

# **1. *Tarltons Court wittie Iests***

## **1.1.**

Riley Bazaar

### **1.1.1. *Tarlton Played the Drunkard Before the Queen***

The Queen was not content: Tarlton saw this and took it upon himself to make her smile. To do so, he acted like a drunk and asked for beer to be brought to him immediately: The Queen acknowledged and embraced his silly act and commanded him to not have any more to drink, or else he would truly be a mess! Tarlton responded to her and told her to not fear, due to the fact that her beers are small and not impactful to him. To this, the Queen knew he was joking and laughed, commanding that he should definitely not have any more!

## **1.2.**

### **1.2.1. *How Tarlton Deceived teh Watch in Fleet Street***

Tarlton was late to Court and when he approached Fleetstreet he saw the police. He did not know how to pass them and he attempted to go by them very fast, thinking that he would go unexamined. However, the police took this action as an act of him completely disregarding their presence and commanded him (in the Queen's name) to stop. Tarlton acted as if he could not stand, he fell to the ground as if he was drunk and so they let him pass because he was intoxicated.

## **1.3.**

### **1.3.1. *How Tarlton Flouted a Lady in the Court***

One time, Tarlton was at a banquet at Greenwich. The Queen was there and had her ladies there too. One of them had a full face of pimples and she also refused to drink wine with the other Ladies. Tarlton saw this (and he knew he was there to entertain), and so he began to make fun of her appearance. The rest of the ladies laughed, however she was embarrassed and left the banquet.

## **1.4.**

### **1.4.1. *Tarlton's Opinion of Oysters***

Certain Noblemen and Ladies were eating Oysters. One of them saw Tarlton and called for him, asking if he liked Oysters. Tarlton replied, stating no because they are an ungodly, uncharitable, and unprofitable meat. In response they asked Tarlton why he thought that, and Tarlton responded by saying that they are eaten without grace, they are uncharitable because they are inside of a shell, and they are unprofitable because they must swim in wine.

## **1.5.**

### **1.5.1. *Tarlton's Resolution of a Question***

A Gentleman asked Tarlton what time he thought the Devil to be most active? Tarlton's response was, "When the Pope dies, why?". The Gentlemen replied by saying that then all of the Devils are active to plague him, because he has done many people wrong who want him to be plagued by the Devil.

## **1.6.**

Haley Beardsley

### **1.6.1. *How a Parsonage Fell into Tarlton's Hands***

The Queen was dining in the Strand at the Lord Treasurers house. The lords were very eager for her to stay all night, but nothing would convince her. Tarlton was in his clown costume, being at the dinner, and hearing the sorrow of the noblemen that she would not stay, he asked the nobles what they would give him to convince her to stay. The lords promised him anything to perform it. He said, 'procure me the Shard parsonage. They arranged for the patent to be drawn up; he put on a parson's gown and a corner cap, and standing upon the stairs where the

Queen would descend, he repeated these words: 'A parson or no parson? A parson or no parson?' But after she knew what he meant, she not only stayed all night, but the next day will that he should have possession of a benefice. A madder parson there never was, for he threatened to turn the bell metal into lining for his purse - which he did, the parsonage and all, into ready money

## 1.7.

Haley Beardsley

### ***1.7.1. How Tarlton Proved Two Gentlewomen Dishonest by Their Own Words***

Tarlton seeing in Greenwich two gentlewomen in the garden together, to make myrth, comes to them and enquires thus: 'Gentlemwomen, which of you two is the more honest?' 'I', says the one, 'I hope without exceptions.' 'And I', quoth the other, 'since we must speak of ourselves.' 'So then,' says Tarlton, 'one of you by your own words is dishonest, one being more honest than the other, else you would answer othersie. But as I found you, so I leave you.'

## 1.8.

Haley Beardsley

### ***1.8.1. How Tarlton Answered a Wanton Gentlewoman***

A Gentlewoman merrily disposed, being crossed by Tarlton and half angry, said 'Sirra, a little thing would make me requite you with a cuff.' 'With a cuff, lady,' says Tarlton. 'So would you spell my sorrow forward, but spell my sorrow backward, then cuff me and spare not?' When the gentlemen who were near considered the word, their laughing made the simple-meaning gentlewoman to blush for shame

## 1.9.

Haley Beardsley

### ***1.9.1. How Tarlton Dared a Lady***

At the dinner in the great chamber where Tarlton jested, the ladies were daring one another. Quoth one, 'I have always done things that is honest and honorable.' 'A French crown of that,' says Tarlton. 'Ten pounds of that,' says the lady. 'Done,' says one. 'Done,' says another. Tarlton put a two-pence between his lips, and dared her to take it away with her lips. 'Fie,' says she, 'That is immodesty.' 'What, to kiss?' says Tarlton. 'Then immodesty bears a great hand over all. But once in your life say you have been beaten at your own weapon.' 'Well, sir,' says she. 'You may say anything.' 'Then says Tarlton, 'remember I say you dare not, and so my wager is good.'

## 1.10.

Aden Brooks

### ***1.10.1. How Tarlton landed at Cuckolds Haven***

One Sunday, Tarlton spent the day at court. With the help of a pair of oars, he left during the night. Tarlton was drinking alcohol and the Watermen were also drunk, for the most part. Finally, they left Greenwich at low tide. The Watermen became afraid of the cables by the Lime-house. It was very dark and late, and Tarlton arrived at Cuckold's-haven. The Watermen told him they would tell him why they were there the following day. Tarlton wanted to walk to Redriffe. He walked through the dirty bank of water which was up to his knees. When he came back home, he had one of his boys help him take off his boots. His socks were stained a different color because of the dirty water he walked through. One of the men asked him about this the next day. "Tarlton, please tell me as I would like to know, did you go to Cuckold's-haven?" Tarlton answered: "Yes sir, and I was respectful."

## 1.11.

Aden Brooks

### ***1.11.1. The Fight Between Tarlton and Black Davie***

Not long ago, lived a boaster named Black Davie who would fence with any gentleman for money. He was hired to draw upon Tarlton, for breaking a jest upon Kate, a "punk" men called her. One evening Tarlton arrived at the court gate at Whitehall. He walked toward the Tilt-yard and Davie immediately drew upon Tarlton, who although

he was amazed, fought back. Tarlton courageously took him in his arms and threw him into the Tilt-yard. Davie fell on his nose, and broke it. Davie spent all night laying in the Tilt-yard, waiting for the doors to open. The Barber surgeons told him what happened, since Tarlton was at a tavern with Cockatrice huffing Kate. Tarlton asked for wine, but she told him that he would burn without it so she would not drink it. He then answered, "how shall I be burned, as you cannot burn without fire?" She then replied, "Marry me, take the cup in your hand and I will tell you." He filled the cup in her hand and said it was burned sufficiently in a fiery place. She perceived herself in such a way that she hired me to win the fight against herself.

## 1.12.

Julia Calderone

### 1.12.1. *How Tarlton Answered the Watchmen Coming from the Court*

Tarlton having played before the Queen, until one o'clock, coming home, one of them spotted him as asked "sir, who is there?". Tarlton answered by saying "a woman" was there and the Watchmen called him out his lie by reasoning that women do not have beards. Tarlton replies, explaining that if he had said he said a man, which the watchmen know to be true, they would have reasoned otherwise. Therefore, I said woman, and so I am all woman, having pleased the Queen by being a woman. Another watchmen responds by saying "I present the Queen". Then I am a woman indeed, Tarlton says, as well as you, for you also have a beard and truly Mistris Annis, my buske is not done yet, when will yours be done? Leave the lying fellow, said the Watch. The Queen's order is that whoever is taken without doors after ten o'clock, shall be committed, and now it is past one. Commit all, says Tarlton, for it be past one o'clock, it will not ten this eight hours. One of the watchmen lifts up his lantern, and looks him in the face, and knew him. Indeed Mr. Tarlton you have more wit then we all do, for it is true that ten was before one, but now one is before ten. It is true, said Tarlton, Watchmen don't have more wit, but for want of sleep they are turned into fools. So, Tarlton stole from them and the watchmen that seemed wise went home to bed.

## 1.12.2.

Julia Calderone

### 1.12.2.1. *Tarlton's Answer to a Courtier*

After being at the Court all night, Tarlton met a great Courtier coming from his Chamber in the morning. The Courtier said "Good morning Master Didimus and Tridimus". Tarlton being somewhat abashed, not knowing the meaning of his remark, said "Sir, I do not understand you, expound I pray you". The Courtier said Didimus and Tridimus is a fool and a knave. You overload me Tarlton replied, for my back cannot bear both. Therefore you take one, and I will take the other. You take the knave, and I will carry the fool with me.

## 1.12.3.

Julia Calderone

### 1.12.3.1. *Tarlton's Quip for a Young Courtier*

There was a young Gentlemen in the Court, that has first laid with the Mother, and after with the daughter, and having done so, asked Tarlton what is resembled. He said if you should first have eaten the Hen, and after the Chicken.

## 1.12.4.

Luke Derr

### 1.12.4.1. *Tarlton's Answer to a Nobleman's Question*

There was a nobleman that asked Tarlton what he thought of soldiers in time of peace? He says, they are like chimneys in summer.

## 1.12.5.

Luke Derr

### 1.12.5.1. *Tarlton's Jest to an Unthrifty Courtier*

There was a deadbeat Gallant belonging to the Court that had borrowed five pounds from Tarlton, but having lost it at Dice, he sent his man to Tarlton to borrow five pounds more, already owing him five pounds: tell your master, says Tarlton, that if he will send me the token, I will send him the money: someone who deceives me once, god forgive him: If twice, god forgive him: but three times, god forgive him, but not me, because I could not beware.

### **1.12.6.**

Luke Derr

#### *1.12.6.1. Tarlton Flouted Two Gallants*

Tarlton being in a bad mood, as he walked in the great hall in Greenwich, he met my old Lord Chamberlain, going between two fantastic gallants, and cried aloud onto him, my lord, my lord, you go in great danger: amazed, he asked where: if not for those two blades under each of your arms.

## **2. Tarltons sound Cittie Iests.**

### **2.1.**

Luke Derr

#### **2.1.1. Tarlton's Jest of a Red Face**

To an ordinary in the White Friars, where gentlemen used, by reason of extraordinary diet, to this Tarlton often frequented, as well to continue acquaintance, as to please his appetite: it chanced so upon a time (especially) being set amongst the gentlemen and gallants, they asked him why sadness overtook his happiness, to which he said little, but squinting, he looked for a jest to make them happy; at last he found one on his left side, which had a very red face, he being a very great gentleman he presently in great confidence called his host: who I serve as my host? Tarlton said, the Queen's Majesty, replied the good man of the house: how is that Tarlton says, to her Majesties disgrace, you dare make me a companion with servingmen, clapping my Lord Shandoyes upon my sleeve, looking at the gentleman with the red face, he says, it sits like the Sarazens head without Newgate: the Getlemans Salamanders face burnt like Aetna for anger, the rest laughed: in the end all enraged, the gentleman swore to fight him at the next meeting.

### **2.2.**

Andrew Hasfal

#### **2.2.1. A Sudden and Dangerous Fray Between a Gentleman and Tarlton, Which He Put Off with a Jest**

As Tarlton and others passed along Fleet Street, he saw a dapper young man with long dark hair hanging down over his ears, and an Italian-style cut beard, wearing white satin, very quaintly cut, and the suit so stiffly starched that he could barely bend over. Tarlton is amazed by this man and passed along the wall-side (which is where the upper-classes walk, away from the street), knowing that one so proud-looking would expect that measure of respect. The gallant, insulted that an actor would upstage him like this, drew his sword. Tarlton drew as well. The gentleman started to fight, but Tarlton held his own. and began to mock the man by opening his mouth, causing passersby to laugh. The gallant enquired why he did this. 'O, sir,' says Tarlton, 'in hopes to swallow you, for by my troth you look like a prune in soup.' At this point the crowd broke up the fight, and the gentleman, noting Tarlton's sense of humor, went away because he did not know how to respond.

### **2.3.**

Andrew Hasfal

#### **2.3.1. Tarltons Jest of a Pippin**

At the Bull in Bishopsgate Street, where the Queen's Players often played, when Tarlton was coming on stage, someone from the gallerie threw a pippin at him. Tarlton took up the pippin and looked at it and came up with this jest:

'Pip in or nose in, choose one. Put yours in, or else I put in the other. Pippin you have put in, but for my grace would I put your nose in the other place.

## **3.**

Andrew Hasfal

### ***3.1. A Jest of an Apple Hitting Tarlton on the Face***

Tarlton having taunted the gentlemen for the apple he threw, the man wanted to get back at him. In the play Tarlton was supposed to kneel down for his father's blessing. The audience member threw the apple at Tarlton and it hit him on the cheek. Tarlton kneeled down and asked god for a blessing for the man who thre the apple at his cheek. Tarlton grabs the apple and made this jest:

Gentlemen, this fellow with his face of mapple.  
 Instead of a pippin hath throwne me an apple:  
 But as for an apple he hath cast a crab,  
 So instead of an honest woman God hath sent him a drab.

The people laughed heartily, because he had a whore for a wife.

## **4.**

Rebecca Heintzelman

### ***4.1. How Tarlton and One in the Gallery Fell Out.***

It happened in the middle of a play, when the audience was waiting expectantly for Tarlton to appear, he finally came forth. When he entered, one in the gallery pointed his finger at him and, turning to a friend who had never seen Tarlton, explained who it was. Tarlton, who was eager to make a joke at any opportunity, saw the man point with one finger, and he in turn held up two fingers. The captious man, who was married and jealous of his wife, took offense to Tarlton's action, especially because he was a prominent player. He asked Tarlton why he made horns at him, and Tarlton replied, "No, they are fingers, for there is no man who will show me a finger without me returning the gesture." "No, no," says the man, "you gave me the horns." "True," says Tarlton, "for my fingers are tipped with nails, which are like horns, and I must make a show of you." The matter grew so that the more the man meddled, the more he was disgraced. The other bystanders told him to give up and leave before his cause grew more desperate, so the man pulled his hat over his eyes and left.

## **5.**

Rebecca Heintzelman

### ***5.1. How Fiddlers Fiddled Away Tarlton's Apparel.***

It happened that one Fancy and Nancy, a group of musicians in London, would come with their friends to visit Tarlton, who was one of their oldest friends and benefactors. At this time, Tarlton lived at a tavern on Gracious Street called the Saba, and the musicians came by one summer morning to play a song and wake up Tarlton. In recognition of their efforts, Tarlton opened his bedroom door and gave them muscadine. A thief watched this and noticed that Tarlton had left his room in his shirt and nightgown to drink with his friends. The thief stepped into Tarlton's room and took his clothes, thinking that if he were caught, he would make his actions into a jest, but no one saw him and he went on his way. Shortly afterwards, Tarlton returned to his room and looked for his clothes, but he could not find them. The next day, news of this story was spreading, and someone in the crowd mocked Tarlton while he was performing at the Curtain, saying,

Tarlton I will tell you a jest,  
 Which after turned to earnest:  
 One there was as I heard say,  
 Who in his shirt heard music play,  
 While all his clothes were stolen away.

Tarlton smiled and replied by saying,

That's certain, Sir, it is no lie,  
 That same one in truth was I:  
 When that the thief shall pine and lack,  
 Then shall I have clothes to my back:

And I together with my fellows,  
May see him ride to Tiburne Gallows.

## 6.

Jackson Kizilbash

### 6.1. *Of Tarlton and a Begger.*

Tarlton I will tell thee a iest, Which after turned to earnest: One there was as I heard say, Who in his shirt heard Musicke play, While all his clothes were stolne away.

Of all other Beggers most happy thou art,  
For to thee my hand is better then my heart.

Quoth the Begger.

True it is Master, as it chanceth now,  
The better for me, and the worse for you.

### 6.2. *TITLE-MODERNIZED*

## 7.

Jackson Kizilbash

### 7.1. *How Tarlton deceiued a Doctor of Phisicke.*

TArLton to satisfie the humors of certaine Gentlemen, his familiar acquaintance, went about for to try the skill of a simple Doctor of Phisicke, that dwelt not farre from I slington, and thus it was: hee tooke a faire Vrinall, and filled it halfe full of good wine, and bore it to this doctor, saying, it was a sicke mans water: who viewed it and tossing it vp and downe, as though he had great knowledge: quoth he, the patient whose water it is, is full of grosse humors, and hath néed of purging, and to be let some ten ounces of bloud. No you Duncce replied Tarlton, it is good pisse, and with that drunke it off, and threw the Vrinall at his head.

### 7.2. *TITLE-MODERNIZED*

## 8.

Jackson Kizilbash

### 8.1. *How Tarlton frighted a Country fellow.*

TArLton passing through London, by chance hee heard a simple Country fellow in an Ale-house, calling for a Kingstone pot of Ale, stept into him and threatned to accuse him of treason, saying: Sirra, I haue séene and tasted of a penny pot of Ale, and haue found good of the price, but of a Kingstone coine I neuer heard, therefore it is some counterfait, and I must know how thou camest by it: hereupon the Countrey fellow was driuen into such a maze, that out of doores he got, and tooke him to his héeles, as though wildfire had followed him.

### 8.2. *TITLE-MODERNIZED*

## 9.

Jackson Kizilbash

### 9.1. *How Tarlton was deceiued by his wife in London.*

TArLton being merrily disposed, as his wife and he sate together, he said vnto her, Kate answere me to one question without a lye, and take this crowne of gold: which she tooke on condition, that if she lost, to restore it backe againe.

Quoth Tarlton, am I a Cuckold or no Kate? Whereat she answered not a word, but stood silent: notwithstanding he vrged her many waies: Tarlton séeing she would not speak, askt his gold againe: why quoth she, haue I made any lye? no sayes Tarlton: why then goodman foole I haue won the wager: Tarlton mad with anger, made this Rime:

As women in speech can reuile a man,  
So can they in silence beguile a man.

## **9.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED**

# **10.**

Megan Kreslinski

## **10.1. *One askt Tarlton what Countrey man the Diuell was.***

IN Carter-lane dwelt a mery Cobler, who being in company with Tarlton, askt him what Countrey man the diuell was: quoth Tarlton, a Spaniard; for Spaniards like the Diuell, trouble the whole world.

## **10.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED**

# **11.**

Megan Kreslinski

## **11.1. *A Cheese-mongers question to Tarlton.***

IN the time of Scarsitie, a simple Chéesemonger hearing Tarlton commended for his quick wit, came vnto him, and asked him why he thought Chéese and Butter to be so déere: Tarlton answered, because Wood and Coles are so déere, for Butter and Chéese a man may eate without a fire.

## **11.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED**

# **12.**

Megan Kreslinski

## **12.1. *Tarltons answere to a rich Londiner.***

TArilton méeting a rich Londiner, fell into talke about the Bishop of Peterborough, highly praising his bounty to his seruants, his liberalitie to strangers, his great Hospitalitie and Charitie to the poore. He doth well sayes the rich man, for what he hath is his but during his life. Why quoth Tarlton, for how many liues haue you your goods?

## **12.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED**

# **13.**

Megan Kreslinski

## **13.1. *How Tarlton gaue away his dinner.***

AS Tarlton and his wife sate at dinner, his wife being displeased with him, and thinking to crosse him, shee gaue away halfe of his meat vnto a poore Beggar, saying, take this for my other husbands sake. Whereupon Tarlton tooke all that was left, and likewise bad the poore fellow to pray for his other wifes soule.

## **13.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED**

## 14.

Megan Kreslinski

### 14.1. *Tarltons answere to a Boy in Rime.*

There was a crackrope Boy, méeting Tarlton in London stréet, sung this rime vnto Tarlton.

Woe worth thee Tarlton,  
That euer thou wast borne:  
Thy wife hath made thee Cuckold,  
And thou must weare the horne.

Tarlton presently answered him in Extemporie.

What and if I be (Boy)  
I am nere the worse:  
Shee keepes me like a Gentleman,  
With money in my purse.

### 14.2. *TITLE-MODERNIZED*

## 15.

Viveka Kurup

### 15.1. *How Tarlton bid himselfe to dinner to my Lord Mayors.*

A Iest came in Tarltons head where to dine, and thought he, in all that a man does, let him ayme at the fairest, for sure if. I bid my selfe any where this day, it shall be to my Lord Maiors: and vpon this, goes to the Counter and entred his action against my Lord Maior, who was presently told of it, and sends for him. Tarlton waits dinner time, and then comes, who was admitted presently. Master Tarlton, sayes my Lord Maior, haue you entred an action against me in the Poultry Counter? My Lord, sayes Tarlton, haue you entred an action against me in Woodstréet Counter? Not I in troth, saies my Lord. No saies Tarlton, he was a villaine that told me so then: but if it be not so, forgiue me this fault my Lord, and I will neuer offend in the next: but in the end he begins to sweare, how he will bee reuenged on him that mockt him, and flings out in a rage, But my Lord sayd, stay M. Tarlton, dine with me, and no doubt but after dinner you will be better minded. I will try that my Lord, saies Tarlton, and if it alter mine anger, both mine enemie & I will thanke you together for this curtesie.

### 15.2. *TITLE-MODERNIZED*

## 16.

Viveka Kurup

### 16.1. *Tarltons Iest of a box on the eare.*

ONe that fell out with his friend, méets him in the stréet, and calling him into a corner, gaue him a boxe on the eare, and feld him, getting him gone, and neuer told wherefore he did so: which Tarlton beholding, raised vp the fellow, and askt him the reason of their suddaine falling out? can you tell Sir said the fellow, for by my troth as yet I cannot? Well said Tarlton, the more foole you, for had I such féeling of the cause, my wit would remember the iniurie, but many men are goslings, the more they féele the lesse they conceiue.

### 16.2. *TITLE-MODERNIZED*

## 17.

Viveka Kurup



### **17.1. *Tarltons Iest to two Taylors.***

Tarlton méeting two Tailors (friends of his) in the euening, in mirth cryes, who goes there? A man answered a Taylor: How many is there? one: Yea said Tarlton, two said the other Taylor: then you say true, said Tarlton: for two Taylors goes to a man. But before they parted, they foxt Tarlton, at the Castle in Paternoster Row, that Tarlton confest them two Taylors to be honest men: so what they spent in the purse they got in the person: comming but one by Tarltons account, they returned two: but Tarlton comming one, returned lesse by his wit, for that was shrunk in the whetting.

### **17.2. *TITLE-MODERNIZED***

## **18.**

Wera Kyaw Kyaw

### **18.1. *How Tarlton joke around with his wife?***

Tarlton and his wife keeping an ordinary in Paternoster Row, was bidden out to Supper, and because he was a man noted, she would not go with him in the street, but intreats him to keep one side and she another, which he consented to: but as he went he would cry out to her and say, turn that way wife, and anon on this side wife: so the people flock the more to laugh at them, but his wife more then mad angry, goes back again, and almost forswore his company.

## **19.**

Wera Kyaw Kyaw

### **19.1. *How Tarlton send to a raker's (specialized street cleaners) horse to cell [in a prison].***

When Tarlton dwelt in Gracious stréet, at a Tavern at the sign of the Saba, he was chosen Scavenger: and often the Ward complained of his slacknes in kéeping the stréets cleaner: so on a time when the Cart came, he asked the Raker, why he did his businesse so slackly. Sir said he, my for came, he asked the Raker, why he did his business so slackly. Sir said he, my fore-horse was in the fault, who being let blood and drencht yesterday, I durst not labor him: sir said Tarlton, your horse shall smart (suffer, feel pain) for it, and so leads him to the Counter (to act in opposition to), which the Raker laugh at, and without his horse did his work with the rest, thinking Tarlton honor was to jest, and would return him his horse again anon: but when that anon came, he was faine to pay all his fées of the prison, as directly as if he himself had béene there: for if Tarlton had committed the master, the business had not gone forward, therefore the horse was in prison for the Master.

## **20.**

Wera Kyaw Kyaw

### **20.1. *How Tarlton made Armin his adopted sonne to succeed him.***

Tarlton kéeping a Tauerne in Gracious stréet, hee let it to another, who was indebted to Armin's Master, a a Gold smith in Lumbard stréet: yet he himself had a Chamber in the same house. And this Armin being then a wag came often thither to demand his Masters money, which hee sometimes had, and sometimes had not: in the end the man growing poore, told the boy he had no money for his Master, and he must bear with him. The man's name being Charles, Armin made this verse, writing it with chalk on a waine-scot: O world how wilt thou lie, is this Charles the great? that I denie: Indeed Charles the great before, But now Charles the lessee, being poor. Tarlton comming into the roome reading it, and partly acquainted with the boyes humor, coming often thither for his M. money, tooke a piece of chalk, & writ this rime by it. A wag thou art, none can prevent thee, And thy desert shall content thee: Let me be divine, as I am, so in time thou'lt be the same. My adopted sonne therefore be, To enjoy my Clowns suite after me. And sée how it fell out: the Boy reading this, so loud Tarlton after, that regarding him with more respect, vsed to his players, and fell in a league with his humour, and private practise brought him to present playing, and at this hour performs the same, where at the Globe on the Back-side men may sée him.

## 21.

Tsugu Miyake

### ***21.1. Tarlton greeting with Bankes's horse.***

There was a man named Bankes (in the time of Tarlton ) who served the Earl of Essex and had a horse of strange qualities. Being at the Crosse-keyes in Gracious street, Bankes earned money with him (as he was mightily resorted to) Tarlton then (with his fellows) playing at the Bell came into the Crosse-keyes amongst many people to see fashions. Bankes perceiving (to make the people laugh ) says "Signior (to his Horse) go fetch me the greatest fool in this group of people". The Jade comes immediatly, and with his mouth drawes Tarlton forth: Tarlton with merry words said nothing, but " God a mercy Horse". In the end, Tarlton sees the people laugh , and was angry inwardly, said, "Sir, if I have the power to use your horse, I would do more then that." Bankes (to please him) said "I will charge him to do it". Then Tarlton says, "charge him to bring me the most whore-master in this group of people". The horse says something to Bankes. "Signior saies he will bring Mr. Tarlton here the greatest Whoremaster in this group". Instead, Horse leads his master to him. Then, "God a mercy Horse indeed, says Tarlton". The people tried hard to keep peace , but Bankes and Tarlton had like to quarrel about where the horse targets at. Ever after it became a story through London, the God-like mercy horse, to this day.

## 22.

Tsugu Miyake

### ***22.1. An excellent Jest of Tarleton suddenly spoken.***

At the Bull at Bishops-gate, there was a play of Henry the fifth , where the Judge was to take a box on the ear. Because the Judge that should take the blow was absent , Tarlton himself (ever forward to please) took upon him to to play the same Judge, besides his own part of the Clown. Knell, who plays Henry the Fifth, punched Tarlton with a great sound, which made the people laugh because it was Tarlton who plays the Judge. Immediately after the Judge disappears, (in his Clown clothes) comes out, and asks the Actors "What news? O says one, have you been here, you should have seen Price Henry hit the Judge with a terrible punch on the ear. "What man", said Tarlton, "strike a Judge?". "It is true with faith", said the other. "No one is like that ", said Judge, " and it must be terrible to the Judge because the report terrifies me, making me think that the blow remains still on my cheek and it burns again." The people laughed at this enormously, and to this day I have heard this story being praised for the uniqueness. However, it was not rare for Tarlton as he had many similar story of these. I would like to see our Clowns in these days to do the similar things like this, and I bet they cannot do better than Tarlton, even though these clowns think they can do a good job .

## 23.

Nick Mueller

### ***23.1. Tarltons Iest with a Boy in the street.***

A Wag-halter Boy met Tarlton in the stréet, and said: Master Tarlton who liues longest? Marry Boy, sayes Tarlton, he that dies latest: and why die men so fast, said the Boy? because they want breath, said Tarlton: no rather said the Boy, because their time is come: then thy time is come, said Tarlton, sée who comes yonder: Who? said the Boy: Marry said Tarlton, Bull the hangman: or one that would willingly be thy hangman: Nay, hang me then, if I employ him at this time, said the Boy. Well said Tarlton, then thou wilt be hanged by thy owne confession, and so they parted.

### ***23.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED***

## 24.

Nick Mueller

### **24.1. *A Iest of Tarlton, prouing Mustard to haue wit.***

Tarlton kéeping an Ordinarie in Pater-noster row, and sitting with Gentlemen to make them merry, would approue Mustard, (standing before them) to haue wit: how so sayes one? It is like a witty skold, méeting another skold, knowing that skold will skold, begins to skold first, so saies he, the Mustard being lickt vp, and knowing that you will bite it, begins to bite you first: Ile trie that saies a Gull by, and the Mustard so tickled him, that his eyes watered: how now sayes Tarlton, does my Iest sauour? I, saies the Gull, and bite too: if you had had better wit, sayes Tarlton, you would haue bit first: so then conclude with me, that dumbe vnféeling Mustard, hath more wit then a talking vnféeling foole as you are. Some were pleased and some were not, but all Tarltons care was taken (for his resolution was such euer) before he talkt any Iest.

### **24.2. *TITLE-MODERNIZED***

## **25.**

Nick Mueller

### **25.1. *How Tarlton tooke Tobacco at the first comming vp of it.***

Tarlton (as other Gentlemen vsed) at the first comming vp of Tobacco, did take it more for fashions sake then otherwise, and being in a roome, set betwéene two men ouercome with wine, and they neuer séeing the like, wondred at it, and séeing the vapour come out of Tarltons nose, cried out, fire, fire, and threw a cup of wine in Tarltons face: Make no more stirre quoth Tarlton, the fire is quenched, if the Sheriffes come it will turne to a fine, as the custome is. And drinking that againe, fie sayes the other, what a stincke it makes, I am almost poisoned: If it offend, sayes Tarlton, lets euery one take a little of the smell, and so the sauour will quickly goe: but Tobacco whiffes made them leaue him to pay all.

### **25.2. *TITLE-MODERNIZED***

## **26. *Tarltons prettie Countrie Iests.***

### **26.1.**

James Murray

#### **26.1.1. *Tarltons wit betweene a Bird and a Woodcocke.***

I N the Citie of Glocester, Master Bird of the Chappell met with Tarlton, who ioyfull to regréet other, went to visit his friends: amongst the rest, M. Bird of the Quéens Chappell visited Master Woodcock of the Colledge, where méeting, many frindly spéeches past, amongst which, M. Woodcocke challenged M. Bird of kin: who mused that he was of his affinitie and hee neuer knew it: yes sayes M. Woodcocke, euery Woodcocke is a Bird, therefore it must néeds be so. Lord, Sir, sayes Tarlton, you are wide, for though euery Woodcocke be a Bird, yet euery Bird is not a Woodcocke. So M. Woodcocke like a Woodcocke bit his lip, and mum budged was silent.

#### **26.1.2. *TITLE-MODERNIZED***

### **26.2.**

James Murray

#### **26.2.1. *Tarltons Iest of a Gridiron.***

VVHile the Quéens Plaiers lay in Worcester Citie to get money, it was his custome oft to sing extempory of Theams giuen him: amongst which they were appoynted to play the next day: now one fellow of the City amongst the rest, that séemed quaint of conceit, to lead other youths with his fine wit, gaue out that the next day hee would giue him a Theam, to put him to a non plus: diuers of his friends acquainted with the same, expected some rare conceit: Well, the next day came, and my gallant gaue him his inuention in two lines, which was this this:

Me thinkes it is a thing vnfit.

To see a Gridiron turne the spit.

The people laughed at this, thinking his wit knew no answer thereunto, which angered Tarlton exceedingly, and presently with a smile looking about, when they expected wonders, he put it off thus:

Me thinkes it is a thing vnfit,  
To see an Asse haue any wit.

The people hooted for ioy, to see the Theame-giuer dasht, who like a dog with his taile betwéene his legs, left the place: But such commendations Tarlton got, that hee supt with the Bailiffe that night, where my Theamer durst not come, although he were sent for, so much he vexed at that vnlookt for answer.

### **26.2.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED**

## **26.3.**

Quinton Nsamba Yiga

### **26.3.1. *Tarlton's Answer in Defence of his Flat Nose***

I remember I was once at a play in the country, where Tarlton was, the play being done, every one so pleased to throw his theme: amongst all the rest, one was read to this same effect, word by word. Tarlton, I am one of your friends, and not your enemy, please tell me how your nose became flat Had I been present at that time on those banks, I would have laid my short sword over his long shanks.(leg) Tarlton mad at this questions, as it was his property sonner to take such a matter ill then well, very suddenly he answered him. Friend or enemy, if you need to know, marke me well With parting dogs and beares, then by the ears, this chance fel: But what of that? Though my nose be flat, my credit to saue, Yet very well, I can by the smell, scent an honest state> man from a knaue.

## **26.4.**

Quinton Nsamba Yiga

### **26.4.1. *Tarlton's Jest of a Bristolman***

When the Quéenes Players were restrained in Summer, they trauailed down to S.lames in his Faire, at Bristowe, where they were worthily entertained both of Londoners, and those Citizens; it happened that a wealthy Citizen, called M.Subanke, one morning secretly married his maid, but not so secret, but it was blown abroad: that morning, Tarlton and others, walking in the Fair to visit his familiar friendsof London , and being in company of Bristol men, they did see Sunbancke coming, who had this propertie with his neck, not to stiree it any way, but to turn body and all: it chanced at the Fair end, he stood to piss against a wall: would have looked back to thank him, he suddenly turns his body around and all, in the view of many, and showed all, which embarrassed him, that ashamed he took into a Tauerene, protesting that he had rather have spent ten pound: Sure said the vinter, the fault is in your neck, who will no turn without the bodies assistnace, and not in M. Tarlton: call you him M. Tarlton, says M. Sunbancke? I Sir, says the Vinter, he is the Quéens lester: he may be whose lester he will be, but this lest agree not with me at this time.

## **26.5.**

Morgan Oldfield

### **26.5.1. *A Iest broken of Tarlton by a Country Gentleman.***

IN the Country where the Quéenes Players were accepted into a Gentlemans house: the Waggon vnloading of the apparell, the Waggoner comes to Tarlton, & doth desire him to speake to the Steward for his horses: I will sayes he, and comming to the Steward, Sir, saies Tarlton, where shall our Horses spend the time? The Gentleman looking at Tarlton at that question, suddenly answered, if it please you, or them, let them walke a turne or two: or there is a faire Garden, let them play a game or two at bowles in the Alley, and departs thence about his other businesse. Tarlton commending the suddaine wit of the steward, said little: but my Steward not quiet, tels to the Gentlewomen aboue, how he had driuen Tarlton to a nonplus with a iest: whereat they all did laugh heartily: which a Seruingman louing Tarlton well, came and told him as much. Tarlton to adde fuell to the fire, and loath to rest thus put off with a iest, goes and gets two of the horses into the Garden, and turns them into the Bowling Alley, who with their héeles made hauocke, being the Gentlemans only pastime: The Ladies aboue from a window, séeing horses in the Garden Alley, call the Knight, who cries out to Tarlton, Fellow, what meanest thou? nothing Sir, saies he, but two

of my horses are at seuen vp, for a pecke of Prouender, a foolish match that I made: now they being in play at bowles, run, run: your steward may come after and crie rub, rub: at which, though they smiled, yet the steward had no thanks for his labour, to set the horses to such an exercise: and they could not blame Tarlton, who did but as he was bidden: but by this Iest Oats and Hay, stable-roome, and all, was plenty.

### **26.5.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED**

## **26.6.**

Lucas Papaleo

### **26.6.1. *How Tarlton made one of his company vtterly forswear drunkennesse.***

AT Salisbury Tarlton & his fellowes were to play before the Maior & his brethren: but one of his company, a yong man was so drunke that he could not: whereat Tarlton as mad angry, as he was mad drunke, claps me on his legs a huge payre of boultis: the fellow dead asléep felt nothing: when all was done, they conuained him to the Iayle on a mans backe, and intreated the Iayler to doe God good seruice, and let him lie there till he waked. While they were about their sport the fellow waked, and finding himselfe in durance, and the Iayle hung round with bolts and shakels, he began to blesse himselfe, and thought sure in his drunkennes he had done some mischief: with that he called to know, but none came to him, then he thought verely his fault was capitall, and that hee was close prisoner: by and by comes the Kéeper, and moaned him, that one so yong should come to so shamefull a death as hanging: anone, another comes, and another with the like, which further put him in a puzzle: but at last comes Tarlton and others, intreating the Kéeper, yet if it might be, that they might see their fellow ere they went, but hee very hardly was intreated, but at length the poore drunken Signior cal'd out for them: in they come. Oh Tom, sayes Tarlton, hard was thy hap in drunkennesse to murder this honest man, and our hard hap too, to haue it reported any of our company is hangd for it. O God, O God saies the fellow, is my fault so great? then commend me to all my friends. Well, short tale to make, the fellow forswore drunkennesse if he could escape, and by as cunning a wile to his thinking, they got him out of prison by an escape, and sent him to London before, who was not a litle glad he was gone: but see how this Iest wrought, by little and little the fellow left his excessiue drinking, and in timealtered his desire of drunkennesse.

### **26.6.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED**

## **26.7.**

Lucas Papaleo

### **26.7.1. *How Tarlton saued his head from cutting off.***

Tarlton vpon a time being in the Countrie, & lodging in an homely Inne, during which time there was a gentleman dwelling in the same towne, somewhat frantick and distraught of his wits: which mad man on a suddaine rusht into Tarltons bed-chamber with his sword drawne, and finding him there in bed, would haue slain him: saying, villain, were it not valiantly done to strike off thy knaues head at one blowe? Tarlton answered, tut sir, thats nothing with your worship to do, you can as easily strike off two heads at one blow as one: wherefore, if you please# Ile go downe and call vp another, and so you may strike off both our heads at once: the mad-man beleueed him, and so let him slip away.

### **26.7.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED**

## **26.8.**

Livy Puri

### **26.8.1. *How Tarlton Escaped Imprisonment***

While heading home, Tarlton had been domineering very late one night with two of his friends along Cheapside when the men were stopped by Master Constable. Master Constable asked, "who goes there?" "Three merry men," responded Tarlton. "That is not sufficient, what are you?" said master constable. "Why," says Tarlton, "one of us is an eye maker, and the other a light maker." "What are you saying? Are you mocking me? The one is an eye maker, the other a light maker, which two properties belong onto god only, commit these blasphemers," says constable. "No, I ask you Mr Constable be good in your office, I will prove what I have said to be true," replies Tarlton. "If you can't," says the constable, "you shall pass, otherwise you three will all be punished." "Why?" asks Tarlton,

“this fellow is an eye-maker, because he is an eyeglasses maker, and this other a maker of light, because he is a candlemaker, that makes your darkest night as light as your lantern.” Constable, seeing the three men so pleasant, was satisfied. The other Watchmen laughed and Tarlton, with his two companions, went home quietly.

## **26.9.**

Livy Puri

### ***26.9.1. How Tarlton Deceived a Country Wench***

The Queen’s men were traveling into the West country to perform, and were staying in a small village nearly ten miles from Bristol. In the village was a pretty brown haired girl, who Tarlton decided to propose to, claiming that he had come all the way from London just to marry her. The simple maid was proud to be beloved by one of the Queen’s men and quickly agreed to marriage. While at the Church, with M.Parson ready to perform his duty as officiator began to say, “I Richard take thee Ioane,” but was interrupted by Tarlton who interjected saying, “I will go and call my fellowes, and come back to you again.” He hastily left the church, and with his horse, who was ready and saddled, rode towards Bristol to tell his friends of his success with his wench.

## **26.10.**

Livy Puri

### ***26.10.1. How Tarlton Went to Kill Crows***

As Tarlton was going into the fields with his rifle to kill crows, he spotted a Daw sitting in a tree which he intended to shoot when he was approached by a stranger. Tarlton said, “Sir, I see a Daw there, which I will shoot at if she sits.” To which the stranger responded, “If she sits then she is indeed a Daw.” “But,” said Tarlton, “if she doesn’t sit, what is she then?” “Marry,” said the stranger, “also a Daw,” upon which the Daw flew away immediately. Tarlton, then merrily spoke a rime, saying: Whether a Daw sit, or whether a Daw fly, Whether a Daw stand, or whether a Daw lie, Whether a a daw creeke, or whether a daw cry, In what case soeuer a Daw perseuer. A Daw is a Daw, and a Daw shall be yours.

## **26.11.**

Jason Pyon

### ***26.11.1. How a poore Beggerman ouer-reached Tarlton by his wit.***

AS Tarlton vpon a day sate at his owne doore, to whom came a poore old man, & begged a penny for the Lords sake, wherupon Tarlton hauing no single money about him, askt the begger what money he had, no more money master but one single penny. Tarlton being merrily disposed, called for this penny, and hauing receiued it, gaue it to his boy to fetch a pot of Ale, whereat# the Begger grew blancke, and began to gather vp his wits how to get it againe: the pot of Ale for the Beggers penny being brought, he proffered to drinke to the begger: nay stay awhile Master, quoth the begger, the vse is where I was borne, that he that paies for the drinke, must drinke first: thou saist well quoth Tarlton, goe to, Drinke to me then: Whereupon the Begger tooke the Pot, saying, here Master I drinke to you, (and therewithall dranke off euery droppe) now Maister, if you will pledge me, send for it as I haue done: Tarlton séeing himselfe so ouer-reacht, greatly commended the Beggers wit, and withall in recompence thereof, gaue him a Teastor: with that the Begger said, that he would most truely pray to God for him: no answered Tarlton, I pray thee pray for thy selfe, for I take no vsury for Almes déeds.

### ***26.11.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED***

## **26.12.**

Jason Pyon

### ***26.12.1. Of Tarltons pleasant answere to a Gallant, by the high-way side.***

IT was Tarltons occasion another time to ride into Suffolke, being furnished with a very leane large horse: and by the way a lustie gallant met him, and in mockage, asked him, what a yard of his horse was worth? marry sit, quoth Tarlton, I pray you alight and lift vp my horses taile, and they in that shop will tell you the price of a yard.

### ***26.12.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED***

## 26.13.

Jason Pyon

### ***26.13.1. How Tarlton would haue drowned his wife.***

Vpon a time, Tarlton and his wife (as passengers) came sailing from Southampton towards London, a mightie storme arose, and endangered the Ship, whereupon the Captaine thereof, charged euery man to throw into the sea the heauiest thing he could best spare, to the end to lighten somewhat the Ship: Tarlton, that had his wife there, offered to throw her ouer-board, but the company rescued her, and being asked wherefore he meant so to do? he answered shée was the heauiest thing I haue, and I can best spare her.

### ***26.13.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED***

## 26.14.

Jason Pyon

### ***26.14.1. How Tarlton made his Will and Testament.***

OF late there was a Gentleman liuing in England, that wheresoeuer he dined, would of euery dish conuey a modicum thereof into his Gownesléue: which Gentleman being vpon a time at dinner at a Gentlemans house in the Country, there he vsed his aforesaid quality, in the c#pany of M. Tarlton, who perceiuing it, said thus vnto the company: My masters, I am now determined before you all, to make my last Will and Testament: and first, I bequeath my soule to God my creator, and my body to be buried in the sléeue of yonder Gentlemans Gowne: and with that stepping to him, he turned vp the Gowne sléeue, whereout here dropt a bird, and there a bird, with choise of much other good chéere, hée still shaking it, saying, I meant this sléeue Gentleman, this sléeue I meant.

### ***26.14.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED***

## 26.15.

Jack Roberto

### ***26.15.1. How Tarlton called out a Scoundrel***

Tarlton and the scoundrel of a man were passing through a field together when they saw a crow called out from a tree. "Do you see the crow?" The scoundrel asked Tarlton, "it's calling you a scoundrel". Tarlton answered, "No, he invites your worship as the better man".

## 26.16.

Jack Roberto

### ***26.16.1. Tarton's Joke of a Rural Woman***

Tarlton was going to Hogsdon. He was going to a market and ran into a woman from the country falling over and over again on her horse. She claimed that God sent her and referencing God, asked Tarlton if he had ever seen the likes of her before. Talrlton responded "Not in good truth, but once before in London".

## 26.17.

Jack Roberto

### ***26.17.1. How Tarlton Tricked a Hotel Owner at Sandwich***

Once upon a time when the players were quieted , Tarlton and his friend journeyed in the Country for so long that they used all their money. They were very far from London, and didn't know what to do. Tarlton gathered his thoughts and and came up with a plan to trick someone into getting him to London with no money. They went to a Hotel in Sandwich and were charged a lot of money for two days, even though they couldn't pay it. On the third morning, he told his friend to go down and to tell the Hotelowners that he serves a Seminary Priest and a Jesuit. The boy kept mumbling on and on about the situation he was in with Tarlton. The hotel owners were sent to the room that Tarlton was staying in. Tarlton set the room up to go along with the story that his friend had told the Hotel workers. The workers looked through the peep-hole in the door and saw the scene that Tarlton had made as a Seminary Preist. They barged into the room and arrested Tarlton for being a Seminary Priest. They brought Tarlton

and his friend up to London in hope that they would get rich rewards for turning in the criminals. They presented him to M. Fleetwood, who was a judge in London. When the Judge saw Tarlton, he knew him right away. Tarlton courteously entertained the judge which enraged and hotel owners as they had no idea what was going on. They walked away in shame and in anger for the troubles they were put through. Tarlton taunted and laughed at them as they walked away as he had outwitted them.

## 26.18.

Katie Schaefer

### ***26.18.1. Of Tarlton's wrongfull accusation.***

Upon a time, Tarlton was wrongfully accused for getting of a gentleman's maid with child, and for the same brought before a justice in Kent, which justice said as followeth : It is a mervaille, M. Tarlton, that you, being a gentleman of good qualitie, and one of her majesties servants, would venture thus to get maides with childe. Nay, rather, quoth Tarlton, were it marvell, if a maid had gotten me with child.

### ***26.18.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED***

## 26.19.

Katie Schaefer

### ***26.19.1. Tarlton deceived by a country wench.***

Tarlton travelling to play abroad, was in a towne where, in the inne, was a pretty maid, whose favour was placed in a corner of Tsrilton's affection: and talking with her, shee appoynted to meet him at the bottom of a paire of staires. Night and the houre came, and the maid subtilly sent downe her mistresse ; whome Tarlton catching in his armes, Art come, wench ? saies hee. Out, alas, sayes the mietres, not knowing who it was. Tarlton, hearing it was the mistris, start aside, and the maid came downe with a candle, and she espyed a glimpse of Tarlton in the darke, who stept into another roome. How now, mistres ? said the maid. Something, said shee, affrighted me ; some man, sure, for I heard him speake. No, no, mistresse, said the maid ; it is no man ; it was a bull calf that I shut into a roome till J oho, our pounder, came to have pounded him for a stray. Had I thought that, saith she, I would have hit him such a knocke on his forehead that his home should never have grac'd his coxcombe ; and so she departs up againe, afraid. But how Tarlton tooke this jest, think you.

### ***26.19.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED***

## 26.20.

Katie Schaefer

### ***26.20.1. How Tarlton could not abide a cat, and deceived himselfe.***

In the country, Tarlton told his oastesse he was a conjuror. O, sir, sayes she, I had pewter stolne off my shelve the other day; help me to it, and I will forgive you all the pots of ale you owe mee, which is sixteene dozen. Sayes Tarlton, To morrow morning the divell shall helpe you to it, or I will trounce him. Morning came, and the oastesse and he met in a roome by themselves. Tarlton, to passe the time with exercise of his wit, with circles and tricks falls to conjure, having no more skill then a dogge. But see the jest, how contrarily it fell out : as he was calling out, mons, pons, simul, and sons, and such like, a cat, unexpected, leapt from the gutter window ; which sight so amazed Tarlton, that he skipt thence and threw his hostesse downe, so that he departed with his fellowes, and left her hip out of joynt,, being then in the surgeons hands, and not daring to tell how it came.

### ***26.20.2. TITLE-MODERNIZED***

## 26.21.

Caleb Schmidt

### ***26.21.1. How Tarlton and the Hostess of Waltham met***

Tarlton rode along with friends, and citizens to make merry to Waltham. On the way he met his hostess while riding toward London, to which some of his old acquaintances were saluted. The Hostess where Tarlton was going. Tarlton told her to come to Waltham, and requested company Christopher Marlowe's house. Tarlton do not go and



spend your money, not unless we go back to the hound. She lost their customs, and was sent back to London by her man who was sent to go back with them. She was an exceeding and very honest woman, and would do anything, which Tarlton heard as wise as she was, thinking of her mind. He was deceived, yet he asked her if the biggest bed in her house was able to fit them. Meaning himself and her, yes she says and tumble up down at pleasure. Yea one under another says Tarlton, under she says. She agreed to everything like a subtil hostess, and it fell out so that Tarlton, having her in a room in her house, asked her which of those two beds were big enough for them two. This being said she therefore went to be, sweetheart come to thee. Masse says Tarlton my boots were off, I would indeed. I will help you sir, if you please. Yeah, thought Tarlton is the wind in that door? Come on, then. And she very diligently began to pull, til one boot was half off. Now says she, this being hard to be done, let me try cunning on the other and so get both off. But, having both off his legs she left him at the shoemakers. She then went to london where Tarlton was three hours way, and he had no help. But being eased off his pain, he made this rhyme for a theme. Singing it all the way to London. Women are wanton, and hold it no sinne, By tricks and devices to pull a man in.

Tarlton rode with a group of friends, and citizens to go to Waltham, courtesy of his Hostess while riding toward London.

## **26.22.**

Sullivan Sims

### ***26.22.1. Tarlton's Meeting With His Country Acquaintance at Ilford***

On Sunday, Tarlton rode to Ilford where his father kept; and dining with them at his sisters, there came in diverse country men to see him, amongst who was one plain country farmer, who said he was Tarlton's relative who called himself his cousin. But Tarlton demanded the truth from his father if it was true. But he knew no such matter. Whereupon Tarlton says whether he is my relative or not we will be cousins until we part, if we drink in Ilford to do so. So they freely made their way into line so that in briefe they were soundly. Night came and Tarlton would not let his cousin go. But they lied together that night meaning to drink their departure the next morning. Tarlton would by wit leave him in the lash, since power would not. But see the jest. That night, plaine fellow and tarlton in his bed, he had been thinking about the church wall, For we were crying for a fresh shirt. So when he was better they must drink at parting. Indeed to seal the kinfried soundly the fellow had his loade; for, hearing that his cousin Tarlton was gone to london. Angry, he would follow, no one would hold him back. He would go to london, but his aim was so good he went to Rumford to sell his hogs.

## **26.23.**

Sullivan Sims

### ***26.23.1. Tarlton's Answer to a Question***

Someone asked Tarlton why Monday was called Sunday's friend! Because he is a friend, Tarlton says, to compare with that of the holy day. But it may be that Monday thinks of himself as Sunday's friend, because he follows Sunday, and is the next day after: But he comes a day after the fare for that. Never, says the fellow, but if two Sundays fall together, Monday then may be the first, and it would shew well too. Yes, says Tarlton, But if my nose stood under my mouth it would be better and more profitable. Hoe for my gaim said the fellow? Matty said Tarlton never is cold in the winter, being too close to every dog's tail. The fellow seeing a foolish question had a foolish answer, laid his legges on his neck, and got him gone

## **26.24.**

Harrison Sotir

### ***26.24.1. Tarlton's Desire of Enough for Money***

Tarlton was coming into the market town and bought oats for his horse and what the biggest amount with the money he had. The man said you can sir and gave him 8 dry quarts. Tarlton thought his horse should eat well that night and comes to him with the food. Jack Nag was speaking on the behalf of someone and said he was healthy and he faces danger. I have enough money and said you should have it. However when Jack Nag smelt them they were off and said he did not want any. Thank you master: which seeing this Tarlton runs into the market and slashed and cut. But then the next day the man was not able to be found and Tarlton must have escaped.

**26.25.**

Harrison Sotir

***26.25.1. How Tarlton's Dog Licked up Six-Pence***

Tarlton in travels had a dog with really good qualities amongst the good things that he does he always would carry money at the end of his tongue which he would often brag about and tell people. Never was like that. Yes said a lady mine is more strange for he will have the french crown in this mouth. No says Tarlton i think not. Lend me a French crowne says the lady and you shall see me. Truly, madame, I don't have it, but your dog will carry a cracked >English crowne, here it is. But the lady perceived not the jest but was desirous to see the dogs tricks of 6 pence. Tarlton threw down a teaster and said 'Bring Sirra' and luckily the dog took up a counter and let the money lie. A woman after seeing that asked him how long he would hold it! 'An hour,' said Tarlton. 'That is pretty,' said the woman, 'let's see that.' In the meantime she picked up the sixe-pence and willed him to let them see money again; when he did see money it was a counter and he made this time. Alas, alas how come all this to pass! The world's worse than it was; for silver turns to brass. I say the lady and the dog has mad his master an ass. But Tarlton would never trust his dogs to do more tricks.

**26.26.**

Lily Ward

***26.26.1. Tarton's Jest of a Horse and a Man***

In the city of Norwich, Tarlton was invited to hunt. There was a godly gentlewoman, that bravely mounted on a black horse, rode exceedingly well, to the wonder of all the people; and no one stood in her way. But, Pegasus, her horse, was swift and flew over all. Everyone went home and at dinner everyone comended his pester and his wild disposition and she above all her horse. And, she said, I love no creature so much, at this moment, my gallant horse. Yes, lady, a man better, says Tarlton. Indeed no, she said, not now, since my last husband died I hate them the most, unless you can give me medicines to make me love them. Tarlton made this jest instant. Why, a horse goes that way, madam, a man mimics amber. A horse is for your way madam, but a man for your chamber. Lord have mercy, Tarlton, said the men: which gentlewoman is noting, seeing they took exceptions at her words, to make all well, answered this: That a horse is my opinion now, I deny not, And when a man does more good in my chamber I do not defy him. But until then give me room to love something. Then I will please you, said Tarlton. I am glad of that, therefore I pray God send you a good thing or none at all.

**26.27.**

Lily Ward

***26.27.1. Tarlton's Talk with a Pretty Woman***

Gentlewoman, said Tarlton, and the rest as you sit, I can tell you strange things: how many people at dinner noted one woman who was being little and pretty. But her prettiness had a wide mouth, which she tried to hide. She would pinch her speech, and speak small, but had a desire to hear news. Tarlton told that his travelling from London to Norwich, was a proclamation that was made that every man should have two wives. Now Jesus questioned her, is it possible? Gentlewoman and otherwise able to or contrarily woman have a large superrority, for every woman must have three husbands. Now Jesus, said the gentlewoman and with wonder skews the full wideness of her mouth, which all the table smiled at, which she realized would answer no more. Now miss, said Tarlton, your mouth is less than it ever was, for now you are able to say nothing. Now arent you a dishonest man, she said. Miss and that is something, yet, said Tarlton, your mouth shall be as wide as it ever was for that jest.

**26.28.**

Tim Zelikovsky

***26.28.1. A jest of Tarlton to a great man.***

There was a great huge man, three yards in the wast, at S. Edmondsbury, in Suffolk, that died but of late daies, one M. Blague, by name, and a good kinde justice, too, carefull for the poore: this justice met with Tarlton in Norwich; Tarlton, said he, give me thy hand. But you, sir, being richer, may give me a greater gift, give me your body, and embracing him, could not halfe compasse him. Being merry in talke, said the justice, Tarlton, tell me

one thing, what is the difference betwixt a flea and a louse? Marry, sir, said Tarlton, as much and like difference as twixt you and me : I, like a flea, see else, can skip nimbly, but you, like a fat louse, creepe slowly, and you can go no faster, though butchers are over you, ready to knock you on the head. Thou art a knave, quoth the justice. I, sir, I knew that, ere I came hither, else I had not been here now, for ever one knave, making a stop, seekes out another. The justice, understanding him, laughed heartily.

### ***26.28.2. A Jest of Tarlton to a Great Man***

## **26.29.**

Tim Zelikovsky

### ***26.29.1. Tarlton's jest to a maid in the dark.***

Tarlton going in the darke, groping out his way, heares the tread of some one to meet him. Who goes there, saies he, a man or a monster! Said the maid, a monster. Said Tarlton, a candle hoe ; and seeing who it was, Indeed, said he, a monster, I'll be sworne, for thy teeth are longer than thy beard. O, sir, said the man, speake no more then you see, for women goe invisible now adayes.

### ***26.29.2. Tarlton's Jest to a Maid in the Dark***

## **26.30.**

Tim Zelikovsky

### ***26.30.1. Tarlton's jest to a dogge.***

Tarlton and his fellowes, being in the Bishop of Worcester's sellar, and being largely laid to, Tarlton had his rouse, and going through the streets, a dogge, in the middle of the street, asleep on a dunghill, seeing Tarlton reele on him, on the sodaine barkt. How now, dog, saies Tarlton, are yon in your humours! and many daies after it was a by-word to a man being drunke, that he was in his humours.

### ***26.30.2. Tarlton's Jest to a Dog***