

Tucholsky Wagner Zola Scott  
Turgenev Wallace Fonatne Sydon Freud Schlegel  
Twain Walther von der Vogelweide Fouqué Friedrich II. von Preußen  
Weber Freiligrath Frey  
Fechner Fichte Weiße Rose von Fallersleben Kant Ernst Richthofen Frommel  
Engels Fielding Hölderlin Eichendorff Tacitus Dumas  
Fehrs Faber Flaubert Eliasberg Eliot Zweig Ebner Eschenbach  
Feuerbach Maximilian I. von Habsburg Fock Ewald Vergil  
Goethe Elisabeth von Österreich London  
Mendelssohn Balzac Shakespeare Rathenau Dostojewski Ganghofer  
Trackl Stevenson Lichtenberg Doyle Gjellerup  
Mommsen Thoma Tolstoi Lenz Hambruch Droste-Hülshoff  
Dach Thoma von Arnim Hägele Hanrieder Hauptmann Humboldt  
Karrillon Reuter Verne Rousseau Hagen Hauff Baudelaire Gautier  
Garschin Defoe Hebbel Hegel Kussmaul Herder  
Damaschke Descartes Schopenhauer George  
Wolfram von Eschenbach Darwin Dickens Grimm Jerome Rilke Bebel Proust  
Bronner Campe Horváth Aristoteles Voltaire Federer Herodot  
Bismarck Vigny Gengenbach Barlach Heine Grillparzer Georgy  
Storm Casanova Lessing Tersteegen Gilm Gryphius  
Chamberlain Langbein Lafontaine Iffland Sokrates  
Brentano Claudius Schiller Bellamy Schilling Kralik Raabe Gibbon Tschchow  
Katharina II. von Rußland Gerstäcker Raabe Gleim Vulpius  
Löns Hesse Hoffmann Gogol Morgenstern Goedicke  
Luther Heym Hofmannsthal Klee Hölty Kleist  
Roth Heyse Klopstock Puschkin Homer Mörike Musil  
Luxemburg La Roche Horaz Kraus  
Machiavelli Kierkegaard Kraft Kraus  
Navarra Aurel Musset Lamprecht Kind Kirchhoff Hugo Moltke  
Nestroy Marie de France  
Nietzsche Nansen Laotse Ipsen Liebknecht  
Marx Lassalle Gorki Klett Leibniz Ringelntz  
von Ossietzky May vom Stein Lawrence Irving  
Petalozzi Platon Pückler Michelangelo Knigge Kock Kafka  
Sachs Poe Liebermann Kock Korolenko  
de Sade Praetorius Mistral Zetkin



---

The publishing house **tredition** has created the series **TREDITION CLASSICS**. It contains classical literature works from over two thousand years. Most of these titles have been out of print and off the bookstore shelves for decades.

The book series is intended to preserve the cultural legacy and to promote the timeless works of classical literature. As a reader of a **TREDITION CLASSICS** book, the reader supports the mission to save many of the amazing works of world literature from oblivion.

The symbol of **TREDITION CLASSICS** is Johannes Gutenberg (1400 – 1468), the inventor of movable type printing.

With the series, **tredition** intends to make thousands of international literature classics available in printed format again – worldwide.

All books are available at book retailers worldwide in paperback and in hardcover. For more information please visit: [www.tredition.com](http://www.tredition.com)



**tredition** was established in 2006 by Sandra Latusseck and Soenke Schulz. Based in Hamburg, Germany, **tredition** offers publishing solutions to authors and publishing houses, combined with worldwide distribution of printed and digital book content. **tredition** is uniquely positioned to enable authors and publishing houses to create books on their own terms and without conventional manufacturing risks.

For more information please visit: [www.tredition.com](http://www.tredition.com)

**Rule a Wife, and Have a Wife  
Beaumont & Fletcher's Works (3 of  
10)**

Francis Beaumont

# Imprint

This book is part of the TREDITION CLASSICS series.

Author: Francis Beaumont

Cover design: toepferschumann, Berlin (Germany)

Publisher: tredition GmbH, Hamburg (Germany)

ISBN: 978-3-8491-8703-3

[www.tredition.com](http://www.tredition.com)

[www.tredition.de](http://www.tredition.de)

Copyright:

The content of this book is sourced from the public domain.

The intention of the TREDITION CLASSICS series is to make world literature in the public domain available in printed format. Literary enthusiasts and organizations worldwide have scanned and digitally edited the original texts. tredition has subsequently formatted and redesigned the content into a modern reading layout. Therefore, we cannot guarantee the exact reproduction of the original format of a particular historic edition. Please also note that no modifications have been made to the spelling, therefore it may differ from the orthography used today.

Rule a Wife, and have a Wife

The works of Beaumont and Fletcher, edited by A.R. Walker

Actus Primus

Scena Prima

Enter Juan de Castro, and Michael Perez.

**Michael Perez**

Are your Companies full, Colonel?

**Juan de Castro**

No, not yet, Sir:

Nor will not be this month yet, as I reckon;

How rises your Command?

**Michael Perez**

We pick up still, and as our monies hold out,  
We have men come, about that time I think  
We shall be full too, many young Gallants go.

**Juan de Castro**

And unexperienced,  
The Wars are dainty dreams to young hot spirits,  
Time and Experience will allay those Visions,  
We have strange things to fill our numbers,  
There's one *Don Leon*, a strange goodly fellow,  
Recommended to me from some noble Friends,  
For my *Alferes*, had you but seen his Person,  
And what a Giants promise it protesteth.

**Michael Perez**

I have heard of him, and that he hath serv'd before too.

**Juan de Castro**

But no harm done, nor never meant, *Don Michael*,  
That came to my ears yet, ask him a question,  
He blushes like a Girl, and answers little,  
To the point less, he wears a Sword, a good one,  
And good Cloaths too, he is whole skin'd, has no hurt yet,  
Good promising hopes, I never yet heard certainly  
Of any Gentleman that saw him angry.

**Michael Perez**

Preserve him, he'll conclude a peace if need be,  
Many as strong as he will go along with us,  
That swear as valiantly as heart can wish,  
Their mouths charg'd with six oaths at once, and whole ones,  
That make the drunken Dutch creep into Mole-hills.

**Juan de Castro**

'Tis true, such we must look for: but *Mich. Perez*,  
When heard you of *Donna Margarita*, the great Heiress?

**Michael Perez**

I hear every hour of her, though I never saw her,  
She is the main discourse: noble *Don Juan de Castro*,  
How happy were that man could catch this Wench up,  
And live at ease! she is fair, and young, and wealthy,  
Infinite wealthy, and as gracious too  
In all her entertainments, as men report.

**Juan de Castro**

But she is proud, Sir, that I know for certain,  
And that comes seldom without wantonness,  
He that shall marry her, must have a rare hand.

**Michael Perez**

Would I were married, I would find that Wisdom,  
With a light rein to rule my Wife: if ever Woman  
Of the most subtile mould went beyond me,  
I would give the Boys leave to whoot me out o'th' Parish.

Enter a Servant.

**Servant**

Sir, there be two Gentlewomen attend to speak  
With you.

**Juan de Castro**

Wait on 'em in.

**Michael Perez**

Are they two handsome Women?

**Servant**

They seem so, very handsom, but they are vail'd, Sir.

**Michael Perez**

Thou put'st sugar in my mouth, how it melts with me!  
I love a sweet young Wench.

**Juan de Castro**

Wait on them in I say.

[Exit Servant.]

**Michael Perez**

*Don Juan.*

**Juan de Castro**

How you itch, *Michael!* how you burnish!  
Will not this Souldiers heat out of your bones yet,  
Do your Eyes glow now?

**Michael Perez**

There be two.

**Juan de Castro**

Say honest, what shame have you then?

**Michael Perez**

I would fain see that,  
I have been in the Indies twice, and have seen strange things,  
But two honest Women;--one I read of once.

**Juan de Castro**

Prithee be modest.

**Michael Perez**

I'll be any thing.

Enter Servant, Donna Clara, and Estifania vail'd.

**Juan de Castro**

You are welcome Ladies.

**Michael Perez**

Both hooded, I like 'em well though,  
They come not for advice in Law sure hither;  
May be they would learn to raise the Pike,  
I am for 'em: they are very modest, 'tis a fine Preludium.

**Juan de Castro**

With me, or with this Gentleman,  
Would you speak, Lady?

**Clara**

With you, Sir, as I guess, *Juan de Castro*.

**Michael Perez**

Her Curtain opens, she is a pretty Gentlewoman.

**Juan de Castro**

I am the Man, and shall be bound to Fortune,  
I may do any service to your Beauties.

**Clara**

Captain, I hear you are marching down to *Flanders*,  
To serve the Catholick King.

**Juan de Castro**

I am sweet Lady.

**Clara**

I have a Kinsman, and a noble Friend,  
Imploy'd in those Wars, may be, Sir, you know him,  
*Don Campusano* Captain of *Carbines*,  
To whom I would request your Nobleness,  
To give this poor Remembrance.

[A Letter.

**Juan de Castro**

I shall do it,  
I know the Gentleman, a most worthy Captain.

**Clara**

Something in private.

**Juan de Castro**

Step aside: I'll serve thee.

[Ex. Juan, and Clara.

**Michael Perez**

Prithee let me see thy face.

**Estifania**

Sir, you must pardon me,  
Women of our sort, that maintain fair memories,  
And keep suspect off from their Chastities,  
Had need wear thicker Vails.

**Michael Perez**

I am no blaster of a Ladies Beauty,  
Nor bold intruder on her special favours,  
I know how tender Reputation is,  
And with what guards it ought to be preserv'd, Lady,  
You may to me.

**Estifania**

You must excuse me, Seignior, I come  
Not here to sell my self.

**Michael Perez**

As I am a Gentleman, by the honour of a Souldier.

**Estifania**

I believe you,  
I pray you be civil, I believe you would see me,  
And when you have seen me I believe you will like me,  
But in a strange place, to a stranger too,

As if I came on purpose to betray you,  
Indeed I will not.

**Michael Perez**

I shall love you dearly,  
And 'tis a sin to fling away affection,  
I have no Mistress, no desire to honour  
Any but you, will not this Oyster open?  
I know not, you have struck me with your modesty;  
She will draw sure; so deep, and taken from me  
All the desire I might bestow on others,  
Quickly before they come.

**Estifania**

Indeed I dare not:  
But since I see you are so desirous, Sir,  
To view a poor face that can merit nothing  
But your Repentance.

**Michael Perez**

It must needs be excellent.

**Estifania**

And with what honesty you ask it of me,  
When I am gone let your man follow me,  
And view what house I enter, thither come,  
For there I dare be bold to appear open:  
And as I like your vertuous carriage then,

Enter Juan, Clara, a Servant.

I shall be able to give welcome to you;  
She hath done her business, I must take my leave, Sir.

**Michael Perez**

I'll kiss your fair white hand and thank you, Lady.  
My man shall wait, and I shall be your Servant;  
Sirrah, come near, hark.

**Servant**

I shall do it faithfully.

[Exit.

**Juan de Castro**

You will command me no more services?

**Clara**

To be careful of your noble health, dear Sir,  
That I may ever honour you.

**Juan de Castro**

I thank you,  
And kiss your hands, wait on the Ladies down there.

[Exeunt Ladies, and Servants.

**Michael Perez**

You had the honour to see the face that came to you?

**Juan de Castro**

And 'twas a fair one; what was yours, *Don Michael*?

**Michael Perez**

Mine was i'th' cclipse, and had a Cloud drawn over it.  
But I believe well, and I hope 'tis handsome,  
She had a hand would stir a holy Hermite.

**Juan de Castro**

You know none of 'em?

**Michael Perez**

No.

**Juan de Castro**

Then I do, Captain,  
But I'll say nothing till I see the proof on't,  
Sit close *Don Perez*, or your Worship's caught.  
I fear a Flye.

**Michael Perez**

Were those she brought Love-Letters?

**Juan de Castro**

A Packet to a Kinsman now in *Flanders*,  
Yours was very modest methought.

**Michael Perez**

Some young unmanag'd thing,  
But I may live to see--

**Juan de Castro**

'Tis worth experience,  
Let's walk abroad and view our Companies.

[Exeunt.

Enter Sanchio, and Alonzo.

**Sanchio**

What, are you for the Wars, *Alonzo*?

**Alonzo**

It may be I,  
It may be no, e'n as the humour takes me.  
If I find peace amongst the female Creatures,  
And easie entertainment, I'll stay at home,  
I am not so far obliged yet to long Marches  
And mouldy Biskets, to run mad for Honour,  
When you are all gone I have my choice before me.

**Sanchio**

Of which Hospital thou wilt sweat in; wilt thou  
Never leave whoring?

**Alonzo**

There is less danger in't than gunning, *Sanchio*,  
Though we be shot sometimes, the shot's not mortal,  
Besides, it breaks no limbs.

**Sanchio**

But it disables 'em,  
Dost thou see how thou pull'st thy legs after thee, as they  
Hung by points.

**Alonzo**

Better to pull 'em thus than walk on wooden ones,  
Serve bravely for a Billet to support me.

**Sanchio**

Fye, fye, 'tis base.

**Alonzo**

Dost thou count it base to suffer?  
Suffer abundantly? 'tis the Crown of Honour;  
You think it nothing to lie twenty days  
Under a Surgeons hands that has no mercy.

**Sanchio**

As thou hast done I am sure, but I perceive now  
Why you desire to stay, the orient Heiress,  
The *Margarita*, Sir,

**Alonzo**

I would I had her.

**Sanchio**

They say she will marry.

**Alonzo**

I think she will.

**Sanchio**

And marry suddenly, as report goes too,  
She fears her Youth will not hold out, *Alonzo*.

**Alonzo**

I would I had the sheathing on't.

**Sanchio**

They say too  
She has a greedy eye that must be fed  
With more than one mans meat.

**Alonzo**

Would she were mine,  
I would cater for her well enough; but *Sanchio*,  
There be too many great men that adore her,  
Princes, and Princes fellows, that claim priviledge.

**Sanchio**

Yet those stand off i'th' way of marriage,  
To be tyed to a man's pleasure is a second labour.

**Alonzo**

She has bought a brave house here in town.

**Sanchio**

I have heard so.

**Alonzo**

If she convert it now to pious uses,  
And bid poor Gentlemen welcome.

**Sanchio**

When comes she to it?

**Alonzo**

Within these two days, she is in the Country yet,  
And keeps the noblest House.

**Sanchio**

Then there's some hope of her,  
Wilt thou go my way?

**Alonzo**

No, no, I must leave you,  
And repair to an old Gentlewoman  
That has credit with her, that can speak a good word.

**Sanchio**

Send thee good fortune, but make thy Body sound first.

**Alonzo**

I am a Souldier,  
And too sound a Body becomes me not;  
Farewel, *Sanchio*.

[Exeunt.

Enter a Servant of Michael Perez.

**Servant**

'Tis this or that house, or I have lost my aim,  
They are both fair buildings, she walked plaguy fast,

Enter Estifania.

And hereabouts I lost her; stay, that's she,  
'Tis very she,—she makes me a low court'sie,  
Let me note the place, the street I well remember.

[Exit.

She is in again, certain some noble Lady.  
How happy should I be if she love my master:  
A wondrous goodly house, here are brave lodgings,  
And I shall sleep now like an Emperour,  
And eat abundantly: I thank my fortune,  
I'll back with speed, and bring him happy tidings.

[Exit.

Enter three old Ladies.

**1 Lady**

What should it mean, that in such haste  
We are sent for?

**2 Lady**

Belike the Lady *Margaret* has some business  
She would break to us in private.

**3 Lady**

It should seem so.

'Tis a good Lady, and a wise young Lady.

**2 Lady**

And vertuous enough too I warrant ye  
For a young Woman of her years; 'tis pity  
To load her tender Age with too much Vertue.

**3 Lady**

'Tis more sometimes than we can well away with.

Enter Altea.

**Altea**

Good morrow, Ladies.

**All**

'Morrow, my good Madam.

**1 Lady**

How does the sweet young Beauty, Lady *Margaret*?

**2 Lady**

Has she slept well after her walk last night?

**1 Lady**

Are her dreams gentle to her mind?

**Altea**

All's well,  
She's very well, she sent for you thus suddenly  
To give her counsel in a business  
That much concerns her.

**2 Lady**

She does well and wisely,  
To ask the counsel of the ancientst, Madam,  
Our years have run through many things she knows not.

**Altea**

She would fain marry.

**1 Lady**

'Tis a proper calling,  
And well beseems her years, who would she yoke with?

**Altea**

That's left to argue on, I pray come in  
And break your fast, drink a good cup or two,  
To strengthen your understandings, then she'l tell ye.

**2 Lady**

And good wine breeds good counsel.  
We'l yield to ye.

[Exeunt.

Enter Juan de Castro, and Leon.

**Juan de Castro**

Have you seen any service?

**Leon**

Yes.

**Juan de Castro**

Where?

**Leon**

Every where.

**Juan de Castro**

What office bore ye?

**Leon**

None, I was not worthy.

**Juan de Castro**

What Captains know you?

**Leon**

None, they were above me.

**Juan de Castro**

Were you never hurt?

**Leon**

Not that I well remember,  
But once I stole a Hen, and then they beat me;  
Pray ask me no long questions, I have an ill memory.

**Juan de Castro**

This is an Asse, did you never draw your sword yet?

**Leon**

Not to do any harm I thank Heaven for't.

**Juan de Castro**

Nor ne'r ta'ne prisoner?

**Leon**

No, I ran away,  
For I had ne'r no mony to redeem me.

**Juan de Castro**

Can you endure a Drum?

**Leon**

It makes my head ake.

**Juan de Castro**

Are you not valiant when you are drunk?

**Leon**

I think not, but I am loving Sir.

**Juan de Castro**

What a lump is this man,  
Was your Father wise?

**Leon**

Too wise for me I'm sure,  
For he gave all he had to my younger Brother.

**Juan de Castro**

That was no foolish part I'll bear you witness.  
Canst thou lye with a woman?

**Leon**

I think I could make shift Sir,  
But I am bashfull.

**Juan de Castro**

In the night?

**Leon**

I know not,  
Darkness indeed may do some good upon me.

**Juan de Castro**

Why art thou sent to me to be my officer,  
I, and commended too, when thou darst not fight?

**Leon**

There be more officers of my opinion,  
Or I am cozen'd Sir, men that talk more too.

**Juan de Castro**

How wilt thou scape a bullet?

**Leon**

Why by chance,  
They aim at honourable men, alas I am none Sir.

**Juan de Castro**

This fellow has some doubts in's talk that strike me,  
Enter Alonzo.

He cannot be all fool: welcom *Alonzo*.

**Alonzo**

What have you got there, temperance into your company?  
The spirit of peace? we shall have wars

Enter *Cacafogo*.

By th'ounce then. O here's another pumpion,  
Let him loose for luck sake, the cram'd son  
Of a stay'd Usurer, *Cacafogo*, both their brains butter'd,  
Cannot make two spoonfulls.

**Cacafogo**

My Father's dead: I am a man of war too,  
Monyes, demesns; I have ships at sea too,  
Captains.

**Juan de Castro**

Take heed o'th' Hollanders, your ships may leak else.

**Cacafogo**

I scorn the Hollanders, they are my drunkards.

**Alonzo**

Put up your gold Sir, I'll borrow it else.

**Cacafogo**

I am satisfied, you shall not,  
Come out, I know thee, meet mine anger instantly.

**Leon**

I never wrong'd ye.

**Cacafogo**

Thou hast wrong'd mine honor,  
Thou look'dst upon my Mistris thrice lasciviously,  
I'll make it good.

**Juan de Castro**

Do not hea[t] your self, you will surfeit.