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John. Bod.

make answer. But were it not more madness for them, to serue the diuell, vnder these conditions; and yet to endure whippings with iron rods at the diuels hands: which (as the witchmongers write) are so set on, that the print of the lashes remaine vpon the witches bodie euer after, euen so long as she hath a daie to liue?

But these old women being daunted with authoritie, circumuented with guile, constrained by force, compelled by feare, induced by error, and deceiued by ignorance, doe fall into such rash credulitie, and so are brought vnto these absurd confessions. Whose error of mind and blindness of will dependeth vpon the disease and infirmitie of nature: and therefore their actions in that case are the more to be borne withall; bicause they, being destitute of reason, can haue no consent. For, *Delictum sine consensu non potest committi, neque iniuria sine animo iniuriandi*; that is, There can be no sinne without consent, nor iniurie committed without a mind to doe wrong. Yet the lawe saith further, that A purpose reteined in mind, dooth nothing to the priuat or publike hurt of anie man; and much more that an impossible purpose is vnpunishable. *Sane mentis voluntas, voluntas rei possibilis est*; A sound mind willeth nothing, but that which is possible.

*L. si per erro-
rem iurisd.
omni cum
inde.
C. sed hoc d.
de publ. &c.
Bal. in leg.
&c.*

How melancholie abuseth old women, and of the effects thereof by sundrie examples.

The ninth Chapter.

If anie man aduisedlie marke their words, actions, cogitations, and gestures, he shall perceiue that melancholie abounding in their head, and occupieng their braine, hath depriued or rather depaured their iudgements, and all their senses: I meane not of cosening witches, but of poore melancholike women, which are themselues deceiued. For you shall vnderstand, that the force which melancholie hath, and the effects that it worketh in the bodie of a man, or rather of a woman, are almost incredible. For as some of these melancholike persons imagine, they are witches, and