

A tedious story-teller sat, at an ordinary, next to a gentleman who bestowed much more of his attention upon the turbot, and the beef, than upon the prolix relations of his neighbour. The latter had just finished a long account of the manner in which his father had met his death, and concluded it by asking the devotee of Apicius, "and pray Sir, how did your father die?" Interrupted in finishing his turtle-soup whilst his eye was fixed upon a smoking larded hare that was just being carved, the other hastily replied, "O Sir, my father died suddenly."

When Gondemar, the Spanish ambassador, was in England in the reign of James I. we are informed by an author of that time, that those who had handsome wives and daughters, purposely threw them in his way, and that some frail ladies had sold their favours at a very dear rate. Lady Jacob, who was one of the wits of that age, happened to stand at the balcony of her house in Drury lane when Gondemar passed; and when he came opposite to her, gave him no other salutation than that of opening her mouth as wide as she could, and when the ambassador returned the same way she did the same. The haughty Spaniard took umbrage at what he conceived to be an insult, and sent a message to enquire the motive for this act of incivility. She replied that she had heard he had purchased some trifling favours from some other ladies at a very exorbitant price, and she gaped to let him know that she had a mouth to be stopped as well as others.

Nigrolio leads a married wife
 Not with his own, but neighbour's wife,
 Cornelius knows it to be thus,
 But he's Cornelius Tacitus.