

to be werry in the disgrating of others: and yet I will not the wmy selfe such a milke-soppe as to be daunted with light wordes. Oncely, let all honest and good men consider, what disposition it argueth, for one to object against a whole nation certaine misfemeanours committed by some one or other particular man. If any man should crauell thozowout all the cities and townes of Germany, manslaughterers, murderers, whoopedomes, adulteries, incests, riots, extortions, and other prophane, and filthy acts, should affirme them to be common to all Germans, or otherwise to any other whole nation, and should exaggerate all these things with noxious lies, is he to be accounted one that spends his time in a good argument? But what maneruaile is it, though a varlet, and, disposition in such like reproches? For it is well knowen that swine, when they enter into most pleasant gardens, do not plucke lillies, or roses, or any other most beautifull and sweet flowers; but churlling their snouts into the ground, doe tumble and cosse vp and downe whatsoeuer dureth best agreeable to their nature, wherewith they greedily glut themselves: Euen so this hogge, such things as best fit his humour and disposition (that he might indeed thew himselfe to be the same which we haue termed him) those things (I say) hath he scraped vp together: wherupon hereafter by my consent, for his maners and disposition let him enjoy the name of a swine.

*The fifteenth section.*

WE will heere rehearse the ninth reproch, which that slanderous hogge hath bzawen from the maner of liuing, and specially from the meat and drinke of the *Jflanders*, and charact in one or a few wordes, but in a large inuective: namely, that they eate olde and vnswallow meates, and that, without the vse of bread. Also, that they eate diuers kinds of fishes which are vnknown to strangers: and that they mingle water and whey together for drinke. All which this venomous pastquill, with eloquent railing and wittie flauour hath set out at the full.

*The ninth reproch.*

And albeit we doe scarce vouchsafe to stand longer about answering of him, yet in regard of others, who at this day partly wonder at the matter, and partly object it to our nation, we thought good to adde some few things in this place.

First therefore we will diuide this our nation into two partes: into beggers, and those that susteine both themselves, and, amongst others, beggers also. As touching all kinds of meats wherewith beggers and other poore men satisfie their hunger, it is no easie matter to rehearse and examine them: neither, because extream necessity hath at some times compelled them to eate this or that, therefore is it meet to prescribe certaine kindes and number of meats to the rest of the nation. For we haue alwaies a law among the canons apostolicall, which forbiddeth to eat things straggled: in the obseruing of which canons, antiquity hath seemed to be very deuout.

Howeouer, we will make a distinction of times also, that it may seeme no strange accident in the time of famine, though many things are, and haue bene used by a great number of men to satisfie their hunger, which at other times are scarce meat for dogges. As very lately in the yeere 1550 we heard concerning the citizens of Paris, being environed with the most streight siege of Aguntum; in somuch that they did not onely eate their horses, but also taking the flesh of dead men, and beating their bones to powder in a moyter, they mingled therewith a handfull or two of meale, eleeming it dainties. And it is well known also of other nations, who in the like vntimely necessities haue liued by eating of mice, cats and dogs. In like maner sometimes are we constrained to doe, not being besieged by our enemies (although hitherto we haue abounded from mans flesh, yea, and to our knowledge, from dogs, mice, and cats) for whereas we haue things necessary for food out of the land and sea, & no sustenance, or very little, is brought vnto vs by strangers: so often as God withholdeth his gifts of land and sea, then must follow and ensue a deadly full scarcitie of victuals, wherupon the inhabitants are sometimes vered with grievous famine. And therefore it is likely that they amongst vs which used to liue from hand to mouth, and had not some provision of former yeeres remaining, haue bene driven to great extremities, so often as need hath enforced them thereto. But whether this thing ought woorthily to minister occasion to a publique and perpetuall reproch against the *Jflanders*, more then other nations, I referre it to the iudgement of indifferent and honest minde.

Howeouer,