



GOLDEN COLORADO

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SPANGENBERG

nd by the doom of death and woes and all. Merchant of Syracuse, plead no more, I am not partial to infringe our laws. The enmity and discord which of late Sprung from
nts, our well-dealing countrymen. Who wanting guilders to redeem their lives Have seal'd his rigorous statutes with their bloods, Excludes all pity from our threatening looks. If
t thy seditious countrymen and us, It hath in solemn synods been decreed Both by the Syracusians and ourselves, To admit no traffic to our adverse towns. Nay, more, If any
isian marts and fairs; Again: if any Syracusian born Come to the bay of Ephesus, he dies, His goods confiscate to the duke's dispose, Unless a thousand marks be levied, To
ubstance, valued at the highest rate, Cannot amount unto a hundred marks; Therefore by law thou art condemned to die. Yet this my comfort: when your words are done, My
Syracusian, say in brief the cause Why thou departedst from thy native home And for what cause thou comest to Ephesus. A heavier task could not have been imposed I
that the world may witness that my end Was wrought by nature, not by vile offence. I'll utter what my sorrows give me leave. In Syracuse was I born, and wed Unto a
ad not our hap been bad. With her I lived in joy; our wealth increased By prosperous voyages I often made To Epidamnus, till my factor's death And the great care of
embracements of my spouse: From whom my absence was not six months old Before herself, almost at fainting under The pleasing punishment that women bear, Had made pro
for for of she arrived where I was. There had she not been long, but she became A joyful mother of two goodly sons; And, which was strange, the one so like the other, As could not be
distinguish'd but by names. That very hour, and in the self-same inn, A meaner woman was delivered Of such a burden, male twins, both alike. Those,--for their parents were exceeding poor,-- I bought and brought
to attend my sons. My wife, not meanly proud of two such boys, Made daily motions for our home return: Unwilling I agreed. Alas! too soon, We came aboard. A league from Epidamnus had we sail'd, Before
the always wind-obeying deep Gave any tragic instance of our harm. But longer did we not retain much hope; For what obscured light the heavens did grant Did but convey unto our fearful minds A doubtful warra
immediate death; Which though myself would gladly have embraced, Yet the incessant weepings of my wife, Weeping before for what she saw must come, And piteous plainings of the pretty babes, That mourn'd in
fashion, ignorant what to fear, Forced me to seek delays for them and me. And this it was, for other means was none: The sailors sought for safety by our boat, And left the ship, then sinking ripe, to us. My wife, mor
him unto a small spare mast, Such as seafaring men provide for storms; To him one of the other twins was bound, Whilst I had been like heedful of the other. The children
on whom our care was fix'd, Fasten'd ourselves at either end the mast; And floating straight, obedient to the stream, Was carried towards Corinth, as we thought. At length
these vapours that offended us; And by the benefit of his wished light, The seas wax'd calm, and we discovered Two ships from far making amain to us, Of Corinth that, of
say no more. Rather the sequel by that went before. Nay, forward, old man; do not break off so; For we may pity, though not pardon thee. O, had the gods done so, I had n
For, ere the ships could meet by twice five leagues, We were encounter'd by a mighty rock; Which being violently borne upon, Our helpful ship was splitted in the midst; So
it to both of us alike What to delight in, what to sorrow for. Her part, poor soul! seeming as burdened With lesser weight but not with lesser woe, Was carried with more speed
ee were taken up By fishermen of Corinth, as we thought. At length, another ship had seized on us; And, knowing whom it was their hap to save, Gave hearty welcome to
rest the fishers of their prey, Had not their bark been very slow of sail; And therefore homeward did they bend their course. Thus have you heard me sever'd from my bliss; I
ll bad stories of my own mishaps. And for the sake of them thou sorrowest for, Do me the favour to dilate at full What hath befall'n of them and thee till now. My youngest boy
became inquisitive After his brother: and importuned me That his attendant--so his case was like, Best of his brother, but retain'd his name-- Might bear him company in