

But yet there remaines that viperous German vizard, the mother whereof would haue it come to light, as it were at a second birth, without name, that it might so much the more freely wound the fame of the Islanders with venenous sting.

Howeuer, although I be not afraid to encounter with this beast, yet would I haue all men to know with what minde I vnder take this enterprize, namely, not that I meane to contend with his pestiferous rancour, by repproches, and railing speeches (for as it is in the common prouerbe: I know, that if I strive with dung most vile, How ere it be, my selfe I shall defile)

but that I may sacrifice all honest and well affected men, euen strangers themselves, who shall hereafter read: or heare, or haue heretofore heard that Germane pasquill, least they also should thinke that we in this isle sustaine so monstrous a disgrace: and also that I may from henceforth, restrain others (who vse those venenous Germane rimes to the vpholding of our nation, and from hence borrow their scoffes, or repprochfull tauntes to the debasing of vs Islanders) from that liberie of backbiting.

Therefore, that I may not be tedious to the reader with long circumstances, I will come to the rehearsing of those things which that railing Germane hath heaped vp in his lewd pasquill: of this my booke, but that I doe foresee that the sayd slanderous libell being stuffed with so many and diuers repproches, might breed offence to all honest men, and deterre them from reading it,

I will therefore repeat the principall matters (committing those things which he hath common with others, or that heretofore haue bene examined) but farre more modestly then he, least (as I sayd) I cause good and learned mens eares to tingle at his lewd and vnseemely rimes: they that (I say) to defile these papers with his stinking slanders, or with the filthy linke of his repproches, first therefore, this our goodly Germane Historiographer obiecteth that there be many Pa-

The first objection of repproch.

stours in Island, which preach not to their people once in two yeres, as it is read in the former pasours vse to preach but fene times in an whole yere: saying that the sayd cher, let the reader be iudge, seeing it is manifest that the authour himselfe, presently after the saying: Truth agreeth vnto truth; but falshood agreeth neither to truth nor to falshood.

But sith it is our part not to dissemble the trueth in any place, we will not denie that holy sermons, about the time wherein this sycophant liued in Island, namely in the yere 1554, were sel- domer in vse then they are at this day, namely, the darkenesse of popery being scarcely at that time dispelled. Which also is to be vnderstood concerning the Psalmes of David mumbled by the common people in Latine, as he casteth vs in the teeth: for the Papists grombing all the hope of their saluation in the Masse, do little regard the sermon, or doctrine. But after we were freed from that mist, it hath bene (God be thanked) farre otherwise with vs: although we cannot altogether excuse the dulnesse, slouth, and preposterous care of certeine of our Pastours, Which, whether it agreeth to any of thier countrey men or no, let other nations iudge.

The twelfth section.

Secondly, the trifler shamefully repprogeth, that adulteries and whoredomes are not onely pub- lique, and common vices amongst Islanders: but that they are not accounted by them for vices.

The second repproch.

Although indeed these most filthy abominations, euen in our common wealch, be not altogether vnusall: notwithstanding, since all men know that they are farre more common in o- ther nations, where be greater multitudes of people, he did vnseruedly, and maliciously note the crime then our countrey men.

And albeit I with all mine heart that vices and enymities were much lesse wincked at in our countrey, then we see they are, yet notwithstanding this iugler, by reason of his naturall inclination to backbiting, hath added this in his last repproch: namely, that these vices by the Islanders are not accounted for vice. For, in what common wealch dare the impudent companion affirme this to be true: What: in that common wealch which hath sworn to obserue the law contained in our Statute booke vnder the title of Manhelge chap. 28, whereby it is enacted, that whosoever committeth adultery with another mans wife the second time, his goods being con- fiscate,