

them, it seems as if they were intended to serve some purpose in the developement of the plot; and the circumstance of their recognising Mustapha and Donusa in their disguise, leads to a conclusion that they were intended to be subsequently produced as witnesses of Donusa's behaviour to Vitelli; yet they do not afterwards make their appearance, and are therefore merely introduced on the stage as part of the crowd frequenting the mart. This is so contrary to Massinger's usual custom, who seldom introduces any character or incident, however apparently trifling, without a purpose conducing, either directly or remotely, to the projected catastrophe, that I can not avoid taking notice of it. They ought, indeed, if they be meant only to swell the number of frequenters of the bazar, to enter at first, and to be those whom Gazet addresses in his first speech, "what do you lack," "what do you lack, gentlemen;" instead of which, they do not enter but with Grimaldi and his crew, with whom they do not appear to have any connection, tho' they make a remark upon "the insolence of this fellow."

### Act II. Scene 1.

"She slept not the last night, and yet prevented.  
The rising sun, in being up before him."

*Prevented* is here used in its original and literal sense, being derived through the French, from the Latin *prævenio*, to go or come before. To obstruct or hinder, its present colloquial sense, is the effect, not the action; by preventing or arriving before another, the object of that other is obstructed, and the cause has thus, by a not uncommon metonymy, been admitted to signify the consequence.

"Car. I'm libb'd in the breech already."