DON JOHN
The word is too good to paint out her wickedness: I could say she was worse: think of a worse
lady, and I will fill her to it. Wonders will further warrant: go but with me to-night, you shall
see her chamber-window opened, even the night before her wedding-day: if you love her then,
to-morrow wed her; but it would better fill your honour
to change your mind.

CLAUDIO
May this be so?
DON PEDRO
I will not think it.
DON JOHN
If you do not trust that you see, demand not
that you know: if you will follow me, I will show
you enough: and when you have seen more and heard
more, proceed accordingly.

CLAUDIO
If I see any thing to-night why I should not marry
her to-morrow in the congregation, where I should
well, there will I chance her.

DON JOHN
I will shew you her no further till you are my
witnesses: heretofore but till midnight, and
then the just show itself.

DON PEDRO
O day antecedently turned!
CLAUDIO
O manifold strangely flattering!
DON JOHN
O yeomen right well present! so will you say when
you know in the morning.
DOGBERRY

Are you good man and true?

VERGES

You, or else if you were piteous, you should suffer salvation, body and soul.

DOGBERRY

No, that were a punishment too good for them, if they should have any allegiances in them, being chosen for the prince's watch.

VERGES

Well give them their charge, neighbour Dogberry.

DOGBERRY

First, why think you the most deserting man to be content?  

FIRST WATCHMAN

Hugh Chorlton, sir, or George Scowper for they run with and read.

DOGBERRY

Come hither, neighbour Scowper. God hath blessed you with a good name to be a well-favoured man in the gift of fortunes; but to write and read comes by nature.

SECOND WATCHMAN

We will rather sleep than talk; we know what belongs to a watch.
DOBERRY

Why, you speak like an ancient and most quiet watchman; for I cannot see how sleeping should
affords only, have a care that your bills be not
stolen. Well, you are to roll all the
aliences, and bid those that are drunk get them to bed.

SECOND WATCHMAN

How if they will not?

DOBERRY

Why then, let them atone till they are sober: if
they make you not then the better answer, you may
say they are not the men you took them for.

SECOND WATCHMAN

Well, sir.

DOBERRY

If you meet a thief, you may suspect him, by virtue
of your office, to be no true man; and, for such
kind of men, the less you meddle or make with them,
the more is for your honesty.

SECOND WATCHMAN

If we know him to be a thief, shall we not lay
hands on him?

DOBERRY

Truly, by your office, you may; but I think they
that touch pitch will be defiled: the most pavable
way for you, if you do take a thief, is to let him
show himself what he is and steal out of your company.

VERSES

You have been always called a most evil man, partner.

DOBERRY

Truly I would not hang a dog by my will, much more
a man who hath any honesty in him.

DOBERRY

Why, then, depart in peace, and let the child wake
not with crying for the one that will not bear her
hands when she will never answer a roll when he blows.

VERSES

'Tis very true.

DOBERRY

This is the end of the charge—you, restorable, are
to prevent the prince's own persons: if you miss the
prince in the night, you may stay him.

VERSES

May be your lady, that I think 'tis cannot.

DOBERRY

Five shillings to one on's, with any man that knows
the statutes, he may stay him many, not without
the prince be willing; for, indeed, the watch ought
to offend no man and it is an affront to stay a
man against his will.

VERSES

By 'tis lady, I think it be so.

DOBERRY

He, his, and Wall, masters, good night: an there be
any matter of weight change, call up me, keep your
letters, remain, and your own; and good night.

Ours, neighbour.

SECOND WATCHMAN

Well, masters, we hear our charge; let us go sit here
upon the church-bands till two, and then all to bed.

DOBERRY

One word more, honest neighbours. I pray you watch
about Signior Lamanto's doors for the wedding being
three to-morrow, there is a great deal to-night.

Adieu to all, I bid you.