

To qualify in others. Were he meal'd
With that which he corrects, then were he tyrannous;
But this being so, he's just. Now are they come. [*Knock again.*
[*Exit Provost.*

This is a gentle provost; seldom, when
The steeld jailer is the friend of men.
How now? what noise? that spirit's possess'd with haste
That wounds th' unresting postern with these strokes.
[*Provost returns.*

Prov. There he must stay until the officer
Arise to let him in; he is call'd up.

Duke. Have you no countermand for *Claudio* yet,
But he must die to-morrow?

Prov. None, sir, none.

Duke. As near the dawning, provost, as it is,
You shall hear more ere morning.

Prov. Happily
You something know; yet, I believe, there comes
No countermand; no such example have we:
Besides, upon the very siege of justice,
Lord *Angelo* hath to the publick ear
Profess'd the contrary.

SCENE VII.

Enter a Messenger.

Duke. This is his lordship's man.

Prov. And here comes *Claudio's* pardon.

Mess. My lord hath sent you this note; and by me this further
charge, that you swerve not from the smallest article of it, neither
in time, matter, or other circumstance. Good-morrow; for, as
I take it, it is almost day.

Prov. I shall obey him. [*Exit Messen.*

Duke. This is his pardon, purchas'd by such sin
For which the pardoner himself is in:
Hence hath offence his quick celerity,

When