

(Though ever thought a man averse to women)  
 First gave her entertainment, made her way  
 For audience to my sister?—Then I did  
 Myself observe how he was ravish'd with  
 The gracious\* delivery of her story;  
 Which was, I grant, the bait that first took me too.

It is one of Massinger's peculiar characteristics that scarcely an incident, a speech, or even a single interjection, as in this instance, occurs, which, however apparently trifling or unnecessary at the time, does not conduce to some circumstances connected with the developement of his plot. Theodosius's jealousy is a good comment upon Shakespeare's text.

—————Trifles light as air,  
 Are to the jealous, confirmation strong,  
 As proofs of holy writ.

If I were to notice all the beauties as they occur my task would only end with the last scene of the last act, yet I can not pass the following terse union of truth and forcible expression, in the first scene;

—————Long delays,  
 More terrible to miserable suitors  
 Than quick denials.

### In Scene 2, Pulcheria to Theodosius,

You may *intend* these royal exercises :

*intend* here is applied in the sense in which it is used by Bacon, *to pay regard or attention to.*

In the speech of the master of the manners,

—————How low a new stamp'd courtier  
 May *vail* to a country gentleman.

And again,

He must start up t' embrace them, *vail* thus low;

\* Massinger very generally makes dactyls of such words as *gracious*, *virtuous*, *partial*, etc. So does sometimes Shakespeare.

The brightest Heaven of invention. Prol. to Henry V.