

may pass away the time till I return.
I have a care in all things.
TYRANT: That may thrive best 85
which the least hope looks after; but however
force shall help nature; I 'll be too sure now,
thy willingness may be fortunate. We employ thee.
SOPHONIRUS: Then I 'll go fetch my wife, and take my journey.
TYRANT: Stay. We require no pledge; we think thee honest. 90
SOPHONIRUS: Troth the worse luck for me; we had both been made by 't.
It was the way to make my wife great too.
TYRANT: I 'll teach thee to be wide and strange to me.
[Thou 'lt feel thyself light shortly.] I 'll not leave thee
a title to put on, but the bare name 95
that men must call thee by, and know thee miserable.
HELVETIUS: 'T is miserable king to be of thy making
and leave a better workman. If thy honors
only keep life in baseness, take 'em to thee,
and give 'em to the hungry.—There 's one gapes. 100
SOPHONIRUS: One that will swallow you sir for that jest
and all your titles after.
HELVETIUS: The devil follow 'em,
there 's room enough for him too.—Leave me thou king
as poor as Truth (the gentlewoman MISTRESS I now serve) 105
and never will forsake her for her plainness,
that shall not alter me!
TYRANT: No. Our guard within there! *Enter Guard.*
GUARD: My lord.
TYRANT: Bear that old fellow to our castle prisoner. 110
Give charge he be kept close.
HELVETIUS: Close prisoner?
Why my heart thanks thee, I shall have more time
and liberty to virtue in one hour
than all those threescore years I was a courtier. 115
So by imprisonment I sustain great loss.
Heaven opens to that man, the world keeps close. *Exit.*
SOPHONIRUS: But I 'll not go to prison to try that.
Give me the open world; there 's a good air.
TYRANT: I would fain send death after him, but I dare not— 120
He knows I dare not—That would give just cause
of her unkindness everlasting to me.
His life may thank his daughter:—Sophonirus,
here take this jewel, bear it as a token

to our heart's saint; 't will do thy words no harm. 125
Speech may do much but wealth 's a greater charm,
than any made of words; and to be sure,
If one or both should fail, I provide further.
Call forth those resolute fellows who our clemency
saved from a death of shame in time of war 130
for field offences. Give 'em charge from us
they arm themselves with speed, beset the house
of Govianus round; that if thou failst,
or stayst beyond the time thou leav'st with them,
they may with violence break in themselves 135
and seize her for our use. *Exeunt, manet Sophonirus.*
SOPHONIRUS: They 're not so saucy
to seize her for their own I hope;
as there are many knaves will begin first,
and bring their lords the bottom. I have been served so 140
a hundred times myself by a scurvy page
that I kept once. But my wife loved him,
and I could not help it. *Exit. A flourish.*

ACT III.

Enter Govianus with his Lady, and a servant.

GOVIANUS: What is he?
SERVANT: An old lord come from the court.
GOVIANUS: He should be wise by 's years. He will not dare
to come about such business. 'T is not man's work. 5
Art sure he desired conference with thy lady?
SERVANT: Sure sir?
GOVIANUS: Faith thou 'rt mistook; 't is with me certain.
Let 's do the man no wrong; go know it truly sir.
SERVANT: This 's a strange humour. We must know things twice. *Exit.*
GOVIANUS: There 's no man is so dull, but he will weigh
the work he undertakes, and set about it
e'en in the best sobriety of his judgement
with all his senses watchful. Then his guilt
does equal his for whom 't is undertaken.— 15
What says he now? *Enter Servant.*
SERVANT: E'en as he said at first sir.
H' as business to my lady from the king.
GOVIANUS: Still from the king. He will not come near? Will he?
SERVANT: Yes when he knows he shall sir. 20
GOVIANUS: I cannot think it.
Let him be tried.

SERVANT: Small trial will serve him, I warrant you sir.
 GOVIANUS: Sure honesty has left man; h' as fear forsook him?
 Yes faith, there is no fear where there 's no grace. 25
 LADY: What way shall I devise to give him his answer?
 Denial is not strong enough to serve sir.
 GOVIANUS: No 't must have other helps.—I see he dares. *Enter Sophonirus.*
 O patience, I shall lose a friend of thee!
 SOPHONIRUS: I bring thee precious lady this dear stone 30
 and commendations from the king my master.
 GOVIANUS: I set before thee panderous lord this steel
 and much good do 't thy heart. Fall to and spare not. *{They fight.}*
 LADY: 'Las what have you done my lord?
 GOVIANUS: Why sent a bawd 35
 home to his lodging, nothing else sweetheart.
 SOPHONIRUS: Well you have killed me sir and there 's an end.
 But you 'll get nothing by the hand, my lord.
 When all your cards are counted there be gamesters
 not far off, will set upon the winner, 40
 and make a poor lord on you, ere they 've left you.
 I 'm fetched in like a fool to pay the reckoning,
 yet you 'll save nothing by 't.
 GOVIANUS: What riddle 's this?
 SOPHONIRUS: There she stands by thee now, who yet ere midnight 45
 must lie by the king's side.
 GOVIANUS: Who speaks that lie?
 SOPHONIRUS: One hour will make it true; she cannot 'scape,
 no more than I from death. You 've a great gain on 't
 an you look well about you; that 's my comfort. 50
 The house is round beset with armèd men
 that know their time, when to break in and seize her.
 LADY: My lord.
 GOVIANUS: 'T is boldly done to trouble me
 when I 've such business to dispatch. Within there. *Enter servant.*
 SERVANT: My lord.
 GOVIANUS: Look out, and tell me what thou seest. *{Exit servant.}*
 SOPHONIRUS: How quickly now my death will be revenged:
 Before the king's first sleep. I depart laughing
 to think upon the deed. 60
 GOVIANUS: 'T is thy banquet.
 Down villain to thy everlasting weeping,
 that canst rejoice so in the rape of virtue,
 and sing light tunes in tempests, when near shipwrecked *{Kills him.}*

and have no plank to save us.—Now sir—quickly. *Enter servant.*
 SERVANT: Which way so'er I cast my eye my lord
 out of all parts of the house, I may see fellows
 gathered in companies, and all whispering
 like men for treachery busy—
 LADY: 'T is confirmed. 70
 SERVANT: —their eyes still fixed upon the doors and windows.
 GOVIANUS: I think thou 'st never done, thou lov'st to talk on 't.
 'T is fine discourse, prithee find other business.
 SERVANT: Nay I am gone. I 'm a man quickly sneaped. *Exit.*
 GOVIANUS: Has flattered me with safety for this hour. 75
 LADY: Have you leisure to stand idle? Why my lord,
 It is for me they come.
 GOVIANUS: For thee, my glory,
 the riches of my youth; it is for thee.
 LADY: Then is your care so cold, will you be robbed 80
 and have such warning of the thieves? Come on sir,
 fall to your business, lay your hands about you;
 do not think scorn to work. A resolute captain
 will rather fling the treasure of his bark
 Into whales' throats than pirates should be gorged with 't. 85
 Be not less man than he; thou art master yet
 and all 's at thy disposing. Take thy time,
 prevent mine enemy, away with me,
 let me no more be seen. I 'm like that treasure,
 dangerous to him that keeps it, rid thy hands on 't. 90
 GOVIANUS: I cannot lose thee so.
 LADY: Shall I be taken
 and lost the cruelest way? Then wouldst thou curse
 that love, that sent forth pity to my life,
 too late: thou wouldst. 95
 GOVIANUS: O this extremity!
 Hast thou no way to 'scape 'em, but in soul?
 Must I meet peace in thy destruction,
 or will it ne'er come at me?
 'Tis a most miserable way to get it. 100
 I had rather be content to live without it
 than pay so dear for 't, and yet lose it too.
 LADY: Sir you do nothing: There 's no valor in you,
 you 're the worst friend to a lady in affliction
 that ever love made his companion. 105
 For honor's sake dispatch me, thy own thoughts