

Chapter 04

How ^{a)}beautiful art thou my loue, how beautiful art thou! thine ^{b)}eies as it were of doues, besides that, which lyeth hid within. Thy ^{c)}heares as the flockes of goates, which haue come vp from mount Galaad. ² Thy ^{d)}teeth as flockes of them that are shorne, which haue come vp from the lauatorie, al with ^{e)}twinnnes, and there is no barren among them. ³ Thy ^{f)}lippes as a scarlet lace: and thy ^{g)}speech fweete. As a peece of a pomegranate, so are also thy ^{g)}cheekes, besides that which lyeth hid within. ⁴ Thy ^{h)}necke is as the ⁱ⁾towre of Dauid, which is built with bulworkes: a thousand targattes hand on it, al the armour of the valiants. ⁵ Thy ^{j)}two breastes as two fawnes the twinnnes of a roe, which feede among the lilies, ⁶ til the day aspire, and the shadowes decline. ^{k)}I wil goe to the mount of myrrhe, and to the litle hil of frankencense. ⁷ Thou art al fayre ô my loue, and there is ^{l)}not a spotte in thee. ⁸ Come from Libanus my spouse, come from Libanus, come: thou shalt be crowned from the head of Amena, from the toppe of Sanit & Hermon, from the dennes of lions, from the mountaynes of leopardes. ⁹ Thou haft wounded my heart, my fifter spouse, thou

^a Chrifft againe praifeth the beautie of his Church.

^b Sincere and fimple intention.

^c Al her temporal occupations directed to Gods glorie.

^d Paftors who like nurces geue bread of good doctrine to litle ones.

^e Faith and good workes.

^f Preaching Chrifts paffion.

^g And not afhamed to professe Chrifft Crucified.

^h Adminiftration of Sacraments wherby the Church, Chrifts myftical bodie, is ioyned to him her head,

ⁱ which is an inexpugnable fortrefse.

^j Both Iewes and Gentiles are fed with the principles of Chriftian doctrin.

^k Chrifft dwelleth in mortified, and deuout mindes.

^l The Church triumphant is without spotte, and euerie particular foule entring into heauen, the B. Virgin mother was also in this life alwayes immaculate.

haft wounded my heart in one of thine eies, and in one heare of thy necke. ¹⁰ How beautiful are thy breastes my fifter spouse! thy breastes are more beautiful then wine, and the odour of thine ointmentes aboue al aromatical spices. ¹¹ Thy lippes my spouse are as an honie combe distilling, honie and milk are vnder thy tongue: and the odour of thy garments as the odour of frankincense. ¹² My fifter spouse is a garden inclosed, a garden inclosed, a fountaine sealed vp. ¹³ Thy offsprings a paradise of pomegranats with orchard fruites. Cypres with spiceknard, ¹⁴ spiceknard, and safren, sweete cane and cinnamon, with al the trees of Libanus, myrrhe and aloes with al the chiefe ointmentes. ¹⁵ The fountaine of gardens: the wel of liuing waters, which runne with violence from Libanus. ¹⁶ ^a) Arise Northwinde, & come Southwinde, blow through my garden, and let the aromatical spices therof flowe.

^a Al tentations, whether they be in manifest crueltie, or in flattering fultie, make constant foules more grateful to God.