

[SCENE III.—*Venice.*]

*Enter JESSICA and [LAUNCELOT] the clown.*

- Jes.* I am sorry thou wilt leave my father so,  
 Our house is hell, and thou (a merry devil)  
 Didst rob it of some taste of tediousness,—  
 But fare thee well, there is a ducat for thee,  
 And Launcelot, soon at supper shalt thou see 5  
 Lorenzo, who is thy new master's guest,  
 Give him this letter,—do it secretly,—  
 And so farewell: I would not have my father  
 See me in talk with thee.
- Laun.* Adieu! tears exhibit my tongue, most beautiful pa- 10  
 gan, most sweet Jew!—if a Christian do not play the  
 knave and get thee, I am much deceived; but adieu!  
 these foolish drops do something drown my manly  
 spirit: adieu! [*Exit.*]
- Jes.* Farewell good Launcelot. 15  
 Alack, what heinous sin is it in me  
 To be ashamed to be my father's child!

Scene III] *Capell; om. Q, F; Scene IV Pope. Venice] om. Q, F; Shylock's house Theobald; The same. A Room in Shylock's House Capell. Launcelot] Rowe; om. Q, F. 1. I am] Q, F; I'm Pope. 9. in] Q; om. F. 10. Laun.] Q2; Clowne. Q, F. 10. Adieu!] Adieu, Q, F. 11. Jew!] Iewe, Q, F. do] Q, F; did F2. 12. adieu!] adieu, Q, F. 13. something] Q; somewhat F. 14. adieu!] adieu. Q, F. S. D.] Q2, F; om. Q; after l. 15 Capell. 17. child!] child, Q, F; Child? Rowe.*

5. *soon*] early.

10. *exhibit*] Eccles paraphrased "My tears serve to express what my tongue should, if sorrow would permit it," but probably it is Launcelot's blunder for prohibit (Halliwell) or inhibit (Clarendon).

10–11. *pagan*] This may have a scurrilous undertone: cf. 2 *H* 4, II. ii. 168.

11. *do*] Malone upheld the read-

ing of Qq and F by comparing II. vi. 23: "When you shall please to play the thieves for wives"; Launcelot seems fond of hinting at what is going to happen (cf. II. v. 22–3). If F2's "did" is accepted, *Get* is used for *beget*, as in III. v. 9.

13–14. *foolish... spirit*] "tears do not become a man" (*AYL.*, III. iv. 3); cf. also *H* 5, IV. vi. 28–32.