II.3 Enter Benedick alone.

BENEDICK Boy!

[Enter Boy]

BOY Signor?

BENEDICK In my chamber window lies a book. Bring it hither to me in the orchard.

BOY I am here already, sir.

BENEDICK I know that, but I would have thee hence and here again. Exit [Boy]. I do much wonder that one man, seeing how much another man is a fool when he dedicates his behaviors to love, will, after he hath laughed at such shallow follies in others, become the argument of his own scorn by falling in love; and such a man is Claudio. I have known when there was no music with him but the drum and the fife, and now had he rather hear the tabor and the pipe. I have known when he would have walked ten mile afoot to see a good armor, and now will he lie ten nights awake carving the fashion of a new doublet. He was wont to speak plain and to the purpose, like an honest man and a soldier, and now is he turned orthography; his words are a very fantastical banquet—just so many strange dishes. May I be so converted and see with these eyes? I cannot tell. I think not. I will not be sworn but love may transform me to an oyster; but I'll take my oath on it, till he have made an oyster of me he shall never make me such a fool. One woman is fair, yet I am well; another is wise, yet I am well; another virtuous, yet I am well. But till all graces be in one woman, one woman shall not come in my grace. Rich she shall be, that's certain; wise, or I'll none; virtuous, or I'll never cheapen her; fair, or I'll never look on her; mild, or come not near me; noble, or not I for an angel; of good discourse, an excellent musician, and her hair shall be of what color it please God. Ha, the prince and Monsieur Love! I will hide me in the arbor. [He hides.]

Enter Prince [Don Pedro], Leonato, Claudio.

II.3 10–11 argument subject 13–14 drum... pipe (drum and fife were used for military music, tabor and pipe for festivities) 15 armor suit of armor 16 carving designing 17 doublet jacket 19 orthography fashionable and overelaborate in his choice and pronunciation of words 21 converted changed; these eyes the eyes of a lover

29 cheapen bargain for 30–31 noble... angel (play on the names of gold coins; the noble was worth about a third less than the angel)