

And again, where in his remonstrance with his mother, he says :

" Let not the bloated king
Make you to ravel all this matter out,
That I, essentially, am *not* in madness
But mad in craft.

Hamlet had special reasons for not wishing his mother to lay the flattering unction to her soul that he was mad, as it would have destroyed the effect of his severe reproof to her for living in adultery with his uncle, thus not only disgracing herself, but bringing dishonour upon himself.

In the History of Hamblet, * Prince of Denmarke, we learn that the happiness of Horvendille, King of Denmarke, excited the envy of his brother Fengon, who was, moreover, enflamed by love for Geruth, the Queen. The villain paused not to commit a fratricide which placed him on the throne, and facilitated his union with the object of his guilty passion.

Hamblet, the son of Horvendille and Geruth, was quick in his perception of the danger to be apprehended from the murderer of his father, and sought safety in the appearance of mental imbecility, in fact, counterfeited the madman to escape the tyrannie of his uncle, and was greatly tempted by a woman (through his uncle's procurement) who thereby sought to undermine the Prince, and by that means to finde out whether he counterfeited madnesse or not. The woman was accompanied by certain courtiers who were deceived by Hamblet, and who assured themselves that without doubt he was distraught of his senses.

We learn also how Fengon, uncle to Hamblet, a second time to intrap him in his politick madnesse, caused one of his counsellors to be secretly hidden in the Queen's chamber, behind the arras, to heare what speeches passed between Hamblet and the Queen; and how Hamblet killed him, and escaped that danger, and how he was sent to England with secret letters compassing his death, and how Hamblet, when his companions slept, read the letters, and instead of them counterfeited others—or razed out the letters that concerned his death, and instead thereof graved others with commission to the King of England to hang his companions. Everything fell out as Hamblet desired; his attendants were executed.

We also learn that after Hamblet had killed his uncle Fengon he discarded the cloak of folly in which he had hitherto disguised

* "Shakespeare's Library." by J. Payne Collier. 1850. A collection of ancient Novels, Romances, Legends, Poems and Histories used by Shakspeare as the foundation of his dramas.