

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY  
AND  
Personal Diary  
OF  
DR. SIMON FORMAN,  
THE CELEBRATED ASTROLOGER,  
FROM A.D. 1552, TO A.D. 1602,

FROM THE  
UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS IN THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM,  
OXFORD.

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EDITED BY  
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## P R E F A C E.

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THE curiosity of the following documents was pointed out by Mr. W. H. Black, in his very excellent Catalogue of the Ashmolean Manuscripts, col. 169. The first, he says, "is the most curious and entertaining autobiography that has been met with, being written in the style and form of the black-letter prose romances;" and he has also noticed the Diary as well worthy of publication. With respect to their author, Dr. Simon Forman, whose connection with the Overbury trials has made him an object of historical notoriety, we need do little more than refer to Lilly's Life, correcting the error there made as to the place of his birth. The doctor, as he himself informs us, was a native of Wiltshire.

Those who are interested in Elizabethan literature will find much in these pages which will illustrate manners and customs, and a few important biographical notices. To the student their value is unquestionable, and it was there-

fore thought that a small impression of them would be an acceptable offering to the curious reader, although they will not, it must be confessed, bear the light of a large circulation, which was at one time proposed. Only one hundred and five copies of this little work have been printed, viz., five copies on thick, and the remainder on ordinary paper.

*Brixton Hill, Surrey.*

*19th May, 1849.*



AUTOBIOGRAPHY  
AND  
DIARY OF DR. SIMON FORMAN.

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I.—AUTOBIOGRAPHY, WRITTEN A.D. 1600.

[From MS. Ashm. 208, fol. 136—142.]

IN Dei nomine, Amen. This is the bocke of the life and generation of Simon, the sonn of William, the sonn of Richard, the sonne of Ser Thomas of Ledes, the sonn of Ser Thomas Forman, of Furnifales, and of An his wife, daughter of Ser Antony Smithe, &c. borne in the yere from the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ 1552, the 30. of December, beinge Saturday and new yere's eve, at 45 minutes after 9 of the clocke at nighte, of the naturalle bodie of Marie, wife of the said William Forman aforsaid, and daughter of Jhon Foster, esquier, by Marienne Hallom, his wife, in a village called Quidhampton,\* in the countie of Wilts, sytuate in the valley on the north side of the river betwene Wilton and Sarum, whose parents were well descended and of good reputation and fame, and havinge many childrene and they disposed diversly. He had by the saide Marie six sonnes and too daugh-

\* Aubrey, in his *Natural History of Wiltshire*, MS. in Ashmolean Museum and Royal Society, says he was born at Wilton, and was a great favourite with the Countess of Pembroke. Lilly says, "he was a chandler's son in the city of Westminster." See *Lilly's History of his Life and Times*, 1715, p. 12. Quidhampton is a tithing within the parish of Fugglestone. See *Modern Wilts*, Branch and Dole, p. 156.

ters, viz. William, the eldest; Jone, the second, which after married with William Hannom, gentleman, whose father was sometymes Maior of Sarum,\* by whom she had noe yssue; after his death, she married on William Brincke, and died without yssue. The third child of the said William and Marie was Henrie, that after toke to wife An the daughter of Thomas Harte, and had by her yssue a daughter named An. The fowarth was Richard, whoe toke to wife Sissely Parlet, the sole ayer of Jhon Parlete, and she died in childbed, and after he toke to his second wife Jone Warum, by whom he had three children, Jhon, Dority and Richard, and she also died. The fife child of the saide William and Mary was this Simon, whoe in the 47. yeare of his age toke to wife, through the grace and wil of God, Ane, the daughter of Jhon Baker, of Kente, a cyvilian, and of Dorytie Monninges, the daughter of Sir Edward Monninges,† of Kente, knighte, to whom was alyed many howses of honor and worshipec, as the Cliffordes, the Sandes, the Lovelesses, the Chitches, the Finches, the Alifes, the Grindfordes, the Kempes, the Agers, and many knightes and ladies, as the Erelle of Comberland, Sir James Clifford, Sir Mitchell Sandes, the Ladie Loveles, the Ladie Ashenden, and divers others, &c. The sixte childe of the said William and Mary was Robarte, whoe toke to wife Jon, the daughter of Steaven Pore, gentleman, of Dorsetshire, and the sam Robarte died leavinge his said wife with child. The seventh child of the said William and Marie was a daughter, alsoe named Jone. And the laste and yongeste was Johne, which too were not married aft 40 yers of age. And this was specially to be noted in the children of the said William and Marie, there was never any of them did marry till they were at leste 34 yers of age. And it is recorded in aun-

\* In 1547 William Hanham was Mayor. See *A Correct List of the Bishops and Mayors of Salisbury*, 12mo. 1798, p. 31. A list, however, in *MS. Gough*, 4, inserts William Farnham as mayor in that year.

† Perhaps Edward Monins, of Waldershare, whose will was proved 6 Edw. VI. See *Hasted's History of Kent*, iii. 620; and p. 682.



cient bookes that ther ar three thinges specially noted in the name of the Formans, that is, ther was never any of them proud, covetouse, nor a traitor; and that may welbe seen to this daie in the generation. The father of this Simon died when he was but a xj. yers old; his mother lived after the death of his father 40 yeres a widdowe; when she was fowar score and xij. yers old, she was a lustie woman; but we will leave them all and speak of the wonderfull life of the sayd Symon.

*Of visions that the said Symon had, beinge yet a childe.*

Simon, beinge a child of six yers old, his father loved him above all the reste, but his mother nor brethren loved him not. His father, for the affection he had to him, wold alwaies have him ly at his bedes feete in a lyttle bed for the nonce, and soe sone as he was alwaies laid downe to slepe, he should see in visions alwaies many mighti mountaines and hills com rowling againste him, although they wold overron him and falle on him and brust him, yet he gotte upp allwaies to the top of them and with moch adoe wente over them. Then should he see many grete waters like to drowne him, boilinge and raginge against him as thoughe they wolde swallowe him up, yet he thought he did overpasse them. And thes dremes and visions he had every nighte continually for 3 or 4 yers space. Thes visions God did showe him in his youth, to signifie unto him his trobles in his riper years; for the mightie mountaines mighte signifie the great and mightie potentates that he had controversy with afterwards. And the waters mighte signifie the greate councells that were houlden againste hime, to overthrowe him; yet God, the only defendor of all that be His, wold never let him be overthrowen; but contynuallye gave him alwaies in the end the victory of alle his enimies, and he overpaste all with credite by the helpe of God, to whom be praise for evermore! Amen.

*Howe Simon was set to scole, with whom and wher.*

When Simon was almoste eyghte yers of age, in those daies when the souldiars came from Newe-Haven, which was aboute the yere of our Lord God, 1560,\* that the plague began in Salisbury, ther was a certain minister named William Ryddonte, *alias* Ridear, that by his trade and occupation was a cobbler, but after Quen Maries dayes, when the lawe did turne, he was made a minister, and soe withalle became a scolmaster and teacher of children. He was a man of som 50 years, mean of stature, and a black grom sir. He could read English well, but he could noe Lattine more then the singell accidens, and that he lerned of his too sonnes that went daily to a free scole. This person, when the plague began, fled from Salisbury for feare therof, and cam to dwelle at the priorie of St. Gilles, nere unto the father of this Simon, to whom this Simon was put to scole at Michaelmas, wher he lerned his letters. And when he came to lerne "In the name of the Father," &c., because his capacity could not understand the mistery of spellinge, he prayed his master he mighte goe to scole noe more, because he should never learne yt; but his said master beate him for yt, which made him the more diligent to his bocke, and after som four dais, when he had pondered theron well and had the reason thereof, he learned yt. And after that, his master never beate him for his bocke again. And he profited soe well, that in on yere or lyttle more he had lerned his single accidentes and his rules clean out. And bording with this priste in the winter time, he wold make him lie alwaies naked, which kepte him in greet feare. And after this he was put to the free scole in the Close at Salisbury, with on Docter Booles, which was a very furieuse man, with whom he wente to scole som too yeaes. Then did the said Simon bord at one Mr. Hauknightes, that som-

\* Probably 1563. See *Holinshed*, iii. 1203. In 1563, there was a plague, called "the great plague," which, according to *MS. Gough*, 4, lasted eighteen months. See also Grindal's *Remains*, 8vo. 1843, p. 77.



tyme was register to the bishope, and nere unto this Mr. Hauknighte dwelt a cannon of the churche named Mr. Mintorne, to whom many tymes this Simon wente. And this cannon seldom or never kepte any fier in his house, but he had some lode of faggots lying in a house, and alwaies when he was a-cold, he wold goe and carry his faggots up into a lofte till he was hote; and when he had caried them all up, he wold fetch them downe again and burn none, and soe he made this Simon doe many a tyme and ofte to catch a heate, saying yt was better to heat himself soe then to syt by the fier. Soe he went to scolle som too years with Docter Bolles, and then aboute the yeare of our Lord God, 1563, at Christmas, his father had him, and on the new yeare's eave after at nighte the father of the said Simon died, for he had kepte a great Christmas, and on the day before new yer's eve he walked abroad to his ground with on of his men. And ther came a dove, and lighted before him, and alwaies rane before him, and many tymes they offered to catch yt, and yt wold rise up and falle downe againe, and so they folowed it till it ran into a neighbour's wodbine; and the same nighte aboute midnichte, after the dancing and sporte was almoste ended, he going into his chamber to goe to bed, on as he thoughte stroke him in the necke, and he toke his bed, and died just 24 howrs after.

*Howe Symon after his fathers death was put to shifte for himselfe,  
and went to dwell with his aunte for two yers.*

After the father of Symon was dead, his mother, who never loved him, grudged at his beinge at hom; and what faulte soever was committed by any of the reste, he was allwaies beaten for yt, and she suffred him to goo to scolle no longer, but set him to kepe shepe, and to plowe and gathering of stickes and such like. The boy beinge but a xj. yers old juste at the death of his father, yet having reasonable wit and discretion, and being nymber sprited and apte to any thinge, seeynge the hatred of his mother and of the reste of his brethren and sisters towards him, and

that he could not followe his bocke nor be at quiete, he put himself an apprentice to on Mathewe Comins of Sarum at 14 yers, which useth many occupations. Firste he was a hosier, and therby he lerned to sowe and to make a hose; then he was a mercharante of cloth, and of alle smalle wares, and sold hops, salte, oille, pitch, rosine, raisons, and all poticary drugs and grocery, wherby the said Simon learned the knowledge of alle wares and drugs, and howe to buy and selle, and grue soe apte, and had such good fortune, that in shorte tyme his master committed all to his charge. But ther fell out many controversyes between his mistres and him, and she wold often beate him, especially for on Jean Cole, her sister's daughter, which she kepte.

*Howe Symon beate Mary Robartes, his masters maide.*

Nowe when Symon had put himselfe an apprentice for 10 yers, as is said, with Mathewe Connin, with condition that he should [be] 3 yeares at the grammer scole, the which his master performed not, which was a parte of the cause why he wente from his master afterwards, as hereafter shall followe. Symon at firste beinge the yongeste apprentice of four, was put to all the worste, and being little and smalle of stature and yong of yers, every on did triumphe over him, but especially a kitchen maid named Mary Robartes; and oftentimes she wold knock him that the blod should rone aboute his eares. Yt fell out in tracte of tyme, within the terme of five yeeres, alle the other apprentices went away, and Symon servyd by yt, and all thinges for the shope was committed to his charge. On a certain frosty morninge his master and mistress were both gon to the garden, and there kinswoman with them, leavinge non at home but Symon and Mary, willing Marye to locke into the shope and helpe, yf occasion served; they being gone, [soe] many customers came for ware that Simon could not attend them all, wherupon he calles Mary to stand in the shope. And she came forth and reviled him with many bitter wordes, and said shee wold anon have him by the ears, and soe went her way again. And



Simon put up all and said lyttle, but made the beste shift he could, and ryd them all awaie, and shut the shop dore, and toke a yerd and wente into Mary, who so sone as she sawe him was redy to have him by the eares, but Simon stroke her on the handes with his yerd, and belabored her soe or he wente that he made her black and blue alle over, and burst her head and handes, that he laid her alonge crying and roringe like a bulle, for he beat her thorowly for all her knavery before to him done.

*Of the quandary and fear that Simon was in when he had beaten Marie.*

When this combat was ended between Simon and Marie, and that Symon had gotten the victorie of Marie, he was moch aferd, for he thoughte yf his mistres should com home first she wole take the maides parte, and then should Simon be well beaten; but yf his master cam firste, then he thoughte yt wold be so moch the better. And as God wold, his master came firste, and finding the maid cryinge and howlinge, demaunded the cause, and she told him that Simon had beaten her. That's well like, said he, but yf he had, said he, he had served thee well ynough, for thou haste beaten him full ofte. And with that he asked Simon the cause. Sir, said he, her came many customers that I could not serve them and loke to the shop to; wherefore I called Mary to helpe to attend in the shope, and see to things; and she came forth and scolded at me, and wente in again and wold not doe it, that people mighte stealle what they wold for her. And because therof, I did give her three or four lambskines with the yerd. Thou servedst her well ynough, said he, and yf she be soe obstinate serve her soe again, said he. Thes words mad the maid stark mad, for she thoughte he wolde have pitied her, but he toke Simon's parte. And then shee cryed the more, till her mistress came, and demanded of her the cause, and she told her. Then she cam into the shope with open mouth, but his master stopte her mouth and furie, and wold not suffer her to beate Simon, as she would have don; wherupon

she grudged at him moch, and kepte it in mind a long tyme after. But after this Simon and Marie agreed soe well that they never were at square after, and Mary wold doe for him all that she could. And many a pound of butter she yelded in the bottom after for Simon's breakfaste, which before that she wold never doe.

*Of the combate between Simon and the too Godfries.*

In this proces of tyme, while Simon dwelte with his said master, they kepte a stannage at our Ladie faier, and ther were many knavishe boies which were at play behind the stannage, and throe stones against the stannage, and often thruste downe their ware; and then on Richard Kinge, a jorneyman, com to his master to helpe at that faire, sent Simon out to see who made that quarelle. And amonge alle the boies ther were too of Godfries sonnes of the Swane, an inholder, which gave Simon hard wordes, and said they wold have him by the eares, and he being somewhat ferful stode abashed, and the boies wolde not leave their knavery; at laste out came Kinge, and findinge thes boies to play the knaves soe with Simon, and threteninge him, hardned Symon to have them by the eares; soe to buffets they wente. And Simon beate them bothe, and made them both give of; and after that, Simon would not shrinke for a bluddi nose with any boye, for he was then thorowely fleshed by the means of Kinge.

*How Simon was given to his bocke, and lerned by nighte all that Henry Gird lerned in the daie.*

Simon thus beinge with his said master was moch gyven continually to his bocke, for he wold never be ydelle, and many tymes his master chid him that he was soe moch gyven to his bocke, and in the end toke alle his Lattin bockes from him, which trobled Simon his mind moch. Soe it chaunsed that a kirsy man of Denshire, on Gird of Kirton, borden a sonn that he had with Simon's master, that wente every dai to the free scole, and he was bedfellowe to Simon; and loke whatsoever he lerned by day, that



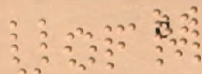
did Simon learne of him alwaies at nighte, wherby, thoughe he profited himselfe but lyttle, yet he loste nothings of that he had before-tyme lerned, for his mind was moste ardently set on his bocke.

*How A. Y. loved Simon.*

Ther was a man of good reputation and wealth, that dwelte not far from Simon's master, that had a proper fine maiden to his only daughter, the which being but yonge of yeares and younger then Simon, that loved Simon wonderfull welle, and wold suerly see him once a daie, or ells she wold be sicke. And often she wold com to Simon's master, and entreat him very kindly on holly daies that she might see him or speake with him, and somtymes to goe to pastymes with her; and she loved him soe well that yf forty youth were at play before the dore, in a spacious place which ther was, yf Simon were not amonge them, she would not be ther; but yf he were there, none could kepe her from thence. Yf Simon stode by his master or mistress at the dore she wold com and stand by him, and wold not goe from him till necessity did comple. And Simon's master well perceyvinge the grete affection of the gentlewoman towards Simon, wold often say unto her, mistress An Yene love my boy welle methinkes; and she would aunswer, yea forsothe, yf yt will please youe to give him leave to go rone with us, wee shall give youe thankses, sir. Wherupon oftentimes he wold give him leave; and as for Simon, he loved her not but in kindnes, but because she was soe kind to Simon, he wold doe anythinge he could doe for her. And this love on her syde lasted longe, as hereafter shalbe showed.

*Howe Simon and his mistres fell at controversy, whereupon Simon at seventeen yeres old and a halfe wente from his master.*

When Simon had dwelte with his master som six yeres and a halfe, ther fell out a controversye betwen Simon and his mistres



aboute a dossen of flax that his mistres loste from stanning in Simon's absence, and then wold have laid the blam on Simon, and have beaten him for yt, of the whiche Simon thoughte great scorne, because he knewe himselfe cleare of the matter, and when she wold have beaten Simon, as she had wonte to doe, with a yeard, Simon toke the yearde from his mistres, and thruste her up behind a dore, and put the dore on her, wherupon she durste not meddle with Simon again, but with weeping teares complained to his master, whoe for soe doinge, althoughe yt was moch againste his wille, beate Simon for yt; but he knewe his wife to be a wicked, hedstronge, and proud fantasticalle woman, a consumer and spender of his wealth, and oftentimes they too were also at square, insomoch that twise he had like to have killed hir by casting a peire of tailors shers at her, for once they went so nere her, that as she was going in at a dore, he nailed her clothes and smock at her buttockes to the dore, and the pointes of the shers wente clean throughe the dore, and she honge faste by the taille; wherupon he swore in his wrath that yf ever he died before her, he wold never give her anything. Thes controversies were often betwen them, and many tymes when Simon and his master wente to his farme together, some too milles of in the country, they wold on complain to another of his mistress and her pride. And his master wold say to him, Simon, thou moste suffer as well as I myselfe; thou seeste we cannote remadie yt as yet, but God will send a remadie on daie. Nowe because Simon's master had beaten him for his mistres sake, herselfe being in faulte, Symon told his said master flate that he had not performed his covenantes according to promise, and therfore he wold give of the trade and goe to his bocke againe, and he wepte sorely unto his master, and entreted him to have his good will; and his mastre seinge he wold needes departe, consented therunto, and gave him his indenture, at the which his mistres toke on mightily, and they all wepte, some for joye and some for madnes and rage.

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*Howe Simon, after he was gone from his said master, became a scoller again at the fre scole.*

Nowe when Simon was gon from his said master, and was at his fre libertie to serve ells where, he mighte have had mani masters, but he wold dwell with none, but provided and wente to the free scole every day for eight wickes' space, and folowed his bocke hard. Then his mother wold give him meate and drink no longer, nor any maintenance, wherupon he was dryven to make many hard shiftes, and he was soe gredy on his bocke, that yf his master wold not have beaten him, yf he could not say his lesson well, he wold have wepte and suobbed more than yf he had byne beaten. And yf his master gave him leave to play, that was death or a grete punishment to him, for he wold say, Play, play, her is nothing but play, I shall never be a good scoller; and alwaies when his fellowes wente to playe, he wold goe to his bocke, or into som secret place to muse and meditate, or into the church.

*Howe Simon became a scolmastre before he was eighteen yers old.*

Simon, percevinge his mother wold doe nothings for him, was dryven to great extremity and hunger, gave of to be a scoller any longer, for lacke of maintenance; and at the priorie of St. Jilles, wher he himselfe was first a scoller, ther became he a scolmaster, and taught som thirty boies, and their parentes among them gave him moste parte of his diet. And the money he gote he kept, to the some of som 40s., and after folowinge when he had bin scolmaster some halfe yere and had 40s. in his purse, he wente to Oxford for to get more lerninge, and soe left of from being scolmaster.

*Howe Simon with on of his old scollefellowes wold goe seek out Oxford.*

Nowe it befell in that in the yeare of our Lord God 1573, the 10. daie of May, ther was an ardente desier in Simon of further lerninge and knowledg, and meeting with an old scollefellowe of his, whoe before were allway brought up together and love as

brethren, whose father-in-lawe was as moch againe him as Simon's mother was againste him. Thes too confederated together to goe to Oxford, and did soe, and ther they became both pore scollers, the on which was Thomas Ridear in Corpus Christie College, and Symon in Magdalen Colledge. And every day he wente to the free scolle for a tyme, and followed his boocke hard allwayes when he could have leysure. Nowe ther were too Bachelors of Arte that were too of his chife benefactors; the one of them was Sir Thornbury, that after was bishope of Limerike,\* and he was of Magdalen College; the other was Sir Pinckney his cossine of St. Mary Halle. Thes too loved him nying welle, and many tymes wold make Simon to goo forth tho Loes the keper of Shottofer for his houndes to goe on huntinge from morninge to nighte, and they never studied nor gave themselves to their bockes, but to goe to scolles of defence, to the daunceing scolles, to stealle dear and connyes, and to hunt the hare, and to woinge of wentches; to goe to Doctor Lawrence of Cowly, for he had too fair daughters, Besse and Martha. Sir Thornbury he woad Besse; and Sir Pinckney he woad Martha, and in the end he married her; but Thornbury he deceyved Besse, as the mayor's daughter of Brackly, of which Ephues† writes, deceyved him. But ther was their ordinary haunt alwaies, and thethere muste Symon rone with the bottell and the bage erly and late.‡

\* He was consecrated Bishop of Limerick in 1593. See Wood's *Ath. Oxon.*, ed. Bliss, iv. 797. Madox mentions his having supped with him at Magdalen College in 1582. See MS. Addit. 5008.

+ That is, John Lyly. In "Barnaby's Journal" we have an allusion to the Mayor of Brackley,—

"From thence to Brackley, as did beseem one,  
The May'r I saw, a wond'rous mean one."

‡ This autobiography is much abridged, and collected into two columns, in Wood's *Athen. Oxon.*, ed. Bliss, ii. 98—100. The passage relative to deer-stealing is curious, as a piece of evidence in the question of the light in which Shakespeare's alleged exploit in this way is to be held, whether as a frolic or a grave offence, and has been partially quoted in Malone's *Shakespeare*, ed. 1821, vol. ii. p. 133. See further in Halliwell's *Life of Shakespeare*, p. 121.



## II. DIARY FROM A.D. 1564 TO A.D. 1602.

[From MS. Ashm. 208, fol. 17—67.]

1564. The first dai of Januarie, betwen twelve and on in the morn, my father died, and was buried the same daie,\* being New Yer's daie, at which tyme I was juste a xj. yeres old, and the same dai seven yeres just was Richard Forman, my grandfather, buried. This yere, in the latter end of February, about the beginning of Lente, I was put to scolle to Peter Mathewe to lerne to write, and continued with him a yere, and borded with my aunt Cockells.

Anno 1567, the 8. of Februarie, being Friday, I went to Mathew Comin to dwelle, and I dwelte with him untill the 29th of June, 1572, being Midsomer dai, and that dai I went from him, and travailed into the Ylle of Weight to Newport, and from thence I retorned to Quidhampton: and I remained ther scolmaster untill the 20. dai of May, 1573; and then I went to Oxford from thence, and I remained at Oxford till the 12. dai of September, 1574, at which tym I cam from thence to Quidhampton, the Quen's grace being then at Wilton, and I kept scolle at Wilton untill the 19. of May, 1575, the which dai I went to Mr. Coxes, to Ashgrove, to dwell. And I remained with him till the xj. of June, 1576, being Whitmundai, the which dai I went to Combs of Ashmore from Cox, and I taught at Ashmore, and I remained ther till the 29. of September folowing, 1576; and from thence went to Urenminster, and did teach there, and lai at the vicar's till the 2. of January, 1577, and then went to lodge at Jhon Phillips, anno Elizab. 19.

1572. This yere, the 24th of June, I wente from Mr. Commine, and did travaille to the Ille of Weight, and to Neuporte, and from thence cam back to Quidhampton; and at Michelmas after I

\* At this period it was a common custom to bury a person the day of his death. Tarlton, the celebrated clown, made his will, died, and was buried the same day, viz. Sept. 3rd, 1588.

began to teach at Quidhampton, and contynewed ther till the 10th dai of May, 1573.

1573. This yere the 10th dai of Mai, I went first to Oxford, and I contynewed ther till the 12th dai of September, 1574, and then I came to Quidhampton, the Quenes grace being to Wilton.

1574. Henry Evered, Maior. The 12th dai of September, 1574, I cam from Oxford to Quidhampton to mak an oration before the Quene, being then at Wilton.\* About Michelmas I began to kepe scole at Wilton, and staid ther tille the 19th of May, 1575, the which dai I went to Mr. Copes.

1575. This yere in Mai, the 19th dai, I went to be scolmaster to the Duke of Ashgrove, and I remained with him till the xj. dai of June, 1576, and then went to Combes of Ashmore. This yere I had much troble with Cox, and he brought Parson Bref to see my bockes, and himselfe was lyke to kille me.

1576. This yere in Januari, and till the xj. of June, I was scolmaster to the Ducke of Ashgrove's sonnes till Midsomer. Then at Midsomer I went to Mr. Combs at Ashmor, and staid ther till Michelmas, and taught. And at Michelmas I went to Youren Minster, and I staid ther till 1578, till Januari.

1577. I kept scole at Urenminster. I had moche adoe with the vicar, lived porly, and did hunt moch privily. This summer, Mr. Crouch and I became first acquainted.

1578. In Februari in Lent or therabout I cam to be usher of the fre scole in the Close at Sarum, where I continued till Midsomer, and went from thence. And in Auguste I cam to kepe scole at the Dymses, and about Michelmas I went from thence, and Antony and I travailed to Oxford and other places.

1579. In Januari, 1579, the 17th, I toke the parsonage in Fisherton, between x. and vj. a klok, and toke the kai at 12. The 12th of June I was robbed and spoiled of all my goodes and bockes

\* This somewhat differs from an account printed by Nichols, *Progresses*, i. 409, according to which, the Queen was at Wilton from the 3rd to the 6th of September, and then went on to Salisbury.



first dwelling in Fisherton parsonage, and was committed to prisson, wher I laie 60. wickes before I was released, and I had moch troble and defamation without desarte by that cursed William Gilles Estcourte: and then was delivered by her Majesti and the councele; and I had moch sicknes, and could have noe justice nor lawe, nor could not be hard, till a wholle yere was paste, till I sente to the councele, as aforesaid. This yere I did profecie the truth of many thinges which afterwardes cam to passe, and the very sprites wer subjecte unto me; what I spake was done. And I had a great name, yet I could doe nothings, but at adventure.

1580. All this yere I was in prison till the 14th day of Julii, the which dai about none I was delivered on baill, wher I had bin sixty wickes before, and nowe by means of the counsel's letters was delivered. The next dai after I was out of prison, I went towardes London pore and bare, with lyttle mony, and the 18th dai a co-soning quen professed himself to be my sister. The 26th of July I went to Grenwitch, and there wrought at carpenter's crafte for my lyving, wher I was till the 16th of August, at which tym I cam to London to cuer Henry Jonson of a consumption. The 4th of September I went over with Henry Jonson into the Lowe Countries,\* into Sealand and Holland, and we lay at the Hage som fortnight, and the 3rd of October I cam to London again at 10 P.M. The 8th of October I went to Newbury, and lai at John Awndours till the 16th of November. The 18th of November I cam to Quidhampton, wher I fell sick, and staid ther a yere untill the 23rd of October 1581, curing sick and lame folks; in the which tyme I cured the fellowe of Quidhampton of the king's evill, which had 24 holes in his throte and neck, out of the which in on morning I got 86 worms at on tyme like maggotes, and after he was well. This yere I began to live againe.

\* "He travelled into Holland for a month in 1580, purposely to be instructed in astrology, and other more occult sciences; as also in physick, taking his degree of Doctor beyond seas." *Lilly's Life*, 1715, p. 12. Lilly is in error as to Forman's degree, which was taken at Cambridge some time afterwards.

1581. This yere at Lent sises I was bound over again, and I lyved at Quidhampton, and did many tymes thresh and dig and hedg for my lyving. The 21st of October I tok a house in Sarum on the dich by the skinner, and ther I dwelte practising phisick and surgery, and I began againe to live.

1582. The 24th of May I bought the leases of the two houses in Calver Streate. And in June I first cam acquainted with A. Y. aboute the 12th dai. The 29th of Auguste, Robert Grey and I went to sea and to travaill, and fell into the men of wars hands at Studland; but we went the 5th dai of September, and agreed on yt the 29th of August. The 17th of October we cam hom from the ille of Purbick. The 23rd of October, Jhon Penruddock moved a question to me to be scolemaster to his children, and I promised him. The 2nd of November I cam to London with Mistress Penrudock. The 28th of December I toke a house in New-strete.

1583. In February I travailed moch in busynes for on and other, and in Aprill, as to London, &c. The 24th dai of Aprill I first entred my house in Newe Strete when I cam from London. The 9th of February we went to London, and lay there till we had spent all. The 6th of May I fell and hurt myselfe. The 22nd of July was a complaint mad to the Bishop against me for using phisick. The 17th of December I had my . . . . mad with the egles stone. This Christmas I was made lord of the revells, and had privy enemies, frindshipe of women. A falle in a toware like to be kild in catching of pigeons. Gret expences, profit by my pen. I changed my house and cam to dwelle amonge myn enimies in Newe Streate. I overcam myn enemies with moch adoe, and by them I got an ill name. I lai fourteen wickes at London with my mistres, and spent moch and got nothings in the beginninge of the yere.

1584. The 23. of Januari I was first with Mrs. Yong to heel her leg and to cuer her, and I dwelt in Newe Strete. The 29. of February was the first tyme that ever I did lie with A. Y. and Jean



Coles was married the next day. The 25. of April I rode to Marlok with An Parsons. The 2. of June I bought my horse. The first of August I took the house in St. Thomas Churchyard, and entered to dwell there the 7. of September. The 27. of September I first dressed Agnis Colle. The 23. of October I redeemed Robin Grey out of the prison. This year I had many things given me and many new friends, and much good of the woman whom I loved, and I thrived reasonable well. Profit by a woman's friendship both in meat, money, and apparel, for healing the sick. A reasonable, good, and quiet year; but I had certain brawls and scandals fell out against me about the detecting of one that had stolen certain things, whereby I was like to have been spoiled. And certain women became my enemies, and I departed from John Penruddocke of my own accord about Michaelmas.

1585. The 15. of January I rode to Mendip, and from thence to Wells and Glassonbury. The 2. of March I sent to Mrs. Coming for money. The first of March I began to distill *aqua vitæ*. The 27. day of March A. Y. was delivered at 10 min. past 7 A.M. of Joshua. The 29. of April I declared in the court against Agnis Commin for healing of An Cole. The 13. of May my sister Jone was married to William Hannun. The 16. day I served Jean Cole with a writ, and she fell out with me mightily. The 7. of June I arrested good wife Comin. The 6. of May the bishop's man Dudgell strok me. The 13. of July I arrested John Mathewe. The 13. of July I was imprisoned and sounded. The 14. day I came forth again. The 31. day I was imprisoned again. The 14. of August I was bailed. The 21. day I was committed to prison again. The 14. of September I engraved my sword. The 10. of October Jean Boles I rested her with process. The 11. day John Mathewe made suite to me for agreement. The 28. day I rested Mrs. Comin with process. The 6. of December I had my silver cup given me. The 23. December I rested Piste. This year was a year of much vexation, trouble, travail, enmity, and strife, and I was much overborn, and had divers suites in lawe,

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and my frendes and I wer set at variaunce. I lent mony to my friends, to Mrs. Comins, and could not have yt again, but was moch slaundered and infamed by her and her kinswoman, and they sought my life. And I had moch troble by them and their falls wytnes, and was arested and imprisoned, was beaten or stroken by Dugdell unwares in the open strete 7. of June. The first of June I was set out of my house, and imprisoned, and sounded, and was sensles eight howares. The 31. of Julii I was before the bishope and justice, and sent to prison, and my house broke and robbed. The 21. August I was committed to prisson by the bishop. The 19. December I gave my word for Prist, wherby I was endamaged and had moch strife.

1586. This yere I had moch troble and suetes in lawe, and did travaille and ride moch. I gote moch and spent moch, and had many newe frindes, and was discharged from my former troubles, and from the assizes, and I had mani enimies both secret and open. And this yere I had gret power in making of frendshipe, and was byd godfather to a child, and I did prosecute min enimies in lawe. The 9. of Aug. I first sawe Elinor Farwell, of Pole, for hir diseas. The second of September I sickned. The bishope and I were made frindes by my L. Anderson and Sir John Danvers, but I consumed and spent more then I got, and brought myself to beggars state. The 19. of July I was discharged from the assizes, and the 23. of August I returned to London againe.

1587. The first of Januari at 7 P.M. A. Y. and I were like to have bene betraid. The 20. I rod to Poole. The 6. of March\* I was imprisoned 15 past 7 P.M. The 7. of Aprill I had the counsells letters for my discharge. The 11. of May I began to distill many waters. The 10. of Jun I was discharged from bands at the assizes contrary to the aspecte of all men. The 29. dai of August my bockes, which had bin out of my handes long, were brought to Jhon Penruddockes to be seen, wher they lay long after, and many wer

\* From MS. Ashmol. 208, fol. 42, it appears that Thomas Eyres was the person who imprisoned him.



loste. The 28. dai I first callud to Jhon Goodridge, and he sewe ferste the 4. of November. The 22. of Decemb. I rod to Ser Jeorge Carus. This yere I had moch troble and imprisonments. I practised magik, and had moch strife with divers that I had in suetes of lawe, but I thrived resonable well, yet I loste moch.

1588. This yere, in Mai, Jhon Goodadg cam to me to dwell, and I put him awai the 7. of June. The 30. of Jun A. Y. and I fell out. In August, Susan Farwell becam my daugeter. In Aug. Steven cam to me first, and did sue first the 21. of September. The 14. of Novemb. the cunstable cam for A. Y. and ther folowed moch sorowe after yt. This yere I did thrive sufficient well, and had many frindes; and mani enimies and trobles towards the latter end of the yere, and my speciall frendes and I were set at variaunce and put asunder, and yt was the beginge\* of moche sorowe and strife. This yere I began to practise necromancy and to calle aungells and spirits.

1589. This yere, 1589, the 27. of January, beinge Munday, betwen 10 and a 11 a. m. I was preste a souldiar, to serve in the Portingalle voiage, wherupon I was constrained to forsake my country and dwelling and all my frindes; and the 30. dai I wente awaie from thence to Hampton with the souldiards. The 10. dai of February I was imprisoned at Hampton. The 12. dai I cam forth of prison again. The 17. dai I hurte my thumbe at Mr. Basketes. The 28. of Feb. I cam to Sarum again. The 3. of March I went from Sarum againe to Newbery. The 14. dai I was at Quidhampton. The 26. dai I was hurte in the leg with a hatchet. The 25. of Aprill I went from Newbery to Ash in Surrey, and toke Steavens sonn in hand to cuer, but yt was an ill voyage. The 13. of May a sclaunder was raised against me. The 12. dai I rod to Newbery, and from thence to Mr. Basset. The 18. of Aug. I went from Steavens to London and cam to London the 22. dai, very pore, and without any penny. The 22. dai of Aug. I toke a

\* So in MS. for "begininge." Part of the following sentence is written in cypher in the original.

chamber at Jeams Ashes in Barbican. I rod to Sarum the 7. of November, and cam from thence againe the 13. dai. I toke a chamber at Mrs. Gots the 20. dai of August, and lai there. Steaven was bound to me again the xxi. day. This yere was a wonderfull troblesome yere to me. I went from place to place. I was glad to forsake all, and did chang my lodging often. I gote lyttle; I spent and consumed all till Michelmas; then yt began to mend with me. I practised then againe nigromancy and magik and phisick, and my enimise prevailed againste me, and I was like to have run into mani mischeifes.

1590. The 23. of Januari I cam to my chamber at Mr. Clover's, in Cowelane, on Friday P.M. and rod to Oxford the same dai. The 19. March I borrowed mony, and cam acquainted with Besse.\* The 6. of Aprill I came to lie at Mr. Dallis. Steven went from me to sea the 9. of May. The 28. of May Besse raised a sclander by me, and was ended the 3. of May, and renued again the 2. of June. The 17. dai I distilled my strong water for the stone. The 26. of Julii I was served with proces to apeare at the Starchamber, before the counsell. I went from Mr. Dales the 27. Julii, Mondai, and cam to stai at Mr. Parkes. The 14. dai of September I received Cudstean for my scolle. The 18. dai of September I rod to Lewise to Mr. Cumbers, and he let unto me his house at Wickams. The 15. Octobr I sickned in my belly. The 14. of November I was hurt in the face. This yere, 1590, from Christmas to Our Ladie dai, the worlde went hard with me, and I wanted mony and gote lyttle, yet ther was supplies and holps still at one tyme or other. But from Our Ladie dai till fortnight after Midsummer, the wordle went very hard, and I got lyttle and spent moch, but I rane in debte moche, and had not Mr. Parke bin [kinde to me] I could not have told what to doe. The 28. of May P.M. at 30 past 9, ther rose a gret brawell by Bess Vahan against me, and I was lik to have com to moch troble by yt, and

\* Elizabeth Vaughan, as appears from other notices.



have byn kild. This yere I changed my lodging often, and this yere, betwene Ester and Whitsonty, I wrote a bocke of Nigromanti, and I lyved hardly, yet found som small frindes to helpe me somtymes. And I was offred a wife mani tymes this yere between Ester or Whitsontyd, and had the sight and choise of 4 or 5 maides and wydowes. And from Midsomer till Michelmas, the wordle went hard and I sold mani things to make money. And after Michelmas I removed into Sussex, wher I went to dwell at Wickham, and was at another man's finding, for at Al-hallontyd I entred the cirkell for nigromanticall spells, and so lyved hardly till our Lady dai after, 1591. I spent moch and got nothing, but found good frindship, and William lent me money.

1591. This yere, 1591, I lai at Cinubers. The 20. of March I found 2 fishes. The 22. dai of March A.M. at 8, we hard musick at cirkell. The 10. of Aprill I put the longitud in question, and the 21. dai I rod to London, and lai at Mullenaxes to teach him the longitud. The 13. of May I sent my chest to London from Dumbres. The 3. of June I was at Oxford. The 6. of Julii I put my bock of the longitude to presse.\* The 4. of Aug. I cam clea from Sussex, and came to Mr. Parkes. The 20. of Octobre I was sick in my backe. The 22. of Novembre Mr. Goodes bock came out against me. The 28. of November I borrowed mony of Hugo. In Decemb. 23 I borrowed more money of Ashly.

1592. This yere, 1592, the 13. of Januari, I received my bockes from Thomas Penruddocks at Sarum, which had bin out of my handes since my first troble, which was som 24 yers. The 18. day I did first dresse Mrs. Nicolls to cuer her lege. This moneth of Januari I borrowed moch mony of Hugo, and did redeme my ringe from Jhon Kempton. The 8th of Feb. Steven was bound prentice to me. The 12. dai the red mare was delivered to Jhon Allwin. The 17. of March I entred first my cham-

\* Published, 4to. Lond. 1591, 7 leaves, entitled, "The Grovndes of the Longitude : With an Admonition to all those that are incredulous and beleue not the Trueth of the same. Written by Simon Forman, student in Astronomie and Phisique, 1591."

ber at Stone House, and cam ther first to dwelle. The begin-  
ninge of Aprill I borrowed moch mony again of Hugo, and the  
7. of Aprill I went first a woing to An Nok; and I bought me  
moch aparelle, and began to com to credit, but yt was but a bare  
yere with me. The 11. of June I rod to Ypswitch, and cam home  
the 20. daie, and the 21. dai I begane to complaine in my groine,  
and the 6. of Julii I toke my bed and had the plague in both my  
groines, and som moneth after I had the red tokens\* on my feet  
as brod as halfepeuce, and yt was 22 wickes before I was well  
again, the which did hinder me moch. I was let blod the 10. of  
August. The 27. of Septemb. I borrowed 20s. of my suster Jone.  
The 26. of Nov. I borrowed mor mony of Hugo. This yere I did  
mani notable cuers, and began to be knowen and com to credit.

1593. This yere, 1593, the 22. of Feb. the barbor surgeons  
calld me in question for my practice. The 5. of March, Steven  
was bound to me again ther, and William Yong cam to me.  
Father Case and Alls Joice this moneth were in my hande. The  
14. of Aprill I changed my chamber in the Stone House, and cam  
into the lower chamber. This moneth Undraths was cured. The  
second of Aprill I bought Hugoes ringe for 40s. In May I made  
my gowne with velvet furr. The 11 Jun I did halk Als Bagk,  
and the 15. of Julii; and the 13. of August I redemed my ring  
that was in pawne. The 8. day of Octobr. I went first a woing to  
Mrs. Lodcaster. This yere I liste moch money that I should have  
had for divers cuers that I did, and was besides that slenderly paid  
for many cuers that I did, because I did not bargain with them  
first. But my credit encreased, and I got moch, and this yere I  
cured A. All. But this yere, yf I did entend to doe anything  
whatsoever, yf I did tell any body of yt, I was prevented, and did  
not doe yt, or could have noe power to proceed in yt. Alsoe yf I

\* These tokens of the plague are often alluded to by contemporary writers. In MS. Ashmol. 208, fol. 110, is "A discourse of the plague written by Simon Forman, gent., practizar in phisicke and astrologie, 1593, and verie necessary for all men to reade and truely to remember."



did take any on hin hand to cuer, and did bargain with him furst, then eyther I did not cuer him, or ells I was not paid for yt when yt was done. My knowledg in phisique and in astronomy did encrease, and I began to com to credit, and to get somthing about me. Gould overthrewe Hewgo Ashly in lawe for 7 li. This yere I stilled my strong water, for the which I gote moch mony.

1594. This yere 1594, the 10. of Januari, at 30. past 5 P.M. I fell downe the staires. The 16. of Feb. William Buck my man cam to me. The 14. dai I was warned before the doctors. The 30. of March paid the doctors 5 li. The xj. of March Alls Barker peperit, and the 12. dai she sent to me. The 21. dai I was afore the bench of Aldermen for Alls Barker. The 15. Octob. A. All. delivered before her tyme of a man child. This yere was a quiet yere, but that the discourtasi of A. All. troblud me often, and the baster. This yere I distilled moch strong water, and divers other waters, and made many sirupes. I gote moch money and paid all my old dettes almoste. Abought Michelmas I first begane to practise the philosopher's stone, and in the begininge of the yere I made vergin parchment and newe wrot my bock of magickqe. The 8. of March I was before the doctors. The 4th of Aprill I sickned. The 20. Apr. An was christned. Then begane the variaunce betwen Kate Nicolls and me and Nurse Dandly. A. All. forsok me. The 22. of Septemb. I sickned at night in my bed. This yere I got moch and spent moch. This yere Mrs. Broddedy thought I wold have married her, but I entended yt not, and she disliked me moch till St. Jean's tyd. The 9. of Decemb. I fell downe the stairs again at 5 P.M. The frindship betwen A. All. and I was renued. This yere I gote moch, and spente moch, and had many brabbles and brawles. This sommer 1594, in July or therabouts, I had the wet goute in my feete, and yt broke under the to next the gret toe in my left foote. I cured myselfe with the dreges of my strong water thorowe Godes helpe.

1595. This yere the first of Januari, I was cosoned by on Osgre a witch, which mad me to goe thether promising me 26s.

but paid me nothing. The 2. dai I was cosoned againe almost, but I was deceived. Aboute the 4. of Januari my throte began to be sore, and was sore till the\* 28. dai. Mr. Allen misliked of certen speches I used, being the 31. of Janu., Friday, P.M. at 8. The first of Feb. P.M. at 5, Saturday, his wife told me of his speches. The 2. of Feb. Sunday, at 5, Mr. Allen cam to me and had me hom. On Mundai the collectors cam to me P.M. at 6. The 4. of Feb. Tuesday, A.M. Mrs. Floware and Elisher Cosin cam to me. I and a gentleman wer lik to fall out for standing at the garden by a gentellwoman. The 5. dai Wednesday, ther came at afternon an old quent marchaunte unto me, that was the confederat with Mrs. Floware that came on Mundai. The 6. dai abought 8. of the clocke in the morning cam Heugh Fort to me from A. Y. and divers gentlewomen cam to me that dai. That afternone at 4. cam Mrs. Jhonson to me at the Red Crose in Watling Strete to com and see her child, and I went to her, et osculavi illam in domu sua. This 6. dai at nighte Mr. Al. sent for me to supper, and I went not, wherupon she toke great grieve and was sick, and sent to me the 11 dai, &c. The 7. dai Hewe Forte went awai. And that dai at nighte cam Mrs. Taylor to me at 6 P.M. the Northern mai. The 11. dai at 8 A.M. Mr. Allen sent me a note of discourtisie for lifting up the cup. The 15. dai Feb. P.M. at 5. came on Christmas about a servant run awai. The 13. dai March, Thursday, A. All. and I went aboard my lord Cumberland's shipe, &c. The 15 dai, Saturday, at 9 A.M. cam servantes to sek for bran. At 3 at afternone, cam A. Al. unto me, and we wer fraid again, for we wer half out afore, and she told me howe Jhon Davies spak against me to her husband. The 28. of March at 6 post m. I was sent for to my Ladi Hawkins, and wente. The 2. of Aprill, Wednesday, A.M. betwen 8 and 9, my hed and beard was cut. That dai Al. tok phisick. I dremed of Jhon Barter and his wif of Henton Mary in the night. I was forced to

\* It ought to be observed that many technical astrological memoranda are here omitted, as being difficult to print and of no value.



stai at Mr. Allens, because of Israell Jonson and Mrs. Swaymen, 3 howrs longer than I wote. I mad sirups of violets that day. The 30. of Aprill, Wednesday, A.M. at 50 past 9, I began first to tak my diet drinke, and that night my throte begun to be sore. This yere in Lente I began the philosopher's stone, and before mad my furnys and all for yt, as in my other boock yt aperes. I mad many sirups and drugs, and distilled many waters, and bought stills. The 2. of May a jar fell out betwen A. Al. and myself, for that ther was conceyved som discourtesy, for that Jone lefte hir apron at my house, and she was syck about yt, but we wer frindes again the next day. The 19. of May, Monday, A. Al. toke dislik of me pro Halckekeros, and in noe wise wold be firme with me againe, nor come at me after but by gret constrainte, &c., and the 26. of Mai we were frindes again P.M. at 30 past 2, being at garden, after we had related all matters betwen us. Deo gratias! The 2. of Jun. P.M. at 8, the constable and others cam with a warrant for me. The 3. dai P.M. 30 past 12, I was with Sir Richard Martins, and bound to aunswer the next dai at sises. The 7. dai of June at 30 past 8 P.M. comminge from the garden with Mrs. All. and her husband, I met with Mrs. Wild just at our gate, wherupon A. All. was sore angrie, and she wente to the fleete on Whitsundaie, and she went to Wallom Grene the 11. of June, Wednesday in Whitsonwicke, and she wold not com at me. And the 12. dai June at 11. Ann was with me, and Mr. All. cam in the whill. The 11. dai, Wednesday, A.M. at 8, I put An to a newe nurse, to Clemense the taillers wife of Gret Bowsome, in Surrey. The 13. Jun P.M. at 52 mites past 1, Friday, Avis All sente me her first letter, saing she wold com noe more at me. The 13. dai at 1 of the cloke P.M., Friday, going down the stairs, I red Jhon Wardes articles at Starerfoote, and as I stood, a cat mewed twise, but I could not see her, which profecid ill, and som hower after, the letter cam.\* The 14. dai of Jun, Saturday, in m. at 12, I went to Mrs. A. to se her distilling and cam in a good

\* This is the letter of Mrs. Allen's before mentioned.

tyme, and we wer reconciled and maed friendes again between ourselves. And at that instant tyme we renued our frindshipe, and made a newe lege of frindship for ever to enduer, and God graunte yt maye, and never breke again. The 18. Jun I went from hom, Wednesday, thorowe William Fallowfildes wordes. And on Thursday, I rod into Wilshire to Sarum. The 30. dai of June was a small conclusion and end of all oure frinship between A. Y. and I, and I received my ringes and jewels againe from her. The 25. of July I was at St. Joanes, Barwick. The 29. July I cam to London againe. The 18. of Jun I rod to Sarum to see my frindes, wher I had not bin in 7 yers before. This yere I did leese mani of my old frindes and the most parte. The 15. Septemb. at 3 p.m. I depertid angri fro A. Al. The 23. of Septm., Tuesday, at night, Mr. Allen and his wife, and Mrs. Allen of the ship, and Mrs. Robarts did sup with me. The 24. dai, Wednesday, Avis All. tok phisick and grieve about Brigett All. The 25. dai I tok phisick, and A. All cam to me to end her lege of frendship, and went from me in a furie. The 26. dai, Fridai, at 10 a.m. I went to Av. All, and we conferred with her, and she wold not be friendes to me, and we departed in yre. This dai p.m. at 55 past 3 I bought a peyer of newe black stockins, cost 12s., and that morning I drempt of 3 black rats, and of my philosophical pouder which I was distilling of; and that dai cam Mr. Rocks, the Quen's phisision, to me to be acquainted with me. The 23. dai I fell out with my man, lik to put him awai. The 24. Octob. mother . . . . told me that . . . . was taken. The 30. of October my man and I fell out, and I put him awai the same dai at 4 p.m. The 31. of Octob. I was sick. The first Novembr., Saturday, p.m. at 6, I sent word to A. All. that yt wold be a black dai for her, because she cam not to me, and I was marvailously freted with yt. Lyttle doinges in phisick from Midsomer to Christmas. The 7. of Novemb. I was imprisoned by the doctors. I was delivered from prison the 25. of Novemb. The 22. 23. and 24. and 25. of November, a villain in prison urged me moch and sclaudered me sorly to my gret dis-



grace, Tutsham. The 4. of Decemb, p.m. at 4, Thursday, A. All. and I fell out and departed, and our frendship ended. The 7. daie at 9 p.m. he mislyked of me. I was there. The 8. dai, Monday, 40 past 1, I was ther, and talked with her, and ended the matter never to use her more. The 12. dai of Decemb. was a wonderfull unlucky dai to me. I brast 2 glasses and lest the water, and many thinges framed evill in my handes, and I was very unfortunat that dai, especially from 10 of the clock till night. At afternone I went to on to Chancery Lane sick, and ther cam in Doctor Wilkins the weill, and he and I fell out about the sick bodie, on William Foulle; ther was Mrs. Starky ther. The 27. of Decemb. A. All. and I were frendes again perfectly.

1596. The 18. Jan. I went to visit Mr. Challinor. The 19. I was called to com befor Doctor Staump and was warned tho. The 24. dai, Wensdai, I kept a fest, Mrs. Osb. and wydow Slyffor. The 20. dai at 10 A.M. Sefton and I fell out, and at that tyme I went to A. Al. Suspition lyk to growe. That night I was at Mrs. Al. The 23. dai Januari, Friday, p.m. at 30 past 5, I went to A. A., and she and I fell out, for that she came not to me the dai before, but made an excuse, and went alone another waie, which I suspected to Wydops. She said she went, but I think she went to Cates. The 26. dai, Monday, at 20 past 2, I went to A. Al., and after moch talke, we were frendes againe. Deo gracias! . . .  
 . . . . \* The 29. Jan. p.m., Thursday, at 20 past 2, halek Julian in Seathing Lane, and at 4 I went first to see the garden catherne. This 29. of Jan. at 6 p.m. cam on Mr. Mesly a phisision, to talke with me about Eliz. Wates at Billinsgate, to examin the medison I gave her. The 30. Januari, Friday, in morning, I dined at Mr. Brages. I went to spek with Mr. Katerins for his garden, and I met Doctor Joanes. And when I com hom, Henry Pepper cam to me craftely to undercrop me, and told me he sawe certain bockes of myn, as Pycatrix,† &c. The 31. Januar., Saturday,

\* Several lines of difficult cipher occur here, which I found, after having spent several hours in discovering the meaning, to be unfit for the press. It is relative to A. A.

† See Bernard's *Catal.*, tom. ii. p. 196.

U of M

Wid. Shefs was with me, and I went also. She was sick, and A. A. sent me a note, and she dined with me. The first of Feb. she sounded at none. The 8. of Feb. I met Mrs. Kathern, as I cam tro Ratlif, and she told me of Mr. Al. and of A. Al. P.M. at 4. The 9. at night my throte began to be sore. The 12. dai at non I talked with Margery Sustbery at garden, and at 3 at afternon with Mr. Allen about our strife. The 19. dai, Thursday, A.M., I was with A. Al., and she desired me to leave her compani for ever. The 20. dai, Friday, A.M. at 10, I cut the ring finger of my right hand almost of with my sword hanging by my bed. First March, strif with Pepper, about words. The 12. March, Friday, P.M. 30 past 5, I went to garden, wher I found A. Al., and we becam frendes againe. The 5. of March, Friday, I put on my newe furd gowne, A.M. 6. The 9. March I put on my velvet jerkin, A.M. at 9. The 29. March A. Al. hit me in the mouth with her hand. The 5. of Aprill, Monday, A. Al. scratched me by the face that I bled. The 6. of Aprill, Tuesday, I rod out to Maulden. The 10. dai I cam hom from Maldon. The 27. of Aprill in subliming, my pot and glasse brok, and all my labour was lost pro lapide. The 30. of Aprill, Friday, A.M. at 6, my throte within on the left syd began to be sore like the quinse. Avis A. delivered of a man child the 26. of June, named Alexander, that died shortly after. The beginning of July, Sefton began his villani, and sclanderouse speches, and Atkins against me. The 25. of July, Allen and I fell out, and I cam no more at him. In July, Sefton and I fell out and Atkins, aboute their villanie. The 14. August, Sefton filed his bill of covenantes, and Sefton's wife and I fell out for her leud speches. The 13. of Aug. I fet my thinges from Mrs. Clarkes. The 16 Aug., Monday, A. Al. sent me word she wold not com at me, and toke in dudgeon at my letter sent to her the night before, and thai brought me her 10s. But the 18. dai Aug. I went to her, and we wer frendes, and she promised me to com to me the next dai, but she cam not, but declared yt from dai to dai, and the 23. dai P.M. at 20 past 6, I went to her, and she and I fell out wonder-

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fully, and departed not frindes thorowe her owne folly. The 26. Aug., Thursday, at 30 past 2, she sent for me, and I wente home, and we had conference, and becam very good frindes againe. The 13. Septemb. I was arested by Kate Whithill for a blow. The 15. of Septemb. A.M. at 8, I was sent to the counter by my L. Maior at the doctors' request. The 29. of Septemb. I cam forth of prisson. The 30. of Septemb. I was sent to prisson again by the doctors. The 12. Octob. I cam forth of prison again. The 23. Octob. Jarvis stabad Atkins in my chamber, and then began he his villani against me with Sefton and Kyrwell. The 24. dai they had out a warrant for me, and I forsok my house, and went to Kates. The 31 dai Octob. I went from London to Sandwidg, and did travaill and spent moch. The 19. of Octob. I cam home to Kates again. The 27. Octob. at night, 30 past 6, my man went from me and put me awaie. The 14. of Janu. [1596], Wednesday, P.M. at 7, I fell downe the staires like to kill myselfe, and hurte my lefte leg and brok my shyne. The 15. dai at 8 A.M. I was warned to appear before Doctor Staump of the Arches. The Sundai xi. Jan. P.M. I was at Mr. Brages at Tallis. The xi. of Jan., Sunday, P.M. at night I was first at Mrs. Slyffords, and I supt at Mr. Osborns. I sawe and conferred with many.

1597. Avis Allen died 13. of June. This yere betwen Michelmas and Christmas I toke Lambeth House, and entred yt a moneth afore Christmas. Lambeth House at Westminster, nota.

1598. This yere about Midsomer I cam from Lambeth, and sold my house to Jeauns Bainton for fowar score and ten pound for 5 yers and a half. At Chrismas folowing Besse went from me. She came to me at Ester. Fardell lai at Lambeth at my house. My sister Jone lay at Lambeth Lane, and made moch adoe at Chrismas in the beginning of the yere, and shut Marjery out of dore and Jean into the orchard. Robart Langly dwelt with me. Jhon Good also dwelt with me then, and confessed to the robbing of my study. At Midsomer I toke the hale wher I dwelt [at] London, but left not the stone house. Alls came to me about

Ester. This yere I gote well, and did spend moch, and had good credit. The latter end of the yere the doctors arested me, and I them, and went to lawe together. Mr. Condwell and I came acquainted. This yere I was in danger of killing by Bosgrove and Bainton, for my house of Lambeth.

1599. This yere I left the stone house at Chrismas. In the beginning of the yere, I arested Peter Sefton on his bond, and was baill for him myself on the action. Fenueira, Bess Parkers child, was born 1599 the 9. of June, Saturday, som two monethes after she was maried. This yere I was maried to An Baker of Kent, Sir Edward Monninges sisters daughter, the 23. of Julii, Sunday, at Lambeth, in the 27\* yere of my age. This yere I was quiete from the doctors from imprisonment, but I condemned them in lawe, and put them to silence for a whole yer after and a half. At Michelmas I was in Kent at Gravesend. At Whitsontyd I was at Person Handies. I bought my geldinge, cost 28<sup>li</sup>, and sent him to Mr. Sandies about Michelmas. This yere was the gret muster in August at St. Jeames, and this yere I boght moche harnis and weapons for warre, swordes, daggers, muscotes, corslet, and furnitur, staves, howberdes, gantletes, maiells, &c. This yere also I bought moch lynnyn.

1600. At Ester I put Peter Sefton's hand in suet. This yere, the 8. of May, An Yonge died of a dropsy. This yere I wrote out the 2 bookes of *De arte memoratu* of Appolonius Niger, drawen with gould of the seven liberal sciences. Arter cam to dwell with me at Michelmas. I copied out also the 4 bookes of Steganno-graphia, and divers other bookes. I mad many sirups, distilled many waters, and mad many drugs this yere. About the latter end of November the docters sent for me to their halle again, but I went not, but wrote unto them. At Michelmas I rod into Kent to Mr. Webs, and to Canterbury, moch to my hinderance, and we had an ill and unfortunat journey of yt. Yt cost me 40<sup>li</sup> this yere

\* So in MS. for 47, I suppose. At fol. 226 of MS. Ashmol. 208, Forman says he was "47 yers old and a half" when he married her, and that she was only sixteen.



in apparrell and better, almost 50<sup>li</sup> for my wife and for myself. Fraunces cam to dwell with me after Bartlemi tyd. This yere I bought many pictures about our Lady dai. This sommer I had my own pictur drawen, and mad my purple gowne, my velvet cap, my velvet cote, my velvet breches, my taffety cloke, my hat, and many other thinges, and did let my hear and berd growe. Many sclanderouse speaches wer by the doctours and others used secretly againste me, yet I thrived reasonable well, I thanke God. I lent out moch mony on plate and jewells this yere, and had many trifells gyven me. I bought my swachele sword this yer, and did the hangers with silver. Arter came to dwell first with me about Alhallow tyd. My brother John laie with me this yer oftentimes, and in the last end of this yere my brother Robarte dyed, or therabout.

1601. The 16. dai, at night, Friday, I supt at Mr. Wels. The 17. dai, Saturday, I supt at Mr. Bakers in Colman Stret. The 25. dai of January, Sunday, at night towards Monday, my wife dremed she was with child, and Mrs. Condwel the sam night dremed soe also; and the sam 25. dai, Sunday, in the morning, my throte began to be sore, and at night it was very sore, and I was moch trobled with the reum. The 26. dai, Monday, Dr. Blaque and his wif, and Mr. Web and his wif, dyned with me. The 27. dai my throte was sore, and Besse was with me, my wives sister. This yere, a wick afore Whitsonday, I cam again to Lambeth\* to dwell in Prates Peese, and at Midsomer gave up London quite. In October my syster Jone and William Brink cam to London to see mee, and staid a wicke. Abought Bartilmew tyd I was at Mr. Webs. In Septembr. I cam acquainted with my Lord of Hartford. This yeare I rode 3 unprofitable voyages or journais, the first the wik afore Bartelmeaty to Mr. Web's, the second at Michelmas to

\* It seems from Strype that he went to Lambeth to shelter himself from the doctors under the archbishop's jurisdiction. In June the college addressed the archbishop to suppress Forman, and that prelate in his answer is favourable to the physicians, and condemns him. See Strype's *Life of Whitgift*, ed. 1822, ii. 458.

Memsbury, in North Wiltshire, the 3. the 10. of November again to Memsbury; in this voiadge I liste the scabbard of my sword, and my stockins, night cape band, and a towell, an ephemerides, and garters, and other things from my horse. My jorney was in vain, and the parties wer not confident, but disapointed me when I cam ther, and I came hom again with moch toylle and travaill, and spent moch in vain. The 23. of Novembr. my wif and I fell out for her folly and negligence. The 2. of Novemb., Sunday, or therabout, I and my man, comming from my Lord of Hartfords in Chanon Rowe at 8. at nyght and paste, wer like to byn bothe kild by Captin Hammon that was dronke. My wives mother came in August, and lai with me some 8 wickes, and her husband, Subble and Will, and his man. My brother Jhon died the 13. of Decemb. He sickned the 5th dai, and died the 12. dai at night, and was buried the 13. dai. This yere I thrived, thanks be to God, reasonable well. I bought moch houshold stufe and provision for the house, and moch apparell, and was at moch charge in keping of my horse, my conies. Diver pigeons which wer gyven me did not prosper with me, but wer kild by rats and stolen, and som pigeons flue awaie. My servantes were very disobedient, and negligent, and carles. Steaven cam to lye with me about the 24. November, and taried all Chrismas. Mr. Hovelstone being sick cam to ly at my house about the 15. of Decemb. Thursday P.M. This yere I cam acquainted with my L. of Hartford, and with my Ladi Mary, and divers other gentlemen.

1602. Accidentes this year, 1602:—the first of Januari, being Newyereday, at 4 P.M. I hit my right kne againste the dore post going forth, which greved me moch. The 4th of Januari P.M. at 4, I went to see Mr. Shorte at St. Jills in the Feld sick, and sawe ther Sara Bruar. The 3. Sundai, I kept my Chrismas dynner.\*

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\* In MS. Ashm. 802, is part of a diary by Forman for the year 1607. It appears unnecessary to insert it here, as it consists chiefly of *halek* notes.