

**Egregious quackery display'd. Or, a narrative of the late memorable case of Seignor Capitano Masseo / Written in Spanish ... And translated into English by a faithful hand.**

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SCARIFICATO SANGRE SUGER  
Ferdinando, reud.

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A

**NARRATIVE**

OF THE

Memorable Case &c.

O F

Seignor *Capitano Maffeo.*

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A  
MAR R A T I V E

OF THE

Memorable Case &c.

OF

Seignior Capitans &c.

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*Egregious Quackery Display'd*

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O R, A

NARRATIVE

O F

The late memorable Case

O F

Seignor *Capitano* *Masseo*.

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Written in *Spanish*,

By *Don Ferdinando Scarificato Sangresugeo*,

Surgeon in Ordinary to his Catholic Majesty.

And Translated into *English* by a faithful  
Hand.

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A

# NARRATIVE

Of the memorable Case, &c.

**S**EIGNOR MASSEO, the Subject of the following Narrative, was a Gentleman possess'd of many good and popular Talents; and, having a peculiar Genius for Traffick, fix'd his Residence for a number of Years in one of the greatest trading Ports of all the Spanish Monarchy: from whence he made several Voyages to the Philippine Islands in quality of Captain. By this means he acquired Wealth enough to have render'd a Man less beloved and esteem'd than himself the Envy of his Neighbours. But whatever Gifts of Fortune or Endowments of Mind he was bless'd with, he could not ward off a most severe Stroke,

Fate had in reserve for him; being in about the Eight and Fortieth Year of his Age seized with a *Spina Ventosa*, or White Swelling, in his Elbow.

At this Time flourish'd at *Madrid*, loaded with accumulated Physical Honours and Atchievements, *Don Ricardo De Prato*, Archiater to the King of *Spain*: who, by his profound Erudition, and sage Medical and Philosophical Productions, had raised himself to a higher Pitch of Reputation, than any of even his most illustrious Predecessors, since the Days of *Hippocrates*. He treated of the Influence of the Sun and Moon, wrote of Poisons, handled Variolous and even Pestilential Disorders with inconceivable Accuracy; and, in case he should survive long enough to go thro' such an elaborate Work, was meditating a Tract on the Diseases mention'd in the Sacred Records. And, surprizing! Most of his Pieces he penn'd not in his native *Spanish*, but in the flowing Stile of a truly *Roman* Orator. To this renown'd Personage it  
was

was very natural for *Seignor Maffeo* to have recourse, in his calamitous Situation, for Relief. Accordingly, on his respectful Application, and premeditated Cavalier-like Donation, (the Life and Soul of the Practice of Physick) *Don Ricardo* prescribes away, directs whole Cargoes from *De Lingo's* Shop, and, to do him Justice, leaves no Medicinal Stone unturn'd, in order to render his Patient Service. But as Experience in all Ages has sufficiently convinced Mankind, that there is no such Thing as absolute Infallibility entail'd on even the most sagacious Doctors, all the Don's most powerful Efforts proved no manner of Match for the inveterate and confirm'd Obstinacy of the Malady. That still prevail'd, harrass'd the Patient, and perplex'd *De Prato*. At length, either thro' a Caprice familiar enough to sick Persons, or that the Don was willing to wash his hands of such elusive baffling Work, he was relieved from his fruitless Care of *Seignor Maffeo*: and Remedies were now to be sought for from the most extraordinary  
 Man



Man of the Age, one *Guardo*: who, from being a Fugitive from *Spain* for rebellious Practices, and afterwards a Prisoner in the *Bastile* at *Paris* for some Reason, I presume, or other, in the Revolution of a few Years had it in his Power to return again to the Capital of that Kingdom, furnish'd with incomparable Physical Secrets, whose Virtues were ever, and are at this Day, impenetrable to the whole World. Being a Man of no Learning, tho' of sufficient Common Sense and low Cunning, he meets with some Rubs, that fret him; tho' not a great deal. For as he finds a very comfortable Return for the Medicines he is daily dispensing, that Consideration instantly smoothes the ruffled Surface of his Mind, and re-establishes the perfectest Tranquillity imaginable. So that, as he drives thro' the Streets, he seems as serene and composed, as the most letter'd and philosophical Leech of 'em all. Well then, this signalized Adept falls in earnest to work, plies his new Patient fore and aft with Pills, Drops, &c. that  
made

made him stare again ; till, on the upshot of the Matter, he being no longer able to run this terribly-unmerciful Gauntlet, *Signor Guardo* was desired to bestow his Doses elsewhere, and to save himself the Trouble of calling any more at those Lodgings. During the Transaction of these Matters, the Fame of Young *Pistorio* had reach'd the Ears of the labouring oppress'd *Masseo*. *Pistorio* was extremely well versed in his Profession of Surgery ; which he adorn'd with great Politeness of Manners no less than a liberal Education. With these Advantages he visited *Seignor Masseo*, gain'd on his Esteem and Confidence, and inspired him with warm Hopes of a happy Issue : and, to confirm those Hopes, *Don Allemanno*, a Physician of no little Experience, was desired to lend his prescriptive Assistance. *Allemanno* was too penetrating not to pronounce it an incurable Case, intimating as much to *Seignor Pistorio* ; the Result of which was the Calling in another eminent Chirurgical Hand. The Gentleman pitch'd upon was the Celebrated *Cæsario Falconixo*,

*Falconizo*, who, from the Mildness of his Temper, and signal Skill in his Business, was deservedly the Darling of all Ranks of People in *Madrid*.

The Moon had now fill'd Half her Orb, since the joint Attendance of these Sages; who, from the dangerous Circumstances of the Complaint, judged it absolutely necessary, for the Preservation of Life, to cut off the Limb; especially as the Patient was in Strength and good Spirits. Nature no doubt is ever reluctant to Operations of this Kind: so that it was no ways astonishing, that *Signor Masseo* for some time turn'd a deaf Ear to this Proposal, and was even under terrible Agonies at the Thoughts of it. However, being at long run persuaded rather to part with a Member, than to lose his Life, he resolv'd to have the Amputation perform'd the next Day by one o'Clock. Consequently to this Determination, the Gentlemen concern'd met at the appointed Hour; and, to their great Surprize, were told, that *Guardo* was once more to  
 have

have the Management of *Seignor Maffeo* and that he had made the Seignor magnificent Promises of accomplishing a Cure in a trice. And, indeed, so sanguine and elevated was this magisterial Empiric, and so cock-sure of restoring poor *Maffeo*, that finding him, by some unaccountable Accident, every now and then a little easier than ordinary, he perfectly triumph'd: and carried him in his own splendid Car to some noted Villas not far distant from the Capital, as a glaring Instance of the prodigious Efficacy of his peculiar Compositions. But alas! this little Sunshine was but extremely short-lived: the Horizon was soon again overcast, and all the pleasing, flattering, Scene entirely revert. *Maffeo* now labour'd under a violent Looseness, and profuse Sweats, and his Spirits of course were just on the point of being exhausted. Then, and not till then, he began to think justly of the Treatment he had undergone; and regretted exceedingly his having been so credulous, as to be caught by the soothing Artifices and Delusions of One, whom Nature, he was made too

sadly sensible of, had no ways cut out for sanative Purposes : esteeming it infinitely more eligible, if he must fall, to have fallen by the Hand of *Don Ricardo De Prato* ; or, if he was fated at this Period of Life to visit the Shades, to have had his Passport to those Shades sign'd at least by the Pen of *Don Allemanno*, than thus to sink most palpably and most ingloriously a Victim to downright Imp--d--nce and Ign--r--nce. “ He cure  
 “ me ? Yes ! I shall soon be cured, on  
 “ the Eve as I am of being dispatch'd to  
 “ where no Pills, Drops, &c. I thank  
 “ my Stars, or *Spina Ventosa*, can ever  
 “ have Access”.

*Don Guardo*, whose Name was now become execrably hateful to *Seignor Masseo*, and to all his Acquaintance, was thenceforth dismiss'd with an Indignity suitable to the provoking Occasion. But what could avail all the Indignity in the Universe ? The Seignor's colliquative Looseness and immoderate Sweats still continued. Wherefore, finding himself in a drowning Condition, he resolv'd to catch at the formerly-proposed Twig of Amputation :

Amputation : which then, while he was in Strength and Spirits, might have possibly afforded him a Chance of escaping the Danger that threaten'd him.

At this Juncture an officious Visit was made him by *Antibeñtico Poterio* : who, assisted by *Cavaliero Norfario*, had, to his immortal Honour, the Courage, even in this deplored Condition of *Masseo*, to make an Amputation. — *Quid non mortalia pectora cogis Auri sacra fames?* — An Enterprize the more glorious, as it was altogether new and unprecedented. Its a By-Law in *Spain* among the Confraternity of Surgeons, that no Amputation is to be perform'd but in the Presence of one at least of the Seniors of the *Praternitate*. Instead of complying with this settled Order, or even calling in the Surgeons before consulted, *Poterio* introduces *Norfario*, whose Creature he had for some time consecrated himself. And thus was the Matter transacted without any Demurr or farther Ceremony. The Seignor notwithstanding survived almost two whole days longer : when, giving up the Ghost, he became

became the general Conversation of all *Madrid*, and will probably continue the popular Theme, till some equally extraordinary Event shall hap'ly determine the public Attention and Admiration to a fresh Object.

How this Act will stand recorded in our future Annals, I cannot pretend to say. However, it will carry at least this Advantage along with it, that it was so far approved of by the greatest Man in *Spain*, either in respect of the particular Province he shone in of *Lithotomy*, or the uncommon Figure he cut in the delicate and ornamental Science of *Architecture*, *Don palladio De Seldeno*, that this renown'd Artist (*Credetis? Jo! credite Posteris!*) in the Absence of *Poterio*, condescended to become that hardy Operator's officious Substitute, esteeming it, 'tis supposed, a real Post of Honour. I by no means mention this ridiculous Circumstance with a View of depreiating in the minutest Manner *Don De Seldeno*: it being the commonest Thing in the world for Men once of Name and Eminence to dwindle insensibly, without  
being

being conscious of it, into the meerest fiddle-faddle old Women in nature.

How otherwise could *Seignor Tibaldi* of *Parma*, a Man of Shrewdness and Penetration enough of all conscience, and one, as all *Italy* knows, who can write either an Invective very genteelly, or a Panegyric, degenerate to such a degree, as, tho' there is ever a sufficient Supply of Matter in this bustling City of *Madrid* for such Topics, to be so forgetful of his former Glory, as, instead of exercising his known Talents on Subjects of those pleasing Kinds, to teach Children the Alphabet? But Virility in him being sunk into a perfect Anility, he, like the general Run of the antiquated Female Part of our Species, is grown fond of Children. The Reason he himself assigns for this manifestly senile Conduct.

Or how could *Don Tomaso De Camino*, Secretary to the King's First Physician, rush thro' that Don's Apartments, like a Torrent, till he had pour'd himself into the Street, on hearing an Outcry before the Door, in order to part a Couple of his Countrymen ; who, he could not  
but



but know, would as soon be d--mn'd as fight; and make them the following pathetic Harangue.

‘ I am extremely chagrined, Gentle-  
 ‘ men, to be after finding you both now  
 ‘ in such an hostile Disposition of Mind.  
 ‘ Do you consider how inglorious it is for  
 ‘ Men of your distinguish’d Character to  
 ‘ be blacking and blueing and bruising  
 ‘ one another, as if Unguents and Plaf-  
 ‘ ters in *Spain* cost Nothing? You are  
 ‘ not now in the County of *Tipperary*,  
 ‘ but in one of the principal Streets of  
 ‘ *Madrid*: where you will in an Instant  
 ‘ be furrounded with a hundred Specta-  
 ‘ tors of this your clamourous Contenti-  
 ‘ on. Tho’ Chocolate in a Morning,  
 ‘ particularly *Don de Prato’s* Chocolate,  
 ‘ whose Levee you are this moment re-  
 ‘ tired from, be a very good Thing, yet,  
 ‘ take my word, the Don’s Chocolate  
 ‘ will be reserved for the future for Per-  
 ‘ sons of a more pacific Temper of Soul.  
 ‘ Wherefore do you, Seignor *P—i*, and  
 ‘ Seignor *B—o*, do you, and Each of  
 ‘ you, calmly and separately retreat to  
 ‘ to your respective Habitations: where

I will be after seeing you to morrow  
 morning, e'er well the Sun shall gild the  
 sacred Day, and prevent, to the utmost  
 of my Power, the Effusion of what,  
 when once by whatever Accident let  
 out, is past mortal Skill to restore a-  
 gain to the Veins".

Thus endeth the *Spanish* Narrative :  
 which having not at all touch'd on the  
 Character of *Cavaliero Norsario*, it may  
 not, perhaps, be un-amusing to my Rea-  
 ders, if I annex a short Detail of his His-  
 tory, as I received it from a *Catalonian*  
 Gentleman lately arrived from *Barcelona*.  
 Seignor *Norsario*, said *Don Vento Spinoza*,  
 (for that was the Cavalier's Name) is a  
 Man of Parts and Capacity sufficient to  
 make any one conspicuous not only in  
 that of Surgery, but in any Profession :  
 and, as far as ever I heard, has had an  
 Education proportionable to the Hopes  
 his Parents early conceived of him. As  
 he had devoted a Circle of seven entire  
 Years to the fathoming the Mystery of  
 his respectful Calling in *Madrid* ; so was  
 he determined, at the Expiration of that  
 Time, to work his Way to Eminence in  
 it

it in the most direct and speediest Manner he could in the same grand Metropolis.

This Resolution no doubt was a very commendable one, and the Result of Principles truly generous and noble. And and what pity it is, continued *Don Spinosa*, that so desirable a Thing, as a large Share of native Vivacity, should turn out a fatal Obstacle to so gloriously-intended a Career : as it evidently did in him. For, being endued with this active Property even to a Degree of Pertness, it soon put such an ugly Spoke in his main Wheel, that he travell'd on very slowly in the radiant Road to Fame. Nor was That all. But this predominant Ingredient in his Composition had once upon a time like to have cost him the Breaking of all his Bones. For, having so far transcended the Bounds of Decency, and the eternally establish'd Maxims of *Madrid*, as to take upon him grossly to censure the Practice of a first-rate Physician ; the Doctor, fired at the Insolence with unquenchable Resentment, furnish'd himself incontinently with a rugged Sort of Material,  
(the

( the ruggedest that could be purchased with Money) not much unlike an English Cudgel, and laid it on indiscriminately on any Part of this bold Asperfer that best presented itself so unmercifully, that Fame says, it was the compleatest Bastinado, that was ever seen in *Madrid*, either in this, or, indeed, in any other Age. And tho' some Years are elapsed since this untoward Disaster, yet the Memory of it is still as fresh, as if the complicated Knocks had been dealt but yesterday. And what, added the Don, is very surprizing, all this unexampled Drubbing (for *Norsario* is strangely patient of Basting) did not gaul him half so much, as that this bruising Business was unfortunately transacted in the Presence of Several of the most considerable Persons of the Faculty ; who were Eye-witneses of his odd, unaccountable, Grimaces, and the uncouth, preposterous, Attitudes, the labour'd Banging forced him successively to snift himself into, in order to elude, if chance he any way could, the thick-reduplicated Strokes, monstrously-sounding Thwacks,

of the high-uplifted and heavy-descending Oaken Implement. A Man, divested of Prejudices, would have imagin'd, that such a shameful, scandalous, Chastisement would have put *Norsario* on an immediate signal, worthy, Spanish Act of Revenge. But, being by Nature insurmountably pusillanimous, he meditated no Return of this rough Usage by challenging his Antagonist to any heroic Feats at Arms, but contented himself with lodging a low groveling Complaint with the *Corregidor*, an Officer, Seignor, said the Don, of the Justiciary, you have sufficiently heard of in *England*. — The Event of the Process Report delivers Nothing of; neither is it at all material towards forming any farther Idea of this unwarlike Chirurgical Spaniard.

F I N I S.