1060
They do hide For this caufe they durf not acquaint Cicero with their confiracie, although he was a man A he conpiracy whome they loued dearelic, and trufted beft: for they were affrayed that he being a coward
 purpole, and quenche the heaie of their enterprife, the which fpeciallie required hotte and carneft execucion, feeking by perfwafion tobringall thinges to fuche faferie, as there fhould be no perill. Brutus alfo did let other of his frendes alone, as Statilius Epic vaian, and Faonius, that made profeffion to followe CMarcus Cato. Bicaufe that hauing calt out wordes a farre of, difputing together in Philofophie to feele their mindes: Fuonius aunfwered, that ciuill warre was worfe then tyrannicall gouernment vfurped againft the lawe. And Statiliue tolde himalfo, that it were an vnwife parte of him, to put his life in daunger, for a fight - ignoraunt fooles and afies. Labeo was prefent at this talke, and maintayned the contrarie againtt them both. Bur Brutus 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 Brutus to ioyne with him, furnamed ©Albinus : who was no man of his handes himfelfe, burbicaufe hewas able to bring good force of a great number of flaues, and fenfers at the fharpe; whome he kept to fhewe the people paftime with their fighting, befides alfo that Cafar had fome truft in him. Caßius and Labeo tolde Brutus Albinus of it at the firf, but he made them no aunfwere. But when he had fooken with Brwitus 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- $C$ lie name and great calling of Brutus, did bring on the mof of tliem to geue confent to this confpiracie. Who hauing neuer taken othes together, nor taken or geuen any caution or affuraunce, nor binding them felues one to an other by any religious othes: they all kept fulfuith and affuraunce, nor bindigg felves, and coulde fo cunninglie handleit, that notwithftanfecrefe of the the matter fo lecret to them felues, and counes and tokens from aboue, and by predictions
of facrifices: yet all this-woulde not be beleued. Nowe Brutus, who knewe verie well that of horhis fake all the noblef, vallianteft, and moft 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 againt his will when he woulde haue flept, or elfe oftentimes of him felfe he fell intofuche deepe thoughtes of this enterprife, caAting 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, not beinge wont to be in that taking, and that he coulde notwell determine with him felfe. His wife Porcia (as we haue tolde you before ) was the daughter of Cato, whome Brutus maried being his co-
whome the had alfo a younge fonne called Bibulus, who afterwardes wrote a booke of the actes and ieaftes of Brutus, extant at this prefent day. This young Ladie being excellentlie well feene in Philofophie, louing her husbande well, and ber noble courage, as the was alfo wife : bicaufe the woulde not aske her husbande what he ayled becorupie to pare made fome proofe by her felfe, the taydes and women to goe out of her chamber, gaue mens nayles, and cauninge all her maydes and the wasftraight all of a goare bloode, and her felfea greate gafhe withall in her thigh, that ine wasitraigh af the payne of her wounde. incontinendie after, a vehement feuer tooke Then perceiuing her husbande of all, the fake in this forte vnto hip. Ibeing, 0 brutus, (fayed cuen in her greateit payne of , $\dot{\text { was maried vnto thee, not to be thy beddefellowe and }}$ companion in bedde and at borde onelie, like a harlot: but to be partaker: alfo with thee, of thy good and euill fortune. Nowe for thy felfe, I can finde no caufe of faulte in thee tou- F chinge our matche: but for my parte, howe may I Thowe my duetie towardes thee, and chinge our matche: but for my parte, howe may I thowe my betie fecret mifchaunce
howe nuche I woulde doe for thy fake, if I can not conftantlie beare fecren or

## BRVTVS.

A orgriefe with thee, which requireth fecrecyand fidelity? I confeffe, that a womans wit com- „s monly is too weake to keepe a fecret fafely: but yet, Brutus, goodeducacion, and the compa- "3 nie of vertuous men, haue fome power to reforme the defect of naturc. And for my felfe, I" haue this benefit moreouer:that I am the daughter of Cato, \& wife of $B$, utus. This notwithftanding, I did not truft to any of thefe things before : vntill thar now I hiuc found by experience,"," that no paine nor griefe whatfocuer can ouercome me. With thofe wordes the fhewed him ,s her wounde on her thigh, and tolde him what the had done to proue her felfe. Brutus was a- " mazed to heare what he fayd vnto him, and lifting vp his handes to heauen, he bcfought the goddes to geue him the grace he might bring his enterprife to fo good paffe, that he might be founde a husband, worthie of fo noble a wife as Porcia: fo he then did cumfort her the beft B he coulde. Now a day being appointed for the mecting of the Senate, at whattime they hoped Cafar woulde not faile to come: the confpirators determined then to put their enterprife in execucion, bicaufe they might meete fafelie at that time without fufpicion, 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 execured, would euerie man then fet to their handes, for the deferice of their libertie. Furthermore, they thought alfo that the appointment of the place where the counfell fhoulde be kept, was chofen of purpofe 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 alfo was fec vp the image of Pompry, which thecitie had made and confecrated in honor of him : when he did beawtifie that parte of the C citie with the Theater he built, with diuers porches about it. In this place was the affernbly of the Senate appointed to be, iuft on the fifteenth day of the noneth of March, which the R o MANES call, Idus Martias : fo that it feemed fome god of purpofe had brought Cefar thither to beflaine, for reuenge of Pompeys death. So when the day was come, Bristus went out of his houfe with a dagger by his fide vnder his long gowne, that no bodie fawe nor knewe, but his wife onelie. Theother confpirators were all affembled at Caßius houfe, to bring his fonne into the marketplace, who on that day did put on the mans gowne, called Toga Virilis: and from thence they came all in a troupe together vnto Pompeys porche, looking that Cafar woulde fraight come thither. But here is to be noted, the wonderfull affured conflancic of $\quad$ The monders thefe confpirators, in fo daungerous and waightie an enterprife as they had vndertaken. For of thif conf conffis D many of them being Prators, by reafon of theiroffice, whofe duetie is to minifter iuftice to raters, in $\mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{f}} \mathrm{L}$ eueric bodie : they did not onelie with great quietneffe and curtefie heare them that fpake van- Ling of $C$.efor. tothen, or that pleaded matters before them, and gaue them attentiuc eare, as if they had had no other matter in their heades: but moreouer, they gauc iuft fentence, and carefullie difpatched the caufes before them. So there was one among them, who being condemned in a certaine fumme of money, refufed to pay it, and cried out that he did appeale vnto Cafar. Then Brutus calting his eyes vppon the confpirators, fayd, Cafar fhall not letreme to fee the lave executed.Notwithftanding this, by chaunce there fell out many misfortunes vnto Surdrie mits them, which was enough to haue marred the enterprife. The firft and chiefeft was, Cefats long firmures so tarying, who came verie late to the Senate: forbicaule the fignes of the facrifices appeared of the entre E vnluckie, his wife Calpurnia kept him athome, and the Soothayers bad him beware he went prifo. not abroade. The feconde caufe was, when one came vnto Cafca being a confirator, and taking him by the hande, fayd vnto him: O $\dot{C} a f c a$, thou kepteft it clofe from me, but Brutus hath tolde ne all. Cafca being amazed atit, 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 正dilis? Thus Cafca being deceiued by the others doubtfull wordes, he tolde them it was a thowfand toone, he blabbed notour all the confpiracie. An other Senator called Fopilius Lana, after he had faluted Brutus and Cafius 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 haue taken in hande, but withall, difpatche I reade you, for your enterprife is bewrayed. When he had F fayd, he prefentlie departed from them, and left them both affrayed that their confpiracic woulde out. Nowe in the meane time, there came one of Brutus men poft haft vnto him,and tolde him his wife was a dying. For Porcia being verie carefull and penfue forthat which

