

at the end of which time he promised to return to England, and to "espouse the said Lucy according to the law of Holy Chirche," at the same time especially desiring the plaintiff to maintain the said Lucy and a maidservant to attend upon her, providing them with meat, drink, and clothing, and all things necessary, until his return from beyond the sea, when he promised faithfully to repay to the plaintiff all the costs and charges which he had incurred in that behalf; to which the plaintiff agreed, "giffying full trust and confidence to the promises of the said Maister Richard." The latter, however, departed to "Padowe," and there and in other places absented himself from England for the space of ten years, "to the full grete hurt and hevynes" both of the plaintiff and the said Lucy, who, together with her maid, was provided by the plaintiff during the whole of that time with meat, drink, clothing, and all other necessities. After the expiration of the ten years, "Maister Richard" returned to England, and being required by the plaintiff to fulfil the contract of marriage between himself and the said Lucy, and also to reimburse him for the maintenance of her and her maid during his protracted absence, with other "grevous hurtez, costez, and charges" incurred by him, utterly refused to do either, "which is not only to the greate hurte and hevynes of your said besecher, but also to the greate perell and iopardy of soule of the same Maister Richard;" which sums of money, with other "reasonable considerations," which ought to be paid to the said plaintiff, are set out in a schedule annexed to the plaintiff's bill.

In the foregoing proceedings it is worthy of remark that the plaintiff, having affianced his daughter-in-law to an eligible suitor, considers himself thereby relieved from the duty of maintaining her to the same extent as if she were already the wife of the defaulting law-student, which in effect she was. Unjustifiable as the defendant's conduct seems to have been, the claim for damages to the unfortunate Lucy, as appears by an item in the schedule, represents only the sum actually expended on her in consequence of "hir sore and gret sekenes" caused by his "onkyndnes and chaungeablenes," and makes no pretence to compensation for her shattered hopes and wounded feelings, which in a modern suit of this kind would have been assessed at no inconsiderable figure.

In the fourth of these curious actions, the date of which appears to have been between the years 1504 and 1515, the gentleman is again the plaintiff, and seems, according to his own statement, like the defaulting swain first referred to, to have been considerably sought after; both the lady's father and her uncle having used "gret instaunce and labor" to induce him to take her to his affections, although they seem, for some unexplained reason, to have afterwards changed their minds; not, however, before the plaintiff had bestowed on the chosen lady many tokens of affection, which, matter-of-fact man that he is, he now seeks to recover, together with his expenses in going to visit her.

The plaintiff in this case, one John James, who appears, curiously enough, to have also been a "law-student," alleges that one Thomas Morgan, of Northampton, scribe there to the Commissary of the Bishop of Lincoln, and Robert Morgan, his brother, "instantly labored your said besecher to take to wyfe one Elizabeth Morgan, daughter to the said Robert Morgan, with whom your said