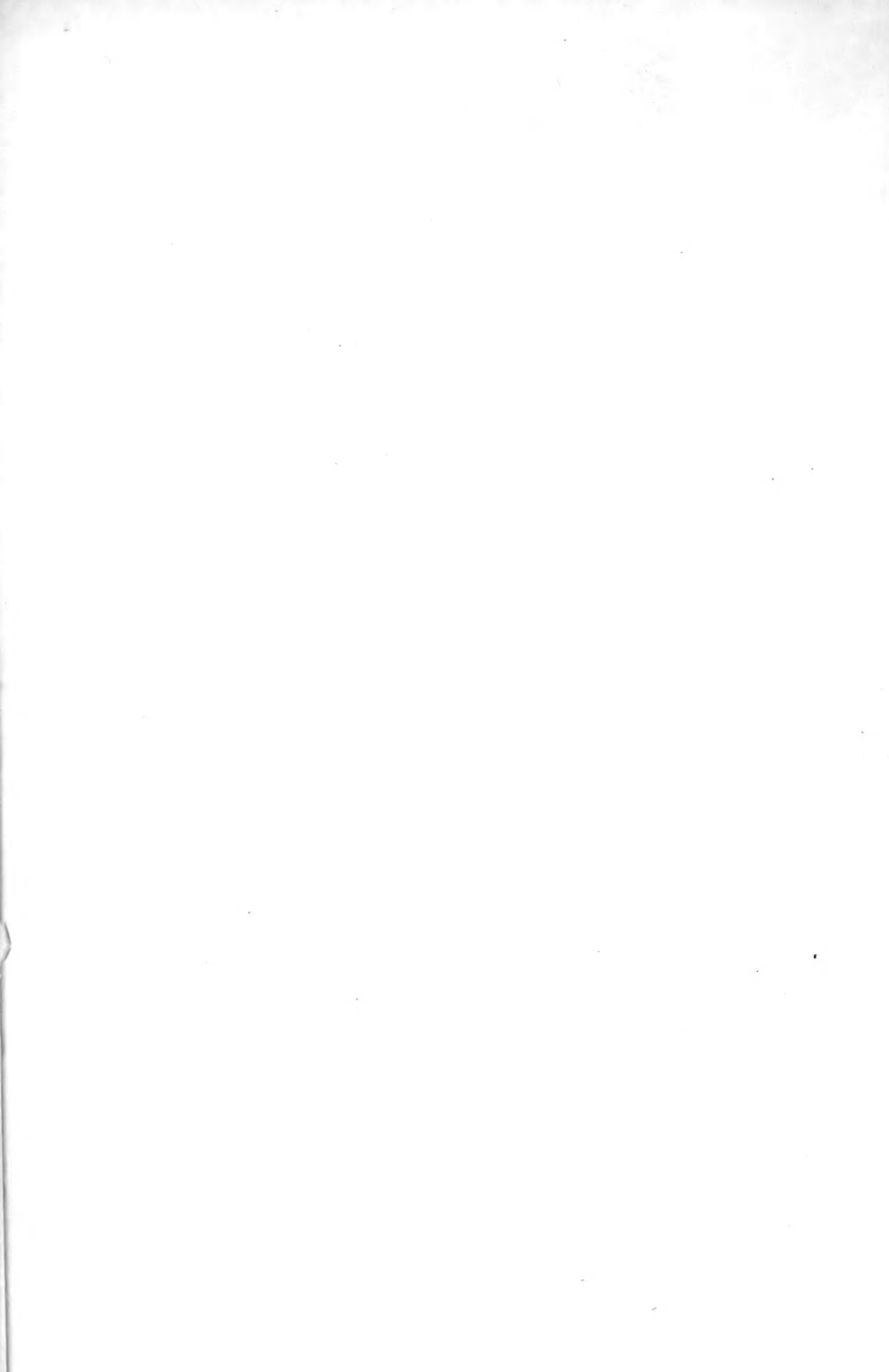




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RICHARD THE THIRD

BY

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

RICHARD THE THIRD

BY

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

THE FIRST QUARTO,
1597,

A FACSIMILE IN PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHY

BY

WILLIAM GRIGGS,

FOR 13 YEARS PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER TO THE INDIA OFFICE,

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

P. A. DANIEL.

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18/2/03



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RICHARD III.

INTRODUCTION.

THIS play was entered on the Stationers' Register to Andrew Wise, 20th Oct. 1597, and the 1st Quarto edition of it—the Facsimile of which is here given—was published by him that same year, “As it hath beene lately Acted by the Right honourable the Lord Chamberlaine his seruants.”

It will be seen that no author's name appears on the title page of this 1st edition: in the 2nd edition (Q₂) 1598, it is said to be “By William Shakespeare.”

A third edition (Q₃) was published in 1602, its title differing in no respect from Q₂ except in stating that it was “Newly augmented”; but neither in this nor in any subsequent Q. is any addition to be found to the text of the two first Qos. It differs from them only in a very large increase of errors, which (it may be added) are mostly left uncorrected in the subsequent Qos.

A fourth edition (Q₄) appeared in 1605; a fifth (Q₅) in 1612; a sixth (Q₆) in 1622; a seventh (Q₇) in 1629; and an eighth (Q₈) in 1634; each Q. upwards being printed from its immediate predecessor, with the exception of Q₅, which was printed not from Q₄ but from Q₃.¹

The above particulars are taken from the Preface to the Play in Vol. V. of the Cambridge edition of *Shakespeare's Works*, where also full bibliographical details, not needed here, will be found. It is on the basis of the complete collation, given in the Cambridge edition, of all the old copies that my work is founded, occasional reference only having been needed to the original editions themselves. With this acknowledgment I must also express my sense of the deep debt of gratitude which all lovers of Shakespeare owe to the labours of Messrs. W. G. Clark and W. Aldis Wright: my admiration of their great work has increased with my almost daily use of it since its publication, 1863-66.

¹ I do not presume to dispute this last statement of the Cambridge editors; but the collation of these Qos., given in their foot-notes to the Play, suggests that Q₅ was printed from a copy made up of Q₃ and Q₄. It certainly reproduces errors of Q₃ which were corrected in Q₄, but it also repeats errors which originated in Q₄. I have no means of determining this point; it would require a minute examination of undoubtedly genuine copies of all three editions. Fortunately it is not a point which in any way interferes with the inquiry now in hand.

The earliest date assigned to this Play (by Malone) is 1593; later dates being fixed on by subsequent commentators; my own impression, so far as Shakespeare was concerned in its production, is that, as suggested in the Title-page—"as it hath beene lately acted," etc.)—it was written not long before the date of its first publication, say 1596/7.

Measured by the Shakespearian standard of excellence, *Richard III.*, however popular and successful on the stage, can only rank as a second or third rate performance; and this, I make no doubt, is to be attributed to the fact that it was not of Shakespeare's original composition, but the work of the author or authors of the *Henry VI.* series of plays; his part in this as in those, being merely that of a reviser or re-writer. With the question of authorship, however, I am not here concerned; the relation to each other of the Q. and F. versions is all I propose to deal with; and this, after all, is the most important matter connected with the play, for unless it can be settled on some reasonably certain basis, the difficulties in the way of a satisfactory settlement of the text itself are almost insuperable.

The most important recent contributions to the literature of this subject are the Preface of the Cambridge Editors and the Papers which it has given rise to by Prof. Delius, Mr. James Spedding, Mr. E. H. Pickersgill, etc., for which see the *Transactions of the New Shakspere Society for 1875-6, Pt. I.* The space at my disposal will not permit me, except very rarely, to comment on these; I must content myself with stating briefly their conclusions.

The Cam. Edd. suppose the Q. to represent Shakespeare's original work: the F. a copy revised and augmented by him, but again revised by some unknown hand, with occasional aid from Q3.

Prof. Delius believes the F. to be the original work; the Q. a copy obtained clandestinely, amended or patched up by some unknown person for the pirate-publisher.

Mr. Spedding supposes the Q. to be the original work; the F. a subsequent but incomplete revision and augmentation of it, by Shakespeare himself, founded on one of the printed Qos., probably Q3.

Mr. Pickersgill is of opinion that the Q. is the shortened actors'-copy of the original work; the F. the original work revised by some unknown hand, with occasional aid from Q3.

Of course all make due allowance for error and corruption in both versions.

My own conclusions, as briefly stated, and with like allowance for corruption by transcribers, printers, players, stage licenser, etc., are that the F. represents the play as first set forth by Shakespeare; the Q. a shortened and revised copy of it.

The heart of the matter is in this last proposition; for if it can be shown that the Q. is anywhere revised or altered on the text of

the play as given in the F., it follows almost as a matter of course that it is also a shortened version, and, till proof to the contrary is forthcoming, that the F. must be accepted as representing substantially the original play. The only external hint affording any ground for the theory that the F. at any time underwent revision, except for the purpose of the Q., is the announcement on the title-page of Q3, 1602—"Newly augmented,"—but unless this external evidence can be backed up by internal evidence derived from comparison of the texts themselves, this bookseller's announcement may be dismissed as worthless, or at the best as meaning nothing more than that, when preparing for his third edition, Andrew Wise intended or hoped to be able to give his readers a completer copy of the play than he had supplied them with in his two first editions. I do not believe that any such internal evidence can be produced; certainly I find none in the Papers I have referred to above, nor have I been able to detect any in the course of my own examination: on the other hand I do find in the Q. (1) deliberate corrections of errors that appear in the F., and (2) corruption and confusion of F. passages, evidently the result of the careless way in which the revision or alteration for the Q. was made.

Let us first try to get a clear notion of the F. text as it stands. The subject has been complicated by the supposition that Q3 is in some way connected with it, as having in part supplied the printers of the F. with their "copy"; or as having been consulted by some unknown reviser; or even as having formed the actual foundation of an augmented and revised play. I can find no *proof* of any such connection.

The "copy"—as I hope to prove—supplied to the printers of the F. was a copy of Q6, 1622, enlarged, altered, and corrected in accordance with a complete MS. of the play in the possession of the theatre.

That this MS. was in existence when the publication of the F. was determined on is certain,—without it the F. version would have been an impossibility,—and though it may seem strange that with this complete copy in their possession, Messrs. Heminge and Condell should have taken the trouble to provide a special copy of it for the printers of the F., it is clear they must have done so, and in the way I have supposed; it is impossible otherwise to account for the numerous errors which the F. has derived from the Qos., and an examination of these errors shows that Q6 was the particular Q. from which they were immediately taken. Indeed, this Q. was almost of necessity the one to be made use of; the previous editions being exhausted, dispersed, or destroyed, as was the common fate of "sixpenny books of the play." And it may be noted that this was the course followed with respect to the other plays in the F.

which were printed from Qos: all were printed from the latest editions, with one exception: the *1st Pt. of Henry IV.* was printed from Q5, 1613, not from Q6, 1622. *Romco and Juliet* may perhaps be another exception; it was printed from Q3, 1609, and there was an undated Q4, which may possibly have been published before the F. But even with these two plays we see that it was not the earlier and more correct editions which were chosen for the F.

If then my reader will imagine for himself the scribe employed by Messrs. Heminge and Condell laboriously adding to, altering and correcting the pages of Q6 in accordance with the theatrical MS., he may also easily imagine that that scribe would have been more than mortal if he had not left some traces of the ground he was at work on, in the shape of uncorrected errors of the printed book, or if he had not blundered some of the corrections he intended; while at the same time he thoughtlessly introduced into his copy errors of the MS. itself;—for it is not to be supposed that this MS. was other than a transcript of the author's MS., and as such, having, of course, its own share of errors. Unfortunately for the text of the play—though fortunately for the purpose of this inquiry—our scribe was not an immortal: he has let us into the secret of the materials he had to work with, has enabled us to account for many of the variations of Q. and F., and has given us the means of forming a reasonably consistent theory as to the relation of the two versions.

A very brief examination of the collation of Qos. 1 to 6,¹ as set forth in the foot-notes of the Cambridge edition, establishes the fact that in numerous places these Qos. differ among themselves; sometimes in the correction in a later Q. of an error that had established itself in one of an earlier date, but generally in a progressive increase in error in the later editions as compared with the earlier.

Putting aside all cases in which the F. differs from all the preceding Qos.,—in which cases the reading of the F. must of course as a rule be referred to its MS. authority—I find that the F. in some 435 cases in which Qos. 1 to 6 disagree among themselves, is in accord with one or more of them:—

with Q1	326 times
with Q2	292 times
with Q3	262 times
with Q4	238 times
with Q5	236 times
with Q6	168 times

This relatively greater agreement of the F. with the earlier

¹ In this inquiry it was of course useless to take into account the Qos. 7 and 8 published later than the F.

Qos. merely marks the progressive deterioration of the Qos. and the generally superior accuracy of the F. text: it is in its agreement with Q. errors that we learn its part origin, and are able to decide to which Q. it was indebted. From these 435 cases then I have culled a list of 72 doubtful or erroneous readings imported into the F. text.

It would be needless, as tedious, to give the whole of this list; some half dozen instances will suffice to show that they could only have got into the F. from one of the Qos. Take then the following:—

III.i.40. To milde entreaties, *God* forbid. Q3-6 F., a deficient line: *God in heaven* forbid. Q1 and 2.

III.i.78. Even to the generall *ending* day. Q2-6 F., a deficient line: *all ending* Q1.

III.i.141. My Lord Protector *will* haue it so. Q2-6 F., a deficient line: *needes will* Q1.

V.iii.152. Let us be *laid* within thy bosome, Richard. Q2-6 F., a misprint: *lead* Q1.

V.iii.180. It is *not* dead midnight. Q2-6 F., a misprint: *now* Q1.

V.iii.255. If you do *sweare* to put a Tyrant downe. Q3-6 F., a misprint: *sweate* Q1 and 2.

V.iii.338. *Right* Gentlemen of England, fight *boldly* yeomen—misprints: *Right* Q3-6 F. *Fight* Q1, 2; *boldly* Q2-6 F. *bold* Q1.

V.iii.351. Upon them, Victorie sits on our *helpes*. Q3, 5, and 6, F., a misprint: *helmes* Q1, 2, and 4.

These are sufficient for my purpose: it now remains to show from which of the Qos. they were derived.

Out of my list of 72 doubtful or erroneous readings I find that the F. shares

10 with Q1, two exclusively;
19 with Q2, none exclusively;
53 with Q3, one exclusively;
54 with Q4, one exclusively;
52 with Q5, one exclusively;
56 with Q6, twelve exclusively.

The preponderance of Q6 in this account of errors points very decidedly to that Q. as the one used in preparing "copy" for the F. text: it is worth while therefore to examine in detail the 16 (72—56 = 16) "errors" of this list of 72 which the F. could not have derived from the *unaltered* text of that Q.: they are as follows:—

1. III.i.123. "I would that I might thank you, *as, as*, you call me" F.: "*as as* you call me" Q3. This is the only instance in which the F. is in agreement with a reading peculiar to Q3; the

repetition of *as* is not found in the other Qos. Mr. Spedding remarks of it that it is “a misprint probably, though it might perhaps be defended as meant to indicate an affected hesitation.” Sidney Walker—who, however, does not appear to have been acquainted with Q3—evidently so considered it, and, commenting on the F., asks, “May not this be the right reading?”; and he has found at least one editor (the Rev. H. N. Hudson) to answer affirmatively by introducing it into the modern text. If then this repetition of *as* be the true reading it would naturally have found its way into the F. from the theatrical MS. independently of Q3; but if an error—and I am bound to say I think it one—the chances are no doubt great against it having crept into the F. except as a relict of Q3; still the repetition of words is a very common error of the press, and it is *possible* that the error may have been made independently in both Q3 and F1.

2. III.ii.19. “*Goe fellow, goe*, return unto thy Lord.” F. Q1, 2: “*Good fellow, goe*,” etc. Q3-6, which seems to me a preferable reading; though all editors, I believe, accept that of the F. and two first Qos. Q1 and 2, however, have no claim, either of them, to be the copy prepared for the F. text, and I can scarcely doubt that their reading was also that of the theatrical MS., and in that case was of course transferred from that MS. to the Q. which the scribe was at work on, one of the Qos. 3 to 6.

3. III.v.61. “*Misconster* us in him, and waile his death.” F. Q1-5. Q6 has *misconstrue*. *Misconster* cannot of course be considered either a doubtful or erroneous reading, and I have only admitted it into this list because *prima facie* it tells against Q6: the question is, did the F. get it from one of the Qos. 1-5, or, supposing 6 to be the Q. printed from, was its form of the word altered in accordance with the theatrical MS.? The result of my examination of F1 with Q3 and 6—the two chief claimants to the parentage of the F.—is the conviction that the mere form or spelling of a word in those Qos. is no proof of connection with the F., the printer of which followed his own lights in this respect regardless of his “copy.” Hence I conclude that this instance neither tells against Q6 nor in favour of one of the Qos. 1-5.

4. III.v.108. “And to give order that *no manner person*.” F. Q3, 4: “no manner *of* person” Q1, 2, 5, and 6. Perhaps also I ought not to have included this reading of F. and Q3, 4 in a list of doubtful and erroneous readings: there is no question of the propriety of the use of *manner* without the preposition, and in this case the metre should be allowed to decide. If then the F. has the true reading, that reading was probably found in the theatrical MS., and there is no need therefore in this case to suppose any special connection between F. and Q3 and 4; which like the

rest of the Qos. have their own independent corrections, and errors. The person preparing "copy" for the F. text would, in accordance with his original, strike out the *of* which he found in the Q. [? Q6] on which he was at work.

5. IV.i.84. "Did I enjoy the golden *dew* of sleep?" F. Q3-5: *dew* Q1, 2, 6. Here again, as in No. 3 of this list, no proof for or against the claims of any of the Qos. is to be deduced from difference of spelling.

6. IV.ii.102. "A king perhaps." F. and, except that it has a comma in the place of the period, so also Q4. All the other Qos. repeat *perhaps*, and this repetition is accepted by several editors as the true reading. If the true reading, can the omission in the F. have originated with Q4, or is it merely an accidental coincidence? It is the only instance of the agreement of the F. with a reading peculiar to Q4, and in any case tells as much, or as little, against Q3 as against Q6. I incline to believe that the repetition of *perhaps* was not found in the theatrical MS., and was therefore struck out of the Q. used in the preparation of the F. text; and the more so that Q4 has little or no claim to this distinction.

It is worthy of notice, however, that this missing "perhaps" was the last word which occurs before the only long Q. passage not found in the F., and the omission of which from the F. is one of the chief puzzles of the many the play presents. It is the passage in which Richard snubs Buckingham. I can only account for the omission of this passage from the F. on the supposition that it never was in the original draught of the play; that it was in fact, in theatrical parlance, a "bit of fat" inserted in the Q. version for the benefit of the chief actor, when that version was put upon the stage. At any rate when "copy" was being prepared for the printers of the F., it must have been deliberately struck out of the Q. used for that purpose, and could only have been thus struck out because it was not in the theatrical MS., or was there found crossed out: perhaps in striking it out the scribe used his pen too vigorously, and also struck out the "perhaps," the absence of which occasions this elaborate attempt to account for its absence.

I may add here that I believe this passage and perhaps one other are the only passages that can in any way be considered *additions* to the Q.; all the other lines found in it, but not in the F., are to be accounted for as accidental *omissions* in the F. The other passage is Richard's speech, Act III. vii. 220, "O, do not swear, my lord of Buckingham": again, perhaps, a little "bit of fat" for the chief actor; though here again, if the censor of the F. had struck out Buckingham's oath in the preceding speech, this line would naturally disappear with it, and its absence from F. text would

not have been accidental. That the censor has been busy with the F. appears in Act I. Sc. iv. l. 184-5—

“I charge you, as you hope to have redemption
By Christ’s dear blood shed for our grievous sins,” etc.

reduced in the F. to—

“I charge you, as you hope for any goodness”—

line 185 being struck out altogether. That at least is the explanation of previous commentators, and I am willing to accept it; though it is an instance that would tell strongly in favour of my theory that the Q. was a revision of the F. text.

7. IV.iii. 22. “To bear *this* tydings to the bloody king.” F. Q1-5. Q6 has *these*. Most editors are content to accept “*this* tidings” as the true reading, and probably it was that of the theatrical MS., in which case, if Q6 was used for printing the F. text, *these* would have been changed to *this*: so that this case can scarcely be said to tell against the Q6 theory.

8. IV.iv.45. “I had a Rutland too, *thou hop’st* to kill him.” F1. *thou hopst* Q1, 2; and *thou holp’st* Q3-6. Qos. 1 and 2 have so little claim to the parentage of F. that if this misprint, *hop’st*, is not merely an accidental coincidence, I should be disposed to conjecture that Q1 got it from the theatrical MS., and that from that MS. it was again transferred by the scribe to the later Q. from which the F. was printed; the superfluous *and*, which had got into the later Qos., being at the same time struck out.

9. IV.iv.392. “Ungouern’d youth, to wail it *with their* age” F. Q5: *in their* Q1-4; *with her* Q6. Here Q5 puts in its solitary claim to exclusive connection with F.; but all things considered I am disposed to think that so far from this case telling against Q6 it affords proof in its favour: *in their* is clearly the right reading, and it is quite possible that the scribe who prepared the “copy” for the F., with the theatrical MS. before him and working on a copy of Q6, may, in correcting the obvious blunder *her*, have overlooked the other correction of *with* to *in* which he should also have made. This is one of the errors which correctors for the press are, I know from experience, very liable to fall into. Note, Malone assigns the reading *with their* to “Quarto 1602, [Q3] etc.”; he is wrong: the Cam. edd. give the variations of the Qos. correctly, as above.

10. IV.iv.423. “But in your daughter’s wombe *I bury* them” F. Q3, 4: *I buried* Q1, 2; *Ile burie* Q5, 6. Q1 and 2 are of course wrong; Q5 and 6 seem to me to have the best reading; but if Q3, 4, and F. are right, as all editors by their acceptance seem to consider, the F. would get its reading independently of Q3 and 4

with which it agrees, and therefore there would be no case here against Q6.

11. V.iii.114. "That we may praise thee in *thy* victory." F. Q3-5: *the* Q1, 2, 6. Editors are not agreed as to the true reading in this case; some adopting *thy*, others *the*: it can hardly therefore be taken into account in deciding the question of the Q. used for the preparation of the F. text.

12, 13. V.iii.131&139. "Let me sit heauy *in* thy soule to-morrow." F. Q1-4: *on* Q5, 6. Where this line first occurs—l. 118—all the old editions agree in *on*: in these two repetitions of it they differ as noted above. *In* or *on* are equally fitting here; but no doubt all three repetitions of the line should be uniform. The agreement of F1 and Q1 in *in* in two places (ll. 131, 139) must be set against their agreement in *on* in one place (l. 118), and I take it the balance is in favour of *in* as the true reading, or at any rate as the reading of the theatrical MS.; in which case its occurrence in these lines 131 and 139 of the F. text can neither be taken as proof in favour of one of the Qos. 1-4, nor against Qos. 5 and 6.

14. V.iii.221. "Vnder our Tents Ile play the *Ease-dropper*." F.: *ease dropper* Q1; the rest, *ewse*, *ewse*, and *ewse-dropper*: it is not 'till F4 that we arrive at *eaves-dropper*. I hardly think it can be maintained that *ease* in Q1 and F1 is a survival of *easen*, and if not, it is difficult to guess how what must be a misprint can have found its way into both Q1 and F1.—Q1 being out of the question as regards the pedigree of F1—unless, as I have suggested of other cases, both derived it from the theatrical MS.

15. V.iii.304. "Iockey of Norfolke, be not *so* bold" F. Q1-5: *too*, according to the Chronicles, was the right word, and Q6 has *to*; so that if Q6 was used for printing from, it must have been "corrected" to *so*, because that was the reading of the theatrical MS., whence also Q1 must have derived it.

16. V.v.20,21. "Smile Heauen. . . . That long *haue* frown'd," etc. F. Q1-5: *hath* Q6. Till editors are agreed that *haue* in this place is a misprint, it can hardly be maintained that the F. must have derived it from one of the Qos. 1-5. It may very well have been the reading of the theatrical MS., and so transferred by the scribe to Q6, which I believe to have been the Q. used in the preparation of the F. text: and I venture to think that this examination of the 16 "errors" shared by the F. with other Qos. than Q6 scarcely touches that Q.'s claim to the parentage of the F.; that claim, moreover, being immensely strengthened by the exclusive connection which is shown to exist between the two in the following instances, which form part of the 72 doubtful or erroneous readings supposed to have been transferred from Q. to F.

INSTANCES OF EXCLUSIVE CONNECTION OF Q6 WITH F.

1. I.iv.13. "Vpon the Hatches: *There* we look'd toward England." *thence* Q1-5.

2. I.iv.22. "What dreadful noise of *water* in mine ears." *waters* Q1-5.

3. I.iv.135. "Bid Gloucester thinke *on* this and he will weepe." *of* Q1-5.

4. I.iv.272. "By *Heauen* the Duke shall know," etc. *heauens* Q1-5.

5. IV.i.82. "Which litherto hath held *mine* eyes from rest." *my* Q1-5. All the Qos., however, give the line very differently—

"Which *euer since* hath *kept* my^e eyes from sleepe."

Q6 differing from them only in the word *mine*, as in F. version.

6. IV.iv.112. "From which euen heere I slip my *wearied* head." *wearie* Q1-5. All the Qos., however, for *head* have *neck*; an erroneous repetition of the word, I believe, caught by the printer of Q. from the preceding line.

7. IV.iv.238. "Then euer you *and* yours by me were harm'd." *or* Q1-5. All the Qos., however, give the line very differently—

"Then euer you *or yours were* by me *wrong'd*."

Q6 differing from them only in the word *and*, as in F. version.

In these three instances (5, 6, and 7) we may easily imagine that the scribe at work on a copy of Q6, while altering that text in accordance with the theatrical MS., overlooked the tell-tale words *mine*, *wearied*, and *and* of that Q.

8. IV.iv.509. "Out on *ye*, owles." *you* Q1-5.

9. V.iii.250. "A base foule Stone, made precious by the *soyle*. The true reading is of course that of Qos. 1 and 2—*foile*; the rest have *soile*, but Q6 prints the word as it is found in the F. *soyle*. In the case of an error such as this undoubtedly is, its form may perhaps point to the source of its derivation, and I have therefore set this down as an instance of exclusive connection between Q6 and F.; though, as I have pointed out in Nos. 3 and 5 of the preceding list, not much reliance is, as a rule, to be placed on mere spelling.

To these nine instances of readings peculiar to Q6 and F. I add three more, completing my list of 12 exclusive Q6-F1 errors, out of the order in which they occur in the play, because I wish to group them with others which, with them, seem to me to point pretty clearly to the fact that *conjectural emendations* of errors have been made in the F. text.

III.v.66. "With all your just proceedings in this *case*." F.: *cause* Q1-5, corrupted to *ease* in Q6. Though the F. word fits

the place well enough, it has all the look of a correction of the Q6 error.

III.v.74. "There at your *meetest vantage* of the time." F. The Q1-5 have *meetest advantage*, which Q6 corrupts to *meetest advantage*. The F. reading looks very like a metrical correction of this corruption.

IV.iv.533-6.

"My Liege, the Duke of Buckingham is taken,
That is the best newes : that the Earle of Richmond
Is with a mighty power Landed at Milford,
Is colder *Newes*, but yet they must be told." F.

For the last line Q1-5 have—

"Is colder *tidings* yet they must be told."

The printer of Q6 catching the word *newes* from the second line repeated it here in place of *tidings*—

"Is colder *newes* yet they must be told"

and so left an imperfect line. Here again the F. line has all the appearance of a conjectural emendation of the Q6 blunder.

In the other instances of this kind of "correction," though the errors which occasioned it are not *peculiar* to Q6, they are all shared by that Q:—

I.i.65.

"That *tempts* him to this *harsh* Extremity." F.

The 1st Q., which certainly has the better reading, gives the line thus—

"That *tempers* him to this extremity."

Qos. 2, 5, 6, corrupt *tempers* to *tempts*, Qos. 3 and 4 to *temps*, and thus they leave an imperfect line which the editor of F1 "corrects" by the addition of *harsh*.

V.iii.199.

"Throng *all to' th'* Barre, crying all, Guilty, Guilty." F.

The Qos. 1 and 2, which are undoubtedly right, have—

"Throng *to the* bar crying all, Guilty, Guilty"—

corrupted in Qos. 3-6 to "Throng *all to the* bar," etc. The printer of F., instead of striking out the redundant *all*, tried to reduce the line to measure by contracting *to the* to *to' th'*.

V.iii.309.

"*For* Conscience is a word that cowards use." F.

"Conscience is *but* a word that cowards use." Q1 and 2.

Qos. 3-6 omit *but*, leaving the line defective, and F. restores the metre at the expense of the sense.

V.v.4. "*these* long vsurped *Royalties*," F.: "*this* long vsurped *roialtie*" Q1. Q2-6 corrupt *roialtie* to *roialties*, whereupon F., accepting the corruption, "corrects" *this* to *these*.

These instances are all I can find in the play which afford *proof* of conjectural emendation; and the errors being all found in Q6, some exclusively, it is probable that the "emendations" *all* resulted from the errors in that Q., and therefore it is obvious that Shakespeare himself can have had nothing to do with them; nor can they be supposed the work of the scribe, who, as I have endeavoured to show, was employed in adding to and altering a copy of Q6 in accordance with the theatrical MS.: with that MS. before him, there could have been no need for him to resort to conjectural emendation. But we have seen, in the transfer of Q. errors to the F., that his work was far from perfect, and that he left many errors of his printed book uncorrected. The conclusion necessarily then must be, that these errors were "corrected" conjecturally in the proofs of the F. text itself: and the fact that such "corrections" exist brings into full relief the importance of this inquiry into the nature of the "copy" supplied to the printers of the F.; for it is possibly to them we owe the notion that the play was revised throughout by some unknown hand, and, as the Cambridge editors suppose, shortly before 1623. I cannot, however, admit that they justify such a theory, and I have been quite unable to find any other grounds for it. Indeed, considering the plentiful crop of errors this unknown reviser might have exercised his ingenuity upon, but did not, I think we may safely decline to believe at all in his existence.

Incidentally in examining the list of F.-Q. "errors" not derived from Q6, we have touched on the important question which now remains to be decided, viz.: the priority of Q. or F.; for we have seen reason to believe that both derived some of the errors they have in common from the same MS. source, and therefore *primâ facie* the F. = MS. would represent the original play; but the following cases are of still greater weight, to my thinking, as affording proof that the Q. text is altered or revised on that given in the F.: on them chiefly must depend the acceptance or rejection of my conclusions.

INSTANCES OF ALTERATION OF THE F. TEXT IN THE Q.

I.i.138. "Now by S. *John*, that Newes is bad indeed." F. The Q. alters to *Paul*, the saint by whom Richard swears elsewhere, I.ii., I.iii., III.iv. and V.iii. Unless we suppose the *John* of F. to

be a mere misprint, I do not see how we can avoid the conclusion that a deliberate change was made to *Paul* in the Q.

I.ii.19,20.

"Then I can wish to *Wolues, to Spiders, Toades*
Or any creeping venom'd thing that liues." F.

The Q. here has, — "to *adders, Spiders,*" etc., an obvious correction.

I.ii.180-182.

"Nay, do not pause : *For I did kill King Henrie,*
But 'twas thy Beauty that prouoked me.
Nay now dispatch : 'Twas I that *stab'd young Edward.*" F.

The Q. restores the historical order of these crimes, reading in the first line—" *'twas I that kild your husband*"—and in the third—" *kild King Henry*" : and the alterations in the text show that the transposition was made advisedly. Against this might perhaps be urged the fact that in the Qos. 1 and 2, in V. iii., the ghosts of the young Princes enter before the Ghost of Hastings, while in the F. they enter in due chronological order ; but this case must be merely an instance of blundering in the two first Qos., for in the other Qos. the error is corrected.

I.ii.213. "*Crosbie House,*" F. ; altered in Q. to "*Crosbie place.*" "Then have you one great house called Crosby place." Stowe, 1603, ed. Thoms 1842, p. 65. This mansion is twice elsewhere mentioned in the Play : I.iii.345, where F. agrees with Q. in calling it *place*, and III.i.191 where the Q. again alters *Crosbie house* to *Crosbie place*.

I.iii.333. "To be reveng'd on Riuers, *Dorset, Grey.*" F. For *Dorset* the Q. substitutes *Vaughan* ; no doubt for the sufficient reason that he is associated in death with the other two.

I.iv. In the F. Brackenbury's position is not very clear here. The author seems to have begun the scene with the intention of making the keeper in attendance on Clarence a distinct personage, and then, as the scene progressed, to have resolved that Brackenbury himself should be this keeper. I don't see how else we are to account for the way in which, after l. 75, Brackenbury enters, takes up the words of the keeper, and assumes his post. The consolidation of the two parts has the advantage of economizing the services of one actor, and accordingly in the Q. we find the new plan consistently carried out : the lines 67 and 73—

"Ah keeper, keeper, I haue done these things"—

and—

"Keeper, I prythee sit by me a-while"

being changed to—

“O Brokenbury, I haue done those things,”
and to—
“I pray thee, gentle keeper, stay by me,”—

while at the same time the entry of Brackenbury, as Lieutenant, is struck out, and in the first entry to the Scene and in the prefixes to speeches, his name is substituted for *keeper*.

II.i.66-68.

“Of you and you, Lord Riuers and of Dorset,
That all without desert haue frown'd on me :
Of you Lord Wooduill, and Lord Scales of you.” F.

In the Q. we find only :—

“Of you Lo: Riuers, and Lord Gray of you,
That all without desert haue frownd on me.”

The third line being omitted altogether. All three lines, I believe to have been in the original MS. ; but not in the order in which they stand in the F. : the line—“Of you Lord Wooduill, and Lord Scales of you”—was second in order ; but the scribe who was preparing, from the original MS. with the aid of one of the printed Qos., “copy” for the F. edition, either inserted the line wanting in the Q. in the wrong place, or the printer mistook his directions and did it for him. But why was the line wanting in the Q. ? Here we have good proof, I think, that when the play was shortened for the Q. edition it was also *revised*. Woodville (Anthony Woodville—there was no *Lord Woodville*) was the “Lord Rivers” addressed in the first line of the passage quoted above ; he was also “Lord Scales” in right of his wife, the “heir and daughter of Lord Scales,” who Richard, in 3 *Henry VI.* IV. i., complains would better have been bestowed on him or Clarence. This mistake in making Rivers three separate persons, was evidently corrected when the play was revised for the Q. version, the “Woodville” line struck out altogether, and its *form* given to the first line as we find it in the Q. : “Gray,” Dorset’s younger brother, being substituted for “Dorset” because he was, in history as in the play, associated in death with his uncle Rivers : for the same reason in fact which caused the substitution of “Vaughan” for “Dorset” in I. iii. 333.¹ I do not set down the

¹ It may be further noted with reference to this correction in the Q. that Anthony Woodville, Earl Rivers, is the only brother of the Queen who is introduced in this play, and the only brother who fell a victim to Richard’s hatred ; yet in the F. it is always her “brothers” who are referred to (I.iii.37,67 ; II.iii.28 ; IV.iv.92,143,380). I suspect that the original author of the play was not very clear as to the relationship of his *dramatis personæ*, and that he supposed Grey, who is nowhere referred to as one of the Queen’s sons, to be one of her brothers. In two places in the Q., I.iii.67 and IV.iv.380, *brothers* is corrected

substitution of "Hastings" for "Dorset" in line 7 of this scene as the result of revision, because, tho' undoubtedly a correction, the occurrence of Dorset's name here in the F. was probably merely a blunder on the part of transcriber or printer: the context shows that Hastings was meant. So again in the next scene, II. ii. ll. 142 and 154, where the F. has *London* the Q. gives it correctly *Ludlow*, and *Ludlow* was clearly the place meant. Perhaps both these cases are to be attributed to error in the MS. copy of the play.

II. iv. 1-3.

"Last night I heard they lay at Stony Stratford,
And at Northampton they do rest to night:
Tomorrow, or next day, they will be here." F.

Now this—an error as regards the conduct of the Play—curiously enough coincides with the Chronicles on which the play is founded: the young Prince on his way from Ludlow to London was actually taken back from Stony Stratford to Northampton. This seems to me proof positive that the F. gives the first version of the lines; but now comes the revision for the Q., and the reviser, recollecting that Stony Stratford is nearer to London than Northampton, gives us:—

"Last night I heare they lay at Northampton
At Stonistratford will they be to night,
Tomorrow or next day they will be here."

This transposition of localities has the additional advantage of agreement with the *intention* of the author as expressed in the third line; and, whether it appear paradoxical or not, I should say that the slight sacrifice of rhythm involved in the change is another proof of the revision itself.

Note, that we have here in the F., in the first line, one of the numerous proofs that one of the later Qos. was used in preparing that version for the press. The "tell-tale" word *heard* was derived from one of the Qos. 3-6: from Q6, of course, according to my theory.

Later in this scene we have an incontestible proof of change from F. to Q: for the service of the stage, and to economize a *Messenger*, Dorset is made to deliver this part, and is thereby placed in a most incongruous position. It is impossible to read the part given to him in the Q. without at once perceiving that it was never originally intended for him: the Messenger of the F. was clearly its *first* exponent.

to *brother*, though in the other four places this correction has been overlooked. The Cam. edd., in error, note *brothers* in I.iii.67 as the reading of both Q. and F.

III.iii.15-17. Rivers, Vaughan and Grey on their way to execution :

“*Grey.* Now Margaret’s Curse is falne vpon our Heads
When shee exclaim’d on Hastings, you, and I,
For standing by, when Richard stabb’d her Sonne.” F.

This is of course a direct reference to Margaret’s curse in I.iii. 210-14; but Margaret had not there “exclaimed on” *Grey*, but on Rivers, *Dorset* and Hastings. The Q. omits the second line of the passage quoted above, and perhaps the omission was due to some bungled attempt to conceal the discrepancy; if so, the reviser overlooked a second misstatement in the line following the above—“then cursed she Buckingham.” Margaret did not then curse Buckingham.

III. iv. and v. The substitution in these scenes in the Q. of Catesby for the Lovell and Ratcliff of the F. is a clearer case of “revision,” and may be taken as a measure of the generally careless manner in which that revision was done; or rather, perhaps, of the incomplete state in which it got to press. The economy of the stage no doubt recommended the abolition of Lovell as a separate part; but Catesby in Sc. iv., leading Hastings to execution, is in almost as incongruous a position as Dorset in II. iv. as the Messenger; in Sc. v., however, his displacement of Lovell and Ratcliff brings in a world of confusion: while actually on the stage with Richard, his double enters bearing the head of Hastings! Yet that this office originally devolved (as in the F.) on Ratcliff and Lovell, is shown in the Q. itself in certain tell-tale words in l. 54, where Richard refers to the haste with which “these our friends” have executed their commission.

IV.i. The Queen, Duchess of York, etc., on their way to the Tower, meet with Anne, Duchess of Gloucester :

“*Duch-Yorke.* Who meetes us here?
My Neece Plantagenet,
Led in the hand of her kind Aunt of Gloster?
Now for my Life, shee’s wandring to the Tower,
On pure hearts loue, to greet the tender Prince.
Daughter, well met.
Anne. God giue your Graces both, a happie
And a ioyfull time of day.
Qu. As much to you, good Sister : whither away?” F.

The Q. has only—

“*Dut.* Who meets vs heere, my neece Plantagenet?
Qu. Sister well met, whither away so fast?”

Now though no other indication of the presence of this “Neece.” either in the text or stage directions, is given in F. or Q., I suppose all will admit that modern editors, following Theobald, are right in defining her as Clarence’s young daughter; and the Duchess could no more be supposed to address her daughter-in-law Anne as

“*neece Plantagenet*” than the Queen could address this “*neece*” as sister; the presence therefore of *my neece Plantagenet* in the Q. can only be accounted for as a remnant of the passage omitted in the Q., and seems to me clear proof that here the F. presents the original draught, and the Q. a copy mangled in revision.

V.i. In the Q., Ratchiff takes the part given in the F. to the Sheriff, and thus the services of an additional actor are economized; so also in

V.ii. Catesby takes the part given in the F. to Surrey; both marks, these, of the Q. version having been “revised” on the original, as presented in the F.

V.iii. In stage direction, in F., *Dorset* enters with Richmond, Brandon and Oxford. In Q., Richmond enters only with “*Lordes, etc.*” Malone supposes (*Dorset* not having been at the battle) that *Dorset’s* name was put in the F. by the Players; on the contrary, I should suppose it to be struck out when the Q. was prepared.

All these variations, it seems to me, can only be regarded as alterations of the F. version, and therefore, till evidence to the contrary is forthcoming, all the other textual variations in the two versions must be set down to the same cause, due allowance being of course made for error and corruption.

How else is it possible to account for such a case as this:—*Richard* and *Buckingham*, III.i.188-9, commission *Catesby* to sound *Hastings* as to his willingness to join in their plots:

“*Richard.* Shall we heare from you, *Catesby*, ere we sleepe?
Catesby. You shall my Lord.”

So it appears in both F. and Q.; but in the Q., IV.iii.85-6, with a mere change of name, these speeches occur again:—

“*King.* Shall we heare from you, *Tirrel*, ere we sleepe?
Tirrel. Ye shall my Lord.”

Now, as regards the first occurrence of these speeches, it is to be noted that *Catesby* does not execute his commission ’till the next morning, and it surely does not require any great effort of the imagination to suppose that, in revision, these speeches were *therefore* transferred to the *Tyrell* scene, where they fit better; though through oversight they were not struck out in the previous *Catesby* scene. It could never have been intended that they should appear in both places.

Again in II.ii.23,24, in the F. we find—

“And when my Vnckle told me so, he wept,
And pittied me, and kindly kist my cheeke,”—

changed in Q. into the following extraordinary “verses”—

“And when he told me so, he wept
And *hugd me in his arme* and kindly kist my cheeke.”

This, in my view of the case,—although a strong point with those who believe the F. to be a weak revision of the Q., sacrificing vigour of expression to smoothness of verse,—really affords proof that the F. gives us the original version of the lines, the Q. a corruption of a proposed emendation. See back to I.iv.241-3, where Clarence tells the murderers how he parted with Gloucester—

“It cannot be, for he bewept my Fortune
And hugg’d me in his armes, and swore with sobs
That he would labour my deliuey.”

The audience had witnessed this parting, and this account of it would strike them as fanciful, to say the least; it was therefore probably proposed to take some part of Clarence’s speech and give it to his son, in whose mouth it would be more appropriate. Clarence’s speech has been partly altered in the Q., and reads—

“It cannot be for *when I parted with him*
He hugg’d me,” etc.

The transfer to his son of the words “hugg’d me in his arms” was probably not fully carried out, at least not in the copy from which the Q. was printed; a copy which may be shrewdly suspected of containing many such half-realized emendations, such as would be suggested when the play was first read to the company; and which was probably further scored with such cuts, alterations and gags, as may have arisen during the rehearsals. Only from a copy in this chaotic condition can I imagine the Q. to have been printed.¹

And now to sum up the results of my inquiry.

I have shown, I think, that the F. edition was printed from a copy of Q6 altered and enlarged in accordance with a complete MS. copy of the play, and, errors, etc., allowed for, must be taken as a faithful representation of that MS. No evidence whatever being forthcoming of any revision of the MS., subsequent to the publication of the Q., the F. must therefore be accepted as the Play as first set forth by Shakespeare. I have also shown, I believe, that the Q. is a revised copy of this play, though shortened and much confused and corrupted in its passage to and through the Press.

The relations to each other of the F. and Q. being thus

¹ If I may hazard a guess, I should say that if the proposed changes, here indicated, had been carried out we should have found in Clarence’s speech—

“It cannot be, for when I parted with him
He swore he’d labour my delivery”—

and in his son’s speech—

“And when my Uncle told me so he wept,
And hugg’d me in his arms and kissed my cheek.”

established, some reasonably certain guidance in the settlement of the text is obtained: the Q. being too imperfect for the purpose, an Editor should take the F. as the basis of his text. He will retain in it those characters (as Lovell, Surrey, Sheriff, Messenger, etc.) whose parts have either been struck out or given to other actors in the Q. for the mere sake of stage convenience; he will restore to it all those lines which, accidentally omitted from it, have been preserved in the Q.; he will correct in it all those errors which have crept into it from corruptions in the Q. which was used in preparing it for the Press; he will reject the conjectural emendations in it which have resulted from those corruptions; and lastly, he will alter it in accordance with the Q. in all places where it can be reasonably supposed that the variations of the Q. are the result of deliberate revision for the sake of correction or improvement. A sufficiently arduous task, but—if he bears steadily in mind the relationship of the two versions, and recollects that, besides being a revised and corrected copy, the Q. has also suffered much from transcribers, printers, players, stage licencer, etc.—a task which he need not despair of conducting to a reasonably successful issue.

In the margins of the Facsimile the Acts, Scenes, and lines are numbered as in the Globe edition: in the F. the division of the scenes is incomplete; scenes v., vi., and vii. of Act III. not being numbered; *Scæna secunda* of Act IV. includes sc. ii. and iii., *Scæna tertia* equals our sc. iv., and *Scæna quarta*, sc. v.; in Act V. scenes iii., iv., and v. are not numbered.

All lines of Q. which differ from those of F. are marked with a dagger (†); all the lines which are not found in F. are marked with a star (*); and where lines and passages of F. are not found in Q. a < is placed, the last preceding line and the first line following being numbered as in the Globe edition.

On the night 3rd and 4th June last, all the negatives, and the Photographic copy of this play which had been prepared for publication, were destroyed in the fire which consumed Mr. Griggs's premises: at Mr. Furnivall's request, and with a liberality which needs only to be mentioned to be appreciated, his Grace the Duke of Devonshire at once consented to his copy of the precious Q. being again photographed for this series of Facsimiles.

P. A. DANIEL.

CORRIGENDA, ETC.

- p. 3. I. i. 44.—Read *appointed*; deficient in original.
- p. 6. „ „ 151.—Read *mercy*; deficient in original.—l. 1, I. ii. The Cam. Edd. note that this line in Q1 ends with *lo* : , amplified in subsequent Qos. to *lord*. This copy of Q1 has but a solitary *l*. The true reading, that of the Fo., is *load*.
- p. 15. „ iii. 72.—Read *Gentleman* : .—l. 86, A colon after *Clarence* : .—l. 98, A comma after *not*.
- p. 16. „ „ 100, 118.—Commas at the ends of these lines.
- p. 17. „ „ 161.—Read *how like*; damaged in original.—l. 177, Read *gau'st* with the apostrophe.
- p. 19. „ „ 227.—Read *hell, diuels*; deficient in original.
- p. 20. „ „ 266.—Read *alas, alas* .
- p. 21. „ „ 296.—A period after *Buck*.
- p. 49. III. iv. 8.—Read *inward*; deficient in original.
- p. 63. IV. ii. 8.—A comma at the end of line.—l. 17, A comma after *Coosin*.—l. 18, A comma at the end of line.
- p. 66. „ „ —The line numbered 100 in the margin should be 110.—l. 112, A note of interrogation after *clocke*.
- p. 67. „ iii. 46.—A comma after *Richmond*.—l. 53, A hyphen in *swaile-pact*.
- p. 68. „ iv. 9.—A note of exclamation after *babes*.—l. 11, Read *gentle*.
- p. 70. „ „ 85.—An *e* in *direfull*.—l. 105, An apostrophe to *whe'eld*.
- p. 72. „ „ 174.—An apostrophe to *grac't*.
- p. 73. „ „ 204.—Full stop at end of line.
- p. 74. „ „ 282.—Comma after *Riuers*.—l. 284, full stop at end of line, thus *waic* .
- p. 75. „ „ 358.—A period after *Qu*.
- p. 76. „ „ 385.—A hyphen to *plaie-fellowes*.—l. 393, A comma after *butcherd*.
- p. 88. V. iii. 197.—A comma after second *murther*.
- p. 90. „ „ 285.—Note of interrogation at the end of line.—l. 299, A comma after *battle*.
- p. 91. „ „ 303.—A full stop after *paper*.—l. 334, A comma at the end of line.—l. 338, A comma after *England*.

It should be noted, with reference to the last paragraph of the *Introduction*, that that *Introduction* was printed in 1883, in the expectation that the Fac-simile of *Richard III.* would be issued before the end of that year.

P. A. D.

26th January, 1885.



THE TRAGEDY OF King Richard the third.

Containing,
His treacherous Plots against his brother Clarence:
the pittiefull murther of his innocent nephewes :
his tyrannicall vsurpation : with the whole course
of his detested life, and most deserued death.

As it hath been lately Acted by the
Right honourable the Lord Chamber-
laine his seruants.



AT LONDON
Printed by Valentine Sims, for Andrew Wise,
dwelling in Paules Church-yard, at the
Signe of the Angell.

1597.



Enter Richard Duke of Glocester, solus.

l.i.



Now is the winter of our discontent,
Made glorious summer by this sonne of Yorke:
And all the cloudes that lowrd vpon our house,
In the deepe bosome of the Ocean buried.
Now are our browes bound with victorious wreathes,
Our bruised armes hung vp for monuments,
Our sterne alarmes changd to merry meetings,
Our dreadfull marches to delightfull measures.
Grim-visage warre, hath smoothde his wrinkled front,
And now in steed of mounting barbed steedes,
To fright the soules of fearefull aduerfaries.
He capers nimbly in a Ladies chamber,
To the lasciuious pleasing of a loue.
But I that am not shapte for sportie trickes,
Nor made to court an amorous looking glasse,
I that am rudely stampd and want loues maiesty,
To strut before a wanton ambling Nymph:
I that am curtaild of this faire proportion,
Cheated of feature by dissembling nature,
Deformd, vnfinisht, sent before my time
Into this breathing world scarce halfe made vp.
And that so lamely and vnfashionable,
That dogs barke at me as I halt by them:
Why I in this weake piping time of peace
Haue no delight to passe away the time,
Vnlesse to spie my shadow in the sunne,
And descant on mine owne deformity:
And therefore since I cannot prooue a louer
To entertaine these faire well spoken daies.

A 2

I am

The Tragedy

I am determin'd to prooue a villaine,
 And hate the idle pleasures of these daies:
 Plots haue I laid inductious dangerous,
 By drunken Prophecies, libels and dreames,
 To set my brother Clarence and the King
 In deadly hate the one against the other.
 And if King Edward be as true and iust,
 As I am subtile, false, and trecherous:
 This day should Clarence closely be mew'd vp,
 About a Prophecy which saies that G.
 Of Edwards heires the muttherers shall be.
 Diue thoughts downe to my soule, *Enter Clarence with*
 Heere Clarence comes, *a gard of men.*
 Brother, good dayes, what meanes this armed gard
 That waites vpon your grace?

Clar. His Maiefty tendering my persons safety hath appointed

This conduct to conuay me to the tower.

Glo. Vpon what cause?

Cl. Because my name is George.

Glo. Alacke my Lord that fault is none of yours,

He should for that commit your Godfathers:

O belike his Maiesty hath some intent

That you shalbe new christened in the Tower.

But vvhats the matter Clarence may I know?

Cl. Yea Richard when I know; for I protest

As yet I doe not, but as I can learne,

He harkens after Prophecies and dreames,

And from the crosse-rowe pluckes the letter G:

And saies a wisard told him that by G,

His issue disinherited should be.

And for my name of George begins with G,

It followes in his thought that I am he.

These as I learne and such like toies as these,

Haue moued his highnes to commit me now.

Glo. Why this it is when men are rulde by women,

Tis not the King that sends you to the tower.

My Lady Gray his wife, Clarence tis she,

That

of Richard the third.

That tempers him to this extremity,
 Was it not she and that good man of worshippe
 Anthony Wooduile her brother there,
 That made him send Lord Hastings to the tower.
 From whence this present day he is deliuered?
 We are not safe Clarence, we are not safe.

†
68

Cl. By heauen I thinke there is no man is securde,
 But the Queenes kindred and night-walking Heralds,
 That trudge betwixt the King and Mistresse Shore,
 Heard ye not what an humble suppliant
 Lord Hastings was to her for his deliuey.

2
72
†
†
76

Glo. Humbly complaining to her deity,
 Got my Lord Chamberlaine his liberty.
 He tell you what, I thinke it is our way.
 If we will keepe in fauour with the King,
 To be her men and weare her liuey.

80

The ieaclus oreworne widdow and her selfe,
 Since that our brother dubd them gentewomen,
 Are mighty gossips in this monarchy.

†

Bro. I beseech your Graces both to pardon me:
 His Maiesty hath streightly giuen in charge,
 That no man shall haue priuate conference,
 Of what degree soeuer with his brother.

84

Glo. Euen so and please your worship Brokenbury,
 You may pertake of any thing we say:
 We speake no treason man, we say the King
 Is wise and vertuous, and his noble Queene
 Well stroke in yeres, faire and not ieaalous.
 We say that Shores wife hath a prety foote,
 A cherry lippe, a bonny cie, a passing pleasing tongue:
 And that the Queenes kindred are made gentiefolks.
 How say you sin, can you deny all this?

†

88

92

96

Bro. With this (my Lord) my selfe have nought to do.

Glo. Naught to do with Mistris Shore, I tell thee fellows,
 He that doth naught with her, excepting one
 Were best he doe it secretly alone.

100 †
103 †

Bro. I beseech your Grace to pardon me, and withal for-
 Your conference with the noble Duke. (beare

li.

The Tragedy

Cl. We know thy charge Brokenbury and will obey,

Glo. We are the Queenes abiects and must obey.

Brother farewell, I will vnto the King,

108

And whatsoeuer you will employ me in,

Were it to call King Edwards widdow sister,

I will performe it to enfranchise you,

Meane time this deepe disgrace in brotherhood,

112

Touche me deeper then you can imagine.

Cl. I know it pleaseth neither of vs well:

Glo. Well, your imprisonment shall not be long,

I will deliuer you or lie for you,

†

Meane time haue patience.

116

Cl. I must perforce; farewell. *Exit Cl.*

Glo. Go treade the path that thou shalt nere returne,

Simple plaine Clarence I doe loue thee so,

That I will shortly send thy soule to heauen,

120

If heauen will take the present at our hands:

But who comes here the new deliuered hastings?

Enter Lord Hastings.

Hast. Good time of day vnto my gracious Lord:

Glo. As much vnto my good Lord Chamberlaine:

† 124

Well are you welcome to the open aire,

How hath your Lordship brookt imprisonment?

Hast. With patience (noble Lord) as prisoners must:

But I shall liue my Lord to giue them thanks

128

That were the cause of my imprisonment.

Glo. No doubt, no doubt, and so shall Clarence too,

For they that were your enemies are his,

And haue preuaild as much on him as you.

† 132

Hast. More pittie that the Eagle should be mewed,

While keights and buffards prey at liberty.

†

Glo. What newes abroad?

Hast. No newes so bad abroad as this at home:

136

The King is sickly, weake and melancholy,

And his Phisitions feare him mightily.

†

Glo. Now by Saint Paul this newes is bad indeede,

Oh he hath kept an euill diet long,

140

And ouermuch consumed his royall person,

Tis

of Richard the third.

Tis very grieuous to be thought vpon:
What is he in his bed?

Hast. He is.

Glo. Go you before and I will follow you. *Exit Ho,*

He cannot liue I hope, and must not die,
Till George be packt with post horse vp to heauen.

He in to wge, his hatred more to Clarence,
With lies well steekl with weighty arguments,

And if I faile not in my deepe intent,
Clarence hath not an other day to liue
Which done, God take King Edward to his merc

And leaue the world for me to bussell in,
Forthen He marry Warwicks yongest daughter:

What though I kild her husband and her father,
The readiest way to make the wench amends,

Is to become her husband and her father:
The which will I, not all so much for loue,
As for another secret close intent.

By marrying her which I must reach vnto.
But yet I run before my horse to market:

Clarence still breathes, Edward still liues and raignes,
When they are gone then must I count my gaines. *Exit.*

Enter Lady Lane with the hearse of Harry the 6.

Lady An. Set downe set downe your honourable
If honor may be shrowded in a hearse,

Whilst I a while obsequiously lament
The vntimely fall of vertuous Lancaster:

Poore kei-cold figure of a holy King,
Pale ashes of the house of Lancaster,

Thou bloudlesse remnant of that royall bloud,
Be it lawfull that I inuocate thy ghost,

To heare the lamentations of poore Anne,
Wife to thy Edward, to thy slaughtered sonne,

Stabd by the selfesame hands that made these holes,
Lo in those windowes that let fourth thy life,

I powre the helplessse balme of my poore eies,
Curst be the hand that made these fatall holes,
Curst be the heart that had the heart to doe it.

More

The Tragedy

17 More direfull hap betide that hated wretch,
 That makes vs wretched by the death of thee:
 + Than I can wish to adders, spiders, toades,
 20 Or any creeping venoinde thing that liues.
 If euer he haue child abortiue be it,
 Prodigious and vntimely brought to light:
 Whose vgly and vnnaturall aspect,
 24 May fright the hopefull mother at the view.
 26 If euer he haue wife, let her be made
 + As miserable by the death of him,
 + As I am made by my poore Lord and thee.
 Come now towards Chertsey with your holy load,
 30 Taken from Paules to be interred there:
 + And still as you are weary of the waight,
 Rest you whiles I lament King Henries corse.

Enter Gloucester.

Glo. Stay you that beare the corse and set it downe.

34 *La.* What blacke magitian coniures vp this fiend,
 To stop deuoted charitable deedes.

+ *Glo.* Villaine set downe the corse, or by S.Paules
 Ile make a corse of him that disobeies.

38 *Gent.* My Lord, stand backe and let the coffin passe.

+ *Glo.* Vnmanerd dog, stand thou wien I command,
 Aduance thy halbert higher than my brest,
 Or by Saint Paul Ile strike thee to my toote.
 42 And spurne vpon thee begger for thy boldnes.

La. What doe you tremble are you all afraid?
 46 Alas, I blame you not, for you are mortall
 And mortall eies cannot endure the diuell,
 Auauent thou-dreadfull minister of hell,
 Thou hadst but power ouer his mortall body,
 His soule thou canst not haue, therefore be gone.

Glo. Sweete Saint, for Charity be not so curst.

50 *La.* Foule Diuell, for Gods sake hence & trouble vs not,
 For thou hast made the happy earth thy hell:
 Fild it with cursing cries and deepe exclames.
 If thou delight to view thy hainous deedes,
 54 Behold this patterne of thy butcheries.

Oh

of Richard the third.

Oh gentlemen see, see dead Henries woundes,
Open their congeald mouthes and bleede a fresh.

Blush blush thou lump of foule deformity,
For tis thy presence that exhales this blood,
From cold and empty veines where no blood dwells.

Thy deed inhumane and vnnaturall,
Prouokes this deluge most vnnaturall.

Oh God which this blood madest, reuenge his death,

Oh earth which this blood drinkst, reuenge his death:

Either heauen with lightning strike the murtherer dead,

Or earth gape open wide and eate him quicke.

As thou doest swallow vp this good Kings blood,

Which his hell-gouernd arme hath butchered.

Glo. Lady you know no rules of charity,
Which renders good for bad, blessings for curses.

Lady Villaine thou knowest no law of God nor man:
No beast so fierce but knowes some touch of pitty.

Glo. But I know none, and therefore am no beast.

Lady Oh wonderfull when Diuels tell the troth.

Glo. More wonderfull when Angels are so ang:y
Voutsafe deuine perfection of a woman,

Of these supposed euils to giue me leaue,

By circumstance but to acquite my selfe.

La. Vouchsafe defused infection of a man,

For these knowne euils but to giue me leaue,

By circumstance to curse thy cursed selfe.

Glo. Fairer then tongue can name thee, let me haue
Some patient leisure to excuse my selfe.

La. Fouler then heart can thinke thee thou canst make
No excuse currant but to hang thy selfe.

Glo. By such despaire I should accuse my selfe.

Lad. And by despairing shouldst thou stand excusde,

For doing worthy vengeance on thy selfe,

Which didst vnworthy slaughter vpon others.

Glo. Say that I slew them not.

La. Why then they are not dead,
But dead they are, and diuelish slaue by thee.

Glo. I did not kill your husband.

The Tragedy

La. Why then he is aliue.

Glo. Nay, he is dead, and slaine by Edwards hand.

La. In thy foule throat thou liest, *Queene Margaret* saw
194 Thy bloody faulchion smoking in his blood,
The which thou once didst bend against her brest,
But that thy brothers beat aside the point.

Glo. I was prouoked by her slaundersous tongue,
298 Which laid their guilt vpon my guiltlesse shoulders.

La. Thou wast prouoked by thy bloody minde,
Which neuer dreamt on ought but butcheries,
Didst thou not kill this King. *Glo.* I grant yea.

La. Doeſt grant me hedghogge then god grant me too
102 Thou maiest be damnd for that wicked deede,
Oh he was gentle, milde, and vertuous.

Glo. The fitter for the King of Heauen that hath him.

La. He is in heauen where thou shalt neuer come.

Glo. Let him thanke me that holpe to fend him thither,
For he was fitter for that place then earth.

La. And thou vnfit for any place but hell.

Glo. Yes one place els if you will heare me name it.

La. Some dungeon. *Glo.* Your bedchamber.

La. Ill rest betide the chamber where thou liest.

Glo. So will it Madame till I lie with you.

La. I hope so.

Glo. I know so, but gentle Lady Anne,

To leaue this keen incounter of our wits,
And fall somewhat into a slower methode:

Is not the causer of the timeles deaths,
118 Of these Plantagenets Henry and Edward,
As blamefull as the executioner.

La. Thou art the cause and most accurst effect.

Glo. Your beauty was the cause of that effect,
122 Your beauty which did haunt me in my sleepe:
To vndertake the death of all the world

So I might rest one houre in your sweete bosome.

La. If I thought that I tell thee homicide,
126 These nailes should rend that beauty from my cheekes.

Glo. These eies could neuer indure sweet beauties wrack,
You

of Richard the third.

You should not blemish them if I stood by:
As all the world is cheered by the sonne,
So I by that, it is my day, my life.

†
130
†

La. Blacke night ouershadeth thy day, and death thy life.

Glo. Curse not thy selfe faire creature, thou art both.

La. I would I were to be reuenged on thee.

Glo. It is a quarrell most vnnaturall,

134
†

To be reuengd on him that loueth you.

La. It is a quarrell iust and reasonable,

To be reuengd on him that slew my husband.

†
138

Glo. He that bereft thee Lady of thy husband,

Did it to helpe thee to a better husband.

La. His better doth not breath vpon the earth.

Glo. Go to, he liues that loues you better then he could.

†

La. Name him. *Glo.* Plantagenet.

La. Why that was hee.

142

Glo. The selfesame name but one of better nature.

La. Where is he. *Shee spitteth at him.*

Glo. Heere.

Why doest thou spitte at me.

La. Would it were mortall poison for thy sake.

146

Glo. Neuer came poison from so sweete a place.

La. Neuer hung poison on a fouler toade,

Out of my sight thou doest infect my eies.

†
150

Glo. Thine eies sweete Lady haue infested mine.

La. Would they were basiliskes to strike thee dead.

Glo. I would they were that I might die at once,

For now they kill me with a liuing death:

Those eies of thine from mine haue drawn salt teares,

Shamd their aspect with store of childish drops:

155 †
158

I neuer sued to friend nor enemy,

My tongue could neuer learne sweete soothing words:

But now thy beauty is propofde my fec:

†

My proud heart sues and prompts my tongue to speake.

Teach not thy lips such scorne, for they were made

172 †

For kissing Lady not for such contempt.

If thy reuengefull heart cannot forgiue,

Lo here I lend thee this sharpe pointed sword:

The Tragedy

- Which if thou please to hide in this true bosome,
 And let the soule forth that adoreth thee:
 I laie it naked to the deadly stroke,
 And humbly beg the death vpon my knee.
 Nay, doe not pawse, twas I that kild your husband,
 But twas thy beauty that prouoked me:
 Nay now dispatch twas I that kild King Henry:
 But twas thy heavenly face that set me on: *Here she lets fall.*
 Take vp the sword againe or take vp me. *the sword.*
La. Arise dissembler, though I wish thy death,
 I will not be the executioner.
Glo. Then bid me kill my selfe, and I will doe it:
La. I haue already.
Glo. Tush that was in thy rage:
 Speake it againe, and euen with the word,
 That hand which for thy loue did kill thy loue,
 Shall for thy loue, kill a farre truer loue:
 To both their deaths shalt thou be accessary.
La. I would I knew thy heart.
Glo. Tis figured in my tongue.
La. I feare me both are false.
Glo. Then neuer was man true,
La. Well, well, put vp your sword
Glo. Say then my peace is made.
La. That shall you know hereafter.
Glo. But shall I liue in hope.
La. All men I hope liue so.
Glo. Voutsafe to weare this ring.
La. To take is not to giue.
Glo. Looke how this ring incompasseth thy finger,
 Euen so thy breast incloseth my poore heart.
 Weare both of them for both of them are thine,
 And if thy poore deuoted suppliant may
 But beg one fauour at thy gracious hand,
 Thou dost confirme his happines for euer.
La. What is it?
Glo. That it would please thee leaue these sad signes,
 To him that hath more cause to be a mourner,

And

of Richard the third.

And presently repaire to Crosbie place,
 Where after I haue solemnly interred
 At Chertsie monastery this noble King,
 And wet his graue with my repentant teares,
 I will with all expedient dutie see you:
 For diuers vnknowne reasons, I beseech you
 Grant me this boone.

La. With all my heart, and much it ioies me too,
 To see you are become so penitent:
 Trefill and Barkley go along with me.

Glo. Bid me farewell

La. Tis more then you deserue:
 But since you teach me how to flatter you,
 Imagine I haue said farewell already

Exit.

Glo. Sirs take vp the corse.

Ser. Towards Chertsie noble Lord,

Glo. No, to white Friers there attend my coming.

Was euer woman in this humor woed, *Exeunt. manet Gl.*

Was euer woman in this humor wonne:

Ile haue her, but I will not keepe her long.

What I that kild her husband and his father,

To take her in her hearts extreamest hate:

With curses in her mouth, teares in her eies,

The bleeding witnesse of her hatred by,

Hauiug God, her conscience, and these bars against me:

And Inothing to backe my suite at all,

But the plaine Diuell and dissembling lookes,

And yet to win her all the world to nothing. Hah

Hath she forgot already that braue Prince

Edward, her Lord whom I some three monthis since,

Stabd in my angry moode at Tewxbery,

A sweeter and a louelier gentleman,

Frand in the prodigality of nature:

Young, valiant, wise, and no doubt right royall,

The spacious world cannot againe affoord:

And will she yet debase her eyes on me

That cropt the golden prime of this sweete Prince,

And made her widdow to a wofull bed,

The Tragedy

On me whose all not equals Edwards moiety,
 On me that halt, and am vnshapen thus.
 My Dukedome to a beggerly denier.
 I doe mistake my person all this while,
 Vpon my life she findes, although I cannot
 My selfe, to be a merueilous proper man.
 He be at charges for a looking glasse,
 And entertaine some score or two of taylers,
 To study fashions to adorne my body,
 Since I am crept in fauour with my selfe,
 I will maintaine it with some little cost:
 But first He turne yon fellow in his graue,
 And then returne lamenting to my loue.
 Shine out faire sunne till I haue bought a glasse,
 That I may see my shadow as I passe. *Exit.*

Enter Queene, Lord Rivers, Gray.

Ri Haue patience Madame, theres no doubt his Maie-
 Will soone recouer his accustomed health. *(Sic)*

Gray In that you brooke it, ill it makes him worse,
 Therefore for Gods sake entertaine good comfort,
 And cheere his grace quick and mery words,

Qu. If he were dead what would betide of me.

Ry. No other harme but losse of such a Lord.

Qu. The losse of such a Lord includes all harme.

Gr. The heauens haue blest you with a goodly sonne,
 To be your comforter when he is gone.

Qu. Oh he is young, and his minority
 Is put vnto the trust of Rich. Gloucester,
 A man that loues not me nor none of you.

Ri. Is it concluded he shall be protector?

Qu. It is determinde, not concluded yet,

But to it must be if the King miscarry. *(Enter Buck, Darby)*

Gr. Here come the Lords of Buckingham and Darby.

Buck. Good time of day vnto your royall grace.

Dar. God make your Maiesty ioyfull as you haue been.

Qu. The Countesse Richmond good my Lo: of Darby,
 To your good praiers will scarcely say, Amen:
 Yet Darby notwithstanding, shees your wife,

And

of Richard the third.

And loues not me, be you good Lo. assure
I hate not you for her proud arrogance.

Dar. I doe beseech you either not beleuee
The enuious flanders of her false accusers,
Or if she be accusee in true report,
Beare with her weakenes which I thinke proceeds
From wayward sicknesse, and no grounded malice.

Ry. Saw you the King to day, my Lo: of Darby?

Dar. But now the Duke of Buckingham and I
Came from visiting his Maiesty.

Qu. With likelihood of his amendment Lords?

Buc. Madame good hope, his Grace speakes cheerfully.

Qu. God grant him health, did you confer with him.

Buc. Madame we did: He desires to make attonement
Betwixt the Duke of Glocester and your brothers,
And betwixt them and my Lord chamberlaine,
And sent to warne them to his royall presence.

Qu. Would all were well, but that will neuer be.
I feare our happines is at the highest. *Enter Glocester*

Glo. They doe me wrong and I will not endure it,
Who are they that complaines vnto the King,
That I forsooth am sterne and loue them not:
By holy Paul they loue his grace but lightly,
That fill his cares with such discentious rumors:
Because I cannot flatter and speake faire,
Smile in mens faces, smoothe, deceiue and cog,
Ducke with french nods and apish courtesie,
I must be held a rankerous enemy.

Cannot a plaine man liue and thinke no harme,
But thus his simple truth must be abusde,
By silken slie insinuating iackes?

Ry. To whom in all this presence speakes your Grace?

Glo. To thee that hast nor honesty nor grace,
When haue I iniured thee, when done thee wrong,
Or thee or thee or any of your faction:
A plague vpon you all. His royall person
(Whom God preferue better then you would wish)
Cannot be quiet scarce a breathing while,

But

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60

The Tragedy

But you must trouble him with lewd complaints.

Qu. Brother of Glocester, you mistake the matter:

†
64 The King of his owne royall disposition,
And not prouokt by any suiter else,
Ayming belike at your interiour hatred,
†
† Which in your outward actions shewes it selfe
† Against my kindred, brother, and my selfe:

† 68 Makes him to fend that thereby he may gather
† The ground of your ill will and to remoue it.

Glo. I cannot tell, the world is growen so bad
72 That wrens make pray where Eagles dare not perch,
Since euery Iacke became a Gentl
Theres many a gentle person made a Iacke.

Qu. Come come, we know your meaning brother Gl.
76 You enuy my aduancement and my friends,
God graunt we neuer may haue neede of you,

†
† *Glo.* Meane time God grants that we haue neede of you,
Our brother is imprisoned by your meanes,
My selfe disgract, and the nobility
† 80 Held in contempt, whilst many faire promotions,
Are daily guen to enoble those
That scarce some two daies since were worth a noble.

Qu. By him that raise me to this carefull height,
84 From that contented hap which I enioyd,
I neuer did incense his Maicesty
Against the Duke of Clarence: but haue beene,
An earnest aduocate to pleade for him.

88 My Lord you doe me shamefull iniury,
Falsely to draw me in these vile suspects.

†
† *Glo.* You may deny that you were not the cause,
Of my Lord Hastings late imprisonment.

† 92 *Ry.* She may my Lord.

Glo. She may Lo: Ryuers, why who knowes not so?
She may doe more Sir then denying that:
96 She may helpe you to many faire preferments,
And then deny her ayding hand therein,
† And lay those honours on your high deserts,
† What may she not she may, yea marry may she.

Ry.

of Richard the third.

Ry. What mary may she.

Glo. What mary may she, marry with a King.
A batchelor, a handsome stripling too.
Iwis your Grandam had a worser match.

Qu. My Lo: of Glocester, I haue too long borne
Your blunt vpbraidings and your bitter scoffes,
By heauen I will acquaint his Maiesty
With these grose taunts I often haue endured:
I had rather be a countrey seruant maid,
Then a great Queene with this condition,

To be thus taunted, scorned, and baited at:
Small ioy haue I in being Englands Queene.

Enter Qu.
Margaret.

Qu. Mar. And lesned be that smal, God I beseech thee,
Thy honour, state, and seate is due to me.

Glo. What:threat you me with telling of the King,
Tell him and spare not, looke what I haue said,
I will auouch in presence of the King: I
Tis time to speake, my paines are quite forgot.

Qu. Mar. Out diuell I remember them too well:
Thou slewest my husband Henry in the tower,
And Edward my poore sonne at Teuzbery.

Glo. Ere you were Queene, yea or your husband King,
I was a packhorse in his great affaires,
A weeder out of his proud aduersaries,
A liberall rewarder of his friends:
To royalize his bloud I spilt mine owne.

Qu. Mar. Yea and much better bloud then his or thine.

Glo. In all which time you and your husband Gray,
Were factious for the house of Laucaster:
And Ryuers, so were you, was not your husband
In Margarets battaile at Saint Albones slaine:
Let me put in your mindes, if yours forget
What you haue beene ere now, and what you are.
Wichall, what I haue been, and what I am.

Qu. Ma. A murtherous villaine, and so still thou art.

Glo. Poore Clarence did forsake his father Warwicke,
Yea and forswore himselfe (which Iesu pardon.)

Qu. Ma. Which God reuenge,

C

Glo.

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115 +

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132 +

136 +

The Tragedy

Glo. To fight on Edwards party for the crowne,
 And for his meede poore Lo: he is mewd vppe:
 I would to God my heart were flint like Edwards,
 Or Edwards soft and pittirfull like mine,
 I am too childish, foolish for this world.

Qu. Ma. Hie thee to hell for shame and leaue the world
 Thou Cacodemon, there thy kingdome is.

Ry. My Lo: of Glocester in those busie daies,
 Which here you vrge to proue vs enemies,
 We followed then our Lo: our lawfull King,
 So should we you if you should be our King.

Glo. If I should be: I had rather be a pedler,
 Farre be it from my heart the thought of it.

Qu. As little ioy my Lord as you suppose
 You should enioy, were you this countries King,
 As little ioy may you suppose in me,
 That I enioy being the Queene thereof.

Qu. M. A little ioy enioies the Queene thereof,
 For I am she and altogether ioylesse,
 I can no longer hold me patient:

Hear me you wrangling Pyrats that fall out,
 In sharing that which you haue pild from me:
 Which of you trembles not that lookes on me?
 If not, that I being Queene you bow like subiects,
 Yet that by you deposde you quake like rebels:
 O gentle villaine doe not turne away.

Glo. Foule wrinkled witch what makst thou in my sight?

Q. Ma. But repetition of what thou hast mard.

That will I make before I let thee go:
 A husband and a son thou owest to me,
 And thou a kingdome, all of you allegiance:
 The sorrow that I haue by right is yours,
 And all the pleasures you vsurpe are mine.

Glo. The curse my noble father laid on thee,
 When thou didst crowne his warlike browes with paper,
 And with thy scorne drewst riuers from his eies,
 And then to drie them gau st the Duke a clout,
 Steept in the faultlesse bloud of pretty Rutland:

His

of Richard the third.

His curses then from bitternes of soule
Denounst, against thee, are all fallen vpon thee,
And God, not we, hath plagde thy bloody deede.

Qu. So iust is God to right the innocent.

Hast. O twas the fouleſt deede to ſlaie that babe,
And the moſt mercieſſe that euer was heard of.

Riu. Tyrants themſelues wept when it was reported.

Dorſ. No man but prophecied reuenge for it.

Buch. Northumberland then preſent wept to ſee it.

Qu. M. What? were you ſnarling all before I came,
Ready to catch each other by the throat,

And turne you all your hatred now on me?

Did Yorkes dread curſe preuaile ſo much with heauen?

That Henries death my louely Edwards death,
Their kingdomes loſſe, my woſull baniſhment,

Could all but anſwere for that peeuiſh brat?

Can curſes pierce the clouds and enter heauen?

Why then giue way dull cloudes to my quicke curſes:

If not, by war, by ſurfet die your King,

As ours by murder to make him a King.

Edward thy ſonne which now is Prince of Wales,

For Edward my ſonne which was Prince of Wales,

Die in his youth by like vntimely violence,

Thy ſelſe a Queene, for me that was a Queene,

Outlue thy glory like my wretched ſelſe:

Long maielt thou lue to waile thy childrens loſſe,

And ſee another as I ſee thee now

Deckt in thy rights, as thou art ſtald in mine:

Long die thy happy daies before thy death,

And after many lengthened houres of grieſe,

Die neither mother, wife, nor Englands Queene:

Riuers and Dorſet you were ſtanders by,

And ſo waſt thou Lo: Haſtings when my ſonne

Was ſtald with bloody daggers, god I pray him,

That none of you may lue your naturall age.

But by ſome vnlookt accident cut off.

Glo. Haue done thy charme thou hatefull with red hag.

Q. M. And leaue out the ſtay dog for thou ſhalt hear me

The Tragedy

218 If heauen haue any grieuous plague in store,
 Exceeding those that I can wish vpon thee:
 O let them keepe it till thy sinnes be ripe,
 And then hurle downe their indignation
 On thee the troubler of the poore worlds peace:
 222 The worme of conscience still begnaw thy soule,
 Thy friends suspect for traitors while thou liuest,
 And take deepe traitors for thy dearest friends:
 No sleepe, close vp that deadly eye of thine,
 † 226 Vnlesse it be whilest some tormenting dreame
 Affrights thee with a he l of vgly d.uels.
 Thou eluish markt abortiue rooting hog,
 Thou that wast seald in thy natiuity
 230 The slaue of nature, and the sonne of hell,
 † Thou slaunder of thy mothers heauy wombe,
 † Thou lothed issue of thy fathers loynes,
 † Thou rag of honour, thou detested, &c.

Glo. Margaret.

Qu. M. Richard. *Glo.* Ha.

Qu. M. I call thee not.

Glo. Then I crie thee mercy, for I had thought
 That thou hadst cald me all these bitter names.

Qu. M. Why so I did, but looke for no reply,

238 O Let me make the period to my curse.

Glo. Tis done by me, and ends in Margaret. (selfe.

Qu. Thus haue you breathed your curse against your

Qu. M. Poore painted Queene, vaine flourish of my for-

242 Why strewst thou suger on that bottled spider, (tune

Whose deadly web ensnareth thee about?

† Foole foole, thou whetst a knife to kill thy selfe,

† The time will come that thou shalt wish for me,

246 To helpe thee curse that poisonous bunchbacke toade.

Hast. False boading woman, end thy frantike curse,

Left to thy harme thou moue our patience.

Q. M. Foule shame vpon you, you haue all mou'd mine,

R. Were you well seru'd you would be taught your duty.

250 *Q. M.* To serue me well, you all should doe me duty,

Teach me to be your Queene, and you my subiects:

of Richard the third.

O serue me well, and teach your selues that duty.

Dor. Dispute not with her, she is lunatique.

254

Q. M. Peace Master Marques you are malapert,
Your fire-new stampe of honour is scarce currant:

O that your young nobility could iudge,

What twere to loose it and be miserable:

258

They that stand high haue many blast to shake them.

+

And if they fall they dash themselues to peeces.

Glo. Good counsell mary, learne it learne it Marques.

Dor. It toucheth you my Lo: asmuch as me.

262 +

Glo. Yea and much more. but I was borne so high,

+

Our aiery buildeth in the Cedars top,

And dallies with the winde, and scornes the sunne.

Q. M. And turnes the sun to shade, alas, alas,

266

Witnes my son, now in the shade of death,

Whose bright outshining beames, thy cloudy wrath

Hath in eternall darkenes foulded vp.

Your aiery buildeth in our aeries nest

270

O God that seest it, doe not suffer it:

As it was wonne with blood, lost be it so.

+

Buck. Haue done for shame, if not for charity.

+

Q. M. Vrge neither charity nor shame to me,

274

Vncharitably with me haue you dealt,

And shamefully by you my hopes are butcherd,

+

My charity is outrage, life my shame,

And in my shame, itill liue my sorrowes rage.

278 +

Buck. Haue done.

+

Q. M. O Princely Buckingham, I will kisse thy hand

+

In signe of league and amity with thee:

Nor faire befall thee and thy Princely house,

282 +

Thy garments are not spotted with our blood,

Nor thou within the compasse of my curse.

Buc. Nor no one here, for curses neuer passe

The lips of those that breath them in the aire.

286

Q. M. Ile not beleue but they ascend the skie,

+

And there awake gods gentle sleeping peace.

O Buckingham beware of yonder dog,

+

Looke when he sawnes, he bites, and when he bites,

290

The Tragedy

His venome tooth will rackle thee to death,
 Haue not to doe with him, beware of him:
 Sinne, death and hell, haue set their markes on him,
 And all their ministers attend on him.

Glo. What doth she say my Lo: of Buckingham?

Buck. Nothing that I respect my gracious Lord.

Qu. M. What doest thou scorne me for my gentle coun-
 And sooth the diuell that I warne thee from: (sell,

O but remember this another day,
 When he shall spit thy very heart with sorrow,
 And say poore Margaret was a prophetesse:

Like each of you the subjects of his hate,

And he to you, and all of you to Gods. *Exit.*

Hast. My haire doth stand on end to heare her curses.

Ry. And so doth mine, I wonder shees at liberty.

Glo. I cannot blame her by gods holy mother,
 She hath had too much wrong, and I repent
 My part thereof that I haue done.

Qu. I neuer did her any to my knowledge.

Glo. But you haue all the vantage of this wrong.

It was too hoat to doe some body good,

That is too cold in thinking of it now:

Marry as for Clarence he is well repaid,

He is franckt vp to fasting for his paines,

God pardon them that are the cause of it.

Ry. A vertuous and a Christianlike conclusion,
 To pray for them that haue done scathe to vs.

Glo. So doe I euer being well aduisde,
 For had I curst, now I had curst my selfe.

Cates. Madam his Maiesty doth call for you,
 And for your Grace, and you my noble Lo:

Qu. Catesby we come, Lords will you go with vs.

Ry. Madame we will attend your grace. *Exeunt man. Rj.*

Glo. I doe the wrong, and first began to braule

The secret michiefes that I set abroad,

I lay vnto the grievous charge of others:

Clarence whom I indeed haue laid in darkenes,

I doe beweepe to many simple guls:

of Richard the third.

Namely to Hastings, Darby, Buckingham,
And say it is the Queene and her allies,
That stirre the King against the Duke my brother.

Now they belecue me, and withall whet me,
To be reuenged on Ryuers, Vaughan, Gray:
But then I sigh, and with a piece of scripture.
Tell them that God bids vs doe good for euill:

And thus I clothe my naked villany,
With old odde ends stolne out of holy writ,
And feemea Saint when most I play the Diuell:
But soft here come my executioners. *Enter Executioners.*
How now my hardy stout resolu'd mates,
Are you now going to dispatch this deede.

Execu. We are my Lord, and come to haue the warrant,
That we may be admitted where he is.

Glo. It was well thought vpon, I haue it here about me,
When you haue done repaire to Crosby place,
But sirs, be suddin in the execution,
Withall obdurate, doe not heare him pleade,
For Clarence is well spoken, and perhaps,
May moue your harts to pittie if you marke him.

Exec. Tush feare not my Lo: we will not stand to prate,
Talkers are no good doers be assured:
We come to vse our hands, and not our tongues.

Glo. Your eies drop millstones when fooles eies drop tears,
I like you lads, about your busines. *Exeunt.*

Enter Clarence, Brokenbury.

Brok. Why lookes your grace so heauily to day?

Clar. Oh I haue past a miserable night,
So full of vgly sights, of gastly dreames,
That as I am a christian faithfull man,
I would not spend another such a night,
Though twere to buy a world of happy daies,
So full of disinnall terror was the time.

Brok. What was your dreame, I long to heare you tell it.

Cl. Me thoughts I was imbarckt for Burgundy,
And in my company my brother Gloucester,
Who from my cabbine tempted me to walke,

Vpon

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The Tragedy

† Vpon the hatches thence we lookt toward England,
 † And cited vp a thousand fearefull times,
 During the wars of Yorke and Lancaster:
 16 That had befallen vs, as we past along,
 Vpon the giddy footing of the hatches:
 † Me thought that Gloucester stumbled, and in stumbling,
 Stroke me that thought to stay him ouer board,
 20 Into the tumbling billowes of the maine.
 † Lord, Lord, me thought what paine it was to drowne.
 † What dreadfull noise of waters in my eares,
 † What vgly sights of death within my eies:
 † 24 Me thought I sawe a thousand fearefull wracks,
 † Ten thousand men, that fishes gnawed vpon,
 Wedges of gold, great anchors, heapes of pearle,
 Inestimable stones, vnualueed Jewels,
 27 Some lay in dead mens sculs, and in those holes,
 † 29 Where eies did once inhabite, there were crept
 As twere in scorn of eies reflecting gems,
 † 32 Which woed the slimy bottome of the deepe,
 And mockt the dead bones that lay scattered by.
 † *Brok.* Had you such leisure in the time of death,
 † To gaze vpon the secrets of the deepe?
 † 36 *Clar.* Me thought I had, for still the enuious fload
 † Kept in my soule, and would not let it foorth,
 † To seeke the emptie vast and wandering aire,
 † But smothered it within my panting bulke,
 40 Which almost burst to belch it in the sea.
 † *Brok.* Awakt you not with this sore agony.
 † *Cl.* O no, my dreame was lengthned after life,
 44 O then began the tempest to my soule,
 † Who past me thought the melancholy fload,
 † With that grim ferriman, which Poets write of,
 † Vnto the kingdome of perpetuall night:
 48 The first that there did greet my stranger soule,
 † Was my great father in law renowned Warwicke,
 † Who cried aloud what scourge for periury.
 † Can this darke monarchy affoord false Clarence,
 52 And so he vanisht, then came wandring by,

of Richard the third.

A shadow like an angell in bright haire,
 Dabled in bloud, and he squakt out alowd,
 Clarence is come, false, fleeting, periurd Clarence,
 That stabd me in the field by Teuxbery:
 Seaze on him furies, take him to your torments,
 With that me thoughts a legion of foule fiends
 Enuirond me about, and howled in mine eares
 Such hideous cries, that with the very noise
 I trembling, wakt, and for a season after
 Could not belecue but that I was in hell,
 Such terrible impresson made the dreame.

Bro. No marucile my Lo: though it affrighted you,
 I promise you, I am afraid to heare you tell it.

Cl. O Brokenbury I haue done those things,
 Which now beare euidence against my soule
 For Edwards sake, and see how he requites me.
 I pray thee gentle keeper stay by me,
 My soule is heauy, and I faine would sleepe.

Bro. I will my Lo: God giue your Grace good rest,
 Sorrowe breake seasons, and reposing howers
 Makes the night morning, and the noonetide night,
 Princes haue but their titles for their glories,
 An outward honour, for an inward toile,
 And for vnfelt imagination,
 They often feele a world of restlesse cares:
 So that betwixt their titles and lowe names,
 Theres nothing differs but the outward fame.

The murderers enter.

In Gods name what are you, and how came you hither?

Execu. I would speake with Clarence, and I came hither

Bro. Yea, are you so brieft. (on my legs.

2 Exe. O fir, it is better to be brieft then tedious,

Shew him our commission, talke no more. *He readeth it.*

Bro. I am in this commanded to deliuer
 The noble Duke of Clarence to your hands,
 I will not reason what is meant hereby,
 Because I wilbe guiltles of the meaning:
 Here are the keies, there sits the Duke a sleepe,

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The Tragedy

He to his Maieſty, and certifie his Grace,
That thus I haue reſignd my charge to you.

Exe. Doe ſo, it is a point of wiſedome.

2 What ſhall I ſtab him as he ſleepes?

1 No then he will ſay twas done cowardly
When he wakes.

2 When he wakes,

Why foole he ſhall neuer wake till the iudgement day.

1 Why then he will ſay, we ſtabd him ſleeping.

2 The vrging of that word Iudgement; hath bred
A kind of remorse in me.

1 What art thou afraid.

2 Not to kill him hauing a warrant for it, but to be dānd
For killing him, from which no warrant can defend vs.

1 Backe to the Duke of Gloceſter, tell him ſo.

2 I pray thee ſtay a while, I hope my holy humor will
Change, twas wont to hold me but while one would tel xx.

1 How doeſt thou feele thy ſelfe now? (in me.

2 Faith ſome certaine dregs of conſcience are yet with

1 Remember our reward when the deede is done.

2 Zounds he dies, I had forgot the reward.

1 Where is thy conſcience now?

2 In the Duke of Gloceſters purſe.

1 So when he opens his purſe to giue vs our reward,
Thy conſcience flies out.

2 Let it go, theres few or none will entertaine it.

1 How if it come to thee againe?

2 He not meddle with it, it is a dangerous thing,
It makes a man a coward: A man cannot ſteale,

But it accuſeth him: he cannot ſweare, but it checks him:

He cannot lie with his neighbors wife, but it detects

Him. It is a bluſhing ſhamefaſt ſpirit, that mutinies

In a mans boſome: it fills one full of obſtacles,

It made me once reſtore a purſe of gold that I found,

It beggers any man that keepeſ it: it is turned out of all

Townes and Citties for a dangerous thing, and euery

Man that meanes to liue wel, endeuors to truſt to

To himſelfe, and to liue without it,

1 Zounds

of Richard the third.

1 Zounds it is euen now at my elbowe perswading me
Not to kill the Duke.

2 Take the diuell in thy minde, and beleue him not,
He would insinuate with thee to make thee sigh.

1 Tut, I am strong in fraud, he cannot preuaile with me,
I warrant thee.

2 Spoke like a tall fellow that respects his reputation,
Come shall we to this geere.

1 Take him ouer the costard with the hilts of thy sword,
And then we wil chop him in the malmsey But in the next

2 Oh excellent deuice, make a sop of him. (roome.

1 Harke he stirs, shall I strike.

2 No, first lets reason with him.

Cl. Where art thou keeper, giue me a cup of wine.

1 You shall haue wine enough my Lo: anon.

Cl. In Gods name what art thou.

2 Aman as you are,

Cl. Bnt not as I am, royall.

2 Nor you as we are, loyall.

Cl. Thy voice is thunder, but thy lookes are humble.

2 My voice is now the Kings, my lookes mine owne.

Cl. How darkly, and how deadly doest thou speake:
Tell me who are you, wherefore come you hither?

Am. To, to, to.

Cl. To murder me. Am. I.

Cl. You scarcely haue the hearts to tell me so,
And therefore cannot haue the hearts to doe it.

Wherein my friends haue Ioffended you?

1 Offended vs you haue not, but the King.

Cl. I shalbe reconcild to him againe.

2 Neuer my Lo: therefore prepare to die.

Cl. Are you cald foorth from out a world of men
To slay the innocent? what is my offence.

Where are the euidence that doe accuse me:

What lawfull quest haue giuen their verdict vp

Vnto the frowning Iudge, or who pronounst

The bitter sentence of poore Clarence death,

Before I be conuict by course of law?

The Tragedy

To threaten me with death, is most vnlawfull:
 I charge you as you hope to haue redemption,
 By Christs deare blood shed for our grieuous finnes,
 That you depart and lay no hands on me,
 The deede you vndertake is damnable.

1 What we will doe, we doe vpon command,

2 And he that hath commanded, is the King.

Clar. Erronious Vassaile, the great King of Kings,

Hath in the tables of his law commanded,
 That thou shalt doe no murder, and wilt thou then
 Spurne at his edict, and fulfill a mans?

Take heede, for he holds vengeance in his hands,
 To hurle vpon their heads that breake his law.

2 And that same vengeance doth he throw on thee,
 For false forswearing, and for murder too:

Thou didst receiue the holy sacrament,
 To fight in quarell of the house of Lancaster.

1 And like a traitor to the name of God,
 Didst breake that vowe, and with thy trecherous blade,
 Vnripest the bowels of thy soueraignes sonne.

2 Whom thou wert sworn to cherish and defend.

1 How canst thou vrge Gods dreadfull Law to vs,
 When thou hast broke it in so deare degree?

Cl. Alas, for whose sake did I that ill deede,
 For Edward, for my brother, for his sake:

Why sirs, he sends ye not to murder me for this,
 For in this sinne he is as deepe as I:

If God will be reuenged for this deede,

Take not the quarrell from his powerfull arme,

He needs no indirect, nor lawlesse course,

To cut off those that haue offended him.

1 Who made thee then a bloody minister,

When gallant springing braue Plantagenet,

That Princely Nouice was stroke dead by thee?

Cl. My brothers loue, the diuell, and my rage.

1 Thy brothers loue, the diuell and thy fault

Haue brought vs hither now to murder thee.

Cl. Oh if you loue my brother, hate not me,

of Richard the third.

I am his brother, and I loue him well:
If you be hirde for meede, go backe againe,
And I will send you to my brother Glocester,
Who will reward you better for my life,
Then Edward will for tydings of my death.

2 You are deceiu'd, your brother Glocester hates you.

Cl. Oh no, he loues me, and he holds me deare,
Go you to him from me.

Am. I, so we will.

Cl. Tell him, when that our princely father Yorke,
Blest his three sonnes with his victorious arme:
And chargd vs from his soule, to loue each other,
He little thought of this deuided friendship.
Bid Glocester thinke of this, and he will weepe.

Am. I, milstones as he lessond vs to weepe.

Cl. O doe not slaunder him for he is kind.

1 Right as snow in haruest, thou deceiu'st thy selfe,
Tis he hath sent vs hither now to slaughter thee.

Cl. It cannot be, for when I parted with him,
He hugd me in his armes, and swore with sobs,
That he would labour my deliuey.

2 Why so he doth, now he deliuers thee,
From this worlds thraldome, to the ioies of heauen,

1 Makes peace with God, for you must die my Lo:

Cl. Hast thou that holy feeling in thy soule,
To counsell me to make my peace with God;
And art thou yet to thy owne soule so blinde,
That thou wilt war with God, by murdring me?
Ah sirs, consider, he that set you on
To doe this deede, will hate you for this deede.

2 What shall we doe?

Cl. Relent and saue your soules.

1 Relent, tis cowardly and womanish.

Cl. Nor to relent, is beastly, sauage, diuclish,
My friend, I spie some pittie in thy lookes:
Oh if thy eye be not a flatterer,
Come thou on my side, and intreat for me,
A begging Prince, what begger pitties not?

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The Tragedy

+ 276 1 I thus, and thus: if this wil not serue. *He stabs him.*
 He chop thee in the malmesey But, in the next room.

+ 280 2 A bloody deede and desperately performd,
 How faine like Pilate would I wash my hand,
 Of this most grieuous guilty murder done.

+ 284 1 Why doest thou not helpe me,
 By heauens the Duke shall know how slacke thou art.

2 I would he knew that I had faued his brother.
 Take thou the fee, and tell him what I say,
 For I repent me that the Duke is slaine. *Exit.*

+ 288 1 So doe not I, go coward as thou art:
 Now must I hide his body in some hole,
 Vntill the Duke take order for his buriall:
 And when I haue my meede I must away,
 For this will out. and here I must not stay. *Exeunt.*

II.i.

+ *Enter King, Queene, Hastings, Ryuers, Dorcet, &c.*

+ *Kin.* So, now I haue done a good daies worke,
 You peeres continue this vnited league,
 I euery day expect an Embassage
 From my redeemer to redeeme me hence:
 And now in peace my soule shall part from heauen,
 Since I haue set my friends at peace on earth:
 Riuers and Hastings, take each others hand,
 Dissemble not your hatred, swear your loue.

+ *Riu.* By heauen, my heart is purgd from grudging hate,
 And with my hand I seale my true hearts loue.

+ *Hast.* So thriue I as I truly swear the like.

12 *Kin.* Take heede you dally not before your King,
 Least he that is the supreme King of Kings,
 Confound your hidden falshood and award
 Either of you to be the others end.

16 *Hast.* So prosper I, as I swear perfect loue.

+ *Riu.* And I, as I loue hastings with my heart.

+ *Kin.* Madame your selfe are not exempt in this,
 Nor your son Dorset, Buckingham nor you,
 You haue beene factious one against the other:
 Wife, loue Lo: Hastings, let him kisse your hand,
 And what you doe, doe it vnfaignedly.

+ *Q.* Here Hastings I will neuer more remember Our

of Richard the third.

Our former hatred so thriue I and mine.

Dor. This interchange of loue I here protest,
Vpon my part shalbe vnuiolable.

Hast. And so sweare I my Lord.

Kin. Now princely Buckingham scale thou this league
With thy embracements to my wiues allies,
And make me happy in your vnity.

Buc. When euer Buckingham doth turne his hate,
On you or yours, but with all duteous loue
Doth cherish you and yours, God punish me
With hate, in those where I expect most loue.

When I haue most neede to imploy a friend,
And most assured that he is a friend,
Deepe, hollow, trecherous, and full of guile
Be he vnto me, this doe I begge of God,
When I am cold in zeale to you or yours,

Kin. A pleasing cordiall Princely Buckingham,
Is this thy vow vnto my sickly heart:

There wanteth now our brother Gloucester here,
To make the perfect period of this peace. *Enter Glocest.*

Buc. And in good time here comes the noble Duke.

Glo. Good morrow to my soueraigne King & Queene,
And Princely peeres, a happy time of day.

Kin. Happy indeede as we haue spent the day:
Brother we haue done deedes of charity:
Made peace of enmity. saire loue of hate,
Betweene these swelling wrong infenced peeres.

Glo. A blessed labour, my most soueraigne liege,
Amongst this princely heape, if any here
By false Intelligence or wrong surmise,
Hold me a foe, if I vnwittingly or in my rage,
Haue ought committed that is hardly borne
By any in this presence, I desire
To reconcile me to his friendly peace,
Tis death to me to be at enmity.

I hate it, and desire all good mens loue.
First Madam I intreate true peace of you,
Which I will purchase with my dautious seruice.

The Tragedy

Of you my noble Coosen Buckingham,
 If euer any grudge were logde betweene vs.
 Of you Lo: Riuers, and Lord Gray of you,
 That all without desert haue frownd on me,
 Dukes, Earles, Lords, gentlemen, indeed of all:
 I doe not know that English man aliue,
 With whom my soule is any iotte at oddes,
 More then the infant that is borne to night:
 I thanke my God for my humility.

Qu. A holy day shall this be kept hereafter,
 I would to God all strifes were well compounded.
 My soueraigne liege I doe beseech your Maiesty,
 To take our brother Clarence to your Grace.

Glo. Why Madame, haue I offred loue for this,
 To be thus scorned in this royall presence?
 Who knowes not that the noble Duke is dead,
 You doe him iniury to scorne his corse.

Ryu. Who knowes not he is dead? who knowes he is?

Qu. All seeing heauen, what a world is this?

Buck. Looke I so pale Lo: Dorset as the rest?

Dor. I my good L: and no one in this presence,
 But his red couler hath forsooke his cheekes.

Kin. Is Clarence dead, the order was reuerst.

Glo. But he poore soule by your first order died,
 And that a winged Mercury did beare,

Some tardy cripple bore the countermaund,

That came too lag to see him buried:

God grant that some lesse noble, and lesse loyall,

Nearer in bloody thoughts, but not in blond:

Deserue not worse then wretched Clarence did.

And yet go currant from suspicion. *Enter Darby.*

Dar. A boone my soueraigne for my seruice done.

Kin. I pray thee peace, my soule is full of sorrow.

Dar. I will not rise vnlesse your highnesse grant.

Kin. Then speake at once, what is it thou demaundst.

Dar. The forfeit soueraigne of my seruants life,

Who slew to day a riotous gentleman,

Lately attendant on the Duke of Norfolk.

Kin. Haue

of Richard the third.

King. Haue I a tongue to doome my brothers death,
 And shall the same giue pardon to a slaue?
 My brother slew no man, his fault was thought,
 And yet his punishment was cruell death.
 Who sued to me for him? who in my rage,
 Kneeld at my feete and bad me be aduisde?
 Who spake of Brotherhood? who of loue?
 Who told me how the poore soule did forsake
 The mighty Warwicke, and did fight for me:
 Who tolde me in the field by Teuxbery,
 When Oxford had me downe, he rescued me,
 And said deare brother, liue and be a King?
 Who told me when we both lay in the field,
 Frozen almost to death, how he did lappe me
 Euen in his owne garments, and gaue himselfe
 All thin and naked to the numbcold night?
 All this from my remembrance brutish wrath
 Sinfully puckt, and nota man of you
 Had so much grace to put it in my minde.
 But when your carters, or your waighting vassailes
 Haue done a drunken slaughter, and defaste
 The pretious image of our deare Redeemer,
 You straight are on your knees for pardon pardon.
 And I vnjustly too, must grant it you:
 But for my brother, not a man would speake,
 Nor I vngratious speake vnto my selfe,
 For him poore soule: The proudest of you all
 Haue beene beholding to him in his life:
 Yet none of you would once pleade for his life:
 Oh God I feare thy Iustice will take hold
 On me, and you, and mine, and yours for this. (*Exit.*)
 Come Hastings help me to my closet, oh poore Clarence,
Glo. This is the fruit of rashnes; markt you not
 How that the guilty kindred of the Queene,
 Lookt pale when they did heare of Clarence death?
 Oh they did vrge it still vnto the King,
 God will reuenge it. But come lets in
 To comfort Edward with our company.

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Exeunt.
Enter

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The Tragedy

Enter Dutches of Torke, with Clarence Children.

† Boy. Tell me good Granam, is our father dead?

† Dut. No boy.

(breast,

† Boy. Why doe you wring your hands, and beate your
And crie, Oh Clarence my vnhappy sonne?

† Gerl. Why doe you looke on vs and shake your head,
And call vs wretches, Orphanes, castawaies,
If that our noble father be aliuē?

† Dut. My pretie Cosens, you mistake me much,
I doe lament the sicknesse of the King:
As loth to loose him, not your fathers death:
It were lost labour, to weepe for one thats lost.

† Boy. Then Granam you conclude that he is dead,
+12 The King my Vnckle is too blame for this:
God will reuenge it, whom I will importune
With daily praiers, all to that effect.

+15 Dut. Peace children, peace, the King doth loue you wel.
Incapable and shallow innocents,
You cannot guesse who causde your fathers death.

+20 Boy. Granam we ean: For my good Vnckle Glocester
Tould me, the King prouoked by the Queene,
Deuisd impeachments to imprison him:
And when he tould me so, he wept,
And hugd me in his arme, and kindly kist my cheeke,
+24 And bad me rely on him as in my father,
And he would loue me dearly as his child.

+28 Dut. Oh that deceit should steale such gentle shapes,
And with a vertuous visard hide foule guile:
He is my sonne, yea, and therein my shame:
Yct from my dugs he drew not this deceit.

† Boy. Thinke you my Vnckle did dissemble Granam?

32 Dut. I boy.

† Boy. I cannot thinke it, hark what noise is this. *Enter the*
+ Que. Oh who shall hinder me to waile and weepe? *Quee.*
To chide my fortune, and torment my selfe?
36 He ioine with blacke despaire against my soule,
And to my selfe become an enemy.

Dut. What meanes this sceane of rude impatience.

Que. To make an act of tragicke violence;

Ed.

of Richard the third.

Edward, my Lord, your sonne our King is dead.
 Why grow the branches, now the roote is witherd?
 Why wither not the leaues, the sap being gone?
 If you will liue, lament: if die, be brieve:
 That our swiftwinged soules may catch the Kings,
 Or like obedient subiects, follow him
 To his new kingdome of perpetuall rest.

Dut. Ah somuch interest haue I in thy sorrow,
 As I had title in thy noble husband:
 I haue bewept a worthy husbands death,
 And liu'd by looking on his images.
 But now two mirrours of his Princely semblance,
 Are crackt in pieces by malignant death:
 And I for comfort haue but one false glasse,
 Which grieues me when I see my shame in him.
 Thou art a widdow, yet thou art a mother,
 And hast the comfort of thy children left thee:
 But death hath snatcht my children from mine armes,
 And pluckt two crutches from my feeble limmes,
 Edward and Clarence, Oh what cause haue I
 Then, being but moiety of my grieffe,
 To ouergo thy plaints and drowne thy cries?

Boy. Good Aunt, you wept not for our fathers death,
 How can we aide you with our kindreds teares.

Gerl. Our fatherlesse distresse was left vnmoand,
 Your widdowes dolours likewise be vnwept.

Qu. Giue me no help in lamentation,
 I am not barren to bring foorth laments:
 All springs reduce their currents to mine eies,
 That I being gouern'd by the watry moane,
 May send foorth plenteous teares to drowne the world:
 Oh for my husband, for my eire Lo: Edward.

Ambo Oh for our father, for our deare Lo: Clarence.

Dut. Alas for both, both mine Edward and Clarence.

Qu. What stay had I but Edward, and he is gone?

Am. What stay had we but Clarence, and he is gone?

Dut. What staies had I but they, and they are gone?

Qu. Was neuer Widdow, had so deare a losse.

Il.ii*The Tragedy*

Ambo. Was neuer Orphanes had a dearer losse.

Du. Was neuer mother had a dearer losse:

Alas, I am the mother of these mones,

Their woes are parceld, mine are generall:

She for Edward weepes, and so doe I:

I for a Clarence weepe, so doth not she:

These babes for Clarence weepe, and so doe I:

I for an Edward weepe, so doe not they.

Alas, you three on me threefold distrest,

Poure all your teares, I am your sorrowes nurse,

And I will pamper it with lamentations. *Enter Glocest.*

Glo. Madame haue comfort, al of vs haue cause, *with others.*

To waile the dimming of our shining starre:

But none can cure their harmes by wailing them,

Madame my mother, I doe crie you mercy,

I did not see your Grace, humbly on my knce

I craue your blessing.

Du. Godbless thee, and put meekenes in thy minde,
Loue, charity, obedience, and true duety.

Glo. Amen, and make me die a good old man,

Thats the butt end of a mothers blessing:

I maruell why her Grace did leaue it out.

Buck. You cloudy Princes, and hart-sorrowing peeres

That beare this mutuall heauy lode of moane:

Now cheare each other, in each others loue:

Though we haue spent our haruest of this King,

We are to reape the haruest of his sonne:

The broken rancour of your high swolne hearts,

But lately splinterd, knit, and ioynd etogether,

Must gently be preferu'd, cherisht and kept,

Me seemeth good that with some little traine,

Forthwith from Ludlow the yong Prince be fetcht

Hither to London, to be crownd our King.

Glo. Then be it so; and go we to determine,

Who they shalbe that straight shall post to Ludlow:

Madame, and you my mother will you go,

To giue your censures in this waighty busines,

Ans. With all our hearts. *Exeunt man, Glo. Buck.*

Buck.

of Richard the third.

Buck. My Lord who euer iourneies to the Prince,
For Gods sake let not vs two stay behinde:
For by the way Ile sort occasion,
As index to the story we late talkt of,
To part the Queenes proud kindred from the King.

Glo. My other selfe, my counsels consistory:
My Oracle, my Prophet, my deare Cosen:
Ilike a childe will go by thy direction:
Towards Ludlow then, for we will not stay behinde.

Enter two Cittizens.

1 *Cit.* Neighbour well met, whither away so fast?

2 *Cit.* I promise you, I scarcely know my selfe.

1 Heare you the newes abroad?

2 I, that the King is dead.

1 Bad newes birlady, seldome comes the better,
Ifeare, I feare, twill prooue a troublous world. *Ent. ano-*

3 *Cit.* Good morrow neighbours. *ther Citt.*
Doth this newes hold of good King Edwards death?

1 It doth. 3 Then masters looke to see a troublous world

1 No no, by Gods good grace his sonne shall raigne.

3 Woe to that land thats governd by a childe.

2 In him there is a hope of gouernement.

That in his nonage counsell vnder him,
And in his full and ripened yeres him selfe,
No doubt shall then, and till then gouerne well.

1 So stode the state when Harry the sixt
Was crownd at Paris, but at ix. moneths olde.

3 Stode the state so? no good my friend not so,
For then this land was famously enricht
With pollitike graue counsell: then the King
Had vertuous Vnckles to protect his Grace.

2 So hath this, both by the father and mother.

3 Better it were they all came by the father,
Or by the father there were none at all:

For emulation now, who shall be neerest:
Will touch vs all too neare, if God preuent not.
Oh full of danger is the Duke of Gloucester.
And the Queenes kindred hauty and proud,

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II.iii.

The Tragedy

And were they to be rulde, and not to rule,
This sickly land might soiaice as before.

2 Come come, we feare the worst, all shalbe well,

3 When cloudes appeare, wise men put on their clokes:

When great leaues fall, the winter is at hand:

When the sunne sets, who doth not looke for night:

Vatimely stormes, make men expect a darth:

All may be well: but if God fort it so,

Tis more then we deserue or I expect.

1 Truly the soules of men are full of bread:

Yee cannot almost reason with a man

That lookes not heauily, and full of feare.

3 Before the times of change still is it so:

By a diuine instinct mens mindes mistrust

Ensuing dangers, as by prooffe we see.

The waters swell before a boistrous storme:

But leaue it all to God: whither away?

2 We are sent for to the Iustice.

3 And so was I, Ile beare you company. *Exeunt.*

Enter Cardinall, Dutches of Yorke, Quee. young Yorke.

Car. Last night I heare they lay at Northhampton.

At Stonistratford will they be to night,

To morrow or next day, they will be here.

Dut. I long with all my heart to see the Prince,

I hope he is much growen since last I saw him.

Que. But I heare no, they say my sonne of Yorke

Hath almost ouertane him in his growth.

Tor. I mother, but I would not haue it so.

Dut. Why my young Cosen it is good to growe.

Tor. Grandam, one night as we did sit at supper.

My Vnckle Riuerstaltk how I did grow

More then my brother. I quoth my Nnckle Glocester,

Small herbes haue grace, great weedes grow apace,

And since me thinkes I would not grow so fast:

Because sweete flowers are slow, and weedes make haste.

Dut. Good faith, good faith, the saying did not hold

In him that did obiect the same to thee:

He was the wretchedst thing when he was young,

So

II.ii.v.

of Richard the third.

So long a growing, and so leisurely,
That if this were a true rule, he should be gracious.

Car. Why Madame, so no doubt he is.

Dut. I hope so too, but yet let mothers doubt.

Yor. Now by my troth if I had beene remembred,
I could haue giuen my Vnckles grace a flout, mine.
That should haue neerer toucht his growth then he did

Dut. How my pretie Yorke? I pray thee let me heare it.

Yor. Mary they say, my Vnckle grew so fast,
That he could gnaw a crust at two houres olde:
Twas full two yeares ere I could get a tooth.

Granam this would haue heene a biting iest.

Dut. I pray thee pretie Yorke who tolde thee so.

Yor. Granam his nurse.

Dut. His nurse: why she was dead ere thou wert borne.

Yor. If twere not she, I cannot tell who tolde me.

Qu. A perillous boy, go to, you are too shrewde.

Car. Good Madame be not angry with the childe:

Qu. Pitchers haue eares. *Enter Dorset.*

Car. Here comes your sonne, Lo: M. Dorset.

What newes Lo: Marques?

Dor. Such newes my Lo: as grieues me to vnfolde.

Qu. How fares the Prince?

Dor. Well Madame, and in health.

Dut. What is thy newes then?

Dor. Lo: Riuers and Lo: Gray are sent to Pomfret,
With them, Sir Thomas Vaughan, prisoners.

Dut. Who hath committed them?

Dor. The mighty Dukes, Gloucester and Buckingham.

Car. For what offence.

Dor. The summe of all I can, I haue disclosed:
Why, or for what, these nobles were committed,
Is all vnknownen to me my gracious Lady.

Qu. Ay me I see the downfall of our house,
The tyger now hath ceazd the gentle hinde:
Insulting tyranny beginnes to iet,
Vpon the innocent and lawlesse throane:
Welcome destruction, death and massacre,

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The Tragedy.

I see as in a mappe the ende of all.

Du. Accursed and vnquiet wrangling daies,
 How many of you haue mine eies beheld?
 My husband lost his life to get the crowne,
 And often vp and downe my sonnes were tost:
 For me to ioy and weepe their gaine and losse,
 And being seated and domestike broiles,
 Cleane ouerblowne themselues, the conquerours
 Make warre vpon themselues, bloud against bloud,
 Selfe against selfe, O preposterous
 And frantike outrage, ende thy damned spleene,
 Or let me die to looke on death no more,

Qu. Come come my boy, we will to sanctuary.

Dut. Ile go along with you.

Qu. You haue no cause.

Car. My gracious Lady go,
 And thicher beare your treasure and your goods,
 For my part, Ile resigne vnto your Grace
 The seale I keepe, and so betide to me,
 As well I tender you and all of yours:
 Come Ile conduct you to the sanctuary.

Exeunt.

The Trumpets sound. Enter young Prince, the Dukes of Gloucester, and Buckingham, Cardinall, &c. (ber.

Buc. Welcome sweete Prince to London to your chamber.
Glo. Welcome deare Cosen my thoughts soueraigne,
 The weary way hath made you melancholy.

Prin. No Vnckle, but our crosses on the way
 Haue made it tedious, wearisome, and heauy:
 I want more Vnckles here to welcome me.

Glo. Sweete Prince, the vntainted vertue of your yeres,
 Hath not yet diued into the worlds deceit:

Nor more can you distinguish of a man,
 Then of his outward shew, which God he knowes,
 Seldome or neuer iumpeth with the heart:

Those Vnckles which you want, were dangerous,
 Your Grace attended to their sugred words,
 But lookt not on the poison of their hearts:

God keepe you from them, and from such false friends.

Prin.

of Richard the third.

Pri. God keepe me from false friends, but they wer none.

Glo. My Lo, the Maior of London comes to greete you.

Enter Lord Maior.

Lo:M. God blesse your grace with health and happy daies.

Prin. I thanke you good my Lo: and thanke you all:

I thought my mother, and my brother Yorke,

Would long ere this haue met vs on the way:

Fie, what a slug is Hastings that he comes not

To tell vs whether they will come, or no. *(Enter L.Hast.)*

Buck. And in good time, here comes the sweating Lo:

Pri. Welcome my Lo: what will our mother come?

Hast. On what occasion, God he knowes, not I:

The Queene your mother and your brother Yorke

Haue taken sanctuary: The tender Prince

Would faine haue come with me, to meet e your Grace,

But by his mother was perforce withheld.

Buc. Fie, what an indirect and pecuish course

Is this of hers? **Lo:** Cardinall will your grace

Perswade the Queene to send the Duke of Yorke

Vnto his Princely brother presently?

If she deny, **Lo:** Hastings go with him,

And from her iealous armes plucke him perforce.

Car. My Lo: of Buckingham, if my weake oratory

Can from his mother winne the Duke of Yorke,

Anone expect him here: but if she be obdurate

To milde entreaties, God in heauen forbid

We should infringe the holy priuiledge

Of blessed sanctuary, not for all this land,

Would I be guilty of so deepe a sinne.

Buck. You are too fencelesse obstinate my Lo:

Too ceremonious and traditional!:

Weigh it but with the grossenes of this age,

You breake not sanctuary in seazing him:

The benefit thereof is alwaies granted

To those whose dealings haue deserude the place,

And those who haue the wit to claime the place.

This Prince hath neither claimed it, nor deserued it,

And therefore in mine opinion, cannot haue it.

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Then

III.i.

The Tragedy

Then taking him from thence that is not there,
 You breake no priuiledge nor charter there:
 Oft haue I heard of sanctuary men,
 But sanctuary children neuer till now.

Car. My Lo: you shall ouerrule my minde for once:
 Come on Lo: Hastings will you go with me?

Hast. I go my Lord.

Prin. Good Lords make all the speedy hast you may:
 Say Vnckle Gloucester, if our brother come,
 Where shall we soiourne till our coronation?

Glo. Where it seemes best vnto your royall selfe:
 If I may counsell you, some day or two,
 Your highnes shall repose you at the tower:
 Then where you please, and shalbe thought most fit
 For your best health and recreation.

Prin. I doe not like the tower of any place:
 Did Iulius Cæsar build that place my Lord?

Buc. He did, my gracious Lo: begin that place,
 Which since succeeding ages haue reedified.

Prin. Is it vpon record, or els reported
 Successiuelly from age to age he built it?

Buc. Vpon record my gracious Lo:

Pri. But say my Lo: it were not registred,
 Me thinkes the truth should liue from age to age,
 As twere retailde to all posterity,
 Euen to the generall all-ending day.

Glo. So wise, so young, they say doe neuer liue long.

Pri. What say you Vnckle?

Glo. I say without characters fame liues long:
 Thus like the formall vice iniquity,
 Imorallize two meanings in one word.

Pri. That Iulius Cesar was a famous man,
 With what his valour did enrich his wit,
 His wit set downe to make his valure liue:
 Death makes no conquest of this conquerour,
 For now he liues in fame though not in life:
 Ile tell you what my Cosen Buckingham.

Buc. What my gracious Lord?

Prin.

of Richard the third.

Prin. And if I liue vntill I be a man,
Ile winne our auncient right in France againe,
Or die a souldier as I liude a King.

Glo. Short summers lightly haue a forward spring.

Enter young Yorke, Hastings, Cardinall.

Buc. Now in good time here comes the Duke of Yorke.

Pri. Rich. of Yorke how fares our louing brother?

Yor. Well my dread Lo: so must I call you now.

Pri. I brother to our grieffe as it is yours:
Too late he died that might haue kept that title,
Which by his death hath lost much maiesty.

Glo. How fares our Cosen noble Lo: of Yorke?

Yor. I thanke you gentle Vnckle. O my Lo:
You said that idle weedes are fast in growth:
The Prince my brother hath outgrowen me farre.

Glo. He hath my Lo:

Yor. And therefore is he idle?

Glo. Oh my faire Cosen, I must not say so.

Yor. Then he is more beholding to you then I.

Glo. He may command me as my soueraigne,
But you haue power in me as in a kinsman.

Yor. I pray you Vnckle giue me this dagger.

Glo. My dagger little Cosen, withall my heart.

Pri. A begger brother?

Yor. Of my kind Vnckle that I know will giue,
And being but a toy, which is no grieffe to giue.

Glo. A greater gift then that, Ile giue my Cosen.

Yor. A greater gift, O thats the sword to it.

Glo. I gentle Cosen, were it light enough.

Yor. O then I see you will part but with light gifts,
In weightier things youle say a begger nay

Glo. It is too heauy for your Grace to weare.

Yor. I weigh it lightly were it heauier.

Glo. What would you haue my weapon little Lord?

Yor. I would, that I might thanke you as you call me.

Glo. How? *Yor.* Little.

Pri. My Lo: of Yorke will still be crosse in talke:
Vnckle your grace knowes how to beare with him.

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III.i.

The Tragedy

128 *Yor.* You meane to beare me, not to beare with me:
Vnckle, my brother mockes both you and me,
Because that I am little like an Ape,
He thinks that you should beare me on your shoulders.

132 *Buck.* With what a sharpe prouided wit he reasons,
To mittigate the scorne he giues his Vnckle:
He pretely and aptly taunts himselfe,
So cunning and so young is wonderfull.

136 *Glo.* My Lo: wilt please you passe along,
My selfe and my good Coosen Buckingham,
Will to your mother, to entreate of her,
To meete you at the tower, and welcome you.

140 *Yor.* What will you go vnto the tower my Lo?

† *Prin.* My Lo: protector needes will haue it so.

Yor. I shall not sleepe in quiet at the tower.

Glo. Why, what should you feare?

144 *Yor.* Mary my Vnckle Clarence angry ghost:
My Granam tolde me he was mured there.

† *Pri.* I feare no Vnckles dead.

Glo. Nor none that liue, I hope.

148 *Pri.* And if they liue, I hope I neede not feare:

† But come my Lo: with a heauy heart

Thinking on them, go I vnto the tower.

Exeunt Prin, Yor, Hast. Dorf manet. Retch. Buck.

152 *Buc.* Thinke you my Lo: this little prating Yorke,
Was not incensed by his subtiler mother,
To taunt and scorne you thus opprobriously?

Glo. No doubt, no doubt. Oh tis a perillous boy,
156 Bold, quicke, ingenious, forward, capable,
He is all the mothers, from the top to toe.

Buc. Well, let them rest: Come hither Catesby,
Thou art sworne as deeply to effect what we intend,
As closely to conceale what we impart.

160 Thou knowest our reasons vrgde vpon the way:

What thinkest thou? is it not an easie matter

To make William Lo: Hastings of our minde,

For the instalement of this noble Duke,

164 In the seate royall of this famous ile?

Catesb.

of Richard the third.

Cates. He for his fathers sake so loues the Prince,
That he will not be wonne to ought against him.

Buck. What thinkest thou then of Stanley what will he?

Cat. He will doe all in all as Hastings doth.

Buck. Well then no more but this:

Go gentle Catesby, and as it were a farre off,
Sound thou Lo: Hastings, how he stands affected
Vnto our purpose, if he be willing,

Encourage him, and shew him all our reasons:

If he be leaden, icie, cold, vnwilling,

Be thou so too: and so breake off your talke,

And giue vs notice of his inclination:

For we to morrow hold deuided counsels,

Wherein thy selfe shalt highly be employed.

Glo. Commend me to Lo: William, tell him Catesby,

His auncient knot of dangerous aduersaries

To morrow are let bloud at Pomfret Castle,

And bid my friend for ioy of this good newes,

Giue Mistresse Shore, one gentle kisse the more.

Buck. Good Catesby effect this busines soundly.

Cat. My good Lo: both, with all the heede I may.

Glo. Shall we heare from you Catesby ere we sleepe?

Cat. You shall my Lord.

Glo. At Crosby place there shall you finde vs both.

Buc. Now my Lo: what shall we doe, if we perceiue
William Lo: Hastings will not yeeld to our complots?

Glo. Chop of his head man, somewhat we will doe,

And looke when I am King, claime thou of me

The Earledome of Hereford and the moueables,

Whereof the King my brother stood possesit.

Buc. Ile claime that promise at your Graces hands.

Glo. And looke to haue it yelded with all willingnes:

Come let vs suppe betimes, that after wards

We may digest our complots in some forme. *Exeunt.*

Enter a messenger to Lo: Hastings.

Mes. What ho my Lord.

Hast. Who knockes at the dore.

Mes. A messenger from the Lo: Stanley. *Enter L. Hast*

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III.ii.

The Tragedy

Hast. Whats a clocke?

Mess. Vpon the stroke of foure.

Hast. Cannot thy Master sleepe these tedious nights?

Mess. So it should seeme by that I haue to say:

First he commends him to your noble Lordship.

Hast. And then. *Mess.* And then he sends you word.

He dreamt to night the beare had raste his helme:

Besides, he saies there are two counceils held,

And that may be determined at the one,

Which may make you and him to reweat the other,

Therefore he sends to know your Lordships pleasure:

If presently you will take horse with him,

And with all speede post into the North,

To shun the danger that his soule diuines.

Hast. Go fellow go, returne vnto thy Lord,

Bid him not feare the seperated counceils:

His honour and my selfe are at the one,

And at the other, is my seruant Catesby:

Where nothing can proceede that toucheth vs,

Whereof I shall not haue intelligence.

Tell him his feares are shallow, wanting instance.

And for his dreames, I wonder he is so fond,

To trust the mockery of vnquiet slumbers,

To flie the boare, before the boare pursues vs,

Were to incense the boare to follow vs,

And make pursuite where he did meane no chase:

Go bid thy Master rise and come to me,

And we will both together to the tower,

Where he shall see the boare will vse vs kindly.

Mess. My gracious Lo: Ile tell him what you say. *Enter*

Cat. Many good morrowes to my noble Lo: *(Cates.)*

Hast. Good morrow Catesby, you are early stirring,

What newes what newes, in this our tottering state?

Cat. It is a reeling world indeede my Lo:

And I beleeeue it will neuer stand vpright,

Till Richard weare the garland of the Realme.

Hast. Howe? weare the garland? doest thou meane the

Cat. Imy good Lord. *(crown?)*

Hast.

of Richard the third.

Hast. Ile haue this crowne of mine, cut from my shoul-
Ere I will see the crowne so foule misplaste: (ders
But canst thou guesse that he doth aime at it. 44+

Cat. Vpon my life my Lo: and hopes to find you forward
Vpon his party for the gaine thereof,
And thereupon he sends you this good newes,
That this same very day, your enemies, 48
The kindred of the Queene must die at Pomfret.

Hast. Indeece I am no mourner for that newes,
Because they haue beene still mine enemies: 52+
But that Ile giue my voice on Richards side,
To barre my Masters heires in true discent,
God knowes I will not doe it to the death.

Cat. God keepe your Lordship in that gracious minde. 55

Hast. But I shall laugh at this a tweluemonth hence,
That they who brought me in my Masters hate,
I liue to looke vpon their tragedy: 58

I tell thee Catesby. *Cat.* What my Lord? 60+

Hast. Ere a fortnight make me elder,
Ile send some packing, that yet thinke not on it 62

Cat. Tis a vile thing to die my gracious Lord,
When men are vnprepard and looke not for it. 64

Hast. O Monstrous monstrous, and so fals it out
With Riuers, Vaughan, Gray, and so twill doe
With some men els, who thinke themselues as safe 68+
As thou, and I, who as thou knowest are deare
To Princely Richard, and to Buckingham.

Cat. The Princes both make high account of you,
For they account his head vpon the bridge. 72

Hast. I know they doe, and I haue well deserued it.

Enter Lord Stanley.

What my Lo: where is your boare-speare man?
Feare you the boare and go so vnprouided? 76

Stan. My Lo: good morrow: good morrow Catesby:
You may iest on: but by the holy roode.
I doe not like these seuerall counceils I. 80+

Hast. My Lo: I should my life as deare as you doe yours,
And neuer in my life I doe protest, 82

Was

The Tragedy

Was it more pretious to me then it is now:
 Thinke you, but that I know our state secure,
 I would be so triumphant as I am? (don,

Stan. The Lords at Pomfret when they rode from Lon-
 Were iocund, and supposde their states was sure,
 And they indeed had no cause to mistrust:

But yet you see how soone the day ouercast,
 This sodaine scab of rancour I misdoubt,
 Pray God, I say, I proue a needelesse coward:
 But come my Lo: shall we to the tower?

Hast. I go: but stay, heare you not the newes,
 This day those men you talke of, are beheaded.

Sta. They for their truth might better weare their heads,
 Then some that haue accusde them weare their hats:
 But come my Lo: let vs away. *Enter Hastin.*

Hast. Go you before, Ile follow presently. (*a Pursuante.*

Hast. Well met Hastings, how goes the world with thee?

Pur. The better that it please your Lo: to aske.

Hast. I tell thee fellow tis better with me now.

Then when I met thee last where now vve meete:

Then was I going prisoner to the tower,

By the suggestion of the Queenes allies:

But now I tell thee (keepe it to thy selfe.)

This day those enemies are put to death,

And I in better state then euer I was.

Pur. God hold it to your honors good content.

Hast. Gramercy Hastings hold spend thou that, *He giues*

Pur. God saue your Lordship. (*him his purse.*

Hast. What Sir Iohn, you are wel met, (*Enter a priest.*

I am beholding to you for your last daies exercise:

Come the next sabaoth and I will content you. *He whis-*

Enter Buckingham. (*pers in his eare.*

Buc. How now Lo: Chamberlaine, what talking with a
 Your friends at Pomfret they doe need the priest (priest,
 Your honour hath no shrining worke in hand.

Hast. Good faith and when I met this holy man,

Those men you talke of came into my minde:

What, go you to the tower my Lord?

Buck.

of Richard the third.

Buck. I doe, but long I shall not stay,
I shall returne before your Lordship thence.

Hast. Tis like enough, for I stay dinner there.

Buck. And supper too, although thou knowest it not:
Come shall we go along? *Exeunt.*

*Enter Sir Richard Ratliffe, with the Lo: Rivers,
Gray, and Vaughan, prisoners.*

Ratl. Come bring forth the prisoners.

Ryu. Sir Richard Ratliffe let me tell thee this:
To day shalt thou behold a subiect die,
For truth, for duty, and for loyalty.

Gray. God keepe the Prince from all the packe of you:
A knot you are of damned bloudsuckers.

Ryu. O Pomfret Pomfret, Oh thou bloody prison,
Fattall and ominous to noble peeres.

Within the guilty closure of thy wals
Richard the second here was hackt to death:
And for more slaunder to thy dismall soule,
We giue thee vp our guiltlesse blouds to drinke.

Gray. Now Margarets curse is false vpon our heads:
For standing by, when Richard stabd her sonne.

Riu. Then curst she Hastings, then curst she Bucking-
Then curst she Richard. Oh remember God, *(ham:*
To heare her praiers for them as now for vs,
And for my sister, and her princely sonne:
Be satisfied deare God with our true blouds,
Which as thou knowest vniustly must be spilt.

Rat. Come come dispatch, the limit of your lines is out.

Ryu. Come Gray, come Vaughan, let vs all imbrace
And take our leaue vntill we meete in heauen. *Exeunt.*

Enter the Lords to Councill.

Hast. My Lords at once the cause why we are met,
Is to determine of the coronation:
In Gods name say, when is this royall day?

Buc. Are all things fitting for that royall time?

Dar. It is, and wants but nomination.

Ryu. To morrow then, I guesse a happy time.

Buc. Who knowes the Lo: protectors mind herein?

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III.iii.

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III.iv.

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III. iv.

The Tragedy

Who is most inwa d with the noble Duke.

Bi. Why you my Lo: me thinks you should sooneſt know

Buc. Who I my Lo? we know each others faces: (his mind

But for our harts, he knowes no more of mine,

Then I of yours: nor I no more of his, then you of mine:

Lo: Hastings you and he are neere in loue.

Hast. I thanke his Grace, I know he loues me well:

But for his purpose in the coronation:

I haue not founded him nor he deliuerd

His Graces pleasure any way therein:

But you my noble Lo: may name the time,

And in the Dukes behalfe, lie giue my voice,

Which I presume he will take in Gentle part.

Bish. Now in good time here comes the Duke himſelfe.

Glo. My noble L. and Coſens all, good morrow, (*Ent. Glo.*

I haue beene long a ſleeper, but I hope

My abſence doth neglect no great deſignes,

Which by my preſence might haue been concluded.

Buc. Had not you come vpon your kew my Lo:

William L: Hastings had now pronounſt your part:

I meane your voice for crowning of the King.

Glo. Than my Lo: Hastings no man might be bolder,

His Lordſhip knowes me well, and loues me well.

Hast. I thanke your Grace.

Glo. My Lo: of Elie. *Bish.* My Lo:

Glo. When I was laſt in Holborne:

I ſaw good ſtrawberries in your garden there,

I doe beſeech you ſend for ſome of them.

Bish. I go my Lord.

Glo. Coſen Buckingham, a word with you:

Cateſby hath founded Hastings in our buſines,

And findes the teſty Gentleman ſo hoat,

As he will looſe his head eare giue conſent,

His Maſters ſonne as worſhipful he termes it,

Sha I looſe the roialty of Englands throane.

Buc. Withdraw you lience my Lo: Ile follow you. *Ex Gl.*

Clar. We haue not yet ſet downe this day of triumph,

To morrow in mine opinion is too ſodaine:

For

of Richard the third.

For I my selfe am not so well provided,
As els I would be, were the day prolonged.

*Enter B.
of Ely.*

By. Where is my L. protector, I haue sent for these strawbe-
Ha. His Grace lookes cheerfully and smooth to day, (*rics.*

Theres some conceit or other likes him well,
When he doth bid good morrow with such a spirit.

I thinke there is neuer a man in christendome,
That can lesse hide his loue or hate then he:

For by his face straight shall you know his heart.

Dar. What of his heart perceiue you in his face,
By any likelihood he shewed to day?

Hast. Mary, that with no man here he is offended,
For if he were, he would haue shewen it in his lookes.

Dar. I pray God he be not, I say. *Enter Gloucester.*

Glo. I pray you all, what doe they deserue,
That doe conspire my death with diuelish plots,
Of damned witchcraft, and that haue preuaild,
Vpon my body with their hellish charmes?

Hast. The tender loue I beare your grace my Lord,
Makes me most forward in this noble presence,
To doome the offenders whatsoever they be:
I say my Lo: they haue deserued death.

Glo. Then be your eies the witnesse of this ill,
See how I am bewicht, behold mine arme
Is like a blasted sapling withered vp.

This is that Edwards wife, that monstrous witch,
Consorted with that harlot strumpet Shore.
That by their witchcraft, thus haue marked me.

Hast. If they haue done this thing my gracious Lo:

Glo. If, thou protector of this damned strumpet,
Telt thou me of it: thou art a traitor.

Off with his head. Now by Saint Paule,

I will not die to day I swear,

Vntill I see the same, some see it done,

The rest that loue me, come and follow me. *Exeunt manes*

Ha. Wo wo for England, not a whit for me: *Cat. with Ha.*

For I too fond might haue preuented this:

Stanley did dreame the boare did race his helme,

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III. iv.

The Tragedy

† But I disdaind it, and did scorne to flie,
 † Three times to day, my footcloth horse did stumble,
 † And startled when he lookt vpon the tower,
 66 † As loath to beare me to the slaughterhouse,
 † Oh, now I want the Priest that spake to me,
 † I now repent I tolde the Pursuant,

† As twere triumphing at mine enemies:
 † How they at Pomfret bloudily were butcherd,
 † And I my selfe secure in grace and fauour:
 † 97 † Oh Margaret Margaret: now thy heauy curse,
 † Is lighted on poore Hastings wretched head.

† 96 † *Cat.* Dispatch my Lo: the Duke would be at dinner:
 † Make a short shrift, he longs to see your head.

† *Hast.* O momentary state of worldly men,
 † Which we more hunt for, then the grace of heauen:
 † Who buildes his hopes in aire of your faire lookes,
 † 100 † Liues like a drunken sayler on a mast,
 † Ready with euery nod to tumble downe
 † Into the fatall bowels of the deepe.

† 103 † Come leade me to the blocke, beare him my head,
 † 106 † They smile at me that shortly shalbe dead. *Exeunt.*

† *Enter Duke of Glocester and Buckingham in armour.*

† *Glo.* Come Cosen, canst thou quake and change thy co-
 † Murther thy breath in middle of a word, (loud?)
 † And then beginne againe, and stop againe,
 † 4 † As if thou wert distraught and mad with terror.

† *Buc.* Tut feare not me.

† I can counterfait the deepe Tragedian:
 † Speake, and looke backe, and prie on euery side:
 † 6 † Intending deepe suspition, gasty lookes
 † 7 † Are at my seruice like inforced smiles,
 † And both are ready in their offices

† To grace my stratagems, *Enter Maior.*

† *Glo.* Here comes the Maior.

† *Buc.* Let me alone to entertaine him. *Lo. Maior.*

† *Glo.* Looke to the drawbridge there.

† *Buc.* The reason we haue sent for you.

† *Glo.* Catesby ouerlooke the wals.

Buck.

of Richard the third.

Buck. Harke, I heare a drumme.

Glo. Looke backe, defend thee, here are enemies.

Buc. God and our innocence defend vs. *Enter Catesby*

Glo. O, O, be quiet, it is Catesby. *with Hast. head.*

Cat. Here is the head of that ignoble traitor,
The dangerous and vn suspected Hastings.

Glo. So deare I lou'd the man, that I must weepes
I tooke him for the plainest harmelesse man,
That breathed vpon this earth a christian,
Looke ye my Lo: Maior.

Made him my booke, wherein my soule recorded,
The history of all her secret thoughts:
So smoothe he daubd his vice with shew of vertue,
That his apparant open guilt omitted:
I meane his conuersation with Shores wife,
He laid from all attander of suspect.

Buck. Well well, he was the couertst sheltred traitor
That euer liu'd, would you haue imagined,
Or almost beleue, wert not by great preferuation
We liue to tell it you? The subtile traitor
Had this day plotted in the councell house,
To murder me, and my good Lord of Gloucester.

Maior. What, had he fo?

Glo. What thinke you we are Turkes or Infidels,
Or that we would against the forme of lawe,
Procede thus rashly to the villaines death,
But that the extreame perill of the case,
The peace of England, and our persons safety
Inforst vs to this execution.

Ma. Now faire befall you, he deserued his death,
And you my good Lords both, haue well proceeded
To warne false traitours from the like attempers:
I neuer lookt for better at his hands,
After he once fell in with Mistresse Shore.

Duc. Yet had not we determined he should die,
Vntill your Lordship came to see his death,
Which now the longing haste of these our friends,
Somewhat against our meaning haue preuented,

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III.v.

The Tragedy

†56 Because, my Lord, we would haue had you heard
 The traitor speake, and tinnerously confesse
 † The maner, and the purpose of his treason,
 † That you might well haue signified the same
 †60 Vnto the Citizens, who happily may
 Misconster vs in him, and wayle his death.
 † *Ma.* But my good Lord, your graces word shall serue
 † As well as I had seene or heard him speake,
 †64 And doubt you not, right noble Princes both,
 † But Ile acquaint your dutious citizens,
 † With all your iust proceedings in this cause.
 † *Glo.* And to that end we wisht your Lordship here
 †68 To auoyde the carping censures of the world.
 † *Buc.* But since you come too late of our intents,
 † Yet witnesse what we did intend, and so my Lord adue.
 †72 *Glo.* After, after, coosin Buckingham, *Exit Maior.*
 † The Maior towards Guildhall hies him in all post,
 † There at your meetst aduantage of the time,
 † Inferre the bastardy of Edwards children:
 †76 Tell them how Edward put to death a Citizen,
 † Onely for saying he would make his sonne
 † Heire to the Crowne, meaning (indeede) his house,
 † Which by the signe thereof was termed so.
 †80 Moreover, vrge his hatefull luxurie,
 † And bestiall appetite in change of lust,
 † Which stretched to theyr seruants, daughters, wiues,
 † Euen where his lustfull eye, or sauage heart
 †84 Without controll listd to make his prey:
 † Nay for a neede thus farre, come neere my person,
 † Tell them, when that my mother went with childe
 † Of that vsfatiat Edward, noble Yorke
 †88 My princely father then had warres in Fraunce,
 † And by iust computation of the tyme
 † Found, that the issue was not his begot,
 † Which well appeared in his lineaments,
 †92 Being nothing like the noble Duke my father:
 † But touch this sparingly as it were farre off,
 † Because you know, my Lord, my mother liues.

. *Buc.*

of Richard the third.

Buck. Feare not, my Lord, Ile play the Orator,
As if the golden fee for which I pleade
Were for my selfe.

Glo. If you thriue well, bring them to Baynards castle,
Where you shall finde me well accompanied,
Wyth reuerend fathers and well learned Bishops.

Buc. About three or foure a clocke look to heare
What news Guildhall affordeth, and so my Lord farewell.

Glo. Now will I in to take some priuy order, *Exit Buc.*
To draw the brats of Clarence out of sight,
And to giue notice, that no maner of person
At any tyme haue recourse vnto the Princes. *Exit.*

Enter a Scrivener with a paper in his hand.

This is the indictment of the good Lord Hastings,
Which in a set hand fairely is engrossi,
That it may be this day read ouer in Paules:
And marke how well the sequele hangs together,
Eleuen houres I spent to wryte it ouer,
For yesternight by Catesby was it brought me,
The president was full as long a doying,
And yet within these siue houres liued Lord Hastings,
Vntaynted, vnexamined, free, at liberty:
Heeres a good world, the while. Why whoes so grosse
That sees not this palpable deuiçe?
Yet whoes so blinde but sayes he sees it not?
Bad is the world, and all will come to naught,
When such bad dealing must be sene in thought. *Exit*

Enter Gloucester at one doore, Buckingham at another.

Glo. How now my Lord, what say the Cittizens?

Buc. Now by the holy mother of our Lord,
The Cittizens are mumme, and speake not a word,

Glo. Toucht you the bastardy of Edwards children?

Buck. I did, wyth the insatiate greedinesse of his desires,
His tyranny for trifles, his owne bastardy,
As beyng got, your father then in Fraunce:
Withall I did inferre your lineaments,
Beyng the right Idea of your father,
Both in your forme and noblenesse of minde,

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III.vii.

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The Tragedy

Laid open all your victories in Scotland:
 Your discipline in warre, wisdom in peace:
 Your bounty, vertue, faire humility:
 Indeede left nothing fitting for the purpose
 Vntoucht, or sleightly handled in discourse:
 And when mine oratory grew to an ende.
 I bid them that did loue their countries good,
 Crie, God saue Richard, Englands royall King.

Glo. And did they so?

Buc. No so God helpe me,

But like dumbe statues or breathing stones,
 Gazde each on other and lookt deadly pale:
 Which when I saw, I reprehended them,
 And askt the Maior, what meant this wilfull silence?
 His answer was, the people were not wont
 To be spoke to, but by the Recorder.

Then he was vrgde to tell my tale againe:

Thus, saith the Duke, thus hath the Duke inferd:
 But nothing spake in warrant from himselfe:
 When he had done, some followers of mine owne
 At the lower end of the Hall, hurld vp their caps,
 And some ten voices cried, God saue King Richard.
 Thankes louing Cittizens and friends quoth I,
 This generall applause and louing shoute,
 Argues your wisdomes and your loue to Richard:
 And so brake off and came away.

Glo. What tonguelesse blockes were they, would they not

Buc. No by my troth my Lo: (speake?)

Glo. Will not the Maior then, and his brethren come.

Glo. The Maior is here at hand, and intend some feare,

Be not spoken withall, but with mighty suite:
 And looke you get a prair booke in your hand,
 And stand betwixt two churchmen good my Lo:
 For on that ground Ile build a holy descant:

Be not easily wonne to our request:

Play the maides part, say no, but take it.

Glo. Feare not me, if thou canst pleade aswell for them,
 As I can say nay to thee, for my selfe?

No

of Richard the third.

No doubt weele bring it to a happie issue.

Buck. You shal see what I can do, get you vp to the leads. *Exit.*

Now my L. Maior, I dance attendance heare,
I thinke the Duke will not be spoke withall. *Enter Catesby.*
Here coms his seruant: how now *Catesby* what saies he.

Cates. My Lord, he doth intreat your grace
To visit him to morrow or next daie,
He is within with two right reuerend fathers,
Diuinely bent to meditation,
And in no worldy suite would he be mou'd,
To draw him from his holy exercise.

Buck. Returne good *Catesby* to thy Lord againe,
Tell him my selfe, the Maior and Cittizens,
In deepe designes and matters of great moment,
No lesse importing then our generall good,
Are come to haue some conference with his grace.

Cates. Ile tell him what you say my Lord. *Exit.*

Buck. A ha my Lord this prince is not an Edward:
He is not lulling on a lewd day bed,
But on his knees at meditation;
Not dalying with a brace of Curtizans,
But meditating with two deepe Diuines:
Not sleeping to ingrosse his idle body,
But praying to inrich his watchfull soule.
Happy were England, would this gracious prince
Take on him selfe the souerainty thereon,
But sure I feare we shall neuer winne him to it.

Maior. Marry God forbid his grace should say vs nay.

Buck. I feare he wil, how now *Catesby*, *Enter Cates.*
What saies your Lord?

Cates. My Lo. he wonders to what end, you haue assembled
Such troupes of Cittizens to speake with him,
His grace not being warnd thereof before,
My Lord, he feares you meane no good to him.

Buck. Sorrie I am my noble Cosen should
Suspect me that I meane no good to him.
By heauen I come in perfect loue to him,
And so once more returne and tell his grace: *Exit Catesby.*

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The Tragedy

When hollie and deuout religious men,
 Are at their beads, tis hard to draw them thence,
 So sweet is zealous contemplation.

Enter Rich. with two bishops a losfe.

Maioꝛ. See where he stands between two clergie men.

Buck. Two props of vertue for a christian Prince,
 To staie him from the fall of vanitie,
 Famous Plantaganet, most gracious prince,
 Lend fauorable eares to our request,
 And pardon vs the interruption
 Of thy deuotion and right Christian zeale,

Glo. My Lord, there needs no such apologie,
 I rather do beseech you pardon me,
 Who earnest in the seruice of my God,
 Neglect the visitation of my friends,
 But leauing this, what is your graces pleasure?

Buck. Euen that I hope which pleaseth God aboute,
 And all good men of this vngouerned Ile.

Glo. I do suspect I haue done some offence,
 That seemes disgracious in the Citties eies,
 And that you come to reprehend my ignorance,

Buck. You haue my Lord, would it please your grace
 At our entreaties to amend that fault.

Glo. Else wherefore breath I in a Christian land?

Buck. Then know it is your fault that you resigne
 The supream seat, the throne maiesticall,

The sceptred office of your auncestors,

The lineall glorie of your roiall house,

To the corruption of a blemish't stocke:

Whilst in the mildnesse of your sleepe thoughts,

Which here we waken to our countries good,

This noble Ile doth want her proper limbes,

Her face defac't with scars of infamie,

And almost shouldred in the swallowing gulph,

Of blind forgetfulnesse and darke obliuion,

Which to recure we hartily solicit,

Your gracious selfe to take on you the soueraingtie thereof,

Not as Protector steward substitute,

of Richard the third.

Or lowlie factor for anothers gaine:
 But as successiue from bloud to bloud,
 Your right of birth, your Emperie, your owne:
 For this conformed with the Citizens
 Your verie worshipfull and louing frinds,
 And by their vehement instigation,
 In this iust suite come I to moue your grace.

Glo. I know not whether to depart in silence,
 Or bitterlie to speake in your reproofe,
 Best fitteth my degree or your condition:
 Your loue deserues my thanks, but my desert
 Vnmeritable shunes your high request,
 First if all obstacles were cut awaie,
 And that my path were euen to the crown,
 As my ripe reueneu and dew by birth,
 Yet so much is my pouerty of spirit,
 So mightie and so many my defects,
 As I had rather hide me from my greatnes,
 Beeing a Barke to brooke no mightie sea,
 Then in my greatnes couet to be hid,
 And in the vapour of my glorie smotherd:
 But God be thanked there's no need of me,
 And much I need to helpe you if need were,
 The roiall tree hath left vs roiall fruit,
 Which mellowed by the stealing houres of time,
 Will well become the seat of maiestie,
 And make no doubt vs happie by his raigne,
 On him I laie what you would laie on me:
 The right and fortune of his happie stars,
 Which God defend that I should wring from him.

Buck. My lord, this argues conscience in your grace,
 But the respects thereof are nice and triuiall,
 All circumstances well considered:
 You saie that Edward is your brothers sonne,
 So saie we to, but not by Edwards wife,
 For first he was contract to lady *Lucy*,
 Your mother liues a witnesse to that vowe,
 And after ward by substitute betrothed

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The Tragedy

182 To *Bena* sister to the king of Fraunce,
 † These both put by a poore petitioner
 † A care-crazd mother of a many children,
 186 A beauty-waining and distressed widow,
 † Euen in the afternoone of her best daies
 † Made prise and purchase of his lustfull eye,
 † Seduc t the pitch and height of al his thoughts,
 190 To base declension and loathd bigamie,
 † By her in his vnlawfull bed he got.
 † This Edward whom our maners terme the prince,
 † More bitterlie could I expostulate,
 † Saue that for reuerence to some alie
 194 I giue a sparing limit to my tongue:
 † Then good my Lord, take to your royall selfe,
 † This proffered benefit of dignitie:
 † If not to blesse vs and the land withall,
 † Yet to draw out your royall stocke,
 † From the corruption of abusing time,
 † Vnto a lineall true deriued course.

201 *Mayor.* Do good my Lord your Cittizens entreat you.

202 *Cates.* O make them ioifull grant theirlawful suite.

† *Glo.* Alas, why would you heape these cares on me,

† I am vnfit for state and dignitie,
 206 I do beseech you take it not amisse,
 † I cannot nor I will not yeeld to you.

Buck. If you refuse it as in loue and zeale,
 210 Loath to depose the child your brothers sonne,

† As well we know your tendernes of heart,
 † And gentle kind effeminate remorse,

† Which wee haue noted in you to your kin,
 † And egallie indeed to all estates,

† Yet whether you accept our suite or no,
 † Your brothers sonne shall neuer raigne our king,

† But we will plant some other in the throane,
 † To the disgrace and downfall of your house:

218 † And in this resolution here we leaue you.

† Come Cittizens, zounds ile intreat no more.

† *Glo.* O do not swear my Lord of Buckingham.

of Richard the third.

Cates. Call them againe, my lord, and accept their sute.

Ano. Doe, good my lord, least all the land do rew it.

Glo. Would you inforce me to a world of care :

Well, call them againe, I am not made of stones,

But penetrable to your kind intreates,

Albeit against my conscience and my soule.

Cousin of Buckingham, and you sage graue men,

Since you will buckle fortune on my backe,

To beare her burthen whether I will or no,

I must haue patience to indure the lode,

But if blacke scandale or soule-fact reproch

Attend the sequell of your imposition,

Your meere inforcement shall acquittance mee

From all the impure blots and stains thereof,

For God he knowes, and you may partly see,

How farre I am from the desire thereof.

Mayor. God blesse your grace, we see it, and will say it.

Glo. In saying so, you shall but say the truth.

Buck. Then I salute you with this kingly title :

Long liue Richard, Englands royall king.

Mayor. Amen.

Buck. To morrow will it please you to be crown'd.

Glo. Euen when you will, since you will haue it so.

Buck. To morrow then we will attend your grace.

Glo. Come, let vs to our holy taske againe:

Farewel good cousine, farwel gentle friends.

Exeunt.

Enter Quee. mother, Duchesse of Yorke, Marques Dorset, at one doore, Duchesse of Gloucester, at another doore.

Duch. Who meets vs heere, my neece Plantagenet?

Qu. Sister well met, whether awaie so fast?

Duch. No farther then the Tower, and as I ghesse

Vpon the like deuotion as your selues,

To gratulate the tender Princes there.

Qu. Kind sister thanks, weele enter al together, *Enter*

And in good time here the Lieutenant comes. *Lieutenant.*

M. Lieutenant, pray you by your leaue,

How fares the Prince?

Lien. Wel Madam, and in health, but by your leaue,

IV.i.

The Tragedie

+ 16

I may not suffer you to visite him,
The King hath straightlie charged the contrarie.

+

Qu. The King? whie, whose that?

+

Lieu. I crie you mercie, I meane the Lord protector.

20

Qu. The Lord protect him from that Kinglie title:

+

Hath he set boundes betwixt their loue and me:

+

I am their mother, who should keepe me from them?

+

Du.yor. I am their Fathers, Mother, I will see them.

24

Duch.glo. Their aunt I am in law, in loue their mother:

+

Then feare not thou, Ile beare thy blame,

+

And take thy office from thee on my perill.

+

Lieu. I doe beseech your graces all to pardon me:

+ 28

I am bound by oath, I may not doe it. *Enter L.Stanlie.*

+

Stan. Let me but meete you Ladies an houre hence,

+

And Ile salute your grace of Yorke, as Mother:

+

And reuerente looker on, of two faire Queenes.

+ 32

Come Madam, you must go with me to Westminster,

+

There to be crowned, Richards royall Queene.

+

Qu. O cut my lace in sunder, that my pent heart,

+

May haue some scope to beate, or else I sound,

+

With this dead killing newes,

+ 36

Dor. Madam, haue comfort, how fares your grace?

+ 38

Qu. O Dorset speake not to me, get thee hence,

+

Death and destruction dogge thee at the heeles,

+

Thy Mothers name is ominous to children,

+

If thou wilt outstrip death, go crosse the seas,

+

And liue with Richmond, from the reach of hell,

+ 42

Go hie thee, hie thee from this slaughter house,

+

Least thou increase the number of the dead,

+

And make me die the thrall of Margarets curse,

+

Nor Mother, Wife, nor Englands counted Queene.

+

Stan. Full of wisc care is this your counsell Madam,

+ 46

Take all the swift aduantage of the time,

+

You shall haue letters from me to my sonne,

+

To meete you on the way, and welcome you,

+ 50

Be not tane tardie, by vnwise delaie:

+

Duch.yor. O ill dispersing winde of miserie,

+

O my accursed wombe, the bed of death,

+ 54

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of Richard the third.

A Cocatrice hast thou hatch to the world,
Whose vnauoided eye is murtherous.

Stran. Come Madam, I in all hast was sent.

Duch. And I in all vnwillingnes will go,
I would to God thar the inclusiue verge,
Of golden mettall that must rounde my browe,
were red hotte steele to seare me to the braine,
Annointed let me be with deadlie poy son.
And die, ere men can say, God saue the Queene.

Qu. Alas poore soule, I enuie not thy glorie,
To secede my humor, with thy selfe no harme.

Duch. glo. No, when he that is my husband now,
Came to me as I followed Henries course,
When scarce the bloud was well washt from his handes,
Which issued from my other angel husband,
And that dead saint, which then, I weeping followed,
O, when I say, I lookt on Richards face,
This was my wish, be thou quoth I accurst,
For making me so young, so olde a widow,
And when thou wedst, let sorrow haunt thy bed,
And be thy wife, if any be so madde,
As miserable by the death of thee,
As thou hast made me by my deare Lordes death,
Loe, eare I can repeate this curse againe,
Euen in so short a space, my womans hart,
Grosselic grewe captiue to his honie wordes,
And prou'd the subiecte of my owne soules curse,
Which euer since hath kept my eyes from sleepe,
For neuer yet, one houre in his bed,
Haue I enioyed the golden dew of sleepe,
But haue bene waked by his timerous dreames,
Besides, he hates me for my father Warwicke,
And will no doubt, shortly be rid of me.

Qu. Alas poore soule, I pittie thy complaints.

Duch. glo. No more then from my soule I moune for yours.

Dor. Farewell, thou wofull welcomer of glorie.

Duch. glo. Adew poore soule, thou takst thy leaue of it.

Du. yor. Go thou to Richmond, and good fortune guide thee.

Goe

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IV.i.

A DE TRAGEDIE

†
 †94
 †79
 Go thou to Richard, and good Angels garde thee,
 Go thou to sanctuarie, good thoughts possesse thee,
 I to my graue where peace and rest lie with me,
 Eightie odde yeares of sorrow haue I seent,
 And each houres ioy wrackt with a weeke of teene.

*The Trumpets sound, Enter Richard crown'd, Buckingham,
 Catesby with other Nobles.*

King Stand al apart. Coosin of Buckingham,
 †
 †3
 Giue me thy hand: *Here he ascendeth
 the throne.*

Thushigh by thy aduice
 And thy assistance is king Richard seated:
 †
 But that we wear these honours for a day?
 Or shall they last, and we reioice in them.

†
 †8
Buc. Stil liue they, and for euer may they last.

King R. O Buckingham, now do I plaie: he touch
 To trie if thou be currant gold indeed:

†
 †
 Young Edward liues: thinke now what I would say.

†
 †12
Buc. Saie on my gracious soueraigne.

King Whie Buckingham, I saie I would be king.

†
Buc. Whie so you are my thrice renowned liege.

King Ha: am I king? tis so, but Edward liues.

Buc. True noble prince.

King O bitter consequence,

†16
 †
 That Edward stil should liue true noble prince.

Coosin, thou wert not wont to be so dul:

Shal I be plaine? I wish the bastards dead,

And I would haue it suddenlie performde.

†20
 What saist thou? speake suddenlie, be brieve.

Buc. Your grace may doe your pleasure.

King Tut, tut, thou art all yce, thy kindnesse freezeth,
 Saie, haue I thy consent that they shal die?

†24
 †
Buc. Giue me some breath, some little pause my lord,
 Before I positiuely speake herein:

†
 I wil resolue your grace immediatlie.

Exit.

†
 †
Catesb. The king is angrie, see, he bites the lip.

†
 †28
King I wil conuerie with iron witted fooles

And vnrespectiue boies, none are for me

That looke into me with considerate eies:

Boy,

of Richard the third,

Boy, high reaching Buckingham growes circumspect.

Boy. My Lord.

King. Knowst thou not any whom corrupting gold
Would tempt vnto a close exploit of death.

Boy. My lord, I know a discontented gentleman,
Whose humble meanes match not his haughtie mind,
Gould were as good as twentie Orators,
And will no doubt tempt him to any thing.

King. What is his name.

Boy. His name my Lord is Tirrell.

King. Go call him hither presentlie,
The deepe reuoluing wittie Buckingham.
No more shall be the neighbour to my counsell,
Hath he so long held out with me vntirde
And stops he nowe for breath? *Enter Darby.*

How now, what newes vvith you?

Darby. My Lord, I heare the Marques Dorset
Is fled to Richmond, in those partes beyond the seas where he
abides.

King. Catesby. *Cat.* My Lord.

King. Rumor it abroad
That Anne my wife is sicke and like to die,
I will take order for her keeping close;
Enquire me out some meane borne gentleman,
Whom I will marrie straight to Clarence daughter,
The boy is foolish, and I feare not him:
Looke how thou dreamst: I say againe giue out
That Anne my wife is sicke and like to die.
About it, for it stands me much vpon
To stop all hopes vvhose growth may damadg me,
I must be married to my brothers daughter,
Or else my kingdome stands on brittle glasse,
Murther her brothers, and then marrie her,
Vncertaine vvaie of gaine, but I am in
So far in bloud that sinne vvill plucke on sin,
Teare falling pittie dwels not in this eie, *Enter Tirrel.*
Is thy name Tirrell?

Tjr. James Tirrell and your most obedient subiect.

King.

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IV.ii.

The Tragedy

King Art thou indeed?

Tir. Proue me my gracious soueraigne,

King Darst thou resolute to kill a friend of mine?

Tir. I my Lord, but I had rather kill two enemies.

King Why there thou hast it two deepe enemies,

Foes to my rest, and my sweet sleepes disturbs,

Are they that I would haue thee deale vpon:

Tirrel! I meane those bastards in the tower.

Tir. Let me haue open meanes to come to them,

And soone ile rid you from the feare of them.

King Thou singst sweet musicke. Come hither *Tirrel*;

Goby that token, rise and lend thine eare, *he whispers in his eare.*

Tis no more but so, saie is it done,

And I will loue thee and prefer thee too.

Tir. *Tis* done my gracious lord.

King Shal we heare from thee *Tirrel* ere we sleep? *Enter Buc.*

Tir. Ye shall my lord,

Buck. My lord, I haue considered in my mind,

The late demand that you did sound me in.

King Well, let that passe, Dorset is fled to Richmond.

Buck. I heare that newes my lord.

King *Stanley* he is your wifes sonnes. Well looke to it.

Buck. My lord, I claime your gift, my dew by promise,

For which your honor and your faith is pawnd,

The Earledome of Herford and the moucables,

The which you promised I should possesse.

King *Stanley* looke to your wife, if she conuay

Letters to Richmond you shall answere it.

Buck. What saies your highnes to my iust demand.

King As I remember, *Hensie* the fixt

Did prophetic that Richmond should be king,

When Richmond was a little peeuissh boy:

A king perhaps, perhaps. *Buck.* My lord.

King How chance the prophet could not at that time,

Haue told me I being by, that I should kill him.

Buck. My lord, your promise for the Earledome.

King Richmond, when last I was at Exeter,

The Maior in curtesie showd me the Castle,

And

of Richard the third.

And called it Ruge-mount, at which name I started,
Because a Bard of Ireland told me once
I should not liue long after I saw Richmond.

Buck. My lord.

King. I, whats a clocke?

Buck. I am thus bold to put your grace in mind
Of what you promised me.

King. Wel, but whats a clocke?

Buck. Vpon the stroke of ten.

King. Well, let it strike.

Buck. Whie let it strike?

King. Because that like a lacke thou keepst the stroke
Betwixt thy begging and my meditation,
I am not in the giuing vaine to day.

Buck. Whie then resolue me whether you wil or no?

King. Tut, tut, thou troublest me, I am not in the vaine. *Exit.*

Buck. Is it euen so, rewardst he my true seruice
With such deepe contempt, made I him king for this?
O let me thinke on *Hastings* and be gone
To Brecknock while my fearefull head is on.

Exit,

Enter Sir Francis Tirrell.

Tyr. The tyrannous and bloudie deed is done,
The most arch-act of pittieous maffacre,
That euer yet this land was guiltie of,
Dighton and Forrest whom I did suborne,
To do this ruthles peece of butcherie,
Although they were flesht villains, bloudie dogs,
Melting with tendernes and kind compassion,
Wept like two children in their deaths sad stories:
Lo thus quoth Dighton laie those tender babes,
Thus thus quoth Forrest girdling on another,
Within their innocent alabaster arnes,
Their lips were foure red Roies on a stalke,
Which in their summer beautie kist each other,
A booke of praiers on their pillow laie,
Which once quoth Forrest almost changd my mind,
But ô the Diuell their the villaine stopt,
Whilst Dighton thus told on we smothered

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IV.iii.
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IV.iii.

The Tragedy

† The most replenished sweet worke of nature,
 † That from the prime creation euer he framed,
 † 20 † Thus both are gone with conscience and remorse,
 † They could not speake and so I left them both,
 † To bring this tidings to the bloudie king. *Enter Ki. Richard.*
 † And here he comes, all haile my soueraigne leige.

† 24 † *King.* Kind Tirrell am I happie in thy newes.

† *Tyr.* If to haue done the thing you giue in charge,
 † Beget your happineffe, be happie then
 † For it is done my Lord.

† *King.* But didst thou see them dead?

† *Tyr.* I did my Lord.

† 28 † *King.* And buried gentle Tirrell?

† *Tyr.* The Chaplaine of the tower hath buried them,
 † But how or in what place I do not know

† *Tyr.* Come to me Tirrel! soone at after supper,
 † And thou shalt tell the proceffe of their death,
 † 32 † Meane time but thinke how I may do thee good.
 † And be inheritor of thy desire. *Exit Tirrel.*

† Farewel til soone.

† 35 † The sonne of Clarence haue I pent vp close,
 † His daughter meanelie haue I matcht in mariage,
 † The sonnes of Edward sleepe in Abrahams bolome,
 † And Anne my wife hath bid the world godnight,
 † 40 † Now for I know the Brittain Richmond aime
 † At young Elizabeth, my brothers daughter,
 † And by that knot lookes proudly ore the crowne,
 † To her I go a iollie thriuing wooer. *Enter Catesby.*

† 44 † *Car.* My Lord.

† *King.* Good newes or bad that thou comst in so bluntly?

† *Cates.* Bad newes my lord. *Ely* is fled to Richmond.
 † And Buckingham backt with the hardie Welchmen,
 † 48 † Is in the field, and still his power increaseth.

† *King.* *Ely* with Richmond troubles me more neare
 † Then Buckingham and his rash leuied armie:
 † Come I haue heard that feareful commenting,
 † Is leaden seruitour to dull delaie,
 † 52 † Delaie leades impotent and snaile pact beggerie,
 † Then fierie expedition be my wing,

of Richard the third.

Ioues Mercurie and Herald for a king:
Come muster men, my counsaile is my shield,
We must be brieft when traitors braue the field.

Exeunt.

Enter Queene Margaret sola.

Q. Mar. So now prosperitie begins to mellow
And drop into the rotten mouth of Death:
Here in these confines filie haue I lurkt,
To watch the waining of mine aduertaries:
A dire induction am I witnesse to,
And wil to Fraunce, hoping the consequence
Wil prooue as bitter, blacke and tragical.
Withdraw thee wretched Margaret, who comes here?

Enter the Qu. and the Dueschesse of Yorke.

Qu. Ah my young princes, ah my tender babes!
My vnblowne flowers, new appearing sweets,
If yet your gentle soules flie in the ayre
And be not fixt in doome perpetual,
Houer about me with your aerie winges,
And heare your mothers lamentation.

Qu. Mar. Houer about her, saie that right for right,
Hath dimd your infant morne, to aged night.

Quee. Wilt thou, O God, flie from such gentle lambes,
And throw them in the intrailles of the Wolfe:

When didst thou sleepe when such a deed was done?

Q. Mar. When holie Harry died, and my sweet sonne.

Dutch. Blind sight, dead life, poore mortal liuing ghost,
Woesceane, worlds shame, graues due by life vsurpt,
Rest thy vnrest on englands lawfull earth,
Vnlawfullie made drunke with innocents blood.

Qu. O that thou wouldst aswel afford a graue,
As thou canst yeeld a melancholie seate,
Then would I hide my bones, not rest them here:
O who hath anie cause to mourne but I!

Dutch. So manie miseries haue crazd my voyce
That my woe-wearied toong is mute and dumbe.
Edward Plantagenet, whie art thou dead?

Qu. Mar. If ancient sorrow be most reuerent,
Giue mine the benefite of signorie,

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And

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IV.iii.

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IV. iv.

The Tragease

† And let my woes frowne on the vpper hand,
 If sorrow can admitte societic,
 * Tell ouer your woes againe by vewing mine,
 40 I had an Edward, till a Richard kild him;
 † I had a Richard, till a Ricard kild him:
 Thou hadst an Edward, till a Richard kild him:
 Thou hadst a Richard, till a Richard kild him.

†† *Duch.* I had a Richard to, and thou didst kill him;
 I had a Rutland to, thou hopst to kill him.

† *Qu. Mar.* Thou hadst a Clarence to, and Richard kild him:
 From forth the kennell of thy wombe hath crept,
 48 A hel-hound that doeth hunt vs all to death,
 That dogge, that had his teeth before his eyes,
 † To worric lambes, and lap their gentle blouds,
 51 That foule defacer of Gods handie worke,
 54 Thy wombe let loose, to chafe vs to our graues,
 O vpriht, iust, and true disposing God,
 How doe I thanke thee, that this carnal curre,
 Praies on the issue of his mothers bodie,
 58 And makes her puefellow with others mone.

† *Duch.* O, Harries wifes triumph not in my woes,
 God witnes with me, I haue wept for thine.

† *Qu. Mar.* Beare with me, I am hungrie for reuenge,
 62 And now I cloie me with beholding it,
 † Thy Edward, he is dead, that stabd my Edward,
 † Thy other Edward dead, to quitte my Edward,
 † Yong Yorke, he is but boote because both they
 66 Match not the high perfection of my losse,
 † Thy Clarence he is dead, that kild my Edward,
 † And the beholders of this tragicke plaie,
 † The adulterate Hastings, Rivers, Vaughan, Gray,
 70 Vntimelie smothered in their duskie graues,
 Richard yet liues, hels blacke intelligencer,
 Onely referued their factor to buie soules,
 † And send them thether, but at hand at handes,
 74 ensues his piteous, and vnpittied end,
 † Earth gapes, hell burnes, fiendes roare, saintes praie,
 † To haue him suddenly conuicied away.

Cancel

of Richard the third.

Cancel his bond of life, deare God I pray,
That I may liue to say, the dog is dead.

Qu. O thou didst prophetic the time would come,
That I should wish for thee to helpe me curse,
That botteld spider, that foule bunch-back toade.

Qu. Mar. I cald thee then, vaine flourish of my fortune,
I cald thee then, poore shadow, painted Queene,
The presentation of, but what I was,
The flattering Index of a dirfull pageant,
One heaued a high, to be hurld downe belowe,
A mother onelic, mockt with two sweete babes,
A dreame of which thou wert a breath, a bubble,
A signe of dignitie, a garish flagge,
To be the aime of eucric dangerous shot,
A Queene in ieast onelic to fill the sceane,
Where is thy husband now, where be thy brothers?
Where are thy children, wherein doest thou ioye?
Who sues to thee, and cries God saue the Queene?
Where be the bending peeres that flattered thee?
Where be the thronging troopes that followed thee?
decline all this, and see what now thou art,
For happie wife, a most distressed widow,
For ioyfull Mother, one that wailes the name,
For Queene, a verie caitiue crownd with care,
For one being sued to, one that humblie sues,
For one commaunding all, obeyed of none,
For one that scornd at me, now scornd of me,
Thus hath the course of iustice whe eld about,
And left thee but, a verie praie to time,
Hauing no more, but thought of what thou wert,
To torture thee the more, being what thou art,
Thou didst vsurpe my place, and doest thou not,
Vsurpe the iust proportion of my sorrow,
Now thy proud necke, beares halfe my burthened yoke,
From which, euen here, I flippe my wearie necke,
And leaue the burthen of it all on thee:
Farewell Yorkes wife, and Queene of sad mischance,
These English woes, will make me smile in France.

Qu. O

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IV. iv

The Tragedie

Qu. O thou wel skild in curses, staie a while,
And teach me how to curse mine enemies.

118 *Qu. Mar.* Forbeare to sleepe the nights, and fast the daies,
Compare dead happinesse with liuing woe,
+ Thinke that thy babes were fairer then they were,
And he that slew them fouler then he is,
122 Bettring thy losse makes the bad causer worse,
Reuoluing this, wil teach thee how to curse.

Qu. My words are dul, O quicken them with thine.

126 *Q. Mar.* Thy woes wil make them sharp, & pierce like mine.

Du. Why should calamitie be ful of words? *Exit Mar.*

+ *Qu.* Windie attunies to your Client woes,
+ A erie succeders of intellate ioies,
Poore breathing Orators of miseries,
+ 130 Let them haue scope, though what they do impart,
+ Helpe not at al, yet do they ease the hart.

Duch. If so, then be not toong-tide, go with me,
And in the breath of bitter words lets smother
+ 134 My damned sonne, which thy two sweet sons smotherd,
+ I heare his drum, be copious in exclames.

*Enter K. Richard marching with Drummes
and Trumpets.*

King Who intercepts my expedition?

+ *Duch.* A she, that might haue intercepted thee
+ By strangling thee in her accursed wombe,
138 From al the slaughters wretch, that thou hast done.

+ *Qu.* Hidst thou that forehead with a golden crowne
+ Where should be grauen, if that right were right,
142 The slaughter of the Prince that owed that Crowne,
+ And the dire death of my two sonnes, and brothers:
Tel me thou villaine slaue, where are my children?

Duch. Thou tode, thou tode, where is thy brother Clarence?
And little Ned Plantagenet, his sonne?

+ 147 *Qu.* Where is kind *Hastings, Rivers, Vaughan, Gray?*
> 148

King A flourish trumpets, strike alarum drummes,
Let not the heauens heare these tel-tale women
Raile on the Lords annointed. Strike I saie. *The trumpets*
Either be patient, and intreat me faire,

Or

of Richard the third.

Or with the clamorous report of war:
Thus will I drowne your exclamations,

Du. Art thou my son?

King. I, I thank'e God, my father and your selfe,

Du. Then patiently here my impatience.

King. Madam I haue a touch of your condition,
Which cannot brooke the accent of reproofe.

Du. I will be mild and gentle in my speach.

King. And briefe good mother for I am in hast.

Du. Art thou so hastie I haue staid for thee,
God knowes in anguish, paine and agonie.

King. And came I not at last to comfort you?

Du. No by the holie roode thou knowst it well,
Thou camst on earth to make the earth my hell,

A greuous burthen was thy berth to me,
Teechie and waiward was thy infancie,
Thy schoole-daies frightful, desperate, wild, and furious.
Thy prime of manhood, daring, bold and venturous,
Thy age confirmed, proud, subtil, bloudie, trecherous,
What comfortable houre canst thou name
That euer grac t me in thy companie?

King. Faith none but Humphrey houre, that cald your grace
To breake fast once forth of my companie,
If I be so disgracious in your sight,
Let me march on, and not offend your grace.

Du. O heare me speake for I shal neuer see thee more.

King. Come, come, you art too bitter.

Du. Either thou wilt die by Gods iust ordinance,
Eeare from this war thou turne a conqueror,
Or I with griefe and extreame age shall perish,
And neuer looke vpon thy face againe,
Therefore take with thee my most heauy curse,
Which in the daie of battaile tire thee more
Then all the complear armor that thou wearst,
My praiers on the aduerser partie fight,
And there the little soules of Edwards children,
Whisper the spirits of thine enemies,
And promise them successe and victorie,

K

bloudie

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The Tragedy

197 Bloudie thou art, bloudie wil be thy end,
Shame serues thy life, and doth thy death attend. *Exit.*

Qu. Though far more cause, yet much lesse spirit to curse
Abides in me, I saie Amen to all.

198 *King.* Staie Maddam, I must speake a word with you,

Qu. I haue no moe sonnes of the royall blood,
For thee to murder for my daughters Richard,
They shalbe praying nunnes not weeping *Queenes,*
And therefore leuell not to hit their liues.

202 *King* You haue a daughter cald Elizabeth,
Vertuous and faire, roiall and gracious,

Qu. And must she die for this? O let her liue!
And ile corrupt her maners, staine her beautie,
Slander my selfe as false to Edwards bed
Throw ouer her the vale of infamie,
So she may liue vnsard from bleeding slaughter,
I will confesse she was not Edwards daughter.

King Wrong not her birth, she is of roiall blood.

Qu. To saue her life, ile saie she is not so.

King Her life is onlie safest in hir birth.

214 *Qu.* And onlie in that safetie died her brothers.

King Lo at their births good stars were opposite.

Qu. No to their liues bad friends were contrarie.

King All vnauoided is the doome of destinie,

218 *Qu.* True when auoided grace makes destinie,
My babes were deslinde to a fairer death,
If grace had blest thee with a fairer life.

220 *King* Madam, so thrue I in my dangerous attempt of hostile
225 As I intend more good to you and yours,
Then euer you or yours were by me wrongd.

Qu. What good is couerd with the face of heauen,
240 To be discouerd that can do me good,

King The aduancement of your children mightie Ladie.

Qu. Vp to some scaffold, there to loose their heads,

King No to the dignitie and height of honor,
244 The high imperiall tipe of this earths glorie.

Qu. Flatter my sorrowes with report of it,
Tell me what state, what dignitie, what honor?

of Richard the third.

Canst thou demise to anie child of mine.

King. Euen all I haue, yea and my selfe and all,
Will I withal endow a child of thine,
So in the Lethe of thy angric soule,
Thou drown the sadd remembrance of those wrongs
Which thou supposedst I haue done to thee.

248 †

Qu. Be brieft, least that the processe of thy kindnes,
Last longer telling then thy kindnes doe.

252

King. Then know that from my soule I loue thy daughter,

†

Qu. My daughters mother thinkes it with her soule.

256

King. What do you thinke?

Qu. That thou dost loue my daughter from thy soule,
So from thy soules loue didst thou loue her brothers,
And from my harts loue I do thanke thee for it.

260

King. Be not so hastie to confound my meaning,
I meane that with my soule I loue thy daughter,
And meane to make her Queene of England.

Qu. Saie then, who dost thou meane shal be her king?

†

King. Euen he that makes her Queen, who should be else?

264 †

Qu. What thou?

†

King. I euen I, what thinke you of it Maddame?

†

Qu. How canst thou wooe her?

King. That would I learne of you.

268 †

As one that are best acquainted with her humor.

†

Qu. And wilt thou learn of mee?

King. Madam with al my hart.

Qu. Send to her by the man that slew her brothers,
A paire of bleeding harts thereon ingraue,
Edward and Yorke, then happelie she wil weepe,
Therefore present to her as sometimes Margaret
Did to thy father, a handkercher steep in Rutlands bloud,
And bid her drie her weeping cies therewith,
If this inducement force her not to loue,
Send her a storie of thy noble acts,
Tel her thou madst awaie her Vncle Clarence,
Her Vncle Riuers yea, and for her sake
Madst quicke conueiance with her good Aunt Anne,

272

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274 †

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278 †

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282 †

King. Come, come, you mocke me, this is not the waie

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The Tragedy

To win your daughter.

Qu. There is no other waie

Vnlesse thou couldst put on some other shape,
And not be Richard that hath done all this.

287

343

King Inſer faire Englands peace by this alliance.

Qu. Which ſhe ſhall purchaſe with ſtill laſting war.

†

King Saie that the king which may command intreats.

Qu. That at her hands which the kings king forbids.

King Saie ſhe ſhalbe a high and mightie Queene,

† 348

Qu. To waile the title as her mother doth.

King Saie I wil loue her euerlaſtinglie.

Qu. But how long ſhall that title euer laſt.

King Sweetlic inforce vnto her faire lyues end.

352

Qu. But how long farely ſhall her ſweet life laſt?

†

King So long as heauen and nature lengthens it.

†

Qu. So long as hell and Richard likes of it.

†

King Saie I her ſoueraign am her ſubiect loue.

356

Qu. But ſhe your ſubiect loaths ſuch ſoueraintie.

King Be eloquent in my behalfe to her,

Qu. An honeſt tale ſpeeds beſt being plainlie told.

†

King I nen in plaine termes tell her my louing tale.

360

Qu. Plaine and not honeſt is to harſh a ſtile.

†

King Madame your reaſons are too ſhallow & too quicke

Qu. Ono my reaſons are to deepe and dead.

†

Too deepe and dead poore infants in their graue,

† 364

King Harpe not one that ſtring Madam that is paſt.

†

Qu. Harpe on it ſtill ſhall I till hartſtrings breake.

†

King Now by my George, my Garter and my crown.

† 368

Qu. Prophan, diſhonerd, and the third vſurped.

King I ſweare by nothing.

†

Qu. By nothing, for this is no oath,

†

The George prophan hath loſt his holie honor,

†

The Garter blemiſht pawnd his knightlie vertue,

†

The crown vſurpt diſgrac't his kinglie dignitie,

† 372

If ſomething thou wilt ſweare to be beleuede,

Sweare then by ſomething that thou haſt not wrongd.

King Now by the world.

Qu. Tis ſul of thy foule wrongs.

King My

of Richard the third.

King. My Fathers death.

Qu. Thy life hath that dishonord,

King. Then by my selfe.

Qu. Thy selfe thy selfe misufest.

King. Whie, then by God.

Qu. Gods wrong is most of all,

If thou hadst feard, to breake an oath by him,

The vnitie the king my brother made,

Had not bene broken, nor my brother slaine.

If thou hadst feard to breake an oath by him,

The imperiall mettall circling now thy brow,

Had graft the tender temples of my childe,

And both the princes had bene breathing heere,

Which now, two tender plaie fellows for dust,

Thy broken faith, hath made a praie for wormes.

King. By the time to come.

Qu. That thou hast wrongd in time orepast,

For I my selfe, haue manie teares to wash,

Hereafter time, for time, by the past wrongd,

The children liue, whose parents thou hast slaughterd,

Vngouernd youth, to waile it in their age,

The parents liue, whose children thou hast butcherd

Olde withered plantes, to waile it with their age,

Swear not by time to come, for that thou hast,

Misused, care vsed, by time misused orepast.

King. As I intend to prosper and repent,

So thrive I in my dangerous attempt,

Of hostile armies, my selfe, my selfe confound,

Daye yeeld me not thy sight, nor night thy rest,

Be opposite, all planets of good lucke,

To my proceedings, if with pure heartes loue,

Immaculate deuocion, holie thoughtes,

I tender not thy beauteous princelic daughter,

In her consistes my happines and thine,

Without her followes to this land and me,

To thee her selfe, and manie a Christian soule,

Sad desolation, ruine, and decaie,

It cannot be auoided but by this,

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410

The Tragedie

It will not be auoided but this:

Therefore good mother (I must call you so,)

Be the attorney of my loue to her.

Pleade what I will be, not what I haue bene,

Not by desertes, but what I will deserue,

Vnge the necessitie and state of times,

And be not pieuish, fond in great designes.

Qu. Shall I be tempted of the diuell thus.

King. I, if the diuell tempt thee to doe good.

Qu. Shall I forget my selfe, to be my selfe.

King. I, if your selfes remembrance, wrong your selfe.

Qu. But thou didst kill my children.

King. But in your daughters wombe, I buried them,
Where in that nest of spicerie they shall breed,
Selfes of themselves, to your reconstitute.

Qu. Shall I go winne my daughter to thy will.

King. And be a happie mother by the deede,

Qu. I goe, write to me verie shortlie.

King. Beare her my true loues kisse, farewell.

Exit.

Relenting foole, and shallow changing woman. *Enter Rat.*

Rat. My gracious Soueraigne on the westerne coast,

Rideth a puissant Nauie. To the shore,
Throng manie doubtfull hollow harted friendes,

Vnarmd, and vnresolud to beate them backe;

Tis thought that Richmond is their admirall,

And there they hull, expecting but the aide,

Of Buckingham, to welcome them a shore.

King. Some light foote friend, post to the Duke of Norff.

Ratchise thy selfe, or Catesbie, where is hee?

Cat. Here my Lord.

King. Flie to the Duke, post thou to Salisbury,

When thou comst there, dull vnmindfull villaine,

Whic standst thou still? and goest not to the Duke.

Cat. First mightie Soueraigne, let me know your minde,
What, from your grace, I shall deliuer them.

King. O, true good Catesbie, bid him leuie straight,

The greatest strength and power he can make,

And meete me presentlie at Salisbury.

Rat.

of Richard the third.

Rat. What is it your highnes pleasure, I shall do at Salisbu-

King. Whic? what wouldst thou doe there before I goe? (ry,

Rat. Your highnes told me I should post before.

King. My mind is changd fir, my minde is changd.
How now, what newes with you?

Enter Darbie.

Dar. None good my Lord, to please you with the hearing,
Nor none so bad, but it may well be told.

King. Hoiday, a riddle, neither good, nor bad:

Why doest thou runne so many mile about,

When thou maist tell thy tale a neerer way.

Once more, what newes?

Dar. Richmond is on the Seas.

King. There let him sinke, and be the seas on him,
Whice liuerd runnagate, what doeth he there?

Dar. I know not mightie Soueraigne, but by guesse.

King. Well fir, as you guesse, as you guesse.

Dar. Sturd vp by Dorset, Buckingham, and Elie,
He makes for England, there to claime the crowne.

King. Is the chaire emptie? is the sword vnswaied?

Is the king dead? the Empire vnpossesse?

What heire of Yorke is there aliue but we?

And who is Englands King, but great Yorkes heire?

Then tell me, what doeth he vpon the sea?

Dar. Vnlesse for that my liege, I cannot guesse.

King. Vnlesse for that, he comes to be your liege,
You cannot guesse, wherefore the Welshman comes,

Thou wilt reuolt, and flie to him I feare.

Dar. No mightie liege, therefore mistrust me not.

King. Where is thy power then? to beate him backe,

Where are thy tennants? and thy followers?

Are they not now vpon the Westerne shore?

Safe conducting, the rebels from their ships,

Dar. No my good Lord, my friendes are in the North.

King. Cold friends to Richard, what doe they in the North?

When they should serue, their Soueraigne in the West.

Dar. They haue not bin commaunded, mightie soueraigne,

Please it your Maiestie to giue me leaue,

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The Tragedie

He muster vp my friendes and meeete your grace,
Where, and what time, your Maiestie shall please.

King. I, I, thou wouldest be gone, to ioyne with Richmond,
I will not trust you Sir.

Dar. Most mightie Soueraigne,
You haue no cause to hold my friendship doubtfull,
I neuer was, nor neuer will be false.

King. Well, go muster men, but heare you, leaue behinde,
Your sonne George Stanlie, looke your faith be firme,
Or else, his heads assurance is but fraile.

Dar. So deale with him, as I proue true to you.

Enter a Messenger.

Mes. My gracious Soueraigne, now in Deuonshire,
As I by friendes am well aduertised,
Sir William Courncy, and the haughtie Prelate,
Bishop of Exceter, his brother there,
With inanie mo confederates, are in armes.

Enter another Messenger.

Mes. My Liege, in Kent the Guilfordes are in armes,
And euerie houre more competitors,
Flocke to their aide, and still their power increaseth.

Enter another Messenger.

Mes. My Lord, the armie of the Duke of Buckingham.

He striketh him.

King. Out on you owles, nothing but songs off death.
Take that vncill thou bring me better newes.

Mes. Your grace mistakes, the newes I bring is good,
My newes is that by sudden flood, and fall of water,
The Duke of Buckinghams armie is disperst and scattered,
And he himsele fled, no man knowes whether.

King. O I crie you mercie, I did mistake,
Ratcliffe reward him, for the blow I gaue him,
Hath any well aduised friend giuen out,
Rewardes for him that brings in Buckingham.

Mes. Such proclamation hath bene made my liege.

Enter another Messenger.

Mes. Sir Thomas Louel, and Lord Marques Dorset,
Tis said my liege, are vp in armes,

Yet

of Richard the third.

Yet this good comfort bring I to your grace,
The Brittain nauic is disperst, Richmond in Dorshire
Sent out a boate to aske them on the shore,
If they were his assistants yea, or no:
Who answered him, they came from Buckingham,
Vpon his partie, he mistrusting them,
Hoist sale, and made away for Brittain.

King. March on, march on, since we are vp in armes,
If not to fight with forreine enemies,
Yet to beate downe, these rebels here at home.

Enter Catesbie.

Cat. My liege, the Duke of Buckingham is taken,
Thats the best newes, that the Earle of Richmond,
Is with a mightie power landed at Milford,
Is colder tidings, yet they must be told.

King. Away towards Salisburie, while we reason here,
A royall battell might be wonne and lost,
Some one take order, Buckingham be brought,
To Salisburie, the rest march on with me.

Exeunt.

Entee Darbie, Sir Christopher.

Dar. Sir Christopher, tell Richmond this from me,
That in the stie of this most bloudie bore,
My sonne George Stanlie is franckt vp in hold,
If I reuolt, off goes young Georges head,
The feare of that, with holdes my present aide,
But tell me, where is princelie Richmond now?

Christ. At Pembroke, or at Harford-west in Wales.

Dar. What men of name resort to him.

S. Christ. Sir Walter Herbert, a renowned souldier,
Sir Gilbert Talbot, Sir William Stanlie,
Oxford, redoubted Pembroke, Sir Iames Blunt,
Rice vp Thomas, with a valiant crew,
With many moe of noble fame and worth,
And towards London they doe bend their course,
If by the way, they be not fought withall.

Dar. Retourne vnto thy Lord, commend me to him,
Tell him, the Queene hath hartelie consented,
He shall espouse Elizabeth her daughter,

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IV. v.

The Tragedy

These letters will resolue him of my minde.
Farewell.

*Exeunt.**Enter Buckingham to execution.*

Buck. Will not king Richard let me speake with him.

Rat. No my Lord, therefore be patient.

Buck. Hastings, and Edwards children, Riuers, Gray,
Holie king Henrie, and thy faire sonne Edward,
Vaughan, and all that haue miscarried,
By vnderhand corrupted, foule iniustice,
If that your moodie discontented soules,
Doe through the cloudes, behold this present houre,
Euen for reuenge, mocke my destruction.
This is Alsoules day fellowes, is it not?

Rat. It is my Lord.

Buck. Whie then Alsoules day, is my bodies domesday:
This is the day, that in king Edwards time,
I wisht might fall on me, when I was found,
False to his children, or his wiues allies:
This is the day, wherein I wisht to fall,
By the false faith, of him I trusted most:
This, this Alsoules day, to my fearefull soule,
Is the determind respit of my wrongs:
That high al-seer, that I dallied with,
Hath turnd my fained prayer on my head,
And giuen in earnest what I begd in iest.
Thus doeth he force the swordes of wicked men,
To turne their owne pointes, on their Maisters bosome:
Now Margarets curse, is fallen vpon my head,
When he quorh she, shall split thy hart with sorrow.
Remember, Margaret was a Propheteffe,
Come sirs, conuey me to the blocke of shame,
Wrong hath but wrong, and blame the dew of blame.

Enter Richmond with drums and trumpets.

Rich. Fellowes in armes, and my most louing friendes,
Bruisd vnderneath the yoake of tyrannie,
Thus farre into the bowels of the land,
Haue we marcht on without impediment,
And here receiue we, from our Father Stanlie,

Lines

of Richard the third.

Lines of faire comfort, and incouragement,
 The wretched, bloudie, and vsurping bore,
 That spoild your former fieldes, and fruitfull vines,
 Swils your warme bloud like wash, and makes his trough,
 In your inboweld bosomes, this foule swine,
 Lies now euen in the center of this Ile,
 Neare to the towne of Leycester as we learne:
 From Tamworth thether, is but one dayes march,
 In Gods name cheerelie on, couragious friends,
 To reape the haruest of perpetuall peace,
 By this one bloudie triall of sharpe warre.

1 *Lo.* Euerie mans conscience is a thousand swordes,
 To fight against that bloudie homicide.

2 *Lo.* I doubt not but his friends will flie to vs,

3 *Lo.* He hath no friendes, but who are friendes for feare,
 Which in his greatest neede will shrinke from him.

Rich. All for our vantage, then in Gods name march,
 True hope is swift, and flies with Swallowes wings,
 Kings it make Gods, and meaner creatures kings. *Exit.*

*Enter King Richard, Norffolke, Ratcliffe,
 Catesbie, with others.*

King. Here pitch our tentes, euen here in Bosworth field,
 Whie, how now Catesbie, whie lookst thou so bad.

Cat. My hart is ten times lighter then my lookes.

King. Norffolke, come hether.

Norffolke, we must haue knockes, ha, must we not?

Norff. We must both giue, and take, my gracious Lord.

King. Vp with my tent there, here will I lie to night,
 But where to morrow, well, all is one for that:
 Who hath discried the number of the foe.

Norff. Sixe or seuen thousand is their greatest number.

King. Whie our battalio trebles that account,
 Besides, the Kings name is a tower of strength,
 Which they vpon the aduerser partie want,
 Vp with my tent there, valiant gentlemen,
 Let vs suruey the vantage of the field,
 Call for some men of sound direction,
 Lets want no discipline, make no delai,

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V.v.

The Tragedy

For Lordes, to morrow is a busie day.

Exeunt.

Enter Richmond with the Lordes, &c.

Rich. The wearie sonne hath made a golden sete,
And by the bright tracke of his fierie Carre,
Giues signall of a goodlie day to morrow,
Where is Sir William Brandon, he shall beare my standerd,
The Earle of Pembroke keepe his regiment,
Good captaine Blunt, beare my good night to him,
And by the second houre in the morning,
Desire the Earle to see me in my tent.

Yet one thing more, good Blunt before thou goest:
Where is Lord Stanlie quartered, doest thou know.

Blunt. Vnlesse I haue mistane his coulours much,
Which well I am assur'd, I haue not done,
His regiment, lies halfe a mile at least,
South from the mightie power of the king.

Rich. If without perrill it be possible,
Good captaine Blunt beare my good night to him,
And giue him from me, this most needefull scrowle.

Blunt. Vpon my life my Lord, Ile vndertake it.

Rich. Farewell good Blunt.
Giue me some inke, and paper, in my tent,
Ile drawe the forme, and modle of our battel,
Limit each leader to his feuerall charge,
And part in iust proportion our small strength,
Come, let vs consult vpon to morrowes busines,
In to our tent, the aire is rawe and cold.

*Enter king Richard, Norff, Ratcliffe
Catesb'ie, &c.*

King. What is a clocke.

Car. It is sixe of clocke, full supper time.

King. I will not sup to night, giue me some inke and paper,
What? is my beuer easier then it was?
And all my armour laid into my tent?

Car. It is my Liege, and all things are in readines.

King. Good Norffolke, hie thee to thy charge,
Vse carefull watch, chuse trustie centinell.

Norff. I goe my Lord.

Sturr

of Richard the third.

King. Stur with the Larke to morrow gentle Norffolke:

Nor. I warrant you my Lord.

King. Catesby.

Rat. My lord.

King. Send out a Pursuant at armes

To *Stanleys* regiment, bid him bring his power

Before sun rising, least his sonne George fall

Into the blind caue of eternal night.

Fill me a bowle of wine, giue me a watch,

Saddle white Surrey for the field to morrow,

Looke that my staucs be found and not too heauy Ratliffe.

Rat. My lord.

King. Sawst thou the melancholie Lo. Northumberland?

Rat. Thomas the Earle of Surrey and himselfe,

Much about cockshut time, from troupe to troupe

Went through the army cheering vp the soldiors.

King. So I am satisfied, giue me a boule of wine,

I haue not that alacrity of spirit

Nor cheere of mind that I was wont to haue:

Set it down. Is inke and paper ready?

Rat. It is my lord.

King. Bid my guard watch, leaue me.

Ratliffe about the mid of night come to my tent

And helpe to arme me: leaue me I say.

Exit. Ratliffe

Enter Darby to Richmond in his tent.

Darby. Fortune and victorie set on thy helme.

Rich. All comfort that the darke night can afford,

Be to thy person noble father in law,

Tel me howfares our louing mother?

Dar. I by attorney blesse thee from thy mother,

Who praies continuallie for Richmonds good,

So much for that the silent houres steale on,

And flakie darkenessse breakes within the east;

In brieft, for so the season bids vs be:

Prepare thy battell earelie in the morning,

And put thy fortune to the arbitrement,

Of bloudie strokes and mortai staining war,

I as I may, that which I would, I cannot,

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The Tragedie

With best aduantage will deceiue the time,
 And aide thee in this doubtful shocke of armes,
 94 But on thy side I may not be too forward,
 Least being seene thy brother tender George
 Be executed in his fathers sight.

Farewel, the leasure and the fearefull time,
 98 Cuts off the ceremonious vowes of loue,
 And ample enterchange of sweet discourse,
 Which so long sundried friends should dwel vpon,
 God giue vs leisure for these rights of loue,
 102 Once more adiew, be valiant and speed well.

Rich. Good lordsc onduct him to his regiment;
 † Ile striue with troubled thoughts to take a nap,
 Least leaden slumber peise me downe to morrow,
 106 When I should mount with wings of victorie,
 Once more good night kind Lords and gentlemen, *Exunt.*
 O thou whole Captaine I account my selfe,
 Looke on my forces with a gracious eie;
 110 Put in their hands thy brusling Irons of wrath,
 That they may crush downe with a heauie fall,
 † The vsurping helmets of our aduersaries,
 Make vs thy ministers of chastisement,
 † 114 That we may praise thee in the victorie,
 To thee I do commend my watchfull soule,
 Eare I let fal the windowes of mine eies,
 Sleeping and waking, oh defend me still!

*Enter the ghost of young Prince Edward, sonne
 Harry the sixt, to Ri.*

118 *Ghost to Ri.* Let me sit heauie on thy soule to morrow.
 Thinke how thou stabst me in my prime of youth,
 At Teukesburie, dispaire therefore and die.

To Rich. Be cheerful Richmond for the wronged soules
 122 Of Butchered princes fight in thy behalfe,
 King Henries issue Richmond comforts thee.

Enter the ghost of Henry the sixt.

† *Ghost to Ri.* When I was mortall my annointed body,
 126 By thee was punched full of deadlie holes,
 Thinke on the tower and me dispaire and die,

Harrie

of Richard the third.

Harrie the sixt bids thee dispaire and die.

To Rich. Vertuous and holic be thou conqueror,
Harrie that prophised thou shouldst be king,
Doth comfort thee in thy sleepe liue and florish.

Enter the Ghost of Clarence.

Ghost. Let me set heaue in thy soule to morrow,
I that was washt to death with fulsome wine,
Poore Clarence by thy guile betraid to death:
To morrow in the battaile thinke on me,
And fall thy edgeles sword, dispaire and die.

To Rich. Thou ofspring of the house of Lancaster,
The wronged heires of Yorke do pray for thee,
Good angels guard thy battaile liue and florish.

Enter the ghosts of Riuers, Gray, Vaughan.

King Let me sit heaue in thy soule to morrow;
Riuers that died at Pomfret, dispaire and die,

Gray. Thinke vpon Graic, and let thy soule dispaire.

Vaugh. Thinke vpon Vaughan, and with guiltie feare,
Let fall thy launce, dispaire and die.

All to Ri. Awake and thinke our wrongs in Richards bosome,
Wel conquer him, awake and win the daie.

Enter the ghosts of the two young Princes.

Ghost to Ri. Dreame on thy Coozens smothered in the tower,
Let vs be lead within thy bosome Richard,
And weigh thee down to ruine, shame, and death,
Thy Nephewes soules bid thee dispaire and die.

To Rich. Sleepe Richmond sleepe, in peace and wake in ioy,
Good angels guard thee from the bores annoy,
Liue and beget a happie race of kings,
Edwards vnhappie lonnes do bid thee florish.

Enter the ghost of Hastings.

Ghost Bloudie and guiltie, guiltie awake,
And in a bloudie battaile end thy daies,
Thinke on lord Hastings, dispaire and die.

To Rich. Quiet vntroubled soule, awake, awake,
Anne, fight and conquer for faire Engiands sake.

Enter the ghost of Lady Anne his wife,
Richard thy wife, that wretched Anne thy wife,

V.iii.

The Tragedie

7 hat neuer slept a quiet houre with thee,
 Now fills thy sleepe with pretunbations,
 To morrow in the battaile thinke on me,
 And fall thy edgeles sword despaire and die.

164 *To Rich.* Thou quiet soule, sleepe thou a quiet sleepe,
 Dreame of successe and happie victorie,
 Thy aduersaries wife doth praie for thee.

Enter the Ghost of Buckingham.

168 The first was I that helpt thee to the crown,
 The last was I that felt thy tyrannie,
 O in the battaile thinke on Buckingham,
 And die in terror of thy giltinesse,
 Dreame on, dreame on, of bloudie deeds and death,
 Fainting, despaire, desparing yeeld thy breath,

172 *To Rich.* I died for hope ere I could lend thee aid,
 But cheare thy heart, and be thou not dismayd,
 God and good angels fight on Richmonds side,
 And Richard fals in height of all his pride.

Richard starteth vp out of a dreame.

King Ri. Giue me another horse, bind vp my wounds,
 Haue mercie Iesu: soft, I did but dreame,
 O Coward conscience, how dost thou afflict me?
 180 The lights burne blew, it is now dead midnight,
 Cold fearefull drops stand on my trembling flesh,
 What do I feare? my selfe? theres none else by,
 Richard loues Richard, that is I and I,
 184 Is there a murderer here? no. Yes I am,
 Then flie, what from my selfe? great reason whie?
 Least I reuenge. What my selfe vpon my selfe?
 Alacke I loue my selfe, wherefore? for anie good
 188 That I my selfe haue done vnto my selfe:

O no, alas I rather hate my selfe,
 For hatefull deedes committed by my selfe,
 I am a villaine, yet I lie I am not,
 192 Foole of thy selfe speake well, foole do not flatter,
 My conscience hath a thousand seuerall tongues,
 And euerie tongue brings in a seuerall tale,
 And euerie tale condemns me for a villaine,

of Richard the third

Periurie, penurie, in the highest degree,
 Murther, sterne murther in the dyrest degree,
 All seuerall sinnes, all vsde in each degree,
 Throng to the barre, crying all guiltie, guiltie.
 I shall dispaire, there is no creature loues me,
 And if I die, no soule will pitie me:
 And wherefore should they, since that I my selfe,
 Finde in my selfe, no pitie to my selfe.
 Me thought the soules of all that I had murtherd,
 Came to my tent, and euery one did threat,
 To morrows vengeance on the head of Richard.

196 †

†

200

†

†

204

*Enter Ra'cliffe.**Rat.* My Lord.*King.* Zoundes, who is there?

208 †

Rat. Ratcliffe, my Lord, tis I, the earlie village cocke,
 Hath twise done salutation to the morne,
 Your friendes are vp, and buckle on their armor.

King. O Ratcliffe, I haue dreamd a fearefull dreame,
 What thinkst thou, will our friendes proue all true?

212 *

Rat. No doubt my Lord.

*

King. O Ratcliffe, I feare, I feare.

*

Rat. Nay good my Lord, be not afraid of shadowes.

King. By the Apostle Paul, shadowes to night,
 Haue stroke more terror to the soule of Richard,
 Then can the substance of ten thousand souldiers,
 Armed in prooffe, and led by shallow Richmond,
 Tis not yet neere day, come, go with me,
 Vnder our tents Ile plaie the ease dropper,
 To see if any meane to shrinke from me.

216

220

Exeunt.

†

*Enter the Lordes to Richmond.**Lo.* Good morrow Richmond,

†

Rich. Crie mercie Lordes, and watchfull gentlemen,
 That you haue tane a tardie sluggard here,

224

Lo. How haue you slept my Lord?

Rich. The sweetest sleepe, and fairest boding dreames,
 That euer entred in a drowfie head,
 Haue I since your departure had my Lordes,

228

M.

Me

The Tragedy

Me thought their soules, whose bodies Richard murderd,
 Came to my tent, and cried on victorie,
 I promise you, my soule is verie Iocund,
 In the remembrance of so faire a dreame.
 How farre into the morning is it Lordes?

Lo. Vpon the stroke of foure.

Rich. Whie, then tis time to arme, and giue direction.

His oration to his souldiers.

More then I haue said, louing countriemen,
 The leasure and inforcement of the time,
 Forbids to dwell vpon, yet remember this,
 God, and our good cause, fight vpon our side,
 The praers of holy Saints and wronged soules,
 Like high reard bulwarkes, stand before our faces,
 Richard, except those whome we fight against,
 Had rather haue vs winne, then him they follow:
 For, what is he they follow? truelie gentlemen,
 A bloudie tirant, and a homicide.
 One raifd in bloud, and one in bloud established,
 One that made meanes to come by what he hath,
 And slaughtered those, that were the meanes to helpe him.
 A base soule stone, made precious by the soile,
 Of Englands chaire, where he is falsely set,
 One that hath euer bene Gods enemie.
 Then if you fight against Gods enemie,
 God will in iustice, ward you as his souldiers,
 If you doe sweate to put a tyrant downe,
 You sleepe in peace, the tyrant being slaine,
 If you doe fight against your countries foes,
 Your countries fat, shall paie your paines the hire.
 If you doe fight in safegard of your wiues,
 Your wiues shall welcome home the conquerors.
 If you doe free your children from the sword,
 Your childrens children quits it in your age:
 Then in the name of God and all these rightes,
 Aduance your standards, drawe your willing swordes,
 For me, the raunsome of my bold attempt,
 shall be this cold corps on the earths cold face:

of Richard the third.

But if I thrive, the gaine of my attempt,
The least of you, shall share his part thereof.
Sound drummes and trumpets boldlie, and cheerefullie,
God, and Saint George, Richmond, and victorie.

268

Enter King Richard, Rat. &c.

King. What said Northumberland, as touching Richmond.

Rat. That he was neuer trained vp in armes.

272

King. He said the truth, and what said Surrey then.

Rat. He smiled and said, the better for our purpose,

King. He was in the right, and so in deede it is:

Tell the clocke there.

The clocke striketh.

276

Giue me a calender, who saw the Sunne to day?

Rat. Not I my Lord.

King. Then he disdaines to shine, for by the booke,

He should haue braud the East an hower agoe,

A blacke day will it be to some bodie Rat.

280

Rat. My Lord.

King. The Sunne will nor be seene to day,

The skie doeth frowne, and lowre vpon our armie,

I would these dewie teares were from the ground,

Not shine to day: whie, what is that to me:

More then to Richmond, for the selfe-same heauen,

That frownes on me, lookes sadlie vpon him.

284

Enter Norffolke.

Norff. Arme, arme, my Lord, the foe vaunts in the field.

288

King. Come, bustle, bustle, caparison my horse,

Call vp Lord Standlie, bid him bring his power,

I will leade forth, my souldiers to the plaine,

And thus my battaile shall be ordered.

292

My foreward shall be drawen out all in length,

Consisting equallie of horse and foote,

Our Archers shall be placed in the midst,

John, Duke of Norffolke, Thomas Earle of Sursry,

shall haue the leading of this foote and horse,

296

They thus directed, we will follow,

In the matne battle, whose puissance on either side,

shall be well winged with our chieftest horse:

300

This, and Saint George to bootes what thinkst thou Norffolke?

M. 2.

A good

The Tragedy

Nor. A good direction warlike soueraigne, *be sheweth him:*
This found I on my tent this morning. *a paper.*

304

Lucky of Norfolk be not so bound,
For Dickon thy master is bought and sold.

King A thing deuised by the enemye.

†

Go gentlemen euery man vnto his charge,
Let not our babling dreames affright our soules:

308

†

Conscience is but a word that cowards vse,
Deuised at first to keepe the strong in awe,
Our strong armes be our conscience swords, our law.
March on, ioine brauelie, let vs to it pell mell,
If not to heauen then hand in hand to hell.

312

His Oration to his army.

What shal I saie more then I haue inferd?

316

Remember whom you are to cope withall,
A sort of vagabonds, rascals and runawaies,
A scum of Brittaines and base lucky peasants,
Whom their orecloied country vomits forth,
To desprate aduentures and assurd destruction,

320

You sleeping safe they bring to you vnrest,
You hauing lands and blest with beauteous wives,
They would restraine the one, distaine the other,
And who doth lead them but a paltrey fellow?

324

+

Long kept in Brittain at our mothers cost,
A milke-sopt, one that neuer in his life
Felt so much colde as ouer shooes in snow:
Lets whip these stragglers ore the seas againe,
Lash hence these ouerweening rags of France,
These famisht beggers wearie of their liues,
Who but for dreaming on this fond exploit,
For want of means poore rats had hangd themselues,

330

If we be conquered, let men conquer vs,
And not these bastard Brittaines whom our fathers
Haue in their own land beaten bobd and thumpt,
And in record left them the heires of shame.

+

336

Shall these enioy our lands, lie with our wiuues?
Rauish our daughters, harke I heare their drum,
Fight gentlemen of England, fight bold yemen,

†

Draw

of Richard the third.

Draw archers draw your arrowes to the head,
Spur your proud horses hard, and ride in bloud,
Amaze the welkin with your broken staves,
What saies lord Stanley, wil he bring his power?

M. J. My lord, he doth deny to come,

King Off with his sonne Georges head.

Nor. My lord, the enimie is past the marsh,
After the battaile let George Stanley die.

King A thousand harts are great within my bosome,
Aduance our standards, set vpon our foes,
Our ancient word of courage faire saint George
Inspire vs with the spleene of fierie Dragons,
Vpon them victorie sits on our helmes.

Exeunt.

Alarum, excursions, Enter Gatesby.

Cates. Rescew my lord of Norffolke, rescew, rescew,
The king enacts more wonders then a man,
Daring an opposite to euerie danger,
His horse is slaine, and all on foot he fights,
Seeking for Richmond in the throat of death,
Rescew faire lord, or else the daie is lost.

Enter Richard.

King A horse, a horse, my kingdome for a horse.

Cates. Withdraw my lord, ile helpe you to a horse.

King Slaue I haue set my life vpon a cast,
And I will stand the hazard of the die,
I thinke there be sixe Richmonds in the field,
Fiue haue I slaine to daie in stead of him,
A horse, a horse, my kingdome for a horse.

*Alarum, Enter Richard and Richmond, they fight, Richard is slain
then retrait being sounded. Enter Richmond, Darby, bearing the
croune, with other Lords, &c.*

Ri. God and your armes be praisd victorious freends,
The daie is ours, the bloudie dog is dead.

Dar. Courageous Richmond, wel hast thou acquit thee,
Loe here this long vsurped roialtie,
From the dead temples of this bloudie wretch,
Haue I pluckt off to grace thy browes withall,
Weare it, enioy it, and make much of it.

But

340

344

348

4

V.iiij.

4

8

12

V.v.

44

†

The Tragedie

Rich. Great God of heauen saie Amen to all,
But tell me, is yong George Stanley liuing.

Dar. He is my lord, and safe in Leicester towne,
Whether if it please you we may now withdraw vs.

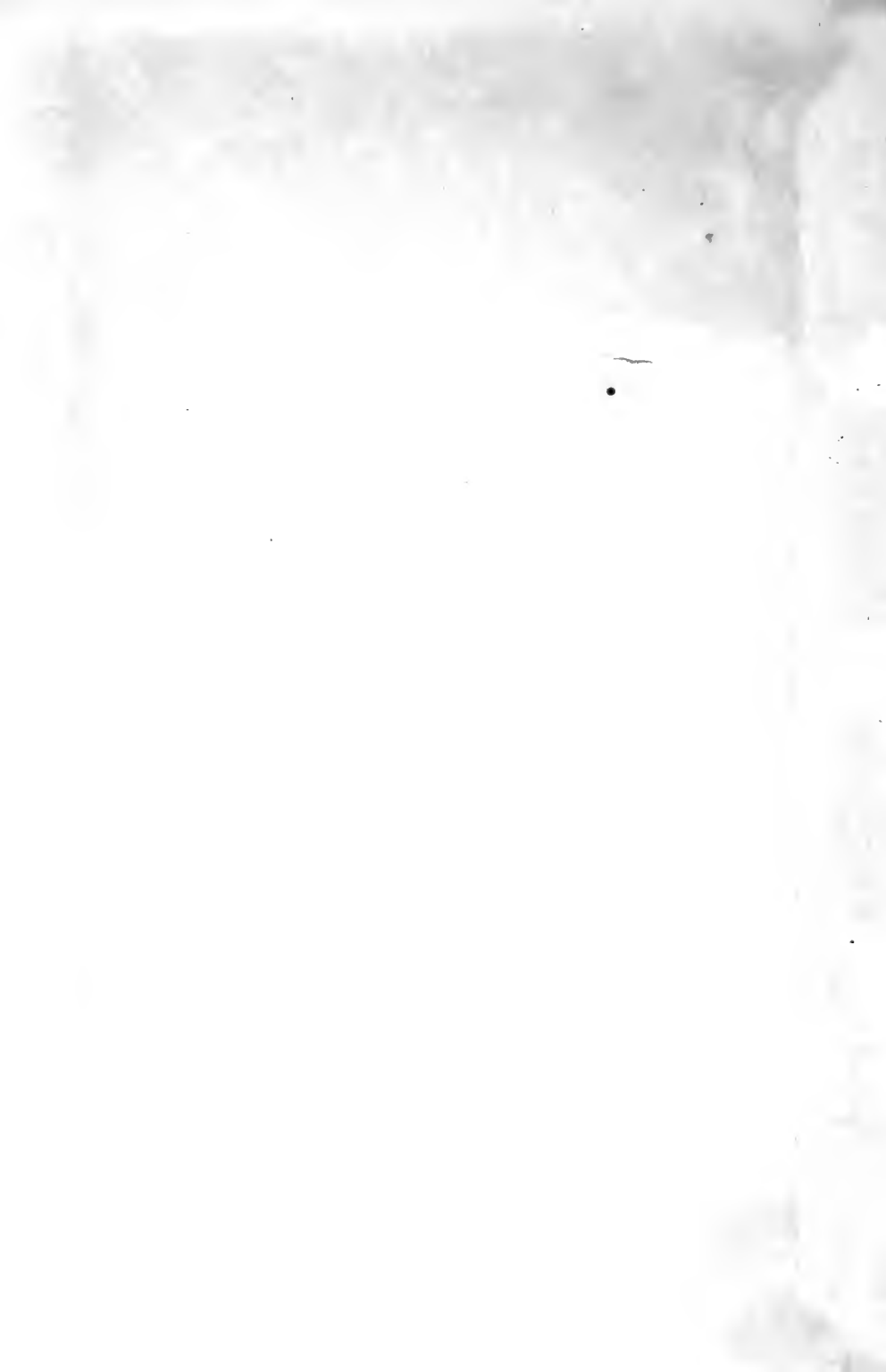
Rich. What men of name are slaine on either side?

*John Duke of Norfolke, Water Lord Ferris, sir
Robert Brookenbury & sir William Brandon.*

Rich. Inter their bodies as become their births,
Proclaime a pardon to the soldiers fled,
That in submission will returne to vs,
And then as we haue tane the sacrament,
We will vnite the white rose and the red,
Smile heauen vpon this faire coniunction,
That long haue frownd vpon their enmitie,
What traitor heares me, and saies not Amen?
England hath long been madde and scard her selfe,
The brother blindlie shed the brothers blood,
The father rashlie slaughterd his own sonne,
The sonne compeld ben butcher to the fire,
All this deuided Yorke and Lancaster,
Deuided in their dire deuision.
O now let Richmond and Elizabeth,
The true succeeders of each royall house,
By Gods faire ordinance conioine together,
And let their heires (God if thy will be so)
Enrich the time to come with smooth-faste peace,
With smiling plentie and faire prosperous daies,
Abate the edge of traitors gracious Lord,
That would reduce these bloody daies againe,
And make poore England weepe in streames of blood,
Let them not liue to tast this lands increase,
That would with treason wound this faire lands peace,
Now ciuill wounds are stopt, peace liues againe,
That she may long liue heare, God saie Amen.

FINIS.





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Shakespeare, William
Richard the Third

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