

and let him abide here with you ; if not, use him for the present, and dismiss him. He cannot plead his estimation with you ; he hath been a bawd.

Abhor. A bawd, fir ; fie upon him, he will discredit our mystery.

Prov. Go to, fir ; you weigh equally ; a feather will turn the scale. [Exit.

Clown. Pray, fir, by your good favour, (for, surely, fir, a good favour you have, but that you have a hanging look) do you call, fir, your occupation a mystery ?

Abhor. Ay, fir, a mystery.

Clown. Painting, fir, I have heard say, is a mystery ; and your whores, fir, being members of my occupation, using painting, do prove my occupation a mystery : but what mystery there should be in hanging, if I should be hang'd, I cannot imagine.

Abhor. * * * * *

Clown. * * * * *

Sir, it is a mystery.

Abhor. Proof.

Clown. Every true man's apparel fits your thief : if it be too little for your thief, your true man thinks it big enough. If it be too big for your thief, your thief thinks it little enough : so every true man's apparel fits your thief.

Re-enter Provost.

Prov. Are you agreed ?

Clown. Sir, I will serve him : for I do find, your hangman is a more penitent trade than your bawd ; he doth oftner ask forgiveness.

Prov. You, firrah, provide your block and your axe to-morrow, four o' clock.

Abhor. Come on, bawd ; I will instruct thee in my trade ; follow.

Clown. I do desire to learn, fir ; and, I hope, if you have

^a The text here is plainly maimed and deficient ; the words by which Abhorson should prove the hangman's trade a mystery are lost. But from what follows the argument may be conjectured to have been this, that every man's apparel fitted the hangman : to which we may suppose the Clown reply'd, that for the same reason the same thing might be said of the thief's trade. — Yes, fir, It is a mystery. &c. and this connects the rest that follows.

occasion.