BR'VTVS.

They do hide For this caufe they durft not acquaint *Cicero* with their confpiracie, although he was a man A deconfination whome they loued dearelie, and trufted beft: for they were affrayed that he being a coward againtic for by nature, and age also having increased his feare, he would equite turne and alter all their purpole, and quenche the heate of their enterprife, the which speciallie required hotte and purpole, and quenche the heate of their enterprife, the which speciallie required hotte and purpole sectoring from the purpole of the sector of purpore, and quenene the nearest men encerptine, the trinch interance transfer and earneft execucion, feeking by perfwafion to bring all thinges to fuche fafetie, as there fhould be no perill. Brutw alfo did let other of his frendes alone, as Statilitus EPICVRIAN, and Paonins, that made profeffion to followe Marens Cato. Bicaufe that having caft out wordes a farte of, difputing together in Philosophie to feele their mindes: Faonime aunswered, that ciuill warre was worle then tyrannicall gouernment vfurped againft the lawe. And statiliua wof then 7⁻ tolde him alfo, that it were an vnwife parte of him, to put his life in daunger, for a light raminal 3⁻ of ignoraunt fooles and affes. *Labeo* was prefent at this talke. and maintavned the contraof ignoraunt fooles and aftes. Labee was prefent at this talke, and maintayned the contra-B rie againft them both. But Bratas helde his peace, as though it had bene a doubtfull matter, and a harde thing to haue decided. But afterwardes, being out of their companie, he made Labeo priuie to his intent : who verie readilie offered him felfe to make one. And they thought good alfo to bring in an other Brutue to ioyne with him, furnamed Albinus : who was no man of his handes him felfe, but bicaufe he was able to bring good force of a great number of flaues, and fenfers at the fharpe, whome he kept to fhewe the people pattime with their fighting, befides allo that Cafar had fome truft in him. Cafarss and Labse tolde Brutus Abinus of it at the first, but he made them no aunswere. But when he had fpoken with Brutus him felfe alone, and that Brutus had tolde him he was the chiefe ringleader of all this confpiracie: then he willinglie promifed him the beft aide he coulde. Furthermore, the on- C liename and great calling of Brutus, did bring on the most of them to geue confent to this The winder. configuration of the balance of the former of the state of

ding the goddes did reueale it by manifest fignes and tokens from aboue, and by predictions of facrifices: yet all this woulde not be beleued. Nowe Brutter, who knewe verie well that f C. fan for his fake all the nobleft, vallianteft, and most couragious men of Rome did venter their liues, waying with him felfe the greatneffe of the daunger: when he was out of hishoufe he did fo frame and facion his countenaunce and lookes, that no man coulde difcerne he had any thing to trouble his minde. But when night came that he was in his owne houfe, then he D was cleane chaunged. For, either care did wake him against his will when he woulde haue flept, or elfe oftentimes of him felfe he fell into fuche deepe thoughtes of this enterprife, cafling in his minde all the daungers that might happen: that his wife lying by him, founde that there was fome maruelous great matter that troubled his minde, notbeinge wont to be in that taking, and that he coulde not well determine with him felfe. His wife Porcia (as

barlati

Protis, Ca-be in that taking, and that he coulde not well determine with him telle. His wite Porca (as we have tolde you before) was the daughter of Cato, whome Bratsu maried being his co-we have tolde you before) was the daughter of Cato, whome Bratsu maried being his co-ments. Bratsu Bratsu Bratsu etc. after whome (he had alfo a younge ionne called Bibulus, who afterwardes wrote a booke of the actes and isafters of Bratsu, extant at this prefent day. This young Ladie being excellentile well feenen in Philosophie, louing her husbande well, and being of a noble courage, as the <u>B</u> well feene in Philosophie, louing her husbande what he ayled before (he had dirdin philo was allo wife: bicaule the worke a lide rafor fuche as bathers occurie to part thisphie made fome proofe by her felfe, the tooke a litle rafor fuche as barbers occupie to pare made tome proofe by her lene, the tooke a file rator here as batters occupie to pate mens nayles, and caufinge all her maydes and women to goe out of her chamber, gaue her felfea greate gathe withall in her thigh, that the was fir aight all of a goare bloode, and incontinentlie after, a vehement feuer tooke her, by reafon of the payne of her wounde. Then perceiving her husbande was marueloulic out of quiet, and that he could take no reft: euen in het greateft payne of all, the fpake in this forte vnto him. I being, O Brann, (fayed fhe) the daughter of Cato, was maried vnto thee, not to be thy beddefellowe and Great diffe companion in bedde and at borde onelie, like a harlot : but to be partaker also with thee, of thy good and cuill fortune. Nowe for thy felfe, I can finde no caufe of faulte in thee tour F a wife and a chinge our matche: but for my parte, howe may I fhowe my duetie towardes thee, and howe muche I woulde doe for thy fake, if I can not constantlie beare a fecret mifchaunce Porciaes

BRVTVS

A or griefe with thee, which require th fecrecy and fidelity ? I confesse, that a womans wit commonly is too weake to keepe a fecret fafely: but yet, Brains, good education, and the compa-nie of vertuous men, haue fome power to reforme the defect of nature. And for my felfe, I have this benefit moreover that I am the daughter of Cato, & wife of Brutus. This not withftanding, I did not truft to any of these things before : vntill that now I have found by experience, that no paine nor griefe whatfoeuer can ouercome me. With those wordes the thewed him her wounde on her thigh, and tolde him what the had done to proue her felfe, Brutus was amazed to heare what the fayd vnto him, and lifting vp his handes to heauen, he befought the goddes to geue him the grace he might bring his enterprise to fo good passe, that he might be founde a husband, worthie of fo noble a wife as Porcia : fo he then did comfort her the beft B he coulde. Now a day being appointed for the meeting of the Senate, at what time they hoped Cefar woulde not faile to come: the confpirators determined then to put their enterprife in execucion, bicaufe they might meete fafelie at that time without fulpicion, and the rather, for that all the nobleft and chiefeft men of the citie woulde be there. Who when they thould fee fuche a great matter executed, would euerie man then fet to their handes, for the defence of their libertie. Furthermore, they thought alfo that the appointment of the place where the counfell fhoulde be kept, was chosen of purpose by diuine prouidence, and made all for them. For it was one of the porches about the Theater, in the which there was a certaine place full of feates for men to fit in , where allo was fet vp the image of Pompey, which the citie had made and confectated in honor of him : when he did beawtifie that parte of the C citie with the Theater he built, with divers porches about it. In this place was the affembly of the Senate appointed to be, just on the fifteenth day of the moneth of March, which the Ko-MANES call, Idus Martias : fo that it feemed fome god of purpose had brought Cefar thither to beflaine, for reuenge of *Pompeys* death. So when the day was come, Brutus went out of his bolchant, so toxing of the start of the star into the market place, who on that day did put on the mans gowne, called Toga Viriliss and from thence they came all in a troupe together vnto *Pompeys* porche, looking that *Cafar* woulde ftraight come thither. But here is to be noted, the wonderfull affured conftancie of j these configurators, in so daungerous and waightie an enterprise as they had vndertaken. For of the configurators D many of them being Prætors, by reafon of their office, whole duetie is to minister inflice to ratio euerie bodie : they did not onelie with great quietneffe and curtefie heare them that fpake va- ling of Cefer to them, or that pleaded matters before them, and gaue them attentiue care, as if they had had no other matter in their heades : but moreouer, they gaue iust fentence, and carefullie difpatched the caufes before them. So there was one among them, who being condemned in a certaine fumme of money, refuled to pay it, and cried out that he did appeale vnto Cafar. Then Brutus calting his eyes vppon the confpirators, fayd, Cafar fhall not lette me to fee the lawe executed. Notwithstanding this, by chaunce there fell out many misfortunes vnto Sundrie misthem, which was enough to have marred the enterprife. The first and chiefeft was, C. afars long bruther to tarying, who came verie late to the Senate: for bicaufe the fignes of the facrifices appeared of the enter

E vnluckie, his wife Calpurnia kept him at home, and the Soothfayers bad him beware he went pronot abroade. The feconde caufe was, when one came vnto Cafca being a confpirator, and taking him by the hande, fayd vnto him: OCafca, thou kepteft it cloie from me, but Bratus hath tolde me all. Cafea being amazed at it, the other went on with his tale, and fayd: why, howe nowe, howe commeth it to paffe thou art thus riche, that thou doeft fue to be Ædilis? Thus Cafea being deceived by the others doubtfull wordes, he tolde them it was a thowfand toone, he blabbed not out all the confpiracie. An other Senator called Fopilius Lana, after he had faluted Brutus and Caffius more frendlie then he was wont to doe: he rounded foftlie in their eares, and told them, I pray the goddes you may goe through with that you have taken in hande, but withall, dispatche I reade you, for your enterprise is bewrayed. When he had F fayd, he prefentlie departed from them, and left them both affrayed that their confpiracie woulde our. Nowe in the meane time, there came one of Brutus men post hast vnto him, and tolde him his wife was a dying. For *Porcia* being verie carefull and penfiue for that which VVVV iij

1051