

giuen to triffing calke, might fay : Giue me this, or sell me that : and when the stranger should
afke, *What* will you giue me for it? the begger might anfwere; I haue ten or foureteen chil-
dren, I will giue you some one or more of them, &c. For this rabble of beggers vseth thus fond-
ly to pae with strangers. Now if there be any well disposed man, who pitying the need and fol-
ly of these beggers, releaseth them of one sonne, and doth for Gods sake by some meanes prouide
for him in another countrey : both the begger therefore (who together with his sonne being reas-
onably) make lesse account of his sonne then of his dogge? Such workes of loue and mercie haue
bene performed by many, aswell *Iflanders* themselves as strangers: one of which number was
that honourable man *Accilius Iulius*, being sent by the most gracious King of Denmarke into
Ifland in the yere of our Lord 1552, who, as I haue heard, tooke, and carried with him into Den-
marke fiftene poore boyes : where after ward it was reported vnto me, that by his good meanes
every one of them being bound to a seuerall trade, proued good and chrestie men.

What if some man be vnto that passe, that he doth not onely sell his sonne, but not finding
a chapman, his owne selfe killeth and eateth him? Examples of this kinde be common, namelie of
the vntoiling and forced cruelty of parents towards their children, not being pycked en throughe
hate, or want of naturall affection, but being compelled therunto by vrgent necessity. Shall a
man hercupon ground a generall reproch against a whole nation? We reade that in the siege
of Samaria, two mothers slew their sonnes, and eat them sodden : 4. King. chap. 6. We reade in
the siege of Ierusalem, how lamentable the voice of that distressed mother was, being about to kill
her tender child : My sweet babe, I pray the (so) I will repoynt Eusebius owne words, concerning
this matter, though very common, that the affection of a mother may appeare) borne to miserie
and mishap, for whom should I conueniently referue thee in this tumult of famine, of warre,
and sedition? If we be subdued to the gouernment of the Romans, we shall weare out our vn-
happy dayes vnder the yoke of slavery. But I thinke famine will preuent captiuitie. Besides,
there is a rout of seditious rebels much more intollerable then either of the former miseries.
Come on therefore, my sonne, be thou meat vnto thy mother, a fury to these rebels, and a by-
word in the common life of men, which one thing onely is wanting to make vp the calamity
of the Iewes. These sayings being ended, she killeth her sonne, roasting and eating one
half, and reseruing the other, &c. *Eusebius lib. 3. cap. 6.* Now, what man will not beleue that
this unhappy mother wold full gladly haue passed ouer this her sonne into the possession of some
matter of chapman, if she could haue happened vpon any such, with whom she thought he might
haue bene preserued? That famine is well known which oppressed *Calagurium*, a city of
Spain, when in olde time *Cacius Pompeius* layed siege thereunto (*Valerius lib. 7. cap. 7.*) the ci-
zens wherof conuerted their wiues and children into meat for the satisfiing of their extreme
hunger, whom doubtlesse they would with all their hearts haue solde for other victuals. That
famine also is well known which in the yere of our Lord 851 (*Vincens lib. 25. cap. 26.*) afflicted
Germany, inso much that the father was glad to deuoure his owne sonne. It is well known af-
ter the death of the Emperour *Henry the seuenth*, in a famine continuing thre whole yeres, how
the parents would deuoure their children, and the children their parents, and that especially in
Polonia and *Bohemia*. And that we may not onely allege ancient examples : it is reported that
there was such a greivous dearth of corne in the yeres 1586, and 1587, throughout *Hungary*,
that some being compelled for want of food were faine to sell their children vnto the most bloudy
and barbarous enemy of Christians, and so to enthrall them to the perpetuall yoke of Turkish
slavery : and some are sayd to haue taken their children, whom they could no longer sustaine, and
with cruell mercy to haue cast them into *Danubius*, and drowned them. But should these stories
make any man so mad as to affirme that this or that nation accustometh to kill their
children for their owne food, and to sell them willingly vnto the Turks, or to dwome and stran-
ge men willingly in the water? I cannot thinke it. So neither (because beggers in *Ifland* be-
ing enforced through extreme and biting necessities, do willingly part with their sonnes) is this
thing generally to be imputed vnto the whole nation, and that by way of disgrace, by any man,
except he be such an one who hath taken his leaue of all modesty, plaine dealing, humanity, and
honour.

But I could wish that the loue of dogges in *Iflanders* might be more sparingly reprehended
those people, whose matrons, and specially their noble women, take so great delight in dogs,
that they carry them in their bosomes thowt the open streets : I will not say in Churches :
which fashion *Caesar* blamed in certaine strangers, whom he saw at Rome carrying about young
children and whelpes in their armes, asking them this question : Whether women in their countrey
ought to carry children or no? Signifying hereby, that they do greatly offend, who bestow vpon
beasts