

Save my life, and I thy servant shall be.

Hester. Aman, this matter so heinous is,
indeed, [speed.

That of our honour we will neither speak nor

Aman. Alas! then am I utterly marred;

I must straight die—it cannot be deferred.

Assuerus. O, thou caitiff! canst thou not
be content

With the mischief by thee done before,

But the queen wilt oppress, we being present?

What need we call for evidence more? [sore;

Make him sure and fast, and thereto bind him

We will that our counsel shortly devise,

How we shall bestow him, according to justice.

Arbona. There is in the house of this traitor,
Aman,

A pair of gallows of fifty cubits high;

Upon them he had thought, either now or than,

To have caused Mardocheus to die. [by and by,

Assuerus. Lead him hence, and upon them,

See that ye hang him, and so stop his breath—

Without favour see he suffer death.

Hardydardy. Other folks be tardy, as well
as Hardydardy.

By this reckoning [else—

A, sir—beside bells, bacon, and somewhat

Must needs have hanging. [that deserve

Assuerus. Hanging do serve, when they

Are false faitors. [herrings and sprots,

Hardydardy. And it comes to lots of

Which be no traitors, [cloak

To hang in the smoke till they change their

From white to red. [they do not hong

Assuerus. But such do no wrong; wherefore

Till they be dead. [it toucheth the quick

Hardydardy. Ye speak somewhat like, for

To be hanged in good heal. [wise and ware,

Assuerus. Yet none need to care, that is

And truly will deal. [Ovid,

Hardydardy. Have ye not read of Naso

That eloquent poet?

Nor Valery, which tells merrily

The proper feats,

How the smith Perillus, like a tuta vilus,

Made a bull of brass?

He had thought, i-wis, to have pleased king

Phalaris,

But yet he did much worse,

Assuerus. Why so? [rod

Hardydardy. I ween, by God! he made a

For his own arse. [shet—

Phalaris could not get within the bull to

Lo here begins the game.

Wherefore, indeed, he took for need

Perillus, maker of the same.

In he did him turn, and made the fire to burn,

And greatly to increase; [sweat,

He cast him in such heat, and eke in such

He fried him in his grease.

Assuerus. What mean you by this?

Hardydardy. I will tell you, by Gis! my

whole intention.

I mean, my master is the first taster

Of his own invention.

The gallhouse he made both high and broad,

For Mardocheus he them meant;

And now he is fain himself, for certain,

To play the first pageant. [certain,

Assuerus. He that deserves pain is worthy,

Even for to have it.

Hardydardy. Therefore, God send all those

that will steal men's clothes,