, and if you faine your thrust to the left side, then put it home to the right, and you may hit him in the breast, shoulder, or face, whether you list your selfe, so that you proffer your fained thrust three foote wide of his bodie, for if in offering your fained thrust, he hit your staffe, it will so intangle your point, that you cannot recouer him to hit him with your determined thrust, for before you can cleare your point, he will be in his guard of defence againe.

The defence of this false thrust.

THis thrust is to be defended two waies, the first is to beare him against your enemies proffer, but haue a care that you doe not ouer-bear him, so that if he mock you with his fained thrust on the one side, you must quicklie bring your staffe backe againe into his place, to meet him when he commeth on the other side of his staffe, and so to defend it, keeping your point vpright: now the second defence is to beare your staffe ouer your bodie against his proffer, as you doe against euerie ordinarie thrust; for you must suppose that euerie thrust will come home, for the defender doth not know if his enemy doe proffer a thrust, whether it will come home or not: therefore (as I said) you must beare your staffe against euerie thrust, but you should beare your staffe but a foote out of his place, whether it be against blow or thrust: for if you ouer-carrie him, you can not recouer him to defend neither blowe nor thrust, if it be falsified vpon you. Now if your enemy doe falsifie vpon his first proffer, carrie your staffe ouer your bodie, keeping the point vpright against his first proffer: now vpon your offer of defence, at the first you see that you make no seisure vpon his staffe, then presently you may perceiue he doth but dallie with you, onlie to deceiue you with false play, but then your proffer of defence, both for the true and false play, must be all done with one motion; for if you see that with the first proffer aboue he shorten his thrust, without putting it home, then turne downe the point of your staffe towards the ground, and meete him below, and
so

so strike it away, but be sure that you defend alwaies before hand, for to strike it backward is no sure defence.

Yet to make this fore-hand defence plainer, why then it is thus meant, if your right hand be placed formost in holding your staffe, then you must defend both the true play, and the false towards your left hand, but you must not defend the first proffer forward, and the next, which may bee the false thrust, backward, but both must be defended towards your left side: and so likewise, if your left hand be formost, then frame your defence towards your right side, as before said.

Now if you cannot change hands, as (it may be) your enemy can, then keepe your guard vpon that hand which you can best vse, and you shall finde that hee hath very little oddes after you haue practised it a while; for you may offer or defend anie false play so well as if you lay crosse handed one to the other.

A false blowe.

NOW, if you would hit your enemy on the head with a blow, you must proffer a false blow at the head, as if you would strike him downe at the first; but when it is come halfe way, stay your hand, or checke your blow before it meet with his staffe, for he will beare his staffe against your blow, thinking to defend it strongly, before it come to endanger him: but the checking of the first blow wil be an occasion, that he wil ouer-carry his staffe beyond the compasse of true defence, so that you may presently come with a second blowe, and strike it home ouer the point of his

his staffe, so by this determined blow, you may hit him on the head or face.

A Slippe at a Staffe.

IF your enemy charge you with a blow, you lying in your guard according to the Picture, euen as you see the blow comming, plucke in your staffe, and withall, withdraw your head and bodie a little backe, bearing your staffe, during the time while the blow hath his passage, close vpright by that side of your face which your enemy chargeth you at, to defend that side, if the blow doe reach home, but if it doe passe short, and goe cleare of you, without touching your staffe, then will his staffe flie away with the greater swinge, so that it will passe beyond compasse of true defence, but if it be a Welch-hooke, or anie other head weapon, then will the slipping of his blow be a more occasion of the ouer-carrying his blow, by carrying his body round, so that his blow being past, you may presently charge him with a blow at the head, or thrust him in the backe, so that it be done quicke before your enemy doe recouer his weapons into their place of defence.

Another falsifie.

YOU may profer a downe-right blow at your enemies head, fetching him with a great compasse, so that it may seeme to your enemy, that you meane to strike him downe, but as your blow is comming, draw backe your hand and change your blow into a thrust, and chopping home to his breast or any other part of his body, that you will your selfe, for he will beare his Staffe to defend the blow, I meane
if

if hee be not very skilfull and cunning, the which if he doe, hee can but defend himselfe, the which to doe he must be very wary when he beareth his staffe to defend then the blow, so that he doe not ouer-carrie his staffe, and yet to beare him a little and then to checke his Staffe, and be readie to turne downe the point to defend the thrust, but he that is skilfull will, or should chop out a thrust if his enimie doe proffer a blow, and the thrust should be put out with one hand, and to loose the other, I meane with that hand which holdeth the But-end of the Staffe, for so thou shalt keepe him out at the point of thy Staffe; for then the blow cannot endanger thee, except there be great oddes in the length of your staues, for commonly he that striketh, holdeth both his hands vpon his Staffe when hee deliuereth his blow, whereby there is three foote oddes in reach betwixt the striker and he which thrusteth.

*Another very deceiuing false thrust
at the Staffe.*

THy enimie lying in guard, proffer a fained thrust towards his foote, and then presently raise thy point againe, and thrust if home to his face or brest, for if hee turne downe the point of his Staffe to saue the false thrust below, then if he were neuer so cunning, or neuer so strong, yet can he not put vp his Staffe time enough to defend his vpper part; and therefore not to turne downe the point, if thy enemy doe proffer a thrust below is the more surest, but if a thrust bee made below or aboue the knee, plucke vp thy legge, and either thrust with him,

or keepe vp thy Staffe to defend thy vpper part, which are the killing places, rather then to turne him downe to defend thy legge or foote, wherein is not so great danger of death as the body being hit, but at the Staffe all parts may be defended with skill.

*The guard for the Sword and Dagger, the which
for surenesse wee will call the
Castle-guard.*



I Might heare in this place discribe many wardes
or guards, at the Sword and Dagger, as the Looke-
ward, the Iron-ward, the Hanging-ward, the
Crosse-ward, three high guards, the Low-guard, the
Broad-ward. I will a little touch them all, or the most
part of them with words, although not with pictures,
but

but in the next Impression more at large, both with words and with pictures.

But now chiefly at this time I will proceed only with this Castle-guard, or Back-sword-guard according to the picture, for with the skil of this one guard thou maist safely encounter against any man, which vseth any other of the foresaid guards, for this one guard being perfectly learned thou maist defend thy selfe with great aduantage.

Now for the manner of the framing thy selfe into this guard, thou must beare out the hilt of thy sword a foote from thy body, so low as the pocket of thy hose, and right out from thy thigh, and thy Dagger out right at the armes end, and thy Dagger hilt euen with thy left cheeke, but barely looking ouer the vpper part of thy Dagger hilt, and the points of both thy Sword and Dagger a little bowing each to the other, and close aboue, but open thy hilts so broad below as thou maist see cleerely thy enemie betwixt them both, as at Rapier and Dagger before is described, for both at Rapier and Dagger, the guards are both verie neere alike, but onely for the carriage of thy Rapier hand and foote, a little neerer thy body then at Sword and Dagger, the reasons are, and shall be made plaine vnto thee, as in reading thou shalt finde it, for both at Rapier and Dagger, and at Sword and Dagger, a man should bee prepared as well at the one, as the other to defend a thrust in fight so well as a blow, and except the Rapier point be borne something high, he is not ready to defend a blow, as by this guard thus being placed, as aforesaid, thy Sword onely being borne out against the blow, will defend all thy right-side, both thy head,

and downe to thy knee, without mooning him. but if thy enemy doe charge thee with a blow at thy left-side, whether he strike to thy head or side, then beare both thy Sword and thy Dagger ouer thy body, towards thy left-side, and withall I doe aduise thee to haue a care to carry both the hilt and point leuell, even as thou liest in thy guard, for if thou carry thy hilt of thy Sword ouer thy body towards thy left-side, and turne thy point Back-ward, then both at Sword and Dagger, and at Rapier and Dagger, thy head is endangered, for then thou hast but a single ward for thy head, I meane thy Dagger onely, and that is no sure defence for the head, if thy practise were neuer so much, but both being borne together, according vnto the Backe-sword rule, thou shalt defend both thy head and body downe to thy knee very strongly, and thy legges must saue himselfe by a quick pulling vp of thy foote.

Thy weapons
thus placed
thou shalt find
thy body gat-
ded like a pri-
soner betwixt
to keepers,
thy sword to
guard thy
right-side, and
thy dagger the
left.

Likewise at Sword and Dagger, you may set your feete a foote distance one right before the other, the other which I doe not allow of at Rapier and Dagger, also you must keepe the point of your Sword on the in-side of your Dagger, and halfe a foote higher then your Dagger point, especially if you play at the blunt, but in fight as at Rapier and Dagger, then you must so exercise your foote, that you may pluck him vp nimbly against euery blow that cometh, otherwise if you doe keepe them so neare as my direction is at Rapier and Dagger, then is your foote sure without plucking of him vp; beare your head vpright, bowing rather to the right-sholder, then to the left, but not forward at any weapon, but your body bowing forward, and keepe your points close together,
and

and your Sword point on the inside of your Dagger point (as before-saide) and the hilt of your Dagger from your left cheeke, right at the armes end, without bowing of your elbow ioynt, and your Dagger point sloping, or bowing towards your right side, looking with both your eies betwixt your weapons, looke not ouer your weapons with neither of your eies at anie hand; your weapons placed, and your bodie settled (as afore-saide) then shall you finde no part of your bodie discouered or vnguarded, but onlie your left side from the Dagner arme downewards, and that you must haue a care vnto, and defend it in this manner.

If your enemie charge you with a blow, defend your selfe, by bearing the edge of your Sword against it, and a little beare your Dagger against the blow also, onely to giue allowance for the yeelding of your Dagger, if the blow should chaunce to light at your head, for your guard simply of himselfe doth defend but a weake blow; if you stand stocke still at your gard as a wrist blow a droppe or a mite, which commeth with small force, though they come with more speed then any other blow, your guard will defend without moouing your weapons. Now other blowes which shall come with greater force, consume more time, and doe fetch a greater compasse, insomuch as their force is greater, you shal perceiue them the plainer, to which side the blow will come, and if to the right side, then swarue both wepons against the blow, and if to the left side, do likewise (keeping vp the point of your sword, for that will defend from the head downe to the knee, and the knee and leg which you stand formost vpon, you must defend by plucking

them vp, and your sword will defend the hindmost legge, if the blow should chance to reach so farre, by taking it neere the hilt, vpon the edge of your backesword, as aforesaid, for if you put downe the point of your sword to saue your legge, then you leaue your head and your face vnguarded; for when you see your enemy charge you with a blow, there is no rule to be shewen to know where the blow will light, vntill it doe light: but this assure your selfe, the blow must haue a lighting place; for when the sword is vp, where he will fall there is no rule to be shewen, for when the blow is charged, it cometh so swift and lighteth where the striker thinketh good; wherefore arme your selfe to defend euerie place, whether it cometh aboue or below; for if you turne downe the point of your sword before-hand, thinking the blow will light at your legge, for so you must doe if you will defend him with your sword, otherwise you cannot be downe quicke enough, for the blow will passe more speedier then the turning of a hand; wherefore I wish you to saue your legge by plucking of him vp, and open not your head, in hope to saue your legge, and so saue neither of them, for the head is the principall place that your enemy will strike at; therefore keepe your points alwaies vpright, and in their place, according to my direction following the first Picture; and likewise as heere I haue described it, for it is not enough to know the place of your weapons, but alwaies to continue them in their place, except it be at the verie instant time of your defence, and offence: but if you make play to offend your enemy, recouer your weapons into your guard speedily againe whether you hit or misse: Now in striking thy blow, let not thy
Sword

Sword swing vnder thine arme by over-striking thy blowe, but winde him vp presently into his place againe; alwaies keepe the points close, and defend the blow double: for so doing the point of your sword will be a great strengthening vnto your Dagger, for hee that doth trust to defend a blow with the Dagger onely, may be deceiued, if his cunning were neuer so good; for if the blow should light nere the point of your Dagger, by reason of the sharpenesse and weakenesse of the Dagger, it may glide ouer, and hit him that is skilfull, if his cunning were neuer so good: likewise, the blow may hit him vnder the Dagger-arme, which trusteth to the Dagger, except hee vse the defence of his backe-sword, for which both together a weake man, yea, a boy may defend a strong man with both, for no man is able to charge a blow with one hand, if his force were neuer so great, but one that is verie weake and skilful of the Back-sword, may defend himselfe double (as aforesaid) for he that chargeth with one hand, a verie wretch is able to defend with both, hauing skill and practise in all fashions, for when one cannot hit thee, yet another whose fashion thou art vnacquainted with may hit thee, but being experienced in many weapons, and in many guards, and practising with many men, then if thou haue an occasion to answer any one which thou neuer sawest before, thou wilt presently call to minde, that hee can but strike and thrust: therefore being prepared before hand, then so soone as thou seest his gard and charge, thou knowest thy defence.

Now (as I haue said before) you must be carefull in your defence, and so soone as you come within the reach of your enemy, prepare your selfe into
your

your guard, to defend euerie part both from blowe and thrust, defending the blow with the Backe-sword so low as your knee, and the point helping to strengthen the point of your Dagger: then if your enemy charge you with a blowe, you must not prepare to strike with him, for so you may be hurt, and then say afterward, I thought hee would haue stricke at mine head, and so neuer reckon vpon your side nor your legges, or if you should thinke he would haue stricke at your legges, and so neuer regard your head: But I say you must not deale vpon thought, but vpon a sure guard, and it is not sufficient, to know your guard of defence, but you must keepe him, for if your enemy haue once hit you for want of keeping your guard, it will be too late for you to remember your defence afterwards, therefore looke to it afore the blow doth light; or if you fight at Rapier and Dagger, you must looke for both blow and thrust, for your enemy may strike with his Rapier, and hit you if you do not looke for a blow, and when you are hit, it is too late to say, I thought he would not haue stricke with his Rapier. Againe, at Sword and Dagger, it may be your enemy will thrust, and you must not say, I thought he would not thrust, for euerie one will, in a quarrell, do what his affection leadeth him best vnto, except he alter his affection by practise.

*Heere followeth the chiefeſt blowes at Sword and
Dagger, and the maner how to
performe them.*

NOW for thy best aduantage, in as plaine maner, as by words I can expresse them, amongst many other blowes, wee will heere obserue these three:

three: the first, a wrist blow, a halfe blow, and a quarter blow; euerie one of these must bee vsed in their time and place (as this) sometimes with a wrist blow, thou maiest speed thine enemy when thou canst not hit him with a halfe blow, nor with a quarter blow, because there is in the deliuering of either of the two last blowes, more time spent, for euerie blow exceedeth each other, in force, and in quickenesse; this wrist blow will hit thine enemy either head or face, if his points lie any thing open, or on either side of his head, if he doe looke ouer either of his weapons: for although he doe see it comming nener so plaine, yet he cannot preuent it, if hee had *Argus* eyes, if his weapons be but an inch too lowe, but if your enemy doe lie more open, then you may charge him with a halfe blow, or a full quarter blow. but the quarter blow serueth best for the legge. If thine enemy doe incroach or gather in vpon thee, then strike downe to his legge and beare vp thy Dagger ouer thy head, with the point something sloping towards thy right shoulder, for so thy Dagger will saue thy head, and the point of thy Sword will hit him on the legge in his owne comming, and the vpper part of thy Sword will defend thine owne legge, if he charge thee in thine owne assault; but so soone as thou hast stricken thy blow, recouer thy guard hastily againe: the quarter blowe doth fetch a compasse about the head, that although hee come strong, it is not so quick as many other: now there is a washing blowe, which the vnskilfull do vse much, and with that blow thou maiest hit thy enemy vnder the Dagger arme, if he be not skilfull, with his Back-sword, for there is no other defence for it, but the Backe-sword onelie.

Then there is a whirling blow, & that is after thou hast west thy Sword, or flourished him ouer thine head twice or thrice, thou mayest deliuer thy blowe, either to the head or legge, or to what place thou seeest most for thine aduantage, for it is such an vncertaine blow, that he must be a good player that defendeth it.

Also there is a backe blow which is to be made two waies, the one is a plaine Dunstable way, that is, to fetch thy sword frō off thy left shoulder, & so to strike it to the right side of thy enemies head, or to the outside of his right leg, but the cunningest way is to bow thy Sword-elbow ioynt, & with thy knuckles vpward, and thy Sword hilt so high as your eare, and then by turning of your sword hand wrist, bend, or proffer the point of thy Sword with a blow towards your enemies Dagger eare, but presently turning your wrist, bringing the middest of your Sword close ouer the crowne of thy head, and with a compasse blow, striking it home to his Sword eare, or to the outside of his legge: I cannot with wordes make this blowe so plaine as I would, for I would gladly the ignorant should vnderstand it, for of all the blowes of true play, this is the best, for you may likewise faine it vnto the outside of your enemies head, and strike it home to the other, or vnto his side.

Here followeth the false play at Sword and Dagger.

IF your enemy be in this guard, as I haue heere described by false play, you may cause him to open his guard, but if he lie vpon any other guard, then you neede not to falsifie, for you may hit him with true play.

If

If you would hit your enemy on the right side of the head, then strike a blow to his foote, but strike it somewhat short, then presently bring it with a back blow to his right eare, the which will be vnguarded, by reason of the carrying his Sword to saue his left side, if hee be not the better grounded with experience.

And if you would hit him on the side of his head, then thrust a full thrust at his bellie, turning your knuckles inward, and hee will put downe his Dagger to defend it, but then, so soone as you haue offered your thrust, presently bring vp your Sword close vp by the out-side of his Dagger-elbow, and with a wrist blow strike him on the eare or head, keeping your knuckles inward, till the blow be deliuered: with this blow you may hit a good Player, but indeed it is not a very strong blow. Now to hit thy enemy in the foote, is to thrust two or three thrusts short at his face, and then fall it downe to the legge or the foote with a blow, for the feare of the daungering of his face with a thrust will make him forget his legge.

Another way is to strike a backe blow strongly to his Sword eare, and presently fall it downe to his foote, for hee seeing it come to his head, not one in twentie, but will wincke, and before he open his eyes againe, you may hit him vpon his foote or legge.

But the chiefeft blow of all for the legge, is to lift vp the heele of your Sword hand higher then your head, and tip in the point ouer your enemies Sword, as though you would hit him in the right eye, but presently bring downe your Sword with a full blowe to the in-side of his legge, for this blow in offering a-

loft, will sure make him winke and deceiue a skilfull man, and if in the lifting vp of your Sword, you say, Beware your foote, it will serue to him, that you go about to hit him on the head, so hee will lift vp his weapons to saue the head, but this blow being cunningly deliuered commeth downe to the legge, with such celeritie and violence, that hee cannot preuent it, except hee hath beene vsed to it with much practise, but it seldome misseth if it be cunningly deliuered.

Yet there is another deceitfull blow for the legge or foote, that is, to strike a backe blow to the sword care (as before-saide) stepping out your foote with your blow a little, and see that your blow reach but to his Sword, it is enough, but hastily plucke backe your foote, and your Sword in their place, and provide to charge him with a blow to the foote, as hee cometh in to answer your first blow: now in striking at his legge, be a little before hand; for as he maketh a motion of lifting vp his Sword to charge you, step in with the same motion, and in falling your point to his legge, you saue your owne legge, if he do strike at your legge, then the Dagger must at such a time, defend your head single, which you may very well doe, if you beare him a little the higher, but withall, turne the Dagger point downe towards the right shoulder.

Also, you may deceiue some, with casting your eies downe, and looking to his foote, and presently strike it home to his head, for with your eie you may deceiue him which is not perfect in this deceit.

Certaine

*Certaine reasons why thou maist not strike with
thy weapon in fight.*

THe first danger is described following the first picture in this booke, and in this manner, the defender is to take the blow double, or on the Back-sword onely, and then presently to charge him againe with the point, with the which the defender may hit the striker in the face, brest or thigh, as he will himselfe, the like may be done with a staffe, first, defend the blow, and answere quick with a thrust.

The next danger, if it be with a sword, is this, thou maist breake or bow him, or he may slip out of the hilts, any of these dangers may happen at the very first blow that thou striketh, and if it be a staffe it may likewise be broken, or the pike may flie out, and then thou art not assured whether thy enemy vpon such an occasion will take the aduantage vpon thee, if such a chance doe fall out, therefore beware of striking.

An other hazard by striking is vnto the striker, if his enemie the defender doe but slippe his blow by a little with-drawing of his body backe, 'euen as hee seeth the blow come, and so I say by a little with-drawing the body, and also by plucking in his weapons, he that striketh the blow will ouer-sway his body beyond the compasse of true defence, and so the blow being past, charge him presently with a thrust, for he that striketh his blow will carrie his body in a manner round, so that the blow be not defended, but let slippe, as aforesaid, and then you may hit him in the backe, either with a blow or thrust, if you take

your opportunity in making a quicke answere, as more at large of this flight I haue shewen in the false play at each weapon, also diuers reasons heere and there in this booke, concerning the disaduantage of a blow.

*The Authors opinion concerning the oddes betwixt
a left-handed man, and a right-handed
man.*

A Left-handed man being skilfull hath oddes against a right-handed man being skilfull likewise, one reason is a left-hand man is alwaies vsed vnto a right-handed man, but a right-handed man doth seldome meete with a left-handed man, for in Schooles or such places, where play is, a man may play with forty men, and not meete with too left-handed men, except it be a great chance, another reason is, when a right-handed man doth offer or make play, first vnto the left-handed man, then doth he endanger the right-side of his head, although hee doe beare his Dagger to the right-side, yet it doth not defend so strong, nor so sure, as it doth the left, yet vnto one that is well instructed with the true skill of the Back-sword, and other rules which belongeth for the best aduantage against a left-hand, it wilbe the lesse dangerous or troublesome vnto such a one, for he wil presently cal himselfe to minde, when he seeth that he is to encouuter against a left-handed man, he will frame himselfe presently to the best guard of defence for that purpose which is the Back-sword, for that is the chiefe weapon to be grounded in, not onely a left-hand, but many other weapons haue the
true

true stroke of that weapon, and are guided onely by the rules of the Back-sword, even as the helme guides the ship, now if thou offer play, first to the left-handed man, thou must be carefull and heedy to recover vp thy Back sword againe, presently into his place so quicke as thou canst, or else turne over your Dagger to the right-eare, these very rules likewise must a left-handed man obserue to encounter against a right-handed man, yet furthermore I haue knowne some right-handed men, that were very skilfull, and verie ready if it had beene to encounter against a right-handed man, but by no meanes would nor deale with a left-handed man, and this was for want of a good teacher: for the teacher should instruct euery one which they doe teach by playing with his left-hand with them, for it is an easie matter to haue the oddes of both the hands a like with little practise, and then a man may vse which he will, as if a right-handed man were to encounter against a left, and can vse both hands alike, then if he play with his left-hand against one that is left-handed by nature, it will seeme more crosse, and more dangerous vnto him then a left-handed man vnto a right, the reason is that two left-handed men seldome meete together, now to end with this one speeche according to the vulgar sort, that is an ignorant and a simple man of skill by great and often toyling and moyling of his body, in practising naturall play, I meane onely that which commeth into his head, and being right-handed meeteth with another right-handed man that is very skilfull, and hath very artificiall play, and yet the vn-skilfull hath plied so fast and let his blowes fall so thicke, that the skilfull man had enough a doe to defend

fend himselfe, so that the vnskilfull hath made such good shift, and defended himselfe contrary vnto any mans expectation, that was so experience and saw it, but there is not one of the common streete plaiers in a hundred that can doe the like as I haue said before, but not one in five hundred of them, that can vpon the point of a weapon hurt or wrong one that is skilfull or cunning, for many of these streete players are so vsed to bangs, that they care not for a blow with a blunt cudgell, but most of them are fearefull to deale against a sharp weapon, but now to conclude this, with that which toucheth this Chapter, concerning these streete players, which haue so well shifted with a cunning player right-handed, the same I say meeting with a left-handed man was not able to defend in a manner one blow in twenty, except it were in falling backe from him, and the cunningest man that is, cannot hit the vnskilfullest man that is, if the vnskilfull man do continually keepe him out of his reach or distance, for he which hath courage without skill, although well prepared, yet wants his armes to fight, but of this it is sufficiently spoken of in the Treatise, in the former part of the Booke.

*A brieife of my principall points which I would
have thee keepe in continuall re-
membrance.*

NOW to summe vp all the chiefeſt leſſons into one ſumme, and for order ſake wee will make foure deuifions of them.

The firſt is to remember to frame thy ſelfe into thy guard, before thou come within thy enemies
distance

distance, and so to approach in guarded.

Secondly, remember if thy enemy charge thee with a blow, at what weapon soeuer, yet answere him with a thrust presently, after you haue borne the blow double, according to my direction, following the first picture, but if thy enemy charge thee with a thrust, then answere him with a thrust at the nearest place, which lieth most vnguarded, whether it be his knee or in his making play, your answere may be to his right arme, shoulder or face, all which you shall finde vnguarded in time of his profer, now if he haue a close hilted dagger, yet with a false thrust thou maist hit him in the Dagger-arme if he fight not very warily, or else in the Dagger-hand if hee haue not a close hilted dagger.

Be constant
and steady in
a good guard
bee slow to
make play ex-
cept thy ene-
my doe en-
crease vpon
thee.

Thirdly, let not fury ouer-come thy wits, for in a made fury skill is forgotten, for he which is in drinke or ouerhasty, such a one in his anger doth neither thinke vpon the end of killing, nor feare to bee killed.

Now the fourth and last which should haue beene the first, is to remember to keepe a true distance, and if thy enemy doe gather and incroach in vpon thee, charge him with a thrust, although thou put it not home, for a thrust will feare him, and he which is in his right wits will be leath to come within the reach, or danger, of thy weapon, but if thou suffer thy enemy to come within thy distance, then if thou haddest all the guards in the world, and yet stand still without making play, hee will hit thee in spight of thy teeth, wherefore be doing with him betimes; and he will retreate and fall away from thee for his owne ease, Loe, this I wrote, because I would not haue thee in

an error when thou shouldest haue occasion to vse thy weapon, as the best defence, for a shot is to stand out of the reach of him, euen so the best defence of thy bodie from hurts and skars is to be proceeded before hand with skill and cunning, and to remember it when thou hast occasion to vse it, but if thou want skill, then keepe out of thy enemies reach; now if thou canst not remember these foure chiefe points before said, yet beare in minde these two, the first is to defend the blow double, keeping both the points vpward, and secondly, remember that if thy enemy doe gather in vpon thee, thrust to his knee, or whether hee doe gather in or no, yet thrust to his knee or thigh, but at any hand steps not so farre forth with your thrust whereby to endanger your face, but if you doe steppe so farre forth as you can, alwaies haue a care to defend with your dagger, but if your enemy do set foorth one foote aboue halfe a foote distance from the other, then may you hit him in the thigh or knee, and hee cannot reach you so that you doe not aduenture further with your thrust, then where his knee did stand when you doe offer, for it may be hee will plucke him away, thereby to saue him, but that is no defence for a thrust if it be put in quicke: a man may defend the legge from a blow, by drawing him back, but not from a thrust, but to keepe thy feete in the right place according to my direction following the first picture, and then you are defended, and ready to offend also.

*The Authors opinion concerning the Short
Sword and Dagger.*

IN describing of this weapon I shall account the time ill spent, yet because Short swords are in vse and worne of many that would leaue them off if that they knew what an idle weapon it were, I meane to encounter against a long Sword and Dagger, or a long Rapier and Dagger, so small is their Iudgement, but onely this, many of them will say it is a better weapon then any of the two foresaid weapons are, but in my minde they may aswell say that chalke is cheese because they are both white, for I haue had much triall and great practise with the short sword, yet could I neuer find, nor neuer wilbe perswaded but that a Rapier foure foote long or longer, hath such great oddes, that I neuer meane to arme my selfe with a short against it; for in my minde and by experience I speake it, there is small skill to be learned with the short sword to encounter as aforesaid, but onely resolution and courage.

He that is valiant and venturous, runneth in, breaking distance, if hee escape both in his going in, and in his coming out vnhurt; from a man skilful, in my minde it is as a man would say chance-medly, for if I haue the Rapier and Dagger, I will hazard both games, and set against any man that holdeth the short sword to be a better weapon, although that *George Giller* hath most highly comended the short sword & dagger, yet one Swallow maketh not a Summer, nor two Woodcocks a Winter, if a thousand more were of his opinion, yet without all doubt there is a great

deale more danger then at Rapier and Dagger, for he that fighteth with a short sword must adventure in pell mell without feare or wit, but I haue seldome heard or seene any fight with short sword and dagger, although they be each weaponed alike, but one or both commeth home most grieuous wounded: my reason is the distance is so narrow that a man can hardly obserue it, except they haue beene both practitioners a long time before hand, for if a man practise continually long sword or long Rapier, yet vpon such a Challenge goeth into the field with a short sword, then the danger is greatest of all: aske *Augustin Badger*, who speaketh highly in praise and commendation of the short sword, for hee hath tried that weapon in the field so often, and made as many tall fraies as any man that euer I heard of or knew since my time, yet hee will say that he neuer fought in all his life: but was sore and dangerously hurt.

I haue knowen some besides my selfe, that haue fought with Rapier and Dagger twenty times, and haue neuer had one droppe of bloud drawne, and yet were accounted men of sufficient vallour and resolution, those which weare short swords depend onely vpon the taking of their enemies point, which is not to bee done if they meete with one that is skilfull: I haue heard many say in talking familiarly concerning this weapon, if I take the point of your long Rapier, then you are gone, but that is not to be done if thou meete with one that is skilfull except thou canst take thy enemies point in thy teeth, otherwise thou canst neuer make seasure vpon his point, if hee bee skilfull as afore said, but
in-

indeed it is an easie matter for a man skilfull to take the point of one that is altogether vnskilfull; but rather not answer thy enemy vntill thou be better weaponed, there are all these excuses to bee framed as in the tenth Chapter of the treatise, there you may find excuses fit for such as weare short Swords, if thou like them not I refer to thy owne wit to frame an excuse; for some shift he must haue that weareth such an idle weapon, for in a word a short sword and dagger to encounter against a skilfull man with rapier and dagger, I hold it a little better then a tobacco-pipe, or a foxe taylor, but yet a short sword is good to encounter against a short sword.

Also a short sword is good to encounter against a naked man, I mean a man vnweaponed, and it is good to serue in the wars on horse-backe or on foote, yet a Rapier will doe as good seruice in the wars as a short sword, if a skilfull man haue him in hand: we haue diuers examples of those which come out of the field fore wounded, and they will say it was because their enemy had a handfull or a foot ods in length of weapon vpon them; wherefore I say one inch is great ods and enough to kill a man, if they both haue skill alike, and doe obserue a true distance: yet now you that are as it were married vnto short swords, because some will not giue their bable for the Tower of *London*, although another doe not esteeme it worth two-pence, yet a man shall as well driue a dog from a peece of bread, as wrest many from that foolish kind of weapon; againe a sword whether he be long or short, is more wearisome and more troublesome then a rapier, for a sword will weare out your hose and three paire of hangers, before a Rapier doe weare out one paire;

but some doe weare their short swords about their neckes in a string, so that if they should haue occasion to vse him, he cannot so ready draw out his sword vpon a suddaine, as he which weareth him vpon his thigh, but of this fashion of wearing their swords, I will not speake much, because I see it is almost left off, for a man may buy a girdle and hangers for ten groats, which will serue for thy Rapier two or three yeere, and a scarfe will cost ten shillings, and yet be worne out in a fortnight; but I will say no more because many giue it ouer for their owne ease, I holde a short sword for to encounter against a rapier very little better then a tobacco pipe as aforesaid, and so as I began I conelude, yet behold a little helpe for him that weareth it.

A guard for the short sword and dagger to encounter against the long Rapier and Dagger, or else the long sword and Dagger.



Keep

Keepe your sword hilt so high as your head or higher at the point, hanging flope-ways downwards a little wide of your left side, looking vnder your sword arme with both your eyes, and withall put out your sword hand as far from your body as you can, I meane towards your enemy, and your dagger downe by your side, as if you meant not to vse him at all, according to this picture. Lying in this guard your body will seeme to your enemy to be very open, inso-much that he will make no reckoning but to hit you sure with a thrust; the which you must defend by breaking it towards your right side, and with the same motion step in with your left leg, which I will call your hinmost leg, for so he should be vntill you haue made seisure of your enemies weapon: but so soone as seisure is made consume no time in giuing of him leisure to fall backe againe, whereby to recouer his point againe, but forthwith answer him as aforesaid, for ha-uing brought his long Rapier or sword point to passe cleere on the right side of your body, I meane vnder your right arme, then step in close with your left foot as aforesaid, and make a crosse with your dagger vpon his weapon by clapping in with your dagger vpon the middest of thy enemies long rapier or Sword, keepe your Dagger point vpright when you goe in, and so soone as you haue discharged the assize of your sword, you may presently turne vp the point of your short sword and thrust, or else you may giue a stroke with him whether you will, and to what part of his body you list, and then fall away hastily againe into your guard and distance; know this, that by stepping in with your hindmost foote, doth gaine more aduan-
rage

rage in ground then you want in length of weapon.

But at any hand suffer your enemy to make the first assault, because hee hath the aduantage in length of weapon, and if thy enemy do charge thee with a blow you may defend it vpon this hanging guard, but to turne vp the point of your sword according to backe-sword rule, & if your enemy charge you with a thrust, you may after seisure made vpon his weapon with your sword as before directed; you may presently so soone as you are in with the hindmost foot turne vp your sword point and thrust, this offence you may performe without the helpe of your dagger, but yet haue a care to prepare your dagger in a readinesse, lest in your going in, your enemy doe also come in with you, and although you haue his long weapon at your command without any danger, yet may he stab you with his dagger, except your dagger be in a readinesse to defend; for a thrust of a dagger is as easie to be defended with a dagger, as any thrust is of any other weapon, but if the defender bee ouercome with fury, and so thrust both together, then they both are endangered, but to descend is better then to offend, and to be offended againe vpright according to the rule of the backe-sword, if your defence be vpon the hanging guard, then clapping vp your dagger and ioyned with him as it were in commission with your sword, and so defend the blow vpon both together, now if your enemy will not charge nor make any assault vpon you, then I aduise you not to gather nor encroach vpon him, except you were equally matched in weapon, for you must obserue the distance which belongeth to your enemies long weapon for this guard or any other. For this guard is but for a suddaine

suddaine shift for those that weare short swords, for keeping a large distance a man with small skill may defend himselfe from a longer weapon, so he seek not hastily by gathering in to offend the other; for the best defence of a shot is to stand out of his watch; so the best defence for a short sword man is to obserue distance as before said, for he shall find himselfe work enough to defend himselfe, for not one in twenty which fighteth with the short sword once will desire to go into the field with such a weapon againe.

Now those that do encounter together with short sword, to short sword, I wish them to frame their guard according to my former direction at the long sword and dagger.

If thou frame thy guard according to my former direction as it is here pictured, then if your enemy doth falsifie a thrust, and you making account to defend it with your Sword, as before, and in turning in your left side hee double a thrust, he may endanger you greatly; wherefore it behooueth thee not to ouercarrie thy Sword vpon the first offer, but that you may recouer him backe into the place againe, so that if you haue a care if you misse the striking by of his Sword on the one side because of his falsifie, you shal meete with him on the other, and so defend your self although you cannot answer whereby to offend him by reason of his falsifie, for vpon a false if you make answer, it will be very dangerous to both.

Master. Now my louing scholler I haue alreadie described the rules of fixe weapons, which I promise to instruct thee in, but yet I haue stumbled by chance vpon another weapon, which is as necessarie as anie of the rest; nay more, for without thou be perfect in

the skill of this weapon, all the rest will rather bee hurtfull vnto thee then doe thee good.

Scholler. I praie you, what weapon is that?

Master. Marrie it is a faire tongue.

Scholler. Why doe you call the tongue a weapon?

Master. Because at manie times, and for manie purposes, it is the fittest weapon, and the most surest for a mans owne defence, for the tongue at sometimes runneth so at randome, that for want of a bridle like a yong colt ouerthroweth the rider, although it be but a little thing and seldome seene, yet it is often heard to the viter confusion of manie a man, for the tongue is such a weapon without it bee gouerned, it will cut worse then anie sword; a nettle is a bad weed in a garden, but the tongue will sting worse then a nettle, and pricke deeper then a thorne, likewise manie men are taken by the tongues as birds are taken by the feete, therefore a faire tongue or a tongue gouerned well, will better keep and defend thy bodie from prison, if thou at anie time be committed by the Magistrates when thy Sword will hinder thee if thou trust vnto thy manhood.

Scholler. If I fight with no other weapon, but with a faire tongue, the world will condemne mee, and terme me for a coward.

Maister. A faire tongue is more necessarie for a valorous man, then a good weapon is for a coward, as thou shalt heare: for with a faire tongue thou maiest passe through watch and ward, if thou do chance to trauell in the night by occasion, and thou bee late from thy lodging, at such a time this is a principall weapon, and shall more preuaile then thy Sword, or any other weapon whatsoeuer.

Againe,

Againe, a faire tongue is an excellent weapon, if thou hap in a drunken company, and there fall to quarrelling; in such a case, if thou draw thy weapon, it were as if a man should quench a great fire with a bundle of flaxe, for at such a time, and in such a company, if a man draw his weapon, he may as soone be killed as kill, for drunkards and madde men are all alike during time of the drinke.

Also a faire tongue is a principall weapon to carry with thee, if thou chance to trauell into anie strange countrey: for if an iniurie be offered in a place where thou art not acquainted or vnknowne, thou maiest be oppressed with more then one, for birds of a feather will holde together; and many will hold on the bigger side, for where the hedge is lowest, the beasts will soonest get ouer, but in such a case be well armed with patience for thy Buckler, and a faire tongue for thy Sword, and thy hand readie on thy batte to doe reuerence to euerie vassall, although thou be a Gentleman, for the richest man that is, and the strongest man that euer was, did, and must pocket vp an iniurie in his owne Countrey, much more it is lesse disgrace to thee to put vp an iniurie in a strange place, if an occasion be offered, then rather bestirre thy selfe with a faire tongue, then with thy sword; for in such a case thy sword will auaille thee nothing at all.

Scholer. All this while with this weapon you haue not taught me how I should defend my point.

Maister. Now I will tell thee, with a faire tongue, thou mayest saue thy money many times, by promising much, and performing little, especially where little is deserued, for those which deserue little, a faire promise will passe, in a manner, as currant as thy money:

ney: I haue knowne many Musitions many times paid with faire words: and now that it commeth into my minde I will tell thee a tale (as I haue heard it reported:) How King *Dyonisius* rewarded a crew of Musitions which came to him with excellent Musicke, and after the Musicke was ended, come againe to me to morrow said the King, and I will giue you a thousand talents; the which promise founded to a sweete and pleasant tune in the Musitions eares: But in the morning they came, expecting the Kings reward, according to his promise: But the King looked strangely vpon them, and asked them what they would haue, And it like your Highnesse, said one of the chiefeft of them, we are come for your gracious reward which you promised vs. What was that, said the King? A thousand talents said the Fidler. Why said the King, Is not that out of thy head yet? thy Musicke is quite out of mine, thou pleasedst my eares with thy musick for the present, & I likewise filled thy eares with a pleasant sound of so much mony: to our matter againe.

A faire tongue, and kinde behavior winneth fauor, both with God and men, whereas those which cannot gouerne their tongues are seldome at quiet: but always punished or vexed with the Law, and troubles in the Lawe consume much money, which with discretion might be kept by gouernement of the tongue.

Now by the hieway, if a carelesse roister in his own name require thee to stand, and by vertue of his owne warrant doth require thy purse; in such a danger, and in such a case betake thy selfe to thy weapon, rather then trust to thy tong: for to speake faire vnto some in such a case will auail thee nothing at all, but yet for all that, a faire tongue is as a precious balme to beare
about

about thee although it bee not sufficient to heale wounds, yet it may be a preservative to keepe thee without hurts: all the comfort thou canst haue of thy dearest friends is but little else the bodily sustenance, nay if thy kind and louing wife which is or should be thy greatest comfort in this life vnder God, if she I say do all that euer shee can to pleasure thee, yet thou maist hap to find in this booke, if thou reade it ouer, one lesson or other which may stead thee, or do thee more pleasure then all thy other friends: for here are many things written by me, that peradventure thou maist seeke after a great while, and yet not finde them else-where, and so farewell.

Scholler. Yet stay I pray you, resolue me in two questions more afore you goe.

Master. What are they?

Scholler. First I would know what oddes a tall man of stature hath against a little mans stature, and the oddes that a strong man hath against a weake man.

Master. Indeed these are questions which I did meane to write of in my next booke, and therefore will but a little touch them at this time, but for my beginning or prooffe of this matter the better to encourage little men to take heart of grace, and not to dismaied by the high lookes of a tall man, nor feared by their great bragges, there is an old saying, *goeth I neuer saw*, saith the prouerb, *a little man borrow a stoole to breake a tall mans head*, and this prouerb runneth throughout the world, as the corrant through the Gulfe which our Marriners doe speake of in the way to wards the Indies.

Againe, it is not common to see a tall man valo-

rous and skilfull withall, but generally, little men are valorous although not skilfull, now if the tall man be skilfull, the little man must for his aduantage, suffer the tall man to proffer him play first, but then vpon the little mans defence presently, with the same motion steppe forth with foote and hand, and so by a quicke answere endanger the tall man: now if the tall man be not skilfull, whereby to steppe forth with his hand and foote together, when hee maketh play to the little man, then the little man skilfull herein, getteth three foote at the least by answering euery assault that the tall man maketh by stepping forth with the foote and hand as before said: but this must be thy helpe and this must be thy care, though a little man alwaies suffer the tall man to make play first, especially if he be skilfull, and then be nimble with the answere, stepping it home with thy foote and hand together, according to my directions, following the first picture, for what thou wantest in reach, is gotten by thy comming.

There is another old saying going thus, a tall man is so faire a marke, that a little man skilfull cannot misse him, and a short man is so little and so nimble, that if he haue but a little skill, a tall man cannot hit him for with his weapons, and a good guard in a manner hee will couer all his whole body with his weapons. Lo this is my opinion, I doe not say all other are of my minde, for there is an old saying goeth thus, so many men, so many mindes, what other mens opinions is, I haue not to doe withall, but this I can say of my owne knowledge, that I haue not knowen one tall man amongst twenty, that hath good skill, nor sufficient valour answerable vnto
their

their statures, for tall men are more fearefull then men of a meane stature, for I haue seene the triall both in the warres and in single combat; yet take me not vp before I bee downe, for I doe not here condemne all tall men of personage, for so I should greatly ouer-shoote my selfe, and greatly wrong many tall men of stature and vallour, and also of good resolution, but yet ali of them are not so, wherefore what I haue said, it is to encourage little men of meane stature, hauing skill not to feare any man vpon good occasion, those that spend their daies without practising skil in weapons, so that when they are wronged they fall to wishing: oh I would to God I had skill in my weapon, for then would I answere the wrong that such a man, and such a man hath done mee, but I could wish such vnskilfull to liue quiet, and not to maintaine any quarrell, lest they loose their liues for want of experience, as many of them haue done.

Scholler. Now 'as you haue promised me, I pray you let me heare your opinion concerning the oddes betweene a strong man of strength, and a little or a weake man of stature and strength.

Master. Then this briefly is my opinion, a strong man hath great oddes at the gripe; or in a close at any blunt weapon, but vpon the point of a sharpe weapon, in fight a strong man hath small or no oddes at all of the little or weake man, wherefore I would not haue a little man bee afraide of a tall or ouer-growne man, no although he were farre bigger then a man, for in performance of any things to be done with weapons, there is no more to bee found in the best of them of great stature vpon triall, then is in
the

the ordinary men, or then is in a little or weake man, may many times the little or weake man doth as good or better seruice in the face of the enemy vpon the point of the weapon then the taller man doth, for although his stature be small, yet commonly a little mans heart is bigge.

Observations for a Scholler or any other.

What length thy weapons should be.

How you should button your foiles for your practise.

An easie way to weapon thy selfe at time of need.

Let thy Rapier or Sword be foure foote at the least, and thy Dagger two foote, for it is better haue the Dagger too long then too short, and rather hard then soft, for a short dagger may deceiue a skilfull man his defence, either of blow or thrust: I haue often knowen a soft dagger cut in twaine with a Rapier.

Let thy Staffe of practise be seauen or eight foote, and better, button both thy foiles and thy stauces before the practise with them, for otherwise the vn-skilfull may thrust out one anothers eyes, yea although there was no harme meant, yet an eye may be lost except the occasion be preuented.

To make your buttons take wooll or flocks, and wrappe it round in leather so bigge as a Tennis-ball, then make a notch within halfe an inch of your wooden foile or staffe, but if it be an Iron foile, then let there be an Iron button riuetted on the point, so broad as two pence, and then take your button being made as before said, and set it on the end of
your

your Staffe or Foile likewise, and then take leather and draw hard vpon it, and binde it with Shooma-kers-ends or parck-thread in the notch, and another leather vpon that againe, for one leather may bee worne out with a little practise.

Now if thou haue a quarrell and willing to answer, and being not furnished with a Rapier, then take a cudgell of what length thou wilt thy selfe, and make a shoulder within a handfull of the ende of it, by cutting him halfe way through, and there binde the haft of thy knife, and so the shoulder will keepe him from slipping backe, and this is as sure and as fearefull, and as good as a Rapier to encounter against a Rapier and Dagger, or a Sword and Dagger, so that you haue a close hilted Dagger: likewise you may tie a point at the But-end of the Cudgell, to put in thy finger that thy Cudgell slippe not out of thy hand: this weapon I haue made good prooffe of, but it was in another Country, where I could get no other weapon to my minde.

CHAP. XII.

*This Chapter sheweth the seuerall kinde
of weapons which are to be
plaied at.*

NOW one thing more vnto the vulgar sort concerning the seuerall sorts of weapons, because vnto many it seemeth so strange, that if a Master of Defence should tell them that he can teach thee skill at Fence at twelue seuerall sorts of weapons, they will straight-way say, that there are not so many: now for their further satisfaction, they shall heare the diuision of more then twenty sorts of weapons, which Masters of this Noble art of Defence, are, or, else ought to be expert therein, like vnto a skilfull Cooke which can of one sort of meate make diuerse dishes, or like the cunning Physition, who can with a hearbe being diuersely compounded, make it serue to diuers purposes and vses: to which effect my meaning is, that an expert Master of Defence can of one kinde of weapon make many, as by this sequell following shall appeare, and all these weapons haue beene plaied at in Challenges, here in *England* at seuerall times.

of

*Of the Sword are derined these
seauen.*

The two hand Sword.	The Bastard Sword, the
The Back-sword.	which Sword is some-
Sword and Dagger.	thing shorter then a
Sword and Buckler.	long Sword, and yet
Short Sword and Dagger.	longer then a Short-
The short Sword and	sword.
Gantlet.	

*Now with the Rapier seauen
more.*

The first Rapier and	The Halfe-pike.
Dagger.	The Long-pike.
The single Rapier.	The Long-staffe.
The case of Rapiers.	The Quarter-staffe.
The Rapier and Cloake.	The Welch-hooke or
The Rapier and Target.	Bill.
The Rapier and Gantlet.	The Haulbert.
The Rapier and Pike.	The Rapier and Dagger
	against Short-sword
	and Dagger.
The Dutch Fauchin.	Likewise Rapier and
The Poll-axe.	Dagger, or Sword
The Battel-axe.	and Dagger against
The two Daggers.	a Staffe or Haul-
	bert.
	Also the Staffe against a
The single Dagger.	Flaile.

Back-sword against sword Single Rapier against
and dagger. Rapier and Dagger.

Now my second booke which is already in hand shall shew my iudgement, and the chiefest rules according vnto my practise at all these seuerall weapons, if death doe not preuent me before I haue accomplished my pretence, yet for doubt thereof, the defence of the Staffe with a Rapier and Dagger, or with Sword and Dagger I will giue thee a little direction, which being practised it may stead thee as much as thy life is worth. I doe this the rather, and for because that the Staffe is a weapon which many men doe carry, and with skill it hath great oddes against either of the two aforesaid weapons, but yet because euerie man which carrieth a weapon, hath the perfect skill in that weapon which hee carrieth, but admit that he hath good skill, yet in knowing the best Defence, it may preuent thee from a danger.

Now thou must remember if thou bee charged vpon with a Staffe, suddenly summon vp thy wits in that which before hand thou hast learned for thy Defence, and thinke this with thy selfe; I am now to encounter against a Staffe: why then thus frame thy garde, put thy Dagger acrosse on the in-side of thy Rapier or Sword, and let the crosse bee made within halfe a foote of thy Rapier or Sword-hilt, bearing vp both thy hilts euen so high as thy cheeke, looking with both thy eyes betwixt both thy weapons.

Thus

Thus being guarded, it may bee, that thine enemy will charge thee with a thrust, for because thy breast will seeme most open to him, the which and if hee doe, then turne downe the point of thy Rapier and Sword, and with thy Dagger force him downe which will bee a stronger Defence then with one alone: and thus by turning downe both thy points together, strike thine enemies thrust of the Staffe towards thy right side: Loe, thus doe me with both thy weapons; then will thine enemies thrust passe cleare vnder thy right arme, but neyther with the Sword nor yet with the Dagger alone; the thrust of a staffe is not to be defended without greater danger then with both of them, as before hath bene rehearsed.

Now and if thine enemy doe chaunce to charge thee with a blow, thereby thinking to driue both thy Rapier and Dagger, or Sword and Dagger vnto thy head: For I haue knowne many to be of that opinion with me. But the blowe of a Staffe, stricke at the head, may be defended with the single Sword or Rapier according vnto the Backe-sword rule: but to beare thy Dagger with thy Rapier or Sword, that is the most sure way, keeping both thy points vpright, and so to beare them towards the right side, or to thy left side, according as thou shalt perceiue thine enemy charge thee.

Thus will I heere conclude and make an end with this short direction concerning this one weapon, because I haue spoken something already touching and concerning this purpose, although it be not so ample as now it is, and yet heereafter (by Almighty Gods good helpe) I will speake more at large here-

of, this onely serueth but to rowze vp your spirites,
that you may the better prepare your selfe for the
next. The horse starteth at the Spurre, so (in loue)
I pricke you forward in this commendable Art: and
so, I hope, that this Whetstone will make your blunt
Wittes somewhat sharper: Golde is not put in the
fire to be consumed, but to bee purified; euen so I
hope, the trauell which I haue taken heerein
will not make you to proue worse, but
rather somewhat the better
in all goodnes.

[* * *]

F I N I S.



My farewell to Plimouth.

MOST noble *Plimouth*, the great loue which I found in thee amongst both rich and poore, now drawes me backe againe to giue thee a kind and heartie farewell, and yet at this time I yeeld but onlie thanks as my pay- Mistresse, but yet I desire not to die indebted, without making some better recompence to some of my chiefeest well-willers and friends, if my abilitie prooue answerable to my mind: for a Christmasse banquet may be requited at Easter, and so when I am better able I will make amends; but yet me thinks I should not leaue so famous a towne with such a threed-bare fare-well, but here may a question arise of those which know it not, why it should be more famous then any other towne? which I will tell thee, set her wealth and riches aside, yet for that onlie not the like towne in this land of her bignesse, I meane so long as the wars continued, she is also famous for her strong fortification, but more famous for her entertainment; for twentie thousand strangers haue had vpon a suddaine good and sufficient lodging, and other necessaries; yea, whether they haue had mony, or not, but most famous of all for her gallant harbours, for a thousand shippes may safely ride, and all within halfe a league of the Towne; it is the chiefe arriuing place for all the South and Weast Countries: and in a word, the onely Key of *England*. In the time of warres *Plimmouth* flowed, as it were, with milke and hony, and then it flourished with
Gallants

Gallants great store, tracing the streetes so thicke in swarmes like as at *westminster* in a Terme time, and although many of them went away without bidding thee farewell; yet I will, as it were, bite thee by the finger, because thou shalt remember me, for if it bee not possible for the mother to forget her childe, then (without all peraduenture) I shall neuer forget thee: Once thou wert a golden place, but now an yron or a leaden towne, I meane, in a manner turned vpside downe, which makes me sory, and many more; but yet be of good cheare, for after a storme cometh a calme: plucke vp thy heart, and let it not grieue thee to see a King content with his kingdome; for if it were not so, it should be so.

Although of late thy purse hath had a strong purgation, which maketh some of you to shrink vp the shoulders like a Spaniard, and hang downe the head like a bull-rush, and repenting your selues, that you had not kept the goods better which you got in time of warres; and this mee thinketh I heare some of you say your selues: Oh what a foole was I that tooke not Time by the fore-locke before he did passe away, but must now catch at her balde pate, where is nothing to holde by: let it not grieue thee, for if thou hadst those goods againe, they would consume like butter against the Sunne: for as it is not possible to keepe the Indian beefe sweete two dayes, with all the salt in the world, no more is the goods got by the warres to be of any continuance, no although a man had them that were as wise as wit could make them, but it sel-dome cometh into such mens hands, but rather vn-to such as resemble *Rusus* the Ruffian which had God pictured on the inside of his Target, and the diuel on
the

the out-side, with this poesie on the in-side, *If thou wilt not haue mee, the other shall*: as not caring whether he went to God or the diuell: many such fellows attend vpon the fortune of the wars, making hauocke and spoile, and many times murthuring those that neuer meant hurt vnto them nor their king for whom they fight: for yet such, as I say, make no conscience, but as the Prouerb goeth, Robbe *Peter* and pay *Paul*, accounting all fish which commeth to the net, getting it by hooke or by crooke, some out of *Iudas* bag, and some out of the diuels budget: for I haue seene a man of warre, as hungry vpon a poore Fisherman, as they would be on a *Carioke*, as those that haue seene men of warre, haue seene how vnconscionably *Rufus* the ruffian and his fellows haue dealt with those poor Fishermen whose whole estate, for maintenance both for their wives, and children, did relie vpon the gains, which the poore men by great paines did get with their bore, yet so hard-hearted haue these men of war beene vnto those poore Fishers, that neither for the teares of the olde men, which for griefe would beate their heads against the shippe side, yet neither this nor the pittifull complaint of the yong men, for all their yeelding and kneeling, yet would they take away their fish, their meat and drinke, and their cloths from their backes, their sailes from their yards, yet not so contented, but in the end set them ashore, and either sinke their boate or burne him aboard the man of warre, to the vtter vndoing of many a poore man; now iudge whether it be possible, that these goods so gotten can prosper, for they are gotten with no better a conscience then a strumpet getteth her money; and therefore it will prosper no better: for looke

what a strumpet getteth of twenty, shee spendeth it vpon one which shee doth loue and affect aboue all the rest: euen so, many souldiers and men of warre, what spoyles they get, they are not long in spending of it: but as the Prouerbe goeth, Light come, and light goe: ill got, and wickedly spent: for they put it into a bottomlesse bagge, which neuer holdes thrift long.

Loe, thus my opinion you haue heard, and I yeeld vp my verdict thus, That the goods which is gotten by the warres, is ill gotten: and hee which hath but one peny worth of ill gotten goods in his house, God will send a curse vpon all the rest: then let vs pray for peace, rather then warres, and euery man learue to labor with his hands, to maintaine spending: wherefore, set thy wittes and thy hands to labour, and turne ouer the leafe; I meane, learne a new lesson, for looke what is gotten with labour, will bee spent with discretion, or else kept with warinesse; and so I greete not onely *Plimmouth* alone, but all *Denonshire* and *Cornewall*, with as many kinde commendations, as it is possible for my Penne to expresse, and all

I protest with true loue from my heart,
and so I leaue you, with a thousand Farewells to
you all.

Your euer-louing friend,

JOSEPH SVVETNAM.

*The Authors Conclusion.*

NOW (gentle Reader) I doe intreate thee to beare with my rudenesse, I am no Scholler, for I do protest I neuer went to Schoole six moneths in all my life, nor I neuer did write one line of this Booke by the direction of any other teacher; nor did I euer aske the opinion of any other Professor, since the time that I was first taught, and that was when I was yong; and then I had some of my skil in *London*, and some in other places, where it was my chance to trauell. Againe, I did write this Booke by peece-meale; for after I first beganne, I left off writing a weeke, and sometimes a moneth together, before I writ againe; and so forgetting oftentimes what I had written before. Againe, some chiefe notes I haue left out, which I thought I had written of before: wherefore they shall follow in my second Booke. Now (Gentle Reader) for thy benefit I haue begunne, if there be any other that find fault, and cannot amend it, let them iudge of their wit that heare them talke: but if I shall heare those my selfe speake against this Booke which doe not goe about to amend it, then if they were as good as *George a Greene*, yet would I not be feared with deedes, much lesse with words, but will answer them, not onely with words, but with weapons, for this Booke was printed in haste, at the earnest request of some friends of mine. Also I wrote it to profite those that can not come where Teachers are: and againe, there are few which teach this Arte

that doe trauell, the reason is, as I thinke, they are little set by when they come into the country amongst you: Now it is not enough to haue this booke in thy pocket, but to exercise thy body with all, that thereby thou maist haue the perfect skill thereof in thy head, and so praying thee to excuse me in the grosse penning of it, and beare with me a little the rather in that I was neuer Scholler, as I said before, and as it plainly appeareth by the grosse penning of it, but my folly herein shalbe vpon my head, yet I pray thee let it passe a little the rather, and giue it your good word, for because I haue taken paines in hope to doe thee good, but not for any gaine (I protest before God) but onely because I know it so laudable an exercise, and more commendable then any other, wee see daily these bookes scoffed at, which were made by learned and good Schollers, for if there were one which excell' ten thousand', yet euery one will not speake well of him, but he shall haue in spight of his teeth back-biters and fault-finders, much more my selfe being the left of ten thousand must not stabbe euery one which will speake in discommendations, both of me and my Booke, but if I may escape handsomely from scoffes and mockes of such Idiates which are vsually contemnors of such laudable exercises: then I accompt that I haue made a good hand.

For herein I haue shoven but my owne opinion and iudgement in ferring out this booke, now I doe not say it is other mens opinions: for none but my selfe was counsell, nor had any hand in this matter; therefore I make no question that other men are of other mindes, yet obseruing these rules, and bearing these

these lessons in memory, they may serue thy turne aswell as they haue serued mine all the daies of my life hetherto: but yet beleue whayou list of it, and leaue what you like not, now if in my good intencion and true meaning I bee vnderferuedly wronged, I thinke it wilbe by none but such pot-companions which cudgell there wits and beate their braines to shift for mony to that vse which often-times makes the sonne so hardy as to call his father knaue, or worse.

Now if my booke doe come vnto the view of any such, I will impute it vnto the Idlenesse of their braine, or vnto the spitefulnesse of an enuious minde, which will neuer commend nor allow any other mans man-hood, opinion or iudgement to bee so good as their owne, not much like vnto the proude Pharizee, who said that his life in all respect was better then any other, now mistake mee not, for I doe not say so, because you should thinke that this worke cannot bee mended, for it is farre from my thought to thinke that this booke is so wel penned as to be without fault, or to please all, neither is it so wel as it might haue beene, if my leisure would haue serued me to amend some faults which I know in it my selfe, indeed, I must confesse that there are many in this land of this noble and worthy art besides my selfe, which might haue taken this matter in hand, because many of them are more fit both for wisdom and learning, but I see they haue not gone about it, wherefore if any blame me for shewing my good will, I hope those which haue knowen mee and scene my behauiour wil answere for me with reasonable speech

against those which obieſt againſt me: no, if reaſon
 will not rule them, but like *Balaams* Aſſe, will ſtrive
 againſt weapons, then I pray you referre the quarrell
 vnto my ſelfe, and let me anſwere my owne wrong
 which I haue done them heerein, for I had rather
 looſe my life in defence of my reputation and credit,
 if there were ſuch a danger in fighting, then my friend
 ſhould looſe one drop of bloud in my quarrell: there-
 fore while I am liuing, wrong me not, for hee which
 fighteth for another, ſeeketh his owne deſtruction,
 ſo praying you if I haue offended any, let me
 anſwere it my ſelfe while I am liuing, for
 when I am dead hee deales vn-
 chriſtianlike, that will a-
 buſe me: and ſo
 I reſt,

*Thine euer to helpe thee hereafter in
 what I may,*

Thy friend,

I O S E P H S V V E T N A M.

