

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

It comes from Padua, from Bellario:
There you shall find that Portia was the doctor,
Nerissa there her clerk.

(Astonishment and great joy all round.)

Antonio, you are welcome;
And I have better news in store for you
Than you expect. Unseal this letter soon.
There you shall find three of your argosies
Are richly come to harbour suddenly.

Bass. (C). Were you the doctor and I knew
you not?

Ant. (L). Sweet lady, you have given me
life and living;

For here I read for certain that my ships
Are safely come to road.

*Por. (L C).*¹ How now, Lorenzo!
My clerk had some good comforts too for you.

Ner. Ay, and I'll give them him without a
fee.

There do I give to you and Jessica,
From the rich Jew, a special deed of gift —
(After his death) of all he dies possessed of.

[They go up to L C.]

Por. (L C). It is almost morning,²
And yet I am sure you are not satisfied