

this booke? whose seruauit be you? I am seruauit to one of the Councill, sayd the Secretary, and my Lord of Caunterbury is my maister. Yea mary, quoth the Beareward, I thought so much. You belike I trust, quoth the Beareward, to be both hangd for this booke. well (sayd he) it is not so euill as you take it, and I warrant you my L. will auaunch the booke to the kinges Maiesty. But I pray you let me haue my booke, and I will geue you a Crowne to drinke. If you would geue me v. L. crownes, you shall not haue it, quoth the Beareward. with that y Secretary departed from him, & vnderstanding the malicious frowardnes of the Beareward, he learned that Blage the Brooker in Shepeside might doe muche with the Beareward, to whom the Secretary brake this matter, requiring hym to send for the Beareward to supper, and he would pay for y whole charge therof, and besides that rather the he would forgo his booke after this sort, the Beareward should haue xx. shillings to drinke. The supper was prepared. The Beareward was sent for, and came. After supper the matter was entreated of and xx. shillings offered for the booke. But do what could be done, neither friendship, acquaintance, nor yet reward of mony could obtaine the booke out of his handes, but that the same should be deliuered vnto some of the Councill that would not so lightly looke on so weighty a matter, as to haue it redeemed for a supper or a piece of mony. The honest man M. Blage with many good reasons would haue perswaded him not to be stiff in his owne conceit, declaring that in the end he should nothing at all puenyale of his purpose, but be laught to scorn, getting neither pny nor payse for his trauel. He hearing that, rushed suddenly out of the doores from his friend M. Blage without any manner of thanks geuing for his supper, more like a Beareward then like an honest man. whē the Secretary saw y matter so extremely to be used against him, he then thought it expedient to fall from any farther practising of entreaty with the Beareward, as with him that seemed rather to be a Beare himself then the Hysalter of the beast, determining the next morning to make the L. Cromwell priuy of the chaunce that happened.

So on the next day, as the Lord Cromwell went to y Court, the Secretary declared the whole matter vnto him & how he had offered him xx. s. for the finding therof. wher is the felow, quoth the Lord Cromwell? I suppose, sayd the Secretary, that he is now in the Court attending to deliuer the booke vnto some of the Councill. well sayd the Lord Cromwell, it maketh no matter; go with me thereto and I shall get you your booke agayne. when the Loide Cromwell came into the hall of the Court, there stood the Beareward with the booke in his hand, waiting to haue deliuered the same vnto Syr Anthony Howne, or vnto the Bishop of Winchester, as it was reported. To whom the Lord Cromwell sayd, come hither felow. What booke hast thou there in thy hand; and with that snatched the booke out of his hand, and looking in the booke, he sayd, I knowe this hand well enough. This is your hand, sayd he to the Secretary. But where haddest thou this booke, quoth the Lord Cromwell to the Beareward? This is Gentlemans lost it two dayes agoe in the Tames sayde the Beareward. Doest thou knowe whose seruauit he is, sayd the Lord Cromwell? He sayth, quoth the Beareward, that he is my Lord of Caunterburies seruauit. why then dydest not thou deliuer to him the booke, whē he required it, sayd the L. Cromwell. who made thee so bold as to detain and withhold any booke or writing from a Councillers seruauit, specially being his Secretary? It is noxe meter for thee to medle with thy Beares the with such writing, & it were not for thy maisters sake, I would set thee fast by the feet, to teach such malapert knaues to meddle with Councillers matters. Had not mony bene well bestowed vpon such a good fellow as this is, that knoweth not a Councillers man fro a Coblers man? And with those wordes the Lord Cromwell went vp into the kinges chamber of presence and the Archbishops Secretary with him, where he found in the chamber the Lord of Caunterbury. To who he sayde, my Lord I haue founde here good stuffe for you (showing to him the paper booke that he had in his hand) ready to bring both you & this good felow your mā to the halter, namely if the knaue Beareward now in the Hall, might haue well compassed it. At these wordes the Archbishop smiled and sayd, he that lost the booke is lyke to haue the worse bargayne, for besides that he was well washed in the Tames, he must writ the booke saye agayne; & at those wordes the Lord Cromwell cast the booke vnto the Secretary saying, I pray the Maieesty go in had therewith by & by with all expedition, for it must serue a turne. Sure ly my Lord, it seemeth rather to be of your man xx. s. for the booke, and now I haue discharged the matter with ne-

ner a peny. And shaking him wel vp for his onermuch maleparities. I know the felow wel enough (quoth he) there is not a raucker Papist within this realme, the he is, moost vnrworthy to be seruauit vnto so noble a Maieesty. And so after hūile thanks geuen to the Lord Cromwell, the sayd Maieesty departed with his booke, which when he agayne had saye wyitten, was deliuered to the kinges Maieesty by the sayd Lord Cromwell, within 4. dayes after.

* The Lord Cromwell not forgetting his olde frendes and benefactors.

It is commonly sene, that men aduanced once from base degree, to ample dignities do eile also with fortune into such insolvency and exaltatio of mind, that not only they forget themselves what they were, & from whence they came but also cast out of remembrance at their olde frendes and former acquaintance, which haue bene to them before beneficiall. Fro which sort of men, how farre the curteous condition of this chybil Earle did differ, by diuers examples it may appeare. As by a certain poore woman keeping some time a baiting house about Downfloe, to whom the said Lord Cromwell remayned in debt for certayne olde reckonings, to y summe of xl. s. It happened that the L. Cromwell with Cramer Archbishop of Caunterbury, riding thorow Shepeside toward the Court, in turning his eye ouer the way, and there espying this poore woman, broughte now in need & misery, efrionses caused her to be called vnto him. who being come, after certayn questions asked of her if she were not such a womā, and dwelling in such a place. At last he demanded, if he were not behind for a certayne payment of mony betwene him and her. To who she with recent obliuiscence, confessed that he ought her mony for a certayn olde reckoning which was payd vnto her of her selfe the sūme now in great necessity, but neuer durst call vpon him nor could come at him for to require her right. The L. Cromwell sending the poore woman home to hys house, and one of his seruants withall, that the docter should let her in, after his returne from the Court, not onely discharged the debte which he ought, but also gaue her a yearely pension of foure poundes, and a lincry every yeate while she liued.

The gentle behaviour of the L. Cromwell, in remembering his olde frende,

Example of a gratefull debter.

The like curtesy the said L. Cromwell shewed also to a certayne Italian, who in the city of Florence, had shewed him much kindness in succoring and relieuing his necessity as in this story following may appeare. which storie set forth and compiled in the Italian tongue by Sandello, & impuncted at Luke by Busdrago, an. 1554. I thought here to insert, with the whole order and circumstance therof, as it is reported.

Ex historia Italica.

Not many yeares past, sayth the author, there was in Florence a merchant whose name was fraunces, descended from the noble & ancient family of the Freicobaldes: this Gentleman was naturally moued with a noble & liberal all minde, vnto whom also through prosperous success and fortunate lucke in his affayres and doings, much abouduance of riches increasd, so that he grew in great wealth, hauing his cofers replenishd to many heapes of much treasure. He according to the custome of Merchantes, vfed his trade into many countries, but chiefly into England, where long time he liued sojourning in London, keeping house to his great commendation and paynt.

A notable story of the L. Cromwell, and an Italian.

It happened, that fraunces Freicobald being in Florence, there appeared before him a poore yong man, asking his almes for Wodes sake. Freicobald as he earnestly beheld this ragged sturpling, who was not so dignified in his rattered attire, but that his countenance gaue signification of much to wardenes & vertue in him, with conformity of maners agreeing to the same, being moued with pity, demanded of what country he was, & where he was borne. I am Syr (quoth he) of England, & my name is Thomas Cromwell. My father is a poore man, & by his occupation a cloth threter. I am strated from my country, and am now come into Italy with the campe of frenchme, that were ourthrowne at Batilyon, where I was the page to a footman, carrying after him his pike and burganer. Freicobald partly considering the present state of this yong man, and partly for the loue he bare to the english nation, of whom he had receiued in times past sondry pleasures, receiued hym into his house, & with such curtesy intercreined his self, as at his departure whē he was in mind to returne to his country, he provided such necessaries as he any way needed. He gaue him both horse & new apparel, & 100. duckats of gold in his purse, to bring him into his country. Cromwell reuerbering his harty thanks, tooke leaue of his host & returned into England. This Cromwell was a man of noble courage & herocall spiritie, giuen to enterprise great matters, very liberall, a graue Counsellor, &c. But to our purpose. At

Cromwell asking wys almes of Freicobald.

Note that this cloth threter was his father in lawe.

Cromwell page to a fouldiour.

The gentleness of Freicobald therew to Cromwell.

The Beareward waiting to geue Crammers booke to the Councill. The L. Cromwell getteth the booke from the Beareward.

The wordes of the L. Cromwell to the Arch. Crammer.