ElizabethanDrama.org
presents
the Annotated Popular Edition of

PERKIN WARBECK
by John Ford
c. 1634
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by JOHN FORD
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DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

The English

Henry VII., King of England

Lord Dawbeney.
Sir William Stanley, Lord Chamberlain.

Earl of Oxford.

Earl of Surrey.

Fox, Bishop of Durham.

Urswick, Chaplain to the King.

Sir Robert Clifford.

Lambert Simnel.

Hialas, a Spanish Agent.

The Scottish

James IV., King of Scotland.

Earl of Huntley.

Lady Katherine Gordon, his daughter.

Jane Douglas, Lady Katherine's Attendant.

Earl of Crawford.

Countess of Crawford, his wife.

Lord Dalyell.

Marchmont, a Herald.

The Rebels

Perkin Warbeck.

Warbeck's followers:

Stephen Frion, his secretary.

John A-Water, Mayor of Cork.

Heron, a Mercer.

Skelton, a Tailor.

Astley, a Scrivener.

Sheriff, Constable, Officers, Messenger, Guards, Soldiers, Masquers, and Attendants.

Scene

Partly in England, partly in Scotland.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAY

Perkin Warbeck may be the greatest historical play of the Elizabethan era written by somebody not named Shakespeare. This drama is comprehensive, referencing, if not acting out, the entire story of the most famous of the Pretenders to the throne in Henry VII's time. Pay particular attention to the refreshingly genial Earl of Huntley, one of the most endearing characters of the Elizabethan stage.

NOTES ON THE TEXT

The text of Perkin Warbeck is taken from John Ford, edited by Havelock Ellis, as part of The Mermaid Series, published by Vizetelly & Co., London, 1888.

NOTES ON THE ANNOTATIONS

References in the annotations to "Dyce" refer to the notes supplied by editor A. Dyce to Perkin Warbeck in his 1869 collection of Ford's work, cited at #11 below.

References in the annotations to "Bacon" refer to Francis Bacon's History of the Reign of King Henry VII, published in 1622.


Historical background is adapted from James Lardner's History of the Life and Reign of Richard the Third, to Which is Added the Story of Perkin Warbeck (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1898), as well the Dictionary of National Biography and Bacon's History.

The most commonly cited sources are listed in the footnotes immediately below. The complete list of footnotes appears at the end of this play.

Footnotes in the text correspond as follows:

1. Oxford English Dictionary (OED) online.


Historical and biographical notes which are not strictly necessary to understand the play, but provide background of possible interest, are supplied in italics.
PERKIN WARBECK

by JOHN FORD

c. 1634

Brief Historical Background

The War of the Roses (1455-1485) was a long, thirty-year war over possession of the throne of England, fought between the descendents of two of Edward III's sons: the Lancastrians, descended from John of Gaunt, and the Yorkists, whose ancestor was John's younger brother Edmund of Langley (we may mention that the Yorkists were also descended from Edward's son Lionel, who was older than both John and Langley, but through Lionel's daughter Philippa of Clarence, which complicates the question of which side had the better claim).

Shakespeare's Richard III dramatizes the rise of Richard, the Earl of Gloucester, to the throne (Richard and his family were Yorkists). After Richard's brother, Edward IV, died in April 1483, the throne technically passed to Edward's oldest son, also named Edward. In Shakespeare's tragedy, Richard one-by-one eliminates all those who are ahead of him in line for the throne, starting with his older brother George, the Earl of Clarence, and then Edward IV's two young sons. In July 1483, Richard finally was crowned king himself.

Meanwhile, the leading Lancastrian claimant for the throne, Henry Tudor, the Earl of Richmond, had been biding his time in France. Having raised an army, Henry invaded England in 1485, and, in the climactic battle of the war, defeated and killed Richard at the Battle of Bosworth (1485). Richmond seized the throne and was crowned Henry VII. Henry then married Elizabeth of York (Edward IV's daughter), thus uniting the two fractious houses, officially ending the long and bloody war, and commencing England's Tudor Dynasty.

Perkin Warbeck's Story So Far

Perkin Warbeck (1474-1499) was born in the Belgian city of Tournai to one John Osbeck, a controller of the city. In his youth, Warbeck spent time in Antwerp, Bergen-op-Zoom and Middleburg. In the late 1480's he lived in both Portugal and Breton in the service of a pair of knights. From Breton he sailed to Ireland for the first time, landing in Cork in 1491. There he was acclaimed first to be Edward, the son of Richard III's luckless brother Clarence (Edward was still living, though in the Tower of London), and then as the son of Richard III (Edward, who died in 1484, while Richard was still king). Finally, with the support and encouragement of the Earls of Desmond and Kildare, Warbeck agreed to take on the role of Edward IV's younger son, Richard, the Duke of York (Richard had disappeared in the Tower along with his elder brother, Edward V, in 1483).

After a period of training in the language and manners of a king's son, Warbeck traveled to France at the invitation of King Charles VIII, but was quickly evicted from that country when Charles signed a treaty with England's Henry VII. Warbeck returned to Flanders, where he was received by the disaffected Margaret of Burgundy, sister of Richard III and Edward IV, who completed his “education”. In November, 1493, Warbeck traveled to Vienna, where he presented himself to the Holy Roman Empire's Emperor Maximilian, who was Margaret's son-in-law. Meanwhile, the conspiracy began to grow, as Yorkists in England and Flanders joined up in the hopes of reviving their fortunes.
ACT I.

SCENE I.
Westminster.
The royal Presence-chamber.

Enter King Henry, supported to the throne by the
Bishop of Durham and Sir William Stanley;
Earls of Oxford and Surrey, and Lord Dawbeney.
A Guard.

King Hen. Still to be haunted, still to be pursued,

Still to be frightened with false apparitions
Of pageant majesty and new-coined greatness,
As if we were a mockery king in state,
Only ordained to lavish sweat and blood,
In scorn and laughter, to the ghosts of York.

Is all below our merits: yet, my lords,
My friends and counsellors, yet we sit fast

1-7: Henry opens the play by bemoaning the seemingly endless parade of Pretenders to his throne.

Henry VII (1457-1509), reigned 1485-1509. Despite having been the ultimate victor in the War of the Roses, Henry's reign was a troubled one. The long years of bitter Civil War had created resentments on both sides, especially, naturally, for the losing Yorkists. Henry had to deal with repeated rebellions and Pretenders in his quarter-century on the throne.

= illusory, without substance.¹ = newly-made.
= imitation or travesty¹, or subject to ridicule.²

¹ = "what I deserve".

York is Richard, third Duke of York (1411-1460). York served King Henry VI in a number of capacities, including Lord Protector (which made him technically head of England's government) during Henry's occasional bouts of insanity. York's rivalries with other factions led gradually to open war, the conflict known today as the War of the Roses (1455-1485). Though initially claiming to be only defending himself, his family and his interests, York eventually sought the crown itself, asserting his right as a descendent of Edward III through Edward's son Edward Langley. York was slain at the Battle of Wakefield (December 30, 1450).

York's son Edward seized the throne as Edward IV in 1461, then lost it in 1470 before regaining it permanently in 1471.

Henry's reference to the ghosts of York alludes to the Pretenders to the crown who appeared during his reign by claiming to be various descendents of Richard, 3rd Duke of York: the first was Lambert Simnel, who claimed to be the still-living Edward, Earl of Warwick (Edward IV's brother Clarence's son); then came Perkin Warbeck, who claimed to be Edward's son Richard, Duke of York. Our play begins in 1495, when Warbeck is at large, and seemingly still on the ascendant.
In our own royal birthright; the rent face
And bleeding wounds of England's slaughtered people
Have been by us as by the best physician,
At last both thoroughly cured and set in safety;
And yet, for all this glorious work of peace,
Ourselves is scarce secure.

Dur. The rage of malice
Conjures fresh spirits with the spells of York.
For ninety years ten English kings and princes,
Three score great dukes and earls, a thousand lords
And valiant knights, two hundred fifty thousand
Of English subjects have in civil wars
Been sacrificed to an uncivil thirst

Of discord and ambition: this hot vengeance
Of the just powers above to utter ruin
And desolation had rained on, but that
Mercy did gently sheathe the sword of justice,
In lending to this blood-shrunk commonwealth
A new soul, new birth, in your sacred person.

Daw. Edward the Fourth, after a doubtful fortune,
Yielded to nature, leaving to his sons,
Edward and Richard, the inheritance
Of a most bloody purchase: these young princes,

Richard the tyrant, their unnatural uncle,

Forced to a violent grave: -- so just is Heaven,

Him hath your majesty by your own arm,
Divinely strengthened, pulled from his boar's sty,
And struck the black usurper to a carcass.

Nor doth the house of York decay in honours,
Though Lancastor doth repossess his right;
For Edward's daughter is King Henry's queen, −

A blessèd union, and a lasting blessing
For this poor panting island, if some shreds,
Some useless remnant of the house of York
Grudge not at this content.

Oxf. Margaret of Burgundy
Blows fresh coals of division.

Sur. Painted fires,
Without or heat to scorch or light to cherish.

Daw. York's headless trunk, her father; Edward's fate,

Her brother, king; the smothering of her nephews
By tyrant Gloster, brother to her nature;

Nor Gloster's own confusion, − all decrees
Sacred in Heaven, − can move this woman-monster,
But that she still, from the unbottomed mine
Of devilish policies, doth vent the ore
Of troubles and sedition.

Oxf. In her age −
Great sir, observe the wonder − she grows fruitful,

= the boar was Richard III's armorial symbol; he is referred to frequently as the boar in Shakespeare's Richard III.
38: in 1485, Henry, the Earl of Richmond, invaded England and defeated and killed Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth, taking the throne for himself as our play's Henry VII.

41: the rival claims to the throne during the War of the Roses, represented by the two factions known as the Yorkists and the Lancastrians, were finally settled when our King Henry (a Lancastrian) married Elizabeth of York (a Yorkist), a daughter of Edward IV.

44-45: a reference to any living distantly-related members of the House of York. There was always the fear that an unreconciled Yorkist might rebel or claim the throne for himself; after all, this is how Henry himself, as the leading surviving member of the House of Lancaster, gained the throne!

Margaret, Duchess of Burgundy (1446-1503). Margaret was a sister of Edward IV and Richard III, and a supporter of the Pretenders to the throne against Henry, and hence a persistent thorn (I suppose that is a rose pun) in his side. In 1468, she married Charles, Duke of Burgundy, and as a result of her marriage lived the rest of her life in the Netherlands. She was widowed in 1477. She was a particular source of aggravation to Henry, as she supported both Pretenders, Simnel and Warbeck, against him. Her dissent may have been caused in some part by the fact that Henry, when he came to the throne, had confiscated most of the dowry Edward IV had previously bestowed on her. In 1500, after the Warbeck rebellion had ended, she was forced to apologize to Henry "for her factiousness". She died in 1503.

= artificial, false.²
= either.

53-57: read this speech as beginning with "Neither York's...", with "nor" appearing in line 56; York here refers to her father, ie. Margaret's father, Richard, 3rd Duke of York (and therefore also the father of Edward IV and Richard III). York's army, fighting in the War of the Roses, was destroyed at the Battle of Wakefield (December 30, 1460), and his head cut off and displayed at York, with a paper crown upon it.

= ie. Richard III; note how Henry and his faction never refer to Richard as "king", as that would legitimize him. = overthrow.²

62-72: in this speech, Oxford mocks Margaret, who, though near 50 years of age, seems to be producing more
Who in her strength of youth was always barren:
Nor are her births as other mothers' are,
At nine or ten months' end; she has been with child
Eight, or seven years at least; whose twins being born,—
A prodigy in nature,—even the youngest
Is fifteen years of age at his first entrance,
As soon as known i’ the world; tall striplings, strong
And able to give battle unto kings,

Daw. And but idols;
A steely hammer crushes 'em to pieces.

K. Hen. Lambert, the eldest, lords, is in our service,

Preferred by an officious care of duty
From the scullery to a falconer; strange example!

Which shows the difference between noble natures
And the base-born: but for the upstart duke.

The new-revived York, Edward's second son,
Murdered long since i’ the Tower,—he lives again,
And vows to be your king.
The throne is filled, sir.

K. Hen. True, Stanley; and the lawful heir sits on it:
A guard of angels and the holy prayers
Of loyal subjects are a sure defence
Against all force and council of intrusion. –
But now, my lords, put case, some of our nobles,
Our great ones, should give countenance and courage
To trim Duke Perkin; you will all confess
Our bounties have unthriftily been scattered
Amongst unthankful men.

Daw. Unthankful beasts,
Dogs, villains, traitors!

K. Hen. Dawbeney, let the guilty
Keep silence; I accuse none, though I know
Foreign attempts against a state and kingdom
Are seldom without some great friends at home.

Stan. Sir, if no other abler reasons else
Of duty or allegiance could divert
A headstrong resolution, yet the dangers
So lately passed by men of blood and fortunes
In Lambert Simnel’s party must command
More than a fear, a terror to conspiracy.

The high-born Lincoln, son to De la Pole,
The Earl of Kildare, – the Lord Geraldine, –
Francis Lord Lovell, and the German baron

Henry with the deferential “you.” Here, however, Henry may be using "your" in the older plural sense, addressing all of his attending nobles.

= suppose.¹
= support or good will.¹
= prepare, equip, or ornament.¹

95-96: Henry is bitter that so many of those he pardoned or gave offices or titles to have turned against him.

106-111: "even if duty or allegiance cannot keep these nobles loyal to you, they should at least be kept in check by the memory of what happened to those conspirators who supported Lambert Simnel."

= Below, Stanley lists some of the men who joined the Simnel conspiracy:

= John De La Pole, Earl of Lincoln (1464?–1487). His mother was Elizabeth, a sister of Richard III. When Richard's son died in 1484, Richard selected Lincoln to be his heir, over the Earl of Warwick, son of Richard's brother Clarence, who, though having perhaps a superior claim, was still only a boy. Richard was very generous to Lincoln, who fought with him at Bosworth. Although appointed offices by Henry VII, Lincoln remained ambitious for the crown, and fled to Ireland to support the plot in support of Simnel. Lincoln was killed at the Battle of Stokes Field.

= Gerald Fitzgerald, eighth Earl of Kildare (d. 1513). Kildare was appointed deputy governor of Ireland by Richard III, where her served on and off for the rest of his life. Although he supported Warbeck, Henry VII pardoned him, though he remained under suspicion, which led to two years in the Tower in the 1490's. Pardoned again in 1496, he married a first cousin of Henry VII. He continued serving as deputy of Ireland under Henry VIII, finally dying of injuries after a military operation in 1513.

= Francis Lovell, Viscount (1454–1487?). A supporter of Richard III, he fought at Bosworth. He survived the Battle of Stokes Field, and escaped, but then disappeared, perhaps dying of starvation while hiding in a vault in his house. In 1708 a skeleton was found in the vault during a renovation, which quickly crumbled to dust at first contact with fresh air.

= Martin Schwartz (d. 1487). Captain of the 1500 mercenaries sent by Margaret of Burgundy to support
Most spectacles of ruin, some of mercy, −
Are precedents sufficient to forewarn
The present times, or any that live in them,
What folly, nay, what madness, 'twere to lift
A finger up in all defence but yours,
Which can be but imposturous in a title.

K. Hen. Stanley, we know thou lov'st us, and thy heart
Is figured on thy tongue; nor think we less
Of any's here. − How closely we have hunted
This cub, since he unlodged, from hole to hole,
Your knowledge is our chronicle: first Ireland,
The common stage of novelty, presented
This gewgaw to oppose us; there the Geraldines
And Butlers once again stood in support
Of this colossic statue: Charles of France
Thence called him into his protection,
Dissembled him the lawful heir of England;
Yet this was all but French dissimulation,
Aiming at peace with us; which being granted
On honourable terms on our part, suddenly
This smoke of straw was packed from France again,
T' infect some grosser air: and now we learn −
Maugre the malice of the bastard Nevill,
Sir Taylor, and a hundred English rebels −
They're all retired to Flanders, to the dam
That nursed this eager whelp, Margaret of Burgundy.
But we will hunt him there too; we will hunt him.
Hunt him to death, even in the beldam's closet,
Though the archduke were his buckler!

Sur. She has styled him
“The fair white rose of England."
Daw. Jolly gentleman!
More fit to be a swabber to the Flemish
After a drunken surfeit.

Enter Urswick with a paper.
Richard III, and he accompanied Henry in his invasion of England and victory over Richard at Bosworth (1485). Urswick was rewarded with a steady stream of ecclesiastic positions, which he continued to accumulate throughout his long life. Urswick outlived Henry, dying in 1522 at the ripe old age of 74.

Urs. Gracious sovereign, Please you peruse this paper.

[The King reads.]

Dur. The king's countenance Gathers a sprightly blood.

Daw. Good news; believe it.

K. Hen. Urswick, thine ear. Thou'rt lodged him?

Urs. Strongly safe, sir.

K. Hen. Enough: is Barley come too?

Urs. No, my lord.

K. Hen. No matter – phew! he's but a running weed, At pleasure to be plucked-up by the roots: But more of this anon – I have bethought me, My lords, for reasons which you shall partake, It is our pleasure to remove our court From Westminster to the Tower: we will lodge This very night there; – give, Lord Chamberlain, A present order for 't.


K. Hen. Come, my true, best, fast friends: these clouds will vanish. The sun will shine at full; the heavens are clearing.

[Flourish. Exeunt.]

ACT I, SCENE II.

Edinburgh.

An Apartment in the Earl of Huntley's House.

Enter Earl of Huntley and Lord Dalyell.

= "you have given him temporary quarters?"

170: by now, the lords realize Henry has something up his sleeve...

= OED cites the first use of phew as 1604.¹

= in a little while

= that is, himself and his retinue.

= the Tower of London, in addition to serving as a prison, had apartments for the king and his guests.

= Henry addresses Stanley: the Lord Chamberlain was the chief officer of the royal household¹; William Stanley had held the position since Henry's ascension in 1485.

183: note that the long dash can be used to indicate a change of addressee, as in line 180 above, or a switch between an aside and a line spoken to another character.

= fanfare, usually announcing the entrance, or in this case exit, of persons of importance.¹

Scene II: note how the scene switches to Scotland; the play will regularly alternate between the English and Scottish characters.

Entering Characters: Though Huntley calls himself "Alexander" later in this play, the Huntley portrayed here is actually George Gordon, second Earl of Huntly (d. 1524). On the occasion of the rebellion against James III in 1488, Huntly ostensibly was on the side of the king, but may have been actually helping the king's son, afterwards James IV, as evidenced by his being named to the privy council immediately upon young James' ascension to the crown of...
Scotland. Huntly had married James I's daughter Annabella in 1459, but in 1471 the marriage was annulled, as Annabella had been related too closely in blood to Huntly's first wife. Among his children was Lady Katherine, who though portrayed here as the daughter of Annabella, and thus of royal blood, she may actually have been the daughter of Huntly's subsequent and third wife.

Lord Dalyell could be, as Dyce points out, either William or Robert Dalzell, grandsons of Sir John Dalzell; of the former, nothing is known; Robert was killed in a skirmish in 1508.11

Hunt. You trifle time, sir.

Dal. O, my noble lord,
You construe my griefs to so hard a sense,
That where the text is argument of pity,
Matter of earnest love, your gloss corrupts it
With too much, ill-placed mirth.

Hunt. Much mirth! Lord Dalyell;
Not so, I vow. Observe me, sprightly gallant.
I know thou art a noble lad, a handsome,
Descended from an honourable ancestry,
Forward and active, dost resolve to wrestle
And ruffle in the world by noble actions
For a brave mention to posterity:
I scorn not thy affection to my daughter,
Not I, by good Saint Andrew; but this bugbear.
This whoreson tale of honour, — honour, Dalyell! —
So hourly chats and tattles in mine ear
The piece of royalty that is stitched-up
In my Kate's blood, that 'tis as dangerous
For thee, young lord, to perch so near an eaglet
As foolish for my gravity to admit it:
I have spoke all at once.

Dal. Sir, with this truth
You mix such wormwood, that you leave no hope.
For my disordered palate e'er to relish
A wholesome taste again: alas, I know, sir,
What an unequal distance lies between
Great Huntley's daughter's birth and Dalyell's fortunes;
She's the king's kinswoman, placed near the crown,
A princess of the blood, and I a subject.

Hunt. Right; but a noble subject; put in that too.

Dalyell. I could add more; and in the rightest line
Derive my pedigree from Adam Mure,
A Scottish knight; whose daughter was the mother
To him who first begot the race of Jameses,
That sway the sceptre to this very day.

But kindreds are not ours when once the date
Of many years have swallowed up the memory
Of their originals; so pasture-fields
Neighbouring too near the ocean are swooped-up,
And known no more; for stood I in my first

And native greatness, if my princely mistress
Vouchsafed me not her servant, 'twere as good
I were reduced to clownery, to nothing,
As to a throne of wonder.

Hunt. [Aside] Now, by Saint Andrew,
A spark of mettle! he has a brave fire in him:
I would he had my daughter, so I knew't not.

But 't must not be so, must not. — Well, young lord,
This will not do yet: if the girl be headstrong,
And will not hearken to good counsel, steal her,
And run away with her; dance galliards, do,
And frisk about the world to learn the languages:
Twill be a thriving trade; you may set up by't.

Dalyell. With pardon, noble Gordon, this disdain
Suits not your daughter's virtue or my constancy.

Hunt. You're angry. —

[Aside] Would he would beat me, I deserve it. —
Dalyell, thy hand; we're friends: follow thy courtship,
Take thine own time and speak; if thou prevail'st
With passion more than I can with my counsel,
She's thine; nay, she is thine: 'tis a fair match,
Free and allowed. I'll only use my tongue,

Without a father's power; use thou thine:
Self do, self have: no more words; win and wear her.

**Dal.** You bless me: I am now too poor in thanks
To pay the debt I owe you.

**Hunt.** Nay, thou'rt poor
Enough. – [Aside] I love his spirit infinitely. –
Look ye, she comes: to her now, to her, to her!

    Enter Lady Katherine and Jane.

**Kath.** The king commands your presence, sir.

**Hunt.** The gallant –
This, this, this lord, this servant, Kate, of yours,

Desires to be your master.

**Kath.** I acknowledge him
A worthy friend of mine.

**Dal.** Your humblest creature.

**Hunt.** [Aside] So, so! the game's a-foot; I'm in cold hunting:
The hare and hounds are parties.

**Dal.** Princely lady,
How most unworthy I am to employ
My services in honour of your virtues,
How helpless my hope to enjoy
Your fair opinion, and much more your love, –
Are only matter of despair, unless
Your goodness give large warrant to my boldness,
My feeble-winged ambition.

**Hunt.** [Aside] This is scurvy.

**Kath.** My lord, I interrupt you not.

**Hunt.** [Aside] Indeed!
Now, on my life, she'll court him. – Nay, nay, on, sir.

**Dal.** Oft have I tuned the lesson of my sorrows
To sweeten discord and enrich your pity;

71-72: *I'll only...thine* = Huntley's plan is that he will discourage Katherine from marrying Dalyell, but he won't force his will on her; it will be up to Dalyell to talk her into marrying him.

73: Huntley, perhaps out of words of advice, concludes his speech with a string of weak aphorisms.

= *servant* was a complex and subtle word; for a man to let a woman know he is her *servant* could express his desire to be her follower, devotee, wooer or lover.

= Huntley's use of "you" to address Katherine indicates a formal and ritualistic moment: a father introducing a suitor to his daughter.

= another loaded word: *friend* could mean well-wisher, suitor, or lover; she may deliberately be ambiguous.

= admirer

95-96: Huntley realizes the two youngsters may already have an understanding outside his knowledge.

= in league, on the same side.¹

¹ Dalyell's use of "you" to address Katherine suggests (1) his deliberate formality when speaking to her in front of her father; and (2) their relationship has not yet reached a more intimate stage.

98-105: note how awkwardly stilted Dalyell's wooing is.

107: Huntley is annoyed that Dalyell is not more aggressive.

109: Huntley's comment was an aside, so Katherine would not have heard him; rather, Dalyell has probably paused awkwardly in his wooing, and she is indirectly encouraging him to continue.

= "she will likely be more aggressive than he will!"

¹ = *pity* is often used to describe the sympathy a pursued
But all in vain: here had my comforts sunk,  
And never risen again to tell a story  
Of the despairing lover, had not now,  
Even now, the earl your father −

\textit{Hunt.} [Aside]  
He means me, sure.

\textit{Dal.} After some fit disputes of your condition,  
Your highness and my lowness, given a license  
Which did not more embolden than encourage  
My faulting tongue.

\textit{Hunt.} How, how? how's that? embolden!

Encourage! I encourage ye! d'ye hear, sir? −  
A subtle trick, a quaint one: − will you hear, man?

\textit{Kath.} It shall not need, my lord.

\textit{Hunt.} Then hear me, Kate. −  
Keep you on that hand of her, I on this. −  
Thou stand'st between a father and a suitor,  
Both striving for an interest in thy heart:  
He courts thee for affection, I for duty;  
He as a servant pleads, but by the privilege  
Of nature though I might command, my care  
Shall only counsel what it shall not force,  
Thou canst but make one choice; the ties of marriage  
Are \textit{tenures} not at will, but during life.

Consider whose thou art, and who; a princess,  
A princess of the royal blood of Scotland,  
In the full spring of youth and fresh in beauty.

The king that sits upon the throne is young,  
And yet unmarried, forward in attempts  
On any least occasion to endanger  
His person: wherefore, Kate, as I am confident  
Thou dar'st not wrong thy birth and education  
By yielding to a common servile \textit{rage}  
Of female wantonness, so I am confident

but unresponsive man or woman should feel for his or her agonizing wooer.

\textit{Hunt.} [Aside]  
He means me, sure.

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but unresponsive man or woman should feel for his or her agonizing wooer.
Thou wilt proportion all thy thoughts to side
Thy equals, if not equal thy superiors.
My Lord of Dalyell, young in years, is old
In honours, but nor eminent in titles
Nor in estate, that may support or add to
The expectation of thy fortunes. Settle
Thy will and reason by a strength of judgment;
For, in a word, I give thee freedom; take it.
If equal fates have not ordained to pitch
Thy hopes above my height, let not thy passion
Lead thee to shrink mine honour in oblivion:
Thou art thine own; I have done.

_Dal._ O, you're all oracle,
The living stock and root of truth and wisdom!

_Kath._ My worthiest lord and father, the indulgence
Of your sweet composition thus commands
The lowest of obedience; you have granted
A liberty so large, that I want skill
To choose without direction of example;
From which I daily learn, by how much more
You take off from the roughness of a father,
By so much more I am engaged to tender
The duty of a daughter. For respects
Of birth, degrees of title, and advancement,
I nor admire nor slight them; all my studies
Shall ever aim at this perfection only,
To live and die so, that you may not blush
In any course of mine to own me yours.

_Hunt._ Kate, Kate, thou grow'st upon my heart like peace,
Creating every other hour a jubilee.

_Kath._ To you, my lord of Dalyell, I address
Some few remaining words: the general fame
That speaks your merit, even in vulgar tongues
Proclaims it clear; but in the best, a precedent.

_Hunt._ Good wench, good girl, i' faith!

_Kath._ For my part, trust me,
I value mine own worth at higher rate
Cause you are pleased to prize it: if the stream
Of your protested service − as you term it −
Run in a constancy more than a compliment,
It shall be my delight that worthy love
Leads you to worthy actions, and these guide ye
Richly to wed an honourable name:
So every virtuous praise in after-ages

= ie. match

= neither

160-6: _Settle...thine own_ = Huntley hilariously swings rapidly back and forth between his opposing pieces of advice: "marry to your station, but do as you wish"!

= fix or plant

= ie. "you are authorized to decide things for yourself"

168-169: "You speak the truth!" This is not meant to be sarcastic; Dalyell is too serious and honourable to be so.

= personal qualities, generally, or referring to the speech he has just recited.

= lack.

= precedent.

186-7: the effect of Huntley's previous speech has been to cause Katherine, in her gratitude, to promise never to do anything to shame him; though in rejecting Huntley's tacit permission to marry Dalyell she goes against what Huntley really wants, he cannot help but be proud of her.

= common, public

= note the metaphor with run in line 200.

= professed.

= mere show or ceremony.

201-2: _It shall be...actions_ = like a maiden in an ancient tale of chivalry, she hopes his love for her will inspire him to commit great and noble deeds.

202-3: _and these guide...name_ = and that through his great deeds he will be rewarded with a marriage into a great family.
Shall be your heir, and I in your brave mention
Be chronicled the mother of that issue.

That glorious issue.

**Hunt.** O, that I were young again!
Sh'd make me court proud danger, and suck spirit From reputation.

**Kath.** To the present motion
Here's all that I dare answer: when a ripeness
Of more experience, and some use of time,
Resolves to treat the freedom of my youth
Upon exchange of troths, I shall desire
No surer credit of a match with virtue
Than such as lives in you: mean time my hopes are
Preserved secure in having you a friend.

**Dal.** You are a blessèd lady, and instruct
Ambition not to soar a farther flight

Than in the perfumed air of your soft voice. –
My noble Lord of Huntley, you have lent
A full extent of bounty to this parley;
And for it shall command your humblest servant.

**Hunt.** Enough: we are still friends, and will continue
A hearty love. – O, Kate, thou art mine own! –
No more: – my Lord of Crawford.

*Enter Earl of Crawford.*

**Craw.** From the king
I come, my Lord of Huntley, who in council
Requires your present aid.

**Hunt.** Some weighty business?

**Craw.** A secretary from a Duke of York,
The second son to the late English Edward,
Concealed, I know not where, these fourteen years,
Craves audience from our master; and 'tis said
The duke himself is following to the court.

**Hunt.** Duke upon duke; 'tis well, 'tis well; here's bustling
For majesty. – My lord, I will along with ye.

**Craw.** My service, noble lady!

---

1. = ie. Perkin Warbeck
2. = stirring fussily.
Kath.
Please ye walk, sir?

Dal. [Aside]
Times have their changes; sorrow makes men wise;
The sun itself must set as well as rise;
Then, why not I? — Fair madam, I wait on ye.

[Exeunt.]

ACT I, SCENE III.
London.
An Apartment in the Tower.
Enter the Bishop of Durham, Sir Robert Clifford, and Urswick. Lights.

Dur. You find, Sir Robert Clifford, how securely

King Henry, our great master, doth commit
His person to your loyalty; you taste
His bounty and his mercy even in this,
That at a time of night so late, a place
So private as his closet, he is pleased
T' admit you to his favour. Do not falter
In your discovery; but as you covet
A liberal grace, and pardon for your follies,
So labour to deserve ’t by laying open
All plots, all persons that contrive against it.

Urs. Remember not the witchcraft or the magic,
The charms and incantations, which the sorceress
Of Burgundy hath cast upon your reason:
Sir Robert, be your own friend now, discharge
Your conscience freely; all of such as love you
Stand sureties for your honesty and truth.
Take heed you do not dally with the king;
He's wise as he is gentle.

Clif. I am miserable,
If Henry be not merciful.

Urs. The king comes.

Enter King Henry.

Clif. [Kneels] Let my weak knees root on the earth,
If I appear as leperous in my treacheries
Before your royal eyes, as to mine own
I seem a monster by my breach of truth.
K. Hen. Clifford, stand up; for instance of thy safety, I offer thee my hand.

Clif. A sovereign balm
For my bruised soul, I kiss it with a greediness.

[= evidence\(^1\)]

Sir, you're a just master, but I –

K. Hen. Tell me,
Is every circumstance thou hast set down
With thine own hand within this paper true?
Is it a sure intelligence of all
The progress of our enemies’ intents
Without corruption?

Clif. True, as I wish Heaven,
Or my infected honour white again.

K. Hen. We know all, Clifford, fully, since this meteor.

This airy appariation first discradled

From Tournay into Portugal, and thence

Advanced his fiery blaze for adoration
To the superstitious Irish; since the beard
Of this wild comet, conjured into France,
Sparkled in antic flames in Charles his court;
But shrank again from thence, and, hid in darkness,
Stole into Flanders flourishing the rag

Of painted power on the shore of Kent,

Whence he was beaten back with shame and scorn,
Contempt, and slaughter of some naked outlaws:
But tell me what new course now shapes Duke Perkin?

Clif. For Ireland, mighty Henry; so instructed

= accurate information

= ie. veering from what is true.

= punning on corruption. = free from evil, morally pure.\(^1\)

= comet, ie. Warbeck; the meteor metaphor is developed extensively through line 63.

57: airy = existing in the air; but also referring to an insubstantial person\(^1\), meaning Warbeck.

discradled = a great word, and a Ford original.\(^1\)

58: Tournay = Warbeck's city of birth, located in Belgium.

Portugal = Warbeck had spent a year in Portugal in the service of a one-eyed knight named Peter Vacz de Cogna in the 1480's.

= tail

= grotesque or ludicrous\(^1\)

= perhaps disparagingly referring to the standard Warbeck would be waving or flying.

= counterfeit.

Line 65 makes no sense: a line appears to have been omitted by the early printer; of painted power could conclude the image of the flourishing rag, but perhaps was originally followed by a line whose sense was "then made for England, landing on the shore of Kent, etc."

65-66: in July of 1495, Warbeck made his first direct attempt to enter England, arriving with a small fleet on July 3 at Deal. He sent some of his men on shore. Unfortunately for him, the loyal citizens of the neighborhood attacked his little army, slaying 150 of his men, and capturing 80 more. From here he sailed to Ireland again (as Clifford mentions in line 70 below), where he fruitlessly besieged the southern port of Waterford for 11 days, his fleet again attacked by loyal citizens. It was from here that Warbeck finally sailed to Scotland to be received by James IV in November, 1495.

= Warbeck will repeatedly be referred to sarcastically as duke by the English.
By Stephen Frion, sometimes secretary

In the French tongue unto your sacred excellence,
But Perkin's tutor now.

K. Hen. A subtle villain,
That Frion, Frion, − You, my Lord of Durham,
Knew well the man.

Dur. French both in heart and actions.

K. Hen. Some Irish heads work in this mine of treason;
Speak 'em.

Clif. Not any of the best; your fortune
Hath dulled their spleens. Never had counterfeit

Such a confused rabble of lost bankrupts
For counsellors: first Heron, a broken mercer,
Then John a-Water, sometimes Mayor of Cork,
Skelton a tailor, and a scrivener

Called Astley: and whate'er these list to treat of,
Perkin must hearken to; but Frion, cunning

Above these dull capacities, still prompts him
To fly to Scotland to young James the Fourth,
And sue for aid to him: this is the latest
Of all their resolutions.

K. Hen. Still more Frion!
Pestilent adder, he will hiss-out poison
As dangerous as infectious: we must match him.
Clifford, thou hast spoke home; we give thee life:
But, Clifford, there are people of our own
Remain behind untold: who are they, Clifford?
Name those, and we are friends, and will to rest;
'Tis thy last task.

Clif. O, sir, here I must break
A most unlawful oath to keep a just one.

K. Hen. Well, well, be brief, be brief.

Clif. The first in rank
Shall be John Ratcliffe, Lord Fitzwater, then
Sir Simon Mountford and Sir Thomas Thwaites,
With William Dawbeney, Chessorner, Astwood,
Worseley the Dean of Paul's, two other friars,
And Robert Ratcliffe.

K. Hen. Churchmen are turned devils.

71: Frion = Frion was indeed a former secretary of Henry, but now, as an agent of Margaret's, serves Warbeck.

sometimes = former.

K. Hen. A subtle villain,
That Frion, Frion, − You, my Lord of Durham,
Knew well the man.

81-82: "there are some Irishmen who are supporting Perkin; name them."

K. Hen. Some Irish heads work in this mine of treason;
Speak 'em.

85: spleens = believed to be the source of passion; hence, meaning "spirit".

counterfeit = a fraud.

= bankrupt dealer in textiles.1

89: Skelton = his name evokes skeleton, suggesting he is bone-thin.1

= care, choose.2 = speak about.

91: hearken = listen.

91-92 cunning...capacities: Frion is more clever than these stupid others.

= meet with equal power or cunning1

= ie. Clifford has not yet named any conspirators still living in England

111f: Clifford reveals the conspirators who are supporting Warbeck. All the laymen were executed.

= not to be confused with Lord Giles Dawbeney, who was a supporter of Henry, and appears in this play.
These are the principal?

Clif. One more remains

Unnamed, whom I could willingly forget.

K. Hen. Ha, Clifford! one more?

Clif. Great sir, do not hear him;

For when Sir William Stanley, your lord chamberlain,

Shall come into the list, as he is chief,

I shall lose credit with ye; yet this lord

Last named is first against you.

K. Hen. Urswick, the light! –

View well my face, sirs; is there blood left in it?

Dur. You alter strangely, sir.

K. Hen. Alter, lord bishop!

Why, Clifford stabbed me, or I dreamed he stabbed me. –

Sirrah, it is a custom with the guilty

To think they set their own stains oft by laying

Aspersions on some nobler than themselves;

Lies wait on treasons, as I find it here.

Thy life again is forfeit; I recall

My word of mercy, for I know thou dar'st

Repeat the name no more.

Clif. I dare, and once more,

Upon my knowledge, name Sir William Stanley

Both in his counsel and his purse the chief

Assistant to the feignèd Duke of York.

Dur. Most strange!

Urs. Most wicked!

K. Hen. Yet again, once more.

Clif. Sir William Stanley is your secret enemy,

And, if time fit, will openly profess it.


= Sir William Stanley (b. after 1435-1495). Sir William seemed to have had rebellion in his blood. He supported the Yorkists in 1459, when the Lancastrian Henry VI was on the throne. He was rewarded appropriately by Edward IV upon the latter’s ascension to the throne in 1461. However, William was also a friend of Henry of Richmond, and when Richard III usurped the throne, William’s loyalty to the new king was under suspicion. At the Battle of Bosworth (1485), William at the last moment brought in his men on the side of Henry, ensuring Henry’s victory.

Clifford’s revelation was not a huge surprise to Henry, who, knowing of the Stanleys’ predilection for changing sides, always kept a close eye on him. The extent of William’s involvement in the Pretender’s plot is not known. The National Biography interestingly points out that the man who informed on William, Sir Robert Clifford, was the uncle of a lord “whose property at Skipton (William) had usurped.”

= a contemptuous term of address, directed at Clifford.

= ie. “remove the moral or ethical stains from themselves”.

= ie. lying usually accompanies treason: Henry accuses Clifford of being untruthful here.

= take back.

= ie. financial support
My chamberlain, my counsellór, the love,  
The pleasure of my court, my bosom-friend,  
The charge and the controlment of my person,  
The keys and secrets of my treasury,  
The all of all I am! I am unhappy.  
Misery of confidence, – let me turn traitor  
To mine own person, yield my sceptre up  
To Edward's sister and her bastard duke!

Dur. You lose your constant temper.

K. Hen. Sir William Stanley!  
O, do not blame me; he, 'twas only he,  
Who, having rescued me in Bosworth-field  
From Richard's bloody sword, snatched from his head  
The kingly crown, and placed it first on mine.  
He never failed me: what have I deserved  
To lose this good man's heart, or he his own?

Urs. The night doth waste; this passion ill becomes ye;  
Provide against your danger.

K. Hen. Let it be so.  
Urswick, command straight Stanley to his chamber; –  
'Tis well we are i' the Tower; – set a guard on him. –  
Clifford, to bed; you must lodge here to-night;  
We'll talk with you to-morrow. – My sad soul  
Divines strange troubles.

Daw. [Within] Ho! the king, the king!  
I must have entrance.

What new combustions huddle next, to keep  
Our eyes from rest?

Enter Lord Dawbeney.

Daw. Ten thousand Cornish,  
Grudging to pay your subsidies, have gathered  
A head; led by a blacksmith and a lawyer,  
They make for London, and to them is joined  
Lord Audley: as they march, their number daily  
Increases; they are –

= the Lord Chamberlain had a large degree of control over access to the king and his chambers.

= steady; in Elizabethan plays, rulers and other high-ranking nobles were expected to display moderation of temper.

= actually it was William's brother Thomas who placed the crown on Henry's head after the Battle of Bosworth.

= prepare

185: Urswick is instructed to order Stanley to his assigned room in the Tower; Henry had moved his court to the Tower so he could interview the informer Clifford, who was being held there. Henry at line 186 comments on the serendipity of their being at the Tower, since he can conveniently have Stanley arrested and confined at the same time, with minimal fuss or uproar.

= tumults.¹ = pile up.¹

202f: The Cornish Rebellion of 1497: Ford toys with the timeline of events: in the late Spring of 1497, the Cornish revolted against the harsh taxes Henry had assessed them to pay for war with Scotland. The revolt was led by Michael Joseph, a blacksmith; Thomas Flammock, a lawyer; and one Lord Audley. Ford has this revolt occurring before the Scottish invasion of 1496, which is portrayed later in this play.

= special tax assessment.

= army.

= note the compression of time Ford employs as a way to speed up the action and increase the drama; events that took place months or years apart are made to seem as if they took place all within a few minutes of each other. Ford has Henry learning of the Cornish Revolt
in the same scene Clifford revealed Warbeck's supporters, which actually occurred in 1495.

= Heaven is usually pronounced as a one-syllable word for purposes of meter.

208  K. Hen.  Rascals! – talk no more;
210  Such are not worthy of my thoughts to-night.
     To bed; and if I cannot sleep, I'll wake. –
212  When counsels fail, and there's in man no trust,
     Even then an arm from Heaven fights for the just.

214  [Exeunt.]

END OF ACT I.
ACT II.

SCENE I.

Edinburgh.
The Presence-chamber in the Palace.

Enter above the Countess of Crawford, Lady Katherine, Jane Douglas, and other Ladies.

Countess of C. Come, ladies, here's a solemn preparation
For entertainment of this English prince;
The king intends grace more than ordinary:
'Twere pity now if he should prove a counterfeit.

Kath. Bless the young man, our nation would be
laughed at
For honest souls through Christendom! My father
Hath a weak stomach to the business, madam,
But that the king must not be crossed.

Countess of C. He brings
A goodly troop, they say, of gallants with him;
But very modest people, for they strive not
To fame their names too much; their godfathers
May be beholding to them, but their fathers
Scarcely owe them thanks: they are disguised princes,
Brought up, it seems, to honest trades; no matter,
They will break forth in season.

Jane. Or break out:
For most of 'em are broken by report.

[A flourish.]

The king!

Kath. Let us observe 'em and be silent.

Enter King James, Earls of Huntley and Crawford,
Lord Dalyell, and other Noblemen.

K. Ja. The right of kings, my lords, extends not only
To the safe conservation of their own,
But also to the aid of such allies

= the women appear on the "balcony" at the back of
the stage.

= we met the countess' husband, the Earl of Crawford, in
Act I, ii: it was he who came to call Huntley to the king's
presence to witness the arrival of Warbeck.

4ff: the conversation of the women suggests it is not only
the men who suspect the legitimacy of their expected
guest.

= innocent or naïve

= thwarted

11-18: the countess describes Warbeck's followers, whom
she mocks for having "hidden" their noble standing by
taking up trades and living as commoners. Her whole
speech is humorously ironic.

= a stinging barb!

18: they will reveal their true noble selves at the appropriate
time.

= perhaps suggesting an exploding out of some kind; the
exact intended meaning is unclear.

= bankrupt, continuing the play on words with break.

= King James IV (1473-1513), reigned 1488-1513. As a
teenager, James was made the figurehead of a rebellious
group of nobles, who assassinated James' father, James III,
in 1488. Reportedly, James regretted his part in causing his
father's death, and supposedly wore an iron belt outside his
doublt in self-imposed penance. James has always been
considered one of Scotland's strongest kings, systemizing the
administration of justice, building up the military, and
preserving good relations with most of Europe.

= ie. their own crowns or subjects.

34-37: kings also have an obligation to help other sovereigns
(allies) retrieve their crowns when they have lost them
through misfortune.
As change of time and state hath oftentimes
Hurled down from careful crowns to undergo
An exercise of sufferance in both fortunes:
So English Richard, surnamed Coeur-de-Lion,

So Robert Bruce, our royal ancestor,

Forced by the trial of the wrongs they felt,
Both sought and found supplies from foreign kings,
To repossess their own. Then grudge not, lords,
A much distressed prince: King Charles of France
And Maximilian of Bohemia both
Have ratified his credit by their letters;
Shall we, then, be distrustful? No; compassion
Is one rich jewel that shines in our crown,
And we will have it shine there.

Hunt. Do your will, sir.

K. Ja. The young duke is at hand: Dalyell, from us
First greet him, and conduct him on; then Crawford
Shall meet him next; and Huntley, last of all,
Present him to our arms. —

[Exit Lord Dalyell.]

Sound sprightly music,
Whilst majesty encounters majesty.

[Hautboys.]

Re-enter Lord Dalyell with Perkin Warbeck, followed
at a distance by Frion, Heron, Skelton, Astley, and
John A-Water. The Earl of Crawford advances, and
salutes Perkin at the door, and afterwards the Earl
of Huntley, who presents him to the King: they
embrace; the Noblemen slightly salute his Followers.

War. Most high, most mighty king! that now there stands
Before your eyes, in presence of your peers,
A subject of the rarest kind of pity

= full of care or anxiety¹

= Richard I (the Lionheart) (1157-1199), reigned England
1189-1199. Richard here, and Robert Bruce in the next line,
are offered as examples of sovereigns who requested and
received assistance from other, foreign kings to "repossess
their own" domains.

In the 1180's, Richard, not yet king, sought the help of
France's young King Philip II (known also as Philip
Augustus) in defending the duchy of Aquitaine (which
Richard had been ruling quite independently since 1172)
against the expected attacks of Richard's father Henry II,
who wanted his son to renounce his hold on Aquitaine in
favor of Richard's younger brother John - after all,
Richard's older brother Henry had just died, leaving Richard
heir to the throne of England. Richard went so far as to do
homage to the French sovereign for all the other English-
held lands on the continent.

= Robert the Bruce (1274-1329), reigned Scotland 1306-
1329. Robert had been given refuge by England's Edward I
in 1295, when the Bruces had decided their claim to the
Scottish throne was superior to that of the current king, John
Balliol.

¹ = ancient reed instruments, similar to clarinets or oboes.

65-66: Frion...A-Water = these are Warbeck's followers,
the men the Countess of Crawford was making fun of
earlier in the scene.

= ie. slightly bow to

71ff: Warbeck's speaking manner throughout the play is
so high-styled as to be almost self-parodying.

= ie. himself.
That hath in any age touched noble hearts,
The vulgar story of a prince's ruin
Hath made it too apparent: Europe knows,
And all the western world, what persecution
Hath raged in malice against us, sole heir
To the great throne of old Plantagenets.

How from our nursery we have been hurried
Unto the sanctuary, from the sanctuary
Forced to the prison, from the prison haled
By cruel hands to the tormentor's fury,
Is registered already in the volume
Of all men's tongues; whose true relation draws
Compassion, melted into weeping eyes
And bleeding souls: but our misfortunes since
Have ranged a larger progress through strange lands,
Protected in our innocence by Heaven.

Edward the Fifth, our brother, in his tragedy
Quenched their hot thirst of blood, whose hire to murder
Paid them their wages of despair and horror;
The softness of my childhood smiled upon
The roughness of their task, and robbed them farther
Of hearts to dare, or hands to execute.

Great king, they spared my life, the butchers spared it;
Returned the tyrant, my unnatural uncle,
A truth of my dispatch: I was conveyed

With secrecy and speed to Tournay; fostered

By obscure means, taught to unlearn myself:
But as I grew in years, I grew in sense
Of fear and of disdain; fear of the tyrant
Whose power swayed the throne then: when disdain
Of living so unknown, in such a servile
And abject lowness, prompted me to thoughts
Of recollecting who I was, I shook off
My bondage, and made haste to let my aunt
Of Burgundy acknowledge me her kinsman,
Heir to the crown of England, snatched by Henry
From Richard's head; a thing scarce known i' the world.

K. Ja. My lord, it stands not with your counsel now
To fly upon invectives: if you can
Make this apparent what you have discoursed
In every circumstance, we will not study
An answer, but are ready in your cause.

War. You are a wise and just king, by the powers
Above reserved, beyond all other aids,
To plant me in mine own inheritance,
To marry these two kingdoms in a love
Never to be divorced while time is time.

= ie. me; Warbeck uses the "royal we".
= the name of the family that held the English crown from 1154 until Richard III's death in 1485; the new king, our Henry VII, was the first of the Tudor line.
80f: Warbeck relates his "official" story.

= telling (of the story of line 75); with volume, a "book" metaphor.

= foreign

90-99: as the young Duke of York, Warbeck was spared being murdered like his "brother", Edward V, thanks to the compassion of the killers.

= to the. = lacking normal familial feelings. = Richard III.
= ie. the murderers, who had been hired by Richard, told him they had also killed the young duke.
= to explain away his known upbringing in Tournai, Warbeck describes how he was secreted away to that city by supporters, to be raised by a common family.
= forget who he was.

= note that Warbeck will never refer to or acknowledge Henry as "king".

113-4: if you...apparent = "if you can prove this"
115: study = ponder (so as to delay).
115-6 we will...cause = "I won't waste time deciding how to respond; I am already prepared to help you."

= while Warbeck means they will be united as allies, Ford may have also been flatteringly alluding to the
As for the manner, first of my escape,
Of my conveyance next, of my life since,
The means and persons who were instruments.
Great sir, 'tis fit I over-pass in silence;
Reserving the relation to the secrecy
Of your own princely ear, since it concerns
Some great ones living yet, and others dead,
Whose issue might be questioned. For your bounty,
Royal magnificence to him that seeks it,
We vow hereafter to demean ourself
As if we were your own and natural brother,
Omitting no occasion in our person
T' express a gratitude beyond example.

K. Ja. He must be more than subject who can utter
The language of a king, and such is thine.
Take this for answer: be what'er thou art,
Thou never shalt repent that thou hast put
Thy cause and person into my protection.
Cousin of York, thus once more we embrace thee;
Welcome to James of Scotland! for thy safety,
Know, such as love thee not shall never wrong thee.
Come, we will taste a while our court-
delights,
Dream hence affliction past, and then proceed
To high attempts of honour. On, lead on! −
Both thou and thine are ours, and we will guard ye. −
Lead on!
[Exeunt all but the Ladies above.]

Countess of C. I have not seen a gentleman
Of a more brave aspect or goodlier carriage;
His fortunes move not him. − Madam, you're passionate.

Kath. Beshrew me, but his words have touched me home,
As if his cause concerned me: I should pity him,
If he should prove another than he seems.

Re-enter Earl of Crawford.

Craw. Ladies, the king commands your presence instantly
For entertainment of the duke.

Kath. The duke
Must, then, be entertained, the king obeyed;
It is our duty.

Countess of C. We will all wait on him.

[Exeunt.]

ACT II, SCENE II.
London.
The Tower.

A flourish.
Enter King Henry, the Earls of Oxford, and
Surrey, and the Bishop of Durham.

K. Hen. Have ye condemned my chamberlain?
Dur. His treasons
Condemned him, sir; which were as clear and manifest
As foul and dangerous: besides, the guilt
Of his conspiracy pressed him so nearly,
That it drew from him free confession
Without an importunity.

K. Hen. O, lord bishop,
This argued shame and sorrow for his folly,
And must not stand in evidence against
Our mercy and the softness of our nature:
The rigour and extremity of law
Is sometimes too-too bitter; but we carry
A chancery of pity in our bosom.
I hope we may reprieve him from the sentence
Of death; I hope we may.

Dur. You may, you may;

And so persuade your subjects that the title
Of York is better, nay, more just and lawful,
Than yours of Lancaster! So Stanley holds:
Which if it be not treason in the highest,
Then we are traitors all, perjured and false,
Who have took oath to Henry and the justice
Of Henry's title; Oxford, Surrey, Dawbeney,
With all your other peers of state and church,
Forsworn, and Stanley true alone to Heaven
And England's lawful heir!

Oxf. By Vere's old honours,
I'll cut his throat dares speak it.

Sur. 'Tis a quarrel
T' engage a soul in.

= convicted; Stanley was found guilty of treason on
February 6, 1495, in a trial of his peers.

= repeated entreaty

= ie. Stanley's willing confession

= ie. reference to England's court of equity

= Richard Foxe (c. 1448-1528). While a young itinerant
scholar and priest living in France, Foxe was befriended by
Henry of Richmond, who was in France himself at the time,
plotting his rebellion against Richard III. After Henry's
coronation (1485), Foxe remained a close and trusted
advisor to the king for the remainder of Henry's life, being
appointed Bishop of Durham in 1494. Foxe lived a long life,
serving Henry VIII as well after Henry VII's death in 1509.
Foxe may be most well known today for founding Corpus
Christi College, Oxford, in 1517.

21f: Durham's speech to the king is sarcastic – perhaps
dangerously so!
= ie. "this is what Stanley must believe, based on his
support for the Pretender."

20-30: Durham's point is that if Henry fails to sentence
Stanley to death for committing treason, it must be because
Henry believes Warbeck, as a "Yorkist", has a superior claim
to his throne, and that all the nobles present are by necessity
also traitors for swearing loyalty to Henry!

32: Vere was the family name of the Earl of Oxford.
What a coil is here
To keep my gratitude sincere and perfect!

Stanley was once my friend, and came in time
To save my life; yet, to say truth, my lords,
The man stayed long enough t' endanger it: —
But I could see no more into his heart
Than what his outward actions did present;
And for 'em have rewarded him so fully,
As that there wanted nothing in our gift
To gratify his merit, as I thought,
Unless I should divide my crown with him,
And give him half; though now I well perceive
'Twould scarce have served his turn without the whole.
But I am charitable, lords; let justice
Proceed in execution, whiles I mourn
The loss of one whom I esteemed a friend.

Sir, he is coming this way.
If he speak to me,
I could deny him nothing; to prevent it,
I must withdraw. Pray, lords, commend my favour
To his last peace, which I with him will pray for:
That done, it doth concern us to consult
Of other following troubles.

[Exit.]

I am glad
He's gone: upon my life, he would have pardoned
The traitor, had he seen him.

'Tis a king
Composed of gentleness.

Rare and unheard of:
But every man is nearest to himself;
And that the king observes; 'tis fit he should.

Enter Sir William Stanley, Executioner, Confessor,
Urswick, and Lord Dawbeney.

May I not speak with Clifford ere I shake
This piece of frailty off?

You shall; he's sent for.

I must not see the king?

From him, Sir William,
These lords and I am sent; he bade us say
That he commends his mercy to your thoughts;
Wishing the laws of England could remit
The forfeit of your life as willingly
As he would in the sweetness of his nature

= fuss¹; cf. Shakespeare's *Timon of Athens*, Act I, ii: "What a coil's here!"

and came...my life = yet another reference to Stanley's last-moment decision to enter the Battle of Bosworth on Henry's side.

yet to...the whole = Henry perhaps is trying to convince himself that Stanley may not actually deserve his gratitude; he suggests Stanley waited almost too long before entering the battle (stayed = waited).

= lacked

51-53: Henry retreats from his line of thought, but he is clearly conflicted: indeed, how hard it must have been to realize his closest friend of many years had turned against him!

74: proverbial: every man works for his own best interests.
Forget your trespass: but howe'er your body
Fall into dust, he vows, the king himself
Doth vow, to keep a requiem for your soul,
As for a friend close treasured in his bosom.

---

**Oxf.** Without remembrance of your errors past,
I come to take my leave, and wish you Heaven.

**Sur.** And I; good angels guard ye!

**Stan.** O, the king,
Next to my soul, shall be the nearest subject
Of my last prayers. My grave Lord of Durham,
My Lords of Oxford, Surrey, Dawbeney, all,
Accept from a poor dying man a farewell.
I was as you are once,—great, and stood hopeful
Of many flourishing years; but fate and time
Have wheeled about, to turn me into nothing.

**Daw.** Sir Robert Clifford comes,—the man, Sir William,
You so desire to speak with.

**Dur.** Mark their meeting.

*Enter Sir Robert Clifford.*

**Clif.** Sir William Stanley, I am glad your conscience
Before your end hath emptied every burthen
Which charged it, as that you can clearly witness
How far I have proceeded in a duty
That both concerned my truth and the state's safety.

**Stan.** Mercy, how dear is life to such as hug it!
Come hither; by this token think on me!

[Makes a cross on Clifford's face with his finger.]

**Clif.** This token! What! I am abused?

**Stan.** You are not.

I wet upon your cheeks a holy sign, —
The cross, the Christian's badge, the traitor's infamy:
Wear, Clifford, to thy grave this painted emblem;
Water shall never wash it off; all eyes
That gaze upon thy face shall read there written
A state-informer's character; more ugly

Stamped on a noble name than on a base.
The heavens forgive thee! — Pray, my lords, no change
Of words; this man and I have used too many.

**Clif.** Shall I be disgraced
Without reply?

**Dur.** Give losers leave to talk;
His loss is irrecoverable.

Stan. Once more, 
To all a long farewell! The best of greatness 
Preserve the king! My next suit is, my lords, 
To be remembered to my noble brother, 
Derby, my much-grieved brother: O, persuade him 
anyway."

= Thomas Stanley, first Earl of Derby (1435-1504). Older brother of William. Thomas had married Henry of Richmond's mother, Margaret Beaufort, around 1475, and was therefore Henry VII's step-father. Like William, Thomas was not always loyal to one side or the other in the War of the Roses. The story of his weaselly ability to play both sides makes for quite entertaining reading. Also like William, Thomas brought a small army (5,000 men) to the field at Bosworth; but unlike William, Thomas stood aloof with his forces throughout the entire battle. It is Thomas who is the Stanley portrayed in Shakespeare's Richard III.

That I shall stand no blemish to his house 
In chronicles writ in another age. 
My heart doth bleed for him and for his sighs: 
Tell him, he must not think the style of Derby, 
Nor being husband to King Henry's mother, 
The league with peers, the smiles of fortune, can 
Secure his peace above the state of man. 
I take my leave, to travel to my dust: 
Subjects deserve their deaths whose kings are just. — 
Come, confessor. — On with thy axe, friend, on!

[He is led off to execution.]

Clif. Was I called hither by a traitor's breath 
To be upbraided? Lords, the king shall know it. 
Re-enter King Henry with a white staff.

K. Hen. The king doth know it, sir; the king hath heard 
What he or you could say. We have given credit 
To every point of Clifford's information, 
The only evidence 'gainst Stanley's head: 
He dies for't; are you pleased?

Clif. I pleased, my lord!

K. Hen. No echoes: for your service, we dismiss 
Your more attendance on the court, take ease, 
And live at home; but, as you love your life, 
Stir not from London without leave from us. 
We'll think on your reward: away!

Clif. I go, sir.

K. Hen. Die all our griefs with Stanley! Take this staff 
= be no permanent.

156: a reference to the belief that the heart loses a drop of blood for every sigh one takes. 
158: Thomas, First Earl of Derby, has been married to Henry's mother since before the Battle of Bosworth.

161-2: Stanley's part in the play ends with a rhyming couplet.

165: Stanley was beheaded on February 16, 1495, on Tower Hill. 
= this is Stanley's staff of office: see lines 190-1 below.

178: Clifford is taken aback by the king's tone; but no one likes an informer!

= Clifford received his pardon on December 22, 1494, as well as a payment of 500 pounds on the following January 20.
Of office, Dawbeny; henceforth be our chamberlain.

Daw. I am your humble servant.

K. Hen. We are followed by enemies at home, that will not cease to seek their own confusion: 'tis most true. The Cornish under Audley are marched on as far as Winchester; — but let them come, our forces are in readiness; we'll catch 'em in their own toils.

Daw. Your army, being mustered, consists in all, of horse and foot, at least in number six-and-twenty thousand; men daring and able, resolute to fight, and loyal in their truths.

K. Hen. We know it, Dawbeny: for them we order thus; Oxford in chief, assisted by bold Essex and the Earl of Suffolk, shall lead on the first battalion; be that your charge.

Oxf. I humbly thank your majesty.

K. Hen. The next division we assign to Dawbeny: these must be men of action, for on those the fortune of our fortunes must rely. The last and main ourself commands in person; as ready to restore the fight at all times as to consummate an assured victory.

Daw. The king is still oraculous.

K. Hen. But, Surrey, we have employment of more toil for thee:

= Giles Daubeny, Lord (1451-1508). The young Daubeny had served Edward IV, but after having supported the Duke of Buckingham's failed rebellion against Richard III, fled to France. Always a "well-wisher" of the Earl of Richmond, he remained a trusted companion of King Henry VII, serving him in various capacities, including that of Lord Chamberlain after Stanley's execution. Daubeny died a year before the king he loyally served did.

= ruin

= snares

= battalion or division

= John de Vere, thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1443-1513). De Vere's brother and father, strong Lancastrians both, were executed in February, 1462, when the Yorkist Edward IV successfully seized the throne. Young John continued the family's tradition of supporting the Lancasters, and paid for that support by spending several spells in prison when the Yorkists were in power. He managed to escape imprisonment during Richard III's reign, and headed to France to join Henry of Richmond. At Bosworth, he commanded Henry's right wing, and for the rest of his long life received many honours and offices from the grateful king. De Vere was instrumental in the defeat of the Cornish rebels in 1497. He finally died a natural death on March 10, 1513.

= archaic form of "oraculous", suggesting his statements are infallible.¹
For our intelligence comes swiftly to us,
That James of Scotland late hath entertained
Perkin the counterfeit with more than common
Grace and respect, nay, courts him with rare favours.
The Scot is young and forward; we must look for
A sudden storm to England from the north;
Which to withstand, Durham shall post to Norham,
To fortify the castle and secure
The frontiers against an invasion there.
Surrey shall follow soon, with such an army
As may relieve the bishop, and encounter
On all occasions the death-daring Scots.
You know your charges all; 'tis now a time
To execute, not talk: Heaven is our guard still.
War must breed peace; such is the fate of kings.

[Exeunt.]

ACT II, SCENE III.
Edinburgh.
An Apartment in the Palace.

Enter Earl of Crawford and Lord Dalyell.

Craw. 'Tis more than strange; my reason cannot answer
Such argument of fine imposture, couched
In witchcraft of persuasion, that it fashions
Impossibilities, as if appearance
Could cozen truth itself: this dukeling mushroom
Hath doubtless charmed the king.

Dal. He courts the ladies,
As if his strength of language chained attention
By power of prerogative.

Craw. It madded
My very soul to hear our master's motion:
What surety both of amity and honour
Must of necessity ensue upon
A match betwixt some noble of our nation
And this brave prince, forsooth!

Dal. 'Twill prove too fatal;
Wise Huntley fears the threatening. Bless the lady
From such a ruin!

Craw. How the counsel privy

Of this young Phaëthon do screw their faces

233: ie. an invasion by Scotland.
234: the bishop was in charge of preparing the important border castle at Norham for James' expected invasion. The castle is still extent, and worth a visit.

1-6: Crawford is mystified as to how Warbeck's admittedly excellent impersonation of the Duke of York could fool James.

= deceive. = common Elizabethan expression used to contemptuously describe any personage who has suddenly, and largely undeservedly, risen dramatically in status.

= privilege (of royalty)¹

= ie. King James. = proposal.²

= confidence or guarantee. 14-17: Crawford is worried about the consequences to Scottish honour of a Scottish lady marrying the fraud Warbeck.

= excellent. = in truth.

= ie. Katherine

= the "Privy Council" was the king's close body of advisors, usually made up largely of high officials of the state; here, it is used mockingly to describe Warbeck's motley crew of supporters. The OED also notes that council was often confused with counsel by the old writers.

= a son of Apollo (or sometimes the sun god Helion), who in a famous myth granted Phaeton one wish to prove he was his father. Phaeton asked to be allowed to drive the chariot that pulled the sun across the sky for one day. Apollo, forced by his promise to acquiesce, warned him to be careful. Phaeton could not control the horses, and
Into a gravity their trades, good people,
Were never guilty of! the meanest of 'em
Dreams of at least an office in the state.

**Dal.** Sure, not the hangman's; 'tis bespoke already
For service to their roguiships — Silence!

*Enter King James and Earl of Huntley.*

**K. Ja.** Do not
Argue against our will; we have descended
Somewhat — as we may term it — too familiarly
From justice of our birthright, to examine
The force of your allegiance, — sir, we have, —
But find it short of duty.

**Hunt.** Break my heart,
Do, do, king! Have my services, my loyalty, —
Heaven knows untainted ever, — drawn upon me
Contempt now in mine age, when I but wanted
A minute of a peace not to be troubled,
My last, my long one? Let me be a dotard,
A bedlam, a poor sot, or what you please
To have me, so you will not stain your blood,

Your own blood, royal sir, though mixed with mine,
By marriage of this girl to a straggler:
Take, take my head, sir; whilst my tongue can wag,
It cannot name him other.

**K. Ja.** Kings are counterfeits
In your repute, grave oracle, not presently
Set on their thrones with sceptres in their fists.
But use your own detraction: 'tis our pleasure
To give our cousin York for wife our kinswoman,
The Lady Katherine: instinct of sovereignty
Designs the honour, though her peevish father
Usurps our resolution.

**Hunt.** O, 'tis well,
Exceeding well! I never was ambitious
Of using congees to my daughter-queen —
A queen! perhaps a quean! — Forgive me, Dalyell,

Thou honourable gentleman; — none here
Dare speak one word of comfort?

**Dal.** Cruèl misery!

**Craw.** The lady, gracious prince, may-be hath settled
Affection on some former choice.

would have crashed onto the earth had not Zeus killed
him with a thunderbolt.

26-27: *the meanest...state* = even the lowest-born of
Warbeck's followers hopes to receive a high office
once Warbeck takes the throne, in return for his support.

= biting parody of "their lordships".

34-39: Huntley appears to have been trying to convince the
king that Warbeck is a fraud - after all, if it is proposed
that Katherine marry Warbeck, Huntley would naturally
distraught - and James is getting ticked off!

39: James accuses Huntley of demonstrating disrespect
to the king.

44-46: when I...long one = when I am near death, and
should enjoy tranquility in the time I have left".

= senile old man.
= madman; London's Bethlehem Hospital for the insane was
usually referred to as Bedlam Hospital, *Bedlam* being an
old alternate name for Bethlehem.

= ie. his daughter Katherine

54-56: James is sarcastic.

= perpetrate. = loss of reputation.
= used by monarchs when referring to another monarch.

= formal or ceremonial bows.
= whore; it is interesting to speculate whether an audience
would recognize the pun in the similar sounding words;
note that Huntley appears to apologize for using such a
word to describe the woman Dalyell loves.

67-68: *none here...comfort* = "won't anyone back me up
here?"
Dal. Enforcement
Would prove but tyranny.

Hunt. I thank ye heartily.
Let any yeoman of our nation challenge
An interest in the girl, then the king
May add a jointure of ascent in titles,
Worthy a free consent; now he pulls down
What old desert hath builded.

I violate no pawns of faith, intrude not
On private loves: that I have played the orator
For kingly York to virtuous Kate, her grant
Can justify, referring her contents
To our provision. The Welsh Harry henceforth
Shall therefore know, and tremble to acknowledge,
That not the painted idol of his policy
Shall fright the lawful owner from a kingdom.
We are resolved.

Hunt. Some of thy subjects' hearts,
King James, will bleed for this.

K. Ja. Then shall their bloods
Be nobly spent. No more disputes; he is not
Our friend who contradicts us.

Hunt. Farewell, daughter!
My care by one is lessened, thank the king for't:
I and my griefs will dance now.

Enter Perkin Warbeck,
leading and complimenting with Lady Katherine;
Countess of Crawford, Jane Douglas,
Frion, Astley, John A-Water, Heron, and Skelton.

Look, lords, look;
Here's hand in hand already!

K. Ja. Peace, old frenzy! −
How like a king he looks! Lords, but observe
The confidence of his aspect; dross cannot
Cleave to so pure a metal − royal youth!
Plantagenet undoubted!

Hunt. [Aside] Ho, brave! − Youth,
But no Plantagenet, by'r lady, yet,
By red rose or by white.

War. An union this way

86-87: I violate...loves = James is unaware of Dalyell's interest in Katherine; pawns of faith = promises to marry.

86: King Henry VII, who was born in Wales, and descended from the Welsh Tudors; notice how James, since he is recognizing Warbeck as England's legitimate sovereign, will not refer to Henry as "king."

= counterfeiter, fraudulent

96f: Huntley warns that war with England must follow.

105: a heart-rending metaphor.

= exchanging courtly courtesies.

117-8: dross...metal = dross is the extraneous matter removed from metals during the purification process. James' point is that Warbeck is of such obviously noble content that it is not possible he could be anything less.

123: an allusion to the symbols of the houses of Lancaster and York, respectively, who fought the War of the Roses.

125f: Warbeck is addressing Katherine.
Settles possession in a monarchy
Established rightly, as is my inheritance:
Acknowledge me but sovereign of this kingdom,
Your heart, fair princess, and the hand of providence
Shall crown you queen of me and my best fortunes.

*Kath.* Where my obedience is, my lord, a duty
Love owes true service.

*War.* Shall I? –

*K. Ja.* Cousin, yes,
Enjoy her; from my hand accept your bride;
[He joins their hands.]
And may they live at enmity with comfort
Who grieve at such an equal pledge of troths! –
You are the prince's wife now.

*Kath.* By your gift, sir.

*War.* Thus I take seizure of mine own.

*Kath.* I miss yet
A father's blessing. Let me find it; – humbly
Upon my knees I seek it.

*Hunt.* I am Huntley,
Old Alexander Gordon, a plain subject,
Nor more nor less; and, lady, if you wish for
A blessing, you must bend your knees to Heaven;
For Heaven did give me you. Alas, alas,
What would you have me say? May all the happiness
My prayers ever sued to fall upon you
Preserve you in your virtues! – *Prithee,* Dalyell,
Come with me; for I feel thy griefs as full
As mine; let's steal away, and cry together.

*Dal.* My hopes are in their ruins.

[Exeunt Earl of Huntley and Lord Dalyell.]

*K. Ja.* Good, kind Huntley
Is overjoyed: a fit solemnity
Shall perfect these delights. – Crawford, attend
Our order for the preparation.

[Exeunt all but Frion.]

*Fri.* Now, worthy gentlemen, have I not followed
My undertakings with success? Here's entrance
Into a certainty above a hope.

Her. Hopes are but hopes; I was ever confident,
when I traded but in remnants, that my stars had
reserved me to the title of a viscount at least: honour
is honour, though cut out of any stuffs.

Skel. My brother Heron hath right wisely delivered
his opinion; for he that threads his needle with the
sharp eyes of industry shall in time go through-stitch
with the new suit of preferment.

Ast. Spoken to the purpose, my fine-witted brother
Skelton; for as no indenture but has its counterpane, no
noverint but his condition or defeasance: so no right but
may have claim, no claim but may have possession, any
act of parliament to the contrary notwithstanding.

Fri. You are all read in mysteries of state,
And quick of apprehension, deep in judgment,
Active in resolution; and 'tis pity
Such counsel should lie buried in obscurity.
But why, in such a time and cause of triumph,
Stands the judicious Mayor of Cork so silent?
Believe it, sir, as English Richard prospers,
You must not miss employment of high nature.

J. a-Wat. If men may be credited in their mortality,
which I dare not peremptorily aver but they may or not
be, presumptions by this marriage are then, in sooth,
of fruitful expectation. Or else I must not justify other
men's belief, more than other should rely on mine.

Fri. Pith of experience! those that have borne office
Weigh every word before it can drop from them.
But, noble counsellors, since now the present

Requires in point of honour, — pray, mistake not, —
Some service to our lord, 'tis fit the Scots
Should not engross all glory to themselves
At this so grand and eminent solemnity.

Skel. The Scots! the motion is defied: I had rather,
for my part, without trial of my country, suffer
James' acceptance will raise their hopes of success to
certainty of success.

180ff: throughout the play, Warbeck's followers, excepting
the erudite Frion, speak in prose, as ignoble low-born
Elizabethan characters frequently do.
= leftover cloth; John Heron is a mercer, and he speaks in
absurd textile metaphors.

186ff: Edward Skelton, the tailor, speaks in absurd tailor
metaphors.
= a stitch drawn straight through material; hence, anything
carried all the way to completion.¹
= advancement (in rank, position or status).

191ff: Nicholas Astley, the scrivener, speaks in incongruous
metaphors relating to his profession.
192: indenture = contract.¹
counterpane = counterpart of an indenture, ie. a copy
kept by the parties.¹
193: noverint = law-clerk, or perhaps writ.¹
defeasance = a condition whose performance nullifies a
contract.¹

= learned.
= to understand.

= ie. Warbeck, as Richard of York: of course, Warbeck's
followers must refer to him by this name and title,
whether they believe he is that person or not.

206ff: John A-Water speaks with the convolution and
equivocation of a true politician, often descending
into utter nonsense.

214-8: Frion suggests that they prepare an entertainment for
the guests at Warbeck's wedding. If they fail to do so, the
Scots, some of whom will also put on a performance of some
sort, would collect all the honour. Such entertainments,
usually in the form of a masque, are frequently performed by
the guests at a function such as this.

= monopolize.²
= ie. the wedding of Warbeck and Katherine.

220ff: Warbeck's followers are unable to avoid their
quixotic manners of speaking.
persecution under the pressing-iron of reproach; or let my skin be punched full of eyelet-holes with the bodkin of derision.

Ast. I will sooner lose both my ears on the pillory of forgery.

Her. Let me first live a bankrupt, and die in the lousy Hole of hunger, without compounding for sixpence in the pound.

J. a-Wat. If men fail not in their expectations, there may be spirits also that digest no rude affronts, Master Secretary Frion, or I am cozened; which is possible, I grant.

Fri. Resolved like men of knowledge: at this feast, then, In honour of the bride, the Scots, I know, Will in some show, some masque, or some device,

Prefer their duties: now it were uncomely That we be found less forward for our prince Than they are for their lady; and by how much We outshine them in persons of account, By so much more will our endeavours meet with A livelier applause. Great emperors Have for their recreations undertook Such kind of pastimes: as for the conceit, Refer it to my study; the performance You all shall share a thanks in: 'twill be grateful.

Her. The motion is allowed: I have stole to a dancing school when I was a prentice.

Ast. There have been Irish hubbubs, when I have made one too.

Skel. For fashioning of shapes and cutting a cross-caper, turn me off to my trade again.

J. a-Wat. Surely there is, if I be not deceived, a kind of gravity in merriment; as there is, or perhaps ought to be, respect of persons in the quality of carriage, which is as it is construed, either so or so.
Fri. Still you come home to me; upon occasion
I find you relish courtship with discretion;
And such are fit for statesmen of your merits.
Pray ye wait the prince, and in his ear acquaint him
With this design; I'll follow and direct ye.

[Exeunt all but Frion.]

O, the toil
Of humouring this abject scum of mankind,
Muddy-brained peasants! princes feel a misery
Beyond impartial sufferance, whose extremes
Must yield to such abettors: − yet our tide
Runs smoothly, without adverse winds: run on!
Flow to a full sea! time alone debates
Quarrels forewritten in the book of fates.

[Exit.]

END OF ACT II.
ACT III.

SCENE I.
Westminster.
The Palace.

Enter King Henry, with his gorget on, his sword, plume of feathers, and truncheon, followed by Urswick.

K. Hen. How runs the time of day?

Urs. Past ten, my lord.

K. Hen. A bloody hour will it prove to some, Whose disobedience, like the sons o' the earth, Throws a defiance 'gainst the face of Heaven. Oxford, with Essex and stout De la Pole, Have quieted the Londoners, I hope, And set them safe from fear.

Urs. They are all silent.

K. Hen. From their own battlements they may behold Saint George's-fields o'erspread with armèd men; Amongst whom our own royal standard threatens Confusion to opposers: we must learn To practise war again in time of peace, Or lay our crown before our subjects' feet; Ha, Urswick, must we not?

Urs. The powers who seated King Henry on his lawful throne will ever Rise up in his defence.

K. Hen. Rage shall not fright The bosom of our confidence: in Kent Our Cornish rebels, cozened of their hopes, Met brave resistance by that country's earl, George Abergeny, Cobham, Poynings, Guilford, And other loyal hearts; now, if Blackheath Must be reserved the fatal tomb to swallow Such stiff-necked abjects as with weary marches Have travelled from their homes, their wives, and children, To pay, instead of subsidies, their lives, We may continue sovereign. Yet, Urswick, We'll not abate one penny what in parliament

Scene I: today, the English will meet the Cornish rebel army.

1 = piece of armour for protecting the throat.
2 = a staff representing command, like a marshal's baton.
3 = rare 2-syllable pronunciation for this word.
4 = an allusion to the Titans of Greek mythology. The Titans, offspring of Uranus and Gaea (she being the personification of earth), overthrew the gods who ruled before them, before being later overthrown by the Olympian gods (Zeus, etc.).
5 = brave
6 = ie. the city walls of London; the Cornish rebels, now an armed mob of thousands, had traveled quickly through England, reaching Blackheath in south-east London, where they would be met by the royal forces.
7 = destruction
8 = armed forces; a reference to those who backed Henry in his quest for the English throne.
9 = violence
10 = deceived
11 = ie. preserved or kept in order to be.
12 = stiff-necked = obstinate (from Acts 7:51: "Ye stiffnecked...in hearts and ears..."). abjects = exiles or downtrodden people. as = who.
13 = ie. the taxes placed on Cornish, the cause of the revolt.
14 = what in...contributed = parliament can certainly be generous with the taxes raised from the Cornish people!
Hath freely been contributed; we must not; Money gives soul to action. Our competitor, The Flemish counterfeit, with James of Scotland, Will prove what courage need and want can nourish,

Without the food of fit supplies: — but, Urswick, I have a charm in secret that shall loose The witchcraft wherewith young King James is bound, And free it at my pleasure without bloodshed.

Urs. Your majesty's a wise king, sent from Heaven, Protector of the just.

K. Hen. Let dinner cheerfully Be served in; this day of the week is ours, Our day of providence; for Saturday Yet never failed in all my undertakings To yield me rest at night.

[A flourish.] — What means this warning? Good fate, speak peace to Henry!

Enter Lord Dawbeney, Earl of Oxford, and Attendants.

Daw. Live the king, Triumphant in the ruin of his enemies!

Oxf. The head of strong rebellion is cut off, The body hewed in pieces.

K. Hen. Dawbeney, Oxford, Minions to noblest fortunes, how yet stands The comfort of your wishes?

Daw. Briefly thus: The Cornish under Audley, disappointed Of flattered expectation, from the Kentish — Your majesty's right-trusty liegemen — flew, Feathered by rage and heartened by presumption, To take the field even at your palace-gates, And face you in your chamber-royal: arrogance Improved their ignorance; for they, supposing, Misled by rumour, that the day of battle Should fall on Monday, rather braved your forces Than doubted any onset; yet this morning, When in the dawning I, by your direction, Strove to get Deptford-strand bridge, there I found Such a resistance as might show what strength Could make: here arrows hailed in showers upon us A full yard long at least; but we prevailed.

39-42: Our competitor...supplies = Henry expects the poor Scots will lack sufficient provisions to maintain an army. Henry is ironic here: James and Warbeck will learn to their chagrin the degree to which want and need (lack of provisions due to lack of money) will nourish courage.

43-45: Henry has a secret plan to convince King James to abandon his support for Warbeck.

74f: Dawbeney describes how the Cornish were defeated.

82-83: Misled...Monday = Henry had tricked the rebels by spreading a rumour that he would attack them on the following Monday, but actually surprising them on Saturday.

= defied or swaggered boastfully.

= suspected.

= the Battle of Deptford Bridge. The Battle of Blackheath (June 17, 1497) was also known as the Battle of Deptford Bridge.
My Lord of Oxford, with his fellow peers measured in the yard range; it may be worth noting that the longbow was retired from military service in 1595, made obsolete by the introduction of firearms.  

Environing the hill, fell fiercely on them  
Environing the hill, fell fiercely on them  
On the one side, I on the other, till, great sir, –  
Environing the hill, fell fiercely on them  
Pardon the oversight, – eager of doing  
Almost a prisoner, but was freed as soon  
As sensible of danger: now the fight  
Began in heat, which quenchèd in the blood of  
Two thousand rebels, and as many more  
Reserved to try your mercy, have returned  
A victory with safety.  

K. Hen. Have we lost  
An equal number with them?  
Oxf. In the total  
Scarcely four hundred. Audley, Flammock, Joseph,  
The ringleaders of this commotion,  
Railed in ropes, fit ornaments for traitors.  
Wait your determinations.  

K. Hen. We must pay  
Our thanks where they are only due: O, lords,  
Here is no victory, nor shall our people  
Conceive that we can triumph in their falls.  
Alas, poor souls! let such as are escaped  
Steal to the country back without pursuit:  
There's not a drop of blood spilt but hath drawn  
As much of mine; their swords could have wrought wonders  
On their king's part, who faintly were unsheathed  
Against their prince, but wounded their own breasts.  
Lords, we are debtors to your care; our payment  
Shall be both sure and fitting your deserts.  
Daw. Sir, will you please to see those rebels, heads  
Of this wild monster-multitude?  
K. Hen. Dear friend,  
My faithful Dawbeney, no; on them our justice  
Must frown in terror; I will not vouchsafe  
An eye of pity to them. Let false Audley  

= typical chivalric sentiment: knights sought to perform especially brave acts, which often turned out to be reckless, in that such behavior endangered the whole for the benefit of one.  
= according to the Dictionary of National Biography, Dawbeney had actually been temporarily taken prisoner by the rebels during the battle, but then released.  

= test, ie. the remaining rebels will throw themselves at Henry's mercy.  

= James Touchet, seventh Baron of Audley (1465-1497). Audley's father had served as Lord Treasurer under Richard III. Our Audley accompanied Henry on his brief expedition to France in 1492, where the National Biography suggests he got into debt, thereafter becoming "dissatisfied". He joined the Cornish rebels on their way to London, taking over the leadership.  

= tied up.¹ = ie. ropes, as nooses, are appropriate accessories for traitors.  
= sentencing.¹  

= ie. to God and Heaven  

= which  

= deservings, merit  

= ie. those who were the leaders  

= deign or allow.  

130-7: Let false...the rest = Audley, Joseph and Flammock were all executed. Francis Bacon, in his chronicle of
Be drawn upon an hurdle from the Newgate
To Tower-hill in his own coat of arms
Painted on paper, with the arms reversed,
Defaced and torn; there let him lose his head.

The lawyer and the blacksmith shall be hanged,
Quartered; their quarters into Cornwall sent
Examples to the rest, whom we are pleased
To pardon and dismiss from further quest. —

My Lord of Oxford, see it done.

Oxf. I shall, sir.

K. Hen. Urswick!

Urs. My lord?

K. Hen. To Dinham, our high-treasurer,
Say, we command commissions be new granted
For the collection of our subsidies
Through all the west, and that [right] speedily. —
Lords, we acknowledge our engagements due
For your most constant services.

Daw. Your soldiers
Have manfully and faithfully acquitted
Their several duties.

K. Hen. For it we will throw
A largess free amongst them, which shall hearten
And cherish-up their loyalties. More yet
Remains of like employment; not a man
Can be dismissed, till enemies abroad,
More dangerous than these at home, have felt
The puissance of our arms. O, happy kings
Whose thrones are raisèd in their subjects’ hearts!

[Exeunt.]

ACT III, SCENE II.
Edinburgh.
The Palace.

Enter Earl of Huntley and Lord Dalyell.

Hunt. Now, sir, a modest word with you, sad gentleman:

Henry VII, describes Audley’s humiliation pretty much
as Henry describes here.
= cart for carrying prisoners. = a London prison.
= located near the Tower of London, Tower Hill was the
site of many of England’s most famous executions.

134-7: let him...the rest = as a noble, Audley was granted the
privilege of being beheaded; hanging was reserved for
commoners. Traitors were further punished by quartering,
their bodies literally torn into four parts, each segment then
sent out to different districts of England to be displayed as
visible warnings. Audley’s head, we may mention, was
displayed on London Bridge after his execution.

137-8: Henry is typical of English stage sovereigns, who
generally punish the leaders of rebellion, while pardoning
the masses who followed them.

Henry granted amnesty to the rebels on June 20.

147-150: Henry will send out a new round of tax-collectors
to Cornwall.

150: line 150 seems to have lost a syllable. The addition of
right is a guessed correction of an early editor.
= loyal.

154-6: Dawbeney graciously gives credit to the common
soldiers of the royal army for performing well.

= a gift of money

= ie. Warbeck and his supporters. = elsewhere.

= force

Scene II: the scene takes place on the wedding day of
Warbeck and Lady Katherine.
Is not this fine, I trow, to see the gambols,
To hear the jigs, observe the frisks, be enchanted
With the rare discord of bells, pipes, and tabors,
Hotch-potch of Scotch and Irish twingle-twangles.
Like to so many quiristers of Bedlam

Trolling a catch! The feasts, the manly stomachs,
The healths in usquebaugh and bonny-clabber.

The ale in dishes never fetched from China,
The hundred-thousand knacks not to be spoken of, –
And all this for King Oberon and Queen Mab, –
Should put a soul into ye. Look ye, good man,
How youthful I am grown: but, by your leave,
This new queen-bride must henceforth be no more
My daughter; no, by'r lady, 'tis unfit:
And yet you see how I do bear this change,
Methinks courageously: then shake off care
In such a time of jollity.

Dal. Alas, sir,
How can you cast a mist upon your griefs?

Which, howse'er you shadow, but present
To any judging eye the perfect substance,
Of which mine are but counterfeits.

Hunt. Foh, Dalyell!
Thou interrupt'st the part I bear in music
To this rare bridal-feast; let us be merry,
Whilst flattering calms secure us against storms:
Tempests, when they begin to roar, put out
The light of peace, and cloud the sun's bright eye
In darkness of despair; yet we are safe.

Dal. I wish you could as easily forget
The justice of your sorrows as my hopes
Can yield to destiny.

Hunt. Pish! then I see
Thou dost not know the flexible condition
Of my apt nature: I can laugh, laugh heartily,
When the gout cramps my joints; let but the stone
Stop in my bladder, I am straight a-singing:
The quartan-fever, shrinking every limb,
Sets me a-capering straight; do but betray me,
And bind me a friend ever: what! I trust
The losing of a daughter, though I doted
On every hair that grew to trim her head,
Admits not any pain like one of these.
Come, thou'rt deceived in me: give me a blow,
A sound blow on the face, I'll thank thee for't;
I love my wrongs: still thou'rt deceived in me.

Dal. Deceived! O, noble Huntley, my few years
Have learnt experience of too ripe an age

= suppose.¹ = leaps made in dancing.¹
= brisk movements made in dancing.¹
= excellent. = small drums.¹
= confused mixture.¹ = sounds of harps.¹
= choristers, ie. singers. = nickname for London's Hospital of St. Mary of Bethlehem, the hospital for the insane.
= singing a round.¹ = (hearty) appetites.
= ie. pledging of healths. = whiskey. = sour or curdled milk.¹
= delicacies.¹
= the king and queen of the fairies; Oberon is a character in A Midsummer's Night Dream, in which his queen is Titania; Mab is mentioned in Romeo and Juliet.

21: Dalyell wonders how Huntley is able to cover up his distress. The mist, like a pain killer, prevents Huntley from experiencing his distress.
= obscure or conceal.¹

30-32: Huntley reverses Dalyell's metaphor of line 21: tempests obscure the sun, causing distress, as opposed to Dalyell's mist, which conceals it.
= a fever which recurs every fourth day (similar to malaria, but malaria wasn't named until c. 1740).¹

49-51: the sense is, Huntley is impervious to pain, and asks Dalyell to punch him in the face, so he can prove it!

53-55: my few...credulity = "though I am young, my many experiences, which equal those of older men, have taught
To forfeit fit credulity: forgive
My rudeness, I am bold.

_Hunt._ Forgive me first
A madness of ambition; by example
Teach me humility, for patience scorns
Lectures, which schoolmen use to read to boys
Uncapable of injuries: though old,
I could grow tough in fury, and disclaim
Allegiance to my king; could fall at odds
With all my fellow-peers that durst not stand

**Defendants** 'gainst the rape done on mine honour:
But kings are earthly gods, there is no meddling
With their anointed bodies; for their actions
They only are accountable to Heaven.
Yet in the puzzle of my troubled brain
One antidote's reserved against the poison
Of my distractions: 'tis in thee t' apply it.

_Dal._ Name it; O, name it quickly, sir!

_Hunt._ A pardon
For my most foolish slighting thy deserts;
I have culled out this time to beg it: prithee,
Be gentle; had I been so, thou hadst owned
A happy bride, but now a castaway,
And never child of mine more.

_Dal._ Say not so, sir;
It is not fault in her.

_Hunt._ The world would prate
How she was handsome; young I know she was,
Tender, and sweet in her obedience:
But lost now: what a bankrupt am I made
Of a full stock of blessings! Must I hope
A mercy from thy heart?

_Dal._ A love, a service,
A friendship to posterity.

_Hunt._ Good angels
Reward thy charity! I have no more
But prayers left me now.

_Dal._ I'll lend you mirth, sir,
If you will be in consort.

_Hunt._ Thank you truly:
I must; yes, yes, I must; – here's yet some ease,
A partner in affliction: look not angry.

_Dal._ Good, noble sir!

[Flourish.]

_Hunt._ O, hark! we may be quiet,
The King and all the others come; a meeting
Of gaudy sights: this day's the last of revels;
To-morrow sounds of war; then new exchange;
Fiddles must turn to swords. – Unhappy marriage!

Enter King James, Perkin Warbeck leading Lady Katherine, Earl of Crawford and his Countess; Jane Douglas, and other Ladies.

Earl of Huntley and Lord Dalyell fall in among them.

K. Ja. Cousin of York, you and your princely bride
Have liberally enjoyed such soft delights
As a new-married couple could forethink;
Nor has our bounty shortened expectation:
But after all those pleasures of repose,
Of amorous safety, we must rouse the ease
Of dalliance with achievements of more glory
Than sloth and sleep can furnish: yet, for farewell,
Gladly we entertain a truce with time,
To grace the joint endeavours of our servants.

War. My royal cousin, in your princely favour
The extent of bounty hath been so unlimited,
As only an acknowledgment in words
Would breed suspicion in our state and quality.
When we shall, in the fullness of our fate,
Of these large benefits, shall twine them close,
Even to our thoughts and heart, without distinction.
Then James and Richard, being in effect
To gratitude, in sacred memory
One person, shall unite and rule one people,
Divisible in titles only.

K. Ja. Seat ye. –
Are the presenters ready?

Craw. All are entering.

Hunt. Dainty sport toward, Dalyell! sit; come, sit,
Sit and be quiet; here are kingly bug's-words!

Enter at one door Four Scotch Antics, accordingly habited; at another, Warbeck's followers, disguised as Four Wild Irish in trousers, long-haired, and accordingly habited.

Music. A dance by the Masquers.
theatre audiences to watch the dancing of the masques performed by both sets of masquers.

= “change back into your regular clothes”.
168: ie. a gift of money.

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**K. Ja.** To all a general thanks!

**War.** In the next room
Take your own shapes again; you shall receive
Particular acknowledgment.

[Exeunt the Masquers.]

**K. Ja.** Enough
Of merriments. – Crawford, how far's our army
Upon the march?

**Craw.** At Hedon-hall, great king;
Twelve thousand, well-prepared.

**K. Ja.** Crawford, to-night
Post thither. We in person, with the prince,
By four o'clock to-morrow after dinner
Will be wi' ye; speed away!

**Craw.** I fly, my lord.

[Exit.]

**K. Ja.** Our business grows to head now: where's your secretary,
That he attends ye not to serve?

**War.** With Marchmont,
Your herald.

**K. Ja.** Good: the proclamation's ready;
By that it will appear how the English stand
Affected to your title. – Huntley, comfort
Your daughter in her husband's absence; fight
With prayers at home for us, who for your honours
Must toil in fight abroad.

**Hunt.** Prayers are the weapons
Which men so near their graves as I do use;
I've little else to do.

**K. Ja.** To rest, young beauties! –
We must be early stirring; quickly part:
A kingdom's rescue cries both speed and art. –
Cousins, good-night.

[A flourish.]

**War.** Rest to our cousin-king.

**Kath.** Your blessing, sir.

**Hunt.** Fair blessings on your highness! sure, you need 'em.

[Exeunt all but Warbeck, Lady Katherine, and Jane.]
Jane, set the lights down, and from us return
To those in the next room this little purse;
Say we'll deserve their loves.

It shall be done, sir.

[Exit.]

Now, dearest, ere sweet sleep shall seal those eyes,
Love's precious tapers, give me leave to use
A parting ceremony; for to-morrow
It would be sacrilege t' intrude upon
The temple of thy peace: swift as the morning
Must I break from the down of thy embraces,
To put on steel, and trace the paths which lead
Through various hazards to a careful throne.

My lord, I'd fain go wi' ye; there's small fortune
In staying here behind.

Of war, fair dearest, is a sight of horror
For ladies' entertainment: if thou hear'st
A truth of my sad ending by the hand
Of some unnatural subject, thou withal
Shalt hear how I died worthy of my right,
By falling like a king: and in the close,
Which my last breath shall sound, thy name, thou fairest,
Shall sing a requiem to my soul, unwilling
Only of greater glory, 'cause divided
From such a Heaven on earth as life with thee.
But these are chimes for funerals: my business
Attends on fortune of a sprightlier triumph;
For love and majesty are reconciled,
And vow to crown thee empress of the west.

You have a noble language, sir; your right
In me is without question, and however
Events of time may shorten my deserts
In others' pity, yet it shall not stagger
Or constancy or duty in a wife.
You must be king of me; and my poor heart
Is all I can call mine.
War. But we will live,
Live, beauteous virtue, by the lively test
Of our own blood, to let the counterfeit
Be known the world’s contempt.

Kath. Pray, do not use
That word; it carries fate in’t. The first suit
I ever made. I trust your love will grant.

War. Without denial, dearest.

Kath. That hereafter,
If you return with safety, no adventure
May sever us in tasting any fortune:
I ne’er can stay behind again.

War. You’re lady
Of your desires, and shall command your will;
Yet ’tis too hard to promise.

Kath. What our destinies
Have ruled-out in their books we must not search,
But kneel to.

War. Then to fear when hope is fruitless,
Were to be desperately miserable;
Which poverty our greatness dares not dream of,
And much more scorns to stoop to: some few minutes
Remain yet; let’s be thrifty in our hopes.

[Exeunt.]

ACT III, SCENE III.
The Palace at Westminster.

Enter King Henry, Hialas, and Urswick.

K. Hen. Your name is Pedro Hialas, a Spaniard?

Hial. Sir, a Castilian born.

= the international scene was rather complicated at this time, but many of Western Europe's major powers took a great interest in the outcome of Warbeck's claims to the throne; the French had invaded Italy, but Spain, Venice and the Holy Roman Emperor were in the process of forming a league to oppose the French, and were anxious for Henry's support. Additionally, the Spanish monarchs, famous Ferdinand and Isabella, were negotiating to have their daughter Katherine of Aragon marry Henry's elder son Prince Arthur. Thus, the security of Henry's throne was of paramount interest to them.

At the same time as the Scottish were invading northern England, Spain sent an ambassador to James, one Pedro de Ayala, to try to convince James to abandon Warbeck and make peace with Henry. Ford has Ayala meeting with Henry first, but Ayala actually sailed directly to Scotland from Spain.

= Ferdinand, the heir to the throne of Aragon, married Isabella, the heiress to the Castilian throne, in 1469; Isabella became Queen in 1474, and when Ferdinand became King of
Aragon at his father's passing in 1479, the famous royal couple united, for the first time, under one government the lands now known as Spain. Hialas, as a point of pride, identifies himself to Henry as specifically Castilian, rather than by the broader term of Spanish.

King Ferdinand, With wise Queen Isabel his royal consort, Write ye a man of worthy trust and candour. Princes are dear to Heaven who meet with subjects Sincere in their employments; such I find Your commendation, sir. Let me deliver How joyful I repute the amity With your most fortunate master, who almost Comes near a miracle in his success Against the Moors, who had devoured his country, Entire now to his sceptre. We, for our part, Will imitate his providence, in hope Of partage in the use on't: we repute The privacy of his advisement to us By you, intended an ambassador To Scotland, for a peace between our kingdoms, A policy of love, which well becomes His wisdom and our care. Your majesty Doth understand him rightly. Else Your knowledge can instruct me; wherein, sir, To fall on ceremony would seem useless, Which shall not need; for I will be as studious Of your concealment in our conference As any council shall advise. Then, sir, My chief request is, that on notice given At my dispatch in Scotland, you will send Some learned man of power and experience To join entreaty with me. I shall do it, Being that way well provided by a servant Which may attend ye ever. If King James, By any indirection, should perceive My coming near your court, I doubt the issue Of my employment.

= "describe you in writing as".
8-9: Princes...employments = "a king must surely be loved by Heaven if it provides him with such trustworthy subjects."

= the Moors had ruled the Iberian peninsula since the 8th century. The reconquest of Spain was completed by Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492 - quite a year for them.

= management or government of affairs.
17: partage = having a part in.
repute = attribute.
17-22: we repute...our care = "I attribute Ferdinand's sending you, his ambassador, to me in secret first to be a result of his genuine concern for my well-being."
= secrecy or discretion.

= meeting or conferring; Henry will be careful to not reveal that they have met.

= negotiations

= roundabout way.
= outcome, ie. success; despite Henry's assurances, Hialas is still concerned that James might learn of his visit to the English monarch.
K. Hen. Be not your own herald:
I learn sometimes without a teacher.

Hial. Good days
Guard all your princely thoughts!

K. Hen. Urswick, no further
Than the next open gallery attend him. –
A hearty love go with you!

Hial. Your vowed beadsman.

[Exeunt Urswick and Hialas.]

K. Hen. King Ferdinand is not so much a fox,
But that a cunning huntsman may in time
Fall on the scent: in honourable actions
Safe imitation best deserves a praise.

Re-enter Urswick.

What, the Castilian's passed away?

Urs. He is,
And undiscovered: the two hundred marks
Your majesty conveyed, he gently pursed
With a right modest gravity.

K. Hen. What was't he muttered in the earnest of his wisdom?
He spoke not to be heard; 'twas about –

Urs. Warbeck:
How if King Henry were but sure of subjects,
Such a wild runagate might soon be caged,
No great ado withstanding.

K. Hen. Nay, nay; something
About my son Prince Arthur's match.

Urs. Right, right, sir:
He hummed it out, how that King Ferdinand
Swore that the marriage 'twixt the Lady Katherine
His daughter and the Prince of Wales your son

49-50: Henry is mildly sarcastic: he doesn't need to be told the obvious.

= corridor

= literally, one who is paid to pray for another; used here as the equivalent of "your humble servant."11

61: as Hialas is leaving, he mutters something to Urswick, which Henry hears but cannot make out.

68: Urswick has prepared and sent out Hialas on his mission to King James, including giving him money for expenses. Note the compression of time: Urswick did all this in the time it took Henry to speak 4 lines.

= departed

= unrevealed, ie. secretly

86-87: Henry is cagey: he heard more than he first let on!

89: Urswick must recover: "oh, yes, I almost forgot"

= ie. Henry's first-born son, Arthur. The Spanish monarchs had been tentatively planning for the marriage of their daughter Katherine to Henry VII's eldest son Arthur (1486-1502) since 1488 as a way to cement the two countries' relationship.

There is evidence, however, that Ferdinand and Isabella worried about how secure Henry's regime was; after all, he himself had overthrown the previous king (Richard III) after he had only reigned three years; the rise of Pretenders concerned them, as did the existence of Richard's nephew Edward, Earl of Warwick, for whom his Yorkist supporters might also make a claim to the throne. This latter concern on
Should never be consummated as long
As any Earl of Warwick lived in England,

Except by new creation.

Edward, Earl of Warwick (1475-1499). Edward was the only surviving son of George, Earl of Clarence (Clarence was Richard III's brother; he was killed in the Tower in 1478, accused of treason against his brother King Edward IV, possibly at the instigation of Richard).

After Richard usurped the throne in 1483, young Edward, now an orphan (his mother had died when Edward was 1 year old), was at first treated well by the new king; but when Richard's own son and heir died, he named John de la Pole, his nephew and the Earl of Lincoln, his heir, and confined Edward to Sheriff Hutton Castle in North Yorkshire.

After Henry defeated Richard at the Battle of Bosworth (1485), Henry, now king, moved Edward to the Tower, where he remained for the rest of his life; he only left the Tower one day, when the Pretender Lambert Simnel, who was impersonating Edward, was crowned king in Ireland: Edward was paraded through the streets of London and allowed to attend mass at St. Paul's, so that the English could see the true Earl of Warwick was still alive and in prison.

The injustice of his treatment did not escape notice during those years.

95: a hint that the Spanish would like to see Edward dead before allowing Katherine to marry Arthur: if Edward were dead, then the only way any Earl of Warwick could exist would be if Henry invested someone new with that title.

103-4: Henry recognizes the urgency now with which James must be convinced to abandon his support for Warbeck. = the Bishop of Durham had been sent north to secure the border castle of Norham against the expected incursion by the Scottish.

It comes so slow, we must have airy spirits;

Our time requires dispatch. –

[Aside] The Earl of Warwick!

Let him be son to Clarence, younger brother
To Edward! Edward's daughter is, I think,
Mother to our Prince Arthur. – Get a messenger.

[Exeunt.]
invaded England a second time, and invested Norham Castle in August, 1497. The siege portrayed in this scene is a combination of the two invasions.

The Scottish used their famous 15,000 pound cannon, Mons Meg, at Norham Castle; this monster can still be seen at Edinburgh Castle.

Scene IV: James' army is besieging Norham Castle; the Bishop of Durham, Richard Foxe, is inside the castle, managing its defense.

1. K. Ja. We trifle time against these castle-walls; The English prelate will not yield: once more Give him a summons.

[A parley is sounded.]

2. Enter on the walls the Bishop of Durham, armed, a truncheon in his hand, with Soldiers.

3. War. See, the jolly clerk Appears, trimmed like a ruffian!

4. K. Ja. Bishop, yet Set ope the ports, and to your lawful sovereign, Richard of York, surrender up this castle, And he will take thee to his grace; else Tweed Shall overflow his banks with English blood, And wash the sand that cements those hard stones From their foundation.

5. Dur. Warlike King of Scotland, Vouchsafe a few words from a man enforced To lay his book aside, and clap on arms Unsuitable to my age or my profession. Courageous prince, consider on what grounds You rend the face of peace, and break a league With a confederate king that courts your amity, For whom too? for a vagabond, a straggler, Not noted in the world by birth or name, An obscure peasant, by the rage of hell Loosed from his chains to set great kings at strife. What nobleman, what common man of note, What ordinary subject hath come in, Since first you footed on our territories, To only feign a welcome? Children laugh at Your proclamations, and the wiser pity So great a potentate's abuse by one Who juggles merely with the fawns and youth Of an instructed compliment; such spoils, Such slaughters as the rape of your soldiers Already have committed, is enough To show your zeal in a conceited justice.

6. 21ff: note how at no point will Durham address the fraud Warbeck directly.

= war.

= surrender.

= a trumpet or drum sounds for the purpose of requesting a meeting between the opposing sides.

= the "balcony" on the back of the stage, which is often used to represent city or castle walls.

= clergyman.¹

= dressed.² = lawless villain¹; Warbeck is mocking the bishop for playing soldier.

= gates of the castle.

= ie. Warbeck.

= Norham Castle is located on the River Tweed, the traditional boundary between England and Scotland.

= ie. wiser people.

= ie. credulity being taken advantage of.

= deceives.² = completely. = servile treatment of.¹

= ie. Warbeck had to be taught how to behave towards a king such as James.

= imagined
Yet, great king, wake not yet my master's vengeance
But shake that viper off which gnaws your entrails.
I and my fellow-subjects are resolved,
If you persist, to stand your utmost fury,
Till our last blood drop from us.

War. O, sir, lend
No ear to this traducer of my honour! –
What shall I call thee, thou gray-bearded scandal,
That kick'st against the sovereignty to which
Thou ow'st allegiance? – Treason is bold-faced
And eloquent in mischief: sacred king,
Be deaf to his known malice.

Dur. Rather yield
Unto those holy motions which inspire
The sacred heart of an anointed body.
It is the surest policy in princes
To govern well their own than seek encroachment
Upon another's right.

Craw. The king is serious,
Deep in his meditations.

Dal. Lift them up
To Heaven, his better genius!

War. Can you study
While such a devil raves? O, sir!

K. Ja. You'll not be drawn to mercy?

Dur. Construe me
In like case by a subject of your own:
My resolution's fixed: King James, be counselled,
A greater fate waits on thee.

[Exeunt Bishop of Durham and Soldiers
from the walls.]

K. Ja. Forage through
The country; spare no prey of life or goods.

War. O, sir, then give me leave to yield to nature;
I am most miserable: had I been
Born what this clergyman would by defame
Baffle belief with, I had never sought
The truth of mine inheritance with rapes
Of women or of infants murdered, virgins
Deflowered, old men butchered, dwellings fired,
My land depopulated, and my people
Afflicted with a kingdom's devastation:
Show more remorse, great king, or I shall never

= slanderer.²
= Warbeck's use of "thee" to address the bishop is consistent with how a king would address any of his subjects; but he also uses it as a way to show contempt.
= meaning allegiance to himself, the legitimate king.

57f: Durham ignores Warbeck.
= impulses.²
= monarchs were anointed with holy oil at their coronations.
= James likely falls into a meditative pose at this point, with a short pause in dialogue.
64ff: Crawford and Dalyell, speaking aside, notice that James is not responding to Durham's speech.
= ie. similar to a "better angel"¹
= ponder
= understand

= confound; ie. "if I really was what the bishop says I am".
= consideration, pity or regret¹
98

Endure to see such havoc with dry eyes;
Spare, spare, my dear, dear England!

87-98: the Scottish raid inflicted a great deal of violence on the English countryside; supposedly, Warbeck expressed regret over this harsh behavior, and begged the king to limit any further suffering on the English populace. This attitude was considered unprincely, and the chroniclers mocked him viciously for this.

100

K. Ja. You fool your piety

Ridiculously careful of an interest
Another man possesseth. Where's your faction?
Shrewdly the bishop guessed of your adherents,
When not a petty burgess of some town,
No, not a villager hath yet appeared
In your assistance: that should make ye whine,
And not your country's sufferance, as you term it.

102

D.al. The king is angry.

Craw. And the passionate duke
Effeminately dolent.

104

War. The experience
In former trials, sir, both of mine own
Or other princes cast out of their thrones,
Have so acquainted me how misery
Is destitute of friends or of relief,
That I can easily submit to taste
Lowest reproof without contempt or words.

106

K. Ja. An humble-minded man!

Enter Frion.

108

Now, what intelligence
Speaks Master Secretary Frion?

110

Fri. Henry

Of England hath in open field o'erthrown
The armies who opposed him in the right
Of this young prince.

112

K. Ja. His subsidies, you mean:

More, if you have it?

114

Fri. Howard, Earl of Surrey.

100f: annoyed, James embarrasses Warbeck by pointing out that not a single Englishman has turned out in his support. His sarcasm is quite a sudden reversal from the deference shown him to this point.

= "full of care or anxious for".

103: "the bishop knows no one has come to support you."
= elected official; but can also mean "citizen".

106-7: that should...term it = "you should be complaining about the fact that not one Englishman has joined your side, rather than for the suffering of your country, as you call it." James' use of whine expresses his disdain.

= emotional.
= grieving or mourning; they don't think much of his sympathy to the English victims of the raid.

= used as a verb; in lines 119-120, Warbeck means that he is easily able to stand a little rebuking.

126-7: probably highly sarcastic.

= ie. the Cornish rebels

= taxes or money granted to pay for war (further sarcasm).

James correctly surmises the Cornish did not rise up to support Warbeck, but rather to show their displeasure at the heavy taxes Henry had imposed on them.

135: "what other news do you have?"

= Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey (1443-1524), led a long and remarkable life. Surrey was distinguished throughout his life by loyalty to whoever held the crown at a given moment. He supported and served Edward IV for many years, and fought with Richard at Bosworth. Imprisoned by Henry for being on the losing side in the battle, he spent
three years in the Tower. Surrey refused to leave the Tower when given an opportunity to escape and join the Simnel rebellion in 1487. Recognizing that Surrey could be useful, Henry released him in 1489, and Surrey loyally served Henry for the rest of Henry's life (it should be noted that Henry kept most of the lands that Surrey had forfeited for being on the wrong side at Bosworth).

After successfully putting down a rebellion in Yorkshire in about 1490, Surrey was entrusted for many years with the security of the border with Scotland. Astoundingly, Surrey, at the age 70, organized and led the English army that destroyed the Scottish forces and killed James IV at the Battle of Flodden in 1513. Surrey remained active in court, serving Henry's son Henry VIII for many more years, before finally dying at about the age of 81 in 1524.

Presently, it was his army whose arrival convinced James that it was time to retreat back into Scotland.

Backed by twelve earls and barons of the north, An hundred knights and gentlemen of name, And twenty thousand soldiers, is at hand To raise your siege. Brooke, with a goodly navy,

Is admiral at sea; and Dawbeney follows With an unbroken army for a second.

War. Tis false! they come to side with us.

K. Ja. Retreat; We shall not find them stones and walls to cope with. —

Yet, Duke of York, for such thou sayst thou art,

I'll try thy fortune to the height: to Surrey,

By Marchmont, I will send a brave defiance For single combat; once a king will venture

His person to an earl, with condition

Of spilling lesser blood: Surrey is bold,

And James resolved.

War. O, rather, gracious sir,
Create me to this glory, since my cause
Doth interest this fair quarrel; valued least,
I am his equal.

162  
_K. J._ I will be the man. —
March softly off: where victory can reap
A harvest crowned with triumph, toil is cheap.

166  
[Exeunt.]

END OF ACT III.
ACT IV.

SCENE I.

The English Camp near Ayton, near the Borders.

Enter Earl of Surrey, Bishop of Durham, Soldiers, with drums and colours.

Sur. Are all our braving enemies shrunk back,
Hid in the fogs of their distempered climate,
Not daring to behold our colours wave
In spite of this infected air? Can they
Look on the strength of Cundrestine defaced?
The glory of Hedon-hall devasted? that
Of Edington cast down? the pile of Fulden
O'erthrown? and this the strongest of their forts,
Old Ayton-castle, yielded and demolished?
And yet not peep abroad? The Scots are bold,
Hardy in battle; but it seems the cause
They undertake, considerèd, appears
Unjointed in the frame on't.

Dur. Noble Surrey,
Our royal master's wisdom is at all times
His fortune's harbinger; for when he draws
His sword to threaten war, his providence
Settles on peace, the crowning of an empire.

[A trumpet within.]

Sur. Rank all in order: 'tis a herald's sound;
Some message from King James: keep a fixed station.

Enter Marchmont and another in Heralds' coats.

March. From Scotland's awful majesty we come
Unto the English general.

Sur. To me?
Say on.

March. Thus, then; the waste and prodigal
Effusion of so much guiltless blood
As in two potent armies of necessity
Must glut the earth's dry womb, his sweet compassion
Hath studied to prevent; for which to thee,
Great Earl of Surrey, in a single fight
He offers his own royal person; fairly
Proposing these conditions only, that
If victory conclude our master's right,
The earl shall deliver for his ransom
The town of Berwick to him, with the fishgarths;

= in 1497, Surrey arrived at the Borders region with an army, causing James to retreat from his siege at Norham Castle. Surrey retaliated with a raid into Scotland of his own.

= challenging or defying.²
2: typical English disparagement of Scottish weather.

= in hatred.¹ = corrupted¹ (another weather comment).
5-9: Surrey, in his taunting, lists a number of Scottish castles his army has captured or destroyed.

= small castle.¹

= Bacon mentions Ayton Castle as the strongest one between Edinburgh and Berwick.¹¹

= lacking cohesion¹; with frame, perhaps a "construction" metaphor.

16-17: Our...harbinger = Henry’s sound decisions always lead to success.
= foresight or fate.¹

= arrange the army²

= awe-inspiring (as in "full of awe").

= ie. King James'.
= endeavored.

= again, earl is pronounced with 2 syllables.
44: Berwick = Berwick-upon-Tweed, located near the border with Scotland, was a frequent pawn in the many wars.
If Surrey shall prevail, the king will pay
A thousand pounds down present for his freedom,
And silence further arms: so speaks King James.

Surr. So speaks King James! so like a king he speaks.
Heralds, the English general returns
A sensible devotion from his heart,
His very soul, to this unfellowed grace:
For let the king know, gentle heralds, truly,
How his descent from his great throne, to honour
A stranger subject with so high a title
As his compeer in arms, hath conquered more
Than any sword could do; for which – my loyalty
Respected – I will serve his virtues ever
In all humility: but Berwick, say,
Is none of mine to part with; in affairs
Of princes subjects cannot traffic rights
Inherent to the crown. My life is mine,
That I dare freely hazard; and – with pardon
To some unbribed vainglory – if his majesty
Shall taste a change of fate, his liberty
Shall meet no articles. If I fall, falling
So bravely, I refer me to his pleasure
Without condition; and for this dear favour,
Say, if not countermanded, I will cease
Hostility, unless provoked.

March. This answer
We shall relate unpartially.

Dur. With favour,
Pray have a little patience. –
[Aside to Surrey] Sir, you find
By these gay flourishes how wearied travail
Inclines a willing rest; here's but a prologue,
However confidently uttered, meant
For some ensuing acts of peace: consider
The time of year, unseasonableness of weather,
Charge, barrenness of profit; and occasion
Presents itself for honourable treaty,
Which we may make good use of. I will back.
As sent from you, in point of noble gratitude
Unto King James, with these his heralds: you
Shall shortly hear from me, my lord, for order
Of breathing or proceeding; and King Henry,

between England and Scotland.

fishgarths = enclosures in the sea for penning in fish.

49f: Surrey expresses how honoured he is that James, a king, offers himself to meet Surrey in single combat.

= unequalled
= ie. James is deigning to fight one below his station; single combat, like dueling, generally, should only be between persons of similar rank.
= foreign.
= fellow.
= ie. to his own king (ie. Henry).
= excepted.

= trade in, or buy and sell

63-64: with pardon...vainglory = "excuse me for saying something so boastful".

= Surrey is delicately raising the possibility that James may lose to him.
= ie. if Surrey were to defeat James, he would release him unconditionally.
= if James defeats him, he can dispose of him as he wishes; note that single combat need not lead to the death of one of the participants; yielding would be sufficient to end it.

= ie. by Henry

75-76: Durham asks the herald to wait a moment.

= typically meaning both work and travel.
= makes one desire.
= in addition to its regular meaning, acts is used with prologue in line 79 for a nice stage metaphor.
= expense. = an opportunity.
= go back to

88-89: for order...proceeding = with instructions to either remain at rest (breathing) or resume hostilities.
Doubt not, will thank the service.

Sur. [Aside to Durham] To your wisdom, Lord Bishop, I refer it.

Dur. [Aside to Surrey] Be it so, then.

Sur. Heralds, accept this chain and these few crowns.

March. Our duty, noble generál.

Dur. In part Of retribution for such princely love, My lord the generál is pleased to show The king your master his sincerest zeal, By further treaty, by no common man: I will myself return with you.

Sur. Y' oblige My faithfulest affections t'ye, Lord Bishop.

March. All happiness attend your lordship!

[Exit with Herald.]

Sur. Come, friends And fellow-soldiers; we, I doubt, shall meet No enemies but woods and hills to fight with; Then 'twere as good to feed and sleep at home: We may be free from danger, not secure.

[Exeunt.]

ACT IV, SCENE II.
The Scottish Camp.

Enter Perkin Warbeck and Frion.

War. Frion, O, Frion, all my hopes of glory Are at a stand! the Scottish king grows dull, Frosty, and wayward, since this Spanish agent Hath mixed discourses with him; they are private. I am not called to council now: − confusion On all his crafty shrugs! I feel the fabric Of my designs are tottering.

Fri. Henry's policies Stir with too many engines.

War. Let his mines,
Shaped in the bowels of the earth, blow up
Works raised for my defence, yet can they never
Toss into air the freedom of my birth,
Or disavow my blood Plantagenet's:
I am my father's son still. But, O, Fri,
When I bring into count with my disasters
My wife's copartnership, my Kate's, my life's,
Then, then my frailty feels an earthquake. Mischief
Damn Henry's plots! I will be England's king,
Or let my aunt of Burgundy report
My fall in the attempt deserved our ancestors!

Fri. You grow too wild in passion: if you will
Appear a prince indeed, confine your will
To moderation.

War. What a saucy rudeness
Prompts this distrust! If? If I will appear!
Appear a prince! death throttle such deceits
Even in their birth of utterance! cursed cozenage
Of trust! Ye make me mad: 'twere best, it seems,
That I should turn impostor to myself,
Be mine own counterfeit, belie the truth
Of my dear mother's womb, the sacred bed

Of a prince murdered and a living baffled!

Fri. Nay, if you have no ears to hear, I have
No breath to spend in vain.

War. Sir, sir, take heed!
Gold and the promise of promotion rarely
Fail in temptation.

Fri. Why to me this?

War. Nothing.

Speak what you will; we are not sunk so low
But your advice may piece again the heart
Which many cares have broken: you were wont
In all extremities to talk of comfort;
Have ye none left now? I'll not interrupt ye.
Good, bear with my distractions! If King James
Deny us dwelling here, next whither must I?
I prithee, be not angry.

Fri. Sir, I told ye
Of letters come from Ireland; how the Cornish

should significantly and visibly increase.

= deny

= reckoning, account.

= body. = ie. feels like.

= note how they never refer to Henry as king, so as to

= rightfully merited by.

25-27: Frion expresses a typical Elizabethan sentiment:
noble and royal persons should always keep control
of their emotions.

29-37: Warbeck's frustrations start to get the better of him.

= deceit

36-37: the sacred...murdered = it was theorized that the
two young princes were smothered in their beds; this
was how Shakespeare depicted their deaths in Richard
III. Warbeck's reference to my dear mother is nauseating
in its obsequiousness.

37: ie. "of one prince (Edward) murdered and the other,
living one (Richard, aka Warbeck) disgraced or treated
shamefully (baffled)."

46: "why are you telling me this?"

48-56: his passion finally spent, Warbeck regains control of
himself, and is apologetic to Frion, on whom he still relies
heavily.

= ie. piece together.

51-52: you were...comfort = "no matter how bad our
situation, you have heretofore always been able to find
some way to comfort me".

wont = accustomed.

= mental disturbances
Stomach their last defeat, and humbly sue
That with such forces as you could partake
You would in person land in Cornwall, where
Thousands will entertain your title gladly.

War. Let me embrace thee, hug thee; thou'rt revived
My comforts; if my cousin-king will fail,
Our cause will never.

Enter John A-Water, Heron, Astley, and Skelton.

Welcome, my tried friends!
You keep your brains awake in our defence. −
Frion, advise with them of these affairs,
In which be wondrous secret; I will listen
What else concerns us here: be quick and wary.

[Exit.]

Ast. Ah, sweet young prince! − Secretary, my fellow-
counsellors and I have consulted, and jump all in one
opinion directly; an if these Scotch garboils do not
fadge to our minds, we will pell-mell run amongst
the Cornish choughs presently and in a trice.

Skel. 'Tis but going to sea and leaping ashore, cut ten
or twelve thousand unnecessary throats, fire seven or
eight towns, take half a dozen cities, get into the marketplace, crown him Richard the Fourth, and the business is finished.

J. a-Wat. I grant ye, quoth I, so far forth as men may
do, no more than men may do; for it is good to consider
when consideration may be to the purpose, otherwise −
still you shall pardon me − little said is soon amended.

Fri. Then you conclude the Cornish action surest?

Her. We do so, and doubt not but to thrive abundantly.
Ho, my masters, had we known of the commotion when
we set sail out of Ireland, the land had been ours ere this time.

Skel. Pish, pish! 'tis but forbearing being an earl or a
duke a month or two longer. I say, and say it again, if
the work go not on apace, let me never see new fashion
more. I warrant ye, I warrant ye; we will have it so,
and so it shall be.

65-67: note that Warbeck switches here to addressing
Frion from the formal "you" to the affectionate "thee".
= ie. James.

83: choughs = a chough is a chattering bird which is
commonly seen on rocks on the sea-side, hence its
application to the citizens who live on the cape of
Cornwall.12

in a trice = without delay, immediately. This phrase,
and its predecessor at a trice, go back to the 15th
and early 16th centuries.1

1: = in disorder.

84: if. = tumults.3
= succeed, come off.1 = in disorder.

96: now that we know how little Frion thinks of these men,
his dissembling flattery and deference to them is quite funny.

= rebellion, ie. if they had known of the Cornish uprising.

= we remember that Skelton is a tailor.
This is but a cold phlegmatic country, not stirring enough for men of spirit. Give me the heart of England for my money!

A man may batten there in a week only, with hot loaves and butter, and a lusty cup of muscadine and sugar at breakfast, though he make never a meal all the month after.

Surely, when I bore office I found by experience that to be much troublesome was to be much wise and busy: I have observed how filching and bragging has been the best service in these last wars; and therefore conclude peremptorily on the design in England. If things and things may fall out, as who can tell what or how – but the end will show it.

Resolved like men of judgment! Here to linger More time is but to lose it: cheer the prince And haste him on to this; on this depends Fame in success, or glory in our ends.

[Exeunt.]

ACT IV, SCENE III.

Another part of the same.

Enter King James, the Bishop of Durham, and Hialas.

France, Spain, and Germany combine a league Of amity with England: nothing wants For settling peace through Christendom, but love Between the British monarchs, James and Henry.

The English merchants, sir, have been received With general procession into Antwerp; The emperor confirms the combination.

The king of Spain resolves a marriage For Katherine his daughter with Prince Arthur.
France courts this early contract.

What can hinder
A quietness in England? –

But your suffrage
To such a silly creature, mighty sir,
As is but in effect an apparition,
A shadow, a mere trifle?

To this union
The good of both the church and commonwealth
Invite ye.

To this unity, a mystery
Of providence points out a greater blessing
For both these nations than our human reason
Can search into. King Henry hath a daughter,
The Princess Margaret: I need not urge
What honour, what felicity can follow
On such affinity 'twixt two Christian kings
Inleagued by ties of blood; but sure I am,
If you, sir, ratify the peace proposed,
I dare both motion and effect this marriage
For weal of both the kingdoms.

Dar'st thou, lord bishop?
Put it to trial, royal James, by sending
Some noble personage to the English court
By way of embassy.

Part of the business
Shall suit my mediation.

Well; what Heaven
Hath pointed out to be, must be: you two
Are ministers, I hope, of blessed fate.
But herein only I will stand acquitted,
No blood of innocents shall buy my peace:
For Warbeck, as you nick him, came to me,
Commended by the states of Christendom,
A prince, though in distress; his fair demeanour,
Lovely behaviour, unappalled spirit,
Spoke him not base in blood, however clouded.
The brute beasts have both rocks and caves to fly to,
And men the altars of the church; to us
He came for refuge: kings come near in nature
Unto the gods in being touched with pity.
Yet, noble friends, his mixture with our blood,
Even with our own, shall no way interrupt
A general peace; only I will dismiss him
From my protection, throughout my dominions,
In safety; but not ever to return.

You are a just king.
Dur.  Wise, and herein happy.

K. Ja.  Nor will we dally in affairs of weight:
Huntley, lord bishop, shall with you to England
Ambassador from us: we will throw down
Our weapons; peace on all sides! Now repair
Unto our council; we will soon be with you.

Hial.  Delay shall question no dispatch; Heaven crown it.

[Exeunt Bishop of Durham and Hialas.]

K. Ja.  A league with Ferdinand! a marriage
With English Margaret! a free release
From restitution for the late affronts!
Cessation from hostility! and all
For Warbeck, not delivered, but dismissed!
We could not wish it better. − Dalyell!

Enter Lord Dalyell.

Dal.  Here sir.

K. Ja.  Are Huntley and his daughter sent for?

Dal.  Sent for
And come, my lord.

K. Ja.  Say to the English prince,
We want his company.

Dal.  He is at hand, sir.

Enter Perkin Warbeck, Lady Katherine, Jane, Frion,
Heron, Skelton, John A-Water, and Astley.

K. Ja.  Cousin, our bounty, favours, gentleness,
Our benefits, the hazard of our person,
Our people's lives, our land, hath evidenced
How much we have engaged on your behalf:
How trivial and how dangerous our hopes
Appear, how fruitless our attempts in war,
How windy, rather smoky, your assurance

Of party shows, we might in vain repeat:
But now obedience to the mother church,
A father's care upon his country's weal,
The dignity of state, direct our wisdom
To seal an oath of peace through Christendom;
To which we're sworn already: it is you
Must only seek new fortunes in the world,
And find an harbour elsewhere. As I promised
On your arrival, you have met no usage
Deserves repentance in your being here;
But yet I must live master of mine own:

84-85: a free release...affronts! = "and I won't have to pay restitution for the damage I have caused by my raid of England!"

104: James gives another model speech of apology, this time directly to Warbeck.

113-4: "how illusory were your assurances that Englishmen would rise in your support". Warbeck's assurances were not just all talk (windy), but also misled James by clouding his judgment (smoky).

= delay

= side, faction.
However, what is necessary for you
At your departure, I am well content
You be accommodated with, provided
Delay prove not my enemy.

War. It shall not
Most glorious prince. The fame of my designs
Soars higher than report of ease and sloth
Can aim at: I acknowledge all your favours
Boundless and singular; am only wretched
In words as well as means to thank the grace
That flowed so liberally. Two empires firmly
You're lord of, − Scotland and Duke Richard's heart:
My claim to mine inheritance shall sooner
Fail than my life to serve you, best of kings;
And, witness Edward's blood in me! I am
More loth to part with such a great example
Of virtue than all other mere respects.
But, sir, my last suit is, you will not force
From me what you have given, − this chaste lady,
Resolved on all extremes.

Kath. I am your wife;
No human powèr can or shall divorce
My faith from duty.

War. Such another treasure
The earth is bankrupt of.

K. Ja. I gave her, cousin,
And must avow the gift; will add withal
A furniture becoming her high birth
And unsuspected constancy; provide
For your attendance: we will part good friends.

[Exit with Lord Dalyell.]

War. The Tudor hath been cunning in his plots:
His Fox of Durham would not fail at last.
But what? our cause and courage are our own:
Be men, my friends, and let our cousin-king
See how we follow fate as willingly
As malice follows us. Ye're all resolved
For the west parts of England?

All. Cornwall, Cornwall!

Fri. The inhabitants expect you daily.

War. Cheerfully
Draw all our ships out of the harbour, friends;
Our time of stay doth seem too long, we must
Prevent intelligence; about it suddenly.

All. A prince, a prince, a prince!
Part 1, the soldiers about to fight under the great Lord Talbot enter battle shouting "a Talbot! a Talbot!"

War. Dearest, admit not into thy pure thoughts
The least of scruples, which may charge their softness
With burden of distrust. Should I prove wanting
To noblest courage now, here were the trial:
But I am perfect, sweet; I fear no change,
More than thy being partner in my sufferance.

Kath. My fortunes, sir, have armed me to encounter
What chance soe'er they meet with. — Jane, 'tis fit
Thou stay behind, for whither wilt thou wander?

Jane. Never till death will I forsake my mistress,
Nor then in wishing to die with ye gladly.

Kath. Alas, good soul!

Fri. Sir, to your aunt of Burgundy
I will relate your present undertakings:
From her expect on all occasions welcome.
You cannot find me idle in your services.

War. Go, Frion, go: wise men know how to soothe
Adversity, not serve it: thou hast waited
Too long on expectation; never yet
Was any nation read of so besotted
In reason as t' adore the setting sun.
Fly to the archduke's court; say to the duchess,
Her nephew, with fair Katherine his wife,
Are on their expectation to begin
The raising of an empire: if they fail,
Yet the report will never. Farewell, Frion!

[Exit Frion.]

This man, Kate, has been true, though now of late
I fear too much familiar with the Fox.

Re-enter Lord Dalyell with the Earl of Huntley.

Hunt. I come to take my leave: you need not doubt
My interest in this sometime child of mine;
She's all yours now, good sir. — O, poor lost creature,
Heaven guard thee with much patience! if thou canst
Forget thy title to old Huntley's family,
As much of peace will settle in thy mind
As thou canst wish to taste but in thy grave.
Accept my tears yet, prithee; they are tokens
Of charity as true as of affection.

Kath. This is the cruell'st farewell!

Hunt. Love, young gentleman,
This model of my griefs; she calls you husband;
Then be not jealous of a parting kiss, —
It is a father’s, not a lover’s offering;
Take it, my last [Kisses her]. – I am too much a child.
Exchange of passion is to little use,
So I should grow too foolish: goodness guide thee!

[Exit.]

Kath. Most miserable daughter! – Have you aught
To add, sir, to our sorrows?

Dal. I resolve,
Fair lady, with your leave, to wait on all
Your fortunes in my person, if your lord
Vouchsafe me entertainment.

War. We will be bosom-friends, most noble Dalyell;
For I accept this tender of your love
Beyond ability of thanks to speak it. –
Clear thy drowned eyes, my fairest: time and industry
Will show us better days, or end the worst.

[Exeunt.]

ACT IV, SCENE IV.
The Palace of Westminster.

Enter Earl of Oxford and Lord Dawbeney.

Oxf. No news from Scotland yet, my lord?

Daw. Not any
But what King Henry knows himself: I thought
Our armies should have marched that way; his mind,
It seems, is altered.

Oxf. Victory attends
His standard everywhere.

Daw. Wise princes, Oxford,
Fight not alone with forces. Providence
Directs and tutors strength; else elephants
And barbèd horses might as well prevail
As the most subtle stratagems of war.

Oxf. The Scottish king showed more than common
bravery
In proffer of a combat hand to hand
With Surrey.

= typical Elizabethan expression for crying.

= Katherine addresses Dalyell.

247-250: Dalyell will accompany Warbeck and Katherine wherever they choose to go.

= After having been evicted from Scotland, Warbeck sailed with Katherine and one or two children to Cork, Ireland, landing on July 26, 1597. The citizens of Waterford wrote to Henry of Warbeck’s intention to land in Cornwall, which he did on September 7 (his ships had been chased and caught by citizens of Waterford; they demanded Warbeck be turned over to them, but the captain swore he had no knowledge of the man, all the time which Warbeck was hiding in a barrel). Once in Cornwall, Warbeck quickly found himself surrounded by a supporting rabble of several thousand.

11-15: cunning is as necessary as brute strength to win a war.

= foresight.

= partially-armed horses.¹
Daw. And but showed it: northern bloods
Are gallant being fired; but the cold climate,
Without good store of fuèl, quickly freezeth
The glowing flames.

Oxf. Surrey, upon my life,
Would not have shrunk an hair's-breadth.

Daw. May he forfeit
The honour of an English name and nature,
Who would not have embraced it with a greediness
As violent as hunger runs to food!
Twas an addition any worthy spirit
Would covet, next to immortality,
Above all joys of life: we all missed shares
In that great opportunity.

Enter King Henry, in close conversation with Urswick.

Oxf. The king!
See, he comes smiling.

Daw. O, the game runs smooth
On his side, then, believe it: cards well shuffled
And dealt with cunning bring some gamester thrift,
But others must rise losers.

K. Hen. The train takes?

Urs. Most prosperously.

K. Hen. I knew it should not miss.
He fondly angles who will hurl his bait
Into the water 'cause the fish at first
Plays round about the line and dares not bite. –
Lords, we may reign your king yet: Dawbeney, Oxford,
Urswick, must Perkin wear the crown?

Daw. A slave!

Oxf. A vagabond!

Urs. A glow-worm!

K. Hen. Now, if Frion,
His practised politician, wear a brain
Of proof, King Perkin will in progress ride
Through all his large dominions; let us meet him,
And tender homage: ha, sirs! liegemen ought
To pay their fealty.

Daw. Would the rascal were,
With all his rabble, within twenty miles
Of London!

29-32: he in line 29 is meant generally: "any Englishman who would not gladly take up the chance to battle King James would lose all honour."

= mark of honour or distinction

38ff: except for Urswick, none of Henry's advisors know of his secret sending of Hialas to negotiate with James.

= gambler. = success or good luck,
= ie. from the gaming table.
= scheme

= foolishly. = ie. fishes.

56ff: Henry is in a good mood, and playful with his friends.

65-70: Henry expects Warbeck, on the advice of Frion, will invade England.

= ie. England, which Warbeck would rule as "king" (ironic).
= in Feudal Law, a liegeman was a vassal who swore to provide support, especially military service, in return for protection from a superior lord.
= the duty owed by a liegeman to his lord.
K. Hen. Farther off is near enough
To lodge him in his home: I'll wager odds,

Surrey and all his men are either idle
Or hasting back; they have not work, I doubt.
To keep them busy.

Daw. 'Tis a strange conceit, sir.

K. Hen. Such voluntary favours as our people
In duty aid us with, we never scattered
On cobweb parasites, or lavished out
In riot or a needless hospitality:
No undeserving favourite doth boast
His issues from our treasury; our charge

Flows through all Europe, proving us but steward
Of every contribution which provides
Against the creeping canker of disturbance.
Is it not rare, then, in this toil of state
Wherein we are embarked, with breach of sleep,
Cares, and the noise of trouble, that our mercy
Returns nor thanks nor comfort? Still the West
Murmur and threaten innovación,
Whisper our government tyrannical,
Deny us what is ours, nay, spurn their lives,
Of which they are but owners by our gift:
It must not be.

Oxf. It must not, should not.

Enter Messenger with a packet.

K. Hen. So then –
To whom?

Mess. This packet to your sacred majesty.

K. Hen. Sirrah, attend without.

[Exit Messenger.]

Oxf. News from the North, upon my life.

Daw. Wise Henry
Divines aforehand of events; with him
Attempts and executions are one act.
K. Hen. Urswick, thine ear: Frion is caught; the man
Of cunning is outreached; we must be safe.
Should reverend Morton, our archbishop, move
To a translation higher yet, I tell thee
My Durham owns a brain deserves that see;
He's nimble in his industry, and mounting –
Thou hear'st me?
Urs. And conceive your highness fitly.

K. Hen. Dawbeney and Oxford, since our army stands
Entire, it were a weakness to admit
The rust of laziness to eat amongst them:
Set forward toward Salisbury; the plains
Are most commodious for their exercise.
Ourself will take a muster of them there;
And or disband them with reward, or else
Dispose as best concerns us.

Daw. Salisbury!
Sir, all is peace at Salisbury.

K. Hen. Dear friend,
The charge must be our own; we would a little
Partake the pleasure with our subjects' ease. –
Shall I entreat your loves?

Oxf. Command our lives.

K. Hen. Ye're men know how to do, not to forethink.
My bishop is a jewël tried and perfect;
A jewël, lords. The post who brought these letters
Must speed another to the Mayor of Exeter:
Urswick, dismiss him not.

Urs. He waits your pleasure.

K. Hen. Perkin a king? a king!

Urs. My gracious lord, –

K. Hen. Thoughts busied in the sphere of royalty
Fix not on creeping worms without their stings,
Mere excrements of earth. The use of time
Is thriving safety, and a wise prevention
Of ills expected. We're resolved for Salisbury.

[Exeunt.]

ACT IV, SCENE V.
The Coast of Cornwall.

[A general shout within.]
Enter Perkin Warbeck, Lord Dalyell,
Lady Katherine, and Jane.

War. After so many storms as wind and seas
Have threatened to our weather-beaten ships,
At last, sweet fairest, we are safe arrived
On our dear mother earth, ingratitude only
To Heaven and us in yielding sustenance
To sly usurpers of our throne and right.
These general acclamations are an omen
Of happy process to their welcome lord:
They flock in troops, and from all parts with wings
Of duty fly to lay their hearts before us. −
Unequalled pattern of a matchless wife,
How fares my dearest yet?

Kath. Confirmed in health,
By which I may the better undergo
The roughest face of change; but I shall learn
Patience to hope, since silence courts affliction,
For comforts, to this truly noble gentleman, −

Rare unexampled pattern of a friend! −
And my beloved Jane, the willing follower
Of all misfortunes.

Dal. Lady, I return
But barren crops of early protestations,
Frost-bitten in the spring of fruitless hopes.

Jane. I wait but as the shadow to the body;
For madam, without you let me be nothing.

War. None talk of sadness, − we are on the way
Which leads to victory: keep cowards thoughts
With desperate sullenness! The lion faints not
Locked in a grate, but loose disdains all force
Which bars his prey, − and we are lion-hearted. −
Or else no king of beasts.

[Another general shout within.]

− Hark, how they shout,
Triumphant in our cause! bold confidence
Marches on bravely, cannot quake at danger.

Enter Skelton.

Skel. Save King Richard the Fourth! save thee, king
of hearts! The Cornish blades are men of mettle; have
proclaimed, through Bodmin and the whole county, my
sweet prince Monarch of England: four thousand tall
yeomen, with bow and sword, already vow to live and
die at the foot of King Richard.

Enter Astley.

Ast. The mayor, our fellow-counsellor, is servant for
an emperor. Exeter is appointed for the rendezvous,
and nothing wants to victory but courage and resolution.

Sigillatum et datum decimo Septembris, anno regni
regis primo, et caetera; confirmatum est. All's cock-
sure.

War. To Exeter! to Exeter, march on!
Commend us to our people: we in person
Will lend them double spirits; tell them so.

Skel. and Ast. King Richard, King Richard!

[Exeunt Skelton and Astley.]

War. A thousand blessings guard our lawful arms!
A thousand horrors pierce our enemies' souls!
Pale fear unedge their weapons' sharpest points!
And when they draw their arrows to the head,
Numbness shall strike their sinews! Such advantage
Hath Majesty in its pursuit of justice,
That on the proppers-up of Truth's old throne
It both enlightens counsel and gives heart
To execution; whiles the throats of traitors
Lie bare before our mercy. O, divinity
Of royal birth! how it strikes dumb the tongues
Whose prodigality of breath is bribed
By trains to greatness! Princes are but men
Distinguished in the fineness of their frailty,
Yet not so gross in beauty of the mind;
For there's a fire more sacred purifies
The dross of mixture. Herein stand the odds,
Subjects are men on earth, kings men and gods.

[Exeunt.]

END OF ACT IV.
ACT V.

SCENE I.

St. Michael’s Mount, Cornwall.

Enter Lady Katherine and Jane in riding-suits, with one Servant.

Kath. It is decreed; and we must yield to fate,
Whose angry justice, though it threaten ruin,
Contempt, and poverty, is all but trial
Of a weak woman’s constancy in suffering.
Here, in a stranger’s and an enemy’s land,
Forsaken and unfurnished of all hopes
But such as wait on misery, I range,
To meet affliction wheresoe’er I tread.
My train and pomp of servants is reduced
To one kind gentlewoman and this groom.

Kath. To your ships,
Dear lady, and turn home.

Jane. To your ships,

Kath. Home! I have none.

Jane. There is no safety whiles your dangers, madam,
Are every way apparent.

Serv. Pardon, lady,
I cannot choose but show my honest heart;

Serv. = a small island off the shore of Cornwall, to which one can walk at low-tide.
Warbeck = Warbeck has left Katherine behind as he went riding out with his army to win the throne.

= fortitude,
stranger’s = foreigner's, ie. England, as opposed to Scotland.

= retinue.

1: ie. Jane and one other servant; groom = servant.

= "to where must we go?"

2: Katherine actually lived the rest of her life in England.

= aspired to. = ie. James, who gave her away in marriage.

= ie. Katherine’s male servant

= hardships.
= ie. to cry.
You were ever my good lady.

Kath.  O, dear souls, Your shares in grief are too-too much!

Enter Lord Dalyell.

Dal.  I bring, Fair princess, news of further sadness yet Than your sweet youth hath been acquainted with.

Kath.  Not more, my lord, than I can welcome: speak it; The worst, the worst I look for.

Dal.  All the Cornish

At Exeter were by the citizens

Repulsed, encountered by the Earl of Devonshire And other worthy gentlemen of the country.
Your husband marched to Taunton, and was there Affronted by King Henry's chamberlain;
The king himself in person with his army Advancing nearer, to renew the fight On all occasions: but the night before The battles were to join, your husband privately, Accompanied with some few horse, departed From out the camp, and posted none knows whither.

Kath.  Fled without battle given?

Dal.  Fled, but followed
By Dawbeney; all his parties left to taste King Henry's mercy, – for to that they yielded, – Victorious without bloodshed.

Kath.  O, my sorrows! If both our lives had proved the sacrifice To Henry's tyranny, we had fall'n like princes, And robbed him of the glory of his pride.

Dal.  Impute it not to faintness or to weakness Of noble courage, lady, but to foresight; For by some secret friend he had intelligence Of being bought and sold by his base followers. Worse yet remains untold.

Kath.  No, no, it cannot.

Dal.  I fear you are betrayed: the Earl of Oxford

62ff: Dalyell gives a reasonably accurate summary of the actual anticlimactic fate of Warbeck and his army. 
63-65: twice Warbeck's army attempted to storm Exeter, but were driven off by its citizens, with the help of the Earl of Devonshire, Edward Courtenay (d. 1509).

The Courtenays had always supported the Lancastrians. Edward had fought with Henry at Bosworth, and been raised an earl as a reward for his support. His grandson Henry, however, was beheaded in 1538 for conspiring to overthrow Henry VIII.

= abandoning Exeter on the approach of an army led by the Lord Chamberlain Dawbeney, Warbeck's army, now numbering about 8000, retired to Taunton.

= Warbeck, having finally, after all these years, reached his opportunity to fight for the crown, abandoned his army, fleeing with 60 horsemen.

= Warbeck's supporters or followers (except the sixty horsemen who fled with him).

89-90: Bacon refers to a rumor that Warbeck had been betrayed, but he himself suggests Warbeck ran away from fear.
Runs hot in your pursuit.

Kath. He shall not need; We'll run as hot in resolution gladly To make the earl our jailor.

Jane. Madam, madam, They come, they come!

Enter Earl of Oxford with his Followers.

Dal. Keep back! or he who dares Rudely to violate the law of honour Runs on my sword.

Kath. Most noble sir, forbear. — What reason draws you hither, gentlemen? Whom seek ye?

Oxf. All stand off! — With favour, lady, From Henry, England's king, I would present Unto the beauteous princess, Katherine Gordon, The tender of a gracious entertainment.

Kath. We are that princess, whom your master-king Pursues with reaching arms to draw into His powèr: let him use his tyranny, We shall not be his subject.

Oxf. My commission Extends no further, excellentest lady, Than to a service; 'tis King Henry's pleasure That you, and all that have relation t'ye, Be guarded as becomes your birth and greatness; For, rest assured, sweet princess, that not aught Of what you do call yours shall find disturbance, Or any welcome other than what suits Your high condition.

Kath. By what title, sir, May I acknowledge you?

Oxf. Your servant, lady, Descended from the line of Oxford's earls, Inherits what his ancestors before him Were owners of.

Kath. Your king is herein royal, That by a peer so ancient in desert As well as blood commands us to his presence.

Oxf. Invites ye, princess, not commands.

Kath. Pray use Your own phrase as you list: to your protection Both I and mine submit.
Oxf. There's in your number
A nobleman whom fame hath bravely spoken.
To him the king my master bade me say
How willingly he courts his friendship; far
From an enforcement, more than what in terms
Of courtesy so great a prince may hope for.

Dal. My name is Dalyell.

Oxf. 'Tis a name hath won
Both thanks and wonder from report, my lord:
The court of England emulates your merit,
And covets to embrace you.

Dal. I must wait on
The princess in her fortunes.

Oxf. Will you please,
Great lady, to set forward?

Kath. Being driven
By fate, it were in vain to strive with Heaven.

[Exeunt.]

ACT V, SCENE II.

Salisbury.

Enter King Henry, Earl of Surrey, Urswick,
and a guard of Soldiers.

K. Hen. The counterfeit, King Perkin, is escaped: −
Escaped! so let him; he is hedged too fast
Within the circuit of our English pale
To steal out of our ports, or leap the walls
Which guard our land; the seas are rough and wider
Than his weak arms can tug with. Surrey, henceforth
Your king may reign in quiet; turmoils past,
Like some unquiet dream, have rather busied
Our fancy than affrighted rest of state.

But, Surrey, why, in articling a peace
With James of Scotland, was not restitution
Of losses which our subjects did sustain
By the Scotch inroads questioned?

Sur. Both demanded
And urged, my lord; to which the king replied,
In modest merriment, but smiling earnest,
How that our master Henry was much abler
To bear the detriments than he repay them.

K. Hen. The young man, I believe, spake honest truth;
He studies to be wise betimes. − Has, Urswick,
Sir Rice ap Thomas, and Lord Brook our steward,
Returned the Western gentlemen full thanks
From us for their tried loyalties?
They have; Which, as if health and life had reigned amongst 'em, With open hearts they joyfully received.

**K. Hen.** Young Buckingham is a fair-natured prince,

Lovely in hopes, and worthy of his father; Attended by an hundred knights and squires Of special name he tendered humble service, Which we must ne'er forget: and Devonshire's wounds, Though slight, shall find [sound cure in our respect.](https://example.com)

*Enter Lord Dawbeney with a Guard,* leading in Perkin Warbeck, Heron, John A-Water, Astley, and Skelton, chained.

**Daw.** Life to the king, and safety fix his throne! I here present you, royal sir, a shadow Of majesty, but in effect a substance Of pity; a young man, in nothing grown To ripeness but the ambition of your mercy, − Perkin, the Christian world's strange wonder.

**K. Hen.** Dawbeney, We observe no wonder: I behold, 'tis true, An ornament of nature, fine and polished, A handsome youth indeed, but not [admire him.](https://example.com) How came he to thy hands?

**Daw.** From sanctuary At Bewley, near Southampton; registered, With these few followers, for persons privileged.

**K. Hen.** I must not thank you, sir; you were to blame T' infringe the liberty of houses sacred: Dare we be irreligious?

**Daw.** Gracious lord, They voluntarily resigned themselves

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*Edward Stafford, third Duke of Buckingham* (1478-1521). Edward was five when his father was executed by Richard III, as portrayed in Shakespeare's play. His family's lands were returned to him when Henry took the throne. Edward was a captain in the royal army that chased after Warbeck. A powerful and wealthy lord, Buckingham played important roles in the administrations of both Henry VII and especially Henry VIII.

Eventually, the latter Henry became suspicious of Buckingham's possible ambitions, as he was a descendent of Edward III, and had him tried and executed in 1521. The trial was unfair, as Buckingham was given no chance to cross-examine his accusers, and it is likely that the king had made up his mind ahead of time that he must die. Buckingham's feud with Cardinal Wolsey, and his betrayal and conviction, are central to the early scenes of Shakespeare's *Henry VIII*.

= [admire](https://example.com) usually, as here, means "to wonder at": Henry is responding to Dawbeney's description of Warbeck as a wonder in line 47.

55-57: Having left his army with a small company of cavalry, Warbeck quickly abandoned the horsemen in turn, fleeing with three companions to Beaulieu, an impressive abbey in Hampshire. English law recognized certain religious locations as places of sanctuary, where fugitives could find safety and immunity from arrest.

59-61: Henry worries that Dawbeney may have violated the rules of sanctuary in forcing the arrest of Warbeck.
Without compulsion.

**K. Hen.** So? 'twas very well;
'Twas very, very well. — Turn now thine eyes,
Young man, upon thyself and thy past actions;
What revels in combustion through our kingdom
A frenzy of aspiring youth hath danced,
Till, wanting breath, thy feet of pride have slipt
To break thy neck!

**War.** But not my heart; my heart
Will mount till every drop of blood be frozen
By death's perpetual winter: if the sun
Of majesty be darkened, let the sun
Of life be hid from me in an eclipse
Lasting and universal. Sir, remember
There was a shooting-in of light when Richmond,
Not aiming at a crown, retired, and gladly,
For comfort to the Duke of Bretaine's court.
Richard, who swayed the sceptre, was reputed
A tyrant then; yet then a dawning glimmer
To some few wandering remnants, promising day
When first they ventured on a frightful shore
At Milford Haven; —

**Daw.** Whither speeds his boldness?
Check his rude tongue, great sir.

**K. Hen.** O, let him range:
The player's on the stage still, 'tis his part;
He does but act. — What followed?

**War.** Bosworth Field;
Where, at an instant, to the world's amazement,
A morn to Richmond, and a night to Richard,
Appeared at once: the tale is soon applied;
Fate, which crowned these attempts when least assured,
Might have befriended others like resolved.

**K. Hen.** A pretty gallant! Thus your aunt of Burgundy,
Your duchess-aunt, informed her nephew; so,
The lesson prompted and well conned, was moulded
Into familiar dialogue, oft rehearsed,
Till, learnt by heart, 'tis now received for truth.

**War.** Truth, in her pure simplicity, wants art
To put a feignèd blush on: scorn wears only
Such fashion as commends to gazers' eyes
Sad ulcerated novelty, far beneath
The sphere of majesty: in such a court
Wisdom and gravity are proper robes,
By which the sovereign is best distinguished
From zanies to his greatness.

**K. Hen.** Sirrah, shift

Your antic pageantry, and now appear
In your own nature, or you'll taste the danger
Of fooling out of season.

**War.** I expect
No less than what severity calls justice,
And politicians safety; let such beg
As feed on alms: but if there can be mercy
In a protested enemy, then may it
Descend to these poor creatures, whose engagements,

To the bettering of their fortunes, have incurred
A loss of all; to them if any charity
Flow from some noble orator, in death
I owe the fee of thankfulness.

**K. Hen.** So brave!

What a bold knave is this! – Which of these rebels
Has been the Mayor of Cork?

**Daw.** This wise formality. –
Kneel to the king, ye rascals!

[They kneel.]

**K. Hen.** Canst thou hope
A pardon, where thy guilt is so apparent?

**J. a-Wat.** Under your good favours, as men are men,
may err; for I confess, respectively, in taking great
parts, the one side prevailing, the other side must go
down: herein the point is clear, if the proverb hold, that
hanging goes by destiny, that it is to little purpose to
say, this thing or that shall be thus or thus; for, as the
Fates will have it, so it must be; and who can help it?

**Daw.** O, blockhead! thou a privy-counsellor?
Beg life, and cry aloud, "Heaven save King Henry!"

**J. a-Wat.** Every man knows what is best, as it happens;
for my own part, I believe it is true, if I be not
deceived, that kings must be kings and subjects subjects;
but which is which, you shall pardon me for that:
whether we speak or hold our peace, all are mortal;
no man knows his end.

**K. Hen.** We trifle time with follies.

**Her., J. a-Wat., Ast., Skel.** Mercy, mercy!

= clowns

= Henry, getting irritated, uses this form of address to indicate contempt.

= grotesque or bizarre performance.¹

= common expression for "inappropriate".

= those people.

= who.

= self-professed or admitted.

= ie. his followers. 129-131: *whose...loss of all* = "I took them on, hoping by my success to improve their fortunes, but instead caused them to lose everything."

131-2: *to them...orator* = "if anyone here is willing to speak on their behalves"

139: Dawbeney indicates John A-Water.

147ff: The mayor cannot escape his inability to speak plainly!

= sides.

= proverbial; cf. *The Merchant of Venice*, Act II, ix:
"Hanging and wiving go by destiny".

167: note that Warbeck's followers, but not Warbeck himself, beg the king for mercy.
K. Hen. Urswick, command the dukeling and these fellows  

[They rise.]

To Digby, the lieutenant of the Tower:  
With safety let them be conveyed to London.  
It is our pleasure no uncivil outrage,  
Taunts or abuse be suffered to their persons;  
They shall meet fairer law than they deserve.  
Time may restore their wits, whom vain ambition  
Hath many years distracted.

War. Noble thoughts  
Meet freedom in captivity: the Tower, −  
Our childhood's dreadful nursery!

K. Hen. No more!

Urs. Come, come, you shall have leisure to bethink ye.

[Exit Urswick with Perkin Warbeck and his Followers, guarded.]

K. Hen. Was ever so much impudence in forgery?  
The custom, sure, of being styled a king  
Hath fastened in his thought that he is such;  
But we shall teach the lad another language:  
'Tis good we have him fast.

Daw. The hangman's physic  
Will purge this saucy humour.

K. Hen. Very likely;  
Yet we could temper mercy with extremity,  
Being not too far provoked.

[Enter Earl of Oxford, Lady Katherine in her richest attire, Lord Dalyell, Jane, and Attendants.]

Oxf. Great sir, be pleased,  
With your accustomed grace to entertain  
The Princess Katherine Gordon.

K. Hen. Oxford, herein  
We must beshrew thy knowledge of our nature.  
A lady of her birth and virtues could not  
Have found us so unfurnished of good manners  
As not, on notice given, to have met her  
Halfway in point of love. − Excuse, fair cousin.
The oversight: O, fie! you may not kneel;  
Tis most unfitting: first, vouchsafe this welcome,  
A welcome to your own; for you shall find us  
But guardian to your fortune and your honours.

Kath. My fortunes and mine honours are weak champions,  
As both are now befriended, sir: however,  
Both bow before your clemency.

K. Hen. Our arms  
Shall circle them from malice. — A sweet lady!  
Beauty incomparable! — here lives majesty  
At league with love.

Kath. O, sir, I have a husband.

K. Hen. We'll prove your father, husband, friend, and servant,  
Prove what you wish to grant us. — Lords, be careful  
A patent presently be drawn for issuing  
A thousand pounds from our exchequer yearly  
During our cousin's life. — Our queen shall be  
Your chief companion, our own court your home,  
Our subjects all your servants.

Kath. But my husband?

K. Hen. By all descriptions, you are noble Dalyell,  
Whose generous truth hath famed a rare observance.

We thank ye; 'tis a goodness gives addition  
To every title boasted from your ancestry,  
In all most worthy.

Dal. Worthier than your praises,  
Right princely sir, I need not glory in.

K. Hen. Embrace him, lords. — Whoever calls you mistress  
Is lifted in our charge. — A goodlier beauty  
Mine eyes yet ne'er encountered.

Beaufort, son of John of Gaunt, who was a son of Edward III. Henry also likely uses cousin as a signal of affection and kindness.¹  
= permit  
= a champion is one who fights on behalf of another.¹  
= allied or combined with  
= Katherine's comment is ambiguous: she could be (1) making sure Henry's gushing behavior goes no further than to indicate general kindness or affection, or (2) tactfully probing to determine what will become of her husband.  
234f: Henry ignores Katherine's indirect mention of Warbeck.  
235-8: Lords...life = Henry orders that a stipend be given to Katherine.  
= a document granting a privilege or right.¹  
237: according to the Bank of England's online inflation calculator, £1000 in 1495 is worth £ 1.1 million today.⁶  
= ie. Henry's wife, Elizabeth of York.  
234-240: notice how Henry has indirectly let Katherine know she will spend the rest of her life in England.  
Henry did always treated Katherine well, and did indeed grant her a pension, as well as pay her wardrobe expenses.  
244-8: Henry continues to ignore Katherine's inquiry regarding her husband's fate.  
245: although line 245 is open to interpretation, the meaning is likely something like, "whose great loyalty and generous service (to Katherine) has become famous".  
truth = loyalty.¹  
famed = rendered famous.  
rare = seldom seen or excellent.¹  
observance = attentive care.¹  
= Henry's attention quickly returns to Katherine.
Kath. Cruél misery
Of fate! what rests to hope for?

K. Hen. Forward, lords,
To London. – Fair, ere long I shall present ye
With a glad object, peace, and Huntley's blessing.

[Exeunt.]

ACT V, SCENE III.

London:
The Tower-hill.

Enter Constable and Officers, Perkin Warbeck,
Urswick, and Lambert Simnel as a Falconer,
followed by the rabble.

Const. Make room there! keep off, I require ye; and
none come within twelve foot of his majesty's new
stocks, upon pain of displeasure. — Bring forward the
malefactors. — Friend, you must to this gear, no remedy.
— Open the hole, and in with his legs, just in the middle
hole; there, that hole. [Warbeck is put in the stocks.]

— Keep off, or I'll commit you all: shall not a man in
authority be obeyed! — So, so, there; 'tis as it should be:
put on the padlock, and give me the key. — Off, I say,
keep off!

Urs. Yet, Warbeck, clear thy conscience: thou hast tasted
King Henry's mercy liberally; the law
Has forfeited thy life; an equal jury
Have doomed thee to the gallows; twice most wickedly,

= now-archaic noun, meaning "beautiful lady".
= Lord Huntley, we remember, has been sent by James to
England to conclude a peace with Henry.

Scene III: the play, historically, moves forward two years to
1499. Henry had originally treated Warbeck with great
leniency, sparing Warbeck's life, and even letting him live at
and move about the king's court with complete freedom,
though Henry had him constantly watched. On June 9, 1498,
however, Warbeck escaped, but got no further than Syon
Abbey, located in what is now West London, where he
quickly surrendered. Warbeck was placed in public stocks
for five hours, then transferred permanently to the Tower.
The next year (1499), he tried to bribe his keepers into
joining a plot to seize the Tower, unfortunately dragging the
Earl of Warwick into his plans. His conspiracy revealed, he
was sentenced to die, as was the unfortunate Earl.

1ff: the constable speaks in prose.

= business. = ie. "there is no avoiding it."

5-6: Open the hole...that hole = as a rule, each hole in a
set of stocks would hold only one leg. Our friends at
PilloryHistory.com, however, advise us that Ford
seems to have, for some strange reason, invented a
new kind of stocks, in which two limbs would go into
a single hole - a punishment probably without precedent
in the real world; such stocks would be impractical: if
a hole is large enough for two limbs, then you could
never use it to hold only one limb, as it would be too
easy for the victim to "simply remove his or her feet
through the oversized holes."

= for the first time in the play, a member of the English court
(other than Henry) speaks to Warbeck directly; the nobles
will, of course, address him using "thee", both as would
naturally be used when addressing a member of a lower
class, but also signaling contempt.

= sentenced
Most desperately, hast thou escaped the Tower,
Inveigling to thy party with thy witchcraft
Young Edward Earl of Warwick, son to Clarence,
Whose head must pay the price of that attempt;
Poor gentleman, unhappy in his fate,
And ruined by thy cunning! so a mongrel
May pluck the true stag down. Yet, yet, confess
Thy parentage; for yet the king has mercy.

Sim. You would be Dick the Fourth; very likely!
Your pedigree is published; you are known
For Osbeck's son of Tournay, a loose runagate,
A landloper; your father was a Jew,
Turned Christian merely to repair his miseries:
Where's now your kingship?

War. Baited to my death?
Intolerable cruelty! I laugh at
The Duke of Richmond's practice on my fortunes:
Possession of a crown ne'er wanted heralds.

Sim. You will not know who I am?

Urs. Lambert Simnel,
Your predecessor in a dangerous uproar;
But, on submission, not alone received
To grace, but by the king vouchsafed his service.

Sim. I would be Earl of Warwick, toiled and ruffled
Against my master, leaped to catch the moon,
Vaunted my name Plantagenet, as you do;
An earl, forsooth! whenas in truth I was,
As you are, a mere rascal: yet his majesty,
A prince composed of sweetness, – Heaven protect him! –
Forgave me all my villainies, repledged
The sentence of a shameful end, admitted
My surety of obedience to his service,
And I am now his falconer; live plenteously,
Eat from the king's purse, and enjoy the sweetness
Of liberty and favour; sleep securely:
And is not this, now, better than to buffet

18-19: one of the most pathetic characters never to actually appear in a play, Edward's only crime was to be so close to the throne in blood that he was kept in prison his entire adult life. His unfortunate inclusion in Warbeck's plan to take over the Tower led to his sentence of death. Francis Bacon, in his history Henry VII, feelingly wrote, "(thus did) this winding ivy of a Plantagenet kill the true tree itself."

21-22: so a mongrel...down = as in Bacon's quote in the previous note, a metaphor is used to distinguish the true royal person (Edward) from the false one (Warbeck). Note the intense imagery of a mongrel (Warbeck) taking down the noble stag (Edward).

= wanderer (contemptuous).¹
= one who roves all over the land.¹
= this was suggested by a contemporary writer.

= to the end, Warbeck refuses to acknowledge Henry as the legitimate king.
35: "the one who actually possesses the crown never lacks for those ready to proclaim him king"; ie. people follow a winner, whether he deserves it or not.

= granted

44: Earl of Warwick = ironically, the man Simnel had impersonated during his rebellion.
        toiled = used in a violent manner.¹ Simnel places the responsibility for his rebellion on those who manipulated him.
        ruffled = stirred up.¹
= ie. Henry, for whom he now works.
= boasted.
= in truth (ironic).
= complete, absolute.

= accepted.
= guarantee or promise.

= contend against.¹
The hangman's clutches, or to brave the cordage
Of a tough halter which will break your neck?
So, then, the gallant totters! — prithee, Perkin,
Let my example lead thee; be no longer
A counterfeit; confess, and hope for pardon.

War. For pardon! hold, my heart-strings, whiles contempt
Of injuries, in scorn, may bid defiance
To this base man's foul language! — Thou poor vermin,
How dar'st thou creep so near me? thou an earl!
Why, thou enjoy'st as much of happiness
As all the swing of slight ambition flew at.
A dunghill was thy cradle. So a puddle,
By virtue of the sunbeams, breathes a vapour
T' infect the purer air, which drops again
Into the muddy womb that first exhaled it.

Bread and a slavish ease, with some assurance
From the base beadle's whip, crowned all thy hopes:
But, sirrah, ran there in thy veins one drop
Of such a royal blood as flows in mine,
Thou wouldst not change condition, to be second
In England's state, without the crown itself.
Coarse creatures are incapable of excellence:
But let the world, as all to whom I am
This day a spectacle, to time deliver,
And by tradition fix posterity
Without another chronicle than truth,
How constantly my resolution suffered
A martyrdom of majesty.

Sim. He's past
Recovery; a Bedlam cannot cure him.

Urs. Away, inform the king of his behaviour.

Sim. Perkin, beware the rope! the hangman's coming.

[Exit.]

Urs. If yet thou hast no pity of thy body,
Pity thy soul!

Enter Lady Katherine, Jane, Lord Dalyell,
and Earl Of Oxford.

Jane. Dear lady!

Oxf. Whither will ye,
Without respect of shame?
Kath. Forbear me, sir, and trouble not the current of my duty. − O, my loved lord! can any scorn be yours in which I have no interest − Some kind hand lend me assistance, that I may partake Th' infliction of this penance. − My life's dearest, Forgive me; I have stayed too long from tendering Attendance on reproach; yet bid me welcome.

War. Great miracle of constancy! my miseries were never bankrupt of their confidence In worst afflictions, till this; now I feel them. Report and thy deserts, thou best of creatures, Might to eternity have stood a pattern For every virtuous wife without this conquest. Thou hast outdone belief; yet may their ruin In after-marriages be never pitied, To whom thy story shall appear a fable! Why wouldst thou prove so much unkind to greatness To glorify thy vows by such a servitude? I cannot weep; but trust me, dear, my heart Is liberal of passion. − Harry Richmond, A woman's faith hath robbed thy fame of triumph.

Oxf. Sirrah, leave-off your juggling, and tie up The devil that ranges in your tongue.

Urs. Thus witches, Possessed, even to their deaths deluded, say They have been wolves and dogs, and sailed in egg-shells over the sea, and rid on fiery dragons, Passed in the air more than a thousand miles, All in a night: − the enemy of mankind Is powerful, but false, and falsehood confident.

Oxf. Remember, lady, who you are; come from That impudent impostor.

Kath. You abuse us: For when the holy churchman joined our hands, Our vows were real then; the ceremony Was not in apparition, but in act. − Be what these people term thee, I am certain Thou art my husband, no divorce in Heaven has been sued-out between us; 'tis injustice For any earthly power to divide us: Or we will live or let us die together. There is a cruel mercy.

War. Spite of tyranny = have patience with1 = loyalty. 116-8: my miseries...feel them = Warbeck never felt he had really hit bottom until this moment, when his wife appears to share his misery with him. = reputation. = own merits. = example. = ie. marriages to come in the future. = fiction, ie. unbelievable. = filled with emotion. = by this point, Warbeck's refusal to refer to Henry as "king" is obnoxious. = deceiving2

= ie. Satan

= ie. "you are a noble, and he is nothing". Oxford repeats his admonition to Katherine. = perhaps the first and only acknowledgement from Katherine that Warbeck might not be who he claims to be. = filed in court for1 = either

156-162: briefly, "despite Henry's tyranny, I am still a monarch when it comes to the love and loyalty of my wife." The entire speech by Warbeck is a particularly pretty one, honouring the loyal Katherine.
We reign in our affections, blessèd woman! 
Read in my destiny the wreck of honour; 
Point out, in my contempt of death, to memory 
Some miserable happiness; since herein, 
Even when I fell, I stood enthroned a monarch 
Of one chaste wife's troth pure and uncorrupted. 
Fair angel of perfection, immortality 
Shall raise thy name up to an adoration, 
Court every rich opinion of true merit, 
And saint it in the calendar of Virtue, 
When I am turned into the self-same dust 
Of which I was first formed.

Oxf. The lord ambassador, 
Huntley, your father, madam, should he look on 
Your strange subjection in a gaze so public, 
Would blush on your behalf, and wish his country 
Unleft for entertainment to such sorrow.

Kath. Why art thou angry, Oxford? I must be 
More peremptory in my duty. − Sir, 
Impute it not unto immodesty 
That I presume to press you to a legacy 
Before we part for ever.

War. Let it be, then, 
My heart, the rich remains of all my fortunes.

Kath. Confirm it with a kiss, pray.

War. O, with that 
I wish to breathe my last! upon thy lips, 
Those equal twins of comeliness, I seal 
The testament of honourable vows:

[Kisses her.]

Whoever be that man that shall unkiss 
This sacred print next, may he prove more thrifty 
In this world's just applause, not more desertful!

Kath. By this sweet pledge of both our souls, I swear 
To die a faithful widow to thy bed; 
Not to be forced or won: O, never, never!

Enter Earls of Surrey, Huntley, and Crawford, 
and Lord Dawbeney.

Daw. Free the condemned person; quickly free him! 
What has he yet confessed?

[Perkin Warbeck is taken out of the stocks.]

Urs. Nothing to purpose;
But still he will be king.

Sur. Prepare your journey
To a new kingdom, then, unhappy madman,
Wilfully foolish! – See, my lord ambassador,
Your lady daughter will not leave the counterfeit
In this disgrace of fate.

Hunt. I never pointed
Thy marriage, girl; but yet, being married,
Enjoy thy duty to a husband freely.
The griefs are mine. I glory in thy constancy;
And must not say I wished that I had missed
Some partage in these trials of a patience.

Kath. You will forgive me, noble sir?

Hunt. Yes, yes;
In every duty of a wife and daughter
I dare not disavow thee. To your husband, –
For such you are, sir, – I impart a farewell
Of manly pity; what your life has passed through,
The dangers of your end will make apparent;
And I can add, for comfort to your sufferance,
No cordial, but the wonder of your frailty,
Which keeps so firm a station. We are parted.

War. We are. A crown of peace renew thy age,
Most honourable Huntley! – Worthy Crawford!
We may embrace; I never thought thee injury.

Craw. Nor was I ever guilty of neglect
Which might procure such thought. I take my leave, sir.

War. To you, Lord Dalyell, – what? accept a sigh,
'Tis hearty and in earnest.

Dal. I want utterance;
My silence is my farewell.

Kath. O, O!

Jane. Sweet madam,
What do you mean? –
[To Dalyell] My lord, your hand.

Dal. Dear lady,
Be pleased that I may wait ye to your lodging.

[Exeunt Lord Dalyell and Jane, supporting Lady Katherine.]

Enter Sheriff and Officers with
Skelton, Astley, Heron, and John A-Water,
with halters about their necks.

Oxf. Look ye; behold your followers, appointed

confession and story of his life after his first arrest. Katherine was said to have been humiliated by the whole thing.

= spoken to Huntley.

= “I was not the one who planned”

222-4: I glory…patience: though not a fan of Warbeck, Huntley appreciates Katherine's loyalty to her husband.

= to give any. = suffering.
= restorative or medicine to cheer you.¹ = body or person.

242-3: "I never did anything to cause you to wish any harm to me"; perhaps Crawford fears the curses of a man about to die.

= ie. "I am unable to speak"

= attend¹
To wait on ye in death!

War. Why, peers of England, We'll lead 'em on courageously: I read
A triumph over tyranny upon Their several foreheads. — Faint not in the moment Of victory! our ends, and Warwick's head, Innocent Warwick's head, — for we are prologue

But to his tragedy, — conclude the wonder Of Henry's fears; and then the glorious race Of fourteen kings, Plantagenets, determines

In this last issue male; Heaven be obeyed! Impoverish time of its amazement, friends, And we will prove as trusty in our payments As prodigal to nature in our debts. Death? pish! 'tis but a sound; a name of air; A minute's storm, or not so much: to tumble From bed to bed, be massacred alive By some physicians, for a month or two,

In hope of freedom from a fever's torments, Might stagger manhood; here the pain is past Ere sensibly 'tis felt. Be men of spirit! Spurn coward passion! so illustrious mention Shall blaze our names, and style us kings o'er Death.

Daw. Away, impostor beyond precedent!

[Exeunt Sheriff and Officers with the Prisoners.]

No chronicle records his fellow.

Hunt. I have Not thoughts left: 'tis sufficient in such cases Just laws ought to proceed.

Enter King Henry, the Bishop of Durham, and Hialas.

K. Hen. We are resolved. Your business, noble lords, shall find success Such as your king importunes.

Hunt. You are gracious.
K. Hen. Perkin, we are informed, is armed to die;
In that we'll honour him. Our lords shall follow
To see the execution; and from hence
We gather this fit use, — that public states,
As our particular bodies, taste most good
In health when purged of corrupted blood.

[Exeunt.]

Postscript: despite having married Margaret, Henry's daughter, in 1503, James declared war on England in 1513, in response to Henry's invading France, Scotland's traditional ally. He invaded England with an army of more than 30,000 men in the late summer of that year, meeting a smaller English army at Flodden, near the village of Branxton. September 9th was one of the most disastrous days in Scottish history: the entire army was destroyed with unknown thousands of casualties. Most of the upper nobility of Scotland was wiped out; this included the death of James himself. James left behind a son, one-year old James V.

EPILOGUE

Here has appeared, though in a several fashion,
The threats of majesty, the strength of passion,
Hopes of an empire, change of fortunes; all
What can to theatres of greatness fall,
Proving their weak foundations. Who will please,
Amongst such several sights, to censure these
No births abortive, nor a bastard brood, —
Shame to a parentage or fosterhood, —
May warrant by their loves all just excuses,
And often find a welcome to the Muses.
FINIS


**Ford's Invented Words**

Like Shakespeare, John Ford used his artistic license to invent words when necessary, either by adding prefixes or suffixes to known words, using known words in new ways, or creating new compound words. *Perkin Warbeck* contains the following words which the OED cites Ford as either the first or only user:

- blood-shrunk
- bonny-clabber
- compartnership
- discradle
- dissemble (meaning to pretend to be someone else)
- fair-natured
- feeble-winged
- mixture (applied to interbreeding of people or animals)
- muddy-brained
- queen bride
- scandal (a noun used to mean a scandalous person)
- twingle-twangle
Footnotes

Footnotes in the text correspond as follows:

1. Oxford English Dictionary (OED) online.