

Di Grassi his true Arte of Defence,

plainlie teaching by infallable Demonstrations, apt Figures and perfect Rules the manner and forme how a man without other Teacher or Master may safelie handle all sortes of

Weapons aswell offensiue as defensiue:

VVith a Treatise

Of Disceit or Falsinge: And with a waie or

meane by priuate Industrie to obtaine Strength, Iudgement and

Actiuitie.

*First written in Italian by the fore-*said Author, And Englished by I.G. gentleman.

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1594.

To the Right Honorable my L. Borrow Lord Gouernor of the Breil, and Knight of the moſt honorable order of the Garter, T. C. wiſheth continuall Honor, worthines of mind, and learned knowledg, with increas of worldlie Fame, & heauenlie felicitie.

HAuing a reſtleſſe deſier in the dailie exerciſes of Pen to preſent ſome acceptable peece of work to your L. and finding no one thing ſo fit for my purpoſe and your honorable diſpoſition, as the knowledge of Armes and Weapons, which defends life, countrie, & honour, I preſumed to preferre a booke to the print (tranſlated out of the Italyan language) of a gentle mans doing that is not ſo gredie of glory as many glorious writers that eagerly would ſnatch Fame out of other mens mouthes, by a little labour of their own, But rather keeps his name vnknowen to the world (vnder a ſhamefaſt clowd of ſilence) knowing that vertue ſhynes beſt & getteth greateſt prayes where it maketh ſmalleſt bragg: for the goodnes of the mind ſeekes no glorious gwerdon, but hopes to reap the reward of well doing among the rypeſt of iudgement & worthieſt of ſound conſideration, like vnto a man that giueth his goods vnto the poore, and maketh his treaſure-houſe in heauen, And further to be noted, who can tarrie til the ſeed ſowen in the earth be almoſt rotten or dead, ſhal be ſure in a boũtiful haruеſt to reap a goodly crop of corne And better it is to abyde a happie ſeaſon to ſee how things will proue, than ſoddainly to ſeeke profite where ſlowlye comes commoditie or any benefit wil riſe. Some ſay, that good writers doe purchaſe ſmall praiſe till they be dead, (Hard is that opinion.) and then their Fame ſhal flowriſh & bring foorth the fruite that long lay hid in the earth.

This gentleman, perchaunce, in the like regard ſmothers vp his credit, and ſtands careleſſe of the worlds report: but I cannot ſee him ſo forgotten for his paines in this worke is not little, & his merite muſt be much that hath in our Engliſh tongue publiſhed ſo neceſſarie a volume in ſuch apt termes & in ſo bigg a booke (beſides the liuely deſcriptions & models of the ſame) that ſhews great knowledge & cunning, great art in the weapon, & great ſuretie of the man that wiſely can vſe it, & ſtoutly execute it. All manner of men allowes knowledge: then where knowledge & courage meetes in one perſon, there is ods in that match, whatſoeuer manhod & ignorance can ſay in their own behalfe. The fine book of ryding hath made many good horſ-men: and this booke of Fencing will ſaue many mens lyues, or put comon quarrels out of vre becauſe the danger is death if ignorant people procure a combate. Here is nothing ſet downe or ſpeach vſed, but for the preſeruation of lyfe and honour of man: moſt orderly rules, & noble obſeruations, enterlaced with wiſe councell & excellent good wordes, penned from a fowntaine of knowledge and flowing witt, where the reaſons runnes as freely as cleere water cometh from a Spring or Conduite. Your L. can iudge both of the weapon & words, wherefore there needes no more commendation of the booke: Let it ſhewe it ſelf, craving ſome ſupportation of your honourable cenſure: and finding fauour and paſſage among the wiſe, there is no doubt but all good men will like it, and the bad ſort will bluſh to argue againſt it, as knoweth our liuing Lord, who augment your L. in honour & deſyred credit.

Your L. in all humbly at commaundement.

The Authors Epiſtle vnto diuers Noble men and Gentle-men.

AMong all the Prayers, wherein through the whole courſe of my life, I haue asked any great thing at Gods hands, I haue alwayes moſt earneſtly beſeeched, that (although at this preſent I am verie poore and of baſe Fortune) he would notwithſtanding giue me grace to be thankefull and mindfull of the good turnes which I haue receiued. For among all the diſgraces which a man may incurre in this world, there is none in mine opinion which cauſeth him to become more odious, or a more enimie to mortall men (yea, vnto God himſelfe) than ingratitude. VVherefore being in Treuiſo, by your honours courteouſly intreated, and of all honourably vſed, although I practiſed little or nought at all to teach you how to handle weapons, for the which purpoſe I was hyred with an honourable ſtipend, yet to ſhewe my ſelfe in ſome ſort thankefull, I haue determined to beſtowe this my worke vpon your honours, imploying my whole indeuour to ſhewe the way how to handle all ſortes of weapons with aduantage and ſafetie. The which my worke, becauſe it ſhall finde your noble hearts full of valure, will bring foorth ſuch fruite, being but once attentiuely read ouer, as that in your ſaid honors will be ſeene in actes and deedes, which in other men ſcarſely is comprehended by imagination. And I, who haue beene and am moſt feruently affected to ſerue your Ls. foraſmuch as it is not graunted vnto me, (in reſpect of your diuers affaires) to applie the ſame, and take ſome paines in teaching as I alwaies deſired, haue yet by this other waie, left all that imprinted in your noble mindes, which in this honourable exerciſe may bring a valiant man vnto perfection.

Therefore I humbly beſeech your honours, that with the ſame liberall mindes, with the which you accepted of mee, your Ls will alſo receiue theſe my indeuours, & vouchſafe ſo to protect them, as I haue alwaies, and will defend your honours moſt pure and vndefiled. VVherein, if I perceiue this my firſt childbirth (as I haue only publiſhed it to the intent to help & teach others) to be to the generall ſatisfaction of all I will ſo ſtraine my endeuours in an other worke which ſhortly ſhall ſhew the way both how to handle all thoſe weapons on horſe-backe which here are taught on foote, as alſo all other weapons whatſoeuer.

Your honours moſt affectionate ſeruant
Giacomo di Graſſi of Modena.

The Author, to the Reader.

EVen as from our ſwathing bands wee carrie with vs (as it were) an vnbridled deſire of knowledge: So afterwardes, hauing attained to the perfection thereof, there groweth in vs a certaine laudable and feruent affection to teach others: The which, if it were not ſo, the world happily ſhould not be ſeene ſo repleniſhed with Artes and Sciences.

For if men generally were not apt to contemplation and ſearching out of things: Or if God had not beſtowed vpon euery man the grace, to be able to lift vp his minde from the earth, and by ſearching to finde out the cauſes thereof, and to imparte them to thoſe who are leſſe willing to take any paines therein: it would come to paſſe, that the one parte of men, as Lordes and Maſters, ſhould beare rule, and the other parte as vyle ſlaues, wrapped in perpetuall darkneſſe, ſhould ſuffer and lead a life vnworthie the condition of man. Wherefore, in mine opinion it ſtandes with great reaſon that a man participate that vnto others which he hath ſearched and found out by his great ſtudie & trauaile. And therefore, I being euen from my childhood greatly delighted in the handling of weapons: after I had ſpent much time in the exerciſe thereof, was deſyrous to ſee and beholde the moſt excellent and expert maſters of this Arte, whome I haue generally marked, to teach after diuers wayes, much differing one from another, as though this miſterie were deſtitute of order & rule, or depended onely vpon imagination, or on the deuiſe of him who profeſſeth the ſame: Or as though it were a matter impoſsible to find out in this honourable exerciſe (as well as in all other Artes and Sciences) one onely good and true way, whereby a man may attaine to the intire knowledge of as much as may be practiſed with the weapon, not depending altogether vpon his owne head, or learning one blowe to day of one maſter, on the morowe of another, thereby buſying himſelfe about perticulars, the knowledge whereof is infinite, therefore impoſsible. Whereupon being forced, through a certaine honeſt deſire which I beare to helpe others, I gaue my ſelfe wholy to the contem-

templation thereof: hoping that at the length, I ſhoulde finde out the true principles and groundes of this Arte, and reduce the confuſed and infinite number of blowes into a compendious ſumme and certaine order: The which principles being but fewe, and therefore eaſie to be knowen and borne away, without doubt in ſmall time, and little trauaile, will open a moſt large entrance to the vnderſtanding of all that which is contained in this Arte. Neither was I in this fruſtrate at all of my expectation: For in concluſion after much deliberation, I haue found out this Arte, from the which onely dependeth the knowledge of all that which a man may performe with a weapon in his hand, and not onely with thoſe weapons which are found out in theſe our dayes, but alſo with thoſe that ſhall be inuented in time to come: Conſidering this Arte is grounded vpon Offence and Defence, both the which are practiſed in the ſtraight and circuler lynes, for that a man may not otherwiſe either ſtrike or defend.

And becauſe I purpoſe to teach how to handle the Weapon, as orderly and plainly as is poſsible: I haue firſt of all layd down the principles or groundes of all the Arte, calling them *Aduertiſements*, the which, being of their owne nature verie well knowen to all thoſe that are in their perfect wittes: I haue done no other then barely declared them, vvithout rendring any further reaſon, as being a thing ſuperfluous.

Theſe principles being declared, I haue next handled thoſe things, vvhich are, and be, of themſelues, *Simple*, then (aſcending vp to thoſe that are *Compound*) I ſhewe that vvhich may be generally done in the handling of all Weapons. And becauſe, in teaching of Artes and Sciences, *Things* are more to be eſteemed of than *VVordes*, therefore I vvould not chooſe in the handling hereof a copious and ſounding kinde of ſpeach, but rather that vvhich is more briefe and familiar. Which maner of ſpeach as in a ſmall bundle, it containeth diuers weightie things, ſo it craueth a ſlowe and diſcreete Reader, who will ſoft and faire pearce into the verie Marrowe thereof.

For this cauſe I beſeech the gentle Reader to ſhewe himſelfe ſuch a one in the reading of this my preſent worke, aſſuring him ſelfe by ſo reading it, to reape great profite and honour thereby.

And

To the Reader.

Not doubting but that he(who is ſufficientlie furniſhed with this knowledge, and hath his bodie proporcionably exerciſed thereunto)ſhall far ſurmount anie other although he be indewed with equal force and ſwiftnes.

Moreouer, becauſe this art is a principal member of the *Militarie profeſsion*, vvhich alltogether (vvith learning) is the ornament of all the World, Therefore it ought not to be exerciſed in Braules and Fraies, as men commonlie practiſe in euerie ſhire, but as honorable Knights, ought to reſerue themſelues, & exerciſe it for the aduantage of their Cuntry, the honour of vveomen, and conqueringe of Hoſtes and armies.

An Aduertiſement to the curteous reader.

GOod Reader, before thou enter into the diſcourſe of the hidden knowledge of this honourable exceriſe of the weapon now layd open and manifeſted by the Author of this worke, & in ſuch perfectnes tranſlated out of the Italian tongue, as all or moſt of the marſhal mynded gentlemen of England cannot but commend, and no one perſon of indifferent iudgement can iuſtly be offended with, ſeeing that whatſoeuer herein is diſcourſed, tendeth to no other vſe, but the defence of mans life and reputation: I thought good to aduertiſe thee that in ſome places of this booke by reaſon of the æquiuocation of certaine Italian wordes, the weapons may doubtfully be conſtrued in Engliſh. Therefore ſometimes fynding this worde Sworde generally vſed, I take it to haue beene the better tranſlated, if in ſteede thereof the Rapier had beene inſerted: a weapon more vſuall for Gentlemens wearing, and fitteſt for cauſes of offence and defence: Beſides that, in Italie where Rapier and Dagger is commonly worne and vſed, the Sworde (if it be not an arming Sworde) is not ſpoken of. Yet would I not the ſence ſo ſtrictly to be conſtrued, that the vſe of ſo honourable a weapon be vtterly

reiected, but ſo redd, as by the right and perfect vnderſtanding of the one, thy iudgement may ſomwhat be augmented in managing of the other: Knowing right well, that as the practiſe and vſe of the firſt is commendable amongſt them, ſo the ſecond cannot ſo farre be condemned, but that the wearing thereof may well commend a man of valour and reputation amongſt vs. The Sworde and Buckler fight was long while allowed in England (and yet practiſe in all ſortes of weapons is praiſworthie,) but now being layd downe, the ſworde but with Seruing-men is not much regarded, and the Rapier fight generally allowed, as a wapon becauſe moſt perilous, therefore moſt feared, and thereupon priuate quarrels and common frayes ſooneſt ſhunned.

But this peece of work, gentle Reader, is ſo gallantly ſet out in euery point and parcell, the obſcureſt ſecrets of the handling of the weapon ſo clerely vnfolded, and the perfect demeaning of the bodie vpon all and ſudden occaſions ſo learnedly diſcourſed, as will glad the vnderſtander there of, & ſound to the glory of all good Maſters of Defence, *becauſe their Arte is herein ſo honoured, and their knowledge (which ſome men count infinite) in ſo ſinguler a ſcience, drawen into ſuch* Grounds and Principles, *as no wiſe man of an vnpartiall iudge-*

ment, and of what profeſsion ſoeuer, but will confeſſe himſelf in curteſie farre indebted both to the Author & Tranſlator of this ſo neceſſarie a Treatiſe, whereby he may learne not onely through reading & remembring to furniſh his minde with reſolute inſtructions, but alſo by practiſe and exercise gallantly to perfourme any conceited enterpriſe with a diſcreete and orderly carriage of his bodie, vpon all occaſions whatſoeuer.

Gentle Reader. What other eſcapes or miſtakings ſhall come to thy viewe, either friendly I intreate thee to beare with them, or curteouſly with thy penne for thine owne vſe to amend them.

Fare-well.

The Sortes of VVeapons handled in this Treatiſe.

THe ſingle Rapier, Or ſingle Sworde.
The rapier and dagger &c.
The rapier and Cloak &c.
The ſword and Buckler.
The Sword and ſquare target.
The ſworde and round target.
The Caſe of Rapiers.
The two hand Sword.
The weapons of the Staffe, As
The Bil, Parteſan, Holberd and Iauelin.

Falſing of Blowes and Thruſts.

At ſingle rapier &c.
At rapier and dagger &c.
At Cloak and rapier.
At ſword & buckler, ſquare target and round target.
At the two rapiers
At the two hand ſword
At the Bill, Parteſan, Iauelin, and Holberd.
At the Pike.

The true Art of Defence exactlie

reachinge the manner how to handle weapons ſafelie, aſwel offenſiue as defenſiue, *With a Treatiſe of* Diſceit *or* Falſing, *And with a mean or waie how a man* may practiſe of himſelfe to gett Strength, Iudgement, and Actiuitie.

THere is no doubt but that the Honorable exerciſe of the Weapon is made right perfect by meanes of two thinges, to witt: Iudgment and Force: Becauſe by the one, we know the manner and time to handle the weapon (how, or whatſoeuer occaſion ſerueth:) And by the other we haue power to execute therewith, in due time with aduauntage.

And becauſe, the knowledge of the manner and Time to ſtrike and defende, dooth of it ſelfe teach vs the skil how to reaſon and diſpute thereof onely, and the end and ſcope of this Art conſiſteth not in reaſoning, but in dooinge: Therefore to him that is deſierous to proue ſo cunning in this Art, as is needfull, It is requiſite not onelie that he be able to iudg, but alſo that he be ſtronge and actiue to put in execution all that which his iudgement comprehendeth and ſeeth. And this may not bee done without ſtrength and actiuitie of bodie: The which if happelie it bee

ſeeble, ſlowe, or not of power to ſuſtaine the weight of blowes, Or if it take not aduauntage to ſtrike when time requiereth, it vtterlie remaineth ouertaken with diſgrace and daunger: the which falts (as appeareth) proceed not from the Art, but from the Inſtrument badly handled in the action.

Therefore let euerie man that is deſierous to practiſe this Art, indeuor himſelfe to get ſtrength and agilitie of bodie, aſſuringe himſelf, that iudgment without this actiuitie and force, auaileth litle or nothinge: Yea, happelie giueth occaſion of hurt and ſpoile. For men beinge blinded in their owne iudgements, and preſuminge thereon, becauſe they know how, and what they ought to doo, giue manie times the onſet and enterpriſe, but yet, neuer perfourme it in act.

But leaſt I ſeeme to ground this Art vppon dreames and monſtrous imaginations (hauinge before laid downe, that ſtrength of bodie is very neceſſarie to attaine to the perfection of this Art, it beinge one of the two principall beeginninges firſt layd downe, and not as yet declared the way how to come by and procure the ſame) I haue determined in the entrance of this worke, to preſcribe firſt the manner how to obtaine iudgemēt, and in the end thereof by way of Treatiſe to ſhew the meanes (as farre forth as appertaineth to this Art) by the which a man by his owne indeuoure and trauaile, may get ſtrength and actiuitie of bodie, to ſuch purpoſe and effect, that by the iuſtruc-

tions

tions and reaſons, which ſhal be here giuen him, he may eaſely without other maſter or teacher, become both ſtronge, actiue and skilful.

The meanes how to obtain Iudgement.

ALthough I haue verye much in a manner in all quarters of Italie, ſeene moſt excellent profeſſors of this Art, to teach in their Schols, and practiſe priuately in the Liſtes to traine vp their Schollers. Yet I doo not remember that euer I ſaw anie man ſo throughly indewed with this firſt part, to wit, Iudgement, as is in that behalfe required.

And it may bee that they keep it in ſecreat of purpoſe: for amongſt diuers diſorderlie blowes, you might haue ſeen ſome of them moſt gallantlie beſtowed, not without euident coniecture of deepe iudgment. But howſoeuer it bee ſeeinge I purpoſe to further this Art, in what I may, I wil ſpeak of this firſt part as aptly to the purpoſe, as I can.

It is therefore to be conſidered that man by ſo much the more waxeth fearefull or boulde, by how much the more he knoweth how t'auoid

or not to eſchew daunger.

But to attain to this knowledg, it is moſt neceſſarie that he alwaies kepe ſtedfaſtly in memorie all theſe aduertiſements vnderwritten, from which ſpringeth al the knowledg of this Art. Nether is it posſible without them to performe any perfect action for the which a man may giue a reſon. But if it ſo fall out that any man (not hauing the knowledg of theſe aduertiſements) performe any ſure act, which may be ſaid to be hand led with iudgement, that proceedeth of no other thing, then of very nature, and of the mind, which of it ſelfe naturally conceiueth all theſe aduertiſementes.

1 Firſt, that the right or ſtreight Line is of all other the ſhorteſt: wherefore if a man would ſtrike in the ſhorteſt lyne, it is requiſite that he ſtrike in the ſtreight line.

2 Secondly, he that is neereſt, hitteth ſooneſt. Out of which aduertiſment a man may reap this profit, that ſeeing the enemies ſword farr off, aloft and readie to ſtrik, he may firſt ſtrik the enemie, before he himſelfe be ſtriken.

3 Thirdly, a Circle that goeth compaſſinge beareth more force in the extremitie of the circumference, then in the center thereof.

4 Fourthly, a man may more eaſily withſtand a ſmall then a great force.

5 Fifthly, euerie motion is accompliſhed in tyme.

That bv theſe Rules a man may get iudgment,

it is moſt cleere, ſeing there is no other thinge required in this Art, then to ſtrike with aduantage, and defend with ſafetie.

This is done, when one ſtriketh in the right line, by giuing a thurſt, or by delyuering an edge-blow with that place of the ſword, where it carrieth moſt force, firſt ſtriking the enemie beefore he be ſtroken: The which is perfourmed, when he perceiueth him ſelfe to be more nere his enemie, in which caſe, he muſt nimbly deliuer it. For there are few nay there is no man at all, who (perceiuing himſelfe readie to be ſtroken) giues not back, and forſaketh to performe euerie other motion which he hath begun.

And forasmuch, as he knoweth that euery motion is made in time, he indeuoreth himſelfe ſo to ſtrik and defend, that he may vſe as few motions as is posſible, and therein to ſpend as litle time, And as his enemie moueth much in diuers times he may be aduertiſed hereby, to ſtrike him in one or more of thoſe times, ſo out of al due time ſpent.

The diuiſion of the Art.

BEfore I come to a more perticuler declaration of this Art, it is requiſite I vſe ſome generall diuiſion. Wherefore it is to be vnderſtood, that as in all other arts, ſo likewiſe in this (men forſaking the true ſcience thereof, in hope peraduen-

uenture to ouercome rather by diſceit then true manhood) haue found out a new maner of skirmiſhing ful of falſes and ſlips. The which becauſe it ſome what and ſome times preualeth againſt thoſe who are either fearfull or ignorant of their groundes and principals, I am conſtrayned to diuide this Art into two Arts or Sciences, callinge thone the True, the other, the Falſe art: But withall giuing euerie man to vnderſtand, that falſehood hath no aduauntage againſt true Art, but rather is moſt hurtfull and deadlie to him that vſeth it.

Therefore caſting away deceit for this preſent, which ſhal hereafter be hãdled in his proper place and reſtraining my ſelfe to the truth, which is the true and principall deſier of my hart, preſuppoſing that Iuſtice (which in euerie occaſion approcheth neereſt vnto truth) obteineth allwaies the ſuperioritie, I ſay whoſoeuer mindeth to exerciſe himſelfe in this true and honorable Art or Science, it is requiſite that he be indued with deep Iudgement, a valiant hart and great actiuitie, In which thre qualities this exerciſe doth as it were delight, liue and floriſh.

Of the Sword.

ALbeit Wepons aſwel offenſiue as defenſiue be infinite, becauſe all that whatſoeuer a man may handle to offend an other or defend himſelfe, either by flinging or kepinge faſt

faſt in his hand may in my opinion be tearmed Weapon. Yet notwithſtãding, becauſe, as I haue before ſaid, they be innumerable ſo that if I ſhold perticularly handle euerie one, beſides the great toile and trauaile I ſhould ſuſtaine, it would alſo doubtles be vnprofitable, becauſe the principels and groundes which are laid downe in this Art, ſerue only for ſuch weapons as are commonlye practiſed, or for ſuch as happely men will vſe: and ſo leauing al thoſe which at this preſent make not for my purpoſe, I affirme, that amongſt al the weapons vſed in theſe daies, there is none more honorable, more vſual or more ſafe then the ſword.

Comming therefore firſt to this weapon, as vnto that on which is grounded the true knowledge of this Art, beeinge of reaſonable length, and hauing edges and point, wherein it ſeemeth to reſemble euerie other weapon, It is to be conſidered, that foraſmuch as it hath no more thẽ two edges and one point, a man may not ſtrike with anie other then with theſe, nether defend himſelf with anie other then with theſe. Further all edg blowes, be they right or reuerſed, frame either a circle or part of a circle: Of the which the hand is the Center, and the length of the ſworde, the Diameter.

Whereupon he that would giue either an edg blow in a great compaſſe, either thruſt with the point of the ſword, muſt not onely be nimble of hand, but alſo muſt obſerue the time of aduãtag, which is, to know when his own ſword is more

nere

nere and readie to ſtrik then his enemies. For when the enemie fetcheth a compaſſe with his ſword, in deliuering his ſtroke, at the length of the arme: if he then perceiue himſelfe to be nerer by halfe an arme, he ought not to care to defend himſelfe, but with all celeritie to ſtrike. For as he hitteth home firſt, ſo he preuenteth the fal of his enemies ſword. But if he be forced to defend him ſelfe from anie edge blow, he muſt for his greater ſafetie and eaſe of doinge it, go and incounter it on the halfe ſword that is hindermoſt: in which place as the enemies ſword carrieth leſſe force, ſo is he more nere at hand to offend him.

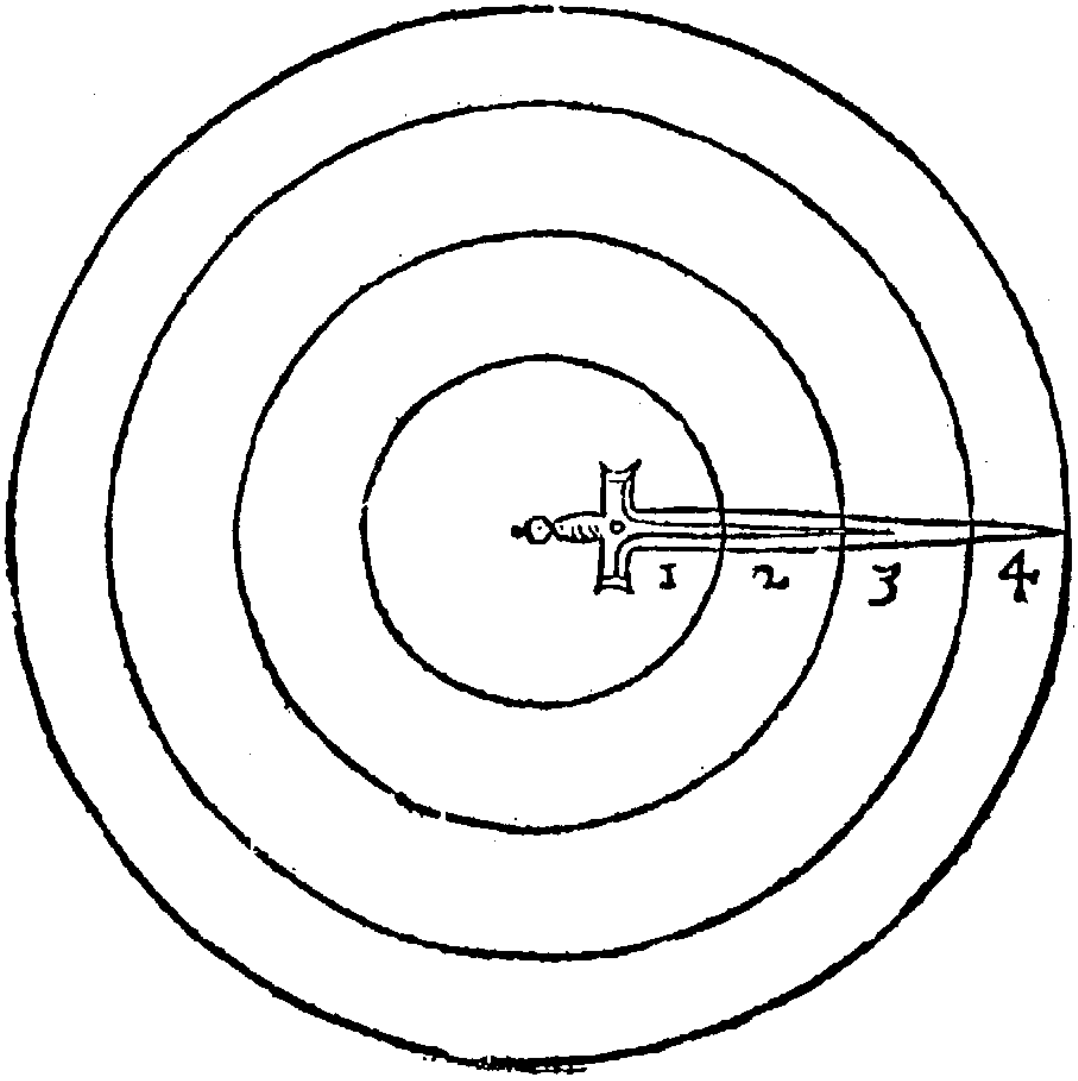
Concerning thruſtinge, or the moſt perilous blowes of the point, he muſt prouide ſo to ſtand with his bodie, feet and armes, that he be not forced, when he wold ſtrik, to loſe time: The which he ſhal do, if he ſtand either with his arme ſo forward, either with his feete ſo backward, either with his bodie ſo diſorderly, that before he thruſt he muſt needs draw back his arme, helpe himſelf with his feet, or vſe ſome daungerous motion of the bodie, the which when the enemie perceyueth, he may firſt ſtrik before he be ſtroken. But when a man ſtandeth in due order (which ſhall hereafter be declared) and perceiueth that there is leſſe diſtance from the point of his ſword, vnto his enemie, then there is from his enemies ſword vnto him, In that caſe he muſt nimbly force on a ſtrong thruſt to the end he may hit home firſt.

FOR aſmuch as the Effectes which procede from the lẽgth of the ſword, are not in euerie part thereof equall or of like force: It ſtands with reſon beſides the declaration of the cauſe, that I find out alſo the propertie and name of ech part, to the end euerie man may vnderſtand, which are the parts of the length wherewith he ought to ſtrike, and which the parts, wherewith he muſt defend.

I haue ſaid elswhere, that the ſword in ſtrikinge frameth either a Circle, either a part of a Circle, of which the hand is the center. And it is manifeſt that a wheel, which moueth circulerly, is more forcible and ſwift in the circumference then towards the Center: The which wheel ech ſworde reſembleth in ſtriking. Whereuppon it ſeemeth conuenient, that I diuide the ſworde into fower equal parts: Of the which that which is moſt neereſt the hand, as moſt nigh to the cauſe, I will call the firſt part: the next, I wil terme the ſecond, then the third, and ſo the fourth: which fowerth parte conteineth the point of the ſword. Of which fower partes, the third and fowerth are to be vſed to ſtrike withal. For ſeeing they are neereſt to the circumference, they are moſt ſwift. And the fowerth part (I mean not the tip of the point, but fower fingers more within it) is the ſwifteſt and ſtrongeſt of all the reſt: for beſides that it is in the circumference, which cauſeth it to be moſt ſwift, it hath

alſo fower fingers of counterpeize therby making the motion more forcible. The other two partes, to wit, the firſt and ſecond are to be vſed to warde withall, becauſe in ſtriking they draw litle compas, and therefore carrie with them but ſmal force And for that their place is neere the hande, they are for this cauſe ſtrong to reſiſt anie violence.

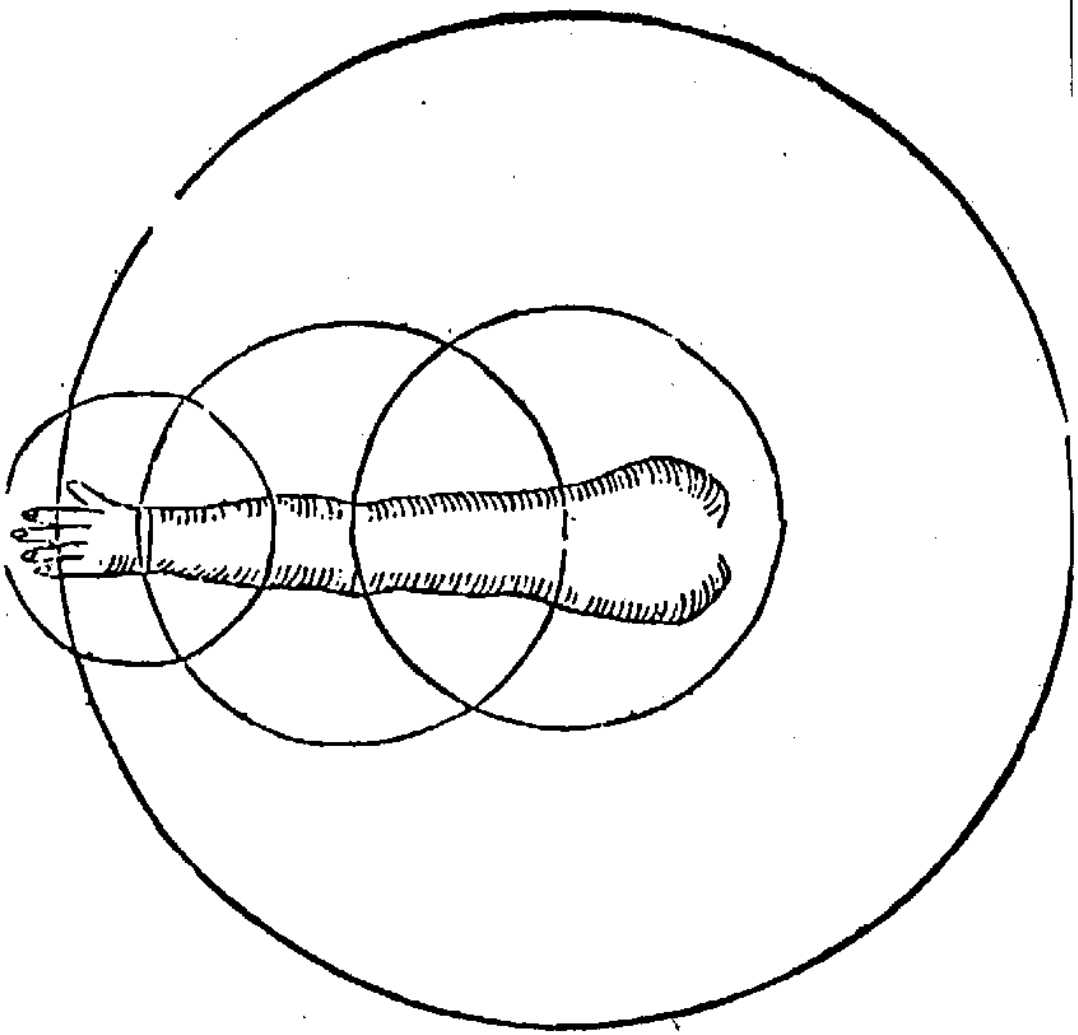
The



Of the ſword.

THE Arme likewiſe is not in euerie part of equall force and ſwiftnes, but differeth in euerie bowing thereof, that is to ſaie in the wriſt, in the elboe and in the ſhoulder: for the blowes of the wriſt as they are more ſwift, ſo they are leſſe ſtronge: And the other two, as they are more ſtrong, ſo they are more ſlow, becauſe they performe a greater compas. Therefore by my counſel, hee that would deliuer an edgeblow ſhall fetch no compaſſe with his ſhoulder, becaus whileſt he beareth his ſword farre off, he giueth time to the warie enemie to enter firſt: but he ſhall onely vſe the compas of the elboe and the wriſt: which, as they be moſt ſwift, ſo are they ſtronge inough, if they be orderly handled.

That



That euerie blow of the point of the ſword ſtriketh circulerly and how he that ſtriketh with the point, ſtriketh ſtreight.

HAuing before ſaid and laid down for one of the principels of this art, that the ſtreit Line is the ſhorteſt of all others (which is moſt true.) It ſeemeth needfull that I make demonſtration thereof. And further hauing ſuggeſted for a troth, that the blow of the point is the

the ſtreight ſtrook, this not being ſimplie true, I think it expedient before I wade anie further, to ſhew in what maner the blowes of the point are ſtroken circulerly, and how ſtreightly. And this I will ſtraine my ſelf to performe as plainly and as briefly as posſibly I maie. Neither wil I ſtrech ſo farre as to reaſon of the blowes of the edg, or how all blowes are ſtroken circulerly, becauſe it is ſufficiently and clerely handled in the diuiſion of the Arme and ſword.

Comming then to that which is my principall intent to handle in this place, I wil ſhew firſt how the arme when it ſtriketh with the point, ſtriketh circulerlie.

It is moſt euident, that all bodies of ſtreight or longe ſhape, I mean when they haue a firme and immoueable head or beginninge, and that they moue with an other like head, alwaies of neceſſitie in their motion, frame either a wheel or part of a circuler figure. Seeing then the Arme is of like figure and ſhape, and is immoueably fixed in the ſhoulder, and further moueth onely in that parte which is beneth it, there is no doubt, but that in his motion it figureth alſo a circle, or ſome parte thereof. And this euerie man may perceiue if in mouing his arme, he make trial in himſelſe.

Finding this true, as without controuerſie it is, it ſhal alſo be as true, that all thoſe thinges which are faſtned in the arme, and do moue as the Arme doth, muſt needs moue circulerlie. Thus much concerning my firſt purpoſe in this Treatiſe.

Now I wil come to my ſecond, and wil declare the reaſons and waies by which a man ſtrikinge with the point ſtriketh ſtraightly. And I ſay, that when ſoeuer the ſworde is moued by the onelie mocion of the Arme, it muſt alwaies of neceſitie frame a cirkle by the reaſons before alleaged. But if it happen, as in a manner it doth alwaies, that the arme in his motion make a circle vpwardes, and the hand mouing in the wriſt frame a part of a circle downewards then it wil com to paſſe, that the ſword being moued by two contrarie motiõs in going forwards ſtriketh ſtraightly.

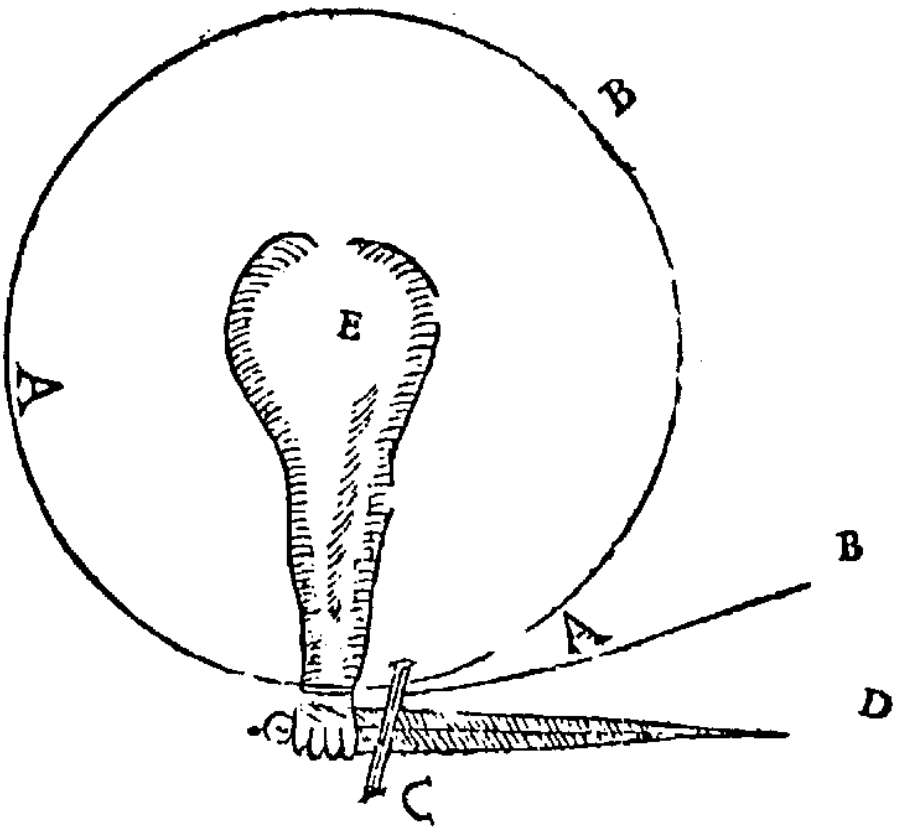
But to thentent that this may be more plainlie perceiued, I haue framed this preſent figure for the better vnderſtãding wherof it is to be known, that as the arme in his motion carrieth the ſworde with it, and is the occaſion that beeing forced by the ſaide motion, the ſworde frameth a circle vpwards, So the hand mouing it ſelfe in the wriſt, maie either lift vp the point of the ſword vpwards or abaſe it downwards. So that if the hand do ſo much let fal the point, as the arme doth lift vp the handle, it commeth to paſſe that the ſwords point ſhruſteth directly at an other prick or point then that it reſpecteth.

Wherefore let A.B. be the circle which is framed by the motion of the arme: which arme, if (as it carrieth with it the ſword in his motion) it would ſtrike at the point D. it ſhould be conſtrained through his motion to ſtrik at the point B. And from hence procedeth the difficultie of thruſtinge or

ſtriking with the point. If therefore the arm wold ſtrik directly at the point D. it is neceſſary that as much as it lifteth the hãdle vpwards, the hãdwriſt do moue it ſelf circulerlie downward, making this circle AC & cariyng with it the point of the ſword downewardes, of force it ſtriketh at the point D. And this would not ſo come to paſſe, if with the only motion of tharme, a man ſhould thruſt forth the ſword, conſidering the arme moueth onelie aboue the center C.

Therefore ſeing by this diſcourſe it is manifeſt that the blow of the point, or a thruſt, can not bee deliuered by one ſimple motion directly made, but by two circuler motions, the one of the Arme the other of the hand, I wil hence foreward in all this work tearme this blow the blow of the ſtreit Line. Which conſidering the reaſons before alleaged, ſhall breed no inconuenience at all.

Moſt



MOſt great is the care and conſiderations which the paces or footſtepps requier in this exerciſe, becauſe from them in a maner more thē from anie other thing ſpringeth all offence and defence. And the bodie likewiſe ought with all diligence to be kept firme and ſtable, turned towards the enemie, rather with the right ſhoulder, then with the breſt. And that becauſe a man ought to make himſelf as ſmal a mark to the enemie as is poſible, And if he be occaſioned to bēd his body any way, he muſt bend it rather backwards then forwards, to the ende that it be far of from danger, conſidering the bodie can neuer greatly

greatly moue it ſelf anie other waie more then that and that ſame waie the head maie not moue being a member of ſo great importance.

Therefore when a man ſtriketh, either his feet or his arme are thruſt forwards, as at that inſtant it ſhall make beſt for his aduauntage. For when it hapneth that he may ſtrongly offend his enemie without the increaſe of a pace, he muſt vſe his arm onely to perfourme the ſame, bearing his bodie alwaies as much as he maie and is required, firme and immoueable.

For this reaſon I commend not their maner of fight, who continually as they fight, make thẽſelus to ſhew ſometimes litle, ſometimes great, ſometimes wreſting themſelues on this ſide, ſomtimes on that ſide, much like the mouing of ſnailes. For as all theſe are motions, ſo can they not be accompliſhed in one time, for if when they beare their bodies low, they would ſtrike aloft, of force they muſt firſt raiſe them ſelues, and in that time they may be ſtroken. So in like maner when their bodies are writhed this way or that waie.

Therefore, let euerie man ſtand in that order, which I haue firſt declared, ſtraining himſelf to the vttermoſt of his power, when he would ether ſtrik or defend, to performe the ſame not in two times or in two motions, but rather in halfa time or motion, if it were poſsible.

As concerninge the motion of the feete, from which grow great occaſions aſwell of offence as defence, I ſaie and haue ſeene by diuers examples

as by the knowledg of their orderlie and diſcreet motion, aſwel in the Liſtes as in common fraies, ther hath bin obtained honorable victorie, ſo their buſie and vnrulie motion haue bine occaſion of ſhamefull hurts and ſpoils. And becauſe I can not laie downe a certein meaſure of motion, conſidering the difference betwene man and man, ſome being of great and ſome of litle ſtature: for to ſome it is comodious to make his pace the length of an arme, and to other ſome half the length or more. Therefore I aduertiſe euerie man in al his wards to frame a reaſonable pace, in ſuch ſort that if hee would ſtep forward to ſtrik, he lengthen or increas one foot, and if he would defend himſelf, he withdraw as much, without peril of falling.

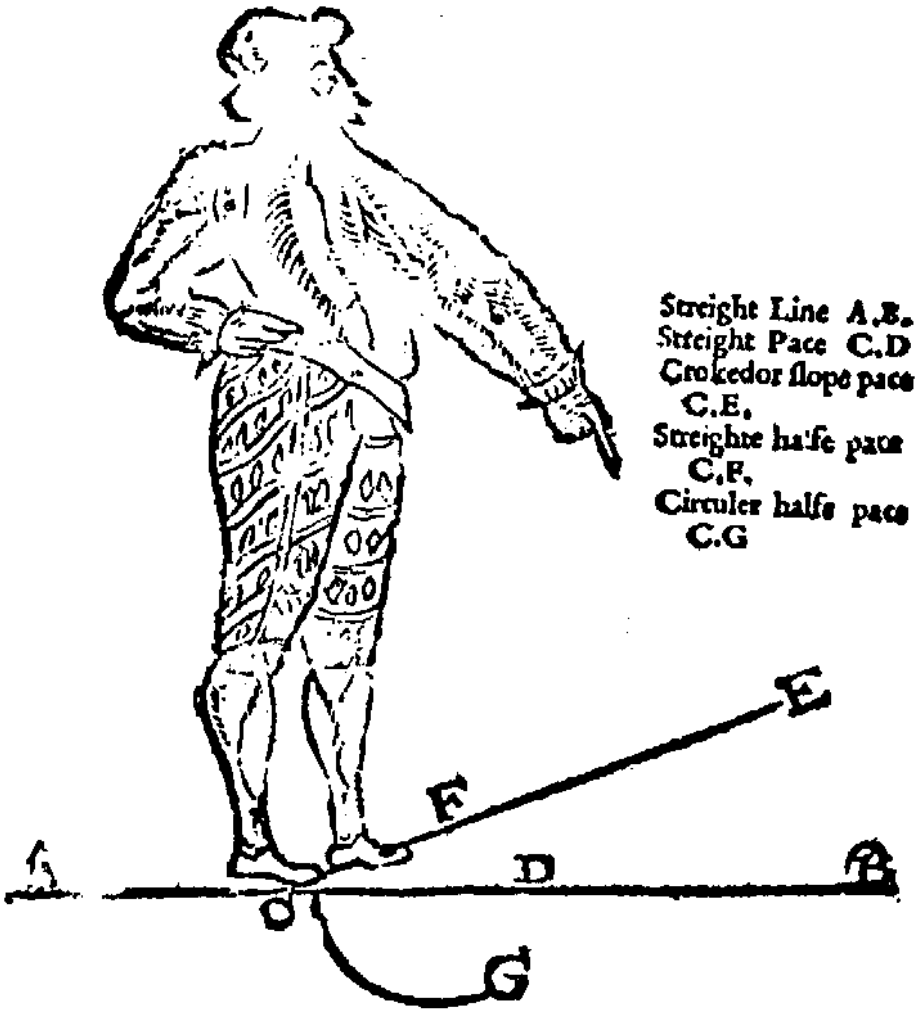
And becauſe the feet in this exerciſe doe moue in diuers maners, it ſhall be good that I ſhew the name of euerie motion, to thend that vſinge thoſe names through al this work, they maie the better be vnderſtood.

It is to be knowen that the feete moue either ſtreightly, either circulerly: If ſtreitly, then either forwardes or backwards: but when they moue directly forwards, they frame either a halfe or a whol pace. By whole pace is vnderſtood, when the foot is carried from behind forwards, kepinge ſtedfaſt the forefoot. And this pace is ſometimes made ſtreight, ſometimes crooked. By ſtreight is meant when it is done in the ſtreit line, but this doth ſeldome happen. By croked or slope pace is vnderſtood, when the hinderfoot is brought alſo forewards

wardes, but yet a thwarte or croſſing: and as it groweth forwardes, it carieth the bodie with it, out of the ſtraight line, where the blowe is giuen.

The like is ment by the pace that is made directly backwardes: but this backe pace is framed more often ſtreight then croked. Now the midle of theſe backe and fore paces, I will terme the halfe pace: and that is, when the hinder-foote being brought nere the foore foote, doth euen there reſt: or when from thence the ſame foote goeth forwardes. And likewiſe when the fore-foote is gathered into the hinder-foote, and there doth reſt, and then retireth it ſelfe from hẽce backwards. Theſe halfpaces are much vſed, both ſtreit & croked, forwards & backwardes. And in like ſorte, halfe paces forwardes & backewardes, ſtreight and crooked.

Circuler paces, are no otherwiſe vſed than halfe paces, and they are made thus: When one hath framed his pace, he muſt fetch a cõpaſſe with his hinder foote or fore foote, on the right or lefte ſide: ſo that circuler paces are made either when the hinder-foot ſtanding faſt behinde, doth afterwards moue it ſelfe on the lefte or right ſide, or when the fore-foote being ſetled before doth moue likewiſe on the right or left ſide: with all theſe ſort of paces a man may moue euerie waie both forwardes and backewardes.

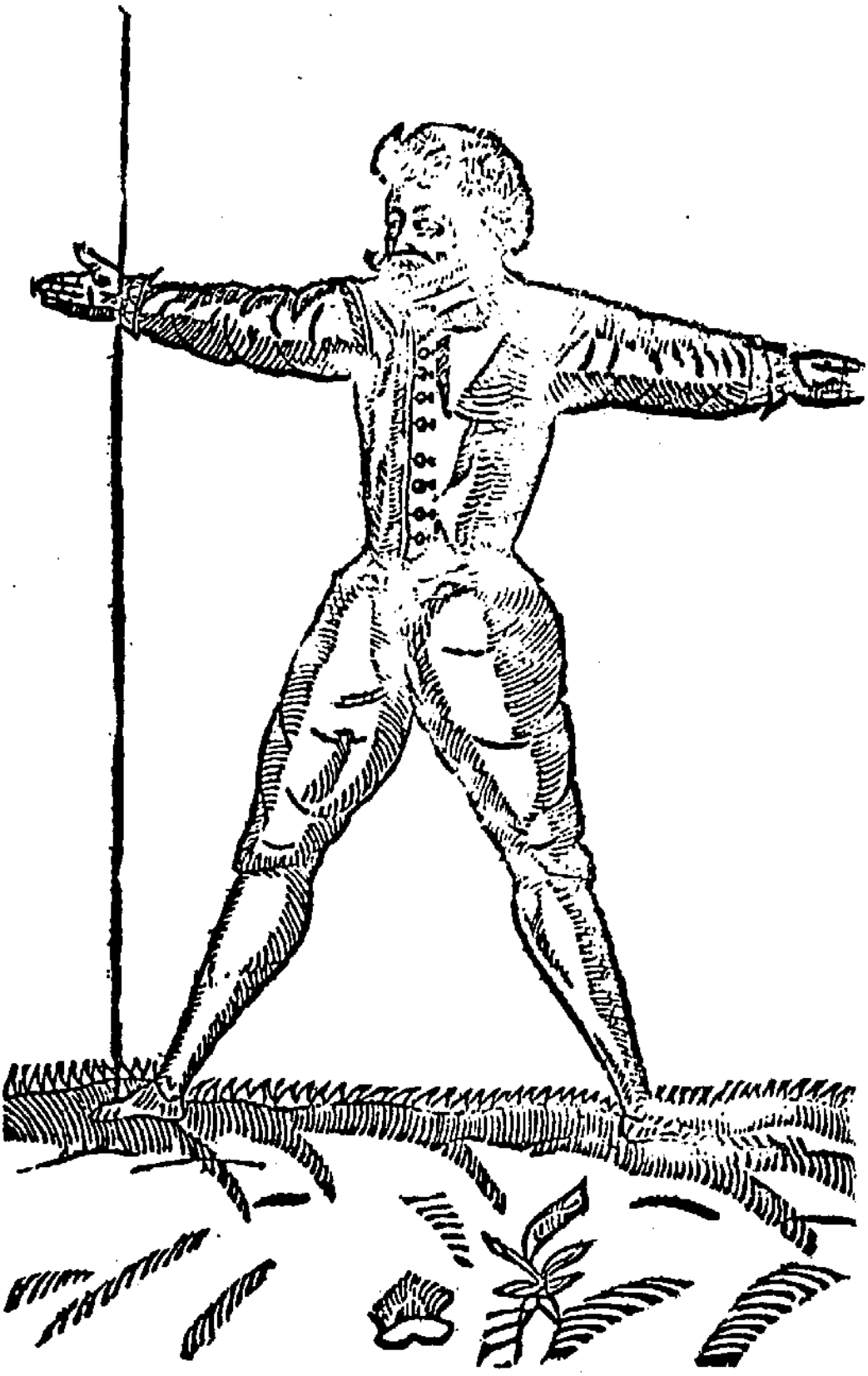


Of the Agreement of the Foot and Hand.

THe right legge ought alwaies to be the ſtrength of the right hand, and likewiſe the lefte legge of the left hand: So that if at any time it ſhall happen a thruſt to bee forciblie deliuered, reſon would that it be accom-

panied

panied with the legge: for otherwiſe, by meanes of the force and waight, which is without the perpendiculer or hanging line of the body, hauing no prope to ſuſtain it, a man is in daunger of falling. And it is to be vnderſtood, that the pace doth naturally ſo much increaſe or diminiſh his motion, as the hand. Therefore we ſee when the right foote is behinde, the hand is there alſo: ſo that who ſo ſtraineth himſelfe to ſtand otherwiſe, as he offereth violence vnto nature, ſo hee canne neuer indure it: wherefore when he ſtandeth at his ward, bearing his hand wide, there alſo the foote helpeth by his ſtrength, being placed towards that parte: & when the hand is borne a lowe, & the right foote before, if then he would liſte his hand aloſte, it is neceſſarie that he draw backe his foote: And there is ſo much diſtance from the place where the foot doth parte, to ioyne it ſelfe to the other foote, as there is from the place whence the hande parteth, to that place wher it remaineth ſtedfaſt, litle more or leſſe: wherefore, preſuppoſing the ſaid rules to be true, he muſt haue great care to make his pace, & moue his hand at one time together: And a boue all, not to skip or leape, but keepe one foote alwaies firme and ſtedfaſt: and when he would moue it, to do it vpon ſome great occaſion, conſidering the foote ought chiefely to agree in motion with the hand, which hande, ought not in any caſe what ſoeuer happen to varie from his purpoſe, either in ſtriking or defending.



Of wardes



Ards in weapons are ſuch ſites, poſitions or placings which withſtand the enemies blowes, and are as a ſhield or ſafegarde againſt them. For he who hath no skill to carrie his bodie and beare theſe weapons orderlie, which either couer, or eaſely maie couer the whole bodie, cannot be ſaide to ſtand in warde, inſomuch that a man ought to vſe great diligence in the apt carriyng of his bodie and weapons, For manie times he ought to ſettle and repoſe himſelf in his ward, therein deliberating vpon ſome new deuiſe, or expecting when his enemie wil miniſter occaſion to enter vpon him.

The Wards which maie be vſed with the ſingle ſword are threefold, Neither in my opinion maie they be anie more: for that one onlie ſtraight line, which is the ſword, maie not couer, defend and eaſelie offend after anie other maner.

The high ward.

THis high warde, which alſo might be called the firſt, beeinge the very ſame which euery man frameth at the draing of the ſword out of the ſheath, may ſo farre foorth, and in ſomuch be termed a warde, in how much, by turning the poynt of the ſworde downewarde, it wardeth the whole

whole perſon, and for that, by gathering in of the hinderfoote, & increſing forwardes with the right foote, a man may diſcharge a ſtrong thurſt aboue hande at his enemie.

In this, and in al other wardes, it is diligently to be noted, that he beare his weapons ſo orderly diſpoſed, that the ſtreight lyne which goeth from the ſwords point be ſtil bẽt to ſtrike the enemy, either in the face or in the breſt: for if the point be ſo borne that it reſpect ouer the enemies head, the enemie may eaſely firſt enter vnderneth & ſtrike before the fall or diſcend thereof: And by holding the peynt two lowe, he may by beating it ſomewhat downwards cauſe it to be quit void of his bodie, and ſo ſafelie come in to ſtrik, the which hath bine manie times ſene.



The broad ward.





His ſecond warde from the effecte ſhall be called the broad or wide warde, becauſe the Arme widning and ſtretching it ſelfe directlie as much as is poſsible from the right ſide, beareth the ſword ſo farre off from the bodie, that it ſeemeth to giue great ſcope to the enimie to enter, albeit in truth it be nothing ſo. For although the hand & the handle of the ſworde, be both farr from the bodie, and quite out of the ſtreight line, yet the poynt of the ſworde, from which principallie procedeth the offence, is not

 without

without the ſaide lyne: For it is borne ſo bending towarde the left ſide that it reſpecteth directlie to ſtrike the enimie, and being borne in that ſorte, it may verie well both ſtrike and defend. And when the poynt of the ſword is borne out of the ſtreight lyne, as the hand and handle is, then a man is in daunger to bee hurte eaſelie by the enimie, the which happeneth not when the poynt is bending, for in ſuch order, it is as a barre and defence to the whole bodie.

The low Ward.

THis alſo from the effect is called the baſe ward or lock: Neither is this name improperlie giuen by the Profeſſors of this Art, for that it is more ſtrong, ſure and commodious then anie other ward, and in the which a man may more eaſelie ſtrik, ward & ſtand therein with leſſe paine. This ward is framed in the Schools after dyuers faſhions, either bearing the hand low before the knee, either verie much ſtretched forwardes, either betweene both the knees. All which faſhions, (if we regard naturall reaſon, and the motions vſed therein) are to ſmall purpoſe: for, beſides that they are all violent, and for a ſmall time to be endured, they are alſo ſuch, in the which a man may not ſtrike but in two tymes, or at the leaſt in one, and then verie weakly. Wherefore, caſting all theſe aſide, I will frame ſuch a warde, as ſhalbe applyed, to time, to nature, and to ſafetie: And it is, when one beareth his arme directly downwardes neere his knee (but yet without it) and his ſworde with the point ſomewhat rayſed, and bearing

ring towards the left ſide, to the end, it may arme and defend that part alſo, in ſuch ſort, that (being borne without violence) he may continue long. And if he would ſtrike, he may in one time, forcibly deliuer a great thruſt. But this he cannot do, if he beare his ſword directly befor him, for then he muſt ether draw backe his arme when he would ſtrike, or els ſtrike in one time, but verie weakly.

This warde therfore muſt be framed with the arme ſtretched downwards neere the knee, but yet on the outſide thereof, becauſe after this manner a man ſtandeth ſafely, commodiouſly, and more readie, both to ſtrike and defend.



The manner how to ſtrike.



Ithout all doubt, the thruſt is to be preferred before the edge-blowe, aſwell becauſe it ſtriketh in leſſe time, as alſo for that in the ſaide time, it doth more hurt. For which conſideratiõ, the Romanes (who were victorious in all enterpriſes) did accuſtome their ſouldiers of the Legions to thruſt onely: Alleaging for their reaſon, that the blowes of the edge, though they were great, yet they are verie fewe that are deadly, and that thruſtes, though litle & weake, when they enter but iij. fingers into the bodie, are wont to kill. Therefore I laye down this for a firme and certaine rule, that the thruſt doth many times more readily ſtrike, and giue the greater blowe againſt the enimie. And to the end, a man may thruſt it out with the greateſt force at the moſt aduantage, and vttermoſt length that may be, he muſt alwaies remember to carrie his left foote compaſsing behinde him in ſuch ſort, that the hinderfoot ſo compaſsing may alwaies be in the ſtraight lyne of the hand and ſworde, as a Diameter in the middeſt of a Circle. And in finiſhing of the blowe, to drawe his hinder-foote a halfe pace forwardes, and ſo by that meanes the blow is longer & ſtronger, and the ſhoulder and ſide are onely oppoſite to the enimie, and ſo farre off from him, that they may not be ſtrooken: and it is not poſsible for a man to frame a longer blowe than this.

When it is better to ſtrike with the edge.

FOr no other cauſe, the edge is preferred *before the poynt, then for the time*; the ſhortnes whereof, is ſo to be eſteemed aboue all other things in this Arte, that (*omitting the point and edge*) *it ought to be giuen for* the beſt and chiefe counſell, that ſame to be the better blowe, in which a man ſpendeth leaſt time. And therfore *when this happeneth and may be done with the* edg, then the edg is to be preferred before the point: the which as occaſion ſerueth ſhalbe further declared.

When I reaſoned of the blow of the point or thurſt I ſaid, that a man ought to thruſt when the point is in the ſtraight line, becauſe the blowe is then performed *in one time. But the edg differeth from the point*, in that that being out of the ſtrait line, it indeuoreth to come into the ſame againe. Therefore when it happeneth the point to be born either on the right, either on the left ſide, either aloft, out of the ſtrait line, if then on would thruſt in the right line, he can not performe it but in two times, whereas if he would ſtrik with the edg be it right or reuerſed, or downwards, he may do it in one time. It ſhalbe alſo verie commodious rather to ſtrik with the edg, when as ſometime a man bearinge his ſword in the ſtrait line, and the enimie therfinding it, doth with his hand beat it on this ſide or that ſide: In which caſe, if he would return it again into the ſaid line of purpoſe to ſtrik, he ſhalbe conſtrained to doe it whith great violence and much time.

For theſe reaſons I hold it better to let the ſworde ſwaie to that ſide, whereto the enemie beateth it, and to ioin vnto it ſuch force, as he may to help the motion, and (fetching withall a compas) to ſtrik with the edg.

The meanes how to defend.

The which blow is ſo readie & ſtrong, that thenimie can hardly haue time to withſtand it, being alredy occupied in beating aſide the ſword & pretending to ſtrik: nothing at al expecting that thaduerſaries ſworde wil ſtrik again either ſo quickly, or with the edge, on that ſide from which it was beaten.



The Line of the edg is from *A* to *B*,
The line of the point from *C*, to *D*.
and from *D*, to *E*.

The

THE meanes of defending a blowe giuen either with the edg or point of the ſword, are three. One is when the weapon is oppoſed to the blow, in ſuch ſort that the weapon which cometh ſtriking either at the head or at the bodie, cannot hit home to the place whereũto it is directed, but hindered by ſome thing or other then ſet againſt it, be it ſword, dagger, target, bil, Iauelin, or anie thing els, which at that inſtant a man hath in his hand. For it chanceth not alwaies to weare or carrie weapons of purpoſe, or ordained to that entent. Neither happelie is it thought ſouldier or gentlemanlike, not to know how to ſtrike or defend, but onely with wepons framed to that end: for which cauſe, it may wel be ſaid, that the ſoldier differeth from other men, not becauſe he is more skilful in handling the ſword or iauelyn, but for that he is expert in euerie occaſion to know the beſt aduantage & with iudgement both to defend himſelf with anie thing whatſoeuer, and therewithal ſafelie to offend the enimie: In which & no other thing conſiſteth true skirmiſhing.

He that perſwads himſelf that he can learn this Art by the exerciſe of a few perticuler ſtroks of the point and edg is vtterlie deceiued: for beſids, that by thoſe perticuler triks, there is ſmal knowledge gotten: So the chaunces in this Arte are ſo daungerous & diuers, that it is impoſſible to deliberat ſuddenly, except he haue the vniuerſall knowledg and vnderſtandinge of all the rules and principels hereof, being grounded vpon offending & defending, and not only vpon the ſword, the dagger, the target, the iauelin & the bil. For a man at al times (when he is occaſioned to ſtrike

or

or defend) doth not carrie theſe weapons about him, but is conſtrained to defend himſelfe with a peece of wood from a Iavelyn, with a ſtoole or fourme from a ſworde, or with a cloake from a dagger, in which caſe men commonly vſe many other things not ordained for that purpoſe, doing that therewith which naturall inſtinct teacheth them. And this inſtinct is no other thing then the knowledge of the rules before laide downe: which knowledge, becauſe it is naturally graffed in the mynde, is ſomething the rather holpen and quallified by Arte, and maketh a man ſo aſſured and bolde, that he dares to enter on any great daunger, and iudgeth (when he ſeeth the qualitie of the weapon, and the ſyte wherein it is placed) what it maye do, or in how many waies it may either ſtrike or defend. From which his iudgement ſprings the knowledge of all that he hath to do, and how he hath to handle himſelfe to encounter any danger.

But returning to my purpoſe, to wit, of the way how to defend, which is to carrie the weapon oppoſite, this maner is commonly vſed, but is not ſo profitable, being vſed as it is. And the reaſon is, becauſe when men endeuour themſelues to encounter or oppoſe themſelues againſt the weapon which commeth to ſtrike them, (neither making bolde that their weapon can, neither knowing how it ſhould defend) they withdraw their bodie with their foote, and commit all theſe faultes following.

1 Firſt, by withdrawing of themſelues, they encounter the enimies ſworde towardes the poynt, in which place it beareth moſt force, and therefore with great difficultie they ſuſtaine the blowe.

2 Another is, if they would ſtrike the enimie, of force they muſt returne their feete and weapons thither, where they were before, and yet encreaſe forwards ſomewhat more, if they would ſtrongly ſtrike him: And in this they ſpend ſo much time, that the enimie may not onely eaſily defend, but alſo, verie well and ſafely ſtrike. To him then that woulde vſe this manner of defence without danger, it is neceſſarie and needefull, when he encountreth the enimies ſworde, that he do not withdrawe himſelfe, but with his left foote increaſe a crooked or ſlope pace forwardes, the which ſhall encounter the ſword, which before was comming ſtriking with the edge, on that parte thereof, in which it hath leaſt power to offend, and ſhal by that meanes eaſily withſtand the blowe. But if the ſworde come with a thruſt, he muſt finde it and beat it aſide: for euery litle motion is ſufficient to driue the poynt farre enough from danger of hurte. And there is this aduantage gotten, aſwel in the blow of the edge as of the point, that the bodie is voided out of the ſtraight lyne, by meanes of the ſaid ſlope pace: and it ſtandeth ſo apt and ſo neere to offende the enimie, that one may ſtrike in the verie inſtant, neither can the enimie ſo much withdrawe himſelfe as is ſufficient to auoyde the ſtroke: For a man hath to vſe the ſtraight pace of the right foote to follow the enimie, which pace is ſo ſtrong and ſo ſwift, that the enimie may not auoide it. And becauſe this maner of defence, in mine opinion, ſeemeth to be moſt ſure and ſhort, I will vſe it aboue all other.

There is another waie, to wit, when one perceiueth the enimies ſworde in the deliuerie of an edge-

blowe, to fetch a great compaſſe, he may ſtrike him before the fall of his ſword with a thruſt : or els when the enimie thruſteth, (but yet ſpendeth many times in doing thereof) he may likewiſe ſtrike him in as ſhorte time as may be. The which manner of defending is moſt profitable, & perchaunce the better of the two. For there is no man that will runne himſelfe hedlong vpon the weapon, or that, perceiuing himſelfe readie to be ſtrooken, will not ſuddenly drawe backe and with-hold that blowe which he had alreadie prepared to diſcharge. And although there be ſome, who being ſtrooken runne raſhly on, yet generally, men wil not ſo do, albeit they be ſtrooken when they are moſt collorick, but will, when they are ſtrooken or wounded, giue backe and be diſmayed and by reaſon of the bloud which goeth from them, alwaies more & more be weakened.

But yet when they be ſo wounded, it ſhall be for their profit to be well aduiſed, and not to diſcomfort themſelues for the greatnes of the blowe, but to beare it paciently : for that which they doe in diſdaine and furie ſhal turne them to much diſpleaſure.

3 The third manner of defence is, when the bodie voideth out of the ſtraight lyne towardes this or that ſide, but this is ſeeldome vſed alone & by it ſelfe, but rather accompanied with the oppoſing of the weapon, or with the ſecond manner of defence aforeſaid. If it be vſed alone, the manner is to let ſlipp the blow, and to ſtrike the enimie in the ſame time that he is ouer reached in his blowe.



The methode which ſhalbe vſed in handling the Chapters following.

FOraſmuch as I ought in the Chapters following to teach more particularly all the blowes and defences in euery warde, (to the ende that no man doe meruaile why I do not perfourme the ſame, and do thinke that the inſtruction is therefore imperfect) I thinke good (becauſe my purpoſe is now to intreat of that only which pertaineth to true Arte, to the which the blow of the point, or thruſtes, are moſt agreeable, being more readie and ſtrong than any other) to handle them principally,

cipally,and yet not ſo,but that I will alſo talke of edg-blows when in my treatiſe I come to that place where it ſhalbe commodious to ſtrike therewith , placing them neere to their wardes and defenſes , although againſt all edgeblows this is the beſt defence,to ſtrike by the right lyne before the fall of the enimies ſword, for, being deliuered in ſhorter time, it withſtandeth their fall and lighting. The order I ſay,which I will obſerue, ſh ılbe , to laie downe euery warde, their blowes and defences,but principally of the poynt, then of the edge,if neede require.

The hurt of the high warde at ſingle Rapier.

THE trueſt,and ſureſt blowe that may be giuen when a man lyeth at the high warde,is, the thruſt aboue hande, aſwell for that it is in the ſtraight lyne, as alſo, becauſe it naturally ſtayeth it ſelfe in the lowe warde : So that from the beginning to the ending of this blowe, there is neuer any time giuen to the enimie to enter, by reaſon , that the point ſtandeth alwayes directly againſt him . But in the diſcharging of this blowe , a man muſt remember to drawe his left foote neere his right foote,and then to encreaſe forwardes with the right foote,& deliuer it as forcibly as he may, ſtaying him ſelfe in the lowe warde.

True it is, that he may alſo deliuer a right and reuerſed edgeblowe at the head : or els , ſtrike downwardes from the wriſt of the hand : but becauſe he is not able to turne his wriſt in ſo ſmall a compaſſe, in the diſcharge of an edgeblowe, either high or lowe,

but

but that the poynt of the ſworde will be out of the ſtraight lyne, by the length of a ſworde, in the which (before it returne) the enimie hath ſufficient time to ſtrike: Therefore I would not counſell any man to vſe them either alone, or both togither. But yet betweene two thruſtes, they may be verie well vſed togither, by continuing the one after the other (though they be voyded) vntill the laſt thruſt, the which doth ſafely reſt it ſelfe in the lowe ward. The vſe of them is on this manner.

When one hauing diſcharged a thruſt from the high warde, perceiueth that it doth not hurt, becauſe it was voyded by the enimies ſworde, he muſt turne a right edgeblowe from the wriſt athwart the enimies head, fetching a compaſſe with his foote behind him toward the right ſide, to the ende the blowe may be the longer, which is the longeſt blowe of all others. But if the enimie voide this in like caſe (which is very difficult) then he muſt ſuddenly turne the reuerſe from his elbowe encreaſing therewithall a ſlope pace with the hinder foote. And it is to be noted, that in deliuering a reuerſe, the ſlope pace is in a manner alwaies to be vſed, to the ende he may go foorth of the ſtraight lyne, in the which (if he ſhould deliuer it) he may eaſily be ſtrooken. Hauing vſed this pace & reuerſe, whether it hit or not, the ſworde in the ſame inſtant is ſomething to be drawen or ſlyded: which drawing is profitable in this, that in giuing the reuerſe it doth both cauſe the weapon to cut, and make the greater blowe. Wherefore it is to be vnderſtoode, that all edgeblowes ought ſo to be deliuered, that they may cut: for being directly giuen without any

drawing, they cauſe but a ſmall hurt.

Comming therefore to my purpoſe, I ſay: that as ſoone as he hath ſo drawen his ſworde, he ought with the ſtraight pace of the right foote, diſcharge a thruſt vnderneath, being already prepared, the whrich thruſt is ſo ſtrong, both for the aptnes thereof and encreaſe of the pace, that it pearceth through any impediment withſtanding it. And all theſe blowes (beginning from the thruſt aboue hand, till the ende of the thruſt vnderneath) being roundly deliuered one after another with ſuch ſwiftnes as is required, are in a manner not to be warded. Beſides, they haue ſo great increaſe of pace, that it is not almoſt poſſible for the enimie to retyre ſo much backwarde, as theſe encreaſe vpon him forward.

The defence of the thruſt of the high warde at ſingle Rapier.

ALL the furie in ſtriking before ſpoken of, is vterly fruſtrated, when, as here it may be ſeene, a man withſtandeth and incountreth the firſt thruſt. For the defence whereof it is needefull that he ſtand at the lowe warde, and as the thruſt cometh, that he encounter it without, with the edge of the ſword, and increaſe a ſlope pace forward, with the hinder foote at the verie ſame time, by which pace he moueth out of the ſtreight line, and paſſeth on the right ſide of the enimie. And he muſt remember to beare alwaies the poynt of the ſword toward the enimie: So that the enimie in comming forwardes, ether runneth himſelfe on the ſword, which may eaſely happen, and ſo much the rather, when he commeth reſolutelie determined

termined to ſtrike, or elſe if he come not ſo farre forwardes that he encountreth the ſword, yet he may be ſafelie ſtroken, with the encreaſe of a ſtreight pace: to which pace, hauing ſuddenly ioyned a ſlope pace, a man muſt returne and increaſe againe though the enimie were ſtrooken at the firſt increaſe of that pace: For if at the firſt ſtroak and increaſe, the enimie were not hit in the eye, it ſhall be to ſmall purpoſe. Therefore as ſoone as he hath vſed the croked or ſlope pace, he muſt preſentlie encreaſe an other ſtreight pace, the which doth ſo much gather vpon the enimie, that if he would ſtrike him in the breſt, he may thruſt his ſword vp to the hiltes.

Now for the loftie edge-blowes, both right and reuerſed, the rules aforeſaide may ſuffice: To witte, the edge-blowe fectheth a compaſſe. The blowe of the poynt or thruſt is the ſhorteſt, & in this blowe, he that is neareſt hitteth ſooneſt: So then he muſt thruſt vnder any of theſe edgeblowes. And farther, for aſmuch as it is naturallie giuen to euerie man to defend himſelfe, he may encounter the right edge-blowe after an other waie, and that is, to encounter it with the edge of his ſworde, and preſentlie, to driue there withall a thruſt at the enimies face, and to compaſſe his hinder-foote, towardes the right ſide behinde, to the ende, that the thruſt may be lengthned and his bodie thereby couered, conſidering he ſhall then ſtand right behinde his ſword.

This manner of defence, may ſerue to warde all right blows of the edg, deliuered from the high ward, and it is the beſt waie of all other, becauſe it doth not onely warde, but alſo in one and the ſelfeſame time,

both

both ſtrike and defend ſafely.

This manner of thruſt is called the reuerſed thruſt. But if one would warde a reuerſe, he muſt oppoſe the edge of his ſword without, and therewithall increaſe a ſlope pace, & then deliuer a thruſt with the increaſe of a ſtraight or right pace. And this may ſuffice for all that which may be vſed againſt a lofte, reuerſed, edgeblowe, as farforth as a man endeuoureth to oppoſe himſelfe againſt the weapon. And this is the verie ſame alſo which may be vſed for the warding of the thruſt.

The hurt of the broad warde at ſingle Rapier.

THe moſt ſure, moſt true & principall blowe that may be vſed in this warde is the thruſt vnderhand, ſo that a man draw his left foote neere his right foote, and then diſcharge it with the increaſe of the ſaide foote, and ſettle himſelfe in the lowe warde.

He may alſo in this warde with the ſaid increaſe of the right foote, deliuer a right edgeblowe from the wriſt of the hand, and ſtay himſelfe in the low warde. And perchaunce he may (although with great daunger) beſtowe alſo a reuerſe: yet conſidering he ſhall do it out of the ſtraight lyne, in the which onely he ſtriketh ſafely, I do not thinke it good, that he vſe either the ſaide reuerſe, either the ſaide right blowe except it be verie ſeldom, & for the ſame cauſe, aſſuring himſelfe in the blow of the poynt, or thruſt, the which he ſhall not giue, except it be verie commodious, or that he be forced of neceſsitie, conſidering this thruſt doth not onely eaſily and commodiouſly defend, but

alſo,

alſo, at one inſtant, ſafely ſtrike, and offend, as ſhal be ſhewed in the defence of this warde. That therefore which he may ſafely do, in this warde, is to expect and watch for the enimies comming.

The Defence of the broad Warde at ſingle Rapier.

IF a man would defend himſelfe from the blowes of the foreſaide broad warde, it is good that he ſtande againſt the enimie in the lowe warde: for whileſt he is ſo oppoſite in the ſame warde, the enimie may neither eaſily enter, neither commodiouſly defend himſelfe. So that he which is in the lowe warde may very eaſily withſtand the downright blow, and the reuerſe by giuing a thruſt, for that he ſhall hit him firſt, And if he would onely oppoſe his ſworde, and not ſtrike alſo therewithall, he muſt encounter the enimies ſword with the edge of his owne, and turning the ſame edge fetch a reuerſe, ſtriking at the face of the enimie. And as he ſo turneth his hand and edge of his ſworde, it ſhalbe good that he carrie his foreſoote a halfe crooked or ſlope pace towards his right ſide, ſtaying himſelfe in the broad warde. For defence of the reuerſe, it is to be marked, when the enimie lifteth vp the point of the Rapier out of the ſtraight lyne, becauſe then of force he fetcheth a compaſſe: And whileſt he ſo doth, a man muſt make a ſtraight pace forwardes, and with his left hande take holdfaſt of the ſworde hande of the enimie, and incontinently wound him with a thruſt vnderneath alreadie prepared.

Now, the verie ſame defence is to be vſed againſt the thruſt vnderneath, which is againſt the right edge.

blow. Neither is there any other difference betweene theſe two defences, but that whileſt the right blowe fetcheth his compas, a man may giue a thruſt and hit home firſt: For the thruſt vnderneath, muſt onely of neceſſitie be warded, becauſe, cõming in the ſtraight lyne, it miniſtreth no aduantage or time to hit home firſt.

The vſe of the Lowe warde at ſingle Rapier.

A Man may in like maner in this ward, as in others, deliuer a thruſt, a right blowe, and a reuerſe: but the true and principall effect of this warde, is to expect the enimie, aſwell for that a man beareth him-ſelfe without warineſſe, as alſo, becauſe it is apt and readie to defende all blowes either high or lowe: For being in the middle, it is as eaſily ſomewhat lifted vp, as ſomething borne downe: So that when one ſtandeth in this warde, he may not (as for his aduantage) be the firſt that ſhall giue either the down-right blowe, or the reuerſe: for both the one and the other (departing out of the ſtraight lyne) are deadly, becauſe they giue time to the enimie to enter nimbly with a thruſt. The thruſt therefore, may be only vſed when one meaneth to ſtrike firſt, and it is practiſed either within, or without, alwaies regarding in either of the waies, ſo to beare and place his arme, that he haue no neede (before he thruſt) to drawe backe the ſame. And if the enimie warde it, by the trauerſe or croſſe motion of his Rapier, as many vſe to do, then he ought to encreaſe a ſtraight pace and lift vp his ſword hand, holding the point thereof downwards betwixt the enimies arme and his bodie, & with the encreaſe

of

of a ſtraight pace to deliuer a thruſt. And this manner of thruſt doth eaſily ſpeede, becauſe it increaſeth continually in the ſtraight lyne in ſuch ſort that the enimie can do no other then giue backe, and eſpecially when it is done without, for then the ſworde is ſafe from the trauerſe motion of the other ſworde.

The Defence of the Lowe warde at ſingle Rapier.

BEcauſe both the down-right blowe, and the reuerſe are verie eaſily defended in this warde, I will not ſtand to ſpeake of any other then of the thruſt, reſtraining my ſelfe thereunto. The which thruſt, if at the firſt it be not withſtoode, may proue verie mortall & deadly. Therefore, when this thruſt is giuen within, it muſt be beaten inwardes with the edge of the Rapier, requiring the turne of the hand alſo inwards, and the compaſſe of the hinder foote, ſo farre towards the right ſide, as the hande goeth towardes the right ſide. And the enimie ſhall no ſooner haue deliuered the thruſt, and he found the ſword, but he ought to turne his hand; and with a reuerſe to cut the enimies face, carying alwaies his forefoote on that ſide where his hand goeth. If the enimies thruſt come outwardes, then it is neceſſarie, that with the turne of his hand he beat it outwards with the edge of his ſword encreaſing in the ſame inſtant one ſlope pace, by meanes whereof he deliuereth his bodie from hurt. And therewithall (encreaſing another ſtraight pace, and deliuering his thruſt alreadie prepared) he doth moſt ſafely hurt the enimie.

HAuing as briefely as I might poſsibly finiſhed all that which might be ſaide, of true knowledge of ſingle Rapier: it ſeemeth conuenient, that comming from the ſimple to the compound, I handle thoſe weapons firſt, which from the Rapier forwards are either moſt ſimple or leaſt compound: And eſpecially thoſe which nowe adayes are moſt vſed, and in the which men are moſt exerciſed, the which weapons are the Rapier & Dagger accompanied togither, and are a great encreaſe and furtherance both in ſtriking and defending.

Wherefore, it is firſt to be conſidered, that with theſe and the like weapons, a man may practiſe that moſt deſired and renowmed manner of skirmiſhing, which is ſaide to ſtrike and defend both in one time, which is thought to be impoſsible to be done with the ſingle Rapier, and yet in truth it is not ſo: For there are ſome kinde of blows in the defence of which one may alſo ſtrike (as in the blowes of the edge, downe right and reuerſed) both high and lowe, and other high blowes which here are not ſpoken of.

Wherefore ſeing with theſe weapons a man may verie commodiouſly, both ſtrike and defend, for that the one is a great helpe to the other, it is to bee remembred, that becauſe theſe weapons are two, and the one of leſſer quantitie then the other, to eache one bee allotted that part both of defendinge and ſtrikinge, which it is beſt hable to ſupport. So that to the Dagger, by reaſon of his ſhortnes, is aſsigned the left ſide to defend downe to the knee: and to the ſword all the right ſide, & the right

and

and left ſide ioyntly downwardes from the knee. Neither may it ſeeme ſtrange that the onely Dagger ought to defend all the blowes of the left ſide: for it doth moſt eaſily ſuſtaine euerie edgeblowe, when it encountreth the ſworde in the firſt and ſecond parte thereof.

But yet let no man aſſure himſelfe, to beare any blowe, with his only Dagger when he meeteth with the ſword on the thirde and fourth parte thereof, becauſe that parte carrieth more force with it then may be ſuſtained with the onely Dagger. And yet for all that, no man ought to accuſtome himſelfe to defende blowes with the Rapier and Dagger both together, which manner of defending is now commonly vſed becauſe men beleeue, that they ſtand more aſſuredly by that meanes, although in trueth it is not ſo. For the Rapier and Dagger are ſo bound thereby, that they may not ſtrike before they be recouered, and therein are ſpent two tymes, vnder the which a man may be ſtrooken when he that ſtriketh continuing by the ſtraight lyne, encreaſeth forwards, perceiuing his enimie to be occupied and troubled in defending of himſelfe. And albeit this is not ſeene to come to paſſe many times, yet that is becauſe the aduantage is not knowen, or being known, men either are not readie to execute it, either ſtand greatly in feare to do it.

Therefore leauing aſide this maner of defence, let each man vſe to oppoſe, one only weapon againſt the enimies ſworde, keeping the other free, that he may be able to ſtrike at his pleaſure.

And it is diligently to be noted, that not onely the blowes of the ſworde, but alſo of any other weapon

be it neuer ſo great, may with the onely Dagger be ſuſtained and defended, when a man doth boldly encounter it towards the hand.

It is therefore to be knowen, that in the handling of theſe two weapons one may with leſſe danger giue a blowe with the edge then at the ſingle Rapier: For albeit the poynt of the Rapier be moued out of the ſtraight lyne: yet for all that there is not free power giuen to the enimie to ſtrike, conſidering there is an other weapon contrariwiſe prepared to defend: but this doth not ſo fall out at the ſingle Rapier, which bearing it ſelfe farre off when it ſtriketh with the edge, doth preſent & giue the meanes to the enimie to hit home firſt. And yet for all that, I would counſell no man, either in this or in any other ſort of weapon to accuſtome himſelfe to giue blowes with the edge: for that he may vnder them be moſt eaſily ſtrooken by a thruſt.

Of the Wardes.

IN the handling of theſe weapons, men vſe to frame manie wardes, all which, becauſe many of them carrie no reaſon, for that they are ether out of the ſtreight line, either vnder them a man maie eaſelie bee ſtroken, I wil caſt aſide as impertinent to my purpoſe, & reſtrain my ſelf vnto thoſe three with the which a man may ſafelie ſtrike & defend, whereunto all the reſt maie be reduced.

How to defend with the Dagger.

I Haue ſaid elſwhere that the left ſide of the perſon is that part which the dagger ought to defend, that is

to ſaie, from the knee vpwards: the lower parts together with the right ſide ought wholy to bee warded with the ſword.

Concerning the dagger, that which is to bee done therewith, it is to be noted, that for great aduantage, it would be holden before with the arme ſtrecched forth & the point reſpecting the enemie, which although it be far from him, yet in that it hath a point, it giueth him occaſion to bethink himſelf.

Now whether a man ought to holde his Dagger with the edge or flatt towardes the enimie, it may be left to the iudgement of him that handleth it, ſo to vſe it, as ſhalbe moſt for his aduantage. I haue ſeene ſome, who beare it with the elge towards the enimie, alledging this to be their aduantage, that as they encounter the enimies ſworde (which commeth with the edge or poynt) in the firſt and ſecond parte therof, & therewithall do increaſe a pace forwards, of force the hand turneth and placeth the edge of the Dagger there where the flatt was firſt: So that they are to driue the enimies ſword farre from them without any great trouble, becauſe each little motion in the firſt parte of the ſworde cauſeth verie great varietie in the poynt, from whence principally proceedeth the hurt. In which caſe, it ſhalbe very profitable to haue a good large Dagger.

There be other ſome, whome it pleaſeth to carrie their Dagger with the flatt towardes the enimie, vſing for their defence, not onely the Dagger, but alſo the guardes thereof with the which (they ſaye) they take holdfaſt of the enimies ſword: and to the ende they may do it the more eaſily, they haue daggers of purpoſe,

poſe, which beſide their ordinarie hilts, haue alſo two long ſterts of Iron, foure fingers length, and are diſtant from the dagger the thickneſs of a bow-ſtring, into which diſtance, when it chaunceth the enimies ſworde to be driuen, they ſuddenly ſtraine and holde faſt the ſworde, the which may come to paſſe, but I holde it for a thing rather to be inmagined then practiſed, the caſe ſo ſtanding, that in the heate of fight, where diſdaine bickereth with feare, little doth a man diſcerne whether the ſworde be in that ſtraight or no. And when he is to premeditate and marke, endeuouring and ſtriuing in his liuely iudgement, he muſt aduiſe himſelfe to perfourme it with the exquiſite knowledge and perfect diſcerning of the enimies motions, his neereneſſe and farrenſſe, and to reſolue himſelfe to ſtrike by the ſhorteſt way that may be: for therehence ſpringeth the victorie.

Let euery man therefore holde his dagger with the edge or flatt towardes the enimie, as it ſhall moſt aduantage him, or as he hath beene moſt accuſtomed. True it is, that by holding the edge towards the enimie there is this aduantage gotten, that with the dagger he may ſtrike with the edge, which he may not do the other waie. But let euery man hold it as he wil, yet he ought to carrie his arme ſtretched out before him, with the poynt in manner aforeſaide, to the end he may be able to finde the enimies ſworde a great deale before it hitteth his perſon.

Beſides this, he ought to obſerue for an infallible rule, that when the poynt or edge commeth on the left ſide, he muſt beat it from that ſide with the dagger. And in like ſort defending himſelfe with the

ſworde,

ſword, to driue it from the right ſide, for doing otherwiſe: that is, if he force the blowes giuen on the left ſide outwardes on the right ſide (foraſmuch as the enimies ſworde hath by that meanes two motions, the one croſsing, which is alreadie giuen, the other ſtraight which the enimie giueth it, continuing the one with the other) it may be, that in the ſtraight motion, it may hit the perſon, before that (by the thwart or croſsing motion) it be driuen quite outwardes. Therefore all blowes ſhalbe beaten outwards toward that ſide or parte of the bodie which is leaſt to the end it may the ſooner auoide daunger. And thoſe blowes that come on the right ſide muſt be beaten towards the right ſide: and thoſe on the left ſide muſt in like manner be voided from the ſame ſide.

Now, as concerning the faſhion of the Dagger, thus much is to be ſaide: that it would be ſtrong, able to beare and incounter the blowes of the ſword; indifferently long) that it may be quickly drawen out of the ſheath ſomewhat ſhort: and thoſe that are of the middle ſize would be choſen.

The offence of the High warde at Rapier and Dagger.

AS in handling the ſingle Rapier, ſo likewiſe in this, it ſhall not be amiſſe to begin with the High warde, which in managing theſe two weapons may be framed after two ſortes. The one with the right foote before, which I will call the firſt: and the other with the ſame foot behind, which I will terme the ſecond. This ſecond requireth a



greater time, becauſe the point of the ſwordeis farther off from the enimie. The firſt (being more neere) with the onely encreaſe of the foote forwardes, ſtriketh more readily, yet not more forcible than the ſecond, which, when it ſtriketh with the encreaſe of a ſtraight pace, ioyneth to the force of the arme & hand, the ſtrength of the whole bodie.

Beginning then with the firſt, as with that which each man doth moſt eaſelie find: I ſaie, he ought if he will keepe himſelfe within the boundes of true Arte, to thruſt onely with the increaſe of the foote forwards, ſetling himſelfe in the lowe warde.

In

In the ſecond waie, which is framed with the right foote behind, the ſword aloſte, and the dagger before, & borne as aforeſaid, he ought in like ſorte diſcharge a thruſt as forciblie as he may, with the increaſe of a ſtraight pace, ſtaying himſelfe in the lowe warde. Neither ought anie man in the handling of theſe weapõs to aſſure himſelfe to deliuer edgeblowes, becauſe he knoweth that there is an other weapon which defendeth: For he that defendeth hath the ſelfe ſame aduãtage, to witt, to be able with one weapon (and happelie the weaker,) to defend himſelf and ſtrike with the ſtronger. The which ſtroake is painfully warded by him, who hath alreadie beſtowed all his force and power, in deliuering the ſaide edgeblowe, by meanes whereof, becauſe there remaineth in him ſmall power to withſtand anie great encounter, let him prouide to thruſt onelie.

Of all, or of the greater parte of the edgeblowes, aſwell of ſtriking as defending, I will reaſon at large in the Treatiſe of Deceite.

Of the defence of high VVarde at Rapier and Dagger.

TO ſpeake of the manner how to withſtand the blowes of the edge, hauing alreadie ſaide that all ſuch blowes may eaſelie be warded by giuinge a thruſt, I omit as ſuperfluous. But for the defences of both ſides of the bodie: I ſaie, it is greate vantage, to ſtand at the lowe warde, with the right foote forwardes, by the which manner of ſtanding, the right ſide is put fourth towarde the enimie,

whereunto he will direct all his thruſtes: and thoſe may be encountred after three ſortes, that is to ſaye: with the Dagger onely: with the Sworde onely: and with both ioyned together. But in each of them, a man muſt remember to encreaſe a ſlope pace, whereby that parte of the bodie which was to be ſtrooken is voided out of the ſtraight lyne.

When one wardeth with his Dagger onely, he ſhall encreaſe a pace, and beare his arme forwards, and hauing found the enimies ſworde, he ſhall (with the encreaſe of a ſtraight pace) ſtrike him with a thruſt vnderneath, alreadie prepared.

When he wardeth with his ſworde onely, it is requiſite, that making a ſlope pace, he lift vp his ſworde, and beare it outwards, or els, as ſoon as he hath found the enimies ſworde, that with his dagger he ſtrike at the temples of his enimies head, ſtaying his ſworde with his owne: or els in ſteede of ſtriking with the Dagger, therewith to ſtaie the enimies ſword, & with it, (encreaſing another ſtraight pace) to deliuer a thruſt: but it is verie commodious to ſtrike with the Dagger.

The thirde waie: As ſoone as he hath made the ſlope pace, and found the enimies ſworde, he ought to ſtaie it with his Dagger, and therewithall, withdrawing his owne ſworde, to diſcharge a thruſt vnderneath with the encreaſe of a ſtraight pace.

The hurt of the broad warde at Rapier and Dagger.

IN each weapon and warde, I haue layde downe as a generall precept, that no man ought, (either for the

the procuring of any aduantage, either for ſtriking the enimie more readily) deliuer blowes of the edge. And in like ſorte, I haue ſaide, that eaſily and with ſmall danger, one may be ſtrooken vnder any ſuch blowe: which precepts, as in each time and place, they ought to be obſerued: ſo in this warde principally they may not be forgotten. For a man may not without great diſcommoditie and loſſe of time, ſtrike with any edgeblowe, as he ſtandeth at this warde.

It reſteth therefore, that the thruſt be onely vſed, which ought to be deliuered with the encreaſe of the foote forwards, alwaies regarding before it be giuen, if it be poſsible) to beate awaie the point of the enimies ſworde with the Dagger.

The defence of the broad warde at Rapier and Dagger.

THis thruſt alſo as well as the other may be warded after three ſortes, to wit: with the Dagger only, with the ſword only, and with both ioyned together. But for a mans defence in any of theſe waies, it is good to ſtande at the lowe warde. And when he wardeth with the dagger only, he muſt make a ſlope pace, and finding the enimies ſworde, with his ſaid dagger, diſcharge a thruſt vnderneath with the increaſe of a ſtraight pace.

And when he wardeth with the ſworde onely (which is the beſt of any other, both to ſtrike the enimie, and defend himſelfe) he muſt oppoſe the edge of his ſworde againſt the enimies, and driue a thruſt at his face, fetching a compaſſe with his hinderfoote, both for the lengthning of the thruſt, and aſſuring of him-

himſelfe.

It is poſsible to withſtand the thruſt with the ſworde and dagger ioyned together: but it is ſo diſcommodious and ſo ridiculous a waie, that I leaue to ſpeake thereof, as of a waye nothing ſafe to be practiſed.

The hurt of the lowe warde at Rapier and dagger.

IN each warde, when one ſtandeth bearing the poynt of the ſworde towards the enimie, it doth much diſaduantage him to ſtrike with the edge. And if in any ſorte it be lawfull ſo to do, it is, when he ſtandeth at the lowe warde: For it is commodious, and there is ſpent but little time in the beſtowing of an edgeblowe betweene thruſtes. Or, the rather to trie the enimie, there may be deliuered an edgeblow from the wriſt of the hand, in the which as there is ſpent little time, ſo the poynt is carried but a litle out of the ſtraight lyne, ſo that the enimie may very hardly enter to ſtrike vnder either of theſe blowes. But it is better, not to vſe them, reſoluing rather to diſcharge thruſt after thruſt, then any edgeblowe.

This warde may (as the high ward) be framed after two ſortes, to wit: with the right foote behinde, and the ſame foote before: but that with the right foote behind, is vſed rather to expect the enimie than to ſtrike firſt. For although it carrieth great force by reaſon that the ſworde is farre off from hurting, and before it hitteth home, it ſpendes much time, yet the hurt thereof may eaſily be warded, either with the weapon, or by retyring a pace. I will ſpeake of that onely

onely which is framed with the right foote before. And in this, one may ſtrike two waies, to wit: either within or without: By (Within) I vnderſtand, when his ſworde is borne betweene the enimies ſword & dagger. By (Without) I meane, when any one of them is borne in the middle againſt the other.

When one findeth himſelfe within, at the halfe of the enimies ſword, the poynt whereof, is directed to ſtrike at the right ſide, he muſt verie ſwiftly encreaſe a ſlope pace, and in a manner ſtraight, to the ende he may approch the neerer his enimie, and therewithall ſuddenly barring the enimies ſworde in the middle with his owne ſworde and dagger, encreaſe a ſtraight pace, and deliuer a thruſt.

This may be done after another plainer waie, and that is: when he ſtandeth at the halfe ſworde, to beat the enimies ſwordes point out of the ſtraight lyne on that ſide which ſhalbe moſt commodious, and in that lyne encreaſing his foote forwards to driue a forcible thruſt, at the enimies face or breſt.

But ſtanding without, he maie (with the encreaſe of his foote forwards) giue a thruſt at the face, which the enimie of neceſſitie muſt defend with his ſword: but therein the ſworde and the poynt thereof is commonly carried out of the ſtraight line, in which caſe he may (with the encreaſe of a ſlope pace) turne a reuerſe at the legges, and then preſently ſomething withdrawing his ſworde, deliuer a thruſt vnderneath with the encreaſe of a ſtraight pace.

He may alſo after a ſecond manner, giue a right edgeblow from the wriſt, as ſhort and ſtrong as is poſſible, not ſo much pretending to ſtrike as to finde the enimies

enimies ſworde: And it being ſuddenly found hee muſt with the encreaſe of a ſlope or crooked pace, lift vp his hand and driue a thruſt downwards, with the increaſe of a ſtraight pace.

After a thirde ſort alſo, he may ſtrike, and that is to deliuer the foreſaid blowe from the wriſt, and hauing met with the enimies ſworde, to make preſently a ſlope pace, and ſtaie the ſworde with his dagger, and then nimbly recouering his owne ſworde, to thruſt vnderneath with the increaſe of a ſtraight pace.

Theſe be ſufficient, concerning that which may be done in this warde with the ſworde both within and without, at leaſt, for ſo much as may be done by true Arte.

The defence of the lowe warde at Rapier & Dagger.

ALthough in the defence of blowes in eche warde, there is great conſideration & heede to be taken: yet in this eſpecially is required a farr more excellent iudgement and readines in action. For this warde doth oppoſe it ſelfe againſt all others. And the greater part of blowes which are of importance, proceed from this warde.

Beſides, euery man doth naturally more accuſtom himſelf to ſtaie and repoſe himſelfe in it, than in any other. Neither is it (as I beleeue) for any other cauſe, then that he knoweth, by ſo bearing himſelfe, he may eaſilie both ſtrike and defend. And becauſe in this warde, as I haue before ſaide, in the hurt or offence thereof, it is more commodious to ſtrike with the edge than in any other warde, albeit, it is not there giuen for counſell to be good to vſe it. But yet be-

cauſe

cauſe it may eaſily happen, there ſhall be here layde downe ſome defence for it: calling this principle before any other to remembrance, (He that is neareſt, hitteth ſooneſt,) to the ende, that knowing what way either ſworde maketh, each man may reſolue himſelfe to deliuer a thruſt vnder an edgeblowe, by the which is preuented the fall of the ſaide blowe.

But becauſe none, but ſuch as are endued with deepe iudgement, great actiuitie, and ſtout courage, do or may ſafely put this in practiſe: And to the end alſo, that thoſe, who accuſtom to defend euery blow, perfourming that in two times which might aſwell be done in one, may reſt ſatisfied: I will laye downe the defence of the edgeblow.

Therefore, whenſoeuer edgeblows are giuen, they are either right or reuerſed, high or low.

Againſt the right high blowe, either the onely dagger is to be oppoſed, either the ſworde and Dagger both together. When the onely dagger is vſed, then a ſtraight pace muſt be encreaſed, & the dagger hande lifted vp to encounter the enimies ſword in the weakeſt parte thereof, & being ſuddenly found a ſtraight pace is to be encreaſed, and a thruſt vnderneath (alreadie prepared) to be diſcharged. But if the ſword and dagger be both together oppoſed, they both muſt be lifted vp, and as ſoone as the blowe is encountred, the enimies face is to be cut by diſcharging a reuerſe, with the onely turne of the hand, reſting & ſtaying it ſelfe in the brode warde.

The right blowe, giuen beneath, or belowe, muſt be warded after no other manner, then by driuing a thruſt at the enimies thigh, which thruſt is to this pur-

poſe, that it hitteth home ſafely vnder that blow, and farther is a let, or barre, to the enimies ſword, ſo that it maie not light on the legges, conſidering that in the diſcharge of the ſaide thruſt, the hinder foote muſt neceſſarily go compaſsing towardes the right ſide behinde.

Reuerſes alſo, are either high or low. If high: they may be warded with the dagger onely, therewithall diſcharging a thruſt vnderneath, with the encreaſe of a ſtraight pace, as ſoone as the dagger hath met with the enimies ſworde. Either, they may be warded with the ſworde onely encreaſing a ſtraight pace with the left foote, therewithall diſcharging a thruſt (alreadie lifted vp in the warde) with the encreaſe of a ſtraight pace of the right legge. And this manner of warding, is more according to Arte, becauſe it hath beene ſaide, That all blowes on the left ſide, are to be warded with the dagger onely.

The reuerſe blowe would be warded with giuing a thruſt which ſafely hitteth, and hindreth the ſworde to light on the legges. This blowe alſo, may be warded after other and diuers manners, which ſhalbe declared in the treatiſe of Diſceit: for this is not their proper place.

There is great regarde to be taken in warding of thruſtes, to wit: to beare the bodie out of the ſtraight lyne, becauſe this is the ſafeſt waie that may be found to voide them, becauſe it verie difficult to meete with them, when they come barred and cloſed in, and are forciblie diſcharged. For when a thruſt commeth within (at the verie time that the enimie ſtriketh) hee ought to encreaſe a ſlope pace, enſuring himſelf of the

enimies

enimies ſword with his dagger, and then to diſcharge a thruſt with the increaſe of a ſtraight pace.

The thruſt without is warded after the firſt maner, to wit, when the enimie ſtriketh, to encreaſe a ſlope pace (whereby the bodie voideth danger) & to giue a thruſt with the encreaſe of a ſtraight pace. In this order one may warde himſelfe from other wayes of ſtryking.

In like caſe, when the enimie (onely to trye and prouoke) doth deliuer an edgeblowe from the wriſt of the hande: let euery man be aduiſed, as ſoone as the blowe is deliuered, to encreaſe a ſlope pace, and deliuer a thruſt with the encreaſe of a ſtraight pace, before the enimie (after his blowe giuen) do determine to diſcharge any more. This may ſuffice, for the handling of the Rapier and Dagger truely, with aduantage.

The Rapier and Cloake.

THat I maie continue in the weapons which are moſt vſuall and moſt commonly worne: After the Dagger, I come to the Cloake: The vſe whereof was firſt founde out by chaunce and after reduced into Arte. Neither was this for any other cauſe, then for that nature doth not onely delight to inuent things, but alſo to preſerue them being inuented. And that ſhee may the better doe it, ſhee taketh for her helpe all thoſe things that are commodious for her. Wherefore, as men in diuers accidẽts haue caſually proued, that the Cloak helpeth greatly (for as much as they are to weare it

daily) they haue deuiſed how they may behaue themſelues in all that, in which the Cloak may ſerue their turne. Which accidents, becauſe they are infinite,& do not generally ſerue for our purpoſe, I wil reſtraine my ſelfe and ſpeake of thoſe onely which appertaine to this Arte, the which are ſuch and ſo effectuall, that they may greatly helpe to the obteining of ſafe victorie, if they happen to be placed in ſuch a man as knoweth howe to vſe and handle them. And for that in true Arte it doth little preuaile, the vſe thereof being in a manner altogether deceitfull, I was reſolued to put ouer all this to the treatiſe of Deceit, as vnto his proper place. Notwithſtanding, to the ende it may not ſeeme ſtrange to any man, to read nothing of the Cloak in al the handling of true Art, I am minded to laye downe a certaine fewe blowes in the accuſtomed wardes, referring the more abundant handling thereof vnto the treatiſe of Deceit.

The manner how to handle the Cloake.

AS the Cloake in this Arte, hath in it three things to be conſidered, to wit length, largeneſſe, and flexibilitie: ſo it is to be wayed how far each of theſe will ſtretch, to ſerue the turne. Of which three, one doth properly belong vnto it, and that is flexibilitie, which maie neither be encreaſed nor diminiſhed: The other two, may receiue alteration. But yet it is at any hande to be prouided, that theſe two alſo be not diminiſhed. For the Cloake is no ſtrong thing, which of it ſelfe may withſtand the blowes of the weapon, being directly oppoſed againſt them.

And

And therefore he ſhall proue himſelfe but a foole, who truſting to the Cloth wrapped about his arme, doth encounter any right edgeblowe therewith. For ſeeing the Cloake is not flexible in that parte (which flexibilitie is his onely ſtrength) litle preuaileth either length or largenes, wrapped about a ſolide ſubſtãce. But being oppoſite in that parte thereof, where it hath length, largenes and flexibilitie (which is from the arme downwardes) it is auailable: for all three being ioyned togither will warde any edgeblow: which manner of warding ſhould not be ſo ſure, if the cloake had onely length and flexibilitie: For hauing behind it litle ayre, which is the thing that doeth ſtrengthen it, it may eaſily be beaten too, and cut, by any great blowe. Therefore, if a man haue ſo much leiſure, he ought to wrapp his Cloake once or twice about his arme, taking it by the Cape or coller, and folding his arme therein vp to the elbowe, and therewithall to warde all edgeblowes from the flanke thereof downwardes, aſwell on the right ſide, as on the left ſide, alwaies remembring to carrie his foote differing from his arme, for the auoyding of danger that may riſe by bearing his legg on the ſelfe ſame ſide, neere his cloak knowing the Cloak wardeth not when there is any harde ſubſtance behind it.

Thruſtes alſo themſelues, may be giuen without, if with the Cloake, or with the hand in the Cloak, the enimies ſworde be beaten off, one handfull within the poynt thereof. For the edge hauing but ſmall power in that caſe, is not hable in ſo litle time, to cut the hand. The blowes alſo, aſwell of the poynt, as of the edge, from the flanke vpwardes, ought to be

warded with the ſworde: For to lift the arme ſo high being burdened with the waight of the Cloak, which naturally draweth downwards, as it is a violent thing it is alſo perilous, leaſt the arme be placed in ſteede of the Cloake, and ſo reſt wounded, or leſt the arme or Cloake be placed before the eyes, which by that meanes remaine blinded.

An Aduerſiſement concerning the warding and wrapping of the Cloake.

THere are two waies (in theſe daies) to wrappe the Cloake, the one is, when one hauing leaſure taketh the Cloake by the cape or coller, and ſo fouldeth it once or twice about his arme: The other is, as often times it falleth out, when letting the Cloke fall downe from the ſhoulder, it is happelie taken by one ſide, & ſo is turned once or twice about the arme.

Nowe as concerning ſtriking, a man ought in the handling of theſe weapons as he would ſtrike, firſt to increaſe and carrie the one foote neere to the other, and then farther to increaſe a halfe, not a whole pace, as in other weapons: For at theſe weapons, it is daungerous leaſt (making a whole pace) he entangle his foote or feete in the Cloake and fall downe therewith. And this muſt be taken heede of, in the firſt and ſecond foulding, but principallie in the ſecond, becauſe in it the Cloake is longer, and therefore doth more eaſilie touch the earth & intangle his feet: In the firſt fold, although the cloak touch not the earth, becauſe the arme doth orderlie beare it, yet by reaſon of weirines, the arme falleth & cauſeth the foreſaid effect.

The



The hurt of the high ward at Rapier and Clok.

IN theſe manir of weapons, as in others, I will frame three wardes; The firſt by the foreſaid reaſons, ſhall be the high warde, which in theſe kind of wepons more then in anie other deſerue the name of a ward. For the Rapier (ſomething bending) wardeth as farre as the clok hand, and the clokhand down to the middle legg: ſoe that in this ward a man is warded from the top of the head down to the foot.

Therefore

Therefore ſtanding at this warde, whether it be with the right foote before or behinde, he may deliuer a thruſt with the encreaſe of a halfe pace forwards, ſtaying himſelfe in the lowe warde.

The right edgeblowe ought to be deliuered from the wriſt without any motion of the feete, reſting in the lowe warde: but in deliuering of the reuerſe, it is neceſſarie to fetch a whole pace, and in a manner ſtraight. If the enimie warde it with his ſworde, then the encounter of the enimies ſworde, muſt be ſtayed ſuddenly with the Cloake-hand in the firſt part thereof, and a thruſt be deliuered vnderneath, with the encreaſe of a ſtraight pace.

The defence of the thruſt, right and reuerſed blowes of the high warde at Rapier and Cloake.

FOr the better auoyding of the hurts which proceede from the high warde: it is neceſſarie to ſtande at the lowe warde, in the which the thruſt is to be warded iiij. manner of waies, to wit: either with the ſingle ſworde within and without, either with the ſingle Cloake within and without. If with the ſingle ſword within, it is requiſite to fetch a compas with the foot backwards on the right ſide. In like caſe to turne the bodie the ſame waie, to the intent, to carrie it out of the ſtraight lyne (in which the blowe commeth) and to driue a reuerſed thruſt at the face, the which thruſt in ſuch order deliuered is the longeſt that is, and ſuch a one, as thereby the hurt is not onely voyded, but alſo at the ſelfe ſame time, the enimie is ſtroken in the face. If it chaunce, that the ſworde be encountred without

then

then it is not onely profitable but alſo neceſſarie, to ſtep forwardes and with the Cloake to encounter the enimies ſworde in the firſt parte thereof. And recouering his owne ſworde, to diſcharge a thruſt vnderneath with the encreaſe of the right foote. And although it be laide down for a rule, not to vſe a whole pace in handling of the Cloake, this ought to be vnderſtoode in ſtriking, in the which (whileſt one endeuoureth to ſtrike with his ſworde) it may be forgetting the Cloake, his arme may fall, by meanes whereof he may ſtumble againſt it: but in warding, it doth not ſo happen. For nature being carefull to defende her ſelfe (at euery litle danger) lifteth vp both her armes, yea, although they be oppreſſed with waight and burden.

Wherefore it is not to be feared, that in-warding this thruſt, the hand will be drawen downe by the waight of the Cloake.

The ſame wardes and defences may be vſed with the ſingle Cloake, in the which, one muſt likewiſe ſtrike, with the encreaſe of the right foote. This maner of warding is not verie ſure, and therefore it requireth great actiuitie and deepe iudgement, conſidering he ought to beare his Cloake and arme ſtretched out before him, & to marke when the enimies ſwords poynt ſhall paſſe within the Cloakhand one handful or litle more; and not to ſuffer it to paſſe farther, but to beat it off, and encreaſing to diſcharge a thruſt vnderneath; with the encreaſe of a pace with the right foote. But as I haue ſaide, this manner of warding hath litle certaintie and great perill in it, and yet it ſtriketh well, if it be done in ſhott time.

The right edgeblowe may in like manner be warded with the ſingle ſworde or cloake: but when it cõmeth aloft, it ſhall not be commodious to encounter it with the ſingle cloake, for by that meanes the eyes blinde themſelues. How much this importeth, let others indge. But, when the ſaide right blowe commeth in a manner lowe, ſo that it may well be warded, keeping the enimie in ſight, then the cloake is to be oppoſed, with the encreaſe of the left pace, & preſently thereupon, a thruſt to be diſcharged, with the encreaſe of a right pace.

When one oppoſeth the ſingle ſworde againſt the right blowe, he muſt driue a thruſt at the face, & fetch a compas with his hinder foote, cutting the face with the ſaide thruſt and ſtaie himſelfe in the broad ward. The ſelfe ſame muſt be done, when he defendeth himſelfe with both together, to wit, with the ſword and cloake.

Againſt the reuerſed blowe, the ſelfe ſame manner is vſed in warding to wit, either with the one, or with the other, either with both ioyned together.

With the cloake, by the encreaſe of a pace, and by encountring the enimies ſworde, as farre forwards as is poſſible, that thereby it may be done the more comodiouſly, deliuering a thruſt therewithall vnderneath, with the encreaſe of a pace of the right foot.

With the ſingle Rapier, the ſame defence may ſuffice, which is layde downe in the treatiſe of the ſingle Rapier, and that is, to diſcharge a thruſt at the enimies thigh, the which withſtandeth the fall of the reuerſed blowe.

Nowe, if one would defend himſelfe with both theſe

theſe weapons ioyned togither, he muſt encreaſe a pace with the right foot, & ſtaying the enimies ſword with his cloke, recouer his owne ſworde nimbly, and then diliuer a thruſt with the encreaſe of a pace of the right foote.

The hurt of the broad warde, at Rapier and Cloake.

IN this warde, as well as in others, a man may both thruſt and ſtrike, yet diuerſly; For he may not diſcharge a right edge-blowe beneath. And the reuerſe is manifeſtly dangerous: So that, when he is to deliuer it, he ought to perfourme it in this order.

Firſt, he ſhall driue a thruſt, fetching a compas with his hinder foote, that by that meanes it may reach the farther, then ſuddenly (without mouing of himſelfe) he ſhall diſcharge a right edgeblowe, from the wriſt, after the which preſently, the reuerſe muſt followe, with the encreaſe of a pace of the right foote: and further, muſt follow on with the thruſt alreadie prepared, and increaſe the like pace.

The defence of the broad warde, at Rapier and Cloake.

TO him that will ſafely warde himſelfe from the hurt of the broad warde, it is requiſite, that he ſtand at the lowe warde. And when the thruſt vnderneath hand commeth, he ſhall thruſt at the face, fetching a compas with his hinder foote towardes the right ſide, with which kinde of thruſt, it doth lightly happen that the enimie is hit in the face:

but if it faile, yet for all that, the enimie obtaineth not his purpoſe, in the diſcharge of the thruſt of the broad warde: For by deliuering the thruſt vnderneath, and compaſſing of the hinder foote, the bodie is carried out of the ſtraight lyne: So that, as ſoone as the thruſt is deliuered at the face, and the enimie not ſtrooken therewith, but paſſeth beyond his head, the reuerſe is to be turned at the face, and the foote to be plucked backe, ſetling in the broad warde. To warde the right and reuerſed blows, there is a thruſt to be giuen at the thighes or ſome other place that may moſt hinder them, in the verie ſame time that ſuch blowes are in their circle or compas. Although I do not beleue that there is any man ſo fooliſh, that (in this warde) will deliuer a reuerſe onely.

Of the hurt of the lowe warde, at Rapier and Cloake.

THis warde is ſo ſtraight and perilous, that no man ought to aſſure himſelf to deliuer an edgeblow any manner of waie. For vnder any of them he may be eaſily ſtrooken, and each of them may eaſily be warded with the Cloake. Therefore, he muſt diligently take heed, that he thruſt onely, the which muſt neuer be diſcharged before the enimies ſworde be found, and then as farre forwardes as is poſſible. So then finding it, he may thruſt both within and without. Neither is there in this thruſt any other aduantage to be gotten, then to ſteale a halfe pace vnwares of the enimie, which may be done verie commodiouſly, conſidering the cloak occupieth the enimies ſight, And hauing drawen this halfe

halfe pace, and found the enimies ſword, he muſt encreaſe an other halfe pace forwardes, and ſtrike him, coſting and forcing the enimies ſworde, on that ſide where it may do no hurt. And this maie be vſed both within and without: But he whome it pleaſeth, and who doubteth not to be entangled in the Cloake, maie (finding himſelfe within) carrie his left foot making a pace therewith, and betweene his cloake & his ſworde, cloſe the enimies ſworde, and deliuer a thruſt with the encreaſe of a pace of the right foote: And finding the enimies ſword without, he may vſe the ſelfe ſame encreaſe and thruſt. But if he finde not the enimies ſword, he may deliuer a litle edgeblow from the wriſt of the hand, in ſuch ſorte, that the enimy haue no leaſure to enter in: And hauing found the Sword, to to diſcharge a right or ſtreight thruſt, or elſe not voyding the enimies ſword by the encreaſe of a left pace, to driue a thruſt from aloft downwards, lifting vp the fiſt ſomewhat high, and deliuering it with the increaſe of a pace of the right foote.

Of the defence of the lowe Warde at Rapier and Cloak.

TO the ende a man may warde himſelfe from all the thruſtes reckned in the hurtes of this warde, he neither ought, neither happely may doe any other thing then voide his bodie from the ſtraight line, wherein the enimie purpoſeth to ſtrike, making a left pace forwards, ſomewhat thwarting or croſsing and ſtriking the enimie ſafely. The which doth not ſo chaunce, when one defendeth himſelfe either

either with the ſingle Cloake or ſingle Rapier: For whileſt he aſſaieth to defend himſelf, he cannot ſtrike. And if the enimie do firſt moue, and ſtrike ſtraight, in the which, his ſworde is not carried much outwardes (and it is hardly done,) I ſaie, the enimie may by ſtealing of half paces, diſcharge a thruſt perforce. And therefore he muſt take heede, that (as the enimie moueth) he encreaſe a ſlope pace (by that meanes voyding the hurt) then a thwart or croſſing pace next, with the encreaſe of a ſtraight pace of the right foote, to ſtrike the enimie with a thruſt vnderneath.

This may ſuffice, for the handling of theſe weapons as much as appertaineth to ſure plaie. All that which remaines is reſerued to the treatiſe of deceit, in which place ſhall be ſeene manie handlings of the cloake no leſſe profitable then pleaſant.

Of the Sworde and Buckler.

FOraſmuch as the Buckler is a weapon verie commodious & much vſed, it is reaſon that I handle it next after the Cloak. For my purpoſe is, to reaſon of thoſe weapons firſt which men do moſt ordinarily vſe, then of thoſe that are extraordinarie and leſſe accuſtomed, diſcourſing vpon eache of them, as much as is requiſite when I come vnto them. Therefore I will firſt conſider of the Buckler, therewith proceeding orderly.

Firſt his fourme, as much as appertaineth to this Arte. Next the manner how to vſe it, giuing euery man to vnderſtand that the Buckler and other weapons (which are ſaid to be weapons only of warding)

may

may alſo be of ſtriking, as I will declare in his proper place.

Of the Forme of the Buckler.

AS the forme of the Buckler is round and ſmall, and ought to be a ſhilde & ſafegard of the whole bodie, which is farr greater then it: So it is to be vnderſtood how it may accompliſh the ſame, being a matter in a manner impoſsible.

Let euery one therefore know, that the litle Buckler is not equall in bignes to the bodie ſimplie, but after a certaine ſorte or manner, from which ſpringeth this cõmoditie, that he which vnderſtandeth it, ſhall be reſolued of the manner how to beare and handle it, and ſhall know that in it, which ſhal not onelie aduantage him in the vſe thereof, but alſo of many other weapons.

It is to bee vnderſtoode, that the Buckler beareth the ſelfe ſame reſpect to the bodie, which the litle prike or ſighte, on the toppe of the harquebuſh artilirie or ſuch like beareth to the obiect which they reſpect and behold. For when a Harquebuſher or Gonner, diſchargeth happelie againſt a Pigion or Tower, if they behold and finde that the Prike ſtriketh the obiect, although that prike or ſight be verie litle, and of a thouſand partes one: yet I ſaie, the ſaid prike of the Harquebuſh ſhal couer the whole Pigion, and that of the Artilery in a manner the whole Tower: The effect proceedinge of no other thing then of the diſtance. And it is in this manner. The eye beholding directlie through the ſtraight ſight, as ſoone as it arriueth at the obiect, and may not paſſe through, tearth it,

it, and ſendeth through a lyne ſidewiſe, ſpreading it ſelfe like vnto the two ſides of a Triangle, the which ouerthroweth the foundation of that thing which it ſtriketh: The which foundation, the inſtrument ſtriketh with which the diſcharge was made. And if it worke otherwiſe, that commeth either of the defect of the inſtrument, or of that it was not firme.

Wherefore, applying this example to our purpoſe I ſaie, that the enimies ſworde is as the lyne of the eie-ſight, The Buckler, euen as the litle pricke or ſight in the Harquebuſh, the bodie of him that holdeth the Buckler, as the obiect vnto the which the ſtrok is directed: And ſo much the rather the Buckler ſhall be the more like this pricke or ſight, and haue power to couer the whole bodie, by how much it ſhall be the further off from the thing that is to couer.

As concerning his greatneſſe, ſtanding ſtill on the forme of the Buckler, by how much the greater it is, by ſo much the better it voydeth the blowes. But it is to be regarded, that it hinder not the eye ſight, or at leaſt as litle as is poſſible. Beſides this, there is required, that about the middle thereof, there be a litle ſtrong circle of Iron. well nayled and hollowed from the Buckler, ſo that betwene that circle & the Buckler the Sword may enter, by meanes whereof, a man may either take holdfaſt of the ſword, or breake a peece of the poynt. But this is done rather by chaunce then that any rule may be giuen how a man ſhould ſo take hold and breake it, for the ſword commeth not with ſuch ſlowenes, and in ſuch quantitie of time, as is requiſite in that behalfe.

It ſhall be alſo verie profitable, that in the midſt of the

the Buckler, there be a ſharpe poynt or ſtert of Iron, to the end the enimie may be ſtroken therwith when occaſion ſerueth.

The manner how to handle the Buckler.

IF a man would, that the Buckler worke the ſaide effect, to wit: that it may be hable with his ſmalneſſe to couer the whole bodie, he muſt holde and beare it in his fiſt, as farre off from the bodie as the arme may poſſibly ſtretch foorth, mouing alwaies the arme & buckler together, as one entire and ſolide thing, hauing no bending, or as if the arme were vnited to the buckler, turning continually al the flatt thereof towards the enimie. From which kinde of holding proceed all theſe commodities following.

1 The firſt is, that the arme (ſtanding directly behinde the Buckler) is wholy couered, neither may be ſtrooken by any manner of thing which is before it.

2 The ſecond, that all edgeblows are of force encountred in the firſte and ſecond parte thereof, where they carrie leaſt force: neither can it fall out otherwiſe, if the enimie woulde (in manner as he ought) ſtrike either at the head or bodie. For if the enimie would ſtrik them, it is neceſſarie, that his ſword come within the buckler ſo much as the arme is long: for otherwiſe it ſhal neuer hit home. And in this caſe he may well warde each great blow, and therewithal eaſily ſtrike, and that in ſhort time.

3 The thirde commoditie is, that all thruſtes are moſt eaſily warded: for the Buckler being rounde,

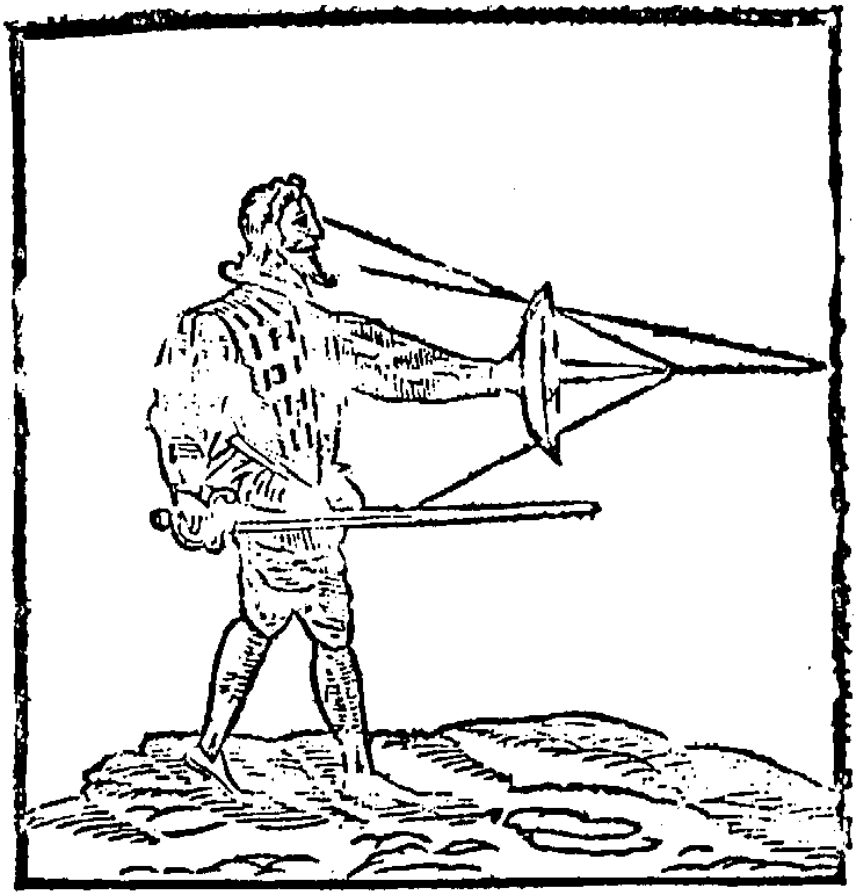
with the directly flatt oppoſite againſt the enimie, & wardinge all the bodie, the enimie will not reſolue himſelfe to giue a thruſt but onely againſt thoſe partes which are ſo well couered by the Buckler, as, the head, the thighes, or ſome parte of the bodie, being found diſcouered by ill bearing of the Buckler. And ſeeing that theſe thruſtes, hauing to hit home, ought to enter ſo farre in, as is from the buckler to the bodie & more (and that it is the length of an arme) they maye eaſily and without doubt (making leſſe motion, and therefore in little time) be driuen outwardes by the Buckler before they come to the bodie.

There are many other commodities to be gathered by ſo holding of the buckler, which at this preſent are not to be recyted.

Wherefore being to finiſh this Chapter, I ſay, that the Buckler ought not to defend, but onely down to the knee and leſſe. And reaſon would that it ſhould defend no farther than the arme can ſtretch it ſelfe, that is to the middle thigh. In the act of fighting, a man ſtandeth alwaies ſomewhat bowing, therefore a little more is allowed. The reſt of the bodie downwardes muſt be warded with the Sword onely.

Of the hurt of the high warde at Sword or Buckler.

BEcauſe it is a verie eaſie matter to wand both the right and reuerſed blowes of the edge: And for that a man may eaſily ſtrike vnder them, I will not lay down either for the one or the other their ſtrikings or defendings, but onely talke of the thruſt. I ſaye, the thruſt aboue may be deli-



deliuered in two ſortes , the one with the right foote behinde, the other with the right foote before.

When the thruſt is diſcharged that carrieth the right foote behinde, there muſt (in deliuerie thereof) be encreaſed a ſtraight pace of the right foote. And it muſt be driuen & forced with all that ſtrength which it requireth, and that is verie great, then ſetling in the lowe warde.

When one would deliuer a thruſt with the righe foote before, he muſt remember in any caſe, firſt (vnawares of the enimie) to ſteale a halfe pace , that is to ſaie: to drawe the hinder foote neere the forefoote, & then to caſt a thruſt with the encreaſe of a halfe pace

forwardes, ſelling himſelfe after the deliuerie thereof in the lowe warde.

Of the defence of the high warde at Sworde & Buckler.

AS a man ſtandeth at the lowe warde he may eaſily defend both thoſe loftie thruſtes. When they come, he ſtanding at the ſaide warde, it ſhall be beſt to driue them outwardes, with the encreaſe of a left pace, and with his ſword and buckler to ſtaie the enimies ſworde. And becauſe this left pace is a great increaſe: and likewiſe the enimie, driuing his thruſtes, commeth with great force, it may eaſily come to paſſe that both may approch ſo neare one to the other, that he may with his bukler giue the enimie, the *Muſtachio*, in the face, but that muſt be done when fit occaſion is offered, and then further recouering his own ſword to diſcharge a thruſt vnderneath with the encreaſe of a pace of the right foote.

Of the hurt of the broad VVarde, at Sworde and Buckler.

IF a man would ſtepp forward, and ſtrike as he ſtandeth in the broad warde, it is not lawfull for him to vſe any other than the thruſt, conſidering the right & reuerſed blowes may not be deliuered without great perill and danger. For in the ſite or placing of this warde, the ſword is farre off from the bodie. And as he moueth to fetch a right or reuerſed edge blowe, his ſworde of force wil be much farther: So that it may not be done without great danger. Therefore he ſhall vſe the thruſt onely: in forcing and deliuerie wherof,

he

he ſhall proceede firſt to carrie his hinder foote a halfe pace forwardes, and then to driue it on with the encreaſe of another halfe pace of the right foote, ſtaying himſelfe in the broad warde.

The defence of the broad warde at Sword and Buckler.

AGainſt the thruſt of the broad warde, the Buckler is to be oppoſed, ſtanding at the lowe warde. And when the enimie commeth reſolutely to thruſt, then without warding it at all, he ſhall driue a thruſt at the face, carrying the hinder foote in a compaſſe towards the right ſide aſwell to lengthen the thruſt, as alſo to carrie himſelfe out of the ſtraight lyne, in the which the enimie commeth reſolued to ſtrike, who, by this manner of thruſt is eaſily hurt.

The hurt of the lowe warde at Sworde and Buckler.

AS this lowe warde is framed two maner of waies, that is to ſaie, with the right foot before & behind: So likewiſe a man may ſtrike therein after two ſortes, Standing with the right foote behinde (leauing aſide, the blowes of the edge, being to ſmall purpoſe) he ſhal deliuer a thruſt with the encreaſe of a pace of the right foote, betweene the enimies ſworde and buckler, or els, if it be more commodious without the ſword and buckler, ſetling in the lowe warde, with the right foot before, in which warde, a man may ſtrike two manner of waies, within and without. Finding himſelf without hauing firſt met the enimies ſword with his own, he ſhall encreaſe a left pace, not to the intent to auoid himſelfe from the enimies ſworde, but ſhall with his

buckler alſo, ſtaie the enimies ſworde, and foraſmuch as he did not at the firſt deliuer the ſaid thruſt, he ſhal then continue and force it on directly with the encreaſe of a pace of the right foote. Finding himſelfe within, the ſame thruſt is to be vſed but more ſtrõgly. For, with the encreaſe of a pace, leauing his buckler or the enimies ſworde, he ſhutteth it in betweene his own ſword & the buckler: and keping it in that ſtrait, (wherby he is ſure the enimy can deliuer no edgblow becauſe it may not moue neither vpwards nor downwards, neither forwards, but is then without the bodie,) he ſhal continue on, & reſolutely deliuer this maner of thruſt, with the encreaſe of a pace of the right foote.

The defence of the lowe warde, at Sword & buckler.

FOr the defence of all theſe thruſts, it is neceſſarie that he ſtand at the lowe warde, & ſtanding therat, whileſt the thruſt cometh which is deliuered with the right foote behinde, he ſhal do no other, than in the ſelfeſame time, deliuer a thruſt at the thigh or breſt, turning the hilte of his ſword againſt the enimies ſworde, & compaſſing his hinder foot, withal bearing his body out of the ſtraite line, in which the enimie ſtriketh. And this maner of warding doth not only defend, but alſo ſafely hurt.

For the defence of the other two thruſtes, the one within, & the other without, a man muſt take great heede, and it is verie neceſſarie that as the enimie encreaſeth pretending to ſtrike ſafely) he carrie a ſlope pace with the left foot & deliuer a thruſt aboue hand,

vpon

vpon the which the enimie of himſelfe ſhal runne & inueſt himſelfe. And it is to be conſidered, that in theſe thruſtes, he that defendeth hath great aduantage; For the enimie cometh reſolutely to ſtrike, not thinking that it may in any other ſort be warded then by giuing backe, But he that wardeth by encreaſing, defending & drawing neere vnto the enimie, is ſo placed, that he may eaſily hurt him.

Of the Sworde & Target, called the Square Targer.

IT is moſt manifeſt, that the Target is a moſt auncient weapon, found out only for the vſe of warfare, & not for frayes & peculiar quarels betweene man & man: albeit, ſince the finding therof, there haue beene deuiſed by the induſtrie of man a thouſand waies to ſerue them at their neede: From whence it hath come to paſſe, (becauſe it ſeemed conuenient vnto the profeſſors of this Art) that this weapon was verie comodious & profitable, aſwel for his faſhion, as for that it is a meane or middle wepon, betweene the buckler & the round Target: That they haue framed a ſpeciall kinde of plaie therwith, although it differeth from the other two weapons in no other thing then in the faſhion. Therefore, diuers profeſſors of this Arte, being moued, ſome by reaſon of the forme, ſome by the bignes, & ſome by the heauineſſe thereof, haue accuſtomed to beare it after diuers wayes, Thoſe who make moſt account of the heauines, would for ſome conſideration, that the right & proper bearing thereof, was to hold it leaning on the thigh, not mouing therehence, but being greatly conſtrained thereunto.

Others,

Others, who esteemed the forme & bignes thereof, because it seemed vnto them that the Target without any other motion was most apt of it selfe to ward all that parte of the bodie which is betwixt the neck & and the thigh, bare it with their arme drawne backe close to their brest. The which opinion, I meane not at this present to confute, forasmuch as by the shewing of mine owne opinion, it shall appeare how mightily they were deceiued in the holding thereof, from the true holding whereof springeth all the profite which his forme and bignes doth giue it.

The manner how to holde the square Target.

BEing desirous to beare great respect aswel to all the qualities of this Target (which are, the forme, the bigneſſe, and heauines) as vnto that wherwith it may either helpe or hurt, I saie (if a man woulde that the fourme thereof do bring him profit without hurt) it is to be holden with the high poynt therof vpwards respecting the head: the parte opposit, the low partes of the bodie: the right parte therof, the right side, and the left, the left side: from this manner of bearing spring these aduantages. First, a man may more easily see his enimie, and view what he doth by the point of the corner, which is on the one side, and that is by the high point, by which, if he woulde beholde his enimie, from the head to the feete, it is requisite that he carrie his Target, so lowe, that he discouer not too much of his bodie which is aboue it: to the warding whereof he cannot come againe, but discommodiously, and in long time.

Besides, the said commoditie of beholding the enimie,

mie, there is alſo another that is of warding: For the Target being borne after this manner (framing a triangle) the ſharpe corner thereof reſpecteth the forehead, and the ſides thereof ſo ſpread themſelues, that through the leaſt motion, any bigg man whoſoeuer, may ſtand ſafe behind them. And if blowes come at the head, be they thruſtes or edgeblows, al of them light vpon one of the ſaide ſides, behinde which ſtandeth the head ſafe without hindering of the eyeſight. The other two ſides of the Target, right, & left, with verie ſmall motion, warde the right and left ſide of the bodie, in ſuch ſort, that a man may alſo draw back his arme: For the left ſide of the Target wardeth the elbowe, which it doth not do, when the high ſide thereof is carried equall. To conclude therefore, that in holding the Target, his bignes may the better warde, for the cauſes aboueſaid being ſuperfluous to be repeated againe, I counſell, it to be holden with the arme ſtretched forth from the bodie, not accompting the heauines to be hurtfull, becauſe a man continueth not long in ſo holding it: and if the too long holding be painfull, he may drawe back his arme, and reſt him ſelfe. The better to do this and to be able to ſee the enimie, I ſaie, he ſhall hold it, his arme ſtertched our, with the high point outwards, reſpecting the forehed.

The burt of the high warde, at Sworde & ſquare Target.

MAnie Deceites, Falſes, and Wardes, may bee practiſed in the handling of theſe weapons: All which I reſerue to the treatiſe of Deceite or falſing, as vnto his pro-



per place, training likewiſe in this as in all the reſt, three ordinarie wardes, vpon which, all the reſt depend, and againſt which they may be oppoſed.

Standing at this high warde, and pretending to ſtrike the enimie, it is firſt of all to be prouided, that one ſteale a falſe pace from behinde, and then diſcharge a thruſt aboue hande, with the increaſe of an other half pace forwards, which being warded by the enimie with his Target onely, not mouing his bodie, he may then increaſe a ſtraight pace of the left foote, & (ſomewhat lifting vp his hand, and abaſing the poynt of his ſworde) force a thruſt from aboue downwards betweene

betweene the Target & bodie of the enimie, with the encreaſe of a pace of the right foote: the which thruſt will ſafely ſpeede the enimie, if his bodie be not firſt voided. The ſelfe ſame thruſt may be deliuered in this high ward, ſtanding with the right foote behind.

The defence of the high warde, at Swarde & ſquare Target.

THE foreſaid thruſt may eaſily be warded, if in the verie time that it commeth it be encountred with the high poynt of the Target, but yet with that ſide which bendeth towardes the right hand. And as ſoone as the enimies ſworde is come one handfull within the Target, it muſt be ſtrongly beaten off by the Target towardes the right hand, increaſing the ſame inſtant a left pace. Then with as great an increaſe of a pace of the right foote as may be poſſible, a thruſt vnderneath moſt be giuen, already prepared, becauſe a man ought to ſtand at the lowe warde for the warding of the thruſt abouehand.

The hurt of the broad warde, at Swarde and ſquare Target.

IN this warde likewiſe, the enimie may be inueſted on the poynt of the ſworde, by going forwardes as ſtraightly as is poſſible, and by ſtriking quickly before the enimie. For the Target (whoſe charge is onely to defend) is ſo great, that it may eaſily warde all edgeblowes, & thoſe chiefely which come from the knee vpwardes. Farther, when a blowe is pretended to be deliuered, it is manifeſt, that a thruſt doth enter by a more narrowe ſtraight than any edgeblowe doth.

And therefore, when one wouldeſtrike the enimie ſtanding at the locke or lowe warde, he muſt remember that he approch as neere him as he may poſſible: and being ſo neere, that with his Target put forth one handfull more forwards, he may beate awaie the enimies ſworde, then by ſo beating of it, he ſhal encreaſe a left pace, and preſently after it, with the increaſe of a pace of the right foote, deliuer him a thruſt, if it ſo chaunce that at the firſt encounter he ſtrake him not ſtrongly.

The defence of the broad warde, at Sworde and Square Target.

STanding at the lowe ward, one may warde and defend the thruſt of the broad warde, diuers waies, among all which, there is one waie, verie eaſie and ſure and thus it is.

For the defence of this thruſt, it is neceſſarie, that he ſtande at the lowe warde, his ſword and arme being in their proper place: and that with his Target ſomething ſtretched out from his bodie, he prouoke the enimie, who being determined in himſelfe, and comming reſolutely to giue a thruſt, hee then ought with the increaſe of a pace of the right foote, to ſtrike the enimie with a lowe thruſt, vnderneath both his owne and his enimies Target.

Of the hurt of the lowe warde, at Sworde and Square Target.

THere are manie blowes to be beſtowed, ſtanding at the lowe warde, all which I eſteeme as vaine & to no purpoſe, conſidering the manifold and abundant defence of the Target. Therefore I will reſtraine my

ſelfe

ſelfe vnto two onely which are verie ſtrong and hardly to be warded. And they are two thruſtes, the one within, the other without, with the right foote both before and behinde.

When one findeth himſelfe within, with his right foote before, and ſo neere his enimie, that by the increaſe of a left pace, he may with the right ſide of his Target, beate awaie the enimies ſworde in the middle thereof, then he ought nimblie to encreaſe that lefte pace, and (cloſing in the enimies ſworde between his Target and his owne ſworde) to deliuer a forcible thruſt at the thighes, with the encreaſe of a pace of the right foote. He may alſo do the verie ſelfeſame when he findeth himſelfe to ſtande with his right foote behinde, but then he muſt farther increaſe a pace of the right foote firſt, and then continuing ſtill force his ſworde and paces directly onwards, if he hit not the enimie as he would at the firſt.

But if it chaunce that he finde himſelfe without, then he muſt (hauing firſt found out fit opportunitie to beate off the enimies ſworde with his Target) encreaſe a left pace, and placing the high ſide of his Target vnder the enimies ſworde and his owne ſworde vpon it, cloſing it in, in the middle, encreaſe a pace of the right foote, and diſcharge a forcible thruſt, at the breſt or face. And he may do the ſelfe ſame, when he ſtandeth with the right foote behind.

Of the defence of the high warde at Sworde and ſquare Target.

FOr the warding of thoſe two thruſtes of the lowe warde, it is neceſſarie, that a man ſtande at the ſame ward.

warde. And as the enimie commeth reſolutely determined to thruſt within, he muſt as ſoone, or more redily then he, encreaſe a left pace, and with the right ſide of his Target cloſe in the enimies ſword, between it and his owne ſworde, and then to enter perforce, & thruſt either betweene the two Targets or els vnder them, with the increaſe of a pace of the right foote.

But if the enimie come without, he muſt encreaſe the ſelfe ſame ſlope pace, & with the right ſide of his Target beat off the point of the enimies ſword, & then thruſt either aboue, either beneath, as in that occaſion it ſhal be moſt for his aduantage with the increaſe of the pace of the right foote. And when in conſideration of the aboundant defence of the Targer, he may neither increaſe his paces, nor deliuer a thruſt, he muſt ſettle himſelfe in the lowe warde with the right foote behinde, which ward I will largely handle in the treatiſe of deceite or falſing, being as it were his proper place, here ending the true handling of the ſword and ſquare Targer.

Of the Sword and raunde Target.

THE round Target would require a long & amoſt exquiſite conſideration becauſe it is of circuler forme, moſt capable, and moſt perfect of all others. But for that my purpoſe in this my worke, is to write that only which I know doth appertaine to this Arte, giuing leaue to euery man to buſie him ſelfe in his owne profeſſion. And leauing a great part of this conſideration

ſideration to the Mathematicians & Hiſtoriographers to reaſon of his diuers qualities or paſſions, either who was inuentor thereof, either, whether it be a weapon of antiquitie, or of this ourage, And comming to diſcourſe of that, wherein it profiteth in this our time, (being a weapon ſo greatly honoured and eſtemed of Princes, Lords, & Gentlemen, that beſids thvſe thereof in their affairs, as wel by day as by night, they alſo keepe their houſes richly decked and beautified therewith,) And conſidering onely that thing, in the round Target, among al other weapons which may either profite or hurt in the handling thereof, I ſaie, that the ſaid round Target hath beene diuerſely holden, borne and vſed, by diuers men in diuers ages, aſwell as the other ſquare Target, and other weapons of defence, as well as of offence. And there want not alſo men in our time, who to the intent they be not wearied, beare it leaning on their thigh as though that in this exerciſe (in which only trauaile and paines are auaileable,) a man ſhould onelie care for reſt and quietneſſe. For by meanes of theſe two, ſtrength and actiuitie, (partes in the exerciſe of weapons, both important and neceſſarie) are obtained and gotten.

Other ſome, holding their whole Arme bowed togeither, haue carried it altogeither flat againſt their bodie, not regarding either to warde their bellie, or vtterlie to loſe the ſight of the enimie, but will at any hande ſtand (as they thinke) ſafe behind it, as behinde a wal, not knowing what a matter of weight it is, both to ſee the enimie, and worke other effects, which, (by ſo holding it) may not be brought to paſſe.

Of the maner how to holde the round Targer.

IF a man woulde ſo beare the rounde Targer, that it may couer the whole bodie, and yet nothing hinder him from ſeeing his enimie, which is a matter of great importance, it is requiſite, that he beare it towardes the enimie, not with the conuexe or outward parte thereof, altogither equall, plaine or euen, neither to holde his arme ſo bowed, that in his elbowe there be made (if not a ſharpe yet) at leaſt a ſtraight corner. For beſides that (by ſo holding it) it wearieth the arme: it likewiſe ſo hindereth the ſight, that if hee would ſee his enimie from the breſt downwardes, of neceſſitie he muſt either abaſe his Targer, or beare his head ſo peeping forwardes, that it may be ſooner hurt than the Targer may come to warde it. And farther it ſo defendeth, that onely ſo much of the bodie is warded, as the Targer is bigg, or little more, becauſe it cannot mote then the halfe arme, from the elbowe to the ſhoulder, which is verie little, as euerie man knoweth or may perceiue: So that the head ſhal be warded with great paine, and the thighes ſhal altogether remaine diſcouered, in ſuch ſort, that to ſaue the bellie, he ſhal leaue all the reſt of the bodie in ieopardie. Therefore, if he would ſo holde the ſaid Targer, that it may well defend all that part of the bodie, which is from the knee vpwardes, and that he maie ſee his enimie, it is requiſite that he beare his arme, if not right, yet at leaſt bowed ſo little, that in the elbowe there be framed ſo blunt an angle or corner, that his eyebeames paſsing neere that part of the circumference of the Targer, which is neere his hande, may ſee his enemie from the head to the foot. And by holding

ding the ſaide conuexe parte in this manner, it ſhall warde all the left ſide, and the circumference neere the hande ſhall with the leaſt motion defend all the right ſide, the head and the thighes. And in this maner he ſhall keepe his enimie in ſight & defend all that parte of the body, which is allouted vnto the ſaid Target. Therefore the ſaid Target ſhall be born, tharme in a manner ſo ſtreight towards the left ſide, that the eye-ſight may paſſe to beholde the enimie without mouing, for this onely occaſion, either the head, or the Target.



The hurt of the high warde, at ſworde and round Target.

BEcauſe the round Target containeth in it moſt great & ſure defence, therefore ought not any edge-blowe which may be eaſily warded with the ſingle ſword without the helpe of the Target be deliuered. Thruſtes alſo enter verie difficultlie to ſtrike the bodie, becauſe the Target, by meanes of the leſt motion that is, ſeemeth to be, as it were a wall before the bodie. And to thruſt at the legge is no ſure plaie. That which remaineth to be done is, to thruſt forcibly with the ſworde: and when one perceiueth, that the point therof is entred within the circumference of the enimies Target, it is neceſſary that he encreaſe a left pace, and with the circumference of his owne Target, to beat off the enimies ſworde and Target, to the end, it ſuffer the thruſt ſo giuen of force to enter in. And (hauing ſo beaten & entred) to continue on the thruſt in the ſtraight lyne, with the encreaſe of a pace of the right foote.

When he findeth himſelfe in the high ward, he ſhal encreaſe a halfe pace with the hinderfoote, gathering vpon the enimie, as neere as he may without danger. And being ſo nigh that he may driue his ſword within the circumference, then as ſoone as he perceiueth his ſworde to be within it, (his arme being ſtretched out at the vttermoſt length) he ought ſuddenly to encreaſe a left pace, beating off with the circumference of his owne Target, the enimies Target: and with the increaſe of a pace of the right foote, to cauſe his thruſt to enter perforce. This alſo he may practiſe when the enimie endeuoureth, to withſtand the entrance of the thruſt, when it is alreadie paſt, within the cir-

circumference of his Target.

But if the enimie (as it may fall out) ward this thruſt not with that parte of the circumference, which is neere his hande, but with that which is aboue it (by meanes whereof his Target diſcouereth his eyes) then he may verie commodiouſly, encreaſing his paces as aforeſaid, recouer his thruſt aboue, and force it vnderneath, with the increaſe of a pace of the right foote. And this is a more ſure waie of thruſting than any other.

The defence of the high warde, at Sword & round Target.

FOr the defending of the thruſt of the high warde, it is moſt ſure ſtanding at the lowe warde, and to endeuour to ouercome the enimie, by the ſame skill by the which he himſelfe would obtaine the victorie. In the very ſame time, that he deliuereth his thruſt, a man muſt ſuddenly encreaſe a ſlope pace with the lefte foote, beating of the enimies Target with his owne, & driuing of a thruſt perforce with the increaſe of a pace of the right foote. And with this manner of defence being done with ſuch nimbleneſſe as is required, hee doth alſo ſafely ſtrike the enimie, who cannot ſtrike him againe, becauſe, by meanes of the ſaide ſlope pace he is carried out of the lyne in the which the enimie pretended to ſtrike.

The hurt of the broad warde, at Sworde & round Target.

IT is verie difficule to ſtrike in this broad ward, if firſt with much compaſſing & gathering of the enimie, a man do not aſſaie with the circumferẽce of his Target

neere his hand,to beate off the enimies ſworde. And being ſo beaten,to encreaſe a left pace,and farther by adding thereunto the increaſe of a pace of the right foote,to diſcharge a thruſt. But it ſhall happely be better in the handling of theſe weapons,not to vſe this broad ward: for the hand is borne out of the ſtraight lyne,in the which he may ſtrike both ſafely and readily: And before it returne into the ſaide lyne, there is much time ſpent.

And farther,a man is not then in caſe with his Target to beate off the enimies ſworde: But if happily he be, yet(though he be verie readie, aſwell with the hand as foote) his thruſt ſhall neuer entet ſo farre that it may hit home: For the enimie, with a verie ſmall motion of his Target forwards,may verie eaſily driue the enimies ſword out of the ſtrait lyne. Therefore,he that would change or ſhifte out of this warde, to the intent to ſtrike,muſt of neceſſitie be paſſing nimble & readie,and before he deliuereth his blowe, muſt beat the enimies ſword with his Target.

The defence of the broad warde, at Sword & round Target.

BEcauſe in euerie occaſion or accident a man ſtandeth ſafe in the lowe warde,I will endeuour in this caſe,to place him alſo in the ſame warde, for the encountring of the hurt of the broad warde. That therefore which by mine aduiſe he ſhall do,is that he take great heede,not to ſuffer his ſworde to be beaten off any manner of waie. And when the enimie without this beating preſumeth to enter, he muſt in the ſelfe-ſame time increaſe a left pace & ſafely deliuer a thruſt vnder-

vnderneath with the increaſe of the right foote. And farther, when the enimie ſhall perfourme, that is, firſt finde the ſworde and beate it off, (ſeeing of neceſſitie if he would enter and hit home, his ſword muſt paſſe by the circumference of the Target neere the hande) then, to withſtande the entrie, it is requiſite that hee driue the enimies ſworde outwards on the right ſide with his Target and with the increaſe of the ſaid pace, that he enter and ſtrike him.

The hurt of the lowe warde, at Sword & round Target.

A Man may ſtrike in this ward, the right foote being behinde, and before, & in both waies, he may beare his ſworde either within or without. If therefore he finde himſelfe to ſtande with the right foote behinde and without, he ſhall aſſaie at any hande, before he determine to ſtrike, to finde the enimies ſworde with his owne, and as ſoone as hee findes it ſhall clap to his Target, and ſtrike perforce with a low thruſt, encreaſing with the right foote. But finding himſelfe to ſtand within, no more with his ſworde, then he doth with his Target, he ſhall proue whether he can finde the enimies ſworde, and hauing found it, ſhall ſtraine it faſt betweene his owne ſworde and Target, & then ſhall deliuer a thruſt with the increaſe of a pace of the right foote, the which thruſt of force ſpeedeth: This being perfourmed, he ſhall ſettle himſelfe in this, or in either of theſe waies in the lowe warde with the right foote before. And as he ſo ſtandeth in this warde, he may after the ſame ſorte ſtrike either within or without.

Therefore finding himſelfe within, he ſhall prouide to meete with the enimies ſword, and with the increaſe of a left pace, ſhal clap to his Target, for the more ſafetie, and then driue on a forcible thruſt, with the increaſe of a pace of the right foote. And finding himſelfe to beare his ſword within in the ſaid ward, and with his right foote behind, he ſhall indeuour to find the enimies ſword with the Target, and hauing found it, ſhal cloſe it in betwen his own ſword and Target, & with the increaſe of a left pace, ſhal perforce hurt the enimie, with the increaſe of a pace of the right foote.

Now, all theſe thruſts, no doubt ſhall ſpeede euery time that the enimie either maketh no trauerſe mocion with his bodie, either as he ſtriketh, commeth directlie forwards, or els beeing fearefull, goeth directly backwards, for it is not poſſible that one man go ſo faſt directlie backwardes, as an other may forwardes. Yt is therefore diligently to be obſerued in this ward, neuer to determin to ſtrike, either in the handling of theſe, or of any other kind of weapons, if (with one of them) he ſhall not firſt finde the enimies ſworde. The which redowneth to the great profite of euerie man, but eſpecially of thoſe, who haue ſtrong armes, for that they are the better hable to beate backe the enimies weapon.

Of the defence of the lowe warde, at Sword and round Target.

ALL the foreſaid thruſts are warded, by not ſuffering the ſworde to be ſound by the enimie with either of his weapons. For the enimie (not finding it, will not aſſure himſelfe, or preſume to enter, without firſt finding of the ſworde) may moſt eaſilie be ſtroken and

not

not ſtrike, if a man increaſe a ſlope pace, (to the end he may voide his bodie from hurt,) and with the increaſe of a ſtraight pace of the right foote, do alſo diſcharge a thruſt beneath. And after this order he may ſtrike ſafelie, (not onelie when his ſword is not found by the enimie, but alſo when it chanceth to be found) if he be readie and nimble to make his ſlope pace, and to beate off, as forcible as he may, the enimies Target with his owne ſword and Target, thereby forcing a low thruſt to enter in, with the increaſe of a pace with the right foote. And thus much concerning the true ſtriking & defending of the ſword and round Target.

Of the Caſe of Rapyers.

THere are alſo vſed now adaies, aſwell in the ſcholles, as in the liſts, two Swordes or Rapiers, admitted, and approued both of Princes, and of the profeſſors of this art, for honourable and knightlie weapons, albeit they be not vſed in the warres. Wherfore I ſhall not varie from my purpoſe, if I reaſon alſo of theſe, as farre as is agreeable to to true art. To him that would handle theſe weapons, it is neceſſary that he can aſwell manage the left hand as the right, which thing ſhalbe (if not neceſſarie) yet moſt profitable in euery other kind of weapon. But in theſe principally he is to reſolue himſelfe, that he can do no good, without that kind of nimblenes and dexteritie. For ſeeing they are two weapons, & yet of one ſelfſame kind, they ought equally and indifferently to be handled, the one performing that which the other doth, & euery of thē being apt aſwel to ſtrik as defend.

And

And therefore a man ought to accuſtome his bodie, armes and handes aſwell to ſtrike as defend. And he which is not much practiſed and exerciſed therein, ought not to make profeſsion of this Arte: for he ſhal finde himſelfe to be vtterly deceiued.

The manner how to handle two Rapiers.

IT is moſt manifeſt that both theſe weapons may ſtrike in one and the ſame time: for there may be deliuered ioyntly togither two downtight edge-blowes on high and two beneath: two reuerſes, and two thruſtes, and are ſo rich and plentifull in ſtriking, that it ſeemeth they may be vſed onely to ſtrike. But this ought not to be practiſed, neither may it without great daunger For all that, whatſoeuer may be done with either of hem, is deuided into ſtriking and defendinge. That this is true, it may be perceiued in the ſingle Sworde, which aſſaieth both to ſtrike and defend. And thoſe who haue taken no ſuch heede, but haue beene bent onely to ſtrike being moued either through coller, either beleeuing, that they had to deale with an ignorant perſon, haue remained therby mightily wounded. Of this, there might be laid downe infinite examples, which I leaue to the entent I may not ſwarue from my purpoſe. I ſaie therefore that of the two Rapiers which are handled, the one muſt be applyed towardes the other to ſtrike, regarding alwaies to vſe that firſt which wardeth, then that which ſtriketh: for firſt a man muſt endeuour to defend himſelfe, and then to ſtrike others.



Of the high ward at two Rapiers.

PRe ſuppoſing alwaies, that either hand is very well exerciſed, aſwell in ſtriking as in defending, this high ward ſhalbe framed after two waies, which yet in a manner is all one. The one with the right foot, the other with the left, ſo working continually, that the hinder arme be aloft, the former beneath in maner, as when the lowe warde is framed at the ſingle ſword. And as a man ſtriketh, he muſt alwaies maintaine & continue this high warde, which at the two rapiers, is the moſt perfect & ſureſt.

and he may eaſily performe & do it: for whileſt he entreth to giue a high thruſt with his hinder foote, although that foot be behind yet it muſt accompanie the arme vntil it hath finiſhed his thruſt, & ſettled it ſelfin the low ward. The other ſword & hand (which was borne togither with the former foote in the lowe ward) remaining behind by reaſon of the encreaſe of the high thruſt, muſt preſently be lifted vp, & be placed in the ſame high ward.

Therfore it is to be noted, that whoſoeuer meaneth to ſhift from this ward & ſtrike, whether it be with his right or left foot, before or behinde, it is requiſite that he ſtand without, & when he would ſtrike, he ſhal firſt proue with his low ſworde, whether he can finde the enimies weapons, & hauing ſuddenly found them, he ſhal nimbly beate them back, and (in a maner) in the ſame inſtant force on a high thruſt, with the increaſe of a pace of the right foot: from the which, if the enimie (for ſauing of himſelfe) ſhal haſtily and directly giue backwards, he ſhal follow him, deliuering preſently the other high thruſt behind, alreadie lifted vp. And this thruſt wil ſafely hit home & ſpeede, becauſe it is not poſsible that one may go ſo faſt backwards, as an other may forwards.

Farther, aſwel in this ward, as in others, the warde may be framed with the right foote before, & the right arme lifted, & ſo cõtrariwiſe. But becauſe there is ſmal force in this ward both in the feete & handes, which ſtand not comodiouſly either to ſtrike or defend, and ſeeing there is required in the handling of thoſe weapons, great ſtrength and ſtedfaſtnes I haue thought good, not to laie it downe, as to ſmall purpoſe.

THe direct oppoſition & defence of the high warde is the lowe ward, the manner whereof ſhal be ſeen in his proper place. That which principally is to be conſidered (for the lowe warde alſo, in like ſort as the other may be framed after two ſorts) is this, that of neceſſitie a man ſtand with the ſame foote before as the enimie doth, to wit: if he beare the right foot before, to put foorth the right foote alſo, and to endeuour as the enimie doth, to ſtand without, for of both wayes this is of the more aduantage and ſafetie. Finding himſelfe therefore without, in the lowe ward, he muſt not refuſe, but rather ſuffer his ſword to be found and beaten by the enimie: for this doth redowne much more to his owne aduantage then to his enimies becauſe the enimie carrieth ſmall force in his low hande wherewith he endeoureth to finde and beat off the ſword, conſidering it is born to farre off frō the other: for that which is ſlēderly vnited, is leſſe forcible: whereas ſtanding at the low ward, he bereth both his hands low neere togither and ſufficiently ſtrong. Therfore as ſoone as the enimie hauing beaten back the ſword, ſhal reſolue himſelf to giue a thruſt, he muſt encreaſe a ſlope pace, & with his hinder low ſword, driue the enimies high thruſt outwardes towarde the right ſide, if it chaunce that he were in the low warde with his right foot before, And ſuddenly with the other low ſword behind (which was ſuffered to be beatē off by the enimie, becauſe it might turne the more to his diſaduantage: for ſeeing the enimies ſword being ſlenderly vnited, as I haue ſaide before, carried but ſmall force, it was the rather beaten off and diſappointed: So that as ſoone as the ſlope pace is encreaſed, and the

ſaide high thruſt warded, before the enimie place his other ſworde alſo in the high warde, hee may with the ſtraight pace of the right foot deliuer a low thruſt continuing ſtill to beate downe the enimies ſworde with his owne lowe ſworde, that is borne before: And this manner of warding is moſt ſafe and ſure: for beſides that it ſtriketh the enimy with the ſlope pace, it doth likewiſe in ſuch ſort deliuer the bodie from hurte, that of force the enimie is diſapointed. Neither is there any other ſure waie to warde this high thruſt, being ſo ſtrong, and beſides, hauing ſo great encreaſe of pace.

This manner of defence is moſt ſtrong and ſure, & is done with that ſworde which is fartheſt off. Yet there is another waie, & that is, with the low ſworde before, the which is no leſſe ſtronger and ſure than the other, but yet much ſhorter. For looke in what time the other defendeth, this ſtriketh.

Therefore in the low ward it is to be noted, (when the enimie moueth, pretending to beate off the ſword and there withall to enter,) that then the poynt of the ſword before be lifted vpp, keeping the hand ſo ſtedfaſt, that it oppoſe it ſelfe and keepe outwards the enimies high thruſt, and hauing made this barre, to keepe out his weapons, then & in the ſelfſame time, he ſhall encreaſe a ſtraight pace, & with the low ſword behind ſhal ſtrike the enimie in the breſt, to whome it is impoſsible to do any effectual thing, or to auoid the ſaid ſtroke, for that (by meanes of the point of the ſworde lifted vp in maner aforeſaid) both his ſwordes are ſo hindred, that they may not ſafely ſtrike, either with the edge or point.

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Of the hurt of the broad warde at the two Rapyers.

THis broad ward, may in the ſelfe ſame maner be framed two waies, and it may deliuer the ſelf ſame blows, in the one as in the other: This ward is framed with one foote before, and one foote behind, the arme (which is borne on the ſide of the hinder foote) being ſtretched wide, & broad outwards. Therfore when one ſtandeth at this ward, and would deliuer as ſtrayght and as ſafe a thruſt as is poſſible, he ſhal firſt proue with his low Rapyer, whether he can find the enimies Rapier, which being found, he ſhal turne his fiſt outwards, and force the enimies Rapier ſomuch, that it may do no hurt, and then withall increaſing preſentlie a ſlope pace, ſhall go forewards to ſtrike the enimie in the thigh, with the wide thruſt. He might aſwell alſo thruſt him in the flanke, or in the head, but yet the other thruſt is vſed, becauſe the Rapier, which is directed to the thigh, is in place to hinder the enimies other Rapier to light on the legges.

And as in the high ward, ſo likewiſe in this, he muſt alwaies ſtand without, and hauing deliuered the wide thruſt, he ought preſentlie to widen the other arme, and ſettle himſelfe in the broad ward.

Of the defence of the broad ward at the two Rapyers.

FOr the defence of the thruſt of the broad ward, it is neceſſarie that a man ſtand at the lowe ward, and there withall diligently obſerue, the mocions of the enimies bodie, how it compaſſeth and paſſeth to and froe, by knowledge and due conſiderations whereof, he may eaſilie defende himſelfe. Yf therefore the right

arme be ſtretched out wide, the right foote alſo (being behind) ſhall be in like maner widened, the which, when it increaſeth forwards, ſhall alſo carrie with it the right ſhoulder, voyding alwayes with the left ſide.

And the ſelfe ſame muſt be conſidered, & practiſed, when he ſtandeth at his ward, the contrarie way. That therefore which he muſt doe, for the defence of him ſelfe, ſhalbe to voide that part of his bodie, which may be hurt by the enimies wide and broad thruſt, and to oppoſe himſelfe againſt that part of his enimie, which commeth forwards pretending to ſtrike: And this he ſhall doe, at what time the enimie (finding the ſword) would come forwards in his thruſt. And in the ſelfe ſame time, (aſſuring himſelf with his own low ſword) ſhall increaſe a ſlope pace, thereby inueſting and incountring that part of the enimie, which came ſtriking, and with the which he framed the broad ward. Neither can it be ſafe ſtriking at any other place, for either he ſhall find nothing to incounter, by meanes of the mocion of the bodie, or els if he do not onpoſe himſelfe againſt that ſhoulder of the enimie which carrieth the hurt, he is in hazard to be ſtroken by the enimies broad thruſt.

Of the hurt of the low ward at the two Rapyers.

THe low ward ſhall be framed after two waies, the one with the right foote before, the other with the left, and each of them may ſtrike, either within, either without. The way which ſtriketh within, hath one blow, the way which ſtriketh without hath two, and in all,

in all, they are ſixe. I will lay downe but three, becauſe they differ not from the other three, but onelie in the hand and foote, which muſt be placed before, ſo that they are the ſelfe ſame, for I haue alreadie preſuppoſed, that he who taketh vpon him to handle theſe weapons, can aſwell vſe the one hand, as he can the other. He may therefore finde himſelfe to ſtand with his right fooote before and within, (I vnderſtand by within, when he beareth one of his ſwordes betweene both his enimies ſwordes, and likewiſe when the enimie carieth one of his, betwene the other two. Yt is likewiſe true, that this alſo may be ſaid within, to witt, when both weapons are borne in the middle betweene the other two. But I ſuppoſe no man ſo fooliſh, who handling theſe weapons, will ſuffer both his ſwordes to be without, being a verie vnſure ward whereof I leaue to ſpeake.

That therefore, which he is to do, (finding himſelfe with both his rapiers below, & within, with his right foote before, after the ſaid firſt way of being within) ſhalbe, that marking when he may cloſe in the enimies Rapier, betwene the which the enimies rapier ſhall be ſo ſhut in and barred, that it may do no hurt, and one of the two Rapiers, that is to ſay, the right Rapier ſhall paſſe vnder the enimies rapier, and thruſt ſafelie. And his other Rapier albeit, it may thruſt directly, yet (for the better ſauing of himſelfe, from the enimies other Rapier that is at libertie) he ſhall beare it ſomewhat abaſing his hand, with the point vpwardes, the which point ſhall ſauegarde him, from the enimies ſaid Rapier, although this laſt note, be ſuperfluous. For ſeeing the enimie muſt ward himſelfe

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from the thruſt that hurteth him, he hath no leaſure, nor happilie mindeth to ſtrike, but onely to defend himſelfe, either by voyding his bodie, or els by ſome other ſhift, which he ſhall then find out.

The waie of warding without, may ſtrike directlie after two waies: The firſt, by beating off the enimies Rapier, with his owne that is before, and by deliuering a thruſt, either at the breſt or head, with the Rapier that is behinde, increaſing therwithall a ſlope pace, and ſetling himſelfe in the low ward, with his left foote before.

The ſecond is, by taking oportunitie, which he may do, if he be nimble. And he ought with the increaſe of a ſlope pace, to driue the point of his former Rapyer directlie towards the enimie, and aboue the enimies Rapier. And his other owne rapier, which before the increaſe was behind, he muſt force on, vnder the enimies rapier. And thus, not giuing ouer, theſe two thruſts muſt be ſtronglie and nimblie driuen towards the enimie, by meanes whereof being ouertaken, the enimie hath no other remedie to ſafe himſelfe, then to retire backe: for he may not come forwardes, but he muſt runne himſelfe vpon the weapons, and that he will not doe. So then, the enimie retiring himſelfe may be followed, as farre as the increaſe of the right foote will beare, then, ſetling in the low ward.

Of the defence of the low ward at the two Rapyers.

ALL three thruſts of the low ward, by ſtanding at the ſame ward, may eaſilie be warded, and that after one maner. If a man remember firſt to void his bodie from hurt, by the increaſe of a pace, that is verie ſlope,

or

or crooked, either before the enimie commeth thruſting, either as ſoone as he moueth himſelfe for the ſame purpoſe, or if he be actiue and nimble to trauerſe, and in defending himſelfe to ſtrike the enimie.

Therfore when any of the ſame three thruſts come, and before he perceiueth his Rapier to be cloſed, and barred in, he ſhall moue a ſlope pace, to th'entent to auoid himſelfe from hurt, and with his Rapier, which is at libertie, he ſhall go forwards and deliuer a thruſt at the enimies face, which thruſt, doth ſurelie ſpeede, if he be reſolute to enter.

Of the Two hand Sword.

THE two hand Sword, as it is vſed now a daies being fower handfulls in the handle, or more, hauing alſo the great croſſe, was found out, to the end it ſhould be handled one to one at an equall match, as other weapons, of which I haue intreated. But becauſe one may with it (as a galleon, among many gallies) reſiſt many Swordes, or other weapons: Therefore in the warres, it is vſed to be placed neere vnto the Enſigne or Auncient, for the defence thereof, becauſe, being of it ſelfe hable to contend with manie, it may the better ſauegard the ſame. And it is accuſtomed to be carried in the Citie, aſwell by night as by day, when it ſo chaunceth that a few are conſtrayned to withſtand a great manie. And becauſe his waight and bignes, requiers great ſtrength, therefore thoſe onelie are allotted to the handling thereof, which are mightie and bigge to behould, great and ſtronge in bodie, of ſtoute and valiant courage.

Who (foraſmuch as they are to incounter manie, and to the end they may ſtrike the more ſafelie, and amaſe them with the furie of the Sword) do altogether vſe to deliuer great edge blowes, downe right and reuerſed, fetching a full circle, or compaſſe therin, ſtaying themſelues ſometimes vpon one foote, ſometimes on the other, vtterlie neglecting to thruſt, and perſwading themſelues, that the thruſt ſerueth to amaze one man onelie, but thoſe edge blowes are of force to incounter many. The which maner of skirmiſhing, beſides that, it is moſt gallant to behold, being accompanied with exceeding ſwiftnes in deliuerie, (for otherwiſe it worketh no ſuch effect) it is alſo moſt profitable, not properly of it ſelfe, but becauſe men conſidering the furie of the ſword, which greatly amaſeth them, are not reſolute to do that, which otherwiſe they could not chooſe but doe. That is, either to incounter the ſword in the middle towardes the handle, when it carieth ſmall force, or els to ſtand far off, watching whileſt the ſword goeth, & is caried compaſſing in his great cirkle, being of the compaſſe of tenne armes, or more, & then to run vnder it, and deliuer a thruſt. And theſe two waies are effectual, when ſuch men are mett withall, who are exerciſed to enter nimblie and ſtrike, or ſuch as dare, and haue the ſpirit & courage, to ſet, and oppoſe themſelues ſingle againſt the two hand ſword, euen as the ſingle two hand ſword aduentureth to oppoſe it ſelfe againſt many. Neither is this thing to be maruailed at, for in theſe our daies, there be things performed of greater actiuitie & daunger. And there be ſome which dare do this with the ſword and round Target, but yet they are not reſolute to ſtrike firſt, but will receaue and ſuſtain

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the blow, with the round Target, and then enter and thruſt, this trulie betokeneth great courage & actiuitie, although not ſuch as is required in this behalfe.

Thus much concerning that, which appertaineth to the defence of the circuler blowes, of the two hand ſword, when it indeuoreth to oppoſe it ſelf againſt manie. And foraſmuch as men haue, and ſometimes do vſe, both in the liſts & other places, to fight ſingle combats, one to one with the ſingle two hand ſword, I wil alſo declare my opinion touching the ſame.

Of the maner how to handle the Two hand Sword, in ſingle combat.

TO thoſe, who would cunninglie handle the Two hand Sword in ſingle combat, it is principally neceſſarie that (as in other weapons) they be practiſed and haue the skil, to vſe the one hand aſwell as the other, and that they be both actiue in bodie, and ſtrong in the armes, which are required in the managing of each weapon. And farther it is requiſite that they carie the principles of this Art, ſurelie fixed in their mindes and memories, by meanes wherof they may become bolde and reſolute, in as much as they haue to do, either in ſtriking or defending.

They ought furthermore to conſider, how the two hand Sword is vſed, and how it ought to be vſed.

Touching the firſt, All men vſe to deliuer thruſtes, aſwell as edge blowes, downe right, and reuerſed, with both hands to the Sword which way albeit, it be profitable in the beſtowing of edge blowes, as being the better hable to ſuſtain the Sword, yet in diſcharging of thruſtes it is hurtfull, for it cauſeth them to be much ſhorter, then they would be, if in the beginning, they

were forciblie deliuered with both the handes, and then, by taking away one hand from the croſſe, they were ſpringed as farre forth, as the pomel hand, foote, and all the bodie of that ſide, may be ſtretched out. For, being diſcharged in this maner, if they hit home they make great paſſage, and if they be voyded, yet the Two hand ſword may be quicklie had againe, by the retyring of a pace, and of the hand and arme, placing the other hand there where it was, and ſo ſetling in the low ward. Therefore, when one findes himſelf to ſtand in the high ward, (the which at the two hand Sword, is framed, either with the right ſide towardes the enimie, either with the left, in either of which waies, the armes would be borne aloft, and farre off from the bodie, cauſing the point ſomewhat to bend both towards the ground and the bodie, to the end it may defend both the length of the bodie, and couer it in a maner thwarting or croſſing, it being ſo farre off from the ſword.

Farther, in this ward, the hand that is towards the enimie, muſt take hold faſt of the handle neere the croſſe, and vnderneath, the other hand aboue, and neere the pomell. I ſay ſtanding thus at the high ward, he may either deliuer a thruſt, either a downe right blow of the edge.

The thruſt is diſcharged (as ſoone as the enimies ſworde is found) as farre in the beginning as he may with both armes: Then, taking away the croſſe hand, he ſhal force it farther on with the pomel hand, as much as he may ſtretch it foorth, alwayes in the diſcharge, increaſing a ſlope pace. And the thruſt beeing thus deliuered, hee ſhall preſentlie retyre his

ſaide

ſaide pace, and returne his hand againe to the croſſe, ſetling himſelfe either in the high or lowe warde. But if he would deliuer a down-right blow with the edge which I counſell him not to doe, becauſe he may eaſily be ſtroken vnder it, he ſhall firſt diſcharge a thruſt with both his handes, and then encreaſing a pace, ſhal turne the ſaide downright blowe, ſtretching out the arme as much as he maie. In the deliuerie of which blowe, if he meete with the enimies ſworde, he ſhall take awaie his hand from the croſſe, & ſtretch out the pommel hand as much as he may, with the encreaſe of a pace. And farther, turning the ſaid hand which holdeth the ſworde vpwardes, to the end, to lengthen the thruſt, he ſhall driue, and force it on, and preſently retire himſelfe in manner aforeſaid.



Of the defence of the high ward, at the two hand ſword.

THe low ward, ſhal be the defence of the high ward, and it may be framed with the right foote before & behind, in ſuch ſort, as the ſaid high warde, the which ſhal be declared in his proper place.

Therefore, regarding to place himſelfe for his defence in the low ward (and that directly contrarie to his enimie, that is to ſay: if the enimie ſtande with the right foote before, to put his left foote foremoſt, and as the thruſt or the downright blowe comes) he ſhall encounter it without, and as ſoone as he hath founde the enimies ſword, he ſhall voide his croſſe hand, and encreaſe a pace, and therewithall deliuer a thruſt, with the pommell hand, as farre as it wil ſtretch out. The which thruſt wil eaſily ſpeed, if the enimie come reſolutely in deliuering of his blowe: for he ſhal come directly to encounter the point of the ſworde, with that part of his bodie which encreaſeth forwardes. Thus much for the defeuce of the high thruſt.

The downright blowe may be warded, if whileſt the enimies ſword is in his compaſſe, he nimbly deliuer a thruſt vnder it. Or els, if he would encounter it, (as ſoone as he hath ſo done) he do voide his croſſe hand, and with the encreaſe of a pace, thruſt as farre-foorth as the pommell hand will ſtretch out.

Of the hurt of the low ward, at the two hand ſworde.

BEcauſe the broad warde in handling of this weapon is painfull and vnſure, I leaue to ſpeake therof, and come to the lowe warde, which is framed two waies, to wit: either with the right or with the leſte foote

ſoote before, and in either waie, one may ſtrike both within and without. Within, is rather to warde, then to ſtrike: for the enimie that ſtands without, hath the greater aduantage.

Finding himſelfe therefore within, and hearing the ſworde firmely, he ſhal force and driue on a thruſt, as farre as both armes maie ſtretch out together, encreaſing a pace and ſetling in the lowe warde, if he do not ſpeede.

But finding himſelf to ſtand without, and as ſoone as he hath found the enimies ſworde, he ſhall deliuer a thruſt, firſt, at the length of both armes, then, voyding the croſſe hand, encreaſe a pace and deliuer it out at vttermoſt length of the pommell hand, and immediatly after the thruſt, retire his hand and pace, ſtaying himſelfe againe in the ſaid lowe warde.

The defence of the lowe warde, at the two hand ſword.

IT is a generall rule, that the true defence of all blows is the lowe warde. Therefore, when one ſtandeth thereat, if there come a thruſt without (becauſe it is neceſſarie in this caſe to ſtand within,) he ſhall do no other then encounter the enimies ſworde, and thruſt his arme forwards, to the end he may void it from his bodie, and farther retyre his foote more backwards, & as it were, in a compaſſe, thereby the better ſauing his bodie from the hurt.

But if the thruſt come within (by reaſon wherof he ſhould ſtand without) as ſoone as the enimies ſword is encountred, he ſhall deliuer a thruſt with both his hands, and then voiding his croſſe hande, he ſhall deliuer

deliuer it ſtrongly with his pommell hand, with the encreaſe of a pace. And this thruſt doth ſafely ſpeed. Neither is it to be doubted, that by holding the ſword with one hand, the enimie may take holdfaſt therof, for he hath inough to do, to retyre himſelfe, and ward the thruſt, neither can he perfourme ſo many things in one time.

Of the weapons of the Staffe, namely, the Bill, the Partiſan, the Holbert, and the Iauelin.

BEcauſe it may ſeeme ſtrange vnto many, that I haue here placed theſe iiij. ſortes of weapons together, as though I woulde frame but one only waie for the handling of all, although they differ in forme, from which form is gathered their difference in vſe. Therefore, foraſmuch as I am of opinion, that all of them may be handled in manner after one waye, it ſhall not be amiſſe, if I declare the reaſon thereof, ſpeaking firſt of euery one ſeuerally by it ſelfe, and then generally of all togither, holding and maintaining alwaies for my concluſion, that the skill of handling of them, helpeth a man to the knowledge of all the reſt, for as much as concerneth true Arte.

Of the Parteſan.

COmming therefore to the Parteſan, as vnto the plaineſt, and as vnto that, whereupon all the reſt depend, omitting to ſhewe who was the inuenter thereof, as being to ſmall purpoſe: I ſaie, that it was found

found out to no other end, then for that the foot men in the warres, might be able with them to hurt thoſe horſemen (whome they might not reach with their ſwords) aſwell with their point as with their edge. Further, weapons which are to be caſt, or ſprong forth at the length of the arme, are for the moſt part deceitfull, by meanes whereof, they might hurt aſwell the Archers on horſebacke, as other horſemen.

Therefore, theſe Parteſans were made bigg and of great paize, and of perfect good ſteele, to the end they might breake the maile and deuyde the Iron.

And that this is true, it is to be ſeene in the auncient weapons of this ſort, which are great and ſo well tempered, that they are of force to cut any other Iron. Afterwardes, as men had conſidered, that as this weapon was only to ſtrike, it might in ſome part thereof, haue aſwell ſomthing to warde withall, whereby it might be ſaid to be a perfect weapon, they deuiſed to add vnto it two crookes or forkes, by the which, that blow might be warded, which parting from the point and continuing downe along the ſtaffe, would come to hurt the perſon. And theſe forkes, or (I may ſaie) theſe defences were by ſome men placed on that part of the Iron, which next adioyneth to the ſtaffe, making them crooked & ſharp, & a handfull long, & for the moſt part, with the pointes toward the enimie, to the end they might ſerue not only to defend, but alſo to ſtrike. And to the end, the bigneſſe and weight of the Parteſan, (which ought to be apt and commodious to be handled) might not be encreaſed, they diminiſhed part of the Iron thereof, and gaue the ſame to the forkes or defences: And by that meanes they

framed another weapon called a Iauelin which (because the broadnes, and happily the weight and paize thereof is diminiſhed) is not verie forcible to ſtrike with the edge, but all his power conſiſteth in three thruſtes. Otherſome afterwards would not that theſe defēces ſhould be placed at the lower-moſt part of the Iron, but in the middle thereof. And theſe men bearing great reſpect to the blowes of the edge, left the Iron which ſhould ſerue for the defence behinde, in his bredth and waight, adioyning thereunto in the oppoſite parte of the right edge, a moſt ſharpe point of Iron, to the end, that what way ſoeuer it were moued, it might ſtrike and hurt. But if any man obiect & ſaie: if the ſaid point of Iron were put there in reſpect of ſtriking, they might alſo as well haue left there an edge, which being longer would ſtrike more eaſily. I anſwere, that the blowes of the falſe (that is to ſaye, the hinder or backe edge of the weapon) are verie weake, and the point doth ſtrike and hurt more eaſily then the edge. And therefore it was requiſite that there be facilitie where there was weaknes. Theſe men by theſe meanes framed the auncient weapon called the Holberd, out of the which, men of our age haue diriued & made another kind of Holberd & Bill. And theſe bearing alſo reſpect to ſome one profitable thing or other, did maintaine the defence, and encreaſe the hurting or offence. The reſpect was, that as they diſcourſed & pondred with themſelues, at length they verie warily perceiued that a man with weapon in his hand, might make ſixe motions, that is to ſaie, one towards the head, one towards the feete, one towardes the right ſide, one towards the left, one forwards & towards

wards the enimie, the other backward & toward him ſelfe. Of all the which, fiue of them might verie well ſtrike, & the laſt might neither ſtrike nor defend. Therfore, prouiding that this laſt motion alſo ſhould not be idle & vnprofitable, they added a hook with the point turned towards the handle, with the which one might verie eaſily teare armour, & draw perforce men from their horſes. Thoſe, who framed the middle or meane Holbert, would that the ſaid hooke ſhould be placed in the ſafe or backer edge. And thoſe that deuiſed the Bill, would haue it on the right edge, leauing the edge ſo long that the hook might not altogether hinder the blow of the edge, but rather (to the end the edg might make the greater effect) they would that the hooke ſhuld beare an edg & be cutting in euery part therof. Where I gather, that the Bil is the moſt perfect weapō of all others, becauſe it ſtriketh & hurteth in euery of theſe ſixe motiōs, & his defences both cut & prick: which the new kind of Holbert doth not perform; being framed after the ſaid faſhion, & rather for lightnes aptnes & braueric, then for that it carrieth any great profit with it: for the edge is not ſo apt to ſtrike, & the point thereof is ſo weake, that hitting any hard thing, either it boweth or breaketh: neither is it much regarded in the warres, the Harquebuſh & the Pike being now adaies the ſtrength of all armyes.

Hereby it may be gathered, that with the Parteſan a man may ſtrike with the point & edge in ſuch motions: with the Iauelin, with the point onely & in ſuch motions as it may: with the Holberd and Bill, both with the point and edge, *in ſixe motions*. But becauſe theſe weapons for the moſt part are exerciſed,

and vſed to enter through diuers Pikes & other weapons, and to breake and diſorder the battell raye, to which ende, and purpoſe, if it be vſed, then that manner of managing and handling is verie conuenient which is practiſed now adaies, and thus it is. The Parteſan, Holberd, and Bill (but not the Iauelin, being in this caſe nothing effectuall becauſe it hath ſmall force in the edge) muſt be borne in the middle of the ſtaffe, with the heele thereof before, and verie lowe, and the point neere a mans head. And with the ſaid heele, or halfe ſtaffe vnderneath, from the hande downwardes, he muſt warde and beat off the pointes and thruſtes of the Pikes and other weapons, and hauing made waie, muſt enter with the encreaſe of a pace of the hinder foote, and in the ſame inſtant, let fall his weapon as forcibly as he maie, and ſtrike with the edge athwart the Pikes. This kinde of blowe is ſo ſtrong (being deliuered as it ought, conſidering it commeth from aboue downwardes, and the weapon of it ſelfe is verie heauie) that it will cut aſunder not onely Pikes, but alſo any other forcible impediment. In theſe affaires the Iauelin is not vſed, bicauſe it worketh no ſuch effect. But when one is conſtrained to vſe it, he ought neither to beat off, neither to warde with the ſtaffe, but altogether with the Iron and his defences, remembring, as ſoone as he hath beaten off & made waie of entrance, to thruſt onely: for to handle it in deliuering of edgeblowes preuaileth not, conſidering the ſmall force it carrieth in that maner of ſtriking. And as among all the foreſaide iiij. weapons, the Iauelin in this kinde of skirmiſh, is leaſt profitable, ſo the Parteſan is moſt excellent & commodious, for

hauing no other defence, it is prouided in the ſtaffe, and is moſt forcible, to cut the Pikes by meanes of his heauines and waight, and the rather, becauſe it is vnfurniſhed and voide of other things, which in this caſe might let and hinder the edge blow. Therefore the Parteſan ſhalbe vſed (as in his owne proper qualitie) to enter among the Pikes, and cut them a ſunder, and other weapons alſo partlie for that cauſe, and partlie to skirmiſh ſingle, one to one. Which although it be not ordinarily accuſtomed, yet neuertheleſſe, becauſe both this, and the reſt of the weapons, may be handled in ſingle combate, and do containe in them, aſwell offence, as defence, Farther, to the end, the wiſe and diſcreete (happening to be in ſuch affaires) may be skillfull to determin with themſelues, what they may and ought to doe: I will ſhew my opinion what may be done with theſe weapons in ſingle combat, reaſoning iointly of the Iauelyn, Bill, and Holberd, becauſe there is but a ſmal difference in the Iauelyn, And the Bill, and the Holberd, are in a maner all one, and the verie ſelfe ſame.

Of Bill againſt Bill, Holberd againſt Holberd, or Holberd againſt Bill.

FOraſmuch, as the Bill and Holberd, haue the ſelfe ſame offence and defence, and be of one length: I thought it not good to make two Treatiſes thereof, becauſe I ſhould be forced to repeat the ſelfe ſame thing in both, the which, being ſuperfluous, would breed loathſomenes. I ſay therefore, that whoſoeuer would handle the Bill or Holberd, which beeing all

The Holberd.



one, I will name indifferently, by the name of the Holberd, I ſay, to him that would vſe them, & ſtrike aſwell with the point, as with the edge, which blowes at theſe weapons are mightie and forcible, it is neceſſarie, that he conſider the difficultie in ſtriking with the point, and the daunger in ſtriking with the edge. That it is difficult to ſtrike with the point, it is moſt cleere, becauſe the full courſe of the point, may verie eaſilie be hindered and tyed, by meanes of ſo many hookes and forkes which rare in the Holberd.

And that it is perilous to ſtrike with the edge, hath bin declared when I intreated of the ſingle Rapier,

which

which perill ought the more to be conſidered in this weapon, becauſe by meanes of his length, it frameth a greater cirkle, and therein giueth more time to enter vnder it.

Therefore no man may ſafelie handle the Holberd, if firſt he do not conſider theſe two thinges, the one, (which he may verie hardlie withſtand) and that is the thruſt, becauſe theſe hookes and forkes, are properlie belonging vnto it, and are impoſſible to bee vntyed and taken away, when a man would, the forme being as it is. 2. The peril of the edge blow, may ſome time bevoided, if he be nimble and bold, performing all that in due time, which ſhall heere be laid down for his inſtruction.

How to ſtrike with the Holberd.

IN the handling of this weapon, there ſhall be framed (by my counſel) no more then one ward, bearing the hands, for the more ſuertie in the middle of the ſtaffe. And that ward muſt be the lowe ward. The hands muſt be ſomewhat diſtant, one from an other, and the point of the weapon directlie towards the enimie, regarding alwaies to place himſelfe with the contrarie foote before, to that, which the enimie ſhall ſet forth, that is to ſay: Yf the enimie be before with the left foote, then to ſtand with his right foote, or contrarie wiſe. And ſtanding in maner aforeſaid, he muſt alwaies proue & trie (before he be determined to deliuer a thruſt) to beat off the enimies weapon, which being done, preſently deliuer a forcible thruſt toward the enimie. But becauſe it may lightly ſo fall out, that in

beating off the enimies weapon (the enimie happelie pretending to do the like) the weapons be intangled faſt together . Therefore , as ſoone as it is perceaued that they be grappled faſt, ſtanding ſure , and firmelie on his feete, he ſhall increaſe a pace towardes the enimie , lifting vp aloft the enimies weapon , together with his owne by force of the ſaid intangling, and then with the heele, or the blunt end of the Holberd ſhall ſtrike the enimie in the breſt , (for which conſideration it ſhould not diſlike me , if for that purpoſe, there be faſtned in the ſaid blunt end , a ſtrong and ſharpe pike of iron) and as ſoone as he hath ſtroken with the ſaid blunt end, (becauſe, by meanes of the ſaid lifting vpp , the weapons ſhall be now vnhooked) and retyring that pace which he had before increaſed, without remouing of his hands , he ſhall deliuer a ſtrong edge blow , which then is verie commodious.

And it is to be vnderſtood , that this edge blow being deliuered in this maner , is ſo ſtrong , that it is apt to cutt the enimies ſword, if it be oppoſed in his ward. Only that which is to be regarded in the deliuering of this blow , is, that he be nimble, and of ſtout courage, not doubting that he ſhal be ſtrooken againe, becauſe he is to goe ſo neere his enimie , for beſides, that he is in ſuch caſe , that he may eaſilie ward any blowe , the enimie findeth no waie , to ſtrike, except he performe it in two times , to witt, by retyring his pace and Holberd, and then by deliuering a thruſt.

That this waie of ſtriking is good , after the tying, and intangling of the weapons , it may be hereby vnderſtood, that as a man indeuoreth to vntye, and vnlooſen the weapons, either by retyring himſelfe, either by

by carying them on the one ſide, to the intent to ſtrike, he may then go foorth of the ſtraight lyne, by going to one of the both ſides, or els loſe one time, by retyring himſelfe, vnder which two inconueniences, either he muſt needes be hurt, or els defending himſelfe, tye faſt the weapons againe. But theſe inconueniences happen not in the foreſaid maner of ſtriking.

Farther, a man may ſtrike after an other way to wit, as ſoone as by the intangling of the weapons they are liſted vpp, to the intent to vnhooke, and vntye them, he muſt chaunge his hands, and deliuer an edge blow, either a thwart, either on high, either a low, for it is commodious any way, ſo that he chaunge his hands and retyre a pace. But this is not ſo commodious in the other waie, becauſe he may not ſtrike but onelie downwards. But in this maner of chaunging hands, he may eaſilie ſtrike the enimie in that place, where he perceaueth him to be moſt diſcouered, be it aboue or beneath.

Of the defence of the heele, or blunt ende of the Holberd.

FOr the defence of the aboueſaid two blowes, it is requiſite as I haue alreadie ſaid, that a man ſtand with the contrarie foote before, to that, of the enimies. And as the enimie (after the faſtning of the weapons) endeuoreth to liſt them vpp, (being well awares therof) he ought to recouer his Holberd by the increaſe of a pace, and ſtrike with the heele at the enimies thigh or bellie, and then chaunging his handes, he ſhall deliuer an edge blow, without any other retyring of himſelfe, or mouing of his hands, The which blow ſhall

lightlie ſpeede, being nimblie deliuered. And when it ſpeedeth not, yet, it will ſafelie ward the edge blow, which the enimie ſhall giue. And this may ſuffiſe for aſmuch as concerneth the blowes of the Holberd in ſingle combat, wherein there is anie difficultie to be found, the which, a man muſt ſeeke to auoide by all meanes, eſpeciallye endeuouryng by all poſſible wayes to deliuer thruſtes, without tying or intangling of his weapon. But although the enimies weapon, may not be tyed to any preſcript law or order, (for he alſo vſeth, all the pollicie he may to auoid daunger) yet theſe blowes with their faſtnings are laid downe, becauſe I preſuppoſe, that who ſo is skilfull to ſtrike, notwithſtanding theſe difficulties, will be much more aduentrous, in ſtriking when he ſhall find little, or nothing to hinder him, As for example, when in fight he meeteth with a weapon of the Staffe of the ſelfe ſame, or of greater length, but yet, void of hookes or forkes: For ſeeing his owne weapon, is onlie hable to hooke, and driue outwards the enimies weapon, he may ſafelie deliuer an edge blow, with the increaſe of a pace, being ſure, that he may not be ſtroken againe, but onelie with a thruſt, which the enimie may not deliuer, but of force, muſt either retyre his ſtaffe, either his feete, vnder which time, an edge blow may be deliuered without daunger.

Of the hurt and ward of the Iauelyn.

THe ſelfe ſame ward, ſhalbe framed with the Iauelyn, as with the Holberd. And becauſe, of neceſſitie, the weapons will be intangled, I ſay,

I ſay, the verie ſame thruſts ſhal be giuen therwith, as are deliuered with the Holberd. But becauſe the edge of the Iauelyn is weake, and the pacing which is made when the weapons are faſtned, is onel.e profitable for the giuing of the edge blow: Therfore in handling of the Iaueling, this intangling or faſtning is by al means poſſible to be auoided. But when a man is to ſtrike his enimie, let him firſt proue, to beat off his Iauelyn, and then to force on a thruſt, in this maner.

Finding the enimies Iauelyn to be within, (by within, I vnderſtand, when the Iauelyn is betwene the enimies armes, or againſt them) then he muſt force it outwards, and driue a thruſt with his owne Iauelyn, at the length of the ſtaffe (without mouing of his feete) at the enimies face. Finding it without, he ought to beat it backwards, and increaſing a pace, to launch out the Iauelyn at the enimies face, at the length of the ſtaffe and arme, immediatlie retyring his pace, & hand, and afterwards ſettle himſelfe in the ſame low ward.

Of the defence of the thruſtes of the Iauelyn.

FOr him that would defend himſelfe from thoſe two thruſts, and ſtrike vnder them, it is neceſſarie to call to remembraunce the moſt ſubtill conſideration of times, without knowledge whereof, there is no man that may ſafelie beare himſelfe vnder anie weapon: Comming therefore to the ſaid conſideration, I ſaie, that if the enimie would beate of the Iauelyn, (his owne Iauelyn beeing either within, either without) of force hee muſt enlarge and widen it from out the

ſtraight lyne, if he would as aforeſaid forciblie beat off the other Iauelyn. Therefore at what time ſoeuer a man ſeeth the enimies Iauelyn wide of the ſtraight lyne, then, and in the ſame time (in the which it commeth purpoſing to beat off) he muſt nimblie deliuer a thruſt. And in like maner, finding himſelfe, either within, either without, and the enimies Iauelyn ſomething wide of the ſtraight lyne, then before it come into the ſaid lyne againe, he ſhall with the increaſe of a pace deliuer a thruſt, at the length of the hinder arme, and then retyring his ſaid pace, ſettle himſelfe at his ward againe.

Of the Partiſan.

IF any would handle the Partiſan in ſingle combat, they ſhall not ſtrike with the edge, becauſe the time is too long, and they may eaſilie be ſtroken vnder the ſame. Therefore practizing the thruſt, they ſhall vſe the ſelfe ſame offence and defence, which I haue ſhewed in the Iauelyn, to the which I referre them.

Of the Pike

AS among all other weapons, which are worn by the ſide, the ſingle ſword is the moſt honorable, as beeing ſuch a one which is left capable of deceit of any other: So among the weapons of the Staffe, the Pike is the moſt plaine, moſt honorable, and moſt noble weapon of all the reſt.

Therefore among renowned knightes and great Lords this weapon is highly eſteemed, becauſe it is as well voide of deceite, as alſo, for that in well handling thereof, there is required great ſtrength of bodie, accompanied with great valure and deepe iudgement: for there is required in the vſe thereof a moſt ſubtill & delicate knowledge and conſideration of times, and motions, and a readie reſolution to ſtrike. Theſe qualities may not happen or be reſident in any perſons, but in ſuch as are ſtrong of armes and couragious of ſtomacke. Neither may they procure to get any other aduantage in the handling thereof, then to be more quick and reſolute both in iudgement and hande than their enimie is. Therefore ſeeing euery man may hereby knowe what is neceſſarie for him ſo to handle it, as he may obtaine victorie thereby: let him reſolue himſelfe either to giue it ouer quite, or els to handle it as he ought, and is required.

The manner how to handle the Pyke.

THis renowmed weapon hath beene of diuers diuerſly handled, in ſingle combat: (for the manner of vſing it in the warres, maketh not at this preſent for my purpoſe.) Therefore it ſhall not be amiſſe, if (ſpeaking of the manner of his vſe in theſe our daies) I declare alſo mine opinion concerning the ſame. There haue beene ſome (who greatly regarding eaſe & little paine) would haue the Pike to be borne in the midle. Other ſome, more ſtrong of arme, but weaker of hart, (to the end they might be the farther off, from hurte) accuſtomed to beare it at the beginning neere the

heele or blunt end thereof: which two waies in my iudgement are to be refuſed, the one being too daungerous (I meane the bearing of it in the middle) the other too difficult (I mean, the bearing it at the blunt end,) becauſe a man is not able to ſtande long at his ward, neither to defend himſelfe ſtrongly, nor offend ſafely, conſidering, much of his force is taken away, by ſuſteining and bearing it at the ſaid end. So that, when a forcible blow commeth he hath not ſufficient power to beat it off. And foraſmuch as the Pike is a long ſtraight lyne, which hath his motion in the head or beginning thereof, which motion be it neuer ſo ſmall, neere the hand, is yet verie great at the point, it is requiſite, if he would ſtrike iuſt and ſtraight, (when he ſo holdeth it at the end) that he be greatly practiſed, and haue great ſtrength whereby he may be both skilfull & able to beare it ſo iuſt & euen, that the point thereof ſtrik or hit there where the hand & eie would haue it. This is verie hardly accompliſhed, aswel becauſe it is a thing impoſſible to ſtrike by the ſtraight lyne, as alſo for that the armes being weakened with the paize of the Pike, do ſhake and deliuer it vnſtedfaſtly. Therefore, for the auoyding of theſe two inconueniences, the Pike muſt be born within an armes length of the ſaid heele or blunt end, in which place, it is ſufficiently diſtant from hurt, & it is not borne with much difficultie if the hands be placed an armes lēgth one from another of the which the hinder hand muſt be ſtedfaſt, I meane, holde the Pike harde, and the forehand ſomewhat looſe: So that the Pike may ſhift thorough it to and fro.

For

The Pike.



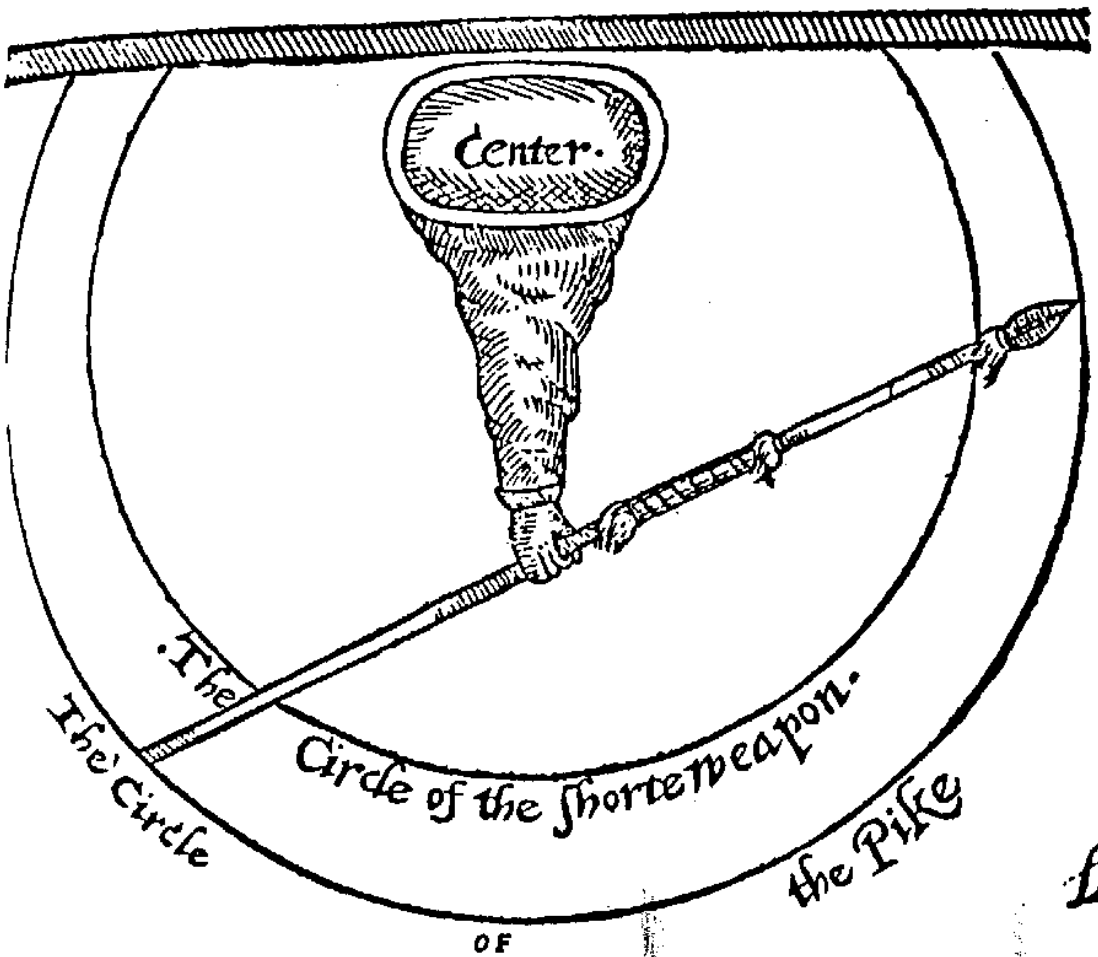
For what cauſe the Pike maketh greater paſſage with the point then any other ſhorter weapon.

IT is moſt manifeſt, that the Pike maketh greater paſſage with his point than any other weapon: and the twohand ſworde, more then the ordinarie ſword: & the ſword more then the dagger. And among al weapons, this is generaly true, that the longer the weapon is, the greater paſſage it maketh with the point, and the greater blow with the edge. Neither doeth this ſo chaunce, becauſe the weapon is more heatie, neither becauſe there is applyed more force vnto it in action, as moſt men ſuppoſe, but rather through a naturall cauſe which is as followeth.

If there be two circles, the one greater then the other, and are moued by one manner of motion, the greater ſhall be more ſwift then the leſſe: for being greater in circumference & turning round, in the ſame time that the leſſe turneth it muſt needes be, that it goeth more ſwiftly. So it commeth to paſſe, that one ſelfe-ſame hand may deliuer a greater blow with the two hande ſworde than with a ſingle ſworde, and with a long ſworde, then one that is ſhorter, and with that, then with the dagger: And with a Bill, a greater blowe, then with the two hand ſworde, and ſo likewiſe in all other weapons. Wherefore it is moſt cleere, that of edgeblowes that maketh the greater ſtroke, which is deliuered with the longer weapon. It remaineth now to be conſidered, how this falleth out in the blowes of the point. I ſaie therefore, the blowes of the point are alſo circuler, ſo that the Pike being verie long, maketh the greater circle, and by conſequence the greater blowe of the point or the greater thruſt. That the blowes of the point are circuler, may be ſhewed by this reaſon. The arme (being as a ſtraight line, & fixed faſt in one parte, as for example in the ſhoulder, and mouable in the other, as in the hand, ſtanding I ſaye, fixed as a ſtraight lyne, and the one end mouing from the other) ſhall alwaies moue circulerly: So that the arme cannot otherwiſe moue, except when it is bowed, and would then make it ſelfe ſtraight againe, the which motion alſo is doubtfull, whether it be ſtraight yea or no. Therfore imagining that on the mouable parte of this arme, or ſtraight lyne, there be alſo another thwart lyne, to wit, a Pike, a ſworde, or any other weapon, then the arme mouing, carrieth alſo, circu-

lerly

lerly with it, the ſaid thwart lyne: which lyne, by how much, the longer it is, by ſo much it maketh the greater circle, as may be ſeene in this figure.



OF

Whereby, it is manifeſt, that the Pike, the longer it is, it frameth the greater circle, and conſequently, is more ſwifte, and therefore maketh the greater paſſage. The like is to be vnderſtood of all other weapons, which the longer they are being moued by the arme, cauſe the greater edgeblow, and greater paſſage with the point.

Of the wardes of the Pike.

IN mine opinion, if a man would either ſtrike, or defend with the Pike, he may not otherwiſe vſe it.

then by framing of two wardes, in one of which, he ſhal ſtrike the bodie from the middle vpwards, & this I will terme the low warde: the other ſhall ſtrike the bodie from the middle downwards, & ſhalbe called the high ward. Neither ſhal they be ſo termed for any other cauſe, then for that it is verie neceſſarie for him that ſtriketh, firſt to beat off the enimies Pike, & then to deliuer his owne. But yet it ſhould breed great inconuenience, & there would be two much time ſpent if finding it good & comodious to ſtrike in the lowe warde, he would firſt beat off the enimies weapon, & then ſhift from the lowe to the high warde. For that cauſe I will frame the high warde, which ſhal bee, when one beareth his armes high, & the point of the Pike low. And the low warde is, when the armes are low, & the point of the Pike high. There is another warde which would be framed as a meane betweene theſe two, & that is, when the Pike is borne directly towards the enimie. And it falleth out that it is moſt ſure & long, when it is oppoſed againſt any of the other two aforeſaid, becauſe then a man is in caſe both to beat off the weapon & to enter therewithall with great aduantage. But putting the caſe, the enimie do likewiſe directly oppoſe himſelfe againſt this warde, then the Pikes may not beat off one another, but both parties are like to be inueſted & runne through at one inſtant, without any defence or warding thereof.

So that this ſtraight ward may not be vſed except it be againſt one of the two aforſaid. And when the enimie ſtandeth in any of the ſaid two, then a man muſt reſolutly bring his weapon into the ſaid ſtraight ward, for as he getteth therby the greater aduãtage both of length & time, ſo he may very eaſily beat off the enimies Pike.

Of the maner how to ſtrike in the ſaid wardes.

WHen the enimie is in the low ward, a man ought alwayes to ſtand either at the high or ſtraight ward. And contrarilie, in the low or ſtraight ward, when the enimie is in the high ward. And muſt indeuour as forcibilie and as nimblie as he may, firſt of all, to beat off the enimies Pike, whether it be within or without, but yet in ſuch ſort, that he depart not much from the ſtraight lyne, and be therby conſtrayned, to ſpend much time in returning thither againe, And as ſoone as he hath beaten off the enimies weapon, to thruſt, bearing his bodie contrarie to his armes, to the end, he may be the more couered from the thruſtes, and deliuer his owne thruſts with the more force, alwaies regarding in the high ward, to thruſt downewards, and in the low ward, vpwards, & in the ſtraight ward, in the middle: for this maner of thruſting, is verie commodious, and conſumeth little time.

Of the defence of the wardes.

THe hurts of theſe wardes, are defended in the ſelfe ſame maner, as thoſe of the Iauelyne are, to which Chapter, (hauing there reaſoned ſufficiently) I referre you, to the intent I may not repeat one thing often.

And it is to be conſidered, that there is greater regard to be had of the times in managing this weapon then in any other, becauſe it is not furniſhed with any forkes, or other defences which may helpe a man, but all hope of victorie conſiſteth in the iudgement of the times, and in dexteritie of deliuerie.

I will not therfore at this preſent ſtand to declare

any more of the true knowledge of the weapon, then that, which onelie appertayneth to be ſpoken in this worke, but will hereafter at my more leaſure, handle it more at large, at what time, it ſhal be knowen, that men (giuing ouer all other falſe & vain kind of skirmiſhing) ought to ſettle them ſelues in this, by meanes wherof, their iudgements are perfected, and they more inſured vnder their weapons, and ſo by conſequence are made more bold and hardie. And foraſmuch as all this ought to be verified in deedes, and not in wordes, it ſhall be euery mans part, that will exerciſe himſelfe in this Art, firſt diligentlie to learne the principles, & afterwards by exerciſe of the weapon to attaine to the moſt ſubtil and delicate knowledge & conſideration of the times, without which (as I haue ſaid els where) it is not poſſible to profit therin. For although there be happilie ſome, who (being ſtrong of arme, and nimble in deliuering falſes, either right, reuerſed, or ſtraight) haue bin in our time accompted for tall men, yet for al that, thoſe who are skilfull in this true Art, ought not to giue credite vnto it, becauſe they know aſſuredlie that not right or reuerſed edge blowes, get the maſterie, but rather the thruſts of the point, neither the beſtowing of them euery way, but with aduantage and in due time. Neither ought a man to ſtrike, therby to be ſtroken againe, (which is the part and point, rather of a bruite beaſt, then of a reaſonable man) but to ſtrike and remaine without daunger. All which things by this true Art are eaſilie learned.

FINIS.

THE

THE *Second Part intreatinge of* Deceites and Falſinges of Blowes and Thruſtes.



Einge come to the end of the true Arte, and hauing declared all that which ſeemed conuenient and profitable for the attaynement of true iudgement in the handling of the weapon & of the entire knowledg of al aduãtages, by the which as well al diſaduantages are knowen: It ſhall be good that I intreat of Deceite or Falſing, aſwel to performe my promiſe, as alſo to ſatisfie thoſe who are greatly delighted to skirmiſh, not with pretence to hurt or ouer come, but rather for their exerciſe & paſtime:

In which it is a braue and gallant thing and worthy of commendations to be skilfull in the apte managing of the bodie, feete and hands, in mouing nimblie ſometimes with the hand, ſome-times with the elbow, and ſometimes with the ſhoulder, in retiring, in increaſing; in liſting the bodie high, in bearing it low in one inſtant: in breif, deliuering ſwiftlie blows aſwell of the edge as of the point, both right and reuerſed, nothing regarding either time, aduantage or meaſure, beſtowing them at randone euerie waie.

But diuers men being blinded in their owne conceites, do in theſe actions certainly beleeue that they are either more nimble, either more warie & diſcreet

then their aduerſarie is: Of which their foliſh opinion they are all beaſtlie proud and arrogant:

And becauſe it hath manie times happened them, either with a falſe thruſt, or edge blowe, to hurte or abuſe the enemie, they become loftie, and preſume thereon as though their blowes were not to be warded. But yet for the moſt part it falleth out, that by a plain ſimple ſwad hauing onely a good ſtomack and ſtout courage, they are chopt in with a thruſt, and ſo miſerablie slaine.

For auoiding of this abuſe, the beſt remedie is, that they exerciſe themſelues in deliuering theſe falſes onlie in ſport, and (as I haue before ſaid) for their practiſe & paſtime: Reſoluing themſelues for a truth, that when they are to deal with anie enemie, & when it is vpon danger of their liues, they muſt then ſuppoſe the enemie to be equall to themſelues aſwel in knoledge as in ſtrength, & accuſtome themſelues to ſtrik in as litle time as is poſsible, and that alwaies beeing wel warded. And as for theſe Falſes or Slips, they muſt vſe them for their exerciſe & paſtimes ſake onelie, and not preſume vpon them, except it bee againſt ſuch perſons, who are either much more slow, either know not the true principels of this Art. For Diſceit or Falſing is no other thing, then a blow or thruſt deuered, not to the intent to hurt or hitt home, but to cauſe the enemie to diſcouer himſelfe in ſome parte, by meanes whereof a man maie ſafely hurt him in the ſame part. And looke how manie blowes or thruſts there maie be giuen, ſo manie falſes or deceits may be vſed, and a great manie more, which ſhal be declared in their proper place: The defence likewiſe whereof

ſhall

ſhal in few words be laſt of all laid open vnto you.

Deceits or Falſings of the ſingle Sword, or ſingle Rapier

AS I take not Victorie to be the end and ſcope of falſing, but rather nimblenes of bodie and dexteritie in plaie: So, caſting aſide the conſideration how a man is either couered or diſcouered, and how he hath more or leſſe aduantage) I ſaie that there maie be framed at the ſingle ſword ſo manie wards, as there be waies how to moue the arme hand and foot.

Therefore in falſinge there may bee framed the high, lowe, and brode warde, with the right foote behind and before: a man may beare his ſword with the poynt backewardes and forwardes: he may beare his right hand on the left ſid, with his ſwords poynt backwards: he may ſtand at the low warde with the point backewardes and forwardes, bending towardes the grounde. And ſtanding in all theſe waies, he may falſe a thruſt aboue, and force it home beneath: and contrarie from beneth aboue, he may falſe it without and deliuer it within, or contrariwiſe.

And according to the ſalde manner of thruſting he may deliuer edge-blowes, right, reuerſed, high and lowe, as in that caſe ſhal moſt aduantage him. Farther he may falſe an edgeblow, and deliuer it home: as for example, to falſe a right blowe on highe, and deliuer home a right and reuerſe blowe, high or lowe. In like ſort the reuerſe is falſed, by deliuering right or reuerſe blowes, high or lowe.

But it is to be conſidered, that when he beareth his ſworde with his poynt backewardes, he falſe no other than the edgeblow, for then thruſts are diſcommodius. And becauſe men do much vſe at this weapon, to beate off the poynt of the ſworde with their handes: therefore he muſt in that caſe for his greater redines & aduantage, ſuffer his ſword to ſwaie to that ſide, whether the enemy beateth it, ioyning to that motion as much force as he may, performing therin a ful circuler blowe, and deliuering it at the enemie.

And this blow is moſt readie, and ſo much the rather, it is poſſible to be performed, by how much the enemie thinketh not, that the ſword will paſſe in full circle that waie, for the enemie being ſomwhat diſapoynted, by beating off the ſworde, after which beating, he is alſo to deliuer his thruſt, he cãnot ſo ſpeedely ſpẽd both thoſe times but that he ſhalbe firſt ſtroké with the edge of the ſworde, which he had before ſo beaten off.

Generall aduertiſementes concerning the defences.

BEcauſe it chaunceth commonly, that in managing of the handes, men beare no great regard, either to time or aduantage, but do endeuour themſelues after diuers & ſundry waies & meanes to encounter the enemies ſword: therfore in theſe caſes, it is verie profitable to knowe how to ſtrike, and what may be done in ſhorteſt time.

The enemies ſword is encountred alwaies either aboue, either in the midle, either beneath: & in al theſe waies

waies a man findeth himſelf to ſtand either aboue, either beneth, either within, either without. And it fales out alwaies that men finde themſelues vndernethe with the ſword at the hanging warde, when they are to ward high edgeblowes or thruſts: and this waie is moſt commonly vſed: The manner whereof is, when the hand is lifted vp to defend the ſword being thwarted, and the poynt turned downewards: when one findeth himſelfe ſo placed, he ought not to recouer his ſworde from vndernеath, and then to deliuer an edge-blowe, for that were to long, but rather to ſtrike nimbly that part of the enemie vnderneath, which is not warded, ſo that he ſhall do no other then turne his hand & deliuer an edge-blow at the legges which ſurely ſpeedeth.

But if he finde himſelfe in defence either of the reuerſe or thruſt, to beare his ſword aloft and without, and not hanging, in this the ſafeſt thing is, to increaſe a pace, and to ſeaſyn vpon the enimies hand or arme.

The ſelfe ſame he ought to doe, finding himſelfe in the midle, without and vndernеath: But if he finde himſelfe within, he cannot by any meanes make anie ſeaſure, becauſe he ſhall be then in greate perill to inueſt himſelfe on the poynt of the enemies ſworde.

Therefore to avoide the ſaide poynt or thruſt, he muſt turne his fiſt and deliuer an edge-blow at the face, and withdraw himſelfe by voiding of his foote towardes the broad ward. And if he finde himſelfe beneath, & haue encountred the enemies edgeblow, either with the edge, or with the falſe or backe of the ſword, being beneath: then without any more adoe, he ought to cut the legges, and void himſelf from the

enimies thruſt. And let this be taken for a generall rule: the bodie muſt be borne as far off from the enimy as it may. And blowes alwaies are to be deliuered on that parte which is founde to be moſt neare, be the ſtroke great or little. And each man is to be aduertiſed that when he findes the enimies weapon vnderneath at the hanging ward, he may ſafely make a ſeiſure: but it would be done nimbly and with good courage, becauſe he doth then increaſe towards his enimie in the ſtreight lyne, that is to ſaie, increaſe on pace, and therewithall take holdfaſt of the enemies ſword, nere the hiltes thereof, yea though his hand were naked, and vnder his owne ſworde preſently turning his hand outwardes, which of force wreſteth the ſworde out of the enimies hand: neither ought he to feare to make ſeiſure with his naked hand, for it is in ſuch a place, that if he ſhould with his hand encounter a blowe, happely it would not cut becauſe the weapō hath there verie ſmall force. All the hazard wil be, if the enimie ſhould drawe backe his ſword, which cauſeth it to cutte. For in ſuch ſorte it will cut mightily: but he may not giue leaſure or time to the enimie to drawe backe, but as ſoone as the ſeiſure is made, he muſt alſo turne his hand outwards: in which caſe, the enimie hath no force at all.

Theſe maner of ſtrikings ought and maie be practiſed at all other weapons. Therefore this rule ought generally to be obſerued, and that is, to beare the bodie different from the enimies ſword, and to ſtrike litle or much, in as ſmall time as is poſſible.

And if one would in deliuering of a great edge-blowe, vſe ſmall motion and ſpende litle time hee

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ought as ſoone as he hath ſtroken, to drawe or ſlide his ſword, thereby cauſing it to cute: for otherwiſe an edge-blowe is to no purpoſe, although it be verie forcibly deliuered, eſpecialy when it lighteth on any ſoft or limber thing: but being drawen, it doth euery way cute greatly.

Of ſword and dagger, or Rapier and dagger.

ALL the wardes which are laide downe for the ſingle ſword, may likewiſe be giuen for the ſworde and dagger. And there is greater reaſon why they ſhould be termed wardes in the handling of this, than of the ſingle ſword, becauſe albeit the ſword is borne vnorderly, & with ſuch diſaduantage, that it wardeth in a maner no parte of the bodie, yet there is a dagger which continually ſtandeth at his defence, in which caſe, it is not conuenient that a man lift vp both his armes and leaue his bodie open to the enimie: for it is neither agreeable to true, neither to falſe arte conſidering that in each of them the endeuor is to ouercome. And this manner of lifting vp the armes, is as if a man wold of purpoſe be ouercome: Therfore, when in this deceitfull and falſe arte, one is to vſe two weapons, he muſt take hede that he beare the one cõtinually at his defence, and to handle the other euerie waye to moleſt the enimie: ſomtime framing one warde, ſomtimes an other: and in each of them to falſe, that is, to faine a thruſt, and deliuer a thruſt, to falſe a thruſt, and giue an edge-blowe: and otherwiſe alſo, to falſe an edge-blowe, and to deliuer an edge-

blowe

blowe. And in all theſe wayes to remember, that the blowe be continually different from the falſe: That is, if the thruſt be falſed aboue to driue it home below: If within, yet to ſtrike it without, and falſing an edgeblowe aboue, to beſtowe it beneath: or falſing a right blowe, to ſtrike with the reuerſe; or ſometimes with a right blowe, but yet differing from the other. And after an edgeblowe on high, to deliuer a reuerſe below. In fine, to make all ſuch mixture of blowes, as may beare all theſe contrarieties following, to wit, the point, the edge, high, lowe, right, reuerſed, within, without. But, I ſee not howe one may practiſe any deceit with the dagger, the which is not openly daungerous. As for example, to widen it and diſcouer ſome part of the bodie to the enemie, thereby prouoking him to moue, and then warding, to ſtrike him, being ſo diſapointed: but in my opinion, theſe ſortes of falſes of diſcouering the bodie, ought not to be vſed: For it behoueth a man, firſt, ſafely to defend himſelfe, and then to offend the enimie, the which he cannot do, in the practiſe of the ſaid falſes, if he chaunce to deale with an enimie that is couragious and skilfull. But this manner of falſing next following, is to be practiſed laſt of all other, and as it were in deſperate caſes. And it is, either to faine, as though he would forcibly fling his dagger at the enemies face, (frō the which falſe, he ſhal doubtles procure the enemie to warde himſelfe, either by lifting vp his armes, or by retyring himſelf, or by moouing towards one ſide or other, in which trauaile & time, a man that is verie warie and nimble, may ſafely hurt him:) or els in ſteede of falſing a blowe, to fling

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the dagger in deede at the enimies face. In which chaunce or occaſion, it is neceſſarie that he haue the skill how to ſticke the dagger with the poynt. But yet howſoeuer it chaunce, the comming of the dagger in ſuch ſort, doth ſo greatly trouble and diſorder the enemie, that if a man ſtep in nimbly, he may ſafely hurt him.

Theſe deceits and falſes, of the ſword and dagger, may be warded according as a man findes it moſt commodious either with the ſworde, or els with the dagger, not regarding at all (as in true arte) to defend the left ſide with the dagger, and the right ſide with the ſword: For in this falſe arte men conſider not either of aduantage, time, or meaſure, but alwaies their manner is (as ſoone as they haue found the enimies ſword) to ſtrike by the moſt ſhort waie, be it either with the edge, or point, notwithſtanding the blowe be not forcible, but onely touch weakely & ſcarsly: for in plaie, ſo it touch any waie, it is accounted for victorie.

Concerning taking holdfaſt, or ſeiſing the enimies ſword, I commend not in any caſe, that ſeiſure be made with the left hand, by caſting a way of the dagger, as elſe where I haue ſeene it practiſed: but rather that it be done keeping the ſword and dagger faſt in hand. And although this ſeeme vnpoſsible, yet euery one that is nimble & ſtrong of arme, may ſafely do it. And this ſeiſure is vſed aſwell vnder an edgeblowe, as vnder a thruſt in manner following.

When the edgeblowe or thruſt commeth aboue, it muſt be incountred with the ſword without, on the third or fourth parte of the enimies ſword, and with

the dagger borne within, on the firſt or ſecond parte thereof: hauing thus ſodenly taken the enimies ſword in the middle, to turne forciblie the enimies ſword outwardes with the dagger, keeping the ſword ſted-faſt, and as ſtreight towards the enimie as is poſsible by meanes whereof it may the more eaſely be turned. And there is no doubt but the enimies ſworde may be wrong out of his hand, and looke how much nearer the poynt it is taken, ſo much the more eaſelie it is turned or wrelted outwards, becauſe it maketh the greater circle, and the enimie hath but ſmal force to reſiſt that motion.

Of Sword and Cloke, or Rapier and Cloke.

FOR to diſceyue the enimie with the cloake, it is neceſſarie to know how many waies it may ſerue the turne, and to be skilfull how to fould it orderly about the arme, and how to take aduantage by the largenes thereof: and farther to vnderſtand how to defend, and how to offend and hinder the enimie therewith, becauſe it fales not outalwaies, that men fight with their cloake wrapped about the arme, and the ſword in hand, Therefore it is the parte of a wiſe man, to knowe alſo how to handle the cloake after any other manner.

Wherefore one may get the aduãtage of the cloke, both when it is about his bodie, and when it is folded about his arme: The cloke being about the arme in this maner. When it chaunceth any man to bicker with

with his enimie, with whom he is at poynt to ioyne, but yet happelie weareth about him at that inſtant no kind of weapon, whereas his enimie is weaponed, & threatneth him, then by taking both ſides of the cloake as neare the coller as is poſsible, he may draw it ouer his owne head, and throwe it at his enimies face, who then being intangled and blinded therewith, may either be throwen downe, or diſfurniſhed of his weapon very eaſely by him that is nimble, eſpecially if he haue to deale againſt one that is ſlow. A man may after an other manner take the aduantage of the cloake which the enimie weareth, by taking with one hande both ſides thereof, neere the coller; which ſides being ſtrongly holden, cauſe the cloak to be a ginne or ſnare about the enimes necke, the which ginne being violently haled, and plucked with one hande, he may ſo forciblie ſtrike him with the other on the face or viſage, that he will goe neere hande to breake his necke.

There be manie other waies whereby one may preuaile with the cloake, to the greateſt parte whereof, men of meane iudgment may eaſely attaine vnto. Therefore when one hath his cloake on his arme, and ſword in his hand, the aduantage that he getteth therby, beſides the warding of blowes, for that hath bene declared in the true arte is, that he may moleſt his enimie by falſing to fling his cloake, and then to flinge it in deed. But to falſe the flingyng of the clok is verie daungerous, becauſe it may not be done but in long time. And the verie flinging of the cloake, is as it were a preparation to get the victorie, and is in a manner rather true art then deceit, cõſidering it is don by the

ſtreyght or ſome other ſhorte line : neither for any other cauſe is this the rather here laide downe, in deceite, then before in true arte, then for that when one ouercometh by theis meanes, he ſeemes not to conquere manfully, becauſe he ſtrikes the enimie before blinded with the cloake. wherefore when one mindeth to flinge his cloake, he may either do it from and with his arme, or elſe with his ſword: and in ſo doing it is neceſſarie, that he haue not the cloake too much wrapped about his arme: I ſaie, not aboue twice, neither to hold it ſtreight or faſt with his hande, that thereby he may be the better able when occaſion ſerueth to fling it the more eaſelie. If therefore he would fling it with his arme, and haue it goe with ſuch fury, and make ſuch effect as is required, he muſt of force ioyne to the flinging thereof the increaſe of a pace, on that ſide where the cloake is, but firſt of all he muſt incounter, either finde, either ſo enſure the enimies ſword, that by the meanes of the increaſe of that pace it may do no hurte.

And it is requiſite in euerie occaſion, that he finde himſelfe to ſtand without: and when either an edge-blow or a thruſt comes, be it aboue or in the middle, as ſoone as he hath warded it with his ſword, he ſhall increaſe a pace and fling his cloake, how ſoeuer it be folded, either from the coller, either from any other parte, or elſe to hale it off from his ſhoulder, although it bee on his ſhoulder: and in this order it is eaſelie throwne, & is thereby the more widned in ſuch ſort, that the enimie is the more entangled and ſnared therewith.

Concerning the flinging of the cloake with the ſword

ſword, I ſaie, it may be throwen either with the point, either with the edge: with the poynt when one ſtandeth at the lowe warde with the right foote behinde, and the cloake before: In which caſe the cloake would be well and thicke doubled and placed on the arme, but not wrapped. And in ſteed of driuing a thruſt with the poynt which ſhalbe hidden behinde the cloake, he ſhal take the cloake on the poynt of the ſworde, and with the increaſe of a pace, force it at the enimies face.. And in this maner the cloake is ſo forcible, and ſo couertly deliuered and flinged, that the enimie is neither a ware of it, neither can avoyde it, but of force it lighteth on his face, by meanes whereof, he may be ſtroken at pleaſure iu any parte of the bodie.

The cloake may be flong or throwen with the edge of the ſworde, when one ſtandeth at the lowe warde, with the poynt of the ſword turned backewardes, one the left ſide and the cloake vpon it, folded at large vpon the arme vp to the elbowe: but not faſt wrapped about it, and whileſt he falſeth a reuerſe, he may take the cloake on the edge of the ſword and fling it towards the enimie, and then ſtrike him with ſuch a blow as ſhal be then moſt fit for his aduantage deliuer.

Manie other deceites there might be declared of the cloake, aſwell of flinging as of falſing it: but becauſe I thinke theſe to be ſufficient for an example to frame manie other by, I make an ende.

Falſing of Blowes

Of Sword and buckler, ſquare Target and round Target.

BEing of opinion that as touching deceite, there is but one conſideration to be had of all theſe three weapons, and for becauſe all the difference which may be betwen them is laide downe and declared in the true arte, in the conſideration of the forme of each of them: Therefore I am willing rather to reſtraine my ſelfe, then to indeuoure to fill the leafe with the idle repetition of one thing twice.

All theis three weapons ought to be borne in the fiſt, the arme ſtretched out forwardes, and this is euidently ſeene in the ſquare Target and buckler: the round Target alſo, becauſe by reaſon of his greatnes and waight, it may not be holden in the onelie fiſt, & forwarde, in which kind of holding, it would warde much more is borne on the arme, being ſtretched foorth with the fiſt forwardes, which is in manner all one, or the ſelfe ſame. Therefore one may falſe as much with the one as with the other, conſidering there is no other falſe vſed with them then to diſcouer and frame diuers wards, bering no reſpect to any aduantage. And yet there is this difference betwene them, that with the round Target, one may eaſely warde both edgeblowes and thruſtes, and with the ſquare Target, better than with any other, he may warde edgeblowes, becauſe it is of ſquare forme: and the edge of the ſword may eaſely be retained with the ſtreight ſide thereof, which is not ſo eaſely done with the buckler: for ouer and beſides the warding of thruſtes, the buckler is not ſo ſure of it ſelf, but re-

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quireth aide of the ſworde. Edge-blowes alſo when they come a thwart (for in that caſe, they incounter the circumference thereof: the which if it chaunce, the ſword not to encounter on the diameter, or halfe, in which place the ſword is onelie ſtaied, but doth encounter it, either beneath, either aboue the ſaide diameter (maie eaſelie ſlippe and ſtrike either the heade or thighs: therfore let euetie man take heede and remember, that in ſtriking at the buckler, either with the poynte or edge of the ſword, he deliuer it croſſing or a thwarte.

As concerning the falſes and deceites, which may be vſed in the handling of theis weapons, as at the ſingle ſworde, they are infinite, ſo at theis weapons they are much more, if the number of infinite may be exceded. For beſides, that with the ſword one may falſe a thruſt, an edgeblowe, on high, alowe, within, without, and frame diuers other vnorderlie wardes, There remaineth one deceite or falſe properlie beloging vnto theis, which is, to beare the bukler, ſquar Target, or round Target, wide from the bodie, and therewithall to diſcouer himſelfe, to the end the enimie may be hindred, and loſe time in ſtriking, being therewithal ſure & nimble to defend himſelf & offed the enimie. And this he may practiſe in euerie ward, but more eaſelie with the ſquare Target than with the other two, becauſe it is bigge and large inough, & may eaſelie encounter and find the enimies when it commeth ſtriking: but this happeneth not in the rounde Target, becauſe his forme is circuler, neither in the buckler, becauſe, beſides his roundnes, it is alſo ſmall: by meanes of which two things, blowes are very

very hardly encountred except a man be very much exerciſed in the handling thereof. And becauſe there are two weapons, the one of offence, and the other of defence: it is to be conſidered, that when by meanes of a falſe thruſt or edgblowe, the enimies round Target, ſquare Target or buckler, is onely bound to his warde, and his ſword remaines free and at libertie, one reſolue not himſelfe to ſtrike immediatly after the falced thruſt, for then he may verie eaſelie be hurt by the enimies ſword. Therefore let him remember for the moſt parte, to falſe ſuch thruſtes, againſt the which, beſides the weapon of defence, the ſword be alſo bound to his warde, or elſe to falſe edgeblowes from the knee downewards: for ſeeing the round target, or any of the other two, may not be vſed in that place, of force the ſword muſt be there placed at his defence, which as ſoone as it is found, and thereby enſured that it may do no hurte, a man may then ſtep forwardes, and deliuer ſuch a blowe as he beſt may without daunger.

An aduertiſement concerning the defences of the falſe of the round Target.

EVerie time that one vſeth to falſe with round Target, ſquare Target, and buckler, or as I may better ſaie, with the ſword accompanied with them, he falſeth either an edge-blowe, either a thruſt, either leaueth ſome parte of the bodie before diſcouered. Againſt all the falces of the edge, which come from the knee vpwards, the round Target or any of the reſt, muſt be oppreſſed, and then ſuddenly

ſuddenly vnder them a thruſt be deliuered, againſt that parte which is moſt diſarmed. But if blowes come from the knee downwardes, they of force muſt be encountred with the ſword, and alwaies with the falſe, or backe edge thereof, whether that the blowe be right or reuerſed: & therewithall the enimies legge muſt be cutt with the edge prepared without mouing either the feete or bodie. And this manner of ſtriking is ſo ſhorte that it ſafely ſpedeth. Moreouer, all thruſts and other edgeblowes, aſwell high as lowe may, naie rather ought to be warded, by accompaning the target or other weapon of defence with the ſword, whoſe poynt would be bent towards the enimie, & as ſoone as the enimies ſword is encountred, if it be done with the falſe edge of the ſword, there is no other to be done, then to cut his face or legges.

But if the ſword be encountred with the right edge then if he would ſtrik with the edge, he muſt of force firſt turne his hand and ſo cute. And this manner of ſtriking and defending, doth properlie belong vnto the round Target, ſquare Target and buckler, and all other waies are but vaine and to ſmall purpoſe: for to encounter firſt and then to ſtrike, cauſeth a man to finde himſelfe either within the enimies Target or ſword, by which meanes he may eaſelie ſtrike, before either the ſword or Target may warde againe.

But if any man aske why this kind of blowe carrieth ſmall force, and is but weake? I aunſwer, true it is, the blowe is but weake, if it were deliuered with an axe or a hatchet, which as they ſaie, haue but ſhort edges, and maketh but one kind of blowe, but if it be deliuered with a good ſword in the foreſaide

manner, becauſe it beareth a long edge, it doth comodiouſly cut, as ſoone as the edge hath founde the enimies ſword, and eſpecially on thoſe partes of the bodie which are fleſhly and full of ſinnowes. Therefore ſpeaking of deceite or falſing, a man muſt alwaies with the ſword and round Target and ſuch like, goe and encounter the enimies blowes, being accompanied to gether. And as ſoone as he hath found the enimies ſword, he ſhall within it, eute either the face or the leggs, without any farthar recouerie of his ſword; to the intent to deliuer either thruſtes, or greater edgeblowes: for if one would both defende and ſtrike togeither, this is the moſt ſhorte waie that is.

But when the enimie diſcouereth ſome parte of his bodie, thereby prouoking his aduerſary to ſtrike, and then would beate off the blowe and ſtrike withall: in this caſe, either a man muſt not ſtrike if he perceue not that his ſword is more neare the enimy, then his owne Target is to the enimies ſword, or elſe if he ſtrik and be further off, he muſt recouer his ſword & void the enimies blowe, ſtriking comodiouſly ether aboue ether ſome wher els. And it is a very eaſie mater to loſe much time, for the Target and ſuch like are heauie, And if theſe motions meete with no obiect or ſteye, they paſſe beyond their ſtrength. But if it ſo happen or chaunce, as I haue before ſaide, that a man findes himſelfe more neare to hurte the enimie, then the enimie is readie to defend himſelfe, then he muſt not falſe a blow firſt, & then recouer his ſword, but ſtrik & drive it home at the firſt, as reſolutlie & as nimblie as he may poſſiblie: & this maner of ſtriking pertaineth rather to true art then to deceit or falſing.

Of

Or Thruſtes.

Of the falſes of the two Swordes: or Rapiers.

THEIS kind of weapons haue ſo great libertie of ſtriking or warding, and are ſo entermedled the one with the other, as no other ſorte of weapon is, which I may compare with theis. There may be framed an infinite cõpanie of wardes with theis weapons, and all of them ſure, except two, which are framed and borne without, and are theis as followeth.

To bear both ſwords with their points backward: for this maner of warding, is as if one would of purpoſe cauſe himſelfe to be ſlaine: or elſe to beare both aloſt, which a man may hardlie ſuſtaine, conſidering the paizes of the ſwords are naturally heaue and tend downewardes, ſo that the armes are much cumbred thereby. Therefore from theis two which are framed without, ſhalbe laide downe, all thoſe which may be founde and may be framed in the handling of theis weapons: as for example, high wardes, lowe, wide, altered, diminiſhed, and al thoſe wards which are mixt, as to frame with one ſworde the high warde, with the other the broad warde, and to frame the lowe and broad warde, the high and lowe ward, two lowe wardes, and two broade wardes: but yet theſe laſt two are as painfull as the two high wardes, and therefore ſhall not be vſed. Moreouer, a man may beare one ſworde with the poynt forwards, and the other backewards, and he may further, verie eaſely finde out and practiſe diuers other waies, if he conſider in how manie waies a man way mouehis hands

his armes,his feete,and his whole perſon:for each of theis motions are ſufficient of themſelues,to alter the warde.In all theis wardes, he may with either hande and ſword, practiſe to falſe againſt the enimie,ſometimes by fayning,ſometimes by diſcouerie. And this is properlie belonginge to theis weapons,to wit,to falſe with one,and to ſtrike home, either with the ſelfe ſame, or with the other weapon: & likewiſe diſcouer with the one,and ward with the ſelfe ſame, or with the other, the which neuer yet to this daie was or might be done with any other weapon. For in the handling of other weapons, that which falceth, doth in like manner ſtrike home,ſo that of force,there are ſpent two times : for which conſideration men hold opinion, that falſing is occaſion both of great hurte, and alſo of loſſe of time. But yet this happeneth not in theſe weapons, which foraſmuch as they are two, and are of equall power both in ſtriking and defending,may be handled both after one faſhion.And preſuppoſing alwaies that one is as skilful to handle the one aſwel as the other,he may diſcharge at ſelfe ſame time two thruſtes,two edgeblowes,both right & reuerſed.

But if he would exerciſe himſelfe onelie in ſporte & plaie, he ſhal then continually vſe to ſtrike his enimie with one, and defend his perſon with the other. Therefore when one dealeth againſt an enimie that hath two ſwords, one of the which maie alwaies encreaſe a pace, and ſtrike either with a thruſt, or with the edge, from that ſword he muſt take heede to warde himeſelfe, for it is verie forcible, and alwaies bringeth great daunger and perill with it: The other

ſworde

ſword which was before, maketh no increaſe of pace and therefore cannot ſtrike more then the defence & ſtrength of the arme will beare, and that is weake to ſtrike, but yet verie ſtrong to defend: and the ſelf ſame accidentes and qualities, which are found to be in the enimie, are incident alſo to our ſelues. Wherefore when one findes that he ſtandeth with his right foot before, be it in any warde whatſoeuer, he may falſe with the forſword and ſtrik home with the ſame, or elſe he may falſe with his hinder ſword, & ſtrike with the ſelfe ſame: or elſe after a third waie, to wite, to falſe with the one, and hit home with the other: And this kind of falſe, doth more properlie belong to the two ſwords then any other, but yet he muſt take heede and veriewell remember that whileſt he falceth with the one, and would alſo ſtrike home with the ſame, that he beare the other directly oppoſite againſt the enimie. For whileſt the enimy is bound to warde the falſe, and homeblowe of the one ſword, he may come in with the other and ſtrike, if he finde any place either diſcouered or eaſie to enter: So that bearing this rule continuallie in remembrance, which is in the fight of two ſwords, to beare alwaies the one directly againſt the enimie, to the entent to hinder him, that he reſolue not himſelf to enter, he ſhall indeuour to falſe, ſometimes with the one, and ſometimes with the other ſword, ſome times a thruſt, ſome times an edgeblowe, and then to driue it home, either with the ſame ſword that falceth, or elſe with the other. But in the practiſe, and doing of all this, it is required that he be of deepe iudgement, knowing preſently vpon the falſe, what parte of the bodie the enimie diſco-

uereth, increaſing thither, and inueſting the enimie with that ſword which is moſt nigh to that parte, and with the which he may moſt ſafelie ſtrike.

And it is to be conſidered, that it is a verie ſtrong & ſhort waie of ſtriking, to falſe with the fore ſworde either a thruſt or an edgeblowe, and to falſe them not once or twice, but diuers times, now alofte, now beneath, ſome times with a thruſt, ſome times with an edgeblowe, to the entent, to blinde and occupie the enimies both ſwords, and at the laſt when fit occaſiõ ſerueth, to ſtrike it home with the hinder ſworde: but yet alwaies with the encreaſe of a pace. The falce which may be practiſed with the hinder ſword, is vnprofitable being made without the motion of a pace, for it is ſo ſhorte that it is to no purpoſe. Therefore it cannot buſie the enimies ſwordes in ſuch manner, that it may force him either to diſcouer or diſorder his bodie. From whence it may be gathered, that after this falſe of the hinder ſword, it is no ſure plaie to ſtrike either with theſelfe ſame hinder ſword, or elſe with the fore ſword, becauſe the enimie was neither in any parte diſcouered or troubled. The beſt thing therfore that may be don, if one would falſe with the hinderſword, is, to driue either a thruſt or an edgeblow, reſolutelie ſtriking with the encreaſe of a pace, and as the enimie moueth to defend him ſelfe, to ſtrike him with the ſame ſworde, in ſome place that is diſcouered: For he cannot ſtrike with the other ſword, for that by meanes of the encreaſe of the hinder ſword, that ſword which was before, remaineth now behinde, So that it may not ſtrike, except it encreaſe a pace, and to encreaſe againe, were to ſpende much

much time. Therefore when one endeuoreth with the encreaſe of a pace to force his ſword within, he ſhall aſſaie to ſtrike it home, with the ſelfe ſame ſword becauſe as I haue before ſaid, to ſtrike with the other were to long. Wherefore I will laie downe this for a rule, in the handling of theis weapons, that if a man falſe with the foreſword, he may alſo ſtrik home with the ſame, or elſe with the other, ſo that he increaſe a pace. And if he falſe with the hinder ſword, he ſhall preſently, and reſolutely force the blow home with the ſame ſword, but yet with the increaſe of a pace: but if he doe not fullie deliuer it, he ſhall againe procure immediatly to ſtrike home with the ſelfe ſame ſword, either with a thruſt, or edgeblowe, be it high or lowe, as at that inſtant ſhall be moſt commodius to ſerue the turne.

An aduertiſement concerning the defences of the two Swordes, or Rapiers.

IN ſport or plaie one may ſtande euerie waie againſt the enimie, to witte, if the enimie be on high, to ſettle himſelfe at his warde, lowe or broad. But it is more gallant to beehold and more commodius indeed to place himſelf againſt the enimy in the very ſelf ſame manner as he findeth him, with the ſelf ſame foote before, and in the very ſame ſite that he is in, either high or lowe. For ſtanding in ſuch manner, the enimie may hardly endeuour with his falſe, to troble or buſie both ſwords. And moreouer it muſt be conſidered, that the fore ſworde is that which wardeth both

both falſes, and reſolute blowes, the which it doth verie eaſily perfourme: For if it be borne aloft, then by the bending of the point down, it defendeth that part of the bodie, to the which it is turned. Remembring therefore theſe rules, which are, to ſtand euery way as the enimie doth, & to warde his falſes with the fore-ſworde, I ſaie, where any falſes or blowes come: then as ſoone as he hath warded them with the fore-ſword, he ſhall encreaſe a ſlope pace, & with the hinder ſworde deliuer either a thruſt at ſome diſcouered place, either a right blowe with the edge at the legges, or els (which is better) ſhall fetch a reuerſe, either athwart the face, or els athwart the armes, and this blowe doth moſt eaſily ſpeede: for the enimies fore-ſworde is occupied, and his hinder ſworde cannot come to oppoſe it ſelfe againſt this blowe: neither may it ſo eaſily ſtrike, becauſe (by encreaſe of the foreſaid ſlope pace) the bodie is moued out of the ſtraight lyne, ſo that the enimie may not ſo commodiouſly ſtrike with his hinder ſword, but that he ſhalbe firſt ſtricken on the face or on the armes.

Wherefore, let euery man reſolue himſelfe, (as ſoone as he hath encountred the enimies ſword with his owne foreſworde) that he ſtep in and ſtrike with his hinder ſworde. Neither, let him ſtand in feare of the enimies hinder ſworde: for either it cannot hurt becauſe the bodie is voyded (as I haue ſaide,) or els, if it may, it muſt preſently prouide to ſtand to his defence, and thereto is ſo bound, that it may do no manner of hurte.



Or the deceites & falſes of the two hande ſworde, there is no more regarde to be taken in the handling thereof ſingle, that is, one to one, then there is, when it is vſed among manie: onelie this end is to be purpoſed, to witte, to moue and handle with all nimbleneſſe and dexterity, aſwel the edge as the poynt, fetching thoſe great circuler and vnruly compaſsinges, therewith as his fourme, greatneſſe, and manner of holding requireth.

Nether ought a man ſo much to regard to fetch a ſmall or great compaſſe, or to ſtrike more with the point, then with the edg, but muſt belieue onely that the victorie conſiſteth in the nimble and actiue guiding thereof anie manner of waie. Therefore there may be framed manie wards, of al the which, beinge a thinge ſuperfluous to reaſon of, I will handle onely ſixe of them, which are moſt commodius and vſuall: wherof the firſt may be called the high warde, the ſecond the broad warde, the third, the low warde, from which there ſpringeth all other three, towardes the other ſide, making ſixe in all.

The high warde is framed by bearing the ſworde and arms lifted vp on high and wide from the body, with the poynt of ſword turned towardes that parte, as that arme is, whoſe hand is placed by the croſſe, that is to ſaie, if the right hand ſhalbe at the croſſe, & the right foote beſoore, to beare alſo the ſword, with his poynt towardes that ſide.

There is an other hie warde oppoſite to this & that is, without mouing the feete at all to turne the poynt towardes the other ſide, that is, towardes the left ſide

and to croſſe the armes. And it is to be noted, that in this high warde, be it on what ſide it wil, the ſword is to be borne with the poynt turned downewardes.

The ſecond is the broad warde, & muſt be framed with the armes widened from the body, not high but ſtraight. And from this ſpringeth and is framed an other broad warde, turned towards the other ſide by croſſing of the armes.

The third is the lowe warde, and in this the ſword would be borne with the poynt ſome what vppwardes. And this warde hath his oppoſite or contrarie, by turning the ſword on the other ſide, and croſſing the armes. There may be framed manie other wardes: As for example, to beare the ſword on high, with the poynt backewardes, to the entent to driue a downe right, or cleauing edge-blowe: or elſe to beare it lowe with the poynt backwardes, to the entẽt to driue it from beneath vpwards. But in theſe wardes falſes are to ſmall purpoſe: And if there be any one of them worth the vſing, it ſhould be the falſe of an edgeblowe, the which at the two hand ſworde is not to be vſed at all, becauſe there is much time loſt conſidering that immediatlie after the falſe, he muſt ſtrike home with an edgeblow. For it is not commodius at the two hand ſword, to falſe an edgeblowe, & deliuer home a thruſt, becauſe the waight or ſwing of the ſword in deliuering an edge-blowe, tranſporteth the arms beyond their ſtrength, ſo that they may verie difficultlie withhold the blow to ſuch purpoſe, that they may be able as it were in that inſtant to deliuer a thruſt. Therefore the falſe that ſhould be vſed at the two hand ſword, ought alwaies to be framed with

with a thruſt,and then an edgeblow right or reuerſed to be deliuered, or elſe to falſe a high thruſt,and deliuer it beneath or elſe where. But yet if one would needes falſe an edgeblowe,let him do it with the falſe edge of the ſword,then turning it in full circle,to deliuer home the edgeblowe,and in ſtriking alwaies to encreaſe a pace. But when this falſe of the backe or falſe edge is practiſed,the armes being croſſed,& that preſentlie after the falſe, one would deliuer home a reuerſe,then he muſt encreaſe a left pace, And when he findeth in himſelf any other warde,his hands not being croſſed,then if he would ſtep forwards to ſtrike he muſt encreaſe a pace with the right foote.And if in any of theeſe wardes he would falſe a thruſt, which is the beſt that may beyſed at the two hand ſword,he muſt obſerue the verie ſame notes and rules concerning encreaſing of the pace. Further the thruſt is falſed, and the edge-blowe deliuered home at the two hand ſword for no other cauſe or conſideration,then for that the ſaide edgeblowe is farre more forcible then the thruſt: For the two hand ſword is long,by meanes whereof,in the deliuerie of the edgeblow, it maketh a great circle.And moreouer,it is ſo weightie that verie litle and ſmall ſtrength, maketh & forceth the blow to goe with great violence.But for as much as the ſtriking with the edge is verie daungerous cõſidering it ſpendeth much time, and eſpecially in the great compaſsing of the two hand ſworde, vnder which time warie & actiue perſons may with ſword or other wepon giue a thruſt,Therefore for the auoiding of this dãger,he muſt before he determin with himſelf to ſtrik with the edg,firſt driue on a thruſt,ra-

ther reſolut then falſed, and as farr forwardes as both armes will ſtretch. In doing of the which, he ſhal force the enimie to retire ſo much, that he may eaſely thereupon deliuer his edgeblowe with the encreaſe of a pace, nothing douting that the enimy wil ſtrike home firſt with a thruſt. Therefore when one ſtandeth at the high warde, on either ſide he muſt falſe a thruſt, & encreaſe a pace deliuering there withal ſuch an edgeblowe, as ſhal be moſt commodius to ſerue his turne, either right or reuerſed. And further may practiſe the like in the broad and lowe wardes, in either of the which, it is more eaſye to falſe the ſaid thruſt, then in the other.

And it is to be conſidered, when the edgeblow after the falced thruſt, is by a ſlope voided, that he ſuffer not his arms and ſword by reaſon of the waight or ſwinge thereof, to be ſo farr tranſported beyonde his ſtrength, that the ſword light ether on the groũd or that he be forced thereby to diſcouer all that parte of his bodie which is before. Therefore the beſt remedie is, as ſoone as he ſhal perceiue that he hath deliuered his blowe in vaine, that he ſuffer his ſword to go (not with a full thwarte circle, and ſo about his head) vntill the poynt be backwardes beneath in ſuch ſort, that the circle or compaſſe direct him to the high warde, in the which he may preſently reſolue himſelf and returne either to ſtrike againe, or elſe defend him ſelfe on either ſide, ſo handling his weapon, as ſhal in that caſe be moſt for his aduantage.

The Defences of the two Hand ſword.

THe defences of the two hand ſworde require a ſtout hearte, for that the ſuſteining of ſuch great blowes, by reaſon whereof, a man conſidereth not the aduãtage of time, being the moſt principal thing of al, cauſeth him to flie or retire backe holding for a certaintie that euerie blowe giuen therwith, is not poſſible to be warded. Therefor when he dealeth againſt an enimie, who vſeth likewiſe the two hand ſword, he ſhall appoſe himſelfe in the low ward: And when a falſe thruſt commeth, if it come ſo fare forwardes that it may ioyne home, he ought firſt to beate it off, and then to forſe a thruſt at the enimies face, or deliuer an edgeblow downwards at the armes but not lifting vp the ſword in a cõpaſſe. But for that theeſe falced thruſtes for the moſt part are farr off, & come not to the bodie, being vſed onelie to fere the enimie, and cauſe him to retire, that therby one may haue the more time to deliuer an edge-blow with the encreaſe of a pace (which pace cauſeth the blowe to go with greater violence:) nd farther may diſcern & iudge, by neareneſſe of the enimy, whether the blow will hit home yea or no, for it is eaſelie knowen howe much the armes may be ſtretched forth: Therefore when this falſe thruſt doth not ioyne or hit home, he ought not to endeuour to beate it off, but to expect when his enimie deliuereth his edgeblowe, & then to encreaſe a pace, and ſtrike him with a thruſt.

But if it happen him to deale againſt a two hande ſworde, with a ſingle ſword or dagger, aſſuring him ſelfe that the two hand ſword cannot ſtrike but with a thruſt or an edgeblow, for the defence of the thruſt

he may beate it off and retire himſelfe, but if it be an edgeblowe, then, as ſoone as the two hand ſword is liſted vp, in the ſame time he muſt encreaſe forwards and deliuer a thruſt, or elſe if he haue no time to ſtrike he muſt encounter & beare the blow in the firſt parte of the ſworde, which is neare the hiltes, taking holde thereof with one hande, and ſtriking with the other. And this he may performe, if he be nimble & actiue, becauſe the two hand ſword carieth but ſmal force in that place.

Of the Parteſan, Bil, Lauelin and Holberde.

DEceites or falſes, are all more manifeſt and euident in theſe, then in ſhorte weapons which are handled onely with one hand becauſe both the arms are moued more ſlowly then one alone. And the reaſon thereof is, that cõſidering they are more long, they therefore frame in their motions a greater compaſſe: and this is perceiued more in edgeblowes then in thruſtes. Therefore the beſt falſe that may be practiſed in the handling of theſe weapons, is the falſe of the thruſt, and that the edgeblow ought neuer or ſeldome to be vſed, except great neceſſitie conſtrain, as ſhalbe declared. Wherefore in theſe weapons, I wil frame foure wards, three of them with the poynt forwardes, of which three, the firſt is, the poynt of the ſword being borne lowe, and the hinder arme being liſted vpp.

The ſecond is, the poynt high, the right arme being behinde and borne alowe.

The

The third, the poynt equall and the armes equall: And in euerie on of theſe a man muſt falſe without, and driue it home within, or falſe within and deliuer it without, or falſe aloft and ſtrike beneth, & ſo contrariewiſe. But as he falſeth within or without, he ought to remember this note, which is, he muſt alwaies to the entent he may goe the better couered & warded, compaſſe the hinderfoot to that parte, to the which the weapon ſhalbe directed to ſtrike home after a falſe.

The fourth warde which is much vſed, and eſpecially with the bill, ſhalbe to beare the weapon with the blunt ende or heele forwardes, the edge being lifted vpp on high. And this is much vſed, to the entent to expect the enimies blowes, and that thereby a man may be better able to warde them, either with the heel or midle of the ſtaff, & then to enter & ſtrik deliuering an edgblo with the encreas of a pace, the which maner of ſtriking is moſt ready and nimble. The falſe, which may be vſed in this ward, is whē he hath warded the enimies blo with the heel of his wepon, & thē would encreaſe forwardes to deliuer an edgeblowe, if the enimie ſhall lift vpp or aduance his weapon to defend himſelfe from the ſaid blowe, then he ſhall giue ouer to deliuer that blowe, by retiring his weapon, and giue a thruſt vnderneath, with the encreaſe of a pace.

And this kind of blowe is verie likely to work his effect without danger, if it be aptly and nimbly vſed.

THere may be vſed ſome deceite alſo in the Pike, although it be a weapon voide of any crooked forkes, and is much more apte to ſhew great valure then deceite. And for as much as it hath no other then a poynt to offend, and length to defend, for that cauſe there may be vſed no other deceit therewith, then with the poynt: & conſidering true art, is not the mark that is ſhot at in this place: I ſaie, it may be borne after diuers faſhions, as ſhalbe moſt for a mannes aduantage, as either at the ende, either in the midle, either more backewardes, either more forwardes, as ſhal be thought moſt commodius to the bearer. Likewiſe, one may frame three wardes therewith, to witte, the firſt ſtreight, with the arms equall: the ſecond with the poynt low, the third, the poynt high, falſing in each of them a thruſt, either within, either without, ether high, either lowe, and then immediatly forcing it on reſolutely, but contrarie to the falſe, and carying alwais the hinder foote towardes that ſide, to the which the Pike is directed to ſtrike. In handling of the pike, a man muſt alwaies diligentlie conſider, ſo to worke that the hinder hand be that which may rule, driue on, draw back and gouerne the Pike, and that the fore-hand ſerue to no other purpoſe then to helpe to ſuſteine it.

The defences of the deceites of the weapons of the Staffe.

I Haue not as yet laide downe the defence of the Bil, and the reſt, becauſe they are all one with this of the Pike. And I minde to handle them briefelie all togeither, conſidering that in theſe

a man

a man may not either render falſe for falſe, or take holdfaſt of the weapon. And although it might bee done, I commend it not, becauſe it is a verie difficult matter to extort a weapon that is holden faſt with both handes. That therefore which one may doe to defend himſelfe, is to haue recourſe vnto true Art, remembring ſo to warde the enimies falce, as if it were a true blowe, and to ſtrike before the enimie ſpend an other time, in deliuering his reſolute thruſt, And to take heede in deliuerie of his blowes, that he be nimble and carrie his bodie and armes ſo aptlie and orderlie applied, that the weapon wherewith he ſtriketh may couer it wholy.

And here I make an ende of diſceit, in practiſing of the which, there is this conſideration to be had, ſo, alwaies to falſe, that if the enimie prouide not to ward, it may reach & hit home, becaus being deliuered in ſuch order, it loſeth but little time.

The ende of the falſe Arte.

How a man by priuat practiſe may *obtain ſtrength of bodie therby*

IF nature had beſtowed ſtrength vpon men (as manie beleeue) in ſuch ſorte as ſhe hath giuen ſight, hearing and other ſences, which are ſuch in vs, that they may not by our endeuour either be encreaſed, or diminiſhed, it ſhould be no leſſe ſuperfluous, then ridiculus to teach howe ſtrength ſhould be obtained, then it were if one ſhould ſay, he would inſtruct a man how to heare and ſee better then he doth alreadie by nature. Neither albeit he that becommeth a Painter or a Muſition ſeeth the propor-

tions much better then he did before, or by hearing leſ-neth the harmonie and conformitie of voices which he knew not, ought it therefore be ſaide, that he ſeeth or hea-reth more then he did? For that procedeth not of bet-ter hearing or ſeeing, but of ſeeing and hearing with more reaſon. But in ſtrength it doth not ſo come to paſſe: For it is manifeſtlie ſeene, that a man of ripe age and ſtrength, cannot lift vpp a waight to daie which he canne doe on the morrowe, or ſome other time. But contrarie, if a man proue with the ſelfe ſame ſight on the morroe or ſome other time to ſee a thing which yeſterday he ſawe not in the ſame diſtance, he ſhall but trouble him-ſelfe in vaine, and be in daunger rather to ſee leſſe then more, as it commonlie happeneth to ſtudentes and other ſuch, who do much exerciſe their ſight. Therefore there is no doubt at all but that mans ſtrength may be encreaſed by reaſonable exerſiſe, And ſo likewiſe by too much reſt it may be diminiſhed: the which if it were not manifeſt, yet it might be proued by infinite examples. You ſhall ſee Gentlemen, Knights and others, to bee moſt ſtrong and nimble, in running or leaping, or in vawting, or in turning on Horſe-backe, and yet are not able by a great deale to beare ſo great a burthen as a Cuntrie man or Porter: But contrarie in running and leaping, the Porter and Cuntrie-man are moſt ſlow and heauie, neither know they howe to vawte vpon their horſe without a ladder. And this proce-deth of no other cauſe, then for that euerie man is not ex-erciſed in that which is moſt eſteemed: So that if in the ma-naging of theſe weapons, a man would gette ſtrength, it ſhalbe conuenient for him to exerciſe himſelfe in ſuch ſort as ſhalbe declared.

For the obtaining of this ſtrength and actiuitie, three things ought to be conſidered, to witte, the armes, the feete and the leggs, in each of which it is requiſite that eue-rie one be greatlie exerciſed, conſidering that to know wel how to mannage the armes, and yet to bee ignorant in the motion of the feete, wanting skill how to goe forwardes

and

and retire backewardes, cauſeth men oftentimes to ouerthrowe themſelues.

And on the other ſide, when one is exerciſed in the gouerning of his feete, but is ignorant in the timelie motion of his armes, it falleth out that he goeth forwards in time, but yet wanting skill how to moue his armes, he doth not onelie not offend the enimie, but alſo manie times remaineth hurte and offended himſelf. The bodie alſo by great reaſon ought to be borne and ſuſteyned vpon his foundation. For when it boweth either too much backewardes or forwardes, either on the on or other ſide, ſtreight waie the gouernment of the arms and leggs are fruſtrate and the bodie, will or nill, remaineth ſtriken. Therefore I will declare the manner firſt how to exerciſe the *Armes*, ſecondlie the *Feete*, thirdly the *Bodie, Feete & Armes*, ioynly:

Of the exerciſe and ſtrength of the armes.

SET a man be neuer ſo ſtrong and luſtie, yet he ſhall deliuer a blowe more ſlowe and with leſſe force then an other ſhall who is leſſe ſtrong, but more exerciſed: & without doubt he ſhall ſo wearie his armes, handes and bodie, that he cannot long endure to labour in any ſuch buſines. And there hath beene manie, who by reaſon of ſuch ſudden wearines, haue ſuddenlie diſpaired of themſelues, giuing ouer the exerciſe of the wepon, as not appertaining vnto them. Wherein they deceiue themſelues, for ſuch wearines is vanquiſhed by exerciſe, by meanes whereof it is not long, but that the bodie feete & armes are ſo ſtrenghned, that heauie things ſeem light, & that they are able to handle verie nimblie anie kinde of weapon, and in briefe ouercome all kind of difficulty and hardneſſe. Therefore when one would exerciſe his armes, to the entent to getте ſtrength, he muſt endeuour continuallie to ouercome wearines, reſoluing himſelf in his iudgement, that paines is

not cauſed, through debilitie of nature, but rather hangs about him, becauſe he hath not accuſtomed to exerciſe his members thereunto.

There are two things to be conſidered in this exerciſe, to wit the hand that moueth, and the thing that is moued, which two things being orderlie laid downe, I hope I ſhall obtaine as much as I deſire. As touching the hand and arme, according as I haue alreadie ſaide, it was deuided in the treatiſe of the true Arte, in three partes, that is to ſaie, into the wriſt, the elbowe, and the ſhoulder, In euerie of the which it is requiſite, that it moue moſt ſwiftlie and ſtronglie, regarding alwaies in his motion the qualitie of the weapon that is borne in the hande, the which may be infinite, and therefore I will leaue them and ſpeake onelie of the ſingle ſword, becauſe it beareth a certaine proportion and agreement vnto all the reſt.

The ſword as each man knowes, ſtriketh either with the poynt or with the edge. To ſtrike edgewiſe, it is required that a man accuſtome himſelfe to ſtrike edgewiſe as well right as reuerſed with ſome cudgell or other thing apt for the purpoſe, Firſt practiſing to fetch the compaſſe of the ſhoulder, which is the ſtrongeſt, and yet the ſloweſt edgeblowe that may be giuen: Next and preſentlie after, the cópaſſe of the elbowe, then that of the wriſt, which is more preſte and readie then any of the reſt. After certaine daies that he hath exerciſed theſe three kindes of compaſsing edgeblows on after an other as ſwiftly as he may poſsible And when he feleth in him ſelfe that he hath as it were vnloſed all thoſe three knittings or ioyntes of the arme, and can ſtrike and deliuer ſtronglie from two of thoſe ioyntes, to witte the *Elbowe* & the *Wriſt*, he ſhal then let the *Shoulder* ioynt ſtand, and accuſtome to ſtrike ſtronglie and ſwiftlie with thoſe two of the *Elbow* and the *Wriſt*, yet at the length and in the ende of all ſhal onlie in a maner practiſe that of the *VVriſt*, when he perceiueth his hand-wriſt to be well ſtrengthened, deliuering this blowe of the *Wriſt*, twice or thrice, ſometimes right, ſometims reuerſed, once

right

right, and once reuerſed, two reuerſes and one right, and likewiſe, two right and one reuerſed, to the ende that the hande take not a cuſtome to deliuer a righte blowe immediatlie after a reuerſe. For ſometimes it is commodius, and doth much aduantage a man to deliuer two right, and two reuerſed, or elſe after two right, one reuerſed: and theſe blowes, ought to be exerciſed, as well with one hand as with the other, ſtanding ſtedfaſt in one reſonable pace, practiſing them now alofte, now beneath, now in the middle. As touching the waight or heſt, which is borne in the hande, be it ſword or other weapon, I commend not their opinion any waie, who will for the ſtrengthning of a mans arme that he handle firſt a heauie weapon, becauſe being firſt vſed to them, afterwardes, ordinarie weapons will ſeeme the lighter vnto him, but I think rather the contrarie, to wite, that firſt to the end, he doe not ouer burthen & choak his ſtrength, he handle a verie light ſword, & ſuch a one, that he maie moſt nimblie moue. For the ende of this arte is not to lifte vp or beare great burdens, but to moue ſwiftelie. And there is no doubt but he vanquiſheth which is moſt nimblie, and this nimbleneſſe is not obtained by handling of great heftes or waightes, but by often mouing.

But yet after that he hath ſometime trauailed with a light weapon, then it is neceſſarie according as he feeleth himſelfe to increaſe in ſtrength of arme, that he take an other in hande, that is ſomething heauier, and ſuch a one as will put him to a little more paine, but yet not ſo much, that his ſwiftnes in motion be hindred thereby. And as his ſtrength encreaſeth, to encreaſe likewiſe the waight by litle and litle. So will it not be long, but that he ſhalbe able to mannage verie nimblie any heauie ſword. The blowe of the poynt or the thruſt, cannot be handled without the conſideration of the feete and body, becauſe the ſtrong deliuering of a thruſt, conſiſteth in the apt and timelie motion of the armes feete and bodie: For the exerciſe of which, it is neceſſarie that he knowe how to place them in euerie

of the three wardes, to the ende, that from the warde he may deliuer ſtrongly a thruſt in as little time as is poſsible. And therefore he ſhall take heede that in the low warde, he make a reaſonable pace, bearing his hande without his knee, forſing on the thruſt nimblie, and retiring his arme backward, and ſomewhat encreaſing his forefoote more forwardes, to the end, the thruſt may reach the farther: But if he chance to increaſe the forefoot a litle too much, ſo that the breadth thereof be painfull vnto him, then for the auoiding of inconueniences, he ſhall draw his hinderfoot ſo much after, as he did before increaſe with the forefoote. And this thruſt muſt be oftentimes ſerked or ſprong forth, to the end to lengthen the arme, accuſtoming to driue it on vvithout retyring of it ſelfe, that by that meanes it may the more readily ſettle in the broad warde. For that is framed (as it is well knowen) with the arme & foote widened outwards, but not lengthened towards the ehimie. And in thruſting let him ſee, that he deliuer them as ſtraight as he can poſsibly, to the end, they may reach out the longer.

At what time one would deliuer a thruſte, it is requiſite that he moue the body & feete behind, ſo much in a compaſſe; that both the ſhoulders, arme & feet, be vnder one ſelf ſame ſtraight lyne. Thus exerciſinge him ſelfe he ſhal nimbly deliuer a verie great & ſtrong thruſt. And this manner of thruſting ought oftentimes to be practiſed, accuſtoming the bodie & feete (as before) to moue in a compaſſe: for this mocion is that which inſtructeth one, how he ſhall voide his bodie. The thruſt of the high warde is hardeſt of all other, not of it ſelfe, but becauſe it ſeemes that the high ward (eſpecially with the right foote before) is verie painfull. And becauſe there are few who haue the skil to place themſelues as they ought to deliuer the thruſt in as little time as is poſsible. The firſt care therefore in this ward is, ſo to place himſelfe, that he ſtande ſteddily. And the ſyte thereof is in this manner, to wite: To ſtande vvith the arme aloft, and as right ouer the bodie as is poſsible, to the end he may force on the thruſt vvithout drawing

ing back of the arme or looſing of time. And vvhileſt the arme is borne ſtraight on high (to the end it may be borne the more ſtreight, & with leſſe paines) the feete alſo vvould ſtand cloſe and vnited together, & that beecaule, this vvard is rather to ſtrike than to defend, and therefore it is neceſſarie that it haue his increaſe prepared: ſo that vvhen the thruſt is diſcharged, he ought therevvithall to increaſe the forefoote ſo much that it make a reaſonable pace, and then to let fal the hand dovvn to the lovve vvarde, from the vvhich if he vvould depart againe, and aſſend to the high vvard, he muſt alſo retire his forefoot, neer vnto the hinder foote, or els the hinderfoote to the forefoot, And in this manner he ſhall practiſe to deliuer his thruſt oftentimes alvvaies placing himſelfe in this high vvarde vvith his feet vnited, diſcharging the thruſt vvith the increaſe of the fore foot. But vvhen it ſeems tedious and painfull to frame this vvarde, then he muſt vſe, for the lengthninge of his arme, to faſten his hande and take houldefaſt on ſome nooke or ſtaſe, that ſtandeth out in a vvall, as high as he may liftvpp his arme, turning his hand as if he held a ſvvord, for this ſhall helpe very much to ſtrengthen his arme, and make his bodie ant to ſtand at his vvarde. Novv vvhen he hath applied this exerciſe, for a reaſonable time, ſo that he may perceiue by himſelfe that he is nimble and actiue in deliuering theſe blovves and thruſts ſimplie by themſelues, then he ſhall practiſe to compound them, that is to ſaie, after a thruſt to deliuer a right blovve from the vvriſt, then a reuerſe, and after that an other thruſt, alvvaies remembring vvhen he deliuereth a blovve from the vvriſt, after a thruſt to compaſſe his hinderfoote, to the end, the blovve may be the longer: And vvhen, after this right blovve, he vvould ducharge a reuerſe, he muſt encreaſe a ſlope pace, that preſently after it, he maie by the encreaſe of a ſtreight pace, forſe on a ſtronge thruſt vnderneath. And ſo to exerciſe himſelfe to deliuer manie of thoſe orderlie blovves togeither, but yet alvvaies vvith the true motion of the feet and bodie, and vvith as great nimbleneſſe, and in as ſhorte

time

time as is poſsible, taking this alwaies for a moſt ſure and certaine rule, that he moue the armes & feete, keeping his body firme and ſtedfaſt, ſo that it go not beaſtly forwarde, (and eſpecially the head being a member of ſo great importance) but to keepe alvvaies his bodie bovved rather backvvard than forvvard, neither to turne it but onely in a compaſſe to voide blovves and thruſtes.

More ouer, it ſhall not be amiſſe, after he hath learned to ſtrike, (to the end to ſtrengthen his armes) if he cauſe an other to force at him, either vvith a cudgell, or ſome other heauie thing, both edgeblovves & thruſtes, and that he enconnter & ſuſtaine them vvith a ſworde, & ward thruſtes by auoyding his bodie, and by encreaſing forvvardes. And likevviſe vnder edgeblovves, either ſtrike before they light, or els encounter them on their firſt partes, vvith the encreaſe of a pace, that thereby he may be the more readie to deliuer a thruſt, and more eaſily ſuſtaine the blovve. Farther, vvhen he ſhall perceiue, that he hath conueniently qualified and ſtrengthned this inſtrument of his bodie, it ſhall remaine, that he onely haue recourſe in his minde to the fiue aduertiſements, by the vvhich a man obtaineth iudgement. And that next, he order and gouerne his motions according to the learning & meaning of thoſe rules. And afterwardes take aduiſe of himſelfe hovv to ſtrike & defend, knovving the aduantage in euery perticular blow. And there is no doubt at all, but by this order he ſhall attaine to that perfection in this Arte vvhich he deſireth.

FINIS.