

MISTRESS OVERDONE Thus, what with the war, what with the sweat,
what with the gallows, and what with poverty, I am 80
custom-shrunk.

Enter Pompey.

How now? What's the news with you?
POMPEY Yonder man is carried to prison.
MISTRESS OVERDONE Well, what has he done?
POMPEY A woman. 85
MISTRESS OVERDONE But what's his offense?
POMPEY Groping for trouts in a peculiar river.
MISTRESS OVERDONE What? Is there a maid with child by him?
POMPEY No, but there's a woman with maid by him.
You have not heard of the proclamation, have you? 90
MISTRESS OVERDONE What proclamation, man?
POMPEY All houses in the suburbs of Vienna must be
plucked down.
MISTRESS OVERDONE And what shall become of those in the city?
POMPEY They shall stand for seed. They had gone down 95
too, but that a wise burgher put in for them.
MISTRESS OVERDONE But shall all our houses of resort in the suburbs
be pulled down?
POMPEY To the ground, mistress.
MISTRESS OVERDONE Why, here's a change indeed in the commonwealth! 100
What shall become of me?
POMPEY Come, fear not you. Good counselors lack no
clients. Though you change your place, you need
not change your trade. I'll be your tapster still.
Courage. There will be pity taken on you. You that 105
have worn your eyes almost out in the service, you
will be considered.

Enter Provost, Claudio, Juliet, and Officers.

MISTRESS OVERDONE What's to do here, Thomas Tapster? Let's
withdraw.
POMPEY Here comes Signior Claudio, led by the Provost 110
to prison. And there's Madam Juliet.