Will the Real Cervantes Please Stand Up?¹
Cervantes in Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations

John Bartlett as a sixteen-year old lad started to work in the Harvard College bookstore, where he came to know the stock—inside and out—so well that whenever there was any question about anything, people would just say “Ask John Bartlett.” He kept a notebook of some of the things that people asked him, and in 1855, when he was 35, and by then owned the bookstore, he published part of the contents of his notebook, a “small thin volume,” called Familiar Quotations. Its object was to show “to some extent, the obligations our language owes to various authors for numerous phrases and familiar quotations which have become ‘household words.’” By the time it was in its fourth edition, both the book and Bartlett himself moved to Little, Brown Publishers. In his lifetime, his book went through five more editions, each one larger than the previous one.

Now, if you want to know what Elbert Hubbard, who died in the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915, had to say about loyalty to your employer, Bartlett will tell you: “If you work for a man, in heaven’s name,

¹ This is a quote from the television quiz show “To Tell the Truth,” which ran off and on from 1956 to 2002. Two imposters and the real subject were questioned by a panel of four celebrities to determine who the real subject was. After the questioning was finished, the moderator would ask the real subject to stand up.

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work for him! If he pays you wages that supply you bread and butter, work for him—speak well of him, think well of him, stand by him and stand by the institution he represents."

The case of Elbert Hubbard brings up two matters. The first is: Just who is Elbert Hubbard, and is this really a familiar quotation, a "household word"? Of the ten-thousand or so quotations in the book, how many of them are really familiar? Bartlett himself, in the preface to the fourth edition of his work, answers this question: "It is not easy to determine in all cases the degree of familiarity that may belong to phrases or sentences which present themselves for admission; for what is familiar to one class of readers may be quite new to another. Many maxims of the most famous writers of our language, and numberless curious happy turns from orators and poets, have knocked at the door, and it was hard to deny them." He ends with: "...it has been thought better to incur the risk of erring on the side of fullness." And in fairness to Elbert Hubbard, in his day—the turn of the past century—he was a well-known journalist.

A second question that comes up derives from the fact that Elbert Hubbard's quotation was said a couple of decades after Bartlett published his own last edition. How much of Bartlett's came after Bartlett stopped working on it? Later editors, such as Nathan Haskell Dole and Christopher Morley have kept Bartlett's original corpus intact, but have added many items from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

By the time the ninth edition rolled around, Bartlett himself had included some French authors (Villon, Boileau, Rabelais, Montaigne, and others) and quotations from "the ancients." And by the time the eleventh edition was published, a formal set of translated authors had been set up, the Romance section under the watchful eye of none other than Harvard's own J.D.M. Ford. Of the 140-odd foreign authors present, the only Spanish writers are Loyola and Cervantes.

There are about 275 entries from *Don Quijote*. It was my father, Don, who first started thinking about the question of Cervantes in Bartlett. He wondered about a number of things. Since a *translation* was perforce used for this selection, how many of the Familiar Quotations reflect Cervantes' real words faithfully? How many Quotations say about the same thing Cervantes did, but with turns of phrase to fit English norms? Of more curious interest were the final two questions: are there any that differ entirely from Cervantes' text? and are there any that are not even present in the original at all? In other words, is Bartlett attributing to Cervantes quotations which are in fact bells and whistles added by the
translator? And what percentage would that be, if any?

The translation Bartlett’s successors used was Motteux’s. When I saw this, it made me wince since I didn’t (and still don’t) like that translation, even though I had two different versions of it on my shelf. The edition that we needed to find was the old Modern Library version of Motteux, since the page numbers cited in Bartlett’s refer to that edition that I located finally in a Hollywood bookstore. I looked for all the quotations from Bartlett’s and compared them with what was in the Spanish edition, and kept a record of everything.

The first thing we noticed is that Motteux regularly used English equivalents for Spanish proverbs and the like. This is a good way, and maybe the best way, to translate proverbs, since a so-called literal translation from the other language of proverbs may either not make sense or may not have the force the original proverb does. Isn’t the best translation what a perfectly bi-lingual speaker would say in either language in the same circumstance? For example, when Cervantes says “Más vale un pájaro en la mano que buitre volando” Motteux naturally substituted “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.” Similarly, the absolute best way to translate Cervantes “No se ganó Zamora en una hora” is the way Motteux did with “Rome was not built in a day.” Of course, Cervantes didn’t create “Más vale un pájaro” and “No se ganó Zamora en una hora” — he was just using was Spain’s collective wisdom, and Motteux was using was Britain’s collective wisdom in his version. So in Bartlett some English proverbs are here attributed to Spain! I have counted 24 of these.

One thing Motteux does is pile on two proverbs where Cervantes only uses one. Look at section 1, example 1. Where Cervantes has “de zoca a colodra,” Motteux uses two equivalents, but this time well backed by English sources: “leap out of the frying pan into the fire” and “out of a warm sun into God’s blessing.” A similar thing happens in No. 21, where Cervantes just says “donde se piensa que hay tocinos, no hay estacas.” Here, Motteux knew of no similar English proverb, so he used a familiar one, then translated the Spanish as well as he could, but still in a confusing way: “Many count their chickens before they are hatched; and where they expect bacon meet with broken bones.” No. 23 is another example of Motteux’s two proverbs for Cervantes’ one: “The ass will carry his load, but not a double load; ride not a free horse to death,” but the Spanish offers only one proverb: “…el asno… sufre la carga, mas no la sobrecarga.” No. 24 is a good word-for-word translation of the Spanish: “…en los nidos de antaño no hay pájaros hogaño;” “Ne’er look for birds
of this year in the nests of the last.” I think that our traditional proverb that follows François Villon would be better: “Where are the snows of yesteryear?” “Mais où sont les neiges d’antan?”

In No. 8, “si me dan la vaquilla, corro con la soguilla,” again a good English equivalent is given, backed by the English oral tradition. Motteux uses an equivalent proverb: “A gift-horse should not be looked in the mouth.” In No. 6, “Aún hay sol en las bardas,” would have no force in English, so he uses an equivalent “Where there’s life there’s hope.”

Section 2 lists sixty-seven accurate translations from Cervantes. If anything is legitimately attributable to Cervantes, it comes from this list. No. 46, for example, “Sings like a lark,” “canta como una calandria” could not have been better translated by Aristotle if he had been resuscitated for that sole purpose.

Similarly, No. 51, “Paciencia y barajar,” “patience and shuffle the cards,” is quite exact, although the Spanish proverb is unknown nowadays and no one uses the English phrase as a proverb. No. 52, dealing with comparisons, is also exact: “Comparisons are odious,” as are Nos. 54 and 55, “In the night all cats are grey,” “de noche todos los gatos son pardos”; and “All is not gold that glitters,” “no es oro todo lo que reluce.” An odd one, though, is No. 60: “es pedir peras al olmo,” which Motteux renders as “You may as well expect pears from an elm.” Didn’t they have “You can’t get blood from a turnip” in those days? That would be the ideal rendition.

There are some interesting ones at the beginning of the section that I would like to mention. Example No. 1, “Me lo sé de coro,” which refers to old-time school learning through choral repetition, is translated appropriately enough by “I know it by heart.” When the Old French expression “apprendre par chœur” came into English, after William’s conquest in 1066, English speakers thought it was cœur ‘heart’ instead of chœur ‘chorus’.

In number 4, Motteux, using his usual style of piling on the proverbs, begins with “After meat comes mustard,” reminiscent of Montaigne’s “Moutarde après dîner” (which Bartlett doesn’t cite), to introduce the notion of “money to a starving man at sea…,” “como quien tiene dineros en mitad del golfo y se está muriendo de hambre.”

The third section, dealing with items which Motteux did differently from Cervantes’ original, is very problematic because sometimes I have listed things that are only slightly different, as in No. 37, “Tenía por límite el cielo,” “No limits but the sky,” and others that are really different, as in No. 77, “No me engaño,” “I’ll take my corporal oath on it.” I also realize
that a few of these items could be listed as proverbial-type equivalents, too, such as those listed in Section 1. Every time I went over these lists I changed items from one list to another, but had to stop somewhere.

Bear in mind that of the one-hundred-ten items on this list, really none of them refers to Cervantes’ own words, and therefore really none of them should be included under the rubric Cervantes.

The interesting thing about this list is that we see a something about Motteux, how he worked. It is obvious he knows his own literature and traditions well, especially Shakespeare, Heywood’s Proverbes, and other works, so he can use his own home-made collection, which we might call Motteux’ s Familiar Quotations, to render the Spanish using English expressions and turns of phrase that are well-known to his readers. As he translates—if “translates” is the right word—it is obvious that the Spanish words inspire him to look into his wealth of expressions and find something that vaguely fits. No. 3, “sin pegar los llorosos ojos,” is translated by “without a wink of sleep.” In echoing Shakespeare, Motteux has taken a bit of the meaning away from the original, yet has made it more familiar to his readers.

No. 4, “y lo que yo saco en limpio de todo esto,” is really quite far from “plain as the nose on a man’s face.” Motteux, from our scholarly point of view, has strayed too far, even though he is backed by Shakespeare and the oral tradition. I would render it “and what I gather from all this.”

In No. 10, Motteux has used the familiar Shakespearean “In the twinkling of an eye” to render, and this time rather well, “en menos de un abrir y un cerrar de ojos.” And for No. 14, from Deuteronomy he has taken the “apples of his eyes” to use for “las niñas de sus ojos,” although I confess I have never understood the literal meaning of either.

In No. 20, we have another example of a bad translation. “Nunca lo bueno fue mucho” doesn’t mean “Can we ever have too much of a good thing?” And similarly in No. 50, “No ande buscando tres pies al gato” doesn’t mean “Those who play with cats expect to be scratched,” even though both deal with cats.

Look at No. 51. Isn’t it ludicrous to say Cervantes said: “Raise a hue and cry” for “dar noticias”? Anyone looking at No. 54 might claim that Cervantes has made yet another mistake, because we don’t have seven senses, when the Spanish quote says: “El miedo me asaltó con mil géneros de sobresaltos y visiones.”

Section four contains seventy-two items that were added—thrown in—by Motteux. There is no hint of any of them in the original, yet here they are, **attributed to Cervantes!** The first twenty seven of them have
sources pretty easy to track down. Nos. 1 and 2, “Time out of mind” and “To give the devil his due” are both Shakespearean, and No. 3, “Murder will out,” which I thought was also from Shakespeare is really from Chaucer.

No. 21 is an interesting one. Obviously George Washington was not Motteux’s source since Washington came along long after Motteux. Maybe Washington was citing Motteux when he said “Honesty is always the best policy.” Of course, honesty isn’t a policy at all, it’s a characteristic.

If you have ever read Motteux with a Spanish original nearby, you may have wondered how Cervantes originally said the notion of “Higgledy-piggledy.” Well, if you looked it up, there is nothing there to find.

To recap: of the twenty-four items in Section one, twenty two of them are quite different from those quoted in Bartlett’s. In Section three, of the hundred-ten items listed, Motteux has changed or falsified them all to some degree, and in Section 4, Motteux has added all seventy two items gratuitously. This means that only 25% of what was attributed to Cervantes actually reflect what was written by him.

Imagine the untold thousands of high-school debaters, politicians, speech writers, and orators who have delved into Bartlett’s, saying things such as “As the celebrated Spanish author, don Miguel de Cervantes, has unequivocally stated: ‘Make hay while the sun shines,’” or “As Cervantes, author of Man of la Mancha, used to quip: ‘Forewarned is forearmed,’” whereas Cervantes never said either one.

So, what are the conclusions? Does this mean that we should begin to doubt all of Bartlett’s? No, because 90% of his quotations are originally from English-language sources. Does it mean that we should be equally wary of all the translated quotations? I say cautiously “probably not,” because the classical authors, for example, have been thoroughly vetted through the ages. I think that Motteux is just an extreme example of “traduttori, tradittori.” He was obviously interested in entertaining his audience and not too interested in preserving the essence of the original. He clearly succeeded brilliantly since translation has more editions by more publishers than any other.

Cervantes said that a translation was like the reverse side of a Flemish tapestry—where you could still see the people and what was going on, just not clearly. But Motteux—and Bartlett’s by extension—has made a kind of Twilight Zone tapestry out of it. On the front, the people look like Spaniards, but on the reverse side they look like Englishmen.
1. Motteux’ Good Equivalents for Proverbs and the Like

The number in parentheses in English refer to the Modern Library Giant Edition of Don Quixote (New York, 1930). The numbers in parentheses after the Spanish quotations refer to any edition by Martín de Riquer in the Juventud/Colección Z/Las Américas series. If you don’t have one of these old Riquer editions, part and chapter numbers are also given.

1. Lest we leap out of the frying-pan into the fire; or, out of God’s blessing into the warm sun. (112; I, 12)
   …y de zoca en colodra… (160; I,18)
   “Leape out of the frying pan into the fire,” Heywood, Proverbes
   “Out of Gods blessing into the warme sunne,”Heywood. Proverbes
   “Thou out of heaven’s bebediction comest to the warm sun,” Shakespeare, King Lear, II, 2, 168.
   “Thou shalt some out of a warme sunne into God’s blessing,” John Lyly (ca. 1553-1606), Euphues

2. Nor do they care a straw. (161)
   …no se la da… dos higos. (213; I, 23)
   “I did not care one straw,” Terence, Eunuchus, III, 1, 21

3. As well look for a needle-in a bottle of hay. (502)
   …buscar… como a Marica en Ravena. (603; II, 10)
   “Needle in a botle of hay,” Nathaniel Field, A Woman’s in a Weathercock (1612)

4. He would not budge an inch. (677)
   …de quien un punto ni un paso se apartaba. (796; II, 34)
   “I’ll not budge an inch,” Shakespeare, The Taming of the Shrew, Induc., 14

7. Set a beggar on horseback. (782)—Viose el perro en bragas de cerro… (905; II, 50)
   “Set a beggar on horseback and he will ride a gallop,” Robert Burton, Anatomy of Melancholy, Part II, 2, 2

8. A gift-horse should not be looked in the mouth. (861)
   …corro con la soguilla. (989; II, 62)
   “No man ought to look a given horse in the mouth,” Heywood, Proverbes
9. By a small sample we may judge of the whole piece. (25)
...que por el hilo se sacará el ovillo. (60, I, 5)

10. Fear is sharp-sighted, and can see things under ground, and much more in the skies.
(131)
...pero tiene el miedo muchos ojos, y vee las cosas debajo de la tierra. (180, I, 20)

11. Ne'er cringe nor creep, for what you by force may reap. (149)
"No pidas de grado lo que puedes tomar por fuerza." (200: I, 21)

12. Sing away sorrow, cast away care. (153)
...quien canta, sus males espanta. (204: I, 22)

13. 'Tis ill talking of balters in the house of a man that was hanged. (195)
...mentar la soga en casa del ahorcado. (246; I, 25)

14. A bird in hand is worth two in the bush (259)
...más vale pájaro en mano que buitre volando. (315; I, 31)

15. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. (322)
...al freír los huevos lo verá. (385: I, 37)

16. Presume to put in her oar. (480)
...se atreve a poner lengua. (579; II, 6)

17. Tell me thy company, and I'll tell thee what thou art. (594)
...dime con quién andas, decirle he quién eres. (709; II, 23)

18. Good wits jump; a word to the wise is enough. (692)
...y al buen entendedor, pocas palabras. (812; II, 37)

19. When thou art at Rome, do as they do at Rome. (806)
"cuando a Roma fueres, haz como vieres." (931; 36)

20. Man appoints, and God disappoints. (816)
...el hombre propone y Dios dispone. (941; II, 55)

21. Many count their chickens before they are hatched; and where they expect bacon
meet with broken bones. (816)
...que adonde se piensa que hay tocinos, no hay estacas. (941; II, 55)

22. Rome was not built in a day. (917)
23. The ass will carry his load, but not a double load; ride not a free horse to death.
   (917)
   ...el asno... sufre la carga, mas no la sobrecarga. (1049; II, 71)

24. Ne'er look for birds of this year in the nests of the last. (933)
   ...en los nidos de antaño no hay pájaros hogaño. (1066; II, 74)

2. Motteux’ Good Translations from Cervantes

1. I know it all by heart. (157)
   ...me lo sé de coro. (209; I, 22)

2. One of those carpet-knights that abandon themselves to sleep and lazy ease. (131)
   ...de aquellos caballeros que toman reposo en los peligros. (181; I, 20)
   “carpet knights” = “courtly knights because they receive their honors in the court and
   upon carpets” Robert Burton (1577-1640)

3. One swallow never makes a summer. (77)
   ...una golondrina no hace verano. (120; I, 13)
   “One swallow maketh not summer,” John Heywood (1497-1580) Proverbes
   One swallowe proueth not that summer is neare,” John Northbrook, Treatise against
dancing, (1577)

4. After meat comes mustard; or, like money to a starving man at sea, when there are
   no victuals to be bought with it.
   ...como quien tiene dineros en mitad del golfo y se está muriendo de hambre. (205; I, 22)

5. I find my familiarity with thee has bred contempt. (136)
   ...que la mucha conversación que tengo contigo ha engendrado este menosprecio. (186; I, 20)
   “I hope, upon familiarity will grow more contempt,” Shakespeare, The Merry Wives
   of Windsor, I, 1, 255
   “Familiarity breeds contempt,” Aesop, The Fox and the Lion

6. Let every man look before he leaps. (528)
   Y cada uno mira por el virote. (634-35; II, 24)
   “Look ere ye leape,” Heywood, Proverbes
7. You are the King by your own Fireside, as much as any Monarch is in his throne.

*(xix)*

...estás en tu casa donde eres señor della, como el rey de sus alcabalas. (19; I, prologue)

8. Fortune may have yet a better success in reserve for you, and they who lose to-day may win to-morrow. (39)

*(Dios será servido que) la suerte se mude y que lo que hoy se pierde se gane mañana.*

(76; I, 7)

9. The charging of his enemy was but the work of a moment. (50)

...el arremeter al vizcaíno, todo fue en un tiempo. (88; I, 8)

10. And had a face like a blessing. (69)

...tenía una cara como una bendición. (112; I, 12)

11. That’s the nature of women,... not to love when we love them, and to love when we love them not. (133)

—Esta es natural condición de las mujeres... desdeñar a quien las quiere y amar a quien las aborrece. (183; I, 20)

12. Ill-luck, you know, seldom comes alone. (135)

...que las aventuras y desventuras nunca comienzan por poco. (185; I, 20)

13. Experience, the universal Mother of Sciences. (140)

*(La) experiencia, madre de las ciencias todas.* (191; I, 21)

14. Give me but that, and let the world rub, there I’ll stick. (148)

... a eso me atengo. (199; I, 21)

15. ‘Tis an office of more trust to shave a man’s beard than to saddle a horse. (151)

...es más de confianza el hacer la barba que ensillar un caballo. (202; I, 22)

16. Return to our flesh-pots of Egypt. (160)

...volver... a las ollas de Egipto. (212; I, 22)

17. Within a stone’s throw of it. (170)

...un tiro de piedra. (221; I, 23)

18. ‘Tis the only comfort of the miserable to have partners in their woes. (173)

...que todavía es consuelo en las desgracias hallar quien se duela dellas. (225; I, 23)

19. The very remembrance of my former misfortune proves a new one to me. (174)
…que el traerlas a la memoria no me sirve de otra cosa que añadir otras de nuevo. (226; I, 24)

20. She may guess what I should perform in the wet, if I do so much in the dry. (186)
…si en seco hago esto, ¿qué hiciera en mojado? (238; I, 25)

21. For goodness-sake. (190)
—Por el amor de Dios. (241; I, 25)

22. Cutting the air as swift as a witch upon a broomstick. (191)
…volveré por los aires como, un brujo. (243; I, 25)

23. My love and hers have always been purely Platonick. (192)
…mis amores y los suyos hav sido siempre platónicos. (244; I, 25)

24. There are but two things that chiefly excite us to love a woman, an attractive beauty, and unspotted fame. (195)
…que dos cosas solas incitan a amar más que otras; que son la hermosura y la buena fama. (246; I, 25)

25. My memory is so bad, that many times I forget my own name! (195)
…que la (= memoria) tengo tan mala, que muchas veces se me olvida cómo me llamo. (247; I, 25)

26. On the word of a gentleman, and a Christian. (236)
…por la fe de caballero y de cristiano. (290; I, 29)

27. A fig for your great captain. (267)
¡Dos higos para el Gran Capitán! (324; I, 32)

28. He that gives quickly gives twice. (291)
..el que luego da, da dos veces. (350; I, 34)

29. Let none presume to tell me that the pen is preferable to the sword. (325)
¡Quitenseme de delante los que dijeren que las letras hacen ventaja a las armas. (388-89; I, 36)

30. It is past all controversy, that what costs dearest, is, and ought most to be valued. (328)
Y es razón averiguada que aquello que más cuesta se estima y se debe estimar más. (392; I, 38)
31. The bow cannot always stand bent, nor can human frailty subsist without some lawful recreation. (412)

32. Faith without good works is dead. (423)

33. How blind must he be that can’t see through a sieve. (450)

34. When the head aches, all the members partake of the pains. (456)

35. He has done like Orbaneja, the painter of Ubeda; who, being asked what he painted, answered, “As it may hit;” and when he had scrawled out a misshapen cock, was forced to write underneath in Gothic letters, “This is a cock.” (464)

36. Youngsters read it, grown men understand it, and old people applaud it. (464)

37. The most artful part in a play is the fool’s. (465)

38. “There is no book so bad,” said the bachelor, “but something good may be found in it.” (465)

39. He that publishes a book runs a very great hazard, since nothing can be more impossible than to compose one that may secure the approbation of every reader. (466)

40. Every man is as Heaven made him, and sometimes a great deal worse. (468)

41. There’s no sauce in the world like hunger. (473)
La mejor salsa del mundo es la hambre. (572; II, 5)

42. Are we to mark this day with a white or a black stone? (503) ¿Podré señalar este día con piedra blanca, o con negra? (604; II, 10)

43. As one egg is like another. (530) …se parece un huevo a otro. (636; II, 14)

44. The pen is the tongue of the mind (543) ..la pluma es la lengua del alma. (651; II, 16)

45. Modesty is a virtue not often found among poets, for almost every one of them thinks himself the greatest in the world. (555) —No me parece mal esa humildad... porque no hay poeta que no sea arrogante y piense de sí que es el mayor poeta del mundo. (663-64; II, 18)

46. Sings like a lark. (564) …canta como una calandria. (672; II, 19)

47. Marriage is a noose. (564) …es un lazo (673; II, 19)

48. There were but two families in the world, Have-much and Have-little. (574) Dos linajes solos hay en el mundo,... que son el tener y el no tener. (685; II, 20)

49. He preaches well that lives well, quoth Sancho, that’s all the divinity I understand. (575) —Bien predica quien bien vive... yo no sé otras tologías. (687; I, 20)

50. Love and War are the same thing, and stratagems and policy are as allowable in the one as in the other. (580) ...el amor y la guerra son una misma cosa, y así como en la guerra es cosa lícita y acostumbrada usar de ardides y estratagemas para vencer al enemigo... (692; II, 21)

51. Patience, and shuffle the cards. (592) ...paciencia y barajar. (707; II, 23)

52. Comparisons are odious. (593) ...toda comparación es odiosa. (708; II, 23)

53. One of the most considerable advantages the great have over their inferiors, is to have servants as good as themselves. (645)
una de las ventajas mayores que llevan los príncipes a los demás hombres es que se sirven de criados tan buenos como ellos. (764; II, 31)

54. In the night all cats are gray. (665)
...de noche todos los gatos son pardos. (784; II, 33)

55. All is not gold that glisters. (666)
...no es oro todo lo que reluce. (784; II, 33)

56. A good name is better than riches. (668)
...más vale el buen nombre que las muchas riquezas. (787; II, 33)

57. Heaven’s help is better than early rising (674)
...más vale al que Dios ayuda que al que mucho madruga. (792; II, 34)

58. They had best not stir the rice, though it sticks to the pot. (691)
...será mejor no menear el arroz, aunque se pegue. (811; II, 37)

59. They cover a dunghill with a piece of tapestry when a procession goes by. (691)
...como quien cubre o tapa un muladar con un tapiz en día de procesión. (811; II, 37)

60. You may as well expect pears from an elm. (704)
...es pedir peras al olmo. (825; II, 40)

61. Diligence is the mother of good fortune. (724)
...que la diligencia es madre de la buena ventura. (845; II, 43)

62. When a man says, “Get out of my house! What would you have with my wife?” there’s no answer to be made. (726)
...a idos de mi casa y qué queréis con mi mujer, no hay responder.” (847; II, 43)

63. Walls have ears. (763)
...que las paredes tienen oídos. (885; II, 48)

64. He that proclaims the kindnesses he has received, shows his disposition to repay ’em if he could. (835)
...quien dice y publica las buenas obras que recibe, también las recompensara con otras, si pudiera. (960; II, 63)

65. He that errs in so considerable a passage, may well be suspected to have committed many gross errors through the whole history. (843)
…quien en esta parte tan principal yerra, bien se podrá temer que yerra en todas las demás de la histopria. (968; II, 59)

66. Now blessings light on him that first invented this same sleep! It covers a man all over, thoughts and all, like a cloak; tis meat for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, heat for the cold, and cold for the hot. ‘Tis the current coin that purchases all the pleasures of the world cheap; and the balance that sets the king and the shepherd, the fool and the wise man even. (898)
…bien haya el que inventó el sueño, capa que cubre todos los humanos pensamientos, manjar que quita la hambre, agua que ahuyenta la sed, fuego que calienta el frío, frío que templan el ardor, y, finalmente, moneda general con que todas las cosas se compran, balanza y peso que iguala al pastor con el rey y al simple con el discreto. (1030; II, 68)

67. He... got the better of himself, and that’s the best kind of victory one can wish for. (924)
…viene vencedor de sí mismo; que, según él me ha dicho, es el mayor vencimiento que desearse puede. (1056; II, 72)

3. Motteux Uses Different Expressions and Turns of Phrase from Cervantes’ Words

1. They can expect nothing but their labour for their pains. (xxiii)
…no yéndole nada en ello. (24; I, prologue)
“I have had my labour for my travail,” Shakespeare, Troilus and Cressida, I, i, 73.

2. As ill-luck would have it. (12)
A dicha… (46; I, 2)
“As good luck would have it.” Shakespeare, The Merry Wives of Windsor, III, 5, 86.

3. Without a wink of sleep (72)
…sin pegar los llorosos ojos. (114; I, 12)
“I have not slept one wink,” Shakespeare, Cymbeline, III, 4, 103.

4. Plain as the nose on a man’s face. (112)
Y yo que yo saco en limpio de todo esto… (160; I, 18)
“as a nose on a man’s face,” Shakespeare, Two Gentlemen from Verona, II, 1, 145.

5. Let the worst come to the worst. (127)
Y quando así fuese..., (176; I, 19)
“The worst comes to worst,” Thos. Middleton (1570-1627), The Phoenix
6. More knave than fool. (261)
...más de ladrón que de simple. (317; I, 31)
"More knave than fool," Ch. Marlowe, The Jew of Malta, II

7. At his wit’s end. (306)
...estaba desesperado (365; I, 35)
"We both be at out wittes end," Heywood, Proverbes

8. Stopped them in the nick. (383)
...les asió al salir de la puerta. (454; I, 44)
"The nick of time," John Suckling (1609-1642), The Goblins, V

9. Give them the slip. (415)
...había de hacer de las suyas, y irse donde jamás gentes le viesen. (492; I, 49)
"Judas had given them the slip," Mathew Henry (1662-1714), Commentaries: Matt. 22

10. In the twinkling of an eye. (476)
...en menos de un abrir y un cerrar de ojos. (575; II, 5)
"In the twinkling of an eye," Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice, II, 2, 183

11. Sleeveless errants. (502)
...semejantes mensajerías (604; II, 10)
"A sleeveless errand," Heywood, Proverbes

12. The very pink of courtesy. (521)
...que son la misma cortesía. (626; II, 13)
"I am the very pink of courtesy," Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet II, 4, 63.

13. There is no love lost, sir. (583)
—No nos debemos nada... (696; II, 22)
"There shall be no love lost," Ben Jonson (1573?-1637), Every Man out of his Humour, II, 1

14. The apples of his eyes. (637)
...las niñas de sus ojos. (756; I, 30)
"The apple of the eye," Deut. 32:10

15. Building castles in the air. (649)
...papando aire. (769; II, 31)
"Can build castles in the air," Robert Burton (1577-1640), Anatomy of Melancholy
16. He’s as mad as a March hare. (664)
…es un mentecato (783; II, 783)
“Mad as a march hare,” Heywood, Proverbs

17. This is no time for me to mind niceties, and spelling of letters. I have other fish to fry. (682)
…que no estoy agora para mirar en sotilezas ni en letras más o menos. (801; I, 35)
“We have other fish to fry,” Rabelais, Works, V, Chap. 11

18. There’s a time for some things, and a time for all things; a time for great things, and a time for small things. (682)
….no son todos los tiempos unos. (801; II, 35)
“For everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose,” Ecclesiastes, 3:1

19. I think it a very happy accident. (831)
…ha sido para mí felicísimo acontecimiento. (956; II, 58)
“By many a happy accident,” Middleton, No Wit, No Help, Like a Woman’s II, 2

20. I was so free with him as not to mince the matter. (xx)
… no encubriéndosela… (20; I, prologue)

21. The brave man carves out his fortune, and every man is the son of his own works. (22)
…cuanto más que cada uno es hijo de sus obras. (57; I, 4)

22. Which I have earned by the sweat of my brows. (22)
…sudor… (57; I, 4)

23. Put you in this pickle. (30)
…tal ha parado vuestra merced. (65; I, 5)

24. Can we ever have too much of a good thing? (37)
…que nunca lo bueno fue mucho. (75; I, 6)
“Can one desire too much of a good thing?” Shakespeare, As You Like It, IV, 1, 110.

25. *The charging of his enemy was but the work of a moment.
…el arremeter al vizcaíno, todo fue en un tiempo. (88; I, 8)

26. I don’t know that ever I saw one in my born days. (57)
…ni en mi vida le caté a ninguno. (98; I, 10)

27. Those two fatal words, Mine and Thine. (63)
...estas dos palabras, *mío y tuyo*. (104; I, 11)

28. The eyes those silent tongues of Love. (65)
...ni aun con los ojos siquiera. (107; I, 11)

29. Ambrose and his friends will carry the day. (67)
..en fin, sa hará lo que Ambrosio y todos los pastores sus amigos quieren. (110; I, 12)

30. As good-natured a soul as e'er trod on shoe of leather. (69)
...era muy buen compañero y caritativo y amigo de los buenos. (112; I, 12)

31. He's a good man, I'll say that for him, and a true Christian every inch of him. (70)
...a las derechas es buen cristiano. (113; I, 12)

32. There's not the least thing can be said or done, but people will talk and find fault. (70)
...de todo se trata y de todo se murmura. (113; I, 12)

33. Everything disturbs an absent lover. (84)
...como al enamorado ausente no hay cosa que la fatigue ni temor que no le dé alcance. (129; I, 14)

34. It is a true saying, that a man must eat a peck of salt with his friend, before he knows him. (92)
...bien dicen que es menester mucho tiempo para venir a conocer a las personas. (139; I, 15)

35. Fortune leaves always some door open to come at a remedy. (94)
Siempre deja la ventura una puerta abierta en las desdichas, para dar remedio a ellas. (141; I, 15)

36. Fair and softly goes far. (97)
Aun es temprano... (145; I, 16)

37. No limits but the sky. (110)
...que tenía por límite el cielo. (157; I, 17)

38. A peck of troubles. (112)
...a tantas desventuras... (160; I, 18)

39. The short and long is... (112)
Y lo que sería muy acertado... (160; I, 18)
40. Every tooth in a man’s head is more valuable than a diamond. (121)
...que la boca sin muelas es como molino sin piedra. (169; I, 18)

41. The famous Don Quixote de la mancha, otherwise called The Knight of the Woeful Figure. (126)
...el famoso don Quijote de la Mancha, que por otro nombre se llama el Caballero de la Triste Figura. (175; I, 19)

42. You are come off now with a whole skin. (127)
...vuestra merced ha acabado esta peligrosa aventura lo más a su salvo de todas las que he visto. (177; I, 19)

43. Get out of harm’s way. (130)
desviarnos del peligro. (179; I, 20)

44. You may go whistle for the rest. (134)
...que no hay pasar adelante. (184; I, 20)

45. Why do you lead me a wild-goose chase? (136)
...que me trae a deshoras y por estos no acostumbrados pasos. (186; I, 20)

46. I tell thee, that’s Mambrino’s helmet.
—Pues ése es el yelmo de Mambrino. (192; I, 21)

47. I give up the ghost. (143)
...aquí sea mi hora. (194; I, 21)

48. Of good natural parts, and of a liberal education. (154)
...muy bien nacida. (206; I, 22)

49. A medley of kindred, that ’twould puzzle a convocation of casuists to resolve their degrees of consanguinity. (155)
...la parentela tan intricadamente, que no hay diablo que lo declare. (207; I, 22)

50. Those who’ll play with cats must expect to be scratched. (159)
...no ande buscando tres pies al gato. (210; I, 22)

51. Raise a hue and cry. (159)
...dar noticias (211; I, 22)

52. ’Tis the part of a wise man to keep himself to-day for to-morrow, and not venture all his eggs in one basket. (162)
53. The ease of my burdens, the staff of my life. (163)
...alivio de mis cargas, y, finalmente, sustentador de la mitad de mi persona. (215; I, 23)
(from spurious "robo del rucio")

54. I'm almost frightened out of my seven senses. (168)
...el miedo me asalto con mil géneros de sobresaltos y visiones. (220; I, 23)

55. Absence, that common cure of love. (177)
...el ausentarse por algunos meses. (229; I, 24)

56. From pró's and con's they fell to a warmer way of disputing. (181)
...y fue el fin de las réplicas asirse de las barbas... (233; I, 24)

57. I never thrust my nose into other men's porridge. It is no bread and butter of mine;
every man for himself, and God for us all. (183)
...no soy amigo de saber vidas ajenas (235; I, 25)

58. Naked came I into the world, and naked must I go out. (183)
...desnudo nací; desnudo me hallo (235; I, 25)

59. Mere flim-flam stories, and nothing but shams and lies (187)
...todo debe de ser cosa de viento y mentira. (239; I, 25)

60. Thou hast seen nothing yet. (190)
—¡Bien estás en el cuento? (241; I, 25)

61. There's no need to make an enquiry about a woman's pedigree, as there is of us men,
when some badge of honour is bestowed on us. (194)
...que no han de ir a hacer la información dél (= linaje) para darle algún hábito. (246; I, 25)

62. You're a devil at everything; and there's no kind of thing in the versal world but what
you can turn your hand to. (196)
...que es vuestra merced el mesmo diablo, y que no hay cosa que no sepa. (247; I, 25)

63. 'Twill grieve me so to the heart, that I shall cry my eyes out. (197)
...que me dará mucha lástima y no podrá dejar de llorar. (248; I, 25)

64. Without knowing why or wherefore. (197)
...sin qué ni para qué (248; I, 25)

65. Ready to split his sides with laughing. (208)
...no pudo tener la risa (259; I, 27)

66. As much a fool as he was, he loved money, and knew how to keep it when he had it, and was wise enough to keep his own counsel. (208)
...que maguer que tonto, era un poco codicioso... (260; I, 27)

67. What man has assurance enough to pretend to know thoroughly the riddle of a woman’s mind, and who could ever hope to fix her mutable nature? (216)
¿quién hay en el mundo que se pueda alabar que ha penetrado y sabido el confuso pensamiento y condición mudable de una mujer? (268; I, 27)

68. Demonstrations of love are never altogether displeasing to women, and the most disdainful, in spite of all their coyness, reserve a little complaisance in their hearts for their admirers. (226)
...por feas que seamos las mujeres, me parece a mí que siempre nos da gusto oír que nos llaman hermosas. (280; I, 28)

69. Delay always breeds danger. (240)
...que en la tardanza dicen que suele estar el peligro. (295; I, 29)

70. Let things go at sixes and sevens. (250)
...siquiera se lo lleve el diablo todo. (306; I, 30)

71. Think before thou speakest. (252)
...mira... lo que hablas... (308; I, 30)

72. Let us forget and forgive injuries. (254)
—Echemos, ... pelillos a la mar. (309; II, 30)

73. I must speak the truth, and nothing but the truth. (255)
...si va a decir la verdad. (310; I, 30)

74. I can tell where my own shoe pinches me; and you must not think, sir, to catch old birds with chaff. (267)
¡Como si yo no supiese.. adónde me aprieta el zapato. (325; I, 32)

75. Required in every good lover..., the whole alphabet... Agreeable, Bountiful, Constant, Dutiful, Easy, Faithful, Gallant, Honourable, Ingenious, Kind, Loyal, Mild, Noble, Officious, Prudent, Quiet, Rich, Secret, True, Valiant, Wise... Young
and Zealous. (292)
...han de tener los buenos enamorados, sino todo un abecé entero..., agradecido, 
bueno, caballero, dadivoso, enamorado, firme, gallardo, honrado, ilustre, leal, mozo, 
noble, onesto, principal, quantioso, rico, y las eses que dicen (= sabio, solo, solícito, 
y secreto), y luego, tácito, verdadero. La X no cuadra, porque es la letra áspera; y la 
Y ya está dicha; la Z, zelador de tu honra. (351; I, 34)

76. Virtue is the truest nobility. (314)
...la verdadera nobleza consiste en la virtud. (376; I, 36)

77. I’ll take my corporal oath on ’t. (321)
...no me engaño. (385; I, 37)

78. It seldom happens that any felicity comes so pure as not to be tempered and allayed 
by some mixture of sorrow. (359)
Mas como pocas veces, o nunca, viene el bien puro y sencillo, sin ser acompañado o 
seguido de algún mal que le turbe o sobresalte. (427; I, 41)

79. There’s no striving against the stream; and the weakest still goes to the wall. (404)
...donde reina la envidia no puede vivir la virtud, ni adonde hay escaseza la liberalidad. 
(479; I, 47)

80. I would have nobody to control me, I would be absolute; and who but I? Now, 
he that is absolute can do what he likes; he that can do what he likes, can take his 
pleasure; he that can take his pleasure, can be content; and he that can be content, 
has no more to desire. So the matter’s over; and come what will come, I am satisfied. 
(423)
...y tan rey sería yo de mi estado como cada uno del suyo; y siendolo, haría lo que 
quisiese; y haciendo lo que quisiese, haría mi gusto; y haciendo mi gusto, estaría 
contento; y en estando contento, no tiene más que desear; y no teniendo más que 
desar, acabóse. (502; I, 50)

81. It is not the hand, but the understanding of a man, that may be said to write. 
(441)
...hase de advertir que no se escribe con las canas, sino con el entendimiento. (536; II, 
prologue)

82. Had only now and then lucid intervals. (448)
...con lúcidos intervalos (545; II, 1)
83. (Fearing he would not) Keep within bounds. (455)
(Temiendo que) ...se descosiese (553; II, 2)

84. Miracle me no miracles. (467)
Milagros o no milagros (562; II, 3)

85. There are men that will make you books, and turn' em loose into the world, with as
much dispatch as they would do a dish of fritters. (465)
...hay algunos que así componen libros y arrojan libros de sí como si fuesen buñuelos.
(563; II, 3)

86. Birds of a feather flock together. (474)
“Al hijo de tu vecino, límpiale las narices y métele en tu casa.” (573; II, 5)

87. He casts a sheep's eye at the wench. (474)
...no mira de mal ojo a la mochacha. (573; II, 5)

88. I ever loved to see everything upon the square. (475)
...fui amiga de la igualdad. (674; II, 19)

89. Journey over all the universe in a map, without the expense and fatigue of travelling,
without suffering the inconveniences of heat, cold, hunger, and thirst. (479)
...se pasean por todo el mundo, mirando un mapa, sin costarles blanca. (578; II, 6)

90. A little in one's own pocket is better than much in another man's purse.'Tis good to
keep a nest-egg. Every little makes a mickle. (486)
...que sobre un hueso pone la gallina y muchos pocos hacen un mucho. (585; II, 7)

91. That's neither here nor there. (498)
—No se atenga a eso. (599; II, 9)

92. Remember the old saying, “Faint heart ne'er won fair lady.” (501)
...buen corazón quebranta mala ventura. (602; II, 10)
English quotation from Edmund Spencer (1553?-1599) (Britain's Ida, V, 1).

93. She'll give Camacho the bag to hold. (565)
...yo le daré a él un saco de buena fortuna. (674; II, 19)

94. A private sin is not so prejudicial in this world as a public indecency. (582)
...que mucho más dañan a las honras de las mujeres las desenvolturas y libertades
públicas que las maldades secretas. (695; II, 22)
95. He has an oar in every man’s boat, and a finger in every pie. (583)
...pero no hay cosa donde no pique y deje de meter su cucharada. (695; II, 22)

96. Come back sound, wind and limb. (587)
Dios... te vuelva libre, sano y sin cautela a la luz desta vida. (700; II, 22)

97. To-morrow will be a new day. (618)
...y amanecerá Dios. (737; II, 36)

98. “Sit there, clod-pate!” cried he; “for let me sit wherever I will, that will still be the upper end, and the place of worship to thee.” (648)
“Sentaos, majagranzas; que adondequiera que yo me siente será vuestra cabecera.”
(767-68; II, 31)

99. ‘Tis good to live and learn. (655)
...es bueno vivir mucho: por ver mucho. (774; II, 32)

100. Great persons are able to do great kindnesses. (662)
—De grandes señoras, grandes mercedes se esperan. (781; II, 32)

101. An honest man’s word is as good as his bond. (674)
...al buen pagador no le duelen prendas. (792; II, 34)

102. The worst is still behind. (683)
...que aún falta la cola por desollar. (802; II, 35)

103. ‘Twill do you a world of good. (683)
...que os será de mucho provecho. (802; II, 35)

104. My understanding has forsook me, and is gone a wool-gathering. (692)
...me ha llevado el entendimiento no sé adonde. (813; II, 38)

105. Make it thy business to know thyself, which is the most difficult lesson in the world (719)
...procurando conocerte a ti mismo, que es el más difícil conocimiento que puede imaginarse. (840; II, 42)

106. What a man has, so much he’s sure of. (725)
...tanto vales cuanto tienes. (846; II, 53)

107. I shall be as secret as the grave (862)
Así lo juro... (990; II, 62)
108. There is a thing called poetical license. (913)
...y ya no hay necedad que canten o escriban que no atribuyan a licencia poética. (1045; II, 70)

109. There is a strange charm in the thoughts of a good legacy, or the hopes of an estate, which wondrously alleviates the sorrow that men would otherwise feel for the death of friends. (934)
...que esto del heredar algo borra o templma en el heredero la memoria de la pena que es razón que deje el muerto. (1066; II, 74)

110. For if he like a madman lived,
At least he like a wise one died. (935)
...morir cuerdo y vivir loco. (1067; II, 74)

4. Motteux Inserts Items not in Cervantes' Text
The numbers in parentheses refer to pages in the Motteux edition.
2. To give the devil his due. (111) “He will give the devil his due,” Shakespeare, *King Henry VI*, Part I, I, 2. 132.
   “Main chance,” Shakespeare, *King Henry VI*, Part I, II, 5, 113
5. Make hay while the sun shines. (182) “When the sun shineth, make hay,” Heywood, *Proverbes*
6. Little said is soon amended. (184) “Little said is soonest mended,” George Wither (1588-1667), *The Shepherd’s Hunting*
7. They must needs go whom the Devil drives. (259)
   “He must needs goe whom the devill doth drive,” Heywood, *Proverbes*
8. She made a virtue of necessity. (313)
   “Thus maketh virtue of necessitee,” Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseye*, III, 1586
10. By hook or by crook. (328) “By hoke ne by croke,” John Skelton (ca. 1460-1529)
11. Even a worm when trod upon, will turn again. (440) “The smallest worm with turn, when trodden upon,” Shakespeare, *King Henry VI*, Part III, II, 2, 17
12. Spare your breath to cool your porridge. (505)
   “Spare your breath to cool your porridge,” Rabelais, *Works*, V, 28
14. neither fish, flesh, nor good red herring. (521)
   She is neither fish nor flesh, nor good red herring,” Heywood, *Proverbes*
16. The fair sex. (480) “That sex which is therefore called the fair,” Richard Steele (1672-1729)


18. You can see farther into a millstone than he. (628) Shee had seene far into a millstone; Heywood, Proverbes

19. Speak the truth and shame the devil. (647) “While you live, tell truth and shame the devil,” Shakespeare, King Henry IV, Part I, III, 1, 58

20. Upon second thoughts. (653) “Second thoughts, they say, are best,” John Dryden (1630-1700)

21. Honesty’s the best policy. (666) “…honesty is always the best policy,” G. Washington, Farewell Address

22. You cannot eat your cake and have your cake; and store’s no sore. (723) “Would you both eat your cake and have your cake?” Heywood, Proverbes; “…store is no sore,” Heywood, Proverbes

23. Mum’s the word. (729) “Cry ‘mum,’” Shakespeare, The Merry Wives of Windsor, V, 2, 6


25. All the fat shall be in the fire. (906) “The fat is in the fire,” Heywood, Proverbes


27. The fair sex. (480) “That sex which is therefore called the fair,” Richard Steele (1672-1729)

28. Thank you for nothing. (94)

29. May Old Nick rock my cradle. (103)

30. You’re leaping over the hedge before you come to the stile. (117)

31. You’re taking the wrong sow by the ear. (117)

32. Paid him in his own coin. (119)

33. Bell, book, and candle. (120)

34. A finger in every pie. (133)

35. No better than she should be. (133)

36. Every dog has his day. (133)

37. Let every man mind his own business. (157)

38. I know what’s what. (162)

39. Lovers are commonly industrious to make themselves uneasy. (179)

40. A close mouth catches no flies (184)

41. To tell you the truth. (190)

42. Between jest and earnest (190)

43. ‘Tis ten to one. (193)
44. As sure as I'm alive. (193)
45. My honour is dearer to me than my life. (228)
46. Higgledy-piggledy. (241)
47. Mind your own business (263)
48. Within the bounds of possibility. (283)
49. The ornament of her sex. (287)
50. Thank your stars. (292)
51. Harp so on the same string. (305)
52. Here's the devil-and-all to pay. (319)
53. Ready cash. (468)
54. Rejoices the cockles of my heart. (472)
55. Neither will I make myself anybody's laughing-stock. (475)
56. That feather in their caps. (476)
57. Stand in thy own light. (476)
58. Fore-warned fore-armed. (502)
59. Returning the compliment. (606)
60. I can see with half an eye. (632)
61. Scum of the world. (635)
62. Old... that's an affront no woman can well bear. (644)
63. Made' em pay dear for their frolic. (655)
64. A blot in thy scutcheon to all futurity. (681)
65. But all in good time. (686)
66. With a grain of salt. (690)
67. The pot calls the kettle black. (727)
68. I thought it working for a dead horse, because I am paid beforehand. (917)
69. Nothing like striking while the iron is hot. (919)
70. Every man was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth. (926)
71. Die merely of the mulligrubs. (932)
72. Get out of your doleful dumps. (932)