THE LIFE OF
KING HENRY THE FIFTH
THE WORKS
OF
SHAKESPEARE
THE LIFE OF
KING HENRY THE FIFTH
EDITED BY
HERBERT ARTHUR EVANS

METHUEN AND CO. LTD.
36 ESSEX STREET: STRAND
LONDON
Second Edition
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First Published . . . October 23rd 1903
Second Edition . . . 1917
INTRODUCTION


The emergence of the historical drama during the last decade of Elizabeth's reign, and the popularity which it achieved during its brief existence, were the natural outcome of the consciousness of national unity and national greatness to which England was then awakening. Haunted for more than a quarter of a century by the constant dread of foreign invasion and domestic treachery, the country could at last breathe freely, and the fervid patriotism which now animated every order in the State found appropriate expression in "a noble and solid curiosity" to learn the story of the nation's past. Of this curiosity the theatres, then as always the reflection of the popular taste, were not slow to take advantage. To the earlier Chronicle Plays succeeded the Edward II. of Marlowe, the Edward I. of Peele, and the anonymous play of Edward III.; the influence of Marlowe on his contemporaries was paramount, and it was under his banner that Shakespeare himself, who
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had entered the field with revisions of earlier plays on the wars of York and Lancaster, was content for a while to range himself. *Richard III.*, however, remained his solitary effort in Marlowesque, imitation was soon to give way to originality, and in *Richard II.* and *King John* he proved that he had now felt his strength, and had left his predecessors far behind. Nor was he destined to stop here; in 1597 he took up the thread of the story which he had dropped some three years earlier, and in the three greatest dramas that have ever been founded on the history of England, he set the crown upon his labours, and filled up the gap which had been left between the death of Richard II. and the accession of Henry VI. The popularity of these three plays was at once assured by an innovation, which in itself marks an epoch in the history of the drama. Taking the hint from an earlier play, of which we shall have more to say later, he grafted upon the serious portion of his subject a comedy of "humours," which was alone enough to make the fortune of a dramatic performance of far inferior merit. Such a favourite, indeed, was the leading "humorist" in these plays, that to judge from the numerous allusions to him in documents, literary and non-literary, of the seventeenth century, Falstaff shared with Hamlet the honour of being the best known creation of Shakespeare. As for the theatre-going public, they could never have enough of him, and we may suspect that it was partly with a view of soothing the indignation aroused by his unlooked-for humiliation at the hands of his former patron and ally, that the speaker of the epilogue to the Second Part of *Henry IV.* was allowed to promise his admirers a continuation of the story "with Sir John in it," and
(another hint from the old play) to "make you merry with fair Katharine of France"—as if there could possibly be any need for any further attraction!

The way in which this promise was fulfilled was peculiar. Two plays appeared: in one of them the story was continued, and fair Katharine was there to make them merry; Sir John, however, was seen no more: in the other the story was not continued, but there was Sir John in his full proportions,—at least so said the bills; the more critical spectators probably came away with a shrewd suspicion that they had been imposed upon.

Which of these two plays—Henry V. and The Merry Wives of Windsor—preceded the other is a question upon which the critics are still divided; we shall return to it directly. We must first sketch the history of the production of Henry V., as far as it can be collected from the evidence available.

We will assume, for reasons which we are not called upon to examine here, that the Second Part of Henry IV. was produced during the course of the winter of 1597 and 1598. But 1598 slipped away, and it was not till the spring of 1599 that the promised continuation of the story appeared. About May in that year, when the triumphant return from Ireland of the Earl of Essex was beginning to be looked forward to by his admirers, the long-expected play was performed on the boards either of the Curtain or the Globe. Falstaff alas! was absent; the pathetic tale

1 I leave the demonstration of this point to the editor of the play in question.
2 Shakespeare was perhaps engaged on The Merchant of Venice and Julius Caesar; see Mr. Macmillan's introduction to the latter play in this edition.
of his last moments was all that the disappointed audience were permitted to hear of him, but many of his associates remained to make their final exit, more or less discreditably, in the course of the drama. The play was well received, and until the month of August 1600 the proprietors of the theatre managed to keep it to themselves; but by that date two piratical booksellers had succeeded in getting hold of a garbled version, which forthwith appeared with the following title-page:

The | Cronicle | History of Henry the fift, | with his battell fought at Agin Court in | France. To-gether with Auntient | Pistoll. | As it hath been sundry times playd by the Right honorable | the Lord Chamberlaine his servaunts. | [Creede's device] LONDON | Printed by Thomas Creede, for Tho. Milling- | ton, and Iohn Busby. And are to be | sold at his house in Carter Lane, next | the Powle head. 1600 |.

Of this edition, which appeared in the usual small Quarto form in which single plays were printed, and which was reprinted in 1602 and 1608—on the principle, one would imagine, of anything rather than nothing—we may say, in anticipation of what follows, that at best it can only claim to be a very imperfect and clumsy representation of the text of the play as curtailed for some particular performance; the complete text as originally performed appears in print for the first time in the Folio of 1623. The copy, however, having been obtained somehow or other, the enterprising firm of Millington and Busby appear to have applied in the usual form at Stationers' Hall for licence to
print it. That their first application was unsuccessful appears from the following entry in the Registers of the Stationers' Company:

[1600] 4 Augusti.
As you like yt | a booke
Henry the ffift | a booke
Every man in his humour | a booke
The commedie of muche A doo about nothing a booke |

(Arber, iii. 37.)

The objections to publication would no doubt emanate from the Lord Chamberlain's Company, who would look with jealous eyes on any threatened infringement of their proprietary rights in the plays in question, and in the case of the first play on the list they seem to have made good their claims. At any rate no edition of *As You Like It* exists earlier than the Folio. From the other three, however, the bar was removed, and they were all printed in the course of 1600 and 1601. The entry of the licence for *Henry V.* occurs ten days later than the previous entry, and is as follows:

[1600] 14 Augusti.
Thomas Entred for his copyes by direction of master white Pavyer. warden vnder his hand wryting. These Copyes

1 "A book" is the regular expression in the Registers for a play.

2 Mr. Aldis Wright, however, thinks that the entry of this play was premature, and that the play was not ready (Preface to *As You Like It*, Clarendon Press ed.). The question as to the attitude of the players towards the early Quarto publications of Shakespeare's plays wants elucidation. The player editors of the Folio, though they used many of the Quartos to print from, speak of "diuerse stolne and surreptitious copies, maimed and deformed by the frauds and stealthes of iniurious impostors, that expos'd them."
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followinge beinge thinges formerlye printed and sett over to the sayd Thomas Pavyer
viz. . . . .
The historye of Henry the Vth with the battell of Agencourt
vid.
(Arber, iii. 169.)

From this it is evident that at some time or other Millington and Busby had made over their interest in Henry V. to Thomas Pavyer, though whether before or after the first application for licence must remain doubtful: what is certain is that while it is to Pavyer that the licence is issued, the actual publishers of the first Quarto are Millington and Busby; and Pavyer's name first appears on the title-page of the second Quarto, issued two years later. It must further be noted that it was Busby who procured the copy for the surreptitious edition of the Merry Wives issued in 1602, though before publication he had assigned his interest in it to another bookseller, Arthur Johnson.¹

Having thus sketched the early history of the play, so far as it is deducible from the scanty materials at our disposal, we have now to examine in greater detail the evidence on which our conclusions are based, first as to date, and secondly as to the relation of the Quarto to the Folio version.

I. Henry V. is not mentioned by Meres in his Palladis Tamia among the plays of Shakespeare: the latest play mentioned by him is Henry IV. (a designation which is most probably intended to cover both Parts), and there is every reason to believe that Henry V. would have been

¹ Stationers' Registers, January 18, 1602 (Arber, iii. 199).
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mentioned, if it had been in existence when the Palladis Tamia was printed. Now the date of entry of this treatise in the Stationers' Registers is September 7, 1598, and this, if it stood alone, would give us the earliest possible date for the play. But the period open to us can be still further reduced: from the Chorus to Act v. it appears that when the play was acted Essex was still expected to return home in triumph from his Irish expedition: he did not start on this expedition till March 1599, and returned, in a manner very different from that anticipated for him by the Chorus, in the following September. Thus the time possible for the production of the play is narrowed to some date between March and September 1599, and as the public expectation with regard to Essex was still at its height, the date must have been earlier rather than later, probably either May or June. If this be the correct date, and it is difficult not to believe it to be so, it would follow the Second Part of Henry IV. after an interval of about sixteen months—rather a long interval, it is true; but the répertoire of the Chamberlain's Company at this time was no scanty one; they were probably acting half a dozen or more of Shakespeare's plays alone, and in Jonson's Every Man in his Humour, produced in 1598, they had a novelty which must have attracted crowds to the theatre as often as they chose to put it on the bill. Some indeed would help to fill up the interval in question with the Merry Wives, thus assuming that this play preceded rather than followed Henry V.; but all things considered, I hold with Mr. P. A. Daniel 1 that the evidence available distinctly

1 Introduction to the facsimile of the first Quarto, 1881, and Henry Irving Shakespeare, 1888, vol. iv.
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points to its being the later play of the two. Not that the *Merry Wives* is in any strict sense one of the Falstaff series: all attempts to fit it into the story of the three consecutive plays, 1 and 2 Henry IV. and Henry V., seems to me emphatically a failure. It stands by itself. Young Fenton, it is true, had kept company with the wild prince and Poins (III. ii.), but the real epoch and location of the piece is the Windsor of Elizabeth; and if we assume that Falstaff (quantum mutatus ab illo!) and his merry men have been specially recreated in the reign of "our radiant queen" (V. v. 50), we shall do no violence to dramatic probabilities. It was entered in the Stationers' Registers on January 18, 1602, and this gives us its latest possible date; while the facts relied on by Mr. Daniel to prove that the earliest date assignable must be one later than the production of Henry V. are as follows. There is first the tradition, as old as the beginning of the eighteenth century, that the play was written by the order of the Queen, who "was so well pleased with that admirable Character of Falstaff in the two Parts of Henry the Fourth, that she commanded [Shakespeare] to continue it for one Play more, and to show him in Love." Till Henry V. disappointed such anticipations, the reappearance of Falstaff was generally looked for; there would therefore be the less reason for Elizabeth's injunction, so long as the popular expectation had not been contradicted. Secondly, Busby, who was concerned in the publication both of the 1600 Quarto of Henry V. and of the 1602 Quarto of the *Merry Wives*, may be credited, on internal evidence, with having

1 Rowe, *Some Account of the Life, etc., of Mr. William Shakespear*, 1709, pp. viii, ix.
2 See above, p. xiv.
obtained his copy for them both in much the same manner, and presumably in the order of their production; in any case, if the *Merry Wives* were the earlier play, we may reasonably enquire why he failed to procure a licence for printing it for a whole year and a half after he had (with some difficulty, as we have seen) procured his licence for *Henry V*. Is it not more likely that the order of production and the order of publication are the same? Moreover, according to the tradition, the Falstaff of the *Merry Wives* is the revival of a popular favourite, and the publishers of the Quartos were in the habit of advertising their wares by placing the names of such favourites upon their title-pages. Thus, on that of the 1602 Quarto of the *Merry Wives* appears "Corporall Nym." Now in the *Merry Wives* Nym, with his stock expression "humour" or "humours," has all the appearance of playing a part expected of him; whereas in *Henry V.* (he does not appear at all in *Henry IV.*), though he is beginning to air it, he is more sparing of it. But he seems to have succeeded in identifying himself with the phrase, and in the later play he certainly did not disappoint the expectations of the audience. Lastly, Nym's "part" in *Henry V.* is longer than in the *Merry Wives* (53 lines against 37); and a novelty would be made more of than a revival. Such is the case for the postponement of the first production of the *Merry Wives* to that of *Henry V.*: the arguments are not, it is true, of equal weight, but in any chain of evidence the weight of the whole is greater than that of each link taken separately.

II. We have now to examine the Quarto text and its relation to the Folio. The theory formerly put forward by Pope and others, that the Quarto gives us Shakespeare's
first sketch of the play, which he afterwards revised and rewrote at greater length in the form in which we find it in the Folio, may now be considered to be exploded. It received its deathblow from the parallel edition of the two texts issued in 1877 by the New Shakspere Society; and it was in his introduction to this edition that Mr. P. A. Daniel established once for all the true character of the Quarto version, and the relation in which it stands to the Folio. We shall return to his demonstration directly, but we will first take a glance at the Quarto itself and see what manner of publication it is. We find that the text is less than half the length of the Folio text; that the five Choruses, the first scenes of Act I. and Act III., and the second scene of Act IV. are altogether absent; that many of the longer speeches are either omitted or greatly curtailed; that the prose is uniformly printed as verse, with the object, no doubt, of filling enough pages to give the pamphlet a respectable thickness, and that the whole is an extremely incorrect and faulty attempt at representing even as much as it professes, on the face of it, to represent,—namely, as already stated, a version of the play shortened for some particular performance. It is not unlikely that this may have been a performance at Court, and it is quite possible that the shorter version afterwards occasionally took the place of the longer one on the stage of the public theatre. In case the reader has not a reprint of the Quarto at hand we give him two or three extracts which he may compare with the ordinary text:

1 This Society, after a chequered existence of eighteen years, and the issue of many publications of great value to the Shakespeare student, expired secretly of inanition in 1892.
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(a) I. ii. 221–233.

Call in the messenger sent from the Dolphin,
And by your ayde, the noble sinewes of our land,
France being ours, weele bring it to our awe,
Or breake it all in pieces:
Eyther our Chronicles shal with full mouth speak
Freely of our acts,
Or else like toonglesse mutes
Not worshipt with a paper Epitaph:

(b) III. v. 10–26.

Bur. Normanes, basterd Normanes, mor du
And if they passe vnfoughtwithall,
Ile sell my Dukedome for a foggy farme
In that short nooke Ile of England.

Const. Why whence haue they this mettall?
Is not their clymate raw, foggy and colde.
On whom as in disdaine, the Sunne lookes pale?
Can barley broath, a drench for swolne Iades
Their sodden water decockt such liuely blood?
And shall our quick blood spirited with wine
Seeme frosty? O for honour of our names,
Let vs not hang like frozen Iicesickles
Vpon our houses tops, while they a more frosty clymate
Sweate drops of youthfull blood.

(c) V. i. 3–14.

Flew. There is occasion Captaine Gower,
Looke you why, and wherefore,
The other day looke you, Pistolles
Which you know is a man of no merites
In the worell, is come where I was the other day,
And brings bread and sault, and bids me
Eate my Leeke: twas in a place, looke you,
Where I could moue no discentions:
But if I can see him, I shall tell him,
A litlle of my desires.

That it should have been worth anyone's while to
print so bald a version as this at all, is in itself a proof of
the popularity of the play, and tradesmen of the stamp of Millington and Busby no doubt saw their opportunity. They would, accordingly, dispatch a shorthand writer to the theatre with instructions to make the best he could out of the performance; his notes would then be written out, and as soon as the fair copy had been taken to a second performance for correction, the MS. would be hurried through the press with all convenient speed. This or something not unlike it we may conjecture to have been the mode of procedure adopted, and if we are right in our assumption, we are at once enabled to understand the very peculiar state of the Quarto text.\[^1\] Besides the imperfections due to the carelessness of the stage curtailer, there would still be ample room for the entrance of error and confusion,—first in the shorthand notes of the reporter, secondly in the fair copy of these notes, thirdly in the revision of the fair copy, and finally in the printing itself. After this it is not to be expected that the Quarto should be of much value as a criterion of the true text, and in the critical notes I have only given such of its readings as have a special interest of their own; in fact, so great is its divergence from the Folio, that nothing short of a verbatim reprint could do it adequate justice, and accordingly in the last volume of the Cambridge Shakespeare (ed. 2) it has been printed in extenso, together with other Quartos of similar individuality.

There are, however, two cases in which the readings of the Quarto have a certain interest for us, namely, those

\[^1\] Among those who have held the first sketch theory besides Pope may be mentioned Warburton, Johnson, Knight, and Brinsley Nicholson, while on the other side may be found the names of Capell, Steevens, Malone, Halliwell, and Aldis Wright.
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(though they are but few) in which it either (1) suggests the correct reading where a word has been blundered in the Folio, or (2) lends support to conjectural emendations which have met with general acceptance. Here are the chief instances:

(1) II. i. 25, tho patience be a tyred *mare*, name, F.

   II. iv. 107, The *pining* maydens grones.

   III. iv. 11, Lets dye with *honour*, our shame . . . .

   IV. v. 11, Let vs dye *in* once more . . . . F.

   IV. v. 15, Why least by a slaue no gentler then my dog,

        Whilst *a base* slaue, no gentler then my dogge, F.

(2) II. iii. 17, And *talk of* floures,

        *a' baled of* green fields, Theobald.

   IV. iii. 11-14, The order in F is 11, 13, 14, 12.

        Q is 12, 13, 14.

        Transposed as in Q by Theobald.

   IV. iii. 44, He that *outlines* this day, and *sees*

        He that shall *see* this day, and *liue*

        Transposed by Pope.

We have stated that the text, as we find it in the Folio, gives us the play in its completed state, as originally written, and that it is a shortened version of this that the Quarto attempts to represent. We will now lay before the reader the proof of this statement as worked out by Mr.
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Daniel in the essay already referred to. "With regard to the more stately scenes of the play," writes Mr. Daniel, "the chief difference between the F° and Q° versions is, that long passages are not found in the latter; these passages are, in my opinion, in nearly all cases precisely such as would have been cut out for the purpose of a shortened stage representation. The variations between those parts which are common to both editions are, after making allowance for error and corruption in both, but trifling.

"The scenes in which the French king and his lords appear, seem, if my theory is correct, especially to have suffered in the abridgment.

"The comic scenes are perhaps those on which it is most difficult to form a decided opinion. In so far as they are common to both versions, there are very few speeches in the F° that have not their counterpart in the Q°; but they are strangely disordered and incoherent in that edition. In some places quite perfect, in others they break down into what, on comparison with the F°, would seem to be a mere jumble of disintegrated fragments."

Upholders of the first sketch theory might reasonably object that the mere absence of certain passages in the Quarto was no proof of its being the later version of the two, the subsequent addition of these very passages being in fact the essence of their contention; but if the Quarto can be detected in the very act of omitting portions of an existing text, this objection necessarily falls to the ground. And it can be so detected. Let us take the Archbishop's speech in I. ii. 33 ff. The Archbishop is exposing the inconsistency of the French in holding up the Salic law as
a bar to Henry's title to the French throne, when their own sovereigns in three distinct cases have rested their title upon descent from a female: the three cases are, according to the Folio, Pepin, Hugh Capet, and Lewes the Tenth. Accordingly in line 69 we have "Hugh Capet also," the "also" referring us back to Pepin in line 65. In the Quarto we find the same words "Hugh Capet also," but it is not till we look to the Folio that "also" has any meaning, for all mention of Pepin has been cut out. Again, in line 83, the Folio describes Lewes as deriving his claim through his descent from the daughter of "the foresaid Duke of Loraine,"—"foresaid" because already mentioned in line 70; the Quarto duly reproduces line 83, but with the unfortunate result that "the foresaid" Duke is the reverse of "foresaid" as he is now mentioned for the first time. Yet again, while the Folio correctly makes Hugh Capet trace his descent from the daughter of Charlemaine [Charles the Bald] (line 75), the Quarto, by omitting all reference to this monarch, makes him claim from the "daughter to Charles, the foresaid Duke of Lorain"—the very prince who he had deposed and murdered. Lastly, the Quarto follows the Folio (lines 86—89) in summing up the three cases of kings who claimed "in right and title of the female," forgetting that of two of them it had made no previous mention.

Again, as another instance of omission on the part of the Quarto, take the two scenes in the French camp, III. vii and IV. ii. The first of these is a night scene, and ends according to the Folio, at two o'clock A.M. In the Quarto in spite of the lines,

1 Should be Ninth.
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Will it neuer be morning?
Ile ride too morrow a mile . .
The Duke of Burbon longs for morning,

the scene ends a few lines further on with the couplet,

Come, come away:
The Sun is hie, and we weare out the day.

This has been foisted in here from the end of IV. ii., a day scene, commencing in the Folio,

The Sunne doth gild our Armour vp, my Lords,

and altogether cut out in the Quarto. "Here surely is a case," observes Mr. Daniel, "from which we may infer that, at its best, Q° I merely represents a version of the play shortened for the stage. The two scenes in the French camp were to be cut down to one, and the person who did the job, without perceiving the blunder he was committing, wanting a tag to finish off with, brought in the sun at midnight!"

It must further be noticed that the number of actors requisite for the performance of the play has been reduced in the Quarto version by the excision of the following characters—Ely, Westmoreland, Bedford, Britany, Rambures, Grandpré, Macmorris, Jamy, and the French Queen, while Erpingham only appears in IV. i. as a supernumerary without any spoken part. Again, in II. iv. Exeter alone does duty for the English ambassadors, and the constable for the messenger; and similarly in I. ii. it appears that the French ambassadors were to have been reduced to one ("Call in the messenger sent from the Dolphin"), but this idea was abandoned, and the full number allowed ("Enter Thambassadors from France"). Of Quarto 2 (1602) it is only necessary to say that it is a reprint of Quarto I with
several slight variations, and that Quarto 3 (1608) is a reprint of Quarto 2 with more corrections, and an attempt at a rearrangement of many of the lines.

As in his other English historical plays, Shakespeare drew his history entirely from the second edition of Holinshed's *Chronicles*, printed in 1586–87. The passages dramatised may be studied in Mr. Boswell-Stone's valuable *Shakespeare's Holinshed* (London, 1896), and will be referred to where necessary in the notes. The only other source to which it can certainly be affirmed that Shakespeare was indebted is an earlier play on the same subject printed in 1598, but entered in the Stationers' Register in 1594, and acted at least as early as 1588. It is entitled, "The* Famovs Vic|tories of Henry the*|fifth: Containing the Honou|rable Battell of Agin-court:| As it was plaide by the Queenes Maiesties Players."¹ The Queen's Players were a company in existence from 1583 to 1592, and since Richard Tarleton, the actor who played the part of Dericke, the leading clown of the piece, died in 1588, the date of production will fall between 1583 and 1588. In spite of its title, the first half of the play is concerned with the wild doings of Henry and his companions during the time that he was still Prince of Wales, and is therefore so far parallel with the two parts of *Henry IV.*: it is not until scene ix. line 65 (as divided by Mr. Daniel)—"Now my good Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, | What say you to our Embassage into France?"—that we reach the point in the story at which *Henry V.* opens. The chief

¹ Reprints will be found in Hazlitt's *Shakespeare's Library*, 1875, vol. v., and in Daniel's facsimile of the Quarto of 1598, 1887. The only copy of the original which has come down to us, is in the Malone collection in the Bodleian.
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interest which this rude and inartistic, but by no means spiritless, performance has for the modern reader—the fact, namely, that it supplied Shakespeare with the rough material out of which he summoned Falstaff and his company into life—does not concern us here; our present duty is merely to call attention to the passages which point to his having utilised it in the composition of Henry V.

Both plays founded on Holinshed; we shall therefore only have the evidence we are searching for in those passages of Henry V. a parallel for which cannot be found in Holinshed, but can be found in the Famous Victories. These passages are few, but they speak for themselves; we give them in the order in which they occur in the earlier play.

(1) I. ii. 255. The French ambassador delivers to Henry "this tun of treasure."

"K. Hen. What treasure, uncle?

Exe. Tennis-balls, my liege.

K. Hen. We are glad the Dauphin is so pleasant with us." Holinshed (p. 173) says that the ambassadors "brought with them [as a present from the Dauphin] a barrell of Paris balles"; but now turn to the Famous Victories, sc. ix. 135—the French ambassador is the Archbishop of Bourges.

"Archb. And it please your Maiestie, | My Lord Prince Dolphin greets you well, | With this present.

He deliuereth a Tunne of Tennis Balles.

Hen. 5. What a guilded Tunne? | I pray you my Lord of Yorke, looke what is in it? | Yorke. And it please your Grace, | Here is a Carpet and a Tunne of Tennis balles. Hen. 5. A Tunne of Tennis balles? | . . . My lord prince Dolphin is very pleasant [sic] with me."

(2) II. iv. The French king and his council are dis-
cussing the defensive measures necessary for meeting the English invasion; the Dauphin, while agreeing that it is best to be prepared, is disposed to make light of the danger. England, he says,

\[
\text{is so idly king'd,} \\
\text{Her sceptre so fantastically borne} \\
\text{By a vain, giddy, shallow, humorous youth,} \\
\text{That fear attends her not. (lines 26–29.)}
\]

And again

\[
\text{I desire} \\
\text{Nothing but odds with England: to that end,} \\
\text{As matching to his youth and vanity,} \\
\text{I did present him with the Paris balls. (lines 128–131.)}
\]

Of these depreciatory references to Henry, and of the remonstrance which they call forth from the French king and the constable, there is no trace in Holinshed, who merely records (pp. 178, 179) the defensive resolutions adopted by the council; all this, however, we have in the Famous Victories, sc. xi. 11—

"Dolphin. Tut my Lord, although the King of England
| Be yoong and wilde headed, yet neuer thinke he will be
so | Unwise to make battell against the mightie King of
France.

King. Oh my sonne, although the King of England
be | yoong and wilde headed, yet neuer thinke but he is
rulde | By his wise Councillors."

And again, line 64—"I would haue the pettie king of
England to know, | That I dare encounter him in any
ground of the world."

(3) IV. iii. 129. Morning of the battle. The Duke of
York begs "the leading of the vaward," which is granted him.
Holinshed (p. 191) tells us that the Duke, "who was of an
haultie courage, had desired that office," and the incident was no doubt introduced here to prepare us for the account of his gallant death (iv. vi. 11 ff). Still this is the only appearance of York on the stage, and it is not improbable that Shakespeare may have been influenced by a recollection of the Famous Victories, xii. 15—"Oxf. I beseech your grace, to grant me a boone, | Hen. 5. What is that, my good Lord? | Oxf. That your grace would giue me the | Euantgard in the battell. | Hen. 5. Trust me my Lord of Oxford, I cannot: | For I haue alreadie giuē it to my vncke ye Duke of York, | Yet I thanke you for your good will."

(4) iv. vii. 6. Gower tells Fluellen that "the cowardly rascals that ran from the battle... have burned and carried away all that was in the king's tent." Holinshed (p. 192) mentions the plundering, but says nothing of the burning; in the Famous Victories, sc. xvi. 6, we have—

"Enters an English soldier, roming.  
Soul. What are you my maisters? | Both. Why we be English men. | Soul. Are you English men, then change your language | For the King's Tents are set a fire, | And all they that speake English will be kild."

This scene, however, comes after the submission made by the French herald, instead of preceding it; and there is some doubt as to whether it refers to the same event, especially as in sc. xx. line 9 Henry says, "I can hardly forget the late injuries offered me, | When I came last to parley, | The French men had better a raked | The bowels out of their fathers carkasses, | Then to haue fiered my Tentes." But for all this Shakespeare's "burning" may be due to a reminiscence of these passages.
(5) iv. iv. Pistol and Monsieur le Fer. This may have been suggested by the Famous Victories, sc. xvii., where Dericke, who has been taken prisoner by a French soldier, offers to give him for ransom as many crowns as will lie on his sword. The Frenchman lays down his sword for the purpose, but Dericke takes it up and "hurles him downe."

(6) Lastly, we come to the most striking instances of all, the peace negotiations of v. ii. 1–98 and 299–394, and the interposed wooing scene of lines 98–298. It is hardly necessary to say that no trace of the latter is to be found in Holinshed; he is content (p. 202) with recording the formal betrothal of Henry and Katharine in St. Peter's Church, and the solemnisation of the marriage a fortnight later; and as to the former, his enumeration of the articles of the treaty, and his account of the preceding negotiations (pp. 199–203), may be contrasted with the dramatic presentation of the events. This, at least in outline, is the same in both plays, though when we come to the actual speeches it is amusing to compare the perfunctory sentiments put into the mouths of his characters by the writer of the Famous Victories with the vigorous and imaginative poetry of Shakespeare. The two kings with their respective retinues meet, in order that Henry may receive the French king's answer to his demands (v. ii. 68 ff):

K. Hen. If, Duke of Burgundy, you would the peace,
Whose want gives growth to the imperfections
Which you have cited, you must buy that peace
With full accord to all our just demands;
Whose tenours and particular effects
You have, enschedul'd briefly, in your hands . . .

Fr. King. I have but with a cursorary eye
O'erglanced the articles: pleaseth your grace
To appoint some of your council presently
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To sit with us once more, with better heed
To re-survey them, we will suddenly
Pass our accept and peremptory answer.

The request is granted, and the French king retires with the commissioners. With this compare Famous Victories, sc. xviii. 6:

"Charles. What is it you demand, | My louing brother of England? | Hen. 5. My Secretary hath it written, read it . . . Charles. Well my brother of England, | If you will giue me a coppie, | We will meete you againe to morrow.
| Exit King of France, and all their attendants." Next put together the stage-directions, which herald the return of the French king and the English commissioners from their conference, v. ii. 298: "Re-enter the French King, and his Queen, Burgundy, and other Lords," and sc. xx. i:

"Enters King of England, Lord of Oxford and Exeter, then the King of France, Prince Dolphin, and the Duke of Burgondie, and attendants": in both plays the sequel is the same, in so far that everything is satisfactorily arranged, and Katharine is given to Henry in marriage by her father.

The wooing scene (v. ii. 98–298 and sc. xviii. 39–96) is managed in a more business-like manner in the Famous Victories; Henry's courting is brief and to the point, while Katharine speaks good English and has none of the simpering schoolgirlishness of the later play. The reader will have no difficulty in turning to phrases in the scene, as depicted by Shakespeare, which point to a reminiscence of the following:—

Famous Victories, sc. xviii. line 57. Henry. "But tell me, sweete Kate, canst thou tell how to loue?" Line 60, "Tush Kate, but tell me in plaine termes, | Canst
thou loue the King of England? | I cannot do as these Countries do, | That spend halfe their time in woing.” Line 88, “Sweete Kate, tel thy father from me, | That none in the world could sooner haue perswaded me to | It then thou, and so tel thy father from me.”

And Katharine, line 72, “How should I loue him, that hath dealt so hardly | With my father.” Sc. xx. line 55, “How should I loue thee, which is my fathers enemy?” Sc. xviii. line 77, “If I were of my owne direction, | I could giue you answere: | But seeing I stand at my fathers direction, | I must first know his will.”

We must now pass to Shakespeare’s conception of the character of Henry, and its relation to the popular tradition. In the main his Henry is the Henry of popular tradition, as the Henry of popular tradition is in the main the Henry of history. In dealing with personages so remote, both in time and nationality, as Coriolanus or even Julius Cæsar, some sacrifice of historic truth at the shrine of dramatic effect might be excusable enough, but in painting the portrait of the national hero no such liberty would be either permissible or necssary. There was, however, one article in the popular belief, which, in its crudest form, could not but give pause to the reflective mind, and which the subtle analysis of the poet must necessarily modify or at least explain. No feature in the character of the national hero had seized a firmer hold on the imagination of his countrymen than his supposed miraculous conversion from the wild licence of the prince to the sober majesty of the
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king: not only was this conversion miraculous, but it was sudden:

The breath no sooner left his father's body
But that his wildness, mortified in him,
Seem'd to die too.

The two bishops (Act I. sc. i.) attempt with little success to explain the mystery. And if sudden, it was of course unexpected, even by his own brothers.

Well you must now speak Sir John Falstaff fair;
Which swims against your stream of quality,
says Clarence to the Chief Justice, now that the old king had "walk'd the way of nature." But the entrance of the new monarch soon shows him that he had been wrong in his calculations:

My father is gone wild into his grave,
For in his tomb lie my affections;
And with his spirit sadly I survive,
To mock the expectation of the world,
To frustrate prophecies, and to raze out
Rotten opinion, who hath writ me down
After my seeming. The tide of blood in me
Hath proudly flow'd in vanity till now:
Now doth it turn and ebb back to the sea,
Where it shall mingle with the state of floods,
And flow henceforth in formal majesty.

(2 Henry IV. v. ii.)

These words can leave no doubt of his conversion in the minds of those to whom they are addressed; the difficulty was to explain it. To the superficial observers it seemed miraculous and sudden: Shakespeare who looked beneath the surface thought otherwise. In his view if his brothers had known him better they would have been prepared for
what took place: in his view explanations such as those attempted by the two bishops, or by Warwick,

The prince but studies his companions
Like a strange tongue, wherein, to gain the language,
’Tis needful that the most immodest word
Be look’d upon and learn’d

(2 Henry IV. iv. iv. 67-70),

are beside the mark; in his view Henry is a man of unswerving purpose, a man who has his goal in view and marches steadily towards it,—a character eminently consistent, and with a method even in its madness.

On our very first introduction to him (1 Henry IV. i. ii.) Shakespeare is careful to let us see that he has already realised the responsibilities of his position; already he has his ideal, and he means to act up to it. His soliloquy at the close of the scene lets us into the secret. It is not difficult to detect his consciousness of the danger of the inheritance to which he is destined to succeed: he has not failed to recognise that for him a throne will be no seat of luxury and ease; this must in fact have been the stern lesson of his early years, a lesson emphasised again in the two Parts of Henry IV. The note struck in the very first line of the former,

So shaken as we are, so wan with care,
reverberates throughout to the last line of the latter. There is no peace for the usurper: conscious as he is of the “by-paths and indirect crook’d ways” by which he won the crown, and knowing well “how troublesome it sat upon his head” (2 Henry IV. iv. v.), yet in spite of all the attempts to wrest it from his grasp, he has never relaxed his hold, and though he may now bequeath it to his
son with brighter hopes, yet secure possession is still distant,

Yet, though thou stand'st more sure than I could do,
Thou art not firm enough, since griefs are green.

There are still jealous rivals and discontented adherents, for whose restless activities a safer outlet must be provided, and his last legacy to his successor is one of war,

Therefore, my Harry,
Be it thy course to busy giddy minds
With foreign quarrels; that action, hence borne out,
May waste the memory of the former days.

Accordingly the play closes appropriately with Prince John of Lancaster's shrewd forecast of the future:

I will lay odds that, ere this year expire,
We bear our civil swords and native fire
As far as France: I heard a bird so sing,
Whose music, to my thinking, pleased the king.

(2 Henry IV. v. v.)

We now return to the soliloquy. With this statesman-like grasp of realities Henry combines a young man's love of excitement and frivolity. Whatever other people may think, and whatever he himself may say in a momentary fit of self-deprecation, he sees no irreconcilable discrepancy between the two: he will enjoy himself as long as the time allows, but whatever liberty he may permit himself for the present, there is one point on which he has finally decided, and that is that no mere enjoyment shall interfere with the serious business of life. Behind all his jesting and merriment in the company of Falstaff and his jovial crew, we are conscious of the presence of this resolve, a presence for the most part silent, but which now and then
betrays itself in words. At the very first opportunity the Prince takes us into his confidence himself:

I know you all, and will a while uphold
The unyoked humour of your idleness.

And then, after likening himself to the sun which shines forth all the more welcome to us after a period of obscurity he continues:

So when this loose behaviour I throw off
And pay the debt I never promised,
By how much better than my word I am,
By so much shall I falsify men's hopes;
And like bright metal on a sullen ground,
My reformation, glittering o'er my fault,
Shall show more goodly, and attract more eyes
Than that which hath no foil to set it off.

I do not believe that these words are intended to be taken as a deliberate statement of any deliberate purpose with which he had entered upon "this loose behaviour"; I do not believe that he means that he is deliberately assuming the part of a scapegrace in order that he may afterwards turn his conduct to account, by means of the enhanced glory with which he will shine when the time comes for him to throw off the disguise. As Mr. Boswell-Stone observes, if he "was really influenced by such a motive, one . . . must condemn his aim as contemptible." Such a man "could not be expected to reach a heroic standard. His nature must be a radically false one, and his objects petty. We cannot suppose the hero of Shakspere's drama, a king whose fame still lives among us, could ever reason thus."1 Granted, but when the same writer goes on to explain away the plain meaning of the lines as being

1 The Life of Henry the Fift (1880), Introduction, p. lix.
merely "a salve for his conscience, a sophism to excuse his unwillingness to leave his joyous youth behind him, and turn, so early as the king would have him, to the wearisome duties of his station," I fear I cannot follow him. Such a theory would imply a capacity for self-deception, for being quieted with a "sophism," which appears to me to be foreign to Henry's character. If he can be acquitted of "deliberate calculations of vanity," I fear he cannot be acquitted of meaning what he says; and I would suggest that having affirmed his intention of continuing to enjoy for the present the society of the tavern, his practical nature instantly fastens upon the advantage which will incidentally result. His is pre-eminently a genius for success: his very extravagances shall tell; he set out on his career of wildness with no other thought than that of amusement, but once embarked on it he cannot and will not shut his eyes to the politic uses that may be made of it:

I'll so offend, to make offence a skill;
Redeeming time when men think least I will.

There is no self-deception, no salving of conscience here; rather, to put it somewhat coarsely, a sturdy resolution to make the best of a bad business. The truth is there is no hesitancy or vacillation in Henry; that internal struggle which distracts the mind more finely touched than his, is unknown to his strenuous and masterful nature; he never bends under the weight of his responsibilities, nor does he ever fail to cope with facts: instead of the event shaping his character, his character seems to shape the event; he stands out, in short, from all the other heroes of Shakespeare
as the man who knows what he wants to do, and who does it. That having once pictured to himself this incidental advantage arising from his present conduct he did not forget it, we have already seen in the words he uses upon his accession (\textit{2 Henry IV.} v. ii.), where he tells us that he survives

\begin{quote}
To mock the expectation of the world,
\end{quote}

—the world which had writ him down after his seeming. Shakespeare, however, had writ him down otherwise, as we shall now endeavour to show.

Before they leave London to confront the rebels at Shrewsbury, the king has an interview with his son (\textit{1 Henry IV.} III. ii.) in which he reproaches him with his evil courses, and compares him to Richard II., that skipping king, who mingled his royalty with capering fools, and grew a companion to the common streets. The Prince's apology is modest and dignified: his father has been misled by smiling pick-thanks and base newsmongers; he will hereafter be more himself,

\begin{quote}
And in the closing of some glorious day
Be bold to tell you that I am your son.
\end{quote}

And then follow the splendid lines in which he vows either to wash away his misdeeds in the blood of Hotspur, or perish in the attempt. Consistently in the next scene we find him busied with preparations for marching against the rebels:

\begin{quote}
The land is burning; Percy stands on high;
And either we or they must lower lie.
\end{quote}

He cannot rest till he and Hotspur have met. When he overtakes Falstaff on the road to Shrewsbury it is, "Sirrah,
make haste: Percy is already in the field” (1 Henry IV. iv. ii. 80). Then comes his generous tribute to his rival at the conference in the king's camp which preceded the fighting, the combat itself, and the Prince’s triumph. And here we may remark as illustrating the comparative value which he attached to the serious and the lighter side of life, the contrast between the eloquent homage which he pays to the dead Percy, and the tone of half-amused, half-patronising regret in which he takes leave of the supposed dead Falstaff (v. iv. 102-110). In fact it is the humour of the situation which strikes him first:

What, old acquaintance! could not all this flesh
Keep in a little life?
The pathos, such as it is, comes afterwards,

Poor Jack, farewell!
I could have better spared a better man:

and then he even breaks into rhyme—a sure sign of the absence of any real depth of feeling. We pass over his chivalrous treatment of the captured Douglas, and in the next play, on his return from the overthrow of Glendower, we meet him once more in the company of Poins (? Henry IV. ii. ii.). His father lies upon a sickbed, and if he does not outwardly manifest his grief, it is only because Poins and those like him would accuse him of hypocrisy: “thou thinkest me,” he says, “as far in the devil's book as thou and Falstaff for obduracy and persistency; let the end try the man.” Meantime he will once more visit his old haunts, and entertain himself with the humour of his old associate, but it is for the last time:¹

¹ For the last time in company with Falstaff; in iv. iv. 53 we learn that he is dining in London with Poins and other his continual followers.
in the midst of all the merriment appears the writing on the wall; twenty weak and weary posts come hurrying from the north; the serious business of life claims all his energies, and the chapter of his frivolities is soon to close for ever:

By heaven, Poins, I feel me much to blame,
So idly to profane the precious time,
When tempest of commotion, like the south
Borne with black vapour, doth begin to melt,
And drop upon our bare unarmed heads.
Give me my sword and cloak. Falstaff, good night.

(II. iv. 390-395.)

We are left to conjecture that it is his father's illness which prevents him from taking the field in person against the northern lords. Had he been present, we may be sure that the stupendous act of treachery by which his brother gets them into his power would never have stained the annals of his house. The old king still sees only the apparent levity of his son's character, and is full of gloomy anticipations of the time, now not far distant, when

the fifth Harry from curb'd license plucks
The muzzle of restraint;

not until his last moments does he recognise the sterling worth that lies beneath the surface. The Prince convinces him at last of his loyalty and affection:

If do I feign,
O, let me in my present wildness die,
And never live to show the incredulous world
The noble change that I have purposed!

(iv. v. 152-155.)

He has held firmly to his resolution of redeeming the time; we have already seen it emphasised on his accession,
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and I think we ought now to be prepared for its fulfilment. It is true that it is impossible to read the famous scene with which the play closes (v. v.) without a shock, without a certain feeling of resentment: the personal lecture which the newly crowned monarch thinks fit to deliver to his old boon companion we may think ill-timed and ill-judged, his committal to the Fleet unjust; we may say with Hostess Quickly that "the king has killed his heart," and with Ancient Pistol that "his heart is fracted and corroborate";¹ but shocked and indignant as we may be, I submit that if the view of Henry's character which I have tried to indicate is correct, we have no right to feel surprised; or if surprised, our surprise should be reserved for the lecture and the imprisonment; the curt dismissal of Falstaff and all his crew is the climax to which the undercurrent of events has all along been tending.

The above excursion through the two earlier plays has been necessary in order to bring out Shakespeare's conception of a genuine consistency in Henry's character underlying the apparent miracle of a sudden conversion. In the present play there are no inconsistencies² to detain us; his character is no longer in the making—it is made. Conscientious, brave, just, capable, and tenacious, Henry stands before us as the embodiment of worldly success, and as such he is entitled to our unreserved admiration. It would be an insult to the intelligence of the reader to insist further on the details of a character, which every line of

¹ See an admirable paper by Prof. A. C. Bradley on the "Rejection of Falstaff" in the Fortnightly Review for May 1902.
² The wooing scene has been alleged as an instance to the contrary, but Henry was still young, and even a hero must be allowed to effervesce a little occasionally.
the play enables him to realise for himself. Such a character he will accept with its inseparable limitations, as Shakespeare intended it to be accepted; he will not look for those finer touches of the intellect or of the emotions which mark the hero of another sort; he will miss, as has been well said, the light that is upon the brow of a Hamlet or an Othello; he will not find a man of whom it can be said,

\[\text{a rarer spirit never}\\ \text{Did steer humanity,——}\]

but he will find a true ruler of men, a man no pipe for fortune's finger, a man at all times master of his fate, a man who, once satisfied of the justice of his end, swerved neither to the right hand nor to the left till he had achieved it.

A word must be said on the conduct of the action. So much has been written on the exceptional character of this play, that it is not necessary to labour the point here. As has been so often pointed out, its interest is epic rather than dramatic; it is the nearest approach on the part of the author to a national epic. His aim is above everything patriotic; his audience, even in spite of themselves, shall be compelled to recognise the greatness of their country's destiny, and to this end no resource that the poet can command shall be spared:

\[\text{O for a Muse of fire, that would ascend}\\ \text{The brightest heaven of invention!}\]

In no play is the strenuousness of poetic effort more conspicuous, or the flow of impassioned rhetoric more sustained. To this end again he has no need of skilfully constructed plot, or subtle analysis of character; but in a succession of
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highly elaborate and highly realistic pictures the national hero, that mirror of all Christian kings, shall stand before the eyes of the spectators in his very habit as he lived. This persistent realism also explains the introduction of the Chorus: it may serve to mark the division between the Acts,\(^1\) to bridge over the intervals of time, and even to apologise for the inadequacy of the stage appliances;—it may do all this and yet not justify its existence; all these demands are made in other plays where there is no Chorus to satisfy them; the peculiar function of the Chorus in *Henry V.* is the appeal it makes to the historic imagination. The success or failure of the piece depends in a more than ordinary degree upon the extent to which the spectator can be made by means of the mimic shows of things to visualise the actual events for which they stand: the tension must never be relaxed, the eye of the mind must be as active as the eye of the body: the fervid appeals have sometimes almost the accent of despair:

Follow, follow:
Grapple your minds to sternage of this navy.

Again—

Work, work your thoughts, and therein see a siege;
Behold the ordnance on their carriages,
*With fatal mouths gaping on girded Harfleur.*

And again—

But now behold

In the quick forge and working-house of thought. . . .

In a modern representation, such as it has been my lot to

\(^1\) In Shakespeare's day, when the drop scene or front curtain were unknown, at any rate in the public theatres, this could only be done by a cessation of the action and the playing of music.
witness, with these sonorous and majestic incantations left out, the play loses half its justification, half its charm.

But epic as is the main impression produced by the play, it is not for all that exempt from the ordinary laws of dramatic action: the connecting plot is there, though we are apt to lose sight of it in the splendour of the situations that it links together. Thus in Act I. the causes of the action are set forth: in Act II. and the earlier scenes of Act III., its triumph over the obstacles that would have checked its growth, and its gradual progress towards the climax. This is reached in the enfeebled and famished condition to which the English army is reduced on its march to Calais\(^1\) (III. v. 56–60, and vi. 145–164). Everything now depends upon the result of a single engagement; and for a while we are held in suspense, but the dénouement follows in the victory of the English, and the subsequent alliance between the two countries. The comic scenes have an interest of their own, and in no way affect the course of the main action; as Mr. Boswell-Stone observes, they “serve merely to vary the sameness of the historical action, and give more reality to the events by associating them with ordinary human interests and people.”

Another question remains which we must not pass over without notice. Some critics have imagined that in writing this play Shakespeare had an eye to the events of his own day, and intended by the way to convey a political lesson. This view was first put forward by Mr. Richard Simpson in his paper on the “Politics of Shakspere’s Historical

Plays": \(^1\) in the play of *Henry V.* he finds a pronouncement in favour of the party of Essex: the acts of Essex "uniformly point to a grand idea of a union of all parties and all nationalities which were to be found in our group of Islands. This involved equal justice to all, a general toleration in religion, and an abolition of the privileges of one sect and of the penalties attached to another." To secure these ends he advocated a policy of foreign war; war abroad was the one salve for civil and religious dissensions at home. "Such is the policy of *Henry V.* It is a poem of victory, a glorification of war, not as an agony of brutal passions, but as an agent of civilisation—'when lenity and cruelty play for a kingdom, the gentler gamester is the soonest winner'" (III. vi. 116). For these ends also he favoured the succession of James to the English throne, and at the close of the play we have only to substitute "Scotland" for "France" to make the lesson plain; "the play ends with the union of the two belligerent countries, a symbol of the coming union with Scotland, and with the prayer—God combine your realms in one! may it be a spousal of the kingdoms, that no jealousy may thrust in between their paction."

Mr. Boswell-Stone follows on the same lines. Alluding to the widening of the breach between Protestant and Catholic owing to the increasing severity of the Government's measures against the latter, he writes: "The reign of Henry V. was a good subject for a dramatist who wished to cure his countrymen of these suicidal hatreds through an appeal to the national pride, by showing them what their ancestors had achieved, when, abandoning civil strife, they

\(^1\) *New Shakspere Society's Transactions*, 1874, p. 416.
bent all their energies to the successful prosecution of a foreign war": and accordingly, in the words of Bates to Williams and the disguised king, who are exchanging defiances (IV. i. 228): "Be friends, you English fools, be friends: we have French quarrels enow, if you could tell how to reckon" (for "French" read "Spanish")—he conjectures a special significance. Again, he thinks that the lines (II. Chorus, 16–19),

O England! model to thy inward greatness,
Like little body with a mighty heart,
What might'st thou do, that honour would thee do,
Were all thy children kind and natural!

"were levelled at those traitors who by their intrigues with the Spaniard endangered the liberties of England, or, at least, checked her career of conquest."

Of the value of this kind of interpretation I leave the reader to judge; personally, I think it dangerous, as tending to prove more than is warranted by the evidence: to say that a political lesson may be drawn from a work of dramatic art is one thing, to say that the author created it with the view of conveying such lesson is another; nor does it follow that because a great poet may, broadly speaking, have a moral purpose, he would ever hamper it by such limitations of time and place as the word "political" implies.

As a case in point to support his contention that union between the four nationalities of these islands is advocated, Mr. Simpson appeals to Act III. sc. ii., where the Welsh, English, Scottish, and Irish captains are introduced serving side by side under a common flag, "as if to symbolise the union of the four nations under one crown, and their co-

1 As was intended, when the adherents of Essex bespoke "the play of deposing King Richard II." for the eve of his intended outbreak.
operation in enterprises of honour, no longer hindered by the touchiness of a separatist nationalism." It has further been suggested that the latter part of this scene, in which the Irishman and the Scotsman appear, is a later insertion; this seems probable, but I think the insertion, if such it be, may be explained on other grounds than those indicated by Mr. Simpson. The facts regarding this part of the scene are somewhat peculiar. Gower brings a message from the Duke of Gloucester requiring Fluellen's immediate attendance at the mines; instead of obeying orders, Fluellen begins to criticise the engineering as "not according to the disciplines of the war," and this leads Gower to mention that the work is directed by a valiant Irishman—one Captain Macmorris, as Fluellen appears to be aware. True to the proverb, Macmorris then makes his appearance, "and the Scots captain, Captain Jamy, with him." This is the only appearance on the stage of this pair of worthies, and it is remarkable that from this point to the end of the scene the abbreviation prefixed to Fluellen's speeches suddenly becomes Welsh. in the Folio instead of Flu. as uniformly hitherto and afterwards; quite consistently Jamy and Macmorris are distinguished as Scot. and Irish. Thus the Welshman, the Scotsman, and the Irishman, with a word or two from the Englishman, Gower, have the rest of the scene to themselves, and we are entertained with a violent altercation between Fluellen and Macmorris, while Jamy is too canny to do more than express his interest in the dispute without taking sides with either party.

Now it will not be denied that all this is an excrescence

1 The fact that in the Quarto the scene terminates at this point may be taken for what it is worth.
upon the rest of the scene; the only doubt is how to account for it. In any case it has all the appearance of an afterthought; the very gratuitous and isolated intrusion of the Scottish and Irish captains serves no dramatic purpose, except so far as it gives greater scope to the part of the Welshman; it gives him one more chance of a disputa-
tion touching the disciplines of the war. But I very much doubt whether this addition was made with any idea of sym-
bolising the union of the component parts of the United Kingdom. I would suggest a less ambitious motive. Fluellen had been a great success, his countryman Sir Hugh had secured the honour of special mention on the title-page of the Quarto of the play in which he figures, the "variable and pleasing humors" of the two Welshmen had brought down the house: "You have done so well with Taffy," we may imagine someone saying to the stage-
manager, I will not say the author, "let us see what you can make of Paddy and Sandy." Hence the added portion, and hence the writer of it, whoever he may have been, to balance Scot. and Irish. is fain to dub Fluellen Welsh. The two former having answered their purpose disappear into the obscurity from which they emerged.

The reader is requested to note that the text of the present edition is substantially that of the Folio of 1623, modernised as far as spelling and punctuation are concerned; that the Folio has not been otherwise departed from without reason, and that all such departures have been carefully recorded. For any apparatus criticus of the text the Cam-
bridge Shakespeare remains the fountainhead, as do the eighteenth century editions for any interpretation of it.

No modern editor of an English classic can afford to neglect the storehouse of information contained in the New English Dictionary of Dr. Murray and Mr. Bradley. My obligations to it will be apparent throughout, and it is hardly too much to say that its appearance marks a new departure in the history of Shakespearian criticism. My only regret is that I have only had the advantage of its company [1904] through the first half of the alphabet. It is referred to as New Eng. Dict.

I am indebted to Mr. W. J. Craig, the editor in chief of the Arden Shakespeare, for many valuable illustrations and suggestions.

In the critical notes F denotes the first Folio of 1623; when it is desired to distinguish it from the later Folios, F 2 (1632), F 3 (1663–64), F 4 (1685), it is quoted as F I. Mutatis mutandis the same applies to Q, and Q 1 (1600), Q 2 (1602), Q 3 (1608). The other references explain themselves.

In the introduction and explanatory notes for plays other than the present one the references are to the Globe Shakespeare, and “Holinshed” refers to Mr. Boswell-Stone’s Shakspere’s Holinshed.
THE LIFE OF
KING HENRY THE FIFTH
Dramatis Personae

King Henry the Fifth.
Duke of Gloucester, } Brothers to the King.
Duke of Bedford, 
Duke of Exeter, Uncle to the King.
Duke of York, Cousin to the King.
Earls of Salisbury, Westmoreland, and Warwick.
Archbishop of Canterbury.
Bishop of Ely.
Earl of Cambridge.
Lord Scroop.

Dramatis Personae] There is no list of Dramatis Personae in the Folio. Rowe was the first to give one. The following notes are chiefly taken from French's Shakspeariana Genealogica.

Henry the Fifth] b. 1388, accession 1413, d. 1422; eldest son of Henry IV.
Duke of Gloucester] b. 1391, d. 1447. Humphrey, fourth son of Henry IV., and the only one of Henry V.'s brothers actually present at Agincourt; present at Troyes.

Duke of Bedford] b. 1390, d. 1435. John of Lancaster, third son of Henry IV., appointed Lieutenant of England during his brother's first campaign in France, and therefore took no part in it. In the second campaign he took over large reinforcements to the king.

Duke of Exeter] d. 1427. Thomas Beaufort, third son of John of Gaunt and Catharine Swynford. On the surrender of Harfleur he was made captain of the town, and was not present at Agincourt; was one of the ambassadors to treat of Henry's marriage, and was present at Troyes.


Earl of Salisbury] d. 1428. Thomas Montacute, son of John Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, who was beheaded at Cirencester in 1400; patron of Lydgate; one of the ambassadors to treat of Henry's marriage.

Earl of Westmoreland] d. 1425. Ralph Neville, warden of the West Marches towards Scotland, and not present in the French campaigns.

Earl of Warwick] b. 1381, d. 1439. Richard Beauchamp, present at Harfleur, but not at Agincourt; one of the ambassadors to treat of Henry's marriage, and present at Troyes.


Bishop of Ely] d. 1425. John Fordham, Bishop of Durham, 1381; translated to Ely 1388; one of the ambassadors to treat of Henry's marriage, and perhaps for that reason introduced into Act 1. sc. 1.


DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

SIR THOMAS GREY.
SIR THOMAS ERPINGHAM, GOWER, FLEUEN, MACMORRIS, JAMY,
Officers in King Henry's Army.
BATES, COURT, WILLIAMS, Soldiers in the same.
PISTOL, NYM, BARDOLPH.
Boy.
A Herald.

CHARLES THE SIXTH, King of France.
LEWIS, the Dauphin.
Dukes of Burgundy, Orleans, and Bourbon,
The Constable of France.
Rambures and Grandpré, French Lords.
Montjoy, a French Herald.
Governor of Harfleur.
Ambassadors to the King of England.

ISABEL, Queen of France.
KATHARINE, Daughter to Charles and Isabel.
ALICE, A Lady attending on the Princess.
Hostess of a tavern in Eastcheap, formerly Mistress Quickly, and now married to Pistol.

Lords, Ladies, Officers, French and English Soldiers, Citizens, Messengers, and Attendants.

CHORUS.

SCENE: England; afterwards France.


Sir Thomas Erpingham] b. 1357, d. 1428; of Erpingham, Norfolk; distinguished at Agincourt; builder of the Erpingham Gate at Norwich.

Charles the Sixth] b. 1368, accession 1380, d. 1422; not present at Agincourt or at Troyes.

Lewis, the Dauphin] d. 1415; not present at Agincourt; succeeded as Dauphin by his brother John, d. 1417, and then by his brother Charles, afterwards Charles VII., b. 1403, d. 1461.

Duke of Burgundy] d. 1419. John the Fearless, assassinated at the bridge of Montereau; succeeded by his son Philip, Count of Charlerois, the Good, who was present at Troyes.

Duke of Orleans] d. 1465, Charles D'Angouleme; imprisoned in England twenty-five years; father of Louis XII.

Duke of Bourbon] d. 1433, while still a prisoner in England; buried at Christ Church, Newgate Street.

Constable of France] d. 1415. Charles de-la-Bret, leader of the van at Agincourt.

Isabel, Queen of France] d. 1435, daughter of Stephen II., Duke of Bavaria. Katharine, daughter to Charles and Isabel] b. 1401, d. 1438, married Henry V. 1420; mother of Henry VI.; by her second husband, Owen Tudor, grandmother of Henry VII.
THE LIFE OF
KING HENRY THE FIFTH

PROLOGUE

Enter Chorus.

O! for a Muse of fire, that would ascend
The brightest heaven of invention;
A kingdom for a stage, princes to act
And monarchs to behold the swelling scene.
Then should the warlike Harry, like himself,
Assume the port of Mars; and at his heels,
Leash'd in like hounds, should famine, sword, and fire
Crouch for employment. But pardon, gentles all,
The flat unraised spirits that hath dar'd

King Henry] F 2; King omitted F 1. Prologue Enter Chorus] Enter
Prologue F. 9. spirits that hath] spirits that have Staunton; Spirit, that
hath F 4.

7, 8. Leash'd . . . employment] A reminiscence of Holinshed. On January
2, 1419, Rouen, after five months' siege, yielded to the pressure of famine so far
as to open communication with Henry through ambassadors. To their remon-
strances the king replied "that the goddesse of batell, called Bellona,
had three handmaidens, ever of necessitie attending upon hir, as blood, fire,
and famine . . . , the choise was in his hand, to tame them either with blood,
fire, or famine, or with them all," Boswell-Stone, Shakspere's Holinshed,
pp. 165, 166.

9. spirits that hath] the relative with a singular verb after a plural antecedent
is common enough in Shakespeare; e.g. Midsummer Night's Dream, ii. i. 90, 91:
"Contagious fogs, which falling on our land
Hath every pelting river made so proud,"
where the unnecessary change to "have" has also been made; and As
You Like It, III. v. 52, 53:
"'Tis such fools as you
That makes the world full of ill-favour'd children."
See Abbott, Shakespearian Grammar,
THE LIFE OF

On this unworthy scaffold to bring forth
So great an object: can this cockpit hold
The vasty fields of France? or may we cram
Within this wooden O the very casques
That did affright the air at Agincourt?
O, pardon! since a crooked figure may
Attest in little place a million;
And let us, ciphers to this great accompt,
On your imaginary forces work.
Suppose within the girdle of these walls
Are now confin'd two mighty monarchies,
Whose high upreared and abutting fronts
The perilous narrow ocean parts asunder:
Piece out our imperfections with your thoughts;
Into a thousand parts divide one man,
And make imaginary puissance;
Think, when we talk of horses, that you see them

21. *high upreared*] Pope; *high, vp-reared* F.

§ 247. The flat unraised spirits, in the depreciating language of the chorus, are the actors.

13. *this wooden O*] either the Curtain or the first Globe Theatre, built in 1599. The site is now covered by Barclay's Brewery. See Mr. Rendle on the Bankside Playhouses, New Shakspeare Society's Publications, Harrison's *Description of England*, Part ii. The letter O was used of any object of circular formation, e.g. of the stars in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, III. ii. 187, 188:

"Fair Helena, who more engilds the night
Than all your fiery oes and eyes of light."

13. *the very casques*] the actual helmets; spelt in F "caskes."

15, 16. *since a . . . million*] Compare *Winter's Tale*, I. ii. 6-9:

"like a cypher,
Yet standing in rich place, I multiply
With one 'we thank you' many thousands moe
That go before it."

18. *imaginary forces*] forces of imagination; compare "imagin'd wing," III. Chorus 1.

22. *The perilous narrow ocean*] the perilous English Channel. The seas separating France from England were known as the narrow seas, as in I. Chorus 38, and had a reputation for shipwrecks. See *Merchant of Venice*, III. i. 2-6.
Printing their proud hoofs i' the receiving earth;
For 'tis your thoughts that now must deck our kings,
Carry them here and there, jumping o'er times,
Turning the accomplishment of many years
Into an hour-glass: for the which supply,
Admit me Chorus to this history;
Who prologue-like your humble patience pray,
Gently to hear, kindly to judge, our play.  
[Exit.  

ACT I

SCENE I.—London.  An Antechamber in the
King's Palace.

Enter the Archbishop of Canterbury and
the Bishop of Ely.

Cant. My lord, I'll tell you; that self bill is urg'd,
Which in the eleventh year of the last king's reign


Act I. Scene i.

Rowe; Enter the two Bishops of Canterbury and Ely F.

29. Carry them] i.e. your thoughts. The pronoun might of course, but for
the absence of a conjunction, refer to
"kings," and would do so, if we admit
a possibility suggested by Henry Haf-
ford Vaughan, namely, that "carry"
may be a corruption of the press for
"carrying," the -ing having been lost
owing to the same termination coming
immediately under it; but a compositor
would be more likely to drop it in the
second of the two lines than in the first;
compare, however, v. Chorus 8, 9:

"Heave him [the king] away upon
your winged thoughts
Athwart the sea."

31. for the which supply] for filling
up the intervals in the action—the times
over which we have to jump.

Act I. Scene i.

In the Folio the play is divided into
acts, but not into scenes: Act I. in-
cludes our Acts I. and II.; Act II. is
our Act III.; Act III. our Act IV. scenes
i.—vi.; Act IV. our Act IV. scenes vii.
Was like, and had indeed against us pass'd,
But that the scambling and unquiet time
Did push it out of farther question.

Ely. But how, my lord, shall we resist it now?
Cant. It must be thought on. If it pass against us,
We lose the better half of our possession;
For all the temporal lands which men devout
By testament have given to the church
Would they strip from us; being valued thus:
As much as would maintain, to the king's honour,
Full fifteen earls and fifteen hundred knights,
Six thousand and two hundred good esquires;
And, to relief of lazars and weak age,
Of indigent faint souls past corporal toil,
A hundred almshouses right well supplied;
And to the coffers of the king beside,
A thousand pounds by the year. Thus runs the bill.

Ely. This would drink deep.

8. half] part F 2, 3, 4. 15, 16. age, Of] Capell; age Of F.

and viii.; Act v. our Act v. Pope was
the first to divide the acts into scenes.

Scene London] According to Holinshed (p. 167) the events of this Act,
with the exception of the episode of the
tennis-balls, took place at Leicester in
the late spring of 1414; the Dauphin's
gift of "a barrell of Paris balles" had
been made at Kenilworth in the Lent of
the same year, ibid. p. 173. Theobald
therefore laid the scene of the whole
Act at Kenilworth; but as Shakespeare
has made no distinction between the
two localities, it seems better with Pope
to fix upon London, where, as Boswell-
Stone observes, in the absence of clear
evidence to the contrary, we may gener-
ally assume that Shakespeare's scenes
are laid,

2. in the eleventh year] in 1410, when
the Commons renewed the proposal they
had already made in 1404 for con-
fiscating the revenues of the higher
clergy.

4. scambling] scrambling, scuffling;
we have the word again in v. ii. 214,
"I get thee with scambling." Compare
also King John, iv. iii. 145-147:
"England now is left
To tug and scramble, and to part by
the teeth
The unowed interest of proud-
welling state."

9. temporal lands] a pleonastic ex-
pression, as Vaughan remarks, insomuch
as lands must be temporalities; but it is borrowed from Holinshed, p. 167.
'Twould drink the cup and all. 20

But what prevention?

The king is full of grace and fair regard.

And a true lover of the holy church.

The courses of his youth promis'd it not.

The breath no sooner left his father's body,

But that his wildness, mortified in him,

Seem'd to die too; yea, at that very moment,

Consideration like an angel came,

And whipp'd the offending Adam out of him,

Leaving his body as a paradise,

To envelop and contain celestial spirits.

Never was such a sudden scholar made;

Never came reformation in a flood,

With such a heady currance, scouring faults;

Nor never Hydra-headed wilfulness

So soon did lose his seat and all at once

As in this king.

We are blessed in the change.

Hear him but reason in divinity,

And, all-admiring, with an inward wish


34. currance] currant F 2, 3; current F 4; currency Vaughan conj.

36. seat] heads Vaughan conj.

22-25. The king ... body] On the ground that the Bishop of Ely sees the
difficulties of the position, while the archbishop takes the cheerful view,
Vaughan (anticipated by Keightley) proposes to distribute these lines as follows:
"Cant. The king is full of grace and fair regard,

And a true lover of the holy church.

Ely. The courses of his youth promised it not.

Cant. The breath no sooner left his father's body," etc.

25-31. The breath ... spirits] Compare 2 Henry IV. v. ii. 123, 124:

"My father is gone wild into his grave,

For in his tomb lie my affections."

33, 34. Never ... faults] "Alluding to the method by which Hercules
cleansed the famous [Augean] stables,
when he turned a river through them.
Hercules is still in our author's head
when he mentions the Hydra" (Johnson).
You would desire the king were made a prelate:
Hear him debate of commonwealth affairs,
You would say it hath been all in all his study:
List his discourse of war, and you shall hear
A fearful battle render'd you in music:
Turn him to any cause of policy,
The Gordian knot of it he will unloose,
Familiar as his garter; that, when he speaks,
The air, a charter'd libertine, is still,
And the mute wonder lurketh in men's ears,
To steal his sweet and honey'd sentences;
So that the art and practic part of life
Must be the mistress to this theoretic:
Which is a wonder how his grace should glean it,
Since his addiction was to courses vain;
His companies unletter'd, rude, and shallow;
His hours fill'd up with riots, banquets, sports;
And never noted in him any study,
Any retirement, any sequestration

49. the] then Vaughan conj. wonder] wandezrer Staunton conj.

48. The air, a charter'd libertine] Jaques (As You Like It, ii. vii. 47-49) declares:
   "I must have liberty
   Withal, as large a charter as the wind,
   To blow on whom I please."
51. art] practical skill, as opposed to theory—in fact, "the practic part of life." Compare Measure for Measure, i. i. 10-14:
   "The nature of our people,
   Our city's institutions, and the terms
   For common justice, you're as pregnant in
   As art and practice hath enriched any
   That we remember."

The archbishop intimates that Henry's life having been the very reverse of a studious one, his philosophy must be the result of experience rather than of reading and contemplation. This is all in accordance with Shakespeare's portrait of Henry as the typical man of action.

55. companies] It is quite beside the mark to explain this as = companions, as is usually done; no doubt it comes to this ultimately, but the word is here simply the plural of the collective singular "company," and runs even with the "riots, banquets, sports" of the next line.
From open haunts and popularity.

Ely. The strawberry grows underneath the nettle, and wholesome berries thrive and ripen best Neighbour'd by fruit of baser quality: And so the prince obscur'd his contemplation Under the veil of wildness; which, no doubt, Grew like the summer grass, fastest by night, Unseen, yet crescive in his faculty.

59. popularity] mixing with the "populares" or common people. So 1 Henry IV. iii. ii. 60-69, Henry contrasting his own dignified seclusion with the easy manners of his predecessor says: "The skipping king, he ambled up and down With shallow jesters and rash bavins wits . . . Grew a companion to the common streets, Enfeoff'd himself to popularity." Popular always has a depreciatory sense in Shakespeare=plebeian or vulgar, as in iv. i. 37, 38:

"Art thou an officer? Or art thou base, common and popular?"

The nearest approach to the modern sense of the word occurs in Coriolanus, iii. iii. 109, "since the wisdom of their choice is rather to have my hat than my heart, I will practice the insinuating nod, and be off to them most counterfeily; that is, sir, I will counterfeit the bewitchment of some popular man."

60-62. The strawberry . . . quality] "It was the common opinion . . . that plants were affected by the neighbourhood of other plants to such an extent that they imbibed each other's virtues and faults. Thus sweet flowers were planted near fruit trees, with the idea of improving the flavour of the fruit, and evil-smelling trees, like the elder, were carefully cleared away from fruit trees, lest they should be tainted. But the strawberry was supposed to be an exception to the rule, and . . . to thrive in the midst of 'evil communications' without being corrupted" (Ellacombe, Plant-Lore and Garden-Craft of Shakespeare, ed. 1878, p. 224). The strawberry in question was probably our wild strawberry (Fragaria vesca), perhaps somewhat improved by cultivation; our finer garden varieties were then unknown. The statement as to the nettle must not be taken too literally; Bacon, Sylva Sylvvarum, century v. § 441, writes: "Shade to some plants conduceth to make them large and prosperous, more than the sun; as in strawberries and bays, etc. Therefore, amongst strawberries, sow here and there some borage-seed, and you shall find the strawberries under those leaves far more large than their fellows." And again (ibid. century iv. § 321): "The apples covered with crabs and onions were likewise well matured."

63-66. And so . . . faculty] This explanation of the "wonder" offered by the bishop is in harmony with what Henry says of himself in 1 Henry IV. i. ii. 219 ff., and also with the opinion of the Constable of France (ii. iv. 36-40), which is enforced by another horticultural simile.

64. which] i.e. his contemplation. 66. crescive] growing. Compare Drant (1566), Wail Hierim, K vii b, "The dragons . . . with proper brestes . . . do nurse their cresyve yonge."

66. his faculty] its inherent power
Cant. It must be so; for miracles are ceas'd;
And therefore we must needs admit the means
How things are perfected.

Ely. But, my good lord,
How now for mitigation of this bill
Urg'd by the commons? Doth his majesty
Incline to it, or no?

Cant. He seems indifferent,
Or rather swaying more upon our part
Than cherishing the exhibiters against us;
For I have made an offer to his majesty,
Upon our spiritual convocation,
And in regard of causes now in hand,
Which I have open'd to his grace at large,
As touching France, to give a greater sum
Than ever at one time the clergy yet
Did to his predecessors part withal.

Ely. How did this offer seem receiv'd, my lord?

Cant. With good acceptance of his majesty;
Save that there was not time enough to hear,
As I perceiv'd his grace would fain have done,
The several and unhidden passages
Of his true titles to some certain dukedoms,

86. several] several Pope.

or capacity. Compare *Julius Cæsar*,
i. iii. 66–68:
"Why all these things change from
their ordinance
Their natures and preformed faculties
To monstrous quality,"
and Lyte (1578), *Dodoens*, ii. cvi. 296,
"Lovage, in facultie and vertues doth
not differ much from Ligusticum."
68. the means] here, contemplation obscured under the veil of wild-

ness.
74. the exhibiters] the introducers of
the bill. Compare *Merry Wives*, ii. i.
29, "Why, I'll exhibit a bill in the
parliament for the putting down of
men."
86. The several and unhidden pass-
ges] the details, and the clearly estab-
lished channels through which the titles
passed or were derived.
And generally to the crown and scat of France, Deriv'd from Edward, his great-grandfather.

_Ely._ What was the impediment that broke this off? 

_Cant._ The French ambassador upon that instant Crav'd audience; and the hour I think is come To give him hearing: is it four o'clock?

_Ely._ It is.

_Cant._ Then go we in to know his embassy; Which I could with a ready guess declare Before the Frenchman speak a word of it.

_Ely._ I'll wait upon you, and I long to hear it. [Exeunt

SCENE II.—The Same. The Presence Chamber.

_Enter King Henry, Gloucester, Bedford, Exeter, Warwick, Westmoreland, and Attendants._

_K. Hen._ Where is my gracious lord of Canterbury?

_Exe._ Not here in presence.

_K. Hen._ Send for him, good uncle.

_West._ Shall we call in the ambassador, my liege?

_K. Hen._ Not yet, my cousin: we would be resolv'd, Before we hear him, of some things of weight That task our thoughts, concerning us and France.

_Enter the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Ely._

_Cant._ God and his angels guard your sacred throne,

89. great-grandfather] Dyce; great grandfather F.

_Scene II._

*Enter . . . ] Malone; Enter the King, Humfrey, Bedford, Clarence, Warwick, Westmerland, and Exeter F. 6. Enter . . . ] Rowe; Enter two Bishops F.*
And make you long become it!

K. Hen. Sure, we thank you.

My learned lord, we pray you to proceed,
And justly and religiously unfold
Why the law Salique that they have in France
Or should, or should not, bar us in our claim.
And God forbid, my dear and faithful lord,
That you should fashion, wrest, or bow your reading,
Or nicely charge your understanding soul
With opening titles miscreate, whose right
Suits not in native colours with the truth;
For God doth know how many now in health
Shall drop their blood in approbation
Of what your reverence shall incite us to.
Therefore take heed how you impawn our person,
How you awake our sleeping sword of war:
We charge you, in the name of God, take heed;
For never two such kingdoms did contend
Without much fall of blood; whose guiltless drops
Are every one a woe, a sore complaint
'Gainst him whose wrongs give edge unto the swords
That make such waste in brief mortality.
Under this conjuration speak, my lord,
And we will hear, note, and believe in heart
That what you speak is in your conscience wash'd
As pure as sin with baptism.

27. wrongs give] Malone; wrongs gives F 1; wrong gives F 2, 3, 4.
28. make] Rowe; makes F.

15. nicely] sophistically.
15. understanding] that knows the truth to be otherwise, as Capell explains.
21. impawn] pledge; the warning is explained by the three preceding lines.
27. wrongs] wrong-doings.
Then hear me, gracious sovereign, and you peers,
That owe yourselves, your lives, and services
To this imperial throne. There is no bar
To make against your highness' claim to France
But this, which they produce from Pharamond,
*In terram Salicam mulieres ne succedant,*
"No woman shall succeed in Salique land:"
Which Salique land the French unjustly gloze
To be the realm of France, and Pharamond
The founder of this law and female bar.
Yet their own authors faithfully affirm
That the land Salique is in Germany,
Between the floods of Sala and of Elbe;
Where Charles the Great having subdued the Saxons—
There left behind and settled certain French;
Who, holding in disdain the German women
For some dishonest manners of their life,
Establish'd then this law; to wit, no female
Should be inheritrix in Salique land:
Which Salique, as I said, 'twixt Elbe and Sala,
Is at this day in Germany call'd Meisen.
Then doth it well appear the Salique law
Was not devised for the realm of France;
Nor did the French possess the Salique land

---

45, 52. *Elbe*] Capell; *Elue* F. 46. *Saxons—*] Vaughan conj.; *Saxons, F.*
54. *Then*] Thus Q, Pope.

33. *Then hear me*] This long speech is perhaps the most salient instance of Holinshed put into verse; see it printed in parallel columns with the original in Boswell-Stone's *Shaksper's Holinshed*, pp. 169-171.
37. *Pharamond*] A semi-mythical Frankish chief of the early part of the fifth century. The Salique law as excluding females from the throne of France does not seem to have been heard of till the fourteenth century.
40. *gloze*] interpret as by a gloss.
Until four hundred one and twenty years
After defunction of King Pharamond,
Idly suppos'd the founder of this law;
Who died within the year of our redemption
Four hundred twenty-six; and Charles the Great
Subdued the Saxons, and did seat the French
Beyond the river Sala, in the year
Eight hundred five. Besides, their writers say,
King Pepin, which deposed Childeric,
Did, as heir general, being descended
Of Blithild, which was daughter to King Clothair,
Make claim and title to the crown of France.
Hugh Capet also, who usurp'd the crown
Of Charles the Duke of Lorraine, sole heir male
Of the true line and stock of Charles the Great,
To find his title with some shows of truth,
Though, in pure truth, it was corrupt and naught,
Convey'd himself as heir to the Lady Lingare,

72. find] fine Q, Pope; send or fence Anon. conj.; face Kinnear conj.
as heir] Q, Pope; as the Heir F.

57. four hundred one and twenty] As Rolfe was the first to point out, Shakespeare follows Holinshed here in an arithmetical blunder; Charles the Great's colonisation of the Salique land in 805 is 379 (not 421) years later than the death of Pharamond in 426.

61. Charles the Great] Few readers will care to pause over the intricacies of the archbishop's argument, but it may be worth while to give the dates of the reigns of the sovereigns mentioned, in chronological order: Clothair I., 511-561; Childeric III., 742-752; Pepin, 752-768; Charles the Great, 768-814; Lewis I., Le Debonnaire, 814-840; Charles I., the Bald (Charlemain, line 75), 840-877; Hugh Capet, 987-996; Lewis IX. (the Tenth, line 77), 1226-1270.

72. To find . . . truth] Either to trace out, discover, his title with some appearance of truth, or to find his title in, provide it with, some show of truth; the latter explanation is the one usually adopted, but if it is correct, it is the only instance of this use of "find" in Shakespeare. Holinshed has, "to make his title seeme true, and appeare good."

74. Convey'd himself as heir] The best commentary on this expression is Merry Wives, I. iii. 32: "Nym. The good humour is to steal at a minute's rest."
To Lewis the emperor, and Lewis the son
Of Charles the Great. Also King Lewis the Tenth,
Who was sole heir to the usurper Capet,
Could not keep quiet in his conscience,
Wearing the crown of France, till satisfied
That fair Queen Isabel, his grandmother,
Was lineal of the Lady Ermengare,
Daughter to Charles theforesaid Duke of Lorraine:
By the which marriage the line of Charles the Great
Was re-united to the crown of France.
So that, as clear as is the summer's sun,
King Pepin's title, and Hugh Capet's claim,
King Lewis his satisfaction, all appear
To hold in right and title of the female:
So do the kings of France unto this day;
Howbeit they would hold up this Salique law
To bar your highness claiming from the female;

75. Charlemain] Charlechauve Rann, from Ritson's conjecture. 76. and Lewis] which was Pope. 77. Tenth] ninth Pope. 88. satisfaction] possession Pope. 90. kings] kings' Vaughan conj. 92. bar] F 3, 4; barre F 1, 2.

Pist. 'Convey,' the wise it call.
'Steal!' foh! a fico for the phrase!'

74. Lingare] Lingard in Holinshed, which, as Delius points out, is nearer to the German form Luitgard, the name, according to Ritson, of Charlemagne's fifth wife.

76. and Lewis] Pope's reading "which was" has the support of Holinshed's "that was."

77. Lewis the Tenth] Shakespeare copies Holinshed in another mistake; Hill, whom Holinshed is reproducing, has correctly, "Kyng Lewes also the ninth." Holinshed himself adds in brackets, "otherwise called Saint Lewes."

82. Ermengare] Ermengard in Holinshed.

88. King . . satisfaction] Pope's reading follows Holinshed, who has, "the possession of Lewes."
And rather choose to hide them in a net
Than amply to imbar their crooked titles
Usurp'd from you and your progenitors.

K. Hen. May I with right and conscience make this claim?

Cant. The sin upon my head, dread sovereign!
For in the book of Numbers is it writ:
"When the man dies, let the inheritance
Descend unto the daughter." Gracious lord,
Stand for your own; unwind your bloody flag;
Look back into your mighty ancestors:
Go, my dread lord, to your great-grand sire's tomb,
From whom you claim; invoke his war-like spirit,
And your great-uncle's, Edward the Black Prince,
Who on the French ground play'd a tragedy,
Making defeat on the full power of France;

93. And rather ... titles] In spite of the fact that they really claim through the female, the French kings choose to take refuge behind the flimsy and transparent pretext (net) of the Salique law rather than make unreserved confession of the baselessness of their title. If the law were valid, it barred the title of Charles VI. equally with that of Henry; if it were invalid, Henry, who was descended from the elder son of Philip III., had a better title than Charles, who was descended from the younger son. Imbar is merely a variant of imbar, and "amply to imbar" is to bar or exclude without restriction or subterfuge. But embar has also the meaning to enclose with bars, fence in; and Knight took the word in this sense here, explaining "hiding their crooked titles in a net, rather than amply defending them"; but this is just what, on the archbishop's showing, they could not do. Moreover, if they could, there would no longer be any reason for their hiding them in a net. Theobald's reading "imbare" (embare), i.e., lay open, display to view, which has been adopted by most editors, may find support of a kind in the spelling of the first two Folios, and gives a better sense than Knight's interpretation of imbar, but is quite unnecessary. Vaughan explains his conjecture "unbrace" as = to expose by loosening and letting free—the opposite of hiding in a net.

99, 100. When the man ... daughter] Numbers xxvii. 8, "If a man die, and have no son, then shall ye cause his inheritance to pass unto his daughter," in the case of the daughters of Zelophehad.
While his most mighty father on a hill  
Stood smiling to behold his lion's whelp  
Forage in blood of French nobility.  
O noble English! that could entertain  
With half their forces the full pride of France,  
And let another half stand laughing by,  
All out of work, and cold for action.  

_Ely._ Awake remembrance of these valiant dead,  
And with your puissant arm renew their feats:  
You are their heir, you sit upon their throne,  
The blood and courage that renowned them  
Runs in your veins; and my thrice-puissant liege  
Is in the very May-morn of his youth,  
Ripe for exploits and mighty enterprises.  

_Exe._ Your brother kings and monarchs of the earth  
Do all expect that you should rouse yourself,  
As did the former lions of your blood.  

_West._ They know your grace hath cause and means and  
might;  
So hath your highness; never king of England  
Had nobles richer, and more loyal subjects,  
Whose hearts have left their bodies here in England  
And lie pavilion'd in the fields of France.  

_Cant._ O! let their bodies follow, my dear liege,
With blood and sword and fire to win your right;  
In aid whereof we of the spiritualty  
Will raise your highness such a mighty sum  
As never did the clergy at one time  
Bring in to any of your ancestors.  

K. Hen. We must not only arm to invade the French,  
But lay down our proportions to defend  
Against the Scot, who will make road upon us  
With all advantages.  

Cant. They of those marches, gracious sovereign,  
Shall be a wall sufficient to defend  
Our inland from the pilfering borderers.  

K. Hen. We do not mean the coursing snatchers only,  
But fear the main intendment of the Scot,  
Who hath been still a giddy neighbour to us;  
For you shall read that my great-grandfather  
Never went with his forces into France  
But that the Scot on his unfurnish'd kingdom  
Came pouring, like the tide into a breach,  
With ample and brim fulness of his force,  
Galling the gleaned land with hot assays,  
Girding with grievous siege castles and towns;  
That England, being empty of defence,
Hath shook and trembled at the ill neighbourhood.

_Cant._ She hath been then more fear'd than harm'd, my liege; 155
For hear her but exampled by herself:
When all her chivalry hath been in France
And she a mourning widow of her nobles,
She hath herself not only well defended,
But taken and impounded as a stray
The King of Scots; whom she did send to France,
To fill King Edward's fame with prisoner kings,
And make her chronicle as rich with praise
As is the ooze and bottom of the sea
With sunken wrack and sumless treasuries. 165

_West._ But there's a saying very old and true;
If that you will France win,
Then with Scotland first begin:
For once the eagle England being in prey,
To her unguarded nest the weasel Scot
Comes sneaking and so sucks her princely eggs,
Playing the mouse in absence of the cat,
To tear and havoc more than she can eat.

_Exe._ It follows then the cat must stay at home:

155. _been_} Rowe; _bin_ F. 163. _her_} Capell from Johnson's conjecture; their F; _your_ Q, Steevens. 165. _wrack_} _wreck_ Theobald (ed. 2). 166. West.] Capell; _Lord_ Q; Bish. Ely F. 173. _tear_} Rowe (ed. 2); _tame_ F; _spoyle_ Q, Rowe (ed. 1); _taint_ Theobald.

155. _fear'd_} frightened, as often. 161. _The King of Scots_} David II., who was taken prisoner at the battle of Nevill's Cross, October 17, 1346, during Edward III.'s absence in France. As a matter of fact, he was not sent to France at all; but, in the play of _Edward III._ (first printed 1596), Act v., John Copland, "the proud presumtious Squire of the North," who had captured him in the battle, is represented as bringing over his prisoner to Edward at Calais. Hence perhaps the statement in the text.

166. West.] Capell made this change to square with Holinshed; besides, as Warburton pointed out, the bishops are advocating the invasion of France, and not raising obstacles to it.
THE LIFE OF

Yet that is but a crush'd necessity,
Since we have locks to safeguard necessaries
And pretty traps to catch the petty thieves.
While that the armed hand doth fight abroad
The advised head defends itself at home:
For government, though high and low and lower, put into parts, doth keep in one consent,
Congreeing in a full and natural close,
Like music.

Cant. Therefore doth heaven divide


175. crush'd] squeezed, i.e. strained, forced; or squeezed out, i.e. annihilated; in either case the explanation is to be found in the following lines.
179. advised] As advice was used to mean consideration, deliberation (Merchant of Venice, iv. ii. 6, 7:
"My lord Bassanio, upon more advice,
Hath sent you here this ring"), so advised here means after due deliberation, judicious. Compare 2 Henry VI. v. ii. 47: "The silver livery of advised age."
181. parts] keeping up the figure from part-singing (Aldis Wright).
181. consent] An erroneous spelling of consent, i.e. harmony, common in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and due to confusion with consent.
182. close] cadence. So Milton, Hymn on the Nativity, 99, 100:
"The air, such pleasure loth to lose,
With thousand echoes still prolongs each heavenly close."
183-187. Therefore... Obedience] The comparison suggested by Julius Caesar, ii. i. 97, "the state of man, like to a little kingdom," and Macbeth, i. iii. 140, "shakes so my single state of man." (compare also King Lear, III. i. 10, "the little world of man," and 2 Henry IV. iv. iii. 118, "this little kingdom, man"), suggests that "the state of man" here means the human microcosm; but the units required by the context are not the various functions of the individual, but the various individuals themselves, who go to make up the state. "The state of man" here must therefore be the body politic, and we may interpret, "Therefore (to secure this harmony) heaven assigns to each member of the state his own particular function, to the exercise of which he is continually prompted, but these promptings must be regulated by a reference to the public good; obedience to this is the butt or target at which he must aim." There is a curious anticipation in line 185 of the philosophical language of Hobbes, Leviathan, i. vi. 23, "These small beginnings of Motion, within the body of Man... are commonly called Endeavour"; and again, Elem. Philos. (ed. 1839), p. 206, "I define endeavour to be motion made in less space and time than can be given" quoted in New Eng. Dict.
The state of man in divers functions,
Setting endeavour in continual motion;
To which is fixed, as an aim or butt,
Obedience: for so work the honey-bees,
Creatures that by a rule in nature teach
The act of order to a peopled kingdom.
They have a king and officers of sorts;
Where some, like magistrates, correct at home,
Others, like merchants, venture trade abroad,
Others, like soldiers, armed in their stings,
Make boot upon the summer's velvet buds;
Which pillage they with merry march bring home
To the tent-royal of their emperor:
Who, busied in his majesty, surveys
The singing masons building roofs of gold,
The civil citizens kneading up the honey,
The poor mechanic porters crowding in
Their heavy burdens at his narrow gate,
The sad-ey'd justice, with his surly hum,
Delivering o'er to executors pale
The lazy yawning drone. I this infer,
That many things, having full reference
To one consent, may work contrarily;

189. act art Pope. 197. majesty Q, Rowe; Majesties F. 199. kneading] laying Q; laying Vaughan conj.
187. so work the honey-bees] Malone pointed out the resemblance between this description of the commonwealth of bees, and that in Lyly's Euphues and his England (1580), pp. 261-264, ed. Arber. (See Appendix.) The idea that the queen-bee was a male prevailed long after Shakespeare's time, and was one of the mediaeval notions on natural history inherited from Aristotle.

As many arrows, loosed several ways,
Come to one mark; as many ways meet in one town;
As many fresh streams meet in one salt sea;
As many lines close in the dial's centre;
So may a thousand actions, once afoot,
End in one purpose, and be all well borne
Without defeat. Therefore to France, my liege.
Divide your happy England into four;
Whereof take you one quarter into France,
And you withal shall make all Gallia shake.
If we, with thrice such powers left at home,
Cannot defend our own doors from the dog,
Let us be worried and our nation lose
The name of hardiness and policy.

K. Hen. Call in the messengers sent from the Dauphin.

[Exeunt some Attendants.]

Now are we well resolv'd; and by God's help,
And yours, the noble sinews of our power,
France being ours, we'll bend it to our awe
Or break it all to pieces: or there we'll sit,
Ruling in large and ample empery
O'er France and all her almost kingly dukedoms,
Or lay these bones in an unworthy urn,
Tombless, with no remembrance over them:
Either our history shall with full mouth
Speak freely of our acts, or else our grave,


207. loosed several ways] i.e. from different parts of the field. Loosing was the regular term in archery for the discharge of the arrow: Ascham, in his Toxophilus (1545) (ed. 1788, pp. 203, 204), gives directions for its execution.

226. empery] Lat. imperium; see note on line 35 above.
Like Turkish mute, shall have a tongueless mouth,
Not worshipp'd with a waxen epitaph.

Enter Ambassadors of France.

Now are we well prepar'd to know the pleasure
Of our fair cousin Dauphin; for we hear
Your greeting is from him, not from the king.

First Amb. May 't please your majesty to give us leave
Freely to render what we have in charge;
Or shall we sparingly show you far off
The Dauphin's meaning and our embassy?

K. Hen. We are no tyrant, but a Christian king;
Unto whose grace our passion is as subject
As are our wretches fetter'd in our prisons:
Therefore with frank and with uncurbed plainness
Tell us the Dauphin's mind.

First Amb. Thus then, in few. Your highness, lately sending into France,
Did claim some certain dukedoms, in the right
Of your great predecessor, King Edward the Third.
In answer of which claim, the prince our master

233. waxen] paper Q, Malone. 237. First Amb.] Dyce; Amb. F (and throughout the scene). May 't please] Pleaseth Q, Capell. 243. are] Q, Rowe; is F. 245. then] than F.

233. Not . . epitaph] Without the honour even of a waxen epitaph, much less one of stone. An epitaph of paper (Quarto and Malone), such as was formerly affixed "to the herse or grave, with pins, wax, paste, etc." (Gifford, Ben Jonson's Underwoods C. note 6, ed. Cunningham, vol. ix. p. 44)—a custom which Aldis Wright informs us was last practised in Cambridge on the occasion of Porson's funeral (1808)—would be even more perishable than a waxen one. Many attempts have been made to explain away the term "waxen" here; I presume that a "waxen epitaph" can be neither more nor less than an epitaph written on wax, but I have not been able to find any other mention of such an epitaph. The reader may of course be content to take the word as a mere synonym for "perishable," "easily effaced," as Schmidt does, but this is the last resource of the desperate annotator.
Says that you savour too much of your youth, And bids you be advis'd: there's nought in France That can be with a nimble galliard won; You cannot revel into dukedoms there. He therefore sends you, meeter for your spirit, This tun of treasure; and, in lieu of this, Desires you let the dukedoms that you claim Hear no more of you. This the Dauphin speaks.


K. Hen. We are glad the Dauphin is so pleasant with us; His present and your pains we thank you for: When we have match'd our rackets to these balls, We will in France, by God's grace, play a set Shall strike his father's crown into the hazard. Tell him he hath made a match with such a wrangler That all the courts of France will be disturb'd With chases. And we understand him well,

251. advis'd: there's] advis'd, there's Steevens.

251. advis'd] Compare line 179 above. If Steevens's punctuation is adopted the meaning is "informed," as in Act II. Chorus 12.

252. galliard] A lively dance, described by Sir John Davies in his poem on dancing entitled *Orchestra* (1596), stanzas 67 and 68.

255. This tun of treasure] the "barrell of Paris balles" of Holinshed. In the corresponding scene of the *Famous Victories*, ed. Daniel, p. 29, the stage direction occurs, "He delivereth a Tunne of Tennis balles."

259-266. We are glad . . . chases] "Wherefore the K. wrote to him, that yer ought long [ere long], he would tosse him some London balles that perchance should shake the walls of the best court in France" (Holinshed, p. 173). The application of Henry's threat is clear enough, but there are two technical terms, "hazard" and "chase," which will not be intelligible to those who are not familiar with a tennis court. The court is divided by the net into the hazard side, into which the ball is served, and the service side; and there are three openings or hazards, varying in size, by striking his ball into any one of which the player wins the stroke—on the hazard side the Winning Gallery and the Grille, and on the service side the Dedans; the first of these is generally *par excellence* termed the hazard. A chase is a stroke in abeyance. For example, if the player on the service side fails or declines to
How he comes o'er us with our wilder days,  
Not measuring what use we made of them.  
We never valu'd this poor seat of England;  
And therefore, living hence, did give ourself  
To barbarous license; as 'tis ever common  
That men are merriest when they are from home.  
But tell the Dauphin I will keep my state,  
Be like a king and show my sail of greatness  
When I do rouse me in my throne of France:  
For that I have laid by my majesty  
And plodded like a man for working-days,  
But I will rise there with so full a glory  
That I will dazzle all the eyes of France,  
Yea, strike the Dauphin blind to look on us.  
And tell the pleasant prince this mock of his  
Hath turn'd his balls to gun-stones; and his soul

276. that this Q.

return a ball, the nearer to his side of  
the net it makes its second impact the  
better for him, because when he changes  
over to the hazard side he will have a  
greater chance of getting behind this  
point, i.e. of sending his opponent a  
ball, which he in his turn shall fail to  
return, and which shall make its second  
impact further from the net and nearer  
to the end wall; the winner of the chase  
being the player whose unreturned ball  
makes its second impact nearest to the  
end wall on his opponent's side of the  
net. It will be seen that the parallel  
has a much closer application in the  
case of the "hazard" than in that of  
the "chases." In Look about You  
(1600) Fauconbridge says, "Aye, they  
have banded me from chase to chase;  
I have been their tennis-ball, since I  
did court" [Hazlitt's Doddsly. vi. 490].  
270. living hence] It suits Henry's  
purpose, in his ironical vein, to con-  
trast "this poor seat of England"  
 disadvantageously with "my throne of  
France," line 275; the slight value he  
attached to the former, he says, will  
explain his having absented himself  
from Court ("living hence") and given  
himself to barbarous license. See  
what his father says, Richard II. v.  
iii. 1-12, and 1 Henry IV. iii. ii.  
32-35.  
274. show my sail of greatness] sail  
under full canvas, the reverse of strik-  
ing sail.

275. rouse me] Compare iv. iii. 43.  
277. a man for working-days] Com-  
pare iv. iii. 109.

282. gun-stones] the usual fifteenth  
and sixteenth century term for cannon-  
ball; the earliest instance of the latter  
in New. Eng. Dict. is from Hudibras  
(1663). Shakespeare has, however,  
"cannon-bullet," Twelfth Night, i. v.  
100. Stone was the material origin-
Shall stand sore charged for the wasteful vengeance That shall fly with them: for many a thousand widows Shall this his mock mock out of their dear husbands; Mock mothers from their sons, mock castles down; 286 And some are yet ungotten and unborn That shall have cause to curse the Dauphin's scorn. But this lies all within the will of God, To whom I do appeal; and in whose name 290 Tell you the Dauphin I am coming on, To venge me as I may and to put forth My rightful hand in a well-hallow'd cause. So get you hence in peace; and tell the Dauphin His jest will savour but of shallow wit 295 When thousands weep more than did laugh at it. Convey them with safe conduct.  Fare you well.  

[Exeunt Ambassadors.]

Exe. This was a merry message.

K. Hen. We hope to make the sender blush at it. Therefore, my lords, omit no happy hour 300 That may give furtherance to our expedition; For we have now no thought in us but France, Save those to God, that run before our business. Therefore let our proportions for these wars Be soon collected, and all things thought upon 305 That may with reasonable swiftness add More feathers to our wings; for, God before,
We'll chide this Dauphin at his father's door. Therefore let every man now task his thought, That this fair action may on foot be brought.  

[Exeunt. Flourish.

ACT II

Enter Chorus.

Now all the youth of England are on fire, And silken dalliance in the wardrobe lies; Now thrive the armourers, and honour's thought Reigns solely in the breast of every man: They sell the pasture now to buy the horse, Following the mirror of all Christian kings, With winged heels, as English Mercuries. For now sits Expectation in the air, And hides a sword from hilts unto the point With crowns imperial, crowns and coronets, Promised to Harry and his followers. The French, advis'd by good intelligence Of this most dreadful preparation, Shake in their fear, and with pale policy Seek to divert the English purposes. O England! model to thy inward greatness,

310. Flourish] F (before "Enter Chorus").

9, 10. And... coronets] Although the edition of Holinshed used by Shakespeare was the second (1587), he may well have been acquainted with the first (1577); on p. 885, vol. iii. of the latter is a woodcut of Edward III., holding a sword encircled by two crowns, intended to indicate those of England and France. The cut is reproduced by Boswell-Stone, p. 174.

9. hilts] We say "hilt," but the plural is exceedingly common, the usage having regard to the two arms of the cross-piece in a cross-hilted sword.

16. modef] Compare Richard II. ii. 153-154: "that small model of the barren earth Which serves as paste and cover to our bones."
Like little body with a mighty heart,
What might'st thou do, that honour would thee do,
Were all thy children kind and natural!
But see, thy fault France hath in thee found out,
A nest of hollow bosoms, which he fills
With treacherous crowns; and three corrupted men,
One, Richard Earl of Cambridge, and the second,
Henry Lord Scroop of Masham, and the third,
Sir Thomas Grey, knight, of Northumberland,
Have, for the gilt of France,—O guilt indeed!—
Confirm'd conspiracy with fearful France;
And by their hands this grace of kings must die,
If hell and treason hold their promises,
Ere he take ship for France, and in Southampton.
Linger your patience on; and we'll digest
The abuse of distance; force a play.
The sum is paid; the traitors are agreed;
The king is set from London; and the scene
Is now transported, gentles, to Southampton:
There is the playhouse now, there must you sit:
And thence to France shall we convey you safe,
And bring you back, charming the narrow seas

31. we'll] well Pope. 32. distance; force a play] distance, while we force a play Pope.
18. would thee do] would wish thee to do.
31, 32. we'll . . . play] The chorus is apologising for the demands made upon the imagination of the audience. The abuse of distance is the neglect of the conditions ordinarily imposed by distance; this difficulty, says the chorus, we will digest, i.e. (as Verity, Pitt Press edition, explains) "satisfactorily arrange, dispose of." Such prosaic obstacles as space and time will vanish at the touch of our art; we shall in fact force events to adjust themselves to the requirements and compass of a drama. I would suggest that the halting metre of line 32 is intended to emphasise the amount of effort required on the part of the actors to produce the desired effect.
38. charming] Compare Milton, On the Morning of Christ's Nativity, line 68: "While birds of calm sit brooding on the charmed wave."
To give you gentle pass; for if we may,  
We'll not offend one stomach with our play.  
But, till the king come forth and not till then,  
Unto Southampton do we shift our scene.  

[Exit.

SCENE I.—London. A Street.

Enter Corporal Nym and Lieutenant Bardolph.

Bard. Well met, Corporal Nym.

Nym. Good morrow, Lieutenant Bardolph.

Bard. What, are Ancient Pistol and you friends yet?

Nym. For my part, I care not: I say little; but when  
time shall serve there shall be smiles; but that  
shall be as it may. I dare not fight; but I will  
wink and hold out mine iron. It is a simple one;  
but what though? it will toast cheese, and it will  
endure cold as another man's sword will: and  
there's an end.

Bard. I will bestow a breakfast to make you friends,

London . . .] The same. A street Capell; Before Quickly's house in  
East-cheap Theobald. 5. be smiles] be—[smiles] Hamner from Warburton's  
conjecture; be smites Collier (ed. 2) from Farmer's conjecture. 10. an end]  
the humour of it Q, Steevens.

40. not . . . stomach] That is, you  
shall pass the sea without the qualms of  
sea-sickness (Johnson).

41. till the king come forth] as if he  
had been going on to say, "we do not  
shift," etc.; but the negative notion,  
being uppermost in his mind, thrusts  
itself in prematurely.

Scene 1.

1. Nym] the verb nim or nym = to  
steal; hence the adjective "nimble,"  
ready to take, active.  
3. Ancient] a corruption of ensign  
(ensyne having been confounded with  
ancien, New Eng. Dict.); the full form  
of the title was Ancient-bearer.  
5. smiles] See critical notes; but as  
Aldis Wright observes, Nym is not a  
master of language, and in his struggles  
to express himself is not always able to  
command the right word. Mr. Craig  
writes: "Can Nym mean, I will disarm  
suspicion by my pleasant demeanour;  
I will smile and then strike?"

7. wink] keep my eyes shut. Compare 2 Henry IV. i. iii. 33, "[Hotspur]  
winking leap'd into destruction."
and we'll be all three sworn brothers to France: let it be so, good Corporal Nym.

_Nym._ Faith, I will live so long as I may, that's the certain of it; and when I cannot live any longer, I will do as I may: that is my rest, that is the rendezvous of it.

_Bard._ It is certain, corporal, that he is married to Nell Quickly; and certainly she did you wrong, for you were troth-plight to her.

_Nym._ I cannot tell; things must be as they may: men may sleep, and they may have their throats about them at that time; and some say knives have edges. It must be as it may: though patience be a tired mare, yet she will plod. There must be conclusions. Well, I cannot tell.

_Enter Pistol and Hostess._

_Bard._ Here comes Ancient Pistol and his wife. Good corporal, be patient here. How now, mine host Pistol!

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13. _let it_] Rowe; _Let 't F._ 25. _mare_] Q, Theobald; _name F._

Hostess] Hostes Quickly, his wife Q; Quickly F.

12. _sworn brothers to France_] sworn to share each other's fortunes in the expedition to France; so lines 90, 91, below, "'We must to France together.'" Whalley notes: "'The humour of sworn brothers should be opened a little. In the time of adventure, it was usual for two chiefs to bind themselves to share in each other's fortune, and divide their acquisitions between them... So these three scoundrels set out for France, as if they were going to make a conquest of the kingdom.'" So III. ii. 47, "'sworn brothers in filching.'"

16. _my rest_] my resolve, as in the phrase borrowed from the game of primero, "'to set up one's rest," i.e. to stake one's all. See Mr. Craig on _King Lear_, i. i. 123. 27-31. _Here... lodgers_] The corresponding passage in the Quarto is as follows:

"_Bar._ Godmorrow ancient Pistoll.
Here comes ancient Pistoll, I prithee Nim be quiet.
_Nim._ How do you my Hoste?
_Pist._ Base slave, callest thou me hoste?
Now by gads lugges I sweare, I scorne the title,
Nor shall my Nell keepe lodging."

With Aldis Wright I think this arrange-
Pist. Base tike, call’st thou me host?
Now, by this hand I swear, I scorn the term;
Nor shall my Nell keep lodgers.

Host. No, by my troth, not long; for we cannot lodge
and board a dozen or fourteen gentlewomen that
live honestly by the prick of their needles, but it
will be thought we keep a bawdy-house straight.

[Nym and Pistol draw.

O well-a-day, Lady, if he be not drawn now! we
shall see wilful adultery and murder committed.

Bard. Good lieutenant! good corporal! offer nothing
here.

Nym. Pish!

Pist. Pish for thee, Iceland dog! thou prick-eard’d cur of
Iceland!

35. Nym . . . draw] Cambridge editors; Nym, and Pistol, eye one another,
and draw Capell; omitted F. 36. O . . . drawn now!] Hanmer; O . . .
drawn! now Theobald; O . . . hewn now, F; O . . . if he be not having
now! Steevens conj.; O Lord heeres Corporall Nims, now shall we have Q.
41. Iceland bis] Steevens from Johnson’s conjecture; Island F; Icelan D.

ment preferable, as Bardolph’s rôle is
that of peacemaker, and Pistol’s vapour-
ing is directed against Nym, not against
him.

29. tike] cur.

36. drawn] Theobald’s emendation;
he quotes Tempest, II. i. 308:
"Why, how now? ho, awake! Why
are you drawn?"

Aldis Wright remarks: "If the
Hostess had used ‘hewd,’ which to
this day may be heard in Suffolk as the
equivalent of ‘held,’ the printers might
easily have altered it to ‘hewn.’" The
Dialect Dictionary quotes under Hold
v, "For still she hued it toight"
(Essex Dialect, 1839). Boswell-Stone,
who reads "if he be not hewn! Now,"
etc., pertinently observes: "Mrs.
Quickly’s next sentence (not to mention
others) shows that she sometimes
used words without regarding their
fitness for her purpose. . . . Besides
if we understand that she fears lest
Nym or Pistol may receive a sword-
cut, hewn has, at least, an intelligible
meaning."

38. Good lieutenant!] We need not
with Capell change this to "ancient." 
Pistol is generally an ancient, but the
military titles of these "irregular
Humorists" are apt to vary.

41. Iceland dog] The Folio reading is
the old spelling of the word. John
Kay, M.D., in his Latin treatise on
British Dogs (1570) describes the Ice-
land dogs as being "curled and rough
all over, which by reason of the length
of their hair make shew neither of face
nor of body"; quoted by Aldis Wright
from Topsell’s History of Four-footed
Beasts (ed. 1658, p. 140). See also
Host. Good Corporal Nym, show thy valour and put up your sword.

Nym. Will you shog off? I would have you solus.


The "solus" in thy most mervailous face;
The "solus" in thy teeth, and in thy throat,
And in thy hateful lungs, yea, in thy maw, perdy;
And, which is worse, within thy nasty mouth!
I do retort the "solus" in thy bowels;
For I can take, and Pistol's cock is up,
And flashing fire will follow.

Nym. I am not Barbason; you cannot conjure me.
I have an humour to knock you indifferently well.
If you grow foul with me, Pistol, I will scour you with my rapier, as I may, in fair terms: if you would walk off, I would prick your guts a little,

Harrison, Description of England, New Shakspere Society, Pt. II. p. 48: "Besides these also we have sholts or curs dailie brought out of Iseland, and made much of among us, because of their sawcinessse and quarrelling. Moreover they bite verie sore, and love candles exceedingly, as doo the men and women of their countrie."

44.] The whole line is addressed to Pistol; compare "if you would walk off," line 56, below. Dr. Brinsley Nicholson, however, thought that "will you shog off?" was addressed to Mrs. Quickly. Shog = move off, be jogging, is a favourite word with Nym; he uses it again, ii. iii. 46, below. It survives in dialect.

50. nasty] mervailous F;

51. take] talke Q, Capell.

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If you grow foul with me, Pistol, I will scour you with my rapier, as I may, in fair terms: if you would walk off, I would prick your guts a little,
in good terms, as I may; and that's the humour of it.

Pist. O braggard vile and damned furious wight! The grave doth gape, and doting death is near; Therefore exhale.

Bard. Hear me, hear me what I say: he that strikes the first stroke, I 'll run him up to the hilt, as I am a soldier. [Draws. 65

Pist. An oath of mickle might; and fury shall abate. Give me thy fist, thy fore-foot to me give; Thy spirits are most tall.

Nym. I will cut thy throat, one time or other, in fair terms; that is the humour of it.

Pist. "Couple a gorge!"

That is the word. I thee defy again. O hound of Crete, think'st thou my spouse to get? No; to the spital go, And from the powdering-tub of infamy Fetch forth the lazaret kite of Cressid's kind,
Doll Tearsheet she by name, and her espouse:  
I have, and I will hold, the quondam Quickly  
For the only she; and—pauca, there's enough.  
Go to.  

Enter the Boy.

Boy. Mine host Pistol, you must come to my master,  
and your hostess: he is very sick, and would to bed.  
Good Bardolph, put thy face between his sheets and do the office of a warming-pan. Faith,  
he's very ill.  

Bard. Away, you rogue!

Host. By my troth, he'll yield the crow a pudding one  
of these days. The king has killed his heart.  
Good husband, come home presently.  

[Exeunt Hostess and boy.

Bard. Come, shall I make you two friends? We must  
to France together. Why the devil should we  
keep knives to cut one another's throats?  

Pist. Let floods o'erswell, and fiends for food howl on!  

Nym. You'll pay me the eight shillings I won of you  
at betting?

79, 80. enough. Go to] Pope; enough to go to F.  
82. your] you Hanmer.  
83. face] nose Q, Pope.  
89. Exeunt . . .] Capell; Exit F.

Fancie, 1587 (Prose Works, ed. Grosart,  
vol. iv. p. 132): "What curtesie is to  
bee found in such Kites of Cressid's  
[misprinted Croesus] kinde?" and  
Gascoigne, Dan Bartholmew of Bathe  
(vol. i. p. 101, ed. Hazlitt), "nor  
seldome seene in kits [sic] of Cressides  
kind." See also Mr. Craig's note on  
King Lear, i. iv. 283.

80. Boy] Falstaff's page, given to him by Prince Henry, first appears in  
2 Henry IV. i. ii. He had shared his  
master's imprisonment in the Fleet  
(ibid. v. v.).  
87, 88. he'll . . . days] The whoreson  
upright rabbit (2 Henry IV. ii. ii. 91)  
will come to the gallows, if he lives  
long enough. Yet some have actually  
applied the Hostess's apostrophe to  
Falstaff, to whom of course she refers  
in the next sentence.
Pist. Base is the slave that pays.

Nym. That now I will have; that's the humour of it,

Pist. As manhood shall compound: push home.

[They draw.

Bard. By this sword, he that makes the first thrust,
    I'll kill him; by this sword, I will.

Pist. Sword is an oath, and oaths must have their course.

Bard. Corporal Nym, an thou wilt be friends, be friends: an thou wilt not, why then, be enemies with me too. Prathee, put up.

Nym. I shall have my eight shillings I won of you at 105 betting?

Pist. A noble shalt thou have, and present pay;
    And liquor likewise will I give to thee,
    And friendship shall combine, and brotherhood:
    I'll live by Nym, and Nym shall live by me.

Is not this just? for I shall sutler be
Unto the camp, and profits will accrue.
Give me thy hand.

Nym. I shall have my noble?

Pist. In cash most justly paid.

Nym. Well then, that's the humour of't.

Re-enter Hostess.

Host. As ever you came of women, come in quickly

98. They draw] Q; Draw F. 105, 106. I shall . . . betting?] Q, Capell; omitted F. 116. that's] F 2; that F 1. Re-enter] Theobald; Enter F.

117. came] Q, F 2, 3, 4; come F 1.

96. Base . . . pays] a proverbial expression? compare Heywood, Fair Maid of the West, Pt. II. (Dramatic Works, 1874, ii. 416), "my Motto shall be, Base is the man that pays." But this may be only a reminiscence of Ancient Pistol. The phrase is not in Camden's list of proverbs.

107. A noble] six and eightpence—a liberal discount for cash!
THE LIFE OF

[ACT II]

to Sir John. Ah, poor heart! he is so shaked of a burning quotidian tertian, that it is most lamentable to behold. Sweet men, come to him. 120

*Nym.* The king hath run bad humours on the knight; that's the even of it.

*Pist.* Nym, thou hast spoke the right; His heart is fracted and corroborate.

*Nym.* The king is a good king: but it must be as it may; he passes some humours and careers.

*Pist.* Let us condole the knight; for, lambkins, we will live. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—Southampton. A council-chamber.

*Enter Exeter, Bedford, and Westmoreland.*

*Bed.* 'Fore God, his grace is bold to trust these traitors.

*Exe.* They shall be apprehended by and by.

*West.* How smooth and even they do bear themselves! As if allegiance in their bosoms sat, Crowned with faith and constant loyalty.

*Bed.* The king hath note of all that they intend,

118. *Ah*] *Pope*; *A F.*

SCENE II.


126. *he . . . careers* He lets pass, indulges in, some humours and pranks; Nym is still thinking of the madcap Prince of Wales. "To pass a career" was a recognised phrase in horsemanship, and meant to make a short gallop at full speed. A kindred signification of career is given by Baret in his *Alvearie or Quadruple Dictionarie* (1580), "The short turning of a nimble horse, now this way, nowe that way." Nym's use of the word may therefore have reference to one or both of these meanings.

127. *condole* This use of the word without "with" was not peculiar to Pistol; the *New Eng. Dict.* quotes among others, *D. Rogers* (1588) in Ellis, *Original Letters*, ii. iii. 151, "Others which have condoled and congratulated the yonge kinge."

127. *we* emphatic.
By interception which they dream not of.

_Exe._ Nay, but the man that was his bedfellow,
Whom he hath dull'd and cloy'd with gracious favours,
That he should, for a foreign purse, so sell
His sovereign's life to death and treachery!

_Trumpets sound._  _Enter King Henry, Scroop,
Cambridge, Grey, and Attendants._

_K. Hen._ Now sits the wind fair, and we will aboard.
My Lord of Cambridge, and my kind Lord of Masham,
And you, my gentle knight, give me your thoughts:
Think you not that the powers we bear with us
Will cut their passage through the force of France,
Doing the execution and the act
For which we have in head assembled them?

_Scroop._ No doubt, my liege, if each man do his best.

_K. Hen._ I doubt not that; since we are well persuaded
We carry not a heart with us from hence
That grows not in a fair consent with ours;
Nor leave not one behind that doth not wish
Success and conquest to attend on us.

_Cam._ Never was monarch better fear'd and lov'd
Than is your majesty: there's not, I think, a subject
That sits in heart-grief and uneasiness.

---

8. _his bedfellow_ "The said Lord Scroope was in such favour with the king, that he admitted him sometime to be his bedfellow" (Holinshed, p. 175). Boswell - Stone remarks: "Neither Holinshed nor, I believe, any chronicler published in Shakspere's day relates that the conspirators were led on by Henry to doom themselves. The speech in which Henry upbraids the traitors was wholly Shakspere's work, except that part of it where Scrope's dissimulation and ingratitude is denounced."

18. _head_ armed force, a very common use of the word.
Under the sweet shade of your government.

*Grey.* True: those that were your father's enemies
Have steep'd their galls in honey, and do serve you
With hearts create of duty and of zeal.

*K. Hen.* We therefore have great cause of thankfulness,
And shall forget the office of our hand,
Sooner than quittance of desert and merit
According to the weight and worthiness.

*Scroop.* So service shall with steeled sinews toil,
And labour shall refresh itself with hope,
To do your grace incessant services.

*K. Hen.* We judge no less. Uncle of Exeter,
Enlarge the man committed yesterday
That rail'd against our person: we consider
It was excess of wine that set him on;
And on his more advice we pardon him.

*Scroop.* That's mercy, but too much security:
Let him be punish'd, sovereign, lest example
Breed, by his sufferance, more of such a kind.

*K. Hen.* O! let us yet be merciful.

*Cam.* So may your highness, and yet punish too.

*Grey.* Sir,
You show great mercy, if you give him life,
After the taste of much correction.

29. *Grey*] Gray F 4; Kni. F 1, 2, 3.  
35. *the weight]* their cause Q.

33. *the office of our hand]* Steevens suggests that this may be a reminiscence of Psalm cxxxvii. 5, "let my right hand forget her cunning."

43. *on his more advice]* on his thinking better of it; compare *Tliee*. vi. 165, and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, ii. iv. 217, 218: 

44. *security]* carelessness, want of caution.

46. *by his sufferance]* by suffering him, allowing him to go unpunished.
K. Hen. Alas! your too much love and care of me
Are heavy orisons 'gainst this poor wretch.
If little faults, proceeding on distemper,
Shall not be wink'd at, how shall we stretch our eye
When capital crimes, chew'd, swallow'd, and digested,
Appear before us? We'll yet enlarge that man,
Though Cambridge, Scroop, and Grey, in their dear care
And tender preservation of our person,
Would have him punish'd. And now to our French causes:
Who are the late commissioners?
Cam. I one, my lord:
Your highness bade me ask for it to-day.
Scroop. So did you me, my liege.
Grey. And I, my royal sovereign.
K. Hen. Then, Richard Earl of Cambridge, there is yours;
There yours, Lord Scroop of Masham; and, sir knight,
Grey of Northumberland, this same is yours:
Read them; and know, [I know your worthiness.] My Lord of Westmoreland, and uncle Exeter,
We will aboard to-night. Why, how now, gentlemen!
What see you in those papers that you lose
So much complexion? Look ye, how they change!
Their cheeks are paper. Why, what read you there,
That hath so cowarded and chas'd your blood

---

62. I] me Q, Capell. 75. hath] Q, F 4; haue F t, 2, 3.
54. distemper] intoxication. Steevens says, "Distemper'd in liquor is still a common expression."
55. stretch our eye] "If we may not wink at small faults, how wide must we open our eyes at great?" (Johnson).
61. late] recently appointed; now applied in this sense to things only, not to persons.
63. it] my commission.
Out of appearance?

Cam. I do confess my fault, And do submit me to your highness' mercy.

Grey, Scroop. To which we all appeal.

K. Hen. The mercy that was quick in us but late
By your own counsel is suppress'd and kill'd:
You must not dare, for shame, to talk of mercy;
For your own reasons turn into your bosoms,
As dogs upon their masters, worrying you.
See you, my princes and my noble peers,
These English monsters! My Lord of Cambridge here,

You know how apt our love was to accord
To furnish him with all appertinents
Belonging to his honour; and this man
Hath, for a few light crowns, lightly conspir'd,
And sworn unto the practices of France,

To kill us here in Hampton: to the which
This knight, no less for bounty bound to us
Than Cambridge is, hath likewise sworn. But O!
What shall I say to thee, Lord Scroop? thou cruel, Ingrateful, savage and inhuman creature!

Thou that didst bear the key of all my counsels,
That knew'st the very bottom of my soul,
That almost might'st have coin'd me into gold
Would'st thou have practis'd on me for thy use,
May it be possible that foreign hire
Could out of thee extract one spark of evil
That might annoy my finger? 'tis so strange
That, though the truth of it stands off as gross
As black and white, my eye will scarcely see it.
Treason and murder ever kept together,
As two yoke-devils sworn to either's purpose,
Working so grossly in a natural cause
That admiration did not hoop at them:
But thou, 'gainst all proportion, didst bring in
Wonder to wait on treason and on murder:
And whatsoever cunning fiend it was
That wrought upon thee so preposterously
Hath got the voice in hell for excellence:
All other devils that suggest by treasons
Do botch and bungle up damnation
With patches, colours, and with forms, being fetch'd
From glistening semblances of piety;
But he that temper'd thee bade thee stand up,
Gave thee no instance why thou should'st do treason, Unless to dub thee with the name of traitor. 120
If that same demon that hath gull'd thee thus Should with his lion gait walk the whole world, He might return to vasty Tartar back, And tell the legions: "I can never win A soul so easy as that Englishman's." 125
O! how hast thou with jealousy infected The sweetness of affiance. Show men dutiful? Why, so didst thou: seem they grave and learned? Why, so didst thou: come they of noble family? Why, so didst thou: seem they religious? 130 Why, so didst thou: or are they spare in diet, Free from gross passion or of mirth or anger, Constant in spirit, not swerving with the blood, Garnish'd and deck'd in modest complement, Not working with the eye without the ear, 135 And but in purged judgment trusting neither?
Such and so finely bolted didst thou seem:

Hannus, ii. iii. 16, we have "We stood up about the corn"; and in Julius Cesar, ii, i. 167:
"We all stand up against the spirit of Cesar."
119. instance] motive; compare Hamlet, iii. ii. 192, 193:
"The instances that second marriage move
Are base respects of thrift, but none of love."
122. lion gait] "Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter v. 8).
134. modest complement] unostentatious demeanour; complement is that which goes to "complete" the gentleman, here the external graces as distinguished from the internal qualities just mentioned. Compare Jonson, Every Man out of his Humour, i. ii.:
"if you affect to be a gentleman indeed, you must observe all the rare qualities, humours, and complements of a gentleman." The same writer in his Discoveries, cxlii., De stylo epistolari, classifies "complement" with "accommodation" and "spirit" as "perfumed terms of the time" only to be used "properly and in their place."
135, 136. Not ... neither] "He was a cautious man who did not trust the air or look of any man till he had tried him by enquiry and conversation" (Johnson).
137. finely bolted] sifted, like the finest flour.
And thus thy fall hath left a kind of blot,
To mark the full-fraught man and best indued
With some suspicion. I will weep for thee;
For this revolt of thine, methinks, is like
Another fall of man. Their faults are open:
Arrest them to the answer of the law;
And God acquit them of their practices!

Exe. I arrest thee of high treason, by the name of
Richard Earl of Cambridge.
I arrest thee of high treason, by the name of
Henry Lord Scroop of Masham.
I arrest thee of high treason, by the name of
Thomas Grey, knight, of Northumberland.

Scroop. Our purposes God justly hath discover'd,
And I repent my fault more than my death;
Which I beseech your highness to forgive,
Although my body pay the price of it.

Cam. For me, the gold of France did not seduce,
Although I did admit it as a motive
The sooner to effect what I intended:
But God be thanked for prevention;
Which I in sufferance heartily will rejoice,

139, 140. To mark the . . . With] Malone; To make thee full fraught man, and best indued With F; To mark the full-fraught man, the best endu'd, With Theobald; To make the full-fraught man, the best, endu'd With Pope; To mark the full-fraught man, the best endow'd, Capell conj. 148. Henry] Q, Theobald; Thomas F. Masham] Rowe; Marsham F. 150. knight, of ] Collier; knight of F. 159. ] F 2; omitted F 1.

155.] The real motive of the Earl of Cambridge in joining the conspiracy was to secure the succession for his wife's brother, the Earl of March, great-grandson of Lionel, Duke of Clarence. March had no issue, and Cambridge hoped the crown would eventually pass to his family; in fact, his grandson did ultimately ascend the throne as Edward IV. See Holinshed, p. 175. This motive he anxiously concealed, and therefore, as Vaughan points out, Shakespeare seems to have written lines 155-157 rather inadvertently.
Beseeching God and you to pardon me.

Grey. Never did faithful subject more rejoice
At the discovery of most dangerous treason
Than I do at this hour joy o'er myself,
Prevented from a damned enterprise.
My fault, but not my body, pardon, sovereign.

K. Hen. God quit you in his mercy! Hear your sentence.
You have conspir'd against our royal person,
Join'd with an enemy proclaim'd, and from his coffers
Receiv'd the golden earnest of our death;
Wherein you would have sold your king to slaughter,
His princes and his peers to servitude,

His subjects to oppression and contempt,
And his whole kingdom into desolation.
Touching our person seek we no revenge;
But we our kingdom's safety must so tender,
Whose ruin you have sought, that to her laws
We do deliver you. Get you therefore hence,
Patience to endure, and true repentance
Of all your dear offences! Bear them hence.

[Exeunt Cambridge, Scroop, and Grey, guarded.

Now, lords, for France; the enterprise whereof
Shall be to you, as us, like glorious.

176. you have sought] Q, Knight; you sought F 1; you three sought F 2, 3, 4.
181. Exeunt . . . Cambridge editors; Exit F; Exeunt conspirators guarded Capell.

166. quit'] acquit, absolve.
169. earnest] See Mr. Craig's note on "earnest of thy service," King Lear, 1. iv. 103.
181. dear] heavy, grievous. On the distinction of this adjective (O.E. déor) from dear (O.E. deore), loved or precious, see New Eng. Dict. It is found in Spenser and was perhaps revived by him; it occurs frequently in Shakespeare.
We doubt not of a fair and lucky war,
Since God so graciously hath brought to light
This dangerous treason lurking in our way
To hinder our beginnings. We doubt not now
But every rub is smoothed on our way.
Then forth, dear countrymen: let us deliver
Our puissance into the hand of God,
Putting it straight in expedition.
Cheerly to sea; the signs of war advance:
No king of England, if not king of France.

SCENE III.—London. Before a Tavern.

Enter Pistol, Hostess, Nym, Bardolph, and Boy.

Host. Prithee, honey-sweet husband, let me bring thee to Staines.

Pist. No; for my manly heart doth earn.

Bardolph, be blithe; Nym, rouse thy vaunting veins:

193. Exeunt F 2; Flourish F 1.

Scene III.

London . . .] Capell; Quickly's house in Eastcheap Theobald. Enter . . .] Enter . . . and the Boy Capell; enter Pistoll, Nim, Bardolph, Boy, and Hostesse F.

1. honey-sweet] Theobald; honey sweet F 1, 2; honey, sweet F 3, 4.
2. Staines] The first stage on the road to Southampton.
3. earn] This variant of yearn = grief survived till the middle of the seventeenth century. So Jonson, Bartholomew Fair, iv. 6, “Alas, poor wretch! how it earns my heart for him!” In its other meaning = “to long for,” “desire,” the word is not used by Shakespeare.
Boy, bristle thy courage up; for Falstaff he is dead, 5
And we must earn therefore.

_Bard._ Would I were with him, wheresoe'er he is, either in heaven or in hell!

_Host._ Nay, sure, he's not in hell: he's in Arthur's bosom, if ever man went to Arthur's bosom. A' made a finer end—and went away an it had been any christom child; a' parted even just between twelve and one, even at the turning o' the tide: for after I saw him fumble with the sheets and play with flowers and smile upon his fingers' ends, 15 I knew there was but one way; for his nose was

11. _a finer end_] I do not think it necessary to treat these words as the Hostess's mistake for "a final end," though this was no doubt a common pleonasm. I suggest that she had meant to run on in some such way as, "than many a one I've seen," but that in the fulness of her heart, and interrupted perhaps by a sob, for we know what a favourite Falstaff had been with her, she never finished her sentence. I have therefore ventured to insert a dash after "end." Verity suggests she means "he made too fine an end to be in hell."

12. _christom child_] The chrism was the consecrated oil with which the child was anointed at baptism. The chrism, or chrism-cloth, was a white robe put upon the child as a token of innocence, and worn by it for its first month; if the child died within the month, the chrism was used as its shroud; otherwise it, or its estimated value, was given as an offering at the mother's purification. A chrism or christom child is therefore a child in its chrism, or a child in its first month; and so, as in the text, "an innocent babe." Compare Jeremy Taylor, _Holy Dying_, chap. i. § 2: "Every morning creeps out of a dark cloud, leaving behind it an ignorance and silence deep as midnight, and undiserned, as are the Phantasms that make a chrisome child to smile."

13. _at the turning o' the tide_] "It was, and probably still is, a popular belief, that a person at point of death will live till the tide turns" (Aldis Wright). Vaughan quotes Holland's _Plinie_, ii. 98: "Hereunto addeth Aristotle, for I would not omit willingly anything that I know, that no living creature dieth, but in the reflux and ebbe of the sea."

14. _fumble with the sheets_] So Holland's _Plinie_, vii. 51: "Now let us take a view of deadly tokens in sickness: in rage and furious madness to laugh is a mortall signe; in frenzie, wherein men are bestraught of their right wits, to take care of the skirts, fringes, and welts of their garments that they be in good order; to keepe a fumbling and pleiting of the bed-clothes . . . prognosticate death."
as sharp as a pen, and a' babled of green fields.

"How now, Sir John?" quoth I: "what, man! be o' good cheer." So a' cried out "God, God, God!" three or four times: now I, to comfort him, bid him a' should not think of God, I hoped there was no need to trouble himself with any such thoughts yet. So a' bade me lay more clothes on

17. and a' babled] Theobald; and a Table F; in a table Malone conj. 19. be o' good] Capell; be a good F; be of good Theobald.

17. a' babled] The most famous of Theobald's immortal emendations. He first published it in his Shakespeare Restored, 1726, p. 138—the forerunner of the long succession of publications devoted to the textual criticism of the poet—and it first took its place in the text of the play in his first edition (1733). "I have," he writes in the earlier publication, "an Edition of Shakespeare by Me with some Marginal Conjectures of a gentleman sometime deceas'd, and he is of the Mind to correct this Passage thus: 'for his Nose was as sharp as a Pen, and a' talked of green Fields.' It is certainly observable of People near Death, when they are delirious by a Fever, that they talk of moving; as it is of Those in a Calenture, that they have their Heads run on green Fields. The Variation from 'Table' to 'talked' is not of a very great Latitude; tho' we may still come nearer to the Traces of the Letters, by restoring it thus: 'for his Nose was as sharp as a Pen, and a' babled of green Fields.' To 'babled' or 'babble,' is to mutter, or speak indiscriminately, like Children that cannot yet talk, or dying Persons, when they are losing the Use of Speech." Theobald printed "babled" in both his editions; to modernise his spelling is only to detract from the merits of his emendation. Pope's notion that the words "a table of green fields" are a stage-direction which has found its way into the text, and should be printed

"A table of Greenfield's," Greenfield being the property-man of the day,—is one of the curiosities of Shakespearian criticism. It may be as well to give the passage as it stands in the Quarto, where the occurrence of the words italicised is worth notice; the prose is as usual printed as verse:

"His nose was as sharpe as a pen:
   For when I saw him fumble with the sheetes,
   And talk of fowres, and smile
   Upon his fingers ends
   I knew there was no way but one."

Before quiting this famous passage, the reader may like to turn to New Eng. Dict., sub. "Field," § 14, where Mr. Bradley, who, if Theobald's emendation is to be given up, would read "on a Table," quotes the following passage: "1470 Liber Niger in Housel. Ord. (1790), 51, And suche dayes as the Kings chappell removeth, every of these children then present receveth iii. at the Greene feald of the countynv-house for horse hyre dayly, as long as they be journeying." The "grene feald" is the green cloth of the counting-house.

20. now I, to comfort him] Malone suggests that Shakespeare was indebted to the following story in Wits, Fits, and Fancies, etc., 1595: "A gentlewoman fearing to be drowned, said, now Jesu receive our soules! Soft, mistress, answered the waterman; I trow, we are not come to that passe yet."
his feet: I put my hand into the bed and felt them, and they were as cold as any stone; then I felt to his knees, and so upward, and upward, and all was as cold as any stone.

_Nym._ They say he cried out of sack.

_Host._ Ay, that a' did.

_Bard._ And of women.

_Host._ Nay, that a' did not.

_Boy._ Yes, that a' did; and said they were devils incarnate.

_Host._ A' could never abide carnation; 'twas a colour he never liked.

_Boy._ A' said once, the devil would have him about women.

_Host._ A' did in some sort, indeed, handle women; but then he was rheumatic, and talked of the whore of Babylon.

_Boy._ Do you not remember a' saw a flea stick upon Bardolph's nose, and a' said it was a black soul burning in hell-fire?

_Bard._ Well, the fuel is gone that maintained that fire: that's all the riches I got in his service.

_Nym._ Shall we shog? the king will be gone from Southampton.

---

26. _upward, and upward_ [Q, F 3, 4; _up- peer'd and upward_ F 1. 34. Host.] Rowe; Woman F. 43. _hell-fire_ Capell; _hell fire_ Q 1, 2; _hell_ Q 3, F.

33. _incarnate_ not only = in the flesh, but also the name of a colour, though now so used only in botany as a translation of _incarnatum_, e.g. _Trifolium incarnatum_ — the incarnate (flesh-coloured) clover.

39. _rheumatic_ with the accent on the first syllable, came to the Hostess's mouth more readily than lunatic (Aldis Wright). Capell remarks on line 9, "'Arthur's bosom' is a beve of the good lady's, 'tis likely, for Abram's bosom; and in 'rheumatic' her intention is 'lunatick.'"

46. _shog_ [See II. i. 44, note.]
Pist. Come, let's away. My love, give me thy lips. Look to my chattels and my moveables: Let senses rule, the word is "Pitch and pay"; Trust none; For oaths are straws, men's faiths are wafer-cakes, And hold-fast is the only dog, my duck: Therefore, Caveto be thy counsellor. Go, clear thy crystals. Yoke-fellows in arms, Let us to France; like horse-leeches, my boys, To suck, to suck, the very blood to suck!

Boy. And that's but unwholesome food, they say.

Pist. Touch her soft mouth, and march.

Bard. Farewell, hostess. [Kissing her.]

Nym. I cannot kiss, that is the humour of it; but adieu.


Host. Farewell; adieu. [Exeunt.

50. Pitch and pay] a proverbial saying inculcating ready-money payment. This is clear from the following passage in Middleton's Blurt Master-Constable, i. iii. 172, quoted by Steevens: "I will commit you, Signior, to mine own house. But will you pitch and pay, or will your worship run,"—i.e. run up a score, as appears from line 177,—"if he runs upon the score." The origin is obscure, but Farmer notes that one of the rules of Blackwell-hall, the old cloth-hall of London, was that a penny be paid by the owner of every bale of cloth for pitching. Hence, as Aldis Wright observes, it appears that "pitching" was the term for depositing cloth at the hall, and "pitch and pay" one of its rules. Capell quotes another proverb of similar import, "Touch pot, touch penny."

53. hold-fast is the only dog] Alluding to the proverbial saying, "Brag is a good dog, but hold-fast is a better" (Douce).

SCENE IV.—France. The French King’s Palace.

Flourish. Enter the French King, attended; the Dauphin, the Dukes of Berri and Bretagne, the Constable, and Others.

Fr. King. Thus comes the English with full power upon us; And more than carefully it us concerns To answer royally in our defences. Therefore the Dukes of Berri and of Bretagne, Of Brabant and of Orleans, shall make forth, And you, Prince Dauphin, with all swift dispatch, To line and new repair our towns of war With men of courage and with means defendant; For England his approaches makes as fierce As waters to the sucking of a gulf. It fits us then to be as provident As fear may teach us out of late examples Left by the fatal and neglected English Upon our fields.

Dau. My most redoubted father, It is most meet we arm us 'gainst the foe; For peace itself should not so dull a kingdom, Though war nor no known quarrel were in question, But that defences, musters, preparations,

France . . .] France Pope; The French King’s Palace Theobald. Flourish . . .] Cambridge editors; Flourish. Enter the French King, the Dolphin, the Dukes of Berry and Britaine F. 1. comes] come Rowe. Constable] the Commander-in-chief of the French army. 1. comes] Aldis Wright says “the English,” in the singular, is here used for the English king or general, and compares iv. iv. 78: “The French might have a good prey of us if he knew of it.” A singular verb preceding a plural subject is, however, common enough; see Abbott, § 335.
sc. iv. | KING HENRY THE FIFTH

Should be maintain'd, assembled, and collected,
As were a war in expectation.
Therefore, I say 'tis meet we all go forth
To view the sick and feeble parts of France:
And let us do it with no show of fear;
No, with no more than if we heard that England
Were busied with a Whitsun morris-dance:
For, my good liege, she is so idly king'd
Her sceptre so fantastically borne
By a vain, giddy, shallow, humorous youth,
That fear attends her not.

Con. O peace, Prince Dauphin!
You are too much mistaken in this king.
Question your grace the late ambassadors,
With what great state he heard their embassy,
How well supplied with noble counsellors,
How modest in exception, and withal
How terrible in constant resolution,
And you shall find his vanities forespent
Were but the outside of the Roman Brutus,
Covering discretion with a coat of folly;
As gardeners do with ordure hide those roots
That shall first spring and be most delicate.

Dau. Well, 'tis not so, my lord high constable;
But though we think it so, it is no matter:
In cases of defence 'tis best to weigh
The enemy more mighty than he seems:
So the proportions of defence are fill'd;

28. humorous] full of humours, capricious. So in Coriolanus (ii. i. 51) Menenius says of himself, “I am known to be a humorous patrician . . .
29. humors] hasty and tender-like upon too trivial motion.”
34. exception] making objections,
35. Compare iv. ii. 25.
Which of a weak and niggardly projection
Doth, like a miser, spoil his coat with scanting
A little cloth.

Fr. King. Think we King Harry strong;
And, princes, look you strongly arm to meet
him.
The kindred of him hath been flesh'd upon us,
And he is bred out of that bloody strain
That haunted us in our familiar paths:
Witness our too much memorable shame
When Cressy battle fatally was struck,
And all our princes captiv'd by the hand
Of that black name, Edward, Black Prince of
Wales;
While that his mountain sire, on mountain standing,
Up in the air, crown'd with the golden sun,
Saw his heroical seed, and smil'd to see him,
Mangle the work of nature, and deface
The patterns that by God and by French fathers
Had twenty years been made. This is a stem

52. haunted] hunted Warburton conj.
57. mountain sire] mounting sire

46. Which . . . projection] which
if projected on a weak or niggardly scale.
50. flesh'd] like hounds, which were
said to be flesh'd when rewarded with
a portion of the first game they had
killed. Compare III. iii. 11.
57. Whiles . . . standing] Compare
I. ii. 108–110. By the expression
"mountain sire" Steevens believes the
poet meant to give an idea of more
than human proportion in the figure
of the king. Theobald explains his
emendation as "high-minded, aspir-
ing," but, as Malone appositely re-
marks, "the repetition of the word
'mountain' is much in our author's
manner." Capell's note here is per-
haps not quite so absurd as it seems at
first sight: "The father of Edward
the Third was a Welshman, his dis-
tinction in chronicles is—Edward of
Carnarvon; hence the epithet, 'mount-
ain.'" At any rate the word "Wales"
has just been uttered, and (v. i. 36)
Pistol jeered at the Welshman Fluellen
by calling him "mountain-squire."
Of that victorious stock; and let us fear
The native mightiness and fate of him.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Ambassadors from Harry King of England
65
Do crave admittance to your majesty.

Fr. King. We'1l give them present audience. Go, and
bring them.

Exeunt Messenger and certain Lords.

You see this chase is hotly follow'd, friends.

Dau. Turn head, and stop pursuit; for coward dogs
Most spend their mouths when what they seem to
threaten
Runs far before them. Good my sovereign,
Take up the English short, and let them know
Of what a monarchy you are the head:
Self-love, my liege, is not so vile a sin
As self-neglecting.

Re-enter Lords, with Exeter and Train.

Fr. King. From our brother of England?

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67. Exeunt . . . ] Capell; omitted F. 75. Re-enter . . . ] Capell; Enter

64. fate} what he is destined to do. Compare Antony and Cleopatra, iii.
xiii. 168, 169:
"Cesar sits down in Alexandria;
where
I will oppose his fate."

70. spend their mouths] Aldis Wright quotes Gervase Markham, Country
Contentments, ed. 1675, p. 6: "If you would have your Kennel for sweet-
ness of cry, then you must compound it of some large dogs, that have deep
solemn Mouths and are swift in spend-
ing." The most luminous book on
Shakespeare's knowledge of sport ap-
peared in 1697, namely, the Rt. Hon.
D. H. Madden's Diary of Master
William Silence.

75. brother of England] Pope and
Dyce omitted "of" here and at line
115. In v. ii. 2 Henry calls Charles
VI. "brother France," and is addressed
by Charles (line 10) and Queen Isabel
(line 12) as "brother England." But,
as Boswell-Stone well remarks, "of"
accords better with the formally
Exe. From him; and thus he greets your majesty. He wills you, in the name of God Almighty, That you divest yourself, and lay apart The borrow'd glories that by gift of heaven, By law of nature and of nations, longs To him and to his heirs; namely, the crown And all wide-stretched honours that pertain By custom and the ordinance of times Unto the crown of France. That you may know 'Tis no sinister nor no awkward claim, Pick'd from the worm-holes of long-vanish'd days, Nor from the dust of old oblivion rak'd, He sends you this most memorable line, In every branch truly demonstrative; Willing you overlook this pedigree; And when you find him evenly deriv'd From his most fam'd of famous ancestors, Edward the Third, he bids you then resign Your crown and kingdom, indirectly held From him the native and true challenger.

80. longs'] long Pope. courteous tone of Charles's speeches in this scene. Henry is a brother merely because he belongs to the royal caste, whereas in Act v. Scene ii., the friendly interchange of "brother France" and "brother England" marks the complete reconciliation of the two monarchs.


85. no sinister nor no awkward] Sinister is left, not right, so unfair. Henry's claim was legitimate, branded by no bar sinister. Awkward is "turned the wrong way," "not straightforward," "back-handed," from the obsolete adjective, "awk," from the left, back-handed, perverse, as in King Arthur (1557), v. x.: "With an awke stroke gave hym a grete wonde." 88. memorable] Used by Shakespeare four times in this play, and not elsewhere. In line 53 above it means "kept in memory," "famous"; here, in iv. vii. 108, and v. i. 75, it = "tending to preserve the remembrance of something, recalling to the memory."

91. evenly] "directly, without any interruptions in the straight line of descent. Contrasted with the 'crooked titles' mentioned in 1. ii. 94" (Aldis Wright).

94. indirectly] by crooked methods, unfairly.
Fr. King. Or else what follows?

Exe. Bloody constraint; for if you hide the crown
Even in your hearts, there will he rake for it:
Therefore in fierce tempest is he coming,
In thunder and in earthquake like a Jove,
That, if requiring fail, he will compel;
And bids you, in the bowels of the Lord,
Deliver up the crown, and to take mercy
On the poor souls for whom this hungry war
Opens his vasty jaws; and on your head
Turning the widows' tears, the orphans' cries,
The dead men's blood, the pining maidens' groans,
For husbands, fathers, and betrothed lovers,
That shall be swallow'd in this controversy.
This is his claim, his threat'ning, and my message;
Unless the Dauphin be in presence here,
To whom expressly I bring greeting too.

Fr. King. For us, we will consider of this further:
To-morrow shall you bear our full intent
Back to our brother of England.

101. fail, he will] fail him, will Vaughan conj.
103. to] so Vaughan conj.
106. Turning] turns he Q, Capell.
107. pining] Q, Pope; privy F.
112. greeting too] Q, F 2, 3, 4; greeting to F 1.
115. brother of England]
Q 3, F; brother England Q 1, 2, Pope.

102. And . . . Lord] In a letter
which he dispatched to Charles vi.
before putting to sea Henry (Holinshed,
p. 178) "exhorted the French King,
in the bowels of Jesu Christ to render
him that which was his owne; whereby
effusion of Christian bloud might be
avoided." For the expression, see,
e.g., Philippians i. 8 in A. V., where the
Revised Version has "tender mercies,"
106, 107. Turning . . . groans
Johnson proposed to arrange these
lines as follows:—

"Turning the dead mens blood,
the widows' tears,
The orphans' cries, the pining
maidens' groans."

This certainly corresponds better with
the order, husbands, fathers, brothers,
in the next line, and Capell was "fully
convinc'd that it is intitl'd to a place
in the text."

107. pining] Schmidt explains the
reading of the Folio as "the secret
groans of maidens."
THE LIFE OF

For the Dauphin, 115

I stand here for him: what to him from England?

Scorn and defiance; slight regard, contempt,
And any thing that may not misbecome
The mighty sender, doth he prize you at.
Thus says my king: an if your father's highness
Do not, in grant of all demands at large,
Sweeten the bitter mock you sent his majesty,
He'll call you to so hot an answer of it,
That caves and wombly vaultages of France
Shall chide your trespass and return your mock
In second accent of his ordinance.

Say, if my father render fair return,
It is against my will; for I desire
Nothing but odds with England: to that end,
As matching to his youth and vanity,
I did present him with the Paris balls.

He'll make your Paris Louvre shake for it,
Were it the mistress-court of mighty Europe:
And, be assur'd, you 'll find a difference,
As we his subjects have in wonder found,
Between the promise of his greener days
And these he masters now. Now he weighs time
Even to the utmost grain; that you shall read


117. *defiance:* The semicolon was first substituted for the comma of the Folio by Capell; as he observes, "the words that precede [sic] it, relate to the Dauphin's question; and those only that follow it, to the words *doth he prize you at.*"

123. *answer* a reply to a charge. Compare 2 Henry VI. ii. i. 203, "call these foul offenders to their answers."
In your own losses, if he stay in France.

Fr. King. To-morrow shall you know our mind at full. 140

Exe. Dispatch us with all speed, lest that our king
Come here himself to question our delay;
For he is footed in this land already.

Fr. King. You shall be soon dispatch'd with fair conditions:
A night is but small breath and little pause 145
To answer matters of this consequence.

[Flourish. Exeunt.

ACT III

Enter Chorus.

Thus with imagin'd wing our swift scene flies
In motion of no less celerity
Than that of thought. Suppose that you have seen
The well-appointed king at Hampton pier

146. Flourish] after line 140 in F, transferred by Dyce.

Act III. Chorus.

Act III. Actus Secundus F. Enter Chorus] F 2, 3, 4; Flourish. Enter Chorus F I. 4. Hampton] Theobald; Dover F.

143. he is . . . already] Henry disembarked near Harfleur August 14, 1415; historically Exeter's embassy had taken place in the previous February. For "footed" compare Lear, III. vii. 44, 45: "what confederacy have you with the traitors Late footed in the kingdom?"

146. Flourish] Capell thought that the occurrence of this direction after line 140 in the Folio indicated "that the French king rises from his throne in this place, as dismissing the embassy; a matter worthy the noting, as it shews the boldness of Exeter, who will not be so dismiss'd."

Act III. Chorus.

1. imagin'd wing] wing of imagination; as imagin'd speed (Merchant of Venice, III. iv. 52) is speed of imagination.

4. Hampton] Theobald dares "acquit the Poet from so flagrant a Variation [as Dover for Hampton]. The indolence of a Transcriber, or a Workman at Press, must give rise to such an Error.
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THE LIFE OF

ACT III.

Embark his royalty; and his brave fleet
With silken streamers the young Phoebus fanning:
Play with your fancies, and in them behold
Upon the hempen tackle ship-boys climbing;
Hear the shrill whistle which doth order give
To sounds confus'd; behold the threaden sails,
Borne with the invisible and creeping wind,
Draw the huge bottoms through the furrow'd sea,
Breasting the lofty surge. O! do but think
You stand upon the rivage and behold
A city on the inconstant billows dancing;
For so appears this fleet majestical,
Holding due course to Harfleur. Follow, follow!
Grapple your minds to sternage of this navy,
And leave your England, as dead midnight still,
Guarded with grandsires, babies, and old women,
Either past or not arriv'd to pith and puissance:
For who is he, whose chin is but enrich'd
With one appearing hair, that will not follow
These cull'd and choice-drawn cavaliers to France?
Work, work your thoughts, and therein see a siege;
Behold the ordinance on their carriages,
With fatal mouths gaping on girded Harfleur.


They seeing Peer [sic Folio] at the End of the Verse, unluckily thought of Dover-peer, as the best known to them; and so unawares corrupted the Text." Thomas Warton noted that among the records of Southampton is preserved a minute account of the encampment of Henry v. on a level called Westport, now covered by the sea.

18. sternage] astern of; a word probably invented for the occasion.
24. choice-drawn] drawn or selected by choice, i.e. with special care.
Suppose the ambassador from the French comes back; 
Tells Harry that the king doth offer him 
Katharine his daughter; and with her, to dowry, 
Some petty and unprofitable dukedoms: 
The offer likes not: and the nimble gunner 
With linstock now the devilish cannon touches,

[Alarum, and chambers go off. 
And down goes all before them. Still be kind, 
And eche out our performance with your mind. 

[Exit.

SCENE I.—France. Before Harfleur.

Alarums. Enter King Henry, Exeter, Bedford, 
Glooucester, and Soldiers, with scaling-ladders.

K. Hen. Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more, 
Or close the wall up with our English dead. 
In peace there's nothing so becomes a man 
As modest stillness and humility: 
But when the blast of war blows in our ears, 
Then imitate the action of the tiger; 
Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood, 
Disguise fair nature with hard-favour'd rage; 
Then lend the eye a terrible aspect;

35. eche] eech F 1; ech F 2, 3, 4; eke Pope.

Scene i.

France . . . scaling-ladders] Cambridge editors; Enter the King, Exeter, Bedford, and Gloucester. Alarum: scaling Ladders at Harflew F. 7. sum-
mon] Rowe; commune F.

28–31. Suppose . . . dukedoms] These terms were offered to Henry at Win-
chester, June 1415; Henry landed near 
Harfleur on August 14 (Holinshead, 
pp. 178, 179).

33. linstock] the stick which held 
the gunner's match. 35. eche out] supplement; now super-
seded by the northern form "eke out;" 
the latter in As You Like It, i. ii. 208:

"Ros. The little strength that I have, 
I would it were with you. 
Cel. And mine, to eke [Folio eke] 
out hers."
Let it pry through the portage of the head
Like the brass cannon; let the brow o’erwhelm it
As fearfully as doth a galled rock
O'erhang and jutty his confounded base,
Swill'd with the wild and wasteful ocean.
Now set the teeth and stretch the nostril wide,
Hold hard the breath, and bend up every spirit
To his full height! On, on, you noblest English!
Whose blood is fet from fathers of war-proof;
Fathers that, like so many Alexanders,
Have in these parts from mom till even fought,
And sheath’d their swords for lack of argument.
Dishonour not your mothers; now attest
That those whom you call’d fathers did beget you.
Be copy now to men of grosser blood,
And teach them how to war. And you, good yeomen,
Whose limbs were made in England, show us here
The mettle of your pasture; let us swear
That you are worth your breeding; which I doubt not;

17. *noblest* F 2, 3, 4; *Noblish* F 1.
10. *portage* port-hole.
13. *jutty* project over.
13. *confounded* wasted, worn away;
used of time in 1 Henry IV. 1. iii.
100, 101:
"He did confound the best part of an hour
In changing hardiment with great Glendower";
and in Coriolanus, 1. vi. 17:
"How couldst thou in a mile confound an hour?"
14. *Swill’d* greedily swallowed.
Compare Richard III. v. ii. 7-9:
"The wretched, bloody, and usurping boar,
That spoil’d your summer fields and fruitful vines,
Swills your warm blood like wash.'
16. *bend up* strain to the utmost, like a bow. Compare Macbeth, i. viii. 79, 80:
"I am settled, and bend up
Each corporal agent to this terrible feat."
18. *fet* fetched; past participle of the verb "fet" (O.E. *fetian*), which still survives in dialect. It occurs again in Richard III. ii. ii. 120, 121:
"Me seemeth good, that, with some little train,
Forthwith from Ludlow the young prince be fet" (Quarto, "fetcht").
21. *argument* anything to quarrel about. Compare iv, i. 146.
For there is none of you so mean and base
That hath not noble lustre in your eyes.
I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,
Straining upon the start. The game’s afoot:
Follow your spirit; and upon this charge
Cry, “God for Harry, England, and Saint George!”

[Exeunt. Alarum, and chambers go off.

SCENE II.—The Same.

Enter Nym, Bardolph, Pistol, and Boy.

Bard. On, on, on, on, on! to the breach, to the breach!

Nym. Pray thee, corporal, stay: the knocks are too hot; and for mine own part, I have not a case of lives: the humour of it is too hot, that is the very plain-song of it.

Pist. The plain-song is most just, for humours do abound:

Knocks go and come, God’s vassals drop and die;
And sword and shield,
In bloody field,
Doth win immortal fame.

Boy. Would I were in an alehouse in London! I would give all my fame for a pot of ale, and safety.

32. Straining] Rowe; Straying F.
33. 34. charge . . . George] notice the rhyme.
34. chambers] A chamber was a small cannon without a carriage, standing on its breech, and used to fire salutes.
34. Exeunt] omitted F; Exeunt King and Train Theobald.

Scene II.

4. a case] a set. So a surgeon has his “case” of instruments. A “case” of pistols, or of rapiers, was a pair.
6. plain-song] the simple air without variations.
Pist. And I:

If wishes would prevail with me,
   My purpose should not fail with me,
      But thither would I hie.

Boy.

As duly,
   But not as truly,
      As bird doth sing on bough.

Enter Fluellen.

Flu. Up to the breach, you dogs! avaunt, you cullions!

[Driving them forward.

Pist. Be merciful, great duke, to men of mould!

Abate thy rage, abate thy manly rage;
Abate thy rage, great duke!

Good bawcock, bate thy rage; use lenity, sweet chuck!

Nym. These be good humours! your honour wins bad humours.

[Exeunt all but Boy.

Boy. As young as I am, I have observed these three swashers. I am boy to them all three, but all they three, though they would serve me, could not be man to me; for indeed three such antics do not amount to a man. For Bardolph, he is


25. bawcock] fine fellow; French, beau coq. Compare iv. i. 44. In this play this Gallicism is used only by Pistol.

26. wins] Capell's conjecture is based on ii. i. 116.

30. though they would serve me] even if they were willing to serve me, instead of my serving them.

31. antics] clowns, buffoons. So Bishop Hall (1618), Sermons, v. 113, "Are they Christians or Antics in some carnival?"
white-livered and red-faced; by the means whereof a' faces it out, but fights not. For Pistol, he hath a killing tongue and a quiet sword; by the means whereof a' breaks words, and keeps whole weapons. For Nym, he hath heard that men of few words are the best men; and therefore he scorns to say his prayers, lest a' should be thought a coward: but his few bad words are matched with as few good deeds; for a' never broke any man's head but his own, and that was against a post when he was drunk. They will steal any thing and call it purchase. Bardolph stole a lute-case, bore it twelve leagues, and sold it for three half-pence. Nym and Bardolph are sworn brothers in filching, and in Calais they stole a fire-shovel; I knew by that piece of service the men would carry coals. They would have me as familiar with men's pockets as their gloves or their handkerchers: which makes much against my manhood if I should take from another's pocket to put into mine; for it is plain pocketing up of wrongs. I must leave them and seek some better service: their villany goes

47. Calais] Pope; Callice F.

44. purchase] thieves' euphemism for stolen goods, as "convey" for "stealing" in Merry Wives, i. iii. 32.

47. sworn brothers] See ii. i. 12 note.

49. carry coals] to carry coals was a familiar expression for "to do any degrading service," "put up with an affront." So H. Crosse, Vertues Com-

monwealth (1603), 15, "For now if one . . . will carry coales, and meekly suffer rebuke, he is noted of cowardice." 54. pocketing up of wrongs] putting up with affronts. Compare Jonson, Cynthia's Revels, iv. 3, "when they come in swaggering company, and will pocket up any thing, may they not properly be said to be white-liver'd?"
against my weak stomach, and therefore I must cast it up.

[Exit]

Re-enter Fluellen, Gower following.

Gow. Captain Fluellen, you must come presently to the mines; the Duke of Gloucester would speak with you.

Flu. To the mines! tell you the duke it is not so good to come to the mines. For look you, the mines is not according to the disciplines of the war; the concavities of it is not sufficient; for, look you, th'athversary, you may discuss unto the duke, look you, is digt himself four yard under with counter-mines. By Cheshu, I think a' will plough up all if there is not better directions.

Gow. The Duke of Gloucester, to whom the order of the siege is given, is altogether directed by an Irishman, a very valiant gentleman, i' faith.

Flu. It is Captain Macmorris, is it not?

Gow. I think it be.

Flu. By Cheshu, he is an ass, as in the world: I will verify as much in his beard: he has no more directions in the true disciplines of the wars, look you, of the Roman disciplines, than is a puppy-dog.

57. Re-enter . . .] Steevens; Enter Gower F. 66. with] Vaughan conj.; the F, Q; & th' Wright conj. 72. Flu.] Rowe; Welch F (and throughout the scene).

65. discuss] make known, declare. Compare iv. iv. 5 and 29, and Nym in Merry Wives, t. iii. 104, "I will discuss the humour of this love to Page." New Eng. Dict. quotes Caxton, Chron. Eng. (1520), III. xix. 2, "[Daniel] discussed the dreames of the Kynge." 66. with countermines] Vaughan's conjecture, which I have adopted in the text, is supported by Holinshed, p. 180, "For although they [the defenders of Harfleur] with their countermining somewhat disappointed the Englishmen," etc.
Enter MACMORRIS and JAMY, at a distance.

GOW. Here a’ comes; and the Scots captain, Captain Jamy, with him.

FLU. Captain Jamy is a marvellous falorous gentleman, that is certain; and of great expedition and knowledge in th’ aunchient wars, upon my particular knowledge of his directions: by Cheshu, he will maintain his argument as well as any military man in the world, in the disciplines of the pristine wars of the Romans.

JAMY. I say gud day, Captain Fluellen.

FLU. God-den to your worship, good Captain James.

GOW. How now, Captain Macmorris! have you quit the mines? have the pioners given o’er?

MAC. By Chrish, la! tish ill done: the work ish give over, the trompet sound the retreat. By my hand, I swear, and my father’s soul, the work ish ill done; it ish give over: I would have blewed up the town, so Chrish save me, la! in an hour: O! tish ill done, tish ill done; by my hand, tish ill done.

FLU. Captain Macmorris, I beseech you now, will you voutsafe me, look you, a few disputations with you, as partly touching or concerning the disciplines of the war, the Roman wars, in the way of argument, look you, and friendly communication; partly to satisfy my opinion, and partly for the satisfaction,
look you, of my mind, as touching the direction of the military discipline: that is the point.

Jamy. It shall be vary gud, gud feith, gud captains bath: and I shall quit you with gud leve, as I may pick occasion; that shall I, marry.

Mac. It is no time to discourse, so Chrish save me: the day is hot, and the weather, and the wars, and the king, and the dukes: it is no time to discourse. The town is beseeched, and the trumpet call us to the breach; and we talk, and, be Chrish, do nothing: 'tis shame for us all; so God sa' me, 'tis shame to stand still; it is shame, by my hand; and there are throats to be cut, and works to be done; and there is nothing done, so Chrish sa' me, la!

Jamy. By the mess, ere these eyes of mine take themselves to slumber, aile de gud service, or aile lig i' the grund for it; ay, or go to death; and aile pay it as valorously as I may, that shall I suerly do, that is the breff and the long. Marry, I wad full fain heard some question 'tween you tway.

Flu. Captain Macmorris, I think, look you, under your correction, there is not many of your nation—

Mac. Of my nation! What ish my nation? Ish a

122. heard] hear Cambridge editors from S. Walker's conj.; ha' heard Anon. conj.

106. quit you] require you, give you my ideas.

122. heard] The omission of "have" is said to be common in the north. Boswell-Stone suggests that Jamy may mean, "I wish you two had discussed military disciplines instead of quarrelling."

125-127. Of my . . . nation?] Mr. Craig writes: "I cannot but think that this has been generally misunderstood. Macmorris, I think, spoiling for a fight, invites them to say one opprobrious word against his country or his character or honour:—what are you going to say agin my country now? I suppose you'll be after calling me a villain and a bastard? It is like the modern 'tread on the tail of my coat.'"
villain, and a bastard, and a knave, and a rascal—What ish my nation? Who talks of my nation?

Flu. Look you, if you take the matter otherwise than is meant, Captain Macmorris, peradventure I shall think you do not use me with that affability as in discretion you ought to use me, look you; being as good a man as yourself, both in the disciplines of war, and in the derivation of my birth, and in other particularities.

Mac. I do not know you so good a man as myself: so Chrish save me, I will cut off your head.

Gow. Gentlemen both, you will mistake each other.

Jamy. A! that's a foul fault. [A parley sounded.]

Gow. The town sounds a parley.

Flu. Captain Macmorris, when there is more better opportunity to be required, look you, I will be so bold as to tell you I know the disciplines of war; and there is an end. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—The Same. Before the Gates.

The Governor and some Citizens on the walls; the English Forces below. Enter King Henry and his Train.

K. Hen. How yet resolves the governor of the town?

This is the latest parle we will admit:

126. rascal—] Wright; Rascal. F. 138. A parley sounded] Rowe; A Parley F. 143. Exeunt] Rowe; Exit F.

Scene III.

The Same . . .] Cambridge editors; Enter the King and all his Train before the Gates F.

137. you will mistake] probably = Walker suggested "you still mistake," you persist in mistaking. Sidney and so Hudson printed.
Therefore to our best mercy give yourselves;
Or like to men proud of destruction
Defy us to our worst: for, as I am a soldier,
A name that in my thoughts becomes me best,
If I begin the battery once again,
I will not leave the half-achieved Harfleur
Till in her ashes she lie buried.
The gates of mercy shall be all shut up,
And the flesh'd soldier, rough and hard of heart,
In liberty of bloody hand shall range
With conscience wide as hell, mowing like grass
Your fresh-fair virgins and your flowering infants.
What is it then to me, if impious war,
Array'd in flames like to the prince of fiends,
Do, with his smirch'd complexion, all fell feats
Enlink'd to waste and desolation?
What is 't to me, when you yourselves are cause,
If your pure maidens fall into the hand
Of hot and forcing violation?
What rein can hold licentious wickedness
When down the hill he holds his fierce career?
We may as bootless spend our vain command
Upon the enraged soldiers in their spoil
As send precepts to the leviathan
To come ashore. Therefore, you men of Harfleur,
Take pity of your town and of your people,

11. flesh'd ] initiated in slaughter; see II. iv. 50.
16. Array'd in flames ] Campion, in his Lords' Masque (1613), introduces "sixteen pages, like fiery spirits, all their attires being alike composed of flames, with fiery wings and bases."
26. precepts ] with the accent on the second syllable, summons. Compare 2 Henry IV. v. i. 14, "those pre-
cepts cannot be served."
While yet my soldiers are in my command;
While yet the cool and temperate wind of grace
O'erblows the filthy and contagious clouds
Of heady murder, spoil, and villany.
If not, why, in a moment look to see
The blind and bloody soldier with foul hand
Defile the locks of your shrill-shrieking daughters;
Your fathers taken by the silver beards,
And their most reverend heads dash'd to the walls;
Your naked infants spitted upon pikes,
While the mad mothers with their howls confus'd
Do break the clouds, as did the wives of Jewry
At Herod's bloody-hunting slaughtermen.
What say you? will you yield, and this avoid?
Or, guilty in defence, be thus destroy'd?

Gov. Our expectation hath this day an end.
The Dauphin, whom of succours we entreated,
Returns us that his powers are yet not ready
To raise so great a siege. Therefore, great king,
We yield our town and lives to thy soft mercy.
Enter our gates; dispose of us and ours;
For we no longer are defensible.

32. heady] F 3, 4; headly F 1; headly F 2; deadly Steevens, 1793, from Capell's conj. ; headlong Vaughan conj.
33. ) After this line F has "Enter Governour."
34. ) 35. Defile] Rowe (ed. 2); Desire F. 45. succours] succour Q, Capell.
36. us that] us word Q. yet not] not yet Q, Capell.
37. great] dread Q, Capell.

31. O'erblows] blows over, blows away. Vaughan well compares 2
Henry IV. iv. v. 99, 100:
"my cloud of dignity
Is held from falling with so weak a wind
That it will quickly drop."
32. heady] violent, impetuous, as in 1. 1. 34, "a heady currance." It may be worth while to observe that the word "headly," found in F 1, meaning as applied to sins "deadly," existed as late as the fourteenth century. New. Eng. Dict. quotes Wyclif (1380), Sel. Wks., iii. 162, "This weddyng is broken by iche hedly synne."
50. defensible] capable of defending ourselves; not, as in modern use, capable of being defended.
K. Hen. Open your gates! Come, uncle Exeter,
Go you and enter Harfleur; there remain,
And fortify it strongly 'gainst the French:
Use mercy to them all. For us, dear uncle,
The winter coming on and sickness growing
Upon our soldiers, we will retire to Calais.
To-night in Harfleur will we be your guest;
To-morrow for the march are we address.

[Flourish. The King and his train enter the town.]

SCENE IV.—Rouen. A Room in the Palace.

Enter Katharine and Alice.

Kath. Alice, tu as esté en Angleterre, et tu parles bien le langage.

Alice. Un peu, madame.

Kath. Je te prie, m'enseignez; il faut que j'apprenne

54. all. For... uncle.] Pope; all for... Unckle F. 56. Calais] Rowe; Calis F. 58. Flourish... ] Cambridge editors; Flourish and enter the Towne F.

Scene IV.

Rouen. Enter... ] Malone; Enter Katherine, Allice Q.; Enter Katherine and an old Gentlewoman F. 1, 2. parles bien] Warburton; bien parlas F.

51. Exeter] Exeter appointed as his lieutenant "one Sir John Fastolfe," who appears in 1 Henry VI., and whose name has another interest for us. See Holinshed, p. 181.

54. Use mercy to them all] Holinshed (p. 181) says: "The souldiers were ransomed, and the towne sacked, to the great gaine of the Englishmen."

Scene IV.

In this scene I have only noted two of the changes made in the French of the Folio. The Cambridge editors remark: "We content ourselves with a few specimens of the errors and variations of the old copies in this scene. The French was set right, or nearly so, by successive alterations made by Rowe, Pope, Theobald, Warburton, and Capell. Some obvious corrections in the distribution of the dialogue were made by Theobald." Hanmer regarded the whole scene as spurious, and relegated it to the margin. Capell observed in its behalf, "that the subject of it is natural, and its language easy; that it favours that continual alternation of comic and serious which prevails in this play; and brings us early acquainted with a character of some importance, that would otherwise come in most irregularly when the action is near concluding." We must also remember the promise given to the audience in the Epilogue to 2 Henry IV. to "make you merry with fair Katharine of France."
à parler. Comment appellez vous la main en Anglois ?

Alice. La main ? elle est appelée de hand.
Kath. De hand. Et les doigts ?

Alice. Les doigts ? ma foy, je oublie les doigts ; mais je me souviendray. Les doigts ? je pense qu’ils sont appelés de fingres ; ouy, de fingres.

Kath. La main, de hand ; les doigts, de fingres. Je pense que je suis le bon escolier. J’ai gagné deux mots d’Anglois vistement. Comment appellez vous les ongles ?

Alice. Les ongles ? nous les appelons de nails.

Kath. De nails. Escoutez ; dites moy si je parle bien : de hand, de fingres, et de nails.

Alice. C’est bien dict, madame ; il est fort bon Anglois.

Kath. Dites moy l’Anglois pour le bras.

Alice. De arm, madame.
Kath. Et le coude ?

Alice. De elbow.
Kath. De elbow. Je m’en fais la répétition de tous les mots que vous m’avez appris dès à présent.

Alice. Il est trop difficile, madame, comme je pense.

Kath. Excusez moy, Alice ; escoutez : de hand, de fingres, de nails, de arma, de bilbow.

Alice. De elbow, madame.

Kath. O Seigneur Dieu ! je m’en oublie ; de elbow. Comment appellez vous le col ?

Alice. De nick, madame.

Kath. De nick. Et le menton ?
Alice. De chin.

Kath. De sin. Le col, de nick; le menton, de sin.

Alice. Ouy. Sauf vostre honneur, en vérité, vous prononcez les mots aussi droit que les natifs d'Angleterre.

Kath. Je ne doute point d'apprendre par la grace de Dieu, et en peu de temps.

Alice. N'avez vous déjà oublié ce que je vous ay enseigné?

Kath. Non, je reciteray à vous promptement. De hand, de fingre, de mails,—

Alice. De nails, madame.

Kath. De nails, de arme, de ilbow.

Alice. Sauf vostre honneur, d'elbow.

Kath. Ainsi dis je; d'elbow, de nick, et de sin. Comment appellez vous le pied et la robe?

Alice. Le foot, madame; et le coun.

Kath. Le foot, et le coun? O Seigneur Dieu! ils sont les mots de son mauvais, corruptible, gros, et impudique, et non pour les dames d'honneur d'user. Je ne voudrois prononcer ces mots devant less seigneurs de France, pour tout le monde. Foh! le foot et le coun! Néant-moins je reciteray une autre fois ma leçon ensemble: d'hand, de fingre, de nails, d'arm, d'elbow, de nick, de sin, de foot, le coun.

Alice. Excellent, madame!

Kath. C'est assez pour une fois: allons nous à diner.

[Exeunt.]
SCENE V.—The Same.

Enter the King of France, the Dauphin, the Duke of Bourbon, the Constable of France, and others.

Fr. King. 'Tis certain he hath pass'd the river Somme.

Con. And if he be not fought withal, my lord,
Let us not live in France; let us quit all,
And give our vineyards to a barbarous people.

Dau. O Dieu vivant! shall a few sprays of us,
The emptying of our fathers' luxury,
Our scions, put in wild and savage stock,
Spirited up so suddenly into the clouds,
And overlook their grafters?

Bour. Normans, but bastard Normans, Norman bastards!
Mort de ma vie! if they march along
Unfought withal, but I will sell my dukedom,


1. the river Somme] on his retreat towards Calais, iii. 56, above.

7-9. Our scions ... grafters] A grafter here is not "one who grafts," but the original tree from which the scion was taken. For the imagery, compare Winter’s Tale, iv. iv. 92-95:

"You see, sweet maid, we marry
A gentler scion to the wildest stock,
And make conceive a bark of baser kind
By bud of nobler race."

10. Bour.] In Holinshed, p. 182, the Dukes of Berrie and Britaine, and not the Duke of Bourbon, are mentioned as belonging to the French king's council. The Cambridge editors suggest that Shakespeare first intended to introduce the Duke of Britaine, and then changed his mind, but forgot to substitute "Bour." for "Brit." in lines 10 and 32. As far as line 10 is concerned, the change was made in the Quarto, and line 32 is absent from it.

11. vie] a dissyllable here; so batailles, line 15, is a trisyllable.

12. but] For this use of "but" (=if not) after an asseveration, compare Merchant of Venice, v. i. 208:

"I'll die for't but some woman had the ring,"

and in the Vicar of Wakefield, ch. vii., 'Squire Thornhill exclaims, "May this glass suffocate me but a fine girl is worth all the priestcraft in the nation";

and Martin Chuzzlewit, ch. xiii., "I wish I may die, said Mr. Tigg, ... but this is one of the most tremendous meetings in Ancient or Modern History!"

12-14. I will sell ... Albion] The
THE LIFE OF

To buy a slobby and a dirty farm
In that nook-shotten isle of Albion.

Con. Dieu de batailles! where have they this mettle? Is not their climate foggy, raw and dull, On whom, as in despite, the sun looks pale, Killing their fruit with frowns? Can sodden water, A drench for sur-rein'd jades, their barley broth, Decoct their cold blood to such valiant heat? And shall our quick blood, spirited with wine, Seem frosty? O, for honour of our land, Let us not hang like roping icicles

Upon our houses' thatch, whiles a more frosty people

23. roping] frozen Q, Pope.

corresponding passage in the Quarto is:
"Ile sell my Dukedome for a foggy farme
In that short nooke Ile of England."
The shorthand writer, or the transcriber of his notes found "slobby" and "nook-shotten" too much for him, and line 16 suggested an easier epithet for the farm.

13. slobby] sloppy, we.
14. nook-shotten] As blood-shotten, or bloodshot, means shot or suffused with blood, so nook-shotten must mean shot with nooks, i.e. shot into nooks or inlets, referring to the irregularly indented shape of England on the map. Steevens quotes Randle Holme, Academy of Armory (1688), III. ix. 385, "Querke is a nook-shotten pane," i.e. a pane of which is full of irregularities; and Miss Georgina Jackson, in her Glossary of Shropshire Words, says: "An old farmer cautioned a certain person against taking a short cut across some fields, because the way was very neuk-shotten." On the other hand, Knight thought the expression meant "thrust into a corner, apart from the rest of the world,"—an interpretation favoured by another Shropshire use of the word given by Miss Jackson, "stationed—as a matter of idle habit—in the chimney corner, 'sich a neuk-shotten thing inna wuth 'er saut.'"

18. sodden] boiled, past participle of seethe.


20. Decoc] warm up, as in cooking. Originally meaning to boil down, the word came to mean simply to boil or cook.

Sweat drops of gallant youth in our rich fields!— Poor we may call them in their native lords.

_Dau._ By faith and honour,
Our madams mock at us, and plainly say
Our mettle is bred out; and they will give
Their bodies to the lust of English youth
To new-store France with bastard warriors.

_Bour._ They bid us to the English dancing-schools,
And teach lavoltas high and swift corantos;
Saying our grace is only in our heels,
And that we are most lofty runaways.

_Fr. King._ Where is Montjoy the herald? speed him hence:
Let him greet England with our sharp defiance.
Up, princes! and, with spirit of honour edg'd
More sharper than your swords, hie to the field:
Charles Delabreth, high constable of France;
You Dukes of Orleans, Bourbon, and of Berri,
Alençon, Brabant, Bar, and Burgundy;
Jaques Chatillon, Rambures, Vaudemont,
Beaumont, Grandpré, Roussi, and Fauconberg,
Foix, Lestrale, Bouciqualt, and Charolois;

26. _we may call_ F 2; _we call_ F 1.
35. _lofty_ lusty Vaughan conj.

Vaudemont] F 2; Vaudemont F 1.
43. _Fauconberg_ Capell; _Faulconbridge_ F.
45. _Foix_ Capell; _Loys F._ Bouciqualt] Theobald; _Bouciqualt F._ Charolois]
Capell; Charaloyes F.

33. lavoltas... corantos] The lavolta was a dance for two persons involving high and active bounds; the coranto, on the other hand, required a running or gliding step; in fact, they may have differed much as our polka differs from the waltz. The coranto is also described by Davies; see note on "galliard," I. ii. 252.

35. _lofty runaways_] proud, and running away in high lavoltas (Schmidt).

44. _Fauconberg_] These names, except Charolois, are taken from the list of those slain or taken prisoners at Agincourt, from which Capell corrected the Faulconbridge of the Folio. See iv. viii. 82 ff., and Holinshed, pp. 195, 196. The printers of the Folio had been used to the name Faulconbridge in _King John_, and hence perhaps the error was theirs.
High dukes, great princes, barons, lords, and knights,
For your great seats now quit you of great shames,
Bar Harry England, that sweeps through our land
With pennons painted in the blood of Harfleur:
Rush on his host, as doth the melted snow
Upon the valleys, whose low vassal seat
The Alps doth spit and void his rheum upon:
Go down upon him, you have power enough,
And in a captive chariot into Roan
Bring him our prisoner.

Con. This becomes the great.

Sorry am I his numbers are so few,
His soldiers sick and famish'd in their march,
For I am sure when he shall see our army
He'll drop his heart into the sink of fear,
And for achievement offer us his ransom.

Fr. King. Therefore, lord constable, haste on Montjoy,
And let him say to England that we send
To know what willing ransom he will give.
Prince Dauphin, you shall stay with us in Roan.

Dau. Not so, I do beseech your majesty.

Fr. King. Be patient, for you shall remain with us.

46. knights] Pope (ed. 2) from Theobald’s conjecture; Kings F. 54. captive chariot] chariot, captive Daniel conj. 54, 64. Roan] Rouen Malone.

54. chariot] “The noble men had devised a chariot, wherein they might triumphantly convey the king captive to the city of Paris” (Holinshed, p. 182).

60. And . . . ransom] The constable is giving his reasons for regretting the reduced and feeble condition of the English army. I take him to mean therefore in this line, — “in-

stead of our achieving the victory over the English king which we should otherwise be sure to gain, all we shall get will be the offer of his ransom.” Malone, in defiance of the train of thought, interprets, “instead of [his] achieving a victory over us”; Aldis Wright rather tamely, “to bring the affair to a conclusion.”
Now forth, lord constable and princes all,
And quickly bring us word of England's fall.

[Exeunt.

SCENE VI.—The English Camp in Picardy.

Enter Gower and Fluellen.

Gow. How now, Captain Fluellen! come you from
the bridge?

Flu. I assure you there is very excellent services
committed at the bridge.

Gow. Is the Duke of Exeter safe?

Flu. The Duke of Exeter is as magnanimous as
Agamemnon; and a man that I love and honour
with my soul, and my heart, and my duty, and
my life, and my living, and my uttermost power:
he is not,—God be praised and blessed!—any
hurt in the world, but keeps the bridge most
vauntingly, with excellent discipline. There is an
aunchient lieutenant there at the pridge; I think
in my very conscience he is as valiant a man as
Mark Antony; and he is a man of no estimation in
the world; but I did see him do as gallant service.

Gow. What do you call him?

Flu. He is called Aunchient Pistol.

Gow. I know him not.
Enter Pistol.

Flu. Here is the man.

Pist. Captain, I thee beseech to do me favours:
The Duke of Exeter doth love thee well.

Flu. Ay, I praise God; and I have merited some love at his hands.

Pist. Bardolph, a soldier firm and sound of heart,
And of buxom valour, hath, by cruel fate
And giddy Fortune's furious fickle wheel,
That goddess blind,
That stands upon the rolling restless stone—

Flu. By your patience, Aunchient Pistol. Fortune is painted blind, with a muffler afore her eyes, to signify to you that Fortune is blind: and she is painted also with a wheel, to signify to you, which is the moral of it, that she is turning, and inconstant, and mutability, and variation: and her foot, look you, is fixed upon a spherical stone, which rolls, and rolls, and rolls: in good truth, the poet makes a most excellent description of it: Fortune is an excellent moral.

Pist. Fortune is Bardolph's foe, and frowns on him;
For he hath stol’n a pax, and hanged must a’ be.
A damned death!
Let gallows gape for dog, let man go free
And let not hemp his wind-pipe suffocate.
But Exeter hath given the doom of death
For pax of little price.
Therefore, go speak; the duke will hear thy voice;
And let not Bardolph’s vital thread be cut
With edge of penny cord and vile reproach:
Speak, captain, for his life, and I will thee requite.

Flu. Aunchient Pistol, I do partly understand your meaning.

Pist. Why then, rejoice therefore.

41, 46. pax] pix Theobald.

to the popular old ballad, ‘Fortune, my foe!’ which begins—
‘Fortune, my foe! why dost thou frown on me?’
See Chappell’s Popular Music of the Olden Time, p. 162” (Aldis Wright).

41. a pax] The theft and its punishment are historical, but the thing stolen
is described by all the authorities (e.g. Holinshed, p. 184) as a pix, and Theobald “set right” the text accordingly.
The thief mistook a pix of copper-gilt for real gold and stole it from the church at Corbie; he was hanged on a tree, close to the church, in sight of the whole army. Marshall (Henry Irving Shakespeare, vol. iv. p. 75) has a note which is worth quoting: “The pix or pyx ... is ‘a vase in which the Blessed Sacrament is preserved’; that is to say, not the large wafer called the Host, but the smaller consecrated wafer which is given to communicants at mass ... (see Addis and Arnold’s Catholic Dictionary, sub Pyx). The ‘pax’ is a totally different thing. It was the practice in the early church to give the kiss of peace ... and it was
this ceremony which gave rise to the practice of separating the sexes in church. The kiss of peace was first given by the bishop to the priest, then by the priests to one another, lastly by the laity to each other. ‘It was only at the end of the thirteenth century that it gave way to the use of the ... “pax,” ... a plate with a figure of Christ on the Cross stamped upon it, kissed first by the priest, then by the clerics and congregation. It was introduced into England by Archbishop Walter of York, in 1250. Usually now the “Pax” is not given at all in low Mass, and in high Mass an embrace is substituted for the old kiss and given only to those in the sanctuary” (ut supra, sub Kiss (of peace)).” Figures both of a Pax and a Pyx will be found in French’s Shaksperiana Genealogica, pp. 107 and 109. Dr. Johnson thought they were the same thing, and it would seem that already in Shakespeare’s time the distinction had been forgotten.

47. will hear thy voice] Mr. Craig suspects that this is a reminiscence of John x. 16.
Flu. Certainly, aunchient, it is not a thing to rejoice at; for if, look you, he were my brother, I would desire the duke to use his good pleasure and put him to execution; for discipline ought to be used.

Pist. Die and be damn'd; and figo for thy friendship!

Flu. It is well.

Pist. The fig of Spain!

[Exit.]

Flu. Very good.

Gow. Why, this is an arrant counterfeit rascal: I remember him now; a bawd, a cut-purse.

Flu. I'll assure you a' uttered as prave words at the pridge as you shall see in a summer's day. But it is very well; what he has spoke to me, that is well, I warrant you, when time is serve.

Gow. Why, 'tis a gull, a fool, a rogue, that now and then goes to the wars to grace himself at his return into London under the form of a soldier. And such fellows are perfect in the great commanders' names, and they will learn you by rote where services were done; at such and such a sconce, at such a breach, at such a convoy; who came off bravely, who was shot, who disgraced, what terms the enemy stood on; and this they con perfectly

60. The fig of Spain] "A contemtuous gesture which consisted in thrusting the thumb between two of the closed fingers or into the mouth" (New Eng. Dict.). See Douce, Illustrations of Shakespeare, 1839, pp. 302-309.

61. Very good] In place of these two words the Quarto gives Fluellen the following: "Captain Gow, cannot you hear it lighten and thunder?"—perhaps an impromptu sally on the actor's part, and not a bad one!

65. as you shall see in a summer's day] a favourite proverbial phrase with Fluellen; see IV. viii. 22. We find it again in Midsummer Night's Dream, 1. ii. 89, "a proper man as one shall see in a summer's day"; and in Porter's Two Angry Women of Abington (Hazlitt's Dodsley, vii. 356) it is one of the many proverbial expressions put into the mouth of Nicholas Proverbs.

73. sconce] a redoubt or earthwork.
in the phrase of war, which they trick up with new-tuned oaths: and what a beard of the general's cut and a horrid suit of the camp will do among foaming bottles and ale-washed wits, is wonderful to be thought on. But you must learn to know such slanders of the age, or else you may be marvellously mistook.

_Flu._ I tell you what, Captain Gower; I do perceive he is not the man that he would gladly make show to the world he is: if I find a hole in his coat I will tell him my mind. [Drum heard.]

Hark you, the king is coming, and I must speak with him from the pridge.

_Drum and Colours._ Enter King Henry, Gloucester, and Soldiers.

_Flu._ God pless your majesty!

_K. Hen._ How now, Fluellen! camest thou from the bridge?

_Flu._ Ay, so please your majesty. The Duke of Exeter has very gallantly maintained the pridge: the French is gone off, look you, and there is gallant and most prave passages. Marry, th' athversary was have possession of the pridge, but he is enforced to retire, and the Duke of Exeter is master

---

79. _suit_ pronounced "shoot" in Shakespeare's time; hence probably the "shout" of the Quarto. In Love’s Labour’s Lost, iv. i. 169, where there is a pun on "suitor" and "shooter," the spelling of the Quarto of 1598 and of the Folio is "shooter." This was first pointed out by Malone.

80. _slanders of the age_ i.e. slanderers of the age, people who disgrace it.
of the pridge. I can tell your majesty the duke is a prave man.

K. Hen. What men have you lost, Fluellen?

Flu. The perdition of th' athversary hath been very great, reasonable great: marry, for my part, I think the duke hath lost never a man but one that is like to be executed for robbing a church; one Bardolph, if your majesty know the man: his face is all bubukles, and whelks, and knobs, and flames o' fire; and his lips blows at his nose, and it is like a coal of fire, sometimes plue and sometimes red; but his nose is executed, and his fire's out.

K. Hen. We would have all such offenders so cut off: and we give express charge that in our marches through the country there be nothing compelled from the villages, nothing taken but paid for, none of the French upbraided or abused in disdainful language; for when lenity and cruelty play for a kingdom, the gentler gamester is the soonest winner.

107. o'] Dyce; a F. 116. lenity] Q Rowe; Leuitie F.

106. bubukles] Fluellen's confusion of bubo and carbuncle (New Eng. Dict.). Mr. Craig suggests that Shakespeare had read Chaucer's description of the Somnour (Prologue to the Canterbury Tales, 623 ff.). He had "a fyr-reed cherubinnes face," "whelkes whyte," and "knobbes sittinge on his chekes."

109, 110. his fire's out] Johnson has a note here, which will probably express the feelings of the modern reader: "This is the last time that any sport can be made with the red face of Bardolph, which, to confess the truth, seems to have taken more hold on Shakespeare's imagination than on any other. The conception is very cold to the solitary reader, though it may be somewhat invigorated by the exhibition on the stage. This poet is always more careful about the present than the future, about his audience than his readers."

111. We . . . cut off] Mr. Collins remarks: "Henry gives no sign of having known Bardolph in his wilder days, though it was for Bardolph's sake that he had struck the Lord Chief Justice" (Henry IV. i. ii. 62-64).

117. gamester] Compare Blount, Boscobel (1662), ii. 9, "His Majestie was askt by one of the gamesters, if he could play a game of Ball call'd Fives."
Tucket. Enter Montjoy.

Mont. You know me by my habit.

K. Hen. Well then I know thee: what shall I know of thee?

Mont. My master's mind.

K. Hen. Unfold it.

Mont. Thus says my king: Say thou to Harry of England: Though we seemed dead, we did but sleep: advantage is a better soldier than rashness. Tell him we could have rebuked him at Harfleur, but that we thought not good to bruise an injury till it were full ripe: now we speak upon our cue, and our voice is imperial: England shall repent his folly, see his weakness, and admire our sufferance. Bid him therefore consider of his ransom; which must proportion the losses we have borne, the subjects we have lost, the disgrace we have digested; which in weight to re-answer, his pettiness would bow under. For our losses, his exchequer is too poor; for the effusion of our blood, the muster of his kingdom too faint a number; and for our disgrace, his own person, kneeling at our feet, but a weak

18. Tucket] One of the signals on the trumpet, "which beinge hearde simply of itselfe, without addition, commands nothing but marching after the leader" (Markham, quoted by Grose, Military Antiquities, ii. 255).

18. Montjoy] "Mont-joye: m. The title of the chiefe Herauld of France" (Cotgrave); — as Garter is among us.

19. my habit] my tabard.

27. bruise an injury] metaphor from a boil or tumour.

28. upon our cue] the time being come for us to play our part (Aldis Wright). Johnson is to the point again here: "This phrase the authour learned among players, and has imparted it to kings."
and worthless satisfaction. To this add defiance: and tell him, for conclusion, he hath betrayed his followers, whose condemnation is pronounced. So far my king and master, so much my office.

K. Hen. What is thy name? I know thy quality.

Mont. Montjoy.

K. Hen. Thou dost thy office fairly. Turn thee back, And tell thy king I do not seek him now, But could be willing to march on to Calais Without impeachment; for, to say the sooth, Though 'tis no wisdom to confess so much Unto an enemy of craft and vantage, My people are with sickness much enfeebled, My numbers lessens, and those few I have Almost no better than so many French; Who when they were in health, I tell thee, herald, I thought upon one pair of English legs Did march three Frenchmen. Yet, forgive me, God, That I do brag thus! this your air of France Hath blown that vice in me; I must repent. Go therefore, tell thy master here I am; My ransom is this frail and worthless trunk, My army but a weak and sickly guard; Yet, God before, tell him we will come on, Though France himself and such another neighbour Stand in our way. There's for thy labour, Montjoy.

147. Calais] Rowe; Callice F 1, 2, 3; Calice F 4.

148. impeachment] hindrance, the original meaning of the word (French, empêchement).

150. Unto . . vantage] "to a cunning enemy who is besides favoured by circumstances," says Schmidt; but better, as Verity puts it, "an enemy so quick to seize an opportunity," —a sarcastic echo of Montjoy's words, line 125, "advantage is a better soldier than rashness."
Go, bid thy master well advise himself:
If we may pass, we will; if we be hinder'd,
We shall your tawny ground with your red blood
Discolour: and so, Montjoy, fare you well.
The sum of all our answer is but this:
We would not seek a battle as we are;
Nor, as we are, we say we will not shun it:
So tell your master.

Mont. I shall deliver so. Thanks to your highness. [Exit.

Glou. I hope they will not come upon us now.

K. Hen. We are in God's hand, brother, not in theirs. 175
March to the bridge; it now draws toward night:
Beyond the river we'll encamp ourselves,
And on to-morrow bid them march away. [Exeunt.

SCENE VII.—The French Camp, near Agincourt.

Enter the Constable of France, the Lord Rambures,
Orleans, Dauphin, with others.

Con. Tut! I have the best armour of the world.
Would it were day!

Orl. You have an excellent armour; but let my horse
have his due.

Con. It is the best horse of Europe.

Orl. Will it never be morning?

173. Exit] Rowe; omitted F.

Scene VII.

The French . . .] Theobald.

Dauphin] the Dauphin's presence at
Agincourt is unhistorical; see v. 64,
above. The Quarto assigns to Bour-
bon what it prints of his speeches.
3. an . . . armour] a suit of mail,
with the plural "armours," e.g. Cax-
ton, Golden Legend (1483), 278, i, "He
had . . . armours ynowe for to gar-
nysshe with seven thousand men."
Dau. My lord of Orleans, and my lord high constable, you talk of horse and armour?

Orl. You are as well provided of both as any prince in the world.

Dau. What a long night is this! I will not change my horse with any that treads but on four pasterns. Ça, ha! He bounds from the earth as if his entrails were hairs; le cheval volant, the Pegasus, chez les narines de feu! When I bestride him, I soar, I am a hawk: he trots the air; the earth sings when he touches it; the basest horn of his hoof is more musical than the pipe of Hermes.

Orl. He's of the colour of the nutmeg.

Dau. And of the heat of the ginger. It is a beast for Perseus: he is pure air and fire; and the dull elements of earth and water never appear in him, but only in patient stillness while his rider mounts him: he is indeed a horse: and all other jades you may call beasts.

Con. Indeed, my lord, it is a most absolute and excellent horse.

Dau. It is the prince of palfreys; his neigh is like the bidding of a monarch, and his countenance enforces homage.


Ça, ha.] Theobald; ch'ha F. 14. hairs] tennis balls were stuffed with hair. Compare Much Ado, III. ii. 45: "The barber's man hath been seen with him, and the old ornament of his cheek hath already stuffed tennis-balls." 25. iades] The word was sometimes used without any depreciatory sense, simply for horse. 25. beasts] the general term for quadrupeds may suffice for all other horses (Malone). Warburton's alteration is therefore unnecessary.
Orl. No more, cousin.

Dau. Nay, the man hath no wit that cannot, from the rising of the lark to the lodging of the lamb, vary deserved praise on my palfrey: it is a theme as fluent as the sea; turn the sands into eloquent tongues, and my horse is argument for them all. 'Tis a subject for a sovereign to reason on, and for a sovereign's sovereign to ride on; and for the world, familiar to us and unknown, to lay apart their particular functions and wonder at him. I once writ a sonnet in his praise and began thus: "Wonder of nature,"—

Orl. I have heard a sonnet begin so to one's mistress.

Dau. Then did they imitate that which I composed to my courser; for my horse is my mistress.

Orl. Your mistress bears well.

Dau. Me well; which is the prescript praise and perfection of a good and particular mistress.

Con. Nay, for methought yesterday your mistress shrewdly shook your back.

Dau. So perhaps did yours.

Con. Mine was not bridled.

Dau. O! then belike she was old and gentle; and you rode, like a kern of Ireland, your French hose off, and in your strait strossers.

55. strossers] trowsers Theobald; trousers Hanmer.

33. lodging] lying down. Compare 2 Henry VI. iii. ii. 176: "Like to the summer's corn by tempest lodged," i.e. laid flat.

48. particular] belonging to me only.

54. French hose] loose wide breeches; see Stubbes, Anatomie of Abuses, ed. 1883, p. 56, "the common french-hose (as they list to call them) contayneth length, breadth, and sidenes sufficient, and is made very round."

55. strossers] trowsers. Before this garment had supplanted knee-breeches, the word was the occasion for a vast
Con. You have good judgment in horsemanship.

Dau. Be warned by me, then: they that ride so, and ride not warily, fall into foul bogs. I had rather have my horse to my mistress.

Con. I had as lief have my mistress a jade.

Dau. I tell thee, constable, my mistress wears his own hair.

Con. I could make as true a boast as that if I had a sow to my mistress.

Dau. Le chien est retourné à son propre vomissement, et la truie lavée au bourbier: thou makest use of any thing.

Con. Yet do I not use my horse for my mistress; or any such proverb so little kin to the purpose.

Ram. My lord constable, the armour that I saw in your tent to-night, are those stars or suns upon it?

Con. Stars, my lord.

Dau. Some of them will fall to-morrow, I hope.

Con. And yet my sky shall not want.

Dau. That may be, for you bear a many superfluously, and 'twere more honour some were away.

Con. Even as your horse bears your praises; who would trot as well were some of your brags dismounted.

61. his] her Q, Pope. 66. et] Rowe; est F. truie] Rowe; lenye F.

amount of comment, as may be seen in the Variorum editions. Steevens explains that "trossers appear to have been tight breeches"; and Theobald, after quoting Beaumont and Fletcher, The Coxcombe [Act 11, p. 104, ed. 1647], "I'le have you flead, and trossers made of thy skin to tumble in," seizes the point of the present passage correctly when he writes: "By 'strait Trossers' our Poet humourously means, femoribus denudatis; for the Kernes of Ireland wear no Breeches, any more than the Scotch Highlanders do."
Dau. Would I were able to load him with his desert! Will it never be day? I will trot to-morrow a mile, and my way shall be paved with English faces.

Con. I will not say so for fear I should be faced out of my way. But I would it were morning, for I would fain be about the ears of the English.

Ram. Who will go to hazard with me for twenty prisoners?

Con. You must first go yourself to hazard, ere you have them.

Dau. 'Tis midnight; I'll go arm myself. [Exit

Orl. The Dauphin longs for morning

Ram. He longs to eat the English.

Con. I think he will eat all he kills.

Orl. By the white hand of my lady, he's a gallant prince.

Con. Swear by her foot, that she may tread out the oath.

Orl. He is simply the most active gentleman of France.

Con. Doing is activity, and he will still be doing.

Orl. He never did harm, that I heard of.

Con. Nor will do none to-morrow: he will keep that good name still.

Orl. I know him to be valiant.

Con. I was told that by one that knows him better than you.

Orl. What's he?

Con. Marry, he told me so himself; and he said he cared not who knew it.

Orl. He needs not; it is no hidden virtue in him.

88. go to hazard] See Act iv. Chorus 18, 19.
By my faith, sir, but it is; never any body saw it but his lackey: 'tis a hooded valour; and when it appears, it will bate.

Ill will never said well.

I will cap that proverb with “There is flattery in friendship.”

And I will take up that with “Give the devil his due.”

Well placed: there stands your friend for the devil: have at the very eye of that proverb with “A pox of the devil.”

You are the better at proverbs, by how much “A fool’s bolt is soon shot.”

You have shot over.

'Tis not the first time you were overshot.

Enter a Messenger.

My lord high constable, the English lie within fifteen hundred paces of your tents.

Who hath measured the ground?

In the language of falconry a hawk when unhooded is said to bate, that is beat or flap the wings preparatory to flight. So in Romeo and Juliet, III, ii. 14, Juliet says:

“Hood my unmann’d blood, bating in my cheeks,”

with reference to which Harting, Ornithology of Shakespeare, p. 62, writes: “An ‘unmanned’ hawk was one not sufficiently reclaimed to be familiar with her keeper, and such birds generally ‘bated,’ that is, fluttered or beat their own wings violently in their efforts to escape.” In the text there is, of course, a play upon the other meaning of “bate,” namely, to a bate or become defected.

For a very early instance of the last of these five proverbs I am indebted to Mr. H. C. Hart, “Proverbs of Alfred” (1246-1250), in Morris’s Specimens of Early English, Pt. i. p. 151, “Sottes bolt is sone i-schote”; and “Proverbs of Hendyng” (1272-1307), ibid. Pt. ii. p. 37, “Sottes bolt is sone shote.”

124. shot over] the mark, i.e. gone too far in your praise of your friend.

125. overshot] beaten in shooting, worsted. Compare Love’s Labour’s Lost, 1. i. 143-145:

“So study evermore is overshot:
While it doth study to have what it would,
It doth forget to do the thing it should.”
Mess. The Lord Grandpré.
Con. A valiant and most expert gentleman. Would it were day! Alas! poor Harry of England, he longs not for the dawning as we do.
Orl. What a wretched and peevish fellow is this king of England, to mope with his fat-brained followers so far out of his knowledge!
Con. If the English had any apprehension, they would run away.
Orl. That they lack; for if their heads had any intellectual armour, they could never wear such heavy head-pieces.
Ram. That island of England breeds very valiant creatures; their mastiffs are of unmatchable courage.
Orl. Foolish curs! that run winking into the mouth of a Russian bear and have their heads crushed like rotten apples. You may as well say that's a valiant flea that dare eat his breakfast on the lip of a lion.
Con. Just, just; and the men do sympathize with the mastiffs in robustious and rough coming on, leaving their wits with their wives: and then give them great meals of beef and iron and steel, they will eat like wolves and fight like devils.
Orl. Ay, but these English are shrewdly out of beef.

130. it were day! Alas! poor Harry of England, he longs not for the dawning as we do.
135. What a wretched and peevish fellow is this king of England, to mope with his fat-brained followers so far out of his knowledge!
140. That they lack; for if their heads had any intellectual armour, they could never wear such heavy head-pieces.
145. foolish curs! that run winking into the mouth of a Russian bear and have their heads crushed like rotten apples. You may as well say that's a valiant flea that dare eat his breakfast on the lip of a lion.
150. they will eat like wolves and fight like devils.

152. shrewdly] F 2; shrowdly F 1.
133. peevish] silly, thoughtless.
134. mope] to move unconsciously, without self-guidance. Compare Tempest, v. 239, 240: "Even in a dream were we divided from them And were brought moping hither."
136. any apprehension] "another[see lines 112, 113 above] of the Constable's grim jests: he means both 'any sense, perception' (in satirical reference to 'knowledge' in line 135), and 'any fear.' Orleans, however, sees only the former meaning" (Verity).
143. winking] See ii. 1. 7.
152. shrewdly] The Folio spelling represents the pronunciation of the day "shrowdly"; we retain it in "shew" with the alternative spelling "show."
THE LIFE OF

Con. Then shall we find to-morrow they have only
stomachs to eat and none to fight. Now is it
time to arm; come, shall we about it?

Orl. It is now two o'clock: but, let me see, by ten
We shall have each a hundred Englishmen.

[Exeunt

ACT IV

Enter Chorus.

Now entertain conjecture of a time
When creeping murmur and the poring dark
Fills the wide vessel of the universe.
From camp to camp through the soul womb of night
The hum of either army stilly sounds,
That the fix'd sentinels almost receive
The secret whispers of each other's watch:
Fire answers fire, and through their paly flames
Each battle sees the other's umber'd face;

156. o'] Theobald (ed. 2); a F.

Act IV. Chorus.

1. conjecture] Under the verb conject = suppose, New Eng. Dict. quotes
the following, which will illustrate the use of our word here, Mellis, Briefe
Instr. (1588), F v, "Conject in your owne imagination, that this . . .
shoppe were a person Debitor."

2. poring] trying to see clearly, like
a short-sighted person. This seems to
be merely a case of transposition of the
epithet, from the person to the thing,
as in III. v. 63, "what willing ransom
he will give" for "what ransom he
will willingly give," and in line 38
below, "the weary and all-watched
night." Perhaps we should read
"peering."

6, 7. That . . . watch] "The armies
were encamped not more than 250
paces from each other" (Holinshed,
p. 186).

9. umber'd] "Our author's profession
probably furnished him with this epi-
thet; for from an old manuscript play
in my possession, entitled The Tell
Tale [reclaimed by Dulwich College
from the Boswell sale in 1825], it ap-
pears that 'umber' was used in the
Steed threatens steed, in high and boastful neighs
Piercing the night's dull ear; and from the tents
The armourers, accomplishing the knights,
With busy hammers closing rivets up,
Give dreadful note of preparation.
The country cocks do crow, the clocks do toll,
And the third hour of drowsy morning name.
Proud of their numbers, and secure in soul,
The confident and over-lusty French
Do the low-rated English play at dice;
And chide the cripple tardy-gaited night
Who, like a foul and ugly witch, doth limp
So tediously away. The poor condemned English,

16. *Ana . . . name.* Steevens, 1778 (from Tyrwhitt's conjecture); *And . . . nam'd, F; And (the . . . morning nam'd) Pope.

stage-exhibitions of his time. In that piece one of the marginal directions is, "He umbers her face" (Malone). So in *As You Like It* (1. iii. 114) Celia says she will "with a kind of umber smirch her face." No doubt the reference is, as Verity remarks, to the effect of the firelight cast on the faces of the soldiers.

13. *closing rivets up.* See Douce, *Illustrations,* p. 308. "This does not solely refer to the business of riveting the plate armour before it was put on, but as to part when it was on. Thus the top of the cuirass had a little projecting bit of iron, that passed through a hole pierced through the bottom of the casque. When both were put on, the smith or armourer presented himself, with his riveting hammer, 'to close the rivet up,' so that the party's head should remain steady notwithstanding the force of any blow that might be given on the cuirass or helmet."

16. *And . . . name.* Tyrwhitt, whom "the publication of Mr. Johnson's long-expected edition of Shakespeare's Plays" had tempted to look "over once more the enchanting scenes of that admirable Poet," writes in 1766 of Pope's reading of this line, "I believe every reader of taste must be hurt by that heavy Parenthesis." His emendation has been almost universally adopted by editors since his time.

18. *over-lusty* over-lively and merry.

20. *cripple* spelt *creeple* in the Folio.

22. *The poor condemned English,* etc.] With the view of enhancing the effect produced by the influence of the king's personal courage, Shakespeare has somewhat exaggerated the depression of the English army; see Holinshed, p. 187, "The Englishmen also for their parts were of good comfort, and nothing abashed of the matter; and yet they were both hungry, wearie, sore travelled, and vexed with manie cold diseases. Howbeit, reconciling themselves with God by hoossell and shrift, requiring assistance at his hands that is the onelie giver of victorie, they determined rather to die than to yeeld, or flee."
Like sacrifices, by their watchful fires
Sit patiently, and inly ruminate
The morning's danger, and their gesture sad
Investing lank-lean cheeks and war-worn coats
Presenteth them unto the gazing moon
So many horrid ghosts. O! now, who will behold
The royal captain of this ruin'd band
Walking from watch to watch, from tent to tent,
Let him cry "Praise and glory on his head!"
For forth he goes and visits all his host,
Bids them good-morrow with a modest smile,
And calls them brothers, friends and countrymen.
Upon his royal face there is no note
How dread an army hath enrounded him;
Nor doth he dedicate one jot of colour
Unto the weary and all-watched night;
But freshely looks and overbears attaint
With cheerful semblance and sweet majesty;
That every wretch, pining and pale before,
Beholding him, plucks comfort from his looks.
A largess universal like the sun
His liberal eye doth give to every one,

27. Presenteth] Hanmer; Presented F.

25. gesture] bearing, deportment.
39. overbears attaint] Attaint literally means the act of touching or hitting, especially in tilting, and Aldis Wright accordingly explains "conquers the infecting influences," comparing *Venus ana Adonis*, 741, 742:
"The marrow-eating sickness, whose attaint Disorder breeds by heating of the blood."
But the ordinary meaning of the word is "a stain upon honour, purity," etc, and this is just the sense which the context seems to require; we may then interpret "overcomes or resists all stain upon the freshness of his royal face."
Thawing cold fear, that mean and gentle all,
Behold, as may unworthiness define,
A little touch of Harry in the night.
And so our scene must to the battle fly;
Where, O for pity! we shall much disgrace
With four or five most vile and ragged foils,
Right ill-dispos'd in brawl ridiculous,
The name of Agincourt. Yet sit and see;
Minding true things by what their mockeries be.

[Exit.

SCENE I.—The English Camp at Agincourt.

Enter King Henry, Bedford, and Gloucester.

K. Hen. Gloucester, 'tis true that we are in great danger;
The greater therefore should our courage be.
Good morrow, brother Bedford. God Almighty!
There is some soul of goodness in things evil,
Would men observingly distil it out;
For our bad neighbour makes us early stirrers,

45. fear, that ... all] fear. Then, mean and gentle, all Theobald.

Scene 1.
The English . . . ] Theobald. King Henry] Rowe; the King F.

45-47. that . . . night] Theobald's conjecture was adopted by all the subsequent eighteenth century editors, and was explained by him as follows: "The Poet, first, expatiates on the real Influence that Harry's Eye had on his Camp; and then addressing himself to every Degree of his Audience, he tells them he'll shew (as well as his unworthy Pen and Powers can describe it) a little Touch, or Sketch of this Hero in the Night; a faint Resemblance of that Cheerfulness and Resolution which this brave Prince express'd in himself, and inspired in his Followers." I think, however, that the original reading gives a quite satisfactory sense, and that the meaning is, "so that all ranks in the English army behold, as far as our feeble powers can express it, little touch, etc." Compare Chorus 1. 9. It is only another detail in which "we shall much disgrace the name of Agincourt."

Which is both healthful and good husbandry:
Besides, they are our outward consciences,
And preachers to us all; admonishing
That we should dress us fairly for our end.
Thus may we gather honey from the weed,
And make a moral of the devil himself.

Enter Erpingham.

Good morrow, old Sir Thomas Erpingham:
A good soft pillow for that good white head
Were better than a churlish turf of France.

Erp. Not so, my liege: this lodging likes me better,
Since I may say "Now lie I like a king."

K. Hen. 'Tis good for men to love their present pains
Upon example; so the spirit is eased:
And when the mind is quicken'd, out of doubt,
The organs, though defunct and dead before,
Break up their drowsy grave, and newly move
With casted slough and fresh legerity.
Lend me thy cloak, Sir Thomas. Brothers both,
Commend me to the princes in our camp;
Do my good-morrow to them; and anon
Desire them all to my pavilion.

Glou. We shall, my liege.

Erp. Shall I attend your grace?

8. they] The train of thought seems to require that this should refer to "things evil," and not to the French, as Aldis Wright insists; though of course in this instance the "evil thing" is "our bad neighbour." 10. fairly] as we should. So 111. vi.
145. "Thou dost thy office fairly."
12. make a moral of] of = out of; "draw a moral precept from," as Verity puts it.
23. legerity] nimbleness. We still talk of legerdemain.
K. Hen. No, my good knight; Go with my brothers to my lords of England: I and my bosom must debate awhile, And then I would no other company. Erp. The Lord in heaven bless thee, noble Harry! [Exeunt all but King.]

K. Hen. God-a-mercy, old heart! thou speak'st cheerfully.

Enter Pistol.

Pist. Qui va là?
K. Hen. A friend.
Pist. Discuss unto me; art thou officer? Or art thou base, common and popular?
K. Hen. I am a gentleman of a company.
Pist. Trail'st thou the puissant pike?
K. Hen. Even so. What are you?
Pist. As good a gentleman as the emperor.
K. Hen. Then you are a better than the king.
Pist. The king's a bawcock, and a heart of gold,
A lad of life, an imp of fame;
Of parents good, of fist most valiant:

33. Exeunt all . . .] Cambridge editors; Exeunt F. 35. Qui va là?] Rowe; Che vous la? F. 45. A lad] The king's a lad Vaughan conj.

38. popular] Compare i. i. 59. 40. Trail'st . . . pike] In Grose, Military Antiquities, ed. 1788, vol. ii., will be found a series of plates illustrating Pike exercise. Plate IV. fig. 23 illustrates the order, "Trayle your Pike"; the pike is grasped in the right hand just below the head, while the foot trails on the ground behind. The pike was superseded by the bayonet at the end of the seventeenth or beginning of the eighteenth century.

44. bawcock] See III. ii. 25. 45. imp of fame] Pistol had already saluted the king with this title; see 2 Henry IV. v. v. 46. The word "imp" means a shoot or scion; as applied to persons its use was poetical or affected, and by Shakespeare is only put into the mouth of such worthies as Pistol, Holofernes, and Armado.
I kiss his dirty shoe, and from heart-string
I love the lovely bully. What is thy name?

_K. Hen._ Harry le Roy.

_Pist._ Le Roy! a Cornish name: art thou of Cornish crew?

_K. Hen._ No, I am a Welshman.

_Pist._ Know'st thou Fluellen?

_K. Hen._ Yes.

_Pist._ Tell him, I'll knock his leek about his pate

Upon Saint Davy's day.

_K. Hen._ Do not you wear your dagger in your cap
that day, lest he knock that about yours.

_Pist._ Art thou his friend?

_K. Hen._ And his kinsman too.

_Pist._ The figo for thee then!

_K. Hen._ I thank you. God be with you!

_Pist._ My name is Pistol called. [Exit.

_K. Hen._ It sorts well with your fierceness.

_Enter Fluellen and Gower._

_Gow._ Captain Fluellen!

_Flu._ So! in the name of Jesu Christ, speak lower. It is the greatest admiration in the universal

48. _What is_] What's Pope. 60. _Turns to go_] Nicholson conj. 63.

[Manet King F. 65. _So_] Capell; 'So, F. _lower_] Q 3, Malone; _fewer_ F; _lower_ Q 1, 2.

65. _speak lower_] Steevens attempted to defend the Folio reading by a story to the effect that in Sussex "speak fewer" meant "don't speak so loud"; but this theory does not seem to have been corroborated, and is in fact unknown to the Dialect Dictionary. The Quarto reading adopted by Malone is in harmony with what follows (see line 81, "I will speak lower"), and, moreover, finds some support in Holinshed, p. 187: "Order was taken by commandement from the king, after the armie was first set in battell arraie, that no noise or clamor should be made in the host; so that, in marching foorth to this village, everie man kept himself quiet."
world, when the true and aunchient prerogatifes and laws of the wars is not kept. If you would take the pains but to examine the wars of Pompey the Great, you shall find, I warrant you, that there is no tiddle taddle nor pibble pabble in Pompey's camp; I warrant you, you shall find the ceremonies of the wars, and the cares of it, and the forms of it, and the sobriety of it, and the modesty of it, to be otherwise.

Gow. Why, the enemy is loud; you hear him all night.

Flu. If the enemy is an ass and a fool and a prating coxcomb, is it meet, think you, that we should also, look you, be an ass and a fool and a prating coxcomb? in your own conscience now?

Gow. I will speak lower.

Flu. I pray you and beseech you that you will.

[Exeunt Gower and Fluellen.

K. Hen. Though it appear a little out of fashion, There is much care and valour in this Welshman.

Enter three soldiers, John Bates, Alexander Court, and Michael Williams.

Court. Brother John Bates, is not that the morning which breaks yonder?

Bates. I think it be; but we have no great cause to desire the approach of day.

Will. We see yonder the beginning of the day, but I think we shall never see the end of it. Who goes there?

71. pabble] Theobald; pable F. 80. coxcomb?] Collier; Coxcombe, F. 82.
Exeunt . . .] Capell; Exit F.
K. Hen. A friend.
Will. Under what captain serve you?
Will. A good old commander and a most kind gentle-
man: I pray you, what thinks he of our estate?
K. Hen. Even as men wracked upon a sand, that look
to be washed off the next tide.
Bates. He hath not told his thought to the king?
K. Hen. No; nor it is not meet he should. For, though I speak it to you, I think the king is but a man, as I am: the violet smells to him as it doth to me; the element shows to him as it doth to me; all his senses have but human conditions: his ceremonies laid by, in his nakedness he appears but a man; and though his affections are higher mounted than ours, yet when they stoop, they stoop with the like wing. Therefore when he sees reason of fears, as we do, his fears, out of doubt, be of the same relish as ours are: yet, in reason, no man should possess him with any appearance of fear, lest he, by showing it, should dishearten his army.

94. Thomas] Pope ed. 2 (on Theobald's suggestion); John F. 97. wracked] wrecked Theobald (ed. 2); wrackt F.

97. wrackd The vowel in this word is always a in the old editions, and I prefer to leave it unchanged; compare I. ii. 165, and Macbeth, v. v. 51, where “wrack” rhymes with “back.”

103. the element] the sky. “This sense is apparently due to Mediaeval Latin elementum ignis as a name of the starry sphere; but there may be a mixture of the sense ‘air’” (New Eng. Dict.). Compare Sidney, Arcadia (1580), v. 458 (ed. 1590), “Morning had taken full possession of the element”; still in use dialectically.

106. his affections] his emotions, feelings, which move in a higher plane than ours.

111, 112. possess . . fear] compare line 296, “Possess them not with fear.”
Bates. He may show what outward courage he will, but I believe, as cold a night as 'tis, he could wish himself in Thames up to the neck, and so I would he were, and I by him, at all adventures, so we were quit here.

K. Hen. By my troth, I will speak my conscience of the king: I think he would not wish himself any where but where he is.

Bates. Then I would he were here alone; so should he be sure to be ransomed, and a many poor men's lives saved.

K. Hen. I dare say you love him not so ill to wish him here alone, howsoever you speak this to feel other men's minds: methinks I could not die any where so contented as in the king's company, his cause being just and his quarrel honourable.

Will. That's more than we know.

Bates. Ay, or more than we should seek after; for we know enough if we know we are the king's subjects. If his cause be wrong, our obedience to the king wipes the crime of it out of us.

Will. But if the cause be not good, the king himself hath a heavy reckoning to make; when all those legs and arms and heads, chopped off in a battle, shall join together at the latter day, and cry all "We died at such a place"; some swearing, some crying for a surgeon, some upon their wives left poor behind them, some

126, 127. alone, ... minds:] Cambridge editors; alone: ... minds, F.

131. Ay, or more] Capell proposed on line 193, below.

to give this speech to Court; see note
upon the debts they owe, some upon their children rawly left. I am afraid there are few die well that die in a battle; for how can they charitably dispose of any thing when blood is their argument? Now, if these men do not die well, it will be a black matter for the king that led them to it, who to disobey were against all proportion of subjection.

K. Hen. So, if a son that is by his father sent about merchandise do sinfully miscarry upon the sea, the imputation of his wickedness, by your rule, should be imposed upon his father that sent him: or if a servant, under his master's command transporting a sum of money, be assailed by robbers and die in many irreconciled iniquities, you may call the business of the master the author of the servant's damnation. But this is not so: the king is not bound to answer the particular endings of his soldiers, the father of his son, nor the master of his servant; for they purpose not their death when they purpose their services. Besides there is no king, be his cause never so spotless, if it come to the arbitrement of swords, can try it out with all unspotted soldiers.

148. who] whom F 2, 3, 4.

143. rawly] without due preparation and provision. Compare Macbeth, iv. iii. 26–28:
"Why in that rawness left you wife and child,
Those precious motives, those strong knots of love,
Without leave-taking?"

145. charitably dispose of any thing] settle anything in a spirit of charity.

146. argument] Compare iii. i. 21.

151. sinfully miscarry] die in his sins.
Some, peradventure, have on them the guilt of premeditated and contrived murder; some, of beguiling virgins with the broken seals of perjury; some, making the wars their bulwark, that have before gored the gentle bosom of peace with pillage and robbery. Now, if these men have defeated the law and outrun native punishment, though they can outstrip men, they have no wings to fly from God: war is his beadle, war is his vengeance; so that here men are punished for before-breach of the king’s laws in now the king’s quarrel: where they feared the death they have borne life away, and where they would be safe they perish. Then, if they die unprovided, no more is the king guilty of their damnation than he was before guilty of those impieties for which they are now visited. Every subject’s duty is the king’s; but every subject’s soul is his own. Therefore should every soldier in the wars do as every sick man in his bed, wash every mote out of his conscience; and dying so, death is to him advantage; or not dying, the time was blessedly lost wherein such preparation was gained: and in him that escapes, it were not sin to think that, making God so free an offer, he

176. before-breach] Capell; before breach F. 186. mote] Malone; moth F; moth Q. 188. blessedly lost] well spent Q.

172. native punishment] punishment in their own country. So, “native graves,” iv. iii. 96, below. 186. mote] the Folio “moth” is merely an alternative spelling. On the pronunciation of th as t in the sixteenth century, see Ellis, *Early English Pronunciation*, iii. 969–972. As far as this word is concerned, the Folio spelling is consistent, it is always “moth.”
let him outlive that day to see his greatness, and to teach others how they should prepare.

Will. ’Tis certain, every man that dies ill, the ill upon his own head; the king is not to answer it.

Bates. I do not desire he should answer for me; and yet I determine to fight lustily for him.

K. Hen. I myself heard the king say he would not be ransomed.

Will. Ay, he said so, to make us fight cheerfully; but when our throats are cut he may be ransomed, and we ne'er the wiser.

K. Hen. If I live to see it, I will never trust his word after.

Will. You pay him then. That’s a perilous shot out of an elder-gun, that a poor and a private displeasure can do against a monarch. You may as well go about to turn the sun to ice with fanning in his face with a peacock’s feather. You’ll never trust his word after! come, ’tis a foolish saying.

K. Hen. Your reproof is something too round: I should be angry with you if the time were convenient.

Will. Let it be a quarrel between us, if you live.

K. Hen. I embrace it.


204. a private] a omitted F 3, 4.

193. ’Tis certain] Capell proposed to give this speech, as unsuitable to the stubbornness of the characters of Williams and Bates, to Court, of whom “we see nothing in what editions have given him; who bring him in unaccountably only to ask a question about the morning, and then shut up his mouth. . . . At all events, [it] should be taken from Williams (being too flat a contradiction to character, and to what he said last), and, if you will, join’d to Bates’s.” This seems reasonable enough; it might indeed be replied that Williams has been led to modify his views by the king’s speech; but if so, his pessimistic humour shows itself again immediately in what he next says.

Will. How shall I know thee again?
K. Hen. Give me any gage of thine, and I will wear it in my bonnet: then, if ever thou darest acknowledge it, I will make it my quarrel.
Will. Here's my glove: give me another of thine.

K. Hen. There. Will. This will I also wear in my cap: if ever thou come to me and say after to-morrow, "This is my glove," by this hand I will take thee a box on the ear.
K. Hen. If ever I live to see it, I will challenge it.
Will. Thou darest as well be hanged.

K. Hen. Well, I will do it, though I take thee in the king's company.
Will. Keep thy word: fare thee well.

Bates. Be friends, you English fools, be friends: we have French quarrels enow, if you could tell how to reckon.

K. Hen. Indeed, the French may lay twenty French crowns to one, they will beat us; for they bear them on their shoulders: but it is no English treason to cut French crowns, and to-morrow the king himself will be a clipper. [Exeunt Soldiers.]

Upon the king! let us our lives, our souls, our Debts, our carefull Wives, Our Children, and our Sinnes, lay on the King:
We must beare all.

O hard Condition, Twin-borne with Greatnesse,
Subject to the breath of euery foole, whose sence
No more can feele, but his owne wringing,
What infinite hearts-ease must Kings neglect,
That priuate men enjoy?"
Our debts, our careful wives,
Our children, and our sins lay on the king!
We must bear all. O hard condition!
Twin-born with greatness, subject to the breath
Of every fool, whose sense no more can feel
But his own wringing. What infinite heart's ease
Must kings neglect that private men enjoy!
And what have kings that privates have not too,
Save ceremony, save general ceremony?
And what art thou, thou idol ceremony?
What kind of god art thou, that suffer'st more
Of mortal griefs than do thy worshippers?
What are thy rents? what are thy comings-in?
O ceremony, show me but thy worth!
What is thy soul of adoration?
Art thou aught else but place, degree, and form,
Creating awe and fear in other men?
Wherein thou art less happy, being fear'd,
Than they in fearing.
What drink'st thou oft, instead of homage sweet,
But poison'd flattery? O! be sick, great greatness,
And bid thy ceremony give thee cure.
Think'st thou the fiery fever will go out
With titles blown from adulation?

239. We] F 1, 2; He F 3, 4. 251. What is ... adoration?] Knight;
252. aught] Theobald; ought F. 259. Think'st] Rowe; Thinks F.
237. careful] full of cares, anxious.
251. thy soul of adoration] transposition for "the soul of thy adoration," i.e. the essence or secret of the adoration paid to thee. So Julius Caesar, 11. i. 256:

"Make me acquainted with your cause of grief," i.e. the cause of your grief.
259, 260. Think'st ... adulation] "The imagery is that of adulation with titles, which are the breath of his
Will it give place to flexure and low-bending?
Canst thou, when thou command'st the beggar's knee,
Command the health of it? No, thou proud dream,
That play'st so subtly with a king's repose;
I am a king that find thee; and I know
'Tis not the balm, the sceptre and the ball,
The sword, the mace, the crown imperial,
The farced title running 'fore the king,
The throne he sits on, nor the tide of pomp
That beats upon the high shore of this world,
No, not all these, thrice-gorgeous ceremony,
Not all these, laid in bed majestical,
Can sleep so soundly as the wretched slave,
Who with a body fill'd and vacant mind
Gets him to rest, cram'm'd with distressful bread;
Never sees horrid night, the child of hell,
But, like a lackey, from the rise to set
Sweats in the eye of Phoebus, and all night
Sleeps in Elysium; next day after dawn,
Doth rise and help Hyperion to his horse,
And follows so the ever-running year
With profitable labour to his grave:


lips, vainly puffing at the strong fire
of a fever, as if it were a mere candle
flame, which a breath can extinguish”
(Vaughan).
266. farced] stuffed, filled out with
pompous phrases.
276. distressful] not, of course,
“causing distress,” as in 1 Henry VI.
v. iv. 126, “distressful war”; but
“earned by distress,” i.e. hard work.
278. lackey] Mr. Craig writes: “a
lackey was one who ran before the
coaches of great people to announce
their coming; they were often Irish-
men.”
280, 281. next day... horse]
“Does the poetry of the world contain
language of more felicitous daring than
[these lines]—words in which homeli-
ness and sublimity kiss each other?”
(Vaughan).
And, but for ceremony, such a wretch,
Winding up days with toil and nights with sleep, 285
Had the fore-hand and vantage of a king.
The slave, a member of the country's peace,
Enjoys it; but in gross brain little wots
What watch the king keeps to maintain the peace,
Whose hours the peasant best advantages. 290

Enter Erpingham.

Erp. My lord, your nobles, jealous of your absence,
Seek through your camp to find you.

K. Hen. Good old knight,
Collect them all together at my tent:
I'll be before thee.

Erp. I shall do't, my lord. [Exit.

K. Hen. O God of battles! steel my soldiers' hearts; 295
Possess them not with fear; take from them now
The sense of reckoning, if the opposed numbers
Pluck their hearts from them. Not to-day, O Lord!
O! not to-day, think not upon the fault
My father made in compassing the crown. 300
I Richard's body have interred new,
And on it have bestow'd more contrite tears

297, 298. reckoning, if ... Pluck] Steevens (1778) from Tyrwhitt's conjecture; reckning of th' opposed numbers: Pluck F; reck'ning; lest th' opposed numbers Pluck Theobald.

290. Whose ... advantages] the hours of which the peasant employs to the best advantage, by means of the "profitable labour" of line 257. For this use of the verb advantage, compare Richard III. iv. iv. 323:
"Advantaging their loan with interest."
This is much more natural than the usual interpretation which originated with Steevens; according to this, "hours" is the subject and "peasant" the object of the verb.

297. if the opposed] Tyrwhitt suggests that his reading, as compared with Theobald's, has the merit "of producing a given effect with the least possible force."
Than from it issued forced drops of blood.
Five hundred poor I have in yearly pay,
Who twice a day their wither'd hands hold up
Toward heaven, to pardon blood; and I have built
Two chantries, where the sad and solemn priests
Sing still for Richard's soul. More will I do;
Though all that I can do is nothing worth,
Since that my penitence comes after all,
Imploring pardon.

Enter Gloucester.

Glou. My liege!

K. Hen. My brother Gloucester's voice! Ay;
I know thy errand, I will go with thee:
The day, my friends, and all things stay for me.

[Exeunt]

SCENE II.—The French Camp.

Enter the Dauphin, Orleans, Rambures, and others.

Orl. The sun doth gild our armour; up, my lords!

Dau. Montez à cheval! My horse! valet! lacquais! ha!

314. [friends] Q, Theobald; friend F.

Scene II.

The French Camp] Theobald. and others] Capell; and Beaumont F. 1. armour; up,] armour, up F 2, 3; Armour vp, F 1. 2. Montez â] Steevens from Capell's conjecture; Monte F. valet] F 2, 3, 4; Verlot F 1; varlet Dyce.

307. Two chantries] "The charter-house of monkes called Shene, [and] the house of close nunnes called Syon" (Fabyan's Chronicle (ed. Ellis), p. 589). Aldis Wright quotes the passage at length, at the same time pointing out that, according to "the charters of foundation of the two religious houses of Bethlehem at Shene and of Sion on the opposite side of the river, Henry did not establish them that masses might be sung for the repose of Richard's soul."

Scene II.

2-6. Montez . . . Orleans] Aldis Wright observes: "If anyone should find a meaning in these ejaculations,
Orl. O brave spirit!
Dau. Via! les eaux et la terre!
Orl. Rien puis? l'air et le feu!
Dau. Ciel! cousin Orleans.

_Enter Constable._

Now, my lord constable!
Con. Hark, how our steeds for present service neigh!
Dau. Mount them, and make incision in their hides,
That their hot blood may spin in English eyes,
And doute them with superfluous courage, ha!

_Ram._ What! will you have them weep our horses' blood?
How shall we then behold their natural tears?

_Enter Messenger._

Mess. The English are embattail'd, you French peers.
Con. To horse, you gallant princes! straight to horse!
Do but behold yon poor and starved band,
And your fair show shall suck away their souls,
Leaving them but the shales and husks of men.
There is not work enough for all our hands;
Scarce blood enough in all their sickly veins

he will probably discover more than
Shakespeare intended, if indeed he
wrote the lines at all. The actor who
took the part of the Dauphin proba-
ably had a smattering of French and
was supposed to represent the typical
Frenchman." Rann (1786) had found
a meaning as follows:—"The Daup
phin on the sight of his horse, is
here supposed rapturously to exclaim,

' See how high he bounds above the
waters and the earth! ' 'Well,' replies
Orleans, 'but what think you of the
air and the fire?' 'Why, cousin
Orleans,' continues the Dauphin, 'he
will not only surmount them, but the
heavens also upon occasion.' " Malone
ventured another interpretation, but
the reader has probably had enough.
To give each naked curtle-axe a stain,
That our French gallants shall to-day draw out,
And sheathe for lack of sport: let us but blow on them,
The vapour of our valour will o'erturn them.
'Tis positive 'gainst all exceptions, lords,
That our superfluous lackeys and our peasants,
Who in unnecessary action swarm
About our squares of battle, were enow
To purge this field of such a hilding foe,
Though we upon this mountain's basis by
Took stand for idle speculation:
But that our honours must not. What's to say?
A very little little let us do,
And all is done. Then let the trumpets sound
The tucket sonance and the note to mount:
For our approach shall so much dare the field
That England shall cough down in fear, and yield.

25. 'gainst] F 2; against F 1. 35. sonance] Johnson; Sonuance F.

27. unnecessary action] useless activity.
29. hilding] sorry, worthless; generally used by Shakespeare as a substantive.
35. tucket sonance] See III. vi. 118. The Folio reading is clearly a mistake for "sonance," sound.
36, 37. For our . . . yield] The imagery is from lark-catching, as in Henry VIII. iii. ii. 279-282:
"If we live thus tamely,
To be thus jaded by a piece of scarlet,
Farewell nobility; let his grace go forward,
And dare us with his cap like larks."

"Dare" in this sense (M.E. darien) is quite a distinct word from "dare," to venture (O.E. durran); see New Eng. Dict. for details. Used intransitively, it means to stare like one stupefied or fascinated; thus Skelton (1526), Magnyf. 1338, "I have an hoby can make larkys to dare"; and transitively to daze, fascinate; e.g. Cranmer, Works, i. 107: "Like unto men that dare larks, which hold up an hoby, that the larks' eyes being ever upon the hoby, should not see the net that is laid on their heads." This was one method of daring; another is thus described by Harting, Ornithology of Shakespeare, p. 136: "Formerly a curious method of taking larks was practised by means of small pieces of looking-glass and red cloth."
Enter Grandpré.

Grand. Why do you stay so long, my lords of France?
Yon island carrions, desperate of their bones,
Ill-favour'dly become the morning field:
Their ragged curtains poorly are let loose,
And our air shakes them passing scornfully:
Big Mars seems bankrupt in their beggar'd host,
And faintly through a rusty beaver peeps:
The horsemen sit like fixed candlesticks,
With torch-staves in their hand; and their poor jades
Lob down their heads, dropping the hides and hips,
The gum down-roping from their pale-dead eyes,
And in their pale dull mouths the gimmal’d bit.

43. bankrupt] Rowe; banqu'roux F. 47. hides] sides Vaughan conj.
44. gimmal’d] Delius, 1872; lymold F; gimmal Johnson.

These were made to move at a little distance from the Fowler by means of a string, and when the birds, impelled by curiosity, came within range, they were taken in a net.” This is the method referred to in the passage from Henry VIII., the cardinal’s biretta being of scarlet cloth. Yarrell suggests that the bits of revolving looking-glass are perhaps mistaken by the birds for the gleam of running water. “Scores of larks,” he writes, “are attracted in this way during the ‘flight,’ and uselessly shot” (British Birds (ed. 1874), i. 620).

41. Their... curtains] their colours, as Monck Mason remarks.
42. beaver] properly the lower part of the face-guard of a helmet, from the O.F. baviere, a child’s bib, but often, as here, not distinguished from the visor, or upper part; in this case it could be pushed up over the top of the helmet, and drawn down at pleasure.

45, 46. The... hand] Steevens quotes Webster, White Devil (ed. Dyce, 1857, p. 19): “I saw him at last tilting: he showed like a pewter candlestick, fashioned like a man in armour, holding a tilting-staff in his hand, little bigger than a candle of twelve i’ the pound.” He also gives a “representation of one of these candlesticks, now in possession of Francis Douce, Esq.” It is a figure in armour with outstretched arms and a candle socket in each hand.

47. Lob] The word survives dialectically. In Northampton and Suffolk a tired or heavy-headed horse would be said to “lob as hid,” i.e. hang down his head. See the Dialect Dictionary.

49. gimmal’d] The New Eng. Dict. defines the word, “made with gimmals or joints; consisting of two similar parts hinged
KING HENRY THE FIFTH

Lies foul with chaw’d grass, still and motionless; 50
And their executors, the knavish crows,
Fly o’er them, all impatient for their hour.
Description cannot suit itself in words
To demonstrate the life of such a battle
In life so lifeless as it shows itself. 55

Con. They have said their prayers, and they stay for death.
Dau. Shall we go send them dinners and fresh suits,
And give their fasting horses provender,
And after fight with them?

Con. I stay but for my guard. On to the field! 60

50. chaw’d grass] F 2; chaw’d-grasse F 1; chew’d grass Johnson. still] stiff
Vaughan conj. 52. them, all] Rowe; them all, F. 55. lifeless] Capell;

together," and quotes another example of
its use from Edward III. (1596), i.
ii. 26–29:
"And never shall our bonny riders
rest ...
Nor lay aside their Iacks of Gy-
mould mayle."
Capell had reprinted Edward III. in
his Prolusions (1760), and this example
did not, of course, escape Steevens, but
he kept to Johnson’s reading neverthe-
less.

50. still and motionless] Vaughan characterises this as "mere verbiage,"
and in support of his conjecture "stiff"
appeals to "the nature of the gimbal bit,
consisting of rings or links, which,
unless fouled with rust or some other
hindrance, played freely and constituted
a flexible instrument—just the opposite
of ‘stiff.’" Surely this is over-refining.

51. their executors] Johnson’s note is:
"The crows who are to have the dis-
posal of what they shall leave, their
hides and their flesh." On this Aldis
Wright remarks: "This is scarcely the
legal definition of an executor. Per-
haps it was in accordance with Shake-
speare’s experience." We need not,
however, tie Shakespeare down to the
legal definition. Topsell—History of
Four-footed Beasts (1607), ed. 1673,
177—may be allowed the same lati-
tude: "He destroyeth them ... and
so maketh himself executor to their
heaps of hony."

60. guard. On] The Folio reading
gives a satisfactory sense, and I there-
fore retain it. The Constable is waiting
for his bodyguard, among whom was
his standard-bearer, but these men not
coming up in time, he snatches a
banner from a trumpeter, and makes it
serve instead of his proper ensign.
This is substantially Malone’s inter-
pretation, and squares well enough with
the parallel passage in Holinshed (p.
189), a passage also quoted in support
of the rival reading;—it will be ob-
erved that Shakespeare has substituted
the Constable for the Duke of Brabant:
"They [the French] thought themselves
so sure of victorie, that diverse of the
noble men made such hast towards the
battell, that they left manie of their
servants and men of warre behind them,
and some of them would not once stale
for their standards; as, amongst others,
the Duke of Brabant, when his standard
was not come, caused a baner to be
I will the banner from a trumpet take,
And use it for my haste. Come, come, away!
The sun is high, and we outwear the day.  [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—The English camp.

Enter Gloucester, Bedford, Exeter, Erpingham, with all his host; Salisbury, and Westmoreland.

Glou. Where is the king?
Bed. The king himself is rode to view their battle.
West. Of fighting men they have full threescore thousand.
Exe. There's five to one; besides, they all are fresh.
Sal. God's arm strike with us! 'tis a fearful odds.

God be wi' you, princes all; I'll to my charge:
If we no more meet till we meet in heaven,
Then, joyfully, my noble Lord of Bedford,
My dear Lord Gloucester, and my good Lord Exeter,
And my kind kinsman, warriors all, adieu!

Bed. Farewell, good Salisbury; and good luck go with thee!

The English camp] Theobald.  6. be wi?] Rowe; buy' F.

taken from a trumpet and fastened to a spear; the which he commanded to be borne before him in stead of his standard." The anonymous conjecture "guidon" ("I stay but for my guidon: to the field!") is recorded in the Rev. Joseph Rann's edition (Oxford, 1786-94), and was adopted by the Cambridge editors. Knight, Dyce, and others also adopted it, but attributed it to Dr. Thackeray, Provost of King's, who probably made it independently. A guidon is a pennon broad at the end of the staff, and forked or pointed at the other, and therefore to be distinguished from the more imposing standard—the ensign for which, according to Holinshed, the Duke of Brabant [Constable] was waiting, and which the hastily substituted "banner" taken from a trumpet would resemble, in so far as it would be square and not triangular.

61. banner from a trumpet] banner must here be used for banderole, the little fringed flag that hangs from a trumpet. It is not necessary with Schmidt and Aldis Wright to take "trumpet" here as = "trumpeter."

Scene III.

10. my kind kinsman] Westmoreland's younger son had married Salisbury's daughter.
Exe. Farewell, kind lord. Fight valiantly to-day:
   And yet I do thee wrong to mind thee of it,
   For thou art fram'd of the firm truth of valour.

[Exit Salisbury.

Bed. He is as full of valour as of kindness;
   Princely in both.

Enter the King.

West. O! that we now had here
   But one ten thousand of those men in England
   That do no work to-day.

K. Hen. What's he that wishes so?
   My cousin Westmoreland? No, my fair cousin:
   If we are mark'd to die, we are enow
   To do our country loss; and if to live,
   The fewer men, the greater share of honour.
   God's will! I pray thee, wish not one man more.

By Jove, I am not covetous for gold,


13, 14. *And yet . . . valour*] "The ingenious Dr. Thirlby's" emendation, as Theobald remarked, is supported by the corresponding passage in the Quartos:

"Farewell kind Lord, fight valiantly to-day,
   And yet in truth, I do thee wrong,
   For thou art made on the true sparkes of honour."

16-18. *O! that we now . . . to-day*] This wish was really uttered by Sir Walter Hungerford, who was at Agincourt with a train of seventeen lances and fifty-five archers. The King's chaplain, who was present, records the circumstance as follows in his *Henrici Quinti Gesta*:

"Et inter caetera quae tunc dieta notavi, quidam dominus Walterus Hungryford miles impræcabatur ad faciem regis quod habuisset ad illam paucam familiam quam ibi habuit, decem millia de melioribus sagittariis Angliae, qui secum desiderarent esse. Cui rex, . . . nollem habere eti possem plures per unum quam habeo."

24. *By Jove*] Johnson's note is, "The King prays like a Christian and swears like a heathen"; but "Jove" is probably an alteration of some such word as "Heaven" (see critical note) made by the editors of the Folio in consequence of the Act of 3 James 1. (1605) against profanity on the stage.
Nor care I who doth feed upon my cost; 25
It yearns me not if men my garments wear;
Such outward things dwell not in my desires:
But if it be a sin to covet honour,
I am the most offending soul alive.
No, faith, my coz, wish not a man from England: 30
God's peace! I would not lose so great an honour
As one man more, methinks, would share from me,
For the best hope I have. O! do not wish one more:
Rather proclaim it, Westmoreland, through my host,
That he which hath no stomach to this fight, 35
Let him depart; his passport shall be made,
And crowns for convoy put into his purse:
We would not die in that man's company
That fears his fellowship to die with us.
This day is call'd the feast of Crispian:
He that outlives this day, and comes safe home, 40
Will stand a tip-toe when this day is nam'd,
And rouse him at the name of Crispian.
He that shall live this day, and see old age,
Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbours, 45
And say "To-morrow is Saint Crispian":
Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars,
And say "These wounds I had on Crispin's day."
Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot,
But he'll remember with advantages 50

38. die] live Hudson from Coleridge's conj. 44. shall live . . . and see] Pope; shall see . . . and live F. 48. And . . . day] Q, Malone; omitted F. 49, 50. be forgot, But] Q, Malone; be forgot: But F.

26. yearns] grieves, spelt "yernes" 50. with advantages] interest; all in the Folio here; see II. iii. 3, where that took place, and probably more the Folio spells "erne."
What feats he did that day. Then shall our names, 
Familiar in his mouth as household words, 
Harry the king, Bedford and Exeter, 
Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloucester, 
Be in their flowing cups freshly remember'd. 
This story shall the good man teach his son; 
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by, 
From this day to the ending of the world, 
But we in it shall be remembered; 
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; 
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me 
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile 
This day shall gentle his condition: 
And gentlemen in England now a-bed 
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here, 
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks 
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

Re-enter Salisbury.

Sal. My sovereign lord, bestow yourself with speed: 
The French are bravely in their battles set, 
And will with all expedition charge on us.

K. Hen. All things are ready, if our minds be so.

West. Perish the man whose mind is backward now!

52. his mouth] their mouthes Q, Malone. 
57. Crispin Crispian] Crispinus and 
his brother Crispianus, the patron saints 
of shoemakers, fled from Rome to 
Soissons in the time of Diocletian. 
They supported themselves by shoe- 
making, and suffered martyrdom in 
287 by being thrown into a caldron of 
boiling lead. They are commemorated 
on October 25th.

63. This day . . . condition] Sir 
Harris Nicolas, Agincourt, p. cccci, 
says: "When the King upon the occa-
sion of another expedition in 1417 
found it necessary to restrain the 
assumption of coats of arms, he 
specially excepted such as had borne 
them at Agincourt."
K. Hen. Thou dost not wish more help from England, coz? West. God's will! my liege, would you and I alone,
Without more help, could fight this royal battle! 75
K. Hen. Why, now thou hast unwish'd five thousand men;
Which likes me better than to wish us one.
You know your places: God be with you all!

Tucket. Enter Montjoy.

Mont. Once more I come to know of thee, King Harry,
If for thy ransom thou wilt now compound,
Before thy most assured overthrow:
For certainly thou art so near the gulf
Thou needs must be englutted. Besides, in mercy,
The constable desires thee thou wilt mind
Thy followers of repentance; that their souls
May make a peaceful and a sweet retire
From off these fields, where, wretches, their poor bodies
Must lie and fester.
K. Hen. Who hath sent thee now?
Mont. The Constable of France.
K. Hen. I pray thee, bear my former answer back:
Bid them achieve me and then sell my bones.
Good God! why should they mock poor fellows thus?
The man that once did sell the lion's skin

75. could fight this royal battle] might fight this battle out Q, Capell.

76. five thousand men] according to Holinshed, p. 189, the English army consisted of 15,000 men, horse and foot; but as Johnson says, "Shakespeare never thinks of such trifles as numbers."

91. achieve me] bring me to my end, slay me. New Eng. Dict. quotes Lord Berner's Boke of M. Aurelius (1534) B (ed. 1546), "All these thynges tyme acheveth and burieth."
While the beast liv'd, was kill'd with hunting him.
A many of our bodies shall no doubt
Find native graves; upon the which, I trust,
Shall witness live in brass of this day's work;
And those that leave their valiant bones in France,
Dying like men, though buried in your dunghills,
They shall be fam'd; for there the sun shall greet them,
And draw their honours reeking up to heaven,
Leaving their earthly parts to choke your clime,
The smell whereof shall breed a plague in France.
Mark then abounding valour in our English,
That being dead, like to the bullet's grazing,
Break out into a second course of mischief,
Killing in relapse of mortality.
Let me speak proudly: tell the constable
We are but warriors for the working-day;
Our gayness and our gilt are all besmirk'd
With rainy marching in the painful field;
There's not a piece of feather in our host—
Good argument, I hope, we will not fly—

104. abounding] abundant Q; a bounding Theobald.
105. bullet's] Hanmer; bullets F, grazing] Theobald (ed. 2); grazing F 2; erasing F 1.
113. will] shall Q, Capell.

104. abounding] The Folio reading was restored by Malone. Theobald explains his conjecture a bounding "as comparing the Revival of the English Valour to the rebounding of a Cannon-ball." Boswell-Stone remarks, "the 'abounding,' i.e. the superfluous valour of the English is the cause of their 'killing in relapse of mortality.'"

105. grazing] glancing off either from the first man it hits or from the ground. Compare Fuller, *Holy and Profane State*, v. i. 344 (ed. 1652): "But as those bullets which graze on the ground do most mischief to an army; so she hurts most with those glances which are shot from a down-cast eye."

107. relapse of mortality] a deadly rebound. Steevens, without any authority, hazarded the guess that *relapse* here might = *rebound*, and then the words would mean a deadly rebound. But more probably the word is used in its ordinary sense of falling back, and the expression signifies that the bodies fall back into their elements, decompose in fact.
And time hath worn us into slovenry:
But, by the mass, our hearts are in the trim;
And my poor soldiers tell me, yet ere night
They 'll be in fresher robes, or they will pluck
The gay new coats o'er the French soldiers' heads,
And turn them out of service. If they do this,
As, if God please, they shall, my ransom then
Will soon be levied. Herald, save thou thy labour;
Come thou no more for ransom, gentle herald:
They shall have none, I swear, but these my joints;
Which if they have as I will leave 'em them,
Shall yield them little, tell the constable.

Mont. I shall, King Harry. And so fare thee well:
Thou never shalt hear herald any more. [Exit.

K. Hen. I fear thou wilt once more come again for a ransom.

Enter York.

York. My lord, most humbly on my knee I beg
The leading of the vaward.

124. leave 'em them,] leave 'em, they Vaughan conj.; 'em] Rowe; vm F 1, 2, 3;
'tem F 4. 128. thou wilt . . . for a ransom] thou'lt . . . for ransom Theobald.
125. come again] common Vaughan conj.

117. or they will] Hamner robbed the line of its point by substituting "for" for "or."
128. I fear . . . ransom] Theobald's alteration is supported by Aldis Wright on the ground that all Henry's speeches in this scene are in verse. But how much more dramatic is it that, Montjoy having departed and the tension of the interview relaxed, the King should fall back into the language of everyday life, and pronounce these words, with measured irony, as if thinking aloud, "I fear thou wilt—once more—come again—for—a ransom!"
128. come again] Vaughan in support of his conjecture refers to Holinshed, p. 191: "Here we may not forget how the French, thus in their insolite, sent a herald to King Henrie, to inquire what ransom he would offer. Whereunto he answered, that within two or three houres he hoped it would so happen, that the Frenchmen should be glad to common rather with the Englishmen for their ransoms, than the English to take thought for their deliverance; promising for his owne part, that his dead carcasse should rather be a prize to the Frenchmen, than that his living bodie should paie anie ransom."
130. vaward] vanguard.
K. Hen. Take it, brave York. Now, soldiers, march away:
And how thou pleasest, God, dispose the day!

[Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—The Field of Battle.

Alarums. Excursions. Enter Pistol, French Soldier,
and Boy.

Pist. Yield, cur!
Fr. Sold. Je pense que vous estes gentilhomme de
bonne qualité.
Pist. Qualtitie calmie custure me! Art thou a gentleman?
What is thy name? discuss.
Fr. Sold. O Seigneur Dieu!
Pist. O, Signieur Dew should be a gentleman:
Perpend my words, O Signieur Dew, and mark:
O Signieur Dew, thou diest on point of fox,


Scene iv.] Here again it is not worth
while to record all the corrections
of the Folio's French; see III. iv. note.
4. Qualtitie . . . me! ] I leave these
words as they stand in the Folio; the
French of the Folio in this play may
best be described as a hash, and this is
Pistol's re-hash. He catches at the
last word uttered by his prisoner, and
makes what capital he can out of it.
For him his gabble had no further
meaning, but nevertheless his editors
have not been discouraged from
attempting to endow his purposes with
words. They may be divided into two
camps: (1) those who, following War-
burton, take "custure me" to be a
corruption of "construe me"; (2) those
who follow the lead of Malone and
treat the words "calmie custure me"
as the burden of an old song, whether
they print "Calen o custure me," or
"Callino, castore me"! The former
is the name of a tune to which a
"Sonet of a Lover," in Robinson's
Handful of Pleasant Delight's (1584), p.
33, ed. Arber, is to be sung, the latter
an Irish song preserved in Playford's
Musical Companion (1673). Pistol,
however, does not seem to be in any
mood for music; if the foreign jargon,
as he deems it, does haply recall to
him the burden of some tavern ditty,
he has no time to waste in humming
or singing it,—no, he flings out the
words with truculent impatience; his
sole idea is to be fingering the brave
French crowns with the least possible
delay.
5. fox] This word for a sword is well
THE LIFE OF

Except, O signieur, thou do give to me
Egregious ransom.

Fr. Sold. O, prenez misericorde! ayez pitié de moy!
Pist. Moy shall not serve; I will have forty moys;
Or I will fetch thy rim out at thy throat
In drops of crimson blood.

Fr. Sold. Est il impossible d’eschapper la force de
ton bras?
Pist. Brass, cur!
Thou damned and luxurious mountain goat,
Offer’st me brass?

Fr. Sold. O pardonnez moy!
Pist. Say’st thou me so? is that a ton of moys?
Come hither, boy: ask me this slave in French
What is his name.

Boy. Escoutez: comment estes vous appelé?

Fr. Sold. Monsieur le Fer.

Boy. He says his name is Master Fer.
Pist. Master Fer! I’ll fer him, and firk him, and
ferret him. Discuss the same in French unto him.

M. F 1, 2, 3; Mr. F 4.

known to readers of the Elizabethan
drama. It has been conjectured that the
figure of a wolf on certain sword blades
was mistaken for a fox—but this guess
must be taken for what it is worth.
13. May] What coin is intended has
not been discovered.
14. rim] the midriff or diaphragm.
But Nares justly remarks: “Pistol,
with a very vague notion of the ana-
tomical meaning of ‘rymme’ [so spelt in
F 1], seems to use it in a general way
for any part of the intestines.”
28. Master Fer! I’ll fer him] We
have a similar piece of jocularity in
Coriolanus, ii. i. 144:

"Men. Has he disciplined Aufidius
soundly?

Vol. Titus Lartius writes, they fought
together, but Aufidius got off.

Men. And ’twas time for him too,
I’ll warrant him that: an he had
stayed by him, I would not have
been so fidused for all the chests
in Corioli.”

29. ferret] worry like a ferret. For
the combination of "ferret" and
"firk" compare Dekker, Northwara
Ho, vol. iii. p. 64, ed. 1873, “weele
ferret them and firk them, in-faith.”
Probably, a cant phrase of the day.
Boy. I do not know the French for fer, and ferret, and
firk.

Pist. Bid him prepare, for I will cut his throat.

Fr. Sold. Que dit-il, monsieur?

Boy. Il me commande à vous dire que vous faites vous
prêt; car ce soldat icy est disposé tout à cette
heure de couper vostre gorge.

Pist. Owy, cuppele gorge, permafoy,
Peasant, unless thou give me crowns, brave crowns;
Or mangled shalt thou be by this my sword.

Fr. Sold. O! je vous supplie pour l’amour de Dieu,
me pardonner. Je suis gentilhomme de bonne
maison: gardez ma vie, et je vous donneray deux
cents escus.

Pist. What are his words?

Boy. He prays you to save his life: he is a gentleman
of a good house; and for his ransom he will give
you two hundred crowns.

Pist. Tell him my fury shall abate, and I
The crowns will take.

Fr. Sold. Petit monsieur, que dit-il?

Boy. Encore qu’il est contre son jurement de pardonner
aucun prisonnier; neant-moins, pour les escus que
vous l’avez promis, il est content de vous donner
la liberté, le franchisement.

Fr. Sold. Sur mes genoux je vous donne mille remer-
ciements; et je m’estime heureux que je suis tombé
entre les mains d’un chevalier, je pense, le plus

34. à] de F 2. 35, 36. à cette heure] Rowe; asture F. 41. suis] F 2;
suis le F 1. 42. gardez] Theobald; garde F. 53. l’avez promis] Malone;
layt a promets F; luy promettez F 2. 56. suis tombé] Rowe; in tombe F.
57. mains] F 2; main. F 1.
brave, vaillant, et très-distingué seigneur d'Angleterre.

Pist. Expound unto me, boy.

Boy. He gives you, upon his knees, a thousand thanks; and he esteems himself happy that he hath fallen into the hands of one, as he thinks, the most brave, valorous, and thrice-worthy signieur of England.

Pist. As I suck blood, I will some mercy show. Follow me!

Boy. Suivez vous le grand capitaine.

[Exeunt Pistol and French Soldier.]

I did never know so full a voice issue from so empty a heart: but the saying is true, "The empty vessel makes the greatest sound." Bardolph and Nym had ten times more valour than this roaring devil i' the old play, that every one may pare his nails with a wooden dagger; and they are both hanged; and so would this be if he durst steal any thing adventurously. I must stay with the lackeys, with the luggage of our camp: the French might have a good prey of us hands of the Vice. . . . The Vice, like the fool, was often furnished with a dagger of lath" (Collier, History of English Dramatic Poetry, ed. 1879, vol. ii. pp. 187–192). In a note to the Clown's song, Twelfth Night, iv. ii., Malone explains that the devil was supposed to keep his nails unpared from choice, and therefore to pare them was an affront.


73, 74. this roaring . . . dagger] "The Devil was no doubt imported into Moral-plays from the old Miracle-plays, . . . he was rendered as hideous as possible by the mask and dress he wore; . . . his ordinary exclamation on entering was, 'Ho, ho, ho!' and on all occasions he was prone to roaring and crying out, especially when, for the amusement of the spectators, he was provoked to it by castigation at the
if he knew of it; for there is none to guard it but boys.  

[Exit. 80

SCENE V.—Another Part of the Field.

Enter Constable, Orleans, Bourbon, Dauphin, and Rambures.

Con. O diable!  
Orl. O seigneur! le jour est perdu! tout est perdu!  
Dau. Mort de ma vie! all is confounded, all!  
Reproach and everlasting shame  
Sits mocking in our plumes. O meschante fortune!  5  
Do not run away.  

[Short alarum.

Con. Why, all our ranks are broke.

Dau. O perdurable shame! let's stab ourselves.

Be these the wretches that we play'd at dice for?

Orl. Is this the king we sent to for his ransom?

Bour. Shame, and eternal shame, nothing but shame! 10  
Let us die in honour: once more back again;  
And he that will not follow Bourbon now,  
Let him go hence, and with his cap in hand,

Another . . .] Theobald.  2. perdu . . perdie]  Rowe; perdia . . perdie F.  3. de]  Rowe; Dieu F; du Q.  4. Reproach and] Reproach, reproach and Capell; Reproach, contempt and S. Walker conj. ; Reproach and shame—an Vaughan conj.  6. away] new Vaughan conj.  11. Let us die
in honour: once] Cambridge editors; Let's die in honour: once Knight; Lets dye with honour Q; Let us dye in once F1; Let us fye in once F 2, 3, 4; Let us dye, instant—once Theobald; Let us die in—once Keightley; Let us die in it: once Vaughan conj.

80. Exit[ to appear no more; for in Scene vii. line 5, Gower reports that "'Tis certain there's not a boy left alive."

Scene v.

11, in honour] In support of his conjecture "in it" (i.e. in our shame) Vaughan urges that "there was no longer any question of gaining, or 'dying in,' honour. The only course now for the brave and proud was not to survive their shame."
Like a base pandar, hold the chamber-door
Whilst by a slave, no gentler than my dog,
His fairest daughter is contaminated.

Con. Disorder, that hath spoil'd us, friend us now!
Let us on heaps go offer up our lives.

Orl. We are enow yet living in the field
To smother up the English in our throngs,
If any order might be thought upon.

Bour. The devil take order now! I'll to the throng:
Let life be short, else shame will be too long.

[Exeunt.

SCENE VI.—Another Part of the Field.

Alarums. Enter King Henry and Forces; Exeter, and others.

K. Hen. Well have we done, thrice-valiant countrymen:
But all's not done; yet keep the French the field.

Exe. The Duke of York commends him to your majesty.

K. Hen. Lives he, good uncle? thrice within this hour
I saw him down; thrice up again and fighting;

15. by a slave] Q, Pope; a base slave F 1; by a base slave F 2, 3, 4.
Exeunt] Rowe; Exit F.

Scene vi.

Another ...] The same. Another Part of it Capell. Alarums] Capell; Alarum F. Enter . . .] Capell; Enter the King and his trayne, with Prisoners F.

18. our lives] Steevens added here from the Quarto the line:
"Unto these English, or else die with fame."

For "fame" Vaughan proposed to read "shame."
From helmet to the spur all blood he was.

Exe. In which array, brave soldier, doth he lie,
Larding the plain; and by his bloody side,
Yoke-fellow to his honour-owing wounds,
The noble Earl of Suffolk also lies.

Suffolk first died; and York, all haggled over,
Comes to him, where in gore he lay insteep'd,
And takes him by the beard, kisses the gashes that bloodily did yawn upon his face;
And cries aloud, "Tarry, dear cousin Suffolk!

My soul shall thine keep company to heaven;
Tarry, sweet soul, for mine, then fly abreast,
As in this glorious and well-foughten field
We kept together in our chivalry!"

Upon these words I came and cheer'd him up;
He smil'd me in the face, raught me his hand,
And, with a feeble gripe, says "Dear my lord,
Commend my service to my sovereign."

So did he turn, and over Suffolk's neck
He threw his wounded arm, and kiss'd his lips;

And so espous'd to death, with blood he seal'd
A testament of noble-ending love.
The pretty and sweet manner of it forc'd
Those waters from me which I would have stopp'd;

15. And] Q, Pope; He F. dear] Q, Steevens (1778); my F. 27. noble ending love] neuer ending love Q.

8. Larding] Steevens is undoubtedly right in understanding this as = fatten-ing; so in 1 Henry IV. ii. ii. 116, 117: "Falstaff sweats to death,
And lards the lean earth as he walks along."


11. haggled] hacked, mangled; from the northern "hag," to cut, hew. New Eng. Dict. quotes Capt. Smith, Virginia (1624), ed. 1629, 145, "They not only slew him and his family, but butcher-like hagled their bodies."
But I had not so much of man in me,
And all my mother came into mine eyes
And gave me up to tears.

For, hearing this, I must perforce compound
With mistfull eyes, or they will issue too.

But, hark! what new alarum is this same?
The French have reinforc'd their scatter'd men:
Then every soldier kill his prisoners!
Give the word through.

SCENE VII.—Another Part of the Field.

Enter Fluellen and Gower.

Flu. Kill the poys and the luggage! 'tis expressly against the law of arms: 'tis as arrant a piece of

is full of kindness, and I am yet so near the manners of my mother, that upon the least occasion more mine eyes will tell tales of me."

The Quarto's stage-direction at the beginning of this scene is "Enter the King and his Nobles, Pistol," and here at its close it preserves what was no doubt a bit of the stage business of the day,—Pistol as he quits the stage exclaims, "Couple gorge."

Scene VII.

1. luggage] In Scene iv. 76, above, the Boy says, "I must stay with the lackeys, with the luggage of our camp."
knavery, mark you now, as can be offer't; in your conscience now, is it not?

 Gow. 'Tis certain there's not a boy left alive; and the cowardly rascals that ran from the battle ha' done this slaughter: besides, they have burned and carried away all that was in the king's tent; wherefore the king most worthily hath caused every soldier to cut his prisoner's throat. O! 'tis a gallant king.

 Flu. Ay, he was born at Monmouth, Captain Gower. What call you the town's name where Alexander the Pig was born?

 Gow. Alexander the Great.

 Flu. Why, I pray you, is not pig great? the pig, or the great, or the mighty, or the huge, or the magnanimous, are all one reckonings, save the phrase is a little variations.

 Gow. I think Alexander the Great was born in Macedon: his father was called Philip of Macedon, as I take it.

 Flu. I think it is in Macedon where Alexander is born. I tell you, captain, if you look in the maps of the 'orld, I warrant you shall find, in the comparisons between Macedon and Monmouth, that the situations, look you, is both alike. There is a river in Macedon, and there is also moreover a river at Monmouth: it is called Wye at Monmouth; but it is out of my prains what is the name of the other river; but 'tis all one, 'tis alike as my fingers

3. offer't; in] Cambridge editors offer'd; in Capell; offert in F. 17. the great] misprinted the great in F 1; corrected in F 2.
is to my fingers, and there is salmons in both.

If you mark Alexander's life well, Harry of Mon-
mouth's life is come after it indifferent well; for
there is figures in all things. Alexander, God
knows, and you know, in his rages, and his furies,
and his wraths, and his cholors, and his moods,
and his displeasures, and his indignations, and
also being a little intoxicates in his prains, did,
in his ales and his angers, look you, kill his best
friend, Cleitus.

 Gow. Our king is not like him in that: he never killed
any of his friends.

 Flu. It is not well done, mark you now, to take the
tales out of my mouth, ere it is made and finished.
I speak but in the figures and comparisons of it:
as Alexander killed his friend Cleitus, being in his
ales and his cups, so also Harry Monmouth, being
in his right wits and his good judgments, turned
away the fat knight with the great-belly doublet:
he was full of jests, and gipes, and knaveries, and
mocks; I have forgot his name.

50. great-belly doublet] Wright; great belly doublet F; great-pelly doublet
Capell; great belly-doublet Theobald.

50. great-belly doublet] The lower part of the doublet was sometimes called
the "belly," and this might be either "great" or "thin." This appears from
Love's Labour's Lost, iii. 1. 19, where
the Folio has, "with your arms cross
on your thinbellie doublet" (Quarto,
"thinbellies doblet")—Armado's page
is describing how to perform a "French
brawl"; and also from Stubbes, Ana-
tomy of Abuses, p. 55, ed. 1879, "Their
dublettes are noe lesse monstrous than
the reste; For now the fashion is to have
them hang down to the middest of their
theighes, ... bbeing so harde-quilted,
and stuffed, bombasted and sewed, as
they can verie hardly eyther stoupe
downe, or decline them selves to the
grounde, soe styffe and sturdy they
stand about them. ... Certaine I am
there was never any kinde of apparell
ever invented that could more dispro-
portion the body of man then these
Dublets with great bellies ... stuffed
with four, five or six pound of Bombast
at the least." Capell was therefore right
in putting the hyphen after "great"
and not after "belly" as Theobald did.
Gow. Sir John Falstaff.

Flu. That is he. I'll tell you there is good men porn at Monmouth.

Gow. Here comes his majesty.

Alarum. Enter King Henry and Forces; Warwick, Gloucester, Exeter, and others.

K. Hen. I was not angry since I came to France

Until this instant. Take a trumpet, herald;
Ride thou unto the horsemen on yon hill:
If they will fight with us, bid them come down,
Or void the field; they do offend our sight.
If they 'll do neither, we will come to them,
And make them skirr away, as swift as stones
Enforced from the old Assyrian slings.

Besides, we 'll cut the throats of those we have,

56. Enter . . . J Capell; Enter King Harry and Burbon with prisoners.
Flourish F.  59. yon] Pope; yond F.

63, skirr] scurry. I am indebted to Mr. Craig for calling my attention to the fact that Byron revived this word, Siege of Corinth, 647:
"Mount ye, spur ye, skirr the plain," where, as in Macbeth, v. ii. 35, "skirr the country round," the verb is used transitively.

65. Besides . . . we have] Johnson remarks: "The King is in a very bloody disposition. He has already cut the throats of his prisoners, and threatens now to cut them again . . . There must be some dislocation of the scenes." But if we refer to Holinshed's account of these transactions, and attend to the stage-directions of the Folio, we shall see our way clear. In the first part of the battle the English put the French to flight, and took a great number of prisoners. This marks the opening of Act iv. Scene vi., where the stage-direction in the Folio is "Alarum.
Enter the King and his trayne, with Prisoners." The King says, lines 1, 2, "Well have we done . . . But all's not done; yet keep the French the field," and then, line 35, "But hark! what new alarum is this same? The French have reinforc'd their scatter'd men"; thereupon he gives the order to put the prisoners,—namely, those already taken,—to death. This "new alarum" had been caused by "certeine Frenchmen, . . . to the number of six hundred horsemen (which were the first that fled)," who, "hearing that the English tents and pavilions were a good waie distant from the armie, without anie sufficient gard to defend the same, either upon a covetous meaning to gaine by the spoile, or upon a desire to be revenged, entred upon the king's campe; and there spoiled the tents, broke up chests, and
And not a man of them that we shall take
Shall taste our mercy. Go and tell them so.

Enter Montjoy.

Exe. Here comes the herald of the French, my liege.

Glou. His eyes are humbler than they used to be.

K. Hen. How now! what means this, herald? know' st thou not

That I have fin'd these bones of mine for ransom?

Com' st thou again for ransom?

Mont. No, great king:

I come to thee for charitable license,

That we may wander o'er this bloody field

To book our dead, and then to bury them;

70. means this, herald] Steevens (1793); means this Herald F 1; meanses their herald F 2. 75. book] look Collier (ed. 2).

But in any case, Henry, "perceiving his enemies in one part to assemble together, as though they meant to give a new battell for preseruation of the prisoners, sent to them an herald" (Holinshead, p. 194) with the threat of line 65, "we'll cut the throats of those we have." Compare Scene viii. lines 79–81.

71. fin'd] promised to pay as a fine; see iv. iii. 91.

75. book] New Eng. Dict. quotes Udall, Translation of the Paraphrase of Erasmus (1548), Acts v. 14, "As for thother, whiche had not yet by baptisme booked them selves as souldiers, to fyght under the baner of Christs captyayne, none durst company with them." "Book" as a verb is also found in 2 Henry IV. iv. iii. 50, and in Sonnet exvii. 9. Collier's "look" is supported by Merry Wives, iv. ii. 79, "Mistress Page and I will look some linen for your head"; and As You Like It, ii. v. 34, "He hath

carried awaie caskets, and slue such servants as they found to make anie resistance" (Holinshead, p. 192). At the end of Scene vi., after giving the order for killing the prisoners exit king, to reappear in Scene vii. line 56, where the Folio's stage-direction is, "Alarum. Enter King Harry and Burbon with prisoners." In the interval therefore Henry had again engaged the French, and captured Burbon and a second batch of prisoners; and in fact we have only to turn back to Scene v. to find that at the end of that scene Burbon and his friends had rushed out with the intention of selling their lives as dearly as they could. Hence it appears that the words "those we have" in line 65 must refer to this second batch of prisoners, consisting of Burbon and his party. According to Holinshead, however (p. 193), the defeated party was another one, consisting of "the earles of Marle and Fauconbridge, and the lords of Louraie, and of Thine."
To sort our nobles from our common men;
For many of our princes—woe the while!—
Lie drown'd and soak'd in mercenary blood;
So do our vulgar drench their peasant limbs
In blood of princes; and their wounded steeds
Fret fetlock deep in gore, and with wild rage
Yerk out their armed heels at their dead masters,
Killing them twice. O! give us leave, great king,
To view the field in safety and dispose
Of their dead bodies.

K. Hen. I tell thee truly, herald,
I know not if the day be ours or no;
For yet a many of your horsemen peer
And gallop o'er the field.

Mont. The day is yours.
K. Hen. Praised be God, and not our strength, for it!
What is this castle call'd that stands hard by?

Mont. They call it Agincourt.
K. Hen. Then call we this the field of Agincourt,
Fought on the day of Crispin Crispianus.

Flu. Your grandfather of famous memory, an 't please

been all this day to look you”; but
the change is unnecessary. “It was the
herald’s duty,” writes Boswell-Stone,
“after a battle, to make lists of the
slain, in order that questions relating
to succession and the extinction of
titles might not afterwards arise.” See
lines 120–122, below.

82. Yerk] Compare North’s Plutarch,
ed. 1595, p. 719: “The horse was
found so rough and churlish that the
riders [trainers] said he would never do
service, for he would let no man get
upon his backe nor abide any of the
gentlemen’s voyces about King Philip,
but would yerke out at them.” The
word is used in Othello (1. ii. 5) of
stabbing, “I had thought to have yerk’d
him here under the ribs.”

83–85. O! give us leave . . . bodies] Compare Famous Victories, sc. xv.: “Herald. He hath sent me to desire
your Maiestie, to give him leave to go
into the field to view his poore country
men, that they may all be honourably
buried.”
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your majesty, and your great-uncle Edward the Plack Prince of Wales, as I have read in the chronicles, fought a most prave pattle here in France.

K. Hen. They did, Fluellen.

Flu. Your majesty says very true: if your majesties is remembered of it, the Welshmen did good service in a garden where leeks did grow, wearing leeks in their Monmouth caps; which, your majesty know, to this hour is an honourable badge of the service; and I do believe your majesty takes no scorn to wear the leek upon Saint Tavy’s day.

K. Hen. I wear it for a memorable honour; For I am Welsh, you know, good countryman.

Flu. All the water in Wye cannot wash your majesty’s Welsh plood out of your pody, I can tell you that: God pless it and preserve it, as long as it pleases his grace, and his majesty too!

K. Hen. Thanks, good my countryman.

Flu. By Jeshu, I am your majesty’s countryman, I care not who know it; I will confess it to all the ’orld: I need not to be ashamed of your majesty,

95. great-uncle] Capell; great Vncl F.  100. is] F 1.

97. a most prave pattle] If Fluellen is thinking of Crecy, he has overlooked the fact that John of Gaunt, Henry’s grandfather, was only six years old at the time. For the fact of service done by Welshmen in a garden of leeks, either at Crecy or any other battle in the French war, Fluellen remains our only authority. As to the selection of the leek, as the Welsh emblem, in spite of the usually quoted story referring it to St. David, Theophilus Jones was probably right when he wrote, "all we know at present of this custom is, that it is derived from the English, who probably at first meant it as a mark of contempt, though it has since been adopted by the Britons as an honorary badge of distinction" (History of Brecknockshire, ed. 1898, p. 143).
praised be God, so long as your majesty is an honest man.

K. Hen. God keep me so! Our heralds go with him: Bring me just notice of the numbers dead On both our parts. Call yonder fellow hither.

[Points to Williams. Exeunt Heralds with Montjoy.

Exe. Soldier, you must come to the king.

K. Hen. Soldier, why wearest thou that glove in thy cap?

Will. An't please your majesty, 'tis the gage of one that I should fight withal, if he be alive.

K. Hen. An Englishman?

Will. An't please your majesty, a rascal that swaggered with me last night; who, if alive and ever dare to challenge this glove, I have sworn to take him a box o' th' ear: or if I can see my glove in his cap, which he swore as he was a soldier he would wear if alive, I will strike it out soundly.

K. Hen. What think you, Captain Fluellen? is it fit this soldier keep his oath?

Flu. He is a craven and a villain else, an't please your majesty, in my conscience.

K. Hen. It may be his enemy is a gentleman of great sort, quite from the answer of his degree.

Flu. Though he be as good a gentleman as the devil is, as Lucifer and Belzebub himself, it is necessary, look your grace, that he keep his vow and his
oath. If he be perjured, see you now, his reputation is as arrant a villain and a Jack-sauce as ever his black shoe trod upon God's ground and his earth, in my conscience, la!

K. Hen. Then keep thy vow, sirrah, when thou meetest the fellow.

Will. So I will, my liege, as I live.

K. Hen. Who servest thou under?

Will. Under Captain Gower, my liege.

Flu. Gower is a good captain, and is good knowledge, and literated in the wars.

K. Hen. Call him hither to me, soldier.

Will. I will, my liege.

K. Hen. Here, Fluellen; wear thou this favour for me and stick it in thy cap. When Alençon and myself were down together I plucked this glove from his helm: if any man challenge this, he is a friend to Alençon, and an enemy to our person; if thou encounter any such, apprehend him, an thou dost me love.

Flu. Your grace doo's me as great honours as can be desired in the hearts of his subjects: I would fain see the man that has but two legs that shall find himself aggrieved at this glove, that is all; but I would fain see it once, and please God of his grace that I might see.

147. conscience, la] Capell; conscience law F 1, 2, 3; Theobald; conscience, law F 4, Rowe. 163. me love] love me Pope. 164. doo's] does F 4. 169. see] see it Capell.

158, 159. When Alençon . . . together] "The king that daie shewed himselfe a valiant knight, albeit almost felled by the Duke of Alanson; yet with plaine strength he slue two of the dukes compaine, and felled the duke himselfe; whome, when he would have yielded, the kings gard (contrarie to his mind) slue out of hand" (Holinshed, p. 195).
K. Hen. Knowest thou Gower?  
Flu. He is my dear friend, an please you.  
K. Hen. Pray thee, go seek him, and bring him to my tent.  
Flu. I will fetch him.  
[Exit.
K. Hen. My Lord of Warwick, and my brother Gloucester,
Follow Fluellen closely at the heels.  
The glove which I have given him for a favour 
May haply purchase him a box o' th' ear;  
It is the soldier's; I by bargain should 
Wear it myself. Follow, good cousin Warwick: If that the soldier strike him, as I judge 
By his blunt bearing he will keep his word, 
Some sudden mischief may arise of it;  
For I do know Fluellen valiant, 
And touch'd with choler, hot as gunpowder, 
And quickly will return an injury:  
Follow and see there be no harm between them.  
Go you with me, uncle of Exeter.  
[Exeunt.

SCENE VIII.—Before King Henry's Pavilion.

Enter Gower and Williams.

Will. I warrant it is to knight you, captain.

Enter Fluellen.

Flu. God's will and his pleasure, captain, I beseech you now come apace to the king: there is more
good toward you peradventure than is in your knowledge to dream of.

*Will.* Sir, know you this glove?

*Flu.* Know the glove! I know the glove is a glove.

*Will.* I know this; and thus I challenge it.

[Strikes him.]

*Flu.* 'Sblood! an arrant traitor as any's in the universal world, or in France, or in England.

*Gow.* How now, sir! you villain!

*Will.* Do you think I'll be forsworn?

*Flu.* Stand away, Captain Gower: I will give treason his payment into plows, I warrant you.

*Will.* I am no traitor.

*Flu.* That's a lie in thy throat. I charge you in his majesty's name, apprehend him: he's a friend of the Duke Alençon's.

*Enter Warwick and Gloucester.*

*War.* How now, how now! what's the matter?

*Flu.* My Lord of Warwick, here is, praised be God for it! a most contagious treason come to light, look you, as you shall desire in a summer's day. Here is his majesty.

*Enter King Henry and Exeter.*

*K Hen.* How now! what's the matter?

*Flu.* My liege, here is a villain and a traitor, that, look your grace, has struck the glove which your majesty is take out of the helmet of Alençon.
Will. My liege, this was my glove; here is the fellow of it; and he that I gave it to in change promised to wear it in his cap: I promised to strike him if he did. I met this man with my glove in his cap, and I have been as good as my word.

Flu. Your majesty hear now, saving your majesty's manhood, what an arrant, rascally, beggarly, lousy knave it is. I hope your majesty is peer me testimony and witness, and will avouchment that this is the glove of Alençon that your majesty is give me; in your conscience now?

K. Hen. Give me thy glove, soldier: look, here is the fellow of it.

'Twas I, indeed, thou promised'st to strike;
And thou hast given me most bitter terms.

Flu. An please your majesty, let his neck answer for it, if there is any martial law in the world.

K. Hen. How canst thou make me satisfaction?

Will. All offences, my lord, come from the heart: never came any from mine that might offend your majesty.

K. Hen. It was ourself thou didst abuse.

Will. Your majesty came not like yourself: you appeared to me but as a common man; witness the night, your garments, your lowliness; and what your highness suffered under that shape, I beseech you, take it for your own fault and not

40. thy] my Johnson conj. 45. martial] Pope; Marshall F.

29-39. My liege . . . conscience now?] Verity well remarks: "The two speeches seem to me to afford as fine a contrast between two types of national character as any passages in the play."
mine: for had you been as I took you for, I made no offence; therefore, I beseech your highness, pardon me.

K. Hen. Here, uncle Exeter, fill this glove with crowns, And give it to this fellow. Keep it, fellow; 60 And wear it for an honour in thy cap Till I do challenge it. Give him the crowns. And, captain, you must needs be friends with him.

Flu. By this day and this light, the fellow has mettle enough in his belly. Hold, there is twelve pence for you, and I pray you to serve God, and keep you out of prawls, and prabbles, and quarrels, and dissensions, and, I warrant you, it is the better for you.

Will. I will none of your money. 70

Flu. It is with a good will; I can tell you it will serve you to mend your shoes: come, wherefore should you be so pashful? your shoes is not so good: 'tis a good silling, I warrant you, or I will change it.

Enter an English Herald.

K. Hen. Now, herald, are the dead numbered? 75

Her. Here is the number of the slaughter'd French.

[Kneeling and delivering papers

K. Hen. What prisoners of good sort are taken, uncle?

Exe. Charles Duke of Orleans, nephew to the king;


72. to mend your shoes] Malone remarks: "In the most minute particulars we find Shakspeare as observant as in matters of the highest moment. 'Shoes' are, above any other article of dress, an object of attention to the common soldier, and most liable to be worn out."
John Duke of Bourbon, and Lord Bouciqualt:
Of other lords and barons, knights and squires, 80
Full fifteen hundred, besides common men.

K. Hen. This note doth tell me of ten thousand French
That in the field lie slain: of princes, in this number,
And nobles bearing banners, there lie dead
One hundred twenty-six: added to these, 85
Of knights, esquires, and gallant gentlemen,
Eight thousand and four hundred; of the which
Five hundred were but yesterday dubb'd knights:
So that, in these ten thousand they have lost,
There are but sixteen hundred mercenaries;
The rest are princes, barons, lords, knights, squires,
And gentlemen of blood and quality.
The names of those their nobles that lie dead:
Charles Delabreth, high constable of France;
Jacques of Chatillon, admiral of France; 95
The master of the cross-bows, Lord Rambures;
Great Master of France, the brave Sir Guichard Dauphin;
John Duke of Alençon; Anthony Duke of Brabant,
The brother to the Duke of Burgundy;
And Edward Duke of Bar: of lusty earls, 100
Grandpré and Roussi, Fauconberg and Foix,
Beaumont and Marle, Vaudemont and Lestrale.
Here was a royal fellowship of death!
Where is the number of our English dead?

[Herald shows him another paper.

Fauconbridge F. Foix] Capell; Foyes F; Fay Q. 104. Herald ...] Capell;
omitted F.

84. nobles bearing banners] their heraldic banners, of course.
Edward the Duke of York, the Earl of Suffolk, 105
Sir Richard Ketly, Davy Gam, esquire:
None else of name; and of all other men
But five and twenty. O God! thy arm was here;
And not to us, but to thy arm alone,
Ascribe we all. When, without stratagem,
But in plain shock and even play of battle,
Was ever known so great and little loss
On one part and on the other? Take it, God,
For it is none but thine!

Exe. 'Tis wonderful!

K. Hen. Come, go we in procession to the village: 115
And be it death proclaimed through our host
To boast of this or take that praise from God
Which is his only.

Flu. Is it not lawful, an please your majesty, to tell
how many is killed?

K. Hen. Yes, captain; but with this acknowledgment,
That God fought for us.

Flu. Yes, my conscience, he did us great good.

K. Hen. Do we all holy rites:
Let there be sung "Non nobis" and "Te Deum"; 125
The dead with charity enclos'd in clay.

other, take F. 115. we] F 2; me F 1. 124. rites] Pope; Rights F. 126. enclos'd] entered Q.

106. Davy Gam, esquire] David ab Llewelyn, called Gam (i.e. squinting) of Garthbrengy, Brecon, and through his daughter Gwladus, an ancestor of the Herberts. He was accompanied to Agincourt by three archers, and according to a story, which first appears in Sir Walter Raleigh's History of the World, when questioned by the king on the eve of the battle as to the numbers of the enemy, he replied that there were enough to be slain, enough to be taken prisoners, and enough to run away.
sc. viii.] KING HENRY THE FIFTH 145

And then to Calais; and to England then; Where ne'er from France arriv'd more happy men.  

[Exeunt.

ACT V

Enter Chorus.

Vouchsafe to those that have not read the story, That I may prompt them: and of such as have, I humbly pray them to admit the excuse Of time, of numbers, and due course of things, Which cannot in their huge and proper life Be here presented. Now we bear the king Toward Calais: grant him there; there seen, Heave him away upon your winged thoughts Athwart the sea. Behold, the English beach Pales in the flood with men, with wives, and boys, Whose shouts and claps out-voice the deep-mouth'd sea, Which, like a mighty whiffler, 'fore the king

127. And] Weele Q; We'll Capell.  
128. happy] happier Q, Capell.

Act V. Chorus.

7. Calais] Rowe; Callice F.  
10. with wives] F 2; Wines F 1; and wives Anon. conj.

Chorus] "The Chorus plays a historic 'interim' beginning on October 29, 1415, when the audience must imagine Henry at Calais (lines 6, 7), and ending on August 1, 1417, the date of his 'backe returne againe to France' (lines 39-43). Nothing is said touching his second campaign, which lasted about four years, and was brought to a close by the treaty of Troyes, in 1420" (Boswell-Stone, Holinshed, p. 197).

2. of such as have] probably confused or condensed for, "such of them as have," or, as Mr. Collins suggests, of may =as regards. Compare Hamlet, iii. i. 13:

"Niggard of question; but, of our demands, Most free in his reply";

and Winter's Tale, iii. ii. 187-188:

"That did but show thee, of a fool, inconstant, And damnable ingrateful."

10. Pales . . . boys] In the first Folio this line is printed,

"Pales in the flood; with Men, Wives, and Boys."

Dr. Nicholson proposed to mend it by inserting "maids" after "wives"—

"Pales in the flood with men, wives, maids, and boys."

12. whiffler] a man who walks before a procession to clear the way. Douce (Illustrations, p. 316) derives the word from "whiffle," a fife, his theory being that a whiffler originally meant a fifer, and that as processions were com-
THE LIFE OF

[ACT V.

Seems to prepare his way: so let him land,
And solemnly see him set on to London.
So swift a pace hath thought that even now
You may imagine him upon Blackheath;
Where that his lords desire him to have borne
His bruised helmet and his bended sword
Before him through the city: he forbids it,
Being free from vainness and self-glorious pride;
Giving full trophy, signal and ostent,
Quite from himself, to God. But now behold,
In the quick forge and working-house of thought,
How London doth pour out her citizens.
The mayor and all his brethren in best sort,
Like to the senators of the antique Rome,
With the plebeians swarming at their heels,

monly headed by fifers, the word came
to signify any person who went before a procession, whether he were a fifer or not. Thus according to Forby
(Vocabulary of East Anglia, quoted by Aldis Wright) the "whifflers" in Nor-
wich processions "are two active men
very lightly equipped, ... bearing
swords of lath or latten, which they
keep in perpetual motion, 'whiffing'
the air on either side, and now and
then giving an unlucky boy a slap on
the shoulders or posteriors with the
flat side of their weapons." Compare
Kemp, Nine Dates Wonder, p. 17, ed.
Camden Society, "Passing the gate,
Wifflers (such officers as were appointed
by the Mayor) to make me way through
the throng of the people." Aldis
Wright, however, gives quite a distinct
account of the origin of the word. From
a mention by Stow (Surrey, ed. Thoms,
p. 39) of "whiffers" as distinct from
"fifes" or "fifers," from a mention by
Hall (Chronicle, p. 289) of "wifflers
on horsbacke" armed with javelins or
battle-axes, and "wiffelers on foote"
armed with javelins or "slaughswords,"
from the mention of "Wifes" among
the weapons formerly at Caister Castle,
and further from the fact that "wyfle"
and "twibill" occur as equivalent for
the Latin bipennis,—he suggests that
a wiffle is a kind of axe, and that the
word has the same connexion with
twibill, as "thwitel" has with "whit-
tle." If this is correct, a whiffler would
answer to a pioneer rather than to a
drum-major. Grose, Military Antiqui-
ties, ed. 1788, vol. i. p. 241, quotes a
MS., "late in the collection of Mr.
Anstis," from which it appears that
whifflers were officers whose duty it
was—(1) to instruct the soldiers how
to carry their weapons; (2) to keep the
ranks and files at the proper distance
from one another when on the march.

15. signal] symbol or sign of victory.
25. in best sort] "in all their formal-
ties," says Rann; i.e. in full robes of
office, with mace, etc.
Go forth and fetch their conquering Cæsar in:
As, by a lower, but by loving likelihood,
Were now the general of our gracious empress,
As in good time he may, from Ireland coming,
Bringing rebellion broached on his sword,
How many would the peaceful city quit
To welcome him! much more, and much more
cause,
Did they this Harry. Now in London place him;
As yet the lamentation of the French
Invites the King of England's stay at home;
The emperor's coming in behalf of France,
To order peace between them; and omit
All the occurrences, whatever chanc'd,
Till Harry's back-return again to France:
There must we bring him; and myself have play'd
The interim, by remembering you 'tis past.
Then brook abridgement, and your eyes advance,
After your thoughts, straight back again to France. 45

[Exit.


29. by ... likelihood] "on the probable occasion of an event of inferior importance, but much cherished by us" (Schmidt).
30-34. Were now ... welcome him] The only direct allusion to contemporary events in Shakespeare, and therefore startling in its uniqueness; but Essex was the popular hero of the hour, and the lines would be well received by the audience. Stow gives an account of his enthusiastic "send-off" on March 27, 1599. The only other plain undisguised mention of the reigning sovereign is at the close of the Epilogue to 2 Henry IV., "and so kneel down before you—but, indeed, to pray for the queen"; though, practically of course, Elizabeth is intended in Merry Wives, v. v. 50, "Our radiant queen hates sluts and sluttery."

38. The emperor's coming] i.e. the emperor [Sigismund] is coming. He "came into England [May 1416], to the intent that he might make an attonement betwenee king Henrie and the French king" (Holinshed, p. 199).

*Enter Fluellen and Gower.*

**Gow.** Nay, that's right; but why wear you your leek to-day? Saint Davy's day is past.

**Flu.** There is occasions and causes why and wherefore in all things: I will tell you, asse my friend, Captain Gower. The rascally, scauld, beggarly, lousy, pragging knave, Pistol, which you and yourself and all the world know to be no petter than a fellow, look you now, of no merits, he is come to me and prings me pread and salt yesterday, look you, and bid me eat my leek. It was in a place where I could not breed no contention with him; but I will be so bold as to wear it in my cap till I see him once again, and then I will tell him a little piece of my desires.

*Enter Pistol.*

**Gow.** Why, here he comes, swelling like a turkey-cock.

**Flu.** 'Tis no matter for his swellings nor his turkey-cocks. God pless you, Aunchient Pistol! you scurvy, lousy knave, God pless you!

France ...] Cambridge editors; The English camp in France Theobald; France. A Court of Guard Capell.

*Scene 1.*] Johnson wanted to place this scene at the end of the last Act, on the ground that the quarrel happened before the return of the army to England, but, as Steevens pointed out, Fluellen says that it was only yesterday that he received the affront, he intends to punish, from Pistol. This affair therefore is not immediately connected with Pistol's outbreak in Act III, sc. vi. 5. *scauld*] scabby, scurvy—literally (scaled) afflicted with the "scale," or scall.
Pist. Ha! art thou bedlam? dost thou thirst, base Trojan
To have me fold up Parca’s fatal web?
Hence! I am qualmish at the smell of leek.

Flu. I peseech you heartily, scurvy lousy knave, at my desires and my requests and my petitions to eat, look you, this leek; because, look you, you do not love it, nor your affections and your appetites and your digestions doo’s not agree with it, I would desire you to eat it.

Pist. Not for Cadwallader and all his goats.

Flu. There is one goat for you. [Strikes him.] Will you be so good, scauld knave, as eat it?

Pist. Base Trojan, thou shalt die.

Flu. You say very true, scauld knave, when God’s will is. I will desire you to live in the mean time and eat your victuals: come, there is sauce for it. [Strikes him.] You called me yesterday mountain-squire, but I will make you to-day a squire of low degree. I pray you, fall to: if you can mock a leek you can eat a leek.

Gow. Enough, captain: you have astonished him.

Flu. I say, I will make him eat some part of my leek, or I will peat his pate four days. Bite, I pray you; it is good for your green wound and your ploody coxcomb.

27. digestions] digestions Rowe.  doo’s] does F 4.  36. Strikes him] Pope:
37, 38. a squire of low degree] “a quibbling reference, ‘low’ being contrasted with ‘mountain,’ to a popular old romance in verse” (Verity). The squyre of lo degree is mentioned by Robert Laneham in his list of Captain Cox’s books (Queen Elizabeth’s Entertainment at Kenilworth, ed. Furnivall, p. 39), and has been reprinted by Ritson and by Hazlitt.
Pist. Must I bite?  
Flu. Yes, certainly, and out of doubt and out of question too and ambiguities.  
Pist. By this leek, I will most horribly revenge. I eat and eat, I swear—  
Flu. Eat, I pray you. Will you have some more sauce to your leek? there is not enough leek to swear by.  
Pist. Quiet thy cudgel; thou dost see I eat.  
Flu. Much good do you, scauld knave, heartily. Nay, pray you, throw none away; the skin is good for your broken coxcomb. When you take occasions to see leeks hereafter, I pray you, mock at 'em; that is all.  
Pist. Good.  
Flu. Ay, leeks is good. Hold you, there is a groat to heal your pate.  
Pist. Me a groat!  
Flu. Yes, verily and in truth, you shall take it; or I have another leek in my pocket, which you shall eat.  
Pist. I take thy groat in earnest of revenge.  
Flu. If I owe you any thing I will pay you in cudgels: you shall be a woodmonger, and buy nothing of me but cudgels. God b' wi' you, and keep you, and heal your pate.  
Pist. All hell shall stir for this.  
Gow. Go, go; you are a counterfeit cowardly knave.
Will you mock at an ancient tradition, begun upon an honourable respect, and worn as a memorable trophy of predeceased valour, and dare not avouch in your deeds any of your words? I have seen you gleeking and galling at this gentleman twice or thrice. You thought, because he could not speak English in the native garb, he could not therefore handle an English cudgel: you find it otherwise; and henceforth let a Welsh correction teach you a good English condition. Fare ye well.

Pist. Doth Fortune play the huswife with me now? News have I that my Nell is dead i' the spital Of malady of France; And there my rendezvous is quite cut off. Old I do wax, and from my weary limbs Honour is cudgelled. Well, bawd I'll turn,


74. respect] reason, consideration. 77. gleeking and galling] gibing and scoffing. In Midsummer Night's Dream, iii. i. 146-150, Bottom says to Titania, "to say the truth, reason and love keep little company together now-a-days; the more the pity that some honest neighbours will not make them friends. Nay, I can gleek upon occasion"—i.e. I can jest.

80. garb] fashion. Compare Fuller, Holy and Profane State, ii. vi. 65, "others... use some obsolete garb in their garments, gestures, or discourse."

84. huswife] now in this sense reduced to "hussy."

85. Nell] The credit of this obvious correction is usually given to Capell, but Johnson in his first edition (1765), published before Capell's appeared, though he retains "Dol" in the text, remarks, "We must read, my Nell is dead." Aldis Wright gives the following list from this play of proper names erroneously printed in the Folio: "Thomas" for "Henry," ii. ii. 148; "Dover" for "Hampton," iii. chor. 4; "John" for "Thomas," iv. i. 94; "Ireland" for "England," v. ii. 12. The reader who wishes to see an elaborate argument by Brinsley Nicholson in favour of retaining "Doll" on the ground that it is a familiar appellation of Pistol's Nell, may refer to the New Shakspere Society's Transactions, 1880-86, pp. 209-211.

87. my rendezvous] the comfortable home, for the sake of which he had and held the quondam Quickly (ii. i. 78).
And something lean to cut-purse of quick hand. 90
To England will I steal, and there I' ll steal:
And patches will I get unto these cudgell'd scars,
And swear I got them in the Gallia wars.  [Exit.

SCENE II.—Troyes in Champagne. An Apartment
in the French King's Palace.

Enter, at one door, KING HENRY, EXETER, BEDFORD,
GLOUCESTER, WARWICK, WESTMORELAND, and other
Lords; at another, the French King, QUEEN ISABEL,
the PRINCESS KATHARINE, ALICE, and other Ladies,
the DUKE OF BURGUNDY, and his Train.

K. Hen. Peace to this meeting, wherefore we are met!
Unto our brother France, and to our sister,
Health and fair time of day; joy and good wishes
To our most fair and princely cousin Katharine;
And, as a branch and member of this royalty,
By whom this great assembly is contriv'd,
We do salute you, Duke of Burgundy;
And, princes French, and peers, health to you all!

93. swear] F 3, 4; swore F 1, 2.
93. Exit] to reappear in the Merry

Scene ii.
Troyes . . . ] Malone; The French Court, at Trois in Champaigne Theobald;
The same. A Room in some Palace Capell; France. A royal palace Cambridge
editors. Enter . . . ] Cambridge editors; Enter at one doore, King Henry,
Exeter, Bedford, Warwicke, and other Lords. At another, Queene Isabel, the
King, the Duke of Bourgongne, and other French. F. 7. Burgundy] Rowe;
Burgoigne F 1; Burgoigne F 2.

stage-direction] Capell was the first
to introduce Alice here; in the Folio
and Quarto she is simply "Lady."
See Act iii. sc. iv.

Duke of Burgundy] see p. 4. He
had succeeded his murdered father,
and was now acting as deputy for
the insane King Charles vi., whose
presence at Troyes is as unhistorical
as at Agincourt (III. v.).

1. Peace . . . met "Peace, for which
we are here met, be to this meeting"
(Johnson).
Fr. King. Right joyous are we to behold your face,  
Most worthy brother England; fairly met:  
So are you, princes English, every one.  

Q. Isa. So happy be the issue, brother England,  
Of this good day and of this gracious meeting,  
As we are now glad to behold your eyes;  
Your eyes, which hitherto have borne in them  
Against the French, that met them in their bent,  
The fatal balls of murdering basilisks:  
The venom of such looks, we fairly hope,  
Have lost their quality, and that this day  
Shall change all griefs and quarrels into love.  

K. Hen. To cry amen to that, thus we appear.  
Q. Isa. You English princes all, I do salute you.  
Bur. My duty to you both, on equal love,  
Great Kings of France and England! That I have  
labour'd  
With all my wits, my pains, and strong endeavours,  
To bring your most imperial majesties  
Unto this bar and royal interview,  
Your mightiness on both parts best can witness.

17. murdering] Johnson; murthering F.  
23. on] and Capell conj.; one Nicholson conj.  
28. mightiness] mightinesses  
Rowe.  

17. murthering basilisks] Basilisk was not only the name of a fabulous  
creature, but also of a large cannon  
throwing a shot of two hundred pounds  
weight. A figure of the former may  
be seen in Chambers's Encyclopædia,  
vol. i. p. 775; it was hatched by a  
serpent from an egg laid by a cock;  
its glance was fatal to all who ap-  
proached it.  
23. on] on the ground of, proceeding  
from. So II. ii. 54, and Richard III.  
IV. i. 3, 4:  
"she's wandering to the Tower,  
On pure heart's love to greet the  
tender princes."  
27. this bar] Boswell-Stone (Holins-  
shed, p. 200) suggests that perhaps  
Shakespeare supposed that at Troyes,  
as at the conference at Meulan (May  
29, 1419), Henry had his ground  
"barred about and ported, wherein his  
tents were pight in a princelie manner."  
28. mightiness] "The plural and  
possessive cases of nouns in which  
the singular ends in s, se, ss, ce, and  
ge, are frequently written, and still  
more frequently pronounced, without  
the additional syllable" (Abbott, §  
471, where several other examples are  
given).
Since then my office hath so far prevail'd
That face to face, and royal eye to eye,
You have congreetered, let it not disgrace me
If I demand before this royal view,
What rub or what impediment there is,
Why that the naked, poor, and mangled Peace,
Dear nurse of arts, plenties, and joyful births,
Should not in this best garden of the world,
Our fertile France, put up her lovely visage?
Alas! she hath from France too long been chas'd,
And all her husbandry doth lie on heaps,
Corrupting in it own fertility.

Her vine, the merry cheerer of the heart,
Unpruned dies; her hedges even-pleach'd,
Like prisoners wildly overgrown with hair,
Put forth disorder'd twigs; her fallow leas
The darnel, hemlock and rank fumitory
Doth root upon, while that the coulter rusts
That should deracinate such savagery;
The even mead, that erst brought sweetly forth
The freckled cowslip, burnet, and green clover,
Wanting the scythe, all uncorrected, rank,
Conceives by idleness, and nothing teens

40. it] F 1, 2; it's F 3, 4.
F 1, 2; even, pleach'd F 3, 4.
42. even-pleach'd] Hanmer; even-pleach'd
45. fumitory] F 4; Fumetory F 1, 2, 3.
50. all] Rowe; withall F.
46. coulter] Johnson; culter F.
31. congreetered] like "congreeing"
in I. ii. 183, apparently coined by Shakespeare for the nonce.
31. disgrace] put me out of favour;
"not so strong a word as it is now"
(A. J. F. Collins).
33. rub] See II. ii. 188.
38-67. Alas! . . . qualities] The rhythmical movement and general tone of these lines remind us of Titania's
complaint, Midsummer-Night's Dream, II. i. 81-117.
40. it] its; this use survives dialectically. The latest literary example in New Eng. Dict. is from the year 1622, Wither Works, ed. 1633, 653:
"Each part as faire doth show
In it kind, as white in snow,"
and see Mr. Craig's note on King Lear, I. iv. 236.
But hateful docks, rough thistles, kecksies, burrs, Losing both beauty and utility. 
And as our vineyards, fallows, meads, and hedges, Defective in their natures, grow to wildness, 
Even so our houses and ourselves and children Have lost, or do not learn for want of time, The sciences that should become our country, But grow like savages, as soldiers will That nothing do but meditate on blood, To swearing and stern looks, defus'd attire, And every thing that seems unnatural. Which to reduce into our former favour You are assembled; and my speech entreats That I may know the let, why gentle Peace Should not expel these inconveniences, And bless us with her former qualities. 

K. Hen. If, Duke of Burgundy, you would the peace, Whose want gives growth to the imperfections Which you have cited, you must buy that peace With full accord to all our just demands; Whose tenours and particular effects

---

54, 55. as . . . wildness] Capell; all . . . wildnesse. F. 59. will] wild 
Vaughan conj. 61. defus'd] F 1, 2; diffus'd F 3, 4. 68. Burgundy] Rowe; 
Burgente F 1; Burgony F 2. 72. tenours] Theobald; Tenures F.

52. kecksies] another form of "kexes," the dry hollow stalks of various coarse umbelliferous plants, but sometimes, as possibly here, the living plant. 
54, 55. as . . . wildness] Boswell-Stone retains the Folio reading, but this line resumes what has been already said of the vines, hedges, and fallows in lines 41-47. Capell's conjecture had been made independently by Roderick, "a most ingenious gentleman, an assistant in the Canons of Criticism," as Capell, who never, if he can help it, calls another editor or critic by his name, describes him. 
61. defus'd] disordered; the same word as "diffused." See Mr. Craig on King Lear, 1. iv. 2. 
63. favour] appearance. Compare Fuller, Pisgah Sight of Palestine, 1. viii. 23: "Palestine . . . tricked and trimmed with many new cities had the favour thereof quite altered." 
72. tenours] often spelt "tenures" in the Folio.
You have, enschedul’d briefly, in your hands.

Bur. The king hath heard them; to the which as yet there is no answer made.

K. Hen. Well then the peace, which you before so urg’d, lies in his answer.

Fr. King. I have but with a cursorary eye

O’erglanc’d the articles: pleaseth your grace
To appoint some of your council presently
To sit with us once more, with better heed
To re-survey them, we will suddenly
Pass our accept and peremptory answer.

K. Hen. Brother, we shall. Go, uncle Exeter,
And brother Clarence, and you, brother Gloucester,
Warwick and Huntingdon, go with the king;
And take with you free power to ratify,
Augment, or alter, as your wisoms best
Shall see advantageable for our dignity,
Any thing in or out of our demands,
And we’ll consign thereto. Will you, fair sister, Go with the princes, or stay here with us?

Q. Isa. Our gracious brother, I will go with them.

77. cursorary] Q 3, Pope; curselarie F; cursenary Q 1, 2. 80. us once more, with us, once more with Rowe. Theobald, from Warburton’s suggestion; us, once more with Rowe.

77. cursorary] The word "cursory," which Hamner actually printed here, to the detriment of the metre, was as yet hardly established (the earliest quotation in New Eng. Dict. is of 1601); some latitude therefore, especially under stress of metrical needs, is excusable, and the manifest perplexity of the printers of the Folio and Quartos easily intelligible.

81. suddenly] immediately.

82. Pass . . . answer] Pronounce our accepted (i.e. adopted) and decisive answer. New Eng. Dict. quotes several examples of “accept” = “accepted,” of which the present passage is the latest. Warburton explained his reading, "waive and decline what he disliked, and consign to such as he approved of."


Haply a woman's voice may do some good
When articles too nicely urg'd be stood on.

_K. Hen._ Yet leave our cousin Katharine here with us: She is our capital demand, compris'd
Within the fore-rank of our articles.

_Q. Isa._ She hath good leave.

[Exeunt all but King Henry, Katharine, and Alice.

_K. Hen._ Fair Katharine, and most fair,
Will you vouchsafe to teach a soldier terms
Such as will enter at a lady's ear
And plead his love-suit to her gentle heart?

_Kath._ Your majesty shall mock at me; I cannot speak your England.

_K. Hen._ O fair Katharine! if you will love me soundly
with your French heart, I will be glad to hear you confess it brokenly with your English tongue.
Do you like me, Kate?

_Kath._ Pardonnez-moy, I cannot tell vat is "like me."

_K. Hen._ An angel is like you, Kate, and you are like an angel.

_Kath._ Que dit-il? que je suis semblable à les anges?

_Alice._ Ouy, vramento, sauf vostre grace, ainsi dit-il.

_K. Hen._ I said so, dear Katharine, and I must not blush to affirm it.

_Kath._ O bon Dieu! les langues des hommes sont pleines de tromperies.

_K. Hen._ What says she, fair one? that the tongues of men are full of deceits?

Alice. Ouy; dat de tongues of de mans is be full of deceits: dat is de princess.

K. Hen. The princess is the better Englishwoman. I' faith, Kate, my wooing is fit for thy understanding: I am glad thou canst speak no better English; for if thou could'st, thou would'st find me such a plain king that thou would'st think I had sold my farm to buy my crown. I know no ways to mince it in love, but directly to say "I love you": then if you urge me farther than to say "Do you in faith?" I wear out my suit. Give me your answer; i' faith, do: and so clap hands and a bargain. How say you, lady?

Kath. Sauf vostre honneur, me understand vell.

K. Hen. Marry, if you would put me to verses, or to dance for your sake, Kake, why you undid me: for the one, I have neither words nor measure, and for the other, I have no strength in measure, yet a reasonable measure in strength. If I could win a lady at leap-frog, or by vaulting into my saddle with my armour on my back, under the correction of bragging be it spoken, I should quickly leap into a wife. Or if I might buffet for my love, or bound my horse for her favours,

120. is de princess.] is de princess say. Keightley. 133. understand] understand not Keightley; understand no Vaughan conj. vell] Capell; well F. 139. vaulting] F 3, 4; vawting F 1, 2.

121. The princess . . Englishwoman] i.e. for saying so. Henry is thinking of the proverbial proneness of Frenchmen to make compliments, and likes Katharine the better for her seeing through his (A. J. F. Collins).

133. me understand vell] Vaughan argues in favour of his emendation that in 134 ff. Henry is expounding and explaining what he had said in his previous speech, which it would not be necessary for him to do, if Katharine understood him, but, as Boswell-Stone observes, he appears to be merely pursuing the same theme.
I could lay on like a butcher and sit like a jack-an-apes, never off. But, before God, Kate, I cannot look greenly nor gasp out my eloquence, nor I have no cunning in protestation; only downright oaths, which I never use till urged, nor never break for urging. If thou canst love a fellow of this temper, Kate, whose face is not worth sun-burning, i.e., that never looks in his glass for love of any thing he sees there, let thine eye be thy cook. I speak to thee plain soldier: if thou canst love me for this, take me; if not, to say to thee that I shall die, is true; but for thy love, by the Lord, no; yet I love thee too. And while thou livest, dear Kate, take a fellow of plain and uncoined constancy, for he perforce must do thee right, because he hath not the gift to woo in other places; for these fellows of infinite tongue, that can rime themselves into ladies' favours, they do always reason themselves out again. What! a speaker is but a prater; a rime is but a ballad. A good leg will fall, a straight back will stoop, a black beard will turn white, a curled pate will grow bald, a fair constancy resembled a piece of current coin it would be qualified to circulate in other places as well, i.e. among other ladies. Henry's constancy, however, is like a plain piece of unstamped metal, which, being useless for exchange, must remain stationary in one place. Such is the explanation of "uncoined constancy" which the context requires. This is more than can be said of Johnson's interpretation "genuine," "not counterfeit." We have the converse in Lucrece, 1072:

"I will not poison thee with my attaint,
Nor fold my fault in clearly-coin'd excuses."

164. fall] fall away, shrink.

155. by the Lord] Rowe; by the L. F. 160, 163. rime] ryme F; rhyme Rowe; rhyme Johnson.

144, 145. jack-an-apes] An interesting discussion of the origin of this expression will be found in New Eng. Dict.

157-159. a fellow . . . places] if his constancy resembled a piece of current coin it would be qualified to circulate in other places as well, i.e. among other ladies. Henry's constancy, however, is like a plain piece of unstamped metal, which, being useless for exchange, must remain stationary in one place. Such is the explanation of "uncoined constancy" which the context requires. This is more than can be said of Johnson's interpretation "genuine," "not counterfeit." We have the converse in Lucrece, 1072:

"I will not poison thee with my attaint,
Nor fold my fault in clearly-coin'd excuses."
face will wither, a full eye will wax hollow; but a good heart, Kate, is the sun and the moon; or rather the sun, and not the moon; for it shines bright and never changes, but keeps his course truly. If thou would have such a one, take me; 170
and take me, take a soldier; take a soldier, take a king. And what sayest thou then to my love? speak, my fair, and fairly, I pray thee.

Kath. Is it possible dat I sould love de enemy of 175 France?

K. Hen. No; it is not possible you should love the enemy of France, Kate; but, in loving me, you should love the friend of France, for I love France so well that I will not part with a village 180 of it; I will have it all mine: and Kate, when France is mine and I am yours, then yours is France and you are mine.

Kath. I cannot tell vat is dat.

K. Hen. No, Kate? I will tell thee in French, which 185 I am sure will hang upon my tongue like a new-married wife about her husband's neck, hardly to be shook off. Je quand sur le possession de France, et quand vous avez le possession de moy —let me see, what then? Saint Denis be my 190 speed!—donc vostre est France, et vous estes mienne. It is as easy for me, Kate, to conquer the kingdom as to speak so much more French: I shall never move thee in French, unless it be to laugh at me.
Kath. Sauf vostre honneur, le François que vous parlez il est meilleur que l’Anglois lequel je parle.

K. Hen. No, faith, is’t not, Kate; but thy speaking of my tongue, and I thine, most truly-falsely, must needs be granted to be much at one. But, Kate, dost thou understand thus much English? Canst thou love me?

Kath. I cannot tell.

K. Hen. Can any of your neighbours tell, Kate? I’ll ask them. Come, I know thou lovest me: and at night when you come into your closet you’ll question this gentlewoman about me; and I know, Kate, you will to her dispraise those parts in me that you love with your heart: but, good Kate, mock me mercifully; the rather, gentle princess, because I love thee cruelly. If ever thou be’st mine, Kate, as I have a saving faith within me tells me thou shalt, I get thee with scambling, and thou must therefore needs prove a good soldier-breeder. Shall not thou and I, between Saint Denis and Saint George, compound a boy, half French, half English, that shall go to Constantinople and take the Turk by the beard?

214. scambling] See i. i. 4.
219. the Turk] Theobald notes that the Turks were not in possession of Constantinople till thirty-one years after Henry’s death. To take the Turk (i.e. the Sultan) by the beard seems to have been a colloquial expression for the performance of a feat of heroism. Thus Brome, Antipodes (1638), i. 4:

“We had three sons, and all great travellers,
That one had shooke the great Turke by the beard.”
shall we not? what sayest thou, my fair flower-de-luce?

Kath. I do not know dat.

K. Hen. No; 'tis hereafter to know, but now to promise: do but now promise, Kate, you will endeavour for your French part of such a boy, and for my English moiety take the word of a king and a bachelor. How answer you, la plus belle Katharine du monde, mon très cher et divin déesse?

Kath. Your majesté ave fausse French enough to deceive de most sage damoiselle dat is en France.

K. Hen. Now, fie upon my false French! By mine honour, in true English, I love thee, Kate: by which honour I dare not swear thou lovest me; yet my blood begins to flatter me that thou dost, notwithstanding the poor and untempering effect of my visage. Now beshrew my father's ambition! he was thinking of civil wars when he got me: therefore was I created with a stubborn outside, with an aspect of iron, that when I come to woo ladies I fright them. But, in faith, Kate, the elder I wax the better I shall appear: my comfort is, that old age, that ill layer-up of beauty, can do no more spoil upon my face: thou hast me, if

236. untempering] untempting Warburton, Dyce.

220. flower-de-luce] The form "fleur-de-lis" is hardly ever found in English use before the nineteenth century.

236. untempering] incapable of tempering or softening you; compare Venus and Adonis, 465, 466:

"What wax so frozen but dissolves with tempering,
And yields at last to every light impression?"

See also II. ii. 118.
thou hast me, at the worst; and thou shalt wear me, if thou wear me, better and better. And therefore tell me, most fair Katharine, will you have me? Put off your maiden blushes; avouch the thoughts of your heart with the looks of an empress; take me by the hand, and say "Harry of England, I am thine": which word thou shalt no sooner bless mine ear withal, but I will tell thee aloud "England is thine, Ireland is thine, France is thine, and Henry Plantagenet is thine"; who, though I speak it before his face, if he be not fellow with the best king, thou shalt find the best king of good fellows. Come, your answer in broken music; for thy voice is music, and thy English broken; therefore, queen of all, Katharine, break thy mind to me in broken English: wilt thou have me? 

Kath. Dat is as it sall please de roy mon père.

K. Hen. Nay, it will please him well, Kate; it shall please him, Kate.

Kath. Den it sall also content me.  

248. your maiden] F 1, 2 ; those Maiden F 3, 4. 259, 260. all, Katharine,] all Katharines, Dyce (ed. 2) from Capell’s conjecture. 262. sall] shall F.

258. broken music] See line 106, above. The following explanation of "broken music" was given to Aldis Wright by Mr. Chappell, the author of Popular Music of the Olden Time: "Some instruments, such as viols, violins, flutes, etc., were formerly made in sets of four, which when played together formed a 'consort.' If one or more of the instruments of one set were substituted for the corresponding ones of another set, the result was no longer a 'consort,' but 'broken music.'" That the expression was also used in the sense of "concerted music," i.e. music arranged in parts, is clear from Beaumont, Inner Temple Masque (1613): "Then Mercury, for his part, brings forth an anti-masque all of spirits or divine natures; but yet not of one kind or livery (because that had been so much in use heretofore), but, as it were, in consort, like to broken music."
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[ACT V.

K. Hen. Upon that I kiss your hand, and I call you my queen.

Kath. Laissez, mon seigneur, laissez, laissez! Ma foy, je ne veux point que vous abaissez votre grandeur, en baisant la main d’une de vostre seigneurie indigne serviteur: excusez moy, je vous supplie, mon très puissant seigneur.

K. Hen. Then I will kiss your lips, Kate.

Kath. Les dames et damoiselles, pour estre baisées devant leur nopces, il n’est pas le coutume de France.

K. Hen. Madam my interpreter, what says she?

Alice. Dat it is not be de fashion pour les ladies of France—I cannot tell vat is baiser in English.

K. Hen. To kiss.

Alice. Your majesty entendre bettre que moy.

K. Hen. It is not a fashion for the maids in France to kiss before they are married, would she say?

Alice. Ouy, vraiment.

K. Hen. O Kate! nice customs curtsy to great kings. Dear Kate, you and I cannot be confined within the weak list of a country’s fashion: we are the makers of manners, Kate; and the liberty that follows our places stops the mouth of all find-


287. list] boundary, barrier.
faults, as I will do yours, for upholding the nice fashion of your country in denying me a kiss: therefore, patiently and yielding. [Kissing her.] You have witchcraft in your lips, Kate: there is more eloquence in a sugar touch of them than in the tongues of the French council; and they should sooner persuade Harry of England than a general petition of monarchs. Here comes your father.

Re-enter the French King and his Queen, Burgundy, and other Lords.

Bur. God save your majesty! My royal cousin, teach you our princess English?

K. Hen. I would have her learn, my fair cousin, how perfectly I love her; and that is good English.

Bur. Is she not apt?

K. Hen. Our tongue is rough, coz, and my condition is not smooth; so that, having neither the voice nor the heart of flattery about me, I cannot so conjure up the spirit of love in her, that he will appear in his true likeness.

Bur. Pardon the frankness of my mirth if I answer you for that. If you would conjure in her, you must make a circle; if conjure up love in her in his true likeness, he must appear naked and blind.


305. condition] disposition, character; so v. i. S3.
Can you blame her then, being a maid yet rosed
over with the virgin crimson of modesty, if she
deny the appearance of a naked blind boy in
her naked seeing self? It were, my lord, a hard
condition for a maid to consign to.

_K. Hen._ Yet they do wink and yield, as love is blind
and enforces.

_Bur._ They are then excused, my lord, when they see
not what they do.

_K. Hen._ Then, good my lord, teach your cousin to
consent winking.

_Bur._ I will wink on her to consent, my lord, if
you will teach her to know my meaning: for
maids, well summered and warm kept, are like
flies at Bartholomew-tide, blind, though they have
their eyes; and then they will endure handling,
which before would not abide looking on.

_K. Hen._ This moral ties me over to time and a hot
summer ; and so I shall catch the fly, your cousin,
in the latter end, and she must be blind too.

_Bur._ As love is, my lord, before it loves.

_K. Hen._ It is so: and you may, some of you, thank
love for my blindness, who cannot see many a
fair French city for one fair French maid that
stands in my way.

_Fr. King._ Yes, my lord, you see them perspectively,

319. wink] See II. i. 7.

328. flies at Bartholomew-tide] About St. Bartholomew's Day, August
24, the evenings are apt to become chilly; "St. Bartholomew Brings the
cold dew," says an old rhyme. "At this
time," writes Miss Phipson (Animal

Lore of Shakespear's Time, p. 421),
"especially if the season be wet, flies
seek the shelter of houses in great num-
bbers, and become drowsy and semi-
torpid, or, as children call them, tame."

339. perspectively] as through a
perspective, a glass so cut as to pro-
the cities turned into a maid; for they are all girdled with maiden walls that war hath never entered.

K. Hen. Shall Kate be my wife?

Fr. King. So please you.

K. Hen. I am content; so the maiden cities you talk of may wait on her: so the maid that stood in the way for my wish shall show me the way to my will.

Fr. King. We have consented to all terms of reason.

K. Hen. Is 't so, my lords of England?

West. The king hath granted every article:

His daughter first, and then in sequel all,
According to their firm proposed natures.

Exe. Only he hath not yet subscribed this:
Where your majesty demands, that the King of France, having any occasion to write for matter of grant, shall name your highness in this form, and with this addition in French, Notre très cher filz Henry, Roy d'Angleterre, Héritier de France; and thus in Latin, Præclarissimus

341 never] Rowe; omitted F; not Capell. 347. for my] of my Heath conj. 352. and then in] F 2; and in F 1. 353. firm proposed] first-proposed S. Walker conj. 359. Héritier] Cambridge editors; Heretier Rowe; Heretere F.

duce an optical delusion when looked through. Compare All’s Will that Ends Well, v. iii. 48, 49:

"Contempt his scornful perspective
did lend me,
Which warp’d the line of every other favour."

"Perspective" is elsewhere used by Shakespeare (Richard II. ii. ii. 18, and Twelfth Night, v. i. 224) to mean a picture which represented a different object according to the point from which it was looked at, like certain modern advertisements of patent soap. The word also meant a telescope.

360. Præclarissimus] an instance of the perpetuation of a blunder by the copyist. The first edition of Hall’s Chronicle (1548) has præcharissimus, the correct translation of “très cher”; the second edition (1550) “præclarissimus”; this error was repeated in both editions of Holinshed, and hence in the text of this passage.
filius noster Henricus, Rex Angliæ, et Hæres Franciæ.

Fr. King. Nor this I have not, brother, so denied, But your request shall make me let it pass.  
K. Hen. I pray you then, in love and dear alliance,  
Let that one article rank with the rest; And thereupon give me your daughter.

Fr. King. Take her, fair son; and from her blood raise up  
Issue to me; that the contending kingdoms  
Of France and England, whose very shores look pale  
With envy of each other's happiness,  
May cease their hatred, and this dear conjunction  
Plant neighbourhood and Christian-like accord  
In their sweet bosoms, that never war advance  
His bleeding sword 'twixt England and fair France.

All. Amen.
K. Hen. Now welcome, Kate: and bear me witness all,  
That here I kiss her as my sovereign queen.
To make divorce of their incorporate league;
That English may as French, French Englishmen,
Receive each other! God speak this Amen!

All. Amen!

K. Hen. Prepare we for our marriage: on which day,
My Lord of Burgundy, we’ll take your oath,
And all the peers’, for surety of our leagues.
Then shall I swear to Kate, and you to me;
And may our oaths well kept and prosperous be!

[Senet. Exeunt.

Enter Chorus.

Thus far, with rough and all-unable pen,
Our bending author hath pursu’d the story;
In little room confining mighty men,
Mangling by starts the full course of their glory.
Small time, but in that small most greatly liv’d
This star of England: Fortune made his sword,
By which the world’s best garden he achiev’d,
And of it left his son imperial lord.

392. peers’] Capell; Peeres F.

387, 388. That English . . . each other] As so rational a critic as
Vaughan has stumbled at these lines, it may be as well to remark that their
plain meaning is, “that in their receiving of each other Englishmen may act
in the spirit of Frenchmen, and Frenchmen in the spirit of Englishmen.”

394. Senet] a particular set of notes on the trumpet or cornet sounded at the
entrance or exit of a company or procession; distinct from a flourish. See
Mr. Craig on *King Lear*, i. i. 33.

Chorus.

2. bending] Steevens says, “unequal
to the weight of his subject, and bending
beneath it; or he may mean, as in
Hamlet [iii. ii. 160], ‘Here stooping
to your clemency.’” I prefer the latter. Compare Richard III. iv. iv. 94:
“Where be the bending peers that
flatter’d thee?”

It should be noted also that the
line quoted by Steevens from *Hamlet*
is one of the three composing the brief
prologue to the Players’ tragedy.

4. Mangling by starts] “by touching
only on select parts” (Johnson).

7. the world’s best garden] Bur-
gundy’s phrase, v. ii. 36.
THE LIFE OF

[ACT V. SC. II.

Henry the Sixth, in infant bands crown'd King
Of France and England, did this king succeed; Whoose state so many had the managing,
That they lost France and made his England bleed: Which oft our stage hath shown; and, for their sake, In your fair minds let this acceptance take.

[Exit.

14. Exit] Capell; omitted F.

13. of?] in the three parts of Henry been received with favour.

VI., which, the Chorus insinuates, had
APPENDIX

ACT I. SCENE II. LINES 183–204.

Mr. Warwick Bond, in his note on the following passage, writes: "The description, on which Shakespeare probably based his in Henry V. i. ii., is freely transcribed from Pliny, xi. ch. 4–22, supplemented perhaps by Lyly's own observation. Pliny says nothing about the suicide of the un-wittingly disobedient, nor about their Parliament except 'convocantur,' c. 22":—

Euphues delighted with the discourses of old Fidus, was content to heare any thing, so he myght heare him speake some thing, and consenting willingly, hee desired Fidus to go forward: who nowe remouing him-selfe neerer to the Hyues, beganne as followeth.

Gentlemen, I haue for ye space of this twenty yeares dwelt in this place, taking no delight in any thing but only in keeping my Bees, and marking them, and this I finde, which had I not scene, I shold hardly haue beleueed. That they vse as great wit by induction, and arte by workmanship, as euer man hath, or can, vsing betwene themeselues no lesse justice then wisdome, and yet not so much wisdome as maiestie: insomuch as thou wouldest thinke, that they were a kinde of people, a common wealth for Plato, where they all labour, all gather honny, flye all together in a swarme, cate in a swarm, and sleepe in a swarm, so neate and finely, that they abhorre nothing so much as vncleannes, drinking pure and cleere water, delighting in sweete and sound Musick, which if they heare but once out of tune, they flye out of sight: and therefore are they called the Muses byrds, because they folow not the sound so much as the
consent. They lyue vnder a lawe, vsing great reuerence to their elder, as to the wiser. They chuse a King, whose pallace they frame both brauer in show, and stronger in substaunce: whome if they finde to fall, they establish again in his throne, with no lesse duty then deuotion, garding him continually, as it were for feare he should miscarry, and for loue he should not: whom they tender with such fayth and fauour, that whether-soeuer he flyeth, they follow him, and if hee can-not flye, they carry him: whose lyfe they so loue, that they will not for his safety stick to die, such care haue they for his health, on whome they build all their hope. If their Prince dye, they know not how to Hue, they languish, weepe, sigh, neither intending their work, nor keeping their olde societie.

And that which is most meruailous, and almoste incred-ible: if ther be any that hath disobeyed his commaundements, eyther of purpose, or vnwittingly, hee kylleth him-selfe with his own sting, as executioner of his own stubbornesse. The King him-selfe hath his sting, which hee vseth rather for honour then punishment: And yet Euphues, al-beit they lyue vnder a Prince, they haue their priueledge, and as great liberties as straight lawes.

They call a Parliament, wher-in they consult, for lawes, statutes, penalties, chusing officers, and creating their king, not by affection but reason, not by the greater part, but ye better. And if such a one by chaunce be chosen (for among men som-times the worst speede best) as is bad, then is there such ciuill war and dissention, that vntill he be pluckt downe, there can be no friendship, and ouer-throwne, there is no enmitie, not fighting for quarrelles, but quietnesse.

Ev ery one hath his office, some trimming the honny, some working the wax, one framing hiues, an other the combes, and that so artificially, that Dedalus could not with greater arte or excellencie, better dispose the orders, measures, proportions, distinctions, ioynts and circles. Diuers hew, others polish, all are carefull to doe their worke so strongly, as they may resist the craft of such drones, as seek to liue by their labours, which maketh them to keepe watch and warde, as lyuing in a camp to others, and as in a court to them-sclues. Such a care of chastitie,
that they neuer ingender, such a desire of cleannesse, that there is not so much as meate in all their hiues. When they go forth to work, they marke the wind, the clouds, and whatsoeuer doth threaten either their ruine, or raign, and hauing gathered out of euery flower honny they return loden in their mouthes, thighs, wings, and all the bodye, whome they that tarried at home receyue readily, as easing their backes of so great burthens.

The Kyng him-selfe not idle, goeth vp and downe, entreating, threatning, commaunding, vsing the counsell of a sequel, but not loosing the dignitie of a Prince, preferring those y't labour to greater authoritie, and punishing those that loyter, with due seueritie. All which thinges being much admirable, yet this is most, that they are so profitable, bringing vnto man both honnye and wax, each so wholsome that wee all desire it, both so necessary that we cannot misse them. Here Euphues is a common wealth, which oftentimes calling to my minde, I cannot chuse but commend aboue any that either I haue heard or read of. Where the king is not for euery one to talke of, where there is such homage, such loue, such labour, that I haue wished oftentimes, rather be a Bee, then not be as I should be.

In this little garden with these hiues, in this house haue I spent the better parte of my lyfe, yea and the best: I was neuer busie in matters of state, but referring al my cares vnto the wisdom of graue Counsellors, and my confidence in the noble minde of my dread Souereigne and Queene, neuer asking what she did, but alwayes praying she may do well, not enquiring whether she might do what she would, but thinking she would do nothing but what she might.

Thus contented with a meane estate, and neuer curious of the high estate, I found such quiet, that mee thinketh, he which knoweth least, lyueth longest: insomuch that I chuse rather to be an Hermitte in a caue, then a Counsellor in the court.1

Shakespeare, William
The life of King Henry the Fifth. 2d ed.
1917